



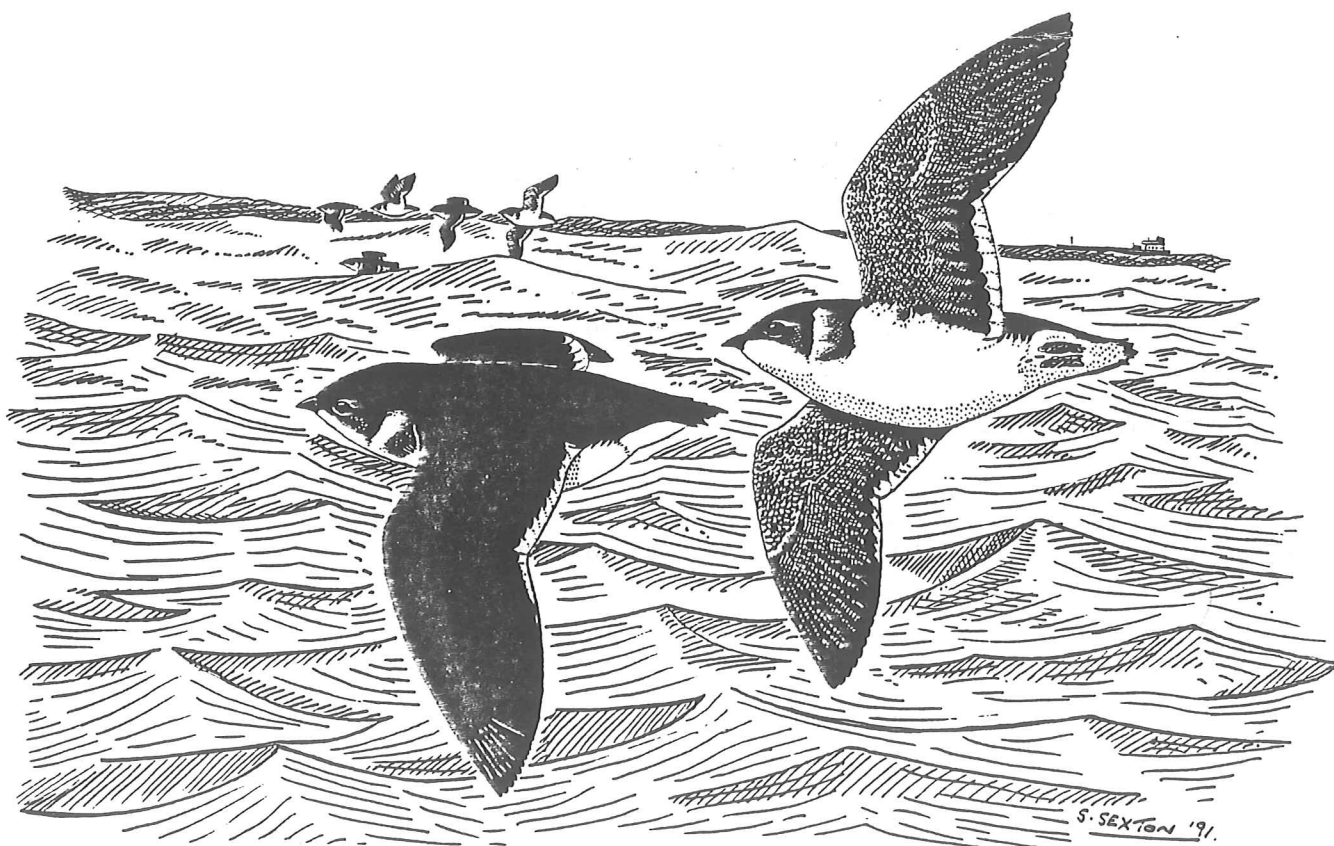
# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

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## MONTHLY SUMMARY JANUARY 1991

Early January was bright and cold with SW winds which became very strong by 6th. Overnight snow on 7th brought the first taste of winter, however the snow did not last except on high ground. By the 13th many ponds became frozen as a high over Scandinavia gave us the first cold spell for two winters. Despite temporary thaws the cold weather remained until the months end with high pressure dominating the scene. Many of last months specialities remained into January with Smew, the Shore Lark at Druridge, the Bittern at Holywell, the Mandarin Duck at Castle Island, the Terek Sandpiper at Blyth and Waxwings continuing to be reported. Records of Manx Shearwater at Stag Rocks on 1st and two at Seaton Sluice on 3rd were unseasonal as was a Ferruginous Duck at Whittle Dene on 13th.

A Red Kite on 19th in the W. of the county was the pick of the raptors. While from 1st-6th Little Auks continued to be well reported. Fine flocks of Chaffinch, Brambling and Twite were noted but once again the Crossbill flocks proved to be the main attraction, with the two-barred Crossbill being again reported at Harwood on 30th and up to seven Parrot Crossbills being found at Harwood and Kielder. Other interesting species include Ruddy Duck, Ruff, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Great Grey Shrike 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

13 were off Buston Links on 13th (KWR) and at least 12 at Stag Rocks on 26th (ES). One-five were noted at another five localities.

Black-throated Diver

Singles reported from Stag Rocks on 2nd and 13th (MD/IF/LH) and S. at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT).

Great Northern Diver

On 6th one was at Seaton Sluice (MPF). Two were at Stag Rocks on 13th and a single present on 19th. Another was off Ross Back Sands on 26th.

Little Grebe

16 were at Cresswell Pond on 14th (DBNR) and one-five at Druridge Pool, Big Waters, Ladyburn Lake DBCP and Hauxley Reserve. Ten were on the Wansbeck at Castle Island on 13th (AT) and one-three on the Coquet at Warkworth and Felton, the Aln at Alnmouth and the Wansbeck at Morpeth.

Great Crested Grebe

One-two noted at Big Waters, Whittle Dene, Grindon Lough, Hallington and on the Tyne at Newburn-Wylam. Coastal sightings involved up to two at Tynemouth, Druridge Bay, Craster, Ladyburn Lake, Holywell Pond and Blyth.

Red-necked Grebe

Singles were at Holy Island - Lindisfarne on 12th and 26th (RMW/DM) and a maximum of three at Stag Rocks on 22nd (RKS).

Slavonian Grebe

A single was in Druridge Bay on 1st (DCJ), four at Lindisfarne on 13th (JDL) and one-three at Stag Rocks, Ross and Holy Island.

Fulmar

Birds noted back at breeding sites at Tynemouth, Bamburgh Castle and Quarry, Howick and Craster. 30 were on the sea at Stag Rocks on 13th (BRS).

Manx Shearwater

A single flew S. at Stag Rocks on 1st (RSF) and two flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (CRA).

Gannet

On 1st one flew N. at Beadnell and two were at Seaton Sluice (WGJ/KWR).

Cormorant

The largest concentrations were of 70 at North Shields Fish Quay on 31st (DMT), 46 at Blyth harbour on 20th (LJM), 37 at Amble harbour (DM), 33 at Hallington (RSF) and 18 at Whittle Dene (MR).

Bittern

One was at Holywell Pond throughout the month (MT et al).

Grey Heron

Seven were at Longhoughton Steel on 26th (RKS) and one-four at another 11 localities.

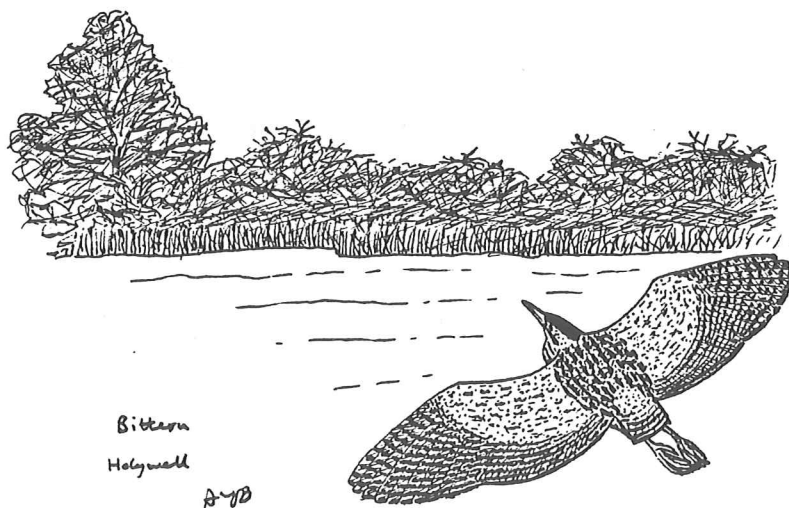
Flamingo

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 7th (DBNR).

Mute Swan

25 were on Killingworth Lake on 28th and 22 at the Blyth Estuary on 20th (LJM). 21 were at Shield-on-the Wall, 16 at Holywell Pond and 14 at Warkworth Lane. Two-12 at a further 12 localities.





### Whooper Swan

A maximum of 48 were in the Warkworth Lane-Cresswell areas on 29th (DBNR). 15 were at Bothal Pond on 5th (ES) and one-eight at Shield-on-the Wall, the Long Nanny, Grindon Lough, Castle Island and Hauxley.

### Bean Goose

Four were at Hallington Reservoir on 19th, one at Derwent Reservoir on 20th and two at Ouston on 25th (L&KR/BNR).

### Pink-footed Goose

896 were near Lowick on 21st (JRT) and 200+ in Budle Bay on 26th. 70 were at Hauxley Reserve on 29th (DBNR) and one-23 at another 11 localities.

### White-fronted Goose

A maximum of 13 were in Budle Bay on 26th. A single was at Whittle Dene on 17th.

### Greylag Goose

The largest concentrations were of 1,200 in Budle Bay on 22nd (RKS), 380 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (BNR) 324 at Whittle Dene on 26th (MR/JSB) and 317 at Holywell Pond on 27th (TRC). 200-250 were also at Hallington, Colt Crag, Grindon Lough and NE over High Heaton.

### Canada Goose

159 were at Hallington on 19th (L&KR) and 120 at Capheaton on 26th (MT).

### Barnacle Goose

Two were on Fenham Flats on 2nd, 25 flew S.E. over Holywell on 10th (IF/AMB) and eight were in Budle Bay on 20th (AHB). Singles were also at Capheaton, Whittle Dene, Hallington and Ouston.

### Brent Goose

2,600 were at Lindisfarne and 25 in Holy Island harbour on 19th (WGJ). One was with Common Scoters at Stag Rocks on 13th (BRS) and a dark bellied individual flew S. over Newton Pool on 26th (RKS).

Bar-headed Goose

One remained at Hallington with Canada Goose.

Shelduck

150 were at Budle Bay on 13th (BRS) and 13 at Hauxley Reserve on 5th (DBNR). One-six were at a further six coastal localities. Inland two were at Grindon Lough on 27th (RKS).

Mandarin Duck

A drake was at Castle Island on 13th (MPF).

Wigeon

350 were at Cresswell Pond on 15th-16th this flock resorting to the sea when the pond became frozen. 350 were inland at Grindon Lough on 26th. 177 were at Whittle Dene, 160 at Colt Crag, 144 at Derwent Reservoir and 115 at Hallington.

Gadwall

A female was at Tyne Green on 13th (AJR).

Teal

The largest counts were of 337 at Druridge Pools on 25th, 221 at Swallow Pond on 13th (PRJ), 141 at Big Waters on 4th (AJJ) and 72-113 at Castle Island, Colt Crag, Whittle Dene and Grindon Lough.

Mallard

453 were at Big Waters on 13th (AJJ), 315 at Whittle Dene on 26th (JSB), 265 at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (RMH), 260 on the sea at Cresswell on 14th (DBNR) and 257 at Budle Bay on 22nd (RKS). 100-200 were at another ten localities.

Pintail

54 were on Fenham Flats on 13th (LM/CRA), four at Budle Bay on 26th (JRT) and one-two in the Cresswell-Druridge area throughout the month. Inland a drake was at Grindon Lough on 6th (DCJ).

Shoveller

Six were at Big Waters on 13th (AJJ), four at Grindon Lough and three at Swallow Pond.

Pochard

180 were at Ladyburn Lake on 13th, 123 at Holywell Pond on 4th (MT), 88 at Castle Island on 6th (AT) and 52 at Big Waters on 13th (AJJ) 10-34 were at a further ten localities.

Ferruginous Duck

A female was at Whittle Dene on 13th (MR).

Tufted Duck

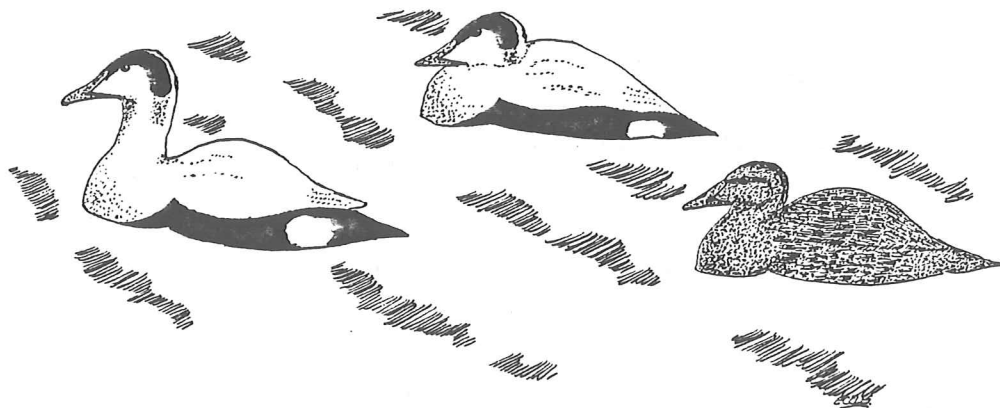
134 were at Ladyburn Lake on 13th, 92 at Holywell Pond on 17th (MT), 75 at Whittle Dene on 14th (JRT) when 72 at Cresswell Pond (DBNR), 69 at Big Waters on 13th (AJJ) and 64 at Druridge Pool on 16th.

Scaup

A maximum of 22 were at Hauxley Pool on 21st (DBNR), nine at Low Newton, seven at Longhoughton Steel, four in Amble harbour, two at Castle Island and singles on Cresswell Pond and Ladyburn Lake.

Eider

500 were at Newbiggin on 4th (IK), 288 at Stag Rocks on 20th (RKS), 88 at Amble harbour (DM) and 70 at Blyth harbour (HG).

Long tailed Duck

150 were at Stag Rocks on 26th when 200 off Ross Back Sands. Three were at Ladyburn Lake on 7th and singles on Druridge Pool and Warkworth Lane.

Common Scoter

2,000 were at Stag Rocks on 26th (ES), 200 were in Druridge Bay on 3rd (DMT) and 30 were off Hauxley on 13th (DBNR).

Velvet Scoter

14 were off Ross Back Sands on 12th (ES), four flew N. at Newbiggin on 15th (JGB) and three were at Stag Rocks and Druridge.

Goldeneye

On 6th 104 were at Whittle Dene, 178 were off Cambois on 12th (KWR) and 101 on the Tyne at Heddon on 13th (L&KR). One-18 were at a further 18 localities.

Smew

A single 'redhead' remained at Big Waters until 27th (AJJ et al) another was at Ladyburn Lake all month (TAC).

Red-breasted Merganser

16 were in Druridge Bay on 19th (DM), a maximum of eight were at Ladyburn Lake on 4th (TAC). One-six were at a further 12 coastal localities.

Goosander

51 were at Whittle Dene on 27th (L&KR), 13 on the Tyne between Newburn-Wylam (JSB) and one-ten at 20 localities.

Ruddy Duck

A male was at Capheaton on 3rd -4th (PAB/MT/SS).

Red Kite

A single was watched on 19th at a locality in the W. of the county.

Hen Harrier

An adult male was noted in the Druridge Bay and Warkworth Lane areas on 5th and 22nd (DBNR/JRT). 'Ringtails' were seen at Fontburn, Kimmer Lough and near Greenhead during the month (KVB/JRT/ISD).

Sparrowhawk

They were extremely well-reported with singles seen in at least 31 localities. Sightings included a female attacking and carrying off a Lapwing at Castle Island (AT), a male chasing Crossbills at Wark Forest (MSH) and two females hunting together near Newton Pool (BG/IK). Singles again hunted through gardens at Matfen and Walbottle (RW/L&KR).

Kestrel

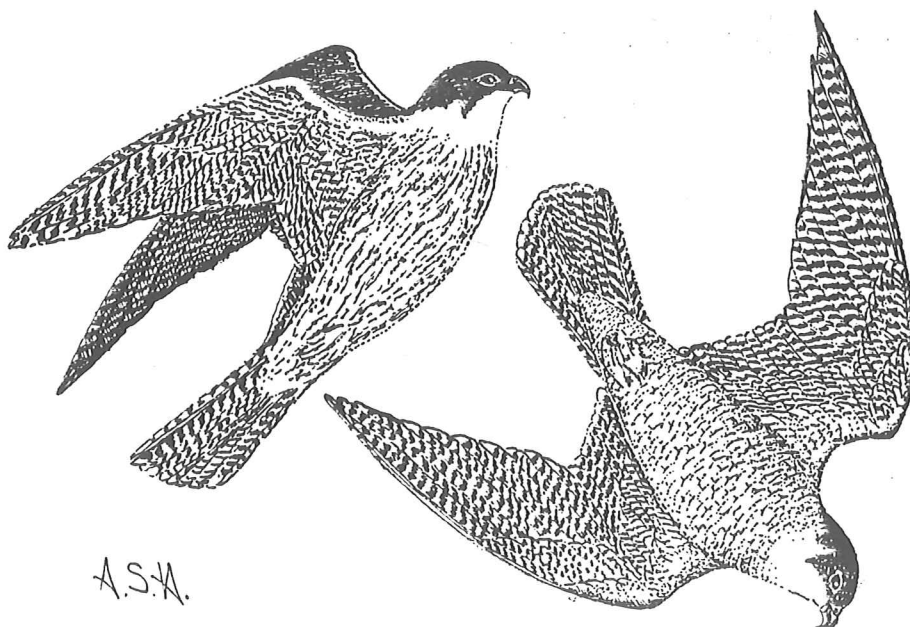
One-two were seen in 11 widely scattered localities. Three were noted at Wark Forest on 12th and five in the Brunton Lane area on 27th (LR).

Merlin

They were well distributed in typical coastal wintering areas with sightings from 14 localities. Inland, single adult males were seen in Newcastle and Morpeth while immatures or females were noted at Newton-on-the-Moor and on three dates at Harwood Forest.

Peregrine

Sightings in four coastal localities included two tumbling together over Holy Island (ASH) and an adult male scattering waders by soaring over Longhoughton Steel (IK). Inland, an immature dropped small prey at Whittle Dene making no attempt to retrieve it (MR) and a male chased and caught a Golden Plover at Colwell (RSF). Adult males, including one displaying, were seen in three breeding areas.



Red Grouse

A party of 16 on the West Allen on 2nd (BNR) and a single at Kimmer Lough on 13th (ISD) were the only records.

Black Grouse

Two greyhens were at Ninebanks on 19th (BNR).

Grey Partridge

The largest coveys involved 18 at Derwent, 14 at West Moor and ten at Craster, Holywell and Brunton Lane. Four-eight were seen in four other localities.

Pheasant

Five were attracted to grain at the feeding area at Big Waters during the month.

Water Rail

Two were calling at Big Waters on 15th (IF) while a single was well reported from Holywell Pond throughout the month.

Moorhen

The peak counts were of 32 at Holywell Pond (MT), 29 at East Mill, Morpeth (ADMCL) and 19 at Castle Island (AT). Up to ten regularly attended the Big Waters feeding station (GB).

Coot

The main concentrations involved peaks of 301 at Big Waters (DMCK), 144 at Cresswell Pond (DBNR), 106 at Ladyburn Lake (TAC/SWA) and 33 at Holywell Pond (TRC).

WADER COUNTS: 19th-20th January. The following stretches were covered: Budle Point-Seahouses (PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (AS/WD/MLC), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WLT), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington-Cresswell (EC/BDG/MRS), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Newbiggin-North Blyth (MHP), Blyth Estuary (LJMcD), Blyth South Pier-Seaton Sluice (KVB) and St.Mary's Island (IDM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 865 were found on the monthly count.

Ringed Plover

The monthly count produced a total of 297. The largest concentrations were 69 between Boulmer-Alnmouth and 50 between Cresswell-Newbiggin.

Golden Plover

Although 1,400 were noted on the monthly count some large flocks were noted in coastal areas on other dates. There were peaks of 2,400 roosting in Newton Haven (BNR), 1,200 at St.Mary's Island (IDM) and 1,000 at both Lindisfarne and North Seaton (JDL/IF/AMB). Many remained inland with counts of 250 at Hallington and 125 at Little Whittington and East Brunton (L&KR/LR). 30 flew W. at Hexham during snow on 9th (DCJ).

Grey Plover

A total of 151 were found on the monthly count of which 44 were in the usual wintering area at Longhoughton Steel and 42 were between Boulmer-Alnmouth. 20 roosted at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 29th (AP).

Lapwing

The largest flocks were 3,000 at Holywell (MT), 1,200 at Cresswell Pond (DBNR) and 800 roosting at Newton Haven (BNR). Flocks of 400-600 were noted from five other localities. Inland groups included 150 at both East Brunton and Cramlington, 140 at Derwent Reservoir, 100 at Little Whittington and 60 on frozen Grindon Lough on 15th. An interesting small-scale movement W was noted in the Irthing area on 19th.



Knot

Sites in the S. of the county held most of the 1,060 found on the monthly count. The largest group in this area was up to 500 in the high tide roost at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 6th (BG). The only large count from the N. was of 820 at Budle Bay on 22nd (RKS).

Sanderling

Only 200 were noted during the monthly count. However, there were parties of 100 in the Wansbeck Estuary on 6th (MSH) and 137 at Blyth on 28th (HG).

Purple Sandpiper

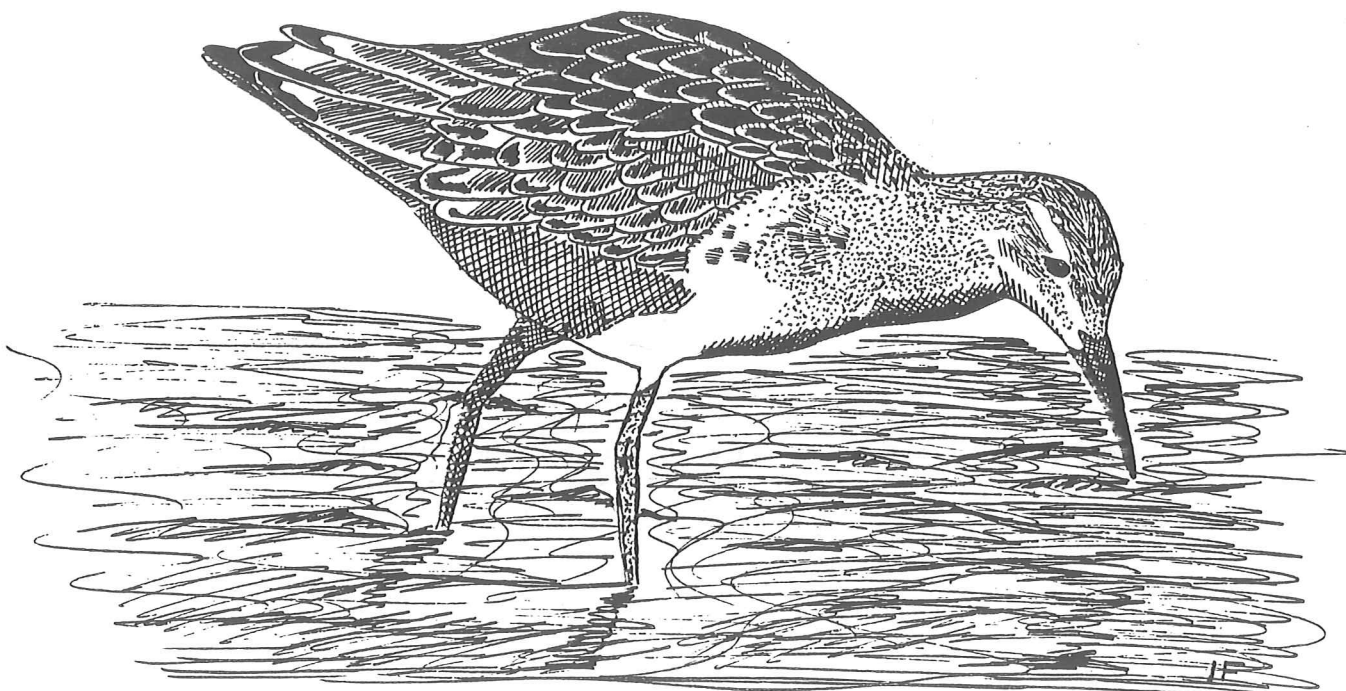
A total of 209 found on the monthly count included 137 in the favoured Budle Point-Seahouses stretch. The only other large groups were 120 at Seaton Sluice on 5th (MT) and 150 in the high tide roost at Blyth Pier on 30th (HG).

Dunlin

The monthly count revealed a total of 1,903. Other large groups included 1,150 on Fenham Flats on 12th (KWY) and 240 roosting at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 29th (AP). The only inland records involved seven at Whittle Dene on 1st reducing to five by 6th (MR).

Ruff

Two, including an individual with a broken leg, were at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (DBNR). The healthy bird remained throughout the month, often associating with gulls and pigeons attracted to the sheep troughs near the farm (DBNR et al).



Jack Snipe

Singles were at Whittle Dene on 1st (MR) and Slaley Hall golf course on 9th (RMH).

Snipe

A maximum of 42 were at Hauxley Reserve during the month with other counts involving 32 at Big Waters, 17 at Fenwick, near Stamfordham (EB), 16 at Budle Bay (JRT) and 12 at Hadston Farm (MS). A more unusual record involved three flushed from a clear-felled area at Harwood on 7th (MH).

Woodcock

A single was flushed from a deep snowbank at Harwood on 10th. Two were at Holywell Pond on 17th and a single was noted at Wallsend Swallow Pond on several dates.

Black-tailed Godwit

A single was in the Cresswell-Druridge area on 13th (SS/JWR et al).

Bar-tailed Godwit

They were characteristically scarce with only 72 found during the monthly count. The only significant other group was 53 near Seahouses on 20th (APM).

Curlew

Only 441 was noted on the monthly count. The largest other group noted during the month was of 200c at Football Hole on 20th (BG/IK). Three at Hallington on 1st was the only inland record (RSF).

Spotted Redshank

A wintering individual was seen near Fenham Mill on 13th (AHB) and in Budle Bay on 21st (JRT).

Redshank

The monthly count revealed a total of 476 along the coast. 100 were also at Tynemouth on 19th (DMT) while up to 53 were regularly at Ladyburn Lake (TAC/SWA). Birds remained at Whittle Dene throughout the month with a maximum of six on 26th (JSB/MR et al).

Greenshank

One at Howick Haven on 12th (A&LB) was probably the individual noted wintering at Boulmer in November-December.

Terek Sandpiper

The Blyth bird was noted at Kitty Brewster on 1st and 3rd (IF) and near the sewage works on 5th (HG), and again at Kitty Brewster on 16th (PB/HY).

Turnstone

A total of 732 were found on the monthly count. In addition, up to 31 were regularly present foraging around North Shields Fish Quay (DMT).

Grey Phalarope

A single noted daily at Seaton Sluice from 1st-5th was probably the individual found at Newbiggin in late December (SSWT et al).

Mediterranean Gull

The adult remained at Craster through the month. Another adult was at Seaton Sluice on the 4th (DL) and possibly the same bird at Holywell on 16th (MT).

Little Gull

The bird noted last month remained at Holywell Pond throughout the month. First-winter birds were noted in the Blyth Estuary on the 5th (TRC/MHp) and at Newbiggin on 18th (JGB).

Black-headed Gull

Total numbers at inland roosts were fairly constant with 7,000 at Scotswood on 10th, 1,600 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th and 650 at Hallington on 2nd (BNR). On the coast, 4,500 congregated at Tynemouth on 5th and 2,500 on 19th (DMT) with 430 in the Blyth Estuary on 20th (LJM).

Common Gull

Numbers at inland roosts declined during the month with 13,000 at Hallington on 2nd reducing to 6,000 on 19th, and 8,500 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th reducing to 6,500 on 21st. 1,100 roosted at Colt Crag on 1st and 130 at Broomlee on 8th (BNR). On the coast, large gatherings occurred at Tynemouth on the 6th of 5,500 and on 19th of 4,500 (DMT). 1,800 roosted in Budle Bay and 1,100 at Newton Haven on 11th and 400 were noted at Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pool on 16th/18th.

Lesser Black Backed Gull

One-two adults were noted at Big Waters, Cresswell Pond and Derwent Reservoir during the month (GB/IRD/BNR).

Herring Gull

The new-year peak at inland roosts was very marked with 3,700 roosting at Derwent Reservoir on 4th, 1,200 at Hallington on 2nd and 180 at Scotswood on 10th (BNR). The highest count in the Tyne Estuary was 1,000 on 27th (DMT) and 540 were at Holywell Pond on 15th (SPP). Birds showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race were noted in the Tyne Estuary and at Swallow Pond. A possible Glaucous/Herring Gull hybrid was in the Tyne Estuary on 5th (DMT).

Iceland Gull

At North Shields Fish Quay, an adult was present on 1st (PAB/MT) and a first-winter on the 19th (DMT). An adult was at Holywell Pond on 1st (JRT).

Glaucous Gull

Single adults continued to be well reported from North Shields Fish Quay and Seahouses harbour. Elsewhere an adult was at Holywell Pond on 9th (ES et al).

Great Black Backed Gull

Inland roosts were at high levels in the new year with 900 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th and 240 at Hallington on 2nd (BNR). 99 were in the Tyne Estuary on 13th and 80 at Holywell Pond on 1st (DMT).

Kittiwake

34 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 13th (DMT) and an adult was at Holywell Pond on 20th (CRA/LH).

Razorbill

Well reported with 15 at Stag Rocks on 19th (TRC), nine in Druridge Bay on 26th (KWY) and one-three at Seaton Sluice, St Mary's Island and Craster.

Little Auk

Heavy movement continued on the 1st with counts of birds flying S. in Druridge Bay of 210 in 20 minutes (SS) and 219 in 30 minutes (TRC) and smaller numbers in the same direction at St. Mary's Island, Seaton Sluice, Newbiggin and Hauxley. Large numbers continued to be reported up to the 6th with 45-51 flying N. at Seaton Sluice and Newbiggin on 5th (SSWT/JGB). Reports then decreased markedly with the highest counts to the end of the month being 12 at Hauxley on 9th (DBNR) and 15 at Stag Rocks on 12th (ES et al). Predation by Great Black Backed Gulls was noted on 4th/6th at Newbiggin and Beadnell (IK/BG/RKS).

Puffin

Ten flew N. at Newbiggin on 5th (JGB) and one was at Coquet Island on 3rd (MT).

Stock Dove

Two-four were present at Morpeth and Warkworth Lane (DM).

Woodpigeon

Many more reports with the largest counts being 1,000 at Hulne Park on 12th (JRT) and 200-400 at Holywell, Letah Wood (Hexham) and West Chevington.

Collared Dove

74 were at Druridge Bay C.P. on 23rd (TAC/SWA) and 22 at Acklington on 15th (LJM).

Barn Owl

Noted at Hauxley, Netherton, Mitford, Chollerford, Warkworth, Ashington, Hadston Farm and near Ulgham.

Little Owl

Singles were at Backworth, Earsdon, Hallington, and Druridge Bay.

Tawny Owl

Reported only from Jesmond Dene where two birds present.

Long Eared Owl

A recently dead bird was found on Newbiggin beach on 4th (IK/BG).

Short Eared Owl

Three were present at Swallow Pond on 2nd (ES/WTL) and two at Hauxley on 22nd (DBNR). Singles were present at Druridge, Backworth, Holywell and, further inland, in the Irthing Valley.

Kingfisher

Noted inland at Jesmond Dene, Wallington, Holywell Pond, Whittle Dene, Bothal, Morpeth and Plessey Woods. On the coast, singles were at Kitty Brewster, Blyth (WAK) and in Craster harbour (TRC/AH).

Green Woodpecker

One was 'yaaffling' in Alnmouth on 22nd (TAC) and other singles were noted at Harwood, Hulne Park, Kimmer Lough and Mitford Castle.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Reported from 17 localities with the highest counts being four at Spindleston (BRS) and three in Jesmond Dene (ISD). Birds fed at garden feeders in Riding Mill, Ordley and Gosforth Park. Drumming and display was noted at five sites.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

A single was at Bolam Lake on 2nd (MD/IF).

Skylark

On the coast, 160 were at Newbiggin on 8th (JGB), 130 at Ross Back Sands on 12th (APM) and 15-20 at Cresswell and Longhoughton. 200 flew S. at Druridge Bay C.P. on 7th (TAC) and small numbers flew S.E. at Ordley on 9th when snow was falling (BNR).

Shore Lark

The bird reported last month remained on Druridge Dunes throughout the month.

Meadow Pipit

On the coast, 45-60 were present in the Druridge area and Warkworth Lane from the 8th-14th (DBNR/TAC/SWA). Some birds remained in upland breeding areas with 18 near Colt Crag on 15th (MR), seven at Kimmer Lough on 13th (ISD) and singles at Falstone and Ottercops.

Grey Wagtail

Singles noted at two inland and six coastal localities.

Pied Wagtail

11 were at Derwent Reservoir on 27th and one-three were at two coastal localities (RKS).

Waxwing

Numbers fell with the highest count being of 21-23 unringed birds in the Freeman Hospital area of Newcastle from 6th-22nd. The three colour-ringed birds reported last month have since been sighted in Leeds from 10th-15th January (MPF). Seven were at Benton on 25th (DJ) and smaller numbers were noted in other Newcastle locations. Outside the city, 12 were at Cramlington on 24th (LJM), seven at North Shields on 7th (RMH) and six at Big Waters on 3rd (AJJ). Flocks were still present on the coast with 12-18 at Red Row on 22nd (MS), eight at Druridge Bay C.P. on 16th (TAC/SWA) and six at Amble Braid on 16th (WD). One was well inland at Byrness on 16th (per DCJ).

Dipper

Singing birds were noted at Hulne Park (ADM), Felton (ET & JRN) and Stocksfield (JRT). Also noted at Byrness, near Hepple, Slaley Hall and Oakpool (Allendale).

Wren

14 roosted in a Swallow's nest in a garage in Swarland (per ET & JRN).

Dunnock

One was in full song in Walkergate on 11th (LJM).

Stonechat

Well reported with three at Druridge Dunes on 5th (MGA), two at Stag Rocks on 22nd (RKS) and singles at Newbiggin, Seaton Sluice, Cresswell, Cambois, Warkworth and Hauxley.

Blackbird

37 fed together in a garden at Walbottle on 26th (L&KR) and 15-23 were in a Matfen garden during the month (RW). Early breeding activity was noted at Cramlington on the 4th (LJM).

Fieldfare

Flocks of 300 were at Widdrington on 6th and Whygate on 19th (MSH) with 200-230 at Thorngraston on 26th, Falstone on 19th and Colt Crag on 12th and two-114 at a further fifteen inland localities. Movement in the snow falls of the 9th was noted at Hexham with 170 birds flying E. and at Ordley where 88 flew S. (DCJ/BNR). On the coast, 200 were at Hauxley on 7th, 250 at Warkworth Lane on 8th (DBNR) and 40-150 at a further four localities.

Redwing

The highest counts were 100 at Nunwick on 12th (MSH), 80 at Kimmer Lough on 13th (ISD) and 45-70 at Thorngraston, Ordley and Hauxley. One-35 birds were noted at a further nine localities.

Mistle Thrush

Nine were at Slaley on the 4th (BNR) and at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (RMH), eight at Kimmer Lough on 13th (ISD) and six at Whygate on 19th (MSH).



Blackcap

A pair were in a Wylam garden during the month (per BG).

Goldcrest

One-five noted at Swallow Pond, Big Waters and Longbenton.

Long-tailed Tit

Still well represented throughout the month. The largest tribes were 20 at Alnmouth on 7th (TAC) and 14 at Middleton on 13th (WAK), Allenbanks on 19th (RKS) and Mitford on 30th (DM). More unusual were two at North Shields Fish Quay on 2nd (MPF/AIP). Tribes of two-11 were at 13 other localities.

Marsh Tit

Five were observed at Bolam Lake C.P. on 1st (ES/WTL). Two were noted at Hulne Park on 2nd and 12th and at Allenbanks on 12th (APM/AJH).

Willow Tit

Three were at Warkworth Lane on 17th and 22nd (DBNR) and two at Guyzance on 13th (APM). Singles noted at Pegswood and Swallow Pond.

Coal Tit

Five were at Borough Wood, Morpeth on 6th (A & LB) and three were at Swallow Pond on 21st (L&KR).

Blue Tit

46 were ringed in two 2.1/2 hour visits at Matfen during the month (RW). 30 were at Borough Wood, Morpeth on 6th (A&LB).

Great Tit

15 were at Wellhead Dene, Ashington on 10th and 10 at Borough Wood, Morpeth on 6th (A&LB).

Nuthatch

Five were at Linden Hall on 13th (RKS). One-three noted at 11 widely scattered localities.

Treecreeper

Two were seen at Close House on 1st (JSB) and at Delaval Hall on 19th (KWY). Singles noted at eight widely scattered localities.

Great Grey Shrike

A single was at Wark Forest on 30th (DCJ).

Jay

Singles were noted at Bolam Lake CP, Hexham, Kielder, Lanehead, Mitford and Morpeth during the month.

Magpie

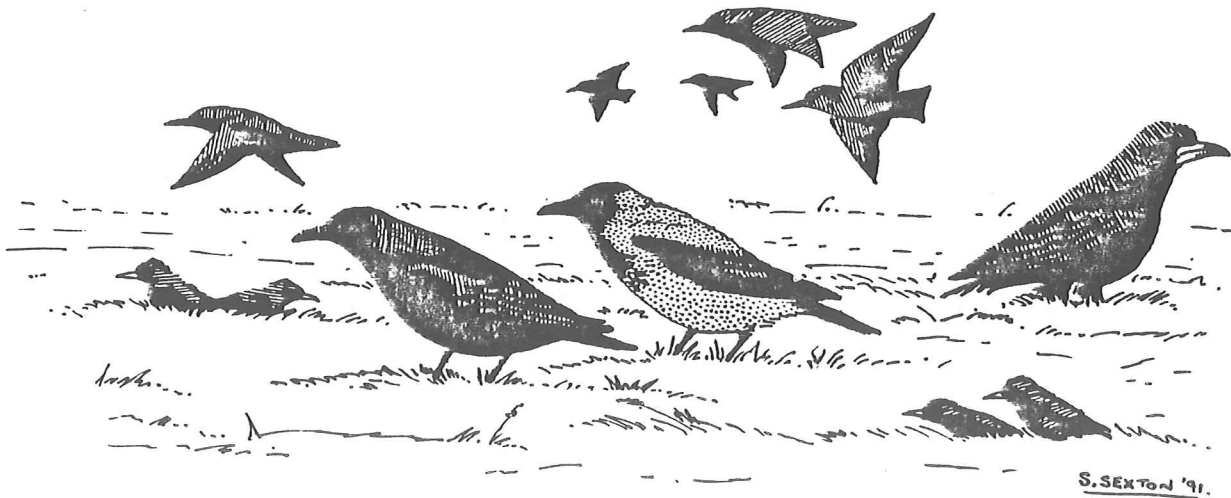
Large gatherings were 37 at Big Waters on 11th (GB) and 28 at Swallow Pond on 14th (ES/WTL).

Carriion Crow

27 fed as a flock in the Irthing Valley on 19th (MH) and 13 were at Hallington on 19th (L&KR). Three were seen mobbing a female Sparrowhawk at Budle Bay on 27th (AHB).

Hooded Crow

Three were seen between Howick and Craster on 4th (KWR/RF). Singles were at Holywell Pond between 1st-27th (TRC/JRT et al), Ross on 12th and 26th (KWY/DM et al), Hauxley on 19th (DBNR), Craster on 20th and Felton Lane on 24th and 31st (NF).

Tree Sparrow

Largest gatherings were 50 at Stannington on 19th (TRC/AH), 40 at Big Waters on 2nd (LR), 30 at Cresswell Pond (ES et al) and 24 at Harlow Hill on 26th (JSB/MR).

Chaffinch

The largest flocks were 170 at Hulne Park on 7th (JRT) and 100 at Allenbanks on 19th (RKS). Flocks of 23-60 noted at another eight widespread localities.

Brambling

Well represented during the month. Large flocks were 140 at Hulne Park on 7th (JRT), 110 at Allenbanks on 2nd (RKS), 100+ at Wallington Hall on 2nd (ET & JRN), up to 50 at Bolam Lake C.P. between 3rd-20th (KWR/DL et al) and 30+ at Harwood on 6th (MH). Two-25 noted at another five inland localities.

Greenfinch

30 visited a Cramlington garden throughout the month (LJM).

Goldfinch

The largest charms were up to 90 at Arcot Hall on 10th (AHB), 15 at Ellington on 19th and 12 at Milbourne and Snab Point on 27th (ADM/WGJ).

Siskin

Well represented during the month. The largest gatherings were 200 in Wansbeck Valley near Morpeth on 1st (ADMc), 150 at Langleeford on 26th (ES/WTL et al) and 100+ at Bolam Lake C.P. on 20th and Happy Valley, Harthope on 27th (DL/ADMc). One-68 noted at another 18 widespread inland localities.

Linnet

The largest flocks were up to 200 at Colt Crag on 19th (L&KR) Manors Metro Station on 21st (PAB) and Netherton on 27th (JWR) 150 were on Holy Island on 3rd (KWR).

Twite

A maximum of 87 were at the Chevington Burn area of Druridge Bay during the month (ADM/SS et al). 60 were at Warkworth Gut on 13th (KWR/RF).

Redpoll

90 were at Bolam Lake C.P. on 23rd (RKS), 50 at Fontburn Reservoir on 12th (KVB) and 45 at Slaley Hall (RMH). One-20 noted at another five widespread inland localities.

Two-barred Crossbill

The male found in Harwood Forest during December re-appeared on 30th (KIB/WAK).

Crossbill

Continues to be well represented in many of the county's conifer forests. Described as "abundant" in Kielder Forest with many thousands of birds present during the month (DCJ). 300+ at Wark Forest on 12th with many females collecting nest material and three juveniles noted on 19th (MSH). Several singing males noted amongst the c.160 at Harwood Forest during the month (WGJ et al). One-40 noted at another 14 localities.

Parrot Crossbill

Four males and two females noted at Harwood Forest on 13th (IDM). A single male was with a group of Common Crossbills at Kielder Forest on 19th (DCJ).

Bullfinch

11 were at Harwood Village on 27th (RFF) and 10 were at Wallington Hall on 23rd (RKS). One-seven noted at another six localities.

Hawfinch

Present in Hulne Park during the month with a maximum of ten on 12th (ES/WTL et al). Two were at Wallington Hall on 4th (SS).

Lapland Bunting

A single was at Cresswell-Druridge Bay area between 2nd-5th (MD/IF et al).

Snow Bunting

10-13 were present at Newbiggin between 1st-20th (MGA et al). One-five were at Druridge Links between 1st-19th (PAB/SS et al). Two were at Ross on 26th (DM) and a single was on Holy Island on 13th (JDL). Inland singles were at Smallburns Moor on 2nd and at Winnowshill on 4th (BNR).

Yellowhammer

The largest flocks were 50 at Ouston on 25th (L&KR), 40 at Hauxley on 1st (IF), 36 at Lesbury during the month (WD) and 33 at Cresswell Pond on 14th (DBNR).

Reed Bunting

C.20 at Druridge Bay on 21st (DBNR) and 10 at Stannington on 19th (TRC/AH). A pair noted in Newcastle on 5th (KIB). Singles noted at Bolam Lake C.P., Harwood, the Irthing Valley, Redesdale and Wark Forest.

Corn Bunting

11 were flushed from a farmyard at Guidepost on 28th (SS). Four were at Snab Point on 19th (RSF) and three were at Hauxley on 1st (IF et al).

Please send all February records, in Voous order, to BN Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham, NE46 1SX by 8th March at the latest.

### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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This months bulletin has been prepared by I Kerr, AJ Johnston, D McKeown and BN Rossiter. Illustrations of Little Auks, Hooded Crow by S Sexton, Bittern by AJ Booth, Eiders by M Eccles, Peregrine by A Short and Ruff by I Fisher.

### INDOOR MEETING - 14th MARCH 1991

Our next meeting will be held in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremount Tower, Newcastle University on Thursday 14th March 1991 at 7.00 pm prompt. Our speaker is Duncan Hugget who will talk on 'Pied Flycatchers or what to do with 10,000 A-rings'.

### MEMBERS NIGHT

Speakers are needed for Members night on 11th April 1991. Anyone willing to talk for about 15 minutes on any aspect of birding should contact our indoor meetings secretary Keith Brooks (Tel: (091) 2810285).

### BTO GREY HERON SURVEY

To help survey this often elusive breeding species, members are requested to submit all sightings of Grey Herons on record cards to the recorder. Any further information concerning behaviour, flight direction, time of day etc. would be helpful. Any details of nests or heronries would be treated in strictest confidence and localities will not be published. As the Grey Heron is an early breeder, sightings of herons as early as February could indicate the presence of a nearby nest site.

### RECORD CARDS

As at least four people are now involved in writing this bulletin it is essential that members ensure that record cards are with the recorder by 8th of the month at the latest. Late cards can be an administrative headache, so please ensure your records are to the recorder as soon as possible.

### (NTBC TRIP TO STAG ROCKS & ROSS 26.1.91)


The usual crowd, plus a few, gathered at Seahouses on a bright frosty morning with no wind and a calm sea. First bird was an adult or near adult Glaucous Gull on the rocks just north of the harbour wall, and a few Mergansers were swimming around. Off to Stag Rocks. Here the water had some large black patches on it - not oil, but four large rafts of Common Scoter, with well over 1000, possibly 1500 birds in all. Five separate scoter on their own proved to include a couple of Velvet Scoter, both first winter males, while off to the south about 40 Long-tailed Ducks were scattered over the water. Only one grebe, a Slavonian, close in, and a few Red-throated Divers. Budle Bay was very good, with plenty of waders and Wigeon, and across the far side, a very long line of geese. These included 500 Greylags to the left, 200 Pinkfeet to the right, and between them, 13 Whitefronts, a very rare sight in the county in this sort of number. The waders included Bar-tailed Godwit, Knot, Dunlin, Golden and Grey Plover, etc, etc. A shout to look behind revealed a fox running across the field.

At Ross, the sea was covered not with scoter but Long-tailed Ducks; scattered in every direction, a rough count suggested well over 200. Among them were a couple more Slavonian Grebes and a Great Northern Diver, Two Snow Buntings in the gut were the only passerines of note, but were very nice tame ones, and excellent views were had by all. Into Fenham Flats, a large group of Brent Geese could be seen with difficulty against the sun, and a 'Hoodie' Crow sat in full view. In Holy Island Harbour, the only Red-necked Grebe of the day was found, more Mergansers and Red-throated Divers, and a dozen Brent Geese this time close up and with the sun behind. The long trudge back along Ross produced only one other Slavonian Grebe, and apart from the briefest possible views of a Short-eared Owl for one or two, no raptors at all, slightly disappointing for those who had come for the last few year's almost guaranteed Hen Harriers. This was only a minor loss, with all the excellent numbers of Geese and Ducks, and as usual, everyone thought the trip a great success.

MP FRANKIS







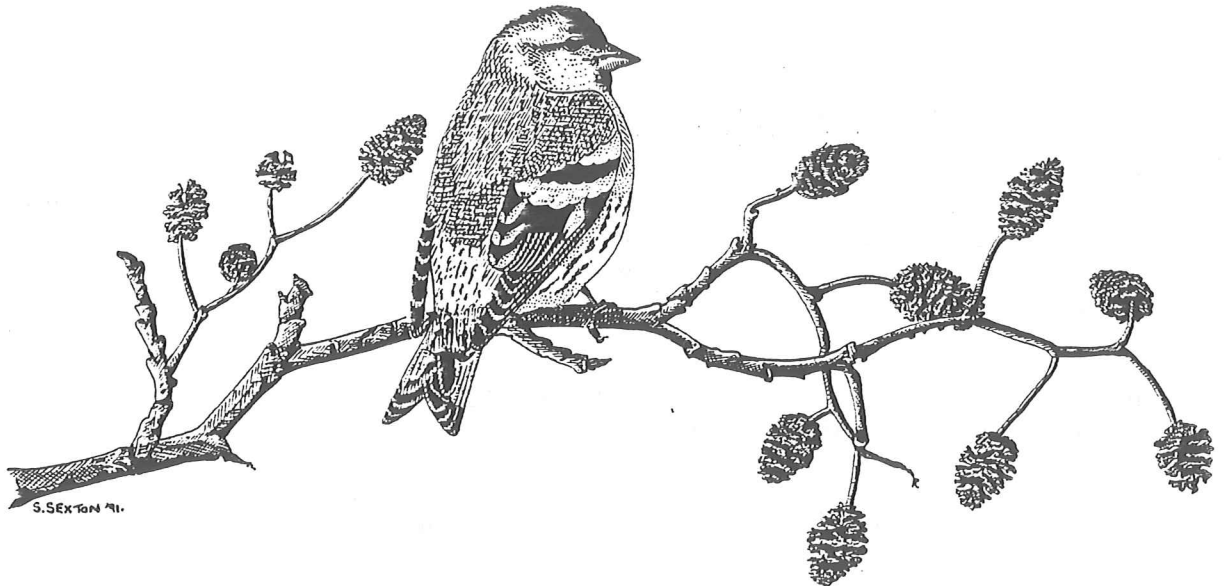
# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

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## MONTHLY SUMMARY FEBRUARY 1991

Local snow covered some areas on 2nd but did not linger. A high over Scandinavia brought colder conditions by 6th with winds from central Russia giving the region its first 'real' winter for a number of years. Inland ponds became frozen and by 9th heavy snow had fallen. Many areas had a generous snow covering for over a week until a slow thaw began on 16th. By the 23rd the thaw was complete and this coupled with heavy rain brought high levels to the previously frozen ponds. The month ended mild and foggy.

Most of the star birds of last month remained into February. The Two-barred Crossbill at Harwood, Shore Lark at Druridge and Great Grey Shrike's at Kielder, Harwood and Berwick. White-fronted Geese were reported from seven localities with the largest group being 21 at Big Waters between 2nd-7th. Smew were widely noted with up to ten individuals seen at Ladyburn Lake. Hen Harrier's were reported from three localities and Peregrines were seen at ten areas. Merlins were noted at 12 coastal and six inland sites. By the month's end waders including Oystercatcher and Dunlin were moving inland to breeding areas. Other interesting waders were Ruff at Cresswell Pond, Spotted Redshank and Black-tailed Godwit at Budle Bay.



Cold weather movements of Skylark were reported between 9th-15th while flocks of Waxwing, Brambling, Siskin, Twite and Crossbill were evident along with 20 Hawfinch. Other interesting species included Blackcap, Hooded Crow, Little Gull, Iceland and Glaucous Gull, Bean Goose and Mediterranean Gull.

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

Ten were at Stag Rocks on 3rd (RKS), eight at Holy Island on 17th (PRJ) and one-four at Newton, Beadnell Bay and Hadston.

Black-throated Diver

Two were at Stag Rocks on 24th (NF) and singles at Cresswell and Newbiggin.

Little Grebe

A maximum of 13 were at Cresswell Pond on 15th (DBNR), seven at Castle Island on 16th (AT), five at Foxton (WD) and one-two at six localities.

Great Crested Grebe

One-two noted at five coastal and five inland localities.

Red-necked Grebe

Four were at Stag Rocks on 17th (ASJ) and one-two at Hadston and Holy Island.

Slavonian Grebe

Eight were at Holy Island on 17th (PRJ/RF) when six at Stag Rocks (ASJ). One-three were also at Druridge, Budle Bay and Berwick.

Black-necked Grebe

One was found dead at Alnmouth Links on 3rd (ASH).

Fulmar

156 were on the cliffs at Tynemouth, 42 at Old Hartley and 22 at Holy Island Castle. 29 breeding ledges were occupied at Dunstanburgh Castle.

Gannet

70 flew N at Newton Point on 16th (RKS) when ten flew N at Hadston (KWY). One-seven also noted at Newbiggin Seahouses and Newton Haven.

Cormorant

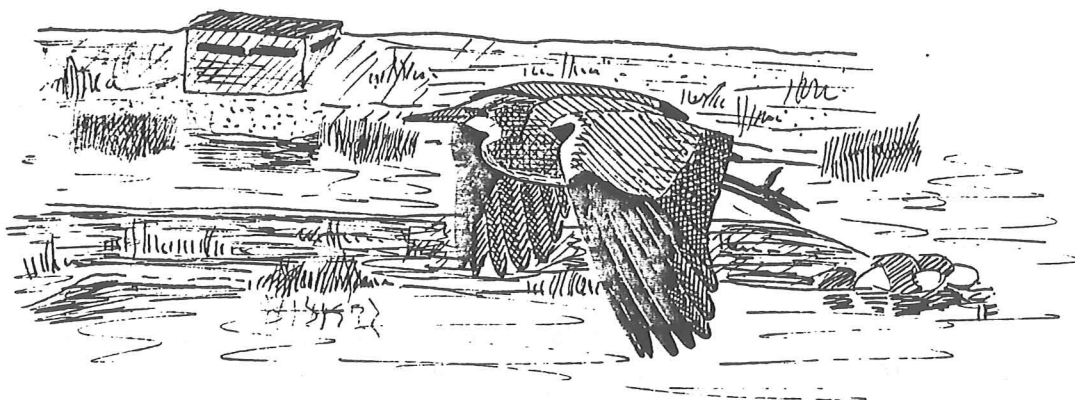
80 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 8th (DMT), 69 at the Blyth Estuary on 17th (LJM), 17 at Whittle Dene (MR) and 16 at Hallington (L&KR). Birds showing the characteristics of the continental race were noted from 12th with one-four reported from North Shields Fish Quay, Boulmer, and Longhoughton Steel.

Shag

A minimum of 600 were between Stag Rocks and Ross on 24th (SS). Six were at Blyth Harbour on 10th and singles at North Shields Fish Quay.

Grey Heron

Five were noted between Newburn-Close House on 10th (IK/BS) and four at Boulmer on 12th (WD). One-two reported from another 14 localities.



#### Mute Swan

280 were at Berwick on 16th (JDL) 23 at Killingworth Lake on 18th, 20 at QE II Lake on 19th (LJM) and 19 at Hauxley Reserve on 13th (DBNR). Seven -13 were at a further four localities.

#### Whooper Swan

44 were at Warkworth Lane on 4th (DBNR), 30 at Hartburn on 2nd (JRT) and 28 near Cornhill on 23rd (ET/JRN). Two-12 were at a further five localities.

#### Bean Goose

On 2nd four were at Hallington (L&KR) and at Colwell (RSF). A single was at Derwent on 10th (BNR).

#### Pink-footed Goose

About 150 flew SW at Barrasford on 26th (RSF), 40 were in Budle Bay on 17th (ASJ). Two-15 were also at Hauxley, Hallington, Whittle Dene, Colwell and Holywell Pond.

#### White-fronted Goose

21 of the eurasian race were near Big Waters between 2nd-7th (PRJ et al). A single of the same race was at Cresswell Pond on 3rd. Birds identified as belonging to the Greenland race involved singles at Whittle Dene on 3rd (MR) and Castle Island on 2nd-3rd (AT/JRT) and two at Holywell Pond on 7th (MT). Groups of two-six were also reported from Low Newton, Budle Bay and Holywell Pond.

#### Greylag Goose

The largest concentrations were of 1410 at Budle Bay on 16th (RKS), 350 at Holywell Pond on 24th (TRC/ISD), 320 at Whittle Dene on 3rd (MR) and 263 at Derwent on 24th, 83 -160 were also at Grindon Hill, Hallington-Colwell.

#### Canada Goose

72 were at Hallington on 16th (L&KR), 18 at Capheaton on 27th (MJS) and nine at the Long Nanny (RKS).

#### Barnacle Goose

One was at Hallington on 16th (L&KR), two were in Budle Bay between 16th-24th (RKS/BG) and seven at Druridge Pools from 22nd-24th (DBNR).

Brent Goose

120 were at Lindisfarne on 24th (JDL), 35 were at Hauxley on 13th and 22 at Druridge Pools on 17th. 24 were at Boulmer on 27th. Three dark-bellied individuals were at Seahouses on 14th and Bamburgh on 25th (BNR/PK).

Shelduck

110 were at Beal Sands on 24th (JDL), ten pairs were displaying at Boulmer on 16th (IK), 17 were at Hauxley on 25th and seven-15 at a further four localities. The only inland record involved a single flying E. at Cramlington on 7th (MH).

Wigeon

The peak gatherings were of 337 at Cresswell Pond on 18th, 303 at Grindon Lough on 2nd, 250 at Druridge Pools on 5th and 205 at Whittle Dene on 2nd.

Gadwall

A single male was reported from Druridge Pools on seven dates, a female was noted on 17th (DBNR/ASJ et al). Two females were at Big Waters on 2nd-3rd.

Teal

A maximum of 428 were at Druridge Pools on 22nd (DBNR) 191 were at Budle Bay on 17th (RKS), 158 at Big Waters on 3rd (AJJ) and 116 at Colt Crag on 22nd (L&KR), 14-62 were reported from another 11 localities.

Mallard

405 were at Big Waters on 3rd (DM/AJJ), 200 on the sea at Boulmer on 12th (WD) and 385 in Budle Bay on 16th (RKS), 120-153 were at Whittle Dene, Hauxley, Druridge Pools and Holywell Pond, and 40-115 at another 12 localities.

Pintail

A maximum of 11 were at Druridge Pools on 16th (JRT/KWY) 40 were at Lindisfarne on 17th (PRJ) and one-seven at Bothal, Cresswell, Newton, Whittle Dene and Colwell.

Shoveler

Ten were at Druridge Pools on 17th (DBNR) and one-four at Big Waters, Swallow Pond, Hauxley, Warkworth Lane and Cresswell Pond.

Pochard

A total of 187 were at Holywell Pond on 17th (TRC), 96 were at Castle Island on 15th and 35-56 at Ladyburn Lake, Whittle Dene, Big Waters and QE II Country Park. Four-25 were noted at another 14 localities.

Tufted Duck

67 were at Hartburn Lake on 24th (JRT), 66 at Holywell Pond on 17th (TRC), 50 at Bolam Lake, 39 at Whittle Dene and 33 at Ladyburn Lake.

Scaup

60 were on the Tweed at Berwick on 17th (RMH), 33 off Newbiggin on 7th (MH) and 26 at Hauxley on 27th (IF). One-13 also noted in a further 21 coastal localities. One-two ducks were also at Holywell Pond and Wallsend Swallow Pond during the month.

Eider

350 were off Cambois on 22nd (AT), 96 at Blyth Harbour on 10th (DMT), 76 at Berwick and 60 at St. Marys Island.

Long-tailed Duck

80 were at Stag Rocks on 17th (PRJ). Two were on Ladyburn Lake on 13th and 17th (AP/ASJ) and a single at Druridge Pools on 16th (DBNR).

Common Scoter

Only two record cards reporting a total of 1,700 at Stag Rocks on 14th (BNR/RKS).



Velvet Scoter

Two were at Stag Rocks on 2nd and a single was found dead in the Wansbeck estuary on 16th (AT). Four were in Druridge Bay on 16th-17th (NF/ALT).

Goldeneye

Peak coastal counts included 225 at Berwick on 16th (RMH/JDL) and 102 at Castle Island on 15th (AT). Inland 152 were at Whittle Dene on 20th (MR), 112 on the Tyne at Newburn on 4th (L&KR) and 25 at Capheaton on 21st (MT).

Smew

Counts fluctuated daily at many localities with movements between ponds masking the true numbers involved. However the peak count at each locality was as follows:- Ladyburn Lake, six males and four 'redheads' on 12th; Druridge Pools-Chevington Burn, a male and four 'readheads' on 20th -24th; five at Hauxley on 16th-17th; a male and two 'readheads' at Whittle Dene on 2nd, at Big Waters and Bothal Pond on 24th; two males at Castle Island on 14th; two 'readheads' at Holywell Pond on 7th and a single 'readhead' at Killingworth Lake between 5th-19th.

Red-breasted Merganser

37 were at Ladyburn Lake on 8th (TAC), ten at Stag Rocks on 14th (BNR) and five on the Tweed at Berwick on 16th (RMH). One-four were at a further eight localities.

Goosander

One-three pairs noted back at inland breeding areas during the month, however 68 were still at Whittle Dene on 20th (MR) and 25 on the Tyne at Wylam on 23rd (JSB). Peak coastal counts involved 26 at Berwick on 17th (RMH) and four at Hauxley and Foxton.

Hen Harrier

A female was at Spindleston on 1st (PK) while on the same date an adult male was in Harwood Forest (AIB/IRD). Another male, probably January's individual, remained in the Druridge Pools-Warkworth Lane area during the month.

Sparrowhawk

They were reported from 22 widely scattered localities during the month. A pair displayed near Newburn Country Park on 10th (BG) and one hunted through gardens at Slaley Hall on 15th (RMH).

Kestrel

Singles were reported from 13 localities during the month.

Merlin

They were well distributed along the coast with sightings in 12 areas between St.Mary's Island and Lindisfarne. Singles were seen inland at Big Waters and Wallsend Swallow Pond while another at Hexham hunted finches through gardens. Three were noted in upland areas and even during heavy snow one was noted hunting on the fells.

Peregrine

Records on or near the coast involved birds seen in nine areas. One at St.Mary's Island dropped large prey, either a Redshank or a Golden Plover, while another at Budle Bay was noted stooping unsuccessfully at wader flocks. Inland, one was at Whittle Dene on 20th (MR).

Red Grouse

The largest groups were 36 on Ouston Fell (BNR) and parties of nine and five during heavy snow at Elsdon on 17th (A&LB). During the same conditions an unusual sight was provided by a male 20 feet up in a Rowan tree at Allenheads accompanied by five Greyhens (RSF).

Black Grouse

Five males were on Ouston Fell on 3rd (BNR) while during heavy snow on 18th 17 Greyhens and three cocks were found in a gully near Allenheads (RSF).

Grey Partridge

The largest coveys were 45c in fields near St.Mary's Island (ISD) and 17 near Seghill (LJMcD).

Pheasant

Up to 30 fed in fields adjacent to Holywell Pond during the month.

Water Rail

Singles were seen or heard in typical wintering haunts at Gosforth Park (ISD et al), Holywell Pond (MT) and Bolam Lake (ASJ).

Moorhen

The largest parties were 42 at Holywell Pond (MT) and 29 at East Mill, Morpeth (ADMCL).

Coot

Maximum counts during the month were 150c at Cresswell Pond, 106 at Big Waters, 65 at Hartburn Lake, 36 at Whittle Dene, 35 at Bolam Lake and 25 at Killingworth Lake. A more unusual record was provided by up to 14 in Berwick Harbour on 16th.

WADER COUNTS

Very good coverage was achieved with the following stretches counted: Tweed Estuary (CK), Seahouses-Beadnell (NW), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (WTL/MBS), S Alnmouth (ET & JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington (TPMW), Chevington-Cresswell (EC/ISD), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Newbiggin-N Blyth (MHP), Blyth Estuary (LJMcD), Blyth S.Pier-Seaton Sluice (KVB) and St.Mary's Island (IDM).

Oystercatcher

A total of 1,021 were found on the monthly count. Return passage towards inland breeding areas was noted with eight at Big Waters on 27th-28th (AJJ) while on 28th the first pair were back at Falstone (DCJ).

Ringed Plover

The monthly count produced 181 with 100 of them on the stretches between Beadnell and Alnmouth. The first returning inland bird was at Derwent on 24th (RKS).

Golden Plover

Flocks found during the monthly count totalled 1,949. Other high counts involved 1,600 in Budle Bay on 3rd (RKS) and 1,800 at St.Mary's Island on 23rd (DMcK). During snow on 12th 52 fed in a clear patch on Newbiggin Golf Course (AP).

Grey Plover

A total of 122 were found on the monthly count. The largest groups were 50 between Beadnell-Howick while 22 were at Longhoughton Steel. On 24th 121 were noted near Holy Island causeway (JDL).

Lapwing

2,662 were found on the monthly count. The largest single concentration was up to 1,000 present all month at Cresswell. Early spring movements were noted on 24th when 30 arrived from SE at Bamburgh (BG) and on the same date small groups were noted back in upland breeding areas in Hexhamshire (BNR). On 25th 36 were noted at Slaley (RMH).

Knot

Although a total of 455 were noted during the monthly count 500c were at St. Mary's Island on 2nd (DMT) while 320 roosted at Beacon Point, Newbiggin, on 12th (AP). Elsewhere the only significant groups were 520 in Budle Bay on 3rd (RKS), two parties comprising 71 at Birling Carrs on 17th (ET & JRN) and 21 at Cresswell Pond on 26th (DBNR).

Sanderling

Peak gatherings during the month were 123 in the Tyne Estuary on 2nd (DMT), 35 at St. Mary's Island on 9th (IDM) 40 at Berwick Little Beach (RMH) and 25 at Long Nanny Burn (RKS) on 16th, 20 at Blyth on 20th (LJMcD) and up to 70 at Hauxley between 22nd-24th (DBNR).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 331 were found on the monthly count with the largest concentrations of 111 between Amble-Chevington.

Dunlin

An increase in numbers was noted with 2,642 on the monthly count compared with 1,903 in January. Other big counts involved 700c at Berwick Little Beach on 16th (RMH) and 2,200 at Holy Island causeway on 24th (JDL). Movement inland was indicated with three very close to breeding territories at over 400 mts in W on 3rd (BNR), three at Big Waters on 6th (AJJ) and three on floating ice on the Tyne at Newburn during heavy snow on 10th (IK/BG).

Ruff

The single from January remained at Cresswell Pond throughout the month (DBNR et al).

Jack Snipe

One-two were found in several suitable wintering areas. During deep snow on 9th two fed in a stream at Close House (BG) and on the same day two were at Newbiggin (JGS). Singles were noted during the month at Holystone, Cresswell Pond, Low Newton and Budle Bay.

Snipe

Heavy snow cover and frozen ponds concentrated many birds in ice-free feeding areas. 12 were flushed from wet meadows at Holystone on 3rd (IK/BG) while on 9th seven fed along a stream at Colwell (BNR). Six fed on the Tyne between Newburn-Close House on 10th while on 12th 21 were at Newbiggin (AP). 33 were at Druridge Pools on 11th and 40 at Cresswell on 15th (DBNR) and 12 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 24th (PAB). One-five were seen in six other areas, including one displaying over a snow-covered field near Chollerford on 13th (LJMcD).

Woodcock

Heavy snow forced some birds coastwards with eight at Warkworth Lane Pond on 11th (DBNR). On 12th 13 were flushed at Bamburgh (PK), three were found at Newbiggin (AP) and two-three were in Holywell Dene (SPP). Singles were also reported from nine inland localities, including two found sitting out on roads where snow had been cleared.

Black-tailed Godwit

Two were in Budle Bay on 18th (SS).

Bar-tailed Godwit

The N of the county produced most records with 101 in Sandon Bay, Holy Island, on 17th (RKS) and 960c on Beal Sands on 24th (JDL). Elsewhere only 105 were found on the monthly wader count.

Curlew

A total of 840, a big increase on the January figure, was found on the monthly coastal count. One at Holystone on 3rd was the only inland sighting.

Spotted Redshank

The wintering individual was again seen in Budle Bay on 24th (BG).

Redshank

The severe weather led to an increase on the coast with 1,110 found on the monthly count compared with 476 in January. Five-six frequented the Tyne between Newburn-Close House from 2nd-10th (JSB/BG), a single was at Whittle Dene on 16th (L&KR) and two were at Killingworth Lake on 23rd (LJMcD).

Turnstone

A total of 832 were noted on the monthly count. In addition there was a count of 240 at Berwick Little Beach on 17th (RMH).

Mediterranean Gull

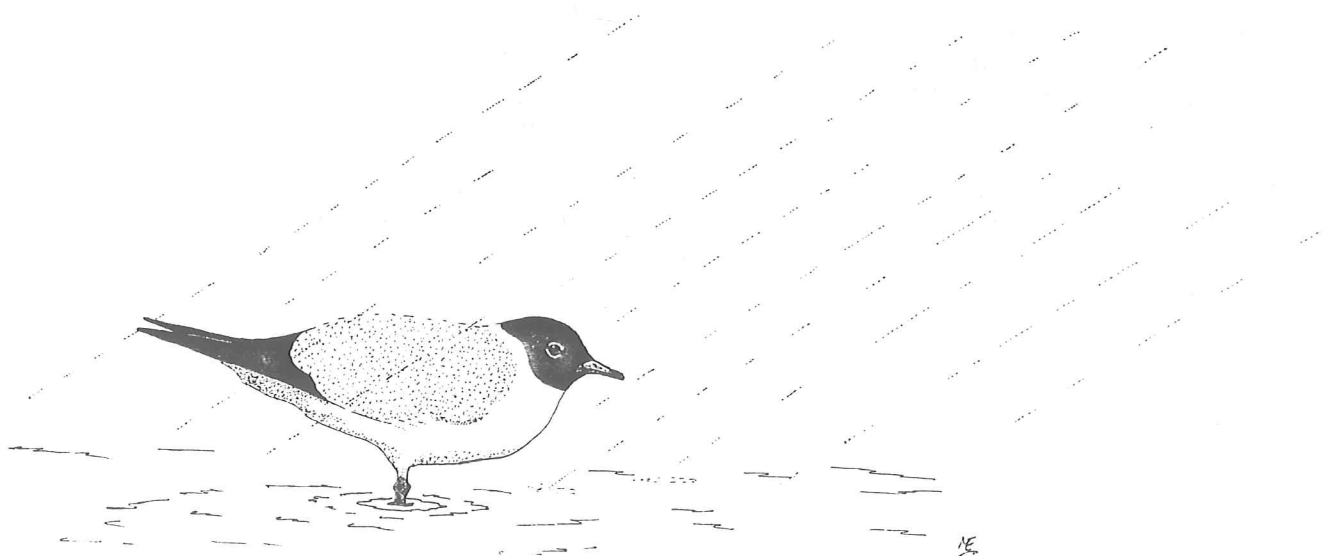
Single adults were in the Tyne Estuary on 10th (DMT), Craster on 14th (BNR) and North Blyth on 18th (MDP).

Little Gull

The adult at Holywell Pond was noted on the 2nd, 3rd and 24th. Other records of adults were from Tynemouth on 9th (AH), Newbiggin on 13th and 15th (JGB) and St Mary's Island on 27th (MT). First-winter birds were at Cullercoats on 7th (AH) and Newbiggin on 23rd (JGB).

Black-headed Gull

In the cold weather, Scotswood was the only significant inland roost holding 5,500 birds on 12th (BNR). On the 16th, 1,550 were in the Tyne Estuary (DMT), 1,200 between Boulmer and Howick (IK) and 885 between Newbiggin and Cambois (MHP). Other counts were 723 in the Blyth Estuary on 17th and 400 in Budle Bay on 14th. Gull passage to N. was noted on 17th at St Mary's Island at 600 per hour, 75% of which were of this species (IDM).



Common Gull

Very few were left inland in the cold weather with roosts of 400 at Derwent Reservoir on 10th and four at Hallington on 9th. On the coast, 1,400 roosted in Budle Bay on 14th, 350 were in the Tyne Estuary on 12th and 245 between Newbiggin and Cambois on 16th (BNR/DMT/MHp). Steady N. movement was noted at Cresswell on 16th (DCJ) and there was evidence of some return late in the month with one flock of 500 near Slaley on 24th and 219 at Big Waters on 26th (BNR/IF).

Lesser Black Backed Gull

Two were at Whittle Dene on 3rd and Barrasford on 21st (MR/RSF) and singles were noted at Ovingham and Big Waters. One had returned to Newcastle City Centre by 26th (DM).

Herring Gull

Significant numbers remained inland with roosts of 1,100 at Derwent Reservoir on 10th, 140 at Scotswood on 12th and 22 at Hallington on 9th (BNR). On the coast on the 10th, 1,500 were in the Tyne Estuary and 400 at North Blyth (DMT/MSH).

Iceland Gull

An adult/third-winter was on the Black Middens in the Tyne Estuary on 10th and 16th (PBE/AH).

Glaucous Gull

Two adults were at North Shields Fish Quay during the month (DMT/MDP). Single adults were in the Seahouses/Budle Bay area from 22nd-24th and at Swallow Pond on 20th.

Great Black Backed Gull

150 were between Boulmer and Howick on the 16th (IK), 110 in Blyth Harbour on 17th (MHP), and 74 in the Tyne Estuary on 9th (DMT), 105 roosted at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (BNR).

Kittiwake

23 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 2nd and 24th (DMT/ALT).

Razorbill

Singles were at Stag Rocks and Seahouses.

Little Auk

The only record was of one at Stag Rocks on 24th (PRJ).

Puffin

Three were found dead in the Wansbeck Estuary on 10th (AT).

Stock Dove

Nine were feeding at cattle troughs at Grindon Hill on 24th (RKS) with one-seven at Wallington, Derwent Reservoir, Jesmond Dene and Big Waters.

Woodpigeon

1,600-2,000 were at Holywell Pond on 24th-27th (TRC/MT), 700 were at Spindlestone on 22nd (BRS) and 200-300 at a further three localities.

Collared Dove

58 roosted in farm buildings at Berwick Hill on 17th (DM) and 11 were at Druridge Bay C.P. on 3rd (PRJ).

Barn Owl

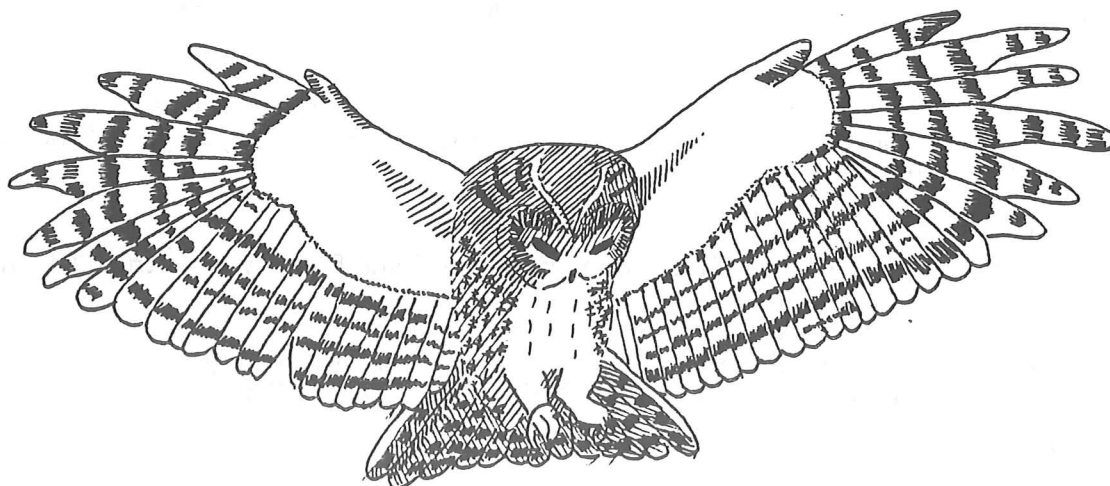
Two were hunting at Mindrum on 17th (AJ) and two were well-reported from the Druridge area on 24th/25th. Singles were noted at Longhirst, Widdrington, Linton, East Sleekburn and Alnwick.

Little Owl

Two were at Blyth Whelton on 17th (JS) with singles at Red Row, Druridge and West Chevington.

Tawny Owl

Reported from Jesmond Dene, Lesbury, Rothley Lakes and Belsay.

Long-eared Owl

Two were at Arcot on 3rd (MJS) and one was at Hauxley on 17th (JS/DBNR). One was found dead on the A189 near Moor Farm on 15th (AT).

Short-eared Owl

Only two reports received. One was at Hauxley from 1st-28th (DBNR) and another at St Mary's Island on 27th (ASJ).

Kingfisher

Two were at Newburn on 10th (IK/BG) with singles at Jesmond Dene, Seghill and Whittle Dene.

Green Woodpecker

'Yaffling' birds were at Borough Woods, Morpeth on 10th (ADM) and at Bothal on 24th (NF). Singles were noted at Mitford, Kielder, Hexham, Warden, Harwood Forest and Bolam.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Reported from ten localities. One was drumming at Bolam on 24th (RKS), a pair were in courtship at Hareshaw Dene on 19th (A&LB) and two fed at a garden feeder in Ordley on 9th (BNR). A single was on Holy Island on 17th (RKS).

Skylark

Some large gatherings were reported on the coast from 9th-15th with 250 at St Mary's Island (MT), 200 at Newbiggin (JGB) and Cresswell and Blyth. In a cold-weather movement, birds were noted arriving off the North Sea at Newbiggin on 11th (JGB). By the end of the month, a return to inland breeding areas was indicated by a light S.W. movement at Big Waters and Ordley from 21st-24th (GB/BNR). One pursued by a Merlin near Queen Elizabeth II Park on 18th took refuge under slowly-moving cars (IF).



Shore Lark

The bird present last month at Druridge Dunes was reported on 4th/6th and from 19th-24th.

Meadow Pipit

At Newbiggin, numbers increased daily between the 8th and 12th with 150 present on the 10th (JGB/JGS). 35 were at Druridge on 7th (IF) and five remained near moorland at Walltown Quarry on 17th (MH).

Rock Pipit

Eight were in Sandon Bay, Holy Island on 17th. A bird showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race was reported from Longhoughton Steel on 23rd (RKS).

Grey Wagtail

One was at Grindon Lough on 2nd (RKS).

Pied Wagtail

Eight were at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (RKS) and singles fed in gardens at Walbottle and Wideopen on 9th-10th.

Waxwing

The highest counts were in East Newcastle. Two-seven were present here on 12th (KIB/WAK) increasing to a maximum of 108-110 in the Red Hall Drive/Cochrane Park/Cleveland Gardens area between 22nd-24th followed by a rapid decline to 32 birds from 25th-28th (MPF/MDP et al). Two birds noted here had been colour-ringed in Aberdeen in November 1990, one of which was seen in Blaydon on 25th December (MPF). Elsewhere in Newcastle, 36 were at Forest Hall on 8th (TPMW/AJ/PV) and eight at Kenton on 10th (MP). Outside the city, 28 were at North Seaton on 15th (AT). 24-25 at Bedlington on 10th (JGS/MGA), 23 at Ellington on 6th/7th (SS/AIB et al), 14 at East Sleekburn on 3rd (AT), 12 at Cramlington on 10th (PBE), ten at Big Waters on 19th (AJJ) and one much further inland at Whitfield on 24th (DR).

Dipper

Two birds in full song were at Holystone on 3rd (BG/IK).

Wren

Six were wintering in heather in Upper Coquetdale at up to 300 metres above sea level (BG/IK).

Dunnock

Noted in full song from 15th at Castle Island and Wideopen (AT/DM).

Stonechat

Still well-reported from the coast with pairs noted at Druridge Pool and Druridge Bay C.P. and one-two birds at Newbiggin, Hauxley, Cresswell Pond, Warkworth Lane and Seaton Sluice. There were two interesting inland records: a male at Dilston, near Hexham on 10th (WAK) and a female at Newburn on 10th (BG/IK).

Fieldfare

Some large flocks were present on or near the coast from 5th-11th with 700 at Hauxley (DBNR), 400 in the Wansbeck Estuary (MSH), 300 at Bedlington (AT), 150 at Cresswell Pond and Warkworth Lane, 100 at Druridge Pool, Lesbury and Ellington, and smaller numbers at three other localities. Cold-weather movement was noted on 9th at Newbiggin with 400 flying S. in 45 minutes and at St Mary's Island where 85 flew S. (JGS/JRT). Numbers increased in feeding areas with 100 at Big Waters on 6th (AJJ). By the end of the month, numbers increased inland with 300 at Slaley Hall on 27th (RMH) and 250 at Thorngrifton on 26th (DCJ).

Song Thrush

A return to inland breeding areas was noted on 23rd/24th with 15 at Ordley on 23rd (BNR) and a single at Slaley Hall on 24th (RMH).

Redwing

Early in the month, 110 were at Bywell on 3rd (ALT) and 30 at Morpeth on 2nd. On the coast, 70 were at Newbiggin on 10th (JGS), 60 at Lesbury on 11th (WD), and one-42 at another five localities. Light S movement was noted at Newbiggin on 9th (JGS). Later in the month, numbers increased inland with 200 at Sleafy Hall on 27th (RMH) and 70 at Thorngraston on 26th (DCJ).

Mistle Thrush

Six were at Lesbury on 11th (WD) and one-two were noted at another four localities, some in full song.

Blackcap

Females were at Spindlestone on 2nd (PK) and at Corbridge on 24th. Males were at Wylam on 12th/17th (per BG), and West Thirston and Jesmond Dene on 15th (ET & JRN/MPF).

Long-tailed Tit

The largest tribe was 22 at Holywell Dene on 12th (SPP). Tribes of three-nine were at eight other localities.

Marsh Tit

Four were at Wallington Hall and two were at Bolam Lake C.P. on 17th (DCJ/MP). Single noted at Ordley on 24th (BNR).

Willow Tit

Two-three were present at Big Waters during the month (AJJ). Single noted at Harwood Forest on 23rd (JRT/KWY).

Coal Tit

15 were at Hulne Park on 21st (MT) and eight at Colt Crag on 17th (BNR).

Nuthatch

Six were at Wallington Hall on 17th (DCJ). One-three noted at eight widely scattered localities.

Treecreeper

Six were at Allenbanks on 2nd (RKS) and three were at Harewood Dene on 19th (A&L.B). Singles noted at Big Waters, Bolam Lake C.P. and Wallington Hall.

Great Grey Shrike

Singles noted in Kielder Forest on 9th (DCJ) and Harwood Forest on 18th and 27th (MGW/MJS). A single was reported to have taken Blue Tits in a Berwick garden on 10th (RMH).

Jay

Three were at Close House on 2nd (JSB). One-two noted at five widely scattered localities.

Magpie

Large gatherings were 37 at Castle Island on 17th and 20 at E.Sleekburn on 24th (AT).

Jackdaw

350 were at Big Waters on 14th (L&KR).

Hooded Crow

Two were at Howick on 10th (CRA/LH). Singles were at Holywell Pond between 2nd-3rd and 12th (MT/SPP), Felton Lane between 7th-28th (NF), Cullernose Point on 16th (WD) and Hauxley on 16th (DBNR).

Starling

An all-white bird was noted at Cramlington between 14th-20th (LJM).

Tree Sparrow

72+ were at Pegswood on 2nd (SS). Up to 40 were at Big Waters and 36 at Lesbury during the month.

Chaffinch

The largest flocks were 200 at Vindolanda on 2nd, at Wark Forest on 9th and at Coldrife on 27th (MH/SS/MLC). 120 were at Allenbanks on 2nd, at Borough Wood, Morpeth on 3rd and at Gilsland on 20th (RKS/A&LB/MH).

Brambling

Well represented throughout the month. One noted at Big Waters on 9th increased to 75 on 10th (DM/ALT/AJJ et al). 40 were at Allenbanks and Vindolanda on 2nd (RKS/MH), 25 at Hulne Park on 10th (CRA/LH) and Gilsland on 20th (MH), and 20 at Druridge Bay C.P. on 9th (DBNR) and Jesmond Dene on 11th (SPP). One-12 noted at 17 widely scattered localities.

Greenfinch

70 were at Spindlestone on 22nd (BRS).

Goldfinch

The largest charms were 20 at Arcot Pond on 5th (LJM) and eight at New Hartley on 10th (KWY).

Siskin

The largest gatherings were up to 200 at Mitford on 3rd (MPF et al), 100 at Kyloe Woods on 24th (MJS), 90 at Kielder Village on 2nd (DCJ), 80 at Borough Wood, Morpeth on 3rd (A&LB) and 50 at Bolam Lake C.P. on 3rd (GB).

Linnet

The largest flocks were 400 + at Sandy Bay, Newbiggin on 15th (JGB), 230 on Holy Island on 10th (RKS) and 190 at Druridge Bay on 10th (MSH).

Twite

The Druridge Bay flock reached a maximum of 111 at Chevington Dunes on 18th (SS). 22 were at Goswick on 24th (MJS) and 10 at Hauxley on 13th (DBNR).

Redpoll

50 were at Sleafy Hall on 2nd (RMH).

Two-barred Crossbill

The Harwood Forest male was well reported between 2nd-21st (JRT et al).

Crossbill

Still well represented in the county's conifer forests, although in smaller numbers. 80+ were noted in Harwood Forest on 2nd (JRT/KWY) and 70 at Bakethin Reservoir on 30th (DCJ). One-35 + noted at another 16 localities. Five road casualties noted on a road in Kielder Forest during the month.

Bullfinch

15 were at Harwood Village on 3rd (MSH), 12 at Wallington Hall on 24th (RKS) and 10 at Close House on 10th (IK/BG).

Hawfinch

A maximum of 20 were at Hulne Park on 3rd (ADM et al). Two were at Wallington Hall on 27th (MJS).

Lapland Bunting

Three were at Newbiggin and a single male was at Cresswell on 15th (JGB/MJS).

Snow Bunting

Three flew south at Cresswell on 16th (DCJ), while inland a single female was at Ouston Fell on 3rd (BNR).

Yellowhammer

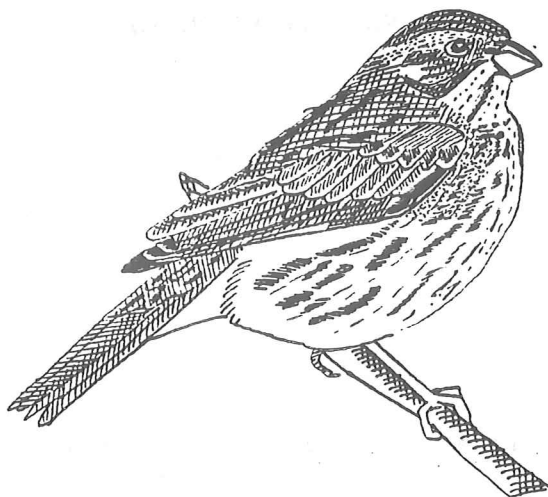
The largest flocks were 100 at Newburn on 10th (IK/BG), 80+ in Holywell Dene on 12th (SPP), 61 at Cambois on 9th (AT). A maximum of 60 were at Lesbury and 50 at Big Waters during the month (WD/AJJ).

Reed Bunting

Six were at Holywell Pond on 13th (MT). Five visited a Monkseaton garden on 14th (MSH).

Corn Bunting

Two were at Snab Point on 10th (RSF). Singles were at Boulmer on 12th (WD) and at Ellington on 26th (GAS).



Please send all March records, in Vooous order, to BN Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley Hexham, NE46 1SX by 8th April at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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This months bulletin has been prepared by I Kerr, AJ Johnston, DMcKeown and BN Rossiter, Illustratins of Siskin by S Sexton, Grey Heron, Tawny Owl, Corn Bunting by I Fisher and Black-headed Gull by M Eccles.

INDOOR MEETING - 11th APRIL 1991

Our next meeting is Members night and should be as interesting as in previous years. It will be held in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Tower, Newcastle University on Thursday 11th April 1991 at 7.00pm.

JOURNAL BINDING

Brian Bullough, a club member, has arranged a special price of £12 per volume for binding of the following journals British Birds, Birds in Northumbria, Northumberlands Birds or similar format. All binding is hand sewn case bound in cloth covered boards with gilt lettering on the spine. Arrangements can be made to collect orders from club meetings. For further details contact Brian at 'Land of Green Ginger' Front Street, Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear Tel (091) 2575836 or at home Tel (0670) 355099.

CHANGE TO FIELD OUTING

Unfortunately the field trip to Hulne Park on 4th May is unable to go ahead. Instead a trip to the Cheviot Valleys and Threestoneburn has been arranged for the same date.

FIELD TRIP - 4th MAY 1991, SPRING IN THE CHEVIOTS

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 27.4.91). A letter bearing the relevant information is acceptable if you do not wish to damage your bulletin.

4.5.91

Names

Contact Address

Telephone Number

Do you require transport YES/NO

If you have a car and can provide transport how many spaces are available to others?







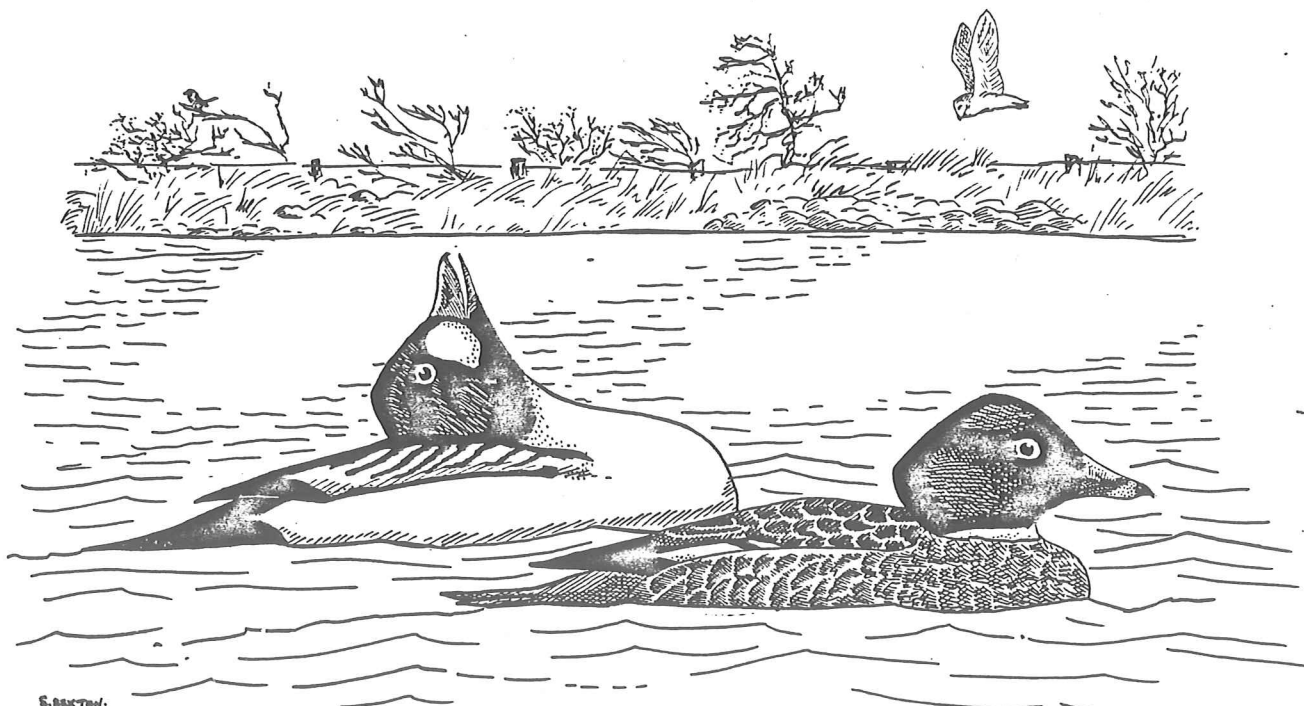
# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

## MONTHLY SUMMARY MARCH 1991

March began and continued overcast and wet. Most of the month was mild although temperatures dropped from 26th. Winds were variable. The generally unfavourable conditions resulted in few summer migrants. The first Common Sandpiper arrived at Hexham on 17th and a Green Sandpiper was noted on 30th. Four Sandwich Terns were reported with first two at Low Newton and Boulmer on 24th. The only reports of Sand Martin were of singles at Big Waters on 28th-29th. Wheatear's were first noted at inland localities from 17th, while a Tree Pipit sang at Kielder Burn on 27th. Black Redstarts were at two inland localities as was Ring Ouzel. Other migrants included White Wagtail, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Garganey. Despite the arrival of our first summer visitors, in Harwood Forest there was a definite 'Scandinavian feel' with three species of Crossbill, 3-4 Arctic Redpolls and one of two Great Grey Shrikes present.

Large numbers of wildfowl were still reported with flocks of 51 Whooper Swans, 346 Pinkfooted Geese, 27 Scaup, 1,000 Common Scoters and Seven Smew. More unusual species included a Red-Crested Pochard at Ladyburn Lake on 28th and Ruddy Duck at two sites. Raptors were represented by Buzzards over Cheviot and Kielder and a single Hen Harrier at Druridge Bay.

Other interesting species were Black-necked Grebe, Bewick's Swan, White-fronted Goose, Jack Snipe, Black-tailed Godwit, Spotted Redshank, Mediterranean, Little and Glaucous Gull, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Shore Lark, Terek Sandpiper, Water Pipit, Waxwing and Hooded Crow.



S. BENTON.

DRAWING FOR 11/8/91 DISPLAYING GOLDFEY, BARN OWL & STONECHAT.

Reg. Charity No. 517641

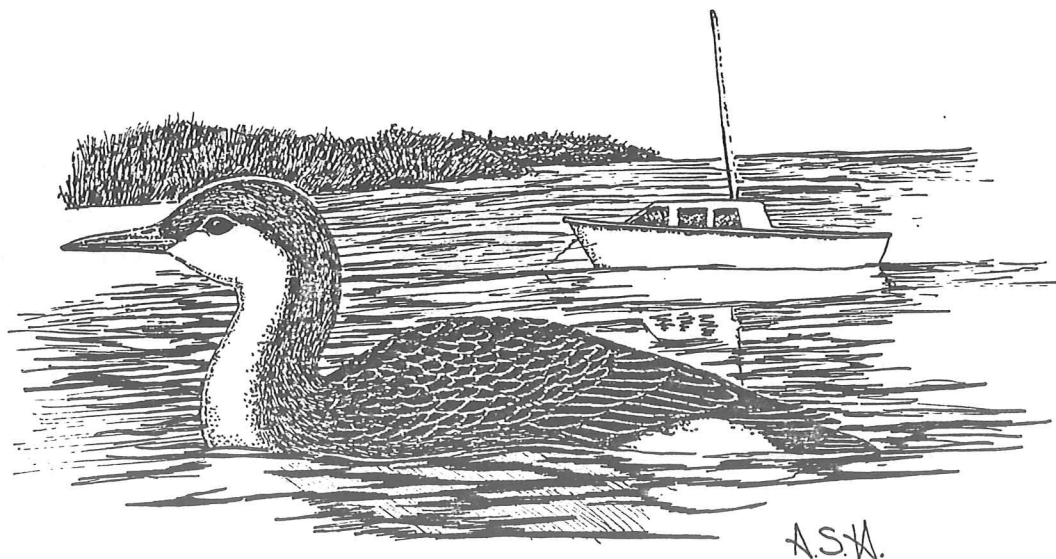
Founded in 1958. Membership is open to all with a beneficial interest in ornithology. It provides a monthly bulletin, indoor meetings, field outings, organises surveys and publishes Birds in Northumbria, the annual report for the area.

CLASSIFIED LISTDiver (sp)/Red-throated Diver

Up to ten were off Snab Point on 30th (AT), six were at Stag Rocks on 6th (ES) and three at Lindisfarne. One-two were at a further four localities.

Black-throated Diver

A single was on the Coquet at Warkworth on 2nd (ASH). Others were at Hauxley on 9th and 29th (DBNR), at Stag Rocks on 18th (DR) and Druridge Bay on 20th (ES).

Great Northern Diver

One flew W. off the N. shore of Holy Island on 30th (DCJ).

Little Grebe

'Trilling' was first reported at Arcot Pond from 13th (LJM) 13 were at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (DBNR), ten at Swallow Pond on 31st (PAB) and nine at Castle Island on 1st (AT). One-six noted at a further 13 localities.

Great Crested Grebe

Three pairs were at Holywell Pond were nest building noted. Four were at Whittle Dene and Derwent Reservoir, three at Colt Crag and one-two at a further nine localities.

Red-necked Grebe

Four were at Stag Rocks on 10th (IF/MJS) when two were in Druridge Bay (DMT). A single was at Holy Island on 25th (Per JM).

Slavonian Grebe

Six were off Stag Rocks on 10th (per JM) when five were off Ross (MJS/IF).

Black-necked Grebe

One had returned to the regular breeding site on 29th. On 30th a single was at Hauxley Reserve (ES et al).

Fulmar

From Cullernose Point to Howick 346 were counted on ledges, 122 were at Tynemouth Cliffs. 20 pairs were at Bamburgh Castle, 30 pairs at Dunstanburgh, 14 pairs at Craster Quarry and nine pairs at Seahouses. More unusual were three pairs prospecting ledges at Blyth Power Station on 29th (AT).

Gannet

100 flew N. at Hauxley on 23rd (DBNR). Only light passage reported from another three localities.

Cormorant

80 were in the Blyth Estuary on 17th (LJM), 51 in Amble harbour on 9th (DM) and 40 at North Shields Fish Quay on 10th (DMT). 11 were at Derwent Reservoir (RKS), ten at Cresswell Pond (KIB) and 15 at Hallington (L&KR). Birds showing the characteristics of the continental race involved one-three at Big Waters, Hallington, Boulmer, Cresswell Pond and on the Tyne at Close House and Heddon.

Shag

36 flew N. at Seaton Sluice during the month.

Grey Heron

A good response to requests for sightings with 25 record cards received. Two pairs were noted in the well-monitored site in the SE of the county. One-four pairs noted at three other colonies. 15 were in the Tweed Estuary on 1st (CK) and seven were at Holy Island on 3rd (RKS). One-four were reported from another 29 localities.

Mute Swan

25 were on the Tweed at Wark, 24 at Norham and 21 at Killingworth Lake and on the Wansbeck at Sheepwash. 18 pairs were noted on the Tweed and 13 pairs on the Till. One-four pairs were reported from at least another 31 localities (JC).

Bewick's Swan

Two were with Whoopers at New Hartley on 26th-27th (MHp).

Whooper Swan

A maximum of 51 were at Warkworth Lane Pond on 24th (PRJ) this herd was presumably responsible for smaller numbers in the Cresswell Pond-Linton area. 18 were at Wark on Tweed and nine at Grindon Lough. Two-eight were at another four localities.

Pink-footed Goose

346 were in Budle Bay on 10th (RKS), 200 at Millfield on the Till on 5th (IRD) and 25 at Grindon Lough on 16th (JSB). One-six were also at Cresswell Pond, Druridge, Warkworth Lane, Derwent Reservoir, Holywell Pond and Whittle Dene.

White-fronted Goose

One was at Holywell Pond on 12th, 22nd and 29th (SPP et al). A single of the Greenland race was at Whittle Dene on 23rd (MR).

Greylag Goose

The largest concentrations were of 537 at Whittle Dene on 23rd (MR), 450 at Holywell Pond on 9th (ISD), 350 at Wark on Tweed on 30th (JC) and 175-250 at Derwent, near Slaley, Grindon Lough and Budle Bay.

Canada Goose

27 were at Colt Crag on 16th (L&KR). One-four were at a further nine localities.

Barnacle Goose

A single was with Canada Geese at Capheaton on 22nd and 27th (MJS/JS).

Brent Goose

Four of the dark bellied race were at St Mary's Island on 4th with three remaining until 17th (MT et al). Up to six were at Cresswell Pond on 3rd, at least four were of the pale bellied race. A single of the dark bellied race was still at Druridge Pools until at least 24th (DBNR et al).

Shelduck

Up to 34 were in the Hauxley-Druridge Pools area. 54 were in Budle Bay on 20th (ES) 22-30 were also at the Blyth and Wansbeck estuary and Longhoughton Steel.

Wigeon

342 were at Grindon Lough on 14th (RKS), 232 at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (TRC/MHp), 176 at Derwent Reservoir and 133 at Whittle Dene.

Gadwall

Pairs noted at Big Waters, Milkhope, Capheaton, Gosforth Park, Newton Pool, Grindon Lough, Bothal Pond and Druridge Pools.

Teal

A maximum of 374 were at Druridge Pools on 4th (DBNR) 250 were at Grindon Lough on 9th (ES), 150 at Colt Crag on 6th (MR), 85 at Swallow Pond on 20th (PAB) and 65 at Big Waters on 3rd (AJJ). Ten-40 were at another nine localities. By 29th two pairs were back in breeding territories in the Simonsides (IK).

Mallard

217 were in Budle Bay on 3rd (RKS), 126 at Big Waters on 10th (AJJ), 110 at Hauxley Reserve on 3rd and 102 at Whittle Dene on 2nd (MR). 11-87 were at another nine localities.

Pintail

A maximum of 28 were at Druridge Pools on 3rd (DBNR), 18 were at Grindon Lough on 2nd and at Budle Bay on 3rd (MJS/RKS). One-five were also at Cresswell Pond, Hauxley Reserve and Warkworth Lane.

Garganey

A pair was at Druridge Pools on 31st (DBNR).

Shoveler

Up to 18 were at Druridge Pools and one-seven at Arcot Pond, Hauxley, Warkworth Lane, Holywell Pond, Swallow Pond, Big Waters and Grindon Lough.

Red-crested Pochard

A female was at Druridge Pools on 28th (ADM).

Pochard

46 were at Big Waters on 16th (AJJ), 30 at Capheaton on 4th (MSH) and 28 at Derwent Reservoir. Three-18 were also at a further 11 localities.

Tufted Duck

47 were at Warkworth Lane on 3rd (DBNR). 40-42 were at Druridge Pools, Rayburn Lake, Killingworth and Holywell Pond and 11-34 at a further eight localities.

Scaup

27 were at Hauxley on 4th, 13 at Newton Pool, ten in the Blyth estuary and eight at Amble harbour. One-four were also at Holywell Pond, Castle Island, Seahouses Harbour, Druridge and on the Aln at Alnmouth.

Eider

The peak concentrations were of 105 at Seaton Sluice on 10th (KWY) 57 at Hauxley on 15th (DBNR) and 38 in the Tyne estuary on 25th (DMT).

Long-tailed Duck

A maximum of 100 were at Stag Rocks on 6th (ES/WTL). Five were at Ross on 10th (IF) and three in Beadnell Bay on 17th (RKS). One-two were at Ladyburn Lake throughout the month and a single at Druridge Pools between 3rd-6th and 30th.

Common Scoter

About 1,000 were at Stag Rocks on 6th and 65 in Druridge Bay on 20th (ES/WTL). One was on Druridge Pool on 27th (MJS).

Velvet Scoter

Two were in Druridge Bay on 23rd (ES/MBS).

Goldeneye

Peak coastal counts involved 102 at Castle Island on 1st (AT), 50 at Cambois and 20 at Druridge Pools on 26th (AMB/PRJ). Inland maximum concentrations included 65 at Newburn Bridge on 11th, 62 at Whittle Dene on 16th (L&KR) and 44 at Capheaton on 4th (MSH).

Smew

A drake was at Castle Island on 2nd (AT). Two 'redheads' were at Killingworth Lake on 1st a single remaining until at least 28th (LJM). Other single 'red heads' were at Gosforth Park on 1st, Whittle Dene on 2nd, 9th and 10th, Big Waters on 9th and at Druridge Pools between 1st-27th.

Red-breasted Merganser

26 were in Druridge Bay on 13th (ES/WTL) and one-seven at ten coastal localities.

Goosander

72 were at Whittle Dene on 2nd (MR), 14 at Colt Crag on 25th (BNR), 7 at Foxton on 24th (MSH) and 17 on the Tweed at W.Newbiggin on 30th (MPF). One-five noted at a further 17 localities.

Ruddy Duck

A drake was at Hartburn Lake on 30th (JEF/JRT/KWY), and at Holywell Pond on 31st (TRC).

Hen Harrier

A ringtail at Druridge Pools on 1st was harried by two Carrion Crows (NW).

Sparrowhawk

One-two were noted from 23 widespread localities. Display was seen at Threestoneburn, Plankey Mill and Ninebanks and individuals hunted gardens at Heddon, Walbottle, Earsdon, Horsley and Matfen. The most remarkable record involved a female at Derwent on 1st which caught a Grey Partridge and struggled with it for 15 minutes while being mobbed by about 30 Carrion Crows(RKS).

Buzzard

Singles were seen on 23rd in the Cheviots (FH) and soaring over Kielder village (DCJ).

Kestrel

Singles were reported from ten localities with display being noted at Cramlington on 29th (LJM). Upland nesting localities in Coquetdale were re-occupied with indications of a high vole population (IK/BG).

Merlin

Birds were back in inland breeding areas during the month with reports from nine localities. Others remained on the coast with singles being seen on eight dates in the Cresswell-Druridge area and others being noted at Blyth, Hauxley, Boulmer, Holy Island and Ross.

Peregrine

Pairs and singles were noted back at inland sites while on the coast singles were seen at Budle Bay (RKS) and Druridge Bay (AJD).

Red Grouse

Many pairs displayed on the Simonsides (IK/MHp) while more unusual were five pairs in newly-planted areas well inside Harwood Forest (MH). 12 were noted at Plenmellor Common (ES/MBS).

Black Grouse

The W of the county provided most records with seven cocks and 11 greyhens at a lek being the largest group (BNR). Smaller groups were noted in the same district. Away from the W two cocks were seen at Callaly (ES/WTL) and singles at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Red-legged Partridge

One-two were noted in the Netherwitton area (WAK/TJT).

Grey Partridge

A covey of 20 near Seghill on 1st was the largest group (LJM). Two pairs were at Mitford (A&LB) and one-two pairs were in Gosforth Park all month (ISD).

Pheasant

The only reports were of singles on Holy Island and one visiting a garden at Walbottle.

Water Rail

One remained in Gosforth Park throughout the month (ISD) and another was at Holywell Pond on 21st (MT).

Moorhen

Ten at Hauxley Reserve (HRS) was the largest group while much more unusual was a single at North Shields Fish Quay between 21st-24th (DMT).

Coot

Departure of wintering birds depleted numbers during the month. The largest groups were 50 at Capheaton (MSH), 34 at Grindon Lough (RKS), 30 at Big Waters and 25 at Whittle Dene (L&KR).

WADER COUNTS

The following stretches were covered during the month: Budle Point-Seahouses (PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS), Beadnell-Howick (MF/AW), Howick-Boulmer (IK), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WTL), S Alnmouth (ET & JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Chevington-Cresswell (EC/MRS/ISD), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA), Newbiggin-N Blyth (MHP), Blyth Estuary (LJMCD), Blyth S Pier-Seaton Sluice (KVB) and St. Mary's Island (IDM).

Oystercatcher

Movements back towards inland breeding areas reduced numbers on the coast with 784 being noted on the monthly count. Birds were noted from 20 river, lake and reservoir areas with 133 in a field along side the Coquet at Hepple on 17th being the largest single group (RKS).

Ringed Plover

Birds returned towards inland waterside breeding areas during the month with peaks of 24 at Derwent (RKS) and eight at Whittle Dene (MR). On the coast 92 were found during the monthly count with display being noted in the usual breeding areas at the Long Nanny Burn.



Golden Plover

Coastal flocks quickly declined with the departure of birds for breeding grounds. The only big groups remaining during the month were 600 at Budle Bay and St. Mary's Island (MJS/IF/IDM) while 200 at Longhoughton Steel included many birds of the Northern race (RKS). By 5th displaying birds were back in the Cheviots (EJS) followed later in the month by others at Blanchland and the Simonsides.

Grey Plover

A total of 177 were found during the monthly count. Birds from the regular wintering groups at Longhoughton Steel again resorted to local fields to feed with Knot and Dunlin.

Lapwing

Most disappeared from coastal wintering areas during the month with 400 at Budle Bay on 3rd and 300 near St. Mary's Island on 9th (RKS/IDM) being the only major concentrations. From early in the month small parties and displaying pairs were widespread in the county.

Knot

A total of 832 were found on the monthly count. However, the largest gatherings during the month were 600 at N Blyth coal staithes (AT), up to 400 at Cresswell (ET & JRN/DMT) and 250 in Budle Bay (KWY).

Sanderling

The monthly count produced a total of 209 spread along the coast. The main concentration was of 100 between Seahouses-Beadnell).

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 346 were found during the monthly count. The main concentrations were, as usual, in the N with 142 in the favoured rocky areas between Budle Point and Seahouses. Groups of over 70 were also found on the stretches between Seahouses-Beadnell and Beadnell-Howick and at St. Mary's Island.

Dunlin

A big drop in numbers was revealed by the monthly count with 1,057 being found compared with over 2,600 in February. Small groups returning to inland breeding areas visited inland feeding areas with peaks of 17 at Derwent, six at Grindon and four at Whittle Dene.

Ruff

The wintering individual remained in the Cresswell-Druridge area during the month although two were seen at the latter locality on 31st (MSH) perhaps indicating the start of spring passage.

Jack Snipe

A single was well reported from Cresswell during the month and others was also seen at Hauxley Reserve and on Holy Island. Inland singles were seen at Whittle Dene and Langley and, more unusually, one was flushed from high wet moorland near Sweethope (BG).

Snipe

Birds were noted back in breeding territories with 'drumming' display at Arcot Pond by 22nd (LJM), on high moorland near Sweethope on 24th (IK/BG) and at Backworth on 25th (MSH).

Woodcock

Singles were reported from four inland and two coastal areas during the month.

Black-tailed Godwit

Two-three were in Budle Bay during the month.

Bar-tailed Godwit

They were characteristically scarce with only 30 being noted on the monthly count. The only large group was 47 in Sandon Bay, Holy Island.

Curlew

Wintering flocks broke up during the month with only 305 being found on the regular wader count when 179 at Longhoughton Steel was the main group (IK). A general return to inland breeding areas was noted with many birds displaying by the end of the month.

Spotted Redshank

The wintering individual remained in the Budle Bay area and a single was also seen near St. Mary's Island on 17th (JC).

Redshank

Numbers declined on the coast as birds returned to breeding areas. 683 were found on the monthly count compared with over 1,100 in February. Small groups and singles occurred at inland waters with 30 at Derwent on 25th being the largest party.

Green Sandpiper

One was seen on the Till near Chatton on 30th (JC).

Terek Sandpiper

The Blyth bird, missing since January, re-appeared at Backworth Pond on 19th (LJM) but was not reported subsequently.

Common Sandpiper

A single was reported at Tyne Green on 17th and another at Cresswell Pond on 30th (AJR/MT).

Turnstone

Numbers remained high during the month with 1,288 being found on the monthly count.

Arctic Skua

A single harried Black-headed Gulls off St. Mary's Island on 17th February (IDM).

Mediterranean Gull

The regular adult was last seen at Craster on 2nd in almost full summer plumage (RKS).

Little Gull

Adults were noted at Big Waters on 4th (L&KR), Sandy Bay on 24th (CRA/LH) and North Shields Fish Quay from 24th-26th and 28th (DMT).

Black-headed Gull

Large roosts from 2nd-13th were 7,000 at Hallington, 5,000 at Derwent, 2,900 at Scotswood, 2,100 at Colt Crag and 1,600 in Budle Bay (BNR). On the coast during this period, 600-850 were at the Tyne Estuary, Amble and Hauxley Reserve (DMT/DM/HRS). Steady W movement was noted over Ordley on 10th-15th followed by light N passage on 23rd. Numbers declined by the end of the month except at Grindon where 2,500 on 3rd increased to 5,500 by 29th when 650 at Broomlee (BNR). 80-100 were present at Holburn Moss on 17th (ISD).

Common Gull

Passage peaked during the month with 50,000 roosting at Hallington on 23rd, 16,000 at Derwent on 16th, 2,400 in Budle Bay on 13th and 650 at Broomlee on 3rd. Light movement to N/NE over Hexhamshire on 14th was followed by a massive high-altitude exodus to NE on 29th (BNR). Many hundreds were in the Belsay area on 10th and 250 at Whittle Dene on 2nd (IK/BG/L&KR). A leucistic first winter was at North Shields on 26th and two adults at Hallington on 23rd showed characteristics of the race heinei (DMT/BNR).

Lesser Black Backed Gull

The roost at Broomlee increased from four on 3rd to 34 by 29th. Three pairs were in territory in the West End of Newcastle by 15th (BNR) with another in Pilgrim Street (DM). Nine were in Budle Bay on 17th (RKS) with one-three at another six localities. Two at North Shields on 26th showed characteristics of the race fuscus or intermedius (DMT).

Herring Gull

About 15 pairs returned to a colony on a factory roof at Westerhope (IK) and 20 birds were at Holburn Moss on 17th (ISD). Steady N passage at 200-300 per hour was noted at Boulmer on 24th (MSH), 600 were in the Tyne Estuary on 9th (DMT) and 160 roosted at Hallington and 145 at Derwent.

Glaucous Gull

Up to two adults and one second winter were at North Shields Fish Quay during the month (DMT). Adults were also at Seahouses on 22nd (TRC/MHp) and Craster on 27th (AP) and another flew N with Herring Gulls at Boulmer on 24th (MSH).

Great Black Backed Gull

76 were at Amble on 9th (DM) with 30-42 at the Tyne Estuary and Craster and just five at Hallington.

Kittiwake

540 birds had returned to Dunstanburgh by 23rd (RKS) and 30 pairs to Seahouses by 16th (MLC). 158 were at North Shields on 28th and up to 150 per hour flew N at Hauxley on 26th. Inland records involved four adults at Hallington on 9th and singles at Colt Crag on 10th and 31st, Whittle Dene on 15th and Grindon on 30th (BNR/MR/JSB).

Sandwich Tern

One fishing off Low Newton (RKS) and another flying S at Boulmer (MSH/WGS) on 24th were the first arrivals. Two flew N at St. Mary's Island on 29th (JDH/IF).

Puffin

Numbers around Coquet Island increased from 200 on 13th/18th to 2,000 on 23rd/30th (ES/WTL/HRS).

Stock Dove

24 were feeding at a sheep trough in Netherwitton on 3rd (SS), nine were at Capheaton on 4th (MSH) with five at Druridge Bay County Park, Catton and Ridley Common and one-three at a further six localities.

Woodpigeon

A maximum of 1,000 was noted at Holywell Pond on 10th (J&MH) and 400 at Denwick on 2nd (RKS).

Collared Dove

76 were at Berwick Hill Farm on 9th (LJM) with 14-23 at Laverock Hall Farm, Horsley and Low Hauxley. One was nest building in Cramlington on 29th.

Barn Owl

Pairs were noted at two sites in the SE of county.

Little Owl

Singles were at Backworth, Holywell, Ouston, Druridge Lane, Stamfordham and Red Row.

Tawny Owl

Reported from seven typical widespread localities.

Long-eared Owl

Reports were received on two roosts.

Short-eared Owl

On the coast, two were at Hauxley Reserve on 5th with one at Ross Back Sands on 2nd and another at Druridge Pools on 10th (DBNR/AJ). Inland, singles were found in three potential breeding areas.

Kingfisher

Two birds were seen at Jesmond (ES/DRS), Mitford (ADM) and Wylam (BG) and one at Seghill.

Green Woodpecker

'Yaffling' birds were at Gosforth Park Nature Reserve, Peth Foot, Nunnykirk, Kielder (two birds), Mitford, Slaley Hall, Harthope Valley, Derwent Reservoir, Big Waters, Hulne Park and Hexham. Others were noted at Swinburn, Letah Wood and Bolam.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Reported from 11 localities with four at Gosforth Park on 24th (ISD/J&MH). Singles were on Holy Island on 3rd (RKS) and flying N along a cliff near Whitley Bay on 29th (IDM).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Early in the month, one visited a bird table at Newton, near Corbridge (BG).

Skylark

A flock of 300 was north of Beadnell on 16th (MLC) and 30 were at Holy Island and Longhoughton Steel from 3rd-9th. Birds returning to the moors flew SW at Ordley on 2nd-3rd and W in Upper Coquetdale on 10th (BNR/IK/BG).

Shore Lark

The bird present since December in the Druridge area was last noted on 10th.

Sand Martin

The first arrivals were at Big Waters where singles on 28th-29th (AJJ).

Tree Pipit

One was singing in Kielder Burn on 27th (DCJ).

Meadow Pipit

Movement was noted from 23rd when small parties flew N at Earsdon (MSH). This passage continued on 28th-29th at Ordley and Kielder (BNR/DCJ) and on 31st when heavy N/NW movement was noted all day at Bamburgh (BRS). 25-100 were noted at Lindisfarne, Colt Crag and Sweethope between 24th-31st.

Rock Pipit

20 were at Low Newton on 9th and 16 on Holy Island on 3rd (KWY/RKS). A bird present at Whittle Dene since November was seen again on 17th/18th (MR/RGW). A bird showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race was reported from Craster on 18th (AP).

Water Pipit

At Low Newton, two were present on 9th KWY/JRT) and one on 6th and 10th. At Cresswell, one was present from 29th-31st (DBNR).

Grey Wagtail

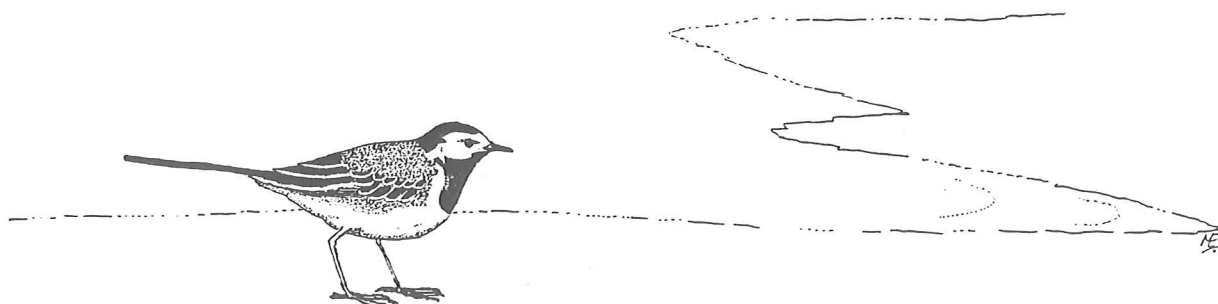
Two pairs were in the Alwin Valley on 24th (MHp) and on the Font on 31st (RW). Elsewhere, inland, two-four birds were seen at Weldon Bridge, Mitford, Carlisle Park in Morpeth, Ordley, Holystone, Harthope and Allen Banks with singles at Bedlington, Jesmond Dene and Wallington. On the coast, potential migrants included on in North Shields town centre on 16th (MSH), singles on the shore at Howick on 16th and Craster on 30th (RKS) and one at Cresswell Pond on 20th (AP).

Pied Wagtail

26 at Calder on 25th was the highest count (AMB/IF). 22 roosted in conifers near Broomlee Lough on 29th (BNR) and 11-17 were at Derwent Reservoir, Druridge and Whittle Dene. On the coast, 11 were on the shore between Boulmer-Howick on 16th (RKS) and small numbers moved N with Meadow Pipit on 31st at Bamburgh (BRS).

White Wagtail

On the 23rd, two were at Boulmer (RKS) and one at Cresswell (ES/DRS).



Waxwing

In east Newcastle, 18 were present in Cleveland Gardens on 1st, reducing to none-mid-month and increasing to 25 by 22nd. A colour-ringed bird, seen here on 1st, had been marked in Aberdeen in November and subsequently sighted in Edinburgh in mid-December (MPF). In west Newcastle, 26-30 birds were feeding in West Denton and the Chapel House Estate from 14th-30th (IK/MH/BG). In north Newcastle, ten were in South Gosforth on 5th (AJD) and eight in Jesmond on 20th and 23rd (ES). Outside the city, two were at Cramlington from 12th-14th (PBE).

Dipper

Nest building was observed in the Alwin Valley on 10th (IK/BG) where a pair was incubating four eggs on 29th (EJS). The first egg was laid at a site near Wark on 23rd (DCJ). Pairs and singing birds were noted at Wallington, Peth Foot, Carrshield, Mitford and West Woodburn. One was at Blyth Plessey Wood on 10th.

Wren

11 singing males were noted at Gosforth Park on 11th (ES) and three at Castle Island.

Duncock

Six were at Hauxley on 16th (HRS).

Robin

They were noted as very common on forest-edges in Coquetdale on 10th (BG). At Hauxley, six were present on 14th and one on 16th-17th (HRS).

Black Redstart

A male was at Threestoneburn on 24th and another bird was seen briefly at Debdon on 28th (AMB et al).

Stonechat

On the coast, a pair was noted at Druridge Pools (JAB/KIB/GSR et al) with singles at Amble, Buston Links and near St. Mary's Island. Inland, single males were at Cramlington on 3rd (LJM) and Tarsset on 10th (SS).

Wheatear

The first was a male in the Harthope Valley on 17th (RKS) followed on 23rd by two at the Carey Burn (FH) and on 24th by two in Upper Coquetdale (BG) and Hauxley and one at Cresswell Pond (DBNR). Further reports were received from three coastal and three inland localities by the end of the month.

Ring Ousel

The first was a singing male at Carrshield on 24th followed by another male at Pennypie, Blanchland, on 31st (BNR).

Blackbird

12-18 were recorded at Hauxley between 14th-18th and four on 29th (HRS).

Fieldfare

Enormous numbers were recorded at the end of the month with about 10,000 at Otterburn on 24th (ADM/SS), 5,000 in the Harwood Forest area on 29th (MH), 2,000 at Ordley on 26th (BNR) and Elsdon on 25th (IK), and 1,500 at Matfen on 19th (RW) and Great Bavington on 31st (MR). 500-1,000 were seen at Blanchland, East Heddon, Grasslees, Capheaton, Netherwitton, Dunsterley Fell, Tarsset and Haydon Bridge between 18th-31st. On the coast, three were at Boulmer on 9th (RKS) and one at Hauxley on 16th (HRS).

Song Thrush

Five-eight were at Hauxley from 14th-17th (HRS). A nest with complete clutch of four eggs was found at Big Waters on 29th (AJJ).



Redwing

60 were at Ordley on 26th (BNR), 50 at Roddam throughout the month (AMB), 30 at Allen Banks on 11th (RKS) and 15 at Slaley Hall on 4th (RMH). Emigration was noted mid-month when birds were heard moving E at night between 11th-15th in the North Tyneside area (MSH), 20 arrived at Hauxley on 16th (HRS) and 85 flew SE at Ordley on 17th (BNR).

Mistle Thrush

Three pairs were in Plessey Woods on 10th (LJM). A flock of ten were with Fieldfares at Ordley on 26th (BNR).

Blackcap

A female was at Walbottle from 1st-10th (L&KR) and a male in Stocksfield on 5th (DP).

Chiffchaff

The first was a singing bird at Hulne Park on 15th (APM) followed on 17th by three in Jesmond (MPF) and one in Allenheads (DCJ). One-three were noted at another eight inland localities by the end of the month. On the coast, singles were at Craster and Warkworth Lane on the 30th (RKS/DBNR).

Goldcrest

Two-three were at Bamburgh on 31st (BRS).

Long-tailed Tit

Three-six noted at four widespread localities. Nest building was noted at Mitford on 29th (DM).

Marsh Tit

Three were at Hulne Park, where nest building was seen on 30th (ES/DRS).

Willow Tit

Three were at Fourstones on 6th (RMH). One-two were at Allenbanks, Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Gosforth Park, Harwood Forest, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Pegswood and Warkworth Lane.

Coal Tit

Present throughout the month at Threestoneburn, especially from 24th when many were noted singing (AMB), 30 were at Kyloe Woods on 10th (IF/MSP) and 10 at Hulne Park on 2nd (AJ).

Blue Tit

40 were ringed in a 2 1/2 hour session at Matfen on 3rd (RW). A total of 241 have been ringed at this site this winter.

Great Tit

Nest building noted at Castle Island on 31st (AT).

Nuthatch

Four were at Jesmond Dene on 18th and at Mitford on 29th (SPP/DM). One-two noted at five widely scattered localities. One at Kirkley Hall on 3rd was a new locality for the species (IK/PWW).

Treecreeper

Four were at Gosforth Park on 11th (ES). Singles were at Big Waters on 2nd (AJJ) and at Arcot Pond on 28th (LJM).

Great Grey Shrike

The Harwood Forest bird was noted between 1st-2nd (MJJ/TJT). A single was at Falstone Forest on 13th (DCJ).

Jay

A party of 16 were at Gosforth Park on 29th (ISD). Three-four at two other localities.

Magpie

The largest roosts were 30 at Castle Island on 16th (AT), 14 at Derwent Reservoir on 15th (RMH) and 12 at Druridge Bay CP on 9th (ES/MBS). Five pairs were actively displaying in a small area of Cramlington throughout the month (LJM). A single at Threestoneburn on 24th was the first at this locality for over 20 years (AMB).

Jackdaw

Nest building noted at several house chimneys in Wideopen on 27th (DM).

Rook

Colony counts included 37 nests at Gosforth Park, 14 at Ellington and 14 at N.Brunton (DM).

Carrion Crow

30 were on the shoreline in Blyth estuary on 9th (MHP).

Hooded Crow

A single was at Hauxley on 29th (HRS). Another probably the same bird was at Cresswell on 30th (AJD). Inland a single was at Powburn on 22nd (AMB).

Starling

4,000 were roosting at Hauxley on 29th (HRS) while 300 were with a migrating flock of Fieldfares at Ordley on 26th (BNR). Early nest building noted at Seahouses and Whitley Bay.

Tree Sparrow

32 were at Cresswell on 30th (TRC/MHP) and c.30 at Big Waters on 23rd (ES/DRS).

Chaffinch

The largest flock was 60 at Newton Links on 2nd (RKS). 20-30 noted at Harthope Valley, Allenheads and Howick.

Brambling

120 were at Rugley Walls near Cambo on 2nd (TRC/MHp). 40 were at Hulne Park on 9th (APM) and 15 at Jesmond Dene on 2nd (AJD). A single male was at N.Shields on 18th (PC).

Greenfinch

80 were roosting at the Hancock Museum, Newcastle on 1st (BNR). 30 were at Calder and it was described as "common" at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB).

Goldfinch

The largest charms were 72 at Newburn Riverside Park on 3rd (AJD) and 22 at Grindon Lough on 9th (ES/WTL). Two at Threestoneburn on 25th was the sites 2nd record in 20 years (AMB/IF).

Siskin

The largest flocks were 70+ at Kingswood Burn on 9th (ES/DRS), 40+ at Big Waters on 9th (MT) and 30 at Bellingham and Harwood Forest on 10th and Kidlandlee Forest on 24th (MPF/MHP et al). On the coast two flew north at Bamburgh on 31st (BRS) and a single was at Hauxley on 29th (HRS).



#### Linnet

Largest flocks were 130 at Holy Island on 3rd and 50 at Longhoughton Steel on 30th (RKS).

#### Twite

The Druridge Bay flock remained throughout the month, with a peak of 57 on 9th (JAB et al). 25 were at Amble on 16th (HRS) and 14 at Warkworth Gut on 9th (DM). More unusual were 12 inland at Netherwitton on 29th (MHP).

#### Redpoll

60-70 were at Harwood Forest on 2nd and 14th (MH), 12 were at Bolam Lake on 2nd (A&LB).

#### Arctic Redpoll

Three-four were feeding amongst Redpolls in Harwood Forest on 2nd and 14th (MH). If accepted these will be the 8th-12th records for the county and the first since October 3rd 1989.

#### Two-barred Crossbill

The Harwood Forest male was well reported between 4th-16th (JRT et al).

#### Crossbill

Well represented throughout the county's major conifer forests. Still over 200 in Kielder Forest during the month (DCJ), 62 at Kidlandlee Forest on 24th (MHp), 50 at Harwood Forest on 10th and at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB). Two-28 noted at nine widespread inland localities. Confirmed breeding at Colt Crag, Harwood, Kielder and Threestoneburn. On the coast a total of 40 birds flew north at Bamburgh on 31st (BRS).

Parrot Crossbill

Two females were at Harwood Forest on 17th (ADM).

Bullfinch

Eight were at Stamfordham on 27th (EB). One-four were at three other localities.

Hawfinch

Nine were at Hulne Park on 24th (MSH/IC). A single was at Hexham on 24th (DCJ).

Lapland Bunting

A single female was with three Reed Buntings at N.Blyth on 10th (CRA/LH).

Snow Bunting

Four were at Druridge Bay on 1st (APM). Singles were reported in the Amble-Hauxley area between 10th-31st (CRA/LH et al) and at Budle Point on 13th (BNR).

Yellowhammer

The largest flocks were 40 at Weldon Bridge on 9th (RKS) and 24 in a Walbottle garden on 29th (L&KR).

Reed Bunting

18 were at Seaton Burn on 2nd (DM), while up to 10 males were holding territories at Gosforth Park on 29th (IJD). A Norwegian ringed bird was controlled at Big Waters on 26th (IF/AJJ). Singles were present in gardens at Stamfordham and Wideopen.

Corn Bunting

Well reported during the month with c.25 at Warkworth Lane on 30th (MJ), 17 at Hauxley on 29th (HRS), 12 at Cresswell on 22nd (ES), three at Guide Post on 20th (A&LB) and a single at N.Seaton on 24th (AT).

Please send all April records, in Vooous order, to BN Rossiter, West Burn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham NE46 1SX by 8th May at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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This months bulletin has been prepared by I Kerr, AJ Johnston, D McKeown and BN Rossiter. Illustrations of Druridge Pool by S Sexton, Black-throated Diver by AS Hart, White Wagtail by M Eccles and Greenfinch by I Fisher.

#### INDOOR MEETINGS

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

#### RECORD CARDS

To receive a supply of record cards during the summermonths please send a large stamped addressed envelope to BN Rossiter at the address already printed earlier in the bulletin.


#### COVENANTING SUBSCRIPTIONS

Covenanting your subscription (which costs you nothing - the taxman pays!) is financially beneficial to the club for about £500 per year. Many members current covenant has now expired and new forms are required.

If you fall into this category all you need to do is complete the enclosed forms in the presence of a witness and return them in the enclosed envelope to me by 31st May. If couldn't be easier. If you do not currently covenant your subscription please seriously consider it and write to me for details or ring me on (0670) 735036.

Lindsay McDougall, 45 Pendleton Drive, Cramlington NE23 9TV.



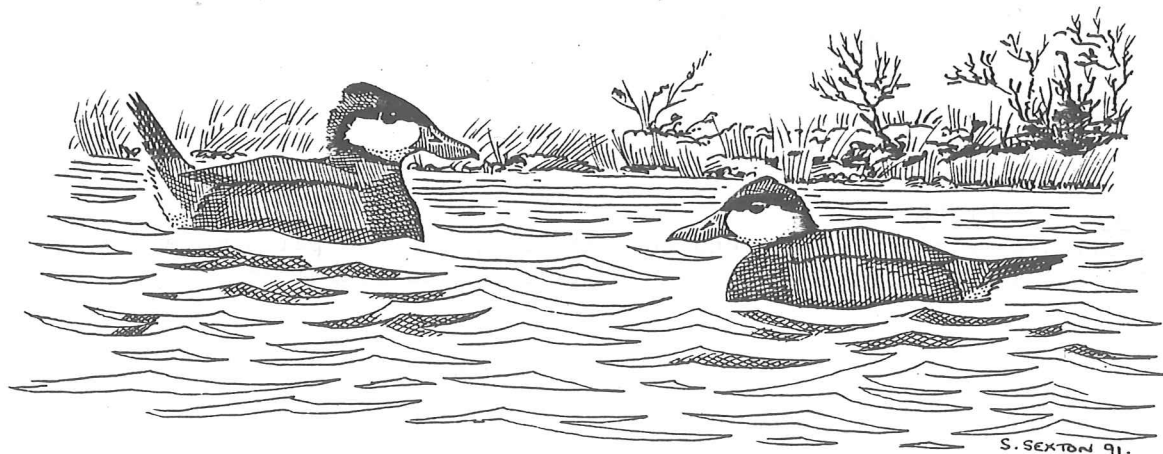


# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

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## MONTHLY SUMMARY APRIL 1991

The first week of the month was wet with temperatures below average, winds were variable and the generally unsettled weather delayed the arrival of our summer migrants. Warmer weather on 10th prompted a small scale arrival, however polar winds from 16th reduced temperatures and halted most visitors. Despite favourable conditions towards the end of the month numbers of our summer migrants remained low with, for example, only two Lesser Whitethroats and one Common Whitethroat reported. Black-necked Grebe appeared at their regular site in smaller numbers and later than last year and were noted at only one other site. Unusually, a Red-necked Grebe was observed at Holywell on 20th but more to be expected were the usual spring sightings of Ring-necked, Ruddy and Mandarin duck. Several Ospreys were noted from 3rd and two Marsh Harriers at the end of the month. Avocets were noted on the same date, 26th, as last year and Little Ringed Plover made their usual mid-month appearance. Much rarer was a Ring-billed Gull on 15th and 16th, the third county record. A Black Tern seen on 13th was unusually early as were three Swifts at Big Waters on 25th. Also of interest were lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Water Pipit, White Wagtail, Black Redstart and several records of Waxwing.



Reg. Charity No. 517641

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CLASSIFIED LIST

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Red-throated Diver

Light passage noted at Seaton Sluice, St. Mary's Island and Newbiggin. 11 were at Stag Rocks on 20th (RKS), six in Druridge Bay on 5th (NF) and five off Goswick Sands on 14th (TRC).

Black-throated Diver

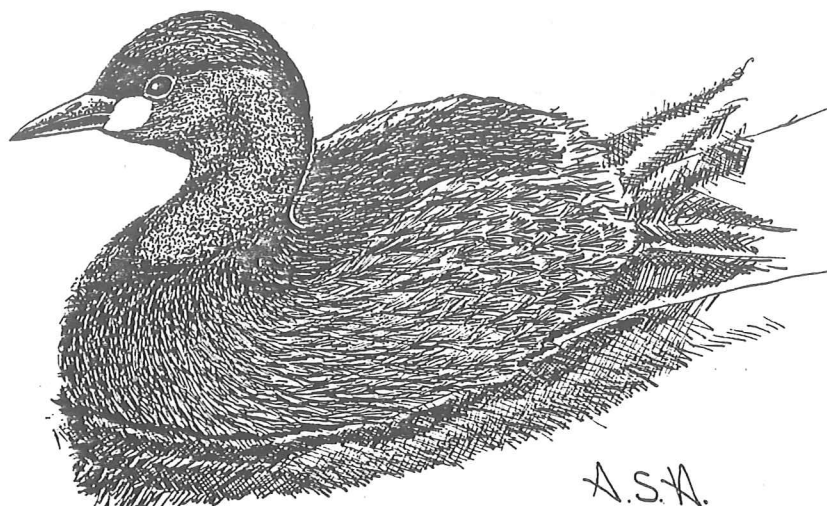
Two were in Druridge Bay on 5th while singles in partial summer plumage were at Seaton Sluice on 18th, Stag Rocks on 20th and Boulmer on 21st.

Great Northern Diver

On 21st two flew N. at Newbiggin, one was in Druridge Bay and two were at Boulmer (SS/NF).

Little Grebe

Up to 13 were at Swallow Pond on 2nd (IF/JDH), three pairs were at Arcot Pond and near Corbridge, five at Holy Island Lough and four at Big Waters. One-three were at another five waters.



Great Crested Grebe

Three pairs were at Holywell Pond on 20th (SPP/ES), two pairs were at Druridge Pool on 10th (DBNR) and one-three were at a further nine localities.

Red-necked Grebe

One flew N at Newbiggin on 17th more unusual was a single on Holywell Pond on 20th.

Black-necked Grebe

12 had returned to the regular breeding site by 27th. At a second locality two pairs were noted at times displaying.

Fulmar

40 flew S at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT) and 170 N at Hauxley on 16th (DBNR). 60 pairs were at Longhoughton Quarry on 26th (ML + TAC), three pairs on the Plaza, Tynemouth and four pairs on Berwick Road bridge (MSH).

Manx Shearwater

Three flew S at Hauxley on 3rd (DBNR), singles flew N off Druridge Bay CP on 11th (SA/TAC) and Newbiggin on 13th (JCB). At the latter locality three flew N on 30th (AP).

Gannet

Between 13th-19th steady N passage noted at Newbiggin Hauxley and Seaton Sluice with a peak of 550N per hour at Hauxley on 16th.

Cormorant

23 were at N.Shields Fish Quay on 6th (DM), 37 in the Blyth Estuary on 18th (LJM) and 11 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (RKS). One-six were at a further six localities. Singles showing the characteristics of the continental race were reported from Cresswell Pond and on the Tyne at Newburn.

Shag

Three occupied ledges noted at Dunstanburgh on 2nd (BNR).

Grey Heron

Two-three pairs noted in a further two colonies. One-four reported from a further 23 localities.

Mute Swan

17 were in the Blyth Estuary on 12th (MHp), 12 were on the Wansbeck on 15th (PB) and 26 at Castle Island on 28th (AT) Nesting pairs were reported from seven ponds.

Whooper Swan

A maximum of 12 were in the Cresswell-Druridge area between 19th-26th. Five were at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (RKS).

Pink-footed Goose

23 were at Grindon Lough on 6th (JSB), 21 in Budle Bay on 1st (RKS) and five at Holywell Pond on 1st and 6th (TRC/MPF). One was found dead on Boulmer Links on 5th (WD).

White fronted Goose

One remained at Holywell Pond until at least 22nd (TRC et al) another was at Whittle Dene on 3rd (MR).

Greylag Goose

The largest groups were of 540 in Budle Bay on 1st, 500 at Whittle Dene on 3rd, 450 at Holywell Pond on 6th (MPF) and 244-300 at Grindon Lough, Derwent and Holburn Farm.

Canada Goose

35 were at Capheaton on 27th (MT). One-six were in another seven localities.

Brent Goose

One flew S off Druridge Bay CP on 9th (SA/TAC).

Shelduck

58 were at Hauxley Reserve on 11th (DBNR), 50 at Budle Bay on 28th (JRT), 46 at Hadston scars on 13th (MF) and two-22 at a further ten localities. One-two noted inland at Swallow Pond and at Colwell.

Mandarin

A male was at Lesbury on 21st (WD).

Wigeon

166 were at Grindon Lough on 2nd (RKS), 52 at Warkworth Lane on 8th (DBNR) and 38 at Derwent Reservoir. One-17 were at another 13 localities.

Gadwall

One-two pairs were reported from Big Waters, Grindon Lough, Druridge Pools, Warkworth Lane and Hauxley Reserve.

Teal

91 were at Druridge Pools on 1st (JRT) and 84 were at Grindon Lough on 22nd (RKS). Two-24 were at another nine localities.

Mallard

The first brood was noted at Happy Valley on 14th (RKS). Further broods noted at Grindon Lough, Derwent Reservoir, Big Waters, Newton Pool, Ladyburn Lake and Newcastle Civic Centre.

Pintail

One-four noted at Druridge Pools, Budle Bay, Warkworth Lane, Grindon Lough and Hauxley Reserve.

Garganey

Single males were at Druridge Pools on 10th, Grindon Lough on 15th and Budle Bay on 25th and 28th.

Shoveler

A maximum of 18 were at Druridge Pools on 13th (DBNR). One-seven were also at Hauxley, Swallow Pond, Holywell Pond and Grindon Lough.

Pochard

26 were at Big Waters on 12th (L&KR), 16 at Holywell Pond on 7th (TRC) and two-five at Derwent, Grindon Lough, Killingworth Lake and Ladyburn Lake.

Ring-necked Duck

A male was at Marden Quarry on 7th and at Holywell Pond on 9th.

Tufted Duck

46 were at Killingworth Lake on 22nd (L&KR), 42 at Bolam Lake on 2nd (RKS) and 42 at Hartburn on 6th (AT). 11-38 were at a further 12 localities.

Scaup

One-two noted at five coastal localities. A male was at Bothal Pond on 5th (SS/MJS).

Eider

148 were in Amble harbour on 10th (LJM), 95 in Blyth harbour, 62 off Hauxley and 25 in the Tyne estuary.

Long-tailed Duck

Eleven were at Stag Rocks and six at Holy Island, two remained at Ladyburn Lake until 23rd (SA/TAC).

Common Scoter

40 were off Goswick Sands on 14th and 60 in Druridge Bay on 20th (TRC). A female was on Cresswell Pond from 17th (DBNR).

Velvet Scoter

Three flew N at St Mary's Island on 9th (JGB).

Goldeneye

The largest coastal gatherings were of 21 at Castle Island 18 at Druridge Pools and 8 at Ladyburn Lake. Inland 40 were at Whittle Dene on 20th (MR) and 21 on the Tyne at Lower Heddou on 26th (L&KR). One-nine were at a further 11 inland waters.

Red-breasted Merganser

25 were on Ladyburn Lake on 16th (SA/TAC). Seven-eight were also at Holy Island, Druridge Bay and Budle Bay.

Goosander

22 were at Whittle Dene on 11th (MR) while pairs were noted at 11 riverine localities including a female sitting on eight eggs in the Lilburn Burn on 27th (AMB).

Ruddy Duck

A male was on Holywell Pond between 1st-14th (MT/TRC). Two males were at Druridge Pools on 30th (DBNR et al).

Marsh Harrier

Spring passage started with a single visiting Cresswell and Warkworth Lane ponds on 27th (DBNR) and a female at Big Waters on 29th (SPP).

Hen Harrier

An adult male was near Elsdon on 11th and a 'ringtail' in Harwood Forest on 14th (BG).

Sparrowhawk

Birds were settled in breeding areas with reports of pairs and singles from 20 widespread localities. One was seen to attack and kill a Lapwing sitting on eggs near Blanchland (RMH).

Buzzard

A single flew N at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 11th (IF) while other individuals were in the Harthope Valley on 14th (RKS) and at Kielder on 16th (JDP).

Osprey

Spring passage birds were seen from 3rd when one was at Slaley (RMH). It was followed by singles near Catcleugh Reservoir on 6th (MD), at Corbridge on 9th, providing the observer with a garden overhead tick (MR), while another at Druridge Bay on 12th (MR) came in from the sea being heavily mobbed by gulls.

Kestrel

Many pairs were noted around breeding areas while singles were reported from seven coastal areas (WD et al).

Merlin

Although many were back in breeding areas with one very early pair having eggs by the end of the month, singles were also noted from nine coastal localities.

Peregrine

Pairs were noted in breeding areas although sadly at least four sites were robbed of eggs. In one area a pair was watched taking turns mobbing a Greater Black-backed Gull as it crossed over moorland and then stooping spectacularly to mob a young Peregrine flying low. Coastal singles were also noted at Goswick (TRC/MH), Berwick (AH/PT) and Druridge Pools (DBNR).

Red Grouse

Reports from moorland areas suggested a high population with birds noted incubating towards the end of the month. In Harwood two pairs held territories within planted areas perhaps indicating that they had been squeezed out of more normal habitats (MH).

Black Grouse

Leking was noted in many areas. The largest displaying party involved up to 22 cocks and a single greyhen near Allenheads (ADMCL/BNR et al). Single cocks were also noted displaying in three areas of the Otterburn ranges and at Threestoneburn. One-two were also seen near Blanchland, Carrshield and Ouston Fell.

Red-legged Partridge

Singles were noted at Beal, Riding Mill, Flotterton and Lesbury where a particularly tame individual took up residence for four days in a garden. Much more unusual was a Red-legged Partridge/Chukar found feeding in heather at 350 mts near Darden Lough.

Pheasant

A leucistic bird was at Backworth on 2nd (JDH/IF).

Moorhen

Unusual records involved a single feeding on factory waste at North Shields and another at 460 mts. at Dodd Reservoir, near Allenheads.

Coot

Nesting was noted in several areas with the first young being reported from Newton Pool by 28th (RKS). Four occupied nests were noted in the flooded field at Druridge Pools (DMCK) and two nests at Wallsend Swallow Pond (IF).

WADER COUNT: The following areas were covered: Tweed Estuary (CK), Budle Point-Seahouses (PK), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC, AS & WD), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES WTL), S Alnmouth (ET & JRN), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Amble-Chevington (TPMW), Chevington-Cresswell (EC, DBG, & ISD), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA) and Blyth Estuary (LJMcD).

Oystercatcher

A big decline on the coast was noted as birds continued to move back to breeding areas. 278 were counted still on the coast while small groups were seen at reservoirs and along rivers.

Avocet

Several sightings probably involved the same individuals moving around the area. Two watched rising from Holywell Pond on 26th were found later the same day at Blyth Estuary (MH). Also on 26th one visited Druridge Pools (DBNR). On 28th a single was at Embleton Quarry where at one stage it was calling loudly and being accurately mimicked by a local Song Thrush (AMB/GC).

Little Ringed Plover

Spring arrival started with a single at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 10th (AH) with others being seen later in the month at Derwent, Whittle Dene, Backworth, Druridge Pools and Hauxley Reserve. Three were noted displaying at one site and two at another.

Ringed Plover

Movement back to inland breeding areas was noted with parties and singles seen at four waterside localities. Display was noted in several areas. Very early breeding took place at Whittle Dene where two small chicks were seen on 25th and three on 28th (MR).

Golden Plover

Although many pairs were back on high breeding grounds some sizeable flocks remained with 600 at Holywell on 21st being the largest noted (TRC). Birds of the Northern race were prominent with 330 at Longhoughton Steel, 250 near Blanchland, 126 at Druridge and 60 on the Simonsides being the main groups.

Grey Plover

The only reports involved 21 in Budle Bay on 3rd (RKS) and singles at Hauxley and in the Coquet Estuary.

Lapwing

Breeding was taking place in many areas with the spring's first broods being noted at Arcot Pond and Laverock Hall on 26th and 30th respectively.

Knot

Lingering flocks involved 170 in Budle Bay on 3rd and 62 between Budle Point-Seahouses on 15th.

Sanderling

The main groups noted during the month were 83 in the Tyne estuary, 64 at St. Mary's Island and 39 at Hauxley.

Purple Sandpiper

A total of 434 were noted on the monthly count with most in the favoured areas between Budle Point-Beadnell. Up to 100 were at Newbiggin on 20th (ES, MBS).

Dunlin

Only 314 were found on the monthly count after most had moved away to breeding areas. Small groups and singles were noted moving through inland areas with peaks of six at Derwent and four at Whittle Dene.

Ruff

Spring passage produced small numbers at coastal ponds. Peaks of five were noted at Cresswell-Druridge, up to four visited Hauxley Reserve and a single was noted at Warkworth Lane Pond.

Jack Snipe

One-two were at Cresswell Pond on several dates (DBNR) and singles were seen at Big Waters and Arcot Pond (GB, AHB).

Snipe

Drumming display was noted in many areas. 12 displayed at Allendale Common on 11th (MSH) and smaller numbers and singles were reported from the N Cheviots, Fenwick, Langlee Crag, Druridge Pools and the Wanneys. Up to 30 frequented the flooded fields at Druridge.

Woodcock

Roding display was noted at Harbottle, Burradon, Beacon Hill and Gosforth Park.

Black-tailed Godwit

Passage birds in breeding plumage were noted. Two were in Budle Bay between 1st-6th (RKS, ES, MBS). Two were also at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (AP), where a single was then reported regularly until 20th. Four were present on 21st while five seen the same day at Druridge Pools may have involved the same party.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Most had departed for breeding grounds with only one-eight being found in five localities.

Whimbrel

The first spring passage bird was at Hauxley Reserve on 9th with one-two then being seen on the coast on eight other dates by the end of the month.

Curlew

Most were back in breeding areas with 20 being seen in one two km. square at Allendale Common. Movement inland produced a flock of 23 at Stamfordham on 14th (EB) while others remained on the coast. Coastal flocks included 137 in Budle Bay, 117 at Longhoughton Steel and 102 at Long Nanny Burn.

Spotted Redshank

A single still in winter plumage was at Boulmer between 3rd-17th (WAK et al) and another was noted at Sleekburn on 13th-14th (AT).

Redshank

A total of 903 was noted on the monthly count. Pairs and small parties were seen at inland waters with peaks of 11 at Derwent and six at Whittle Dene.

Greenshank

A single was at Druridge Pools on 21st (PWD) while two were at Hauxley Reserve on 28th (DBNR).

Green Sandpiper

Two were at Hauxley Reserve on 23rd and a single was well-reported from Druridge Pools on 24th. A single was also at Holywell Pond on 27th.

Common Sandpiper

Although singles were seen at Big Waters, Whittle Dene and Melkridge on 13th-14th the species did not become widespread until after 20th when singles and pairs were reported from at least 20 widespread localities.

Turnstone

The species remained prominent along the coast with 912 being noted on the monthly count.

Arctic Skua

One-two were off Newbiggin on 19th (AT, JGB).

Great Skua

One passed N at Newbiggin on 20th (ES, DRS).

Little Gull

An increase in records with single adults and first years noted at North Shields, Druridge Pools, Warkworth Lane, Cresswell Pond, Hauxley, Holywell, Newton Pool and Newbiggin.



Black-headed Gull

Substantial numbers remained at inland roosts from 1st-7th with 5,500 at Grindon, 3,200 at Hallington, 2,500 at Derwent, 550 at Colt Crag and 125 at Broomlee. By the end of the month, the largest roost was only 165 at Grindon on 30th (BNR). 300-400 were at Hauxley Reserve on 26th (HRS) and 40 pairs were at Darden Lough on 28th (IK/BG).

Ring-billed Gull

A second-winter bird was reported from Wallsend Swallow Pond on 15th and 16th (IF/MW/GPB). This will be the third record for the county, the 1st being in 1986.

Common Gull

Counts at roosts showed a much-reduced population at the start of the month with 20,000 at Hallington on 1st and, from 2nd-7th, 6,900 at Derwent, 900 at Colt Crag, 800 at Budle Bay and 70 at Broomlee. By the end of the month, the largest roosts were only 1,100 at Hallington on 25th and 80 at Derwent on 28th (BNR). 300 were in fields at Swarland on 2nd (JWR).

Lesser Blacked Backed Gull

The roost at Broomlee increased to 78 by 7th declining later to 37 on 30th (BNR). A maximum of 25 was at Wallsend Swallow Ponds on 16th (JGB), 24 in Budle Bay on 3rd (RKS) and 12 at Druridge Bay Country Park on 29th (SWA/TAC). One-five were noted at a further ten widespread localities.

Herring Gull

400 were in the Tyne Estuary on 26th (DMT) and 40 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 23rd (AMB/IF). 47 remained well-inland in a roost at Broomlee on 7th (BNR) and two adults were at Grindon on 28th (DM).

Iceland Gull

A second-winter bird was at Holywell on 17th (ASJ) and an immature at the Black Middens, Tynemouth on 1st (RGW).

Glaucous Gull

An adult was at North Shields Fish Quay on 2nd (DMT).

Great Black Backed Gull

29 were in the Tyne Estuary on 22nd (DMT).

Kittiwake

On window ledges at North Shields on 6th, 42 birds were roosting at the warehouse colony and four pairs at the Port of Tyne building. In similar habitat on 23rd, 29 pairs roosted at the Coop Wholesale Warehouse at the Quayside, Newcastle (DM). The Seahouses colony increased to 80 nests by 27th (MLC/AS/WD). 273 were at North Shields on 20th and light N passage was noted at Hauxley on 19th and 28th.

Sandwich Tern

Reported from 12 coastal localities from 1st onwards with the highest counts of 40 flying N at Hauxley on 28th (HRS), 39 on the Hauxley Reserve on 16th (DBNR), 26 flying N at Seaton Sluice on 18th (SSWT) and 20 at Newbiggin on 9th (AP) and Druridge Bay on 27th (MPF).

'Commic' Tern

One was at North Shields Fish Quay on 13th and three flew N at Seaton Sluice on 19th (DMT/SSWT).

Common Tern

The first was one flying N in Druridge Bay on 21st (AJ) followed by another at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (DBNR). Two birds were at Hauxley and Wallsend Swallow Pond from 28th-30th.

Arctic Tern

The first arrival was noted on 25th at Hauxley Nature Reserve (DBNR) where five birds were present on 29th (SJH/AB). One flew N in Druridge Bay on 27th (MPF).

Black Tern

An individual in summer plumage was watched well at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (RKS/PWD). This appears to be the earliest record in the county by six days.

Guillemot

70 per hour flew S. at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT).

Stock Dove

A flock of 30 was at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (RKS) and 15 were on Ridley Common on 6th (MJS). One-six were noted at five other localities.

Cuckoo

One heard in Kielder Forest on 15th (DCJ) was followed by further singles at Felton Lane on 24th (NF), Woodhorn on 26th (MS) and Howick on 27th (RKS).

Barn Owl

A pair was noted throughout the month at a site in the SE of county. Singles were also noted at Netherton and Widdrington.

Little Owl

Two were near Hepscott on 15th (MGA) and singles were at Backworth and Druridge.

Tawny Owl

Breeding was confirmed at Whittle Dene (MR) and Fontburn (IK/BG). Reports were also received from five other widespread localities.

Long Eared Owl

Two roosts still held single birds during the month. One was found dead at Boulmer on 1st (MHp).

Short Eared Owl

One was hunting on 19th-20th in suitable breeding habitat in the SW of the county (TRC). On the coast, singles were at Druridge and Hauxley.

Swift

The first arrivals were three birds at Big Waters on 25th (AJJ/DM et al) where five had gathered by 26th. Two were at Castle Island on 27th (AT) and Wylam on 29th (PB) and one flew N at Arcot on 30th (LJM).

Kingfisher

Singles were seen at Hartburn (AT) and Heddon (RGW).

Green Woodpecker

At sites not reported last month, 'yaffling' birds were at Grasslees Burn, Wallington, Allen Banks, Catton, and Dipton Burn. Three birds were at Stocksfield (MPF) and in the Harthope Valley (RKS) and one was noted at Bothal.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Reported from 15 localities with four at Gosforth Park on 20th (MT). Singles still fed on nuts at Walbottle on 13th (L&KR) and at Matfen on 25th (RW).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

A female was at Riding Mill on 21st (DJ).

S Skylark

A pair were nesting in a rape field at Horsley (PB).

Sand Martin

Numbers built up slowly during the month with an influx from 10th-13th when 70 at Whittle Dene, 33 at Hallington (L&KR), 30-40 at Big Waters (DM), 20 at Corbridge (RMH) and 11 flying N at Wallsend Swallow Pond (IF). By the end of the month, records had been received from 12 localities with 40 at Big Waters on 29th (AJJ).

Swallow

The first report was of three at Whittle Dene on 2nd (EB) followed by singles on 10th at Big Waters (AJJ), Slaley Hall (RMH) and Wallsend Swallow Pond (AH). Many reports were received from the rest of the month with numbers building up between 25th-29th when 20 at Big Waters, 18 at Hauxley and ten-14 at Holywell, Killingworth, Arcot and Grindon. On 28th, in the West Allen, a pair were in territory at an old mine hut at 520 mts a.s.l. in which old nests were found (BNR/JD).

House Martin

The first report was of five at Whittle Dene on 3rd (EB). No more were seen until 14th, when 10-15 were at West Woodburn (J&MH) and one at Big Waters (AJJ), and 15th when two at Corbridge (PB). The main arrival started on 25th with records from nine localities until the end of the month including 20 at Big Waters on 29th (AJJ).

Tree Pipit

Noted from the 12th onwards when two were in Dipton Wood (MT). Records were received from four other typical breeding localities including 15 at the March Burn on 22nd (DCJ/IF) and three at Lewis Burn on 16th (JDP). On the coast one-two were at Hauxley on 21st (HRS/DBNR).

Meadow Pipit

The N movement, noted at the end of March, continued to be recorded from 1st-3rd at Newton Links, Budle Point and Holy Island (RKS/DBNR) when 40 were at Whittle Dene (MR). 70-100 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 5th (IF), 100 in the Harthope Valley on 7th (RKS) and 12 arrived off the sea at Stag Rocks on 9th (JGB).

Rock Pipit

One showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race was at Cresswell Pond on 21st (DMT).

Water Pipit

The individual at Cresswell Pond remained until 15th (DBNR/DMT) and one was noted at Druridge Pools on 18th (AT).

Yellow Wagtail

Two at Whittle Dene (MR) and one at Druridge Pools (DBNR) on 13th were the first arrivals. Records were received from a further five localities by the end of the month with nine at Whittle Dene on 26th (L&KR).

Grey Wagtail

One pair was at Cupola bridge and another nest building at Hartburn. Singles were noted at Warkworth, West Woodburn and Riding Mill.

Pied Wagtail

32 were at Holy Island on 3rd (RKS), 23 at Whittle Dene on 13th (MR) and ten pairs in the Alwinton area on 9th (LJM). In the West Allen, a pair were in territory in an old mining area at 520 mts a.s.l. on 28th (BNR/JD).

White Wagtail

On the 3rd two were at Holy Island (RKS) followed by one at Hulne Park on 6th (JDP). Records increased from 9th with highest counts of five at Hauxley on 21st (NF/SS/JWR), three at Whittle Dene on 26th (L&KR) and one-two at Druridge Pools, Cresswell Pond, Craster and Seahouses.

Waxwing

In east Newcastle, the last record from Cleveland Gardens was of 15 on 2nd (MPF) but 15 (including one ringed as reported last month) were feeding on cotoneaster in Shieldfield from 25th-26th (KD). In west Newcastle, seven were still visiting a garden in Chapel House on 17th (IK). In north Newcastle, five were at Jesmond Park West on 23rd (MPF). In the outer suburbs, 20 were at Wideopen on 6th (DH).

Dipper

Breeding was confirmed at Wallington, Plankey Mill, Harthope (two sites), Threestoneburn (two) and Melkridge. One-two were noted at Cupola Bridge and Nunnykirk and an individual lingered at Medburn until the 28th.

Wren

Nine singing males were noted in a one-km stretch of River Blyth at Bedlington Park on 24th (AT).

Dunnoek

Eight-ten were at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Black Redstart

A male was at Ordley on 12th (BNR) and a female/immature at Goswick on 14th (TRC/MHp).

Redstart

The first arrival of a male at Hauxley on 26th (HRS) heralded a more general influx on 28th when single males were reported from Grasslees Burn, Dipton Wood, Simonsides, Beacon Hill and Harthope Valley.

Stonechat

A pair was at Bamburgh on 6th and 29th (ES/MBS/EB).

Wheatear

Well reported throughout the month with the highest counts on the coast of 22 on Holy Island on 28th (MJS), 12 from Boulmer-Howick on 27th, 10 at the Long Nanny on 27th (RKS), 11 at Hauxley Reserve on 13th (DBNR), five-six at Cullernose, Prior's Park and Druridge and one-four at five other localities. Reports were received from 11 inland localities including six on the Breamish on 30th (AMB). One near Cresswell Pond on 27th showed characteristics of the Greenland race (KIB/GSR).

Ring Ousel

Inland records increased with three pairs noted near Slaggyford on 21st (BNR/JD), in the Harthope Valley on 28th (JWR) and on the Breamish on 30th (AMB). Two males were in the west Simonsides on 28th (BG/IK) and other sites occupied were Allenheads, Carey Burn and the Dipton Burn. On the coast two birds were at Prior's Park on 26th (PPRS) when one in Marden Quarry (AH). From 27th-30th, a male was at Druridge Bay Country Park (SWA/TAC).

Blackbird

Early breeding activity was noted in Newcastle with a pair with young in the Haymarket on 8th (GB) and fledged juveniles at Milburn House on 11th (TRC) and at the Civic Centre on 25th (DM). In the Horton area, two fledged broods were noted on 24th and 28th (LJM).

Fieldfare

Numbers declined from the high levels at the end of March but some substantial flocks were still seen: 2,000 were at Netherwitton on 6th (AT), 1,500 at Knowesgate on 7th (J&MH), 600 at Housesteads on 7th (BNR) and 500 at Shaftoe Crag, Hexhamshire and Longhorsley from 1st-15th. The large roost in Harwood Forest continued until mid-month (MH). On the coast, one was at Prior's Park on 26th (PPRS/AH). One was singing in the W of the county on 4th (ASJ).

Song Thrush

A fledged brood was at Craster on 27th (RKS).

Redwing

There were few records. Ten were at Netherwitton on 6th (AT) with one-three at four other localities. Light E movement was noted on 12th at Cramlington (DM) and on several dates at East Sleekburn (AT). One was still in the Allendale area on 29th (MB).

Mistle Thrush

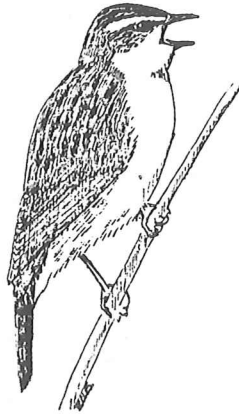
Fledged young were noted at Laverock Hall Farm on 21st (LJM) and nests with juveniles at Milburn House, Newcastle on 12th (TRC) and at Threestoneburn on 28th (AMB). Three nests were noted at Allen Banks on 25th (RKS).

Grasshopper Warbler

The first arrivals were three at their usual breeding territories in the Ponteland-Medburn area on 21st (EC). Between 24th-30th one-two were also at Arcot Pond, Bamburgh, Big Waters, Dipton House, Druridge Bay CP, Druridge Pools, Hauxley, N.Choppington, Warkworth Picnic Site and Whittle Dene.

Sedge Warbler

The first and only record was a single at Big Waters on 28th (AJJ).

Lesser Whitethroat

The first was a single at Craster on 26th (MJS). Another was on territory nr. Ponteland on 28th (EC).

Whitethroat

The first and only record was a single reported at Kielder on 22nd (per DCJ).

Garden Warbler

The first was one at Melkridge on 11th (SJM). Another was at Allenbanks on 24th (ES/WTL).

Blackcap

Small numbers noted during the month particularly after 11th. Two noted at Jesmond Dene on 22nd, Allenbanks on 24th and Big Waters on 29th (SPP/ES/WTL). Singles noted at another 11 widespread localities.

Wood Warbler

The first was at Hauxley on 13th (ED). Singles were at Jesmond Dene from 25th and at Cupola Bridge on 27th (KVB/DM). One at Allenbanks on 28th increased to three by 29th (PRJ/RKS).

Chiffchaff

Well reported throughout the month. Peak numbers were five on Holy Island on 13th (MJS), four at Hulne Park on 6th (ES/WTL) and three at Bamburgh on 12th and at Hauxley on 13th (BRS/HRS). One-two noted at a further 12 widespread localities.

Willow Warbler

The first arrivals were on the 10th with two at Arcot Pond (MJS) and singles at Big Waters (AJJ/ES/WTL) and Gosforth Park (JAB). Numbers increased from the 12th and by the end of the month they were widespread with reports in 37 localities. Peak numbers were 15 at Big Waters, on 24th (AJJ) and eight at Priors Park on 12th (PPRS/AH), at Spindlestone on 21st (BRS) and W.Woodburn on 28th (JMH).

Goldcrest

Singing birds noted at Cupola Bridge, Grindon Lough and Wark Forest (DM/MSH). Was noted only twice at Whittle Dene during the month - a locality where it was very common in 1990 (MR).

Pied Flycatcher

The first arrivals were on the 25th with two at Linnels and singles at Allenbanks and Bellingham (ASJ/RKS/DCJ). By 28th four were singing at Dipton Wood (MPF) and four were at Nunnykirk including a pair at a nest box (RW). Singles also noted at Cupola Bridge, Plankey Mill and Redesdale.

Long-tailed Tit

Successful breeding noted at Melkirdge on 16th (SJH).

Marsh Tit

One-two noted at Byr House, Cupola Bridge, Dipton, Morpeth Woods and Nr W Chevington.

Willow Tit

One-two noted at Allenbanks, Craster, Dipton Wood, Howick Dene and Whittle Dene. Pairs nest-building noted at Warkworth Lane on 10th and at Wylam on 17th (ES/WTL/RGW).

Coal Tit

Six were singing at Gosforth Park on 5th and four at Hulne Park on 6th (ES). Three pairs were using nest box's at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Nuthatch

Five were at Allenbanks on 5th and four at Wallington Hall on 2nd (RKS). One-three noted at five widely scattered sites. Singles at Elsdon nr. Otterburn on 7th and Big Waters on 10th were new localities for the species (SS/JWR/AJJ).

Treecreeper

Successful breeding noted at Morpeth Woods on 30th (ASJ). Pairs noted at Riding Mill and nr. Ponteland.

Jay

Possibly up to seven pairs holding territory at Gosforth Park on 5th (ES). Four noted at Linnels on 24th (ASJ).

Jackdaw

310 pairs in fields at Barhaugh on 14th (BNR).

Rook

Nest counts at colonies included Cheeseburn Grange (109), Cramlington Hall (103), Darras Hall (101), Forest Hall (62), Gosforth Park (40), Hatton Shields (38), Kirkley Hall (280) and Woodhorn Village (42). The rookery at St. Thomas's churchyard in Newcastle city centre had 12 occupied nests (IK/DM).

Hooded Crow

A single was noted in the Druridge-Hauxley-Warkworth Lane area between 4th-22nd (DBNR/MGA/ADM et al).

Tree Sparrow

30 were at Cresswell on 17th (ES/WTL) and six at Horsley on 8th (PB). A pair showed interest in a nest box at W Thirston between 10th-27th (ET +JRN).



Chaffinch

Largest flocks were 60 at Middleton Hall on 14th (WD), 50 at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (RKS) and at Spindleston on 21st (BRS). Described as common during the month at Threestoneburn where 16 were ringed (AMB).

Brambling

A female at Jesmond Dene on 27th was the only record (MPF).

Greenfinch

50 were at Kyloe on 27th (MSH) and seven at Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

Goldfinch

10-12 were at Holywell Dene on 20th (SPP) and seven at Grindon Lough on 5th (RKS). Pairs noted at Allenbanks, Blanchland and Redesdale.

Siskin

Three pairs were at Kirkside Wood on 14th (BNR). Singing and displaying birds were noted at Derwent Reservoir, Harwood Forest, Threestoneburn and Wark Forest. On the coast three flew north at Bamburgh on 28th (BRS).

Linnet

Largest flocks were 200 at Cresswell Village on 20th (TRC), 60 at Longhoughton Steel on 13th and 55 at Low Newton on 27th (RKS). Eight were ringed at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB).

Redpoll

12 were at Swallow Pond on 11th (IF). Two-five noted at Beacon Hill, Big Waters and Harwood. Seven were ringed at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB).

Crossbill

Successful breeding was noted in the Harthope Valley, Harwood Forest, Kielder, Kyloe, Threestoneburn and Wark Forest with many family parties seen. 24 were ringed at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB). On the coast 20 flew south at Bamburgh on 14th (BRS).

Bullfinch

Present in small numbers at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB) 12 males were at Dipton on 14th (ASJ). Four-seven noted in three other localities.

Hawfinch

Eight were at Hulne Park on 1st and three at Jesmond Dene on 24th (MHp/MPF).

Yellowhammer

20 were feeding in a Walbottle garden on 1st (L&KR). 20 were at Felton on 20th (RKS).

Reed Bunting

One was singing at Marden Quarry on 11th (AH).

Corn Bunting

The species was well reported at Hauxley during the month with a maximum of five on 12th (HRS et al). Four were at Druridge Bay CP on 20th (DM). One-two noted at Ellington, Guide Post, N. Seaton and Warkworth Lane.

Please send all May records, in Voous order, to BN Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham NE46 1SX by 8th June at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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This months bulletin has been prepared by Ian Kerr, Alan Johnston, Dee McKeown and Nick Rossiter. With illustrations of Ruddy Duck by Stewart Sexton, Little Grebe by Alan Hart, and Sedge Warbler by Martin Eccles.

CLUB PELAGIC TRIPS

Since 1987 six club Pelagics have given members an opportunity to see some exciting seabirds, often at very close quarters, in Northumberland Waters. These include adult Sabine's Gull (1988), 2 Storm Petrels (1987, 1990), 2 Long tailed Skuas (1989, 1990), a Mediterranean Gull, over 120 Sooty Shearwaters, 7 'Blue Phase' Fulmars and good numbers of Bonxies, Arctic Skuas, Manx Shearwaters, 2 Pomarine Skuas and perhaps the highlight of all the trips, in 1990, 3 Minke Whales the size of the 'MV New Venture'!

This year 3 trips are organised, each one leaving at 8.00am from the Ice Factory, North Shields. The dates, all Saturdays, are July 27, August 10 and August 24. The cost is £10 and there are 14 places only on the boat. An extra contribution, no more than £1 maybe levied to help with chum costs.

Please send cheques made payable to Tim Cleeves, for £10 to 19, Holywell Dene Road, Holywell, Whitley Bay NE25 0LB - First received bookings secure a place if you want to go on all 3 cost is £30. On the day please wear old clothes, there's a lot of 'flying fish' - some in kit form! also, if you aren't even an 'average' sailor buy some travel sickness pills - Sturgeson from 'Boots' are very good.

See you at the Ice Factory.....

TIM CLEEVES





# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

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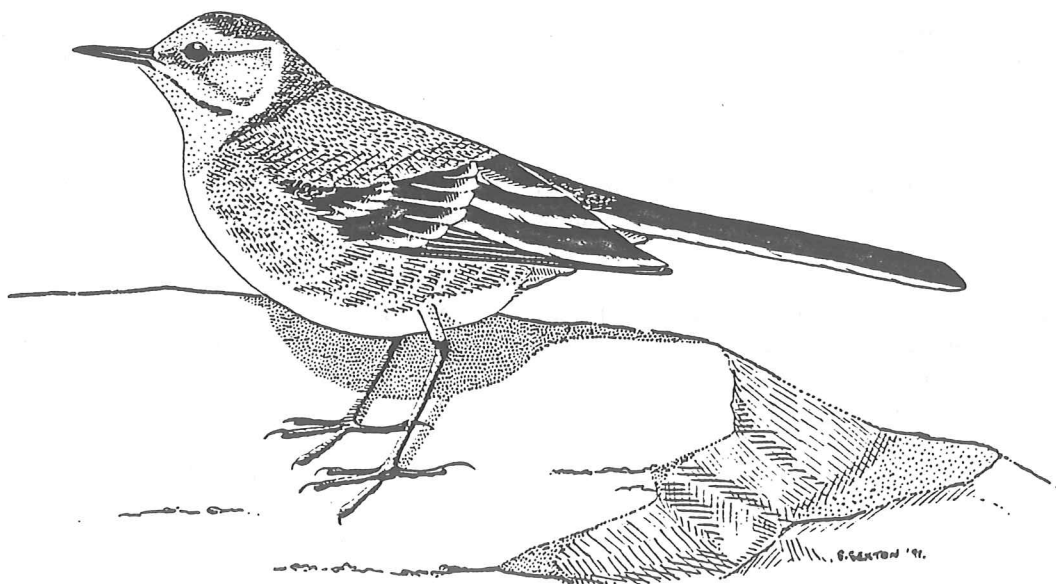
## MONTHLY SUMMARY MAY 1991

May was a dry month though not particularly sunny. It began cold with winds mainly from the NE. The second week became warmer and a period of unsettled weather dominated the scene when winds were from the W. The month ended cool and overcast with easterly winds and light drizzle.

Mixed with the tardy arrival of our summer visitors were a number of the much sought after rarities. Garganey was reported from eight sites, the Ring-necked Duck was at Marden Quarry but the pick of the wildfowl was a drake Red-Crested Pochard flushed by an Osprey at Arcot Pond on 9th. Four Osprey were noted, while Marsh Harrier was reported from four localities. A Montagu's Harrier delighted two lucky observers at Adderstone Hall on 25th.

The Lesser Crested Tern returned to the Farnes but more unusual were sightings of Long-tailed Skua at Druridge, Newbiggin and Seaton Sluice between 28th-31st. A Ring-billed Gull was at Holywell Pond on 16th and Black Terns at Killingworth Lake, Big Waters and Holywell between 30th-31st.

A Corncrake was at Thropton on 5th and a Dotterel at Holy Island on 26th-27th. A Turtle Dove was reported near Holywell and a Hoopoe at Ashington. Of smaller species a female Citrine Wagtail was found at Hauxley Reserve on 15th, a Red-throated Pipit on the Farnes on 29th where a Nightingale had been seen on 21st. Other interesting species included Bluethroat, Wryneck, Reed Warbler, Temminck's Stint, Buzzard, Blue-head Wagtail and a belated record of a Subalpine Warbler on the Farnes on 26th April.



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

Five flew N in Beadnell Bay on 15th (APM), one-three were at another four localities.

Black-throated Diver

Singles in summer plumage were at Annstead Point on 3rd and Stag Rocks on 4th (BRS/RKS). One in winter plumage was in Druridge Bay on 6th (MGA). On 27th two were off Ross Back Sands (SS).

Great Northern Diver

One flew N at Tynemouth on 4th (CB).

Little Grebe

Three pairs were at Arcot Pond where a brood of three noted by 29th (LJM). One-four were at a further eight ponds.

Great Crested Grebe

Five were at Cresswell Pond on 5th, two pairs at Broomlee on 19th (BNR) four at Whittle Dene and one-three at Derwent, Big Waters, Warkworth Lane and Druridge Pools.

Black-necked Grebe

At least 26 had returned to the regular breeding site by 4th. At a second locality six were present on 11th. Two were at Bothal Pond on 10th and a single at Ladyburn Lake on 12th (MGA/DM).

Fulmar

The peak movement was of 60 per hour N. at Annstead on 4th (BRS). Colony counts include 37 pairs at Dunstanburgh (AW), 27 pairs at Tynemouth (DM) and two pairs at Blyth Power Station (AT). One flew W. at Castle Island on 27th and another circled Cramlington on 31st (AT/LJM). A 'blue' phase bird flew N. at Newbiggin on 31st (JGS).

Manx Shearwater

One-six flew N. throughout the month at the usual sea-watching sites with peaks of 21 N at Beadnell Bay on 14th and 15 N per hour at Newbiggin on 30th (RL/JGS).

Gannet

Up to 200 per hour flew N at Annstead on 4th (BRS), 53N at Cullercoats on 28th (TJT) and 112 N in two hours at Hauxley on 30th (HRS).

Cormorant

18 were at Berwick on 10th (RMH), 10 at Derwent on 4th (RKS) and 15 at North Shields on 12th (DMT). One-five were also at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Hallington, Rayburn Lake and on the Tyne at Heddon.

Shag

Five pairs noted at Dunstanburgh (AW), a single was at N. Shields on 'three dates (DMT).

Grey Heron

Five nests noted at a colony near Alnwick. One-six were reported from a further 22 localities.

Mute Swan

44 were at Castle Island on 5th (AT) and 149 at Berwick on 25th (MSH). Pairs with young noted at Big Waters (eight), Marden Quarry (six), Hauxley Reserve (six), Warkworth Lane (five), Matfen (seven), Arcot Pond and Newton Pool.

Pink-footed Goose

A single was at the Long Nanny on 4th (RKS).

Greylag Goose

Three broods, (six, seven and nine young) noted at Holywell Pond and a single brood of three at Castle Island.

Snow Goose

Five with a Barnacle Goose flew NW at the Long Nanny on 6th (APM).

Canada Goose

A pair with one young was at Castle Island on 4th (AT), at Capheaton on 19th a pair escorted four young (JAB). 23 were at Big Waters on 26th (GB), 11 at Grindon Lough and one-six at a further four localities.

Barnacle Goose

A Skein of c100 flew NNE at Annstead Point on 3rd (BRS). One-two noted at the Long Nanny, Hauxley, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Castle Island, Dunstanburgh and Rayburn Lake.

Brent Goose

A dark-bellied individual was at the Long Nanny on 4th (RKS).

Shelduck

On 18th c100 were in Budle Bay (BRS), 56 were at Druridge Pools on 28th (DBNR). Broods noted at Castle Island (three broods - 24 young) and single broods at Hauxley, the Long Nanny, Druridge Pools and the Coquet Estuary. Inland two were at Big Waters on 10th and a single on 25th when one at Holywell Pond.

Wigeon

At the regular breeding site seven pairs were present on 12th, while at the second breeding site 11 pairs were noted on 6th. Elsewhere 20 were at Grindon Lough on 4th (DM) and one-eight at another seven localities.

Gadwall

Four were at Druridge Pools on 24th (DBNR) and a pair at Grindon Lough (RKS).

Teal

Pairs noted back at Moorland breeding sites during the month. 32 were at Warkworth Lane on 5th and 18 at Grindon Lough on 6th. At Derwent females escorted broods of six and eight young.

Mallard

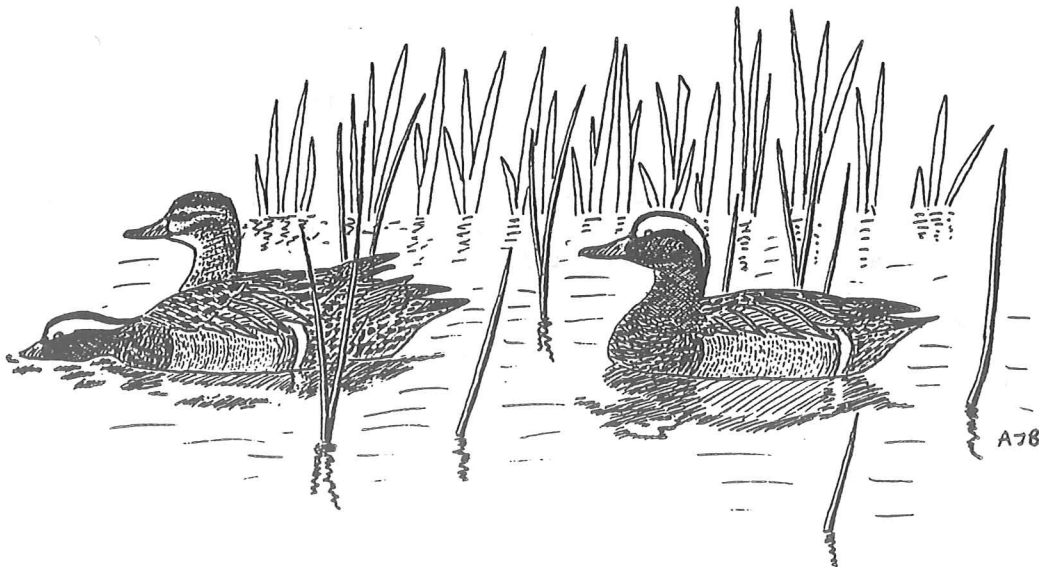
Broods noted at Druridge Pools, Colt Crag, Ford, on the Wanbeck at Mitford and Arcot Pond. Up to six broods noted at Derwent this season.

Pintail

Four were at Hauxley on 5th (DBNR), a pair at Grindon Lough on 7th (RKS) and a male at Holy Island Lough between 26th-30th (GB/WD).

Garganey

A drake at Warkworth Lane on 5th was probably one of two males noted at Druridge Pools between 5th-14th (SS/NF/DBNR). Single males were at Budle Bay on 4th (RKS), Holywell Pond on 12th (DM), Beadnell Harbour on 17th (JMA), & Castle Island from 14th-31st (AT). A pair were at Grindon Lough on 18th-19th (EC/RKS) while two pairs were at Newton Pool on 20th (AW).

Shoveler

Ten were noted at Druridge Pools and Grindon Lough. One-eight were also at another eight ponds.

Red-Crested Pochard

A male was flushed by a passing Osprey at Arcot Pond on 9th (LJM).

Pochard

A female was with three young at Arcot Hall from 25th (AHB et al). The highest concentration was of eight at Holywell Pond (TRC).

Ring-necked Duck

A male was reported from Marden Quarry on 6th and 28th (AH/RJ).

Tufted Duck

30 were at Killingworth Lake on 3rd (LJM), 19-23 were also at Holywell Pond, Whittle Dene, Haxley and Castle Island.

Scaup

At Newbiggin 24 flew N in two hours on 5th (JGS). A pair were at Hauxley Reserve on 9th with the female remaining till the month's end (DBNR).



Eider

160 were at Holy Island on 4th, 80 on the Tweed at Berwick on 10th and 148 between Longhoughton Steel-Boulmer on 27th (RKS/RMH). More unusual was a pair on Cresswell Pond on 5th (SS).

Long-tailed Duck

One-five reported from six coastal localities until 11th.

Common Scoter

20 flew N in Druridge Bay on 12th (DM) and 18 N at Cullercoats on 28th (TJT). A female remained on Cresswell Pond until 22nd (DBNR). More unusual was a male on Colt Crag on 18th (L&KR).

Goldeneye

Ten flew N at Newbiggin on 4th (AT). One-eight were at another 16 localities.

Red-breasted Merganser

One-three were on the coast at Newton Point, Budle Bay, Hauxley and Cresswell Pond. A male was inland at Whittle Dene on 25th (RGW).

Goosander

A female escorted six-seven young on the Tyne at Riding Mill on 16th (DJ). Seven were at Foxton on 12th (MSH) and one-six at another 18 localities.

Ruddy Duck

Two males were noted at Druridge Pools from 2nd-14th and on four dates at Hauxley Reserve (DBNR et al). Two females were at Holywell Pond on 9th (JRT) with a single female present on 18th (IC). A female was at Arcot Pond from 10th-31st (RGW et al) and at Druridge Pools on 30th (DBNR).

Marsh Harrier

Spring passage continued with a series of sightings, all involving females or immatures, several of them being mobbed by crows. Singles were at Holywell-Earsdon on 19th (TRC/JRT), Choppington on 22nd (SS), Long Nanny Burn on 23rd (APM) and Hauxley on 30th (IF/DBNR).

Montagu's Harrier

Notes have been received of a single at Adderstone Hall on 25th (JDH) which, if accepted, will be the first since May 1987 when a female or immature was over the Long Nanny Burn.

Sparrowhawk

Singles, including several displaying, were reported from 24 widespread localities. A pair nested in a Beech tree in Newcastle city centre (MRS) and a female came to grief, being found dead impaled on a sharp branch in a garden at Walkerville where it had been seen earlier chasing small birds (WAK).

Buzzard

A single was mobbed by a pair of Sparrowhawks near Alwinton on 6th (MHP).

Osprey

Spring passage singles were seen at Cresswell-Druridge on 4th (PBE/ADMCL et al) being mobbed by Oystercatchers while another at Arcot Pond on 9th flushed a Red Crested Pochard (LJMCD). Further records involved a single which moved from Marden Quarry to Holywell Pond and Seaton Deleval on 18th (RJ.TRC) while another flew N at Holywell on 28th (TJT).

Kestrel

Pairs were settled in breeding areas, including a pair using a nestbox in the S of the county. Singles were noted from 13 other scattered areas.

Merlin

Singles were noted in eight upland areas, including one which attacked a Lapwing near Blanchland. It was disturbed by a passing car and the injured victim appears to be recovering well! A male was seen at Walkergate on 26th chasing a flock of small birds (PAB).

Peregrine

Coastal singles were at St. Mary's Island on 4th (ALT/DMcK) and Newton Point on 14th (GMN). Singles were noted at two inland localities.

Black Grouse

They were again well reported. The largest leks involved 23 at Allenheads (ADMcL), eight at the Otterburn Ranges (MH) while a party of five males fed at Carrshield (NF). One-three were also noted at Threestoneburr, Ordley, at other sites on the Otterburn Ranges and at Plenneller Common and Kingwood Burn.

Red-legged Partridge

One-two were noted at Flotterton, N Middleton, Netherwitton and Ellington but the strangest record involved a single seen on the roof of an out building at Gosforth (KIB). A single showing characteristics of a hybrid with Chukar was noted at Ilderton on 4th (NTBC field trip).

Grey Partridge

One-two were seen in four widely scattered areas (WD).

Corncrake

A spring passage bird was heard calling for 30 minutes at 10pm at Thropton on 5th (AM).

Moorhen

The only records were from Holywell Pond where two broods totalling six young were noted (TRC).

Coot

Breeding records were received from several waters. Up to 13 nests were visible at Grindon Lough (MSH/RKS) while other records were from Holywell Pond, Big Waters and Newton Pool (all two broods) with single broods seen at Holy Island Lough, E Cramlington, Killingworth Lake, Arcot Pond and Laverock Hall.

Oystercatcher

Pairs were reported from breeding areas along rivers and at reservoirs. Others continued to exploit new habitats with, for example, a pair breeding in a newly-planted field at Wandylaw (MSH). A pair with four small young were at Cresswell Pond on 25th (KIB/GSR). The largest non-breeding flock was 74 at Longhoughton Steel on 27th (RKS).

Little Ringed Plover

Two were at Whittle Dene between 10th-26th and a single visited Druridge Pools on 28th (MR).

Ringed Plover

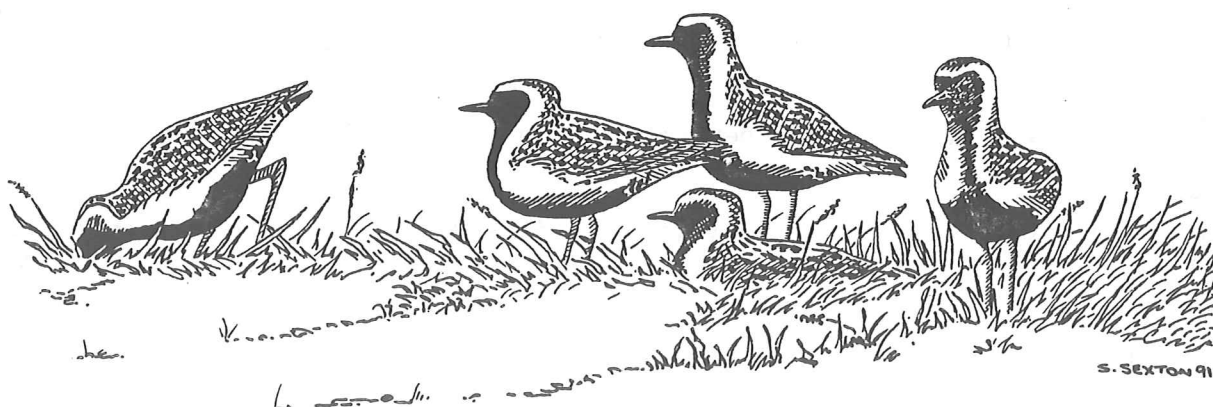
The brood noted at Whittle Dene in late April disappeared by 14th May but a second pair were incubating and three chicks hatched from the nest of a third pair by 26th (MR et al). One-three also visited Big Waters, two were seen at Grindon Lough while on the coast the largest flock noted was 63 at Ross Back Sands (SS).

Dotterel

A brightly marked spring passage bird found in the dunes between Emmanuel Head and Holy Island Lough on 26th (GB/AT/LR) remained in the area until 27th.

Golden Plover

Breeding was in full swing with three clutches in a small area of the Simonsides and two males holding territory just below the summit of Hedgehope. Passage of birds of the Northern race dwindled with 100 N at Beadnell on 17th being the only large group (RL).

Grey Plover

The only large group was 160 in Budle Bay on 11th (MPF). One-eight were noted in seven other coastal localities, including individuals in full breeding plumage.

Lapwing

Further breeding records came from the Holywell, Wallsend and Laverock Hall areas.

Knot

A single in full summer plumage was at St. Mary's Island on 12th (DMcK).

Sanderling

Small flocks remained during the month with counts of 40 at St. Mary's Island, 32 at Chevington Burn and 22 at the Long Nanny Burn. One-five were in three other areas.

Little Stint

Spring passage produced a single at Hauxley on 12th which was seen to be ringed on the right leg (HRS). Another single was at Druridge Pools on 20th-21st while two were present on 22nd-23rd (DBNR). One visited the Long Nanny Burn on 22nd (APM/RJL) while on 29th another fed along the stream near Hadston Scars (WAK).

Temminck's Stint

Singles were at Druridge Pools on 21st-22nd (DBNR et al) and at Holywell Pond on 30th-31st (TRC et al).

Purple Sandpiper

A group of 41 at St. Mary's Island was the largest party (TJT) while up to 12 were near Newton Point and 11 frequented Hauxley beach. One-seven were seen in three other areas.

Dunlin

Pairs were noted in breeding habitats at two sites near Allenheads, at Hexhamshire Common and at Grindon Lough. 22 visited Big Waters on 20th while one-two were noted at Whittle Dene, 120 in Budle Bay on 16th was the largest coastal flock.

Ruff

One-five were at Druridge Pools during the month. Display was noted on 4th and a peak of six was present on 7th (DBNR et al). Further display took place on 11th (JRT). Males were also noted at Grindon Lough on 7th (RKS) and Holy Island Lough on 26th (GB). One-two were seen in two other areas during the month.

Jack Snipe

One-two were at Druridge Pools between 2nd-8th.

Snipe

Drumming display was noted in at least ten widespread areas in both lowland and upland districts. Six pairs were on territory at Broomlee while more unusual were two pairs in a newly-felled area at Harwood.

Woodcock

Display was noted from nine widely scattered areas with one-two being seen in four other localities.

Black-tailed Godwit

Birds were present at Druridge Pools throughout the month with a peak of seven on 11th (DBNR/MGA et al). One-two also frequented Hauxley Reserve with a maximum of four on 9th (DBNR). A single in summer plumage was also at Grindon Lough on 18th (JSB/EC) while two were present on 24th (MH).

Bar-tailed Godwit

Very few were noted. Up to five were at Druridge Pools and the Long Nanny Burn and four were noted at Hauxley while the only sizeable group was of 50+ at Ross Back Sands on 27th (SS).

Whimbrel

Spring passage N continued throughout the month with the largest parties being 19 at Druridge Pools on 5th (SS) and 11 at Beadnell on 7th (APM). One-eight were noted moving at ten other coastal localities. Inland records involved two at Big Waters and Grindon Lough and singles at Prestwick Carr and the Simonsides.

Curlew

The only record of non-breeders was a flock of 33 at Longhoughton Steel.

Redshank

Three-four pairs displayed at Grindon Lough (MSH/RKS) while three pairs had territories at Laverock Hall and one at Arcot Pond. Fledged young were seen at Shankhouse by 30th (LJMcD). A white individual with a buff head and back was at Bothal Pond on 1st (SS).

Greenshank

Passage continued with peaks of seven at Cresswell-Druridge on 5th. Four were at Hauxley Reserve on 25th and singles were noted at four other coastal localities during the month.

Wood Sandpiper

One was at the Long Nanny Burn on 9th (GMN/RL) and another visited Whittle Dene on 14th (MR). A single was at Druridge Pools from 20th-31st while other individuals were noted at Backworth on 24th (AT) and Big Waters on 25th (AJJ).

Common Sandpiper

Light coastal passage continued with six at Castle Island on 19th (AT) and singles noted on three other dates at Cresswell and Hauxley. Many pairs were reported along rivers and streams in typical breeding habitats. Three were seen at Whittle Dene and a pair was settled at Fontburn (KVB).

Turnstone

Parties remained in several areas with the largest groups being 136 between Boulmer-Howick, 70 at Blyth Estuary, 69 near Newton Point 60 at St. Mary's Island, 50 at Hauxley and 27 at North Shields Fish Quay. Three circling Holywell Pond on 26th was much more unusual.

Arctic Skua

Typically light spring passage was noted with one-two moving N at Tynemouth, Newbiggin, Druridge Bay and Beadnell on six dates.

Long-tailed Skua

Unusual spring passage occurred between 28th-31st during a period of onshore winds. Two adults flew N at Druridge Bay and one at Newbiggin on 28th. On 29th another adult was off Newbiggin while on 31st a single was also seen off Seaton Sluice (MR/JGS/TJT/TRC/LR).

Great Skua

Light passage began on 17th with a single N off Hauxley (MPF/PAB). On 25th one was off Longhoughton Steel, on 27th one moved S at Holy Island while two flew N at Beadnell on 28th (APM/RJL). Another flew N at Newbiggin on 31st (JGS).

Little Gull

Most reports were from Hauxley Reserve where numbers increased from one on 4th to four-five by end of month (DBNR). In the same area three were at Druridge Bay Country Park on 28th (MR) and at Druridge Pools on 31st (TRC). Singles were noted at the Long Nanny on four dates and at Newbiggin and Castle Island. One flew N at Hauxley shore on 13th and 23rd.

Black-headed Gull

Colony counts were 1,300 pairs on a moorland site in the SW, 80 pairs at Whittingham, 62 nests at Blackaburn Lough and 57-67 nests at Grindon Lough (BNR/MH).

Ring-billed Gull

A second-summer bird was reported from Holywell Pond on 16th (TRC). This appears to be a different bird to that seen last month and will be the fourth record for the county.

Common Gull

By the end of the month, four pairs had been located at two lowland gravel pits and two pairs on the Northumbrian Loughs. First-summer birds seen in the S of the county roosted on moorland in Durham where 430 were counted on 13th (BNR).

Lesser Black Backed Gull

At the moorland colony in the SW, 29 pairs were present on 12th (BNR). On the coast, 29 roosted at the Long Nanny on 1st rising to 161 on 8th and 197 on 27th (APM/RL) and ten were off Hauxley on 30th (HRS).

Herring Gull

300 were in the Tyne Estuary on 13th and 17th (DMT) and 200 flew N in two hours at Hauxley on 30th (HRS). Three pairs attended the moorland colony in the SW (BNR).

Glaucous Gull

A first winter was at South Linton Road Ends on 16th (ADM) and probably the same bird at Druride Pools on 20th (DBNR et al).

Great Black Backed Gull

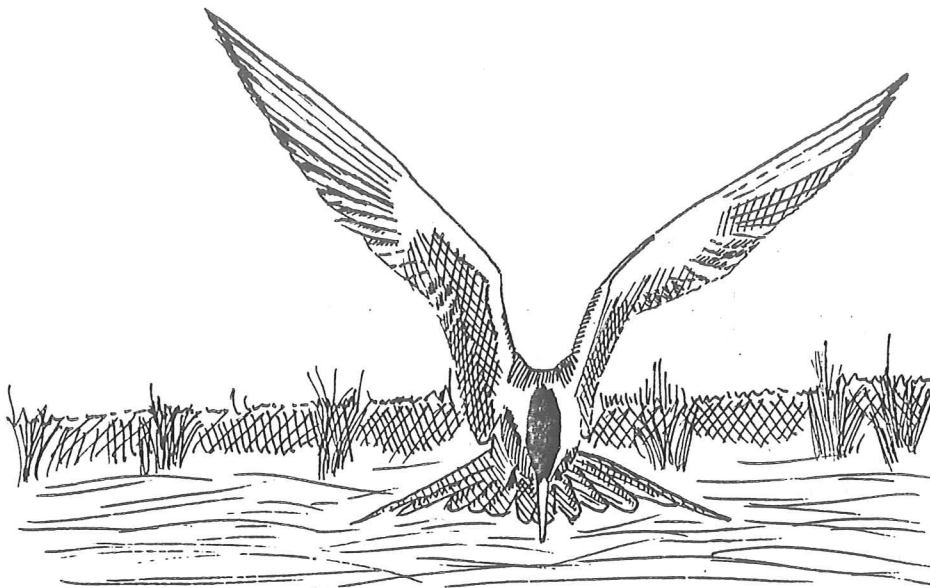
45 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 5th (DMT).

Kittiwake

Colony counts were 608 pairs at Dunstanburgh, 414 pairs at Cullernose Point, 122 pairs just S of Cullernose (ABW), 63 pairs at the Coop Warehouse in Newcastle and 59 pairs at four buildings in North Shields (DM). Movement to N included 300 per hour at Annstead on 3rd and 4th (BRS), 105 in two hours at Hauxley on 30th and 87 in one hour at Cullercoats on 28th. On 17th, 230 were at North Shields.

Lesser Crested Tern

An adult, presumably last year's bird, returned to the Farne Islands on 19th and was seen there subsequently on 20th and 30th (per JM/JPOR/TRC). On 26th probably the same individual was reported flying N at Tynemouth (ALT).

Sandwich Tern

The highest count was of 177 at Longhoughton Steel on 10th (RKS) with 60-68 at Hauxley on 19th and 24th (DBNR/HRS) and five-13 at Berwick and the Blyth Estuary. One flew N/NE at Arcot Ponds on 15th (LJM/MJS).

Roseate Tern

The first record was on 14th when three at Beadnell (GMN) with one-three noted at Hauxley Reserve, the Farne Islands and Druridge Bay by the end of the month.

Common Tern

Four pairs were at Big Waters by the end of the month (AJJ/DM) and two at Killingworth Lake on 22nd (LJM). 15-20 were at Hauxley on 19th (HRS) with six at Wallsend Swallow Pond, Castle Island and Budle Bay.



Arctic Tern

14-15 pairs were sitting on eggs at a mainland colony on 31st where the first clutch was laid on 25th. Two-three were on Hauxley Reserve.

Little Tern

The first returning birds were noted on 3rd at a regular colony where 41 were present on 21st and nine pairs on eggs by the end of the month. One-three were seen at another nine widespread coastal localities during the month.

Black Tern

A small influx on 30th-31st brought one to Killingworth Lake (BR et al) and Big Waters (GB) and three to Holywell Pond (AH/RJ).

Auk (Sp)

At Annstead Point 500 per hour flew N on 3rd and 300 per hour on 4th (BRS).

Guillemot

80 flew N at Cullercoats on 28th (TJT).

Razorbill

Two pairs were occupying ledges at Dunstanburgh on 23rd (ABW).

Puffin

'Thousands' were around Coquet Island on 7th (HRS). 60 flew N in two hours at Newbiggin on 5th (JGS).

Stock Dove

A flock of 66 was at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (RKS) and 30 were on Ridley Common on 10th (MJS). Seven were at Bywell on 4th and one-four were noted in the Harthope Valley, Hauxley, Stocksfield and Alnwick Abbey. Pairs were noted at crag breeding sites at the Wanneys and the Simonsides (IK).

Turtle Dove

One was at Hartley West Farm near Holywell on 22nd (TJT/TRC).

Cuckoo

Noted from 18 widespread localities with three at Grasslees Burn on 12th (MHp) and two at Plenmeller Common from 11th-12th (GB/AT), Harthope Valley on 13th (WD) and Wallsend Swallow Pond on 16th (AH).

Barn Owl

One was at Druridge on 24th (AJ).

Little Owl

A probable breeding site was noted at Broomley Woods on 11th (KIB). Singles were noted at Druridge and Backworth.

Tawny Owl

Breeding was confirmed near Medburn (EC), Jesmond (DL), Riding Mill (DJ), Warkworth Lane (DBNR/per HRS) and Bolam Lake. Six-eight individuals were calling in Dipton Wood on 4th (DM/ALT). Reports were also received from nine other widespread localities.

Long Eared Owl

One bird was still at a regular winter roost site on 15th. Singles were also noted at three other localities during the month.

Short Eared Owl

Noted in at least five potential breeding areas in the SW/W (MH/GB/AT). On the coast, singles were at Newton Links on 19th (APM) and at Hauxley on 7th-8th.



Swift

Large numbers were noted from 17th when 300 at Big Waters (AJJ) followed by 160 at Holywell on 19th, 150 at Killingworth Lake on 28th (L&KR), 125 at Lynemouth on 19th (LJM) and 100 at Castle Island by the end of the month (AT). One-75 were seen at a further 12 localities. Passage to N was noted at Bamburgh, Hauxley, the Long Nanny and Hexhamshire Common from 11th-26th.

Kingfisher

Singles were seen at Big Waters (GB) and Wylam (AJ).

Hoopoe

One was reported as having been present at Ashington on 7th (per AJB).

Wryneck

One was at Newbiggin on 6th (JGS).

Green Woodpecker

'Yaffling' birds were at Harthope Valley, Swallowship Wood, Dipton Wood, Broomley Woods, Hartside (Breamish), Nunnykirk and Shepherds Dene.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Reported from 12 typical breeding localities. Two fed on nuts and bread at Walbottle on 26th (L&KR).

Skylark

Six pairs were present at Big Waters (DM).

Sand Martin

The largest gatherings noted were 35-40 at Big Waters on 18th (SPP), 22 at Hauxley Reserve by the end of the month and 10-20 at Whittle Dene and Marden Quarry. About 20 nest holes were in dunes on Hauxley shore (DBNR). Passage to N was noted at the Long Nanny from 6th-25th with a maximum of 16 on 21st (APM).

Swallow

The highest counts were 100 at Big Waters on 17th (DM), 55-60 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 27th (SPP) and 25-30 at Whittle Dene. At the Long Nanny, light N passage was noted from 3rd-22nd with movements of 200 on 21st and 195 on 22nd (APM).

House Martin

By the 27th-30th, 150 were at Holywell Pond (TRC) and Arcot Ponds (LJM) and 45-50 at Killingworth Lake and Wallsend Swallow Pond. 100 were at Big Waters on 17th (AJJ) and 20 birds returned to a colony at Throckley Bank Top on 21st, some three weeks later than usual (AJ). Peak passage was noted at the Long Nanny on 20th with 17 flying N and on 21st with 25 N (APM) and at Holywell on 18th when small groups moved over the village all morning (IC/WGS/MB).

Tree Pipit

In breeding areas, 13 displaying birds were in the Harthope Valley (RKS), nine in the Kidland Forest (L&KR) and three on Wooler Common (MSH). One-two were noted at Hulne Park, Carey Burn, Harwood Forest, Prospect Hill and Linhope.

Red-throated Pipit

One was reported from the Farne Islands on 29th (per JM). This will be the 12th record for the county, the last being in 1987.

Rock Pipit

One showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race was at Druridge Pools on 6th (DMT).

Yellow Wagtail

Inland, eleven were at Whittle Dene on 10th (MR), eight at Widehaugh, Hexham on 17th (RMH/GWM) and one at Gunnerton on 16th. On or near the coast, highest counts were six at Druridge Pools, three at Hauxley Reserve, Warkworth Lane (DBNR/HRS) and the Long Nanny (RL) between 9th-11th, four at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st (PAB) and one-two at Marden Quarry, Hartley West Farm and Shankhouse.

Blue-headed Wagtail

Noted at Druridge Pools on 10th (MS) and 19th when the highest count was three (DBNR).

Citrine Wagtail

A female was found at Hauxley from 15th-16th (MJS/DBNR/HRS). This will be the fourth record for the county, the last being in 1989.

Grey Wagtail

Breeding was confined in the Harthope Valley and Carey Burn where nine pairs noted (RKS), on the Blyth where three pairs seen (IJM) and at Allen Banks, Ponteland and Ford. Further inland records were from Ingram, Linhope Spout, Mitford, Blindburn, Grasslees Burn and Edlingham Burn. On the coast, singles were at Bamburgh on 11th, Druridge Pools on 15th and Bradford on 25th (BRS/DBNR).

Pied Wagtail

Ten were at Hauxley on 6th (HRS).

White Wagtail

Inland two were present at Whittle Dene on 1st with singles on 4th, 9th and 14th (RGW/MR) and one at Wylam on 5th (AJ). On the coast, one was at Hauxley on 10th (HRS) and two at Druridge Pools on 19th and 20th (NF/RGW).

Dipper

Breeding was confirmed at Wylam and Ponteland and one-two were also noted at Simonburn Common, Sipton Burn, Cupola Bridge, Mitford, Bywell and Whittle Dene. Two pairs were at Hulne Park and the Carey Burn. A further three pairs were located in the Harthope Valley (RKS) and three young were ringed at Threestoneburn on 5th (AMB).

Wren

14 singing males were noted at Hartford Mill on the River Blyth (LJM). An interesting comparison showed only eight singing males in four tetrads of the Kidland Forest: an 80% reduction from last year (L&KR).

Robin

29 were noted in the Kidland Forest on 21st including 26 singing males (L&KR).

Nightingale

One was reported from the Farne Islands on 21st (per JM).

Bluethroat

Reports have been received of a male of the red-spotted form at Holy Island Lough on 25th and a single on the Farne Islands on 31st (per JM).

Black Redstart

A male was noted in a garden in Prudhoe from 16th-18th (CA).

Redstart

Ten singing males were noted in the Harthope Valley (RKS), three at Roddam Rigg (KVB) and singles at Fontburn, Bolam, Dipton Wood, Redesdale Camp and Allen Banks. A male was at Whittle Dene on 1st.

Whinchat

The first arrivals were not until 10th when singles in Chevington Dunes (AJB) and at Dunstanburgh Heughs (ABW). Later in the month, eight singing males were located in the Harthope Valley on the 26th (RKS) and three at Hawson Burn on 13th (WD), between Hauxley-Druridge on 17th (MPF), Druridge Pools on 17th (PAB), Wark Forest from 16th-18th (MH) and Common Burn on 25th (MSH). One-two were noted at nine other localities

Stonechat

At Chevington a female was present on 10th (AJB) and a male on 24th (IF).

Wheatear

The highest counts were 55-65 on Holy Island on 22nd (ADM), ten at St Mary's Island on 11th (SPP) and seven at Whittle Dene on 23rd (MR) with one-four at ten other coastal localities. In inland breeding areas, pairs were noted at Sipton Burn and Blindburn but total numbers appeared to be down in the Simonsides. One showing characteristics of the Greenland race was at Hauxley on 19th (HRS).

Ring Ousel

Four were in the Breamish Valley and the Carey Burn on the 4th (AMB), and three at the Hawson Burn on the 3rd (WD) with one-two at Harthope Burn, Ingram Valley and the Sipton Burn. On the coast, singles were on Holy Island on 4th (RKS) and Warkworth Lane on 16th (DBNR).

Fieldfare

Large flocks were still noted until the 8th with 700 at Billsmoor on 6th (JJB), 400 at Housesteads on 1st (BNR) and Ilderton/Middleton on 4th (AMB/MPF) and 112-320 at Wark Forest, Slaley, Whittle Dene and Grindon Hill. From the 12th-19th, singles were in the Harthope Valley, Druridge Bay and Marden Quarry and a flock of 60 was still present at Cambo (AT).

Song Thrush

A fledged brood was at Cochrane Park, Newcastle on 18th (KIB).

Redwing

Singles were at Middleton on 4th (AMB), Tughall Mill on 5th (APM) and in the Harthope Valley on 19th (RKS).

Mistle Thrush

Fledged young were noted at Pudeshaw, East Cramlington, Arcot Ponds, Linhope, Threestoneburn and Wideopen. Twelve pairs were located in Hulne Park (DM).

Grasshopper Warbler

Eight were reeling at Big Waters on 12th (AJJ). Four were on territory in the Ponteland-Medburn area during the month (EC). One-two noted in another 15 widely scattered localities.

Sedge Warbler

A slow arrival with numbers only increasing after the 11th. Two at Big Waters on 3rd increased to 17 by 27th (DM). 24 were at Druridge Bay on 17th (PAB), 15 in Hauxley area on 28th (HRS) and 10 at Whittle Dene on 14th (MR). One-six noted at another nine localities. Six at Bamburgh on 26th was the peak number for the poorest spring passage at the ringing station for years (BRS).

Reed Warbler

The first was at Gosforth Park on 19th (AJD), where two more present on 23rd (JRT). A single was singing at Big Waters on 29th (AJJ).

Subalpine Warbler

A male was on the Farne Islands on 26th April (per JMc). This will be the 10th record for the county and is the earliest record ever.

Lesser Whitethroat

Present in small numbers during the month. Three were holding territory in the Ponteland-Medburn area between 1st-25th (EC). Two were at Craster Heugh on 11th, at Holywell Pond on 12th and at Felton Lane from 13th (MPF/JRT/NF). Singles noted at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Budle Bay, Hauxley, Pegswood, Prestwick Carr, Swallow Pond and Tynemouth.

Whitethroat

A slow arrival in 1991 with numbers increasing from 18th. Noted in at least 17 widespread localities with concentrations of at least eight at Pressstwick Carr on 27th (MRS), five at Pegswood on 25th (SS) and four at Arcot Pond on 18th and at Holywell Pond on 25th (LJM/SPP). By the end of the month breeding densities were reported at 1990 levels in the Bamburgh-Lucher-Elford and Ponteland-Medburn areas but a decline was noted at Castle Island with only two singing males (four in 1990) (BRS/EC/AT).

Garden Warbler

A single at Newbiggin on 5th (JGS), then widely reported from 17 localities from 11th onwards. At least seven were in the Ponteland-Medburn area from 12th (EC). Five were singing between Allenbanks-Plankey Mill on 28th and four were at Arcot Pond on 12th (RKS/JRT). A single was trapped at Bamburgh on 11th (BRS).

Blackcap

Reported from 14 localities with concentrations of 15-20 at Jesmond Dene during the month (MPF), nine at Allenbanks on 19th (MSH), seven at Hulne Park on 28th and six at Gosforth Park on 11th (DM). Only one was trapped at Hauxley during the month, while none have been seen, heard or trapped at Bamburgh during the spring passage (HRS/BRS).

Wood Warbler

12 were singing between Allenbanks-Plankey Mill on 11th (RKS), five were at Beacon Hill on 11th and at Cupola Bridge on 12th (ADM/DM) and four were at Nunnykirk on 22nd (RW). One-two noted at another nine widespread localities.

Chiffchaff

Six were at Hulne Park on 28th and five at Allenbanks on 19th (MSH). One-three noted at another 17 localities. A single was singing at Leazes Park Newcastle city centre on 7th (MRS).

Willow Warbler

Was noted as widespread in the Harthope Valley on 2nd (MSH). Singing birds included 46 at Kidland Forest on 21st (L&KR), 14 at Big Waters on 3rd (AJJ/DM) and seven-eight at Hauxley on 19th (HRS). Numbers were down at Threestoneburn where only seven were ringed during the month (AMB).

Goldcrest

11 singing in Kidland forest on 21st-only 2/3rds of the number found in the same four tetrads in 1990 (L&KR). Successful breeding noted at Hulne Park on 27th (MSH).

Spotted Flycatcher

Another late arrival with a single at Beacon Hill on 18th being the first (ADM/DM). One-two were at nine widely scattered localities from 21st. Five were at Whittle Dene on 26th (MR). Only one seen in Jesmond Dene from 21st where normally there are 10-15 singing (MPF). Three pairs were at Matfen by 30th (RW).

Pied Flycatcher

12 were singing at Allenbanks on 13th (MRS/SOB). One-four were at another nine breeding sites. Four pairs with eggs in nest box's noted at Fontburn Reservoir on 25th with another two males establishing territory (KVB). Only seven pairs with eggs (21 pairs with eggs in 1990) at Nunnykirk on 28th (RW). Passage noted with singles at Druridge Bay CP on 1st, Hauxley on 8th and Gosforth Park on 11th (HRS/DM).

Long-tailed Tit

Pairs noted at Allenbanks, Gosforth Park, Hartford Mill, Hulne Park and Stocksfield Station.

Marsh Tit

Successful breeding noted at Allenbanks on 19th and Hulne Park on 28th (MSH/DM).

Willow Tit

Breeding noted at Whittle Dene on 2nd (MR). A single at Plankey Mill on 6th (AJ).

Coal Tit

23 at Kidland Forest on 21st (L&KR). At Fontburn Reservoir a pair with eight eggs in a nest box on 25th (KVB).

Blue Tit

11 pairs with eggs in nest box's at Fontburn Reservoir on 25th (KVB). Breeding activity noted as two weeks behind at Big Waters with only one pair with young by 25th (AJJ).

Great Tit

Four pairs with eggs in nest boxes at Fontburn Reservoir on 25th (KVB).

Nuthatch

Successful breeding at Beacon Hill, Cupola Bridge and Hulne Park (MGA/DM/MSH). One-three at another seven localities.

Treecreeper

Six were at Beacon Hill on 6th (SS). Confirmed breeding with fledged young noted at four sites in the Harthope Valley from 19th (RKS), at Marchburn-Healy and at Whittle Dene on 26th (RMH/MR).

Jay

Four were at Holystone Oaks on 19th (NF/JWR/SS). Three at Arcot Pond on 17th (LJMc). Singles at Bolam Lake, Dipton Wood and Hulne Park.

Magpie

Confirmed breeding at the Cat and Dog Shelter, Newcastle City Centre between 14th-29th (MRS). One was noted taking a Juvenile House Sparrow from a Walbottle garden on 25th (L&KR).

Rook

Rookery counts include 161 nests at Thropton (L&KR).

Carrion Crow

20 were at Berwick Harbour on 10th (RMH).

Hooded Crow

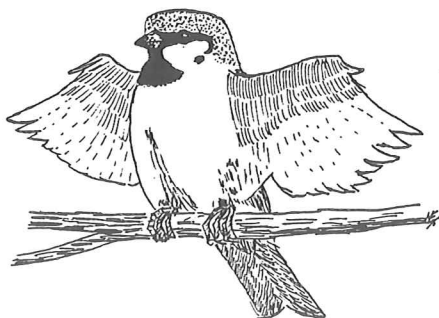
A single landed briefly in a Horsley garden on 23rd (PB).

Raven

Singles were in Upper Coquetdale on 5th (IK/BG) and in the Harthope Valley on 12th (MGA).

Tree Sparrow

20 were at Hartley West Farm nr. Holywell on 16th (TRC). Pairs noted at Warkworth Lane on 9th (JWR) and at Stamfordham on 12th (DM/ALT).

Chaffinch

144 were in Kidland Forest on 21st (L&KR).

Brambling

Late birds involved singles at Hauxley on 6th, at Warkworth Lane on 9th and on Holy Island on 16th (HRS/JWR/ADM).

Greenfinch

Now commoner than Chaffinch at Threestoneburn with 32 being ringed during the month (AMB).

Goldfinch

Many pairs noted in the Bamburgh-Lucker-Elford and Newcastle areas during the month. One ringed at Threestoneburn on 11th was only the third ringed at this locality.

Siskin

Flocks of 20 at Dipton Wood on 12th and ten at Hulne Park on 28th (DM). Numerous singing birds noted at Low Long House-Lewis Burn on 5th (JMA). Breeding confirmed at Fontburn Reservoir on 25th (KVB) and at Threestoneburn where two adults and five juveniles were ringed (AMB).

Linnet

30 were at Dunstanburgh Castle and 16 at Budle Bay on 8th (RKS). 10-15 were on Holy Island on 22nd (ADM). Noted as fairly common at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Twite

Three sites were occupied in the SW of the county (including the 1989 breeding site).



Redpoll

20 were in Kidland Forest on 21st (L&KR). Prospective breeding noted at Big Waters on 12th (DM/ALT). On the coast five flew W at Bamburgh on 18th and five were in gardens at Hauxley on 23rd (BRS/HRS). Five adults and one juvenile were ringed at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Crossbill

Successful breeding occurred at Dipton Wood, Harwood Forest, Holystone Forest, Kidland Forest, the Simonsides and Upper Coquetdale with many family parties seen. The largest concentrations were 433 + in the Kielder Forest - Redesdale area on 18th, 413 + at Wark Forest on 6th and 100 + at Dipton Wood on 12th (MH/AJH). On the coast parties of 19 and 23 flew N at Bamburgh on 18th (BRS), a flock of 50 was at Howick on 20th (MPF) and two flew N at Marden Quarry on 21st (AH). Two were ringed at Threestoneburn and one juvenile at Hauxley on 18th (AMB/HRS).

Bullfinch

Four were at Corbridge Common on 9th (AT). Pairs noted at Arcot Pond, Bradford Kairns, Gosforth Park and Howick Dene.

Hawfinch

One-three noted at Jesmond Dene (PAB).

Lapland Bunting

A very late male at Druridge Pool on 12th (BM/IC/WGS/MB).

Reed Bunting

10 were singing between Hauxley-Hadston on 19th (HRS) and four were on territory at Arcot Pond (LJMc).

Corn Bunting

Up to three at Hauxley (HRS). Two were at Guide Post on 5th (MGA). Singles at Cresswell and Newton Links.

Please send all June records, in Vooous order, to BN Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham NE46 1SX by 8th July at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Allen C, Almond JM, Anderson MG, Baker JA, Bankier AM, Banks AH, Barratt KI, Barron P, Bell M, Bilton JJ, Booth AJ, Booth JS, Bowman G, Bradshaw C, Brooks KV, Buskin PA, Cadwallender TA & ML, Calaska HA, Chadwick I, Charleton P, Cleeves TR, Crabtree E, Davis AJ, Dickson W, Eastlake PB, Fisher I, Foggo N, Frankis MP, Galloway B, Henry M, Hepple M (MHp), Hewitt AJ, Hodgson MS, Holding JD, Holmes RM, Hutt A, Jacklin D, Janes A, Johnson R, Johnston AJ, Jones PR, Kanefsky C, Kelly WA, Kerr I, Knowles P, Lockwood D, Lockwood R, McDougall LJ, McKeown D, McLevy AD, McLoughlin J, Moon GW, Mossop AP, Mould AD, Norman GM, Parnaby S, Potts M, Priest A, Raines B, Richardson M, Rossette JBO, Rossiter BN, Rushbrooke GS, Russell L&K, Rutter JW, Savage WG, Scott M, Sexton S, Sharp MJ, Smith MR, Steele JG, Stephenson RK, Stimpson A, Tams TJ, Tilmouth A, Todd AL, Todd JR, Turner DM, Walton R, Watson TPM, Waugh RG, Winter M, Woodhall AB, Bamburgh Ringing Station, Druridge Bay Nature Reserve, Hauxley Ringing Station.

Once again the bulletin has been prepared by Alan Johnston, Nick Rossiter, Ian Kerr and Dee McKeown with illustrations of Citrine Wagtail, Golden Plover, by Stuart Sexton, Lesser Crested Tern by Ian Fisher, Tree Sparrow by Martin Eccles and Garganey by Andy Booth.



WHERE HAVE ALL THE EIDERS GONE?

John Coulson at Durham University is appealing for members' help for counts of flocks of Eiders along the coast since the end of April. He reports that only about a third of the Eiders have laid on Coquet Island this year and he is anxious to plot the locations of flocks in an attempt to discover what has been going on.

Any counts still in field notebooks etc, would be gratefully received by the County Recorder who will pass them on to Dr. Coulson and members on the coast this month could also assist by making counts of any flocks they encounter. Counts should be submitted in the normal way on club record cards.

IAN KERR

'BRITISH BIRDS' Reduced subscription scheme

Once again members have been invited to take part in the above scheme which means they can get a 25% reduction on their annual subscription rates for the year starting in August.

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

Many members already enjoy this reduced rate for what remains the country's leading ornithological journal but people who have joined since last summer may not be aware of the scheme.

WADER COUNTS

Thanks to all those who gave such good coverage over the past season. Can existing counters who are going to continue with their stretch in 1991-92 please let me know as soon as possible. I know of one vacant stretch already (Budle Point-Seahouses) so anyone who would like to become involved should also get in touch.

NICK ROSSITER (Tel 0434-673509).





# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

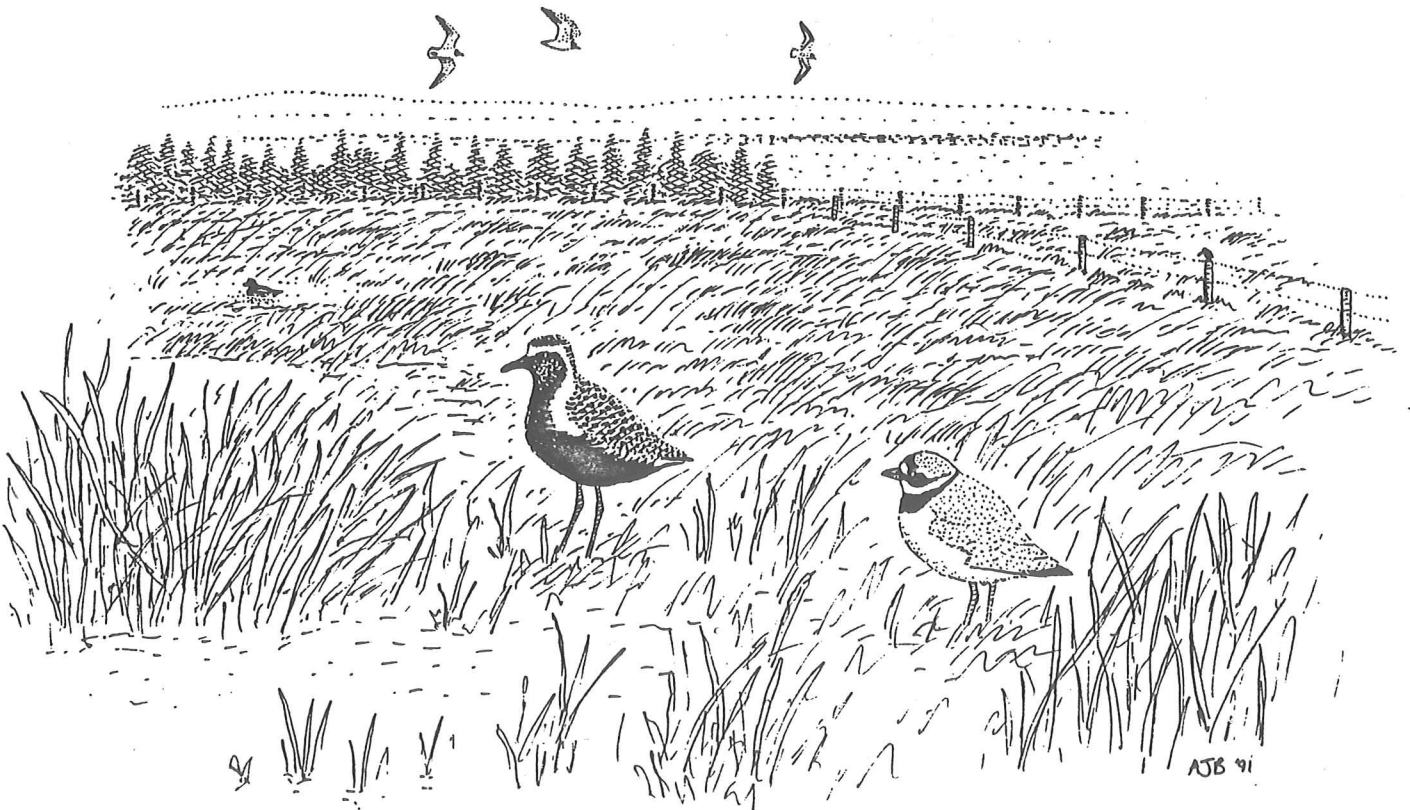
## MONTHLY SUMMARY JUNE 1991

June once again saw the reporting of many breeding records. However the largely unfavourable conditions of this years Spring and Summer resulted in noticeable declines for some species. The cool unsettled weather continued with temperatures below normal for most of the month. From the 24th a welcome warmer period began. For many the bird of the month was the county's first record of Pacific Golden Plover at Druridge Pools on 22nd-23rd. Others were delighted by a Spoonbill at Castle Island with probably the same individual being noted at Bamburgh and the Long Nanny.

Pick of the wildfowl was a Red-crested Pochard at Linton Pond between 6th-9th. More unusual were nine Common Scoter at Kielder Water and two at Fontburn. Breeding Wigeon occurred at three sites. Of raptors, Hobby and Marsh Harrier were reported, while Buzzard bred once again.

Wader passage to and from breeding grounds continued with records of Little and Temminck's Stints, Green and Wood Sandpiper, Greenshank and Spotted Redshank. Little Ringed Plover bred at one site.

Up to 18 Little Gulls were at Castle Island and 12-13 at Druridge Pools and Druridge Bay C.P. More unusual records involved Long-tailed Skuas at Seaton Sluice, Newbiggin and Seahouses and 17 Kittiwake inland at Kielder Water. Other interesting sightings included five pairs of Nightjar in the South of the county, Snow Goose, Lesser Crested Tern, Black Tern, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, White and Blue-headed Wagtail.



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

At Seaton Sluice six flew N and one S between 1st-3rd (SSWT).

Black-throated Diver

Two in summer plumage flew N at Seahouses on 1st (GA).

Little Grebe

Further broods reported from Howick Pond and Gosforth Park (ISD). One-ten noted at seven localities.

Great Crested Grebe

Three pairs noted at Holywell Pond with two, two and one young (MT/ISD), at Big Waters a pair hatched four young (AJJ). A pair at Derwent had built a second nest on 30th after the first had been abandoned (RKS).

Fulmar

On 1st 400 per hour flew N at Seahouses with a similar number reported at Seaton Sluice where two blue phase birds were noted (GA/SSWT). Colony counts include 58 occupied ledges at Longhoughton Quarry, 12 at Spindlestone Quarry, nine on Bewick road bridge, eight at Embleton Quarry and three at Little Mill Quarry. Inland one flew NE in heavy rain at Big Waters on 16th (AJJ).

Manx Shearwater

At Seaton Sluice the monthly total was of only 94 N with a peak of 36N on 1st (SSWT). Smaller numbers noted at Seahouses, Newbiggin, Beadnell Bay and Druridge Bay.

Gannet

Peak movements were on 1st when 800 per hour flew N at Seahouses. Lesser numbers also reported from Newbiggin and Seaton Sluice.

Cormorant

14 in the Tyne Estuary on 29th (DMT) was the only report.

Shag

Three-four occupied ledges were noted at Dunstanburgh on 29th (MH).

Grey Heron

16 were at Castle Island on 23rd (MRS). Juveniles were at Linhope and High Bleakhope on 24th (L&KR). One-eight were at a further 15 localities.

Spoonbill

An adult was at Castle Island on 6th-7th and 22nd-23rd (AT et al). It was also reported flying S at Bamburgh on 10th (GBO) and at the Long Nanny on 7th and 20th (RL).

Mute Swan

419 were at Berwick on 16th (CK) and 32 at Castle Island on 8th (AT). Further breeding success involved pairs with young at Annitsford Pond (six), Ladyburn Lake (nine), and Holywell Pond (one).

Snow Goose

On 20th three blue and one white phase birds flew S at Hauxley and Druridge Bay C.P. (SA/TAD/DBNR).

Canada Goose

A pair with three young were at a moorland pond in the S of the county on 9th. At Gosforth Park a female Canada Goose paired with a Greylag Goose producing five hybrid young (ISD). 34 roosted at Hallington on 12th (BNR) 25 were at Druridge Pool on 9th and 20 at Cresswell on 12th (ADM/DBNR). Eight-19 were at a further seven localities.

Shelduck

Four pairs hatched 20 young at Ladyburn Lake (SA/TAC) and a pair with seven young noted at Cresswell Pond. 29 young were at Hauxley on 24th and ten young at Druridge Pools (DBNR et al). Inland pairs were at Millfield and Holburn Moss (BNR/ISD).

Wigeon

At the regular site four broods totalling six young were present by 22nd, at the second site nine broods, 36 young were present. Breeding was also confirmed at a third site where two young were seen on 26th.

Gadwall

Five were at Warkworth Lane on 26th and one-three at Derwent, Grindon Lough and Druridge Pools.

Teal

37 were at Grindon Lough on 29th where a female escorted six young. Four broods with a total of 23 young were at Derwent.

Mallard

104 were at Big Waters on 30th (GB). Breeding success involved five broods (49 young) at Castle Island, four broods (20y) at Whittle Dene, three broods (23y) at Newton Pool and single broods at Hauxley, Gosforth Park, Big Waters, Felton Linhope, Bygate Hall, Paddy Freemans and Valley Park.

Garganey

A pair were at Druridge Pools on 4th and 6th (DBNR). Single males were at Castle Island on 1st-2nd and 6th (AT) and at Big Waters on 4th-5th (AJJ).

Shoveler

Ten were at Grindon Lough (RKS) with one-five at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Druridge Pools and Hauxley.

Red-crested Pochard

A drake was at Linton Pond between 6th-9th (IRD/JGS et al).

Pochard

25 were at Holywell Pond on 24th where broods of three and four young were noted (ISD).

Tufted Duck

52 were at Hauxley on 30th (DBNR) with six-30 at another six localities. Two broods (18 young) were at Holywell Pond and a single brood at Annitsford Pond (ISD/LJM).

Scaup

Four were at Hauxley Reserve on 3rd and single males at Tynemouth Boating Lake on 24th and Whittle Dene on 7th.

Eider

200 had gathered off North Blyth by the month end (AT), when 95 off Cresswell. A female was on Druridge Pool on 30th (SS). 17 ducks and 36 juveniles were at Stag Rocks (BNR) and five ducks and 45 young in Amble harbour (DM).

Common Scoter

At Seaton Sluice 278 flew N and one S with a peak of 221 N on 28th (SSWT). A female was on Cresswell Pond on 8th and drake Druridge Pools on several dates between 1st-13th. More unusual was six drakes and three ducks on Kielder Water on 5th (IF/IP) and two females on Fontburn on 18th (KVB/JC).

Goldeneye

One was at Castle Island between 1st-3rd (AT).

Red-breasted Merganser

One-five were at Newbiggin, Druridge Bay and Beadnell Bay.

Goosander

Noted at Derwent, Allen Banks, Harthope Valley and on the Wansbeck at Mitford.

Ruddy Duck

Two ducks were at Arcot Pond until 16th. A maximum of two ducks and one drake were present at Holywell Pond throughout the month. A female was at Big Waters on 1st and 22nd.

Marsh Harrier

Spring passage continued. Females or immatures were at Big Waters on 1st (PR), at Druridge Bay on 18th-19th (IF/TAC et al) and at Holywell Pond 28th (JEF/MT et al).

Sparrowhawk

Breeding was noted at Felton (ET & JRN) while singles were reported from four other areas.

Buzzard

The regular breeding site in the SW was again used with four large young noted on 23rd.

Kestrel

A pair using a tree nestbox near Newcastle was robbed. A single which raided a garden at Walbottle took a House Sparrow on the back lawn (L&KR).

Merlin

Pairs were reported from two typical breeding areas. At one site where a pair were seen hunting on 24th three fledged young were later noted (RGW).

Hobby

Spring passage individuals were noted near Waren on 9th (BRS), where the bird hawked for insects over a field, and at Jesmond Dene on 21st (SOB).

Peregrine

A pair was noted at an inland site on 17th (MB) while coastal singles were at Budle Bay on 15th (ISD) and Berwick on 19th (TAC).

Red Grouse

A good breeding season was indicated by large numbers of young on the Simonsides (BG/IK).

Black Grouse

A survey on the Otterburn ranges indicated at least 23 males, including seven at one lek, showing that the species is holding its own and possibly increasing in that area (MH). One-two were also reported from Kielder (IF).

Red-legged Partridge

Records were received from the Swinhoe and Belford areas where 150 were released for shooting last year (ISD).

Grey Partridge

A pair with six very small young was noted at Benton on 29th (GPB).

Pheasant

Breeding was confirmed on a wooded traffic island in the SE where a female with four small young was noted on 10th (LJM).

Water Rail

Breeding was suggested by individuals calling in reedbeds at Newton Pool on 10th (ISD) and at Backworth Pond on 29th (GPB).

Coot

More breeding records were received. There were seven broods at Big Waters with at least four pairs still incubating (AJJ/DM), five broods at Arcot Pond and three at Killingworth Lake (LJM), four broods at Grindon Lough (RKS) and at Druridge Pools (DMcK), two further broods at Newton Pond (ISD) and a single brood at Swinhoe Lake.

Moorhen

Breeding was reported from Big Waters, Morpeth and Kimmer Lough.

Oystercatcher

Breeding was reported from several further localities. They included Calder (AMB), Pawston Lake (ISD), Harthope Valley (RKS) and Linshields (AJ). At Whittle Dene six were attracted on 2nd by large numbers of freshwater mussels exposed by falling water levels (MR). The largest non-breeding concentration during the month was 112 at Longhoughton Steel (RKS).

Little Ringed Plover

Breeding was confirmed at one site in the S where a pair had four young on 29th. A pair also frequented Derwent. A single was at Holywell Pond on 9th and 14th (JRT/JEF) while two were at Druridge Pools between 22nd-30th (JGS/DBNR et al).

Ringed Plover

Further reports from Whittle Dene indicated that three pairs raised four broods this spring (MR). A pair with young was also seen at Druridge Pools on 22nd (DMcK). Maximum counts during the month involved 58 at Castle Island (JGS) and 43 at Druridge Pools (JRT).

Pacific Golden Plover

Notes have been received of an individual in breeding plumage at Druridge Pools on 22nd-23rd (FH/MGS et al). If accepted it will be the first for the county.





Golden Plover

A post-breeding gathering of 14 was noted on the Simonsides on 18th while in the same area on 23rd a Northern race bird in full summer plumage was alarm calling on a regular breeding site (BG/IK). Two pairs were noted nesting within 200m of each other at Paddaburn Moor (MH).

Grey Plover

A flock of 110 non-breeders was noted in Budle Bay on 15th (ISD) while 12 remained at Longhoughton Steel on 22nd (RKS).

Lapwing

Further breeding records came from Seaton Burn and Cramlington (DM/LJM). Post-breeding gatherings formed late in the month with 197 at Grindon Lough (RKS), 77 at Hauxley Reserve (DBNR), 58 at Whittle Dene (MR) and parties of 30 at Holystone and Ottercops (BG/IK).

Sanderling

Groups of seven at Football Hole on 1st (RKS) and nine in Budle Bay in winter plumage on 15th (ISD) indicated non-breeders remaining to summer.

Little Stint

A single was at Whittle Dene on 2nd-3rd (MR/RGW) while passage at Hauxley Reserve produced a peak of three on 8th (DBNR).

Temminck's Stint

Singles were at Whittle Dene on 2nd-3rd (MR/RGW) and at Long Nanny Burn on 5th (GMN).

Purple Sandpiper

The sole record involved a single at Football Hole on 1st (RKS).

Dunlin

Two nesting territories were occupied at Whitfield Moor on 9th (BNR).

Ruff

A black male displayed at Druridge Pools on 8th (AJD). It was noted regularly up to 23rd (DBNR).

Snipe

One with young was noted at Kimmer Lough and drumming display was reported from four more areas.

Woodcock

Three-four displayed at Holystone during the month (BG/IK) and roding also took place at Kielder, the Harthope Valley, Harwood and Derwent. At Wallington on 28th two displayed overhead during an outdoor production of Shakespeare's 'Measure for Measure' (AJD).

Black-tailed Godwit

Display was noted at Druridge Pools on 4th (AJD) with two birds being present until 11th. One then remained until at least 26th (SS/MGA). Two were at Hauxley Reserve on 5th (DBNR).

Bar-tailed Godwit

One-four were noted from four localities.

Whimbrel

Light passage continued with one-two at five coastal localities.

Curlew

A good breeding season was indicated at Hexhamshire Common where 'many' young were fledging by 30th (BNR). A summering flock of 54 was at Longhoughton Steel on 22nd (RKS).

Spotted Redshank

A bird in full summer plumage was at Druridge Pools from 19th-23rd (ADM et al).

Redshank

Further breeding reports were received from Ottercops, Linshiels, Seaton Burn, Laverock Hall and Druridge Pools.

Greenshank

Singles were noted at Castle Island (AT) and at Druridge Pools on several dates (DBNR).

Green Sandpiper

One was at Druridge Pools on 9th (AHB).

Wood Sandpiper

Four were at Castle Island on 1st (AT) while singles were seen at Druridge Pools on at least six dates.

Common Sandpiper

Five pairs were noted in the Harthope Valley (RKS) while two pairs bred at Fontburn (KVB) and Linshiel (AJ). A pair also bred at Mitford, 21 were counted in the Breamish Valley on 24th (L&KR).

Turnstone

Two at Castle Island on 2nd was unusual (AT). 35 remained at Hauxley Reserve all month while there was a peak count of 21 at Longhoughton Steel.

Pomarine Skua

Light spring passage produced two flying N at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT) and one at Seahouses the same day (GA). One also moved N at the Long Nanny Burn on 16th (APM).

Arctic Skua

Light passage continued during the month with a total of eight being noted at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). Four flew N at Seahouses on 1st (GA), two at Newbiggin on 2nd (JRT) while one-two were seen off the Long Nanny Burn on four dates (APM/RL).

Long-tailed Skua

The unusual spring passage continued on 1st when five moved N at Seaton Sluice and singles were noted off Newbiggin and Seahouses (SSWT/AJS/GJA).

Great Skua

A single moving N at Seahouses on 1st was followed by two at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (GA/SSWT). A much more unusual record involved a single which arrived at Holywell Pond on 28th and remained until 29th. It was seen to kill a Coot by holding it down until it drowned (ISD/MT/SPP).

Little Gull

Many records received and some high counts with maxima at the main sites of 18 at Castle Island on 30th (AT), 13 at Druridge Pools on 25th (MH/AH) and 12 at Druridge Bay Country Park on 18th (SWA/TAC). One-three were also noted at Hauxley Reserve, Warkworth Lane, Cresswell Pond, Budle Bay and Newbiggin. Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSWT). Ageing data shows 97% of the birds to be in their first summer. At Druridge Pools, two-four adults/second summers were present on 13th (IK/BG/LJM and second summer on 25th (MH/AT) and, at Castle Island, one-two adults were seen on 30th (AT).

Black-headed Gull

Again none bred at Holburn Moss but the Whittingham colony increased to 100 pairs by 27th (BNR). 138 were at Hauxley Reserve on 1st (DBNR).

Common Gull

Three pairs were in territory at two moorland sites in the S of the county. The roost of first-summer birds on moorland in Durham near the county border had increased to 1,150 by 2nd (BNR).

Lesser Black Backed Gull

On 26th, 79 roosted at Grindon and 17 at Broomlee (BNR). In Newcastle, three pairs were on a roof at Market Street on 18th (DM). 12 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 12th, eight at Big Waters on 11th (SP) and two at Holburn Moss on 27th.

Herring Gull

40 nests were counted at Little Mill Quarry on 22nd (MLC) and 13 pairs were at Holburn Moss on 27th (BNR). Young were seen at both sites. 400 were in the Tyne Estuary on 8th (DMT).

Great Black Backed Gull

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

Kittiwake

At Dunstanburgh, 64 chicks were counted in one area of the colony on the 29th with perhaps just one-fifth of the nests containing young (MH). However, at the 'Coop Warehouse site in Newcastle, 54-55 pairs actually nested and at least 25 had large young by 30th (DM/MPF). 600 per hour flew N at Seahouses on 1st and 120 were at North Shields on 28th. An interesting inland record was of a flock of 17 at Kielder Water on 5th (IP).

Lesser Crested Tern

One was seen at Hauxley Reserve on 16th (AHB).

Sandwich Tern

The highest count at Hauxley Reserve was 43 on 13th (DBNR). One arrived from the W at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 6th (MSH).

Roseate Tern

They were noted on eight days at Hauxley Reserve with the highest count of 4 on 12th (DBNR/SS). One was at Castle Island on 26th (MSH). A nest site was noted at the Farne Islands on 22nd (AJD).

Common Tern

Three pairs bred at Big Waters with the first egg on 2nd, the first chick on 21st and a total of five young by 30th. Two other pairs made scrapes (AJJ). Six were at Castle Island on 2nd where at least one pair may have attempted to breed (AT). One-two were also noted at Gosforth Park, Killingworth, Brenkley and Ashington. 55 were at Hauxley Reserve on 24th (DBNR).

Arctic Tern

52 were at Hauxley Reserve on 22nd (DBNR) and 250 per hour flew N at Seahouses on 1st (GA).

Little Tern

Four were at Longhoughton Steel on 9th (NF), two at Low Newton on 20th (MT) and singles at eight other coastal localities.

Black Tern

At the start of the month, one flew N at Newbiggin on 2nd (JRT) and one was at Hauxley on 4th (PW).

Auk (Sp)

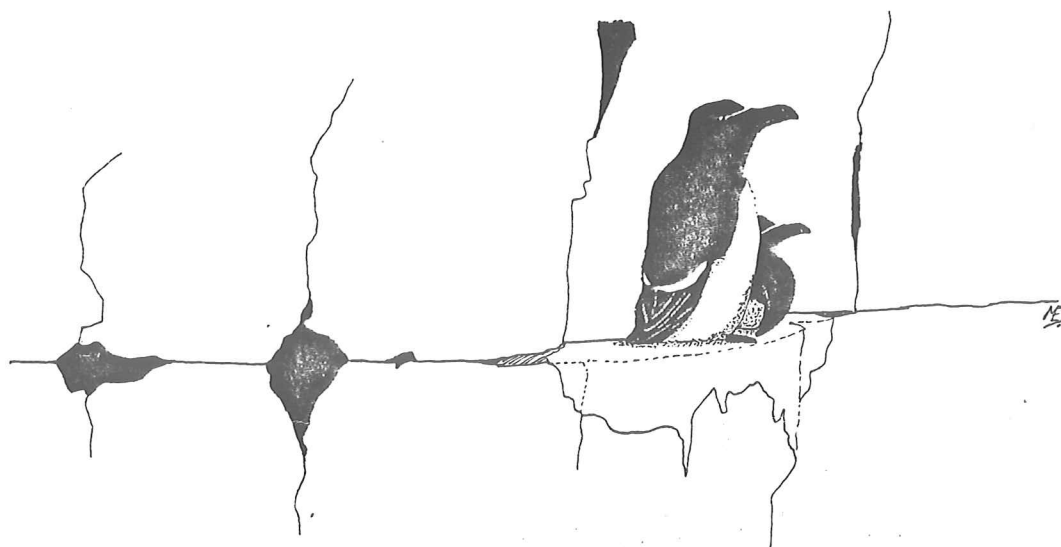
At Seaton Sluice on 16th, 80 per hour flew N in the morning and 70 per hour flew S in the afternoon (SSWT).

Guillemot

31 were at Dunstanburgh on 29th including a bird occupying a ledge (MH). 500 per hour flew N at Seahouses on 1st (GA).

Razorbill

15 were at Dunstanburgh on 29th including two pairs flying up to ledges and one occupying a ledge (MH).

Puffin

161 flew N and 29 S at Seaton Sluice between 15th-28th (SSWT), 100 per hour flew N at Seahouses on 1st (GA) and 36 per hour N at Newbiggin on 2nd (JRT). A loose raft of 18 was off Dunstanburgh on 29th and four were at Tynemouth on 24th.

Stock Dove

14 were at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (RKS) and one at Holburn Farm on 14th (ISD).

Cuckoo

Four were in Dipton Wood on 15th (SP), three in the Breamish Valley on 24th (L&KR) and in the Harthope Valley on 2nd (RKS), two at Backworth on 13th (MT) and singles at nine other widespread localities.

Barn Owl

One was at Druridge on 29th (MF/SS) and another at Craster on 8th (ISD).

Little Owl

Noted only at South Linton Farm on 25th (ET & JRN).

Tawny Owl

Juveniles were reported from Gosforth Park (ISD), Warkworth Lane (DBNR) and the Otterburn Ranges (MH). One-two were also at Spindlestone, Beacon Hill and Calder.

Long-eared Owl

One bird was flushed from a roadside in daylight in the centre of the county.

Short-eared Owl

Noted in a further seven potential breeding areas in the SW/W.

Nightjar

Five pairs were located in the S of the county (LC).

Swift

Large gatherings at the start of the month included an exceptional 2,000 at Castle Island on 2nd (JGS), 125 at Big Waters on 7th (LJM) and 40-80 at Holywell, Druridge Pools, Wallsend Swallow Pond and Arcot. From 22nd-26th, 100 were at Druridge Pools (MSH/SS) and 40 at Ordley.

Kingfisher

Singles were seen at Ovingham (APM) and Holywell (JEF).

Green Woodpecker

Breeding was confirmed in Dipton Wood where three birds were noted (SP) and at Kimmerstone (BNR). 'Yaffling' birds were at Broomley Woods and Brada Quarry with others noted at Bothal Mill and Wylam.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Breeding was confirmed at Big Waters, Arcot (MRS), Jesmond Dene where two pairs bred (MPF) and Walbottle where the family party fed in a garden together (L&KR). Five-six birds were in Dipton Wood (SP) and singles at Holywell, Wideopen, Horsley and Haydon Bridge.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Singles were seen at Haydon Bridge on 24th (MRS) and Ordley on 29th (BNR).

Sand Martin

Counts in nesting areas were 51 birds at Hauxley Reserve (DBNR), 40 birds at Reaveley Quarry (AMB), ten pairs at Whittingham (BNR) and two pairs at Lynnshield (AJ).

Swallow

The highest count was 100 at Druridge Pools on 1st (IC/MSH) with 30 at Derwent Reservoir and Hauxley Reserve on 2nd. A pair again nested at Shiremoor Metro Station (DM).

House Martin

Colony counts were ten-12 pairs at Whitehill on Butterburn Flow and a further ten birds at an adjacent farmhouse (MH), 11 pairs at Cresswell 'Ices' (DM), seven nests at High Bleakhope and five nests at Low Bleakhope (L&KR). At the start of the month, 100 were at Arcot on 3rd (LJM) and 50 at Whittle Dene and Wallsend Swallow Pond. 25 were at Hauxley Reserve on 21st.

Tree Pipit

Seven birds were in the Breamish Valley (L&KR) and one pair in the Harthope Valley (RKS).

Yellow Wagtail

Single males were at Laverock Hall, Woodhorn Church and Newbiggin (LJM).

Blue-headed Wagtail

Noted at two sites through the month. A pair at Druridge Pools were seen feeding young (DBNR). A male was paired to a female Yellow Wagtail at Druridge Bay Country Park (SWA/TAC).

Grey Wagtail

22 birds were counted in the Breamish Valley from Brough Law-Linhope on 24th (L&KR). Three more broods were noted at Allen Banks and one more in the Harthope Valley (RKS) and breeding was also confirmed at Felton, Morpeth and Mitford. One-two were at Lynnshields and Lesbury.

Pied Wagtail

In the Breamish Valley on 24th, 14 birds were between Low Bleakhope-High Bleakhope and 13 between Brough Law-Linhope (L&KR). Two pairs bred at Matfen (RW) and Druridge Bay Country Park (SWA/TAC) with single pairs at Big Waters and Druridge Pools.

White Wagtail

An unusual mid-summer record is of one at Whittle Dene on 23rd accompanying 12 adult and juvenile Pied Wagtails (MR).

Dipper

Ten birds were in the Breamish Valley from Brough Law-Linhope on 24th (L&KR). A pair were carrying food into a nest site at Mitford on 20th (AJD) and one more young was ringed at Threestoneburn (AMB). One was at riding Mill on 15th.

Wren

On 13th, three family parties were noted in a heathery cleugh on Hexhamshire Common at an altitude of 450-500 mts asl (BNR).

Dunnock

At Threestoneburn, the first juvenile was ringed on 16th with a total of eight ringed during the month (AMB).

Redstart

In nest boxes, single pairs fledged seven young at Nunnykirk (RW) and six at Belsay (WGJ). Breeding was confirmed in natural sites at Nunneykirk, Middleheugh near Brinkburn, and Langleeford Hope. Other breeding areas occupied were Linden Hall and Dipton Wood. Late passage was indicated by a female at Church Point, Newbiggin on 2nd (JGS).

Whinchat

In the Harthope Valley, 14 pairs were located against 18 last year (RKS). Eight pairs were noted in the Lilburn Burn (AMB) and eight birds in Harwood Forest (MT). Elsewhere inland one-two pairs were at Threestoneburn, Ilderton Dod and Backworth. On the coast, singles were at Hadston on 2nd (WAK) and Hauxley Reserve on 18th and 29th (DBNR).

Stonechat

There was only one record: a female at Whittle Dene on 23rd (MR).

Wheatear

A poor breeding season so far in the Harthope Valley/Carey Burn area with three broods of only one-two each. At one site here, only one brood has been seen compared to seven last year (RKS). In the Simonsides, Coquetdale and Ottercops area, fledged broods have been noted but not as commonly as usual (IK/BG). In the Breamish Valley on 24th, 21 birds were between Low Bleakhope-High Bleakhope and 18 between Brough Law-Linhope (L&KR). Elsewhere one-three were seen at Newbiggin, Big Waters, Cresswell and Hauxley Reserve.

Ring Ousel

Fledged young were seen at one site in the Simonsides (IK/BG) and two cleughs on Hexhamshire Common (BNR). Other sites occupied were at Low Bleakhope, Eals and Harwood Shield.

Blackbird

Eight pairs with juveniles were found at Cowpen Cemetry in a 35 minute search (LJM). The first juvenile was ringed at Threestoneburn on 30th (AMB).

Song Thrush

The first juvenile was ringed at Threestoneburn on 23rd (AMB). Three were singing at Big Waters on 1st.

Mistle Thrush

A flock of first-year birds at Threestoneburn had built up to over 50 by 28th (AMB). A family party of six was at Linhope on 24th.

Grasshopper Warbler

Two were "reeling" at Druridge Pools on 15th, Arcot Pond on 22nd and at Big Waters on 28th (MGA/AHB/DM). Singles were heard at another eight widely scattered localities.

Sedge Warbler

10-12 were singing at Gosforth Park on 22nd (ISD). Eight at Hauxley on 1st (DBNR) and seven at Druridge Bay CP on 6th (SA/TAC). One-four noted at another six localities.

Reed Warbler

Five-six were noted singing at Gosforth Park where breeding was confirmed. A total of 13 were trapped or identified by means of colour rings at this locality (ISD). One singing at Big Waters on 9th increased to three by 20th (AJJ).

Lesser Whitethroat

One-two were at Arcot Pond, Big Waters and Newburn, Hathery Lane and Holywell.

Whitethroat

16 were in the Breamish Valley on 24th (L&KR). Successful breeding was noted at Arcot Pond, Derwent Reservoir, the Harthope Valley and Horton. Once again a decline was noted this spring at a traditional locality with five singing at Milbourne by end of month (Normally there are seven-eight pairs by May) (WGJ).

Garden Warbler

Three were singing at Langlee-Harthope Valley on 16th and two pairs were at W.Thirston Mill on 28th (RKS/WAK). Singles noted at Howick Dene and Jesmond Dene.

Blackcap

Numerous family parties were in Jesmond Dene during the month (MPF). Two broods noted at Howick Dene on 29th and one brood at Lindon Hall on 18th (RKS). Five-ten heard in three widely scattered localities. A single was ringed at Threestoneburn on 2nd (AMB).

Wood Warbler

Five were singing in the Harthope Valley on 30th (RKS). One-two were at another seven inland localities.

Chiffchaff

One ringed at Threestoneburn on 23rd was the only record (AMB).



Willow Warbler

21 were singing at Druridge Bay CP on 6th (SA/TAC), 17 at Big Waters on 1st, 10 in the Breamish Valley and seven at Arcot on 24th (DM/L&KR). A female retrapped at Threestoneburn had been ringed there as a juvenile in August 1989 (AMB).

Spotted Flycatcher

10 pairs were nesting at Matfen (eight in nest box's) (RW). One-four pairs noted in the Alwin Valley, Beacon Hill, Clemmel Hall, Fontburn Reservoir, Mitford, the Otterburn Ranges, Paddalsurn and Threestoneburn. Declines noted at three traditional localities with only six pairs in the Harthope Valley (16 pairs in 1990), under ten pairs in Jesmond Dene and one pair at Milbourne (three pairs in 1990) (RKS/PFS/WGT).

Pied Flycatcher

17 pairs bred at Nunnykirk, with nine pairs still with young in the nest on 30th (RW). Four pairs laid 24 eggs at Fontburn Reservoir and 21 young hatched (KVB). Only three pairs used nest-box's at Brinkburn fledging 20 young and two pairs raised eight young from nestbox's at Belsay (WGJ).

Long-tailed Tit

Family parties noted at Big Waters, Felton, Holywell Dene and Kielder Forest.

Marsh Tit

One at Beacon Hill on 26th was the only record (MT).

Willow Tit

Two Juveniles were ringed at Big Waters on 29th (AJJ/GB). Two were at Castle Island during the month and a single was at Hauxley on 29th (AT/DBNR).

Coal Tit

One pair reared nine young in a nest-box at Fontburn Reservoir while another reared eight in a nest box at Spindlestone.

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>
Fontburn Reservoir	13 (two failed)	101	85
Nunnykirk	11	86	54 (49 fledged)
Spindlestone	8	-	59
Kirkley Hall	6	-	52

Great 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	13	87	67
Kirkley Hall	5	-	36
Spindlestone	5	-	23
Fontburn Reservoir	3	21	20

Nuthatch

Three pairs were at Mitford on 29th (DM). Four-five were heard at Dipton Wood on 15th (SPP).

Treecreeper

Family parties were seen at Allenbanks, Ordley and Whittle Dene.

Jay

A fledged brood of four has noted at Linden Hall on 18th (RKS). A single visited a Wideopen garden birdtable on 22nd (DM).

Magpie

Family parties were at Big Waters, Newcastle City Centre and at Walbottle.

Hooded Crow

A single was at the Long Nanny on 12th (ISD).

Starling

Post breeding flocks included C.1,000 on the Otterburn ranges on 30th (IK/BG) and 150 at Hauxley on 15th (DBNR).

Tree Sparrow

Breeding was confirmed at W.Thirston where three fledglings left a nest-box on 18th (ET/JRN). Also noted at Backworth Pond.

Chaffinch

50 were in the Breamish Valley on 24th (L&KR). At least 50 were at Threestoneburn all month with young birds commonly noted from 20th.

Greenfinch

100+ were present at Jesmond Dene on 7th (SPP). A maximum of 20 were still feeding in a Walbottle garden up to 20th (L&KR). At least 20 were at Threestoneburn with several young birds noted from 20th (AMB).

Goldfinch

A charm of 12 were at Abbey Meadows, Morpeth on 29th (DM). Successful breeding noted at Wideopen. Two were at Butteryhrough/Kielder on 13th (IF).

Siskin

A large flock of c.250 was at Tarsset Burn on 9th (MH). 20 pairs were noted in Wark Forest on 15th (BNR). Between 30-60 were at Threestoneburn from mid-month.

Linnet

Three family parties were at Ridley Park, Blyth on 13th and a family party was in a Walbottle garden on 2nd (LJM/L&KR).

Redpoll

20+ in small groups were in Harwood Forest on 19th (SS). 16 pairs were noted in Wark Forest on 15th (BNR). C.20 were at Threestoneburn.

Crossbill

A large flock of at least 250 was at Tarsset Burn on 9th (MH). Away from breeding areas 40 were at Whittle Dene on 29th (MH), 15 flew SW at Gosforth Park on 23rd (MT), 14 S at Castle Island on 26th (IF) and two at Druridge Bay CP on 6th (MJS).

Yellowhammer

Five were on territory at Big Waters on 1st where a pair was noted at a nest (DM). Birds still visiting a garden feeding station at Walbottle up to 22nd (L&KR).

Reed Bunting

10 were on territory at Big Waters on 1st and five were on territory at Arcot Pond on 24th (DM). A male with an unusual song (a mixture of Reed Bunting and Lesser Whitethroat) was noted at Holywell on 30th (TRC/CB).

Corn Bunting

Two were at Howick on 7th and at Newton Links Farm on 14th (ISD/APM/RL). Singles noted at Cresswell, Ellington, Longhoughton Low Stead and Newbiggin.

Please send all July records, in Voous order, to Nick Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley Hexham NE46 1SX by 8th August at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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The bulletin has been prepared by Alan Johnston, Ian Kerr, Dee McKeown and Nick Rossiter. Illustration of Druridge Pools by Andy Booth, Pacific Golden Plover by Stuart Sexton and Razorbill by Martin Eccles.

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 1991-92

Members are reminded that under the terms of the club constitution all nominations for election to your committee for 1991-92 must be submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretary Andrew Brunt, 7 Highmoor, Kirkhill, Morpeth NE61 2AL, at least 21 days before the AGM on 10th October 1991. All members nominated must indicate their willingness to stand for election and must be proposed and seconded by two club members.

Colour-ringed Herring Gulls (Larus argentatus) in the North  
Shields Fish Quay area

From 11-Dec-1981 to 31-Dec-1990 I have recorded 416 uniquely identifiable colour-ringed Herring Gulls in the North Shields Fish Quay and Tyne estuary area.

The majority of these birds have unique combinations of 4 coloured rings, a smaller number have a 3 colour ring unique combination, while 2 birds have a unique 5 colour ring combination. The 5 ring colour combinations have been used this winter (1990/1991) - Dr.J.C. Coulson and team have ringed approximately 200 such individuals.

In addition to these (416) unique birds, there have been birds with non-unique year class colour rings - where chicks ringed at certain locations have normally one ring placed on one (or both) leg. The chicks from the Firth of Forth area having a different ring colour each year. I have noted 49 different types of year class coloured rings in the NSFQ area - there were probably at least twice that number of birds involved.

The colours of rings used on the herring gulls are :-

R = RED	G = GREEN (dark)	N = NIGER (black)
O = ORANGE	L = LIME (light green)	W = WHITE
Y = YELLOW	B = BLUE	S = SILVER (grey)
C = CHOCOLATE (dark red-rarely used)	M = Metal (BTO ring)	

Occasional birds have rings with a horizontal central stripe, a vertical '1' on a Blue ring, spots, or a dual coloured ring (1 bird only seen with a ring of G and B, but in Jan/Feb 1991). Rings are of three sizes :- small, medium and large and the size factor can be important to note (especially if rings are missing).

Some originally uniquely ringed birds have lost 1,2 or 3 rings and consequently cannot be narrowed down to one particular herring gull. I have records of many such birds in addition.

Enclosed is a breakdown of the ringing locations for the 416 uniquely identifiable birds and the year class (non-unique) birds :-

Northumberland/Durham/Tyne and Wear

Location	No. of birds	No. of sightings	Av. sightings per bird.
North Shields	71	734	10.3
South Shields	26	178	6.9
Marsden/Whitburn	22	102	4.6
Sunderland	4	6	1.5
Consett	57	196	3.4
Prudhoe	4	6	1.5
Hexham	3	3	1.0
Lumley	17	35	2.1
Coxhoe	86	278	3.2

Location	No. of birds	No. of sightings	Av. sightings per bird.
Hett	47	172	3.7
Chester-le-Street	8	12	1.5
Wingate	25	91	3.6
Whitton Tip/Darlington	1	1	1.0
<u>Cleveland/Yorkshire</u>			
Hartlepool	1	3	3.0
Loftus, Cleveland	1	1	1.0
N. Yorkshire	1	5	5.0
Scarborough	3	3	1.0
Seaton Carew, Cleveland	10	20	2.0
<u>Scotland</u>			
Stirling	4	4	1.0
Burnmouth, Berwickshire	3	7	2.3
Arbroath	3	3	1.0
Isle of May	3	15	5.0
Craigleith, Firth of Forth	3	6	2.0
Helensburgh, Glasgow	3	4	1.3
Bishopbriggs, Glasgow	2	2	1.0
Other, Glasgow	2	2	1.0
Duns, (nr. Berwick)	1	1	1.0
Irvine, (nr. Glasgow)	1	1	1.0
Auchtertool, Kircaldy	1	1	1.0
Other, Kircaldy	1	1	1.0
Aberdeen	1	1	1.0
Scalloway, Shetland	1	1	1.0
<u>Norway</u>			
Vardo	1	1	1.0
TOTAL	<u>416</u>	<u>1898</u>	<u>4.6</u>

Non-unique year class ringed birds ( birds ringed as chicks at breeding sites ) :-

Ringling Location	Number of different combinations observed at NSFQ
South Shields	6
Sunderland	6
Firth of Forth area	17
West { Solway	5
Coast { Clyde	5
Isle of Canna	1
Unknown	9
TOTAL	<u>49</u>

These 49 different year class ring combinations represent approx. 278 sightings of Herring Gulls in the NSFQ area of birds ringed as chicks from 1967 - 1983 in the specified areas.

For the 416 unique birds I have recorded 1898 sightings in total. The number of times of observing any particular bird ranges from 1 to 77 instances during the period stated. The breakdown of number of sightings of the unique birds versus the number of individuals is as follows :-

Number of sightings per bird	Number of individuals	Total number of sightings	Average number of sightings per bird
1 - 5	338	630	1.9
6 - 10	34	241	7.1
11 - 15	17	229	13.5
16 - 20	7	122	17.4
21 - 30	12	288	24.0
31 - 40	4	145	36.3
41 - 50	1	42	42.0
51 - 60	1	52	52.0
61 - 70	0	0	0
71 - 80	2	149	74.5
TOTAL	416	1898	4.6

I have seen 21 birds on 20 or more occasions.

Details of the most recently ringed Herring Gulls I recorded up until 31.12.90 are :-

<u>Combination</u>	<u>Ringling Details</u>	<u>Date at NSFQ</u>
LG left NGY	Coxhoe, 6.12.90, 3rd year, British female.	16.12.90
LG left NON	Coxhoe, 6.12.90, Adult, British male.	19.12.90

The two most frequently seen birds are :-

<u>Combination</u>	<u>Ringling Details</u>	<u>Dates at NSFQ</u>
W right NBS	North Shields, 10.12.81, Adult.	12.1.82 - 19.12.90 (72 sightings)
W right NLW	Wingate, 11.12.81, 1st year, British female.	18.12.81 - 20.12.90 (77 sightings)

Oldest bird :

<u>Combination</u>	<u>Ringling Details</u>	<u>Dates at NSFQ</u>
OG right	Isle of May, 1967, Chick;	1.9.90,
W(with red spots)	re-ringed : Sunderland,	8.9.90,
M left	21.1.81, Adult, male.	28.9.90.

#### Your own colour-ringed gull sightings

Anyone recording colour-ringed gulls (Herring, Great Black-backed, Kittiwake, Black-headed) can send sighting details to :  
Dr.J.C.Coulson, University of Durham, Dept. of Biological Sciences,  
Science Labs, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE.

You will receive ringing details of the bird in return.  
Alternatively send details to myself : Daniel M. Turner,  
2, Latimer Street, Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear, NE30 4EY.



# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

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## MONTHLY SUMMARY - JULY 1991

From a birding point of view July can sometimes be described as an unexciting month, this year was not to prove an exception. Despite good coverage at Seaton Sluice some 60 hours of sea-watching was logged for little return. Overall it was very quiet especially for Skuas and Shearwaters, with no Sooty Shearwaters recorded and Manx only showing well on four-five days. The use of tape recordings to trap and ring Petrels was successful at Annstead and Hauxley with at least 20 Storm Petrels ringed. A Leach's Petrel was attracted to the tape at Hauxley on 28th.

Wader passage was generally light, although reasonable numbers of Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Greenshank occurred. A Little Stint was at the Long Nanny on 28th, where a Stone Curlew had been found on 24th.

Breeding records for many species make up the bulk of the bulletin with a productive year for gulls, especially Common. Wigeon success was noted at a record five sites, while Quail, Little Ringed Plover, Merlin and Peregrine all had success. The long awaited first breeding in the county of Ruddy Duck was confirmed at Holywell and Annitsford Ponds with two pairs at both sites hatching young by the end of the month. A Twite carrying food indicated breeding in the SW, while an interesting report was of a female Brambling at Kidlandlee on 20th. Other interesting or unseasonal sightings involved Great Northern Diver, Garganey, Hobby, Red-crested Pochard, Hen Harrier, Buzzard and Raven.



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

Only two N and two S noted at Seaton Sluice, two were at Longhoughton Steel on 20th and one at Holy Island on 27th (SSWT/RKS/IK).

Great Northern Diver

One was in Santon Bay, Holy Island on 15th (MH).

Little Grebe

Further breeding success reported from Grindon Lough (two broods), Arcot Pond (two broods) and single broods at Holywell Pond and Swinhoe Pond. Juveniles were also noted at Big Waters and Caistrone.

Great Crested Grebe

A pair with nest noted at Greenlee Lough on 4th (MH). Three pairs with five young still present at Holywell Pond, one of the young was later found dead. One-five were at another six ponds.

Black-necked Grebe

Eight were at the regular breeding site on 14th. Two were at Grindon Lough from 6th-21st and a single at Darden Lough between 14th-31st.

Fulmar

180 pairs in territory from Needles Eye - Scottish border (BNR). 70 per hour flew N at St Mary's Island on 25th (MS + MKH). One flew over Holywell Pond on 5th (MT).

Manx Shearwater

A monthly total of 597N and 79S at Seaton Sluice with peaks of 109N on 15th and 190N on 20th (SSWT). Elsewhere 70 per hour flew N at Newbiggin on 20th (JGB) and 61N at Hauxley on 14th (HRS).

Storm Petrel

The use of tape recordings resulted in a total of 11 ringed and three controlled at Hauxley between 19th-31st with up to 35 attracted to the tape on 27th (HRS). Nine were trapped at Annstead on 27th (BRS).

Leach's Petrel

One was attracted to tape recordings at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Gannet

Movements were generally light with the maximum numbers of 500N per hour at Seaton Sluice on 25th (SSWT).

Cormorant

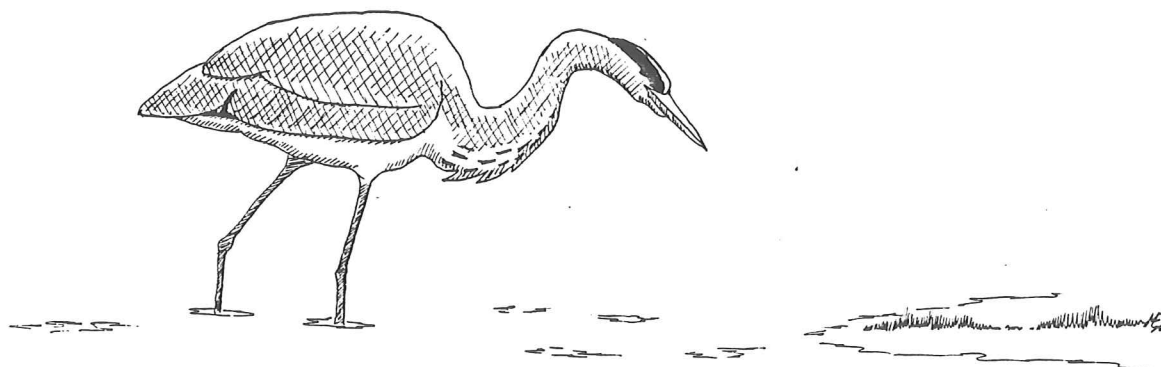
At Seaton Sluice small numbers recorded moving N in the morning and S in the evening to/from roosting-feeding areas. 28-31 were at Castle Island, the Tyne estuary and Blyth harbour.

Shag

Five pairs bred at Needles eye (BNR).

Grey Heron

35 were at Castle Island on 28th when eight at Fenham Mill (AT/MSH). One-seven noted at a further 18 localities.



#### Mute Swan

354 were at Berwick on 6th (DM/ALT), 25 at Greenlee on 4th (MH) and 19 at Castle Island on 19th (AT). Further breeding success reported from Caistron, two broods of three and seven and a brood of one at Hindshield (BNR).

#### Greylag Goose

29 were at Caistron on 11th where seven broods totalling 25 young were also noted (BNR).

#### Canada Goose

Four pairs with eight young were at Capheaton on 11th (BNR). Pairs with young were also at Coanwood, Lanehead and near Colt Crag. A maximum of 85 were at Colt Crag on 9th.

#### Brent Goose

One was off Cresswell on 16th (MH).

#### Shelduck

59 were in Budle Bay on 7th (RKS) and 33 at Fenham Flats on 6th (DM). Further broods noted at Low Newton, Amble harbour and Berwick, 44 young noted at Hauxley and 17 young at Druridge Pool.

#### Wigeon

At the regular breeding site four pairs fledged nine young, at the second site ten broods noted. Further breeding success reported from a fourth and fifth site with four and two young respectively.

#### Gadwall

Four were at Druridge Pool on 10th, two at Berwick on 6th and one at Hauxley on 7th (DBNR/DM).

#### Teal

Single broods were at Big Waters (nine young), Caistron (one), Colt Crag (seven) and Dodd (four). 45 were at Druridge Pool and 29 at Grindon Lough.

#### Mallard

14 broods totalling 46 young were at Caistron on 11th (BNR). 194 were at Big Waters on 25th (GB), 118 at Derwent on 28th (RKS), 85 at Castle Island and 79 at Whittle Dene.

Pintail

Singles reported from Whittle Dene, Derwent and Holy Island Lough.

Garganey

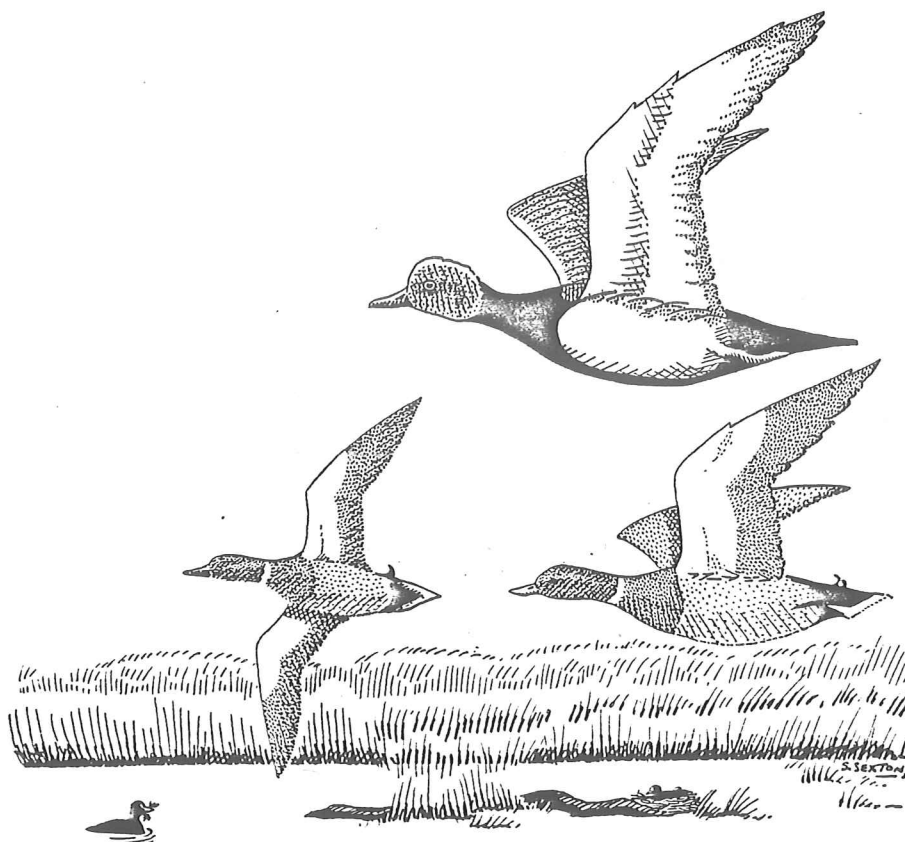
One was at Holywell Pond on 5th (MT) and three at Hauxley on 29th (DBNR).

Shoveler

Ten were at Big Waters on 21st (AJJ) and one-eight at a further seven localities.

Red-crested Pochard

An eclipsed drake was at Big Waters from 8th-16th (LR, AJJ et al).

Pochard

29 were at Holywell Pond on 18th where broods of one, three, six and seven noted (ISD/TRC). Two young were at Castle Island on 26th (JGB).

Tufted Duck

Nine broods totalling 36 young were at Caistron on 11th. At Holywell Pond eight broods produced 44 young and at Castle Island four broods totalled 22 young (BNR/ISD/TRC/AT). Single broods were also noted at Colt Crag, Derwent, Wallsend Swallow Pond, Whittle Dene and Arcot Ponds.

Scaup

Singles noted at Newbiggin, Hauxley and Warkworth Lane.

Eider

Females with ducklings noted at Budle Bay and Fenham Flats. 900 were at Holy Island on 28th and 105 between Boulmer-Howick on 20th when 158 were off Hauxley.

Common Scoter

At Seaton Sluice peak movements were on 24th-25th when 452 flew N and 114S and on 29th-31st when 157 flew N and 100S (SSWT). 250 were in Druridge Bay on 25th (IF).

Velvet Scoter

Singles noted at Seaton Sluice on 11th and 24th, two flew N at Newbiggin on 25th (SSWT/SS).

Goldeneye

One was at Hauxley from 28th-30th (DBNR).

Red-breasted Merganser

Six were in Beadnell Bay on 3rd and one-three at Newbiggin, Hauxley and Seaton Sluice.

Goosander

A female and three small young were at Derwent on 3rd (RKS), while six large young were at Mitford on 7th (ADM/SS).

Ruddy Duck

The county's first breeding records were noted on 12th at Annitsford and Holywell Ponds with broods of eight and four respectively (LJM/TRC). At Annitsford a second brood was found on 21st while another brood of eight was seen at Holywell on 27th. A maximum of four males and three females were at Holywell and one male and two females at Annitsford. It is interesting to note that despite several visits to the latter localities during the summer the species was never observed until the young were found! A pair also displayed in June at Caiströn (EJS).

Hen Harrier

A 'ringtail' near Altwinton on 20th was presumably summering (JR).

Sparrowhawk

Breeding reports were received from several areas. In the South central and Coquetdale study areas four monitored pairs fledged 16 young (BG/IK). A family party of four was seen over Newcastle city centre where a nest was noted in May (MRS) and birds carrying prey indicated breeding in the Gosforth, Whitley Bay, Darras Hall and Wark Forest areas (ES/TRC/EC/MH). Singles were also noted in 13 other areas.

Buzzard

One flew NE at Corbridge on 4th being heavily mobbed by gulls (JD).

Kestrel

In the NW study area at least 14 sites were occupied and eight monitored nests produced at least 27 young (BG/IK). Successful breeding also occurred near Whittle Dene (MR), Wark Forest (MH), near Castle Island and in the Ingram Valley where a family party of seven was noted (AT). Breeding also took place in a church site in the SE which has produced young in 15 of the last 17 years. One-two were also reported from ten other areas.

Merlin

A family party of four-five was noted in one moorland area (MHP) while an individual carrying prey was noted in another district (MH). Other inland records involved a single hunting Crossbills in a forest area (SS). The usual post-breeding movements to the coast were indicated with singles noted in five localities late in the month.

Hobby

Singles were reported near Beadnell on 9th and 28th (APM) and from Druridge Pool and Hauxley Reserve, also on 28th (DBNR).

Peregrine

Three young fledged from one site (IM) and a pair with a single juvenile were seen in another locality (ADM). An aggressive pair were seen at another site (BNR).

Red-legged Partridge

An adult with six very small chicks was seen at Swinhoe on 21st (WAK).

Grey Partridge

A pair with ten young was noted at Whittle Dene on 21st (MR).

Quail

A pair with about eight young were noted in a meadow on the banks of the Tweed near Carham on 15th (MCG).

Water Rail

One was calling in Gosforth Park on 20th (MPF).

Coot

A good breeding year was indicated at Big Waters with second broods bringing the total of broods to 14 (AJJ et al). Six broods were seen at Holywell Pond (TRC) and three broods at Arcot Pond (LJM) and Grindon Lough (MH).

Moorhen

More breeding records were received from Derwent, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Laverock Hall Farm, Arcot, Annitsford and East Cramlington ponds and from a pond near Catton.

Oystercatcher

Numbers at the coast began to build up with the end of the breeding season with 139 at Longhoughton Steel, 105 at St Mary's Island and 73 at Hauxley Reserve being the largest groups.

Stone Curlew

Notes have been submitted of an individual on rough pasture near the Long Nanny Burn on 14th (PRJ). If accepted, it will be only the tenth county record, the last being at Earsdon in September 1985.

Little Ringed Plover

The four young noted in June at a site in the S all fledged successfully. A second pair may also have bred at this locality. Singles were also noted in two other potential breeding sites. A single was also noted at Holywell Pond on 7th (JRT/MT) and at Druridge Pools on 9th while a juvenile was at the latter site between 27th-30th.

Ringed Plover

Further breeding reports were received. Seven pairs bred at a coastal site while five pairs were at Caistron and two pairs at Milfield.

Golden Plover

Post-breeding flocks formed at the coast where the peak counts involved 400 at Hauxley Reserve (DBNR) and in Budle Bay (BRS), 214 at Longhoughton Steel (RKS) and 200 along the Pilgrims Way, Holy Island (IK). The largest inland flock was 300 at Whittle Dene by 26th (MR).

Grey Plover

Up to 13 were present all month at Longhoughton Steel (RKS) but only singles were noted in three other coastal areas. Inland, one was noted on the E Allen (BNR).

Lapwing

Large post-breeding flocks gathered in many areas. The largest parties were 1,000 at Caistron (DM/ALT), 800 at Whittle Dene (MR), 650 at Grindon Lough (RKS), 500 at Cresswell Pond (DBNR), 400-450 at Fenham Mill and Wallsend Swallow Pond (MSH/L&KR) and 250 at Castle Island (AT).

Knot

Small parties of birds still in summer plumage began to arrive during the month with peaks of 42 in Budle Bay, 17 at Cresswell Pond and 14 at Hauxley. Light passage was noted at Seaton Sluice with 27S and 7N during the month (SSWT).

Sanderling

Light return passage brought 30 to Hauxley by 19th and 20 to the Long Nanny Burn by 20th.

Little Stint

One was at the Long Nanny Burn on 28th (JW/APM).

Curlew Sandpiper

Return passage commenced with a single adult at Cresswell Pond on 20th (JRT). One-two followed at Hauxley Reserve and by the end of the month four were in Budle Bay (WAK/RKS et al).

Purple Sandpiper

Only one-two summering individuals were noted from Seaton Sluice and Coquet Island.

Dunlin

Arrival was evident with coastal peaks of 600 in Budle Bay (BRS), 100 at Fenham Mill (MSH), 60 in summer plumage at the Pilgrims Way, Holy Island (IK), 71 at the Long Nanny Burn and 59 at Hauxley. One-eight were seen at four inland localities.

Ruff

Up to four were in the Druridge Pools area during the month, including the dark male which displayed in May. The only other records involved singles at Holywell Pond and Fenham Mill.

Snipe

The only parties noted involved 14 at Druridge Pools and at Whittle Dene (RGW) and six at Grindon Lough (RKS).

Woodcock

A bird was still roding at Harwood on 17th where a chick was noted on a forest track (MH).

Black-tailed Godwit

Return passage was evident with small groups and singles in several areas. The largest group was six in Budle Bay by 28th and on the same date three in breeding plumage were noted at Cresswell Pond and Hauxley Reserve. A single was at Druridge Pools on 30th.

Bar-tailed Godwit

The only large group during the month was 300c, including many in summer plumage, along the Pilgrims Way, Holy Island on 29th (IK). Groups of 30 were also noted from Fenham Mill and in Budle Bay (MSH/BRS). One-seven were noted at six other localities. Inland records are rare so a report of one in a peat bog near Haltwhistle on 17th (AP) was noteworthy.

Whimbrel

Passage S was noted in many areas. The main flocks involved 11 at Druridge Bay Country Park on 18th (TAC), 22 arriving from E at Hauxley on 19th (HRS), 20 at Newbiggin on 20th (JGB) and 14 at Druridge on 21st (DBNR). Parties of ten were seen on three dates from Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and there were sightings of one-six from 12 other coastal localities. Inland one-two were noted over Wallington, Colt Crag and Slaggyford (BNR).

Curlew

Coastal areas attracted the usual post-breeding flocks with peaks of 350c in Budle Bay, 260 at Longhoughton Steel, 200 at Fenham Mill and 60 at Berwick. Up to 155 roosted at Long Nanny Burn while inland 59 roosted at Hallington.

Spotted Redshank

Two in summer plumage flew N at Beadnell Bay on 9th (APM), a single was at Hauxley Reserve on 20th (DBNR) and two were in Budle Bay on 30th (BRS)

Redshank

Large coastal gatherings built up during the month with peaks of 500c in Budle Bay, 350 at Fenham Mill, 189 roosting at N Blyth, 153 at Hauxley Reserve and 80 at Longhoughton Steel. Smaller groups frequented other areas while at Seaton Sluice passage S began on 9th and involved 103 individuals during the month.

Greenshank

Return passage produced monthly peaks of ten at Fenham Mill and in Budle Bay (MSH/BRS), and eight at Druridge Pools (SS). One-two were seen in seven other coastal and three inland localities.

Green Sandpiper

Return passage was in full swing. Three were at Castle Island on 31st (AT) while one-two were seen in four inland and three other coastal localities.

Wood Sandpiper

A single was at Druridge Pools throughout the month (ES/WTL) while one was also noted at Backworth on 28th (JRT).

Common Sandpiper

Although some remained at inland sites most records involved birds which had moved to the coast after breeding. Six pairs were still at Caistron on 11th and other pairs were noted on the Rede at Allenbanks and Featherstone on the S Tyne. One-six were reported from 18 coastal areas or ponds en route to the coast.



Turnstone

Summering flocks included 139 present all month at Hauxley, up to 119 roosting at N Blyth, 70 in Sandon Bay, Holy Island and 51 between Boulmer-Howick.

Arctic Skua

Very few were noted in what is normally a good month for passage. At Seaton Sluice only 11 moved N and five S during 60 hours of watching with a maximum of only three on a single day (SSWT). A party of six was off Hauxley on 17th (HRS) while other records involved only one-two from three other localities.

Great Skua

Very few were seen making sea-watching unrewarding. At Seaton Sluice only nine individuals were logged during the month while the only other reports involved singles moving N at Newton Point and the Beadnell Bay.

Little Gull

18 on 7th was again the maximum count at Castle Island (AT) but adults now predominated with 11 birds comprising eight adults, two second summer and one first summer on 6th (DM). Four were at Druridge on 7th and Hauxley on 26th (DBNR) with one-two at Cresswell and Beadnell Bay. At Seaton Sluice, two were present on 8th and four flew N and one S from 15th-24th (KWY/SSWT). A second summer was at Big Waters from 21st-23rd (AJJ/GB).

Black-headed Gull

At two moorland colonies in SW, 1,330 pairs fledged 720 young, 500 nests were still occupied at Caistron on 11th with 360 juveniles seen. 3,000 birds had been present here earlier in the season. 160 young were raised by 250 pairs at a site near Colt Crag (BNR). 33 juveniles were fledged at Darden Lough (CRA) and nine at Grindon where 200 roosted on 12th (MH). Colonies broke-up near the end of the month with roosts of 3,100 at Scotswood by 23rd, 2,200 at Colt Crag on 31st and 1,500 at Derwent on 27th (BNR). On the coast, 450 were in the Tyne Estuary and 306 at Castle Island on 28th (DMT/AT).

Common Gull

It was a very productive year : 14 pairs attempted to breed and 11 were successful raising 22 young at eight sites. Five pairs bred on moorland, two on the Northumbrian Loughs, six in lowland gravel pits and quarries and one on a river bed - the first time such habitat has been used (BNR). Early in the month, 12 flew N at Hauxley on 4th, 80 roosted at Colt Crag on 9th and 104 at Budle Bay on 15th. A massive influx occurred towards the end of the month with 500 at Reaveley Green on 24th (AMB), 4,100 at Derwent and 270 at a Durham moorland site on 27th and an exceptional 15,000 at Colt Crag on 31st (BNR).

Lesser Black Backed Gull

On the moors, nine pairs raised 16 young at the regular site and three young were fledged by single pairs at two new sites. A pair raised one young on a gravel bit (BNR). On roof tops, a pair raised two young at Walkergate (LJM), a pair was successful at Westerhope (IK) and at least five pairs had young in Newcastle. 127 roosted at Grindon on 18th and 19 at Scotswood on 23rd (BNR) with 15 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 4th (SPP) and 13 at Hauxley Reserve on 24th (DBNR).

Herring Gull

200 pairs were nesting on cliffs from Needles Eye - Scottish border on 2nd (BNR), 20 pairs raised young on the Westerhope factory roof (IK) and 14 pairs fledged 28 young on the old A1 road bridge at Berwick (DM/ALT). All four pairs at the moorland colony failed. 350 were in the Tyne Estuary on 13th (DMT) with 190-201 at Hauxley, St Mary's Island and Budle Bay. 90 roosted at Scotswood on 23rd.

Great Black Backed Gull

Return movement was indicated by 600 roosting at the Newbiggin Ash Lagoon on 30th (AT). 71 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 9th and 38 at St Mary's Island on 23rd.

Kittiwake

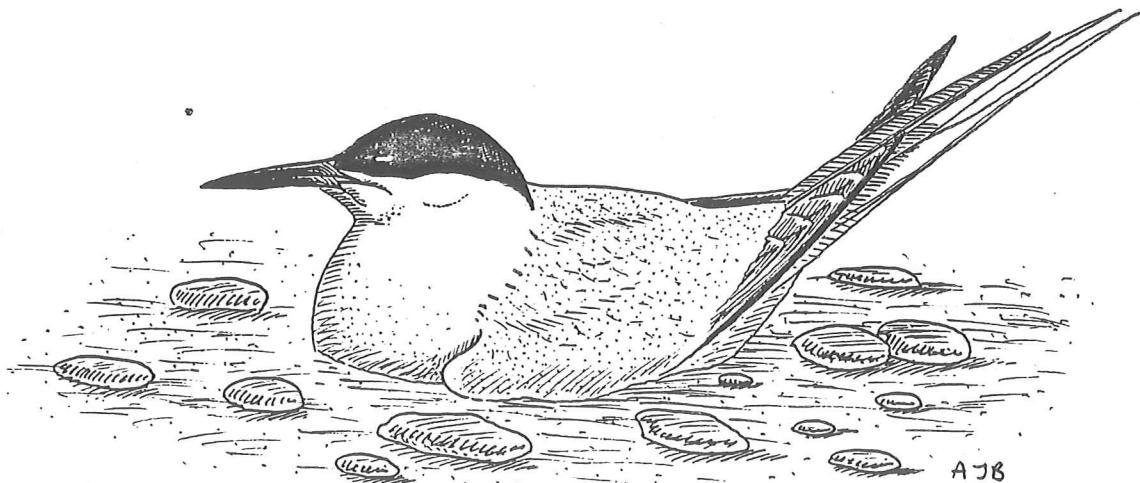
At Needles Eye, there were 1,550 apparently occupied nests on 2nd. Nearly all nests contained young, most with one chick (BNR). At the Coop Warehouse 32 of the pairs had produced 94 chicks by 5th and 45 chicks were still in nests on 25th (DM). 13 pairs bred at Tynemouth Cliffs (19 young), three on Port of Tyne Building (5 young) and 17 at North Shields Ferry Warehouse (23 young) (DMT). 750 birds were still at the Dunstanburgh colony on 21st. The largest counts away from colonies were 500 at North Shields Fish Quay on 24th, 350 at Berwick on 2nd and 342 flying N in four hours at Newbiggin on 25th. An adult roosted at Scotswood on 23rd.

Sandwich Tern

There were some large counts towards the end of the month. 1,200 were at Newbiggin Ash Lagoon on 30th (AT), 200 at Hauxley Reserve on 24th and 70 at Cresswell on 30th. Passage at Seaton Sluice was to N up to 17th with 300 per hour on 15th and to S fro 18th with 250 per hour on 22nd (SSWT). Juveniles were noted from 10th at Hauxley. Two stopped briefly at Big Waters on 2nd before departing to the E (GB).

Roseate Tern

21 pairs nested on Coquet Island (TAC). The highest count on the mainland was nine at Hauxley Reserve on 15th (DBNR) with singles at Cresswell, Beadnell and Seaton Sluice.



Common Tern

Two pairs each fledged one juvenile at Big Waters (DM/GB/SPP) and one pair had hatched one young at Wallsend Swallow Pond by 27th (PAB). Nine were at Castle Island, four at Holywell and two at Arcot Hall. One at Paddy Freeman's Ponds, Jesmond is the first recorded there since 1977 (MPF) and another interesting record is one at Derwent on 28th (RKS). 180 were at Hauxley Reserve on 28th (DBNR) and 25-50 at Newbiggin and Cresswell.

Arctic Tern

41 pairs fledged at least 28 juveniles at one mainland site where 500 roosted on 26th. 196 were at Hauxley Reserve on 12th (DBNR) and 82 flew N in four hours at Newbiggin on 25th (SS). Three 'portlandica' were at Hauxley on 5th (HRS).

Little Tern

28 young fledged at one mainland site where 87 roosted on 24th. One-two were noted at four other coastal localities. A very surprising record was of one well inland at Derwent on 9th (RKS).

Auk (Sp)

45 per hour flow N at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT).

Guillemot

A pair occupied a ledge at Needles Eye on 2nd (BNR), 42 were at Dunstanburgh on 10th (RKS).

Razorbill

12 pairs had young at Needles Eye on 2nd when a total of 36 adults were in the area (BNR). 5 birds were on ledges at Dunstanburgh on 21st (PRJ).

Puffin

Two pairs attended freshly excavated burrows at Needles Eye on 2nd (BNR). 177 flew N and 290 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and 434 flew N in ten minutes at Hauxley on 11th (HRS). 20 were at Dunstanburgh on 21st.

Stock Dove

Four were at Hauxley Reserve on 17th and two at Druridge Bay Country Park on 25th.

Collared Dove

On 1st 15 were in the wood at Hauxley and another arrived over the sea (HRS). 10-12 were at Horsley during the month.

Cuckoo

Singles were noted at Hauxley Reserve, Cresswell, Foxton, Ellingham and Druridge Bay Country Park.

Barn Owl

Three juveniles were fledged at a site in the SE of county.

Little Owl

One was noted with prey near Tughall on 7th (BRS). Singles were also seen at Ingram and Warkworth Lane.

Tawny Owl

Breeding was confirmed at Chollerford and Derwent Reservoir (LJM/BNR). One-two were also at Morpeth, Fulbeck, Featherstone, Fellah and near Kirkley Hall.

Long Eared Owl

Breeding was confirmed at a site in the centre of the county.

Short Eared Owl

Birds were seen in five potential breeding areas in the SW/W. On or near the coast, one at Holywell on 1st (MT) was followed by further reports of singles from the Long Nanny, Hauxley, Druridge and Newbiggin by the end of the month.

Nightjar

Six-seven pairs had been located in the S of the county by the end of the month (LC). One was near Grindon on 29th (BNR) and another site held a single bird.

Swift

250 were near Whitley Bay on 11th (MSH), 150 at Druridge Bay Country Park on 2nd (SWA), 100 at Druridge Pool, Castle Island and Walbottle from 7th-10th and Big Waters on 28th, and 40-75 at five other localities. Marked movements to S were noted on the coast between 6th-12th with 545 in three hours at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), 244 in a day at Hauxley (HRS), 207 in a day at Long Nanny (APM/RJL) and small numbers at Bradford Kaims and Bamburgh. Birds were noted probably departing from Newcastle on 31st (KIB).

Kingfisher

Singles were seen at Big Waters (MPF) and Holywell (TRC). A juvenile was at Bothal on 28th (SS).

Green Woodpecker

Two birds were yaffling at Langleeford on 4th (TRC/ES et al). A pair was at Holystone Burn on 21st (IK/BG) and one bird at Hulne Park on 23rd.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Breeding was confirmed at Howick (RKS) and Arcot (LJM). At Walbottle the family party continued to feed together on peanuts in a garden (L&KR).

Skylark

One-two were still singing at Cramlington and Horton on 20th-21st (LJM).

Sand Martin

Colony counts were 150 nest holes at Druridge Bay Country Park, 90 nest holes at Featherstone Castle (RKS), 80-100 birds between Riding Mill-Corbridge (MPF), 10 nests at West Woodburn (J&MH) and two nests at Long Nanny (APM/RJL). 200 were sitting on a road at Calder on 24th (AMB).

Swallow

Five young were fledged from an old railway van, used as a hay store, at Threestoneburn (AMB). 27-40 were seen at West Woodburn and Warkworth Lane.

House Martin

23 pairs nested at Colt Crag boathouse (BNR), four at West Woodburn (J&MH) and two at a new site - the Manor House Hotel, Holy Island (IK). A pair returned to Hipsburn as late as the 3rd and started re-using an old nest (TA&MLC). 13 were at Warkworth Lane on 2nd.

Tree Pipit

Two birds were at Harwood on 4th and Kielder on 7th (SS).

Meadow Pipit

One was still in song at Cramlington on 23rd (LJM).

Yellow Wagtail

Family parties were noted at Coatenhill (two), Newbiggin, Catton, Laverock Hall and Cresswell. Nine birds were at Druridge on 7th and 22nd (DBNR), two-four in rows of strawberries at Styford on 10th (MH) and one-two at Briardene Farm, Holywell and Fehnam Mill. Two with 'very grey mantles' were at Druridge Pool on 22nd (IF).

Blue-headed Wagtail

At Druridge Bay Country Park, a male accompanied two pairs of Yellow Wagtails with young (SWA).

Grey Wagtail

Juveniles were seen at West Woodburn, Featherstone Castle, Jesmond Dene and Holywell Dene. A pair was at Newton (near Rothbury) and a single at Chollerton.

Pied Wagtail

Two pairs bred in Cramlington town centre (LJM) and one at Catton (MB). 60 roosted at Hallington on 31st (BNR), 39 were at Big Waters on 29th (PRJ) and 15-32 at Cresswell, Whittle Dene, Druridge and Housesteads..

Wren

A family party was in stubble at West Woodburn on 27th (J&MH).

Redstart

Passage had commenced by 28th when one was trapped at Druridge Bay Country Park (TAC). Breeding was confirmed at Featherstone Castle, Harthope Valley, Castle Island, near Medburn, Catton, Ordley and Darden Lough. Singles were seen at Clover Hill and Derwent Reservoir.

Whinchat

In the Harthope Valley, 18 pairs were located this month with broods seen from 14th (RKS). Breeding was confirmed at Harwood (three pairs), Hadston (two), Hauxley Reserve, Clover Hill, Halton Lee Gate, West Woodburn and East Cramlington. One-two birds were noted at Cresswell and Druridge during the month and four were at Big Waters at the end of the month.

Stonechat

A pair with young were at Druridge Bay Country Park on 19th (TAC) and another pair at Chevington had fledged two young by 25th (IF).

Wheatear

Eight-nine were at Clover Hill on 30th (AP). Breeding was confirmed inland at Grindon Lough and Darden Lough and on the coast at Dunstanburgh Castle and Holy Island quarry and coves. Two were at Hauxley Reserve on 1st, one at Whittle Dene from 2nd-5th and one-two at the Long Nanny and Football Hole from 12th.

Blackbird

Ten were in the wood at Hauxley on 11th (HRS) and one was still singing at Horton on 24th.

Song Thrush

Late broods were noted of four young at Matfen on 23rd (RW) and two young at Cochrane Park on 7th (KIB).

Mistle Thrush

On 29th, 31 were at Warkworth Lane (DBNR) and nine at Housesteads.

Grasshopper Warbler

Up to two were still "reeling" at Big Waters, Druridge Pools, Prestwick Carr and Whittle Dene. A pair were feeding a fledged brood at Bamburgh on 7th, where an adult was trapped on 21st (BRS).

Sedge Warbler

Eight pairs were on territory at Caistron on 11th (BNR). Breeding noted at Craster Hough and E Cramlington Pond. Passage was noted as very poor through Bamburgh with a peak of 10 on 29th (BRS). Ringing at Hauxley peaked at 10 on 20th (HRS).

Reed Warbler

At least four were singing at Gosforth Park on 20th, where two juveniles were trapped on 21st (MPF/ISD). One-two were singing at Big Waters all month (AJJ et al), while a single was at Holywell Pond between 21st-28th (MPF/ISD).

Lesser Whitethroat

Birds feeding fledged young were noted at Arcot Pond on 6th (AHB) and Holywell on 16th (TRC). One-two were at Bamburgh, Big Waters and Swallow Pond.

Whitethroat

Successful breeding noted at Bamburgh, Boulmer, Briardene Farm - Whitley Bay, Cullernose Point and Warkworth Lane.

Garden Warbler

Four juveniles were notes at Kellah Burn/Featherstone (AP). One-two singing at six mainly inland localities. Two were trapped at Druridge Bay CP on 28th and one at Bamburgh on 29th (TC/BRS).

Blackcap

Successful breeding noted at Allenbanks, Featherstone Castle, Howick, Matfen and Warkworth Lane (RKS/RW/DBNR). Two were trapped at Druridge Bay CP and one at Hauxley on 28th (TC/HRS).

Wood Warbler

Three were singing at Beacon Hill and two at Langleeford on 4th (ES/WTL/TRC). Successful breeding noted in the Harthorpe Valley on 14th (RKS).

Chiffchaff

Breeding noted at Beacon Hill Wood near Morpeth on 4th (TRC/ES). Three were trapped at Bamburgh between 21st-28th (BRS).

Willow Warbler

A post-breeding influx was noted at Matfen on 30th (RW). Poor numbers trapped so far at Bamburgh with a total of 25 between 21st-30th (BRS).

Goldcrest

Noted as scarce in Coquetdale (IK/BG).

Spotted Flycatcher

Seven pairs were on 2nd clutches of eggs at Matfen (RW). Four broods noted in the Harthope Valley from 14th (RKS) and four young were raised on an old Swallow's nest at Threestoneburn by 9th (AMB). Breeding confirmed at another seven widely scattered localities.

Pied Flycatcher

17 pairs at Nunykirk laid 108 eggs, hatched 94 young of which 80 fledged (RW).



Long-tailed Tit

Family parties observed at Featherstone Castle, Howick Dene and Ordley. Post-breeding flocks involved 50+ at Williamston on 17th and 20+ at N Middleton on 4th (ES/WTL/TRC).

Marsh Tit

One-three were at Allenbanks, Featherstone Castle and Warkworth Lane (ES/WTL/RKS/DBNR).

Willow Tit

One-two were at Big Waters, Castle Island, Newbiggin and Warkworth Lane (DM/AT/DBNR).

Coal Tit

15 were at Williamston on 17th (ES/WTL). Family parties were at Allenbanks, Featherstone Castle and the Harthope Valley (RKS).

Blue Tit

A post-breeding flock of 24 was noted at Castle Island on 31st (AT).

Nuthatch

A family party was at Linnels on 12th (BNR).

Treecreeper

A pair successfully raised a brood just two days before Benacres Wood nr Ponteland was totally clear-felled (EC). Broods also noted at Allenbanks and Featherstone Castle (RKS).

Magpie

Family parties noted at Northburn - Cramlington and Walbottle (LJM/L&KR).

Carrion Crow

Family party noted at Big Waters on 5th (DM). Roost of C 400 at Rothley Lake on 12th (IK/BG).

Raven

One displaying at Swinhoe Lake on 4th (per IK).

Starling

Maximum post-breeding flocks involved 350 at Hauxley on 24th, 250 at Druridge and 200 at Cresswell on 17th (DBNR).

House Sparrow

A post-breeding flock of C 300 was at Northburn - Cramlington between 20th-28th (LJM). 69 including many juveniles visited a Walbottle garden on 5th (L&KR).

Tree Sparrow

A pair raised a second brood at W Thirston when five fledglings left a nest box between 27th-28th - 41 days after the first brood (ET/JRN).

Brambling

A female was noted at Kidlandlee on 20th. More details are being sought from observer and if accepted it will be the county's first July record (JR).

Greenfinch

Post-breeding flocks involved 20 at Ordley on 13th and 10 at Hauxley on 14th (BNR/HRS).



Goldfinch

The largest charm was 30+ at W Woodburn on 6th (JMH).

Siskin

Many family parties noted at the Wanneys and Coquetdale indicating a good breeding season (IK/BG). Post-breeding flocks included C 100 in the Harthope Valley on 21st (RKS) and C 30 at Threestoneburn from 22nd (AMB).

Linnet

Post-breeding flocks included 200 at Whittle Dene and 100+ at Sandy Bay - Newbiggin on 26th (MR/JGB). Eight-43 were noted at six widespread localities.

Twite

One seen carrying food in the SW indicated successful breeding.

Redpoll

A good breeding season noted in Coquetdale (IK/BG). Post-breeding flocks involved C 130 in the Harthope Valley on 21st (RKS) and up to 20 at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Crossbill

C 20 flew SE over S Gosforth on 26th (AMB). Six flew over Hauxley on 15th (HRS) and seven (a family party) at Pegswood on 21st (SS). A 1st year bird killed itself against a 4th floor office window at North Shields on 5th (MSH).

Bullfinch

Two family parties were in Jesmond Dene on 5th (SPP) and one family party at Allenbanks on 8th (RKS). Pairs noted at Arcot Pond and Beacon Hill.

Yellowhammer

Up to three still visited a Walbottle garden up to 23rd (L&KR).

Reed Bunting

A maximum of 11 were at Druridge Pool on 21st (DBNR). Two family parties were at Berwick - Needles Eye on 2nd and W Woodburn on 21st (BNR/JMH). Holywell Pond's Lesser Whitethroat mimicking male was present throughout the month (TRC).

Corn Bunting

Up to three singing between Boulmer and Howick Dene between 6th-27th. One-two noted at Embleton Quarry, Hauxley, N Sunderland, Sandy Bay - Newbiggin and Warkworth Lane.

Please send all August Records, in Vooos order, to Nick Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham NE46 1SX by 8th September at the latest.

List of Contributors

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This months bulletin has been prepared by Alan Johnston, Ian Kerr, Dee McKeown and Nick Rossiter. Illustrations of Turnstone and Red-crested Pochard by Stuart Sexton, Grey Heron by Martin Eccles and Roseate Tern by Andy Booth.

#### Indoor Meeting - 12th September 1991

The first meeting of our 1991-92 season will be held on Thursday 12th September in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Building, Newcastle University at 7.00 pm. Our speaker will be David Jardine whose talk is entitled 'Westering Home - birding in the Inner Hebrides'.

#### Wader Counts 1991/92

The good stretch of coast between Seahouses and Budle Point is still vacant. Please contact Nick Rossiter as soon as possible if you are interested (Tel 0434 673509).

#### Wardens Needed

Wallsend Swallow Pond urgently needs volunteer wardens to help manage the reserve and protect wildlife. Contact Paul Buskin (Tel 265 9119) if you can help.

#### Field Trips

Holy Island - 28th September, lead Alan Jack.

Solway and Starling Roost - 9th November, leader Andrew Brunt.

Anyone interested in either trip please contact me on my new phone number (091 413 2914) or see me at the club meeting - Martin Davison.

#### February Trip to Islay and/or Kintyre

I am proposing to organise a trip to Islay and/or Kintyre in mid February next year. Due to ferry times however, a trip to Islay would ideally take place over 3 days instead of the usual 2 days of a weekend. If enough people cannot make a 3 days trip then an alternative 2 days trip to Kintyre will be arranged. I would therefore be grateful if you could let me know if you are interested in either the 3 days trip or 2 days trip. Please see me at a club meeting or contact me at the address below :

Martin Davison  
4 North View  
Stocksfield  
NE43 7JN

Tel (091) 413 2914





# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

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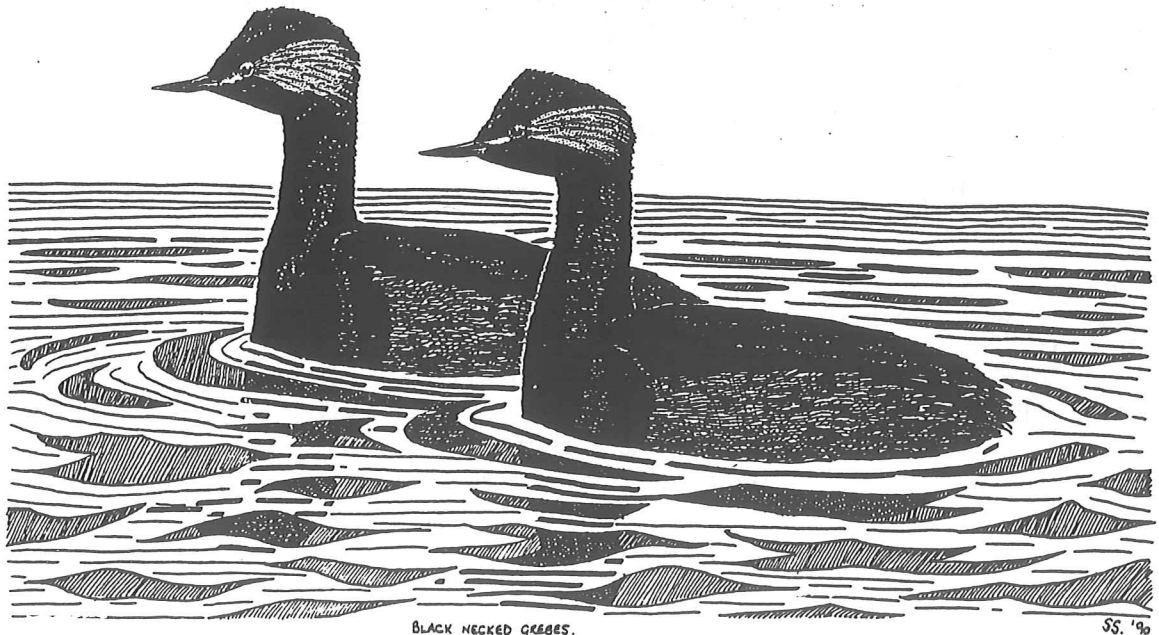
## MONTHLY SUMMARY - AUGUST 1991

The month continued dry with winds being largely from the west. Like July, August was relatively unexciting. Sea-watching continued at the very slow pace set last month with only two Sooty Shearwaters and few Manx Shearwaters or Skuas being reported.

Low water levels at many ponds provided rich feeding areas for wading species passing through the county. Greenshank, Green and Wood Sandpiper were prominent while Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint and a Grey Phalarope at Hauxley added to the interest. However, numbers of Black-tailed Godwit were spectacular with a near record 21 at Big Waters on 24th, 15 were also at Wallsend Swallow Pond, 13 at Chevington and one-four at a further 12 localities. Raptors were represented by Hen Harrier, an Osprey at Falstone on 8th and Hobby at four localities. Two Black Terns were at Cresswell Pond on 27th and a Wryneck near Wooler on 1st.

Of our rarer breeding species Black-necked Grebe bred at a second site with two-three pairs with young, while Ruddy Duck continued further breeding success at Caistron and a third brood was recorded at Holywell. The bird of the month was undoubtedly a Blyth's Reed Warbler trapped at Hauxley on 31st, this is only the third county record.

Other interesting species included Storm Petrel, Garganey, Lesser Crested Tern and Hooded Crow.



BLACK NECKED GREBES.

SS. '90

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

One-two noted at Seaton Sluice, Hauxley and Stag Rocks.

Little Grebe

Further breeding success noted at Druridge Pools, Hauxley Reserve and Linton Pond (DBNR). A new brood at Holywell on 26th brings the total number of broods this season to three (ISD). At least 20 were at Holywell on 29th (MT), 12 at Cresswell Pond, 10 at Druridge Pools and five-six at Big Waters, Castle Island and Arcot Pond.

Great Crested Grebe

At Holywell Pond a pair hatched a second brood of one chick on 3rd (ISD); ten, including juveniles were present on 10th (ES/DRS). Five were at Big Waters on 24th (AJJ) where the juveniles were noted displaying to each other on 11th (IK/BG). One-three were also at four other localities.

Slavonian Grebe

One in winter plumage was at Druridge Pools on 28th (SS/ES, TRC et al).

Black-necked Grebe

One was at Arcot Pond on 18th (DM). At a second breeding site two pairs were seen with two chicks each on 2nd. A third pair may have also hatched a single chick.

Fulmar

Heavy passage noted on 18th at Newton Point with 2,100N in three hours and 900N at Longhoughton Steel in 1 1/2 hrs (BG). Inland one flew E at Big Waters on 30th (per AJJ).

Sooty Shearwater

The only records involved a single seen on a pelagic trip off the Farne Islands on 17th (ES et al) and one N at Seaton Sluice on 18th (SSWT).

Manx Shearwater

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was of only 30N and three S with a maximum of 16N on 18th (SSWT). Elsewhere the only reports were of three S at Longhoughton Steel on 15th (BG), six off the Farne Islands on 17th (ES et al) and nine N off Hauxley on 19th (HRS).

Storm Petrel

The use of tape recordings resulted in 13 trapped at Hauxley on four nights and 16 at Annstead on five nights (HRS/BRS). At Tynemouth 29 birds were caught during August while in July 138 were caught on 18 trips. A good percentage of these caught had already been ringed previously with the most spectacular control being of one ringed on the Faeroe Islands in 1987. One was caught without the use of tapes on Coquet Island on 31st (PPRS/MGC).

Gannet

Very light passage noted with the best movement N being of 210 per hour at Seaton Sluice on 28th (SSWT).

Cormorant

31 were at Castle Island on 3rd (ES/TRC), 84 at Blyth harbour on 5th and 33 in the Tyne Estuary on 24th (DMT).

Grey Heron

62 were at Castle Island on 26th (MPF) and 24 in the Aln Estuary on 28th (MLC/WD). One-seven were at a further 12 localities.

Mute Swan

417 were at Berwick on 29th (DM) and 19 at Castle Island on 3rd (ES/WLT).

Greylag Goose

At Holywell Pond 34-37 were present all month (ISD et al) and 44 were at Caistron on 31st (BNR/JD).

Canada Goose

102 roosted at Hallington on 24th (BNR), 37 were at Holywell on 10th (ES/DRS) and one-nine were at Grindon Lough, Derwent, Lindisfarne, the Long Nanny and on the sea at Seaton Sluice.

Barnacle Goose

A single was at Caistron on 31st (BNR/JD).

Shelduck

30 (two adults inc) were at Ladyburn Lake on 3rd (DM), 23 juveniles were at Hauxley on 6th, and eight at Newton Point on 2nd (DBNR/MSH). Inland a maximum of five juveniles were present at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 25th (PAB) and singles at Big Waters and Derwent.

Wigeon

Light passage noted at Seaton Sluice with a peak of 20S on 23rd (SSWT). When 55 were offshore at Hauxley (DBNR) 29 were at Grindon Lough, 27 at Derwent and 24 at Druridge Pools.

Gadwall

Singles were at Druridge Pools on 30th-31st and at Hauxley reserve on 2nd and 30th-31st (DBNR et al).

Teal

Numbers built up to peaks of 189 at Druridge Pools on 23rd, 330 at Hauxley on 29th and 213 at Big Waters on 31st (DBNR/HRS/AJJ). 141 were at Grindon Lough, 135 at Caistron and 89 at Derwent.

Mallard

Peak counts were of 368 at Big Waters on 31st (GB), 297 at Derwent on 24th (RKS), 270 at Caistron, 231 at Hauxley and 87-145 at a further six localities. A female with a new brood of six young was at Grindon Lough on 3rd.

Pintail

Singles were at Bothal Pond on 24th (ADM), Swallow Pond on 29th (SPP) and at Hauxley on 29th-30th (DBNR).

Garganey

Singles were at Druridge Pools on ten dates between 3rd-17th and at Wallsend Swallow Pond from 26th-31st. Observers seem to vary in their sexing of the individuals at both localities - highlighting the problems with eclipsed wildfowl or perhaps more than one individual was involved at each site.

Shoveler

25 were at Big Waters on 24th (AJJ), 18 at Druridge Pool on 24th (ES) with up to nine at another ten localities.

Pochard

30 were at Big Waters on 25th (AJJ), 27 at Druridge Pools on 30th (DBNR) and 12 at Rayburn Lake.

Tufted Duck

Further broods noted at Killingworth Lake, Wallington Hall and Grindon Lough. 73 were at Whittle Dene on 8th (RGW), 45 at Caiströn (BNR), 40 at Druridge Pools and 35 at Hauxley (DBNR).

Eider

563 noted between Longhoughton Steel and Craster on 21st (DM).

Common Scoter

238 were in Druridge Bay on 3rd (DM/ES), 150 flew S at Hauxley on 5th (HRS). The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was only ten N and one S (SSWT).

Goldeneye

Two juveniles were present from 4th-31st at Big Waters (IK/BG et al). One-four females/immatures were at Hauxley and Druridge Pools throughout the month.

Goosander

29 were at Caiströn on 28th, 15 at Cresswell Pond on 4th and 17 at Grindon Lough on 24th, with one-seven at a further five localities.

Ruddy Duck

At Holywell Pond a third brood of five was noted on 5th (LR/ISD). Breeding was also confirmed at Caiströn where a brood of five well-grown young were present on 31st (BNR/JD). Between 18th-31st singles were also noted at Arcot Pond, Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools and Big Waters. Two were at Bothal Pond on 26th (MGA).

Hen Harrier

A 'ringtail' was at Slaggyford on 18th (JRT).

Sparrowhawk

Extremely well reported with singles in at least 31 localities and two-three on Holy Island at the end of the month. Breeding was confirmed at Wallsend (PAB). A young male was watched lying motionless up to its belly in mud at Druridge Pools watching passerines as they approached (AMB). Another at Druridge Bay Country Park killed a juvenile Cuckoo.

Buzzard

Three were at one site on 18th while on 26th a single was at another locality.

Osprey

A single flew E at Falstone on 8th (per DCJ).

Kestrel

Family parties were noted at Howick and Alwinton (RKS/WAK). Four were near Cresswell on 29th (AMB) and one-two seen in 13 other localities.

Merlin

Singles were reported from six coastal localities.

Hobby

Singles were reported from High Hauxley on 9th and 13th (KE and WKG), Bamburgh on 16th (MB/DH), Holywell on 27th-28th (MT/JEF/JT) and Druridge Bay Country Park on 28th (TAC).



Peregrine

Singles were reported from six localities, including an individual attracted to a gull roost at Derwent between 24th-26th (RKS) when it also chased Mallard, Teal and Lapwing.

Red Grouse

Parties totalling 46 were at Middlehope Moor, Allendale on 26th (WAK).

Grey Partridge

Coveys of 14 were noted at Holywell, 12 at Acklington with another group at Newbiggin, near Hexham. Pairs with young were seen at Derwent and Druridge but a poor breeding year was reported from Threestoneburn. In the Horton-Shankhouse area where normally three-five pairs breed, no young were seen this year.

Pheasant

At least three pairs bred at Threestoneburn but broods were small. A brood was also noted at Horton.

Water Rail

A single was well reported at Swallow Pond between 27th-30th.

Coot

Numbers rose with peaks of 170 at Big Waters, 87 at Druridge Pools, 66 at Holywell, 45 at Caistron and 37 at Rayburn Lake. Late breeding was noted at Druridge with very small young seen on 3rd (DM).

Moorhen

Pairs with very small young were noted at Castle Island on 10th and Plessey on 17th (DM). 25 were at Caistron.

WADER COUNTS

The following stretches were covered : Tweed Estuary (CK), Budle Point-Seahouses (BNR), Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS), Boulmer-Alnmouth (ES/WTL), S Alnmouth (ET and JRN), Cresswell-Newbiggin (MGA) and S Blyth-Hartley Point (KVB).

Oystercatcher

The largest groups were 302 in Budle Bay (RKS), 178 at St Mary's Island (DMT), 150 between Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS), 138 at Cresswell Pond (JRT), 130 in Tweed Estuary (DMCK) and 128 at Longhoughton Steel (RKS).

Little Ringed Plover

Adults with juveniles were seen at two waters where they had bred. One-two juveniles were extremely well reported from Swallow Pond, Druridge, Cresswell, Hauxley and Holywell.

Ringed Plover

Coastal gatherings and passage groups were prominent with the largest parties being 102 at Long Nanny Burn, 100 between Seahouses-Beadnell, 95 at Hauxley beach, 50 in the Wansbeck Estuary, 58 in Budle Bay, 51 in the Coquet Estuary, 46 at Boulmer and 38 at St Mary's Island.

Golden Plover

Larger concentrations included 750 at Longhoughton Steel, 700 at St Mary's Island (DMT), up to 500 at Holywell (PAB), 410 in Budle Bay (RKS) and 400 at Hauxley reserve.

Grey Plover

The only groups reported were 19 in Budle Bay (HRS) and 15 at Longhoughton Steel (BG).

Lapwing

Typical large late summer gatherings included 1,700 at Caistron (BNR/JD), 700 in Budle Bay (BRS), 500 at Swallow Pond (L & KR), 400 at Hauxley Reserve (DBNR) and 220 at Druridge Pools and Derwent (RKS).

Knot

The largest passage groups were 47 at Cresswell Pond on 1st (MGA) and 70 in Budle Bay on 3rd (RKS) with 20 at St Mary's Island by 31st (DMT). A juvenile at Swallow Pond on 22nd-23rd (SPP/PAB) was very unusual.

Sanderling

Small parties were noted with peaks of 15 at Hauxley beach and 12 at the Long Nanny Burn and Wansbeck Estuary.

Little Stint

A single was at Holywell on 19th-21st while Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools attracted up to three during the final week of the month.

Curlew Sandpiper

They became prominent on passage with peaks of nine at Derwent, seven at Backworth and Cresswell Pond, six at Blyth, five at Alnmouth and four at Long Nanny Burn. One-two occurred at four other localities.

Purple Sandpiper

The only reports involved eight on Coquet Island and a single at Newbiggin.

Dunlin

The largest gatherings were 700 in Budle Bay, 80 on Hauxley beach and 75 at St Mary's Island. Small groups were inland with one-six feeding at six waterside localities.

Ruff

Strong passage occurred with peaks of 25 at Hauxley Reserve, 12 at Backworth, ten at Swallow Pond, nine at Holywell and eight at Cresswell. One-five were seen at nine other localities.

Snipe

Late breeding was shown by small chicks at Swallow Pond on 5th and Druridge Pools on 11th (MPF/SS). The main gatherings involved 43 at Swallow Pond, 22 at Druridge Pools, 16 at Grindon and ten at Big Waters.

Black-tailed Godwit

A spectacular month for the species. A peak of 21 at Big Waters on 24th was the biggest flock seen in the county since 22 were recorded at Grindon Lough in April 1947 (AJJ/BG/ISD et al). Reduced numbers were present until the end of the month with most appearing to be juveniles. There was a maximum of 15 at Swallow Pond from 20th to the end of the month (MPF/JRT/PAB et al). Interchange between the two waters was considered likely by some observers. The only other flock noted had been 13 at Chevington on 7th (IF) although one-four were also seen at Backworth, Holywell, Longhoughton Steel, Hauxley, Druridge, Cresswell, Linton, Foxton, Budle Bay, Long Nanny Burn, Derwent and Low Newton.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Few were noted, 20c were in Budle Bay, 11 near Berwick, eight at Longhoughton Steel and only one-three at five other coastal localities.

Whimbrel

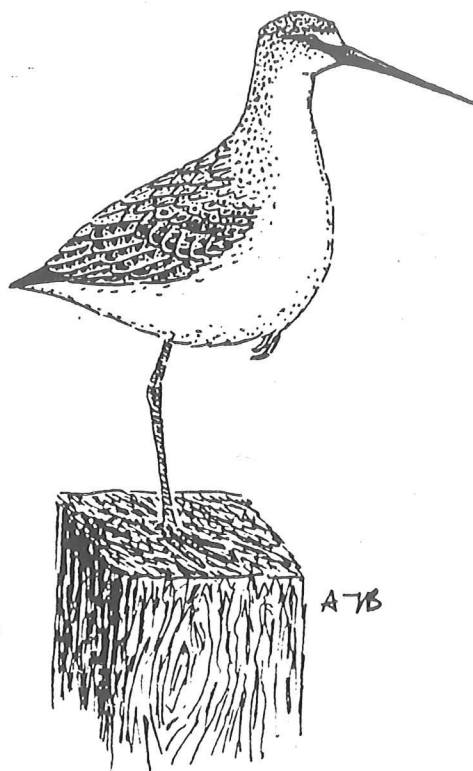
Passage continued with the main flocks being 17S at Hauxley on 3rd and 6th (DBNR), 30S at Longhoughton Steel on 5th (BG), 10S at Newton Point on 26th, 17N in rain at Warkworth on 27th (IK) and 15 arriving from E at Bamburgh on 31st (BRS). One-seven were noted from 11 other coastal localities while one-two were seen inland at Derwent.

Curlew

The main gatherings were 220 at Longhoughton Steel (RKS), 200 in Budle Bay (BRS), 178 at Long Nanny Burn (RKS) and 42 at Hauxley Reserve (DBNR). Inland records involved eight W at Big Waters on 13th (GB), six in a gull roost at Colt Crag on 26th (BNR/JD) and three at Caistron on 31st.

Spotted Redshank

They were well reported from the Cresswell-Druridge area with one-three being noted throughout the month. Two were at Budle Bay and singles at Linton Pond and Long Nanny Burn. The only inland record involved a single at Grindon Lough.



Redshank

The largest gatherings were 335 roosting at N Blyth pier (AMB), 158 in the Tweed Estuary (DM), 250 in Budle Bay (ES/MBS/TRC et al), 164 at Hauxley (DBNR), 154 in the Coquet Estuary (JRT), 88 between Seahouses-Beadnell (MLC/AS), 78 at Longhoughton Steel (RKS) and 64 at Chevington (IF).

Greenshank

Strong passage was indicated by many reports. The peak coastal counts involved ten at Cresswell Pond, eight at the Aln Estuary, seven in Budle Bay, six at Castle Island, four at Beal Point and one-two at seven other localities. Inland peaks involved 14 at Wallsend Swallow Pond, six at Hexham, four at Derwent and one-two at Holywell, Slaley, Grindon and Castron.

Green Sandpiper

Another species which proved prominent producing many records. Groups of four were at Embleton quarry and Wallsend Swallow Pond, three were at Hauxley Reserve and one-three were reported from Druridge Pools, Backworth, Castle Island, Newton Pool, Holywell Pond, Big Waters and Castron. One arriving high from NE at Longhoughton Steel on 15th suggested continued immigration.

Wood Sandpiper

Peaks of three were at Druridge Pools on 8th when one was in sub-song (BG/IK) while one-two also frequented Hauxley Reserve and Cresswell. Inland up to three were at Wallsend Swallow Pond and one-two were also noted at Backworth, Holywell and Big Waters.

Common Sandpiper

Some remained at inland waters early in the month with peaks of nine at Derwent on 2nd (RKS) when seven were at Big Waters (DM) and one-three continued to be seen at Whittle Dene and Colt Crag. Others were on the coast with one-four reported from 11 localities.

Turnstone

The largest groups noted were 210 roosting at Blyth N jetty, 160 between Boulmer-Alnmouth, 117 at Hauxley Reserve, 82 at Longhoughton Steel, 76 between Blyth South-Hartley Point and 58 at Cresswell. Inland records are unusual making three at Big Waters on 14th and two at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 25th noteworthy.

Grey Phalarope

An individual seen briefly at Hauxley Reserve on 30th was considered to have been an immature of this species (JEF).

Pomarine Skua

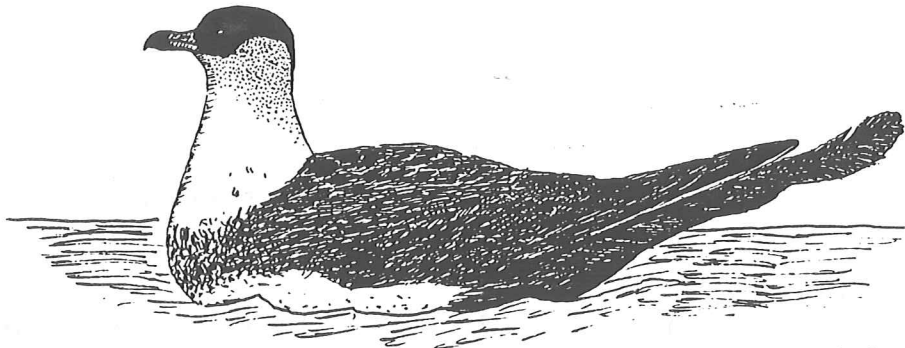
Singles were noted in Druridge Bay on 7th (WAK), Newbiggin on 15th (JGB), from the same locality on 25th (MGA) and off St Mary's Island on 23rd (SPP).

Arctic Skua

Although records increased total numbers remained generally low. The largest groups involved 12 off Seahouses on 17th, six off Hauxley on 19th, 12 off Hauxley on 25th and five off St Mary's Island on 28th. Only one-two were noted from four other areas. The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was only 18S and 8N.

Great Skua

Another poor month with only singles noted off Annstead on 16th, Seaton Sluice on 18th and Newbiggin and Annstead on 31st.



A-18

#### Mediterranean Gull

The first returning birds were single adults at Pegswood on 27th (SS) and Holywell on 28th (MT/RGW).

#### Little Gull

Numbers declined rapidly with two at Druridge Bay Country Park on 26th (TAC) and single adults at North Shields, Sandy Bay and Castle Island where a first-summer was also noted.

#### Black-headed Gull

Inland roosts increased with, near the end of the month, 5,500 at Scotswood on 21st, 2,300 at Colt Crag on 26th, 1,700 at Hallington on 24th, 1,500 at Derwent on 23rd and 150 at Grindon on 31st. On the coast, 3,200 roosted in Budle Bay on 25th (BNR) and 900 were in the Tyne Estuary on 11th (DMT).

#### Common Gull

After the rapid influx in late July, total numbers at inland roosts stabilised with 11,000 at Colt Crag on 26th, 6,800 at Derwent on 23rd, 3,100 at Hallington on 24th and an unusual gathering of 25 at Scotswood on 21st. 820 were feeding near Caistron on 31st and 5,100 roosted on the coast in Budle Bay on 25th (BNR/JD).

#### Lesser Black Backed Gull

The highest counts were in Budle Bay where 123 present on 25th and 131 on 31st. 66 were at the Long Nanny on 10th (RKS/KWY) and on the 31st, 37 were at Caistron with roosts of 80 at Grindon Lough and 50 at Broomlee (BNR/JD).

#### Herring Gull

753 were in the Tweed Estuary on 29th (DM), 650 in the Tyne Estuary on 3rd where 111 juveniles were counted on 2nd (DMT) and 460 in Budle Bay on 25th (BNR). Small inland roosts of 105 at Scotswood on 21st and 70 at Derwent on 23rd were also noted.

Great Black Backed Gull

103 were at Druridge Pools on 3rd (DM), 86 in the Tyne Estuary on 31st (DMT) and 78 at Longhoughton Steel on 8th (RKS). 40-53 were at Blyth Harbour and Scotswood and a steady movement to S was noted between Hauxley and Coquet Island on 3rd.

Kittiwake

At the Co-Op Warehouse 48 nests were still occupied on 2nd. 30 juveniles were seen at this colony with another 100 swimming on the Tyne (DM). On 1st 184 were in the Tyne Estuary (DMT) and 21 at Hauxley Reserve (DBNR).

Lesser Crested Tern

On the Farnes, an adult in winter plumage was seen on Brownsman on 17th (MPF/ES et al).

Sandwich Tern

295 were roosting in Budle Bay on 25th (BNR), 250 were at Cresswell on 5th (DBNR), 210 at Longhoughton Steel on 21st (DM) with smaller numbers at Hauxley Reserve, Druridge Pools and North Blyth.

Roseate Tern

The highest counts were five (all adults) at Hauxley Reserve on 3rd (DBNR/ES/DM) and two at Chevington Burn on 8th (BG/IK) and St Mary's Island on 18th. The latter pair comprised an unringed adult and a juvenile with a metal ring. Single adults flew S at Blyth on 11th (MPF) and Seaton Sluice on 4th (SSWT).

Common Tern

Two juveniles were fledged late in the season by one pair at Wallsend Swallow Pond (PAB), 220 were at the Long Nanny on 10th (RKS), 108 at Cresswell on 3rd (DBNR) and 11-54 at Hauxley Reserve, Longhoughton Steel and Big Waters.

Arctic Tern

28 were at Hauxley Reserve on 4th, 22 at Cresswell on 7th (DBNR) and one-two at North Blyth and Budle Bay.

Little Tern

Seven were at Beadnell on 10th (RKS) and one-two were seen at six other localities up to the 24th.

Black Tern

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 27th (DBNR).

Guillemot

No movement was noted but 150 were on the sea at Seaton Sluice on 7th (SSWT).

Stock Dove

One-two were noted at Hauxley, Cresswell, Arcot, Grindon and the Long Nanny.

Cuckoo

Singles were seen on seven occasions from 2nd-31st in the Hauxley - Druridge area including a juvenile in Hadston Dunes on 4th (SS/NF) and a bird taken by a Sparrowhawk at Druridge Bay Country Park on 23rd (TAC). Another juvenile was noted at Backworth Pond on 14th (JEF).

Ring-necked Parakeet

One flew low to W at Westerhope on 4th July (BG).

Barn Owl

Two juveniles with weak flight were seen at a site in the SE of county.

Little Owl

One was at Lesbury on 7th (RH).

Tawny Owl

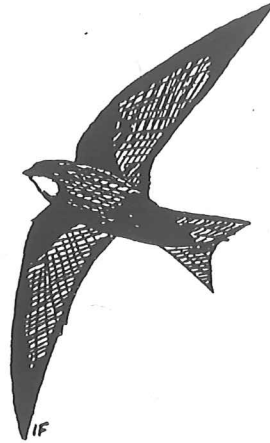
Breeding was confirmed at Stobswood (NF) and Fontburn Reservoir (KVB). Two were at Matfen (RW) with singles at Elford, Featherstone, South Gosforth, Walbottle and Warkworth Lane.

Short Eared Owl

In the SW, two were at Halton Lea Gate on 18th, one at Kellah on 13th and 20th (AP) and three newly-fledged young at Langley on 7th (RMH). In the N, singles were at Etal on 3rd and Threestoneburn on 25th (AMB). On or near the coast, two were at Hauxley on 18th (MGA) with singles at six other localities. Two were found dead by the A1068 road at Red Row on 20th (DBNR).

Swift

At a site in Jesmond Dene, probably two pairs fledged young on 18th and 23rd-24th. The number of pairs is one-two fewer than usual and the fledging dates one-two weeks later (MPF). Feeding areas were vacated in the Cochrane Park area after 14th (KIB), in Monkseaton after 16th (MSH) and in Alnmouth after 21st (WD). The largest post-breeding flock was 200 near St Mary's Island on 24th (KWY) with 15-40 at four other sites. Passage to S was noted at Bamburgh on 1st and 3rd, Hauxley on 4th, Cramlington on 17th and Wallsend Swallow Pond and Holywell on 24th.

Kingfisher

Singles were seen at Arcot Pond, Cupola Bridge, West Woodburn, Jesmond Dene and Felton.

Wryneck

One was observed both on the ground and on a fence at Humbleton Hill near Wooler on 1st (NW).

Green Woodpecker

Three in the Harthope Valley on 3rd was the only record (RKS).



Great Spotted Woodpecker

Four fed in a Walbottle garden on 10th (L&KR) with singles at Close House, Warkworth Lane, Housesteads, Arcot and the Harthope Valley.

Sand Martin

Some birds lingered near nesting sites with 20 at West Woodburn on 31st (J&MH) and one bird flying into a nest hole at Beadnell on 29th (MLC). 40-60 appeared briefly at Big Waters in a rain shower on 11th before departing to S (BG/DM). Ten flew S at Cullernose Point on 21st (DM) and at Hauxley eight flew S on 22nd and ten on 26th (HRS).

Swallow

5,000 roosting at Big Waters on 20th (AJJ) was by far the largest gathering noted followed by 200 at Bamburgh on 3rd (BRS). Steady S passage was seen at Bamburgh on 3rd, Longhoughton Steel on 8th, 24th/25th and Hauxley on 19th and 22nd with heavier movement in the Druridge area on 24th when 200-300 per hour flew S (ES/TRC). Nine pairs breeding at Matfen laid 53 eggs and fledged 42 young. Four pairs had second broods and one pair was incubating a third brood (RW). Nine pairs also bred at Felton Lane, Widdrington where a pure white fledgling was seen (NF) which may have been the albino at Druridge Pools on 24th (JSB).

House Martin

100 were brought down to the reserve at Big Waters by a brief rain shower on 11th (DM). 40 still fed at West Woodburn on 23rd (J&MH).

Tree Pipit

One was on Holy Island on 10th (IF/DCJ).

Meadow Pipit

Flocking commenced mid-month at Threestoneburn (AMB) and was also noted at Aid Moss-Wanney Craggs on 25th where 60 counted (J&MH) and at Killhope Law on 26th where a group of 20 seen (WAK).

Yellow Wagtail

Eight were at Boulmer on 17th (RKS) and Sandy Bay from 15th-24th (JGB) with six at Druridge Bay on 30th, five at Annstead and Cresswell and one-four at a further eight sites. Juveniles were noted at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Grey Wagtail

Juveniles were seen at Heddon on the Wall and on the Blyth at Hartford Bridge. Two were at Ashington and Whittle Dene. One flew S at Hartley on 17th (KWY).

Pied Wagtail

In the Threestoneburn-Calder area, only one family party was noted against at least four in normal years. Three nests have been found with addled eggs (AMB). Four family parties were seen at Killingworth Lake and three in Cramlington (LJM). 31 roosted at Housesteads on 31st (BNR/JD), 21 were seen at dusk at Slaley Hall on 21st (RMH) and 15-16 at Bradford Kaims and Big Waters.

Dipper

A juvenile was at West Woodburn on 31st (J&MH).

Dunnock

It has been a good breeding season at Threestoneburn with 25 ringed during the month (AMB).

Robin

22 were ringed at Threestoneburn in August (AMB) and one was in full song at Horton on 25th (LJM).

Redstart

Five-six were at Threestoneburn all month where one ringed (AMB). One was at Dunterley near Bellingham on 16th (DCJ).

Whinchat

Six pairs were in the Alwinton area on 4th (WAK), single family parties at Sandy Bay on 19th and West Woodburn on 31st and a fledged juvenile at Clover Hill on 15th. Six birds were at Big Waters on 4th (GB/LR), five at St Mary's Island on 24th (KWY) and one-four at five other coastal localities including an obvious migrant on Coquet Island on 31st (MC).

Wheatear

In breeding areas, two-six birds were at three localities in the Alwinton area on 4th (WAK), one brood in the Harthope Valley and single birds at Coalcleugh and Aid Moss. Elsewhere the first signs of autumn passage were one-two birds at nine coastal localities from 10th and one inland at Prudhoe.

Blackbird

Twelve fed in a garden at Walbottle (L&KR). At Threestoneburn a weasel killed a seven year old bird (AMB).

Song Thrush

One was in full song at Arcot Ponds on 29th (LJM).

Mistle Thrush

Large post-breeding flocks comprised 85 at Lennel on the Tweed on 24th (APM), 70 at Sleafy Hall on 14th (RMH) and 21-30 at Lesbury, Linton Pond and Horton.

Grasshopper Warbler

Singles were still "reeling" at Chevington on 7th, at Big Waters on 11th and at Druridge Bay Country Park between 22nd-27th (IF/DM/SWA/TC). Two were trapped at Bamburgh on 1st (BRS) and at Big Waters on 20th (JCD/AJJ).

Sedge Warbler

Light Autumn passage was noted with 16 trapped at Big Waters on 11th (DM/BG/IK). 14 were ringed at Bamburgh and four at Hauxley during the month (BRS/HRS).

Blyth's Reed Warbler

One was trapped at Low Hauxley on 31st (HRS). If accepted, this will be the 3rd record for the county, the last being trapped at Prior's Park on 21st October 1987.

Reed Warbler

One was still singing at Big Waters on 2nd where a ringed bird from Gosforth Park was retrapped on 4th and a juvenile was ringed on 31st (DM/BG/AJJ). At Gosforth Park 12 adults (nine males) and 5 juveniles have been trapped this year (ISD).

Lesser Whitethroat

Three juveniles were at Felton Lane on 23rd (NF) and two were at Swallow Pond on 3rd (ES/WTL/MBS). Singles were at Arcot Pond, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Matfen, Pegswood and Threestoneburn.

Whitethroat

Three were at Linton Pond on 20th (DBNR). One-two were at Arcot Pond, Chevington, Hauxley, Holywell and Warkworth Lane. Four were ringed at Bamburgh during the month (BRS).

Garden Warbler

Singles were at Threestoneburn on 22nd (AMB), at Arcot Pond on 24th (ES/TRC) and at Allenbanks on 31st (RKS).

Blackcap

Three were at Warkworth Lane on 7th and at Allenbanks on 31st (DBNR/RKS). One-two noted at three other localities.

Wood Warbler

A single in the Harthope Valley on 3rd was the only record (RKS).

Chiffchaff

Two visited a Matfen garden on 27th (RW). One was trapped at Threestoneburn on 11th (AMB).

Willow Warbler

Autumn passage during the month was noted with 128 being trapped at Big Waters (AJJ), 26 at Hauxley (HRS), 22 at Bamburgh (BRS) and 17 at Threestoneburn (AMB).

Goldcrest

Three were heard in Howick Dene on 21st (DM). One was ringed at Threestoneburn - the first since March (AMB).

Spotted Flycatcher

11 pairs laid 59 eggs, fledging 36 young at Matfen (RW). Family parties noted at Featherstone, Stobswood and W Woodburn. A single was at Holy Island on 31st (KWY). Five were ringed at Threestoneburn during the month (AMB).

Pied Flycatcher

Four were on Coquet Island on 30th (MC).

Long-tailed Tit

The largest tribes were 13 at Plessey Woods on 17th and 10 at Ashington on 10th (DM).

Willow Tit

One-three were at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Castle Island, Hauxley, Linton Pond, Pegswood, Plessey Woods, Swallow Pond and Warkworth Lane.

Coal Tit

A coastal record involved two at Hauxley on 17th (HRS).

Blue Tit

Nest box results at Big Waters were four pairs nested, 29 eggs laid, 25 young hatched of which 24 young fledged (AJJ).

Great Tit

Nest box results at Big Waters were six pairs nested and laid eggs - four pairs were then predated. The remaining two pairs laid 16 eggs, 12 young hatched and fledged.

Nuthatch

Three were at Allenbanks on 31st (RKS).

Treecreeper

Singles were at Close House, Threestoneburn and Warkworth Lane.

Jay

Three were at Gosforth Park on 4th (JMH). One visited a Wideopen garden on 30th (per DM).

Magpie

Seven visited a Walbottle garden on 17th (L&KR).

Hooded Crow

One was at Druridge Pools on 10th (DBNR).

Raven

Two were present on the top of the Cheviot on 25th (JRT).

Starling

C.600 were in a recently harvested wheat field at Chollerton on 25th (RKS).

Tree Sparrow

Six were ringed at Hauxley on 3rd and three at Bamburgh on 1st (HRS/BRS). One-two were at Boulmer, Cresswell, Linton Pond, Warkworth Lane and Wideopen ambulance station.

Chaffinch

40 were at Longwitton on 27th and 30 in the Harthope Valley on 25th (RKS).

Goldfinch

The largest charm was C.70+ at Prior's Park on 28th (ES/TRC/WTL). Charms of six - 22 noted at a further five localities.

Siskin

80 at Slaley Hall was the largest flock (RMH). 18 were in the Harthope Valley on 18th (RKS) and 11 at Arcot Pond on 24th (ES/MBS/TRC/WTL).

Linnet

Largest gatherings were 250 at Sandy Bay-Newbiggin on 18th (JGB) and 100+ at Cresswell on 24th (ES/WTL/MBS).

Redpoll

270 in the Harthope Valley on 25th was the largest gathering (RKS). 12 were at Big Waters on 31st (GB). Two were ringed at Hauxley on 3rd (HRS).

Crossbill

C.40 were at Hulne Park on 16th (WD) and 18+ were at Druridge Bay Country Park on 11th (SS). One-seven noted at another seven localities.

Bullfinch

Family group of five noted at Howick Dene on 26th (RKS).

Hawfinch

Eight were at Nunwick on 27th (DCJ).

Corn Bunting

Two were at Hauxley on 3rd (DBNR). Singles noted at Longhoughton, Low Stead and Lynemouth.

Please send all September records, in Vooous order, to B N Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham, NE46 1SX by 8th October at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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Once again this bulletin has been written by Alan, Nick, Ian and Dee. Illustrations of Black-necked Grebe by Stuart Sexton, Swift by Ian Fisher and Pomarine Skua and Spotted Redshank by Andy Booth.

INDOOR MEETING - 10 October 1991

The next meeting is the AGM and will be held on Thursday 10th October in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Building, Newcastle University at 7.00 pm. The AGM will be followed by a talk entitled "Mute Swans" by Jon Coleman.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due on 1st October, please use renewal form enclosed with the bulletin. Help the club and pay promptly and further help by filling in the deed of covenant.

BREEDING ATLAS RECORDS

October 31st is the deadline for submission of data on breeding birds by the regional co-ordinators to the BTO. Data received after this date at the BTO's centre in Thetford will not appear in the national "New Breeding Atlas".

Therefore, if you have any interesting breeding records for 1991 (or earlier years 1988-90) which have not been recorded on atlas forms or club cards, can you please forward them to the recorder on normal club record cards as soon as possible and in any event no later than 14th October. Breeding does not have to be proved for a record to be of interest, particularly when dealing with rarer species.

For the same reasons, please return all outstanding N & TBC atlas cards for our 'mopping-up' programme in 1991 within the same timetable. These should be sent to the regional co-ordinator - not the recorder.

FREE TELESCOPE OFFER

A club member has donated a Nickel Supra 15-60X telescope complete with case with a request that it should be handed on to a young club member who does not own a scope and cannot afford to buy one. Any member who would like this telescope should contact any committee member in confidence. Obviously if several requests are made a name will then be drawn from a hat at our next committee meeting.

Ian Kerr, Chairman

B AND B IN NORTH NORFOLK

Planning a trip to Norfolk this winter? Mr G Ashwood of The Old Police House, Polka Road, Wells-next-the-Sea is offering 3 nights B + B for the price of 2 nights (£33) during November, December and January. If you are interested his telephone number is (0328) 710630.





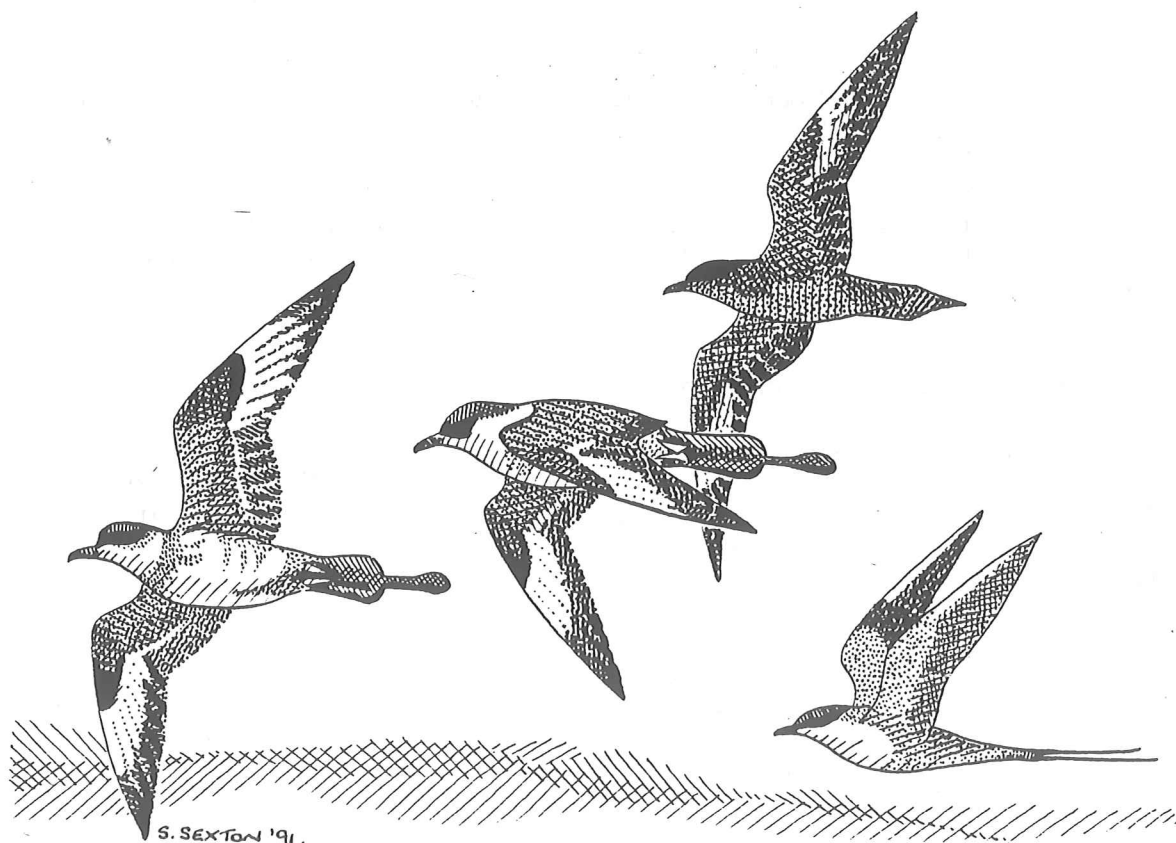


# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

## MONTHLY SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 1991

September was generally a warm month, especially inland. However, two periods of easterly winds from 5th-8th and 26th-28th resulted in some exciting arrivals. Westerly gales were a feature of 24th. Seawatching which had been disappointing in the previous two months was spectacular, if only for the unprecedented numbers of Long-tailed Skuas. Large numbers were blown into the North Sea by gale force W/NW winds to the N of Scotland, their journey back up the coast of Northumberland was truly memorable.

Last month's star bird, Hauxley's Blyth's Reed Warbler remained on 1st, however the appearance of a Red-breasted Goose at Fontburn on 17th posed the usual problem for wildfowl, ie was it an escape? Other interesting wildfowl included Garganey, Ring-necked Duck, another brood of Ruddy Duck at Annitsford, Snow Goose and the first Whooper Swans of the winter. An Osprey at Holy Island remained for almost a fortnight feeding on red mullet. Of smaller species Brambling arrived, three Red-breasted Flycatchers were found on 29th, three Yellow-browed Warblers were on Holy Island and three Serin flew over Hauxley on 30th. Equally elusive was a Purple Heron at Colt Crag on 21st. Three Cory's Shearwaters passed Stag Rocks on 28th, a memorable end to a bird club trip. Other unusual or interesting species included Leach's Petrel, Hen Harrier, Buzzard, Hobby, Mediterranean Gull, Glaucous Gull, Black Tern and Turtle Dove.



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 LISTDiver (Sp)/Red-throated Diver

A total of 48N and 103S recorded at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). In Druridge Bay 20 on 14th increased to over 50 on 25th (KWY/SS). One-eight also noted at Hauxley, Stag Rocks, St Mary's Island, Newbiggin and Football Hole.

Black-throated Diver

One in breeding plumage flew N at Newbiggin on 7th (JGS). At Annstead Point on 8th 3 flew S and two N (BRS), 3 flew S at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS) when one also flew S at Newbiggin (NF). A single was on the sea at St Mary's Island on 29th (MSH).

Great Northern Diver

Singles flew N at Seaton Sluice and Hauxley on 29th.

Little Grebe

Maximum counts were of 16 at Holywell Pond (L&KR) and Cresswell Pond, 15 at Druridge Pools, 7 at Big Waters and two-six at a further seven ponds.

Great Crested Grebe

Three were in Druridge Bay on 4th (ES). One-two were also at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, the Blyth Estuary, Big Waters, Derwent and flying N at St Mary's Island.

Red-necked Grebe

Singles were on Ladyburn Lake DBCP on 4th (SA) and on Cresswell Pond on 21st (KIB, GSR). Three flew N at Newbiggin on 29th (JGS).

Slavonian Grebe

One was on Ladyburn Lake from 26th-29th with two present on 30th (TAC).

Black-necked Grebe

Singles were at Grindon Lough from 1st-7th (RKS) and at Holywell Pond on 8th, 13th and 27th (SPP/JRT/L&KR).

Fulmar

On 6th-7th 150-200 per hour noted flying N at Hauxley and Annstead Point, c1,000 per hour flew N at Hauxley on 29th. Blue phase individuals noted at Seaton Sluice on 1st, St Mary's Island on 6th and Football Hole on 7th.

Corys Shearwater

Three flew N at Stag Rocks on 28th (NTBC Trip)

Sooty Shearwater

One was seen on a pelagic trip out of Blyth on 1st (DM). The species became widely reported at many sea-watching localities from 6th with a monthly total of 92N at Seaton Sluice, with peaks of 47N on 6th and 25N on 11th, 40N at St Mary's Island on 6th, 35N at Hauxley on 28th with smaller numbers at a further five localities.

Manx Shearwater

Peak movements were on 6th-7th and 26th-28th. At Seaton Sluice 112 flew N on 6th and 39N on 26th, a monthly total of 219N and 1S was noted. Other peaks involved 114N and 1S on 28th at Hauxley, 35N at Newbiggin on 28th and 33N at Seaton Sluice on 6th.

Leach's Petrel

One probably this species noted at St Mary's Island on 29th (AJ). Another flew N at Stag Rocks on 28th (NTBC trip).

Gannet

Heavy passage reported throughout the month. On 7th 2,047 flew N at Football Hole in 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hours, 1,000 per hour N at Annstead and 440N at Hauxley (RKS, BRS, HRS). 200-300 per hour were noted regularly at Seaton Sluice.

Cormorant

123 were in the Blyth Estuary on 8th (LJM), 39 at Hauxley on 20th (DBNR), 37 at Budle Point on 14th (DM) and 30 in the Tyne Estuary (DMT).

Shag

A monthly total of 273N and 12S at Seaton Sluice with a peak movement of 123N and two S on 29th (SSWT) when smaller numbers also noted at Hauxley and St Mary's Island.

Grey Heron

44 were at Castle Island on 4th (ES) and 11 at Hauxley Reserve on 10th (DBNR). One-four noted at a further 11 localities.

Purple Heron

One was at Colt Crag on 21st (RW).

Mute Swan

The largest herds reported were of 21-25 at Ladyburn Lake, Killingworth Lake and Budle Bay.

Whooper Swan

Five at Big Waters on 29th were the first arrivals (per AJJ).

Pink-footed Goose

Two were at Holywell Pond on 25th (JEF), one was at Arcot Pond on 26th (AHB) and 11 at Druridge Pools on 29th (DMT).

Greylag Goose

116 were at Holywell Pond on 27th (L+KR) and 70 flew S at Catton on 6th (MB).

Snow Goose

One was at Colt Crag on 21st (RW).

Canada Goose

231 were at Hallington on 16th (RSF), 216 were at Colt Crag on 21st (RW). Of 66 Geese sp at Big Waters on 15th 60 were Canada Geese, five Canada x Greylag hybrids and one the parent Greylag Goose noted at Gosforth Park earlier this year (AJJ/GB).

Barnacle Goose

15 flew N at Newbiggin on 18th (IK/BG), one was at Caistron on 29th (BNR/JD) and on 30th at Hauxley 110N and 114S (HRS).

Brent Goose

90 were at Fenham Flats on 14th (DM). Coastal passage of 13-41N noted at Annstead, Newbiggin, Seaton Sluice and Hauxley between 21st-30th.

A dark bellied bird flew N at Newbiggin on 8th (NF).

Red-breasted Goose

One at Fontburn on 20th had been present from 17th (JEF).

Bar-headed Goose

One was once again with Canada Geese at Colt Crag on 21st (RW).

Shelduck

68 were at Holy Island and 56 in Budle Bay on 14th (DM). Other coastal records involved one-five at Druridge Pools, Hauxley, Newton Point and Ladyburn Lake. Inland an injured juvenile remained at Big Waters all month, where another six were present on 9th and another three on 14th and 17th (AJJ/GB). Three were at Swallow Pond on 1st and 8th and four at Caistron on 29th (DM/CDH/BNR).

Wigeon

At Seaton Sluice a monthly total of 1,415N and 52S was recorded with peaks on 6th, 28th and 29th (SSWT). 400 per hour passed Newton Point on 22nd (IK/BG), passage of between 50-150 also noted at Hauxley, St Mary's Island and Longhoughton Steel. 342 were at Fenham Flats on 14th, 230 in Budle Bay on 22nd when 292 at Druridge Pool and 135 at Hauxley Reserve on 28th. A further 22-79 were at another ten localities.

Gadwall

Seven were at Ladyburn Lake on 30th (TAC) and five at Druridge Pools on 18th, four were at Hauxley on 23rd and one-three at Colt Crag, Caistron and Gosforth Park.

Teal

At Seaton Sluice a monthly total of 224N and 45S was noted. 437 were at Big Waters on 21st (AJJ), 320 at Druridge Pool on 25th (DBNR), 257 at Caistron on 29th (BNR), 123 at Hauxley Reserve and 114 at Derwent.

Mallard

Peak counts were of 548 at Big Waters on 23rd (L&KR), 470 at Whittle Dene on 28th (L&KR), 355 at Derwent on 7th (RKS) and 306-308 at Druridge Pool and Hauxley (DBNR).

Pintail

22 were at Druridge Pools on 25th (SS) when 17 at Hauxley Reserve (DBNR). Ten at Big Waters on 22nd included a 'runt' individual about  $\frac{2}{3}$  size of a normal Pintail (AJJ/GB). Ten flew N in one hour at Newton Point also on 22nd (IK/BG). One-six were also noted at seven other localities.

Garganey

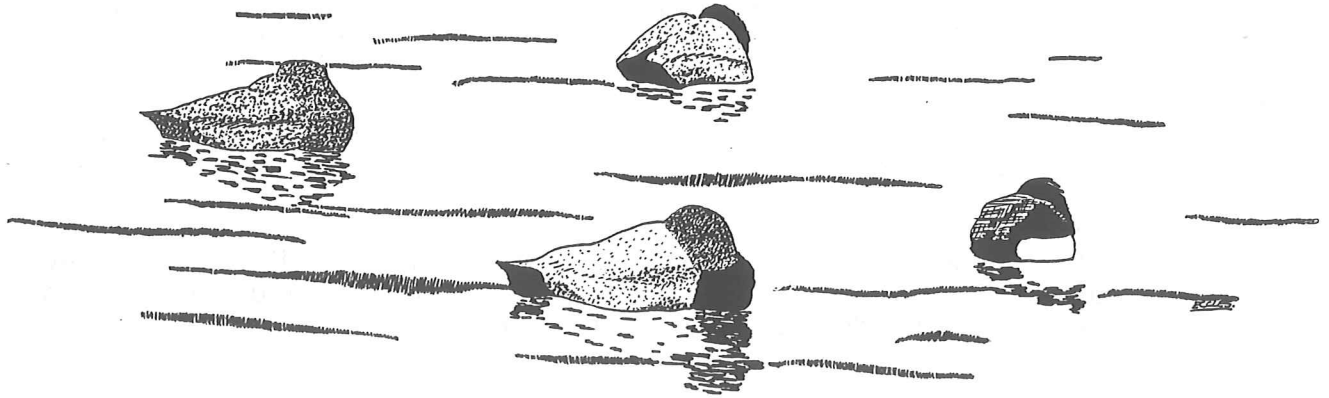
One remained at Swallow Pond until 2nd (ES). A juvenile was at Big Waters from 17th-30th with an eclipsed ♂ present on 22nd (AJJ). One was at Holywell Pond on 30th (MSH).

Shoveler

55 were at Big Waters on 23rd (AJJ), 16 at Druridge Pool on 21st (DBNR) and two-nine at a further four localities.

Pochard

The only large flocks reported were of 81 at Druridge Pool on 23rd, 29 at Big Waters on 3rd and 31 at Ladyburn Lake on 30th.



#### Ring-necked Duck

An eclipsed drake was at Cresswell Pond on 21st (PWD), it then was noted at Druridge Pool on 22nd, 24th and 26th (DBNR).

#### Tufted Duck

115 were at Hauxley on 24th (DBNR), 114 at Ladyburn Lake on 30th (TAC) and 110 at Druridge Pools on 18th (KWY).

#### Scaup

Coastal records involved one-five at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pool, Football Hole, Howick and Ladyburn Lake. Inland four drakes were at Big Waters on 24th (AJJ) and a female at Whittle Dene on 28th (L&KR).

#### Eider

1,780 were counted between Seahouses-Budle Point on 20th (BNR). 400 were off Hadston on 16th (SS).

#### Long-tailed Duck

Three flew N at Hauxley on 28th (HRS) and two N at Seaton Sluice on 29th (SSWT).

#### Common Scoter

207 flew N and 59S at Seaton Sluice during the month with a peak of 57N and 2S on 29th when 43 flew N at St Mary's Island (DBNR/MSH). c200 were in Druridge Bay on 4th (ES).

#### Velvet Scoter

One flew N at St Mary's Island on 6th (MPF). On 13th a single was noted flying S at Hauxley and St Mary's Island (HRS/SPP). On 29th nine flew N at Seaton Sluice with smaller numbers at St Mary's Island, Hauxley and Newbiggin.

Goldeneye

Two remained at Big Waters throughout the month (AJJ et al) further inland a male was at Riding Mill on 16th (JD). Coastal records included two-three at Druridge Pool, Hauxley and Ladyburn Lake. On 28th-29th six-eight flew N at Hauxley, Newbiggin and Seaton Sluice.

Red-breasted Merganser

At Seaton Sluice 30 flew N during the month, 14 flew N at Hauxley on 29th, 27 were in Druridge Bay on 25th (SS) and 22 on Ladyburn Lake on 29th (TAC).

Goosander

Two-ten were at Derwent, Druridge Bay, Colt Crag, Caistron and on the Tyne at Corbridge, Wylam and Riding Mill.

Ruddy Duck

A female was noted at Annitsford Pond with five small young (LJM). One was at Big Waters, two at Caistron, at least four at Holywell Pond and up to four in the Druridge Pool, Ladyburn Lake, Hauxley Reserve area.

Hen Harrier

A 'ringtail' was on Holy Island on 28th (NTBC trip).

Goshawk

A male was in the Barrasford area for most of the month (RSF) while a single was at Featherstone on 17th (AP).

Sparrowhawk

Two-three remained on Holy Island on 1st (BG/IK) while singles were noted in 24 other localities. One which arrived high from NE at Newbiggin on 29th strongly suggested immigration (MH).

Buzzard

Singles were noted in the Irthing Valley on 11th (MH) while another was in the Barrasford area between 17th-20th (RSF). Two birds with very pale plumage were seen over Colt Crag on 27th (RSF).

Osprey

One which took a fish close to Holy Island causeway on 1st then spent 30 minutes eating it on one of the poles on the Pilgrims' Way (BG/IK). It was seen regularly in the area for at least two weeks.

Kestrel

Five hunted over a fell at Slaggyford on 15th (BNR/JD). One-two were also noted in ten other localities.

Merlin

Singles were noted in eight inland and four coastal localities.

Hobby

Singles were at Threestoneburn on 1st (AMB/BL) and Bamburgh on 8th (BRS).

Peregrine

Singles were noted in six inland areas including a juvenile which put on a superb flying display at Ponteland, sparring with two Kestrels and several crows (EC). Singles were also seen in two coastal areas.

Red Grouse

A total of 35 were noted in a three km walk on Hexham Common while 15 were at Slaggyford (BNR/JD).

Grey Partridge

A covey of five were on Newcastle Town Moor on 3rd (AJD) while six at Druridge Bay CP was the only other record (TAC).

Pheasant

A cream-coloured male with few other markings was at Whitfield (L&KR).

Water Rail

Single were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 2nd (ES) and Newton Pool on 28th (NF).

Coot

Peak counts involved 210 at Greenlee Lough (SS), 165 at Big Waters (AJJ), 127 at Druridge Pool (DBNR), 111 at Ladyburn Lake (TAC) and up to 50 at three other waters.

Moorhen

The largest counts involved 26 at Castron (BNR/JD), 22 at Arcot Pond (LJMcD) and 17 at both Wallsend Swallow Pond (CDH) and Hauxley Reserve (DBNR).

WADER COUNTS

The following stretches were covered : Blyth (LJMcD), Newbiggin-Cresswell (MGA), Cresswell-East Chevington (EC/ISD), Chevington Burn-Ambleside (TPMW), Coquet Estuary (PWW), South Alnmouth (ET & JRN), Alnmouth-Boulmer (WTL/MBS/TRC), Boulmer-Howick Burn (IK), Beadnell-Seahouses (MLC/AS), Seahouses-Budle Point (BNR) and the Tweed Estuary (CK).

Oystercatcher

A total of 647 were noted on the monthly count.

Ringed Plover

A total of 160 were noted on the monthly count. Very small numbers lingered inland with groups of three noted at Colt Crag and Derwent (GB/BNR/RKS).

Golden Plover

The main coastal concentrations involved 1,117 at Longhoughton Steel, 1,100 at Newton Links (RKS), 800 at Bamburgh (BRS) and 700 at St Mary's Island (DMT). Inland 700 were at Whittle Dene (DMT) while on 8th three were still on breeding grounds on Hexham Common (BNR).

Grey Plover

Very few were noted apart from counts of 94 at Fenham Flats and 67 in Budle Bay (DM/RKS). Inland singles were at Hallington on 19th (RSF) and Big Waters on 24th (AJJ).

Lapwing

The largest concentrations were inland with 1,500 at Ponteland (EC), 400 near Corbridge (JD), 325 at Castron (BNR/JD) and 200 at Whittle Dene (L&KR). 360 at Cresswell was the biggest coastal count (DBNR).

Knot

Numbers remained low with 59 at Cresswell Pond on 9th (DBNR) being the only large group noted.



Sanderling

Over 100 were on Hauxley beach by 15th (HRS) while an interesting observation involved four feeding on stranded jellyfish at the Long Nanny Burn on 21st (RKS).

Little Stint

Three-four were in the Cresswell-Druridge area between 1st-9th with one remaining until late in the month. Two were at Boulmer on 1st and singles at Budle Bay and Newton on 21st. Inland singles were at Hallington on 23rd-25th and Big Waters on 30th.

Curlew Sandpiper

They were well-reported. Peaks of seven were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, five-six at Foxton, four at Castle Island and three at Backworth and Big Waters while a single visited Hallington. Along the coast there were peaks of seven at Cresswell Pond, six at Budle Bay while one-two were also noted at St Mary's Island, Hauxley and Holy Island.

Purple Sandpiper

They remained scarce with only eight being noted on the monthly count.

Dunlin

A total of only 492 were noted on the monthly count. Continued movement inland was noted with peaks of 28 at Hallington, 18 at Big Waters, 12 at Wallsend Swallow Pond with smaller groups noted at five other waters. Immigration was suggested on 1st when a party of six was noted flying towards land 14 miles off Blyth (DM).

Ruff

Passage movements continued. Peaks of 17 were noted at Hauxley Reserve, ten at Wallsend Swallow Pond, nine at Derwent, seven at Backworth and one-three at seven other coastal localities.

Jack Snipe

The first autumn arrival was at Hauxley on 19th (HRS).

Snipe

The main parties involved 30 at Grindon Lough (RKS), 23 at Whittle Dene (MR), 23 at Big Waters (GB) and 11 at Cresswell (DBNR). One remained on moorland at 460 mts at Slaggyford on 15th (BNR/JD).

Black-tailed Godwit

They remained prominent with peaks of 22 at Wallsend Swallow Pond and Big Waters on 9th probably involving the same birds. One-five were also seen at Cresswell, Budle Bay and Beal Point.

Bar-tailed Godwit

A total of 223 were near Holy Island causeway on 14th (DM) but, as usual, they were scarce elsewhere along the coast with only 42 on the monthly count.

Whimbrel

Onward migration led to a big decline with only one-three at eight coastal localities.

Curlew

A total of 228 on the monthly count included 195 at Longhoughton Steel. Small groups lingered inland with ten at Big Waters, seven at Wallsend Swallow Pond and five at Caistron.

Spotted Redshank

Two-three remained in the Druridge Pools area until mid-month and two were also noted in Budle Bay. Singles were seen inland at Big Waters, Medburn and Hallington.

Redshank

A total of 941 were seen on the monthly count. One-three remained inland at Derwent while five were still at Whittle Dene at the end of the month.

Greenshank

Once again they were extremely well-reported with peaks of 12 at Cresswell, 11 at Wallsend Swallow Pond, six in the Tweed Estuary, five at Fenham Mill and one-two at nine other localities.

Green Sandpiper

Two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st while singles were also noted at Big Waters, Arcot Pond, Whittle Dene, Medburn and Coit Crag.

Common Sandpiper

Most had departed with only one-two noted from six waterside localities.

Turnstone

Numbers continued to build up slowly with 642 noted on the monthly count.

Pomarine Skua

There were two main periods of passage in this spectacular month with most records occurring between 5th-12th and 26th-28th with winds from the east and north east. The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 48N and 3S (SSWT). On 7th 22 were off Hauxley (MJS) and 21 moved N at Cresswell in just under four hours (JRT). Smaller groups were seen during this early period from other sea-watching localities. Strong NE winds, overcast conditions and rough seas produced the second period of passage which peaked on 28th when 12 moved N at Seaton Sluice, ten at Newbiggin (MH) and six were off Hauxley (HRS).

Arctic Skua

Like the previous species, there were the two distinct periods of passage. Early passage peaked on 5th when 253 moved S at Seaton Sluice as a cold front passed down the North Sea while on 7th 50 were also noted off Newbiggin (JGS). The second peak occurred on 28th when at least 101 flew N at Newbiggin (MH/JGS/IK) with smaller numbers being noted from other areas. By 29th, although weather conditions remained promising, very few remained offshore.

Long-tailed Skua

Unprecedented numbers, mainly of juveniles, occurred in the two distinct periods of passage along with other Skua species. There was a monthly total of 104N and 96S at Seaton Sluice with most birds occurring between 5th-12th with a peak on 7th with 44N and 15S. On the same day 58 were counted in four hours off Newbiggin. Lesser numbers were seen on other days during this period from many coastal localities. The second period peaked on 28th when up to 48 moved N at Newbiggin (JGS/MH/IK et al), again most of them juveniles. On the same day 24 were noted off Seaton Sluice, 19 off Hauxley (HRS) and 15 at St Mary's Island (JRT). Most observers reported that many other small Skuas were too far out for positive identification in the bad weather conditions but that some of these were also probably Long-tailed Skuas.

Great Skua

They occurred in lesser numbers than the previous species during both periods of passage. Few occurred during the early period but significant numbers moved offshore on 28th. The peak counts were 57N at Hauxley, including a flock of 21 (HRS), 39N at Newbiggin (MH/JGS/IK et al) while 30N were noted at St Mary's Island (JRT).

Mediterranean Gull

Single adults were at Big Waters on 14th (SPP/LR) and Craster on 20th (BNR), the latter probably being the ringed individual first noted there in 1984. Juveniles were at Cresswell Pond on 15th/16th (DBNR/MGA/ADM) and in the roost at Budle Bay on 20th (BNR).

Little Gull

Three flew N and one S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) with two at Newbiggin on three dates and two juveniles in Budle Bay on 17th.

Sabine's Gull

A juvenile was reported flying N at Newbiggin on 28th (MGA).

Black-headed Gull

Inland roosts declined with 3,100 at Hallington on 17th, 2,000 at Derwent on 14th, 1,600 at Scotswood on 19th and 210 at Caistrone (BNR). 1,500 were at Whittle Dene on 21st (L&KR) and on the coast 1,700 roosted in Budle Bay on 20th, 500 were at Cresswell Pond on 18th and 400 in the Tyne Estuary on 13th (BNR/DBNR/DMT).

Common Gull

Numbers at inland roosts declined slightly with 11,000 at Hallington on 17th, 7,400 at Derwent on 14th and 220 at Caistrone on 29th. The Budle Bay roost continued to increase with 10,000 there by 20th (BNR).

Lesser Black Backed Gull

The massive concentration in autumn at Caistrone continues with 490 roosting there on 29th (BNR/JD). Other large counts were 157 in Budle Bay on 28th, 77 at the Long Nanny on 7th (RKS) and a roost of 76 at Broomlee on 22nd. 12-14 were at Grindon, Big Waters and Hauxley shore and one-five at a further four coastal and three inland localities.

Herring Gull

1,200-1,300 were in the Tyne Estuary on 6th (DMT) and 740 from Seahouses-Budle Point on 20th. 250 at Amble on 20th included a yellow-legged individual showing characteristics of the northern omissus/heuglini group (BNR). 180 roosted at Scotswood on 19th.

Glaucous Gull

A first winter flew N on 28th at St Mary's Island and Druridge Pool (JRT/ADM).

Great Black Backed Gull

The highest counts were 157 at Seahouses on 14th (DM), 133 in the Tyne Estuary on 6th (DMT), 115 at Longhoughton Steel on 1st (RKS) and 108 at Hauxley shore on 20th (DBNR). Inland 39 roosted at Scotswood on 19th.

Kittiwake

Steady passage to N was noted all day at Hauxley on 28th (HRS) when 52 were at North Shields Fish Quay (DMT). Single adults were seen inland at Whittle Dene on 1st (MR) and in the gull roost at Hallington on 17th (BNR).

Sandwich Tern

54 were noted from Seahouses-Budle Point on 20th (BNR) and 52 in Budle Bay on 1st (RKS). Regular S passage was observed at Hauxley from 13th-21st with peak movement of 76 on 21st (HRS). Ten-25 were seen at Longhoughton Steel, Cresswell Pond, Seaton Sluice, Football Hole and Howick.

Roseate Tern

The only record was of an adult flying S at Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSWT).

'Commic' Tern

28 flew S at Hauxley on 21st (HRS).

Common Tern

13 were at Hauxley shore on 1st (DBNR) with smaller numbers at five other coastal localities. The last sightings this month were on 22nd at Cresswell Pond and Hauxley.

Arctic Tern

On 20th three were at Seahouses (BNR) and two at Hauxley (HRS). There were two interesting inland records : two juveniles were fishing at Big Waters on 8th (GB) and an adult was watched well at Colt Crag on 21st (RW).

Little Tern

Small numbers were noted at Hauxley from 1st-13th with two birds seen on four dates (HRS).

Black Tern

Singles flew N at St Mary's Island on 6th (MPF/PAB) and S at Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSWT).

Auk (sp)

Heavy passage was noted at Hauxley on 28th when 'hundreds' per hour flew N (HRS).

Guillemot

163 flew N in 15 minutes at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Little Auk

One flew N at Newbiggin Point on 28th (MGA).

Stock Dove

Two were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 21st.

Woodpigeon

A nest containing two large young was at Pawston on 24th (ISD).

Collared Dove

31 were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 20th (L&KR) and 26 at Backworth on 2nd (ES). Copulating birds were at Wideopen on 4th and Walkergate on 26th.

Turtle Dove

One was seen and heard at Wylam on 1st (ASJ).

Barn Owl

One-two were at Druridge, Shilbottle, Longhirst and Queen Elizabeth II Park.

Little Owl

Two were near Earsdon on 6th (KH).

Tawny Owl

One-two were at Holywell Dene, Stobswood, Ulgham, Howick and near Riding Mill at Shepherd's Dene.

Short-eared Owl

Seven remained inland in a forested area (SS/MH) and one in a moorland area at Kellah (AP). Nearer the coast, singles were at Arcot, Druridge Bay Country Park, Newton Pool, Acklington and Fenham Flats.

Nighjar

One was flushed from a roadside near Hexham at 0700 on 2nd (BNR).

Swift

Virtually non remained with just five records : two flying S at Boulmer on 14th, singles at Hauxley and Boulmer on 15th and Seahouses on 19th with the last this month of one flying S at Cresswell on 22nd.

Kingfisher

A juvenile was ringed at Jesmond Dene (JC/MPF) and singles were also seen at Arcot Pond, Highford (Morpeth) and on the Tweed at Ladykirk House, near Norham.

Green Woodpecker

One was at Ross Farm on 25th (ISD).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Two were at Arcot all month (LJM).

Skylark

Small numbers flew SW at Stocksfield on 25th (BNR).

Sand Martin

The highest count was 14 on 2nd at Hauxley Reserve (DBNR/HRS) with one-five at six other localities including the last record for this month of one flying S at Ordley on 28th (BNR).

Swallow

At the start of the month on 1st, 200 were at Bamburgh (BRS) and 30-50 at Cresswell Pond, Hauxley and Boulmer. On 7th/10th movement to S was seen at Hauxley with up to 200-300 passing in a day (HRS). Some large gatherings occurred mid-month with 200 roosting at Big Waters on 17th (AJJ), 60 at Matfen on 14th (RW) and 30 at Coach Lane, Newcastle on 23rd (KIB). A widespread exodus was noted on 20th with 150 flying S at Hauxley (HRS), steady passage S all evening at Big Waters (DM) and 98 at Hauxley reserve (DBNR). Broods were still being fed in nests at Craster on 14th and Bradford Kaims on 15th.

House Martin

65 were at Holywell Pond on 27th (L&KR), 50 at Hauxley on 15th, 42 at Warkworth Lane on 10th and smaller numbers at Newton Pool, Wallsend Swallow Pond and St Mary's Island. Several pairs were still feeding young in nests at Howick cliffs on 8th (IK).

Meadow Pipit

Numbers increased on the coast with 100 at Bamburgh on 8th (BRS) and Hauxley reserve on 15th (DBNR) and 30-80 at Newton links, Cresswell Pond, Long Nanny and Longhoughton Steel. Significant passage to S was noted from 9th-20th at Hauxley with a peak of 200 during 15th (HRS). Large numbers also remained inland with 202 in Irthing Valley on 11th (MH), 60 at Slaggyford on 15th (BNR/JD) and 20-45 at Hexhamshire Common, Harthope Valley and the Wannies.

Rock Pipit

Two were at Newton Point on 27th (ISD).

Yellow Wagtail

14 were at St Mary's Island on 2nd (ES), five at Boulmer on 7th (IK) and Holywell Pond on 13th (SPP) with one-three at five other localities. The last record was one at Big Waters on 14th (AJJ/SPP).

Grey Wagtail

A family party of five were at West Woodburn on 16th (J&MH). Coastal records were one at Hauxley on 22nd (HRS), one flying S at Bamburgh on 28th (BRS) and one-two arriving back mid-month in their wintering area in North Shields town centre (MSH).

Pied Wagtail

Roosts noted were 130 at Caistron on 29th, 72 at Housteads on 22nd (BNR/JD) and 30 at Holiday Inn, Seaton Burn on 20th (MRS). 43 were at Cramlington town centre on 16th (LJM) and nine-22 at seven further localities.

Dipper

Singing birds were noted at West Woodburn and Mitford.

Wren

A maximum of nine were at Warkworth Lane (DBNR) and one roosted at Slaley Hall for several nights in a hanging basket (RMH).

Robin

Light passage was indicated by four-five in the wood at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Redstart

On or near the coast, one-two were at Hauxley on 15th, Horton on 22nd, Bamburgh on 28th and Holy Island on 29th.

Whinchat

Four were at Warkworth Lane on 4th (DBNR) with further records of one-three from five coastal and three inland localities. The last this month was one at Hauxley on 28th (HRS).

Stonechat

Single males were at Hauxley Reserve on 23rd, Cresswell Pond on 25th (DBNR) and a juvenile was at Football Hole on 8th (RKS).

Wheatear

The highest count was six at Warkworth Lane on 21st (DBNR) with one-three noted at another 11 coastal localities. Inland one was at Whittle Dene on 15th (MR) and at Thirlmoor, Upper Coquetdale on 29th (per BG).

Blackbird

Light passage was indicated by six in the wood at Hauxley on 26th and ten there on 28th (HRS).

Fieldfare

The first was one on Newbiggin golf course on 31st August (JGS) followed closely by another at Holy Island on 1st (IK). One was at Hauxley on 10th (HRS) and on the 28th, 12 were at Bavington and two at Budle Bay (RKS).

Song Thrush

Light passage was indicated by 15 at Bamburgh on 28th (BRS).



Redwing

Several heard arriving from E at dusk on 27th at Whitley Bay (MSH) heralded a small influx next day when eight at Bamburgh (BRS) and one-three at Budle Bay, Hauxley, Briardene and Ordley.

Mistle Thrush

The largest flocks were 70 at Howick Pool on 20th (MGA), 40-50 at Wooperton on 1st (AJD), 35 at Whittle Dene on 15th (MR) with 10-22 at Craster, Kimmer Lough, Derwent Reservoir, Budle Bay and Allendale. Two at Hauxley reserve on 26th (HRS) were present when other thrush species were moving.

Grasshopper Warbler

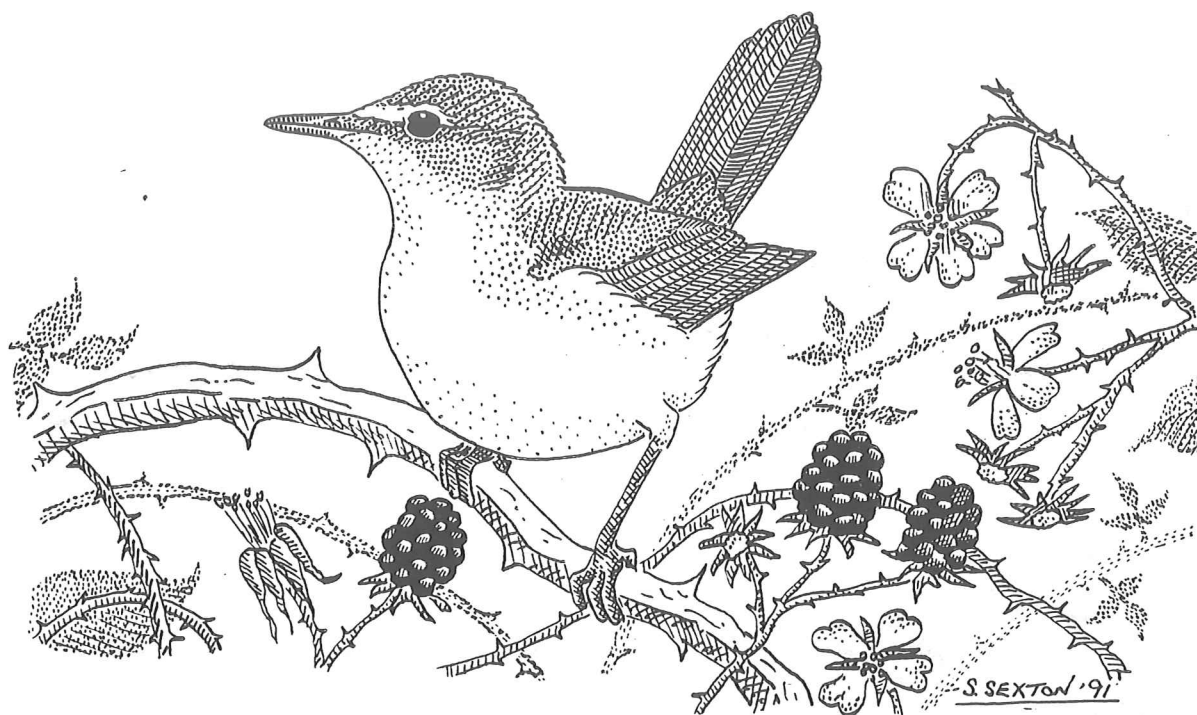
One trapped at Bamburgh on 8th was the only record (BRS).

Sedge Warbler

Two were at Druridge on 2nd, at Hauxley on 6th and at Whittle Dene on 11th (DBNR/MR). The last were singles at Hauxley and Big Waters on 19th.

Blyth's Reed Warbler

Last month's star bird was retrapped at Hauxley on 1st (HRS).

Reed Warbler

One was at Big Waters on 10th and 13th (GB).

Lesser Whitethroat

Between 4th-21st singles were at Bamburgh, Hauxley, Howick Dene and Matfen.

Whitethroat

Two juveniles were near Medburn on 8th (EC). Singles were at Bamburgh, Warkworth Lane and the last ringed at Hauxley on 15th.

Garden Warbler

One ringed at Hauxley on 5th was the only record (HRS).



Blackcap

Singles were at Howick Dene on 21st and at Craster and Holy Island on 29th (RKS/JRT). Three were ringed at Hauxley on 30th (HRS). One trapped at Bamburgh on 28th was the first at the ringing station this year.

Yellow-browed Warbler

Three were in a Holy Island garden on 28th (ASJ/MPF et al). One was still present on 29th.

Wood Warbler

One was drinking from a garden bird bath at Matfen on 8th (RW).

Chiffchaff

Two were singing at Shepherd's Dene, Riding Mill on 25th (KH). Singles, some in song, noted at seven widespread localities.

Willow Warbler

Three were at Bamburgh on 1st and two were at Hauxley on 4th (BRS/HRS). Singles were at Plankey Mill and Roddam Rigg nr Wooperton.

Goldcrest

A small coastal fall was noted from 28th with 20 on Holy Island on 29th (JRT), 10 at Whitley Bay cemetery on 29th and at Hauxley on 30th (HRS) and six at Craster on 29th (RKS). Six were ringed at Hauxley between 29th-30th (HRS).

Spotted Flycatcher

Five visited a garden bird bath in Matfen on 8th (RW). Singles were at Hauxley, Howick Dene, Plankey Mill and Whitley Bay cemetery.

Red-breasted Flycatcher

Two were in a Holy Island garden and a female/1st winter individual was at the Arnold's Memorial reserve, Craster on 29th (MPF/GB/AF).

Pied Flycatcher

One was on Holy Island on 29th (JRT).

Marsh Tit

Two+ were in Howick Dene on 21st (SS). One was at Shepherd's Dene, Riding Mill on 25th (KH).

Willow Tit

Four were at Warkworth Lane on 13th (DBNR), two were at Swallow Pond on 3rd (SPP) and a single was at Hathery Lane on 20th (BNR).

Coal Tit

Nine were at Whittle Dene on 21st and six were at Warkworth Lane on 3rd (L&KR/DBNR). Two were ringed at Hauxley on 22nd and one at Bamburgh on 21st (HRS/BRS).

Blue Tit

20 were at Bamburgh on 21st, 16 at Warkworth Lane on 13th and 10 at Hauxley on 30th (BRS/DBNR/HRS).

Nuthatch

One visited a Matfen garden on 13th (RW).

Treecreeper

Three were at Warkworth Lane on 3rd (DBNR).

Jay

Two were present at Darras Hall, Ponteland on 16th, at Broomley Woods on 20th and at Stobswood all month.

Magpie

10 were in the Hauxley area on 4th (HRS). Seven were mobbing a Sparrowhawk at Castle Island on 1st (DM).

Jackdaw

1,100 were roosting at Housesteads on 22nd (BNR). Flocks of 100 were at Whittle Dene on 21st and 60 at Cresswell Pond on 22nd (L&KR/DBNR).

Rook

600 were roosting at Housesteads on 22nd (BNR). Flocks of 300 were at Whittle Dene on 21st and 54 at Cresswell Pond on 22nd (L&KR/DBNR).

Carrion Crow

40 were at Hauxley on 13th (DBNR).

Starling

A flock of 285 were feeding on heather moor at Hexham Common on 8th (BNR). An all-white bird was back at Northburn, Cramlington on 28th, for the third successive winter.

Tree Sparrow

12 were at Warkworth Lane on 4th (DBNR).

Chaffinch

Flocks of 150 were at Netherwitton on 22nd and 30 at Allenbank on 11th (RKS).

Brambling

Singles at Hauxley on 28th and 30th and nr Medburn on 29th were the first autumn arrivals (HRS/EC).

Serin

Three were reported flying over Hauxley on 30th (IF). If accepted, these will be the fourth-sixth records for the county and the first since 22nd April 1971.

Greenfinch

A flock of 20 was near Whitley Bay Golf Course on 11th (KIB).

Goldfinch

Well reported with maximum flocks of 130+ on the Town Moor, Newcastle on 13th (APM), 60-70 at W Woodburn on 15th (JMH), 63 at Holywell on 15th (JRT) and 60 at Prior's Park on 2nd (ASJ). Charms of six-44 noted at a further 18 localities.

Siskin

Largest flock were c100 at Slaley Hall on 2nd (RMH), 33 at Cresswell Pond on 25th (DBNR) and 20+ in a Catton garden on 6th and E Woodburn on 18th (MR/JMH). Flocks of two-16 noted at a further seven localities. Two were on Holy Island and one migrant was at Newbiggin on 29th (JRT/JGS).

Linnet

The largest flocks were 204 at Cresswell Pond on 1st (DBNR), 200 at Embleton Golf Course on 28th (RKS), 150 at Druridge Pool on 27th (DBNR) and 120 at Hauxley on 10th (HRS). 20-100 were at a further six localities.

Crossbill

25 were at Slaley Hall on 12th (RMH) and 21 were at Frankham tip, Fourstones on 29th (MR).

Bullfinch

12 were at Howick Dene on 29th (RKS) and eight were at Hathery Lane on 20th (BNR).

Hawfinch

One was at Woolsington Garden Centre on 21st (BG).

Corn Bunting

One was near Whitley Bay Golf Course on 11th (KIB).

Please send all October records, in Vooous order, to B N Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham NE46 1SX by 8 November at the latest.

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This bulletin has been prepared by A J Johnston, I Kerr, B N Rossiter and D McKeown. Illustrations of Skuas and Blyth's Reed Warbler by S Sexton and Pochard by M Eccles.

INDOOR MEETING - 14th November 1991

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 14 November in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Building, Newcastle University at 7.00 pm. Our guest speaker is Brian Little and will talk on "Sawbills", a species he has been involved with for many years.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions were due on 1 October and are now overdue. Please use forms supplied with the August bulletin and renew promptly. Please covenant and help the club with extra revenue.

THANK YOU, EVERYONE

Following my retirement from the club committee - although not, I hasten to add, from club affairs - I would like this opportunity of thanking everyone who has helped me during my 15 years as an official. I received the greatest possible support during my years as indoor meetings secretary, club secretary and, for the past 12 months, as your chairman from a great many people, both inside and outside the NTBC.

I shall be continuing to write my section for the bulletin and hope to remain heavily involved in the writing and production of Birds in Northumbria and will no doubt be shortly starting to nag all and sundry to get those late 1991 records in for inclusion! Once again, thank you very much. IAN KERR

FOR SALE

- 1 30 x 80 GA Optolyth Telescope + case. Excellent optics £215.
- 2 SLR Pentax ME + case, 50 mm 1.7 lens, 70-210 mm 1.4 Miranda Macro lens, 2 x Teleconverter, Sunpak Flash unit £125.

If you are interested contact Andy McLevy, Morpeth (0670) 516080

- 3 Bushnell Spacemaster 22w-60 including case. Only three months old £150.  
Contact David Littlefair, telephone (0434) 602671

FIELD TRIPS

Solway and Starling Roost - 9th November.

Skate Road boat trip - either 30th November or 7th December.

Anyone interested in taking part in these field trips should contact Martin Davison on (091) 413 2914 or by letter to 4 North View, Stocksfield, NE43 7JN.

BIRD CLUB FIELD TRIP, 28.9.91 - HOLY ISLAND

Right on cue the winds, after weeks of blowing from a westerly direction, veered to the south east bringing low cloud and rain, perfect for the Bird Club annual jaunt to Holy Island in search of drift migrants etc.

Meeting at the causeway at 9.00 am the first task was a car bound scan of the mud flats as we slowly drove towards the Island. Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwits, Redshank and Grey Plover, many of the latter still resplendent in summer plumage, probed the freshly exposed flats whilst in the far distance at Fenham Mill a herd of 25 Swans were presumed to be Whoopers.

On reaching the Island we donned waterproofs and proceeded to search the village gardens for any migrants. A few Redwings and Fieldfares, several Brambling and a lone Chiffchaff gave promise of things to come and as we reached the Vicarage garden a cry of 'Yellow-browed' went up and as we enjoyed the view of this super little Warbler another appeared nearby and a third was heard to our right, three in one garden! Also present were three Pied Flycatchers and a Redstart. The churchyard produced a Tree Pipit and several Swallows skimming the grass for the last insects of summer.

Turning to scan the shoreline to the west provided several Mergansers then four super Bonxies heading north. We then proceeded to the Straight Lonnen which proved fairly quiet other than several small groups of Redwings and two Redstarts. However, on reaching the dunes at the end of the Lonnen a nice surprise was an immature Long-tailed Skua overhead, a tick for some of the group, followed shortly after by an immature Hen Harrier causing havoc as it quartered the dunes.

A constant stream of Gannets headed south offshore some pausing to plunge for fish, as we headed for bushes in the dunes where we saw a lone Garden Warbler then overhead six Arctic Skuas taking a short cut across the Island.

The north shore of the Island produced a Slavonian Grebe close in and several Red Throated Divers among the Grey Seals and Eiders. We now headed back towards the Crooked Lonnen but this was very quiet. As we returned to the cars for coffee and sandwiches two Sparrowhawks were seen among the village gardens and several young Swallows were waiting to be fed on wires overhead and a House Martin sheltered in its nest, more Redwings and a few Fieldfares called overhead and as we ate, two Chiffchaffs and a few more Brambling fed in the trees nearby and a Siskin drank from a roadside pool.

We decided to now head for the nearest good sea watching spot as the wind continued to blow from the east. Stag Rocks was the obvious choice and we were rewarded with a heavy passage of Gannets, Kittiwakes, Sandwich Terns, several Red Throated Divers, a Leach's Petrel and three magnificent northbound Cory's Shearwaters very close in. Most Shearwater species in this area pass east of the Farnes so it was most unusual to get close views of three Cory's together as

they flew past hugging the coastline up Ross Back Sands and eventually round Holy Island and past Emmanuel Head.

A fitting end to a most enjoyable and productive trip. A S JACK

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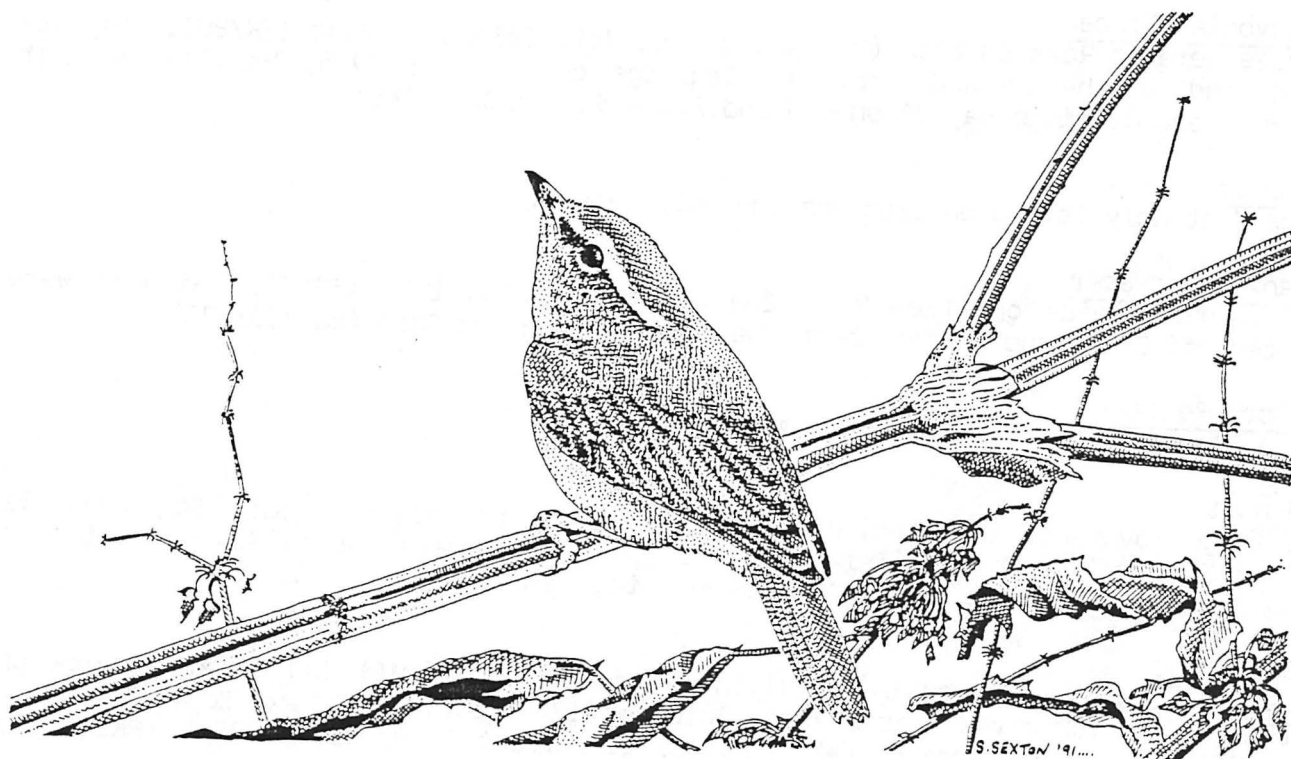
# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

## MONTHLY SUMMARY - OCTOBER 1991

October began with a westerly gale on 1st. Not an encouraging start to the month. However, by the 10th a high had developed over Scandinavia and a low moving through the Bay of Biscay resulted in some exciting arrivals. The month's star bird was arguably the Radde's Warbler that remained at Tynemouth from 11th-14th, the county's 7th record. The fall conditions on 10th saw Holy Island 'carpeted' with Redwing, however only small numbers of Fieldfare occurred, Brambling and Blackbirds were noted in good numbers. An obliging Barred Warbler remained in the Straight Lonnen from 10th-23rd, while a Red-breasted Flycatcher was seen only on 10th on the Island. Elsewhere at least 14 Yellow-browed Warblers, and up to 6 Little Buntings were found. Firecrests were seen at Craster and Priors Park. A Richard's Pipit was reported from Hauxley and possibly another at Newbiggin.

By mid-month it became colder as the winds moved into the NW, this resulted in heavy passage of wildfowl and a Smew appeared at the favoured locality of Ladyburn Lake. All four species of Skua were reported including another 14 Long-tailed. By 20th high pressure dominated the scene with overcast calm conditions remaining till the month end.

Other unusual or interesting species involved a Spotted Crake at Briardene on 17th, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Hauxley on 24th and Grey Phalarope, Bewick's Swan, Garganey, Little Gull, Little Auk and Great Grey Shrike.



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

55 were in Druridge Bay on 22nd (TJT) with 62 diver (sp) noted here on 5th (MRS). 17 were counted between Budle Point and Seahouses on 26th (RN) and up to 20 at Holy Island. At Seaton Sluice 26 flew N and 10 S during the month with a peak of 15 N on 20th. One-eight were at three other localities.

Black-throated Diver

One was in Druridge Bay on 25th (TJT). Other singles flew N at Hauxley on 12th and 20th (HRS), at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (SSWT), with two N at St Mary's Island on 20th (IDM).

Great Northern Diver

Singles were noted at Holy Island, Hauxley and Seaton Sluice between 12th-20th (ES/HRS/CRA).

Little Grebe

Up to 17 were at Cresswell Pond during the month (DBNR), eight at Big Waters on 15th (AJJ) and one-five at seven other localities. Late breeding concerned a pair feeding two small young at Rayburn Lake on 6th (RKS).

Great-crested Grebe

Three were in Druridge Bay on 8th (ES). One-two were at a further seven localities, including one in Blyth Harbour on 20th (LJM).

Red-necked Grebe

Up to three were at Holy Island between 15th-26th (IK/BG) and singles at Ross Back Sands, Stag Rocks, Howick Haven and Hauxley. More unusual were juveniles at Druridge Bay CP on 26th (MRS) and on the River Coquet at Warkworth on 27th (MJS).

Slavonian Grebe

Three were at Ross on 27th (MR) and two at Holy Island on 21st (IK/BG). Singles appeared at the coastal pools of Druridge on 2nd and 29th, Hauxley on 26th (DBNR) and Druridge Bay CP on 4th and 24th-25th (TAC/DM/RKS).

Fulmar

One S at Holy Island on 12th was the only record.

Manx Shearwater

At Seaton Sluice one flew N on 2nd and three N on 19th (SSWT). Singles were noted off Dunstanburgh on 6th and Hauxley on 12th and 20th (BNR/JD/HRS).

Storm Petrel

One flew N at Hauxley on 19th (HRS).

Gannet

A large movement was noted at Hauxley on 12th with 1500 per hour (HRS) when 131 flew S and 57 N at Holy Island (BNR). Smaller numbers passed Seaton Sluice up to 20th. An immature moving NW was well inland at Kielder on 11th (DCJ).

Cormorant

Largest counts involved 85 at Blyth Harbour on 5th (DMT) and 63 at Berwick on 19th (CK). 100 moved S at Seaton Sluice on 19th (SSWT). Inland 22 at Colt Crag on 26th, 16 at Hallington (L+KR) and 10 at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (RKS) were the highest totals, with two-seven at twelve other localities.

Shag

350-400 were feeding between Ross Back Sands and the Farne Islands on 22nd (IC).

Grey Heron

24 were at Castle Island on 22nd (TJT). One-six were at a further 21 localities including one at Killingworth Lake which was the observers first record in 16 years of watching this site (LJM).

Mute Swan

220 were at Berwick on 19th (CK) and 33 at Killingworth Lake on 25th (LJM). On 10th 15 flew E at Hauxley (HRS). Up to 17 were at a further nine localities.

Bewick's Swan

Ten were at Cresswell Pond on 28th (JRT), five at Druridge Bay CP on 26th (MRS) and two at Big Waters on 27th-28th (AJJ/ALT).

Whooper Swan

Up to 21 were noted at Cresswell Pond from 18th (DBNR). At Holy Island three pairs, each with a single juvenile, indicated a poor breeding season (IK/BG). Inland 34 were at Grindon Lough on 29th (RKS). Up to 11 were found at eight other localities between 19th-28th.

Pink-footed Goose

About 40 were at Budle Bay on 6th, with 150 here on 22nd (AHB/BRS). 122 flew S at Druridge Bay CP on 27th (MSH/IC), 47 NW at Whittle Dene on 20th (MR) and 34 E at Swinburne on 22nd (RSF). Elsewhere, one-nine were at another three localities.

White-fronted Goose

Four adults fed with Greylags at Grindon Lough on 19th (GB/MPF).

Greylag Goose

The largest flocks were of up to 2,000 at Budle Bay (BRS), 428 at Colt Crag (L+KR), 300-310 at Holywell (SPP), all on 26th, 141 at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (RKS) and 110 at Grindon on 21st (BNR). One-67 were at 14 other localities.

Canada Goose

66 were at Colt Crag on 26th (L+KR), 60 at Big Waters on 4th (AJJ), 29 at Gosforth Park on 15th (DH) and eight at Grindon Lough on 19th (JSB/RKS).

Barnacle Goose

Numbers varied at Budle Bay between 5th-30th with a maximum of 230 on 6th (AHB). Passage was also noted at Hauxley on four dates with a peak of 55 S on 6th (HRS). Elsewhere 53 were at Cresswell Pond on 1st (DBNR) and one-40 at a further nine localities.

Brent Goose

About 1700 were at Holy Island by the end of the month (IK/BG). Up to 40 were noted off Annstead, Hauxley and Seaton Sluice. One-12 dark-bellied birds were noted at Ross, Hauxley, Cresswell Pond and Newbiggin.

Bar-headed Goose

One was with Canada Geese at Colt Crag on 20th (L+KR).

Shelduck

230-240 were at Budle Bay on 30th (CDH). At Hauxley 27 moved N on 11th and at Seaton Sluice 17 flew S on 8th (HRS/SSWT). Inland five were at Caistron on 5th (BNR), one-three at Hallington on four dates (RSF), three at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (RKS) and one at Big Waters on 15th. At the latter locality the long staying juvenile was found dead on 26th (AJJ).

Wigeon

At Seaton Sluice 375 flew N and 13 S during the month with a peak of 186 N on 29th (SSWT). 800 were in Budle Bay on 5th (RKS), 284 at Grindon Lough on 29th (RKS) and 279 at Cresswell Pond on 27th (DMT), 50-159 were at a further 12 localities.

Gadwall

Six were at Hauxley on 11th (ET/JRN), five at Ladyburn Lake DBCP on 24th (AMB) and at Caistron on 20th (BNR). One-two were also at Grindon Lough, Budle Bay, Holywell Pond, Big Waters and Fenham Flats.

Teal

The largest gatherings were of 475 at Caistron on 20th (BNR), 373 at Big Waters on 16th (AJJ), 300 at Colt Crag (RW), 289 at Druridge Pools (DBNR) and 280 at Holborn Moss.

Mallard

On 12th 250 flew S at Hauxley (HRS). 373 were at Whittle Dene on 19th (L+KR), 368 at Colt Crag on 13th (RW), 346 at Derwent on 20th (RKS), 200-294 were also at Budle Bay, Hauxley Reserve and Big Waters.

Pintail

Eight were at Druridge Pools on 4th (DBNR) and six at Cresswell Pond on 12th. Six flew N at Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSWT). Four were at Big Waters on 13th (AJJ) and at Holburn Moss on 3rd (ISD). One-three were reported from a further nine localities.

Garganey

A single was at Big Waters on 2nd (AJJ).

Shoveler

57 at Big Waters on 15th was the largest count (AJJ). One-11 were at another eight waters.

Pochard

38 were at Hallington on 5th (L+KR), 31 at Whittle Dene on 26th (JSB) and Druridge Pools on 8th (DBNR), 19-26 were also at Killingworth Lake, Big Waters, Hauxley Reserve and Ladyburn Lake.

Tufted Duck

119 were at Ladyburn Lake DBCP on 29th (TAC), 58 at Hauxley on 6th and 48 at Druridge Pools on 22nd (DBNR), 15-30 were at another six localities.

Scaup

On 20th 18 flew N at Hauxley when seven on the sea (HRS), 18 flew N at Holy Island on 27th (MR) when ten were on Hauxley Reserve. One-four were also at Newton Pool, Druridge Pool in Druridge Bay, Stag Rocks and Annstead. Inland records involved three at Bothal Pond on 23rd (MGA), two at Whittle Dene on 13th (MR) and singles at Big Waters, Hallington and Rayburn Lake.

Eider

3,200 were between Budle Point and Seahouses on 26th (RN). 135 flew N and three S at Seaton Sluice on 19th where the total for the month was 150 N and 17 S (SSWT).

Long-tailed Duck

50+ were off Stag Rocks on 20th (GCP). Eight flew N at Hauxley on 19th (HRS) and 16-20 at Ross Back Sands on 27th (MR). Five were at Ladyburn Lake on 27th (IK/BG) and singles on Druridge Pools, Cresswell Pond, Hauxley Reserve and Linton Pond.

Common Scoter

At Seaton Sluice the monthly total was of 1,183 N and 79 S with the most heavy passage occurring between 19th-22nd. 1,200 were in Druridge Bay on 22nd (KWY), 400 at Stag Rocks on 27th (BRS) and 350 between Budle Point and Seahouses (RN).

Velvet Scoter

Seven were in Druridge Bay on 25th (TJT), five at Ross Back Sands on 22nd (IC) when five flew N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). One-three were also at St Mary's Island, Holy Island, Hauxley and Annstead. Two were on Cresswell Pond on 19th (DBNR et al).

Goldeneye

The heaviest movements were between 20th-21st when 150 flew N at Seaton Sluice, 100 arrived from E in one hour at Holy Island (IK/BG), 50 flew N at Stag Rocks and 78 N at Annstead. 48 were at Derwent on 20th (RKS) and 38 at Berwick on 19th (CK).

Smew

A 'redhead' was present at Ladyburn Lake DBCP from 11th-23rd (TAC et al).

Red-breasted Merganser

On 19th 22 flew N and two S at Hauxley and 13 N and one S at Seaton Sluice. 22 were in Druridge Bay on 5th (MRS), 15 at Druridge Pools on 18th (DBNR), ten at Ladyburn Lake on 24th (DM) and six in Budle Bay on 5th (RKS).

Goosander

16 were on the Tyne at Wylam on 18th (JD), eight were at Corbridge on 19th, seven at Colt Crag on 5th (L+KR) and Derwent on 20th (RKS). One-five also noted at Hauxley, Foxton, Whittle Dene, Pawston Lake, Kimmer Lough and Tynemouth.

Ruddy Duck

Three were at Hauxley Reserve on 4th where singles present from 3rd-26th (DBNR/HRS). Singles were at Rayburn Lake on 6th (RKS), at Big Waters between 7th-16th (AJJ), Druridge Pools on 18th and Holywell Pond on 18th and 24th (KWY/TJT).

Hen Harrier

Two adult males were in the Wark Forest area during the month (DCJ/SS).

Goshawk

A female was near Barrasford on 29th.

Sparrowhawk

Two-three were present throughout the month at Hauxley, Druridge Bay Country Park and Walbottle (HRS/TAC/L+KR) while singles were reported from at least 26 other widespread localities.

Buzzard

Singles were noted at Blagdon on 2nd (AGH), Wooperton on 5th (AJD) and in West Allendale on 21st (KWY).

Kestrel

One-two were reported from 13 widespread localities.

Merlin

Two-three were present on Holy Island while singles were also reported from eight other coastal areas.

Peregrine

Two were on Holy Island during the month, perhaps also accounting for sightings on four dates at Budle Bay, while singles were also noted at Hauxley and St Mary's Island. The only inland record came from Barrasford on 10th.

Red Grouse

The biggest group was at least 44 sheltering in Harwood Forest and feeding among young Sitka during sharp N winds on 18th (MH). 20 were also noted at Coalscleugh on 21st (KWY) while five-seven were noted in two other areas.

Black Grouse

A family party of six were near Blanchland on 2nd (RMH) while four males were on the Cumbria border near Coalscleugh on 21st (KWY).

Grey Partridge

The largest groups were coveys of 23 at Whittle Dene (JSB), 18 at Big Waters and Howick (AJJ/ISD) and 15 at New Hartley (IC).

Pheasant

A creamy-white individual was noted near Wooperton (AJD).

Water Rail

Immigration was suggested by a rise in the number of records. Two fought at Newton Pool on 20th (RSF) while two were also noted at both Holywell Pond and Gosforth Park (ES/WTL/DH). Singles were also noted at Cresswell Pond, Big Waters and Arcot Pond.

Spotted Crake

One was found on 17th along the stream at Briardene, Whitley Bay (ASJ).

Coot

Numbers were generally low. The largest group was 107 at Ladyburn Lake while 71 were at Rayburn Lake, 58 at Caistron, 44 at Whittle Dene with smaller groups at eight other waters. The maximum count at Big Waters was only 34, the lowest for October at the locality since at least 1981.

Moorhen

The only record received involved seven between Corbridge-Wylam on 14th and two at Corbridge on 15th (JD).

WADER COUNTS

The following stretches were covered : St Mary's Island (IDM), Hartley Point-S Blyth (KVB), Blyth Estuary (LJMcD), Newbiggin-Creswell (MGA), Cresswell-Chevington Burn (EC/ISD), Chevington Burn-Amble (TW), Coquet Estuary (PWW), S Alnmouth (ET & JRN), Alnmouth-Boulmer (ES), Boulmer-Howick Burn (IK), Howick Burn-Beadnell (MF/AW), Beadnell-Seahouses (MLC/AS), Seahouses-Budle Point (RN) and Tweed Estuary (CK).

Oystercatcher

A big increase was noted with 1,215 on the monthly counts. The largest group being 251 in a high-tide roost at St Mary's Island on 20th (IDM).



Ringed Plover

Numbers rose during the month with 211 on the wader count. The largest single group involved 48 at Long Nanny Burn on 20th (RKS).

Golden Plover

Large coastal concentrations indicated a further winter build-up with 4,000c at Lindisfarne, 1,400 at St Mary's Island, 1,200 at Monkseaton, 1,000 at Druridge Bay Country Park, 850 at Hauxley and 800 in Budle Bay and at Newton. Inland flocks included 1,500 at Whittle Dene, 950 at Hallington, 600 at Grindon Lough and 500 at Blucher.

Grey Plover

A total of 64 were noted on the monthly count when 25 were between Seahouses-Beadnell. Other larger groups were 31 in Budle Bay (RKS), 28 at Buston Dunes (AJ/TW) and 15-17 at Annstead (BRS), Hauxley (HRS) and Long Nanny Burn (RKS). Six which arrived from E at Hallington on 14th moved off W after 30 minutes. A single was at Colt Crag the same day (RSF).

Lapwing

Large flocks were noted both on the coast and inland with peak counts of 1,500 in Budle Bay (BRS), 1,600 at Hallington (L+KR), 1,000 at Hauxley (DBNR), 700 at Longhoughton Steel and Monkseaton (RKS/MSH), 650 at Stamfordham (EB) and 220-500 in at least 14 other localities.

Knot

Numbers remained low with peak counts of only 180 at Lindisfarne (AJ), 62 at St Mary's Island (TT) and two-seven on three dates in the Druridge Bay area. During the monthly count only 70 were noted along the coast..

Sanderling

Very few were present with only 91 noted on the monthly count. The only other flocks in double figures were 22 at Holy Island (DM), 16 at Long Nanny Burn (RKS) and 12 near Stag Rocks (CDH).

Little Stint

Several lingered with a maximum of five at Cresswell Pond on 14th (DBNR). A Juvenile was also at Big Waters from 1st-8th (AJJ/RGW et al) while on 6th a single fed at the small pond near Low Newton car park (ISD).

Curlew Sandpiper

One feeding at the pond near Low Newton car park on 6th was the only report (ISD).

Purple Sandpiper

Numbers were very low even in traditional regular haunts with only 62 being found along the coastline on the monthly count. However there was also a separate count of 62 at Stag Rocks on 20th (GCP).

Dunlin

Numbers increased rapidly with 1,181 found on the monthly count, more than double the September total. Many were still inland with peaks of 47 at Wallsend Swallow Pond, 26 at Hallington, 19 at Big Waters and one-eight at five other localities.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

One found near Hauxley Reserve on 24th (IF) was relocated next day with other waders in fields near the entrance to Druridge Bay Country Park (MSH). If accepted it will be the 13th county record.

Ruff

A few remained with three-four at Hauxley and singles noted at Druridge Pools, Hadston and Boulmer.

Jack Snipe

Arrival was noted with nine at Whittle Dene, six at Hauxley and one-two in nine other coastal and one other inland locality.

Snipe

Wintering parties continued to build up with peaks of 116 at Whittle Dene (JSB), 49 at Wallsend Swallow Pond (DM), 27 at Grindon Lough (RKS) and 20c at Newbiggin golf course (AP). Smaller groups were noted in many other areas while a single was noted moving with Redwing at Stamfordham on 20th (EB).

Woodcock

Light immigration occurred with one-two noted daily on Holy Island from 19th-27th while one-two, some of them exhausted, were noted in seven other coastal localities and five areas inland.

Black-tailed Godwit

September's flock which regularly moved between Big Waters and Wallsend Swallow Pond dwindled from 16 on 2nd to a single still at Wallsend on 30th (AJJ/JEF et al). One-two were also regular noted at Lindisfarne up to 26th.

Bar-tailed Godwit

Lindisfarne held 2,000c by the end of the month. As usual they were scarce elsewhere with 129 noted on the monthly account, although this was treble the September figure.

Whimbrel

Two flew S at St Mary's Island on 10th (WAK/KWY), one was at Holy Island on 12th (WD) while another flew S at Annstead on 21st (BRS).

Curlew

Coastal numbers remained low with only 288 on the monthly count, 173 of them at Longhoughton Steel. The only other large coastal count involved 260 at Long Nanny Burn on 21st (ISD). Parties were still inland with 47 roosting at Caistron, five noted at Kimmer Lough while four were at Stamfordham and Threestoneburn.

Spotted Redshank

Singles were at Holy Island causeway on 12th (MLC) and at Cresswell Pond on 18th-19th (GPB/MJS).

Redshank

Coastal numbers increased with 1,117 on the monthly count. 420 roosted at N Blyth staithes (AMB) and there were peaks of 144 at Hauxley Reserve and 131 at Cresswell Pond (DBNR). Inland nine were at Wallsend Swallow Pond, two were noted at Colt Crag and a single at Bolam Lake (DM/L+KR/EB).



Greenshank

Most had disappeared with records involving one at Long Nanny Burn on 5th (RKS), two at Budle Bay on 6th (AHB) and a single at Holy Island causeway on 12th (TA + MLC/WD).

Turnstone

Numbers continued to rise with 1,282 on the monthly count. 240 were roosting at Blyth N staithes by 24th (AMB).

Grey Phalarope

A juvenile briefly visited Newton Pool on 6th (BNR/JD).

Pomarine Skua

Two moved S at Seaton Sluice on 10th while on 12th a movement N occurred with ten noted off Hauxley (HRS) and three at Newbiggin (SSWT/HRS/AP et al). On 20th four flew N off Holy Island (Big Waters wardens trip).

Arctic Skua

A movement N took place on 12th with 27 off Newbiggin in 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours (AP) with 11 also noted at Hauxley (HRS). One-four were noted on eight other dates.

Long-tailed Skua

Four immatures moved N at Hauxley on 9th while on 12th eight were noted at the same locality (HRS) and singles were seen at Newbiggin (AP) and Holy Island (BNR).

Great Skua

During the Skua movement of 12th six flew N at Newbiggin in 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours (AP) and one flew into Holy Island harbour (BNR/JD). Singles were noted off Holy Island, Newbiggin, Seaton Sluice and Hauxley on three other dates.

Mediterranean Gull

Single adults were at Big Waters on 16th(AJJ) and Craster on 2nd and 20th (IK/DM).

Little Gull

Single adults were at Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSWT/CRA) and at Holywell Pond on 22nd (TJT). A first winter was at Druridge Pools on 19th (GPB).

Black-headed Gull

Inland roosts held steady with 3,200 at Derwent on 5th, 3,100 at Hallington on 19th, 500 at Scotswood, 310 at Caistron and 110 at Broomlee (BNR). 1,200 were at Whittle Dene on 19th (L+KR). On the coast 3,200 roosted at Goswick Sands on 12th and 1,800 in Budle Bay on 23rd (BNR) with gatherings of 1,500 in the Tyne Estuary on 18th (DMT) and 1,350 at Low Newton on 6th. 500 per hour flew N at Hauxley on 19th (HRS).

Common Gull

Numbers at inland roosts rose with 18,000 at Hallington on 19th, 6,200 at Derwent on 5th, 750 at Broomlee and 220 at Colt Crag. The Budle Bay roost reached 10,500 on 23rd and 430 roosted at Goswick Sands on 12th (BNR). Building activities on a sports field may have caused the species to be absent from E Cochrane Park this autumn (KIB). 200 were at Slaley on 20th (JD) and two individuals showing characteristics of the heinei race were at Holy Island on 20th (IK) and four at Broomlee on 21st (BNR).

Lesser Black Backed Gull

The Caistron roost declined sharply to 84 birds by 20th with other sizeable gatherings of 46 at Budle Bay on 5th and 21 roosting at Broomlee on 21st (BNR/RKS). 17 at Thropton on 12th (MH) were presumably part of the Caistron flock. One-eight were noted at a further four inland and six localities. Two individuals showing characteristics of the intermedius race were in Budle Bay on 20th (DM/GB) and another was at Seahouses on 21st (BNR).

Herring Gull

1,600 were in the Tyne Estuary on 18th (DMT), 236 from Seahouses-Budle Point on 26th (RN) and 224 at Amble on 23rd. Inland, 230 roosted at Hallington on 19th and 145 at Scotswood on 8th (BNR). On 20th, four adults showing characteristics of the race argentatus were noted at North Shields Fish Quay and two at Druridge Pools (DMT). A yellow-legged adult at Caistron on 20th showed characteristics of the southern michaelis group (BNR).

Iceland Gull

One flew S at Hauxley on 19th (HRS).

Great Black Backed Gull

The highest counts were 193 at Long Nanny on 26th (RKS), 180 in the Tyne Estuary on 19th (DMT), 161 at Holywell Pond on 12th, 159 in Blyth harbour on 20th, 137 in Holy Island harbour on 12th and 135 in Druridge Bay Country Park on 24th. Inland 82 were at Derwent Reservoir on 19th and 25 roosted at Hallington on 19th.

Kittiwake

37 were at Amble on 23rd and 16-32 at Seahouses, North Shields Fish Quay and Blyth harbour during the month (BNR/DMT).

Sandwich Tern

The highest count was ten at St Mary's Island on 5th (MPF) with eight at Hauxley on 9th (HRS) and Boulmer on 8th (ES). Eight flew S at Dunstanburgh on 6th and Holy Island on 12th (BNR/JD) and the last record was one at Hauxley Reserve on 16th (DBNR).

'Commic' Tern

At Hauxley, six flew N on 9th and two on 12th (HRS) and one was at Bamburgh on 14th (WD).

Common Tern

Three were at Hauxley shore on 9th and 12th (DBNR) with one-two noted at four other localities earlier in the month.

Arctic Tern

Two were at Boulmer on 8th (ES).

Little Auk

A minor influx was noted on 20th when 30 flew N at Hauxley Shore (DBNR), 12 flew N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and one-four were seen at St Mary's Island and Cullercoats. Some evidence for disorientation was observed on this date with one flying up river at Wansbeck River Park (GPB) and one on Druridge Pool (DMT/GCP). Later in the month, one-two were noted at Annstead, Cullercoats and Druridge Bay.

Stock Dove

Three were at Ordley on 28th and two at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 22nd and Cresswell Pond on 24th.

Woodpigeon

Two broods of two young each were still in nests at Hauxley on 14th (HRS) and an adult was noted sitting on a nest at Craster on 13th. 40 fed on beech mast at Allen Banks on 19th (RKS).

Collared Dove

The largest gathering was 40 at Berwick Hill on 6th (BNR) with 30-31 at Brunswick/Big Waters, 24 at Hauxley and two-four at Corbridge and Fourstones.

Barn Owl

Singles were at Widdrington, Hadston Road Ends, Stobswood, Whittingham, Caistron, Lesbury and Cresswell Pond. A juvenile was at Hauxley on 6th and a road casualty was found on the A1 at Beal on 21st (IK/BG).

Little Owl

One was sitting on a road at dusk near Stamfordham on 28th (EB).

Tawny Owl

Two-three were calling in Lower Holywell Dene on 26th (SPP) with singles noted at Warkworth Lane, South Gosforth, Reaveley, Roddam Rigg, Stobswood, Lemmington Bank, Netherton and Heddon.

Long-eared Owl

On the coast, singles were noted at Holy Island and Craster on 13th. Larger numbers were seen at the end of the month from 27th-30th when two on Holy Island and singles at Hauxley, Newbiggin and Prior's Park. Two had returned to a roost site in the SE of the county by 30th. Inland, one was hunting in daylight in the Border Forests on 27th (MH).

Short-eared Owl

Birds noted arriving from the E included two at Chevington Burn on 5th (ADM) and singles at Boulmer on 20th (MJS) and Holy Island on 23rd (IK). One-two were seen at a further seven coastal localities. Inland six were present in the Border Forests on 27th (MH), two in the Wark Forest on 10th (SS) and singles at Threestoneburn, Broomlee, Harwood Forest and Whorlton.

Swift

A late bird was at Hauxley on 6th (HRS).

Kingfisher

Singles were seen at Bothal, Gosforth Park, Whittle Dene and Jesmond Dene.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Likely immigrants were noted at Hauxley on 20th when one in gardens and on 23rd when one flew S at Bondicarr (HRS). One flying W at Budle Bay on 26th may have been a recent arrival (BRS). Near or on the coast, one-two birds were at Buston Barns, Craster Towers, Warkworth Lane, Howick Dene and Holywell Dene but there is no indication that these were not residents. One fed on coconut shell at Gosforth Park on 20th (J&MH) and singles were also seen at Prudhoe and Roddam Rigg.

Skylark

Movement was first noted on 5th-6th when 30 flew S at Hauxley (HRS), 141 flew S at Longhoughton Steel (RKS) and 70 flew SW at Craster (BNR/JD). On 21st-22nd there was a steady NW movement over Bamburgh (BRS) and steady S passage over Wallsend Swallow Pond (DM). One was singing at St Mary's Island on 10th (WAK).

Swallow

Some lingered with 30 at Hauxley on 10th (HRS), 22 in Budle Bay on 5th (RKS), 20 at Druridge on 9th (WAK) and 11 on Holy Island on 16th. Three birds from a third brood flew at Matfen on 4th (RW) and another late brood of six young fledged at Widdrington on 9th (NF). Three near Amble on 29th (HRS) was the last sighting for the month.

House Martin

The highest counts reported were three birds at Hauxley Reserve on 8th, Holy Island on 13th and Tynemouth on 14th. On 2nd-4th young were still being fed in nests at Cresswell Village and Fenham (KIB/MH). The last record was one at Holy Island on 20th (DM).

Richard's Pipit

Reports have been received of a single at Hauxley on 13th (HRS) and of a pipit, which may be of this species, at Newbiggin Point Cemetry on 12th (AIP/MPF).

Tree Pipit

Singles were at Hauxley on 11th and 13th (HRS).

Meadow Pipit

Inland 100 were on clear-fell at The Forks, Kielder Forest on 24th (DCJ), 50 at Ilderton Dod on 2nd and 20 at Threestoneburn on 15th (AMB). On the coast, 57 were at Hauxley on 11th (HRS).

Rock Pipit

15 were on Holy Island on 12th (BNR/JD) and five-eight were counted on the coast from Boulmer-Howick, Football Hole-Low Newton and Craster-Dunstanburgh and at Hauxley shore.

Grey Wagtail

On the coast, one-two birds were noted through the month at Cresswell Pond, Hauxley, Craster, Boulmer and Bamburgh. Three were in Northumberland Park, North Shields on 7th (RW). Inland one-two were seen at Corbridge, West Woodburn and Allenbanks.

Pied Wagtail

A roost of at least 55 birds were noted at Ponteland on 6th (BNR/JD), 37 were feeding at British Gas, Killingworth on 2nd (LJM) and 15 at Matfen on 3rd (RW). Small flocks were seen on school fields from Prudhoe-Hexham during the month (JD).

Dipper

On 27th, three-four pairs were displaying at Sharperton on the Coquet (JWR), two birds were in song at Felton (ET & JRN) and a pair was at West Woodburn (J&MH). One was at Wylam on 13th (MRA).

Dunnock

Passage was indicated from 10th-12th with 18 at Bamburgh (BRS), 15 at Holy Island (BNR), 12 at Tynemouth Park (MSH) and 11 from Boulmer-Howick (RKS). There was an influx at Threestoneburn on 5th when nine ringed and the monthly total of 30 ringed is more than usual (AMB).

Robin

Passage was indicated from 10th-13th when at least 50 on Holy Island (BNR/ADM), 20 at Hauxley and Bamburgh (HRS/BRS) and 10-15 at Craster and Tynemouth Park. A small influx occurred at Threestoneburn on 8th (AMB).

Black Redstart

Singles were present on Holy Island from 11th-27th (MR et al) and at Newbiggin on 30th (AP).

Redstart

The species was conspicuous on Holy Island from 10th-13th with a maximum of 14 on 12th (ES/JRI). At Hauxley, one-three were present from 10th-14th with a maximum count of three on 11th (HRS). One-two were seen at Newbiggin, Prior's Park and St Mary's Island from 10th-13th and an unusually late bird was at Big Waters on 18th (AJJ).

Whinchat

Singles were noted at two coastal localities and inland at Big Waters. The last sighting was on Holy Island on 29th (MJS).

Stonechat

On the coast, pairs were noted at Druridge Pools and Chevington Links and singles at Hauxley, St Mary's and Longhoughton Steel. Inland a pair was at Harehope Burn on 20th (KVB) and a female at Whittle Dene (MR).

Wheatear

Seven were on Holy Island on 12th and three at Buston Barns on 1st (BNR/WD). One-two were seen at a further seven coastal localities with the last at Red Row on 27th (IK/BG).

Ring Ousel

A major influx occurred on the coast from 10th-14th when as many as 30 on Holy Island (MR) and 12 at Hauxley on 11th (HRS) and one-two at Newbiggin, Blyth Cemetery, Druridge Bay Country Park, St Mary's Island, Howick, Bamburgh and Prior's Park. One was inland at Heddon Common during this period on 12th (JSB). Later in the month from 26th-27th, singles were at Hauxley, Bamburgh and Holy Island (HRS/BRS/AJD).

Blackbird

On 10th-11th, many hundreds were noted at Hauxley and Holy Island (HRS/MR), 100 were at Holywell Dene and Craster (KWY) and 60 at Tynemouth Park (MSH). Another influx occurred on 26th-27th when several hundred at Hauxley (HRS) and 30-50 at Holy Island and West Woodburn. 20 moved W at Threestoneburn on 15th.

Fieldfare

Not many were noted with other thrushes in the first influx of the month from 10th-14th, 60 at Walbottle (L&KR) and two-five at Hauxley, Tynemouth and Byker were the only reports. On the 20th, small numbers were noted at four sites including 68 at Whittle Dene (MR). The largest influx occurred on 26th when 150 per hour arrived at Holy Island (IK) and 150 were at Hauxley (HRS). Inland flocks then built-up with 500 at West Woodburn on 27th (J&MH) and 350 at Slaley Hall on 30th (RMH).

Song Thrush

All reports relate to the period 10th-14th when hundreds at Holy Island (MR) and Hauxley (HRS) and 30-60 at Bamburgh, Craster and Howick.



Redwing

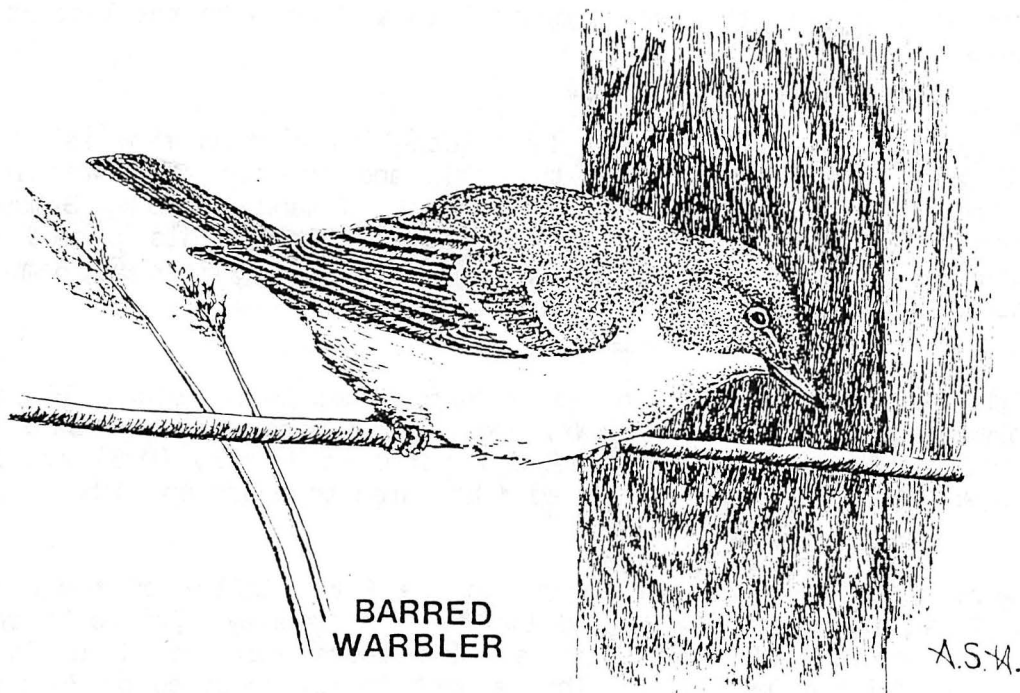
A small influx occurred on 9th when 50 at Holy Island (ES) and Hauxley (HRS). A massive influx occurred on 10th with islanders on Holy Island awakened at 2 am by the sound of thousands of birds descending on the village and the island was 'carpeted with birds' the next day (IK/BG/RGW). Large numbers were also noted along the coast the same day with 8,000 in the Whitley Bay - St Mary's Island area (ASJ), many thousands at Hauxley (HRS), 3,000 at Tynemouth (DMT) and 2,000 at Newbiggin (MW). Large but declining numbers were noted at many points on the coast from 11th-12th. Inland on 12th, 100 were at Corbridge and 60 at Ordley (JD/BNR) and birds were heard calling overnight at Hexham in the evening (MR). From 14th-18th, 137 were at Stamfordham (EB) and 200-300 at Heddon and Wylam (JD).

Mistle Thrush

20 were at Howick Dene on 6th (JWR) and five-eight at Wideopen and Threestoneburn. Immigration was indicated by three-four birds arriving with other thrushes at Holy Island on 26th (IK) and two birds at Hauxley on 11th and one on 26th (HRS). Two were 'tuning-up' at Jesmond Dene on 23rd (MPF).

Barred Warbler

A juvenile was present in the Straight Lonnen, Holy Island between 10th-23rd (IM/IK et al). This is possibly the same bird that was at Holy Island Lough on 29th September (MPF).

Lesser Whitethroat

Singles were noted at Craster, Holywell Dene, Newbiggin and Newton Pool between 6th-13th.

Whitethroat

One was on Holy Island on 11th (MR) and one-two at Beal Road Ends on 13th (ADM).

Garden Warbler

Two were on Holy Island on 11th (MR). Singles were trapped at Hauxley on 13th and Gosforth Park on 27th (HRS/ISD).

Blackcap

Seven were on Holy Island between 12th-13th (RKS/ADM) and five were at Newbiggin on 12th (AIP/MPF/JS). One-three were at another 11 widespread localities. 22 were trapped at Hauxley including a Belgian ringed individual. Two were trapped at Bamburgh.

Yellow-browed Warbler

An excellent month for this species with three on St Mary's Island on 5th (SPP) and two at Hauxley on 11th where one was ringed (HRS). Singles were at Northumberland Park, North Shields on 6th (CB), on Holy Island on 6th and 13th (WAK/ADD), in Tynemouth gardens on 10th and 27th (TJT/CB), at Chevington Burn on 11th (JWR), at Druridge Bay CP on 11th (TC), at Seale Road Ends between 12th-13th (ES/JRI/ADM) and Ridley Park, Blyth on 15th (CRA/LH).

Radde's Warbler

One was at Tynemouth Headland between 11th-14th (CB et al). This will represent the 7th record for the county.

Chiffchaff

Well represented during the month with maximums of six at Hauxley and five on Holy Island on 11th (HRS/MR). Singles noted at nine mainly coastal localities. Birds showing the characteristics of the Siberian race, *PC tristis* were on Holy Island on 11th (MR), Blyth Cemetery on 12th (GPB) and Hauxley between 24th-25th (HRS). One trapped at Bamburgh on 23rd showed characteristics of the race *PC abietinus* (BRS).

Willow Warbler

Two were on Holy Island on 11th (MR). The last one was at Craster on 26th (JRT/KWY).

Goldcrest

A fall was noted all down the coast between Holy Island and Tynemouth from 12th. Maximum counts were c200 at Hauxley on 12th (DBNR), 100 at Tynemouth on 13th (CB), 85 in the St Mary's Island area on 5th (SPP) and 80+ at Howick Woods on 20th (ISD). Four-40+ were noted at another seven mainly coastal locations. 52 were ringed at Hauxley and 30 at Threestoneburn during the month (HRS/AMB).

Firecrest

Singles were at Craster on 13th and 16th (ADM/MGA/RD/MJS) and at Prior's Park on 29th (per CB).

Red-breasted Flycatcher

One was in the Straight Lonnen, Holy Island on 10th (RGW).

Long-tailed Tit

The largest tribes were 20 at Craster on 2nd (IK), 18 at Felton Lane on 11th (NF), 15+ at Harlow Hill on 13th (MH) and 14 at Stanley Burn, Prudhoe on 23rd (DM). Five-11 noted at another seven localities including eight in North Shields town centre (MSH).

Marsh Tit

Singles noted at Bolam Lake on 23rd and at Craster on 30th (ASJ).



Willow Tit

Three were at Felton Lane on 1st (NF) and two were at Craster on 27th (MJS). Singles noted at Big Waters, Stanley Burn, Prudhoe and Warkworth Lane.

Coal Tit

Coastal passage was noted with four-five at Hauxley, three at Craster and one at Church Point, Newbiggin on 11th (HRS/RKS/MJS). Four were on Holy Island on 9th.

Blue Tit

25 were at Craster on 23rd (MSH). 20+ were at Hauxley on 28th where 43 were ringed during month (HRS).

Nuthatch

Two were at Blindburn near Wark on 13th (KVB) and one was at Stanley Burn, Prudhoe on 23rd (DM). Singles visited gardens at Matfen between 10th-31st (RW) and at Lancaster Park, Morpeth on 13th (JW).

Treecreeper

One was at the feeding station at Gosforth Park on 20th (JMH).

Red-backed Shrike

A 1st winter bird was present in the Alcan Ash Lagoon area of Newbiggin on 16th (AP).

Great Grey Shrike

Singles were at Newbiggin on 12th and at Wark Forest between 22nd-26th (per DCJ).

Jay

Six were at Stanley Burn, Prudhoe on 23rd (DM). Singles noted at a further nine widespread localities.

Magpie

Two were noted in the Straight Lonnen, Holy Island on 27th and 30th (MR/CDH).

Jackdaw

A massive flock of 2,000 noted at Hallington on 13th (RW).

Rook

A flock of 2,000 mixed with Jackdaws was at Hallington on 13th (RW). 200 were at Longframlington on 10th (L&KR).

Starling

Many parties up to 150 strong were noted moving north at Bamburgh between 21st-22nd (BRS). C100 were roosting in the wood at Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Tree Sparrow

12 were near Holywell Dene on 12th (DM) and ten at Big Waters on 24th (AJJ).

Chaffinch

100 were at Newton Links on 26th (RKS) and 50 at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (SW). Coastal passage was noted at Hauxley between 5th-14th and at Bamburgh between 21st-28th (HRS/BRS). One retraped at Threestoneburn had been ringed there in July 1984 as a young bird.

Brambling

An influx from 10th brought 200+ on Holy Island (MR), 50 at Howick Dene (RKS), 32 at Hauxley (HRS), with 20+ at Tynemouth Park and Whitley Bay Cemetery (MSH). One-19 noted at ten other coastal sites. Inland 12 were at Hulne Park on 20th (GCP), 10 at Millshield on 30th (SW) and Whittle Dene on 16th (MR). Nine were trapped at Hauxley during month.

Greenfinch

A flock of 110 fed in a field at Blucher on 8th (L&KR), while 100-110 were in the Hauxley area on 24th (HRS). Flocks of 30-40 noted at Longhoughton Steel and Cresswell.

Goldfinch

The largest charms were 30+ at Hauxley on 13th (HRS), and 22 at Longhoughton Steel on 11th (RKS) and at Ordley on 28th (BNR).

Siskin

80-100 were in the Sleafy Hall area all month (RMH), while c50 were in Kyloe Woods on 27th (MPF). Coastal records included 40 at Hauxley on 14th (HRS), 11 at Bamburgh on 27th (BRS) and seven at Holy Island on 12th (WD).

Linnet

The largest flocks involved c150 on Holy Island on 20th (DM et al), 80 at Longhoughton Steel on 6th (RKS) and 70 at Ilderton Dod on 2nd (AMB).

Twite

c40-50 were on Holy Island on 20th (DM et al) and 30 flew south at Hauxley on 26th (HRS).

Redpoll

Ten were at Colt Crag on 5th (L&KR) and eight were at Craster on 6th (BNR/JB).

Crossbill

30 were at Bull Crag in Kielder Forest on 24th (DCJ) and 20-30 were at Kyloe Woods on 27th (MPF). 11-17 were seen at four inland localities. On the coast eight were at Bamburgh on 21st and one was in Castle Wood, Bamburgh on 27th (BRS).

Bullfinch

Seven were at Plessey Woods on 19th (MGA) and at Millshield on 30th (SW). One-four were at a further six localities.

Lapland Bunting

A good month for this species. Two on St Mary's Island between 8th-13th (MPF et al) and one at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 8th (AP) were the first arrivals. One on Holy Island on 10th increased to seven by 27th (RGW/MR) and seven were at Widdrington on 11th (NF). Two arrived at Hauxley on 11th and three arrived there on 12th (HRS). Singles were at Tynemouth Headland between 11th-13th (CB et al), Craster on 20th (MPF/DM et al) and at St Mary's Island on 25th (TJT).

Snow Bunting

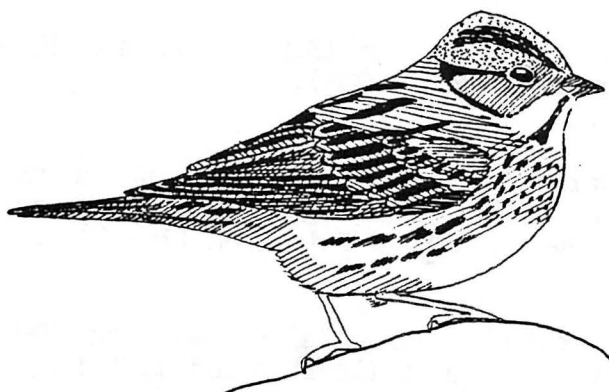
One feeding on the tideline at the Long Nanny on 5th (RKS) was the first arrival. Four-five were at St Mary's Island between 25th-27th (TJM/KWY/MRS). Two were at Craster on 20th (MPF). Singles noted at a further four coastal localities. Inland a single was at Wark Forest on 26th (per DCJ).

Yellowhammer

A flock of 40 was at Hadston on 25th (MSH) and 20 at Budle Bay on 5th (RKS).

Little Bunting

An excellent month for this species with up to three at Newbiggin on 10th (TJT/AP et al), two at Tynemouth Headland on 11th (IM et al) a single remaining at this locality until 14th (ADM) and one at St Mary's Island on 5th (SPP).

Reed Bunting

Coastal records included 16 in the Hauxley area on 11th (HRS), eight on Holy Island on 12th (BNR/JS) and three at Tynemouth Headland between 12th-13th (CB).

Corn Bunting

One in the Crooked Lonnen, Holy Island on 13th (ADM) was the only record.

Please send all November records, in Vooous order, to B N Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham NE46 1SX by 8 December at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Anderson M G, Annan C R, Armstrong M E, Bagshaw E, Bankier A M, Banks A H, Barratt K I, Bates B S, Bentley M, Booth J S, Bowman G, Bradshaw C, Brooks K V, Bull G P, Cadwallender TA & ML, Chadwick I, Crabtree E, Davidson I S, Davis A J, Dickson W, Douglas I R, Dutton J, Fergusson J E, Fisher I, Foggo N, Forster R S, Frankis M P, Freeman M A, Galloway B, Garson P J, Hall L, Hampton C D, Henry M, Hepple M (MHP), Hetherington A, Hodgson M S, Holgate D, Holmes R M, Howat J & M, Huxley K, Irving J R, Jack A S, Janes A, Jardine D C, Johnston A J, Kanefsky C, Kelly W A, Kerr I, Logan W T, McDougall L J, McKeown D, McLevy A D, Moorhouse I D, Mould A D, Norman R, Norris ET & JR, Parnaby S P, Pollinger G C, Priest A, Purvis A I, Rhodes D, Richardson M, Rossiter B N, Rushbrooke G S, Russel L & J, Rutter J W, Savage W G, Sexton S, Sharp M J, Shaw M B, Slack E, Smith M R, Snart S, Stephenson R K, Tams T J, Thain T, Todd J R, Turner D M, Walton R, Watson T P M, Waugh R G, Welbury J, West P W, Westerberg S, Winter M, Woodhall A B, York KW, Bamburgh Ringing Station, Druridge Bay Nature Res, Hauxley Ringing Station, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

This months bulletin has been written by Graeme Bowman, Alan Johnston, Ian Kerr, Nick Rossiter and Dee McKeown. Illustrations of Radde's Warbler by Stuart Sexton, Barred Warbler by Alan Hart and Little Bunting by Ian Fisher.

INDOOR MEETING - 12th December 1991

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 12th December in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Building, Newcastle University at 7.00 pm. Our guest speaker is Roger Forster who will talk on 'Birding in SW Ireland'.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

These are now well overdue. If you have not paid your subscription this will be the last bulletin you will receive.

1991 BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE YEAR

Enclosed with this bulletin is an entry form for this annual event. Many club members take photographs so why not enter this year. Who knows yours could be the winning slide shown at next years members night.

ACCOUNTS

Enclosed are details of Accounts for year ended 31 August 1991.

GUIDE TO SUBMITTING ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS

Updated guidelines on submitting your sightings to the N + TBC are attached to this bulletin. Please read them as some important changes have been made.

THE FIRST OF THESE IS THE FACT THAT THE  
COUNTRY IS A RICH ONE IN NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND THAT THE PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF  
EXPLOITING THEM.

THE SECOND FACT IS THAT THE  
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# NORTHUMBERLAND & TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

## 1991 BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE YEAR

Enteries are invited for the annual club photographic competition. All enteries must be submitted by 31 January 1992.

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 £1.00p per class.
4. Photographs must have been taken during 1991.
5. Photographs of captive birds are not allowed.
6. Any photograph 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.
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 1991

#### ENTRY FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS	SPECIES	WHERE PHOTOGRAPHED
A1		
A2		
A3		
B1		
B2		
B3		

Fee enclosed £                      Signed  
Entries to be submitted to: A. Brunt, 7, Highmoor, Kirkhill,  
Morpeth. NE61 2AL





NORTHUMBERLAND AND TYNESIDE BIRD CLUB

Accounts for 11 Months ended 31 August 1991

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

INCOME

	£	£
Members Subscriptions (280 members)		3,098.00
Sales - Birds in Northumbria - 1990 (to NHS)	340.00	
- " " " - 1989	751.78	
- " " " - Previous Years	60.30	
- Access Guides	175.20	
- Other	<u>67.80</u>	1,395.08
Refund of Income Tax (Covenanted Subscriptions)		395.78
Supply of Survey Data (Newcastle Great Park & Arcot Hall Developments)		900.00
Bank Account Interest - Deposit Account	200.65	
- Atlas Account	<u>12.66</u>	213.31
Misc.		<u>117.27</u>
		6,119.44

EXPENDITURE

Subscriptions	48.40	
Indoor Meetings	636.50	
Monthly Bulletin	1,410.37	
Birds in Northumbria 1990	2,096.00	
Officers' Expenses (inc. postages)	398.98	
Printing	245.03	
Misc.	<u>117.62</u>	4,952.90

Profit for Year 1,166.54

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 1991**

**ACCUMULATED FUND**

£

Balance as at 1 October 1990	5,820.28
+ Profit from Income and Expenditure Account	<u>1,166.54</u>
	<u>6,986.82</u>

**Represented By:-**

**ASSETS**

Stock - Birds in Northumbria etc.		950.70
Debts - Birds in Northumbria 1990 (NHS)		340.00
Cash - In Hand	6.86	
- Current Account	458.78	
- Deposit Account	4,122.24	
- Atlas Account	<u>1,152.24</u>	<u>5,740.12</u>
		<u>7,030.82</u>

**Less LIABILITIES**

Creditors - subscriptions for 1991/92 (paid in advance)	44.00
	<u>6,986.82</u>

**HONORARY AUDITOR'S REPORT**

I hereby certify that the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account are a true representation of the financial affairs of the Club, as evidenced by the books, vouchers and other information supplied to me.

.....  
  
**BRIAN ARMSTRONG**

7 November 1991



# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

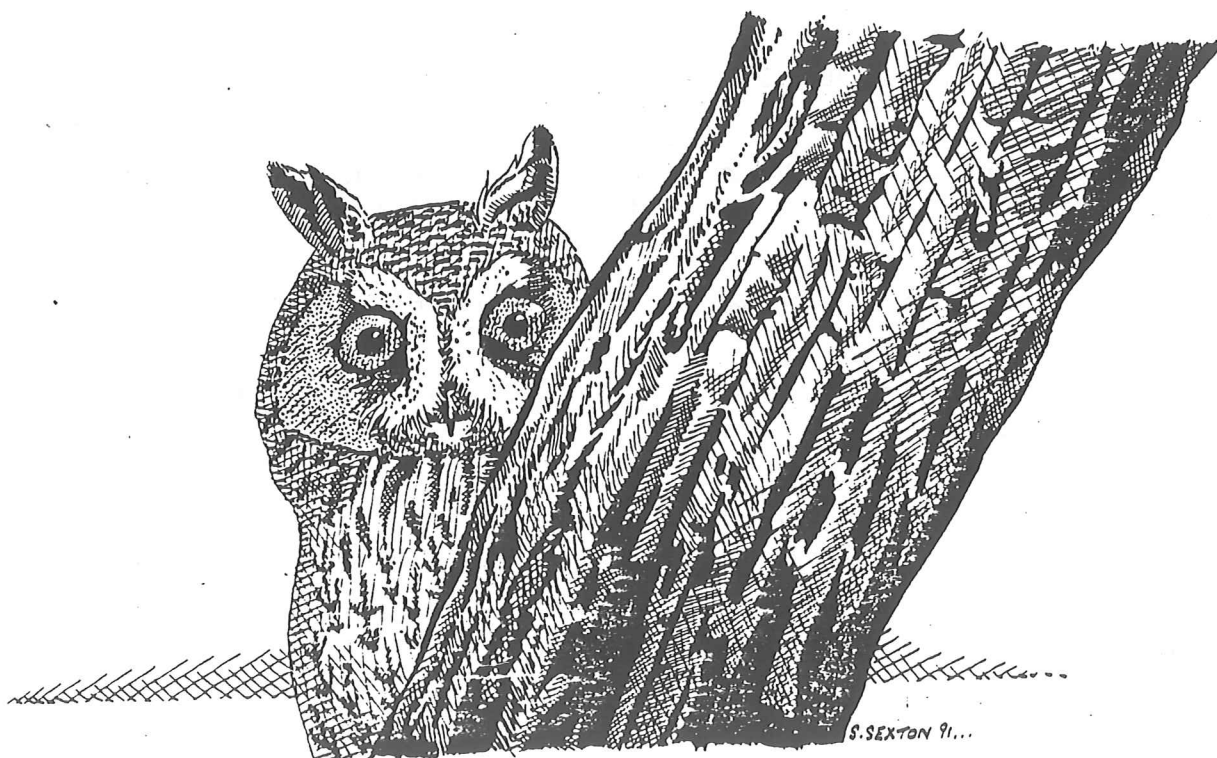
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## MONTHLY SUMMARY - NOVEMBER 1991

November began wet, then by 9th cold frosty weather had become dominant until very cold conditions on 16th resulted in many ponds becoming completely frozen. Milder temperatures returned by the month end. The generally dull weather was mirrored by the lack of the much sought after rarity. However, there was still some interesting species. An Avocet was found at Lindisfarne on 27th-28th, while a Little Stint was seen on the newly ploughed field near St Mary's Island on 8th. A Black Guillemot at the Farnes on 16th had been seen on several dates from 26th October.

Numbers of our wintering wildfowl increased with the largest herd of Whooper Swans being 77 at Linton. Bewick's Swans were noted at Big Waters, Cresswell and Linton. Two 'redhead' Smew were seen at Ladyburn Lake and a single at Big Waters. At least five Hen Harriers were reported.

Large flocks of Brambling, Fieldfare and Redwing were scarce but Waxwings appeared from 19th with the biggest flock of 40 noted at Morpeth with smaller numbers at another ten localities. Great Grey Shrikes were found at Ellington on 12th and Big Waters on 17th. Other interesting species involved Buzzard, Ruff, Iceland Gull, Little Auk, Black Redstart, Jack Snipe, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler.



S. SEXTON 91...

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

15 were in Druridge Bay on 13th (ES), five at Stag Rocks on 17th, seven in Blyth Bay on 23rd and one-four at five other localities.

Black-throated Diver

A single was on Druridge Pool and Cresswell Pond on 30th (SS/NF et al). It or another was on the sea in Druridge Bay and off Cresswell on 9th and 10th.

Great Northern Diver

A single was on Ladyburn Lake DBCP on 9th (WD/JRT).

Little Grebe

A maximum of 23 was on Cresswell Pond on 14th (DBNR), ten at Castle Island on 3rd (IK/BG) and six in the Aln Estuary on 7th (MLC). One-three were at another six localities.

Great-crested Grebe

Two were at Big Waters until 9th with a single remaining until 16th (AJJ). Other singles were inland at Whittle Dene and on the coast at Druridge Bay, Stag Rocks and Hauxley.

Red-necked Grebe

Singles were at Hauxley, Stag Rocks, on the Coquet at Warkworth and between Seahouses and Budle Point.

Slavonian Grebe

Two were off Stag Rocks on 13th (ES/WLT) and at Holy Island on 30th (KN).

Fulmar

Four were at Tynemouth on 30th (DM).

Cormorant

Maximum counts were of 76 at Amble Harbour (SS/NF), 65 at N Shields Fish Quay, 43 at Blyth Harbour (DMT/LJM) and 31 at Hallington (L+KR).

Shag

Around 100 at Stag Rocks on 13th was the only record (ES).

Grey Heron

12 were roosting near Blyth power station on 15th (LJM). One-six were at another 19 localities.

Mute Swan

165 were in the Tweed Estuary on 15th (CK). Elsewhere maximum counts were of 29 at Killingworth Lake, 23 at Rayburn Lake and 14 at Capheaton and Amble Harbour.

Bewick's Swan

Two adults remained at Big Waters until at least 15th, two were also at Cresswell Pond on 23rd. Four adults and two juveniles were at Old Moor Farm at Linton on 28th.

Whooper Swan

The largest herds were of 77 at Old Moor Farm, Linton on 28th (DBNR), 57 at Cresswell on 13th 40 at Rayburn Lake on 9th and 36 at Grindon Lough on 5th.

Bean Goose

One was with Greylags in Budle Bay on 30th (MW/GPB).

Pink-footed Goose

95 flew S at Whittle Dene on 3rd (MR), 13 were at Holywell Pond on 16th (JRT), nine at Druridge Bay CP on 17th (ADM) and at Derwent on 22nd (RKS). One-six were at another six localities.

White-fronted Goose

Four flew S over Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) when four were also at Grindon Lough. Four were still present on 9th and a single on 29th.

Greylag Goose

The largest flocks involved 550 at Caistron on 24th, 448 at Holywell Pond on 15th, 425 at Derwent on 22nd, 286 in Budle Bay and 290 at Grindon Lough.

Canada Goose

The only records were of six at Grindon Lough on 2nd (JSB) and 155 at Capheaton on 3rd (MSH).

Barnacle Goose

105 were at Ross Links on 8th (ID) and 70-75 in Budle Bay on 10th and 17th. Five were at Grindon Lough on 9th and one-two at Whittle Dene, Cresswell and Holywell Pond.

Brent Goose

400 were at Fenham Flats on 24th (BRS). Elsewhere sightings of the dark-bellied race involved two at Boulmer on 9th-10th (IK), three at Cresswell Pond between 1st-9th with a single remaining until 30th (DBNR et al).

Shelduck

300 were in Budle Bay on 17th when 14 were at Walkworth Gut (ASH) and six were at Hauxley Reserve. Inland four were at Colt Crag on 6th (MR) and two at Hallington on 9th and 16th.

Wigeon

c200 were at Capheaton on 3rd (MSH), 349 at Cresswell Pond on 9th (DBNR) and 950 at Grindon Lough on 17th when 700 in Budle Bay (BNR/BRS).

Gadwall

Five-seven were present at Ladyburn Lake DBCP all month (TAC). One-three were also at Big Waters, Hauxley Reserve, Linton and Cresswell Ponds.

Teal

400 were at Holburn Moss on 3rd (ISD), 261 at Druridge Pools on 24th (DBNR), 202 at Caistron and 210 at Swallow Pond. 110-172 were also at Budle Bay, Big Waters, Whittle Dene and Grindon Lough.

Mallard

A maximum of 551 was at Big Waters on 30th (AJJ), 408 were at Derwent on 16th (BNR) and c400 at Budle Bay on 17th (BRS). 100-200 were noted at a further nine ponds.

Pintail

Eleven were at Budle Bay on 17th (JRT), three at Hauxley Reserve on 2nd (DBNR) and one-two at Bolam Lake, Arcot Ponds, Druridge, Cresswell and Big Waters.

Shoveler

The highest count was of 45 at Big Waters on 2nd (SPP), eight were at Druridge Pools on 25th (DHH) and one-five at eight other localities.

Pochard

Peaks of only 70 were at Capheaton on 3rd and Ladyburn Lake on 8th (MSH/TAC), 20-27 were at Big Waters, Cresswell, Hauxley and Caistron.

Tufted Duck

56 were at Druridge Pools on 17th (DBNR) and around 90 were present at Ladyburn Lake all month (TAC), 24-33 were at Caistron, Rayburn Lake, Killingworth Lake, Whittle Dene and Cresswell and Linton Ponds.

Scaup

Coastal records involved 12 at Castle Island on 3rd (IK/BG), six at Hauxley Reserve on 16th and one-three at Newton Pool, Druridge Pools, Boulmer and Ladyburn Lake. Singles were inland at Whittle Dene on 3rd and 10th (MR).

Eider

On 10th, 1,960 were between Budle Point and Seahouses (RN), 300 were at Cambois on 20th and 163 off Stag Rocks on 24th.

Long-tailed Duck

84 were off Ross on 17th (JRT). Three-five were present at Ladyburn Lake all month. Four were at Hauxley and singles at Long Nannyburn, Amble Braid and Cresswell. Inland singles were at Whittle Dene on 3rd (MR) and Hartburn Lake on 10th (MW).

Common Scoter

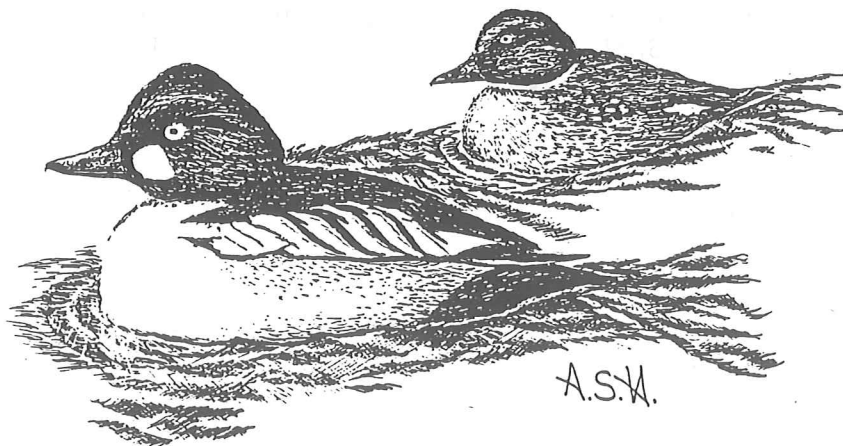
700 were off Stag Rocks on 17th (BRS), 400 were in Druridge Bay off the Country Park on 23rd (DMT), 70 flew N at Newbiggin on 16th (ASM). A single was on Druridge Pools on 3rd (BG/IK).

Velvet Scoter

Six were in Druridge Bay on 6th (ES/WTL), five were off Cresswell on 17th and 23rd (SS/NF). Five flew N at St Mary's Island on 15th (WAK).

Goldeneye

Up to 80 were in the Tweed Estuary on 15th (CK) Inland 67 were on the Tyne between Newburn and Wylam, 65 were at Whittle Dene on 23rd (L+KR) and 32 at Derwent on 7th (RMH). One-26 were at a further 21 coastal and inland localities, including two on the Ouse Burn in Jesmond Dene.



Smew

Two 'redheads' were at Ladyburn Lake on 20th with singles present on 17th and 24th (TAC). A single 'redhead' was at Big Waters from 20th-30th.

Red-breasted Merganser

A maximum of 20 was on Ladyburn Lake on 4th (TAC). One-six were at a further nine localities.

Goosander

At least 74 were noted on the Tyne at Wylam on 23rd (JSB) when 36 were on Whittle Dene (L+KR). One-19 were at a further ten localities.

Ruddy Duck

One was at Hauxley Reserve on 1st (DBNR).

Hen Harrier

An adult cock was at Druridge Bay on 3rd (IK/BG/AHB et al). 'Ringtails' were at Elsdon on 2nd and Alnham on 3rd (per IK) while a tired individual with an injured leg was at Dunstanburgh on 16th (ES/MBS/WTL et al). Another 'ringtail' was in Harwood Forest on 24th (SS/NF).

Goshawk

A female was near Barrasford on 29th.

Sparrowhawk

Individuals were noted hunting through gardens at Walbottle, Killingworth and Stobswold while singles were also reported from 19 other widespread localities.

Buzzard

A single was over Stocksfield on 29th (per JD).

Kestrel

One-two were reported from 11 typical lowland wintering areas.

Merlin

Two-three were at Lindisfarne while singles were seen in six other coastal and five inland localities.

Peregrine

Coastal singles were seen at Budle Bay (AHB), St Mary's Island (WAK), Monks House Pool (MLC) and Boulmer (NF/JWR) while an individual at Whittle Dene (MR) was the only inland report.

Red Grouse

A party of 15 was at Allenheads on 10th (BNR/JD).

Black Grouse

A group of ten at Allenheads on 10th was the only report (BNR/JD).

Red-legged Partridge/Chukar

Ten at Ridley Hall on 23rd may represent recent releases for shooting (RKS).

Grey Partridge

Coveys of nine were noted at Big Waters and Longhoughton Low Stead (DM/RKS) while seven were at Cresswell and five at Hauxley (DBNR).



Pheasant

67 including a pure white bird were noted at Allenbanks (RKS), six fed on the edge of Colt Crag Reservoir (L+KR) and four were at Hauxley Reserve during the month (DBNR).

Water Rail

Birds were settled in winter quarters with two at Gosforth Park (BJL) and singles at Big Waters (PV/BM et al), Cresswell Pond (GAS), Holywell Pond (RW) and Newton Pool (RKS). Much more unusual was a single flushed from a ditch in blanket conifers in Harwood Forest (SS).

Coot

Numbers remained lower than usual with peak counts of 193 at Ladyburn Lake, 180 at Capheaton, 88 at Cresswell, 68 at Caistron, 67 at Rayburn Lake, 47 at Hartburn Lake, 27 at Whittle Dene and only 22 at Big Waters.

Moorhen

Counts showed peaks of 22 at Ladyburn Lake, 15 at Cresswell, 13 at Hauxley Reserve and 11 at Big Waters.

WADER COUNTS - The following areas were covered : St Mary's Island (IM), Hartley Point-S Blyth (KVB), Blyth Estuary (LJMcD), Newbiggin-Cresswell Village (MGA), Cresswell-Chevington (EC/MRS/ISD), Coquet Estuary (PWW), Alnmouth-Boulmer (ES/WTL), Boulmer-Howick (IK), Beadnell-Seahouses (MLC/AS), Seahouses-Budle Point (RN) and Tweed Estuary (CK).

Oystercatcher

A reduction in numbers from October was noted with 856 on monthly count.

Avocet

A single was at Holy Island Causeway on 27th-28th (DS/WD).

Ringed Plover

A total of 157 were found on the monthly count.

Golden Plover

The biggest concentrations were 2,000+ at Newbiggin and Long Nannyburn, 1,500 at St Mary's Island, 1,400 at Budle Bay, 600 at Druridge and inland 500 at Hallington and 450 on ice-covered Grindon Lough on 17th.

Grey Plover

Small groups were noted on the monthly count which produced a total of 69 spread along the coast. 22 at Longhoughton Steel was the biggest concentration while 17 were at Cresswell and 12 between Football Hole-Long Nannyburn.

Lapwing

As expected, the largest flocks were on the coast with peak counts of 1,600 in Budle Bay, 1,500+ at Cresswell Pond and 1,000 at Seaton Sluice. But considerable numbers remained inland, the biggest groups being 600 at Derwent, 500 at Caistron, 450 at Grindon Lough, 400 at Tyne Green, 300 at Hallington and 250 at Cramlington.

Knot

A total of 500 on the monthly count included 250 in the favoured area at St Mary's Island. The only other big flock noted was 470 at Stag Rocks on 24th (RKS).

Sanderling

The main concentrations were 52 at Hauxley beach on 3rd (DBNR), 135c at St Mary's Island on 16th (DMT) and 26 at Long Nannyburn on 24th (RKS).

Little Stint

A single was with other waders on the controversial newly-ploughed field near St Mary's Island on 8th (NW).

Purple Sandpiper

Numbers remained very low with 101 at North Blyth being the only significant group (LJM).

Dunlin

Numbers remained steady with 1,162 being noted on the monthly count. Inland movement continued with 80 at Hallington on 16th (L+KR), 19 at Wallsend Swallow Pond (SPP) and one-three noted at Grindon Lough, Colt Crag and Big Waters.

Ruff

A late single was at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (DBNR).

Jack Snipe

They were noted in typical wintering areas with a peak of nine at Whittle Dene (MR) and singles at Wallsend Swallow Pond and Ordley.

Snipe

The biggest concentrations were 108 at Whittle Dene and 100+ at Wallsend Swallow Pond (MR/SPP) while 38 were at Grindon Lough (RKS) and seven-ten at Slaley, Hauxley Reserve, Warkworth Lane Pond and Big Waters.

Woodcock

Six were in Gosforth Park on 24th (DH) while singles were also noted during the month at Slaley Hall, Hauxley and Newcastle University where one was flushed by a dog.

Black-tailed Godwit

One-two were in Budle Bay between 10th-24th (AHB/RKS).

Bar-tailed Godwit

They were noted in small numbers along the coast with a total of 123 on the monthly count.

Curlew

Coastal numbers stayed low with only 172 on the monthly count. However, there was a separate count of 143 at Long Nannyburn on 3rd (RKS). Two at Caistrion on 24th provided the only inland record (BNR/JD).

Redshank

Coastal numbers showed a decline with 756 on the monthly count. Some remained inland with ten at Wallsend Swallow Pond, eight at Close House and one-four at seven other widespread localities.

Turnstone

A big reduction was revealed on the monthly count with only 555 being noted, less than half October's total. A single was inland at Colt Crag on 6th (MR).

Pomarine Skua

A single immature flew N at Druridge on 7th (IF).

Arctic Skua

Two moved S at Druridge on 9th, another was off Cresswell on 10th where one rested on the sea on 17th. A single was also off Newbiggin on 19th.

Mediterranean Gull

Single adults were at Craster on 13th (ES/WTL), North Blyth on 15th (LJM) and Big Waters on 16th (PR).

Little Gull

A second winter was at Holywell on 2nd (ES/DRS/WTL) and an adult at the same locality on 9th (ISD).

Black-headed Gull

Roost counts showed a record inland gathering of 13,000 at Scotswood on 20th with 2,000 at Hallington on 9th, 1,500 at Derwent on 16th, 1,200 at Castron on 24th and 230 at Broomlee (BNR/JD). On the coast, 1,000 were between Boulmer and Howick on 9th (IK), 900 in the Tyne Estuary on 23rd (DMT), 750 from Alnmouth-Boulmer and 250-560 at six other localities.

Common Gull

Numbers at inland roosts were steady with 16,000 at Hallington on 9th, 6,600 at Derwent on 16th, 1,550 at Broomlee on 11th, 850 at Colt Crag and 42 at Castron. The Budle Bay roost showed its usual sharp late-autumn decline to 4,100 by 23rd (BNR/JD) and elsewhere on the coast, 200 were at Amble on 10th, 100 in the Tyne Estuary from 20th-29th (DMT) and 85 at Hauxley shore on 5th (DBNR).

Lesser Black Backed Gull

Very few remained. Three at Derwent on 16th included two adults showing characteristics of the intermedius race, a single adult roosted at Broomlee on 11th (BNR) and other singles were noted at Big Waters on 3rd (JAB) and Grindon on 2nd (RKS).

Herring Gull

Inland roosts rose sharply with 1,020 at Derwent on 16th, 330 at Hallington on 9th and 280 at Scotswood on 20th (BNR). 700 were in the Tyne Estuary on 2nd and 27th, 500 in Blyth Harbour on 16th, 400 at Amble on 17th (DMT) and 58-227 at two other localities. Adults showing characteristics of the argentatus race comprised three at North Shields on 3rd and 22nd and one on 16th (DMT). One of these on 3rd was of the thayeri type.

Iceland Gull

An adult was on the Black Middens, Tynemouth on 30th (GB).

Great Black Backed Gull

The highest counts were 350 in Blyth Harbour on 2nd, 210 at Amble on 10th (DMT), 131 at North Shields, 120 from Boulmer-Howick and from Cresswell-East Chevington and 34-82 at six other coastal localities. Inland 56 roosted at Derwent on 16th and 34 at Hallington on 9th with one feeding on salmon at Tarsset on 19th (BNR/DCJ).

Kittiwake

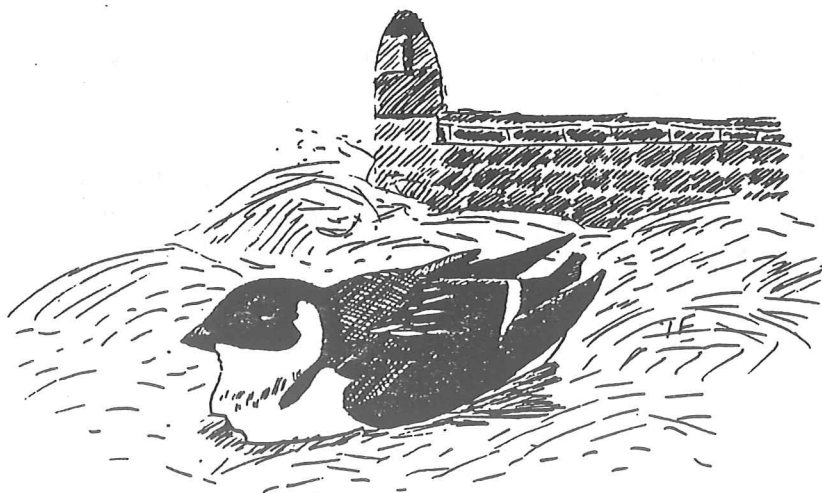
27 were noted at Seahouses on 10th (MLC/AS) with 11-21 at Blyth, Amble and North Shields during the month (DMT).

Black Guillemot

One off the Farnes on 16th had been seen earlier on several dates from 26th October (WD).

Little Auk

Four flew S at St Mary's Island on 19th (WAK) and singles were at Hauxley on 6th and 16th (DBNR). One bird 'wrecked' well-inland at Burdonside on 9th died shortly after being taken into care (BR).

Stock Dove

45 fed with sheep at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (RKS), 13 were at Whittle Dene on 3rd (MR) and two-five at Bothal, Grindon, Warkworth Lane and Druridge Bay Country Park.

Woodpigeon

200-300 were at Arcot Ponds and Caistron.

Collared Dove

48 were at Hauxley on 27th (HRS), 16 at Craster on 1st (ISD) and four in Corbridge on 2nd.

Barn Owl

Singles were at Widdrington (two sites), Longhirst, Angerton, Druridge Pools and Cresswell Pond.

Little Owl

One was at High Hauxley on 16th (DBNR) and another at Backworth on 23rd (WAK).

Tawny Owl

The only record was one hunting in daylight at Sleafy Hall on 13th.

Long-eared Owl

One was at Dunstanburgh on 16th (ES et al).

Short-eared Owl

On or near the coast, three were at Hauxley Reserve on 22nd, two at Cresswell on 3rd (DBNR) and near Woodhorn on 23rd (DHH) and singles at eleven other localities. Well inland, two were at Angerton on 24th (SS/NF) and one at Broomlee on 11th (BNR).

Kingfisher

Singles were seen at Jesmond Dene, Ridley Hall and between Warkworth and Amble.

Green Woodpecker

Singles were seen at Slaley Hall and Ordley. More unusual was one in roadside trees at Budle Bay on 10th (RKS).

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Two were at Slaley Hall and Walbottle (RMH/L+KR) with singles at ten other localities during the month. Birds fed on nuts at Pegswood, Stobswood, Gosforth Park, Walbottle, Matfen and Slaley Hall. One at Druridge Bay Country Park on 30th was the first record for this species there (TAC).

Skylark

Noticeable passage to W was noted in Cramlington on 3rd (LJM). 11 were at Warkworth Lane on 1st.

Swallow

Singles were at Warkworth Lane on 9th (DBNR), Hulne Park on 10th (WD/ADM) and at Stag Rocks/Bamburgh on 17th (GAS/ADM).

House Martin

Two late records : a single flew S at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) and possibly the same bird was at Craster the same day (ISD).

Meadow Pipit

60 roosted in heather at South Cartington on 20th (BJL).

Rock Pipit

12 were on Hauxley shore on 3rd (DBNR) and four at North Blyth and Boulmer.

Grey Wagtail

Three were at Jesmond Dene on 26th (MJL) and one at Hexham on 11th. On or near the coast, two were between Boulmer and Howick on 9th and 16th (RKS) and singles were at Lesbury, Hipsburn, Hauxley Reserve, Budle Bay and North Shields.

Waxwing

The first record was four over North Shields town centre on 19th (MJS). On 22nd, one was at Fenham (BJL) and three were well inland at Bellingham (BR). 21 were at the Holystone Roundabout, Shiremoor on 23rd (MKH). From 26th-30th, numbers increased with 40 at Morpeth Golf Club (GAS), 28 in Exhibition Park, Newcastle (PWW), 21 at Longbenton, 20 at South Gosforth and seven in Wideopen. One flew S at Newbiggin on 27th (AMB). 25 were in Sandy Lane, Gosforth Park on 30th (MSH).

Dipper

Four were at Hulne Park and singing birds were heard at Whittle Dene, Bellingham and Allenbanks.

Black Redstart

A male was at Boulmer on 9th (RKS). A female at Catton on 3rd (MB) continues the run of inland records for this species.

Stonechat

A pair was on Druridge links and a single at Druridge Pools on 17th and 23rd (WAK/SS/NF). Another pair was at Cresswell on 13th and a single was at Druridge Bay Country Park on 23rd. Inland, one was at Whittle Dene on 16th (JSB).

Blackbird

100 were at Warkworth Lane on 16th (DBNR) with 17-27 at Belsay and Walbottle.

Fieldfare

Only one record card was received : 50-55 were at Big Waters on 2nd and 18 at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd (SPP). The species seems to be very scarce this autumn.

Song Thrush

One was singing well at Cochrane Park, Newcastle on 30th (KIB).

Redwing

300 were at Belsay Hall on 9th (L+KR), 47 at Arcot on 24th (LJM) and 10-35 at Big Waters and Slailey Hall from 1st-2nd.

Mistle Thrush

One was in full song in Wylam on 30th (L+KR).

Blackcap

One was ringed at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS). Singles were at Gosforth Park and at Hulne Park on 24th (JAB/DH/MJS).



Chiffchaff

Singles were at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS), Northumberland Park - N Shields on 6th (ES/WTL), Big Waters on 23rd (AJJ), Bolam Lake on 24th (SS/NF) and Newbiggin on 27th (AMB).

Willow Warbler

Two very late birds were at Close House on 11th (L+KR).

Goldcrest

Very few were noted in usual feeding areas in Harwood Forest on 17th (IK). c25 were at Arcot Pond on 24th (LJM), five at Warkworth Lane on 6th and two at Hauxley on 1st (DBNR).

Pied Flycatcher

Further breeding results this summer are as follows (ASH) :

<u>Locality</u>	<u>No of Pairs</u>	<u>No of Eggs</u>	<u>No of Fledged Young</u>
Angerton	1	7	7

Long-tailed Tit

The largest tribes were 26 at Hyons Wood on 3rd (BNR/JD) and 20 at Corbridge on 15th (JD). 10-18 were noted at Big Waters, Felton Lane, Hulne Park and Slaley Hall.

Marsh Tit

Seven were at Hyons Wood on 3rd (BNR/JD). One-two were at Hexham, Hulne Park and Ordley.

Willow Tit

Six were at Belsay Hall on 9th (L+KR) and two were at Felton Lane on 15th (NF). Singles were at Arcot Pond, Big Waters and Warkworth Lane.

Coal Tit

Present in small numbers in Harwood Forest on 17th (IK). 21 were at Belsay Hall on 9th (L+KR) and three were at Gosforth Park on 24th (JAB).

Blue Tit

Further breeding results this summer are as follows (ASH) :

<u>Locality</u>	<u>No of Pairs</u>	<u>No of Eggs</u>	<u>No of Fledged Young</u>
Angerton	1	8	7
Mitford	8	60	53

90+ including a huge flock of 60+ were at Bolam Lake on 24th (SS/NF). 40 were at Hyons Wood on 30th (BNR/JD), 32 at Felton Lane on 12th (NF), 20 at Hauxley (DBNR) and 11 at a Walbottle garden (L+KR).

Great Tit

Further breeding results this summer are as follows (ASH) :

<u>Locality</u>	<u>No of Pairs</u>	<u>No of Eggs</u>	<u>No of Fledged Young</u>
Angerton	5	35	32
Mitford	4	32	32

Nuthatch

10+ were at Wallington Hall on 17th and five were at Bolam Lake on 24th (SS/NF). At least four were in Jesmond Dene on 2nd (MPF) and three were at Belsay Hall on 9th (L+KR). Singles were at Gosforth Park, Hexham, Hulne Park, Matfen and Slaley Hall.



Treecreeper

Four were at Allenbanks on 17th (RKS). One-two were noted at five widespread localities.

Great Grey Shrike

Singles were at Ellington on 12th (GAS) and at Big Waters on 17th (JAB).

Jay

Nine were at Hyons Wood on 3rd and four at Arcot Pond on 24th.

Magpie

Largest roosts were a minimum of 38 at Big Waters on 24th (GB) and 20-25 at Swallow Pond on 23rd (SPP).

Jackdaw

1,000 including one with white wings were at Lower Heddon on 11th. A pre-roost flock of 480 was at Derwent Reservoir on 16th.

Rook

200 were at Lower Heddon on 11th (L+KR).

Carrion Crow

Roosts of 50 were at Colt Crag on 10th and at Cresswell on 21st.

Starling

c910 were at Cresswell on 26th (DBNR) while 400-500 were roosting at Cambois on 16th (ASH).

Chaffinch

Largest gatherings were 100 at Derwent on 22nd (RKS) and 80 at Howick Wood on 1st (ISD).

Brambling

Two were at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (RKS). Singles were at Allenbanks, Big Waters, Cresswell and Gosforth Park.

Greenfinch

45 were at Druridge on 30th and 15 were at Cresswell on 12th (SS).

Goldfinch

The largest charms were 32 at Warkworth Lane on 25th (DBNR) and 15 at Big Waters on 17th and at Hauxley on 23rd (DM/DBNR). Seven were on Holy Island on 24th (MJS).

Siskin

18 were at Powburn on 30th (AMB) and 16 were at Hulne Park on 2nd (ES/DRS/WTL).

Linnet

The largest flocks were c70 at Derwent on 25th (RMH), 50 at Cresswell on 14th (DBNR) and 30 at Longhoughton Steel on 9th (RKS).

Twite

A flock of 14 was at Longhoughton Low Stead on 16th (RKS) and 12 were at Druridge Dunes on 10th (SS/NF).

Redpoll

c40 were at Slaley Hall on 11th (RMH) and four were at Pegswood on 23rd.

Crossbill

Only a party of 15 from a 3 hour visit to Harwood Forest was observed on 17th (IK). Three were at Thrunton Woods on 20th (BJL) and one was at Warkworth Lane on 7th (DBNR).

Bullfinch

Well reported with 30 at Hyons Wood on 3rd (BNR/JD) and 10 in Harwood Forest on 17th (IK). One-six were noted at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Howick Pond and Threestoneburn.

Hawfinch

Noted in Hulne Park throughout the month with a maximum of 11 on 30th (KN).

Lapland Bunting

Two were at Chevington Burn on 10th and at Widdrington on 30th (SS/NF). One was on Holy Island on 24th (MJS).

Snow Bunting

Eight were present at Chevington Burn on 10th (SS/NF) and three were at Ross Links on 8th (DBNR). Two flew north along the shore of Druridge Bay on 9th and one was at Druridge Pool on 2nd (ADM).

Yellowhammer

44 were at Hyons Wood on 3rd (BNR/JD) and 12 were at Warkworth Lane on 16th (DBNR).

Please send all December records, in Voous order, to B N Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham NE46 1SX by 8 January at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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This bulletin has been written by A J Johnston, I Kerr, B N Rossiter and D McKeown. Illustrations of Long-eared Owl by S Sexton, Goldeneye by A S Hart, Little Auk by I Fisher and Blackcap by M Eccles.

INDOOR MEETING - 9th January 1992

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th January in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Building, Newcastle University at 7.00 pm. Steve Percival will entertain us with a talk about Lindisfarne's Brent Geese.

1991 BIRD PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR

A reminder to all who take photographs, the entry form for this competition was included in the October Bulletin.

FIELD TRIP - 25th January 1992

The next field trip is to Bamburgh, Budle Bay and Ross, leader Mike Hodgson. If interested please write or ring Martin Davison on (091) 413 2914

Field Trip - 9th November 1991 - Caerlaverock and Starling Roost

The weather forecast was awful for the visit to this wildfowl paradise but luckily Fish and Co got it wrong again. It turned out to be a clear, crisp day with excellent opportunities to view birds. 16 of us met at Longtown at 9 am. In a few minutes we had noted good numbers of duck, a Great Crested Grebe and a pair of Whooper Swans circled above us before landing.

By 9.30 our convoy was off to Caerlaverock with the possibility of seeing a Red-breasted Goose - a first for most of us. A field near to the reserves car park revealed our first Barnacle Geese, a party of 90. From the deluxe reception hide we were greeted by a good variety of wildfowl. Most of the reserves 89 Whooper Swans were here along with the usual ducks, four Canada Geese and a few Greylag.

A quick trip into the tower gave us our first views of the 12,600 Barnacle Geese (the most the reserve has held) grazing in the adjacent fields. While searching for the Red-breasted Goose - very much like a needle in a haystack - amongst the Barnacles some of the group saw a Hooded Crow flying over while all were entertained by a pair of Buzzards.

We all then trekked to the Tower hide for a better view of the geese. On the way the tall hedgerows and trees provided shelter for a late Chiffchaff.

Views of the Barnacle Geese included a spectacular fly-past by 3,000 of them but still no joy in finding the Red-breasted.

By lunchtime we were all cramped into the hide on the edge of the Merse. Vast flocks of Oystercatcher, Dunlin, Curlew and other waders were roosting on the hide-tide line. Small parties of Shelduck and Scaup were just offshore while three Pink-footed Geese grazed on the Saltmarsh. A cracking Red Fox sunned himself for over five minutes near the hide.

A return trek to the Tower hide proved successful when Andy Brunt spotted the 1st winter Red-breasted Goose. Good views were had by all of this Russian speciality.

Our next stop was the Nith estuary with more waders and 50+ Pintail recorded. A Short-eared Owl lazily hunted over the Merse.

Finally we headed for the Starling roost north of Dumfries. On the journey a juvenile Peregrine was spotted. We arrived at the roost just before dusk to be greeted by silence, except for a distant Pheasant calling. Not one Starling appeared but we were compensated by a Barn Owl flying over the valley behind the roost site.

All in all an enjoyable days birdwatching with 67 species seen and many thanks to Andrew Brunt and Martin Davison for their leadership.

Dee McKeown





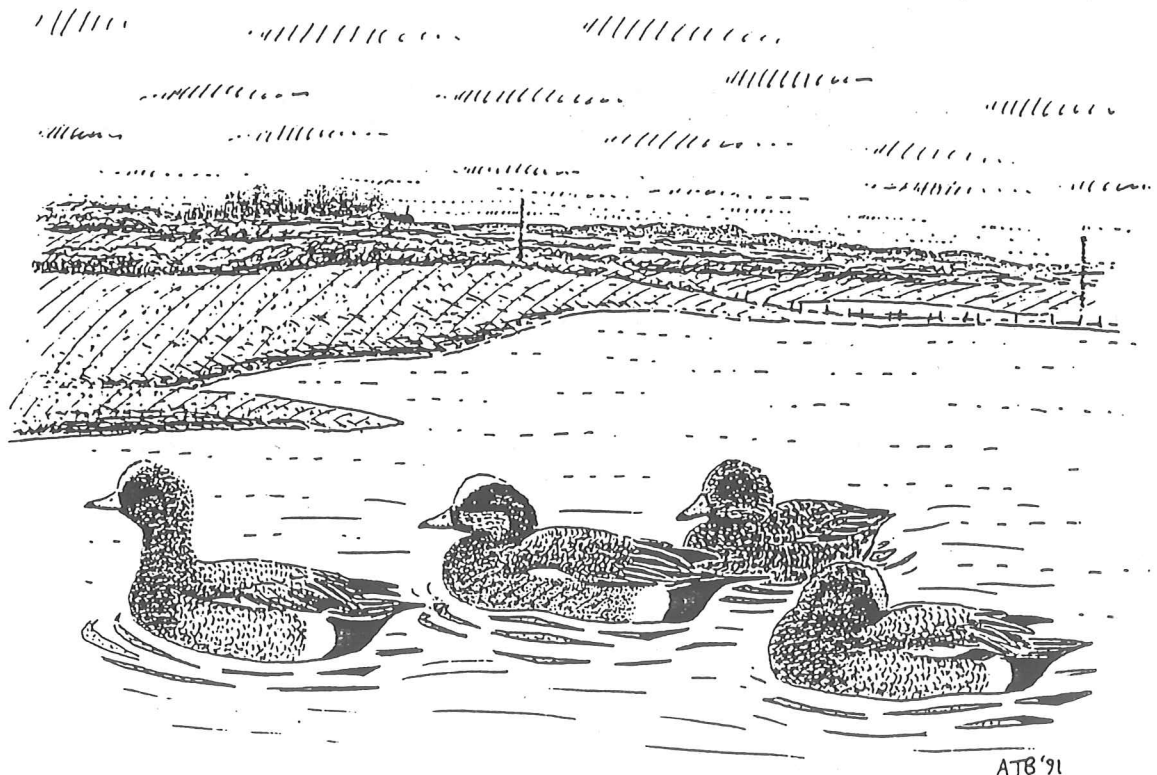
# Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club

## MONTHLY SUMMARY - DECEMBER 1991

Early December saw temperatures around freezing with overnight readings dropping to  $-6^{\circ}\text{C}$ . After 14th warmer conditions returned and the year ended wet and windy. The month's star bird was the county's sixth record of American Wigeon which remained at Cresswell Pond between 22nd-29th. Whooper and Bewick's Swans were a feature of the Linton-Cresswell area while Smew were noted at four localities. At least three male Hen Harriers were in the Border forests and two 'ringtails' at Grindon Lough and Harwood.

Large flocks of Waxwing were reported with 120 at Morpeth and smaller numbers in 16 other areas. However, no large gatherings of Fieldfare or Redwing were noted. A female Black Redstart was at Hadston on 27th-28th. Wintering Blackcaps were found at five sites, however few large flocks of Finches were seen. Corn Buntings, however, were well represented with a roost of 43 in the Ashington-Newbiggin area on 24th.

Other interesting species noted this month included White-fronted Goose, Buzzard, Black-tailed Godwit, Little, Iceland and Glaucous Gulls 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

26 were at Stag Rocks on 8th (RKS) and six flew N and one S at Seaton Sluice on 29th (MRS). One-four were at another four localities. More unusual was a single at Arcot Pond on 4th and 5th (LJM). It was later found dead on 1st January 1992.

Black-throated Diver

Singles were at Hauxley on 7th and in Druridge Bay on 5th and 28th (DBNR/MPF).

Great Northern Diver

One was in Druridge Bay on 15th and 29th with two present on 22nd (NF/SS).

Little Grebe

A maximum of 18 were at Cresswell Pond on 9th (DBNR). One-four were at another four coastal ponds. One-two were on the Aln at Foxton and on the Tweed at Norham.

Great-crested Grebe

A single at Cresswell Pond on 2nd and in Druridge Bay on 28th were the only reports (DBNR/DM).

Red-necked Grebe

One in Druridge Bay on 7th was the only record (IRD).

Slavonian Grebe

Two at Stag Rocks on 8th and a single present on 29th (RKS) were the only sightings.

Fulmar

At least 17 were on cliffs between St Mary's Island-Hartley Point on 25th (IDM), 12 roosted on Coquet Island on 28th (DM) and on 29th 18 were at Tynemouth and 14 at Stag Rocks (MRS/RKS).

Cormorant

Harbours again attracted the largest concentrations with 68 at North Shields Fish Quay on 21st, 67 at Amble on 19th and 27 at Blyth on 14th. Inland 30 were at Hallington on 7th when 15 were between Wylam-Newburn. One-12 were at another eight sites.

Grey Heron

13 were at Blyth Power Station on 8th (LJM) and six at Berwick harbour on 29th (MSH). One-five were at a further 25 localities.

Mute Swan

48 were at Wark on Tweed on 29th (MSH), 33 at Killingworth Lake on 11th (L+KR), 21 at Rayburn Lake, 17 at Gosforth Park and 16 at Capheaton.

Bewick's Swan

Three adults and two juveniles were at Old Moor Farm Linton on 3rd with one-two adults remaining until at least 14th (DBNR). Four adults flew SW at Cresswell Pond on 7th (ADM). Two were at Wark on Tweed on 29th and at Warkworth on 26th.

Whooper Swan

A maximum of 80 were at Old Moor Farm Linton on 1st (ADM et al), 72 at Warkworth Lake on 27th and 67 at Cresswell Pond on 28th, 16-27 were at Broomlee, Coldstream and Rayburn Lake.

Pink-footed Goose

1,014 were at Holburn on 28th (JRT), 22 were at Ellington on 7th (GAS) and 25-29 were noted flying over Cresswell, Warkworth Lane and Tarsset. One-six were at another six localities.

White-fronted Goose

Two were at Ellington on 7th and near QE II Country Park on 29th.

Greylag Goose

The largest concentration were 610 at Caistron on 26th (BN + AFR), 600 at Minsteracres on 3rd (RMH), 535 at Whittle Dene on 8th (MR), 450 at Wark on Tweed, 400 at Holywell Pond and 200-250 at Grindon Lough and Wallsend Swallow Pond.

Canada Goose

102 were at Capheaton on 14th (JRT), 99 at Hallington on 27th (MSH) and four-nine at Corbridge, Greenlee and Cresswell.

Barnacle Goose

Three were at Whittle Dene on 7th and 8th (IK/BG et al) and seven at the same locality on 14th-15th (MJS/RGW).

Brent Goose

A dark bellied individual was at Cresswell Pond between 4th-7th and at Linton Pond on 15th. A single pale bellied bird was at Druridge Pools on 27th-31st (DBNR).

Shelduck

214 were in Budle Bay on 8th (RKS).

Wigeon

800 were in Budle Bay on 29th (RKS), 628 at Cresswell Pond on 21st (MGA), 550 at Derwent on 13th (RMH) and 407 at Grindon Lough on 28th, 140-210 were also at Wooperton, Whittle Dene and Capheaton.

American Wigeon

A male was at Cresswell Pond between 22nd-29th (JB et al). On 26th it was also at Druridge Pools.

Gadwall

Up to nine were at Ladyburn Lake, eight at Hauxley Reserve and one-two at Gosforth Park, Linton Pond, Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools.

Teal

400 were at Druridge Pools on 28th (DBNR), 308 in Budle Bay on 8th (RKS), 300 at Swallow Pond on 7th (SPP), 280 at Holywell Pond and 200 at Grindon Lough.

Mallard

613 were at Big Waters on 1st (AJJ), 560 at Derwent on 7th (RKS), 490 at Caistron and 481 in Budle Bay. 200-350 were at Holywell Pond, Whittle Dene and Druridge Pools.

Pintail

Eight were in Budle Bay on 1st (AHB) when six at Druridge Pools, five were at Grindon Lough on 28th. One-two were also at Big Waters, Hauxley Reserve, Cresswell, Linton Pond and Gosforth Park.



Shoveler

23 were at Big Waters on 14th (AJJ), ten at Druridge Pools, nine at Ladyburn Lake and one-five at Bakethin, Cresswell Pond, Warkworth Lane, Derwent and Swallow Pond.

Pochard

The largest flocks were of 73 at Druridge Pools on 31st, 59 at Big Waters on 29th (GB) and 53 at Ladyburn Lake on 17th (TAC), 12-32 were at a further eight sites.

Tufted Duck

63 were at Ladyburn Lake on 17th (TAC) and 62 at Whittle Dene on 15th (MR), 30-54 were also at Linton Pond, Killingworth Lake, Bolam Lake, Druridge Pools and Cresswell Pond.

Scaup

Inland records involved a male at Caistron on 14th (WD) and a female at Killingworth Lake on 3rd (L+KR). The immature present at Whittle Dene since October was present throughout the month (MR). On the coast ten were at Hauxley Reserve and at Beadnell, five at Newton Pool and a single at Cresswell Pond.

Eider

2,000 were between Budle Point-Seahouses on 8th (RN). 800 were at Newbiggin (MGA), 400 at North Blyth (DM) and 198 at Seaton Sluice (IDM).

Long-tailed Duck

110 were in Alnmouth Bay on 8th (ET/JRN) when 16 at Stag Rocks (RKS). One-four were on Ladyburn Lake throughout the month and up to five at Hauxley Reserve.

Common Scoter

210 were off Stag Rocks on 29th (RKS). More unusual was a single on Grindon Lough on 1st (IK/BG).

Velvet Scoter

14 were off Newbiggin on 15th (JGS), eight at North Blyth on 13th (APM), five in Druridge Bay on 15th (NF/SS) and singles off Stag Rocks and in Alnmouth Bay.

Goldeneye

300+ were in Berwick harbour on 29th (MSH), 164 at Cambois on 13th (WAK), 125 at Castle Island on 24th (JGS). Inland 72 were at Newburn on 8th (PL) and 55 at Capheaton on 1st (JRT).

Smew

A single 'redhead' remained at Big Waters until 5th (AJJ et al), it or another was on Killingworth Lake on 3rd (L+KR). Two 'redheads' were at Ladyburn Lake on 15th with one remaining till the end of the month (TAC). Singles were on the sea with Goldeneye at Cambois on 28th-29th (DM/AMB).

Red-breasted Merganser

Six were off Newbiggin and one-three at nine coastal sites.

Goosander

Up to 100 were between Close House-Wylam and 50 at Whittle Dene (IK/MR). One-seven were at another 13 localities.

Hen Harrier

Single 'ringtails' were noted at Grindon Lough (BG/IK/SS) and another was roosting in Harwood Forest (ADM). Up to three adult males were in the Border forests area during the month (SS/MH).

Goshawk

Splendid views were provided by a male out hunting across open moorland near Otterburn on 29th (IK/BG).

Sparrowhawk

They were prominent hunting through gardens in at least five areas of Newcastle. Apart from these suburban sightings, records were received of one-two in a further 17 inland and eight coastal localities.

Buzzard

A single was in the Stobswood area between 4th-12th (NF) while another fed on a rabbit in a field alongside the A1 at South Charlton on 27th (MJS).

Kestrel

Six in the Irthing Gorge area on 15th may have indicated an abundance of voles (BNR/JD). Other records included a pair displaying at Cramlington (LJM) and singles in seven other areas. A female attacked and injured a Golden Plover near St Mary's Island on 21st (PC).

Merlin

They were well reported with one-two noted from 11 coastal areas and from four lowland localities inland. More unusual were singles close to three inland breeding areas.

Peregrine

Pairs were holding two established breeding sites and display was seen in a potential nesting area (IK/MSH). Singles were noted in two other inland areas. On the coast two were noted at Lindisfarne and Druridge Bay Country Park and there were sightings of singles from five other areas.

Red Grouse

Gatherings of 48 and 30 were noted at Ouston Fell and Coalcleugh respectively (BNR/RKS). During bright frosty weather on 27th many displayed on the Simonsides (IK).

Black Grouse

Eleven cocks and two greyhens were at Ouston Fell on 24th (BNR). A single at Acton Moor was the only other record.

Partridge

The main coveys involved 25 at Newbiggin (JGS), 17 at Howick (WAK), 15 at Holywell (ISD), 14 at Newton Links (RKS) and 10 on Newcastle Town Moor (MH). Smaller groups were noted from seven other lowland areas.

Pheasant

The only records involved two melanistic males at Hulne Park (DM) and a party of five at Big Waters (LR).

Water Rail

Two were at Big Waters and a single at Holywell during the month (SPP/ISD).

Coot

The main gatherings involved 300+ at Capheaton (MSH), 245 at Ladyburn Lake (TAC), 156 at Cresswell Pond, 69 at Broomlee Lough (SS) and 54 at Whittle Dene (L+KR). Parties of up to 30 were noted from six other waters.

Moorhen

Counts of 32 were noted at Ladyburn Lake (TAC), 14 at Wallsend Swallow Pond (AJD) and six at Heddon and Corbridge (JD).

WADER COUNTS - The following stretches were covered : St Mary's Island (IDM), Blyth Estuary (LJMcD), Cambois-Newbiggin (MH), Newbiggin Point-Cresswell (MGA), Cresswell-Chevington Burn (EC/MRS), Coquet Estuary (PWW), S Alnmouth (ET/JRN), Alnmouth-Boulmer (ES/WTL), Boulmer-Howick Burn (IK), Howick Burn-Beadnell (KR), Beadnell-Seahouses (MLC) and Seahouses-Budle Point (RN).

Oystercatcher

Numbers rose with 1,215 being found on the monthly counts.

Ringed Plover

A light influx was suggested with 207 noted on the monthly counts providing an increase on November.

Golden Plover

Larger coastal flocks involved 2,000 at Low Newton, 1,200 at St Mary's Island and in Budle Bay, 1,100 at Longhoughton Steel and up to 600 at Cresswell. Inland 50 were at Grindon Lough with groups of up to 30 near Stagshaw and Harwood.

Grey Plover

Numbers increased along the coast with 124 on the monthly counts, 70 of them between Alnmouth-Howick Burn.

Lapwing

The largest flocks were in coastal areas with peaks of 1,300 at Cresswell (DBNR), 766 at St Mary's Island (IDM), 600 in Budle Bay (RKS) and 400 at Berwick harbour (MSH). Many remained inland with up to 570 at Wallsend Swallow Pond (SPP), 400 at Hexham (JD), 220 at Castron (BN + AFR) and 40-100 in five other localities.

Knot

A total of 1,426 was noted on the monthly counts with most concentrated in the favoured areas of St Mary's Island-Newbiggin and Stag Rocks-Budle Bay.

Sanderling

They were thinly distributed along the coastline with 154 on the monthly counts. The largest groups reported were 65 at Hauxley beach, 30 at Seaton Sluice and 22 in the Tyne Estuary.

Purple Sandpiper

They remained scarce with only 266 on the monthly counts. The only significant groups were 111 between Seahouses-Budle Point and 83 between Beadnell-Seahouses. Groups of 10-35 were also reported from Tynemouth, Seaton Sluice and N Blyth.

Dunlin

A considerable increase was shown by 2,238 on the monthly counts compared with November when many were still inland. The only inland December record involved up to 16 still at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 1st.

Jack Snipe

Three were in the Coquet Estuary saltmarsh and three were also noted at Tyne Green, Hexham (PWW/AJR). Single were noted at Whittle Dene and Druridge Pools and, more unusual, on wet moorland near Elsdon Gibbet.

Snipe

There were very few reports. The largest count was 37 at Whittle Dene (MR) while only one-seven were seen in seven other wetland localities.

Woodcock

One-two were reported from seven widely scattered localities. The most unusual record was an individual frequenting a grassed area between buildings at the DSS complex at Longbenton throughout the month (L+KR).

Black-tailed Godwit

Two-three wintering birds were in Budle Bay throughout the month. One was at Hauxley on 2nd (IF).

Bar-tailed Godwit

They were characteristically thinly spread along the coast with 77 noted on the monthly counts.

Curlew

Coastal numbers remained low with only 191 on the monthly counts. Inland ten were in the regular wintering area at Holystone Haugh, two roosted at Caistron and a single was at Backworth. A very unusual record involved 60c flying E at dusk over Newcastle city centre on 8th (MH). On the same day 30 had been feeding along mudbanks near the old Garden Festival site (PL).

Spotted Redshank

A single was at Longhoughton Steel between 4th-9th (KN).

Redshank

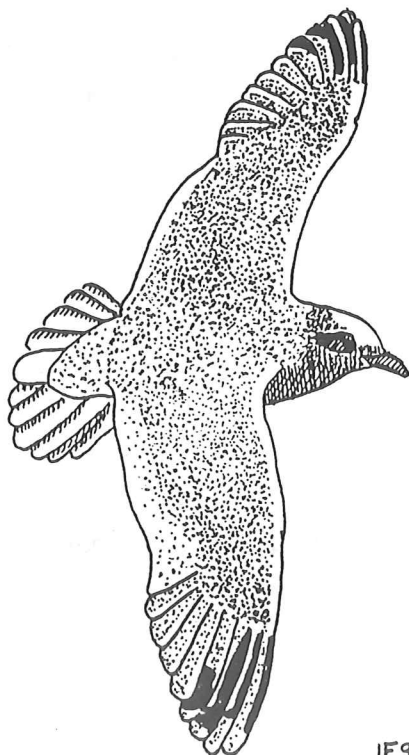
A total of 833 were noted on the monthly count. A few remained inland with 12 in the regular wintering area on the Tyne at Newburn, nine-ten at Wallsend Swallow Pond and three at Whittle Dene.

Turnstone

The monthly counts revealed a total of 983. The regular N Blyth roost held a peak of 355 on 4th (AMB).

Mediterranean Gull

Single adults were at Big Waters on 14th (SPP), Craster on 19th (BNR) and North Shields Fish Quay on 24th (DMT). A late report has been received of an adult at Newbiggin on 24th November (JGS).



IF91

#### Little Gull

An adult was at Holywell on 27th and 31st and a second bird was seen well out to sea at Seaton Sluice on 31st (MPF/MRS).

#### Black-headed Gull

The Scotswood roost reached a new record level of 16,000 birds on 17th. Other inland roosts were much smaller with 1,600 at Derwent on 14th, 410 at Caistron and 400 at Hallington. On the coast, 7,500 roosted off Tynemouth in hard weather on 11th (BNR) with 950 from Newbiggin-Cambois on 8th (MHP) and 800 in the Tyne Estuary on four dates where single adults with full hoods were noted from 6th (DMT).

#### Common Gull

Persistent frosts reduced substantially the size of inland roosts with just 3,100 at Derwent on 14th, 2,300 at Hallington on 21st and 1,300 at Broomlee on 16th. On the coast, 1,400 roosted off Tynemouth on 11th, 900 at Newton Haven and 700 in Budle Bay on 19th (BNR) and 330 were from Newbiggin-Cambois on 8th (MHP). The frosts brought 12 birds into Cochrane Park, Newcastle on 8th looking for food (KIB).

#### Lesser Black Backed Gull

Numbers remained very low with single adults at Big Waters on 8th and 29th (GB), Tynemouth on 14th (DM) and roosting at Broomlee on 16th and Hallington on 21st (BNR/JD), the last two being of the British graellsii race.

#### Herring Gull

On 11th, 1,500 were in the Tyne Estuary where five adults showed clear characteristics of the argentatus race on 29th. Another adult on 13th was of the thayeri-type (DMT). The largest inland roost was at Hallington where 1,360 on 21st with 270 at Scotswood on 17th and 140 at Derwent on 14th (BNR/JD). The Scotswood roost included a yellow-legged adult showing characteristics of the southern michahellis group. On 8th 600 were from Newbiggin-Cambois and 550 from Cresswell-East Chevington Burn.

Iceland Gull

At North Shields Fish Quay, an immature was seen on 11th and a second winter on 28th (DMT).

Glaucous Gull

At North Shields, a 'small' adult was noted on five dates from 7th and an immature on 30th/31st (DMT/MPF et al). A first winter flew N in Druridge Bay on 23rd (IK).

Great Black Backed Gull

The highest counts were 210 at the Long Nanny on 8th (RKS), 153 in Tyne Estuary on 31st and 133 in Blyth harbour on 14th (DMT). Inland, 97 roosted at Hallington on 21st, 61 were at Derwent on 22nd and a single 'worked' the Tyne at Hexham on 26th.

Kittiwake

17 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 30th (DMT).

Little Auk

One was on Cresswell Pond on 1st (DBNR/NF/SS).

Stock Dove

24 were at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (RKS), 20 at Whittle Dene on 8th (MR), five-ten at Jesmond Dene, Druridge Reserve and Cresswell Pond and two-three at four other localities.

Woodpigeon

More records than usual with large flocks on 27th/28th of 4,500 at Whittle Dene (L+KR), 2,000 at Newton Links (RKS) and 1,000 at Longhirst Hall (SS). 250-500 were recorded at five other localities during the month.

Collared Dove

47 fed at Detchant near Belford on 11th (BJL). Nesting was strongly suspected at Walkergate on 18th (LJM).

Barn Owl

Well reported although unfortunately the true status may be masked by releases on which we have no information. Singles were reported from Cresswell Pond, Longhirst, Red Row, Druridge Pools, near Widdrington Station, Hadston, Trewit Hall, Arcot, Grindon Rigg (near Etal) and Simonburn. Individuals were seen at Stagshaw Road Ends, Redesmouth and Bellingham in one drive on 26th (AM/IF/MD). A road casualty was near Queen Elizabeth II Park on 30th (GB/AT).

Tawny Owl

More records were received with two calling at Wooperton and Hexham (AJD/AJR) and singles at Stobswood, Close House, Netherton, Plessey Bank and Pegswood. An owl on deck on a fishing boat 15 miles out from North Shields was identified by the trawler skipper as this species (per DMT).

Short-eared Owl

Very well reported. On or near the coast, up to seven were present at Newbiggin from 25th-31st (JGS), five at Woodhorn Pond on 30th (SS), three at Newcastle Town Moor (MH), two at Arcot, Hauxley Reserve, Druridge Pools and singles at seven other localities. Inland, three were at Halton Lea Fell on 1st (AP), two in Harwood Forest and singles at eleven other localities.

Kingfisher

Singles were seen at Jesmond Dene and Tannersburn, Morpeth.



Green Woodpecker

Singles were at Wallington and Peth Foot.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Two-three were at Spindlestone on 8th (BRS) and two at Walbottle on 29th (L+KR) and Matfen (RW). Singles were at a further 12 localities. Birds fed on garden feeders at Walbottle, Stobswood, Wideopen and Matfen.

Meadow Pipit

Small parties were overwintering at 1,000 feet a.s.l. in Upper Coquetdale on 29th (IK/BG).

Rock Pipit

Two pairs were at Tynemouth Haven, two birds at North Shields Fish Quay and up to four birds on Hauxley shore (DM/DBNR).

Grey Wagtail

Two were at Irthing Gorge on 15th (BNR/JD) with singles at Horton, Druridge Pool and Howick.

Waxwing

Some large flocks were found with 100-120 at Morpeth from 19th-22nd (JS/PL), 67 in Claremont Road/Town Moor area of Newcastle on 4th (MH), 50 in Wylam on 8th (KD), 35-36 in Sandy Lane, Gosforth on 11th (MPF/AMB), 27 at Hadston from 15th-27th, 12 at Gosforth Park on 16th and Newbiggin on 24th and one-five at ten other localities including four at Hetherington, near Wark (MCG) and one at Stonehaugh (SSn). Two flew S at Monkseaton on 10th (MSH). A colour-ringed bird, yellow over red on right leg, was at Amble Braid on 15th (ADM).

Dipper

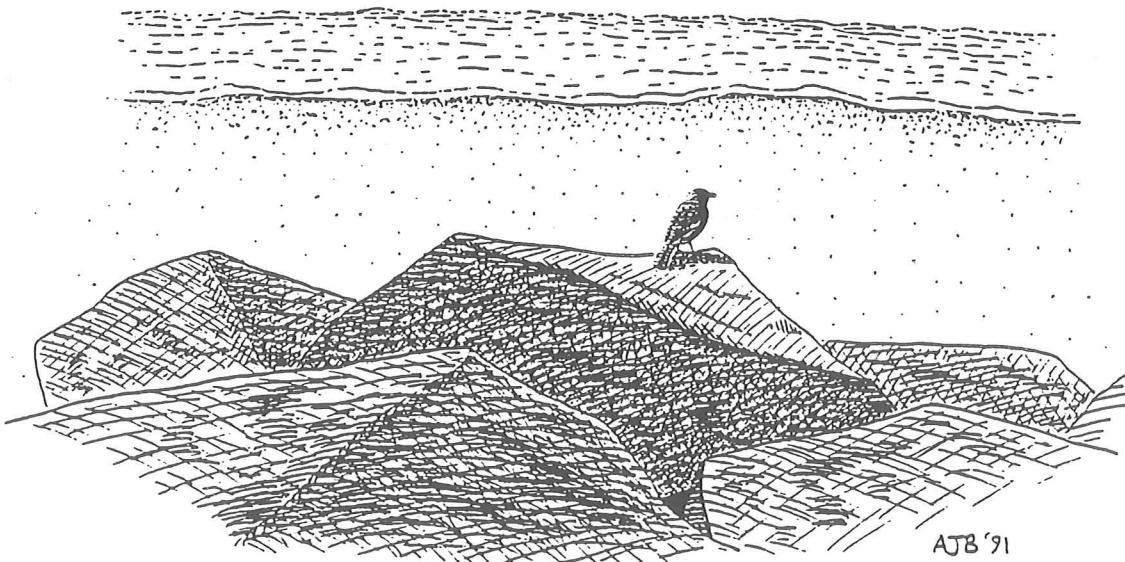
Three were at Allenbanks on 7th (RKS), two at Hulne Park, Alnwick on 28th (DM) and singing birds at Irthing Gorge, Corbridge (Devils Water) and Howick Dene. One was at Hethpool on 29th.

Wren

Birds were overwintering on Simonsides and Upper Coquetdale at over 1,000 feet a.s.l. (IK/BG). One was in full song at Horton on 1st (LJM).

Black Redstart

A female was at Hadston on 27th/28th (AJB/JRT).



AJB '91



Stonechat

A pair was in the Druridge Pools and links area throughout the month (DBNR/WAK). Singles were at East Chevington on 27th (AJB), Cresswell Pond on 29th (NW) and Seaton Sluice on 30th (DH).

Blackbird

41 fed together in a garden at Walbottle on 21st (L+KR).

Fieldfare

Many more cards were received but no very large flocks were found. 150 were at Ilderton Dod on 27th (AMB), 144 at Harwood Forest on 27th, 100 at Troughend Common on 26th (MH) and Cow Hill, Newcastle on 7th (MRS), 50-90 at Slaley Hall, Linton Pond, High Newton, Derwent Reservoir, Belsay, Sweethope, Shaftoe Crag and Close House and smaller numbers at ten other localities.

Song Thrush

One was in full song at Exhibition Park, Newcastle on 24th (MRS).

Redwing

47 at Linton Pond (DBNR) on 18th, 40 at Hethpool on 29th (MSH) and 33 at Ordley on 25th (BNR) were the largest flocks noted. A number of small flocks were observed from Wylam-Newburn on 7th, 10-13 at Gosforth and Town Moor, Newcastle and smaller numbers at 11 further localities.

Mistle Thrush

Three were singing at Matfen on 24th (RW) with other singing birds at Hulne Park, Alnwick on 28th (DM) and Slaley Hall on 30th (RMH). One defended a holly bush at Allenbanks on 28th. Three were seen at Linton Pond and singles at three other localities.

Blackcap

Singles visited gardens at Matfen on 3rd (RW), Bedlington on 17th (MGA) and Morpeth between 29th-30th (A+LB). Singles were also at Jesmond Dene on 2nd and 6th (BJL) and at Amble Links on 16th (JMA).

Goldcrest

Noted as thinly distributed in the conifer plantations in the College Valley on 29th (MSH). Three were at Warkworth Lane on 11th and at Hulne Park on 28th (DBNR/DM). One-two were at Sweethope Lough on 27th (MSH).

Long-tailed Tit

Well represented throughout the month. The largest tribes were 30 at Hulne Park on 28th (DM), c20 at Harbottle on 29th (IK/BG) and 17 at Swinhoe nr Belford on 11th (BJL). Tribes of four-15 were at 12 other localities.

Marsh Tit

Six were at Hulne Park on 28th (DM). Two were at Peth Foot on 22nd and at Bolam on 27th (BNR/BJL). Singles were at Cawledgeburn and Lesbury on 28th (TA + MLC).

Willow Tit

Two were at Big Waters on 7th, Warkworth Lane on 13th, at Felton Lane on 18th and at Hexham on 27th (LJM/DBNR/NF/AJH). Singles were at Arcot Pond and Spindleston.

Coal Tit

Seven were ringed at Matfen on 8th (RW). Five were at Colt Crag on 7th (L+KR), while one-two were at Warkworth Lane throughout the month (DBNR).

Blue Tit

62 were ringed in a Matfen garden during a morning ringing session on 8th (RW).

Great Tit

Eight were ringed at Matfen on 8th (RW).

Nuthatch

Four were at Hulne Park on 28th (DM) and three were at Jesmond Dene on 2nd (BJL). One-two were at Aydon Castle, Bolam Lake, Howick Dene, a Matfen garden, Slaley Hall, Whittle Dene and Gosforth Park.

Treecreeper

Three were at Warkworth Lane on 2nd and at Hulne Park on 28th (DBNR/DM). One-two were at Armstrong Park- Newcastle, Jesmond Dene, Lesbury and Peth Foot.

Jay

Two were at Holystone on 27th (IK).

Magpie

The largest roosts involved 60 at Big Waters on 1st (GB) and 18 at Hathery Lane on 14th (BNR). One killed and ate a Dunnock in a Walbottle garden on 1st (L+KR).

Jackdaw

2,200 were in a pre-roost gathering at N Walbottle on 29th (L+KR).

Carriion Crow

A partial albino was at Exhibition Park, Newcastle on 24th (DM).

Hooded Crow

One was in fields between Alnwick and Alnmouth between 18th-22nd (KN).

Starling

1,000 were in a pre-roost gathering at N Walbottle on 29th (L+KR).

Tree Sparrow

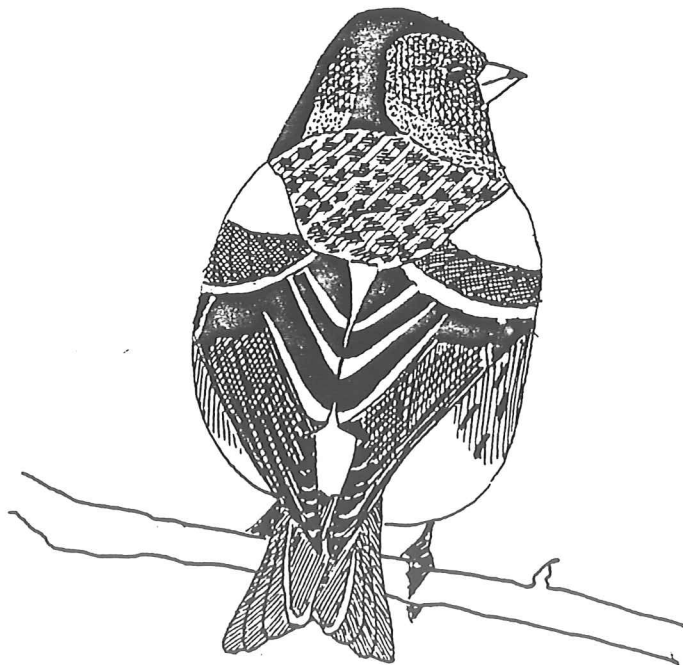
The largest flocks were 72 at Bradford House nr Belsay on 26th (JS), 30+ at Linton roundabout on 31st (ADMc) and 29 at Big Waters on 26th (GB). Two-18 were at a further four localities.

Chaffinch

The largest gatherings were 220 at Big Waters on 16th (DM), 160 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (RKS) and 100+ at Druridge on 7th and at Spindlestone on 8th (MSH/BRS).

Brambling

Eight were at Low Alwinton on 15th (WAK). Singles were at Big Waters and Gosforth Park.

Greenfinch

Largest flocks involved 50 at Benton on 8th and at Dam Dykes, Cramlington on 15th (IF/DM), 30+ at Druridge on 7th (MSH) and 20+ at Spindleston on 8th (BRS). A Norwegian ringed female was controlled at Lesbury on 15th (WD).

Goldfinch

Largest charms were 30-35 at Big Waters on 20th (SPP), 28 at Cresswell Pond on 29th (DBNR) and 15 at North Shields Fish Quay on 14th (DM). One fed in a Walbottle garden on 7th (L+KR).

Siskin

The largest flocks were 200+ at Hulne Park on 22nd (PL) and 100+ at Big Waters on 8th and 16th (SPP/DM). Six-30 were at nine widely scattered localities. More unusual was one amongst a charm of Goldfinches at North Shields Fish Quay on 14th (DM).

Linnet

Largest gatherings were 150 near Newbiggin on 11th (AMB), c100 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (RKS) and 60 at Dam Dykes, Cramlington on 15th (DM).

Twite

Four at Druridge Dunes on 15th was the only record (NF/SS).

Redpoll

65-70 were at Big Waters on 14th (SPP) and c40 were at Slaley Hall on 11th (RMH). One visited a Walbottle garden on 13th (L+KR).

Crossbill

10 at the Tasset Burn area of Kielder Forest on 27th was the only record. A visit to Harwood Forest - centre of the 1990 invasion - produced no sightings on 27th (MH).

Bullfinch

27 were at Kielder Forest on 29th (JRT) and eight were at Warkworth Lane on 11th (DBNR). One-four were at a further nine localities.

Hawfinch

Six were at Hulne Park between 28th-29th (DM/APM).

Lapland Bunting

One flew S at Hauxley on 4th (IF).

Snow Bunting

Ten were at Newbiggin Golf Course on 27th (JGS). Singles were at Woodhorn Pond fields on 14th (ADMc) and inland at Wark Forest on 3rd (per DCJ).

Yellowhammer

c50 were at Big Waters on 30th (LR) and 30+ were near Newbiggin on 15th (JGS). 13 fed in a Walbottle garden on 6th (L+KR).

Reed Bunting

50 were at an evening roost in the Newbiggin-Ashington area on 24th (JGS).

Corn Bunting

The best month for this species in a long time with a very significant roost peaking at 43 in the Ashington-Newbiggin area on 24th (JGS).

Please send all January records, in Voous order, to B N Rossiter, West Barn, Lee Grange, Ordley, Hexham NE46 1SX by 8 February at the latest.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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This bulletin has been written by A Johnston, I Kerr, B N Rossiter and D McKeown. Illustrations of American Wigeon and Black Redstart by A Booth, Med Gull and Brambling by I Fisher.

INDOOR MEETING - 13th February 1992

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 13th February in Lecture Theatre 120, Claremont Building, Newcastle University at 7.00 pm. John Day will talk on 'Birding in Venezuela'.

Records for 1991

Please send all outstanding records and descriptions for 1992 to Nick Rossiter by 22nd February 1992. Records received later than this will not be included in Birds in Northumbria 1991.

Brief Description Required for Osprey, Hobby and Yellow-browed Warbler

A number of records have been received for 1991 of the above species which have not been supported by brief descriptions. They are itemised below. If you wish to see these records in Birds in Northumbria, could you please send brief descriptions (on say a record card) to Nick Rossiter by 22nd February 1992.

Osprey : Corbridge 9/4; Cresswell Pond/Druridge Pools 4/5; Arcot 9/5; Marden Quarry 18/5; Seaton Delaval 18/5; Holywell 28/5; Falstone 8/8.

Hobby : Druridge 4/5; Waren 9/6; Long Nanny 9/7 and 28/7; Druridge Pool 28/7; Hauxley Reserve 28/7; High Hauxley 9/8 and 13/8; Bamburgh 16/8; Holywell 17/8 and 27/8; Druridge Bay CP 29/8.

Yellow-browed Warbler : St Mary's 5/10 and 12/10; Holy Island 6/10; Beal Road Ends 12/10 and 13/10; Holy Island 13/10; Ridley Park, Blyth 15/10.

In addition, anyone with full notes on any of the Little Buntings seen in the Autumn should send them to the recorder as soon as possible. This is a BBRC rarity and we are short of detailed notes.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you currently pay your subscription by standing order, please make arrangements for it to be paid to our new account; North of England Building Society, Fawcett Street, Sunderland. Sort Code 208377, Account Number 96039942. Ordinary membership £14.00, family membership £15.00.

ICELAND TRIP

Wendy Dickson is looking for people to join a trip to north-east Iceland and Faroe this coming summer, 24th June-6th July inclusive, travelling by minibus (max 8 people including driver) on car ferry from Shetland, staying in hotels, 8 days in Iceland, 3 in Faroe, plus one overnight in Shetland on return. If you would like to find out more about this trip, please contact Wendy at Foxbury Cottage, Lesbury, Alnwick, NE66 3BA (tel : 0665 830414) who will let you have further details.

DO YOU ENJOY ATLASING?

If the answer is yes, you may be interested in helping the BTO in piloting a new census technique in Northumberland.

The 1992 pilot census project will involve carrying out transects and point counts in selected one-kilometre squares.

Two separate counting methods will be compared, each requiring an early and late season visit. First visits should be made between mid April and mid May, allowing for another visit for reconnaissance and habitat recording, the fieldwork should take about two hours on each of five mornings. There will be a small amount of paperwork to do, but most of it can be completed in the field.

The census squares will be randomly selected by the census unit at the BTO.

To put the pilotwork in perspective, the new studies may result eventually in improvements to the way Common Bird Census (CBC) operates and CBC is the backbone of much of the BTO work.

If you are interested please contact me as soon as possible, so I can put forward names to the BTO quickly.

Tom Cadwallender, BTO Regional Representative, 22 South View, Hipsburn, Alnwick NE66 3PZ. Tel (0665) 830884 (home) or (0670) 760968 (work).

Wader Counter Wanted

A counter is needed as soon as possible for the important site of St Mary's Island to make monthly counts of waders and other seabirds at the high-tide roost there. The data obtained forms part of the Birds of Estuaries Enquiry (BOEE) which has proved invaluable in resisting a number of developments destructive to wildlife at coastal sites.

Please contact Nick Rossiter (0434) 673509, as soon as possible if you are interested in helping.