

Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2021 No 01

MONTHLY SUMMARY JANUARY 2021

5th March 2021



CONTENTS

The Bulletin is now in revised BOU order. Many thanks to Clive, Dick, Tim and Mike and the authors.
Bargain Bird Book sale.

CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Todd's Canada Goose	After last month's sighting probably the same bird was seen at Longhirst on 29th.
White-fronted Goose	Three European seen at Longhirst Flash on 28th.
Egyptian Goose	Single at Druridge / Cresswell from 1st to 4th then Marden Quarry 9th to 21st.
Mandarin	Unusual record of one at Big Waters on 23rd.
Shoveler	Record count for recent years of 106 at Budle Bay on 25th.
Pintail	Record site count for Big Waters of 23 on 23rd.
Scaup	Male and female seen at Druridge.
Smew	Redhead at Widdrington Moor Lake from 1st to 13th. Also Big Waters on 30th.
Stock Dove	The interesting roost at Howdon still active with 80 there on 31st.
Jack Snipe	High count of 22 at West Hartford on 2nd. Seen at eight other sites.
Green Sandpiper	Singles at five sites.
Spotted Redshank	One at Bothal Pond on 29th and 30th.
Little Gull	One north at Seaton Sluice on 5th.
Mediterranean Gull	31 including 29 adults coming to food in garden at Spittal, Newbiggin.
Glaucous Gull	First-winter at North Shields Fish Quay on 12th and 13th.
Iceland Gull	Up to three at North Shields Fish Quay and returning adult at Big Waters.
Great Skua	Unusual winter record of one N at Boulmer on 4th.
Bittern	Mobile individual visiting Gosforth Park, Weetslade CP and Newcastle Gt Park.
Marsh Harrier	At least two wintering in Druridge / East Chevington area.
Green Woodpecker	Only record of month was one seen at Spartylea on 29th.
Hooded Crow	Wintering birds at Howick, Morpeth and Linton.
Shore Lark	One at Cresswell up to 19th.
Cetti's Warbler	Singles still at Big Waters and East Chevington.
Chiffchaff	Wintering individual at Benton on 9th.
Blackcap	Wintering birds at twelve sites.
Black Redstart	Singles at Tynemouth, Annstead Pt and Newbiggin.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	Still wintering at Prestwick Carr to at least 25th.
Water Pipit	Singles at Druridge on 6th and Newbiggin on 19th.
Hawfinch	One to two still at Abbey Mills, Morpeth all month.
Twite	Unusual wintering flock again of 100 inland at Fulbeck, Morpeth on 1st.
Mealy Redpoll	One or two at Weetslade CP and Widdrington Moor Lake.
Lapland Bunting	One or two at Monks' House Pool and St Mary's.
Snow Bunting	One flew over Tynemouth on 9th and two seen at Holywell Dene on 23rd.
Reed Bunting	High count of 200 at Rake Lane, North Shields on 28th.

Water Rail

Killingworth Lake

Chris Barlow

9th January

INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm. The next meeting is by Zoom on 11th March



FIELD TRIPS

On hold for the next few months.

Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

28 were counted at Ramshaw Fell (Plenmeller Common) on 25th (SJH), four to five were at Earlehillhead (Wooler; SVM) and Thrunton Crag (IRD), and one to two at Alnwick Moor and Sinderhope (Allendale).



A Red Grouse flies over Alnwick Moor
28th January TimDean

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Nine were at Druridge Lane on 4th (TB) and Longhoughton on 5th (BS), and eight at Lincoln Hill (near Humshaugh) on 3rd (SW). Three were at Humshaugh and one at Alnwick Moor on 20th was heard to give the 'steam engine call' (TRD).

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

17 were at East Shield Hill (Morpeth) on 18th (ADMc) and a total of 17 was at Fenham-le-Moor on 27th (MJC), counts of ten to 15 came from Big Waters (GB), Boulmer (BS), Druridge Links (IDR/JF), Howick (JAR), Linden Hall (NFO), Longhoughton (AMG/MG), Old Hartley (MNC), Quarry Cottage, Newbiggin (BSt) and Rake Lane (ASJ), and five to nine were at Beaconhill (Cramlington), Clifton Lane Farm (Morpeth), Goswick, Killingworth Moor, Morpeth (two sites), North Walbottle, Old Helsay and Sandhoe. Two to four were also at Belford, Brockley Hall, Cresswell, Hemscott Hill, Holywell, North Highmoor and Stonehaugh.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Groups of 16 and nine were at East Hartford on 27th (LJM), 12-19 were at Druridge Pools and Links (IDR/JF) and Old Helsay (IDR), eight to nine at Chugdon wood (Ellington) and Hemscott Hill Links, and three to four at Cresswell Hall, Ellington Pond and Old Hartley.

A Pheasant befriends the
County Recorder

Rothbury

20th January

Tim Dean



Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Pale-bellied *hrota* race birds involved 1,000-1,300 feeding mainly in the Chesterhill and Ross Low areas of Lindisfarne NNR and roosting at Budle Bay all month (DF), seven N at Longhoughton Low Steads on 15th (BS), four feeding at Newbiggin Beacon Point between 6th-9th and one on 26th (TD/AP), one N at Birling Carrs, and singles at Longhoughton Steel and St Mary's Island.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

22 flew N at Slaley Hall on 30th (RMH) and 14 N at Druridge Pools on 3rd (IDR/JF). Peak site counts were 408 at Grindon Lough on 12th (SJH), 233 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (IFo), 200 at Big Waters on 3rd (GB), 190 at Hartburn Reservoir on 12th (TRD), 74-81 at Branton GP (IBDa/KDa) and Bywell Haughs (MH), and 20-34 at Bothal Pond, Linton Lane, Newcastle Leazes Park and QEII CP. One to seven were also at Colt Crag Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Haughton Strother GP, Monks' House Pool and Prestwick Carr.

An individual of the *interior* race ('Todd's Canada Goose') was at Longhirst Flash on 29th and was thought likely to be the same individual as that at Hadston Carrs in December 2020 (JFa).



Todd's Canada Goose at Linton Pond on 29th January by Alan Tilmouth

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

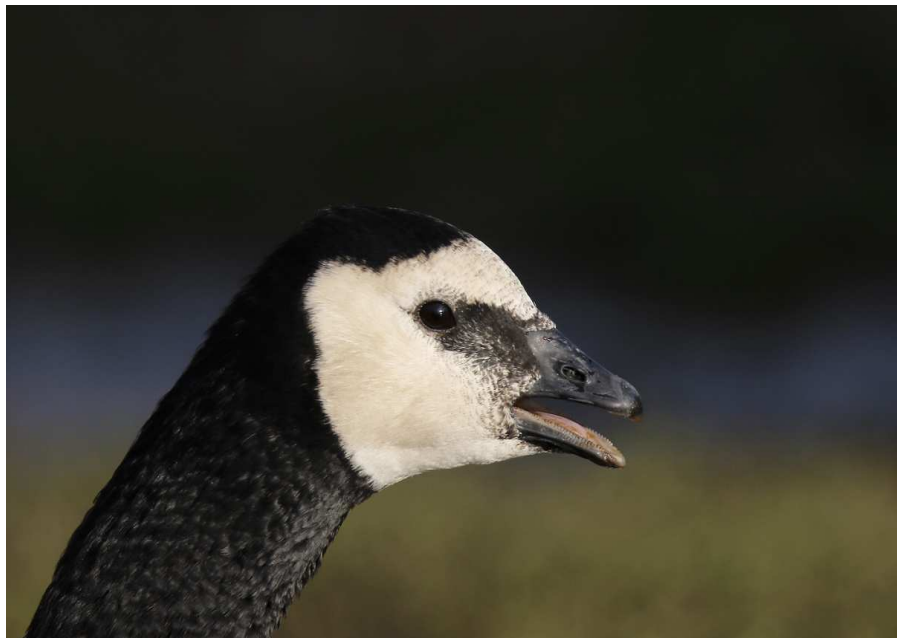
4,000 were at Budle Bay on 25th (MJC) and 1,000-2,000 all month, also being noted at Belford on one date (DF/AMG/MG/JPL). One to two were noted at Big Waters, Grindon Lough, Longhirst Flash, QEII CP and Woodhorn.

Barnacle Goose

Up close at QEII CP

Chris Barlow

1st January



Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

100 flew E at Linton Ponds on 31st (TF/JFa) and 32 N at Tynemouth on 3rd (DRW). Derwent Reservoir held a peak of 1,200 on 1st (IFo), 350 were at Big Waters on 9th (GB), 260 at Budle Bay on 25th (MJC), 236 at Cocklawburn on 25th (MHu), and 164-184 at Bywell Haughs (MH) and Woodhorn Flashes (AP). Counts of 64-89 came from Cheswick, Coanwood and Holywell Pond, 26-40 at East Holywell, Gosforth subsidence pond, Haughton Strother GP and Plenmeller Common, and 15 over Heaton. Two to six were also at Bothal Pond, Grindon Lough, Monks' House Pool and QEII CP.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

7,500 were at Budle Bay on 25th (MJC), 2,600 at Druridge Pools on 22nd (IDR/IF), 1,200 at Newton Links on 17th (AMG/MG), 1,100 at Doddington on 24th (SVM/AJM), 500-700 regularly at Backworth (CGK/GPK), 253-500 at Big Waters, Holywell Dene, Longhirst Flash, Seaton Sluice, Warkworth Lane and Woodhorn, and 120 at Cheswick. Counts of 200-400 N and 1,500 S at Druridge Pools may have been local feeding movements (IDR/JF). Other N/NW movement involved 51-140 at Acomb, Cramlington, Dinnington, East Ord and Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin), while southerly movement included 750 at Linton Lane on 30th (IDR/JF) and 50-250 at Arcot Pond, Buston Links, Cocklawburn, Lincoln Hill, Marden Quarry, Quarry Cottage and Tweedmouth on various dates, while 200 flew W at Humshaugh on 28th (TWi). Groups of 18-50 flew over (in various directions) Bebside, Bilton Banks, Ellington, High Heaton, Linton, Newton Red House and Tynemouth, and one to nine were at/over 11 scattered sites.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris*

Two were feeding in fields at Cocklawburn on 25th (MHu) and one was with Pink-footed Geese at Big Waters on 26th-27th (AJJ/GB).

December bulletin correction

Tundra Bean goose was at St. Mary's Island on 17th (JB).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Three adults of the Eurasian *albifrons* race were at Longhirst Flash on 28th (AT).

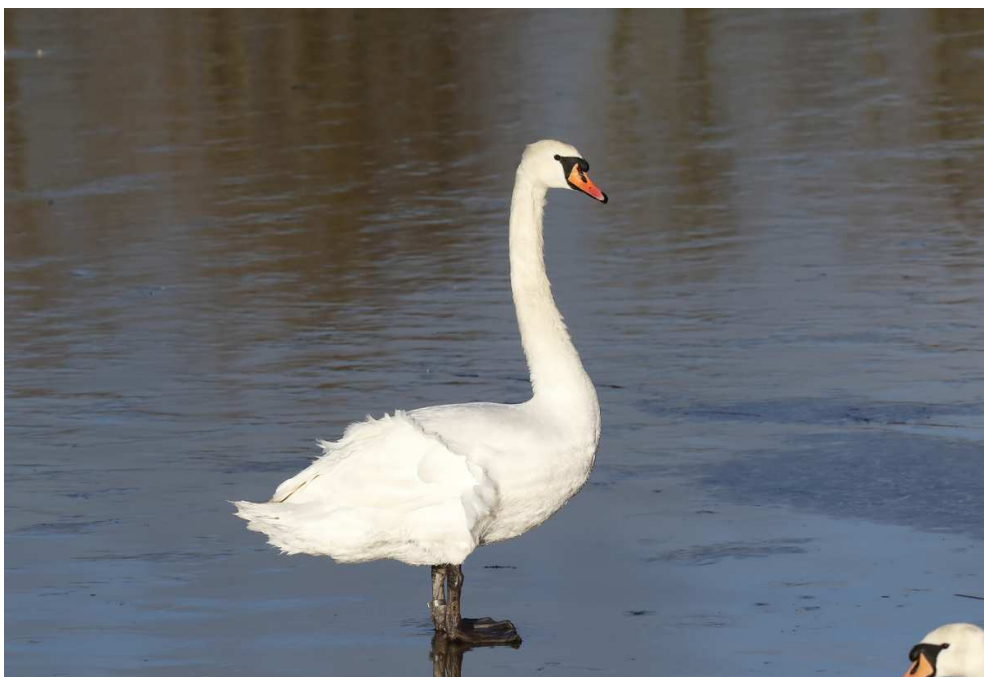
December bulletin correction Euro w-f goose at S Sluice by JB on 4 dec

Russian whitefront at Longhirst flash

28th January by Alan Tilmouth

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

An adult and six juveniles were about 5 km (3 miles) off Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSWT). Greatest counts were 55 at QEII CP on 23rd (IDR/JF), 46 at Caistron on 13th (TRD/JD), 40 at Howdon on 29th (CB), 25 at Big Waters on 1st (GB /DM), and 11-13 at Scotswood and Warkworth Lane Ponds. Three to seven were also at the Blyth Estuary, Boulmer, Druridge Pools, Ellington Pond, Haughton Strother GP, Old Helsay and Prestwick Carr. One to two were at/over eight further sites, including an unusual record of one (sub-adult) at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo).



Mute Swan at an icy Big Waters by Chris Barlow . 16th January

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

38 were at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 1st (TF/JFa), 24 at West Loanend (Tweed Valley) on 16th (per NNBC), 19 at Druridge Pools on 1st (IDR), 19 over Ellington Pond on 5th (IDR/JF), 18 (15 adults) at Fenham-le-Moor on 27th (MJC), and 18 near Birling Carrs between 29th-31st (AMG/MG/MKi). Four to seven were also at Bothal Pond, Hadston and Longhoughton, and singles at Big Waters, Pegswood Moor, QEII CP and Warden.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Singles were at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) between 1st-4th (JR *et al.*) and Marden Quarry between 9th-21st (KWY/AC *et al.*).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), 34 were at the Blyth Estuary on 31st (LJM), 18 at Howdon on 1st and 11th (CB), 14 at Druridge Pools on 22nd (IDR/JF), 12 at Boulmer on 20th (BS), and two to four at Cresswell Pond, East Chevington and Hemscott Hill Links. One to three were at Hazlerigg, Prestwick Carr and Scotswood between 27th-30th. Further inland, two were at Branton GP on 30th (JD) and one at Haughton Strother GP on 1st (SW).



A Shelduck near Havannah by Chris Barlow on 30th January

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

A duck at Big Waters on 23rd (GB) was the only report.

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Good numbers at Budle Bay culminated in an impressive peak of 106 on 25th (MJC). Other peak counts were 21 at Monks' House Pool on 31st (RA), 19 at East Chevington on 23rd (TD), 12-14 at Druridge Pools (IRD/IDR/JF) and Linton Ponds (TF/JFa), and five to eight at Big Waters, Bothal and Holywell Ponds, the Coquet Estuary, and Warkworth. Two to three were at Gosforth subsidence pond and St Mary's Wetland.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Greatest numbers involved 36 at Duke's Pond (near Swallow Pond) on 4th (MPF), 28 at the Blyth Estuary on 31st (LJM), 20 at QEII CP on 27th (TRD/JD), ten to 15 at Big Waters, Caistron, Howdon, Linton Ponds and Marden Quarry, and four to eight at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools, Hedgeley GP, Monks' House Pool and St Mary's Wetland. One to two were also at Chirton Dene Park (North Shields), Colt Crag Reservoir, the Coquet Estuary, Gosforth subsidence pond, and Warkworth.



A Gadwall at Marden Quarry

2nd January

Alan Jack

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

At Seaton Sluice, a total of 16 flew N during the month (SSWT) and one flew N at Tynemouth. Peak counts were 484 offshore at Seaton Point, Boulmer on 29th (BS), 404 at Grindon Lough on 24th (SJH), 400 at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (IFo), 397 at Big Waters on 9th (AJJ per GB), 210-235 at Bothal Pond, Cresswell Pond and Warkworth, 110-190 at Colt Crag Reservoir, Druridge Pools and Linton Ponds, and 66 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed). Counts of 17-45 came from Coanwood Pond, the Coquet Estuary, Gosforth Park NR, Haughton Strother GP and Lynemouth Flash.

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*

A drake was again at Big Waters, being noted from 9th-31st (GB *et al.*).

American Wigeon

Big Waters

Chris Barlow

16th January

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Largest numbers were 288 at Big Waters on 24th (AJJ per GB), 238 at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (IFo), 80-95 at Holywell Pond (KWY), the River Wansbeck between Whorral Bank and Scotch Gill, Morpeth (AT), and the Tweed Estuary (MHu), and 52-60 at Acomb, Airy Holm Reservoir, Colt Crag Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Merryshields GP, QEII CP, Richardson Dee Park (Wallsend) and St Mary's Wetland. Counts of 21-46 came from the Blyth Estuary, Arcot, Bothal, Cocklawburn, Cresswell, Linton and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Chirton Dene Park, Druridge Pools, Foxton Bends, Lynemouth Flash, Marden Quarry, Sheepwash, Slaley Hall, Stakeford bridge, Warden and West Sleekburn, and 11-19 were at seven further sites.



A drake Mallard at Killingworth Lake by Chris Barlow 9th January

Pintail *Anas acuta*

At Big Waters, a drake on 16th was followed by an unusually high count, and a site record, of 23 (five adult drakes) on 23rd but only one was present the following day (GB/AJJ). Singles were at Budle Bay (RA), Holywell Pond (GPK), Marden Quarry (AC/JBu) and St Mary's Wetland (AC/MSH/ASJ) on scattered dates.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Nine flew N at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSWT). Peak counts were 483 at Big Waters on 24th (AJJ per GB), 351 at Grindon Lough on 24th (SJH), 240 at Howdon on 1st (CB), 200-206 at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and Linton Ponds (AT), 101-185 at Arcot and Bothal Ponds, Colt Crag Reservoir, Druridge Pools, St Mary's (wetland and offshore) and Widdrington Moor Lake, and 54-92 at the Blyth Estuary, Cresswell Pond, Gosforth Park NR, Prestwick Carr and Woodhorn Flashes. Groups of ten to 36 were at Coanwood Pond, the Coquet Estuary, Haughton Strother GP, Howick, Lynemouth Flash, Tyne Green, Warkworth, West Ord and West Sleekburn. Display was noted at Big Waters and Prestwick Carr (GB).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Few reports involved peaks of 14 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 1st (TF/JFa), ten at East Chevington on 29th (IRD), nine at Big Waters on 15th (GB) and four at Linton Ponds (IDR/JF). One was also at Ladyburn Lake.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

68 were at Tynemouth boating lake on 24th (DRW), 66 at Caistron on 2nd (TRD), 40 at Ladyburn Lake on 23rd (TD), 30-34 at Big Waters (GB) and Linton Ponds (TF/JFa), 22-27 at Haughton Strother GP, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Exhibition Park and QEII CP, and 12-19 at Bothal Pond, Newcastle Leazes Park and 'Northumberlandia' (Cramlington). One to seven were at a further ten widespread localities, including three on the River Aln at Alnwick on 18th (MKi).

Scaup *Aythya marila*

A pair was at Ladyburn Lake on 18th (CSa) and a drake was noted there on 23rd (TD).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

A total of 55 moved N and 17 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and 58 flew N at Howick on 4th (BS). Generally few were reported, with 25 at St Mary's Island on 19th (MSH), 18 at North Shields Fish Quay on 25th (MN), and four to eight at the Coquet Estuary, Meadow Haven (Berwick), Newbiggin Beacon Point and Snab Point.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Four flew N and two S at Seaton Sluice between 3rd-5th (SSWT), three N at Howick on 4th (BS), two at Longhoughton Low Steads on 3rd (BS) and one N at Tynemouth on 3rd (DRW).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

At Seaton Sluice, 51 flew N and 17 S during the month (SSWT), 150 were off East Chevington on 23rd (TD) and 150-160 off Howick on 7th and 15th (JAR). One to five were at Alnmouth-Birling Carrs and Spittal Bay.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

A pair was at Ladyburn Lake on 5th (TB) and singles were at Druridge Pools on 6th and 22nd (MJC/IRD).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Five moved N and two S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Largest concentrations were 68 at Calot Shad, the Tweed Estuary on 30th (MHu), 65 at East Chevington on 1st (TF/JFa), 19 at Grindon Lough on 24th (SJH), 19 at Killingworth Lake on 30th (ASJ), and ten to 12 at Big Waters, Howick and Longhoughton. Five to nine were at the Blyth Estuary, Caistron, Derwent Reservoir, Ladyburn Lake, QEII CP Lake, Stakeford bridge, West Ord and West Sleekburn, three to four at Bolam Lake, Bothal and Cresswell Ponds, Colt Crag Reservoir and Druridge Pools, and one to two at 12 further widespread sites.



Goldeneyes

Above: at Bothal Pond by Alan Tilmouth on 23rd and below:
a drake at Killingworth Pond on 7th January by Alan Jack



Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Single 'redheads' were at Widdrington Moor Lake between 1st-11th (TF/JFa/NFO et al.) and Big Waters on 30th (DS per GB).

A Smew

Big Waters

Chris Barlow

30th January

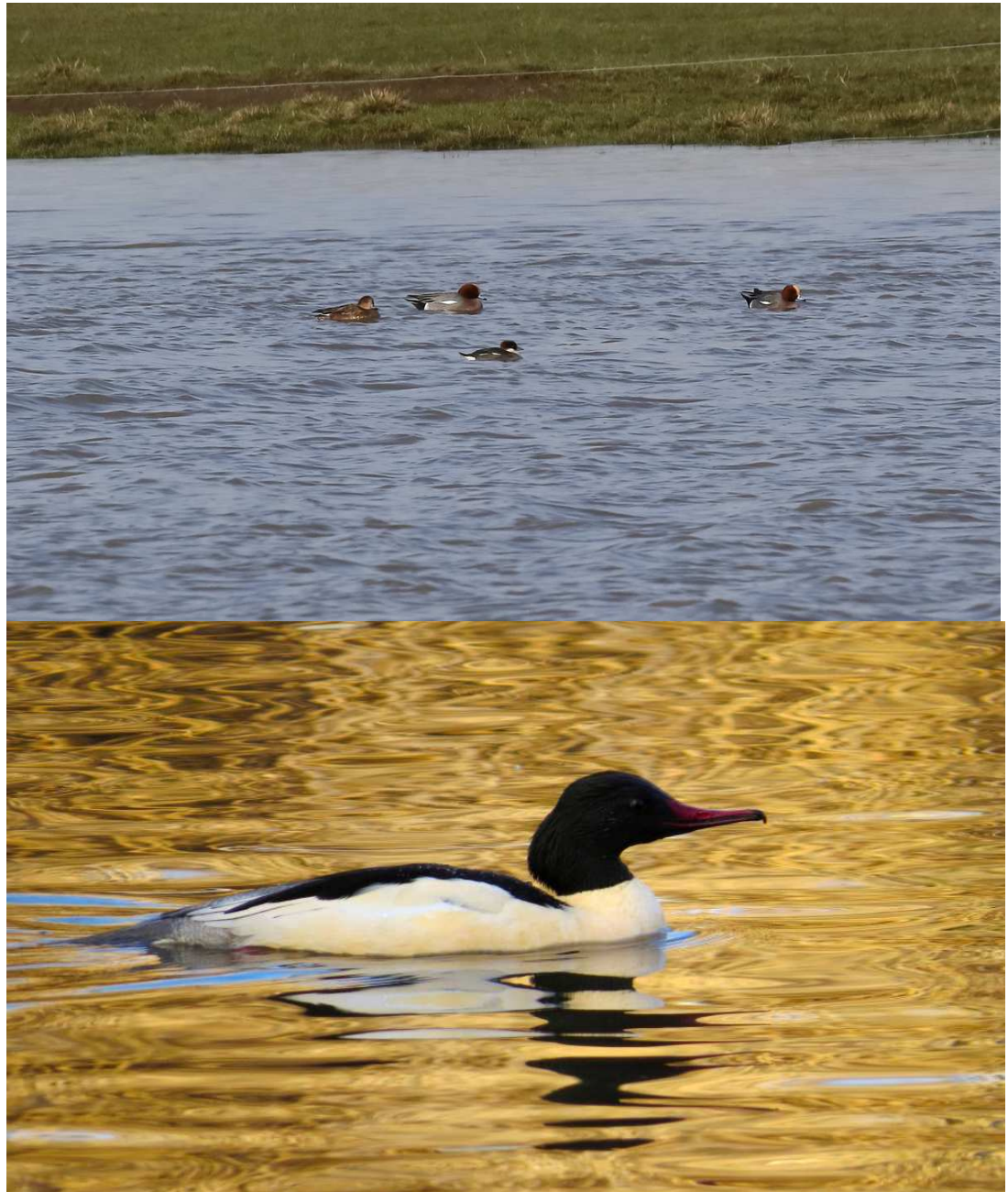
Goosander *Mergus merganser*

12 were at Killingworth Lake on 17th (CDB), nine at Howick on 3rd (JAR), eight at Mickley on 1st (DLe), five to six at Morpeth (TF/JFa), New Water Haugh (MHu) and Newcastle Exhibition Park (GB/CDH). Three to four at Castron, Close House, Mitford, Rothbury, Tyne Green, Warden and Wark, and one to two at/over Acklington Park, Airy Holm Reservoir, Big Waters, Bolam Lake, Felton, High Heaton, Holywell flash, Howick, Jesmond Dene (fishing in the Ouseburn), Longhoughton, Newburn, St Mary's Wetland and Thropton. More unusual were two on a flooded field at Prestwick Carr on 29th (IK).

A Goosander at Exhibition Park
Michael Frankis
25th January

December bulletin correction

The image of a merganser was a goosander



Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Three flew N at Howick on 4th (BS). A group of 25 was off Alnmouth on 24th (RPo), 12 were at Druridge Pools and Links on 1st (IDR), 12 at West Sleekburn on 27th (JR), and seven to eight at Calot Shad (the Tweed Estuary) (MHu) and Widdrington Moor Lake (NFO). One to two were also at the Blyth Estuary, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Ladyburn Lake, Newbiggin Church Point and Stag Rocks. Five displayed at Druridge Pools on 22nd (IRD).

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

On 1st, 130 were at Longbank Farm (Longhoughton) (BS) and 100 at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) (IFo). 126 were on the roof of a gym at Kingston Park Shopping Centre on 8th (AHB), 83 were at Stakeford Bridge on 27th (JR), 12 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 24th (IDR/JF), 11 at Southfield Green (Cramlington) on 16th (DM) and reports of one to six from Druridge Pools, Ellington Pond, Lynemouth Bay, Lynemouth Flash, Old Helsay and Snab Point (Cresswell).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

The regular group at Howdon peaked at 80 on 31st (CB), 17 were on a game crop west of Druridge Pools on 5th (MH/AA), 14 were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 26th (IFo), with the same number at Big Waters NWT on that day (GB) and 13 were at both Ellington on 30th (IDR/JF) and Sipton Burn (Allendale) on 31st (PRM). Four were present all month at Benton Quarry Park (Newcastle) and one to three were at Church Bank Cemetery (Wallsend), Climbing Tree Farm (Pegswood), Coanwood Pond, Dinnington, Haughton Strothers, Hedgeley GP, Humshaugh, Jesmond Dene, Northumberland Park, Old Hartley and Warkworth Lane Ponds. Single birds were singing at Gosforth Subsidence Pond and Linden Hall whilst one was prospecting a potential nest hole in a dead tree at Gosforth Park.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Many large gatherings in excess of 100 birds were noted, mainly towards the lowland east of the county. Numbers at Howick rose from 450 on 3rd to 2,000 on 14th (JAR), ca. 1,000 were at Blubbery Slogs (Cockle Park) on 21st (AT), 900 were being chased by a farmer with a shotgun at Whittingham on 31st (CW), 600 were at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 24th (ASJ) and 500 were at both Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 15th (BS) and Molesden on 16th (PG). At least 400 were at Catheugh (Longframlington) on 16th (NFO) and at Cresswell Hall Woods on 31st (IDR/JF), 300 in a shelter belt near Druridge Pools on 16th, 250 on oilseed rape at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 10th and 200 at Bebside (Blyth) on 31st (JR). A flock at 200 bucked the trend by being well inland at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 18th (IFo), 160 were at Linton Lane on 17th (IDR/JF), 150 at Brenkley on 29th (GB), 120 noted at both Old Helsay and Arcot Pond and around 100 feeding at East Coldcotes (Stonehaugh). 80 were at Foxton Bends and 45 or fewer were seen at Ashington Community Woodland, Ellington Colliery, Ellington Dene, Ellington Pond, Fawdon, Warkworth Lane Ponds and West Moor. A recently fledged juvenile at Heaton (Newcastle) on 11th (PCI) provided evidence of this species' capacity for very late breeding.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

A good count of 31 was made at Slaley Village on 27th (RMH). 13 were on wires at Berwick Hill on 20th (AHB), 11 visited feeders in the observer's garden at Newbiggin on 23rd (AP), as did ten at Dernley Estate (Ashington) all month and nine at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) all month (RS). Five were at both Ogle on 10th (AHB) and Church Bank Cemetery (Wallsend) on 31st (CDH), three were present all month at Benton Quarry Park and one to two birds were at several other locations including a pair copulating on a Hawthorn bush at Chapel House Estate.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

A grand total of four birds were heard at Backworth at dusk on 31st (CGK), three were at Gosforth Park NR on 3rd (MJC), a minimum of two calling at dusk at Druridge Pools on 1st (IDR) and singles were at Arcot Pond, Bamburgh Castle Wood, Big Waters NWT on a few dates, East Chevington, Howick Burn Lake, Killingworth Lake (on ice), Linton Lane NWT, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Great Park (flushed by a dog chasing a Roe Deer), Northumberland Park (North Shields) on many dates, Rising Sun CP, St. Mary's Wetland and Valley Park (Cramlington).



The bold Northumberland Park Water Rail

Iain Johnstone

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Peak counts of 17 came from Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 5th (GB) and 23rd (CDH) and from West Sleekburn on 27th (JR). Eight were seen at both Chirton Dene Park (North Shields) and Sheepwash (R. Wansbeck) with one to three birds at Arcot Pond, Ashington Community Woodland, Big Waters NWT, Druridge Pools, Ellington Pond, Haughton Castle, Haughton Strothers, Linton Lane, Northumberland Park, QE11 CP, Shankhouse Bridge (Cramlington), Slaley Hall, Warden, Wark and Warkworth Lane Ponds.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Regular counts at Linton Ponds NWT ranged from 25 present on 9th (IDR/JF) to a peak of 79 on 17th (TF/JFa) with numbers in the 70's on other dates (AT). Big Waters NWT held 70 on 1st rising to 75 on 3rd (GB), 32 were skating on the ice at Killingworth Lake on 9th (CDB), ten were at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 10th (TD) and one to six were at Druridge Pools, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Haughton Strothers, QE11 CP and Warkworth Lane Ponds.



A Skating Coot at Killingworth Lake by Chris Barlow on 9th January

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

12 were present at the popular wintering site of Castron on 13th (TRD/JD), East Chevington peaked at ten on 3rd (AT), nine were at QE11 CP on 23rd (IDR/JF), seven at Stakeford Bridge on 27th (JR) and six at Howick on 6th (JAR). Four were on the sea at Boulmer on 9th and one to four were seen at 25 other locations.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Very few were seen in the county this month. Two flew N at Howick on 4th (BS) and one headed N past Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 24th (AP), whilst singles were on the sea at Boulmer, Druridge Bay, Meadow Haven (Berwick) and Warkworth Beach. Single birds were also at Killingworth Lake and in the Tyne Estuary.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Well reported but large concentrations were reduced this month with the only three-figure count coming from Alnmouth Bay on 12th, where 104 had gathered (MKi). Other significant counts were 96 on the mini-golf course at Whitley Bay on 20th (ASJ), 94 at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 25th (MHu), 75 at Newbiggin (mostly on the golf course) on 9th (TD), 65 at a beach roost at Druridge on 2nd (IDR), 63 also on 2nd at Howick (JAR) and 54 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 9th (IDR/JF). Other double-figure counts came from the River Blyth Estuary with 41 on 29th (JR), Cresswell Pond with 38 present on 24th (IDR/JF), 30 at Lynemouth Bay on 31st (IDR/JF), 29 at Birling Carrs on 12th (RPo), 26 feeding on a grass verge at Tweedmouth on 8th (MHu) and 22 at West Ord (Berwick) on 3rd (MHU). Early returners to inland haunts involved five seen at Merryshields GP on 20th (IFo), five at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (IFo), four at Branton GP on 2nd (JD) and a single at Warton on 18th (TRD/JD).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

The highest count again came from Budle Bay where 800 were noted on 26th (DF) although this was well down on the 2,000 present in December. Holywell attracted 700 on 10th (ASJ), with 550 at nearby St Mary's Island on 27th (ASJ). Estimates of 500 were made at Elwick on 13th (DF), Belford on 17th (DF) and Prestwick Carr on 29th (IK). Maximum counts from other sites were 380 at the River Coquet Estuary on 1st (RPo), 280 at Bothal Pond on 17th (TD), 261 on the frozen lake at Big Waters NWT on 15th (GB), 240 at Warkworth on 21st (RPo) and 220 at Haughton Strother on 1st (SW). Flocks of over 100 reported were at Foxton Bends (River Aln) with 140 on 6th (MKi), 140 at Druridge Pools & Links on 16th (IDR/JF), 130 on the River Tyne at Scotswood on 27th (MH) and at Woodhorn Flashes on 24th (AP), 125 at Paxtondean (Longhorsley) on 25th (AB/LB), 120 at Slaley on 21st (RMH), 105 flying N at Arcot Pond on 12th (STH) and 100 at both Carterway Heads on 11th and Cresswell dunes on 24th (IFo/IDR/JF). Reports of one to 90 came from 19 other inland, lowland and coastal localities.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Flock sizes were lower this month, with a minimum of 500 at St Mary's Island on 1st increasing to an estimated 2,000 on 30th being the largest reported (MSH/ASJ). There were widespread reports of groups from other locations with 1,000 at Prestwick Carr on 30th (TD), 900 at the River Coquet Estuary all month (RPo), 700 at Budle Bay on 26th (DF) and 600 at nearby Goswick on 17th (EHa). Reports received of over 100 birds were: 450 at Boulmer Steel and Belford on 24th (JAR/DF), 410 at Druridge Pools and Links on 16th (IDR/JF), 300+ near Old Hartley on 2nd and Coanwood Pond on 21st (MSH/SJH) and 320 at Howick on 12th (JAR). At Beacon Point (Newbiggin), 200 were present on 9th (TD) with the same count coming from Doddington on 18th (SVM/AJM). At Jesmond Dene, 140 birds flew NE during a heavy rain shower on 5th (LMi), and a count of 138 was made at Derwent Reservoir on 25th, with 125 at Newcastle Town Moor and 122 at Cocklawburn on the same date. (IFo/MPF/MHu). Six- 80 were reported from Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond, Cresswell, Druridge, Ellington, Grindon Lough. Hemscott Hill (Cresswell), Linton, Linden Hall, North Shields, Old Moor (Berwick), Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn), Wallsend, West Loanend and Whittingham.



Golden Plover near St Mary's
3rd January
Alan Jack

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

No reports were received from the Lindisfarne NNR this month. Peak numbers were seen at Alnmouth Bay where 49 were present on 12th (MKi) and 40 were at Boulmer on 29th (BS). High tide concentrations at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) held 30 on 9th and 16 on 21st (TD/AP). Three were at Howick on 11th and a single at Lynemouth Bay on 15th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

A roost at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) contained 60 birds on 18th (AP) and 51 were counted at St Mary's Island a day later (MSH). The highest number reported from Alnmouth Bay was 35 on 12th (MK) and the same number was reported from Chevington Burn mouth on 31st (PG). Boulmer attracted 28 on 6th (BS), 18 were reported from Snab Point (Cresswell) on 31st (TB), 16 were at Lynemouth Bay on 15th (IDR/JF) and 15 were at the River Coquet Estuary on 7th (IDR). Seven were at Cresswell Pond and two at Bothal during the last week of the month.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

The highest number reported was from Elwick where a minimum of 500 were feeding on flooded fields on 13th (DF). A roost in the outer part of Budle Bay was estimated to contain 450 birds on 24th (DF). A count of 280 was made at Boulmer on 24th (JAR) with a count of 271 from nearby Longhoughton Steel two days earlier probably involving the same birds (MKi). The maximum reported from Howick was 260 on 12th (JAR). Birds were present in the Druridge Pools area all month with the peak count being 140 at the 'Coal road' on 23rd (TD). Other counts over 100 were 132 at Cocklawburn on 4th (MHu), 130 at the River Coquet Estuary on 21st (CSa), 116 in flooded fields at Warkworth on 21st (RPo) and approximately 100 at the Straight Lonnen on Holy Island on 1st (NFO). The maximum count at Howdon was 72 on 24th, 68 were at the River Blyth Estuary on 31st and 52 were finding good feeding with other wader species, on the mini-golf course at Whitley Bay on 20th. Counts between 13-45 came from Birling Carrs, Branton GP, Callerton subsidence area, Monkseaton (flying N), Newburn Haugh, New Water Haugh (River Tweed) and Snab Point (Cresswell). One-five were at Blyth, Caistron, Castle Island, Cresswell, Lynemouth and Newbiggin.



A Curlew at St Mary's
24th January by Alan Jack

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Few reports were received. Boulmer maintained numbers from December with 44 on 29th (BS) and 14 were at Alnmouth Bay on 12th (MKi). Five were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 9th (TD).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

A single at the River Coquet Estuary on 16th (CSa) was the only report.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Birds remained in the Newbiggin area from last month and an increase was noted to 103, seen at Beacon Point on 10th (IDR/JF). The mini-golf course at Whitley Bay was attractive during the month with the maximum reported being 59 on 10th (CDH). On 12th, 28 were at the mouth of the River Aln and the highest count from Snab Point (Cresswell) was 15 on 8th (IDR). One-six were seen at Calot Shad (River Tweed), Cresswell, Hemscott Hill dunes, Lynemouth Bay and flash, Newbiggin GC and Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn). Following two at Holywell Pond in December, a single was seen there on 23rd (GPK/KWY).

Turnstone at North Shields Fish Quay

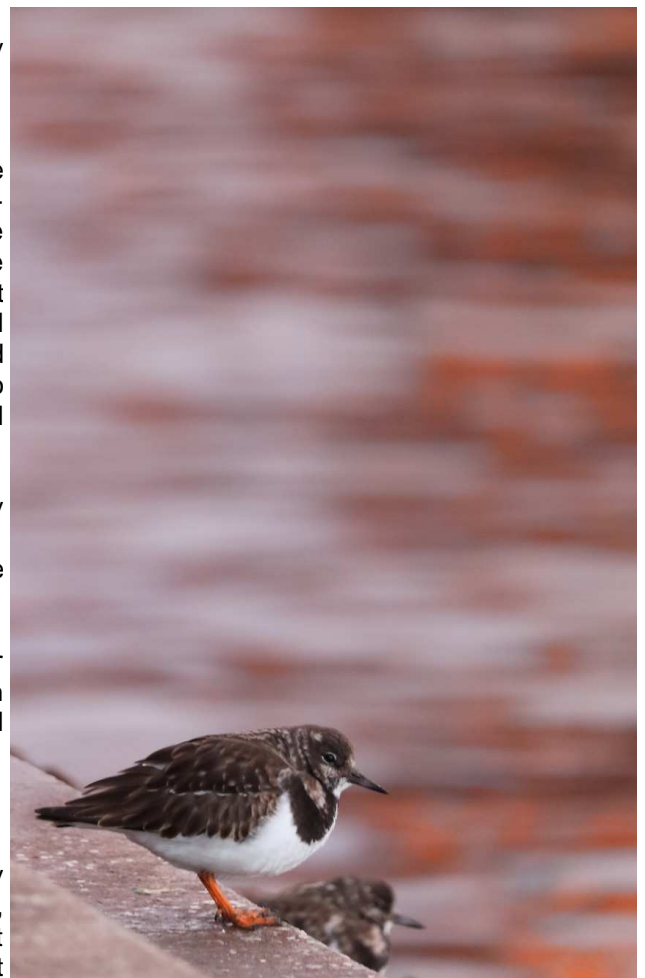
1st January by Iain Johnstone

Knot *Calidris canutus*

An estimated 1,300 were at Budle Bay on 31st (RA/DF). Much lower numbers were noted elsewhere with 36 at Boulmer Steel on 24th (JAR), 21 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 10th (IDR/JF), eight flying N at Howick on 4th (BS) and eight at St Mary's on 30th (ASJ).

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

All reports came from ponds in the Druridge Bay area, possibly involving the same birds. At Druridge Pools, four were present on 3rd, three on 5th and one on 22nd (IDR/JF/MH/AA/IRD). Three were at Cresswell Pond on 22nd (IRD) and two on 31st (TB). Two were at Hemscott Hill on 27th (IDR).



Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Newbiggin held the highest numbers with 200 at Church Point on 9th and 178 at Beacon Point on 19th (TD/AP). Boulmer, as last month, attracted a notable flock with 140 counted on 3rd and 9th (AMG/MG). Birds persisted at St Mary's for most of the month with the highest count being 115 on 9th (ASJ), with counts of 90 on 23rd and 55 on 19th (KWY/MSH). At Druridge Bay, numbers reported varied between four and 85 during the month (IDR/JF/PG/IRD). At Stag Rocks, there were 21 on 23rd and at Lynemouth, there were nine on 15th.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

No reports were received from Lindisfarne NNR, which held significant numbers in December. The largest counts made were 400 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 17th (AP) and 255 at Boulmer on 6th (BS). On 29th there were 188 at the River Blyth Estuary (JR) and the River Coquet Estuary produced counts of 78 on 1st increasing to 160 by 18th (RPo/MKi/CSa). The mouth of the River Aln attracted 70 on 3rd (MKi) and 60+ were present at St Mary's Island on 19th (MSH). One-19 were seen at Bebside (Blyth), Lynemouth Bay, Snab Point (Cresswell) and Tynemouth.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

The regular flock at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) peaked at approximately 150 on 23rd (DF), the only other count from this site being 62 on 19th (AMG/MG). Smaller numbers were present at other locations, with Boulmer holding 37 on 16th (BS), 23 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 9th (IDR/JF), 21 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 12th (RPo), 20 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 9th (TD), 17 at St Mary's Island on the same day (ASJ) and ten at Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSWT). Five were noted at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) and four were at Howick.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Very evident this month with at least 65 birds reported from 31 localities. Following December's report of four feeding after dusk on a field at Longhoughton, a count of 12 was made from the same site on 22nd (BS). Other records of multiple birds were, four at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 18th (NFO), three at Corbridge Common on 5th (DLe), three at Linton Ponds on 24th (TF/JFa) and three also at Howick on 28th PHa/AHa). Two were at Howdon on 9th (CB) and Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 22nd (STH). Singles were seen at Arcot Hall GC, Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond, Boulmer, Cocklawburn, Ellington Pond, Felton, Fourstones, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Kielder Forest Drive, Kyoee, Longframlington, Longhirst flash, Longhirst GC, Molesden (Morpeth), New Water Haugh (River Tweed), North Highmoor, North Shields, Rimside Moor (Rothbury), Rothbury, Scot's Gap, Shilmoor, Thrunton Crag, Warkworth and Whittingham.

Jack Snipe *Limnocyrtus minimus*

The notable concentration of seven seen at West Hartford last month increased to an incredible 22 by 2nd (STH). Two were at Big Waters on 1st (GB) and two were at North Shields on 25th (ASJ). Singles were seen at Ashington Community Woodland, Backworth, Little Waters, Newburn Haugh, Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) and Swallow Pond (Wallsend).

Jack Snipe

Rising Sun

22nd January

Jack Bucknall

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Most reports came from the SE of the area with the peak count being made at Newburn Haugh where 33 were seen on 8th (MH). 30 were at Newcastle Great Park on 9th (LAR) and 30 were flushed by a Marsh Harrier at Druridge Pools on 23rd (TD). Big Waters NWT held 27 on 9th (MJC) with 19 at nearby Little Waters on 18th (GB). At Howdon, the maximum seen was 21 on 9th (CB) and there were 14 at Callerton Subsidence Area on the same date reducing to one by 16th (MH). Ten were reported from Holywell Pond on 23rd (KWY) and seven were at Arcot Pond on 2nd (STH). One-five birds were at Arcot Lane flash, Beacon Hill (Cramlington), Bebside (Blyth), Bothal Pond, Boulmer, Ellington (flooded football field), Ellington Pond, Garleigh Moor (Rothbury), Lynemouth flash, Prestwick Carr, Rothbury, Thropton, Valley Park (Cramlington), West Hartford and Woodhorn flashes.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Single birds were in wintering quarters at Berwick Hill Bridge (River Pont) on 23rd (AHB), Branton GP on 1st (KDa/IBDa), Caistron on 13th (JD/TRD), Hedgeley GP on 17th (IBDa/KDa), Little Waters on 9th (MJC) and Longhirst flash on 31st (AT).

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

Howdon attracted the highest numbers with 220 recorded on 1st (CB). Other three-figure counts came from Cresswell Pond with 196 on 22nd (IRD), 112 at St Mary's Island on 12th (ASJ) and 101 at the River Blyth Estuary on 29th (JR). A high-tide roost at Calot Shad (River Tweed) held 86 on 20th (MHu), 66 were at Hemscott Hill Links on 27th (IDR), 48 at nearby Snab Point (Cresswell) on 9th (IDR/JF), 46 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 24th (MHu) and the maximum count this month from the River Coquet Estuary was also 46 on 21st (MKi). At Druridge Pools, six were present on 1st increasing to 40 by 23rd (IDR/JF/TD). 18 birds were at Newbiggin GC on 10th and Lynemouth Bay on 15th (IDR/JF), with 16 seen at Lemington (River Tyne) on 3rd (MH) and 12 at Bothal Pond on 29th (AT). One-eight were reported from Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Castron, Cresswell, High Heaton and Lynemouth flash.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

A single bird was seen at Bothal pond on 29th-30th (ADM/AT/JFa/TD).

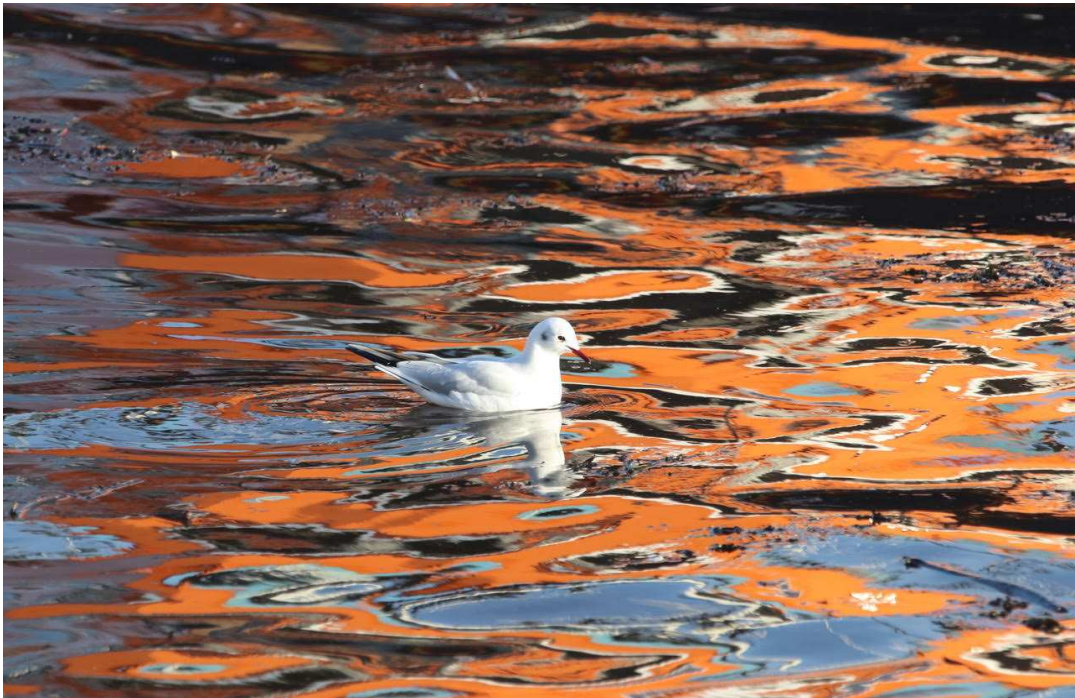
Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

During strong NE gales from 3rd-5th, significant movement N was recorded at a number of sites with counts at Howick of 800 in four hours (BS), at Longhoughton 318 in one hour (BS), at Newbiggin 50 in a half-hour (AT), at Seaton Sluice 300 in two hours (SSWT) and at Tynemouth 174 in one hour (CB).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

A large roost of 2,800 was on the sea at dusk offshore from Druridge Pools on 1st and the roost built up again to more than 1,000 on the following day (IDR); towards the month end counts of ca.250 came from Gosforth subsidence pond (MJC), the Tweed Estuary (Calot Shad) (MHu) and West Sleekburn (JR). Groups of 30-70 were recorded at Alnmouth Bay, the Blyth Estuary, Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools, Ellington, the QEII CP Lake and Stakeford Bridge with many counts of up to 30, mainly at sites in the Druridge Bay/Ellington/ Lynemouth/Newbiggin area but also Arcot Pond, Cramlington, the Coquet Estuary and Slaley. A colour-ringed 1st-winter bird at Gosforth subsidence pond was ringed as a *pullus* in Poland in June 2020 (MJC).

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A colourful sea for a Black-headed Gull at North Shields Fish Quay
15th January by Iain Johnstone

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

A single 2nd-winter bird flew N at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT).

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

The maximum number seen throughout the month was 31, almost all adults, coming to feed at Quarry Cottage, Newbiggin (RS). Elsewhere, double-figure counts were 17, including several colour-ringed birds, in Lynemouth Bay on 10th and ten, seen amongst thousands of other gulls, offshore at Druridge Links on 1st (IDR/JF). A total of six at Seaton Sluice was a January maximum for the site (SSWT) and all other sightings were of one to five mainly in the Druridge Bay/Ellington/ Lynemouth/Newbiggin area but also at Amble, Big Waters, Boulmer, Cullercoats Bay, Longhoughton, North Shields, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

A large roost of 1,200 was on the sea at dusk offshore from Druridge Pools on 1st and on the following day 700 were seen coming in to join the building roost (IDR). Elsewhere, other large numbers were at Derwent Reservoir on 7th when 1,000 were on the water (IFo), 400+ were at Grindon Lough on 31st (PRM) and 250 at North Shields on 10th (CB). Smaller gatherings of 100-200 were at Elwick, Wark (North Tyne) and Whittingham with 10-50 at Big Waters, Colt Crag Reservoir, Linton and Lynemouth Bay.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Small groups totalling 45 were seen moving N offshore at Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR). On dates throughout, 14 were at East Hartford, 12 at Linton Ponds and one to eight at Big Waters, the Coquet Estuary, Cresswell, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strothers, Lynemouth Bay, Old Helsay and Wark (North Tyne).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

A 1st-winter bird was at North Shields Fish Quay on 12th-13th (MN).

December bulletin correction

Glaucous Gull on 25-26th Dec was found by JB.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoïdes*

Three were at the North Shields Fish Quay on 13th comprising an adult plus 1st- and 2nd-winter birds (MN/JBu/AC). All the many other records of single birds at the Fish Quay concerned the 2nd-winter individual (*many observers*) except for a 1st-winter bird on 16th (MN). An adult bird which first appeared late last month at Big Waters was seen again there throughout the month (GB *et al.*).



Iceland Gulls at North ShieldsFQ
Above: by Jack Bucknall on 27th,
below: by Iain Johnstone on 13th January



Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argenteus*

Four counts at Linton Ponds from 17th-31st ranged from 141-386 (TF/JFa *et al.*) and 117 were in the Blyth Estuary on 29th (JR). Elsewhere, 20-70 were at Big Waters, Cresswell (Snab Point), offshore at Druridge Pools/Links, Newbiggin, the QE II CP Lake and West Sleekburn with up to 15 at 12 other coastal and inland localities. An adult at Boulmer on 16th was of the Northern *argentatus* race (BS).

December bulletin correction

The Yellow-legged Gull 8th to 20th Dec was found by JB.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Single birds, two of which were adults, were recorded at Bamburgh, Ellington, Elswick (River Tyne) and Grindon Lough.

Auk *sp*

At Seaton Sluice, only recorded in any numbers with 120 N on 3rd and 5th in one and three hours respectively (SSWT). At Boulmer on 25th, 2,003 passed S in 45 minutes in strong S winds, 90% of which were Guillemots (BS) and offshore at Druridge Links 20-25 flew N on 1st-2nd (IDR).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Four records of one to six came from Berwick and offshore at Druridge Links..

Razorbill *Alca torda*

At Howick 24 were sighted on 4th (BS) with one to four offshore at Druridge Links and St Mary's Island.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

70 birds were noted, of which 51 flew N and 19 flew S during the month at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). On 29th, 31 birds flew N out of Alnmouth Bay on the rising tide towards Boulmer (BS). 13 birds were off Druridge Links on 1st (IDR) and six were offshore at Chevington Burn on 23rd (TD). One to two birds were at Cocklawburn, Howick, Longhoughton Steel, Low Newton, Snab Point (Cresswell), Spittal Bay (Berwick) and Tynemouth.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Two birds were on the sea at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 27th (Csa). Single birds were seen off Druridge Links on 1st and 2nd (IDR), Warkworth Beach on 11th and 20th. On 31st this bird was seen with a Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer* (CSa). The only other record was of a bird feeding off the pier at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 20th (MHu).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

At Seaton Sluice during the month three birds flew N and one flew S (SSWT). Single birds were also seen at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) all month and one flew N at Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

100 birds flew N in 4h in strong NE winds at Howick on 4th (BS), 62 were seen there on 15th and 50 on 7th (AMG/MG). In Lynemouth Bay numbers peaked at 44 on 31st (IDR/JF). 18 birds flew N in a one-hour sea-watch at Tynemouth on 3rd (CB).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

85 birds went N in 4hrs at Howick on 4th (BS), while at Seaton Sluice 71 birds were noted during the month but mostly in the 1st week (SSWT). 46 birds were noted at Tynemouth on 3rd (CB), 22 at Low Steads (Longhoughton) (BS), three in Druridge Bay on 4th (AJH), one at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 1st (TB) and one at Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR), all N.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

169 birds flew N at Longhoughton Steel at dusk on 23rd (BS), 15 birds including one group of 11 went S at Cresswell on 9th (IDR/JF). 11 birds were at QEII CP on 1st (CDB), eight birds were at Royal Quays (North Shields) on 17th (CDH), six birds were noted at Old Helsay on 7th (IDR) and six flew over Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 10th (NFO). One to four birds were at 15 sites during the month.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

39 birds flew N late pm at dusk at Howick on 4th (BS). The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 20 birds of which 16 flew S and 4 flew N (SSWT). Six birds were offshore at Druridge Links (IDR) and Meadow Haven (Berwick) (MHu) on 1st, five were in Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 2nd (MHu) and two flew N at Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

A bird was heard "booming" at Gosforth Park NR on 2nd (CGK). A bird flew in from the S at Weetslade CP also on 6th (MPF) and on 31st a bird was flushed by a large dog from the reed-bed at Newcastle Great Park (CDB).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Nine birds were roosting in fields at Old Hartley on 23rd (KWY), eight were at Boulmer Steel on 24th (JAR), six were at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 9th (AC) and five were at Cresswell Dunes on 24th (IDR/JF). One - three birds were at 18 sites during the Month.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

12 birds were at West Sleekburn on 27th (JR). Two birds were seen at Caistron on 13th (TRD/JD), Hedgeley GP on 17th (IBDa/KDa), Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 26th (LJM), Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 29th (MJC) and at Longhirst Flash on 31st (AT). Single birds were seen at 24 sites during the month.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Four birds, including a male, were in the air together displaying at Dogger Bank (Morpeth) on 17th (ADMc) and three birds were noted at Pegswood on 25th (AT). Two birds were present all month at Gosforth Subsidence Pond (MJC). Two birds were at Howick on 3rd mobbing a Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (JAR), Big Waters NWT on 9th (GB), displaying at North Shields on 10th (DLo), two birds were "jousting" high overhead at Tyne Riverside Park (Prudhoe) on 17th (IK). Two birds were noted chasing each other through the trees at Big Waters NWT on 18th (IK) and a male was seen chasing another bird for 300 metres into a wood at Coanwood Pond on 24th (SJH). Single birds were noted at 45 sites.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

A male in smart adult plumage was noted in the Druridge Bay area on 5th (AA/MH), a " Cream-crowned" bird was at Druridge Pools on 16th (IDR/JF), a male flew across the Druridge Pools on 23rd (TD) and a female/immature was at East Chevington on 28th (IF).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Up to two birds, a 1st-winter bird and a ringtail, were seen at a confidential location throughout the month by two observers.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Four birds were at Carterway Heads (Crooked Oak) on 12th and 18th with three birds there on 1st (IFo); two birds were seen at Ditchburn on 15th (DGR/RHB). Single birds were at Crooked Oak Lane on 4th (IFo), Derwent Reservoir on 11th (IFo), one flew SW at Arcot Pond on 17th (STH), at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 19th (IFo) and at Carterway Heads on 26th (IFo).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Six birds were "surfing" along the ridge at Cloudy Craggs (Alnwick Moor) on 2nd after a heavy snow shower (MH). Three birds were noted at Wark (North Tyne) on 9th (PRM), at Holywell including one perched atop the obelisk on 10th (ASJ), Whittingham on 12th (CW), Colt Crag Reservoir (PRM) and Foxton Bends (River Aln) on (MKi), Belford on 24th (DF) and on Plenmeller Common on 25th (SJH). One to two birds were reported from 41 sites during the Month.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Present all month at Derwent Reservoir with two on five dates and one on a further six (IFo). Birds also noted regularly at two sites in North Tyneside (CGK *et al.*) with singles at Howick on three dates in the first part of the month. One was found dead on 27th having been killed by a bird of prey (JAR). Singles were in the Cresswell / Druridge / East Chevington area regularly and at seven other locations.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

A pair were heard and observed on several evenings in North Tyneside (CGK/AC *et al.*) with two at Brandon (Breamish Valley) on 8th (IBDa/KDa), High Church Estate (Morpeth) on 31st (ADMc) and possibly Fulbeck (Morpeth) during the month (TD). Singles were at Howick throughout the month, Earsdon on 2nd and 4th, Ellington on 23rd and 28th and at eight other locations.

Tawny Owl

Benton

22nd January

Alan Jack

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Two were noted at a site in North Tyneside regularly and at Shiremoor on six dates (CGK) with one near Big Waters on 3rd (GB).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Six were noted at a confidential roost site in the south east of the county (GB) and one to five at two sites in North Tyneside (CGK/GPK).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Two were at Holywell on many dates (ASJ *et al.*) with singles at Plenmeller Common on 12th and Low Newton on 17th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Present all month at Northumberland Park (North Shields) with two on 10th (MNC). Singles were seen regularly at Rothbury, Horton Burn (Cramlington) and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) with one on three dates at Benton (Newcastle), two dates at Big Waters and Boulmer and at 16 other locations.



A Kingfisher on Northumberland Park railing, North Shields by Colin Bradshaw on 1st January

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Seven at Howick Dene on 23rd (BS) was the high count with six at Gosforth Subsidence pond on 29th (MJC) and four at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 31st (NFO). Three were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 12th and 26th and Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 16th and 26th with three squabbling near nest site at Darras Hall on 27th (PCF). Two were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on three dates and at seven other locations with singles at a further 23.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

There was just one report of a single at Spartylea on 29th (ADM).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Three (inc. one pair) were at Abberwick on 2nd, Crooked Oak Lane on 4th and Otterburn on 15th (MH/IFo/ADM). Pairs were at Newbiggin GC on 10th, Tynemouth Priory on 22nd, Longhorsley Moor on 25th and Acomb on 31st with two at five other locations. Singles were at 26 widespread localities.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

All reports were of singles at Budle Bay on 3rd and Boulmer on 3rd and 22nd, Fenham-le-Moor on 12th & 27th, Chathill on 20th, Cackle Park on 24th, Preston Hall on 26th, Prestwick Carr on 27th and Belford on 28th.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

A pair was in the south east of the county in the latter part of the month with singles regularly at Tynemouth, on two dates at St Mary's Island and Cramlington and at 12 other locations.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

A peak of 12 was at Gosforth subsidence pond on 7th with eight or more all month (MJC), ten at Gosforth 6th was possibly the same group (LAR). Six were at Preston Park (North Shields) on 2nd with three to four there on two other dates and at Heaton Park (Newcastle) on two dates with one at East Ord (Berwick) 13th.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

On 30th seven were at Gosforth subsidence pond (MJC), four at West Raw (Rothbury) on 12th and Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 15th (NFO). Three were at Ellington on 4th, Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 12th, Sheepwash (River Wansbeck) on 27th and Gosforth subsidence pond on 29th. Two were reported from four locations in the Ellington area on six dates and at 13 other locations with singles at a further 22.

Magpie *Pica pica*

There were some large gatherings with 64 pre-roost at Newbiggin Dene on 11th (MH), 34 at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 5th (ASJ), 30 at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 22nd (STH) and 28 at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 23rd (ASJ). 18 were at Balliol Business Park (Longbenton) on 15th, 14 at East Sleekburn on 24th and 12 at Wallsend Hall grounds on 16th with three to nine at ten locations and singles at a further 11.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

A roost beside Sainsbury's at West Monkseaton (Whitley Bay) numbered 700 on 30th with 450+ there on 18th (BS/MN). 450 were at Northumberland Park (North Shields) at dusk on 11th, 250 at Rising Sun CP on 9th (CB) and 130 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 11th (IDR). Four sites in the Ellington area produced regular double-figure counts peaking at 40 at Ellington Colliery on 10th and Ellington on 30th with ten to 18 at five other locations and one to nine at two others.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

High counts of 220 came from North Linton Farm on 17th (IDR/JF), 160 at Howick on 11th (JAR), more than 100 feeding at East Coldcoates (Stonehaugh) on 20th with 50 there on 12th (MPR) and 42 at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (IFo). Ten to 36 were at seven other locations with one to nine at a further three.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

A large group of 82 was in the gull roost at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 27th (MHu), 58 at Howdon on 10th, 49 on the 'Black Middens' at Tynemouth on 26th (CB), 47 in R. Blyth Estuary on 29th (JR) and 38 at East Hartford on 24th (LJM). Ten to 21 were at five locations and one to eight at a further 13.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

One was present at Howick all month and at Morpeth from 3rd to 10th with one at Linton on 30th & 31st.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Two were at Kielder Forest Drive on 6th, Catcleugh Reservoir on 15th (ADM) and over Coanwood Pond on 22nd (SJH). Singles were at 11 other widespread localities.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

High counts included 24 at Humford Mill (Bedlington) on 17th (JR), 15 at Ashington Community Woodland on 23rd (IDR/JF), 12 at Choppington on 26th (JR) and ten at Kielder Forest Drive on 6th (ADM). Seven were at Gallagher Park (Bedlington) on 23rd and Bebside (Blyth) on 31st with four at Ellington Colliery on 4th and one to three at 11 other locations being noted regularly at Ellington and Wark.



A Coal Tit at Rothbury 24th January by Tim Dean

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Five were at Throat Wood (Longframlington) on 9th (PHa/AHa), three at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 16th & 25th (NFO) and Mitford Dene on 30th (TF/JFa). One to two were regularly at Linden Hall, Mitford, Morpeth, Rothbury and nine other locations.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Four were at Bebside (Blyth) on 31st with two there on 31st (JR). Generally well reported with two at 13 other locations and singles at 21 other widespread localities being regularly at Linden Hall (Longhorsley), Prestwick Carr, Rising Sun CP (Wallsend).

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

There were numerous double-figure counts with the highest for each site being 26 at Humford Mill (Bedlington) on 17th, 19 at East Sleekburn on 24th, 18 at Choppington on 26th, 15 at Ellington Colliery and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 10th, 14 at Stakeford Bridge on 27th, 13 at Gallagher Park (Bedlington) on 23rd and Bebside (Blyth) on the same date, 12 at Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 21st with 11 at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 17th and Sheepwash (R Wansbeck) on 27th (JR/IDR/JF). One to ten were at 15 other locations.

Great Tit *Parus major*

On 17th 19 were at Humford Mill (Bedlington), 14 at Choppington on 26th, ten at Gallagher Park (Bedlington) on 23rd (JR) and nine at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 31st with eight there on 10th (IDR/JF), at Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 21st and Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 29th (MNC). One to seven were at 11 other locations being regular in the Ellington area.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

There were high counts of 300 feeding at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 23rd with 200 there on 24th, 118 on 27th and 80 on 30th (ASJ). 220 were at Callerton Subsidence area on 15th with 200 there on 7th and 80 on 9th (MH), also 180 at New Hartley on 25th (MNC). 55 were at Big Waters NWT on 15th, 36 at Hemscott Hill links (Cresswell) on 27th and 20 at Climbing Tree Farm (Pegswood) on 2nd with one to 12 at 18 other locations.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Two were at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) on 3rd (TB) with one there on 2nd (IDR/JF/AT).



A Shore Lark at Hemscott Hill
Alan Tilmouth
2nd January

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

There was one at East Chevington on 1st (TF/JFa) and one at Big Waters NWT on 9th (GB), where song was heard sporadically to the end of the month.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had the highest count, with 28 in two groups on 10th (IDR/JF). Gosforth Park NR had 19 on 3rd (MJC), Beacon Hill (Cramlington) had 16 on 5th (STH), and Linton Lane had 16 on 17th (IDR/JF). There were 14 at Lincoln Hill on 3rd (SW), 14 at Howick on 23rd (JAR), and 14 at Edlingham on 26th (PHa/AHa). Humshaugh and Ashington Community Woodland had 13 on 10th (SW) and 23rd (IDR/JF) respectively. There were 12 at Warden on 1st (SW), Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 1st (IFo), and Craggside (Rothbury) on 5th (TRD/JD). Parties of ten were recorded at Prestwick Carr, Wark (North Tyne), Woodhorn Flash and Fieldhead (Longhorsley). Smaller numbers were observed at widely distributed locations in the county throughout the month.



Long-tailed Tit at Big Waters by Chris Barlow on January 30th

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

A single bird was recorded at NU Academy, Benton (Newcastle) on 9th (PCi).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

There were many garden sightings this month. At Tynemouth, a male and a female made appearances from 5th to 31st (DRW). At Gosforth Garden Village, a male and a female arrived on 7th (MJC) and remained until 9th (female) and 29th (male). In South Gosforth, a male and a female were observed on a fat ball feeder on 23rd, 25th and 30th (AJD), with single appearances on 18th (male) and 28th and 31st (female). Other Newcastle sightings came from Heaton, Benton and Gosforth Park, with a male bird present in a High Heaton garden between 13th and 27th (LMi), and a male feeding on sunflower hearts in a Gosforth garden on 31st (AHB). Male birds were seen on apples in a garden in Stobhill Manor (Morpeth) on 13th (JFa) and on a garden feeding station in Northburn (Cramlington) on 21st (LJM). Single birds were also recorded at Pegswood, Humshaugh, Berwick and Bedlington.

A female Blackcap

Gosforth

Alan Davis

30th January



Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

13 were at Kielder Forest Drive on 6th (ADM), seven were at Ellington Dene on 17th (Tb), and six were at Longframlington Throat Wood on 9th (PHa/AHa). There were five at Havannah NR on 21st (DLo) and at Grindon Lough on 31st (PRM), and four at Ashington Community Woodland on 23rd (IDR/JF). Darras Hall (Ponteland) had two on 8th (PCF), and Colt Crag Reservoir had two on 24th (PRM). Singles were reported from Druridge Pools, Leazes Park and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Newbiggin, Cramlington, South Yearle, Heatheridge and Big Waters NWT.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

The highest counts came from Druridge Pools, Ellington Dene, and Warkworth Lane Ponds, which all had six birds on 1st, 4th and 17th respectively (IDR/JF). Four were at Linton Lane on 17th (IDR/JF), East Sleekburn on 24th (JR), Choppington on 26th (JR), Cresswell Hall Woods on 31st (IDR/JF, and Bebside (Blyth) on 31st (JR). Smaller numbers were reported from Bedlington, Old Helsay, Lynemouth Bay, Milkwell (Corbridge), Yearle and Snab Point (Cresswell).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Howick Dene had ten on 16th (BS), Humford Mill (Bedlington) had seven on 17th (JR), and Benridge (Morpeth) had five on 5th (IRD). There were three at Arcot Hall GC (Cramlington) on 1st and 29th (DM), Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 3rd (PCi), Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 23rd (IF), and at Coldwell on 31st (SW). Two were observed at Humshaugh, Northumberlandia (Cramlington), Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Lincoln Hill, Gosforth Park, Holywell Dene and Acomb, with records of single birds at many locations throughout the county. Singing birds were at Arcot Hall GC and Arcot Pond on 29th (DM), Humshaugh on 1st (SW), Milkwell (Corbridge) on 31st (RB/MB), and Rothbury on 8th (TRD). A bird was observed singing and clearing out a potential nest cavity at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 29th (MJC).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

An unusual record of two birds squabbling over breadcrumbs on the ground came from Bolam Lake on 30th, where another bird was seen feeding on bird food in the car park (PG). There were two at Arcot Hall GC on 2nd (STH), Borough Woods and East Mill (Morpeth) on 6th and 29th respectively (ADM), Tweedmouth Cemetery on 10th (BWG), Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 13th and 25th (NFO), Paxtondean (Longhorsley) on 15th (AB/LB), Ellington Dene on 17th (TB), Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 18th (STH), Wallsend's Rising Sun CP on 22nd (ASJ) and Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 29th (MJC). The many reports of singles at locations throughout the county included a singing bird at Humshaugh on 24th (SW).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

At Fawdon (Newcastle) numbers at roost rose from 50 on 15th to 5,000 on 16th, increasing to 10,000 by 31st (CDB). There were 2,000 at East Chevington on 1st (TF/JFa) and 2,000N in the early morning at Dinnington on 30th (PCF). There were 500E at dusk at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 4th (NFO), and 500 at Prestwick Carr on 9th (PCF), Sleafy Hall on 21st (RMH), and at Throckley on 29th (PVF), where murmuration was observed in the early evening. Druridge Pools & Links had 250 on 16th (IDR/JF), and Big Waters NWT had 200 on 23rd (GB). Smaller flocks were recorded at North Linton Farm, Grindon Lough, West Dipton Burn, Stonehaugh (East Coldcotes), and Howdiemont Sands (Boulmer), with numbers below 100 at Cresswell, Ellington and Newbiggin.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

A flock of 110 by the wagonway at Holywell on 1st (CB) was by far the highest count of the month. There were 24 at Bebside (Blyth) on 31st (JR), 23 at St Nicholas' Park (Gosforth) on 2nd (LAR), and 22 at Warkworth Lane Ponds (Ellington) on 9th (IDR/JF). North Linton Farm had 19 on 17th (IDR/JF), as did East Sleekburn on 24th (JR). There were 16 at Cresswell Hall Woods on 31st (IDR/JF), 13 at Humford Mill (Bedlington) on 17th (JR) and at Choppington on 26th (JR), and 12 were foraging on the vallum at Blucher (Walbottle) on 6th (MH). Smaller numbers were at Yearle, Druridge Pools, and Whittingham, with nine at Gainslaw (Berwick) feeding with Fieldfares on 22nd (MHu).



A Blackbird at Rothbury. 24th January Tim Dean

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

The largest flocks were at Longhirst Flash, with 1,000 on 9th (AT), Druridge Pools, with 600 in fields on either side of the coal road on 16th (IDR/JF), and Whittingham with 400 and a small number of redwings on 2nd (CW). Big Waters NWT had a mixed flock of 300 fieldfares and redwings on 30th (LMi) and there were 250 at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 16th. Blubbery Slogs had 230 on 16th (AT), Gainsley (Berwick) had 210 on 17th (MHu), and Lindenlane (Longhorsley) had 200 on 29th (NFO). There were 190S at Gosforth Pond on 15th, representing hard weather movement (MJC), and 120 at Low Newton on 31st (JPL). Mitford Steads, Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) and Wallsend Rising Sun CP had flocks of 100 on 9th (TF/JFa),

11th (IFo) and 30th (ASJ) respectively. Smaller flocks were reported from Ellington, Weetslade Colliery CP, Rothbury, Doddington Bridge, Cresswell, Derwent Reservoir, Prestwick Carr and Newbiggin GC. Numbers below 50 were at Holywell, Slaley Hall, Old Hartley, Stonehaugh (East Coldcotes), Beacon Hill (Cramlington), Dinnington, Howick and Milkwell (Corbridge). A garden record came from Newton Red House, with two feeding on apples alongside up to ten blackbirds from 9th to the end of the month on most days (PG).

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Big Waters NWT had a mixed flock of 300 Redwings and Fieldfares on 30th (LMi) and Fulbeck (Morpeth) had 250 on 16th (TD). There were 200 at Mitford Steads on 9th (TF/JFa) and at Wallsend Rising Sun CP on 12th (CGK/GPK). Bebside (Blyth) had 151 feeding in a horse field on 31st (JR), and Backworth had 150 on 9th (CGK/GPK). A flock of 122 at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 29th included several singing birds (MJC). There were 110 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 8th (IDR), 100 at Lindenlane (Longhorsley) on 29th (NFO), and 92 at Howick on 3rd (JAR). The Sele (Hexham) had 75 on 12th (AJR), Holywell had 65 by the wagonway with 40 fieldfares on 1st (CB), and 52 were foraging on the vallum at Blucher (Walbottle) on 6th (MH). Flocks of 50 were recorded at Beacon Hill (Cramlington), Littlehoughton, Prestwick Carr, Druridge Lane and Stonehaugh (East Coldcotes). Smaller flocks, groups and singles were reported from many locations throughout the county. Hard weather movement was noted at Big Waters on 9th (MJC) and Rothbury on 16th (TRD). There was only one report of garden visitors, with four in Tynemouth on 9th (CB).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Reported numbers remained low this month, with seven at Bebside (Blyth) on 31st (JR), five at Bamburgh on 1st (NFO), and four at Druridge Pools on 1st (IDR/JF). There were reports of one or two birds from many locations throughout the county and singing birds were recorded at Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 15th (DM), Scotswood (Newcastle) on 27th (MH), Castle Vale (Berwick) on 27th (MHu), and Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 30th (TD).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

There were 20 in the coal road fields at Druridge Pools on 16th, the second unusually high monthly count for the site in a row (IDR/JF). Howick had 18 on 15th (JAR), and Gosforth Subsidence Pond had 12, including five singing birds, on 29th (MJC). Budle Bay had seven on 31st (RA), Bebside (Blyth) had six on 31st (JR), Linton had four on 30th (IDR/JF), and Ellington had four on 31st (TB). Three were at Milkwell (Corbridge) on 12th (RB/MB) and one or two birds were reported from a number of locations in Newcastle and throughout the county. Singing birds were at Coanwood Pond on 24th (SJH) and at Dinnington on 27th (GB)..

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

There were 12 at Slaley village on 27th (RMH), ten at East Sleekburn on 24th (JR), nine at Humford Mill (Bedlington) on 17th (JR) and at Choppington on 26th (JR) and Stakeford Bridge on 27th (JR). Bebside (Blyth) had eight on 31st (JR) and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had six on 26th (IDR). Smaller numbers were recorded at Cresswell Hall Woods, Kielder Forest Drive, Druridge Pools & Links, West Sleekburn, Sheepwash on the Wansbeck, and Linton.



A Robin

Rothbury

24th January

Tim Dean

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

The female/first-winter birds at Tynemouth Pier and Beacon Point (Newbiggin) was present throughout the month, and a male was at Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 3rd (RA, NFO).



Black Redstart at Tynemouth on 31st January by Duncan Watson

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

There were five at St Mary's Island on 16th (ASJ), Cresswell Dunes on 24th (IDR/JF) and Longhirst Flash on 31st (AT). Four were at Druridge Links on 1st (IDR/JF) and two pairs were at East Chevington on 23rd (TD). Three were at Old Hartley on 5th and 23rd (MNC), Kielder Forest Drive on 6th (ADM) and Goswick on 31st (EHa). Pairs were recorded at Howick, West Hartford and North Walbottle, with a pair at High Mickley first observed on 28th November still being present on 15th (ID). Unusual inland records were two at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 17th (TF/JFa), and single birds on 3rd and 7th at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and at Coanwood Pond (SJH) on 22nd and 28th.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Three were noted, including singing birds, at Warden on 1st and at Abbey Mill on 24th (SW/JFa/TF). Two were seen at six sites this month and singles at a further eight.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

A count on 5th at Ellington Colliery of 110 was the month's peak, with 70 remaining on 18th (IDR/JF). 60 -70 spent all month at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) (RS). 20 - 38 were noted at seven locations and one – 12 at a further 11 sites.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

54 were counted at North Linton Farm on 17th and 30 were at Ellington Farm on 5th (IDR/JF). 30 was the peak at a pre-roost gathering at Linden Hall (NFO). 25 attended feeders at Newton Red House all month (PG). 12 -22 were noted at eight sites during the month and one to 11 birds at 32 other sites.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Seven were seen at East Sleekburn on 24th and six singing at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 29th (JR/MJC). One to four were noted at 17 other places this month.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava tchuchensis*

The wintering individual was seen at Prestwick Carr on 23rd and 25th (IF/MH).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Three to four were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on three dates (MJC). Two were at Warden, Howick and Horton Burn, Postern Wood and Morpeth Sewerage Works this month and singles seen at a further 47 sites.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Large numbers feeding in pasture at Prestwick Carr on several dates peaked on 29th at 70 (IK/MH/IF/GB). Seven at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 7th, increased to 16 on 15th and 23 on 31st (MJC). 12 were at Hemscott Hill on 2nd (AT). One to nine were also seen at 29 other sites during the month.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

The month's peak count was 100 seen at Backworth on 9th with 30 there on 23rd (CGK/GPK). At Callerton, 55 were noted on 15th (MH). 45 noted at Longhirst flash on 31st (AT). 20 – 30 were watched at Holywell, Big Waters, Cresswell dunes and Bothal Pond during the month (ASJ/GB/TF/JFa). One -18 were also seen at 23 other sites, including nine well inland at Crooked Oak and eight at Colt Crag and a single bird on moorland near Rothbury.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Single sightings this month were at Druridge Pools on 6th and at Newbiggin on 19th (MJC/AP).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

11 were counted at Fenham Le Moor 27th (MJC). Newbiggin held five to seven on 9th and 10th. One to two were at three further locations.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Around 120 at Crooked Oak on 1st increased to 200 by 12th (IFO). 100 were seen at Longhoughton on 3rd (BS), 80 at South Snods on 13th (IFO) and 50+ were at Longhorsely on 15th and 50 at Howick on two dates (AB/LB/JAR). One – 29 were also noted at a further 22 sites during the month.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Birds observed on several dates at Crooked Oak peaked at 27 on 12th (IFO). Elsewhere, only singles were encountered at six sites.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Single birds were seen at Borough Woods on 3rd and at Abbey Mill on 18th (AT/JFa). Another bird was watched in the west of the county at Humshaugh on 9th (SW).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

14 were at Walker Riverside Park on 16th (per SP). 18 was the month's peak count of the regular birds attending garden feeders at Rothbury (TRD/JD). 17 were seen at Gosforth Park on 3rd and in one flock at Keepersshield (North Tyne) on 31st (MJC/SW). 15 were counted on 15th at Rising Sun C.P. (ASJ). 12 -14 were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on two dates (MJC). Ten, all males, were at Lyneburn mouth on 10th (IDR/JF). One to eight were also noted at an impressive 58 other sites. Two of the northern race were seen at Plenmeller Common on 25th (SJH).



A female Bullfinch at Rothbury on 24th January by Tim Dean

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Birds gathering pre-roost at Linden Hall on several dates this month peaked at 55 + on 31st (NFO). 16 were seen in garden at Gosforth Garden Village on 30th (MJC). 14 were at Morpeth Common on 2nd (IDR), 13 at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 2nd and were 12 watched at Whitley Bay on 23rd (KWY). One to ten were seen at a further 28 sites.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

120 were seen on 2nd at both Hemscott Hill dunes and Druridge Links and 100 seen in these areas on 23rd, with lower numbers noted on many dates (IDR/JF/TD). 100 remained at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 2nd (TD). 34 were watched at Cocklawburn on 4th (MHu). 28 were at Amble on 30th and 26 seen on two dates at Warkworth (CSa). Ten were noted again at St. Mary's on several dates (JBu/AC/ASJ). Five+ at West Shield Hill/Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 5th, increased to six by 31st with singles seen here on several other dates (ADMc/TF/JFa).

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

300 - 650 were counted feeding at Ellington Pond in the first two weeks (IDR/JF). 250 were at Crooked Oak on 12th, 200 there on 1st, and at West Shield Hill on 18th (IFo/TF/JFa). 200 were also noted at Rake Lane (North Shields), Greenrigg and Morpeth Sewage Works and High Buston during the month (ASJ/MKi/TF/JFa). 130 were seen at Bywell on 12th (MH) and 105 were at Old Hartley on 5th (MNC). 100 were in horse fields at Dinnington on 13th (GB). 50 - 90 were observed at a further six sites and 12 - 45 at 12 more locations.

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

Two were seen at Weetslade C.P. on 30th and one was at Widdrington Moor Lake on 1st (MPF/TF/JFa).

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis caberet*

40 were counted at Humshaugh on 14th (SW). 30 were at Arcot Pond on 9th (STH). 20 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 1st (TF/JFa). One - 16 were at 14 further sites this month.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

35 were seen at Craggside on 5th (TRD/JD). Eight flew N at Humshaugh on 22nd (SW). Six were seen at Longhoughton on 6th and five continued their stay at Rising Sun C.P. all month (BS/ASJ *et al.*). Five were also seen at Warkworth on 24th (CSa). One to four were noted at a further seven sites.



Crossbills on 25th January
Above: at Rising Sun by Colin Bradshaw
and below: at Pegswood by Alan Tilmouth



Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

100 were along Druridge Coal Road on 23rd (TD), 65 at Howick on 1st (JAR). 50 were seen at Ellington Pond on 5th and 40 at Druridge Pools on 2nd (IDR/JF). 40 were at Greenrigg (Hexham) on 9th and at Cramlington on 27th (MKi/LJM). One to 35 were at 33 further sites.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

82 were counted at Fourstones on 6th (AJH). 70 were seen at Brandon on 2nd and at Wark on 21st, with 60 also there on 16th (IBda/Kda/PRM). 60 were at Rising Sun C.P. on 17th (ASJ), 50 at Chollerford on 11th and at Walker Riverside C.P. on 17th and Gosforth on 29th (per SP/ MJC). 20 - 40 were noted at 13 sites, including 30 at East Cramlington LNR on 22nd and 20 at Northburn on 9th (DM). One - 18 also at a further 30 widespread sites, including six on garden feeders at Fulbeck (Morpeth).

A male Siskin at Benton
22th January by Alan Jack

Lapland Bunting *Calcaeus lapponicus*

There were two records this month, with two at Monks' House Pool on 31st and a single at St. Mary's on 6th (RA/ASJ).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

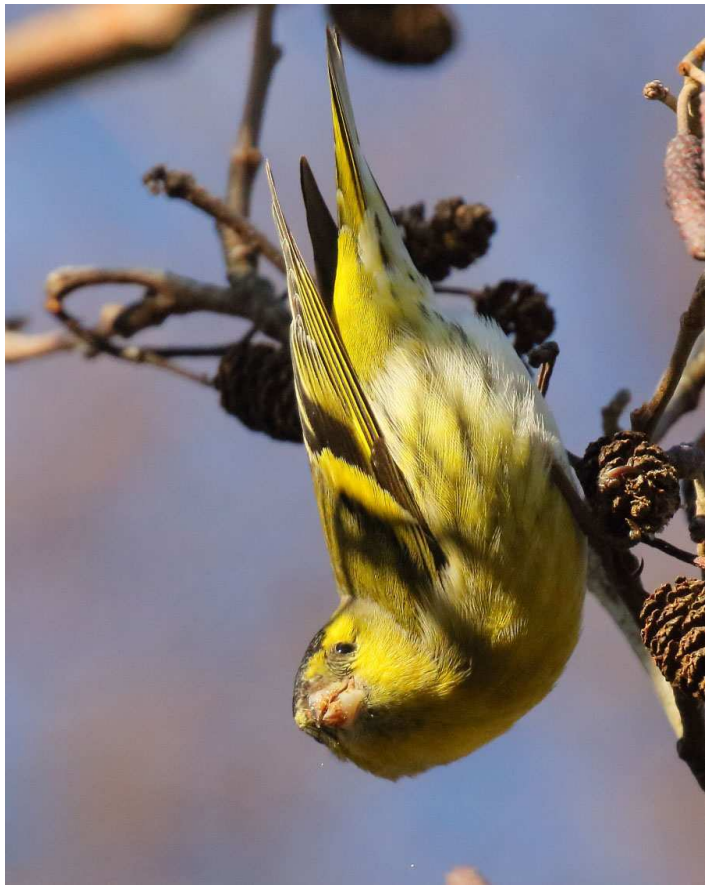
Eight were at N.Blyth on 16th (ASJ per TG), two in stubble at Holywell on 23rd (KWY) and one flew over Tynemouth Boating Lake on 8th (JBu).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Some encouraging numbers were noted this month. 180 watched at Callerton on 9th, had increased from 71 on 7th, with 150 still present on 15th, although they had vacated the area by the following day (MH). 50 on 23rd, increasing to 90 feeding in a crop field at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 28th was very unusual (ASJ/DLo). 80 were at Lincoln Hill on 3rd and at Littlehoughton on 5th (SW/BS). 70 were at Whorral Bank on 2nd (Tfa/JFa) and 40 noted at Longhoughton on 18th (AMG/MG). One to 31 were observed at 22 other sites during the month.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

A crop field at Rake Lane (North Shields) attracted a huge gathering, with 130 counted from photographs on 24th, increasing to 200+ on 28th and 130 again counted on 30th, representing the county's largest gathering for many years (ASJ/MM/DLo). Elsewhere, 30 fed in a Barley crop on 6th at Ellington (IDR). 20 were at Old Helsay on 7th (IDR). One to 15 were also noted at 26 further sites this month.



Reed Bunting

North Shields

23rd January

Alan Jack



ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN**ORIGIN****Escapes****Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

One was at Buston Links (Alnmouth) on 29th (AMG / MG).

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

One now frequents the River Coquet in Rothbury with the bread-fed Mallard by the pedestrian bridge over the river. (TRD/JD).

Hybrids**Scaup x Tufted Duck** *Aythya marila* x *Aythya fuligula*

One hybrid of possibly this origin was at Marden Quarry on 9th (KWY).

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings

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Berwick Wildlife Group, North Northumberland Bird Club, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

Apologies for any accidental omissions**BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION in 2021 BOU order**

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Grouse to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Doves to Grebes), Clive Hampton (Oystercatcher to Redshank), , Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Auks), Trevor Blake (Divers to Buzzard), Peter Fletcher (Barn Owl to Larks), Helen Snaith (Cetti to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Apologies for any accidental omissions

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Clive Hammond is Data Manager.

Edited by Steve Barrett NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to ntbc.records@googlemail.com

Please email for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: Please use of standard location names and include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. Subs are due on 1st October each year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website.

If you internet bank you can pay online: please include your name in the ref. It is helpful if you email me to let me know when you've made the transfer ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

If you decide to set up a standing order please date the first payment at least a fortnight from your posting date to allow time to process with the bank. You can also set up your standing order directly with your bank if you wish; just let me know. Our bank details are on the membership form.

For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

Finally, if you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome.

Jo Bentley - Hon Treasurer

NTBC WEB SITE

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds.

There are:

Photo Galleries – Here you can view hundreds of photos of birds from Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Members are encouraged to contribute their own photos. Simply send them to galleries@ntbc.org.uk

There are also County Checklists, Records Committee updates, Information on important Surveys, useful articles and reports on Bird ID and Overseas Birding Trips....and much more...

Please submit any other new content for the website to the main club email address at ntbcorg@gmail.com

New content such as Birding Trip Reports etc., is always welcome and very much appreciated.

To find out more please visit www.ntbc.org.uk



Kingfisher
Northumberland Park
Alan Jack

NTBC Website For Sale Page

Not all members may be aware of recent items appearing on the For Sale page, some for sale with a portion to club funds, some free. The page content is reproduced here.

Cramp et al. Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Vols 1-5 (out of 7). RSPB/O.U.P., 1977-88.

I've recently bought a large collection, and need to make some space! The cheapest equivalent copies I can find online for these vols range from £15 – £30 each. These 5 can be yours for £60, of which I will donate £10 to Club. They are all in VG condition, just a little sunned to spines, and 2 of them have neatly-repaired 1cm closed tears to the head of spine (N.B. Never pull a heavy book off the shelf like that!)

Brown, Urban & Newman. Birds of Africa, Vols. 1-3 (of 7). Academic Press, 1982-88

VG+ condition, with sunning to spines of V.2 and 3. Cheapest I can find £27 – £42 each. I can do £75, again with £10 going to Club. I can deliver to N. Tyneside/ Ncle, or rendezvous with anyone further afield.

Birds of the British Isles. By Bannerman, David (illus. by George Lodge), Oliver & Boyd, 1953-63. 12 vols. Hbk.

VG set in VG- d/ws. 8 of the wrappers have small closed tears to head of spine, Vol. 4 has small loss to tail of spine, Vol.1 has small loss to corner of front paste-down illustration, and Vols. 3 & 4 have very slight rippling to bottom front edge. Green cloth with gilt lettering is undamaged. Bindings are tight and upright. Light foxing to fore-edges. Internally immaculate, with the plates in excellent condition. Bookplates from Lord Barber of Tewkesbury to ffeeps.

£200 for the set (listed on Amazon at £250, which is very competitive for a full set online), of which I will donate £20 to Club. Can deliver in south of county, or rendezvous to hand over safely if further afield

EAGLES, HAWKS AND FALCONS OF THE WORLD (Brown, Leslie & Amadon, Dean). Country Life Books 1968. 2-VOL. SET IN SLIPCASE.

Immaculate set in lightly-worn slipcase. 125 full-colour paintings by Peterson, Talbot Kelly, Harrison and others. Bookplates from Lord Barber of Tewkesbury to front endpapers. The two plates of Gyrfalcon by Henry are particularly stunning. £45, with £5 going to Club funds. Cheapest comparable set I can find online is £52. Delivery /collection by arrangement.

BIRDS OF THE WORLD: 108 weekly parts building to "First complete full-colour encyclopaedia of birds". IPC Magazines, 1969-70.

Over 3000 pages, bound in 9 grey cloth A4 -size volumes, with gilt titles. Immaculate set; older members will remember the publication. A very smart set, full to the brim with colour photographs and artwork. £35, with £5 going to Club funds. Again delivery/collection by arrangement.

Contact Alan Macfarlane 07926369140 for any of the above.

Also - FREE copies of British Birds from 2008 to 2012 and 2017 to 2019. Happy to part with individual years if necessary.

Please email Alan Janes on darkchantinggoshawk@yahoo.co.uk

Also Steve Barrett has British Birds from 1961 up to to the late 1970s any donation to NTBC secures the box.

NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

Andrew Brunt
Honorary Secretary
Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club
Registered Charity No:51764117641

Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2021 No 02

MONTHLY SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2021

5th April 2021



CONTENTS

CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Todd's Canada Goose	The wintering bird was seen again this month at Druridge Bay CP on 21st.
Tundra Bean Goose	An influx with up to eight at five different sites.
Ruddy Shelduck	Up to two at Derwent Reservoir.
American Wigeon	Drakes at Grindon Lough and Big Waters.
Bufflehead	First county record with a drake at Cresswell Pond on 26th.
Scaup	Up to three in Druridge area.
Smew	Two redheads at Castron and single at Widdrington Moor Lake.
Red-necked Grebe	One at Seahouses from 14th to 19th.
Avocet	Early returning birds with up to two at Blyth Estuary from 17th.
Ruff	Up to nine at Grindon Lough and five at Druridge Pools.
Grey Phalarope	Singles at Blyth & Warkworth on 8th.
Spotted Redshank	Wintering bird still at Bothal Pond all month.
Greenshank	Singles at Beal, River Tyne and Budle Bay.
Little Gull	One at Tweed Estuary on 5th.
Iceland Gull	Widespread with up to two at eight sites.
Bittern	One at Druridge Pools on 17th.
Great White Egret	Early record with one at Longhirst Flash from 19th to 21st.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	One reported drumming and briefly seen at Letah Wood, Hexham on 27th.
Carrion Crow	Record county gathering of 440 at Gosforth subsidence pond on 10th.
Hooded Crow	Wintering birds still at Howick and Linton.
Skylark	Huge feeding flock of up to 420 at Rake Lane, North Shields during month.
Shore Lark	One at Ross on 1st.
Cetti's Warbler	Single still singing at Big Waters.
Chiffchaff	Singles wintering at four sites.
Blackcap	Wintering birds at nine sites.
Starling	Estimated roost at Fawdon of an impressive 80,000 individuals at peak.
Black Redstart	Singles at Berwick and Seahouses.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	Still wintering at Prestwick Carr to at least 1st.
Hawfinch	Up to three still at Abbey Mills, Morpeth all month.
Greenfinch	An indication of decline shown by a peak of only ten at any site.
Linnet	Large flock of 1,300 at Birling farm, Warkworth on 12th.
Mealy Redpoll	One or two at Silverlink Biodiversity park and Gosforth subsidence pond.
Lapland Bunting	Up to three at Ross, Beal and Bamburgh.
Snow Bunting	Six at Goswick and a single at St Mary's.
Reed Bunting	Still large feeding flock of up to 100 at Rake Lane, North Shields during month

INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm. The next meeting is by Zoom on 8th April.

FIELD TRIPS

On hold for the next few months.

Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

A male displayed to four females at Kings Law/Westburnhope (Hexhamshire Common) on 21st (BNR). Five males were at Paxhill (Allendale) on 27th, when a male displayed to four females at Knockburn (Allendale), two males were at nearby High Knock Shield Farm, and single males were at Fellhouse Fell (Plenmeller Common) and Ridley Common (SJH). Four males were noted lekking at Plenmeller Common on 28th (PRM).

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

35+ were noted at Plenmeller Common on 28th (PRM). On 27th, 20 at Paxhill (Allendale) included some displaying (SJH) and seven displayed at nearby High Knock Shield Farm (Allendale)(SJH). One to five were at Carrshield and Kings Law (Plenmeller Common).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

18 were at Lorbottle on 4th (TRD/JD), nine at Druridge Lane on 1st (TB), five at Harehaugh on 22nd (TRD/JD) and one at Alnwick Moor.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

20 were on stubble fields at Catraw Farm, Stannington on 1st (MH), 14 at Sandy Bay-Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) all month (BST), three to six were at Belford, Big Waters, Boulmer, Camperdown, Druridge Pools, Ellington, Howick, Killingworth wagonway, Linton, Longhoughton, New Moor (Ashington), Prestwick Carr and Shorestone. One to two were also at Alnwick, East Hartford, High Horton Farm (Blyth), Linden Hall, North Walbottle and St Mary's Island.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Larger counts included 22 at Hauxley Reserve on 17th (HRS), and 11-15 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Cresswell Hall and East Hartford. Three to six were also at Druridge Links, Old Hartley and Rothbury (including a male at the latter site that tapped on patio doors; TRD/JD), and one to two at eight further sites, including a white individual at Lightwater (PG).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

All reports were of pale-bellied *hrota* race birds; a minimum of 1,180 were at Budle Bay on 11th and 1,075 left a roost there on 26th, while 900-1,000 were noted there on several dates between 1st-25th (DF). The only other reports were of 300 at nearby Ross-Elwick on 23rd (DF), and two grazing on the golf course at Newbiggin on 12th (AP).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Grindon Lough attracted a peak of 441 on 22nd, with seven to 428 noted regularly during the month (SJH *et al.*). Peak counts elsewhere involved 356 at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo), 236 at Druridge Pools on 14th (IDR/JF), 136 at Hauxley Reserve on 17th (HRS), 68-96 at Bothal Pond (TF/JFa) and Plenmeller Common (SJH), and 23-47 at Big Waters, Ellington, Killingworth Lake, Linton Ponds and QEII CP Lake. One to four were also at Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Haughton Strother GP, Howdon Wetland, Milkwell (Corbridge) and Monks' House Pool. More unusual were two at the Blyth Estuary on 17th (LJM) and two that flew E up the River Tyne at North Shields Fish Quay on 22nd (CB).

A 'Todd's Canada Goose' (*interior* race) was at Druridge Bay CP on 21st (TB).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

2,195 left a roost at Budle Bay on 17th (DF), and 700-1,930 were noted at Budle Bay-Harper's Heugh and Ross-Elwick on five dates between 1st-24th (DF/JPL). Numbers at Budle Bay fell to 600+ by 25th, 350-400 on 26th and 72 by 27th (DF). Far fewer elsewhere included 15 with Pink-footed Geese at Radcliffe on 23rd (RPo), four at East Chevington and one to two at/over Big Waters, Branton GP, Druridge Bay CP, Hazlerigg, Gloucester Lodge (Blyth), Grindon Lough and QEII CP.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

A total of 22 flew W at Ellington on 18th and 23rd (TB) and seven flew SW at Humshaugh on 10th (SW). The largest concentrations were 900 at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo), 240 at Budle Bay on 13th (DF), 170 at Belford on 16th (DF), 164 at Big Waters (GB), 161 at Woodhorn Flashes on 15th (AP), and 104-114 at Coanwood Pond and East Holywell. Counts of 50-92 came from Backworth-West Holywell, Cocklawburn, Druridge Bay CP, Gosforth subsidence pond, Haughton Castle and Merryshields GP, while 14-48 were at Aydon (Corbridge), Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Longhirst Flash, Longhoughton, Milkwell (Corbridge), Plenmeller Common and Swallow Pond. One to seven were also at Bothal Pond, Craggside, Druridge Pools, Ellington, Fawdon, Haughton Strother GP and Monks' House Pool.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Peak site counts (possibly involving some overlap) were 6,000 at Budle Bay on 26th (DGB/RHB), 6,000 between Fenham Mill- Beal on 1st (MJC), 4,500 at Belford on 21st (DF), 3,000 near Druridge Bay CP on 20th (IF), 2,500+ at Ross-Elwick on 23rd (DF), 2,400 in the Druridge Pools area on 8th (IDR/JF), about 2,000 at Holywell on 28th (ASJ), and 1,000-1,400 at Backworth-Earsdon, Doddington, Lucker, Radcliffe and Widdrington Moor. Counts of 409-650 came from Beadnell, Longhirst Flash, Old Hartley and Whitley Bay, and 90 were at Cresswell Pond. A count of about 4,500 at Druridge Pools on 13th consisted of 1,200+ in fields and several skeins over (IDR/JF). Northward movement involved 640 at Shorestone on 25th (IDR), 350-565 at Boulmer (BS), East Sleekburn (JR), Linton Ponds (TF/JFa) and North Shields (JBu) on 28th, and 100-220 at Chapel House (Newcastle), Cocklawburn, East Ord, East Sleekburn, Gosforth, Howdon, Linden Hall, Prestwick Carr and Weetslade CP between 1st-27th. Southerly movement included 578 at Ellington on 11th (TB) and 272 at Boulmer on 21st (BS), while 16-86 were noted over (in various directions) nine coastal, localities and inland at Carterway Heads, Grindon Lough, Merryshields GP and Wark during the month.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris*

Eight were at Grindon Lough on 26th (AJR), three at Cocklawburn on 19th (MHu), two at Beadnell on 24th (RA), and singles at Big Waters on 12th and 15th (thought to be a different individual to that in January based on bill pattern; GB/AJJ) and Longhirst Flash on five dates between 11th-25th (TF/JFa *et al.*).

White-fronted Goose *Anser flavirostris*

Eurasian *albifrons* race birds involved eight (one adult) at East Chevington on 21st (TD), seven (one adult) at Longhirst Flash on 25th (TF/JFa) and five there on 27th (IDR/JF), five (all adults) at Budle Bay on 13th (DF), two at Belford on 17th (DF), and one at Budle Bay on 14th and 16th (DF).

A single un-raced bird was at Beadnell on 24th (RA).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Four offshore at Howick on 26th later flew S (BS), two flew S at Ellington on 12th (TB) and one N at Humshaugh on 25th (SW). Peak concentrations were 60 at QEII CP on 14th (CDH), 53 at Killingworth Lake on 28th (LJM), 31 at Bolam Lake on 23rd (CDH), 28 at Big Waters (GB), 28 at Horncliffe (MHu), and ten to 19 at Haughton Strother GP and West Ord. Three to seven were also at Boulmer, Brenkley, Bothal Pond, Hauxley Reserve, Howick Pond and Warkworth.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Six flew N at North Shields on 27th (ASJ), three NW at St Mary's Wetland on 24th (AC), two N at Ellington on 18th (TB), and one to four 'over' Brandon (IBDa/KDa) and Linden Hall (NFO). 32 (21 adults) were at Loanend, Horncliffe on 28th (MHu), 29 at Birling Carrs, Warkworth on 12th (CSa), 24 (15 adults) at West Ord on 21st (MHu), 11 (seven adults) at near Druridge Bay CP on 20th (IF), and 11 at Low Hall Farm, Radcliffe (RPo). Three to six were also at Big Waters, Budle Bay and Grindon Lough, and singles at Druridge Pools and QEII CP.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

The Blyth Estuary held a peak of 68 on 26th (LJM), 30 were at Howdon on 7th (CB), 22 at Boulmer on 21st (BS), and ten to 12 at Cresswell Pond (IF) and Druridge Pools (TD). Four to seven were also at Alnmouth Bay, Branton GP, Elswick, Haughton Strother GP and Widdrington Moor Lake, and one to two at Bothal Pond, East Hartford, Holywell Pond and Howick, and further inland at Castron, Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough and Thropton from 17th.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Two were at Derwent Reservoir on 1st and one on 19th (IFo).

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

A duck was at Haughton Castle on 28th (SW).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Peaks involved 27 at Druridge Pools on 20th (IDR/JF), 16 at Linton Ponds on 11th (TF/JFa), 12 at Monks' House Pool on 1st and 25th (JPL/IDR), 11 at Big Waters on 21st (GB), and nine at Linton Ponds (TF/JFa). Three to four were also at Arcot Pond, Hauxley Reserve and Howdon, and one at Marden Quarry.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Largest counts this month were 45 at Marden Quarry on 14th (KWY), 43 at Branton GP on 9th (a high count for the site; TRD/JD), 28 at Howdon on 11th (CB), 20-25 at Hauxley Reserve (HRS), QEII CP Lake (CDH) and Swallow Pond (GPK), and ten to 16 at Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Ellington and Linton Ponds, and Prestwick Carr. Three to six were also at Arcot Pond, Castron, Druridge Pools and Monks' House Pool, and one to two at Bothal Pond, Branton GP, Linden Hall and Monks' House Pool.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Peak counts were 615 at Derwent Reservoir on 19th (IFo), about 450 at Grindon Lough between 17th-25th (PRM), 414 at Big Waters on 10th (GB), 410 at Druridge Pools on 20th (IDR/JF), and 200-208 at Bothal and Linton Ponds (TF/JFa) and Branton GP (TRD/JD), 153-180 at the Coquet Estuary (RPo), Cresswell Pond (IF) and Hauxley Reserve (HRS), and 50 at Widdrington Moor Lake. Groups of ten to 37 were at the Blyth Estuary, Castron, Coanwood Pond, Haughton Strother GP, New Water Haugh and St Mary's Wetland.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

The drake, first noted in October 2020, was again at Big Waters on 10th and 12th (GB/IF). Another drake was at Grindon Lough on four dates between 19th-24th (SJH).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Peak gatherings were 295 at Big Waters on 12th (IF), 118 at Grindon Lough on 16th (SJH), 106 at Druridge Pools on 14th (IDR/JF), 103 at Derwent Reservoir on 15th (IFo), and 50-84 at Coanwood Pond, Hauxley Reserve, Hexham, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Leazes Park and the Tweed Estuary. Counts of 22-43 came from Bebside, Bothal, Linton and Middle Ord Ponds, Haughton Strother GP, Killingworth and QEII CP Lakes, and Monks' House Pool, while ten to 19 were at the Blyth and Coquet Estuaries.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

100 were at Fenham Flats on 13th (RA). One to two were also at Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond and St Mary's Wetland.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Peak counts involved 377 at Big Waters on 12th (IF), 336 at Grindon Lough on 16th (SJH), 183 at Linton Ponds on 11th (TF/JFa), 150 at Howdon on 11th (CB), 103-125 at the Blyth Estuary (LJM), Bothal Pond (TF/JFa) and Swallow Pond (GPK), and 51-80 at Arcot and Linton Ponds, Druridge Pools, Hauxley Reserve, Newburn Haugh, Prestwick Carr and St Mary's Wetland. Groups of 20-42 were at Haughton Strother GP, Howick and Middle Ord Ponds, Monks' House Pool and Ordley, while ten to 19 were at Branton GP, and Coanwood and Ellington Ponds.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

18 were at Killingworth Lake on 3rd (IF), 15 (13 drakes) at Grindon Lough on 25th (PRM), 15 at Woodhorn Flashes on 28th (AP), five to seven at Big Waters (GB), East Chevington (CSa), Linton Ponds (TF/JFa) and Widdrington Moor Lake (RPo). One to two were also at Bothal Pond and Branton GP.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Peak site counts were 70 at Branton GP on 15th (TRD/JD), 60 at Killingworth Lake on 4th (GB), 59 at Caistron on 16th (TRD/JD), 54 at Swallow Pond on 20th (GPK), 35-48 at Druridge Pools (IDR/JF), Grindon Lough (PRM), Linton Ponds (TF/JFa) and QEII CP Lake (JR), and ten to 28 at Arcot and Bothal Ponds, Big Waters, Derwent Reservoir, Haughton Strother GP, Ladyburn Lake, Marden Quarry, and Newcastle Exhibition and Leazes Parks. Two to nine were also at Coanwood Pond, Craggside, Haughton Castle, Hauxley Reserve, Howick Pond, Longhirst Flash, Merryshields GP, Monks' House Pool, Newburn Haugh,

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Two were at Ladyburn Lake on 4th with three between 15th-21st (CSa). One was at Druridge Pools on 13th (IDR/JF).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

83 were at the Blyth Estuary on 17th (LJM), 21-22 at North Shields Fish Quay (MN) and St Mary's Island (MSH), ten to 14 at Cocklawburn, Hartley, Seahouses harbour and the Tweed Estuary, and two to eight at Berwick pier and the Coquet Estuary.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Low numbers included 50 off East Chevington on 21st (TD), 50 at Birling Carrs on 22nd (AMG/MG), 23 at Stag Rocks on 22nd (DF), and 16 at Spittal Bay (MHu). Two to four were also at the Alnmouth and Cocklawburn. 100 scoter (sp.) were off Howick on 4th (JAR).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Five were at Seahouses harbour on 25th (IDR), and singles at Cocklawburn (MHu) and Fenham Flats (RA). One was also at Druridge Pools on 14th and 20th-21st (TD/IDR/JF).

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*

A drake found at Cresswell Pond on 26th (TB/IRD/IF/IDR/JF *et al.*) wasn't available to most observers due to Covid travel restrictions alas. If accepted, this will be the first county record.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Peak counts were 48 at East Chevington on 21st (TD), 28 at Calot Shad, the Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu), 27 at Grindon Lough on 25th (PRM), 25 at Killingworth Lake on 3rd (IF), 20-22 at Big Waters (GB) and Ladyburn Lake (IF), ten to 16 at Bolam Lake, Branton GP, Caistron, Derwent Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve, Swallow Pond and Tweed Dock. Five to eight were also at the Blyth Estuary, Bothal and Swallow Ponds, Druridge Pools, Monks' House Pool, QEII CP Lake, three to four at Fenham Flats, Haughton Strother GP and Hedgeley GP, and one to two at Arcot Pond, the Coquet Estuary, Howdon, Newburn West, Seahouses and Widdrington Moor Lake. Occasional display was noted at Big Waters, Derwent Reservoir and Killingworth Lake.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Two 'redheads' were at Caistron on 16th, one remaining until 22nd (TRD/JD). A single 'redhead' was noted at Widdrington Moor Lake on four dates between 1st-24th (TB/IRD/TD/IF).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Counts of eight came from Killingworth Lake on 18th (GB), Newburn West on 16th (BNR) and Wylam on 16th (BNR), five were at Airy Holm Reservoir on 21st (IFo), and three to four at Borough Woods (Morpeth) and Newcastle Exhibition Park. One to two were also at/over Ashington, Bolam Lake, Bothal, Branton GP, Caistron, the Coquet Estuary, Derwent Reservoir, Derwent Gorge, Felton, Haughton Strother GP, Howdon (Northumberland Dock), Howick, Rothbury and Wark.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

16 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 21st consisted of eight drakes and eight ducks (TD), 12 were at Alnmouth Bay on 1st (RPo), five to six at Birling Carrs (AMG/MG), Druridge Pools (IDR/JF) and Ladyburn Lake (TD), and three to four at the Blyth Estuary, Boulmer and Calot Shad (the Tweed Estuary). One to two were also at Ashington (River Wansbeck), Spittal and Tweed Dock.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

114 were at Newcastle Quayside on 26th (BNR), 85 were on a gym roof at Kingston Park Shopping Centre on 1st (AHB), ca.60 at Stakeford Road Bridge on 28th (RS), a flock of up to 35 was seen regularly in a stubble field at Cresswell Hall Woods (IDR/JF) and two to four were at Ellington Pond, Longhirst Flash, Shorestone and Warkworth Golf Club.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

As last month, the regular group at Howdon peaked at 80 on 21st (CB). 27 were in a turnip field at West Shield Hill (Fulbeck) (ADM), 18 in fields near Druridge Farm on 13th were "a huge count for this patch" (IDR/JF), numbers at Gosforth Subsidence Pond varied between six to 12 throughout the month with some starting to sing (MJC) and up to five were seen at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on many dates (TB/IDR). Four were seen at Carterway Heads, three at Dipton Wood and one to two birds were at Alnwick, Belford, Big Waters NWT, Furnace Bridge (Bedlington), Haughton Strothers, Linden Hall, Longhirst Flash, Lynemouth Colliery, Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay), Wark and Weetslade Colliery. Two visited a garden feeding station at Manor Drive (Longbenton) all month (AJ).

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

As last month, several large gatherings in excess of 100 birds were noted. Flocks of 1,000 birds were at three sites - Howick on 5th (JAR), Lincoln Hill (Humshaugh) on 7th (SW) and roosting in trees at Chugdon Wood on 10th (IDR). Counts of up to 350 were at Weetslade Colliery CP on several dates (CB/GB), ca. 200 were at Bedlington on 1st (JR), 172 at Stocksfield on 17th (BNR) and 150 at Plessey Checks (Cramlington) on 28th (STH). 81 were at West Sleekburn Farm on 16th (JR) and one to 25 were seen at the Coquet Estuary, Cresswell Hall Woods, Ellington Dene, Ellington Pond, Marden Quarry, Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin), Shorestone and Warkworth Golf Club.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

30 were at Kirkley on 14th (ASJ per BC), 13 on wires at Berwick Hill on 16th (AHB), nine at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) all month (RS) and two at Potland Farm (Linton) on 21st (IDR/JF).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

A grand total of four birds were at Newcastle Great Park on 11th (CDB) and two were at Big Waters NWT on 21st (GB). Singles were at Arcot Pond, Cullercoats, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Linton Ponds, Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay), Northumberland Park (North Shields) all month, St Mary's Wetland and Weetslade Colliery CP.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

15 at Druridge Bay CP on 20th was this month's highest count (IF). 14 were at QE11 CP Lake on two dates (JR/CDH), eight were at Hauxley NWT on 17th (HRS) with eight also feeding on greens at Close House GC on 18th (MH). One to six were at Ashington Community Woodland, Bebside Bridge, Druridge Pools, East Cramlington, Ellington Pond, Haughton Castle, Haughton Strothers, Horton Burn (Cramlington) and Merryshields GP.

Coot *Fulica atra*

QE11 CP proved a popular haunt with counts of 66 on 13th (JR) increasing to 112 on 14th (CDH). 47 were at Big Waters NWT on 12th (IF) with 44 present on 15th (GB), Killingworth Lake peaked at 43 on 28th (LJM) and East Chevington held 40 on 21st (TD). 37 were at Linton Ponds on 11th (TF/JFa) and 34 were crammed into the 10% ice free water at Bothal Pond on 14th (TD). One to ten were at ten other sites. Movement was evidenced by a ringed individual at Big Waters NWT on 17th that had been seen at Killingworth Lake four days earlier (GB) and one which was recorded overnight at Longhoughton on 28th (BS).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Seven were at Hauxley NWT on 17th (HRS), six at QE11 CP on 14th (CDH) and five birds were still wintering on the sea at Boulmer on 14th (BS). One to four were at Big Waters NWT, the Blyth Estuary, Bothal Pond, Branton GP, Castron, Coanwood Pond, Druridge Pools, Haughton Strothers, Hexham, Howdon, Howick Pond, Killingworth Lake, Middle Ord Pond (Berwick), Monks' House Pool and Tweed Dock (Tweedmouth). Singles were trilling at Arcot Pond and Killingworth Lake.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

A single was at Seahouses from 14th-19th (RS/JPL/AMG/MG).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Pairs returned to breeding sites with four in breeding plumage at Big Waters NWT on 25th, including a displaying pair, increasing to six there on 27th and a nest completed by 28th (GB). A pair were on each lake at Killingworth from 25th (ASJ/LJM), three were in the sea at the mouth of the R. Aln on 25th and 27th, some courtship display evident (MKi/RPo), whilst two were at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools and Holywell Pond. Singletons were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Derwent Reservoir, QE11 CP and Swallow Pond.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

There was a mixture of reports of birds returning to inland breeding areas and also noticeable wintering flocks at the coast. Following the first returners at Derwent Reservoir last month, numbers built up from seven on 6th to 161 by 23rd (IFo). Counts made at high-tide roosts were 146 at the River Aln Estuary on 25th and the same number at St Mary's Island on 9th (MKi/ASJ). Notable concentrations at other coastal sites were 107 at Tynemouth on 7th (DRW), 85 at Howick on 16th (JAR), 75 at Cresswell Pond on 27th (IF), 70+ at the River Blyth Estuary on 22th (MN), 46 at West Ord (Berwick) on 24th (MHu), 42 at Berwick GC on 3rd (MHu), 35 at Lynemouth Bay on 12th (IDR) and 21 at Druridge Pools and Links on 26th (IDR/JF). Hauxley NWT and Birling Carrs both attracted 13 birds. The return to inland breeding haunts was apparent with gatherings of 94 at Castron on 22nd, 45 at Branton GP on 26th (TRD/JD), 31 at Haughton Strothers on 28th (SW), 21 at Bywell Haughs on 21st (MH) and 19 at Merryshield Farm (Stocksfield) on 26th (DLe). One-eight were passing through or had arrived at inland breeding sites at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond, Chollerford, Coanwood, Fourstones, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Grindon Lough, Hexham, High Heaton (Newcastle), Killingworth Lake, Marden Estate (Tynemouth), Morpeth, Plenmeller Common, Rothbury and Wideopen (Hazelrigg).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Large flocks were reported from coastal, lowland and upland locations with the first evidence of display noted in some locations. Numbers fluctuated through the month at Prestwick Carr with 100 noted on 1st increasing gradually to 600 by 19th and then decreasing back to 100 by 22nd (GB/MN/IK *et al.*). Widdrington Moor Lake held 600 on 21st (TD) and birds were noted returning to Plenmeller Common from 24th with 395 noted in 90 minutes passing through or settling on 25th when six were also noted displaying (SJH). Other upland concentrations were 215 at Haughton Strother on 28th (SW), an estimated 200 at Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire) on 26th (AJH), 150 at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo), 130 at Caistron on 22nd (TRD/JD), 122 at Knockburn (Allendale) on 27th with display also noted (SJH) and 100 at Carterway Heads on 1st (IFo). A maximum of 84 was seen at Grindon Lough on 17th (SJH) and counts of 19-60 came from Hexhamshire Common, High Knock Shield Farm (Allendale), Paxhill, Thropton and Whittingham. At the coast the highest count was made at Druridge Pools and Links where 120 were present on 13th (IDR/JF). A minimum of 100 was at St Mary's Island on 11th(DLo), 35 were present at Lynemouth Flash on 10th 26 at Longhoughton, 16 at Hauxley NWT, 15 at Howick and 12 were seen at the River Coquet Estuary. In lowland locations, 225 were at Woodhorn Grange on 10th (AP), 86 was the maximum at Big Waters NWT on 12th (IF), with 79 at East Hartford on 26th (LJM), 77 at Newburn Haugh (River Tyne) on 10th (MH), 76 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) with 73 (41 of which flying S) at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 21st (MJC) and 60 in flight around Arcot Pond on 7th (STH). One-38 were reported from Backworth-West Holywell, Bothal Pond, Chollerford, Chugdon Wood, Corbridge, Cramlington, Howdon, Longhirst Flash, Merryshield Farm, Mickley Square, Sandy Bay (Newbiggin) and Weetslade Colliery CP.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Birds were present at many coastal localities although in lesser numbers than last month and the first signs of a return to upland areas was reported. The largest number was at Boulmer where 1,200 were present on 21st (BS). An estimated 350 flew around Big Waters NWT on 20th (GB), the maximum reported at the River Coquet Estuary was 320 on 25th (RPo), Chugdon Wood (Ellington) attracted 300 on 9th (TB) and 250 were seen at each of Lynemouth Flash on 10th (TB), Prestwick Carr on 19th (IK) and Sandy Bay (Newbiggin) on 12th (AP). At other coastal sites, 200 were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 2nd (TB), 180 at Howick on 11th (JAR), 150 at Druridge Pools on 20th (TB), 110 at Lynemouth Bay on 12th (IDR), and 100+ at St Mary's Island on 11th (DLo). Ten-40 were at Callerton subsidence area, Cullercoats, Hauxley, Longhorsley, Old Moor (Berwick) and Newbiggin. A series of observations at Plenmeller Common illustrated birds returning and moving through upland areas. Approximately 360 were present on 19th (PRM) with 380 moving through the South Tyne valley on 25th and 320 were flushed by a Peregrine on 27th (SJH). Displaying birds were noted at Plenmeller Common on 5th and 28th (PRM). Sightings in other upland areas were 40 at Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire on 26th (AJH), 11 at Grindon Lough on 22nd, nine at Thirlwall Common on 17th and three at Paxhill (Allenheads) on 27th. Birds were heard calling after dark at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) and Newcastle Town Moor.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Birds remained faithful to wintering sites with a notable 108 seen at Boulmer on 23rd (BS). A high-tide roost at the River Aln Estuary held 85 on 25th (MKi) and 45 were just to the south of here at Birling Carrs on 27th (RPo). There were 14 seen at Howick on 24th (JAR) with the same number reported at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 18th (AP). Elsewhere, six were seen at Beadnell all month, five at Budle Bay all month, four at Berwick Little Beach on 17th and one in a field at St Mary's on 15th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

The two highest counts both occurred on 17th with 46 at Berwick Little Beach and 30 at St Mary's Island (MHu/MSH). Other counts were 25 at the River Aln Estuary on 25th (MKi), 18 at Boulmer on 23rd (BS), 13 at Lynemouth Bay on 12th (IDR), 12 at Sandstell Point (Berwick) on 8th (MHu), six at Cocklawburn and three at Birling Carrs (Warkworth). As with other wader species, some early returners to upland areas were noted with 11 at Derwent Reservoir by 18th with two on territory on 25th (IFo). Two were also at Haughton Strother on 28th (SW).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Well reported, with established wintering birds mainly at the coast and a return to upland breeding sites was reported. Longhoughton attracted the largest group with 300 seen on 15th (JAR) with the highest count in the Druridge Pools and Links area being 180 on 8th (IDR/JF). At Howick, 160 were noted on 4th with lower numbers up to mid-month (JAR), with 148 noted at Hauxley on 15th (RPo), 126 at Cocklawburn on 26th (MHu) and 100 were seen at Monks' House Pool on 26th (DGB/RHB). Lowland and coastal areas attracting over 50 birds were St Mary's Island with 95 on 19th (ASJ), 80 at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 8th (AC), 74 at Howdon on 9th (CB), 70+ at the River Blyth Estuary on 22nd (MN), 67 at the River Coquet Estuary on 25th (RPo) and 65 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 24th (MHu). Passage and a return to upland breeding areas was observed with 110 over Branton GP on 25th (IBDa/KDa), a gathering of 83 at Caistron on 17th (TRD/JD), 73 moving through the South Tyne Valley at Plenmeller Common on 25th, with 50 present there on 28th and several displaying on 27th (SJH/PRM). Other inland localities attracted birds during the month including Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire) where approximately 60 were present on 26th (AJH), Derwent Reservoir held 37 on 23rd (IFo), a maximum of 34 were counted at Grindon Lough on 22nd (SJH), 19 at Coanwood Common on 25th (SJH), 17 were at Haughton Strother on 28th (SW) and 14 were feeding in a stubble field at Carterway Heads on 27th (IFo). Displaying birds were reported from High Knock Shield Farm and Knockburn (both Allendale), Coanwood and Catton from 19th (SJH/PRM). One-36 were reported from Berwick GC, Callerton, Cresswell Pond, Ellington, King's Law (Hexhamshire), Longhirst Flash, Longhorsley, Lynemouth Bay, Newburn Haugh, Ordley, Prestwick Carr, Shoestone, Widdrington Moor Lake and West Ord (Berwick).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

The Boulmer and Alnmouth flocks remained from last month with 52-65 noted at Boulmer from 17th-19th (JAR/CSa/BS) and 13 at The River Aln Estuary on 25th (MKi). Four were at Calot Shad (River Tweed) on 15th and the River Blyth Estuary on 17th (MHu/LJM).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

One-two were at Druridge Pools on 20-22nd(AA/TB).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

St Mary's Island held 105 on 7th declining to 53 on 20th (ASJ). There was a high-tide roost containing 64 birds on the shore near Berwick Lifeboat Station on 5th and 48 at the nearby Little Beach on 17th (MHu). There were maximum counts of 40 at Howick on 1st (JAR) and all month at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh-JPL/DGB/RHB).

One-eight were reported from Cocklawburn, Holywell Pond, Lynemouth Bay and Flash.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

The wintering flock at Budle Bay had reduced to 830 by 27th (DF). Maximum counts from elsewhere were 34 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 27th (RPo), 33 at Boulmer on 19th (BS), 20 at the River Coquet Estuary on 9th (CSa) and 14 at the River Aln Estuary on 25th (MKi). A single was at St Mary's Wetland on 26th (IF).

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

A flock of nine was seen at Grindon Lough on 17th, reducing to one by 22nd (SJH/PRM). One-five were present at Druridge Pools from 1st-22nd (IDR/JF/AA *et al.*).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Reports were received from four sites with 224 at Berwick Little Beach on 17th (MHu), 165 at Boulmer on 23rd (BS), 20 at St Mary's Island on 11th increasing to 133 by 21st (ASJ/MSH/DLo) and five were seen at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 27th (RPo).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Estuaries attracted the highest numbers this month with 355 at the River Blyth Estuary on 18th (ASJ) and the maximum at the River Coquet Estuary was 350 on 9th (CSa). On the coast, an estimated 300 were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 18th (AP) and 238-250 were reported from Boulmer on 18th & 23rd (JAR/BS). Other counts over 50 involved a minimum of 90 at St Mary's Island on 17th (MSH), 67 on the Budge Fields at Druridge on 20th (IDR/JF), 63 were at the River Aln Estuary on 25th (MKi) and 52 were at Berwick Little Beach on 17th (MHu). Birling Carrs (Warkworth) hosted 26 on 26th and ten were at Lynemouth Flash on 10th. Inland, birds had returned to Grindon Lough with a high of six being present on 17th (PRM). Two unusual records for Big Waters NWT concerned a single on the frozen lake with wildfowl before realising its error and departing quickly east on 10th. A group of five arrived and flew around the frozen lake before departing E on 15th (GB).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

The wintering flock at Stag Rocks was reported as 60 all month (JPL/DGB/RHB) with 27 at Boulmer on 23rd (BS), 21 at St Mary's Island on 9th (ASJ) and 18 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 27th (RPo). Six were seen at Collywell Bay (Seaton Sluice) on 25th and two were at Newbiggin Bay on 14th (CDH).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

There was a total of 59 reports totalling 151 birds (with some overlap) this month. Regular walks along Blyth beach from 5th-15th produced the remains of 29 birds showing that immigration was still occurring as birds looked for milder conditions. (MHp). The maximum at Druridge Pools and Links was 11 on 13th reducing to four by 20th (IDR/JF). Following last month's report of birds feeding in a Longhoughton field after dark, a maximum of eight was detected on 10th (BS). At Backworth, six were seen on 14th (CGK), five were at Chugdon Wood on 11th with a single there on 13th (IDR/TB) and four were reported from each of Ellington, Prior's Park (Tynemouth) and the Rising Sun CP (TB/CB/GPK). Three were present at Borough Woods (Morpeth) Howdon and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh), with two at Cresswell Hall Woods, Hauxley NWT, Howick, Lynemouth Dene, Weetslade Colliery CP and Whittingham. Singles were seen at 26 further locations including urban areas in the south east. One spent a whole day in the observer's garden at Tynemouth on 6th (ASJ).

Jack Snipe *Limnocyptes minimus*

Five were flushed from a marshy area at Kirkley Mill on 21st (AHB) and 1-2 were present all month at Gosforth Subsidence Pond (MJC). Single birds were found at Backworth, Druridge Pools and Links, Howdon, Newcastle Great Park, North Shields, Monk's House Pool, Ordley and St Mary's.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Newburn Haugh again held the most birds with an increase on last month to 45 on 17th (MN). At Little Waters (Seaton Burn), 21 were present on 19th (GB), 17 flew over Cramlington on 28th (STH), 14 were at Newcastle Great Park on 10th (CDB), 13 were counted at Monks' House Pool on 25th (IDR) and the maximum at St Mary's was ten on 26th (IF). One-nine were seen at Arcot Pond, Big Waters NWT, Bebside Bridge (Blyth), Branton GP, Callerton subsidence area, Carterway Heads, Corbridge, Cramlington (Barns Park & Valley Park), Druridge Pools, Dunstanburgh Castle, Ellington, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Howick, Kirkley Mill, Linden Hall, North Shields, Prestwick Carr, QE2 CP, Rothbury, Stag Rocks, South Hazelrigg, Tynemouth and Wideopen (Hazelrigg).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Two records were received. A first winter was seen at Blyth South Harbour and an unaged bird at Warkworth beach, both on 8th (IF/CSa).

Green Sandpiper..I *Tringa ochropus*

Two were seen at Hedgeley GP on 20th (IBDa/KDA) and one was at Chatton, on the River Till on 19th (MJC).

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

The peak count again came from Howdon (River Tyne) where 200 were present on 11th (CB). The River Blyth Estuary held 80 on 17th (LJM) as did St Mary's Wetland on 25th (CDH), 54 were at Calot Shad (River Tweed) on 8th (MHu), with 45 at Collywell Bay (Seaton Sluice) on 25th (CDH) and the monthly high at Druridge Pools and Links was 40 on 8th (IDR/JF). Counts of 12-13 were made at Bothal Pond on dates between 4th-17th (TF/JFa/TD), while 11 were at Bebside Bridge (Blyth) on 12th (JR), ten at Lynemouth Flash on 10th (TB) and a minimum of ten at Newburn Haugh on 11th (PRM). Two-Nine were seen at Hauxley NWT, Lynemouth Bay and the River Coquet Estuary. Three were displaying at Rowfoot (Coanwood) on 28th (SJH).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

The bird reported at the end of last month at Bothal, was present all month (ADMc/TD/TF/JFa).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

There were three reports of single wintering birds. One was seen on 1st at Fenham Mill-Beal (MJC), with it or another at Budle Bay on 18th (JPL). A single was reported from the River Tyne at Scotswood on 17th and 27th (CBD/TW).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

On 26th, the first returning bird was seen at the Newcastle Quayside (BNR) and on the following day two were on the Tyne Bridge (TW). The remains of four were found along Blyth beach from 5th-13th (MHp).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

An estimated 3,000 fed in the surf at Buston Links following easterly winds on 10th (CSa) and a gathering of 650 were at Howdon on 12th (CB). Flocks of 100-300 were recorded on dates throughout at Big Waters, Budle Bay, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strothers, Hexham, Killingworth Lake, Linton Ponds, Lynemouth Bay, Prestwick Carr and the QE II CP. Smaller groups elsewhere of 20-60 were at Blyth South Harbour, Bothal Pond, Cramlington, Cresswell (Snab Point), Whitley Bay, with up to 19 at ten other localities. A colour-ringed 1st-winter bird, from Poland, was present at the Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 13th.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

A 1st-winter bird was in the Tweed Estuary at Calot Shad on 5th (MHu) and an adult in the gull roost at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 14th (AP).

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

The maximum counts were 34 on the Woodhorn road pool on 22nd (AP) and up to 30 came regularly to food at Quarry Cottage, Newbiggin (RS). Elsewhere, ten were at Boulmer (BS), five in Lynemouth Bay (IDR/JF) and one or two at 12 other widespread coastal localities between Bamburgh and North Shields and also at Backworth, Big Waters and Linton Ponds.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Large numbers were reported as birds passed through the county on their spring passage north. At Buston Links, 5,000 fed in the surf on 10th (CSa), 1,800 were in a field at Ordley (BNR), 1,600 at Druridge Links, 400-800 at Grindon Lough, Stocksfield and Wark (North Tyne), 360 in a roost at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) and 100-200 at Big Waters, Haughton Strothers and Howdon.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Small numbers this month comprised 20-25 at Cresswell (Snab Point) and the QE II CP Lake, 5-9 at Derwent Reservoir, Linton Ponds, Lynemouth Bay, New Water Haugh (River Tweed) and one or two at six other sites.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

From 1st-27th a 2nd-winter bird was seen regularly, but not daily, at the North Shields Fish Quay and it was also at Tynemouth on 28th (MN *et al.*); on the 21st and 27th it was joined there by a 1st-winter bird (AC/ASJ). Elsewhere, the regular adult was seen again throughout at Big Waters (GB/CDB) with probably the same individual seen over Weetslade on 27th (MJC). Sightings of single immature birds came also from Bamburgh, the Coquet Estuary, East Hartford, Linton Ponds, Ryal and Whitley Bay (Brierdene car park) at least some of which may have been the birds seen at the Fish Quay.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argenteus*

The large gull gathering feeding in the surf at Buston Links on 10th included 1,000 (CSa) and other significant counts were 750 at Linton Ponds (TF/JFa), 400, including 60% immatures, at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) (MHu) and 50-200 at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Budle Bay, the Blyth Estuary, Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir, East Hartford, Linton, the QE II CP Lake and Whitley Bay. Smaller groups of up to 40 were at ca.20 localities elsewhere.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

The seasonal influx accelerated during the last week of the month when 15 were in Budle Bay on 25th (RA), nine at Branton GP (IBDa/KDa) and three to five at Castle Island, East Hartford, Gosforth Subsidence Pond and Newcastle Quayside. One or two were reported, mainly from mid-month, at another 15 widespread, mainly inland, sites.

Omission from January Bulletin

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

One flew N at Howick on 4th January (BS).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

A total of 85 were in rafts on the sea off Needles Eye, Berwick on 26th (SVM/AJM), five at Salt Pan Rocks, Cocklawburn and a single at St Mary's Island. The remains of eight birds were found along Blyth beach on 9th-13th (MHP).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Fifteen seen offshore at Needles Eye, Berwick on 26th (SVM/AJM) was the only report apart from the remains of five birds found along Blyth beach on 9th-13th (MHP).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

The remains of two birds were found along Blyth beach on 9th-13th (MHP).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

31 birds were off Druridge Pools on 26th (IDR/JF). Five birds were noted at Boulmer on 26th (AMG/MG), four were off Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 22nd (DF) and three were in the mouth of the River Aln on 25th (MKi). Singles were noted off Brierdene (Whitley Bay), Cheswick, Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) and at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Single birds were at Alnmouth Bay on 1st (RPo) and one flew S at St Mary's Island on 21st (AC).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

55 were back on cliffs at Howick on 16th (JAR) and 38 were back at the colony in Lynemouth Bay on 28th (IDR/JF *et al.*), 20 birds were at Hartley with nine birds occupying ledges there on 25th (CDH), and 16 were at Dunstanburgh Castle on 1st (AMG/MG).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Only one record this month with a single bird flying S at Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 23rd (MHu).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

41 birds were at Blyth South Harbour on 26th (LJM) and 12 birds came in to bathe at Howdon on 28th of which five were "*sinensis*" (CB). The monthly maximum at Derwent Reservoir was nine on 22nd (IFo) and eight were noted at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 24th (MHu). On 7th six birds were at Bothal Pond (TD) and five were at Big Waters NWT on 22nd (GB). One to four birds were at 17 sites during the Month with three "*sinensis*" birds at Linden hall (Longhorsley) on 21st and one there on 17th (NFO).

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Five birds including a juvenile were in Blyth South Harbour on 26th (LJM), two were in Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 15th (MHu) and single birds were at Tynemouth 12th, 14th & 20th (ASJ/DRW).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

A bird was heard from the North-facing hide at Druridge Pools on 17th (CSa).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

On 25th on the lower weir on the River Coquet, 13 birds were present with one bird nest building (RPo), eight birds were at Druridge Pools & Links on 20th (IDR/JF) and six birds were at Haughton Castle on 28th with birds occasionally standing on nests (SW). Four birds were seen at Hauxley NWT on 17th (HRS) and three birds were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 21st with birds carrying sticks into Gosforth Park NR and nesting vocalisations heard (MJC). One - three birds were at 13 sites during the month.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

On 19th a bird was at Longhirst Flash (TF/JFa) and it was seen stalking in the ponds to the East of Longhirst Flash on 21st (MJC).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Amendment January the 12 birds that were reported at West Sleekburn on 27th (JR) should have been only one bird.

Six birds were on the proposed route of the England Coastal Path between Fenham Mill and Beal on 1st (MJC), four birds were noted on the proposed route of the England Coastal Path at Beal on 19th (MJC) and four were at Hedgeley GP on 25th (IBDa/KDa). Birds were present at Newcastle Great Park and peaked at three birds there on 10th (CDB) and one - two were present all month at Gosforth Subsidence Pond (MJC/ADM). Two birds were also seen at Rothbury on 7th (TRD/JD) and at Hedgeley GP on 27th (IBDa/KDa) on 27th. Single birds were at 22 sites during the month.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Up to four birds were present all month at Gosforth Subsidence Pond with two pairs displaying on 21st (MJC). Two birds flew over the observer's garden at Fulbeck (Morpeth) at the same time but not 'together' on 6th (TD) and pairs were displaying at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 14th (KWY) and at Big waters NWT on 27th (GB). Single birds were noted at 30 locations.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Single birds were seen flying S E at Whittingham on 9th (CW), a juvenile female was being mobbed by a crow on Alnwick Moor on 18th (TRD/JD), a male was noted at Ordley on 21st (BNR) and an adult male gave good views as it flew over fields at Lorbottle on 28th (TRD/JD).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

A male flew S along the coal haul road at Druridge Links on 20th (TB), a male was quartering the reeds of the North Pool (East Chevington) on 21st (TD) and a female was at Druridge Pools, also on 21st before flying N (TD). A male was also seen at Linton Ponds on 26th (JFa).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Two birds were at a confidential site on 11th and 15th. Single birds involving a male, female and ringtails were also at confidential sites during the month and bird was at Fenham (North Northumberland) on 14th (RA).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Five birds were at Carterway Heads (Crooked Oak) on 15th with one to three birds there during the month (IFo); two birds were seen at Ditchburn on 15th (DGR/RHB). Single birds were at Crooked Oak Lane on 4th (IFo), Derwent Reservoir on 11th (IFo), one flew SW at Arcot Pond on 17th (STH), Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 19th (IFo) and at Carterway Heads on 26th (IFo). Four birds were noted soaring in a warm spell from the Derwent Walk on 26th (MH); two birds were at Blackhall Mill on 21st (BNR). Single birds were noted at Allensford, Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Big Waters NWT, Bywell, Charlton Mires (Alnwick), Corbridge Common, Derwent Reservoir, East Hartford, Great Whittingham, Hazelrigg (Wideopen), Howick, Linden Hall (Longhorsley), Low Waskerley, Prestwick Carr, Snab Point (Cresswell) and Slaley Forest.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Five birds were at Branton on 8th (IBDa/KDa), East Hartford on 21st (STH), Planetree Banks (Bywell) (MH) and Plenmeller Common (PRM) on 28th. Four birds were at Bellasis Bridge (Blagdon), Bywell, Derwent Reservoir, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Linden Hall (Longhorsley), Peth Foot (Ordley), Sheepwash and West Sleekburn. One - three birds were at 29 sites.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

At Rowfoot (Coanwood) on 25th, five were seen at the same time hunting over the fell with three there on 26th (SJH). Two were at Derwent Reservoir on 6th and 15th (IFo), Linden Hall (Longhorsley) in daylight on 11th (NFO), Alnwick Moor on 17th (TRD/JD) and Howick at 2pm on 28th (JAR). Singles were at the above locations regularly and at an encouraging 19 other widespread localities.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Four called at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 21st (NFO) with three males calling at Ellington on 1st & 12th (TB) and two at Ordley on 24th (BNR). Calling birds were heard all month at Ellington, Fawdon, Howick and Monkseaton with one roosting next to a busy path at Coxlodge and at Postern Wood (Morpeth) (AJ/ADMc). Singles were at five other locations.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Two were at two sites in North Tyneside during the month (CGK *et al.*) with one at Backworth on 21st and Big Waters NWT on 22nd.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

One to two were at two sites in North Tyneside during the month (CGK *et al.*).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

One was at a confidential site at Alnwick Moor on 17th and 19th (TRD/JD) with one at Backworth from 21st to 28th (JBu) and at Plenmeller Common on 27th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

One was present at Northumberland Park (North Shields) all month (CB/MNC), at Morpeth on 1st (IRD), Tyneview Park (Benton) on 2nd (KWY) and Derwent Gorge on 26th (IFo).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

At Letah Wood (Hexham), where this species bred a long time ago, one drummed weakly for 30min between 14.00-14.30 and was seen in flight briefly on 27th (BNR).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Three were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 16th (IFo) and at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) where one to two were heard regularly during the month (TB). Two visited a feeder at Yearle all month, at Lynemouth Dene on 13th, Gosforth Subsidence Pond and Warden (Hexham) on 14th and Gosforth on 27th and 28th. Singles, generally drumming, were at 19 other widespread localities.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

On 11th and 17th one was at Newburn Haugh (R.Tyne) (PRM/MH), one at Bickerton (nr Castron) on 22nd (JD) and Derwent Reservoir on 22nd and 25th (IFo).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Three were at Prestwick Car and one at Prestwick Road Ends on 27th (MH) with one to two at Gosforth Subsidence Pond all month (MJC). A pair were at Tynemouth Priory on 11th, two at West Sleekburn Farm on 16th, Derwent Reservoir on 17th, Prestwick Carr on 19th and West Hartford on 28th. Singles were at 21 other widespread localities including one first- winter roosting in an arch at the observer's home at Ordley (BNR).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

On 18th one flew N high over Humshaugh (SW) with a male at Alnwick Moor on 19th (JD) and one at Boulmer on 20th (BS).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

A pair remained at a site in the south east of the county all month with two together over Blagdon on 10th, likely to be a pair, and a male begging to a female at North Shields on 11th (TW/PG/ASJ). Singles were regularly at North Shields and at Derwent Reservoir from 3rd to 6th, Tynemouth Priory from 9th to 11th and 11 other locations.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Gatherings of four to 14 were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond all month (MJC) with two to three at Gosforth on 10th & 28th, two at Preston Park (North Shields) on 2nd and Elswick (Newcastle) on 25th.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Four were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 17th (NFO), three at Milkwell (Corbridge) and Willow Bridge (Choppington) on 1st (ER/MB/JR) and at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 24th & 27th with two there regularly (TB). Two were also at eight other locations and singles at a further seven.

Magpie *Pica pica*

A high count of 28 was made at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 1st (ASJ), 19 at Weetslade Colliery CP on 16th (GB), 16 to roost at Brockwell-Westwood Grange (Cramlington) on 11th (LJM), 14 at Newcastle Great Park on 28th (CDB) and a flock of 13 at Cresswell Hall Woods on 7th (IDR/JF). One to eight were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on many dates and at eight other locations.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

There were three-figure counts of 350 at Weetslade on 8th (CB), 227 at Bedlington on 1st (JR), 162 at Ordley on 24th (BNR) and 120 at Howick on 2nd (JAR). 75 were at Howdon on 28th and 45 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 1st with 15 there on two other dates, up to 40 at Sandy Bay (Newbiggin) during the month, 18 at Alexandra Park (Cramlington) on 5th and 17 at Sheepwash on 15th. One to eight were at four other locations.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

On 1st 182 were at Bedlington and 110 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) (JR/IDR), 22 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (IFo) and two to eight at six other locations.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

A large gathering of 440 was at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 10th (MJC), 53 being the maximum for the month at East Hartford on 28th (LJM), 32 at Barleyhill (Minsteracres) on 15th (IFo) and 26 at Howdon (CB). 19 were at Hexham on 11th, 18 at Wideopen on 17th, 14 at Dipton Wood on 22nd with 12 at Druridge Pools and Links on 20th and four to six there on two other dates. One to two were regularly at Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Potland Farm (Linton), Longhirst Flash and at six other locations.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

The wintering bird at Potland Farm (Linton) was present from 7th till the month end (IDR/JF/TF/JFa) with one at Howick on the same date and 21st and 26th (JAR).

Raven *Corvus corax*

Two were at Longhoughton on 4th, Derwent Reservoir on 12th, Melkridge Village on 17th, Alnwick Moor on 18th, South Snods (Allensford) on 26th and Plenmeller Common on 28th. Singles were at five other locations.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Around 28 were at Corbridge Common on 14th (DLe), 25 at Ashington Community Woodland on 21st (IDR/JF), 21 at Attlee Park (Bedlington) on 10th and 17 at Gallagher Park (Bedlington) on 8th (JR). On 16th 17 were on feeders at Holywell Dene (ASJ), 11 at QEII CP on 13th and ten at Free Wood (Bedlington) on 24th (JR). One to nine were at eight other widespread localities.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Three, including one singing, were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 11th (NFO), two at Ellington Dene on 15th and Whinney Hill Farm (Longhorsely) on 27th (TB/PHa/AHa) with singles at Linden Hall regularly and a further ten other locations including a garden visitor at Shilbottle, the first since Sept 2018 (Mki), and two birds were ringed at Hartburn Grange Wood.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Four was the high count at Prestwick Carr on 1st and Cresswell Hall Woods on 7th (CB/IDR/JF) with three at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 26th (IFo). Two were at the above and at Linden Hall, Linton Ponds and Weetslade with singles at nine other widespread localities.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

At Hartburn Grange Wood 17 birds were ringed on 15th and 11 on 21st (PC). 17 were at Attlee Park (Bedlington) on 10th with 15 being the high count at Free Wood (Bedlington) on 12th and Ashington Community Woodland on 21st (JR/IDR/JF), 13 at Sheepwash on 15th and 12 the high count at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 7th and West Sleekburn Farm on 16th. One to ten were at six other locations.

Great Tit *Parus major*

15 birds were ringed at Hartburn Grange Wood on 21st and five on 15th (PC). On 21st 12 were at Ashington Community Woodland, 11 at Attlee Park (Bedlington) 10th and Free Wood (Bedlington) on 12th and 24th (IDR/JF/JR). Nine were at West Sleekburn Farm on 16th, eight at QEII CP on 13th with seven at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 1st and Gallagher Park (Bedlington) on 8th. One to six were at ten other locations,

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Good numbers were reported with a large feeding flock in a crop field at Rake Lane (North Shields) numbering 420 flushed by Peregrine on 11th, 400 on 1st and 340 on 10th, generally counted from photographs (ASJ). 250 were at Old Hartley on 10th (MNC), 100 at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 13th, Fenham (N.Northumberland) on 14th (RA) and 90 at Warkworth Golf Club on 15th (IDR/JF). 70 were at Birling Farm (Warkworth) on 11th, 65 at Howick on the same date and Breamish Valley on 27th with 40 at Ross on 26th. 40 per hour headed north past Warkworth on 16th and past Berwick on 17th. 30 were at Longhirst Flash, Goswick and Boulmer, 25 at Longhirst Flash and 22 at Dewley Farm (Callerton) with 12 to 20 at seven other widely spread localities and one to ten at a further 29.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

One was on the proposed route of England Coastal Path at Ross on 1st (MJC).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

A singing bird was heard at Big Waters NWT on 7th (GB), 16th (CDB) and 26th (IK).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

There were 20 at Grindon Lough on 19th (PRM), 13 at Queen Elizabeth II CP Lake on 13th (JR), and 12 at Willow Bridge (Choppington) on 1st (JR), Bedlington Free Wood on 12th (JR) and Howick Pond on 28th (PHa/AHa). Ten were at a Fulbeck (Morpeth) garden on 22nd (TD), at Southfield Green (Cramlington) on 26th (DM), and at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 27th (MJC). There were nine on fatballs at Longdyke (Shilbottle) on 24th (MKi), eight on peanuts at Rothbury on 8th (TRD/JD) and eight at Bebside Bridge (Blyth) on 12th (JR). Smaller parties were reported from North Shields, Cramlington, Newton Red House, East Sleekburn and Tynemouth, with groups of five and below recorded at many other locations during the month.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

There were two garden records, with one at Gosforth Garden Village on 12th (MJC) and a bird in sub-song at Berwick on 17th (BWG). A single bird was at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 21st (STH) and a singing male was at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 28th (DRW).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

A male and female continued to appear in a Tynemouth garden from the beginning of the month up to 28th (DRW). A male and female visited a garden in Berwick on 1st (BWG), and a single female which showed up in a garden at Gosforth Garden Village on 12th remained until 28th, when it was joined by another female. Both birds were present into March (MJC). A male made appearances again in a garden at High Heaton (Newcastle) on dates from 2nd to 19th (LMi), and another male previously reported in January was at Benton (Newcastle) on 5th and 8th (MP). One was at Elswick (Newcastle) on 11th (KWY). A female was at Howick on 11th (JAR) and a male was at a feeder in a Tynemouth garden on 11th (CB). A male was in a garden at Stobhill Manor (Morpeth) on 12th (TF/JFa) and a male visited feeders at Chapel House (Newcastle) on 20th (MH). At Manor Drive, Longbenton (Newcastle) a male and a female were observed on fat on 23rd and 26th respectively (AJ).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

A party of nine at Ashington Community Woodland on 21st (IDR/JF) included two males with crests raised chasing each other about. There were seven at Grindon Lough on 19th (PRM), six at St Mary's Island on 11th (DLo), and three at Howick on 14th (JAR). Two were at Brunswick Green (Wideopen) on 13th (GB), Druridge Pools on 14th (IDR/JF), the Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) on 16th (DLo), Dipton Wood on 22nd (BNR), and Bedlington Free Wood on 24th (JR). Single birds were recorded at Nedderton Village, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Milkwell (Corbridge), the Wansbeck at Bothal, Southfield Green (Cramlington), Northumberland Park (North Shields), Horsley (Wylam) and Wark (North Tyne).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

There were 20 at Holywell Dene on 16th (ASJ) and 16 at the Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) on 20th (ASJ). Bedlington Free Wood had nine on 24th (JR), West Sleekburn Farm had eight on 16th (JR), and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had seven on 10th (IDR). There were six at Queen Elizabeth II CP Lake on 13th (JR), five at Nedderton Village on 1st (JR) and four at Bebside Bridge (Blyth) on 12th (JR). Reports of smaller numbers came from Newcastle, Druridge Pools, Cresswell, Linton, Ashington Community Woodland and Longhirst Flash.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

The highest count came from Attlee Park (Bedlington), with five on 10th (JR). In Newcastle, four singing birds were present all month at Gosforth Subsidence Pond (MJC), with calling birds also noted at Jesmond Dene on 12th (ASJ) and 19th (CDB) and Leazes Park on 1st (IK). Two were at Rothbury on 6th (TRD/JD), Bebside Bridge (Blyth) on 12th (JR), Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 18th (IDR), Milkwell (Corbridge) on 21st (RB/MB) and Bedlington Free Wood on 24th (JR). Reports of single birds came from widely distributed locations in the county throughout the month.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Two to eight birds were present all month at Gosforth Subsidence Pond (MJC). There were two at Ellington Dene on 1st (TB), Hedgeley Hall on 7th (IBDa/KDa), Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 13th (NFO), West Sleekburn Farm on 16th (JR), Howick on 17th (JAR), Ashington Community Woodland on 21st (IDR/JF), Bedlington Free Wood (JR) and Bolam Lake (PG) on 24th, and two at East Sleekburn on 26th (JR). Singles were observed at many locations throughout the county, with singing birds at Fulbeck (Morpeth) during the month (TD), Big Waters NWT on 19th (GB), and Haughton Strothers and Haughton Castle on 28th (SW).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Massive gatherings were recorded in the Wansbeck/Jubilee Road and Coxlodge area of Fawdon, with numbers rising from a steady 20,000 at the beginning of the month to 40,000 on 23rd, then doubling to 80,000 by 25th (CDB). The view from a third-floor flat allowed the observer to make these counts, providing an experience of indoor birding on the grand scale. Humbler counts came from St Mary's Island, where 300 were observed feeding on the rocky shoreline on 25th (CDH), and from Old Hartley, with 250 on 12th (MNC). 200 were at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 9th (STH) and at Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire) on 26th (AJH). Howick had 120 on 7th (JAR), Druridge Pools had 110 on 13th (IDR/JF), and High Knock Shield Farm (Allendale) had 100 on 27th (SJH). 94 were noted along a 1.5km stretch of the Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 10th (LJM). Smaller flocks were recorded at various coastal locations, A single female was observed collecting feathers from the lawn at Humshaugh on 28th (SW).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

37 were recorded in a 4.5km walk from Horton Park to Shankhouse Bridge (Cramlington) on 15th (LJM) and 35 were at Druridge Pools on 14th (IDR/JF). The cold weather produced large garden counts, with 25 at Tynemouth on 12th (CB), 19 at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 13th (STH), 18 at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 14th (NFO), and 12 at Gosforth Garden Village on 13th (MJC) and Yearle on 14th (DGB/RHB). There were 22 at Bedlington Free Wood on 24th (JR), 21 at Queen Elizabeth II CP Lake on 13th (JR), and 18 at Ellington Pond on 17th (IDR). Groups of 15 were at Willow Bridge (Choppington) on 1st (JR), Newburn on 10th (MH) and Potland Farm (Linton) on 21st (IDR/JF), and there were 14 at West Sleekburn Farm on 16th (JR). Smaller numbers were reported from various locations, including Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Brunswick Green (Wideopen), Warkworth GC and Mickley Square. A single dead bird was found on Blyth beach on 13th (MHP).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

A roost of 695 birds was recorded at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 15th (MJC). Swallow Pond (Wallsend) had 210 on 20th, Carterway Heads had 150 on 18th (IFo), and there were 130S at Ellington on 11th (TB). Rake Lane (North Shields) and Howick both had 120 on 11th (ASJ, JAR), and there were 100 at Lynemouth Flash on 10th (TB). Longhirst Flash had 90 on 24th (TF/JFa), East Holywell (Whitley Bay) had 85 on 9th (MNC), Weetslade had 80 on 8th (CB), and Linden Hall (Longhorsley) had 80 on 23rd (NFO). There were 75 at Mile Moor (Whittingham) on 8th (CW), 65 at Ordley on 21st (BNR), and 60 at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 1st (STH). Smaller flocks were reported from widespread locations and the cold weather produced many garden sightings, with visitors noted at Tynemouth, East Ord (Berwick), Whitley Bay, Newton Red House, Gosforth Garden Village and Brunswick Green (Wideopen).

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

A roost of 500 was recorded at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 15th (MJC). Howick had 150 on 11th (JAR), Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) had 100 on 20th (GPK), and Druridge Pools & Links had 95 on 13th (IDR/JF). There were 85 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 12th (IDR), 80 at Lincoln Hill on 7th (SW), and 54 feeding on the grass banks of the Tweed at West Ord (Berwick) on 21st (MHu). Flocks of 50 were at Northumberland Park (North Shields) and Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 14th (DRW) and 21st (NFO) respectively. Willow Bridge (Choppington) had 46 on 1st (JR), Longhirst Flash had 40 on 14th (IDR), and Prestwick Carr had 40 on 22nd (GB). 15 were recorded in a Tynemouth garden on 11th, rising to 34 by 12th (CB). Many smaller flocks were reported from locations throughout the county.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Druridge Pools & Links had a maximum count of eight on 14th (IDR/JF). Queen Elizabeth II CP Lake had six on 13th (JR), Benton Quarry Park (Newcastle) had five on 13th (AJ), and Attlee Park (Bedlington) had four on 10th (JR). Three were at Ordley on 24th (BNR) and three singing birds were at Howdon on 21st and 28th (CB). Song was also noted at Big Waters NWT on 17th (GB), Milkwell (Corbridge) on 21st (RB/MB), Boghouses (Cramlington) on 24th (LJM), and Humshaugh on 27th (SW).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

The largest group was at Willow Bridge (Choppington), with 12 on 1st (JR). Seven singing birds were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 15th (MJC), and there were five at NUFC, Benton (Newcastle) on 7th (AJ). Groups of five were also reported from Foxton Bends on the Aln on 9th (MKi), Ellington on 10th (TB), and Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (IFo). Smaller numbers were recorded at various locations, with two singing birds at Howdon on 21st (CB) and one singing at Seaton Burn on 22nd (GB).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

There were 23 on the feeders at Holywell Dene on 16th (ASJ), and 23 singing birds were counted on 4.5km walk from Horton Park to Shankhouse Bridge (Cramlington) on 24th (LJM). Queen Elizabeth II CP Lake had 19 on 13th (JR), Bedlington Free Wood had 16 on 24th (JR), and Ashington Community Woodland had ten on 21st (JR). Smaller numbers were reported from various locations between Newcastle Great Park, which had eight on 10th (CDB), to Warkworth GC, which had two on 15th (IDR/JF).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

The long-staying bird at Tynemouth pier was not reported this month, but the female/first-winter bird at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) was seen on various dates up to 25th (AP). A male bird was at Berwick on 11th (BWG) and 12th (NNBC). At Quarry Cottage, a probable female was present at the Sandy Bay excavations between 11th and 13th (BS). A single bird was reported from Seahouses on 19th (AMG/MG).

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

There were six birds (three pairs) at Newcastle Great Park on 10th (CDB), and four (two pairs) at Howick on 4th (JAR). Four were at Backworth on 21st (CGK), Longhirst Flash on 27th (IDR/JF), and Boulmer on 28th (BS). Three were at Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) on 7th (GPK), Cocklawburn on 26th (MHu), and at the Sandy Bay excavations between 12th and 22nd (BS). Pairs were reported at Prestwick Carr on 1st (MH), Callerton subsidence area on 15th (MH), and at West Hartford on 28th (LJM). Most of the reports this month came from coastal or lowland locations, with the exception of two at Yetlington Fen on 28th (TRD/JD), singles at Coanwood on 11th and 28th (SJH), and one at Longframlington Common on 21st (TRD/JD). Rare sightings for the location were recorded at Howdon, which had a male on 21st (CB), and at Gosforth Subsidence Pond, which had a female, also on 21st (MJC).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Three were seen on the Wansbeck at Bothal on 13th and also at Derwent Gorge on 26th (TD/IFo). Two were at Ellington Dene, Jesmond Dene, Lambley, Morpeth, Rothbury, Ponteland and Holywell Dene during the month and singles were seen at a further seven locations.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

A high count of 88 was made in a Stobhill Manor garden (Morpeth) on 4th (TF/JFa). 70 frequented a Newbiggin garden in the first two weeks, declining to 30 thereafter, with another local garden attracting 32 (RS/AP). Garden counts at two Cramlington sites, involved 37 on 17th and 23 on 13th (LJM/STH). One -18 were seen at six additional sites.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

35 at Ellington Pond on 23rd was the month's peak count (IDR/JF). 25 were at Newton Red House on 2nd and at Warkworth G.C. on 15th and at Linden Hall on 20th (PG/IDR/JF/NFO).

15 – 18 were at feeders at Weetslade on several dates and two to 14 at a further 20 sites this month.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

18 were counted in Holywell Dene, mainly at feeders throughout the dene on 16th (ASJ). Nine were at Free Wood (Bedlington) on 24th, seven at Q.E.11 CP on 13th (JR). One to five at 11 other sites.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

The wintering bird was again seen at Prestwick Carr on 1st (GB/IF).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Two were seen this month, at Corbridge, Newburn, Jesmond and Holywell Denes, East Hartford and Howdon. Singles seen at a further 21 sites.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

43 on 7th was the peak count of birds present during the month at Gosforth Subsidence Pond (MJC/ADM). 19 were at Prestwick Carr on 22nd, with 16 noted there on 4th (GB/MH). Elsewhere, one to four were seen at 11 sites.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

The month's peak count was 67 at Druridge Pools and Links on 14th (IDR/JF). 42 were counted feeding at Rising Sun C.P. on 13th and 26 were at St. Mary's on 9th (ASJ). 38 were found during harsh weather at Beacon Point on 9th (AP). 24 were noted at Newburn Haugh on 10th and 23 seen at Prestwick Carr on 1st (MH). 20 per hour passed N at Berwick on the morning of 17th (MJC). 20 were at Backworth on 21st (CGK). One to 18 were also at a further 22 locations this month.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

The sole record was of one at Newbiggin on 17th (AP).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

13 counted at Boulmer on 21st, included four *Littoralis* birds which were also seen on 18th (BS). Two were seen at Berwick Little Beach on 17th and singles noted at a further six sites including, unusually, one in flight over Segedunum, Wallsend.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

A minimum of 120 were seen on 1st and 21st at Crooked Oak (IFo). 50 were part of a mixed feeding flock at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 12th (TD). Other groups of 50 were present at Howick on 16th and at a game crop at Bywell on 28th (JAR/MH). 40 were seen along Druridge Coal Road on 21st and 22 at Nedderton on 1st. One -15 were also seen this month at 15 other sites.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

13 at Crooked Oak on 1st had declined to four by 16th (IFo). Only small numbers were elsewhere, with one to three seen at seven sites.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

One to three were observed at Abbey Mills again, on several dates between 11th and 25th (ADMc/TF/JFa).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

The month's peak count was 25 seen at Walker Riverside Park on 13th (ASJ per SP). Of the birds regularly attending a Rothbury garden feeder during the month, the peak count on 26th was an impressive 24 (TRD/JD). 13 were seen at Rising Sun C.P. on 13th (ASJ). 12 were at Branton on 19th (IBDa/KDa). Ten were noted at Howick on 7th (JAR) and eight to nine were regularly seen at Weetslade this month (CB/JR). One to eight were seen at a further 28 sites in the county.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Ten were seen on 4th at Callaly and at Linden Hall on 9th. One to six were at a further 20 locations, including singing, displaying birds.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

A flock of 130 -150 was at Druridge Coal Road on 21st, with 145 at Hemscott Hill Links on 27th (IDR/JF/CSA/IF). Elsewhere, one – 24 were noted at five sites.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

A huge gathering occurred at Warkworth, with 1,300 noted at Birling Farm/golf course on 12th and 900 there on 15th (CSA/IDR/JF). 300 were at Stag Rocks on 13th and 200 spent all month at Rake Lane (North Shields) (RA/ASJ). 170 were counted at Crooked Oak on 21st/22nd (IFo). 150 were at Cramlington, Northumberlandia on 5th and at Bywell on 28th (STH/MH). 120 were counted at Howick on 22nd (JAR). 105 at Old Hartley on 1st and 100 at Boulmer on 21st (MNC/BS). 15 – 80 were also noted during the month at a further eight sites and one – 12 at five others.

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

Two were found at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 13th and 14th and a single was at Silverlink (North Shields) on 28th (MJC/JBu).

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis caberet*

43 were ringed at Corbridge Common on 28th (DLe). 11 were seen at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 24th (GB). Eight were at Ashington on 21st and one to five at 16 sites, including in gardens at Longbenton, Gosforth and Rothbury.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Ten were seen all month at Rising Sun C.P. (GPK). Nine flew S at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 26th (STH). Seven were at Hedgeley on 23rd and six flew NW at East Hartford on 21st (IBDa/KDa/STH). One to three were also seen at five other sites.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

100 were seen at Druridge Coal Road on 21st (TD). 55 were at Horton Park (Cramlington) on 1st (LJM). 36 fed at garden feeders at Berwick on 1st and 32 was the month's highest count in a garden at Chapel House on 8th (BWG/MH). 30 were in a mixed finch flock at Warkworth on 15th (IDR/JF). One to 29 were at a further 20 locations during the month.

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

On 7th, 100 were along the river at Beggar's Rigg (Rothbury) (JD). 50 were seen at Silverlink Park (North Shields) on (JBu). 48 were at Alnwick and 40 at Rising Sun C.P. on 9th (AMG/MG). 40 were also at Big Waters on 19th (GB). One – 30 were seen this month at 30 other sites.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Three were seen at Ross on 26th, singles at Bamburgh on 13th and Beal on 19th (MJC/RA).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

There were only two sightings this month, with six noted at Goswick on 18th and a single flying N at St. Mary's on 1st (MJC/ASJ).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*

120 were at Warkworth on 8th (Csa) and 60 were noted at Morpeth on 13th (TD). 50+ remained all month feeding in a crop field at Rake Lane (N.Shields) and at Kirkley on 14th (ASJ/BC). 40 were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 13th and at Bywell on 28th (RA/MH) with 36 at Barleyhill on 15th (IFo). 25 were seen at Catraw Farm (Stannington) on 1st (MH). One – 21 were also seen at 31 other sites, with the first singing males heard at Rake Lane on 4th (1) and 28th (5), and at Holywell on 27th (6) (ASJ). A pair were seen in a garden at Newton Red House on most days this month (PG).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

The wintering flock at Rake Lane (North Shields) remained all month, with 100 + counted on several days. Several males were singing from mid-month (ASJ). They were discovered to be flying from here, each evening to roost in a small reedbed at Backworth, with a peak of 58 counted arriving one evening, lower counts being made on other days (ASJ/CGK). Elsewhere, 44 were noted at Cocklawburn on 26th and 30 at Stag Rocks on 13th and at Warkworth G.C. on 15th (MHu/RA/IDR/JF). Birds observed at Gosforth Subsidence Pond during the month peaked at 18 on 28th and included six singing males (MJC). Nine at St. Mary's on 20th, included five singing males (ASJ). One to seven were seen at a further 20 sites.

ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**Escapes****Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*

One still frequented the River Coquet in Rothbury with the bread-fed Mallard by the pedestrian bridge over the river. (TRD/JD).

Hybrids**Canada Goose x Greylag Goose** *Branta canadensis x Anser anser*

One was at Killingworth Lake on 18th.

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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Berwick Wildlife Group, Hauxley Ringing Station, North Northumberland Bird Club, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

Apologies for any accidental omissions**BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION**

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Grouse to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Doves to Grebes), Clive Hampton (Oystercatcher to Redshank), Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Auks), Trevor Blake (Divers to Buzzards), Peter Fletcher (Barn Owl to Larks), Clive Hampton, Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings).

Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Apologies for any accidental omissions

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Clive Hammond is Data Manager.

Edited by Steve Barrett NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to ntbc.records@googlemail.com

Please email for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: Please use of standard location names and include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. Subs are due on 1st October each year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website.

If you internet bank you can pay online: please include your name in the ref. It is helpful if you email me to let me know when you've made the transfer ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

If you decide to set up a standing order please date the first payment at least a fortnight from your posting date to allow time to process with the bank. You can also set up your standing order directly with your bank if you wish; just let me know. Our bank details are on the membership form.

For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

Finally, if you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome.

Jo Bentley - Hon Treasurer

NTBC WEB SITE

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds.

There are:

Photo Galleries – Here you can view hundreds of photos of birds from Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Members are encouraged to contribute their own photos. Simply send them to galleries@ntbc.org.uk

There are also County Checklists, Records Committee updates, Information on important Surveys, useful articles and reports on Bird ID and Overseas Birding Trips....and much more...

Please submit any other new content for the website to the main club email address at ntbcorg@gmail.com

New content such as Birding Trip Reports etc., is always welcome and very much appreciated.

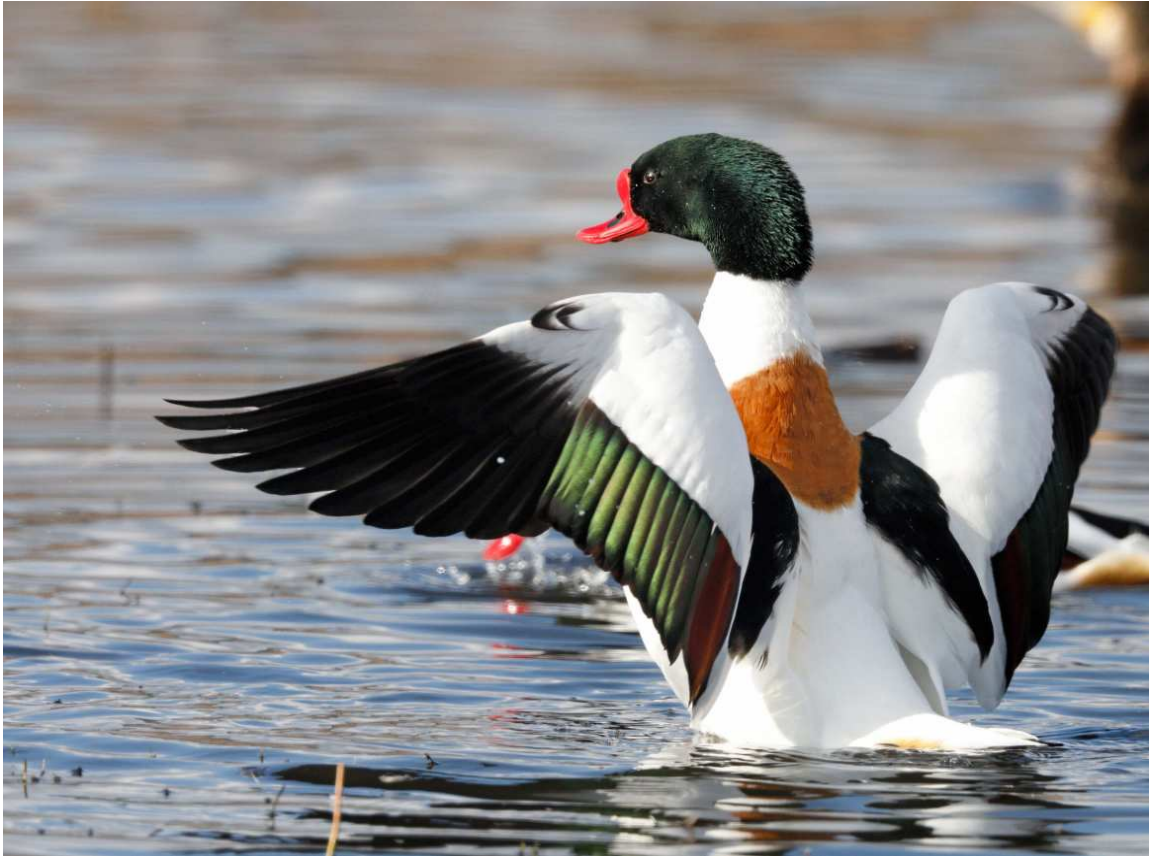
To find out more please visit www.ntbc.org.uk



Canada Geese at Derwent Water
Eddie Douglas.



Whooper Swans at Big Waters
Chris Barlow - 16th February.



Shelducks at Howdon
Colin Bradshaw.



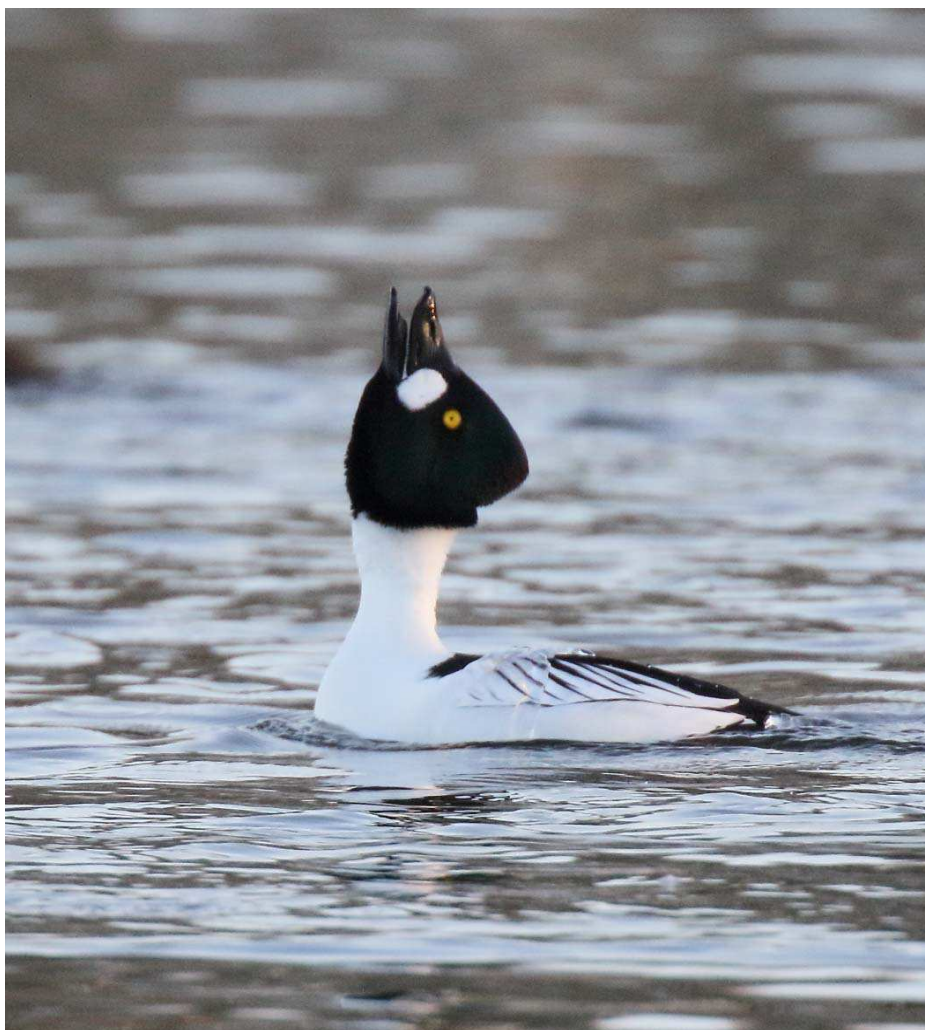
Teal at Howdon
Colin Bradshaw



Pochard at Killingworth Lake
Jack Bucknall - 22nd February.



Tufted Duck at Killingworth
Colin Bradshaw.



Goldeneye displaying at Killingworth Lake
Jack Bucknall - 22nd February.



Smew with Tufted Ducks at Caistron
Tim Dean -16th February.



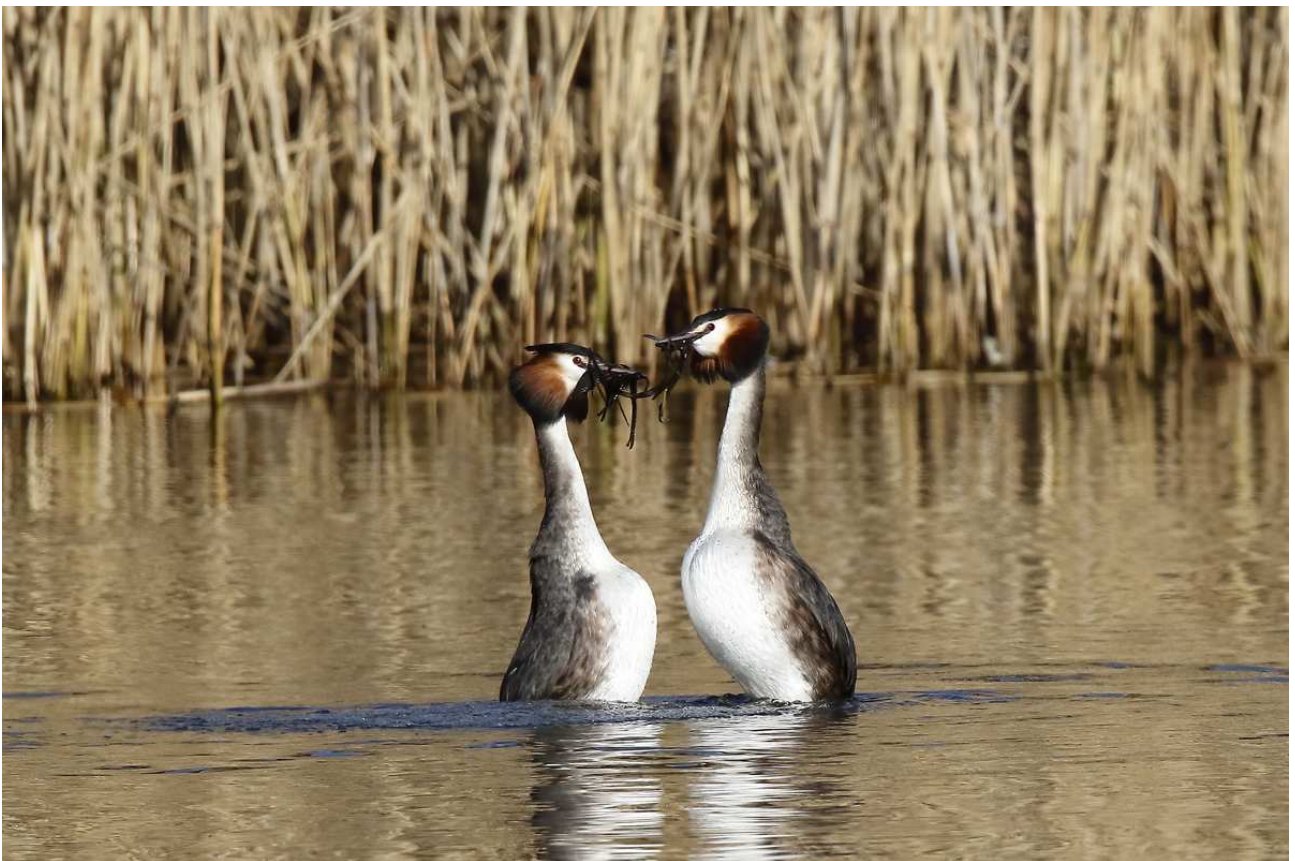
Rock Dove at North Shields Fish Quay
Jack Bucknall -1st February.



Stock Dove at Northumberland Park
Colin Bradshaw



Woodpigeon at Whitley Bay
Jack Bucknall - 10th February.



Great Crested Grebes courting at Killingworth Lake
Chris Barlow - 27th February.



Curlew ay Howdon
Colin Bradshaw.



Lapwing and Grey Plover at St Mary's Island
Jack Bucknall -15th February.



Mediterranean Gull at Brierdene, Whitley Bay
Jack Bucknall - 9th February.



Common Gull at Brierdene, Whitley Bay
Jack Bucknall - 8th February.



Juvenile Iceland Gull at North Shields Fish Quay
Jack Bucknall.



Herring Gull at Whitley Bay
Jack Bucknall - 8th February.



Grey Heron at Great Park, Newcastle
Chris Barlow - 10th February.



Little Egret at Gosforth
Mike Carr - 28th February.



Male Sparrowhawk at Marden
Alan Jack.



Buzzard pursued by corvid over Gosforth
Mike Carr -13th February.



Female Great Spotted Woodpecker at Killingworth Village
Mike Potts - 5th February.



Female Kestrel at Hedgeley
Tim Dean - 15th February.



Ring-necked Parakeet at North Shields
Jack Bucknall -13th February.



Jay at Jesmod Dene, Newcastle
Chris Barlow - 21st February.



Skylark at Rake Lane
Alan Jack.



Male Blackcap at Tynemouth
Colin Bradshaw.



Wren at Rising Sun Country Park, Wallsend
Alan Jack.



Starlings over Fawdon, Newcastle
Chris Barlow - 28th February.



Fieldfare at Tynemouth
Colin Bradshaw.



Redwing at Tynemouth
Colin Bradshaw.



Song Thrush and snail at Great Park, Newcastle
Chris Barlow - 13th February.



Mistle Thrush at Holywell Pond
Jack Bucknall - 2nd February.



Robin at Weetslade Country Park
Jack Bucknall - 9th February.



Stonechat at Great Park, Newcastle
Chris Barlow - 10th February.



Tree Sparrow at Weetslade Country Park
Jack Bucknall - 9th February.



Male Bullfinch at Weetslade Country Park
Jack Bucknall - 9th February.



Lesser Redpoll at Silverlink Country Park
Jack Bucknall.



Female Reed Bunting at Rake Lane.
Alan Jack



Male Reed Bunting at Gosforth
Mike Carr - 27th February.

Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2021 No 03

MONTHLY SUMMARY MARCH 2021

6th May 2021



CONTENTS

INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm. The next meeting will be in September

FIELD TRIPS

On hold for the next few months.

Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Tundra Bean Goose	Two at Cocklawburn on 23rd and one at Widdrington Moor lake on 25th.
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Single adult at Budle Bay from 23rd.
Ruddy Shelduck	Up to three at Cresswell, Broomhill and Widdrington Moor plus one at Derwent Res.
Garganey	Male and female at Cresswell Pond on 30th.
American Wigeon	Drake still at Grindon Lough on 11th.
Scaup	Singles at Fenham & East Chevington.
Velvet Scoter	Only record of month was two north at Cheswick on 3rd.
Smew	Single redheads still at Caistron and Widdrington Moor Lake.
Crane	Two over Pegswood on 20th and three over Warkworth on 20th and Budle Pt on 21st.
Red-necked Grebe	One at Bothal Pond until 8th and then relocated to Arcot Pond until 20th.
Slavonian Grebe	Eight at Budle Pt on 6th was the only record of month due to lockdown.
Avocet	Peak counts of 24 on Blyth Estuary on 21st and 20 at Cresswell Pond on 23rd.
Little Ringed Plover	Early record of one at Derwent Res on 13th.
Ruff	Up to six at Druridge Pools.
Jack Snipe	Singles at Backworth, Gosforth and Beal.
Grey Phalarope	Singles at Blyth & Warkworth on 8th.
Spotted Redshank	Wintering bird still at Bothal Pond all month.
Greenshank	Singles at Beal on 21st and at Scotswood on 23rd.
Glaucous Gull	Two 1st-winters at North Shields plus unusually one well inland at Alnham on 24th.
Little Gull	One at Tweed Estuary on 5th.
Iceland Gull	Peak of three at North Shields plus several others at localities during month.
Caspian Gull	Singles at Amble Harbour, St Mary's and QE II CP.
Great White Egret	One at Caistron from 3rd.
Red Kite	Heavy signs of expansion as 46 sightings this month.
Great Grey Shrike	One in favoured wintering area of Harwood Forest.
Carriion Crow	Another exceptional count of 585 at Gosforth on 9th.
Hooded Crow	Wintering birds still at Howick, Linton / Ellington.
Swallow	Early passage with records from 21st though most from 29th.
House Martin	Early record with one at Gosforth Park on 29th.
Shore Lark	One at Ross on 1st.
Cetti's Warbler	Singles singing at four sites with a first record for North Tyneside.
Willow Warbler	Also early passage with singing birds from 30th.
Chiffchaff	Marked passage with peak of 29 at Branton GP on 26th
Starling	Spectacular roost at Fawdon with an estimated 100,000 individuals at peak.
Black Redstart	Singles at Newbiggin and Amble.
Eastern Yellow Wagtail	Still wintering at Prestwick Carr as seen on 28th.
Water Pipit	One at Boulmer on 24th and a summer-plumaged bird at Druridge Pools on 30th.
Hawfinch	One flew over Wark on 27th.
Greenfinch	An indication of decline shown by a peak of only ten at any site.
Linnet	Large flock of 1,300 at Birling farm, Warkworth on 12th.
Mealy Redpoll	Singles at Pegswood and Howdon.
Lapland Bunting	Singles at North Shields and Druridge.

CLASSIFIED LIST**Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix*

11 males were at a presumed lek site at Far Town (near Slaggyford). At Plenmeller Common, eight males were noted on 12th (SJH), with two males and three females there on 4th (PRM) and two males displaying to a female on 1st (SJH). Six males were at Carrshield Moor on 17th (SJH), six (including three displaying males) at Paxhill (Allendale) on 17th (SJH), four (one displaying male) at Knockburn (Allendale) on 3rd (SJH), and a single male at Keenley-Hollingreen (SJH).

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

30 were at Haltonlea Fell on 22nd (SW), 25 at Plenmeller Common on 1st (SJH), 15 at Paxhill (near Allenheads) on 17th (SJH), five to nine at Alnwick Moor (TRD/JD) and Slaley Forest (BNR), and three to four at Bewick Moor and Knockburn. The species was also heard at Harwood Forest. Display was noted at Plenmeller Common on 18th (SJH).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Two pairs displayed at Plenmeller Common on 17th (SJH), three to four were at Alnwick Moor (TRD/JD) and Newtown, Rothbury (SJH), and one to two inland at Alnham, Castron and Ewartly Shank, and coastal/near-coastal at Druridge Lane, Ellington (the observers' first record at the site in 40 years; TB), Old Hartley and West Chevington.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Three to four were at Druridge Links (IDR/JF), Chugdon Wood, Ellington (IDR), Hepscott (JFa) and Howick (JAR), and one to two at Arcot Lane, Backworth, Big Waters, Bywell, Easington, Ellington Pond, Fulbeck (Morpeth), Lynemouth Bay, Lysdon Farm (Blyth), Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin), Rake Lane (North Shields), Seaton Point (Boulmer), and Tughall.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Ten to 12 were at Druridge Pools/Links and Lynemouth Bay, six to eight at Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Ellington Pond and Lynemouth Bay, and two to four at Arcot Pond, Ellington Colliery and Lynemouth Flash.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

At Budle Bay, about 800 pale-bellied *hrota* race birds were noted on 4th, 420 on 10th, 315 on 18th and 27 on 27th (DF). One to two dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds were at Budle Bay between 8th-10th (DF). At Holy Island, 37 un-raced birds were present on 27th (DGB/RHB).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 12 N and eight S (SSWT), and two flew NW at Budle Point on 24th (RA). Peak site counts were 385 at Grindon Lough on 1st (SJH), 294 at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo), 106 at Druridge Pools on 14th (IDR), and 84-90 at Hauxley Reserve (HRS) and Plenmeller Common (SJH). Counts of 12-31 came from Bothal Pond, Coanwood Pond-Lanehead, Killingworth Lake, Newcastle Leazes Park, QEII CP and Tyne Riverside CP, and two to five at Big Waters, Howdon, Lynemouth Bay and Flash, Middle Ord Pond, Monks' House Pool, Slaley Hall, Wark (North Tyne), West Ord and Yarrow Slake.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Two at Budle Bay on 5th (DF) were followed by an absence until 300 were noted on 30th (CGK), 11 flew W at Wark (North Tyne) at 19.34hrs on 30th (PRM), six were at Cresswell Pond on 30th (JFa), two to three at Grindon Lough between 1st-18th (SJH/PRM/SW) and singles at Berwick Little Beach, Big Waters, Castron, Druridge Pools and Widdrington Moor Lake.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Light movement involved two to six N at Budle Point, Druridge Links and Seaton Sluice on several dates. 600 were at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo), 164 at Cheswick on 23rd (MHu), 104-145 at Budle Bay (DF), Coanwood Pond (SJH), Cocklawburn (MHu) and East Holywell (MNC), 76-96 at Cooper's Flash (Ashington), Hammershield (Allenheads), Holywell Dene and Plenmeller Common, and 24-46 at Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother GP and Settlingstones. Ten to 19 were also at Big Waters, Hauxley Reserve, Howick, Longhoughton, Middle Ord Pond and Monks' House Pool, and one to eight at Druridge Pools, Dukesfield (Slaley Forest), Ellington Colliery, Ellington Pond, Killingworth Lake, Lynemouth Bay and Flash, and Pithouse Fell.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

A total of 787 flew N at Seaton Sluice (a new March record for the site) and included 352 N on 31st (SSWT), and 1,210 (in multiple flocks, some far offshore) N at Boulmer on the latter date (BS). Other overhead movement included 900 over Ellington on 18th (IDR), 600 W at Druridge Pools on 29th and 570 N there on 7th (IDR), 400 W at Bothal Pond on 16th (TF/JFa), 100-250 N/NW at Cullercoats, East Chevington, Ellington, Hazlerigg, Hemscott Hill, Hexham and St Mary's Island on various dates, while 25-95 were at/over several further sites. The species was heard over Wark (North Tyne) on 4th and N there during darkness on 30th (PRM).

Several large congregations were noted, with peaks of 5,000 at Doddington on 27th (RDi), 3,000 at Earsdon on 20th (MNC), 2,500 at Warkworth Lane on 31st (TB), 2,355 at Budle Bay on 5th (DF), and 2,000 at Cresswell Pond (IF), High Hauxley (IF), Holywell (ASJ) and Widdrington Moor Lake (ASJ). Counts of 1,000-1,500 came from Backworth, Belford, Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay), Druridge Pools, Ellington, Longhirst Flash, Old Hartley, Tughall Mill and Warkworth Lane and may have involved some overlap with above sites/flocks, and 400-800 were at Doddington, Hemscott Hill and Longhirst Flash.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris*

Two were at Cocklawburn on 23rd (MHu), and one was with Pink-footed Geese at Widdrington Moor Lake on 25th (JFa).

White-fronted Goose *Anser flavirostris*

Eurasian *albifrons* race birds involved a group of seven (one adult) at Longhirst Flash from 2nd-7th (TF/JFa *et al.*) and six on 9th (TB). Birds of the Greenland *flavirostris* race involved single adults with Pink-footed Geese at Budle Bay on 23rd (DF) and Belford on 24th (DF), a first-winter bird at Budle Bay on 30th (CGK), and an un-aged bird at Branton GP on 22nd (IBDa/KDa). An un-raced bird was at Beadnell on 6th (RA).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

One flew S at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT). Peak gatherings were 74 at QEII CP on 14th (CDH), 68 at Killingworth Lake on 12th (DM), 30 in a kale field at Green Hill, Horncliffe on 21st (MHu), 20-28 at Big Waters (DM), Howdon (CB), Warkworth Lane (TB) and West Ord (MHu), and 14 at Castron. Three to seven were also at Cocklawburn Pond, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Linton Ponds and Shield on the Wall, and one to two ten further sites including Newcastle Quayside. A nest at Newcastle Exhibition Park contained a single egg on 31st (GB).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

A strong northerly movement through the county was evident, mainly from 20th. At Seaton Sluice, a March record total of 671 flew N from 17th and included 185 N on 24th (SSWT). Coastal/near-coastal passage (all to N/NW unless otherwise stated) was as follows: on 20th, 250 at Pegswood (AT), 200 (plus a further 40 on the sea) at Tynemouth (DRW), 140 at the Blyth Estuary (MN), 65-88 at Druridge Links (IDR/JF), Foxton (JAR) and St Mary's Island (ASJ), 49 were on the sea off East Chevington (IF), 35 N at Hauxley joined a herd of about 70 in Alnmouth Bay (IF), and 15-16 at East Cramlington and Heaton (STH/TW). On 21st, a total of 274 at Budle Point (RA), 81-92 at Boulmer (BS) and Newham Fen (DF), 42 at Snab Point (TB), Tynemouth (DRW) and seen offshore from Pegswood! (AT), and 16-18 at Quarry Cottage, Newbiggin (BSt); ten at Backworth on 22nd (JBU); 69 at Newbiggin (AP), 41 at Ellington (TB), and 13-20 at Bothal (AT) and Druridge Links (IDR) on 23rd (TB); 80-108 at Ashington (TB), Budle Point (RA) and Whitley Bay (BS), plus 27-34 at Cullercoats (ASJ), Newbiggin (AP) and St Mary's (ASJ) on 24th; 45 at Cramlington (STH) and 14+ at Newcastle Town Moor (GB) on 25th. A flock of about 140 were over Berwick on 31st (MHu) when 103 passed High Heaton (LMI) and 18-22 at Boulmer and Tynemouth (TRD/JD/DLo).

Movement was also evident further inland, with 30 W at Brandon on 21st (IBDa/KDa), 22 NW (and six more settled) at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd followed by 90 NW (plus eight settled) on 23rd and 40 there on 29th (IFo), while 42 flew N at Hexham on 23rd (AJH), 26 over Branton GP on 29th (IBDa/KDa), and 41 N at Wark (North Tyne) on 30th (PRM).

Static flocks involved 52 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 21st (RPo), 44-46 at Cresswell Pond (TB/TF/JFa) and Horncliffe (MHu), 30-37 at Budle Bay (DF), Cornhill on Tweed (SVM/AJM), Druridge Pools and Links (IDR), and Ord (MHu), and 24-26 at Birling Carrs, Low Newton Scrape and Monks' House Pool (offshore). Groups of ten to 17 were at Big Waters, Branton GP, Edlingham, Prestwick Carr, QEII CP, Shield on the Wall and Warkworth Lane and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, and one to nine were at/over Airy Holm Reservoir, Castron, Cullercoats, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Ellington, Hepscott, Warton and Weetslade CP. Flocks were sound-recorded over Gosforth Garden Village on four nights between 21st-26th (MJC).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

At Seaton Sluice, a total of 32 flew N and 24 S during the month, and small numbers daily probably involved prospecting birds (SSWT). A total of eight flew NW at Budle Point on three dates (RA). At Budle Bay, 163 on 7th (DF) dropped to 78 by 24th (AJR), 72 were at the Blyth Estuary on 21st (LJM), 46 at Bell's Pond (Cresswell) on 15th (MH), 40 at Howdon on 14th (CB), 20-23 at the Coquet Estuary (RPo) and Longhoughton Steel (BS), and 12-17 at Druridge Pools, Elswick and Warkworth Old Water. Three to four were also at Berwick Little Beach, Hauxley Reserve and Howick, and one to two at Aydon (Corbridge), Bothal Pond, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), East Holywell, Hazlerigg, Howdon, Lynemouth Bay, Meadow Haven (Berwick), Monks' House Pool, West Hartford and West Ord. Further inland, seven to ten were at Castron (TRD/JD) and Haughton Strother GP (AJR). One at Howdon on 28th had been ringed in the Lower Derwent Valley, Yorkshire on 18th March 2018 and hadn't been reported in between times (CB).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Three drakes were with Shelducks at Hemscott Hill (Bell's Farm) on 13th (TB/IDR/JF), and two were near North Broomhill on 23rd (IF) and Widdrington Moor Lake on 21st (RPo). Singles were at Cresswell Pond (drake; TB) on 15th, Hemscott Hill (MH) on 15th and 18th (IF), and Derwent Reservoir on 4th (IFo).

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Along the River North Tyne, six were at Wark on 23rd and two to three (including two ducks) on several further dates (RB/MB/PRM), five (three drakes) at Smalesmouth on 30th (JR) and two at Bellingham on 25th (ADM). Four (three drakes) were on the River Wansbeck at Meldon on 24th (AT) and three (a pair and a female) at Low Angerton on 24th (IRD). A pair was at Farnley on 31st (RB/MB), and single drakes at Castle Island on 31st (TB) and Harehaugh (Hepple) on 17th (TRD). The species was heard at the latter site on 19th (TRD/JD).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

A pair was at Cresswell Pond on 30th (JFa).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Druridge Pools attracted a peak of 65 on 27th (IDR), with five to 50 throughout the month. Other peak site counts were 20 at Low Newton Scrape on 26th (SVM), 15 at Bothal Pond on 26th (TF/JFa), 14 at Newham Bog on 21st (DF), 11 at Monks' House Pool (JPL), and four to seven at Big Waters, Druridge Links (offshore) and Hauxley Reserve. One to two were also at Arcot and Swallow Ponds, Gosforth Subsidence Pond and Woodhorn Flashes. More unusual was a pair at Airy Holm Reservoir on 31st (IFo). Display was noted at Big Waters on 14th (GB).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Four flew N at Tynemouth on 14th (DRW). Greatest counts involved 45 at Caistrion on 3rd (TRD/JD), 42 at Holywell Flash on 29th (ASJ), 33 at Woodhorn Flashes on 25th (AT), 26 at the Blyth Estuary on 21st (LJM), and 11-18 at Druridge Pools, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Hauxley Reserve, Holywell Dene, Holywell Pond, Howdon and Lynemouth Bay. Five to nine were also at Big Waters, Bothal, Ellington and Swallow Ponds, East Chevington and Marden Quarry, three to four at Arcot Pond, Chirton Dene Park and Wallington, and one to two at Branton GP, Linden Hall and Lynemouth Flash.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Six flew N at Seaton Sluice between 19th-21st (SSWT). 580 were at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (IFo), 550 at Druridge Pools on 12th (AJR), 452 at Grindon Lough on 2nd fell to 327 by 18th, 152 by 24th and 78 by 25th (SJH/PRM), 245-300 were at Bothal Pond (TF/JFa) and Cresswell Pond (IF), and 110-190 at Big Waters, Budle Bay, Druridge Links (offshore), Hauxley Reserve, Wallington (Dew Pond) and Warkworth. Counts of 62-98 came from Caistrion, the Coquet Estuary, Hemscott Hill and Linton Ponds, and 12-44 were at the Blyth Estuary, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Havannah NR, Lynemouth Bay, Lynemouth Flash, Plenmeller Common, Widdrington Moor Lake and Yarrow Slake. The species was sound recorded over Gosforth Garden Village at 02.00hrs on 23rd (MJC).

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

A drake was at Grindon Lough on 11th (PRM).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Counts were generally low, with peaks of 81 at Grindon Lough on 2nd (SJH), 42 at QEII CP on 14th (CDH), 36-38 at Druridge Pools (IDR/JF), Hauxley Reserve (HRS) and Killingworth Lake (DM), and 22-23 at Arcot and Middle Ord Ponds, Slaley Hall and Stakeford Bridge. Ten to 16 were also at Big Waters, Dukesfield (Slaley Forest), Lynemouth Bay, Newcastle Exhibition and Leazes Parks, and West Sleekburn. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Byker, Newcastle	1	11	AJN. Female with 11 tiny young on the Ouseburn on 19th.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

One flew N at Newbiggin on 31st (AP). At Grindon Lough, one to three were noted between 1st-5th, five (three drakes) on 6th and 11th (PRM), and five (four drakes) on 12th (SJH). More unusual were four at Hedgeley GP on 30th (AMG/MG) and one to three there on several further dates (IBDa/KDa/TRD/JD). Three to four were at Druridge Pools on 29th-30th (IDR/JFa) and one on 17th, while one was at Budle Bay on 21st.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Six flew N and two S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSW). A peak of 427 at Grindon Lough on 7th (SJH) fell to 98 by 24th (SJH) and 47 by 25th (PRM). Other peak site counts were 212 at Howdon on 14th (CB), 50-68 at the Blyth Estuary (JFa/TFa), Castle Island (TF/JFa) and Druridge Pools (IDR/JF), and 21-45 at Arcot, Bothal and Linton Ponds, Big Waters (display noted on 6th; GB), Caistrion, Derwent Reservoir, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, St Mary's Wetland and West Sleekburn. Counts of 11-18 came from East Chevington, Hauxley Reserve, Lynemouth Flash, Plenmeller Common and Warkworth Old Water, while two to eight were at Boulmer, Branton GP, Dukesfield, Ellington Pond, Holywell Dene, Howick, Lynemouth Bay and West Ord. A flock was sound recorded over Gosforth Garden Village early on 25th (MJC).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Moderate numbers included 14 at Woodhorn Flashes on 26th (AP), ten at Killingworth Lake on 7th (CB), six at Bothal Pond on 2nd and 6th (TD/TF/JFa *et al.*) and six at Grindon Lough on 1st (SJH). Up to four were at Big Waters (GB) and one at Arcot Pond.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Largest site counts were 72 at Killingworth Lake on 12th (DM), 60 at Caistrion on 22nd (TRD/JD), 47 at Linton Ponds on 2nd (JFa), 45 at Swallow Pond on 17th (GPK), 42 at East Chevington (JFa), 20-31 at Arcot, Bothal and Swallow Ponds, Big Waters, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Marden Quarry and Woodhorn Flashes, and 14 at QEII CP Lake. Two to nine were also at Bolam Lake, Coanwood Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve, Middle Ord Pond, Monks' House Pool, Newcastle Exhibition Park, 'Northumberlandia' (Cramlington), Paddy Freeman's Park (Jesmond) and Slaley Hall.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Singles were at East Chevington on 30th-31st (JFa) and Fenham Flats on 21st (RA).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

A total of 72 flew N and 23 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and two flew N off Druridge Links. The Blyth Estuary held 87 on 21st (LJM), 60 were off Boulmer on 29th (TRD/JD), 44 at Seahouses Harbour on 27th (DGB/RHB), 27-28 at Amble Harbour, Howick and North Shields Fish Quay, and 14 at Meadow Haven (Berwick). Three to six were also at Lynemouth Bay, Snab Point and Spittal Bay (Berwick).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Two N at Cheswick on 3rd (NFO) was the only report.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

At Seaton Sluice, 131 flew N and 71 S during the month (SSWT), and five moved N at Boulmer. A group of 150 was off Cheswick on 3rd (NFO) and 68 at nearby Cocklawburn on 9th (MHu), while 35-50 were at Budle Point-Stag Rocks (RA/JPL) and Warkworth (CSa). Two to nine were also at Alnmouth Bay, off Druridge Links, Seaton Sluice, and Spittal Bay. Two flocks were heard over Longhoughton in late evening on 30th (BS), while single flocks were sound recorded over Gosforth Garden Village at 21.20hrs on 18th and 03.24hrs on 27th (MJC). A small flock was heard calling as they passed from W to E over Longbenton at 22.01hrs on 21st (a further 55 minutes of listening over three further evenings produced no more; ADM).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Two flew N at Newbiggin on 7th (AP) and one NW at Budle Point on 29th (RA), 15 were off Cheswick on 3rd (NFO), six drakes at Stag Rocks on 9th (AA), five birds at nearby Budle Point on 6th (RA), five at Seahouses Harbour on 12th (per NNBC), and four at Fenham Flats on 21st (RA).

Bufflehead *Bucephala albeola*

Correction: the finder of the Cresswell Pond drake in *February* was ADMc.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

One flew S at Seaton Sluice on 19th (SSWT). Peak coastal/near-coastal counts involved 54 at Calot Shad, the Tweed Estuary on 8th (MHu), 49 at East Chevington north pool on 30th (JFa), 42 at Yarrow Slake, the Tweed Estuary on 20th (MHu), 20 at QEII CP Lake on 14th (CDH), and ten to 19 at Bothal and Cresswell Ponds, Killingworth Lake and West Ord. Five to nine were also at Big Waters, Bolam Lake and Warkworth, and one to four at/over Amble Harbour, Boulmer, Budle Bay, Cocklawburn Pond, Druridge Pools, Fenham Flats, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Hauxley Reserve, Howick, the Long Nanny Estuary, Monks' House Pool, Stakeford bridge and Widdrington Moor Lake. Further inland, 24 were at Caistron on 5th (TRD/JD), 22 at Branton GP on 23rd (IBDa/KDa), 19 at Grindon Lough (SJH), nine at Derwent Reservoir, and one to four at Airy Holm Reservoir, Corbridge and Hedgeley GP. Display was noted at Big Waters, and Bolam and Killingworth Lakes (GB/PG/DM).

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

Single 'redheads' were at Caistron between 3rd-22nd (TRD/JD), and Widdrington Moor Lake on 25th-26th (JFa/MKi).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

A total of 16 moved N and two S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), three flew N and one S at Boulmer on 21st and 31st (BS), two W at Tynemouth on 20th (DRW), and one NW at Budle Point on 29th. Largest counts involved seven on the River Tyne at Close House on 18th increasing to 27 by the end of the month (IK), 12 at Wylam on 25th (BNR), eight at Newburn West on 18th (BNR), six (all ducks) at Newcastle Exhibition Park on 8th (and two drakes on 9th; GB/AJN), and three to five at Airy Holm Reservoir (IFo), Branton GP (TRD/JD), Chirdon Burn mouth (JR), Farnley (RB/MB), Felton (NFO), Killingworth Lake (CB/MP), Melkridge (SJH), Warden (AJN), Wark (RB/MB), Warkworth (RPo), West Ord (MHu) and Wydon Burn Reservoir (AJR). One to two were also at Arcot and Swallow Ponds, Big Waters, Boulmer, Caistron, Castle Island, Corbridge, East Chevington, Hedgeley GP, Humshaugh, Low Angerton, Morpeth (Abbey Mill/Scotch Gill), Newcastle Leazes Park, QEII CP, Ridley Stokoe, Rothbury (Thrum Mill), Sharperton, the Tweed Estuary and Wylam. A drake from one pair attempted to drown a drake from a second pair at Warkworth on 18th (RPo).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Three flew NW at Budle Point on 29th (RA) and one N at Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSWT). Budle Bay proved attractive, with a peak count of 33 (18 drakes) on 29th (DF) and much display was witnessed on 30th (CGK). Peak counts elsewhere were 17 off East Chevington on 30th (JFa), seven at Stag Rocks on 23rd (DF), and three to four at Alnmouth Bay (MKi), the Blyth Estuary (LJM), Druridge Pools (IDR) and West Ord (MHu). Singles were also at Amble Harbour, Boulmer, Cresswell Pond and Holy Island.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

161 were at Newcastle Quayside on 18th (BNR), 124 on the road bridge at Stakeford on 8th (JR) and 60 at both Carterway Heads on 7th (IFo) and on the gym roof at Kingston Park Shopping Centre on 8th (AHB). A regular flock at Southfield Green (Cramlington) increased in numbers from seven on 1st to 16 on 28th (DM) and two were at Lynemouth Bay.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

A flock of 35 were flying around Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 20th (TB), Howdon peaked at 25 on 28th (CB), 20 were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 30th (MJC), 12 at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 2nd (IFo) and ten in a field at Seaton Burn on 13th (GB). One to nine, including many singing birds noted, were at Arcot Pond, Bellingham, Benton, Big Waters NWT, Bothal Barns, Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), Cresswell Pond NWT, Druridge Lane, Druridge Pools, Earle Hill, East Hartford, Eslington Park (Whittingham), Felton, Grindon Lough, Hemscotthill Links (Cresswell), Holy Island, Jesmond Dene, Lemmington Woods (Alnwick), Lincoln Hill, Newcastle Great Park, Newton Red House, Paxhill (Allenheads), Pithouse Fell and Stocksfield.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Last month's flock at Weetslade Colliery CP increased dramatically to a huge gathering of 1,200 birds on 16th (JCD), 500 were at Prestwick Carr on 22nd (IK) and 350 at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 15th (MJC). Numbers at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) fluctuated throughout the month with a peak of 350 there on 18th (IDR/JF). At least 300 were in a stubble field at Lysdon Farm (Blyth) on 3rd (LJM), 175 were at Dipton House on 3rd (BNR), 80 were feeding at Big Waters NWT on 14th (GB), 70 were watched heading N over North Shields in two hours of "vis mig" on 21st (CB) and Howdon peaked at 60 on

28th (CB). One to 25 birds were seen at Budle Point, Druridge Pools, Hemscotthill Links, Ellington Dene, Ellington Pond, Lynemouth Bay and Woodhorn Flashes. One was on a nest at Heaton (Newcastle).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

17 were at Slaley Village on 6th (RMH), seven on wires at Berwick Hill on 9th and five on wires at Ogle on 19th (AHB). A single at Howdon on 6th was only the second seen there in ten years (CB).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

At least eight were calling at Gosforth Park NR, heard from outside the reserve, on 17th (MJC). Four were heard at Backworth at dusk on 7th (CGK) and two were calling at both Big Waters NWT on 7th (GB) and at Swallow Pond throughout the month (GPK). Singles were seen or heard at Arcot Pond, Branton GP, Caistron, East Chevington North Pool, Ellington Pond, Marden Quarry, Northumberland Park (North Shields) and Wooler Common. Overnight migration was recorded frequently throughout the month over a garden at Gosforth Garden Village (MJC) and on 30-31st at Longhoughton (BS).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

13 were at Stakeford Bridge on 8th (JR), 12 at Hauxley NWT on 9th (HRS), 11 at QE11 CP on 14th (CDH) and ten at West Sleekburn on 25th (JR). Seven were at Killingworth Lake on 12th, six at Big Waters on 19th (DM) and one to five were seen at Arcot Pond, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Dukesfield (Slaley Forest), Ellington Pond, Jesmond Dene, Howick, Newburn West, Newcastle Quayside, Slaley Hall and Wark. Probable nesting was reported from Jesmond Dene and one was on a nest at Exhibition Park (Newcastle). Nocturnal Migration was noted over Gosforth Garden Village frequently throughout the month (MJC) and singles were heard overnight at Longhoughton and Whitley Bay (BS).

Coot *Fulica atra*

Congregations generally reduced this month as birds returned to breeding sites, however 48 were still at Killingworth Lake on 12th, 26 at Big Waters on 19th (DM) and peaks of 17 at a roadside flash at Woodhorn, 15 at QE11 CP and 13 at Linton Ponds, all on 14th (CDH). Eight or fewer were seen at Arcot Pond, Bothal Pond, Caistron, Druridge Pools, Exhibition Park (on nest), Hauxley NWT, Howick, Linden Hall, Middle Ord Pond (Berwick) and Monks' House Pool. Nocturnal migration was recorded over a garden at Gosforth Garden Village regularly throughout the month (MJC).

Crane *grus grus*

On 20th two were sighted heading N at Pegswood (AT) then three landed briefly at Maiden's Hall Lake before heading off N over Acklington Prison (IF) and then flying N over Warkworth (CSa). The group of three were seen again on 21st heading NW at Budle Point (RA).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Birds started to return to breeding sites with seven at Holywell Pond by 30th (ASJ) and four at Caistron, Howick Pool, Killingworth Lake, Swallow Pond and Warkworth. One to three were at Arcot Pond, Bothal Pond, Coanwood Pond, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Ellington Pond, Hauxley NWT, Havannah NR, Howdon, Linden Hall, Linton Ponds, Middle Ord Pond (Berwick), Monks' House Pool, Northumberlandia (Cramlington), Slaley Hall, Stakeford Bridge, Wallington and Woodhorn Flashes.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

One at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) from 6th-8th was just coming into breeding plumage with a hint of reddening on its neck (TD/TF/JFa/TB/TF/JFa). Possibly the same individual was subsequently seen at Arcot Pond on 10th and remained until 27th (STH/GMi/PG/LJM/GB/CB/DM).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Three pairs were at Big Waters NWT on 19th (DM) and at Killingworth Lake on 30th (MP). Two pairs were at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), East Chevington, Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) and Widdrington Moor Lake. Three were in breeding plumage and displaying on the sea in Alnmouth Bay on 13th and pairs or two were at potential breeding sites of Airy Holm Reservoir, Branton GP, Caistron, Derwent Reservoir, Hedgeley GP, Holywell Pond, Linton Ponds, QE11 CP, Swallow Pond and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. An adult and first-winter were on the sea at Snab Point (Cresswell). Single birds were also seen at Arcot Pond, Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Druridge Pools, Merryshields GP, Seaton Point (Boulmer) and on the R. Tyne at Lynemouth.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auratus*

Eight were at Budle Point on 6th (RA).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Many reports were received this month with birds on breeding territories and on passage inland and also a few concentrations at the coast. The maximum counts from coastal locations were 121 at Budle Bay on 7th (DF), 89 at Cresswell Pond on 30th (IF), 61 at Hauxley NWT on 9th (HRS), 54 at the River Blyth Estuary on 21st (LJM), 45 at Howick on 19th (JAR), 43 at Alnmouth Bay on 13th (MKi), 42 at Cocklawburn on 2nd (MHu), 22 at Tweedmouth and 18 in Lynemouth Bay. Inland gatherings were reported from many areas with a high of 205 at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (IFo), 95 at Caistron on 22nd (TRD/JD), 77 at Branton GP on 23rd (TRD/JD), 47 at Melkridge (River South Tyne) on 9th (SJH), 44 at West Ord (Berwick) on 30th (MHU) and 41 at Pegswood Moor on 14th (TD) There were 31 at Coanwood Pond on 8th (SJH), with 22 at Haughton Strother, 15 at Merryshields GP, 14 at Big Waters NWT and ten at East Hartford. Displaying and pairs were noted

in several upland areas including, Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Carrshield Moor, Catton, Corbridge, Grindon Lough, Halton-Lea-Gate, Paxhill (Allenheads), Plenmeller Common, Wark, Warden and Whitfield. Lowland, rooftop nesters were reported from Benton, Cramlington High School, Dudley and Jesmond Dene.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Six birds were back at Cresswell Pond on 8th and birds were reported all month with a maximum of 20 on 23rd (IF/TB/MKi *et al.*). Birds were also reported at the River Blyth Estuary from 14th-21st with a maximum of 24 on the latter date (LJM/MN/TF/JFa). Druridge Pools attracted a high of seven on 20th (IDR/JF) and two were at each of Pegswood, Low Newton and Warkworth Lane.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Good numbers were reported from many inland locations with display reported from several areas. The largest count was made at Farnley (Corbridge) were 200 were present on 10th (BNR). At Low Acton (Allendale), 155 were seen on 3rd with much display noted (SJH), 150 were at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo), 146 was the maximum reported from Plenmeller Common on 13th (SJH), 135 were at Hammershield (Allenheads) on 3rd (SJH) and 120 were counted at Carrshield Moor on 17th with many displaying (SJH). Grindon Lough attracted 80 on 1st which had reduced to four by 25th (SJH/PRM). Other groups at inland locations were 72 at Greensyke Farm (Plenmeller Common) on 20th, 70 at Fellhouse Farm (Whitfield) on 7th and Coanwood Pond on 16th with 67 at Knockburn on 17th (all reports SJH). Groups of 50 were both at Castron and Catton, 44 were seen at Hollingreen (Keenly) and 38 at Park Gill (Allendale). Much lower numbers were reported from lowland and coastal areas with Bothal Pond attracting 80 on 6th declining to 14 on 26th (TD). The peak count at Druridge Pools and Links was 40 on 13th (IDR/JF), with 30 at East Hartford, 26 at Clifton Flash, 25 at both Hauxley NWT and Howick, 24 at Lynemouth Bay and 22 at Big Waters NWT. One-20 were seen at 11 other lowland locations and seven upland sites.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

A concentrated effort in the SW uplands produced some very notable numbers. Birds were recorded at Plenmeller Common from 1st-21st with the highest number occurring on 17th with approximately 1,600. This was described as 'Huge' by the observer (SJH). At Greensyke Farm (Plenmeller Common), 700 were seen on 20th (SJH), whilst elsewhere in the SW an estimated 550 were at Fellhouse Farm (Whitfield) on 16th, 451 at Hammershield (Allenheads) on 17th and 331 at Low Acton (Allendale) on 3rd (all SJH). Other reports of flocks were 300 at Lucker Hall Farm on 17th (RPo), 200 at Boulmer on 4th (JAR), 150 at Ellington on 7th (TB), 120 at Howick on 1st (JAR) and 120 at Winnows Hill (Slaley) on 20th (MH). 120 flew S at Halton-Lea-Gate 9th and 120 flew N at Howick on 30th (SW/JAR). Birds were noted at Grindon Lough from 7th-24th with the peak count being 73 (SJH/PRM). Two to 50 were reported from Backworth, Big Waters NWT, Budle Point, Carterway Heads, Hollingreen (Keenly), Low Newton and QE11 CP. Flocks were recorded in the early hours moving over Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 25th and 27th (MJC).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Much lower counts were received this month with the flock at Boulmer being reported as 25 on 25th (AMG/MG) reducing to six by 30th (PMHa/RMHa). 20 were at Birling Carrs on 12th (RPo), with seven present at Howick on 16th (JAR), three at the River Blyth Estuary on 21st (LJM), two at Berwick Little Beach on 13th and 22nd (SVM/MHu) and singles at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 1st (TB) and Snab Point (Cresswell) on 21st (IDR/JF).

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Berwick Little Beach held the highest numbers again this month with 28 counted on 12th (MHu). Most other reports were from inland localities with 15 in the East Holywell-Backworth area on 14th (CGK), ten at Backworth on 7th (CB) and nine at West Chevington on 21st (RPo). One-six (including pairs) were seen at Big Waters NWT, Bothal Barns, Boulmer, Castron, Cooper's Flash (Bothal), Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough and Hedgeley GP.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubious*

The first returning birds were noted this month with an early bird at Derwent Reservoir on 13th harassed and moved on by the local Ringed Plovers (IFo). Two were present at Castle Island on 31st (TB) and singles were at Grindon Lough on 22nd (SJH) and Druridge Pools on 29th-30th (TB *et al.*). Singles were sound recorded passing over the observer's garden at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 27th and 28th (MJC).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Significant numbers persisted at the coast with Budle Bay holding 202 on 7th (DF), 180 at Druridge Pools and Links on 13th (IDR/JF), 169 at Longhoughton Steel on 31st (BS), 160 at Amble on 17th (RPo) and 140 at the Long Nanny Estuary on 15th (AMG/MG). Other counts received were 84 at Cocklawburn on 16th (MHu), 78 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 3rd (AP), 75 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 21st, 75 at Warkworth on 26th, 64 at Northfield Farm (Birling) on 12th (all RPo), 55 at Prestwick Carr on 15th (IK) and 52 at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo). A flock of 49 were on a hillside at Acton Dean on 7th (AJR) with 41 at Carrshield Moor on 17th including displaying birds (SJH). The peak count at West Stobswood Pool was 36 on 13th (AT), 38 were still at Cresswell Pond NWT on 30th (JFa), 35 at Monks' House Pool on 6th (DGB/RHB), 31 at Grindon Lough on 7th (SJH) and Hauxley NWT on 9th (HRS) and 30 were at both Castron on 13th and East Chevington on 18th (TRD/JD/IF). Reports of one-29 were received from Airy Holm Reservoir, Big Waters, Catton, Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), Chugdon Woods, Hemscott Hill Links, Holywell Dene and Pond, Hollingreen (Keenly), Howdon, Low Acton, Lynemouth Bay and flash, Melkridge, Pithouse Fell, Plenmeller Common, Slaley Hall and Forest and Snab Point (Cresswell). Singles were recorded passing over the observer's garden in the early hours of 20th, 21st and 22nd at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle- MJC).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

The flock at Boulmer remained from last month with 41 noted on 4th declining to 12 by 28th (BS/AMG/MG *et al.*). Low Newton attracted 14 on 2nd (AMG/MG) with nine present at Berwick Little Beach on 13th (SVM), eight at Hauxley NWT on 9th (HRS) and four on Low Hauxley beach on 4th (RPo). Three were reported from Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR) on 29th and Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 1st. An unusual freshwater report was one on the roadside flash at Woodhorn on 24th (AP).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

The birds at Druridge Pools were well reported with one on 5th increasing to 23 on 30th (IDR/JF/IF *et al.*). A maximum of 11 were seen in the Warkworth-River Coquet Estuary area from 2nd-19th (CSa/AA/RPo *et al.*).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

There were 97 present at St Mary's Island on 3rd (ASJ) with other significant reports being 60 at Howick on 30th (JAR), 36 at Berwick Little Beach on 12th (MHu), 20-28 at Cresswell Pond on 30th-31st (JFa/TB) and 20 at Boulmer on 29th (TRD/JD). One-12 were seen at Cheswick Black Rocks, Druridge Pools, Newbiggin, Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn), Snab Point (Cresswell) and Warkworth Old Water.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

The maximum count during the month of birds on the rocks at Seaton Sluice was 30 (SSWT). Boulmer continued to hold a small flock, with 21 being seen on the 4th & 29th (BS/TRD/JD). In the River Coquet Estuary, 16 were seen on 19th (CSa) with 14 being seen at nearby Birling Carrs on 12th (RPo). An interesting freshwater record was of a single present at Bothal Pond on 26th (TF/JFa/TD/MKi).

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Birds remained at Druridge Pools from last month and were reported throughout with a minimum of one and a maximum of six seen. (IDR/JF/NFO *et al.*).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

The wintering flock at Boulmer persisted through the month with reports varying with a low of eight and a high of 160 illustrating how mobile the flock was (AMG/MG/AJR *et al.*). Other favoured areas were St Mary's Island, where 63 were present on 3rd (ASJ), Berwick Little Beach with 52 counted on 12th (MHu), Cheswick Black Rocks with 42 on 23rd (MHu), Druridge beach with a maximum of 26 on 21st (IDR), Newbiggin where 25 were feeding on 6th (JCD) and 20 were present in Budle Bay on 7th (SVM).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

The River Blyth Estuary attracted the peak numbers again but less than half that were present last month. Approximately 150 were seen on 7th with a reduced count of 65 being made on 14th (LJM/TF/JFa). As with other wader species, Boulmer was popular with a high of 65 reported on 24th (AJR) reducing to nine on 29th which included an *alpina* race bird (TRD/JD). Elsewhere, 22 were at Budle Bay on 24th (DF), 20 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 12th (RPo) and three-nine were seen at Amble, Druridge Pools and Snab Point (Cresswell). Birds were appearing inland and were present in the Backworth-East Holywell area mid-month with a peak of 15 reported on 14th (CGK/IF/KWY). Three were at Grindon Lough on 12th increasing to seven by 24th (SJH/PRM) and the first returning bird at Derwent Reservoir arrived on 31st (IFo).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

As usual the Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) flock was well reported throughout the month with a low of 14 on 2nd and a high of 93 on 10th (DF/DGB/RHB *et al.*). At Low Newton, 80 were present on 2nd (AMG/MG), 60 were at Coquet Island on 31st (SW), 53 were counted at Newbiggin on 5th (AP) and a high of 29 at Boulmer on 16th (JAR). 16 were feeding at St Mary's Island on 3rd (ASJ) and 11 were at Berwick Little Beach on 15th (MHu). Two-nine were seen at Birling Carrs, Cheswick Black Rocks, Cullercoats, Howick and Seaton Sluice.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

There were considerably fewer reports than in the previous two months. Three were at Arcot Pond on 17th (STH), with two at Ulgham on 5th (PHa/AHa) and Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 7th (MJC). The remains of two birds were found at Hauxley NWT on 9th (HRS). Singles were reported from Belford, Brenkley (Blagdon), East Holywell, Ellington, Furnace Bridge (Bedlington), Howick, Linden Hall and Longframlington Common.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Single birds were present at Backworth until 21st (CGK), Ogle Bridge (River Blyth) on 7th (AHB), Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 13th & 16th (MJC) and Beal on 21st (RA).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

The only large count reported was of 40 at Backworth on 21st (CGK) with 12 at Arcot Lane Flash on 19th (DM). The maximum at Gosforth Subsidence Pond was eight on 15th (MJC), seven were at Big Waters NWT (GB) and six at both St Mary's Wetland and Druridge Pools (KWY/IDR), with five at Howdon (CB). Birds were calling/displaying at Allendale, Caistron, Catton, Coanwood Common, Coanwood Pond, Hammershield (Allendale), Fellhouse Farm (Whitfield), Greensyke Farm (Plenmeller Common), Harwood Forest, Kielder Water, Knockburn, Paxhill (Allenheads) and Plenmeller Common.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One flew N at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 16th (MJC). Wintering birds were seen at Clifton Flash (ADMc/JFa/PG *et al.*), Hedgeley GP (AMG/MG/JD), Denwick (BS), near Longhirst (ADMc) and east of Butterwell opencast site (ADMc).

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

The main wintering sites remained well populated but there were also reports of displaying birds at inland localities. Howdon attracted 240 on 6th and the maximum number reported from Budle Bay during the month was 137 on 30th (DF). The River Blyth Estuary held 128 on 21st (LJM), 108 were at a high-tide roost at St Mary's Island on 3rd (ASJ) and 75-96 were reported in the Warkworth Old Water-Ambles areas of the River Coquet Estuary (RPo/CSa/MKi). The highs at Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools were 87 and 50 respectively (JFa/IDR/JF/TB). The peak count in the Newbiggin area was 77 at Beacon Point on 3rd (AP) and 40 were at West Sleekburn on the River Wansbeck on 25th (JR). Elsewhere, 29 were at Hauxley NWT on 9th, 26 at Berwick Little Beach on 22nd and a personal best of 20 was scored at Bothal Pond on 11th (HRS/MHu/JFa). Birds were present at Grindon Lough all month with a maximum of 11 seen on 12th (SJH/PRM). Breeding and potential breeding areas were occupied during the month with four pairs at Plenmeller Common (SJH), three pairs at Paxhill (Allenheads), two pairs at each of Greensyke Farm (Plenmeller Common), Fellhouse Farm (Whitfield) and Knockburn with a pair at Melkridge on the River South Tyne (all SJH). In potential breeding areas five were at Caistron, four at Coanwood Pond, four at Derwent Reservoir, two at Hedgeley GP and singles at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Branton GP and Warden. One-eight were present at Arcot Pond, Lynemouth Bay and Flash, Scotswood (Newcastle) and Snab Point (Cresswell). Night migrants were recorded over Gosforth Garden Village Newcastle on 20th and 22nd (MJC).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

The wintering bird at Bothal Pond remained all month and was well reported.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Two overwintering birds were reported from Beal on 20th (RA) and Scotswood (River Tyne) on 23rd (ASJ).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

The only movement of note at Seaton Sluice was 400 N in 1.5 hours on 15th (SSWT). A total of 535 were at their Quayside nesting sites on 18th (BNR) and 300 were on the sea at Howick on 19th (JAR). At the month end two counts of 100 came from Coquet Island (HRS) and Needles Eye cliff (Berwick) (BWG/SVM/AJM), 40 were at Cullernose Point and 20 at North Shields. A more unusual record was of five inland on a flooded field with other gulls at East Hartford on 12th (GMI).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

An estimated 1,500 followed a plough at Longhoughton on 4th (JAR/BS) with counts of 1,000 in the Budle Bay roost on 28th (DF) and at the Plenmeller Common breeding colony on 16th (SJH). Gatherings elsewhere were 700 at Druridge Links, 650 at Howdon, 300-500 at Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir, Howick and North Blyth and 100-300 at Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, the Coquet Estuary, Grindon Lough, Hauxley NWT and Killingworth Lake. Smaller groups of up to 85 were recorded at another dozen localities. Ringed birds comprised two at the QE II CP (TRD/JD) and one at Stag Rocks (DGB/RHB).

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyophaga melanocephalus*

Twenty birds, mostly adults, fed at Quarry Cottage, Newbiggin from 1st-16th but thereafter until 26th only three adults were there (RS). Elsewhere, as the wintering birds departed, the maximum counts on 25th were six at Woodhorn Flashes and five at Spital Point, Newbiggin. All other sightings were of one or two at 12 localities mainly in the south east but also at Beal, Budle Bay and, unusually, at Derwent Reservoir.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Large concentrations in roosts comprised 500-1,100 on the sea at Druridge Links from 7th-21st and 1,000 on the sea at East Chevington on 30th. Elsewhere, 500-650 were at Glanton and Merryshields GP's, 200-250 at Budle Point, Dukeshouse (Hexham) and Grindon Lough and 50-100 at Big Waters, Stocksfield, Wark (North Tyne) and West Ord (Berwick).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Few were reported, including one to three at Grindon Lough, two at Druridge Pools and singles at Caistron and Hauxley.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Many observers (IF *et al.*) reported a 1st-winter bird at the North Shields Fish Quay which was seen almost daily from 11th until 21st when it was found dead there (ASJ). On 26th, a second 1st-winter bird was at the Fish Quay (MN/ASJ). A more unusual sighting was an immature feeding amongst a flock of large gulls following a plough in a field at Alnham on 24th, possibly the first record for the Cheviots (TRD/JD).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

Many reports came from the North Shields Fish Quay where birds were present throughout. A 2nd-winter bird was seen there regularly from 1st-31st and on many days from 12th-31st it was joined there by a 1st-winter; both birds were often recorded on the same day. On 27th another 1st-winter arrived such that three birds were present, a very unusual sighting nowadays. Other records, some of which will have been birds wandering away from the Fish Quay, comprised one or two 1st/2nd-winter birds on the Black Middens, Tynemouth on a number of dates and a 2nd-winter at North Blyth on 14th and 19th. The exact number of individual birds at the Fish Quay was difficult to determine because of the number of records and plumage variations but the best estimate is two 1st-winter and two 2nd-winter (MN).

The over-wintering adult bird at Big Waters was there again on a number of dates until 20th and was seen occasionally flying over nearby Wideopen (GB). Finally, a 1st-winter was on the sea at Longhoughton Steel on 31st (ME/TRD/JD).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argenteus*

A flock of 3,000 roosted on the sea at North Blyth on 16th (JFa) and counts at Linton Lane found 190-435 (TF/JFa/TD/AT). Elsewhere were 100-250 at Alnham, the Blyth Estuary, Branton GP, Castle Island, East Chevington and West Ord, 40-80 at Big Waters, Druridge Pools/Links, East Hartford, QE II CP and Newcastle Quayside and up to 20 were at ten other localities including inland at Derwent Reservoir and Grindon Lough.

***Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

A 1st-winter bird was in Amble Harbour from 2nd until at least the 17th (CSa) and a different 1st-winter was at St Mary's Island on 10th (AC) with probably the same individual reported from the QE II CP on 12th (AT).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

The seasonal influx continued, particularly noticeable from mid-month, with 17 moving N past Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and 11 and 8 flying NW at Budle Point on 24th and 29th (RA). The largest counts comprised 100 at North Blyth on 16th (JFa), 95 adults in Budle Bay on 27th (DF), 36 at Alnham on 24th (TRD/JD) and 23 at Branton GP on 6th (BDa/KDa). Smaller groups of 5-18 elsewhere were at Caistron, Druridge Links, Gosforth Subsidence Ponds, New Water Haugh (River Tweed), Newton Red House, Quayside and Scotswood (Newcastle) and Swallow Pond with one to four at ca.25 other sites.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

The first returning birds were a single at Boulmer on 21st (BS) and two at Cullercoats Bay on 24th. Numbers started to build quickly thereafter with eight in Budle Bay on 30th and one to three at Alnmouth Bay, Amble Harbour, Bamburgh, Cocklawburn, Cresswell Pond, Seaton Sluice and St Mary's Island.

Auk *sp*

Very few were seen throughout month at Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Eight moved N at Boulmer on 31st (TRD/JD) with one to six seen at Bamburgh, Cocklawburn, Druridge Links, Seaton Sluice and Spittal Bay (Berwick).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

One to three were at seven sites, mainly in the north of the county.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

On Coquet Island, 50 were counted on 20th (IF) and on 30th several hundred were seen flying around the island (HRS).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 39 birds 22 N and 17 S in 36 hours (SSWT). The highest counts, 54 birds were on the sea at East Chevington on 30th (JFa) and 37 were off Druridge Links on 7th (IDR), 20 off North Blyth on 19th (TF/JFa) and 19 were at Cheswick on 19th (NFO). One to four were also noted at Alnmouth Bay, Budle Point, Cambois, Howick, Little Beach (Berwick) and River Tweed Estuary.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Single birds were offshore at Druridge Links on 7th (IDR), Alnmouth Bay on 13th (MKi) and offshore at East Chevington on 30th (JFa).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

The monthly count at Seaton Sluice was two singles N on 24th and 26th and one S on 29th (SSWT). Single birds were in Druridge Bay on 2nd (AA) and 7th (IDR) and off Chibburn Mouth on 12th (AJR); another bird was seen at North Blyth on 16th (JFa).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

The highest counts were 60+ on Howick cliffs on 3rd (JAR), 45 were in Lynemouth Bay on 18th (IDR), 41 were on the W of Coquet Island on 20th (IF). Single birds were noted at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 29th (TRD/JD) and one flew N at Boulmer on 31st (TRD/JD). No movement was noted throughout the month at Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

On 19th totals involved 350 birds flying N in groups at Howick (JAR), 265 flew N at Seaton Sluice in 2hrs (SSWT) and 120 N at Cullercoats (ASJ). 107 flew N in 15 mins at Boulmer on 4th (BS), 52 were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 25th (DF) and 24 flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 6th (DF). Two to twelve were at Boulmer, Druridge Links, Little Beach (Berwick), Spittal Bay (Berwick) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

22 birds were flying to roost on Dunstan Staithes (River Tyne, Elwick); the monthly maximum at Derwent Reservoir was 13 on 22nd (IFo). Four birds were at Druridge Pools & Links on 7th (IDR) and at Big Waters NWT on 14th (GB). One - three were at Big Waters NWT, Caistron, Druridge Links, Grindon Lough, Hauxley NWT, Lynemouth Bay, Melkridge(R South Tyne), QEII CP, Snab Point (Cresswell), and at Wark (North Tyne). Sightings of Cormorant ssp *sinensis* were five bathing in a pool at Howdon on 6th (CB) with four on 11th (CB); two were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 8th (NFO) and singles at QEII CP on 2nd (TRD/JD) and Wark (N Tyne) on 14th (PRM).

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Four were in Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 17th (MHu); three were at Seaton Sluice on 6th (KWY) and off Druridge Links on 7th and 14th (IDR). Two birds were in Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 5th (MHu), two juveniles were at St Mary's Island on 9th (AC) and two birds were off Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 29th (TRD/JD). Single birds were noted at Alnmouth Bay, Boulmer, Druridge links and Seahouses.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

The monthly totals at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower were four birds N including two high ca.5 miles out on 20th and a single bird in off the sea on 22nd (SSWT). 12 birds were at Druridge Pools on 14th (IDR), seven were noted in flight from a nearby heronry at Pegswood on 21st (AT). Six birds including two on nests were at Warkworth Weir on 27th (CDH), five birds were noted at Abyssinia Wood (Ashington) on 4th (AT), Howick on 6th (PHa/AHa), R Tweed Estuary (Berwick) on 18th (MHu) and at Druridge Pools on 20th (IDR/JF). One to four birds were at 18 sites.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

A bird was found high in trees at Castron on 3rd (TRD/JD) and it was seen there on 5th (TRD/JD) and on 18th (PHa/AHa).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Three to six birds were present all month at Gosforth Subsidence Pond including one colour-ringed with a red Darvik on each tibia with black letters H on right and B on left MJC). Three birds were at Castle Island on 31st (TB) and two birds were at Hedgeley GP on 5th and Castron on 22nd (TRD/JD). Singles were noted at 20 sites including one on the Horton Burn (Cramlington) throughout the month (LJM).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One flew N towards the observer at Kielder Water, but then circled and landed in a wood opposite Leaplish (ADM) on 25th. One flew SW at Stobhill Manor (Morpeth) on 27th (JFa), another flew W along the R South Tyne at Melkridge on 30th (SJH) and one was also seen at Swallow Pond (Wallsend) on 30th (GPK).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Eight birds, including three displaying pairs, were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 20th (MJC). Four birds were noted flying N in 2hrs *vis mig* watch at North Shields on 21st (CB), three were soaring together at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) also on 30th (KWY). A pair was displaying at Ellington on 23rd (TB) and a male and female were at Harwood Forest on 31st (TB). Single birds were reported from 32 sites.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*.

Three birds, two females and a male, were noted at Harwood Forest on 31st (TB) and two were at Whitley Chapel on 20th (BNR). Single birds were at Kyloe Woods on 6th (RA), Whitley Chapel on 7th (BNR), Debdon (Rothbury) on 19th (IRD). A female flew S over the estuary and the South Pier at Tynemouth on 20th (apparently only the third record for Tynemouth) (DRW), and other singles were at Little Ryle (TRD/JD) and R South Tyne (Melkridge) (SJH) on 20th.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Most of the sightings came from East Chevington with four birds on 23rd (IF) and on 30th (Jfa); one to three were noted there throughout the month (TRD/JD *et al.*). A different male flew N at Druridge Pools on 30th (JFa/IF).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

A ringtail, probably an adult female, was noted at a confidential site on 29th (MH).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Six birds, including four simultaneously, were at Shotley Station, all in Northumberland on 16th (MH). Three birds, two adults and a 2nd cal. yr bird, were at a confidential site on 27th (PRM). Two birds were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) & Snods Edge on 9th (IFo), Winnows Hill (Slaley Forest) on 18th (MH), two flew N at Pegswood on 20th (AT) and two were Colpitts (Slaley) also on 20th (MH). On 26th two were at Derwent Reservoir and on 28th two were at Ordley (BNR) and two were at a confidential site (PRM). Single birds were noted at 24 locations throughout the month.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Ten birds, including three displaying pairs, were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 20th (MJC) and ten were over Beanley Wood on 30th (IBDa/KDa). Nine were at Old Hazelrigg (Belford) (DF) and at East Holywell (Whitley Bay) (AC) on 20th, eight were soaring at Alnwick Moor (TRD/JD) and seven were at Colpitts (Slaley) (MH) on 20th. Six birds were noted at Bellasis Bridge (Blagdon) on 1st (MH), Wark (North Tyne) on 10th and 27th (PRM), R South Tyne (Melkridge) on 16th (SJH), Kielder on 25th (ADM) and Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo). 100 records of one to five birds were received this month.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Three was the peak count at Derwent Reservoir on 13th with two there on 19th and one on four other dates (IFO). A pair was at Whittingham Grange on 15th and Boulmer on 23rd (PHa/AHa) with two at Branton GP on 18th (IBDa/KDa) and Howick on 30th (JAR). Singles were at two sites in North Tyneside and Howick all month, Bewick Drift (Lynemouth) and St Mary's Wetland on three dates, Cresswell Pond and Druridge Links on two dates and at 16 other locations with one road casualty on the A19 at Annitsford on 13th.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

A pair was around the observer's garden but not using nest boxes at Stamfordham during the month (EC) with two at Gosforth Subsidence Pond all month (MJC), calling at 14.00 hours at Slaley Hall on 1st (RMH) and at Ordley on 18th (BNR). One roosted at the same site at Posterngate Wood (Morpeth) being seen on 13 dates (ADMc) with one heard all month at Howick and single birds generally calling at 11 other locations.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Five territorial pairs were located in North Tyneside during the month (CGK) with one at Embleton on 15th the only other record (AMG/MG).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Three was the peak count at a site in North Tyneside with one roosting at another site in the same district (CGK). A female roosted at a site in the south of the county but a regular roost in the South East had only a single occupant (PRM/GB/AT).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Display was noted between three birds at Plenmeller Common on 5th with some display by two at Coanwood Common on the same date (SJH). Two were at both of the aforementioned sites on 17th & 18th and near the obelisk at Holywell Pond on 5th (JBU). Singles were at Holy Island on 4th, Backworth on 6th, Coanwood Common on 16th, Plenmeller Common and Paxhill (near Allenheads) on 17th and Bamburgh GC on 31st.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

A pair was on the River South Tyne at Melkridge on 16th (SJH) and a single there on 31st with two together flying downstream at Berwick Hill Bridge (River Pont) on 23rd (AHB). Singles were at Jesmond Dene and Scotch Gill (Morpeth) on 1st, Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 14th, Chevington on 15th, Watersmeet (Acomb) on 20th, visiting last year's nest site nr Mitford on 27th and at Fourstones on 30th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

At Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 9th eight pairs were present with four of the males drumming (MJC). Four were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 2nd (IFo), Letah Wood (Hexham) on 15th (AJH), Gosforth (Newcastle) on 20th (ADM) and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 29th (TB). A drumming male and two females were at Lincoln Hill on 21st (SW) with two at Chugdon Wood and Warkworth Lane (Ellington), Humford Mill (Bedlington), Benton (Newcastle), Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay), Low Angerton, Leazes Park and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) and Wark (N.Tyne). Singles were at many of the above and 15 other widespread localities.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

One called at Rothbury on 18th (JD), one flew south to Cresswell Hall Woods on 20th (TB), and birds were at Slaley Hall and Stocksfield on 21st (RMH/BNR), Derwent Reservoir on 24th and 29th (IFo), Chugdon Woods (Ellington) on 25th (TB) and Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 30th (IFo).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

A pair plus a male were at Welton (Whittle Dene) on 17th (MH), One to two were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond all month with two displaying on 20th, two at Longframlington Common and Plenmeller Common on 4th, Howdon on 6th, East Sleekburn & Backworth on 7th, Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th, Druridge Links on 24th, Chatton on 27th and Harwood Forest on 30th and 31st. Singles were at 23 widely spread localities.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

An adult female flew NE at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (IFo) and a female hunted on a further four dates from 4th at Rake Lane (North Shields) (ASJ) with one at Milkwell (Corbridge) on 7th (RB/MB) and a female at Greensyke Farm (Plenmeller Common) on 20th (PRM). A male flew E at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 21st (IFo) and one hunted Meadow Pipit at Harwood Forest on 31st (TB).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

At Tynemouth two adults and a 2nd cy. bird was present on 20th and several other dates (DRW). A pair was at Rake Lane (North Shields) on several dates during the month (ASJ) and single there on 4th and at Derwent Reservoir on 1st, Grindon Lough on 4th, Halton-Lea-Gate on 9th, Swallow Pond (Wallsend) on 12th, Alnwick Moor and Rothbury on 16th, Boulmer on 21st, Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 24th, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 26th and Budle Point 29th - 30th.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

The peak at Gosforth Subsidence Pond was 13 on 2nd with up to 12 there most of the month (MJC). Six were at Preston Park (North Shields) on 15th and two there on 16th, four at Walker Park (Newcastle) on 21st, three at Nuns Moor (Newcastle) on 21st and one over Gosforth on 31st.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

One was at Harwood Forest on 15th and 17th (ADMc/AT).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

The peak at Gosforth Subsidence Pond was 12 on 24th and 30th with up to 12 there all month (MJC). Three were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on three dates and Ellington Dene on 3rd (TB), Humford Mill (Bedlington) on 9th (JR), Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 24th (IFo) and Arcot Pond on 31st (LJM). One to two were at also at 14 other locations.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Roosting birds gave the largest counts with 35 at Abyssinia Wood (Ashington) on 4th (AT), 30 at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 15th and 24 at Brockwell / Westwood Grange (Cramlington) on 6th (STH/LJM). 20 were at Howdon on 6th (CB) and 19 at Prudhoe on 5th (DLe) with up to six regularly at Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Druridge Pools & Links and at Bebside (Blyth) on 4th. Three were at Hebron on 28th and one to two at five other locations.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

A large count of 3,230 came from Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 9th (MJC) with 214 at Corbridge on 10th (BNR), 163 at Wark (N.Tyne) on 31st (PRM) and 80 at Lynemouth Bay on 18th (IDR). 50 were at Howdon on 6th and Rake Lane (North Shields) on 27th with 10 to 40 at six locations and one to ten at another four.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Rookery high counts were 40 nests at Woodhorn on 20th (AP), 32 at Humshaugh on 26th (TWi) and 26 at three locations in central Cramlington on 25th (LJM) although the rookery at Fawdon had no occupied nests and Big Waters and Middle Brunton only two (DM/LAR). 30 were at Hemscotthill Links on 13th (IDR/JF) with one to four at six other locations.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

A high count of 585 was at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 9th with 66 there on 7th (MJC), 54 at Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary) on 5th (MHu), 50+ at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 27th (DLo) and 44 the peak count for the month at East Hartford (LJM), 30 there on 6th and Druridge Pools & Links on 29th (STH/IDR). Seaton Sluice Watch Tower recorded 94N and 11 S from 18th (MHu) with nine flying NW at Budle Point on 24th (RA). Ten to 28 were at six other locations and one to eight at a further four.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

One was at Howick on six dates from 6th to 24th with display to Carrion Crow noted (JAR) and at Linton on 12th & 15th (AT/PG/TB) with presumably the same individual at Ellington on 19th (IDR/JF) and sewage works (Morpeth) on 10th (ADMc).

Raven *Corvus corax*

Three flew west at Plenmeller Common on 7th with singles there on three other dates from 12th to 17th (STH). Two were at Beanley Plantation on 16th (TRD/JD), Winnows Hill (Slaley) on 18th (MH), Alnwick Moor on 20th (TRD/JD) and College Valley on 30th (RPo). Singles were over Easington on 4th, at Castron on 5th, Wark (N.Tyne) on 10th, Beal on 21st, Pithouse Fell on 24th, Kielder Water and Lanehead on 25th.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

On 31st 13 were at Slaley Forest (W) (BNR), 11 at Humford Mill (Bedlington) on 9th (JR), seven at Bebside (Blyth) on 4th and Ellington Colliery on 23rd (JR/IDR). Six were at Tynemouth on 14th, five at Kielder Forest Drive on 25th and four on feeders at Tynemouth on 6th with one to two at seven other locations.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Four singing birds were on territory at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) during the month (NFO) with two at West Benridge (nr Mitford) on 3rd (ADMc), Ellington Dene on 7th & 28th (TB), Postern Wood (Morpeth) on 9th & 23rd and Scotch Gill Wood (Morpeth) on 23rd (ADMc). Singles were at three other locations in Morpeth, Felton and Shilbottle.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

At Linden Hall (Longhorsley) five singing birds were on territory during the month (NFO) and two pairs with singing males at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 23rd (BS). Pairs were regularly at Backworth, Big Waters, nr Killingworth and Prestwick Carr and two at Ellington Colliery on 17th (IDR). Singles were at many of the above, regularly at Arcot Pond and Slaley Hall along with 11 other widely spread localities.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

On 9th 15 were at Humford Mill (Bedlington) (JR), 12 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 8th & 21st with 11 there on two other dates and at Ellington Colliery on 23rd (IDR/JF) and Stakeford Bridge on 8th (JR). Nine were at Ellington Dene on 3rd with six regularly at Chugdon Wood Ellington, Bebside (Blyth) on 4th and Druridge Pools & Links on 5th. One to four were at many of the above locations, Hebron and Ellington Pond.

Great Tit *Parus major*

On 9th 12 were at Humford Mill (Bedlington) (JR) with nine the peak at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 15th and seven there on four dates and at Ellington Colliery on 23rd (IDR/JF). Five were at Ellington Dene on 3rd, four at Bebside (Blyth) on 4th with one to three at the above locations on many dates and Druridge Pools & Links.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

There were large counts in a crop field at Rake Lane (North Shields) with 150 on 2nd (25 singing) and 11th falling to 60 by 24th (ASJ) and 12 by 27th (DLo). 60 moved N in two hours at North Shields on 21st (CB), 17 NW at Budle Point on 6th and N at Gosforth Subsidence pond on 17th with smaller numbers at both locations on other dates (RA/MJC). Kielder had more than 20 singing on 25th, 16 were at Druridge Pools and Links on 24th and ten at Catton on 17th. One to eight were at 16 other widespread localities.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

High counts at the month end were of 250+ at Killingworth Lake on 31st (GPK), 200 at East Chevington on 30th (JFa), 80 at Gosforth Park NR on 29th and at Close House (R.Tyne) on 30th (MJC/IK) with 60 at Druridge Pools on 31st, at Arcot Pond on 31st (TF/JFa/ per GM) and 50 at Branton GP on 26th (IBDa/KDa). 47 moved south in two hours at Budle Point on 30th (CGK) and on 31st 30 were at Farnley (Corbridge), Long Nanny (Newton) and 23 at Wark (N.Tyne). Ten to twenty were at the above and three other locations with one to nine at a further 16 widespread localities, the first a single recorded at Ordley on 7th (BNR) then two over the lake at Gosforth Park NR on 13th (MJC) and one at Branton GP on 19th (IBDa/KDa) but the vast majority (60 of 66 records) after 25th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

The first arrived on 21st with one viewed from outside Gosforth Park NR and one offshore at St Mary's Island on the same date, this being the earliest for the observer in 50 years (MJC/ASJ). All 17 other records were after 29th, the high counts being nine at Cocklawburn on 31st (per NNBC), six at Budle Point on 30th (CGK) with three at Druridge Pools on 30th, Humshaugh and Low Newton on 31st.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

One early arrival was viewed from outside Gosforth Park NR at dusk on 29th (MJC).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

One was seen as well as heard on 7th (GB) at Big Waters NWT, where one or possibly two birds are present. One was seen and heard in North Tyneside on 6th (CGK) and 8th (JBU, SJL) and reported on 11th (MNC), 15th, (IF, MN), 16th (IF) and 31st (MN). This is the first record of the species within the North Tyneside Council area. A singing bird was at East Chevington on 30th (TRD/JD, JFa).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Nest building was reported throughout the month, with four pairs at Twizell (nr Ogle) on 27th (SVM/AJM), three nests found under construction at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) between 16th and 18th (LMi), two pairs at Choppington on 16th (JR) and Howdon on 19th (CB), and a pair at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 7th and 15th (MJC). Pairs were observed nest building at Humford Mill, Attlee Park and Free Wood in Bedlington on 9th, 16th and 25th respectively (JR). A pair were carrying lining material to an almost completed nest at Tyne Riverside CP (Newburn) on 18th (IK), and birds were also seen carrying nesting material at Big Waters NWT on 20th (GB) and at Howick on 25th (JAR).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

One seen and heard at Holywell Pond on 30th and one singing at Backworth Pond on 31st were the earliest returning birds noted by the observer (ASJ) in fifty years of birdwatching.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Coastal movement was reported from Budle Point, with three NW on 24th (RA), but the majority of the records this month were of the increasing numbers of singing birds at locations throughout the county. The earliest records of singing birds came from Gosforth Park Subsidence Pond (Newcastle) on 2nd (MJC), Druridge Pools & Links on 5th (IDR/JF), and Newburn CP on 7th (IK). Early singers were also heard on 8th at South Gosforth (Newcastle), Linden Hall (Longhorsley), and Ovingham to Wylam along the Tyne. At Branton GP, numbers swelled from two on 13th to 29 by 26th (IBDa/KDa). At Holywell Dene, numbers rose from six on 23rd to 21 by 31st (ASJ). In Newcastle, singing birds were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Jesmond Dene, the Town Moor, Walker, Benton, and the Chapel House estate, with a maximum of 12 at Gosforth by 31st (ADM). At Arcot Pond, numbers rose from one on 11th to 12 by 31st (LJM). There were ten at Ellington Dene on 28th (TB) and nine at Howick on 30th, where one bird was ringed on 24th (JAR). There were seven at Derwent Reservoir on 31st (IFo), six at Twizell (nr Ogle) on 27th (SVM/AJM), and six at Fourstones on 30th (AJH). Ford Moss had five on 29th (NFO) and Dipton Wood had five on 30th (AJR). Reports of smaller numbers came from fifty other locations during the month.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Two female birds were present at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) all month (MJC). Pairs were visiting gardens in Tynemouth on 17th (DRW), 21st and 25th (CB), and one was singing on 15th (ASJ). Single male birds were seen in gardens at High Heaton (Newcastle) on 2nd, 24th and 30th (LMi), Whitley Bay on 3rd (BS), and at Benton (Newcastle) on 15th, 18th, 20th and 21st (MP). Males were singing at Ellington and Ellington Dene on 28th and 29th (TB), at Close House on the Tyne on 30th (IK) and at Dipton Wood on 31st (IK/RW/AJ). A bird heard singing near their house in Rothbury on 31st was the earliest return to the area that the observers had ever recorded (TRD/JD).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

There were four at Kielder Forest Drive on 25th (ADM). Ellington Dene, Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and Ellington Colliery had two on 3rd, 8th and 17th respectively (IDR). There were two at Dukesfield (Slaley Forest) on 5th (BNR) and at Milkwell (Corbridge) on 6th (RB/MB). Singing birds were at Humford Mill (Bedlington) on 9th (JR) and at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 29th (DM). Reports of singles came from High Heaton and the Town Moor (Newcastle). Grindon Lough NWT, Big Waters NWT, North Shields, Choppington, St Mary's Island, Berwick and Lemmington Woods (Alnwick).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

The highest count came from Gosforth Subsidence Pond (Newcastle), with 24 on 15th (MJC). There were nine at Humford Mill (Bedlington) on 9th (JR), seven at Ellington Colliery on 23rd (IDR), and six at Backworth Pond on 7th (CB). There were five at Druridge Pools & Links on 20th (IDR/JF) and four at Bebside (Blyth) on 4th (JR). Two were observed nest building near Chollerford on 8th (ADM). Woodhorn Flashes and Lynemouth Bay had two on 1st and 18th respectively (IDR), and there was one in the College Valley on 30th (RPo).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

There were six at Holywell Dene on 6th (ASJ), five at Howick on 6th (PHa/AHa), and four singing males at Gosforth Subsidence Pond (Newcastle) all month (MJC). Four were at Humford Mill (Bedlington) on 9th (JR) and three were at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 14th (MNC). In Newcastle, singing birds were at Jesmond Dene and High Heaton on 24th (LMi) and one was calling in Leazes Park on 25th (GB). Pairs were noted at Lemmington Hall (Edlingham) on 11th (PHa/AHa) and Castlehills (Berwick) on 20th (MHu). Two were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 27th (TB). Singles were recorded at a dozen other locations, with one at Stobhill Manor (Morpeth) on 27th (TF) being only the observer's second garden record in twenty years.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Throughout the month up to five singing birds were noted at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) (NFO), and five birds, including four singing, were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond (Newcastle) (MJC). Three, including two singing, were at Humshaugh on 20th (SW). There were two at Ellington on 29th (TB), Ellington Dene on 3rd (IDR), and Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 20th and 30th (TB). Two were noted at Humford Mill, Attlee Park and Free Wood in Bedlington on 9th, 12th and 16th respectively (JR). Singles were at fifteen other locations, including singing birds at Fulbeck (Morpeth), Harehaugh (Hepple), Eslington Park (Whittingham), and Lemmington Woods (Alnwick).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

100,000 were still present in the Wansbeck/Jubilee Road and Coxlodge area of Fawdon (Newcastle) at the beginning of the month (LAR, CDB) and remained until mid-month, with numbers dropping to 80,000 by 15th, 4,000 by 18th and 50 by 22nd (CDB). There were 600 at Dukesfield (Slaley Forest) on 5th (BNR), 500 at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) on 18th (IF), 300 at West Stobswood Pool on 13th (AT), and 300 on a ploughed field at Alnham on 24th (TRD/JD). Cocklawburn had 230 on 16th (MHu), Big Waters NWT had 200 on 7th (GB), Howick had 125 on 5th (JAR), and Red House (Newton) had 100 over on 13th, a large count for the locality (PG). Smaller numbers were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Lynemouth Bay, and at Budle Point, where *vis mig* was observed with 24 NW on 21st, four on 24th, and a single on 29th (RA).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

A male was seen and heard in the Harthope Valley on 31st (SVM/AJM).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

The highest counts came from Chugdon Wood (Ellington), with 24 on 2nd (IDR) and Ellington Colliery, with 16 on 23rd (IDR). Bebside (Blyth) had 11 on 4th (JR), Humford Mill (Bedlington) had eight on 9th (JR), and Druridge Pools & Links had five on 5th (IDR/JF). At Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle), four were recorded passing late over the garden on 20th (MJC).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Large flocks were still present throughout the month, with 250 at Berwick Hill (Ponteland) on 28th (IK), 220 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (IFo), 180 at Alnham on 25th (TRD/JD) and 150 at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 2nd (AJH). There were 140 at Wylam on 2nd (MH), 130 at Grindon Lough NWT on 4th (PRM), 102 at Corbridge on 10th (BNR), 100 at Easington on 3rd (NFO), and 100 at Greenhead on 25th (SW). Airy Holm Reservoir (near Shotleyfield) had 80 on 3rd (NFO), and Allenheads had 80 on 30th (ASJ). There were 63 at Gosforth Subsidence Pond (Newcastle) on 9th (MJC), 60 at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 9th (NFO), and 50 at Humshaugh, Once Brewed and Brocolitia on 6th, 8th and 19th respectively (SW). Kiln Pit Hill had 40 on 13th (TWi) and Hazelrigg Moss had 25 on 30th (DF). Numbers below 20 were recorded at six other locations throughout the county.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Gosforth Subsidence Pond (Newcastle) had the highest count again, with 320 on 13th (MJC). Easington had 100 on 3rd (NFO), Derwent Reservoir had 100 on 26th (IFo), Bebside (Blyth) had 77 on 4th (JR), and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had 75 on 6th (TB). There were 60 at Grindon Lough on 4th (PRM), 50 at Humshaugh on 14th and at Greenhead on 24th (SW), and 46 at Hornccliffe House on 3rd (MHu). Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had 45 on 16th (LMi), Linden Hall (Longhorsley) had 40 on 9th (NFO), Arcot Pond had 30 on 2nd (STH), and Milkwell (Corbridge) had 30 on 8th (RB/MB). There were 28 at Etal on 12th (SVM/AJM) and 26 at Yearle on 13th (DGB/RHB). Smaller numbers were reported from fourteen other locations.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Birds were heard singing from the start of the month, with five at Holywell Dene on 1st (CB), four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 24th (LMi), three at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 1st (NFO), two at Backworth Pond on 7th (CB), and singles at Spital on 3rd (BS) and Tynemouth on 21st (CB). There were a maximum of four at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 15th (IDR) and at the Town Moor (Newcastle) on 25th, where one bird was carrying nesting material (GB). There were two at Howick on 5th (JAR) and singles at Milkwell (Corbridge), Netherwitton Woods, Hexham, Druridge Pools, Wallington and Stocksfield.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Gosforth Subsidence Pond (Newcastle) had a maximum of 11 on 7th (MJC). There were five at Pithouse Fell on 24th (BNR), and four at Kielder Forest Drive on 25th (ADM). Two birds were recorded at Netherwitton Woods, Leazes Park and Jesmond (Newcastle), and Chugdon Wood (Ellington), with singing birds at Jesmond Dene on 28th (LMi). Singing single birds were reported from High Heaton (Newcastle), Arcot Pond and Arcot Hall GC, Wallsend GC, and Fulbeck (Morpeth). A single bird was at College valley on 30th (RPo).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

There were 13 in Slaley village on 6th (RMH), 12 at Ellington Colliery on 23rd (IDR), and 12 (of which eight were singing) at Gallagher Park (Bedlington) on 23rd (JR). Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had a maximum of ten on 8th and 18th (IDR). There were eight at Stakeford Bridge on 8th (JR) and seven at Bebside (Blyth) on 4th (JR). There were four singing birds at Howdon on 28th (CB) and a maximum of three at Druridge Pools & Links on 26th (IDR/JF). At Hazlerigg (nr Wideopen) on 28th, a nest with several eggs was found in a 'tit box' rather than the open-fronted box the species is supposed to prefer (GB).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

The wintering bird was at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 1st (TB) and seen daily from 5th to 20th, singing on 18th and 19th (AP). A female-type bird was on Warkworth Pier (Amble Harbour) on 31st (CSa).

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

A bike ride between Cresswell and Hadston (Druridge Bay) yielded a maximum of 11 (five pairs and one female) on 15th (MH). Three pairs were noted along the golf course at Warkworth Links on 7th (RPo), and there were six at Beanley Moor on 20th (IBDa/KDa). Two pairs were observed collecting nesting material on territory at Boulmer on 18th (BS), and females were seen carrying nesting material at Howick on 21st and 24th (JAR). Pairs were also reported at Alnmouth Dunes on 12th (RPo), and Bewick Moor on 29th (MH). Two birds were recorded at Alnwick Moor, Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), Harwood Forest, Lynemouth Bay, Low Newton and Slaley Forest. Singles were at Coanwood Pond, St Mary's Island, Kielder Forest Drive, Holywell, Quarry Cottage and Cresswell Pond NWT. The female first noted on 21st February (MJC) at Gosforth Subsidence Pond (Newcastle), where it is a rarity, was seen on 24th (MJC), 28th (ADM), and possibly at Gosforth Park NR on 30th (MJC).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Three were in Derwent Gorge on 1st and at Hulne Park on 4th (IFO/AMG/MG). Pairs were at nine sites, with nest building observed at Armstrong Bridge (Newcastle), Furnace Bridge and Holywell Dene on 6th (DB/ASJ). A pair were at a nest at Harthope Linn on 30th (IRD). Singles seen at a further 17 river sites. Cold clutches of eggs were found at two sites in the west (JR).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

43 at Slaley on 6th was the largest gathering this month, with 40 at Newbiggin on 1st (RMH/RS). 28 were at Howick on 26th (JAR). One to 12 were also at seven sites.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

A minimum of 25 were at Newton Red House on 1st (PG). Around 25 also in Holywell Dene during the month (ASJ). Up to 15 were noted at Chugdon Wood on several dates (TB). One to 12 were seen at a further 16 sites this month.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

36 were noted in 3km of Holywell Dene on 20th (ASJ). Up to nine were at Ellington Colliery and at Chugdon Wood on several dates (IRD). Seven sang at Bedlington on 23rd (JR). One to six were seen at eight other sites.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tchutchensis*

The wintering bird was again seen at Prestwick Carr on 28th (IK).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Passage was evident as five flew N at Seaton Sluice on 16th (SSWT). Two pairs were seen on the South Tyne on two dates (SJH). Pairs were seen at a further 14 river sites during the month and single birds observed at another 30.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

52 were noted in Allendale on 30th, comprising 15 pairs on territory and 22 birds arriving from S on passage (ASJ). 51 flew NW on passage on 29th at Budle Point (RA). 31 were counted at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 13th and at Melkridge on 25th (MJC/SJH). 30 were at Boulmer on 4th (BS). 28 were at Morpeth water treatment works on 3rd (AT). 27 passed W along the South Tyne at Melkridge on 21st (STH). 23 were noted at Ashington 25th (AT). One to 21 were also seen at a further 22 locations, including passage birds N at St. Mary's and Tynemouth.

Pied/White Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli/alba*

51 of mixed /undetermined ssp flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month, from 7th.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Single birds were observed at nine sites from 25th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A large number, 2,604 were counted passing Budle Point NW on 29th (RA). The following day in Allendale, 800 + were watched arriving from S over four hours of the morning (ASJ). Observations at Seaton Sluice, showed 362 moving N from 15th, including 170 on 31st (SSWT). 360 noted passing Budle Point on 30th and 72 on 24th (CGK/RA). 267 were counted flying N on 20th at Gosforth, with lower counts on several other days (MJC). Also on 20th, many were observed moving N at Winnows Hill. 21- 46 were seen on passage N at eight sites during the month and one -20 at a further 20 sites. On breeding territory, 30 birds were noted in Allendale on 30th, with many song-flighting. Numbers described as 'many', were watched arriving at Harwood Forest on 30th (ASJ/MH). Birds were also noted on breeding territory at Halton Le Fell, Humshaugh and College Valley among other sites.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

One was at Boulmer on 24th and at Druridge Pools on 30th (AJR/JFa/TRD *et al.*).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Eight were at Berwick Little Beach on 12th and 15th (MHu). Six were at St. Mary's on 20th and five at Cullercoats on 15th, including two song-flighting males (ASJ). Song flights from two birds were also observed at Tynemouth Pier on 20th (ASJ). One to two were at Lynemouth Bay on two dates and at Berwick Little Beach on 29th.

Rock Pipit *ssp A.P.littoralis*

Seven were at Boulmer on 5th, with singles there on several other dates. Another single was at Berwick Little Beach on several dates and at Lynemouth on 18th (BS/TRD/JD/MHu/IDR).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

120 were seen at Crooked Oak on 2nd, with 80 still present on 24th (IFo). Around 70 were at Druridge Links on 15th. 50 at Bywell on 2nd and at Beanley on 29th (MH). 45 were seen at Howick on 5th (JAR). One to 30 + were also at eight other sites.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

A minimum of 12 were at Crooked Oak on 24th, with birds present in lower numbers on several dates (IFo). Ten were noted at Close House on 1st (IK). One to two were seen at five further sites.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Singles were seen at Abbey Mills on 1st and at Wark on 27th (ADM/PRM).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

A maximum count of 20 was made from the birds regularly visiting a Rothbury garden (TRD/JD). One to six were noted at a further 21 widespread locations this month.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

11 were counted at Howdon on 14th and ten + were at Monkseaton on 27th (CB/DLo). One to six were seen at 21 other sites.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

The wintering flock at Druridge Bay was variously counted as 40 -140 during the month (IDR/TRD/JD *et al.*). 80 were at Hemscott Hill on 13th (IDR/JF). 38 were at Cocklawburn on 9th (MHU). 30 were seen at Beal and Cresswell Pond during the month and 17 at Warkworth on 8th. Three were noted at Pithouse Fell on 21st and two were near Morpeth on 1st.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

The wintering flock remained at Rake Lane (N. Shields), with around 200 feeding in the crop there on 2nd (ASJ). 130 noted at Crooked Oak on 2nd and 15th (IFo). 100 at Bywell on 2nd increased to 130 by 7th (MH). 93 were counted passing NW at Budle Point on 29th (RA). 90 at Howick on 27th (JAR). Ten - 60 birds were seen at 12 sites and one to nine at a further ten.

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

Two were seen at Howdon on 11th and one attended garden feeders on 17th (CB/AT).

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis F. caberet*

Around 85 were observed at Corbridge Common on 27th (DLe). A maximum of 30 were counted in a Corbridge garden, where birds were present all month (AJH). Birds were seen at nine sites, including Gosforth and Newcastle Exhibition Park.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostris*

Around 90 were noted at Slaley on 27th (AJH). 25 were seen at Thrunton Woods 25th (NFO). One to six were at another 13 sites, including two Gosforth sites and at Pegswood.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

29 were at Horton Park on 5th (LJM). 20 were seen at Druridge Pools on 5th (IDR). One to 19 were also at 20 other sites during the month.

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Of numbers present all month, 140 on 13th was the maximum counted (MJC). 113 were ringed this month at Slaley (RMH). 43+ were at Wark on 4th (PRM). 32 were seen feeding at Derwent Gorge on 1st (IFo). 30 were seen at Humshaugh on 27th and 28th (SW). One to 21 were seen at a further 30 locations during the month. Nest building was noted at Rising Sun C.P. this month (GPK).

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Two singles only were seen this month, one, a male, heard calling in flight, then feeding with Skylarks at Rake Lane on 9th and one, a female/first winter, also with Skylarks and Twite at Druridge Links on 24th (ASJ/IDR).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

12 (two ringed), were seen at Sandham Bay on 4th (MJC). 12 also at Berwick Little Beach on 12th (MHu). 11 were noted at Berwick Pier on 17th (AMG/MG). The wintering party at N. Blyth remained, with five present on 5th and three on several other dates (AA/ASJ). Two, a pair, flew N at St. Mary's Island on 20th and one flew N at Backworth on 15th (ASJ). One also flew N at Newbiggin on 2nd and at Gosforth on 20th (AP/MJC). A male was at Amble Dunes on 18th (CSA). One was also at Boulmer on 21st (BS).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

70 were noted at Bywell on 7th (MH). 60 at Cockle Park that day (JAR). 30 - 47 were counted at Howick over several dates (JAR/PHa/AHa). 35 remained at Rake Lane on 2nd, with up to five males singing, numbers slowly decreased as dispersal to breeding areas took place, with 20 noted on 27th (ASJ/DLe). 15 were at Harlow Hill on 9th (AJN). One -12 were at another 19 sites. Six were in song at Holywell on several dates (ASJ).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

The large numbers wintering at Rake Lane (N. Shields) remained, with 80 seen on 2nd (ASJ). These roosted each night at a small reedbed at Backworth, where 58 arrived at dusk on 3rd (ASJ). 15, five singing males, were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 2nd (MJC). Five males also sang at St. Mary's all month (ASJ). 12 were at Howick on 5th and 11, some in pairs at Arcot on 31st (JAR/LJM). One to six were also at 17 further sites during the month.

ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**Escapes****Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

One was found at Branton GP on 22nd (Ida / Kda).

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

One still frequented the River Coquet in Rothbury with the bread-fed mallard by the pedestrian bridge over the river on 1st. (TRD/JD).

Hybrids**Canada Goose x Greylag Goose** *Branta canadensis* x *Anser anser*

One was noted at Big Waters on 7th (GB).

Tufted Duck x Pochard *Aythya fuligula* x *Aythya ferina*

A single was seen all month at Swallow Pond (GPK).

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings

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Berwick Wildlife Group, Hauxley Ringing Station, North Northumberland Bird Club, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

Apologies for any accidental omissions

BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Grouse to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Doves to Grebes), Clive Hampton (Oystercatcher to Redshank), Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Auks), Trevor Blake (Divers to Buzzards), Peter Fletcher (Barn Owl to Larks), , Clive Hampton, Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings).
Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Apologies for any accidental omissions

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Clive Hammond is Data Manager.

Edited by Steve Barrett NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to ntbc.records@googlemail.com

Please email for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: Please use of standard location names and include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. Subs are due on 1st October each year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website.

If you internet bank you can pay online: please include your name in the ref. It is helpful if you email me to let me know when you've made the transfer ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

If you decide to set up a standing order please date the first payment at least a fortnight from your posting date to allow time to process with the bank. You can also set up your standing order directly with your bank if you wish; just let me know. Our bank details are on the membership form.

For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

Finally, if you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome.

Jo Bentley - Hon Treasurer

NTBC WEB SITE

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds.

There are:

Photo Galleries – Here you can view hundreds of photos of birds from Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Members are encouraged to contribute their own photos. Simply send them to galleries@ntbc.org.uk

There are also County Checklists, Records Committee updates, Information on important Surveys, useful articles and reports on Bird ID and Overseas Birding Trips....and much more...

Please submit any other new content for the website to the main club email address at ntbcorg@gmail.com

New content such as Birding Trip Reports etc., is always welcome and very much appreciated.

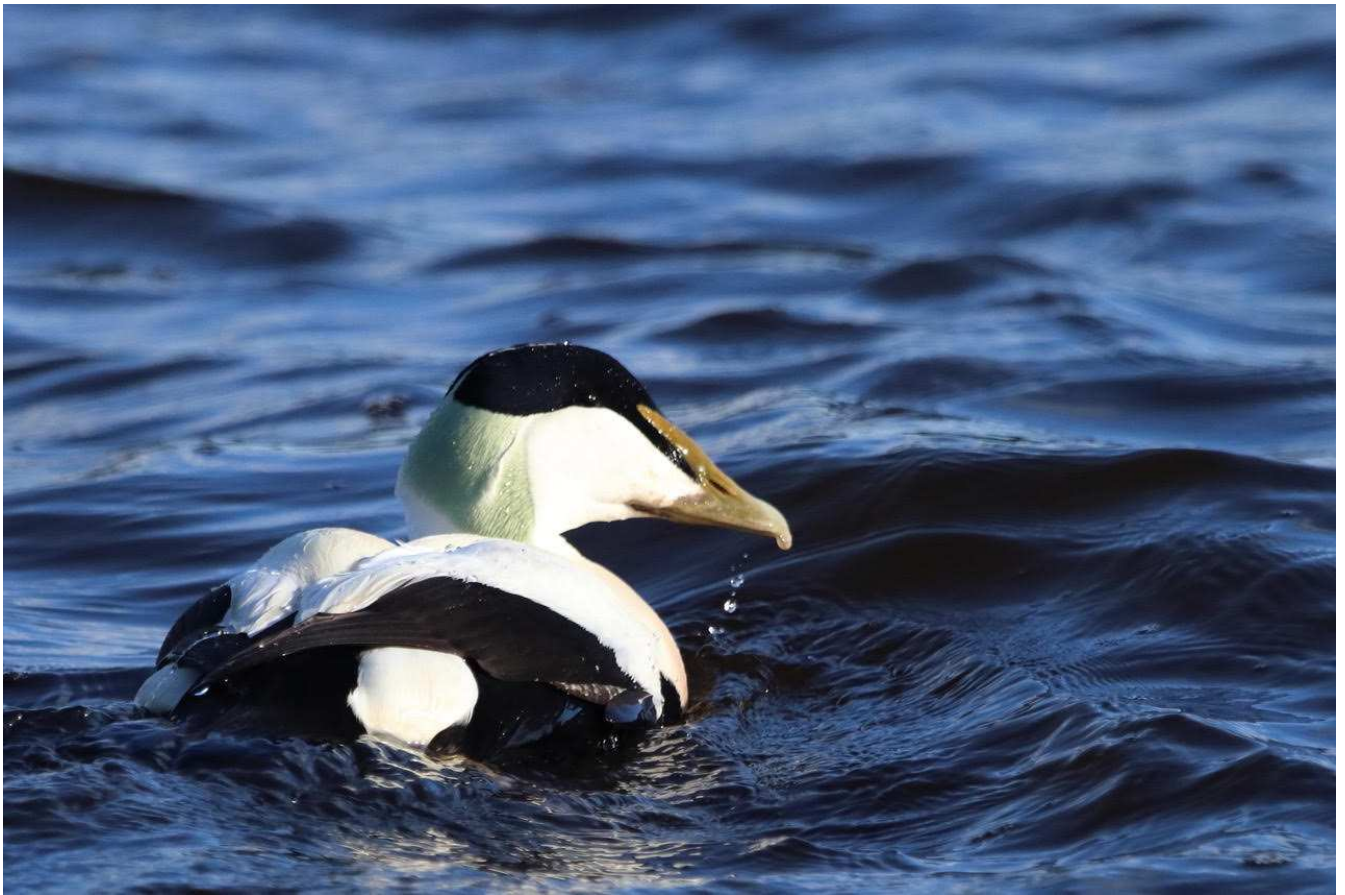
To find out more please visit www.ntbc.org.uk



Pinkfeet at Backworth on 15th March by Alan Jack



Whoopers at Caistron on 13th March by Tim Dean



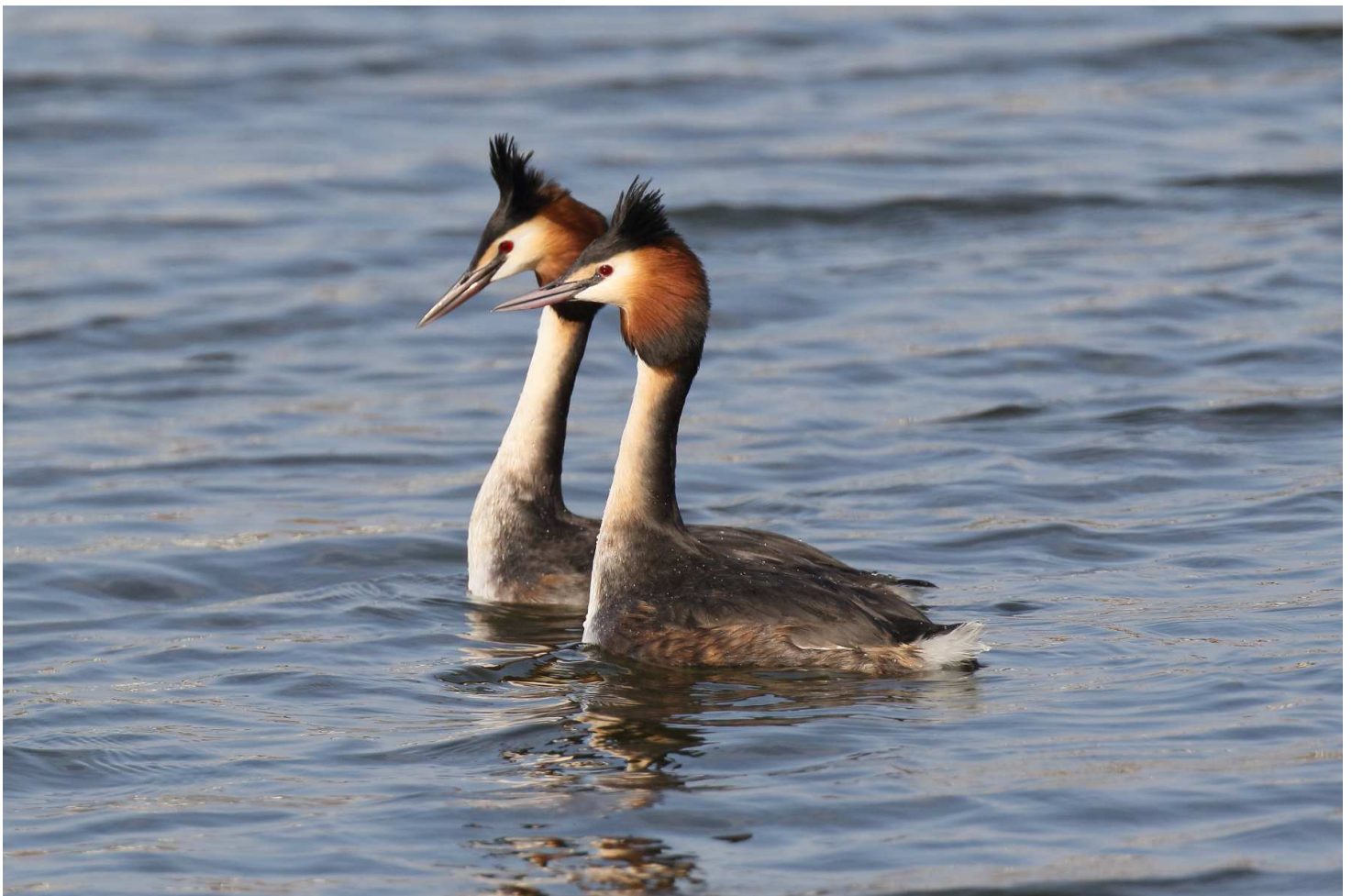
A drake Eider at North Shields by Iain Johnstone



A Shelduck-at Howdon on 14th March by Colin Bradshaw



A Drake Tufted Duck at Tynemouth on 24th March by Jack Bucknall



A pair of Great Crested Grebes at Killingworth on 7th March by Alan Jack



A Lapwing-at Howdon by Colin Bradshaw on 20th March



A Curlew at Howdon on 14th March by Colin Bradshaw



A St. Mary's Redshank on 22nd March by Jack Bucknall



A Spotted Redshank at Bothal Pond by Peter Tapsell on 23rd March



A pair of Sanderling at Boulmer by John Richards on 23rd March



Turnstones on North Shields fish quay by Iain Johnstone



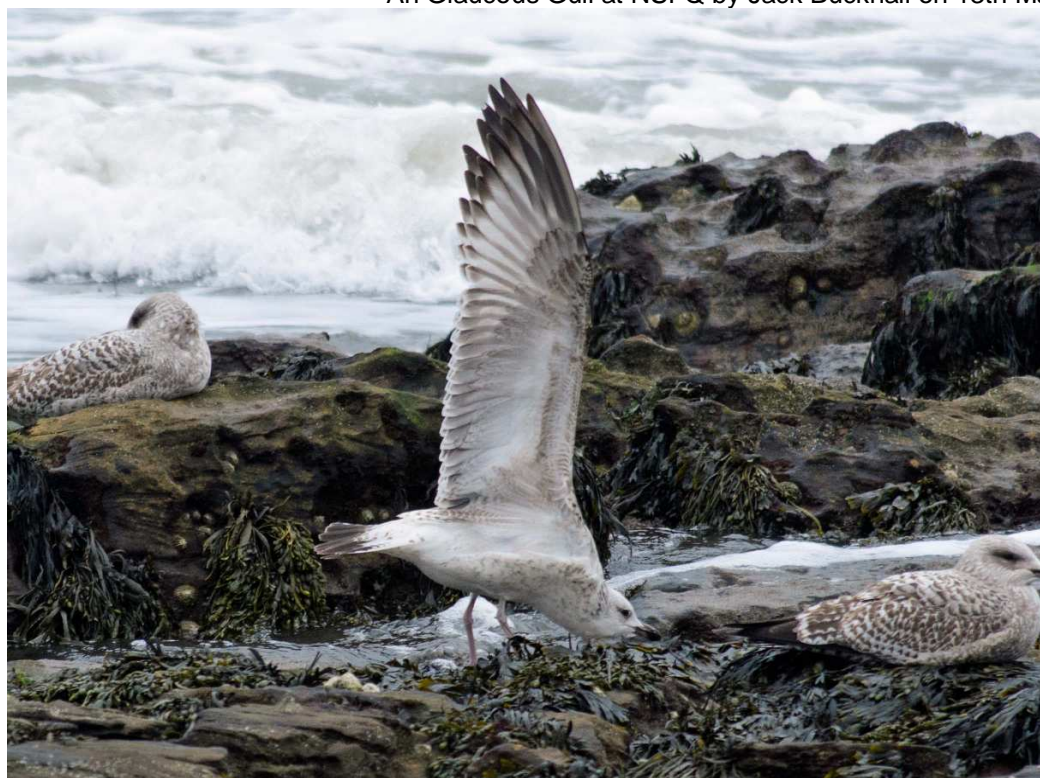
Kittiwakes call at Tynemouth by Colin Bradshaw on 20th March



An Iceland Gull at NSFQ by Jack Bucknall on 19th March



An Glaucous Gull at NSFQ by Jack Bucknall on 13th March



Above a Caspian Gull at St Mary's by Jack Bucknall on 10th March and right a Black-headed Gull at QE II CP on 2nd March by Tim Dean



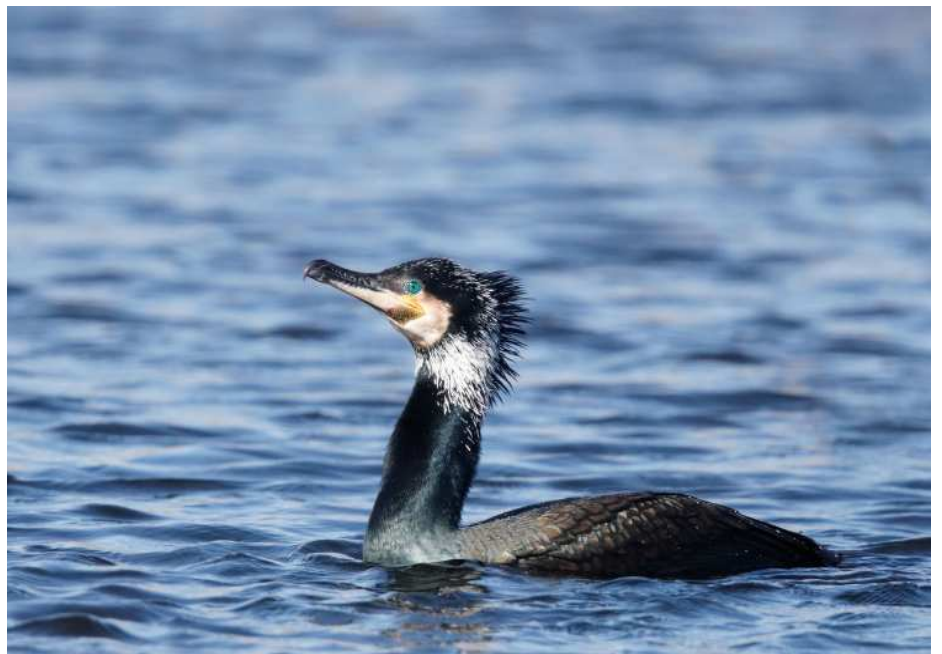


Three Cormorants

Top A Continental Cormorant - *sinensis* at QE II CP 2nd March by Tim Dean

middle At St. Mary's by Jack Bucknall. 22nd March

right - Colin Bradshaw points out "Carbo"---despite-being-white-headed- 21st March at Howdon





Grey Heron-at Holywell-27th March by Colin Bradshaw



A Red Kite ,over Whittle Dene on 30th March by Alan Jack



A Short-eared Owl quarters Holywell. By Jack Bucknall on 5th March



A Kestrel at Brier Dene by Iain Johnstone



A Peregrine (2cy) passes Tynemouth on 20th March by Duncan Watson



The sound of spring – a Skylark at Rake Lane on 9th March by Alan Jack



A Cettis Warbler sings on 15th March by Alan Jack at an undisclosed site on Tyneside



A Chiffchaff in Holywell Dene on 29th March by Alan Jack



A Grey Wagtail in Holywell Dene on 26th ,March by Alan Jack



A Meadow Pipit spies John Richards on 23rd March at Boulmer



A Rock Pipit displaying at Cullercoats on 23rd March by Alan Jack



A Linnet at Rake Lane on 12th March by Alan Jack

Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2021 No 04

MONTHLY SUMMARY APRIL 2021

17th June 2021



CONTENTS

CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Todd's Canada Goose	The wintering bird was again seen this time at Cresswell Pond on 6th.
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Two at Hauxley on 18th, singles at Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond and Branton GP.
Eurasian White-fronted Goose	Up to three at Cresswell Pond plus singles at Hauxley and Budle Bay
Ruddy Shelduck	Two at Widdrington Moor plus singles at Derwent Res, Cresswell Pond & Hauxley
Garganey	Sightings from eight sites during month. Peak of 2M, 2F at Druridge Pools on 26th
American Wigeon	Drake still at Grindon Lough on 11th.
Scaup	Single female at East Chevington between 3rd and 24th.
Common Scoter	A male in a Jesmond Garden on 29th was successfully released at Druridge Bay.
Smew	Single redhead still at Widdrington Moor Lake until 7th.
Swift	Early return with sightings from 26th.
Crane	One heard over the Snook on Holy Island on 23rd.
Red-necked Grebe	A part summer plumaged individual close inshore at Cheswick on 2nd.
Slavonian Grebe	A part summer plumaged individual at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 1st.
Avocet	Peak count of 25 on Blyth estuary on 3rd plus first record for the Tweed on 17th.
Golden Plover	High count of 1500 over Alnwick Moor on 10th.
Whimbrel	Peak count of 71 at East Chevington on 28th.
Ruff	Up to five at Druridge Pools. Only site in month.
Pectoral Sandpiper	One at Bothal from 16th to 19th.
Jack Snipe	Up to 3 on Holy Island, two at St Mary's and singles at Castle Island and Gosforth
Spotted Redshank	Singles at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools and Castle Island.
Greenshank	Singles at Berwick, Druridge Pools, Elswick and Backworth.
Glaucous Gull	Singles at Newbiggin, Budle Bay, East Chevington and St Mary's.
Little Gull	Singles at Annstead on 21st and Longhoughton Steel on 26th.
Iceland Gull	Notable influx with singles at 14 sites.
Kumlien's Gull	A second-winter at Big Waters on 13th.
Great Skua	Singles at St Mary's, Tynemouth, Annstead and Seaton Sluice.
Arctic Skua	One at Annstead on 28th was first of year in county.
Black-throated Diver	Only records were singles at Cullercoats and Druridge both on 9th.
White-billed Diver	A summer plumaged bird past Holy Island on 24th.
Spoonbill	Sightings at Cresswell, Druridge, Monk's House Pool and Amble
Great White Egret	Singles at Castron, Holywell Pond, Big Waters and Druridge Pools
Hooded Crow	Wintering birds still at Howick, Boulmer & Cresswell
Bearded Tit	Pair at East Chevington on 17th and 18th.
Shorelark	Wintering bird still at Cresswell on 11th.
Black Redstart	Up to 3 on Holy Island, 2 at Cresswell and singles at Boulmer and Longframlington
Whinchat	Early record on Holy Island on 23rd.
Grey-headed Wagtail	Male at St Mary's on 29th.
Citrine Wagtail	A fine male at Lynemouth Flash on 3rd. Earliest UK record.
Red-throated Pipit	A summer plumaged bird at Newton on 23rd was very well received.
Water Pipit	One at Boulmer on 24th and a summer plumaged bird at Druridge Pools on 30th.
Hawfinch	One at Derwent Gorge on 15th.
Mealy Redpoll	One on garden feeders at East Cramlington on 14th.
Lapland Bunting	A female at Bell's Farm, Cresswell on 11th and 12th.
Snow Bunting	Only record during month was one over Rising Sun CP on 14th.

INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm. The next meeting is in September-

FIELD TRIPS

On hold for the next few months

Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

At Plenmeller Common, seven males were lekking on 21st (PRM) and a male was noted on 6th (TD). In the Hexhamshire Common area, two males were displaying at Westburnhope on 8th (AJ/TW/AJN) and a female was at Rowley Burn on 15th (AJH). One was at Snope Burn (BNR) and a male was at Shield on the Wall (PRM).

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

(photo Red Grouse, Hexhamshire Common, Mike Carr 3/4/21)

50+ were counted along the Hawsen Burn (Harthope Valley) on 15th (TFD/JFa). Five to eight were at Agarshill Fell (Whitfield), Plenmeller Common and Snope Burn, and two to three at Bewick Moor, Broadstruther and Thrunton Crag.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Eight (in pairs) were at Langleeford on 29th (TD), seven were noted during a Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) visit to Bebside on 23rd (JR), three to four were at Cupola Bridge, Hartburn, Plenmeller Common and Wooler Common, and one to two at Beanley, Boulmer, Crooked Oak, Detchant, Druridge Pools, Foxton Bends, Hartburn Reservoir, Lesbury, North Middleton, Oakwood, Warenford, West Chevington, Widdrington Village and Widdrington Moor Lake.



Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Ten at Boulmer on 25th included at least seven calling males (at least three of which were accompanied by a female; BS). Fours were at Bomarsund (JR) and Druridge Links (IDR), and one to two at Arcot Pond, Bamburgh, Bellasis Bridge, Bell's Farm (Cresswell), Big Waters, Christon Bank, Eals, East Chevington, Ellington, Flotterton, Ford, Holywell Pond, Howick, Lynemouth, Newton Red House, Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin), Rowley Burn, Seghill, St Mary's Wetland, Warkworth, West Moor and Widdrington Moor Lake.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Counts of 11-18 came from Beanley (JR), Biddelstone Edge Farm (JR/NA), Druridge Pools & Links (IDR) and Holywell Dene (DM). Five to nine were also at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Lynemouth Flash, Warkworth and Warkworth Lane Ponds, and one to four at 12 further sites. More unusual were one at Howdon on 5th (CB) and a female on rocks at The Spanish Battery, Tynemouth on 11th (DRW).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Pale-bellied *hrota* race birds included one N at Seaton Sluice on 16th (SSWT), 11 at Fenham Flats on 8th (BS), seven at Elwick on 9th (NFO), and two at Budle Bay on 9th (KE et al.) and 28th (GPK). Dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds involved one N at Seaton Sluice on 28th (SSWT), two at Elwick on 9th (NFO), two at Holy Island 'rocket field' on 18th (ADM), and one at Budle Bay between 3rd-7th (DF). An individual of indeterminate race was at the Blyth Estuary on 3rd (GB).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

A total of 11 flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). A count of 99 at Hauxley Reserve on 11th included 13 apparently on nests (HRS). Other peak counts were 25 at Druridge Pools on 15th (IDR), 23 at Catcleugh Reservoir on 1st (PRM), 20 (ten pairs) at Plenmeller Common on 21st (PRM), and ten to 19 at Big Waters, Greenlee and Grindon Loughs, Holywell Flash, Holywell, Linton and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Newcastle Leazes Park, and Yarrow Slake. One to five were also at/over Arcot, Middle Ord and Swallow Ponds, Ellington, Gosforth Park, High Heaton, Kielder Dam and Forest Drive, Newcastle Exhibition Park, the Tweed Estuary, Warkworth and Weetslade. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Druridge Pools	1	3	TRD/JD on 26th

An individual of the *interior* race (popularly known as 'Todd's Canada Goose') was amongst about 4,000 Pink-footed Goose at Cresswell dunes on 2nd (IDR) and was noted at Cresswell Pond on 6th (TF/JFa).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Nine were at Budle Bay on 7th (DF), and one was in the Cresswell Pond area between 2nd-7th.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

110 were at Budle Bay on 3rd (DF), 55, including one AON ('apparently occupied nest'), at Hauxley Reserve on 11th (HRS), 52 at Holywell Pond on 1st (DM), 36 (18 pairs) at Plenmeller Common on 21st (PRM), 23-26 at Coatenhill Trout Lake (Allendale; 13 pairs, AJR), Derwent Reservoir (BNR) and Grindon Lough (PRM), and 12-18 at Druridge Pools, East Learmouth and Woodhorn Flashes. Three to eight were also at Alnmouth dunes, Arcot, Cocklawburn and Middle Ord Ponds, Big Waters, Catcleugh Reservoir, Ellington, Gosforth Park, Kielder Dam, Lynemouth Bay and Wark, and one to two at Eals, Holywell Flash, Tyne Green, Whitfield and Yarrow Slake. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Derwent Reservoir	15	65	IFo. First brood (2 young) on 18th. Largest brood = 8
Bothal Pond	1	6	TD/TF on 23rd. Brood later reduced to 5 young
Druridge Pools	1	4	IDR on 26th

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

A total of 760 flew N at Cocklawburn on 15th (MHu), 300-320 N/NE at East Ord (MHu), Fenham Flats (BS) and Widdrington Moor Lake (LJM) between 10th-12th, 280 N at Longhoughton on 4th (BS), and 75-150 N at East Ord (per NNBC) and Wark (PRM) on 10th. Some large concentrations early in the month included a peak of 5,000 at Cresswell on 6th (TB), 2,540 at Budle Bay on 6th (DF) dropping to 2,150 by 10th, 1,600 by 13th and 46 by 16th (DF), 1,000 at Doddington on 10th (DF), 650-700 in the Bell's Farm-Warkworth Lane area until 10th (IDR/JF), and 86-225 at Belford, Cocklawburn, Hauxley Reserve and Widdrington Moor Lake until 12th. One to 15 were at five further sites. Few were left after mid-month, 26 near Cresswell Pond on 30th (TRD/JD) being the largest count.

White-fronted Goose *Anser flavirostris*

Eurasian *albifrons* race birds involved three at Cresswell Pond between 3rd-6th (KE/TF/JFa et al.), one (together with a bird of the Greenland race) at Budle Bay on 2nd-3rd (DF/CGK) and one at Hauxley on 18th (RPo). Birds of the Greenland *flavirostris* race included two at Hauxley on 18th (RPo), one at Branton GP between 3rd-23rd (IBDa/KDa), one at Budle Bay (together with a bird of the Eurasian race) on 3rd (CGK), and one at Cresswell Pond on 6th (TF/JFa). Un-raced birds involved singles at Branton GP on 17th (DGB/RHB) and Budle Bay on 6th (DF).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Three N and three S was the monthly total at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). Larger counts involved 48 at Killingworth Lake on 7th (LJM), 36 at Calot Shad, the Tweed Estuary on 5th (MHu), 22-30 at Big Waters (DM), Holy Island (ADM), Howdon (CB) and West Ord (MHu), and 12 at Hauxley Reserve. Four to five were also at/over Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools and Ellington, and one to two at 19 further widespread site (many on nests).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

25 flew N at Buston Links on 12th (MKi), ten N at Slaley on 1st (RMH), two NW at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo) and one N at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT). Peak counts were 40 at Holy Island on 13th (MJC), 20 at Beadnell Bay on 4th (PAs), 18 at Druridge Farm on 2nd (IDR), 12 on the 'River Tweed' on 1st (per NNBC), ten at West Ord on 2nd (MHu), and nine at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (IFo). Few were noted later in the month, with three at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo), one at Hauxley on 18th (RPo), three at Lynemouth Flash on 22nd (TB) and singles at Foxton Bends on 27th (TRD/JD) and New Water Haugh on 29th (MHu).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

A total of 21 moved N and 15 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Budle Bay held 157 on 9th (DF), 45 were at Druridge Pools on 24th (CB/TD), 42 at nearby Bell's Pond on 19th (IF), 40 at the Blyth Estuary on 16th (LJM), 34-35 at Boulmer (IDR) and the Coquet Estuary (CSa), 26 at Howdon (CB), 13 at Elswick (DM), and six to ten at Hauxley Reserve, Holy Island (including display flights) and Sleek Burn. One to four were also at Alnmouth, Big Waters, 'Cooper's Flash' (Ashington), Ellington, Howick, Linton Ponds, Lynemouth Bay/Flash, New Water Haugh, the Tweed Estuary, Warkworth and West Hartford. Further inland, ten were at Branton GP on 15th (IBDa/KDa), six at Haughton Strother GP (AJR), and two to three at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and Grindon Lough (PRM).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Two drakes were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 3rd-4th, 7th and 18th-19th (TB/NFO/KWY et al.) and a single drake at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo). Single birds were also at Cresswell Pond on 11th (TRD), Derwent Reservoir on 10th (MN) and Hauxley Reserve on 19th (RPo).

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Along the North Tyne, seven (four drakes) were at Wark on 5th (PRM) and two to four on several further dates up to 22nd (RB/MB/AJ/PRM), six (four drakes) at Smalesmouth on 6th (MH), three (two drakes) at Hesleyside (MH), a pair at Tasset

(MH/JR/NA), and a drake at Redesmouth bridge (CB). Four (a pair and two drakes) were on the River Wansbeck at Angerton on 17th (TD), and single pairs were at Byrness-Catcleugh Reservoir (JD/PRM), Grasslees Burn (near Hepple; ADMc), Morpeth (Abbey Mill and Borough Woods; ADMc), Mitford Hall (ADMc) and Warton (Coquetdale)(TRD/JD). Single drakes were regularly noted all month at Castle Island (TF/JFa/LJM et al.), and Netherwitton (ADMc), while one was heard at Shilvington Bridge (ADMc).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

An unusual seawatching record involved a drake N at Seaton Sluice on 28th (SSWT). Two pairs were at Druridge Pools on 26th (CB/TB). Single pairs were at Woodhorn Flashes on 3rd-4th (GB/AP), Tughall Pond on 13th and 15th (JPL/per NNBC), Holy Island Lough on 25th (ADM), and Druridge Pools between 27th-30th (TRD/JD et al.). More unusual were a pair on the River Pont at Berwick Hill bridge on 25th (AHB). Two drakes were at Castle Island on 4th (TB) and one on 5th (TF/JFa), and a drake was at Holywell Pond on 3rd-4th (CB/AY). A duck flew over Gosforth Subsidence Pond and into Gosforth NR on 11th (MJC).



Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

(photo, Druridge, Colin Bradshaw, 21/4/21)

Druridge Pools was the favoured locality, holding a peak of 40 on 4th (CB) and six to 34 (up to 24 drakes) throughout the month (TD/IDR et al.). Lower numbers elsewhere involved ten (five pairs) at Bothal Pond on 11th (TRD), seven to eight at Holywell Pond and Low Newton Scrape, and three to four at Buston Links, the Coquet Estuary, Cooper's Flash (Ashington), Hauxley Reserve and Warkworth Lane Ponds. One to two were also at Big Waters, Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough, Holywell Dene/Flash, Monks' House Pool and Warkworth. At Derwent Reservoir, two pairs flew in from E on 17th and single pairs were noted on 4th and 26th. A total of eight there during the month was more than the total over the last four years (IFo).

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

At Seaton Sluice, two flew S on 18th and four landed offshore and then flew N on 19th (SSWT), while one flew N at Boulmer on 30th (BS). Peak counts were 28 at Holywell Pond on 15th (KWY), 24 at Hauxley Reserve on 11th and 18th (HRS/RPo), 24 at Holywell Flash on 29th (DM), 20 at the Blyth Estuary on 3rd (GB), 20 at Caistron on 11th (JD), and ten to 16 at Castle Island (TF/JFa), Druridge Pools (IDR), Ellington Pond (IDR/JF), Howdon (CB), Linton Ponds (STH) and Lynemouth Flash (CB). Six to eight were also at Big Waters, Bothal, Cresswell, Swallow and West Allotment Ponds, Branton and Hedgeley GP, East Learmouth, Lynemouth Bay, the Wansbeck Estuary and Woodhorn Flashes, three to four at Arcot Pond, Lyne Burn mouth, Monks' House Pool and Widdrington Moor Lake, and one to two at Cooper's Flash (Ashington), Duke's Pond, East Chevington, Ellington, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Low Newton Scrape and on the River Wansbeck in Morpeth.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 29th (SSWT), 200 at Druridge Pools on 3rd (TD) dropped to 66 by 11th (IDR/JF), 35 by 16th-17th (IDR), 15 by 21st (IDR) and 12 by 29th (IDR/JF), 130 were at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (IFo), 91 at Grindon Lough on 9th fell to two pairs by 30th (PRM), 52 at Hauxley Reserve on 18th (RPo), and 50 at Cresswell Pond on 11th (TRD). Counts of ten to 26 came from Arcot, Bothal and Linton Ponds, Big Waters and Low Newton Scrape, and five to eight at Branton GP, Holy Island Lough, Lynemouth, Woodhorn Flashes and Yarrow Slake. One to four were also found at the Blyth Estuary, Caistron, East Chevington, Hedgeley GP, Holywell Flash, Holywell Pond, Plenmeller Common (two pairs) and Prestwick Carr.

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*

One was at Grindon Lough on 11th (MRS).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Peak counts (of adults) were 69 at Hauxley Reserve on 11th (HRS), 42 at Newcastle Leazes Park on 9th (DM), 34 at Big Waters on 28th (DM), 34 at Druridge Pools on 11th (IDR/JF), 20 at Tyne Green, Hexham (PRM), and ten to 16 at Bothal and Holywell Ponds, Grindon Lough, and Newcastle Exhibition Park. Two to nine were at about 20 further sites. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
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Newcastle Exhibition Park	3	30 (11,10, 8, 1)	GB. First brood (11 young) on 15th. Brood of 10 later reduced to 2 young.
Newcastle Leazes Park	2	18 (12, 6)	GB on 12th. One of the adult females was leucistic type. Broods down to 9 and one young by 14th.
Lesbury	2	17 (13, 4)	MKi on 11th.
Derwent Reservoir	2	14 (10,4)	IFo on 26th
Plenmeller Common	1	14	PRM on 21st
Airy Holm Reservoir	1	11	IFo on 29th
Jesmond Dene (Paddy Freemans Lake)	1	10	MJCo on 25th
Lambley	1	10	PRM on 21st
'Northumberlandia', Cramlington	1	9	LJM on 23rd
Howick	1	8	JAR on 23rd
Big Waters	1	6	GB on 16th.
Gosforth Subsidence Pond	1	5	MJC on 21st (brood reduced to 3 young by the evening)
Branton GP	1	2	IBDa/KDa on 9th

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Single pairs flew N at Seaton Sluice on 1st and 28th (SSWT), two flew N at Annstead on 24th (DF), and one N at Newbiggin on 1st (AP). Eight were at Druridge Pools on 3rd (KE et al.), six to seven between 7th-18th, and four to five until 30th (TRD/JD/IDR et al.), and six (three drakes) were at East Chevington on 11th (TRD). A duck was at Tyne Green, Hexham on 24th (PRM).

Teal *Anas crecca*

(photo Howdon, Colin Bradshaw, 21/4/21)

93 were still at Grindon Lough on 21st and 41 on 30th (PRM). Other peak site counts were 62 at Druridge Pools on 11th (IDR/JF) falling to eight by 29th (IDR/JF), 44 at Budle Bay on 24th (DF), 42 at Holy Island Lough on 16th (MJC), 30-38 at Castron (JD), Castle Island (TF/JFa) and Prestwick Carr (GB), and 24 at Hauxley Reserve (HRS). Counts of ten to 18 came from Big Waters, Bothal and Linton Ponds, Greenlee Lough, Howick Hall, Lynemouth Flash and West Ord, five to nine were at Derwent Reservoir, Elswick, Gosforth Park NR, Kielder Dam, Lynemouth Bay, Warkworth Lane Ponds and Woodhorn Flashes, and one to four at/over Alnmouth dunes, Arcot and Holywell Ponds, Castron, Holywell Dene, Holywell Flash, Snab Point, the Tweed Estuary, Wark and West Hartford.



Pochard *Aythya ferina*

14 were at Holywell Pond on 3rd (CB), eight at Big Waters on 9th (GB), and seven at Woodhorn Flashes on 3rd (GB). One to two were also at Arcot and Bothal Ponds, and Killingworth Lake. More unusual was a drake at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

61 were at Killingworth Lake on 7th (LJM), 48 at Castron on 1st (TRD/JD), 43 at East Chevington on 14th (IF), 40 at Castron on 23rd (TRD), 36-38 at Bothal Pond (TD) and Houghton Strother GP (AJR), 20-28 at Branton GP, Druridge Pools, Linton and Warkworth Lane Ponds and Woodhorn Flashes, and ten to 19 at Big Waters, Cocklawburn, Holywell and Swallow Ponds, East Learmouth, Hauxley Reserve and 'Northumberlandia' (Cramlington). Six to nine were also at Airy Holm and Derwent Reservoirs, Arcot Pond, Merryshields GP and Newcastle Exhibition Park, and two to four at Grindon Lough, Holywell Flash, Howdon, Howick and Middle Ord Pond.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

A duck was at East Chevington on 3rd, 18th-19th and 24th (TD/TF/NFO).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

(photo StMary's Island, Jack Bucknall, April 21)

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 45 N and 67 S (SSWT). Peak counts were 64 at the Blyth Estuary on 10th (LJM), 48 (43 drakes) at Holy Island on 28th (MJC/ADM), 35 at Stag Rocks on 27th (DF), 30 at Seaton Sluice on 1st (DM), ten to 16 at Birling Carrs, Cocklawburn and the Tweed Estuary, and six at Colywell Bay. Three pairs at the Blyth Estuary on 3rd included two drakes displaying to a duck (GB). One to five were also off Druridge Links, Howick, Lynemouth Bay and Snab Point. More unusual was a drake up the River Tyne at Northumberland Dock on 12th (CB). Breeding data were as follows:

Eider breeding Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Coquet Estuary	1	3	CSa on 27th.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

At Seaton Sluice, 184 flew N and 62 S during the month (SSWT), and 70 moved N at Boulmer on 24th (BS). At Cocklawburn, 178 were noted on 15th and 140 on 28th (MHu), while 120 were at nearby Cheswick on 12th (NFO). Elsewhere, 50 were at Bamburgh on 17th (KWY), 23 at Holy Island on 24th (MJC), and one to eight off Druridge Links, Hauxley, Howick, Newbiggin and Seaton Sluice. A group was sound recorded over Longhoughton at 2345h on 17th and a group over there at 0330h on 18th (BS). A little way inland, groups were heard over Shiremoor at 2200h and 2330h on 11th (CGK). A female/immature was at Bothal Pond on 20th (TF). More notable was an adult drake found in a garden at Jesmond on 29th. It was collected by 'Blyth Wildlife Rescue', kept for a few days before being released in Druridge Bay on 3rd May (per IF/ATR).



Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Singles flew N at Boulmer (BS) and Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSWT). Two were at Fenham Flats on 8th (BS) and six there on 16th (BS), five at Stag Rocks on 1st (KE et al.) and one there on 9th (KE et al.).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT), 52 were on the River Tweed at New Water Haugh on 9th (MHu), 28 at Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary) on 8th (MHu), 16 at East Chevington on 3rd (TD), 15 at the regular breeding site on 14th (IBDa/KDa), 12 (including two displaying drakes) at Big Waters on 2nd (GB), and ten at Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th (TF). Four to nine were also at Bothal Pond, Castron, Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir, Hedgeley GP and Howick, and one to two at the Blyth Estuary, Boulmer, Catcleugh Reservoir, Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, Druridge Pools, Greenlee Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Holy Island Lough, Low Newton and West Ord. Fewer were left later in the month, with six at Grindon Lough on 21st (PRM), four at East Chevington on 24th (TD) and three at Widdrington Moor Lake on 26th (TRD/JD) being the largest counts.

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

A 'redhead' remained at Widdrington Moor Lake between 3rd-7th (KE/DRW/AY/KWY et al.).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Seven flew N and six S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and four flew S at Boulmer on 18th (BS). Peak counts were 14 (four drakes) at Throckley on 5th (AA), 11 (two drakes) at Castron on 11th (JD), ten at Wylam on 21st (BNR), and seven to nine at/over Derwent Reservoir, Dilston, Newcastle Exhibition Park, Norham and West Ord. Three to four were at Airy Holm and Catcleugh Reservoirs, Alnwick, Hagg Bank, Ridley Stokoe, the Tweed Estuary and Wylam, and one to two at/over Alnwick, Arcot and Bothal Ponds, Bardon Mill, Branton GP, Bygate Farm, Castron, Castle Island, East Ord, Gosforth Garden Village, Greenlee Lough, High Heaton, Kielder Dam, Lanehead, Marden Quarry, Morpeth, Newcastle Town Moor, Sandoe, Upper Coquetdale, Wark, Warkworth, Warton and Weldon Bridge.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was four N (SSWT). A peak of 30 (17 drakes) was at Budle Bay on 10th, when much display was noted (DF/CGK/GPK). Other peak site counts were nine (four later flying off W) off Druridge Links on 11th (IDR), seven at Castle Island on 12th (TF/JFa), seven at Stag Rocks on 30th (DF), and two to three at the Blyth Estuary, Holy Island and Seaton Sluice. Singles were also at Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools.

Swift *Apus apus*

The earliest reports were of one (TRD/JD) and then two (CB) at Druridge on 26th. Two were also there the following day (MH/AA), four were at Tyne Green (Hexham) (TW) and two were also amongst hirundines at Killingworth Lake on 27th (JBu). On 28th three were at East Chevington (IF), two at Riding Mill (GB) and a single at Holywell Pond (ASJ).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

A male at Burgham on 23rd was the first report of the year (AB/LB) followed by singles at Fontburn Reservoir on 25th (TRD), Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo) and Ford Moss on 30th (JJo).

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

328 at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 9th was the highest count (DM), 120 were at Newcastle Quayside on 1st (BNR), 100 at Castle Island (R. Wansbeck) on 13th (IF), 82 at Old Elsdon Square (Newcastle) on 9th (DM), 50 at Newcastle Business Park on 9th (DM) and a smaller count of 50 at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 6th (GB). 29 were at Kingston Park Shopping Centre on 5th (AHB), 22 at Seaton Sluice Harbour and 15 or less were at Chugdon Wood, Jesmond Dene, Southfield Green (Cramlington) and Warkworth.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

40 were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 10th (MJC), Howdon peaked at 16 on 23rd (CB), 15 were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 24th (IDR/JF) and ten at Holywell Pond on 3rd (CB). One to seven, including many paired birds, were seen at Allen Banks, Arcot Hall GC, Arcot Pond, Backworth Pond, Bardon Mill, Beacon Hill (Longhorsley), Bell's Farm Pond (Cresswell), Catcleugh Reservoir, Christon Bank, Coanwood Pond, Cresswell Pond, Crooked Oak, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Foxton Bends, Gosforth, Harsondale (Allendale), High Heaton, Howick, Howick Hall Gardens, Hyons Wood (Prudhoe), Jesmond Dene, on feeders at Jesmond Royal Grammar School, Leazes Park, Letah Wood (Hexham), Linton, Lynemouth Bay, Marden Quarry, Newbiggin, Plenmeller, Prudhoe Hospital, Redesmouth Bridge, Spital (Newbiggin), Wark and West Hartford.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

300 were on stubble fields near Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 8th (STH), 120 were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th (IDR) and 46 at Holywell Pond on 1st (DM). 42 were found in BBS survey squares at Bebside and Bedlington on separate dates with a further 30 in another Bedlington square (JR). 27 were at Warkworth Lane Ponds, 20 at Howdon and up to 15 were at Cresswell Dunes, Druridge Pools, Ellington Colliery, Ellington Dene, Ellington Pond, Jesmond Dene, Lynemouth Bay, Old Helsay (Warkworth) and on feeders at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin). A pair were building a nest in a garden hedge at Southfield Green (Cramlington) on 3rd.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Six were found during a BBS survey in Bedlington on 24th (JR), two were in the Trent House beer garden (Newcastle) on 9th (DM), a pair were at Walker and a juvenile at Kenton was a garden first for the observer (MRS).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Birds were calling at East Chevington on many dates with a peak of three on 10th (TF/JFa) and 14th (IF). A pair were calling on territory at Backworth throughout (CGK) and up to two were also calling at Arcot Pond on various dates. Singles were heard at Big Waters NWT, Caistron, Holywell Pond, Linton Ponds and Warkworth Lane Ponds.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

The highest count came from Hauxley NWT with 15 present on 11th and an adult with five very small chicks on 18th (HRS). Seven birds were at Leazes Park on 9th and Big Waters NWT on 16th (DM). Six were at Holywell Pond on 1st (DM), a pair with four fresh young were at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 19th (GB), five were at Howick on 2nd (PHa/Aha) and an adult with a brood of three were at Tyneview Park (Benton) on 14th (CDH). One to four birds were at Arcot Pond, Druridge Pools, East Cramlington Pond, Ellington Pond, Iris Brickfields (Heaton), Jesmond Dene, Lambley, Lower Ouseburn (Byker) and Warkworth Lane Ponds. One was sound-recorded overnight at Longhoughton (BS).



Coot *Fulica atra*

(photo: Coot feeding Chick. Heighley Gate Pond, Morpeth, Graham Sorrie, 15/4/21)

20 at Killingworth Lake on 1st was the highest count this month (IF) followed by 18 at Woodhorn Flashes on 11th, 17 at Linton Ponds on the same day and 16 at Swallow Pond on 6th (CDH). 14 were at Hauxley NWT on 11th (HRS), 12 at Leazes Park, 11 at Bothal Pond on 18th (TD), up to ten at Druridge Pools on various dates (IDR) and eight at Exhibition Park, Holywell Pond and Big Waters NWT (DM). Pairs with young were seen at both Leazes Park and Exhibition Park and one to six birds were at Arcot Pond, Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), Ellington Pond, Holywell Waggonway Flash, Howick,

Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) and Warkworth Lane Ponds.

Crane *grus grus*

At least one was heard flying W over The Snook (Holy Island) on 23rd (MJC).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Three noisy pairs were at Arcot Pond throughout the month (LJM) and three pairs were also at Druridge Bay CP on 22nd (RS). Five birds were at Caistron on 11th (JD) and four were at Howick Burn Lake, also on 11th (BS). One to three were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond, Calot Shad (Tweed estuary), Cocklawburn Pond, Craggside, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, East Learmouth, Gosforth Park, Hedgeley GP, Holywell Pond, Holywell Waggonway Flash, Howdon, Howick Hall Gardens, Howick Hall Mill Pond, Killingworth Lake (small lake), Linton Ponds, Longhoughton, Middle Ord Pond, Northumberlandia (Cramlington), Swallow Pond, Warkworth Lane Ponds and Woodhorn Flashes.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

One was close inshore at Cheswick on 2nd, moulting into summer plumage (NFO).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Six at Big Waters NWT on 2nd increased to eight by 11th (GB/DM), three pairs at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 3rd remained throughout the month (TF/JFa), two pairs and two young were at Killingworth lake on 28th (MNC) and five birds were at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (IFo). Four birds were at East Chevington, Haughton Strother, and Widdrington Moor Lake, whilst two were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Branton GP, Caistron, Druridge Pools, Holywell Pond and Linton Ponds. Singles were at Arcot Pond, Cresswell Pond and Hedgeley GP.

Additional record from March – three pairs were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 31st (MP).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auratus*

One was assuming summer plumage at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 1st (KE/*et al.*).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

There were fewer reports from coastal areas with most birds concentrating inland and others establishing breeding territories. The highest count was made at Derwent Reservoir with 122 present on 11th(IfO). The maximum at Caistron was 82 on 11th(JD) with 32 at Branton GP on 5th (TRD/JD), 20 at Bardon Mill on 6th (TD) and 18 at Mickley Square (Stocksfield) on 18th (DLe). Three pairs were Plenmeller Common and two pairs at Lambley (PRM) with three birds at Snope Burn (Eals) and pairs established at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Catcleugh Reservoir, Grindon Lough and Wark. Pairs on lowland territories were reported from Cramlington, Gosforth Park, High Heaton/Longbenton (Newcastle) and Holywell Waggonway.

At the coast, the high count at Cresswell was made on 7th with 55 reported (IF), 50 were at Newbiggin on 10th (TF), 30 at Druridge Pools on 3rd, declining to one by 23rd (TD/IDR/JF), 19 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 4th(IDR/JF) and 14 at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 7th (MHu). One-eight were at seventeen other lowland and coastal locations.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Most reports came from the River Blyth Estuary, Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools with a scattering of records elsewhere including a first record from the River Tweed. The highest count was from the River Blyth Estuary with 25 present on 3rd declining to five by 29th (GB/LJM/MN/AJ). At Cresswell Pond, birds were reported from mid-month with a peak of 19 occurring

on 25th (ADMc/TB/MH/AA *et al.*) At nearby Druridge Pools the maximum count was 20 also on 25th as Cresswell, with lesser numbers noted during the month probably caused by birds commuting between sites (ADMc/IDR/JF/NFO *et al.*). Elsewhere, four birds were at each of Castle Island, Newton Pool and scrape and Warkworth Old Water, three at the River Coquet Estuary, twos at Cooper's Corner Flash, Hemscott Hill Pond (Cresswell), Warkworth Lane Ponds and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) and singles at the River Aln Estuary and Woodhorn Flashes.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

(photo: Druridge, Colin Bradshaw, 21/4/21)

There were many reports of territorial birds and pairs with the first brood seen on 24th. The highest count came from Allendale where approximately 50 pairs were recorded on 15th (ASJ). The peak count at Bothal Pond was 40 on 20th (TF), with 16 at nearby Shooter's Pool where most were paired up. There were 16 pairs at Plenmeller Common on 21st (PRM) and a total of 26 birds at Snope Burn (Eals) on 3rd (BNR). Reports of pairs were, four pairs at Coanwood Pond on 21st (PRM), three pairs at Arcot Lane Flash on 28th (DM), two pairs at each of Beacon Hill (Cramlington) Grindon Lough, Holywell Waggonway Flash, and Hyons Wood and single pairs at Catcleugh Reservoir, Hebron, Plenmeller, Seghill, Warkworth and Weetslade Colliery CP. Displaying birds were seen at Allenheads, Backworth, Howdon and Wingates Moor Farm. A brood of four was seen at West Hartford on 24th (LJM). Peak numbers at Druridge Pools occurred on 11th and 28th

when 14 were present (IDR/JF). One-eight were seen at Alnmouth, Big Waters, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Derwent Reservoir, Hauxley, High Carrick Farm, Holywell Dene, Lynemouth Bay and Flash, Prestwick Carr, Riding Mill, Staward Peel (Allenbanks), West Ord and Whittingham.



Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Reports of probable passage flocks in flight were received from several observers. A group of 1500 flew over Alnwick Moor on 10th (KDa/IBDa), 120 flew low over Plenmeller Common on 6th (TD), 86 flew around Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 24th (IDR/JF), 40 flew over Alnham, Newcastle Town Moor and Sharperton, (per NNBC/GB/IDR/JF), 35 flew N at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 3rd, 31 flew N at Holy Island on 25th and nocturnal migration was heard over Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 10th. On or near the coast, 200 were at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) on 24th (TB), 152 were at Boulmer on 18th (BS), 150 at Newton Links on 23rd (PAs), 45 at Old Hartley on 3rd (MNC), 17 at Howick (JAR) and ten at Backworth on 3rd (CB). Inland 280 were wheeling over fields at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 7th (IFo), 140 at Shildon Bog (Corbridge) on 16th (DLe), 90 at Hebron on 7th (RPo), 65 at both Otterburn on 10th and Kiln Pit Hill on 11th (MH) and 55 were at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (BNR). Groups of less than 50 were 48 at Hyons Wood (Prudhoe), 45 at Grindon Lough, 40 at Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire), 38 at Flotterton (Coquetdale) and 22 at Harwood Shield (Whitley Chapel). One-two were reported from Cheviot, Weetslade Colliery CP and Wooler Common. Reports of birds of the Northern race (*altifrons*) were 40 at Holy Island on 2nd (ADM) and 38 at Harwood Shield on 26th (MJC/TW).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Two flew N at Howick on 2nd (TRD/JD) and a first April record for Seaton Sluice was one N on 3rd (SSWT). A total of 64 was reported at Budle Bay on 10th (CGK) and the wintering flock at Boulmer was 20 on 1st with lesser numbers on two other dates (MKi/CSa/TRD/JD). Elsewhere, eight were seen at Craster on 15th (JAR), six were present at Annstead on 14th (DF), and singles were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) and Warkworth Gut.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Few were reported from coastal localities as birds moved on or inland to breeding sites. Three pairs were on territory at each of Castron and Hedgeley GP (TRD/JD). The maximum count from Derwent Reservoir was five on 5th (IFo) and one-four were noted in the Bothal area (Bothal Pond/Shooter's Pool/Cooper's Flash) including one chick on 28th (TF/JFa/TD/IF). Other inland reports were three at Grindon Lough, two at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) and a single at Low Newton scrape. Coastal reports were restricted to six at Boulmer and two at Cocklawburn.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubious*

(photo: Rising Sun Country Park, Jack Bucknall, 27/4/21)

The high count at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) was nine on 5th (TF/JFa) with lower numbers on other dates during the month (NFO/LJM/GB *et al.*). Two pairs were present at Derwent Reservoir and breeding was also confirmed at another confidential site (IFo/TRD/JD/AA). A maximum of three were present at Grindon Lough on 21st (PRM), with two at Dilston (Corbridge) on 8th (RB/MB).

Single birds were reported from Ashington (River Wansbeck), Druridge Pools, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Rising Sun CP (Wallsend), the River Coquet Estuary, St Mary's Wetland and Woodhorn.



Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Very low numbers were noted flying N at Seaton Sluice with only four recorded after the first on 21st (SSWT). Other northbound birds were noted at Holy Island with one on 13th, four on 23rd, three on 25th and two on 27th (MJC/ADM). Two flew N at East Chevington on 19th (CB) with one N at Newbiggin on 30th (RS). One flew E at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (IFo). A large flock of 71 was present in fields near East Chevington on 28th (IF/KE). Much smaller numbers were reported elsewhere with 12 at both Acklington on 24th and Druridge Pools on 26th (AB/LB/IDR). A single at Boulmer on 21st had increased to eight by 26th (CSa). Three were at Budle Bay on 24th with two at nearby Holy Island causeway on 16th. Singles were Cambois, Dunstanburgh GC, Hauxley, Howick, Longhoughton Steel, Newbiggin and St Mary's Wetland.

Curlew

Numenius arquata

Some large counts were still made at coastal locations with 200 at the Long Nanny on 4th (TD), 172 at East Chevington on 3rd (RPo), 102 roosting at Longhoughton Steel on 18th (BS), 50 at Boulmer on 9th (TRD/JD) and 36 at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) on 21st (MHu). There were 25 at Druridge Pools and Links on 2nd reducing to a single bird seen on 28th (IDR/JF). Inland breeding areas held some notable numbers with 50 (in pairs) at Allendale on 15th (ASJ), 18 pairs on Plenneller Common on 21st (PRM), 30 were counted at Harwood Shield (Whitley Chapel) on 26th (MJC/TW), 25 were at Buckton Hill (Kylloe Hills) on 5th (NFO), 14 at Carterway Heads and 11 at Airyholm Reservoir (Shotleyfield). Records of pairs came from Coanwood Pond with four pairs on 21st (PRM), with single pairs seen at Allen Banks, Agarshill Fell (Whitfield), Brocolitia, Grindon Lough, and Hyons Wood (Prudhoe). Displaying birds were noted at Elsdon Burn (College Valley), Forestburn Gate, Longhorsley and Remire Bridge. One-24 were seen at eleven coastal and near coastal locations and one-eight at eight inland or upland locations.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

The Boulmer wintering flock numbered 24 on 5th reducing to two (one in full summer plumage) by 27th (BS/TRD/JD). Other reports were five at Hauxley on 11th (HRS), two at Low Newton on 11th (AJN) and singles at Tynemouth (flying N) and Cresswell Pond.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

(photo: Howdon, Colin Bradshaw, 21/4/21)

The majority of sightings were in the River Coquet Estuary/Warkworth Gut area and at Druridge Pools. The peak count was made at the River Coquet Estuary when 43 were present on 16th (CSa) with 14-36 seen on dates between 1st and 27th (MH/JAR/TF/JFa). Peak numbers at Druridge Pools was reached on 16th when 19 were counted (IDR) with one remaining by 28th (CB/IF/TD *et al.*). Four were well inland at Hedgeley GP on 1st (IBDa/KDa), with two 'islandica' race birds at Toughall Pond on 15th (JPL) and two at Low Newton on 23rd (PAs). Single birds were seen at Dunstanburgh GC, Grindon Lough, Holy Island and Howdon on various dates during the month.



Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Boulmer had the peak number this month with a count of 80 made on 9th but only a single present on 27th (TRD/JD). At Newbiggin, 60 were between Church Point and Beacon Point on 10th (TF). Other counts in double figures were 55 at Annstead (Seahouses) on 14th (DF), 30 at Cullercoats on 26th (MN), 21 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 4th (IDR/JF) with 20 at Bamburgh GC on 11th (TD). At Seaton Sluice, 17 were on Rocky Island, Cheswick Black Rocks and Howick both attracted 12, and ten were seen at Whitley Bay. Four-nine were at Berwick Little Beach, Cocklawburn and the River Blyth Estuary.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Budle Bay produced the highest number with 60 there on 1st (DF). Birds continued to favour the rocks at Seaton Sluice with 15 on 5th and 28 on 28th (AY/SSWT).

One-ten were seen at Alnmouth Bay, Boulmer, Howick, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

All reports came from Druridge Pools with the peak occurring on 3rd when five males were present. A female was present with three males on 24th when brief 'lecking' behaviour was noted. By 30th only a single male remained. (KE/IDR/NFO *et al.*).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

The Boulmer flock remained with a high count of 200 made on 5th which reduced to 39 by 30th as presumably birds departed (BS). At Newbiggin varying numbers were reported with an estimated 50 in the bay on 2nd up to 160 at Beacon Point on 10th (LJM/TDTF/AP). Cocklawburn attracted a high of 124 on 23rd (MHu) and approximately 100 were present at Low Newton on 11th (AJN). Smaller groups were 48 at Holy Island on 24th (MJC), 46 at Berwick Little Beach on 5th (MHu), 38 at Cheswick Black Rocks on 7th (MHu) and 27 on the rocks at Seaton Sluice on 22nd (SSWT). Elsewhere, 12 were at East Chevington beach and five were at Seahouses.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Very few reports of very few birds were received. A maximum of four were at Boulmer on 9th (TRD/JD) and a maximum of four were inland at Grindon Lough on 21st with one on 30th (PRM). Two flew past the summit of Cheviot on 29th (TD) and singles were at Druridge Pools and Seaton Sluice (IDR/DM).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Significant numbers were still reported from favoured areas of rocky shorelines with 110 on a single rock at Bamburgh GC on 11th and 67 at the regular haunt of nearby Stag Rocks on 19th (TD/KWY). A minimum of 60 were at Annstead (Seahouses) on 14th (DF), with 47 at Newbiggin on 15th (AP), 45 reported from Blyth Harbour on 9th (STH) and 41 at Boulmer on 3rd reducing to a single by 27th (BS/MKi). One-13 were present at Alnmouth Bay, Cheswick Black Rocks, Cullercoats, Hauxley, Seaton Sluice, Snab Point (Cresswell) and Whitley Bay.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

One was present at Shooter's Pools (Bothal) from 16th-19th (TD/IF/TF)

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Only five reports this month with two seen at Low Carritheth (Hesleyside) on 12th (JR) and singles on 4th at Baybridge (Blanckland) and sheltering in a garage doorway at Ellington (MH/TB). One was seen on the roadside with chicks at Dalton (Whitley Chapel) on 20th (TW). One was at Hebburn Woods on 30th (per NNBC).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

(photo Castle Island, Graham Sorrie 8/4/21)

Three birds were found on Holy Island (Snook, Lough and Rocket field) on 16th with another at Chare Ends on 25th (MJC/ADM). Two were at St Mary's Wetland on 10th with singles reported from there on 9th, 19th and 20th (MNC/MSH/AC). One was at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) from 10th-22nd (CB/TB/IF *et al.*). One was seen at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 21st (MJC).



Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

(photo Druridge Pools, Colin Bradshaw, 21/4/21)

Birds were present at Druridge Pools all month with a maximum of 15 on 4th and a low of one on 26th (IDR/TRD/JD *et al.*). The peak at Holy Island was also 15 at the Snook on 16th which had declined to a single by 28th (MJC/ADM). Ten were at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 10th (CB), seven at Arcot Lane Flash on 8th (DM), six at Howdon on 10th and St Mary's Wetland on 14th (CB/MSH), with five at Gosforth Subsidence Pond and four at Shooter's Pool (Bothal) and Howick. One-two were at eight other lowland or coastal localities. In the uplands eight were displaying at Allendale on 15th (ASJ), four pairs were at Plenmeller Common on 21st (PRM), three were 'drumming' at Allenheads on 17th (CB) and single pairs at The Wanneys and Coanwood Pond (PRM). One-three were seen at Branton GP, Derwent Reservoir, High Carrick Farm, Shildon Bog (Corbridge) and Whittingham.



Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*



(photo Ingram Valley, Alan Jack 24/4/21)

The first returning birds were singles at Hedgeley GP on 1st and at Branton GP on 5th (IBDa/KDa). Inland breeding areas were occupied mainly from mid-month with seven pairs on territory at the Breamish Valley on 24th (ASJ), a maximum of six at Derwent Reservoir on the same day, four were at Twizzel (Ogle) and Alwinton the next day. Three were seen at Kielder Dam on 23rd (PRM) and at Langleeford (Harthope Valley) on 29th (TD) with two at each of Caistron, Fourstones, Lambley and Wark after 18th. Singles were reported from Fontburn Reservoir, Hagg Bank (Wylam), Haughton Haugh, Old Quickening Cote (Alwinton) and Rothbury. Migrants were seen Ashington, Boulmer, Budle Bay (four), Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Gosforth Garden Village, Holywell Pond (three), Holywell Dene and Waggonway Flash, Linton Ponds, Newbiggin, Northumberlandia (Cramlington), St Mary's Island and Wetland and Tynemouth.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

(photo Holywell Pond, Alan Jack 22/4/21)



Returning migrants and some lingering wintering birds were noted this month. One remained at Berwick Hill Bridge (River Pont) on 7th with two on 10th (AHB) with other wintering birds seen at Hedgeley GP on 8th (TRD/JD), near Longhirst Flash on 9th (ADMc) and at Doddington on 10th (DF). Migrants were reported from Druridge Pools on 8th (ADMc), a single at Holywell Pond on 14th was joined by a second on 22nd (MN/DLo/ASJ) and one was at The Snook (Holy Island) on 23rd (MJC).

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

(photo Howdon, Colin Bradshaw 21/4/21)



Estuaries and coastal areas remained well occupied, with pairs inland on territory. The River Coquet Estuary provided the highest count with 220 on 16th (CSa). The maximum at the River Blyth Estuary occurred on 14th with 147 present with possibly some of the same birds seen at the Sleek Burn where 75 were noted on 2nd (AJ/STH). Also in the SE, 139 were at Howdon on 10th (CB), St Mary's Island attracted 109 on 3rd (ASJ), a peak of 87 was reached at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 4th (TF/JFa) and 69 were on the River Tyne at Newcastle Business Park on 9th (DM). Further north, Budle Bay held 74 on 24th (DF), 62 were at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed) on 21st (MHu), 51 foraging on the mudflats at Alnmouth on 11th (MKi), with 42 recorded at Warkworth on 27th (JAR). Other coastal records included 40 at St Mary's Wetland, 34 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed), 28 at Snab Point (Cresswell), 24 at Berwick Little Beach and 20 at Druridge Pools and Links. One-19 were at seven coastal or near coastal sites. Inland, 22 were noted at Allendale where display was seen on 15th (ASJ), a maximum of 20 was at Grindon Lough on 14th (PRM), ten at Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire) on 15th (AJH), four pairs at Caistron on 1st (TRD/JD) and a high of eight at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (IFo). Single pairs were at Coanwood Pond and Plenmeller Common with single birds seen at Bardon Mill, Crooked Oak, Greenlee Lough and Lambley.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

(photo: Bothal Pond, Graham Sorrie 16/4/21)

The wintering bird at Bothal Pond was last reported on 20th (TB/TD/TRD/IF). Other presumed spring migrants were seen at Castle Island from 10th-12th (CB/AY/TB *et al.*) and Druridge Pools on 29th (IDR/JF).



Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

The wintering bird on the River Tyne at Newcastle Business Park was reported on 23rd (GB). Other singles were at Berwick on 13th (MJC), flying around Druridge Pools on 26th (CB) and at Backworth on 28th (ASJ).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Moderate movements of 200-600 per hour N were recorded on a number of days particularly from 21st-30th at Annstead, Cocklawburn, Seaton Sluice and Stag Rocks. At the Newcastle Quayside breeding colonies 495 were present on 1st (BNR), 191 were on the North Tower of the Tyne Bridge on 9th (DM) and 150 were recorded at Coquet Island on 25th (HRS).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

At least 455 pairs were in the Plenmeller Common breeding colony on 21st (PRM) and 700, many moving N, were offshore at Druridge Links on 2nd from where many other counts of 10-120 came throughout the month (IDR). Elsewhere 310 frequented Grindon Lough with 36 at nearby Greenlee Lough on 11th (MRS) and smaller counts of up to 35 came from nine other localities.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Photo Little Gull dip feeding, Longhirst Golf Club 22/4/21)

Single adult birds, possibly the same individual, were seen at Annstead on 21st (DF) and at Longhoughton Steel on 26th (CSa).

An summer plumage adult was reported at Longhirst Golf Club from the 20th and photographed on the 22nd. It was last seen last on the 23rd (*per* GS)



Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

Few remained, a mix of birds of different ages. Three were Ellington and Lynemouth Flash during the early part of the month and one or two were recorded elsewhere throughout at Boulmer, Hauxley, Newbiggin, QEII CP and St Mary's Island.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

The maximum count was 600 at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (IFo) and 400-500 were seen at East Chevington and Longhoughton Steel (TF/JFa/BS). Smaller gatherings comprised 80-250 at Budle Bay, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough and Kirknewton and up to 25 at five other localities

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

The only counts comprised eight at Haughton Strother, four-five at Holburn Moss and Linton Ponds with singles at Big Waters, Holywell Pond and Warkworth.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Single 2nd-summer birds, possibly involving two individuals, were seen at Budle Bay on 2nd (DF), East Chevington on 8th (TF/JFa), Newbiggin (Beacon Point) on 22nd (AP) and St Mary's Wetland on 23rd (AC)

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

Three immatures were at Tynemouth on 24th (DRW) and at least one, and possibly a second, were offshore at Seaton Sluice on 30th (SSWT). All other 26 sightings possibly involving up to three different birds, all immatures, came from Big Waters, Branton GP, Budle Bay, Cresswell, Cullercoats, Druridge Pools, Gosforth Subsidence Ponds, Holy Island, Longhoughton Steel, Newbiggin GC, North Shields Fish Quay, St Mary's Island, Tynemouth, Woodhorn Pools and Warkworth weir. A 2nd-winter individual seen at Big Waters on 13th was considered to be a *Kumlien's Gull, *ssp kumlieni* (SPP/GB/AJJ)

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argenteus*

At Linton Ponds, 650 were in fields nearby on 14th (TF/JFa), at least 500 roosted offshore at Longhoughton Steel on 18th (BS) and 380 were in Budle Bay on 1st (DF). Smaller gatherings of 150-250 were recorded at Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Branton GP, Cresswell, Holburn Moss and West Ord with 30-70 at Arcot Pond, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, Howick and Newcastle Quayside. Groups of up to 20 were seen at a further 11 localities.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

At Stag Rocks a total of 110 flew N in one hour on 8th (BS). Branton GP held 94 on 2nd (IBDa/KDa) and groups of 10-30 were at Big Waters, Exhibition Park, Haughton Strother, Kirkharle, Leazes Park, Newcastle Quayside, Old Bewick and Whittingham. Numerous records of one to eight came from at least 30 widespread coastal and inland localities. An adult of the *ssp intermedius* was at Boulmer on 27th and one flew N there on 30th (BS).

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

At Tynemouth, 190 flew S in one hour in the early morning of 24th (DRW) and significant movement N was also noted at Annstead during four sea-watching periods from 14th-29th (DF). The influx of returning birds accelerated after mid-month, as noted at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), and the largest gatherings of 100 were on Coquet Island on 25th (HRS) and 60 in the roost on St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) on 24th (MJC). Smaller groups of 10-20 were recorded at Blyth Harbour, Budle Point, offshore Druridge Links, Low Newton, Stag Rocks and the Tweed Estuary with one to eight at some 20 other widespread localities along the entire coastline.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

The first sightings of the year were singles at Boulmer and Low Newton Pool on 23rd (BS/TF) and 22 were in Budle Bay on 24th (NNBC). Thereafter, up to the end of the month, records of three came from Boulmer and Stag Rocks with singles in Budle Bay and at Holy Island.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

The first birds of the year, recorded on 19th, were singles moving N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and on East Chevington North Pool (CB/NFO). Four were seen at Boulmer on 24th and East Chevington on 28th with one or two also at Budle Bay and Holywell Pond.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Coquet Island held 40 on 25th (HRS) and other records, from 28th-30th, were one N at Seaton Sluice, three in the Tweed Estuary, four in Budle Bay and seven at Tynemouth.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Four sightings comprised one flying S into a fierce northerly gale at Seaton Sluice on 5th (AY) and singles at St Mary's Island on 7th (AC), Tynemouth on 24th (DRW) and Annstead on 29th (DF)

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A single dark-phase adult flew N at Annstead on 28th (DF).

Auk *sp*

Mainly light movement was noted at Seaton Sluice up to the last three days of the month when a maximum of 450 per hour moved N on 29th (SSWT).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

A raft of 28 were on the sea offshore at Druridge Links on 25th (IDR) and 20 were at Stag Rocks on 19th (KWY). One to six were seen also at Boulmer, Blyth Harbour, Cocklawburn, Howick, Newton, Seaton Sluice and Snab Point (Cresswell).

Razorbill *Alca tord*

An estimated 150 were at Dunstanburgh Castle on 20th (JAR) and 17 were counted moving N at Annstead on 24th (DF). Seven were on Howick cliffs and one to five at Berwick (Spittal Bay), Boulmer and Newton

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Coquet Island held 500 on 25th (HRS), 18 flew N at Annstead on 24th (DF) and one or two were offshore at Bamburgh GC, Boulmer, Druridge Links, Dunstanburgh Castle and Tynemouth.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

The monthly total from Seaton Sluice Watchtower in 46 hrs was 49 birds with 36N & 13S, which is below average numbers for April (SSWT). 24 birds were at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 15th (MHu), 20 were at Cheswick on 2nd (NFO) and 19 were off Druridge Links on 17th (IDR). One - eight birds were noted at 12 sites.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

On 9th one flew N at Cullercoats (ASJ) and a bird on the sea with three Red-throated Divers *Gavia stellata* at Druridge Links also on 9th (AA).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Four single birds flew N at Seaton Sluice during the Month on 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 30th (SSWT). Single birds were also seen flying N at St Mary's Island on 1st (JBu), Tynemouth on 2nd (DRW), St Mary's Island (AC) & Boulmer (BS) on 3rd. One flew S at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 17th (GPK), a winter plumaged bird flew N at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 24 (MJC). A bird flew N at Boulmer on 25th (BS) and a summer plumaged bird flew N at Tynemouth on 30th (DRW).

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

A summer plumaged bird flew N at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 24 (MJC).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

60 birds flew N at Seaton Sluice on 28th (SSWT), 29 flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 21st (DF). 28 birds were on nesting sites in Lynemouth Bay on 24th (IDR), One - eight birds were noted at Howick, Seaton Sluice, Snab Point (Cresswell), Spittal Bay (Berwick) and two birds were on cliffs at Longhoughton Quarry on 10th (BS).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

The monthly total for Seaton Sluice was above average with 14 N during the Month with four N on 28th (SSWT). Single birds flew N at Boulmer (BS) & St Mary's Island (AC) on 3rd and another bird flew N close inshore at St Mary's Island on 28th (JBu).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

The highest counts this Month were 609 N in 75 mins at Annstead (Seahouses) on 21st (DF), 353 of which 309 N & 44 S in 105 mins at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) (DF). c300/ hour S at Cocklawburn on 28th (MHu) & 115 N in 1hr at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSWT), 46 adults flew S in 15 mins at Druridge Links on 27th (MH/AA). 3 to 10 birds were seen at Boulmer, Druridge Links, East Chevington, Newton and Spittal Bay (Berwick).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

A low tide roost New Water Heugh (R Tweed) had 52 birds including two "sinensis" race on 4th (MHu), 29 birds were in Blyth Harbour on 19th (STH) and 19 were at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (IFo). Hauxley NWT had 13 birds on 23rd (HRS) & 9 were at Big Waters NWT on 11th (GB). One - five birds were at 15 sites including a sinensis race at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 6th (NFO).

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

No significant movements with 26 N & 15 S during the Month at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). 23 were at Blyth Harbour on 19th (STH), four were at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) 15th (MHu), three were in Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 8th (MHu), and two were offshore at Druridge Pools on 11th (IDR).



Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Birds were noted at Monk's House Pool and R Coquet Estuary (Amble) on 2nd (AMD/AA). A bird was Bells Pond (Cresswell) and Druridge Pools (TD/CB) on 24th and at Druridge Pools again on 27th (MH/AA).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

On 9th two birds were noted flying and calling several times at a confidential site at dusk before returning into the reed bed, one bird was seen the following evening.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

(Photo Howdon, Colin Bradshaw 21/4/21)

Six birds were at Gosforth Park on 16th (DLo); five were at Hauxley NWT on 11th (HRS), Holy Island on 18th (ADM) & Druridge Pools on 21st & 25th (IDR). One to four was noted at 17 sites with nesting birds at Boulmer, Branton GP, Hauxley NWT, Monk's House Pool and Yarrow Heugh (R Tweed).

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

At Castron on 1st a bird flew up from the E end of the main lake (TRD/JD). A bird was well observed at Holywell Pond on 14th (IF/MN/AY). At Big Waters NWT one was seen soaring over the reserve in the morning (ISD) and relocated on the reserve in the afternoon by (MM per GB). One flew S at Druridge Pools on 18th (TF).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Seven birds were at Beal road ends (Holy Island Causeway) on 23rd (MJC) with three there on 25th (ADM) and two on 16th (MJC/ADM). Four birds were at Castron on 1st (TRD/JD) with two on 11th (JD) and one on 23rd (TRD); Two birds were in Budle Bay throughout the Month (CGK/GPK). Two birds were at Castle Island (R Wansbeck) on several dates (LJM/TF/JFa/IF) and two were at Holywell Pond on 20th and 26th (MN). Single birds were noted at 14 sites including birds

at Woodhorn Flashes on 2nd & 15th (AP).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

At Kielder Water three different birds flew N in a 4 minute spell (ADM). A pair was on the nesting platform viewable from the dam at Kielder on 23rd (PRM). Away from Kielder single birds were at Newmoor House on 2nd (JR/NA), Cornhill on Tweed (DRi) & Derwent Reservoir (MN) on 10th, one flew N over Sele Park (Hexham) on 16th (BNR), birds also flew N at Holywell Pond on 27th (ASJ) & Kiln Pit Hill on 29th (IFo). Single birds were also seen at Kielder on 23rd & 26th (ADM/PG).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Three birds were at Nelson Hill (Cramlington) on 17th (LJM), two birds one behind the other flew N at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 1st (IFo), two birds were displaying at East Ord (Berwick) on 5th (MHu) and at Hazelrigg (Wideopen) on 10th (GB) and why two at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo). Single birds were reported from 27 sites this Month.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Four adults were in the air simultaneously, first one pair then another at Tasset on 10th (MH). Two birds were in the Harthope Valley on 15th a male at Langlee (TRD/JD) and a female at Langleeford Hope crossing the valley (TRD/JD/TB). An un-sexed bird was at Derwent Gorge on 22nd (IFo).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

(photo Holy Island, Mike Carr, 16/4/21)

Six birds including three males were at East Chevington on 13th (MH), five birds which included a 4th cal yr male, and adult male and three females were noted there on 23rd (IF). One - four birds were noted at East Chevington throughout the Month.

Single birds were also seen were a cream crown at Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR) on 8th (BS), a 2nd cal yr bird at The Lough (Holy Island) on 16th (MJC), a female at Ellington on 16th (TB), an unsexed bird was at Budle Point on 18th (CGK/GPK/RA), a female was at Holywell Pond on 19th & 20th (ASJ/MN) and a bird was at Holy Island on 23rd (MJC) and a cream crown flew over The Snook & Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 27th (ADM).



Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

A pair was observed at a confidential site with the female calling on 15th, a male was seen “sky-dancing” over open moor at another site on 7th.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Three birds were at Wark (N Tyne) on 2nd (PRM) three were observed over a long period at Shotleyfield on 12th (MH) and three were noted at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 22nd (IFo). Two birds were noted at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on several dates (IFo) at Wark (N Tyne) on 2nd & 3rd (PRM), Dukesfield (Slaley Forest) on 16th and Ordley on 17th (BNR). Movement was noted with single birds N at East Chevington on 3rd (TD), S at Longhoughton on 4th (BS), hovering over

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Mill



carion on the
at Alnwick on
(PHa/AHa).
Single birds
also reported
Broadstruther
Cheviots),
Carterway
Heads,
Corbridge,
Derwent
Reservoir, Low
Waskerley,
Quarry House
Moor, Riding
and at The
Trouting
(Kielder).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

(photo Backworth, Jack Bucknall, 21/4/21)

Well reported this Month with 118 records. 10 birds including five together were at Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire) on 15th (AJH); nine birds were seen at Grindon Lough on 14th (PRM), Allendale on 15th (ASJ) & Whitley Chapel on 26th (MJC/TW). Seven birds were seen along the Forest Drive (Kielder) on 1st (ADM); six were at Hazelrigg Moss on 2nd (DF), Widdrington Moor Lake on 3rd (TF/JFa), at Dancing Green (Old Hazelrigg) on 16th (DF) & Dipton on 26th (MJC/TW). Over 100 records were sent in this Month of between one - four birds

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

(photo Creswell, Alan Jack, 3/4/21)

Four the peak count in the central part of the county (MH), three at Druridge Links on the 2nd (IDR) with two hunting in daylight at Christon Bank on 16th (ADM), at Newton Pool on 23rd & 24th (TF) and Derwent Reservoir on 30th (IFo). Daylight hunting presumably due to weather / breeding pressure were noted at eight locations with singles observed regularly at Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Howick, North Tyneside, Shilbottle and at 15 other widespread localities. Unfortunately road casualties were reported from five locations.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Three territories were located at Backworth (Earsdon) during the month (CGK) with two birds calling at Wark (N.Tyne) on 8th (PRM). All other reports singles from Bellingham on 1st, Howick on 10th & 21st, Castron on 11th, Woodhorn on 18th, Wark on 20th, Allen Banks on 21st, Tasset Burn (Sidwood) on 28th and Wallington on 30th.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

One reported on an almost daily basis visiting a garden at Acklington (perLJM), at Creighton Pools (Embleton) all month (PAs) and Brocolitia on 26th (PRM).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

At dusk on 17th one was at Allenheads (CB), one mobbed by Jays at Detchant Wood (Belford) on 20th (KWY) and present at a site in the south east of the county (PG).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Three pairs were at Plenmellor Common on 21st (PRM) and two hunting at a site in central Northumberland (MH). Singles were at Backworth from 9th to 12th, Holburn on 13th, Budle Point on 20th, Boulmer and Whitfield on 21st, Shield on Wall at 23rd and Tynemouth on 23rd.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

All reports singles at Wark (N.Tyne) on 2nd, Tyne Green (Hexham) on 3rd, Mitford on 27th, Cupola Bridge (Whitfield) on 20th and Fourstones on 25th.



Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

At Northumberland Park (North Shields) four were present on 12th & 19th (MNC), three at Howick on 2nd (PHa/AHa), Letah Wood (Hexham) on 11th (RB/MB), Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 14th (IFo) and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 17th (TB). Two were at Crooked Oak and six other locations with one ringed at Hauxley Ringing Station on 25th and singles regularly at three sites in Ellington, Holywell Dene and a further 17 widespread localities.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Heard regularly at Derwent Reservoir during the month (IFo/MN), at Ridley Stokoe on 9th (JR/NA), Startup on 11th, Letah Wood (Hexham) on 14th, West Dipton Wood on 15th, Derwent Gorge on 16th, Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 20th, Houxty (Bellingham) on 22nd, Todburn, Kielder Burn and Dipton on 26th and Wallington on 30th.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Three at Widdrington Moor Lake on 3rd (TB) and Holy Island on 28th (ADM) with two mating at Holywell Dene on 11th (DLo), at Prudhoe Hospital on 15th (BNR), Sleaf Burn on 18th (TB), Backworth on 19th (ASJ), Longhorsley Moor on 20th, Plenmellor Common on 21st, Backworth Pond on 25th and Lyne Burn mouth on 27th. Singles were at Ellington and Howick regularly and a further 31 widespread localities.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Just two reports with a male flying NE at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo) and one at Alnwick Moor on 21st (IBDa/KDa).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

One to three Tynemouth on several dates (DRW) with all other reports singles at a confidential site in the south of the county on three dates, Redesdale on 1st, Boulmer on 3rd, Budle Bay on 3rd & 9th, Low Newton on 5th, Lindisfarne NNR & Newbiggin-by-the-sea on 8th, Morpeth on 9th, The Wanneys on 10th, Coquetdale on 11th, Derwent Reservoir on 13th, Harthope Valley and Jesmond Dene on 15th, Seaton Sluice on 19th, Broadstruther (Cheviots) on 20th, Holy Island on 24th, Twizell & St Mary's Island on 25th, Druridge Pools on 26th and Donkleywood on the same date.

Ring necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

On 21st four flew south calling at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) (GB) with three at Preston Park (North Shields) on 9th & 12th (DLo), Gosforth (Newcastle) on 10th (ADM), Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 12th (GB), Tynemouth on 26th (DRW) and flying sw at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on the same date. Possible birds on territory at Leazes Park and Walker Park (Newcastle).

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

(photo Gosforth, Mike Carr 16/4/21)

A high count of five at Howick on 10th (PHa/AHa) with two pairs in dispute at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 10th and Mickley Square on 11th (TD/DLe). Four were at Allen Banks on 21st (PRM) with three at Ellington on 8th (TB) and Detchant Wood (Belford) on 20th (KWY) and one to two at four sites in Ellington on many dates and a further 21 widespread localities.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Four at Druridge Pools & Links on three dates and one to three on a further eight (IDR/JF) with three at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 18th and on BBS at Bedlington on 24th (JR). One to two were at Ellington, Lynemouth Bay and Bebside (Blyth)

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

(photo Howdon, Colin Bradshaw, 21/4/21)

A large pre roost gathering of 1800 at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 11th (MJC) with 40 the maximum at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) (RS), 30 on BBS at Bedlington on 20th (JR), 28 at Holywell Pond on 1st (DM), 25 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 4th & 24th, 19 at Lynemouth Flash on 3rd, 14 at Druridge Pools & Links on 10th (IDR/JF) and 13 on BBS square at Bedlington on 24th (JR). 12 were at Ellington Dene, Ellington Colliery and Low Chibburn on two dates with two to six were at four other locations.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Two colonies at Wooler Bridge consisted around 67 and 43 nests on 3rd (JR) with 28 nests at Cramlington Village on 17th (DM), 18 at Glorum (Bamburgh) and 12 at Bamburgh on 21st (KWY) with six at Big Waters on 16th (DM). On 13th 30 were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington), 24 at Derwent Reservoir on 7th with two to three at Tynemouth on 4th & 10th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

On 11th a pre roost gathering at Gosforth Subsidence Pond numbered 200 (MNC) with 42 at East Chevington on 23rd (IF), 30 at Druridge Pools & Links on 15th (IDR) and 26-27 at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 22nd -30th (STH/DM/LJM). Low movement totals at Seaton Sluice likely weather related with 17N and 5S during the month. One to 18 were at eight other locations.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

The individual at Howick remained coming to apple pie on the village green on 2nd and presumably the same bird was at Longhoughton Steel on 5th (JAR/TRD/JD/BS). One was at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 26th and at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) from 25th to 30th (ADM et al).

Raven *Corvus corax*

Six were at Shilmoor Farm (Upper Coquetdale) on 11th (JR/NA), five at Harthope Valley on 15th (TRD/JD), four at Alwin Valley (Upper Coquetdale) on 25th (JR/NA) and three at Langleford (Harthope Valley) on 15th (TB). One to two were at 24 other upland locations and four coastal.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Eight were at Kielder Forest Drive on 1st with four there on 23rd (ADM), three on BBS at Bedlington on 20th (JR) and two at three locations around Ellington, Holywell Dene on three dates and Allen Banks. Singles were at Druridge links, Jesmond Dene and Bebside (Blyth).

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Five were found between Morpeth and Bothal on 6th with possible nesting observed (IRD) and two at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) (male singing) on 14th was the first patch record for the observer (IFo). A pair were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 19th with singles regularly (NFO) and at six other locations.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Three territories were found in North Tyneside (CGK/GPK) with three birds at Prestwick Carr on 11th (AJ), Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 17th (IFo) and two there on 1st. Two were at three locations around Ellington and Linden Hall (Longhorsley) singing noted at both sites with two at Holywell Dene on 6th, Longhoughton Quarry on 10th, Longhorsley on

14th, Big Waters on 17th, nesting at Longhorsley Moor on 20th and singing / displaying at Weldon Bridge on 25th. Singles were at nine other locations.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Great Tit *Parus major*

55 were found in 3km at Holywell Dene on 6th (ASJ) with nine at Ellington Dene on 5th (IDR/JF), seven at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 11th and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th (MJCo/IDR). Four were at three locations around Ellington and BBS squares at Bedlington and Bebside (Blyth) with one to three at five other locations.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

A pair were at North Pool East Chevington on 17th & 18th (IF/AY).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

(photo, Druridge, Colin Bradshaw, 21/4/21)

Around 100 were in mixed flock with Meadow Pipits at Kielder on 10th (MH), 20 at Alwinton on 11th (JR/NA), 16 on a BBS visit at High Carrick Farm on 16th (PG) and 15 singing at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 15th (ASJ). Eight were at St Cuthbert's Cave on 3rd, St Mary's Island on 12th and Druridge Pools and Links on 20th with one to seven at 14 other widespread localities.



Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

The long staying individual was at Hemscott Hill Links (Cresswell) on 6th and 11th (ADM/IDR/JF)



Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

(photo Cullercoates, Alan Jack, 19/4/21)

Killingworth Lake on 27th (JBU/ASJ), 220 at Bothal Pond on the same date (TF), around 200 over Budge fields at Druridge Pools & Links on 20th (IDR/JF) and Lynemouth on 27th (LMi). Three figure counts up to 150 came from East Chevington and Druridge Pools & Links on three dates along with 110 at R Tyne on 22nd, Caistron on 23rd and Branton GP on 1st. Counts of 50 to 90 came from ten locations and up to 50 from 30 widespread localities.

An early large count of 700 around dusk at East Chevington on 14th (IF) with 400 at

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

(photo Druridge, Colin Bradshaw, 21/4/21)

Low numbers with 70 at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (IFo), 40-50 at Killingworth Lake on 27th (JBU/ASJ), 45 at Druridge Pools & Links on 28th (IDR/JF), 21 at Holywell Dene on 12th (ASJ), 20 at Bothal Pond on 27th and Druridge Pools on 28th (TF/IF). More than 15 were at Wark (N.Tyne) on 11th, 15 at Holy Island on 25th with ten to 13 at St Mary's Island on 13th, West Ord (Berwick) on 9th, Hedgeley GP on 12th and Lesbury on 4th. One to nine were at 29 other widespread localities.



House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Only a trickle in the first half of the month with two at Lynemouth Flash on 3rd and Beadnell on 5th with singles at Morpeth on 10th and Branton GP on 12th. One to two were at four locations on dates until 21st but numbers not building till 26th with the high counts of 30 at Killingworth Lake on 27th, ten at Holywell Pond on 26th (ASJ) with eight there on 29th, five at Big Waters on the same date and four at Druridge Pools on 26th. One to two were at nine other locations from 26th.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Three singing birds were reported at East Chevington N Pool on 19th (NFO, CB). One to two birds were present during the month, with one actually seen well at the south end of the pool on 18th (TF). The North Tyneside bird was heard throughout the month, and occasionally seen on 10th (CB). One was singing near the A1 at Big Waters NWT on 16th (GB).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Holywell Dene had a maximum of 14 (seven pairs) on 6th (ASJ), and Howick had eight on 10th (PHa/AHa). There were five at Ellington Dene on 5th (IDR/JF), and four at Brockwell (Cramlington) on 17th (LJM) and at Howdon on 23rd (CB). Druridge Pools had three on 25th (IDR), and Milkwell (Corbridge) had three on 26th (RB/MB). Pairs were reported at four locations in Cramlington, at the Quayside and at the Lower Ouseburn (Byker) in Newcastle, and at East Ord (Berwick). A pair were observed nest building at Weetwood Bridge (Wooler) on 3rd (JR).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The highest count of singing birds came from the Breamish Valley, with 48 on 24th (ASJ), and from Wingates, with 22 on 17th (ASJ). Big Waters NWT had 20 singing birds on 28th (DM), Longhorsley Moor had 17 on 20th (AB/LB), and Arcot Pond had 14 on 23rd (DM). There were a maximum of 13 at Druridge Pools on 23rd (IDR) and 11 on Holy Island on 23rd, including a northern-type bird *P. t. acredula* on 23rd and 24th (MJC). Holystone had ten on 23rd (PHa/AHa), Houxty (Bellingham) had eight recorded during a BBS on 22nd (AJ), and Simonside also had eight on 22nd (NFO). Six birds were reported from East Chevington, Netherwitton Common, Allen Banks and Kielder Forest Drive, five from Angerton (Wansbeck) and Barrow Burn, and four from the Harthope Valley, Big Waters NWT, Howdon and Dunstanburgh. One to three birds were at approximately thirty-five other widespread locations throughout the county.



Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

(photo Backworth, JackBucknall, 21/4/21)

Large numbers of singing birds were reported early in the month, with 29 at Craggside (Rothbury) on 3rd (JD), 22 at Ellington Dene on 5th (IDR/JF), 21 at Holywell Dene on 1st (DM), and 20 in the vicinity of Norham on 3rd (NFO). There were 14 at Arcot Pond on 3rd (DM), 13 at Big Waters NWT on 16th (DM), and 12 at Wingates on 17th (ASJ). Howick Dene, Gosforth Subsidence Pond (Newcastle) and Valley Park (Cramlington) each had 11 singing birds on 3rd (BS), 10th (MJC) and 23rd

(DM) respectively. Druridge Pools had a maximum of ten on 10th (IDR/JF) and Longhorsley Moor had ten on 20th (AB/LB). One to nine birds were at approximately forty-one other locations during the month.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The earliest record of the month came from Branton GP, where there were two on 20th (IBDa/KDa). There were six at East Chevington on 28th (IF), five at Druridge Pools on 28th (IDR/JF), and four at Arcot Pond on 27th (LJM). Three were singing at the Lough (Holy Island) on 27th (MJC). Two were reported from Druridge Bay CP, Big Waters NWT, Holywell Pond and Woodhorn Flashes, with singles at five other locations.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Singing birds were first heard at Killingworth Lake on 21st (JBU), Newton Pool (Low Newton) on 22nd (TRD), and at Caistron on 23rd (TRD). Two were at East Chevington on 28th (IF) and singles were at Holy Island, Woodhorn Flashes, Druridge Pools and Big Waters NWT.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

The earliest report of the month came from Druridge Links, where one was singing by the blockhouse on 10th (IDR). Early returns were also heard at Bomarsund on 15th (JR) and Arcot Pond on 16th (GB, DM, STH), where numbers had increased to seven by 24th (STH). Two were at St Mary's Island on 23rd (JBU), Backworth Pond on 27th (MNC), and at East Chevington on 28th (IF). Linden Hall (Longhorsley) had its first record for several years, with one reeling on 24th and 26th (NFO). Singles were reported from eleven other locations, including a sighting at Lesbury.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

(photo Gosforth Garden Village, Mike Carr, 4/4/21)

A maximum of 15 were at Holywell Dene on 27th (ASJ). Twelve were counted in a BBS square at Bedlington on 20th (JR) and at Twizell (nr Ogle) on 25th (NNBC). There were nine at Howick on 10th (PHa/AHa) and three pairs at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 15th (MNC). Howford Banks had six singing birds on 21st (AJR). Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay), Druridge Pools and Holy Island each had six on 25th (KWY), 26th (IDR) and 27th (MJC) respectively. There were five at Ellington Dene on 3rd (TB) and four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 25th (MJCo). One to three birds were at approximately thirty-five other widespread locations throughout the month.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

The earliest report came from Hexham, where two were singing on 19th and one was present throughout the rest of the month (AJR). There were two at Branton GP on 27th (IBDa/KDa), one singing at Allen Banks on 21st (PRM), and another singing bird just within the county boundary at Bradley Mill (Wylam) on 22nd (MH).



Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

The first record of the month came from Arcot Pond, with one on 21st (STH). Two were present there by 27th (LJM), and three were at Holywell Pond on 27th (ASJ). Two were at East Chevington on 30th (MH) and there were two singing in the garden at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin), also on 30th (RSt). Singles were at High Buston on 29th (MKi), Seghill on 30th (IF), and at Cresswell on 30th (RB/MB).

Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

An early bird at Alnmouth Dunes on 16th (CSa) was the first record of the month. St Mary's Island had a maximum of seven on 30th (ASJ), Ellington had six on 27th (TB), and Lyne Burn Mouth had four singing in dense bramble on 27th (LMi). There were three at Druridge Links on 25th (IDR), Budle Bay on 26th (CGK/FPK), East Chevington on 28th (IF), and at Holywell Flash on 29th (DLo). Reports of two birds came from Howdon, Milkwell (Corbridge), Damdykes (Cramlington) and Arcot Pond, with singles at Bebside (Blyth), Hauxley, Bilton. Holy Island and Seghill.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

There were 14 at Kielder Forest Drive on 1st (ADM), 12 at Howick on 10th (PHa/AHa), and ten at Holy Island on 2nd (ADM). Ellington Dene had three on 5th (IDR/JF). Two were recorded at Catcleugh Reservoir, Makondon, Hyons Wood (Prudhoe), ALnwick Gardens and Valley Park (Cramlington). There were singles at eight other locations.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

A count of BBS squares at Bedlington and Bebside (Blyth) produced 17 on 20th and seven on 23rd respectively (JR). There were six at Warkworth Lane Ponds (Ellington) on 3rd (IDR/JF) and at Hauxley Ringing Station on 18th, where two were retrapped (HRS). There were five at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 4th (IDR/JF) and at Druridge Pools on 10th (IDR). Gosforth Park had four on 16th (DLo), as did Longhorsley Moor on 20th (AB/LB) and Holywell Dene on 22nd (DLo). One to two birds were at five other locations.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

(photo Nuthatch displaying, Holywell Dene, Alan Jack, 16/4/21)

Holywell Dene had four on 1st (DM), as did Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 12th (MNC) and Derwent Gorge on 16th (IFo). There were three at Hyons Wood (Prudhoe) on 11th (PRM), Letah Wood (Hexham) on 14th (RB/MB), and Allen Banks on 21st (PRM). A pair were observed nest building throughout the month at Spindleston (CGK). Two were at Fulbeck and Borough Woods (Morpeth), Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), Gosforth Park (Newcastle), Hesley-side, Longhorsley and Donkley Wood. Singles were reported from fourteen other locations.



Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Holywell Dene had the highest count, with six pairs on 12th (ASJ). Letah Wood (Hexham) had three on 11th (RB/MB), and there were two at Howick, Ellington Dene and Fulbeck (Morpeth). Pairs were observed collecting lichen for nesting at Houxty (Bellingham) on 22nd (AJ) and nest building at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 29th and 30th (TB). Singles were recorded at twenty other locations.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

The largest flock was at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), with 500 in flight over neighbouring fields on 7th (IFo). Gate House (Tasset) had 60 on 28th (JR) and Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) had a monthly maximum of 50 on 28th (RSt). There were 35 at Bedlington on 24th (JR) and 25 at Druridge Pools on 2nd. Three pairs were observed nest building at Yearle on 1st (DGB/RHB), and one was ringed at Hauxley on 18th (HRS).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

(photo, Holy Island, Mike Carr, 28/4/21)

Numbers in the Harthope Valley increased to a maximum of 15 by Hawsen Burn on 15th (TB, TF/JFa). At Great Ryle (Whittingham), six were feeding with Fieldfares on 11th (CW). There were six at Holy Island on 27th (MJC) and four on Wooler Common on 14th (DRi). A male and a female were at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 22nd (STH). Singles were reported from Budle Point, Thorn-grafton Common, West Ord (Berwick), Backworth and Seghill.



Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Counts of BBS squares at Bedlington found 30 on 20th and 36 on 24th (JR). A 4km circular walk at Northburn (Cramlington) produced 35 on 30th (LJM). There were 16 at Bebside (Blyth) on 23rd (JR) and 15 at Slaley village on 25th (RMH). Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had a maximum count of six on 13th

(IDR), Druridge Pools had three on 23rd (IDR), and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had three on 25th (MJCo). Two were ringed at Hauxley on 18th (HRS) and there were two at Old Helsay (Warkworth) on 27th (IDR/JF).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

At Baybridge (Blanchland) 250 flew W on 4th (MH). 200 flew over Brandon (Breamish Valley) on 1st (IBDa/KDa), and there were 200 at Housesteads on 11th (MRS), West Dipton Wood on 20th (AJH), and Rothbury (West Raw area) on 25th (NFO). There were 142 at Holy Island on 28th (MJC/ADM), 112 at Todburn on 26th (MJC/TW) and 95 at Grindon Lough on 14th (PRM). Walltown Quarry had 80 on 18th (PRM) and Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) had 60 on 18th (IFo). Small flocks were observed passing through Whittingham towards the coast, with the largest being 52 on 17th (CW). There were 47 at Upper Coquetdale on 13th (TRD). Flocks of twenty to forty were recorded at Allendale, Woodhorn, Hesleyside, Prestwick Carr, Gate House (Tarset), Wark (North Tyne) and Rochester. Smaller numbers and singles were reported from thirteen other locations.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

The highest count came from Linbriggs (Upper Coquetdale), with 50 on 2nd (JR/NA). There were 16 at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 2nd (IFo), 12 over Brandon (Breamish Valley) on 4th (IBDa/KDa), and ten at Wark (NorthTyne) on 3rd (PRM). Two to four were noted at Lindon Hall (Longhorsley), Gate Plantation. Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and Holy Island.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

There were ten at the Breamish Valley on 24th (ASJ) and three at Bedlington on 20th (JR), Howdon on 23rd (CB), and Valley Park (Cramlington) on 23rd (DM). There were maximum counts of two at Ellington Dene, Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), and Druridge Links. One to two birds were recorded at twelve other locations.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Two pairs were observed collecting food at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 20th (IFo). There were three at Great Ryle (Whittingham) on 11th (CW) and three apparently engaged in a territorial dispute at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 15th (GB). Two were reported at Makondon, Howick, Wark (North Tyne), Cramlington, Hesleyside, Seaton Point (Boulmer) and Arcot Hall. At Jesmond Dene Road (Newcastle), a nest with an incubating bird was observed on 30th (LMi). Singles were observed at twelve other locations, including one at the Snook (Holy Island) on 23rd (MJC).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Holywell Dene had the highest count, with 44 in 3km on 12th (ASJ). Ellington Dene Had ten on 5th (IDR/JF), Bedlington had eight on 24th (JR), and Longhorsley Moor had seven on 20th (AB/LB). Druridge Pools had a maximum count of six on 10th, Bebside (Blyth) had five on 23rd (JR), and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had two on 25th (MJCo). Three birds were ringed and two retrapped at Hauxley on 18th and 25th (HRS).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

The earliest record was a male at Low Carritheth (Hesleyside) on 12th (JR). At Letah Wood (Hexham), numbers increased from one male on 14th (RMH, RB/MB) to five birds on 28th. A pair and a singing male were at Derwent Gorge on 23rd (IFo), and there were two singing males at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 22nd (IFo). Single males were at Allen Banks on 21st (PRM), Dipton Wood on 25th (EC), and Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Three were seen at Holy Island on 18th (ADM) and two at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 3rd (KE, GB). A female was at Longramlington on 24th (NNBC), and a single bird was at Boulmer on 26th (CSa), 27th TRD/JD, MKi) and 28th (BS).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The earliest arrival was a single at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 11th (RB/MB), where there were three birds by 28th (AJH). Three singing males were at Allen Banks on 21st (PRM), Great Ryle (Whittingham) on 23rd (CW), and Todburn on 26th (MJC/TW). Two males were at Smalldene (Longframlington) on 19th (AB/LB) and Houxty (Bellingham) on 22nd (AJ), and two were singing at Howick Hall on 29th (TRD/JD). Pairs were noted at Benridge Haugh (Kirkley Hall) on 22nd (PG) and at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo), where the first returning bird seen was a female on 22nd (IFo). Singles, mostly singing males, were reported from seventeen other locations.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

The first record for the year was a male bird at Holy Island on 23rd (MJC).

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

(photo Seaton Sluice, M.Coates, 14/4/21)



Druridge Pools and Links had a maximum of five on 3rd (TD), consisting of two pairs and a single. Five were also present at the Links on 10th and 23rd (IDR). Pairs were at Bamburgh GC and the Castle dunes on 11th (TD). Three were at Cheswick on 2nd (NFO), Budle Point on 19th (KWY), and the Snook (Holy Island) on 23rd (MJC) and 28th (MJC/ADM). Pairs were reported from eight other coastal locations and eight upland locations. A pair at Breamish Valley were feeding young in the nest by 24th (ASJ). Singles were reported from eight locations, including the female at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 5th (MJC).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Early returning birds were recorded on 1st, with a female at Bygate Farm (Upper Coquetdale) (JR), singles at Seaton Point (Boulmer) (MKi) and Blyth Harbour (STH), and a male at Howick (JAR). Numbers at Holy Island increased from one on 16th (NFO) to 31 by 27th (MJC), many being Greenland-type birds *O. o. leucorhoa* (MJC, ADM). Budle Bay had a maximum of 14 by 28th (GPK). There were five at the Harthope Valley on 11th (JPL), four at the Alwin Valley (Upper Coquetdale) on 2nd (JR/NA), and four at Lynemouth on 27th (LMi). Two to three birds were at thirteen other widely distributed locations, and singles were reported from a further sixteen.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

(photo Dipper with Beech Leaves nest lining, Graham Sorrie 4/4/21)

Two were seen this month, with activity at nests, at Holywell Dene and Redesdale and a pair with two juveniles at Berwick Hill bridge (AHB). Two also at Jesmond Dene, Ellington Dene, Alnwick and at Wedder Leap. Singles seen at a further 13 river locations.



House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

46 were counted at Sleafy Village on 25th (RMH). 40 noted at Ross Sands Farm on 13th (JAR). 22 counted at Bedlington on 22nd and 24th (JR). 20 were in Newcastle at the Trent House on 9th and at Dunstan Square the previous day (DM/JAR). Two -13 at five further sites.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

25+ were seen all month at Newton Red House (PG). 25 also seen at Ellington Pond on 18th and at Holywell Dene all month (IRD/JF/ASJ). 14 seen at Seaton Burn on 28th (DM). This month, one to eight were also seen at 14 sites.

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

(photo Gosforth Garden Village, Mike Carr, 10/4/21)

A 3 km walk through Holywell Dene on morning of 12th produced 32 birds, including two groups of five and six engaged in territorial/partner disputes (ASJ). Ten counted at Bedlington on 20th increased to 15 by 24th (JR). Elsewhere, one to six notes at 13 sites.



Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

12 were noted at Newton scrapes on 23rd (TF). Four seen at Druridge Pools on 26th, with two-three there at several other dates (IDR/JF). One to two noted at 19 other sites during the month.

Blue Headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

One was at Cresswell on 19th (TB/NFO/IF).

Grey Headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergia*

One was at St. Mary's Wetland on 29th (AC).

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

Citrine Wagtail, Lynemouth Flash Graham Sorrie 3/4/21

A superb male was found at Lynemouth Flash on 2nd (DB) and remained the following day to delight the many observers (KE et al).



Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Eight were counted between Morpeth and Bothal on 6th (IDR). Six seen in Upper Coquetdale at Alwinton on 25th (RB/MB). Four were seen at Ellington Dene and Wark on 2nd and at Redmire Bridge on 9th. Three were at four further sites during the month and one to two were at 29 sites, with 15 sites occupied by pairs in Upper Coquetdale (JR/NA et al). A pair were feeding young in the nest at Holywell Dene on 28th (ASJ).



Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

(photo Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Mike Carr, 10/4/21)

36 were counted across Holy Island on 24th (MJC). Noted as well represented in Coquetdale during the month, with 26 birds seen and 15 occupied territories noted (ASJ/JR/NA). 20 seen at flash pools at Arcot Manor on 7th (SHT/GMi). One to eight were also seen at a further 22 locations this month.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Six were noted at Boulmer on 24th (BS). On to two seen at another 16 sites during the month.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

The morning of 8th saw a significant passage in the north of the county, with 341 passing Fenham Flats and 250 passed Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) (BS). On 10th, around 80 were seen at Kielder and 50 were near Otterburn (MH). 44 counted on 24th feeding at Dunstanburgh G.C. (ASJ). 30 seen at Linden Hall on 6th, Hedgeley on 15th and at High Carrick on 16th (NFO/TF/JFa/PG). 25 at Low Newton on 23rd (IDR/JF). 20 were in one flock at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (IFo). One -18 noted at 23 sites this month. Seven to eight pairs were nesting at St. Mary's fields during the month, with display noted often, with

other nesting pairs at Old Hartley and Holywell (ASJ).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

The year's first record was of a migrant feeding, frequently calling, on a grass bank at Cullercoats on 10th (ASJ). This was followed by birds back on breeding territory from 19th at Netherwitton Common, Todburn, Beacon Hill and Dipton, with three at the latter on 26th (MJC/TB/TRD/JD).

Red throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

A splendid male was found at Low Newton, seen and heard flying over the Pool, then settling to feed with Meadow Pipits on nearby Dunstanburgh G.C. It remained the following day, last seen late morning (GW).

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

The month's sole sighting, was of one at Lynemouth Flash on 3rd.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Six were seen at Berwick Little Beach on 5th and five at Seaton Point on 1st (MHu/MKi). One to three seen at three other sites.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Around 100 were watched feeding in a stubble field at Alwinton on 11th (JR/NA). 70 noted on 1st at Crooked Oak (IFo). 40 were at Tarsset on 28th and 30 seen at Howick on 6th (JR/JAR). One to 20 were seen at 21 further sites during the month.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

(photo Sandy Lane, Chris Wren, 14/4/21)

18 were at Crooked Oak on 8th, where smaller numbers seen until 19th (IFo). Nine were seen at Ellington Dene on 5th (IDR/JF). Up to eight attended roadside feeders on several dates at Beacon Hill (ASJ/JBu). One was in a Gosforth garden on 14th (CW per TW).



Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

22 (11 pairs) were counted in Holywell Dene on 20th (ASJ) and 15 birds were seen at Walker Riverside Park on 17th (per ASJ). Eight at garden feeders at Rothbury on 30th was this month's reduced peak count. Three pairs were also regular at garden feeders at Fulbeck (Morpeth) (TRD/JD/TD). Six birds were noted at Howdon on 23rd and at Duke's House on 28th (CB/AJH). One to five were noted at 30 other sites.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

13 were counted at Bedlington on 24th and 12 seen at Howdon the previous day (JR/CB). Nine at St. Mary's on 15th (ASJ). One to six were observed at 25 sites during the month. Four males regularly attended garden feeders at Marden Estate (Cullercoats) (ASJ).

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

100 remained at Bell's Farm Links (Cresswell) on 11th with 70 noted here on 4th (TD/CB). 47 were seen at Snook (Holy Island) on 7th and 45 at Druridge Pools/Links on 10th and 17th (MJC/IDR). Smaller counts were made by several observers at the above three sites on many other dates and included a singing bird on 19th (NFO et al). 20 were also watched at East Chevington on 24th (RB/MB).

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

(photo Druridge, Colin Bradshaw, 21/4/21)

150 were at Crooked Oak on 1st (IFo). Around 130 were in a crop field at Corbridge on 17th (DLe). Also feeding in a game crop at Cramlington, 125 were counted on 12th (SJL). 120 noted at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 13th (JAR). Other good counts were made at South Snods (80), Edlingham (70), Howick and Hebron (60), Boulmer (50) and Arcot Manor (40). One – 20 were seen at a further 33 locations. Three pairs were nesting in gorse bushes at Holywell (ASJ).

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis caberet*

Around 85 were at Corbridge Common on 12th (DLe). 60 seen at Alnwick Moor on 11th and 25 at holystone on 23rd (PHa/Aha). Noted as common in pairs or small groups in Coquetdale on 17th (ASJ). One to 12 were also seen at 17 sites during this month.

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

One was at garden feeders at East Cramlington on 14th (STH).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

46 were at Beanley Wood on 5th (IDR). 21 were seen at Corbridge on 8th, with 11 there on 3rd (DLe). 14 over Derwent Reservoir on 14th (IFo). One to eight were seen at another ten sites.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

(photo Goldfinch nest building, Snook, Holy Island, Mike Carr, 27/4/21)

Groups of 12 were seen this month at Ellington, Lynemouth, Druridge Pools and Cocklawburn. One to eight also at fourteen sites.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

Around 80 were observed at Corbridge Common on 22nd (DLe). 71 were trapped at Slaley Hall on 30th (RMH). Coastal passage noted with 59 N on 8th at Fenham Flats (BS). 30+ were at Wark on 11th (PRM). 20 noted on 5th at Ellington Dene (IDR/JF). One to ten were seen at 33 other sites during the month.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

A female was present for two days from 11th near Hemscott Hill (JFa et al).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

One flew NE at Rising Sun C.P. on 14th (GPK).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*

31 were counted at Brandon on 6th (IBDa/KDa). 14 counted at Buckdon Moor on 5th (NFO). 12 were singing at Rake Lane on 20th. Nine singing males in Breamish Valley on 24th (ASJ). Six to eight singing males at six other sites and one to four birds noted at a further 22 locations.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

(photo Druridge, Colin Bradshaw, 24/4/21)

22 singing males were counted on territory in Upper Coquetdale on 17th and 12-15 males noted at St. Mary's/ Old Hartley on several dates (ASJ). Seven to eight were seen at Druridge Pools/ links on several dates (IDR/JF). One to six were seen at 37 other sites this month.

ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**Escapes****Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

One was found at Hedgeley G.P on 20th (TRD/JD) presumably the same individual as last month at Branton G.P.

Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus moluccanus* A very noisy individual was noted at Killingworth Lake on 13th (JCD).

Hybrids**Canada Goose x Greylag Goose** *Branta canadensis* x *Anser anser*

Two were noted at Bothal Pond on 16th with a single there on 24th (TF). Also a single at Linton Ponds on 14th (TF / Jfa).

Green-winged Teal x Teal *Anas carolinensis* x *Anas crecca*

A drake was found at Monk's House Pool on 12th & stayed through to 20th (JPL / AG / MG).

Tufted Duck x Pochard *Aythya fuligula* x *Aythya ferina*

The hybrid noted last month was again seen until 14th at Swallow Pond (GPK).

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings

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Apologies for any accidental omissions

BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Grouse to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Doves to Grebes), Clive Hampton (Oystercatcher to Redshank), Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Auks), Trevor Blake (Divers to Buzzards), Peter Fletcher (Barn Owl to Larks), , Clive Hampton, Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Apologies for any accidental omissions

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Edited by Steve Barrett NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com
and Graham Sorrie

RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to ntbc.records@googlemail.com

Please email for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: Please use of standard location names and include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. Subs are due on 1st October each year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website.

If you internet bank you can pay online: please include your name in the ref. It is helpful if you email me to let me know when you've made the transfer ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

If you decide to set up a standing order please date the first payment at least a fortnight from your posting date to allow time to process with the bank. You can also set up your standing order directly with your bank if you wish; just let me know. Our bank details are on the membership form.

For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

Finally, if you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome.

Jo Bentley - Hon Treasurer

NTBC WEB SITE

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds.

There are:

Photo Galleries – Here you can view hundreds of photos of birds from Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Members are encouraged to contribute their own photos. Simply send them to galleries@ntbc.org.uk

There are also County Checklists, Records Committee updates, Information on important Surveys, useful articles and reports

on Bird ID and Overseas Birding Trips....and much more...

Please submit any other new content for the website to the main club email address at ntbcorg@gmail.com

New content such as Birding Trip Reports etc., is always welcome and very much appreciated.
To find out more please visit www.ntbc.org.uk

Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2021 No 05

MONTHLY SUMMARY MAY 2021

16th July 2021



CONTENTS

CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTSHIGHLIGHTS

Barnacle Goose	Large passage of 3,000 NE through Budle Bay on 2nd.
Egyptian Goose	Single at Druridge Pools on 12th and Bothal Pond on 23rd.
Ruddy Shelduck	One to two at six sites during month.
Garganey	Up to two pairs at Druridge Pools, one to two at Holy Island, Kirkley Mill and Newton.
Corncrake	Single heard at Newham Bog on 7th and 8th.
Kentish Plover	Female on Holy Island north shore from 10th to 14th was much admired.
Curlew Sandpiper	Singles on Coquet Estuary on 10th and on Holy Island on 15th and 23rd.
Little Stint	Singles at Blyth on 15th and 16th, Budle Bay on 23rd and Long Nanny on 30th.
Jack Snipe	Late birds at Holy Island on 1st and Bothal on 2nd.
Red-necked Phalarope	Returning female for 7th year at Grindon Lough from 6th.
Spotted Sandpiper	Superb summer-plumaged adult at Budle Bay on 9th.
Wood Sandpiper	One to two at Druridge Pools and single over Gosforth on 15th.
Spotted Redshank	Wintering bird still at Bothal until 4th.
Glaucous Gull	One at Long Nanny on 14th.
Iceland Gull	Still sightings at six sites after winter influx.
Black Tern	Last year's summering individual back from 26th.
Great Skua	Several sightings from 19th, possibly same individual.
Spoonbill	Sightings at Beal Pt, Druridge Pools and Cresswell Pond, possibly same individual.
Bittern	One at East Chevington on 22nd.
Great White Egret	Singles at Castron still on 3rd and also another on same day at Holywell Flash.
Hobby	One feeding on insects at Longhorsley on 10th.
Hooded Crow	Two north at Tynemouth on 3rd.
Bearded Tit	Pair at East Chevington from 24th.
Swallow	Large passage on 9th with estimated 1,290 N over Holy Island.
Cetti's Warbler	Singing males at four sites.
Northern Mockingbird	Astonishing first record for county with one at Newbiggin from 5th to 9th.
Bluethroat	Male on Holy Island on 21st.
Black Redstart	Singles at Longhoughton Steel on 6th and Warkworth on 14th.
Wheatear	Peak passage of 38 on Holy Island on 12th.
Blue-headed Wagtail	Singles at Druridge Pools on 3rd and another from 24th to 26th.
Grey-headed Wagtail	Single males at Bothal, Holy Island and Druridge Pools.
Water Pipit	A late migrant at Holy Island on 4th.
Mealy Redpoll	Two on Holy Island on 13th.

INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm. The next meeting will be in September.

FIELD TRIPS

On hold for the next few months.

Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

A lekking male and one female were at Carraw on 14th (SW) and a male was at nearby Shield on the Wall on 9th and 26th (PRM). A female on the roadside at Acton Fell/Dean Burn on 5th was almost killed by a white van! (MH).

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Five were at the Harthope Valley on 13th and one at Pithouse Fell, Slaley.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

12 were at Bewick Moor on 31st (BS), four to five at Bomarsund, Cockle Park Farm, Harthope Valley and Widdrington, and one to two at Budle Bay, Burnfoot, Druridge Lane-Pools, Glorum, Holywell Pond and Warton.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

At least 16 calling males (many of them paired) were heard between Longhoughton and Seaton Point, Boulmer on 22nd (BS), and six were at Hartley on 11th (KWY). One to two were noted at Beal, Bell's Farm (Cresswell), Big Waters, Bothal, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, East Linden, Fenham-le-Moor, Holywell Pond, Howick, Low Newton, West Chevington, West Kyloe, West Ord, Whitelea (Cramlington) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

27 were counted on a Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) visit to Cockle Park Farm on 3rd (JR).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Pale-bellied *hrota* race birds involved four at Budle Bay between 1st-13th (CGK/GPK/KWY), one at Holy Island causeway on 12th (PRM), and one W then N at Tynemouth on 31st (DRW). Two dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds were at Holy Island on 1st (ADM), and two un-raced birds there on 5th (CB).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Northward movement involved 29 at Ellington on 31st (TB), and 25 at Budle Bay and 11 at Fowberry (near Bamburgh) (CGK/GPK) on 30th, while two moved N and three S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Peak counts (not including young) were 67 at Grindon Lough on 24th (SW), 22-27 at Hedgeley GP (SW) and Killingworth Lake (LJM), and seven to eight at Greenlee and Grindon Loughs. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Hauxley Reserve	10	50 (9,9,6,6,6,6,3,2,2,1)	HRS on 18th.
Druridge Pools	3+	16+ (9,4,3)	Gb/TD/IF from 6th.
Derwent Reservoir	2	9 (6,3)	IFo. New broods on 17th-18th
Foxton Bends	2	--	BS on 14th.
Angerton (River Wansbeck)	1	5	TD on 9th.
Woolsington Ponds	1	5	MH on 29th.
Grindon Lough	1	4	PRM on 7th.
Middle Ord Pond	1	4	MHu on 9th.
Halton-Lea-Gate	1	3	SW on 11th.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

A strong movement to NE was witnessed at Budle Bay on 2nd, with 3,000 noted throughout the day (and continuing after dark)(RA/CGK/GPK), while 250 also moved over the Breamish Valley (IBDa/KDa). Other movements involved 11 S at Tynemouth on 22nd (DRW), ten S at Newton Point and then later seen at Druridge Pools on 21st (AJH), and four S at East Chevington (TD) and Seaton Sluice (SSWT) on 9th. Six were at Holy Island on 1st (IBDa/KDa), and singles at Druridge Pools, Holy Island and Hauxley Reserve on single dates between 4th-18th. The final report was of one at Budle Bay on 26th (CGK/GPK).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Northerly movement involved 50 at Alwin Valley on 29th (JR/NA), 12 at East Ord on 28th (MHu), and a total of 11 at Seaton Sluice between 3rd-8th (SSWT).

Peak counts were 600 (excluding several hundred young) at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (IFo), 46 (adults) at Hedgeley GP on 29th (SW), 41 at Bothal Pond on 27th (TF), and 12-20 at Cocklawburn Pond, Grindon Lough, Nunwick, Tyne Riverside CP (including two pairs with nests; IK) and Woodhorn Flashes. One to eight were also at Big Waters, Hexham, Horsley, Howick Pool, Middle Ord Pond, Pithouse Fell and Wark. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Hauxley Reserve	6	19 (5,4,3,3,2,2)	HRS on 18th.
Longhoughton (small pond to south)	5	25 (7,5,5,5,3)	BS on 12th.
Hedgeley GP	--	19	SW on 29th.
Bothal Pond	2	13 (12,3,1)	TD/TF from 1st.
Druridge Pools	2	8 (5,3)	TD/IF from 6th.
Gosforth Subsidence Pond	1	4	MJC on 3rd.
Cresswell Pond	1	3	GB/LAR on 29th.
Killingworth Lake	1	3	LJM on 19th.

Acton Fell/Dean Burn	1	2	MH on 5th.
East Chevington	1	2	IF on 6th.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Eight were at Cresswell Pond (AY) and five at Druridge Pools (CB) on 2nd. Seven to eight were at the latter site on 5th-6th (KE/IF/NFO), and one to two at Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, the Long Nanny Estuary, Warkworth Lane Ponds, West Stobswood and Yarrow Slake on scattered dates between 3rd-26th.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

At Seaton Sluice, five S on 18th were followed by one S on 20th (SSWT).

The New Water Haugh area of the River Tweed held a peak of 110 on 19th (MHu), and 66 were at Calot Shad (the Tweed Estuary) on 4th (MHU), while 45 were at Caistron on 22nd (JD), and 22-23 at Killingworth Lake (LJM) and West Ord (MHu). Four to seven were also at Hauxley Reserve and Holy Island,

Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Linton Ponds	2	17 (9,8)	CDH on 23rd.
Hedgeley GP	1	8	TD on 22nd.
West Allotment Pond	1	8	KWY on 23rd.
Arcot Pond	1	7	LJM on 23rd.
Holy Island	1	7	MJC/SJM/ADM on 29th.
Burradon Pond	1	5	LJM on 19th.
East Chevington south pool	1	5	IF on 6th.
Merryshields GP	1	4	BNR on 30th.
Newcastle Exhibition Park	1	4	GB on 5th.
Paddy Freemans Lake, Heaton	1	4	LMi on 12th.
St Mary's Wetland	1	4	AC on 26th.

An unprecedented six breeding pairs were noted at Big Waters with another pair at nearby Little Waters (GB), and three active nests were counted at QEII CP on 23rd (CDH). Single pairs with nests were also noted at Bates Minewater Treatment Plant (Blyth), Bothal, Hadrian and Swallow Ponds, and Newcastle (Ouse Burn).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

One flew NW at Budle Bay on 12th (GPK), and one was at QEII CP between 6th-23rd (KE/CDH *et al.*).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Singles were at Druridge Pools on 12th (TB) and Cooper's Flash (near Ashington) on 23rd (TF).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

A total of 14 flew N and nine S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). At Budle Bay, 85 on 13th (KWY) increased to 148 by 30th (SW), 32 were at Druridge Pools on 15th (TD), 27 at the Blyth Estuary on 18th (LJM), 11-16 at Boulmer and Holy Island, and nine at Hauxley Reserve and Widdrington Moor Lake. One to two were also reported from Big Waters, Bothal 'shooters' pools', Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, and Yarrow Slake, and inland at Grindon Lough. More unusual was one in the Brearnish Valley on 15th (ASJ). Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Boulmer	1	14	JAR on 24th.
Blyth Estuary	1	6	LJM on 24th.
Needles Eye, Berwick	1	3	MHu on 27th.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Two (both drakes where stated) were at Widdrington Moor Lake (GB) and over East Chevington (TD) on 9th, Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th and 25th (TB/TRD/JD), Maiden's Hall Lake on 23rd (CSa), and Druridge Pools on 29th (GB/LAR). One was at Budle Bay between 9th-17th (RA/CGK/GPK/KWY) and a drake was noted displaying to a female Mallard there on 16th (SW). One was also at Derwent Reservoir on three dates between 4th-18th (IFo).

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Along the River North Tyne, eight (a flock of five, plus a pair and a single female) were at Wark on 2nd (MJC/AJ/TW) and five drakes were noted there on 23rd (PRM), while single pairs were at Low Carritheth (Hesleyside) on 5th (JR) and Hesleyside on 27th (TB). A pair was on the Wreigh Burn near Warton on 1st (JD), and a drake at Greenhaugh (near Tarsset) on 22nd (JR/NA). Single drakes were also found on the River Wansbeck at Castle Island on 1st and 24th (NFO/AY) and Low Angerton on 15th (IRD). A drake at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd was the first documented record for the site (IFo).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

At Druridge Pools two pairs were noted on 2nd (CB) and a pair was present all month (TF *et al.*). A pair was regularly noted at Holy Island Lough all month (IK/ADM *et al.*). A drake was at Low Newton Scrape on 20th (TRD). More unusual were a pair on the River Pont at Kirkley Mill on 5th and a drake there on 14th (AHB).

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

A drake flew W and then S at Tynemouth on 1st (DRW). A peak of 12 (ten drakes) were at Druridge Pools on 9th (TD), three were at Holywell Pond on 11th (KWY), and one to two at Bothal, Cresswell, Warkworth Lane and West Allotment Ponds, East Chevington, Foxton, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Howick and Low Newton Scrape. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Bothal Pond	1	2	TF on 30th.



Northern Shoveler

St Mary's Island,

25/5/21

Duncan Watson

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

A notable nine flew N and one S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT).

Peak counts were 14 at Holywell Pond on 1st and 11th (AY/KWY), 12 at Hauxley Reserve on 18th (HRS), ten at Druridge Pools on 25th (TRD), and six to nine at Bothal Ponds, Branton GP, Caistron, Gosforth Subsidence Pond and Woodhorn Flashes. Three to four were at Cresswell, Duke's and Swallow Ponds, and Hedgeley GP, and one to two at Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Budle Bay, Grindon Lough, Hadrian Pond, Killingworth Lake, Marden Quarry, Monks' House Pool, Tyneview Park (Benton) and Willington Gut. More unusual was one at the Breamish Valley on 15th (ASJ). Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Branton GP	1	3	IBDa/KDa on 2nd.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

14 drakes were at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (IFo), a peak of 11 were at Grindon Lough on 24th (MRS/SW), four were at Foxton Bends on 7th (BS), and one to two at Branton GP, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Holywell Pond, Low Newton Scrape and Monks' House Pool.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Low numbers involved about 30 at Tyne Green, Hexham on 8th (PRM), and 14-16 at Grindon Lough and West Ord. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Derwent Reservoir	8	32 (6,6,5,4,3,3,3,2)	IFo. All new broods between 3rd-30th
Newcastle Exhibition Park	3	21 (11,8,2)	GB on 6th. As April.
Lesbury	2	13 (8,5)	MKi on 2nd
Big Waters	2	9 (7,2)	GB on 8th.
Arcot Pond	2	8 (7,1)	LJM. One large young and 7 very small young on 30th.
Yarrow Slake	2	7 (4,3)	MHu on 20th.
Killingworth Lake	2	3 (2,1)	LJM on 19th.
Bothal Pond	1-2	9-17 (9,8)	TD/TF on 1st-2nd.

Hagg Bank Pond	1	11	MH on 12th. Eight still alive on 2nd June.
East Chevington	1	6	IF on 18th.
'Northumberlandia', Cramlington	1	6	LJM on 22nd
Middle Ord Pond	1	5	MHu on 9th.
Woolsington	1	4	MH on 12th. All still alive on 3rd June.
Hauxley Reserve	1	3	HRS. On 18th.
Howick Pond	1	3	PHa/AHa on 1st.
Swallow Pond	1	3	CDH on 1st.
West Allotment Pond	1	3	KWY on 23rd.
Holy Island	1	2	MJC. On pool at quarry on 4th (MJC).

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Two were at Druridge Pools on 2nd (CB).

Teal *Anas crecca*

Single pairs flew N at Seaton Sluice on 4th and 8th (SSWT), and three drakes were offshore at Boulmer on 31st (BS). Grindon Lough held a peak of 38 on 6th (PRM). Fewer were noted elsewhere, with five (drakes) at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (IFo), three to four at Druridge Pools (GB/TD/TRD) and Low Newton Scrape (TRD) up to 29th, and one to two at Big Waters and Bothal and Swallow Ponds.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

One flew S at Seaton Sluice on 15th (SSWT).

Up to five drakes and one duck were regularly noted at Bothal Pond (TD/TF), four to five birds at Holywell Pond (KWY) and Woodhorn Flashes (CB), two pairs at Swallow Pond (CDH), and singles at Arcot, Linton and West Allotment Ponds. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Swallow Pond	1	7	MPF/ASJ/GPK from 19th (7 young still present on 27th)

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Two flew S at Seaton Sluice on 15th (SSWT) and two S at Ellington on 16th (TB).

Peak counts were 58 at East Chevington on 1st (IF), 48 at Caistrion on 22nd (JD), 24-28 at Bothal Pond (TF) and Branton GP (IBDa/KDa), and ten to 17 at Cresswell and Swallow Ponds, Hauxley Reserve and Killingworth Lake. Two to eight were also at Airy Holm Reservoir, Big Waters, Holy Island Lough, Linton Ponds, Paddy Freeman's Pond (Heaton), West Ord and Widdrington Moor Lake.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

On 14th, four flew N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and three (two drakes) at St Mary's Island (JBu). A pair was at Big Waters on 16th-17th (GB).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

At Seaton Sluice, 88 flew N and 26 S (thought to be 'local' birds; SSWT).

Peak gatherings were 71 off Stag Rocks on 10th (DF), 58 (all drakes) at North Blyth on 9th (LJM), 57 (mainly drakes) off Seaton Sluice on 18th (SSWT), and 52 drakes at St Mary's Island on 27th (AC). Counts of 20-24 came from Cocklawburn and Howick, and 11-12 were at Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary) and Lindisfarne NNR. An unusual record involved a pair on the reserve at Hauxley on 18th (only the second time this has been witnessed by the observer in 39 years! HRS). Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Boulmer	5+	--	BS on 31st
Howick	1	5	JAR on 27th.
Blyth Estuary	1	4	AC on 22nd.
Budle Bay	--	--	CGK/GPK. First ducklings on 10th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Singles flew N at Seaton Sluice on 8th and 15th (SSWT) and singles were off Hauxley on 15th (CSa) and Newbiggin Beacon Point (AP).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

At Seaton Sluice, 603 N and 123 S during the month included 110 N and 36 S on 17th (SSWT), and 42 flew N at Berwick pier on 22nd (MHu). At Stag Rocks, 400+ were noted on 28th (KE *et al.*), 214 were at Cocklawburn on 14th (MHu), 59 (all drakes) at North Blyth on 9th (LJM), and ten to 15 at Cocklawburn and Holy Island.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

At East Chevington, 15 were noted on 1st (IF), three on 9th (TF) and one on 6th (IF). Two were at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo), and one at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (TB). Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Breeding site 1	2	17 (9,8)	PHa/AHa/TRD. Brood of 8 on 23rd and brood of 9 (as well as the 8) on 27th. Two pairs noted here at the regular breeding site on 9th.
Breeding site 2	1	2	TD. Female plus 2 young on 22nd. One drake and six females noted here during the month (TRD/SW).

In addition, a female was noted at a further potential breeding area in the north of the county on 26th (JD).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Ten flew N at Boulmer on 7th (BS), eight N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SWWT), and one N at Newbiggin on 14th (NFO). One flew over the Black Middens (Tyne Estuary) on 27th (JR). A notable 124 were at West Ord on 12th (MHu), 42 were at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 26th (MHu), and 12 at Foxton Bends on 7th (BS). Unusual numbers (for May) were noted at Newcastle Exhibition Park until 21st, with up to nine birds per day (including up to seven adult drakes)(GB). Elsewhere, five to seven were at Castron, Fourstones, Holy Island, near Lesbury and Wark (North Tyne), and one to two at Airy Holm and Derwent Reservoirs, Angerton, Big Waters, Blyth Estuary, Haltwhistle, Hedgeley GP, Ingram, Lanehead, Milkwell, Ovingham, Tyne Green (Hexham) and Tyne Riverside CP (Newburn). More unusual was a drake on a flooded field at Blayney Row, Tyne Riverside CP (Newburn) on 13th (IK). Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Tyne Green, Hexham	1	12	PRM on 29th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Single pairs flew N at Seaton Sluice on 3rd and 17th (SSWT), and one flew N at Tynemouth on 2nd (DRW). Noted daily at Budle Bay, with a peak of 16 on 6th (CGK/GPK) *et al.*, five were at Holy Island on 23rd (MJC/ADM), and singles at Holy Island and Newbiggin on 9th.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

A female was at Pundershaw (Wark Forest) on 16th (PRM) and a male was "churring" at Whitefield Edge (Rothbury) on 27th (Twi).

**Swift** *Apus apus*

Only a widespread smattering of single birds and small groups were seen during the first week or so with the first double-figure count being of ten birds at Corbridge on 11th (BNR). Numbers started to build up mid-month with at least 20 joining a hirundine "feeding frenzy" at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on the evening of 13th (TD), 15 at Holywell Pond on 15th (MN) and 26 hawking over the R. Tweed at West Ord on 16th (MHu). 45 were feeding at Holywell Pond in cold, wet conditions on 19th (ASJ), with at least 20 there on 22nd (MN), 50 were at Corbridge by 23rd (ASJ) and at least 20 were at Wark on the same day (PRM). A minimum of 30 were at Tyne Green (Hexham) on 29th (PRM) and many reports were received of lower numbers from elsewhere.

Common Swift, Whitley Bay, Jack Bucknall 2/5/21

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

A "babbling" female and calling male were at Widehope (Edlingham) on 2nd (TRD/JD) and thereafter reports of birds either heard or seen came from 48, mainly upland, locations, inevitably with some overlap of individual birds. Notably three were seen at Beanley Moor, College Valley, Debdon (Rothbury), Holburn Moss whilst two were at Bewick Moor, Derwent Reservoir, Harthope Valley, Old Yeavering, Pithouse Fell (Slaley), Pundershaw (Wark Forest) and Thrunton Crag. Up to two birds were regular in the Bowden Doors (Belford) area and inland singles were at Alnwick Moor, Barrow Mill (Alwinton), Beaconhill (Longhorsley), Beanley Plantation, Billsmoorfoot (Hepple), Blanchland, Brandon, Brenkley (Blagdon), Cartington,

Crooked Oak, Derwent Gorge, Ford Moss, Halton-Lea- Gate, Harbottle, Holystone North Wood, Howick, Ingram, Kidland Forest, Lemmington (Edlingham), Low Carrith (Hesleyside), Newham Bog, North Yardhope (Otterburn Ranges), Quarry House Moor, Sleafy Hall, Thrunton Woods, Upper Ingram Valley, Walltown, Weetwood (Wooler), Widehope, Whitefield Edge, Wingates and Yearle. Arriving birds were encountered on the coast at Budle Bay, Glororum (Bamburgh), Holy Island Strawberry Field and St. Mary's. One seen flying over Exhibition Park and Town Moor (Newcastle) on 6th was considered a "mega" for the city centre (GB).



Cuckoo in snow shower,

Harthope Valley,

Mike Carr, 5/5/21

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

63 were at Newcastle Quayside on 26th (BNR), 35 at the regular site on the gym roof at Kingston Park Shopping Centre on 6th (AHB) and an unreported number of birds at Paddy Freeman's Lake (Jesmond Dene) on 30th (MJCo).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Totals of six were at Earsdon (SE Northumberland) on 1st (MNC), Crooked Oak on 10th (IFo) and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 23rd (TB). Six individuals were at separate locations along Jesmond Dene on 16th (MJCo), two pairs were at Cresswell Pond NWT on 3rd (TB) and Druridge Pools on 5th (IRD) whilst four birds were feeding on ploughland at Tyne Riverside CP on 4th (IK) and a further four at Whitelea (Cramlington) on 12th (LJM). One to three were at Druridge Lane, Duddo Stones, Dukesfield (Bamburgh), Edlingham, Grindon Lough NWT, Hauxley Ringing Station, Jesmond Royal Grammar School (displaying), Linden Hall and Woodhorn Church.



Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

24 were found in a BBS (Breeding Bird Survey) square at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 3rd (JR), seven were at Jesmond Dene on 2nd (MJCo) and one was ringed at Hauxley Ringing Station on 15th (HRS).

Wood Pigeon,

Whitley Bay,

May 21st

Iain Johnson

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Following last month's report of a Kenton garden's first breeding pair for many years, discovery of an egg shell in the garden on 9th indicated a second brood whilst sight of the pair mating on 29th suggested a third brood attempt (MRS).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Two were at Holy Island on 1st (ADM) and at Branton GP on 22nd (IBDa/KDa). Singles were seen or heard at Arcot Pond, Big Waters NWT, East Chevington and Shooter's Pool (Bothal Pond).

Corncrake *Crex crex*

One was at Newham Bog on 8th (IBDa/KDa).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Six birds were at Druridge Pools on 6th (IF) and QE11 CP on 23rd (CDH) whilst a pair with four tiny young were on the North Pool at East Chevington on 29th (GB). Five were at Hauxley GP and one to four, including some broods, were at Howick Pool, Iris Brickfield Park (Heaton), Jesmond Dene, Leazes Park (Newcastle), Silverlink CP (North Shields) and Tyne Green (Hexham).

Coot *Fulica atra*

A brood of two chicks was amongst a total of 27 birds at Killingworth Lake on 19th (LJM), 13 at Bothal Pond on 23rd included four birds on nests and broods of two and four (TD), nine birds were at Linton Ponds on 23rd (CDH) and a total of eight at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 6th included a pair with three young and a second pair with at least one chick (GB). One to seven, including many young, were seen at Druridge Pools, Hauxley NWT, Marden Quarry, QE11 CP, Silverlink CP (North Shields) and Woodhorn Flashes.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A minimum of three were at The Church Pool (Woodhorn Flashes) on 29th (GB) whilst pairs were at Caistron, Holy Island Lough, Howick Pool, Linden Hall and Swallow Pond. A brood of two were at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 30th (LJM), a brood of one at Arcot Pond and a trilling pair were at a new wetland site at Blayney Row (Tyne Riverside CP) on 4th (IK). Singles were at Bothal Pond, East Chevington, Holywell Pond, Killingworth Lake (small lake) and Marden Quarry.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Nine at Widdrington Moor Lake on 5th (NFO), with an estimate of four breeding pairs on 9th (GB), increased to 13 birds on 26th (BS). At Killingworth Lake a pair on the main lake had two large young and a pair on the small lake had three tiny young on 19th (LJM). Two pairs and a single were reported from Bothal Pond on 7th (TRD/JD), two pairs were at Derwent Reservoir all month (IFo), three birds at Cresswell Pond NWT on 29th included a displaying pair (GB) and pairs were at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) and Swallow Pond throughout the month. A single was at East Chevington.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

A late concentration at the coast involved 94 at Cresswell on 16th (IF). The only other significant groups at the coast were 18 at Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary) on 17th (MHu) and 15 at Hauxley the next day (HRS). The highest count inland was 42 at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo). One-five were reported from Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Budle Bay (shoreline nest), Corbridge, Cramlington (probable breeders), Grindon Lough, Hexham (two pairs), Jesmond Dene, Newcastle Quayside, Ovingham, Ovington, Shotleyfield (two young noted), St Cuthbert's Island (pair failed due to human disturbance), Wark and Widdrington.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Birds returned to regular haunts and nesting was noted at three locations. Druridge Pools had a maximum of 14 on 2nd when Cresswell Pond also attracted a monthly maximum of 12 (CB/TF/IF *et al.*). Two were noted sitting on nests at Druridge Pools on 15th (TD) and one was sitting on a nest at Cresswell Pond on 24th (AJR). Birds were starting to nest at Low Newton scrape by 11th and there were three nests by 20th with a maximum of six birds present by 27th (TRD/JD/SVM). One-two were in the River Coquet Estuary/Warkworth Gut area from 5th-14th (NFO/CSa/TRD/JD). Away from these areas, three were seen at East Chevington North Pool on 28th (MN), two were present at Holywell Flash on 6th-7th (ASJ/MN), two were at Budle Bay on 10th with one on 23rd (CGK/GPK) and one-two were reported at Shooter's Pools (Bothal) from 15th to the month end (TD/TF). At the end of the month, two were at each of the River Blyth Estuary on 27th (AC) and the Long Nanny Estuary on 28th (TB) and one flew S at dusk at Boulmer on 30th (BS).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Reports of nesting pairs came from Blanchland Moor with 20 pairs on 9th (ASJ), nine pairs at Shooter's Pools (Bothal) with two young seen on 23rd(TD), eight pairs at Holywell Pond and Flash on 1st with five young seen mid-month (ASJ), six nests destroyed by ploughing at Benton (Newcastle) on 28th (ASJ) and four pairs at Rothery Haugh on 6th (PRM). Two pairs with five juveniles were at Crooked Oak on 25th (MH/AA) and singles pairs were reported from Bothal Pond (one small chick), Foxton Bends (unspecified number of young), Grindon Lough, Holy Island (one small chick) and Seaton Point (pair with juveniles). Broods of four, two and one were at Carterway Heads and well grown broods of three and two were at Arcot Lane.

A count of eight was made at Gosforth Subsidence Pond, including an incubating female on 3rd (MJC). The maximum number seen at Bothal Pond was 32 on 2nd (TD) with one to four reported from Hauxley, Morpeth, Otterburn Ranges, Riding Mill and Slaley.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Very few reports were received this month with the maximum being 36 'Northern (*altifrons*)' race birds at Grindon Lough on 6th with a minimum of 11 there the next day (PRM). Newcastle Town Moor held 30 birds on 1st (MPF) with 25 at Holy Island on 2nd reducing to four '*altifrons*' birds on 12th and two from 16th-21st. (IBDa/KDa/MJC/ADM).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

One N at Seaton Sluice on 22nd was the site's first May record (SSWT). In the Lindisfarne NNR area, 147, mainly summer-plumaged birds were at Holy Island on 6th (CB) with 138 at Fenham Flats on 15th (BS). A count of 46 was made at Holy Island on 10th (IF) and two were at Budle Bay on 16th (SW). Singles were at Holy Island causeway on 12th (PRM), St Mary's Island on 11th, Cresswell Pond on 22nd (KWY/TB) and the last of the month were two at Boulmer on 31st (BS).

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

There was a deluge of northbound birds at Holy Island with a massive count of 3,000 made on 6th (CB) and 2,000 reported from The Snook on 15th (BS). Other reports from Lindisfarne NNR were 40 at Budle Bay on 16th increasing to 500 on 22nd (SW/CGK/GPK), 350 at Holy Island on 10th (IF) and an estimated 300 on 11th (TRD/JD). Reports from other coastal sites of probable north-bound birds were; a minimum of 350 at the River Blyth Estuary on 15th (MN) reducing to a single on 22nd (AC), 250 at the River Coquet Estuary on 12th (CSa) with a single seen on 14th (TRD/JD), 60-112 in the Boulmer area (BS/MKi), 59 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 13th (AP), 50 at Beadnell on 15th (SW) and 34 at Warkworth beach on 5th (NFO). There were reports during the month of birds in the Bothal Pond/Shooter's Pools area with a maximum of six seen (TD/GB) and a maximum of six (three breeding pairs) was also seen at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo). One-ten were present at Annstead, Cocklawburn, Druridge Pools, Hedgeley GP, Low Newton scrape and the Long Nanny.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubious*

At Grindon Lough, the peak count was four with display and mating noted during the month (SW/ASJ/PRM). Two pairs were at Derwent Reservoir (IFo), with two birds at Low Newton scrape on 11th and Hedgeley GP on 27th (TRD/JD) and two flying NE over Holywell Flash on 24th (ASJ/MN) Singles were at Bothal Pond on 4th and 7th (TF/TB).

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrius*

A well appreciated female was reported from the north shore near the Snook (Holy Island) from 11th-13th (TRD/JD/KWY *et al.*)



Kentish Plover, Holy Island, 11th May, Tim Dean

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 38N and 1S with the highest daily total being 24N on 9th (SSWT). Ten flew N at Holy Island on 9th (IK) with one-eight either at or over the island on ten other dates during the month. Birds were regularly

reported from Druridge Pools with the peak occurring on 6th when 22 were present (KE) with lower numbers on other dates. The peak count at East Chevington also occurred on 6th when 20 were counted (IF). On 1st, 11 were seen at Alnmouth-Longhoughton Steel (MJC) with possibly some of the same birds present on 3rd at Boulmer where 11 were counted. At Annstead (Seahouses) eight flew N on 14th (DF) with 6 N at Tynemouth on 3rd (DRW), five N at Newbiggin on 7th (RS) and five were seen at Amble Braid on 14th (TF). One-three were either flying N or at Beadnell, Beal, Bothal Pond, Budle Bay, Dunstanburgh, Ellington, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond, Howdiemont Sands (Boulmer), Howick, Jesmond Dene, Long Nanny Estuary, Widdrington Moor lake and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary).



Whimbrel, Holy Island, Colin Bradshaw, 6/5/21

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

On the coast, 80 were at Boulmer on 1st (AMG/MG), the peak at Druridge Pools occurred on 22nd when 30 were present (MN), 18 were at Holy island on 16th (JAR) and five flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 5th (DF). Displaying birds on territory were noted on 9th with 44 at Allendale and 24 at Blanchland Moor (ASJ). The monthly maximum count at Grindon Lough was 17 coming into roost on 7th (PRM). One-eight were reported from Big Waters, Halton-Lea-Gate, Healey, Letah Wood (Hexham), Pithouse Fell (Slaley), Prudhoe Hospital, Rothery Haugh and Widdrington Moor lake.



Black-tailed Godwit, Druridge Pools, Tim Dean, 18/5/21

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) held a flock of 150 winter-plumaged birds on 30th (IK). Five were at Boulmer on 1st, three at Amble Braid on 11th and one-three at Druridge Pools from 18th-26th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Reports were received from Druridge Pools for most of the month with the peak count being 29 on 24th (AJR *et al.*). Three-four were seen at Amble Braid on 10th & 14th (TRD/JD/NFO) and singles were seen at Monks' House Pool on 1st and Low Newton scrape on 7th (KWY/KE).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Boulmer attracted the peak again this month with 55 present on 30th (BS). There were 18 reported at Sandham Bay (Holy Island) on 4th (MJC) with 12 at Newbiggin on 12th (NFO) and ten at Amble Braid on 11th (TF). Four-six were present at Beadnell, Berwick Little Beach, and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).



Turnstone,
Holy Island,
Duncan Watson,
15/5/21

Knot *Calidris canutus*

One N at Seaton Sluice was the only site record during the month. 300 were reported from Holy Island on 6th with almost none in summer plumage with a count of 40 being made on 10th (CB/IF). At the River Coquet Estuary 16 were noted on 15th with probably the same birds seen on 14th when ten were present at Amble Braid. (CSa/TRD/JD). One-three were reported from Boulmer, Druridge Pools, Fenham-le-Moor (Lindisfarne NNR), Newbiggin and Tynemouth.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Singles were reported from Druridge Pools from 5th-25th with two on 24th (MKi/IRD/CD *et al.*) The only other reports were of singles at Hedgeley GP on 10th (IBDa/KDa) and Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 12th (PRM).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Boulmer retained the high numbers from last month with a peak of 211 occurring on 30th (BS). Another large flock was present at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) where 161 were counted on 2nd reducing to 23 by 27th (AP). The Snook (Holy Island) attracted 110 on 15th (BS) and 75 were seen at Beadnell on 29th (NFO). Other counts received were 48 at Cocklawburn on 6th, 40 at Budle Bay on 13th, 35 at Annstead (Seahouses) on 1st and 15 at Amble Braid on 11th.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

At Seaton Sluice 37 flew N on 9th (SSWT). Higher numbers were reported this month, probably involving northbound migrants. The peak count from Lindisfarne NNR was 1,950 at the Snook (Holy Island) on 15th (BS). The peak counts from other coastal localities were 200 at the River Coquet Estuary on 12th (CSa), 40+ at the River Blyth Estuary on 15th (MN) with 40 at Boulmer on 28th (Mki), 25 at Warkworth beach on 5th (NFO) and 11 at Druridge Pools on 6th KE. Bothal Pond attracted nine on 4th (TF) and the peak at Grindon Lough was four on 7th decreasing to one by 31st (PRM/RB/MB *et al.*). One-four were at Ashington, Derwent Reservoir, Hedgeley GP and The Long Nanny Estuary.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Numbers were much reduced this month with a high of 30 recorded at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 11th (TRD/JD). Elsewhere 27 were seen at Annstead on 1st (DF), 23 were roosting on the east pier at Blyth Harbour on 5th (STH) and 13 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 14th (AP/NFO). Other reports were of eight at Newton, three at Seaton Point (Boulmer) and two at Seaton Sluice.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Three spring-passage birds were reported. One was present at the River Blyth Estuary from 15th-16th (MN/AC) and adults were at Budle Bay on 23rd (CGK/GPK) and the Long Nanny Estuary on 30th (CGK/GPK).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Two were roding at Dipton Wood on 14th (BNR) and two were at Beanley Wood on 15th (IDBa/KDa). Two males were displaying at Pundershaw (Wark Forest) on 16th PRM) and single roding birds were heard at Haltwhistle on 14th (SW) and Wagtail Farm (Rothbury) on 25th (TWi). Singles were present at Letah Wood Hexham), Low Carriteth and Whitefield Edge.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Late birds were observed at the Snook (Holy Island on 1st (ADM) and Shooter's Pool (Bothal) on 2nd (TD).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

The presence at Druridge Pools peaked at 30 (at least) on 2nd reducing to four by 7th (CB/TRD/JD). Four pairs were at Rothery Haugh on 6th (PRM) where display was noted. Eight were also seen at Alnham on 13th (EHa). Display was also seen at Allendale where seven were present on 9th (ASJ) and six were displaying at Blanchland Moor also on 9th (ASJ). Two were 'drumming' at Halton-Lea-Gate on 11th, two were at Rowley Burn (Hexamshire) on 15th and two displayed throughout the month at Hazelrigg Moss. Displaying singles were at Debdon (Rothbury), Derwent Reservoir and Longhoughton (noted as unusual there). Reports of other single birds came from Bothal Pond, Grindon Lough, Holy Island and Tynemouth (scarce at this location).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

The regular female was back for the sixth year and was reported from 7th -31st (AJR/PRM/RB/MB *et al.*).

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

An adult was present for one day on 9th at Budle Bay (CGK/GPK/IF *et al.*).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Birds were establish in inland and upland territories and a few migrants were observed at the coast. Three pairs were at Wark on 9th (MJC) and five at Derwent Reservoir all month (IFo). Three were at Hulne Park (Alnwick) on 7th (MKi), Branton GP on 9th (TRD/IBDa/KDa), Harthope Valley on 13th (TRD/JD) and the Ingram Valley on 22nd (TD). Two birds were seen at Bothal Pond, Castron, Haltwhistle, Hedgeley GP and Thropton. Singles were reported from 12 other inland localities and ten coastal localities during the month.

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

A paucity of reports this month after last month's high numbers. At Boulmer, 18 flew high N on 7th (BS). The highest counts were 20 at Blanchland Moor on 9th where several displayed (ASJ) and 16 at Allendale also on 9th where display was also seen (ASJ). Birds were reported from Grindon Lough all month with the highest count being eight on 11th (SW/PRM/AJR/BNR). Elsewhere, two were at Castron and singles at Boulmer, Druridge Pools and the River Blyth Estuary.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Reports from Druridge Pools were of one 4th-6th, two from 22nd-25th and a single on 26th (TB/AA/MKi *et al.*). One flew N over the observer's garden at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 15th (MJC).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

The wintering bird at Bothal Pond was reported on 5th (TF).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Two were seen at Budle Bay on 1st (CGK) with a single at nearby Beal Point on 12th (PRM). Singles were at Foxton Bends (River Aln) on 14th (TRD/JD/BS) and Druridge Pools on 18th (TB/IF/TRD/JD).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

No significant movement was noted at Seaton Sluice but at Spittal Bay (Berwick) 320/hour moved N on 4th and on 22nd 960/hour were recorded moving N at Berwick Pier (MHu); smaller movements N of up to ca.200/hour were also reported on occasional dates from Annstead and Bamburgh (DF). In the Tweed Estuary, 92 were in the gull roost on 17th (MHu). At the Newcastle city breeding sites, 400+ AONs were on the north side of the Tyne Bridge on 22nd (PRM) and 690, many on nests were counted at the Quayside on 26th (BNR).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

There were few reports this month, consisting only of 51 at Boulmer, 23 at Hauxley NWT, 13 at Grindon Lough and four at Bothal Pond.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

During the first half of the month, single birds were recorded at Annstead, Budle Bay, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Newbiggin and Seaton Sluice but from 20th-31st the numbers gradually increased to a maximum of six in the Druridge Pools/Cresswell Pond area. All the sightings were of immature birds (*many observers*)

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

At Cresswell Pond an adult and an immature were present on 28th and elsewhere single sightings were of an immature bird at Budle Bay and an adult at Boulmer.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Approximately 200 immature birds were at Derwent Reservoir on 12th with 100 and 180 immatures at nearby Shotleyfield on 17th and 26th (IFo). Other counts comprised 30-50, some moving N, at Annstead, 45 near Mitford and 14 at Holy Island.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Seven were at New Water Haugh on the River Tweed, two at Hauxley NWT and a single at Grindon Lough

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

A single un-aged bird was recorded at the Long Nanny Estuary on 14th (AMG/MG).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

From 2nd-19th, occasional sightings of single immature birds, probably involving two individual birds, came from Amble Harbour, Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Holywell Pond, Old Hartley, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argenteus*

Gatherings of 300-350 were in the Blyth Estuary (LJM) and Caistron (JD) with 270 at Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary) (MHu). Elsewhere, 70-80 were seen at Hexham and Linton Ponds, 13 at Grindon Lough and one to three at three other localities. Breeding records consisted of 24 nests at Blyth Power Station (LJM) and Needle's Eye (Berwick) (BWG), 14-15 at Blyth Riverside Ind. Estate and Wimborne Quay with one or two at Bates Staithes and jetties (Blyth) and at Cramlington (LJM/STH).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Approximately 200 were flying around and nesting on a hill near Windyhaugh (JR/NA), 11-20 were at Newcastle Quayside and on the Town Moor, Grindon Lough and Airy Holm Reservoir (nr. Shotleyfield) with up to seven elsewhere at Ashington, Bothal Pond, Budle Bay, Derwent Reservoir, Ellington, Hauxley NWT, Holywell Pond, Jesmond Dene, Morpeth and New Water Haugh (River Tweed). Breeding records in the Blyth area included eight nests at the Power Station, six at Riverside Ind. Estate and three at Wimborne Quays with a single nest at Cramlington (LJM).

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

'Several hundred' were reported from Coquet Island (HRS) but away from the breeding colonies the largest concentrations were 240 roosting at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 12th (AP) and 168 in the St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) roost on 9th (ADM). Counts of birds flying N comprised 148 at Stag Rocks on 4th and 28-67 in three sea-watches at Annstead from 1st-6th (DF) with records of 20-30 at East Chevington, Emblestones (Newton), Hauxley NWT and the Long Nanny Estuary. Up to eight were noted at eight other widespread localities between Berwick and St Mary's Island.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

The largest of several counts at the Long Nanny colony was 25 on 11th (TRD/JD *et al.*). Apart from 12 at Budle Bay on 3rd (CGK/GPK), all other sightings elsewhere were of one to five on various dates throughout at Annstead, Beal, Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Boulmer, Embleton Bay, Holy Island and Seaton Sluice where the monthly count was five moving N (SSWT).

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

At Beacon Point (Newbiggin), eight on 9th was the largest of several counts (MP) and eight were also at Boulmer on 7th (BS). Elsewhere, two were noted at Coquet Island and East Chevington and one was seen flying N at St Mary's Island on 13th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

There were low counts this month, the largest being ca.20 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) (MP). Elsewhere ten were at East Chevington, three pairs on the nesting island at Holywell Pond, five to eight at Annstead, Big Waters NWT, Hauxley NWT and St Mary's Island and one to three at Arcot Pond, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Exhibition Park, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Killingworth Lake, Marden Quarry, Monks' House Pool and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

At the Long Nanny burn mouth colony a maximum of 750 were present there on 14th (AMG/MG); other counts there on different dates produced a range of 30-400 (TRD *et al.*). An unusual gathering of birds was offshore at Annstead totalling at least 320, which formed into rafts and drifted N (DF). Small numbers were present at three other localities

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

One associated with other terns at the Long Nanny burn mouth from 26th-28th (KE *et al.*).



Great Skua, Tynemouth, Colin Bradshaw, 21/5/21

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

A single was seen offshore from Emmanuel Head, Holy Island on 19th (AB/LB) and one 'possibly sick' bird was on the Battery Rocks at Tynemouth on 23rd (CB/DRW). Other singles were seen at Craster and Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 26th (NNBC/AP) and on 31st one in Budle Bay was resting and 'appeared to be in poor health' (GPK).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*/**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

On 14th and 22nd heavy movements N were recorded at Tynemouth with rates of 1,000 and 700/hour respectively during early morning sea-watches (DRW).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Some movements N from mid-month included peak counts of 1,120 and 1,500/hour at Seaton Sluice on the 14th and 22nd respectively (SSWT) and on the latter date 60/hour moved N at Berwick Pier (MHu). At Needle's Eye (Berwick) 48 nests were occupied (BWG).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

The heavy auk movements N noted on 14th and 22nd included 480-500/hour at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). At Needle's Eye, Berwick 22 nests were occupied (BWG).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

At Seaton Sluice a three-hour watch on 27th included 260/hour moving N (SSWT). Other much smaller movements of birds moving N were seen at Cresswell, Longhoughton Steel and Tynemouth during the period 21st-28th..

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

The monthly total for 49 hours sea watching at Seaton Sluice was 35 birds, with 22 N and 13S (SSWT). Six birds flew N at St Mary's Island 13th (ASJ), five birds, including one in summer plumage, were in Druridge Bay on 7th (TRD/JD). Three birds were seen at Holy Island on 9th (IBDa/AH/ADM), Annstead (Seahouses) on 14th and 31st (DF); two were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 4th (TB), Budle Point on 9th (CGK) and Cocklawburn on 14th (MHu). Single birds in summer plumage were at Rumbling Kern (Howick) and Spittal Bay (Berwick) and other singles were at Low Newton and Budle Point.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Two birds flew N at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 17th (AP) and at Seaton Sluice on 26th with singles N on 14th & 27th (SSWT), and single birds were also at Budle Point on 9th (CGK) and N at St Mary's Island on 27th (AC).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

A total of 180 birds flew N in 3h at Seaton Sluice on 22nd (SSWT) and 109 flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 22nd (DF). 26 birds went N at Berwick Pier in 1 hr on 22nd (MHu), 19 N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 25th, 15 N at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 4th & 14 N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 5th (DF). 29 nests were at Needle's Eye (Berwick) on 27th (BWG). 12 birds were on breeding ledges at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 21st (TB) and 12 were at Old Hartley on 22nd (AY), two pairs with territory were at Union Bridge (Berwick) on 20th (MHu), four were on breeding ledges at Longhoughton Quarry on 28th (BS) and two were on ledges at Bamburgh Castle Crag (JPL).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

The monthly total for 49hrs sea watching at Seaton Sluice was well below average with 18 N (SSWT). On 25th six flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) (DF), six went N at Longhoughton Steel on 28th (MKi). At Annstead (Seahouses) two flew N on 14th and one flew N on 5th (DF).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

At Annstead (Seahouses) on 5th a total of 1,374 flew N in 2 hrs and 835 birds flew N there on 22nd (DF). In 4 hrs at Seaton Sluice on 22nd 700 flew N (SSWT). Between one to 482 birds flew N at several sites during the month and 112 flew S at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 10th (DF) and 46 flew S at Low Newton on 16th (SW).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

28 birds were at the low-tide roost at New Water Heugh (R Tweed) On 26th (MHu), with a 'sinensis' bird in the roost there on 2nd along with 25 birds (MHu). Blyth Harbour peaked at 27 birds on 5th (STH), with 25 present there on 12th (STH) and 16 on 24th (LJM). 17 birds flew N and one flew S at Annstead (Seahouses) on 14th (DF), 11 birds were on Derwent Reservoir on 1st & 12th (IFo). One to nine birds were at other locations including one at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 19th (GB).

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 21 birds with 12 N and 9S (SSWT). Blyth Harbour had 13 birds on 12th and eight birds on 5th (STH). On 27th eight birds were roosting on the cliff at Needle's Eye (Berwick) with three nests occupied (BWG). At Meadow Haven (Berwick) five birds were in the roost on 23rd (MHu), four were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 11th (TRD/JD). One to two birds were noted at Blyth South Harbour, Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary), Druridge, Snab Point (Cresswell), and at The Emblestones (Newton).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

An adult was feeding at South Law (Beal Point) on 12th (PRM). A bird was at Druridge Pools on 17th. It was being harassed by other birds and flew off S. It was then observed flying into the south west corner of Cresswell Pond (TB).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

On 22nd a bird flew over the South Pool at East Chevington (RB/MB).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

In Holywell Dene on 1st, six birds were present including four occupied nests (ASJ), five birds were at Howick Pool on 1st (PHa/AHa) and at Cresswell Pond on 25th (TB), three were noted at Bothal Pond on 2nd (TD), Hauxley NWT on 18th (HRS) & at East Chevington on 22nd (RB/MB). One to two birds were at six other sites including at least one active nest at Warkworth Weir (R Coquet) and in a 'Juncus bed' at Monks' House Pool.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

On the 3rd, single birds were at Holywell Flash (MN) and a bird was also seen at Caistron before flying off W with two Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* (ASJ).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Up to six birds were present throughout the month in the Beal - Budle Bay (Lindisfarne area) (PRM/MJCCGK/GPK/ADM). Three birds were at Caistron and two flew off W with a Great White Egret *Ardea alba* on 3rd (ASJ), two birds were noted at Warkworth Weir on 9th, & 14th (IF/TRD/JD), two flew N at Boulmer on 14th (BS) and two were at Cresswell Pond on 29th (GB). Singles were seen at Cresswell Pond, Ellington Dene, Hauxley NWT, Holywell Flash, Holywell Pond, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, Warkworth Lane (Ellington) and Yarrow Slake (R Tweed Estuary).



Osprey, Tynemouth, Duncan Watson 3/5/21

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Two birds were seen at Kielder Dam on 27th, one on the nesting platform and one flew overhead (TB). A single bird flew N at Tynemouth (DRW) then Cullercoats (ASJ per Tom Tamms) and Whitley Bay (AC) on 3rd. A ringed bird which was part of a brood of three young ringed in a nest at Loch Tay (Perthshire) in July 2016 and on 25th April 2021 was at Loch of Lowes, was at Big Waters NWT on 5th & 6th (GB). Two birds were at Elf Kirk (Kielder), one in flight and one on the nest. A single bird flew N at Budle Bay then turned out to sea, turned and headed N again on 16th (SW/CGK/GPK). On 17th one was in the Coquet Estuary (CSa), one was in Budle Bay on 22nd (CGK/GPK). One was at Crooked Oak (Derwent Reservoir) circling low over the gorge with a Buzzard *Buteo buteo* on 25th (MH/AA). Other birds were noted at Tynemouth (ASJ) and one flew S at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) (AP) the same day (ASJ).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Three birds were at Wark (N Tyne) on 2nd (MJC/AJ/TW), two birds were at Wallsend Dene on 7th (CDH) and two females were at Ellington on 13th (TB). Single birds were reported from 26 sites during the month.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

A male was over Prudhoe East on 27th (BNR).

Harrier sp

At The Snook (Holy Island) a male Harrier sp was glimpsed briefly on 23rd (ADM).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Five birds, involving two pairs and another female, were at East Chevington on 24th (MH), with four birds (three males and a female) there on 5th (IRD) and two pairs were noted there on 9th (MH). Single birds were reported at East Chevington on several dates during the month. Away from the Druridge Bay area single birds were at Budle Bay on 1st (CGK/GPK), a female flew S at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSW) then was seen at Whitley Bay (AC) and at Tynemouth (DRW). Two birds, a female and a juvenile, were on Holy Island from 7th with the juvenile seen till the end of the month (IK/MJC/IBDa/KDa/ADM). Single birds were seen at Budle Bay on 9th (CGK/GPK), a "Cream Crown" N at Longhoughton 10th (BS), a female S at Woodhorn Flash on 13th (TB), an unsexed/aged bird at Newham Bog on 28th (CGK), a juvenile at Beal on 29th (ADM) and a female was seen at Foxbury House (Lesbury) on 30th (MKi).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Five birds were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 12th and three birds were there on 6th (IFo). Two birds were reported at Healey Mill on 9th (BNR), Acton Fell / Winnows Hill on 11th, one with gunshot damage in its left primaries (MH/AA) at Bywell on 18th (BNR), at Derwent Reservoir on 19th and 25th (AJ/MH/AA) and Minsteracres on 26th (AJH). Singles were observed at 12 sites including a bird with damaged primaries at Wark (N Tyne) on seven dates throughout the month (PRM).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

11 birds were in the Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) area on 17th (ASJ) and a minimum of eight birds, including a bird alarm calling over an active nest at Wark (N Tyne) on 2nd (MJC/AJ/TW). Four birds (two pairs) were at Wark (N Tyne) on 23rd (PRM) and four were at Riding Mill on 30th (GB). Three birds were seen along the A69 Newcastle to Haltwhistle and also at Haydon Bridge, Healey, Kielder, Redesmouth, Prestwick Carr, Prudhoe Hospital and Ulgham. One to birds were at 34 sites during the month.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Well reported this month with a pair at Budle Bay all month (CGK/GPK) and two at Derwent Reservoir on 9th & 24th (IFo), Hedgeley Hall on 15th (IBDa/KDa) and Pundershaw (Wark Forest) on 16th (PRM). Singles were at Cresswell, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools and Howick regularly and at 21 other widely spread localities with one found dead at Preston Cemetery (North Shields) on 14th.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Two were calling at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on several nights (TD) and at Howick on 12th (JAR), Wagtail Farm (Rothbury) on 25th (TWi) and Ordley on 30th (BNR). One with a brood of three was at Hauxley NWT on 18th (HRS) with singles at Wagtail Farm (Rothbury) and Wark regularly and at a further seven locations.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

There was only one report of one visiting a garden on a daily basis at Acklington during the month (per LJM).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

One was hunting at a confidential site in the south east of the county on 9th (LJM) and at Housesteads on 30th (SW).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

There was the only multiple report in the Upper Breamish Valley on 27th (MJC) with singles at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 2nd, Cocklawburn on 5th, East Chevington on 9th, Fenham-le-Moor on 15th, Holy Island on 21st and Old Hartley on 30th.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

A possible nesting pair was at Fourstones on 12th (AJH) with a single there on 18th, at Low Angerton on 15th (IRD) and Wark (North Tyne) on 16th and 30th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Three were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 22nd (IFo) and a female with two juveniles on feeders at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) three times in the last week of the month with one to two there on several other dates during the month (TB). Pairs were feeding young at Armstrong Park and Ouseburn Park (Jesmond) with the young leaving the former site on 31st. Two reared young were at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 18th, a pair were at Humshaugh on 22nd with two at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 28th, Wark (North Tyne) and Tynemouth on 30th. Singles were at five other locations.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

All sightings were of singles at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo), Longhorsley Moor on 6th (AB/LB), Angerton (R. Wansbeck) on 9th (TD), Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 12th (IFo), Rothbury on 13th (TRD/JD) and Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 28th (TB).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Seven were in the air together at Harthope Valley on 31st (BS) with a pair at nest hole on Holy Island on 1st (ADM) and two at Healey on 9th (BNR) and Upper Ingram Valley on 22nd (TD). Singles were at New Moor (Ashington), Howick and Lynemouth on two dates and at 17 other widespread localities.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Single females were at Holy Island on 9th and 12th (AH/ADM) and one was at Chugdon Mill (Whittingham) on 31st (CW).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

A pair was at Bywell at 13.05 on 18th, the female diving at a Common Buzzard (BNR).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

An immature was at Annstead (Seahouses) on 1st (DF), one at Lynemouth Power Station on most days till 19th (AP), Newcastle on 3rd (GB), Holy Island Village on 10th and Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) on 15th (RS).

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Two were at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 20th with one there on 14th and at Melton Park (Gosforth) on 18th (GB). Possibly two were at Walker (Newcastle) on 25th (AJN) and a single south at Low Hauxley on 27th (CSa).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Reports of two came from Beacon Lane (Cramlington) on 12th and East Cramlington Pond NWT on 16th (LJM) with all other 19 reports being singles, Chugdon Wood (Ellington) the only site with reports on two dates.

Magpie *Pica pica*

There was one report of four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 9th (MJCo).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

A BBS square at Cockle Park (Morpeth) held 23 on 3rd (JR) with seven at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 16th (MJCo).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

At Howick on 3rd, 100 fed in a freshly sown field (JAR) with 40 in Upper Coquetdale on 17th, 28 at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (IFo) and 20 at Old Hartley on 19th. Apparently occupied nests numbered 73 at Widdrington on 9th (GB), 50 at Backworth and 45 at Holywell Dene on 2nd (ASJ) and 37 Cockle Park (Morpeth) on 3rd (JR).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Spring passage was noted on 3rd with 109 N at Seaton Sluice and 85 N between 6.15h -10.00h at Tynemouth (SSWT/DRW). 26 were at East Hartford on 27th (LJM) and three at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 23rd (MJCo).

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

On 3rd two flew N over the Tyne at Tynemouth at 07.13h with a single N at 08.09 (DRW).

Raven *Corvus corax*

Up to five were at Kielder on 5th (ADM), a pair with two fledged juveniles at Dancing Green Hill (Old Hazlerigg) on 30th (DF) with three at Thilmoor Hill (Otterburn Ranges) on 29th and Bewick Moor on 31st (JR/NA/BS). Two were at Rothery Haugh on 6th, Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 12th, Harthope Valley on 13th and Bygate Hall Cottages on 19th. Singles were at eight other locations.

An additional report for April was two nesting in a Larch tree on North side of Runnymede Road (Darras Hall) on 30th (CFH).

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

There were just four reports of singles: at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 2nd (MJCo), a BBS square at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 3rd and a male singing at Wark (North Tyne) on 23rd and 27th (PRM).

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

A pair had five young at Longhorsley on 29th (PHa/AHa) and two were at Low Angerton on 15th (IRD). One was present on feeders at Longdyke (Shilbottle) most of the month with singles also at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on two dates and at Craster, Crooked Oak and High Weldon.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

On 11th a pair plus one were at Prestwick Carr, two were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 2nd and a pair on 16th (NFO) with pairs also at Longhorsley Moor on 6th and Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 18th (AB/LB/ASJ). Two were also at Holywell Dene on 3rd, Big Waters NWT on 6th (ASJ/GB) and Choppington Woods on 25th (MJC). Singles were singing at Linden Hall, Ponteland Park and Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) with one at many of the above locations and Crooked Oak.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

A BBS survey at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) found seven on 3rd (JR), three were re-trapped at Hauxley Ringing Station on 2nd, 9th and 15th (HRS) and were at Jesmond Dene on 9th (MJCo).

April section**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

On 12th BBS squares at Bedlington held 17 on 20th, nine on 24th and eight at Bebside (Blyth) on 23rd (JR). Seven were at Ellington Dene on 5th, six at Ellington Colliery on the same date and Chugdon Wood on 13th with two to five on other dates in the Ellington area. One to three were at three other locations with two to three birds re-trapped at Hauxley Ringing Station on 18th and 25th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Five were at Jesmond Dene on 2nd (MJCo), one ringed, two re-trapped at Hauxley Ringing Station on 2nd (HRS) and three on BBS at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 3rd (JR).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

A pair was at North Pool East Chevington on 25th (TRD/TB) with two males there on 29th (JBu) and single males on four dates from 24th to 30th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

A 20-mile drive and walk over Otterburn Ranges recorded 250 with over 200 singing on 29th with at least 50 singing at Sandysike (Hareshaw Common) on the same date (ASJ). At least 25 singing birds were on territory at Budle Bay during the month, 25 at Flodden Field on 25th (CGK/JAR) and 24 (eight singing and birds feeding young) at St Mary's on 2nd (ASJ). 13 were at Bomarsund on 9th, 12 at Ford Moss on 25th with one to seven at six other locations.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Large numbers were reported, the peaks being around 450 at West Ord (Berwick) on 5th (MHu), 200 at Bothal Pond on 3rd and Close House – Hagg Bank (R.Tyne) on 4th (TF/MH), 150 at Killingworth Lake on 21st (GB) with three-figure counts at these locations on three other dates and 100 at Big Waters NWT on 20th. 80 were at Monks' House Pool on 2nd, 70 at Druridge Pools on 16th with 60 at Breamish Valley on 15th, East Chevington on 16th and 55 at Caistron on 3rd. 20 to 50 were at five other locations and two to 16 at a further eight.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

At Holy Island on 9th a count from 12.00h (when a southerly wind picked up) to 18.00h recorded at least 1,290 N although likely an underestimate due to the very broad front of birds (ADM) with 300 N in six hours at Foxton (R.Aln) on 10th (MJC) and 120 N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 3rd (SSWT). Poor conditions found 120 at Killingworth Lake on 19th (ASJ), around 80 at West Ord (Berwick) on 5th (MHu) and at Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) on 6th (ASJ), 54 at Holy Island on 12th (ADM) and 50 at Druridge Pools on 14th (TRD/JD). Around 40 were at Haughton Strother on 7th and at East Chevington on 16th with ten to 32 at eight locations and one to nine at a further 12.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Highest count was of 100 in cold wet conditions at Killingworth Lake on 19th, around 50 were at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 7th, 45 (42 occupied nests) at Upper Coquetdale on 29th and 34 at Longhorsley on 29th (ASJ/AJR). 30 were at Druridge Pools on 16th, 25-30 at Felton (R.Coquet) on 20th, 22 at Breamish Valley on 15th, 20+ at Holy Island 9th & 12th, 16 at Bywell on 25th and 12 at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 18th and 19th. One to ten were at 22 other widespread localities.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Singing birds were reported at four locations, with a maximum of three at East Chevington on 10th (NFO). One was seen as well as heard at Big Waters NWT on 2nd (GB) and one was in North Tyneside on 9th. One was heard at Fenwick Pit (East Holywell) from 13th to 31st (MNC).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

The largest number of birds reported was 34 in four family groups at Holywell Dene on 27th (ASJ). There were 18 at Ellington on 22nd (TB). A pair with eight young was at Marden Estate (Tynemouth) on 30th (ASJ), and a pair with two young was at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 12th (GB).

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

The earliest record was of a singing male in the vicinity of Killingworth Lake on 1st (MPF, GB, IF, JBu). Two singing males were at Derwent Gorge on 9th (ASJ) and two were at Crooked Oak (Derwent Reservoir) on 19th (AJ). Single birds were at Hauxley Ringing Station on 9th (HRS) and at Eals on 27th (AJH).

Wood Warbler,
Killingworth Lake,
Jack Bucknall
1/5/21

An epic count of 188 singing males was made by ASJ on 15th. 81 were counted between Heighleygate and Todburn, 48 in the Breamish Valley, 31 at Wingates, and 28 at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley). There were 17 at East Cramlington Pond NWT on 1st (LJM), 15 in the Fontburn area on 1st (TD), and 12 at North Wood (Holystone) on 5th (MKi). Holy Island had a maximum of ten on 6th (CB), with a northern type *P. t. acredula* at The Snook on 12th (PRM). Six were at North Yardhope (Otterburn Ranges) on 5th (MKi), and four were at Howick on 3rd (JAR) and Grindon Lough on 9th (PRM). Singing birds were reported from twelve other locations throughout the county.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus***Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

There was a maximum of 15 birds at Holy Island on 6th (CB) and 12 at Howick Dene on 10th (BS). East Cramlington Pond NWT had eight singing males on 1st (LJM), and Choppington and North Walbottle had eight on 12th (JR) and 13th (MH) respectively. There were seven at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 16th (MJCo) and at Bamburgh Castle on 16th (ADM). A BBS square at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) yielded six on 3rd (JR) and five singing birds were at Silverlink CP (North Shields) on 23rd (KWY). There were four at Redesmouth on 11th (ADM) and at Hauxley on 15th, where three birds were ringed and one retrapped during the month (HRS). Smaller numbers of singing birds were reported at seven other locations.

Chiffchaff, Widehope, Tim Dean, 2/5/21

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Fieldwork during the month at Budle Bay turned up a minimum of eight territories for this species (CGK). There was a maximum of eight at Holy Island on 23rd (MJC/AH/ADM/SR) and eight at Flodden Field on 25th (JAR). Prestwick Carr had seven singing birds on 22nd (MH) and Arcot Pond and Birling Carrs (Warkworth) each had six singing birds on 10th (LJM) and 12th (MJC) respectively. There were also six at Branton GP on 9th (IBDa/KDa). There were five at Druridge Pools on 6th (IF), at Bamburgh Castle Wood and Dunes on 16th (ADM), and at Backworth Pond on 20th (MNC). Two to four birds were recorded at fifteen other widespread locations, with singles at a further eleven locations.



Sedge Warbler,

St Mary's Island,

Iain Johnson,

May 21st

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Gosforth Park NR (Newcastle) had seven singing birds on 3rd (MJC) and QEII CP (Ashington) had six on 23rd (CDH). There was a maximum of six at East Chevington on 18th (IF) and five singing at Holy Island Lough on 29th (MJC/SJM/ADM). Big Waters NWT had three on 2nd (GB) and Hauxley NWT had three on 18th (HRS). Two singing birds were at Bates Minewater Treatment Plant (Blyth Estuary) and at Church Pool (Woodhorn Flashes) on 28th (LJM) and 29th (GB) respectively. Singles were at eight other locations, including one at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 17th and the rest of the month (GB), a first at the location for the observer.

Reed Warbler,
Gosforth Park,
Colin Bradshaw,
30/5/21



Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

The largest numbers of singing males were three at East Chevington on 5th (IRD), two at Arcot Pond on 11th (LJM), and two at the Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate on 31st (ASJ). The distinctive reeling song was reported from twenty other places throughout the county, including the unusual locations of Cartington on 3rd (TRD/JD), Doddington on 17th (JD), and Milkwell (Corbridge) on 25th (RB/MB).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Birds, mostly singing males, were reported from 23 locations this month, with the highest count being 20 at Wark (North Tyne) on 2nd (MJC/AJ/TW). There were nine at Plessey Woods CP on 29th (LJM), seven at Howick on 3rd (JAR) and six at Branton GP on 9th (IBDa/KDa). Cramlington had five on 5th (LJM), as did Dilston (Corbridge) on 7th (IFo), Hareshaw Linn (Bellingham) on 9th (MJC), and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 23rd (MJCo). There were four at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 2nd (IFo), Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 6th (KWY), Holy Island on 6th (CB), and Choppington on 12th (JR). Four were also ringed at Hauxley NWT on 15th, making a total of six birds ringed there this month (HRS). Smaller numbers were reported from six other locations, with singles at a further four locations.



Blackcap

Holywell Dene

, Alan Jack

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

The species was well recorded throughout the month, with reports of singles from thirty-four different locations. There were five singing birds at Wingates on 15th (ASJ) and five at Holy Island on 23rd (MJC/AH/ADM/SR). Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) had three singing birds on 15th (ASJ), and Doddington and Castron had three on 17th (JD) and 22nd (JD) respectively. There were two at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 5th (IFo), Branton GP on 9th (IBDa/KDa), Hareshaw Linn (Bellingham) on 9th (MJC), Harthope Valley on 13th (TRD/JD) and 28th (DF), and at Wark (North Tyne) on 16th and 30th (PRM).

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

Two nesting pairs were observed mating and displaying at Holywell Dene and Pond on 1st (ASJ), with a further four singing males in the vicinity. There were four singing birds at Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) on 4th (GPK). Two were at Ridley Drift (Cramlington) on 1st (KE), Holy Island on 8th (MJC), and at Tyne Riverside CP (Newburn) on 13th (IK). A nest-building pair were in Budle Bay throughout the month (GPK). Singles, mostly singing birds, were at eighteen other locations.

Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

The highest count came from Breamish Valley, with 19 singing males on 15th (ASJ). Holywell had 11 singing birds on 4th (ASJ), as did St Mary's on 11th (KWY), and Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 12th (MJC). There were nine at Cramlington on 19th (LJM), seven at Milkwell (Corbridge) on 23rd (RB/MB), six at Druridge Pools on 9th (TD), and six at Choppington on 12th (JR). A maximum of five were at Holy Island on 23rd (MJC/AH/ADM/SR), where two pairs were watched nest building in the village during the month (IK). Five were also at Ellington on 1st (TB) and at Tynemouth on 3rd (CB). Four were at Prestwick Carr on 11th (MRS), High Buston on 15th (MKi), and at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 20th (BS). Two to three birds were reported from seventeen other locations, with singles at a further twenty locations.



Whitethroat Holywell Dene, Alan Jack

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Three singing birds were at Choppington on 12th (JR). Singles were reported from Holy Island, Grindon Lough NWT, Wideopen, Widdrington, Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor), Big Waters NWT, Wark (North Tyne) and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

The highest count came from Throckley Dene, where nine birds were singing on 20th (MH). Seven were counted in a BBS square at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 3rd (JR), and five were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 2nd (MJCo). Choppington had four on 12th (JR). At Hauxley NWT, three birds were ringed and three retrapped during the month (HRS).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Three were at Crooked Oak (Derwent Reservoir) on 19th (AJ) and three were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 30th (MJCo). An active nest was videoed at Jesmond Dene on 22nd (LMi), and a pair have been nesting and feeding young in close proximity to a Great Spotted Woodpecker nest in Armstrong Park, Jesmond during the month (DHWB). A pair at Northumberland Park (North Shields) had reared young by 18th (MNC). Singles were noted at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth), Greenhaugh, Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), Hexham, Ellington and Wark (North Tyne).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Five singing males were at Holywell Dene on 3rd (ASJ). Three were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 26th (IFo), and three, including one bird visiting a nest site, were at Plessey Woods CP on 30th (LJM). Two were singing at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 2nd (NFO), and two were at Bywell on 25th (BNR). Singles were recorded at ten other locations.



Northern Mockingbird,
Newbiggin,
Jack Bucknall,
7/5/21

Northern Mockingbird *Mimus polyglottos*

One was in Newbiggin on 7th (IF, TB, TRD/JD, AY). The bird was apparently first spotted by a toddler whose parents posted pictures on Facebook. It may be the same individual last seen in West Sussex in April, a third for Britain and a first for Northumberland.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

The largest flocks, including fledged young, were at St Mary's, with 200 on 31st (ASJ), and at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin), with 120 on 30th (RSt). 42 active nests were found during the month at Parkside (Cramlington) (SJL). Juveniles were noted at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor), with seven on 18th and 17 on 19th (GB), and at Chapel House (Newcastle), with one on 19th and seven on 23rd (MH). A single bird was ringed at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Two pairs were in the Upper Breamish Valley on 6th (MJC) and three birds were on Holy Island on 4th (MJC). Singles were at Budle Bay on 5th (CGK), Newbiggin on 7th (TB), Healey on 9th (BNR), and Pithouse Fell (Slaley) on 31st (BNR).

Ring Ouzel,
Holy Island,
Mike Carr,
8/5/21



Blackbird *Turdus merula*

A 3km circular walk at Horton Burn (Cramlington) yielded 34, mostly singing males, on 10th (LJM). There were 21 at Slaley village on 15th (RMH), 19 at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 3rd (JR), and 12 at Bywell on 25th (BNR). Five birds were ringed and seven retrapped throughout the month at Hauxley (HRT), and there were five at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 16th (MJCo). A white-headed singing male was at Woodhorn Church on 29th (GB).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Large flocks were still present early in the month, with 110 at Holystone on 3rd (ASJ), 90 at Otterburn on 6th (TRD/JD), and 70 on Holy Island on 5th (CB). There were 20 in the Fontburn area on 1st (TD) and three at Ord Manor (Berwick) on 2nd (MHu). There was an unconfirmed report of a single bird collecting food at Holywell village on 18th (ASJ).

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

There were seven late birds at Holy Island on 4th (MJC), another three there on 6th (CB), and a single straggler at the Ash Lagoon Bank (Newbiggin) on 11th (AP).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

There were at least five pairs on Holy Island on 7th (CB). Five were at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 3rd (JR), and there were three at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 16th (MJCo), Branxton on 25th (JAR), and East Hartford on 27th (LJM). Two singing birds were at East Cramlington Pond NWT on 1st (LJM) and at Longhorsley Moor on 6th (AB/LB), and two birds were also at Milkwell (Corbridge) on 25th (RB/MB). An adult and a juvenile were at Rothbury on 24th (JD), and a solitary juvenile was in the Harthope Valley on 13th (TRD/JD). One bird was retrapped at Hauxley on 9th and another was ringed on 15th (HRS).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

There were six at Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire) on 15th (AJH), five at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 29th (BNR), and five at Pithouse Fell (Slaley) on 31st (BNR). Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) and the Harthope Valley had two on 3rd (JR) and 30th (AY) respectively. There were singles at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 16th (MJCo), Killingworth Lake on 21st (GB), and at Rothbury on 24th (JD). The nest on Jesmond Dene Road appears to have been successful, with an adult observed on the nest on 3rd May, through to feeding large young on 19th (LMi).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

The earliest record was a surprise bird at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 11th (MH/AA). Four were at Holy Island on 13th (MJC) and two were at the Harthope Valley on 13th (TRD/JD). Two were at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 15th (ASJ), Kylee Woods on 17th (NNBC), Windyhaugh (Upper Coquetdale) (JR/NA) and the Upper Ingram Valley (TD) on 22nd, Blakehopeburnhaugh (Kielder) (TRD/JD) and Newbrough (ASJ) on 23rd, and at Bywell on 25th (BNR). Singles were at eight other locations.



Spotted Flycatcher,

Beacon Hill

Alan Jack

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

A 4km circular walk in Plessey Woods CP produced 15 singing birds on 29th (LJM). There were six at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 3rd (JR) and four at Holy Island on 9th (ADM), with three on the Straight Lonnen showing a greyish cast to the nape indicative of continental birds (IK). One bird was ringed and five retrapped at Hauxley (HRS). A nest with six eggs in a garden planter at Chapel House (Newcastle) failed when it became waterlogged after heavy rain (IK).



Bluethroat,

Holy Island,

Mike Carr,

21/5/21

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

A male bird made a five minute appearance alongside the path between Crooked Lonnen and the Lough on Holy Island on 21st (MJC/ADM) and was photographed before it disappeared.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Letah Wood (Hexham) had a maximum of five on 11th (MH/AA), including a male and a female inspecting a nest box. Three territories were noted at Derwent Gorge on 3rd (IFo) and a pair was at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (IFo). Two male birds were at Allen Banks on 16th (TD) and 26th (TRD). A singing male defending a nest cavity was at Wark (North Tyne) on 2nd. Singles were also reported from Holystone Woods, Blanchland and Juniper.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

There were only three records this month, with one at Longhoughton Steel on 6th (CSa), one at Warkworth on 14th (CSa), and one at High Newton on 26th (reported to TRD).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The highest count came from Longhorsley, with 12 singing males (four at Beacon Hill) on 15th (ASJ). There were eight singing males at Wark (North Tyne) on 30th (PRM) and six birds at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo). Five singing males were at Hareshaw Linn (Bellingham) on 9th, and Eals also had five birds on 27th (AJH). Four were present on Holy Island on 6th–7th (CB), 8th (MJC) and 9th (CB, MJC, IBDa/AH/ADM). There were three singing males and a female carrying food at Angerton (Wansbeck) on 9th (TD). Three territories were noted at Derwent Gorge on 3rd and 10th (IFo). Three singing males were at Warton on 1st (JD), North Wood (Holystone) on 5th (MKi) and 15th (IBDa/KDa), and at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 11th (MH/AA). There were two at Kyle Woods on 17th (NNBC) and at Hedgeley GP on 27th (TRD). Singles were reported from eighteen other locations.



Common Redstart, Holy Island, Colin Bradshaw, 21/5/21

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Upper Coquetdale had the largest number, with 15 singing males on 29th (ASJ). There were ten (five pairs) in the Upper Ingram Valley on 22nd (TD), seven singing males in the Breamish Valley on 15th (ASJ), and three at the Harthope Valley on 13th (TRD/JD). There were two males at St Mary's on 22nd (ASJ) and singles at seven other locations, including one at Newcastle Town Moor, where it is a scarce passage migrant, on 13th (GB).



Whinchat,
Ingram Valley,
Alan Jack

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

There were at least four pairs on Holy Island on 7th (CB) and a pair were nest building at The Snook on 8th (MJC). A pair with two fledged young was at the Straight Lonnen on 21st (IK) and a pair with three fledged young were observed on the island on 23rd (MJC/ADM). At Boulmer, two pairs had fledged young by 11th (BS) and a pair with four fledged young were seen at Longhorsley Moor on 31st (AB/LB). A bird with two young was seen at East Chevington on 22nd (RB/MB). Pairs were noted at ten other locations, with singles at a further six locations.



Stonechat,

Holy Island

Mike Carr,

23/5/21



Wheatear,

Otterburn Ranges,

Alan Jack

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The highest count came from Holy Island, with 38 on 12th (ADM), and there were 32 between Alnmouth and Longhoughton Steel on 1st (MJC). St Mary's had 19 on 9th (AC). There were 17 at Otterburn Ranges on 29th (ASJ), 16 at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 9th (CSa), and nine at Seaton Sluice between 8th–18th, with a maximum of five on 11th (SSWT). Smaller numbers were recorded at eleven other locations, with singles reported from a further eighteen locations. Greenland-type birds (*O.o. leucorrhoa*) were noted at St Mary's on 9th (AC) and at Holy Island on 6th (CB), and a single was at Berwick GC on 19th (BWG).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

A pair with at least two young were at Hareshaw Linn on 9th (MJC). A pair with young were also at Waren Burn during the month (GPK). Two were noted at Holywell Dene, Jesmond Dene, Rothbury and Ellington Dene this month. Singles were also seen at 12 other sites.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

100 were seen at Holy Island on 7th (CB). 62 were counted in Slaley Village on 15th (RMH). 19 at Cockle Park on 3rd was the only other report bar a juvenile at Chapel House on 22nd.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

19 were seen in Holywell Dene on (ASJ). One to four were at 20 further sites.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Eight were counted at Cockle Park on 3rd (JR). A pair with four fledged young were at Morpeth and also at Marden Estate from 1st (TD/ASJ). Two to six were ringed or retrapped at Hauxley during the month. One to two were seen at five other sites.



*Dunnock,
St Mary's Island,
Iain Johnson*

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Four were noted at Fourstones on 12th (AJH). Three were seen flying N on 2nd (DRW). Two birds were seen at four sites and singles at a further 11 locations.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*

One was seen at Druridge Pools on three dates (TF/MKi/BS).

Grey-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava thunbergi*

One was at Bothal Pond on 6th and 7th (TF/IF/TB/TD). On 12th, one was seen in flight and photographed on Holy Island (ADM). Another probable single was at Druridge Pools on 24 th (MKi).



Grey-headed Wagtail

Bothal Pond

Colin Bradshaw

7/5/21

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

14, seven pairs, were noted in Upper Coquetdale on 29th and 12, six pairs, at Breamish Valley on 15th(ASJ). A total of six was seen at Jesmond Dene on 30th (MJCo). Two pairs were at Hareshaw Linn on 9th and a pair feeding two fledged young were in Holywell Dene on several dates (MJC/ASJ). Pairs were seen at six other sites and singles at 19 places.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Noted as well represented in Upper Coquetdale on 29th, with 23 birds seen, and at Breamish Valley where 9 pairs were seen on 15th (ASJ). Birds were under-recorded elsewhere. A pair with three juveniles was at Boulmer on 31st (BS). Three were at Clennel on 24th (RB/MB).

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Six were at Snook (Holy Island) on 12th and four there the previous day and two on 15th (PRM/IF/BS). Two were also at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 2nd (BS). Single birds were seen at a further nine sites.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Birds were common at Otterburn Ranges where 180+ were noted, including many displaying and feeding young on 29th during a three-hour survey period (ASJ). 15 were at St. Mary's, including song-flighting males on 1st and thereafter during the month, with several carrying food (ASJ). At Healy, 12 were seen on 9th and at Pithouse Fell, ten on 31st. Five were at Grindon on 22nd (BNR) and one to two at three other sites. At the coast, several pairs were noted nesting on grassy cliffs at Cullercoats, Whitley Bay and Tynemouth (ASJ).

Tree Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Six were song-flighting at Wingates on 3rd, with four at Barley Hill that day (ASJ/IFo). Three were seen at Slaley Forest. One to two birds were observed at a further 14 sites this month.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

One was watched near Harbour Pools (Holy Island) on 4th (CB).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Song-fighting was watched at Cullercoats on many days, with a pair carrying food to a nest. One of this pair was watched feeding in local gardens. A pair was also at Tynemouth Priory cliffs on 10th (ASJ). The only other report was of one at Blyth Harbour on 5th (STH).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

A late bird was seen at 21st/22nd at Seaton Point (BS).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

24 at garden feeders at Rothbury was a high count for May (TRD/JD). One to seven were at four other sites.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

One was present at Holy Island on 4th, 5th and 8th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Additional record;

One was watched at Derwent Gorge on 15th **April**, being notable as a site first for this observer (IFo).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Nine was the peak count at Rothbury this month (TRD/JD). Six were seen at Morpeth on 19th (TD). One to four were at eight other sites during the month.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

13 were at St. Mary's on 4th and nine at Cramlington on 5th (ASJ/LJM). One to six were noted at 11 other sites.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

Four were seen at Boulmer on 3rd, with three remaining until 7th (BS). Two were observed at Pithouse Fell on 31st (BNR).

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

A large count was made on 10th of 80 at Crooked Oak (IFo). At least 55 were at Boulmer on 7th, with 35 remaining on 24th (BS/JAR). Around 40 were seen at Shillbottle on 3rd (MKi). Four -32 were also at nine sites this month.

Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

Two were at Holy Island on 13th (MJC).

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis caberet*

Considered numerous in Harthope Valley on 31st (BS). Ten attended garden feeders on 2nd at Wark. One to five were seen at nine other sites, including one at Holy Island on 16th.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Six were at Derwent Reservoir on 4th and five at nearby Crooked Oak on 26th (IFo). Two were watched flying E at Holy Island on 4th, with singles also seen there on 13th and 16th (MJC). Elsewhere, two were unusual at Newcastle Exhibition Park on 12th and one sang at Widehope on 2nd.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

16 were seen at Bomarsund on 9th, 14 near Morpeth on 3rd and nine at Choppington on 12th (JR). One to eight were seen at a further nine sites during the month.

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

A large count of 80 coming to Wark garden feeders was made on 2nd (MJC *et al.*). Ringing sessions at Slaley Hall saw 51 trapped on 9th and 47, including three juveniles, the first seen there this year, on 23rd and 21 (12 juveniles) on 30th (RMH). 40, including one juvenile, were at Humshaugh on 13th and 16th, with 30 present on 9th (SW). One to six were at ten other locations.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Ten km of roadside trees and bushes between Heighleygate and Todburn held 26 singing males on 15th (ASJ). 25 were counted singing in surveyed tetrads around Budle during the month (CGK). 11 were noted at Bomarsund on 9th and ten sang in Breamish Valley on 15th (JR/ASJ). One to eight, most being singing males, were noted at ten further sites.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

22 singing males were noted along the length of Upper Coquetdale on 29th (ASJ). 14 males sang at St. Mary's on 1st with ten seen there on 11th (ASJ/KWY). Seven males also singing on 20th at Seaton Point (BS). One to five were at a further 16 sites during the month.

ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

Escapes

No sightings

Hybrids

Canada Goose x Greylag Goose *Branta canadensis* x *Anser anser*

Singles were at Bothal Pond all month (TF), Hauxley on 18th (HRS) and Ellington on 19th (TB).

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings

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Berwick Wildlife Group, Hauxley Ringing Station, North Northumberland Bird Club, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

Apologies for any accidental omissions

BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Grouse to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Doves to Grebes), Clive Hampton (Oystercatcher to Redshank), Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Auks), Trevor Blake (Divers to Buzzards), Peter Fletcher (Barn Owl to Larks), Clive Hampton, Helen Snaith (Cetti's to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings).

Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Graham Sorrie (bulletin production).

Apologies for any accidental omissions

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

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RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to ntbc.records@googlemail.com

Please email for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: Please use of standard location names and include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. Subs are due on 1st October each year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website.

If you internet bank you can pay online: please include your name in the ref. It is helpful if you email me to let me know when you've made the transfer ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

If you decide to set up a standing order please date the first payment at least a fortnight from your posting date to allow time

to process with the bank. You can also set up your standing order directly with your bank if you wish; just let me know. Our bank details are on the membership form. For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

Finally, if you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome.

Jo Bentley - Hon Treasurer

Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2021 No 06

MONTHLY SUMMARY JUNE 2021

8th August 2021

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CONTENTS

CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHT

Quail	A good year with a number of calling birds, several first records for sites.
Snow Goose	37 seen flying S at Newton on 4th. Returning to feral site in Oxfordshire.
Greylag Goose	An estimated 3,600 including young at Derwent Reservoir on 8th.
Pink-footed Goose	Unusual late flock of 137 on 13th flying NW.
Ruddy Shelduck	Up to three at Druridge Pools and one at Castle Island.
Garganey	Pair on Holy Island Lough plus singles at Newham and Druridge Pools.
Gadwall	Unusual influx to Druridge Pools mid-month with peak of 84 on 11th.
Ring-necked Duck	Smart male at Bothal Pond from 10th to 19th.
Pacific Swift	First record for county. One over East Chevington on 12th.
Turtle Dove	One in private garden at Seaton Delaval for two days.
American Golden Plover	First-summer at Cresswell Pond on 12th and 13th.
Curlew Sandpiper	Single on Coquet Estuary on 11th.
Red-necked Stint	In gorgeous summer plumage on Blyth Estuary from 5th to 7th. 2nd county record.
Little Stint	Single at Blyth Estuary from 5th to 7th.

Red-necked Phalarope	Returning female for 7th year still at Grindon Lough until 27th.
Wood Sandpiper	Singles at Druridge Pools and Derwent Reservoir.
Spotted Redshank	Two in summer garb at Druridge Pools from 27th.
Greenshank	One at Fenham on 21st.
Sandwich Tern	Vis mig total of 1,677 past Budle Pt on 13th.
Pomarine Skua	Single N at Seaton Sluice on 21st.
Black Guillemot	Adult S past Seaton Sluice on 17th.
Black-throated Diver	Two summer-plumaged adults S past Seaton Sluice on 7th.
Spoonbill	Two at Budle Bay on 11th. Single at Druridge Pools and Cresswell Pond.
Bittern	One at East Chevington on 15th.
Bee-eater	One passed through Howick and Newton on 4th; both heard only.
Hobby	Sightings at Eals, Earsdon and Big Waters.
Woodchat Shrike	Female briefly at Hadston on 5th.
Bearded Tit	Pair at East Chevington until 19th.
Red-rumped Swallow	One flew through Budle Pt on 13th.
Cetti's Warbler	Singing males at three sites.
Wood Warbler	Sad decline with only a pair noted at Holystone and one singing at Derwent Gorge.
Great Reed Warbler	Notable singing male at East Chevington south pool from 4th to 18th.
Rose-coloured Starling	Influx with adults at Tweedmouth, Chatton, Budle Pt and Newbiggin.



The Druridge Pacific Swift by Jack Bucknall on 12th June

INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm.

FIELD TRIPS

On hold for the next few months.

Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

A male and two females were at Allenheads between 12th-10th (CB) and a male was at Plenmeller Common on 24th (PRM).



A fine male Black Grouse at Allenheads on 21st June by Colin Bradshaw

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

12 were at Allenheads (CB) and three at Plenmeller Common.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Three were at Bebside on 5th (JR), and one to two at Brier Dene Farm, the Harthope Valley, Hepburn, Newham Bog, Redesmouth and Swinhoe.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

At least four pairs were in the upper East Allen area between 12th-19th (CB). One to two were noted at Bothal Pond, Brier Dene Farm, Cocklawburn, Doddington, Eals bridge, Hemscott Hill, Newbiggin golf course, Nunriding Hall, St Mary's Island, Wark Common, Warkworth Lane, West Coanwood and Woolsington Ponds.

A Grey Partridge

Allenheads

21st June

Colin Bradshaw



Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Single calling birds were heard at High Barns, Chillingham on 1st (per HRS), Linden Hall on 9th (the first there in 18 years; NFO), Longhoughton Low Steads on 10th (BS), Shield on the Wall on 12th (PRM), Alnmouth dunes on 16th (CSa), and Wark Common on 20th (SW). Singles were flushed at Budle Bay (edge of saltmarsh) on 13th (CGK) and St Mary's Wetland on 29th (AC). An unusual record concerned one seen flying in off the sea along Tynemouth pier on 2nd (DRW).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Six were at Cockle Park Farm. A pair with a single chick were in a Rothbury garden on 12th, the male becoming a permanent fixture (TRD/JD). One to two were at five further sites.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

A pale-bellied *hrota* race bird flew N at Annstead on 3rd (DF). Others of this race were found (unseasonably) at Lindisfarne NNR, with one at Fenham on 13th, five on Fenham on 20th and six on 21st, while two were at Guile Point on 27th (RA).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

A total of 540 N and 77 S at Seaton Sluice was a record June total for the site. All passage occurred prior to 15th, with a peak of 180 N on 4th (SSWT). Passage to NW, N or NE also involved 60 at Boulmer on 4th (BS), 57 at Budle Point on 13th and 26 there on 6th (RA), 56 at Holy Island on 3rd (ADM), 36 at East Ord on 5th (MHu), and nine to 11 at Ellington, Holy Island and Wark. Southerly movement involved 50 off Amble on 12th (TB) and 12-26 at Cramlington, East Chevington and West Hartford between 4th-12th (ADM/DM/STH), while 29 flew W at Ellington on 1st (TB). Peak concentrations were 310 at Yarrow Slake, the Tweed Estuary on 17th (MHu), 233 at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (IFo), 189 (including four young) at Grindon Lough on 3rd (PRM), 110-148 at Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary; MHu) and Killingworth Lake (LJM), and 76 at Castle Island. Counts of 12-42 came from Berwick Old Bridge, Bothal Pond, New Water Haugh and West Ord, and one to four were at Cresswell Pond, Foxton Bend and Plenmeller Common. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Druridge Budge Pools	6-7	28	LJM on 7th. Includes broods from May.
Halton-Lea-Gate	4	15 (5,4,3,3)	SW on 3rd
Howick Quarry	2	9 (6,3)	BS on 2th
Middle Ord Pond	1	6	MHu on 6th
Woolsington Ponds	1	5	MH on 2nd (as May)
Black Lough, Edlingham	1	4	TRD/JD on 9th
Grindon Lough	1	4	SW on 28th (as May?)
New Water Haugh	1	4	MHu on 18th
Widdrington Moor Lake	1	4	LJM on 7th
Greenlee Lough	1	2	MRS on 13th
Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington	1	2	LJM on 16th

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

One was at Widdrington Moor Lake on 7th (LJM).

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

A bizarre record on 4th concerned a single flock of 37 picked up flying S at Budle Point (RA) and later watched flying S off the Long Nanny Estuary (GB/AIB/LAR). All were 'white-phase' except for a single 'blue-phase' bird.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

A total of 145 flew NW at Budle Point, including 119 on 4th (RA), and 14 flew N and 27 S at Seaton Sluice between 1st-10th (SSWT). Three flocks, totalling 21, flew S over the Cheviots on 11th (MJC). The Derwent Reservoir population numbered an impressive 3,600 (including young) on 8th (IFo). More modest numbers elsewhere involved 86 at Howick Quarry Pond on 15th (BS), 29-36 at Bothal Pond (TF) and Marden Quarry (KWY), nine to 16 at Grindon Lough, Killingworth Lake and New Water Haugh, and one to two at Foxton Bend and the Long Nanny Estuary. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Howick Quarry Pond	2	20 (11,9)	BS on 15th
Killingworth Lake	2	12 (9,3)	LJM on 15th (brood of 3 as May)
Bothal Pond	1	2	TD on 14th (as May?)
Black Lough, Edlingham	1	1	JD on 22nd
Plenmeller Common	1	1	PRM on 24th

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

A very late movement involved a total of 137 NW at Budle Point on 13th (RA). Singles were also at the Blyth Estuary, Bothal Pond, Budle Bay and Derwent Reservoir on various dates between 1st-27th.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Four flew N and six S at Seaton Sluice between 4th-9th (SSWT), and seven flew E at Cramlington on 10th (DM). The flock of moulting immature birds at the Tweed Estuary peaked at 326 at Calot Shad on 21st, while 126 were at Tweed Dock on the same date, and 76 at Yarrow Slake on 17th (MHu). Other peak counts were 55 at QEII CP on 13th (CDH), 48 at Castle Island on 15th (DM/PJA), 21-37 at Big Waters and East Chevington, and 14-18 at the Coquet Estuary and West Ord. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Big Waters	3	10 (6,2,2)	CDH on 13th
Linton Ponds	2	17 (9,8)	CDH. As May.
East Chevington	2	10 (5,5)	PRM on 10th (includes brood from May?)
Killingworth Lake	2	10 (5,5)	LJM on 15th. Brood of 5 noted in May joined by a second brood thought to have walked from Burradon Pond
Holy Island Lough	1	7	ADM/MJC. As May.
Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington	1	6	LJM on 16th.
Paddy Freeman's Lake, Heaton	1	4	MJCo. As May.
QEII CP	1	4	CDH on 13th
Whittle Dene Reservoirs	1	1	PRM on 10th.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

A total of 111 flew NW at Budle Point between 4th-13th, including 107 on 9th (RA), and 13 flew N and seven S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Numbers in Budle Bay rose from 120 on 11th (KWY) to 210 on 27th (CGK/GPK). Elsewhere, 31-34 were at the Blyth and Coquet Estuaries (TF/JFa/MSH) and Druridge Pools (PRM), 24 at Foxton Bend on 4th (AIB/GB/DM/LAR), three to eight at Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Guile Point, (Lindisfarne NNR) and the Long Nanny Estuary, and one to two at Charlton Mires, East Chevington, Grindon Lough and Holywell Pond, while three flew E at Derwent Reservoir on 28th. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Boulmer	5	--	BS on 25th. Includes broods from May?
Cresswell Pond	3	30 (11,10,9)	DLo/LJM between 10th-20th
Blyth Estuary	3	21 (11,5,4)	MSH/LJM between 5th-18th. All additional to May.
Castle Island	2	13 (8,5)	DM/PJA on 12th
Newstead Flash	1	7	CGK/GPK/RA on 26th
Budle Bay	1	3	CGK/GPK on 27th
West Ord	1	3	MHu on 27th
Willington Quay	1	3	CDH on 20th. Possibly from Howdon?

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Three were at Druridge Pools on 4th (TD) and two (both drakes where stated) there regularly between 1st-11th (GB/TRD/JD *et al.*). A female was at Castle Island on 28th (AC).

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Four females were at Highford Bridge, Morpeth on 30th (ADMc) and three females at Bakethin Reservoir on 27th (TRD/JD).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

At Holy Island Lough, a pair was present on 2nd (TRD/ADM), a drake on 13th (MJC/ADM) and one (unsexed) on 20th (RA). A drake was at Druridge Pools on 3rd (TRD) and one (unsexed) at Newham on 1st (RA).

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Peak site counts involved eight at Druridge Pools on 4th (DM *et al.*), four (three drakes) at Bothal Pond on 1st (TD), and three drakes at Low Newton scrape on 4th (TRD). Single pairs were at Grindon Lough on 1st (SW) and Monks' House Pool on 5th (KWY). Single drakes were also at Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, Newham Bog and St Mary's Wetland. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Bothal Pond	1	7	TF. Well grown young on 21st. Presumed additional to brood from May.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Single pairs flew S at Seaton Sluice on 7th and 17th (SSWT), and one flew N at Tynemouth on 27th (DRW). Good numbers at Druridge Pools included a peak of 84 on 11th (TRD/JD). Peak counts elsewhere were 49 at Castle Island on 15th (DM/PJA), 38 at Caistrion on 12th (JD), 21 at Bothal Pond on 27th (TF), 20 at Linton Ponds on 13th (CDH), and ten at Low Newton scrape (TRD). Three to seven were also at Charlton Mires, East Chevington. Marden Quarry and Monks' House

Pool, and one to two at Branton GP, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve and Howick Quarry. More unusual were a pair at Tyneview Park, Benton on 2nd and one on a small pool next to the main railway line at Benton on 9th (CDH).

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

One flew N at Tynemouth on 27th (DRW). Seven to 17 were frequent at Grindon Lough all month, with a peak of 19 (12 drakes) on 10th (PRM/MRS/SW). Small numbers were present at Budle Bay all month, peaking at 13 on 25th (CGK/GPK/RA). Nine were at Monks' House Pool on 28th and one to four there on several dates between 11th-23rd (RA/NFO/KWY), four drakes were at Big Waters on 20th (GB), up to four (three drakes) at Druridge Pools during the month (TRD/JD/PRM), and singles at Branton GP, East Chevington and Newton Pool. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Derwent Reservoir	3+	16+ (8,6,4)	IFo/DM/GB/LAR. Broods of 4 on 1st, 2 on 8th (depleted earlier brood?). New broods of 8 on 9th and 6 on 10th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Largest gatherings were 64 (all drakes) at West Ord on 20th (MHu), 30-36 at Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Derwent Reservoir and Monks' House Pool, and ten to 29 at Airy Holm Reservoir, the Blyth Estuary, Castle Island, Greenlee and Grindon Loughs, Holywell, Middle Ord and Wansbeck Business Ponds, Killingworth Lake and Newcastle Exhibition Park. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
ton GP	6	24 (5,5,4,4,4,2)	MJC on 23rd
Derwent Reservoir	4	31	IFo. All new broods between 3rd-18th
Holywell Pond	3-4	21+ (9,6,6)	MSH. 2 broods of 6 on 13th, brood of 4 (depleted earlier brood?) on 19th and brood of 9 on 29th.
Arcot Pond	3	11 (6,3,2)	LJM on 22nd
Wallsend Hall	3	11 (5,3,3)	CDH on 20th
Monks' House Pool	2	8 (6,2)	KWY on 30th
Jesmond Dene	1	9	MJCo on 20th
Burradon Pond	1	8	LJM on 15th
Byker	1	8	MH on 24th. Including 2 pale/leucistic young
Cresswell Pond	1	8	LJM on 20th
St Mary's Wetland	1	7	MSH. Well grown young on 25th
West Ord	1	7	MHu on 29th
Carterway Heads, Crooked Oak	1	5	IFo on 13th
Derwent Gorge	1	5	IFo on 1st
Cocklawburn Pond	1	4	MHu on 15th.
Newcastle Exhibition Park	1	4	GB. Fresh young on 21st with largely white adult female.
Milkwell, Corbridge	1	3	RB/MB on 21st
Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington	1	3	LJM. Well grown young on 16th

Teal *Anas crecca*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 21 N and eight S (SSWT), while 20 flew N at Tynemouth on 27th (DRW). Peak counts were 42 at Druridge Pools on 10th (PRM), 37 at Grindon Lough on 30th (PRM), five at Monks' House Pool on 28th (RA), and three at Low Newton scrape (TRD). One to two were also noted at Bakethin Reservoir, Black Lough (Edlingham), Budle Bay, Hauxley Reserve, and Linton and Middle Ord Ponds. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):



A Teal on 11th June at Druridge Pools by Tim Dean

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Derwent Reservoir	1	5	IFo on 6th

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

14 adults were at Holywell Pond on 19th (MSH) and up to nine (eight drakes) were at Bothal Pond during the month (TB/TD/TF *et al.*). One to two were also at Arcot, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, and Druridge Pools. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Holywell Pond	2+	16+ (12,4+)	MSH/LJM from 19th.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

A drake was at Bothal Pond from 10th-18th (AT *et al.*).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Peak counts were 36 at Bothal Pond on 14th (TD), 32 at Killingworth Lake on 15th (LJM), 31 at Druridge Pools on 8th (TF/JFa), 27 at Caistron (JD), and 11 at East Chevington and Linton Ponds. One to six were also at Arcot, Cocklawburn and Middle Ord Ponds, Branton GP, Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir, Holy Island Lough, Howick Quarry Pond, Milkhope Lake, Paddy Freeman's Lake (Heaton) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. More unusual were three drakes at the Blyth Estuary on 29th (LJM). Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Cocklawburn Pond	1	7	MHu on 28th
Holywell Pond	1	5	MSH. Fresh young on 29th

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

At Seaton Sluice, 23 flew N and 45 S during the month (SSWT). 400 were at Holy Island on 20th (RA), 92 at North Blyth on 17th (STH), 76 (all drakes) at Cocklawburn on 15th (MHu), 51 at Beacon Point, Newbiggin (STH), and 24 at Old Hartley (MSH). Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Budle Bay	4	30	TRD on 2nd. 3 creches and 25 young on 11th (KWY).
Coquet Estuary	2+	57	TD. 48 ducklings with 8 adult females. Also 7 and 2 young with other females on 6th
Blyth Estuary	2	4 (3,1)	LJM/PRM. 6 adult females with a single duckling from May brood and new brood of 3 fresh young on 6th.
Boulmer	1	14	MKi. 7 females and single creche on 6th
Holy Island	1	5	MJC. 5 adult females with young on 6th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Two moved N at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSWT) and one N at St Mary's on 30th (MSH).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Strong passage at Seaton Sluice involved 2,818 N and 935 S, the second highest June total for the site, and included 782 N and 359 S on 17th (SSWT). Passage at other sites involved peaks of 130 N at Annstead Point between 9th-30th (DF), 125 N at Hartley on 19th (KWY), 113 N and 87 S at Tynemouth on 27th (DRW), 90 S at Newbiggin on 17th (STH), and a total of 71 NW at Budle Point on 4th and 23rd (RA), while 17 moved N at St Mary's between 26th-30th (MSH). Few were noted on the sea, with 60 at Holy Island on 20th (RA), 50 off Cresswell on 28th (IRD), and 45 at Budle Point on 1st (RA) being the largest groups. Three to nine were also at Amble, Newbiggin and Stag Rocks. A drake was inland at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (IFo).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

At the regular breeding site, nine ducklings (and two adult females) were noted between 3rd-8th (same as reported in May?) and two lone ducklings were present on 22nd (JD/TRD/AMG/MG). One was at Bothal Pond on 11th (TRD/JD/KWY).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

A total of 46 flew NW at Budle Point between 9th-13th (RA), and seven flew N and 12 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). The regular summer gatherings around Lindisfarne NNR involved peaks of 130 at Fenham on 20th (RA) and 90 at Guile Point on 27th (RA). A peak of 42 was at Calot Shad, the Tweed Estuary on 21st (MHu), 37 were at Budle Bay on 21st (SW), 32 at the Blyth Estuary on 29th (LJM), and 17 at Amble Braid on 30th (NFO). One to two were also at Airy Holm Reservoir and Caistron. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Derwent Reservoir	1	3	IFo. 7-10 day old young on 11th.
Wark	1	3	RB/MB on 8th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Four flew NW at Budle Point on 9th (RA), two flew N at Tynemouth on 27th (DRW) and one N at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSWT). Six were at Longhoughton Steel on 6th (MKi), six off Newbiggin on 28th (STH), five at Budle Bay on 2nd, where a pair was noted on 6th (TRD). A pair was at Boulmer Haven on 15th (BS), and singles at the Blyth Estuary, Holy Island, the Long Nanny Estuary and Stag Rocks.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Two were at Beanley Wood on 15th (IBDa/KDa) and Craggside (Rothbury) on 23rd (TWi) whilst singles were heard or seen at Debdon (Rothbury) and Slaley Forest. Only a single bird was present at a site in Thrunton Woods on 21st that has held three to four birds in previous years (BS).

Swift *Apus apus*

Visible migration totals from Budle Point, all heading NW, were 19 on 4th, 46 on 6th, 14 on 9th, ten on 13th, a single on 13th and five on 23rd (RA). A total of 69 headed N over various parts of Holy Island on 13th (MJC/ADM) and the peak at Seaton Sluice was 21 flying S on 11th (SSWT). A single headed S at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) on 12th (RS). 120 were in a tight feeding group at a large insect hatch at East Holywell on 4th (ASJ), at least 100 were feeding at East Chevington on 12th (TB/ASJ), 80+ were feeding over fields at Old Hartley on 23rd (MSH) and 60 were at both Backworth on 10th (ASJ) and Big Waters NWT on 11th (ASJ per SPP). Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) held 20 on 11th and 34 on 18th, 19 were at Humshaugh, 18 in a BBS square at Bedlington, 16 at Ord Moor (Berwick) and one to ten at Allendale, Allenheads, Chapel House, Druridge Pools, Hazlerigg, Newcastle Town Moor, North Shields and Whittingham. Potential breeding was reported from Whitley Bay with 40 at a nest colony at on 28th (ASJ), three pairs nesting in 17th century Woodhouses Bastle (Harbottle) on 19th (ASJ), two prospecting cottage eaves at Shillmoor (Upper Coquetdale) on 20th (JR/NA) and a nest at Bellister Castle (Haltwhistle) (TWi).

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*

This mega-rarity was well watched and photographed at East Chevington on 12th (DE/JBu/TB/ASJ/CB/DM).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Two were at Bessie's Well (Bellingham), Derwent Reservoir, Spartylea, Thrunton Crag and Yardhope (Holystone). Singles were at Acton Fell (Blanchland Moor), Alnmouth Dunes, Alnwick Moor, Alwinton, Belford Moor, Bowden Doors (Belford), Cocklawburn, Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), Dean Gate (Blanchland), Debdon (Rothbury), Dipton Wood, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Featherstone Park, Felton, Greenhaugh, Harthope Valley, Holystone, Longframlington Common, Ouston Fell, Pithouse Fell, Slaley Forest, Widehope and Wingates. A very enthusiastic male at Winnows Hill (Slaley) made 104 calls between 09:10 to 09:35h on 13th (MH).

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

17 were at Southfield Green on 1st (DM), 11 were on the Gym Roof at Kingston Park Shopping Centre on 7th (AHB) and an unreported number were present in Jesmond Dene on 28th (MJCo).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Six individuals were at separate locations along Jesmond Dene (Extension Wood, North Lodge, Two Bridges, Coleman's Field, Shoe tree and Windmill Hill) on 20th (MJCo), five were at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 8th (TB) and Cresswell Pond NWT on 11th (TRD/JD) and one to four were at Crooked Oak, Druridge Pools, Elishaw Bridge, Ellington, Grindon Lough NWT, Mount Pleasant Farm (the Blyth Estuary), Sipton Burn (Allendale), Spindlestone, Widdrington and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

BBS survey results included 32 and 45 in a BBS Square at Bedlington on 3rd and 4th respectively, 36 at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 8th and 26 at Bebside on 5th (JR). Six were at Jesmond Dene (MJCo) and a pair were feeding young at North Shields in a nest in a small shrub less than one metre from the ground (MSH).

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

One visited garden feeders at Seaton Delaval on 5th and 6th (ASJ).

Turtle Dove

A garden in Seaton Delaval,

6th June by
Alan Jack



Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Eight were observed on visible migration heading NW at Budle Point on 6th, with three counted also heading NW on 9th (RA). Three were found in a BBS Square at Bedlington on 3rd, with 16 there on 4th (JR). Nine were at Ogle on 19th (AHB).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Regularly reported from East Chevington with a peak of three calling at the south end of the North Pool on 8th (TF/JFa). A single was heard squealing at Arcot Pond on two different dates and singles were also at Branton GP and Druridge Pools.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

12 adults and one juvenile were at Branton GP on 23rd (MJC), two pairs with broods of five and four were at Tyneview Park (Benton) on 18th (CDH), birds with broods of two and five were at Wallsend Hall on 20th (CDH), a total of eight at Hagg Bank (Wylam) on 2nd included five juveniles (MH); a pair with four juveniles at Woolsington Ponds on 2nd had their brood reduced to one by 14th which survived into July (MH); a pair with four young were at Holy Island (MJC) and an adult was with four new young at Exhibition Park on 11th (GB). A pair were with a recently-hatched brood of four youngsters at East Cramlington Pond NWT (MSH) and a single was with a brood of two at Linton Ponds. Breeding was also confirmed at Derwent Reservoir with five young seen on 15th (IFo) and a brood of three at Horton Burn (Cramlington) (LJM). Three were at Castle Island and also at Charlton Mires; a pair were at Catcleugh Reservoir and singles were seen at Allendale Town, Arcot Pond, Jesmond Dene, Plenmeller Common and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Coot *Fulica atra*

A total of 31 at Killingworth Lake on 15th included one new brood of three chicks and three broods of two (LJM). 18, including two on nests, were at Bothal Pond on 14th (TD), 15 at Linton Ponds on 13th included broods of one large chick and another recently hatched chick (CDH), eight were at Branton GP on 23rd (MJC) and three were at Heighley Gate Garden Centre. Breeding, as evidenced by young, was also noted at Burradon Pond (Cramlington), East Chevington North Pool, East Chevington South Pool, Middle Ord Pond (Berwick), QE11 CP and Woodhorn Flashes. Three were at Castle Island (DM) and one was at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd where it is deemed a scarce migrant (IFo). Unusually one was on the sea 200 metres offshore at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 19th (ADMc).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Three pairs were noted at East Chevington on 10th (PRM), a pair with two young were at Holywell Pond on 19th and 22nd (MSH/LJM), three birds were at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 14th (TRD) and two were attending a nest at Howick Quarry on 15th (BS). Birds were present at Gosforth Park on 4th, a new brood of one was at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 22nd (LJM) and singles were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir, Big Waters NWT, Cocklawburn Park, Linton Ponds, Middle Ord Pond (Berwick), Milkhope Lake (Blagdon) and Wallington.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Breeding reports were as follows.

Locality	Total	Date	Observer/notes
East Chevington	10	10th	Including a pair with two juveniles (PRM).
Derwent Reservoir	10	13th	Three pairs in total (and an occasional single adult) with one pair having four new young on 13th which survived until 28th at least (IFo).
Killingworth Lake	9	15th	Brood of two large young on main lake and three well grown young on small lake (LJM/MSH).
Big Waters	6	21st	Five adults and one small chick (GB).
East Chevington	4	4th, 7th, 11th	One pair with two chicks (TD/LJM). One of the adults was observed attacking a Little Grebe (TRD/JD).
Holywell Pond	3	13th	Two adults with one large juvenile (MSH).

Non-breeding reports included six birds at Widdrington Moor Lake on 4th (TB), five at Cresswell Pond on 11th (TRD/JD), four at Bothal Pond, with possibly two nesting sites, a pair at Airy Holm Reservoir that left after a second failed nesting attempt, a pair at Whittle Dene Reservoirs and singles on the sea at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) and Boulmer on 11th (TRD/JD), four at Bothal Pond, with possibly two nesting sites, a pair at Airy Holm Reservoir that left after a second failed nesting attempt, a pair at Whittle Dene Reservoirs and singles on the sea at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) and Boulmer.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

A flock of non-breeding birds was reported from Lindisfarne NNR, with the peak being 200 at Guile Point on 27th (IK/RA). Other coastal groups were at the River Blyth Estuary where a minimum of 15 on 5th increased to 32 by 29th (MSH/LJM/STH) and 21 were at nearby Newbiggin on 16th (AP). Eight were at both Cocklawburn on 15th and Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary) on 27th (MHu) and a pair successfully raised three young from a shoreline site at Budle Bay (CGK/GPK). Inland, the highest counts came from Derwent Reservoir where 23 adults were seen on 27th (IFo) and Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) where the maximum was nine on the same date (IFo). Six were feeding in fields at Big Waters on 20th (GB) and two pairs were at Hexham and Sipton Burn (Allendale) with single pairs reported from Derwent Reservoir, Cramlington High School, Eals (River South Tyne) and Catcleugh Reservoir (all PRM). One-two were seen at Acton Fell, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Gosforth, Grindon Lough and Plenmeller Common.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Well reported from Druridge Pools with a variety of counts, with a low of two on 10th and a high of 22 on 29th (MH/TB/TRD *et al.*). Reports of young at Druridge Pools were four chicks on 8th (TF/JFa), two large young on 13th (TB) and one well grown juvenile on 30th (NFO). Birds were reported from other nearby locations and probably relate to the same birds, with 20 flushed by a Sparrowhawk at Warkworth Lane on 8th (TB) and 16 at Cresswell Pond on 22nd (NFO) where one bird was seen incubating on 16th (MN). At Low Newton scrape, seven birds were present on 15th with two relayed clutches after the first clutch was presumably predated by a suspiciously lurking Heron by the nest site on 8th (TRD/JD/AMG/MG).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

The first post-breeding flocks were reported, with the largest being 112 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (IFO). Other significant sized flocks were 79 at Eals Bridge (River South Tyne) on 24th, 71 at Castle Island on 15th (DM), 40 at Druridge Pools on 10th (both PRM), 36 at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 13th (IFo), 25 near Belford on 23rd (DF), 23 at Hartley on 27th (MSH) and 20 at Beal on 13th (RA). Breeding reports were two young at Bothal Pond (TD), three well grown chicks at Cooper's Flash (Bothal) (TF), one large and one small young at Boulmer (BS), a new brood of three at Arcot Lane (LJM) and one chick at Charlton Mires. One-14 were seen at Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Budle Point, Charlton Mires, Grindon Lough, Quarry Cottage, Whittingham, Whittle Dene and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Ten pairs were on the moors at Allenheads from 12th-19th (CB). Two pairs were at Ouston Fell on 15th (PRM) and a pair with one chick were at Haltonlea Fell on 1st (SW). At the coast, 14 were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 28th (STH) and one-two were at Beal, Old Hartley and St Mary's Island.

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

A first-summer bird was present at Cresswell Pond from 12th-13th (TB/KWY/TRD/JD).



The American Golden Plover at Cresswell Pond on 12th June by Tim Dean

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

At Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR), 100 had gathered by 27th. Boulmer held three-six during the month (BS/NFO).

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Some coastal areas still held notable numbers with 70 counted at Boulmer on 12th (BS) reducing to 14 on 21st (NFO). The maximum at the River Coquet Estuary was 47 on 12th (CSa) and a peak of 37 was reached at the River Blyth Estuary on 5th (AC). The Long Nanny Estuary attracted 12 on 2nd (TRD) and ten were at the Snook (Holy Island) on 13th (ADM). Pairs were reported from Cocklawburn, Derwent Reservoir and the Long Nanny. Two-three were seen at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough and Low Newton scrape.



A Ringed Plover at Sleekburn by Iain Johnstone

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubious*

Six were at Mootlaw Quarry, (Ryal) including a pair with four small chicks on 29th (ALT). Two pairs were present at Grindon Lough with display and building a nest scrape noted (PRM/SW) and two-three pairs were at Derwent Reservoir all month (IFo). A pair was also at an undisclosed site in the north of the county (NFO). Singles were at Holywell Flash on 7th (MN) and at Druridge Pools on 27th (TF).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Singles flew S at Newbiggin on 7th and Seaton Sluice on 11th (AP/SSWT) and N at Seaton Sluice on 14th (SSWT). Three were at Boulmer on 20th (BS) and the River Blyth Estuary on 29th (LJM). Single birds were seen at Druridge Pools, Fenham (Lindisfarne NNR) Newbiggin, Quarry Cottage, the River Coquet Estuary and Tynemouth.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 102 (92N, 10S SSWT). Other passage counts were 38N in one hour at St Mary's Island on 26th and 38N at Tynemouth the next day. (MSH/DRW). At Budle Point, 30 flew NW on 23rd (RA). The largest concentration at the coast was 250 at Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 27th (RA). Other coastal flocks were 80 at Druridge Pools on 4th (TD) declining to eight on 10th (PRM). The River Blyth Estuary attracted 79 on 29th (LJM) with 17 at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) on 18th, 14 at Budle Bay on 21st and 12 at the Long Nanny Estuary on 5th. Nine were seen at Newbiggin and Old Hartley towards the month end. At inland localities at least ten were at Plenmeller Common on 24th (PRM), nine at Grindon Lough on 12th (PRM), four pairs with young at Blanchland on 20th (AJR), eight birds at Alnwick Moor on 4th (TD) and six were at Airy Holm Reservoir on 6th (IFo). Two pairs were reported from Allendale Town, Brocolitia, Halton-Lea-Gate (plus chick) and Sipton Burn (Allendale) during the month (PRM/SW). An interesting lowland breeding record was three near Big Waters including one small young on 5th (Ian Davidson per GB). One-two were seen at Acton Fell, Bellingham, Catton, Cramlington, Featherwood MOD range, Nunriding Hall (1 chick), Quickeningcote, Stewartshields (Otterburn), Sweethope Lough, Whittingham and Widehope.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Seaton Sluice Watch Tower reported a monthly total of three N during the month and singles flew N at Tynemouth on 27th, St Mary's Island on 26th and 30th (SSWT/DRW/MSH). At Lindisfarne NNR 250, non-breeding plumaged birds were at Black Law on 27th with 50 at Guile Point on the same day probably involving some of the same birds (IK/RA). 12 first-summer birds were at Budle Bay on 27th and one-four were reported from Boulmer, Druridge Pools and Hauxley.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Most reports centred on the wetlands of Druridge Bay with counts varying between one and 17 made at Druridge Pools (TRD/JD/NFO *et al.*). Similarly, just further south at Cresswell Pond numbers varied between one-six during the month, with probably some interchange between sites (MN/DLo/TB *et al.*). At Warkworth Lane Ponds, 13 were flushed by a Sparrowhawk on 8th and headed towards Cresswell Pond (TB). Two-nine were seen at East Chevington North Pool, Grindon Lough, Guile Point, Holy Island, Low Newton and Monks' House Pool.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

The summering flock at Boulmer remained with a high of 80 recorded on 25th (BS). Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) attracted a maximum of 12 on 5th (TRD). Eight were at Football Hole (Low Newton) and three were at Longhoughton Steel.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Holy Island retained birds with 200 noted on 20th (RA). A flock of 80 was at the Farne Islands on 4th (TRD) and 50 were at Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 27th (RA). Three were at Boulmer on 14th and singles were seen at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 12th and 16th (different birds) and at the River Coquet Estuary on 6th.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

As usual most reports came from Druridge Pools with reports of one to three during the month (TRD/JD/TF *et al.*). A single was at the River Coquet Estuary on 17th (CSa).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

A single was reported from the River Coquet Estuary on 11th (CSa).

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

A superb breeding-plumaged adult was discovered at the River Blyth Estuary from 5th-7th by Alan Curry (AC *et al.*). This is the second county record since the first in 1995.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Seven flew N at Tynemouth on 3rd (DRW) and three flew NW at Budle Point on 4th (RA). Small numbers were still at Boulmer with a peak of 34 on 12th (BS). At other sites, 20 were seen at Football Hole (Low Newton) on 5th (TD), nine at Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 27th, six at Annstead (Seahouses) on 9th and two at the Long Nanny Estuary on 2nd and Beacon Point (Newbiggin).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Low numbers were seen at the coast with the highest count being at Boulmer where 28 were present, many in breeding plumage on 12th (BS/MKi). The River Coquet Estuary held 11 on 12th (CSa), with the peak at the River Blyth Estuary being eight on 5th (AC). Maximum numbers elsewhere were five at the Long Nanny Estuary, four at Grindon Lough, two at Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir and Druridge Pools.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Singles were seen at Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 27th and Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 28th (RA/AP).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

A single was at the well birded River Blyth Estuary on 5th-7th. (AC/DMc/PRM *et al.*).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Two were at Debdon (Rothbury) on 19th (TRD/JD) and Slaley Forest on 7th (MB/RB). Single 'roding' birds were seen at Craggside (Rothbury) on 17th & 23rd (TWi), Featherstone Park on 16th (TWi), Slaley Forest on 18th (AJH) and Thrunton Woods on 21st (BS). A single was at Dalton (Hexham) on 9th (RMH).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Ten were reported from Allenheads on 12th-19th (CB). Six were displaying on the Otterburn Ranges on 19th (ASJ) and single displaying birds were at Brocolitia on 12th (PRM) and Rothbury on 27th (NFO). Calling birds were detected at Debdon (Rothbury) and Prestwick Carr) and singles were at Acton Fell and Castron. The peak at Druridge Pools was four on 19th where two displaying birds were seen on 13th (TD/TB/PRM). One juvenile was seen at this site on 30th (TRD/JD).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

The regular returning female was reported at Grindon Lough from 3rd-23rd (MN/CB/SW *et al.*).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

At the Breamish Valley, 12 pairs were on territory on 27th and nine pairs were on territory in Upper Coquetdale on 19th (ASJ). Hedgeley GP held 14 birds on 30th (NFO) and six pairs were at Hepple on 19th (ASJ). Four (including one young) were at Merrishields (Stocksfield) on 18th (RB/MB). Confirmed pairs were reported from Catcleugh Reservoir, Deadwater (Kielder), Langley Dam and Wark. Five-six were seen at Derwent Reservoir all month and one-three were Bakethin (Kielder), Branton GP, Castron, Catton, Eals, Eals Bridge, Farnley (Corbridge), Harthope Valley and Hulne Park (Alnwick). At the coast, singles were at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 21st and Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 29th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Two were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 25th (MJC) with singles seen at Druridge Pools on 25th (ADMc), Hedgeley GP on 30th (NFO) and Holywell Pond on 19th (MSH).

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

Birds were reported from Grindon Lough all month with a low of two and a high of ten (PRM/MRS). Eight were at Derwent Reservoir on 15th (IFo) and one-four were seen at Boulmer, Castle Island, Cresswell, Druridge Bay and Pools, Foxton Bend and Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Presumed late migrants were at Druridge Pools on 10th & 19th (DLo/TD) and at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (IFo).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

All reports were of summer-plumaged adults at Druridge Pools, with one on 22nd increasing to two from 27th-30th. (NFO/TF/TRD/JD *et al.*).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Singles were at Fenham (Lindisfarne NNR) on 21st (RA) and in the wader roost at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 27th (AP).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

On 25th, 230/h moved N at Berwick Pier and at Cocklawburn 90/h passed N on 23rd (MHu). Counts of 200-300 came from Coquet Island, the Farne Islands, the Tweed Estuary and Tynemouth but few birds were reported elsewhere.



A pair of Kittiwakes on the Farnes by Tim Dean on 4th June

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

At Budle Point, 336 moved NW on 13th. A breeding colony of 200 was found at Dodd Reservoir (Allenheads) holding nests with eggs and a few juveniles (MH) and at the large colony on Plenmeller Common at least 50 juveniles were counted on 24th (PRM). Numbers seen elsewhere were 108 adults in the Blyth Estuary (LJM) and 40-50 were found at Greenlee and Grindon Loughs during WeBS counts (MRS).

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

At Cresswell Pond, up to eight birds, the majority immatures, were present throughout the month and a flock of six immatures flew past St Mary's Wetland on 8th (JBu). One or two were recorded also at other sites in Druridge Bay and also further north at Budle Bay/Point and Monks' House Pool.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

Two singles flying N at Seaton Sluice was the monthly total (SSWT) and three, of different ages, were recorded at Boulmer, East Chevington and Newbiggin. Single birds were also seen at the Coquet Estuary, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and Howick with a single adult present in the Plenmeller Black-headed Gull colony (PRM).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Apart from 80+ at Boulmer on 26th (BS) very few were recorded with only one to seven at six widespread localities.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Nine were at Castle Island, six at Longhoughton Steel, two at East Chevington and one to five at Grindon Lough on various dates throughout.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argenteus*

The maximum count was 383 in the River Blyth Estuary (LJM) with smaller totals of 285 at Beacon Point (Newbggin), 100+ N at Annstead, 150+ at St Mary's Island and 80 at Longhoughton Steel. Nesting pairs were present at Berwick (Union Bridge), Cramlington (Bassington Drive), Howick Quarry, River Blyth (jetties, power station, staithes) and Wallsend (Davy Bank and Willington Gut).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

At Annstead, 80 flew N on 30th (DF) and migration NW of 15-20 was noted on three dates at Budle Point (RA). Near Slaley, 40 gathered on farmland (RMH) and numbers elsewhere comprised 12 at Monks' House Pool, six at Grindon Lough with one to four at a dozen other sites. Nesting records were seven pairs at Blyth Power Station (LJM), one at North Blyth staithes (a first record) (STH), a single chick at Cramlington (LJM) and one pair on a house in Jesmond, Brandling Park which was not welcomed by the home owners (GB).

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

At Budle Point on 13th 1,677 were counted flying NW (RA) and 45 flew N at Annstead on 30th (DF). At Beacon Point, Newbiggin 70 were present on 28th (STH), 20 were at the Farne Islands on 4th (TRD) and one to five at East Chevington and Bamburgh.

Sandwich Tern

- Amble Harbour
-
- 3rd June
-
- TRD

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

On 27th 90 were seen at Guile Point, Lindisfarne NNR (RA) and the largest of several counts at the Long Nanny colony was 12 on 25th (AMG/MG). Elsewhere one to five were recorded at Annstead, Boulmer, Budle Point, East Chevington, Holy Island, Howick and St Mary's Island.

Little Tern

Newton

21st June

Colin Bradshaw



Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

At Boulmer, 33 fed offshore on 20th (BS), two roosted at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 12th AP) and one was seen on Holy Island on 20th (RA).



A Roseate Tern on Coquet Island 3rd June by Tim Dean

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Four localities held nesting pairs, namely the Royal Quays, North Shields, where the nesting platform held 60 birds plus 14 young (ASJ), Gosforth Park NR where the platform had 21 birds (MH), North Blyth staithes with ten AONs (STH) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs with two pairs on the raft (PRM). At East Chevington, a maximum of seven were on the North Pool, four were at Cresswell Pond and one or two at Bothal Pond, Coquet Island, Druridge Pools, Exhibition Park, Hauxley, Killingworth Lake and Wallsend (Willington Gut).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

The largest of several counts at the Long Nanny burn mouth colony was an estimated 2,000 on 15th, a big increase in the usual numbers, probably due to the large colony on Inner Farne, Farne Islands being deserted this year; the colony on Brownsman, Farne Islands held 300, ca.200 were on Coquet Island and 50 at Black Law, Holy Island (all TRD). Single-figure counts came from Budle Point, Cocklawburn and East Chevington.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

The adult bird first seen last month at the Long Nanny burn mouth was again there on several days from 4th-23rd.



Black Tern - Long Nanny 15th June Tim Dean

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

During the month, three flew N at Seaton Sluice from 19th-21st (SSWT) and single birds moving N were recorded at Annstead on 9th, Tynemouth on 20th, Stag Rocks on 21st, Goswick on 22nd, St Mary's Island on 26th, and Annstead on 28th.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

A sub-adult moved N past the watch-point at Seaton Sluice on 21st (SSWT).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

From 21st-26th, 13 N and one S, flew past at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). Four singles, all moving N, were recorded at Boulmer, Budle Point, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth on dates from 23rd-27th.

Auk *sp*

Short periods of sea-watching at St Mary's Island on three days recorded movement N with a maximum of 75/h on 30th (MSH).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*/**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

At Seaton Sluice, movement in good numbers was recorded throughout with a regular maximum of 300/hour (SSWT).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Specific counting of Auk sp. on 21st at Seaton Sluice recorded 1,190 N and 120 S in seven hours which comprised around 80% of the Auk total that day, described as the regular proportion (SSWT). An estimated 5,000 were counted on the Farne Islands on 4th (TRD) and smaller counts elsewhere ranged up to 78 at Bamburgh, Berwick Pier, Coquet Island, Hartley, Holy Island, Longhoughton Steel and Low Newton.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Specific counting of Auk sp. on 21st at Seaton Sluice recorded 250 N and 20 S in seven hours which comprised around 80% of the Auk total that day, described as the regular proportion (SSWT). Fifty were seen on the Farne Islands on 4th (TRD), four at Coquet Island on 3rd (TRD) and three at Hartley (KWY).



A Razorbill on the Farne Islands 4th June by Tim Dean

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

One summer-plumaged bird flew S at Seaton Sluice on 17th (MH/SSWT).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Ca.2,000 were seen on Coquet Island on 3rd (TRD), ca.1,000 on the Farne Islands on 4th (TRD) and regular movements N were recorded at Seaton Sluice with a maximum of 315 in two hours (SSWT), Tynemouth with a maximum of 100/h (DRW) and Annstead (DF). Small numbers were recorded at four other localities.



A Puffin at the Farne Islands on 4th June by Tim Dean

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

The monthly total for Seaton Sluice was 44 birds, with 33N and 11S (SSWT). Four birds flew N at St Mary's Island on 26th (MSH) & two were flying at Budle Point on 23rd (RA). Single birds were at Annstead (Seahouses), Hartley, Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Two summer-plumaged birds flew S together at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 7th (SSWT).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Two flew N at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 23rd (MHu) and one flew N at Seaton sluice watch Tower on 7th (SSWT).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

The highest counts came from Annstead Point (Seahouses) 37 N on 12th and 11 - 37 N on several dates (DF). Ten were at The Farne Islands on 4th (TRD) and ten flew N at St Mary's Island on 26th (MSH). Six were on the cliffs at Howick Quarry on 15th (BS); five were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 4th (DM) at Berwick Pier on 25th (MHu). Two nesting pairs were at Union Bridge (Berwick) on 15th (MHU) and one to four were noted at six sites including a bird circling around Murton Village several miles from the sea on 1st (ASJ).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

The monthly total from Seaton Sluice Watch Tower was 602 birds with very few records before 14th when 128 flew N & 4 flew S, and on 18th when 122 flew N and 20 flew S. 110 birds flew N at Boulmer in 10 minutes on 15th (BS). At Tynemouth on 20th 50 flew N & three flew S (DRW) and on 26th 45 flew N (MSH), 26 birds went past Hartley on 19th (KWY). One to seven birds were noted at Annstead (Seahouses), Boghall Rocks (Cresswell) & Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

600N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower in 3h on 30th (SWT) was the highest count, followed by Annstead (Seahouses) with 388 N in 2h 10mins on 30th (DF), with several counts of between 47 and 195 on numerous dates (DF). 42 went past St Mary's Island on 26th (MSH), 40 were at Holy Island N Shore on 2nd (TRD) and at St Mary's Island on 21st (MSH). 30 were at Hartley on 19th (KWY) and 15 were at the Farne Islands on 4th (TRD). One to two were noted at Coquet Island, East Chevington and Low Newton.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

At Annstead (Seahouses) 36 birds flew past with 28 N and 8S on 23rd (DF), East Chevington peaked at 34 birds on 11th (TRD/JD) and 29 - 31 birds were noted there on 10th, 13th and 28th. Blyth Harbour had 17 birds present on 19th (STH), 16 were at Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 27th (RA) and at St Mary's Island on 30th (MSH). Derwent Reservoir had a monthly max of 13 birds (IFo). One to 13 were at Annstead (Seahouses), Cresswell, East Chevington and Exhibition Park (Newcastle), a "*sinensis*" race bird was at East Chevington on 30th (NFO).

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At the Farne Islands on 4th ca.100 birds were noted (TRD). Seaton Sluice Watch Tower had 14 birds with 10N and 4S (SSWT) and four birds were at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 1st (MHu).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Two birds were at Budle Bay on 11th (GPK). A bird was observed flying from Cresswell Pond area towards Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 8th but it turned back towards Cresswell (TB). This individual was noted at Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools throughout the month (DLo *et al.*).

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

A bird flew low overhead at East Chevington on 15th (MRS).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

11 birds were noted at Druridge Bay on 10th (DLo), Ten were at Monks' House Pool on 28th (RA) and nine were at Yarrow Slake (R Tweed Estuary) on 18th (MHu). One to six birds were at 23 sites during the month.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Up to nine birds were present in Budle Bay throughout the month (RA/GPK *et al.*). Five birds were in a huddle at Cresswell Pond on 29th (MH) with up to three birds being seen throughout the month. Two birds were at the Causeway on Holy Island on 2nd (TRD), Castron on 12th (JD), Yarrow Slake (R Tweed Estuary) on 18th (MHu) and on the R Blyth Estuary on 19th (LJM). Single birds were seen at Whorlton Lane (Callerton) flying E following the Ouseburn towards Woolsington on 7th (MH) and Holywell Pond on 19th (MSH).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

At Kielder Dam three birds were seen on 8th (ASJ) and two were at Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 27th (RA). Single birds were observed at Derwent Reservoir on several dates (IFo/MJC/MN) and other birds were seen flying towards Kielder from the Sweethope Lough area on 4th (IK), at the long Nanny (Newton) on 5th (TD), Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 13th (IfO) and Halton-Lea-Gate on 23rd (SW). A bird was seen from the hide and the viaduct at Bakethin on 27th (TRD/JD).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Two birds were at Eals (River S Tyne) on 28th (MJC/AJ/TW). There were only 21 records this month from 17 locations including a female flying with food, indicating urban breeding at Leazes Park (Newcastle) (IK).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

An immature bird was being pursued by two Common Buzzards *Buteo buteo*, at Burntshieldhaugh (Hexhamshire) on 12th (MH) and a female was at Grindon Lough NWT on 17th (PRM).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Five birds were at East Chevington on 5th with three on the south pool and two on the north pool (CB), with two pairs noted on territories on 4th (DM) and 19th (MH). Up to three birds were noted there throughout the month. Single birds were at Holy Island on 2nd and 5th (ADM), Budle Point on 6th and 13th (RA) and at Beal also on 13th (RA).

Marsh Harrier

East Chevington

1st June

Tim Dean

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

A female was seen moving N at height at Allenheads on 5th (MH). Another female was at a confidential site on 24th (PRM).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Three birds were seen at Carterway Heads (Crooked Oak) on 1st and 10th (IFo) & Snods Edge on 23rd (IFo). Two birds were present at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (IFo) and at Eals Bridge (S Tyne) on 24th (PRM). Single birds were at Allenheads, Carterway Heads (Crooked Oak), Derwent Reservoir, Fenham, Halton-Lea-Gate, Low Waskerley, Mickley Square, Powburn, and Wark (N Tyne).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

At Eals (S Tyne) seven birds were noted on 28th (MJC/AJ/TW) and six birds were there on 24th (PRM). Four birds were at Pundershaw (Wark Forest) on 5th (PRM), Arcot on 10th (ASJ), Lucker Hall Farm on 23rd (RPo) and Dipton Mill on 27th (PRM). Three birds were at Crooked Oak, Holywell Pond, Newham Bog and Plenmeller Common. One to two birds were at 17 sites during the month.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

There was only one multiple report of two at Derwent Reservoir on 15th with singles there on 8th and 22nd (IFo). One flew regularly in the evening from 18th at Sleafy Hall and at Cresswell Pond on four dates during the month with single birds at 13 other widespread localities.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Two males and two females were at Wallington on 8th (SW), a male and female at Low Trewhitt on 2nd with two males at Cragside (Rothbury) on 17th (TWi). Single birds were heard or seen at nine other locations with a young bird calling at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 1st.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Singles were at Derwent Reservoir on 7th and 28th (IFo), Backworth on 13th, Whitley Bay on 19th, Big Waters NWT on 20th and Wark (North Tyne) on 21st.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

A pair fledged three young at a site in the south east of the county (JBu) with one hunting over ash lagoons at Newbiggin on 1st.

A young Long-eared Owl

- 27th June
-
- Jack Bucknall
-
- North Tyneside

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

A pair was occasionally at Allenheads during the month (CB) with singles flying out to sea at St Mary's on 2nd, at Shield on Wall on 3rd and Holy Island on 3rd, Boulmer on 15th and Plenmeller Common on 24th.

A Short-eared Owl

Allendale

Colin Bradshaw

21st June

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

A pair carried food to a nest hole in the Morpeth area on 23rd (ADMc) with two at Fourstones on 1st with a single there on 17th (AJH) at Castron on 12th and Derwent Reservoir on 22nd.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

A calling bird flew N at Howick at 10.15 on 4th (MJC) and was subsequently heard at Long Nanny Burn mouth (GB).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

At Mickley Square on 26th seven were caught with four new birds, three of which were juvenile and three re-traps (DLe). Three were on feeders at Tynemouth on 1st and at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th & 15th (CB/TB) with a pair feeding young at nest entrance to Beacon Hill Lodge on 1st (LJM). Two were at Felton Lane on 4th and two juveniles at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 17th with singles there regularly and at 11 other locations.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

An adult with one young was at Hethpool (College Valley) on 17th (JD) and one was yaffling at Dipton Mill on 27th (PRM).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

For the second year a pair fledged at least two young from a crag nest site under Holy Island castle walls (IK) with three noted there on 13th (ADM) and at Greenhaugh on 8th, Grindon Lough NWT on 17th and Plenmeller Common on 24th. A pair carried food to a crag nest site at Tynemouth Priory on 5th with two at Eals (S Tyne) on 24th and 28th and Grindon Lough on 31st. Singles were at 12 other widespread localities with one preying on juvenile Pied Wagtails in a family party at Sandham Bridge (Holy Island) on 27th.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

A male with prey was at Halton-le-Gate on 29th and a male at Brocolitia on 30th (SW).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

One hawked for insects at Big Waters NWT for 90 seconds on 5th (GB) with one W over fields at Earsdon on 10th (MNC) and an adult circled over the river at Eals Bridge (S Tyne) for one minute on 24th (PRM).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

A pair with one fledged juvenile was at Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal) on 29th (ALT) with an adult male occupying a former nest site in the county but no sign of breeding (IK). Singles were at Holy Island on 3rd, Thrunton Crag on 4th, Rothbury on 8th, Lynemouth on 15th, Beanley Plantation on 17th and Fenham on 21st.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

One to three were at Preston Road (North Shields) on 11th (DLo).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

A female was at Hadston (Druridge Bay) on 5th (MN/CB/TB).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

A pair were seen with two fledged young at Rising Run CP (Wallsend) on 21st (ASJ), three in a BBS square at Bedlington on 3rd (JR) with two at Bomarsund on 10th, Ellington on 24th and Dipton Mill on 27th. Singles were at Ellington regularly and at ten other locations.

Magpie *Pica pica*

A late evening gathering of around 18 in horse pasture at Mickley Square on 14th saw three of the birds mobbing a fox for five minutes (DLe). Seven were counted on BBS survey at Bedlington on 4th, six at Bomarsund on 10th (JR) with five at Jesmond Dene on 6th and three in BBS at Bebside Blyth on 5th. Three juveniles between N. Seaton and Newbiggin on 30th had all been run over (RS).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

BBS squares held 34 at Bedlington on 3rd and 11 at Bebside (Blyth) on 5th with 17 at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 8th (JR), four at Jesmond Dene on 13th and three NW at Budle Point on 6th.

A Rook-
QEII-Park
21st June
Colin Bradshaw

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

On 17th 77 foraged in pasture at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) with 60 doing likewise at Slaley on 7th (IFo) and more than 20 at Cramlington High School on 5th (DM).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

18 were at Widehope on 1st (JD), six at Jesmond Dene on 20th (MJCo) and an adult fed two juveniles at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) from 1st to 4th (RS).



A Carrion Crow taking Kittiwake eggs
Tynemouth
21st June by Alan Jack

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

One was in Holystone Forest on 1st (AMG/MG).

Raven *Corvus corax*

High counts came from Stone in the Mire OTA with 16 on 13th and 15 on 20th (JR/NA). Two were at Eals Bridge (S Tyne) on 24th and flew north at Halton-le-Gate on 29th.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

A family party of at least four (two juveniles) was at Big Waters NWT on 5th (GB), one in BBS square at Bebside (Blyth) on 5th and Grindon Lough on 30th (PRM).

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Two were in the Fontburn area on 1st and at Ellington on 28th (TD/TB) with singles on feeders at Longdyke (Shilbottle) on 1st, singing at Felton on 10th & 20th, at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 27th and heard at Old Railway line (Rothbury) on 29th.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

All reports were of singles: at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 2nd and several other dates (NFO), Derwent Reservoir and Newbiggin on 22nd, Brier Dene (Whitley Bay) on 25th and a garden at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 27th. One juvenile was caught and ringed at Corbridge Common where not seen or heard previously (DLe).

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

BBS squares held seven at Bedlington on 3rd and five on 4th with six at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 8th (JR) and one at Jesmond Dene on 6th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

There was just one report of two at Jesmond Dene on 20th (MJCo).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

At least three, including one male, were at North Pool (East Chevington) on 4th (TD/GB) with two there on 10th & 11th and singles on three dates in between and on 1st and 12th with one sighting at South Pool on 5th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Large counts of singing birds included 250 at Otterburn Ranges, 100 at Sandysike (Greenhaugh) and 40 at Sweethope, all on 19th (ASJ). 16 were singing at Weetslade CP on 2nd (LJM), 12 at Choppington on 7th and five at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 8th (JR).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

A high count was of 76 perched on wires at West Ord (Berwick) on 27th (MHu) with colony counts of 50 at Breamish Valley on the same date (ASJ), 30 in 21 nest holes at Alwinton and 35 nest holes at Windyhaugh (Upper Coquetdale) on 13th (JR). Seven pairs nested in cliffs at Cullercoats with fledged young totalling around 30 on 20th (ASJ), 20 at nest holes at Close House (R.Tyne) and 15 at chalk cliff holes on 2nd (MH). Ten were at Tynemouth on 3rd with five nests at Whittingham on 21st, four moving NW at Budle Point on 9th and noted at Wark on 8th, Stocksfield on 18th and Farnley (Corbridge) on 30th.



Juvenile Sand Martins avoid Alan Jack's eye at Cullercoats on 24th June

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

'Vis mig' was noted at Budle Point on 9th with 764 flying NW and 21 likewise on 6th, eight on 4th and two on 13th (RA) with around 25 low over the estuary at Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary) on 25th (MHu). On 19th 36 were found at various farm nest sites at Otterburn Ranges and 30 at Upper Coquetdale on the same date with 30 feeding at Swallow Pond (Wallsend) on 2nd (ASJ). Eight nesting pairs were noted at Brenkley (Blagdon) on 8th, six at Elsdon and Rochester on 19th, five at Backworth - East Holywell on 10th, four at Murton (nr Shiremoor) on 1st and Whitley Bay Cemetery with young on 25th (ASJ). Two to seven were at Bedlington, Holystone, Morpeth and present at Cresswell.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

One was noted flying NW at Budle Point on 13th (RA).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Nesting pairs gave the largest counts with 17 at Forget-me-not Caravan Park (Longhorsley) on 16th, 15 at Barrowburn (Upper Coquetdale) on 19th, eleven at Ingram (Upper Breamish Valley) on 27th and ten at Holystone on 19th (ASJ). 'Vis mig' noted at Budle Point with 14 north west on 9th, seven on 6th and four on 13th (RA). More than 15 were at Swallow Pond on 14th with one to six at Bedlington, Cramlington, Powburn and Druridge Bay.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

There were singing birds at Fenwick Pit (East Holywell) on 1st and 15th (MNC), East Chevington on 1st and 3rd (TRD), on 4th (DM/AJB/GB/LAR) and on 8th (TF/JFa), and at Big Waters NWT on 5th and 20th (GB).

May correction

The Cetti's Warbler at Fenwick pit and North Tyneside read as if two were noted. This is in fact, the same site and only one bird was involved.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

A party of 19 was in a garden in Rothbury on 19th (HS). Family groups were noted at Fenwick Pit (East Holywell), with 12 on 8th (MSH), and at Marden Estate (Tynemouth), with ten on 12th (ASJ). A pair with six juveniles was at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 8th and 11th (DM). Two pairs and two immature birds were in the Fontburn area on 1st (TD) and a fledged brood of six was at Holywell Pond on 29th (MSH). Six were at Prestwick Carr on 2nd (CDH), three at Eals Bridge (South Tyne) on 24th (PRM), and two at Grindon Lough on 30th (PRM).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

There were only three records submitted for June, with a pair at Holystone on 3rd (NFO), singing birds at Derwent Gorge on 1st and 6th (IFo), and at Crooked Oak on 1st (DM).

May correction

May's records should have included the first return of a singing male at Derwent Gorge on 5th May (IFo), twelve days later than in 2020. At least one bird was seen and heard there during the rest of the month (IFo).

The two Wood Warblers on 9th at Derwent Gorge and 19th at Crooked Oak are the same two birds at one location.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The largest counts of singing birds came from inland locations, with 38 in the Breamish valley on 27th (ASJ), 24 at Yardhope (Holystone) on 19th (ASJ), and 20 at Todburn (Longhorsley) on 15th (ASJ). There were 14 in the Fontburn area on 1st (TD), six at Blackaburn (Stonehaugh) on 5th (PRM), and six at Hepburn Woods on 30th (KWY). Linbriggs (Upper Coquetdale) had five on 1st (MKi), and Pundershaw (Wark Forest) had five on 5th (PRM). There were four at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 8th (JR), at Lucker Hall Farm on 23rd (RPo), and at Grindon Lough NWT on 30th (PRM). Smaller numbers were reported from twelve other locations throughout the county.

May correction

It should read "There were 17 at East Cramlington Pond LNR not NWT on 1st (LJM)"



A displaying Willow Warbler. Backworth 15th June by Alan Jack

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

There were 11 at Bedlington on 3rd (JR) and ten at Hepburn Woods on 30th (KWY). Seven were at Bomarsund on 10th (JR), and seven singing birds were also between North Walbottle and Whorlton on 27th (MH), and at Dipton Mill on 27th (PRM). There were six at Holystone on 3rd (NFO), six at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 8th (JR), and five at Bebside (Blyth) on 5th (JR). Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had four on 6th (MJCo), and Silverlink CP (North Shields) had three on 12th (MSH). Two were reported from Holy Island, Gosforth Park (Newcastle), Wark (North Tyne) and Druridge Pools, and singles were at thirteen other locations.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

A singing male was at East Chevington South Pool from 4th (TB, TD, DM/AJB/GB/LAR) to 16th (MN). The bird was both seen and heard singing loudly on reeds on 5th (MN, CB), 6th (PRM, KWY), 7th (TRD/JD), 9th (TB), 10th (DLo, PRM), 11th (TRD/JD, TB, MN), and on 12th (TB, TRD/JD).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

There were five pairs at Backworth Pond on 15th (MNC) and three pairs at Cocklawburn on 1st (MHu). There were six on Holy Island on 3rd (ADM), with three singing males at the Lough on 13th (MJC/ADM). Four singing birds were at Prestwick Carr on 2nd (CDH), St Mary's Wetland on 5th (ASJ), and at Cramlington Hospital on 9th (LJM). Two singing birds were at Weetslade Colliery CP on 2nd (LJM), and singles were reported from Woolsington Ponds, Cresswell, Druridge Pools, Whittle Dene Reservoirs and Ryle Mill (Whittingham).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

QEII CP (Ashington) had seven singing birds on 13th (CDH) and Holy Island had four singing at the Lough on 3rd (ADM), 6th (MJC) and 13th (MJC/ADM). There were four birds, including three singing males, at East Chevington on 10th (PRM). A pair was active round the Ridley Hide at Gosforth Park on 4th (DLo). Singles were at eleven other locations, including one at Heighley Gate Garden Centre (Morpeth) on 1st (LJM) and one at Burradon Pond (Cramlington) on 15th (LJM), firsts at the locations for the observer.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

There were three singing birds at Prestwick Carr on 10th (PRM) and at St Mary's on 28th (ASJ). Two were singing at the Tyne Tunnel Trading Estate on 5th (ASJ) and at Grindon Lough NWT on 12th (PRM), and a 'vis mig' total of two were observed flying NW at Budle Point on 4th (RA). Singles were heard reeling on several dates during the month at Linden Hall (Longhorsley), East Chevington, and Druridge Pools, while birds were also heard at five other locations. One was seen as well as heard at Low Newton scrape on 8th (TRD/JD).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Breeding was confirmed at Holywell Pond, where a pair with a fledged brood and another male singing nearby were noted on 29th (MSH). The highest counts came from Bedlington, with ten on 3rd (JR), and Bebside (Blyth) with six on 5th (JR). Five singing males were at Tynemouth (two at Priors Park and three by NSFQ) on 3rd (CB), and five were at Bomarsund on 10th (JR). Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had three on 6th (MJCo), as did Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 8th (JR), and Lucker Hall Farm on 23rd (RPo). Three singing males were at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 9th (IK). Two singing birds were at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (DM/GB/AJB/LAR), Allendale Town on 3rd (PRM) and Dipton Mill on 27th (PRM). East Cramlington Pond NWT also had two on 18th (MSH), and there were reports of singles at a further ten locations, including one of a late migrant at The Snook (Holy Island) on 2nd (ADM).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Breeding was confirmed at Branton GP, where a pair with three young were observed on 15th (IBDa/KDa). There were three singing at Brenkley (Blagdon) on 8th (ASJ). Two were present at Catton between 12th and 19th (CB), and two were also at Felton Lane on 4th (TB) and Yardhope (Holystone) on 19th (ASJ). Two singing birds were at Dipton Mill (PRM) and Rothbury (NFO) on 27th, and at Hepburn Woods on 30th (KWY). Singles were reported from fifteen other locations throughout the county.

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

There were eighteen records of this species throughout the month, all of single birds, mostly heard singing from cover. One was heard in a hedgerow near Shilbottle on 1st (MKi), and one was at Budle Point on 1st and 6th (RA). A late migrant was on the Straight Lonnen (Holy Island) on 2nd (ADM), and birds were heard on 2nd at Weetslade Colliery CP (LJM) and Newton (TRD). Singing birds were reported at East Chevington during the first half of the month, with one at the North Pool on 8th having been present since May (MH/AA). Song was heard at both the North Pool (GB) and the South Pool (DM/AJB/GB/LAR) on 4th. Singles were also at Derwent Reservoir, Cramlington, Blyth Power Station, Ovington, and Arcot Pond.

Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

At Tynemouth, fledglings were observed as early as 3rd (CB). Breeding was also confirmed at Old Hartley, where three pairs on 23rd (MSH) included one pair feeding fledged young. At Prestwick Carr on 2nd, a count of six birds included four singing males and two females carrying food (CDH). The species was reported from twenty-eight other locations throughout the county, including eight at Choppington on 7th (JR), six at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 8th (JR), and six at Bomarsund on 10th (JR). There were five singing birds at Weetslade Colliery CP on 2nd (LJM), and five at Lucker Hall Farm on 23rd (RPo). Four were at Cochrane Pike (Whittingham) on 2nd (CW), Bebside (Blyth) on 5th (JR), Druridge Pools on 10th (PRM), and four were counted during a three mile circular walk at Wallsend on 20th (CDH). Lower numbers were at nine other locations, with singles at a further ten.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Two were singing at Valley Park, Cramlington on 1st and 5th (DM). Single singing birds were at St John's (Annitsford) on 6th (DM), Grindon Lough NWT on 17th and 30th (PRM), Big Waters NWT on 20th (GB) and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 20th (MJCo).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Twelve birds were counted in a BBS Square at Bedlington on 3rd (JR). There were six at Bebside (Blyth) on 5th (JR), and at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 13th (MJCo). Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) had five on 8th (JR). During June, a pair were nesting in the side of the compost heap at TD's garden in Fulbeck (Morpeth).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

There were only six records this month, with four at Humshaugh on 27th (SW). Singles were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Arcot Pond, Letah Wood (Hexham), Dipton Mill and Gosforth Park.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Two were at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (IFo), and at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 24th (IFo). Singles were at the Harthope Valley, Hulne Park (Alnwick), Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), Rothbury, Jesmond Dene, Humshaugh, Grindon Lough, and Farnley (Corbridge).



A Treecreeper at Northumberlandia by Iain Johnstone

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

An adult and a first-summer bird were reported at Newbiggin GC on 4th (TB, TF, TD) and at Spittal Point (Newbiggin) between 12th and 15th (RSt, TB, MN, DM). One was reported at Chatton on 17th (HRS), and an adult male was in a garden at West End (Tweedmouth) on 19th (BWG).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Approximately 1,000–1,500 birds were observed feeding in a newly-cut silage field at Mount Pleasant (Blyth Estuary) near the Slek Burn on 11th (LJM, MSH). Movement was noted at the coast, with 69 NW on 4th and 60 NW on 9th at Budle Point (RA). Lower numbers were reported from Bedlington, Bebside (Blyth), and Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth).



A Juvenile Starling

St Marys

17th June

Alan Jack

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

There were 36 at Bedlington on 4th (JR), 21 at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 8th (JR), and 14 at Bebside (Blyth) on 5th (JR). Four were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 6th (MJCo), and two newly-fledged juveniles were at Chapel House (Newcastle) on 30th (MH).

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

A single late migrant was at Budle Point on 4th (GPK).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

The highest count came from Ingram (Breamish Valley), with 15 on 27th (ASJ). There were six at Bedlington on 3rd (JR), four singing at Plessey Woods CP on 5th (LJM), and four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 20th (MJCo). Three were at Bebside (Blyth) on 5th (JR), and at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 8th (JR). Two were singing at Tynemouth on 3rd (CB), and one sang throughout the month at Fulbeck (Morpeth) (TD). One was heard mimicking Great Reed Warbler song at the South Pool (East Chevington) on 20th (ADM/DE).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Breeding was confirmed at Whittingham, where an adult was observed with four juveniles on 22nd (CW), and at Newcastle, where one was seen feeding two well-grown young in the grounds of St Nicholas' Hospital on 16th (MRS). Two juveniles were also at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 22nd (LJM). Plessey Woods CP had two on 5th (LJM), and Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) had two on 8th (JR). A single bird was at Big Waters NWT on 20th (GB).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

There were four pairs, including one with two fledged young, at Ingram (Breamish Valley) on 27th (ASJ). Four pairs at Hesleyside (Bellingham) included one incubating in a tree hole nest on 8th (ASJ). A pair was feeding four young at Hareshaw Linn (Bellingham) on 26th (SW). Nesting pairs were observed at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 1st (LJM), and at Newbrough on 8th (ASJ). Two were singing at Holystone on 3rd (NFO), and a pair was in a garden at Harbottle on 30th (MKI). Singles were reported from a further fourteen locations.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

There were only six records submitted this month. The highest count came from Bedlington, with eight birds within a BBS Square on 3rd (JR). Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had five on 20th (MJCo), Bebside (Blyth) had three on 5th (JR), and Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) had two on 8th (JR).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Breeding was confirmed at Eals (South Tyne), with a female observed feeding at least two juveniles on 28th (MJC/AJ/TW). Two singing birds were at Crooked Oak on 1st (DM/GB/AJB/LAR), and singles were singing at Derwent Reservoir and Holystone on 1st (DM/GB/AJB/LAR) and 3rd (NFO) respectively. A male bird was at Derwent Gorge on 6th (IFo).

Pied Flycatcher-

Letah-Woods-

21st June

Colin Bradshaw

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

There was widespread evidence of breeding this month, with six in a family group at Warks Burn (Stonehaugh) on 8th (ASJ), five in a family group at Yardhope (Holystone) on 19th (ASJ), and a pair with at least two juveniles at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo). A pair was observed feeding young in the nest at Eals (South Tyne) on 28th (MJC/AJ/TW), and a male was seen carrying food at Felton Lane on 4th (TB). Five singing males were in the Edlingham area on 6th (JD), and three were in the Fontburn area on 1st (TB). Singles were reported from a further nine locations.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

The Upper Coquetdale yielded the largest number, with thirteen pairs counted over 3 km on 19th (ASJ). The Breamish Valley had seven pairs on 27th (ASJ), and the Milkhope Valley had five nesting pairs on 19th (ASJ). Two pairs were at Yardhope (Holystone) on 19th (ASJ), and a pair was observed with food at Cochrane Pike (Whittingham) on 17th (CW). Singles were reported from Halton-Lea-Gate, the Harthope Valley, Widehope, Hethpool (College Valley), and Debdon (Rothbury).



Whinchat - Harthope Valley 5th June by Tim Dean

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Breeding pairs and juveniles were reported throughout the month, with seven juveniles (no adults) moving as a group through clearfell at Kielder Forest Drive on 22nd (MH). Three pairs have bred at Boulmer this year, including a pair with two fledged juveniles at Seaton Point on 25th (BS). At Seaton Sluice, a pair with two juveniles from the the previous brood were observed feeding a second brood in the nest on 29th (ASJ). An adult and two young were at East Chevington on 5th (RB/MB), and a male and two juveniles were at the Holy Island excavations on 13th (ADM). A pair was observed feeding young in the nest at Ridsdale on 19th (ASJ) and a male and a juvenile were at Warkworth Gut on 21st (NFO). Solitary juveniles were noted at the cycle way at Chevington on 19th (MH), at Old Hartley on 16th and 27th (MSH), and at St Mary's on 26th (ASJ).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Only three records were submitted this month. Upper Coquetdale had the highest count, with 34 on 19th (ASJ). Two females were at the Crooked Lonnen (Holy Island) on 2nd (ADM), and a single bird was on the beach at St Mary's on 10th (AC).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

A pair with one young were at Hulne Park on 26th (RB/MB). Single birds were seen at six further sites.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

41 were counted in a survey at Bedlington on 4th (JR). One to 17 were at five other sites.

House Sparrow

Northumberlandia

Iain Johnstone

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Six plus were at Holywell Pond on 13th (MSH). Six seen at Branton on 3rd (JD). One to five noted at another 14 locations.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

12 were counted at Bedlington on 3rd, with 11 there the following day (JR). Three to eight were also at three sites, including three juveniles at a Chapel House garden (MH).



Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

One female with four recently fledged young was seen at Whittle Dene on 19th (IK). One to two were seen at Wark on three dates (PDM/RB/MB/Twi). Singles were seen at ten sites during the month.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Four pairs were located at Allenheads during the month (CB). Three pairs fed young at Hareshaw Linn (Bellingham) on 26th (SW). Four birds were seen at Jesmond Dene on 13th (MJCo). Four also along the South Tyne at Eals on 26th (MJC/AJ/TW). Two were seen at three sites and singles at 12 during the month.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

A good breeding season was indicated locally, with 46 (38 juveniles) feeding at Whitley Bay Mini-Golf Course on several days during the final week (ASJ). Elsewhere, the only reports were of two at Charlton Mires and a single bird at Cockle Park (Morpeth).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A four hour survey at Otterburn MOD Ranges on 19th revealed a healthy population, with 300 plus noted, including many pairs feeding young and song-fighting males (ASJ). Earlier that day, a minimum of 60 pairs was counted on fells at Sandysike /Hareshaw Burn (Greenhaugh), with much display and many birds feeding young (ASJ). Eight were found to be nesting on 27th at North Walbottle /Whorlton (MH). Nests were destroyed by mowing of fields and promenade banks at St Mary's in the final week of the month(ASJ).



Meadow Pipit - St. Mary's Jack Bucknall 12th June

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Four were singing at Holystone on 3rd (NFO). A pair plus another displaying male were at Sweetthope on 19th, with two noted displaying here on 17th (ASJ/AJR). Two were displaying at Longhorsely Moor on 1st (LJM). Two also displaying at Ouston Airfield on 20th (DLe). Song – fighting males were also noted during the month at Snods Edge, Ingram and Stonehaugh.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

The sole report involved five at Holy Island on 2nd (ADM).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

12 were at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 8th (JR). Eight at Jesmond Dene on 6th (MJCo). Five were seen at two further sites.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Adults, ten with five juveniles, attended garden feeders at Rothbury on 22nd (TRD/JD). Eight were seen on a cycle ride at Callerton on 18th (MH). A pair with four fledged young were watched at Gosforth Garden village on 22nd (MJC). One to six were seen at a further nine sites.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Eight were seen at Bedlington on 4th and at St. Mary's Wetland on 6th (JR/ASJ). A pair with three juveniles was at Morpeth on 3rd (TD). One to four were at six other locations.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

35 were watched feeding in a seeded area at Thornbrough (Corbridge) on 13th (DLe). 21 were at Weetslade on 2nd (LJM). One to ten were seen at seven other sites during the month, including several singing males at St. Mary's.



A Linnet at Holywell on 20th June by Alan Jack

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis caberet*

18, comprising two family groups, were counted at Greenhaugh on 19th (ASJ). Birds were noted as abundant at The Wanneys on 4th, with display/song noted (IK). Two fed at feeders at Warkworth Lane on 22nd (TB).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

At least 100 were at Holystone on 3rd (NFO) and 30 seen at Kyloe Woods on 20th (GPK). Six were noted at Winnows Hill 3rd and at Linden Hall on 26th, with four, two juveniles, at Sidwood on 8th (ASJ/NFO). Singles were seen this month at Widehope and Branton.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

27, including juveniles fed at St. Mary's in the final week (ASJ). Seven were seen at Bedlington on 8th (JR). Up to seven were at garden feeders at Marden Estate during the month (ASJ). One to three were seen at ten further sites.



Goldfinch at Beacon Hill
Jack Bucknall on 5th June

Siskin *spinus*

20 were noted at Humshaugh on 27th (SW). One to three were noted at ten locations.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citinella*

Seven were at Weetslade Colliery on 2nd and at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 8th (LJM/JR). Six were seen at Choppington on 7th and four at Bebside on 5th (JR). One to four, mostly singing males, were reported at 11 other sites this month.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

20 singing males were counted at St. Mary's Wetland/fields to Old Hartley on 22nd (ASJ). 19 males sang on territory along the river at Upper Coquetdale on 19th (ASJ). 15 sang at East Chevington, on 18th where three females were also seen. Eight males were also at Cresswell that day, six at Druridge (ASJ). Seven, five males, were seen at East Chevington on 10th (PRM). One to four were also noted at ten other sites, including a female carrying food and three males at a small reedbed at Cramlington Hospital.



Reed Bunting - St. Mary's Island - Jack Bucknall 12th June

ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**Escapes****Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

Up to four were at Derwent Reservoir during month (IFo).

Wild Turkey *Melagris gallopavo*

One was in set-aside at Druridge Lane on 5th and 9th (TB).

Hybrids

No sightings

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings

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Berwick Wildlife Group, Hauxley Ringing Station, North Northumberland Bird Club, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

Apologies for any accidental omissions

BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Grouse to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Doves to Grebes), Clive Hampton (Oystercatcher to Redshank), Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Auks), Trevor Blake (Divers to Buzzards), Peter Fletcher (Barn Owl to Larks), Clive Hampton (Waders), Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings).

Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Graham Sorrie (bulletin production).

Apologies for any accidental omissions

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Clive Hampton is Data Manager.

Edited by Steve Barrett NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to ntbc.records@googlemail.com

Please email for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: Please use of standard location names and include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. Subs are due on 1st October each year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website.

If you internet bank you can pay online: please include your name in the ref. It is helpful if you email me to let me know when you've made the transfer ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

If you decide to set up a standing order please date the first payment at least a fortnight from your posting date to allow time to process with the bank. You can also set up your standing order directly with your bank if you wish; just let me know. Our bank details are on the membership form.

For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

Finally, if you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome.

Jo Bentley - Hon Treasurer

NTBC WEB SITE

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds.

There are:

Photo Galleries – Here you can view hundreds of photos of birds from Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Members are encouraged to contribute their own photos. Simply send them to galleries@ntbc.org.uk

There are also County Checklists, Records Committee updates, Information on important Surveys, useful articles and reports on Bird ID and Overseas Birding Trips....and much more...

Please submit any other new content for the website to the main club email address at ntbcorg@gmail.com

New content such as Birding Trip Reports etc., is always welcome and very much appreciated.

To find out more please visit www.ntbc.org.uk

A Skylark

Otterburn

Alan Jack

8th June





A Common Sandpiper at Allenheads on 21st June by Colin Bradshaw



A Shag - Farne Islands 4th June Tim Dean

Northumberland and Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2021 No 07

MONTHLY MAY JULY 2021

11th September 2021



CONTENTS

Colour ringed birds at St. Mary's – Mike Hodgson

County Records Committee recruitment

CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Greylag Goose	Worrying count of an estimated 4,300 including young at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd.
Ruddy Shelduck	Singles at Derwent Res, Castle Island, Hauxley and Budle Bay.
Curlew Sandpiper	Singles at Budle Bay on 16th and Lindisfarne NNR on 11th.
Temminck's Stint	Adult at Cresswell Pond on evening of 15th.
Wood Sandpiper	One to two at several sites.
Spotted Redshank	One to two at Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools.
Little Tern	100 - 120 at Ross on 9th and 10th.
Roseate Tern	High count of 83 feeding off Boulmer on 25th.
American Black Tern	Summering adult at Long Nanny since 18th May. Identified from photos.
Pomarine Skua	Single adult with 'spoons' south at Budle Pt & Stag Rocks on 24th..
Soft-plumaged Petrel	Astonishing record of one tracked up the coast on 1st. 2nd West Palearctic record.
Great Shearwater	One seen landing on sea with a feeding flock off Tynemouth on 31st
Gannet	An idea of passage in county indicated by 900 per hour at Seaton Sluice on 26th.
Great Northern Diver	One N at Low Steads on 25th.
Spoonbill	One to two at Druridge Pools, Cresswell Pond, Budle Bay and Fenham Flats.
White-tailed Eagle	One seen over Ross on 9th.
Bearded Tit	Pair at East Chevington until 10th.
Cetti's Warbler	Singing male still at East Chevington.
Yellow Wagtail	First recorded breeding on Holy Island.
Siskin	63 trapped at Slaley Hall during month included 44 juveniles.

INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finishing between 9.00pm-9.30pm. The next meeting is on 14th October.

The 2021 **AGM** will start at 7pm followed by **Goldeneyes** by Phil Hanmer.

FIELD TRIPS

On hold for the next few months.

Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Ten were at Simonside on 26th (IRD) and three at Winnows Hill, Slaley (PRM).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

One to three were noted at Derwent Reservoir, Halton-Lea-Gate and Haltwhistle Common.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

A pair with five young were at Ratcheugh farm, Longhoughton on 20th (BS), six recently hatched young hid in grass at Warkworth Lane on 9th (TB), and a pair with three young were at Boulmer on 24th (BS). One to two were seen/heard at Druridge Links-East Chevington, Newbiggin, Wark Common and West Ord.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*
Up to four were at Druridge Pools/Links.



Pheasant
Rothbury
8th July
Tim Dean

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*
A pale-bellied *hrota* race bird was at Holy Island until 11th (RA/BS). An un-raced bird flew N at Boulmer on 25th (BS).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*
Seven flew N at Seaton Sluice on 7th (SSWT). Peak numbers involved 407 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (PRM), 210 at Yarrow Slake, the Tweed Estuary on 9th (MHu), 118 at Hauxley Reserve on 28th (MHu), and 114 (including two well-grown young) at Killingworth Lake on 26th (LJM). Counts of 22-42 came from Druridge Pools, and Greenlee and Grindon Loughs, 13-20 from Monk's House Pool and Plenmeller Common, and six at Middle Ord Pond.

Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Ladyburn Lake	1	5	LJM on 13th
Black Lough, Edlingham	1	3	JD on 5th. As June?

A pair with nest was noted at Yarrow Slake on 2nd (MHu).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
Seven flew N at Ord Moor, Berwick on 25th (MHu). A substantial 4,300 (including young) were noted at Derwent Reservoir on 7th, with a steady dispersal from mid-month which left 1,000 by 31st (IFo). Other peak counts were 350 at Airy Holm Reservoir on 16th (IFo), 137 at Grindon Lough on 16th (PRM), 52 at Marden Quarry on 11th (KWY), and 23-42 at Bothal and Holywell Ponds, Druridge Pools, Kielder Dam, Killingworth and Milkhope Lakes, and Plenmeller Common. Ten to 11 were at East Chevington and Hauxley Reserve, and three at Black Lough and Wark.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*
Singles were at Airy Holm Reservoir on 27th (IFo) and Bothal Pond all month (TD/TF).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*
284 moulting birds were at Calot Shad, the Tweed Estuary on 31st (MHu), 63 were at QEII CP on 17th (CDH), 39 at Killingworth Lake on 11th (LJM), 16 at Druridge Pools (IDR), and five to seven at Ellington, Greenlee Lough, Hauxley Reserve and Jesmond Dene.

Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless stated otherwise):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
East Chevington	2	7 (5,2)	PRM. Brood of 5 on 8th and brood of 2 on 7th. As June?
Ladyburn Lake	1	5	LJM on 13th.
QEII CP	1	5	CDH. New brood on 17th

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Singles were at Yarrow Slake, the Tweed Estuary on 2nd and 22nd (MHu), and QEII CP on 11th (CB).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

A total of 32 flew N and six S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and one NW at Budle Point on 28th (RA). A total of 18 (including juveniles) was at Druridge Pools on 5th (IDR/JF), six were at Hauxley Reserve on 28th (HRS) and two to three at New Water Haugh and Yarrow Slake (both Tweed Estuary) and West Ord. One was inland at Grindon Lough on 1st (SW). Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless stated otherwise):

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Boulmer	5	36	BS on 11th. A minimum of 5 breeding pairs there this year
Aln Estuary	4	26 (10,8,7,1)	MKi on 16th
Coquet Estuary	4	23 (10, 7,5,1)	PRM on 15th. Two pairs each with 6 young on 31st; TD
Druridge Pools	1	8	PRM on 15th.
Castle Island	1	2	LJM on 5th

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

One flew N at Newbiggin golf course on 3rd (AP). A female was noted regularly at Castle Island between 8th-23rd (AC/TF/NFO), and a female was at Derwent Reservoir on 16th and 24th-31st (IFo/PRM). Singles were also noted at Budle Bay on 16th (GPK) and Hauxley Reserve on 28th (HRS).

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

On the River Wansbeck, two were at Low Angerton on 14th (IRD) and a drake in eclipse plumage was at Castle Island on 20th (TF).

Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless stated otherwise):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Bakethin Reservoir	1	6	TRD/JD. Adult female with 6 well-grown young on 25th.
Bellingham	1	4	EAW on 21st



Mandarin

Bakethin,
Kielder

July 25th

Tim Dean

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Five to seven were at Bothal and Holywell Ponds (TD/KWY), Druridge Pools (IDR) and Monk's House Pool (RA), three at Marden Quarry (KWY), and one to two at Grindon Lough and West Allotment Pond.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

About 20 were at East Chevington on 7th (PRM), 15 at Marden Quarry on 21st (KWY), ten at Arcot Pond on 26th (GB/STH/LJM), eight at Castron (JD), and one to two at Druridge Pools and Monk's House Pool.

Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless stated otherwise):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Bothal Pond	1	7	TF/TD on 17th. Still present on 25th when female with 9 almost fully grown young also noted.
East Chevington	1	6	PRM on 8th.
Druridge Pools	1	4	PRM on 15th.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Two flew N at Newton Point on 25th (SW) and one N at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSWT). At Grindon Lough, 17 were noted between 1st-9th, 12 on 16th and seven on 23rd (PRM/MRS/SW), and the species was noted daily all month at Budle Bay, with a peak of 11 on 1st (CGK/GPK/KWY). Nine were at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (PRM), six at Druridge Pools on 4th (TD), three to four at Bothal Pond (TD) and East Chevington (PRM), and one at Holywell Pond (KWY).

Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Derwent Reservoir	1	7	IFo. New brood on 8th

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Three flew N at Seaton Sluice on 25th (SSWT). Moderate counts involved 55 at Holywell Pond on 25th (KWY), 42-47 at Arcot Pond (LJM), Killingworth Lake (LJM), Marden Quarry (KWY) and West Ord (MHu), 24-36 at Bothal and West Allotment Ponds, Druridge Pools, Hauxley Reserve, Tyne Green, and Yarrow Slake, and 12-16 at Greenlee Lough and Middle Ord Pond. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless stated otherwise):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Castle Island	4	33 (8,8,6,6,5)	LJM. 4 broods, 28 young on 5th and new brood of 5 on 19th.
Ladyburn Lake	3	20 (9,8,3)	LJM. 3 broods, 20 young on 13th and 3 new broods (3,3,3 young) on 26th.
Devil's Water, Corbridge	3	7 (3,2,2)	LJM on 8th.
Aln Estuary	1	6	MKi on 16th.
Druridge Pools	1	6	PRM on 15th.
Grindon Lough	1	5	PRM on 1st.
Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington	1	5	LJM on 19th.
Killingworth Lake	1	4	LJM. Very small young on 26th.
QEII CP Lake	1	4	LJM on 24th.
Plenmeller Common	1	1	PRM on 16th.

June bulletin The Table of breeding first line should read;

Locality June	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Branton GP	6	24 (5,5,4,4,4,2)	MJC on 23rd

Pintail *Anas acuta*

One was at Budle Bay all month (CGK/GPK *et al.*).

Teal *Anas crecca*

A total of 110 flew N and one S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), six flew N at Newbiggin on 15th (PRM) and four N at Newton Point on 25th (SW). Largest counts were 50 at East Chevington (TF), 37 at Grindon Lough on 1st (PRM), 24 at Druridge Pools on 7th (PRM), and ten to 14 at Derwent Reservoir and Holywell Pond. One to four were also at Bakethin Reservoir, Bothal Pond, Castron, Hauxley Reserve, Holy Island and West Ord.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

32 were at Holywell Pond on 25th (KWY), five at Bothal Pond on 4th and 11th (TD/TF), three at Druridge Pools on 25th (IDR/IF), and singles at Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Monk's House Pool and St Mary's Wetland.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Seven flew N at Seaton Sluice between 12th-25th (SSWT), and three N at Boulmer on 25th (BS). Peak concentrations were 65 (including many juveniles) at East Chevington on 25th (IRD), 64 at Bothal Pond on 11th (TF), 42 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 24th (LJM), and 36 at Castle Island on 5th (LJM). Counts of 14-18 came from Druridge Pools and Killingworth Lake, and two to three were at Derwent Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve and Middle Ord Pond. More unusual was one at Budle Bay on 7th (GPK).

Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless stated otherwise):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Killingworth Lake	4	12 (5,4,2,1)	LJM on 26th.
East Chevington	2	20 (12,8)	IRD/PRM. Brood of 12 on 7th. Same brood down to 11 by 15th ? Also brood of 8 on 11th.
Bakethin Reservoir	1	10	SW/TRD/JD. Brood of 10 on 3rd. Same brood down to 4 by 25th?
Hedgeley GP	1	7	JD on 31st.
Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington	1	6	LJM on 19th.
Branton GP	1	2	JD on 27th.



A Tufted Duck family

Bakethin, Kielder

July 25th

Tim Dean

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Two drakes flew N at Newbiggin on 7th (STH/AT). Two drakes were at Fenham Flats-Holy Island on four dates between 7th-19th (RA/AC/BS), and a drake was inland at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (PRM).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

168 were off North Blyth on 16th (STH), about 100 off Warkworth on 20th (JAR), 80 at Lynemouth on 21st (AP), 68 (including seven large young) at Birling Carrs on 19th (MKi), 40-42 at Annstead (DF) and Cocklawburn (MHu), and 22-25 at Amble Harbour, the Blyth Estuary, Howick and Low Hauxley. Three to four were also off Druridge Links and Snab Point.

Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless stated otherwise):

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Dunstanburgh Castle	2	8 (5,3)	JAR on 5th.
Holy Island	2	3 (2,1)	IK on 3rd. As June?
Low Hauxley	1	11	PRM on 7th.
Coquet Estuary	1+	42+	RPo/PRM. Creche of 42 young on 1st. Creche of 23 young plus female and brood of 8 young on 15th. As June?

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth on 24th (SSWT/DRW). Two were at Chibburn burn mouth in Druridge Bay on 25th (IRD) and one was on the sea at Seaton Sluice on 9th (DLo).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

An above-average 4,871 moved N and 247 S at Seaton Sluice during the month, including 1,426 N and 53 S on 12th (SSWT). Totals of 108-215 flew N at Boulmer (BS), Newton Point (SW), Stag Rocks (SW) and St Mary's Wetland (JBu) on 24th-25th, 80 moved NW at Budle Point on 18th (RA), and 32-34 N at Newbiggin and Snab Point on several dates. A flock off Druridge Links-East Chevington peaked at about 700 on 8th (PRM) and 650 on 27th (IDR), with smaller numbers throughout the month. Peaks elsewhere involved 128 at Cocklawburn on 8th (MHu), 107 at North Blyth on 16th (STH), and 22-30 off the Long Nanny Estuary and Seaton Sluice. Three were also at Birling Carrs.



Common Scoter

St Mary's Island

July 12th

Jack Bucknall

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Four N at Seaton Sluice on 25th were the first July record for the site for 23 years! (SSWT), and two flew N at Tynemouth on the same date (DRW). Three (two adult females and an immature bird) were at the regular breeding site on 27th (JD), two were in Budle Bay on 19th (GPK), and singles at Cocklawburn Pond on 27th (MHu) and Fenham Flats on 8th (BS).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Seven flew N and seven S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), 14 flew N at Snab Point on 14th (TB), ten S at East Chevington on 2nd (NFO), two to four N/NW at Budle Point and Stag Rocks on three dates, and three S at Ellington and Stag Rocks on two dates. Summer gatherings involved peaks of 170 off Budle Point on 25th (CGK/GPK/RA), 152 at Cocklawburn on 27th (MHu), 152 at Holy Island on 5th (BS), 103 at Stag Rocks on 24th (SW), 84 at Meadow Haven, Berwick on 26th (MHu), 54 at Calot Shad, the Tweed Estuary on 31st (MHu), 41-45 at the Blyth Estuary-North Blyth (AC/STH) and Boulmer (BS), and 32 at Amble Harbour and New Water Haugh (Tweed Estuary). Groups of ten to 12 were also at Howick and Newbiggin, and two to five at Annstead, Caistron, Derwent Reservoir and North Shields-Tynemouth. A female accompanied 12 juveniles at Fourstones on 2nd (AJH).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

A total of seven flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and 12 were at the Blyth Estuary on 13th (DLo). Two broods were noted at Budle Bay, with the first brood of four young on 16th, dropping to three young by 18th and two by the end of the month. The second brood was first noted on 25th, when six young accompanied an adult female, later dropping to five young. The latter brood was thought to have come from the Farne Islands (CGK/GPK/KWY).

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

At Slaley, a male was seen in flight and two more heard churring at Ladycross on 8th (LJM), whilst at Winnows Hill four churring males and two foraging females were present on 16th (PRM). Evidence of breeding success came from Beanley Wood with two birds on 8th still present on 17th along with two juveniles giving begging calls (IBDa/KDa). At least two were at Harwood Forest on 2nd (ADMc).

Swift *Apus apus*

Visible migration totals from Budle Point, all heading NW, unsurprisingly peaked mid-month with 120 on 5th, 32 on 7th, 230 on 17th, 76 on 18th, one on 26th and 97 on 28th (RA). Five flew N at Newton Point in one hour during the early morning of 25th (SW). At least 80 were at Ladyburn Lake (Druridge Bay CP) on 13th (LJM), 60 at Lynemouth on 29th (TB), 55 feeding on an insect swarm at Whittingham on 10th (CW) and 50 feeding over an Ellington rape field on 23rd (TB). Groups of ten to 45 were encountered at Arcot Pond, Druridge Pools, Halton-Lea-Gate, Humshaugh, Lynemouth Burn Mouth, Marden Estate (Tynemouth), New Moor (Ashington) and Wark. Six or fewer were at Airy Holm Reservoir and Bamburgh GC.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

All sightings came from the coast with singles at Budle Point, Druridge Links on several dates, East Chevington, Holy Island and Ross. A juvenile was at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 24th (SW).

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

199 were at Stakeford Railway Bridge on 19th (LJM), 34 were on the gym roof at Kingston Park Shopping Centre on 22nd (AHB) and an unreported number were present in Jesmond Dene on 4th (MJCo).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Two were observed heading NW at Budle Point on 28th (RA). Five individuals were at separate locations along Jesmond Dene (Banqueting Hall, Jesmond Vale, Shoe Tree, Heaton Park Bowling Green and Armstrong Bridge) on 11th (MJCo), four were at Ellington on 14th (TB) and one to three were seen at Chugdon Wood (Ellington), the Coquet estuary, Druridge Pools, Featherstone Castle, Hepple, singing at Linden Hall, West Hartford and Windmill Lane (Cramlington).

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Up to seven were at both Jesmond Dene on two dates and Druridge Pools on several dates.



Wood Pigeon

Tynemouth

21st July

Colin Bradshaw

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

One was observed on visible migration heading NW at Budle Point on 7th (RA) and a single was carrying nesting material at Iris Brickfield Park (Heaton) on 4th (CDH).



Collared Doves

Marden, July

Alan Jack

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Less conspicuous this month than last with two at East Chevington on 25th being the peak count (IRD). Singles were at Arcot Pond, Branton GP, East Chevington on several dates, Druridge Pools and Hedgeley GP.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

The highest total came from Hauxley NWT with a count of 11 present on 28th (HRS). Breeding reports came from Arcot Pond with six adults, two juveniles and a new brood of four tiny chicks present on 26th (LJM/STH/GB), three adults with three large juveniles at Killingworth Lake on the same day (LJM), broods of four at Woodhorn Flashes and three at QE11CP on 24th (LJM), an adult with two juveniles at Fisherman's Lodge (Jesmond Dene) on 4th (MJCo) and an adult on a nest with at least one small youngster at Northumbria University (Benton). One to eight adult birds were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Cocklawburn Park, Derwent Reservoir and Druridge Pools.

Coot *Fulica atra*

39 at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 4th, including two new broods of two and five chicks, increased to a total of 57 on 25th (TD). 40, plus two new broods of one and two youngsters, were at Killingworth Lake on 26th (LJM), a total of seven broods (three of three, three of two and a single) were at Ladyburn Lake (Druridge Bay CP) on 27th (LJM) and two to nine adults were regularly reported from Druridge Pools and Hauxley NWT.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Breeding reports included five broods at Ladyburn Lake on 26th (LJM), two pairs with two large juveniles and a new brood of four at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 11th (LJM), a pair with semi-independent young and a further pair with three youngsters (reduced from four youngsters on 11th (TF)) at Bothal Pond on 20th (TD), one chick with an adult at Shield on the Wall and breeding also confirmed at Woodhorn Flashes South Pool and Linden Hall. At least ten adults were at Holywell Pond on 12th (MN), seven at Caistron, three at Druridge Pools and singles at Airy Holm Reservoir, East Chevington and Milkhope Lake (Blagdon).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Breeding reports as follows:

Locality	Total	Date	Observer/notes
Derwent Reservoir	16	25th	Nine adults in total plus seven juveniles (IFo)
East Chevington	Six	15th	Four adults and two juveniles (PRM)
Holywell Pond	Five	12th	Including one juvenile (MN)
Bothal Pond	Four	July	Two active nests until month end but no young (TD/TF)

Non-breeding reports included at least ten birds at East Chevington on 7th (PRM), six at Cresswell Pond NWT on several dates and two at Branton GP until the month end (IBDa/KDa). Three were on the sea at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 19th, with some display (MKi) and two were offshore at Druridge Links on 3rd, with a single there mixing with Scoters on several dates at the end of the month.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

The monthly total from Seaton Sluice was 134N and 86S but movement was only noticeable from 30th-31st when 94N and 31S were noted (SSWT). At Tynemouth on 31st 23N and 40S were counted between 0620-0900 hrs and 12 flew S at Druridge Links on 27th (IDR). Cresswell Pond attracted a peak of 108 on 25th (TF) with 56 at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (IFo). Other counts came from North Blyth Staithes where 30 were present on 16th (STH), 15 were at Caistron on 24th (JD), 12 were seen at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 16th (IDR/JF/CMN) and approximately ten were at the River Coquet Estuary on 15th (PRM). Inland, two adults and two juveniles were at Bassington Industrial Estate (Cramlington) and were probably local breeders (LJM), a pair was at Plenmeller Common on 1st (PRM), two adults with two young were seen at the College Valley on 7th (RPo) with four at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 4th and at Bothal Pond on 20th (IFo/TD). One to two were noted at Budle Point, Druridge Pools and Links, Low Hauxley, Newbiggin and Winnows Hill (Slaley).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

All reports came from the breeding areas of Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and Low Newton. Reports from Druridge Pools varied from a low of one on 14th-15th to a maximum of 18 (16 adults and two juveniles) on 7th (PRM/IDR/JF *et al.*). Three chicks were reported from here on 11th (CB). Similarly at Cresswell Pond reports varied with a low of one on 13th and a peak of 14 on 9th (LJM/TB/MKi *et al.*). Three newly fledged young were seen on 13th (LJM). There were two records from Low Newton, with three present on 5th and four seen on 18th (JAR/SW).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Post-breeding flocks developed at several sites with last month's flock at Derwent Reservoir increasing to 240 on 4th and then to a peak of 700 on 8th (IFo). The highest count after this was 68 on 16th (PRM). Eleven were seen at Grindon Lough on 1st where by 23rd, 360 were present (PRM/MRS). Numbers at East Chevington increased from 77 on 8th to 450 on 15th and 350+ were seen at Cresswell Pond on the same day (PRM/MN). Other three-figure counts were; 260 at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) on 22nd, 244 at Caistron on 24th, 210 present at Monk's House Pool on 10th, a count of 175 at Bothal Pond on 25th, 174 at Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR) on 26th, 150 seen at Newstead Flash on 28th, 135 present at Plenmeller Common on 16th and 131 at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 19th. Reports of two-78 came from Budle Point, Druridge Pools, Greenlee Lough, Hauxley NWT, Holy Island, New Water Haugh (River Tweed), the River Aln Estuary, the River Coquet Estuary and West Ord (Berwick). At Holy Island a BTO breeding waders of wet pastures survey produced only six successful pairs on the island compared with 30+ back in the 1990s. At least ten young were reared close to fledging.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

At Cresswell Pond 35 flew W on 15th (TF) and 19 flew S at Annstead (Seahouses) on 21st (DF). An early returning flock of 600 Northern race birds was counted at Holy Island on 28th (IK). A flock was present at St Mary's from 7th with the peak count being 420 on 26th (AC/JBu/KWY). A maximum of 250 was reported from Boulmer on 24th (RB/MB). Numbers built up gradually through the month at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) with 17 on 1st, 118 on 13th and a peak count of 220 on 29th (AP/TF/NFO). One to nine were seen at Budle Point, Cresswell Pond and Grindon Lough.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

The summering group at Lindisfarne NNR remained, with counts of 250 at Guile Point on 11th (RA) and 160 at Fenham Flats on 9th (BS). A single was present at Boulmer all month and one was seen at Newton Point on 25th (BS/SW).

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Few reports were received this month with the highest counts being 18 at Chibburn Mouth (Druridge Bay) on 16th and 12 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on the same date (IDR/JF/CMN). A maximum of eight was reported at Derwent Reservoir on 17th, where a poor breeding season was noted by the observer, possibly due to trampling by the huge numbers of Greylag Geese.(IFo). Six were at the River Coquet Estuary on 15th & 30th (PRM/RPo) and two pairs were at Shooters Pools (Bothal), both with one well grown young (TF).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Four (two adults, two juveniles) was the highest count at Derwent Reservoir on 17th where only one pair may have been successful due to the huge numbers of Greylag Geese present. Away from Derwent Reservoir, two were seen at Grindon Lough on 9th and Cresswell Pond on 12th (PRM/ADMc).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Migration became more visible with 50 reports this month. The largest group was a maximum of 50, which arrived on the back of torrential rain, at Longhoughton Steel on 3rd (MJC). A very low monthly total was noted at Seaton Sluice where seven flew N and 13S during the month (SSWT). Birds were present at Budle Bay all month with the peak count being 22 on 25th (CGK/GPK) and ten were present at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 28th (AP). One-five were noted at or flying over 24 coastal sites between Berwick Little Beach and Tynemouth during the month. Inland singles flew over Wark (River North Tyne) at 0230 hrs on 22nd (PRM) and S at Derwent Reservoir on 26th where one was seen on 30th (IFo/AA).



Whimbrel

St Mary's Island, July

Alan Jack

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

An above average monthly passage at Seaton Sluice recorded 124N and 53S included 65N on 1st (SSWT). Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR) held 158 on 26th (DF) and a huge arrival of 120 was witnessed at Druridge Pools on 5th (IDR/JF) with nine remaining by 28th. Other counts in excess of 100 were 118 at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) on 22nd (MHu) and 109 at the River Aln Estuary on 16th (MKi). A minimum of 95 were still inland at Plenneller Common on 16th (PRM). The River Blyth Estuary attracted 76 on 2nd (AC) with 62-64 at the River Tweed at New Water Haugh and Calot Shad on 22nd and 31st (MHu). Maxima elsewhere were 60 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 28th (AP), 55 at Cresswell Pond on 25th (TF) and 55 at the River Coquet Estuary on 30th (RPo). One-six were seen at Budle Point, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Hauxley NWT, Low Hauxley, Snab Point (Cresswell) and Winnows Hill (Slaley).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Low numbers continued to be reported from Seaton Sluice with six N during the month (SSWT). At Beacon Point (Newbiggin) an adult flew N on 15th (STH) and one flew NW at Budle Point on 17th (RA). The summering birds at Lindisfarne NNR were reported on 9th when 300 were present at Fenham Flats. Elsewhere on the coast, five were at Boulmer on 28th (TRD/JD), two at the River Coquet Estuary on 10th and 15th (TF/PRM) and two at Newton Point on 25th (SW). Singles were seen at Druridge Pools, the River Blyth Estuary and St Marys.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Passage was noted on one date at Seaton Sluice when 15 flew S on 9th (SSWT) when 14 flew S at East Chevington on the same date. The wetlands of Druridge Bay continued to be favoured with the maximum counts being 56 at Druridge Pools on 27th (IDR) and 40 at Cresswell Pond on 24th & 28th (TF/MN). Further north, 44 were counted at Low Newton on 18th (SW) and the monthly peak at Budle Bay was reached on 18th when 26 *islandica* birds were identified. One-eight were reported from Arcot Pond, Beacon Point (Newbiggin), East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond, Monk's House Pool, the River Coquet Estuary and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

The peak count came from Cresswell Pond on 29th when 43 were counted (TF/JFa). On 9th, a minimum of 40 were seen at Annstead (Seahouses) and 20 were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 17th (DF/NFO). Other double-figure counts were 15 at Tynemouth on 29th (KWY), 11 at Stag Rocks on 24th (SW) and ten at Newton Point on 25th (SW). One-five were at Boulmer, Snab Point (Cresswell) and Druridge Links.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Seaton Sluice reported a very poor month with 2N on 14th and 3S on 31st (SSWT). The summering flock at Lindisfarne NNR had reduced to 80 by 9th at Fenham Flats (BS). At Cresswell Pond the peak count was 15 on 27th (IF) and one-four were present at Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Druridge Links, Low Newton and the River Coquet Estuary.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Reports came from three sites this month. Birds were present at Druridge Pools all month with the maximum seen being five on 25th (IDR/JF/MN *et al.*). Singles flew S at Boulmer on 17th (BS) and were present at Low Newton on 27th (AMG/MG).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

One was at Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 11th (RA) and a moulting adult was at Budle Bay on 16th (per CGK).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

The regular haunt of Druridge Links attracted 75 on 26th (IDR) with lower numbers on dates in the last week of the month. Other notable concentrations were 60 at Boulmer on 25th (BS) with approximately 50 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 23rd (NFO) and 50 at Hauxley on 23rd with some in partial summer plumage (RB/MB). There were 16 breeding-plumaged birds at Birling Carrs on 19th (MKi) with five at St Mary's Island and a single at the River Coquet Estuary being the only other reports.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Low numbers were seen passing Seaton Sluice with a total of 19S from 11th (SSWT). Returning birds were noted at the River Coquet Estuary with the maximum count being 178 on 23rd (RPo). A count at Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR) revealed 150 on 11th (RA). On 11th 80 were seen at Boulmer but only three were present on 28th (BS/TRD/JD). At Cresswell Pond, numbers increased from two on 11th (CB) to 61 on 28th (TF). Amble Braid held 50 on 11th (NFO) possibly being some of those in the River Coquet Estuary. Maximum counts from other sites were 22 at Low Newton, 20 at Hauxley, 11 at the River Aln Estuary and at least ten at Beacon Point (Newbiggin). One-six were seen at Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Druridge Pools and Snab Point (Cresswell). Inland, two adults were at Grindon Lough on 7th and 9th (SW/PRM) and a single was at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

The first returning birds at Seaton Sluice were one S on 30th with possibly the same individual on the rocks there on 31st (SSWT).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

The only report came from Winnows Hill (Slaley) where three roding birds were noted on 16th with one other bird present (PRM).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Birds were noted at Derwent Reservoir from 19th when one was present increasing to ten on 24th (IFo). Increased presence was also noted at Druridge Pools where four were seen on 4th increasing to nine on 29th (IDR/JF). Two pairs were 'drumming/chipping' on 16th at Winnows Hill (Slaley) and a pair were seen at Plenmeller Common on 1st (PRM). Singles were seen at Hauxley NWT and Newstead Flash.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Birds were still noticeable in upland breeding areas with also a significant presence at the coast. Two flew S at Seaton Sluice on 16th (SSWT). A poor breeding season was noted at Derwent Reservoir possibly due to the thousands of Greylag Geese present. A count of eight was made there on 17th (IFo). Other counts from inland sites were five at Fourstones on 9th (AJN) and Hornccliffe on 15th (JAR), four at Deadwater Fell (Kielder) on 1st (PRM) and Eals on 10th (MJC) and three at Bakethin Reservoir on 3rd (SW). Two were noted at Corbridge and a single at Airy Holm Reservoir and the Harthope Valley. At or near the coast, eight, including two juveniles were seen at Howick on 19th (JAR). Four were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 27th (AP) and three were at both Castle Island (River Wansbeck) and Hauxley NWT. One-two were on or near the coast at Cramlington, Druridge Pools, Foxton Bend (River Aln), Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay), Monk's House Pool and the River Coquet Estuary.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Returning birds were more evident this month with two at Bothal Pond on 27th (TF) and Holywell Flash from 27th-31st (MN). Singles occurred at Budle Bay, Cooper's Flash (Bothal), Derwent Reservoir, East Cramlington NWT, Hauxley, Newstead Flash and Ross.

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

Seaton Sluice recorded 32N and 165S during the month (SSWT). At the River Coquet Estuary, 17 were present on 5th which had increased to 370+ by 15th (Rpo/PRM). Counts in the River Tweed Estuary on 22nd revealed 148 at New Water Haugh and 146 at Yarrow Slake (MHu). The River Aln Estuary held a total of 115 on 16th (MKi) with 100 at Guile Point on 11th (RA) and 90 at the River Blyth Estuary on 10th (AC). 20-70 were at Annstead, Calot Shad (River Tweed), Cresswell Pond, Elwick (Lindisfarne NNR) and Newbiggin. Eight, including three juveniles, were noted at Druridge Pools on 5th (IDR/JF), six were at Derwent Reservoir where breeding is not thought to have occurred this year (IFo) and four were at Grindon Lough on 16th (PRM).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

One flew S at Boulmer on 25th being only the third record for the site (BS). Singles were at Druridge Pools from 11th with two seen on 25th (CB/IDR/JF/ADMc). Two were noted at Budle Bay on 26th (RA) with one flying NW at Budle Point on the same day (RA). A single was at Derwent Reservoir from 19th-24th (IFo).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Last month's summer-plumaged adults were reported regularly during the month. A single was reported from Cresswell Pond on 9th and 16th (TB/NFO).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Passage increased noticeably this month with one at Budle Bay on 4th increasing to a maximum of six on 28th/29th (RA/CGK/GPK). Three were seen at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 17th (MJC) and at Holywell Pond on 24th (LJM/MN). Two were at the River Aln Estuary on 16th (MKi) and Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR) on 26th (DF). Single birds were at Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough, Holywell Flash, Ross and St Marys.



Greenshank

Holywell Pond

Iain Johnson

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

At Calot Shad in the Tweed Estuary, 280 were in the gull roost on 6th falling to 112 on 31st (MHu), 24 were offshore at Druridge Links on 25th and ten at Berwick Little Beach on 30th. The first juvenile of the year at Seaton Sluice was recorded on 24th (SSWT).

Kittiwake

St Mary's Island

July 12th

Jack Bucknall

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*



At Warkworth, 600 followed the plough on 20th (JAR), 262 were in the Blyth Estuary on 12th, 122 at Yarrow Slake and 110 at Berwick, West Ord. At Budle Point, 75 flew NW on 17th (RA) and smaller counts of up to 44 came from six other localities. A one-month old colour-ringed juvenile at Newbiggin on 19th had been marked at Loughree, Southern Ireland (AP)

Black-headed Gull

St Mary's Island

July

Iain Johnson

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Three was the monthly total recorded at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), one to three were present at Cressewill Pond on dates throughout, with two at East Chevington and singles at five other coastal sites between Tynemouth and Monk's House Pool including the only record of an adult bird at Cresswell, Snab Point.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

A high monthly total came from Seaton Sluice with 18 counted (SSWT). The late summer influx commenced during the last week when 54 were recorded at Druridge Links (IDR) on 26th with a maximum of 20 at Newbiggin on 31st (RS); a few juveniles were present within these sightings. Elsewhere, up to five, including juveniles and other immatures, were seen at around 15 other coastal localities between Tynemouth and Holy Island.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Apart from 35 at Druridge Links and Berwick, West Ord all other counts were one to five at three other localities.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

An obvious influx of mainly adult birds, totalling 150, was seen at Budle Bay on 11th (CGK), the only other report comprised three at Druridge Pools.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argenteus*

A large count of 1,150 gathered at dusk at Boulmer on 18th (BS), and other three-figure totals were 485 in the Blyth Estuary, 400 in Budle Bay, 270 in the Tweed Estuary, 200 following the plough at Warkworth and 110 at Cocklawburn; elsewhere 40-50 were seen at Blyth Riverside Industrial Park and Druridge Pools. Young birds in the nest and newly-fledged juveniles totalled 58 at two sites in Cramlington and 65 at three sites on Blyth riverside (LJM/STH)

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

The monthly total passing Seaton Sluice was 75 (SSWT) and 75 adults flew N at Annstead on 31st (DF). A total of 120 gathered in the dusk roost at Boulmer on 18th (BS), 42 were in the Blyth Estuary, 22 at New Water Haugh (Tweed Estuary) with single-figure counts from five other localities. Newly-fledged juveniles totalled 15 at two sites at Blyth riverside and 15 at two sites at Cramlington (LJM/STH)



Lesser Black-backed Gull family

St Mary's Island

July

Alan Jack

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

The usual large numbers were logged at Seaton Sluice with the majority moving S, comprising up to 180/hour on several date (SSWT). Visible migration NW was recorded on four dates from 7th-28th at Budle Point with the maximum 102 on 17th (RA). Elsewhere 10 to 40, some moving N or NW offshore, were seen at eight localities and up to nine were present at six other sites.



Sandwich Tern,

St Mary's Island

July 12th

Jack Bucknall

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Unprecedented numbers were recorded at Seaton Sluice from 21st-31st including single flocks of 17 N on 21st and 7 N on 23rd and 31st (SSWT). Numbers counted at Ross on 9th-10th were 100-120 (RA) and the maximum seen at the Long Nanny colony site was 13 on 9th (AMG.MG). One to five were at eight other localities.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

At least 83 fed offshore at Boulmer on 25th (BS) and, on the same day, 14 were at Beacon Point, Newbiggin (ADMc) and 12 offshore at Druridge Links (IDR). Single-figure counts, including several juvenile birds, came from 12 other coastal sites between Tynemouth and Berwick.



Adult and Juvenile
Roseate Terns,

St Mary's Island,

July

Alan Jack

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

No large-scale movements were recorded at Seaton Sluice with the highest being on 30th-31st when 95 moved N and 146 S (SSWT). Elsewhere, a maximum of 95 were at Tynemouth on 23rd (DRW), 40-80 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Berwick Little Beach, Boulmer, East Chevington, North Blyth staithes and 10 to 30 at Chibburn Mouth, the Coquet Estuary and Druridge Pools/Links; many single-figure counts were made at six other localities. At North Blyth staithes ten pairs had nests holding young of varying ages on 26th (STH)



Common Tern

St Mary's Island

Jack Bucknall

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

On 2nd 1,300 were at the Long Nanny colony decreasing to 15 on 30th (AMG/MG) and 1,000 gathered at Guile Point, Lindisfarne NNR on 11th (RA). At Annstead, 20-60 moved N on three dates between 9th-31st (DF), 14 moved NW at Budle Point on 17th (RA).and 15 were at East Chevington on 7th (PRM).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Single birds were reported from East Chevington, North Pool on 1st and 4th (ADMc) and one was at Guile Point, Lindisfarne NNR on 11th (RA). Any of these three sightings may have been the American Black Tern first identified at the Long Nanny Estuary on 20th.

American Black Tern *Chlidonias niger surinamensis*

This bird was first seen this summer at the Long Nanny Estuary on 18th May but was only identified as the American subspecies on 20th July and is considered to be the same individual which summered at the Long Nanny in 2020. Two retrospective reports were received of this bird at the Long Nanny on 9th and 16th (AMG/MG).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

A monthly total of seven seen at Seaton Sluice was described as 'again well below the average' for July (SSWT). At Tynemouth on 7th, five flew N and two S (DRW); other reports of birds flying N included two from Annstead on 16th and 31st, Tynemouth on 23rd and 31st, Newton Point on 25th and singles at Newbiggin and Snab Point on 1st, Annstead on 23rd and St Mary's Island on 24th.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

An adult bird in full plumage was seen flying S at Budle Point and Stag Rocks on 24th (GPK/SW).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

At Seaton Sluice, a monthly total of 8 N and 16 S was again described as a 'poor showing' (SSWT). The peak activity was seen in the period 24th-31st with nine at Tynemouth, six at St Mary's Island and five offshore at Druridge Links. Earlier in the month from 1st-9th, two were seen from Snab Point plus singles at Annstead, Druridge Links, Ross and St Mary's Island.

Auk *sp*

Some large movements of Guillemots and Razorbills up to 26th included maxima of 420N/hour on 14th and 350N/hour on 26th (SSWT).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Reports of 10-50 came from Birling Carrs, Cocklawburn, Druridge Links, Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Reports comprised only two-six at Birling Carrs, Cocklawburn and Druridge Links.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

At Seaton Sluice, 220 passed on 1st, the majority moving N but few were seen thereafter (SSWT); also on the 1st, '100's' were around Coquet Island (HRS). At Birling Carrs ca.300 were on the sea on 19th but elsewhere smaller counts comprised 10-20 at three other localities.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

At Seaton Sluice the monthly total of 32N and 11S in 82hrs was well above the average and a new site record for July (SSWT). On 3rd two birds were offshore at Druridge Links (IDR), and two birds in breeding plumage were at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 19th (MKi).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

One flew N at Low Steads (Longhoughton) on 25th (BS).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

22 birds were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 1st (IDR), with 15 there on 16th (IDR/JF/CMN). 11 birds flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 31st (DF). Four birds were at three occupied nests at Bamburgh GC on 1st (IDR) and on 15th single pairs were sitting on nests at Snab Point (Cresswell) and at Longhoughton Quarry (PRM/TRD/JD)



Fulmar

Cullercoats, July,

Alan Jack

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*

A 'fea's' type petrel was tracked N up the coast and was seen at St Mary's Island, Church Point (Newbiggin), Low Hauxley, Cullernose Point and Annstead Point (Seahouses). The identification as a Soft-plumaged Petrel was confirmed by photos/videos. If accepted this will be the 2nd record for the Western Palearctic and the 1st for Britain. (AC/NFO *et al.*).



Soft-plumaged Petrel

Church Point, Newbiggin

July 1st

Graham Sorrie

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

A bird flew in from the S at 07:40h then landed on the sea with a gull/gannet feeding flock for 25 minutes just off the pier then flew off S (DRW).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total of 138 birds, of which 130 went N and eight went S, was well below the July average (SSWT). 27 birds were in a feeding flock off Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 19th (AP). 15 birds went N past St Mary's Island on 24th (JBU), whilst on 31st 10 flew N at Tynemouth (DRW) & 7 flew N at Annstead Point (Seahouses) (DF). One to three were noted N at Annstead Point (Seahouses), Cullernose Point, Newton Point (Newton), Snab Point (Cresswell) and at St Mary's Island on several dates during the month.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Seaton Sluice recorded large numbers throughout the month with a max of 900N per hour on 26th (SSWT). 1,352 flew N at Newton Point (Newton) in 1hr on 25th (SW), 857 flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 31st (DF) with other dates reaching into the hundreds too. 30/hour N at Berwick Pier on 6th (MHu) and 15 went N at Berwick Little Beach on 30th (TRD/JD), 12 went N at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (DLo) and 11 N at Druridge Links on 26th (IDR).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

The highest count was 61 birds at East Chevington on 15th (PRM), Annstead (Seahouses) peaked at 31 birds on 23rd with 18 N and 13 S (DF) & 23 were at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (PRM). 12 birds were at Druridge Pools and links on 25th (IDR) and at Hauxley NWT on 28th (HRS). One to six birds were noted at five sites.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Seven birds were in a roost at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 6th (MHu). Two birds were at Berwick Little Beach on 30th (TRD/JD) and only two birds went N at Seaton Sluice in a typically poor recorded month for this species (SSWT).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

A single bird was seen at Druridge Pools on 1st (IDR) and it was seen there and at Cresswell Pond throughout the month (IDR/JF *et al.*). Another bird was seen at Budle Bay/Fenham Flats area on 5th (BS/GPK) and the other bird was still at Druridge Pools.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

A bird flew from south pool at East Chevington and landed in the north east corner of the north pool on 1st (ADMc).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

24 birds were at the River Tweed Estuary at Yarrow Slake on 2nd (MHu). Three birds flew N and one flew S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Seven birds were at Hauxley NWT on 28th (HRS) and five birds were at the River Blyth Estuary on 12th (LJM), Druridge Pools on 25th (IDR/JF) and at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (IFo). One to four birds were noted at ten sites.



Grey Heron,
Holywell, July
Iain Johnson

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

13 birds were at Budle Bay on 18th and 12 were there on 17th (RA). Ten birds were at Cresswell Pond on 22nd, 26th & 28th (ADMc/LJM/TF) and 11 there on 27th (ADMc). Away from the previous sites four roosted at Druridge Pools on 5th (IDR/JF) with four N offshore there on 28th (IDR) and four were also seen at River Aln estuary on 16th (MKi). One to three birds were at 18 sites.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

A family group of four birds was seen soaring together from the Forest Drive (Kielder) on 25th (TRD/JD). Single birds were at Derwent Reservoir on several dates throughout the month (IFo/MN) and at Lynemouth on 8th (AP), Newbiggin GC (AP) and Elf Kirk (Kielder) (TRD/JD) on 25th.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Three birds were at Eals (River S Tyne) on 10th (MJC) and three birds, an adult and two fledged juveniles, were at Churchill Playing Fields (Whitley Bay) on 23rd (KWY). Two females were at Ellington on 8th (TB). Single birds were at 12 sites during the month.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Four birds were seen at East Chevington 9th (IF) and 15th (PRM) and up to three birds were there during the month (IRD). Single birds were at Fenham Flats on 5th and 7th (BS), Boulmer on 11th (BS), Druridge Pools on 15th (TB/TRD/JD), Widdrington Moor Lake on 24th (MN) and at Backworth on 31st (MN).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

On 10th two birds were at Eals (River S Tyne) (MJC) and two birds were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 13th (IFo) with singles there on several dates. Single birds were observed at Derwent Reservoir on 5th and 27th (IFo), Wark (N Tyne) on 5th and 13th (PRM). A bird flew low over the A19 beside Killingworth on 13th (DLo), on 16th a bird was at Plenmeller Common (PRM), Whitley Chapel on 17th (AJH), Snods Edge on 27th (IFo) and at Newton on 28th (AA).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

A bird was seen at Ross on 9th (RA).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Four birds were in the Harthope Valley on 1st (KWI) and four were on Plenmeller Common on 16th (PRM). Three birds were seen at College Valley, Eals (River S Tyne), Holywell Pond, Humshaugh, Plenmeller Common & St Mary's Park (Stannington). One to two birds were at 14 sites during the month.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Four young were fledging at Weldon Bridge on 29th with an adult and two juveniles at Shorestone on 1st (AHa/PHa). Up to three were at Derwent Reservoir all month (IFo) with at least one adult at an active nest on 16th (PRM), two at Druridge Pools on 5th, Cresswell Pond NWT on 15th and feeding young at a hole in the castle wall at Bamburgh on 18th. Singles were at Cresswell Pond NWT and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) regularly and at Howick, Longhorsley, Warkworth and Whitley Bay.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Two were calling throughout the month at Fulbeck (Morpeth) and Howick (TD/JAR) with one sitting on a garden feeder at Longdyke (Shilbottle) on 3rd and 8th (MKi), females were at Wark (N.Tyne) on 8th and 21st and at Winnows Hill (Slaley) on 10th.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Singles were at Derwent Reservoir from 10th to 26th (IFo) and at Townfoot (Slaley) on 28th (RMH).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

At Chare Ends (Holy Island) one was perched on a fence at dusk on 9th (BS).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

One flew W toward the mainland at Fenham Flats (Lindisfarne NNR) on 7th (BS).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

On 2nd and 9th two were at Fourstones (AJH) with singles at Felton on 13th, Low Angerton on 14th, Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 20th, Bellingham on 21st and Twizel (near Berwick) on 30th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Two were on feeders at Tynemouth on 11th (CB), Derwent Reservoir on 16th (PRM) and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 17th with two juveniles there on 18th (TB). Singles were at Ponteland Park on 7th, Howick Hall on 16th, Ellington on 17th and Halton-lea-Gate on 26th.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

One was heard several times near the football pitch at Rothbury on 9th but noted as scarce this year (TRD/JD).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

There was a high count of eight at Plenmeller Common on 16th (PRM), a pair with three fledged juveniles were at the Castle (Holy Island) on 8th (BS) and five at Eals (R.S Tyne) on 10th (MJC). A pair fledged two young at Fulbeck (Morpeth) during the month and four juveniles flew around a nest site at Lesbury on 15th (AHa/PHa) with three at Derwent Reservoir on 5th and 13th and Horndcliffe on 15th. Two were at four locations and singles at Ellington regularly and a further 11 widespread localities.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

A juvenile was at Cresswell Pond NWT and dunes on 15th (TB/TF) with one at Boulmer on 24th (BS) and a juvenile mobbed by Swallows at Rocket Fields (Holy Island) on 28th (IK).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

There was a brief sighting from a car at Fenton (Wooler) on 1st (JD), one at Fenham-le-Moor (Lindisfarne NNR) on 17th (RA) and an adult at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 29th (ADMc).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Two adults were at Budle Bay on 3rd (GPK), one over Church Point (Newbiggin) on 1st (NFO), at Cullernose Point on 17th (IBDa/KDa), on a pylon at Berwick Hill on 30th (AHB) and S at Seaton Sluice on 31st, noted as rare in July (SSWT).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

A high count of only two was made at Thrunton Woods on 2nd (TRD/JD), Horncliffe on 15th (JAR), Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) and Howick on 18th (MJCo/JAR) and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 31st (TB) with singles there on three other dates and nine other widespread localities.

Magpie *Pica pica*

A peak of 13 was noted at Druridge Pools and Links on 5th with two to seven there on four other dates (IDR/JF), four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 4th and three at Bamburgh GC on 1st.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

More than 600 were at a post-breeding roost at Wark (N.Tyne) on 5th (PRM), six at Druridge Pools & Links on 3rd (IDR) and four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 18th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

There was just one report of 80 foraging in pasture at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (IFo).

Carriion Crow *Corvus corone*

At Druridge Pools & Links on 5th, 15 roosted at the back of the pool with three to seven there on six other dates (IDR/JF) and eight at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 11th (MJCo).

Raven *Corvus corax*

A carcase attracted 20 at Rowhope Burn (Windy Gyle) on 27th (IDR) with three at Longframlington Common on 13th (JD), Hedgehope on 15th (IRD) and Kirknewton on 23rd (SW). Two were at Holy Island on 1st and Rothbury on 24th with singles at Old Hazlerigg, Debdon and Simonside.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

There was just one report of two at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 4th (MJCo).

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Noted as scarce this year. A Rothbury garden had one on 2nd and 11th (TRD/JD) with a juvenile at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 4th (IFo) and one at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 23rd (NFO).

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Three was the high count at Derwent Reservoir on 27th with two there on 25th (IFo) and at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 19th (NFO). Singles were at both the aforementioned locations on two dates and at East Cramlington NR on 1st, Ponteland Park on 7th, Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotley Field) on 9th and Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 30th.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

A very large flock of mixed passerines moving through a broom patch at Mickley Square on 12th included around 95 (+/-10) (DLe). Three were ringed at East Chevington on 9th and one on 28th with one at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 18th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

There was just one report of four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 4th (MJCo).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Three, including one male, was the high count at N. Pool East Chevington on the 22nd with two there on 1st (ADMc) and on S.Pool on 27th (IF). A male was re-trapped on 9th (IF) with singles reported on three dates from 10th to 18th and possible breeding noted in south west corner of North Pool (ADMc).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

There were just two reports as birds stopped singing with three at Druridge Links on 5th (IDR/JF) and three south at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 18th (TB).

June correction the Skylark photograph was a Meadow Pipit

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

High counts included 150 on telephone wires at Ellington on 8th (TB) and 125 at Druridge Pools & Links on 3rd (IDR) with 60+ at Corbridge on 8th (LJM), 44 flying NW on 'vis-mig' at Budle Point on 7th (RA) and around 30 feeding at Horncliffe on 15th (JAR). 12 to 60 were noted on seven dates from Druridge Pools & Links with 'vis-mig' at Budle Point of 25 on 17th, 14 on 18th and four on 28th again flying NW. 25 were at Ellington on 5th and six at Whittingham on 9th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

'Vis-mig' at Budle Point showed 57 flying NW on 26th, 31 on 17th, eight on 28th and six on 18th (RA). 50 were at Newton Point on 25th (SW), 35 mostly juveniles at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 17th, 25 at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) on 25th (RS) and a peak of 20 at Druridge Pools & Links on 5th (IDR/JF) with three to 15 there on seven dates. Six were at Bamburgh GC on 1st and a brood of five on the wing at Howick on the 14th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

High count was of 73 flying NW on 'vis-mig' at Budle Point on 28th (RA) and 16 on 17th (RA) with 20 over Cresswell Village on 11th and more than 15 at West Hartford on 2nd (LJM). Ten was the peak count at Druridge Pools & Links on 5th with two to four there on four dates, four at Bamburgh GC on 1st and one at Grindon Lough on the same date.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Singing birds were at East Chevington North Pool on 7th (PRM) and 24th (MN), and a male was ringed on 28th (IF).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

A mixed flock of about 40 passerines at Fourstones on 29th (AJH) contained 14 Long-tailed Tits, and there were four at Druridge Links on 14th (IDR).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Eight birds were in a mixed flock at Fourstones on 29th (AJH). A maximum of six were at Druridge Links on 3rd (IDR), and five migrant birds passed through a garden at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 23rd (MJC). Two were at Wark Common on 24th (SW). A single bird was at East Chevington on 7th and one was singing there on 8th (PRM). A single bird was at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (PRM).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Five birds were noted at different locations in Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 4th (MJCo), and four migrant birds passed through a garden at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 23rd (MJC). Two were at Howick Hall on 16th (HwRS), and two singing males were at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (PRM). Singles were reported from East Chevington, Tyne Green (Hexham), Wark (North Tyne) and Wark Common.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The highest counts came from East Chevington, with 13 (12 ringed, one retrapped) on 9th and 17 ringed on 28th (IF). Singing birds were reported there on 8th and 15th (PRM). A maximum of seven were at Druridge Links on 3rd (IDR), with singing birds at Druridge Pools on 7th and 15th (PRM). A pair with four fledged young were at Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary) on 2nd (MHu). Four were at Cresswell on 11th (CB), and two singing males were at Low Hauxley on 7th (PRM). On Holy Island, a male sang from scrub territory on the north side of the Heugh throughout the month until 28th (IK). One was observed carrying food to a nest site in the Brockwell/Westwood Grange area of Cramlington on 2nd (LJM). A single bird at Milkhope Lake (Blagdon) on 20th (LJM) was the observer's first record there. Singles were also recorded at Doddington and at Dunstanburgh Castle, with singing birds at Whittingham on 23rd (CW) and at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 24th (SW).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

East Chevington had a maximum of 19 (13 ringed, six retrapped) on 9th, with a further six ringed on 28th (IF). Three singing males were there on 8th, with two still singing on 15th (PRM). Cresswell had eight on 11th (CB), and eight at Ladyburn Lake (Druridge Bay CP) on 13th (LJM) included two juveniles. Druridge Pools had five on 3rd (IDR) and singing males were there on 7th and 15th (PRM). Three singing birds were at QEII CP (Ashington) on 17th (CDH), and two singing birds were at Holy Island Lough on 3rd (IK).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

There were five at Deadwater Fell (Kielder) on 1st (PRM). Two were at Budle Point on 2nd (KWY) and two were at East Chevington on 9th (IF) and 11th (IRD). The reeling song was reported from Druridge Links and Pools on 3rd (IDR), 4th and 5th (IDR/JF), 7th (PRM) and 26th (IDR). One was heard at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 7th and 12th, with a garden visit on 13th (NFO). One was at Monk's House Pool on 4th, 20th, and 28th (RA). Singles were also at Cresswell Pond NWT, East Sleekburn, Doddington and Low Newton, with a late singing bird at St Mary's Wetland on 28th (KWY).

St



Grasshopper Warbler

Mary's Island

July 21st

Iain Johnson

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

The highest count came from Howick Hall, with five on 16th (HwRS). Three were observed at different locations in Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 18th (MJCo). Two singing males were at Bakethin Reservoir on 3rd (SW), and at Druridge Pools on 7th (PRM). Singing males were reported from Holy Island village, East Chevington, Wark (North Tyne), and High Buston, and a single bird from Horncliffe. A juvenile was found sitting on a path in Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 30th (TB).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

A pair with three young were at Branton GP on 15th (IBDa/KDa), and three were at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 9th (IFo). Singing birds were at Middle Ord (Berwick) on 11th (MHu), Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 11th (NFO), and Beanley on 14th (TRD/JD). One was at Howick Hall on 30th (HwRS).

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

A singing bird was at Bamburgh GC on 2nd (KWY).



Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

The highest count came from Druridge Links, with a maximum of eight on 14th (IDR). Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) had five on 9th (IFo), and Ford Moss had five on 27th (JAR). There were four at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 24th (SW), comprising a singing male and a female feeding two juveniles. A walk from Boulmer to Howick produced a minimum of four singing males on 1st (MJC), and four were at different sites around Great Ryle (Whittingham) on 23rd (CW). Three were at Fourstones on 2nd (AJH). Two were reported from Dunstanburgh Castle, Cresswell, East Chevington, Doddington and Wark Common. Single birds were at Bamburgh GC, Grindon Lough NWT, Wallsend GC, Benton (Newcastle), Low Hauxley, Beanley, High Buston and Horncliffe.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

A three year-old male was at Howick Hall on 16th (HwRS).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

There were five at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 11th (MJCo), and a maximum of three at Druridge Pools & Links on 3rd and 14th (IDR).

A Wren at Tynemouth, July 21st by Colin Bradshaw

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

There were two at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 4th (MJCo), at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 18th (TB), and at Halton-Lea-Gate on 26th (SW). Single birds were at Thrunton Woods, Milkhope (Blagdon) and Twizel (nr Berwick), with one at Priors Park (Tynemouth) on 24th (DRW) being the observer's first record of the species there.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

One was at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo), at Thrunton Woods on 2nd (TRD/JD), and one was amongst a mixed flock of about 40 passerines at Fourstones on 29th (AJH).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

A roost of 1,500 was observed at dusk at Holy Island Lough on 9th (BS). At Budle Point, 311 were counted vis-migging NW on 7th (RA). 100 were at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (IFo), and a WeBS count of 76 was made at Grindon Lough NWT, where water levels were noted as being extremely low, on 23rd (MRS). There were 55 at Boulmer on 26th (JAR), and a maximum of 50 on rooftops at Druridge (Druridge Links) on 14th (IDR).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

A maximum of three were at Druridge Links on 3rd (IDR), and two were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 4th (MJCo).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

There were four birds at different locations in Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 4th (MJCo), and four at Castle Island (Wansbeck Estuary) on 5th (LJM). Two singing birds were at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 16th and at East Cramlington Pond NWT on 18th (LJM). A single singing bird was at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 20th (TD).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

A flock of 29 was at Howick on 25th (JAR). Carterway Heads had a flock of 23 on 5th (IFo), and Milkwell (Corbridge) had 20 on 30th (RB/MB). A fledged brood of three was at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 16th (KWY), and a single bird was at Milkhope (Blagdon) on 20th (LJM).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

There were three at Haltwhistle Burn on 14th (AJH), and at Linhope (Upper Breamish Valley) on 15th (IRD). Two were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 12th (NFO), and singles were reported from the Harthope Valley, Fourstones, Beanley, Howick, Branton GP and Brandon (Breamish Valley).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Three were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 4th (MJCo).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A family group of five was at Little Ryle (Whittingham) on 23rd (CW). Single juveniles were at Derwent Reservoir on 13th and 19th (IFo), and a very new juvenile was at Howick Hall on 23rd (HwRS). A single bird was at Milkwell (Corbridge) on 31st (RB/MB).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

There were eight birds (four pairs) in the Harthope Valley on 2nd (EHa). A pair with three juveniles was at Debdon (Rothbury) on 5th, an excellent breeding record for the locality (JD). A single bird was at Eglington Moor on 24th (IBDa/KDa).

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Family groups of three and five were at Fawdon Hill (Whittingham) on 24th (CW) and a family group of six was at Debdon (Rothbury) on 26th (JD). There were four juveniles at Carey Burn (Harthope Valley) on 1st (KWY), and a juvenile with three adults at Howick on 19th (JAR). There were three between Boulmer and Howick on 1st (MJC), three at Druridge Links on 3rd (IDR), and a family group of three at Ford Moss on 27th (JAR). Two were reported from Widehope, North Blyth and Warkworth. A juvenile was at East Chevington on 8th (PRM), and singles were at Longframlington Common, Shield on the Wall and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Single birds were reported from Longhoughton Steel on 15th (MJC) and Howick on 21st (JAR), with single juveniles at Plenmeller Common on 16th (PRM), Glororum (Bamburgh) on 17th (KWY), Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 18th (BS), and Derwent Reservoir on 24th (IFo).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Two were at Eals on 10th (MJC). Singles were seen at Harthope, Jesmond Dene, Wark, Bellingham and Twizel (Berwick).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Birds were seen at garden feeders at Marden Estate (14) and Tynemouth (two). (ASJ/CB).

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Ten were counted at Wark Common and Holywell Dene in the final week (SW/KWY). Six were at feeders in a Tynemouth garden on 11th (CB). Five were noted at West Ord on 11th (MHu). One to two were at two other sites.

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

A family of four were in a Marden Estate garden all month (ASJ). One was at Druridge and at Morpeth.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

The high count this month, was of nine at Cresswell Pond on 29th (TF/JFa). Eight, noted singly, were flying S at St. Mary's during the month (ASJ). Six were at Druridge Pools on 25th (IDR/JF). Five were noted at Longhoughton Steel on 15th and four at Monk's House Pool on 24th (MJC/RA). Three were counted at a further six locations and one to two at 15 sites.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Eight birds were counted at the South Tyne at Eals on 10th (MJC). Three, including a juvenile were at Howick on 14th and three were at Jesmond Dene and Milkwell, the latter including two juveniles. Singles were seen at another five sites.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

20 were counted on 11th at Druridge Pools, 15 here on 25th with lesser counts here during the month (CB/IDR/JF). 18 were noted at Snab Point on 16th (IDR *et al.*). 16 was a good count at Berwick G.C. on 26th (MHu). Eight were at Boulmer and at St. Mary's on 26th (JAR/ASJ). A pair fed young in a nest at Low Newton 18th (SW).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Counts at Druridge Pools peaked at 12 on 14th (IDR). Six fed young and display was noted at St. Mary's up to the month end (ASJ). The first southbound migrant of the season was noted at Gosforth on 23rd (MJC).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Three, including a singing male, were at Low Hauxley on 11th (PRM). Three were also seen on 30th at Berwick Little Beach (TRD/JD). One was at Blyth staithes on 7th.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Poorly reported with, four noted at Jesmond Dene on 4th and one to three were at three other sites.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Two pairs and two juveniles were at Fulbeck (Morpeth) during the month (TD). Three were seen in Harthope Valley and at Berwick this month. One to two were seen at eight other sites this month.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Eight at Boulmer on 25th, included several juveniles (BS). Pairs with three juveniles were at Kenton and Marden Estate.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

60 on 26th at Boulmer was the largest flock this month (JAR). 30 were at Newton point on 25th and 26 at West Ord on 4th (SW/MHu). One to ten were seen at a further eight sites.

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis caberet*

Ten were watched in Harthope Valley on 1st (KWY). One to two were at four further sites.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Four were noted at Linden Hall on 2nd (NFO). Singles were seen at four other areas.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

25 were at Northumberlandia on 1st (STH). 16 were at New Water Haugh, on the Tweed on 22nd (MHu). One to eight were noted at a further ten sites.

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

63 were trapped and ringed at Slaley during the month. This included 44 juveniles (RMH). The only other report was of two at Wark on 14th (PRM).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

12 were at Ford Moss on 27th, 11 at Devil's Water on 8th (eight singing) (JAR/LJM). One to five were seen at six sites this month.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Almost daily counts at Druridge peaked at 12 on 3rd (IDR). Four sang at East Chevington on (PRM). One to two were at four other sites.

ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**Escapes****Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

Up to five all month at Derwent Reservoir (IFo).

Cape Shelduck *Tadorna cana*

A pair was noted at Cresswell Pond on 27th (IF).

Hybrids

Canada Goose x Greylag Goose *Branta canadensis* x *Anser anser*

Two were still present at Bothal Pond on 27th (TF) and one at Hauxley on 28th (IF).

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings

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Hauxley Ringing Station, Howick Ringing Station, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

Apologies for any accidental omissions

BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Grouse to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Doves to Grebes), Clive Hampton (Oystercatcher to Redshank), Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Auks), Trevor Blake (Divers to Buzzards), Peter Fletcher (Barn Owl to Larks), Clive Hampton, Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings).

Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Graham Sorrie (bulletin compilation)

Apologies for any accidental omissions

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Clive Hampton is Data Manager.

Edited by Steve Barrett NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to ntbc.records@googlemail.com

Please email for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: Please use of standard location names and include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. Subs are due on 1st October each year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website.

If you internet bank you can pay online: please include your name in the ref. It is helpful if you email me to let me know when you've made the transfer ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

If you decide to set up a standing order please date the first payment at least a fortnight from your posting date to allow time to process with the bank. You can also set up your standing order directly with your bank if you wish; just let me know. Our bank details are on the membership form.

For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

Finally, if you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome.

Jo Bentley - Hon Treasurer

NTBC WEB SITE

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds. There are:

Photo Galleries – Here you can view hundreds of photos of birds from Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Members are encouraged to contribute their own photos. Simply send them to galleries@ntbc.org.uk

There are also County Checklists, Records Committee updates, Information on important Surveys, useful articles and reports on Bird ID and Overseas Birding Trips....and much more...

Please submit any other new content for the website to the main club email address at ntbcorg@gmail.com

New content such as Birding Trip Reports etc., is always welcome and very much appreciated.

To find out more please visit www.ntbc.org.uk

COLOUR-RINGED BIRDS AT ST. MARY'S ISLAND

I have written previously about colour-ringed bird sightings in the county (see Club Website → Member's Resources->Bird Notes) but thought that some members may be interested in a particularly productive period at St. Mary's Island between 18th – 30th July 2021. During that time I saw ten different colour-ringed birds on the rocks below the very busy promenade.

The area is well-known for attracting Sandwich (and other) Terns during late summer/early autumn and seven birds were seen. Three ringed as *pullus* on Coquet Island in 2014 and 2015, one ringed as a *pullus* on Inner Farne in 2013 and another *pullus* ringed on Lady's Island, Co. Wexford, Ireland in 2016. The other two though had been ringed as adults on the Ythan Estuary, Aberdeenshire in 2010 and 2011 respectively.

An adult Kittiwake seen on 22nd July had been ringed at the colony at Gateshead only 17 days earlier. Most interesting were two Black-headed Gulls, one ringed as an adult near Copenhagen, Denmark in March 2011 (and hence at least 11 years old). This bird, apparently a regular returner, has been seen several times in previous years in the area. A juvenile Black-headed Gull on 23rd had been ringed as a *pullus* at Akershus, Norway on 15th June, showing a movement of 910 Kms in 38 days! Pretty quick considering it couldn't even fly when it was marked!

Lastly, an adult Common Gull, the first colour-ringed one I have found in the county, had been ringed as a juvenile at Rogaland, Norway in August 2018 – presumably an early-arriving winter visitor.

It's still worth keeping a sharp eye open for colour-rings to read in the field!

MIKE S. HODGSON



A Mediterranean Gull

St Mary's Island

July

Alan Jack

COUNTY RECORDS COMMITTEE

Stewart Sexton will complete his four-year spell on the committee in December 2021. Hence there will be a vacancy on the CRC to be filled. Please could anyone wishing to apply to join the committee let the County Recorder Tim Dean know, either by email or letter. Applicants need to have a comprehensive knowledge of Northumberland's birdlife and will be required to attend three meetings a year to verify sightings in the county. It is envisaged that applicants will need to access online documents and have email access. A brief resume of birding credentials and experience should be forwarded when applying. This year there will be a cut-off date for applications of 15th November.

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Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2021 No 08

MONTHLY SUMMARY AUGUST 2021

11th October 2021

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Borders Bird Report link

Dumfries and Galloway request

CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Pale-bellied Brent Goose	Early return with some as early as 8th though most late in month.
Whooper Swan	Two injured birds summering at Norham and Broomlee lough.
Ruddy Shelduck	Singles at Derwent Res, Castle Island, Bothal Pond and Druridge Bay area.
Garganey	Singles at several sites late in month.
Scaup	Singles at Tynemouth on 1st and at Cresswell Pond from 12th to 17th.
Curlew Sandpiper	Up to three at Castle Island, Hauxley and Monks' House Pool.
Temminck's Stint	Adult at Monks' House Pool from 25th to 31st.
Sanderling	High count of 400 on Hauxley beach on 25th. Highest count since 2011.
Mediterranean Gull	New county record of 207 at Newbiggin on 23rd.
Caspian Gull	Ringed 'PKCS' adult still seen plus singles at Annstead, Amble and St Mary's.
Yellow-legged Gull	Unusually single juveniles at East Chevington, St Mary's and Coquet Estuary.
Fea's Petrel -type	One N on 27th at Tynemouth.
Cory's Shearwater	One seen N at Tynemouth and Newbiggin.
Yelkouan Shearwater	Potential first record for county if accepted. One on 29th past several points.
Balearic Shearwater	Several sightings mostly late in month from various watchpoints.
Spoonbill	Single at Druridge Pools and Cresswell Pond from 25th.
Great Egret	One from 15th at Cresswell Pond.
Bearded Tit	Pair bred at East Chevington. Four juveniles seen.
Barred Warbler	Singles at Holy Island and St Mary's.
Pied Flycatcher	Only single sighting at Holy Island on 22nd.

INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm.

The next meeting is on 14th October - **Phil Hamner on Goldeneyes.**

FIELD TRIPS

On hold for the next few months.

Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

76 were counted at Quarry House Moor on 17th (JR), and three were at Newstead and Warkworth Lane.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

A group of 19 at St Mary's on 23rd contained some young birds (ASJ), a female accompanied six young at Cresswell on 22nd (ASJ), a pair and five young were at Bothal on 22nd (NFO), and a pair with three small young at Big Waters on 18th (AJJ per GB). Two to five were at Boulmer, Cresswell dunes, Druridge Pools, Ellington and Warkworth Lane. One at Airy Holm Reservoir on 9th was the first record there for the observer since 2015 (IFo).

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

A calling bird was noted in a wheat field at Bilton Mill-Eden Hill near Lesbury on 5th (AHa/PHa) and 7th (MKi).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

17 were at Eglington on 17th (JR).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Coastal movement (all *hrota* race where indicated) was noted from 27th, when 18 flew N at Cullercoats (ASJ), Druridge Links (IDR), Newbiggin (TB), Seaton Sluice (SSWT), St Mary's (MSH/AC), and Stag Rocks (KWY). A total of 47 (including the above 18) moved N at Seaton Sluice between 27th-31st (SSWT), ten to 26 flew N at Bamburgh (KWY), Druridge Links (IDR) and Newbiggin (GB/TF), one to eight N at Boulmer, Cullercoats, Howick, St Mary's and Tynemouth on 30th, and five to eight N at Annstead, Druridge Links, Longhoughton Steel, Seaton Sluice and St Mary's on 31st. Ten pale-bellied *hrota* race birds at Fenham Flats, Lindisfarne NNR on 8th increased to 60 by 30th, and on 13th, four were at Ross and 13 arrived off the sea (GPK/IK).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

A total of 69 flew over Druridge Links on 13th (IDR), 12 W at Riding Mill on 29th (GB), and eight NW at Wark on 10th (PRM). The peak count from Grindon Lough was 571 on 19th (PRM), 250 were at Bothal Pond on 22nd (TD), 238 at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo), 220 at West Ord on 10th (MHu), 110-157 at Castle Island (LJM), Druridge Pools (IDR/JF) and Killingworth Lake (LJM), and 87-88 at New Water Haugh and Yarrow Slake (both R. Tweed). Counts of 40-48 came from Arcot Pond, Big Waters and Newcastle Leazes Park, and three were at Hauxley Reserve.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Singles were at Cresswell Pond (IK) on 31st and Druridge Pools on 17th and 26th (IDR/JF/IFo).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

200 flew N at Humshaugh on 18th (SW), a total of 86 flew S at East Ord on 2nd-3rd (MHu), and 42 moved NW and 30 S at Ellington on 25th (TB). Largest concentrations were 552 at Big Waters on 22nd (AJJ per GB), 500 at Airy Holm Reservoir on 1st, when 500 were at Derwent Reservoir (IFo), 400 at Budle Bay on 28th (CGK/GPK), 358 at Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary) on 16th (none present on 17th; MHu), 270 at Druridge Links on 29th (IDR), and 116-180 at Gainslaw, Haughton Strother GP, New Water Haugh (R. Tweed) and West Ord. Counts of 56-96 came from the Aln Estuary, Bothal Pond and Hauxley Reserve, 21 were at Killingworth Lake, and two to seven at/over Grindon Lough, Middle Ord Pond and Wark.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (TB).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Two flew S at Druridge Links on 14th and Seaton Sluice on 20th. A total of 380 was noted at Calot Shad, (the Tweed Estuary) on 26th and 56 at Yarrow Slake (also Tweed Estuary) on 16th (MHu). Peak counts elsewhere involved 44 at Killingworth Lake on 9th (LJM), 31 at Big Waters on 8th (GB), 11-12 at the Coquet Estuary, Druridge Pools and Linton Ponds, and five to six at Broomlee Lough and Paddy Freeman's Lake (Heaton) (four young fledged at latter site; LMi).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

An adult was at Broomlee Lough on 22nd (PRM) and another, apparently injured, was at Norham on 4th (TRD/JD).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Seven flew N and six S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and one moved N at St Mary's on 26th (MSH). A group of 15 at the Aln Estuary on 1st included 14 near adult-sized juveniles (MKi), 13 juveniles were at Longhoughton Steel on 23rd (MKi), and eight at the Blyth Estuary on 23rd (LJM). Three to six birds were at Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Links, Hauxley Reserve and Newstead Flash, and one to two at Druridge Pools and Grindon Lough. More unusual were five (all juveniles) at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (IFo).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Singles (perhaps the same wandering individual) were at Bothal Pond on 22nd (TD), Castle Island on 7th and 11th (AC/TF/JFa), Cresswell Pond on 23rd and 26th (TB/IFo), Druridge Pools on 26th and 29th (IFo/IDR) and East Chevington on 22nd (TF). One was at Derwent Reservoir from 1st-17th (IFo/MN).

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

An adult female with 12 large (fledged) young was at Low Angerton on 7th (IRD), and at Wark two juveniles were noted on 10th (PRM), a female and three juveniles on 14th (different brood to 10th; PRM). One was at Chollerford on 6th (SW).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

A juvenile was at Arcot Pond from 22nd to at least 28th (STH *et al.*), with probably the same bird at nearby Big Waters on 30th-31st (AJJ per GB). A juvenile was at Hauxley Reserve on 26th (HRS), and a female at Bothal Pond on 30th (IRD).

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Four flew N at Newbiggin on 22nd (TF), two flew N at Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth on 1st (SSWT/DRW) and one N at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (SSWT). Modest peaks involved 16 at Druridge Pools on 22nd (IDR/JF), seven at Arcot Pond on 22nd (STH), and three to four at Bothal Pond, Budle Bay and Monks' House Pool. One to two were also at Big Waters, Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve and Holy Island Lough.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Peak gatherings were 67 at Bothal Pond on 28th (TF), 53 at Linton Ponds on 23rd (CDH), 45 at Castle Island on 14th (TF), 24 at Marden Quarry on 27th (KWY), and ten to 16 at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Caistron, Druridge Pools and Hauxley Reserve. Four were at Cresswell Pond and two at Branton GP. More unusual were two at Fenham Flats on 17th (DF). Breeding data (additional to previous months unless stated otherwise) were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Castle Island	1	8	GB on 6th. Female and well-grown young
Bothal Pond	1	6	TD. New brood (less than a week old) on 8th
Cresswell Pond	1	3	MSH. Female with large young on 26th.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

A monthly total of 238 N at Seaton Sluice included 156 on 26th-27th (SSWT), 147+ flew N at Newbiggin between 26th-30th (GB/JR *et al.*), about 120 N at Longhoughton Steel (MKi) and 25 N at St Mary's (MSH) on 31st, and 48 N at Annstead Point between 26th-29th (CGK/GPK). Numbers at Grindon Lough peaked at 56 on 31st (SW), 38 were at Derwent Reservoir on 19th (IFo), 11-17 at Budle Bay, Druridge Links, Holy Island Lough, New Water Haugh (R.Tweed) and Snab Point. One to three were also at Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, East Chevington and Hauxley Reserve.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Three flew N at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT), and one N at Newbiggin on 30th. Peak counts were 106 at Arcot Pond on 5th (STH), 105 at Caistron on 15th (JD), 102 at Big Waters on 8th (MM per GB), 50-99 at Bothal and Holywell Ponds, Budle Bay, Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Newcastle Exhibition Parka and Norham, and 16-45 at Airy Holm Reservoir, the Blyth Estuary, Killingworth Lake, Middle Ord Pond, Warden and West Ord. Breeding data (additional to previous months unless stated otherwise) were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Castle Island	1	6	LJM on 24th
Horton Burn, Cramlington	1	4	LJM on 28th. Young about 4 weeks old.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

A single flock of ten flew N at Tynemouth on 27th (MK), and five flew N at Seaton Sluice between 26th-30th (SSWT). Three were at East Chevington on 12th (TF/MN), two at Bothal Pond between 29th-31st (TD), and singles at Druridge Pools from 17th, and Arcot Pond, Big Waters and Holy Island Lough between 28th-31st.

Teal *Anas crecca*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 1,061 N and 219 S (SSWT), while a total of 398 flew N at Newbiggin between 18th-27th (GB/JAR), 100-156 N at Druridge Links (IDR) and St Mary's (AC/MSH) between 8th-31st, and 30-89 N at Annstead, Boulmer, Longhoughton Steel and Tynemouth on various dates. Numbers at Grindon Lough increased from 59 on 9th to 119 by 19th to 262 by 26th (PRM/SW), 124 were at Seaton Point, Boulmer on 24th (AB/LB), 120 at Budle Bay on 22nd (CGK/GPK), 54 at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (IFo), and 21-47 at Arcot, Bothal and Linton Ponds, Druridge Pools, Druridge Links (offshore), Hauxley Reserve and Snab Point, and 15 at Castle Island. Three to eight were also at Big Waters, Budle Bay, Middle Ord Pond, the Tweed Estuary and Woodhorn Flashes.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Holywell Pond held 35 on 4th (KWY). Up to eight were at Bothal Pond during the month (TF/JFa/NFO *et al.*), and one to two at Big Waters and Killingworth Lake. Breeding data (additional to previous months unless stated otherwise) were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Holywell Pond	2	10 (5,5)	MSH. Brood about 7 days old on 2nd and brood of well-grown young on 8th.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 30th (SSWT). Peak counts were 40 at Bothal Pond on 16th (TF), 32 at Ladyburn Lake on 26th (IFo), 28 at Castle Island on 24th (LJM), and ten to 19 at Derwent Reservoir, Killingworth Lake, Linton Ponds and Woodhorn Flashes. Five to seven were also at Airy Holm Reservoir and Druridge Pools, and one to four at Big Waters, Broomlee Lough, Cocklawburn Pond and Hauxley Reserve. More unusual was a pair in Budle Bay on 2nd (GPK). Breeding data (additional to previous months unless stated otherwise) were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Woodhorn Flashes	1	8	GB. Small young on 6th.
Bothal Pond	1	6	TD. Week old young on 8th.

A female with six well-grown young at Derwent Reservoir from 1st were thought to have been bred elsewhere (IFo).

Scaup *Aythya marila*

One flew N at Tynemouth on 1st (DRW) and one was at Cresswell Pond between 12th-17th (AA/TB).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

193 were off North Blyth on 2nd (LJM), 88 moulting birds were at Cocklawburn on 26th (MHu), 50-54 at Old Hartley-Seaton Sluice (ASJ/DLo), 30 off Hauxley (HRS), and 12-17 off Druridge Links and Snab Point. Three females accompanied eight almost fully grown young at Amble Harbour on 17th (MKi).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

A total of six flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), five moved N at Newbiggin between 26th-30th (GB/JR), three N at St Mary's between 2nd-31st (JBU/MSH) and one to two N at Boulmer, Cullercoats, Cullernose Point, North Blyth, Tynemouth and Whitley Bay mainly between 22nd-31st. Three were off Druridge Links on 16th and two there on 22nd (IDR), while three were at Stag Rocks on 18th (AMG/MG).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

The monthly Seaton Sluice total was 1,061 N and 219 S (SSWT). Smaller numbers elsewhere included 120 N at Whitley Bay on 24th (MK), totals of 109 N at St Mary's between 18th-31st (AC/MSH/KWY), 97 N at Druridge Links on 31st (IDR), 77 N at Newbiggin between 6th-29th (GB/TD/JR), and 21-35 N at Low Newton and Tynemouth. At least 600 were off Druridge Links on 1st (IDR) and up to 460 during the rest of the month (IDR *et al.*), 70 were off Cambois on 6th (JR), 24-46 at Cocklawburn, Newbiggin and Snab Point, 12-15 at Alnmouth Bay and North Blyth, and six at Boulmer.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Three flew S at Tynemouth on 15th (DRW). Ten were at the regular breeding site on 3rd (JD), three (female and two fledged juveniles) at Cresswell Pond on 18th (TRD), two at East Chevington on 12th (TF) and one at Cocklawburn Pond.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Light coastal movement involved five to seven N and one S at Newbiggin on 26th-27th (GB/JR), two N and two S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and two N at Hauxley on 26th (HRS) and Tynemouth on 15th (DRW). About 180 were at Holy Island harbour during the month (IK), 148 were at Calot Shad (the Tweed Estuary) on 26th (MHu), 56-57 at Low Newton (SW) and New Water Haugh (MHu), 20-33 at Amble Harbour (HRS), the Blyth Estuary (LJM), Boulmer (TRD/JD), Holy Island east shore (STH) and West Ord (MHu), and ten to 12 at Broomlee Lough, Derwent Reservoir and Howick. Six to eight were also at the Coquet Estuary, Felton, Ingram and Spital (Newbiggin), three at Snab Point and one at Branton GP. Breeding data (additional to previous months unless stated otherwise) were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Wark (North Tyne)	1	8	PRM on 14th.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Two flew N at Boulmer on 21st (SW) and one N at Seaton Sluice on 17th (SSWT). Two broods (four and two young) were noted at Budle Bay all month (RA/CGK/GPK/KWY).

Swift *Apus apus*

Early signs of southerly migration were evidenced by eight SW in just over an hour at Druridge Links on 13th followed by 245 heading S in 2.5 hours there the following day (IDR). 150+ were feeding over St Mary's Island/Brown's Bay on both 11th (ASJ) and 15th (MSH). A loose cloud of 90 feeding birds were spread over a wide area at Jesmond on 4th (GB), 80 were at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 17th (IRD), 55 were at a Whitley Bay nest colony on 12th (ASJ), 50 were seen at Ellington on 8th (TB) and 47 at Humshaugh on 4th (SW). 45 were brought down by a thunderstorm at Beal Point on 8th (MJC) and one to 35 were reported from many other localities.

July update: 60 were nesting in streets at Whitley Bay on 28th (ASJ).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Up to three juveniles were at Lindisfarne NNR on 22nd-23rd with individuals seen at The Snook, Straight Lonnen and Chare Ends (IBDa/KDa/MJC/ADM *et al.*) and singles seen on other dates throughout the month. A juvenile was photographed in a Whitley Bay garden on 2nd (ASJ), one was at Newcastle Town Moor on 5th (LMi) with further singles encountered at Druridge Links, North Blyth, St. Mary's Mast Field and Warkworth Dunes. One seen at Yarrow Slake (the Tweed Estuary) on 12th may have been a Swan Centre rehabilitated bird released at East Ord that morning (MHu).



Juvenile Cuckoo

Blyth

August '21

Alan Jack

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

194 were at Castle Island (R. Wansbeck) on 10th (LJM), 145 around the lake edge at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 2nd (GB), 70 on the Gym Roof at Kingston Park Shopping Centre on 16th (AHB) and an unreported number were present in Jesmond Dene on 15th (MJCo).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Counts on several dates at Cresswell Pond NWT peaked at 12 on 12th and 24th (TB), seven were at Carterway Heads (Crooked Oak) on 21st (IFo) and one to six were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Druridge Pools, Fourstones, Haydon Bridge, Jesmond Dene, Twizel (Berwick), Ulgham Lane and Warkworth Lane.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Four were observed heading SW on visible migration over Druridge Links on 13th (IDR). An estimated 250 were at Howick on 25th (JAR), 12 were at Cresswell Pond NWT, up to ten at Druridge Pools & Links, eight at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) all month and seven at Jesmond Dene.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

At Newbiggin a pair were sat on eggs at Beach Terrace on 31st and a pair at Quarry Cottage were observed courting and in song all month (RS).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Three were at Gosforth Park NR on 4th (MJC), up to three were heard or seen at Arcot Pond regularly throughout the month and singles were at Big Waters NWT and, unexpectedly, on the R. Wansbeck near Castle Island (GB).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Big Waters NWT held a total of 28 birds – 25 adults/large young plus three downy chicks – on 24th (GB), 20 were at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 2nd (GB), Arcot Pond peaked at 13 plus three small young on 2nd (LJM) and one to 12 were at many other localities.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Three were watched heading SW on visible migration over Druridge Links on 13th (IDR). Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) peaked at 63 present on 8th (TD), Killingworth Lake held 39 on 22nd (LJM) and both Linton Ponds and Big Waters NWT had highs of 21 birds mid-month. 18 at Woodhorn Flashes on 23rd included one newly hatched chick and counts of one to four birds came from several other usual localities.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

An adult with two juveniles which bred on site were mixed in with adults and large juveniles from elsewhere totalling 16 birds at Big Waters NWT on 5th, increasing to 18 on 20th and reducing to 13 on 24th (GB). Six adults and nine immature birds were at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 22nd (TD), reducing to 14 present on 28th (TF), 14 were at Ladyburn Lake on 26th (IFo), 11 at Hauxley NWT on 26th (HRS) and peaks of ten were at both Castle Island and Swallow Pond on 26th and 23rd respectively. Two broods making up a total of nine were at Haughton Strother on 17th (AJR) and one to six birds were at Arcot Pond, Airy Holm Reservoir, Broomlee Lough, Castron, Cocklawburn Park, Cresswell Pond NWT, East Chevington, Exhibition Park, Haggerston Castle, Howick Pool, Linton Ponds, Middle Ord Pond (Berwick), Wark and Woodhorn Flashes. Breeding was confirmed at East Chevington North Pool, Holy Island, Holywell Pond and Linden Hall.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Breeding reports were as follows:

Locality	Total	Date	Notes	Observer
Killingworth Lake	Eight	22nd	4 adults/large juveniles and a new brood of four young	LJM
Derwent Reservoir	Seven	All month	Pair with two newly hatched young on 9th. Third breeding pair of the year	IFo
East Chevington	Five	10th	Two pairs and one juvenile	TRD/JD
Bothal Pond	Five	8th	One pair finally produced a single back-riding chick, still present on 24th	TD/TRD/JD
Haughton Strother	Four	17th	Including two young	AJR
Big Waters NWT	Three	1st	Two adults plus juvenile	GB

Non-breeding reports were received of one to four birds at Airy Holm Reservoir, Branton GP, Cresswell Pond and Holywell Pond. A juvenile at Castle Island (R. Wansbeck) was unusual for the site, one was in the Estuary at Tynemouth on 23rd and sea-watching produced regular sightings of one to two birds offshore at Druridge Bay and a single heading S at Cullercoats.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

A low monthly total of 395 (175N, 220S) was recorded at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). Two flocks totalling 175 flew S at Druridge Links with smaller groups of 21 and less both N and S on five other dates during the month (IDR). Nocturnal migrants were heard over High Heaton and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 1st and 24th (LMi). Counts from Lindisfarne NNR were 220 at Budle Bay on 22nd (CGK/GPK) and 180 at Beal Point on 8th (MJC). Three figure counts came from St Mary's Island with 133 on 24th (ASJ/SPP), Cresswell Pond with 120 on 28th (TF), Longhoughton Steel with 112 on the same date (MKi) and 106 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 23rd (AP). Other notable counts were 90 on the Battery Rocks at Tynemouth on 28th

with the same number at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 29th (IDR). Annstead (Seahouses) held 79 on 9th, the maximum count at North Blyth Staithes was 72 on 31st and 58 were at Bewick Drift (Lynemouth) on 15th. One-24 were at five other coastal localities. There were still a few reports from inland with five at Riding Mill on 1st, two at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) from 1st-11th and one at Hexham on 3rd.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Reports came from Cresswell Pond up to 22nd with the maximum being four (three adults and a juvenile) on 10th (MSH/TB/CB *et al.*) One to two (one juvenile) were reported from Druridge Pools on 4th, 5th and 22nd (MN/CB/MSH).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

The largest groups had gathered in coastal and near coastal areas with the peak count being 580 at Bothal Pond on 18th (TF). At Holywell Pond numbers concentrated in surrounding fields with 150 present on 1st increasing to 450-500 by 20th (MN/MK/MSH/KWY). Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) attracted 420 on 16th (MHu), with 350 at both Castle Island (River Wansbeck) and Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 19th (TF/IFo). Cresswell Pond held 300 on 7th (TD), with the peak count at Arcot Pond being made on 30th when 250 were noted (STH/DM). Reports of 225 birds were recorded from Alnmouth on 3rd and Haughton Strother on 17th with an estimated 220 at Broomlee Lough on 22nd, 170 at Elswick (River Tyne) on 25th and 110 at St Mary's on 19th. Two-45 were seen at Druridge Pools & Links, Embleton, Grindon Lough, Howdon and Newstead Flash. Late breeding was noted at Holy Island where two chicks just at the flying stage were seen at the Straight Lonnen on 11th (IK).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Some light passage was noted, with 50W at the Strawberry Field (Holy Island) on 22nd (ADM), 30N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 23rd (DF), 22N at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 18th (IDR/JF) and eight N at Ellington on 25th (TB). Birds concentrated at Lindisfarne NNR with the highest count being 1,500 on 23rd (IBDa/KDa). Elsewhere at Lindisfarne 955 were counted from two photographs taken at the Snook (Holy Island) on 28th (ADM) and 500 Northern race birds were at Castle Point (Holy Island) on 10th (IK). A flock reported at St Mary's from 6th-21st varied between 400-1,000 (AC/ASJ/KWY) with another or the same group a few miles further north at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) being reported as 600-800 from 1st-29th (TD/TF/JFa). Numbers at Longhoughton Steel built up from 276 on 1st to 800 on 23rd (CSa/MKi). At Boulmer a flock of 400 was reported from 13th-27th (TRD/JD/AMG/MG) with 400 also seen at Holywell Pond on 20th (MN). Other three figure counts were 350 at Annstead on 14th (DF) with 200 at Cullernose Point on 18th (AMG/MG) and 100 at Ellington on 26th (TB). One-85 were recorded at Broomlee Lough, Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Howick, Newbiggin, the River Coquet Estuary and Warkworth Lane during the month.

July records - At St Mary's Island 550 were noted on 20th increasing to 950 on 30th (ASJ).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

At Seaton Sluice three flew N, all in summer plumage, between 26th-27th (SSWT). Single birds flying N were also seen at Hauxley on 26th, Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 27th and Church Point (Newbiggin) on 30th (HRS/KWY/GB). The summering flock at Budle Bay numbered 200 on 24th (CGK). Elsewhere at Lindisfarne NNR, 34 were at Beal Point on 8th (MJC) and three at Fenham-le-Moor on 26th (TRD/JD). Small numbers at other locations were four at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 27th (JR), three at Boulmer on 19th and 21st (TRD/JD/SW) with singles at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (IFo) and St Mary's Island from 21st-26th (AC/ASJ/JBu).



Grey Plover
St Mary's Island
August '21
Alan Jack

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Higher numbers were evident this month with 200 at Hauxley beach being the peak count on 25th but only 20 noted there the next day (CSa/HRS). The peak monthly count at Budle Bay was 120 on 15th (DF) with the same number present at Boulmer on 21st (SW). The River Blyth Estuary attracted 82 on 26th (IFo) with 73 at a high-tide roost on Ferguson's roof there the next day (STH). At Longhoughton Steel, 55 were present on 23rd (MKi), 52 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 18th (AP), 49 were at Annstead (Seahouses) on 9th (DF) and 48 at the River Coquet Estuary on 15th (CSa). In the Cresswell area 44 were at Snab Point on 18th (IDR/JF) and 40 at Boghall Rocks on 28th (TB). Many juveniles were noted in the 43 birds at St Mary's Island on 19th (ASJ) indicating an influx, as a maximum of 15 had been seen there on 12th (MSH). Other counts were 40 at Amble Braid on 10th, 26 at Low Newton on 21st, 20 at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 29th, 15 at Cocklawburn on 13th and 11 at Tynemouth on 28th. One-three were seen at Bothal Pond (two adults and a well-grown chick), Cooper's Flash (Bothal), Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir and Druridge Links.



Ringed Plover

St Mary's Island

August '21

Alan Jack

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubious*

Four juveniles was the highest count at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (IFo). Away from Derwent Reservoir, two juveniles were at Budle Bay on 4th (GPK) being only the 5th record for the site and presumably the same two juveniles were slightly further south at Monks' House Pool on 7th (CGK/GPK/KWY). Singles were at Castle Island on 6th (GB) and Cresswell Pond on 9th and 24th (MSH/TB).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

A very low monthly total of 24 (1N, 23S) was reported from Seaton Sluice (SSWT). Thirteen flew S at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 12th (AP), eleven flew N at Newton Point on 21st (SW), with ten flying W at Tynemouth on 6th (KWY). Other active migrants were six S at Annstead (Seahouses) on 3rd, six S at St Mary's on 8th, four S at Newbiggin on 26th, with three on 12th and singles S on 15th and 23rd, three S over the Straight Lonnen (Holy Island) on 22nd and three S at Tynemouth on 23rd. One-two flying S, E or W were reported from Alnmouth, Arcot Pond, Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Cresswell Pond, Ellington, Howick, Morpeth, Walkerville (Newcastle), Warkworth and West Hartford. Feeding or resting birds were seen at Tynemouth with seven on 7th, five at Holy Island causeway on 22nd, four at Castle Point (Holy Island) on 10th, four at Cresswell Pond on 11th-12th and three at both The Snook (Holy Island) on 8th and Druridge Links on 20th. One-two were at Amble, Beal, Boulmer, Budle Bay, Cocklawburn, Cresswell Pond, Cullernose Point, East Chevington, Ellington, Ingram (Breamish Valley), Hauxley beach, Longhoughton Steel, Lynemouth Flash, Newbiggin, the River Coquet Estuary, St Mary's and Warkworth Lane.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Light passage (or local movement) was noted with one-six flying N, S or W at Druridge Links, Gosforth Garden Village and Humshaugh. Longhoughton Steel held the highest numbers with 282 recorded on 3rd and 275 on 23rd (MKi). A minimum of 150 was at Beal on 25th (DF) with 141 at Cresswell Pond on 9th (TF/JFa), 124 at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) on 16th (MHu) and 117 at the River Aln Estuary on 1st (MKi). Other gatherings on the coast included 97 at Hauxley NWT on 26th (HRS), 76 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 10th (AP), 61 at the River Coquet Estuary on 17th (MKi), 58 at the River Blyth Estuary (Sleekburn confluence) on 28th (LJM) and a minimum of 20 at St Mary's Island on 24th (DLo). One-15 were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools & Links, Grindon Lough, Seaton Sluice and Snab Point (Cresswell).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

The only report from Seaton Sluice was a flock of 35 N which was put up by a passing Osprey on 18th (SSWT). Passage at Tynemouth involved 15S on 8th and four S on 15th (DRW). At St Mary's Island, three flew N on 9th, 2N on 28th and a single N on 26th (MSH/ASJ). Two flew N at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 26th (TRD/JD) and one flew N at Cullercoats on 31st (ASJ). As usual the largest numbers were reported from Lindisfarne NNR with 300 at St Cuthbert's Island on 7th with 60 in

breeding plumage. This indicated the return of some breeding birds rather than over summering non-breeders (IK). At Beal Point a count of 94 was made the next day (MJC). One-11 were reported from Boulmer, Church Point (Newbiggin), Cresswell Pond, Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR), Hauxley NWT and beach, Newton Point, the River Coquet Estuary and Snab Point (Cresswell).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 4 (3S on 7th and 1S on 23rd) (SSWT). Four flew N at Lynemouth on 15th (TB) and two flew S at Beal on 25th (DF). The favoured sites of Druridge Pools and Cresswell Pond were well reported with between two and 50 seen at Druridge Pools during the month and six and 46 at Cresswell Pond indicating some interchange between sites (RB/MB/IDR/TF *et al.*). The other major concentrations of birds were at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) where 47 were present on 21st (TF) and the River Coquet Estuary where a peak of 22 birds occurred on 30th (KWY/GB). Eight were at Monks' House Pool on 7th reducing to one by 30th (KWY/TRD/JD). Elsewhere, one-three were seen at Amble Braid, Budle Bay, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond, New Water Haugh (River Tweed), the River Aln Estuary and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Cresswell Pond as last month attracted the highest numbers with a maximum of 44 noted on 28th (TF) and 20 were at nearby Snab Point on 29th (IDR). Forty were at Boulmer on 22nd (TRD/JD) and 34 were on the rocks at Annstead (Seahouses) on 9th (DF). In the South East, 34 were roosting at Tynemouth pier on 20th (MK), 24 at Cullercoats on 29th (ASJ), 17 at North Blyth Staithes on 2nd (STH) with probably 13 of the same birds near the boatyard on 10th (LJM). One-ten were reported from Cocklawburn, Hauxley NWT, Hauxley beach, Seaton Sluice and St Mary's Island.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Passage reports were Seaton Sluice where 59 flew S on 6th-7th (SSWT), Annstead (Seahouses) with 27S on 5th (DF), and 20N at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 18th (IDR/JF). Lindisfarne NNR attracted the highest numbers with 300 at Budle Bay and 102 at Beal Point both on 8th (GPK/MJC). A flock of 51 was at the River Coquet Estuary also on 8th (KWY) and the peak count at Cresswell Pond was made on 7th when 35 were present (MN). Beacon Point (Newbiggin) held 15 on 7th (TF/JFa) and one-nine were seen at Amble Braid, Boulmer, Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Druridge Links, Fenham-le-Moor (Lindisfarne NNR), Hauxley NWT and beach, Longhoughton Steel and the River Blyth Estuary.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Five flew S at St Mary's Island on 17th (JBU) with a single flying N at Seaton Sluice on the same day. Another northbound bird was noted at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 9th (TF/JFa). The highest concentration was at Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR) on 26th when 23 were present, the observers noting that this is now a regular haunt for this species. At East Chevington, two were seen on 3rd increasing to ten by 16th and declining thereafter when one was seen on 22nd (TRD/JD/AA/MN *et al.*). A peak of nine was reported at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) from 19th-22nd reducing to three by 26th (TF/NFO/GB *et al.*). Five were at Budle Bay on 25th (CPK/GPK), with four at Druridge Pools and three at both Bothal Pond and Newstead Flash. Singles were at Arcot Pond, Berwick, Boulmer, Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond, Longhoughton Steel, Monk's House Pool, Newbiggin and the River Coquet Estuary.



Ruff

Newbiggin Bay

24th August

Graham Sorrie

Curlew Sandpipe *Calidris ferruginea*

Light passage was noted in the last week with three adults being seen at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 20th (AC) and three at Monks' House Pool on 31st (AMG/MG). Two were on Hauxley beach on 25th with a single juvenile remaining until 27th (HRS/CSa).

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

A bird was reported at Monks' House Pool from 28th-31st. (GB/KWY *et al.*).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

An increase in numbers was evident this month with 400 present on Hauxley beach on 25th (CSa). Seven were seen at St Mary's Island on 4th increasing to a high of 91 on 19th (MSH/ASJ/KWY). Birds roosted at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) all month with a peak of 82 occurring on 11th (AP). Warkworth attracted 66 on 24th (JAR) with 65 at Whitley Bay the next day. Numbers varied at Druridge Links with 45 counted on 1st but only four on 26th. Perhaps they had all gone to Hauxley at the north end of Druridge Bay. One-25 were reported from Amble, Annstead (Seahouses), Beal (Lindisfarne NNR), Boulmer, Cresswell, East Chevington, Longhoughton Steel, the River Blyth Estuary and the River Coquet Estuary.



Sanderling

St Mary's Island

21st August

Colin Bradshaw

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

On 7th there were 15 present on Hauxley beach (RB/MB) which increased to 300 on 25th (CSa) reducing to 50 the next day (HRS). A hide-tide concentration at Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR) attracted 247 on 8th (MJC) and a minimum of 150 were seen at Whitley Bay beach on 25th (MSH). Other three-figure counts were 132 at Longhoughton Steel on 28th (MKi), 126 at Budle Bay on 7th (KWY) and 112 at the River Coquet Estuary on 22nd (ASJ). Reports received from Boulmer showed a build up from 15 on 12th (TRD/JD) to 71 on 31st (MKi). The maximum count at the River Blyth Estuary was 57 on 26th (GB), two were present at Cresswell Pond on 3rd and by 25th 53 were recorded. (TRD/NFO). The monthly peak at St Mary's Island was a minimum of 40 on 19th (MSH). One-12 were seen at Amble Braid, Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Cocklawburn, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Hauxley NWT and Monks' House Pool.

July records- 126 were at Amble on 24th (ASJ).



Dunlin

St Mary's Island

August '21

Alan Jack

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

A single flew N at Seaton Sluice on 18 (SSWT). Small numbers were present in the south east with one-two reported from Cullercoats, Newbiggin, Seaton Sluice St Mary's Island and Tynemouth. Five were near the west pier at Blyth South Harbour on 23rd (LJM). The only other report was two at Cocklawburn on 13th (MHu).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

A small influx involved two juveniles at Amble on 25th (NFO) and a juvenile at St Mary's Island from 20th-22nd (AC/MSH/CB *et al.*). A juvenile roosted at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) from 26th-29th (AP) and a juvenile was present at the nearby River Blyth Estuary on 26th (GB). Singles were seen at Grindon Lough on 26th (SW/PRM) and at Monks' House Pool on 31st (AMG/MG).



Little Stint

St Mary's Island

21st August

Colin Bradshaw

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Immigration was suggested by 11 'in-off' at Budle Point on 22nd (CGK/GPK). At Druridge Links, three flew SW on 13th with one S on 14th (IDR). Counts in double figures were 16 at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (IFo), 14 at Druridge Pools & Links on 10th (IDR), 11 at Cresswell Pond on 26th (IFo) and ten at Bothal Pond on 22nd (TD). One-nine were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Big Waters, Castle Island (River Wansbeck), East Chevington, Gosforth Park NR, Grindon Lough, Hauxley NWT, Holywell Pond, Newstead Flash and Monks' House Pool. An interesting saltwater record was a single in the wader roost at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 24th (AP).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Virtually all inland breeding areas were deserted as birds headed to lowland and coastal sites. Castle Island held eight on 7th which declined to one by 22nd (TF/JFa/GB *et al.*). There were seven at Budle Bay on 7th with one remaining by 20th (GPK/DF). Six were still at Derwent Reservoir on 9th with one left on 18th, (IFo), with five at Woodhorn Flashes on 6th (GB) and four at both Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 8th (MJC) and Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 9th (AP). One-two were reported from Amble Braid, Big Waters, Caistron, Cresswell Pond, Cullernose Point, Grindon Lough, Holy Island, Holywell Pond, Middle Ord Pond, (Berwick), Monks' House Pool, Newcastle Business Park (River Tyne) and Seaton Sluice (flying S).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Southbound migrants were noted over Alan Jack's garden at Tynemouth on 12th, at Druridge Links on 14th (IDR), Ponteland High School on 17th (DRW) and Boulmer on 21st (SW). Migrants were much more noticeable in the area this month with the peak occurring at Arcot Pond where seven were present on 16th (GB per STH), five on 15th and 22nd and four from 2nd-20th (LJM/STH). Four were present at Newstead Flash on 4th (GPK) and also at Druridge Pools on 6th (ADM) with three detected at Hedgeley GP on IBDa/KDa). One-two were Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Cooper's Flash (Bothal), Brandon (Breamish Valley), Budle Bay, Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Cresswell Pond, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Holywell Flash & Pond, Middle Ord Pond (Berwick), Mootlaw Quarry (Ryal), Ogle Bridge (River Blyth) and St Mary's Island.

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

There were some notable concentrations at several sites this month with the highest being 258 at a roost at the River Blyth Estuary on 3rd (ASJ). Yarrow Slake (River Tweed) held 242 on 16th (MHu), the maximum count at the River Coquet Estuary was 225 on 16th (TF), with a minimum of 200 at Budle Bay on 5th (CGK/GPK) and 122 at Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary) on 1st (MHu). On other stretches of coast, Longhoughton Steel attracted 81 on 23rd (MKi), 64 were at Cresswell Pond on 5th and at St Mary's on 24th (TB/ASJ). On the River Tyne, 62 gathered at Howdon wetland on 11th (CB), 45 were reported from Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 8th (MJC), with 41 seen at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 6th (GB) and 40 were present at the River Aln Estuary on 14th (MKi). One-29 were recorded at Annstead (Seahouses), Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Links, Hauxley NWT, Newcastle Business Park (River Tyne), the River Wansbeck Estuary, Seaton Sluice and Snab Point (Cresswell).

July Record-79 were at St Mary's Island on 19th (ASJ).



Redshank

St Mary's Island

August '21

Alan Jack

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Two were seen at Druridge Pools on 10th (IDR) with two also just north at East Chevington from 12th-22nd with a single on 23rd-24th (TF/MN *et al.*). One flew W over Gosforth Park NR on 4th (MJC) and singles were present at Budle Bay on 9th (CGK/GPK) and well inland at Grindon Lough on the same day (SW). One remained in the Holywell Flash and Pond area from 13th-16th (MN/MSH/KWY) and one flew around St Mary's Wetland but did not land on 20th (ASJ).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Birds were reported all month at Cresswell Pond with a maximum of two on 22nd (CB/TRD/JD *et al.*). A juvenile was at Castle Island on 6th (AC) with an adult reported the next day (TF/JFa). An adult was seen at Budle Bay on 11th with a juvenile there on 22nd (CGK/GPK). Other singles were at Druridge Pools on 17th (AA), the River Blyth Estuary on 22nd (ASJ) and the River Coquet Estuary on 30th (KWY).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

The favoured Beal area of Lindisfarne NNR attracted birds with a peak of 18 occurring on 8th reducing to two by 25th (MJC/IK/DF/GPK). The maximum at nearby Budle Bay was ten on 11th (CGK/GPK) with six reported from Holy Island causeway on 22nd (MJC). At Castle Island (River Wansbeck) one on the 6th increased to six on 22nd with only one noted on 24th (NFO/GB/LJM). The peak count at Cresswell Pond was made on 24th, when five were seen (TRD/JD) and three were seen 1km east of Lesbury on 14th (MKI). One-two were present or flying over Alnmouth, Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Broomlee Lough, Castron, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Links and Pools, East Chevington, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond and village, Monks' House Pool, New Water Haugh (River Tweed), Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin), the River Aln Estuary, Snab Point (Cresswell), St Mary's, Warkworth Lane and West Ord (Berwick).



Greenshank

Cresswell Pond

23rd August

Colin Bradshaw

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Some moderate movements both N and S were recorded on various dates with a maximum of 500 passing Boulmer on 27th (TRD). At Cullernose Point, 500 were still on and around the cliffs on 1st (TRD). 159 were at St. Mary's Island on 11th (ASJ). And 100-150 were in the Tweed Estuary and Blyth Harbour (MHu/STH). Smaller numbers up to 50 were seen at Boulmer, Druridge Links, Howick, Newbiggin, Seaton Sluice, Snab Point and Stag Rocks, An unusual sighting was of a juvenile flying E over Arcot Pond on 5th (STH).

July addition – 500+ were at Howick on 24th July (ASJ).



Kittiwake

Howick

1st August

Tim Dean

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

At Budle Point, 1,500 were counted on 24th (CGK) with smaller counts there of up to 500 on other days; 300 followed a plough at Howick (JAR) and 100-270 were seen in the Blyth Estuary, Cresswell Pond, the Tweed Estuary, Warkworth and West Ord. Elsewhere, groups offshore of up to 40 were sighted in regular counts at Druridge Links and Snab Point with 20-40 at Bothal Pond and in Jesmond Dene.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Almost all records came during the last ten days. At Annstead, eight flew N on 23rd (DF) and three were offshore at Druridge Links, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island (IDR/MSH/AC/ADMc). All other records elsewhere were of singles at East Chevington, Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

Numerous sightings were reported and the late summer influx produced a county record count of 207 in the favoured Newbiggin area on 23rd (STH/AP/DE). Other large counts were 75-90 in Lynemouth Bay and Newbiggin south bay (IDR/ADMc) with many sightings of up to 55 from Cresswell Pond and Ellington with ten elsewhere at Castle Island, six at Budle Bay, Druridge Links and up to four at Annstead, the Coquet Estuary, Holy Island, Holywell Pond, Seaton Sluice, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.



Mediterranean Gull

St Mary's Island

1st August

Jack Bucknall

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Apart from a very large gathering of 3,000 at Budle Point on 24th (CGK), all other records were of up to 28 at Druridge Links/Pools, Leazes Park, Snab Point, the Tweed Estuary and West Ord,

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

The maximum counts were 90 at Longhoughton Steel (MKi), 70 at Budle Point (CGK), 60 in the Coquet Estuary (TF/JFa) and 30 offshore at Druridge Links (IDR). Elsewhere, five were at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) with one or two at three other localities.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argenteus*

Some large gatherings included an estimated 1,000+ at Budle Bay/Point on 24th-25th (DF/CGK), 300-400 at the Blyth and Coquet Estuaries, Warkworth beach and 86 in a roost at West Ord. Smaller numbers of up to 50 were seen regularly at Druridge Links/Pool and an immature at Big Waters was seen to be caught and killed by an otter (GB)..

***Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

The returning ringed bird PKCS was again in Amble Harbour on 3rd and 26th (TRD/CSa) and single immature birds were recorded in the Coquet Estuary on 20th (CSa), St Mary's Island on 21st (CB/AC) and at Annstead/Seahouses Harbour/Budle Bay on 27th (CGK/GPK)



Caspian Gull

Amble

3rd August

Tim Dean

***Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

Single juveniles were seen at St Mary's Island on 4th (AC), the Coquet Estuary on 15th (CSa) and East Chevington on 22nd and 23rd (TF/NFO)..



Lesser Black-backed Gull
Larus fuscus graelsii

Apart from a gathering of 270 at Budle Point on 24th (CGK) surprisingly few were reported comprising a maximum of nine of several counts at Druridge Links, six at West Ord and one to three at six other localities.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

St Mary's Island

3rd August

Jack Bucknall

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Counts in the Tyne and Tweed Estuaries late in the month found 53 and 46 (ASJ/MHu) and 20-40 were seen on various dates at Annstead, the Blyth Estuary, Budle Bay, Cocklawburn, Hauxley, Howick and Snab Point. A series of counts at Druridge Links recorded a maximum of 19, the Cresswell area 13 and up to ten at a further 12 sites.

July Addition 159 were at St. Mary's Island on 11th July(ASJ).



Sandwich Tern

St Mary's Island

August '21

Alan Jack

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

One or two were noted at Beal Point (Lindisfarne), Druridge Bay (Chibburn Mouth), Holy Island and Newbiggin with the latest seen on 22nd..

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Well-reported throughout the month with a maximum of 20 at Budle Bay on 22nd (CGK) and a total of 17 at the Seaton Sluice Watch Tower being an average for the month. A sea-watch at Druridge Links recorded 15 on 7th (IDR) and up nine, including juveniles, were sighted at some 20 other localities with the latest being a single flying S on 31st..

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Good numbers were seen at Seaton Sluice with peaks of 160 N and 75 S on 17th and 50 N, 155 S on 20th (SSWT). The North Blyth staithes colony which had around 14 nests this year held 90 adults/juveniles on 2nd with downy young still in the nests (STH/JM). The Big Waters NWT site fledged no young this year possibly due the presence of otters (GB). Gatherings and sea-watch counts throughout included 20-40 at Annstead, the Blyth Estuary, Boulmer, Druridge Links, East Chevington, Howick, and Newbiggin with up to ten at some 10 other localities.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

A peak count of 30 came from Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 7th (TF/JFa) with 25 N on 3rd and 13 S on 14th at Annstead (DF) and one to six at seven other sites with the latest sighting on 30th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

A juvenile first appeared at East Chevington on 21st (AP) with two there the next day. Elsewhere two juveniles were offshore at Tynemouth-North Shields on 23rd (ASJ) and two at Annstead on 29th (CGK/GPK). A juvenile flew N at Druridge Links on 24th, two flew N at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 29th (AP) and a single lingered offshore at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 26th-27th (NFO/JR). The number of individuals involved in these reports is indeterminate.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Seaton Sluice recorded its highest number for August since 1989 with an impressive total of 98 N and 5 S; the peak day was 26th with 35 N and 2 S (SSWT). At Annstead Point, 13 hours of sea-watching on 26th-29th produced a total of 71. (CGK/GPK), 26 were seen at Newbiggin (Church Point) on 27th (JR) with 11 there on 30th (GB) and 11-12 were counted at Cullernose Point, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth on 26th-27th (JR/AC/MK). During this exceptional period 41 other records were received of up to nine from many watch points along the entire coastline between Berwick Pier and Tynemouth with the majority towards the month end.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

The Seaton Sluice sightings were four N on 1st and a single S on 6th (SSWT). Records from elsewhere on 1st comprised four N at Old Hartley (ASJ), two N at Druridge Links (IDR) and St Mary's Island (JBU/AC) and a single at Newbiggin (ADMc). On 2nd two moved N at Seaton Sluice (DLo) and on 8th a single flew S at Tynemouth (DRW).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Following last year's recent record of 115 at Seaton Sluice, another good showing this month with a total of 112 comprising 55 N and 57 S but this is still far short of the average August figures recorded pre-2000 (SSWT). Other records were 14 seen during 13 hours sea-watching from 26th-29th (CGK/GPK/TH), nine past St Mary's Island on 1st (JBU), nine at Cullernose Point and Newbiggin on 27th (JR/CSa) and five to six at Druridge Links and Tynemouth. Smaller numbers of up to four came in 40 other records from widespread coastal watch points between Lindisfarne NNR and Tynemouth on dates throughout.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

At Seaton Sluice, three adults passed N together on 1st and a single juvenile flew N on 27th (SSWT). All other records were of single birds of different ages passing N on 26th-27th, seen at Boulmer, Cullernose Point, Newbiggin and Tynemouth.

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*/ **Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Very few were seen passing at Seaton Sluice until 26th with 102 N then 285 N on 31st (SSWT). At Druridge Links, 25 passed N on 1st with 57 N on 31st (IDR)..

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Big numbers were on the sea at Boulmer on several days with a maximum of 180 on 22nd (TRD), 100 were at Church Point, Newbiggin on 27th (TB) and 60-65 at Howick and Tynemouth on 17th-20th (JAR/MK). Smaller groups of up to 50 adults/juveniles on the sea were widely reported from 14 other localities.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

The largest groups, including some juveniles, were counted on the sea at Boulmer on the 19th-22nd (TRD) with 30 at Church Point (Newbiggin), 20 at Druridge Links, ten at Tynemouth and up to six at eight other localities.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

The August total from Seaton Sluice was 43 N comprising two peaks of 32 and 11 at the start and end of the month (SSWT). Only a few were recorded elsewhere with 11 at Druridge Links and up to five at Hauxley, Holy Island, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

The monthly count at Seaton Sluice was 60 birds with 45N & 15S - a high monthly total (SSWT). Six birds were at Druridge Links on 24th (IDR) and at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 30th (GB); five were offshore at Spittal (Newbiggin) on 21st (GB), St Mary's Island on 27th (MSH/AC), Tynemouth on 30th (CB) and also at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 30th (IDR). One - four birds were at 10 sites during the month.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

A bird flew N over Longhoughton Steel on 28th giving very good views to the observer (MKi).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

On 23rd an adult bird flew S at St Mary's Island (LMi) and a bird flew N there on 26th MSH/AC; it or another bird was also seen flying N at Tynemouth (MK), Seaton Sluice (SSWT) & at Druridge Links (IDR) also on 26th.

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

87 birds flew N in 1hr 45min at Annstead (Seahouses) on 16th (DF), 47 flew N in 2hrs at Druridge Links on 31st (IDR), 45 went N at Hauxley in 1hr 30mins on 26th (HRS). One - 31 birds were noted at 10 sites including single chicks at Cullernose Point on 1st (TRD) and at Dunstanburgh Castle on 9th (JAR).

Fulmar chick

Howick

1/8/21

Tim Dean

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*

July Bulletin. The well-tracked individual was also seen at Cullercoats (ASJ/MK).

Zino's/Fea's/Desertas Petrel *Pterodroma sp*

A bird was watched flying N at Tynemouth between 19:05 - 19:10H on 27th (MK).

Large Shearwater *Calonectris/Ardenna* sp

A large shearwater which flew distantly N at 11:10 hrs on 30th was almost certainly a Cory's Shearwater (MSH) and a large Shearwater was also seen at Snab Point (Cresswell), also on 30th (IDR).

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*

On 1st a bird flew N at Tynemouth at ca 09:10 hrs (MK). It or another bird was probably this species and it was seen at Newbiggin earlier the same day (TRD).

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice of 109 N was well above the August average, with very few before the 26th when 90 went N (SSWT). In 13hrs of sea watching at Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 26th-29th, 42 birds were seen (CGK/GPK/TH). At St Mary's Island 28 flew N on 26th (AC/JBu), 17 flew N at Cullernose Point on 27th (CSa) and 17N at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 30th (TF). One to fifteen birds were noted at 13 sites during the month.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

A count of 277 birds with 263 N & 14S was a poor August total, with a maximum of 95N on 1st (SSWT). At Annstead (Teahouses) in 13hrs of sea watching between 26th – 29th, 73 birds were counted (CGK/GPK/TH). On 1st at Tynemouth 63 birds went N (DRW), 52 went N at St Mary's Island (JBu) & 24N at Cullernose Point (IBDa/KDa). 23 went N at St Mary's Island on 2nd (JBu), 20 went past Cullernose Point on 17th (IBDa/KDa). One to seventeen birds were seen at over 12 sites during the month.



Manx Shearwater

St Mary's Island

1/8/21

Jack Bucknall

Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan*

On the 29th a bird tracked up the coast from Whitburn at 08:22 was seen at Tynemouth at 08:35 (MK), then at St Mary's Island at 08:50 (MSH/AC), at Church Point, Newbiggin at 09:18 (GAS), at Annstead Point (Seahouses) at 13:50 CGL/GPK) & at Seaton Sluice at 08:54 (SSWT) with the observers agreeing that this bird was a strong candidate for a Yelkouan Shearwater.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Single birds were noted N at Seaton Sluice on 20th, 30th & 31st (SSWT). On 18th a bird circled a flock of feeding gulls twice & then flew S offshore at East Chevington (PG); other birds were at Cullercoats on 23rd (ASJ), Church Point (Newbiggin) on 27th (TB). On 29th a bird which was reported at Cullercoats (ASJ) and Newbiggin at 09:22 flew N past Snab Point (Cresswell) at 09:58 (IDR). On 30th a bird was noted N at Tynemouth (CB) was seen at Church Point (Newbiggin) later on (TF/GB) and a dark bird flew N at Church Point (Newbiggin) at 10:44 on 31st (NFO).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Annstead (Seahouses) produced counts on 1,879 N on 31st, 1,294 on 23rd and 1,235 on 1st (DF), 1,750 N at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT) and other high counts were 1,200 at Howick on 30th (TRD/JD), 977 at Druridge Links on 31st (IDR), 828 at Annstead (Seahouses) on 16th (DF), ca 800 at Seaton Sluice on 31st (DLo), 774 at Annstead (Seahouses) on 20th (DF), 550 N at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 26th (MHZ), ca 500 N at Boulmer on 27th (TRD), 400 at Longhoughton Steel on 31st (Mki) and 371 N at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 26th (JR). Two - 163 were observed at 11 Sites.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

An impressive 190 birds were in the roost at Blyth Harbour on 28th (STH), 77 birds were in the R Blyth Estuary on 23rd (LJM) and 75 were on the islands on the North Pool at East Chevington on 3rd (TRD). 37 were at Castle Island (R Wansbeck) on 24th (LJM), 31 in Amble Harbour on 14th (LJM) and at Hauxley NWT on 26th (HRS). One to 25 were at nine sites during the month.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

The monthly total from Seaton Sluice was 28 birds with 23N and 5S with a maximum of 16N on 26th (SSWT). On 15th at Meadow Haven (Berwick) 26 birds were in the roost & at Needles Eye (Berwick) 12 birds were in the roost there on 3rd (MHu). Two birds were at Boulmer on 19th & 22nd (TRD/JD) and singles were at Boulmer, Church Point (Newbiggin), Druridge Links, Howick & Snab Point (Cresswell).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

An immature was at Cresswell Pond NWT on 25th (NFO) and an un-aged bird was at Druridge Pools on 29th, 30th and 31st (IDR/JF/IK).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

18 birds were around the old heronry at Howdon on 12th (CB), 14 were at Yarrow Slake (R Tweed Estuary) on 16th (Mhu), and ten were at Howdon on 13th (AB/LB). Nine birds were at Boulmer on 19th (TRD/JD) & Monks' House Pool on 28th (KWY). One to seven birds were seen at 19 sites including five birds, presumably arriving immigrants, at St Mary's Island which came in off the sea from the E at a great height (MSH/AC).



Grey Heron

Cresswell Pond

23rd August

Colin Bradshaw

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

A bird which was seen at Cresswell Pond on 14th (ADMc) was also seen there on 15th, 20th, 21st, 22nd & 25th (ADMc/TB/MN/TF/NFO).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

16 birds were at Castle Island (R Wansbeck) on 20th (AC), 15 were at Budle Bay on 18th & 25th (CGK/GPK). 14 were at Castle Island (R Wansbeck) on 19th (TF), 12 were at Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR) on 17th (DF), 11 were at Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 8th (MJC) & 11 were at Cresswell Pond on 15th (ADMc). A total of 77 records were received of one - nine birds which were seen at 24 sites including five birds (2 adults & three juveniles) feeding in a flooded field at Tyne Riverside CP (Newburn) perhaps suggesting local breeding.

July Bulletin Four birds were at Holywell Pond NR on 14th (MSH).

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Three birds were at Derwent Reservoir on 8th & 25th (IFo) and three were at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotley Field) on 11th (IFo), one to two birds were also seen at Derwent Reservoir on 13 dates (IFo/MN/ASJ) including a colour-ringed bird with a blue ring with EE on the left leg, which was a female born in Aberdeenshire in 2010 & seen at Derwent Reservoir in 2016 & 2020. Single birds were seen at Norham (R Tweed) on 14th (AJN); one flew S at St Mary's Island (AC/JBu), Earsdon (KWY) & Cullercoats (ASJ) on 18th. At Broomlee Lough on 22nd a juvenile was present (PRM), one was soaring N of Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) on 28th (ADMc) and one flew SW at St Mary's Island on 30th (ASJ).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Two birds were seen during vizmig at Druridge Links on 14th (IDR) and two different males were at Ellington on 17th (TB). Single birds were at 26 sites during the month including a female being mobbed by Sandwich Terns *Thalasseus sandvicensis* at Amble Harbour on 17th (Mki).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Only one record was received of this secretive raptor which was a female soaring high before gliding away SW at Low Wakerley on 23rd (IFo).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

A pair was at Millfield on 19th & 20th (JJo) and two birds were interacting at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 28th (ADM). Single birds were at Budle Bay on 4th, 8th & 28th (CGK/GPK/RA); other single birds were at Hartley West Farm (Holywell Dene) on 10th (MSH), Druridge Links on 13th & 14th (IDR), Grindon Lough on 19th (PRM), East Chevington on 24th (TRD/JD) & at Bothal Pond on 28th (TF).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

A juvenile flew N at St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) on 6th (IK), an adult male flew over the A69 nr Spadeadam junction on 10th (IF) and a juvenile was at an undisclosed site on 11th & 18th (ADM).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Three birds were at Derwent reservoir on 11th (IFo); two birds were at Carterway Heads on 14th & at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo) with singles several dates (IFo). Singles were seen at Tynemouth on 1st (DRW), Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire) on 2nd (AJH), Snods Edge on 5th (IFo), Lowick on 19th (IBDa/KDa) and at Wark (N Tyne) on 22nd & 25th (PRM).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

11 birds were at Holywell Pond on 28th (MN), six were on the Forest Drive (Kielder) on 18th (ADM) and five were at East Cramlington Pond NWT on 24th (MJC). Four birds were at Holywell Pond on 11th (ASJ), Etal on 16th (JAR), Milkwell (Corbridge) on 24th (RB/MB) and at Newton Red House (Mitford) on 25th (PG). One to three birds were at 27 sites. Singles were noted at St Mary's, Old Hartley, and Holy Island, where a juvenile was observed chasing insects in a Chare End garden on 24th (IK).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

All reports were of singles hunting Strawberry Field (Holy Island) regularly during the month, at Cresswell Pond on five dates from 10th to 24th (IK/TB) and at Druridge Pools and links on 10th/11th (IDR). On 1st singles were at Bewick Drift (Lynemouth), Dinnington and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) at Brandon (Breamish Valley) on 14th, Berwick Hill on 15th and Hedgeley on 23rd. The remains of a dead bird were found at West Hartford on 9th.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Two were present all month at Fulbeck (Morpeth), Howick and Wark (N.Tyne) (TD/JAR/PRM) with females calling at Wark on 10th, Dinnington on 22nd and singles at Wideopen (nr Hazlerigg) on 27th, Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on the same date and Longbenton (Newcastle) on 29th.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

There were two reports of singles at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo) and Chibburn Preceptory (Druridge) on 13th (IDR).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

One was at Holy Island on three dates from 11th to 28th (IK/ADM/SJM) at Snab Point on 17th (ASJ) and Warkworth Dunes on 22nd (CSa).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Two were at Berwick Hill Bridge on 22nd (AHB) with one reported regularly at Budle Bay and daily sightings from 26th to 29th at Annstead Point (Seahouses) (CGK/GPK). One or more entering a nest hole in Mitford area on 11th may have been tending a second brood (ADMc). Singles were also at Jesmond Dene on 1st, Mitford on 7th, Arcot Pond on 8th, Etal on 16th, Fourstones on 22nd, Derwent Reservoir on 24th and College Valley on 31st.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

On 1st three were at Ugham Lane (TB) with a juvenile and two adults attending feeders at Tynemouth on 12th (CB). Two were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 4th & 21st, at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 19th (including a juvenile probably not bred there) and at Twizell (nr Ogle) on 22nd. Singles were at the above and seven other widespread localities.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

One flew past the observer at Widehope on 18th (JD).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

A pair fledged two young in a garden at Fulbeck (Morpeth) during the month (TD) with three possible fledglings at Bilton on 5th (AHa/PHa). Two were at Derwent Reservoir on 7th, Holywell Dene on 18th, Holy Island (including a juvenile) on 23rd and Glororum (Bamburgh) on 28th with singles at five other locations. Three to five moved SW between 09.00-10.15 at Druridge Links on 13th (IDR).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Well reported with two female/immature S at Druridge Links on 14th (IDR) and single juveniles at Derwent Reservoir on 5th, Holy Island on 8th and 12th, Cresswell Pond NWT on 10th and Monks' House Pool on 26th. Singles were at Druridge Pools on three dates, Cresswell Pond and Holy Island on two dates and at seven other locations.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

An adult was at Coquet Island during the month (per JF) and one hunted hirundines at Bracken Bank (Alnmouth) on 3rd (MJC) with one present at Druridge links on 13th and 14th, at Berry Hills on 16th (IDR) and likely at Dilston (Corbridge) on 29th (DLe).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

An adult and juvenile were at Budle Bay regularly during the month (CGK/GPK) with one at Cresswell Pond NWT on three dates from 10th to 15th (TB) and at Snab Point on 6th (JR) and Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT). One swooped low over a cricket match at Riding Mill on 3rd, flew over with prey at Prior's Park (Tynemouth) on 18th and tangled with a Marsh Harrier at Holy Island on 28th. Singles were at a further eight widespread localities.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

On 14th 22 were at Byker (per SPP), six over N at High Heaton on 27th (LMi) with four W at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 24th (GB) and over Preston Park (North Shields) on 27th (DLo). Singles were noted at Wideopen on 5th and briefly in a tree at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 27th.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Three were at Pundershaw (Wark Forest) on 16th, Ellington on 19th and Chugdon Wood Ellington on 18th where one to two were noted on ten other dates during the month (TB). Two called at Rothbury during the month and were at Ugham Lane on 1st, Howick on 9th and Milkwell (Corbridge) on 25th with one there on two other dates and singles at three other locations.

Magpie *Pica pica*

There was a high count of six at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 1st (MJCo), North Blyth on 2nd (PCF) and Druridge Pools & Links on 10th and 23rd (IDR) with one to four there on five other dates and a movement of three SW noted on 13th.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

On 13th 58 were at the Preceptory, Druridge Links (IDR) and nine at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 15th (MJCo).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Around 140 were at Howick on 4th with 12 there on 17th (JAR) and 32 at Derwent Reservoir on the same date (IFo).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

A peak count of eight was made at Druridge Pools and Links on 11th and Druridge Links on 30th with one to six at both locations on many other dates during the month and four moving SW on 13th (IDR). Five were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 1st and four at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 18th.

Hooded Crow *Corvus corone cornix*

One was in fields west of Druridge Pools on 9th (TF/JFa).

Raven *Corvus corax*

Five were at Thirlmoor Hill (Otterburn Ranges) on 15th, two at Ross Castle on 17th (JR) and Forest Drive Kielder on 18th (ADM) with singles at Hindhope Linn (Kielder) on 25th and Halton-le-gate on 26th.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

On 11th 12 were at Kielder Forest Drive (ADM) with two on feeders at Dinnington on 25th, singles at Jesmond Dene and Wark (N.Tyne) on 11th and present in a mixed Tit flock at Harbottle on 31st.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Four were at Lodge Woods (Brinkburn High House) on 17th (PHa), two at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 10th & 18th and at Wallington on 11th (NFO/TRD/JD). Singles were at Linden Hall on three further dates, Rothbury on 10th being infrequent there this year, Felton on 23rd and Forestburn Gate on 24th.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Three was the peak count at Big Waters NWT on 17th (GB per AJJ) with two there on 1st and 25th. Two were at St Mary's Wetland on 11th & 28th, Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 16th, Felton on 23rd, Forestburn Gate on 24th, Prestwick Carr on 26th and Derwent Reservoir on 28th. Singles were at Linden Hall and St Mary's regularly and at five other locations.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

At least 20 were at Twizell (near Ogle) on 22nd (DF), six were ringed at East Chevington on 8th (IF) and six was the peak at Druridge Pools & Links on 23rd with one to five there on five other dates and one at Jesmond Dene on 1st.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Four was the high count at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 11th (MJCo) with singles at Druridge Pools & Links on 10th and a female at Howick Hall on 28th having been first ringed in 2016 (HwRS).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

A pair with four young were in front of the hide at Cresswell Pond NWT on 3rd (TB) and a juvenile female was ringed at East Chevington on 8th (IF).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

'Viz-mig' at Druridge links from 09-00 -10.15 & 15.00 -17.00h on 14th recorded 82 SW with 12 in similar conditions on 13th (IDR). On 17th 35 were at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) (AJR), 31 S at Druridge Pools on 9th and 25 there on 8th with three to 20 on six other dates (IDR). 25 were at Kielder Forest Drive on 18th, 20 remained at the colony at Tynemouth on 8th (CB) and 15 were at Lindisfarne NNR on 8th, Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 15th with five at Howick Pool on 19th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

In the Otterburn Training Area 22 pairs laid 161 eggs including 56 from 2nd broods from which 116 young fledged including 47 from second broods (JR/NA). 'Viz-mig' at Druridge links from 09-00 -10.15 & 15.00 -17.00h on 14th recorded 140 with 55 in similar conditions on 13th and 35 was the peak count of resident birds on 15th & 17th (IDR). Around 100 were at Whemley (Longhorsley) on 17th (AB/LB), 90 at Todburn (Longhorsley) on 4th (ASJ) and Boulmer on 25th (RPo), 80 at Old Hartley on 19th (ASJ), 60 at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) on 23rd (RS) and 50 at Derwent Reservoir 12th (IFo). On 19th 46 including many juveniles were at St Mary's Island with 45 at Hartside on 22nd, 40 at Ingram (Breamish Valley) on 17th and at Gosforth Garden Village on 19th. One to 35 were at many of the above and a further eight locations.



Swallow feeding time

St Mary's Island

August '21

Alan Jack

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

290 were recorded on 'viz-mig' at Druridge Links from 09-00 -10.15h and 15.00 -17.00h on 14th with 36 in similar conditions on 13th (IDR), 70 at Todburn (Longhorsley) on 4th (ASJ), 50 at Ellington on 19th, Forget-me-not Caravan Park (Longhorsley) on 22nd and Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 25th (TB/ASJ/IFo) and 40 at Riding Mill on 29th (GB). At least 30 flew west at Arcot Pond on 9th with the same number at Ingram (Breamish Valley) on 17th and Cresswell on 22nd, 25 at Haltwhistle on 11th, 22 at Whitley Bay on 2nd and East Ord Berwick on 17th. 20 were at Humshaugh on 3rd & 16th with five to 15 at five other locations.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

The largest group was at Spindleston Mill, which had 20 on 28th (KWY). There were 17 in a mixed flock at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 22nd (IFo), 15 at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 16th (TB), 12 at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 20th (MJC), and 10 at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 29th (IFo). Smaller numbers were reported from Prestwick Carr, Tynemouth, Harbottle, Rothbury, Corbridge, and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

A single bird was at High Letham (Berwick) on 16th (DLB/TLB).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

A maximum of 24 birds, possibly representing an influx, were observed feeding along the edge of the bushes at Druridge Pools on 10th (IDR). There were ten at Pundershaw (Wark Forest) on 16th (PRM), and a maximum of nine at various locations on Holy Island on 22nd (MJC/ADM/AH/SR/KDa). Kielder Forest Drive had eight birds, including juveniles, on 11th (ADM). Groups of six were reported from Ellington on 5th (TB). Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 5th (MJC), Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 19th (GB), and St Mary's Wetland on 23rd (MSH). Five were observed feeding on insects attracted to buddleias at Chapel House (Newcastle) on 17th (IK), and five at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 19th (IFo) included a singing bird. Holywell Pond, Derwent Reservoir, and Prestwick Carr had four on 10th (MSH), 19th (IFo), and 26th (PCF) respectively. Two moulting adults and a first-year bird were ringed at Corbridge Common on 30th (DLe), and single juveniles were ringed on 15th and 28th at Howick Hall, where the species has been scarce this year (HwRS). Singing birds were heard at Arcot Pond, Beanley Plantation, High Heaton and Jesmond (Newcastle), and Broomlee Lough. A singing bird also visited the bird bath in a Rothbury garden on 18th (TRD).

Willow Warbler/Chiffchaff

A minimum of six were at Twizell (near Ogle) on 22nd (DF).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

The highest counts came from Corbridge Common, where 13 first-year birds and one retrap were caught in a ringing session on 30th (DLe), and from Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), which had 12 on 29th (IFo). There were nine at Alnmouth on 3rd (MJC), eight juveniles at St Mary's Wetland on 22nd (ASJ), and six at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (IFo). Smaller numbers

were reported from Ellington, Holy Island, Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle), and Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor). A single juvenile and two juveniles and an adult were ringed at Howick Hall on 15th and 20th respectively (HwRS), and a single bird was ringed at East Chevington on 8th (IF).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The highest count came from East Chevington, with 47 birds ringed on 8th (IF). There were four at St Mary's Wetland on 28th (MSH/AC), a minimum of three at Big Waters NWT on 12th (GB), and a maximum of two at Druridge Pools & Links on 13th and 22nd (IDR/JF). Singles were noted at High Buston, the Ash Lagoon Bank (Newbiggin), and Rothbury and at Arcot Pond, where a bird was seen carrying food to the nest site on 2nd (LJM).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A ringing session at East Chevington on 8th (IF) yielded 48 birds (47 ringed, one retrapped). Druridge Pools had two on 7th (IDR/JF), and Big Waters NWT had two on 22nd (GB). Singles were at Cresswell Pond NWT, Caistron, and at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor), where breeding may have taken place, on 2nd, 10th and 19th (GB). A single bird was singing at St Mary's Wetland on 2nd (MSH).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Birds were heard 'reeling' at Druridge Links on 2nd and 14th (IDR), and at West Hartford on 2nd (STH). A single bird was at East Chevington on 8th (IF).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

There were five at Alnmouth on 3rd (MJC), a family group of four at Longhorsley on 3rd (AB/LB), and four (including three at Strawberry Field) on Holy Island on 22nd (AH/SR/MJC/ADM/SJM). A total of seven birds were observed passing through Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) between 10th and 26th (MJC). A female and a juvenile were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 15th (TB), and two juveniles were at Twizell (nr Ogle) on 22nd (DF). A single juvenile was ringed at Howick Hall on 15th (HwRS). Two birds were reported from four other locations, and singles from a further seven locations. A singing bird was at Druridge Pools on 22nd (CB).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Three first-year birds were ringed at Mickley Square on 3rd, with another ringed the following day (DLe). A juvenile was ringed at Howick Hall on 20th (HwRS). One was at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor), where it is a scarce passage bird, and one was at Airy Holm Reservoir (near Shotleyfield) on 27th (IFo).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Two first-year birds were on Holy Island on 22nd, one at The Snook (ADM/MJC) and one at the Strawberry Field (AH/SR/MJC/ADM/SJM). One was still at The Snook on 23rd, but there was no sign of the Strawberry Field bird (ADM). A single first-year bird was at St Mary's Wetland on 28th (MSH/AC).

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

There was a family party of five (pair and three juveniles) at Holywell Pond on 11th and 27th (ASJ). A family group of three was at West Hartford on 2nd (STH) and there were singles at Ellington on 13th (TB) and Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 19th (MJC).

Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

There was a late record from July of 20 birds, in three family groups, at St Mary's on 20th (ASJ). This month, a count of nine juveniles was made between St Mary's and Old Hartley on 11th (ASJ). There were six at Ellington on 12th (TB), five at Druridge Pools & Links on 10th (IDR), and four at Howdon on 15th (CB). Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) had three on 18th (IFo), Tynemouth had two on 15th (CB), and Prestwick Carr had two on 26th (PCF). Single juveniles were at Howick Hall on 15th and 28th (HwRS). Singles were reported from Little Moor (Newcastle), High Buston, Snab Point (Cresswell), Doddington, East Chevington, Budle Point, and Derwent Reservoir.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

An early fall was observed at Howick Hall, with a minimum count of 100 birds at the edge of the car park backing onto the cricket pitch on 27th (PHa). Single juveniles were ringed there on 15th and 20th (HwRS). There were two at Kielder Forest Drive on 11th (ADM), and two at St Mary's Wetland on 22nd (ASJ). Single juveniles were at Ellington on 4th (TB), and Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 25th (IFo). A singing bird was at Haggerston Castle on 31st (GB). Singles were also reported from Exhibition Park and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Wark (North Tyne), and Broomlee Lough.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

A group of ten birds, mostly recently-fledged juveniles, were observed feeding together on a moss-covered stone wall at Kielder Drive on 18th (ADM). There was a maximum count of six at Druridge Pools & Links on 10th (IDR), and four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 11th (MJCo). An adult was seen feeding two fledglings at Howick on 11th (JAR).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Family parties of four were at Ulgham Lane (TB) and Darras Hall (Ponteland) (PCF) on 1st. Four were also at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 1st (MJCo), and Humshaugh on 29th (SW). Two were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 18th (TB), and at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 29th (IFo). Singles were reported from Rothbury, Wallington, Milkwell (Corbridge), the Tweed Estuary, Derwent Reservoir, and Haggerston Castle.



Nuthatch

Wallington Hall

August '21 by Iain Johnson

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

There were three at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 14th (TB). Singles were at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 3rd and 27th (GB), and at Derwent Reservoir on 20th and 29th (IFo). Singles were reported from Twizell (nr Berwick), Thrunton Woods, Beanley Plantation, Wallington, Wark (North Tyne), and Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

An estimated 350 were at Howick on 10th (JAR), and 300 were at Airy Holm Reservoir (near Shotleyfield) on 10th (IFo). There were 160 S at Cresswell Pond NWT on 15th (IDR), 150 at Newbiggin on 17th (PCF), 120 at Druridge Pools & Links on 9th (IDR), and 100 at Pegswood on 28th (PCF).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Druridge Pools & Links had a maximum of four on 23rd, with three to five birds 'vismugging' SW on 13th (IDR). There was one at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 15th (MJCo).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

There were six at Harbottle on 31st (JAR), four feeding on yew berries at Howick on 26th (JAR), and one by the Armstrong Bridge at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 15th (MJCo).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

There were 45 at Howick on 9th (JAR), and two juveniles at Howick Hall on 20th (HwRS). Mickley Square had 23 N on 2nd (DLe), Housesteads had ten 16th (SW), and Milkwell (Corbridge) had nine on 1st (RB/MB). There were eight at Davyshiel (Otterburn MOD range) on 22nd (JR), five at Little Moor (Newcastle) on 5th (LMi), and four at Newstead Flash on 31st (GN). Singles were reported from West Jesmond and Gosforth (Newcastle) and from Big Waters NWT.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Five birds in two family parties were noted at Widehope on 18th (JD) and five from a recent fledging were at Linhope (Upper Breamish Valley) on 22nd (PHa). There were four in a mixed flock at Twizell (nr Ogle) on 22nd (DF), three at Howick on 31st (JAR), and two at Wallington on 11th (TRD/JD). An adult and juvenile were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 23rd (NFO). Single birds were seen at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle), Ellington, Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor), Big Waters NWT, Milkwell (Corbridge), Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield), Holy Island, Doddington, and Harbottle,



Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Holy Island had six birds on 23rd, with four coastal sightings suggesting a very small fall (ADM). There were three at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 1st (MJCo), and a maximum of three at Druridge Pools & Links on 23rd (IDR).

Robin

Rothbury

31/8/21

Tim Dean

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A single bird was observed in the Chare End willows on Holy Island on 22nd, moving on to the Chare End bungalows later in the evening (MJC/ADM/SJM).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A family party of four was at Houxy (Bellingham) on 23rd (AJ). Two were at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (IFo), Pundershaw (Wark Forest) on 16th (PRM), and at Milkwell (Corbridge) on 25th (RB/MB). A male juvenile was at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (IFo), and single juveniles were also at Big Waters NWT on 8th (GB), and Kielder Forest Drive on 18th (ADM). A single male was at Eglington on 17th (JR), and a single bird was at St Mary's on 24th (AC).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

There were three at Widehope on 1st (JD), three (including two juveniles) at Kielder Forest Drive on 18th (ADM), and a family group of three.

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

There were plentiful sightings of young birds this month. A pair and four young were at Howick on 3rd (JAR), and a maximum of six juveniles were at Bewick Drift (Lynemouth) on 28th (TB). Alnmouth had five on 3rd (MJC), and East Chevington had a male with four juveniles on 18th (PG). There were four at Widehope on 1st (JD) and at Newbiggin GC on 6th (GB), and a male with three juveniles was at Derwent Reservoir from 9th–11th (IFo). Smaller numbers were reported from Cresswell Pond NWT, Snab Point (Cresswell), Druridge Pools & Links, Amble Braid, North Blyth, Debdon (Rothbury), Warkworth, and Beanley Plantation. A male and a juvenile were at Boulmer on 22nd (TRD/JD) and the male of a pair at the Snook (Holy Island) was seen carrying food on 22nd and 23rd (ADM/MJC).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The highest count came from Old Hartley, with ten on 19th (ASJ). Single juveniles were at Cresswell Pond NWT on 15th (TB), and at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 29th (TD). Single birds were reported from Holy Island, Boulmer, Fenham Mill, Derwent Reservoir, South Harbour (Blyth), and Snab Point (Cresswell).



Wheatear

Beacon Point, Newbiggin

24st August

Graham Sorrie

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Two occurred this month at Milkwell (Corbridge) on several dates and at Ingram on 17th (RB/MB/JR). Singles at Milkwell and at four other sites during the month.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

A large group numbering 120 was at Doddington on 9th (TRD/JD). 90 were at Widdrington Farm on 26th (IFO). 70 were bathing in puddles at Hepple on 20th with the same number at Bamburgh on 29th (ASJ/KWY). On 25th, 40 were observed at Humshaugh (SW). 12 and 28 were at two other sites this month.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

45 were counted at Chugdon Wood on 21 st (TB). Passage was noted with a flock of 29 arriving at St. Mary's Wetland on 19th, before carrying on S. Six also flew S here on 25th (ASJ). 25 were at Newton Red House on 1st (PG). 15 at Beal Point on 8th (MJC). One to eight were also seen at nine sites during the month.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Four, a family group, spent the month in a Marden Estate garden (ASJ). One to three at Druridge on several days was the only other report.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Southward passage was noted during the month at St. Mary's Island, with a total of 11 birds, mainly juveniles, seen (ASJ). Seven flew W at Budle Bay in the final week (CGK). Six juveniles were noted at Cresswell Pond on 7th and 11th with two to three noted there on several other dates (TD/TB/ASJ). Five flew S at Druridge on 13th (IDR). Two juveniles were seen at Bothal on 19th (TF). Singles were seen at ten further sites this month.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Six were noted in Jesmond Dene on 15th (MJCo). A family party of four was at Tynemouth Pier on 14th (ASJ). Three were at Bilton on 5th and Corbridge on 23rd. Two were at eight locations and singles at a further seven.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

A good count of 54 was made at Boulmer on 21st (SW). 23 were at Longhorsely on 19th (AB/MB). 20 were watched on a Stonehaugh lawn on 16th (CB). 19 fed on the beach at Newbiggin on 23rd (STH). 18 were noted at East Cramlington hospital on 28th (TB). 12 -14 were seen at St. Mary's on several dates (MSH/ASJ). Ten + were at Cresswell Pond on 4th and at Whitley Bay beach on 25th (MSH). Two to seven were at three other sites.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Four, a family group, were watched at Harbottle on 31st and may have possibly bred in the area (JAR).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A minimum of 100 birds, including juveniles, were noted across the Kielder Forest Drive on 11th (ADM). 14 passed Druridge on 14th (IDR). Five flew S on 2nd at Gosforth and five were at Newcastle Town Moor on 5th.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Only two were reported this month, with birds at Cullernose Point on 1st and at North Blyth on 31st.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

50 + were at Crooked Oak on 21st (IFo). 16 was the highest daily count at Druridge Pools during the month (IDR). There were no reports from elsewhere.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Eight were noted at Prestwick Carr on 26th (PCF). A family group of six was at Longhorsely on 26th (AB/LB). A female with four juveniles was at Howick Hall on 15th (HwRS). One to two were also seen at a further nine locations.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

25 was a good count at Holywell Pond on 14th (KWY). Nine were at St. Mary's on 20th (ASJ). Three to eight were at nine sites during the month (TB *et al.*).

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

60 fed in stubble at Plessey Checks on 30th (STH). 50 were at Druridge also on 30th (IDR/JF). 45 were noted at Ellington on 27th (TB). 41 were seen at Beal on 8th (MJC) and 35 were watched at Bamburgh on 29th (KWY). One to 32 were also seen at ten other sites.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Six were seen at Corbridge Common on 20th (DLe). Two flew SE over Gosforth Garden Village on 26th and one flew over there on 10th. One was at Thrunton on 6th (JD).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

100 were noted at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 12th (STH). 68 were watched feeding on Meadowsweet at Cocklawburn on 26th (MHu). 40 were noted at Arcot on 7th and Hauxley on 26th. 36 was the month's peak count at Druridge Pools on 23rd. 25 were noted on 20th at Newcastle Town Moor. One to 18 were also seen at seven sites during the month.

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

15 were counted at Humshaugh on 11th (SW). One to two were at four sites, including a juvenile at feeders at Big Waters (GB).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*

One to four were reported at only four sites this month.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Ten was the month's peak count in the county, made at St. Mary's on 30th (ASJ). Elsewhere, one to four were seen at four other sites.

ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

Up to four were at Derwent Reservoir until 11th (IFo).

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

One noted at Killingworth lake from 9th to 22nd (LJM / JBu).

Cape Shelduck *Tadorna cana*

It is presumed the pair noted at Cresswell Pond last month was responsible for a sighting of a pair on the River Tweed at Norham on 4th associating with a gathering of Mallard.

Hybrids

No sightings.

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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Hauxley Ringing Station, Howick Ringing Station, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

Apologies for any accidental omissions

BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Grouse to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Doves to Grebes), Clive Hampton (Oystercatcher to Redshank), Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Auks), Trevor Blake (Divers to Buzzards), Peter Fletcher (Barn Owl to Larks), Clive Hampton (waders), Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings).

Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Graham Sorrie (bulletin production)

Apologies for any accidental omissions

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

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RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to ntbc.records@googlemail.com

Please email for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: Please use of standard location names and include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. Subs are due on 1st October each year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website.

If you internet bank you can pay online: please include your name in the ref. It is helpful if you email me to let me know when you've made the transfer ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

If you decide to set up a standing order please date the first payment at least a fortnight from your posting date to allow time to process with the bank. You can also set up your standing order directly with your bank if you wish; just let me know. Our bank details are on the membership form.

For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

Finally, if you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome.

Jo Bentley - Hon Treasurer

NTBC WEB SITE

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds.

There are:

Photo Galleries – Here you can view hundreds of photos of birds from Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Members are encouraged to contribute their own photos. Simply send them to galleries@ntbc.org.uk

There are also County Checklists, Records Committee updates, Information on important Surveys, useful articles and reports on Bird ID and Overseas Birding Trips....and much more...

Please submit any other new content for the website to the main club email address at ntbcorg@gmail.com

New content such as Birding Trip Reports etc., is always welcome and very much appreciated.

To find out more please visit www.ntbc.org.uk

Borders Bird Report

A pdf version of the Borders Bird Report 2020 is available for download free. It can be accessed on the Scottish Ornithologists' Club by using the following link:

<https://www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/local-records-network/areas/borders>

DUMFRIES REPORTING

It's likely NTBC birders come to D&G to birdwatch on holiday or similar, which is why I would like to chance asking such members/subscribers of your club, if they would be interested to contribute sightings when visiting D&G, to **D+G Bird News**.

D+G Bird News has been set up for simplicity on Google Blogger and is in need of "members" i.e. users (!), inputting/reporting hard to find, uncommon but not exclusively scarce or rare, birds. I would like to try bolstering user numbers ASAP & ergo, reports & hopefully, reports from active birders outwith the region (as the Scots say).

So, I need to approach the likes of NTBC and hopefully place a notice for those interested to use D+G Bird News.

I hope you may be able to help me with this quest.

Please follow the links for the DGBN promo.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Any queries etc, LMK.

If you need a reference, you could contact Andy Riches, BTO survey organiser for the inner solway & inland sites.

Many thanks indeed,

Pete Jeavons

scenicdreamer@gmail.com

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Li8A3wRQuS89WyUznIbfv9Hy36Kc70IS/view?usp=drivesdk>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MOY5RDmCHkaNeTTLdpVmluOC4S1t19/view?usp=drivesdk>

Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2021 No 09

MONTHLY SUMMARY

SEPTEMBER

3rd November 2021

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CONTENTS

It is time to pay your NTBC subs. See Jo Bentley's note

CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Quail	One flushed by a combine harvester at Gosforth Park on 13th.
Pale-bellied Brent Goose	Early return from 1st, 1,135 by 14th on Fenham Flats.
Ruddy Shelduck	Singles at Newton, Budle Bay and Castle Island.
Garganey	One to two at Arcot Pond, Big Waters and East Chevington.
Pochard	An indication of decline in numbers noted by maximum count of three at three sites.
Scaup	Up to three at Bothal Pond & East Chevington.
Long-tailed Duck	Only record submitted was one N at Tynemouth on 13th.
Swift	Only sightings were singles at Ellington on 1st and East Chevington on 13th.
Slavonian Grebe	Two at E Chevington on 18th, singles at Seaton Sluice and Newbiggin on 15th.
Crane	Highest-ever flock seen in county with six over Rising Sun CP on 23rd.
Pacific Golden Plover	One at Crooked Lonnen, Holy Island on 19th.
Dotterel	Singles at Grindon Lough on 2nd and Monks' House Pool on 27th.
Black-tailed Godwit	Peak count of 175 at Coquet Estuary on 20th. Important site now for species.
Curllew Sandpiper	Up to three at several sites.
Little Stint	Six at Budle Bay and four at Castle Island; one to two at several other sites.
Pectoral Sandpiper	Best year since 2013. Two at Grindon Lough plus singles at seven other sites.
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Juvenile at Boulmer on 17th. Fourth county record.
Jack Snipe	Single at Budle Bay on 25th.
Spotted Redshank	High count of five together at Cresswell Pond from 23rd. One to two elsewhere.
Greenshank	High count of 24 at Beal on 21st.
Sabine's Gull	Excellent passage early in month. Sightings at eight coastal viewpoints.
Mediterranean Gull	Peak count of 67 at Cresswell Pond on 4th.
Iceland Gull	One noted at Embleton on 6th. Exceptionally early date.
Caspian Gull	Increasingly reported with singles at five sites including ringed 'PKCS' at Amble.
Yellow-legged Gull	One at Ross on 2nd.
Roseate Tern	Still 53 present off Holy Island on 6th.
Long-tailed Skua	Notable passage again this year with maximum of six seen past St Mary's on 1st.
Razorbill	Highly unusual numbers close to shore with 12 seen even at Walker Riverside.
Storm Petrel	One past Annstead Pt on 1st.
Fea's Petrel -type	One N past several sites on 1st and 2nd.
Balearic Shearwater	One to two at seven coastal viewpoints. An excellent year for species.
Spoonbill	Record county flock of nine at Budle Bay on 18th with eight at E Chev on 19th.
Great Egret	Singles at Holy Island, Cresswell Pond and Castron.
Little Egret	Peak count of 32 at Beal on 21st.
Wryneck	One at Sandham Bay on Holy Island on 5th.
Red-backed Shrike	Immature at Druridge Pools on 18th.
Cetti's Warbler	Singing males at East Chevington and Big Waters.
Wood Warbler	Only sighting was a migrant at Berwick on 16th.
Barred Warbler	Singles at Holy Island and Budle Bay.
Rose-coloured Starling	Juvenile at Wideopen from 19th to 23rd.
Snow Bunting	One S at St Mary's on 29th.

INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm. The next meeting is 11th November.

The Hen Harrier by Mr Stephen Murphy English Nature

Anyone who has followed the Hen Harrier Saga in England over the last 30 years will have come across Stephen's name, as he has been involved with the Harriers over all that time, mostly as English Nature Harrier coordinator, not a job most people may want! Trying to help increase the population, through working with both the "dark" side and the "lighter" side of Game Keepers, land owners and Conservationists is no easy task! Tonight Stephen will tell us about work from the Forest of Bowland to Northumberland and how the "brood management" project came about.

FIELD TRIPS

On hold for the next few months. Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

Six males were at Plenmeller Common on 9th (PRM).

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Up to ten were noted at Plenmeller Common (PRM), eight at Simonside (TRD/JD) and one at Alnwick Moor.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

40+ were at Hetton Steads on 26th (MSH), 12 at Debdon (Rothbury) on 24th (JD), seven at Brier Dene Farm (MSH), and one to three at Haltwhistle and Plenmeller Commons.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

106 were at Beal on 19th (RA), 20 at St Mary's on 4th (ASJ), 12-14 at Beal Point (MJC), Old Hartley (MNC) and Seaton Point (Boulmer) (MKi), eight at Deanmoor (Shilbottle), and one to three at Airy Holm Reservoir, Brier Dene Farm and Cramlington.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

One was flushed by a combine harvester from a field near Gosforth Park NR on 13th (MPF).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

23 were at Scrainwood Farm, Alnwick (JR), 15-18 at Alwinton (JR) and Druridge Pools/Links (IDR/JF), and three at Ellington and Old Hartley.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Pale-bellied *hrota* race birds included peaks at Lindisfarne NNR of 1,135 at Fenham Flats on 14th (DF), 204 at Beal Point on 9th (MJC), 168 at Budle Bay on 15th (KWY), 40 N at Annstead Point on 11th (DF), 27 S at Holy Island on 3rd (MJC), a total of 17 N and 17 S at Tynemouth between 1st-20th (MK/AJ/DRW), 19 at Newbiggin Beacon Point and then S on 12th (AP), and 15 N at Boulmer on 17th (TRD/JD), four to nine mainly N at Annstead Point, Boulmer, Budle Point, Longhoughton Steel, Newbiggin, Snab Point and Tynemouth, and one at Monks' House Pool.

The only dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds involved four N at Snab Point on 19th (IK).



Brent Goose

St Mary's Island

12-9-21

Colin Bradshaw

Un-raced birds included 213 at Budle Bay on 17th (GPK), 25 N at Annstead on 11th (DF), 20 S at Berwick pier on 1st (BWG), and five to ten N at Annstead Point, Cullercoats and Newton Point on several dates between 1st-20th.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

A total of 16 flew N and 50 S at Ellington between 10th-23rd (TB), and 11 W at Riding Mill. Peak gatherings were 271 at QEII CP on 12th (CDH), 260 at Castle Island on 20th (TF), 246 at Grindon Lough on 1st (PRM), 208-220 at Bothal Pond (TD) and Derwent Reservoir (IFo), 132-162 at the Aln Estuary (MKi), Killingworth Lake (CDH) and New Moor, Ashington (TB), and 40-98 at Arcot and Holywell Ponds, Haughton Strother GP, Howick and West Ord. Nine to ten were also at Big Waters and Budle Bay.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Singles were with Pink-footed Geese at Cresswell Pond (MJC/PRM) and Widdrington Moor Lake (TF), and with Canada Geese at Bothal Pond (TD) on scattered dates during the month.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Numbers at Derwent Reservoir built up from mid-month to a peak of 1,200 by 28th (IFo). Peak counts elsewhere involved 700 at Branton GP on 25th (IBDa/KDa), 623 at Big Waters on 3rd (AJJ per GB), 550 at Arcot Pond on 10th (STH), 450 at Budle Bay on 16th (DF/GPK), 375 at Low Newton (PHa), and 165-186 at Druridge Pools, Haughton Strother GP and Low Newton. Counts of 53-86 came from Bothal and Holywell Ponds, and Low Cocklaw, and 11 at Grindon Lough.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

One to two occasionally at Big Waters, Budle Bay, Druridge Pools and Low Newton between 3rd-17th were followed by 60 W at Bothal Pond on 19th (TF); 74 S at Holy Island (MJC) and 50 S at Budle Bay on 20th (MJC/DF); 11-20 S at Druridge (TRD/JD) and Ellington (TB) on 21st; and 11 at Grindon Lough on 22nd (PRM). A wider influx occurred on 23rd, when 800 were at Budle Bay (CGK/GPK), 600 arrived from NE at Cresswell (CB), 300-308 mainly S at Annstead (DF), Cresswell-Druridge (ASH/AJ/IK/AJN/MN) and Ellington (TB), 200 at Grindon Lough (SW), and 30-130 over (mainly S/SW) at Allen Banks, Brandon, Doddington, Gosforth, Humshaugh, Lesbury, Monkseaton and Tynemouth, including some in the dark. On 24th, 1,800 roosted at Budle Bay (DF) and 1,000 were in the Cresswell area (MJC); 1,500 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 25th (MSH) increased to a minimum of 5,000 on 26th (TF); 2,500 were at Druridge Pools on 28th (CB), and 3,500 came into roost at Druridge Links on 30th (IDR/JF). A general southerly (some to SW and SE) movement between 24th-30th involved 250-750 per day at Druridge Links (IDR/JF), Ellington (TB) and Low Cocklaw (TBr), and 50-187 at Amble, Beal, Chapel House (Newcastle), Cramlington, East Ord, Howdon, Humshaugh, Longbenton, Monkseaton, Morpeth, Rothbury, Slaley Hall, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth, while 130 moved NE at Hexham on 25th. Groups of 80-200 were also at Derwent Reservoir, Holywell and Waren Mill between 24th-30th, when 13-40 were at/over Cheswick, Grindon Lough, Newbiggin and Wideopen. An oiled individual was at Cocklawburn Pond on 26th (TRD/JD).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Largest concentrations were 148 at Yarrow Slake (the Tweed Estuary) on 3rd (MHu), 104 at New Water Haugh (R.Tweed) on 17th (MHu), 53-58 at Killingworth Lake (CDH) and QEII CP (CDH), 20-32 at Big Waters, Castle Island, Fenham Mill and Linton Ponds, and ten to 15 at Bothal Pond, the Coquet and Wansbeck Estuaries, Duke's Pond (Rising Sun CP) and East Chevington. Six to nine were also at Broomlee Lough, Druridge Pools and Paddy Freeman's Lake (Heaton).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

One was at QEII CP on 12th (CDH). An influx later in the month began with 14 at Budle Bay on 24th (DF) and 19 there on 25th (CGK/GPK) when 12 flew W at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and 12 S at Newbiggin (AP). Two to six were at the Coquet Estuary (TF) and Low Newton (PHa/AJ) on 26th-27th, and three at Haughton Strother GP on 30th (SW). One remained at Budle Bay until 29th (TRD/JD/DF) and a long-staying bird was at Broomlee Lough on 29th (PRM).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

13 flew N at Annstead (DF) and eight N at Cullercoats (ASJ) on 4th. Good numbers at Budle Bay later in the month included a peak of 350 on 26th (CGK/GPK). Smaller numbers elsewhere involved up to eight at Druridge Pools (IDR/JF *et al.*), seven at Boulmer (JAR), three to four at the Coquet Estuary, Cresswell Pond and Newstead Flash, and singles at Castle Island and Elswick. Further inland, six passage birds were at Derwent Reservoir on 19th (IFo), and one at Grindon Lough on 9th (PRM).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Singles were at Low Newton on 15th and 17th (TRD/JD/MKi) and 26th-27th (PHa/ASJ), Budle Bay on 18th (GPK) and Castle Island on 20th (TF).



Ruddy Shelduck

Newton Pool

17-09-21

Tim Dean

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Three were at Kielder Water on 9th (PRM), and singles at Haughton Castle on 8th and 30th (SW/TWi).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Two juveniles were at Arcot Pond on 11th (STH) and singles were noted there on 10th and 26th (GB/STH/LJM). Two females/juveniles were at East Chevington north pool on 12th and a drake in eclipse plumage was noted there on 14th (TRD/JD), and one (possibly same bird as Arcot Pond) was at Big Waters on 14th-15th (GB/AJJ).

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

One flew S at Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR). Favoured sites were East Chevington which held 80+ on 12th (ADMc) and 62 on 22nd (PRM), Budle Bay with a peak of 60 on 25th (CGK/GPK), and Arcot Pond with 21 on 20th (LJM). Other peak counts were 11 at Cresswell Pond (PRM), seven at Grindon Lough (PRM), and three to five at Big Waters, Bothal and Holywell Ponds, Druridge Pools and Monks' House Pool. One to two were also at Easington Quarry, Hedgeley GP, Linton and Middle Ord Ponds, and Marden Quarry.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

About 120 were at East Chevington on 22nd (PRM), 91 at Linton Ponds on 12th (CDH), 80 at Bothal Pond on 12th (TD), 63 at Big Waters on 12th (GB), 54 at Marden Quarry on 5th (KWY), 30-40 at Castle Island (PRM), Ladyburn Lake (TD) and Warkworth Lane Ponds (TD), and 24 at Caistron. Nine were at Hedgeley GP and one to two at Cresswell and Druridge.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Light coastal movement involved 30 S at Tynemouth on 19th and 26 N there on 13th (CB), 26 W at Budle Point on 6th (RA), ten to 20 N at Druridge Links and the Wansbeck Estuary, and 18 S at Cocklawburn on three dates. About 5,000 were at Fenham Flats on 27th (MSH). At Budle Bay, 70 on 1st increased to 350 by 15th and 2,500 by 22nd (CGK/GPK/KWY). Other peak counts were 300 at Easington Quarry (near Waren Mill) on 28th (RA), 222 at Grindon Lough on 29th up from 65 on 1st (PRM), 125 at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo), and 50-77 at East Chevington, Haughton Strother GP and Longhoughton Steel. Counts of 15-46 came from Big Waters, Bothal and Cresswell Ponds, Branton GP and the Coquet Estuary. One to eight were at/over a further 16 scattered sites.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

About 300 were at Grindon Lough on 2nd (AJR), 266 at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo), 112 at Bothal Pond on 21st (TD), 50-85 at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Budle Bay, Monks' House Pool, Old Hartley (feeding in stubble field) and QEII CP, 30-44 at Killingworth Lake, Ladyburn Lake, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Exhibition Park and St Mary's Wetland, and 11-19 at Kielder Water and West Ord.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

At Tynemouth, five flew N on 13th and two N on 19th (CB), four flew N at Druridge Pools on 5th (ADMc), while singles moved N at Annstead Point (RA) and Newbiggin (TF) on 1st. A count of 21 at Fenham Flats on 4th (RA) increased to 40 by 12th (CGK/GPK). Numbers at East Chevington north pool rose from one on 5th (AJR) to seven by 6th (NFO) and a peak of 18 on 26th (TF/ADMc). Nine were at Budle Bay on 17th (CGK/GPK), and one to two at Bothal, Cresswell, Holywell and Swallow Ponds, Boulmer, Branton GP, Derwent Reservoir, Haughton Strother GP and off Longhoughton Steel.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Northerly passage included totals of 133 at Newbiggin between 2nd-4th (GB/TF), 101 at Tynemouth between 2nd-19th (CB/KWY), and six to 20 at Druridge Links and Newton Point between 2nd-4th, while a total of 66 flew W at Budle Point on 5th-6th (RA), and a total of 55 flew S at Tynemouth on 13th and 19th (CB), and 18 S at Spittal Bay on 28th. Numbers built up during the month; 190 at Grindon Lough on 1st increased to about 350 on 25th-26th and a peak of 563 on 29th (PRM), and 60 at Budle Bay on 1st rose to a peak of 600 by 22nd (CGK/GPK). Other peak site counts were 464 at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (PRM), 400 at East Chevington on 26th (TF), 350 at Castle Island (TF), 245 at Cresswell Pond on 19th (TF), and 100-163 at Arcot and Holywell Ponds, and Longhoughton Steel. Counts of 56-78 came from Monks' House Pool, Newbiggin Beacon Point and Plenmeller Common, while 21-42 were at Big Waters, Bothal and Middle Ord Ponds, Colt Crag Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Howdon and West Ord, and 13-19 at Haughton Strother GP and Newstead Flash. More unusual were singles at Killingworth Lake on 8th (LJM) and Newcastle Exhibition Park between 6th-14th (GB).

Correction: The August 2021 monthly totals at Seaton Sluice were 1,210 N and 72 S (SSWT), not as stated.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Paltry numbers involved three at Branton GP on 5th (IBDa/KDa), East Chevington on 6th (NFO), Ladyburn Lake (TD) and Widdrington Moor Lake (IRD), and one to two at Big Waters, Derwent Reservoir, Haughton Strother GP and Killingworth.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Two flew N at Holy Island on 3rd (MJC). Peak gatherings were 138 at East Chevington on 22nd (PRM), 70 at Ladyburn Lake on 18th (TD), 60 at Haughton Strother GP on 30th (SW), 51-54 at Castle Island (LJM) and Druridge Pools (TD), 23-34 at Grindon Lough (PRM) and Killingworth Lake (LJM), and 12-15 at Bothal Pond, Derwent Reservoir and Easington Quarry. Six to eight were also at Airy Holm and Bakethin Reservoirs, and Newcastle Exhibition Park, and one to four at Big Waters, Cocklawburn Pond and Woodhorn Flashes. Two were with Common Scoters off Druridge Links on 8th (IDR) and two at Fenham on 21st (RA).

Scaup *Aythya marila*

A drake and two juveniles were at Bothal Pond on 19th (TF). At East Chevington north pool, two (immature drake and female) were noted on 21st (TRD/JD), with three (adult drake and two females/immatures) on 23rd and three (two adult drakes and a female/immature) on 25th (ADMc). Singles were at Cresswell Pond on 6th and 23rd (ADMc) and Druridge Pools on 17th (ADMc).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

114 were at North Blyth on 6th (LJM), 86 at Cocklawburn on 29th (MHu), 86 off Holy Island 'excavations' on 5th (ADM), 58-62 at Alnmouth Bay (RPo) and Stag Rocks (MSH), and 12-19 off Druridge Links, Seaton Sluice and the Wansbeck Estuary. One to three were also at the Blyth and Coquet Estuaries. One was at Druridge Pools on 3rd (PRM).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Five flew N at Berwick pier on 1st (BWG), two N at Annstead Point on 15th (DF), two N at Tynemouth on 19th (CB), and singles N at Newbiggin (AP), St Mary's Island (JBU/MSH) and Tynemouth on 1st (DRW), and St Mary's Island on 19th (MSH). Five were off East Chevington on 14th (NFO), five at Cullercoats on 25th (ASJ), and two at Cullernose Point on 17th (IRD).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

A total of 131 flew N at Tynemouth between 2nd-13th (CB/KWY), 122 moved N at Newton Point on 4th (SW), 100 N at St Mary's Island on 19th (MSH), a total of 77 N at Newbiggin between 1st-28th (TD/PRM/DLo *et al.*), 40 W at Budle Point on 5th (RA), and one to 16 N at a further seven coastal sites between Seaton Sluice-Holy Island. About 600 were off Druridge Pools on 3rd (PRM), with 80-400 there throughout the month. Other peak counts were 200 at Cheswick Black Rocks on 26th (TRD/JD), and 90 at Budle Point on 5th (CGK/GPK). Ten were at Cullernose Point, and two to five at Boulmer and Longhoughton Steel. An unusual record involved a female flying down the River Tyne under the bridges in Newcastle on 2nd (MPF).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

One N at Tynemouth on 13th (CB) was the sole report.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Four were at West Ord on 12th and 26th (MHu), At East Chevington, three were noted on 1st, one to two between 3rd-21st and four on 22nd (TRD/TF/PRM), and three were at Ross on 12th (RA) and the regular breeding site on 9th (TRD/JD). One to two were also at Cocklawburn Pond, Ladyburn Lake and Widdrington Moor Lake on several dates.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

One flew N at Annstead Point on 1st (RA) and one S off Druridge Links on 9th (IDR). Peak counts (possibly involving some interchange) were 122 at Calot Shad (the Tweed Estuary) on 5th (MHu), 112 at Tweed Dock on 13th (MHu), 76 at Budle Bay on 3rd (CGK/GPK), 50 at Berwick Little Beach on 30th (MSH), 42 at Yarrow Slake (the Tweed Estuary) (MHu), and 12 at Dodds Well, Berwick on 14th (MHu). Five to nine were also at Airy Holm and Derwent Reservoirs, the Blyth and Coquet Estuaries, Broomlee Lough, Cocklawburn, Druridge Links (offshore), Furnace Bridge, Holy Island, Low Newton, Rothbury and West Ord, three to four at Bakethin Reservoir, Castle Island, Hedgeley GP, Newton Point and Warkworth, and one to two at Boulmer, Felton, Newbiggin and Stag Rocks.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Six were off Druridge Links on 26th (IDR/JF) and four between 28th-30th (MH/AA), three were at Tynemouth Haven on 5th (DLo), and one at Amble Harbour.

Swift *Apus apus*

Only two records were received – a single heading S past Ellington on 1st (TB) and one at East Chevington North Pool on 12th (ADMc).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Singles were seen at Pier House (Berwick) – the third record from the site this autumn – on 1st (BWG) and a single was at Holy Island on 5th (ADM/IBDa/KDa).

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

130 were at Kingston Park Gym Roof on 2nd, increasing to 160 on 30th (AHB). 59 were at Blackpool Farm (Longhorsley) on 6th (AB/LB), eight were at Lynemouth Bay on 13th and an unreported number at Jesmond Dene on 5th.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Chugdon Wood (Ellington) peaked at 33 birds on 13th (IDR), whilst six were at both Crooked Oak on 17th and Derwent Reservoir on 29th. One to five were at Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay), Cresswell Pond NWT, Druridge Links, Ellington, Grindon Lough NWT, Jesmond Dene, St. Mary's Wetland and Woodhorn Churchyard.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Some notable migration was observed at Gosforth Garden Park Village with 1,500 birds heading S in three hours on 12th (MJC). 27 flew S over The Heugh at Holy Island on 14th (MJC). 39 were in Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th (IDR) and one to nine birds were at Cresswell Pond NWT, Druridge Pools/Links, Jesmond Dene, Lynemouth Bay and Warkworth Lane Ponds.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Two, possibly three, were at Big Waters NWT on 14th (GB), two were noted at both East Chevington and Holy Island Lough whilst singles were at Arcot Pond, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond NWT and Druridge Pools.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

At least 40 birds were at both Castle Island (R. Wansbeck) on 15th and East Chevington on 22nd (PRM), Exhibition Park (Newcastle) peaked at 35 on 27th (GB) and 11 were at Big Waters NWT and Linton Ponds. Nine or fewer were seen at Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Haughton Castle, Haughton Strother, Holy Island, Jesmond Dene, Killingworth Lake, QE11 CP and Woodhorn Church Flash.

Coot *Fulica atra*

On 22nd a minimum of 110 were at East Chevington (PRM). 99 were at Linton Ponds (CDH), 77 at Bothal Pond (TD) and 65 at QE11 CP (CDH) on 12th. 56 at Killingworth Lake on 17th included one with a colour ring on its left leg (white code CIV) which had been ringed as a one-year-old at this site on 16/12/2017 (CDH). 41 were at Big Waters NWT on 12th (GB), 18 at Woodhorn Church Flash on 15th, eight at Haughton Strother and two at Easington Quarry.

Crane *Grus Grus*

Six flew S high over Hadrian's Wood (Rising Sun CP) on 23rd (SPP).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Two headed N at Tynemouth during a 2.5 hour sea-watch on 13th (CB).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

East Chevington peaked at 29 on 22nd (PRM), 16 were at Humshaugh (Haughton Strother) on 16th (SW), 13 at Bothal Pond on 5th included eight immatures (TD) and Holywell Pond held 11 on 20th (MSH). One to nine were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Beal, Big Waters NWT, Broomlee Lough, Castron, Castle Island, Colt Crag Reservoir, Druridge Bay CP, Hedgeley GP, Holy Island Lough, Kielder Water (Bakethin), Killingworth Lake, Linton, Merryshields GP, Middle Ord Pond (Berwick), Shield on the Wall, Swallow Pond and Woodhorn Church Flash.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Widdrington Moor Lake held a peak count of 12 (five adults and seven juveniles) on 14th (TRD/JD), ten were at East Chevington on 22nd (PRM), Killingworth Lake had a peak of six (three adults and three young) on 8th (LJM), with one less youngster reported on 17th (CDH). Derwent Reservoir held up to six birds all month (IFo) and Branton GP peaked at five mid-month. Four were offshore, amongst Scoters, in Druridge Bay towards month end and one to three were on freshwater at Airy Holm Reservoir, Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond, Broomlee Lough, Cresswell Pond NWT, Fenham and QE11 CP. Singles were seen offshore at Boulmer Low Newton.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps Auritus*

One headed N with Scoters at Seaton Sluice and Newbiggin on 15th (SSWT/AP) and two were at East Chevington on 18th (RB/MB).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

The highest numbers were concentrated in the Lindisfarne NNR area with 500 being noted at Guile Point on 5th (RA) and a maximum of 250 were noted at Budle Bay on 6th and 9th reducing to 165 by 24th (GPK/CGK/DF *et al.*). The roost at Newbiggin reached 100 on 10th (AP) with a minimum of 100 just a few miles further south at the River Blyth Estuary on 15th (MN). Roosts at Howick and St Mary's attracted 90 and 88 birds respectively on 20th and 22nd (JAR/ASJ). Lynemouth Bay held 74 on 13th with 52-57 being noted at Cullercoats, Birling Carrs and Longhoughton Steel from mid-month. The peak count at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) occurred on 30th when 46 were present (MSH) and two sites in the Berwick area held over 30 birds with 38 at Dodd's Well on 14th (MHu) and 33 at Little Beach on 30th (MSH). At Snab Point (Cresswell) 27 were seen on 1st (PRM) and one-four were reported from Cresswell, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Links and the River Coquet Estuary.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

There were two reports of late birds with one at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (MN) and one flew S at St Mary's Island on 7th (ASJ).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Numbers at Derwent Reservoir increased from 400 on 8th to 810 on 29th (IFo/PRM). Arcot Pond attracted an impressive 650 on 13th (STH) which declined gradually to 200 by 26th (LJM/GB). A flock at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) numbered 515 on 3rd (MHu) with peak numbers at other sites being 490 at Grindon Lough on 22nd (PRM), 462 at East Chevington on the same date (PRM) and 450 at Budle Bay on 25th (DF). At other coastal locations, 343 were present at the River Aln Estuary on 26th (MKi), 340 at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 15th (PRM), 300 at Monks' House Pool on 19th and 25th (RA/MSH) and 270 at St Mary's Island on 22nd (ASJ). Peak counts of 240 were made at Bothal Pond on 3rd and Cocklawburn on 9th (TF/MHu) with 200 at Holywell Pond on 6th (MSH), 150 at Airy Holm Reservoir on 25th (IFo) and 100 on the mud banks of the River Tyne at Elswick GB). Reports of 50-90 were received from Broomlee Lough, Haughton Strother, Newstead Flash, the River Coquet Estuary and Warkworth. One-24 were seen at Alnmouth, Cresswell Pond, Warkworth Lane Ponds (Ellington) and Woodhorn Flashes.



Lapwing

Cresswell Pond

20-09-21

Colin Bradshaw

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Active passage was noted when 145 flew N at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 1st (IDR), on 4th when 30 flew S at Cresswell Pond, at Annstead (Seahouses) on 14th when 390 flew S (DF) and 100 flew E at Newcastle Town Moor on 30th (GB) with 70 E at Ellington on the same date (TB). There were reports of between 600-2,000 at Holy Island during the month with the highest counts being 2,000 in fields at the Crooked Lonnen on 19th (ADM) and 1,600 over the Vicar's garden on 5th (MJC/ADM). Also at Lindisfarne NNR, 700 were at Beal on 19th (RA). Counts fluctuated at other coastal stretches with 600-1,000 noted in the Boulmer-Longhoughton Steel area during the month (MKi/JAR/TRD/JD), an estimated 1,000 seen at St Mary's Island on 15th and a minimum of 300 at the same site on 23rd (ASJ/MSH). 600 were just north of here at Old Hartley on 15th (MNC). In addition, in the south east, 900 were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 4th (TD) and an estimate of 500 was made here on 5th (M Potts). Other significant flocks were 800 at Shoreston (Seahouses) on 27th (MSH) and the highest count from nearby Monks' House Pool was 400 on the same day (RA). At Grindon Lough birds appeared to pass through during the month as numbers building up from seven on 1st to 38 on 22nd and then to a maximum of approximately 600 on 26th before reducing to 37 by 29th (PRM). At other coastal sites 358 were at Low Newton on 15th, 337 at Alnmouth on 20th, with the maximum in the River Coquet Estuary area being 62 on 3rd. One to 16 were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Budle Point, East Chevington, Greenhaugh, Plenmeller Common and Tynemouth.

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

One was present on Holy Island on 19th (IBDa/KDa/AH *et al.*).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

At Budle Point, 12 flew W on 21st (RA) and a single flew N at Newbiggin on 1st (PRM/TD). Boulmer attracted the largest group, which was 14 on 28th (CB), with 12 at Birling Carrs on 21st (RPo). Elsewhere one-six were present at Annstead, Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Cheswick Black Rocks, Holy Island, Longhoughton Steel, the River Coquet Estuary, Stag Rocks and St Mary's.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Numbers were lower than August as birds passed through quickly but some notable concentrations were still evident. The highest count came from Cocklawburn where 86 were present on 16th (MHu). At Annstead (Seahouses), 69 were seen on 7th (DF) and both Boulmer and Beacon Point (Newbiggin) attracted 50 on 2nd and 4th respectively (TRD/JD/TD), with 49 still at Beacon Point on 25th (AP). In the final days of the month, 43 were at St Mary's Island on 30th, 41 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 21st, 21 on the beach at Druridge Bay on 26th and 20 at Cheswick Black Rocks on the same date. Other counts from the coast involved two-15 at Berwick Little Beach, Cresswell, the River Coquet Estuary and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed). Inland, seven were at Derwent Reservoir on 11th with one remaining until 21st (IFo), six were at Colt Crag Reservoir on 12th and a single juvenile at Grindon Lough on 25th (both PRM).



Ringed Plover

St Mary's Island

September '21

Alan Jack

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubious*

A single juvenile was at Druridge Pools on 2nd (MN/AJN/AJ *et al.*) and one bird was seen flying over the Crooked Lonnen (Holy Island) on 4th (MJC/SJM). Single juveniles were present at Grindon Lough on 10th and Colt Crag Reservoir on 12th (both PRM).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

An adult moulting out of summer plumage was at Grindon Lough on 2nd (AJR). One was at Monks' House Pool on 27th (RA).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Five were seen flying N at both Cresswell Pond and Newbiggin on 4th (TF/TD/NFO) with two at the wader roost at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on the same date (AP). Also on 4th migrating birds were flying S at Annstead (Seahouses) and Newcastle Quayside (a city centre mega). Singles were at Boulmer on 2nd, St Mary's Island on 3rd and Beal on 14th, with three at Alnmouth on 20th (AB/LB). The last was one heard at Boulmer on 22nd (JD/TRD).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

A minimum of 30 flew N at Alnmouth on 15th (DLo), six flew S at Druridge Pools & Links on 10th (IDR) and a single flew N at Heddon-on-the-Wall on 29th (TWi). On the coast, the highest numbers were reported from the Boulmer-Longhoughton Steel stretch, with an estimated 200 present at Boulmer on 1st (JAR), 190 on fields at high tide on 20th (MKi) and 180 at Longhoughton Steel on 17th (MKi). At the River Tweed Estuary, 86 were seen at Yarrow Slake on 3rd and 48 at Calot Shad on 24th (both MHu). In the south east, 56 were in fields at St Mary's on 22nd (ASJ), 50 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 4th (TD) and 50+ at the River Blyth Estuary on 15th (MN). A minimum of 45 were seen in the River Coquet Estuary on 22nd (PRM). One-19 were reported from Big Waters, Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Cresswell, Druridge Pools & Links, Howick, Lynemouth Bay, the River Wansbeck Estuary, Snab Point (Cresswell) and Woodhorn (Church flash).



Curlew

Cresswell Pond

14-09-21

Tim Dean

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Seven flew N in 1 hour at Newton Point on 4th (SW), six flew S at Annstead on 17th (DF) and two 'in-off' at St Mary's Island on 1st (MSH). Boulmer held the highest numbers with the peak count being made on 28th when 47 were present (CB) with one-ten seen on other dates during the month (TRD/JD). Nearby at Longhoughton Steel, 13 were counted on 17th (MKi). Five were at Newbiggin GC on 4th (TD) and three were on freshwater at East Chevington north pool on 5th (AJR). One-two were reported from Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Cresswell, Cresswell Pond, the River Blyth Estuary and St Mary's Island. A colour-ringed bird seen at Longhoughton Steel on 20th, was ringed on 16 August at Telemark, Norway and had flown 773km SW to the Northumberland coast. (MKi).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

The River Coquet Estuary held large numbers during the month with 12 on 3rd increasing to a peak of 175 on 20th (PRM/MKi/CSa *et al.*). The maximum seen at Budle Bay was 48 on 18th with one-ten present there on various other dates (CGK/GPK/RA *et al.*). In the Druridge Bay area, birds were observed at several sites with the peak counts being 41 at Cresswell Pond on 4th (TF), 37 at East Chevington on 18th (TD/NFO) and nine at Druridge Pools on 5th (IDR). The high at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) occurred on 6th when 28 were seen (TF), at Monks' House Pool, 24 were present on 2nd with one remaining on 28th (RA/TRD/JD) and at Beal (Lindisfarne NNR) 18 were observed on 21st (RA). One-seven were recorded at Arcot Pond, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond, Newbiggin, River Blyth Estuary and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

30 flew N during a 90-minute sea-watch at Tynemouth on 4th (CB). The highest count was an impressive 250 at Seahouses on 9th (RA). Other stretches of coast attracted much smaller numbers with 59 at Newbiggin on 12th (STH), 51 roosting at Cullercoats on 20th (ASJ), 45 at Annstead (Seahouses) on 7th (DF) 36 at Berwick Little Beach on 13th (MHu) and 33 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 21st (RPo). One-19 were reported from Berwick, Boulmer, Cheswick Black Rocks, Cocklawburn, Cresswell, Druridge Links, Howick, Low Newton, Lynemouth Bay, the River Blyth Estuary, Snab Point (Cresswell), Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) and St Mary's Island.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

At Tynemouth, 16 flew S on 4th (CB) and 12 flew N at Newton Point on the same day (SW). The largest group was 26 at Cresswell Pond on 4th (TF) which reduced to a single by 13th (CB) with 13 at Longhoughton Steel on 2nd (MKi) and 12 at Boulmer on 17th declining to three on 28th (TRD/JD/CB). Two were at Lynemouth Bay and one was at Cheswick Black Rocks.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Beal (Lindisfarne NNR) attracted the largest numbers with 15 present on 21st (RA) and the peak count at East Chevington was made on 11th when 14 were seen (TF). Fenham (Lindisfarne NNR) held ten birds on 19th (RA) and birds were present at Druridge Pools most of the month with eight being present on 3rd (PRM/MN/NFO *et al.*). Six-seven were seen at Monks' House Pool from 14th-19th (RA) with the high at Cresswell Pond occurring on 13th when four were present (IDR). One-three were reported from Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Budle Bay, Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Tyne Riverside CP (a first site record at Blayney Row), the River Aln Estuary, the River Coquet Estuary, Ross (Lindisfarne NNR), and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Passage continued this month with three noted at Holy Island on 6th (RA) and two juveniles at Hauxley beach on the same date (CSa). Singles were reported from Castle Island on 6th and 7th (AC/TF/TD *et al.*) with two also reported on 7th (LJM). Two were seen at Fenham (Lindisfarne NNR) on 15th (RA) and singles were at Budle Bay on five dates between 1st and 13th (GPK/CGK/DF/RA).

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Additional July report- One was briefly in front of the hide at Cresswell Pond 15th July (TF).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

At Newton Point, 68 flew N on 4th (SW). The wader roost at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) held birds throughout the month with a low of 60 on 5th and a peak of 129 on 21st (AP/RMHa/PMHa *et al.*). Other maximum counts were 93 at St Mary's Island on 30th (ASJ), 82 at Whitley Bay beach on 3rd (MSH), 60 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 18th (SW), 48 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 21st (RPo). At Cresswell, 46 were present on 13th (IDR) and 28 were at, Cocklawburn on 15th (MHu). One-15 were at Annstead, Berwick Little Beach, Boulmer, Cheswick Black Rocks, Cresswell Pond (individual in bright breeding plumage), Druridge beach, Low Newton and Newbiggin bay.



Sanderling

St Mary's Island

21-09-21

Colin Bradshaw



Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Lindisfarne NNR held the greatest numbers with 1,500 reported from Fenham on 19th (RA) and 600 at Budle Bay on 26th (CGK/GPK). Birds were seen at Boulmer throughout the month with a high count of 350 made on 22nd (TRD/JD). Large numbers were present at Castle Island during the first week with a peak of 141 recorded on 3rd declining to 23 by 25th (TF/AC/GB/TD). Other peak counts were 90 at Longhoughton Steel on 17th (MKi), 79 at Cresswell Pond on 4th (TF), 61 at the River Blyth Estuary on 15th (LJM), 59 at Newbiggin bay on 12th (STH), 56 at Berwick Little Beach on 13th (MHu) and 50 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 4th (TD). One-30 were at 12 locations between Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) in the north and Whitley Bay in the south. Inland the maximum counts were 18 at Elswick (River Tyne) on 2nd (MPF), 13 at Grindon Lough on 1st (PRM), 11 at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo) and seven at Colt Crag Reservoir on 12th (PRM).

Dunlin

St Mary's Island

September '21

Iain Johnson

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Four flew N at Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR), with two N at Tynemouth on 12th (DRW) and one S at Annstead (Seahouses) on 4th (DF). The peak count was nine made at Fisherman's Haven (Berwick) on 14th (MHu) with six at roost at Cullercoats on 28th (ASJ) and four at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 10th (AP). One to two were seen at Birling Carrs (Warkworth), ChurchPoint, Newbiggin, Snab Point (Cresswell) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Last month's influx continued with the monthly maximum at Budle Bay being six from 26th-29th (CGK/GPK). At Castle Island a single on 2nd increased to four (juveniles) on 7th and back down to a single juvenile on 15th. (TF/TD/PRM *et al.*). Two were at Holy Island on 6th (RA) and singles were seen at Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR), Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Fenham (Lindisfarne NNR), Grindon Lough, Monks' House Pool and the River Blyth Estuary.



Little Stint

Castle Island

08-09-21

Graham Sorrie

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

A notable influx was evident with the first bird being seen at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 6th-7th (TF/TRD/JD *et al.*). Another bird was at Holy Island on 8th (RA) with further singles reported from Derwent Reservoir on 9th (IFo), Budle Bay on 11th (GPK/CGK) and Beal on 14th (RA). No more appeared until 22nd when one arrived at Grindon Lough increasing to two on 29th (John Jackson per PRM). A single was at Holywell Pond for 20 minutes on 25th (MN), with singles at Monks' House Pool on 25th-26th (ADM/MSH/RA) and Druridge Pools from 28th-30th (MH/AA/CB *et al.*).



Pectoral Sandpiper

Castle Island

07-09-2021

Graham Sorrie



Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

The second county record was found by Tim Dean on 16th at Boulmer but unfortunately was not present the next day (TRD/JD/MKi).

Semi-palmated Sandpiper

Boulmer

17-09-2021

Tim Dean

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

The sole report was of one bird at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

The first report of the autumn was one at Budle Bay on 25th (CGK/GPK).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Immigration was observed at Budle Point with two noted flying W on 6th and three in-off on 16th (RA/CGK/GPK). Two flew in-off at Berwick Coastwatch on 25th (MHu). The largest concentrations were 16 at Newstead Flash on 28th (RA), 15 at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 14th (TF), 12 at Grindon Lough on 26th (PRM) and ten at Cresswell Pond on 18th (RB/MB). Nine were at Budle Bay on 20th with eight at Monks' House Pool on 26th, seven at Arcot Pond on the same day and six at Druridge Pools on 3rd. One to five were at 11 other localities.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

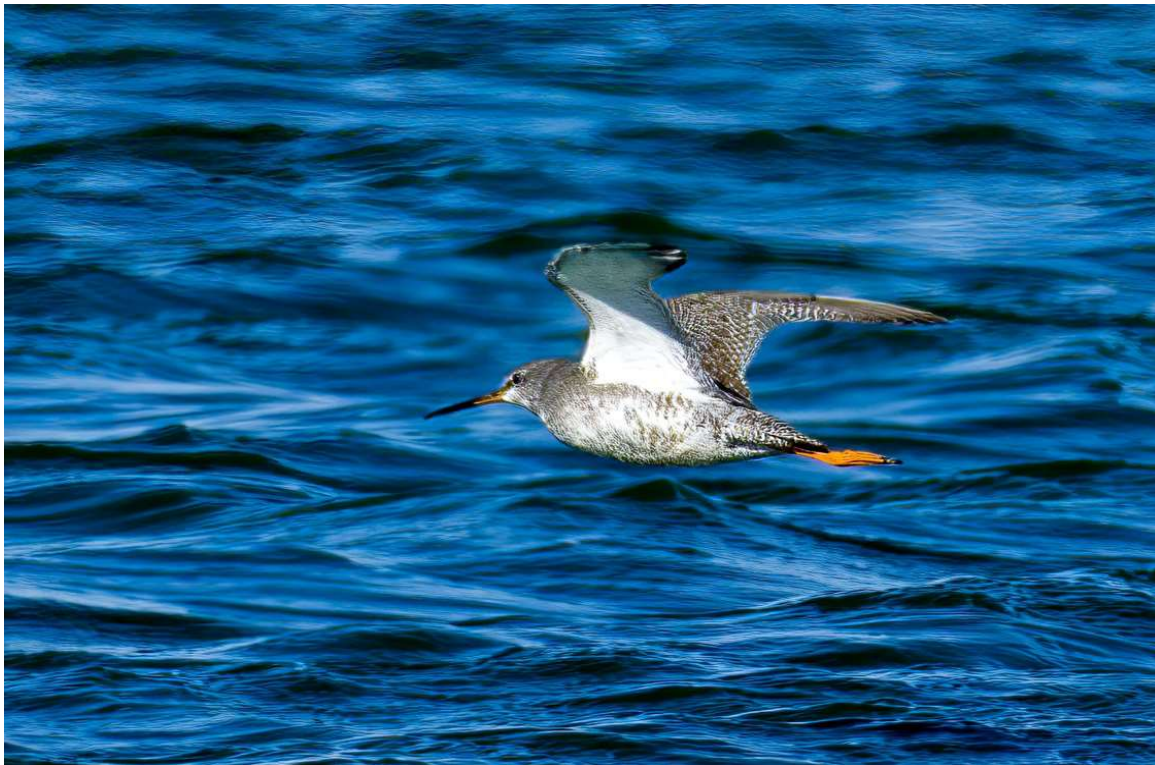
Much smaller numbers were noted this month as birds moved out of the area. Three were at Hedgeley GP on 3rd (JD) with two at Cresswell Pond on 14th and 20th (TRD/JD/CB). Singles were at Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Cullercoats, Derwent Reservoir, Holy Island, Linton Ponds and Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

A few lingering migrants were noted. A high count of three was noted at Castle Island on 6th with one remaining until 25th (TF/LJM/PRM/GB). Singles were seen at the regular haunt of Berwick Hill Bridge (River Pont) on 1st and 7th (AHB) and other singles were seen at a wader roost at Cullercoats on 20th (ASJ) and at Druridge Pools on 28th (CB).

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

In the Lindisfarne NNR, 400 were at Guile Point on 5th (RA), with the monthly high at Budle Bay being 164 on 10th (DF). At the River Blyth Estuary, a minimum of 50 on 5th (MSH) increased to a peak of 250+ by 15th (MN/LJM). Yarrow Slake retained high numbers from last month with 230 on 10th (MHu) and a high-tide roost at Boulmer attracted 144 on 20th (MKi). Numbers at Castle Island increased noticeably, with 25 noted on 2nd (GB) and a rapid build up to 110+ by 15th (PRM). The River Coquet Estuary also held 110 on 22nd (RPo). Other maxima were 108 at St Mary's Island on 18th (ASJ), 85 at Howdon (River Tyne) on 26th (CB), 83 in the Beacon Point (Newbiggin) wader roost on 25th (AP), 75 at Cullercoats on 28th (ASJ), 51 at Newbiggin Bay on 12th (STH), 50 at Kitty Brewster (River Blyth) on 25th (GB) and 30 at Elswick (River Tyne) on 18th (GB). One-seven were reported from Arcot Pond, Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Lynemouth Bay, the River Wansbeck Estuary, Snab Point (Cresswell) and West Ord (Berwick).



Redshank

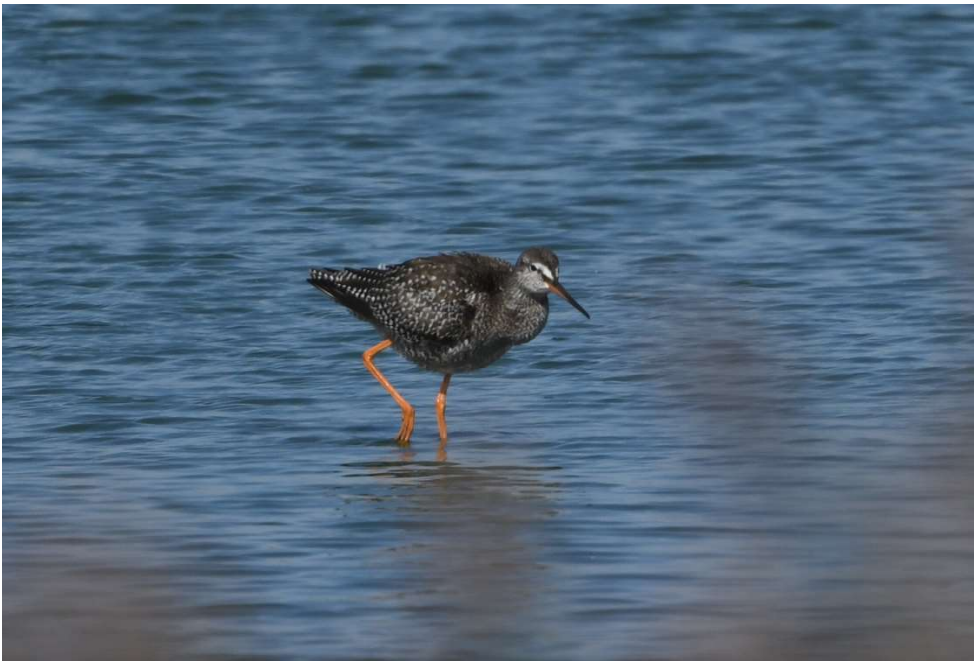
Cresswell Pond

21-09-21

Colin Bradshaw

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Birds continued to occupy Cresswell Pond from last month with one reported on 11th, six on 16th and then five until the month end. (ADMc/MH/AA *et al.*). There was a high of three at Druridge Pools on 18th (SW) with one reported on 14th and 22nd (PMHa/RMHa/PRM *et al.*). One was at Budle Bay from 4th-6th with two from 12th-16th (CGK/GPK) and singles were seen at East Chevington, Kitty Brewster (River Blyth), Monks' House Pool, St Mary's Island (flying S) and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed).



Spotted Redshank

Cresswell Pond

08-09-21

Graham Sorrie

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Seven flew S together at St Mary's Island on 4th (ASJ/AC). Lindisfarne NNR attracted significant numbers with the peak count coming from Beal where 24 were seen on 21st (RA). Elsewhere on Lindisfarne, 11 were at Fenham Mill on 14th (DF), seven at Budle Bay (peak monthly count- CGK/GPK) and two at Holy Island (AA/MJC/SJM). One-six birds were seen at Cresswell Pond during the month with the high count of six being made on 18th (SW/MSH/MN *et al.*). There was an influx to Castle Island (River Wansbeck), with one noted on 2nd and four by 20th (GB/TF). Three circled Holywell Pond on 4th (MK) and two at Derwent Reservoir on 6th reduced to one on 12th (IFo). Singles were seen at Druridge Pools, the River Aln Estuary, Seahouses and West Ord (Berwick).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

From 1st-3rd, sea-watch counts and feeding groups numbered 20-80 at Blyth Harbour, Holy Island, Seaton Sluice and Snab Point but few others were recorded elsewhere.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

On 2nd, single juveniles and one adult were recorded at Druridge Links, Seaton Sluice, Snab Point and Tynemouth (IDR/JF/KWY/MK/SSWT) and on the following day, 3rd, single adults were seen off Druridge Links, Holy Island and Newbiggin (GB/MJC/AA). On a later date, 12th, two adults moved N at Cullercoats (ASJ).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Many counts throughout in Budle Bay included totals of 200-1,800 (DF/KWY) and other large groups of 100-600 were recorded at Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Castle Island, Cocklawburn, Druridge Links, Holywell Pond and Howick. Smaller, double-figure counts came from ten other localities. A colour-ringed bird at the Newcastle Quayside, white J7KA, was ringed as an adult at Oslo, Norway, in April 2012 (MPF).

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Seven were offshore at Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR), four flew N at Annstead on 3rd (DF) and four were also seen moving N at St Mary's Island and Tynemouth on 19th (MSH/GB). One or two, of differing ages, mostly moving N, were recorded on various dates up to 12th at eight other coastal localities between Budle Bay and Tynemouth.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

Very extensively reported, with peak counts of 102 at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (ADMc) and 62 at Ellington on 21st (TB). Numerous other sightings of numbers from one to 52 were reported from the favoured Cresswell/Ellington/Lynemouth/Newbiggin areas and up to eight were seen at other widespread localities ranging between Amble, Bamburgh, Beal, Budle Bay, Druridge Links, East Chevington, Holy Island, Howdon, Widdrington Moor Lake and Woodhorn flash.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

The 15th saw a large gathering of 2,500 at Budle Bay on 15th (KWY) and 1,500 were in a beach roost at Druridge Links on 30th (IDR/JF). Elsewhere, 185 were at Akeld, 117 at Powburn and 60 at Netherton (JR) with one to six at five other sites.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Blyth South Harbour held 144 on 15th (LJM) and 130 were at Boulmer on 1st (JAR). Counts of 50-80 came from Budle Bay, Craster and Druridge Pools, 11-50 at the Coquet Estuary, St Mary's Island and the Tweed Estuary with one to three at Grindon Lough and Lynemouth Bay.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

The only record comprised an un-aged bird found on the shore at Embleton on 6th with a group of Herring Gulls (JAR)..

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argenteus*

An estimated 3,650 on 12th was the largest of several counts in Budle Bay (DF), ca.800 were at Boulmer, 400 in the Blyth Estuary, 300 at Berwick (Low Cocklaw), ca.200 at Druridge Pools/Links and 150 at Holywell Pond.

***Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

The returning ringed bird, PKCS, was seen in the Coquet Estuary area on two occasions (TF/CSa) and single immature birds were noted at Budle Bay, Holy Island, Seahouses and Tynemouth (RA/MK/DRW/MJC)..

***Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

The only record was one at Ross on 2nd (RA).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

At Branton GP, 180 were present on 14th with 165 still remaining there on 21st (IBDa/KDa) but elsewhere, apart from 13 at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo), all other sightings were of one to four at five coastal and four inland sites.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

At Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) 80 flew S on 3rd in six hours (MJC) and similar movements were noted at Annstead, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth on various dates in the first half of the month when many gatherings of 20-45 were also reported. The numbers dropped significantly beyond mid-month as birds moved out of the county when smaller counts of up to ten became the norm with reports from, inter-alia, Annstead, Bamburgh, Budle Bay, Druridge Links, Holy Island, Howick, Newbiggin, St Mary's Island, the Tweed Estuary and Tynemouth.



Sandwich Tern (juv)

September

Alan Jack

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

Two counts of 11 came from Lindisfarne on 5th and 19th (RA) with two at Ross and one in Budle Bay being the only other reports.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Five sizeable gatherings of 14 to 53 were recorded at Budle Bay/Holy Island from 4th-9th (RA/MJC/ADM) with up to five seen elsewhere at nine localities between Fenham-Tynemouth, the latest on 19th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

During the period up to 15th good numbers moved generally S past various watchpoints as birds left the county with counts of 70 at Holy Island (MJC/SJM) and St Mary's Island (ASJ) and 10-40 at four other localities. Single-figure counts also came from several other sites up to mid-month with the latest record of two at Bamburgh on 26th(TRD/JD).



Common Tern

Newbiggin

September '21

Alan Jack

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

At Emmanuel Head, 100 flew S in four hours on 3rd (MJC) and other counts of up to 30, some of birds moving either N or S, came from Annstead, Boulmer, Druridge Links and Tynemouth. The latest sighting was four at Bamburgh on 30th (MSH).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Five were recorded at Guile Point (Lindisfarne) on 5th (RA) with one or two juveniles seen on dates between 6th-26th at Bamburgh, Budle Point, Druridge Links, Hauxley beach and Ross and a single frequented East Chevington North Pool from 11th-16th (many observers).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

The period 1st-4th saw a steady passage with peak counts of ten seen moving N at Newbiggin during a 6.5 hour sea-watch on 1st (TF), six N and two S at Tynemouth in 1.5 hours on 4th (CB) and six N at Cullernose Point on 2nd (IBDa/KDa). Many other reports of one to five came from seven popular watch-points between Holy Island and St Mary's Island. Later in the month on 12th-13th, another movement N was seen with a peak of 12 seen from Tynemouth during a 2.5 hour sea-watch (CB) and singles at Annstead, Druridge Links and St Marys Island.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

The conditions on the first two days produced a number of sightings of birds moving N with one or two on 1st at Cresswell (Snab Point), Cullernose Point, Hauxley, Newbiggin, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth and on 2nd, four at Boulmer (one pale-phase adult, three sub-adults) (TRD/JD) and four adults at Druridge Links (IDR) with one or two at Cullercoats, Cullernose Point, Longhoughton Steel, Newbiggin and Tynemouth. On 13th, seven were recorded at Tynemouth during 2.5 hours sea-watching (CB) with singles seen also on that day at Annstead and Druridge Links (IDR/DF).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Significant passage was seen during the first few days with peaks of 10 moving N at St Mary's Island on 1st (JBu) and 10-12 N at Druridge Links, Longhoughton Steel and Newbiggin on 2nd (IDR/PRM/MKi). Other localities where up to five were reported on dates from 1st-8th included Annstead, Bamburgh, Boulmer, Buston Links, Cullernose Point, Holy Island, Newton Point, Snab Point and Tynemouth. Smaller numbers of up to three were also recorded flying N during 13th-14th at four of these localities.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A flock of six, including one adult, flew N at St Mary's Island on 1st (JBu) and five, probably the same flock, were seen at Tynemouth on the same day (MK/DRW). Also on 1st one flew in from the E and continued inland to W/SW at St Mary's Island (AC/MSH) and one flew N at Annstead (RA). On 2nd two were recorded at Newbiggin and singles at Druridge Links, St Mary's Island and Snab Point.

Auk sp

The recent 'unprecedented' deaths of many Auks along the coast of Scotland and North East England has been widely reported but no firm cause has yet been established.

One observer this month reports the finding of 11 Guillemot corpses, including eight juveniles, on 8th-9th between Blyth and Seaton Sluice; on 17th-19th, a further ten Guillemots, including five juveniles and 39 Razorbills including only three juveniles, were also found dead along the same stretch of beach (Mhp).

Counts included 500 offshore at Budle Point on 6th (CGK/GPK) and 263 flying S at Annstead on 11th (DF).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Exceptionally well-reported with many descriptions of unusual behaviour indicative of feeding difficulties which has probably led to so many recent Auk deaths. At Boulmer, 300 were on the sea, described as 'unusual to see so many offshore' (TRD/JD) and in Holy Island harbour 70 was 'an unusually large party for the site, all feeding close in from the Heugh' (IK). In Tweedmouth Dock a total of 50 was 'unprecedented – birds possibly starving' (MHu). Other reports described unusually large numbers seen at sites where very few if any had ever been previously recorded including far upstream on the River Blyth (AC), the River Tyne at Newcastle Quayside and Walker (GB/MPF) and at Calot Shad in the Tweed Estuary 'following large numbers of sprats' (MHu). Other sightings of ten to 40 seen close inshore at ca.20 localities was also unusual for this time of year.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

A total of 60+ reports of gatherings of up to 250 this month was totally unprecedented and indicative of probable feeding problems, as described for the above species. Many reports of birds moving S including a maximum of 1,020 at Tynemouth in 1.5 hours on 12th (DRW). Large gatherings seen close inshore included 100-250 at Cullercoats, Newbiggin, Holy Island, St Mary's Island, the Tweed Estuary (Calot Shad), Tweedmouth Dock and Tynemouth; these numbers were described as very unusual or incredible and 20 corpses were found in the channel below the school at Holy Island (MJC). Smaller counts of up to 50 were numerous, mostly involving birds close inshore, which was also noted as unusual. A record count of 19 came from the Tyne at Walker (MPF) with some even further upstream at Dunston/Elwick and similarly, birds were seen unusually far upstream on the Blyth (AC/GB).



Razorbill

North Shields Fish Quay

September '21

Alan Jack

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

35 were noted in a 2.5hr sea-watch at Tynemouth, with 20 S and 15 N on 13th (CB), 21 were offshore at Druridge Links on 30th (IDR/JF) and ca. 20 were at Cocklawburn on 11th (TBr). 18 birds were seen at Longhoughton Steel on 17th (MKi) and at Tynemouth on 19th (CB), while 15 birds all in breeding plumage moved S in a 30 min. period at Castle Point (Holy Island) on 4th (IK). 13 birds were seen flying S at Annstead (Seahouses) and at Newton Point mainly as singles on 4th (DF/SW). One to ten birds were noted throughout the month with most flying S.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Single birds were at Ross on 12th (RA) and flying S at Newbiggin on 13th (NFO).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Two birds flew N at Boulmer on 2nd (TRD) and two flew N at Newbiggin on 3rd (DLo). Single birds were seen at Cullernose Point (IBDa/KDa) and Annstead Point (Seahouses) (RA) on 1st and at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 15th (GPK), Snab Point (Cresswell) on 19th (IK), Druridge Bay on 28th (MH/AA) & Craster on 29th (AJR).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

A single bird was seen flying N at Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 1st (RA).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

193 flew N in a 5.5h sea-watch at Newbiggin on 2nd (PRM). 54 flew N at Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 13th (DF) & 51 flew N at St Mary's Island on 2nd (MSH). Also on 2nd, 29 birds flew N at Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR), 25 went N at Boulmer (TRD/JD) and 23 N at Annstead Point (Seahouses) (DF). 23 birds flew N at Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 3rd (DF), 12 went N at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 1st (TRD) and 11 were off Druridge Links on 12th (IDR). One to seven birds were seen at Boulmer, Druridge Links, Lynemouth Bay, Snab Point (Cresswell), St Mary's Island and Tynemouth between 1st and 13th.

Zino's/Fea's/Desertas Petrel *Pterodroma sp*

A bird which was tracked up the East coast on 1st was seen flying N at St Mary's at 16:20h (AC), it was seen at Newbiggin by about 20 observers (GB/DD/PRM) and then as if flew Snab Point (Cresswell) (IDR) giving great views. Another bird was seen flying N distantly around 08:30h on 2nd (MK).

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

50 birds flew N at St Mary's Island in a 15 min. period in the afternoon of 13th (JBU). On 1st 19 birds flew N at Newbiggin in a 6.5 hr period (TF), 18 flew N at Cullernose Point (IBDa/KDa), 13 went N at Newbiggin (PRM), and 12 N at Annstead Point (Seahouses) (RA). 12 birds went N at Tynemouth on 13th (CB) with 11 N there on 1st (DRW), 11 birds flew N at Cullernose Point on 1st ((IBDa/KDa) and at St Mary's Island on 2nd (AC) with ten N there on 1st (MSH). One to seven birds were noted at numerous sites along the coast between 1st and 13th.

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

A single bird was seen flying N in Alnmouth Bay at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 16th (CSa).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

On 1st 15 birds were noted N at Church Point (Newbiggin) (PRM), 14 went past Cullernose Point (IBDa/KDa), 12 went N past Annstead Point (Seahouses) (RA). One to nine were noted N at Annstead Point (Seahouses), Boulmer, Church Point (Newbiggin), Druridge Links, Longhoughton Steel, Snab Point (Cresswell), St Mary's Island & Tynemouth between 1st and 13th.

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Two birds were noted N in a 2.5h sea-watch at Tynemouth on 13th (CB). Single birds were seen at Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 1st (RA), a bird flew N at St Mary's Island at 09:20h on 2nd (AC/MSH) was also seen at Church Point (Newbiggin) at 09:42h (GB) another bird flew N at Newbiggin at 15:55 on 2nd (PRM). On 13th a bird was seen flying N at Newbiggin at 16:20h (DF) then at Druridge Links at 16:31h (IDR).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

At Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 2nd 1,761 flew N at a rate of 960/hr (DF), with 1,631 N there on 13th at a rate of 890/h (DF). 1,500 went N at Boulmer in 5hrs on 2nd (TRD/JD), 1,263 were at Annstead Point (Seahouses) with 637 N & 626 S on 15th (DF) and 1,190 were seen there on 17th (DF) with 677 N and 513 S. 1,120 went N at Newbiggin in a 5.5hrs sea-watch at Newbiggin on 2nd (PRM). One - 965 were noted at Alnmouth Bay, Annstead Point (Seahouses), Black Rocks (Cheswick), Boulmer, Castle Point (Holy Island), Craster, Druridge Links, Emmanuel Head (Holy Island), Howick, Newton Point (Newton), Snab Point (Cresswell), Spittal Bay (Berwick) & Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) during the month.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

The highest count was 171 birds in the roost at Blyth Harbour on 2nd (STH). Other peak counts were 78 birds in the River Blyth Estuary on 15th (LJM), 76 were at Calot Shad (R Tweed Estuary) on 28th (MHu), 71 were on the islands at the North Pool (East Chevington) on 14th (TRD/JD). One to 62 birds were at 20 sites during the month. Four "*Sinensis*" race birds were at in the River Coquet Estuary on 22nd (PRM) and three were at Hedgeley GPs on 19th (NFO).

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristoteli*

The roost at Meadow Haven (Berwick) had ca. 40 birds on 28th with 14 there on 25th and 12 on 12th (MHu). Nine birds were at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 9th (MHu), five were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 26th (TRd/JD). At Calot Shad (R Tweed Estuary) there were four birds there on 5th & three on 28th (MHu). Two birds were noted at Boulmer on 2nd (TRD/JD) & at the Emblestones (Newton) on 17th (TRD/JD). Single birds were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 1st (TRD), Druridge Links on 2nd & 13th (IDR), Tynemouth on 4th (CB) and at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 10th (TRD).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

One flew S past the observer at a range of 20m at the North Pool (East Chevington) at 13:00h on 19th (ADMc).

Spoonbill

Cresswell Pond

21-09-21

Colin Bradshaw



Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

The highest count for Northumberland was nine birds at Budle Bay on 18th (CGK/PGK). This involved a flock of eight birds which was seen circling over the Duchess Bridge (R Aln Estuary) (MKi) joining up with the single bird at Budle Bay which had been seen there since 8th (CGK/GPK). On 19th six birds were reported flying S at Boulmer. These birds joined up with two which were at the North Pool (East Chevington) (ADMc). Single birds were seen in the Cresswell Pond/ Druridge Pools area from 1st till the 18th (TRD/ADMc *et al.*). On 6th a bird flew S over St Mary's Wetland (JBu).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

On 3rd at Yarrow Slake (R Tweed Estuary), 25 birds were present (MHu) and 23 birds at Howdon were flushed by an unseen raptor (CB). 11 birds were at the River Coquet Estuary on 22nd (PRM), nine were at Colt Crag Reservoir on 12th (PRM) and eight birds were in the River Blyth Estuary on 15th (MN). Eight were also at Monks' House Pool on 25th - 27th (MSH/ADM). One to seven birds were at 18 sites during the month.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

One was seen at Holy Island on 4th (RA) and it or another bird was seen later at Cresswell Pond the same day (TF). Another bird was found during a WeBS survey at Caistron on 11th (JD).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

The highest count was 32 birds at Beal on 21st (RA), followed by 24 birds at Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR) on 16th (DF) & 23 at Beal on 19th (RA). At Castle Island (River Wansbeck), 18 birds were present including one which was coloured-ringed (BH). Budle Bay had a maximum count of 15 birds on 12th, 17th and 20th (CGK/GPK/RA/MJC). On 16th, 14 birds were at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) (LJM) with ten birds noted there on 7th (TRD/JD). One to nine birds were at 23 sites during the month.



Little Egret

Cresswell Pond

21-09-21

Colin Bradshaw

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Two birds were at Derwent Reservoir on 1st, 2nd and 5th (IFo), with single birds there on 3rd, 10th, 20th and 23rd (IFo). Other single birds were noted flying S overhead at Grindon Lough on 1st (PRM), on poles near the causeway at Pilgrims' Way (Lindisfarne NNR) on 3rd (per IK) and flying W at Druridge Bay on 11th (AB/LB).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

A pair were at Howick on 1st (JAR). A bird was seen throughout the month at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) (RS) and other single birds were reported from 20 sites including a female which hit a window in the observer's garden at Ellington which stunned itself but flew off three min. later (TB).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Two juveniles, one with red wing tags, were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 26th (TF) with a single bird there on 28th (MH). In the Druridge Bay area up to three birds were seen throughout the month, a 3rd yr male, a female and a juvenile. Other sightings were a single bird at Budle Bay on 4th (RA), a juvenile hunting fields at the Straight Lonnen (Holy Island) on 6th (IK), an adult female at Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 9th (TBr), a un-sexed bird at Beal on 14th (RA) and another at Longhoughton Steel also on 14th (MKi). Single birds were also seen with a 3rd year male at Holywell Pond on 15th (MN), a bird at Fenham on 15th (RA) and a juvenile at Grindon Lough on 15th (PRM).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Three ringtails were at a confidential site on 21st (TRD/JD), a ringtail with a visible aerial transmitter was in the Upper Breamish Valley on 4th (AB/LB) and a male was near Bellingham on 6th (EAW).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Two birds were seen flying W at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 16th (SW), two were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 21st (IFo), two were feeding on the ground in a newly cut silage field at Slaley Hall on 24th (RMH) and two birds one of which had a transmitter on its back, were over a field being harvested at Carterway Heads on 26th (MH). Single birds were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir (near Shotleyfield).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

On 13th eight birds were up together at Arcot Pond (STH) and eight were in a small "kettle" at Starlight Castle (Holywell Dene) on 20th (MSH). Six birds were at Hetton Steads on 26th (MSH) and five were seen at East Sleekburn on 15th and Felton on 19th (JR), four were at Earsdon on 2nd (MNC), Holywell Pond on 6th (MSH) and Kielder Forest Drive on 17th (ADM). One to three were at 26 locations during the Month.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

All reports were of singles at Plenmeller Common on 10th and 29th (PRM), the A1 at Bedlington on 19th (ADM), Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (PRM) and roosting in the north dunes at Holy Island on 26th (ADM).

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Four different birds called in a garden at Hexham on 18th (AJH), three at Glororum (Bamburgh) on 15th (KWY) with two at Fulbeck (Morpeth) and Howick regularly during the month, at Wark (North Tyne) on 9th, Hazlerigg (near Wideopen) on the same date and Derwent Reservoir on 23rd. Singles were at nine other widespread localities.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

There was just one report of a single at Townfoot (Slaley) on 8th (RMH).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

On 5th one was at Holy Island (IBDa/KDa).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

A pair roosted together on the Snook and another paler bird was in nearby dunes on 26th (ADM) with singles at the Snook on 14th and 15th. Singles were at Woodhorn on 15th, Beal on 19th and Cresswell on 23rd.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Two were at Wark (N.Tyne) on 5th (PRM) and at R. Wansbeck (Morpeth-Mitford) on 17th & 21st with one there on 22nd (ADM). All other reports were of singles with a male at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) from 8th to 11th (AP), at Kielder Water & Fourstones on 9th, Hedgeley GP on 11th, Derwent Reservoir on 13th and 17th, Bywell Bridge (R.Tyne) on 16th, Felton on 17th, East Chevington N. Pool on 19th, Low Angerton on 21st and Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 29th.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One was at Sandham Bay (Holy Island) on 5th (MJC).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Two were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 5th and 18th (TB), Colt Crag Reservoir and Tynemouth on 12th (PRM/CB) with a single at Chugdon Wood on 29th. Singles were also at Ellington and Haydon Castle on 5th, Kielder Water on 9th, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 10th and Bamburgh on 29th.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Between Wark & Kielder five, including a female and juvenile, were found on 17th (ADM) with two at St Mary's Island on 24th (ASJ) and Monks' House Pool on 25th (MSH). Singles were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and Ellington regularly during the month with both male and female recorded and also at 18 other widespread localities.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

All reports were of singles; at Budle Bay on 5th and 22nd, Holy Island on 5th, 6th & 9th two of which were juvenile, west at Budle point on 6th, roosting overnight at Druridge links and hunting waders at Newbiggin on 9th, at Beal (Fenham Mill) and Cresswell Pond on 14th, again at Beal on 19th, Newton Links on 30th, with the only inland record at Windy Rig (Border Ridge) on 29th.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Two were at Holy Island on 9th with a juv/female there on 5th (MJC/ADM). One was hunting waders at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 2nd, 11th, 20th and 25th being successful on 2nd and 25th (AP). One was at Castle Island all month, at St Mary's Island on three dates but likely different birds, at Beal from 14th to 19th and Budle Bay on 5th, 9th and 29th. Sightings at Derwent Reservoir on 13th and 30th were a juvenile and adult female with a 1st/cy at Grindon Lough on 9th and one at Longhoughton Steel on 20th.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Overflying birds in Newcastle numbered five (W) at Exhibition Park (Town Moor) on 14th with one W on 1st, 6th, 9th and 29th. Four were seen at Brandling Park (Jesmond) on 1st, three E at Hazlerigg (near Wideopen) on 10th (first at this location), three (W) at Jesmond on 28th (GB), two at Longbenton (second record) on 22nd (ADM) and one (S) at Benton on 5th (AJ). Two were at 'Shoe Tree' Jesmond Dene on 12th (MJCo).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

A juvenile was at Druridge Pools and Links on 18th (TD,TD,MN,SW, finder not noted).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Well reported as birds stocked up for winter with a noisy group of four at Middle Ord Point (Berwick) on 26th (MHu). Three were at West Hartford on 6th (STH), Mitford Castle on 8th and 13th (ADMc), Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th Ellington on 20th (TB) and East Sleekburn on the same date (JR). Two were regularly at Craggside and the recorder's garden (Rothbury) and at Ellington on three dates, Kielder Forest Drive, Langleford (Harthope Valley), Holywell Dene and Derwent Reservoir. Singles were at a further 16 widespread localities.

Magpie *Pica pica*

High counts of 18 were at Whitley Lodge (Whitley Bay) on 28th (MNC), 17 together at Tynemouth on 5th (CB) and 16 in one tree at Chapel House (Newcastle) on 19th (IK). Six were at Jesmond Dene on 5th, Druridge Pools & Links on 10th & 12th with one to three there on five dates and at three other locations.



Magpie

St Mary's Island

September '21

Alan Jack

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

A roost at Monkseaton (Whitley Bay) held 200 on 17th (ASJ), 67 were at Thrunton Farm on 23rd (JR), 30 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th, 24 at Cresswell on the same date (IDR) and 10-15 at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) all month (RS). One to six were at Ellington, Druridge, Jesmond Dene and Lynemouth.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

A large count of 194 was made at Thrunton Farm on 23rd (JR) and nine were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th (IDR).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Two to eight were recorded regularly at Druridge Pools & Links with a peak of 32 on 14th (IDR), 26 at Newcastle Town Moor on 15th (GB). Eight were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th (IDR) with two to three at Cresswell, Ellington, Jesmond Dene, Lynemouth and Newbiggin.

Raven *Corvus corax*

An apparent family group of eight flew east at Longhorsley on 5th gaining much attention from the local Rooks (AB/LB). Three were at Glittering Stone with one at Debdon (Rothbury) on 15th (NFO) and three at Ingram (Breamish Valley) on 23rd (IBDa/KDa). Two were at Budle Bay on 5th & 20th, Thrunton Crag on 7th, Holy Island on 19th and Debdon (Rothbury) on 27th. Singles were at the above and five other locations.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

A high count was of 19 at Coeburn (Thrunton Woods) on 23rd (JR) with three at Wark (N.Tyne) on 12th (PRM) and at Budle Point on 28th (RA). Two visited feeders at Marden Estate (Tynemouth) all month, were at Druridge Pools & Links on 10th and west at Budle Point on 21st with singles at four other locations.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Two were at Branton GP on 25th (IBDa/KDa) with singles at Debdon (Rothbury) on 3rd & 10th, retrapped at East Linden (Longhorsley) on 15th, at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 16th and Rothbury on 21st.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Two were present at St Mary's Island all month (ASJ), at Branton GP on 5th (IBDa/KDa), Felton on 9th (NFO), Easington Quarry on 28th (RA) and the mound (Newbiggin) on 29th (AP). Singles were at Derwent Reservoir, Linden Hall (Longhorsley), Holywell Pond regularly and at seven other locations.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

At Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 5th, 16 were found in a 1km stretch (LJM), 13 at Coeburn (Thrunton Woods) on 23rd (JR) with two to seven at Druridge Pools & Links on six dates and at four other locations.

Great Tit *Parus major*

A good count was of 32 at Holywell Dene on 4th (ASJ), with four at Jesmond Dene on 5th (MJCo) and one to two at Lynemouth Bay and Druridge Pools and Links on five dates.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Passage was noted with 53 S at Holy Island between 07.00-12.00h on 15th (MJC), around 50 W at Low Cocklaw (Berwick) on 24th (TBr), 30 'in-off' and W at Low Newton on 17th (TRD/JD). Southerly movement was noted - 17 at Druridge Pools & links on 14th (IRD), 16 at Ellington on 29th, 15 at Tynemouth on 22nd and 12 at Newton Point on 27th. On 16th 40 were at St Mary's Island, one singing for ten minutes, with 24 there on 6th (ASJ) and more than 30 at Cresswell Pond NWT on 25th (MSH). One to ten were at nine other locations.

hirundine sp.

Mixed flocks of 43 were at Holy Island on 4th (MJC) and 40 were at Big Waters on 26th (GB).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

A peak of 14 was at Druridge Links on 8th with 12 at Druridge Pools & Links on 11th (IDR), ten leaving St Mary's Island on 19th (ASJ) and eight S at Ellington on the same date (TB). Five were at East Chevington on 3rd, four at Lynemouth Bay on 13th and one to three at four locations with the latest report being three S at Hazelrigg on 23rd (CB). Passage was noted of 20 S in one hour at Holywell Pond on 6th.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Large gatherings and movements included 557 at Druridge Links on 8th (IDR), 320 S at Holy Island on 14th with 180 in the village there on 15th (MJC), 200 SE at Budle Point on 6th (CGK/GPK), 200 S in one hour at Holywell Pond on 6th (MSH), 150 at Bothal Pond on 8th (TF), around 120 at Howick on 7th (JAR), 120 S in an hour at Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 9th (MJC), 110 feeding at St Mary's Island on 6th (ASJ) and 108 W at Budle Point on 5th (RA). Counts of 20 to 80 at many of the above plus 12 other locations till 26th and one to 20 at a further eight. Late pairs with young were noted at Gloucester Lodge Farm (Blyth) on 22nd and Newbiggin on 25th and no breeding pairs for the first time in 20 years, where usually five are present, at Foxhunters Estate (Whitley Bay). The last birds were singles at Ellington and Chollerton on 29th (TB/TWi) and two at St Mary's Island on 30th (ASJ).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

'Vis mig' of 174 W at Budle Point on 5th (RA), more than 90 at Kielder Water on 9th (PRM), 60 at Edlingham on 20th (JD), 50 over village at Holy Island on 5th and feeding at Old Hartley on 22nd (MJC/ADM/ASJ). A peak of 36 at Druridge Links was noted on 8th with 25 on 12th and 20 on 11th & 14th (IDR). 22 at Newbiggin on 5th decreasing to eight on 29th (RS) and 20 feeding at Cullercoats on 30th (ASJ) was also the latest report. One to 18 were at many of the above and 14 other locations.



House Martin (juv)

Alwinton

September '21

Alan Jack

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

One was singing at Big Waters NWT on 12th (GB0), and one was seen there on 17th (AJJ). Song was heard at East Chevington North Pool on 18th (TD, NFO), 20th (MN), 21st (TRD/JD). and 22nd (PRM).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

East Sleekburn had 18 on 20th (JR), Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) had 16 on 11th (RSt), Woodhorn Churchyard had 14 on 15th (PRM), and Slaley Hall had 13 on 22nd (RMH). A family group of 12 was at Holywell Dene on 4th (ASJ), and a maximum garden count of 12 was at Northburn (Cramlington) on 16th (LJM). Marden Estate (Tynemouth) had a family group of 11 on 6th (ASJ), and Airy Holm Reservoir (near Shotleyfield) had 11 on 16th (IFo). A family group of nine was at Monkseaton (Whitley Bay) on 4th (ASJ), and eight were at garden feeders in Tynemouth on 12th and 30th (CB). There were a minimum of five at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 28th (GB).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

A passage bird was at High Letham (Berwick) on 16th (BWG).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The highest counts came from coastal locations, with a maximum of six on Holy Island on 5th and six at Castle Island (Wansbeck Estuary) on 15th (PRM). Four were at Druridge Pools on 3rd (PRM), and two were at St Mary's on 7th (MSH), Grindon Lough on 9th (PRM), and Woodhorn Churchyard on 15th (PRM). Single birds were reported from the Coquet Estuary, East Chevington, Howick Hall, Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor), Kielder Water and Plenmeller Common, with one in full song at Longhorsley on 20th (AB/LB).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

There were over 70 reports of the species this month. Derwent Reservoir had a maximum of 12 on 10th (IFo), Druridge Pools and Links had 11 on 10th (IDR), and St Mary's had 11 on 20th (ASJ). Howick Hall had a maximum of eight, including two adult females, on 18th (HwRS). There were six at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 6th (GB), Warkworth Lane Ponds on 13th (IDR), and at Woodhorn Churchyard on 15th (PRM). Low Newton had five on 26th (PHa). There were four at Holy Island on 5th (MJC/ADM), Tynemouth on 18th (CB), Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 27th (LJM), and at Low Cocklaw (Berwick) on 30th (TBr). Three were at Kielder Water on 9th (PRM), Holywell Pond on 15th (MSH), Holywell Dene on 29th (LJM), and three were trapped and ringed at Bamburgh on 25th (BRS). Two were reported from the Blyth Estuary, Lynemouth Bay, Castle Island (Wansbeck Estuary), Langlee (Harthope Valley), and Humshaugh. Singles were at a further nine locations. Garden visitors included two singing birds at Rothbury during the second half of the month, sometimes singing against each other (TRD), one at East Ord (Berwick) on 24th (MHu), and another singing bird spending over three hours in a Chapel House (Newcastle) garden on 25th (MH). Singing birds were reported as late as 29th at Holywell Dene (LJM), and at Wark (North Tyne) (PRM).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

There were two at East Chevington on 3rd (PRM), singles at Holy Island on 4th, 5th, 9th, 14th and 19th (MJC, SJM, ADM), and one at St Mary's Wetland on 15th (MSH).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

There were two at the Lough (Holy Island) on 3rd and 4th (MJC, SJM), and one there on 9th, 14th, 15th and 19th (MJC). One was at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 6th (GB).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Single birds were at St Mary's on 6th (ASJ) and at the Craneclough inlet on Kielder Water on 9th (PRM).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Howick Hall produced the largest counts, with 17 on 3rd (HwRS), and eight on 16th (HwRS) and 18th (PHa/AHa). There were five at Holy Island on 26th (ADM/AH), three at Druridge Pools and Links on 10th (IDR), and three at Woodhorn Churchyard on 15th (PRM). There were two female birds at Craster on 1st (JAR), two at Low Newton on 3rd (SW), two at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (IFo), a male and a female at Beanley on 12th (TRD/JD), and two at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 20th (GB). Singles were reported from nine other locations, including one trapped and ringed at Bamburgh on 25th (BRS).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Singles were recorded at Holy Island on 5th (ADM/IK/MJC), 15th (CSa), 19th (MJC/ADM) and 20th (MJC). One was at Budle Point on 10th (GPK). Singles were also at Tynemouth, with one in a bird bath on 13th (CB), and another on 15th (MK). One was at St Mary's Wetland on 15th (MSH).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

One was in the Straight Lonnen Willows (Holy Island) on 4th (MJC/SJM) and 5th (MJC/ADM), and one was at Budle Bay on 9th (RA) and 10th (RA/GPK).

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

There were two to three birds on Holy Island on 19th (MJC/ADM/AH) and two were at Druridge Pools on 3rd (PRM). One was at Castle Island (Wansbeck estuary) on 3rd (TF), and one was at Arcot Pond on 5th (GB).

Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

There were six juveniles at St Mary's on 29th (ASJ) and a family party of four at Druridge Links on 5th (IDR). East Chevington had three on 3rd (PRM). There were two at Arcot Pond (GB) and at Ord Moor (Berwick) (MHu) on 5th, and two at Embleton on 6th (JAR). Singles were reported from Debdon (Rothbury), Holy Island, Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor), Derwent Reservoir, Cocklawburn, and Howick Hall, and a single juvenile was still in the breeding area at Tynemouth on 5th (CB).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

The highest count came from Yearle, with six on 23rd (DGB/RHB). There were two at the Coquet Estuary on 3rd (PRM), and two at St Mary's on 23rd (ASJ). Singles were reported from Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor), Monkseaton (Whitley Bay), Holy Island, Colt Crag Reservoir, Warkworth Lane Ponds (Ellington), Lynemouth Bay, Howick Hall, Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), and Derwent Reservoir.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

There were eight on St Mary's on 25th (ASJ), six on Holy Island on 19th (MJC/ADM), and six at Druridge Pools and Links on 25th (IDR/JF). Lynemouth Bay had four on 13th (IDR), Kielder Forest Drive had four on 17th (ADM), and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had three on 5th (MJCo). One was singing at Yearle all month (DGB/RHB).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

There were five at Haydon Castle, including one feeding on insects on the castle chimney, on 5th (SW). There were three calling at Holywell Dene on 29th (LJM) and two were present all month at Yearle (DGB/RHB). Two were also at Humshaugh on 5th (SW), Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 12th (MJCo), and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 18th and 25th (TB). Singles were reported from Derwent Reservoir, Kielder Water, and Eshott.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Two were at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (IFo), and two were at Dukeshouse (Hexham) on 20th (AJH). Singles were observed at Debdon (Rothbury), Woodhorn Church, Big Waters NWT and Haughton Mains.

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

A juvenile made a surprise appearance at the observer's allotment in Hazlerigg (near Wideopen) on 19th (GB) and was subsequently seen in the vicinity on 20th (JBu), 22nd (MPF), and 23rd (CB).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

An estimated 300 were observed on the radio mast at St Mary's on 16th (CDH). There were 250 at Howick on 4th (JAR), 200 roosting in the reeds at Big Waters NWT on 14th (GB) and 200 at Newcastle Town Moor on 15th (GB). A flock of 120 was present all month at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin), coming to garden food (RSt). Smaller flocks were at Druridge Pools, Cresswell and Budle Point, and a leucistic bird was spotted amongst a flock of over 50 at Old Hartley on 3rd (MSH).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

There were nine on Holy Island (one at The Snook and eight on the Straight Lonnen) on 19th (MJC/ADM), and seven at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th (IDR). Four were at Yearle on 9th (DGB/RHB), and at Howick Hall on 25th (HwRS). Singles were at Druridge Pools on 5th and 28th (IDR), and at Lynemouth Bay on 13th (IDR).

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

There were two early arrivals this month. One came in with a group of Song Thrushes on Holy Island on 19th (MJC/ADM), and one was seen on buckthorns and scrub at Alnmouth GC on 20th (AB/LB).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

There were 18 on Holy Island by 26th (ADM). A group of ten, and one Redwing, flew in from the east to the Straight Lonnen on 19th (MJC/ADM). Ten were observed feeding on yew at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 16th (NFO), and nine were vis-migging W at Budle Point on 26th (RA). There were five at Howick Hall on 11th (HwRS), four at Yearle on 18th (DGB/RHB), and one at Druridge Pools on 14th (IDR).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Large autumn gatherings of adults and juveniles were noted at Debdon (Rothbury), with 52 on 7th (JD), and 50 on 10th (TRD). There were 12 over the cricket field at Howick Hall on 18th (PHa/AHa), ten at Foxton (Alnmouth) on 5th (JAR) and six at Bedlington on 30th (JR). Budle Point had two W on 5th (RA), and Big Waters NWT had one on 26th (GB).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

There were 11 records this month, most of them coming from Holy Island, where there were two on 5th, 19th and 20th (MJC, ADM, AH). There were two at Edlingham on 20th (JD), and singles at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 5th (MPF) and 6th (GB), Derwent Reservoir on 10th (IFo), and Longframlington Common on 14th (JD). The bird at Exhibition Park on 5th was one of only two seen on the observer's A1/A19 patch this year, a very poor record (MPF).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

A maximum count of 37 was made at Holy Island on 19th (MJC/ADM). At Castle Island (Wansbeck Estuary), 20 singing and calling birds were noted between the weir and the island on 6th (LJM). There were seven at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 5th (MJCo), and seven at Coeburn on 23rd (JR). Druridge Pools and Links had a maximum of five on 10th and 25th (IDR/JF), and three were singing in Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th (IDR). One was seen with Blackcaps feeding on *Cornus* berries at Howick Hall on 18th (PHa/AHa).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

The only sightings this month came from Holy Island, where there was a maximum of five on 5th (MJC/ADM). The last record was one near the Green Shiel excavations on 15th (CSa).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Single birds were at Warkworth Dunes on 7th (CSa), Holy Island on 9th (ADM), 19th (MJC/ADM), and 20th (MJC), Seaton Sluice's rocky island on 10th (SSWT), and St Mary's Wetland on 18th (JBU, MSH).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

The latest inland record came from Kielder Forest Drive, where a pair with a juvenile were present on 17th (ADM). Three were at Holy Island on 5th (MJC/ADM) and 15th (RA, MJC). Druridge Pools had two on 3rd (PRM, AA), and there were single juveniles at Ellington on 6th (TB) and Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 20th (AP). The last record came from St Mary's, where there was one on 28th (ASJ).

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Holy Island had a maximum of 11 on 19th (MJC/ADM), comprising a pair with four fledged juveniles at The Snook and a pair with three fledged juveniles in the Straight Lonnen/Lough area. Four adults and five juveniles were at Longhorsley Moor on 3rd (AB/LB), and a pair with four young were at Embleton on 6th (JAR). There were seven at Druridge Coal Road on 19th (IK) and six at East Chevington on 6th (NFO). Howick had five on 4th (JAR), Bamburgh Dunes had five on 15th (KWY), and Kielder Forest Drive had five (two males and three juveniles) on 17th (ADM). Two adults and two juveniles were at Debdon (Rothbury) on 3rd (JD), and a family group of four was at Warkworth on 14th (JAR). Smaller numbers were reported from a further ten inland and coastal locations.



Stonechat in flight

Hadston

September '21

Iain Johnson

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

There were 49 records for the species this month, mostly from coastal locations. Holy Island had a maximum of ten on 25th (AMG/MG), Dunstanburgh Castle had nine on 22nd (PHa/AHa), and St Mary's had eight on 20th (ASJ). A walk from Craster to Dunstanburgh on 26th produced six for the Rutland Natural History Society. Three were at Boulmer on 6th (MKi), 22nd (TRD/JD), and 29th (Rutland NHS). There were two at Druridge Links on 5th (IDR), Cocklawburn on 11th (TBr), Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 11th (TD), and Warkworth on 14th (JAR). Singles were reported from nineteen other locations. These included a juvenile on the beach at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 5th (MP), one on a house roof at Kirkhill (Morpeth) on 7th (IRD), and a female of the Greenland race *O. o. leucorhoa* on the playing field at Ellington on 19th and 20th (TB). The latest was one at Derwent Reservoir on 29th (PRM).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Two were seen on the River Coquet, Felton on 12th, with one there on 9th (NFO). Singles were also seen at four other sites.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

60 were counted in Holy Island village on 14th (MJC). 30 were at Crooked Oak on 17th (IFo). One to 11 were seen at six further sites.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

108 flying W was the peak count of several days' observations made of passage birds at Budle Point this month (RA). Elsewhere, ten were at Chugdon Wood on 13th and at Cresswell Pond on 21st (IDR/TRD/JD). Six were seen at two Tynemouth sites this month and flying S at St. Mary's on 22nd (CB/ASJ). One to five were also at ten sites, including two seen on Holy Island on 5th and 9th.

Dunnoch *Prunella modularis*

Eight were seen flying W at Budle Point on 8th (RA). Six were noted in Chugdon Wood on 13th (IDR). One to two were at three further sites.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

11 were seen at Ross on 12th (RA). Two juveniles moved S. at St. Mary's on 6th and 13th (ASJ). Two were also seen at East Cramlington on 8th and Holy Island on 9th. Singles were noted at another five sites this month, the last being on 22nd at Budle Bay.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Five were seen at Jesmond Dene on 12th (MJCo). Three were at Bellingham on 14th (EAW). Two noted at nine other sites and singles at a further 22 sites this month.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Some high counts were made this month. 56 were at Bothal Pond on 8th, 55 across Holy Island on 5th. 44 on 12th and 51, including many juveniles, on 14th feeding at Whitley Bay Links, mini-golf course, 35 - 40 at Budle Bay on several dates. (TF/MJC/ADM/ASJ/RA/MSH). A loose flock of 32 was at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (IFo). 30 gathered at a roost at Linden Hall on 8th (NFO). 11-22 were noted at six sites and one to eight at eight sites.



Pied Wagtail

St Mary's Island

September '21

Alan Jack

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Two were seen at Kiln Point (Budle Bay) on 26th (MSH).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Two hours on the morning of 10th at Gosforth Garden Village, saw 432 flying S: 212 were counted here on 11th and 120 on 16th (MJC). 288 did likewise in one hour at Druridge, with 69 here on 9th and 80 on 10th. 230 flew S at East Cramlington Pond on 8th (IDR/STH). 212 was the total noted over Marden Estate over several days mid-month (ASJ). Southbound birds at Holy Island, involved 142 on 14th, 157 on 15th, 109 on 19th and 107 on 20th (ADM/MJC). 68 headed W at Budle Point on 5th (RA). 52 were in fields at St. Mary's on 13th (ASJ). Strong passage S was noted on 10th at St. Mary's (MSH). Ten to 45 were also noted at seven sites and one to nine at ten others during the month.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Eight were at Holy Island on 19th (ADM). Four were seen at Dodd's Well (Berwick) on 14 th (MHu), three were noted at St.Mary's on 25th and two at Cullercoats on 20th (ASJ). Singles were also at three sites.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

61 were counted on the Kielder Forest Drive on 17th (ADM). An influx of 40 birds was seen at Howick Hall on 25th (PHa/Aha). 34 were noted at Coeburn and 30 were at Netherton on 30th (JR). One to three were at three further sites.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

A minimum of 25 were present on Holy Island on 26th (ADM *et al.*). Also that day, seven flew W at Budle Point, with singles there on 28th. Three were at Low Newton on 26th (Pha).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Eight were seen at Duke's House (Hexham) on 11th (AJH). Seven were at Kielder Water on 9th (PRM). Six were noted at Howick on 22nd and five at Low Cocklaw on 30th (JAR/TBr). Two young birds were being fed by parents at Fulbeck during the month (TD). Four were also seen at Ellington and Howden and one to three were at three other locations.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

17 were counted at Tynemouth on 18th (CB). Nine were watched flying S at East Cramlington Pond on 8th (STH). Nine were also at St. Mary's on several dates, feeding on Rose Hips (ASJ). One to four were noted at another three sites.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

A good early flock numbering 36 was on the beach at Birling Carrs on 21st (RPo). Five at Cocklawburn on 29th was the only other sighting this month (Mhu).

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Three feeding flocks totalling around 700 birds were seen at Druridge Bay on 19th (IK). Around 250 gathered at Boulmer on 20th, with 200+ at Shoreston on 27th and 200 at Warkworth on 14th (JAR/MSH). 173 were counted flying W at Budle Point on 27th. 100 -150 were noted at Chugdon Wood, Crooked Oak, Druridge Pools, St. Mary's and Kiln Point (Budle). 20-95 were seen also at nine sites and one to 15 at five sites.

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis caberet*

105+ were at Kielder on 9th (PRM). 50 were near Wark on 13th (AJ). One to two were passing S at four sites, including three coastal during the month.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Five at Debdon on 24th was the sole record this month (JD).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

120 were noted at Low Newton 17th (TRD/JD). 90 were counted at Holy Island village on 14 th (MJC). 80 were at Little Mill and Cresswell Pond during the month. 20 - 65 were seen at 12 locations and one -16 noted at 12 sites.

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Few were reported this month. Eight were at Yearle on 12th. One to two were at three sites.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

The first returning bird of the season was a female type flying S, calling, at St Mary's on 29th (ASJ).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*

Eight were seen at Craster on 1st and at Ord Moor (Berwick) on 12th (JAR/MHu). One to three were at five further sites, including a single on Holy Island on 19th.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

12 were seen at Gosforth Park on 13th and flying W at Budle Point on 28th (MPF/RA). Nine were noted at St. Mary's wetland and fields, including one female on 3rd (ASJ). Eight were seen at Cresswell on 13th (CB) and one to six at six sites.

ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**Escapes**

No sightings.

Hybrids**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis* x **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Two were at Bothal Pond on 8th (TF).

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings.

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Apologies for any accidental omissions

BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Grouse to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Doves to Grebes), Clive Hampton (Oystercatcher to Redshank), Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Auks), Trevor Blake (Divers to Buzzards), Peter Fletcher (Barn Owl to Larks), Clive Hampton, Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings), Graham Sorrie (bulletin compilation), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Apologies for any accidental omissions

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RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to ntbc.records@googlemail.com

Please email for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: Please use of standard location names and include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. Subs are due on 1st October each year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website.

If you internet bank you can pay online: please include your name in the ref. It is helpful if you email me to let me know when you've made the transfer ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

If you decide to set up a standing order please date the first payment at least a fortnight from your posting date to allow time to process with the bank. You can also set up your standing order directly with your bank if you wish; just let me know. Our bank details are on the membership form.

For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

Finally, if you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome.

Jo Bentley - Hon Treasurer

It's that time of year again!!

Annual subs were due on October 1st - many thanks to all those who have already paid - it does save loads of time chasing up late payments when subs come in on time.

Subs remain at £30.00 (£32 for family membership; £10 for junior members) You can pay online - Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club; Sort Code: 30-93-55 Account No: 02027960 or send a cheque to - Jo Bentley, 80 Western Avenue, Prudhoe. Northumberland. NE42 6PA. All details are on the membership form on the website.

You can also set up a Standing order using the SO section on the membership form or direct with your bank. (You'll need to allow a couple of weeks for processing if you post the form to the treasurer.)

If you have any queries please drop me an email at NTBC@jobentley.plus.com or have a chat at one of the indoor meetings.

Best regards.

Jo Bentley – Treasurer.

NTBC WEB SITE

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds.

There are:

Photo Galleries – Here you can view hundreds of photos of birds from Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Members are encouraged to contribute their own photos. Simply send them to galleries@ntbc.org.uk

There are also County Checklists, Records Committee updates, Information on important Surveys, useful articles and reports on Bird ID and Overseas Birding Trips....and much more...

Please submit any other new content for the website to the main club email address at ntbcorg@gmail.com

New content such as Birding Trip Reports etc., is always welcome and very much appreciated.

To find out more please visit www.ntbc.org.uk

Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2021 No 10

MONTHLY SUMMARY

OCTOBER

5th December 2021

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CONTENTS

Obituaries – Stuart Moffitt and Rodney Key RIP.

CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Todd's Canada Goose	Three were found on 12th with one staying through to end of month at Budle Bay.
Snow Goose	Blue phase bird of unknown origin at Grindon Lough on 3rd
Tundra Bean Goose	One seen flying NW at St Mary's on 26th.
Pink-footed Goose	Large flocks totalling 11,150 passed over Holy Island on 21st.
Ruddy Shelduck	Singles at Newton scrape and Derwent Reservoir.
Garganey	Late individual at Hedgeley GP on 3rd.
Gadwall	High count of 175 at East Chevington on 27th. Four short of max for county in 2012.
Green-winged Teal	Drake at Hallington Res. from 20th to 28th.
Pochard	Continued evidence of decline with ten at Bothal Pond the maximum seen.
Coot	High counts of 245-250 at East Chevington.
Little Grebe	High count of 37 at Castle Island on 24th.
Red-necked Grebe	Seen on three days on seawatches plus one at Widdrington Moor Lake from 8th – 31st.
Black-necked Grebe	One at Maiden's Hall Lake from 20th to 23rd.
Avocet	Late bird at Coquet Estuary and Cresswell Pond on 16th.
Whimbrel	Three late individuals with last on 10th.
Black-tailed Godwit	Peak counts of 135 at Coquet Estuary on 11th and 105 at East Chevington on 6th.
Curlew Sandpiper	Late migrant at Budle Bay on 3rd.
Pectoral Sandpiper	Singles at Budle Bay from 10th to 20th and at Druridge Pools on 1st.
Grey Phalarope	One N at Annstead Pt on 12th.
Common Sandpiper	Three late migrants at West Ord, Berwick on 1st.
Green Sandpiper	Three at Castron on 12th and singles at three other sites.
Sabine's Gull	Immature N past Hauxley on 23rd.
Little Gull	Large feeding flocks seen during month with 313 at Ross Back Sands on 24th.
Iceland Gull	Singles at St Mary's on 24th and Budle Bay on 25th.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	By far the largest count was 216 at Branton GP on 4th.
Black Tern	Two at Holy Island harbour on 1st and one at Cresswell Pond on 28th.
Long-tailed Skua	Up to five S on 5th and two N on 12th.
Black Guillemot	Singles noted on three dates all moving N.
White-billed Diver	Notable movement with at least five separate individuals flying past.
Storm Petrel	Two N at Seaton Sluice on 6th.
Great Shearwater	Singles N on four dates. Best movement in county since 2007.
Balearic Shearwater	Single N past St Mary's on 12th.
Glossy Ibis	One visited Big Waters on 2nd and Budle Bay on 10th.
Spoonbill	One at Castle Island from 24th to 27th.
Great Egret	Equal record count for county of four at Castron on 9th. Singles at two other sites.
Little Egret	Large inland count of 11 at Castron on 11th and 12th
Honey-buzzard	One S over Ellington on 13th.
Ring-necked Parakeet	Peak count of 18 at Walkerville, Newcastle on 9th.
Red-backed Shrike	Juvenile at Newbiggin from 6th to 8th.
Red-eyed Vireo	3rd County record with one on Straight Lonnen, Holy Island from 8th to 12th.
Shore Lark	Singles at Birling Carrs on 17th and at Boulmer from 20th to 22nd.
Yellow-browed Warbler	Notable reduction this year with just singles at eight different sites.
Eastern Lesser Whitethroat	Individuals of eastern origin on Holy Island on 6th with two on 9th.
Siberian Chiffchaff	Singles on Holy Island on 6th and 29th.
Redwing	Large passage over Holy Island on 18th with 14,341 counted.
Red-breasted Flycatcher	One at Holy Island Lough from 5th to 7th.
Brambling	Large passage over Holy Island on 18th with 1,099 counted.
Lapland Bunting	Two at Beal Pt on 22nd.
Little Bunting	Single at north end of Straight Lonnen, Holy Island on 6th.

INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm.

The next meeting is 9th December.

Mark Eaton will explain the revised **Birds of Conservation Concern** assessment - the new Red, Amber and Green lists for the UK.

TRIPS

On hold for the next few months. Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

One on the roadside at Plenmeller Common on 9th allowed great views (AA).

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Six at the Simonside Hills and three at Plenmeller Common (PRM) were the only reports.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Peak counts (probably involving freshly released birds) were 50+ at Debdon, Rothbury on 15th and 35 there on 29th (TRD/JD), 40+ at Newstead on 2nd (MSH) and 20 at Longwiton on 16th (IRD). Seven were at Cresswell Pond on 27th (TF/JFa), and one to two at Druridge Pools, Elsdon, Low Newton, Maiden's Hall Lake, Widdrington Moor Lake and Widdrington Village.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Coveys of 18 and 13 were noted at St Mary's Island on 16th (MSH), 23 (12 and 11) were at Cawledge, Alnwick on 8th (JD), 13-17 at Old Hartley (MNC) and Old Helsay, Warkworth (IDR *et al.*), and four to nine at Blyth South Beach, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Cresswell Pond, Felton, Longhoughton, Lynemouth, Spital (Newbiggin) and Warkworth Lane Ponds. One to two were also at Boulmer, Holywell Pond and New Moor (Ashington).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

A group of 30 were at Debdon, Rothbury on 15th (TRD/JD), 24 were at Kilham (JR), and ten to 18 at Druridge Links, Lynemouth Bay, Old Helsay (Warkworth), Rothley, Sleafy Hall and Snab Point. Two to five were also at East Chevington and Warkworth Lane, and one was at Newbiggin GC.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Numbers of pale-bellied *hrota* race birds at Lindisfarne NNR included 300 on 4th (TRD/JD), ca. 1,000 on 7th (TRD/JD), 3,800 on 20th (PRM), and ca. 1,200 on 22nd (PRM), while 315 were in the Budle Bay section of the reserve on 3rd declining to 79 by 23rd (DF). Light northerly movement involved 11-27 at Annstead Point (DF) and Boulmer (TRD/JD) on 13th, and two to five at Newbiggin and Seaton Sluice on several dates, while 29 flew S at Ross Back Sands on 24th (MJC).



Brent Geese in flight

Holy Island

October '21

Alan Jack

Dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds included 171 at St Cuthbert's Island, Holy Island on 17th (MJC/ADM) and 60 there on 1st (IK), while one to two were at/over Boulmer, Budle Bay, Newbiggin and Stag Rocks.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

One flew N and 47 S at Seaton Sluice between 10th-21st (SSWT), 40 moved W at Ellington on 9th and 11 W there on 24th (TB), 35 E at Kingston Park on 16th (CDH), and one SW at Tynemouth. Peak concentrations were 600 at Warkworth on 10th (RPo), 264 at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (IFo), 200 at Hauxley Reserve on 2nd (HRS), 130-196 at Airy Holm Reservoir (IFo), Big Waters (GB), Low Newton (IDR *et al.*) and West Ord (MHu), and 55-64 at Killingworth Lake and QEII CP. Groups of 21-25 were also at Bothal and Cresswell Ponds, Grindon Lough and Newcastle Leazes Park. One to seven were also at East Chevington and Newcastle Exhibition Park.

At Budle Bay, three thought to be of the *interior* race (popularly known as 'Todd's Canada Goose'), were at Budle Bay on 12th declining to two on 13th and then one occasionally between 16th-26th (CGK/RA *et al.*).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Northerly movement included 340 at Annstead on 11th (DF), a total of 225 at St Mary's Island (AC/MSH) and 130 at Snab Point (NFO) on 12th, a monthly total of 163 at Seaton Sluice (mainly between 11th-13th; SSWT), 58 at Stag Rocks on 20th (MJC), and 51 at St Mary's Island on 11th (ASJ). Southerly movement involved 500 well out to sea off Hauxley on 30th (HRS), and 80-105 at Beal (DF) and Monkseaton (MSH) on 12th, while 61 flew W at Chapel House, Newcastle on 11th (MH) and 25 W at Newcastle Airport on 10th (IF).

Variable numbers at Budle Bay began with three on 4th (DF) increasing to 39 on 10th (CGK/GPK), 1,750 on 11th (DF) and peaking at 3,145 on 13th (DF) and 4,000 on 15th (CGK/GPK) before falling to ca. 600 by 22nd (PRM). An additional 460 were in the Goswick-Beal area on 13th (DF), and 43 were at Low Newton on 22nd (MJC). Inland, 37 were at Grindon Lough on 13th (PRM), 12 at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (IFo), and three skeins were heard over Wark (North Tyne) between 2032hrs-2225hrs on 12th (PRM). One to eight were also at/over Airy Holm Reservoir, Bothal and Linton Ponds, Boulmer and Druridge Pools. One, possibly injured, was on the roadside at Redesdale Range on 13th (JP). Two leucistic individuals were noted at Budle Bay on 15th (CGK/GPK) and one was amongst a flock of 35 birds that flew N at Cullercoats on 13th (ASJ).

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

A 'blue-phase' bird was at Grindon Lough on 3rd (AJR).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

A group of 66 flew N offshore at Stag Rocks on 20th (MJC), 17 moved N at Seaton Sluice on 21st (SSWT), and 15 W at Wark (North Tyne) on 12th (PRM). Large counts involved peaks of 830 at Big Waters on 2nd (GB), 800 at Airy Holm Reservoir on 27th (IFo), 800 at Derwent Reservoir on 19th (IFo), 300 at Low Newton on 22nd (MJC), 255 at the Coquet Estuary on 16th (TF), and 100-110 at Cresswell Pond and Hauxley Reserve. Groups of 21-48 were also at Bothal Pond, Budle Bay, East Chevington, Grindon Lough and Killingworth Lake, 14 at Newstead Flash and one to eight at/over Arcot Pond, Ellington, Tynemouth and West Ord.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Very well reported. A total of 5,250 flew N and 5,900 S, mostly high up, over the mainland as viewed from Holy Island Snook in 2.5hrs on 21st and weren't thought to be 'local' birds (ADM). A loose flock of 9,300 (counted from ten photos) headed S from Scotland and then headed W in the Berwick area on 18th and again weren't thought to be 'local' birds (ADM). A total of about 3,200 flew NW at Cocklawburn on 13th (MHu), 2,780 flew N at Boulmer between 4th-22nd (BS/TRD/JD), about 2,000 came in off the sea moving W in the Berwick area on 22nd (MHu), 1,500 flew S at Ellington on 6th (TB), 1,250 S at Cullercoats between 6th-17th (ASJ), and the monthly Seaton Sluice total was 593 N and 918 S (SSWT). In addition, 120-500 flew N/NW at Berwick, Druridge, East Ord, Ellington, Morpeth Newburn, Snods Edge and Waren Mill; while 676-700 moved S at Newbiggin and Tynemouth, and 125-395 S at Belford, Cramlington, East Ord, Hauxley, Holywell Pond, Howick, Longhoughton, St Mary's and Tweedmouth, and 100-350 W/SW at Belford, Bothal Pond, Chapel House (Newcastle), Longbenton, Longhorsley and West Chevington on various dates. Smaller numbers flew over (in various directions) several further sites.

Large concentrations involved 5,000 at Glororum (near Bamburgh) on 20th (KWY), 4,500 at Druridge Links on 7th (IDR), 4,000 at Budle Bay on 13th (CGK/GPK), 4,000 ('local' birds) at Holy Island on 31st (ADM), 3,800 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 27th (PRM), 3,500 at Goswick on 15th (MJC), 2,500 at Druridge Pools on 16th (TF), and 2,000 at Ellington on 7th (TB), and 1,000-1,700 at Brier Dene Farm (MSH), Cresswell Pond (TB) and Low Newton (MJC). Counts of 400-800 came from Hauxley, Goswick, Holywell and Linton Ponds, and Monkseaton, while 83-110 were at Carterwayheads, East Chevington and Maiden's Hall Lake.

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser serrirostris*

One flew NW, at close range, at St Mary's Island on 26th (ASJ).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Three flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and one N at Druridge Links. Modest gatherings included peaks of 47 at QEII CP on 10th (CDH), 39 at Big Waters on 2nd (GB), 33 at Killingworth Lake on 28th (LJM), 28-29 at East Chevington and West Ord, and 19 at Linton Ponds. Five to seven were also at Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Bothal Pond, Paddy Freeman's Pond (Heaton) and Holy Island.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

A total of 160 moved S at Seaton Sluice between 6th-24th (SSWT). Southerly passage also involved totals of 85 between 16th-22nd (BS/TRD/JD/JAR), 75 at St Mary's between 15th-23rd (JBu/ASJ/MSH), 42 at Tynemouth between 6th-25th (DRW), 23 S at Newton Point on 6th (TRD/JD), 22 at East Chevington on 6th (MH), 21 at Slaley Hall on 12th (RMH), 13-17 at Beal (DF), Cresswell Pond (TF), Cullercoats (ASJ), Howick (JAR) and Newbiggin (TD/AP), and six to nine at Ellington, Hauxley and North Shields between 15th-24th. Seven flew E at Netherwitton on 6th (AJH), and three W at West Ord. A total of 64 'moved through' Budle Bay between 13th-31st (CGK/GPK). Peak site counts were 45 (no juveniles) at East Chevington (MH/IDR *et al.*) and 44 at Goswick Sands on 15th (MJC), 24 at Low Newton on 26th (IDR *et al.*), 11 at Big Waters (including a pair with seven juveniles) on 27th (GB), and 11 at Lindisfarne NNR on 11th (EHa). Five to nine were also at Branton GP and Cullernose, and one to three at Bell's Farm, Caistron, Derwent Reservoir, High Letham (Berwick), QEII CP and the Wansbeck Estuary. A group of 13 at East Chevington on 20th included six juveniles (IFo). A group of 20 swan (sp.) flew W at Cresswell Pond on 16th (TF).



Whooper Swans

Cresswell Pond

October '21

Graham Sorrie

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Five flew N at Druridge Pools on 17th (IDR/JF) but no passage was evident at Seaton Sluice during the month. At Budle Bay, a peak of 641 was noted on 31st (DF), with 316-545 throughout the month. Typically small numbers were noted elsewhere, with five to seven at Boulmer (MKi), Cresswell Pond (TD) and Druridge Pools (IDR/JF), and one to two at the Blyth Estuary, Hauxley Reserve and Newstead Flash.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A female was at Low Newton scrape on 6th (TRD/JD) and 8th (AMG/MG). One (un-sexed) was also at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (AJR).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

One was at Hedgeley GP on 3rd (IBDa/KDa).

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

At Cullercoats, eight flew N on 24th and one N on 21st (CB). Budle Bay again attracted large numbers, reaching a peak of 112 on 27th (CGK/GPK), while 29-107 were noted all month. Hauxley Reserve also proved popular for the species, with a peak of 51 on 2nd (HRS). Peak counts elsewhere involved 18 at Arcot Pond on 6th (LJM), 14 at Big Waters on 2nd (GB), and ten to 12 at Bothal Pond (MSH) and Druridge Pools (MSH). Five to eight were also at East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Holy Island and Woodhorn Flashes, three to four at Branton GP, Holywell and West Allotment Ponds and St Mary's Wetland, and two at Derwent Reservoir and Marden Quarry.

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

About 175 were at East Chevington on 27th (PRM), 103 at Linton Ponds on 10th (CDH), 60 at Big Waters on 3rd (GB), 54 at Bothal Pond on 16th (TF), 32 at Marden Quarry on 14th (AC), 21-22 at Caistron and Woodhorn Flashes, and ten to 18 at Hauxley Reserve and Killingworth and Widdrington Moor Lakes. Six to seven were at Ladyburn Lake and West Allotment Pond, four at Druridge Pools and one to two at Castle Island, Cresswell Pond and Grindon Lough.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

A monthly total of 3,283 N and 71 S at Seaton Sluice was an October record count for the site and included 2,104 N on 6th (SSWT). Also on 6th, 1,850 flew N (in two hrs) at Tynemouth (DRW), 1,530 N (in two hrs) at Howick (BS), 1,202 N at Annstead Point (CGK), 615 (per hr) N at Newbiggin (MH), and 562 N at Stag Rocks (DF). Later in the month, 305 flew N at Tynemouth on 24th (DRW), and 60-90 N at Cullercoats, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island between 21st-25th, with smaller numbers at several further sites. An estimated 8,000 were at Fenham Flats from 7th-9th and 5,600 on 31st (DF/TF), and about 1,200 were at Budle Bay on 22nd (PRM). Away from Lindisfarne NNR, peak counts were 438 at Cresswell Pond on 27th (TF/JFa), 430 at East Chevington on 27th (PRM), 332-350 at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and Grindon Lough (AJR), 220-250 at the Coquet Estuary, Cresswell and Warkworth Lane Ponds, and 125-154 at East Chevington and Haughton Strother GP. Groups of 55-99 were also at Bothal and Linton Ponds, and 25-43 at Big Waters, Druridge Pools, Low Newton and Woodhorn Flashes. Less usual were one to two at Bank's Pond (Dinnington) and Linden Hall.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

A total of 13 flew N at Newbiggin on 22nd (GB) but the monthly Seaton Sluice total was just three N and two S (SSWT). Three-figure counts involved 282 at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo) and 155 at Hauxley Reserve on 2nd (HRS). More modest gatherings involved peaks of 65 at Cresswell Pond on 24th (IDR/JF), 57 at Big Waters on 10th (GB), 53 at Killingworth Lake on 28th (LJM), 52 at Airy Holm Reservoir on 15th (IFo), and 24-45 at Bothal and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Kilham, Ladyburn Lake, Marden Quarry, St Mary's Wetland and West Ord, while 15-19 were at Low Newton, Northumberland Park (North Shields) and Wark (North Tyne).

Pintail *Anas acuta*

A total of 21 N at Seaton Sluice during the month included 16 N on 5th (SSWT). Northerly movement also involved a total of 34 at Howick on 5th-6th (BS), 12-20 at Annstead Point (CGK) and Tynemouth (DRW) on 6th, five at Boulmer on 5th (BS), five at Tynemouth on 24th (DRW) and two at Stag Rocks on 6th (DF). A group of 18 flew S at Stag Rocks on 15th (DF) and two flew S at Cullercoats on 24th (CB). One flew inland with eight Goosanders at Tynemouth on 10th (DRW). Peak site counts were 20 at Fenham Flats on 9th (TF), 13 at Hauxley Reserve on 7th (HRS), ten at East Chevington on 1st and 28th (TRD/JD/MN), nine at Budle Bay (BS/CGK/GPK) and three at Big Waters. One to two were also at Bothal, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, Castron, Gosforth Park NR, Haughton Strother GP and Widdrington Moor Lake. A dead bird was at Longbridge End, Lindisfarne NNR on 9th (GB/LAR).

Teal *Anas crecca*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total was a below average 312 N and six S, including 125 N on 6th (SSWT). Northerly passage also included 87 at Tynemouth on 6th (DRW), a total of 61 N between 12th-23rd (MSH), and four to 16 at Cullercoats and Ross Back Sands. Good numbers at Grindon Lough included peaks of about 900 on 3rd and 27th (AJR), 700+ were at East Chevington north pool on 22nd (AJR), 548 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (IFo), 470 at Budle Bay on 22nd (PRM), 221-261 at Arcot Pond (LJM), Cresswell Pond (TF/JFa) and Druridge Pools (MSH), and 100-160 at Castron and Hauxley Reserve. Counts of 51-90 came from Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Druridge Links (offshore), Howdon, Plenmeller Common and Widdrington Moor Lake, and 20-45 from the Blyth and Coquet Estuaries, Holy Island, Low Newton, Monk's House Pool, Newstead Flash, St Mary's Island/Wetland and West Ord, and ten to 14 at Meadow Haven (Berwick), and Middle Ord and Warkworth Lane Ponds.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

A drake, with 25 Teal, was at Hallington Reservoir on 27th (MR/TRD/JD).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

One flew N at Tynemouth on 6th (DRW). Bothal Pond held a peak of ten on 24th and 29th (TD/TF) and three to six on several further dates. Six were at Holywell Pond on 21st (MSH), five at Widdrington Moor Lake on 16th (TF), and three at Druridge Pools on 10th (IRD). One to two were also at Bakethin and Derwent Reservoirs, Druridge Pools, Killingworth Lake and Woodhorn Flashes.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

A total of 14 flew N at Annstead Point on 6th (CGK), and one moved N at Seaton Sluice on 24th (SSWT). Peak concentrations were 92 at Ladyburn Lake on 24th and 26th (TD/IFo), about 80 at East Chevington on 27th (PRM), 42 at Killingworth Lake on 8th (LJM), 40 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 27th (PRM), 38 at Castle Island on 24th (GB/DM *et al.*), and 17-23 at Marden Quarry and QEII CP Lake. Five to eight were also at Bothal Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Links, Grindon Lough and Maiden's Hall Lake, and one to four at Big Waters, Cocklawburn Pond, Hauxley Reserve, Northumberland Park (North Shields), Paddy Freeman's Lake (Heaton) and West Ord.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Two flew N at Tynemouth on 6th (DRW), and singles at Seaton Sluice on 22nd and 23rd (SSWT). Singles also flew N at Howick on 5th (BS), Boulmer (BS), Cullercoats (ASJ), Newbiggin (GB) and Tynemouth (DRW) on 22nd, and Cullercoats on 24th (CB). Five were on the River Wansbeck near Castle Island on 24th (AIB/GB/ADM/DM) and three on 27th (TF/JFa). Three were also at Cresswell Pond on 19th (NFO), off Druridge Links on 15th (IDR *et al.*), and East Chevington on 26th

(TF/JFa). Two were at Holy Island on 19th (MJC/BCh). One to two were at the above sites on sporadic dates between 4th-26th, and singles at Beal on 20th and 23rd (DF), Ladyburn Lake on 20th and 26th (IFo) and Widdrington Moor Lake on 23rd (TB).



Scaup

Holy Island Causeway

4/10/21

Tim Dean

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

A total of 88 flew N and 17 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and one flew N and ten S at Newbiggin on 22nd (GB). Peaks involved 195 off Ross Back Sands on 24th (MJC), 114 at Stag Rocks on 20th (DF), 60 at North Blyth on 16th

(LJM), 56 at Holy Island on 21st (PRM) and 24 at Cheswick Black Rocks (MHu). Ten were off Hauxley and one to five at Birling Carrs, the Coquet Estuary, Druridge Links, Howick and Snab Point.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

A total of 30 flew N at Annstead Point between 6th-17th, including 16 on 13th and eight N on 12th (DF/CGK), seven flew N at Sharper's Head, Berwick on 12th (BWG), four N at Cullercoats on 15th (ASJ), four N at Newbiggin on 13th (AP) and four N and one S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Two moved N at Longhoughton on 17th (BS) and singles at Cullercoats (ASJ) on 5th, Hauxley (CSa) and Snab Point (NFO) on 12th and St Mary's on 23rd (MSH). One was at Holy Island North Shore on 19th (MJC).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

A below-average monthly total of 639 N and 129 S was recorded at Seaton Sluice, with no large movements (SSWT). Movement also included 169 N at St Mary's between 13th-23rd (MSH), 60 N at Newbiggin on 23rd (TF), a total of 62 N and five S at Cullercoats on 23rd-24th (CB) and 25 N at Blyth on 22nd (LJM). Smaller numbers were also noted N and S at Boulmer, Hauxley and Snab Point on several dates. Peak concentrations were 260 at Cocklawburn on 20th (MHu), 160 off Druridge Links on 15th (IDR *et al.*), 150 at Spittal Bay on 22nd (MHu) and 123 at Ross Back Sands on 24th (MJC), while 24-42 were at Alnmouth Bay-Birling Carrs (MJC/RPo) and Stag Rocks (PRM). Two to three were at Holy Island and Snab Point.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Most reports involved birds on the move. Northerly passage included five at Cullercoats on 24th (CB), three at Newbiggin on 22nd (GB), two at Annstead Point on 12th (CGK), Holy Island on 21st (PRM) and Seaton Sluice on 22nd-23rd (SSWT), and singles at Annstead Point (CGK) and Tynemouth (DRW) on 6th, Hauxley (CSa) on 15th, and Boulmer (BS), Newbiggin (TD), St Mary's (JBU) and Tynemouth (DRW) on 22nd-23rd. One flew S at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS). Three were off Ross Back Sands on 24th (MJC), one to two at Budle Point-Stag Rocks between 3rd-29th (CGK/GPK/KWY *et al.*), and singles at Holy Island on 17th (MJC) and Howick on 25th (TF/JFa). A juvenile was at Druridge Pools on 26th (TRD/JD).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

A monthly total of 17 N and five S at Seaton Sluice was described as 'extremely poor' (SSWT). Elsewhere, 43 flew N at Annstead Point on 12th (CGK), nine N at St Mary's between 12th-23rd (JBU/MSH), six N at Newbiggin on 22nd (GB), five N at Hauxley on 16th (HRS), and one to four N at Annstead Point, Holy Island, Snab Point and Stag Rocks between 6th-23rd. Nine flew S at Longhoughton on 17th (BS), four S at Annstead on 18th (DF), and four S at East Chevington on 26th (TRD/JD). Peak site counts were 43 at East Chevington on 27th (PRM), 16 at West Ord on 17th (MHu), ten at Castle Island on 27th (TF/JFa) and five to nine off Annstead and Boulmer, and at Big Waters, Derwent Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve, Holywell Pond, and Ladyburn and Widdrington Moor Lakes. Three to four were also at Beal, Budle Bay, Holy Island and Maiden's Hall Lake, and one to two at Cocklawburn and Cresswell Ponds, Druridge Pools and Killingworth Lake.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Six flew N and 22 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), two W at Cresswell Pond on 27th (TF/JFa) and one S at Newbiggin on 16th. The peak count was 13 at Castle Island on 4th (TF), six to seven were at Branton GP (JD), Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and West Ord (MHu), and three to four at Holywell Dene, Killingworth Lake and Wark (North Tyne). One to two were also noted at Airy Holm Reservoir, East Chevington, Hauxley Reserve, Holy Island, Long Nanny Estuary, Marden Quarry, Rothbury and Widdrington Moor Lake.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

17 flew N at Annstead Point on 6th (CGK), ten N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and four S at Newbiggin on 16th (GB). A peak of 12 was off Druridge Links on 10th and 15th (IDR *et al.*), 12 were off Ross Back Sands on 24th (MJC), five at Budle Bay on 16th (DF), and up to four at Holy Island (ADM/KWY *et al.*). One to two were also at Boulmer and Hauxley Reserve. Six (four drakes) were at East Chevington north pool on 29th, with one of the drakes displaying (MH).

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

340 were at Kingston Park Gym Roof on 4th (AHB), 250 were in Lynemouth Bay on 8th (IDR/JF) and 200 at Crooked Oak on the same day (IFo). 126 were in Blyth Harbour on 13th (LJM), 80 at Lynemouth, also on 13th (PCF), 25 at Low Newton on 26th and "present" in Jesmond Dene on 24th.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Six were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), three at Ellington and Ulgham Lane, two at Derwent Reservoir and singles at Shoe Tree (Jesmond Dene) and Arcot Pond.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

280 flew S at Tynemouth between 0800-0930 on 25th (DRW). At least 400 were at Arcot Pond on 4th (LJM) with 400 also foraging in stubble at Kiln Pit Hill on 14th (IFo). 45 were in Lynemouth Bay on 8th (IDR/JF), 40 at Low Newton on 26th and 17 at Druridge Links on 30th. One to ten were at many usual locations.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

59 were on overhead wires at Callerton on 18th (MH), numbers at Berwick Hill increased from 17 on 19th to 34 on 31st (AHB), 23 were at Dinnington on 10th and 18th (PCF), 22 at Dearnley Estate (Ashington) all month (RS), 12 at Wark (North Tyne) on 6th (PRM) and 12 at Slaley Village on 22nd (RMH). Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) had a maximum of eight all month, seven were at Ogle on 3rd, three were at Hauxley and two were seen at both Low Steads (Longhoughton) and Straight Lonnen (Holy Island).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Three were noted at Gosforth Park NR on 23rd (MJc/DJC), up to two were at East Chevington on various dates, two were heard at Big Waters on 10th (GB) and singles were at Arcot Pond, Branton GP, Druridge Links, Hedgeley GP, Killingworth Lake and QE11 CP.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

The peak count came from Hauxley with 36 in the area on 16th (HRS), 31 were at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 18th (GB) and 24 were counted from Castle Island – Stakeford Road Bridge (R Wansbeck) on 24th (GB). 16 were at QE11 CP on 10th (CDH) and Big Waters peaked at 12 on 10th (GB). One to nine were at many other usual haunts.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Numbers at East Chevington reached an impressive peak of 250 on 22nd (AJR) with 246 still present on 26th (TRD/JD). Elsewhere, 87 were at Linton Ponds and 73 at QE11 CP on 10th (CDH), Killingworth Lake held 53 on 28th (LJM), Big Waters peaked at 52 on 5th (GB), 36 were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 27th (PRM) and 28 were at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 24th (TD). Eight were at Warkworth Lane Ponds and a single was at St. Mary's Wetland.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A total of 37 were on the R Wansbeck between Castle Island and the weir on 24th (GB/DM/AIB), at least 30 were at East Chevington North Pool on 21st (MN) with 22 present there on 27th (PRM) and numbers at Hauxley NWT fluctuated throughout the month with a peak of 21 on 2nd (HRS). 15 were at Caistron on 12th, 13 were at Woodhorn Church Pond on 10th and ten was the peak at Druridge Bay CP on 24th. One to nine were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Bakethin Reservoir, Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), Boulmer, Capheaton, Coquet Estuary, Cresswell Pond NWT, Druridge Pools, Gosforth Park NR, Holywell Pond, Killingworth Lake, Linton Ponds, Northumberlandia, St. Mary's Wetland, Widdrington Moor Lake and Woodhorn Flashes.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

The first of the autumn was a single heading N past Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT). Two were seen heading N past Cullercoats on 23rd during an hour's seawatch (CB), a single headed N past St. Mary's on 15th (AC) and one was tracked N past Tynemouth, St Mary's then Newbiggin on 23rd (TF/DRW/MSH). A well-watched juvenile was at Widdrington Moor Lake from 8th until the month end (TRD/TF/NFO/AA *et al.*) and one was at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 26th (TF/JFa).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Passage was observed at Seaton Sluice with two N and two S between 16th-24th (SSWT), two N and two S past Tynemouth during the morning of 23rd (DRW), possibly the same birds seen at Cullercoats and St. Mary's on that day (CB/MSH), and singles past Seaton Point (Boulmer) and Tynemouth on other dates. Numbers at Killingworth Lake fluctuated during the month with a peak of ten on 28th – a pair with three large young at the west end and five in winter plumage at the east end (LJM). Six were offshore at Druridge Pools on 16th (GB), five were at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (IFo) and one to three were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Alnmouth Bay, Big Waters NWT, Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Blyth Estuary, Bothal Pond, Branton GP, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Fenham-le-Moor, QE11 CP, Saltpan Rocks, South Beach (Blyth) and Widdrington Moor Lake.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps Auritus*

Two were at Holy Island on 9th (BCh) and singles at Church Point (Newbiggin), offshore at Chevington Burn, Ladyburn Lake (Druridge Bay CP), Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington), Stag Rocks and Widdrington Moor Lake. An individual at East Chevington North Pool on 25th exhibited a distinctive head pattern with the eye surrounded by white (similar to some Red-throated Divers) making it recognisable for future sightings (MH).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps Nigriocollis*

A winter-plumaged individual was at Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) from 20th-23rd (AT/TRD/JD/TB/NFO).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Smaller numbers were noted this month as birds moved on. The only three-figure count came from Budle Bay with 151 in 26th (TF/JFa). Other significant flocks were 90 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 11th (AP), 57 at Longhoughton Steel on 6th (MKi), 55 at Holy Island on 31st (PRM), 51 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 15th (RPo) but only four remaining on 27th (IDR). In the Berwick area, 48 were at Sandstell Point (Spittal) on 5th with the same number on Berwick GC on the same day (MHu). North Blyth staithes held 44 on 16th (LJM) with the maximum at Hauxley NWT being 43 on 2nd (HRS). On 6th counts of 20 were made at Howick Burn mouth and 30 at Howick Haven (PHa/Aha) and 38 were feeding on farmland at Howick on 27th (JAR). The maximum reported from Druridge Links was 22 on 10th (IDR) with 18 a short distance south at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 15th (IDR *et al.*). Three to five were at Low Newton, Lynemouth Bay and Newbiggin.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

A single bird was reported from the River Coquet Estuary on 16th with possibly the same bird at Creswell Pond on the same day (CSa/TF).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Monthly passage observed at Seaton Sluice was 13N and 410S including 300S on 24th (SSWT). Many of the flocks which were established last month remained with some developing further. The Derwent Reservoir flock reported as 500 strong on 6th increased to 1,600 by 23rd (IFo) with a report of approximately 380 on 30th (AJR). An estimated 180 were present at Grindon Lough on 3rd rising to a maximum of approximately 620 by 17th (AJR/PRM). Budle Bay retained 500-600 birds during the month with lower counts on some dates indicating birds were feeding elsewhere (DF/TF/JFa/PRM). Gloucester Lodge (Blyth) held a minimum of 600 on 26th (LJM) with other high counts being 500+ at St Mary's on 25th (MSH) where there had been 70 on 6th (DLo/IF), 500 at East Chevington on 15th (IDR *et al.*) and 500 at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 29th (IFo). Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) attracted 380 on 24th with 320 being reported from Yarrow Slake on 2nd and Cocklawburn on 20th. The monthly peak at Arcot Pond was 318 which was reached on 6th with a minimum of 300 at Bothal Pond on 17th, 250 at Cresswell Pond on 24th, 235 counted at Castle Island (River Wansbeck), 200 seen at the River Coquet Estuary on 14th with approximately 200 at Caistron on 24th. There were 130-180 at Corbridge, Longhoughton and New Water Haugh (River Tweed) and two-85 present at Bedlington, Boulmer, Druridge Pools and Links, Embleton, Holy Island, Maiden's Hall Lake, Monk's House Pool and Tynemouth (two flew N).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Passage was noted at Annstead (Seahouses) when 160 flew S on 1st (DF), with 30 S (in 2-hour seawatch) at Cullercoats on 24th and four N (in 90 minutes) on 21st (CB). Some large concentrations built up at several locations with the highest being an estimated 4,000 at Holy Island on 17th where 400 had been counted on 4th (ADM/TRD/JD). 1,000 were still present on 23rd (TD). Other counts on Lindisfarne NNR were 700 at Budle Bay on 29th (DF) and approximately 300 at Beal Point on 22nd (PRM). Numbers built up at Grindon Lough during the month from a low of 80 on 3rd up to a peak of 2,100 on 27th (AJR/PRM). Similarly, numbers at the River Coquet Estuary increased from 600 on 15th (CSa) to a high of 1,900 which were disturbed by a Great Skua on 22nd (RPo). The flock at Boulmer numbered 400 on 2nd almost tripling to an estimated 1,500 by 22nd (AMG/MG/TRD/JD). An accurate count of 1,758 made at Longhoughton Steel on 24th almost certainly involved the same birds (BS). Monk's House Pool attracted a flock of 1,200 on 2nd (KWY) and the Old Hartley-St Mary's area held 1,000 regularly during the month (AC/MSH/MNC/DLo *et al.*). Reports of 600 birds were received from Amble, Embleton, Low Newton and Warkworth Lane Ponds during mid-month with 500 at Cresswell Pond and 400 at Gloucester Lodge fields (Blyth). The only reports from inland came from Derwent Reservoir where six were seen on 14th rising to a peak of approximately 510 on 30th (IFo/AJR) and the Simonside Hills where an estimated 25 were present on 25th (PRM). Reports of one to 60 were received from Cocklawburn, Howick, Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington), Newbiggin, Newton, Old Moor (Berwick) and Ponteland (25 flew W).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

The high counts came from Lindisfarne NNR with smaller groups and individuals scattered along the coastline. Five flew S at Hauxley on 30th (HRS) and two went N at Tynemouth in a two-hour seawatch on 6th (DRW). At Lindisfarne NNR, 30 were at Budle Bay on 18th (CB), with 22 reported at Beal Point 22nd (PRM) and five at Holy Island on 21st (PRM) with singles at the harbour on 4th and the causeway on 7th (TRD/JD). The peak count at Boulmer was five on 13th reducing to two by 22nd (TRD/JD/AJR). Birling Carrs (Warkworth) attracted four on 15th (RPo) with three reported at Longhoughton Steel on 6th (MKi). Singles were seen at Cocklawburn, Howick, Low Newton, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Numbers were much reduced compared to the previous two months with 60+ at Newbiggin on 6th and 50 there on 13th being the highest numbers reported (PRM/AP). At Birling Carrs (Warkworth), 53 were seen on 15th (RPo) and in Druridge Bay, 35 were at Druridge Links on 9th (IDR/JF), 20 at Chevington Burn beach on 22nd (TD) and 20 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 28th (TB). Beal (Lindisfarne NNR) held 31 on 20th (DF) and 13 were at St Mary's Island on 18th (MSH). Elsewhere, eight were at Boulmer and single birds were reported from Holy Island harbour and Low Newton.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Late singles were seen at Boulmer on 4th (BS), Howick burn mouth on 6th (PHa/MHa) and Lindisfarne NNR on 10th (AMG/MG).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

At Lindisfarne NNR, 275 were at Fenham Mill on 31st (DF), approximately 230 were at Holy Island on 20th (PRM) and 79+ were present at Budle Bay on 22nd (PRM). The only inland report was of 150 in fields east of Caistron on 12th (TRD/JD). The peak count at Cocklawburn was 122 on 20th (MHu) with 79 in fields behind the dunes at Boulmer on 19th (JAR). A flock of 66 was reported at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed) on 2nd (MHu) and Beacon Point (Newbiggin) held 62 on 24th (AP). Maximum counts at other sites were 50 at St Mary's on 7th (IDR), 45 at Longhoughton on 6th (IDR) and 39 at Hauxley on 16th (HRS). Two to 30 were seen at Beal Point (Lindisfarne NNR), Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and Links, East Chevington, Howick, Low Newton, Newbiggin GC, the River Coquet Estuary and Snab Point (Cresswell).



Curlew with crab

Holy Island

October '21

Alan Jack

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Three flew N at Tynemouth on 6th with probably the same birds N at Seaton Sluice on the same day (DRW/SSWT) and two were seen flying S at Cullercoats on 23rd (CB). Wintering or passage birds arrived at the favoured Lindisfarne NNR with at least 425 at a high-tide roost at Beal on 15th (DF) and an estimate of 400 was made at St Cuthbert's Island on 4th (TRD/JD). Much lower numbers were reported elsewhere with Boulmer attracting 37 on 22nd (BS) with a group of 31 at nearby Longhoughton Steel on 6th being possibly the same birds. This group included the bird reported last month, which was ringed at Telemark, Norway (MKi). Other counts at Lindisfarne NNR involved 30 at Holy Island causeway on 7th, 22 at Holy Island on 21st, 20 at Budle Bay on 18th, 20 on the NE shore of Holy island on 23rd and 12 at Beal Point on 22nd. One-nine were present at Cresswell Pond, Hauxley, Low Newton, the Long Nanny Estuary and Snab Point (Cresswell).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Four flew S at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 30th (BS). The high numbers seen at the River Coquet Estuary were retained with the largest count being 135 on 11th that declined to 12 by 16th and 21st (CSa/TF/IDR *et al.*) with a flock of 40 at Amble Braid also on 21st (TRD/JD). A large flock of 105 was at East Chevington on 6th (MH) but reports on other dates were between four and 11 (PRM/MN/TF). Numbers gradually increased at Budle Bay to reach a maximum of 42 on 31st (DF) and at Low Newton a single seen on 6th was joined by other to reach a peak of 16 on 19th (AMG/MG/CB *et al.*). Holywell Pond attracted eight on 19th (MN) with six well inland at Grindon Lough on 27th (AJR). One to four were reported from Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Hauxley, Holy Island and Monk's House Pool.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

On 23rd, 47 flew S at Hauxley in 90 minutes (HRS) with seven N at Cullercoats during a 90-minute sea watch on 21st (CB). Birds were reported at Boulmer throughout the month with a low of three on 13th and 40 on 22nd but on 19th 150 were present (JAR/MKi/TRD/JD). Peak counts on other stretches of coastline were 89 at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 20th (DF), 70 at Low Newton on 6th (TRD/JD), 65+ at Holy Island on 21st (PRM) and 50 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 15th (IDR *et al.*). Hauxley NWT attracted 38 on 7th with the same number counted at Annstead (Seahouses) on 15th with 26 at Fisherman's Haven (Berwick) on 19th and 23 at North Blyth staithes on 16th. One-19 were seen at Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary), Cocklawburn, Druridge Links, Howick, Longhoughton, Newbiggin and Seahouses.



Knot

Boulmer

17/10/21

Tim Dean

Knot *Calidris canutus*

A large flock of 400 was present at St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) on 4th (TRD/JD) with 200 present in nearby Budle Bay on 18th (CB) where only a single bird was reported on 22nd (PRM). Numbers at Boulmer built up from three on 1st up to 40 on 22nd (AJR/BS/MKi *et al.*). Elsewhere, 22 were seen at Birling Carrs on 17th, 20 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 28th, five at Cresswell Pond on 22nd and one at Fenham-le Moor (Lindisfarne NNR) on 7th.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Numbers were much lower this month, with six at Low Newton on 6th (TRD/JD) being the peak, but only two were noted there on 8th and 18th. At East Chevington, five were seen on 14th -26th but only two on 27th. (MN/IFo *et al.*). The River Coquet Estuary had four birds from 11th-30th (CSa) with four also at Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) from 24th-26th (GB/TF/JFa *et al.*). Two were seen at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed) on 8th and one was inland at Derwent Reservoir on 17th.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

The sole report was of a single bird at Budle Bay on 3rd (CGK/GPK).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

High numbers were reported at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) early in the month with 182 on 6th and 156 on 9th (AP/PRM). A few miles further south, 112 were at St Mary's Island on 2nd (ASJ). In the Druridge Bay area, 92 were at Chevington Burn beach at high tide on 22nd (TD), 62 were at Druridge Links on 10th (IDR) and 52 at Hauxley beach on 30th (HRS). Boulmer held 32 on 1st and 60 on 19th (JAR/MKi) with 31-32 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) and Ross Back Sands (Lindisfarne NNR) and 12-14 reported from Low Newton. Three to nine were at East Chevington, The Long Nanny Estuary and Snab Point (Cresswell).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

There were much lower numbers reported this month as the large flocks from September moved on. Boulmer continued to hold a notable flock with 175 counted on 1st (MKi) reducing to 125 by 22nd (AJR) and lower counts made on other dates during the month. A peak of 82 at Budle Bay occurred on 23rd (DF), with 78 seen at Castle Island on 2nd (TF), 51 at Newbiggin on 6th (PRM), 38 at North Blyth staithes on 16th (LJM) and 32 at Hauxley NWT on 2nd (HRS). Monk's House Pool attracted 16 on 1st and ten were at Howick Haven on 6th. One-eight were recorded at Chevington Burn beach, Cresswell Pond, Fenham-le Moor (Lindisfarne NNR), Holy Island harbour, Low Newton, Snab Point (Cresswell) and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary). Birds were still inland at two sites with a maximum of 12 at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (IFo) and two adults at Grindon Lough on 6th-13th and a juvenile on 14th (PRM).



Dunlin
St Mary's
Island
October '21
Alan Jack

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Two flew N at Cullercoats on 21st (CB). The regular wintering flock at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) became established with three reported on 12th (DF) rising to a maximum of 101 by 22nd (PRM). The highest number elsewhere was 35 at Fisherman's Haven (Berwick) on 19th (BWG). One to six were reported from Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Boulmer, Cullercoats, Hauxley, Holy Island, Howick burn mouth, Low Newton, Seaton Sluice and Snab Point (Cresswell).



Purple Sandpiper

Cullercoats

October '21

Alan Jack

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Last month's bird at Druridge Pools remained until the 1st (AA/TRD/JD). One was reported at Budle Bay from 10th-20th (CGK/GPK).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

The expected winter influx was apparent when one at Holy Island on 23rd increased to 11 on 29th (BCh/ADM/AH *et al.*). Three were seen at Newbiggin on 29th (GB) and in the Hauxley area the next day (HRS). Birds arriving over the sea where noted at Church Point (Newbiggin) with two on 23rd (TF), with singles at St Mary's Island on 22nd and 23rd (JBU/MSH) and Snab Point (Cresswell) also on 23rd (IDR). Two were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 30th-31st (TB) and singles were seen at Beanley Wood, Boulmer, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Links and Low newton.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

A light arrival occurred this month with a single at Holy Island Lough (KG/MIT *et al.*) and Castle Island (TF) on 2nd. Other singles were reported from Howdiemont Sands (Boulmer) on 6th (MKi) and Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 24th (IDR/JF). One was seen on the rocks at St Mary's Island, flying inland as the tide came in (M Potts).



Jack Snipe

St Mary's Island

7/10/21

Mike Potts

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

One flew N at Tynemouth on 6th (DRW), noted as a rare occurrence for the area. The largest concentrations were 23 at Big Waters on 10th (GB), 21 flushed by a Sparrowhawk at Caistron on 12th (TRD/JD) and 20 at East Chevington on 20th (IFo). At Derwent Reservoir, 21 arrived from E on 19th, circled twice and carried on SW (IFo). There were 12 on Holy Island on 31st including ten at the Lough (AH/ADM) and ten were at Grindon Lough on 18th (PRM). One to eight were reported from Arcot Pond, Bothal Pond, Boulmer, Cocklawburn, Cresswell Pond, Hauxley, Monk's House Pool, Old Hartley, St Mary's, Warkworth Lane, Whittle Dene, Widdrington Moor Lake and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary).

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

A single bird was seen flying N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 12th (CGK/RA).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

A late bird was at West Ord (Berwick) on 1st (MHu).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

A gathering of three at Caistron on 12th was noted as unusual by the observers (TRD/JD). One was seen at Arcot Pond on 3rd (GB) and one flew over Bothal Pond on 18th (NFO).

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

A high-tide roost at Beal (Lindisfarne NNR) held an estimated 250 on 15th (DF) with a count of 170 coming from nearby Budle Bay on 23rd (DF). The River Blyth Estuary held 142 on 13th (LJM) and numbers at Hauxley NWT increased from 47 on 2nd to 130 on 7th (HRS). Other counts over 100 were 124 at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) on 2nd (MHu) and 120 at Boulmer on 19th (JAR). At Newbiggin, 64 were present on 6th (PRM) and 62 were at Calot Shad (River Tweed) on 15th (MHu). The peak count at Holy Island was 35 at the causeway on 31st with one at the Lough the day before (PRM). On 1st 32 were at West Ord (Berwick), 13 at Druridge Pools on 31st, 12 at Howick burn mouth on 6th, 12 at Cresswell Pond on 22nd and ten at Longhoughton on 6th. One-eight were seen at Birling Carrs (Warkworth), East Chevington, Low Newton, Lynemouth Bay, the River Coquet Estuary and Snab Point (Cresswell).

September correction - photo was of a Spotted Redshank

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Cresswell Pond continued to hold birds from last month, with a high of six occurring on 7th reducing to one by 21st (MN/IRD/NFO *et al.*). One was at Widdrington Moor Lake on 16th being joined by a second the next day (ADMc). Singles were seen at the River Blyth Estuary on 13th (AC), the River Coquet Estuary on 30th (CSa) and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) on 2nd (MHu).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Notable numbers were still present in the Beal (Lindisfarne NNR) area during the month. The peak count was 11 (including eight flying S) on 15th (DF). Six were present on 4th with only one being observed on 22nd (DF/PRM/MJC *et al.*). At other sites in the Lindisfarne NNR, three were at Fenham-le Moor on 9th (TF), three-four at Budle Bay up to mid-month (CGK/GPK) and two at Holy Island causeway on 21st (PRM). Lower numbers were reported on other dates. On 1st, five were at West Ord (Berwick) declining to one by 4th (MHu). Two were seen at Castle Island on 4th (TF), with one at Cresswell Pond from 1st-7th and two on 8th (TB/KG/MIT *et al.*). One was present at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed) on 2nd (MHu).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

At Cullercoats, 400 moved S in half an hour on 5th (ASJ) but the majority of other records involved birds passing N, including 250 at Snab Point on 12th (NFO), 150 at Annstead on 13th (DF) and 143 at Seaton Sluice on 22nd (SSWT). At other coastal watchpoints from 15th-22nd counts of 50-90 birds flying N came from Bamburgh, Druridge Links and Newbiggin. Very few were otherwise reported.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

An immature flew N at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Gatherings of 200-300 were seen in the Blyth Estuary, Boulmer, Budle Bay, Longhoughton and the Tweed Estuary (Yarrow Slake), 100-200 at Hauxley, the Long Nanny Estuary, New Water Haugh (River Tweed) and the QEII CP with up to 80 at a further 15 localities. A colour-ringed adult seen at Brierdene had been marked near Oslo, Norway in April this year (MSH).

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

During the first half of the month one to five were seen occasionally at Budle Bay, Low Newton and Tynemouth but thereafter a significant influx occurred starting with 16 at Annstead on 17th (DF) and peaking at 313 counted at Ross Back Sands on 24th (MJC). Records came from numerous other widespread sites along the coast with the largest numbers comprising 100-300 from the Bamburgh-Holy Island area from 24th-27th. The numbers declined towards the month end but 40+ still fed offshore at Stag Rocks on 29th (BS) and ten were at Budle Point on 31st.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

The numbers declined slightly from last month's peak to 71, seen on the shore in Lynemouth Bay on 10th (IDR/JF), and many records of ten to 65 were also received from sites in the Newbiggin/Cresswell/Druridge Bay/Ellington area (TB/PRM/RS *et al.*). An October site record for the Seaton Sluice watch tower involved 33 passing N and S (SSWT). Further afield, sightings of one to six came, *inter alia*, from Bamburgh, Beal Point, Budle Bay, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Hauxley, Holy Island, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth. The majority of these records comprised adult birds.



Mediterranean Gull

Church Point,
Newbiggin

21/10/21

Graham Sorrie

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Impressive totals of 5,000 came into roost at Druridge Links on 10th (IDR) with 4,000 in the roost at Budle Point on 31st (CGK/GPK). Smaller gatherings of 100-300 were recorded at Kilham (JR), Haughton Strother (AJR), the River Tweed (New Water Haugh) (MHu) and Widdrington Moor Lake (TF/JFA) with up to 20 at four other sites.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

The Coquet Estuary held 223 on 16th (TF) and elsewhere, records of 90-180 came from Budle Bay (DF), Castle Island (GB/TF/JFa) and Hauxley (HRS) with 50-80 at East Chevington, Longhoughton Steel and Newbiggin and up to 25 at six other localities. A yellow-ringed bird, 144M, in Seahouses Harbour was marked as a chick on the Isle of May in 2019 (TRD).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Single immature birds, aged as detailed, were a 3CY seen at St Mary's Island on 24th (AC), a 2nd-winter at Budle Bay on 26th (TF/JFa) and a 2nd-winter at Newbiggin (Beacon Point) on 28th (AP).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argenteus*

Estimated totals were 750 in Budle Bay on 7th (DF), 540 and 420 in roosts at West Ord and New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 17th and 11th (MHu) and 380 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 26th (TF/JFa). Smaller groups of 20-60 were recorded at Big Waters NWT, Druridge Links, Linton Ponds, Longhoughton and the QEII CP with up to ten at six other localities. An adult Northern race bird, *ssp argentatus*, was seen at Grindon Lough on 13th (PRM)..

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

On 4th, 216 remained at Branton GP (IBDa/KDa) and ten were at Castle Island on 2nd (TF). The numbers dwindled rapidly beyond 9th, when six were at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and one to four were recorded at nine other localities including three still in the roost at Budle Point on 31st (CGK/GPK).

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

On St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island), 55 remained in the high-tide roost on 2nd (IK), 23 flew S at Annstead on 1st (DF) and a monthly total of ten were recorded at Seaton Sluice with the latest there being a single N on 6th (SSWT). Eight were at Cullercoats on 5th (ASJ) with five at Bamburgh and St Mary' on 5th (MP/KWY). Very few remained beyond that date with two in Lynemouth Bay on 10th, three at Ross Back Sands on 24th and one flying S at Hauxley on 30th being the latest (HRS).



Sandwich Tern with juvenile

St Mary's Island

7/10/21

Mike Potts

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

There were only two sightings, comprising a single N at Annstead on 1st (DF) and one at St Mary's foreshore on 7th (MP).



Roseate Tern (ringed)

St Mary's Island

7/10/21

Mike Potts

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

At Annstead, 29 flew S on 1st (DF) but there were few sightings throughout the rest of the month, comprising five at Bamburgh on 12th (MH/AA), one to three at Druridge, Embleton, Hauxley and St Mary's Island and four at Tynemouth on 23rd, the latest record (DRW).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

A monthly total of eight were seen at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), up to five frequented Budle Bay up to 30th (CGK/GPK) with one to three seen at a further eleven widespread coastal sites between Holy Island and Tynemouth on dates throughout..

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Two were offshore from Holy Island Harbour on 1st (KG/MIT/APM *et al.*) and a single was at Cresswell Pond on 28th (MN).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

A total of only three were seen during the month at Seaton Sluice, an 'extremely low' count (SSWT). Elsewhere, three hours' sea-watching in the afternoon of 5th at Emmanuel Head, Holy Island included nine, all flying S (KG/MIT) with two also seen there on 21st. Two flew N at Berwick on 5th and at Tynemouth on 22nd with singles at Annstead on 6th, St Mary's Island on 15th and Newbiggin on 21st and 22nd..

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The monthly total of 18 seen at Seaton Sluice was another 'below par' showing. A three-hour sea-watch at Emmanuel Head on 5th saw ten, all moving S (KG/MIT), two were recorded at Annstead on 6th, Low Hauxley and St Mary's Island on 12th with singles at seven localities, mainly during the period 20th-26th..

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Four juveniles and an adult were recorded moving S off Emmanuel Head, Holy Island on 5th (KG/MIT *et al.*), almost certainly the same five 'probables' seen moving S in the distance off Seaton Sluice on the same day (SSWT); another sighting on the 5th of three 'immatures' flying S at Howick possibly comprised part of the same group. At St Mary's Island, two juveniles were recorded moving N on 12th (MSH).

Auk *sp*

No large-scale movements were recorded at Seaton Sluice with the maximum count being 108 on 21st (SSWT), 300+ moved N in one and a half hours on 12th at St Mary's Island (MSH) with smaller counts elsewhere of up to 80 at Annstead, Birling Carrs and Cresswell (Snab Point).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Two singles flew N at St Mary's Island on 12th (AC/MSH) and a few flew N during the period 22nd-23rd including seven at Boulmer (NFO/BS), two at Tynemouth (DRW) and singles at Bamburgh, Lynemouth Bay and Newbiggin (AP/PRM/TF); one was found dead on the road by Holy Island Castle on 24th (ADM) and a tideline corpse was found at Goswick on 13th (JS).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Some large groups and rafts were recorded, unusual for the time of year with many close inshore, first reported last month possibly due to feeding difficulties, with a maximum of 137 counted at Ross Back Sands on 24th (MJC) and smaller numbers up to 86 seen at 20+ localities including on the Tyne at Walker Riverside Park and at the Newcastle Quayside..

Razorbill *Alca torda*

As with the preceding species, some unusually large groups were recorded with maxima of 800 seen at the Lindisfarne NNR on 10th (AMG/MG) and 158 at Ross Back Sands on 24th (MJC). Smaller counts of passage birds or groups on the sea numbered up to 60 at 15 localities although generally the counts were in single figures.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Four sightings of single birds were an immature at Druridge Links on 15th (IDR), an almost full summer-plumaged bird moving N at Holy Island on 21st (PRM), moving N at Cullercoats on 21st (GB), and one in non-breeding plumage moved N at Newbiggin on 22nd (GB/ADM).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Three were seen at Stag Rocks on 29th and singles were at Annstead, Cullercoats and Ross Back Sands

Diver Sp *Gavia*

Three unidentified divers went S at Hauxley on 16th (HRS) and three more unidentified birds flew N at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 22nd (IF).

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

The monthly total in 54h from Seaton Sluice Watch Tower was 258 birds, of which 124 N and 134S (SSWT). 87 birds were off Warkworth Beach on 27th (CSa) and 64 were off Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 20th (MJC). 55 birds flew S at Cullercoats on 14th (ASJ), counts of 47 & 44 were off Druridge Links on 16th (TF/IDR) & 42 went N at Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 12th (CGK). 29 birds were off Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 17th (AMG/MG), 25 were counted at Newbiggin on 22nd (GB). One to 20 birds were noted at 26 locations including a bird well upstream on the River Blyth at Kitty Brewster on 30th (MSH).

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Three birds were in Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 14th (MHu), two went N at St Mary's Island on 15th with one of them landing on the sea briefly (ASJ) and two flew N at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 23rd (ASJ). Single birds were noted offshore at Budle Point on 8th (CGK) and one flew N at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

At Church Point (Newbiggin) up to 15 birds were counted with 11N & 4S on 22ns (ADMc/GB), also on 22nd, 10 went N at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) between 15:00 & 17:30h (PRM), while up to seven were noted N at Boulmer (BS/NFO) and five went N at Snab Point (Cresswell) (IF) and four were seen N at St Mary's Island (JBU) also on 22nd. The monthly total at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower was eight birds with 3N and 5S between the 15th & 23rd (SSWT). One to three birds were at 14 sites from 6th.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

Two birds were seen flying N at St Mary's Island on 15th (AC). On 22nd two flew N at Church Point (Newbiggin) (ADMc) and at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) with one of the birds there in a flock of five Great Northern Divers *Gavia immer* (PRM). Single birds were reported N at Cullercoats (ASJ) and Seaton Sluice Watch Tower (SSWT) on 15th, Tynemouth on 22nd (DRW) and one flew S at Ross Back Sands on 24th (MJC).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Two birds flew N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 6th (SSWT).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

The only reported birds involved singles N on 22nd and S on 28th at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower (SSWT).

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

32 birds flew N at Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 12th (CGK). Five birds flew N at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 5th (KG/MIT *et al.*). Three birds went N at Low Hauxley on 12th (CSA) and at Annstead (Seahouses) on 22nd (DF), two flew N at St Mary's Island on 12th (AC). Single birds went N at Low Hauxley and Annstead (Seahouses) on 15th (Csa/DF), at Cullercoats on 21st (CB) and Snab Point (Cresswell) on 23rd (IDR).

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

On 12th, a bird was seen flying close inshore N at St Mary's Island (MSH), then N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower (SSWT) and then close in at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) (AP). On 15th, a bird was watched from the wall at St Mary's Island flying and gliding N (DLo). A bird was seen flying N extremely close over Church Point (Newbiggin) (GB/LAR/DM & JG) on 16th and then at Low Hauxley (CSa) and Budle Point/Skate Road (CGK/GPK). A bird previously reported from Co Durham was noted N at Tynemouth on 22nd (DRW).



Great Shearwater

Ross Back Sands

16/10/21

Graham Sorrie

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

11 birds went S at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) between 14:00h and 17:00h on 5th (KG/MIT *et al.*). The monthly count at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower was a poor one with only five birds being seen, with three N and two S (SSWT). Two single birds went N at Newbiggin on 22nd (GB) and single birds went N at St Mary's Island on 12th (MSH), Annstead (Seahouses) on 18th (DF), Cullercoats on 21st (CB), Church Point (Newbiggin) on 22nd (IF/TD), Hauxley (HRS) & Tynemouth (DRW) on 23rd. Also on 23rd, a single bird flew S at Church Point (Newbiggin) (NFO).

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauretanicus*

A single bird was observed flying N at St Mary's Island on 12th (AC/MSH).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

On 5th, at Spittal Bay (Berwick) 2,860 flew N in 1hr (MHu) and at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 5th 2,000/hr went S (KG/MIT *et al.*) on 15th 796 flew N at a rate of 539/hr at Annstead (Seahouses) (DF). In three hours at Cullercoats, 400 birds went N on 5th (ASJ) at Annstead (Seahouses) on 13th, 175 flew N and 123 flew N there on 6th (DF), while 120 birds went N at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS). One to 52 birds were seen at 11 sites during the month.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

146 birds were at Calot Shad (R Tweed Estuary) on 5th (MHu) and 50 were in the R Blyth Estuary on 13th (LJM). 36 Were at Old Bridge (Berwick) on 26th (MHu), 24 at Calot Shad (R Tweed Estuary) on 28th (MHU) and 19 were at Walker Riverside Park (Newcastle) on 16th (GB). One to eighteen birds were noted at 13 sites.



Cormorant

Church Point, Newbiggin

21/10/21

Graham Sorrie

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

A count of 99 birds was made at Ross Back Sands on 24th (MJC), 50 were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 26th (TF/JFa) and 48 birds were there on 23rd (ASJ). Meadow Haven (Berwick) had 36 birds in the roost on 13th (MHu) and 25 birds were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 10th (TRD). One to eight birds were at Boulmer, Holy Island, Newton Point (Newton), Old Bridge (Berwick), Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, Spittal Bay (Berwick) and at Whitley Bay.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

On 2nd, a bird was photographed by a visitor at Big Waters NWT (*per* GB) & a non-breeding/imm bird was at Budle Bay on 10th (CGK/GPK).

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

A juvenile was at Castle Island (R Wansbeck) on 24th, 26th and 27th (GB/AC/TF/JFa).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

During October, seven went N & two S at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower (SSWT) and 22 birds were at Yarrow Slake (R Tweed Estuary) on 2nd (MHu). Eight were at Howdon on 10th (CB), seven birds were seen at Horton Grange (Blagdon) (PCF) on 13th, N Blyth Staithes on 16th (LJM), Seaton Point (Boulmer) (TRD) and river Blyth Estuary (MSH) on 17th and at Hauxley on 30th (HRS). One to six birds were at 23 locations.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

A record count for the County was four birds at Caistron on 9th (JD), three birds there on 12th (TRD/JD) and two birds there in the vicinity with eight Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* on 23rd (DRo). On 6th, one flew N at Whitley Bay Cemetery (IF), one was at Hedgeley GP's on 17th (IBDa/KDa) and one was seen flying over Brandon (Breamish Valley) on 20th (IBDa/KDa).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

The maximum count for Budle Bay during the month was 16 on 4th (GPK) and 16 were at Fenham-le-Moor on 9th (TF). 11 birds were at Budle Bay on 1st (DF) and 11 at Caistron was a record count for the site on 11th & 12th (JD/TRD). One to eight were at 28 sites throughout the Month.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

A female was seen flying S low over Ellington being mobbed by Corvids at 11:45h on 13th. It then veered off to the SW and was lost to view behind the houses (TB).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Two males were seen in the air together at Ellington on 12th (TB), two were at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotley Field) on 15th (IFo) and two were on Holy Island on 29th (PRM). Single birds were at 25 sites including a 1st w male at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) almost daily (RS).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

On 29th in the Druridge area, five birds were present including one with red-tags (MH) with four birds seen in the same area on 11th (MH). Three birds were at East Chevington on 26th (TF/JFa) and two birds were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 8th, 19th, 23rd & 30th (TRD/AA/TB) while two were at East Chevington on 20th (IFo). Away from the Druridge area, single birds included a fem/imm S at Holy Island Causeway on 4th (KG/MIT *et al.*) and a juvenile was seen over the dunes/Lough area on Holy Island on 19th (MJC).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

At Kielder Forest Drive, a ringtail was seen briefly above a ridge (JD) and a ringtail was seen at West Chevington on 27th (PRM).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Five birds were at Carterway Heads on 7th, three were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 2nd with two there on 25th and two were at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (IFo). Single birds were at Carterway Heads on 1st & 23rd, Crooked Oak on 13th, Derwent Reservoir on 13th (all IFo). On the 14th a bird was seen at Park End (Wark) (PRM), a single bird was seen at Longhirst GC on 24th (JF) and on 26th singles were seen at Low Waskerley (MH/AA) & Wark (N Tyne) (PRM).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Nine birds were at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo) and seven birds were counted at Corbridge on 15th (DWN). Four birds were at Plenmeller Common on 3rd (PRM) and Holywell Pond on 4th (ASJ), with three birds at the latter site on 8th (KWY) & 21st (MSH). Three birds were also at East Linden (Longhorsley) on 15th (AB/LB), Shankhouse (Cramlington) on 30th (LJM). Two birds were at Yearle all month (DGB/RHB) and one to two were at 26 sites.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

There were just two reports, of singles at Holy Island on 3rd (ADM) and flying at 11.00am at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (IFo) with a road casualty on the A1 at Warren Mill on 9th.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Three calling birds were around Great Ryle (Whittingham) on 10th (CW) and two calling at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 31st (TD). Single birds, all generally calling, were at Howick all month, Wark on 6th, Shilbottle on 8th, Belford on 18th, Norham, Beal and Bedlington on 20th and Simonburn on 27th.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

No reports

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

One was at Straight Lonnen (Holy Island) on 3rd (KG/ADM) and one again at Holy Island on 9th with one calling at 06.45h at Ellington on 18th (TB).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

On 18th, four were together at the Snook (Holy Island) with two present on the island all month (ADM) and singles reported on many dates. One was over the ash lagoon bank (Newbiggin) on 6th at St Mary's Island on 6th and 'in off' there on 8th, East Chevington on 15th and 26th, Hauxley Reserve on 26th, Old Hartley on 27th, Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 30th and Beal on 31st.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Two were at Borough Woods (R.Wansbeck, Morpeth) on 15th and 21st (IRD/ADM). Singles were at Berwick Hill Bridge (Ponteland) on 12th, Sharperton (R.Coquet) on 14th, Byker and Hauxley on 16th, Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 19th, Howick on 21st, Rothbury on 25th, East Chevington on 27th, Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 30th and Beggars Rigg (Rothbury) on 31st.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Two were at Big Waters NR on 3rd, Ellington on 4th and Tynemouth on 10th (GB/TB/CB) with a single at Ellington on 13th and Chugdon Wood, Ellington on 9th. Singles were also at Hauxley on 2nd, Druridge links on 4th, Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 8th, St Mary's Wetland on 9th and Low Newton on 22nd and 26th. One was ringed at Hauxley on 16th and 23rd and one was present at Holy Island from 24th until the month end.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

A high count of four came from Widdrington Moor on 23rd (JR) with three at Holy Island on 24th (ADM/BCh) and two at Widdrington Station on 3rd, Boulmer on 23rd and Widdrington Moor Lake on 30th. Singles were at Cramlington, Druridge Bay area, Ellington and Hauxley regularly with sightings from a total of 29 widespread localities.



Kestrel

Church Point, Newbiggin,

21/10/21

Graham Sorrie

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

On 16th, two hunted a Skylark together at Boulmer (BS) with two at Holy Island on 21st (BCh/ADM/SR). Singles were noted at Budle Bay on five dates, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island on four dates, Holy Island on three dates, Beal on two dates and at six other locations.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

A juvenile female was at Holy Island all month with an adult male hunting there on 7th and 23rd (ADM/KG/TD) and an adult female at Fenham-le-Moor on 12th and Beal on 20th (MH/AA/DF). An adult was at Tynemouth Priory on four dates during the month and at 13 other coastal locations and two inland locations, with juveniles at two inland locations.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

The peak count was of two flocks numbering 18 in total flying from Richardson Dees Park to Walker over Walkerville (Newcastle) on 9th (CDH), five eating mast with three over at Heaton Park on 16th (GB) and five over Preston Park (North Shields) on 11th (DLo). Four were at Melton Park on 1st with two at Exhibition Park, Jesmond Dene and the mound at Newbiggin on the 31st, possibly being the first at that location. Singles were at Tynemouth and Alnwick heading for Hulne Park on 25th, again further expansion of the range.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

A juvenile was at Ash Lagoon banks (Newbiggin) from 6th to 8th (AP *et al.*).



Red-backed Shrike

Newbiggin

8/10/21

Tim Dean

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*

A third county record for this American passerine, first recorded in 1988, was found on 8th and viewed by many until 12th.



Red-eyed Vireo

Straight Lonnen,
Holy Island,

9/10/21

Jack Bucknall

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Birds were well reported for a second month as birds collected acorns, with seven the high count at Bedlington on 17th, five at East Sleekburn on 8th (JR) and at Doddington on 23rd (SVM). Four were at Ellington on 4th and 10th, Derwent Reservoir on 5th, Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 8th, Pegswood-Longhirst on 15th and Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 18th with three at Plessey Woods, Longhoughton and Yearle. One to two were regularly at the above sites and a further 28 widespread localities.

Magpie *Pica pica*

A total of 15 were around Hauxley on 9th (HRS), 11 were in a garden at Cramlington on 24th (LJM), 10 at Dinnington on 17th and eight at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) on 7th (RS). Six was the high count at Druridge links on 7th with one to four there on many other dates, five at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) and Jesmond Dene on 24th and one to four at four other locations.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

High counts were made on the MOD ranges with 77 at High Carrick and 75 at Highshaw, both on 24th (JR), 25 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 10th, 22 at Slaley on 22nd and 20 at Lynemouth Bay on 8th. Two to seven were at five locations.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

On 24th there were high counts on the MOD ranges with 93 at Highshaw and 68 at High Carrick (JR) and 57 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (IFo), 16 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 10th, 15 at Cresswell Pond NWT on 24th and 12 at Lynemouth Bay on 8th (IDR/JF).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Large numbers were around the Black Middens (Tynemouth) with 91 on 9th (CB), 18 at Dinnington on 16th (PCF), 15 over sea at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and ten at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 24th (MJCo). One to six were at Druridge links regularly and seven other locations.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

One was at North Pool East Chevington on 4th and 14th (ADM/MN).

Raven *Corvus corax*

On 3rd two were at Kielder Forest Drive and Elf Kirk watch point (Kielder) (TRD/JD), two over Fontburn Reservoir on 16th and over Holy Island on 17th (CW/AH/ADM/SR) with two at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 24th and North Yardhope (Otterburn Ranges) on the same date (JR). Singles were at Grindon Lough on 6th, Castron on 12th and Cartington on 24th.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

More than 15 were at the feeding station at East Cramlington Pond NWT on 2nd (LJM), 11 with one ringed at Hauxley on 9th (HRS) and three at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 10th. One to two were at Wark (N.Tyne) and Druridge links regularly and at four other locations.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Three were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 4th (NFO) and at Borough Woods (Morpeth) on 27th (ADMc). Singles were at Hauxley where regarded as rare on 9th, Debdon & Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 10th & 19th and Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 20th.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

There were just two multiple counts of two at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 8th and at Hauxley reserve on 16th with one ringed there on 2nd (HRS). Singles were at St Mary's Island all month, Linden Hall (Longhorsley) & Ash Lagoon bank (Newbiggin) on four dates, Felton & Holywell Dene on two dates and at eight other locations.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

A high count of 17 was at Hauxley on 16th with 12 there on 2nd and seven on 9th, with 14 being ringed (HRS). Five were at Druridge links on 6th and 17th with one to four there on five other dates and eight other widespread localities.

Great Tit *Parus major*

A total of 16 were reported over five dates with four the peak on 9th, 16th & 23rd and 12 birds ringed in total (HRS). Four were at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 24th, three at Druridge Links on 17th and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 24th with one to two at three other locations including two arriving high from North at Budle Bay with five Reed Buntings being suggestive of movement (CGK).

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

One was in front of the north-facing hide at East Chevington on an unspecified date (CP).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

On 4th, 150 flew S at Boulmer (BS), 100 SSE at Budle Point on 3rd (CGK), 35 East at Holy Island on 9th (MJC/ADM) and 30 at St Mary's Island on 7th with 19 there on 8th (ASJ). 18 were at Ord Moor (Berwick) on 7th with 14 on 22nd, 13 South at Hauxley on 7th and 12 on 2nd, 13 in two groups at Holy Island on 17th, 12 S at Low Steads (Longhoughton) on 6th and at Marden Estate (Tynemouth) on 26th. One to ten were at or over 16 other locations.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

One was at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 17th and 18th (CSa) and one at Boulmer on 21st and 22nd (BS *et al.*).



Shorelark

Boulmer

22/10/21

Tim Dean

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

At Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), 15 remained on 7th (IFo) with ten S at Buston Links (Alnmouth) on 3rd (TF), six S at Ellington on 4th (TB) and six at Great Ryle (Whittingham) on 8th (CW). Five were at Derwent Reservoir on 6th, four at East Ord (Berwick) on 1st with one to three at nine other locations, the last being one at Low Newton on 29th (AMG/MG).

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

On 3rd, 22 fed at Cullercoats (ASJ) six having been there on 1st (KWY). Two were at Ellington on 3rd, Widdrington on 7th and Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on the same date these being the latest reports. Singles were at Boulmer on 1st and Plenmeller Common on 3rd.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

There was a maximum of three singing birds at East Chevington (two at the North Pool and one at the South Pool) on 27th (PRM), with singles reported on 15th (IDR *et al.*) and 22nd (TD). One was heard and seen at Big Waters NWT on 10th (GB), and also heard there on 17th and 27th (GB).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Hauxley had a maximum count of 38 on 16th, with seven birds ringed (HRS). There were sixteen at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) on 8th (RSt) and at Druridge Links on 31st (IDR/JF/CMN). Preston Village (North Shields) had 15 on 15th (DLo), and Smallburn (Longhorsley) had 12 on 26th (AB/LB). There were ten in the School Garden on Holy Island on 6th (KG/MIT *et al.*), and ten at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 9th (TB). In Newcastle, ten were at Exhibition Park (Town Moor) on 15th, Byker on 16th, and Leazes Park on 28th (GB). Derwent Reservoir also had ten on 28th (IFo). Smaller groups were observed at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay), Arcot Pond, Monkseaton (Whitley Bay), Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), East Ord (Berwick), Woodlea Allotments (Gosforth), and East Chevington.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

In contrast with last year's 110 records, only 15 were submitted this October. Single birds were reported at Tynemouth Pier on 6th (DRW, KWy) and 10th (JBU), and at Woodhorn Church (PRM) and Seaton Point (Boulmer) (BS) on 6th. One was at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 8th (AC), and one was at Howick Hall on 9th and again on 15th (HwRS). Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had one on 10th (TB), and Warkworth Beach car park had one on 19th and 20th (CSa) and 21st (TRD/JD). On Holy Island, one was found at Chare Ends at last light on 21st (ADM/BCh) different birds were at the Straight Lonnen (ADM) and The Snook (PRM) on 29th, with the last record being one at the Straight Lonnen on 30th (PRM).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Three were at St Mary's on 7th (DLo), one was at Ellington on 3rd (TB) and one was at Holy Island on 7th (BCh).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

A maximum count of 13 birds was made on Holy Island on 6th (ADM). Two birds of the nominate ssp. *P. c. collybita* were on Holy Island on 29th (ADM), and singles of the Siberian ssp. *P. c. tristis* were at The Snook on 6th (ADM) and Chare End dunes on 29th (ADM). The maximum count at Hauxley was 13 on 9th (three ringed), with ten on 2nd (one ringed) and six on 7th (two ringed) (HRS). Druridge Links had a maximum of nine on 6th (IDR), and St Mary's had eight on 8th (ASJ). Five first-year birds were trapped and ringed at Corbridge Common on 3rd (DLe), and there were five at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 8th (MSH). Four were at Low Steads (Longhoughton) (IDR) and Craster (TRD/JD) on 6th, at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and Lynemouth Bay (IDR/JF) on 8th, and at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 10th (IDR/JF). Smaller numbers and singles were reported from eleven other locations.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

One was at The Snook (Holy Island) on 7th (BS).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Holy Island saw an amazing fall of 92 birds on 6th (BCh/AH/ADM/SR). By 31st, numbers were down to one (AH/ADM). Druridge Links (IDR) and Newbiggin (PRM) had six on 6th, and Low Steads (Longhoughton) had four on 6th (IDR). There were three male birds near the tin church at Newton on 6th (TRD), and a male and female at St Mary's on 6th (IF). One was ringed at Hauxley on 7th (HRS), and well-fed juveniles were recorded at Howick Hall on 8th, 16th and 23rd (HwRS). Singles were reported from Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor), Berwick, East Sleekburn, and Warkworth Lane (Ellington).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

One was at Tynemouth on 6th (DRW) and one was in the gardens at Hauxley on 7th (HRS).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

One was at Tynemouth Pier on 6th (MKi, KWy, DRW, MN) and one was at St Mary's on 6th (AC). A juvenile was at St Mary's on 7th and 8th (ASJ).

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

There was a maximum of three at Half Moon Slack (Holy Island) on 7th (KG). A bird thought to be of the eastern ssp. *S. c. minula* was at The Snook on 6th (ADM), 7th (BS), and 9th (ADM), and another was at Chare Ends on 9th (ADM). There were two at Budle Bay on 7th (CGK), and singles at St Mary's on 7th (ASJ), 8th (DLo), and 12th (ASJ), and at Low Newton on 8th (AMG/MG). The last was at Druridge Links on 30th (IDR/JF).

Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

There were three juveniles at St Mary's on 8th (ASJ), and one at Budle Bay on 6th (CGK).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

The highest count of the month came from Howick Hall, where a fall of approximately 200 was observed near the car park on 6th (PHa/AHa). Hauxley recorded 61 between 2nd and 30th, with 21 ringed (HRS). At Corbridge Common, 15 were trapped on 14th (DLe), with two being retraps. There was a maximum of ten at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 29th (TB), and Airy Holm Reservoir (near Shotleyfield) had seven incomers on 15th (IFo). Bamburgh had five on 15th (BRS), and Druridge Links had a maximum of four on 6th (IDR). Three to four birds were at the mound (Newbiggin) on 29th (GB), and there were three at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 11th (GB) and at Holy Island on 21st (PRM). Reports of two birds came from eight other locations, with singles at a further four.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Holy Island had the highest count of the month, with 43 at different locations on 19th (MJC). There was a maximum of 13 at Druridge Links on 30th (IDR/JF). Seven were ringed at Hauxley during the month (HRS). Lynemouth Bay had four on 8th (IDR/JF), and Warkworth Lane (Ellington) had four on 24th (IDR/JF). There were three at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on

24th (MJCo), and three at Old Helsay (Warkworth) on 27th (IDR *et al.*). Smaller numbers were reported at a further five locations.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

There were four at Blagdon on 16th (PCF), three at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 24th (MJCo), and two at Gosforth's Woodlea Allotments (Newcastle) on 13th (PRM).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Two were at Hauxley on 9th and 16th (HRS), and two were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 10th (IDR/JF). Singles were recorded at Big Waters NWT, Benton (Newcastle), Yearle, Woodlea Allotments in Gosforth (Newcastle), Rothbury and Newbiggin.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

The largest flocks were at Druridge Links, with 2,500 N towards East Chevington and 1,400 in the front field at Druridge Farm on 31st (IDR/JF). Kiln Pit Hill had 1,200 in stubble on 28th (IFo), and Newbiggin had 700 on 6th (PRM). There were 450 at Old Hartley on 29th (MNC), and 400 at St Mary's on 6th (IF). Holy Island had 380 on 31st (PRM), and Haredene (Longhorsley) had 350 on 26th (AB/LB). There were 250 in fields near the reserve at Hauxley on 2nd (HRS) and 80 at Caistron on 24th (JR).



Starling
(confused by plastic crab apples?)

Newbiggin

8/10/21

Tim Dean

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

There were two on Holy Island on 19th (BCh) and a female on the Straight Lonnen on 31st (ASJ). Low Newton had one on 17th (AMG/MG), and the Ash Lagoon Bank (Newbiggin) had one on 19th (NFO).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

A count of 1,098 birds on passage SW was made from dawn to dusk at Holy Island on 18th (BCh/ADM *et al.*). A further 534 new arrivals were noted there on 29th (ADM). At Druridge Links, the maximum monthly count was 29 on 30th (IDR/JF), and at Hauxley 25 were noted on 2nd and 24 on 30th (HRS). Embleton Quarry had 15 on 26th (IDR *et al.*), and seven darker-billed immature birds were at Howick Hall on 8th (HwRS). There were six at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 10th (IDR/JF). Smaller numbers were reported from a further eight locations.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

There were 48 SW between dawn and dusk at Holy Island on 18th (BCh/ADM *et al.*), and 26 flew SW off the Heugh there on 23rd (ASJ). Hagg Farm (Ellington) had eight on 23rd (TB). There were six at High Letham (Berwick) on 18th (NNBC), and five came in off the sea at Beadnell on 20th (MJC). There were four at Blindburn (Upper Coquetdale) on 24th (JR). Singles were at Budle Bay on 13th (CGK), the Ash Lagoon Bank (Newbiggin) on 19th (NFO), and Spital (Newbiggin) on 29th (GB).

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Heavy passage was observed at Holy Island on 18th, with 14,341 SW between dawn and dusk (BCh/ADM *et al.*). A flock of 1,000 new arrivals had already been noted on 12th (BCh), and another flock of 1,000 arrived on 23rd (BCh). A new flock of 1,883 came in off the sea on 29th (ADM). An odd-plumaged bird with an all-white rump was at The Snook on 21st (BCh/ADM/SR). At Derwent Reservoir, there were three flocks totalling 700 on 19th (IFo). There were 350 at Budle Bay on 18th (CGK/GPK). A flock of 200 arrived at St Mary's on 12th, and one was taken by a sparrowhawk (ASJ). At Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor), 140 flew W/SW on 12th and 130 flew W/SW on 13th (GB). Druridge Links had 136 on 18th (IDR), Airy Holm Reservoir (near Shotleyfield) had 100 on 14th (IFo), and Sleafy Hall had 100 on 19th (RMH). Smaller flocks were recorded at eleven other locations, and numbers of ten to one were reported from a further 15.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Passage at Holy Island included 76 SW between dawn and dusk on 18th (BCh/ADM *et al.*). There were eight at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 20th (GB), two at Druridge Links on 6th (IDR), two at Hauxley on 9th (HRS), and one at the Coquet Estuary on 14th (IDR *et al.*).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

The highest count came from Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield), with a flock of 26 on 5th (IFo). There were 15 at Kielder Forest Drive on 5th (TRD/JD), 12 at Howick on 18th (JAR), eight at Akeld on 31st (JR), and seven at Weetwood Bridge (Wooler) on 31st (JR). East Cramlington Pond NWT had five on 2nd (LJM), and Druridge Pools and Links had three on 15th (IDR *et al.*). There were singles at Hauxley, Milkwell (Corbridge), Preston Village (North Shields), and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

There was one at Tynemouth Pier on 5th (JBu), and one in the Straight Lonnen willows at Holy Island on 19th (MJC).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

There were 40 on Holy Island on 30th (PRM) and 22 on 31st (PRM). Hauxley had 20 on 30th, and ringed two on 16th (HRS). Druridge Links had a maximum of nine on 6th (IDR), Lynemouth Bay had six on 8th (IDR/JF), and Newbiggin GC had five on 7th (IDR/JF). Smaller numbers were recorded at seven other locations.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

One was at the Lough (Holy Island) on 6th (BCh/AH/ADM/SR).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

One was at Tynemouth Pier on 5th (JBu) and one was at The Snook (Holy Island) on 7th (BS).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

One was in the Village (Holy Island) on 29th (PRM, ADM), and one was at the Priory on 30th (PRM). There was one on the front at Hauxley on 30th (HRS) and one at Low Hauxley on 31st (CSa).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

One was at St Mary's Wetland on 4th (MSH).

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Holy Island had the highest number, with 14 (including five juveniles) on 17th (MJC/ADM). Newbiggin had eight on 8th (TRD) and Low Newton had eight on 22nd (MJC). There were seven at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 15th (NFO) and at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 20th (MJC). Newton, Druridge Links and Prestwick Carr had four on 6th (TRD/JD), 6th (IDR), and 21st (MH) respectively. There were three at East Chevington on 15th (IDR *et al.*) and at South Beach (Blyth) on 26th (LJM). Most of the records this month came from coastal locations, but Derwent Reservoir had a pair on 7th (IFo) and singles were at Carshope (Upper Coquetdale) on 24th (JR) and Simonside on 25th (PRM).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

St Mary's had nine on 2nd (ASJ), including three males feeding in the ploughed field. There were three juveniles on the field on 22nd (ASJ). At Holy Island, two were seen between the Castle and the harbour on 2nd (KG/MIT/APM *et al.*). Singles were reported in the first week of the month from Lindisfarne NNR, Buston Links (Alnmouth), Boulmer, Newbiggin, and Howick Haven. A juvenile was at East Chevington on 15th (MH) and a late bird was at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 30th (AP).



Wheatear,
Holy Island
4/10/21
Tim Dean

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Three were seen together on 8th at Berwick Hill Bridge (AHB). Two were seen at Milkwell (Corbridge) on 1st and at Warden on 9th. Single birds noted at a further seven sites this month.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

57 were counted at Slaley Village on 22nd (RMH). 50 seen at Preston Village (North Shields) on 30th (ASJ). 25 were at Low Newton on 26th (IDR). Two to 15 were at three other sites.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Southward passage involved 50 at St. Mary's on 7th and 30 on 8th (ASJ). 50 were seen in gardens at Hauxley on 9th and 30th (HRS). 48 were at Chugdon Wood on 4th and 45 there on 9th (TB). Numbers at feeders at Slaley Hall during the month peaked at 20 on 8th (RMH). One to 15 were at 14 further sites during the month.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

17 were noted (two ringed) at Hauxley on 30th with seven there on 9th (HRS). Elsewhere, one to four were seen at ten sites.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

There were two reports of late birds from Holy Island this month, with one along Straight Lonnen on 3rd and a juvenile in the village the following day (ADM/KG *et al.*).



Yellow Wagtail,

Holy Island

4/10/21

Tim Dean

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Six, including a group of five, flew S at Spittal Point (Berwick) on 17th (MSH). Three were seen at St. Mary's on 6th and at Jesmond Dene on 24th (IF/MJCo). Two were seen at two sites and singles at a further 19 this month.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

40 was an excellent count at Felton on 13th (NFO). A roost of 30 was noted all month at Newcastle Airport (IF). One to six were at a further eight sites.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Passage continued this month, with 81 counted flying S on 4th (IDR). 30 were at St. Mary's on 6th and 21 there on 12th (IF/ASJ). 26 were watched flying E at Snook (Holy Island) on 9th (MJC/ADM) and 16 were noted on the beach at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS). 15+ were at Fenham Mill on 1st and 15 at Warkworth Lane on 8th (MSH/TB). One to ten were at ten further sites during the month.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One late bird was seen at Holy Island on 6th (BCH).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

55 were counted across Holy Island on 24th and 24 in Sandham Bay area on 17th (ADM/MJC). 15 were counted at Annstead Beach on 16th and ten were at Cullercoats, including one in a garden, on 7th (CGK/ASJ). Eight were seen at Newbiggin on 6th (PRM). One to five were also at 15 sites this month.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Six arrived at Budle Bay on 11th (CGK).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

50 were counted at Crooked Oak on 25th (IFo). 16 were at the base of Tynemouth Pier on 10th (CB). 14 were seen at Blindburn on 24th (JR). One to ten were at six sites.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Immigration of large numbers was noted at Holy Island on 18th, with 1,099 counted during the day (BCh/ADM). Five to 120 were also seen on the island on many dates throughout the month. Elsewhere, 20 to 25 were at St. Mary's on 18th (ASJ/AC), ten were at Warkworth Beach on same day (CSa). One to six were also seen at 26 widespread locations.



Brambling

Holy Island

19/10/21

Graham Sorrie

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Ten were watched at Warkworth Lane on 24th (IDR/JF). Six were seen at four sites this month, at East Sleekburn, Howick, Prestwick Carr and Beaconhill (Cramlington). One to four were noted at a further 17 sites.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

38 gathered at Snab Point on 15th, with 25 there on 23rd (IDR/JF). 20 were at St Mary's on 6th (IF) and 15 in Hauxley Village on 30th. Two to six were present at seven other sites.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

34 were in stubble at Ord Moor (Berwick) on 4th (MHu). 29 were at The Snook (Holy Island) on 20th, with 25 there on 21st and 16 on 17th (PRM/ADM). 11 were at Warkworth on 27th (IDR). On 15th, eight were seen at Goswick and five at St. Mary's Island on 19th and at Ross Back Sands on 24th (MJC/ASJ). Single birds were also seen at five sites during the month.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

There were some good counts this month, with 500 plus at Waren Mill on 4th (CGK). 250 fed in a crop field at St. Mary's on 13th and at Crooked Oak on 25th (ASJ/NFo). Large flocks of 220 were also at Druridge Links on 17th and at East Chevington on 26th (IDR/JF/TRD/JD). 180 were noted at Boulmer on 19th and 22nd (JAR/BS). 150 were counted at Whitley Bay, Red House Farm on 16th, and in fields at Stag Rocks on 23rd (ASJ). 130 were seen at Howick on 12th and 120+ at Cresswell on 4th (JAR/MSH). 60-120 were also noted on several dates in the Druridge area. 60 to 87 birds were observed at six sites this month and one to 59 at a further 11 locations.

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis caberet*

40+ were seen at Grindon Lough on 13th (PRM). One to six birds were seen at seven sites, including coastal passage being noted with five flying S at St. Mary's on 13th, six birds at Hauxley on 30th and four at Holy Island on 9th and three flying S there on 18th (ASJ/HRS/ADM *et al.*).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

19 were noted at Corbridge Common on 31st (DLe). One to two were seen at four further sites, including the only passage bird of the month, with a single female type flying S at Holywell Pond on 25th (ASJ).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

A regular flock at Druridge peaked at 80 on 7th (IDR). 50 were at Hauxley on 2nd and at St. Mary's on several dates (HRS/IF/ASJ). 40 to 45 were at Derwent Reservoir and Low Steads and 20 to 30 at five other sites. One to 18 were seen at 18 localities.

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

70 at Derwent Reservoir on 21st was the month's peak count (IFo). Coastal passage was noted at East Chevington where 69 flew SW on 27th. 66 were doing likewise at Tynemouth on 25th (PRM/DRW). 50 headed W at Budle Bay on 31st (CGK/GPK). 50 were also at Warkworth and 40 S at Cresswell on 27th (IDR/TF/JFa). On 22nd, 38 flew N at Budle Bay and 30 S at Spital (Newbiggin) on 29th (PRM/GB). One to 26 were also seen at 11 other sites.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Two were at Beal Point on 22nd (PRM).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

A small flock frequenting the burn mouth at East Chevington from 26th, peaked at ten birds on 28th (TRD/JD/MN). Two at Blyth Bandstand on 20th, increased to nine birds by end of the month (ASJ/LJM/NFO). Four were seen at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 23rd and three flew over Boulmer on 22nd (ASJ/TRD). Singles were seen at three other coastal sites.



Snow Bunting

Blyth

October '21

Alan Jack

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*

Around 40 were watched at Fenham Le Moor on 12th (MH/AA). 15 were seen at Maiden's Hall on 27th (PRM) and 12 noted at Ord Moor on 22nd (MHu). One to six were also seen at a further 12 sites during the month.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

One was found at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 6th by visiting birders.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

11 were noted at St. Mary's on 22nd and at Holy Island on 30th (ASJ/PRM). Eight were at Cocklawburn and Druridge on 6th and 17th respectively, with lesser numbers seen at the latter on other dates (MHu/IDR/JF). Four were well inland at Plenmeller on 3rd (PRM). One to six+ were seen at another nine sites this month.

ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**Escapes**

No sightings.

Hybrids**Canada Goose x Greylag Goose** *Branta canadensis* x *Anser anser*

Singles found at Druridge Pools on 1st (TRD/JD) and at Bothal Pond on 11th (TF).

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings.

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Apologies for any accidental omissions

BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Grouse to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Doves to Grebes), Clive Hampton (Oystercatcher to Redshank), Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Auks), Trevor Blake (Divers to Buzzards), Peter Fletcher (Barn Owl to Larks), Clive Hampton, Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings), Graham Sorrie (bulletin compilation), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Apologies for any accidental omissions

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RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to ntbc.records@googlemail.com

Please email for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: Please use of standard location names and include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources & Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com and Graham Sorrie at sorriega@hotmail.co.uk

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. Subs are due on 1st October each year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website.

If you internet bank you can pay online: please include your name in the ref. It is helpful if you email me to let me know when you've made the transfer ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

If you decide to set up a standing order please date the first payment at least a fortnight from your posting date to allow time to process with the bank. You can also set up your standing order directly with your bank if you wish; just let me know. Our bank details are on the membership form.

For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

Finally, if you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome.

Jo Bentley - Hon Treasurer

It's that time of year again!!

Annual subs were due on October 1st - many thanks to all those who have already paid - it does save loads of time chasing up late payments when subs come in on time.

Subs remain at £30.00 (£32 for family membership; £10 for junior members) You can pay online - Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club; Sort Code: 30-93-55 Account No: 02027960 or send a cheque to - Jo Bentley, 80 Western Avenue, Prudhoe. Northumberland. NE42 6PA. All details are on the membership form on the website.

You can also set up a Standing order using the SO section on the membership form or direct with your bank. (You'll need to allow a couple of weeks for processing if you post the form to the treasurer.)

If you have any queries please drop me an email at NTBC@jobentley.plus.com or have a chat at one of the indoor meetings.

Best regards.

Jo Bentley – Treasurer.

NTBC WEB SITE

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds.

There are:

Photo Galleries – Here you can view hundreds of photos of birds from Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Members are encouraged to contribute their own photos. Simply send them to galleries@ntbc.org.uk

There are also County Checklists, Records Committee updates, Information on important Surveys, useful articles and reports on Bird ID and Overseas Birding Trips....and much more...

Please submit any other new content for the website to the main club email address at ntbcorg@gmail.com

New content such as Birding Trip Reports etc., is always welcome and very much appreciated.

To find out more please visit www.ntbc.org.uk

Obituaries

Stuart S Moffitt RIP

Stuart S Moffitt aged 73 died peacefully on the 8th October in hospital after a serious fall. He had been a member of the Tyneside Bird Club and Natural History Society since the early 1960s and was a close friend of many of the older members of these groups. A service to celebrate his life will be held in March 2022 on Holy Island where he was well known.

Michael Coates

Rodney (Rod) Key RIP

One of the club's founder members Rodney (Rod) Key has died at the age of 79. Rod lived in South Shields and did most of his birding south of the Tyne at various sites including Marsden, Bolden Flats and Jarrow Slake. In addition, in the mid-1950s he always made sure that he spent the first week of September on Holy Island. His sightings appeared in the very first Bulletin way back in 1958 and he continued to contribute records every month until he left the North East and moved to Derby. He became Chairman and Secretary of the Derbyshire Ornithological Society's Rarities Committee in 1980 and continued in that role until his death. Rod is survived by his wife Margaret and a son and daughter.

David H Howey

Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

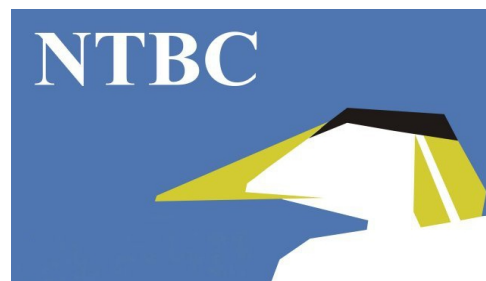
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MONTHLY SUMMARY

NOVEMBER

3rd January 2022

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Birds of Northumbria 2020 will be issued at our next indoor meeting on 13th January 2022 at Gosforth Northern.

It would be great if you can come along to collect your copy but if you can't make the meeting, it would be a great help if you can ask a friend to get your copy for you.

CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Todd's Canada Goose	One still being seen at Budle Bay through to 20th.
Bean Goose sp	Three were seen flying NW over Hauxley on 6th.
White-fronted Goose	One was seen near Branton.
Shoveler	New site record at Budle Bay of 117 on 7th and 20th.
Pochard	Continued evidence of decline with 9 at Holywell Pond the maximum seen.
Coot	High count of 247 at East Chevington on 4th.
Little Grebe	High count of 38 at East Chevington on 2nd.
Red-necked Grebe	Several seawatch sightings and a long-stayer at Widdrington Moor Lake from 8th.
Wilson's Phalarope	Excellent find 'spinning' at Newstead Flash from 1st to 7th. First since 2008.
Grey Phalarope	Influx with maximum of 4 together at Bamburgh on 2nd. Largest group since 2011.
Spotted Redshank	Only record was one at Budle Bay on 9th.
Bonaparte's Gull	Returning adult at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh from 1st to 16th.
Little Gull	Large numbers still being seen with max of 100 at Stag Rocks early in month.
Glaucous Gull	Several juveniles seen on sea watches late in month.
Iceland Gull	Sightings at five sites.
Little Auk	Small numbers seen offshore with peak of 26 north on 28th at Newbiggin.
Brunnich's Guillemot	Singles passed several points on 28th and 29th. First records since 1977.
Black Guillemot	Obliging individual at Stag Rocks from 2nd-15th plus one N at Newbiggin on 21st.
White-billed Diver	Singles on 6th at Hauxley and at Cullercoats on 28th.
Leach's Petrel	One past Seaton Sluice on 27th.
Great Shearwater	One lingered off Bamburgh from 1st to 13th. Exceptional record.
Great Egret	Singles at Castron on 3rd and Birling Carrs on 16th.
Rough-legged Buzzard	Juvenile at Grasslees near Hepple on 21st.
Sand Martin	One on 19th at Annstead is latest ever. First county November record since 2000.
Melodious Warbler	Second county record with one photographed at Amble on 23rd.
Siberian Chiffchaff	One at Stag Rocks on 4th.
Water Pipit	Single at St Mary's from 13th.
Hawfinch	Up to five seen at Abbey Mill, Morpeth during month.
Siskin	Large passage noted over Budle Pt with peak of 950 on 7th.
Snow Bunting	Widespread with peak of 34 on Holy Island on 11th.
Lapland Bunting	One or two on Holy Island mid-month.

INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm. The next meeting is 13th January.

FIELD TRIPS

On hold for the next few months. Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Seven were at Harwood Shield (near Whitley Chapel) on 25th (AJ/AJN) and one at Quarry House Moor.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

About 50 were at Quarry House Moor on 24th (JR/NA), 29 were at Druridge Lane on 8th (TB), 15 at Bilton Banks on 9th (MKi), five to seven at Bellshiel Law (Otterburn Training Area) and Widdrington Village, and two at Lucker.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

A total of 34 was noted in the St Mary's-Hartley area on 22nd (ASJ), 15 were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 8th (CB *et al.*), six to eight at Boulmer, Dinnington, Ellington, Longhoughton, Pegswood and Spital (Newbiggin), and one to four at Druridge Bay CP, Easington, South Law (Lindisfarne NNR) and Tughall.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Up to 27 were noted at Druridge Pools-Links (IDR/JF) and 20 at Chugdon Wood, Ellington (IDR/JF), while seven to ten were at Lynemouth Bay, Quarry House Moor and Seaton Point (Boulmer).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

A count of 234 pale-bellied *hrota* race birds at Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR) on 13th included 36 juveniles (=15.4%) (DF), while a peak of 98 birds was noted at Budle Bay on 20th (DF). Active passage involved a monthly total of 81 N at Seaton Sluice, including 31 N on both 21st and 28th (SSWT), 18-36 N at Cullercoats (CB), Hauxley (CSa), St Mary's Island (JBU/AC) and Tynemouth (DRW) on 28th, 14 S and one N at Tynemouth on 27th (DRW), and one to five N at Newbiggin and Snab Point. Three were at Amble dunes on 27th (CSa).

Reports of dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds involved three N at Seaton Sluice on 27th (SSWT), and three N at Cullercoats (CB) and Newbiggin (GB) on 28th.

Un-raced birds included 100 at Budle Bay most of the month (CGK/GPK), 20 N at Newbiggin on 27th (TF) and 12 at Snab Point on 4th (IDR).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Peak concentrations were 792 at Grindon Lough on 26th (PRM), 376 at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo), 138 at Big Waters on 7th (GB), 96 at Killingworth Lake on 8th (LJM), 95 at Bothal Pond on 20th (TF), and 25-45 at Cresswell Pond and Leazes Park, Newcastle. Two were at Hauxley Reserve.

An individual of the *interior* race (popularly known as 'Todd's Canada Goose') was with Barnacle Geese at Budle Bay between 1st-20th (CGK/GPK *et al.*).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

16 flew S at Beal on 6th (DF), a total of 14 flew N at Seaton Sluice on 27th-28th (SSWT), two N at Airy Holm Reservoir on 14th (IFo), and singles N at Newbiggin and Tynemouth on 28th. Ten were recorded as 'nocmig' over Hexham on 1st. Variable numbers in the Budle Bay-Harper's Heugh area included peaks of about 2,500 on 11th (TRD) and 2,400 on 8th (DF), while 400-2,170 were noted on various other dates between 2nd-23rd. Elsewhere, 80 fed with Brent Geese at Fenham Mill on 13th (DF), and one to four were at Amble dunes, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Glororum, Hauxley and Howdon.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

A peak of 1,000 was at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (IFo), 152 were at Hauxley on 13th (HRS), 135 at Budle Bay on 20th (DF), and 56-72 at Bothal (TD), Old Hartley (MNC), St Mary's Wetland (MSH) and Yarrow Slake (MHu). One to three were also at Grindon Lough and Hallington Reservoir.

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*/**Tundra Bean Goose** *Anser serrirostris*

Three NW over High Hauxley on 6th were not identified to species level (HRS).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

At Seaton Sluice, three flew N and 1,040 S during the month, including 523 S on 3rd (SSWT). Other southerly movements included 1,200-1,500 over Holywell Pond on 4th (DBo/DWN/RMH), 1,000 at Longhoughton Steel on 2nd (MKI), 450 at East Ord on 22nd (MHu), and 120-220 at Blyth Harbour, East Chevington, North Seaton, Stag Rocks and Tynemouth on several dates, while 100 flew SW at Morpeth, and 102-130 N at North Shields and Stag Rocks. Several large concentrations were noted but some overlap (e.g. in the Druridge Bay area) is possible. Peak site counts involved 3,500 at Druridge Pools on 18th (IDR), 3,500 at Bell's Farm (near Cresswell) on 20th (TF), 3,250 at Ellington on 20th (TB), 3,000 in the Hauxley area on 11th (RPo), 2,500+ at East Holywell on 7th (MNC), about 2,000 at Budle Bay on 22nd (DF), 1,335 at East Chevington on 13th (IRD), 1,200+ at Gloucester Lodge, Blyth on 20th (these were considered part of the Holywell-East Holywell area flock as none could be found there immediately after; MSH), and about 1,000 at Backworth on 20th (ASJ). Counts of 250-560 came from Buston Barns (Alnmouth), Glororum, Holywell Pond and Widdrington Moor Lake, and 98-143 at Airy Holm Reservoir, Boulmer, Cresswell Pond and St Mary's Island. Smaller numbers were noted at/over several further sites during the month. Counts of ten to 30 at Hexham on 20th and 22nd-23rd were recorded as 'nocmig', and two+ were heard over Wark (North Tyne) during darkness on 2nd and 17th (PRM).

White-fronted Goose *Anser flavirostris*

A single bird of the Eurasian *albifrons* race was near Branton (no date given; IBDa/KDa).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

58 were at Hartburn Reservoir on 4th (MNC), 50 at QEII CP on 7th (CDH), 32 at Big Waters on 7th (GB) and 30 at Killingworth Lake (LJM). Three to seven were also at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools (where one found dead), Hauxley and Paddy Freeman's Lake.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total was 84 S, with most between 3rd-5th including 62 S on 3rd (SSWT). A total of 104 (in four flocks) flew S at Newbiggin on 3rd-4th (AP/AT), 28 S at Snab Point on 3rd and 25 S there on 4th (IDR), 18 S at Sleek Burn on 11th (TB), ten S at Arcot Hall on 1st (STH), and ten S at Tynemouth on 3rd (CB). Two to eight also flew S at Cambois, Druridge Links and Ellington, and three N at Arcot Pond, on scattered dates. A count of 54 near the Long Nanny Estuary on 2nd contained only one juvenile (IF), 28 were at Buston Barns (Alnmouth) on 6th and at nearby Northfield Farm on 25th (RPo), 25 were at Snab Point on 4th (IDR), 23 (five juveniles) at East Chevington on 2nd (MH), and 12 (four juveniles) at Hauxley Reserve on 6th (HRS/MN). Five to seven (one to three juveniles per family) were also at Branton GP, Budle Bay, Grindon Lough, QEII CP and West Ord, and one to four at Beal, Big Waters, Caistron, Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, Druridge Pools, Ellington and Fenham Flats. At Hexham, 25 were recorded as 'nocmig' on 21st.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total was 38 N, including 25 N on 27th-28th (SSWT) when totals of 21 flew N at Newbiggin (GB/TF), 20 N at Tynemouth (DRW), and seven N at Snab Point (IDR/JF). An estimated 700 were at Budle Bay on 2nd (TRD/JD), while 496 were counted there on 5th (DF). The only other reports were of one to two at the Blyth Estuary (LJM).

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

The sole report was of a female/juvenile at Bothal Pond on 2nd (AT).

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

One flew N with nine Mallards at Newbiggin on 28th (GB/TF). Good numbers at Budle Bay most of the month included peaks of 117 on 7th (CGK/GPK) and 20th (DF). Peak counts elsewhere were 18 at Druridge Pools on 18th (IDR), 16 at Hauxley Reserve on 6th (HRS), 15+ at Widdrington Moor Lake on 23rd (MSH), 11-14 at Big Waters (GB) and Bothal Pond (AT), and seven to nine at Marden Quarry and West Allotment Pond (KWY). Three were also at East Chevington, and one to two at Cresswell Pond and Warkworth (flooded field).

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Five flew N and then S at Newbiggin on 14th (GB), two moved N at Tynemouth on 28th (DRW), and one N at Seaton Sluice on 27th (SSWT). The largest concentrations concerned 64 at Big Waters on 7th (GB), 57 at Bothal Pond on 2nd (AT), 50 at East Chevington on 20th (TF), 48 at Linton Ponds on 7th (CDH), 32-34 at Duke's Pond (Wallsend)(ASJ) and QEII CP (CDH), and 15-18 at Howdon, Marden Quarry and West Allotment Pond. A count of 13 at a golf course pond at Linden Hall on 24th was the highest count there in 18 years (NFO). Nine were at the Blyth Estuary and Killingworth Lake, three to four at Caistron, East Chevington and Hauxley Reserve, and one to two at Cresswell and Ellington Ponds, and Monks' House Pool.

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

A total of 270 flew N and six S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and five to eight N at Cullercoats and Newbiggin on 4th and 28th. An estimated 4,100 were at Fenham Flats on 1st (DF), while 1,000 were in Budle Bay on 6th (CGK/GPK). Peak site counts elsewhere were 400 at Cresswell Pond on 18th (MSH), 360 at Grindon Lough on 18th (AJR), 270-280 at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and Warkworth (RPo), 120-157 at Bothal Pond (TD) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (PMHa/RMHa), and 50-93 at Druridge Pools, Hauxley Reserve and Linton Ponds. Counts of 12-35 also came from New Water Haugh and Newstead Flash. Two noted at Hexham on 4th were recorded as 'nocmig', and a drake at Horton Burn, Cramlington on 1st was unusual for the site (a 'first' for the observer; LJM).



Wigeon

Amble Braid

4/11/21

Tim Dean

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

A total of 53 flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), while totals of 20 flew S at Hauxley on 6th and 13th (HRS), 18 N at Annstead Point on 23rd (DF), and 12 N and six S at Newbiggin on 21st and 28th (GB). The only three-figure count received was of 144 at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (IFo). Other peaks were 82 at Merryshields GP on 11th (IFo), 72-74 at Boulmer (AB/LB), Castron (JD) and the Tweed Estuary (MHu), 50-67 at Bothal Pond (AT), Hauxley Reserve (HRS), Holywell Pond (MSH) and Killingworth Lake (LJM), and 20-43 at Druridge Pools, Linton and West Allotment Ponds, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Exhibition Park, Wark (N.Tyne) and West Ord. Ten to 16 were also at Chirton Dene Park, Cocklawburn Pond, Hallington Reservoir, Monks' House Pool and Warkworth.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

A total of 11 flew N at Newbiggin in four hours on 27th (TF), and 11 were on flooded fields at Warkworth on 28th (CSa). Four were at Budle Bay on 18th and 20th (DF/NFO), and one to two at Big Waters (GB), East Chevington (SRB/AJ) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (PMHa/RMHa). An unusual record involved a drake at Newcastle Exhibition Park on 15th (GB).

Teal *Anas crecca*

54 flew N and nine S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and a total of nine moved N at Cullercoats on 4th and 28th (CB *et al.*). Peak concentrations were 680 at Grindon Lough on 1st (AJR), 527 at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (IFo), 386 at Budle Bay on 20th (DF), 112-115 at Arcot and Bothal Ponds (TD/LJM), and Druridge Pools (IDR/JF), and 52-85 at Black Lough, Castron, Linton Ponds and Warkworth. Counts of 17-43 also came from Ellington and Holywell Ponds, Hallington Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve, Monks' House Pool, St Mary's Island and West Ord.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Few reports included peaks of nine at Holywell Pond on 22nd (MSH), six at Bothal Pond on 7th (TD), three at East Chevington on 4th (TRD), and two at Killingworth Lake (MSH) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (PMHa/RMHa).



Pochard

Holywell

7/11/21

Colin Bradshaw

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Four moved N and two S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Peak gatherings were 75 at East Chevington on 23rd (TRD/JD), 45 at Killingworth Lake on 17th (MSH), 30 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 23rd (MSH), 20-29 at Linton Ponds (CDH), Merryshields GP (IFo) and QEII CP Lake (CDH), and 13-19 at Druridge Pools, Newcastle Exhibition Park and Tynemouth boating lake. One to seven were at seven further scattered sites.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Singles flew N at Seaton Sluice on 3rd and 5th (SSWT). Singles were also at Holywell Pond on 7th and 9th (CB/MSH) and Castle Island on 11th (AT).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

A total of 149 flew N and 33 S at Seaton Sluice in the month (SSWT), while 29 flew N at Annstead Point on 23rd (DF) and four N at Snab Point. Peak concentrations involved 282 off Ross Back Sands on 15th (MJC), 100+ at Stag Rocks on 2nd (MN), 95 at Blyth Harbour on 17th (STH), 32-39 off Annstead (DF) and Meadow Haven, Berwick (MHu), and 14-26 at Cocklawburn and Seahouses Harbour. Five to nine were also at Alnmouth Bay, Longhoughton, Snab Point and the Tweed Estuary.



Eider

Seahouses

November 21st

Jack Bucknall

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

The vast majority of reports were of birds moving offshore. Monthly totals involved 11 N at Newbiggin (GB/TD/TF/AT), six N and two S at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), five N at Cullercoats-Tynemouth (CGK/CB/DRW), two N and five S at Hauxley (CSa), and two to three N at Annstead Point (DF), St Mary's Island (JBU/AC/MSH) and Stag Rocks (TD/CGK/GPK). Two were off East Chevington on 7th (JD/TRD) and one off Cheswick on 5th (TRD).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

At Seaton Sluice, 766 flew N and 51 S during the month (SSWT), while 109 flew N and 15 S at Annstead (DF), and ten to 57 N at Cullercoats, Cullernose Point, Hauxley, Newbiggin, Snab Point and St Mary's Island. Peak concentrations were 420 at Cocklawburn on 18th (MHu) with 170 at nearby Cheswick on 16th (DF), 236 at Spittal Bay, Berwick on 29th (MHu), 200 off Druridge on 23rd (TRD/JD), about 140 at Cambois-North Blyth on 23rd (LJM), and 40-70 at Blyth Bay, Cullercoats, Ross Back Sands, Sandy Bay (Newbiggin), Stag Rocks and one to ten were also at Alnmouth, Longhoughton, Snab Point and Spittal Bay. Nine were in the Tyne Estuary on 27th, following the strong winds of 'Storm Arwen' (DRW). Two drakes displayed to four ducks at Stag Rocks on 16th (MKi). Ten were recorded inland as 'nocmig' over Hexham on 22nd.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Apart from one N at Newbiggin on 14th (GB), most passage occurred between 27th-29th, when eight flew N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), four N at Newbiggin (GB/TF), and singles N at Annstead Point (DF), St Mary's Island (JBU/AC) and Tynemouth (DRW), while one flew S at Cullercoats on 28th (CB). The only large concentration involved 44 off Ross Back Sands on 15th (MJC). Other peak counts were six at Budle Point on 6th (CGK/GPK) when five were at nearby Stag Rocks (TF). Singles were at off Brierdene on 26th and 29th-30th (AC/MSH) and at Ladyburn Lake on 10th and 25th (CSa).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

A total of 70 flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Apart from two N at Annstead Point on 4th (DF) and three N at St Mary's Island on 21st (AC/MSH), all other passage was on 27th-28th, when 11-15 flew N at Newbiggin (TF), St Mary's Island (JBU/AC) and Tynemouth (DRW), and three N at Cullercoats (CB). Numbers at East Chevington north pool peaked at 61 on 12th (NFO), 35 were at Fenham Flats on 9th (RA), 22 at New Water Haugh on 28th (MHu), 12-14 at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and off Holy Island 'excavations' (ADM), and five to seven at Blyth Harbour, Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond, Hauxley Reserve, Killingworth Lake, Newburn, St Mary's Island, the Tweed Estuary and West Ord. Three to four were also at Big Waters, Castron, Derwent Reservoir, Holywell Pond and QEII CP Lake, while one to two were at 12 further widespread sites.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Six flew N and ten S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), two S at Newbiggin on 14th (TF), and one E at Ross Back Sands on 15th (MJC). A peak of 24 was noted at Branton GP on 26th (JD), five were at West Allotment Pond on 22nd (MSH), and three to four at Derwent Reservoir (IFo), Newcastle Exhibition Park (GB), QEII CP Lake (TB), Upper Coquetdale (TRD/JD), Wark on Tyne (PRM) and West Ord (MHu). One to two were also at Airy Holm Reservoir, Alnmouth, Castron, Corbridge, Felton, Jesmond Dene, Killingworth Lake, Marden Quarry, Merryshields GP, Ouseburn Park and Thrum Mill (Rothbury).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total was 13 N (SSWT) and one flew N at Cullercoats. Peak counts were 12 at the Blyth Estuary on 8th (LJM), ten off Druridge on 23rd (TRD/JD), ten off Ross Back Sands on 15th (MJC), six to eight at Budle Bay (DF) and Holy Island (ADM), and three to four at Druridge Pools (IDR/JF), Stag Rocks (TRD) and Tynemouth (DRW). Singles were also at East Chevington and Hauxley Reserve.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

280 were on Kingston Park Gym Roof on 4th (AHB), 220 at Crooked Oak on 5th (IFo), "present" in Jesmond Dene on 28th (MJCo) and a single bird was at Lynemouth Bay on 1st.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

28 were in a field opposite Woodhorn Church on 20th (AP), ten were at both Crooked Oak on 1st (IFo) and Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 3rd (MSH) whilst eight were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 9th (NFO). One to three were at Big Waters, Brandling Park (Jesmond), Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and Shoe Tree (Jesmond Dene).

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

A flock of 1,000 was at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (IFo) and an estimated 500 were in fields near Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 8th and 16th (CB/MKi/IF). 45 were at Ellington Pond on 23rd (IDR/JF) and 45 headed S over Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 8th (GB). Two to 16 were at many other localities, with a juvenile at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) evidence of late breeding.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

19 were at Callerton on 9th (MH), 12 at Dinnington on 2nd (PCF), Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) peaked at 16 coming to food all month (RS), 12 in a garden at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 19th was the most there for several years (STH), ten were at Spital (Newbiggin) on 14th (GB), nine at Boulmer on 22nd (AMG/MG) and seven were on overhead wires at Berwick Hill on 17th (AHB).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Two were at Holy Island Lough on 15th (ADM) and two were heard at East Chevington on 23rd (TRD/JD). Singles were at Arcot Pond and various dates at East Chevington. One was reported on nocturnal migration over Hexham on 23rd (JL).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

The peak count came from Hauxley with 39 on the reserve on 13th (HRS), 30 were estimated to be at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 15th (GB) and 21 were feeding loosely together at QE11 CP on 23rd (MSH), up from 13 on 7th (CDH). 11 were at Killingworth Lake and two to seven were at several other sites. One was reported on nocturnal migration over Hexham on 15th (JL).

Coot *Fulica atra*

Numbers at East Chevington remained impressive with a peak of 247 on 4th, all on North Pool (TRD). Other peak counts, all carried out on 7th, were 80 at Linton Ponds on (CDH), 66 at Big Waters NWT (GB), 35 at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) (TD) and 18 at QE11 CP (CDH).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Varying counts came from East Chevington with a peak of 38 on 2nd (MH), Hauxley peaked at 16 on the reserve on 13th (HRS), eight were at Castron on 3rd (TRD/JD) and six were at Alnmouth estuary on 14th and Warkworth Weir on 23rd. One to five were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond, Budle Bay, Cocklawburn Park, Druridge Pools, Holywell Pond, Killingworth Lake, Linton Ponds, Merryshields GP, Tyne Riverside CP (Blayney Row) and West Allotment Park (Silverlink).

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Singles headed N past Seaton Sluice on 3rd and 27th (SSWT) and a single headed N past Church Point (Newbiggin) on 28th (GB/TF). Last month's arrivals continued to be well-watched with the Stag Rocks individual remaining until 16th (DF/MSH/MN/IF *et al.*) and the Widdrington Moor Lake bird present until month end (CB/NFO/AT *et al.*). One was at Budle Point on 2nd (CGK) whilst one was off St. Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) on 12th (ADM) and, likely the same bird, in the channel between Holy Island and Guile Point on 15th (MJC/ADM).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Passage was observed at Seaton Sluice with two N on 4th (SSWT) and at Cullercoats with a single S on 28th (CB). Nine were on the sea with Scoters in Druridge Bay on 7th (IDR/JF), a total of seven birds at Killingworth Lake on 8th included a family group of five still together with young unsuccessfully food begging (LJM) – reduced to only two birds present there by 17th (MSH) – and six were at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 16th (CSa). One to two birds were at Branton GP, Derwent Reservoir, QE11 CP and Widdrington Moor Lake and on the sea at East Chevington, Hauxley, Seaton Sluice and Spital Bay (Berwick).



Great-crested Grebe

Killingworth

November 21st

Alan Jack

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps Auritus*

Two headed N past Budle Point between 6-10th (CGK/GPK) and a single flew N past St. Mary's on 28th (AC). 14 were at Ross Back Sands on 15th (MJC), three at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 6th and singles were at Druridge Bay, East Chevington North Pool and Widdrington Moor Lake.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

34 flew N at Hauxley on 13th (HRS). Budle Bay retained a significant number of birds from last month with the high count being 111 on 20th (DF), the only other three-figure count being 102 at St Mary's Island on 29th (MSH). Other localities in the south east attracted birds with 77 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 10th (AP), 66 roosting at Cullercoats on 9th (ASJ), 51 at Tynemouth Haven on 30th (MSH) and 49 at the River Blyth Estuary on 16th (LJM). In the Boulmer/Longhoughton area the maximum count was 37 at Howdiemont Sands on 2nd (MKi). There were 31 reported at Hauxley NWT on 13th and 22 at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 14th. Smaller counts were 16 at Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary) on 25th, 15 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 28th with ten a few miles further south at Lynemouth Bay on 1st. One-two were seen at Seahouses and Druridge Links.



Oystercatcher

Stag Rocks

12/11/21

Graham Sorrie

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

An estimated 1,700 were present at Budle Bay on 15th (DF) with the flock at Derwent Reservoir being reported as 750 on 11th (IFo). An accurate count of 483 was made at Grindon Lough on 17th (PRM) and numbers built up at Bothal Pond from 170 on 7th to 350 on 28th (TD). In the north at Cocklawburn, 210 were seen on 2nd declining to 148 on 18th (MHu). Flocks inland were 200 at Dinnington on 16th (PCF), 176 at Dudlees (Otterburn Ranges) on 13th (JR/NA), a minimum of 150 at Holywell Pond on 10th (MN), 147 at Stannington on 19th (SJL) with 96 at Hallington Reservoir on 3rd (PRM) and 88 at Cockle Farm (Morpeth) on 7th (JR). Counts of coastal flocks were approximately 150 at Boulmer on 16th (AB/LB), 136 at Hauxley farm on 11th (RPo), 130 at Monks' House Pool on 13th (IDR/JF) and 50 at both Druridge Pools and Warkworth. One-twenty were reported from Ellington, Hauxley NWT, Hexham, Longhoughton, the River Tweed and Whittingham.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Numbers remained high at Lindisfarne NNR where a minimum of 4,000 were present at Holy Island on 14th (ADM) and an estimate of 500 was made at Budle Bay on 5th (DF). At Amble Braid an estimated 1,800 flew N on 23rd (LJM), with 1,500 seen at St Mary's Island on 30th (ASJ), 850 at Alnmouth on 16th (AB/LB) and 750 were at both Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 10th (STH/IFo) and Monks' House Pool on 14th (IDR/JF). Other reports from the coast were 300+ at Cullercoats on 22nd, 250 at Sugar/Howdiemont Sands (Longhoughton) on 5th and 150 at Warkworth Gut on 6th. Inland flocks seen included 515 at Grindon Lough on 17th (PRM), 337 at Stannington, with Lapwings on 19th (SJL), 283 at Bedlington on 23rd, 250 at Thrunton on 11th (JD) and 144 at Old Moor (Berwick) on 5th (MHu). One to 55 were either seen at or flying over Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Annstead (Seahouses), Bothal Pond, Dudlees (Otterburn ranges), Ellington, Hexham, Mutton Craggs and Hexham.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Only one report was received from Lindisfarne, so overall, low numbers were reported this month. On 27th single birds were observed flying N at Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth (SSWT/DRW) and one flew N at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 30th (GB). The largest group seen was 27 at Buston Links (Alnmouth) on 5th (CSa). Elsewhere, five were seen at Newbiggin from 1st-21st (CB/STH/IFo/GB *et al.*), three at Boulmer on 2nd (MKi) and Annstead (Seahouses) on 9th (DF) two at Budle Bay on 2nd (TRD/JD) and a single at St Mary's Island from 5th-30th (ASJ/MSH).



Grey Plover

St. Mary's Island

November 21st

Mike Hodgson

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Lower numbers were reported this month with the peak count again coming from Newbiggin with 52 on 10th and 48 on 13th (AP). At Chevington Burn mouth, 32 were present on 2nd (MH), 26 were at Alnmouth at high tide on 14th (TD) with the same number counted in a ploughed field at St Mary's on 30th (ASJ). Ross Back Sands held 16 on 15th (MJC) and 12 were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 28th (IDR/JF). One to five were seen at Calot Shad (River Tweed), Cheswick, Cocklawburn, Druridge Links and East Chevington on various dates during the month.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

The Howdiemont Sands area (Longhoughton) provided the only three-figure count with 160 in a high-tide roost in a field on 2nd (MKi). Lower numbers were noted on 5th when 65 were seen (IDR *et al.*). Cocklawburn attracted 96 on 11th declining to 52 by 18th (MHu). At Beacon Point (Newbiggin), 82 were seen on 8th (AP) and in the Druridge Pools and Links area numbers varied between six and 65 during the month (IDR/JF). Just to the north, 50 were seen in a field at Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and slightly further south, 45 were at Lynemouth on 19th (JF). Other counts were 40 at Woodhorn Flashes on 15th, 34 at Calot Shad (River Tweed) on 7th, 26 at the River Blyth Estuary on 8th and 21 just south of there at Gloucester Lodge on 21st. Three to 16 were seen at Big Waters, Ellington, Lynemouth Bay, Snab Point (Cresswell) and Warkworth. One was still well inland at Dudlees (Otterburn ranges) on 13th (JR/NA).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Passage reports were 14 N at Seaton Sluice on 27th (SSWT) with three N at Tynemouth on the same date (DRW). At Tynemouth on 21st, one flew N and one S (DRW) and two flew N at Hauxley on 13th (HRS). One flew N at Cullercoats on 28th (CB). The highest number reported was 11 at Hauxley NWT on 5th (HRS) and six were at Boulmer on 2nd (MKi). Two were present at Budle Bay 2nd and at Cocklawburn on 18th (TRD/JD/MHu).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Birds were present at Budle Bay throughout the month with the highest count being made on 2nd when 30 were seen (TRD/JD/RA/DF *et al.*). Eight were seen at Arcot Pond on 8th increasing to 14 the next day (LJM/STH). A high-tide roost at Howdon (River Tyne) attracted nine on 20th (CB), with the peak at Monks' House Pool being seven on 16th (MKi). Four

were at Holywell Pond from 4th-10th (MSH/MN/DBo *et al.*) with four being seen at Warkworth on 29th (RPo). One-three were seen at Druridge Pools all month with two at Fenham-le-Moor (Lindisfarne NNR) on 9th (RA). Singles were at Castle Island on 11th and 16th (AT).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

A large flock of 200 at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 2nd had reduced to 60 by 14th (MN/TD/IDR/JF). A minimum of 60 was seen at St Mary's Island on 29th (MSH) and a sizeable count of 52 was made at Budle Bay on 13th (CGK/GPK). In the Sugar Sands/Howdiemont Sands area (Longhoughton), a count of 41 was made on 5th (IDR) and at Snab Point (Cresswell) 40 were seen on 28th (IDR/JF). Hadston attracted 37 on 17th (MH) and 21 were present at Seahouses Harbour on 14th (IDR/JF). One-15 were reported from Cheswick, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Links, Hauxley and North Shields Fish Quay.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Few reports were received this month with the peak being 24 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 5th (CSa). The only other double-figure count was 11 at Budle Bay on 24th (DF). One to seven were seen at Hauxley, Howdiemont Sands (Longhoughton), Snab Point (Cresswell) and Tynemouth.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Two were at West Chevington with Lapwings on 2nd and, possibly the same two, again with Lapwings at East Chevington on 17th (MH).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

There were several reports of high numbers at sites in the Druridge Bay area probably involving the same birds. The maximum count was 137 at Chiburn mouth on 13th (IRD), with 130 at East Chevington on 7th (TRD/JD) and 71 on the beach at Druridge Links on 6th (IDR/JF). In the south east of the county, 91 were reported from Beacon Point (Newbiggin) and the maximum at St Mary's Island was 70+ on 29th (MSH). One to 21 were seen at Blyth beach, Cheswick, Cocklawburn, Hauxley, Longhoughton, Snab Point (Cresswell) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Numbers at Budle Bay increased from last month with an estimated 500 present on 2nd reducing to 55 by 23rd (CGK/DF). Counts of 160-200 were reported from Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 2nd (DF/TRD/JD) which declined to 15 by 20th (TD). Cresswell Pond attracted 80 on 23rd (TRD/JD) and the peak count at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) was 67 on 22nd (AP) with 39 noted at the nearby River Blyth Estuary on 8th (LJM). At Howdiemont Sands (Longhoughton) 33 were present on 2nd (MKi), with 27 at Hauxley NWT on 13th (HRS) and 22 at Seahouses harbour on 14th (IDR/JF). One-ten were seen at East Chevington, Holywell Pond, Longhoughton, Monks' House Pool and St Mary's Island. At Hexham, 'nocmig' was detected with one on 14th and two on 15th (JJL).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

The regular wintering flock at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) was reported throughout the month with a low of 55 on 20th and a peak of 213 on 19th (NFO/ASJ/KWY *et al.*). Much smaller numbers were recorded at other locations with 32 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 5th (CSa), 15 at St Mary's Island on 28th (SRB) and 14 at Tynemouth on 21st (ASJ) being the only counts in double figures. Two to eight were present at Boulmer, Cocklawburn, Cheswick, Hauxley, Longhoughton, Seaton Sluice and Snab Point (Cresswell).



Purple Sandpipers

Stag Rocks

November 21st

Alan Jack

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Several observers reported birds coming 'in-off' during the month. These were three at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) within 30 minutes on 12th (AP), two at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT) and singles at Seahouses also on 5th (IF), Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and Cambois on 16th (AT). The peak count was four at Holy Island on 12th (ADM). Other reports of single birds came from Ashington, Cullercoats, Ellington, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Hauxley wood, Kielder Water (killed by colliding with Andy Mould's car), Longframlington Common, Lynemouth Bay, Morpeth, Newbiggin, Newcastle Airport and Rothbury.

Jack Snipe *Limnocryptes minimus*

More birds were detected this month including probable new arrivals at the coast. Two were flushed at Kirkley Mill on 21st where a single had been present on 14th (AHB). Singles were seen at Warkworth Old Water on 3rd (CSa), Budle Bay on 5th (CGK/GPK/PRC), Big Waters on 7th (GB), Holy Island on 12th (ADM), East Chevington on 22nd (MH) and the Breamish Valley on 23rd (AJ).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

East Chevington attracted the highest number with 36 being counted on 12th (NFO/MH). In the south east, Big Waters held 15 on 7th (GB) and 14 were at West Hartford on 3rd (STH). Counts varied at Monks' House Pool from two to ten from 2nd-16th (IF/MKi /TRD *et al.*). One to six were reported from Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Arcot Pond, Bilton Banks, Bothal Pond, Branton GP, Druridge Pools, Hallington Reservoir, Holy Island, Morpeth, and Old Hartley.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

A much-appreciated 1st-winter bird was found by Mike Hodgson at Newstead Flash on 1st, remaining until at least 7th. (MSH/IBDa/KDa *et al.*)

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

A notable passage of birds occurred this month, including four seen in a tight group at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 2nd being the largest group in the county since 2011 (CSa/DF/IF *et al.*). One was seen on the sea here on 1st later flying off N with one flying S at Bamburgh on the same day (TRD/CB). Singles were also observed flying N at Seaton Sluice on 5th and 28th, being the first site records since 2014 (SSWT) and Annstead (Seahouses) on 3rd (CGK). Two flew N at Hauxley on 21st (CSa) and a single was off Hadston Carrs (Druridge Bay) on 15th (CSa).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

The sole report was of one at Berwick Hill Bridge (River Pont) on 2nd (AHB).

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

On 1st, 210 had gathered at St Mary's Island which had reduced to 100+ by 29th (ASJ/MSH). Numbers at Budle Bay held up to last month's levels with 205 reported on 24th (DF), with 168 at Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary) on 1st and 114 at the River Blyth Estuary on 8th (LJM) being the only other three-figure counts. There were 61 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 8th (AP) and in the Sugar Sands/Howdiemont Sands area (Longhoughton), 55 were counted on 5th (IDR *et al.*). Other notable reports were 50+ at Cullercoats on 22nd (MN), 29 at Hauxley NWT on 24th (HRS), 25 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 28th (IDR/JF) and 22 at West Ord (Berwick) on 21st (MHu). One to seven were seen at Bothal Pond, Cocklawburn, Druridge Pools and Links, Lynemouth Bay and on flooded fields at Warkworth. On 29th at St Mary's Island, two were enjoying a change of diet by feeding on a dead Octopus. (MSH).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

The only report was a single at Budle Bay on 9th (AA/MH).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Birds were only noted in the Lindisfarne NNR area with lower numbers than last month as presumably birds headed south. The peak count from the regular haunt of Beal was three on 8th with two noted on 20th (DF). One was at Fenham Mill on 13th (DF).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Few were seen at Seaton Sluice before 21st when a movement of 139 N was recorded, then 75 N on 25th and 1,250 N in five hours during the northerly gale on 27th (SSWT). Elsewhere during these periods, a few other sites, Annstead, Druridge Links, Hauxley and Newbiggin, noted movements of 20-35 N.

Bonaparte's Gull *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

An adult, an extremely rare visitor, was recorded at Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 1st, 14th and 16th (CB/TRD *et al.*). This is probably the returning bird which has been seen in late autumn at Stag Rocks and nearby localities almost annually since 2013.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

The largest gatherings were 600+ at St Mary's Island (MSH), 530 in the Tweed Estuary (MHu), 300 at Holywell Pond (MSH) and 250 at the Longhoughton coast (IDR); 100-200 were at four other localities and up to 90 at 12 further sites. A Polish-ringed bird was at Stag Rocks (IDR) and two Norwegian-ringed birds at St Mary's Island (MSH).

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Although the very large influx which occurred last month had declined considerably, 100 adults/immatures were still at Stag Rocks on 2nd (IF/CSa), reducing to 20 on 6th and a single by 15th. From 4th-16th sightings of six to eight came from Annstead, Cresswell (Snab Point), Hauxley and Seahouses with one to four at Druridge Bay, Longhoughton Steel, Newbiggin, Ross Back Sands, Seaton Sluice and Warkworth (Birling Carrs).

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

The numbers reduced again to a maximum of 41 at Newbiggin (Spital Point) on 9th (AT) with up to 20 feeding all month at nearby Quarry Cottage (RS). Elsewhere, a maximum of several counts from the Ellington area was 22 on 2nd (TB) and 11 were at Cresswell (Snab Point) on 3rd (AT). A record November site total at Seaton Sluice was 13 including six passing N on 3rd-4th (SSWT). Apart from seven at the QEII CP (MSH) all other sightings comprised up to four at many widespread coastal localities between Lindisfarne NNR and Tynemouth; the majority of the birds were described as adults. An adult Polish colour-ringed bird was at St Mary's Island (MSH).



Mediterranean Gull

St Mary's Island

November

Alan Jack

Common Gull *Larus canus*

A large flock of 576 fed in fields near Kirknewton (MJC), 368, the majority adults, were in a roost at Budle Bay (DF), 110 at Grindon Lough (PRM) and 70 on farmland at Whittingham with 36 at nearby Alnham (JR/NA). Single-figure counts came from four other localities.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Castle Island held 375 on 16th (AT) with 114 at Blyth South Harbour (LJM) and at least 90 in Budle Bay (AJR). Elsewhere, 30 were at Cresswell (Snab Point) with eight in the Tweed Estuary, seven at Grindon Lough and one to four at four other sites. A colour-ringed immature bird from the Isle of May was at Snab Point (IDR/JF).



Great Black-backed Gull

Holywell

7/11/21

Colin Bradshaw

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Two un-aged birds passed N at Newbiggin Church Point on 27th (TF) and three other records of single immature birds came from Newbiggin Beacon Point on 19th (AT), Cullernose Point on 28th (TRD) and Annstead on 29th DF).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

A 3rd-winter was at North Shields Fish Quay from 8th-30th (MN *et al.*) and single immature birds were also recorded at Ross Back Sands, Seahouses and St Mary's Wetland on occasional dates between 15th and 30th. An adult at Big Waters on 26th was presumably the returning bird to winter there (GB).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argenteus*

A large roost holding an estimated 660 was at New Water Haugh on the Tweed (MHu), 244 were in the Blyth Estuary (LJM), 80 at Monks' House Pool (IDR/JF) and 59 at the QEII CP Lake (CDH). Groups of 11-35 were at four other localities with single-figure counts at a further five sites. A very pale-plumaged bird first seen at Bedlington on 29th (JR), originally thought to be an immature Iceland Gull, was eventually confirmed as a leucistic Herring Gull.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

At Grindon Lough, 18 on 1st had fallen to 12 on 18th (AJR) with only one remaining on 26th (PRM). Three were at Derwent Reservoir on 9th, two at Budle Bay on 9th and New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 15th with singles elsewhere, the latest on 17th, at seven localities.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Three juveniles were seen at Stag Rocks on 1st (DF) and singles were offshore at Budle Point on 2nd (CGK) with an extremely late bird at Ross Back Sands on 15th (MJC).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Singles were recorded at Stag Rocks on 14th (NFO), Newbiggin Church Point on 21st (GB) and Cullercoats on 28th (GB).

Auk *sp*

Mixed Guillemots/Razorbills were seen offshore with 100 at Hauxley on 13th, 87 and 48 at Annstead on 23rd and 7th and 35 and 25 at Snab Point on 28th and 4th.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Small numbers were recorded passing mainly N at Seaton Sluice with six on 4th, nine on 21st and 14 on 28th (SSWT). The maximum counts on those days at sites elsewhere were: on 4th, 14 at Cullercoats, seven at Newbiggin (Church Point) and five at Snab Point; on 21st, seven at Newbiggin (Church Point) and four at St Mary's Island; on 28th, 26 at Newbiggin, 15 at St Mary's Island and eight at Hauxley. Smaller numbers of one to three were also seen on seven other dates between 1st and 29th at Annstead, Budle Point, Cullercoats, Hauxley, Newbiggin (Beacon Point), St Mary's Island, Stag Rocks and Tynemouth.

Brunnich's Guillemot *Uria lomnia*

The fifth county record of an extremely rare visitor which passed N along the coast on 28th, was seen by many observers, and found initially on the sea at Tynemouth (CB) before flying off N and being tracked by many observers as it passed St Mary's Island, Seaton Sluice, Newbiggin, Cresswell (Snab Point) and Cullercoats.

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

At Hauxley, 40 moved N on 13th (HRS) and 11-25 were recorded at Bamburgh and Cresswell (Snab Point) during the first week. Many smaller groups of up to ten were seen on dates throughout at eleven other widespread sites mainly between Bamburgh and Berwick but as far south as Blyth Harbour.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Birds were well reported with 50 on the sea or flying N at Hauxley on 6th (HRS) and 40 the largest of several records throughout from Bamburgh Stag Rocks (IF). Elsewhere, 19 were seen at Ross Back Sands with counts of up to ten at a further nine sites the majority from Alnmouth northwards to Cheswick.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Apart from a single flying N at Newbiggin on 21st (GB) all of the other twelve sightings were at Bamburgh Stag Rocks during the period 2nd-16th.



Black Guillemot

Stag Rocks

12/11/21

Graham Sorrie

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

There were an unusually large number of records, 37, compared with the normal one or two for the month. At the Seaton Sluice watch-tower it was a record November with a total of 73 N, 1 S with peaks occurring during the period 22nd-28th. The highest numbers elsewhere included 25 N past Newbiggin on 28th (TF/GB), 20 N at Cullercoats on 4th (CB) and 16 N at Hauxley on 28th (CSa). Up to nine were seen at another 12 sites on dates throughout, with a predominance of records from Stag Rocks. Many records were of birds seen flying N from a number of widespread watch-points between Tynemouth and Ross Back Sands.

Diver Sp *Gavia*

Five birds including several "large" divers flew N between 10:05 - 13:45h on 28th (GB) and one flew S at Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

The total at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower for the month was 206 birds with 150N and 56 S in 50 hrs. At Alnmouth Bay between 115 - 125 were seen on 15th (RPo) and at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 16th 120 were noted there (CSa). 88 flew N at Tynemouth on 8th (DRW) and 77 flew N at St Mary's Island also on 18th (JBU/AC), 70 were at Warkworth Beach on 14th (CSa). 31 birds were in Coquet Sound (Hauxley) on 13th (HRS), 29 went N at Cullercoats - Tynemouth on 29th (CGK/CB), 26 were in Druridge Bay off Chevington Burn on 2nd (MH) and at Cullercoats on 28th (CB). 23 birds were at Ross Back Sands on 15th (MJC) and one to 18 were at 18 sites including two birds in the river at Blyth Harbour on 4th (STH).



Red-throated Diver

Seahouses

14/11/21

Tim Dean

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Three single birds flew N at St Mary's Island on 28th (JBU/AC), two were noted at Ross Back Sands on 15th (MJC) and two went N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower and Newbiggin on 28th (SSWT/NFO) while on 30th two were seen in Cullercoats Bay (MN). Single birds were at Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 3rd (CGK), Hauxley on 13th (HRS), Cheswick on 16th (DF), Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 17th (MHu), Ross Back Sands on 18th (NFO) and a single bird was seen flying N at Tynemouth (DRW), Church Point (Newbiggin) (GB) and at Cullernose Point (TRD) on 28th and one was seen off Snab Point (Cresswell) on 29th.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

During the month at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, 16 birds went N and one S (SSWT). 11 birds went N at Cullercoats during 2 hrs sea-watch on 28th (CB), 10 birds went N at Newbiggin on 27th and 28th (TF), while at Tynemouth on 28th seven went N and 1 S (DRW) and seven went N at Cullercoats - Tynemouth on 29th (CGK/CB). One to six birds were noted at 15 sites along the coast. A single bird was on Widdrington Moor Lake on 8th (CB *et al.*) and on 9th it, or another bird, was at the North Pool (East Chevington) (ADM/IBDa/KDa/MH) from 12th and it was last seen 21st when it flew out to sea (ADM) and it or another bird was seen from 23rd - 29th at Widdrington Moor Lake (MSH/AT/TRD).

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

One to two birds, including an adult in winter plumage, went N at 13:51h, then the same bird went S at 15:32h and a possible juvenile bird went S at 14:55h. Another single bird went N at Cullercoats on 28th (CB).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

A single bird went N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 27th. This was the first November site record (SSWT).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Three birds were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 28th (IDR/JF), two birds were noted at Hauxley on 13th (HRS) and single birds were seen at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 4th (IDR) and at Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 14th (DF).

Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*

Single birds went N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 4th and 27th; these were the first November site records since 2016 (SSWT). A single bird was also seen flying N at Snab Point (Cresswell) (AJ) and at Hauxley (CSa) also on 4th. A bird was seen feeding offshore at the latter site on 14th and one flew N there on 21st (CSA).

Great Shearwater *Ardenna gravis*

On 1st a bird lingered around Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) for over an hour (TRD *et al.*) and it was also seen on 2nd all day (MN *et al.*). It was also seen there on 9th, 10th and 13th when it flew N up Skate Road/Ross Back Sands to Budle Point (CGK/GPK).



Great Shearwater

Bamburgh

2/11/21

Tim Dean

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

The monthly total was five birds N with the last bird seen on 27th (SSWT). A single bird flew N at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 21st (GB).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

At Seaton Sluice Watch Tower above average numbers for the month, with 468 N and 23 S in 5hrs on 25th, were mainly adults (SSWT). 32 birds flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 14th (DF). Eight birds were noted at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 2nd (TRD/JD) and at Hauxley seven flew N and 1 flew S on 6th (HRSA), six were seen in a 2 hrs sea-watch at Cullercoats on 28th (CB), four birds, 2 adults and 2 juveniles, were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 3rd (IDR) and four juveniles were seen off Druridge Links on 7th (IDR/JF). One - three birds were noted at Cheswick, Church Point (Newbiggin), East Chevington, Snab Point (Cresswell) and Spittal Bay (Berwick).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

A total of 132 birds were counted in the Coquet Estuary on 27th (Csa). North Shields Fish Quay had 92 birds on 11th and 80 on 28th (MSH/SRB). 49 birds were at Ross Back Sands on 15th (MJC), 46 were at Blyth Harbour on 11th (STH) and 42 there on 17th (STH). 42 were at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (IFo) which is the highest day total for several years (IFo). 40 were in the Blyth Estuary on 8th (LJM), 26 were at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 2nd (MHu), 24 at Annstead (Seahouses) on 9th (DF) and 22 were at Bywell on 7th (MH). One - 19 birds were at 12 sites during the month.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Very few records came from Seaton Sluice Watch Tower with only 10N and 3S during the Month (SSWT). Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) peaked with 150 birds on 5th (IRD), 99 were at Ross Back Sands on 15th (MJC) and 38 were in the roost at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 2nd (MHu). 16 were in Blyth Harbour on 21st (STH) and 11 there on 4th (STH), eight birds, involving six in a small flock and 1N and 1S, were at Snab Point (Cresswell). One to seven birds were also reported at Hauxley, Needle's Eye (Berwick), Spittal Bay (Berwick), Tweedmouth Dock (Berwick) and Tynemouth Haven.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

On 8th 13 birds were in the Blyth Estuary (LJM), nine birds were at Warkworth Weir on 28th (LJM) and seven were in a field at Blagdon on 14th (PCF) and at Monks' House Pool on 16th (MKi). Six birds were at Hauxley on 6th and 11th (HRS), four were at Hallington Reservoir on 3rd (PRM) and at Alnmouth on 20th (CDH).

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

A single bird was still present on 3rd flying along the river at Caistron (JD) On 16th a bird flew N over Birling Carrs (Warkworth) towards the River Aln (CSa).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Up to five birds were in the Horton Burn (Cramlington) area throughout the month (LJM), four were at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 16th (AT) and three birds were at Tyne Riverside CP (Newburn) on 1st (IK), Budle Bay on 11th and 15th (TRD/JPL), South Low (Lindisfarne NNR) on 17th (NFO) and Branton GPs on 21st, 22nd and 26th (IBDa/KDa). One to two birds were at 23 sites throughout the month.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

An adult male and a juvenile female were regularly hunting the observer's garden at Chapel House (Newcastle) during the month (IK). Two females were at Ellington on 8th and 20th (TB). Single birds were at 13 sites including a male mobbing a Raven *Corvus corax* at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 19th (JF).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

An adult was seen near Chillingham on 3rd (MH) and a female was seen at Wark (N Tyne) on 7th (PRM).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

The best count this month in the Druridge Bay area was six birds on 16th (MH) with five birds there on 2nd (MH). Four birds, an adult male, 2cy male and two juveniles, were at East Chevington on 12th (NFO) and at Widdrington - Chevington on 28th (MH). Three birds were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 11th and 23rd (MN/MSH) and at East Chevington on 21st (TD). One to two birds were seen in the Druridge area throughout the month, and other single birds were at Linton Ponds on 7th (CDH), one N at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 17th (AP) and one came in off the sea there and headed Inland on 23rd (AP). One was at West Stobswood Pool on 24th (AT).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

A ringtail was at a confidential site on 24th (JR/NA).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Three birds were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 1st (IFo), two birds were noted at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotley Field) on 8th and at Kiln Pit Hill on 11th (IFo), and single birds were at Carterway Heads, Crooked Oak, Derwent Reservoir, and Hedley on the Hill and Snods Edge (IFo/AJ).

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

A surprise find was an immature hovering over the hillside on the way to Darden Lough on 21st but was not seen the following day (TRD/JD).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Three birds were at Hallington Reservoir on 3rd (PRM) and two were at Whemley (Longhorsley) on 8th (AB/LB). On 20th a bird flew N across the R Tyne at Howdon with a Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* in its talons. This bird was then attacked by another Buzzard that stole the gull from the first bird (CB). Single birds were seen at 16 sites during the month.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

All reports were singles at Hexham on 2nd, Whittingham, Cresswell Pond NWT and Morpeth on 9th, Eddisbridge (Carterway Heads) on 10th, Brown's Law (Wooler) on 11th, Alnwick on 12th and 14th, Harwood Forest on 14th, Kiln Pit Hill on 18th, Old Hartley on 19th and Brandon (Breamish Valley) on 22nd. One road casualty was noted, again on the A1 at Felton on 15th.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Two were present all month at Fulbeck (Morpeth) (TD) and a male and female at Wark (North Tyne) on 13th and 26th with the male calling on 11th and 25th. A female was calling at Heavenfield on 11th (PRM).

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

One called early morning at Dinnington on 3rd (PCF) and one was at Ponteland on 10th (AHB).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Arrival was noted 'in off' with two at Seaton Sluice on 4th and singles on 3rd and 21st (SSWT), one at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 8th (IF/CB *et al.*) and one at St Mary's Island on 22nd. One hunted at St Mary's Island on 13th (ASJ/AC) with one live and two dead (predated) birds at Holy Island on 12th and 14th (ADM).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Three were found on the R Wansbeck between Morpeth and Bothal on 26th (IRD) with one at Felton on 11th and 22nd (NFO), at East Chevington on 2nd, Rothbury on 9th, Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 15th and Jesmond Dene on 28th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

There were just two multiple reports of two at Newbiggin on 1st and two on feeders at Tynemouth on 20th (CB). All other reports were of single birds at St Mary's Island on 2nd, Ponteland and Hallington Reservoir on 3rd, Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 5th, Preston Park (North Shields) and Hauxley on 6th, Wark (N.Tyne) on 7th, Great Ryle Farm (Whittingham) on 13th, Spital (Newbiggin) and Jesmond Dene on 14th, Elishaw Bridge on 21st, Ellington Pond on 23rd and Gallowhill (Aydon) on 25th.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

One was at Abbey Mill Fields (Morpeth) on 15th (CB *et al.*).

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

One multiple sighting was of three at Prestwick Carr - Ponteland Golf Course on 11th (MH). Singles were at locations

around Ellington, Blyth, Cresswell Pond and Otterburn Ranges on numerous dates and at 18 other widespread localities.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Males were noted at Rothbury on 1st, West Chevington on 2nd, Shooters Pools (Bothal) on 7th, Cocklawburn on 11th, East Ord on 24th with a female catching a Turnstone at Tynemouth Pier on 2nd and present at Widdrington Moor Lake on 24th. One was at Beal on four dates during the month and at Budle Bay on 9th, Swinhoe (nr Beadnell) on the same date and Druridge Links on 22nd.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

All reports were of singles at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh), Budle Bay, Holy Island, Newbiggin and Widdrington Moor Lake on multiple dates and at Berwick Hill on 2nd, Derwent Reservoir on 11th, Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 23rd, Seaton Sluice on 25th and Grindon Lough on 26th.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

A high count of ten was at Preston Park (North Shields) on 6th with more than six there on 5th and seven at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 23rd (MSH/MNC). Three were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 14th with two over Gosforth on 4th, at Newbiggin on three dates from 3rd to 7th and Preston Cemetery (North Shields) on 29th. Singles were also N over Cullercoats on 11th, Heaton / Alexandra Park regularly and over Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on three dates.



Ring-necked Parakeet

North Shields

5/11/21

Mike Hodgson

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Three were at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 3rd, East Sleekburn on 8th, Ellington Dene on 20th and Longhirst on 28th (MSH/JR/TB/AT). One to two were in the Ellington area and Northumberland Park all month, two at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 14th and at 14 other widespread localities.

Magpie *Pica pica*

On 14th five were at Hauxley and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) (NRS/MJCo) with two at Lynemouth Bay on 1st, Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 2nd, Druridge Links on three dates and Ellington Pond on two. Singles were at the above regularly and Snab Point (Cresswell) on 4th.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Around 60 were at Great Ryle Farm (Whittingham) on 13th (JR/NA), eight to ten at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 2nd (IDR/JF), five at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 21st (MJCo), four at Seahouses Harbour on 14th and two at Ellington Pond on 23rd.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Around 40 were at Great Ryle Farm (Whittingham) on 13th (JR/NA), 19 feeding on a roadside field at Newbiggin on 29th and 30th (RS), six at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 2nd and two at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 14th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

On 8th 57 were in R. Blyth Estuary mainly around the Sleekburn confluence (LJM) with 40 at East Chevington on 13th (IRD), 38 in the Hauxley area on 13th (HRS) and 14 at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 14th ten being at Heaton Park Bowling Green (MJCo). 12 was the high count at Druridge Pools and Links on 28th (IDR/JF) with two to ten on many other dates, six south at Seaton Sluice on 2nd/3rd and one to five at five other locations.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

One was near the railway crossing at Linton on 16th (ADMCo) and an adult at Ellington Wind Farm on 28th and 29th (AT).

Raven *Corvus corax*

Four were at Longframlington Common on 21st (IRD) with two at Budle Bay on 4th and 13th (CGK/GPK) and Widehope on 28th (JD). Singles were at Corsenside (Bellingham) on 3rd, Branton on 15th, Howick on 18th, mobbed by Sparrowhawk at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 19th and Debdon (Rothbury) on 22nd.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

More than 12 were on feeders at East Cramlington NWT on 1st (LJM), nine at Kielder Forest Drive on 18th (ADM) and ringed at Slaley Hall on 23rd (RMH). Six were on the reserve at Hauxley on 6th with one ringed there on 8th and one to two at four other locations.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Two were at Abbey Mills (Morpeth) on 9th and Borough Woods (Morpeth) on 13th (ADMc), two were ringed at East Linden on 22nd and at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 25th and 27th with singles there on three other dates (NFO). One was at Rothbury on 8th, consorting with Willow Tits at Prestwick Carr on 10th, in a garden at Longdyke (Shilbottle) on 15th, Fontburn Reservoir on the same date and Abbey Mill (Morpeth) on 25th.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Three were on feeders at Hauxley on 7th (TRD/JD) with at least three at Prestwick Carr on 10th (AJR), two there on 23rd and on feeders at Big Waters on 3rd, at Fontburn Reservoir on 15th and ringed at East Linden on 22nd. Singles were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) regularly, Hauxley, Big Waters NWT and nine other widespread localities.



Willow Tit

Prestwick Carr

November 21st

John Richards

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Nine were in a Pegswood garden on 24th (AT), eight at Lynemouth Bay on 1st (IDR), seven ringed at Slaley Hall on 23rd (RMH) and at Ellington Dene on 23rd (IDR/JF). Six were at Druridge links on 18th, five at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and Lynemouth Bay on 2nd with one to three at these and two other locations. A total of five were ringed at Hauxley during the month.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Four were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 28th (MJCo), two at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 2nd, Druridge Links on 7th and 25th and ringed at Slaley Hall on 23rd. Singles were at Lynemouth Bay on 2nd and ringed at Hauxley on 8th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

High counts were of 30 at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 20th (ASJ), 27 at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 7th (JR), 25 at Spittal (Newbiggin) on 14th (GB), 22 at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 8th (IF) and 14 at St Mary's Island on 20th (ASJ). 15 headed SW over the Snook (Holy Island) on 14th, 12 north at Waren Mill on 30th and at least ten singing at West Chevington on 2nd with one to six at eight other locations.

Hirundine sp

One, presumed to be a House Martin, fed over pond/reed beds at Clark's Bog (Morpeth) on 5th (CW).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

One was seen at close quarters for a couple of minutes at Annstead (Seahouses) on 19th (DF).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Late birds involved one S at Cresswell Pond NWT on 1st (SRB), one S at 15.55h at East Chevington on 5th (MH) and one lingering in the village at Holy Island on 14th and 15th (ADM).

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Singing birds were at Big Waters NWT on 7th (GB) and 8th (IK) and at East Chevington North Pool on 8th (AJ) and 9th and 12th (NFO).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

The largest party was at East Sleekburn, with 21 on 8th (JR). Newbiggin had 20 on 14th (GB), with ten at Spital and ten at the mound. A minimum of 15 were on hawthorns at Prestwick Carr on 11th (MH) and 15 were also at Druridge Links on 18th and 25th (IDR). Black Lough (Widehope) had 12 on 8th (JD), and ten were at Longdyke (Shilbottle) on 15th (MKi), Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 21st (MJCo), Ellington Dene on 23rd (IDR/JF), and at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 28th (KWY). Smaller numbers were reported from Hallington Reservoir, Kielder Forest Drive, Wark (North Tyne), Throckley, Barrowburn (Upper Coquetdale) and Darras Hall (Ponteland), and five were ringed at Hauxley on 6th (HRS).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

There were eight reports this month, with two at Newbiggin on 1st (CB *et al.*), and singles at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 2nd (TB, IDR/JF), Alnmouth on 14th (TD) and Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) on 28th (TD). One of the Siberian ssp. *P. c. tristis* was reportedly at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 4th (IF) and one of the Scandinavian ssp. *P. c. abietinus* was at Holy Island on 14th (MJC).

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

One was found at Amble Braid on 23rd (LJM) and identified from photographs eight days later.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

One was on garden feeders at Marden Estate (Cullercoats) on 10th (ASJ). A male bird was at Cambois on 16th (AT) and a female was at Amble Braid on 23rd (LJM).

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

One was seen briefly on garden feeders at Marden Estate (Cullercoats) on 8th (ASJ).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Hauxley recorded a maximum of eight on 13th, with four ringed, and single birds were also ringed there on 6th and 8th (HRS). Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had five on 3rd (TB). Three were at Kielder Forest Drive on 18th (ADM), and two or more were at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 3rd (GB) and at the mound (Newbiggin) on 14th (GB). Two were at Lynemouth Bay on 1st (IDR) and at Hallington Reservoir on 3rd (PRM). Singles were reported from four other locations.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

The highest count came from Holy Island, with 51 on 14th (ADM). There was a maximum of eight at Lynemouth Bay on 1st (IDR) and seven at Druridge Links on 18th (IDR). Smaller numbers were reported from Kielder Forest Drive, Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Ellington Pond and Hauxley, where one bird was ringed on 13th (HRS).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

There were three at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 7th (MJCo), two at Holywell Dene on 2nd (MSH), and singles at Preston Park (North Shields), Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and Slaley Hall.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Two were at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr. Shotleyfield) on 8th (IFo). Singles were reported from nine other locations, with one bird ringed at Hauxley on 13th (HRS).

Rose-coloured Starling *Sturnus roseus*

A juvenile was present and showing well at Glanton on 13th (IBDa/KDa, TRD/JD) and 14th (IF).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

The largest roost was at East Chevington, with 10,000 on 12th (NFO). At Gosforth Park (Newcastle), 2,000–3,000 flew W at dawn on 29th (GB). A murmuration of 2,000 flew E over the A1 at Alnwick on 11th (TRD), and Kiln Pit Hill also had 2,000 on 11th (IFo). At Seahouses, 700 in several groups flew N on 5th (IF). Gloucester Lodge (Blyth) had 400 on 20th (MSH). There were flocks of 250 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 4th (IDR), 240 at Longhoughton on 5th (IDR), and 200 at Whitley Chapel on 7th (AJ). Smaller flocks were at Druridge Pools, Dudlees (Otterburn Ranges) and Glanton, with groups of 60 or fewer at five other locations.



Starling

Blyth

November 21st

Alan Jack

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

There were two at Holy Island (one at The Snook, one on Straight Lonnen) on 14th (MJC/ADM).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Holy Island yielded the highest count, with 463 birds at different locations on 14th (ADM). The maximum count at Hauxley was 31 on 13th (HRS). Northumberland Park (North Shields) had 25 on 9th (MNC), Flagstaff Park (Berwick) had 14 on 2nd (MHu). Lynemouth Bay and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) both had 12 on 2nd (IDR/JF). There were ten at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 3rd (GB), at Spital (Newbiggin) on 14th (GB), and at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 14th (KWY). Smaller numbers were recorded at Cocklawburn, Druridge Links and Snab Point (Cresswell), with some nocturnal migration at Hexham.



Blackbird

November 21st

John Richards

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

The largest flock was at Holy Island, with 300 on 14th (ADM). There were 250 at Great Ryle (Whittingham) on 30th (CW), 70 at Thorngraston Common on 24th (AJR), and 55 at Whitley Chapel on 25th (AJ/AJN). Smaller numbers (10–30) were reported from six other locations, with counts below ten coming from a further nine locations.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

There were 680 W at Wark (North Tyne) in the last hour before sunset, with some dropping in to roost in local woodland on 7th (PRM). At Holy Island, there were 367 passing over SW on 12th (ADM), and 300 on 14th (ADM). Letah Wood (Hexham) had 100 on 2nd (AJH), Hallington Reservoir had 50 on 3rd (PRM), and 39 passed over W/SW at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 4th (GB). Smaller numbers (12–30) were reported from Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), Whitley Chapel, Northumberlandia (Cramlington), Backworth Pond, and Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay). Reports of ten or fewer birds came from a further thirteen locations, with nocturnal migration being noted throughout the month at Hexham (JLL).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) had two on 3rd and 24th (GB), and there were two in Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 14th (MJCo). Singles were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Druridge Links and Hauxley, with nocturnal migration noted at Hexham.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

There were two at Ellington on 2nd (IDR/JF, TB), at Hallington Reservoir on 3rd (PRM), at Alnham on 13th (JR/NA), and at Bellshiel Law (Otterburn Ranges) on 13th (JR/NA). Singles were at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor), Linden Hall (Longhorsley) and East Chevington. One made a surprise appearance (a garden first in fifty years of residence) at Chapel House (Newcastle) on 26th (MH).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Holy Island had 20 at different locations on 14th (MJC/ADM). Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had six on 2nd (IDR/JF), Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had six on 14th (MJCo), and Lynemouth Bay had five on 1st (IDR). Smaller numbers and singles were reported from five coastal locations.

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

There was a maximum of three pairs at Druridge Links on 22nd (MH/AA). Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) had four on 8th (TB), and Holy Island had four on 11th (MJC). Pairs were at Ross Back Sands on 11th (TRD) and 15th (MJC), at Cambois (two pairs) on 16th (LJM), and at Westburnhope on 25th (AJ/AJN). Two were at Winter's Gibbet (Harwood Forest) on 21st (JR). Singles were at eight other locations.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A late bird was at South Beach (Blyth) on 2nd (ASJ).



Wheatear

Blyth

November 21st

Alan Jack

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Single birds were seen at three locations in the Coquetdale area this month, with others at Wark and Morpeth.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Up to 30 attended garden feeders at Cramlington during the month (SJL). 20 were also at feeders at Marden on several dates (ASJ). 12 were also in a Longbenton garden on 25th (ADM). Two to six were at three other sites.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

A large count of 80 was made on 13th at Hauxley, with lower counts on other dates. 38 were at Chugdon Wood on the same day (TB). On 7th, 25 were at garden feeders at Slaley, with several ringed (RMH). Two to seven were seen at five further sites.

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

One to four reported at five sites only.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Four were seen in Jesmond Dene on 14th (MJCo). Two at West Hartford on 11th. Singles were seen at a further 13 places this month.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

12 were at Chibburn Mouth on 12th and six on the beach nearby on 6th (NFO/IDR/JF). One to two were also at seven sites.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

A flock of 33 arrived at dusk on 15th to roost in a weedy field at St. Mary's. Ten to 18 were seen here throughout the month (ASJ). 20 were in stubble at Spital (Newbiggin) on 14th (GB). One to six were seen at a further four sites.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

One was found on 13th and remained to the month's end at St. Mary's (AC/MSH/ASJ/JBu).



Water Pipit

St Mary's

15/11/21

Jack Bucknall

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

An excellent count of 31 was made on 15th across Holy Island (ADM). Ten were at Newbiggin on 1st and at least eight at Alnmouth on 22nd (CB/CDH). Two to five were also seen at 11 localities this month. Ringed birds were seen at St. Mary's (Norwegian) and at Beacon Point (orange ring) on 3rd (ASJ/AP).



Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Ten were counted in Budle Bay on 20th (CGK).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

60 were noted at Crooked Oak on 1st (IFo). Around 50 were found near Alwinton on 13th (JR/NA). Groups of 25 were seen at Tynemouth on 3rd and at Akeld on 24th (CB/JR/NA). Five were at garden feeders all month at Marden Estate (ASJ). One to five were at three other sites.

Chaffinch

Prestwick Carr

November 21st

John Richards

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

24 at Crooked Oak on 1st was the month's peak count, with at least eight remaining on 3rd (IFO). Three were seen at Abbey Mill on 13th, below garden feeders at Rothbury on several dates, at Newcastle Town Moor on 2nd and at Hexham on 27th (ADM/JD/GB/AJH). Two were watched on Straight Lonnen (Holy Island) on 11th and at Crooked oak on 14th (MJC/IFo).

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

One to five were seen at the regular wintering site at Abbey Mill (Morpeth) on five dates, peaking on 22nd (ADM). Single birds also seen there on three dates by three observers.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

12 were noted at Walker Riverside on 10th and eight were at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 22nd (per SP). Six arriving from N, heading SW at Budle Point on 14th (CGK/GPK). Six was also this month's peak count of birds attending a Rothbury garden feeders (TRD/JD). Six were also in a garden at Pegswood on 24th and at Westburnhope the following day (AT/AJ/AJN). Five were at Hauxley and Northumberland Park (North Shields) during the month and one to four were seen at a further 15 locations.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

40 was a good count made at Thorngraston Common on 24th (AJR). 30, mainly juveniles, were also noted this month at Prestwick Carr on 11th (MH). 19 gathered prior to roosting at Linden Hall on 25th (NFO). Up to six regularly attended feeders at a Marden Estate garden during the month (ASJ). A rare sight of two was made at Longdyke on 14th (MKi). Another single was seen at Newcastle's Exhibition Park this month.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

The month's high count occurred at Holy Island, with 63 seen on 14th. 50 were noted at Long Nanny on 10th (JPL). 35 were at the burn mouth at East Chevington on 8th (CB). 28 were at Cocklawburn on 4th, 25 flew N at Snab Point on 3rd and 22 at Holy Island on 12th (MHu/IDR/ADM). 16 occurred at Ross Back Sands on 15th and 15 at Hemscott Hill on 5th (MJC/TB). One to five were seen at seven further sites.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Some large wintering flocks were located this month, with 260 near Stannington on 19th the largest, 250 at Crooked Oak on 14th and 200 at St. Mary's on 4th (SJL/IFo/ASJ). 150 were at Longdyke on 14th and at Stag Rocks during the month (MKi/KWY/ASJ). 120 were at Boulmer on 22nd and at St. Mary's and Stag Rocks on several dates (AMG/MG *et al.*). 110 fed in a weedy field at Red House Farm (Whitley Bay) on 7th (ASJ) and near Lucker on 16th (IF). Eight to 80 were also seen at another 15 sites this month.

October correction - 250 at Crooked Oak - observer was ASJ/IFo

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis caberet*

On 2nd, 20 birds flew in off the sea at Stag Rocks (LJM). From 16th to the month end, 16 visited a Gosforth Garden village garden and 15 were seen at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (MJC/IFo). Three flew S at St. Mary's on 2nd (MSH). One to two were also seen at four locations. Three birds thought to be of the ssp *flammea* were seen at Prestwick Carr on 10th (AJR).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

The sole report this month was of four seen along the Kielder Forest drive on 18th (ADM).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

A flock of 200 was watched at Chevington Burn on 8th (AJ). 117 were counted at Blagdon, feeding in a game crop on 24th (SJL). 20 - 45 were at four sites and one to 13 at 12 this month.

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

Observations at Budle Point between 1st and 20th revealed an exceptional passage of 4,320 westbound birds, with a peak day count of 950 on 7th (CGK/GPK/RA). During this period, record numbers also passed Seaton Sluice, with 125 on 5th the peak of 225 logged (SSWT). Also on 5th, 155 flew N in several groups at Seahouses, and 98 - 115 plus seen also N at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) (IF/MH/IRD). The 7th saw 130+ in two flocks, heading N at Gosforth, where 40+ had flown SW on 2nd (MJC). One to 50 were also seen at 24 further sites.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

One was at the Quarry area (Holy Island) on 11th, with two seen there the following day. One of these or another was seen on 14th flying W over the north end of Straight Lonnen. (MJC/ADM). At Beacon Point (Newbiggin), one flew in off sea, heading inland on 6th (AP).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Well represented this month. 36 were counted at Chibburn burn mouth on 5th and 30 at East Chevington burn mouth the following day (ADM). Sandham Bay (Holy Island) saw a flock of 28 on 11th, followed by three birds separately there, then another three flying S from the island towards Guile Point (MJC). 25 at nearby Snook on 14th, increased to 31 next day. 11 were present here on 12th (ADM). Chibburn Mouth (Druridge), held 23 birds on 9th, ten were there the previous

day (NFO/CB). 17 were seen N of Chevington Burn on 7th (PMHa/RMHa). Five to 16 flew N at Stag rocks on 15th (CGK/MH *et al.*). Nine at Blyth Bandstand on 2nd was the last date any were present at this site (ASJ). Eight were seen at Bamburgh on 8th by several observers, six at Budle on 4th. One to four were seen at 11 other coastal locations, including four sightings of single birds at Beacon Point between 3rd and 16th (AP).



Snow Buntings

Blyth

November 21st

Alan Jack

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*

Birds were poorly reported with a paltry peak of five seen at Boulmer on 22nd. Four were at Stag Rocks and at East Holywell, two at Backworth and one at Chugdon Wood during the month.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

14 were seen at Druridge Links on 28th (IDR/JF). Ten fed in weedy fields at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 20th and six to seven were at St. Mary's on several dates this month (ASJ). One to three were seen at a further seven sites, including inland at Hallington and at Longhorsely Moor.

ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

Escapes

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

One present at river car park in Rothbury on 3rd. (JD)

Hybrids

Canada Goose x Greylag Goose *Branta canadensis x Anser anser*

Single found at Big Waters on 7th (GB).

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings

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Bamburgh Ringing Station, Berwick Wildlife Group, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

Apologies for any accidental omissions

BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Grouse to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Doves to Grebes), Clive Hampton (Oystercatcher to Redshank), Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Auks), Trevor Blake (Divers to Buzzards), Peter Fletcher (Barn Owl to Larks), Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings), Graham Sorrie (bulletin compilation), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Apologies for any accidental omissions

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Clive Hampton is Data Manager.

Edited by Steve Barrett NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to ntbc.records@googlemail.com

Please email for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: Please use of standard location names and include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources and Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.



Is it a Bird? No it's Freya the Walrus
Seahouses
14th November by Jack Bucknall

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. Subs are due on 1st October each year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website.

If you internet bank you can pay online: please include your name in the ref. It is helpful if you email me to let me know when you've made the transfer ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

If you decide to set up a standing order please date the first payment at least a fortnight from your posting date to allow time to process with the bank. You can also set up your standing order directly with your bank if you wish; just let me know. Our bank details are on the membership form.

For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

Finally, if you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome.

Jo Bentley - Hon Treasurer

NTBC WEB SITE

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds.

There are:

Photo Galleries – Here you can view hundreds of photos of birds from Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Members are encouraged to contribute their own photos. Simply send them to galleries@ntbc.org.uk

There are also County Checklists, Records Committee updates, Information on important Surveys, useful articles and reports on Bird ID and Overseas Birding Trips....and much more...

Please submit any other new content for the website to the main club email address at ntbcorg@gmail.com

New content such as Birding Trip Reports etc., is always welcome and very much appreciated.

To find out more please visit www.ntbc.org.uk

Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin 2021 No 12

MONTHLY SUMMARY

DECEMBER

5th February 2022

001



CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Todd's Canada Goose	One still being seen at Budle Bay on 19th and 20th.
Bean Goose sp	Two flew over Cullercoats on 24th.
Eurasian White-fronted Goose	One at Druridge on 3rd.
Ruddy Shelduck	One at Elwick on 19th and 20th.
Shoveler	Still high numbers at Budle Bay with peak of 99 on 3rd.
Pochard	Continued decline in numbers with 7 at Widdrington Moor Lake the most seen.
Surf Scoter	Male flew past St Mary's on 21st also seen at Cambois then Bamburgh next day.
Black Scoter	Returning drake seen at Bamburgh from 12th onwards.
Smew	Returning female at Widdrington Moor lake from 3rd.
Red-necked Grebe	Several seawatch sightings and a long stayer still at Widdrington Moor Lake
Grey Phalarope	First December record since 1973 at Seaton Sluice on 5th.
Lesser Yellowlegs	One reported at Budle Bay on 31st. No other sightings.
Glaucous Gull	One to two noted at Budle Bay from 12th and one at Berwick 6th to 9th.
Iceland Gull	Sightings at five sites.
Caspian Gull	A second winter was noted at Amble Harbour on 20th
Little Auk	One to three at various coastal sites early in month.
Great Northern Diver	Several coastal records with unusually two together at Widdrington Moor Lake
Manx Shearwater	Late record of two north past Seaton Sluice on 5th.
Great Egret	Singles at Castron on 18th, Seaton Delaval on 14th and East Chevington on 31st.
Bearded Tit	Single at East Chevington on 9th.
Siberian Chiffchaff	One documented at Hauxley on 4th.
Water Pipit	Wintering individuals at St Mary's and Druridge Pools.
Hawfinch	One still being seen at Abbey Mill, Morpeth during month.
Snow Bunting	Seen at five coastal sites with peak of 15 on Holy Island on 24th
Lapland Bunting	One at Fenham le Moor on 4th.
Reed Bunting	High count of 110 at Rake Lane, North Shields on 22nd.

INDOOR MEETINGS

NTBC indoor meetings are held at Northern Rugby Club, McCracken Park, Great North Road, Newcastle, NE3 2DT starting at 7.00pm and generally finish between 9.00pm-9.30pm. The next meeting is 10th February.

FIELD TRIPS

On hold for the next few months. Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

A minimum of 55 were at Greenrigg Moor, Hexhamshire on 10th (AJH), and 15 were at Plenmeller Common on 9th (PRM). One to three were also at Alnwick Moor, Longframlington Common and Ramshaw Fell.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Two to four were at Druridge Lane and Widdrington Village.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

A notable 48 were in weedy fields at Rake Lane, North Shields on 22nd (ASJ), 30 were noted in the St Mary's-Hartley area on 20th (ASJ), 25 were flushed by a Marsh Harrier at Widdrington Moor Lake on 13th (CB et al.), and 12-15 were at Bothal Pond (TF/JFa) and Longhorsley (AB/LB). Five to nine were also at Bamburgh, Burradon, Druridge Links, Easington, Ellington, Low Cocklaw and Slaley, and two to four at Black Callerton, Dunstan Steads, Little Mill and Maiden's Hall Lake.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Counts of 12 came from East Hartford (LJM) and St Mary's Wetland (ASJ), and eight were at Druridge Pools and Links.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Records of pale-bellied *hrota* race birds included peaks of 120 (only two juveniles) at Beal on 15th (DF) and 62 at Budle Bay on 13th (DF), while four to eight flew N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and Tynemouth on 5th-6th (CB).

Dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds involved 18 at Fenham Flats on 4th (CB), and singles N on 5th and S on 8th at Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Grindon Lough held a peak of 778 on 9th (PRM), 280 were in the Hauxley area on 16th (HRS), 250 at Derwent Reservoir on 24th (IFo), 173 at Big Waters on 19th (GB), 137 at the Tweed Estuary on 16th (TBr/MMcN), 55-70 at Bothal Pond (TD), Druridge Pools (IDR/JF) and Tyne Riverside CP (IK), and 315-49 at Killingworth Lake, Newcastle Leazes Park and QEII CP.

An individual of the *interior* race (popularly known as 'Todd's Canada Goose') was at Elwick on 19th (RA) and 20th (CB et al.).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Variable numbers at Budle Bay included peaks of 1,750+ on 8th and 1,250 on 30th (DF), while 250 were at Elwick on 20th (CB et al.) and Beal on 18th (DF). One was also with Canada Geese near Hauxley on 27th and a sick individual (avian flu?) was at Holy Island causeway on 4th (CB).



Barnacle Goose

Holy Island

04/12/21

Colin Bradshaw

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Peak counts were 302 at Big Waters on 19th (GB), 300 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (IFo), 270 at Ridley Hall, Slaley on 7th (RMH), 180 at East Chevington on 29th (TD), 110-148 at Cocklawburn Pond (MHu), Snabdaugh near Tarsset (JR) and Tyne Riverside CP (IK). Ten to 47 were also at Bothal and Swallow Ponds, Greenrigg Moor, Grindon Lough and Plenmeller Common.

Bean Goose sp. *Anser fabalis/serrirostris*

Two, calling, over Cullercoats on 24th were probably Tundra Bean Geese *Anser serrirostris* (ASJ).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Northerly movement included 470 at Shorestone on 22nd (IDR et al.), 320 at Cheswick on 16th (MHu), 150 at Stag Rocks on 21st (DF), and 64 at Tweedmouth Dock on 14th (MHu). About 400 flew S at the Blyth Estuary on 31st (GB), a total of 350+ flew SW over Monkseaton on 2nd (MSH), and 50-85 S/SW at Druridge Links (IDR), St Mary's Island (MSH) and Tynemouth (CB) on three dates. About 3,000 were at Doddington on 29th (JD), 2,000 were in the Hauxley area on 16th (HRS), 1,800 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 17th (MSH), 1,500+ at Druridge (over three fields) on 17th (MSH), 1,500 at Gloucester Lodge, Blyth on 22nd (MSH), 1,500 at Cresswell Pond on 23rd (TF/JFa), 800+ at East Holywell on 1st (MSH), 130-230 at Budle Bay and Druridge Links, and 16-40 at/over Cheswick, East Chevington and Seahouses. A silver neck-collared individual (XCL) at Druridge Pools on 22nd 2021 had been ringed as an adult at High Kelling, Norfolk in January 2018. It was then recorded at various Norfolk sites in January-February 2019 and in the St Mary's Island, Northumberland area in November 2019 (PRM).

White-fronted Goose *Anser flavirostris*

One, of the Eurasian *albifrons* race, was at Druridge Links on 3rd (IDR/JF).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Peak gatherings were 40 at Killingworth Lake on 30th (LJM), 34 at QEII CP on 19th (CDH), 20 at Big Waters on 19th (GB), and 14 at East Chevington on 29th (TD). Five to nine were also at Dukes, Linton and Swallow Ponds, and Elswick (R. Tyne). More unusual were two (adults) at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (the species being barely annual at this site; IFo).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Poor numbers recorded this month, with a peak of only 13 at Rayburn Lake on 23rd (ASJ). Five to seven were also at Budle Bay (RA), Castron (TRD) and Low Newton (CB), and one to three at Berwick Pier, Broomlee Lough, Craggside, QEII CP and West Ord. Two flew S at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSWT).



Whooper Swans

Newton Pool

04/12/21

Colin Bradshaw

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

One flew S at Newbiggin on 31st (GB), 14 were at Howdon on 26th (CB), ten at the Blyth Estuary on 31st (GB), six at Cambois on 22nd (CB), and two at Hauxley (SW). More unusual (for the time of year) was one inland at Castron on 18th (JD).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

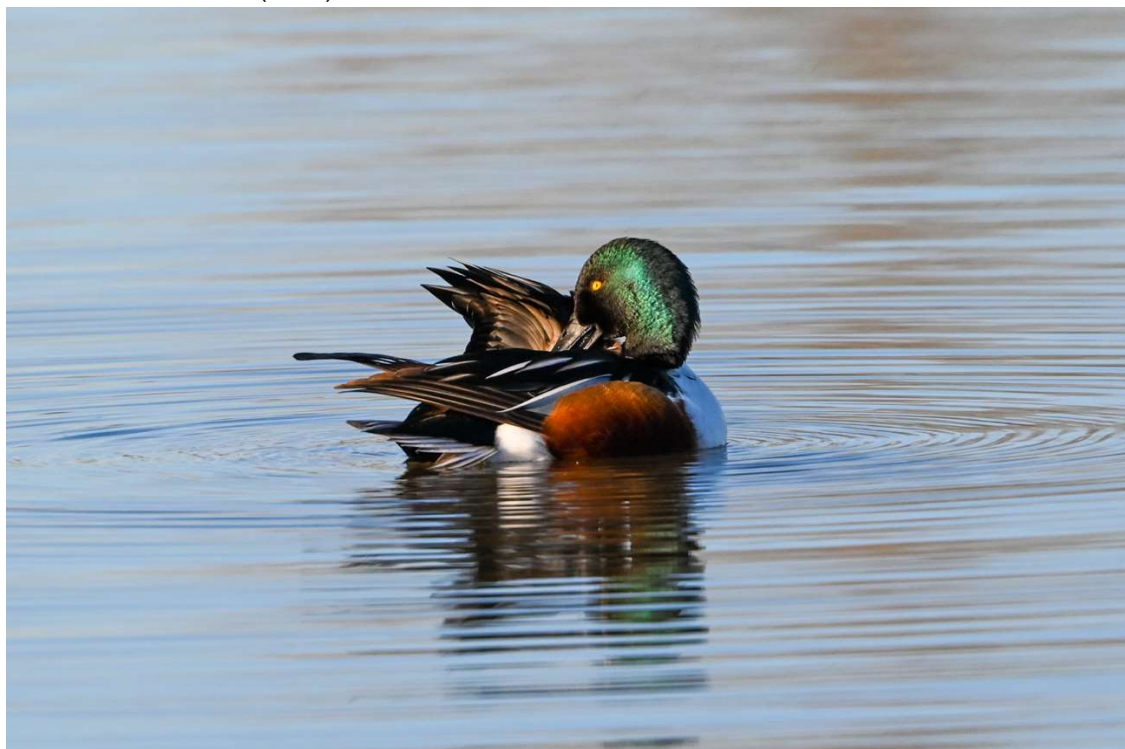
A drake was with Greylag Geese at Big Waters on 17th and 19th (GB), and one was at Elwick, Lindisfarne NNR on 19th (RA) and 20th (CB).

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Two were at Wark on 8th and 18th (PRM).

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

A group of 16 flew N at Annstead on 20th (DF). Good numbers again at Budle Bay included peaks of 99 on 3rd (MSH) and 92 on 6th (DF). Peak counts elsewhere involved 28 at Monks' House Pool on 30th (JPL), 12 at Druridge Pools on 17th (IDR), eights at Amble (Gloster Hill flood pool; CSa), Bothal Pond (TD), Derwent Reservoir (the second highest count ever for the site; IFo) and Linton Ponds (CDH), and three to five at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, East Chevington, Hauxley Reserve and Marden Quarry. One to two were also at Castron, Cresswell Pond and off Seaton Point, Boulmer. More unusual was one at QEII CP Lake (CDH).



Shoveler

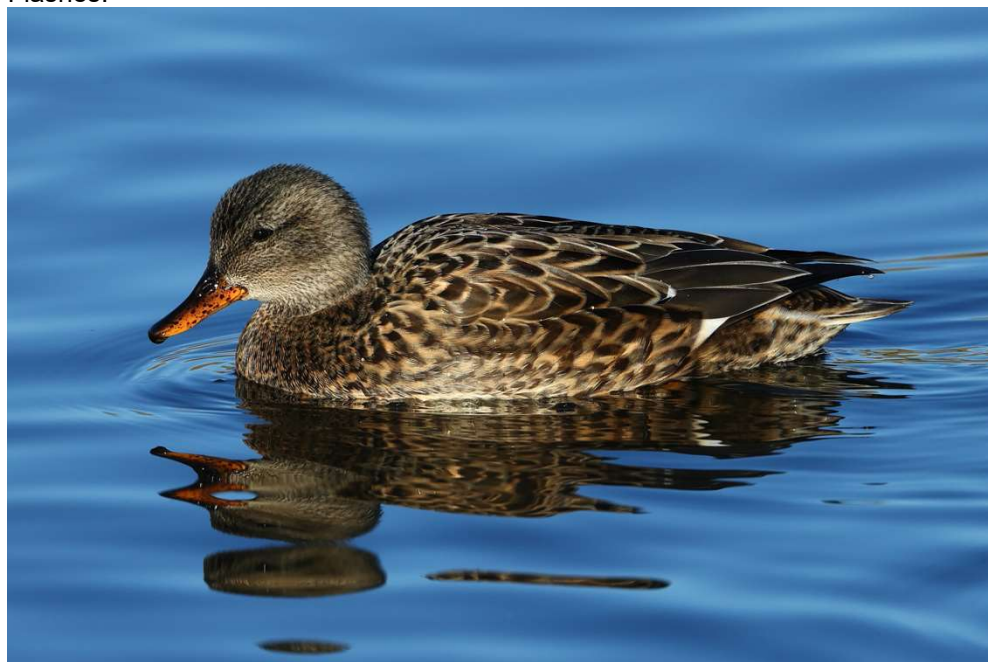
Big Waters

18/12/21

Graham Sorrie

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

Peak counts were 35 at Big Waters on 23rd (GB), 26 at the Blyth Estuary on 3rd (LJM), 24 at Caistron on 18th (JD), 18 at QEII CP on 19th (CDH), ten to 14 at Duke's Pond (CDH), Holywell Pond (MSH), Howdon (CB), Linden Hall GC (NFO) and Marden Quarry (KWY), and five to eight at Bothal Pond, Hauxley Reserve and Killingworth Lake. One to four were also at Cresswell and Ellington Ponds, East Chevington, Howick Pool, Monks' House Pool, St Mary's Wetland and Woodhorn Flashes.



Gadwall (Female and Male)

Wallsend Swallow Pond

December 2021

Alan Jack

**Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

A total of 13 flew N at Seaton Sluice between 1st-8th (SSWT). A notable 898 were at Boulmer (most offshore at Seaton Point) on 19th (BS), 534 were at Druridge Pools on 26th (IDR/JF), 520 at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (IFo), 282 at Grindon Lough on 9th (PRM), 213 at Bothal Pond on 24th (TF/JFa), and 120-150 at Bell's and Cresswell Ponds. Counts of 82-92 came from Hauxley Reserve and Linton Ponds, while 11-45 were at Big Waters, Blagdon, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Gosforth Park NR, Holywell Pond, New Water Haugh and Prestwick Carr. Only six were noted at Fenham-le-Moor, Lindisfarne NNR on 4th (CB).

American Wigeon *Mareca americana*

A drake (presumably the same individual as in the previous winter) was at Big Waters on 16th-17th (AJJ per GB).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Four flew N at Snab Point on 21st (IDR/JF). The largest concentrations were 152 at Grindon Lough on 1st (SW), 152 at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo), 140 at the Tweed Estuary on 16th (TBr/MMcN), 102 at Shield Hall, Slaley on 22nd (RMH), and 54-95 at Airy Holm Reservoir, Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Boulmer Flash, Caistron, Killingworth Lake, Low Cocklaw, Merryshield GP, and Ridley Hall (Slaley). Counts of 20-49 came from Arcot, Bell's, and Middle Ord Ponds, Druridge Pools, Elswick (River Tyne), Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Monks' House Pool, QEII CP, St Mary's Wetland, Wansbeck Riverside CP and Woodhorn Flashes. Ten to 18 were also at Broomlee Lough, Gainslaw, Linton Ponds and Wark (North Tyne).

Pintail *Anas acuta*

60 were at the favoured Fenham Flats section of Lindisfarne NNR on 4th (CB). Singles were at Big Waters (GB), Caistron (TRD), Cresswell Pond (NFO) and St Mary's Wetland (MSH) on single dates.



Pintail, Fenham, 4th December, Colin Bradshaw

Teal *Anas crecca*

A total of 50 flew N and 32 S at Seaton Sluice between 1st-8th (SSWT), and three moved N and nine S at Cullercoats on 5th (CB). Peak counts were 630 at Grindon Lough on 1st (SW), 332 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (IFo), 320 at Holy Island 'rocket fields' on 11th (IK), 100-140 at Bothal Pond (TF/JFa), Caistron (JD), Druridge Pools (IDR), Howdon (CB) and Middle Ord Pond (MHu), and 55-92 at Arcot and Swallow Ponds, Big Waters (some displaying), Elswick (River Tyne), Hauxley Reserve, St Mary's Wetland and Widdrington Moor Lake. Counts of 11-44 came from the Blyth Estuary, Boulmer, East Chevington, Ellington and Holywell Ponds, Low Cocklaw, Monks' House Pool, Prestwick Carr and Snabdaugh (Tarset).



Teal
Big Waters
18/12/21
Graham Sorrie

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Peaks of seven were at Killingworth Lake on 23rd and 30th (GB/MSH/LJM) and Widdrington Moor Lake on 14th and 27th (GB/TB). Five were at Linton Ponds on 19th (CDH), and one to two at Bothal Pond (TD/TF) and Woodhorn Flashes (IDR/JF).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Peak gatherings were 96 at East Chevington on 29th (TD), 50+ at Killingworth Lake on 30th-31st (MSH), 27 at Woodhorn Flashes on 31st (IDR/JF), 24 at Big Waters on 19th (GB), and ten to 20 at Bothal Pond (TD), Druridge Pools (IDR/JF), Grindon Lough (PRM), Holywell Pond (MSH), Merryshields GP (DLe) and QEII CP Lake (CDH). One to nine were also at Derwent Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve, Howick Pool, Linton Ponds, Monks' House Pool, Newcastle Exhibition Park, Paddy Freemans Lake (Heaton) and Slaley Hall. Three 'Scaup-faced' individuals were at Holywell Pond on 14th and three also at Killingworth Lake on 30th (MSH).

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Two were at Ladyburn Lake on 6th and one on 4th (CSa). Singles were at Hauxley Reserve on 27th (AIB/GB/DM/LAR), Holywell Pond on 14th (MSH) and Killingworth Lake on 31st (MSH).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

A total of 45 flew N and 19 S at Seaton Sluice between 1st-8th (SSWT), 87 were at Blyth Harbour on 14th (STH), 45 at Annstead on 4th (DF), 40 at Stag Rocks on 29th (ADM), 26-29 off Cresswell-Snab Point (IDR/PRM) and at Seahouses Harbour (ADM), and 12-18 at Hadston Carrs, North Blyth, Seaton Sluice, Spittal Bay and the Tweed Estuary.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

On 21st, an adult drake flew N with six Common Scoters at St Mary's Island (JBU) and then landed off Cambois (IF/ASJ). The following day it was amongst Common Scoters at Stag Rocks (DF/NFO/IDR et al.).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT) and singles moved N at Cullercoats on 5th (CB) and Annstead on 20th (DF), while two flew S at St Mary's Island on 20th (MSH/AC). Three were off Druridge Links on 27th (IDR/JF) and one was present on 13th and 31st (IDR/MH). Singles were off Blyth South Beach on 31st (MSH) and Stag Rocks on 3rd (CB).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

A total of 59 flew N and ten S at Seaton Sluice between 1st-8th (SSWT). Variable numbers in the Budle Point-Stag Rocks area included a peak of 750 on 12th (RA), 130 were in Druridge Bay on 13th (MH), and 23-48 at Blyth Bay, Cambois, Cresswell, Seaton Sluice and Spittal Bay.

Black Scoter *Melanitta americana*

An adult drake was off Budle Point-Stag Rocks on six dates between 12th-31st (RA/NFO et al.).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

A total of six flew N at Seaton Sluice between 1st-8th (SSWT) and three flew N at Newbiggin on 2nd (NFO). Peak numbers involved 20 at Ross Back Sands on 27th (NFO) and 18 at Stag Rocks on 12th (RA). Two to eight were in the Budle Point-Stag Rocks area during the month but few were noted elsewhere; one to two at Holy Island (North Shore and St Cuthbert's Island (IK/ADM), and singles at St Mary's Island on 1st (MSH) and Ladyburn Lake on 6th (CSa).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

A total of eight flew N at Seaton Sluice between 1st-8th (SSWT), and one to three N at Cambois, Cullercoats and St Mary's Island (CB/IF/MSH). Good numbers at East Chevington north pool included a peak of 78 on 14th (BS). Other peak counts involved 61 at the Tweed Estuary on 16th (TBr/MMcN), 54 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 6th (MHu), 40 at Football Hole on 27th (TD), 20 at Longhoughton Low Steads on 16th (BS), and 11-16 at Castron, Castle Island, Howick, Killingworth Lake and Widdrington Moor Lake. Five to nine were also at Annstead Point, Big Waters, Hauxley Reserve, Holy Island, QEII CP Lake and West Ord, and three to four at Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Embleton Bay and Grindon Lough. One to two were at a further ten scattered sites, including one on a flooded field at Boulmer on 10th (MKi).

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

A 'redhead' was noted at Widdrington Moor Lake between 7th-18th (MH/AA/TB et al.).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Five flew E at Abbey Mill, Morpeth on 27th (GB et al.) and three flew N at Stag Rocks on 30th (NFO). The largest groups were 14 on the River Tweed at Norham on 18th (NFO), ten at Whittle Dene Reservoirs during the month (AA), eight at Airy Holm Reservoir on 30th (IFo) and eight at Killingworth Lake on 23rd (GB). Three to four were also at Morpeth, Newcastle Leazes Park, New Water Haugh and the Tweed Estuary. One to two were at Castron, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Hedgeley GP, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Exhibition Park, Wark (North Tyne) and West Allotment Pond.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

12 were off Warkworth on 21st (CSa), seven off Druridge Links on 31st (IDR), sixes at Budle Bay (DF), Calot Shad, the Tweed Estuary (MHu), Holy Island (IK) and Stag Rocks (IDR et al.), and one to two at the Blyth and Coquet Estuaries, Cheswick and Seahouses Harbour. Freshwater records included up to eight regularly at Widdrington Moor Lake (TB/STH et al.), fours at Cresswell Pond (TF/JFa) and Druridge Pools (IDR/JF), three at Castle Island on 31st (GB), and two at QEII CP Lake (TF).

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

A minimum of 400 were at Berwick Hill on 21st (AHB), 170 were on Kingston Park Shopping Centre Gym Roof on 16th (AHB), 120 on a barn NE of Castron on 18th (JD), five at Shoreston on 22nd and "present" in Jesmond Dene on 12th.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Berwick Hill peaked at ten on 28th (AHB), three were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 30th (TB) and two were seen at Druridge Lane and Jesmond Dene.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

A large flock of at least 480 flew N at dawn past East Ord (Berwick) on 29th (MHu). 50 were at Ellington Pond on 4th (IDR/JF), 37 at Shoreston on 22nd (IDR) and one to eight at several other localities.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Some decent counts this month with 40 at Kirkley Hall on 5th (ASJ), 30 at Slaley Village on 14th (RMH) and 25 at Dinnington on 5th (ASJ/PCF). 16 were counted within a two km radius of Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 24th (LJM), 11 were at Saltwick on 5th (MHB), six at Ogle on 28th (AHB), up to four present in a Gosforth Garden Village garden all month (MJC) and a singing male was heard at Chapel House on 31st (MH).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Three were heard calling from the wet marsh just north of the crossroads at Prestwick Carr on 20th (STH) and Gosforth Park NR on 23rd (TD) whilst singles were at Cresswell Pond and Hedgeley GP.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

QE11 CP peaked at 18 on 27th (IDR/JF), 11 were on the reserve at Hauxley on 16th (HRS), 11 also at Killingworth Lake on 30th (LJM) and one to eight were seen at several other sites.

Coot *Fulica atra*

61 was the peak count at Linton Ponds on 19th (CDH), 35 were at Woodhorn Flashes on 31st (IDR/JF), 30 at Bothal Pond (TD), 28 at Killingworth Lake on 3rd (LJM) and 22 at QE11 CP on 27th (IDR/JF). Ten at East Chevington on 29th TD) confirmed a mass exodus from last month's record gathering there and one to four were at several other localities.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Varying counts came from East Chevington with a peak of 17 on the North Pool on 2nd (MH), Hauxley peaked at ten on the reserve on 16th (HRS), seven were at Broomlee Lough on 9th (PRM) and six was the peak at Caistron and Wansbeck Riverside Park. One to four were seen at the R. Blyth estuary, Boulmer (diving in shallow tidal pools), Budle Bay, the R. Coquet estuary, Druridge Pools, Fourstones, Killingworth Lake, Hedgeley GP, Howick Pool, Linden Hall GC, Merryshields GP, QE11 CP, St. Mary's Wetland, the R. Wansbeck (Morpeth), Wark and Widdrington Moor Lake.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Two flew N together past Annstead (Seahouses) on 20th (DF) and singles were on the sea off Seaton Point (Boulmer) (BS) and Warkworth Beach (CSa), both on 19th. The long staying bird at Widdrington Moor Lake gradually changed in winter plumage during the month (MH/AA/TF/JFa *et al.*) and was briefly joined by a second bird on 12th (TD).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

One flew S past Stag Rocks on 29th (ADM). Three were off Warkworth Beach on 20th (CSa), two were at QE11 CP and Druridge Bay whilst singles were at Derwent Reservoir, which was unusual for the site at this time of year (IFo), Druridge Pools, Killingworth Lake, St. Mary's and Widdrington Moor Lake.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps Auritus*

Six were seen from Budle Point on 18th (CGK), two were at Ross Back Sands on 27th (NFO) and singles at Budle Bay, Cresswell (the small pond behind hide) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh). One at Widdrington Moor Lake on various dates completed the full set of wintering grebe species at that site this month.



Slavonian Grebe

Cresswell

06/12/21

Colin Bradshaw

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

The highest count was made at St Mary's Island on 2nd when 115 were present at a high tide roost (MSH). The only other three figure concentration was 111 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 30th where only seven had been seen on 21st (IDR/JF). On 31st Beacon Point (Newbiggin) attracted 90 (TD) and in the Berwick area on 13th, 68 roosted at the Coastwatch and 56 at Little Beach (MHu). Other counts over 40 were 61 at Boulmer Flash on 17th (AB/LB), 50 at Hauxley NWT on 16th (HRS), 47 at the River Blyth Estuary on 3rd (LJM) and 42 at a beach roost at Druridge Links on 17th (IDR). Five-35 were seen at Boulmer, Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary), Cresswell, Hadston Carrs (Druridge Bay), North Blyth, Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) and West Ord (Berwick). Three were noted well inland at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd and 27th (IFo).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

150 flew S at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT). The large flock reported from Derwent Reservoir last month had increased to 1060. This total being determined from a series of photographs. Large groups were reported from many coastal and near coastal areas during the month, with 400 at Monk's House Pool on 12th (RA), a monthly peak of 380 at Bothal Pond on 24th (TF/JFa), 350 at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) on 30th (IDR/JF), 320 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 6th (MHu) and an estimated 300 at Newton Haven, on 16th (AB/LB). The regular WeBS survey on the River Tweed Estuary revealed 290 on 16th (TBr/MMcM) and 260 were a little way further south at Cocklawburn on the same date (MHu). Other three figure counts this month were, 245 at Shorestone (Bamburgh) on 22nd (IDR *et al.*), 240 at the River Coquet Estuary on 8th (RPo), 230 at St Mary's Island on 15th (KWY), 162 at Prestwick Carr on 12th (PCF) and over 100 at Gloucester Lodge (Blyth) on 22nd (MSH). Hauxley attracted 53 and a maximum of ten was at Druridge links. Inland, 28 were seen at Eals Bridge (South Tyne) on 16th (AJ/TW) and eight were on Coanwood Common on 30th (SJH).



Lapwing

St Mary's

December '21

Alan Jack

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Fewer reports were received this month with none received from Lindisfarne NNR where large numbers were present last month. The peak count was an estimated 1600 present at Newton Haven on 16th (AB/LB) and the monthly maximum at Monk's House Pool was 1500 on 15th compared to 300 there on 3rd (TRD/RA/MSH). At Shorestone (Bamburgh), 1100 were present on 22nd (IDR *et al.*), St Mary's Island held at least 800 on 9th (MSH), with 400 reported at Longhoughton Low Steads on 9th (JAR). A few miles from the coast, 150 were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th (TB) and 35 were at Cresswell Pond on 22nd. The largest flock inland was 160 at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (IFo), with 30 at Sewing Shields on 17th and 29 at nearby Broomlee Lough on 9th. Thirty were also at Black Lough (Alnwick Moor) on 30th with eight at Cocklawburn and four seen at Beacon Point (Newbiggin).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

A low number of reports received this month, with the peak count being 12 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 31st (TD). Ten were seen at Longhoughton Steel on 29th (SW), five at Budle Bay on 13th, three at Berwick Little Beach on 15th and a single flew N at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 3rd,

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Higher numbers were reported this month with 78 at the Long Nanny Estuary on 17th being the highest (NFO). The favoured wader haunt at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) attracted 62 on 10th (AP) and Cocklawburn held 52 on 16th (MHu). The roost on Ferguson's roof at Blyth Harbour peaked at 48 on 14th (STH) and in the Berwick area, 44 were at Little Beach on 9th and 16 at Coastwatch on 13th (MHu). The peak monthly count at Druridge Links was 41 on 27th (IDR/JF) with 30 being reported at Chevington Burn beach on 29th (TD). Counts elsewhere were 40 at Budle Point on 21st, 24 at St Mary's Island on 2nd and 17 at Boulmer on 10th.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

52 flew N at Hadston Carrs on 27th (PRM). The Longhoughton area remained the favoured locality with the highest count being 545 at Longhoughton Steel on 16th (BS). Approximately 300 were in fields to the west of High Newton on 27th (TD) and 200 were on a school playing field at Scremeston on 22nd (JAR). Hauxley attracted 167 on 16th (HRS) with 120 at St Mary's Island on 6th (ASJ) with the same number reported from Embleton on 16th (AB/LB). Counts over 100 were made at Cheswick where 120 were present on 16th (MHu) and Druridge Pools where 120 were seen on 27th (IDR/JF). At Warkworth, 80 were attracted to flooded fields on 6th (RPo), with the same number at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 30th (IDR). Other flocks noted during the month were 76 at Cocklawburn on 2nd, 68 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 15th, 62 at Boulmer on 10th, 43 at Caistron on 18th and a minimum of 30 at Gloucester Lodge (Blyth) on 13th. One-12 were seen at Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Berwick Coastwatch, Elswick (River Tyne), Monk's House Pool and Shorestone.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Few reports were received with 12 at Annstead (Seahouses) on 4th being the highest (DF). There were 11 reported at Boulmer on 10th (MKi) and the maximum in the Berwick area was eight at Little Beach from 9th-22nd (MHu). A single was at Seahouses Harbour on 4th (CB).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Birds remained at Budle Bay with the highest count as last month being 30 on 14th (JPL). On 9th 20 were seen at Annstead (Seahouses, AMG/MG). Single figure counts were received from other sites with the maximum at Howdon (River Tyne) being nine on 11th and 26th (CB). Nine was also the peak count at Monk's House Pool on 12th (RA). One-four were seen at Boulmer Flash, Druridge Pools, Hemscott Hill (Cresswell), Longhoughton Steel, Low Newton and the River Coquet Estuary during the month.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Last month's large flock at Stag Rocks continued to decline and only 25 were left by 22nd (MSH/IRD *et al.*). The largest concentration this month was 60 at high tide at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 31st (TD). Elsewhere, 42 were at Berwick Coastwatch on 13th (MHu) and 11 were at both Cocklawburn and North Blyth. One-eight were seen at Amble Braid, Berwick (Old Bridge and Little Beach). Druridge Links, Cresswell and Snab Point (Cresswell).

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Again, only a few reports from four locations. Several counts were received from Budle Bay with the highest being 47 on 13th (DF). At Boulmer, 40 were counted on 9th with 13 there on 10th with 31 being at nearby Longhoughton Steel on the same date (BS/MKi). Three at Amble Braid on 21st (TRD) was the only other report.



Knot (first winter)

Budle Bay

03/12/21

Mike Hodgson

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

Six were at Druridge Pools on 7th and 12th (MH/AA/TD) with a single bird seen a little way further south at Cresswell Pond on 8th (NFO).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Some notable counts were made from favoured sites with the highest being 150 at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 31st (JPL *et al.*). Birds were reported from St Mary's Island from 2nd-15th with the highest numbers being on 9th when 144 were present (ASJ/MSH/KWY). A few miles further north at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) 105 were seen on 10th (AP) and counts in the Druridge Bay area varied, with a low of six on 30th and a high of 110 on 25th (IDR/JF/PRM). Cocklawburn attracted 82 on 30th (MHu), 80 were at Embleton on 16th (AB/LB), 75 were present at the Long Nanny Estuary on 17th (NFO) and 32 were at Football Hole (Newton) on 16th (AB/LB). Elsewhere, 18 were at Berwick Little Beach, 15 were counted at Boulmer and two were seen at North Blyth.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Three figure counts were received from three locations, 205 were at Boulmer on 10th (MKi), 180 were roosting on Ferguson's roof at Blyth harbour on 31st (STH) and 130 were at nearby Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on the same date (TD). Much smaller numbers were noted elsewhere with a maximum of 27 at St Mary's Island on 2nd (MSH), 18 at Cocklawburn on 16th (MHu), 15 present at Amble Braid on 21st (TRD), 12 at Berwick Little Beach on 9th (MHu) and 12 were also seen at Druridge Pools on 27th (IDR/JF). Two-seven were at five other coastal localities.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

The regular wintering flock at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) was established and regularly reported with the peak count being a minimum of 250 on 31st (DF). Much smaller numbers were present at other sites with 27 seen at Howick on 17th (JAR), 24 present at St Mary's Island on 2nd (MSH), with 16 at Cocklawburn, 15 roosting at Berwick Coastwatch, 15 also at Tynemouth and 14 at Cresswell. One-four were seen at five other typical coastal locations.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Two were seen flying in-off at Bamburgh on 27th (TF/JFa). Two were also noted at Druridge Links on 30th (IDR/JF) and in a field west of Longhoughton on 31st ((BS). Singles were seen at inland and coastal locations at Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Easington, Hauxley, Houxty (Bellingham), Howdon, Kimmer Lough, Longhorsley Moor, Newborough, North Shields and West Dipton Burn Wood. One was in Colin Bradshaw's front garden at Tynemouth on Boxing Day.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Singles were found on 12th at Monk's House Pool (RA), Hauxley NWT on 16th (HRS), Budle Bay on 19th (RA), North Shields (Rake Lane) on 23rd (ASJ) and Cocklawburn and Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) on 30th (MHu/ASJ).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Monk's House Pool attracted a significant concentration of 60 on 12th (RA) but only three were seen on 22nd (IDR *et al.*). 13 at Budle Bay on 19th being the only other report in double figures (RA). One-nine were seen at Bothal Pond, Cocklawburn Pond, Druridge Pools, Hauxley, Houxty (Bellingham), Hexham, Holywell Pond, Longhirst Flash, Seaton Point (Boulmer) Shorestone and St Mary's Wetland.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

A single flew N on 5th at Seaton Sluice was the first December record since 1973 (SSWT)

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Two were seen at Castron on 10th (TRD) with one on 18th (JD). The bird reported last month at Berwick Hill Bridge (River Pont) was seen again on 12th (AHB).

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*

A bird was reported at Budle Bay on 31st (JPL *et al.*)

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

Impressive numbers were again recorded at Budle Bay with a high of 255 occurring on 15th (DF). The regular WeBS count on the River Tweed totalled 239 on 16th (TBr/MMcN) with the maximum in the St Mary's Island being 205 on the rocks on 28th with 185 at a high tide roost on the Wetland on 1st (ASJ/MSH). The monthly maximum at Boulmer Flash was 163 on



9th (BS) with 112 on the River Coquet Estuary on 8th (RPo) and 110 at Howdon on 26th (CB) being the other reports in three figures. At New Water Haugh (River Tweed) 84 were present on 15th (MHu) and the monthly peak at Druridge Pools was 65 on 12th (TD). Flooded fields at Warkworth attracted a group of 60 at high tide on 6th (RPo) with other counts over 40 being 53 at Hauxley, 50 at the Rocket Field Pools on Holy Island, 47 at Snab Point (Cresswell) and a minimum of 40 at North Blyth. Three to 31 were seen at Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Berwick (Gainslaw and Little Beach), Bothal Pond, Cocklawburn, Cresswell, Elswick (River Tyne), Hadston Carrs (Druridge Bay), Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).

Redshank, St Mary's December Alan Jack

Gull sp

On 14th an estimated 1,000 roosted at the southern tip of Coquet Island, seen from Beacon Hill, Amble (BS).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

No large-scale movements were recorded at Seaton Sluice with a maximum of only 60 N in 90 minutes on 8th (SSWT) and 64 moved N in 90 minutes at Cullercoats on 5th (CB).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

An estimated 1,000 gathered at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (IFo), 196 were included in a WeB survey in the Tweed Estuary on 16th (TBr/MMcM) and 'smaller than normal' numbers of 104-120 were recorded in two counts at the QEII CP (CDH/IDR/JF). Elsewhere 16-70 were present at ten sites..One bird on the Tyne at Newburn on 27th was already in full breeding plumage and one found dead at Newbiggin had been ringed as a nestling on Coquet Island in 2005.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

Fewer than usual for the month, the majority being adults, with a maximum of only six at Newbiggin (TD), three at Woodhorn Flashes and one or two at 13 other widespread sites between Tynemouth and Beal. Two different ringed individuals were seen at Swallow Pond.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

'Hundreds' were present at dusk at Druridge Links on 17th (IDR) and elsewhere ca.400 were at Elishaw Bridge (JR) and 250 at Beal (DF). Smaller counts of 30-50 came from Flotterton (Coquetdale) (JR/NA) and Tarnet Bridge (JR) with one or two at three other localities.



Common Gull

Big Waters

18/12/21

Graham Sorrie

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Two records from Budle Bay on 8th and 18th included 82 and 80 (DF/CGK) with 40 and 24 moving N per hour at St Mary's Island on 1st and 5th (MSH). At Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary) two counts were 11 and 18 (MHu) and ten were at Grindon Lough on 29th (PRM). Up to six were present at six other localities.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

1st-winter birds were seen in and around Budle Bay from 8th-27th, generally single birds, but with two present from 12th-18th (DF/RA); scavenging on a dead Barnacle Goose appeared to form the favourite meal. A 1st-winter was also at Little Beach, Berwick feeding on a seal pup carcase from 5th-9th (BWG).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoideus*

The adult seen regularly last month at Big Waters NWT was there again on 22nd (IK) and an adult seen circling over Gosforth Garden Village on 5th was possibly the same individual (MJC). A 3rd-winter was seen regularly at North Shields Fish Quay from 8th-28th (MN). A 2nd-winter at St Mary's Wetland on 2nd was identified as the bird present there last month (MSH/AC) and a 2nd-winter was also at Swallow Pond on 28th (GPK).



Iceland Gull

Big Waters

18/12/21

Graham Sorrie

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argenteus*

A WeB survey in the Tweed Estuary on 16th found 809 (TBr/MMcN) and at Derwent Reservoir counts of 70 and 47 were recorded (IFo). Lesser numbers of 20-40 frequented Bamburgh, Cressewell (Snab Point), Druridge Links, Monks' House Pool and the QEII CP. with, elsewhere, up to six present at eight other localities; the leucistic bird was again at Bedlington throughout. A Northern race bird, *ssp argentatus*, was on the Tyne at Elswick (PRM).

***Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

A 2nd-winter was in Amble Harbour on 20th (CSa).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Surprisingly few records, comprising only singles at Blyth Harbour and Derwent Reservoir.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

One flew N at Howick on 5th (BS).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

One flew S at Beacon Hill, Amble on 14th (BS).

Auk *sp*

No large-scale movements were seen at Seaton Sluice with a maximum of 50 N in two hours on 2nd (SSWT) and elsewhere on that day eleven flew N in 45 minutes at St Mary's Island (MSH). At Cresswell, Snab Point, 18 were recorded on 21st.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Small numbers flew N during the period 2nd-8th, recorded from six coastal watch-points, all singles apart from three at Newbiggin on 2nd (NFO).

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

The largest counts were 12 at Cresswell and 11 at North Blyth on 22nd (PRM). One to three were seen at five other localities.

Razorbill *Alca torda*

At Cullercoats, 30 flew N in 90 minutes on 5th (CB) and one to four were recorded at four other sites.

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Very few recorded with only three seen at Seaton Sluice during the first week (SSWT) and one to three elsewhere at Annstead, Bamburgh, Cullercoats and Newbiggin.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

In December a total of 136 birds were seen at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower between the 1st and 8th with 100N and 36S (SSWT). 65 birds were at Warkworth Beach on 29th (CSa), 27 were at Druridge Links on 17th (IDR), 216 flew S at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 14th (AP) and 25 were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 3rd (CB). One - seventeen birds were seen at 19 sites during the Month.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Only one record this Month with a single at Cresswell on 22nd (PRM).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Seaton Sluice Watch Tower between 1st and 8th had six birds with 3N and 3S (SSWT), three flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 3rd (DF). Two birds possibly three were present at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 27th (TF/JFa) and two were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 11th, 13th, 14th, 17th and 23rd (TF, TRD/JD et al) and single birds were there on several dates between 2nd and 29th (MN, STH, SW et al). Singles were also seen at Stag Rocks on 6th (DF), 12th (RA/NFO) and 22nd (IDR et al); other single birds were at St Mary's Island on 7th (MSH), Ross Back Sands (NFO) and Druridge Links (IDR/JF) on 27th.

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

110 birds flew N in 5 hours at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT). 58 were at Howick on 17th (JAR), with 46 N in one hour on 5th (BS), Snab Point (Cresswell) had 38 birds on 21st with 36 back on the cliffs and two on the sea (IDR/JF) and 17 on cliffs and five on the sea on 17th (MH/AA). Eight birds were back on cliffs at Old Hartley on 11th (MSH) and four pairs back on cliffs at High Point (Whitley Bay) on 27th (CDH), five birds were noted at Annstead (Seahouses) on 11th and 20th (DF), two birds were off Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 7th and at Annstead (Seahouses) on 30th (DF) and a single bird was noted at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 30th (IDR).

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*

A putative bird was at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 18th (DF)

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

An extremely rare December record of two birds N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 5th (SSWT).

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

At Seaton Sluice Watch Tower between 1st and 8th 196 birds were noted with 116 S and 80 N (SSWT). Five birds were fishing offshore at St Mary's Island on 7th (MSH) and one bird was seen at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 3rd (MSH).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

The highest count this Month was 49 birds at Blyth Harbour on 14th (STH), 19 birds were at QEII CP on 6th (TB), 17 birds flew S in a tight flock at Whitley Bay on 27th (CDH), fifteen were at Branton GP on 24th (IBDa/KDa) and 12 birds were at Elswick (R Tyne) on 3rd (PRM), Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 13th (MHu) and at North Blyth on 22nd (PRM). One to six birds were at 14 sites.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

140 birds were at Budle Point on 18th (CGK). Seaton Sluice Watch Tower had 34 birds between 1st and 8th with 27 S and 7 N (SSWT). 11 birds were in Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 3rd (MHu) and at Blyth Harbour on 14th (STH), 10 were at North Blyth on 22nd (PRM). Eight birds were in a roost at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 13th (MHu); seven were at Blyth South Harbour on 3rd (LJM) and at Cambois on 22nd (PRM) and six were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 22nd (IDR et al). One to four were noted at nine sites during the Month.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

20 birds were counted on a WeBs count at the River Tweed Estuary on 16th (TBr/MMcN), seven birds were at Hauxley on 16th (HRS), and four were at Gosforth Park NR on 24th (MN). One -three birds were at 12 sites.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

One was in a field at Seaton Delaval on 14th (ASJ per NC), one was present at Caistron on 18th (JD) and one flew N over South Pool (East Chevington) on 31st (MH).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Two birds were present at Tyne Riverside CP (Blaney Row) (IK) throughout the Month and two were also at Branton GP on several days during the Month (IBDa/KDa). Singles were seen at Annstead Point (Seahouses), Berwick Hill (R Pont), Budle Bay, Caistron, Cresswell Pond, Dinnington, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Hedgeley GP, High Ford Bridge (Morpeth), Horton Burn (Cramlington), Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), R Blyth Estuary, Rising Sun CP (Wallsend), Seahouses GC, West Ord (Berwick) and Wylam.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Three different individuals were seen in the observer's garden at Garden Village (Gosforth) throughout the Month (MJC). Single birds were reported from 15 sites.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Four birds an adult male, 2 juveniles and a female were at Chevington on 2nd (MH) with the adult male and two juveniles there on 13th (MH) and a male and two juveniles were also seen at Widdrington Moor Lake on 13th (MH). Two birds involving an adult male and a 2nd cal yr male were at Chevington on 31st (MH). Single birds involving a male, female and a juvenile were seen Druridge Bay area on several dates throughout the Month (ADMc/AJ et al). Away from the Druridge area a female was at Caistron on 18th (JD), a female type was at Bothal Pond on 19th (TD/TF); a bird was chased away by a Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* at Fenham-le-Moor (Lindisfarne NNR) on 20th (CB et al).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Ringtail birds were seen at three confidential sites on 10th, 13th and 20th a 2nd winter male was at another confidential site on 28th and a grey male was at another confidential site on 30th.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Three birds were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 21st (IFo), two were at Airy Holm Reservoir (Nr Shotleyfield) on 25th (IFo) and single birds were at Derwent reservoir on 21st (IFo), Simonburn on 24th (PRM), Melkridge on 31st (SJH) and one flew SSW over the observers garden in Garden Village (Gosforth) late afternoon on 31st (MJC).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Six birds were "yo-yoing" in the air together at Harehope (Edlingham) on 30th (MH), four birds were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 2nd (MN), Harwood Village on 15th (TWi), Milkwell (Corbridge) on 16th (RB/MB) and at Low Cocklaw (Berwick) on 30th (TBr). One to three birds were at 22 sites during the Month.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

The only multiple count was four at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (ASJ) with different single birds hunting in daylight late morning of 22nd and 28th (IFo). Singles were at Muckle Moss and Thorngraston Common on 6th, Wooler on 5th Stagshaw and Kiln Pit Hill on 15th, Greenhead and Blanchland Moor on 16th, Wall and Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 19th, Embleton on 22nd and 30th and Humshaugh on 27th. One road casualty on the A1 north of Belford on 22nd.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Three called at Longhorsley at 22.30hrs on 17th (AB/LB) with two at Fulbeck (Morpeth) all month (TD) and single at daylight roost at Derwent Reservoir from 17th to 23rd (IFo). Singles were also at Wylam on 2nd, Belford on 14th, Humshaugh on 15th and Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 28th, the observers first here for 27 years.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Singles were at the regular locations of Druridge Farm on 3rd and Backworth on 11th (IDR/JF/ASJ).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

A roost of three at Holy Island on 24th (ADM), two in dispute at Lindisfarne NNR (Fenham-le-Moor) on 20th (CB et al) and two hunting east of Abysinia Wood (Longhirst Flash) on 21st (TF/JFa) with a single there on 27th and at East Chevington on 2nd.



Short-eared Owl

Fenham

20/12/21

Colin Bradshaw

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

All reports were of single birds at Tyneview Park (Benton) on 1st, East Chevington on 11th, Wydon Water (Hexham) and Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 12th, Hauley NNR on 16th, Norham on 18th, Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 21st, Wark (N.Tyne) on 18th and 22nd, Derwent Reservoir on 23rd and 27th, Howick on 26th and Thrum Mill (Rothbury), Haughton Castle and Howick Pool all on 31st.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Three were at Wark (N.Tyne) on 28th (PRM), with two at Tynemouth on 13th, 25th and 31st (CB), Jesmond Dene on 19th and Derwent Gorge on 21st (MJCo/IFo). Swingles were at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle), Humshaugh and Milkwell (Corbridge) on 3rd and 20th, Holywell Pond and Wark (N.Tyne) on 14th, St Mary's Wetland on 15th, Ridley Stokoe on 22nd and Killingworth Lake on 30th.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Three males and a female were at Prestwick Carr on 25th (MH), two at Tynemouth on 28th (ASJ) with singles at Widdrington Moor Lake on 2nd, Red Row and Cresswell Pond NWT on 8th, Howick on 10th, Tyneview Park (Benton) and Wallsend Rising Sun CP on 11th, Nedderton on 12th, Milkwell (Corbridge) on 14th and 16th, Wark (N.Tyne) on 18th, Ellington on 21st, Rake Lane (North Shields) on 22nd, Alcan Power Station on 24th, Black Callerton and Longhoughton on 25th, Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotley Field) on 27th, Wallsend and Snab Point (Cresswell) on 30th.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

A female hunted waders at Boulmer on 10th (MKi), one was at Prestwick Carr on 23rd (STH), at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 28th (ASJ) and one possibly two at Holy Island Causeway on 30th (NFO).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

A male and female hunted pigeons north of Druridge Pools on 17th (MH/AA) and two attacked the wader roost at Stag Rocks Bamburgh on 22nd (DF). Singles were at Berwick on 1st, Prestwick Carr, Tynemouth Priory and Broomlee Lough on 9th, Ramshaw Fell (Coanwood Common) on 13th and 30th, Chevington on 13th, Newcastle City centre on 20th, Derwent Reservoir and Budle Bay on 23rd, Holy Island on 24th, Rake Lane (North Shields) on 28th and Bamburgh Castle on 29th.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Around 30 were at Walker Park (Newcastle) on 26th (AJN) and noted regularly at dusk flying W at Wallsend with a peak of seven on 30th (CGK). Four were at Jesmond Dene on 19th, Walkerville (Newcastle) on 24th and Billy Mill (North Shields) on 29th and three at Tynemouth on 13th.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

High counts of seven were at Howick Hall on 31st (AHa/PHa), six at Widdrington Moor Lake on 10th (ASJ) and West Dipton Burn Wood on the same date (AJH). One to two were at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) all month, two at Ellington on 6th, Debden (Rothbury) on 8th, Netherwitton on 12th, Howick on 26th and Lowcarritheth (Hesleyside) on 27th. Singles were at Ellington on three dates and 14 other widespread localities.

Magpie *Pica pica*

A evening roost count of 65 was at Balliol Business Park (Longbenton) on 17th (ADM) with 28 found on a 3km walk around Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) on 11th (CDH). Five were at Woodhorn Flashes on 31st, four the high count at Druridge Pools and Links on 3rd and three at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 19th and one to two at three other location.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* / **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

500 headed to roost at Allen Banks on 5th were reported by a local as a daily occurrence with the same number flushed by raptor at Abberwick on 31st (MH).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

High counts included of 1000 foraging at Carterway Heads on 25th (IFo) with evening roost c.245 at Wark (N.Tyne) on 28th (PRM), around 185 feeding at High Mickley on 30th (DLe), 145 on roofs at dawn at Ellington Colliery on 7th (IDR/JF) and 120 over Ramshaw Fell (Coanwood Common) on 13th (SJH). 65 were at QEII CP on 27th, around 35 at Sleafy Village on 14th and 30th with 30 at Stag Rocks on 22nd and Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) on 30th. One to nine were at five locations.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Around 1000 were at Bennettsfield (Otterburn Ranges) on 12th (JR), 67 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (IFo), 50 at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on the same date (IDR et al), 20 at Druridge Farm on 3rd, nine at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) on 30th and one at QEII CP on 27th.

Carriion Crow *Corvus corone*

On 24th at Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary) 66 fed on shellfish at low tide (MHU), 37 at East Hartford on 29th (LJM), 23 at Bennettsfield (Otterburn Ranges) on 12th (JR), 11 at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 19th (MJCo) with seven at Druridge Farm and Longhirst Flash on 27th and two to five at seven other locations.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Five were at Kielder Forest Drive on 7th (ADM) with a pair at Quarry House Moor on 10th, two at Whittingham on 17th and Edges Green (Haltwhistle) on 28th. At 10.00 am on both 12th and 13th one crossed from St Cuthberts to the mainland (IK) with singles at Sleafy on 3rd and 14th, Widehope on 17th and Ross Village on 27th.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

A Winter Constant Effort Ringing session at Corbridge Common on 27th caught 32 birds with nine new and 23 retraps, 22 being adult and ten first winter birds (DLe). 15 were found at Kielder Forest Drive on 7th with 6 there on 22nd (ADM) and one to three at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) all month. Two were at Druridge Pools and Links on 3rd, Dinnington on 9th, Wark (N.Tyne) on 14th, ringed at Hauxley on 16th and Druridge links on 30th with singles at all of the above and Jesmond Dene.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Three were together in garden at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 9th (NFO), two at Waters Meet (R.Tyne) on 5th (SW) and Brinkburn on 15th (TWi). Singles were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on five further dates and at garden feeders at Longdyke (Shilbottle) all month.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

There were many reports from Prestwick Carr with six on 16th and 22nd (MN/AJ), two pairs on 23rd (STH) and two to three on three other dates. Singles were in garden at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 7th and 20th, St Mary's Wetland and Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 15th, Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 21st and Ash Lagoon Bank (Newbiggin) on 27th.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Six were together in garden at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) (MJC) during the month and at Prestwick Carr on 12th and 31st (PCF) with three at Druridge Links on 27th, two at Ellington on 4th, Woodhorn Flashes on 31st and singles at Druridge Pools and Links, Shorestone, Longhirst Flash and Jesmond Dene.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Throughout the month eight were together in garden at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) (MJC) and six at Prestwick Carr on 31st (PCF), five at Druridge Links on 27th (IDR/JF), four at Jesmond Dene on 12th (MJCo), three at Druridge Pools and Links on 3rd and singles at Ellington Pond and Shorestone.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

A female was at North Pool East Chevington on 9th (NFO).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

High counts included 60 at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 22nd with one singing briefly (ASJ), 26 in stubble at Cresswell Pond NWT on 8th (NFO), 25 at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 17th and Budle Bay on 19th (STH/RA), 24 south at Easington on 28th (NFO) and 23 at Cottonshope Head (Otterburn Ranges) on 12th (JR). Four to ten were at Fenham le Moor, St Mary's Island and over S at Marden Estate (Cullercoats).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

One flew S at East Chevington Burn Mouth on 22nd (Peter Tapsell) being the 2nd latest record after one on the 31st in 1954.

Cetti's Warbler *cetti*

Two were at Big Waters NWT on 30th (IK), where one bird's alarm call was answered by another from the opposite side of the lake. One was singing at East Chevington on 31st (TF/JFa, MH).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Flocking parties this month included 18 (in two groups of nine) at Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 24th (LJM), 17 at Slaley Hall on 10th (RMH), and 15 by the Tyne at Elswick (Newcastle) on 3rd (PRM). Hauxley and Milkwell (Corbridge) both had 15 on 16th (HRS, RB/MB). Garden sightings included parties of up to 14 at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) (MJC) and 12 at Longdyke (Shilbottle) (MKi) throughout the month. Druridge Pools and Beaconhill (Cramlington) had a maximum of 12 on 3rd (IDR/JF) and 28th (STH) respectively. Groups of ten were at Arcot Pond on 3rd (LJM), Rothbury on 28th (TRD/JD), and Alnmouth on 30th (JAR). Smaller numbers were reported from a further six locations.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Singles were at Tyneview Park in Benton (Newcastle) on 6th (CDH) and St Mary's Wetland on 17th (MSH). One of the Siberian ssp. *P. c. tristis* was at Hauxley NWT on 4th (RMH).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

There were six sightings of single birds this month, with males at Stannington on 1st (NFO), Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 9th (TD), Tynemouth on 21st to the end of the month (DRW), and Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 24th (MJC). Birds were also at Brandon Valley (Breamish Valley) on 19th (IBDa/KDa) and Wallsend on 23rd (CGK).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

There were four at Hauxley on 16th (HRS) and at Kielder Forest Drive on 22nd (ADM), and two at Grindon Lough NWT on 9th (PRM) and at Wark (North Tyne) on 28th (PRM). Singles were reported from four other locations, including a garden sighting at Chapel House (Newcastle) on 27th (MH).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Holy Island had five on 24th (ADM), and Druridge Links had a maximum of five on 27th (IDR/JF). Shorestone had four on 22nd (IDR *et al.*) There were two at three other locations, including one–two birds present in a garden at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) throughout the month (MJC).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

There were nine at Bolam Lake CP on 16th (ASJ), and a maximum of three birds in song at Humshaugh on 31st (SW). Two were reported from Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 12th (MJCo), Brinkburn on 15th (TWi), and Gosforth Park NR on 24th (MN). Singles were at seven other locations, including a regular garden visitor at Rothbury throughout the month (TRD/JD).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

There were two at Alnmouth on 30th (JAR), and one at Wark (North Tyne) on 28th (PRM).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

The highest count came from Newcastle Airport, where 3,000 were seen flying to and from their roost site during the month (IF). Druridge Links had a maximum of 400 on 27th (IDR/JF). Boulmer had 200 on 10th (MKi), and Ferneryrigg (Sweethope) had 200 on 30th (JR). Smaller numbers were reported from six other locations, including a group of 25 in a garden at Stobhill Manor (Morpeth) on 19th (TF/JFa) where a bird in full juvenile plumage was present.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

A 2km walk by Horton Burn (Cramlington) yielded a count of 51 birds, many feeding on fallen apples, on 24th (LJM). There were 12 in Slaley village on 14th (RMH), and a maximum of 11 present in a garden at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) throughout the month (MJC). Hauxley, Whittingham and Howick Hall had ten on 16th (HRS), 28th (CW), and 31st (AHa/PHa) respectively. Smaller numbers were reported at six locations, with singles at a further three locations.



Blackbird
(condition known as “white-spotting rather than partial albino)

Berwick

15/12/21

Tim Dean

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

The highest counts came from Wainfordrigg (Otterburn Ranges), with 400 on 30th (JR), and Lanehead, with a flock of 300 feeding in a roadside field on 22nd (ADM). Low Cocklaw (Berwick) had a flock of 120 on 29th (TBr). There were 105 at Ferneryrigg (Sweethope) on 30th (JR), 90 at Whittingham on 31st (CW), 60 at Paxton Dene (Longhorsley) on 15th (AB/LB), and 60 at Middle Dukesfield (Slaley) on 22nd (RMH). Chatton had 50 on 12th (CB), Grindon Lough had 40 on 29th (PRM), and Beanley Plantation had 30 on 12th (TRD/JD). Two parties of ten and 15 birds arrived on Holy Island from E in calm weather on 11th (IK), and there were 25 at Simonburn on 12th (CB). Reports of smaller numbers came from six other locations, with singles at a further four locations.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

At Blucher (Newcastle), 120 were flushed off winter wheat by a Sparrowhawk on 18th (MH). There were 75 at Little Mill (Howick) on 13th (JAR), and 60 in a garden at Simonburn on 12th (CB). Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) also had 60 on 27th (IFo). There were 30 at Cornerfield (Slaley) on 3rd (RMH), and 25 flew over Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 19th (TD). Lanehead had 20 on 22nd (ADM). Smaller numbers were recorded at a further ten locations.



Redwing

Eddie Douglas

09/12/21

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

There were three at Shorestone on 22nd (IDR), and three at Little Mill (Howick) on 29th (SW). Cocklawburn (Berwick), Warden and Acomb had two on 2nd (MHu), 4th (SW) and 5th (SW) respectively. Singles were at eight other locations.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*



The highest count came from Lindisfarne NNR, with 20 at Fenham-le-Moor on 20th (CB *et al.*). There were eight at Paxton Dene (Longhorsley) on 15th (AB/LB), and four at Wainfordrigg (Otterburn Ranges) on 30th (JR). Daras Hall (Ponteland), Great Ryle (Whittingham) and Ord Moor (Berwick) each had two on 3rd (PCF), 5th (CW) and 15th (MHu) respectively. A singing bird was at Killingworth Lake on 30th (MSH), and singles were noted at four other locations.

Mistle Thrush

09/12/21

Eddie Douglas

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

The highest count came from Horton Burn (Cramlington), where 11 singing birds were noted in a 2km walk on 24th (LJM). There were ten on Holy Island on 24th (ADM), and seven were counted singing at night on Marden Estate (Cullercoats) on 30th (ASJ). Three were at Shorestone on 22nd (IDR *et al.*), and at Lemmington Hall on 29th (AHa/PHa). A maximum of two were noted at Druridge Links, Ellington Pond, and Jesmond Dene, and one was ringed at Hauxley on 4th (HRS).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

An elusive male bird was seen on the seaward side of Lynemouth Power Station on 16th (AP).

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Chevington had two pairs on 31st (MH), including a female with a hairy caterpillar in her beak. Pairs were also seen at Widrington Moor Lake on 8th (NFO), Howick on 9th (JAR), Quarry House Moor on 10th (MH), Druridge Pools on 14th (TB), the Long Nanny (Newton) on 17th (NFO), and Druridge Coal Road on 29th (TD). One–two birds were reported from Bamburgh, Cresswell, Longhoughton, Embleton, Alnmouth and Holy Island. Singles were at a further ten coastal locations, and also at Longhorsley Moor on 9th (AB/LB), Alwin Valley and Windyhaugh (Upper Coquetdale) on 13th (JR/NA), and at Blagdon on 20th (STH).



Stonechat

St Mary's

December'21

Alan Jack

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Two birds were seen at four sites on rivers in the west of the County this month. Singles seen at a further ten locations. A new site was Wallsend Burn, where one seen on several dates (ASJ).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

33-53 were counted on several days at Slaley and 50 were along 2km of Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 24th (RMH/LMH/LJM). Ten-12 seen at three other sites.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

A wintering flock at Longwitton peaked at 81 birds, watched/photographed feeding on seeds on road on 16th (ASJ). 35-50 were at Holywell Pond, at feeders on several dates and 22 more in nearby dene on 22nd (MSH/ASJ). One -16 were noted at six further sites during the month, including birds at garden feeders at Gosforth, Tynemouth, Rothbury and Cullercoats.



Tree Sparrow

Longwitton

December '21

Alan Jack

Dunnoch *Prunella modularis*

12 were counted in Holywell Dene on 27th (ASJ). Two to four present in gardens all month at Gosforth Garden village and Cullercoats. One to three were at three sites.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Three were seen on 3rd at Elswick and on 17th at Snab Point (PRM/MH/AA). Two were at Easington on 22nd (NFO). Singles at a further eight locations.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

22 were watched feeding at Prestwick Carr on 7th, with 16 there on 9th (MH/AA/IK). Ten were at Swinhoe (Beadnell) on 31st and eight on 17th at Embleton Bay (NFO). One to four at four other sites.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

50 were feeding on 9th at Prestwick Carr (IK). Lesser numbers reported on one other day here. 45 at Longhirst Flash on 27th (IDR). 17 birds seen at St. Mary's on 15th, with six to ten seen on two other dates (ASJ/MSH). 13 in upland areas at Winter's Gibbet on 12th and nine at Cottonshope Head also on 12th (JR). Singles at three other sites.



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

The bird seen in November at St. Mary's remained throughout this month, being seen on many days (ASJ/MSH/AC/JBu et al). Another was found at Druridge Pools on 8th and was seen there up to the end of the month (NFO/TF/TD/IDR et al).

Water Pipit

St Mary's

21/12/21

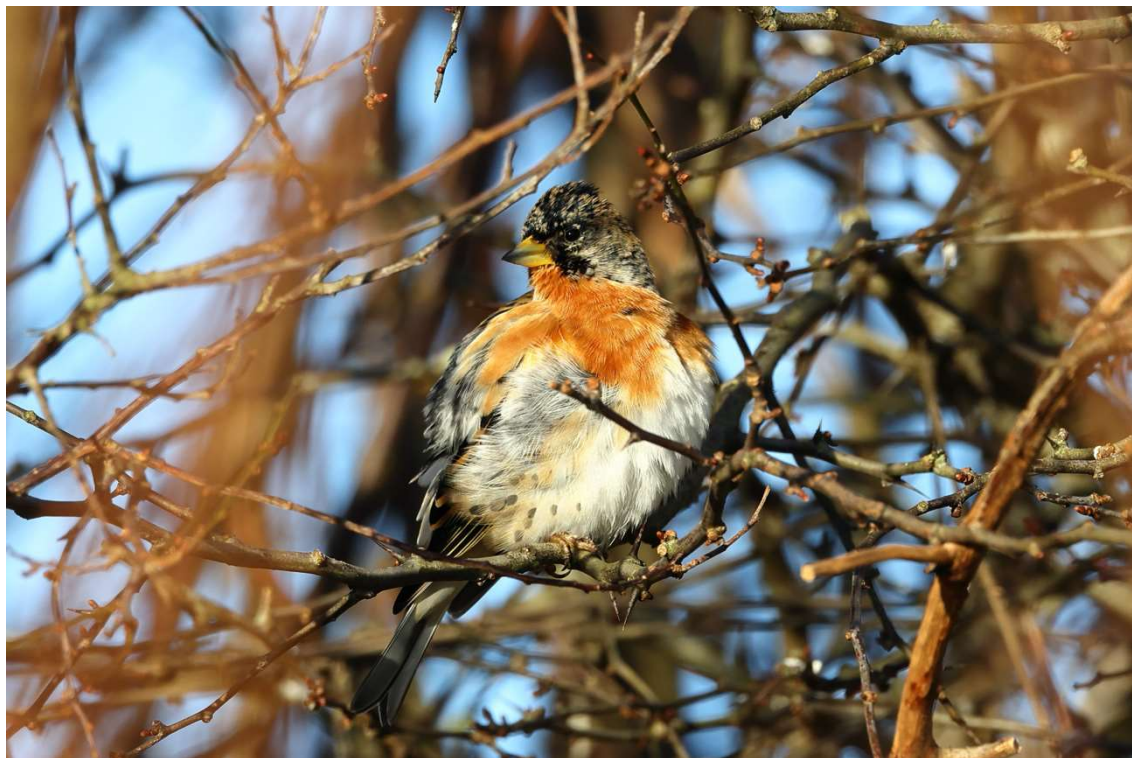
Jack Bucknall

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

17 were seen on 12th at Annstead Point (RA). Eight were at Seaton Point on 17th (AB/LB). Five at Fenham Le Moor on 4th and three to four seen at St. Mary's, Cullercoats, Tynemouth and Berwick (two sites), during the month (CB/ASJ/MSH/MHu/TRD). Singles were noted at Blyth Harbour on two dates.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

100 were in a cover crop at Elwick on 4th (CB). 80 noted at Howick on 10th (JAR). 40-60 were seen at Paxton Dene, Little Mill and Druridge Links this month (TD/IDR/JF/TRD). 30 were part of a large mixed finch flock feeding at Longwitton on 16th (ASJ). 28 at Slaley on 3rd (RMH). Two - 22 were observed at seven other locations during this month.



Brambling

Longwitton,

December '21

Alan Jack

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

One large flock was found this month, with around 100 feeding with other finches, sparrows and buntings in stubble at Longwitton on 23rd, with 50-60 there on 16th. A report from nearby Netherwitton during the previous week, was thought to represent the same group (ASJ). 20 were seen at Chollerford on 15th (Twi). Three were at Crooked Oak on 21st and two were enjoyed at garden feeders in Gosforth on 1st (IFo/MJC). A single was also seen at Grindon on 9th (PRM).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

15 were counted in a tree at Beanley on 12th. 14 was the peak count of birds attending garden feeders at Rothbury this month (TRD/JD). 12 were seen at Howick on 26th (JAR). One to eight were seen at a further 17 locations.



Bullfinch

09/12/21

Eddie Douglas

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

37 were counted at a pre-roost gathering at Linden Hall on 17th (NFO). At Longwiton, 25 were part of a mixed finch flock on 16th (ASJ). 25 also at Alnmouth G.C. on 17th (AB/LB). Up to 12 birds attended garden feeders all month at Gosforth Garden Village (MJC). Two to four were seen at five other sites.



Greenfinch

Longwiton

December '21

Alan Jack

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

60 were observed at Elwick on 19th (RA), 55 noted at Long Nanny on 17th (NFO) and 52 at Cocklawburn on 2nd (MHu). 25-30 on 12th and 16th at St Mary's was unusual (ASJ). 15 were at Druridge on 27th (IDR/JF). One to six at two other sites.

Linnet *Linaria caberet*

A large feeding flock was found at Longwitton on 16th, estimated at 500 birds and at least 300 were seen in a game crop at Blagdon on 18th (SJL). 123 were counted at Easington on 20th, and 100 plus were at Cresswell on 8th (NFO). 80 seen at Longhoughton Steel on 20th and 70 plus at St. Mary's on 29th (SW/MSH/ASJ). On 30th, 60 were noted at Druridge Links and 50 were at Low Steads on 13th (IDR/JF/JAR). 18 at Blyth Bay on 21st and a single bird was at Cambois on 22nd.

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis caberet*

16 in a Gosforth garden on 1st, had reduced to one by the month's end (MJC). Single birds were also seen at nine sites this month.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Around 47 were at Corbridge Common on 4th, including some singing birds (DLe). Ten were seen at Beanley on 12th (TRD/JD). Also on 12th, eight were seen at Simonburn (CB). One to three were watched at a further six sites during the month.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

A flock of 120 was seen at Widdrington Moor on 11th (TRD/JD). 30 -33 were at four sites and one to 26 at a further nine sites this month.

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

70 plus were seen at Wark on 28th (PRM). Around 60 noted at Blyth G.C. on 27th (SJL). Groups of 40 were at Druridge Pools on 12th and at Big Waters on 22nd (TD/IK). 25 were seen at North Shields Fish Quay on 4th and at Linden hall on 29th (KWY/NFO). One to 19 were also at nine sites, including up to eight regularly at garden feeders in Gosforth Garden village.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

The sole sighting this month, was of a single bird, calling at Fenham le Moor on 4th (CB).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

15 were seen at The Snook (Holy Island) on 14th (ADM). Nine were observed at Druridge Links on 3rd (IDR/JF). At St. Mary's on 9th, four flew S. calling (MSH). At Ross, three seen on 19th and two on 27th (RA/NFO). A single bird flew S. at Blyth, South Beach on 22nd (MSH).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*

Weedy fields at Rake Lane (North Shields), attracted the month's largest gathering, when 90 were counted on 22nd, remaining to the month's end (ASJ). About 40 were noted at Low Cocklaw on 29th (TBr). 30 were at Shoreston on 22nd (IDR et al). 25 were feeding in stubble at Tyne Riverside C.P.(Newburn) on 27th (IK). 20 plus were part of a large mixed bunting and finch flock at Longwitton on 16th (ASJ). One to 12 were seen at a further 12 places during the month.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

As last winter, a large number gathered at Rake Lane (North Shields), in weedy fields with 110 counted on 22nd and 90 plus on several other dates (ASJ). 12 were counted at St. Mary's and ten at Backworth on 23rd (ASJ). Elsewhere, one to four were observed at 12 locations.



Reed Bunting

St Mary's

December '21

Alan Jack

ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

Escapes

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

One was found along the 'bumpy road' at Prestwick Carr on 23rd (STH) and on 25th (MH). Looking rather incongruous away from any habitation.

Hybrids

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* x Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

One was at Big Waters on 19th (GB).

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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Berwick Wildlife Group, Hauxley Ringing Station, Howick Ringing Station, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower

Apologies for any accidental omissions

BULLETIN COMPILATION AND PRODUCTION

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Grouse to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Doves to Grebes), Clive Hampton (Oystercatcher to Redshank), Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Auks), Trevor Blake (Divers to Buzzards), Peter Fletcher (Barn Owl to Larks), Clive Hampton, Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings), Graham Sorrie (bulletin compilation), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Apologies for any accidental omissions

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Clive Hammond is Data Manager.

Edited by Steve Barrett NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to ntbc.records@googlemail.com

Please email for a copy of the standard spreadsheet and other details.

Location names and grid references: Please use of standard location names and include grid references as this greatly increases the value of records in subsequent analyses. A 1km square grid reference is the ideal e.g. NY8067 for Grindon Lough, but 2km square references (tetrads) are also acceptable e.g. NY86D in this case. A list of localities and their tetrad grid references (tetrad/Locality List) can be downloaded from the 'Resources and Downloads' section of the Club website at <http://www.ntbc.org.uk> – the use of these names, wherever possible, would be highly appreciated.

Could club members ensure they to submit records direct to NTBC rather than just Birdtrack. There may be an assumption by some members this happens automatically. We do not want to miss records.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent photographs. Please send to Steve Barrett at NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

It is preferable if you re-size your photos before sending and a suggested size is 640 x 480 pixels. Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality.

Photographs will not be used elsewhere without the photographer's permission.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. Subs are due on 1st October each year. Membership forms can be downloaded from the club website.

If you internet bank you can pay online: please include your name in the ref. It is helpful if you email me to let me know when you've made the transfer ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

If you decide to set up a standing order please date the first payment at least a fortnight from your posting date to allow time to process with the bank. You can also set up your standing order directly with your bank if you wish; just let me know. Our bank details are on the membership form.

For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

Finally, if you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome.

Jo Bentley - Hon Treasurer

It's that time of year again!!

Annual subs were due on October 1st - many thanks to all those who have already paid - it does save loads of time chasing up late payments when subs come in on time.

Subs remain at £30.00 (£32 for family membership; £10 for junior members) You can pay online - Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club; Sort Code: 30-93-55 Account No: 02027960 or send a cheque to - Jo Bentley, 80 Western Avenue, Prudhoe. Northumberland. NE42 6PA. All details are on the membership form on the website.

You can also set up a Standing order using the SO section on the membership form or direct with your bank. (You'll need to allow a couple of weeks for processing if you post the form to the treasurer.)

If you have any queries please drop me an email at NTBC@jobentley.plus.com or have a chat at one of the indoor meetings.

Best regards.

Jo Bentley – Treasurer.

NTBC WEB SITE

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds.

There are:

Photo Galleries – Here you can view hundreds of photos of birds from Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside. Members are encouraged to contribute their own photos. Simply send them to galleries@ntbc.org.uk

There are also County Checklists, Records Committee updates, Information on important Surveys, useful articles and reports on Bird ID and Overseas Birding Trips....and much more...

Please submit any other new content for the website to the main club email address at ntbcorg@gmail.com

New content such as Birding Trip Reports etc., is always welcome and very much appreciated.

To find out more please visit www.ntbc.org.uk