

# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

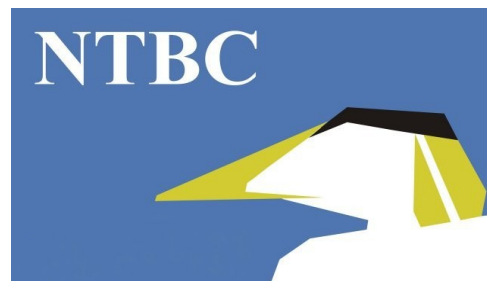
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Bulletin 2022 No 01

MONTHLY SUMMARY JANUARY

8th March 2022

001



## CONTENTS

Stan Booth RIP

2022 Bird Race

## CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Greenland White-fronted Goose	Adult at Grindon Lough from 9th. First here since 2016, formally regular.
American Wigeon	Over wintering drake at Big Waters from 15th to 24th.
Green-winged Teal	Drake at Colt Crag Reservoir from 6th, seen intermittently until end of month.
Scaup	Three at Holywell Pond plus singles at three other sites.
Velvet Scoter	Scarce this month with one at East Chevington and three at Newbiggin.
Black Scoter	Over wintering drake seen through to 24th at Bamburgh and Ross Back Sands
Smew	Female at Widdrington Moor lake all month. Brief foray to Cresswell on 5th.
Great Crested Grebe	Interesting assemblage at Birling Carrs all month. Peak of 17. 1-2 elsewhere.
Red-necked Grebe	The long stayer still at Widdrington Moor Lake all month. Three other reports.
Whimbrel	Wintering bird again at Cambois as per last winter.
Spotted Redshank	Wintering individual again at Bothal Pond and also visiting Castle Island.
Glaucous Gull	First-winters at Budle Bay and Seaton Sluice, 2nd Winters at Linton and Stag Rocks.
Iceland Gull	A third winter at North Shields and Adult at Big Waters
Little Auk	Two north at Seaton Sluice on 5th.
Red-throated Diver	Peak count of 74 at Birling Carrs on 14th.
Black-throated Diver	Singles at Druridge, Holy Island, Ross Back Sands and Birling Carrs.
White-billed Diver	A first-winter was seen off Stag Rocks on 28th.
Spoonbill	First county over wintering individual at Castle Island. Also seen at Bothal Pond.
Great Egret	Two at Caistron on 22nd and single at Thirlings near Milfield.
Hooded Crow	Wintering individual at Linton.
Shore Lark	Two on Holy Island from 9th
Water Pipit	Two on Holy island and singles at Newbiggin and St Mary's.
Hawfinch	One or two still being seen at Abbey Mill, Morpeth during month.
Snow Bunting	Flock of up to 18 at Cheswick and Goswick.
Lapland Bunting	Up to three on Holy Island
Corn Bunting	One well photographed at St Mary's on 2nd and 6th. Only seen briefly each time.

## 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 March.

## Pledging to protect birds – the Dicky Bird Society, a phenomenal nineteenth-century children's society

Launched in 1876 by the Newcastle Weekly Chronicle, the Dicky Bird Society set out to encourage children to protect birds and carry out proactive conservation work. It was phenomenally successful. By the time the society ceased operations in 1940 it had enrolled over 400,000 children and engaged them in bird feeding, building nestboxes and campaigning against feather millinery'. This talk will tell the story of this Newcastle institution and the emerging late nineteenth-century bird conservation agenda

## FIELD TRIPS

**April 24th** harriers in the Tarras valley

**May 20th** upland birds - Geltsdale,

**24th June** nightjars winnows hill,

For more details please contact Steve Anderson [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)

**August tba** waders, details [t.r.dean@btinternet.com](mailto:t.r.dean@btinternet.com)

## CLASSIFIED LIST

**Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix*

Six males were at Plenmeller Common on 26th (SJH) and two males were noted on 19th (PRM). Two males were at Cowbyers, Blanchland on 22nd (STH) and a female was at High Knock Shield Farm, Allendale on 28th (TRD). In the Cheviots, a female was at Ritto Hill, Linhope on 12th (JD).

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

Peak counts were 13 at Coalcleugh, Allenheads on 11th (ADM), ten at Broadstruther, The Cheviots on 13th (JD), and nines at Acton (Allenheads) and Fellhouse Fell, Plenmeller (SJH/ADM). Two to four were also at High Knock Shield Farm and Quarry House Moor.

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

15 were at Buckton Moor, Kyloe Hills on 2nd (NFO), six at Druridge Lane on 1st (TB), and three to four at Belford Moor, Broadstruther (The Cheviots), Plenmeller Common and Quarry House Moor. One to two were also at Bearsbridge, Edlingham, Haughershaw, Hexham and Widdrington Farm.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

A loose group of 39 were in a field adjacent to Longbridge End, Lindisfarne NNR on 21st (NFO), 38 were at Rake Lane, North Shields on 18th (ASJ), 32 at Old Hartley on 31st (MNC), 20 at St Mary's Island on 3rd (JBU), and 12-13 at Alnwick, Backworth Flash and Boulmer. Five to eight were at Blyth Links, Bothal, Burradon, Druridge Links, Ellington, Hartley, near Linton, two to three at Big Waters, Easington, Elwick, Fenham-le-Moor, Little Mill, Longhoughton and Longhirst, and singles at Buston Links and Gloucester Lodge Farm (Blyth).

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Counts of 12-13 came from Chillingham (JR), Druridge Links (IDR) and Linton (IDR/JF), and three to four were at Alwinton, Goswick and Widdrington Moor Lake. A male walking down a road in Cullercoats on 14th presented an unusual sight! (KWY).

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Numbers of pale-bellied *hrota* race birds at Lindisfarne NNR (Beal-Fenham Flats area) peaked at 1,300 on 22nd while 1,100 were present on 1st (DF). About 300 regularly fed in fields at Holy Island after the preferred *Zostera* food plant was destroyed during 'Storm Arwen' in November 2021 (IK). An estimated 1,000 were at Budle Bay on 31st (DF) and 57-800 regularly throughout the rest of the month. Two flew N and one S at Seaton Sluice on 4th-5th (SSWT) and one was at East Chevington on 20th and 23rd-24th (TB/TF/JFa).

Dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds included six N at Seaton Sluice on 21st (SSWT), 90 at Beal Shore on 23rd (AHa/PHa) and ten at Holy Island on 25th (TRD/JD).

An un-raced bird was with Mute Swans at Birling Carrs on 8th (TB).

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

A notable 1,188 were at Grindon Lough on 12th (SW) and up to 847 were noted there regularly during the month. Peak counts elsewhere were 235 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (IFo), 180 at Alnmouth on 11th (JAR), 158 at Hauxley Reserve on 18th (HRS), 156 at Big Waters on 26th (IF), 153 at the Tweed Estuary on 20th (TBr/MMcN), 104 at West Stobswood Pool on 18th (MSH), and 88 at Bothal Pond. Counts of 16-37 came from Coanwood and Linton Ponds, Newcastle Leazes Park and QEII CP.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

An estimated 2,000 were at Budle Bay on 31st (DF), and 300-1,350 were noted throughout the month, while 1,600 were at Fenham Flats on 24th (BS) and 550 at Elwick on 20th (DF). One to two were also at East Chevington, Grindon Lough and Low Hauxley, while one flew W at Plenmeller Common on 27th (PRM).

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

48 flew W at Grindon Lough on 21st (PRM) and 20 N at Humshaugh on 1st (SW). Peak concentrations were 430 at Cheswick on 13th (MHu), 215 at the Tweed Estuary on 20th (TBr/MMcN), 160 at Airy Holm Reservoir on 30th (IFo), 150-156 at Big Waters (GB), Budle Bay (DF) and Coanwood Pond (SJH), 104-135 at Newham Fen, Prestwick Carr and Woodhorn Flashes, and 51-88 at Cocklawburn, Holywell Pond and Plenmeller Common. Counts of 12-19 came from Anton Hill, Bothal Pond, Branton GP and Hauxley Reserve. One to three were also at Bothal and Linton Ponds, Grindon Lough and QEII CP. More unusual were two briefly at Newcastle Exhibition Park on 11th (GB).

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

About 500 flew NW at Bilton Banks on 15th (MKi), and 140-230 N at Belford, East Ord and Seaton Sluice on various dates, 140 W at Berwick on 22nd (MHu), and 120 W at Big Waters on 23rd (GB). Smaller numbers were noted over (various directions) at 12 further scattered localities. Further inland, 270 flew E at Melkridge on 31st (SJH), 110 W at Hexham on 22nd (AJH), 30 W at Humshaugh on 14th (SW), two skeins flew over Wark (River Tyne) on 3rd (PRM) and birds were heard over Milkwell on 8th (AB/MB).

An estimated 5,000 were at Elwick on 18th (NFO), a peak of 5,000 at Budle Bay on 19th (DF), about 3,000 at Hoppen Kiln on 2nd (DF), about 3,000 at Earsdon on 8th (TRD/JD), 3,000+ in the Hauxley area on 17th (RPo), and 3,000 moved N from Holy Island at dawn on 22nd (IK). Counts of 2,000-2,500 came from Belford (DF) and Newham Hall (DF), 1,000-1,800 were at Doddington (SVM/AJM), Druridge Pools (TF) and Widdrington Moor Lake (MSH/KWY), 500-900 at Cresswell, Fenton (Wooler), East Holywell, Longhirst Flash, Middle Stobswood, 'Northumberlandia' (Cramlington) and St Mary's Island, and 135-400 at Beadnell, East Chevington, Gloucester Lodge Farm (Blyth), Holywell Pond, Old Hartley and West Stobswood Pool. Groups of 15-65 were at five further sites.

A leucistic bird was at Belford on 21st (DF).





Pink-footed Goose

Backworth

30/01/22

Colin Bradshaw

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser flavirostris*

A single bird of the Greenland *flavirostris* race was at Grindon Lough regularly between 11th-28th (SJH/PRM et al.). One seen in poor light amongst Pink-footed Geese at Druridge Links on 7th was also thought to belong to this race (IDR).

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Three flew S at Seaton Sluice on 30th (SSWT) and two flew S off Druridge Links on 14th (IDR). Peak counts were 59 at QEII CP on 23rd (CDH), 36 at Killingworth Lake on 24th (LJM), and 11-17 at Big Waters (GB), Chillingham (JR) and Linton Ponds (IDR/JF). Six to eight were also at Amble Braid and Hauxley Reserve, and four at Prestwick Carr.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Northerly movement included 14 at Low Cocklaw on 20th (TBr) and four at Elwick on 19th (DF), while 13 flew S at Easington on 5th (NFO). Moderate numbers included 28 at Birling Carrs on 1st (MKi) and 14 at nearby Amble Braid on 9th (RMH), and ten at Hartburn Reservoir on 13th (TRD). Five to seven were at Branton GP, Chatton, East Chevington, Greenlee Lough, Howick and Low Newton, and one to four at Budle Bay, Cheswick, QEII CP, the Tweed Estuary and West Ord.



Whooper Swan

Queen Elizabeth Country Park

10/01/22

Graham Sorrie

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Seven flew N and one S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and two N at St Mary's on 4th (MSH). At Fenham Flats, 1,050 were counted on 7th (DF), and 220 were at Budle Bay on 24th (CGK). Smaller counts elsewhere involved 26 at Howdon on 22nd (CB), 21 at the Blyth Estuary on 23rd (LJM) and eight at Druridge Pools (IDR/JF). One to two were at Big Waters, Boulmer, Cresswell Pond, Elswick, Hauxley Reserve and North Blyth. A return to some inland sites was evident, with four at Caistron on 12th (TRD/JD) and one at Branton GP on 14th (NFO) increasing to three by 21st (MJC/EFC). More unusual was one at Airy Holm Reservoir on 31st (IFo).

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Two were at Wark (North Tyne) on 11th (PRM).

**Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

Six flew S at Stag Rocks on 1st (IF). Impressive numbers again at Budle Bay included a peak of 120 on 31st (CB et al.) while 20-92 were noted there throughout the month. Peaks elsewhere were much smaller, with 17 at East Chevington north pool on 2nd (GB), 17 at Linton Ponds on 1st (TF/JFa), 16 at Monks' House Pool on 1st (TRD), 16 at Bothal Pond on 4th (TD), and 12-14 at Druridge Pools and Holy Island. Seven were at Arcot Pond, three to five at Big Waters, Howick Burn Lake, Low Newton and Marden Quarry, and one to two at Cresswell Pond and Longhoughton Steel.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

Hedgeley GP held 70 on 11th (JD), 21 were at the Blyth Estuary on 23rd (LJM), 21 at QEII CP Lake on 23rd (CDH), ten to 19 at Big Waters (GB), Bothal Pond (TD), Castron (TRD/JD), Hauxley Reserve (HRS), Holywell Pond (MSH), Howdon Wetland (CB), and West Allotment Pond (KWY). Five to eight were at Big Waters, Marden Quarry, the Wansbeck Estuary, West Stobswood Pool and Woodhorn Flashes, and three to four at Arcot and Ellington Ponds, East Chevington, Howick Pool, Killingworth Lake and Wallington. One to two were also at Bank's, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, Heddon Haughs, Linden Hall and Widdrington Moor Lake.



Gadwall

Killingworth Lake

10/01/22

Jack Bucknall

**Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

Four flew N at Seaton Sluice on 15th (SSWT). A flock of 900 was at Emblestones, Newton on 18th (TRD/JD), 791 were at East Chevington north pool on 20th (JFa), 623 at Boulmer on 18th (AB/LB), 500+ at Druridge Pools on 1st (IDR/JF), 437 at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (IFo), 302-345 at Budle Bay, the Coquet Estuary, Cresswell Pond and Grindon Lough, 220-249 at Beal Bank Farm and Bothal Pond, and 94-156 at Colt Crag Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve, Linton Ponds, Longhoughton Steel, Newstead Flash and New Water Haugh. Counts of 21-46 came from Big Waters, Branton GP, Coanwood Pond, Holy Island Lough, Prestwick Carr, West Stobswood Pool, Widdrington Moor Lake and Yarrow Slake.

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*

The returning drake was noted regularly at Big Waters between 15th-24th (GB/DR et al.).





American Wigeon

Big Waters

19/01/22

Tom Cook

#### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Peak counts were 187 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo), 159 at the Tweed Estuary on 20th (TBr/MMcN), 111 at Castle Island (low water level) on 22nd (GB/DM), 82 at Airy Holm Reservoir on 22nd (IFo), 80 at Boulmer on 15th (RB), 50-70 at Hallington Reservoir (PRM), Holywell Pond (MSH), Marden Quarry (CDH), Richardson Dees Park, Wallsend (CDH), and Willington Gut (CDH), and 33-49 at Big Waters, Branton GP, Colt Crag Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Killingworth Lake, Linton Ponds, QEII CP, Slaley Hall and St Mary's Wetland. Groups of ten to 28 were also at Bothal, Coanwood, Ellington, Middle Ord and West Allotment Ponds, the Coquet Estuary, Jesmond Dene, Newstead Flash, and West Ord.

#### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

About 150 were at Fenham Flats on 25th (TRD/JD) and 40-50 were noted there on 1st and 8th (IDR/JPL et al.). Twos were at Big Waters on 15th (GB) and East Chevington on 20th (JFa), and singles at Castron and Holywell Pond on occasional dates.

#### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

Two flew S at Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSWT). Peak gatherings were 468 at Castle Island (low water level) on 22nd (GB/DM), 429 at Grindon Lough on 5th (SJH), 350 at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo), 350 at Holy Island on 9th (ADM), 308-334 at Budle Bay (DF) and Colt Crag Reservoir (PRM), 212-250 at Castle Island (TF/JFa) and Druridge Pools (IDR/JF), and 100-180 at Arcot, Bothal, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, the Blyth Estuary, Branton GP, Howdon and St Mary's Wetland. Counts of 52-90 came from Castron, Hallington Reservoir and Middle Ord Pond, and 13-47 from Big Waters, Coanwood Pond, Ellington Pond, Elswick (River Tyne), Hauxley Reserve, Howick, Plenmeller Common, Prestwick Carr, Rye Hill (Slaley), Yarrow Slake and West Ord.

#### **Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis*

A drake was at Colt Crag Reservoir on 28th (PRM/STH).

#### **Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

A peak of 16 was noted at Killingworth Lake on 26th (IF), with five to 15 regularly there during the month. Ten were at Linton Ponds on 2nd (IDR/JF), seven at Bothal Pond on 30th (TF), seven at Widdrington Moor Lake on 12th (NFO), three to four at Big Waters (GB) and Ladyburn Lake (CSa/NFO), and one to two at East Chevington, Grindon Lough and Woodhorn Flashes.





Pochard  
Killingworth Lake  
27/01/22  
Tim Dean

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Peak counts were 67 at Killingworth Lake on 24th (LJM), 45 at Branton GP on 17th (AJR), 42 at Haughton Strother GP on 16th (AJR), 38 at Linton Ponds on 22nd (IDR/JF), 30 at East Chevington north pool on 2nd (GB), and 20-27 at Marden Quarry, and QEII CP and Widdrington Moor Lakes. Counts of ten to 19 came from Big Waters, Bothal and West Allotment Ponds, Druridge Pools, Newcastle Exhibition and Leazes Parks, and Tynemouth Park. Two to nine were also at Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Merryshields GP, 'Northumberlandia' (Cramlington), Paddy Freemans Lake and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

At Holywell Pond three (first-winter drake and two females/first-winters) were noted on five dates between 1st-31st (MSH/STH/MN/KWY). Two were at Ladyburn Lake (GB) and then East Chevington north pool on 2nd (TRD/JD), and singles at Bothal Pond (female) on 1st (TF/JFa), Killingworth Lake (first-winter drake) regularly between 5th-31st (MSH et al.) and Ladyburn Lake (juvenile female) on 11th (TD/CSa).



1W drake  
Scaup  
Killingworth Lake  
25/01/22  
Graham Sorrie



**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

A total of 39 flew N and 31 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Moderate gatherings involved 50 at Blyth Harbour on 11th (STH), 41 at North Shields Fish Quay on 28th (MN), 24 at the Tyne Estuary on 25th (MSH), 20-22 at Cambois and St Mary's Island (MSH), and 15-19 at Fenham Flats and Stag Rocks. One to six were at Alnmouth Bay, Berwick pier, Budle Bay, Druridge Links and Spittal Bay.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

Three were at Newbiggin on 26th (AJR) and a drake flew N off East Chevington on 2nd (JD).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 64 N and 17 S (SSWT). About 500 were at Stag Rocks on 9th-10th (D|F/TRD/JD), and five to 430 on various other dates during the month. Elsewhere, 120 were off Druridge Links on 14th (IDR), 90 at Alnmouth Bay on 14th (RPo), 24-30 at Birling Carrs (MKi), Cambois (MSH), off Cresswell (GB), Ross Back Sands (TD) and Seaton Sluice (SSWT). Four to six were off Cheswick and Newton.

**Black Scoter** *Melanitta americana*

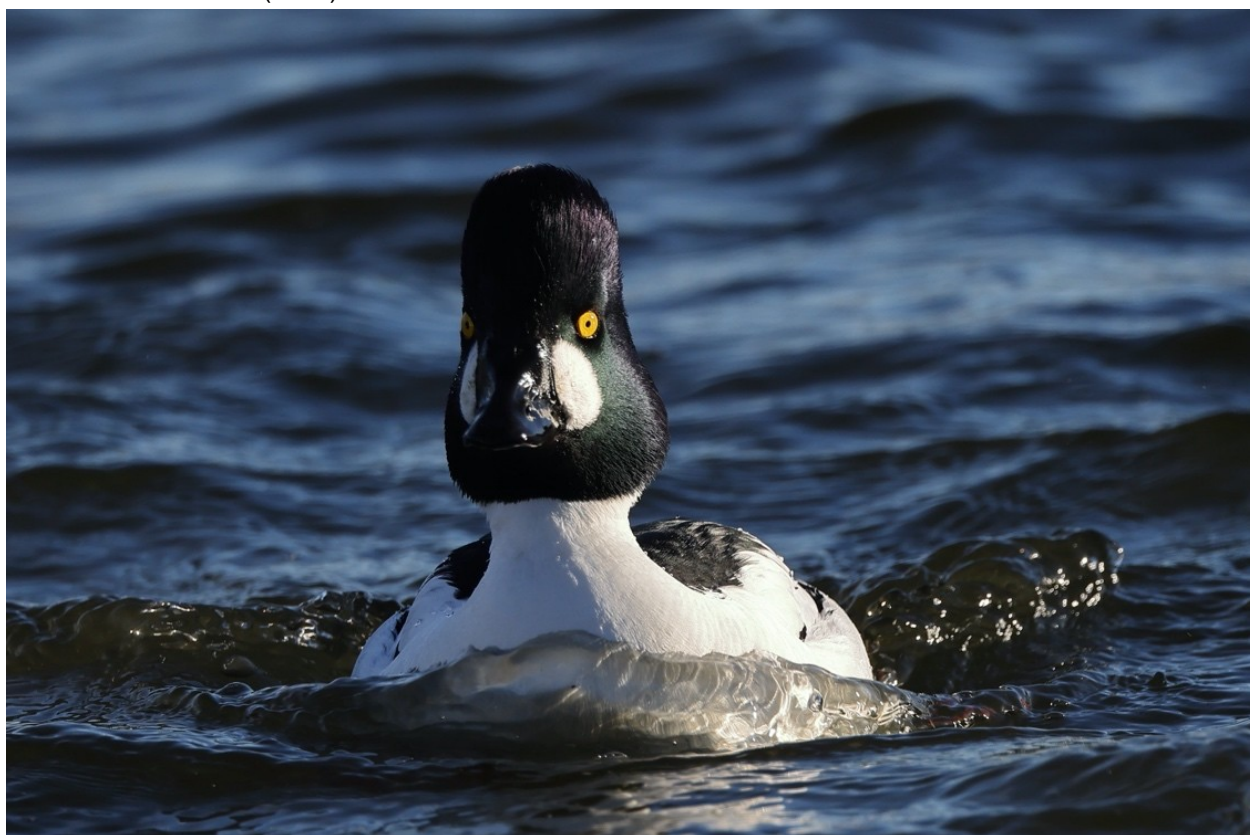
The returning drake was noted at Stag Rocks on 1st (TRD/JPL) 3rd (CB/ME) and 9th (TRD/JD), and was also off Ross Back Sands on 9th (IBDa/KDa) and 24th (BS).

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT) and a drake flew N off East Chevington on 2nd (JD). At Stag Rocks-Budle Point, 19 were noted on 9th (STH) and two to 17 on various further dates during the month. Eight+ were off Ross Back Sands on 24th (BS), and four at Fenham Flats on 9th (STH).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Five flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Peak concentrations were 53 at East Chevington north pool on 12th (NFO), 50 at the Tweed Estuary on 20th (TBr/MMcN), 46 at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 19th (MHu), 26 at QEII CP Lake on 23rd (CDH), 18 at Killingworth Lake on 31st (CDH), 17 at Big Waters on 1st (GB), ten to 15 at Branton GP, Castron, Castle Island and Cresswell. Five to eight were also at the Blyth Estuary, Football Hole, Greenlee and Grindon Loughs, Hallington Reservoir, Holy Island, Howick, Killingworth and Widdrington Moor Lakes, and West Ord, and three to four at Bothal Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley Reserve and Slaley Hall. One to two were also at Arcot Pond, Colt Crag Reservoir, Heddon Haughs and Low Newton. Display was noted at QEII CP Lake on 23rd (CDH).



Goldeneye

Killingworth  
Lake

January '22

Alan Jack

**Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

A 'redhead' was at Widdrington Moor Lake regularly between 1st-24th (CB/TB/IF et al.). One (unaged) was at Cresswell on 5th (DLo).

Smew

Widdrington Moor Lake

January '22

Iain Johnson



**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

16 were at Branton GP on 17th (AJR), seven at Greenlee Lough on 23rd (MRS), and three to four at Killingworth Lake, Morpeth, Shankfoot (South Tyne), Wark and Yarrow Slake. One to two were also at Derwent Reservoir, Holywell and West Allotment Ponds, Hulne Park, Lesbury, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Exhibition Park, Rothbury-Thropton, Tyne Green, Warkworth.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Five flew N at Seaton Sluice in the month (SSWT). The largest counts were 24 off Druridge Links on 23rd (IDR/JF), 22 at Budle Bay on 28th (MJC), 20 at Fenham Flats on 8th (IDR/JF/ME), and 14 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 8th (TRD/JD). Six to eight were at Birling Carrs (BS), Castle Island (GB/DM), Druridge Pools (IDR/JF), Stag Rocks (IDR/JF/ME), and Warkworth (JAR), and four at East Chevington north pool. One to two were also at Alnmouth Bay, the Blyth Estuary, Monks' House, QEII CP Lake, Spittal Bay and West Ord.

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

400 were at Berwick Hill on 12th (AHB), 155 were on Kingston Park Shopping Centre Gym Roof on 3rd (AHB), 22 were at Goswick on 17th whilst one to eight were at several other localities, including one recorded at Ellington Colliery during the "Big Garden Birdwatch" on 20th (IDR/JF).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

26 were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 25th (IFo), eight at Druridge Pools on 1st (IDR/JF), a total of seven at three locations in Jesmond Dene on 9th (MJCo), seven also at Haward Shield on 20th (MJC *et al.*) and one to five were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Castle Island (R. Wansbeck), Eslington Park (Whittingham), Grindon Lough, Humshaugh, King's Law (Hexhamshire), Marden Quarry, Mitford Hall, Preston Park (North Shields), St. Mary's, Wallington Hall, West Allardean, Whitley Chapel, Woodhorn and Yeavering. Birds visiting gardens included three at Longbenton (AJ) and a regular single at Gosforth Garden Village.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Two huge flocks totalling 1000 birds were flushed by something unseen at Bywell Haughs 7th (MH), flocks of around 500 birds were at Horton Grange (Blagdon) on 5th and Ponteland on 19th (PCF), approx. 400 were at Doddington Bridge on 16th (JR), 300 at Prestwick Carr on 19th (PCF) and 150 at Milkwell (Corbridge) on 12th (RB/MB). Other decent-sized flocks included 90 at Longhirst Flash, 60 at Ellington Pond, 50 flushed by a Red Kite at Slaley, 38 at Ellington Dene and 23 at Potland (Linton). One to 18 were seen at many other localities.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

15 at Dinnington on 3rd (PCF) was the highest count followed by a peak of 11 at Slaley Village on 13th (RMH). Ten were at Castle Island (R. Wansbeck) on 8th (IDR/JF/ME), the monthly maximum at Gosforth Garden Village was four on 31st (MJC), three were at Wallsend and a single was seen at Chugdon Wood (Ellington).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

At least two were heard at West Allotment Pond (Silverlink Park) on 23rd (JBu) and singles were reported from Arcot Pond, Big Waters NWT, Duke's Pond (Rising Sun CP), East Chevington and West Hartford.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

20 were at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 18th (CDH), 17 at QE11CP on 23rd (CDH), 15 at Castle Island (R. Wansbeck) on 8th (IDR/JF/ME) and one to six were seen at several other locations including one road kill in Holy Island Village.





Moorhen

Killingworth Lake

09/01/22

Jack Bucknall

#### **Coot** *Fulica atra*

Big Waters NWT hosted 60 birds on 26th (IF), 42 were at Linton Ponds on 2nd (IDR/JF), 35 at QE11CP on 23rd (CDH), 25 at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 15th (TD) and 25 were also at Killingworth Lake on 24th (LJM). One to 20 were at many other localities.

#### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

The peak count at East Chevington was ten on 20th (TRD), six were wintering on the sea at Boulmer on 25th (BS) and one to four were seen at Arcot Pond, Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), Caistron, Castle Island, the Coquet estuary, on the R. Coquet (between Rothbury-Thropton), Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Ellington Pond, Hauxley NWT, Killingworth Lake, Linton Ponds, Merryshields GP, Tyne Green (Hexham), Wallington, Wark, West Ord (Berwick) and Widdrington Moor Lake.

#### **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

One headed S past Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT) and singles were on the sea at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 1st MKi and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 28th (MJC). The popular long-staying bird at Widdrington Moor Lake remained there all month (KWY/ME/CB *et al.*).

#### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

A group of three birds in the Alnmouth Bay/Birling Carrs (Warkworth) area on 8th (JBu) increased to 12 on 10th (CSa), then 15 on 14th (RPo/CSa), with a peak of 16 on 25th (BS). Two were offshore at Druridge Links with singles at Airy Holm Reservoir (a first January site record), Cresswell Pond NWT, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Killingworth Lake, Long Nanny and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

#### **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps Auritus*

Various counts came from Ross Back Sands with a peak of 12 present on 24th (SVM). Last month's Widdrington Moor Lake bird, described as a "very bright contrasty individual" (TRD/JD), remained well-watched until at least 26th and singles were also at Budle Bay, Cresswell, Fenham Flats, Holy Island Harbour and Stag Rocks.

#### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Observations received from Budle Bay included 30 on 8th (IDR/JF/ME). 152 on 12th (DF) and 145 on 15th (CGK). Several roosts were counted revealing 114 at Howick on 2nd (MKi), 110 at Druridge Links (IDR) also on 2nd, 70+ at Cullercoats on 12th (MSH) and 60 at North Blyth Staithes on 30th (MSH). In the Berwick area, 66 were at Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary), on 3rd, 52 were seen at West Ord on 19th, 34 present at Little Beach on 10th, 34 were feeding in a flooded field at Gainslaw House on 9th and 32 were a few miles further south at Cocklawburn on 21st (all MHu). The peak count at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) was on 17th, when 45 were present (IDR/JF) with ten noted at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) and Beacon Point (Newbiggin). Five-seven were reported at four other coastal sites. At Derwent Reservoir, two on 3rd had increased to a notable 22 by 31st (IFo). Other reports from inland sites were three at Branton GP on 21st, Merryshields GP on 27th and Melkridge (Haltwhistle) on 31st with a single at Killingworth Lake on 27th.



Oystercatcher

Bamburgh

January 2022

Alan Jack

#### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

There were an increased number of reports of higher numbers than December, indicating an influx into the region. A 'huge' arrival of 2000 birds was noted at St Mary's Island on 17th, with 1100 still present the next day with many having departed towards Holywell (ASJ). Either side of this 400+ were reported on 2nd and 350 on 27th (MSH/KWY). Approximately 1000 were seen at Monk's House Pool on 24th (DF) and 800 birds seen at Holywell Pond on 18th were probably some of those noted at St Mary's Island the previous day. (ASJ). At Coanwood Pond, numbers fluctuated with 220+ noted on 14th increasing to 500 on 18th before declining to 200+ on 29th (SJH). A monthly peak of 495 was reached at Bothal Pond on 30th being noted as an unusually high winter count for the site (TF). Observations at New Water Haugh (River Tweed Estuary) also revealed a rise and decline in numbers with 122 on 2nd rising to 420 on 19th before reducing to 224 on 23rd (MHu). Some or all of these birds may have been seen in the WeBS count on 20th at the River Tweed Estuary where an estimated 250 were reported on 20th (TBr/MMcN) and at Yarrow Slake where 128 were present on 31st (MHu). Significant flocks were noted on the SW of the region with Plenmeller Common holding 400+ on 19th (PRM), with 400 at Slaley on 21st (RMH), 400 being the monthly maximum at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFO), a minimum of 350 at Shankfoot on 31st (SJH) and 325 counted at Haughton Strother on 16th (AJR). At the coast and near coastal locations, 330 were roosting in fields at Hipsburn on 16th (MKi), 252 at Cocklawburn on 13th (MHU), a minimum of 250 were seen at Budle Bay on 18th (DF), an estimated 200 were present at the River Coquet Estuary on 14th (RPo) and 200 at Beal Bank Farm on 26th (RPo). Other groups over 100 were 182 at Druridge Pools, 150 at Blyth, Prestwick Carr and Widdrington Moor Lake, 120 at Boulmer Flash and an estimated 100 at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) and flying W at Cramlington. One-90 were at another 17 locations including upland, lowland and coastal sites.

#### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

A surge in numbers occurred at Monk's House Pool where 400-500 were present on 8th-9th increasing to an estimated 6100 on 19th (IDR/NFO *et al.*). Smaller numbers were counted shortly after with 1400 on 21st (JAR) and 3800 on 25th (DF). Significant counts from other sites were 1350 roosting in winter wheat at Shorestone on 25th (IDR), 1200 at Emblestones (Newton) on 18th (TRD/JD), 1000-1100 at Plenmeller Common from 19th-30th (PRM/SJH) and 900-1000 at St Mary's Island from 3rd-17th (MSH/ASJ). Lesser counts were received from other coastal and near coastal areas with 100-520 reported from Alnmouth, Bothal Pond, Cheswick, Embleton, Goswick, Hemscott Hill (Cresswell), Longhoughton, Prestwick Carr, the River Coquet Estuary and Scremeston. Five-68 were seen at Bellingham, Boulmer, Harward Shield, Longhirst Flash and Beacon Point (Newbiggin).

#### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

A high tide roost at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) attracted 83 on 1st (MKi) with 22 counted there on 16th (TD). The peak concentration at Boulmer was on 15th when a total of 53 was counted (RB/MB) but only a single was seen on 18th (TRD/JD) and three were seen on 22nd (RB/MB). Conversely Budle Bay saw increasing numbers during the month with a count of eight made on 9th, 11 were present on 11th (DF) and a peak of 30 were seen on 31st (CB *et al.*). Birds were also present at nearby Fenham-le-Moor (Lindisfarne NNR) with a low of two on 1st and 25th (TRD/JD) and a high of 50 on 8th (IDR/JF/ME). One to nine were reported from Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Bondicarr (Hauxley) and Stag Rocks.



**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Reports were received from St Mary's Island in the south to Cocklawburn in the north where the peak count was made on 13th when 84 were seen (MHu). At Beacon Point (Newbiggin), 60 were present on 16th (IDR/JF), 54 were at the Long Nanny Estuary on 20th (NFO), 50 counted at Ross Back Sands (Lindisfarne NNR) on 1st (TD) and the peak monthly count at nearby Budle Bay was 46 on 11th (DF). An estimated 40 were present at St Mary's Island on 24th (MSH) with 32 at Birling Carrs on 16th (TD) and 27 at a beach roost at Druridge Bay on 1st (IDR/JF). Elsewhere, 12 were at both Blyth Harbour and Low Newton and four at Sandham Bay (Holy Island).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

The wintering bird at Cambois was seen on 8th (JBu/IDR/JF/ME).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Daily flights between St Mary's Island and feeding areas, was observed at Seaton Sluice with the peak count being 52 N on 27th (SSWT). On 1st 544 roosted at dusk at Longhoughton Steel (BS) and 495 attended a high tide roost at Budle Bay on 13th (DF). Other counts of 100 or more were 200+ at Fenham-le-Moor (Lindisfarne NNR) on 11th (DF), 180 were present at Howick on 5th and 20th (JAR), a maximum of 128 were seen at Cocklawburn on 21st (MHu), 120 were with Pink-footed Geese at High Hauxley on 28th (AJR) and 100 at Cheswick on 6th (NFO). Birds were reported throughout the month at the Druridge Links/Pools area with the peak count being 97 on 9th (IDR/JF), with 65 seen just to the north at East Chevington on 16th (IRD). Numbers increased at the River Coquet Estuary from nine on 8th to 86 on 27th (RPo). Flocks of over 50 were seen at Beal Bank Farm, Birling Carrs, Boulmer, Foxton, Goswick, the Long Nanny Estuary, Marden Farm (Tynemouth), New Water Haugh (River Tweed) and Warkworth. An interesting observation was made at Marden Estate (Tynemouth) where 63 were feeding on a roadside verge in an urban area on 30th (ASJ). At Inland localities, 32 were at Branton GP on 21st (MJC/EFC) with possible early returning birds seen at Coanwood Pond on 29th (SJH) and Plenmeller Common on 27th (PRM). One-28 were at 12 other coastal and near coastal locations.



Curlew

Lindisfarne

January '22

Alan Jack

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

The highest counts were made on 31st at Lindisfarne NNR when 250 were at Budle Bay and 150 at Beal Road Ends (CB *et al.*). Much smaller numbers were noted during the month at Lindisfarne NNR with 33 at Budle Bay on 15th (CGK), 20 at Fenham-le-Moor on 8th (IDR/JF/ME), 12 at Sandham Bay (Holy Island) on 23rd (AHa/PHa), ten at Fenham Mill on 1st (TRD) and five at Fenham Flats on 25th (TRD/JD). Ten were at Rumbling Kern (Howick) on 2nd (MKi) with one-two at Emblestones (Newton) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Eleven birds were with other waders just north of Low Newton on 1st (DLe) and 11 were also seen at the Rocket Field Pools on Holy Island on 8th (IK). The monthly maximum at Howdon was nine on 16th (JBu) and a monthly high of seven was achieved on 29th at the River Coquet Estuary (CSa). One-five were at Amble Braid, Boulmer, Budle Bay, Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR), Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) and the harbour pools at Holy Island on various dates during the month.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Varying numbers were reported from Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) with 20 on 1st approximately 100 on 5th and five on 30th (DF/IDR/JF/TRD/JD). At St Mary's Island, a noticeable increase to 80+ was recorded on 5th (MSH) with 15 present on 27th (TRD). Cocklawburn beach attracted 56 on 27th (MHu), with 54 seen at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 16th and the same number at Berwick Little Beach on 18th (IDR/JF/MHu). A high tide roost at Cullercoats held 20+ on 12th (MSH) with 15 at Dunstanburgh Castle on the same day (JAR). One-ten were at eight locations between East Chevington and Cheswick.



Turnstone  
Stag Rocks  
January '22  
Iain Johnson

#### **Knot** *Calidris canutus*

A healthy count of 300 came from Fenham-le Moor (Lindisfarne NNR) on 25th (TRD/JD) but much smaller numbers were reported elsewhere. 20 were seen at Longhoughton Steel on 1st (BS), 17 at Howick on 2nd (MKi), 14 being the peak count at Budle Bay also on 2nd (MKi) and 11 were present at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 1st (MKi). Two-eight were reported from Beal shore, Cocklawburn beach and Seaton Sluice.

#### **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

A group of five-six birds toured three sites being seen at Widdrington Moor Lake on 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, Middle Stobswood Pond on 21st and Cresswell Pond on 23rd (ADM/MH/AA). Four were seen at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) on 1st, (TB), two were just north at East Chevington on 2nd (JD) and a single was at Widdrington Moor Lake on 7th (ADM).

#### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Sandham Bay (Holy Island) attracted the largest flock this month when 130 were seen on 24th (IK). Approximately 110 were counted at Football Hole (Low Newton) on 1st (JAR), with 120 at Low Newton on 5th (DLe) probably being the same flock. Birds were present at St Mary's Island from 12th when 50+ were counted rising to a maximum of 97 on 29th (ASJ/MSH). Peak counts at other sites were 95 at Alnmouth on 9th (JAR), 90 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 16th (IDR/JF), 66 at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 4th (DF), 63 on the beach at Druridge on 23rd (IDR/JF), 45 at Warkworth on 24th (JAR) and 40 at Boulmer on 15th (RB/MB). Eight-15 were reported from Budle Bay, Cheswick, Cocklawburn and East Chevington.

#### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Increased numbers were recorded compared to December with counts of over 100 coming from four localities. Reports were received from the River Coquet Estuary for most of the month with the highest count being 178 on 8th (RPO). Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR) attracted 150 on 1st (TRD) with 150 at the River Blyth Estuary on 7th and 120 at the roost on Ferguson's roof at Blyth Harbour on 31st (STH). A few miles further north 150 had gathered at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 16th (IDR/JF) and 112 were seen at Cresswell Pond on 9th (IRD). One-30 were at 15 sites between St Mary's Island in the south to New Water Haugh (River Tweed) in the north.

#### **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

As usual the Stag Rocks flock was regularly reported with counts varying from a low of 30 on 8th to a high of 237 at high tide on 16th (NFO/DF/TRD *et al.*). A five month-old bird, which had been ringed at Svalbard, was seen there on 23rd (ASJ). At Low Newton, high tide roosts attracted approximately 50 on 1st and 31st (NFO/DLe) and a high tide roost at Blyth Harbour held 30 on 18th (STH). One-28 were seen at Annstead, Birling Carrs, Bamburgh-Seahouses, Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Cheswick, Collywell Bay (Seaton Sluice), Cocklawburn, Craster, Dunstanburgh, Holy Island, Howick, Seaton Sluice, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

#### **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

The unobtrusive nature of this species was apparent with several reports of birds being flushed or flying over roads at dusk. The highest count was four at Druridge Links on 8th (IDR/JF/ME) with three seen at Edlingham on 28th (TRD), two at Arcot on 21st (CB), Longhorsley Moor on 30th (AB/LB) and Widdrington on 26th (IF). Single birds were present at Belford Moor, Blagdon, Boulmer, Ellington, Howick, North Shields, Rothbury, Seaton Sluice, Snod's Edge and Whittingham.



**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

A notable five were seen at West Hartford on 2nd (STH). Single birds were reported from Holy Island, Howdon, Kirkley Mill and Warkworth Gut during the month.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

As with Jack Snipe, the favoured location was West Hartford where a total of 44 was noted on 2nd (STH). The only other counts above ten were 12 at Linton Ponds on 1st (TF/JFa) and 11 at Druridge Pools on 23rd (IDR/JF). One-eight were present at Bothal Pond and nearby Shooter's Pools, Cheswick, Coanwood Pond, Grindon Lough, Longhorsley Moor, Low Newton, Monk's House Pool, Shorestone, St Mary's, Warton and Whittingham.

**Green Sandpipern** *Tringa ochropus*

The bird present since November at Berwick Hill Bridge (River Pont) was seen again on 2nd (AHB). At Caistron, one was heard in flight on 12th and seen on 22nd (TRD/JD). A single was also at Hedgeley GP on 22nd (AMG/MG).

**Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*

Numbers at Budle Bay increased from December with a count of 348 made on 12th (DF) and the WeBS count at the River Tweed Estuary totalled 218 on 20th (TBr/MMcN). At high tide, 182 gathered at Boulmer Flash on 1st (BS). At the River Coquet Estuary, the monthly peak was 131 decreasing to 52 by 23rd (RPo/TF/JFa/MKi). Counts were made at four locations at the River Tweed, perhaps involving the same birds with 124 at New Water Haugh on 2nd, 122 at Calot Shad on 17th, 118 at Yarrow Slake on 31st and 84 at Blakewell on 12th (all MHu). The monthly peak at St Mary's was 118, which occurred on 29th with 51-60 seen on other dates during the month (ASJ/MSH). On 1st, 80 were in a mixed flock of waders just north of Low Newton, 78 were counted at the River Blyth Estuary on 23rd (LJM), 70+ were at a cliff roost at Cullercoats on 14th (MN) and 44 were at Hauxley NWT on 18th (HRS). One-30 were present at Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Bothal Pond, Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Druridge Links & Pools, Dunstanburgh, Fenham-le-Moor, Goswick, Stag Rocks (Bamburgh), West Ord (Berwick) and Willington Gut (Wallsend).

Redshank

Rockcliffe

January '22

Iain Johnson

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

A single was reported at Bothal Pond on 2nd (TF/JFa/TB). One was at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 13th, 21st and 23rd. (TF/JFa/TRD).

**Gull** *sp*

An estimated 2,000 were in an evening roost at Alnmouth on 9th (JAR).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

At Seaton Sluice, were seen on only two days, the 20th with movements of 25 N, 75 S and on 31st with 1 N and 40 S (SSWT). Four were seen from Budle Point on 24th with singles on other days at Bamburgh and Cresswell (Snab Point).

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Around 900 fed on the upper beach during high water at Bamburgh on 5th (DF) and counts of 200-300 came from Berwick (West Ord), Castle Island, Howick, the River Tweed (Calot Shad and New Water Haugh) and Widdrington Moor Lake. Elsewhere, on dates throughout, smaller gatherings of 50-200 were present at six sites and up to 50 at 11 others.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

Six were recorded passing Seaton Sluice from 4th-20th, described as a 'good total' for the month. However, fewer sightings than usual were recorded elsewhere, mainly adults, with a maximum of only five in Newbiggin Bay on 13th (TRD) and threes at Beadnell, Longhoughton Steel and St Mary's Island, two at Castle Island and singles at Cullercoats, Druridge Lane, Ellington, Holywell Pond, Linton, North Shields Fish Quay and Tynemouth Boating Lake. The Cullercoats bird was a red colour-ringed adult of which details are awaited (MSH).



Mediterranean Gull

Holywell

22/01/22

Colin Bradshaw

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

As is usual during this month good numbers were reported from many sites with a maximum count of 1,300 offshore at Druridge Links coming into roost at dusk on 16th; four other roost counts there varied from 200-850 (IDR). Gatherings at other localities comprised 1,200 at the Long Nanny (NFO), 508 at West Woodburn (JR), 100-300 at Bellingham (Corsenside), Grindon Lough, Heighley Gate (Morpeth), Melkridge, Netherton, Pawston and the River Tweed at New Water Haugh and up to 70 at eight other widespread sites.



Common Gull

Rothbury

14/01/22

Tim Dean

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

A maximum of five were seen at Druridge Links, two at Linton Ponds and singles at Colt Crag Reservoir, Grindon Lough and Wark (North Tyne).

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

A 1st-winter moved S at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT), a 2nd-winter flew S at Stag Rocks on 17th (IDR/JF) and a 2nd-winter was at Linton Ponds on 22nd (TF/JFa). The 1st-winter which was seen last month in Budle Bay was again recorded regularly from 3rd-31st (*many observers*).

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides*

The 3rd-winter first seen at the North Shields Fish Quay in early November was again recorded throughout the month either at the Fish Quay or the nearby Black Midden Rocks (MN/DRW *et al*). The wintering adult which has regularly visited Big Waters since November was again there on 19th and 24th (AA/CB *et al*).





Iceland Gull

NSFQ

16/01/22

Jack Bucknall

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

On the River Tweed two large counts were 760 at New Water Haugh on 19th (MHu) and 398 were in a WeB survey in the estuary on 20th (TBr/MMcN); three-figure gatherings elsewhere were 380 at Linton Ponds, 277 in the Blyth Estuary and 115 at Castle Island. Smaller groups of 10-50 were sighted at Druridge Links, Monk's House Pool, Newbiggin, QEII CP, Shorestone and Stag Rocks with one to four at six other localities.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Single birds were seen at Annstead, the Blyth Estuary, Castle Island and Derwent Reservoir.

**Auk** *sp*

Guillemots and Razorbills, mainly the former, were recorded in very small numbers throughout (SSWT).

**Little Auk** *Alle alle*

Two flying N at Seaton Sluice on 5th was the only record (SSWT).

**Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Sixteen were in Alnmouth Bay on 7th (RPo) and one to three were seen on various dates throughout at six other localities.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Counts of twelve and ten seen inshore at Stag Rocks on 9th/11th was unusual and was possibly the aftermath of the exceptional numbers seen close inshore during the past three months....

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

Two moved N at Seaton Sluice on 5th (SSWT) and singles were at Stag Rocks on 10th/11th. An unidentified diver was off Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR).

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

At Seaton Sluice Watch Tower 111 birds involving 66N and 45S were seen in 28hrs (SSWT). Birling Carrs (Warkworth) had 74 birds on 14th (CSa) and a minimum of 62 birds on 25th (BS). 35 birds were in Alnmouth Bay on 14th (RPO), 23 were off Druridge Links on 16th (IDR) and 22 were between Warkworth – Alnmouth on 4th (JAR). One – thirteen birds were seen at 14 sites during the Month.

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

Single birds were off Druridge Links on 7th (IDR), in Holy Island Harbour on 8th (IK), Ross Back Sands on 9th and at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 17th (IBDa/Kda).

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

Up to four birds were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 9th (JFa/STH) with three possibly four there on 28th (MJC) and 0no-two birds on several dates. Seaton Sluice Watch Tower had three birds during the Month with two N and one S (SSWT). Single birds were also seen S at Druridge Links on 1st and 7th (IDR), an adult was found dead on the tideline nr Chare Ends (Hoy Island) on 23rd (STH). A bird was at Widdrington Moor Lake on 2nd and 3rd (TRD/JD/TF/JFa/TB)

**White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii*

A 1st winter bird was seen at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 28th (MJC).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

53 birds were back on cliffs at Dunstanburgh Castle on 12th and 50 were back at the cliffs at Howick on 1st (JAR). On 28th at Old Hartley 17 birds were back on the cliffs (LJM) and 12 were on the cliffs at Lynemouth Bay on 21st (TB). One – ten birds were at Annstead (Seahouses) Coquet Island, Holy Island and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh). An unusual sighting involved two birds circling high over Waren Caravan Park (Bamburgh) on 15th before eventually flying purposefully off W (CGK).



Fulmar

Rockcliffe

January '22

Iain Johnson

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

During January 45 birds involving 21N and 24S were seen at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower (SSWT). Seven birds went N at Low Steads (Longhoughton) on 30th (BS), five flew N at Longhoughton Steel on 1st (BS), two went N at St Mary's Island on 5th (MSH) and an adult flew N at Monk's House on 1st (TRD).

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

North Shields Fish Quay had 83 birds on 23rd (DRW), 70+ birds on 25th (MN) and 70 on 26th (IF). Blyth Harbour had 49 birds on 18th (STH), 39 were at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 3rd (MHu), 37 were at Blyth Harbour on 11th (STH). One – ten birds were at 21 sites during the Month. Three "sinensis" race birds were at Branton GPs on 14th (NFo), two were at QEII CP on 2nd (IDR/JF) and one was at North Shields Fish Quay on 17th (MSH).

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

12 birds were at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 3rd (MHu), Blyth Harbour on 4th (STH) and Blyth South Harbour on 23rd (LJM). A Monthly total of 12 birds with 5N and 7S were seen at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower (SSWT). Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) had eight birds on 9th (TRD/JD) with one to six birds being noted at seven sites during the Month.

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

An Immature bird was at Castle Island (R Wansbeck) on several dates from 1st STH/TF/JFa et al), it also paid a brief visit to Bothal Pond on 2nd before flying off to the S (TB/NF).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

The highest count was 19 birds at Yarrow Slake (R Tweed Estuary) on 31st (MHu). Seven birds were together in a group at Monk's House Pool on 1st (TRD) and seven were roosting on the staithes at North Blyth on 30th (MSH). Six were seen at Hauxley NWT on 18th (HRS) and at Druridge Pools on 1st (IDR/JF) and four birds were at Linton Ponds on 2nd (IDR/JF), Humshaugh (Haughton Strother) on 16th (AJR) and at Longhirst Flash/ Abyssinia Pond on 22nd (IDR/JF). One – three birds were at 15 locations.

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

Two birds were seen during a WeBs survey at Caistron on 22nd (JD) and single birds were at Thirlings (Milfield) on 16th (JR) and 19th (TRD/JD). A bird was also seen at Fenton (Wooler) on 20th (IBDa/KDa).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Three birds were on flood fields at Heddon Haughs (Heddon-on-the-Wall) from 3rd but numbers had increased to six birds on 31st (AA), the three birds have been there since last August. A single was at Tyne Riverside CP (Newburn) throughout the Month but four birds were seen there on 19th (IK). Two birds were noted at Big Waters NWT, Budle Bay, Fenham Flats and Fenham-le-Moor with single birds at 19 sites.





Little Egret

Big Waters

23/01/22

Mike Potts

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Two birds were present all Month in Garden Village Gosforth (Newcastle) (MJC) and two birds were together at Holywell Pond on 13th (MSH). Single birds were seen at 24 sites during the Month.



Sparrowhawk

Rockcliffe

January '22

Iain Johnson

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

A male flew low over beaters on Sandyford Moor (Twizell) on 12th (MH) and another male was mobbing a Raven *Corvus corax* at Doddington on 30th (TRD).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

The Druridge Bay area had up five different birds throughout the Month with four birds seen on 16th (IRD) at East Chevington and three there on 4th (MH/AA) and on 25th (MH). Away from the Druridge Bay area an adult female was at Newham Fen on 2nd (DF), a 2nd cal year male was at joined by another unsexed bird at Fen Letch (Middle Stobswood) on 18th with the male being seen again on 25th ((MH/AA). A 2nd cal year male was seen at a confidential site (MH).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

Two ringtails were flying together at a confidential site on 28th (BS) and a ringtail was seen at another confidential site on 9th (SW).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Two birds were seen at the following sites, Kiln Pit Hill on 2nd (IFo), Bywell on 6th (AJ/TW), Snods Edge during a European co-ordinated count on 9th (AJ), Carterway Heads (IK/AJN) and Crooked Oak (Derwent Reservoir) (AJ/TW/AJN/MJC/IK) on 13th at Broomley and Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo). Single birds were at eight sites including a bird at Broomhaugh (High Shilford) on 9th during a European co-ordinated count (AJ).

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

15 birds were at Staward, 11 were at Staward Peel (Allen Banks) and eight at Bywell all on 27th (MJC/TW/AJ/IK/AJN). Five were observed at Rawgreen (Slaley Forest) on 20th (MJC/TW/AJ/IK/AJN) and at Shankfoot (R South Tyne) on 31st (SJH), four birds were at Prestwick Carr on 2nd (MH), Melkridge (Haltwhistle) also on 2nd (SJH), between Allenheads – Coalcleugh on and at Whittingham on 11th (ADM/CW). One to three birds were at over 30 sites during the Month.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

All reports single birds at Derwent Reservoir and Prestwick Carr all month, Coanwood Pond on 7th and 18th and Plenmellor on 16th and 19th. One flew over the A1 at Ellingham on 1st and one was at Whittingham on 6th, Cresswell, Earsdon and West Chevington on 8th, Little Mill on 9th, Broadstruther and East Sleekburn on 13th, Amble Dunes on 14th, Wall on 24th, Brocolitia on 27th and Snods Edge on 31st.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Two calling birds at Fulbeck (Morpeth) throughout the month and Wark (North Tyne) on 16th with two at Harbottle on 17th (TD/PRM/MKi). Single birds were in daylight roost at Derwent Reservoir and Longbenton all month, at Bedlington and Slaley Hall on 1st, Milkwell ( Corbridge) on 5th, Scotland Gate on 8th, Rothbury on 10th, Wall and Humshaugh on 11th, Bolam Lake CP on 16th, Ellington on 19th and Howick on 31st.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

One report of a single being the established bird at Backworth on 23rd (JBu).

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

One flew in front of a car and landed on a gate at Felton Lane on 8th (TB).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Present in numbers at Prestwick Carr in the middle of the month with five on 16th (CB/PCF) and three on 15th (STH) with one to two till the month end. Singles were also at Longhirst Flash on 5th and Fenham-le-Moor on 7th, 8th and 25th.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

On 2nd birds were at two locations in Jesmond Dene (MJCo) with one there on 20th and at Easington Grange on 1st, Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 2nd, Scotch Gill (Morpeth) on 6th and 25 and one at Mitford on 7th. Singles were at East Chevington on 16th and 25th, at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 16th, Wallsend Hall on 22nd, Howick Burn Lake on 27th, Seaton Sluice on 30th, Derwent Reservoir and Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 31st.



Kingfisher

Wallsend Park

23/01/22

Jack Bucknall



**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

There was a high count of only three at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 7th with two there on 31st (MNC), two at Tarsset Burn (Sidwood) on 1st, Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 9th, Allenheads and Howick on 13th, Tynemouth on 15th, Kielder Forest Drive on 25th and Holywell Dene on 27th. Singles were at 13 other locations.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Two called at Newburn Haugh (R.Tyne) on 22nd (GAS) with one yaffling at Alwinton on 18th (IDR/JF) and at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 23rd (RMH).



Green Woodpecker

Newburn Haugh

22/01/22

Graham Sorrie

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Three were at Dunstanburgh on 24th (DLo) with two at Carlington on 2nd (AB/LB), Tyne Riverside CP (Newburn) on 15th (IK), Low Cocklaw (Berwick) on 20th (TBr) and Prestwick Carr on 22nd (PCF). Singles were at a further 21 widespread localities with a first year male at Humshaugh killing a Blackbird on 10th which it ate for two hours before being flushed but returning at dusk and the next morning to resume eating and also killing and eating a Dunnock and Greenfinch over the next two days (SW).

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

A male was at Prestwick Carr on 16th and a female at Plenmellor Common on the same date (TRD/JD/SJH) with unsexed bids at Fenham Flats (Lindisfarne NNR) on 24th and Hauxley on 29th (BS/SW).



**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Two were at Budle Bay on 8th (IDR/JF/ME) with a single there on 9th and at Newton Red House on 1st and 5th, St Mary's Island on 3rd and 7th, Derwent Reservoir on 3rd, Newbiggin on 5th and 28th, Bywell and Branton GP on 6th, Allenheads on 11th, Tynemouth Priory on 12th and 25th, Castle Island on 12th, Whitley Chapel and Rawgreen (Slaley Forest) on 20th, Allen Banks on 27th, Cullernose Point on 28th and Druridge Pools on 30th.

Peregrine Falcon

Castle Island

12/01/22

Graham Sorrie





**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

North Shields the preferred location for the month with a peak of ten at Preston Cemetery on 28th and more than eight at Preston Park on 11th including a copulating pair (MSH). One to six were there and at Northumberland Park on seven other dates during the month with three at Heaton Park on 12th and singles coming to feeder at Newbiggin on 14th and 22nd and at Jesmond Dene on 16th.

Ring-necked Parakeet

Northumberland Park

23/01/22

Jack Bucknall

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

A high count of six at Howick Pool on 18th (AHa/PHa), three at Baybridge (Blanchland) on 1st (MH), Dukeshouse (Hexham) on 17th (AJH) and The Chirm (Wingates) on 25th (AB/LB). Two were at three different locations in Ellington on five dates, Tasset Burn (Sidwood) on 1st, Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 2nd, Howick on 4th, Tyneview Park (Benton) on 10th, Newbiggin mound on 16th, Kilham on 19th, Harwood Burn (Harwood Forest) on 20th and Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 28th. Singles were at ten other locations.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

On 2nd 17 were at West Sleekburn (JR) with 14 at Longhirst Flash and Abyssinia Pond on 22nd (IDR/JF), eight together at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd and Dinnington on 30th. Seven were at Whittingham on 18th, six at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 2nd and Cambois on 8th with one to four at Druridge links on three dates and at four other locations.



**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

Around 1000 roosted at Monkseaton (Whitley Bay) all month (ASJ), 500 foraged at Carterway Heads on 30th (IFo), at least 200 were at Coanwood Pond on 1st with over 150 there on 7th (SJH), 200 at Prestwick Carr on 12th (PCF), 150+ flew north at Grindon Lough on 9th and 120 were at Eals Bridge (R.S Tyne) on 120 (AJ). On 3rd 93 were at East Hartford, 80 at Ellington Pond on 3rd and Downham Farm (Pawston) on 16th, 53 at Low Leam (West Woodburn) on 8th with 28 to 50 at Alnmouth, Alwinton, Mindrum, Sleafy Village and one to 16 at 11 other widespread localities.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

High counts of 350 at Ingram (Breamish Valley) on 17th (AJR), 200 at Mindrum on 16th and 150 at Downham Farm (Pawston) on the same date (JR), 136 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (IFo), 85 at Howick on 1st (JAR) and 77 at Low Leam (West Woodburn) on 8th (JR). 12 were at Potland (Linton) on 8th, 10 at Druridge Links on 1st with one to seven three other locations.



Rook

Bamburgh

January '22

Alan Jack

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

On 3rd 111 fed on fields at East Hartford (LJM) with 17 at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 5th (JR/NA), 11 at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 9th and Sleafy Hall on 22nd (MJCo/RMH). Six were at Goswick on 17th, Druridge Pools and Links on 23rd with five there on 1st and at Potland (Linton) on 8th with one to four at 13 other widespread localities.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus corone cornix*

The long staying individual was in a dead tree in shelter belt at Linton on 18th and at Linton Ponds on 22nd (TB, TF/JFa).



Hooded Crow

Linton

10/01/22

Graham Sorrie

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

Two were at Catcleugh Reservoir on 1st (JD), Easington on 2nd (NFO), Whittingham on 9th and 13th (CW), Derwent Reservoir on 13th (MJC/TW/AJ), Howick Pool on 18th (AHa/JHa), Corbys Crag (Edlingham) on the same date and being mobbed by Goshawk at Doddington on 30th (TRD/JD). One at Druridge Links 7th was a first for the location and one possibly two were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 23rd with singles at 12 other typical locations.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

A high count of 21 at Ellington Dene on 3rd (IRD/JF), 20 (18 retraps and two new) caught in constant effort ringing at Corbridge Common on 9th (DLe), and around 15 at East Cramlington on 25th (LJM). Three were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 16th and Gosforth Garden Village on 31st with one to two at 11 other locations.

**Tit sp**

A non calling Marsh or Willow Tit was at QEII CP on 8th (TB).

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Two pairs were at High House Wood (Brinkburn) on 22nd (AHa/PHa) and a very vocal pair at Felton Lane on 23rd (MSH) with two at Scotch Gill (Morpeth) on 29th, Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 30th and downstream of Mitford Castle on 31st (ADMc/NFO). Singles were reported all month at Longdyke (Shilbottle), Linden Hall (Longhorsley), Newton Red House from 5th and six locations in their stronghold west of Morpeth plus Rothbury on 1st and Felton on 10th.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

A peak count of five at Prestwick Carr on 5th (AJ) with two to three there all month, three at Ellington Dene on 3rd and in garden at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 10th (IDR/JF/NFO) with one to two there regularly. Two were at Chevington Moor on 1st, Riverside Country Park (Prudhoe) on 15th and Ellington on 28th with singles at Linton Ponds, East Cramlington NWT, Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on two dates during the month and also at six other locations.



Willow Tit

Prestwick Carr

16/01/22

Tim Dean

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

High counts of 22 at Ellington Dene on 3rd (IRD/JF), 15 on two feeders at Baybridge (Blanchland) on 1st (MH), ten at Slaley Village on 13th (RMH) and Harwood Burn (Harwood Forest) on 20th (MSH). Nine were at Ellington Pond and Ellington Colliery on 3rd, eight at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 5th with six at Linton Ponds on 2nd, Woodhorn Flashes on 8th and Alwinton on 18th. One to five were at eight other widespread localities.

Blue Tit Holywell

21/01/22 Colin Bradshaw



**Great Tit** *Parus major*

On 3rd 17 were at Ellington Dene (IRD/JF), six at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 9th (MJCo) and Druridge Links on 23rd (IRD/JF) with five at Alwinton on 18th, four at Scotch Gill Woods on 8th and Dinnington on 9th. One to three were at six other locations.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Six were singing in a count of 55 at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 18th (ASJ), 20 in a flock at Holy Island on 25th (TRD/JD), 17 on set-aside at North Walbottle on 8th (MH), 15 at Goswick on 17th (IRD/JF), 14 at Fen Letch (Middle Stobswood) on 21st (MH/AA) and nine over Easington on 1st (NFO). One to two were at Hepburn Moor, Ross back sands and Potland (Linton).

**Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*

Two were found in very poor light on 8th and confirmed as adult male and female on 9th (IK/ADM) remaining till the month end being seen by many.



Shorelark

Holy Island

22/01/22

Colin Bradshaw

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

Both birds at Big Waters NWT were heard calling on 24th (MSH). Single birds were reported at East Chevington on 7th (STH), 8th (TB, JBu), 20th (JFa) and 25th (MH).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

The largest flock was at Howick Pool, with 30 on 18th (AHa/PHa). There were 20 at Ellington Dene on 3rd (IDR/JF) and at Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) on 8th (IDR/JF/ME). Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) had 15 on 9th (KWY), and Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) had a monthly maximum of 12 on 31st (MJC). Flocks of ten birds were reported at Rothbury on 1st (JD), Holywell Dene on 2nd (MSH), Warkworth on 4th (JAR), Newton Red House on 5th and throughout the month (PG), Milkwell (Corbridge) on 9th (RB/MB), and Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 25th (IFo). Slaley Hall had nine on 12th (RMH), Druridge Links had a maximum of nine on 14th (IDR), and Prestwick Carr had nine on 19th (PCF). Smaller numbers were recorded at a further nine locations.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Overwintering birds were seen at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 2nd (MJC) and Prestwick Carr on 16th (TRD/JD), and one was heard calling at Tyneview Park, Benton (Newcastle) on 20th (CDH).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

A male bird was at a garden feeder at Corbridge on 3rd (DWN), and a female was at feeders in Longbenton (Newcastle) on 4th (AJ). Male birds were seen at Humshaugh on 6th (TWi) and Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 8th (JBu).

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

The highest count came from Howick Pool, with 12 on 18th (AHa/PHa). There were a maximum of three at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 12th (STH), and Ellington Dene had two on 3rd (IDR/JF). Singles were at Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth), Letah Wood (Hexham), and Grindon Lough NWT.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

There were four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 2nd (MJCo) and a maximum of three at Druridge Links on 1st (IDR/JF). Counts of two came from Linton Ponds, Ellington Dene, Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth), Woodhorn Flashes, Abbey Mill (Morpeth), Longhirst Flash, and Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle). Singles were at a further four locations.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

There were six at Bolam Lake CP on 28th (MSH), four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 2nd (MJCo) and 12th (STH), and four at Howick Pool on 18th (AHa/PHa). Humshaugh had three on 1st (SW), Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) had three on 8th (IDR/JF/ME) and on 21st (STH), and Lemmington Hall had three on 8th (AHa/PHa). Reports of two birds came from Haughton Castle, Sidwood (Tarsset Burn), Northumberland Park (North Shields), and Ellington, with singles at a further seven locations.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Chugdon Wood had three on 4th (TB) and Wark had three on 19th (RB/MB). Two, including a singing bird, were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 10th (NFO), and two were at Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) on 21st (STH). Singles, including garden visitors at Longbenton (Newcastle) and Rothbury, were at a further five locations.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The largest flock was at Rennington, where a murmuration of 3,000 was seen at dusk on 28th (BS). Buckton had 600 on 1st (JR), and 400 were observed feeding on a sandfly hatching at The Snook (Holy Island) on 22nd (ASJ). Thrunton and Potland (Linton) had 250 on 3rd (TRD/JD) and 9th (IDR/JF) respectively, and there were 200 at Ottercops on 11th (JR) and Gloucester Lodge (Blyth) on 17th (MSH). Edges Green (Haltwhistle) had 180 on 2nd (SJH), Hole Farm (Bellingham) had 150 on 8th (JR), Coanwood Pond had 150 on 18th (SJH), and Druridge Pools and Links had a maximum count of 120 on 1st (IDR/JF). Smaller numbers were reported at a further seven locations.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Horton Burn (Cramlington) yielded a count of 31 birds along a 2km stretch on 5th (LJM). Potland (Linton) had 22 on 9th (IDR/JF), and Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) had a monthly maximum of 13 on 31st (MJC). There were ten at Sla-ley Hall on 8th (RMH) and four at Druridge Links on 8th (IDR/JF/ME). Smaller numbers were recorded at a further ten locations.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Large flocks were reported from inland locations, with 400 at Once Brewed on 19th (PRM), 300 at Hole Farm (Bellingham) on 8th (JR), 250 at Raylees (Otterburn) on 1st (AJH), and 200 at Hartside (Breamish Valley) on 14th (NFO). There were 150 at Bellasis Bridge (Blagdon) on 10th (PCF), Ottercops on 11th (JR), Hartburn on 13th (TRD), and Humshaugh on 13th (SW). Hipsburn had 140 by Alnmouth railway station on 16th (MKi), and Upper Coquetdale had 135 on 18th (IDR/JF). Flocks of 100 were at Greenhaugh on 1st (SW), Great Ryle (Whittingham) on 7th (CW), Birdhope Crag on 8th (JR), and East Holywell (Whitley Bay) on 16th (MSH). Smaller flocks of over 50 birds were reported from thirteen locations, with flocks of below 50 at a further eleven locations. Smaller numbers (below 20) were recorded at eight other locations.



Fieldfare  
Hartburn  
13/01/22  
Tim Dean

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

The largest flock was at Raylees (Otterburn), with 220 on 1st (AJH). Hole Farm (Bellingham) had 200 on 8th (JR), Big Waters NWT had a maximum of 140 on 15th (STH), and Humshaugh had 130 on 1st (SW). Flocks of 100 were at Little Mill on 9th (SW), Ingram (Breamish Valley) on 11th (JD), Letah Wood (Hexham) on 16th (AJH), Once Brewed on 19th (PRM), and Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 31st (TD). There were 80 at Bywell on 6th (AJ/TW), 75 at Low Cocklaw (Berwick) on 20th (TBr), 70 at Potland (Linton) on 9th (IDR/JF), and 60 at Warton on 7th (JD). Sidwood (Tarsset Burn) had 50 on 1st (SW) and East Cramlington Flash had 50 on 25th (LJM). There were 40 at Wallington Hall on 14th and 20th (MSH), and a



maximum of 40 at Prestwick Carr on 14th (IK). Smaller flocks were at nine other locations, and numbers of ten and below were at a further nine locations.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Singing birds were heard this month, with two at Howdon on 2nd (CB), one at Benton, Tyneview Park (Newcastle) on 13th (CDH), and one at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 27th (MH). Two birds were at St Mary's on 10th (CB), and singles were at Rothbury on 3rd (TRD/JD), Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) on 8th (IDR/JF/ME), Potland (Linton) on 9th (IDR/JF), and on Rocky Island (Seaton Sluice) on 23rd (CB).

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

East Holywell (Whitley Bay) had the highest count, with eight on 1st (MSH). There were six at West Sleekburn on 2nd (JR), Slaley Hall on 8th (RMH), and Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 26th (NFO). Four were at Toft House Farm (Otterburn Ranges) on 5th (JR/NA), Scots Gap on 8th (JR), and at Hallington Reservoir on 28th (PRM). Edges Green (Haltwhistle), Derwent Reservoir and Colt Crag Reservoir had three on 2nd (SJH), 27th (IFo) and 28th (PRM) respectively. Two birds were reported from ten locations, with singles at a further seven locations.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

There was a maximum count of seven at Ellington Dene on 3rd (IDR/JF), with six at Abbey Mill (Morpeth) on 8th (IDR/JF/ME) and at Prestwick Carr on 22nd (PCF). Three were reported from Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Castle Island (Wansbeck), Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth), Potland (Linton) and Alwinton (Upper Coquetdale), with a maximum of two at Druridge Links.



Robin

Gosforth Garden Village

09/01/22

Mike Carr



**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

A bike ride from Druridge to High Hauxley gave a count of ten birds (four pairs and two males) on 14th (MH). Low Newton had five on 18th (TRD/JD). There were four (two pairs) at Holy Island on 9th (ADM), four at Longhorsley Moor on 13th and 30th (AB/LB), and four at the Coquet estuary on 14th (MKi). Three were at Newbiggin on 11th (NFO) and at Fen Letch (Middle Stobswood) (a pair and a female) on 18th (MH). Pairs were reported at ten locations, with singles at a further ten locations.

Stonechat Low Newton

24/1/22 Tom Cook

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Four were noted in Upper

Coquetdale on 18th (IDR/JF). Three were seen at Allenbanks on same day (RPO). Two were observed at a further six sites, including a pair, with the male displaying at Berwick Hill Bridge and single birds, including some heard singing, noted at a notable 17 places.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

A count was made of 50 at Cullercoats Bay on 14th (MN). 40 birds were seen at Battlesteads Hotel (Wark) on 22nd (CB). 24 – 37 were observed at four locations and two to 15 at ten further sites during the month.



House Sparrow

Gosforth Garden Village

14/01/22

Mike Carr

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

30-40 were seen at Hauxley on 28th and 30 were at feeders at Holywell on 23rd (AJR/CB). 18-25 were seen at four sites and one to 12 at a further 15 sites.

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

Four was the maximum count in a Gosforth garden from visiting birds this month (MJC). Two were at three sites this month, followed by singles sighted at a further six.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Three were seen in Jesmond Dene on 9th (MJCo). Sightings of two birds were made at Bedlington, Horton Burn and Lynemouth Bay. Single birds were seen at a further 16 sites.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

A good count was made on 19th at Haltwhistle Sewage Works, of 55 plus birds (PRM). Ten were watched at Howick Burn mouth on 25th (BS). One to six were seen at ten other sites.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

30 were seen at Longhirst /Abyssinia Pond on 22nd (IDR/JF). The following day saw 12 at Sandham Bay and 12 were also seen on 8th at Druridge Links (AHa/PHa/IDR/JF et al). Seven were noted at St. Mary's, in fields on 17th (ASJ). One to five were also found at five other sites.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

Two were seen together on the beach at Holy Island, near "the excavations" on 9th and then again further W at Snook beach on 22nd (ADM/ASJ). The wintering individual at St. Mary's Island remained, seen on many dates by many observers (MSH/JBu/ASJ et al). Another bird was present on at least three days at Beacon Point (Newbiggin), between 5th and 16th (AP/IDR/JF).





Water Pipit

St Mary's Island

03/01/22

Jack Bucknall

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

24 were counted along Holy Island's north shore on 9th (ADM). Nine were found between Seahouses and Bamburgh on 15th (NFO). Eight watched at Beacon Point on 16th (IDR/JF). One to six were also seen at a further six locations.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Five of this ssp. were seen at Budle Bay on 24th and three on 25th at Howick Burn mouth (CGK/BS). Two were also watched at Sandham Bay on 23rd (AHa/PHa).

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

A large flock of 200 was seen at Druridge Links on 1st (IDR/JF). 100 were seen at Crooked Oak on 25th (IFo). 40 - 60 were seen at Harwood Burn, Cresswell Pond, Monument Fields (Lemington), Chillingham and Styford during the month and one to 30 at seven other locations. A mixed flock of Chaffinches and Linnets at Howick totalled 180 birds, seen on 11th (JAR).

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Few reported this month, with the maximum count of only 15 plus at Harwood Burn on 21st (MSH). One to five at five other sites, including one to two males at garden feeders in Rothbury in the final week.



Brambling

Rothbury

31/01/22

Tim Dean

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

A single bird was seen at Abbey Mill (Morpeth) on seven dates from 1st to 18th and two birds were present on 6th and 8th (ADMc et al).

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

24 birds on 20th was the peak count of those attending garden feeders at a Rothbury garden this month. 16 were noted at nearby Addycombe Moor on 28th (TRD/JD). Eight were seen this month at Morpeth, Howick and Howden and one to six were also noted at another 26 widespread locations.

**Greenfinch** *Colebeus coelebs*

The regular pre-roost gathering witnessed at Linden Hall, peaked this month on 7th at 61 birds (NFO). 11 were seen at Humshaugh on 8th (SW). Seven was the monthly peak of those counted at feeders at a Gosforth Garden Village on 31st. Six fed at feeders in a Marden Estate garden on several dates, and six were at St. Mary's on 22nd (MJC/ASJ). One to two were seen at nine other places.

**Twite** *Linaria flavirostris*

A flock feeding among cattle in the dunes at Cresswell on 16th, was counted from photographs at 144 birds. 35 remained the following day (ASJ/STH). 35 were at Stag Rocks on 8th and 45 reported there on 17th (TB/IDR/JR). One to 13 were also seen at eight other sites.



Twite  
Cresswell  
January '22  
Alan Jack

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

The largest flock this month was around 500 in setaside at Cheswick on 30th (TRD). Groups of 400 were noted at High Buston on 4th and at Longwitton on 15th, where the birds remained from December (MKi/ASJ). 300 were at Druridge Links on 1st and 200 seen at Bilton Banks on 6th (IDR/JF/MKi). 100-130 were noted at Prestwick Carr, Hartburn, Long Dyke (Shilbottle) and Minsteracres during the month. 12 - 80 were watched at 11 further locations.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

40 birds were observed at Sidwood on 1st (SW). 12 were noted on the 25th on the Kielder Forest drive (ADM). Eight plus were seen at Harwood burn on 20th (MSH). Six were seen at Ellington on 3rd (TB). One to four were seen also at five sites, including a single bird, present all month, in a Gosforth Garden village garden.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

14 plus at Harwood Burn on 14th, increased to 40 plus on 20th and 21st (MSH). 16 were seen at Sidwood on 1st, which included four males in song and at Sleafy Forest on 22nd (SW/STH). 13 on 9th was the maximum noted at Corbridge Common of the birds regularly seen there (DLe). 12 were observed at Winnows Hill on 4th, 11 on Kielder Forest drive on 25th. Six were watched drinking at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 1st and three were at Whiteside and two at Linhope this month.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

On 25th, around 80 were seen at East Cramlington Pond and 38 at Horton Park (LJM). 65 were at Ellington Dene on 3rd and 60 were noted at Benton on 20th (CDH). One to 22 were also seen this month at a further 16 sites.



**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

An estimated 320 birds were counted at Corbridge Common on 27th (DLe). On 16th 75 were seen at Branton (IBDa/KDa). 50 were at Ellington Dene on 30th and at Rising Sun C.P. throughout the month (TB/ASJ). 20 -30 plus were seen at six locations and one -15 at a further 23 sites.



Siskin

Harwood Forest

21/01/22

Mike Hodgson

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

The wintering birds at Holy Island were seen on two dates, with three present on 8th and a single bird on 23rd observed (IK/STH).

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

The only birds seen this month were in the far north of the County, with 18 watched at Goswick Sands on 16th and 12 at nearby Cheswick Black Rocks on 27th, which could possibly have involved some of the same birds? (Pno/MNo/MHU).

**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*

The first County sighting of this once common farmland bird in five years, occurred when one was heard calling and arrived onto a bush top at St. Mary's on 2nd. It then joined a group of Reed Buntings feeding in nearby stubble, returning to a bush to preen, before flying W calling, over fields. It was looked for that day and other subsequent days, by several observers, but not seen further. However, it obviously had remained in the area, as was then seen again feeding with the Reed Buntings in the same stubble field four days later on 6th and then on the same bushes, by the original observer. It was well photographed but unfortunately failed to show during it's stay, to any other hopeful searchers. It represented the first for the site for over 30 years (ASJ).



Corn Bunting

St Mary's

January '22

Alan Jack

### **Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

Encouraging numbers seen this month, with a good count of around 100 made on 21st at Lough House (Heighleygate). 90 plus remained at Rake Lane (N.Shields) throughout the month, with 72 counted in flight there in small groups on 22nd (ADM/ASJ). 50 were at Elwick and 45 at Fenham Le Moor on 1st, 40 were seen at Elswick on 31st (JR/TRD/CB). 30 -38 were also seen at West Howdens, North Walbottle and Low Cocklaw during the month. Ten to 25 were observed at ten further locations and one to eight birds at a further seven.

### **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

80 plus were seen in weedy fields and surrounding bushes at Rake Lane (N.Shields) on 17th, with around 70 counted there the following day (ASJ). 20 were feeding in stubble at St. Mary's on several dates from 2nd, accompanied on two dates, by a Corn Bunting (ASJ). Ten were seen at Longhirst flash on 2nd (TB). Nine on 9th at Old Hartley (MNC). One to six were watched at ten further sites during the month.

## **ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**

### **Escapes**

#### **Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*

One still along the 'bumpy road' at Prestwick Carr on 15th (PCF). Looking rather incongruous away from any habitation and being fed by local residents.

### **Hybrids**

No sightings

### **Birds of Unknown Origin**

No sightings

## **LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS**

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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.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Clive Hampton is Data Manager.

Edited by Steve Barrett [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

## **RECORD SUBMISSION**

Please email records for the month to [ntbc.records@googlemail.com](mailto: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](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com) AND to Graham Sorrie at [sorriega@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sorriega@hotmail.co.uk) Please supply the date and location of your photograph.



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

## Northumberland Bird Race – January 9th 2022

The annual "first Saturday in January Northumberland Bird Race" resumed this year after a break last year due to Covid restrictions. A total of eight teams took part, recording as many species as they could see or hear within 24 hours on Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup>.

A few key points:

- The total number of species recorded was 133, with the winning team recording 112,
- 17 species were recorded by single teams: these were; Scaup, Peregrine, Ruff, Jack Snipe, Spotted Redshank, Glaucous Gull, LEO, SEO, Kittiwake, Lesser BGG, Grey Wagtail, Raven, Hooded Crow, Brambling, Snow Bunting, Blackcap and Whimbrel,
- 7 of the 8 teams managed at least 1 of the single record species; with one team recording 5 species reflecting the choice of habitats visited. A second team had 4. These nine included some of the more difficult species: Raven, Jack Snipe, LBBG, LEO.
- Only 1 team (the winning team) managed to record both Marsh and Willow Tit.
- Only one team managed to connect with the Glaucous Gull in Budle Bay which accurately reflects the hit or miss chances of seeing this bird.
- For perspective the highest number of species recorded by a single team was 125 in 2006 and the highest number of cumulative species is 138 which occurred in 2006 and 2015.

Next year's race will take place on Saturday January 8th 2023 – full details will appear here nearer the time.

Graham Sorrie

## STAN BOOTH RIP

Stan Booth who was one of the eleven founder members of the club in 1958 has sadly passed away aged 94. Stan was an active birder prior to the founding of the Club originally submitting records to the Natural History Society. When the Club was founded Stan started sending records to NTBC and continued to do so until the middle of 2020 – a remarkable run of over sixty years! Over all those years he saw and embraced the numerous changes in the birding world – no more lying on his back to rest his telescope on his knees while seawatching. Stan also had a gentle sense of humour and I remember him sending me a record of an Electric Razorbill. Covid restrictions hit him hard as it prevented him from car-sharing with his fellow birders and essentially ended his years of birding.

David H Howey

# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

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

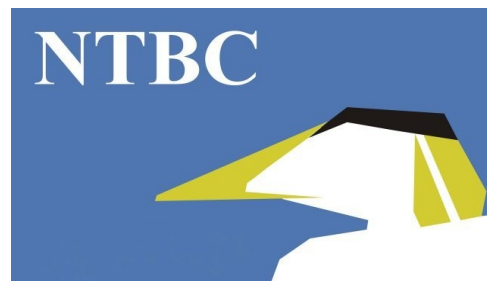
Bulletin 2022 No 02

MONTHLY SUMMARY

FEBRUARY

9th April 2022

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## CONTENTS

Borders Bird Report

RIP Tom Palmer

BINs available

BIN writers

## CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Greenland White-fronted Goose	Adult still at Grindon Lough all month.
Eurasian White-fronted Goose	Two were at East Chevington from 9th.
Ruddy Shelduck	Singles at Derwent Res and Cresswell.
American Wigeon	Over-wintering drake still at Big Waters.
Green-winged Teal	Drake still at Colt Crag Reservoir.
Scaup	Up to four at Holywell Pond plus tame 1st-winter male at Killingworth Lake.
Velvet Scoter	Scarce again this month with only record being one past Seaton Sluice on 28th.
Smew	Female at Widdrington Moor lake all month.
Red-necked Grebe	The long-stayer still at Widdrington Moor Lake all month.
Avocet	First records for year with five at Blyth Estuary on 27th.
Whimbrel	Wintering bird again this time seen from Seaton Sluice on 21st.
Ruff	Party of six at Druridge Pools and East Chevington.
Grey Phalarope	Interesting long-stayer near Dunstanburgh Castle from 25th on wetland.
Spotted Redshank	Wintering individual again at Bothal Pond.
Glaucous Gull	First-winters at Budle Bay, Newbiggin and North Shields.
Iceland Gull	A first- and third-winter at North Shields plus adult at Big Waters.
Red-throated Diver	Peak count of 86 at Druridge Bay on 19th.
Black-throated Diver	Single at Bamburgh on 2nd and 7th.
White-billed Diver	A first-winter and an adult were seen at Bamburgh from 9th. First regular wintering.
Bittern	One was unusually noted at Big Waters on 4th.
Great Egret	Singles at Fenham le Moor and Castron.
Little Egret	Up to six wintering inland at Heddon.
Hooded Crow	Wintering individual still at Linton.
Waxwing	Only one single noted at Corbridge on 4th and 13th.
Shore Lark	Two still on Holy Island in quarry area.
Water Pipit	Singles at St Mary's and Fenham le Moor.
Greenfinch	Encouragingly two big flocks of 95-100 at Linden and Royal Quays.
Snow Bunting	Flocks of 20-29 at Holy Island and Goswick.
Lapland Bunting	Single still on Holy Island in quarry area.
Corn Bunting	One was well photographed at St Mary's on 2nd and 6th. Only seen briefly each time.

## 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 14th April. Martin Davison will give an update on the seabirds of Kielder. We know now a lot more about overland movements of seabirds;.

## FIELD TRIPS

Contact Steve Anderson [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)

## CLASSIFIED LIST

### Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

Three males were at Rowley Burn, Hexhamshire Common on 17th (AJH). Single males were also noted at Hargill House, Coanwood (SJH) and Nubbock Fell, near Haydon Bridge (PRM).

### Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

At least ten were at the Simonside Hills on 11th (TD) and seven to nine were at Plenmeller Common (PRM) and Rowley Burn, Hexhamshire (AJH). One to two were also at Pithouse Fell and Windy Rig.



**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

About 60 were in a single flock at Quarry House Moor on 2nd (MH), 16 were at Druridge Lane on 2nd (TB), 13 at Netherwitton on 16th (PG), and six to eight at Bebside, Bewick Moor and Widdrington Village. Three to four were also at Derwent Reservoir and Widdrington Moor Lake, and one to two at Elford and Newstead.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Largest counts were 32 at Rake Lane, North Shields on 26th (ASJ), 22 at St Mary's Island on 28th (ASJ), and 12 at Beal on 2nd (IBDa/KDa). Three to four were also at Beaconhill (Cramlington) and Hemscott Hill, and one to two at Big Waters, Bothal, Crookham, Druridge Links, Dunstanburgh, East Chevington, Ellington, Howick, Loanend (Horncliffe), North Seaton, 'Northumberlandia' (Cramlington), Prestwick Carr, Rowley Burn and St Mary's Wetland.

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

17 were at Druridge Pools on 27th (IDR).

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

A minimum of 800 pale-bellied *hrota* race birds were at Ross-Elwick on 24th (DF) and 730 were noted in Budle Bay on 15th (DF), with 33-600 at the latter site between 11th-25th (MJC/RGD/DF/CGK). One was at St Mary's Wetland-Old Hartley from 7th-27th (CB/JBu/MSH).

Dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds included 172 at Holy Island 'rocket pool' on 27th (MJC) and three to six at Harper's Heugh-Budle Bay between 21st-25th (DF/MSH).



Brent Goose,

St Mary's

18/02/22

Jack Bucknall

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

18 flew N at Ellington on 25th (TB), 650 were at Grindon Lough on 9th (PRM), 263 at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (IFo), 176 at Big Waters on 4th (GB) and 85-87 at Bothal Pond (PRM) and Druridge Pools (IDR/JF). Counts of ten to 38 came from Capheaton Lake, Catcleugh Reservoir, Coanwood and Holywell Ponds, East Chevington, Midgeholme, Plenmeller Common and Widdrington Moor Lake. One to six were also at Cocklawburn, Middle Ord Pond and West Ord.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

800 were at Budle Bay on 6th and 28th (RA/DF) and ten to 380 on several further dates between 11th-27th, and 150 were at nearby Ross-Elwick on 24th (DF). One to two were also found at East Chevington, Grindon Lough and Hemscott Hill.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

62 flew N at East Ord on 18th (MHu). Peak counts were 200 at South Linton on 4th (TB), 197 at Hargill House (Plenmeller Common) on 24th (SJH), 180 at Derwent Reservoir on 10th (IFO), 176 at Cocklawburn on 8th (MHu) and 101-150 at Big Waters (GB), Budle Bay (RA), East Chevington (PRM) and Todhillwood Farm (Plenmeller Common) on 19th (SJH). Counts of 14-32 came from Bothal Pond, Craggy Bog (Murton) and Wark Common, and two to seven were at Capheaton Lake, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Middle Ord Pond, West Ord and Widdrington Moor Lake.

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

The monthly Seaton Sluice total was 509 N and 160 S (SSWT), 360 flew N at Boulmer on 19th (BS), and 100-200 N/NW at Berwick, Cocklawburn, East Ord, Ellington, Morpeth and QEII CP between 11th-27th, with smaller numbers at several further coastal sites. At Newbiggin, 1,000 moved S on 3rd (STH). Peak concentrations were 6,000 in the Belford area on 3rd (DF), 5,200 at Budle Bay on 11th dropping to 2,500 by 27th (DF), about 2,500 at Doddington on 8th (DF), 2,250 at Stobswood Pools on 5th (TF), and 1,100-1,720 at Cresswell Pond (TB), Druridge Pools/Links (IDR) and Hauxley (RPo).

Counts of 550-800 came from East Chevington, Gloucester Lodge (Blyth), Old Hartley and Low Newton, while 150-300 were at Budle Bay, Holywell Pond, Longhirst Flash, South Linton and Widdrington Moor Lake, and 34-40 at Big Waters, Bothal Pond. Fewer were noted inland, with 72 at Grindon Lough on 23rd (PRM), 60 NE at Humshaugh on 18th (SW), 34 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (IFo), while skeins were heard during darkness passing N over Humshaugh on 7th and 19th (SW) and over Wark (North Tyne) on 7th (PRM).

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser flavirostris*

Eurasian *albifrons* race birds involved two regularly at East Chevington between 9th-18th (AA/TRD/JD/TF *et al.*)

An adult of the Greenland *flavirostris* race was regularly at Grindon Lough between 8th-25th (BS/SJH/PRM).

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Four flew N at Seaton Sluice between 19th-24th (SSWT) and three flew NW at Humshaugh on 25th (SW). Highest counts were 67 at QEII CP on 27th (CDH), 39 at Killingworth Lake on 27th (LJM), 22 at Loanend, Horncliffe on 13th (MHu), and 11 at Capheaton Lake (PRM). Three to eight were also at Big Waters, Broomlee Lough, Coanwood Pond, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Park Dam and Shield on the Wall. More unusual were two at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo). Two juveniles from Newcastle Exhibition Park landed on the 'Great North Road' and were escorted off by the police on 9th (GB).

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

At Seaton Sluice, two flew N on 26th and eight N on 28th (SSWT), four flew N at Holy Island on 27th (MJC) and four N at Newbiggin on 23rd (AP). 40 were at Fenham Mill on 27th (RA) and 30 at nearby Beal on 5th (DF). Elsewhere, peak counts were 23 at Birling Carrs, Warkworth on 5th and 21st (AMG/MG/MKi), 17 at East Chevington-Druridge 'coal road' on 12th (TF) and 22nd (TD), and ten to 11 at Branton GP (IBDa/KDa), Budle Bay (DF) and Low Newton (SVM). Five to eight were also at Bothal Pond, Grindon Lough, Low Cocklaw and Low Newton, and one to four at Airy Holm Reservoir, Coanwood Pond, Derwent Reservoir, QEII CP and West Ord.

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Two flew N and five S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Budle Bay held a peak of 235 on 18th (DF), 46 were at the Blyth Estuary on 19th (MSH), 23 at Hemscott Hill on 28th (TB), and 12 at Howdon on 13th (CB). Four to six were also at Druridge Pools and Elswick (Rive Tyne), and one to two at Big Waters, Castle Island, East Chevington and Ellington. Singles were further inland at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (IFo) and Grindon Lough on 8th (BS).



Shelduck

Howdon

22/02/22

Colin Bradshaw

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

One was at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (the first there since mid-2021; IFo) and one was with 23 Shelducks at Hemscott Hill on 28th (TB).

**Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

Large numbers continued to be reported at Budle Bay, with a peak of 67 on 11th (TRD) and 27-60 throughout the month. Peak counts elsewhere were 48 at East Chevington on 14th (CB *et al.*), 16 at Bothal Pond on 19th (TF), and 12 at Druridge Pools on 19th (IDR/JF). Five to eight were also at Big Waters, Bothal 'shooters' pools', Holy Island Lough, Monks' House Pool and West Allotment Pond, and one to three at Holy Island 'rocket pools', Holywell Pond, Howick, Marden Quarry, Widdrington Moor Lake and Woodhorn Flashes.



**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

Peak counts were 65 at Hauxley Reserve on 17th (HRS), 34 at East Chevington on 10th (PRM), 19 at Bothal Pond on 19th (TD), and 11-14 at Capheaton Lake (PRM), Holywell Pond (MSH) and Marden Quarry (KWY). Five to nine were also at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Caistron, Howdon and Widdrington Moor Lake, and one to four at Druridge and Monks' House Pools, Ellington, Killingworth and QEII CP Lakes, Linden Hall, and West Allotment Pond.

**Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

885 were noted off Seaton Point, Boulmer on 15th (AB/LB), 525 at East Chevington on 19th (TF), 400 off Low Newton on 27th (TD), 318-370 at Big Waters (GB), Budle Bay (KWY), Cresswell Pond (TF), Derwent Reservoir (IFo), Druridge Pools (IDR/JF) and Grindon Lough (SJH), and 250 at Bothal Pond (TF). Counts of 110-154 came from Boulmer Flash, the Coquet Estuary, Derwent Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve, Wallington, Warkworth and Woodhorn Flashes, 65-75 at Holy Island, the Tweed Estuary and Widdrington Moor Lake, and ten to 32 at the Blyth Estuary, Capheaton Lake, and Coanwood and Linton Ponds.

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*

A drake was at Big Waters between 21st-28th (GB/AJJ).



American Wigeon

Big Waters

23/02/22

Mike Hodgson

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Two flew S at Hadston Carrs on 18th (PRM). Modest counts included peaks of 63 at Newcastle Exhibition Park on 2nd (GB), 56 at the Tweed Estuary on 15th (MHu), 40-41 at Castle Island (MSH) and Grindon Lough (SJH), and 14-36 at Bothal, Coanwood and Middle Ord Ponds, Boulmer Flash, Druridge Pools, Newcastle Leazes Park, Newstead Flash, QEII CP, Slaley Hall and West Ord.

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Three S at Seaton Sluice on 24th were unusual for the time of year (SSWT) and one flew S at Hadston Carrs on 18th (PRM). At Fenham Flats, Lindisfarne NNR, 250 were noted on 20th (RA) and 133 on 6th (NFO), while six were offshore at Holy Island on 27th (PRM). Singles were at Big Waters, Budle Bay, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools and Grindon Lough on scattered dates.

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

Peak counts were 385 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 10th (BS), 310 at Grindon Lough on 3rd (PRM), 102-170 at the Blyth Estuary, Bothal Pond, Budle Bay, Caistron, East Chevington, Holy Island Lough and Wallington, and 52-90 at Big Waters, Bothal 'shooters' pools', Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Holy Island 'rocket fields', Howdon and Middle Ord Pond. Counts of ten to 44 came from Arcot, Coanwood and Holywell Ponds, Boulmer flash, the Coquet Estuary, Fontburn Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve, Milfield, Newstead Flash, Plenmeller Common, Prestwick Carr, West Ord and Widdrington Moor Lake. Display was noted at Big Waters on 17th (GB).



Teal  
Howdon  
22/02/22  
Colin Bradshaw

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis*  
A drake was at Colt Crag Reservoir on 10th (BS).

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*  
Killingworth Lake held a peak of 35 on 18th (GB), with 13-30 regularly during the month (IF/MSH/LJM). A peak of 25 was at Holywell Pond on 22nd (MSH), and 11 were at Woodhorn Flashes on 28th (AP). Four to nine were reported at Big Waters (GB), Bothal Pond (TD/TF), Grindon Lough (PRM/MRS) and Widdrington Moor Lake (PRM), and one was at East Chevington.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*  
Killingworth Lake held a peak of 80+ on 9th (MSH), 63 were at East Chevington on 10th (PRM), 37 at Caistrone on 19th (JD), and 25 at Big Waters on 9th (PRM). Ten to 16 were also at Bothal Pond, Capheaton, QEII CP and Widdrington Moor Lakes, Grindon Lough, Newcastle Exhibition Park, Tynemouth Park and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*  
At Holywell Pond, four, including a first-winter drake, were noted on 22nd, with three on 17th and one on 12th (MSH/KWY). A first-winter drake was noted at Killingworth Lake regularly between 1st-28th (GB/JBu *et al.*).



Scaup  
Killingworth Lake  
February '22  
Alan Jack

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*  
A total of 37 flew N and 11 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Peak counts were 42 at St Mary's Island on 7th (MSH), 34 at North Shields Fish Quay on 12th (MSH), 27 at Stag Rocks on 25th (MJC), and 12-17 at Holy Island, Newbiggin and Spittal Bay. One to eight were also off Druridge Links-Hadston Carrs, and Meadow Haven (Berwick).



**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

The sole report was of one N at Seaton Sluice on 28th (SSWT).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A total of 22 flew N and 53 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and two flew N at Spittal Bay. A flock in the Budle Point-Stag Rocks area peaked at 480 on 11th (TRD), with 86-230 on several other dates during the month (MJC/CGK/KWY). Elsewhere, 80 were at Birling Carrs on 7th (MKi), 65 off Druridge Links on 19th (IDR/JF), and 27-30 at Alnmouth Bay (RPo) and Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

One flew N at Boulmer on 13th (BS). A peak of 46 was noted at Stag Rocks on 25th (MJC) and 30 were at nearby Budle Point-Skate Road on 26th (CGK). One to two were also at Holy Island on 26th-27th (PRM).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

On 22nd, three flew N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and one N at Newbiggin (STH) while one flew N off Druridge on 19th (IDR/JF). East Chevington north pool attracted a peak of 86 on 10th (PRM), 42 were at Capheaton Lake on 17th (PRM), 31 at QEII CP on 27th (CDH), 30 at the Tweed Estuary on 21st (TBr/MMcN), 20-29 at Big Waters and Killingworth Lake (GB/MSH/LJM), and ten to 16 at Boulmer, Broomlee Lough, Caistron and Widdrington Moor Lake. Three to six were also at Bothal, Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir, Fenham Flats, Grindon Lough, Ladyburn Lake, Monks' House Pool, Sleafy Hall, Warkworth and West Ord. One to two were at eight further sites. Display was noted at Big Waters (GB) and Killingworth Lake (LJM).

**Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

A 'redhead' was at Widdrington Moor Lake until at least 26th (TB/MH/PRM *et al.*).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

11 were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 6th (RMH), seven at Tyne Green, Hexham on 3rd (AJH), six at Thrum Mill, Rothbury on 11th (JD), and three at Fontburn Reservoir, Killingworth Lake and West Allotment Pond. One to two were also at Berwick, Caistron, Derwent Reservoir, Felton, Morpeth, QEII CP and Redesmouth.



Goosander

Marden Quarry

February '22

Alan Jack

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Three flew N and one S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). 24 were noted in Druridge Bay on 19th (SW), with individual counts of 22 (in one flock) off Cresswell on 9th (TRD/JD) and 19 off East Chevington on 19th (TF). Other peak counts were 17 at Budle Bay on 26th (DF), 15 at Holy Island Heugh on 27th (MJC), and two to five at the Aln and Blyth Estuaries, Holy Island North Shore, Spittal Bay and Stag Rocks. Two drakes displayed to a duck at Widdrington Moor Lake on 1st (MH/AA) and one was noted there on several further dates until 18th, and one was at Cocklawburn Pond on 8th (MHu).

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

An approximated 170 were on Kingston Park Shopping Centre Gym roof on 3rd (AHB), 100 were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 11th (IFo) and the species noted as "present" in Jesmond Dene on 27th (MJCo).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

58 were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 3rd (IFo), 35 were around a game crop near East Chevington South Pool on 19th (TF), a total of four were in Jesmond Dene (singles at Quarry, Fisherman's Lodge, Pets Corner and Heaton Park Paddling Pool) on 27th (MJCo) and three were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and Spindlestone. One to two were at Big Waters NWT, Budle Bay, Coanwood Pond, Cresswell Pond NWT, Druridge Lane, Grindon Lough NWT, Jesmond Royal Grammar School (on bird tables), Kielder Forest Drive and the old windmill at Windmill Lane (Cramlington).

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

At least 800 were in fields and copses below Harpers Heugh viewpoint (Budle Bay) on 9th (DF), approximately 600 at Wark on 7th (PRM) and 500 at both Crookham on 6th and Warkworth on 25th (JR). Other sizeable flocks were encountered at Ellington Dene, with 350 there on 19th (IDR), 350 at Crooked Oak on 11th (IFo), at least 160 at Capheaton Lake on 17th (PRM), 140 at Potland (Linton) on 11th (IDR), 120 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 9th (IDR) and approximately 100 at Gubeon (Morpeth) on 11th (JR). 32 were at Sandy Braes (Slaley) and one to six reported from elsewhere.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Seven were at Dinnington on 19th (PCF).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Singles were heard or seen at Big Waters, Branton GP, Castron and Howick.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

The peak count came from Castle Island with 28 present there on 19th (MSH). 25 were at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 2nd (GB), 12 at both Hauxley NWT on 17th (HRS) and Big Waters NWT on 19th (GB) and one to four at many other localities. One feeding under bird feeders in a garden at Rothbury on 13th (a one-day-only site first) was notable due to being a quarter of a mile from the nearest water body (TRD/JD).

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

At least 77 were at East Chevington on 10th – the highest count of the month there (PRM). The peak count at Bothal Pond was 33 on 21st (TF), 31 were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th (PRM) and at QE11 CP on 27th (CDH), 18 were at Holywell Pond on 22nd (MSH) and 17 at Big Waters NWT on 19th (GB). Counts of one to 12 came from Capheaton Lake, Coanwood Pond, Druridge Pools, Exhibition Park, Killingworth Lake, Oxford Pits, Shooters' Pools (Bothal) and Woodhorn Flashes. One at Holy Island Lough on 27th was noted as unusual on the island in recent years (PRM/MJC).

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

The peak count at East Chevington was 11 on 10th (PRM). Last month's group of six were still present on the sea at Boulmer on 5th (BS), five were at Tyne Green (Hexham) and one to four were seen at Akeld, Big Waters NWT, the Blyth Estuary, Broomlee Lough, Castron, Capheaton Lake, Coanwood Pond, Cresswell Pond NWT, Hauxley NWT, Holy Island Causeway, Howdon, Howick, Lancaster Park (Morpeth), Low Cocklaw (Berwick), Northumberlandia (Cramlington), Old Bridge (Berwick), Rothbury (R. Coquet), Thrum Mill (Rothbury), West Allotment Pond (Silverlink) and Widdrington Moor Lake.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

The popular long-staying bird at Widdrington Moor Lake remained there all month (ASH/TW/MKi/TB *et al.*).

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

The group in the Alnmouth Bay/Birling Carrs (Warkworth)/Buston Links area remained from last month and peaked at 18 on 5th (CSa/AMG/MG) with 15 still present on 11th (RPo). Elsewhere, five were at Druridge Bay, four at the west end of Killingworth Lake and three returned to Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 27th. Two were on the sea off Seaton Sluice on 19th - and displaying on 21st - whilst one to two were at Airy Holm Reservoir (in breeding plumage), the Aln estuary, Big Waters NWT, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington and Holywell Pond.

Great Crested Grebe

Killingworth Lake

February '22 Alan Jack



### **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps Auritus*

Two were at Stag Rocks on 9th (MJC), one was at Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 12th (MHu) and the over-wintering bird at Widdrington Moor Lake remained until at least 10th (TRD/JD/PRM).

### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

The return to inland haunts was illustrated by counts of 124 at Castron on 19th (JD) and 54 at Derwent Reservoir on 11th, where a single had been seen on 3rd and ten on 10th (IFo). There were still significant concentrations at the coast with 82 roosting at Berwick Coastwatch on 28th (MHu), 76 present at St Mary's Island on 24th (MSH), 65 counted at the River Blyth Estuary on 22nd (LJM) and 52 seen at Cocklawburn on 25th (MHu). Other gatherings of 22-45 were observed at Boulmer Flash, Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary), Warkworth, West Chevington and West Ord (Berwick). One to ten were reported from Big Waters, Capheaton Lake, Chollerford, Coanwood Pond, Druridge Pools, Eals Bridge (River South Tyne), Elswick (River Tyne), Gosforth (displaying pair), Grindon Lough, Hexham (pair), Holy Island, Humshaugh, Killingworth Lake, Linton Ponds (pair), Melkridge (4-5 displaying pairs), Newcastle Airport, Newstead Flash and Widdrington Moor Lake.

### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

The peak coastal count was made at St Mary's Island where 600 were counted on 10th (ASJ). Approximately 300 were seen at Ross-Elwick (Lindisfarne NNR) on 14th (DF), with 282 at Boulmer Flash on 13th (BS), 250 at Monks' House Pool on 11th (DGB) and 210 at Holywell Pond on 8th (ASJ). Birds were recorded in substantial numbers as they returned inland with a high of 354 at Plenmeller Common on 3rd (SJH), a monthly peak of 320 seen at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (IFo) and 300 at the East Allen valley on 25th (RPo). Elsewhere, 300 were reported at South Healy on 5th (AHa/PHa), 200-215 in the Coanwood area (SJH/SW), 200+ at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 16th (LJM) and 100 at Acton (Allendale) on 27th (RMH). Birds were present on river estuaries with 137 counted at the River Tweed Estuary on 21st (TBr/MMcN), 120 at the River Coquet Estuary on 4th (RPo) and 60+ at the River Blyth Estuary on 11th (LJM). Other lowland flocks over 100 were 118 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 22nd (MKi) and 100 at Low Newton on 27th (TD). Four-86 were seen at nine other coastal and near coastal localities and one-72 at seven inland sites including a displaying pair at Gosforth (Newcastle) on 26th (MJC).

### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Last month's flock at Monks' House Pool persisted with a peak of 2,000 occurring on 15th (DGB). A number of other coastal flocks were reported with 900 at St Mary's Island on 10th (ASJ), 800 were a few miles further inland at Holywell Dene on 5th (MSH) and 400+ at East Holywell on 5th-6th (MSH). The maximum count in the Alnmouth area was 750 on 15th (AB/LB), an estimated 300 were at both Boulmer and Low Newton on 27th (TRD/TD). Budle Bay attracted 250 on 11th and 150 were at Gloucester Lodge (Blyth) on 5th and Dinnington on 27th with 148 counted at Scremeston Station on 8th. Birds were populating inland areas with the peak at Plenmeller Common being an estimated 1,200 on 19th (SJH). In the East Allen valley, 250 were reported on 25th (RPo) and an estimated 90 were at Ottercops Moss on 17th (PRM). Elsewhere, 78 were seen at Cocklawburn, 50 flying N at Big Waters NWT and a single was at Druridge Pools.

### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Birling Carrs again attracted the peak number this month with 78 at a high-tide roost on 21st (MKi). The high count at Budle Bay was made on 7th when 35 were seen (DF). Seven were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 4th (DF) and a single was at Boulmer on 27th (TRD).

### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Smaller numbers were reported this month with the highest count being 30+ at St Mary's Island on 7th (MSH). The maximum reported from Budle Bay was 26 also on 7th (DF), with 24 seen at the River Blyth Estuary on 11th (LJM). Six were at Berwick Little Beach, four at Holy Island and four roosted on Ferguson's roof at Blyth Harbour. A bird had returned to Hedgeley GP on 27th (JD).

### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 21st, presumably the wintering bird that has been seen at Cambois (SSWT).

### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Last month's roosts at Longhoughton Steel and Budle Bay persisted into this month with a peak of 371 at Longhoughton Steel on 5th and 250 at Budle Bay on 19th (CGK). Wintering flocks over 100 were present at several locations with 193 at the River Coquet Estuary on 14th (CSa), 158 at High Hauxley on 25th (JR), 155 from Ross-Elwick on 19th (DF) and a monthly maximum of 136 at Cocklawburn on 25th (MHu). In the Druridge Bay area 133 were at Cresswell on 17th (IF), 120 at the Coal Road on 6th (TD) and a peak of 91 on 19th at East Chevington (SW). Other coastal reports were 95 at Howick on 1st, 67 at Warkworth on 6th and 52 at St Mary's Island on 10th. Birds were noted at inland areas with a peak of 110 at Hargill House (Coanwood) on 24th (SJH) and 57 attended an evening roost at Grindon Lough on 23rd (PRM). One-34 were reported from Big Waters NWT, Coanwood Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Haltwhistle, Hauxley NWT, Prestwick Carr, the River Blyth Estuary, Stag Rocks, West Ord (Berwick) and Widdrington Moor Lake.



Curlew  
St Mary's Island  
February '22  
Alan Janes

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Most were seen at Lindisfarne NNR with 205 at Beal on 11th (DF), 41 at Sandham Bay (Holy Island) on 26th (PRM) and 12 at Budle Bay on 7th (DF). Seven were at Berwick Little Beach on 2nd and Berwick Coastwatch on 28th (MHu), with four seen at Hauxley NWT and two at the River Blyth Estuary.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Howdon attracted the most birds this month with a high of 13 on 5th declining to two on 19th (Jbu/CB). Ten were present on the River Coquet Estuary on 10th (CSa) with singles at Druridge Pools and Fenham Flats (Lindisfarne NNR).



Black-tailed Godwits  
Howdon Wetland  
5/2/22  
Jack Bucknall

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Reduced numbers were evident this month with only three reports above 30 birds. These were 38 at Cullercoats on 18th (MSH), 32 at Budle Bay on 26th (CGK) and 30+ at St Mary's Island on 22nd. At High Hauxley, 16 were feeding in fields on 25th a high-tide roost at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) attracted 15 on 21st and 12 were at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 25th. Two-eight were seen at Boulmer, Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary), Cheswick Black Rocks, Hadston Carrs, North Shields Fish Quay and Tynemouth Park.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Few reports were received with the high count being 25 at Budle Bay on 11th (TRD). Fifteen were at the high-tide wader roost at Birling Carrs (Warkworth). Eleven were at Boulmer on 13th and four at Seaton Sluice on 11th.



**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

Last month's birds in the Druridge Bay area were reported up to 19th with a maximum of six at Druridge Pools on 5th and East Chevington on 14th (PG/CB/TF *et al.*)

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

The flock on Holy Island north shore remained from last month with the peak counts being 128 at Sandham Bay on 26th (PRM) and 102 at Ness End the next day (MJC). On 1st, 82 were present at Embleton (JAR) and the peak at St Mary's Island was 80+ on 7th (MSH). Budle Bay held 50+ on 25th (MSH) and a count of 45 was made at Newbiggin on 3rd (STH). In the Druridge Bay area reports were received of 30 at Chevington Burn beach on 6th, 19 at Hadston on 18th and ten at East Chevington on 9th. Elsewhere, two-16 were seen at Alnmouth, Cheswick Black Rocks, Cocklawburn, Cresswell, Druridge Links and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

The regular winter haunts again attracted the highest numbers with the River Coquet Estuary holding 172 on 4th and 140 being counted at Amble on 11th (RPo/MKi). Other three-figure counts were 168 at Cresswell on 17th (IF) 167 at Seaton Point (Boulmer), 149 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 22nd (AP) and 136 at the River Blyth Estuary on 4th reducing to 73 on 28th (STH/LJM). Some of these were probably at the roost on Ferguson's roof at Blyth Harbour on 28th when 90 were present (STH). Other counts consisted of 53 at Boulmer Flash, 51 at Budle Bay, 50+ at St Mary's Island, 42 at Berwick Little Beach, 35 seen at Cresswell Pond and 20 at Low Newton on various dates during the month.

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

The wintering flock at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) declined from last month with counts varying from 40 - 111 during the month (AJ/MSH/TRD). Numbers were smaller at other sites with 18 at Cheswick Black Rocks on 25th and 12 at both Birling Carrs (Warkworth) and Blyth Harbour. Three-nine were seen at Boulmer, Holy Island, Howick, Newbiggin, Seaton Sluice and St Mary's Island.



Purple Sandpiper

Bamburgh

1102/22

Tim Dean

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Two were reported at Big Waters NWT on 19th (GB). Single birds were seen at Cramlington. Houxy (Bellingham), Stobswood Pools and Stocksfield. One was flushed at Kielder Forest Drive when the observer answered a 'call of nature' on 25th (ADM).

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Single birds were seen at Big Waters NWT on 3rd (GB per AJJ), East Chevington on 10th and 11th (PRM/TB) and Holy Island on 27th (GB/AIB/DM).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

At Holy Island 34 circled the Lough after being spooked on 27th (MJC/PRM). There were 15 in a field at Little Waters NR on 19th (GB). One-seven were reported from Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond, Caistron, Cocklawburn, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Howick, Longhorsley Moor, Pegswood Moor, Shooter's Pools (Bothal) and West Hartford.

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

An unexpected but much appreciated individual was on a marshy pool below Dunstanburgh Castle on 27th (IBDa/KDa/SVM *et al.*)



Grey Phalarope

Dunstanburgh

27/02/22

Tim Dean

### **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Singles were seen at regular wintering sites at Longhirst on 3rd (TRD), Berwick Hill Bridge (River Pont) on 15th (AHB) and Hedgeley GP on 27th (JD).

### **Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*

Budle Bay retained high numbers from last month with the peak count being made on 15th when 350 were present (RA) although this had reduced to 170 by 26th (DF). Other counts of over 100 were made at four other sites with 236 at Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary) on 15th (MHu), 162 were at a high-tide roost at St Mary's Wetland on the same date (MSH), 121 at the River Blyth Estuary on 22nd (LJM), 101 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 24th (AP) and at least 100 were present at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 19th (MSH). One-30 were seen at eleven coastal and near coastal localities. A single was well inland at Coanwood Pond on 19th (SJH).

### **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

The bird at Bothal Pond was present all month.

### **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Seawatchers recorded birds moving offshore on a number of days with maximum counts of 150 N, 30 S on 21st at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), 132 N at Stag Rocks on 9th (MJC) and 55 S at Hadston Scars on 18th (PRM). At Budle Point, 20 were seen on 26th (CGK) and three early birds had returned to the Tyne Bridge breeding ledges on 25th (GB).

### **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

A large gathering, estimated at 1,000, was in fields near Widdrington on 21st (CB), 810 were at Grindon Lough on 23rd (PRM) and 500 at Gosforth on 21st, one of which was ringed as a *pullus* on hills south of Edinburgh, seen again in the Netherlands in May 2019 and Coquet Island in June that year (MJC). Smaller counts of 100-300 came from Bamburgh (Stag Rocks) where birds were moving N, the Blyth Estuary, Killingworth Lake, QEII CP, and Whitchester (Haltwhistle) with 50-80 at Bothal Pond and Jesmond Dene,

### **Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

There appeared to be a small influx after mid-month when at least 25 fed with other gulls in fields at Widdrington on 21st (CB), eight were at Cresswell Pond, seven at Newbiggin and three at Widdrington Moor Lake. Elsewhere on dates throughout, two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 19th (SSWT), two were at Ellington and singles at Big Waters, Boulmer, Holy Island, Holywell Pond, North Shields Fish Quay, St Mary's Wetland and Whitchester (Haltwhistle).

### **Common Gull** *Larus canus*

The usual large spring gatherings included maximum concentrations of 3,000 in fields at Widdrington on 21st (CB), 600 in an evening roost on the sea at Druridge Links (IDR), 250-550 in several counts at Grindon Lough (SJH/PRM), 120 at Cramlington (Beacon Hill) and 100 in the Aln Estuary. Smaller numbers of 30-60 were seen at Bamburgh (Stag Rocks), Gosforth, Slaley and Widdrington Moor Lake.

### **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

In Budle Bay, 62 were present on 7th (DF) and at Stag Rocks counts of 51 and 25 comprised birds moving N on 9th and 25th (MJC). One to four were also recorded at Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough and Prestwick Carr.,



**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

At Budle Bay the wintering 1st-winter bird was again reported on several dates throughout and a 1st-winter seen flying N and into Budle Bay at Bamburgh (Stag Rocks) (MJC) on 25th was probably the same individual. A 1st-winter was at the North Shields Fish Quay on 14th and 17th (MSH *et al.*) and may have been the 1st-winter which was at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 23rd (AP).



Glaucous Gull

NSFQ

14/02/22

Mike Hodgson

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides*

The wintering adult which has regularly visited Big Waters since November was there again sporadically throughout the month (GB/AJJ) and an adult seen at Prestwick Carr on 7th (PCF) was presumably the same individual. The wintering 3rd-winter at the North Shields Fish Quay remained there until at least 18th (MN *et al.*) and on 1st it was joined by a 1st-winter which was seen there regularly until 20th (MN *et al.*).



Iceland Gull

NSFQ

February '22

Alan Jack

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argentatus*

In the Tweed Estuary, 320 were found during a WeB survey on 21st (TBr/MMcN), 210 roosted at West Ord (MHu) and 179 were in the Blyth Estuary (LJM). Elsewhere, 25-50 were seen at Bamburgh (Stag Rocks), Big Waters, Exhibition Park (Newcastle) and QEII CP with 15 at Bothal Pond and Gosforth and up to eight at Bamburgh (Stag Rocks), Druridge Links, Grindon Lough, Jesmond Dene and Linton. At Bamburgh (Stag Rocks) on 25th, 22 birds of the Northern race *ssp argentatus* were seen flying N (MJC).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Two flew N at Bamburgh on 9th (MC) and three flying N at Seaton Sluice on 22nd were the first returning birds to be seen there (SSWT). Prior to that latter date the majority of the other 25+ records were of single birds the exceptions being five at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd and two at Exhibition Park, Newcastle on 15th. From 22nd-27th two to three were seen at Budle Bay, Gosforth, Hedgeley GP, Holy Island and Plenmeller Common. Single birds recorded on dates throughout were at Big Waters, Eals Bridge (South Tyne), Ellington, Fenham Mill, Gosforth, Grindon Lough, Hauxley NWT, Killingworth Lake, Prestwick Carr and West Chevington,

**Auk** *sp*

On 25th, 38 flew N at Bamburgh, Stag Rocks during a three/four-hour seawatch (MJC) but very few were recorded at Seaton Sluice until 28th when 130 moved N in two hours (SSWT). At Druridge Links, 25 Guillemot/Razorbill were seen flying S (IDR)..

**Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

At Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 25th 18 flew N during a three/four-hour seawatch (MJC) and 15 flew S at Boulmer on 27th (TRD). Up to ten were seen flying or on the sea from four other watch points.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

At Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 25th eight flew N during a three/four-hour seawatch (MJC) and up to five were at four other localities including two on nesting ledges at Dunstanburgh.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

In Druridge Bay on 19th 86 birds were counted (SW) and at Seaton Point on the same day 54 birds were seen (BS). At Seaton Sluice a total of 47 birds of which 30N and 17S in 27hrs was well below the average for the Month (SSWT). 26 were noted at Chevington Dunes (MH) and 23 were in Druridge Bay (STH) on 11th, 16 were in "a raft" in one small area just offshore at Seaton Point (Boulmer) (MKI), 15 were offshore at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR/JF) and 12 were off Ness End (Holy Island) on 27th (MJC). One to eight birds were seen at numerous sites during the month.

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

Single birds were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 2nd (IBDa/KDa) and one on the 7th (per SVM).



Black-throated Diver

Druridge Bay/East Chevington

8/02/22

Peter Tapsell

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

Four were noted at Budle Point on 26th (CGK). Two birds were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 2nd (NFO), 9th (MJC), 11th (MJC/RGD) and 25th (MJC) Singles were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 4th (DF), and St Mary's Island on 8th (ASJ).

**White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamsii*

An adult with a large amount of summer plumage was at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 9th (MJC), a 1st winter was at Stag Rocks on 11th (TRD) and a winter plumage bird was seen flying S at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) towards Inner Farne on 25th and a juvenile/2nd cal year was seen distantly at Budle Point on 26th (CGK).



### **Diver sp**

During a sea watch at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) a large diver either, a White-billed/Great Northern flew N on 25th (MJC).

### **Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Counts of 48 and 40 birds were on ledges at Ness End (Holy Island) on 27th (MJC/GBAIB/DM), 32 were on cliffs S of Snab Point (Lynemouth Bay) on 27th and 20 were on cliffs at Howick (JAR) and at Cullernose Point also on 27th (TRD). One to thirteen were noted at Druridge Links, Hadston Scaurs, Spittal Bay (Berwick) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).



Fulmar

Hartley

February '22

Iain Johnson

### **Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

During the Month at Seaton sluice 50 N on 21st and 35 N on 14th (SSWT). 50 birds were at Ness End (Holy Island) on 27th (MJC). 13 were seen at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 25th (MJC), eight were seen flying S at Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 15th (MHU) and 3 were at St Mary's Island on 15th (MSH), two flew S at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 16th (MHU) and one S at Hadston Scaurs on 18th (PRM).

### **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

62 at North Shields Fish Quay on 14th (MSH) was the highest count followed by 46 at Blyth Harbour on 28th (STH), 33 at North Shields Fish Quay on 9th (PRM), 28 at Blyth Harbour (STHJ) and 23 at Blyth South Harbour (LJM) on 22nd. 17 were at Royal Quays (North Shields) on 6th (MSH) and 12 were at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo), QEII CP on 2nd (TB), Fontburn Reservoir on 8th (BS) with 11 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 10th (BS). Eight flew W overhead at Grindon Lough NWT on 3rd (PRM), eight were also seen at Royal Quays (North Shields) on 3rd (MSH) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 25th (MJC).

### **Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) 61 were seen on 25th and 24 on 9th (MJC). 17 birds were seen at Seaton Sluice during the Month, most during the last four days of the Month (SSWT) and 11 were at Blyth Harbour on 22nd (STH). One to five birds were at Berwick Pier, Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Blyth Bay, Blyth South Harbour, Calot Shad (R Tweed Estuary), Holy Island, North Shields Fish Quay, Spittal Bay (Berwick) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).

### **Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

One flew over the lake at Big Waters NWT on 4th (GB per AJJ).

### **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Six were at Howick on 25th (JAR), four were seen at Catcleugh Reservoir on 17th and Holy Island on 27th (PRM), three were at Druridge Pools on 19th (IDR/JF) and two were at Big Waters NWT on 9th (PRM). Single birds were also seen at eight locations.



Grey Heron

Rothbury

24/02/22

Tim Dean

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

One flew N over the approach road at Fenham-le-Moor (Lindisfarne NNR) on 11th (TRD) and one was seen at Caistron on 19th during a WeBS count (JD).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Six birds were at Heddon Haughs (Heddon on the Wall) on 3rd (AA) and single birds at Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond, Caistron, Cresswell Pond, Tyne Green (Hexham) and Tynemouth.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

A pair were at Low Cocklaw (Berwick) on 11th (TBr) and single birds were at 19 sites during the Month including a male standing on the observer's lawn at Newton Red House with a still twitching Tree Sparrow *Passer Montanus*, it then flew off with its prey when it was mobbed by a Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* on 17th (PG).





Sparrowhawk

Whitley Bay

February '22

Iain Johnson

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Three birds were noted at Harwood Forest on 24th (NFO), a male was seen at Quarry House Moor on 2nd (MH), one was seen soaring at Redesmouth on 7th (CW) and one was seen hunting at Catcleugh Reservoir on 17th (PRM).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Up to four birds including an adult male, a 2nd cal year male, female and imm were in the East Chevington/ Widdrington Moor Lake area throughout the Month. With three together at East Chevington on 10th (PRM) and 22nd (MH) and at Widdrington Moor Lake on 25th (TB). Two birds were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 1st (MH/AA), 3rd (TRD/JD), 11th (LJM), 24th (MJC/TW/AJN/ASH) and on 26th (LJM), two birds were seen at East Chevington 11th (MH) and 22nd (NFO). Single birds were at both sites on several dates.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Four birds were noted at Carterway Heads on 7th (IFo), three were at Slaley Hall on 4th (RMH) and two were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 3rd (IFo). Single birds were reported at Barley Hill (Derwent Reservoir), Chollerford, Derwent Reservoir, Newton, Pithouse Fell (Slaley), Riding Mill, Slaley Hall and Wark (N Tyne).

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Kyloe Woods had 11 birds on 6th (NFO) and 11 were at Ruding Mill on 14th (MJC/AJ/TW/IK/AJN), eight were at Kielder on 22nd (ADM) and seven were at Bywell on 14th (MJC/AJ/TW/IK/AJN). Six birds were noted at Wandylaw Bog (N Charlton) on 2nd (MH), Bewick Moor on 6th (BS) and at Widdrington Moor on 11th (MH). Five birds were at Wark (N Tyne) on 7th (PRM) and at Cupola Bridge (Whitfield) on 10th (MJC/AJ/TW/IK/AJN), while four birds were at Bywell on 3rd and Derwent Reservoir on 3rd and 7th, Ryle Mill (Whittingham) and Widdrington Moor Lake on 11th. Three birds were reported from nine sites and one to two birds were at 24 sites during the Month.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Two hunted in daylight at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (IFo) with two at Widdrington on the same date and Widdrington Moor Lake on 22nd (JR/MKi). A pair were ringed in a box at Gloster Hill (Amble) on 26th (AHa/PHa) with singles at Alnwick Moor, Cresswell, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Prestwick Carr, Slaley Hall and West Chevington regularly and at 19 other widespread localities with daylight hunting often noted.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Calls from two were heard at Fulbeck (Morpeth) and Howick all month (TD/JR). A male called at Hexham on 12th and 21st, one was regularly at Rothbury from 22nd, Lightwater on 11th and Longdyke (Shilbottle) on 20th.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

A pair were in a building at Beckworth on 25th (JBU) and one in a Sycamore tree adjacent to a house at Druridge Lane on the same date (TB).

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

One was seen by the roadside at Capheaton in darkness at 18.18 on 25th (ADM).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Five were hunting to north and west of Widdrington Moor Lake on 19th (TF) with three there on 25th (TB), two at

Prestwick Carr on the same date (PCF) and singles on 9th and 19th (PRM/GB). Singles were also at Buckton on 5th, Longhirst Flash on 8th, Ross on 19th, Fenham-le-Moor on 20th and St Mary's Island on 21st.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

There was just one multiple count of two at Fourstones on 4th (AJH) with singles at Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 2nd and 24th, East Chevington North Pool on 11th and 18th, Derwent Reservoir on 11th, Tyneview Park (Benton) on 12th, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 22nd and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 27th.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

On 3rd three were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) (IFo) with two at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 11th (TB), on feeders at Tynemouth on 13th (CB), Kielder Forest Drive on 22nd, Holywell Dene on 24th (MSH), Ellington on 27th (TB) and Longhorsley on 28th (CB). Singles were at eight other widespread localities.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

There were many reports but only one of two at Prestwick Carr on 25th (PCF) with a male there on 9th and, on 3rd two locations in Blyth recorded male and female (TB). Singles were at Widdrington Moor Lake regularly, Longhirst Flash on two dates and at 21 other locations.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

All reports were of singles at Warkworth Beach on 5th and 10th (CSa), Druridge Coal Road on 6th (TD), Derwent Reservoir on 12th (IFo), Fenham-le-Moor (Lindisfarne NNR) on 20th (RA) and a first-winter around Holy Island Lough on 27th (MJC).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Two were at Chester Hill (Budle Bay) on 22nd (DF) and a pair at Newcastle on 22nd and 26th (KWY/GB). Singles were at Budle Bay on 6th, 11th and 15th, Snab Point (Cresswell) on 1st, Doddington on 4th, Alnwick on 5th, Fenham-le-Moor on 6th, Wark (N.Tyne) on 7th, Tynemouth on 11th, Coanwood Pond on the same date and a juvenile was at Druridge Pools on 19th.

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

The largest monthly count at Gosforth was 21 flying S to roost on 19th (MJC). Four were at Preston Park (North Shields) on 25th including a pair at a nest hole (LJM), three flew west at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 28th with two likewise on 28th (GB) and flying east at Benton on 2nd (CDH). A single was at Shoe Tree, Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 27th.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Four were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 11th and at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 21st (IFo/NFO), two at Ellington Dene on 3rd and Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 6th (where regarded as rare), Marlish (Hartburn) on 11th, Holywell Dene on 24th, and Howick on 27th. Singles were at eight other locations.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

Roosts at Cramlington held 30 on 2nd and 29 on 8th (STH/LJM) with ten at Chapel House on 11th and Dinnington on 25th. Five were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 20th and one to two at Linton, Druridge Pools, Ellington Dene and Druridge Links.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

A count of 1,000 foraging birds was made at Kiln Pit Hill on 10th (IFo), around 200 going to roost at Otterburn on 21st (ADM), 179 at Exhibition Park/ Town Moor (Newcastle) on 23rd (GB), 63 at Dinnington on 8th and around 50 at Bolam on 11th. 35 were at Druridge Pools and Links on 6th and 25 at Potland (Linton) on the same date with 25 at Ellington Colliery on 19th and 20 at Sandy Braes (Slaley) on 2nd. Five to eight were at four other locations.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Around 80 were at Bolam on 11th (JR), 70 at Sandy Braes (Slaley) on 2nd (RMH), 30 at Druridge Links and Pools on 6th (IDR) and around 20 attended the rookery at QEII CP on 27th (CDH). One nest was at Humshaugh Church on 25th rising to five on 28th.

Correction: 1,000 at Bennetsfield (Otterburn Ranges) in December was typed in error and should have read 100.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

A flock of 95 was at East Hartford on 4th (LJM), 29 at Linton on 18th (JR), 14 on North Shore (Holy Island) on 27th (GB/AIB/DM) and 12 at Druridge Pools and Links on 6th and 19th (IDR/JF). Ten were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 27th with one to four at three other locations.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus corone cornix*

The long-staying individual was at Linton on 3rd and 11th (TRD/JD/IDR).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

On 24th a total of six (max. three together) flew over Ramshope Lodge toward Carter Bar in one hour (MH) and four were at Kielder Forest Drive on 22nd of which one did a 500ft display dive (ADM). Two were at Doddington on 4th, Simonside Hills on 11th and Guile Point (Lindisfarne NNR) on 19th with singles at seven other widespread localities.



**Waxwing** *Bombus garrulus*

In a winter where this species has been scarce, one was at Corbridge on 4th and 13th (DBo).

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

On 25th 35 were found at Kielder Forest Drive with six there on 21st (ADM) seven at Ellington Dene on 3rd (IDR/JF) and more than five at Harwood Forest on 25th (ADM). One to three were at six other locations.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Two were at Felton on 9th, Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 21st (NFO), Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) (TF) on the same date and Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 22nd (JD). Singles were at Newton Red House on 2nd and 14th, Linden Hall on 3rd and 11th and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 9th.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

On 3rd two were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) (NFO) with two at Prestwick Carr on 23rd and 25th (AA/PCF). All other reports were singles at Big Waters NR, Linden Hall, Morpeth GC, Newbiggin, Prestwick Carr regularly and at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 7th, High Buston (Warkworth) on 7th, Woodhorn on 21st and Longhoughton on 25th.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

There was a large count of 42 in a flock with Long-tailed Tits at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 11th (AJH), 12 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 9th (IDR) and more than ten at Harwood Burn (Harwood Forest) on 11th (MSH). Nine was the high count at Ellington Dene on 3rd with seven there on 19th, five at Ellington Colliery on the same date and one to four at five other locations.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Ten singing birds were at Gosforth (Newcastle) on 14th (MJC) with six the high count at Ellington Dene on 19th and five there on 3rd, at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 9th and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 27th. One to two were at four other locations with one at Budle Bay on 11th singing like a Willow Tit.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

There was a high count of 60 with more than 20 singing at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 26th (ASJ), 40 were singing at Holy Island on 27th (MJC/RGD) and 25 were with a Linnet flock at Bell's Farm Pond (Cresswell) on 21st (CB). On 24th 16 flew north at Cresswell NWT, a small flock of more than 15 was at Gloucester Lodge (Blyth) on 15th, 11 flew north between 09.00 -13.00 at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 25th and ten were singing at Brocolitia on 22nd (ADM). One to six generally in song were at 18 widespread localities.

**Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*

Two remained in the Quarry area at Holy Island on 26th and 27th (PRM/GB/AIB/DM).

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

Single birds were singing at East Chevington on 5th (TF), 10th (PRM), and 11th (MH). Singing birds were also heard at Big Waters NWT on 9th (PRM) and 19th (GB).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Maximum counts of 20 were at Holywell Dene on 24th (MSH), 16 at Letah Wood (Hexham) in a flock with Blue Tits on 11th (AJH), and 15 at Bywell on 4th (MH). At Melkridge (Haltwhistle), 13 were seen on one peanut feeder on 16th (SJH). There were ten at Newton Red House on 16th (PG), nine at Druridge Pools and Links on 19th (IDR/JF), and eight at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 9th (IDR). A pair were observed nest building at Ellington on 20th (TB). Regular garden visitors during the month included eight at Dinnington (PCF) and six at Rothbury (TRD/JD). Big Waters NWT had seven on 19th (GB), Longhirst Flash had six on 10th (PRM), Howick had six on 21st (JAR), and there were six on feeders in Tynemouth on 28th (CB).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Song was heard briefly at Big Waters NWT on 11th (AJJ/GB). One was at Gosforth (Newcastle) on 23rd (MJC), and one was at St Mary's on 28th (ASJ).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

A female was seen visiting a garden feeder at Corbridge on 18th (DWN) and a single bird was at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 22nd (KWY).

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Kielder Forest Drive yielded the highest count, with ten on 25th (ADM). There were eight at Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) on 3rd (ASJ), and three singing birds at Bolam Church on 19th (SW). Singles were reported at Newcastle, Ellington, and Dinnington.



Goldcrest

Rising Sun Country Park

February '22

Alan Jack

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had three on 27th (MJCo), Ellington Dene had two on 3rd and 19th (IDR/JF), and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had two on 9th (IDR). There were two at Druridge Pools and Links on 19th (IDR/JF), and one at Potland (Linton) on 11th (IDR). One got into a polytunnel at Newton Red House on 5th (PG).

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had four on 27th (MJCo), Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had three on 9th (IDR), and Humshaugh and Holywell Dene had two on 11th (SW) and 24th (MSH) respectively. Singles were at seven other locations, with a singing bird at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 25th (LJM).

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

There were two at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 22nd (TD), and a pair including a singing bird at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 28th (GB). Singles were at five other locations, including a singing bird at Humshaugh on 11th (SW).

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Large flocks were still in evidence, with a maximum count of 1,500 feeding on grassland at Acton (Allendale) on 27th (RMH), and 1,200 at Grindon Lough NWT on 23rd (PRM). Bewick Moor and Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) had flocks of 500 on 6th (BS) and 8th (IFo) respectively. There were 400 at Coldshield Farm (Coanwood) on 17th (SJH), 350 at Boulmer on 14th (JAR), and 300 at Gloucester Lodge (Blyth) on 5th (MSH). Druridge Pools and Links had 160 on 6th (IDR), and Pier House (Berwick) also had 160 on 28th (MHu). There were 20 at Healey on 4th (RMH).



Starling

Wark

22/02/22

Colin Bradshaw

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*



There were ten at Big Waters NWT on 19th (GB), five at Potland (Linton) on 11th (IDR), and four at Ellington Colliery and at Ellington Dene on 19th (IDR). Jesmond Dene had three on 27th (MJCo), and Druridge Pools and Links had two on 19th (IDR/JF).

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

There were 400 at Midgeholme on 17th (SW), 300 at Thrunton on 16th (TRD/JD), and 250 coming in to roost in plantations at Ottercops Moss on 17th (PRM). Coldshield Farm (Coanwood) had 200 on 17th (SJH), Ovingham had 180 on 4th (ADM), and Derwent Reservoir had 150 SW on 8th (IFo). There were 130 at Whemley (Longhorsley) on 9th (AB/LB) and 100 at Eals Bridge (South Tyne) on 10th (MJC/AJ/TW/IK/AJN). Flocks of 50–100 were at seven other locations, and flocks of 20–45 were at a further eleven sites. Smaller groups and singles were reported from another ten places.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

The largest flock was at Bywell, which had 214 on 22nd (MJC/AJ/TW/IK/AJN). Letah Wood (Hexham) had 150 on 11th (AJH), Rising Sun CP had 140 on 1st (ASJ), and Linden Hall (Longhorsley) had 85 on 21st (NFO). There were 50 at Barley Hill (Derwent Reservoir) on 2nd (IFo), and at Netherwitton on 16th (PG). The Netherwitton flock included a leucistic bird, all white except for a slightly gingery head and chest, very faint eye stripe and a faint side patch which would normally be red (PG). There were 42 at Gosforth (Newcastle) on 21st (MJC), 40 at Potland (Linton) on 6th and 11th (IDR/JF), and 40 at Low Cocklaw (Berwick) on 20th (TBr). Smaller groups (10–35) were at another eleven locations, with numbers of nine and below at a further fourteen sites. A groups of six at Spindleston on 25th (MSH) included a singing bird.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Singing birds were heard from early in the month, with one at Humshaugh on 3rd (SW), two at Westwood Grange (Cramlington) on 8th (LJM), and two from 8th at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 8th (TD). There were five singing birds at Gosforth (Newcastle) on 14th (MJC), and three at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 14th (GB). One was in full song at Coanwood Pond on 14th (SJH), and one was observed smashing snails at Cresswell on 14th (CB *et al.*).

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

There were three singing birds at Bywell on 3rd (MJC/AJ/TW/IK/AJN), two in the Barras Bridge vicinity (Newcastle) on 10th (GB), and one at the Royal Grammar School, Jesmond (Newcastle) on 17th (GB). The highest numbers came from Bywell, with five on 14th (MJC/AJ/TW/IK/AJN), and Catcleugh Reservoir, with four on 17th (PRM). There were two at Longhorsley Moor on 27th (AB/LB), and singles at Grindon Lough NWT, Big Waters NWT, and Killingworth Lake.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Ellington Dene had a maximum of nine on 19th (IDR) and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had five on 9th (IDR). Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had four on 20th. There were singles reported from Potland (Linton) and Druridge Pools and Links.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Holy Island had a maximum of eight on 26th (DGB). Quarry House Moor and Alnmouth Dunes each had two pairs on 2nd (MH) and 15th (RPo) respectively. There were three at Boulmer on 15th (AB/LB), and at Longhorsley Moor on 27th (AB/LB). Pairs were at Prestwick Carr on 7th (MH), Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 25th (MJC), Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 16th (LJM), Plessey Junction (Cramlington) on 19th (LJM), and Low Newton on 27th (TD). Sightings of one–two birds were recorded at a further fifteen locations.



Stonechat

Old Hartely

February '22

Alan Jack

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Four were noted in Derwent Gorge on 7th (IFO). Three were seen at Thrum Mill on 25th and two were at three other sites, including a bird carrying nest material at Mitford. Single birds were also seen at three other sites.



Dipper  
Holyell Dene  
5/2/22  
Jack Bucknall

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

47 were counted in a Cramlington hedgerow on 12th (LJM). 45 were seen on 19th at Ellington Colliery (IDR). Five to 20 were observed at five other sites.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

25 were present all month at Newton Red House and at Cresswell on 9th with 20 there on 3rd (PG/TRD/JD). One to ten were noted at a further eight locations.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Eight were counted on a 2km walk at Cramlington on 8th. Also, two pairs present here, at a Northburn garden all month, where display was noted (LJM). One to two were also seen at four places.



Dunnock  
Howdon Wetland  
15/02/22  
Jack Bucknall

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Two were seen in Jesmond Dene on 20th (MJCo). Sightings of two birds were also made at Ellington, Bedlington and more unusually, at Marden Estate, Cullercoats. Single birds were seen at a further 10 sites.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*



A good count, as last month, was made on 24th at Haltwhistle Sewage Works, of 40+ birds (PRM). Seven were watched at Hadston on 1st. Two were seen at one other site.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

This month's high count was of only eight birds at Old Hartley on 28th, with four that day at nearby St. Mary's (ASJ). One to four+ were also seen at five further sites during the month.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

The St. Mary's wintering individual, was seen on three occasions in the latter half of the month (MSH *et al.*). The only other sighting was at Fenham Le Moor of a bird on 20th (RA).

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

11 were counted at Holy Island on 26th. Ten were seen there on 29th (PRM/GB/AB/DM). Six were found at Seaton Point on 6th (BS). Six were watched at Coquet Estuary on 10th (CSa). One to five were also seen at a further six locations and included two males song-fighting at Cullercoats on 23rd (ASJ).

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

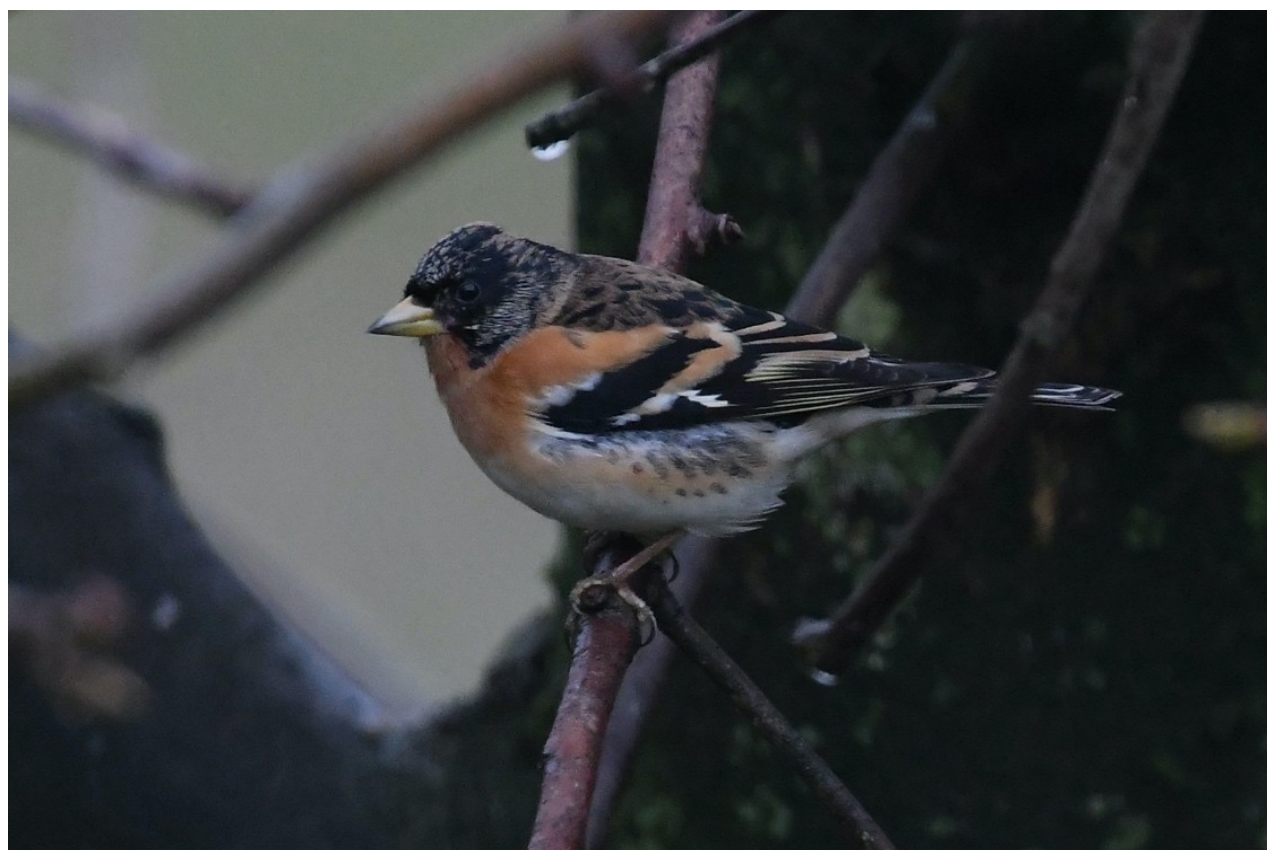
Five were seen at Budle Bay on 19th (CGK). Four of this ssp. were seen at Seaton Point on two dates.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

A large flock of 250 was seen at Bewick Moor on 6th (BS). On 2nd, 140 were feeding on spilt grain at North Charlton (MH). 120 were seen at Crooked Oak on 3rd (IFo). One to 19 were also seen at five other sites this month.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

70 were noted on the Kielder Forest Drive on 4th (ADM). At least 50 were at Little Ryal on 6th (CW) and 46 were noted at Slayley on 15th (MH/AA). On 9th, 40 were seen near Colwell (AA). One to eight were seen at a further seven sites, including birds at garden feeders at Rothbury and Morpeth.



Brambling

Rothbury

20/02/22

Tim Dean

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

A single bird was seen at Abbey Mill (Morpeth) on seven dates from 1st to 18th and two birds were present on 6th and 8th (ADMc *et al.*).

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

12 birds on 4th were at Furnace Bridge (STH) and 28th (TRD/JD). Eight were seen this month at Morpeth and Howdon and one to six were also noted at another ten widespread locations.

**Greenfinch** *Colelebs coelebs*

A large roost of 100+ was seen at Royal Quays on 3rd (MSH). The regular pre-roost gathering witnessed at Linden Hall, peaked this month on 3rd at 95 birds (NFO). One to seven were also seen at seven other sites.

**Twite** *Linaria flavirostris*

A flock feeding among cattle in the dunes at Cresswell on 9th was counted at 120 birds (TRD/JD). 100+ were seen at Budle Bay on 19th (CGK). 30 were at Chibburn Mouth on 11th (TB). 15 were seen at Guile point on 19th (AJ). One was at Bell's Farm on 21st.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

The largest flocks counted this month were 120 at Bywell on 15th and at Howick on 21st (MH/AA/JAR). 15 to 75 were recorded at six sites during the month, with one to eight at a further two.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

20 were noted on the 22nd on the Kielder Forest drive (ADM). One to four were seen at four other sites.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

104 were part of a mixed finch flock seen at Kielder on 4th, with 39 here on 21st and 69 on 25th, 16 on 22nd(ADM). 20+ were watched at Harwood Burn on 11th (MSH). One to eight were at five further locations this month.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

25 were at Ellington Dene on 3rd. One to 22 were also seen this month at a further 11 sites.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

An estimated 90+ birds were counted at Ellington Dene on 3rd (IRD/JF). On 14th 54 were seen at Humshaugh with 40 there on 8th (SW). 40 were also at Slaley Hall on 14th (RMH). One to 25 were seen at a further 16 sites, including a number of birds at garden feeders at Morpeth and Rothbury.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

At Holy Island a single was seen on two dates.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

24 were seen at Holy Island's north shore on 25th, increasing by 27th to 29 birds. 15 were seen here on 26th (PRM/GB/AB/DM *et al.*). 20 were at Cheswick on 11th and 18 at nearby Goswick on 5th, with 12 there on 24th (NFO *et al.*). Inland, ten were on the Border Ridge at Windy Rigg on 9th and two were found at Plenmeller on 3rd (IRD/SJH). A pair was feeding along the clifftop at Old Hartley on 24th, with three there (two males), the following day (LJM/ASJ). Two were seen on the beach at East Chevington on 19th and at Bamburgh on 27 th(TB/KWY). A single was at Tynemouth on 5th, also at Holy Island and Low Newton on 26th and 27th (JBU/DGB/TD).



Snow Bunting

Old Hartley

February '22

Alan Jack

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

Up to 122 remained at Rake Lane (N.Shields) throughout the month, even as the fields there were mown and fenced prior to development (ASJ). 40 were at Meldon on 19th (SW), 35 at Saltwick on 11th (JR). 30 were at North Charlton on 2nd and 28 were counted at Crooked Oak on 11th (MH/IFo). One to 20 were observed at twelve further locations this month.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

65+ were seen in weedy fields and surrounding bushes at Rake Lane (N.Shields) on 26th, with around 50 counted there the following day (ASJ). Up to 11 were at St. Mary's on several dates, with three males singing from 1st (ASJ). Six males were also singing at East Chevington on 25th (IRD). One to six were watched at 13 further sites during the month. A



singing male was at Linden Hall on 26th (NFO)

## **ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**

### **Escapes**

#### **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

One was again seen at Alnmouth on 5th (AMG / MG).

#### **Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*

One was still along the 'bumpy road' at Prestwick Carr on 25th (PCF).

### **Hybrids**

#### **Barnacle Goose x Canada Goose** *Branta leucopsis* x *Branta canadensis*

One was identified at Druridge Pools on 19th with the Canada Goose flock (IDR / JF). An unusual pairing though feral Barnacles undoubtedly lead to this type of event.

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

One was at Big Waters on 19th (GB).

### **Birds of Unknown Origin**

No sightings

## **LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS**

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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), 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](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

## **RECORD SUBMISSION**

Please email records for the month to [ntbc.records@googlemail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

## BINS

### FREE TO A GOOD HOME.....

For anyone wishing to complete their collection of bird club annual reports, *Birds in Northumbria*, I have a number of back copies as follows :

1973	one
1974	two (one decent copy)
1979	one copy
1980	two copies
1981	three copies
1982	three copies
1983	three copies
1984	three copies
1985	four copies
1986	two copies
1987	four copies
1988	three copies
1989	three copies
1990	two copies
1991	two copies
1992	one copy
1995	one copy

All in glorious black and white and a fraction of the size of recent years so no problem storing them! Read all about the Good Old Days!

Also, I have (also free), some limited edition black & white prints from early BiNs as follows :

Garganey, Pintail, Merlin, Lapwing, Common Snipe and Long-eared Owl. All numbered and signed by the artist James Deacon who was a stalwart illustrator in the early days of the annual report.

If you want any of these please just give me a ring on 07946 582 666 (first come, first served) and although offered free if you would like to make a small donation I will pass this to the club's Development Fund.

Thanks

**MIKE S. HODGSON**

**BORDERS BIRD REPORT 2020**



A pdf version Borders Bird Report for 2020 is available for download, free of charge from the Scottish Ornithologist's Club website. The following link will take you to the relevant page:

<https://www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/local-recorders-network/areas/borders>

### **RIP Tom Palmer**

Club members will be sorry to hear of the death of Tom Palmer on 20 December 2021 at the age of 85. Tom was one of the many birders living south of the Tyne who became members of the TBC before the formation of the Durham Bird Club in 1974. His local patch was Barmston Pond at Washington (Wilson's Phalarope and Spoonbill) before the establishment of the Wildlife Trust site and the building of the Nissan factory. Members may be surprised to know that much of the Club's first written constitution was discussed by your committee south of the Tyne in the Felling Conservative Club and the canteen of International Paints where Tom worked. Tom was an active committee member of the TBC in the 1970s who organised the Club's coach trips. At a time when 60-80 members regularly attended club meetings in one of Newcastle University lecture halls the Club organized regular day trips for members to sites such as Aberlady Bay, Leighton Moss and Dumfries as well as to local destinations.

In the 70s and 80s Tom spent many birdwatching holidays abroad with the advent of early package holidays and a relaxing of sterling restrictions. He travelled with other Club members to Tunisia, Israel and Morocco and once the cost of flights to America became competitive he birded in Florida, Texas and California. This was a time when many field guides were rather limited and where routes and site information came from previous birders' reports – no internet, google or birding pals. In the 1990s his travels became more adventurous with birding holidays to Kenya, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru and Thailand, and later with trips to South Africa, Namibia, Australia and India. His last major overseas birdwatching trip was with other Club members to Sri Lanka in 1999.

Family commitments limited Tom's activities in his later years but he kept in touch with a lot of his birding friends. He would always entertain them with tales of his many trips abroad and until a few years before his death was still a regular weekly visitor to the North Shields Fish Quay.

John Day

### **BIRDS IN NORTHUMBRIA BiN 2021**

Author urgently needed for the following exciting section of Birds in Northumbria:

🕒 **Chaffinch to Reed Bunting** (16 species in total, 12 finches & 4 buntings).

If interested – or if you would just like further info about time and commitment involved - then please email Andy Mould at: [highroller10@btinternet.com](mailto:highroller10@btinternet.com)

### **BiN 2022**

**Back Papers** - Papers from members (on any bird-related topic in the county) are always welcome for publication. I have one confirmed paper for BiN 2022, but please contact me if you would like to discuss a possible paper for 2022, or for any future BiN: Andy Mould (email: [highroller10@btinternet.com](mailto:highroller10@btinternet.com) or tel. 0191 2664265).

### **Photographs**

Members are welcome to submit images (taken within the county) to the editor for consideration. Please contact Andy Mould as above.

# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

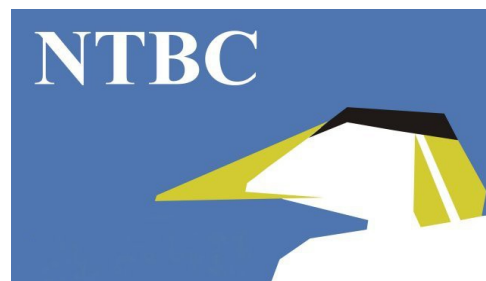
<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

Bulletin No 03 2022

MARCH

10th May 2022

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## MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Greenland White-fronted Goose - adult still at Grindon Lough all month.

Eurasian White-fronted Goose - two at East Chevington until 24th.

Whooper Swan - peak count of 67 at Holy Island on 1st.

Ruddy Shelduck - two in Druridge Bay and a single at Derwent Reservoir.

Garganey - one to two at East Chevington and Swallow Pond from 22nd.

Gadwall - high count of 68 at Learmouth Lake on 6th (notable for north of county).

**American Wigeon** - returning male at Grindon Lough on 18th only.

**Green-winged Teal** - drake still at Colt Crag Reservoir until 13th then at Grindon Lough from 16th to 18th.

Velvet Scoter - scarce again this month with only one record of a male at Bamburgh on 7th.

**Black Scoter** - male still being seen at Cocklawburn up to 23rd.



Wheatear, Upper Coquet Valley, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Tim Dean

Smew - female still at Widdrington Moor Lake all month.

**Crane** - one over Newham Bog and Widdrington Moor Lake on 25th and on 28th over Blyth and West Sleekburn.

Red-necked Grebe - still at Widdrington Moor Lake all month; also singles at Budle Point and Inner Farne on 26th.

Avocet - peak of 38 at Blyth Estuary from 21st to 23rd.

Little Ringed Plover - first returning individual noted on 21st at Castle Island.

Whimbrel - singles at St Mary's on 22nd, Blyth Estuary on 23rd and Howick on 25th.

Grey Phalarope - singles at Dunstanburgh Castle, Stag Rocks and Seaton Point.

Spotted Redshank - wintering individual again at Bothal Pond all month.

Glaucous Gull - singles at six locations including one inland at Alnwick Recycling Centre.

Sandwich Tern - first returning birds noted from 20th.

Black-throated Diver - one past Seaton Sluice on 12th and one at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 29th.

**White-billed Diver** - continued presence at Stag Rocks with up to four individuals seen through to 12th.

Bittern - one was again noted at Big Waters on 6th.

Great Egret - wintering individual again at Caistron on 9th.

**Golden Eagle** - a sub-adult was watched briefly near Kielder Forest Drive on 29th.

White-tailed Eagle - immature from Isle of Wight Reintroduction Scheme at Holy Island on 6th and Beal on 7th.

Hooded Crow - wintering individual still at Linton.

**Shore Lark** - two still in quarry area on Holy Island up to 23rd.

**Black Redstart** - female-type individuals at four locations.

Water Pipit - singles at Druridge Pools, St Mary's, Fenham le Moor and Holy Island.

Lapland Bunting - single still in quarry area on Holy Island up to 19th.



## CLASSIFIED LIST

### **Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix*

Eight (five males) were at Plenmeller Common on 10th and six males were noted there on 3rd (PRM). Five males were at Allendale Common on 25th when two males were at Spartylea (MSH). Single males were also noted in Allendale at Acton (MH) and Ropehaugh (ASJ).

### **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

12 at Winnows Hill, Slaley on 5th included at least five displaying males (MH). Three pairs were at Broadstruther, The Cheviots on 10th (JD). Three to five were also at the Harthope Valley, Hepple and Plenmeller Common.



Red Grouse, Allendale, March 2022, Alan Jack

### **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Eight were at Druridge Lane on 23rd (TB), three to four at Druridge Pools (TB/IDR) and Monks' House Pool (JRi/KE), and one to two at Beanley, Branton GP, Broadstruther, Caistron, Debdon (Rothbury), Glororum, Hemscott Hill, Longwitton, Middleton, Old Hartley, Plenmeller Common, Rivergreen, Wark Common, Widdrington Moor Lake and Wooperton.

### **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Three to five were at Burradon, Middle Ord and West Fleetham, and one to two at Boulmer, Cresswell, Gosforth subsidence pond, Hemscott Hill, Howick, Longhoughton, Lynemouth Bay, Murton Craggs, Warkworth Lane and Whittingham.

### **Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

42 were counted at Druridge Pools and Links on 4th (IDR), 16 were at Lynemouth Bay (IDR) and nine at Chugdon Wood, Ellington (IDR/JF). More unusual were a male on territory at Tynemouth between 20th-30th (DRW) and a female in a Seghill garden on 27th (IF).

Pheasant, Rothbury, 27/3/22, Tim Dean



### **Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Pale-bellied *hrota* race birds included an estimated 700-800 at Budle Bay on 2nd and 5th-6th (DF), 600 at Holy Island causeway on 6th (TRD), and one to two at Boulmer, Druridge Pools and Tynemouth.

Ten dark-bellied *bernicla* race birds were at Boulmer on 12th (CGK) and two there on 24th (MKi).

#### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 17th (SSWT). Peak counts were 189 at Grindon Lough on 10th (PRM), 144 at Hartburn Reservoir on 6th (MSH), 55-88 at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and Hauxley Reserve (HRS), and 12-48 at Big Waters, Bothal, Coanwood and Linton Ponds, Colt Crag Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Gosforth subsidence pond, Learmouth Lake, Monks' House Pool, Newcastle Leazes Park and Plenmeller Common. Two to nine were at nine further widespread sites.

#### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

About 850 at Budle Bay on 2nd (DF) dropped to 15 by 5th and four by 12th (CGK). Two were at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (IFo) and singles at Branton GP, Dunstanburgh and East Chevington.



#### **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Moderate counts involved peaks of 91 at Whitehouse, Slaley on 11th (RMH), 87 at Coanwood Pond on 10th (PRM), 52-80 at Big Waters, Bothal ('shooters pools'), Craggy Bog (Murton), Haughton Strother GP and Learmouth Lake. Counts of 16-47 came from Allerdean Mill, Bothal, Gosforth subsidence and Linton Ponds, East Learmouth, Grindon Lough, Haggerston Castle, Lynemouth Bay, Otterburn and Plenmeller Common. Two to nine were at a further 15 widespread sites.

Greylag Goose, Cresswell, 22/03/22, Colin Bradshaw

#### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

A total of 189 flew N at Seaton Sluice between 1st-29th (SSWT), 160 flew N at Grindon Lough on 23rd (PRM), 120 N at Holywell Dene on 15th (MSH), and 130 S at Ellington on 13th (TB). Six skeins moved N at East Chevington on the evening of 25th (IF), and 15-34 flew N at Derwent Reservoir and Melkington. Large concentrations included 4,740 at Warkworth Lane on 12th (TB), 2,000 at Holywell Dene on 18th (ASJ), 1,700 at Bradford Kaims on 11th (DF), 1,600 at Budle Bay on 6th dropping to 900 by 19th and 100 by 26th (DF/CGK), 1,000 at Belford on 9th-10th (DF), 1,000 at Monkseaton on 15th (MSH), and 500-750 at Cresswell, Druridge Pools, High Hauxley and Old Hartley. Smaller counts of 39-100 came from Big Waters, Ellington and Woodhorn, while one to three were at four other sites.

#### **White-fronted Goose** *Anser flavirostris*

Eurasian *albifrons* race birds involved two at East Chevington between 18th-24th (CB/TRD/MN).

One of the Greenland *flavirostris* race was at Grindon Lough between 7th-31st (PRM/MRS *et al.*)

Two un-raced birds were at East Chevington on 5th (TF).

#### **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Three flew S at Seaton Sluice on 23rd (SSWT) and 34 at Killingworth Lake on 21st (LJM), 32 at QEII CP on 20th (CDH) and 28 at Haggerston Castle on 15th (MHu) were the largest counts, while 12-14 were at Big Waters, Calot Shad, Cornhill and Loanend, and seven to eight at Hartburn Reservoir and Hauxley Reserve. One to four (mostly paired) were at ten further scattered sites, including females on nests at Haughton Strother GP on 20th (SW) and Greenlee Lough on 23rd (MRS), while nest building was noted at Holy Island Lough on 6th (MJC).



### **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

North/north westerly movement involved 36 at Rising Sun CP on 17th (ASJ), a total of 12 at Seaton Sluice between 17th-26th (SSWT), and three to four at Howick, Sleafy and Tynemouth on three separate dates. Flocks (unknown numbers) were also heard, sometimes at night, over Branton GP, Gosforth Garden Village and Humshaugh on four dates between 8th-19th (MJC/TWi). A herd of 67 at Holy Island causeway on 1st contained only three juveniles (AA/NFO), 29-35 were at Beal (RA), Cornhill (MHu) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (ASJ), and ten to 13 at Budle Bay (MSH), Haughton Strother GP and Warkworth (MKi). One to eight were also noted at Branton GP, Greenlee Lough, Low Newton, Monks' House Pool, QEII CP, Warkworth Lane and West Ord.

### **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Five flew N and two S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and one flew S at Spittal Bay.

220 at Budle Bay on 2nd (CGK) fell to 175 by 12th (DF), 55 were at the Blyth Estuary on 23rd (LJM), 28 at Howdon on 5th (CB), 20 at Druridge Pools on 23rd (IF), and 14 at Longhoughton Steel. Five to eight were also at Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Lynemouth Bay and Newstead Flash, and one to four at Bothal Pond, Coquet Island, Druridge Links, Ellington, Hauxley Reserve and Lynemouth sewage works. Further inland, five pairs were at Castron on 9th (TRD), and two to four at Grindon Lough (PRM *et al.*), Haughton Strother GP (SW) and Hepple (JD).



Shelduck, Howdon, 22/03/22, Colin Bradshaw

### **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

Two were near Bell's Farm, Cresswell on four dates between 5th and 12th (NFO/JMa *et al.*). A drake was at Derwent Reservoir on 15th and 19th-20th (IFo/RMH), and single un-sexed birds at Maiden's Hall Lake on 5th-6th and 27th (TF/CSa *et al.*) and Widdrington Moor Lake on 21st (CB).

Ruddy Shelduck, Derwent Reservoir, 20/03/22, Michael Holmes



### **Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

A total of 11 was noted in the Tasset-Ridley Stokoe area on 25th (MH) and six were at Ridley Stokoe on 20th (JR/NA). Four were on the River Wansbeck in the Mitford area 28th-31st (ADMc *et al.*). Single drakes were also at Chollerford (flew out of riverside tree) on 24th (TWi) and Wark (North Tyne) on 13th-14th (PRM). More unusual was a pair at the

newly created 'Jimmy's scrapes', Woodhorn on 4th (AP).

### **Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

A pair was at Swallow Pond on 22nd (GPK *et al.*) and a drake was at East Chevington south pool on 28th-29th (CB/JRi/KE).

### **Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

Peak counts were 41 at Druridge Pools on 23rd (IF), 26 at Budle Bay on 5th (CGK), 18 (14 drakes) at Bothal Pond on 5th (TD) and 15 at Holy Island (Rocket Pool and Lough combined) on 11th (ADM). Four to seven were also at Arcot, Ellington and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Hauxley Reserve and Monks' House Pool, and one to two at Big Waters, Bothal ('shooters ponds'), Lynemouth Flash, Marden Quarry, Old Hartley and St Mary's Wetland. Unusual behaviour at Holy Island Lough on 7th involved eight continually diving for food (IK).

### **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

Peak counts were 68 at Learmouth Lake on 6th (a notable count for the site; MHu), 42 at Hauxley Reserve on 20th (HRS), 23 at Bothal Pond on 15th (TF), and ten to 17 at the Blyth Estuary (LJM), Branton GP (TRD/JD), Castle Island (GB), Holy Island (RA), Lynemouth Flash (IF), Marden Quarry (KWY). Monks' House Pool (RA/DF) and Widdrington Moor Lake on 11th (TRD/JD). Six to nine were also at Druridge Pools, Hedgeley GP, Howdon, and Linton and West Allotment Ponds, and one to four at Arcot, Bothal ('shooters') and Cresswell Ponds, Big Waters, Castron, East Chevington, Haughton Castle and Haughton Strother GP. Three at Woolsington Ponds on 23rd were a site 'first' for the observer (MH).

### **Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

Five flew N at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSWT) and three S at Druridge Links on 27th (IDR). About 420 were at Druridge Pools on 4th (IDR) with 257 still present on 21st (IDR). Other peak site counts were 350 at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (IFo), 350 at Cresswell Pond on 14th (CB), 238-282 at Big Waters (AJJ per GB), Bothal Pond (TF), Boulmer (AB/LB), Budle Bay (DF) and Grindon Lough (PRM), and 128 at Hauxley Reserve. Counts of 59-98 came from the Coquet Estuary, Hedgeley GP and Linton Ponds, while ten to 35 were at Blagdon, the Blyth Estuary, Coanwood Pond, Colt Crag Reservoir and Haughton Strother GP. Two to eight were at seven further sites, including a pair on Slaley Hall golf course pond (RMH).

### **American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*

The returning drake was at Grindon Lough on 18th (PRM/SW).

### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

One flew S at Holy Island on 6th (MJC). Largest counts were 50 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (IFo), 30-33 at Hauxley Reserve (HRS), and Newcastle Exhibition and Leazes Parks, and ten to 28 at Bothal and Middle Ord Ponds, Druridge Pools, Haughton Castle and Killingworth Lake. Two to nine were at ten additional widespread sites.

### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

At Druridge Pools, five were present on 20th (TF), and one to two occasionally between 11th-27th (TB/TRD/JD *et al.*). A pair was at Colt Crag Reservoir on 13th (PRM), and singles at Big Waters, Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond and Hedgeley GP on scattered dates up to 21st.





Pintail, Cresswell Pond, 22/03/22, Colin Bradshaw

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

A peak of 260 at Grindon Lough on 3rd (AJR) fell to about 80 by 10th-11th and 31 by 31st (MJC/PRM *et al.*), 163 were at Budle Bay on 12th (DF), 156 at Howdon on 5th (CB), and 50-80 at Big Waters (some displaying), the Blyth Estuary, Castron, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Holy Island Lough and Linton Ponds. Counts of ten to 44 came from Arcot, Bothal and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Boulmer Flash, Colt Crag Reservoir, Greenlee Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley Reserve and Lynemouth Flash. One to nine were at eight other sites.

**Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis*

Single drakes were at Colt Crag Reservoir on 13th (PRM), and Grindon Lough on 16th and 18th (PRM/SW).

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

19 were at Swallow Pond on 22nd (GPK), 18 at Woodhorn Flashes on 16th (AP), seven at Holywell Pond on 10th (KWY), three to five at Big Waters, Bothal and Linton Ponds, and Grindon Lough, and one to two at Arcot Pond and Killingworth Lake.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Peak counts were 67 at Killingworth Lake on 21st (LJM), 40 at QEII CP Lake on 20th (CDH), 36 at Haughton Strother GP on 10th (AJR), 21-28 at Big Waters, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough and Hedgeley GP, and 11-19 at Bothal and Linton Ponds, Hauxley Reserve, Marden Quarry, 'Northumberlandia' (Cramlington) and Tynemouth Park. One to eight were at 13 further scattered sites.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Three were at Holywell Pond on 19th (MN), a moulting first-winter drake remained at Killingworth Lake all month (JBu/MSH *et al.*), and one was at Fenham Flats on 20th (RA).



Scaup, Killingworth Lake, 13/03/22, Jack Bucknall

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

A total of 35 moved N and 57 S at Seaton Sluice on 15th (MSH). Peak counts were 54 at the Blyth Estuary on 17th (LJM), 48 at St Mary's Island on 8th (MSH), 34-35 at Holy Island (MJC) and North Shields Fish Quay (MN), and 27 off Tynemouth (DRW). Groups of 14-17 were also at Annstead, Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary), Old Hartley and Spittal Bay, while five to eight were at Cocklawburn, of Druridge Links and Meadow Haven.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

Three reports came from Seaton Point, Boulmer with two moving N on 20th and singles N on 18th and 26th (DL). A drake was at Stag Rocks on 7th (CB/MKi).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Seven flew N and 29 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). About 400 were of Stag Rocks on 2nd and 7th (CB/DF) and 100-300 on several other dates between 3rd-12th. Four to nine were off Cocklawburn, Druridge Links-East Chevington and North Blyth. A flock was heard moving E over Wark (North Tyne) at 2150h on 26th (PRM).

**Black Scoter** *Melanitta americana*

The long-staying drake was off Cocklawburn/Cheswick on several dates between 3rd-23rd (AMG/MG *et al.*).

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

At Stag Rocks, 35 were counted on 1st (IKDa/KDa), 47 on 2nd (DF), six on 7th (CB) and three between 29th-31st (DF/JRi/KE). Six were at Cocklawburn on 26th (KWY) and one at Holy Island.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Peak counts were 65 at East Chevington on 5th (TF), 42 at Yarrow Slake on 16th (MHu), 20-26 at Berwick Old Bridge, Castron, Grindon Lough, Killingworth Lake and QEII CP Lake, and ten to 19 at Big Waters, Bolam Lake, East Ord, Hedgeley GP, Holy Island and West Ord. Five to nine were also at Branton GP, Castle Island, Greenlee Lough and Howick, and one to four at Arcot, Bothal and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Budle Bay, Colt Crag, Derwent and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, Druridge and Monks' House Pools, Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley Reserve, and Maiden's Hall and Widdrington Moor Lakes. Three drakes and two ducks displayed at Big Waters on 6th (GB).

**Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

The over-wintering 'redhead' remained at Widdrington Moor Lake throughout the month (TB/TRD/JD).



### **Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Four flew N and two S at Seaton Sluice between 1st-29th (SSWT), and singles flew N at Lynemouth and S at Cocklawburn on single dates. Seven were at West Ord on 9th (MHu), three to four at Branton GP, Greenlee Lough, Ovingham, Tarsset mouth and Warkworth. One to two were also at Airy Holm, Colt Crag and Derwent Reservoirs, Barrasford, Berwick Hill (River Pont), Berwick Old Bridge, Big Waters, Bothal, Brinkburn, Bygate, Carshope, Cocklawburn, Corbridge, Druridge Pools, Fivechambers (Devil's Water), Hedgeley GP, Hexham, Newcastle Exhibition Park, Thrum Mill, Wark and Weldon Bridge.



Goosander, Killingworth Lake, March '22, Alan Jack

### **Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

One flew N at St Mary's Island on 31st (MSH) and one S at Tynemouth on 12th (DRW). At Budle Bay, 20 were counted on 12th (DF) and 13 on 5th included display (CGK). Ten were off Druridge Links on 4th (IDR), three to four at the Blyth Estuary (LJM/PRM) and Cocklawburn (KWY), and one to two at Birling Carrs, Spittal Bay and Stag Rocks. Up to seven used East Chevington north pool (TRD/JD/TF), up to five at Widdrington Moor Lake (TB/TRD/JD), up to four at Druridge Pools (TRD/JD/TF/IDR), and one to two at Castle Island, and Cocklawburn and Cresswell Ponds.

### **Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Eight were at Lyne Burn Mouth on 26th (IDR), a single was at Lynemouth Bay and the species was noted as "present" in Jesmond Dene on 6th (MJCo).

### **Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

Numbers at Howdon peaked at 38 on 12th (CB), 30 were feeding in a freshly seeded field at Dinnington on 18th (PCF) and 22 noted at Hemscott Hill on 9th (NFO). One to eight were seen at 24 locations across the county at Backworth, Carterway Heads, Chugdon Wood, Coldcleugh, Druridge Lane, Druridge Pools, East Holywell, Grindon Lough NWT, Harwood Head, Haughton Strother, Jesmond Dene, Leaplish, Lincoln Hill, Linden Hall, Longhirst, Middle Ord, Mitford, Northumberland Park, Plenmeller Common, Warkworth Lane, West Hartford, Widdrington Moor Lake and Windmill Lane.



Stock Dove, Wallsend Swallow Pond, March '22, Alan Jack

### **Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Passage or local movements were evidenced by 265 heading N and 45 S at Tynemouth between 0610-0800 in the morning of 25th (DRW). Some decent winter flocks were still encountered with 600 at Kiln Pit Hill on 30th (DRW), approximately 280 at Boulmer on 3rd (JAR), an estimated 260 feeding in a newly sown grain field at Gainslaw (Berwick) on 20th (MHu), 180 at Whitehouse (Slaley) on 11th (RMH), 150 at Chatton (JR) and around 100 at Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire) (AJH). 90

were seen at Chugdon Burn (IDR), 60 at East Kielder Burn (MH) and one to 20 from several other locations. One was sitting on a nest in Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 14th (GB).

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

A grand total of 48 were at Coombs Farm (Holy Island) on 11th (ADM), 25 were at Berwick Hill on 3rd (AHB) and 13 were in Sleafy Village (RMH).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Two were at Holy Island Lough on 6th and 25th (MJC/IKDa/KDa) and East Chevington on 28th (DW); singles were at Big Waters NWT, Howick village pond and Cresswell Pond NWT.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

The peak count at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) was 19 on 22nd (GB), 14 were at East Leamouth on 17th (JR) and 12 at Castle Island (R. Wansbeck) on 27th (STH). Hauxley NWT peaked at 7 on 20th (HRC), as did Druridge Pools on 21st (CDH), whilst one to six were at many other sites. Four were recorded on nocturnal migration over Gosforth Garden Village during the late evening on 18th (MJC).



Moorhen, Cresswell Pond, 22/03/22, Colin Bradshaw

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

22 at Bothal Pond on 27th was the peak count this month (TD). 21 were at QE11CP on 20th (CDH), 19 at Killingworth Lake on 21st (LJM), 18 at Leamouth Lake on 6th (MHu), 16 at Shooters Pools (Bothal) and 11 at Big Waters NWT. Reports of one to seven came from Arcot Pond, Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Druridge Pools, Ellington Pond, Exhibition Park, Hauxley NWT, Howdon, Humshaugh, Oxford Pits and Park Dam. One was at Holy Island Lough mid-month where it is now considered a rarity.

**Crane** *grus grus*

One flew S over Newham Bog on 25th and was seen later that day in flight at Widdrington Moor Lake. It or another was watched heading N over the Blyth Estuary and Sleek Burn on 28th (CB/STH).

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Most records were of pairs back together on suitable breeding sites. A total of four birds were at Arcot Pond, Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), East Leamouth, Northumberlandia (Cramlington) and Warkworth Lane (Ellington). Two were at Castron, Castle Island, Coanwood Pond, Cresswell Pond (NWT), East Chevington, Linton Ponds and Middle Ord Pond (Berwick) with singles at Big Waters NWT, Exhibition Park, Monks' House Pool, Shooters Pools (Bothal) and on the R Wansbeck at Bothal and Low Stanners (Morpeth).

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

The popular long-staying bird at Widdrington Moor Lake remained there throughout the month, gradually gaining its summer plumage (CB/TRD/JD/TB *et al.*). Individuals were also noted offshore at Budle Point and at Inner Farne on 26th (CGK/ADo).



### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

The only passage sighting was one heading S past Seaton Sluice on 12th (SSWT). Numbers at breeding sites started to build up with the highest count coming from Derwent Reservoir with 11 birds present on 31st (IFo). Elsewhere, nine were at Big Waters NWT on 18th (GB) and the group wintering on the sea in the Warkworth area still held seven birds on 5th (Mki). Counts of six came from East Chevington on 14th (CB), Killingworth Lake on 24th (ASJ), Holywell Pond on 26th (MN) and Whittle Dene on 26th (ASJ). Five were at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) all month (TF) and one to four birds were reported from Airy Holm Reservoir, Branton GP, Budle Point, on the sea at Cresswell, Cresswell Pond NWT, Druridge Pools, Haughton Strother, QE11 CP, Stag Rocks and Widdrington Moor Lake.

### **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps Auritus*

12 were at Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 1st (MAE) and singles at Cocklawburn, Holy Island, Spittal Bay (Berwick) and at Widdrington Moor Lake during the month.

### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Nocturnal migrants were detected over Gosforth Garden Village on 18th and 26th (MJC) and one flew N at Hazelrigg on 12th (GB). The return to inland locations continued with a build up of numbers noted at Derwent Reservoir, with a peak of 209 occurring on 12th (IFo), 113 at Caistron on 9th (TRD) and 85 at Branton GP on 18th (MJC). 23-54 were seen at Blanchland, Coanwood Pond and Haughton Strother with two-15 (including territorial pairs) at another 17 inland locations. At the coast, the high count at Budle Bay was made on 8th when 97 were present (DF), 76 were seen at West Ord (Berwick) on 2nd (MHu), 75 at Howick on 5th (RPo), 74 at a beach roost at Druridge on 4th (IDR) and 52 at St Mary's Island on 9th (MSH). Eleven other coastal sites attracted 12-42 on various dates during the month with one to three at another three sites.



Oystercatcher, Seaton Sluice, March '22, Alan Jack

### **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

An obvious return to the area occurred with five arriving at the River Blyth Estuary on 1st (LH) which built up to a peak of 38 by 21st (AC/ASJ/LJM *et al.*). In the Druridge Bay area, a maximum of 17 were at Druridge Pools on 24th (IDR), eight flew S at Warkworth Lane on 27th (TB) with two at Cresswell Pond on 11th and three there on 23rd (TD/LJM). Two were also noted at Hauxley NWT on 11th (PB). Other reports were four at Low Newton on 23rd (PA), two at the River Coquet Estuary, two at River Aln Estuary on 7th and 21st (TAC) and one at Castle Island on 12th (ST).

Avocet, Blyth Estuary, March '22, Alan Jack



### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

The St Mary's area retained significant numbers from last month with approximately 450 present on 22nd (ASJ). The only other notable coastal flock was 75 at Druridge Pools on 4th (IDR). A general return to inland breeding localities was evident, with 150+ noted at Coanwood Pond on 10th (PRM), 90 at Allendale on 26th including over 25 displaying birds (ASJ). A flock of 80 was at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (IFo) and 75 were in a field next to the A1 at Belford on 9th

(JAR). On 5th, 70 were at Shooters' Pools (Bothal) where 2-3 pairs were displaying and 50 were reported from Blanchland Moor on 26th where over 20 were displaying (ASJ). Elsewhere 11-47 were seen at Bothal Pond, Eals, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother, Hauxley NWT, Holy Island (20 displaying in the Lonnens area), Kirknewton, Northumberlandia (Cramlington), Plenmeller Common (10 pairs) and Stewart Shields. Displaying birds and pairs were also noted at Arcot Lane, Big Waters NWT, Ninebanks and Wark Common.

#### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

At Hazelrigg, 35 were noted flying W at altitude on 12th (GB). In the Boulmer-Longhoughton Steel area, 300 were seen on 3rd increasing to a peak of 1900 on 24th (MKi/JAR/AMG/MG). At Plenmeller Common, over 850 were present on 3rd reducing to 395 on 16th (PRM). In other upland areas 150 were counted at Dudless (Otterburn Ranges) on 6th (JR), 110+ at Grindon Lough on 30th (PRM), 95+ at New Alston (Haydon Bridge) on 6th (PRM), 80 at Derwent Reservoir on 24th (IFo) and 45+ at Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire) on 13th (AJH). Only 'small' numbers were noted back on territory at Allendale Common on 25th (MSH). Near the coast, 500+ were at Backworth on 13th with 100+ at nearby East Holywell on 10th (MSH). A Sparrowhawk put to flight a flock of 200 at Alnmouth on 20th (JAR). Other reports were approximately 90 at Woodhorn on 12th, 58 at Brocolitia on 8th, 35 at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 15th and eight at Newcastle Town Moor on 14th.

#### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

The highest count received was of 100 in Budle Bay on 2nd (CGK) although a count of eight was made on 6th (DF) indicating birds had moved elsewhere. Birling Carrs (Warkworth) retained a flock from last month when 31 were seen on 5th (MKi). At Boulmer, 22 were present on 3rd (JAR) and two were reported at the river Blyth Estuary and Annstead. An interesting sighting was of one in a field at Red House farm (Whitley Bay) on 13th (ASJ).

#### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Birds had largely left the coast with counts of 13 at Boulmer on 14th (MKi) and eight at Cocklawburn on 23rd (MHu) being the highest counts. Inland breeding sites were occupied with three pairs at Hedgeley GP on 30th (TRD/JD), two pairs at Castron on 20th (TRD) and a pair at Colt Crag Reservoir on 13th (PRM). A displaying pair was also at Budle Bay on 26th (CGK). One to three were seen at Bothal Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother, Linton roundabout, Lyne Burn mouth and Northumberlandia (Cramlington).

#### **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

The first returning bird was one at Castle Island on 21st (HG), followed by one moving S over Northumberlandia with two Ringed Plovers on 22nd (STH). The following day singles were inland at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and again at Castle Island (ST); another single flew N at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 26th (MJC).

#### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

One flew S at St Mary's Island on 22nd (JBU) and one was roosting at the Sleekburn at the River Blyth Estuary the next day (PRM). These both probably refer to the wintering individual that has been seen at Cambois during the winter. One circled over Howick calling on 25th (SS).

#### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

A one-hour seawatch at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 6th recorded 73 flying N (MJC) with 70 seen flying N at Cocklawburn the next day (CB). Numbers at the favoured coastal sites reduced this month with reports of 131-180 in the Longhoughton Steel-Boulmer area on 3rd and 14th (JAR/MKi). Buston Links (Alnmouth) attracted 137 on 6th (RPo), with 121 reported at Budle Bay on 8th (DF), 69+ the River Blyth Estuary on 23rd (PRM) and 56 at Cocklawburn on 10th (MHu). Ten-48 were seen at eight other coastal localities. At Allendale 110, including 50+ displaying/singing birds were reported on 26th (ASJ) and 92+ were present at Coanwood Pond on 10th (PRM). On 31st, 46 were seen at Eals (MJC *et al.*) with peaks of 32 at West Ord, 30 at Hedgeley GP, 25 at Grindon Lough, 24 at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) and Prestwick Carr and a maximum of 21 at Slaley Hall. Eight pairs were counted at Plenmeller Common on 10th, three pairs at Brocolitia on the same date, three pairs at Ninebanks on 27th, two pairs at New Alston (Haydon Bridge) on 6th and single pairs at Wark Common and Grindon Lough (All PRM).

#### **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

The highest count was 40 at Budle Bay on 2nd (CGK). Five-six were reported at Hauxley on 7th and 20th (HRS/MH) and a single was Warkworth weir on 25th (TB).



**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

The peak count at the River Coquet Estuary was made on 25th when 31 were seen (CSa). Two were at Howdon on 5th increasing to 19 on 21st (CB). Birds were reported from Grindon Lough from the 10th onwards with a high of 14 occurring on 18th (PRM/MJC/TW *et al.*). Nine were at Holy Island on 13th (RA) with four at the River Aln Estuary, three at Druridge Pools and a single at Budle Bay during the period 10th-21st.



Black-tailed Godwit, Howden, 22/03/22, Colin Bradshaw

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

A roost at Howick attracted 55 birds on 18th (JAR) and the monthly maximum count at Budle Bay was 40 on 6th (DF). In the south east, 24 were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 25th (STH) with a roost on Blyth Harbour east pier holding 22 on 29th (STH). A few miles further south 17 were present at St Mary's Island on 22nd (ASJ). One to eight were at four other localities.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

The peak count was 52 at the River Blyth Estuary on 10th (KWY). Smaller gatherings were 12 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 5th (MKi), eight at Budle Bay on 12th (DF), six at Longhoughton Steel on 24th (MKi) and two on the rocks at Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

The group of six was reported throughout the month at Druridge Pools (IDR/TB/CB *et al.*) Three were present at Grindon Lough on 30th-31st (PRM/IK/TW *et al.*) with single birds being seen at Holywell Flash on 25th (ASJ) and Hedgeley GP on 30th being noted as unusual there (TRD/JD).



Ruff, Druridge Pools, 22/03/22, Colin Bradshaw

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Reports came mainly from those sites favoured last month with the east shore of Holy Island attracting 180 on 9th (JAR) and Sandham Bay holding 116 on 6th (MJC). A flock of 105 was seen at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 24th (AP) with a peak of 80 at Budle Bay on 12th (CGK) and 77 at St Mary's Island on 22nd (ASJ). At Cocklawburn, 64 were reported on 10th reducing to 45 by 26th (MHu/DF). Druridge Links held 48 on 4th (IDR) with East Chevington attracting 37 on 24th (TRD/JD). 24 were present at Stag Rocks on 15th (DF) with ten at Boulmer on 14th (MKi)

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Budle Bay attracted the peak number with 400 on 2nd reducing to 30 by 26th (CGK/DF). At Boulmer, there were 160 on 3rd reducing to 76 on 14th (JAR/MKi). Numbers at the Blyth Estuary peaked at 40+ on 14th declining to ten on 23rd (MN/LJM/PRM). Elsewhere, 30 were at Druridge Pools on 11th, 13 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 5th and 12 at Druridge Pools on 11th.



Dunlin,  
St Mary's  
March '22  
Alan Jack

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

At Seaton Sluice, 20 flew N on 6th (SSWT). The regular wintering flock at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) numbered 110 on 7th with lower counts on other dates during the month (Mki/DF/TRD). A high-tide roost at Blyth Harbour east pier held 29 on 29th (STH) with 25 at nearby Newbiggin on 23rd (AP). One-17 were at nine locations between Cullercoats in the south and Cocklawburn in the north.



**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Two were seen at dusk at Rothley Crags on 1st (TRD). Singles were seen at Whittingham on 9th, Ellington (flushed from garden) on 15th, Howick on 16th, Hepple on 19th, near the Redheugh Bridge (Newcastle) on 22nd, Low Hauxley (flushed from dunes) on 23rd and 'roding' at Slaley Hall on 28th.

**Jack Snipe** *Lympocryptes minimus*

Three were seen at Kirkley Mill on 6th (AHB) and the maximum seen at Druridge Pools was two on 23rd (PG/LJM/IF). Singles were reported from Big Waters NWT, Holy Island, Kielder Water and Woodhorn.

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Birds were well reported from Druridge Pools with the low count being three on 11th and the peak being 38 on 21st (CB/IF/IDR *et al.*). Seven were at Holy Island on 11th and Cresswell on 21st with six seen at Howdon on the same date. One-four were present at Allendale Common (singing), Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond, Brocolitia, Coalcleugh (singing), Coanwood Pond, Hedgeley GP, Kielder Water, Longframlington Common, Prestwick Carr and Shooters' Pools (Bothal).

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

The Dunstanburgh bird was last reported on 2nd (BirdGuides). One flew north at Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 7th (BirdGuides) and one flew south at Seaton Point, Boulmer on 12th (DL).

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

A single was seen at Caistron on 9th with two present on 20th (TRD). Singles were at the regular wintering site of Hedgeley GP on several dates during the month (IBDa/KDa *et al.*), at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 7th, on a pool near old Butterwell Opencast Mine Site on 18th, on a roadside flash near Kirkley on 21st (KD) and on a pool at Alnwick on 26th (MJC).



Green Sandpiper, Roadside Flash nr. Kirkley, March '22, Matt Naylor

**Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*

The River Blyth Estuary held the highest numbers this month with the peak occurring on 17th when 221 were counted (LJM). Birds roosted at St Mary's Wetland throughout the month with 102-152 reported during the month (AJ/KWY/MSH *et al.*). Other coastal concentrations were approximately 130 at Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary) on 1st (MHu) and 124 at Budle Bay on 15th (DF). Lower coastal and near coastal concentrations were 97 at Howdon, 81 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin), 74 at Hauxley NWT, 71 at Druridge Pools, 31 at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) and 26 at Boulmer Flash on various dates during the month. Inland, one at Grindon Lough on 11th increased to 17 by 31st (PRM/IK/AJ *et al.*) and at Caistron, 14 were present on 20th including prospecting pairs. Derwent Reservoir held 12 on 26th with one-eight at Bothal Pond, Coanwood Pond (two pairs), Haughton Strother, Lynemouth Flash and Sewage farm, Newstead Flash, Plenmeller Common (two pairs), Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire) and Shooters' Pools (Bothal).

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

The bird at Bothal Pond was present between 5th and 31st (TD/AA/TF *et al.*).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularis*

The first reports since November 2021 were of singles at Holy Island causeway on 1st (AA/NFO) and Druridge Pools on 24th (MN).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Small numbers moving N were seen from Emmanuel Head, Holy Island on 6th and from Druridge Links and Spittal Bay, Berwick on 27th-30th. On 31st 75 flew N at St Mary's Island during a half-hour seawatch (MSH)..

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

At Derwent Reservoir an estimated 1,000 migrants were recorded moving through on 18th (IFo) and two mid-month evening roosts at Grindon Lough held 650-700 (PRM). At Druridge Links, 400 were on the sea on 25th (IDR), and on dates throughout gatherings of 100-350 were present at Budle Bay, Castle Island, East Benridge (Morpeth), Monks' House Pool and QE II CP with 20-60 at four other localities.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

The first sighting of the year was one in Budle Bay on 1st (IKDa/KDa), two were at Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 7th with one still present on 8th (CB/DF/MKi/DA).

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

A monthly total of three were recorded passing at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) with three seen there on 23rd (ASJ) and elsewhere, seven were on Ellington Flash on 13th and singles at Big Waters, Budle Bay, Holy Island, Lynemouth Flash, Monks' House Pool and Widdrington.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

An evening roost at Druridge Links held an estimated 5,000 on 4th (IDR). Three-figure counts of 630 came from Fenham-le-Moor with 200-350 at Budle Bay, Grindon Lough, Pawston, Yeavinger and 50-100 at Chatton, East Benridge (Morpeth), Holy Island, Whittingham and Widdrington

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

A maximum of six were recorded during several visits to Grindon Lough (PRM) and one or two were at Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Links, Holy Island, Old Hartley and St Mary's Island,

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

Three records from 7th-10th, possibly comprising just one 1st-winter individual were as follows; North Shields Fish Quay on 7th (ASJ), Amble Harbour on 9th (CSa) and flying S at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT). The over-wintering 1st-winter was again present in Budle Bay up to 12th (CGK *et al.*) and presumably the same individual was noted in Seahouses Harbour on 13th (SB). The same 1st-winter may have been at Alnwick visiting the tip between 18th-24th (MW *et al.*).

Glaucous Gull, Alnwick Refuse Tip, 22/03/22, Tim Dean

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides*

At the North Shields Fish Quay a 1st-winter bird, first seen there in February, was present throughout and was still there on 31st (MN/DRW); the over-wintering 3rd-winter was reported regularly up to 21st (MN/LJM). The adult, seen regularly at Big Waters since November was again there on several dates (GB). A 2nd-winter circled Budle Bay before moving west



on 27th (RA).

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

The largest concentrations were 357 in Budle Bay on 25th (DF), 323 in the Blyth Estuary on 17th (LJM), 160 at Monks' House Pool on 12th (DF) and 130 at Castle Island on 26th (GB). Smaller gatherings of 25-80 were seen at Big Waters, Druridge Links, East Benridge (Morpeth), Prestwick Carr and the QEII CP with single-figure counts at nine other sites.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Very well reported as the seasonal influx accelerated, particularly beyond mid-month, when 53 were at Big Waters on 24th (GB) and 10-20 at Bamburgh Stag Rocks, Branton GP, Budle Bay, Cramlington (Northumberlandia). Single-figure counts came from a further 12 widespread localities including North Shields where a pair returned to a nest site on a supermarket roof (MSH). Very surprisingly, none were recorded at the Seaton Sluice observatory this month (SSWT).



Lesser Black-backed Gull, Wallsend Swallow Pond, March 22, Alan Jack

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

The first returning birds seen were two moving S past Seaton Point on 20th (DL) followed by singles at Budle Bay on 27th (RA) and Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 29th (JRI/KE) with two at the latter site on 30th (DF).

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

One flying N at Seaton Sluice on 16th was the first March record at the site for over 30 years (SSWT).

**Auk** *sp*

Very few were recorded at Seaton Sluice apart from 165 moving S on 9th (SSWT) and at Emmanuel Head, Holy Island 40 flew N during a one-hour seawatch on 6th (MJC).

**Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

At Stag Rocks, 700 were counted on 7th (CB) and 24 were at Saltpan Rocks, Cocklawburn on 18th (MHu) but elsewhere the numbers seen were only one to five at six localities, mainly in the north.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

A very good count of 198 came from Dunstanburgh Castle on 22nd (JAR), 30 were at Cocklawburn Beach on 26th (KWY), ten at Bamburgh Stag Rocks on 7th (CB) with one or two recorded at Budle Bay, Cocklawburn, Druridge, Holy Island and Spittal Bay (Berwick),

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

Offshore at Coquet Island on 20th, 77 were present (HRS) and a single bird was on the sea at Druridge Links on 27th (IDR). An individual ringed on the Farne Islands on 29th June 1984 was recovered dead from a beach at Dunbar, Lothian on 22nd making it a sprightly 38 years old (DS).

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

Druridge Bay had the highest counts with 69 on 25th, 48 on 4th & 22 on 27th (IDR). Seven were at Cocklawburn on 26th (KWY) and six there on 7th (CB); six were also at Cresswell on 14th (CB). Five were seen at Annstead (Seahouses) on 18th (DF) and four noted during an hour's sea watch at Holy Island on 6th (MJC). One to three were recorded at 12 sites.

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

A single bird flew S at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 12th (SSWT) and one was sitting next to a Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* just offshore at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 29th (JRi/KE).

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

Individuals were noted at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 1st (CSA), Budle Point on 2nd (CGK), N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 19th (SSWT) and at Druridge Links on 25th (IDR).

**White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamssi*

At Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 7th, three juvenile/winter plumage-type birds flew N and landed between Budle and Holy Island and an adult moulting into summer plumage flew S towards the Farne Islands (CB/ME). Two were seen at Stag Rocks on 2nd (DF) and an individual was noted there on 1st (Csa/NFO/IKDa/KDa).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

60 were at Dunstanburgh Castle on 22nd (JAR) and at Howick 55 were on the cliffs on 7th (JAR). 45 were sitting on the W side of Coquet Island on 20th (HRS) and 36 were counted there from High Hauxley on 7th (MH). Lynemouth Bay had 26 on the cliffs on 1st (IDR) and 22 were on the cliffs at Dunstanburgh Castle also on 1st (JAR). 16 were in Howick Bay on 5th (RPo), 14 were on Whitley Bay S Promenade cliffs (MSH) on 19th and at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 26th (GB). Six pairs were on cliffs at Old Hartley on 18th (CDH) and eight were noted during an hour's sea watch at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 6th (MJC). At Seaton Sluice Watch Tower up to 40/hour were recorded moving S into southerly winds between the 9th-12th (SSWT).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

336 were noted at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 31st (DF), 105 were seen flying N at Emanuel Head (Holy Island) in 1hr on 6th (MJC). 82 were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 30th (DF) and 80 were at Annstead (Seahouses) on 22nd (DF) increasing from 47 there on 14th (DF). At Seaton Sluice Watch Tower 67 were seen during the month up till 29th with 36S and 31N (SSWT).

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Blyth Harbour held 53 on 7th (STH) and counts at North Shields Fish Quay peaked at 51 on 11th (LJM). Inland, Derwent Reservoir had a monthly maximum count of 18 (IFo) and 16 were at Colt Crag Reservoir (PRM) on 15th. One-six were at 10 sites with a *sinensis* race individual at Humshaugh (Haughton Strother) on 10th (AJR).

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

40 were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 10th (IF), 17 were in Blyth Harbour on 7th (STH). 11 were noted at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower during the month with 8N and 3S (SSWT). Eight were at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 7th (Mki), five were on the cliffs at Dunstanburgh Castle on 1st (JAR) and three were off Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 6th (MJC).

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

One flew across the lake at Gosforth Park from the S side to the N side on 6th (GB).



**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Haughton Castle had 14 on 19th and two active nests with another being built were noted in the month (SW). Eight were at Hauxley NWT on 10th (HRS), six were seen at Druridge Pools on 4th (IDR), at Howick heronry on 11th (JAR). One-four were at 12 sites including four together high N ca. 3 miles out at sea at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 17th (SSWT).

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

One was noted on 9th at the east end of Caistron (TRD).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Three fed together at Castle Island (R Wansbeck) on 26th (GB). Two were at Big Waters NWT on 10th (GB per AJJ), Tyne Riverside CP (Newburn) on 15th (IK), Hedgeley GP on 17th (RPo) and Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 21st (TB). Individuals were noted at 22 sites during March.

**Golden Eagle** *Aquila chrysaetos*

A 2-3cy bird soared over Emblehope Moor (Kielder Forest Drive) on 29th before gliding SW towards the reservoir, it was then mobbed by another raptor (MH).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Two, male and female, were at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 19th (MJC), a pair were displaying at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 20th (KWY) and two un-sexed birds were together at Bellasis Bridge (Blagdon) on 23rd (STH). Single Sparrowhawks were recorded at 24 sites during March.

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

A pair were displaying at Harwood Forest on 17th (KWY), Two females were soaring separately about 500m apart at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo) and a pair were displaying with one bird clutching some large prey at Kielder Forest Drive on 29th (MH). Reports of individuals began with one N at Hexham on 7th mobbed by two Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus* (AJR) and at Harwood Forest on 11th (PG). A male was seen flying at Redmire Bridge (Tarsset) on 13th (JR), one flew through at Langleeford farm ( Harthope Valley) scattering the Curlew *Numenius arquata* on 18th (TRD/JD), one was at Kyloe Woods on 20th (RA) and a female moved N at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (Ifo). More unusually one moved S high up being mobbed by Herring Gulls *Larus argentatus* at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 29th (MJC).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Two, male and female, were at East Chevington S Pool on 7th (MH) and two were at a confidential site on 27th (DF). Further reports of individuals involved a male at East Chevington on 18th (MN) and 24th (TRD/JD), an unsexed bird was at Druridge Pools on 21st (IDR) and a female-type flew through Budle Bay on 26th (CGK).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

A male was seen on 6th at a confidential site (JR).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Four were at Carterway Heads on 25th (IFo). Two were at Winnows Hill (Slaley) on 5th (MH), briefly at Slaley on 12th, where one had damaged primaries (MH), at Slaley Hall on 26th (RMH) and at Derwent Reservoir on 19th (IFo). Individuals were noted at 19 sites during the month.

**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albacilla*

A 2cy male (tagged G471) from Isle of Wight Reintroduction Scheme was at Beal on 6th (RA) and likely to be the same at Holy Island on 7th (IKDa/KDa).

### **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

12 were at Lambley on 31st and 10 at Bywell on 10th (MJC/AJ/TW/IK/AJN). Four pairs were at New Alston (Haydon Bridge) on 6th (PRM), seven were at Quarry House Moor on 15th (MH/AA) and at Kyloe Woods on 20th (RA). A count of six + came from Harwood Head (Harwood Forest) on 1st (MSH). Four were at Wark (N Tyne) on 1st (PRM), Murton Craggs on 13th (MHu) and four that were possibly migrants were flying remarkably high N at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 19th (MJC). One to three were noted at 34 sites during March.

### **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Two hunted at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 1st (NFO) and two were at separate daylight roosts at Derwent Reservoir on 28th with a single there on 31st and roosting at Snods Edge on 27th (IFo). Single birds were at Prestwick on 1st, Walwick on 4th, Fenwick Pit (East Holywell) on 18th & 25th, Cresswell Pond NWT on 27th and Howick on 28th.

### **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

A male and female called at Wark (N.Tyne) on 14th (PRM) and at Sleafy Hall on 24th (RMH). Birds called at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) and Fulbeck (Morpeth) all month with males at Humshaugh on 14th & 16th, Wark on 26th and Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 27th. Singles were also reported at Holwell Dene on 15th, Howick on 17th, Harbottle on 19th and Longdyke (Shilbottle) on the same date, Derwent Reservoir on 22nd, Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 26th, Gosforth Garden Village on 29th and Milkwell (Corbridge) on 30th.



Tawny Owl, Holywell, March '22, Alan Jack

### **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

A pair was noted on five evenings during the month at Shiremoor (CGK) and at Berwick Hill on 15th with singles there on three dates (AHB). Singles were also at Backworth Pond on 23rd, Earsdon & Druridge Pools on 24th and Druridge Lane on 27th.

### **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

One was found as a road casualty on A1 by Blagdon Estate on 10th (AT) and one was noted on a territory near Alnwick on 15th (MAE).

### **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Four roosted at Holy Island on 11th (ADM) with a single there on 6th. Three were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 23rd with one-two seen on several other dates between there and West Chevington. Singles were also noted at Longhirst Flash on 1st and 12th and at Beal on 6th.

### **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

All reports were of singles at Beal and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 6th, Corbridge on 8th, Howick on 11th, Fourstones on 11th & 17th, R.Tyne Hexham on 17th, Branton GP on 18th, Castron on 20th and Borough Woods (Morpeth) on 26th.



**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Reports included birds paired and drumming with three at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 6th (MJCo), Gosforth (Newcastle) on 17th (ADM), Tyne Riverside Park (Prudhoe) on 23rd (IK), Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 24th (TB) and Kielder Forest Drive on 29th (ADM). Two were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and Ellington on three dates, Gosforth and Howick on two dates and at Colt Crag Reservoir, Harwood Forest, Holywell Dene, Lambley, Lincoln Hill, Longhorsley and Prudhoe. Singles were at many of the above and at nine further widespread localities.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Calling birds were at Lynemouth Dene on 6th (TB), Garrett Lee Wood (Longhorsley) on 7th (CB), Tyne Riverside Park (Prudhoe) on 15th (IK), and Slaley Village on 21st (RMH).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Three were in the air together at High Pit (Cramlington) on 1st (LJM), two at Bothal on the same date, Winnow's Hill (Slaley) on 5th, Prestwick Carr on 8th, Lynemouth on 25th and Widdrington Moor Lake on 27th. Singles were at 22 other widespread localities but, unusually, never two reports from the same location.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

A male was at Plenmeller Common on 10th (PRM), an unsexed bird was at Beal on 20th (RA) and a female at Stannersburn on the same date (JR/NA).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

An adult pair were at Bellingham on the 8th with an immature pair chasing at Thorneyburn (Greenhaugh) on the same date (MH/AA), a male and female at Tynemouth Priory on 12th and one to two there on four other dates later in the month (DRW). A juvenile hunted Feral Pigeon at Lynemouth on 15th (AP, a male was at Bothal Pond on the same date and an adult at Grindon Lough NWT on 18th.

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Birds were seen regularly in the Newcastle area with 12 at Gosforth on 26th (ADM) and a high count of six at Wallsend on 30th (CGK), three at Walkerville regularly, at Jesmond Dene on 27th and Gosforth on 24th. Two were at Exhibition Park on 2nd, Preston Park (North Shields) on 16th and Tynemouth on 25th with singles at four of the above locations.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

On 26th six were at Garrett Lee Wood (Longhorsley) (CB), four at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (IFo) and three at Belsay Castle on 13th (SW). Two were at Castron, East Sleekburn, Ellington, Ellington Dene, Harwood Forest, Howick and Gosforth Subsidence Pond with singles at a further 13 locations.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

A high count of 23 was made in the Brockwell / Westwood Grange area (Cramlington) on 6th (LJM), 12 were seen in over 1km at Prestwick Carr on 26th with eight there on 18th (PCF) and seven at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 6th (MJCo). Two were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on two dates, nest building at Kenton on 5th and at Druridge Pools on 21st with singles at Druridge Links, Ellington and Lynemouth on a number of dates.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

On 8th 76 were at Hartford Bridge (Bedlington) (JR), 25 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 1st with 12 there on 2nd and six on 22nd (IDR). Nine were at Lynemouth Flash on 26th, six north at Seaton Sluice and three to four at three other locations.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Rookery counts of 68 were made at Dinnington on 29th with 25 apparently occupied nests (PCF), 51 at Haltwhistle on 25th from 18 AON, 24 AON at Glorum Bamburgh on 25th (AJ), 17 AON at Cramlington on 14th and 7 nests at Humshaugh Church on 3rd increasing to 18 on 27th (TWi/SW). 24 were at Houxty (Bellingham) on 15th with 4 AON at QEII CP on 20th.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

A high count of 73 was at East Hartford on 8th (LJM), 52 N, 3S high over the sea during the month at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), 24 at East Ord (Berwick) on 6th (MHu), 12 at Prestwick Carr on 26th and ten at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 13th. Five were at Druridge links on 25th and Lyne Burn Mouth on 26th with one to four at locations in Druridge and Ellington on numerous dates.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus corone cornix*

The long staying individual was noted on several dates in the Linton area between 1st and 11th (TF/TB).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

On 1st 13 flew high to north west at Sleafy Hall (RMH), two groups of four flew west from Harwood across the A696 at Raechester on 8th (MH/AA) with three at Kielder Forest Drive on 29th (ADM). Two were at Whittingham on 5th, Harwood Forest on 6th, Greenhaugh on 8th, Ingram and Harthope Valley on 18th, Redesdale on 20th, Upper Coquetdale on 23rd, Sharperton on 26th and Kirknewton on 27th. Singles were at a further nine upland localities.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

A count of 28 was made in 3km at Holywell Dene on 18th (ASJ), 17 (10 new, seven retraps) were caught at a ringing session at Corbridge Common with just three retraps at a session on 20th, indicating dispersal to breeding territories (DLe). Five were at Kielder Forest Drive on 29th, three at Ellington Dene on 3rd and one to two at Colt Crag Reservoir, Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and Jesmond (Newcastle).

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Two in Ellington Dene on 18th was the only multiple count (TB) with singles often singing at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) and Newton Red House on four dates, on feeders at Longdyke (Shilbottle) daily till 14th, Borough Woods (Morpeth) on 1st, Felton on 6th and Lambley on 31st.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

A pair visited feeders at Prestwick Carr on 10th & 18th (AA/PCF) with singles at Big Waters NWT on 6th, Garrett Lee Wood (Longhorsley) on 7th, Felton on 13th, Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 14th & 30th, Tyne Riverside Park (Prudhoe) on 15th and singing at Hampeth (Shilbottle) on 22nd.

Willow Tit,  
Briar Dene  
March '22  
Iain Johnson

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

On 18th, 43 were found in 3km of Holywell Dene (ASJ), eight at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 1st & 22nd with four there on 2nd (TB), six at Prestwick Carr on 26th and five at Ellington Dene on 3rd. One to two were at Druridge Links, Gosforth Garden Village, where a nestbox was cleared for future use and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle).

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Over 3km of Holywell Dene 55 were counted on 18th (ASJ), ten at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 13th (MJCo), nine at Prestwick Carr on 8th (PCF) and eight at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 1st with three to five there on two other dates (IDR). Six were at Ellington Dene on 3rd and one at Druridge Pools on 24th.



**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

High counts of 45 (12 singing) were made at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 17th (ASJ) and 40 mainly singing at Holy Island on 6th and 12 on 11th (MJC/ADM). More than 15 were at Backworth on 17th and St Mary's Island on 22nd with 12 at Prestwick Carr on 26th and ten singing at Brocolitia on 7th, Kielder Water on 25 and Allendale on 26th. Eight were at Black Middens (Greenhaugh) on 8th with one to six at 16 other widespread localities.

**Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*

Two remained at Holy Island most of the month being reported between 1st to 23rd (NFO/MJC *et al.*) the stay being recorded as 63 days on 11th (ADM).

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

The first records were of four at Big Waters NWT on 16th rising to six there on 21st (per M McGuinness/AJJ) with two N at Crooked Lonnen (Holy Island) on 18th and one at Branton GP on the same date (IK/MJC). On 26th 20 were visible over Gosforth NR viewed from the subsidence pond and the same number was recorded passing through Killingworth Lake on 27th (ADM/GPK). Two were at Clayholes Sheil (Berwick) on 23rd, Lynemouth on 26th, Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 27th and Derwent Reservoir on 31st.

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

The North Pool individual at East Chevington was heard on 5th (TF), 18th (MN), 20th (TF) and 24th (MH). One was heard at Big Waters NWT on 6th (GB) and 14th (IK), and regularly throughout the month (GB). The possible presence of a second bird remains unconfirmed (GB). One was heard at Druridge Pools on 27th (JH).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

There was a maximum of 12 at Druridge Links on 4th (IDR), and seven at Prestwick Carr on 18th (PCF). Parties of six were at Howick on 2nd (JAR), Ellington Dene on 3rd (IDR), and at Harwood Head (Harwood Forest) on 6th (MSH). Three were present in a garden at Rothbury during the month, and starting to nest there by the end of the month (TRD). Pairs were also observed nest building at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 2nd (MJC), at Tynemouth on 19th (CB), and at Howdon on 21st (CB). One was seen carrying nest material at Big Waters on 20th (GB). One at the Usway Valley (Upper Coquetdale) on 20th (JR/NA) was an unusual sighting for the area.



Long-tailed Tit, Rothbury, 27th March, Tim Dean

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

There were 160 records submitted this month, covering approximately 84 widespread locations across the county. The earliest arrivals were at Gosforth (Newcastle) on 5th, 7th and 8th (MJC), at Berwick on 6th (DGB/RHB), at Lindisfarne NNR (Fenham-le-Moor) on 9th (MJC), and at Tynemouth on 9th (DRW). Thereafter, the highest counts came from Branton GP, with 30 on 22nd (IKDa/KDa), and from Slaley, with 22 singing birds on 26th (RMH). There were 18 in Holywell Dene on 20th (ASJ), 18 along the Tyne from Wylam to Ovingham on 25th (ADM), and 18 by the Blyth Estuary on



29th (LJM). Warkworth Lane (Ellington) had 15 on 21st and 27th (TB), and the highest count for Gosforth (Newcastle) was 14 singing birds on 24th (ADM). Arcot Pond had 11 singing birds on 23rd (PRM), as did 2.5km stretch between Walbottle and Whorlton (MH). There were ten singing at Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 15th (JR), ten counted on a circular walk between Brockwell and Westwood Grange (Cramlington) on 27th (LJM), and ten at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 29th (NFO). Smaller numbers (2–7) were at 40 other locations, and singles were reported from a further 21 sites.

Chiffchaff, Briar Dene, March '22, Iain Johnson

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

There was a male bird at Ellington on 26th (TB), and a male singing at E Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 27th (TB). Single birds were reported from Branton GP on 26th (IKDa/KDa), Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 27th (MJCo), and Howick on 30th (JAR). A singing male was heard at Mickley Square on 30th (DLe).

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

There were four at Kielder Forest Drive on 29th (ADM), and a maximum of two at Grindon Lough on 3rd and 16th, including two singing males on 18th (PRM). Ellington Dene had two on 3rd (IDR), as did Colt Crag Reservoir (PRM) and Holy Island (RA) on 13th. Singles were noted at Northburn (Cramlington), Plenmeller Common, Holywell Dene, Big Waters NWT, and Keepersfield (Barrasford).

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Prestwick Carr had 16 birds counted over 1km on 26th (PCF). A count of eight singing birds was made at Longhorsley Moor on 13th (AB/LB). Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had seven on 13th (MJCo), Chugdon Wood had a maximum of five on 1st (IDR), and Kielder Forest Drive also had five on 29th. There were four at Ellington Dene on 3rd (IDR), two at Druridge Pools on 2st (IDR), and two at Lynemouth Bay on 22nd (IDR).

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

There were five at Bolam Lake CP on 17th (KWY), four at Belsay Castle on 13th (SW), and four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 20th (MJC), where nesting behaviour (sealing a chamber with mud) was observed on 24th (DHWB). Gosforth (Newcastle) also had four on 24th (ADM). Humshaugh, Holywell Dene and Hedgeley GP each had three on 10th (SW), 15th (MSH), and 17th (RPo) respectively. Two were at Ponteland Park on 7th (MRS), Northumberlandia



(Cramlington) on 7th (LJM), Cambo on 26th (SW), and Eshott on 27th (MSH), with two singing males at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 11th (LJM). Single birds were reported from a further ten locations.

#### **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

There were three at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 1st (AJH). At Ellington, Chugdon Wood had two on 13th (TB), the Dene had two on 20th (TB), and Warkworth Lane had two on 27th (TB). Two were singing at the Harthope Valley on 18th (TRD/JD), and two were singing at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 25th (TD). Birds were also heard singing at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 9th and 11th (GB), Humshaugh on 10th (SW), Gosforth Park on 13th (GB), Belsay Castle on 13th (SW), and at Sharperton on 26th (SW). Singles were at nine other locations.

#### **Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

A massive flock of 8,000 birds was observed leaving a roost in conifer plantations just north of High Teppermoor (Brocolitia) and flying SW on 10th (PRM). Flocks of 1,000 were at High Carrick MOD range on 6th (JR) and at Holy Island Lough on 7th (IK). There were 900 at Rowley Burn (Hexhamshire) on 13th (AJH), 350 foraging in old stubble at Kiln Pit Hill on 19th (IFo), and 200 at Howick on 15th (JAR). Big Waters NWT had 75 on 14th (GB), and Prestwick Carr had 40 on 18th (PCF). Smaller numbers (below ten) were at a further four locations.

#### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

The highest count came from Holy Island, with 40 on 13th (RA). There was a maximum of 14 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 1st (IDR), and 14 at Ross Farm at 13th (DF). Ellington Dene had seven on 3rd, and Prestwick Carr had five on 26th (PCF). Nest building was observed at Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 15th (JR), and birds were seen collecting nest materials at Milkwell (Corbridge) on 23rd (RB/MB), and at Kenton (Newcastle) on 5th (MRS).

#### **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

The highest count came from Whittingham on 31st, where fieldfares and redwings were moving E all day, the largest flock observed being 700 (CW). New Haggerston had 160 feeding in large fields on 15th (MHu), and Humshaugh had 160 on 30th (SW). There were 150 foraging in old stubble at Kiln Pit Hill on 19th (IFo), 150 at Warton on 26th (JD), 120 at Shepard's Law (Powburn) on 1st (IKDa/KDa) and 110 near Longhirst Flash on 12th (AT). Flocks of 100 were at Silloans Farm (Otterburn Ranges) on 13th (JR), Chathill on 16th (PA), Sharperton on 16th (SW), Hesleyside (Bellingham) on 29th (MH), and Eals on 31st (MJC/AJ/TW/IK). Howick had a flock of 95 on 4th and 16th (JAR), Coldwell had 76 on 20th (SW), Holy Island had 70 on 30th (RA), Carterway Heads (Crooked Oak) had 65 on 15th (IFo), and Falstone (Comb) had 60 on 27th (JR). Smaller flocks (20–51) were reported at fourteen other locations, with numbers below 20 at a further eight sites.

#### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

Apart from the mixed flock of 700 redwings and fieldfares at Whittingham on 31st, the highest count came from Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley), with an evening roost of 300 on 26th (CB). There were flocks of 150 at Simonburn on 15th (AJH), 120 at new Haggerston on 15th (MHu), and 100 at Big Waters NWT on 3rd (AJJ/GB). There were 80 at Warton on 17th (JD), 60 at Sharperton on 26th (SW), 50 at Slaley Hall on 11th and 13th (RMH), and 50 at Holy Island on 13th (RA). Flocks of 30–33 were at eight other locations, including the WeBS count (30) at Greenlee Lough on 23rd (MRS). Smaller numbers were at a further fourteen sites, with nocturnal migration noted over Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 18th (six), 26th (13) and 29th (six) (MJC).

#### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

There was a maximum of five at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 2nd (IDR), and four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 6th (MJCo). Harwood Head (Harwood Forest) had three singing birds on 1st (MSH), as did Howdon on 30th (CB). Ellington Dene had three on 3rd, and East Chevington had three on 21st (CB). There were two singing at Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 2nd (LJM). Two were reported at four other locations, and singles at a further seven, including singing birds at Tynemouth on 7th (CB) and Gosforth Park on 13th (GB), and one nest building at Falstone (Comb) on 27th (JR).

#### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Harwood Head (Harwood Forest) had six on 1st (MSH), and Longhorsley Moor had three, including one singing, on 13th (AB/LB). There were two at Grindon Lough NWT on 3rd (PRM), two at Battle Hill (Elsdon) on 6th (JR), two singing at

Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 15th (TD), two at Greenlee Lough WebS count on 23rd (MRS), two at Lynemouth Sewage Farm on 26th (GB), and two nest building at Ellington on 24th (TB). Singles were at a further five sites.

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

A count of 44 over 3km was made in Holywell Dene on 18th (ASJ). In Cramlington, 14 singing birds were counted along Horton Burn on 2nd and 12 in the Brockwell/Westwood area on 6th (LJM). Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had nine on 13th (MJCo), Winnow's Hill (Slaley) had eight singing on 5th (MH), and Prestwick Carr held eight on 26th (PCF). There were seven singing at Longhorsley Moor on 13th (AB/LB). Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had five on 1st (IDR), and smaller numbers were at Ellington Dene, Kielder Forest Drive and Lynemouth Bay.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

A female type was on Inner Farne 24th-25th (TH) and another was at Weetslade Colliery CP on 26th (LMi, PS, JBu). Female-type birds were also reported from the Alcan Smelter, Lynemouth (TB) and Lynemouth Power Station (AP, GB, IDR) on 26th and at Newbiggin Maritime Centre on 31st (JM)

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

A bike ride between Chevington and High Hauxley produced eight (three pairs and two females) on 7th (MH), the highest count for Druridge Bay sites. There were five at Longhorsley Moor on 13th (AB/LB), four at Seaton Sluice on 1st (ASJ), four at Holy Island on 11th (ADM), and four (two pairs) at Quarry House Moor on 15th (MH/AA). Three were at North Blyth on 4th (STH), the Alwin Valley (Upper Coquetdale) on 6th (JR), and Cocklawburn Beach on 26th (KWY). Pairs were noted at eleven other locations throughout the county, and singles were at a further nine sites.



Stonechat, Seaton Sluice, March '22, Alan Jack

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

First reports were of singles at Budle Bay (CGK) and East Chevington (MAE) on 19th. One was on Holy Island on 20th, and three were at Shillmoor (Upper Coquetdale) on 20th (JR/NA). Upper Coquetdale also had one at Alwinton on 23rd (IKDa/KDa) and a singing male at Bygate on 23rd (JD/TRD). Numbers at Bygate had increased to five by 28th (JR). On 25th, single birds were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) (STH), North Blyth (LJM), Holly Bush (Hexham) (DWN), and Boulmer (AMG/MG).

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Three were seen on 16th in the Harthope Valley and 30th at Rothbury (TRD/JD). One on the small stream at Woodhorn Church on 5th was the first site record in living memory (JG/AT). Two were noted at six sites and singles at a further seven places during the month.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

41 were in Slaley Village on 11th (RMH). 40+ at Cullercoats Bay on 29th (MN). Six to eight were at two other sites.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

35 -36 were counted at Chugdon Woods on several dates (TB/IDR/JF). 30 were in dunes at Cresswell on 28th (CB). Up to 25 were regularly seen at Newton Red House during the month (PG). One to eight were noted at 11 locations in the month.

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

A 3km walk through Holywell Dene on 18th, produced a count of 38, including several groups engaged in courtship activities (ASJ). Another 3-km walk at Cramlington revealed 11 singing males on 6th (LJM). Elsewhere, one to eight were



noted at ten sites.

### **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

A total of six were seen in Jesmond Dene on 27th (MJCo). Two pairs were seen at Ingram on 18th (MJC). Three were at Borough Woods on 26th, where nest building was observed and three were at Branton on 22nd (TF/JD). Pairs were seen at 16 sites this month, with singles at a further 20 locations.

### **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

At Derwent Reservoir on 30th, a group of 53 on migration was grounded by snow (IFo). 18 -20 were at Bothal Pond on 15th (MKI/TD). Counts of 14 were made at Cramlington and Prestwick Carr on 8th and of 12 at Humshaugh on 24th and ten seen at Derwent Reservoir on 30th. One to five were also seen at 15 sites. Few were noted on passage at Seaton Sluice this month.

### **White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba alba*

The first Spring record was at Bothal Pond on 16th (AT), two were noted at Backworth on 17th (MSH) and further singles were at seven sites.

### **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

25 were seen at Derwent Reservoir on 31st (RMH). At Allendale 20 were back on breeding territory on 26th, where display was noted (ASJ). The previous day at St. Mary's eight were song-fighting among a count of 16 birds (ASJ). 15 noted at Lynemouth Bay on 22nd and 11 at Prestwick Carr on 26th (IDR/PCF). Two were song -fighting among eight birds at Longhorsely Moor on 13th (AB/LB). Eight were also seen at Hedgeley on 17th (IFO). One to six were seen at a further seven locations.

### **Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

Singles were present at St. Mary's and Druridge Pools on many dates during the month, with singles also at Holy Island on 13th and 20th and Fenham Le Moor on 9th.



Water Pipit, Druridge, 24<sup>th</sup> March, Tim Dean

### **Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

A high count was made this month of 35 on 13th, across Holy Island (RA), around 17 along north shore on 11th

(TF/ADM). Two to four were also at four sites and included two displaying males at Cullercoats (ASJ).

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Around eight were at Holy Island on 11th (TF). One to two were seen at two further sites.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

50 were noted at Harwood Village on 17th (KWY). 40 were at Coldwell on 20th (SW). One to 20+ were also seen at a further eight sites.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Ten were noted near Powburn on 17th (IBDa/KDa). On 28th, six were at Dukehouse, Hexham (AJH). One to three were at ten other sites during the month.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Seven were seen at Keepersshield on 20th (SW). One to four were also observed at ten locations.



Bullfinch, Rothbury, 27/03/22, Tim Dean

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

30+ were at roost at Royal Quays on 5th (MSH). 15 were noted at Linden Hall on 4th (NFO) and one to six were seen at 11 sites during this month.

Greenfinch, Briar Dene, March 22, Iain Johnson





**Twite** *Linaria flavirostris*

Around 30 remained in dunes at Cresswell on 24th and 28th including two heard singing (MH/CB). Six were there on 14th. Three were at Chibburn Links on 25th.

**Linnet** *Linaria canabina*

A large flock of 250 + fed in a crop at Red House Farm (Whitley Bay) on 24th (ASJ). Around 150 were also in a game crop at Minsteracres on 5th (MH). 120 were noted at Howick on 4th (JAR). 90 were at Easington on 12th, 80 at Chibburn on 25th and 80 at Holy Island on 11th (NFO). 20-65 were noted at a further six sites this month, with one to 19 at 15 others.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

16 were watched feeding on the ground at Haughton Mains on 12th (SW). Ten + were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 20th (MSH). Ten were at Dukeshouse on 28th (AJH). One to six were seen at seven sites during the month.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostris*

21+ were noted at Harwood Head on 1st, with 15+ there on 6th and seven on 18th(MSH et al.). 13 were also seen in the forest near here on 11th (PG). 12 were seen at Ladycross on 12th (MH). Two to five were also seen at five sites.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

40 roosted at Wallsend on 8th (CGK). 21 were seen at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 15th (GB). On 15th, 12 were at feeders at East Ord (MHu). Ten + were seen roosting at night in a Humshaugh garden, using a thermal camera (SW). One to nine were noted at a further 15 locations.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

Flocks totalling 250 were observed at Corbridge Common on 19th, 24 were ringed (Dle). 200 were at Humshaugh on 30th (SW). 85 were counted on Kielder Forest Drive on 29th (ADM). 50+ were seen at Wark on 6th (PRM). 30+ were seen at Gosforth and Wark on 15th, and 25 fed on Sunflower seeds at Slaley on 30th. One to 15 were also seen at 16 other sites this month.

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

One to two remained at Holy Island, seen between 1st and 7th with one remaining until 19th.





**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

27 were watched at Holy Island north shore on 1st (NFO). Two were at north Blyth on 4th and a single was seen at East Chevington on 1st. A colour-ringed individual at Beacon Point Newbiggin on 13th had been ringed in Dunkirk, France on 10th January 2022 and was the first recorded sighting of this individual away from the ringing site.



Snow Bunting, Beacon Point, Newbiggin,  
13/03/22, Alan Priest

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

60 were counted at Lincoln Hill on 19th (SW). 42 remained at Rake Lane on 17th, with several males in song (ASJ). 15 were seen at Druridge Pools on 4th (IDR). One -12 were also seen, with some males singing, at a further 27 locations during the month.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

40 remained of the wintering flock at Rake Lane on 17th, with several males in song (ASJ). 17 were counted at St. Mary's on 20th, including ten singing males (ASJ). One to six were noted at 20 widespread sites from Holy Island to Upper Coquetdale during the month, with many males in song.

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**

Escapes - No Sightings.

Hybrids

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

One was at Big Waters on 6th with two there on 20th (GB).

Birds of Unknown Origin – No Sightings.

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Hauxley Ringing Station, North Northumberland Bird Club, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, Northumberland Rare & Scarce Whatsapp, BirdGuides.

## 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.

Editing and additional news by Alan Tilmouth [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

### RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to [ntbc.records@googlemail.com](mailto: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 Alan Tilmouth at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com) with a copy to Graham Sorrie at [sorriega@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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.

### 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 Thursday 8th September 2022.

### FIELD TRIPS

**Next Field Trip - Sunday 22nd May 2022-** Upland Birds, Geltsdale; Contact Steve Anderson at [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)

### 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.

Subscriptions can be paid using online banking: please include your name as the reference and email Jo Bentley at [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com) to confirm payment.



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.

If you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome. For membership enquiries please contact Jo Bentley (Hon Treasurer) [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

### **NTBC Web and Social Media**

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds, with a wide range of content from photo galleries, county checklists, Records Committee updates, information on surveys and many useful articles on bird identification and birding both locally and internationally, to find out more please visit [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

Please submit any other new content (eg trip reports, identification notes, site guides etc) for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

NTBC can also be found on Facebook [here](#) and Twitter [here](#)

### **Other News**

#### **Steve Barrett**

As many members will have learnt over the last few days Steve lost his battle with cancer and died last week peacefully at home with Sheila his wife and Claire his daughter by his side.

Never someone to give up, he still managed to edit the bulletin right up to and including the February edition. Steve will always be remembered for his enthusiasm whether working on behalf of the committee or out birding, his love of birds shone through. He was just as happy birdwatching in and around his home at Woolsington as he was on his holidays.

Steve had other interests including football and it was not unknown at committee meetings on an evening when "Newcastle" were playing for Steve to be attending with an earpiece in so he could at least hear the match if unable to watch it.

Steve will be missed by many, not just as an enthusiastic hardworking member of the committee and club, but most of all as a friend.

(On behalf of NTBC committee)

#### **Space for Shorebirds**

Many members will be familiar with Northumberland County Council's coastal mitigation service Space for Shorebirds. With two permanent rangers operating along the length of the Northumberland coast, the service aims to educate residents and visitors to our coast about shorebirds and in doing so reduce disturbance impacts throughout the year to wader roosts, tern colonies etc.

During the 2021 breeding season, Space for Shorebirds created safe spaces for breeding Ringed Plovers at a number of sites on the coast including Buston, Lynemouth, Embleton, Football Hole, Druridge and Dell Point, Beadnell. This involved fencing and signage to reduce disturbance to pairs breeding in those areas. This year more space has been fenced off with three signed zones in the Buston Links area, installed with the agreement of owners Northumberland Estates. Following regular surveys, this area was identified as one with potential for not only Ringed Plovers, but hopefully longer term, breeding tern species. Decoy Little Terns have been deployed at the site in the hope of encouraging the species to begin colonising.

Richard and Katherine, the Space for Shorebirds Rangers, are out and about at various coastal sites daily and would be delighted to chat with NTBC members about the projects they are delivering to help shorebirds along the Northumberland coast so please do introduce yourself if you bump into them whilst birding.

### **For Sale**

Manfrotto Tripod MVKBFRL-LIVE

Closed length 40 cm (16 in)

Weight 1.75 kg

Payload 4 kg

I bought this two years ago hoping to take it on holiday but that was in the pre-covid days. It's still in the original packing with carrying case.

Cost £150. Now only **£95** to a good home. Please contact Mike Smith ([ms9ncl@gmail.com](mailto:ms9ncl@gmail.com))

## **Bulletin Editor**

Following the sad passing of Steve Barrett, Alan Tilmouth has taken up the role of Bulletin Editor from this edition going forward. Any communication regarding the bulletin can still be sent to the usual bulletin editor email address [ntcbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:ntcbulletin2012@gmail.com)



# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

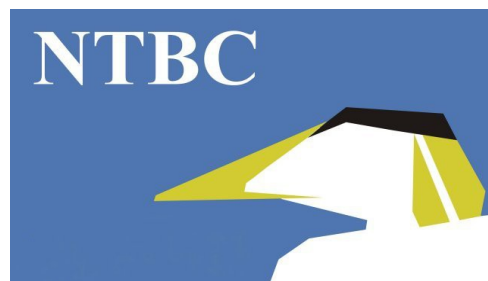
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Bulletin No 04 2022 - APRIL

1st June 2022

004



Kittiwake, Tynemouth, April 2022, Iain Johnson

## APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Greenland White-fronted Goose	Adult still at Grindon Lough through to 27th
Egyptian Goose	Single in Druridge area from 20th
Ruddy Shelduck	Singles at Derwent Reservoir, Blanchland and Maiden's Hall Lake
Garganey	One to two at six sites
<b>American Wigeon</b>	Drake at East Chevington on 19th then Cresswell Pond from 21st to 30th
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>	Drake at Druridge Pools between 6th and 20th
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>	Drake at Capheaton on 10th then Widdrington Moor and Maiden's Hall on 14th/15th
Velvet Scoter	Scarce again this month, only record three at Seaton Sluice
Smew	Female still at Widdrington Moor Lake up to 16th
<b>Crane</b>	Reports from West Sleekburn, Budle Point, Hadston and Long Nanny/High Newton
Red-necked Grebe	Long stayer still at Widdrington Moor Lake until 29th; one at Stag Rocks from 25th
<b>Black-necked Grebe</b>	Resplendent summer adult at Druridge Pools on 28th
<b>Dotterel</b>	One calling over Humshaugh on 26th
Whimbrel	High count of 109 at Druridge on 28th
Wood Sandpiper	One at Druridge Pools on 25th
Spotted Redshank	Singles at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools and Wansbeck Estuary
Little Gull	Two at Hauxley on 28th
Glaucous Gull	Singles at Warkworth and Alnwick
Iceland Gull	One to two at six sites.
Great Skua	One north at Alnmouth on 22nd
Black-throated Diver	Singles at Holy Island on 10th and Berwick on 13th
<b>White-billed Diver</b>	One flew north at St Mary's on 27th
Spoonbill	Up to two at Druridge Pools from 15th
Golden Eagle	Satellite-tagged bird at Hartleyburn Common on 29th

<b>Black Kite</b>	One was seen to south of Widdrington Moor lake on 18th
White-tailed Eagle	An IOW release G487 stopped at Budle on 18th briefly before moving to Cairngorms
Hobby	Adult at Ellington on 30th
<b>Great Grey Shrike</b>	Separate singles at Holywell on 14th and Alnwick Moor on 15th
Hooded Crow	Wintering individual still at Linton until 7th; two south at Tynemouth on 19th
<b>Red-rumped Swallow</b>	One moved north through Colt Crag Reservoir on 18th
Cetti's Warbler	Two to three singing males at Big Waters and East Chevington
Black Redstart	Two at Warkworth on 15th and singles at Tynemouth and Old Hartley
Siskin	An astonishing 546 ringed at Humshaugh during month

## CLASSIFIED LIST

### **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

About 20 were noted in the Harthope Valley on 29th (JRi/KE), and one to three were at Gowk Hill (near Rothbury), Ingram and Simonside.

### **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Six were in the Harthope Valley on 30th (GB/LAR), and one to two were noted at Druridge Pool-Druridge Lane, Ewarty Shank, Lemmington Woods, Lynemouth, Old Harley, Slaley and Widdrington.

### **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Six were at Embleton on 2nd (CB), and fours at Longhoughton (IDR), Old Hartley (MNC) and St Mary's Island (MSH). One to two were also reported from Aydon, Boulmer, Branxton, Budle Bay, Callerton, Cresswell Pond, Druridge, Easington, East Chevington, Ellington, Gloster Hill (Warkworth), Hemscott Hill, Longhorsley Moor, Lynemouth Bay, Newbiggin GC and Newton Red House.

### **Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

14 were at Druridge Pools on 25th (IDR), and eight to ten at Bellasis Bridge (PCF), Cockle Park Farm (JR) and Ellington (IDR). One to three were at seven further sites. A white individual was at Bellasis Bridge on 26th (PCF).

### **Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

14 pale-bellied *hrota* race birds were at Fenham Flats on 27th (NFO), six were noted at St Cuthbert's Island, Holy Island on 11th (IK), and one at Druridge Pools on 9th (IDR).

A dark-bellied *bernicla* race bird was at Druridge Pools regularly between 1st-21st (TRD/JD/NFO et al.)

An un-raced bird was at Druridge Pools on 12th and 14th (AA/MH/TF/JFa et al.)

### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Two flew N at Snab Point on 26th (IDR) and five (with one Greylag Goose) flew over Holy Island on 3rd (MJC). Largest concentrations involved 150 in the Hauxley area on 8th (RPo), 35 at Castle Island on 27th (PRM), and 25 at Big Waters on 10th (GB). Counts of 13-18 came from Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother, Killingworth Lake, Linton Ponds and Newcastle Leazes Park, and two to eight were at Arcot, Bothal, Cocklawburn and Cresswell Ponds, Big Waters, Broomlee and Greenlee Loughs, Lynemouth Flash, Newcastle Exhibition Park, Plenmeller Common, West Ord and Woodhorn Flashes. Six 'apparently occupied nests' (AONs) were noted at Hauxley Reserve on 9th (HRS).

### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

Six were in the Hauxley area on 8th (RPo), two were at Derwent Reservoir on 5th and 11th (IFo), two at Druridge Pools on 30th (TF) and one there between 12th-29th. Singles were also at Hedgeley GP on 9th (TRD/JD) and Low Newton on 4th (with Pink-footed Geese) (CB).

### **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

60 were in the Hauxley area on 8th (RPo), 38 at East Chevington on 8th (RPo), 22-26 at Cresswell Pond (IDR/JF) and Grindon Lough (PRM), and ten to 18 at Bothal 'shooters pools', Druridge Pools, Humshaugh and Plenmeller Common. One to eight were also at Broomlee Lough, Bothal, Cocklawburn, Cresswell and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Ellington, Haughton Castle, Haughton Strother GP, Lynemouth Flash and Woodhorn Flashes. Unusually, one, with five Canada

Geese, flew over Holy Island on 3rd (MJC). Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	N o . broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Derwent Reservoir	27	176	IFo. First brood (7 young) on 17th, then 26 further broods (2-9 young per brood) between 24th-30th.
Bothal Pond	2	6 (4,2)	TF on 26th.
Haughton Strother GP	1	4	SW on 23rd.

A nest with four eggs at Holy Island lough on 24th was believed to be the first breeding record for the island (ADM).

#### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

On 9th, a flock of 218 flew N at Gosforth Garden Village(MJC) and 150 N at Arcot Pond (STH), while 12 moved N at Holy Island on 15th (ADM). Some large concentrations persisted in the early part of the month: 2,200 at Doddington on 3rd (TRD/JD), 1,200 at Low Newton on the morning of 2nd had decreased to 800 by the afternoon and remained until 4th (CB), about 900 at Hemscott Hill on 9th (IDR), 350 in the Hauxley area on 8th (RPo) dropping to 150 on 9th (HRS), 350+ at Holywell Pond on 9th (MN), and 140 at Budle Bay on 9th (CGK/GPK). Three (one sick or injured) remained at Holywell Pond on 30th (KWY), and one to two were at Big Waters, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Maiden's Hall and Widdrington Moor Lakes

#### **White-fronted Goose** *Anser flavirostris*

An adult of the Greenland *flavirostris* race was reported at Grindon Lough on four dates between 1st-27th inclusive (PRM/MRS).

#### **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Peak counts were 57 at QEII CP on 11th (LJM), 48 at Killingworth Lake on 15th (LJM), 38 at Castle Island on 25th (LJM), and nine to 16 at Calot Shad (the Tweed Estuary), East Chevington, Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley Reserve and the Wansbeck Estuary. One to four (some nesting) were at Arcot, Bank's and Bothal Ponds, Druridge Pools, Greenlee Lough, Holy Island Lough, Little Waters, Willington Gut and Woodhorn Flashes.

#### **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Four flew N at Cocklawburn on 14th (MHu). 23 were at Pilgrim's Way, Lindisfarne NNR on 10th (IK). Fours were at Druridge Pools-East Chevington between 8th-13th (IDR/NFO/RPo), and singles at Capheaton, Low Newton and QEII CP.

#### **Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Singles were at Cresswell Pond and R Aln Estuary on 20th, Maiden's Hall Lake on 21st (TF/JFa), Druridge Pools on 25th (TRD/JD/LJM) and in a field just south of Amble on 26th (RA).

#### **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Four flew N at Spittal Bay on 25th (MHu) and four flew S at Seaton Sluice on 17th (SSWT).

A peak of 160 was noted at Budle bay on 4th (CGK/GPK), 42 were at the Blyth Estuary on 17th (LJM), 42 at the Coquet Estuary on 16th (RPo), 23-24 at Castle Island (PRM), Druridge Pools (IDR) and Howdon (CB), and ten to 19 at Cresswell Pond, Elswick, Hauxley Reserve and Longhoughton. One to four were also at Berwick Little Beach, Ellington, Fisher Lane (Cramlington), Holy Island Lough, Howick, Lynemouth, Newbiggin GC, New Water Haugh, the Wansbeck Estuary, Warkworth Lane Ponds and Yarrow Slake. Inland, six (three pairs) were at Grindon Lough (PRM) and twos at Haughton Strother GP (AJR/SW).

#### **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

Single drakes were at Acton Fell (with a Greylag Goose on heather moorland) on 10th (MH), Derwent Reservoir on 5th (IFo), and Maiden's Hall Lake between 13th and 30th (TB/CSa/TRD/JD/TF et al).



**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Eight including seven drakes were on the R Wansbeck near Meldon on 8th (AT). Single pairs were at Hesleyside (near Bellingham) on 11th (JR), Morpeth on 8th (IRD), 16th (Highford; TD) and 25th (Abbey Mill; TD), Thrum Mill, Rothbury on 5th (JD/TRD), and more unusually on a stream near Letah Wood, Hexham on 20th (AJH). Twos were at Houxy (Bellingham) on 29th (AJ) and Meldon on 9th (per PCF). Single drakes were inland at Hesleyside on 24th (TB/GE/PG), Sharperton on 23rd (MKi) and Snabdaugh on 30th (JR/NA) and on the coast at Monks House Pool on 14th (AMG/MG) and 17th (CGK/GPK). A drake flew north at Newbiggin Moor on 18th (AP)

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

Single pairs were at Bothal Pond on 2nd-5th (TF/AT), Branton GP on 15th-16th (TRD/JD/IKDa), Holy Island on 17th (IKDa), Druridge Pools on 18th (IDR), Longhirst Flashes on 27th (AT) and Rising Sun CP 28th (CGK). Single drakes were at Holywell Pond on 5th (MN), Druridge Pools on 13th (Csa), East Chevington north pool on 14th (TRD/JD) and on saltmarsh at Beal on 17th (RA). One was at Branton GP on 26th (IKDa).



Garganey, Rising Sun CP, April 2022, Michael Matthews

**Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

Two flew N at Tynemouth on 17th (DRW). Peak counts were 34 at Low Newton on 4th (CB), 26 at Druridge Pools on 9th (IDR), 14 at Bothal Pond on 9th (TD), 14 at Holy Island (12 at the Lough) on 3rd (MJC), and three to six at Arcot, Cocklawburn, Holywell and Warkworth Lane Ponds, and Hauxley Reserve. One to two were also at Big Waters, Cresswell Pond, Marden Quarry and St Mary's Wetland.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

54 (27 pairs) were at Castle Island on 27th (PRM), 45 at Hauxley Reserve on 11th (HRS), 28 at Bothal Pond on 9th (TD), 11-15 at Castron, Cresswell and West Allotment Ponds, Druridge Pools, Hedgeley GP, Marden Quarry and the Wansbeck Estuary. Six to eight were also at the Blyth Estuary, East Chevington and Holywell Pond, and three to four at Arcot and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Big Waters, Haughton Strother GP, Howdon and Lynemouth Bay. More unusual were three on the River Wansbeck at Morpeth on 14th (IRD). One to two were also at Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Capheaton Lake, Ellington, Grindon Lough, Hedgeley GP, Lynemouth Flash and Woodhorn Flashes.



Gadwall, 2 April 2022, Low Newton, Colin Bradshaw

**Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

At least 200 remained at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (IFo), 112 were at Grindon Lough on 1st (PRM), 84 at Bothal Pond on 2nd (TF) dropping to 18 by 9th and two by 17th (TD), 50-60 at Budle Bay (CGK/GPK), Druridge Pools (MSH) and Low Newton (CB) on 4th-5th, and 20-36 at Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond and Hedgeley GP. Peak counts later in the month involved 27 (12 drakes) at Grindon Lough on 27th (PRM) and 22 at East Chevington on 28th (TRD/JD), Eight to 11 were also at Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley Reserve and Holy Island Lough, and one to four at Maiden's Hall Lake, New Water Haugh and Whittle Dene Reservoirs during the month. A flock was sound recorded over Gosforth Garden Village at 2138h on 3rd (MJC).

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*

A drake was at East Chevington on 19th (TF et al.). What was probably the same individual was at Cresswell Pond on 21st (TRD) and three further dates between 22nd-30th (CB/TB et al.) and also back at East Chevington on 28th (TRD/JD).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

38 were at Newcastle Leazes Park on 13th (LJM), 31 at Hauxley Reserve on 11th (HRS), and ten to 16 at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools and Haughton Strother GP. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Big Waters	4+	30+	GB/AJJ. Brood of 14 on 8th. Broods of 7,6,6 & 5 on 29th.
'Northumberlandia' , Cramlington	2	12 (8,4)	LJM on 29th.
Druridge Pools	1	12	LJM on 25th.
Howick	1	12	JAR on 18th.
Morpeth (River	1	11	IRD on 18th.

Wansbeck)			
Airy Holm Reservoir	1	10	IFo on 18th.
West Allotment Pond	1	10	KWY on 17th.
Broomlee Lough	1	9	PRM on 19th.
near Lesbury	1	9	MKi on 22nd.
Newcastle Exhibition Park	1	8	GB on 26th.
Derwent Reservoir	1	7	MJC/TW on 14th.
Wallsend Hall	1	6	CDH on 7th.
Bank's Pond, Dinnington	1	5	PCF on 23rd.
Cocklawburn Pond	1	5	MHu on 29th.
Newcastle Exhibition Park	1	4	GB on 28th. Depleted brood (previously 8 young)

#### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

A duck flew N at Cresswell Pond on 8th (NFO). A pair was at Druridge Pools on 14th and 16th (TD/TF/JFa) and singles were noted there on 9th and 13th (IDR/CSa).

#### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

Six on the sera off Seaton Sluice on 15th later flew S (SSWT). 90 at Budle Bay on 9th dropped to ten by 30th (CGK/GPK), 78 were at Grindon Lough on 1st (PRM), 68 at Holy Island on 3rd (MJC), and 58 at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo). Counts of 32-49 came from Arcot and Bothal Ponds, Castle Island, the Coquet Estuary, Haughton Strother GP and Low Newton, while ten to 28 were at Big Waters, Castron, Druridge Pools, Hauxley Reserve, Howdon and West Ord. One to eight were at a further 12 scattered localities, including two, more unusually, at Shankhouse bridge, Cramlington on 11th (LJM).

#### **Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis*

A drake found at Druridge Pools on 6th (NFO) was also noted on 7th (TRD) and 17th (IDR).

#### **Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Peak counts were 23 at Swallow Pond on 10th (GPK), 17 at Holywell Pond on 8th and 21st (KWY), five to seven at Big Waters, Bothal and Linton Ponds, Killingworth Lake and Woodhorn Flashes, and one at Druridge Pools. A pair was noted copulating at Bothal Pond on 28th (TF).

#### **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris*

A drake was discovered at Capheaton Lake on 10th (TRD/JD). Possibly the same drake was relocated by the same observers at Widdrington Moor Lake on 14th (TRD/JD)! On 15th it was noted at nearby Maiden's Hall Lake (TB/CSa).

#### **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Largest concentrations involved 64 at Killingworth Lake on 8th (GB), 56 at East Chevington on 9th (IF), 39 at Haughton Strother GP on 16th (SW), and 20-25 at Big Waters, Castron, Castle Island and Druridge Pools. Ten to 14 were at Bothal and Cresswell Ponds, Derwent Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve and Woodhorn Flashes. One to nine were also at Airy Holm Reservoir, Arcot, Bank's, Cocklawburn, Middle Ord and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Broomlee, Greenlee and Grindon Loughs, Haughton Castle, Newcastle Exhibition Park and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

#### **Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Three (first-summer drake and two first-winter/first-summer birds) were at Holywell Pond on 6th (MSH) and one was noted there on 9th (MN). The over-wintering individual (first-summer male) remained at Killingworth Lake until at least 28th (GB/MSH et al.).



**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Moderate numbers included 31 at the Blyth Estuary on 17th (LJM), 27 at North Shields Fish Quay on 8th (MN), 20 at Tynemouth on 27th (PRM), and 12 at Longhoughton on 14th (IDR). One to eight were also at Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary), Druridge Bay, Lynemouth Bay, Meadow Haven, Snab Point and Spittal Bay.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

A total of three flew N at Seaton Sluice on 1st-2nd (SSWT).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

The monthly Seaton Sluice total was 80 N and 46 S (SSWT), 11 flew N at Annstead on 27th (DF), and four N at Holy Island on 10th (MJC). Numbers offshore were low, with 25 at Stag Rocks on 3rd (CB), and two to three at Birling Carrs, Druridge and Spittal Bay. Overhead nocturnal passage was noted at three localities: at Gosforth Garden Village, five flocks were sound recorded between 2222h-2358h on 1st, and single flocks at 2139h on 3rd, 2236h on 10th, and 0234 on 16th (MJC). Single flocks were heard passing over Shiremoor at 2250h and 2300h on 10th (CGK). Further inland, three groups were heard over Humshaugh at 2200h on 1st, and several were heard moving E there on 24th (SW).

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Six were at Stag Rocks on 3rd (STH) and one at Holy Island on 17th (IKDa).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Four flew N at Annstead on 2nd (DF) and five S at Holy Island on 10th (MJC). At East Chevington north pool, 41 on 6th (NFO) fell to 11 by 19th (TF) and seven (all immature drakes) by 30th (TF); 38 were at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 3rd (MHu), 19 at Capheaton Lake on 10th (TRD/JD), and ten at Big Waters on 3rd (GB). Five to eight were at Annstead (offshore), Branton and Hedgeley GP, Caistron and Grindon Lough. Three to four were also at Airy Holm, Derwent and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, Arcot, Bothal, Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, Broomlee and Greenlee Loughs, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, and Killingworth, Maiden's Hall and Widdrington Moor Lakes. Nesting females were noted at four different sites in the regular breeding area on 10th (AHa/PHA) and a pair were at another nearby site on 24th (TRD).

**Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

The overwintering 'redhead' remained at Widdrington Moor Lake until 16th and was noted at nearby Maiden's Hall Lake on 17th (TB/NFO et al.).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

A total of six flew N and two S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and four flew SW at Newcastle Airport on 16th (IF). A flock of 30 (11 drakes) on the River Tyne between Newburn-Wylam on 1st fell to nine (four pairs plus a female) by 9th (MH), 16 were at New Water Haugh on 10th (MHu), five to eight at Fourstones (AJH) and West Ord (MHu), and three to four at Blakehopeburnhaugh (Kielder), Haughton Castle, Hedgeley GP, Thrum Mill (Rothbury), Tyne Riverside Park and Wark (North Tyne). One to two were also at Airy Holm, Derwent and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, Bywell, Clennell Hall, Doddington, East Ord, Falstone, Felton, Horsley, Morpeth, North Seaton, Pauperhaugh (Rothbury), Redesmouth and Ridley Stokoe.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 16th (SSWT), 63 were off Ross Back Sands on 27th (NFO), 25 at Budle Bay on 27th (GPK), six off Druridge Pools on 13th (IDR) and five at East Chevington on 14th (TRD/JD). One to two were also at Birling Carrs, the Blyth Estuary, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Holy Island and Widdrington Moor Lake on occasional dates.

**Swift** *Apus apus*

The first sighting of the year came from Great Whittington on 26th (ALT), closely followed by singles on 27th at both Big Waters NWT (GB per ID) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (PRM).

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

All reports were of individuals, either seen or calling, the first was in Harthope Valley on 23rd (PCa) followed by reports on 25th at Debdon (JD) and Ford Moss (Rpo). In the days afterwards, reports came from Comb (Falstone), Grindon Lough, Harthope Valley, Hazelrigg, Hawsen Burn, Hope and New Burn (Harthope Valley).

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Numbers at Leazes Park (Newcastle) peaked at 100 on 21st (GB), a total of 50, included a recently fledged youngster, were at Newcastle Airport on 5th (IF) and the species was noted as "present" in Jesmond Dene on 17th (MJCo).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

The peak at Howdon was 32 on 15th (CB), seven were spread around Jesmond Dene on 17th (three at Shoe Tree and singles at Extension Wood, Quarry, Two Bridges and Fisherman's Lodge) (MJCo), three pairs were in a field at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 19th and 29th (TB), five were at Fourstones and one to three were seen at Big Waters NWT, Blagdon Lane (Cramlington), Cresswell Pond NWT, Ellington Dene, Exhibition Park (prospecting a nest hole in a tree), Fulbeck (Morpeth), Gosforth Park, Haughton Strother, Hauxley NWT, Hesleyside (Bellingham), Knowesgate, Lemmington Woods (Alnwick), Longdyke (Shilbottle), Matfen, Old Hartley, Snab Point (Cresswell), Stannersburn, a Tynemouth garden, Wallsend Hall Grounds and Warkworth Lane.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Passage was evidenced by 333 heading N and 78 S at Tynemouth between 0650-0850 during the morning of 10th (DRW). The largest flocks were at least 120 at Potland Burn (Linton) on 11th (LJM) and 106 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 29th (IDR). Breeding Bird Surveys found 43 and 57 at Bedlington on 20th and 23rd respectively (JR), 24 at Pegswood on 30th (TD) and 21 at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 27th (JR). Elsewhere 40 were in Lynemouth Bay on 29th (IDR) and one to 15 were at many other localities. A pair building a nest at Monkseaton on 21st were still feeding a large fledged youngster, suggesting that the first clutch was laid around the end of February (MSH).

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

A large flock of 22 were in the Vicar's Garden (Holy Island) on 13th (MJC), 12 were at Slaley Village on 16th (RMH), 12 were found during a BBS survey at Bedlington on 20th and 11 during another BBS survey there on 23rd (JR), two were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and singles were at Heaton, Walkerville and Wallsend Hall grounds.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

A pair at Broomlee Lough on 19th was considered to be the first breeding attempt there (PRM). Singles were seen or heard at Big Waters NWT, Druridge Pools and Warkworth Lane.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

The peak count at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) was 12 on 1st (GB), Hauxley NWT peaked at nine on 11th (HRC), nine were at Holy Island Lough on 10th (MJC), whilst an adult was with seven fresh young at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 21st (GB). Seven were at Castle Island and Druridge Pools, three pairs were at Middle Ord Pond (Berwick) and one to four at Arcot Pond, Broomlee Lough, Cresswell Pond NWT, Haughton Strother, Jesmond Dene, Lyne Burn and Woodhorn Church. Singles were sound-recorded passing over Gosforth Garden Village during dark on 2nd and 16th (MJC).

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

30 at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 17th included at least two nests (TD). 12 were at Haughton Strother on 23rd (SW), 11 at Shooters Pools (Bothal), ten at Rayburn Lake and one to nine at Arcot Pond, Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Hauxley NWT and Middle Ord Pond (Berwick). Breeding records came from Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) hosting eight nests with three broods hatched by the end of the month (KWY) and Exhibition Park (Newcastle) with two fresh young on 28th - one of the young predated by a Lesser Black Backed Gull (GB).



### **Crane** *grus grus*

One flew low over fields near West Sleekburn on 3rd (AT) and presumably the same individual flew north at Hadston then Low Newton on 4th (DE/BW). On 18th it or another was watched heading inland flying high SE at Budle Point, (CGK) and then between 23rd and 27th an immature was at Long Nanny (Newton) (TRD/GW).

Crane, Long Nanny, April 2022, Gary Woodburn

### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Sightings of two pairs came from several sites at Arcot Pond, Broomlee Lough, Cocklawburn Pond, Holy Island Lough, four birds were at the Woodhorn Church area and up to three birds were at Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), Castron, Howick, Shooters Pool (Bothal) and Woolsington Ponds. One to two birds were at Big Waters NWT, Capheaton Lake, Cresswell Pond NWT, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Haughton Strother, Hedgeley GP, Holywell Pond, Howdon, Humbleton, Lyne Burn Mouth, Lynemouth Bay, Middleton Hall, Rayburn Lake, Widdrington Moor Lake. The first breeding reports came from Bank's Pond (Dinnington) with one chick on 20th (PCF) and Humbleton with a pair feeding chicks on 27th (SVM/AJM).

### **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

The popular long-staying bird at Widdrington Moor Lake remained there until at least 15th, now in full summer plumage (TRD/TF/JFa/TB). One, in summer plumage, was off Stag Rocks from 25th-27th (JRi/KE/NFO) and another at Ross Back Sands on 27th (NFO).

### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Breeding behaviour was well underway this month with the peak count coming from Derwent Reservoir which held a total of four pairs plus a singleton on 10th and 12th (IFo). Eight birds were at Killingworth Lake on 9th (TB), five at Holywell Pond on 8th (KWY) and at least five at Big Waters NWT on 10th (GB). Five were also at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) and Widdrington Moor Lake with one to four seen at Airy Holm Reservoir, Cresswell Pond NWT, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother, Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

### **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

A summer plumaged individual was at Druridge Pools on 28th (TRD/JD/AC/IDR) and at a site in SE Northumberland on 29th.



### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Numbers at Derwent Reservoir declined from a high of 119 on 1st to 54 by 16th (IFo/PRM/MN). The only other notable inland concentration was 52 by the River Coquet at Wharton on 17th (TRD). Haughton Strother held ten on 16th (SW) with two pairs at Plenmeller Common on 7th (PRM), two at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 2nd (IFo), two at Grindon Lough on 16th (MRS), a pair with three eggs at Redesmouth on 16th (JR/NA) and two at Catcleugh Reservoir, Chollerford and Halton-Lea-Gate. A single was at Riding Mill on 10th. At the coast, the largest concentrations were 56 at Hauxley on 19th (HRS), 54 at West Ord (Berwick) on 3rd (MHu), 39 at Cresswell Pond on 15th (IF), 35 in the Longhoughton area on 14th (IDR) and 33 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 29th (STH). One-25 were at 15 other coastal and near coastal locations including a bird on breeding territory at Cragside Primary School, Cramlington (LJM).

### **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

At the River Blyth Estuary, last month's pre-breeding gathering had declined to 19 on 11th with two remaining on 25th (LJM). One at Druridge Pools on 7th increased to 20 by 30th (TRD/IDR/TF *et al.*) There was a peak of eight at Low Newton scrape on 19th with two-three pairs reported on other dates (JAR/Pas/SVM/AJM *et al.*). At the River Coquet Estuary, six were present on 7th (CSa) reducing to three by 29th (RPo/CSa). A maximum of three was reported at Cresswell Pond on 11th and at nearby Bell's Pond on 15th (IF), with two at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 14th (CB) and a single at the River Aln Estuary on 22nd (MKi).

### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

No large flocks were reported, as a return to breeding areas and breeding activity began. At Plenmeller Common 20+, pairs were seen on 7th (PRM). 32 were at Bothal Pond on 14th (TF/JFa) with 14 at the nearby Bothal 'shooter's pools' where four pairs were behaving territorially (TD). The peak count at Newstead Flash came on 6th when 16 were present, with four apparently sitting birds on 18th (DF). At Haughton Strother, 15 were seen on 23rd with four nests noted on 16th (SW). The monthly maximum at Druridge Pools was 14 on 18th where a pair with two small young was seen by the 'coal road' on 24th (IDR). Eight were at Holywell Pond on 11th including a sitting bird and displaying male (CB). Four pairs were noted at Rayburn Lake on 16th (CB), with three-four at Big Waters where some were displaying on 3rd (GB) and a possible breeding pair were noted at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 21st (TD). One-14 were reported from another ten sites.

### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

A flock was sound-recorded passing over Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) at 23:42 on 11th (MJC). The only report of breeding activity was a pair displaying at Broomlee Lough on 19th (PRM). A WeBS count at Grindon Lough on 15th produced an estimate of 600 nearly all in summer plumage (MRS). The peak count at Cresswell Home Farm was 250 on 2nd (MH). Counts of 80-200 were received from here and nearby Chugdon Wood between 7th-23rd (IDR/JF/TB). An estimated 400 were seen at Boulmer on 1st (TRD/JD) and 211 were at Alnmouth on 20th (AB/LB). Large numbers reported inland included 170 spooked by a Buzzard at Acton Fell (Blanchland) on 10th (MH), c 150 at Bellingham on 16th (JR/NA), 142 at Plenmeller Common on 7th (PRM) and 100 at QE2 CP on 13th (TB). Counts of 15-70 were received from Holy Island, Long Nanny Burn, Monk's House Pool and Shoreston.

### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Only three reports were received with eight at Annstead (Seahouses) on 19th (DF), with singles at Boulmer on 1st (TRD/JD) and Cocklawburn on 6th (MHu).

### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Derwent Reservoir held a maximum of five including two pairs (IFo). Two pairs were detected at Castron on 17th (TRD/JD) and a pair was noted at Cresswell Pond (IF/TRD). One-four were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Bothal Pond, Cocklawburn, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother, Hemscott Hill and Hedgeley GP.

### **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Five, including two displaying birds were at Haughton Strother on 16th (SW). Four were noted at a confidential site from 9th (IDa/KDa/JD *et al.*) and four were seen at another confidential site from 9th (IFo/MJC/TW). One-two were reported from Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Ellington Flash, Holy Island and Woodhorn Flashes.

### **Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

One flew NW calling at 22:30 at Humshaugh on 26th (SW).

### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Spring passage began with the first singles at Prestwick Carr on 2nd (PCF) and at Beal (Lindisfarne NNR) the next day (MJC). At Druridge Pools, 24 were counted on 22nd (TF/JFa) which increased to a notable 109 at a dusk roost at the Budge Fields on 28th (IDR). Northbound birds included one on 26th and six on 27th at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), two at Howdiemont/Sugar Sands (Longhoughton) on 14th, and singles at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Chugdon Wood (Ellington), East Chevington, Ellington, and St Mary's Wetland. One-three were noted from 14th at Big Waters, Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond, Holy Island, Holywell Pond, Long Nanny, Maiden's Hall Lake and Widdrington Moor Lake.

### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Holy Island Lough attracted 167 on 10th (MJC) with 103 in a field near Holywell Pond on 8th (KWY). Also on 8th, 54 were in the Hauxley area (RPO) and a minimum of 50 were at Druridge Pools on 5th (MSH). Widdrington Moor Lake held 48 on 14th and 31 were seen at Maiden's Hall Lake on 19th (TF/JFa). 12-24 were reported from Blagdon, Ord Moor (Berwick), the River Blyth Estuary and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed). At inland breeding locations, 20+ pairs were present at Plenmeller Common on 7th (PRM) and pairs were also noted at Bellingham, Broomlee Lough, Grindon Lough with displaying birds at Ottercops and Slaley. In Newcastle birds were sound recorded passing over Gosforth Garden Village during the night on 1st and 14th (MJC) and one called as it flew NE over Exhibition Park on 12th (GB). One-nine were seen at nine coastal and four inland localities.

### **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

As last month, few were reports were received with the peak being 50 at Holy Island on 12th (TF/JFa). Two were at each of Amble Braid on 6th (NFO), Hauxley NWT on 11th (HRS) and flying W at Tynemouth on 19th (DRW).

### **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

The River Coquet Estuary retained birds from last month with 19 on 3rd (TF) declining to 9 by 16th these remaining until the month end (RPO/TF). Twenty which flew S at East Chevington on 19th (TF) probably accounted for sightings at Druridge Pools where numbers reported varied from 2-12 between 6th-28th (IDR/CB/IF *et al.*)

Elsewhere, seven were seen at Grindon Lough on 7th and 15th (PRM/MRS), six at Amble Braid on 6th (NFO) and six at the Aln Estuary on 22nd (MKi). Birds occupied the 'rocket field' pools at Holy Island from 3rd with a peak of six on 9th (RGD/ADM/MJC). Five were at Maiden's Hall Lake on 19th (TF) and a single was at Hedgeley GP on 18th & 20th (IDa/KDa/TRD/JD). An impressive garden tick came from Gosforth Garden Village with one N at altitude on 11th (MJC).

### **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Birds were distributed along the whole coastline from Tynemouth to Berwick with the highest count being made on 8th at St Mary's Wetland where 58 were present (KWY). The peak at Cresswell Pond was 48 on 21st (IDR/JF) and a few miles north at Hauxley, 43 had gathered on 19th (HRS). Boulmer held 40 on 1st (TD) and the same number were at Stag Rocks on 24th (TRD/JD). A minimum of 35 were at Annstead on 19th (DF) with Newbiggin attracting a peak of 21 on 1st (PRM), Tynemouth held 15 on 27th (PRM) and 14 were at Berwick Little Beach on 7th (MHu). One-seven were at Cocklawburn, Longhoughton and two sites at the River Tweed Estuary.

### **Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Only two reports were received; ten at Boulmer on 1st (TRD/JD) and three at Low Newton on 10th (AMG/MG).

### **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

As last month, birds were present at Druridge Pools all month with a low of one on 9th and a peak of eight on 18th (TB/JRi/KE *et al.*). Grindon Lough also retained birds from last month with three on 1st (PRM) and a single on 27th (AJR). Elsewhere, three were seen at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 20th (AB/LB) and two favoured Hauxley NWT on 28th (CSa). A single remained at Hedgeley GP from last month from 2nd-9th and was reported as injured (TRD/JD/IKDa/KDa).

### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

At Seaton Sluice, 82 flew N from 24th-27th (SSWT). 106 fed at Newbiggin on 1st and the roost at Beacon Point peaked at 125 on 19th (AT/AP). Other large concentrations were approximately 100 at Annstead (Seahouses) on 19th (DF) and 84 at Cocklawburn on 6th (MHu). Two-20 were seen at Berwick Little Beach, Boulmer, Chevington Burn beach, East Chevington and St Mary's Island.

**Dunlin**      *Calidris alpina*

A pair was displaying at Broomlee Lough on 19th (PRM) and two adults were present at Grindon Lough on 27th (PRM). A few were scattered along the coastline, with 12 at Cocklawburn on 6th,(MHu), seven at Boulmer on 1st (TRD/JD), three at Druridge Pools and a single at Cresswell Pond (IDR/IF/TRD).

**Purple Sandpiper**      *Calidris maritima*

At the favoured site of Stag Rocks (Bamburgh), 66-195 were counted from 22nd-25th (JRI/KE/KWY/TD). Beacon Point (Newbiggin) held 41-44 on 21st & 29th (AP/STH) with 30 at both Annstead on 19th (DF) and Beadnell on 20th (JPL). Reports of one-ten came from Boulmer, Cocklawburn, Howick, Low Newton, Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth pier.

**Woodcock**      *Scolopax rusticola*

Individuals were observed at Amble dunes on 7th (TRD), Holywell Dene on 8th (KWY) and Derwent Gorge on 18th (IFo).

**Jack Snipe**      *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Singles were noted this month at Druridge Pools on 1st (NFO), Rayburn Lake on 16th (CB), Warkworth Old Waters on 18th (CSa) and Holy Island Snook on 22nd (ADM).

**Snipe**      *Gallinago gallinago*

The maximum count from Holy Island was 12 at the Lough on 10th where drumming was also seen on 3rd (MJC). Drumming or displaying birds were also noted at Carraw, Debdon (Rothbury), Hope and Low Angerton during the month (SW/JD/IRD). Other groups reported were 11 at both Bothal 'shooter's pools' on 9th (TD) and Druridge Pools on 30th (CB). One-seven were seen at Bothal Pond, East Chevington, Ellington, Elsdon, Hedgeley GP, Howdon, Low Newton, Rayburn Lake and St Mary's Wetland. An unusual record was of one flushed from Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 27th (GB).



Common Snipe, Cheviot Hills, 21 April 2022, Mike Carr



### **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

The first returning individuals were two at Grindon Lough on 9th (AJR) and then one at Derwent Reservoir on 11th which had increased to four by 25th (IFo). Birds occupied inland breeding areas with a maximum of six at the Breamish Valley on 28th (ASJ) and threes at Hedgeley GP on 14th (IDa/KDa) and the Harthope Valley on 30th (GB). Two were at Branton GP, Corbridge, Fourstones, Haughton Strother and the Hawsen Burn (Harthope Valley). Singles noted from Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Haughton Castle, Kielder Dam and 1km east of Lesbury. Migrants at the coast involved two at Annstead (Seahouses), Budle Bay and Castle Island (River Wansbeck). Singles were seen at Bothal Pond, Holywell Pond, Low Newton Scrape and St Mary's Wetland.

### **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

A mixture of wintering birds and returning migrants with the first likely returning bird being one at Wallsend Swallow Pond on 3rd (GPK). Other returning birds were at Druridge Pools on 22nd (TF/JFa) and Holywell Pond on 28th (MN). Wintering birds remained with two at Caistron on 17th (TRD) and singles at Hedgeley GP on 2nd (IDa/KDa) and Berwick Hill Bridge (River Pont) from 12th-23rd (AHB).

### **Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*

Nocturnal migrants were detected flying over Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 1st and 15th (MJC). The highest concentration was at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed) where 320 attended a high tide roost on 11th (MHu). There was a regular high tide roost at St Mary's Wetland which peaked on 8th at 124 (KWY) and declined to 30 by 15th (MSH). Other large gatherings were 104 at the River Coquet Estuary on 11th (TF/JFa), with 95 at the River Blyth Estuary on the same date, 84 on the River Tyne at Elswick on 13th (MH) and 67 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 6th (AP). Lower counts at coastal localities were 11-44 at Blakewell and Calot Shad (River Tweed), Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Hauxley NWT, Howdon and Low Newton. Inland, the maximum at Grindon Lough was 15 on 1st (PRM) with a pair observed copulating on 9th (AJR). Four were seen at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 23rd (SW), two were present at Halton-Lea-Gate on 21st (SW) and a single was at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (PRM).

### **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

One was found at Druridge Pools on 25th (IDR/TB/ADM<sup>c</sup> *et al.*)

### **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

The over-wintering individual at Bothal Pond continued to be seen up to 22nd (TF/TB/NFO/TD). Singles were at Druridge Pools on 18th (IDR) and 25th (JRi/KE) and an adult was at the River Wansbeck Estuary on 27th (PRM).

### **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularis*

A single was at Budle Bay on 4th with two there on 29th-30th (CGK/GPK); also at Lindisfarne NNR, one was at the mainland end of Holy Island causeway on 19th (AA). Inland, two were seen at Haughton Strother (Humshaugh) on 16th (SW) and four were at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 27th (PRM).

### **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Large numbers were seen offshore at Seaton Sluice during the final week of April (SSWT) and passage movement N during this period was recorded at rates of up to 250/hour at Alnmouth, Annstead, Low Newton and Tynemouth (DF/MKi/TRD/PRM) with lighter passage also noted during the first week at Annstead and St Mary's Island (DF/MSH). Elsewhere, 110 were on the sea and cliffs at Tynemouth on 2nd (KWY), 300 on sea and cliffs at Howick on 3rd (JAR) and 90 in Spital Bay (Berwick) on 25th (MHu). A more unusual sighting was a 1st-winter flying E, aided by a strong W wind, at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (IFo). Counts at two of the Newcastle Quayside colonies on 13th revealed 164 on the Tyne Bridge and 45 on the Baltic (MH).

### **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

A very large gathering of at least 9,000 were in the evening roost at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (PRM), 520 were at Monks' House Pool on 6th (DF) and 110 at Druridge Pools on 28th, the largest of several counts there throughout (IDR). Small groups comprising 11-30 were at Bothal Pond, Cresswell (Snab Point), Grindon Lough, Hauxley NWT and Lynemouth Flash with single-figure counts from six other coastal and inland localities.

### **Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

An adult and a 2nd-summer were at Hauxley NWT on 28th (CSa).

### **Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

Few remained with the only records being of four, two adults and 1st- and 2nd-winters, at Newbiggin on 1st (AT/PRM), a single 1st-summer on 13th at East Chevington (ADMc) and two adults in full breeding plumage at Druridge Pools on 17th (IDR).

### **Common Gull** *Larus canus*

A very impressive total of at least 27,000 were in the evening roost at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (PRM) and other counts of 150-250, mainly of birds moving N on dates throughout, came from Annstead, Druridge Links and Holy Island. Elsewhere, 70 were at East Chevington, 20 at Flotterton (Coquetdale), 16 at Cresswell (Snab Point) and one to four at four other sites.

### **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Ten were in the Coquet Estuary on 30th (TF) with one to five at Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough and Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary).

### **Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

At least two, 1st-winter and 4th-winter moved N past Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 24th though sightings several hours apart may have involved different birds (MEa/DL). The 1st-winter at Alnwick last month at was again at the Lionheart Ind. Estate on 12th (MKi) and was probably the same individual at Warkworth Beach on 3rd (CSa) and Birling Carrs on 9th (MKi).

### **Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides*

At North Shields Fish Quay the over-wintering 1st-winter was regularly seen until 17th (MN *et al*) and the over-wintering 3rd-winter until 22nd (MN *et al*); both were also occasionally recorded at nearby Black Middens and Tynemouth Haven. Two, 1st-winter and 4th-winter, were noted off Seaton Point on 24th (DL). Single immatures were seen at Branton GP on 3rd and 19th (IKDa), St Mary's Island on 18th (NRSW), Budle Bay on 29th (GPK), Castle Island on 13th (TF/JFa), and flying S at Holy Island, Coves Haven on 25th (IK).

### **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

The largest gatherings were 291 in the Blyth Estuary on 17th (LJM) and 106 at Linton Ponds on 14th (TF/JFa). At other localities, 50 were at Davy Bank (Wallsend) including seven AON and 11-50 at Alnwick, the Coquet Estuary, Cramlington, Cresswell (Pond and Snab Point), Druridge Links, Ellington, Flotterton (Coquetdale), Jesmond Dene and Prestwick Carr. Single-figure counts came from another seven sites including Cramlington where six nests were occupied (LJM).

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Very well-reported as the summer influx increased towards its peak with 51 at Cramlington (Blagdon Lane Pools) on 17th (LJM), 50 at Kimmer Lough on 18th (TRD/JD), 25 at Flotterton (Coquetdale) (JR/NA) and 20 at Northumberlandia (STH). One to ten, the majority adults, were at 20 other widespread mostly inland localities.



### **Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Prior to 12th, only single-figure counts of up to eight came from some 15 widespread coastal sites from Berwick-Tynemouth but thereafter the summer influx accelerated. 49 moved north at Newbiggin Point in two hours on 12th (AT). Records from the Seaton Sluice Watch Tower included 50 moving S in two hours on 18th and they were 'numerous' by the end of the month (SSWT). Three counts of 50-60 moving N came from Annstead on 18th-22nd (DF). Peak numbers were 150-170 at Budle Bay on 22nd-24th (NFO/KWY/TD), 150 at St Cuthbert's Island, Holy Island (IK), 128 on the rocks at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and 83 at Beacon Point, Newbiggin (AP). Other double-figure records of 11-40 either moving N, feeding or roosting were from Alnmouth, Bamburgh, the Coquet Estuary, Cresswell (Snab Point), offshore Druridge Pools, Low Newton, Meadow Haven (Berwick), St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

### **Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

At Seaton Sluice the earliest-ever date for the site was equalled when one flew N on 26th (SSWT) and another single moved N over Hauxley beach on 28th (CSa).

### **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

The first returning individual was at Coquet Island on 21st (BirdGuides) and two were noted there from the mainland on 30th (MEa). One fed over the sea with other terns at Hauxley beach on 28th (CSa) and one was off Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 30th (DL)

### **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

The first returning bird was one at East Chevington, North Pool on 11th (LJM) followed by four at Druridge Pools on 13th (CSa) and then seven at East Chevington on 14th (TRD/JD). Numbers built quickly from 20th and by the end of the month 17 had been seen at East Chevington, 13 at Newbiggin (Beacon Point) and ten at St Mary's Island. Elsewhere eight at Cresswell (Snab Point) and one to three at Annstead, Bamburgh (Stag Rocks), Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond, Hauxley and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

### **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Two arrived at East Chevington on 14th (CB). One was off Seaton Point on 16th (DL) and a single flew N at Annstead on 22nd (DF) with perhaps a different individual seen the same day at Marden Rocks, Alnmouth (MKi). Two were seen at Snab Point, Cresswell on 26th (IDR) and one was noted off Inner Farne on 30th.

### **Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

One flew strongly N at wave-top height at Marden Rocks, Alnmouth on 22nd (MKi).

### **Auk** *sp*

At Seaton Sluice, mainly light movements of Guillemot/Razorbill were recorded up to 22nd with a maximum of 300 N per hour recorded on 28th (SSWT).

### **Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

At Cresswell (Snab Point), 13 were counted on 26th (IDR), eight moved N at Low Newton on 23rd (TRD) and sightings of up to four came from Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn), Spittal Bay (Berwick) and Tynemouth.

### **Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Few records this month comprising five at East Chevington and Howick with two at St Mary's Island and Newbiggin Point (Newbiggin).

### **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

11 were at Ross Back Sands on 27th (NFO) and 10 were on the sea off Druridge Links on 13th (IDR). Six including one in summer plumage were off East Chevington on 19th (TRD/JD), five were off Newton Point (Low Newton) on 2nd (CB) and five flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 27th (DF). One to four were at 12 sites including one which flew upriver past



North Shields Fish Quay on 19th (DRW).

### **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

An adult in summer plumage flew N at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 10th (MJC), one was in Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 13th (MHU) and one flew north at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 30th (DL).

### **Large Diver** sp

A large diver flew N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower distantly above the horizon at 08:34 on 27th which corresponds with earlier sightings at Whitburn and St Mary's Island of a White-billed Diver *Gavia Adamssi* but unfortunately was too distant for certain identification (MH per SSWT).

### **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

One was off Needle's Eye (Berwick) on 25th (MMcN). Two flew N at St Mary's Island at 08:55 on 27th (AC) and one N at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) the same day (NFO).

### **White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamssi*

One flew N at St Mary's Island at 08:34 (AC).

### **Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

130, mainly in pairs, were at Coves Haven (Holy Island) on 25th (IK). 49 were at Annstead (Seahouses) on 23rd (DF), 45 moved N in 1hr 30mins at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 25th (SSWT). 25 were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 16th (TB), 19 flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 22nd and 17 were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 26th (IDR). Two were at Coquet Island on 7th (TRD) and Tynemouth on 27th (PRM), one was at Low Newton on 23rd (TRD).

### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

At Seaton Sluice five moved N during the Month between 24th - 27th (SSWT). Three flew N at Annstead on 27th (DF), two flew N at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) and Marden Rocks (Alnmouth) on 22nd (AP/MKi). One flew S at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 21st (AP) and singles flew N at Annstead (DF), Marden Rocks (Alnmouth) (MKi) on 25th, Hauxley and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 27th (Csa/NFO), on 28th at Annstead (Seahouses) (DF) and at Chibburn Mouth (Druridge Bay) on 29th (MKi).

### **Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

Annstead had the seven highest counts with 525 N on 27th, 433 N on 14th and 365 on 25th (335 N and 30 S), 280 N on 23rd, 258 N on 22nd, 124 N on 1st and 89 N on 4th (all DF). 30 flew N at Low Newton on 23rd (TRD), 21 were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 26th (IDR), 20 went N at Boulmer on 1st (TRD/JD) and on 11th 20 followed a boat into North Shields Fish Quay (MN). 15 moved N at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 8th (TB), 12 flew N at St Mary's Island on 24th (MSH). One to five were noted at Druridge Links, East Chevington, Newbiggin & at Spittal Bay (Berwick).

### **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

25 were at R Blyth Estuary on 17th (LJM), 20 at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (IFo), 11 flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 4th (DF) and 10 were at Tynemouth on 27th (PRM). One to seven birds were at 14 sites, including a colour-ringed individual (orange 207) at Woodhorn Flashes which was rung as part of a project in Cheshire (AP).

### **Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Eight roosted at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 6th (MHU), three were at Blyth South Harbour on 17th (LJM), two at Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary) on 12th (MHU) and 1 moved N at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 16th (TB).

### **Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

An adult was at Druridge Pools between 13th-14th (CSA/IDR et al), then it was joined by an immature from 15th-17th (IF/TB et al) unfortunately the adult was taken into care with a damaged wing and euthanised. The immature remained between 18th-25th (IDR/TRD/JD). Two immatures were at Castle Island (R Wansbeck) between 24th-25th.

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

**Correction March 2022** One flew across the lake at Big Waters NR from the S side to the N side on 6th (GB).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

At Haughton Castle on 3rd six nests were counted, five remained occupied on 23rd (SW). Four were at Holy Island Lough on 10th (MJC), three at Howick on 6th (JAR), Druridge Pools on 9th and 25th (IDR), Castle Island (R Wansbeck) on 25th and 27th (LJM/PRM). One to two were at 16 sites.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Seven were in the area around Holy Island Causeway on 10th (MJC), six were at Fenham Flats (Lindisfarne NNR) on 19th (AA). Five at Caistron on 17th (TRD) and at Budle Bay on 17th and 24th (MJC/CGK/GPK). Three in the R Coquet Estuary on 16th (RPo). One to two were noted at 19 sites during the month.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Three were at Kielder on 2nd (TRD/JD) further sightings of two came from Kielder Dam on 24th (TB/GE/PG) and one at Kielder Water on 22nd (ADM). An estimated 16 eggs had been laid in five active nests in the Kielder area by the month end (see other news). An individual first seen on 7th at St Mary's Island (AC), flew over Newbiggin (STH/AT) before moving north to Cresswell Pond where it was seen eating a fish by the causeway (TRD). Later that day it or another flew W at Tynemouth over the observer's house (DRW). Individuals were at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (PRM), 14th (IFo/MJC/TW) and 15th (IFo), at Rayburn Lake on 23rd (CB) and at Big Waters NWT on 25th (GB per AJJ).



**Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos***

A satellite tagged individual was mobbed by Buzzards *Buteo buteo* as it flew SW at Hartleyburn Common on 29th (SW per NNBC).

**Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus***

Two were observed at Holywell Pond on 30th (KWY). Records of individuals came from 19 sites during the month.

**Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis***

A pair were soaring with Buzzards *Buteo buteo* at Hartburn on 16th (TRD/JD), two were in Harthope Valley on 9th (TRD/JD).

**Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus***

Four, two males and two females were at East Chevington on 14th (TRD/JD) and 22nd (MH), three, two males and a female, continued to be noted on several dates thereafter (TF/JFa et al). Two, potentially a breeding attempt were at an undisclosed site all month. Individual reports included a 2nd cal yr male at Woodhorn Flashes on 1st (AP), one flying E at Big Waters NWT on 13th (GB per AJJ), a female-type was seen moving N at Chapel House (Newcastle) on 15th (MH). A 3rd cal yr male flew S at Tynemouth on 18th (DRW) and a female was roosting at Woodhorn Flashes then flew S on 20th (AP), another female was at Holywell Pond on 21st (MN).

**Red Kite *Milvus milvus***

Three were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 15th, with two there on 17th (IFo). Singles were noted at Kiln Pit Hill on 5th, Snods Edge on 6th (IFo), Bywell on 7th (AJ/MJC/TW), Derwent Reservoir on 8th (RMH), Slaley Village (RMH) and Carterway Heads (IFo) on 16th, Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo) and at Edmundbyers on 21st (AJ/AJN). Sporting club members noted one flying over the 17th fairway on Ponteland Golf Club mobbed by Rooks *Corvus frugilegus* on 23rd (CFH) and one over Riding Mill Cricket Ground on 24th (GB). Further reports came from at Wark (N Tyne) on 26th (PRM) and at Harwood Shield on 28th (AJ/TW/IK).

**Black Kite *Milvus nigrans***

One was seen S from Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th, which was around the time there was an influx into the UK (ADMc).

**White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla***

A reintroduced 2nd cal yr female 'G487' flew low inland over Budle Point, eventually making a landfall in a field along the W shore, where it was mobbed by 40 Carrion Crows *Corvus corone* and chased by a Brown Hare *Lepus eoropaeus*. Seen in North Yorkshire on 14th, then over Durham and Newcastle two days later, she subsequently headed N, and on 22nd was sighted in the Cairngorms National Park (Highland) (CGK/GPK/RA).

**Buzzard *Buteo buteo***

Eight soared along the Tyne Valley in the Wylam area on 9th (MH), groups of seven were seen at Bywell on 14th (MJC/TW/AJ), soaring together at Hartburn on 16th (TRD/JD) and displaying at Grindon Lough NWT on 19th (PRM). Six were at Bywell on 7th (MJC/AJ/AJN), five were at Langleeford on 8th (MJC), Kellas Plantation (Slaley) on 19th (RMH) & near Bellingham on 29th (RMH). One to four were at 32 sites during the month.

**Barn Owl *Tyto alba***

Two were at Derwent Reservoir on 8th with one at a daylight roost regularly from 2nd to month end (PRM/IFO). All other reports singles regularly at Cresswell Pond (MH/AA et al) often in daylight, at Humbleton on 1st, Chevington Moor on 14th, Whorral Bank (Morpeth) on 18th, Chevington on 22nd and Fontburn area in daylight on 29th.

**Tawny Owl *Strix aluco***

Three nesting females were found at different locations in the Breamish Valley on 10th, a female with 3 pulli at Whinney Hill Farm (Longhorsley) on 22nd with nesting females at Howick Pool on 11th and Longfamlington on 22nd (AHa/PHA). Single birds called at Fulbeck (Morpeth) and Longdyke (Shilbottle) and Howick all month with singles at Low Hauxley Wood on 11th and mobbed at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on the same date. Males called at Ellington Colliery on 12th,



Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 16th and Coupland on 27th.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

One report of a single in paddock by R. Lyne at Ellington on 19th (TB).

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

Single adults were noted at two sites in the E of the county on 1st and 13th (AT) and an adult hunted at dusk in the SE of the county on 27th (PRM).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Three remained in the roost at Holy Island on 9th with two appearing to have moved off by 15th (ADM) and one found dead at the Snook on 20th (MJC). One was at Druridge Pools on 25th (IDR).

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

All reports were of singletons on R. Wansbeck (Morpeth) on 6th, 8th and 14th (IRD) and near Mitford on 4th, 6th and 11th (ADM), on R Coquet nr Felton on 10th at Low Angerton on 15th, Jesmond Dene on 17th, Fourstones on 19th and Redesmouth Bridge on 24th.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Two pairs were nesting at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 6th (MNC), three drumming males at Allen Banks on 19th (PRM) and three at Houxty (Bellingham) on 29th (AJ). Two drummed at Ellington on 2nd, 12th and 29th, two were at Shoe Tree (Jesmond Dene) on 3rd, South Tyne trail Coanwood to Knaresdale on 18th and on BBS at Bedlington on 20th. Singles were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) all month, Ellington frequently and ten other widely spread localities including Howden where regarded as rare.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

On 29th two were at Houxty (Bellingham) (AJ) with single yaffling birds at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) 9th, 10th, 16th and Ellington on 11th. One yaffled at Hethpool (College Valley) on 27th was seen at Gainslaw House (Berwick) on 28th, at Crookham on the same date (JJo) and in the Fontburn area on 29th.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Three were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 15th (TB), a pair at Prestwick Carr on 24th (PCF) with all other reports being singles at 20 other widespread localities being noted as scarce at Big Waters NR this year.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Three reports of singles at Longhoughton on 11th (JPL), Chillingham on 13th (per NNBC) and Druridge Bay beach on the same date (CSa).

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

A male flew toward the observer and over Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 30th (TB).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

All reports singles at Tynemouth on 10th and 29th, Widdrington Moor Lake on 11th, 'in off' at Seaton Sluice on 19th, Ingram (Breamish Valley) on 21st, Humshaugh on 22nd and Dunstanburgh Castle on 26th.

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

A flock of 15 at Gosforth subsidence pond on 6th (ADM), six at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 20th, four at Longbenton on 8th with three there on 19th and two at Jesmond Dene on 3rd and Spittal Dene (North Shields) on 15th.

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

One was found by S Robson near the obelisk at Holywell on 14th (MN/ASJ) with one at Alnwick Moor from 15th to 17th (IKDa et al).

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Four at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 10th (JD), three inland over the A189 at Cambois on 7th (STH) with two at Brandling Park (Jesmond) on 6th, Howick on 8th, Ellington Dene on 10th, Allen Banks on 19th, nesting at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 20th, Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 23rd and Big Waters NWT on 24th. A first record for Holy Island by Max Whitby on 8th (per IK) with singles also at a further 11 locations.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

A BBS survey at Bedlington on 20th counted seven with four there on 23rd (JR), four at Jesmond Dene on 10th (MJCo), three at Druridge links on 13th and Druridge Pools on 25th (IDR) with one to two at six other locations.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

High counts came from BBS surveys of 56 at Bedlington on 20th and 24 on 23rd and 21 at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 27th (JR). 16 were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 9th and 14 on 29<sup>th</sup>. 13 on BBS at Pegswood on 30th, 12 at Lynemouth Bay on 10th, ten in the Woodhorn Church area on 2nd, eight at Cresswell Pond NWT on 21st.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

A high count of 50 in the Woodhorn Church area on 2nd with 42 active nests there on 12th (IDR/JF/STH), 42 AON at Haughton Castle on 3rd, 20 at Haltwhistle on 2nd and 19 at Humshaugh Chirch on 1st (SW/TWi). Four new nests where none previously at Big Waters NWT on 3rd, three presumed migrants at Holy Island on the same date and one to two at Ulgham and Longhoughton.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

14 moved north at Seaton Sluice on 18th with only 24 counted for the month (SSWT). Six were at Ulgham on 21st and Druridge Pools on 28th (IDR), five at Jesmond Dene on 3rd and Druridge Pools & Links on 9th with four there on 13th & 17th and at Cresswell Pond NWT on 21st. One to three were at seven other locations.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus corone cornix*

On 19th one flew south at Tynemouth at 06.53 followed by another at 07.22 (DRW) with the long staying bird seen at Linton on 6th and 7th (TB/STH).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

Four were at Hedgehope on 19th (IDR) with two pairs at Upper Coquetdale on 29th (EC). Two were at White Lea Farm and Low Burradon on 16th, a pair at Broomlee Lough on 19th, two at Kielder on 22nd, College Valley on 25th and south at Ross back Sands on 27th. A pair was on territory on the NE coast during the month and singles were at ten inland locations.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Six found on a BBS at Bedlington on 20th (JR), four at Allen Banks on 19th (PRM), three at Ellington Dene on 10th, Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 17th with one to two at five other locations.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Three at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 5th and 22nd (NFO) and at Dipton on 17th (MJC) with a pair mating at Haredene (Longhorsley) on 29th (ASJ). Singles were at Felton on three dates from 3rd to 21st and South Tyne Trail Coanwood to Knaresdale on 18th.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Three pairs regularly at Prestwick Carr from 8th to 20th were excavating nest holes (PCF) with two at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 6th (TB) and at feeders at Big Waters NWT on 24th (GB). Singles were at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 8th

and 22nd, Branton GP on 9th, East Chevington & Linton Ponds on 14th, Ponteland on 20th, Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) and Felton on 30th.

#### **Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Eight the high count on a BBS at Bedlington on 20th (JR), six at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 9th & 10th with two to five there on three other dates (IDR/JF), six at Ulgham on 21st (IDR) and five on BBS at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 27th and four on 23rd (JR). Four were in Woodhorn Church area on 2nd, Prestwick Carr on 18th and Ellington Dene on 22nd with one to three at six locations. A nest at Exhibition Park on 29th was in a wooden structure used by children but held no eggs (GB).

#### **Great Tit** *Parus major*

Seven were at Ellington Dene on 10th (IDR), six at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 3rd (MJCo), five at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 10th (IDR/JF), on BBS at Bedlington on 20th (JR) and Prestwick Carr on 28th. Two to four were at Chugdon Wood and Prestwick Carr on other dates with three at Ulgham on 21st and one to two Ellington Dene, Woodhorn Church and Lynemouth Bay.

#### **Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Large counts of singing birds with 29 at Upper Coquetdale on 29th, 20 at Ward Fell on 16th, 18 at Rake Lane (North Shields) on 2nd (ASJ), at Low Newton on the same date and 12 at Rayburn Lake on 16th (CB). Ten were at Prestwick Carr on 18th, nine at St Mary's on 21st, eight at Longhorsley Moor on 17th with six at Bothal, Howick. Longhoughton and Lynemouth Bay. Five were at Druridge Pools and one to three at 13 other widespread localities.

hirundine sp

120 fed over the Tweed at West Ord on 24th (MHu) and 50 were at Druridge Pools on 19th (IF).

#### **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Numbers building over the month with 80 at Hedgely GP on 20th (TRD/JD), 60 at Corbridge on 28th (AJ/TW/IK), 56 at Wylam on 13th (MH), 55+ at Castle Island (R.Wansbeck) on 27th (PRM) and 50 at Harthope Valley on 22nd (PAs et al). 40 were at East Chevington on 28th and Bothal Pond on 30th with 30 there on 13th, 25 at Capheaton Lake on 11th and Druridge Pools on 28th. 24 were at Gosforth subsidence Pond on 6th with ten to 20 at eleven locations and one to nine at 20 other locations.

#### **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

The first reported bird was at Big Waters on 3rd (GB) then the next on 7th with two at West Ord (Berwick) (MHu) and one at East Chevington (TRD) and Whittle Dene (MJC/AJ/AJN) but a slow influx thereafter with one to three at 21 widespread localities from 8th to 19th. Double figure counts from 27th with 45+ at Castle Island (R.Wansbeck) (PRM) and 18 at Grindon Lough NWT (AJR), 15 were at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 30th and Arcot Pond on the same date with 12+ there on 27th (TRD/JD/GB/PRM). 12 were at farms in Upper Coquetdale and Killingworth Lake on 30th with 10 at Holywell Pond on 27th, eight at Todburn (Slaley) on 29th and seven at East Chevington on 28th. Six were at Arcot Pond on 20th, Druridge Pools on 25th, Budle Bay on 27th and Lynemouth Bay on 29th with five at Harthope Valley and Houxty (Bellingham) on 29th. One to four were at 31 other widespread localities.

#### **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

Very similar to Swallow this year with the first at Big Waters on 7th (GB per AJJ) and at Whittle Dene on the same date (MJC/AJ/AJN) then two at Capheaton on 10th (CB) with one to three at six other locations till 19th. Peak count again on 27th with 30 at Holywell Pond and 24 at Killingworth Lake on 23rd (ASJ), 15 at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 26th (TF), six at Arcot Pond on 26th & 30th and four north at Ellington on 26th. One to two were at seven other widespread localities.

#### **Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica*

One flew north at Colt Crag Reservoir on 18th (BirdGuides).

#### **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

Three singing males were noted around East Chevington on 22nd (MH), with one–two heard there on seven other dates during the month including a sight record near north-facing hide on 28th (TRD/JD). Big Waters NWT, where three birds may be present, had two singing males on 24th and singles seen on 3rd and 12th (GB).



**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Four were at Allen Banks on 19th (PRM). Two pairs at nests were noted at Prestwick Carr on 28th (PCF), a Rothbury garden had its first nesting pair (TRD/JD) and further pairs were nest building at Howdon on 10th (CB) and at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 16th (TB). One–two were recorded at a further thirteen locations throughout the county.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The first records of singing birds came from East Chevington, with one on 9th (IF), and from Road Pool (Woodhorn), also also on 9th (AP). Capheaton Lake had one on 10th (TRD/JD). Numbers rose steadily during the month, with one–ten reported at 48 locations throughout the county in the first three weeks. Holy island had a maximum of 29 on 13th (MJC), the South Tyne Trail had 50 between Coanwood and Knaresdale on 18th (MJC/EFC), and Arcot Pond had 29 on 23rd (DM). There were 61 between Heighleygate and Todburn, 55 at the Breamish Valley, and 49 at Wingates on 28th and the Harthope Valley had a maximum of 68 on 29th, a mighty total count of 233 singing birds over two days (ASJ).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

21 were in the Breamish Valley on 28th (ASJ), 16 at Holywell Dene on 15th (ASJ) and at Walbottle–Woolsington on 18th (MH). Counts of 15 came from Howick on 3rd (JAR), the South Tyne Trail on 18th, Bedlington BBS on 20th (JR), and Arcot Pond on 23rd (DM). Valley Park (Cramlington) held 14 on 10th (DM), and 12 were at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 10th (TB). Reports of one–ten came from a further 43 locations throughout the county, including a bird seen carrying nesting material at Ulgham on 21st (IDR).

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Singing males at Arcot Pond rose from one on 24th to five on 29th (LJM). Early singers were heard at Big Waters NWT, with one on 13th (AJ/GB), East Chevington, with one on 14th (TRD/JD), and at Castron, with two on 17th (TRD). Two were at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 16th (TB), and singles were at Druridge Pools, Holywell Pond, Branton GP and St Mary's Wetland.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

There were four at East Chevington on 30th (CB), two early singers at Castron on 17th (TRD), and singles at Killingworth Lake, Big Waters NWT, Warkworth Lane (Ellington) and Newton Pool (Low Newton).

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

The earliest record came from Castle Island (Wansbeck) on 13th (TF/JFa). Plentiful numbers were reported elsewhere, with a maximum of six at Arcot Pond on 23rd (DM), five at Prestwick Carr on 18th (PCF), two at High Letham (Berwick) on 16th (DLB), at Druridge Pools on 18th (TB), and two fighting birds at East Chevington on 30th (CB). Singles were recorded at a further fourteen locations.

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

67 reports of the species were received this month. The South Tyne Trail between Coanwood and Knaresdale yielded a maximum count of 25 singing males. Holywell Dene had 15 on 15th (ASJ) and Bedlington BBS had 13 on 20th (JR). Eight were at Tynemouth on 27th (PRM), six at Brockwell/Westwood Grange (Cramlington) on 23rd (LJM), and six singing males in a 1km BBS square at Dillston (Corbridge) on 30th (IFo). Bywell, Ellington Dene, Gosforth Park, and the Fontburn area each had five on 14th (MJC/TW/AJ), 22nd (IDR), 24th (MSH), and 29th (TD) respectively. Reports of one–four came from a further 34 locations throughout the county.



Blackcap, Eshott, 14 April 2022, Mike S Hodgson

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

The first returning individual was a singing male at Allen Banks on 19th (PRM). Singles were also recorded at Branton GP, Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), Houxyty (Bellingham), Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley), and Dilston (Corbridge).

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

A maximum of four birds were at Holy Island on 24th (MJC/ADM/AH/SR), and numbers at Arcot Pond increased from one on 20th to three on 25th (LJM). Two singing birds at Holywell on 16th (ASJ) were the earliest reported, with early singles at East Ord (Berwick) on 17th (MHu) and Waren Mill (Bamburgh) on 18th (CGK/GPK). There were two at Brockwell/Westwood Grange (Cramlington) on 23rd (LJM), at Backworth on 27th (ASJ), and at Holywell Pond on 30th (KWY). Singles were reported from a further ten locations.

**Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

The first report came from Aydon (Corbridge) with two on 9th (RB/MB). One was at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th (IDR). A singing male was at Ellington, also on 13th (TB); this was the earliest site record for the observer in 35 years. Backworth had six on 26th (ASJ) and St Mary's had five on 21st (ASJ). Two were at Old Hartley on 17th (MSH), Branxton on 28th (JD), Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 28th (IFo), and at Lynemouth Bay on 29th (IDR). Singles were reported from a further 20 locations throughout the county.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

There were three singing males at Holywell Dene on 16th (ASJ). Singles were reported at Belsay Hall, Holy Island, Ellington Dene, Lincoln Hill, Chollerford, Haughton Castle, Allen Banks, Humshaugh and Grindon Lough.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

A BBS count at Bedlington and a 4km circular walk through Brockwell/Westwood Grange (Cramlington) yielded 16 on 20th (JR) and 16 on 23rd (LJM) respectively. There were nine at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 17th (MJCo), eight at Prestwick Carr on 18th (PCF), and eight at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 27th (JR). Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had a maximum of six on 9th and 10th (IDR/JF) and Ulgham had five on 21st (IDR). One-four were at a further eight locations.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

The highest counts came from Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), with five on 3rd (MJCo), and from Northumberland Park (North Shields), with four on 6th (MNC). There were one–three at a further 19 locations throughout the county, with singing birds noted at Belsay Hall, Cramlington, Arcot Pond, Coldwell, Haughton Castle and Allen Banks. Single calling birds were also heard at the unusual sites of Havannah NR on 3rd (GB) and Brandling Park, Jesmond (Newcastle) on 5th (GB).

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Holywell Dene had the highest numbers, with six (three pairs) on 15th (ASJ). Pairs were also seen at Ellington Dene on 10th (IDR) and at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 10th (TB), where nest building was noted. Three were at Langleeford (Harthope Valley) on 8th (MJC), two were at Old Park Wood (Hartburn) on 16th (TRD/JD), and two singing males were at Fulbeck (Morpeth) throughout the month (TD). Singles were at a further 12 locations.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

There were large flocks of 250 at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 1st (IFo) and 200 at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 4th (AJH). BBS counts produced 13 on 20th and 37 on 23rd (JR) at Bedlington, and 32 on 30th (TD) at Pegswood. One-two birds were reported from three other locations.

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

Harthope Valley had the highest number of sightings, with a maximum of eight feeding in a paddock near the Hawsen Burn on 4th (NFO). A pair with the male displaying were also noted on 22nd (AA), and a male was heard singing loudly on 29th (JRI/KE). There were two in the College Valley on 15th (IKDa). Singles were reported from Newbiggin, Holy Island, Waren Mill (Bamburgh), Simonside and Ulgham.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

The largest numbers were recorded at Bedlington, with BBS counts of 34 on 20th and 39 on 23rd (JR). There were 27 singing birds at Marden Estate (Tynemouth) on 2nd (ASJ), and a BBS count of 26 at Pegswood on 30th (TD). Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) had a BBS count of 18 on 27th (JR). Slaley village had 14 on 16th (RMH), and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had a maximum of eight on 13th (IDR). At Holy island, six migrants were observed associating with Fieldfares and Redwings on 10th (MJC). One-four birds were reported from a further five locations.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Large flocks were still present in the earlier part of the month, with 400 at Brandon (Breamish Valley) on 11th (IKDa) and 200 at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 1st (IFo). 180 were at Alnwick Moor on 6th (JAR) and at Haughton Castle on 16th (SW), with 100 at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 4th (AJH). Elsdon, Derwent Reservoir and Redesmouth Bridge each had 50 on 3rd (PG), 16th (MN) and 24th (LJM) respectively. Holy Island had a maximum of 49 on 15th (ADM), and a singing male was noted there at the Crooked Lonnen on 10th (MJC). There were 40 at Milestone House on 13th (SW) and at Sharperton on 16th (MKi), a maximum of 32 at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 15th (IFo), 30 at Highshaw (Otterburn Ranges) on 16th (JR/NA), and 20 at Matfen on 8th (PCF). One-six were at a further five locations.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

An unusual late flock of 180 was at Lilburn on 3rd (TRD/JD), and 150 were at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 1st (IFo). Holy Island had a maximum of 95 on 13th (MJC), down to two by 15th (ADM), and Haughton Castle had 90 on 3rd, down to two on 16th (SW). Haggerston Castle had 50 on 3rd (CB) and Alnwick Moor had 50 on 6th (JAR). Groups of up to 19 were sound recorded on nocturnal migration over Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on eight occasions during the month (MJC). Smaller groups and singles were reported from a further ten locations.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Breamish Valley had 13 on 28th (ASJ), Bedlington had ten on 20th (JR), the College Valley had six on 21st (RPo), and Langleeford (Harthope Valley) had seven on 8th (MJC). There were four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 3rd and at Ulgham on 21st (IDR). Three at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 7th (GB) included one carrying food. There were three at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 13th and 22nd (IDR), and three singing males at Howdon on 15th (CB) and Bank's Pond (Dinnington) on 27th (PCF). One-two birds were at a further eight locations.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

The highest count came from the Harthope Valley, with ten on 29th (JRI/KE). The College Valley had two pairs worming on 21st (RPo), and there were also four at Bank's Pond (Dinnington) on 28th (PCF). There were two recorded at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Wallsend Hall, Sidwood (Tarset Burn), Allen Banks and Bedlington. Singles were at a further eight sites, including one at Holy Island, where the species is uncommon, on 10th (MJC).

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

A BBS count recorded ten at Bedlington on 20th (JR). There were five at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 17th (MJCo) and at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 27th (JR), and four at West Common (Longhorsley) on 15th. Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had a maximum of four on 22nd (IDR). One-three birds were at a further five locations.



**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

The first records came from Derwent Reservoir, with a male there on 13th (IFo) and 16th (MN). There were four singing males at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 20th (AJH), and four males at Derwent Gorge on 25th (IFo). Three singing males were heard at Dipton on 17th (MJC), the South Tyne Trail on 18th (MJC/EFC), and at Allen Banks on 19th (PRM). At Low Carritheth (Hesleyside), a single male was observed calling above a nest box on 30th (JR/NA).

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochrurus*

There were two female types reported at a private garden in Warkworth on 15th (CSa). A female type was at Tynemouth Pier on 1st (DRW), 2nd (JRi/KE, MN, KWY), 3rd and 6th (MN), then an adult male was present there on 21st–22nd (MN, ASJ). A female type was at Old Hartley on 14th (AC).

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The earliest recorded arrivals were two males at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (IFo). The South Tyne Trail from Coanwood to Knaresdale produced a count of seven birds, including three singing males, on 18th (MJC/EFC). There were six singing males at Dipton on 17th (MJC), and five at Houxy (Bellingham) on 29th (AJ). Lincoln Hill had four singing males on 15th (SW), as did Little Ryle/Ryle Mill (Whittingham) on 17th (CW). Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) had four on 16th (ASJ). There were three at Haughton Castle on 16th (SW), at Wingates on 16th (ASJ), and at Edlingham on 20th (JD). Two seen earlier in the day at Castron had moved to Warton on 17th (TRD), and there were still two there on 27th (JD). A pair was observed at a nest site at Prestwick Carr on 20th (PCF). One–two birds were at a further fifteen locations, ranging from Holy Island on 15th (ADM) to Comb (Falstone) and Sidwood (Tarsset Burn) on 30th (JR/NA).



Common Redstart, 13th April 2022, Rising Sun CP, Jack Bucknall

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

The first recorded arrival was a single bird in the Harthope Valley on 22nd (SVM), with sightings of a single male there on 29th–30th (JRi/KE, ASJ, LA/GB). A search of Upper Coquetdale between Alwinton and the Otterburn Ranges on 29th produced no sightings at all (EC).

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

At Low Newton, eight pairs were counted between Links House and Embleton GC on 2nd (CB). Holy Island had a

maximum of four pairs on 10th (MJC), and Bewick Moor had three pairs on 25th (NFO). Five breeding territories were counted at Budle Bay on 4th (CGK) and at Upper Coquetdale on 30th (JR/NA). Two pairs were noted at North Blyth on 2nd (STH), Cocklawburn on 14th (MHu), and Warkworth Old Water on 18th (RPo). A maximum of four birds (three males, one female) were at the Druridge Coal Road on 16th (TD). Pairs were reported at a further eight locations, and singles were at a further 11 sites.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Birds continued to arrive during the month, with a maximum of 20 at Holy Island on 17th (IKDa) and 24th (MJC/ADM/AH/SR). There were ten at Old Hartley on 13th (ASJ), eight at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 12th (AP), and an unusually high count of eight for Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 14th (TF/JFa). There were seven at Cresswell Pond NWT on 13th–14th (CSa, CB), and six at Annstead (Seahouses) on 18th, at Humbleton on 27th (SVM/AJM), and six males at Barrowburn (Upper Coquetdale) on 30th (ASJ). Two–five birds were at 12 locations, and singles were at a further 22 locations throughout the county.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Four were seen in Harthope Valley on 8th and 9th (MJC/TRD/JD). Pairs (or two individuals) were recorded at a further 11 sites this month and singletons at six.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

51 were counted in a 4km walk at Cramlington on 22nd (LJM). 47 were at Sleafy on 16th (RMH). 39 noted at Pegswood on 30th and 37 were at Bedlington on 23rd (TB/JR). 28 noted at North Sunderland all month (JPL). Two to 20 were noted at six other sites.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

30 were at Chugdon Wood on 17th with lesser numbers there during the month (TB). 25 were seen at Newton Red House on 1st (PG). One to ten observed at ten other sites.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

14 were counted on 23rd at Bedlington, with nine at Cockle Park on 27th (JR). One to six were also noted this month, at 14 sites.



Dunnock, Hartley, April 2022, Iain Johnson



**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Singles were seen during the month at Haughton Strother, Druridge Pools, West Ord and Corbridge. A single seen at Druridge Pools between 25th and 28th, was considered to be a Channel Wagtail.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Eight pairs were located at Upper Coquetdale during the month (JR/NA). Two pairs and a single were found between Newburn and Wylam on 1st (MH). Five were also noted in Jesmond Dene on 3rd (MJCo). Three males and a female were seen at Ouseburn (Newcastle) on 13th and included a nest building pair (MH). One to three were seen at a further 24 locations, including one in southward flight halfway up Cheviot on 30th (GB).

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

19 pairs were located in Upper Coquetdale by the end of the month (JR/NA). Eight were seen at Holy Island on 3rd (MJC). Three pairs found at College Valley on 21st (RPo). Six were at Boulmer on 19th (JAR). One to five were also at seven other sites.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba alba*

Three were at Holy Island on 15th, with one to two there on several other dates (MJC/ADM/TF/JFa). Elsewhere, one to two were noted at 16 sites this month.



White Wagtail, April 2022, Newbiggin, David Dack



**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Passage was notable in the second week with counts of 123 moving N at Holy Island on 10th and 131 N on 13 also 22 were counted on 3rd. 72 moved through Alnmouth on 6th (MJC). Displaying birds on breeding territory included a count of 44 in Upper Coquetdale on 29th and 16 at St. Mary's on 21st (ASJ). Seven pairs were noted at Rayburn Lake on 16th (CB). One to ten were noted at ten further sites.



Meadow Pipit, Debden, April 2022, Tim Dean

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Three were at Hartburn including a singing male on 16th and three were singing at Dipton the following day (TRD/JD/MJC). Two sang at Beacon Hill (Longhorsely) also on 16th (ASJ). Two at College Valley on 25th and at two sites at Sidwood on 29th (CB/AA). Singles were seen at Wingates, Harthope and Fontburn from 16th. Migrants were seen at Holy Island on 23rd and at Gosforth on 23rd.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Four were displaying at Cullercoats on several dates and four were at Berwick Little Beach on 7th (ASJ/MHu). Two were at Boulmer on 1st and single seen at Amble on 7th.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Five fed on tidal wrack at Newbiggin on 1st (AT).

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

20 noted this month at Redmire on 24th (JR). 15 plus were at Harwood Head on 8th and 15 at Holywell Dene on 15th. At a further 11 sites, one to 13 were noted.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Small numbers reported as birds moved N. Four were at feeders at Exhibition Park on 1st (GB). Three were at Shilbottle on 5th (MKi). One to two were at six sites up to the 11th.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

12 (six pairs) were at Holywell Dene on 10th. Nine seen at Rising Sun C.P. on 11th (ASJ). Six at Howdon on 9th (CB). One to four were noted at 14 sites this month.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

One to six were seen this month at 13 locations.

**Twite** *Linaria flavirostris*

Up to 18 remained at Cresswell until 12th (MH/TB). The only other report, was of two at Holy Island on 9th (ADM).

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

A huge flock, estimated at c 700 was noted on 1st at Shilbottle (MKi). 55 were counted along the South Tyne Trail, Coanwood to Knaresdale on 18th (MJC/EFC). Around 50 were at Warkworth on 1st (RPo). 38 were counted at Edlingham on 20th and 30 at Holy Island on 24th (JR/ADM/MJC). Two to 22 were also noted at 21 other sites during the month.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

A flock of around 80 flew NE at Bywell on 14th (MJC/TW/AJ). 12 were at Langleeford on 8th and one to eight noted at ten other sites.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

Ten plus were seen on 8th at Harwood Head (MSH). Five were seen at the nearby forest on 3rd (JRI/KE). Singles were also at three sites.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

20 were counted at Cockle Park on 27th (JR) and counts of 18 came from Slaley on 16th and Cramlington on 23rd whilst 15 were recorded at Humshaugh on 20th (SW). One to 13 were also seen at 26 locations during the month.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

Ringling at Humshaugh this month totalled 546 birds and 24 re-traps, including individuals from Gloucestershire, Belgium and Glen Euchar. 20 -80 were also noted there during the month (SW). 160 plus were at Wark on 4th (PRM). One to 20 were also seen at 16 locations.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Five at Amble dunes on 1st, declined to three by 5th (CSa). A pair were seen at Newbiggin on 1st and two at Holy Island headed NW on 10th (PRM/MJC). Singles were seen at Alnmouth and St. Mary's.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

Ten noted at Lincoln Hill on 15th (SW) was the peak count this month. Four pairs found at Longhorsely on 17th and at Holywell on 18th (CB/ASJ). One to eight were seen at a further 15 sites this month.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

19-20 were noted at St. Mary's on several dates, including 12 singing males (ASJ). 14 males and three females were found along the river in Upper Coquetdale on 26th (ASJ). Ten noted at East Chevington on 30th (CB). Six were at Holy Island Lough on 3rd (MJC). One to three were also at 15 sites.



Goldfinch, Newbiggin, 01 April 2022, Alan Tilmouth

## ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

### Escapes

#### **Muscovy Duck** *Cairina moschata*

A pair bred at Middleton Hall with the female seen with nine small young on 30th (GB) (possibly first breeding noted in county).

### Hybrids

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

Singles were at Hauxley on 11th (HRS), Woodhorn Church on 2nd (IDR / JF) and Haughton Strother on 23rd (SW).

Birds of Unknown Origin - No sightings

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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Hauxley Ringing Station, North Northumberland Bird Club, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, Northumberland Rare & Scarce Whatsapp, BirdGuides.



## 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), Alan Tilmouth (bulletin compilation), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Proof reading was by Alan Tilmouth

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Clive Hampton is Data Manager.

Editing and additional news by Alan Tilmouth [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

### RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to [ntbc.records@googlemail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### 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 Thursday 8th September 2022.

### FIELD TRIPS

**Next Field Trip - 24th June Nightjars at Winnows Hill**, Contact Steve Anderson at [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)

### 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.

Subscriptions can be paid using online banking: please include your name as the reference and email Jo Bentley at [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com) to confirm payment.

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.

If you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome. For membership enquiries please contact Jo Bentley (Hon Treasurer) [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

### NTBC Web and Social Media

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds, with a wide range of content from photo galleries, county checklists, Records Committee updates, information on surveys and many useful articles on bird identification and birding both locally and internationally, to find out more please visit [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

Please submit any other new content (eg trip reports, identification notes, site guides etc) for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

NTBC can also be found on Facebook [here](#) and Twitter [here](#)

### Other News

## BBC Springwatch

BBC Springwatch will be broadcasting live from central Newcastle in mid-June. They are looking for stories about urban nature to feature in the show and wonder if NTBC members can help.

They are on the lookout for wildlife in a city setting and are interested in any images or video of species in urban settings, with the potential for them to be featured on the show. They are particularly interested in parakeet sightings as they are a relatively recent addition to the city.

Please email [jack.richardson@bbc.co.uk](mailto:jack.richardson@bbc.co.uk) with the subject heading "Newcastle Nature Callout" to get involved.

## Whiskered White - New Book from Club Member Dan Turner

### Whiskered White

A personal and poetic journey



Dan's fifth published book, each of which features the River Tyne and the coastline of this region. It is his second published poetry collection.

"The majority of these, my poems, were written during late March 2020 to December 2021. This was an important time of the coronavirus pandemic with its lockdowns and restrictions, but which also allowed time for reflection and caused concern in my life by prompting additional isolation and solitude. The virus itself features very little as I focus thoughts on more uplifting themes. The poems fit around eleven different themes some of which interleave to concentrate our minds on considerations of hope, nature, Tyneside, generations and my own stories, struggles and experience. To witness nature is known to help with our mental wellbeing – and is recommended for all, along with times of silence and reflection."

ISBN number 978-0-9930205-4-4

Sales price £14.99

The paper in the book is uncoated, 100% recycled Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accredited

One pound from each book sale will be donated to Mind, the mental health charity.

## Kielder Osprey Update

At least five active nests have been reported in Kielder Forest this year, with an estimated 16 eggs laid. All but one of the breeders from the seven successful nests last year (2021) are back and, even better news is that two ospreys born in Kielder are among them.

Following the decision in 2017 to start an alphabetized naming scheme for ospreys that hatch at Kielder, the 2021 chicks will all be named after parts of Northumberland beginning with the letter F.

Keep up to date with the ospreys at [www.kielderospreys.wordpress.com](http://www.kielderospreys.wordpress.com)

# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

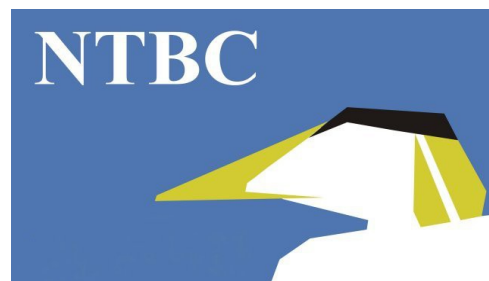
<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

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May

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005



Wood Warbler, undisclosed site, May 2022, Alan S Jack

## MAY HIGHLIGHTS

Eurasian White-fronted Goose	Unseasonal individual at Hauxley on 15th
Egyptian Goose	Singles at Druridge Pools, Monks' House Pool and Low Newton
Ruddy Shelduck	Singles at Derwent Reservoir, Blanchland, Holywell Pond and Maiden's Hall Lake
Garganey	Continued presence at several sites indicative of attempted breeding
American Wigeon	Drake still present at Cresswell Pond up to 9th
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>	Drake at Grindon Lough on 2nd
Red-crested Pochard	Drake and two females at Druridge Pools briefly on 21st
<b>Alpine Swift</b>	One over Gosforth on evening of 26th; only fifth individual since 2000
<b>Pallid Swift</b>	One flew south at Seaton Point, Boulmer on 18th
<b>American Golden Plover</b>	First-summer found at Grindon Lough on 4th
<b>Temminck's Stint</b>	Five at Druridge Pools and singles at Maiden's Hall Lake and Low Newton
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>	One at Low Newton between 12th and 14th



<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>	Returning female at Grindon Lough from 11th for seventh consecutive year
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>	Summer-plumaged individual at Maiden's Hall Lake on 7th
Spotted Redshank	Singles at Druridge Pools on 3rd and Grindon Lough on 4th
Glaucous Gull	Singles at Budle Bay on 2nd and Berwick on 29th
Iceland Gull	Wintering individual at North Shields remained until 3rd
<b>American Black Tern</b>	Returning individual back at Long Nanny from 13th
Black Guillemot	Summer-plumaged individual at Bamburgh on 26th
Storm Petrel	One flew past Cullercoats on 30th
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>	One at Low Newton on 13th
Spoonbill	Small numbers at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and Warkworth Lane
Great Egret	Wintering individual again present at Caistron on 4th
Raven	An impressive count of 31 feeding on a sheep carcass in Upper Coquetdale
<b>Red-rumped Swallow</b>	One flew north at The Snook on Holy Island on 1st
<b>Bluethroat</b>	Two stunning 'red-spotted' males at Holy Island and Howick mid-month

### CLASSIFIED LIST



Grey Partridge, St Mary's, May 2022, Iain Johnson

#### **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Two were noted at Airy Holm Reservoir, Blagdon, Boulmer, Druridge Pools, Ellington, Eshott, Hedgeley GP, Howick, Lynemouth, Newbiggin ash lagoon/GC, Warkworth Lane and Whitelea (Cramlington).

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

17 were at Druridge Pools and Links on 5th (IDR), eight to nine at Bebside, Chugdon Wood and Warkworth Lane Ponds, and one to four at four further sites. A leucistic individual was at Druridge Pools on 29th (LJM). A female accompanied seven chicks at Longhoughton on 25th (JAR).

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

A singing male was heard from the ash lagoons at Newbiggin between 21st-24th (AP). Single singing males were also heard at Linden Hall (NFO) on 24th and 27th, Whittingham (barley field) on 24th-25th (CW), Newham on 26th (RA per TRD), Rayburn Lake on 27th (CB) and Brandon (Breamish Valley) on 31st (IBDa/KDa).

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Two pale-bellied *hrota* race birds flew N at Tynemouth on 31st (DRW).

A single of the dark-bellied *bernicla* race was at Budle Bay on 7th (CGK/GPK).

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

A total of 18 flew N at Seaton Sluice from 18th (SSWT). Peak counts (of adults where stated) were 221 at Grindon Lough on 29th (PRM), 89 at Hauxley Reserve on 15th (HRS), 24-27 at Druridge Pools, Holywell Pond and Monks' House Pool, and ten to 17 at Budle Bay and Plenmeller Common. One to six were also at Bothal Pond, Ellington, North Shields Fish Quay, Warkworth Lane Ponds and West Ord. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Hauxley NR	6	48	HRS on 15th. Brood of 13 first noted on 2nd.
Derwent Reservoir	4	14	IFo. New broods of 4 and 3 young on 19th, and new broods of 5 and 2 on 22nd.
Druridge Pools	2	28	MSH/IDR/JF/LJM <i>et al.</i> Brood of 3 on 2nd, of 8 on 13th, of 11 and 2 on 28th, and a creche of 28+ juveniles on 29th.
Big Waters	2	10	GB on 11th. First brood (5 young) noted on 1st. Down to 8 young by 22nd.
Branton GP	1	18	TRD/JD on 20th.
Woodhorn Flashes	1	6	IDR on 11th.
Holywell Pond	1	4	MSH from 18th.
Bank's Pond (Dinnington)	1	3	PCF on 6th.

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

Three were at Hauxley Reserve (one appeared to be paired with a Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*) on 15th (HRS) and Low Newton on 8th (AMG/MG), and two at Budle Bay on 6th (CGK/GPK) and Druridge Pools on 2nd and 7th-8th (TF/IDR/JF). Singles were also at Budle Bay on 21st, Derwent Reservoir on 2nd, Druridge Pools up to 23rd, Ellington (with Greylags) on 6th, Low Newton on 23rd and Monks' House Pool on 15th.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

500 (excluding young) were at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd and 1,000 (excluding young) on 29th (IFo). Counts elsewhere (excluding young where stated) were moderate: 80 at Blagdon on 20th (CDH), 54 at Holywell Pond on 23rd (MSH), 20-45 at Bothal Pond (TF), Craggside (PG), Druridge Pools (IDR/JF) and Lanehead (ADM), and ten to 18 at Ellington, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Kielder Water, Killingworth Lake, Monks' House Pool, New Water Haugh and Plenmeller Common. One to eight were also at Alnmouth Links, Cocklawburn, Cresswell and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Holy Island, Kielder Forest Drive, the Long Nanny Estuary, Shorestone, Tynemouth, Wark and Woodhorn Flashes. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Druridge Pools	5	21	STH/LJM. Broods of 5 and 4 on 1st, 17 young on 13th

			and 21 young on 29th
Holywell Pond	2	8	MSH on 13th
Monks' House Pool	2	8	KWY on 15th
Cresswell Pond	2	7	LJM on 9th. New broods of 4 and 3 on 29th
Holywell Pond	2	7	MSH Broods of 5 on 18th and new brood of 2 on 23rd
Bothal Pond	2	6	TD on 1st
Blagdon	1	25	CDH on 20th
Middle Ord Pond	1	8	Mhu on 9th
Killingworth Lake	1	4	LJM on 13th
Bothal 'Shooters' Pool'	1	3	TD on 1st
Woodhorn Flashes	1	1	IDR on 11th

Pair with five eggs at Holy Island Snook on 1st and 8th and 16th (ADM/MJC).

#### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Five were at Holywell Pond on 6th (KWY) and two between 20th-26th (LJM/KWY). Singles were also noted at Big Waters on 1st (GB), Blagdon on 20th (CDH), Branton GP on 20th (TRD/JD), Caistron on 15th (TRD/JD), Cresswell Pond between 1st-23rd (IDR/JF/STH *et al.*), Derwent Reservoir on 21st and 27th (IFo) and Maiden's Hall Lake on 16th (TF).

#### **White-fronted Goose** *Anser flavirostris*

One of the Eurasian *albifrons* race was at Hauxley Reserve on 15th (HRS).

#### **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

A group of 11 flew S at Seaton Sluice on 11th (SSWT). A peak of 192 was noted at New Water Haugh (River Tweed) on 22nd, while 68 were at nearby Calot Shad on 29th (MHu). Other peak counts were 48 at Castle Island on 31st (TF), 34 at Killingworth Lake on 13th (LJM), 32 at Castle Island on 11th (TF) and 23 at West Ord (Mhu). Seven were on the sea off Low Newton on 10th (TRD/JD) and three to six at Blagdon, Bothal 'shooters' pool', Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough and Hauxley Reserve. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Holy Island Lough	1	9	IK on 13th later reduced to 7
West Allotment Pond	1	9	KWY on 17th
Annitsford Pond	1	8	LJM on 13th
Bank's Pond, Dinnington	1	8	PCF on 18th
Arcot Pond	1	6	LJM on 21st
Big Waters	1	4	GB on 30th
Holywell Pond	1	2	MSH on 13th
Howick	1	2	JAR on 30th
Exhibition Park, Newcastle	1	1	GB on 25th

Pairs with nests were noted at Bothal Pond, the Royal Quays (North Shields) and West Ord.

#### **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

One flew over Craggside on 19th (MKi). A tideline corpse was found at Tynemouth on 7th (KWY).

#### **Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Singles were at Druridge Pools on 5th (IDR) and 28th-29th (MSH/LJM), Low Newton on 8th (AMG/MG) and Monks' House Pool on 11th (KWY).



**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was three N and ten S (SSWT), and two N at Druridge Links on 14th (IDR). Peak counts were 34 at the Blyth Estuary on 17th (LJM), 21-23 at Druridge Pools (IDR/JF), Howdon (CB) and the Long Nanny Estuary (PRM), and 17-18 at Caistron (TRD/JD) and Maiden's Hall Lake (TF). Five to nine were also at Cresswell and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve and Newcastle Quayside, and one to four at Arcot and Holywell Ponds, Beadnell, Blagdon Lane Ponds (Cramlington), Ellington Flash, Haughton Strother GP, Monks' House Pool, New Water Haugh, St Mary's Wetland, Warkworth (Beal Bank Flash), West Ord and Woodhorn Flashes.

Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Hedgeley GP	1	11	TRD on 24th
Maiden's Hall Lake	1	9	TF on 19th
Druridge Pools	1	5	LJM on 29th

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

Single drakes were at Maiden's Hall Lake on 7th (TF) and Derwent Reservoir between 23rd-28th (IFo/KWY). An unsexed bird was at Holywell Pond regularly between 18th-26th (MSH/MN/KWY *et al.*).



Ruddy Shelduck, Holywell Pond, May 2022, Mike S Hodgson

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Single pairs were at Chirdon bridge on 15th (JR), Low Angerton on 4th and 6th (IRD), Tarsset on 4th (PG) and Wark on 15th (PRM). Single drakes were noted at Fourstones (AJH), Howick Pool (AHa/PHa) and Wark (PRM) on single dates.

Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Derwent Gorge	1	12	PG on 24 (behaved like two broods)

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

A pair was at Hauxley Reserve on 2nd (HRS/NFO), and single drakes were at Branton GP regularly until 20th (TRD/JD), Druridge Pools regularly between 13th-31st (TRD/JD/IDR *et al.*), Hedgeley GP on 3rd (JD/TRD) and Lynemouth Flash on 3rd (AA/TB/STH). In addition, two pairs were at a site in the southeast on 17th when mating was observed, and single, potential breeding, pairs were at another site in the south east on 21st and regularly all month at a site in the north (display and copulation noted).

**Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

A maximum of 18 was noted at Druridge Pools on 23rd (CB), with two to 15 throughout the month. Three to five were at Big Waters (GB), Bothal Pond (TD), East Chevington (TRD/JD), Holy Island Lough (MJC), Swallow Pond (KWY) and Warkworth Lane Ponds (TB), and one to two at Bothal 'shooters' pools', Cresswell Pond, Ellington, Hedgeley GP, Low Newton scrape, Newton Pool and St Mary's Wetland.

Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No.of young	Observer/notes
Holy Island Lough	1	6	IK on 28th - first site breeding record since 2012

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

Pairs flew N at Newbiggin Point on 4th (AT) and Tynemouth on 29th (DRW). Druridge Pools held a peak of 45 on 17th and 23rd (TRD/JD/MN), 19 were at Bothal Pond on 28th (TF), 15 at Bothal 'shooters' pools' on 1st (TD) and 12-13 at Castron (TRD/JD) and Cresswell Pond (IDR/JF). Five to eight were also at the Blyth Estuary, Hauxley Reserve, Holywell and Warkworth Lane Ponds, and Maiden's Hall Lake, and one to two at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Branton GP, East Chevington, Ellington, Gosforth subsidence pond, Grindon Lough, Low Newton scrape, Lynemouth Flash, Newton Pool and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

A peak of 18 (14 drakes) was noted at Grindon Lough on 6th (PRM), where eight to 16 were present during the month. Up to 12 (nine drakes) were at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and ten at Druridge Pools (IDR/JF *et al.*), while three to five were at Budle Bay (CGK/GPK), Castron (TRD), Cresswell Pond (IDR) and Plenmeller Common (PRM), and one to two at Big Waters, Bothal and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Hedgeley GP, and Low Newton scrape.

Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No.of young	Observer/notes
Derwent Reservoir	1	4	IFo on 22nd

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*

A drake was at Cresswell Pond between 2nd-9th (TB/IF *et al.*).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

A total of 60 adults was noted along a 9km walk around Wallsend riverside-Willington Gut-Wallsend Parks on 12th(CDH), 34 were at Killingworth Lake on 13th (LJM), 20-23 at Bebside, the Blyth Estuary, Greenlee Lough and West Ord, and 14-18 at Cresswell Pond, Hauxley Reserve and Monks' House Pool.

Breeding data were as follows:

(all additional to April unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No.of young	Observer/notes
Big Waters	5	22+ (8,6,5,2,1,)	GB – various dates from 1st
Wallsend Park	4	13 (4,3,3,3)	CDH on 12th
Druridge Pools	3	25 (9,9,7)	LJM/IDR/JF/MSH on various dates
Budle Bay	2	11 (6,5)	CGK/GPK

Middle Ord Pond	2	11 (8,3)	MHu on 22nd
Throckley Pond	2	11 (6,5)	IK on 24th
Bothal Pond	2	8 (6,2)	TD on 1st
Derwent Reservoir	2	8 (5,3)	IFo first brood (5) on 19th and second on 22nd
Horton Burn, Cramlington	1	12	LJM on 16th
Howick	1	12	JAR on 12th
Holywell Dene	1	9	KWY on 6th
Marden Quarry	1	9	KWY on 7th
Cocklawburn Pond	1	8	Mhu on 19th
Jesmond Dene	1	7	MJCo on 8th
Monks' House Pool	1	7	KWY on 15th
Hauxley NR	1	6	HRS on 15th
Richardson Dees Park, Wallsend	1	5	CDH on 1st
Warkworth Lane Ponds	1	5	IDR/JF on 1st
Bates MTP, Blyth	1	4	LJM on 29th
Exhibition Park, Newcastle	1	4	GB on 9th (as April previously 8 young)
Eals bridge	1	1	PRM on 6th

#### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

A drake flew S at Hauxley on 8th (AJ). At Druridge Pools, a pair was present between 1st-7th and a drake on 9th and 15th (CB/IDR/JF *et al.*).

#### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

Eight moved N at Seaton Sluice on 2nd (SSWT) and one flew N at St Mary's Island on 29th (JBU). Nine were at Druridge Pools on 2nd and two to eight between 5th-23rd (IDR/JF *et al.*), eight (four pairs) at Bothal 'shooters' pools' on 1st (TD) and seven at Grindon Lough on 6th (PRM). Three to four were also at Big Waters, Bothal and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Caistron, Derwent Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve, Low Newton scrape, St Mary's Wetland and West Ord.

#### **Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis*

A drake was at Grindon Lough on 2nd. (JJ per NRSW).

#### **Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*

Two drakes and a duck were at Druridge Pools on 21st (IK).

#### **Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Peak counts involved 14 at Swallow Pond on 5th (KWY), 12 (11 drakes) at Gosforth NR on 9th (AJ), 11 at Holywell Pond on 6th (KWY), and six to nine at Druridge Pools (TRD/JD/TF), Killingworth Lake (IF), Linton Ponds (TF) and Woodhorn Flashes (AP). Three at Tynemouth boating lake on 21st were the first there since 2019 (DRW). One to four were also at Bothal Pond, East Chevington and Gosforth subsidence pond. More unusual was a drake on the River Wansbeck at Castle Island on 7th (GB).

Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Holywell Pond	1	3	MSH on 30th

#### **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Four flew N at Annstead on 2nd (DF). Peak counts were 49 at Hauxley Reserve on 15th (HRS), 42 at Cresswell Pond on 4th (TF), 35 at Caistron on 15th (TRD/JD), 24-29 at Bothal Pond (TF) and Killingworth Lake (MSH), and ten to 15 at Arcot



Pond, Druridge Pools, Haughton Strother GP, Holywell Pond and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Six to nine were also at Airy Holm Reservoir, Big Waters, Bank's, Cocklawburn, Duke's and Middle Ord Ponds, and Monks' House and West Stobswood Pools, and one to four at Derwent Reservoir, Greenlee Lough, Paddy Freeman's Lake (Heaton), Plenmeller Common, Warkworth Lane Ponds and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Eight flew N at Newbiggin Point and five flew N at Cullercoats on 30th (AT/CB). One to six were at Cocklawburn, Druridge Links, the Long Nanny Estuary, Lynemouth and Tynemouth.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

Three flew N at Seaton Sluice on 28th (SSWT) and one N at Newbiggin on 17th (STH).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A total of 270 flew N and 75 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), 95 moved N in three hours at Newbiggin Point on 30th (AT), 29 N at Cullercoats on 30th (CB), and 17 N at Newbiggin on 29th (STH *et al.*). Groups of 18-25 were off Hauxley and Stag Rocks.

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

On 29th, one flew N at Annstead Point (CGK/GPK/RA/DF), and one flew N and then S at Newbiggin (STH *et al.*).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Three flew N at Newbiggin (STH *et al.*) and Seaton Sluice (SSWT) on 29th. Six were at East Chevington on 1st (STH), and one to two at Airy Holm Reservoir, Caistron and Cresswell Pond up to 15th. At the regular breeding site, three drakes and nine ducks were noted on 20th (TRD/JD). Up to two drakes and four drakes were also at a nearby site on several dates (TRD/JD).

Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Confidential site	2	15 (11,4)	TRD/JD on 20th

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

At Seaton Sluice, three flew N and one S (SSWT) on 28th., One flew N at Newbiggin on 28th and two N on 30th (GB/AT). Eight were at New Water Haugh (Tweed Estuary) on 22nd (MHu), seven at the Blyth Estuary on 21st (LJM), four at Caistron (including a possible breeding female at Bickerton) on 15th (TRD/JD) and four at Wark (North Tyne) on 15<sup>th</sup> (PRM). One to two were also at the Blyth Estuary, Boulmer, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Hedgeley GP, Linbriggs (Upper Coquetdale), Shillmoor (Upper Coquetdale) and Tynemouth.

Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No. of broods/creches	No. of young	Observer/notes
Mitford Castle	1	5	IRD on 13th

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

One flew S at Seaton Sluice on 2nd (SSWT). Two were at Budle Bay on 10th (KWY) and off Druridge Links on 14th (IDR). A pair was at the Long Nanny Estuary on 18th and 20th, and a drake on 17th (TRD/AMG/MG/PRM).

**Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

A migrant was found in willows along the Straight Lonnen, Holy Island on 16th (AH). Two males were churring at Winnows Hill, Slaley on 21st (DM) and one was noted on Alnwick Moor on 23rd (MEa). Three were at Beanley Wood on 28th (IBDa/KDa) and two, a male and a female, were seen and heard at Debdon (Rothbury) at 22:00 on 29th (TRD/JD).

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba*

One was briefly over Gosforth Home Farm buildings at 20:25 on 26th in the company of three Swifts *apus apus* before heading west (MJC).

**Swift** *Apus apus*

One to four were widespread during the first week of the month; larger groups from week two onwards. Passage sightings included 17 heading NW at Budle Point on 10th, followed by 45 NW on 11th (CGK), ten N at Ellington on 15th (TB) and 24 N at Tynemouth on 14th (DRW). 70 fed at Holywell Pond on 14th, with 50 there on 31st (ASJ), 50 were at Gosforth Park NR on 26th (MJC) and East Chevington on 30th (NFO), at least 40 were at Killingworth Lake on 13th (LJM) and 30 at Rising Sun CP on 20th (ASJ). Ten to 25 were at Arcot Pond, Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), Branton GP, Druridge Pools, Ellington, Gosforth, Hazlerigg, Hexham Town Centre, Newcastle Town Moor and Wark. 20 were counted at a Whitley Bay nest colony on 11th (ASJ) and 12 were found during a BBS survey at Bedlington on 31st (JR).

**Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*

One was photographed flying south at Seaton Point, Boulmer early morning on 18th (DL).

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Five calling males were at Kidland Forest on 8th and Hesleyside (Bellingham) on 28th (ASJ), two males and a female at Alnwick Railway on 3rd (Aha/PHa) and three calling males at Kielder Forest Drive on 28th (ASJ). Two were seen or heard on various dates at Allendale, Beanley Wood, Budle Bay, Holy Island, Low Carritheth, Rothbury and Simonside whilst singles were at Alwinton, Bewick Moor, Blanchland, Broadstruther (Cheviots), Breamish Valley, Caistron, Catcleugh, Darden Lough, Debdon (Rothbury), Derwent Reservoir, Dukesfield (Bamburgh), Elwick, Ford Moss, Greenlee Lough, Grindon Lough NWT, Harbottle, Harehaugh, Harthope Valley, Hepburn Woods, Holystone, Howick, Woodhorn Flashes, Kielder Water, North Yardhope (Otterburn Ranges), Pithouse Fell (Slaley), Riddlees Cairn (Otterburn Ranges), Slaley Hall, Swineclose Wood (Doxford), Usway Burn and Widehope.

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Four were at Druridge Links, one at Newbiggin Ash Lagoons and the species noted as "present" in Jesmond Dene.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

18 were at Tynemouth on 21st (CB) whilst the peak at Howdon was 16 on 28th (CB). 12 were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 27th (MJC) and 11 were located during a BBS survey at Tasset on 4th (PG). Two pairs and three individuals were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 7th (TB), seven were spread around Jesmond Dene on 8th (Banqueting Hall, Extension Wood, Fisherman's Lodge, Jesmond Vale, Picnic Field, Quarry and Shoe Tree) (MJCo), six were singing around Budle Bay during the month, suggesting a minimum of six pairs in the area (CGK) and one to five were seen or heard from many other widespread locations.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

The largest count of the month came from Hauxley NWT with 76 in the west field on 2nd (HRS). Breeding Bird Surveys found 47 in Bedlington on 31st and 28 in Bebside (Blyth) on 5th (JR). Elsewhere, 25 were at Chugdon Wood, 20 at Lynemouth Flash, 16 in the Druridge Pools area, 15 at Newbiggin Ash Lagoon and 12 in Jesmond Dene. One to nine were at many other localities.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Four were located in Bedlington during a BBS Survey on 31st (JR) and, unusually, one flew in off the sea at Seaton Sluice on 28th (SSWT).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Singles were heard at Big Waters NWT and Druridge Pools.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

13 were at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 30th including a pair with five small young, a pair with three smallish young and one medium-sized juvenile (GB). 12 were at Druridge Pools on 5th (IDR), 11 at Holy Island Lough on 29th comprised three pairs with broods of three and two (MJC) whilst a pair with a brood of six were at St. Mary's Wetland. Five in Jesmond Dene included two juveniles and reports of one to four came from several other usual localities including confirmed breeding at Bates Minewater Treatment Plant (R. Blyth Estuary), East Cramlington Pond and Wallsend Hall Grounds.

### **Coot** *Fulica atra*

Bothal Pond held a total of 26 on 11th with five nests noted and the first young on 5th (TD). Ten adults were at Killingworth Lake on 13th with a brood of four (LJM), Holywell Pond had broods of two, five and a singleton on 23rd (MSH) and nine were at Monks' House Pool on 18th included four newly hatched young (IDR). A pair with a brood of seven were at St Mary's Wetland. Eight were at Druridge Pools, six at Hauxley NWT, five at Bothal 'shooters' pools' and a pair with three young at Exhibition Park (Newcastle). Two to four were at Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Beadnell, Howick Pool, Middle Ord Pond (Berwick) and Woodhorn Flashes.

### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Up to seven were at Holywell Pond on 20th (LJM) and records of one to four from Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), Cresswell Pond NWT, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Hedgeley GP, Howick Pool, Milkhope Lake (Blagdon) Northumberlandia (Cramlington), Bothal 'shooters' pools' and Warkworth Lane Ponds. Breeding records came from several usual locations with two pairs and a brood of four recently-hatched young at Holy Island on 8th (MJC), a pair plus one young at Bank's Pond (Dinnington), a pair plus a large juvenile at Arcot Pond and one pair with a lone chick at Holywell Pond.

### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

One flew S at Tynemouth on 2nd (DRW). Breeding was evidenced at Big Waters NWT with seven adults and three young by 30th (GB), at Killingworth Lake with a pair feeding two young on the small lake and two further nests on the large lake on 13th (LJM), and at Holywell Pond with two pairs and at least two young on 30th (MSH). Three pairs were at Derwent Reservoir on 19th (IFo), five adults at Widdrington Moor Lake and Maiden's Hall Lake, two pairs at Bothal Pond, a pair was joined by a third individual at Airy Holm Reservoir and two were noted at Cresswell Pond NWT and West Stobswold Pool. A single was at Branton GP.

### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Regular counts from Cresswell Pond throughout the month produced a low of ten on 1st and a high of 80 on 4th (TF/TB/MN *et al.*). A high tide roost at Beal saltmarsh contained 38 on 15th (MJC) with 34 present at Berwick Coastwatch on 25th and 22 at Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary) on 29th (Mhu). One-15 were seen at 17 coastal and lowland localities and three upland localities.

Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	Pairs	No. of young	Observer/notes
Plenmeller Common	4		PRM
Cramlington	4		DM – roof nesting
Eals Bridge	2		PRM
Wark	2		PRM
Longhoughton	1	2	JAR
Budle Bay	1		CGK/GPK – nesting on farmland close to shore
Fisher Lane, Cramlington	1	2	LJM
Eshott	1		MSH – incubating on recently tilled field
Airy Holm Reservoir	1		IFo
Widdrington	1		GB – probable nesting pair

### **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

There was a peak of 25 at Cresswell Pond on 30th with at least nine sitting on nests and two fledged young noted the previous day (NFO/MSH/LJM *et al.*). The highest count at Druridge Pools was 18 on 1st and 8th (CB/IDR) although no reports of nests were received. Two pairs were established at Low Newton scrape from 17th (TRD/JD/AMG/MG). One-two were seen at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell), Ellington and Warkworth Lane Ponds.

### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

The highest number reported was at Allendale where 50 were seen including many displaying (ASJ). At Holywell Pond a group of 24 adults on 23rd were thought to be failed breeders (MSH) and 22 were present at Druridge Pools on 5th (IDR). Breeding data were as follows:



Locality	Pairs	No. of young	Observer/notes
Plenmeller Common	15		PRM
Bothal 'Shooters' Pools'	4		TD
Bothal Pond	3		TD
Druridge Pools			IDR
Warkworth Lane Pond			
Holywell Pond			LJM
Rayburn Lake	3		CB
Graslees	2		CW
Big Waters	2		GB
Featherstone Park Station	1		PRM
Grindon Lough	1		PRM
Howdon	1		CB
Northfield Farm, Warkworth	1		RPo pair displaying distraction behaviour

Elsewhere, one-ten were reported from Alnmouth, Beadnell, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Cresswell Pond, Dunstan Square, Hauxley NWT, Hepburn Moor, Longhoughton, Lynemouth Flash, Newbiggin, Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) and Warkworth.

#### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

The largest flock was 120 at Boulmer on 2nd (TRD/JD). One-two were reported from Cresswell Pond, Dunstan Square, Holy Island and Newbiggin GC.

#### **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica*

A first-summer was present at Grindon Lough on 4th between 11:45-12:30pm (PRM).

#### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Two were at Beal saltmarsh on 15th (MJC) and a single was seen at Budle Bay on 10th (KWY). Other singles were seen at St Mary's Wetland from 19th-20th (ASJ/AC/MSH) and Boulmer on 28th (TRD/JD).

#### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Concentrations of presumably northbound '*tundrae*' race breeders produced some high counts this month. High tide roosts at Beal saltmarsh attracted 1,520 on 15th reducing to 914 on 29th (MJC). At nearby Budle Bay, 100 on 13th increased to 600 on 21st (CGK/GPK) with 370-400 observed at the River Coquet Estuary on 22nd & 23rd (CSa/TF). At Boulmer 52 were present on 12th reaching a peak of 150 on 27th (JAR) and the River Blyth Estuary held 71 on 17th (LJM). One-40 were reported from 12 other coastal localities. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	Pairs	No. of young	Observer/notes
Caistron	4		TRD/JD
Hedgeley GP	3	2	TRD/JD – tiny young noted on 19th
Holy Island	1		MJC – incubating three eggs
Derwent Reservoir	1	3	IFo – young noted on 25th
North Blyth	1		DM – distraction display observed
Blagdon/Brenkley	1		GB – single in potential breeding habitat

A maximum of 14 was at Grindon Lough on 15th (AJR), with eight at Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 21st, three at Blagdon Lane Pools on 6th and 18th and a single was seen at Shooter's Pools (Bothal) on 1st.

#### **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Two pairs and a displaying male were at a confidential site during the month and two, possibly three, pairs were at another confidential site. A breeding pair was present at Grindon Lough (PRM) and a pair, with one sitting, was at Derwent Reservoir (ASJ/AJ/TW *et al.*). One was present at 'Jimmy's scrapes' at Woodhorn on 16th, with two on 18th and 25th (AP). A single was at Low Newton on 27th (AMG/MG).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Passage continued throughout the month being noted at many coastal locations. At Hauxley 24 flew N calling on 8th (AJ). A monthly total of five flew N at Seaton Sluice which was regarded as 'poor'. On 15th, five flew N at Beal saltmarsh and three flew N at Holy Island (MJC). Singles were seen flying N at Boulmer, Druridge Pools, Emmanuel Head (Holy Island), Howick, the Long Nanny Estuary, Lynemouth and Newton Pool between 2nd-29th. One flew S at Annstead (Seahouses) on 5th. Five were at Holy Island, five on 1st, 19 on 17th reduced to four by 22nd as birds moved through (MJC/AH/MWi *et al.*). Seven were at Beal on 10th (MJC) with three at Druridge Pools on 13th and 17th (MN/IDR), three at Budle Bay on 22nd (CGK/GPK), two at the Long Nanny Estuary on 14th (IBDa/KDa) and Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 4th and 23rd (AP). Singles were reported from Boulmer, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Cocklawburn, Druridge Links, Low Newton, Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington), the River Blyth Estuary, St Mary's island and Tynemouth.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

At Allendale, 55 were counted on 21st including 20+ displaying (ASJ). There were 11 pairs at Plenmeller Common on 4th (PRM) and 12 displaying at Blanchland Moor on 21st (ASJ). Four were reported at Derwent Reservoir on 19th, three at Grindon Lough on 6th and Chew Green (Upper Coquetdale) on 21st. Two were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Bennetsfield (Otterburn Ranges), Pinkings Cleugh (Featherstone Common) near Ridsdale with a male calling at Whittingham. Near the coast, migrants or presumed non-breeders included 45 at the Long Nanny Estuary on 18th (PRM). A single at Druridge Pools on 2nd peaked at 23 on 23rd (IDR/JF/STH/CB) with six seen at Newbiggin Ash Lagoon bank, three at Howdon and a single at Cresswell Pond.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Six were briefly on the links at St Mary's Island before flying N with two Whimbrel on 1st (JBU). Four were on Hauxley beach on 2nd and at Cresswell Pond (NFO/TB/IF *et al.*), the Cresswell quartet remaining until 13th. Boulmer also attracted four on 27th-28th (JAR/TRD/JD). Two were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 11th (STH) and a single was at the River Blyth Estuary on 17th (LJM).

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Two at Druridge Pools on 8th gradually increased to a peak of 42 on 30th (IDR/NFO/STH *et al.*). At other sites in the Druridge Bay area, 20 were at East Chevington on 22nd (IRD) and 14 at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 30th (TB). At Low Newton scrape, two on 13th increased to 15 on 25th (TRD/JD/KWY/STH). Beal Bank flash (Warkworth) held 11 on 10th declining to three by 18th (IDR). Singles were noted at Alnmouth, Beal saltmarsh, Cresswell Pond, Howdon and St Mary's Wetland.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

A late northward movement of 88 was noted at Seaton Sluice on 29th (SSWT). Seven were at Boulmer on 12th increasing to 70 on 28th (JAR/TRD/JD). Conversely at Holy Island, 68 were present on 8th which had decreased to 17 by 15th (MJC). At Seahouses, 48 were present at a high-tide roost on 11th with 35 at nearby Annstead on 29th (KWY/DF). 20 were seen both at Low Newton on 18th and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 26th (TRD/JD). One-ten were reported from Beal saltmarsh, the Long Nanny Estuary, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island. Many were in pristine summer plumage.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Eight were still at Boulmer on 2nd reducing to one by 28th (TRD/JD). Two were at the Long Nanny Estuary on 18th with singles seen at Beal saltmarsh and Hauxley NWT on 15th.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

The group at Druridge Pools were reported during the month with a high of six on 13th (IDR) declining to a distinctive orange/ginger male by 31st (STH/IK/CB *et al.*). Three were at Low Newton scrape on 8th with a single reported on 10th (AMG/MG/TRD/JD). Singles were at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on 11th and Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 21st (TF).

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

An adult was seen at Budle Bay on 13th (GPK/CGK) and singles at the Long Nanny Estuary on 20th and 27th (AMG/MG).

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

A small influx happened with a notable group of four present at Druridge Pools from 08:55- 09:25 on 15th (STH/IDR/JF) with one remaining on 16th (EB). Another was present there on 23rd (NFO/TRD/JD). One was at Maiden's Hall Lake from 16th-19th (TF) and an adult was seen at Low Newton scrape on 18th (TRD).



Temminck's Stint, 23rd May 2022, Neil Osbourne

#### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Late passage reports were 5 N at Seaton Sluice on 28th, 130 N on 29th, 75N at Tynemouth on 29th between 07:10-10:10 and ten N at St Mary's Island (SSWT/DRW/JBu). Late flocks seen were 115+ at Beal on 9th (DF), a monthly maximum of 80 at Boulmer on 28th (TRD/JD), 50 assembling at high tide at Low Newton on 17th (TRD/JD) and 40 present at Annstead (Seahouses) on 29th (DF). At the River Coquet Estuary on 23rd, 30 were present (CSa) and 26 counted at Cheswick Black Rocks the next day (MHu). Three-14 were seen at Cocklawburn beach, Druridge Links, the Long Nanny Estuary, Lyne Sands, Seahouses and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh). A county record inland count of nine was made at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (IFo).

#### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

At Cullercoats, 11 flew N in two hours on 30th (CB). High-tide roosts at Beal saltmarsh contained 1,490 on 15th and 429 on 29th (MJC). A little way further south, 400 had concentrated at Budle Bay on 21st (CGK/GPK), with 150 mostly summer-plumaged birds at Boulmer on 28th (TRD/JD) and 114 at the River Coquet Estuary on 22nd (TF). The monthly peak at Low Newton occurred on 17th when 40 were counted (TRD). Druridge Pools attracted a maximum of 19 on 13th (IDR) and ca. 15 were at the Long Nanny Estuary on 18th (PRM). One-ten were at five other coastal localities. Inland the high count at Derwent Reservoir was 14 on 21st with only a single seen on 30th (ASJ/IFo). There was a maximum of five seen at Grindon Lough during the month with one heard 'singing' on 15th (MRS/PRM/STH). A single was seen at Blagdon Lane Pools on 18th (LJM).

#### **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) held a high of 22 on 18th (IDR) with six seen at Seaton Sluice on 1st-2nd (SSWT), five at Annstead on 6th (DF), three at the Long Nanny Estuary on 17th and a single on Holy Island on 22nd (AH/ADM/SR).

#### **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Two localities attracted spring migrants with a single at Druridge Pools on 15th (IDR/JF/STH) and one at Low Newton scrape on 25th (TRD/JD) and 27th (AMG/MG).

#### **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

One was found at Low Newton scrape by a visiting birder on 12th (*per* RA) and remained on 14th (STH).





Pectoral Sandpiper, Low Newton, May 2022, Tim Dean

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

One report of a single 'twizicking' at Debdon (Rothbury) on 29th (TRD/JD).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Druridge Pools attracted a peak of 20 on 1st (CB) with lower numbers noted up to 23rd. Three were seen at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 2nd (TD) with singles reported from Alnwick Moor, Elsdon, Grindon Lough, Low Newton ('drumming') and Rayburn Lake ('drumming').

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

The female returning for her 7th year, was noted at Grindon Lough from 9th-31st (PRM/AJR/MRS/STH).

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

One N at Seaton Sluice on 22nd was the first site record for five years. (SSWT). In upland breeding areas, nine pairs were at the River Breamish on 14th (ASJ), five pairs were in Upper Coquetdale on 8th (ASJ) and three pairs at Featherstone Bridge (River South Tyne). A peak of five were at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo), four were seen at Hedgeley GP on 3rd (TRD/JD), two pairs were at both Linbriggs (Upper Coquetdale) and Wark (North Tyne), with three at Caistron and a pair at Eals Bridge (River South Tyne). Three were at West Ord on 1st and singles were found at Broadstruther (Cheviots), Kielder Forest Drive, Shilmoor, Tarsset and Thrum Mill (Rothbury). Coastal migrants were three at Budle Bay on 4th, three at Seahouses on 11th, two at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 2nd, Maiden's Hall Lake on 7th, Woodhorn on 10th and Cresswell Pond on 13th. Singles were seen at Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Holywell Pond and Newton Pool.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

One was at the regular site of Hedgeley GP on 3rd (IBDa/KDa). The only other record was of one at Cresswell Pond on 17th.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes*

An adult in summer plumage was an impressive find at Maiden's Hall Lake on 7th (TF).

**Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*

A high-tide roost at Beal saltmarsh contained 26 on 15th and five on 29th (MJC). The peak count at Grindon Lough was made on 29th, when seven were seen (PRM). Druridge Pools held a maximum of four on 15th (IDR) with two present at Beal Bank flash (Warkworth) on 10th (IDR). Singles were seen at Bothal Pond and in breeding habitat at the Carey Burn (Harthope Valley).

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Two were at Hedgeley GP from 3rd-5th (TRD/JD *et al.*) with a single seen on 10th (AA). Two were detected at Druridge Pools on 15th and 30th with singles on other dates (NFO/MSH *et al.*). Other singles included one over Brownsman, Farne Islands on 10th (TH), one over the observer's house at Dinnington in the early hours of 14th (PCF), Maiden's Hall Lake between 7th and 13th (TF/ATh), Big Waters on 13th (per GB) and Budle Bay on 15th (being only the second spring record for the site) (CGK/GPK).

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

Singles were found at Druridge Pools on 3rd (AA) and at Grindon Lough on 4th (PRM).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularis*

Few were noted, with two at Beal saltmarsh on 15th and three at a high-tide roost there on 29th (MJC). One was noted at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (IF) and Budle Bay on 15th (GPK/CGK).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Fresh northerly winds on 28th-29th resulted in significant movement N with rates of 100-400 per hour recorded at Berwick Pier, Boulmer, Holy Island and Seaton Sluice (MJC/TRD/JD/MHu/SSWT). On Coquet Island 100 were counted from Amble Links and up to 200 on cliff and sea at the Tynemouth Priory cliff-breeding colony (WB). The Howick cliff colony was described by one observer as being 'very busy and full' on 24th (JAR). Counts of 50 and 75 came from North Shields Fish Quay on 30th and King Edward's Bay, Tynemouth on 29th.

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

The largest gathering was 140 at Hauxley NWT on 15th (HRS) with 11-40 at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Links, Ellington, Long Nanny, Monks' House Pool, New Water Haugh (R. Tweed) and Warkworth; single-figure numbers were at seven further localities.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Most records were of 1st and 2nd-summer individuals. The maximum counts were seven at the Long Nanny between 24th and 27th (AMG/MG) increasing to eight there on the following day (NFO). One to four were at Druridge Pools on various days throughout (TF *et al.*), three at East Chevington on 21st (TF/IK). Singles were noted at the Aln Estuary, Boulmer, Budle Bay, Castle Island, Goswick Sands, Hauxley NWT, Ladyburn Lake, Maiden's Hall Lake, Monks' House Pool and Newton Pool.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

Two adults flew S past Emmanuel Head, Holy Island on 7th (IK) and single 1st-summers were at Beal saltmarsh on 15th (MJC), Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 19th and 30th (AT/AP) and Seaton Point, Boulmer on 17th (DL)

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

At Annstead on 6th, 31 moved N and 65 were in a raft offshore (DF). On 7th 36 fed in a field at Widdrington (GB). One to four were seen elsewhere at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Links, Ellington (Warkworth Lane Ponds) and St Mary's Island.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Four records of two to six came from Grindon Lough, four were at Castle Island and singles at Bamburgh, Druridge Pools, Hedgeley GP, Monks' House Pool and North Shields Fish Quay.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

A 1st-summer was in Budle Bay on 2nd (CGK/GPK) and one of similar age moved N with Gannets at Berwick Pier on 29th (MHu).

### **Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides*

The over-wintering 1st-summer at the North Shields Fish Quay was again noted on 3rd and 5th (MN).

### **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

Flooded fields adjacent to Northumberlandia (Cramlington) held 519 on 18th (STH), 300 were on the sea close inshore at Seaton Sluice on 2nd (SSWT), three counts at Caste Island included 170, 210 and 275 (TF) and 100-150 were at Blagdon Lane Pools (Cramlington), Lynemouth Bay and West Ord. Double-figure numbers of 11-50 were at eight coastal localities with one to eight at ten other sites. At breeding colonies in the Blyth area 51 AON were at the Power Station, 19 at the Riverside Industrial Estate, nine at Wimbourne Quays and eight at the North Staithes (DM/LJM/STH); single AON were also at Willington Gut and Longbenton (CDH).

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Well-reported this month, mainly adults, with 68 at Branton GP (JD), 65 at Blagdon Lane Pools (LJM), 56 at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) (STH), 11-20 at Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir, Meldon and Newcastle Exhibition Park with one to eight at 15 other widespread inland and coastal sites. Four adults at Grindon Lough on 15th were of the northern race *ssp intermedius* (AJR). Breeding was reported from five sites in the Blyth area. (LJM/DM/STH) with eight AON at the former Power Station, three at Wimbourne Quays and single nests at North Staithes, Riverside Industrial Estate and South Harbour.

### **Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

The maximum count at Seaton Sluice during a 'poorly recorded month' was 90 passing N in three hours on 28th (SSWT) and movement N was also noted at Annstead with 30-70 on three dates (DF). Large gatherings were ca.1,000 off St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) on 1st (MJC), 450 at Budle Point on 7th (CGK/GPK), ca.150 seen on Coquet Island from Amble Links on 6th (TRD/JD) and 120+ on the rocks at Boulmer on 27th (JAR). Sightings elsewhere included 76 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin), 50 at Cullercoats and 11-40 at Boulmer, Druridge Links, Emblestones (Newton), the Long Nanny, Lynemouth Bay and Tynemouth. One to ten were seen at a further 12 localities from Berwick to St Mary's Island.

### **Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

Many records came from the colony at the Long Nanny with numbers increasing from three on 10th to 32 on 27th (AMG/MG). Ten were at Beal on 7th (DF) and one to six at eleven other widespread coastal localities between Holy Island and St Mary's Island.

### **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

Three or more were at Boulmer on 2nd (ME) and two were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 17th (STH). Singles were noted at Druridge Links, Holy Island, Longhoughton Steel on Long Nanny, Low Newton and St Mary's Island on dates from 9th-31st (IDR/MJC/ASJ).

### **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

At Seaton Sluice the only significant record was 30 moving N on 28th-29th (SSWT). Away from breeding sites the largest counts were 24+ at Boulmer, 20 at Cullercoats and 15 at East Chevington with one to ten at Arcot Pond, Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Big Waters NWT, Bothal Pond, Druridge Links, Ellington, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Holywell Pond, North Shields Fish Quay, and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Breeding colony records included 42 AON at North Blyth staithes (STH), 54 birds on a raft in the marina at Royal Quays, North Shields (ASJ) and a single AON at Holywell Pond.

### **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

At Annstead, 18 flew N on 28th (DF), 13 were off Newbiggin Point on 4th (AT). One to five were at Boulmer, Druridge Links, Hauxley NWT and Low Newton. Eight counts at the Long Nanny colony recorded an increase from 30 on 10th to ca.800 on 20th (AMG/MG).





Arctic Tern, Long Nanny, May 2022, Tim Dean

**American Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger surinamensis*

This very rare visitor, first seen in the tern colony at the Long Nanny on 13th (AMG/MG/IBDa/KDa), thereafter making regular appearances until the month end, is presumably the same individual which spent time there in summer 2021.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

Records on 29th included four moving N at Annstead (CGK/GPK/RA/DF) two N at Tynemouth (DRW) and a single at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). On 30th a single flew N at East Chevington (NFO). One found moribund on the Snook, Holy Island on 1st was found dead there on 8th (MJC), presumably a victim of Avian Flu which is currently affecting seabirds along the east coast of the UK.



Great Skua, Holy Island, May 2022, Mike Carr

#### **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The first of the year were singles at St Mary's Island on 3rd (CDH) and at Tynemouth on 8th (DRW). At Seaton Sluice the monthly totals seen were one S on 24th and two N, two S on 29th (SSWT). On 28th one flew N at Boulmer (TRD/JD) and the following day, 29th, seven were seen moving N at Annstead Point (CGK/GPK/RA/DF) and singles at Newbiggin, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

#### **Auk** *sp*

Fresh northerly winds on 28th-29th created a significant passage of Auks which included ca.3,000 N, mainly Guillemots, seen from Emmanuel Head, Holy Island during two hours seawatching on 29th (MJC) and on the previous day 40+ moved N in a half-hour at St Mary's Island (MSH).

#### **Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

At Seaton Sluice only small numbers were noted until the heavy Auk passage occurred during 28th-29th with 1,660 N and 1,900 N respectively, during three-hour seawatches (SSWT); at Boulmer on 28th ca.350 were recorded moving N (TRD/JD). Elsewhere, counts of 11-30, on various dates throughout, came from Alnmouth, Cocklawburn and Druridge Links with one to ten at six other localities.

#### **Razorbill** *Alca torda*

During the Auk passage of 28th-29th, the watch point at Seaton Sluice recorded 340 N and 500 N respectively during three-hour seawatches.(SSWT). One to ten were seen elsewhere at Alnmouth, Boulmer, Cocklawburn, Howick, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth on dates throughout..

#### **Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle*

A summer-plumaged individual was close inshore at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh, on 12th and 26th (RA/TRD/JD).

### **Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

500 moved N in three hours at Seaton Sluice on 28th (SSWT) and at Tynemouth on 29th 30 flew N and six S during three hours (DRW). On 2nd 70 were counted passing N at Annstead (DF). Singles were also recorded at Boulmer, Cullercoats and Druridge Links.

### **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower was 40 with 31N and 9S, which is above average for May (SSWT). Nine (8N and 1S) moved past Newbiggin Point on 30th (AT) and five moved N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 2nd (DF). One to two were seen at eight sites including an inland record of a sub-adult on Kielder Water. (ADM per MD).

### **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

One flew N at Seaton Point, Boulmer on 14 (DL), another was off Holy Island before flying south on 18th (NRSW). One lingered on the sea at Birling Carrs on 28th (TAC) and one in full breeding plumage flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 29th (DF).

### **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

Four flew N at Newbiggin before 08:00 on 29th (per STH). Three flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 29th (CGK/GPK/RA/DF) and two flew N at St Mary's Island and Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 29th (JBU/SSWT). Singles were noted at Holy Island on 8th (MJC/AH/SR), Annstead (Seahouses) (DF) on 29th and an adult in summer plumage N at Newbiggin (STH) the same day. The final report in the month was one N at Cullercoats on 30th (CB).

### **Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One was seen briefly at Cullercoats on 30th before disappearing (CB).

### **Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

450 went N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 29th and 240 N on 28th (SSWT). At Annstead (Seahouses) 251 flew N on 28th and 249 N on 29th (DF). 200 were seen on a two-hour sea-watch at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 29th (MJC). At Cocklawburn 144/hr N on 18th (MHU) and 75/hr N at Berwick Pier on 29th (MHU). 34 were on ledges in Lynemouth Bay on 7th (TB), 20 went N at Boulmer on 28th (TRD/JD), 19 were at St Mary's Island on 29th (MSH).

### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

Seaton Sluice Watch Tower had its highest monthly site total for May for a number of years with 404 counted (396 N and 8S) (SSWT). At Annstead (Seahouses) 303 moved N on 29th (CGK/GPK/RA/DF) and 127 N on 28th (DF). At Newbiggin movements towards the end of the month included 47 N on 28th (GB/LAR), 108 N in 3.5 hours on 29th (STH *et al.*) and 71 N in 3 hours on 30th (AT). 45 including a group of 18 went N at Boulmer on 28th (TRD/JD). 36 were noted at Cullercoats on 30th (CB) and 21 moved N at Tynemouth on 29th (DRW). One to eleven were recorded at five other sites.

### **Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

2,000 were noted at Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 29th (MJC). At Seaton Sluice numbers increased on 28th/29th with 360N and 4S on 28th and 940N and 15S on 29th (SSWT). 695 moved N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 28th and 663 N there on 29th (DF). Counts earlier in the month at Annstead included 226 on 10th, 207 on 3rd and 174 on 2nd (DF). 410 moved past Newbiggin on 30th (AT), 200 flew N at Boulmer on 28th (TRD/JD) and at Cullercoats on 30th (ASJ). 119 flew N past Tynemouth on 29th (KWY). One to 48 were noted at nine other sites.

### **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

The low-tide roost at New Water Haugh (R Tweed) held 52 on 19th (MHU). 21 were on the North Pool at East Chevington on 20th (TB) and at North Shields Fish Quay on 30th (WB). One to 18 were at 11 other sites during the month.

### **Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Eight were noted at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 26th (TRD/JD), seven were at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 24th (MHU). Only three were seen at Seaton Sluice in May (SSWT). Two were at Alnmouth on 2nd (TRD/JD) and two were nest building on Dunstanburgh Castle cliffs on 17th (JAR). One flew N at St Mary's Island on 8th (JBU) and one was at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 17th (TRD).



**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*

One was at Low Newton Scrape on 13th (GW/AMG/MG/TRD/JD).

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

All this month's sightings came from the Druridge Bay area with two (adult and an immature) at Druridge Pools on 30th and 31st (NFo/TRD/JD). Individuals were noted on numerous dates at Druridge Pools from 1st (STH), Cresswell Pond and Warkworth Lane Pond (Ellington) till the end of the month (TD/IF *et al.*).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Up to six were at Druridge Pools during the month (IDR/JF). On 15th four, a pair and two large young in the nest, were at Monks' House Pool (KWY) and a pair also with two young in the nest were at Hauxley NWT (HRS). Three were at Holywell Pond on 3rd (MN) and Monks' House Pool on 18th (IDR). One to two were at 13 sites.

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

The long-staying individual at Caistron NR was again noted on 4th (TRD).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Lindisfarne NNR held six at Fenham Mill on 21st (DF) and five at Beal saltmarsh on 15th and 29th (MJC). Four were at Budle Bay on 7th (CGK/GPK), whilst three were at Cresswell Pond on 9th (MSH) and at Druridge Pools on 15th (IDR). One to two were at 12 sites.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Records from Kielder Water included seven from the Osprey Cruise boat on 1st (per Csc) and three from Kielder Waterside on 15th (PJA). Singles elsewhere included one perched on a post in the middle of Pit House Moor (nr Derwent Reservoir) on 1st (AA), one in flight W at Wark on 19th (IK) and one at Derwent Reservoir on 19th, 21st and 23rd (IFo).

**Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

An adult flew south over North Seaton on 24th and was identified retrospectively from images posted online (SJP per NRSW).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

In Budle Bay displaying birds suggest two pairs during the month. A male and female were seen throughout the month at Ellington (TB). Individuals were also noted at nine locations.

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Two were at Elsdon on 20th (PG) and a pair were at the Kielder Forest Drive on 23rd (ADM).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

At a confidential site three, a pair and a 2cy male, were noted on 3rd with two present throughout the month (DF/TRD/JD). Two displaying signs of breeding were at another confidential sight throughout the month (CGK/GPK). Up to three were at East Chevington with a pair and another male noted (TB/IDR *et al.*). Two, a female and an immature male, were noted carrying nesting material at a wetland site in the south on 17th (TB). Singles were at Beal Saltmarsh (Lindisfarne), Holy Island Lough, Holywell Pond, Long Nanny Burn (Newton), West Chevington, Widdrington Moor Lake and Woodhorn.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Three were at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (ASJ) and at Carterway Heads (Crooked Oak) on 26th (IFo). Two were at Derwent Reservoir (Crooked Oak) on 12th (AJ/AJN) and at Allensford (South Snods) on 30th (IFo). Away from the south-west individuals were at the coast at High Newton on 10th (TRD/JD) and at Lynemouth Flash on 11th (STH).

### **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Eight were at Kielder on 23rd (ADM). Five were in the Harthope Valley on 14th (KWY) and counts of four came from Plenmeller Common on 4th (PRM), Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 15th (TB) and Belsay on 18th (TB). Three were noted at Greenhaugh on 15th (JR). One to two were recorded at 12 sites.

### **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Fieldwork in the immediate hinterland of Budle Bay found three pairs during the month (CGK/GPK/DMi). Individuals were noted regularly at Derwent Reservoir, Warkworth Lane (Ellington) and Cresswell Pond where one returned to the nest site with food on 21st (IFo/TB/IK). Singles were at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 15th, Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 16th, Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 28th.

### **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Three were at Longhorsley on 8th (AB/LB), two in flight late evening at Gosforth Park on 9th (GB) and two with chicks calling for food at Howick on 30th with singles there on 2nd and 6th (JAR). One was heard calling at Longdyke (Shilbottle) regularly during the month with singles at Hareshaw Linn (Bellingham) and Castron on 4th, Walwick on 6th, Jesmond Dene on 7th, Meldon and Netherwitton on 20th, in nest box at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 26th, Rothbury on 27th, Debdon on 29th and Bedlington on 31st.

### **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

All reports were of singles at Prestwick on 5th, Backworth on 8th, Big Waters NWT on 24th and a male at Brierdene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 29th.

### **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

During the month a pair successfully fledged three young near Budle Bay (CGK/GPK/DMi). One was noted hunting in a rough paddock at a site north of Morpeth on 12th (AT).

### **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

On 12th, two were at Watersmeet (Acomb) (AJH) with singles noted at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 7th, a male at Brenkley Hill Bridge on 19th, Felton on 23rd and Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) on 24th.

### **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Four were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 26th (IFo) with two at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and Ellington on 6th and singles at both locations regularly during the month (TB). One was at Richardson Dees Park (Wallsend) on 1st, Bedside (Blyth) on 5th, Crofton Field Wood (Blyth) & Blyth on 14th, Beacon Hill Longhorsley, Grindon Lough and Eshott on 15th, Brunswick Village (Wideopen) on 18th and 23rd, Blanchland on 25th and Humshaugh on 31st.

### **Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Yaffling birds were heard at Nunnykirk on 11th, Rothbury on 16th and Havannah NR on 22nd (TRD/JD/GB).

### **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

All reports were of individuals, all but one from the first half of the month, being at Holywell Pond, Beehive Flash (Earsdon) and St Mary's wetland on 3rd, New Moor Ashington on 5th and 13th, Newbiggin Moor on 7th, Foxton on 8th, Linbriggs (Upper Coquetdale) on 10th, Ashington on 10th and 15th, Shield on Wall on 11th, Ellington on 11th and 12th, Ellington Dene on 12th, Howick on 14th, Dunstanburgh Castle & Hartley on 17th and Derwent Reservoir on 27th.

### **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Just a single report of one at Budle Bay on 1st (CPK/CGK)

### **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

On 6th one called constantly circling St Mary's before stooping into Hartley Bay (ASJ). Later in the month one flew south low over Shorestone on 18th (IDR).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

One was at Usway Burn (Upper Coquetdale) on 8th (AB/LB), a male flew north over the observer's house at East Ord (Berwick) on 12th (MHu) and an adult was at Kielder Forest Drive on 23rd (ADM).

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Three were at Walkerville (Newcastle) on 22nd (CDH), two at Marden Estate (Cullercoats) on 2nd and Spittal Dene (North Shields) on 5th with singles at Longbenton on 1st over Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 5th, 9th and 12th and Gosforth on 30th.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

On 14th two were at Ellington with singles there regularly during the month (TB) and two were at Beanley Wood on 22nd (IDa/KDa). Singles were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) regularly and at nine other widely spread localities.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

15 were found singing on a nine km walk around Wallsend on 12th (CDH), five on breeding bird surveys at Blyth on 5th and Bedlington on 31st and at Newbiggin Moor on 7th. One to three were at Druridge Pools and Links regularly and four other locations.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

High counts of 34 were at Windyhaugh (Upper Coquetdale) on 11th, 32 on a BBS at Bedlington on 31st (JR), 18 at Shorestone and Beadnell on 18th (IDR) with 15 on BBS at Bebside (Blyth) on 5th and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 29th. Eight were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 4th, six at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 1st with one to five at seven other coastal locations.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

On 18th 49 were recorded at Shorestone, 14 at Newbiggin Moor on 24th (IDR). Two were at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 1st, Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 18th and one north at Druridge links on 8th.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Migrants moved N at Holy Island in the first week with 32 on 8th and 18 on 1st (MJC) but only four were recorded at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Eight were at Newbiggin Moor on 7th, seven at Beadnell on 18th with six at Druridge Pools on 2nd and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 22nd and one to five regularly at Druridge Pools and Links and eight other locations.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus corone cornix*

A minimum of five, possibly six, flew NW at Budle Point during the month with three on 1st, one on 5th and one or two on 10th/11th (CGK/RA). One was at Linton on 6th, Lynemouth on 13th Crooked Lonnen (Holy Island) on the same date and at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 22nd.





Hooded Crow, Newbiggin, May 2022, Alan Priest

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

A personal record for the observer with 36 at Upper Coquetdale on 8th, 31 of which were feeding on a sheep carcass (ASJ). Nine were at Ridlees Cairn (Otterburn Ranges) on 21st, four at Chew Green (Upper Coquetdale) on 27th (JR) and three at Broadstruther (The Cheviots) on 20th. One to two were at seven other upland locations and two lowland farm sites.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Scarce this month with singles at two locations in Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 1st (MJCo), one at Warkworth Lane Ponds on the same date and one regularly attending garden feeders at Dinnington during the month.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

A pair were nesting at Whinney Hill Farm (Longhorsley) on 18th (AHa/PHa) with one at Debdon (Rothbury) on 11th and another east of Felton on 23rd.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Two were at Prestwick Carr regularly with pairs feeding young in nest near the goats on 25th and at another nest near the sentry box on 30th (PCF/STH). Two males were singing to one another at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 8th. Another male sang at Arcot Lane (Cramlington) on 1st, whilst singles were at Big Waters NWT on 8th and noted carrying food at Longhorsley on 13th, at Linden Hall on 24th and 30th and Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 26th.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Ten were at Warkworth Lane Ponds (Ellington) on 1st (IDR/JF), seven on BBS at Bedlington on 31st (JR) and six at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 4th (IDR) with singles at Druridge Links on 5th and Jesmond Dene on 29th. A nest with eight eggs in wooden pipe structure on 4th at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) was later abandoned and the eggs went missing whilst three pairs laid 30 eggs in nest boxes at Eshott, two pairs successfully hatching 19 young with the third box predated (GB/MSH).

### **Great Tit** *Parus major*

At Eshott five pairs laid a minimum of 24 eggs in nest boxes, two pairs hatching 11 young with three boxes predated (MSH). Ten were found at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 1st (MJCo), seven at Warkworth Lane Ponds (Ellington) on the same date (IDR/JF), three at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 4th and two on BBS at Bedlington on 31st.

### **Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

A 25km drive at Otterburn Ranges on 8th found 220+ singing with 56 singing at Hareshaw Head (Bellingham) on the same date (ASJ). 44 were counted with 30 pairs on BWWM survey at Rayburn Lake on 28th (CB) and 26 territories were logged across Budle Bay Tetrads (CGK) during the month. On 15th 14 sang at Ward Fell, nine at St Mary's on 1st and eight on BBS at Bebside, Blyth on 5th with one to five at eight widespread localities.

### **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

On 3rd 110 fed at Killingworth Lake (ASJ) with 20+ on 2nd rising to 90 (45 pairs) at Wark (N.Tyne) on 15th (PRM), 50 at Derwent Reservoir on 21st (IFo), 40 at a nest colony at Breamish Valley on 14th (ASJ) with 30 at Hedgeley GP on 3rd, Big Waters NWT on 11th and Druridge Pools & Links on 17th with 20 there on 15th. 25 were at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 1st, 24 at a colony at Tynemouth on 12th with 20 at Caistron on 4th, Druridge Pools on 6th, Holywell Pond on the same date, north at Ellington on 11th, Long Nanny (Newton) on 14th and one to 16 at 15 widespread localities.

### **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

100 fed at Killingworth Lake on 3rd (ASJ), 90 flew N on 3 hours at Beal on 10th (MJC), 70 at East Chevington on 2nd (IF), 64 at Holy Island on 8th (MJC). 50+ were at Holywell Pond on 2nd (MN) and feeding at Glororum (Bamburgh) on 13th (KWY) with 45 at Ellington Dene on 12th (TB). Nesting pairs numbered 21 at Upper Coquetdale on 8th, 15 at Otterburn on 28th, nine at Breamish Valley on 14th and six at Earsdon and Backworth on 30th. On 14th 30 flew N in 1.5 hours at Tynemouth and 20 N in one hour at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 12th. One to 40 were at many of the above named and 14 additional locations.

### **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

Over 100 fed with Swallows over rape seed fields at Ellington Dene on 12th (TB), 80 were at Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 30th (TF), 50 at Gosforth on 27th with 40 there on 22nd and 30 on 26th (MJC). Up to 40 hawked over the Tweed at West Ord (Berwick) on 29th (MHu), at least 34 at farm nest sites in Upper Coquetdale on 8th (ASJ) and 34 N in 1.5 hours at Tynemouth on 14th (DRW). On 20th 30 were at Rising Sun CP (Wallsend), 25 were at Killingworth Lake on 3rd and Druridge Pools and Links on 15th and 20 at Glarorum (Bamburgh) on 13th. Nest 'colonies' included 18 at Longhorsley on 2nd, counts of 16 at Barrowburn (Upper Coquetdale) on 8th, at East Ord (Berwick) on 19th, Cocklawburn Pond on 24th and Kielder Forest Drive on 28th, with 15 recorded at Ellington on 15th. One to 12 were at most of the above named and a further 11 locations.

### **Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*

An adult male flew north at The Snook, Holy Island at 10.00am on 1st (MJC).

### **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

There were singing males in two discrete areas of Big Waters NWT on 1st, with both heard occasionally thereafter during the month (GB). A maximum of two were singing at East Chevington North Pool on 20th (TB), with song heard there throughout the month. Hauxley NWT had its first record this month, with one heard on 2nd (NFO) and 15th (HRS).

### **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

A group of 21, presumably comprising two family parties, were at Holywell Pond on 23rd (MSH). A pair with 12 fledged young were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 22nd (TB), and a pair were observed feeding eight fledged young at Holywell Dene on 21st (KWY). Family parties of seven were at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd (IFo), and at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 30th (GB). Juveniles were also at Howick Pool, with six on 17th (AHa/PHa), and at Big Waters, with at least three in a family party on 16th (GB). A breeding pair in a Rothbury garden were seen with two fledged young on 30th; as all was quiet the next day it was assumed that all had fledged (TRD/JD). One-four were reported from a further six locations.

### **Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Only seven records were received in the month as the decline of this species continues. A pair were observed nest-building at Derwent Reservoir (Crooked Oak) on 8th (STH), and one-two were there on 6th (AJ/TW) and 12th (Aj/AJN). A singing male was at Derwent Gorge on 5th (ASJ), and one was singing at Holystone on 14th (TRD/JD). Song was also reported from Kielder on 18th (JD) and 28th (ASJ).

### **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

The highest counts came from inland locations with 116 singing along Kielder Forest Drive on 28th, 66 in the Harthope Valley on 2nd, 58 at Heighleygate–Todburn on 15th, 48 in the Breamish Valley on 14th, and 46 at Wingates on 15th (all records ASJ). Much lower numbers were recorded elsewhere, with a maximum of 17 at Holy Island on 17th (MJC/IBDa/RGD/ADM/MWi), 13 at East Cramlington Pond NWT on 1st (LJM), 12 near Rothbury on 1st (PRM), and 11 at Prestwick Carr on 8th (PCF). Two to nine were at a further nineteen sites, including two juveniles at Kielder Forest Drive, and two fighting birds seen to fall into the North Tyne (and recover) during a BBS count at Tasset. Singles were at another six locations.

### **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Kielder Forest Drive had 30 singing males on 28th (ASJ), and the Breamish Valley had 21 on 14th (ASJ). A 9km walk around Wallsend produced 11 on 12th (CDH), as did a BBS count at Bedlington on 31st (JR). There were ten at Hepburn Woods on 4th (JAR), nine at East Cramlington Pond NWT on 1st (LJM), eight at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 1st (IDR/JF), and a maximum of eight at Holy Island on 1st (MJC/AH/SR). Two to seven were at another fourteen sites, with singles at a further six.

### **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The species was seen or heard at 33 locations, with a maximum of 16 at Holy Island on 17th (MJC/IBDa/RGD/ADM/MWi), 11 at Prestwick Carr on 8th (PCF), and 11 at Woodhorn Flashes on 11th (IDR). There were eight at Arcot Pond on 9th (LJM) and at Shorestone on 18th (IDR), seven in the Breamish Valley on 14th (ASJ), six at Castron on 4th (TRD), and a maximum of six at Druridge Links on 15th (IDR/JF). Whittle Dene, St Mary's and West Hartford each had five on 5th (ASJ), 10th (ASJ) and 14th (LJM) respectively. There were four at Alnmouth on 8th (JAR), two to three at another eight sites, and singles at a further thirteen locations.

### **Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A maximum of three males were singing at Holy Island Lough on 29th (MJC). Three, including two singing males, were at Big Waters NWT on 31st (GB). Two were at Druridge Pools on 2nd, 5th and 15th (IDR/JF), and song was also heard from two at Castron on 4th (TRD), East Chevington on 6th (TRD/JD), Killingworth Lake on 13th (LJM), Holywell Pond on 30th (MSH), and Cresswell Pond NWT on 31st (MSH). Singles were at three other locations.

### **Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

The highest count came from East Chevington, where six were heard reeling down the coastal side of the reserve on 1st (STH). Song was also noted throughout the month at Budle Bay, with one to two noted almost daily (CGK/GPK). Two were seen together in brambles at Woodhorn Flashes on 4th (AT). One to two were also present at Druridge Links during the first half of the month (IDR/JF, CB). Singles were heard at Prestwick Carr, Big Waters NWT, Linden Hall (Longhorsley), Ponteland, Rising Sun CP, Newbiggin and Dinnington, as well as an unusual individual reeling out in the open at Bewick Drift (Lynemouth) on 1st (TB).

### **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

32 singing males were found along a 25 km stretch of Kielder Forest Drive on 28th (ASJ). Ten were singing in the Brockwell/Westwood Grange area of Cramlington on 9th (LJM), and five pairs were noted at Wark (North Tyne) on 15th (PRM). Wallsend had seven singing on 12th (CDH), and South Snods (Allensford) had six on 30th (IFo). BBS produced five at Bebside (Blyth) on 5th and at Bedlington on 31st (JR). Two to four were reported from ten other locations, with singles at a further twelve sites.

### **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

The species was well-reported, with records from thirty-five locations. Branton GP had a maximum of eight on 8th (IBD/KDa), and Holy Island had five on 17th (MJC/IBDa/RGD/ADM/MWi). There were two pairs at Wark (North Tyne) on 15th (PRM), four singing at Castron on 15th (TRD/JD), and four singing at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 20th (IFo). Three were at Watersmeet (Acomb) on 12th (AJH), Ingram and Wingates on 14th (ASJ), and at Giantlees (Newton



on the Moor) on 15th (MKi). One to two were at six other sites, with singles at a further twenty locations.



Garden Warbler, Rising Sun CP, May 2022, Jack Bucknall

#### **Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

Three were singing at the Brockwell/Westwood Grange area of Cramlington on 9th (LJM), and a maximum of three were at Holy Island on 17th (MJC/IBDa/RGD/ADM/MWi). Backworth had two singing on 8th (JBu), as did Earsdon on 12th (ASJ). There were reports of singles at a further seventeen locations, including Dyke Head (Rothley) on 15th (MKi) and Newham on 26th (JD/TRD).

#### **Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

There were 71 records of the species submitted this month, from 46 mostly coastal locations. However, the largest count came from the Breamish Valley, with 29 singing males on 14th (ASJ). There were 24 singing at Whitley Bay–Holywell on 11th (ASJ), and several counts of 19 singing were made at Budle Bay during the month (CGK). Holy Island had a maximum of 16 on 17th (MJC/IBDa/RGD/ADM/MWi), Shorestone had 15 on 18th (IDR), and Glororum (Bamburgh)–Seahouses had 13 singing on 11th (KWY). St Mary's–Old Hartley had 11 singing on 11th (ASJ), and St Mary's had a maximum of nine on 17th (KWY). There were ten singing at Brockwell/Westwood Grange (Cramlington) on 9th (LJM), nine at Wallsend on 12th (CDH), and eight at Prestwick Carr on 8th (PCF). Bebside (Blyth), Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield), and West Hartford each had six on 5th (JR), 20th (IFo), and 23rd (LJM) respectively. Two to five were at 15 other sites, with singles at a further 18 sites.

#### **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

A count of 22 singing males came from Kielder Forest Drive on 28th (ASJ), and nine were in the Breamish Valley on 14th (ASJ). There were four at Ellington Dene on 12th (TB), and three territories were located in Valley Park (Cramlington) during the month (DM). Singles were reported from a further seven locations.

#### **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

There were 15 singing males at Brockwell/Westwood Grange (Cramlington) on 9th (LJM), and ten at Bedlington on 31st (JR). Warkworth Lane Ponds (Ellington) had ten on 1st (IDR/JF), Jesmond Dene had eight on 15th (MJCo), Bebside

(Blyth) had seven on 5th (JR), as did Prestwick Carr on 8th (PCF). There were one to five at six other locations.

#### **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had three on 1st (MJCo), Warkworth Lane Ponds had two on 1st (IDR/JF), and singles were reported from Hareshaw Linn (Bellingham), Wark (North Tyne), Beacon Hill (Longhorsley), Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth), and Craggside NT.

#### **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

There were three nesting pairs at Hesleyside (Bellingham) on 28th (ASJ). Three were at Letah Wood (Hexham) on 12th (AJH), and singles were at Tasset, Eals Bridge (South Tyne, Howick, Wark (North Tyne), Beacon Hill (Longhorsley), Chillingham, and Thrum Mill (Rothbury).

#### **Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

A post-breeding flock of 400, mostly juveniles, was at St Mary's Wetland on 22nd (MSH). A similar gathering of 150 was at Prestwick Carr on 30th (PCF), and a smaller group of 35 was at Tynemouth Priory on 30th (WB). A BBS count of 14 was made at Bedlington on 31st (JR). Two to four were at five other locations, and a pair of adults were observed entering and leaving a nest hole in a tree at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 18th (GB).

#### **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

There were only two records this month, with a female at Debdon (Rothbury) on 7th (TRD/JD), and a male at the Carey Burn (Harthope Valley) on 14th (KWY).

#### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

A 5km circular walk through the Nelson Industrial Estate (Cramlington) produced a count of 49 on 4th (LJM), and a 4 km walk around Horton Burn–East Hartford yielded 35 on 2nd (LJM). There were 32 at Bedlington on 31st (JR), and 19 at Bebside (Blyth) on 5th (JR). One to seven were at a further five locations.

#### **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Four remained at Holy Island on 1st (MJC/AH/SR).

#### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Pairs feeding young were amongst 16 in the Breamish Valley on 14th (ASJ). There were four in Jesmond Dene on 22nd (MJCo), and four sang at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on 30th (CB). One to three were at a further ten locations, including singing males at Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth), Crofton Field Wood (Blyth), and Wallsend GC.

#### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

There were only six records this month, with two at Richardson Dees Park (Wallsend), Blagdon, and the Royal Grammar School, Jesmond (Newcastle). Singles were at Featherstone Bridge (South Tyne) and Gosforth, with one in full song at Middle Ord pond (Berwick) on 15th (MHu).

#### **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

The first arrivals were singles at Low Carritheth (Hesleyside) on 15th (JR), at Hampeth (Shilbottle) on 15th (MKi), and at Rothbury on 16th (JD). Two were also at Holy Island on 16th (AH/ADM/SR), where numbers peaked at 11 on 17th (MJC/IBDa/RGD/ADM/MWi). St Mary's had two on 17th (KWY, AC/MSH), two were observed visiting a possible nest site at Blagdon on 20th (CDH), and there were two at Chillingham on 27th (TRD/JD). Singles were at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 17th (TB), Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth) on 24th (LJM), Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 26th (IFo), and at the Alwin Valley (Upper Coquetdale) on 28th (JR).

#### **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

There were 13 singing males at East Cramlington Pond NWT on 1st (LJM). Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) had seven on 15th (MJCo), Bedlington had five on 31st (JR), Warkworth Lane Ponds (Ellington) had four on 1st (IDR/JF), and Bebside (Blyth) had four on 5th (JR). An adult was observed feeding a fledgling at Howick on 20th (JAR).

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica*

A female was on Brownsman, Farne Islands between 15-17th (TH per NRSW). Males of the *svecica* or 'Red-spotted' race were found at Howick (AF per NRSW) and along the Straight Lonnen, Holy Island on 16th (ADM) the latter remaining until 17th (ADM, IBDa/KDa).



Bluethroat, Howick, May 2022, Amanda Fall

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A minimum of three territories, with one female seen, were recorded at Derwent Gorge on 1st (IFo); five singing males were there on 5th (ASJ). Pairs were noted at Crooked Oak (Derwent Reservoir) (AJ/TW) and at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (AJ/TW/IK/AJN). One to two males were reported at Eals Bridge (South Tyne), Holystone, Harbottle, Nunnykirk, Whinney Hill Farm (Longhorsley), and Whitley Chapel.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Numbers peaked at Wark (North Tyne) with 20 (ten pairs) on 15th (PRM). A maximum of seven were singing at Holystone on 8th (MKi) and there were six singing at Whittingham on 2nd (CW). Three nesting pairs were at Whinney Hill Farm (Longhorsley) on 10th (Aha/PHa). At Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 15th (TB), a female was observed feeding near a water trough, while a male sang nearby. There were reports of two to five singing males at sixteen sites, with singles at a further ten. Amongst these was one singing well at the Belsay woodland burial ground during Steve Barrett's funeral on 18th (TRD, TB, LJM).





(Above) Common Redstart, ForestburnGate, May 2022, Alan S Jack (Below) Whinchat, Clennell, May 2022, Alan Tilmouth





### **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

Numbers began to increase, with nine males in the Breamish Valley on 14th (ASJ), ten in Upper Coquetdale on 8th (ASJ, AB/LB), and pairs noted at Barrow Scrogs (Alwinton) (MKi) and The Castles (Usway Burn) (AB/LB) on 8th. There were four on Holy Island on 17th (MJC/IBDa/RGD/ADM/MWi) and singles at five other locations, including females at St Mary's on 6th and 18th (ASJ, JBu).

### **Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Breeding was noted at Holy Island, with two pairs feeding four juveniles each by 22nd (AH/ADM/SR), and in Upper Coquetdale, where two pairs with fledged young were seen within 400 m on 8th (ASJ). Another two pairs with fledged young were in the Breamish Valley on 14th (ASJ), and a pair at Cocklawburn had four young on 28th (MHu). Juveniles were reported from the Long Nanny (Newton) on 14th (IF) and East Chevington on 30th (NFO). Pairs carrying food were seen at Druridge Pools on 3rd (STH) and at St Mary's on 8th (JBu). There were six (three pairs) at Alnmouth Links–Buston Links on 1st (RPo), six at Darden Lough on 20th (CW), five at the Ash Lagoon Bank (Newbiggin) on 24th (IDR), and four at Beanley Moor on 1st (IBDa/KDa). Pairs were reported at eight other locations, with singles at a further five.

### **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The highest count came from Holy Island, with 70 on 17th (MJC/IBDa/RGD/ADM/MWi), and two showing characteristics of the Greenland race *O. o.leucorhoa* were at Chare Ends on 29th (IK). Upper Coquetdale had 27 on territory by 8th (ASJ), and there were 26 at Budle Bay on 4th (GPK). Otterburn Ranges had a maximum of 16 on 8th (ASJ), and Beacon Point (Newbiggin) had a maximum of 13 on 7th (AP). Passage was noted at Seaton Sluice, with 11 one 6th–18th (SSWT), and at St Mary's, with a maximum of ten on 18th (JBu). There were nine at Beal on 10th (MJC), seven at Shorestone on 18th (IDR), six at Hartley on 17th (KWY), five at Jimmy's Scrapes (Woodhorn) on 12th (AP), and a maximum of five at Howick on 18th (JAR). Two to four were at ten other locations, with singles at a further fourteen.



### **Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Pairs were seen this month at Ponteland Park, Linbriggs and Ellington Dene. Singles were noted at eight river sites from Stonehaugh to Holywell Dene. A recently fledged and ringed juvenile was on a small stream at Kidland Forest on 2nd (AT).

### **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

40 were counted along a 2km stretch of the Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 4th (LJM). 11 and 17 were noted in surveys at Blyth and Bedlington (JR). One to eight were also at five sites.

### **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Up to 24 were seen at feeders at Chugdon Wood on 4th (TB). Ten were noted on 23rd at Cresswell (CB). One to four were seen at an additional 16 sites during the month.

### **Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

Nine were heard singing at Cramlington on 9th (LJM). Nine were also noted on 31st at Bedlington and seven were at Bebside on 5th (JR). One to four were observed at a further ten sites.

### **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Twos or pairs were seen during the month at Druridge Pools, Ellington, Fourstones and Hebron. Singles were seen at seven sites this month. A male considered to be a 'Channel Wagtail' (hybrid *flava* x *flavissima*) was seen at Druridge Pools throughout the month.

**'Grey-headed Wagtail' *Motacilla flava thunbergi***

A male was photographed in Sandham Bay, Holy Island on 15th (AH per NRSW).

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

Seven pairs were located at Upper Coquetdale on 8th (ASJ). Three pairs were seen at Wark on 15th and two pairs at Featherstone Bridge on 6th (PRM). Four were also noted in Jesmond Dene on 22nd (MJCo). A pair were watched feeding two fledged young in Holywell Dene on 2nd (ASJ). A pair were with a juvenile at Howick on 30th (JAR). Successful breeding was noted at Waren Mill this month (CGK). One to three were also seen at a further 20 locations.

**Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli***

Four were seen at Linbriggs on 10th (RPo). A male and two juveniles were at Big Waters on 31st (GB). One to two were also seen at eight sites.

**'White Wagtail' *Motacilla alba alba***

Singles were observed this month at Druridge Pools, St. Mary's, Boulmer, Ellington and Low Newton. An addition to the April Bulletin, 11 were noted at Newbiggin Golf Course on 21st (AP).

**Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

The Otterburn Training Area provided an excellent count of 216 on 8th, over 25km of roadside fell, many of which were collecting food for young or engaged in display song-flights (ASJ). The Rayburn Lake area produced, during a survey on 28th, 41 pairs on breeding territory (CB). On 1st, 30 were on Holy Island, and a nest containing four eggs was found (MJC). The Bellingham area held at least 30 on breeding territory and several fledged young were seen on 28th (ASJ). Display and young being fed was also noted at St. Mary's on 1st (ASJ). 16 were at Linbriggs on 10th (RPo). One to five were seen at a further ten sites.

**Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

Nine were watched displaying at Kielder Forest Drive on 28th and six were noted at Wingates on 14th (ASJ). Rayburn Lake also held six on 28th (CB). On 15th, three were noted at Beacon Hill/Longhorsley Common and two sang there on several dates. Two also sang at Holystone (Coquetdale) on 8th (TB/TRD/JD/ASJ). Singles were seen at a further 12 locations.

**Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus***

Three were seen at Holy Island, including one carrying food on 22nd (ADM). Two were at Boulmer on 2nd and one at St. Mary's on 8th.

**Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

14 were noted singing on 1st at East Cramlington Pond (LJM). Nine were seen at Jesmond Dene on 22nd (MJCo). One to six were noted at ten sites this month.

**Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes***

A female fed in a Gosforth garden on 4th (per TD).

**Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

16, in pairs were counted on Kielder Forest Drive on 28th. 14, seven pairs, were at Holywell Dene on 20th. Ten were seen at Rising Sun C.P. on 10th (ASJ). Ten was the maximum count of the regular attendees at feeders in a Rothbury garden during the month. One to four were also noted at 12 sites this month.

**Greenfinch *Chloris chloris***

Few reported this month, with eight at Wallsend on 12th the peak count. One to six were seen at seven other locations.



**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

42 were watched feeding at Alnmouth/Buston Links on 1st (RPO). 20 were in a crop field at Red House Farm (Whitley Bay) on 29th (ASJ). Seven nesting pairs were counted on Holywell Waggonway on 27th (ASJ). One to 12 were also at 24 sites during the month.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

The Kielder Forest Drive on 28th produced 36, with display commonly seen (ASJ). 24 in pairs and again including displaying males, were seen between Wingates and Simonside, and a family group of nine was at Harbottle on 8th (ASJ). A single flew over Rising Sun C.P. on 6th and one was noted at Grindon on 20th.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

Around 50 were noted near Rothbury on 1st (NFO). Ten were seen along Kielder Forest Drive on 23rd (ADM). One to five were seen during the month at Holystone and Debdon, with four noted on 8th at Beanley.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

22 were counted at Gloucester Lodge Farm on 3rd (LJM). One to 12 were seen at 22 further locations.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

Ringling at Sleafy this month involved a total of 95 birds (RMH). 15 were noted along Kielder Forest Drive on 23rd (ADM). One to four were also seen at eight sites during the month.

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Five were at Amble dunes on 1st, declining to three by 5th (CSa). A pair were seen at Newbiggin on 1st and two at Holy Island headed NW on 10th (PRM/MJC). Singles were seen at Alnmouth and St. Mary's.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

Ten were noted at Lincoln Hill on 15th (SW). Four pairs were seen at Longhorsely on 17th and at Holywell on 18th (CB/ASJ). One to eight were seen at a further 15 sites this month.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

19-20 were noted at St. Mary's on several dates, including 12 singing males (ASJ). 14 males and three females were found along the river in Upper Coquetdale on 26th (ASJ). Ten were noted at East Chevington on 30th (CB). Six were at Holy Island Lough on 3rd (MJC). One to three were also at 15 sites.

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

Two were at Chirton Dene Park in North Shields on 8th (CDH).

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

Singles were at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (IFo) and Bothal Pond on 31st (TF).

**Birds of Unknown Origin**

No sightings

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BirdGuides, Northumberland Rare & Scarce Whatsapp, 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), Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings), Alan Tilmouth (bulletin compilation), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Clive Hampton is Data Manager.

Editing and additional news by Alan Tilmouth [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

## RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to [ntbc.records@googlemail.com](mailto: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 Alan Tilmouth at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

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.

## 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 Thursday 8th September 2022.

## FIELD TRIPS

**Next Field Trip – Coastal Waders** 31 July 2022

Meet at Druridge Pools 09:00 this trip will also take in sites at Warkworth and Boulmer in the afternoon. Contact Steve Anderson at [seaswan@btinternet.com](mailto:seaswan@btinternet.com)

## 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.

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### **NTBC Web and Social Media**

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds, with a wide range of content from photo galleries, county checklists, Records Committee updates, information on surveys and many useful articles on bird identification and birding both locally and internationally, to find out more please visit [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

Please submit any other new content (eg trip reports, identification notes, site guides etc) for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

NTBC can also be found on Facebook [here](#) and Twitter [here](#)

### **Other News**

#### **Wilding West Chevington – Northumberland Wildlife Trust**

Wilding West Chevington is a Northumberland Wildlife Trust project based on the recently acquired West Chevington nature reserve sited on the old North Steads opencast coal site near Druridge Bay. The site currently consists of an active wind farm, plantation woodland, areas of broadleaved woodland, wetlands and ponds, open rough grassland and arable fields. The project aims to restore natural ecosystems and processes onsite and through minimal intervention increase habitat diversity and biodiversity on the reserve. Initially there will be habitat management work but not in the traditional sense, the approach is to establish the building blocks for nature recovery and let nature do its own thing. Over time it is hoped that the reserve will develop species rich grassland and meadows, wet grassland, ponds and wet corridors, and a network of connecting hedgerows, scrub and woodland. The re-introduction of species such as Water Vole and Harvest Mouse may be possible in the near future as the reserve develops.

The first phase of work will be establishing baseline data for the habitats and the species onsite and develop a monitoring programme which will identify milestones and trends throughout the development of the reserve.

Currently the site has breeding species such as Buzzard, Long-eared Owl, Lapwing, Snipe and Willow Tit has also been recorded this year. Pied Flycatcher and Wood Warbler have both been recorded this year in the broadleaved woodland. Brown Hare are common across the site and Red Squirrel are regularly seen. As the site matures and habitats develop new species will colonise and hopefully we will see the return of iconic species such as breeding Curlew. It will be a long slow process but with a gentle push in the right direction the future definitely looks wild for West Chevington.

**Lee Rankin** Wilding West Chevington Project Officer

#### **The Bord Waalk, Amble**

The 'Bord Waalk' (A deliberate play on the phrase, Bird Walk, in the Amble accent) is a 'walking trail' of sculptures set to begin construction this year and it is the brainchild of the [Amble Development Trust](#) Manager Andrew Gooding. The trail represents the culmination of around 3 years of work on the part of the Trust and has received a little under half a million pounds in funding. Firstly backed by £396,000 worth of Coastal Communities Fund capital and then by an additional £80,000 Arts Council Grant to support the delivery of the trail. This unprecedented level of investment in an arts project in the area demonstrates that the arts are becoming increasingly valued in the context of social and economic regeneration. The trail has been under development for around 3 years and is comprised of a mix of physical and digital artworks, the latter being accessed via a specially designed app. The 12 physical sculptures have been designed by a range of nationally and internationally renowned artists. One of which is Amble-based Artist Frances Anderson, Co-Director of the Dry Water Arts Centre. Others include, Wiltshire-based Artist [Celia Smith](#), [Jon Voss](#), a British Artist based in the South of France and the [Aether & Hemera Design Studio](#) based in Milan, Italy. The common thread across all of the sculptures is their shared depiction of the bird life native to the area.

Reprinted courtesy of Luke McTaggart

#### **Anti-Bird Netting**

Those of you on social media might have picked up that anti-bird netting is in the spotlight again, this time due to two successive trapped Peregrines on a University of Leeds building and trapped pigeons on supermarket buildings. As we know locally Kittiwakes have been involved in the past, these examples highlight how widespread a problem anti-bird netting is and the threat it poses to wildlife.

In response to the issue, RSPB have posted some helpful advice which can be found [here](#) explaining the legalities and obligations around such anti-bird deterrents, appealing for people to find a way to make space for nature rather than try to keep it out. Please feel free to contact me if they have questions about netting.

#### **Blánaid Denman**

Senior Conservation Officer, Northeast & Cumbria - [blanaid.denman@rspb.org.uk](mailto:blanaid.denman@rspb.org.uk)



# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

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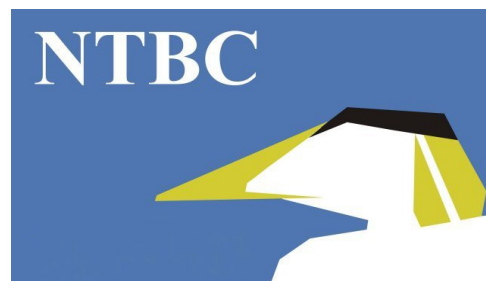
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American Black Tern, Long Nanny, June 2022, Tim Dean

## JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

Egyptian Goose  
Ruddy Shelduck

Gadwall  
Velvet Scoter  
Red-necked Grebe  
**Black-necked Grebe**  
Black-tailed Godwit  
**Pectoral Sandpiper**  
Wood Sandpiper  
Spotted Redshank  
Little Tern  
**American Black Tern**  
Long-tailed Skua  
Black Guillemot  
Spoonbill  
**Cattle Egret**  
Great Egret  
Short-eared Owl  
Hobby  
**Red-backed Shrike**  
Hooded Crow  
**Woodlark**  
Wood Warbler  
**Rose-coloured Starling**  
**Common Rosefinch**

two at Low Newton on 9th and then at Cresswell Pond on 20th  
four north at Druridge Pools on 21st; singles at Druridge, Maiden's Hall  
and Derwent Reservoir  
very high count of 149 at Druridge Pools on 2nd  
four north at Seaton Sluice on 6th  
splendid summer-plumaged adult at Widdrington Moor lake on 30th  
one on sea at Seaton Sluice on 18th  
peak of 71 at Druridge Pools on 19th  
one at Druridge Pools on 8th  
notable passage with one to four at five sites  
singles at Beal, Druridge Pools and East Chevington  
pleasing count of 80 at Long Nanny on 24th and 27th  
returning adult all month at Long Nanny  
adult north past Seaton Sluice on 29th  
adult off Newbiggin on 14th  
county record-equalling group of six at Druridge Pools on 10th  
summer-plumaged adult at Holywell Pond and Druridge Pools on 11th  
two at Derwent Res on 18th and singles at Caistron and East Chevington  
unusually one at East Chevington on 15th and 30th  
single adults at seven sites  
female at Holy Island from 2nd to 4th  
singles at Linton and Budle Bay  
male singing in SW of county on 24th; first in song since 1966!  
single males in song at Harthope Valley and Crooked Oak  
fly-over adult at Budle Bay on 11th  
singing male at Embleton Quarry NR on 2nd

**Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix*

One at Allendale Common on 5th (CB) was the only report.

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

Four were noted at Allendale Common on 5th compared to 150+ there two years ago (CB). Pairs with chicks were noted at Blanchland Moor on 10th (CB) and one was at the Harthope Valley.

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Two pairs were at the Harthope Valley on 4th (TRD) and one to two were noted at Beanley, Brier Dene Farm, Budle Bay, Debdon, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, near East Chevington, Eshott, Holburn, Park End (Wark), Plenmeller Common, Warkworth Lane and Widdrington Village.



Red-legged Partridge, Derwent Reservoir, June 2022, Michael Holmes

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

One to two were at Bothal and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Brier Dene Farm, East Chevington, Felton and Howick. At Ellington, a pair with two young was noted on 21st and a pair with three young on 24th (TB).

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

Three singing males were heard at Brandon, Breamish Valley on 27th (IBDa/KDa) and singles were at Thornton on 16th (RPo) and Great Ryle, Whittingham on 22nd and 26th (barley field; CW).

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Five to six were at Cockle Park Farm and Druridge Pools.

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

A total of 237 flew N and 22 S at Seaton Sluice between 1st-10th (SSWT). Northerly movement (presumably to moulting

grounds) included 149 at Newbiggin (AP) and 72-80 at Seahouses (TRD), Spittal Bay (MHu) and St Mary's Island (MSH) on 2nd, ca. 120 at Yarrow Slake on 3rd (MHu), 100 at St Mary's Island (MSH/KWY), 80 at Monkseaton (MSH) and 41 at Cocklawburn (IDR/JF) on 9th, 119 at Boulmer (BS) on 10th, and 32 at Monks' House Pool on 11th (KWY). A total of 23 flew S/SE at Ellington on 7th (TB), 22 SE at Great Swinburne on 12th (PRM) and 12 E at Hazlerigg. Peak concentrations were 217 at Hauxley Reserve on 12th (HRS), 168 at Calot Shad, Tweed Estuary on 16th (MHu), 147 at Grindon Lough on 1st (PRM), 105 at Budle Bay on 9th (GPK). 51-92 were at Druridge Pools, Holywell Pond (including three hybrids: MSH), Killingworth Lake and New Water Haugh (River Tweed). Counts of 19-43 came from Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Big Waters, Cresswell Pond, Howick Quarry Pond, Newcastle Leazes Park (including a leucistic individual), West Stobswood Pool, Widdrington Moor Lake and Yarrow Slake, while two to seven were at/over Beal, Bothal Ponds, Greenlee Lough, Lynemouth Flash and Plenmeller Common. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of broods	No of young	Observer/Notes
Caistron	4	22	TRD on 19th
Howick Quarry Pond	3	-	BS
Sheepwash	1	8	CDH on 2nd
Cresswell Pond	1	5	STH on 12th
Widdrington Moor Lake	1	4	STH on 30th
Marden Quarry	1	3	KWY on 24th
Maiden's Hall Lake	1	2	PRM on 30th
Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington	1	2	LJM on 13th
Whittle Dene Reservoirs	1	2	PRM on 17th
Aln Estuary	1	-	BS juveniles on 2nd

#### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

One flew N, with Canada Geese, at Boulmer on 10th (BS). At Derwent Reservoir, two were noted on 25th (GB/DM/LAR) and one on 9th (IFo). Singles were also at Hauxley Reserve on 2nd (HRS) and Low Newton scrape on 15th (PCA).

#### **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

One moved N and 36 S at Seaton Sluice between 18th-24th (SSWT). 1,700, including large young, were at Derwent Reservoir on 4th increasing to a notable 2,800 by 26th (IFo). Peak counts elsewhere were 326 at Hauxley Reserve on 12th (HRS), 257 (including young), at Kielder Water on 29th (ADM), 170 at Howick Quarry on 19th (BS), 69 (including four young) at Killingworth Lake on 15th (LJM), and 54 at Druridge Pools on 26th (IDR). Counts of 18-25 came from Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, East Chevington and Plenmeller Common. One to nine were also at Big Waters, the 'shooters' pool' at Bothal Ponds, Grindon Lough, Maiden's Hall Lake, Middle Ord Pond, Newcastle Leazes Park 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	13	(6,4,3) includes brood of 4 from May, GB on 19th
Linton Lane NR	2	13	(7,6) PRM on 17th
Holy Island Lough	1	7	MJC/IK on 5th as May
Howdon Wetland	1	7	CB on 17th
Linton Lane NR	1	7	MSH on 11th
East Chevington NWT	1	6	PRM on 15th
Killingworth Lake	1	6	LJM on 15th
Sheepwash	1	6	on R Wansbeck CDH on 2nd
Broomlee Lough	1	5	PRM on 23rd
Ladyburn Lake	1	5	MSH on 23rd
Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington	1	5	LJM on 13th
Yarrow Slake, Tweed Estuary	1	5	MHu on 20th
Bothal Pond	1	3	TD on 12th



Byker (Ouseburn)	1	3	reduced from six in May, LAR on 22nd
Druridge Pools	1	3	IDR/JF on 19th
Newcastle Leazes Park	1	2	GB on 6th

### **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Singles were at Druridge Pools on 23rd (STH/IFo), Hauxley Reserve on 2nd and 12th (TRD/JD/HRS) and Maiden's Hall Lake on 30th (PRM).

### **Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Two were at Low Newton scrape on 9th (PCA) and Cresswell Pond on 20th (TB).

### **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Nine flew N and four S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). At Budle Bay, 134 on 18th (DF) increased to 190 by 25th (CGK/GPK), about 25 (including young) were at Druridge Pools on 26th (IDR), 22 at Howdon on 3rd (CB), 18 adults at Caistron on 19th (TRD), and five to eight at Amble Braid (PRM) and Grindon Lough (SJH/PRM). One to two were at Blagdon Lane Pools, East Chevington, East Holywell, Howick Haven, Middle Ord Pond and West Ord. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Observer/Notes
Caistron	4	17	(7,5,3,2) TRD on 19th
Druridge Pools	3	18	(7,6,5) included brood of 5 from May; IDR?JF/MSH et al between 10th-29th
Maiden's Hall Lake	3	10	(5,3,2) may include depleted brood from May; PRM on 30th
Boulmer	2	14	(11,3) MJC/EJC/DJC on 3rd
Blyth Estuary	2	11	(8,3), broods of 3 on 13th and 8 on 20th LJM
Budle Bay	2	10	(6,4) CGK/GPK
Cresswell Pond	1 to 2	11 to 13	11 on 5th reduced to 8 by 12th, all still present 23th; brood of 2 on 29th
Amble Braid	1	14	14 on 30th PRM
Charlton Mires	1	7	GB/LAR on 4th
Hauxley NR	1	7	HRS on 2nd
Newstead Flash	1	7	DF on 11th
West Ord	1	5	MHu on 26th
Low Newton Flash	1	4	TD on 20th
Castle Island	1	3	Small young on 27th LJM
Branton GP	1	2	Two on 7th reduced to one on 28th TRD/JD/LJM

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

Four flew N at Druridge Pools on 21st (MN). A drake was at Derwent Reservoir from 1st to at least 12th (IFo). Singles were at Druridge Pools on 19th (IDR/JF), 23rd (TF/MSH/STH/IFo) and 27th (reported as a drake on latter date; NFO) and Maiden's Hall Lake on 6th (TF).

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

A drake was at Tarsset on 16th (PG).

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

At Druridge Pools, a drake was noted on 6th (TF) and two drakes on 7th and 9th (TRD/JD/MN). A drake was at Newton Pool on 3rd (PCA/TRD) and a drake, in eclipse plumage, at East Chevington between 25th-28th (TF/JFa/STH *et al.*). A female was at a potential breeding site in the north of the county on 1st and 4th.



Garganey, Newton Pool, June 2022, Tim Dean

**Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

15 were at Druridge Pools on 6th (TF), five at East Chevington on 28th and 30th (STH/ADMc *et al.*) and Hauxley Reserve on 12th (HRS). One to two were at Branton GP, Cresswell and Warkworth Lane Ponds, and Grindon Lough. Breeding data were as follows (additional to May unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Observer/Notes
East Chevington	1	9	Well-grown young with female on south pool on 30th PRM.
Holy Island	1	6	Between 1st-9th at least. As May. TRD/IK <i>et al.</i> Second female on nest on 5th (MJC)..
Holywell Pond	1	6	MSH on 8th. Three on 9th may have been same brood but depleted.
Druridge Pools	1	5	TD/PRM. On 25th. Down to 4 young by 29th.

Newton Pool	1	3	On 3rd TRD; also six drakes
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### **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 4th (SSWT). Druridge Pools attracted large numbers, with peaks of 131 on 2nd and 114 on 12th (ADM). Other peak site counts were 43 at Caistrion on 19th (TRD), 23 at Big Waters on 15th (GB), 19 at Bothal Pond on 19th (TF/JFa), and ten to 12 at the 'shooter's pools' at Bothal Pond, East Chevington and Marden Quarry. Six to nine were also at the Blyth Estuary, Gosforth NR, Holywell Pond, and Newton and West Stobswood Pools, and one to two at Branton GP, Cresswell and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Embleton Quarry and Grindon Lough. Breeding data were as follows (additional to May unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Observer/Notes
Holywell Pond	4	19-29	(10,7,6,6) Fresh brood of 10 on 8th. Broods of 7 and 6 young on 16th. Two broods of 6 young on 24th (one probably as 16th). MSH
Gosforth Park NR	2	16	(10,6) MSH on 27th
Bothal Pond	1	12	(8,4) TD/TF/JFa. Eight young on 12th but down to 7 young from 13th. New brood of 4 young from 26th.
Hauxley NR	1	12	HRS/TRD/JD. Brood of 12 on 12th. Down to 11 by 17th.
Big Waters	1	7	Tiny, fresh young on 21st GB
Druridge Pools	1	6	MSH on 11th
Linton Lane NR	1	6	PRM on 17th

### **Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

18 were at Derwent Reservoir on 15th (IFo) and a peak of 17 (15 drakes) was noted at Grindon Lough on 1st (PRM). Five to seven were at Budle Bay (CGK/GPK), Druridge Pools (NFO) and Hauxley Reserve (HRS), and one to two at Big Waters, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Maiden's Hall Lake and Plenmeller Common. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Observer/Notes
Plenmeller Common	1	2	Female and young on 9th PRM

### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Two flew N off Druridge Links on 19th (IDR). Largest counts were 42 at West Ord on 8th (MHu), 41 at Newcastle Exhibition Park on 17th (LJM), 35 at Grindon Lough (SJH) and West Ord (MHu), 26 at Yarrow Slake, and 12-16 at Airy Holm Reservoir, Bothal Pond, and Broomlee and Greenlee Loughs. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Observer/Notes
Big Waters	8	60	(14,14,8,7,6,5,5,1) various dates including some broods from May. An all-yellow duckling (from a brood of six young) was at Big Waters on 21st GB
Holy Island	3 to 5	17-28	Lough & Rocket Fields on various dates MJC/IK/MSH
Gosforth Park NR	5	27	(8,7,7,3,2) on 1st MJC
Druridge Pools	4	24	(9,6,5,4) between 27th-29th possibly includes broods from May LJM/PRM
Hauxley NR	4	15	(5,5,3,2) on 12th possibly includes broods from May HRS
Branton GP	3	16	(6,5,4) on 28th LJM
Byker (Ouseburn)	3	10	(7,2,1) on 22nd LAR
Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington	3	9	(7,1,1) on 13th LJM



Holywell Pond	2 to 3	9 to 12	from 16th MSH
Arcot Pond	2	10	(8,2) on 2nd LJM
Killingworth Lake	2	7	(6,1) on 15th LJM
Sheepwash	1	9	on 2nd CDH
Grindon Lough	1	8	on 10th PRM
Foxton (River Aln)	1	7	female and 7 young walking down road on 12th JAR
QEII Country Park	1	7	on 23rd STH/IFo
Willington Gut	1	7	on 9th CDH
Castle Island	1	6	on 2nd CDH
Blagdon Lake	1	6	on 5th LJM
Charlton Mires	1	5	on 4th GB/LAR
Ladyburn Lake	1	3	on 23rd MSH
Whittle Dene Reservoirs	1	3	on 17th PRM
East Chevington	1	2	on 15th PRM
Airy Holm Reservoir	1	2	new brood on 15th IFo

#### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

A drake was at Arcot Pond on 2nd and 15th (LJM).

#### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

11 flew S at Annstead on 28th (DF) and a total of five flew N at Seaton Sluice on 5th-6th (SSWT). Variable numbers at Grindon Lough during the month included a peak of 31 on 28th and 30th (SJH). Other peak site counts were 22 at Druridge Pools on 19th (IDR/JF), 12 at East Chevington on 30th (STH), and six to eight at Caistron (TRD) and Derwent Reservoir (IFo). One to three were also at Big Waters, the 'shooters' pool' at Bothal Ponds, Gosforth NR and Hauxley N. A female with a Garganey-like head pattern was at Druridge Pools on 9th and 11th (TRD/JD). Successful breeding was noted, unusually, at two lowland sites:

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Observer/Notes
Howick Burn Lake	1	4	large young on 20th BS
Howick Quarry Pond	1	4	small young on 19th BS

#### **Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

20 (including young?) were at Bothal Pond on 26th (TF/JFa), 17 adults were at Holywell Pond on 16th (MSH), five at Big Waters on 21st (GB), and two to three at Druridge Pools (TD) and Linton Ponds (PRM). Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Observer/Notes
Holywell Pond	2 to 3	7 to 9	(4,3,2) MSH/LJM/KWY. Brood of 3 on 6th (as May?) and broods of 4 and 3 on 9th. Brood of 2 on 16th and 24th a depleted earlier brood?
Bothal Pond	1	4	on 19th and 23th TD/TF/JFa

#### **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT) and two W at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR). Largest counts were 41 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 30th (STH), 29 at Bothal Pond on 26th (TF/JFa), 26 at Caistron on 19th (TRD), 20 at Hauxley Reserve (HRS) and Killingworth Lake (LJM), and 14-15 at East Chevington and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Five to nine were also at Big Waters, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, Druridge Pools and Wansbeck Business Park, and one to two at Airy Holm Reservoir, Cocklawburn and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Maiden's Hall Lake, Newcastle Exhibition Park and St Mary's Wetland. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Observer/Notes
Druridge Pools	3	22-28	(9,8,5,6) first brood of 6 on 11th TD/TRD/JD/STH/IDR

Bothal Pond	2	9 to 15	(9,6) 9 on 23rd and 6 on 26th
Holburn Moss	1	8	on 30th KWY
Branton GP	1	5	on 28th LJM
East Chevington	1	4	on south pool on 30th PRM

#### **Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

About 350, mostly adult drakes, were at Guile Point, Lindisfarne NNR on 2nd (IK). Counts of 15-24 came from Low Hauxley, Low Newton, Spittal Bay and St Mary's Island. An unusual record concerned two females on the main pool at Hauxley NR on 12th (TRD/JD/HRS). Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Observer/Notes
Blyth Estuary	3	11	MSH/LJM. Broods of 6 and 3 young on the Sleekburn and brood of 2 young near boatyard on 11th; 11 young also on 13th and 9 young on 23rd (all presumed local breeders)
Coquet Estuary	1	39	RPo. Five adult females with young on 17th; nine young noted on 16th
Beal	1	13	on 5th MJC
Newbiggin	1	9	from 26th LJM/STH
Howick	1	5	two adult females with young on 23rd JAR
Boulmer	1	4	on 3rd MJC/EJC/DJC
Alnmouth	1	3	female and 3 fresh young on 1st MKi

#### **Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

Four N at Seaton Sluice on 6th (SSWT) was the only record.

#### **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Strong passage throughout the month at Seaton Sluice gave a monthly total of 2,149 N and 578 S (SSWT). A single flock of 130 flew N at Newbiggin on 15th (STH), a total of 103 moved N at Annstead between 6th-24th (DF), and ten flew N off Druridge on 19th (IDR). About 150 were off East Chevington on 30th, an increase from 14 on 15th (PRM), about 50 were at Howick Haven on 1st (MKi) and three at Holy Island.



Goldeneye, undisclosed site, June 2022, Tim Dean

#### **Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Five (adult drake and four sub-adults) were at Holywell Pond on 6th (LJM), and single females were at Caistron on 19th (TRD), Maiden's Hall Lake on 30th (PRM) and West Ord on 29th (MHu). Breeding data from the regular breeding site were as follows (additional to May unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Observer/Notes
Confidential site	4	20	may include broods from May TRD/JD/LJM

#### **Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

A total of 19 N and 16 S at Seaton Sluice was a new June site total (SSWT), while three flew S at St Mary's Island on 24th (MSH). 96 were at Meadow Haven, Berwick on 23rd (MHu), 42 at New Water Haugh on 19th (MHu), 41 at the Coquet Estuary on 16th (RPo), 11-14 at Longhoughton Steel (BS) and Low Newton (PCA), and three to five at Annstead, Howick and Thrum Mill (Rothbury). Singles were also at Holy Island, Newbiggin, North Blyth, Seahouses Harbour and Tynemouth. Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Observer/Notes
Derwent Reservoir	2	10	(5,5) 2-3 week old brood of 5 on 1st and new brood of 5 on 9th IFo
Abbey Mill, Morpeth	1	4	on 1st and 10th and at Borough Woods on 4th ADMc

#### **Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 7th (SSWT). At Budle Bay, 13 were noted on 20th (GPK) and a pair was present all month (CGK/GPK). Six were at St Cuthbert's Island, Holy Island on 2nd (IK), and two to three off Druridge Links (IDR) and Meadow Haven, Berwick on 12th (MHu).

#### **Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Up to seven "churring" males were reported at Winnow's Hill (Slaley) on two dates, 1st and 6th (ASJ/PCI), and at least four were encountered there on 25th (GB/DM/LAR). Two were on a track at Harwood Head Farm for 20 minutes at 23:00



on 22nd (ADMc).

### **Swift** *Apus apus*

The only movement of note was at Seaton Sluice with 90 heading N on 13th (SSWT). Several flocks were reported from East Chevington with the largest by far being 250 on 27th (CB). At least 80 were briefly at Holywell Pond on 24th before rapidly dispersing (MSH), 71 were at Druridge Links on 26th (IDR), 45 fed over Capheaton Lake on a windy 11th (ASJ), whilst 40 were at Heaton on 7th (PCI). 25 were at Big Waters NWT on 7th (GB), 20+ were at Druridge Bay CP and Druridge Pools and reports of one to 16 came from many other locations. Three heading S at Holy Island on 9th were suspected to be on a feeding trip from Berwick (ADM).

### **Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

Two males and a female were at Debdon (Rothbury) on 1st (JD), three were at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (IFo) and three were in a very tight chasing group whilst calling constantly at Winnow's Hill (Slaley) on 21st (MSH). A male and a female were at Harthope Valley on 4th (TRD/JD) and singles were seen or heard at Barrow Mill (Alwinton), Brenkley, Comb (Greenhaugh), Druridge Pools, Greenlee Lough, Grindon Lough, Harward Shield, Hauxley NWT, Hesleyside, Howick, Kirkwhelpington, North Widehope, Nunnykirk, Rayburn Lake, Slaley Hall and West Woodburn.

### **Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

228 were counted at Stakeford Railway Bridge on 27th (LJM), six were at Druridge Pools area on 26th and the species was noted as "present" in Jesmond Dene on 26th.

### **Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

Six were found spread around Jesmond Dene on 26th, two at Quarry and Shoe Tree, singles at Extension Wood and Waterfall) (MJCo), five were at Cresswell Pond NWT on separate dates (TB), four in a Tynemouth Garden (CB) and at Chugdon Wood (Ellington). One to three noted at Arcot Pond, Big Waters NWT, Bywell, Callaly, Crooked Oak, Druridge Pools, Ellington, Felton, Fenwick Pit (East Holywell), Holywell Pond, Linden Hall, Longhirst Flash, Rothbury, St Mary's Wetland, Warkworth Lane (Ellington) Weldon Bridge and West Chevington.

### **Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

The largest count of the month came from Bedlington with 48 on 3rd (JR). 26 were located during a Breeding Bird Survey at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 9th (JR) and two to eight were in the Druridge Pools area, Embleton Quarry and Jesmond Dene.

### **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

14 were located during a Breeding Bird Survey at Pegswood on 2nd (TD), 13 were at Bedlington on 3rd (JR), eight adults were in Allenheads Village on 4th (CB) and one to four were at Big Waters feeding Station (uncommon here) Dinnington, Embleton Quarry and Spartylea, One at Druridge Links on 26th was noted as a rare sighting there and the regular observer's first for three years (IDR).

### **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Two were at Druridge Pools on 23rd (TF) and singles were heard or seen at East Chevington, Gosforth Park NR and Warkworth Lane Ponds.

### **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Up to 15, including a pair with five fresh downy chicks, were at Big Waters NWT on 19th (GB), three pairs at Holy Island Lough on 5th had broods of one, two and five chicks respectively (MJC), three adults and ten chicks of varying ages were at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 6th (GB), ten at Druridge Pools on 16th included a brood of five young (IDR) and eight were at Hauxley NWT. One to four were seen at several other sites and one was heard flying over Wark village at 23:40 on 8th (PRM).

### **Coot** *Fulica atra*

Numbers at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) gradually built up during the month to a peak of 59 present on 26th with four or

five active nests and many juveniles (TF/TD/TF/JFa). Likewise, Holywell Pond experienced a big increase in numbers with 34 counted on 24th (MSH), Killingworth Lake held a total of 24 on 15th including several broods (LJM), 24 were also present at East Chevington on 30th (PRM) whilst Big Waters NWT peaked at 22 adults on 19th (GB). 16 were at both Druridge Pools and Linton Ponds whilst one to eight were at Arcot Pond, Burradon Pond, Charlton Mires, Cocklawburn Park, Cresswell Pond NWT, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Bay CP, Embleton Quarry, Gosforth Park NR, Hauxley NWT, Heighley Gate (Morpeth), the Shooters' Pool at Bothal Ponds and Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington.

#### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Counts included 12 adults and a brood of two chicks were at Holywell Pond on 6th (LJM), eight adults plus two young at East Chevington on 30th (PRM), six adults and a single youngster at Big Waters NWT on 19th (GB), two pairs and two young were at Holy Island Lough. One to four were at Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), Branton GP, Broomlee Lough, Cocklawburn Pond, Druridge Bay CP, Druridge Pools, Embleton Quarry, Hauxley NWT, Hedgeley GP, Howick Quarry, Linton Ponds, Warkworth Lane Ponds and West Stobswood Pool.

#### **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps Grisegena*

An unusual summer record of a "beautiful summer plumaged" individual at Widdrington Moor Lake on 30th (STH/TRD/JD/MN).

#### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Two headed N offshore at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR). Six adults with broods of four and two chicks were at Holywell Pond on 9th (KWY), seven adults and three young were at Big Waters NWT on 1st (GB) and seven were at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) during the month but no reports of successful breeding there (TF/TD). Both Widdrington Moor Lake and Whittle Dene Reservoirs peaked at five adults present mid-month (MSH/PRM) but only Widdrington Moor Lake had breeding success reported with one half-grown youngster present on 30th (STH). At Killingworth a pair with two young occupied the small lake and another pair with a single chick were on the large lake (LJM). One to two were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Broomlee Lough, Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington and on the sea at Seaton Sluice.

#### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

The highest count was reported from Beacon Point (Newbiggin) where 53 were roosting on 4th (AP). The peak at Cresswell Pond was 30 on 15th (PRM), with 24 seen at Calot Shad on 19th (MHu) and 22 at the River Blyth Estuary on 11th (LJM). There were reports of 13-17 present at Caistron, Hauxley NWT, North Blyth and St Mary's Island. Breeding activity (additional to last month unless stated) is shown in the table below:

Locality	No of Pairs	No of Young	Observer/Notes
Plenmeller Common	3	-	Four pairs in May PRM
Cresswell Pond	1	-	Sitting on nest STH/IFo
Caistron	several	1	TRD
Boulmer	2	2	Juveniles present BS
Bulby's Wood, Breamish Valley	1	2	Young at flight stage LJM
Harward Shield	1	2	
Warkworth Lane Ponds	1	-	On bare field showing signs of breeding behaviour TD
Derwent Reservoir	1	2	At nature reserve MSH
Seaton Burn		-	Probable local breeders around cricket ground GB

One-seven were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Broomlee Lough, Corbridge, Druridge Pools, Embleton Quarry, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond, Longhirst Flash, Maiden's Hall Lake, Newburn Haugh and the River Coquet Estuary.

#### **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

The peak number at Low Newton scrape was 24 on 3rd (PCA) with three-four sitting probably on nests and broods of one and two tiny young seen on 20th (TD). Reports from Druridge Pools varied from two to 13 with two active nests seen (MN/TRD/IRD *et al.*). Just further south at Cresswell Pond a high count of seven was made on 23rd with two active nests. (STH/IFo/TB *et al.*). Two were present at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 15th (TB) and two at Woodhorn Flashes on 4th (AP).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

At Allendale, 64 were on territory with some display still noted on 25th (ASJ). Details of breeding activity (additional to last month unless stated) are in the table below:

Locality	No of Pairs	No of Young	Observer/Notes
Harward Shield	1	4	MJC/TW/AJN
Plenmeller Common	7	-	15 pairs noted in May PRM
Bothal Ponds	4	2	Four pairs in May TD
Warkworth Lane Ponds	2	2	Four young in May
Morpeth	1	2	West Shield Farm TD
Holy Island	12	-	Including single pairs at Lough and Quarry IK
Howdon	1	2	CB

The first post-breeding flocks were noted with 112 noted at East Chevington on 30th (PRM/STH), 92 at Grindon Lough on 23rd (PRM), 54 at Warkworth Lane Ponds on 3rd (TD), 46 at Castle Island on 23rd, 45 at Bothal Pond on 17th (AT) and 42+ at Druridge Pools on 29th (PRM). Other post-breeding flocks were 35 at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads, IFo), 32 at Cresswell Pond on 15th (PRM) and 28 seen at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary). Reports of two to 15 came from seven other localities.

**Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Three pairs were at Blanchland Moor on 10th (CB). The return to the coast had started with two at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 16th increasing to 47 roosting there on 29th (AP) with 20 counted at Longhoughton Steel on 25th (BS) and seven seen at Annstead (Seahouses) the same day (DF).



Golden Plover, Northumberland, June 2022, Colin Bradshaw

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Concentrations of presumed northbound individuals were 60 at Budle Bay on 5th (CGK/GPK) and approximately 40 at Boulmer on 3rd (MJC/EFC/DJC). Elsewhere, 11 were seen at Cresswell Pond on 29th (PRM) and ten were present at Holy Island Harbour on 1st (TRD). Breeding information, additional to last month unless stated is in the table below:

Locality	No of Pairs	No of Young	Observer/Notes
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Caistron	2	3	Four pairs noted in May TRD/JD
Hedgeley GP	2	5	Three pairs in May TRD/JD
Bothal Ponds	1	3	At shooters' pool TD
Hepple	1	-	Nesting JR
Budle Bay	2	-	CGK/GPK

One-nine were present at Annstead(Seahouses), Blagdon Lane Pools, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, the Long Nanny Estuary, Low Newton, Maiden's Hall Lake and the River Coquet Estuary.

#### **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

Broods of three and four were at a confidential site during the month and a pair and a lone female were at another site where they were almost certainly breeding. Four were present all month at Grindon Lough where display was noted on 29th (PRM). A peak of four occurred on 6th at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and singles were observed at Big Waters, Castle Island, East Chevington and Woodhorn Flashes on various dates.

#### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Northbound migration continued between 1st-26th, with one-three reported from Annstead (Seahouses), Collywell Bay (Seaton Sluice), Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth. Southbound movement was noted with one S at Ellington on 24th, four S at Ross Back Sands on 26th and two S at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 27th. Two were at Beal on 25th with singles at Budle Bay, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Holy Island, the River Coquet Estuary and St Mary's Island on various dates from 10th-30th.

#### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

At Seaton Sluice passage was noted from 21st with 17 N and 40S (SSWT). Other apparent movements included seven south at Ellington on 29th (TB) and one W at Big Waters on 21st (GB). Six pairs were on breeding territory at Otterburn on 4th (ASJ) with five pairs on Plennmeller Common on 9th (PRM). Single pairs were seen at Grindon Lough and Broomlee Lough (PRM). The peak count at Druridge was 54, all in a recently cut field on 28th (MSH) and a similar habitat attracted 52 at Slaley Hall on 26th (RMH). Other significant concentrations were 50 at Bell's Farm Pond (Cresswell) on 27th (CB), 48 at Allendale (display noted) on 25th (ASJ), 45 at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) on 23rd (MHu), 27 at Winnows Hill (Slaley) on 25th (GB) and 22 flying into roost at dusk at Grindon Lough on 10th (PRM). One-16 were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Blagdon, Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Links and Pools, Maiden's Hall Lake, the River Blyth Estuary and Wark.

#### **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Three reports were received from the first week of the month. A flock of approximately 300 was seen distantly at Ross Back Sands viewed from Holy Island on 1st (TRD). 100 in non- breeding plumage flew over the Heugh at Holy Island on 4th (GB) and two were at Budle Bay on 5th (TRD).

#### **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Druridge Pools continued to be favoured with reports across the whole month with a low of one and a peak of 71 (IDR/JF/IF *et al.*). A short flight to the north, East Chevington attracted flocks between 23rd-30th, in numbers from 26 to a peak of 65 on 28th (STH/ADMc/NFO *et al.*). Smaller numbers were observed elsewhere with 11 at St Mary's Island on 30th later flying off S and one-eight were present at Budle Bay, Longhoughton Steel and Low Newton scrape.

#### **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Two reports of summering groups were received; 13 were at Annstead (Seahouses) on 20th (DF) and ten were seen at Longhoughton Steel on 25th (BS).

#### **Knot** *Calidris canutus*

At Ross Back Sands, a large flock seen distantly from Holy Island was estimated at 300 ((TRD). Elsewhere during the month one was at Beal on 5th (MJC), two were present at Longhoughton Steel on 25th (BS) and two non-breeding plumaged individuals were seen at East Chevington on 30th (TRD/JD).

#### **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

A single male remained at Druridge Pools from 10th-30th (MSH/MN/IF *et al.*). A different male was seen at East Chevington on 30th (TRD/JD/STH/PRM).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

The last northbound spring passage was noted at Seaton Sluice when 19 flew N between 1st-7th (SSWT). At Boulmer, six were present on 3rd (MJC/EJC/DJC) increasing to a peak of 49 on 10th (BS). Sandham Bay (Holy Island) held 30 in breeding plumage on 3rd (IK) and 20 were at Low Newton on the same day (TRD). Eight-18+ were present at Annstead between 1st-20th (DF) and three-ten were seen at Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Beal, Budle Bay, East Chevington beach and Low Newton scrape.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

The peak at Boulmer was 19 on 3rd (MJC/EJC/DJC) and 19 summer-plumaged individuals were at Druridge Pools on 11th (TRD/JD) declining to two by 29th (PRM). Budle Bay held 15 on 5th (CGK/GPK). Reports of various numbers were received from Derwent Reservoir throughout the month with a peak of 11 on 9th and a low of one on 19th (IFo/MSH/GB/CB). Similarly at Grindon Lough reports were spread across the whole month with a low of one and a high of five seen on 23rd (PRM/MRS/SJH *et al.*). One-three were present at Beal, Blagdon Lane Pools (Cramlington), Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Hauxley NWT, Low Newton scrape and Monks' House Pool.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

One was seen feeding at the Long Nanny Estuary for five minutes on 21st (AA).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

One was at Druridge Pools on 8th (MW per NRSW).

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Three were 'roding' at Winnows Hill (Slaley) on 16th (PCI) and one on 25th (GB). A single was seen at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (IFo).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

A low of one on 9th and a high of ten on 27th were counted at Druridge Pools (LJM/CB/TRD/JD *et al.*) Display was noted at several locations with four at Otterburn on 16th (ASJ), three at Winnows Hill (Slaley) on 25th (ASJ), two at Prestwick Carr on 14th (STH) and drumming noted at Newstead Flash on 26th (CGK/GPK). A pair was also at Plenmeller Common on 9th (PRM). One-two were seen at Big Waters, Coatenhill Reservoir (Spartylea), Derwent Reservoir and Low Newton.

**Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

A male and female were present at one site from 1st-10th. The female was seen up to 30th (PRM *et al.*)

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

At inland breeding areas, eight were at the Breamish Valley on 28th (LJM), five at Caistron on 19th (TRD), a high of four at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo) and three at Hedgeley GP on 12th & 25th (NFO/PCA). Pairs were seen at Corbridge, Harthope Valley, Hepple and Wark. Singles were observed at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Bygate Hall Cottages, Beanley and Rothbury. Possible failed breeders or early returners included two at East Chevington on 18th (TF/JFa), QE2 CP on 23rd (STH/IFo), Castle Island on 23rd and Maiden's Hall Lake on 30th (PRM). Singles were seen at Big Waters, Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

One was at a roadside pool near Linton crossing on 20th (ADM<sub>c</sub>) and one was at Berwick Hill Bridge (R Pont) on 27th (AHB)

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

The River Coquet Estuary held 32 on 30th (CSa). At Grindon Lough, broods of one and two were seen on 23rd with a high of ten adults present on 24th (PRM/SJH/MRS). Successful breeding also occurred at Caistron where 11 adults and one large chick were seen on 19th (TRD). At least ten were at Druridge Pools on 29th (PRM) where a juvenile was seen on 9th (TRD/JD). Peak counts elsewhere were 20 at Aln Estuary on 27th, and 15 at Castle Island on 30th, nine at Hedgeley GP, six at Derwent Reservoir, four at Cresswell Pond and three at Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary). A bird seen at Wooperton on 9th had been ringed as an adult on 1/9/20 at Farlington Marshes (Hampshire) and controlled there on 24/9/21(PC).

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

A single was recorded at East Chevington on 23rd (RMHa/PMHA), increasing to four by 28th (STH/ADM<sub>c</sub>). Others were seen at Druridge Pools all month with a high of three present 26th-30th (IDR/MN/AA *et al.*). Singles were present at Monks' House Pool from 25th-29th (DF/PCI), Newstead Flash on 26th & 27th (CGK/GPK/KWY) and Grindon Lough on 30th (SJH).

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

Singles were reported from three sites. A summer-plumaged adult was seen at Druridge Pools from 21st-25th (MN/TF/AA *et al.*) with it or another haunting East Chevington from 23rd-30th (PRM/STH/ADM *et al.*). Another was seen at Beal on 23rd (MJC).

### **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

There was a scattering of reports from inland and from the coast. Two were at Grindon Lough on 30th (SJH). Singles were reported at Amble Braid, Budle Bay, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Hedgeley GP and Woodhorn Flashes (Newbiggin).

### **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Passage movement of 700 S was noted on 29th at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and counts of 11-30, either on the sea or moving N, came from Annstead, Berwick (Spital Bay), Druridge Links and the Tweed Estuary with five at Monks' House Pool and singles at three other sites. On the Farne Islands ca. 1,000 were seen on 2nd (TRD) and at the Berwick Needles Eye colony 1,020 nests were occupied on 6th with counts there of 60 and 80 on the sea on two other days (MHu).

### **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Strong passage of 142 S was witnessed from Druridge Links on 26th and 120 moved N there on 19th (IDR). A roost of 96 was at Yarrow Slake on the Tweed on 20th with 36 passing there on 3rd (MHu) and, elsewhere, numbers were 78 at Hauxley NWT, 41 at Greenlee Lough, 21 at Broomlee Lough, a maximum of 18 from several counts at Druridge Pools and one to five at three other localities. Two pairs were nesting at Gosforth Park NR and at least 129 juveniles were in the Plenmeller breeding colony on 23rd (PRM); up to seven newly fledged young were at East Chevington, Exhibition Park and Monks' House Pool.

### **Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Very well reported by numerous observers with virtually all sightings being of 1st and 2nd-summer individuals. A maximum of 12 were at the Long Nanny Estuary on 14th (CSa) and multiple counts elsewhere came from Druridge Pools with a maximum of 11 on 17th (CSa), Cresswell Pond with six on 29th, East Chevington with three on 4th, Widdrington Moor Lake with three on 10th (MSH). One to two were noted at Annstead, Boulmer, Budle Bay, Low Newton, Maiden's Hall Lake and Monks' House Pool.

### **Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

At Newbiggin five, four 1st-summers and a 2nd-summer, were at the beach on 23rd (AT) and ten, including eight adults, were on the sports centre playing field on 26th (AP). Three adults flew S together at Cullercoats on 30th (ASJ). All other reports were of one or two on dates throughout, at Beadnell, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Embleton, Newbiggin (Beacon Point), Tynemouth and Widdrington Moor Lake.

### **Common Gull** *Larus canus*

Very few were reported this month with only one or two at Big Waters NWT, Broomlee Lough, Derwent Reservoir, Ellington, East Chevington plus a nesting pair at Kielder Water (ADM). One at Derwent Reservoir had a white leg ring, 'JP265' (IFo).

### **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Eight were counted from Druridge Links and six at Castle Island on 30th. One to three were elsewhere at Embleton Bay, Grindon Lough, Inner Farne (one breeding pair) and Staple Island (TRD) and Plenmeller Common.

### **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

The maximum numbers were 305 in the roost at Newbiggin (Beacon Point) on 16th (AP), 302 adults in the Blyth Estuary on 20th (LJM), 200+ flying N at Annstead on 19th (DF), 188 at Castle Island on 23rd (AT), 145 at Maiden's Hall Lake (TF), 140 at East Chevington (STH) and 40, mainly moving N, at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR). Breeding records included 27 fledglings at the Holborn Moss colony on 30th (KWY) where ca. 50 were present on 27th (PCI), 16 nests at Berwick, Needles Eyes (MHu), 13 nests at North Blyth staithes (STH), seven AON in Howick Quarry (BS), three at the Blyth Harbour Masters Wharf site (LJM) and broods of three and one at the HMRC buildings, Longbenton (CDH).

### **Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*



A 2nd-summer was at Boulmer on 30th (DL per NRSW).

#### **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Derwent Reservoir held 15 on 1st, the maximum of six counts there (IFo), 13 at Castle Island on 23rd (AT), ten were at Druridge Links/Pools on 26th (IDR) and seven on 14th was the maximum of eight counts at Grindon Lough (SJH/PRM/MRS). Elsewhere, five were at Bothal Pond and one to three at Broomlee Lough, Ellington, Embleton Quarry, Jesmond Dene and Stakeford. Single nesting pairs were recorded at Needles Eye (Berwick) (MHu) and North Blyth staithes (STH).

#### **Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

On Inner Farne the colony held ca.200 on 2nd, the observer noting that there were no apparent signs of Avian Flu (TRD). Large gatherings comprised up to 70 in several counts at East Chevington, 62 at the Newbiggin (Beacon Point) roost, ca.60 at Amble Braid, 45 offshore at Druridge Links and 20-40 at Cresswell Pond and St. Mary's Island; regular counts of birds moving N at Annstead recorded up to 30. Smaller numbers seen elsewhere comprised up to ten at Boulmer, Budle Bay, Embleton Quarry, Hauxley NWT, the Long Nanny Estuary, Low Newton, Monks' House Pool, Spital Bay (Berwick) and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh),

#### **Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

An encouraging number of 80 were at the Long Nanny colony on 24th and 27th (AMG/MG – volunteer wardens) and elsewhere at least 15 pairs were at Cheswick Sands on 5th (NFO); the only other reports were of one or two seen at Annstead, Budle Bay and St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island).

#### **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

Two were in the Newbiggin (Beacon Point) roost on 27th (AP) and singles were seen resting with other terns at the edge of the Long Nanny Estuary on 1st (TRD) and moving N at Seaton Sluice on 6th.(SSWT).

#### **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

The only notable movement seen at Seaton Sluice was 85 N on 6th (SSWT). At North Blyth staithes at least 100 were present on 15th (STH). Other large gatherings were 50 at East Chevington (TRD/JD) and 30 at Gosforth Park NR on 1st (MJC). Smaller counts elsewhere were 15 at Amble Braid, 11 at Hauxley NWT and one to ten at Bothal Pond, Cresswell Pond, offshore at Druridge Links, Leazes Park, Newburn Haugh and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Breeding records comprised 51 on nests at North Blyth staithes with many chicks noted the following week (STH), ten nests at Gosforth Park NR (MJC) and a single-figure count at the colony on Inner Farne where the reduced number this year was due to vegetation expansion at the site following past Covid restrictions (TRD); none were nesting at Big Waters NWT (GB).

#### **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Around 2,000 were in the Long Nanny colony during the last week (AMG/MG - volunteer wardens). The colony on Inner Farne was smaller this year due to vegetation expansion because of past Covid restrictions with ca.400 on 2nd (TRD) and a flock of ca.200 on Ross Back Sands on 1st was likely to be from the Black Law colony (Lindisfarne NNR) (TRD). At East Chevington 15 were on the North Pool on 18th and small numbers were seen offshore at five other localities.

#### **American Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger surinamensis*

The returning adult was again seen regularly in the vicinity of the tern colony at the Long Nanny (PCA/TRD/Birdguides).

#### **Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

At Seaton Sluice, sightings were one N on 1st and two N on 6th (SSWT) one of which is likely to have been the individual seen moving N at Newbiggin on the same day (ADMc).

#### **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Two flew N at Newbiggin Point and were seen flying over Druridge Pools 35 minutes later on 7th (AT/NRSW). An extremely low monthly total of only two was reported from Seaton Sluice comprising singles N on 2nd and 5th (SSWT) and at St Mary's Island one flew N on 7th (MSH).

**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

An adult moved N at Seaton Sluice on 29th seen by only one very fortunate observer (MH/SSWT).

**Auk** *sp*

Some large movements of Guillemot/Razorbill were recorded early in the month at Seaton Sluice with 850 N, 45 S in two hours on 1st and 1125 N, 10 S in two hours on 7th (SSWT). At St Mary's Island, 77 flew N in one hour on 7th (MSH).

**Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

An estimated 10,000 were on the Farne Islands on 2nd (TRD). A noticeable movement was observed at Low Newton when 160 flew N on 3rd (TRD), 120 were on the sea at Berwick, Needles Eye (MHu) and 100 at Howick, Rumbling Kern (MKi). Smaller counts came from Berwick (Meadow Haven and Spital Bay), Druridge Links and Stag Rocks.



Guillemot, Farne Islands, June 2022, Tim Dean

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Counts comprised 50 on the Farne Islands, 34 at St Mary's Island and up to 15 at Berwick (Spital Bay), Druridge Links, Howick and Low Newton. At Berwick, Needles Eye 34 AON were seen on 6th (Mhu).

**Black Guillemot** *Cepphus grylle*

An adult was on the sea off Newbiggin Point on 14th (AT).

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

A rough estimate was of ca.10,000 on the Farne Islands on 2nd (TRD). Two movements at Annstead comprised 350 N in 1.75 hours on 13th and 420 N in 1.5 hours on 27th (DF); smaller movements were noted at Seaton Sluice with a total of 195 N on 6th-7th (SSWT). Elsewhere counts of two or three came from Berwick (Needles Eye), Druridge Links, Embleton Bay and St Mary's Island.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

At Seaton Sluice the monthly total consisted of 34N and 3S with the vast majority in summer plumage (SSWT). Two flew N at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 4th (TRD), singles also flew N at Rumbling Kern (Howick) on 1st (MKi) and at St Mary's Island on 6th & 7th (MSH). Singles were also off Low Newton on 3rd (TRD) and East Chevington on 30th (PRM).



**Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer***

Four went N at Seaton Sluice, all in summer plumage between the 2nd – 5th (SSWT).

**Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis***

35 flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 3rd and 19th with 31N on 20th, 26 N on 1st (all DF). 20 were noted at the Farne Islands on 2nd (TRD). Occupied nests were at Bamburgh Castle (TRD), Collywell Bay (Seaton Sluice) (LJM), Howick Quarry (BS) & Needles Eye (Berwick) (MHu). One - twelve were seen at 10 locations including one flying E at Holywell Dene on 1st (CDH) and a blue morph flew S at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 5th (SSWT)

**Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus***

274 flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) in 1hr 45m on 13th, 116 N on 14th and 102 N on 20th (all DF). Seaton Sluice had a total of 258 (222 N and 36 S) with most records between 16th – 20th (SSWT). Other counts included 56 N at Annstead (Seahouses)(DF), 41N at Druridge Links (IDR), 38 at St Mary's Island (MSH) on 19th. A flock of 23 went N at Newbiggin on 15th (STH), 16 N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 21st (DF) and 15 were noted at Embleton Bay on 17th (IDR).

**Gannet *Morus bassanus***

At Seaton Sluice 300 N in 3hrs on 6th was the maximum count (SSWT). High counts came from Annstead (Seahouses) with 236 seen on 3rd (164 N and 72 S), 65-167 were noted there between 6th and 27th (all DF). A flock of 34 were in a feeding 'frenzy' close in at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 14th (MHU), 25 were offshore at Embleton Bay on 17th (IDR), 21 flew N at St Mary's Island on 6th (MSH) and 20 were at Holy Island on 1st and Farne Islands on 2nd (TRD). Two-fifteen were at Boulmer, Cresswell, Druridge Links, Low Newton & St Mary's Island.

**Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

East Chevington had the highest count with 42 on 15th (PRM), 36 were at Annstead (Seahouses) with 23N and 13S on 14th (DF), 35 were on the Farne Islands on 2nd (TRD). 18 roosted at Needles Eye (Berwick) on 6th (Mhu), at Annstead on 10th and 20th (DF). 15 were at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (IFo) and one to seven were at Embleton Bay, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Hauxley NWT, Meadow Haven (Berwick) & St Mary's Island.

**Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis***

200 were on the Farne Islands on 2nd (TRD), 16 roosted at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 12th (MHu), 10 at Holy Island on 1st (TRD), six at Needles Eye (Berwick) on 6th and at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 16th, five were in Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 23rd (all MHU), One to two were noted at Low Newton, Needles Eye (Berwick), North Shields, Seaton Sluice, St Mary's Island and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).

**Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia***

Three, including one bearing a white colour-ring, were at Druridge Pools on 9th (TRD/JD). This increased to six, an adult and 5 immatures, on 10th (MSH), that remained until 12th (TRD/JD *et al.*) with one to four there until 27th. Two were also at Cresswell Pond on 5th (PCI) and individuals were noted at Low Newton scrape and Budle Bay on 4th (PCA/CGK).





**Cattle Egret** *Bulbucus Ibis*

An adult flew NW over Holywell Pond (MK) and was re-found on the Budge Field at Druridge Pools on 11th (TRD/JD/IF/TB/MN).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

22 were at Yarrow Slake (R Tweed Estuary) on 23rd (MHU), 13 were at Druridge Pools on 19th (IDR/JF) and 12 were at Yarrow Slake (R Tweed Estuary) on 1st (MHU). Up to nine were at Druridge Pools on several occasions. One – 8 were noted at 26 locations including a family party of six in Budle Bay which were noted near a suitable nesting site late in the month, and breeding was considered to have taken place (CGK/GPK).

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

At Derwent Reservoir on 18th two, including one in breeding plumage, flew in from E at 08:20 and flew off N at 08:50; this is only the 2nd documented record here (IFo). The long-staying individual was seen at Caistron on 4th (ASJ) and on 19th (TRD), one was also seen at East Chevington on 28th (STH/ADMc).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

A minimum count of 29 flew into a roost at a possible colony at a confidential site on 30th (PCI). Six individuals were at Budle Bay on 27th (CGK/GPK), five were at Beal on 5th (MJC) and at Branton GP on 18th (AA). Four were noted at Budle Bay on 18th (DF), Branton GP on 19th (IBDa/KDa), near Warkworth Lane (Ellington) on 20th (ADMc), Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 23rd (MJC) and on the R Tweed Estuary on 29th (MHU). Three were also seen at East Chevington, Branton GP, Budle Bay and Yarrow Slake (R Tweed). One to two were present at 17 sites during the month.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Numbers at Derwent Reservoir peaked at three on 18th, including a colour-ringed PT9, which was ringed at Loch Tay, Perthshire on 15th July 2018 (IFo), two were noted on 1st (IFo) and singles on six other dates (IFo/MSH/GB). Individuals were present at Wark (N Tyne) on 5th (PRM), Airy Holm Reservoir (Nr Shotleyfield) on 15th (IFo), Winnows Hill (Slaley) on 21st (MSH) and at Broomlee Lough on 23rd (PRM).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Individuals were noted at 16 different locations throughout the month.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Three individuals, a male and two females, were at East Chevington 5th (IF) with one to two seen regularly there. Two pairs were present at confidential sites throughout the month (DF/PCI). Away from the Druridge Bay area, individuals were observed at the Ash Lagoons (Newbiggin), Bothal Pond, Ellington, Low Newton, Plenmeller Common and Woodhorn.

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

A ringtail flew low NW at High Shield (Bardon Mill) on 28th (SJH).

**Kite** sp

On 17th a probable Red Kite flew W over the Ministry Buildings/Freeman Hospital (Benton) (PCI).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Three were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 7th and two were seen there on 14th and 21st (IFo). Two at Crooked Oak (Derwent Reservoir) on 25th (GB) and singles at Derwent Reservoir on 1st, 4th, 8th, 12th and 17th (IFo/MSH) were presumably the same birds. Individuals were at Windy Gyle (Upper Coquetdale) on 5th (DRW), Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 9th (TD), Great Swinburne on 12th (PRM), Snods Edge on 15th (IFo), Winnow's Hill (Slaley) on 21st (MSH). On the 25th singles were noted at Woodhorn/QEII CP for over an hour (AP/JG), Wark (N Tyne) (PRM), one flew S over Longhoughton (BS) and another over Heaton (Newcastle) (PCI), while on 26th singles were noted at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) (IFo) and at Slaley Village (RMH).

### **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Four were at Holburn Moss on 30th, and three were at Grindon Lough NWT on 9th (PRM) and at East Chevington on 30th (PRM). Two were seen at Longhorsley Moor on 5th (LJM), Lickar Dene (Dryburn) on 15th (MHU), Derwent Reservoir on 17th and 20th (MSH), Rayburn Lake on 18th (CB), Grindon Lough NWT on 21st and Broomlee Lough on 23rd (PRM). Individuals were noted at 22 locations.

### **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

It seems to be a good breeding year with ten owlets in three nest boxes at Howick on 28th (JAR), six large young ringed at High Newton on 26th, a pair with three large young at Shorestone Hall on 7th and three large young ringed at Fallodon (Christon Bank) on 26th (Aha/PHA). Further evidence of successful breeding came from Budle Bay (two pairs), Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir and Ross. Three were at Druridge Pools on 23rd with two there on 16th and at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd and 25th (TF/IDR/IFo) with singles at both locations on a number of dates. Further individuals were noted at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on three dates and at Seaton Delaval on 9th, Whelmley (Longhorsley) on 13th, Low Newton on 15th, East Chevington on 17th and 28th, Howick on 21st, Ellington on 24th, Winnows Hill (Slaley) on 25th and Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 30th.

### **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Six different individuals were sound recorded between Sinderhope and Allenheads on 1st (CB per Bill Jackson) with four (adult + three young) in an open nest box in a garden at Alnwick Moor on 18th (AHa/PHA). Two were at Winnows Hill (Slaley) on 16th with a male at Wark (North Tyne) on three dates during the month, one calling at Shilbottle till 7th, Spartylea on 4th and male at Ellington Dene on 6th. One was seen at Rothbury on 18th, another was calling at Howick on 21st with a juvenile calling at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 23rd and one in flight at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 27th with several individuals calling there throughout the month.

### **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Two called at 22.00 at Fenwick Pit (East Holywell) on 9th (MSH) with a single at Derwent Reservoir on three dates from 14th to 24th (IFo).

### **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

On 21st one hunted by roadside early evening at Rothley Lakes (BS).

### **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

One was at East Chevington on 15th and 30th (PRM/STH).

### **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Just four reports, all singles, at Felton on 8th, Tyne Green (Hexham) on 11th, Beanley on 24th and Hepple on 25th.

### **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Family parties included a male with four juveniles at Howick Hall on 15th (HwRS), a male with two juveniles at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 26th, a female with juvenile at Ellington Dene on 6th (TB) and at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 24th (KWY) with a male and juvenile at Big Waters on 7th (GB). Two were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 3rd with two juveniles there on 23rd and singles there on three other dates and two at Newton Red House on 15th. Singles were at eleven other locations two of the reports being juveniles.

### **Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Singles were heard at Nunnykirk on 3rd and 18th and one was in the Fontburn area on 4th.

### **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

The highest counts were from active nests with a pair and six young at Holywell Dene on 1st, all fledged by 30th, a pair and four large young in a nest at Cramlington on 29th, a pair with two fledged young at Fenwick Pit (Holywell) on 20th and a pair with one young at Swallow Pond (Wallsend) on 15th (ASJ). Three were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 14th with two at St Mary's Island on 1st, Ellington Dene on 6th (one juvenile), Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 7th, College

Valley on 10th and Derwent Reservoir on 19th and two juveniles at Valley Park (Cramlington) on the same date. Singles were at eight other widespread locations and Holy Island Castle where a male with fledged young indicated successful breeding at this site for the third year (IK).

#### **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

An Individual was seen in flight at Blanchland Moor on 10th and a male at Greenlee Lough on 16th. A male was noted with a female hunting moths but ignoring the abundant Meadow Pipit population during a six hour watch at a confidential regular breeding site on 22nd.

#### **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

Single adults were seen over the A1 at Morpeth on 13th, south along Potland Burn (Linton Ponds) on 17th, at Caistron on 19th with probably the same bird at Debdon (Rothbury) on 22nd, south at Warkworth Gut on 21st, over Grindon Lough NWT on 23rd and chasing a Sand Martin at Druridge Pools on 24th.



Hobby, Low Newton, June 2022, Gary Woodburn

#### **Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

A male was buzzed by a Buzzard in the Fontburn area on 4th and one caught a passerine over gas tanks at Howdon on 11th.

#### **Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

The highest count of the month was 19 going S to roost over Gosforth Garden Village on 25th. 10 flew W calling over Kirkley Park, Wallsend on 17th (AT) and nine were calling over Regent Centre (Gosforth) on 26th (GB). Six was the maximum seen at Walkerville during the month (CDH) with four at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 1st and W at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 16th. Singles, all in the Newcastle area, were at Leazes Park on 6th, Heaton on 16th, Jesmond on 16th and 30th and Longbenton on 25th.

#### **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

A female was at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 2nd and 4th (IK/GB,/LAR).



### **Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

There were low numbers with the only evidence of breeding being a juvenile at Felton Lane on 28th. Two were at Ellington Dene on 16th, Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 23rd and Debdon (Rothbury) on 27th (TB/JD) with singles at both locations during the month and at Arcot Pond on 2nd, Doddington on 3rd, Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 9th, Eshott and Spindlestone on 10th, Howick on 15th, Wideopen on 17th, Rayburn Lake on 18th, New Moor, Ashington on 25th and West Chevington on 30th.

### **Magpie** *Pica pica*

Five was the high count at Druridge Pools and Links on 16th and 26th with two to three there on three other dates (IDR). Three were at Jesmond Dene on 26th and two at Embleton Quarry on 17th.

### **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

75 fed at Bothal Pond on 30th (AT), 25 at Bedlington on 3rd (JR) with BBS counts of 19 at Pegswood on 2nd and 13 at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 9th (TD/JR). Four were at Embleton Quarry on 17th and Druridge Pools and Links on 26th with two at the latter location on two other dates and Jesmond Dene on 26th.

### **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

On 22nd 100 fed in a field cut for silage at Howick (JAR) and two were at Embleton Quarry on 17th (IDR).

### **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

Eight were at Druridge Pools and Links on 26th with six there on 16th and two to four there on two other dates (IDR). Five were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 26th (MJCo) and a single nesting pair at Needles Eye (Berwick) on 6th (MHu).

### **Hooded Crow** *Corvus corone cornix*

One was on the north shore links at Budle Bay on 5th (CGK/GPK) and the regular individual in a horse paddock at Linton on 16th (TB).

### **Raven** *Corvus corax*

A group of nine at Debdon (Rothbury) on 27th likely included juveniles (JD). Seven were at Holburn Moss on 30th with three there on 27th (KWY/PCI) and a pair with four fledged juveniles at Howick Quarry on 19th (BS). A pair were regularly observed carrying food to a known nest site at Budle Bay during the month with three at Grindon Lough NWT on 9th and a juvenile there on 23rd. Two were at Hepple on 4th and singles over Ingram (Breamish Valley) on the same date and south at Ord Moor (Berwick) on 8th.

### **Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

A pair with four fledged juveniles was at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 4th (MJC) and an adult with three young in a garden at Marden Estate (Tynemouth) on the same date (ASJ). One visited garden feeders at Dinnington all month and one was at Shoe Tree Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 12th.

### **Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Two at Ellington Dene on 16th (TB) was the only multiple sighting with singles at Beacon Hall and Linden Hall (Longhorsley) regularly, a juvenile at Felton on 6th and one heard at Guyzance on 12th.

### **Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Family parties of at least three were at Linton Ponds on 11th and Druridge Pools on 23rd (MSH/STH/IFO). Two were at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 15th (IFo) with singles at Big Waters NWT on 3rd, Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 3rd and 14th, Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 14th and 21st, Fenwick Pit (East Holywell) on 16th and Woodhorn on 22nd.

### **Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

A BBS at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) found five with three at Bedlington on 3rd (JR) and present at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) during the month. A pair of adults attended a nest in a traffic light post near Trent House pub adjacent to Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 6th and an adult fed audible young in a nest inside a metal cigarette stubber near Goals at

Gosforth Park (Newcastle) (GB).

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

A high count of 45 consisting of pairs with fledged young as made at Holywell Dene on 5th (ASJ) with one at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 12th (MJCo).

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*

A male was recorded singing at an undisclosed site in the SW (per P.Clark) which will be only the second county record of one singing and the first since 1966 (ASJ).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

On 25th 60 were singing in the Throckrington/Plashetts area (ASJ), and 60 with approximately 44 pairs on BWWM survey at Rayburn Lake on 18th (CB). 54 sang at Sandysike (Hareshaw Common) on 16th and 32 including a pair feeding four young in nest at Wands Hill (Forestburn Gate) on 23rd (ASJ). Eight were at Thornton on 16th and five singing in a BBS square at Longframlington on 9th with one to two at five other locations.



Skylark, Otterburn, June 2022, Alan Jack

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Two colonies at Breamish Valley on 4th held 50 (ASJ) with 40+ at Druridge Pools on 21st and 30 there on 27th (MN/CB), and 40 including around 20 fledged young at Tynemouth on 22nd (ASJ). On 20th 28 fed over then flew S from Cresswell Pond. More than 20 were at Milkhope Lake (Blagdon) on 5th with two to ten at Druridge Pools and Links on four dates, four at Embleton Quarry on 17th and Howdon on 2nd.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

60 fed over Capheaton Lake in windy conditions on 11th, 55 at Blackpool Farm and 46 at Todburn (Longhorsley) on 23rd included many fledged young (ASJ) with more than 40 at Druridge Pools on 21st (MN) and 15 at East Chevington on 2nd (IF). Two pairs fledged eleven young at Forget-me-not Caravan Park (Longhorsley) on 30th and two pairs fledged ten young at Foxhunters Industrial Estate (Whitley Bay) on 28th with two pairs fledging nine young at Backworth on 14th and

two pairs with eight young fledged at St Mary's on 12th (ASJ). At Druridge Pools and Links, a pair was on eggs in the hide on 12th with three increasing to 11 on 26th, and five to seven at three other locations.

#### **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

On 11th, 60 fed over Capheaton Lake in poor conditions with 52 at Forget-me-not Caravan Park (Longhorsley) on 30th, 30 were at Breamish Valley on 4th (ASJ), 20 at East Chevington on 2nd (IF) and 15 at Druridge Pools on 19th (IDR/JF). Active nests numbered 31 around Cresswell Ices (ADMc), 26 at Forget-me-not Caravan Park (Longhorsley), 16 at Capheaton Village, 11 at Southfield Green (Cramlington) and four at Needles Eye (Berwick). 14 were at Chathill on 11th with nesting there for the first time since 2016 and three to ten were at seven other widespread localities with two comments in respect of low numbers this year.

#### **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

A male and a female were ringed at East Chevington on 5th (IF), where there was also another male. Two were heard singing at the south end of the North Pool, and one was heard singing by the bridge at the South Pool on 16th (STH/IFo). One to two were also heard on 1st, 2nd, 15th, 21st and 30th. One was heard at Big Waters NWT on 3rd (GB), and one was heard at Hauxley on 12th (TRD/JD, HRS).

#### **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Slaley Hall had 16 on 23rd (RMH), and Derwent Reservoir had 11 on 9th (IFo). A pair were feeding seven fledged young at Prestwick Carr on 1st (PCF). Parties of eight were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 14th (IFo), Fisher Lane (Cramlington) on 23rd (LJM), and at Ellington Dene, where one was a light ginger colour, on 16th (TB). One to six were at seven other locations.

#### **Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

One was singing strongly in the Harthope Valley (Langleeford) on 4th (TRD). At Crooked Oak (Derwent Reservoir) on 25th, an adult was seen going to a nest with a bill full of food and reappearing without it, indicating young in the nest (DM/LAR/GB).

#### **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

There were 48 singing in the Stonehaugh area on 25th (ASJ) and 37 at Wingates on 4th (ASJ). The Fontburn area had 16 on 4th (TD), and the Breamish Valley had six on 15th (NFO). Four singing males were at East Chevington on 15th and 30th (PRM), and a maximum of four were at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR/JF). Two to three were at eight other locations, including a pair feeding young in a nest at Blackpool Farm (Longhorsley) on 23rd (ASJ). Singles were at a further five sites, including a late migrant on Holy Island on 9th (RGD/ADM).

#### **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

There were 29 singing males in roadside trees and bushes from Beacon Hill to Wingates on 23rd (ASJ), seven at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 1st (ADM), and a pair with five fledged chicks at Benton (Newcastle) on 9th (PCI). Three pairs were at Newburn Haugh on the Tyne on 1st (PRM), five were counted on a 9km walk in Wallsend on 9th (CDH), and there were four at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 9th (JR) and at Embleton Quarry on 17th (IDR). One to three were at a further fifteen locations.

#### **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The highest count came from East Chevington, with 13 on 30th (PRM), two were ringed, one re-trapped, there on 5th (IF). Five were at East Cramlington Pond NWT on 3rd (LJM) and at Holy Island on 9th (ADM), and four at Cresswell Pond NWT on 29th (PRM). There were three at Shooters' Pools (Bothal) on 5th (TD), and a maximum of three at Druridge Pools and Links on 19th (IDR/JF). Pairs were feeding young at Needles Eye (Berwick) on 6th, Cocklawburn Pond on 14th, and Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary) on 20th (MHu), and a fledged brood was seen in a hedgerow at Holburn Grange on 30th (KWY). Two were singing at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 2nd, the highest count there in eighteen years (NFO). One singing at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 15th was the third record there; it was still present on 21st (IFo).

#### **Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

East Chevington held the largest number, with 18 counted on 30th (PRM). Of eight trapped there on 5th, seven were ringed and the re-trapped individual was found to be six years old (IF). There were four singing at Killingworth Lake on 15th (LJM), and a maximum of three at Druridge Pools on 19th (IDR/JF). One to two were at ten other locations.



### **Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

Four were heard at Prestwick Carr on 14th (STH). Three were at Smallburn (Longhorsley) on 13th (CB), and two were at East Chevington on 15th (PRM). Reeling was heard at St Mary's on 3rd, 5th, 6th and 15th (MSH) and at eight other locations, and singles were reported from a further five, including one briefly seen at Nunnykirk on 18th (JD).

### **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Kielder Forest Drive produced the highest count, with 22 singing males on 16th (ASJ). Holywell Dene held 15 on 17th (ASJ). Three pairs were at Newburn Haugh on the Tyne on 1st (PRM) and six were counted in a BBS square at Dilston (Corbridge) on 2nd (IFo). A family party of five was at Ellington Dene on 16th (TB) and there were four at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 9th (JR). A pair were making daily visits to the bird bath at East Ord (Berwick) on 25th (MHu). Two to three were at seven other locations. Singles, including one feeding on red hot poker (*Kniphofia* spp.) nectar at Lemmington Hall (Edlingham) on 2nd (AHa/PHa), were at a further seven sites.

### **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Wingates had four on 23rd (ASJ), Branton GP had three singing males on 7th (TRD/JD), and Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) had three on 15th (IFo). Two were reported from Fontburn, Hedgeley GP, the Breamish Valley, Caistron, Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), Beanley and Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley). Singles were at a further twelve locations throughout the month, including one singing at Gosforth Park NR on 1st (MJC) and one in full song at Tweedmouth on 30th (MHu).

### **Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

Two were at Chathill for a week from 9th (PCA), and two were at Embleton Quarry on 15th (IBDa/KDa). A male was singing at Bank's Pond (Dinnington) on 1st, 6th, and 19th (PCF). There were singles at Derwent Reservoir and Smallburn (Longhorsley), and a late migrant at Holy Island on 9th. Singing males were at Dukesfield (Bamburgh), Slaley Hall, East Chevington, Big Waters NWT and Amble Braid.

### **Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

BBS counts yielded ten at Smallburn (Longhorsley) on 13th (CB), seven at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 9th (JR), and six at Dilston (Corbridge) on 2nd (IFo). A pair with four fledged young were at Druridge Pools on 17th (PG), and two pairs were at Newburn Haugh (Tyne) on 1st (PRM) and at Howdon on 3rd (CB). Four were at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 15th (IFo) and at Thornton on 16th (RPo). A fledged brood of three was noted at St Mary's Wetland on 15th (MSH). One to two were at a further ten locations.

### **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

There were 12 at Kielder Forest Drive on 16th (ASJ), six at Chathill on 2nd (PCA), and a family party of six at Ellington Dene on 6th (TB). Three were caught at a ringing demo. at Howick Hall on 15th (HwRS), and singles were at a further six locations.

### **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Holywell Dene had 26 singing on 2nd (ASJ), and Kielder Forest Drive had 23 singing on 16th (ASJ). There were six at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 9th (JR), four at Bedlington on 3rd (JR), at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 12th (MJCo), and at Druridge Links on 26th (IDR). A family group of three was at Howick on 29th (JAR), and there was one at Embleton Quarry on 17th (IDR).

### **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) had six on 22nd (ASJ), and Fawdon Bank (Longhirst) and Holywell Dene held three on 7th (TB) and 16th (ASJ) respectively. There were two fledglings at Howick on 8th (JAR), and two at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) and at Howick Hall.

### **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Four were recorded at Wallington on 19th (PG), and an adult with two fledglings were at Howick on 8th (JAR). Chathill, Ellington Dene and Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) had two on 2nd (PCA), 6th (TB) and 7th (IFo) respectively. Singles were at Branton GP, Shoreston Hall, Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) and Tarset.

### **Rose-coloured Starling** *Pastor roseus*

An adult flew NW at Budle Bay on 11th (RA per NRSW).

### **Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

A roost of 400, estimated to be 80% juveniles, came in at Big Waters NWT on 21st (GB). There were 300 at Holy Island on 5th (MJC) and at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 14th (IFo). 141 fed on the south beach at Newbiggin on 17th, Druridge Pools and Links had a maximum of 120 on 12th (IDR/JF) and Doddington had 100 on 29th (JD). At Prestwick Carr, 47 flew E to roost on 14th (STH), and a roost of 42 at Dinnington on 19th was mainly comprised of juveniles (PCF). A BBS count of 32 at Pegswood on 2nd (TD) did not include the dozens of juveniles present. Bedlington had 25 on 3rd (JR) and Embleton Quarry had four on 17th (IDR).

### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Bedlington had the largest number, with 42 on 3rd (JR). BBS counts produced 26 at Pegswood on 2nd (TD) and 24 at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 9th (JR). There were one to three at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Embleton Quarry and Alnmouth Dunes.

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Singing males were noted, with six at Spartylea on 6th (CB), five at Rayburn Lake on 18th (CB), four at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on 2nd (CB), and four at Allenheads on 4th (CB). Two fledged juveniles were at Leazes Park (Newcastle) on 6th (GB). One to two were at four other locations.

### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

There were 17 at Howick on 8th (JAR), 13 at Winnows Hill (Slaley) on 25th (GB), seven at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on 25th (CB), and six at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 21st (IFo). Five were feeding in a field on an organic farm at Thornton on 16th, accompanied by 12 hares (RPo). One to three were reported from the College Valley, Ellington Dene, Broomlee Lough, Newcastle Town Moor, Longhirst Flash and Riding Mill.

### **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

The species was well-reported, with 22 records from 21 locations. There were three pairs at Spartylea on 6th (CB), two pairs feeding young in nests at Highgreen Manor on 16th (ASJ), and two pairs at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) by the end of the month. Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) had three on 4th (ASJ) and a nesting pair on 7th (NFO). Pairs were also observed feeding young in nests at Elsdon on 16th (ASJ) and at Kirkwhelpington on 26th (ASJ). A pair were feeding young at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on 25th (CB), and a nesting pair were reported near the front door on the wall at Lemmington Hall (Edlingham) on 26th (AHa/PHa). Two were at Byrness and at Crawley Dene (Powburn) on 18th. There was a pair at Wallington on 25th (ASJ). Singles were at another ten locations, including a presumed late migrant in gardens at North Shields on 8th (KWY), and one carrying food at Kielder Forest Drive on 29th (ADM).



Spotted Flycatcher, Linden Hall, June 2022, Neil Osbourne

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

There were three at Bedlington on 3rd (JR), an adult and two fledglings at Howick on 28th (JAR), and two at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 12th (MJCo).

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Hesleyside (Bellingham) had two singing males on 11th (ASJ). Individuals were at Whitley Chapel, Nunnykirk and Derwent Reservoir, with a passage male singing at Holywell Dene on 17th the first record there for several decades (ASJ).

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Breeding was strongly in evidence, with a maximum of nine (two pairs feeding young) at GarrettLea Wood (Longhorsley) on 27th (CB). Two adults with three juveniles were at Little Ryle (Whittingham) on 13th (CW). Two singing males and a female were at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (IFo) and a fresh juvenile was at the Millshield picnic site there on 25th (GB). Three at Tarsset on 16th included a female carrying down (PG). A pair at Debdon (Rothbury) were observed carrying food on 25th and 28th (TRD, JD), and there was a male with a juvenile at Longframlington Common on 29th (JD). Singles were at ten other locations, including a male carrying food at Longhorsley on 13th (AB/LB).

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

There were seven males and two females at Akeld Burn/Yeavinger Bell on 22nd (CW). Singing males were at Barrow Law (Coquetdale), the Harthope Valley, Bygate Hall Cottages, and the Breamish Valley, and a female was at Kielder Forest Drive on 29th (ADM).

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*



Breeding pairs were reported from widespread locations throughout the county. There was a maximum of 14 on Holy Island on 9th (ADM), including eight juveniles, with four pairs feeding young there on 5th (MJC). Four territories, one with four young, were noted between Low Newton and the Long Nanny on 20th (TD). Howick had a family group of five on 1st, and one of four on 22nd (JAR). A pair were feeding young in the nest at Winter's Gibbet (Harwood Forest) on 16th (ASJ). Longframlington had family groups of four on 11th (NFO) and 29th (JD). One family party of two adults and two young were at the College Valley on 10th (RPo) and two were at Bulby's Wood (Breamish Valley) on 28th (LJM). Groups of one to three including juveniles were at Howick Haven, Whittingham, Cresswell Pond NWT, Kielder Forest and Debdon (Rothbury). One to two were at a further 11 locations.

#### **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A pair with four young were at Plashetts on 25th (ASJ). There were three late migrants at Holy Island on 9th (ADM, RGD) and a pair and a separate male at Akeld Burn/Yeaving Bell on 22nd (CW). Beacon Point (Newbiggin) had two on 9th (AP), and the College Valley had two on 10th (RPo). Singles were at Boulmer, Rowhope Burn, and Low Newton.

#### **Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Singles were noted this month at eight riverine sites, with single juveniles seen at two.

#### **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

47 were counted at Pegswood on 2nd and 39 were at Horton Burn on 23rd (TD/LJM). On 3rd 21 were noted at Bedlington (JD). Up to 14 were seen at three sites.

#### **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Up to 40 were seen at Chugdon Wood on 5th and 19th (TB). Three family groups totalling 26 were at Smallburn (Longhorsely) on 13th (CB). 21 attended feeders at Slaley on 30th (RMH). One to seven were also seen at 13 locations during the month.

#### **Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Eleven were counted at Cockle Park on 9th (JR). One to eight were observed at a further eight sites.

#### **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Two were seen during the month at Druridge Pools, Ross and Felton. Singles were seen at seven sites this month. A male "Channel Wagtail" (hybrid *flava* x *flavissima*) was at Druridge Pools on 6th.

#### **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

A pair fed four young in a nest on the banks of the River Rede at West Woodburn on 16th (ASJ). Five were seen in Harthope Valley on 4th and a pair fed two young at Holywell Dene on 2nd (TD/ASJ). Two pairs were at Spartylea on 5th (CB).

#### **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

30 were counted between Otterburn and West Woodburn on 16th, including several pairs with fledged young. At nearby Elsdon, another family group of seven fed on the road on windblown caterpillars that day (ASJ). On 11th, family parties totalling 24 were noted in the Bellingham area (ASJ). Two pairs with fledged broods of two and four young were seen at Boulmer on 3rd (MJC *et al.*). Seven were noted at Berwick Little Beach on 28th (MHu). Pairs with juveniles were also seen this month, at Newbiggin G.C., Howick, East Cramlington, Holy Island and St. Mary's. One to two were at four sites.

#### **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

The Rayburn Lake area revealed during a survey on 18th, 44 pairs on breeding territory, with a total of 105 counted (CB). 70, including fledged young, were counted at Thockrington on 25th, with display flights evident. 68 likewise at Hareshaw Common/Sandysike on 16th and 43 at Ward's Hill (Forestburngate) on 23rd (ASJ). Display and young being fed was also noted at St. Mary's on 4th, totalling 18 (ASJ). One to eight were seen at a further three sites.



Meadow Pipit, (Adult) Northumberland, June 2022, Colin Bradshaw

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Seven sang in strong winds on 16th at Kielder Forest Drive and four also sang at Wingates on 23rd (ASJ). A pair were seen feeding fledged young at Slaley Forest on 20th where two sang at nearby Winnows Hill on 17th (MSH). Singles were seen and heard at a further six locations this month.

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Four were seen at Berwick Little Beach on 28th (MHu). Three song-fighting males were watched at Cullercoats on 22nd (ASJ). Pairs were noted on 2nd at Inner Farne and on Staple Island (TRD). Two were also seen at Whitley Bay, South Promenade on 30th (MSH). A single was at Holy Island Harbour on 1st (TRD).

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Very few were reported this month, with six at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) the high count (JR). One to three were at four sites.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

22 in family groups, were counted at Holywell Dene on 16th (ASJ). A total of 11 were at a Rothbury garden feeders during the month, including at least three juveniles (TRD/JD). One to four were also noted at 12 sites this month.

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrina*

A brown male sang at Embleton Quarry NR on 2nd (GW per NRSW).



Common Rosefinch, Embleton Quarry NR, June 2022, Gary Woodburn

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

Six were seen at Bedlington on 3rd and also at Ellington, a family group on 19th and at Wallsend G.C. on 21st. Five noted at Morpeth, Berwick and Wallsend during the month

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

30+ were watched in an oil seed rape field at Fenwick Pit (East Holywell) on 7th (MSH). One to six were noted at 20 sites this month.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

20+ were noted at Kielder Forest Drive on 16th, with display noted (ASJ). Ten were seen at Holburn Moss on 30th (KWY). Eight flew over Longframlington Common on 11th (NFO). One to three were observed at five further sites.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

At least six were watched on 30th at Winnow's Hill and five seen the previous day at Slaley Forest (MSH). Three were noted at Sidwood on 2nd, at Simonside on 4th and at Kielder Forest Drive on 16th (JR/ASJ). Two were at Hepple Whitefield on 4th, Debdon on 23rd and presumed immigrants flying WSW early morning of 24th (ASJ/JD/MSH). Singles were seen at five sites, including one flying S at Monkseaton on 27th.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Five pairs were located on 1st at Newburn Haugh (PRM). Nine, then eight were seen at Druridge in the final week (IDR). One to five were at ten sites this month.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

Allenheads on 4th produced sightings of several family parties totalling 40 birds (CB). 17 were ringed at Slaley Hall on 27th (RMH). One to three were noted at seven other sites.



### **Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

15 singing males were found in the Bellasis Bridge (Blagdon) area on 5th and at Holburn Moss on 30th (ASJ/KWY). 14 males were at Smallburn (Longhorsely) on 13th (CB). Ten males sang in Breamish Valley on 4th, as did five at Wallington on 25th (ASJ). Six birds were seen at Cockle Park Farm (Morpeth) on 9th (JR). Four males were at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 1st and at Thornton on 16th and Branton on 28th (STH/RPo/LJM). Singles were noted at a further ten sites during the month.

### **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

15, including 12 singing males, were noted at St. Mary's on 20th (ASJ). Two visits to East Chevington resulted in a maximum count of eight on 30th (PRM). Five sang at the shooter's pool at Bothal Ponds on 5th (TD). A female fed fledged young at St. Mary's on 3rd. One to three were also at 15 sites.

## **ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**

**Escapes** – No sightings

**Hybrids** - No sightings

### **Birds of Unknown Origin**

#### **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

A group of nine was seen on 24th and 25th (IF). These are presumed to be from the feral population in Cumbria.

## **LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS**

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## **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 (Cetti's to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights).

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Clive Hampton is Data Manager.

Compiled and Edited by Alan Tilmouth [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Apologies for any accidental omissions.

## **RECORD SUBMISSION**

Please email records for the month to [ntbc.records@googlemail.com](mailto: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 assump-

tion 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 Alan Tilmouth at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com). 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.

## 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 Thursday 8th September 2022.

## FIELD TRIPS

**Next Field Trip –**

## 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.

Subscriptions can be paid using online banking: please include your name as the reference and email Jo Bentley at [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com) to confirm payment.

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.

If you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome. For membership enquiries please contact Jo Bentley (Hon Treasurer) [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

## NTBC Web and Social Media

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds, with a wide range of content from photo galleries, county checklists, Records Committee updates, information on surveys and many useful articles on bird identification and birding both locally and internationally, to find out more please visit [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

Please submit any other new content (eg trip reports, identification notes, site guides etc) for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

NTBC can also be found on Facebook [here](#) and Twitter [here](#)

## Other News

### Lancaster Park, Morpeth Swift Colony 2022

I started providing nest boxes on Lancaster Park, Morpeth for Common Swifts (*Apus apus*) when I realised in the early 2000's that the only remaining breeding pair on the estate was on my house. Since then I have placed 10 boxes on my own house and, since 2013 when I expanded the programme, another 18 boxes on houses near the main colony bringing the total to 28 nest boxes. The original nest site on my house was abandoned in 2018.

2022 has been a record year; 28 boxes contain a minimum of 47 young Swifts (one box is inaccessible due to recent building work but it is occupied and likely contains two young which would bring the total to 49). Two pairs were on eggs when checked on July 11th but may be too late to be successful. Of all the occupied boxes, five were only added to the programme in the last two years indicating that the colony is expanding quite rapidly.

This year there is a very wide distribution of the ages of chicks across the colony; some birds clearly started breeding soon after arrival on May 9th and have very well-developed chicks while others have attempted to breed much later and had chicks only a few days old or were still on eggs. Interestingly five of the boxes contained broods of 3 while the remaining boxes all have two chicks. Usually only one or two boxes contain broods of three but five is exceptional and is probably related to the arrival date and breeding condition of the birds.

There have been several notable findings from the ringing programme carried out by Chris Redfern from The Natural History Society of Northumbria. These include:

Two individuals ringed here as adults (6 year+) in 2018 have returned and were again found breeding in the colony. One ringed as an adult in 2020 was also found again breeding in the colony. For the first time, we found two adults on eggs on July. One of these birds was ringed as a chick in 2020 and has returned and is attempting to breeding the colony.

This year RSPB Science are studying the feeding behaviour and distance travelled to feeding area's by fitting a GPS to one of each pair from 5 pairs in the colony. I'll report results from this programme in a future note.

In addition to the Lancaster Park colony, I have provided "John Stimpson Ziest" nest boxes to a number of people in and around Morpeth, including another box in Pegswood, bring the total there to five nest boxes.

I have a number of requests for nest boxes for next year already and I'm very happy to act as an aggregator for orders with John Stimpson to save on postage and packing; this year the boxes cost just under £21. If anyone would like more information or to place an order then please contact me via e mail on [sorriega@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sorriega@hotmail.co.uk) or call me on 07787 106 164.

Graham Sorrie



# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

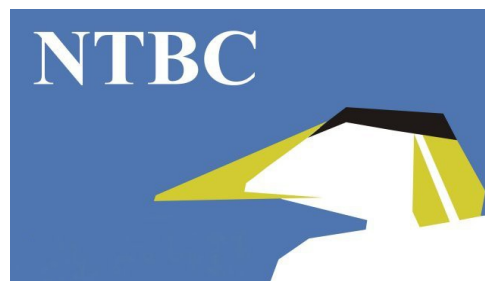
<http://www.ntbc.org.uk/>

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July

Issue Date 5th September 2022

007



Mediterranean Gull (juvenile), Colin Bradshaw, Northumberland July 2022

## July Highlights

Ruddy Shelduck	One at Castle Island on 7th
Cuckoo	Radio-tracked individual at Holy island on 31st
Red-necked Grebe	Summer adult at Widdrington Moor lake then offshore at East Chevington.
Curlew Sandpiper	Singles at Long Nanny on 1st and 18th
<b>Temminck's Stint</b>	One at Low Newton scrapes on 12th
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>	One at East Chevington NWT on 31st
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>	One at Hauxley NR on 19th
Wood Sandpiper	Notable continued presence with 1-2 at six sites
Spotted Redshank	Singles at Beal, Druridge Pools, Cresswell Pond and East Chevington
Caspian Gull	Increasingly noted with at least four individuals this month
Yellow-legged Gull	Juvenile at Longhoughton Steel on 30th
<b>Caspian Tern</b>	Adult briefly at Cresswell Pond on 16th
<b>American Black Tern</b>	Adult at Long Nanny until at least 21st
Pomarine Skua	One to three noted N at three sites on 26th and 27th
Storm Petrel	One N at Newbiggin on 26th
<b>Cory's Shearwater</b>	Up to six individuals noted in the month
Balearic Shearwater	Singles past Newbiggin on 18th and Cullercoats on 26th
Spoonbill	Single record of one at East Chevington on 19th
<b>Bee-eater</b>	One photographed at Murton on 1st
<b>Red-backed Shrike</b>	Male photographed at Prestwick Carr on 2nd, female at Holy Island 2nd to 4th
Hobby	Single adults at seven sites

## CLASSIFIED LIST

### **Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix*

A male was at Plenmeller Common on 15th (PRM).

### **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

26 were at Whitfield Moor on 15th and eight at Plenmeller Common on 28th (PRM). Two to three were also at Acton Fell and Winnows Hill (Slaley).

### **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

One to three were noted at Budle Bay, Druridge Pools, Eals bridge, Whitfield Moor and Widdrington.

### **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

A pair plus nine juveniles were at Cocklawburn on 23rd (MHu) and a family party of eight was at Longhoughton on 24th (JAR). Four to five were at Druridge Links (IDR) and Ellington (TB), and one to two at Amble Braid, Howick and Widdrington.

### **Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

Two were at Brandon on 18th (IBDa/KDa), Low Cocklaw on 25th (TBr) and West Learmouth on 28th (calling; MHu). Singles were heard at Newton Red House on 11th (PG) and Prestwick Carr on 26th (PRM).

### **Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Two to five were reported from Druridge Links/Pools and Ellington.

### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Five flew S at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSWT). Large counts involved peaks of 580 (including juveniles) at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (PRM), 302 at Grindon Lough on 29th (PRM), 237 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 14th (MHu), 112-134 at Castle Island and Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary), and 58-92 at Fontburn, Killingworth Lake, Newcastle Leazes Park, New Water Haugh (Tweed Estuary), QEII CP and West Ord. Counts of 22-44 also came from Arcot and Bothal Ponds, Big Waters, Druridge and West Stobswood Pools and Sheepwash, and three to 16 at Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Greenlee and Sweethope Loughs, and QEII CP. More unusual was one at the Blyth Estuary on 13th (LJM). Two leucistic individuals were at Newcastle Leazes Park on 26th (GB). Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Ladyburn Lake	1	4	LJM on 2nd

### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

At Seaton Sluice, one flew S with five Canada Geese on 3rd (SSWT).

### **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

A healthy 3,166 (including juveniles) were counted at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (PRM). Peak site counts elsewhere were 550 at Grindon Lough on 17th (MRS), 500 at Airy Holm Reservoir on 26th (IFo), 105-109 at Arcot Pond (GB) and Plenmeller Common (PRM), and 53-97 at Bothal, Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, Druridge Pools, Marden Quarry and West Ord. Counts of 11-47 also came from Big Waters, Colt Crag Reservoir, East Chevington, Killingworth Lake, 'Northumberlandia' (Cramlington), Spittal-Cocklawburn, West Ord and Yarrow Slake, while two to five were at Newcastle Leazes Park, New Water Haugh, Plenmeller Common and QEII CP.

### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

One was at Maiden's Hall Lake from 9th-31st (TF/JFa).

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

32 were at Howdon on 24th (CB), 28 at Castle Island on 7th (TF), 26 at QEII CP on 2nd (MHu), and ten to 12 at Bank's Pond and West Stobswood Pool. Five to nine were also at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Greenlee and Holy Island Loughs, and Ladyburn Lake. The female of a pair (plus four young) at Druridge Pools on 24th had been ringed at Killingworth Lake (IRD). Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Druridge Pools	1	5	IDR on 8th
Hedgerley GP	1	5	TRD/JD on 21st
QEII CP	1	5	LJM on 2nd
Howick Pool	1	2	AHa/PHa on 1st

An abandoned nest containing nine eggs was noted at Royal Quays, North Shields on 3rd (CDH).

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

An adult was at QEII CP on 2nd and 18th (LJM).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

A total of 11 flew S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and one N at Cullercoats on 24th (CB), while three flew S at Druridge Links on 29th (IDR). Four to seven were at Druridge Pools (IDR), Grindon Lough (PRM *et al.*), West Ord (MHu) and Yarrow Slake (MHu), and one to two were also at Newburn Haugh. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Amble Braid	-	32	RPo – 12 adults with 32 young on 1st (may include young from June)
Boulmer	2 to 4	23 to 38	TRD/JD/MKi/JAR. Broods of 13 and 10 on 24th, brood of 13 on 28th, and broods of 11 and 4 on 31st (may include young from June)
Caistron	-	14	TRD on 17th (may include young from June)
Foxton Bends	1	7	MKi pair with half-grown young on 23rd
Blyth Estuary	1	1	PRM on 6th (may include young from June)

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

A female was at Castle Island between 1st and 15th (TF/AC). (This individual first noted 23 June.)

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Three at Caistron on 17th were only the second site record for the observer, following one in 2008 (TRD). Two were at Stanton Fence (flying on to River Font) on 16th (JR/NA) and Wark on 25th (PRM). Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Wark	2	6	(4,2) PRM Brood of 2 on 9th and 4 on 15th (both with females)

Five large juveniles were at Bakethin Reservoir on 3rd (TRD/JD).

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

Breeding was confirmed with four juveniles noted at a confidential site on 30th and a female with three young at the same site on 31st (RA/MJC). The only other report was of a female at East Chevington north pool on 14th (TF/JFa).



**Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSWT). Five were at Derwent Reservoir on 31st (IFo), three to four at Arcot Pond, Druridge Pools and East Chevington and one to two at Big Waters, Bothal Pond and Grindon Lough. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Bothal Pond	1	4	TD/TF/JFa on 9th/10th; also single young from June noted on 10th
Hedgeley GP	1	2	TRD/JD large young on 21st, may have bred on Branton GP
Holywell Pond	1	2	MSH on 12th (as June?)
Newton Pool	1	4	KWY fledged young plus female on 1st

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

Peak counts were 64 at Linton Ponds on 27th (TF), 25 at Marden Quarry on 17th (KWY), 22 at East Chevington on 22nd (PRM), and 14-15 at Arcot Pond and Hedgeley GP. Five to nine were also at Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools, and one at the Blyth Estuary. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Caistron	9	49	TRD on 17th – success believed to be due to low water level and cessation of angling
Big Waters	3	23	GB/ISD (10,7,6) includes brood of 7 from June
Ladyburn Lake	3	19	LJM (8,6,5) on 18th
Holywell Pond	2 to 3	18	MSH (7,7,4) Two broods of 7 on 5th (one from June?), week-old brood of 4 on 24th (also brood of 6 on 1st from June)
West Stobswood Pool	2	11 to 12	MSH (7, 4-5) broods of 4-5 on 3rd and 7 on 7th
Newton Pool	2	7	KWY (4,3) on 6th
Arcot Pond	1	9	STH on 10th - first confirmed breeding at site
Maiden's Hall Lake	1	7	TF on 17th
Bothal Pond	1	4	TD/TF/JFa – new brood on 9th (total of 3 in 2022 (8,4,4))

**Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

One flew S at Seaton Sluice on 28th (SSWT). Grindon Lough held a peak of 30 on 17th (MRS), with six to 28 throughout the month (SJH/PRM). Five to six were also at Caistron (TRD), East Chevington (JFa) and Linton Ponds (TF), and singles at Big Waters, Castle Island and Druridge Pools. A pair was at Plenmeller Common on 15th (PRM).

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Four flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Peak counts were 198 (193 adults and brood of 5 young) at Big Waters on 25th (GB), 103 at Derwent Reservoir on 26th (IFo), 78 at Arcot Pond on 28th (STH), 54-57 at Holywell Pond (KWY), Killingworth Lake (LJM) and Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington (LJM), and 14-48 at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools, Greenlee and Grindon Loughs, Marden Quarry, Monks' House and Newton Pools, Newcastle Exhibition and Leazes Parks, Newburn Haugh and West Ord. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Ladyburn Lake	8	38	LJM on 18th (may include brood from June)
Holywell Pond	4	17	(8,6,2,1) MSH/LJM various dates (may include young from June)
Druridge Pools	2	11	IDR – new broods of 5 on 9th and 6 on 19th
Arcot Pond	1	12	LJM/GB on 11th – later reduced to 11
Big Waters	1	10	GB – new brood on 20th
Burradon Pond	1	9	LJM on 22nd

Jesmond Dene	1	7	MJCo on 10th
Mitford Hall	1	6	PG on 7th – running along road
Yarrow Slake	1	6	MHu on 26th
Newcastle Leazes Park	1	5	LJM – fresh brood on 8th
Hexham Tyne Green	1	5	PRM on 16th
Corbridge	1	4	LJM on 6th
Newcastle Exhibition Park	1	4	GB – new brood on 26th
Killingworth Lake	1	3	LJM – new brood on 22nd
Lesbury	1	2	MKi – large young on 16th
St Mary's Wetland	1	2	MSH on 1st

#### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

A drake in eclipse plumage was at Arcot Pond on 3rd (LJM). One was at East Chevington on three dates between 18th-30th (TB/TF/JFa).

#### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

A total of 155 flew N and two S at Seaton Sluice during the month, including 77 N on 20th (SSWT), 20 moved N at Tynemouth on 21st (KWY), two to eight N at Annstead and Cullercoats on 15th and 24th, and one S off Druridge Links. The peak count at Grindon Lough was 36 on 2nd, with five to 35 throughout the month (SJH/PRM). Other peak site counts were 16 at East Chevington on 22nd (PRM), 13 at Druridge Pools on 19th (IDR), and four to seven at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Boulmer, Castron, Derwent Reservoir and Plenmeller Common. One to two were also at Bakethin Reservoir and Bothal Pond.

#### **Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

A peak of 27 was noted at Holywell Pond on 22nd and 24th (MSH/KWY), with 26 adults there on 12th (MSH). Elsewhere, 20 were at Bothal Pond on 9th (TF/JFa), 12 at Big Waters on 1st (GB), and one at Druridge Pools (IDR). A brood of four young was at Bothal Pond on 17th (TD) and a brood of two young was at Holywell Pond on 5th (MSH), both first noted in June.

#### **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Three flew N and 32 S at Seaton Sluice during the month, including 32 S on 9th (SSWT), and two flew N at Newbiggin on 27th (JR), while ten moved S, with auks, at Annstead on 9th (DF). Peak counts were 72 (including 11 young) at Bothal Pond on 17th (TD), 42 at Druridge Pools on 23rd (IDR), and 32-36 at East Chevington (PRM) and Widdrington Moor Lake (MSH). One to four were also at Big Waters, Bank's, Cresswell and Cocklawburn Ponds, Derwent Reservoir and Ladyburn Lake. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Druridge Pools	3	17	(8,5,4) IRD/IDR – new broods on 19th ( a total of 23 young (9,5,5,2,2) on 24th May may include earlier broods (including June)
Ladyburn Lake	4	20	LJM on 18th
Hedgeley GP	3	16	TRD/JD on 21st
Holywell Pond	1	7	MSH <i>et al.</i> from 12th
Wansbeck Business Park, Ashington	1	6	LJM on 18th
Bothal Pond	1	4	TD – new brood on 17th, also depleted brood of 7 from June
Bakethin Reservoir	1	3	TRD/JD on 3rd

#### **Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

70 (including fledged young) were at Annstead on 14th (DF), 51 at Holy Island on 31st (MJC), 31-49 at Amble harbour (PRM), the Blyth Estuary (PRM), Cheswick Black Rocks (MHu), Newbiggin (STH), Spittal-Cocklawburn (TBr), and 14-21 at Cocklawburn, Howick, and St Mary's Island, and seven off Druridge Links. Breeding data were as follows (additional to

previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Coquet Estuary	-	42	RPo on 1st – likely to include young reported in June
Birling Carrs	1	6	MKi – female and half-grown young on 11th (from Coquet Island?)
Howick	1	5	MKi/JAR – two females and large young on 3rd and 24th (as June)
Alnmouth	1	2	MKi – female and half-grown young on 23rd (as June?)



Eider (female and young), Boulmer, 30th July 2022, Tim Dean

#### **Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

11 flew N at Hauxley on 25th (RB/MB), and singles N at Newbiggin on 27th (JR) and Tynemouth on 17th (DRW).

#### **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A well above-average 5,884 flew N and 515 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), 505 moved N and 37 S at Tynemouth in two hours on 17th (DRW), a total of 187 N at Cullercoats on 10th and 24th (CB), and 12-92 N at Annstead, Boulmer, Druridge, Longhoughton Steel, Newbiggin, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth on various dates. A flock offshore at Druridge-East Chevington numbered about 800 on 3rd and 350-700 between 10th-29th (IDR/TF/JFa *et al.*), 170 (mostly adult drakes) were at Stag Rocks on 31st (KWY), 64 at Cocklawburn on 28th (MHu), and 11-14 at Cullernose Point and Warkworth. Three drakes were well inland at Airy Holm Reservoir on 28th (IFo), and a female was in the Tyne Estuary on 16th (DRW).

#### **Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Four (adult female and three independent juveniles) were at the regular breeding site on 21st (TRD/JD). Three were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 3rd (MSH) and one there on 31st, and singles at the Blyth Estuary (PRM), Caistron (TRD) and,



unusually, Tynemouth boating lake (DRW).

### **Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

An above-average total of 36 flew N and 13 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). 11 flew N at Newbiggin on 26th (JR), and 11 S at Annstead on 27th (DF). Good numbers in Berwick area included 102 at West Ord on 31st, 88 at Calot Shad, the Tweed Estuary on 25th, and 86 at Spittal Bay on 22nd (MHu). Other peak counts elsewhere were 58 at Low Newton on 21st (PCA), 40 at the Blyth Estuary on 25th (LJM), 32 at Football Hole (PCA), and ten to 19 at Alnmouth, the Coquet Estuary, New Water Haugh, Newbiggin, North Blyth, Tynemouth, Yarrow Slake. One to eight were also at/over Boulmer, Budle Bay, Derwent Reservoir, Ellington, Howdon, Howick, Kielder Water and Wark. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Watersmeet, Acomb	1	15	AJH on 14th
Warkworth	1	8	LJM - well grown young with 4 adults on 2nd
Foxton Bends	1	6	MKi – female plus small young on 27th

### **Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Four flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and one N at Cullercoats on 10th (CB). Ten were at Seahouses on 14th (DGB/RHB). Breeding data were as follows:

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Budle Bay	1	7	CGK/GPK on 3rd, decreased to 1 by 10th but still present at month end.

### **Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Up to five were reported at Winnow's Hill (Slaley) on two dates, 10th and 14th (MSH/PRM), whilst two were at Beanley on 3rd (AMG/MG), Ladycross (Slaley Forest) on 6th (LJM) and at a site west of Alnmouth on 28th (TAC). One was churring at South Thrunton Wood on 15th (ME).

### **Swift** *Apus apus*

Approximately 150 per hour headed N over the sea at Castle Point (Holy Island) on 8th (IK) and the main movement at Seaton Sluice was recorded between 11th-14th with nine N and 82 S (SSWT). At least 90 were at Druridge Bay CP on 22nd (PRM), 60 were feeding at Rising Sun CP on 1st (ASJ) and 50 were watched over a music festival at Low Newton on 24th (CB). 44 were screaming around a breeding colony at Cullercoats on 12th and 40 were at another colony in Whitley Bay on the same day (ASJ). Groups of 40 were seen at Ellington, Murton, Prestwick Carr and St. Mary's, 37 were seen circling over a street in Bedlington, at least 30 were at Eals, 30 drifted slowly over Benton, 25 were at Great Ryle, Hazlerigg and Morpeth and one to 24 were seen at many other localities.

### **Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

The only inland sighting came from Green Lane (Harbottle) on 26th (MKi). At the coast, singles were seen at Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Cresswell Pond NWT, East Chevington and Football Hole (Newton). A juvenile at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 31st was fitted with a radio transmitter - further information is being sought (Aka/PHA).

### **Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Two were at Druridge Pools on 9th and the species was noted as "present" in Jesmond Dene on 3rd.

### **Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

Six were found spread around Jesmond Dene on 3rd (two at Shoe Tree and singles at Castle Farm Bridge, Coleman's Field, Extension Wood and Fisherman's Lodge) (MJCo), six also at Eals Bridge (R. South Tyne) on 15th (PRM) whilst four were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Newburn Haugh and in a Tynemouth garden. One to three were at Bywell, Cresswell Pond NWT, Druridge Pools, Foxton Bends, Kielder Farm, Pigdon and West Stobswood Pool. One was unexpectedly on the shore at St. Mary's on 11th (MSH/AC).

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

An estimated minimum total of 2,000 were feeding in loose gatherings over three recently harvested fields at Fenwick Pit (East Holywell) on 26th (MSH). 14 were at Jesmond Dene on 17th (MJCo), 13 in Sleafy Village on 26th, 11 in the Druridge Pools area on 9th and one to eight were at several other localities.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Sleafy Village hosted 18 on 1st (RMH), four were at Dinnington all month, a brave pair at Kenton successfully raised a chick in a nest very close to Magpie's nest in the same tree (MRS), three were at Chathill and a single singing at Rothbury was noted as unusual for the area.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Seven at Druridge Pools on 24th included a pair with four juveniles (IRD) whilst three adults were at Arcot Pond on 14th (LJM) and at least two youngsters were seen there on several other dates (LJM/STH/GB). Two at Big Waters NWT on 18th included a fledged juvenile (GB). Singles were also at Druridge Pools and Newton Pool.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

The peak at Druridge Bay CP was 25 on 22nd and included two juveniles (PRM). 20 at Holy Island Lough on 31st included three pairs with three large young each and a further pair with three very small young (MJC). 13 adults and four large young were at Arcot Pond on 29th (STH) and Druridge Pools peaked at a total of 15 on 23rd (IDR). One to six were at Bank's Pond (Dinnington), the Blyth Estuary, Byker (Ouse Burn), Cocklawburn Park, Foxton Bends, Jesmond Dene, QE11 CP and Plenmeller Common.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

Numbers at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) continued to build up from last month - as is usual during the summer at this site - with 89 present on 17th (TD) increasing to 110 on 27th (TF). 65 adults were at Holywell Pond on 12th (MSH), 50 were at Big Waters NWT on 18th (GB) and at least 35 were at East Chevington on 22nd (PRM). 21 at Druridge Bay CP on 22nd included a brood of four juveniles (PRM), at least 20 adults were at Widdrington Moor lake on 3rd (MSH) and two to 16 were seen elsewhere including breeding records at Arcot Pond, Ladyburn Lake and Bothal Ponds Shooters' Pools.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A total of 21 at Big Waters NWT on 20th constituted a record July total at this site (GB). 16 were at East Chevington on 22nd (PRM), 13 at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 17th included seven youngsters of varying ages (TD), ten were at Druridge Bay CP on 22nd (PRM), three broods of six young in total were at Ladyburn Lake (Druridge Bay CP) and six were at Swallow Pond. One to five were seen at Bakethin Reservoir, Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Caistron, Cocklawburn Pond, Cragside, Druridge Pools, Northumberlandia, West Stobswood Pool and Widdrington Moor Lake.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps Grisegena*

Last month's adult at Widdrington Moor Lake remained, in full breeding plumage glory, until at least 4th (LJM/GB/CB). A single was offshore at East Chevington on 22nd and 29th (PRM/JFa).

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Two headed N at Annstead on 9th (DF) and one headed S past Seaton Sluice on 27th (SSWT). Six were at Big Waters NWT on 10th (GB), five adults were on the sea at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 7th (CSa), two adults and two juveniles were offshore with Scoters at Druridge Bay on 29th (IDR) and one to two were at Colt Crag Reservoir, Cresswell Pond NWT, Holy Island and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh).

Breeding data as follows:

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Killingworth lake	5	12	LJM - Six adults with 7 young on small lake and broods of 2 and 3 on main lake.
Widdrington Moor Lake	1	1	GB - Single juvenile with 12 adults TRD - one small young on 31st
Holywell Pond	2	5	KWY - Four adults with 5 juveniles

Bothal Pond	1	2	TF/JFa - Brood of two
East Chevington	1	3	PRM - Brood of three
Derwent Reservoir	-	-	IFo - No breeding attempts, presumably due to low water levels

### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Observations at Seaton Sluice revealed a monthly total of 114N and 383S with most movement occurring from 22nd when 42 moved N and 136S (SSWT). Movement was noted at Druridge Links from 23rd with 17N and 23S (IDR). On the coast, the peak counts were 85 at Boulmer on 31st (JAR), 69 at Tynemouth on the same day (DRW), 33 at Annstead on 15th (DF) and 33 present at Holy Island on 31st (MJC). Counts of two to 25 were reported from Amble, Beal, North Blyth staithes, the River Blyth Estuary, the River Coquet Estuary and St Mary's Island. The peak count inland was 33 (including one juvenile) at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (PRM) declining to 12 on 26th (IFo). Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington), held 24 on 17th (TF), with 15 still well inland at Plenmeller Common on 28th (PRM) and 11 near the coast at Bothal Pond on 23rd (TD). One-ten were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Big Waters NWT, Castron, Colt Crag Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Eals Bridge (River South Tyne), Slaley, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Wark, West Ord, West Stobswood Pool and Widdrington (probable breeding pair).

### **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

Numbers reported from Cresswell Pond were between two to 13. Reports indicated there were still two sitting on nests and there were broods of one and four juveniles present. (MHu/TRD/JD *et al.*) A maximum of 12, plus nine chicks, was at Low Newton scrape (KWY/PCA) and peak numbers at Druridge Pools occurred on 13th when eight were seen (IDR) with lesser numbers on other dates (IRD/PCA). Sightings were reported from Budle Bay and Monks' House Pool which may have involved dispersing individuals from breeding sites. A pair and three fledged juveniles were present at Monks' House Pool on 26th (DF) with one adult and three juveniles on 22nd and 26th (GPK/AMG/MG). Presumably, the same individuals noted at Budle Bay on 23rd (CGK/GPK). One to two were also noted at the Long Nanny Estuary on three dates during the month (LJM/PCA).

### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

The only report of movement was 45S at Low Newton on 16th (MJC). The largest concentrations inland were 600 at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (ASJ), 376 at Grindon Lough on 20th (SJH) with 118 present at Colt Crag Reservoir on 14th (PRM). Elsewhere 19-96 were reported from Acton Fell, Airy Holm Reservoir, Eals Bridge, Eals/Tow's bank, Greenlee Lough and Whittingham. At coastal and near coastal localities the largest flocks were 250+ at East Chevington on 26th (MN), 249 at Old Hartley on 29th (MSH) and 200 at Cresswell Pond on 14th (MN). Other counts between 100-174 were made at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools, Foxton Bends (River Aln) and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary). One to 97 were seen at another 14 locations including a fledged juvenile at Big Waters which was probably locally bred (GB).

### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Some early movement noted at the coast with 80N at Ellington on 16th (TB), 13S at Annstead on 12th, 45S on 21st and 34S the next day (DF). Seven flew N at Newbiggin on 27th (JR). The largest flock was 1,200 at St Mary's Island on 18th with probably some of the same flock seen at Old Harley where 950 were counted on 31st with 650 present on 21st (MNC). At Longhoughton Steel (Boulmer), 205 were present on 24th, peaking at 400 on 28th before declining to 100 on 30th (MKi/TRD/JD *et al.*). At other locations on the coast 170 were seen at Howick on 20th (JAR), 75 at Cullernose Point on 25th and 71 at Holy Island on 31st. One to 46 were at five other coastal sites with the peak inland count being 35 at Grindon Lough on 20th (SJH). Six had returned to Newcastle Town Moor on 22nd (GB) and a pair were still on breeding territory at Whitfield Moor on 15th (GB/PRM).

### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

A single at Beal on 31st was the only report (MJC).

### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Three recently fledged young were at the River Coquet Estuary on 1st with two adults (Csa). Three adults plus one large juvenile and one small chick were seen at Castron on 17th (TRD) and five adults and one juvenile were present at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (PRM). The largest groups reported were a minimum of 30 at Beal on 22nd (MJC), with 24 at Boulmer on 6th (JAR) and ten at St Mary's Island on 18th (CB). At the coast, two to eight were reported from Amble, Annstead (Seahouses), Cresswell Pond, Druridge Links and Pools and East Chevington. Inland three were at Colt Crag Reservoir on 14th, two at Hedgeley GP on 7th and a single at Grindon Lough from 1st-9th. All were reported as adults.



### **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

A peak count of 12 (Four adults and eight juveniles) was made at East Chevington on 18th (JFa) with counts of one-nine on other dates. (STH/TRD/JD *et al.*). (The species does not breed at this site). Five adults and three juveniles was the highest count from Derwent Reservoir on 29th (IFo) with two adults and three juveniles seen at Grindon Lough on 21st. Four adults had been present on 6th (PRM). Three adults were at Colt Crag Reservoir on 14th (PRM) and three juveniles were at Cresswell Pond on 28th reducing to a single on 31st (MN/TRD). A single flew S at Beal on 15th (MJC) and single juveniles were seen at Hedgeley GP on 21st (TRD/JD) and Druridge Pools on 25th (NFO).

### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Passage was noticeable with the monthly total at Seaton Sluice being 13N and 104S including 78S on 28th (SSWT). Movement was also noted at other locations with 27S at Cresswell Pond on 28th (MN), 13S at Druridge Pools on 23rd (IDR), 12S at Beal on 11th (MJC) and Monks' House Pool on 29th (GPK) and six S at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 27th (MJC/DJC). One to three were observed flying S at Annstead, Boulmer, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Ellington and St Mary's Island. Three were seen flying N at Annstead (Seahouses) and Snab Point and a single flew N at St Mary's Island on various dates during the month. A group of eight were at Beal on 22nd (MJC). One to four were at Alnmouth, Boulmer, Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond, Cullernose Point, Druridge Links and Pools, East Chevington, Holy Island, Howdon, Howick, the Long Nanny Estuary, Low Newton, Newton Point, the River Blyth Estuary, the River Coquet Estuary, the River Tweed Estuary, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

An above-average July passage at Seaton Sluice was reported with 142N and 26S, including 65N and 5S on 11th (SSWT). Elsewhere, ten flew S at Annstead on 15th (DF) and a single flew S at Druridge Pools on 23rd (IDR). The largest flock was 380 at Boulmer on 31st (JAR) with 86-242 noted at Calot Shad and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) on several dates during the month. Further south, 126 were at Alnmouth on 19th (MJC), 113 at the Long Nanny Estuary on 2nd (LJM), 84 in one field at Druridge on 3rd (MSH), 80 at Maiden's Hall Lake and Longhoughton Steel (TF/MKi) and a peak of 75 at Beal (MJC). In coastal and near-coastal locations, two to 49 were at Annstead, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Howdon, New Water Haugh (River Tweed Estuary), Northumberlandia, Prestwick Carr, the River Blyth Estuary, the River Coquet Estuary and Tynemouth. One-eight were well inland at Derwent Reservoir, Eals/Tows Bank, Eals Bridge (River South Tyne), Gilderdale Burn, Grindon Lough, Plenmeller Common, Slaley, Stewart Shield (alarm calling, young nearby) and Wark.



Curlew, St Mary's Island, 27th July 2022, Jack Bucknall

### **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

A monthly total of 14N was recorded at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). One in summer plumage and one in winter plumage were at Boulmer on 28th (TRD/JD). Singles were noted at Druridge Bay on 19th (TD) and a summer-plumaged adult was at St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) on 24th (IK).

### **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Three flew S at Druridge Pools on 27th (IDR) and two flew S at Low Newton on 16th (MJC). The highest count was made at East Chevington on 31st when 65 were present (TRD). The same flock may have been responsible for a count of 64 made at Druridge Pools on 6th (NFO). A high-tide roost at Alnmouth attracted 32 on 23rd (MKi) with 30 at Amble Braid on 31st (TRD). The peak count at Budle Bay was 25 on 25th (GPK) and 19 was the highest number reported at Cresswell Pond on 14th (MN) and the River Coquet Estuary on 27th (RPo). One to three were at Grindon Lough, Monks' House Pool, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

### **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Return movement was apparent at several places on the coastline from Holy Island to St Mary's Island. At Annstead (Seahouses) 33 were back by 28th (DF), 26 were at Holy Island on 31st (MJC) and 20 were at Longhoughton Steel on 23rd (MKi). Possibly some of the same individuals were at Seaton Point on 27th when 18 were counted (MJC/DJC). Elsewhere, there was a peak of 15 at Cresswell Pond on 21st and a minimum of 12 at St Mary's Island on the same date. North Blyth attracted 11 on 29th, five were at East Chevington on 16th and three at Amble on 22nd.

### **Knot** *Calidris canutus*

There were very few recorded at Seaton Sluice, with an early single on 1st and then only three other reports during the month (SSWT). Eight flew W over Druridge Links on 24th (IDR) and five summer-plumaged adults flew S at St Mary's Island on 24th (MSH). Maximum counts for the month were 30 at Budle Bay on 31st (CGK/GPK), 27 at the River Coquet Estuary on 27th (CSa), 12 at St Mary's Island on 25th (MSH) and seven at East Chevington on 30th (TB). Singles were reported from Beal, Boulmer, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and Low Newton.

### **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

As usual, the majority of reports came from the freshwater sites around Druridge Bay. Three at Druridge Pools on 4th increased to seven by 23rd (MN/IDR/IRD *et al.*). Similarly at East Chevington, a single on 4th increased to six (including one juvenile) on 18th (TB/AA/JFa *et al.*). Singles were seen at Beal on 22nd and Monks' House Pool on 30th-31st (KWY/GPK/CGK).

### **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Singles were at the Long Nanny Estuary on 1st and 18th (AMG/MG), South Low, Beal 23rd-24th and Blyth Estuary on 24th.

### **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

One was at the scrapes at Low Newton on 12th (J Sykes per KE).

### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

20+ flew S well offshore at St Mary's Island on 31st (MSH). Traditionally favoured sites were occupied during the month with counts of 55 at Newbiggin on 20th (AT), 48 on the beach at Druridge on 29th (IDR), 43 at Annstead (Seahouses) on 28th (DF), 40 at Hauxley on 25th (RB/MB) and 36 were seen at St Mary's Island on 24th (ASJ). The monthly maximum at Boulmer was 12 on 25th and one-two were reported from East Chevington, Longhoughton Steel and the Long Nanny Estuary.

### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Small numbers were noted moving S at Seaton Sluice after the 14th with the peak count being 50S on 19th (SSWT). At Annstead 15 were seen flying S on 23rd (DF). Return passage was evident this month with four sites recording three figure numbers. A monthly maximum of 200 was at Budle Bay on 15th which included many juveniles (CGK/GPK). At East Chevington, a single on 3rd increased to 175 on 19th before reducing to 15 by the 31st (TD/TF/JFa *et al.*). The peak at Boulmer occurred on 31st when 120 were counted. Earlier in the month no more than 20 had been seen. The River

Coquet Estuary held 119 on 21st (JFa) with Beal attracting 80+ on 22nd (MJC) and 60 were at Amble Braid on 31st (TRD). One-45 were noted at 11 other coastal localities. Inland the peak counts were 12 at Grindon Lough on 6th (PRM), ten at Derwent Reservoir on 31st (IFo) and a single adult was at Colt Crag Reservoir on 14th (PRM).

### **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritime*

The first returning singles were at Warkworth Pier on 11th (CSa) and Seaton Sluice on 14th (SSWT).

### **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

The start of autumn passage was noted with a single noted at East Chevington from 16th-31st (TB/MN/TRD *et al.*), a summer-plumaged adult at Cresswell Pond on 17th (TRD/JD) and singles at Low Newton scrape on 19th (GW) and 23rd (Tbr).

### **White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis*

One was on North Pool at East Chevington NWT on 31st (A Thompson per NRSW).

### **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

One was at Hauxley NWT on 19 July (W Banks per NRSW).

### **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

One was roding at Ladycross (Slaley Forest) on 6th (LJM) and another was displaying at Winnowshill (Slaley) on 14th (PRM). One was flushed from woodland at Wark on 9th (PRM).

### **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

The bulk of reports came from Druridge Pools where numbers fluctuated throughout the month with a low of three on 10th and a high of 28 on 23rd (IDR/IRD/MN/TRD). Three were seen at East Chevington on 14th (STH) and Grindon Lough on 26th (PRM). Singles were at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Brocolitia, Castron, Holywell Pond, Howdon and Stewart Shields (Otterburn Ranges).

### **Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

Last month's male was reported up to 7th (SJH/PRM).

### **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Three singles flew S at Seaton Sluice with the first on 6th (SSWT). Inland areas were still populated and there were records from coastal locations as birds vacated breeding areas. Inland the peak was seven on 2nd at the Breamish Valley (ASJ). Five were still at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (PRM) and four were seen at Fourstones on 11th (AJH). Grindon Lough peaked at three on 6th (PRM) as did Colt Crag Reservoir on 14th (PRM) and Hedgeley GP on 9th & 21st (PCA/TRD/JD). Two were at Airy Holm Reservoir on 26th and Wark on 9th with singles at Bakethin Reservoir, Castron, Eals/Tows Bank and Shillmoor (Upper Coquetdale). At or near the coast five were at Budle Bay on 2nd (CGK/GPK), four at Maiden's Hall Lake on 9th (TF/JFa) and three at Cresswell Pond, the Long Nanny Estuary and the River Coquet Estuary. Two were at each of Alnmouth, Beal, Big Waters, Druridge Pools, East Chevington and Monks' House Pool. Singles were at Castle Island, Holywell Pond, Howdon, Low Newton scrape, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

### **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Return passage was well underway with reports from a number of sites. As last month, one was at Berwick Hill Bridge (River Pont) from 2nd -14th with two there on 3rd-4th (AHB). Singles were recorded at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Breamish Valley, Grindon Lough, Hedgeley GP and Ogle Bridge (River Blyth) on various dates throughout the month.

### **Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 84N and 159S (SSWT). Active migration was observed at other localities with 50 arriving high from the NW to drop onto rocks at Holy Island on 16th (IK) and ca. 30 flew S at Druridge Links on 31st (IDR). Numbers started to build up at the coast with 48 in a high-tide roost at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) on 11th increasing to 280 by 26th (MHu). Similarly, at the River Coquet Estuary, 31 were counted on 1st increasing to a peak of



237 by 27th (RPO/TF/JFa). Other three-figure counts were 257 at the River Blyth Estuary on 27th (LJM) and a monthly high of 160 at Budle Bay on 20th (GPK). Elsewhere at the coast 17-80 were seen at Annstead, Beal, Boulmer, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Holy Island, Howdon, North Blyth and St Mary's Island. Peaks of eight occurred at Druridge Pools and Grindon Lough and a single resided at Derwent Reservoir.

#### **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

A splendid 'garden tick' was a single S at Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) on 15th (MJC). Presumably last month's group of three remained at Druridge Pools where they were reported up to 14th (MN/TB/NFO). A single was at East Chevington on 1st (AA) with one to two juveniles noted from 29th-31st (JFa/TB *et al.*). A single was at Monks' House Pool on 1st (DF/KWY) with two on 2nd (DF/GPK/CGK). Other singles were at St Mary's Island on 18th (ASJ) and Alnmouth on 19th (MJC).

#### **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

Reports were received from the same three localities as last month, possibly involving the same individuals. One was present all month at East Chevington (AA/TF/JFa/TRD). One was reported from Cresswell Pond on 2nd, 17th and 21st (Mhu/ADM/JFa), another was seen at Beal on 22nd (MJC), an adult noted at Castle Island between 23rd - 25th (DD per NSRW) and one was at Druridge Pools 25th - 27th (PS per NSRW).

#### **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Southbound migration picked up with a maximum of seven at Alnmouth on 19th (MJC) with lesser numbers on 18th and 27th (MKi). Five was the monthly peak at Budle Bay on 2nd and 23rd (GPK/CGK) and at nearby Beal on 22nd (MJC). Three were also at Foxton Bends (River Aln) on 27th (MKi). Singles were seen at Bothal Pond, Colt Crag Reservoir, Cresswell Pond and East Chevington.

#### **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Around 1,000 were on Coquet Island on 8th (TRD) and at the Howick colony ca.500 adults with 100 young on nests were recorded on 16th (ASJ). Numbers elsewhere were 34 in the gull roost at Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary) (Mhu), up to 20 offshore at Druridge Links (IDR) and ten at Boulmer (TRD). The first juvenile of the year was recorded at Seaton Sluice on 26th (SSWT).

#### **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

High-tide roosts of 340 were at Yarrow Slake (Tweed Estuary) (Mhu), 140 at Boulmer (MKi), 68 at Marden Rocks (Alnmouth) (MKi) and 62 at West Ord (Mhu). Multiple counts throughout at Druridge Pools/Links (IDR) and Grindon Lough (SJH) found numbers ranging from 12-56 and 34-68 respectively and at least 50 were at Hauxley NWT on 8th (DF). An unusual sighting was one in flight appearing to be snatching ripe cherries from a tree at Riding Mill (GB).

#### **Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

At Seaton Sluice a monthly total of seven moved N including six on 20th/21st (SSWT). Elsewhere, small numbers were recorded from many widespread sites throughout the month with four at Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools, three at East Chevington and two at the Long Nanny and Monks' House Pool; individuals were seen at Annstead, Beacon Point, Coquet Island, Hauxley and Tynemouth. The majority of these records comprised 1st and 2nd-summer individuals.

#### **Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

The usual summer influx commenced slightly earlier than usual with a record July total at Seaton Sluice comprising 51 N, 19 S, including peak days of 12 on 12th and 20th (SSWT). Newbiggin held 105 on 20th including 17 juveniles (AT), at Druridge Links at least 92 flew over, mainly S, on 29th (IDR) and 47 at Cresswell Pond on 21st (JFa). Elsewhere, 19 were at St Mary's Island on 11th (MSH/AC) and one to five were reported from many widespread coastal sites between Budle Bay and Tynemouth.

#### **Common Gull** *Larus canus*

Three counts of 20-35 were from Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Links and West Ord but all other records elsewhere were in single figures with nine at Grindon Lough, seven at St Mary's Island and one or two at four other localities. A breeding pair was seen at Kielder.

### **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Nine at Castle Island on 23rd and one or two at Druridge Links, Grindon Lough and West Ord were the only reported sightings.

### **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

In the Blyth Estuary, 414 adults with flying juveniles were present on 13th (LJM), 380 adults/immatures were at Bothal Pond (TD), 300 at Annstead (DF), 300+ mostly sub-adults at North Shields Fish Quay (MSH), 245 at Castle Island and 140 at Budle Bay and Linton Ponds. Multiple counts of 11-60 came from Druridge Pools/Links and 12 were at Cresswell (Snab Point). Breeding records included 29 fledged young from Cramlington (Bassington Ind. Est.) (LJM), five young from chimney stack nests at Monkseaton (MSH) and three young from a nest on St Bartholomew's Church, Newbiggin (STH).

### **Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

The regular summer adult with leg ring PKCS was seen again several times at Amble Harbour and three other potential records concerned immatures at Boulmer (TRD/DL), Cresswell Pond (NFO) and Tynemouth (MK/DRW).

### **Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

A juvenile was present on the rocks at Longhoughton Steel on 30th (TRD/DL/ME).

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

A busy monthly total at Seaton Sluice with 27 N, 51 S being more than the norm (SSWT). At Annstead 30 moved N on two days (DF) and Budle Bay held a daily maximum of 21 (DF). Elsewhere, 11-15 were at New Water Haugh (R.Tweed) and Ryle Mill with ten at Derwent Reservoir and one to six at Bothal Pond, Colt Crag Reservoir, Druridge Pools/Links, Grindon Lough, Jesmond Dene and West Ord. Ten juveniles successfully fledged at the breeding site in Cramlington (Bassington Ind. Est.) (LJM).

### **Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

An adult was photographed in flight over Cresswell Pond on 16th (P Loyoddin per Ebird).

### **Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Extremely well-reported but the toll of Avian Flu was evidenced by extremely few juveniles being present in many large gatherings of adults and, at Seaton Sluice, smaller numbers than usual were noted, especially far fewer feeding movements involving adults carrying fish (SSWT). In the largest concentration of 150 at Boulmer on 30th only one juvenile was to be seen (TRD). Other assemblies included 126 at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 28th (MHu) and 11-90 at Alnmouth (Marden Rocks), Amble Harbour, Annstead, Berwick (Meadow Haven), Boulmer, Budle Bay, the Coquet Estuary, Coquet Island, Cresswell (Snab Point), Druridge Links, East Chevington, Hauxley NWT, Holy Island, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island; one of the many counts at the latter site included an exceptional six juveniles in a total of 30 (MSH).

### **Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

At the Long Nanny colony 80 were still present on 29th, the same number as were there at the end of last month (AMG/MG). At Seaton Sluice seven moved S on 28th, the only sighting of the month there (SSWT), and seven moved S at Cullercoats during a two-hour sea-watch on 24th (CB). Three moved N at Annstead on 6th and three S at Druridge Links on 24th and 30th; other records were singles at Alnmouth, Annstead, Boulmer, Holy Island and Low Newton. Seven pairs built scrapes in a protected area in Budle Bay which represented the first breeding attempt in a tetrad there since the late-1960s (CGK/GPK).

### **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

An above-average of 7 N, 5 S, were recorded at Seaton Sluice, mainly adults but single juveniles also on 26th/27th (SSWT). A maximum of seven were seen from the boat at Coquet Island (TRD) and up to seven were offshore at Druridge Links on various dates throughout (IDR). Sightings elsewhere, including one or two juveniles, were two pairs at Newbiggin (Beacon Point), two to three at Annstead, Boulmer and Tynemouth and singles at the Long Nanny and St Mary's Island. One at Beacon Point appeared very sickly, possibly affected by Asian flu..



Roseate Tern (adult), Northumberland, July 2022, Colin Bradshaw

#### **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

At Seaton Sluice numbers built up throughout the month with a maximum of 120 moving S on 29th with the first juvenile seen on 12th (SSWT). At Coquet Island on 8th an estimated 400 were recorded (TRD) and elsewhere, 10-36 were in four counts at East Chevington, 22 at Hauxley NWT, 20 at Tynemouth and 10-15 at Amble Braid/Harbour, Boulmer, Druridge Links and St Mary's Island, with one to eight at a further six localities; juveniles were present in several of these gatherings. In the breeding colony at North Blyth staithes, where there had been a peak of 51 AON last month, 51 young were counted on 12th and, after many had fledged, a later count on 29th found 32 adults and 12 young almost ready to fledge (STH). The breeding colony at Royal Quays, North Shields, on 3rd held ca.50 adults plus at least seven young visible on the rafts (CDH)

#### **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

The Long Nanny colony held ca.2,000 during the month (AMG/MG). The only movement of note at Seaton Sluice was 40 N on 20th (SSWT) but several sea-watching sessions throughout at Annstead included many moving N, numbers ranging from ten to 174 with the first juveniles seen on 28th (DF). Single-figure counts, including some juveniles, came from Berwick, Boulmer, Coquet Island, Druridge Links, East Chevington, Hauxley, Tynemouth and West Chevington (Maiden's Hall Lake).

#### **American Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger surinamensis*

The summering adult remained at the Long Nanny tern colony until at least 21st (AG per NSRW).

#### **Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

As expected, due to mortality from Avian Flu, a very low monthly total of only 2 N, 1 S came from Seaton Sluice (SSWT). There were only four other records, of singles seen at Cullercoats on 10th (CB), Newbiggin Point on 23rd (AT), Annstead on 26th (DF/RA) and St Mary's Island on 31st (MSH).

#### **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

On 26th three adults with spoons flew S at St Mary's Island (JBU), two pale adults moved N at Seaton Sluice on 27th



(SSWT) and a single N at Hauxley on 27th (CSa).

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was the best for several years with 20 N, 18 S (SSWT). Counts from various other watch-points comprised 3 N, 2 S at Druridge Links on 26th (IDR), three at Newbiggin on 21st (CB), two at Annstead on 9th (DF), two at Annstead, Boulmer, Cullernose Point, Hauxley, Newbiggin, Tynemouth and Warkworth Bay on dates from 23rd-28th, singles at Cullercoats on 10th and at Annstead, Newbiggin and Warkworth Pier on dates between 8th-31st.

**Auk sp.**

At Seaton Sluice birds with young were seen daily on the sea but fewer than usual were noted moving with usually not more than ten per day. Also, Razorbills slightly outnumbered Guillemots on a daily basis which was unusual. At Druridge Links 26 were counted on 26th.

**Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Multiple offshore counts throughout at Druridge Links recorded small numbers within the range three to 11 (IDR). One or two were also seen at Cresswell (Snab Point), East Chevington, Low Newton and St Mary's Island.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

At Dunstanburgh at least 150 were present on 1st (JAR), the only other reports being singles at Coquet Island and offshore at Druridge Links.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

On Coquet Island 5,000 was a rough estimate of the population (TRD). It was the commonest Auk in flight past Seaton Sluice during the month with a maximum of 55 N, 80 S on 14th (SSWT). Regular sea-watches at Annstead recorded birds mostly moving N with a maximum 100 in 25 minutes on 14th (DF) and at Newbiggin 52 moved N in three hours on 21st (CB).



Puffin (adults), Coquet Island 8th July 2022, Tim Dean

### Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 15, with 11S & 4N (SSWT). Eight were offshore at Druridge Links on 31st (IDR), five were at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 7th (CSa) and three were offshore at East Chevington on 22nd (PRM). Two were off Druridge Links on 19th and 23rd (IDR), with individuals seen at Annstead (Seahouses), Cullercoats & Druridge Bay.

### Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

There were two records this month with sightings at Spittal-Cocklawburn on 20th (TBr) and at Hadston Scars on 22nd (CSa).

### Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

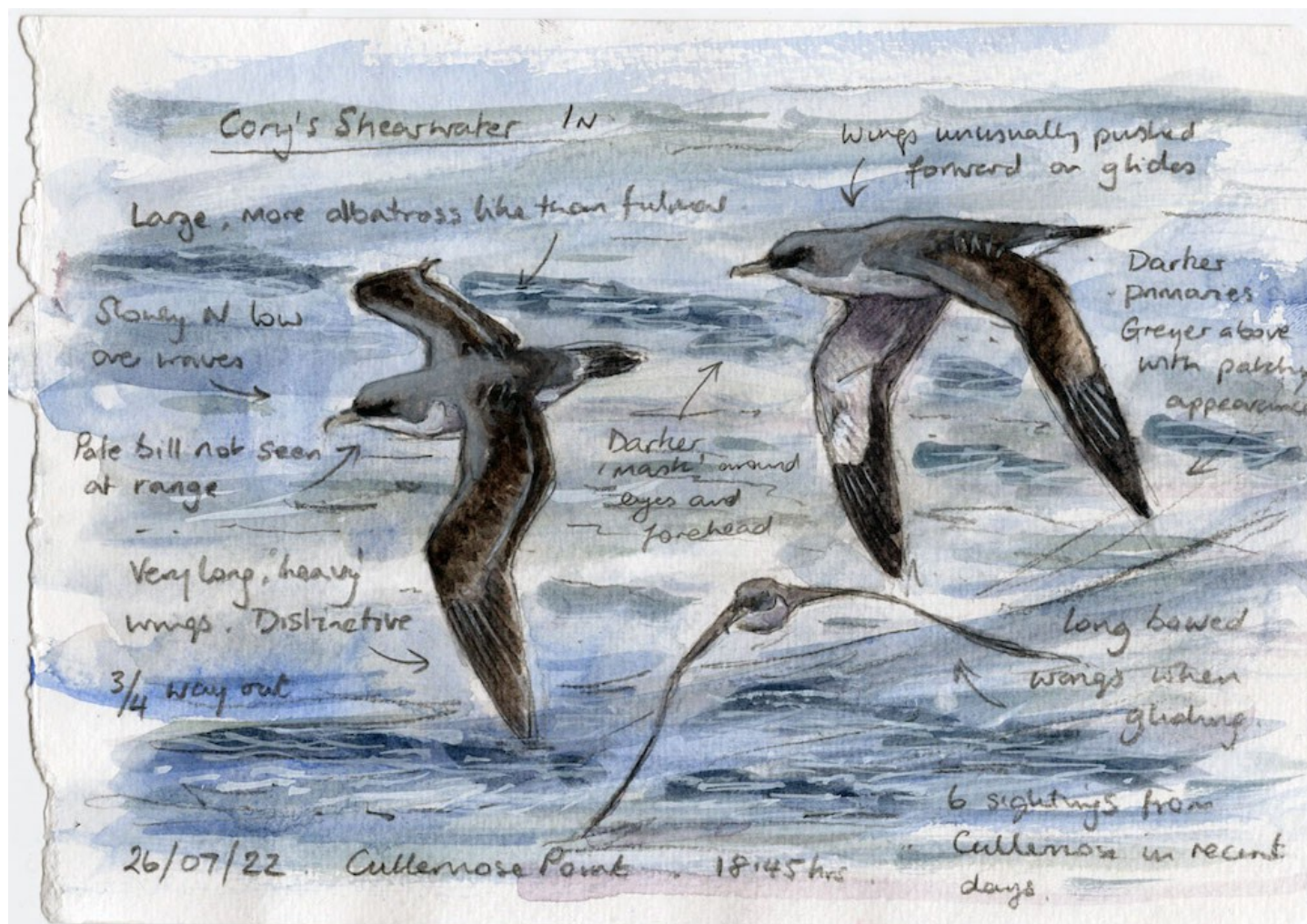
One moved N at Druridge Links on 26th (IDR).

### Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

The only double-figure counts this month came from Annstead (Seahouses) with 46 N on 7th, 42 on 26th, 16 N on 27th and 15 on 20th (DF). Seven went N at Newbiggin on 7th (STH), six were at Snab Point on 11th (IDR) and four were noted off Druridge Links on 26th (IDR). Singles were seen at Boulmer, Coquet Island, Cullercoats & Newbiggin.

### Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris borealis*

A bumper crop of records in the month began with a large shearwater sp. thought probably to be this species north past Howick on 8th (DL). Another individual flew past Cullernose Point on 21st (ME). At least two individuals were off Northumberland on 26th with one noted past Newbiggin Point at 18:03 (JR) making quick progress north to be seen off Cullernose at 18:43 (DL) and a second N at Cullercoats at 20:06 (ASJ) noted passing St Mary's Island at 20:08 (AC) then Boulmer at 21:16 (DL) and Cullernose Point 21:21 (ME). The final individual of the month was noted passing Cullernose Point on 27th (ME).



Cory's Shearwater, Cullernose Point, 26th July 2022, Stewart Sexton

### **Sooty Shearwater** *Ardena grisea*

The first report of the year came from Cullernose Point with a single N on 21st (ME). Four moved N at Newbiggin Point on 26th (JR) and Cullernose Point on 27th (TAC). Three were seen at Cullernose Point on 26th (SS) and at Hauxley on 27th (CSa). Singles were noted N at Howick on 23rd, at St Mary's Island on 25th, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, Howick, Druridge Links and Annstead (Seahouses) all on 26th.

### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower was 2,774 with 2,409N and 365S which was well above the July average, the highest numbers being between 20th–29th with 1,005 N and 26S on 26th (SSWT). Elsewhere counts peaked on 26th with 524 N at Newbiggin Point (JR), 500 minimum at Cullernose Point (IBDa/KDa), 340 N at Tynemouth 340 N (DRW), 300 N at St Mary's Island (JBU) and 256 off Druridge Links (IDR). On 24th at Cullercoats 270 were noted with equal numbers N and S (CB), counts at Newbiggin Point included 149 N on 21st (CB) and 27th (JR) and 156 N on 28th. One to 100 were noted at 10 locations in the month.

### **Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Singles flew S at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 18th (NRSW) and N at Cullercoats on 26th (ASJ)

### **Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

At Annstead (Seahouses) 476 went N on 7th and 418 N on 27th (DF), 375 went N at Newbiggin Point on 26th (JR). Annstead (Seahouses) had high counts of 300, 223, 193, 176 and 153, all N, throughout the month (DF) and 125 moved N at Newbiggin Point on 27th (JR). One-90 were noted at eight locations. At Holy Island fishermen reported as "heart-breaking" sailing through continual patches of floating dead Gannets up to 9km offshore (per IK).

### **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Peak counts came from East Chevington with 94 on 19th (TF/JFa), 68 on 16th (TF), 44 on 22nd (PRM) and 40 on 30th (TB). Counts at Annstead (Seahouses) peaked at 30 with eight N, 10 S and 12 on the rocks (DF). 12 were at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (PRM), Druridge Links on 10th (IDR) and at Yarrow Slake roost (R Tweed Estuary) on 26th (MHu). One to nine were at 11 sites including two "*sinensis*" race in Amble Harbour on 22nd (PRM).

### **Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At Meadow Haven (Berwick) 18 roosted on 24th (MHU). At Seaton Sluice Watch Tower four flew N between 7th and 11th. Two were off Druridge Links on 23rd and two and one on 21st (IDR). A dead individual was at Beadnell on 22nd (PG).

### **Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

An individual was seen at East Chevington on 19th (TF/JFa).

**June Correction** – In the June Bulletin it was stated that the county record count was six but on 18 September 2021, a flock of eight was tracked up the coast from Alnmouth. They arrived at Budle early evening and joined a single that had been present since 8 September. The flock of nine represents the highest number seen together in the county. (Thanks to CGK).

### **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

The highest counts came from Yarrow Slake roost (R Tweed Estuary) which peaked at 22 on 11th (MHu). 17 were at Howdon on 31st (CB) and 14 at Druridge Pools on 23rd (IDR). One to nine were recorded at 18 sites during the month.

### **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

On the R Tweed 21 were between Berwick and Coroner's Meadow (NFO). 12 adults and three juveniles were at West Ord (Berwick) on 31st (MHu) and 11 were at Castle Island on 23rd (AT). 10 were in Budle Bay on 16th (CGK/PGK), six were seen at Yarrow Slake (Berwick) on 17th (MHu), Foxton Bends (R Aln) on 29th (MKi) and Beal on 31st (MJC). At Brandon (Breamish Valley) five were seen on 19th (IBDa/KDa). One to four were at 15 locations.

### **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Five, including three in the air together, were at Kielder Water on 27th (ADM). A young pair tried to construct a nest on a communications mast at a confidential site, only to have all their work destroyed by the wind (IK/BG). Records of singles came from Derwent Reservoir on several dates (MN/PRM/IFo), At Kielder from Elf Kirk and Bakethin Reservoir on 3rd



(TRD/JD), New Mills (Berwick) 7th (TBr), Wark (N Tyne) on 25th (PRM) and at Holy Island on 31st (IBDa/KDa).

#### **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Two were noted from Eals/Tows Bank on 18th and Jesmond Dene on 31st (MJCo). Single reports came from 20 sites,

#### **Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

One was over the tarn at Craggside (Rothbury) on 20th (JD) and another was seen and heard calling in the College Valley on 27th (TRD/JD).

#### **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Three individuals were at an undisclosed location and two were at another undisclosed site during the month. A female was at Newton Pool (Low Newton) on 1st, a male, female and a juvenile were seen at East Chevington/Druridge Pools area on several dates (TD/IDR/TB). One moved S offshore at Newbiggin on 6th (PRM), one was at Holywell Pond on 23rd and 26th (MN) and another was hunting over fields at Christon Bank on 4th (CB).

#### **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Up to four individuals including at least one juvenile were noted at a confidential site throughout the month (SJH/PRM). Two were at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (ASJ), 8th (PRM) and on 29th (IFo). Singles were at Brocolitia on 8th (ADM) and one noted arriving in off the sea over St Mary's Island on 12th (SSWT/AC) was also seen at Tynemouth (DRW) before crossing the R Tyne (MK). Other individuals were at Druridge Pools on 19th (IDR) and one flew S at East Chevington on 25th (TF).

#### **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Nine were at R South Tyne (Eals Bridge) on 15th (PRM), five were at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (PRM), Eals/ Tows Bank on 13th (SJH) and at Haydon Bridge–Humshaugh on 27th (ADM). Four were at Grindon Lough NWT on 21st (PRM). One to three were observed at 18 locations.

#### **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Nest recording found pairs with four pulli at Doddington on 4th and Hulne Park on 5th, whilst a pair and four large young were at Ryehill (Rothbury) on 18th. Other nest records included a pair with three pulli at Allerdean on 13th and pair with two pulli at South Healey on 21st (AHa/PHa). Three young fledged from five eggs in an area bordering Budle Bay (CGK/GPK). Two were at Longhirst Flash on 7th, two juveniles in a box at Derwent Reservoir on 8th with two at a daylight roost there on 26th and 31st. A late nest at Hipsburn on 29th held three eggs, the male of the pair being of unusual colouration. Singles were at Druridge Pools and Links on ten dates and at nine other widespread localities.

#### **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Two males called at Winnows Hill (Slaley) on 14th with two heard regularly at Slaley Hall from 21st and a male and female at Wark (N.Tyne) on 30th (PRM/RMH). A female called at Wark (N.Tyne) on 9th with one at Eals/Tows Bank on the same date and at Winnows Hill on 10th with continued presence at Longdyke (Shilbottle) during the month.

#### **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

There was just one multiple count of two at Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 26th ((MNC) with singles at Great Whittingham on 11th, Slaley on 14th, Prestwick Carr on 23rd and Fenwick Pit (East Holywell) on 26th.

#### **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

An adult and juvenile were at Prestwick Carr on 3rd (ASJ) and a single there on 2nd (PCF). Two different individuals were at a site in the south east on 14th (LJM), an adult at Winnowshill (Slaley) on 14th and one at East Chevington on 18th.

#### **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Two including a displaying male were regularly at a suitable moorland breeding site although no nest was located (IK/BG). One flew around the saltmarsh at Warkworth Gut on 8th and one at Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on

14th was possibly the same individual at East Chevington on 15th.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Presumably a family group of three were at Blakehopeburnhaugh (Kielder) on 3rd (TRD/JD) and two were at Fourstones on 11th (AJH). Singles included a juvenile at Holywell Pond on 1st (ASJ) and others at Lesbury on 16th, Caistron on 17th, Horton Burn (Cramlington) and Meldon (R. Wansbeck) on 23rd, Berwick Hill Bridge (nr Ponteland) on 23rd, Eals (River S. Tyne) on 26th, Foxton Bends (R. Aln) and Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 27th and Big Waters NWT on 29th.



Kingfisher (juvenile), Holywell Pond, July 2022, Mike S Hodgson

**Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster*

One perched on wires at Murton on 1st being photographed (per S Fisher) before flying off SW (ASJ).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

An adult female and juvenile were on feeders at East Cramlington Pond NWT and two at Holywell Pond on 1st (LJM), two juveniles were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 7th and 16th with a juvenile and female at Ellington Dene on 23rd (TB). Singles were regularly on feeders at Newton Red House during the month, a juvenile on feeder at Brunswick Village on 8th, a male at Ellington on the same date and 27th, one at Wark (N. Tyne) on 9th and 10th, Colt Crag Reservoir on 14th, Ashington on 17th, Druridge Bay CP on 22nd, Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 24th and Chathill on 27th.

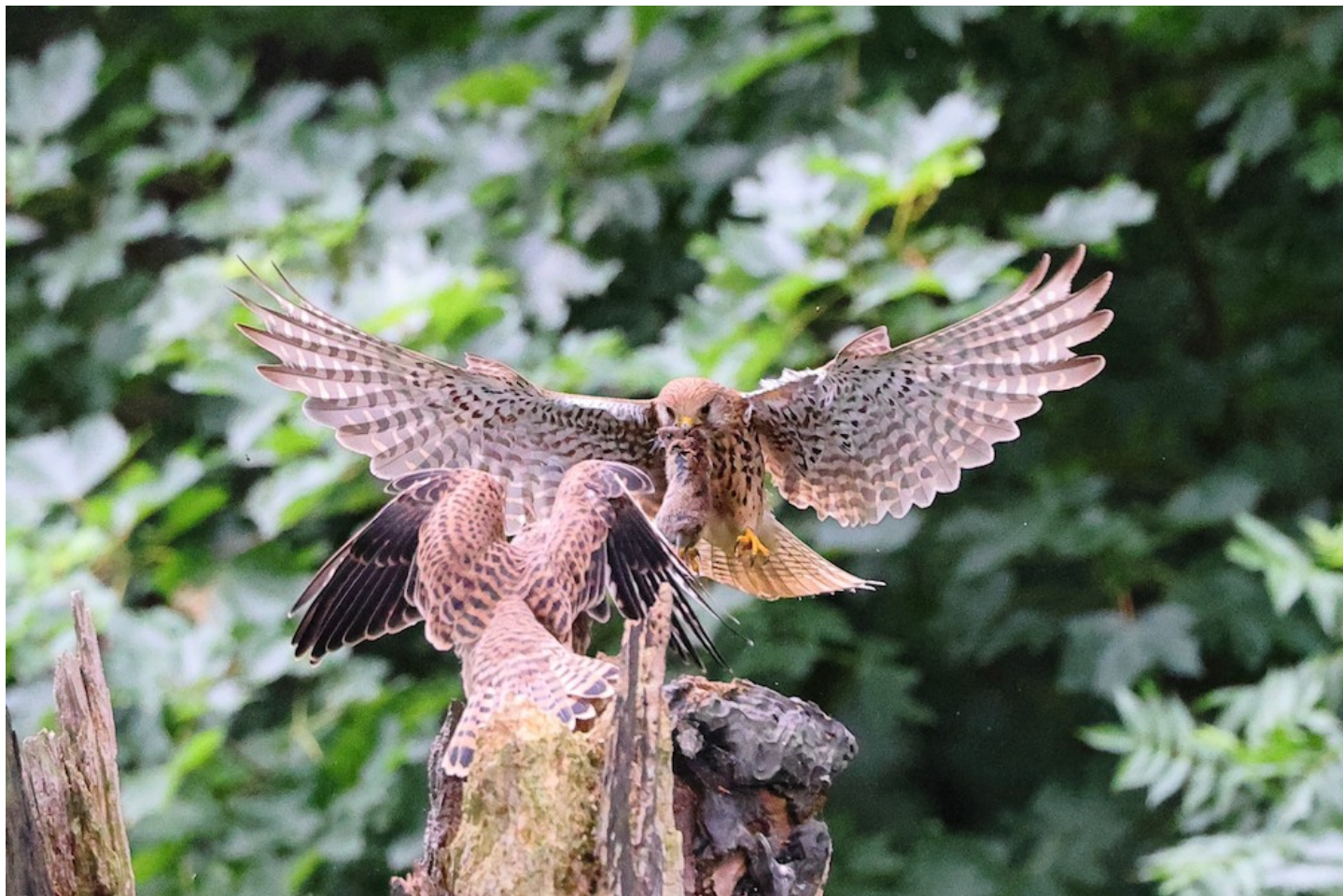
**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Only a single record received in the month of one at Banks Pond (Dinnington) on 26th (AHB).

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Breeding reports included a female feeding six fledged young at Holywell Dene on 11th (ASJ), six hunting at Prestwick Carr on 31st (STH), a pair with three juveniles at Rising Sun CP on 17th (ASJ) and a family party of four at College Valley on 27th (TRD/JD). Three were at Eals/Tows Bank on 15th with two there on three other dates; three juveniles were at Lemmington Hall (Edlingham) on 24th and a family party of three at Great Ryle on the same date. Reports of two came

from seven other locations and singles reported at 16 other widespread localities with a male noted taking a Curlew chick at Wolf Hills (Coanwood Common) on 15th (PRM).



Kestrel (adult female feeding juvenile), Holywell, July 2022, Alan Jack

#### **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Two reports were received of individuals at Bygate Hall (Upper Coquetdale) on 3rd (MKi) and Plenmeller Common on 15th (PRM).

#### **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

A confidential site in the SW provided regular sightings of territorial behaviour with two driving off a Buzzard on 13th and one seen mobbing a Red Kite on 9th. On 15th individuals were noted three times in a two-hour period during which both Buzzard and Raven were mobbed (SJH).

#### **Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Two adults were at Eals Bridge (River S. Tyne) on 15th (PRM), a juvenile at Budle Bay on 22nd and 27th (CGK/GPK), one at Whiteadder Point (Berwick) on 23rd (NFO) and one flew SE at Little Ryle (nr Whittingham) on 26th (MKi).

#### **Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

A single flock of more than 18 flew over Haymarket (Newcastle) at 20.15 on 7th (GB) with five at Walkerville (Newcastle) on 4th, three there on 3rd and at Wallsend GC on 20th (CDH). Two were in tree tops at Town Moor (Newcastle) on 29th and singles at three other locations in the Newcastle area.

#### **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

A male was photographed (per C. Beavers) at Prestwick Carr on 2nd (ASJ).

#### **Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*



Peak counts in the month came from Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) of eight on 23rd and six on 2nd (CB). Two adults were with three young at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 27th (DM) and four at Ellington on 28th (TB). Two were at Howick on 5th, at three locations around Ellington on five dates and at Rothbury during the month. A juvenile was at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 10th with singles at Ellington regularly and at five other locations.

#### **Magpie** *Pica pica*

Seven including a family party of five were at Druridge Links on 19th with six there on 9th. A family party of six was at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 5th (IDR), six at Jesmond Dene on 10th (MJCo) and North Blyth on 28th (PCF). Five were at Wallsend GC on 5th, Druridge Links on three dates with four there on 27th, a pair with a juvenile at Kenton on 19th, two at Chathill on 27th and Druridge links on three dates.

#### **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

The highest counts in the month were 40 at Dinnington on 16th (PCF) and 39 at Slaley Village on 26th (RMH); other reports included seven at Jesmond Dene on 24th and two at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 5th.

#### **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

At Howick, 100 fed in a silage field on 16th (JAR) with 50 at Yearle during the month having returned after being shot out a decade ago (DGB/RHB).

#### **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

A group of 16 was at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 30th (IFo), eight at Druridge Pools and Links on 3rd, 27th and 29th with two to seven there on six other dates. Seven were at Jesmond Dene on 17th with two to three at Chathill and Chugdon Wood (Ellington).

#### **Raven** *Corvus corax*

A family group of six were in the College Valley on 27th (TRD/JD) and a family party of five regarded as having bred locally at Budle Bay on 3rd ((CGK/GPK). Five were at Derwent Reservoir on 8th with four at Featherwood (MOD Ranges) on 16th. Three were at Eals/Tows Bank on 9th with one to two there on four other dates, two at Debdon (Rothbury) on 15th, Kielder Forest Drive on 27th and Shilmoor (Upper Coquetdale) 30th. Singles were at three other upland locations.

#### **Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

More than six juveniles were at Holywell Pond on 22nd (LJM), a family party of four at Howick on 28th (JAR), three at Chathill during the month, two recently fledged young at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 5th with two at Jesmond Dene 10th and one at Dinnington all month.

#### **Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

An adult with three juveniles was at Ellington Dene on 13th (TB), two at Debdon (Rothbury) on 2nd (JD) and singles at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 10th, Colt Crag Reservoir on 14th and Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 25th.

#### **Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Two were in a tit flock at Druridge Pools on 6th and 31st (NFO/TRD) and at Prestwick Carr on 31st (STH) with singles at Caistron on 17th and Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 30th.

#### **Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

A high count of six was made at Chathill during the month (PCA), four at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 5th with three at Druridge Links on 9th and singles there on three other dates (IDR) and present at Jesmond Dene during the month.

#### **Great Tit** *Parus major*

Three were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 5th (IDR) and Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 10th (MJCo) with two at Chathill during the month and at Druridge Links on 9th.

### **Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Poorly reported in the month with the only report received of an individual at Chathill. (PCA).

### **Hirundine sp**

At Beal on 30th, 615 flew S in one hour, around 90% of which were Swallows (DF).

### **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Southerly movement of 400 in one hour was noted at Druridge links on 24th and 200+ on 30th (IDR/JF). More than 210 were at Druridge Bay CP on 22nd (PRM), 110 was the high count at Druridge Pools and Links on 10th (IDR) with 30-40 there on two other dates, whilst 100 sat on farm track at Startup (Ponteland) on 8th (ADM). 50 were at colony nests at Breamish Valley on 2nd, 50+ at Druridge Pools on 7th, 21 pairs feeding active young in nests at Wark (N.Tyne) on 10th, around 40 at Corbridge on 6th and 26 at Larmouth Lake 28th. 13 to 19 were at Druridge Links on four dates, 10 at Howick on 1st, Big Waters NWT on 25th and Wark (N.Tyne) on 27th with two to eight at three other locations.

### **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

The peak count at Druridge Pools and Links was 90 on 10th with 30 to 58 there on six other dates (IDR), 55 at Eden Hill (Lesbury) on 17th and Ellington on 23rd (MKi/TB), 40 on wires at Bilton on the same date and 34 the high count at Newton Red House on 16th (PG). 27 were west of High Buston on 16th, 26 flew south at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 30th, 15 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 11th with family parties of two pairs with juveniles numbering 14 at Foxhunters Estate (Whitley Bay) and 13 at St Mary's Island, both on 1st. Four broods were ready to fledge at Howick on 15th (JAR) but no nesting noted at Eshott South Farm for the first time in 20 years (MSH). Four to eight were at four other locations.

### **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

At Longhorsley on 2nd, there were 25 nests many containing fledged young with 70 counted (ASJ), 55 gathered at Town Moor in damp conditions on 22nd (GB), 45 at Ellington on 23rd (TB), 40 over beach and cliffs at Cullercoats on 10th (CB), more than 40 at Arcot Pond on 22nd (LJM) and 34 at Breamish Valley on 2nd (ASJ). 22 were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 30th, 20 at Old Hartley on 3rd, more than 15 at Holywell Pond on 5th with 15 at Druridge Pools and Links on 10th and Chathill during the month. Ten were at Big Waters NWT on 25th and one to five at five other locations. Two pairs nested on buildings near Sweethope Lough (PRM) and ten active nests were on a farmhouse at Barrowburn (Upper Coquetdale) (MKi) but only two nests, both unsuccessful, at Waren Mill (Bamburgh) which was down from four in 2021 and 10 to 15 before conversion of the building in early 2021 (CGK/GPK).

### **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

A family party of 15 was at Druridge Links on 9th (IDR). A maximum garden count of 15 was made at Northburn (Cramlington) on 26th (LJM). There were 12 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 5th (IDR), 11 at Howick on 24th (JAR), and six at Chathill on 27th (PCA). At Howick Hall, two adults with three large young caught on 22nd proved to be re-traps from 2020 (HwRS).

### **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

There were ten at Colt Crag Reservoir on 14th (PRM). Five were singing in the Breamish Valley on 2nd (ASJ), and there were three at Grindon Lough NWT on 26th (PRM). Singles were at Derwent Reservoir, Boulmer, and Druridge Links.

### **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Howick had six singing on 3rd (JAR) and an adult and five juveniles were at Howick Hall on 22nd (HwRS). Four were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 5th and Druridge Links on 9th (IDR), and four were singing at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (PRM) and at Ladyburn Lake (Druridge Bay CP) on 18th (LJM). Four visited a garden pond at Tynemouth on 9th (CB). One to three were at Gloster Hill (Warkworth), Jesmond Dene, Chathill, East Chevington, Leazes Park, Newburn Haugh (Tyne), QEII CP (Ashington), the Blyth Estuary and Wark (North Tyne). A juvenile was found dead after hitting a window at Chapel House (Newcastle) on 28th (IK).

### **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A pair was feeding four fledged young at St Mary's on 29th (ASJ) and a fledged brood of five was at Newton Pool on 1st (KWY). A maximum of five were at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR). A pair was observed carrying food to a nest at Arcot Pond on 16th (LJM). One to two were at a further thirteen sites, with song heard at East Chevington, Castron, Shooters' Pools (Bothal), Howick, Big Waters NWT, 1km W of High Buston, Prestwick Carr, and at Cresswell Pond NWT.

**June Correction** – A record of five singing males was incorrectly reported as NWT East Cramlington and should have read East Cramlington LNR. (Thanks to LJM.)

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Ladyburn Lake at Druridge Bay CP held eight, including two seen carrying food to nests, on 18th (LJM). There were five heard at Castron on 17th (TRD), and a maximum of four at East Chevington on 22nd (PRM). Song was heard there on 3rd, 8th and 17th. There were two singing males and a very fresh juvenile at the Lough (Holy Island) on 7th (IK), indicating successful breeding there for the first time. Newton Pool, Druridge Links and St Mary's had two, as did Holywell Pond on 1st (MSH) and the Wansbeck Business Park (Ashington) on 4th (LJM), with song noted. Song was also heard at Druridge Pools on 8th, 10th and 31st. Northumberland Park (North Shields) had one on 4th (MNC, DRW), a first at the site for both observers. One was at Cresswell Pond NWT on 17th, and a male was still singing at Big Water NWT on 31st.

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

Prestwick Carr had a maximum of five singing on 3rd (ASJ), and Ford Moss had three on 5th (AMG/MG). Damdykes (Cramlington), Arcot Pond, St Mary's and East Chevington each had two singing, and singles were at Blakehopeburnhaugh (Kielder), Holy Island, Rising Sun CP, Reaveley (Ingram), and Fenwick Pit (East Holywell). One was still singing at Arcot Pond on 31st (GB).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had five on 5th (IDR), and five were singing at Hepburn Woods on 16th (TRD/JD). In Newcastle, there were two at Jesmond on 10th (MJCo) and at Exhibition Park on 29th (GB). Singles were at Druridge Links on five dates (IDR), and singing males were at QEII CP (Ashington) on 7th, Wark (North Tyne) on 9th–10th, and Howdon on 18th. A juvenile was at St Mary's on 9th. Singles were also at Tynemouth, Warkworth, and Chathill.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Three were singing in Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on 4th (CB), and song was also heard at Blakehopeburnhaugh (Kielder), Rothbury, Ord Sewage Works (Berwick), and Castron. Singles were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and Ellington Dene.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

One heard singing along the entrance track at East Chevington on 8th (TRD) was the only record for the month.

**Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

Reports came from 19 localities, with a highest count of 11 singing in the Breamish Valley on 2nd (ASJ). Juveniles were also in evidence, with five at St Mary's on 9th (MSH), four at Arcot Pond on 22nd (LJM), and three at Big Waters NWT on 1st (GB). There were three at Warkworth on 13th (JAR) and three at Fenwick Pit (East Holywell) on 26th (MSH). One to two were at 12 other localities, with song heard at Druridge Pools, Howick, QEII CP (Ashington), Wark (North Tyne) and Rothbury. One visited a garden pond in Tynemouth on 9th (CB).

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

There were six to seven, including juveniles, at Ellington Dene on 23rd (TB). There were three at Chathill on 21st (PCA), two juveniles at Howick Hall on 22nd (HwRs), and one at East Chevington on 22nd (PRM).

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Newton Red House had eight on 23rd (PG), Chugdon Wood (Ellington) had seven on 5th (IDR), and Fontburn had a family party of four on 26th (JAR). There were three at Howick and at Jesmond Dene, two at Gloster Hill (Warkworth) and at Chathill, and one to two at Druridge Links throughout the month.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

There was a maximum of four at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 16th (TB), three at Beacon Hill (Longhorsley) on 10th (MSH), and two at Jesmond Dene on 24th (MJCo). One at feeders in Waren Mill Caravan Park (Bamburgh) on 2nd (CGK/GPK) was the observers' first record of the species there. Singles were also at Eals/Tows Bank, Northumberlandia, and at Eals Bridge (South Tyne).



**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

A family party of one adult and four juveniles was at Ellington Dene on 23rd (TB). There were three at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 30th (IFo), and two at Chathill on 27th (PCA). Singles were at Widdrington, Howick, Milkwell (Corbridge), Big Waters NWT, Debdon (Rothbury) and Derwent Reservoir.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The highest count came from Big Waters NWT, with a roost of 500 on 20th (GB). There were 250 at Embleton on 1st (JAR), 200 at Boulmer on 23rd (MKi), and a maximum of 130 at Druridge Pools and Links on 9th (IDR). Dinnington had 42 on 1st (PCF).

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

One to four were reported at Gloster Hill (Warkworth), Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Chathill, and Jesmond Dene.

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

There were six at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 5th (IDR), and a maximum of five singing at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on 4th (CB). Two were reported from Chathill and Jesmond Dene, with two singing at Howdon.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

The highest count came from Howick, with 12 on 20th (JAR). There were family parties of six at Ellington Dene on 23rd (TB) and five at Eslington Park (Whittingham) on 12th (CW). Three were at Derwent Reservoir and at Gosforth (Newcastle), two were at Widdrington, and singles were at Leazes Park and Winnows Hill (Slaley).

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

Breeding was in evidence at Longhorsley, with eight in two family parties at Linden Hall on 10th (NFO), and a pair feeding three young at Garrett Lea Wood on 4th (CB). Kirkwhelpington also had a pair feeding three young on 7th (ASJ). An adult and juvenile were seen together at Kielder village on 3rd (TRD/JD) and at Dukeshouse (Hexham) on 15th (AJH). Birds were seen carrying food at Brocolitia and at The Peels (Harbottle). Singles were at Howick, Derwent Reservoir, and at Kielder Forest Drive.



Spotted Flycatcher (juvenile), Kirkwhelpington, July 2022, Alan Jack

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Three were at Jesmond Dene on 31st, and two juveniles noted at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) and at Newton Red House. Two were also at Chathill.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Four pairs using nest boxes at Low Carritheth laid 28 eggs, all hatched, and fledged 21 young by early July.

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

By early July, three pairs using nest boxes in Low Carritheth had laid 19 eggs, which all hatched, and fledged 17 young. A pair using a nest box at Tarsset laid six eggs and fledged six young. Three pairs were feeding young (14 in all) at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on 4th (CB). Four juveniles were at Prestwick Carr on 3rd (ASJ). Juveniles were also seen at two localities in Rothbury on 10th and 14th (JD).

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

Alwinton (Upper Coquetdale) had the largest number, with eight (two pairs, two fledged young each) on 7th (ASJ). Elsewhere in Upper Coquetdale, agitated behaviour in single birds was noted at Kylvoe Shin and at Hepden Burn on 3rd (MKI). There were seven (pair with two young, male with two young) at two sites in the Harthope Valley on 5th (AA), and seven (one adult and two young, one adult and three young) on Chubden Hill (Whittingham) on 29th (CW). A pair with three young were in the Breamish Valley on 2nd (KWY).

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Reports in July came from 12 localities, seven of which held juveniles. The peak count was ten, comprising three pairs and four fledged young, in the Breamish Valley on 2nd (ASJ). Three pairs were at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 27th (MJC/DJC), five, including two juveniles, were in Bamburgh Dunes on 3rd (KWY), and five, including three juveniles, were at Brocolitia on 8th (ADM). Druridge Links held five on 9th–11th and 13th (IDR), with four recently fledged juveniles there on 30th (IDR/JF). One to two were at seven other sites, with juveniles at Debdon (Rothbury), East Chevington, St Mary's, and Cocklawburn.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

12 were at Beal on 13th (MJC). There were four at Newton Steads from 26th (PCA), and three juveniles at Grindon Lough NWT on 14th (PRM). A female and a juvenile were at Brocolitia on 8th, and single juveniles were at Newton Point on 9th and Amble Braid on 22nd. An adult male was at a nest site at Chubden Hill (Whittingham) on 29th. Singles were in Upper Coquetdale and at the Long Nanny.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Two were noted this month in Breamish Valley on 2nd and Ellington Dene on two dates. Single were at four other sites.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

84, including a flock of 60, were seen on 26th at Slaley (RMH). 50 were at Embleton on 1st and at Tynemouth on 3rd (JAR/KWY). On 30th, 45 were noted at Beacon Lane (Cramlington) (STH). 32 were seen at Dinnington on 23rd (PCF). Two to 25 noted at five further sites this month.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

40, including many juveniles, were observed at Waren Mill caravan park in the final week (CGK/GPK). 15 were at Chugdon Wood on 5th (IDR). One to four were also seen at ten sites this month.

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

A family party of four was regularly seen in a Marden Estate garden during the month (ASJ). Elsewhere, two were noted at three sites and a single bird at one.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Two to three were noted at Beal between 11th and 14th (MJC). A pair was observed carrying food at Whiteadder Point (Berwick) on 23rd (NFO). Two were watched at Grindon and at Monks' House Pool on 26th and at Cresswell Pond on 28th (PRM/DF/MN). Singles were also seen at 12 locations, including juveniles at Grindon on two dates.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Three adults and two juveniles were noted on 6th at Corbridge (LJM). At least three were collecting food at Harwood Burn on 5th (MSH). Two were at five sites during the month, and singles at a further 12.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

45 were noted at St. Mary's south bay on 27th (JBu). 24 were seen at Cramlington Hospital on 17th (IDR). Newbiggin beach held 12 on 29th (STH). 11 were at Alnmouth Beach on 27th (JAR). Two to eight were noted at three sites on several dates.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Two to ten were noted on many dates at Druridge Pools and Links (IDR). Two other singles were the only further reports.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

Four, a probable family group, were at Harthope Valley on 5th (AA). Two were seen at Garret Lee Wood on 2nd and 4th (CB). One was seen at Ford Moss on 5th (AMG/MG). What was the year's last songster was heard at Hebden Burn on 3rd (MKI).

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Five were at Holy Island on 31st (MJC). Two were noted at Howick on 16th and song-fighting on 20th at Cullercoats (ASJ). Two also seen at Boulmer on 28th (TRD/JD).

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

15 were noted at Howick on 5th (JAR). One to six were also at three sites this month.



**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Birds attending garden feeders at Rothbury all month, peaked at 12, including four juveniles (TRD/JD). Eight were seen at Garret Lee Wood on 23rd (CB). One to five were at seven other sites.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

The month's peak count was of 18 seen at Big Waters on 31st, seven having been there on 25th (GB). One to eight were also observed at eight sites.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

A sizeable flock of 130 was at Low Newton on 24th (CB). At least 60 were at Prestwick Carr on 26th (PRM). 40 were noted at Spittal on 20th (TBr). One to 12 were recorded at a further 14 sites this month.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

One to two were reported at only seven inland sites, with one exception of an individual at East Chevington on 22nd.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

Five were seen at Kielder on 3rd (PRM). One to three were at three other sites this month.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

A flock at St. Mary's, numbering 35-40 included juveniles on several dates (ASJ). 15 were noted at Druridge Links on 29th (IDR). One to nine were also noted at nine locations.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

12 were seen at Garret Lee Wood on 4th (CB). One to five were observed at a further 15 places.



Siskin (adult male), Kirkwhelpington, July 2022, Alan Jack

### **Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

Five males were singing over a 2km stretch of Corbridge riverbank on 6th (LJM). Four were noted at Garret Lee Wood on 10th (CB). One to three were also at eight locations during the month.

### **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Three were singing at Bothal on 10th and three were seen at Druridge Links that day, with two here on many dates. Somewhat unusually, a pair was noted at a park in Heaton on 5th (CDH). Singles were seen at East Chevington and Grindon.

## ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

### **Escapes** - No sightings

### Hybrids

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

One was at Arcot Pond on 31st (GB).

### **Red-crested Pochard x Mallard** *Netta rufina* x *Anas platyrhynchos*

An interesting hybrid with one at Big Waters on 1st and 2nd tentatively identified as this pairing. The olive tone to the bill being a crucial factor. Its appearance was that of a dull Red-crested Pochard but structurally different (AJJ/ ISD / GB). A known pairing nowadays in UK with increased presence of Red-crested Pochards.

### Birds of Unknown Origin

### **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

The feral group at Derwent Reservoir were seen again on 26th numbers having risen to ten (IFo).

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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Howick Ringing Station (HwRS), North Northumberland Bird Club, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, Northumberland Rare & Scarce Whatsapp (NRSW), BirdGuides.

## 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),

## RECORD SUBMISSION

Please email records for the month to [ntbc.records@googlemail.com](mailto: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 Alan Tilmouth at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

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.

## 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 Thursday 8th September 2022. This will feature a presentation by NTBC member Lindsay McDougall on 'Namibia'

Lindsay is well known and a well-travelled club member and his recent trip included birds and other wildlife (and no doubt some ups and downs along the way).

## FIELD TRIPS

Next Field Trip – tbc

## 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.

Subscriptions can be paid using online banking: please include your name as the reference and email Jo Bentley at [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com) to confirm payment.

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.

If you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome. For membership enquiries please contact Jo Bentley (Hon Treasurer) [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

## NTBC Web and Social Media

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds, with a wide range of content from photo galleries, county checklists, Records Committee updates, information on surveys and many useful articles on bird identification and birding both locally and internationally, to find out more please visit [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

Please submit any other new content (eg trip reports, identification notes, site guides etc) for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

NTBC can also be found on Facebook [here](#) and Twitter [here](#)

## Other News

### NTBC Waders Field Trip 31st July

A select band of four gathered at Druridge Pools for the trip from Druridge Bay to Boulmer mainly in search of waders. The pools had been very productive in May and June but the prolonged dry weather had reduced the water level considerably. Hence we struggled to find a wader from the south-facing hide though Snipe could always be relied upon with at least six present. Walking back along the path a Willow Tit called which is a rare occurrence here. Reed Warbler and Whitethroat were still vocal as we moved onto the Budge Screen. Here a surprise Barn Owl was still hunting at 10:00 which was watched for some time gradually quartering the field. Waders here were mainly 20 Dunlin plus a lone Black-tailed Godwit. Onto Cresswell Pond where a low water level helped and some waders to sift through. The Avocet pair still had 3 juveniles accompanying and a lone Knot was still showing in partial summer plumage. Distantly a juvenile Little Ringed Plover was viewable near the causeway. On the spit on the west side two adult Mediterranean Gulls showed well and a Greenshank was feeding.



Time to move on to East Chevington where low water levels means excellent habitat for waders and also terns. Scope views revealed single Wood Sandpiper, Greenshank, Little Stint and Spotted Redshank. The latter has developed a habit of hiding itself in the Black-tailed Godwit flock making viewing difficult. Patience did pay off though and better views obtained. The Godwit flock has been up to 149 recently but we were happy with 65 on view. Ruff also have been seen daily with at least five moulting males seen plus a juvenile. More Knot in summer plumage were noted with four feeding near the eastern edge. The terns also were taking advantage of the safety of the muddy scrape with 20 Sandwich & eight Common terns loafing.

On to Amble Harbour for a chance of the Polish-ringed Caspian Gull (PKCS) but it was not to be and every lamppost turned out to have a Herring Gull on top rather than the sought-after rarer visitor. This is its tenth year of summering at Amble Harbour but sightings have been less reliable this year. The Sunday market was in full swing rather making birding stand out somewhat so time to move on.

We had a quick scan from Amble Braid and another 30 Black-tailed Godwits were found. These really have increased in recent years as is the case especially in the south of the UK. A small group of Goosander were noted and a lone Grey Partridge called from the spit. Our final stop was at Boulmer with a chance of some different species of waders more suited to coastal areas. Walking up to Longhoughton Steel is always pleasant and with the tide coming in waders are gradually pushed towards you. The Golden Plover flock was spread out with at least 100 on the rocks. Another summer Knot was located along with a few Turnstone & Sanderling. The hoped for Bar-tailed Godwit and Grey Plover did not materialise although still early for returning birds. As often happens the best was left to last with three adult Roseate Terns showing in the tern roost at Longhoughton Steel. A challenge to make out amongst 150 Sandwich and a few Common Terns but the very pale upperparts together with the half red and black bills typical of late summer were easy field points.

Our total of 19 species of waders was just one short of last year's total so a successful day showing that a good variety is possible given visits to suitable habitat. Thanks to all attendees for a convivial day and hopefully some pointers for the future.

Tim Dean

## **COUNTY RECORDS COMMITTEE**

Tariq Farooqi will complete his four-year spell on the committee in December 2022. 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 resumé 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 No 8 2022

August

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008

NTBC



Spotted Crane, Newton Pool, August 2022, Gary Woodburn

## August Highlights

Egyptian Goose	One at East Chevington from 15th; also noted at Cresswell
<b>Corncrake</b>	One involved in a sea rescue off Cullercoats on 27th
<b>Spotted Crane</b>	Singles at Newton Pool and Linton Pond
Crane	One flew over Derwent Reservoir on 27th
<b>Purple Heron</b>	One flew up River Tweed on 25th
Red-necked Grebe	Up to two at Widdrington Moor Lake; also one on sea off East Chevington
Dotterel	One on Holy Island on 21st and popular juvenile at Boulmer from 25th
Curlew Sandpiper	Light passage from 15th of one-two at four localities
<b>Temminck's Stint</b>	One at Cheswick Sands on 23rd
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>	One at Low Newton on 21st
Wood Sandpiper	One to two at seven localities
Spotted Redshank	Singles at five localities included an adult at Blyth Estuary on 3rd
<b>Sabine's Gull</b>	Three individuals flew past during coastal sea-watches
Mediterranean Gull	New county record of 312 at Snab Point on 25th
Caspian Gull	Returning adult at Amble Harbour all month; also a juvenile and adult at Hauxley
Yellow-legged Gull	Single adults at East Chevington and Hauxley; also a juvenile at Hauxley

<b>American Black Tern</b>	Moulting adult noted at Budle Bay from 21st (presumed same as at Long Nanny)
Long-tailed Skua	Light passage from 29th with six juveniles passing Seaton Sluice
Black-throated Diver	One flew south at Cullercoats on 30th
Pomarine Skua	One to three noted north at three sites on 26th and 27th
Storm Petrel	One moved north at Newbiggin on 26th
<b>Cory's Shearwater</b>	Record-breaking passage with at least ten individuals noted from 16th
<b>Great Shearwater</b>	At least three individuals seen from 17th
<b>Balearic Shearwater</b>	Singles past Seaton Sluice, Newbiggin and Howick
Great Egret	Singles at Castron, Tynemouth, Cullercoats and Druridge Pools
<b>Barred Warbler</b>	Very early record with one at St Mary's on 9th
<b>Subalpine Warbler sp</b>	One at The Snook, Holy Island on 29th

## Classified List

### **Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix*

A young male was at King's Law, Hexhamshire on 26th (AJR).

### **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

A group of nine was at King's Law, Hexhamshire on 26th (AJR), and singles were noted at the Harthope Valley and Hepple Whitefield.

### **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

12 were at Druridge Lane on 29th (TB), five at Widdrington Village (TB) and two to three at Druridge Pools. A pair with three young was noted at Humshaugh on 4th (ADM).

### **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Ten were at Old Hartley on 25th (MSH), five to nine at East Chevington, Low Cocklaw and Snab Point, and two at Linton and West Stobswood Pool. Two adults with 13+ young were at Big Waters on 22nd (GB), a pair accompanied 13 large young at Newton Red House on 8th (PG) and families of 12 were at Detchant on 24th (JAR) and ten at Howick on 25th (JAR). Six juveniles (and an adult) were recorded at Druridge Pools on 20th (IDR) and smaller family parties of six and five at Ellington on 30th (TB), three juveniles (and an adult) at Ellington on 5th (TB), and a single juvenile at Horton churchyard on 13th (LJM).

### **Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Six were at Druridge Pools (TRD/JD). A male with seven young was noted at Arcot Lane on 22nd (LJM). A very tame male, approachable to less than a metre, was noted in a Rothbury garden.

### **Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Three of the pale-bellied *hrota* race flew N at Annstead (DF), Newbiggin (TF) and Seaton Sluice (SSWT) on 30th, while five were at Fenham Flats on 26th (TRD/JD) and four at Cresswell Pond on 27th (GB/AIB/DM/LAR).

### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

40 flew N at Humshaugh on 22nd (SW). Numbers at Grindon Lough peaked at 800 on 14th (MRS), with 260-590 between 13th-27th (SJH/PRM). Other peak counts included 384 at West Ord on 28th (site record per MHu), 316 at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (IFo), 295 at Bothal Pond on 14th (TD), and 117-178 at Airy Holm Reservoir, the Aln Estuary, Druridge Pools, Gainslaw Hill (Berwick), and Killingworth and Maiden's Hall Lakes. Counts of 22-44 came from Arcot Pond, Greenlee Lough, Newcastle Exhibition Park, Sheepwash and the Tweed Estuary. Three leucistic individuals were at Newcastle Exhibition Park on 19th (GB).



**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

Two at Derwent Reservoir on 14th (IFo) was the only report.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

1,500 on 13th was the peak count from Derwent Reservoir (IFo). Other large counts included 688 at East Chevington on 18th (STH), 670 at Big Waters on 29th (AIB), 500+ at Airy Holm Reservoir on 8th (MSH), 395 at Budle Bay on 26th (DF), 320 at Learmouth Lake on 3rd (MHu), 216-224 at Bothal Pond (TF), Castron (TRD) and West Ord (MHu), and 115-140 at Arcot Pond and Maiden's Hall Lake. Counts of 64-88 came from the Aln and Tweed Estuaries, Blagdon Lane, and Widdrington Moor Lake, and five to 14 were at Grindon Lough and Killingworth Lake. A pair with four goslings were at Cocklawburn Pond on 9th (MHu).

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Singles were at the Aln Estuary (MKi) and Holywell Pond (KWY) on 19th, and Maiden's Hall Lake all month (TF/JFa).

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Four flew N at Seaton Sluice on 12th-13th (SSWT). A notable 420 were at Calot Shad on 15th and 132 at New Water Haugh (both Tweed Estuary) on 21st (MHu), 30 at Howdon on 20th (CB) and 29 at Killingworth Lake on 15th (LJM). Five to ten were at Amble Braid, Bank's, Bothal, Duke's, Linton and Swallow Ponds, Byker, Druridge Pools, Greenlee Lough and Learmouth Lake.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

A summering individual remained at Maiden's Hall Lake all month (TF/JFa).

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

One was regularly at East Chevington between 14th-25th (CB/PRM *et al.*). It, or another, was at Cresswell Pond on 18th (TB).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

14 flew N and one S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), a total of 14 moved N at St Mary's on 17th and 31st (MSH/AC), and four N and two S at Newbiggin on 17th and 31st (GB). 12 were at Amble Braid on 25th (PRM), ten at Longhoughton Steel on 26th (PRM), three to six at Arcot and Cresswell Ponds, and Foxton Bends, and singles at East Chevington and Grindon Lough. Most records referred to juveniles (where stated). 12 ducklings were noted at Warkworth on 4th (SW) and a pair with four juveniles was at Yarrow Slake on 8th (MHu).

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

A drake and three ducks were on the River Coquet at Thrum Mill, Rothbury on 13th (JD), and a drake in eclipse plumage at Castron on 14th (TRD).

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

Four juveniles were present all month at the breeding site noted in July (MJC). One was also noted on the north pool at East Chevington on 18th (STH/MN).

**Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 16th (SSWT). East Chevington held 31 on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH). Seven (all apparently juveniles) visited St Mary's Wetland briefly on 15th (MSH), six were at Grindon Lough on 20th (PRM), three to four at Bothal Pond, Budle Bay, Druridge Pools and Hedgeley GP, and one to two at Arcot, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, Big Waters, Grindon Lough and Holy Island. More unusual were two at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 31st (AP).



Shoveler (female), August 2022, Gosforth Park NR, Neil Pont

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

Peak concentrations involved 62 at Linton Ponds on 24th (PRM), 62 at Marden Quarry on 21st (KWY), 38 at East Chevington on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH), 34 (including many juveniles) at Castron on 14th (TRD), 25 at Big Waters (GB), and 14-18 at Arcot and Bothal Ponds, and Woodhorn Flashes. One to four were also at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and St Mary's Wetland. A female with four half-grown young was at Hedgeley GP on 6th (TRD/JD).

**Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

A total of 94 flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month, including 65 N on 31st (SSWT), 30 moved N at Newbiggin on 31st (GB), and eight to nine N at Newbiggin (JR) and St Mary's Island (MSH) between 16th-31st. At least 150 were back at Holy Island on 28th (IBDa/KDa) and 51 were at Holy Island Lough on 21st (MJC), while 72 were at East Chevington on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH), and 51 at Grindon Lough on 27th (SJH). Two to six were also noted at Arcot, Cresswell and Linton Ponds, Big Waters, Castron, Derwent Reservoir and Druridge Pools.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Largest counts were 265 at Haughton Strother GP on 27th (AJR), 158 at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo), 143 at East Chevington on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH), 105-113 at Arcot Pond (LJM) and Castron (TRD), and 50-87 at Big Waters, Budle Bay, Greenlee Lough, Holywell Pond, Killingworth Lake, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Exhibition Park and St Mary's Wetland. Smaller counts of 30-48 also came from Airy Holm Reservoir, Bothal Pond and Grindon Lough, while 14-19 were at Holy Island and Wark on Tyne. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Marden Quarry	1	5	New brood on 17th KWY
Killingworth Lake	1	2	New brood on 7th CDH

**Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Singles flew N at Cullercoats on 30th (ASJ) and St Mary's Island on 31st (MSH/AC). Singles were also at Bothal Pond on 14th and 25th-31st (TD/TF), Castle Island on 1st and 3rd (STH/IFo), Cresswell Pond on 22nd (MSH), East Chevington north pool on 17th and 27th (GB/TB *et al.*) and Linton Ponds on 6th (STH).

**Teal** *Anas crecca*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total was 1,054 N and 53 S (SSWT), 275 flew N and 13 S at Tynemouth (DRW) and 197 N at Cullercoats (CB) on 29th, 285 N at Newbiggin between 16th-31st (GB/TF/JR), and 149 N and 24 S at St Mary's Island between 15th-31st (MSH/AC). East Chevington held 340 on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH), ca 230 were at Grindon Lough between 21st-23rd (PRM), 55-70 at Arcot Pond, Castle Island and Longhoughton Steel, and 12-49 at Big Waters, Druridge and Monks' House Pools, Holy Island, Linton Ponds and West Ord.

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

A peak of 13 was noted at Bothal Pond on 8th (TF) and eight were at Holywell Pond on 15th (CB). Singles were also recorded at Big Waters, Holywell and Linton Ponds, and Killingworth and Widdrington Moor Lakes.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Largest gatherings were 57 at East Chevington on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH), 47 at Bothal Pond on 7th (TD), 36 at Druridge Pools on 20th (IDR), 22-26 at Killingworth Lake (LJM) and Marden Quarry (KWY), and 12-16 at Cresswell and Linton Ponds. One to eight were also at Airy Holm and Derwent Reservoirs, Big Waters and Greenlee Lough. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Hedgeley GP	2	14	(7,7) on 6th older brood probably as July, previously 8 young. TRD/JD
Linton Lane NR	2	7	On 6th STH
Woodhorn Flashes	1	5	At Road Pool on 16th GB

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

20 were at the Blyth Estuary on 15th (LJM), 11-12 at Amble Harbour (PRM) and Snab Point (IDR), and one to four at the Aln Estuary, Druridge Links, Low Newton, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 4th (SSWT), and singles N at Annstead Point on 29th (CGK/GPK), Hauxley on 15th and 28th (CSa) and N at Howick on 31st.

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A total of 1,321 flew N and 81 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), 245 flew N at St Mary's Island between 15th-31st (MSH/AC), 114 N at Newbiggin between 17th-31st (TF/JR), and 43 N at Cullercoats on 29th (CB). Fluctuating numbers off Druridge-East Chevington included a peak of 280 on 3rd and 15-200 throughout the month (IDR/JF *et al.*), 34-43 were at Bamburgh and Cocklawburn, and three to six at Longhoughton Steel and Snab Point.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

One flew S at Seaton Sluice on 29th (SSWT). At the regular breeding site, three females and five juveniles were noted on 6th (TRD/JD), three were at Budle Bay on 3rd (GPK), two at East Chevington on 24th (PRM), and singles occasionally at the Blyth Estuary, Caistron, Castle Island and Widdrington Moor Lake.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

A monthly total of 55 N and 17 S at Seaton Sluice was an August site record and included a party of 20 N on 10th (SSWT). One to three flew N at Druridge Links, Newbiggin and Snab Point, eight S at Boulmer on 28th (CB), and one to



two S at Cullercoats and Newbiggin. The moulting flock at Holy Island harbour peaked at 210 on 27th (IK), 100 were at Stag Rocks on 28th (CGK/GPK), 96 at Berwick Little Beach on 26th (TRD/JD), 74 at West Ord on 1st (MHu), 56-66 at Amble Harbour, Boulmer and Low Newton, 25-47 at the Blyth and Tweed Estuaries, Howick, Longhoughton, Meadow Haven (Berwick), plus 16 noted at Annstead and 15 at Newbiggin. Five to eight were also at Derwent Reservoir and Upper Coquetdale, and one to two at/over Hauxley and Tynemouth. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No of Broods	No of Young	Notes/Observer
Bygate, Upper Coquetdale	2	10	(6,4) on 27th JR

### Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

One to two at Budle Bay and Holy Island were the only records received.

### Swift *Apus apus*

Low numbers were the norm again this month. 40 were at Cullercoats on 9th (ASJ), 37 were feeding at dusk at Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR/JF), 35 were at Murton on 9th (ASJ) and 30 were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir, Ellington and Whitley Bay. At least 20 were at St. Mary’s on 2nd and one to 18 were at many other locations. One observer notably recorded none at Gosforth Garden Village on 13th (MJC).

### Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Singles, presumably all juveniles, were seen in the first half of the month at Blagdon, Derwent Reservoir, Newton Steads, Ord Country Park, St. Mary’s Wetland, Simonside, Spittal-Cocklawburn, Warkworh Lane (Ellington) and Warkworth GC Towards the latter half of the month one was at Holy Island on 21st and another nr Lesbury on 25th.



Common Cuckoo (juvenile), Simonside, August 2022, Mike Carr

### Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

151 were at Blyth Market Place on 4th (LJM), 40 at Skinnerburn Riverside (Newcastle) on 9th (IDR), two at Druridge Links and the species noted as “present” in Jesmond Dene on 28th.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

25 in a field north of Widdrington Moor Lake on 25th represented a high count for this area (TRD/JD). One to six were at Caistron, Cowbyers Fell (Blanchland), Coupland, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Lane, Druridge Pools, Ellington, Grindon Lough NWT, Holywell Pond, Jesmond Dene, Snabdaugh, and a Tynemouth garden.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

200 headed SE over Holywell Pond on 15th (CB), 111 were at Chathill on 25th (PCA) and a count of 62, in scattered singles and pairs, was made during a 2km walk around Northburn (Cramlington) on 22nd (SJL). 17 were in Jesmond Dene on 28th (MJCo) and two to 11 were seen elsewhere.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

One at Tynemouth on 20th was the first seen there for over a year (CB).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

At Arcot Pond, at least two adults and two juveniles were present throughout the month (LJM/STH). At Druridge Pools, two adults and two juveniles were present on 19th (TF) with three individuals seen from the Budge Screen there on 4th (TRD) and two separate juveniles well apart on 22nd indicating possibility of two broods (MSH). An adult and two immatures were at Bothal Pond Shooters' Pools on 14th (TD), three was the peak count at East Chevington on 24th (PRM), two were at Linton Ponds and singles at Bothal Pond, Caistron, Holywell Pond and Newton Pool.

**Corncrake** *Crex crex*

An astonishing record involved an individual rescued offshore by a kayaker off Cullercoats on 27th, after drying off on the kayak it was released on dry land and not seen again (per TC/NSRW).

**Spotted Crane** *porzana porzana*

An adult was at Linton Lane NR on 22nd (ADMc).

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Numbers at East Chevington peaked at 38 on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH), 14 was the monthly maximum at Arcot Pond on 18th (LJM), 12 were at Holy Island Lough on 21st (MJC) and 12 also at Linton Ponds on 24th (PRM). One to nine were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Jesmond Dene, Northumberlandia (Cramlington), and St. Mary's Wetland.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

The peak count came from East Chevington with 93 present on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH), 59 was the monthly maximum at Bothal Pond on 14th (TD), 46 were at Linton Ponds on 24th (PRM) and 38 at Killingworth Lake on 15th included one very small youngster (LJM). Up to 11 were at Druridge Pools and a single in Budle Bay from 23rd-26th was only the seventh record there in recent decades (CGK/GPK/RA).

**Crane** *grus grus*

One was watched in flight at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (IFo).

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Numbers at East Chevington gradually built up during the month with 12 on 3rd (STH/IFo), 18 on 9th (STH/ADMc), and 34 on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH) rising to a total of 56 on 30th (TF/JFa). 30 were at Bothal Pond on 24th (TF), 21 were found during a WeBS survey at Caistron on 14th (TRD), a total of 14 at Holywell Pond on 15th comprised three pairs with young (CB) and four adults were with four juveniles at Holy Island Lough on 21st (MJC). Breeding was confirmed at Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Druridge Pools, Hedgeley GP, Linton Ponds, Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) and Northumberlandia and one to five, without breeding records, were seen at Cresswell Pond NWT, Learmouth Lake and a rarity of a single on Tynemouth Boating Lake. Two were asleep bobbing on the sea off Boulmer.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps Grisegena*

Widdrington Moor Lake once again hosted a summer-plumaged individual from 21st (TRD/JD/ADMc) to 29th (MSH), accompanied by a second bird on 25th and 29th (ADMc). One was off Chibburn Mouth (East Chevington) on 23rd (JFa), 25th (PRM) and 28th (ADMc).

#### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

The only passage record was of one heading S past Seaton Sluice on 14th (SSWT). A total of 13 (six adults and seven well-grown young) were at Killingworth Lake on 15th (LJM) whilst nine at Widdrington Moor Lake on 29th also included some juveniles (MSH). Nine were on the sea at Druridge Links on 17th (IDR) and presumably the same nine were also at East Chevington on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH). Numbers at Bothal Pond gradually reduced from three pairs on 7th to only one pair with two young on 26th (TD), two adults and two juveniles were at Branton GP all month (IBDa/KDa) and one to four were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Derwent Reservoir, Holywell Pond and Spittal-Cocklawburn.

#### **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auratus*

One was at Widdrington Moor Lake on 30th (ADMc).

#### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

A low August total of 177N and 94S was reported from Seaton Sluice (SSWT). The only other movement reported was from Druridge Links where six flew N and 14S on 15th (IDR). The peak counts were 116 at Berwick Little Beach on 2nd (MHu) with the same number at Holy Island on 21st (MJC) and Tynemouth on 27th (DRW). Elsewhere, 87 were at Annstead (Seahouses) on 9th (DF), 85 at Budle Bay on the same date (DF), 68 counted at Longhoughton Steel on 31st (MKi), with 61 present at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 18th (AP), 60+ at Cresswell Pond on 11th (MN) and a minimum of 50 seen at St Mary's Island on 15th (MSH). Groups of 11-46 were seen at Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary), Cocklawburn beach, the River Coquet Estuary and Tynemouth (Longsands and King Edward's Bay). Eight or fewer were seen at four other locations. Inland two were at Airy Holm Reservoir until 15th and a single was at Derwent Reservoir on 31st (both IFo).

#### **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

Counts at Cresswell Pond varied throughout the month with the peak being 22 on 20th (six adults and 16 juveniles) with lower numbers on other dates (ADMc/MSH/MN *et al.*). A short flight to the north, the maximum seen at Druridge Pools was ten (three adults and separate broods of three and four juveniles). The Long Nanny Estuary attracted five on 1st (PCA) with five also being seen at Monks' House Pool on 7th (CGK/GPK). An adult with three large juveniles was present at East Chevington on 9th (STH/ADMc).

#### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Numbers built up at Grindon Lough during the month with 140 present on 3rd increasing to 2,000 on 27th (SJH/PRM/AJR). At the coast and near coastal locations, numbers were smaller with 400 at St Mary's Island on 30th (ASJ), 315 being the peak at East Chevington on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH), with a maximum of 228 being counted at Bothal Pond on 26th (TD). Other groups over 100 were 184 at Maiden's Hall Lake, 160+ at Amble Braid, approximately 150 present at Monks' House Pool and in the south east, 122 at Holywell Pond, 115 at Arcot Pond and 102 at Castle Island (River Wansbeck) on various dates during the month. Significant gatherings inland were 255 at Haughton Strother on 27th (AJR) and 101 at Caistron on 14th (TRD). Counts of five-68 came from ten coastal or near coastal locations and three locations well inland.

#### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Active migration was reported in the last few days of the month with 23S at Ellington on 20th (TB), 26N at Berwick Little Beach on 26th (JD), at least 1 S over Gosforth Garden Village (Newcastle) and 19S at Annstead (Seahouses) on 31st (DF). Many flocks had formed during the month, the largest being 2,000 at Holy Island on 21st (MJC). At St Mary's Island, 600 were present on the 14th, which increased to 1,500 on 30th (ASJ/MSH/WB). In the Boulmer-Longhoughton Steel area, counts were received of 600-800 all month (MKi/AMG/MG). A roost at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) attracted 550 on 9th (TF) and 190-250 during the rest of the month (TF/JFa/AP). Away from the coast, a single was seen at Grindon Lough on 3rd which increased to a maximum of 488 by 27th (SJH/PRM). Other flocks over 100 were 200 at Budle Bay on 25th (AMG/MG), 180 from Cullernose Point to Craster on 6th (RPo) and 120 at Howick on 7th (JAR). One-89 were at five other coastal localities on various dates during the month. Derwent Reservoir held 70 on 14th (IFo).

#### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Eight in summer plumage flew N at Seaton Sluice on 16th (SSWT). Two flew N at Annstead on 21st (DF) and singles flew N at Snab Point Cresswell on 16th and Newbiggin on 31st (IDR/JR). The greatest concentration was at Budle Bay where



65 were seen on 26th (CGK) and a peak of five was at Annstead (Seahouses) on 26th (DF). One-two were present at Berwick Little Beach, Boulmer, East Chevington, Longhoughton Steel and Newbiggin.

### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Return passage was noted with coastal areas holding large numbers. At Hauxley beach, 40 on 15th increased to an impressive 250 on 16th before reducing to 120 on 27th (CSa). A count at Holy Island revealed a total of 216 on 21st (MJC), 80 were at Berwick Little Beach on 26th and at Boulmer on 28th (TRD/JD). Beacon Point (Newbiggin) attracted 25 on 1st, 61 on 14th, a peak of 87 on 20th and 70 on 30th (AP). There were 61 at Annstead (Seahouses) on 14th (DF) and 60 were at Sandham Bay (Holy Island) on 26th (RPo). Reports of ten-40 came from Amble Braid, Beal, Budle Bay, Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary), Cocklawburn, East Chevington, Howdiemont Sands-Longhoughton Steel, Low Newton, the River Coquet Estuary and St Mary's Island. One-nine were at four other coastal locations. Migrant parties dropped into Derwent Reservoir, with 17 on 15th and five on 28th (IFo). The peak at Grindon Lough was six on 24th (PRM).

### **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

A pair had four fledged young at Derwent Reservoir on 5th and a second pair had two fledged young on 25th (IFo). An adult and a juvenile were reported from East Chevington on 1st (CB) with two juveniles seen from 9th-18th (TB/MN/STH *et al.*) with singles on dates in between. Two juveniles were at Holywell Pond on 18th-19th (KWY/ASJ) and single juveniles were seen at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (STH/IFo), Monks' House Pool from 13th-15th (KWY/DF) and Grindon Lough from 13th-24th (SJH/PRM).

### **Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

A juvenile was found in a Golden Plover flock at Holy Island on 21st (MJC). What may have been the same individual was seen associating with a Golden Plover flock in the Boulmer-Longhoughton Steel area from 28th-31st (TRD/JD/MKi *et al.*).



Dotterel, Boulmer, August 2022, Daniel Langston

### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Well reported along the whole coast this month though the August total at Seaton Sluice was low where two flew N and



25S (SSWT). Further north at Newbiggin 27 flew S on 17th (JR). At East Chevington, 23 flew W on 23rd (JFa) and ten flew over Fenham-le-Moor on 26th with flocks of ten on 22nd and 11 on 23rd flying S at St Mary's Island (MSH/ASJ). Other southbound migrants included six at Cresswell Pond on 18th (AJ), three at Druridge Links on 17th (IDR), two at Annstead (Seahouses) on 31st (DF) and singles at Chugdon Wood, Ellington and The Snook (Holy Island). Seven flew E at North Shields Fish Quay on 10th (CB) and a single went N at Annstead on 21st (DF). Reports of those not actively migrating were 12 at Boulmer on 26th (MJC/DJC), nine at Holy Island on 21st (MJC) and four at Yarrow Slake on 8th (MHu). One-three were reported from 18 other coastal locations and a single flew SW over Derwent Reservoir on 14th.

#### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

A total of 27 (14N, 13S) at Seaton Sluice during the month was reported as 'well below average' (SSWT). At Druridge Links 23 were seen flying S on 3rd (IDR) and inland three flew SW at Derwent Reservoir and three flew W at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 15th (IFO) with a single S on 28th at Gosforth Garden Village (MJC). The largest concentration was 400 in the Longhoughton/Sugar Sands area on 4th (SW) with counts of 72-95 in the Boulmer-Longhoughton Steel area during the month. Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) held 184 on 8th (MHu) with reports of 78-99 from the Beacon Point (Newbiggin) roost during the month (AP/JFa/TF). Ten-50 were at Amble Braid, Annstead, Cresswell Pond, Druridge, East Chevington, Ord Moor (Berwick), the River Tweed Estuary and St Mary's Island. One to nine were at six coastal/near coastal locations and inland, three were at Tow's Bank (Eals) and Grindon Lough.

#### **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

At St Mary's Island on 27th, 15 arrived as one party (MSH). Ten flew S at Newbiggin Point on 17th (JR) and the monthly total from Seaton Sluice was a single N on 17th (SSWT). By far the largest flock was 633 roosting at St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) on 21st (MJC), with 600 counted there on 27th (IK). Elsewhere, 24 were present at Newton Pool on 18th, 19 at Amble Braid on 25th, and 12 at both Newbiggin GC on 29th and Berwick Little Beach on 31st. One-nine were noted at Boulmer, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington and Tynemouth.

#### **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

34 were observed flying S at Berwick on 18th (MHu) and three S on 14th and seven S on 18th were seen at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). There were reports from East Chevington from 4th-25th with 63 on 4th rising to a peak of 145 on 19th and reducing to 40 on 25th (TF/MN/TRD *et al.*). Similarly, at nearby Druridge Pools reports covered dates between 4th-26th with a low of two on 20th and a peak of 50+ on 18th with probably some interchange between both sites. Budle Bay held numbers throughout the month with a high of 42 occurring on 18th (CGK/GPK) and 38-40 were in the River Coquet Estuary on 4th-5th (SW/CSa). Ten-25 were present at Boulmer, Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Cresswell Pond, Holywell Pond, Monks' House Pool and the River Coquet Estuary. One-five were seen at five other coastal or near coastal localities. Four at Derwent Reservoir on 14th were noted as being 'very scarce' at this site. (IFo). A colour-ringed bird seen at East Chevington on 7th was originally ringed in Portugal in March 2021, and also seen in the Netherlands in March 2022 (TF/JFa).

#### **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

A large gathering of 150 was at Hauxley beach on 16th (CSa) and the peak at St Mary's Island was on 24th when a minimum of 70 was present (MSH). 42 were noted at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 17th (IDR) declining to 15 by 25th (TRD/JD). A concentration of 36 was noted in the Howdiemont Sands- Longhoughton Steel area on 30th (MKi) and peaks of 13 at Amble Harbour on 25th (PRM), 12 at Holy Island on 21st (MJC) and 12 also at King Edward's Bay (Tynemouth) on 24th (WB). One-seven were seen at ten other coastal locations. Two interesting inland reports were received, the first of four, with Lapwings at Arcot Pond on 14th. This is only the second record at this site, the first being in 1983. The other was of three briefly with Golden Plover at Grindon Lough on 21st before departing W (PRM/SW).

#### **Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Seaton Sluice recorded another low August passage total with ten S during the month (SSWT). At Budle Bay a total of 80 on 3rd was noted as 'comparatively light' by the observers (CGK/GPK). St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) held a roost of 62 on 21st (MJC) and the peak at the River Coquet Estuary was 20 on 8th (Rpo). One-eight were at nine coastal locations between Berwick Little Beach in the north and St Mary's Island in the south.

#### **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

The vast majority of reports came from wetland sites in the Druridge Bay area. Sightings of one-12 were made at East Chevington with the peak occurring on 25th & 30th (MJC/TW/ASH *et al.*). At nearby Druridge Pools, the same birds may have been involved as counts ranged between one-12 during the month (TRD/JD/IDR *et al.*). In the general area, Hauxley NWT attracted seven on 25th (CSa) and a single was at Cresswell Pond on 4th (TRD). Further north at Monks' House Pool, five were present on 25th with two seen on 26th-27th (AMG/MG/KWY/DF). Maiden's Hall Lake (West

Chevington) attracted four on 31st (CSa) and one-three were reported from Bothal Pond, Boulmer, Budle Bay, Grindon Lough, Hauxley beach and Holywell Pond.

#### **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

An adult was off the causeway at Holy Island on 3rd and another on Coquet Island on 7th. Light passage was noted with up to six at Boulmer on 27th (per NRSW) and a single juvenile observed on 30th (MKi). Singles were seen at Berwick Little Beach on 15th (MMcN), Budle Bay (juvenile) on 27th-28th (CGK/GPK), Beacon Point (Newbiggin) and Cresswell on 28th (both juveniles) (AP/ADMc) and Grindon Lough (juvenile) on 31st (SW).

#### **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

One was found on North Low at Cheswick Sands on 23rd (per NSRW).

#### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Numbers increased significantly this month as flocks built up at regularly favoured sites. Reports were received all month from St Mary's Island with a low of one on 20th and a peak of 230 on 30th (ASJ/MSH/WB/KWY). In the Druridge Bay area, 200 were seen at Hauxley Beach on 16th (CSa), 45 at Druridge Pools on 5th (IDR/JF *et al.*), 15 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 25th (TRD/JD) and four at East Chevington on 25th (PRM). Numbers at Newbiggin including the Beacon Point wader roost varied during the month with a low of 48 on 9th and 105 on 11th (AP/CDH/TF/JFa). Peak counts elsewhere were 80 at Sandham Bay (Holy Island) on 26th (RPo), 34 at Berwick Little Beach on 22nd (MHu), 22 at Alnmouth on 10th, 12 at the River Tweed Estuary and ten at Beadnell.

#### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Return passage was noticeable at well-watched sites in Druridge Bay. A count at Hauxley beach on 16th revealed 200 (CSa). Just further south at East Chevington nine on 3rd rose to a peak of at least 200 on 25th then declined to 15 on 31st (PRM/STH/IFo *et al.*). Similarly, at nearby Druridge Pools, 15 on 1st rose to a high of 141 on 19th before declining to five on 31st (MSH/TRD/JD *et al.*). Peak numbers at Cresswell Pond occurred on 4th and 11th when 60 were seen which reduced to three by 28th (TRD/ MN/MSH *et al.*). Numbers steadily built up at Boulmer with 76 on 10th rising to 160 on 30th (MKi/TRD/JD). Further north, the high count at Budle Bay was *ca* 150 on 26th (DF) and at Berwick Little Beach there were eight on 2nd, 70 on 15th declining to 20 on 26th (MMcN/TRD/JD/MHu). 64 were nearby at the River Tweed Estuary on 28th (MHu). Peak counts at southern sites were 77 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 14th (AP) and at least 60 at St Mary's Island on 11th (MSH). One-45 were observed at Amble Braid, Annstead, Beal, Arcot Pond, Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Hauxley, the River Coquet Estuary and Snab Point (Cresswell). Well inland, six (two adults, four juveniles) were at Grindon Lough on 3rd (PRM) and four were at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (IFo).

#### **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritime*

Three juveniles were seen at St Mary's Island on 13th (CB), with one-two on the 8th and 11th (KWY/MSH). Two arrived at the Beacon Point (Newbiggin) wader roost on 23rd (LJM). A single was on the rocks at Seaton Sluice on 24th-25th (SSWT).

#### **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Passage continued during the month with mainly juveniles reported. One was at St Mary's Island from 11th-13th (KWY/CB) and a single resided at Monks' House Pool on 12th (JPL). One (adult) was seen at East Chevington on 23rd (JFa) and there were single juveniles at Boulmer on 26th (MJC/DJC/MKi) and 28th (TRD/JD). Budle Bay also hosted a juvenile on 28th (GPK). One was at Hauxley beach on 26th with two present between 27th-31st (CSa).



Little Stint (juvenile), Boulmer, August 2022, Mike Carr

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

One was found on the scrapes at Low Newton on 21st (EB per NRSW).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 19th (SSWT). As last month, the favoured site was Druridge Pools, recording a high of 35+ on 18th and a low of one on 25th (MN/IDR/TRD *et al.*). Other wetlands in Druridge Bay attracted smaller numbers with 18 being the peak count at Cresswell Pond on 11th (AJ/IK/MN) and 12 were seen at East Chevington on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH). Grindon Lough attracted 18 on 27th and 15 were present at Bothal Pond on 22nd (TF). One-seven were seen at 14 other mainly lowland sites.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Three flew S at Seaton Sluice on 25th (SSWT). Most reports came from lowland and coastal areas. Few reports were received from upland breeding areas. Five were at Castle Island on 1st declining to three by 3rd (STH/IFo). Four were present at East Chevington on 9th reducing to two on 24th (JFa/PRM/TRD/JD). Three was the maximum seen at Arcot Pond on 14th (LJM) and two were seen at Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Holywell Pond, Howick, Newton Pool and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary). Singles were reported from Druridge Pools, Foxton Bends (River Aln), Howdon, Killingworth Lake, Lilburn Tower, the Long Nanny Estuary and Snab Point (Cresswell).

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Reports increased this month with two S at Ellington Colliery on 15th (IDR) and a single S at St Mary's Wetland on 12th (MSH) being on active migration. Three were at Budle Bay on 23rd (CGK) with three at Linton Ponds on 24th & 27th (PRM/ADM *et al.*). One-two were reported from East Chevington from 7th-18th (JFa/TB/STH *et al.*) and two were present at Holywell Pond on 23rd (MN). Singles were present at Arcot Pond, Berwick Hill Bridge (River Pont), Caistron, Foxton Bends, Grindon Lough, Hauxley NWT, Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) and Ogle Bridge.



### **Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

A migrant flock of 28 was grounded by heavy rain at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) where it is normally a scarce visitor (IFo). High numbers were seen at several coastal locations, the largest being 1,200+ at Amble Braid on 25th (PRM). Other counts in the same general area were 285-353 at the River Coquet Estuary on 5th and 7th (RPo/TF/JFa) and 312 at Warkworth Harbour on 4th (SW). A roost at St Cuthbert's Island held 473 on 21st (MJC) with 230 at nearby Budle Bay on 29th (DF). Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) attracted 270 on 8th (MHu) and a roost at the River Blyth Estuary numbered 198 (ASJ). The Howdiemont Sands-Longhoughton Steel area produced a count of 115 on 30th (MKi). Groups of 15-87 were present at Annstead (Seahouses), Beal, Boulmer, Castle Island (River Wansbeck), Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Howick, Newcastle Riverside, The River Tweed Estuary, Snab Point (Cresswell) and St Mary's.



Common Redshank, St Mary's Island, August 2022 Alan Jack

### **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Conspicuous at East Chevington, with two juveniles present from 1st-11th (CB/TB/AA *et al.*) and a single juvenile seen on 25th (PRM). One was seen at Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 1st, 8th and 11th (CSa/TF/JFa) and singles at Bothal Pond on 22nd (TF), Druridge Pools on 16th (TF) and Hauxley NWT between 25th-31st (CSa). One gave the observer a 'garden tick' as it flew over his house at Cullercoats (ASJ) and one also flew S at Gosforth Garden Village.

### **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

As last month, there were reports of individuals at East Chevington between 1st-25th (CB/MN/TRD *et al.*). A summer-plumaged individual was at the River Blyth Estuary on 3rd and one in non-breeding plumage on 15th (LJM). One was at Druridge Pools on 12th (IDR) and a juvenile was in Budle Bay on 25th (CGK).

### **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Two flew S at East Ord (Berwick) and East Chevington on 25th (MHu/TRD/JD). One flew S at Gosforth Garden Village on 10th (MJC) and singles flew N at St Mary's Island on 13th (MSH) and E at Caistron on 14th. Many southbound migrants arrived this month with a peak of 20 at Budle Bay being the second highest patch day total for the observer (CGK). Just further north at the favoured location of Beal, seven on 1st increased to 12 on 27th (DF). Three were at Arcot Pond on 14th (LJM), Grindon Lough on 23rd (SJH) and the River Coquet Estuary on the same date (CSa). Two were recorded at Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Foxton Bends (River Aln) and West Ord (Berwick). Singles were at Amble Braid, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Holy Island, Howick, Linton Lane, Longhoughton Steel, the Long Nanny Estuary, Maiden's Hall Lake, Middle Ord Pond (Berwick), the River Tweed Estuary and St Mary's Island.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

A roost in the Tweed Estuary, Calot Shad held 260 on 15th (MHu) and '100s' were offshore at Druridge Links on 17th (IDR). Other counts were 170 N on 16th at Cresswell, Snab Point, 130 in the Tweed Estuary on 13th and 40 N at Annstead on 30th.

**Sabine's Gull** *Xema Sabini*

An adult flew N at Longhoughton Steel on 12th, another adult flew N at Annstead on 17th and an un-aged individual flew N at Newbiggin Point on the morning of 18th (all per NSRW).

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

The largest gatherings were 451 in the Blyth Estuary on 15th (LJM) and 'at least' 400 feeding on a newly-harrowed field at Howick on 25th (JAR). Elsewhere 280-340 were at Berwick (Little Beach) (MHu), Budle Bay (DF), East Chevington (STH/IFo) and the Tweed Estuary (TBr/MMcN) with smaller groups of 150-160 at Druridge Links, Newbiggin and the Tweed Estuary (Yarrow Slake) with up to 65 at eight other localities including multiple counts from Druridge Pools/Links (IDR).

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Small numbers were widely reported throughout the month with a maximum of four from many sightings at East Chevington, three at Hauxley beach and one or two elsewhere at Annstead, Bamburgh, Beal, Cresswell Pond and the Long Nanny Estuary. The majority of these records comprised 1st and 2nd-summer age groups and a small number of adults.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

Although good numbers were reported last month, a new county record was set on 20th with an impressive 312 roosting at dusk on the sea at Cresswell many of which must have been new arrivals (TF/JFa). This gathering quickly dispersed and beyond that date the largest of multiple counts comprised 70 and 55 at Cresswell and 40 at Ellington. Many other sightings were of up to ten, the majority in or close to Druridge/Lynemouth Bays, with a few further afield at Budle Bay, Boulmer, Castle Island, Holywell Pond, Seaton Sluice and St Mary's Island/Wetland. The records comprised individuals of all ages including adults, immatures and also many juveniles including 37 at Newbiggin, Beacon Point on 14th (STH); an adult at Castle Island was ringed as a *pullus* on Coquet Island in June 2018 (STH).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

A large gathering of 400 was in a beach roost at Druridge Links on 3rd (IDR), 109 were at Maiden's Hall Lake on 12th (TR), 84 in a roost at Berwick, West Ord (MHu) and 59 at Snabdaugh (JR). Up to 35 were regularly seen at Druridge Links and three other groups of 16-34 were in the Berwick area.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Castle Island held 83 on 24th (TF), 28 were at East Chevington, ten at Longsands, Tynemouth and one to five at nine other localities including Derwent Reservoir and Grindon Lough.

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

Large gatherings included 1,213 during a WeBS count in the Tweed Estuary on 13th (TBr/MMcN), 650 in Budle Bay on 27th (DF), 380 in the Blyth Estuary (LJM) and 120 on the sea at Druridge Links (IDR). Smaller groups elsewhere comprised 68 at Bothal Pond and Castle Island, 30 in King Edward's Bay, Tynemouth and up to 20 at six other localities.

**Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

The returning Polish-ringed adult, PKCS, was again in Amble Harbour and reported throughout the month until at least 29th. A juvenile was found on Hauxley beach on 14th (CSa) (see images).

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahelli*

An adult was on the beach at East Chevington on 12th (TF/JFa) and possibly the same individual was at nearby Hauxley beach on 15th (CSa). A juvenile was also found on Hauxley beach on 27th (CSa).





Yellow-legged Gulls (juveniles), August 2022, Longhoughton Steel, D Langston(L), Hauxley, C Saunders(R)



Yellow-legged Gull (adult), Hauxley, August 2022, Clive Saunders



Caspian Gulls, August 2022, adult (L) at Amble, Tom Cadwallender: Juvenile (R) at Hauxley, Clive Saunders



### **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

On 28th, 80 followed a tractor on fields near Harbottle in Upper Coquetdale (MKi), 25 were in the Tweed Estuary on 13th (TBr/MMcN) and 12 at Bothal Pond (TD). All the many other reports were of one to seven at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotley Bridge), Branton GP, East Chevington, Jesmond Dene, Morpeth, Skinnerburn (R. Tyne, Newcastle) and West Ord with multiple counts from Derwent Reservoir, Ellington and Grindon Lough.

### **Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

As reported last month very few juveniles were to be seen, indicative of the disastrous breeding season due to the Avian Flu outbreak. At Seaton Sluice much smaller numbers than usual were reported with very few noted carrying food and few juveniles recorded (SSWT); however, offshore at Druridge Links on 16th, 57 passed mainly N with many carrying food (IDR). The largest counts were 101-120 on four dates at Boulmer (MKi/TRD/JD) when a maximum of only five juveniles were seen and 111 at East Chevington (TRD). No juveniles were recorded in any of the other 46 records with counts of up to 70 from some 25 widespread localities along the coast from Berwick to St Mary's Island.

### **Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

At Newbiggin 15 moved S in 90 minutes on 1st (CB), 12 were at the Long Nanny on 5th (AMG/MG) and nine fed at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 11th (AP). Records of one to five came from Annstead, Beadnell Bay (where a pair fed two juveniles on the beach), Budle Bay, Hauxley beach and Longhoughton.

### **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

It was an extremely poor month at Seaton Sluice with only one adult seen moving S on 22nd (SSWT). The maximum count was 19 in Budle Bay on 26th (CGK/GPK/RA) where small numbers were noted daily from 15th-31st. Elsewhere, six were at Newbiggin on 1st and 9th (CB/TF), three at Cresswell, Snab Point on 25th, two moving N at Druridge Links on 17th and feeding offshore at Newbiggin Point on 25th (AT). Singles, one of which was a juvenile, were at four other sites.

### **Common/Arctic Tern** *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

ca.450 were present in Budle Bay during the final week up to the 31st (CGK/GP).

### **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

St Mary's Island held a roost of 100 on 30th which included many juveniles (ASJ) and counts of 18 and 33 between Boulmer and Longhoughton Steel included ten and 18 juveniles respectively (MKi). Other double-figure counts of 15-25 were recorded from Amble Harbour, offshore Druridge Links, East Chevington and Tynemouth with one to nine seen on dates throughout at six other localities.

### **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

At Seaton Sluice the only significant record was 35 N on 31st (SSWT) and passage, generally N, was recorded at Annstead with 72, 30, 21 (incl. 11 juveniles), 15 and 10 on five days from 2nd-20th (DF). The maximum number at the Long Nanny site was 300 on 5th (AMG/MG) and 86 were in the roost at Newbiggin, Beacon Point on 9th (TF). Elsewhere, groups of one to ten were at Beadnell, Boulmer, Berwick (Little Beach/Meadow Haven), Cocklawburn, Cresswell (Snab Point), Druridge Links, East Chevington and Holy Island but only three juveniles noted.

### **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

At Budle Bay, one to five up to a maximum of eight were seen daily from 21st-28th, all juveniles apart from one adult (CGK/GPK/RA). On 28th five juveniles, probably the Budle Bay individuals, were offshore at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh (KWY). Other sightings, mainly juveniles, comprised two at Boulmer on 26th and singles at Druridge Links on 15th and 17th, Newbiggin (Beacon Point) on 16th, St Mary's Island on 17th, Tynemouth on 20th and East Chevington on 24th/25th.

### **American Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger surinamensis*

A moulting adult, considered to be the individual which has summered at the Long Nanny, was seen at distance in Budle Bay on 21st and 22nd, with better views on 23rd, it remained until 29th (CGK/GPK/RA/DMF).

### **Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

The catastrophic population decline due to Avian Flu mortality was again evidenced by low totals this month. From

Seaton Sluice only four were noted this month, 3 N, 1 S, compared with 103 last August (SSWT). The only other sightings were 4 N at Tynemouth on 29th (DRW) and singles, probably just one individual, at Druridge Links and Newbiggin on 17th (IDR/JR ).

#### **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Single birds moving N were at Cullernose on 15th (IBDa/KDa) and St Mary's Island on 31st (MSH/AC). Two 'probables' flew N together offshore at Druridge Links on 17th (IDR).

#### **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

A well-below average month at Seaton Sluice with 49 N, 14 S including a maximum of 28 N on 31st.(SSWT). Elsewhere there were very few sightings prior to mid-month with singles at Annstead, Boulmer and Longhoughton Steel on 3rd-4th and two at Druridge Links on 10th. Thereafter numbers increased, particularly during the last week, with 12 at Annstead on 29th (CGK/GPK), nine at Newbiggin on 17th (JR), seven at Tynemouth and Warkworth on 22nd and 29th, five at Druridge Links, Longhoughton Steel, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island with further records of two or three from many of these localities plus Amble Harbour, Boulmer, Cresswell (Snab Point), Cullercoats, East Chevington and Howick.

#### **Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Seaton Sluice recorded six juveniles flying N, with one and five respectively on 29th and 31st (SSWT). Other reports were of a juvenile N (and a probable second) at Tynemouth on 29th (DRW) and one (un-aged) moving N at St Mary's Island on 31st (MSH/AC).

#### **Auk** *sp*

During 40 minutes' early-morning sea-watching on 31st, 280 flew N at Newbiggin, Church Point (JR) and on the same day 140 moved N in five hours at Seaton Sluice with very few seen there prior to that (SSWT).

#### **Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

15 were on the sea off Chibburn Mouth on 25th (PRM) and other records were of three to nine offshore at Cresswell, Druridge Links, East Chevington and St Mary's Island.

#### **Razorbill** *Alca torda*

There was one record only of two on the sea at Druridge Links.

#### **Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

A total of 22 N were recorded at Seaton Sluice on 29th-31st (SSWT) with two at St Mary's Island and a juvenile in Druridge Bay.

#### **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 33N and 11S which is average for August (SSWT). Nine were off Chibburn Mouth (East Chevington) on 25th (PRM), eight were seen at Tynemouth with 6N and 2S on 29th (DRW), six were at Druridge on 25th (TRD/JD). Four were noted at St Mary's Island on 31st with 3N and one on the sea (MSH/AC). One to two were off Cullernose, Druridge Links, East Chevington and Newbiggin.

#### **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

One flew S at Cullercoats on 30th (ASJ).

#### **Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

200+ moved N at Church Point (Newbiggin) between 05:35 and 16:35 on 17th (JR). 170 N at Seaton Sluice in eight hours on 31st was the strongest passage in August (SSWT). 25 flew mostly N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 30th (DF), 23 were offshore at Druridge Links on 17th (IDR), 18 at St Mary's Island on 16th (MSH) and 17 there on 31st (MSH/AC). 16 were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 16th (IDR). One-13 were at eight other sites including one flying well inland NW over Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 14th (TB).



Fulmar, Cullercoats, August 2022, Alan Jack

#### **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis*

It was an excellent month at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower with six noted, on 16th two moved N and one S, two flew N on 17th and finally one N on 30th (SSWT). One flew N very slowly at Hauxley on 23rd (CSa), one moved N at Tynemouth (DRW), St Mary's Island (JBU/MSH) before lingering off Newbiggin Point on 29th (TF/JFa). One was seen going N at St Mary's Island on 31st (MSH/AC).

#### **Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*

16 flew N at Newbiggin Point between 05:35 and 16:35 on 17th (JR), 12 moved past Seaton Sluice during the month with nine N on 17th (SSWT), 11 were noted at Hauxley on 17th (CSa). Six at Newbiggin Point on 31st (JR), four were seen at Hauxley(CSa) and Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 29th (CGK/GHPK). Two were off Druridge Links and Snab Point on 17th (IDR), Tynemouth on 29th (DRW), Annstead (Seahouses) on 30th (DF) and finally singles were at St Mary's Island on 17th and 31st (MSH/AC).

#### **Great Shearwater** *Ardenna gravis*

Singles flew N at Seaton Sluice on 16th (SSWT), Newbiggin (TF) and Snab Point (Cresswell) on 17th (IDR).

#### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

The August monthly total at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower was 2,907, with high counts of 1,040 N on 17th, 1,019 N on and 22 S on 18th (SSWT). 600+ flew N at Newbiggin Point between 05:35 and 16:35 on 17th (JR), 451 went N at St Mary's Island on 17th (MSH/AC) and 294 moved N at Druridge Links also on 17th (IDR). At Cullernose on 29th 208 were noted with 208 N and 66 S in a three-hour sea watch (CB). Counts on 17th included 270 at Hauxley (CSa) and 250 N at Newbiggin (TF); 240 also flew N at Hauxley on 29th (CSa). Other counts included 140 N at Tynemouth on 29th (DRW), 120 including 100 feeding offshore and 20 N at Newbiggin on 1st (CB) and 100N at Newbiggin on 31st (JR). One – 57 were noted at Annstead (Seahouses), East Chevington, Longhoughton Steel, St Mary's Island, Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) and Snab Point.

#### **Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

One flew N past Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 16th (SSWT).



**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

Numbers recorded continue to be low with no large movements noted at Seaton Sluice with maximum counts of 870 N on 31st, 500 N and 40 S in 10hrs on 16th and 440 N in eight hrs on 17th (SSWT). 413 flew N in 90 mins at Annstead (Seahouses) on 30th (DF) and 187 moved past N there on 31st (DF), also on 31st 165 flew N in 1hr at St Mary's Island (MSH/AC) and 107 noted N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 21st (DF). One – 94 were noted at 11 other coastal sites.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

East Chevington held the highest counts with 140 on 14th (TF), 107 there on 25th (TB) and 73 on 8th (TB). 55 were between Spittal and Cocklawburn on 14th (TBr), 52 at East Chevington on 3rd (STH/IFo) and a flock of 42 N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 8th (SSWT). One – 34 were recorded at 14 other sites.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

22 in the roost at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 2nd increased to 32 by 21st (MHU). 21 flew south at Newbiggin Point on 25th including a blue-ringed individual (AT). A below-average total for Seaton Sluice Watch Tower was 12 with eight N and four S (SSWT). Two were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 5th (IDR) and singles were seen at Druridge on 25th (TRD/JD) and Longhoughton Steel on 29th (TB).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

22 were at Yarrow Slake (R Tweed Estuary) on 8th (MHU), 17 were at Howdon on 7th (CB) and 16 were counted in the R Tweed Estuary during the monthly WeBS count on 13th (TBR/MMcN). 14 were at Howdon on 7th (CB) and 10 were roosting in a stubble field at Longhoughton Steel during high tide on 31st (MKi). One to nine were at 15 locations.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

One was observed in flight under the A1 River Tweed road bridge mobbed by two Grey Herons on 25th (CH per NRSW). This individual was subsequently seen over the next couple of days at sites in the Scottish Borders.

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

The individual at Castron on 14th was noted to have a limp which may explain its continued presence over many months (TRD). On 18th one was on the Black Middens (Tynemouth) before flying W (ASJ). One arrived from the N and landed in trees at Druridge Pools for 20 mins before disappearing. This individual was colour-ringed as a nestling in April 2022 at RSPB Ham Wall (Somerset) (MSH). An individual flew N at Cullercoats on 31st (ASJ).



Great White Egret, Tynemouth, August 2022, Iain Johnson

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

A new county record high count of 67 came from West Ord (Berwick) on 16th, with 23 there on 21st and 16 on 7th (MHU). Castle Island had double-figure counts of 18 on 8th and 12 on 12th (STH). One to ten were also noted at 20 other sites.

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Four were at Derwent Reservoir on 25th and 27th (IFo), with three on 19th (MN) and 24th (IFo) with one to two seen throughout the month (IFo/MN/MSH). Singles were also noted at Beal on 21st (MJC) and S at Grindon Lough NWT on 22nd (PRM).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

A pair and a juvenile were at Ellington Dene on 1st (TB) and three were at Silverlink CP (N Shields) on 12th (KWY). Two were at Tows Bank (Eals) on 5th (SJH), Holywell Pond on 26th (KWY), Longframlington Common on 27th (JD) and at Ellington on 31st (TB). Individuals were at 27 locations.

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

A breeding pair was at an undisclosed site throughout the month with two fledged juveniles on 13th (DF). Two juveniles were at East Chevington on 1st (ADM), a female and a juvenile on 5th (ADM). Two unsexed individuals were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 7th (ADM). A male and a juvenile were at East Chevington on 11th (MN), two were noted by the local farmer at Greenlee Lough on 13th (per MRS), two juveniles were noted at Carterway Heads on 19th (MN) and a male and a female at Linton Pond on 22nd (ADM). Singles were at Beal, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Holywell Pond, Linton Pond, The Snook (Holy Island).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Up to six were at Tows Bank (Eals) on 5th (SJH), three were at Derwent Reservoir on 21st and 24th (IFo). Two were at Tows Bank (Eals) on 9th and 17th (SJH) and Derwent Reservoir on 19th (IFo). Singles were recorded at Derwent Reservoir on seven dates (IFo), Snods Edge on 4th (IFo), East Chevington on 6th (ADM), S at Stobhill Manor (Morpeth) on 8th (TF/JFa), Maiden's Hall Lake on 11th (CSa), Ouston (IRD) and nr Belford (DF) on 13th and nr Whittingham on 16th (TRD).

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Seven at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd was the highest count (IFo), six were at Wooler on 31st (DGB/RHB), five were at Bellasis Bridge (Blagdon) on 22nd (TB). Four were at Tows Bank (Eals) on 5th and 9th (SJH), three were at Breamish Valley (Ingram), Druridge Pools, Ellington, Holywell Pond, Low Cocklaw (Berwick), R Tweed Estuary, & Wark (N Tyne). One to two were at 13 sites throughout August.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Four hunted late evening at Longhorsley Moor on 2nd (AB/LB) with late successful breeding of four pulli recorded at Longhorsley and Whittingham on 31st (AHa/PHa). All other reports were singles at Druridge Pools and Links on three dates early in the month and at Hadston on 29th, Wark (North Tyne) and East Chevington on two dates, also at Cresswell, Newton, Howick and Chugdon Wood (Ellington).

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

A male and female called at Wark (N.Tyne) on 23rd with a male on 20th (PRM). Singles called all month at Howick and intermittently at Rothbury, a male called in Preston Cemetery, North Shields on 11 and another at Hipsburn on 25th. A road casualty was found at Longframlington on 5th.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Singles were at Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 19th and Derwent Reservoir on 28th (KWY/IFO).

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

One was noted at Willow Bog (Stonehaugh) on 28th (SW).



**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

On 11th one hunted at Long Nanny (Newton) and another at East Chevington on (23rd) (PCA/JFa).

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Well reported with three at Wark on Tweed on 5th (MJC), a pair at Wark (N.Tyne) on 4th (ADM) and two along the Ouseburn (Newcastle) on 8th (DHWB), Berwick Hill Bridge on 10th (AHB), Pauperhaugh (R.Coquet) on 23rd (RPo), Jesmond Dene on 28th (MJCo) and Branton GP during the month (IBDa/KDa). Singles were at six coastal locations and 12 inland.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Two were at Holywell Pond on 15th (CB) with two at Seaton Delaval Hall on 20th (SW) and female with juvenile at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 27th where singles were present on two other dates (TB). Singles were at two other locations around Ellington and five other places.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

There was just a single report of one calling at Coupland on 1st (TRD/JD).



Green Woodpecker (juvenile), Harthope Valley, August 2022, Chris Barlow

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Good numbers were noted with family parties of five at Holywell Dene/Pond on 3rd (ASJ) and Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 8th (SSWT). Four were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 10th (MSH), three at Beal on 1st, Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) (inc. two juveniles) on 4th, East Chevington on 17th, Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 19th and Derwent Reservoir on 24th. Two were at three of the above locations plus Longhorsley Moor and Prestwick Carr with singles at a further 15 widespread localities.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

All reports received were of singletons although two different individuals were seen at Cresswell Pond NWT with a female on 6th and a juvenile male on 11th (TB/MN). Other records came from Boulmer on 4th, Hawsen Burn (Harthope Valley)

on 5th, R Coquet Estuary on 8th, Druridge links on 12th, Howick Dene on 18th, East Chevington and Newbiggin on 20th, Druridge Pools on 21st and Grindon Lough NWT on 23rd.

#### **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

On 1st one, likely to be this species, was at Coupland (TRD/JD) and an individual was at Ridley Common on 23rd (AJN).

#### **Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

An adult and two juveniles were at Budle Bay most of the month (CGK/GPK) with regular sightings of an adult male in Newcastle between 5th and 13th (KWY/AJ/MJC). Singles were noted at Brandon (Breamish Valley) on 4th, Berwick Little Beach and Derwent Reservoir on 15th, Boulmer on 18th, Debdon (Rothbury) on 22nd, Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 23rd, Tynemouth and East Ord (Berwick) on 29th, Newbiggin on 30th and Longhoughton Steel on 31st.

#### **Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

A high count of 11 flew south at Walkerville (Newcastle) on 26th with one at Jesmond Dene on 7th and an immature at Ord Country Park on 11th.

#### **Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

A peak count was of nine in three groups at Ellington on 25th and seven there on 20th with one to three there on six other dates and at Chugdon Wood on five (TB). Six were at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on 15th (CB) two at Arcot Pond on 10th and Jesmond Dene on 28th with singles at Newton Rigg, Prestwick Carr, Rothbury, Stonehaugh and Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) where the species is regarded as uncommon.

#### **Magpie** *Pica pica*

Eight were at Prestwick Carr on 25th (PCF), seven at Druridge Links on 12th, six there on 10th and one to five there on three other dates (IDR). Five were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 7th and Chathill on 25th with two at Skinnerburn Riverside on 9th.

#### **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

More than 150 were at Howick on 25th (JAR), 33 at Dinnington on the same date (PCF) and one at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 28th.

#### **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Just one report of 65 at Chathill on 25th (PCA).

#### **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

A high count of 121 on WeBS at R. Tweed Estuary on 13th (TBr/MMcN) with eight at Druridge Pools on 20th and Links on 12th and two to six on six other dates (IDR). Seven were at Chathill on 25th, five at Jesmond Dene on 7th and three at Tynemouth Priory on 18th.

#### **Raven** *Corvus corax*

Three flew north low over Melkridge on 21st (SJH), two at Debdon (Rothbury) on 2nd, Ingram on 17th and Chew Green (Upper Coquetdale) on 27th with singles at four other upland locations.

#### **Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

A pair was at Wark (N.Tyne) on 4th (ADM) and two were at Druridge Links on 12th (IDR).

#### **Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

All reports received were of singles at Debden (Rothbury) on 2nd, coming to feeders at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 6th and 15th and at present at Peth Foot on 12th.



**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Three were at Prestwick Carr on 25th (PCF), two at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd and Longhorsley on 25th (IFo/AB/LB). Singles were recorded at Hauxley and Tyne Riverside CP (Prudhoe) on 7th, Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 15th, Druridge Bay CP on 19th, Druridge Pools on 26th and Newbiggin on 30th.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Eight was the highest count received from Prestwick Carr on 25th (PCF), four were reported at Druridge Links on 12th (IDR), two were at Chathill on 25th and The Snook (Holy Island) on 29th with one in Jesmond Dene on 28th.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

A high count of seven came from Prestwick Carr on 25th (PCF), two were at Jesmond Dene on 7th and one at Druridge Links on 12th.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

There were just two counts of eight at Ingram (Breamish Valley) on 17th (JAR) and one over Prestwick Carr on 25th.

**Hirundine sp**

Around 130 roosted on wires at Middle Ord Farm (Berwick) on 13th (Mhu).

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

A very large roost at Linton Ponds on 22nd and 23rd numbered around 4,000 (ASJ/TF/JFa). 500 at dusk at Druridge Pools on 2nd (IDR/JF) reduced to ca 300 on 9th (TRD/JD) and 300 at North Pool (East Chevington) on 1st (CB) fell to 200 on 7th (MJC/TW/ASH). 125 were at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 24th, 100's at Druridge Pools on 10th, 50 at St Mary's Island on 9th, more than 40 at Holywell Pond on 23rd, 30 at Cresswell Home Farm (Lynemouth) on 31st and 20 at Ellington on 3rd, Caistron on 14th and Hepple Whitefield on 24th. On 2nd more than 100 moved north in 30 mins at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh), 90 south at Druridge Pools on 5th with 65 south in 40 mins there on 1st and 20 on 17th. One to 15 were at these and four other locations.

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

The mixed roost at Linton Ponds included 1,500 on 23rd (ASJ). 350 were at Holy Island on 23rd (MJC), 250 south at East Chevington on 25th (MJC/TW/ASH), 120 including many juveniles at Alwinton (Upper Coquetdale) on 27th (ASJ) and more than 100 at Druridge Pools on 10th (MSH). Smaller counts of 80 were at Howick on 21st, 60 at Detchant (Belford) on 24th (JAR), and 50 at Hepple Whitefield on 24th (TRD/JD). Six to 45 were at Druridge Pools and Links on seven dates during the month, 40 over the North Pool at East Chevington on 7th, Derwent Reservoir on 13th, Newbiggin GC on 23rd, Morpeth on 26th and Brenkley on 27th. Ten-30 were at seven locations and one to six at a further eight. On the Otterburn ranges 26 pairs were monitored with 100 eggs in the 1st clutch producing 72 young and 53 eggs in the 2nd clutch producing 41 young with 113 fledged in total (JR/NA). Holy Island also had a good breeding season with 45 pairs breeding. Results from 16 monitored nests showed 88 young fledged including seven 2nd broods. The most productive pair fledged ten young from two broods with other double-brooded pairs producing three to four in the 2nd brood (IK).

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

On 27th 200, including many juveniles, were at Alwinton (Upper Coquetdale) (ASJ). 150 fed over a cut wheat field at Cresswell Home Farm (Lynemouth) on 31st (TB). Smaller counts included 65 adults and juveniles at Longhorsley on 10th (ASJ), 34 at East Ord (Berwick) on 3rd (MHu) with 30 at Longhorsley on 13th, Humshaugh on 27th, and Old Hartley on 28th. 25 were at Druridge Pools on 2nd, Ellington on 3rd and moving south at East Chevington on 25th with 23 at Greenhead on 18th and more than 20 at St Mary's Wetland on 23rd. At least 16 were at Tynemouth Long Sands on 20th, Ord Country Park on 21st and Spittal Berwick on 27th with 15 at West Mains on 29th and one to ten at seven other widespread localities.

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cettia*

Song was heard throughout the month at East Chevington (CB, MN, TRD, TB, TF/JFa). Other individuals were heard at Hauxley NWT on 7th (TRD) and at Druridge Pools on 9th (TRD/JD) and 26th (MSH).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

The peak count for the month at garden feeders at Northburn (Cramlington) was 21 on 9th (LJM), with numbers in double figures there regularly. There were 14 at East Chevington North Pool on 25th (TB), 11 at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (IFo) and at Low Cocklaw (Berwick) on 29th (TBr), with eight at Howick on 7th (JAR), and four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 28th (MJCo).

#### **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Coastal locations produced the highest numbers, with a maximum of 23 at Druridge Links on 12th (IDR), 15 at Maiden's Hall Lake on 12th (TF), and a maximum of 11 on Holy Island on 21st (MJC). East Chevington held eight on 21st (PG). There were four at Ellington on 1st, a maximum of four at St Mary's Wetland on 12th, and four at Castron on 14th, where song was heard. Song was also heard at St Mary's Wetland and at Cresswell Pond on 9th. One to three were reported at a further eight localities.

#### **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

There were at least 20 along a 1km stretch of road at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (IFo). At Mickley Square, 12 1st-winter and one adult were ringed on 22nd, and 16 1st-winter were ringed on 28th (DLe). Another 15 1st-winter were ringed at Corbridge Common on 29th (DLe). There were eight at Alnmouth on 31st (MJC), five at Ellington on 13th (TB0, and five at Chathill on 25th (PCA). One to four were at a further 13 localities, including singing birds at Castron on 14th (TRD) and at Humshaugh on 28th (SW).

#### **Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

One was along Holy Island's Straight Lonnen on 29th, remaining until 31st (RA).



Greenish Warbler, Holy Island, August 2022, Mark Whittingham

#### **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Pairs feeding fledged young were noted at St Mary's Wetland on 12th and 28th (MSH), and a maximum of four were at East Chevington's North Pool on 1st (CB). Two were at Druridge Links on 12th, Prestwick Carr on 25th, and Castron on 14th, where song was noted. Singles were at Low Newton, Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield), and Cresswell Pond NWT.

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A pair were feeding four fledged juveniles at The Lough (Holy Island) on 14th (MJC), and three were at East Chevington on 24th (PRM). Singles were at Wallington, Cresswell Pond NWT and at Mickley Square, where one was caught in scrub on 22nd (DLe).

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

One was heard reeling intermittently at Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR/JF).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Mickley Square had 15 (13 ringed, two retraps) on 22nd and 17 (14 ringed, two retraps, one control) on 28th, 16 of which were 1st-winters (DLe). A single adult and seven 1st-winters were trapped at Howick on 19th (HwRS). Four were at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 8th and 30th and three were at Druridge Links on 12th. Castron had two, including one singing, on 14th, and Wark (North Tyne) had two on 20th. Singles were reported from St Mary's Wetland, Rothbury, and Holy Island.



Blackcap, Morpeth, August 2022, Peter Tapsell

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Singles were at Derwent Reservoir on 1st, St Mary's Wetland on 4th and 21st, Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 8th, Howick on 26th, and The Snook (Holy Island) on 29th. Single 1st-winters were ringed at Mickley Square on 6th and at Corbridge Common on 19th.



**Barred Warbler** *Curruca nisoria*

A juvenile/1st-winter was alarm-calling at a weasel at St Mary's on 9th (ASJ). The bird was seen well though briefly several times, but disappeared after a Sparrowhawk came through.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

St Mary's Wetland had two on 4th and 7th and one on 9th, 25th, and 27th (MSH). Two were feeding alongside Willow Warblers in a tree at East Chevington on 21st (PG), and one was at Holywell Pond on 26th (KWY).

**Subalpine Warbler sp.** *Curruca iberiae/C. cantillans*

A single bird, possibly an adult female or a 1st-winter, was found and seen briefly mid-morning at The Snook (Holy Island) on 29th, but avoided attempts to relocate it in the following five hours (MJC/ADM).

**Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

St Mary's Wetland held a maximum of eight on 5th (MSH), with five 1st-winters noted on 29th (ASJ). There were seven at Old Hartley on 24th (MSH) and at Holywell Pond on 26th (KWY). Alnmouth dunes had five, including three 1st-winters on 10th (RPo). The Snook (Holy Island) had four on 29th (MJC/ADM), and one to three were reported from Druridge Links, Derwent Reservoir, Bamburgh, Howick, Beanley Plantation, Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield), Low Newton and East Linden Ringing Station.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Corbridge Common had the highest count, with 13 1st-winters ringed on 29th (DLe). There were five, including a 1st-winter, at Wark (North Tyne) on 4th (ADM), and a pair with three young at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 27th (TD). Church Wood (Longhorsley) had four on 5th (AB/LB).

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

There were five at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 28th (MJCo), three at Druridge Links on 12th (IDR), and one at Pauperhaugh (nr Rothbury) on 23rd (RPo).

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

A family party of two adults and two juveniles was present in a Rothbury garden during the month (TRD). A family party of four was at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 5th (TD), and one of a pair at Wark (North Tyne) on 4th (ADM) was observed carrying food. One to two were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Northumberlandia (Cramlington), Eshott and Humshaugh.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

A family group of four was at Holywell Dene on 19th (KWY), and three, including one climbing a telegraph pole, were at Humshaugh on 21st (SW). Singles were reported from Derwent Reservoir, Debdon (Rothbury), and Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield).

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The largest flock was at St Mary's, with 600 observed feeding on exposed seaweed on 12th (MSH). A flock of 300 at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) was comprised mostly of 1st-winters. Druridge Links had a maximum of 250 on 12th (IDR), and Tynemouth Long Sands had 70, including many 1st-winters, on 18th (WB). There were 33 on chimneys and wires in central Amble on 30th (RPo).

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Callaly produced a high count of 17 on 27th (JR). A female was seen feeding two recently fledged juveniles in a garden at Northburn (Cramlington) on 24th (LJM). One to two were at Alnmouth dunes, Chathill, and Jesmond Dene.

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

A flock of 21 was at Whitehouse Farm (Stannington) on 22nd (TB), and a possible family party of seven flew across the road at Errington on 4th (ADM).

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

There were three at Branton GP on 23rd (IBDa/KDa), two at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (IFo), and an adult feeding a juvenile at Detchant (Belford) on 24th (JAR). Singles were at Howick, Lilburn Tower, Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley), Linton Ponds and the Straight Lonnen (Holy Island), with a juvenile at Wallington on 3rd (TRD/JD).

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

At Prestwick Carr, 16 were counted over 1km on 25th (PCF). There were four at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 28th, two at Druridge Links on 12th, and one at Chathill on 25th.

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A juvenile was at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo).

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Holy Island had two on 14th (MJC), and singles were reported from Hedgeley, Branton GP, Wark (North Tyne), and St Mary's Wetland, with a 1st-winter male at Derwent Reservoir on 21st and a 1st-winter female on 25th and 26th (IFo).

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

Holy Island had three on 21st and five on 23rd (MJC) and St Mary's had three on 15th and 24th (ASJ). Singles were reported from Rising Sun CP, Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Budle Point, Old Hartley, Howdon, Prestwick Carr and Longframlington Common.

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Holy Island had a maximum count of 20 on 14th, comprising seven pairs with fledged broods (MJC). There were nine at Debdon (Rothbury) on 9th (AJ), a maximum of seven at Druridge Links on 12th (IDR), six, including four 1st-winters, at St Mary's on 14th (ASJ), and six at Bamburgh dunes on 29th (KWY). Family groups of three to five were at Simonside, Howick, Winnow's Hill (Slaley), Alnmouth dunes and Hepple Whitefield, with one to four at a further nine localities.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Holy Island had a maximum of eight on 21st (MJC). There were two at the Long Nanny (Newton) between 1st–5th (PCA), two at Cocklawburn on 4th (MHu), and two 1st-winters at the Coquet Estuary on 8th (CSa). Single 1st-winters were at Derwent Reservoir on 4th and Lynemouth Bay on 29th. Singles were also reported from a further ten localities.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Two were seen at Ellington Dene and Wark in the first week and singles at two other sites.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

At least 50 were noted at Craster on 2nd, 32 at Dinnington on 16th and 30 on A1 verge at Belford on 29th. One - 22 were seen at a further six sites.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

15 were seen on 7th at Hauxley and 12 were at Detchant on 24th and at least ten were at St. Mary's Wetland on 5th (TRD/JAR/MSH).

**Duncock** *Prunella modularis*

Three to four fed in a Cullercoats garden all month and three called at St. Mary's on 10th (ASJ).

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flavissima*

A good count of 13 was made at north pool East Chevington on 11th with four to seven seen there on three other dates. Seven were noted at Linton on 22nd (JFa/TFa). Six were observed at Monks' House Pool on 13th (KWY). During the

month, one to four were noted at 15 other sites.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Five were counted on 7th at Jesmond Dene (MJCo). Three were noted at Lilburn Tower on 1st (TRD). Two were recorded this month at five sites and singles at a further six.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

22 were counted at Bothal Pond on 25th (TF). 19 were at Druridge Links on 1st and 15, mainly juveniles, were at Newbiggin Moor on 23rd with 14 seen at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (IDR/LJM/IFo). One to 12 were observed at a further nine sites during the month.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba alba*

Two were watched at Druridge Pools on 10th(MSH).

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

40 flew S at Holy Island on 3rd (MJC). 17 were counted at St. Mary's on 6th (ASJ). 12 flew S at Ellington on 31st (TB). Two to seven were at two sites.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

The only sighting this month was of one on Holy Island on 23rd (MJC).

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

12 was the peak count on Holy Island on 23rd, where a pair fed three young on 21st (MJC). Three were seen on several dates at Cullercoats and at Howick (ASJ/JAR). Two were spotted at Berwick, Little Beach on 26th (TRD/JD).

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Poorly recorded this month, with three seen on 7th at Jesmond Dene and two at Druridge Links on 12th.

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

12 were found on 30th at Howick (JAR). Eight was the high count of the birds visiting a Rothbury garden during the month (TRD/JD). Eight were also seen at Garret Lee Wood on 15th (CB). One to four were at a further 12 locations during the month.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

A feeding flock of 30 was watched at Juniper on 26th (AJR). Ten were at Ellington on 25th (TB). Two to six at two were other sites.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

Large flocks began to gather this month, with 210 found at Bothal Pond on 22nd and 200 at Holywell Pond on 26th (JFa/KWY). In the north, 76 were counted at Cocklawburn on 4th (MHu). On 23rd, 40 were found at Holy Island (MJC). Two – 32 were also noted at a further 16 sites.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

30 were at Willow Bog (Stonehaugh) on 28th (SW). A singleton was at Grindon on 23rd.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

A charm of ca 160 was found at Spittal (Berwick) on 14th (TBr). On 25th, 86 were counted at East Chevington, with the number rising to 120 by the month's end (PRM/TRD/JD). At least 70 were feeding at St. Mary's on several dates (ASJ/MSH). 12 - 45 were also seen at 14 other locations during the month.



**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

At least 36 at Grindon was the largest count this month on 23rd (PRM). Elsewhere, one to eight were seen at six sites.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

Ca 50 was a good count on 27th at Callaly (JR). Six were noted at East Chevington on 1st (CB). One to two males were still singing up to 25th (AB/LB).



Yellowhammer, Aln Estuary, August 2022, Tom Cadwallender

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Eleven around St. Mary's on 29th was the month's peak count (ASJ). Seven were at Cocklawburn on 9th (MHu). One to three were at three other sites.

**ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**

**Escapes**

**Red-tailed Hawk** *Buteo jamaicensis*

One was watched on a hedgerow at Ellington on 18th (TB)

**Hybrids**

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

One was noted again at Arcot Lane on 22nd (LJM)

**Red-crested Pochard x Pochard** *Netta rufina* x *Aythya ferina*

One, probably of this combination, was at Big Waters on 7th and 14th-15th (GB).

#### Birds of Unknown Origin

#### **Bar-headed Goose** *Anser indicus*

One to two were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir from 8th to 23rd (MSH / IFo)

#### **LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS**

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Bamburgh Ringing Station, Berwick Wildlife Group, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, Northumberland Rare & Scarce Whatsapp, BirdGuides.

#### **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), 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.

Compiled and edited by Alan Tilmouth [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

#### **RECORD SUBMISSION**

Please email records for the month to [ntbc.records@googlemail.com](mailto: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 Alan Tilmouth at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)  
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.

#### **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 13 October 2022 and is the Annual General Meeting followed by a presentation from Joanna Dailey 'The Story of the Northumberland Osprey'.

#### **FIELD TRIPS**

Next Field Trip – tbc

## 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.

Subscriptions can be paid using online banking: please include your name as the reference and email Jo Bentley at [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com) to confirm payment.

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.

If you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome. For membership enquiries please contact Jo Bentley (Hon Treasurer) [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

## NTBC Web and Social Media

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds, with a wide range of content from photo galleries, county checklists, Records Committee updates, information on surveys and many useful articles on bird identification and birding both locally and internationally, to find out more please visit [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

Please submit any other new content (eg trip reports, identification notes, site guides etc) for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

NTBC can also be found on Facebook [here](#) and Twitter [here](#)

## Other News

### Annual General Meeting Notice

The 2022 NTBC AGM will be held during the indoor meeting on the 13th October. Please send nominations for the committee to Andrew Brunt (Club Secretary), to arrive no later than 9th October.

Email: [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

### County Records Committee Update

As a result of the County Records Committee meeting on the 27th August the spreadsheets showing county rarity claims in 2021 and 2022 have been updated. These can be viewed at <http://ntbc.org.uk> by going to the Members Resources tab and then Recording tab.

The pdf links are at top right of Web page. Any showing as 'Awaiting description' will need documentation in order to be included in the annual report 'Birds in Northumbria'. There is a brief window before publication of BIN 2021 to see records from 2021 assessed.

Please go to the Guide to Record Submission section for further details. The link to download a report form is also available on the County Records Committee section. The CRC also look forward to receiving reports from 2022.

Tim Dean

County Recorder



# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

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

Bulletin No 9 2022

September

Issue Date 7th November 2022

009

NTBC



Wryneck, Holy Island, September 2022, Jack Bucknall

## Highlights

A good September mix of rarities and some classic Autumn drift migration, particularly on Holy Island along with several good sea-watching records and a new county record count for one species in this month's highlights.

Egyptian Goose	One at Hauxley from 11th
Ruddy Shelduck	Fly-past at Seaton Sluice on 18th then Maiden's Hall Lake from 19th
Scaup	Unusual group of six at Castle Island between 24th - 26th
<b>Black Scoter</b>	Returning drake at Cocklawburn from 23rd
Black-necked Grebe	Unusual coastal record of one N past Cullercoats on 29th
Dotterel	Juvenile at Boulmer remained until 4th; further singles on Holy Island and The Cheviot
Pectoral Sandpiper	Juveniles at several sites from 23rd
<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>	Excellent sighting on sea at Holy Island on 10th
Grey Phalarope	Sea-watch record from Howick on 17th
Wood Sandpiper	Singles at Hauxley, Arcot Pond and Bothal Pond



<b>Sabine's Gull</b>	Several juveniles flew N later in month
Mediterranean Gull	New county record of 312 at Snab Point, Cresswell on 25th
Caspian Gull	Ringed adult at Amble Harbour until 19th and 1st-winters at Castle Island and Holy Island
Long-tailed Skua	Excellent passage all month with ca. 25 noted
<b>White-billed Diver</b>	Immature flew N past Seaton Sluice on 15th
Storm-petrel	One flew N past Annstead Point on 29th
<b>Cory's Shearwater</b>	One flew N past Cullercoats and Annstead Point on 29th
<b>Great Shearwater</b>	Singles N past Tynemouth on 10th and St Mary's on 15th
<b>Balearic Shearwater</b>	Singles past Seaton Sluice on 7th and 9th , Cullercoats and St Mary's on 15th
Wryneck	Arrivals between 7th and 9th, up to four on Holy Island and a single at Hauxley
Hobby	One on Holy Island on 3rd - 4th and a lingering juvenile at East Chevington from 24th
<b>Red-backed Shrike</b>	Juvenile on Holy Island on 10th
Bearded Tit	One at East Chevington on 15th
Yellow-browed Warbler	Arrivals started from 20th
Wood Warbler	Interestingly migrants at Holy Island, Tynemouth and Cresswell Pond
<b>Greenish Warbler</b>	Two different individuals on Holy Island between 1st - 5th
<b>Icterine Warbler</b>	Accommodating long-stayer on Holy Island between 3rd - 5th
<b>Barred Warbler</b>	Singles at Budle Point, Holy Island and Warkworth
<b>Red-breasted Flycatcher</b>	Singles at Tynemouth and Holy Island
Black Redstart	Only sightings were on Holy Island on 17th and 23rd
<b>Common Rosefinch</b>	Unusually three together on Holy Island on 10th after a single on 4th
Lapland Bunting	Singles noted at Holy Island, Ross and St Mary's from 10th
<b>Rustic Bunting</b>	One on 29th on Holy Island (now deemed a national rarity)

### Classified List

#### **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

Three at Alnwick Moor on 21st was the sole report (TB).

#### **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Around 200 gathered near Alnham (Upper Ingram Valley) on 18th (TD), 75 at Druridge Lane on 25th (TB), 50 at Forestburn Gate on 26th (IRD), and 25 at Widdrington Village on 15th (TB) were all likely fresh releases. Five to nine were also at Druridge Pools and Warton, and one to three at Chathill and Widdrington Moor Lake.

#### **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

17 (four adults and 13 young) were at St Mary's on 9th (LJM), 11 at Old Hartley on 6th (MSH), ten at Druridge Links on 30th (IDR), six to nine at Druridge Pools, Ellington, Hartburn, Low Cocklaw, Old Hartley (female and five large young on 6th; ASJ) and Widdrington, and four at South Newsham. Singles were also at Boulmer and Felton.

#### **Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

A peak of 42 was at Druridge Links on 23rd (IDR), six were at Druridge Pools and singles at Lynemouth Bay and Newbiggin ash lagoon.

#### **Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

At Lindisfarne NNR, 80 of the pale-bellied *hrota* race were present on 4th (TRD/JD) increasing to 450 on 6th (DF), 2,500 on 20th (CB) and 3,000 by 29th (MJC). Up to 68 were also at Budle Bay between 19th-21st (MSH/SVM/AJM). Passage involved 61 N and five S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), 11-25 N at Druridge Links, Seaton Point (Boulmer) and Stag Rocks between 15th-29th (TRD/DF/MKi/IDR) and one to two N at Cullercoats, Hauxley and Tynemouth.

Reports of Dark-bellied *bernicle* race involved 30 at Fenham Flats on 21st (MSH), and two N at Seaton Sluice and Tynemouth on 18th (DRW/SSWT).

Un-raced records included 31 N at Hauxley on 17th (HRS), 28 N at Seaton Point on 7th (MKi), and one to nine N at Cullercoats, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island on several dates.

#### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

A flock of 32 flew S at Seaton Sluice on 12th (SSWT) and five moved S at Druridge Pools on 18th (IDR/JF). Peak counts were 520 at Foxton Bends on 7th (MKi), 245 at Grindon Lough on 2nd (AJR), 230 at Bothal Pond on 21st (TD), 230 at Maiden's Hall Lake on 24th (TF/JFa), 120-178 at Arcot Pond (LJM), Gainslaw (TBr), QEII CP (CDH), the Tweed Estuary (TBr) and West Ord (MHu), and 73-78 at Big Waters and Killingworth Lake. Eight to 14 were also at Cresswell Pond and Newcastle Exhibition Park.

#### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

Two summering or feral individuals were at Hauxley Reserve on 17th (HRS). An arrival on 19th involved 190 at Budle Bay (MSH), 25 at Holy Island (CB), 11 at Widdrington Moor Lake (TB), and ten N at Druridge Links (IDR). Numbers at Budle Bay increased to 263 on 20th (MSH) when 47 flew S at Newbiggin (AP). On 21st 150 flew over Holy Island Snook (CB) and 26 flew NNW at Gosforth Garden Village (MJC). Budle Bay held 250 on 23rd and 75 on 27th (DF).

#### **Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*

One, with Pink-footed Geese, flew over Longdyke, Shilbottle on 18th (MKi).

#### **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

32 flew S at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR) and 25 S at Hauxley on 7th (HRS). A peak of 1,950 was at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo). Other peak site counts were 800 at Big Waters on 7th (GB), 419 at Budle Bay on 23rd (DF), 212-293 at Cocklawburn (MHu), Cresswell Pond (MSH), Gainslaw House (Tweed Valley; MHu) and Maiden's Hall Lake (TF/JFa), 100-115 at Bothal and Linton Ponds, and Dinnington, and 78 at Blagdon Lane Pools. Counts of 12-23 came from Arcot Pond and Snab Point, and three were at Druridge Pools.

#### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

19 flew S at Cresswell Pond on 1st (TF). There were no further reports until 11th, when 40 were at Akeld (AJM), followed on 13th by 13 S at Low Newton (MJC/DJC) and nine at Budle Bay (GPK). On 14th, 200 were at Budle Bay (GPK), 180 at Widdrington Moor Lake (RPo), and 30-80 flew S at Beanley Moor, Belford, Boulmer, Brandon, East Ord and The Cheviot. Larger numbers thereafter included 1,500 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 19th (TB) increasing to 2,800 by 23rd (TRD), 4,000 at Holy Island on 21st (CB), 4,000 at Beal on 29th (MJC) when 1,300 were at Druridge Pools (IDR), and 1,800 at Togston on 30th (RPo). Counts of 500-700 came from Budle Bay, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Ellington, Low Cocklaw between 19th-29th, when 75-180 were at Cheswick, Ellington and Wooler. On 17th, 245 flew N and 540 S at Tynemouth (DRW). The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was just 267 N and 200 S (SSWT). Groups of 100-200 flew N/NE at Bothal Pond, Darras Hall, Morpeth, Rothbury and Shilbottle on various dates between 21st-25th, while 120-210 flew S at Debdon, East Ord and Woodhorn between 24th-30th, and 150 W at Peth Foot on 29th. Flocks of ten to 80 flew over (in various directions) Annstead, Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Ellington, Gosforth, Jesmond Dene, Linden Hall, Monks' House Pool, North Shields, Shilbottle and St Mary's Island between 15th-27th.

#### **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

A total of ten flew S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). 145 were at the Tweed Estuary on 10th (TBr), 52 at QEII CP on 18th (CDH), 42 at West Ord (MHu), 30-39 at Howdon (CB) and Killingworth Lake (LJM), 24 at Big Waters (GB), and 12-15 at Cresswell and Linton Ponds. Five to nine were also at Bothal Pond, Byker, Druridge Pools and Links, Hauxley Reserve, Newcastle Exhibition Park and Woodhorn Flashes.

#### **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

The long-staying adult at QEII CP was noted on 18th and 30th (TB/CDH). On 19th, five flew NE at Derwent Reservoir ((IFo), with perhaps the same five flying N at Gosforth Garden Village and High Heaton (MJC). A flock was heard (but not seen) over Brandon on 24th (IBDa/KDa), seven were at Derwent Reservoir on 27th (IFo), 23 were at Budle Bay (CGK) and three flew S at Berwick (MHu) on 28th, three flew S at Druridge Links on 29th (IDR) and one was at Cocklawburn Pond on 30th (MHu).

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

One was at Hauxley Reserve regularly between 11th-25th (HRS *et al.*).

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Five N and three S was the Seaton Sluice monthly total (SSWT), four flew N at Cullercoats on 15th (CB), and singles flew N and S at St Mary's Island on 27th (MSH). The peak count at Budle Bay was 195 on 26th (DF). Three were at Cresswell Pond on 4th (TB) and one at Hauxley Reserve.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 18th (SSWT), having been noted elsewhere to the south (outside the county) earlier in the day. One was at Maiden's Hall Lake on 19th-24th (TF/JFa).

**Mandarin** *Aix galericulata*

Two females were at Caistron on 11th (TRD).

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

Three juveniles were at the breeding site on 1st and 7th (MJC).

**Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

One flew N off Druridge Links on 19th (IDR). Peak counts involved 65 at Budle Bay on 23rd (CGK/GPK), 36 at Hauxley Reserve on 11th (HRS), 28 at Arcot Pond on 13th (STH), and 12-19 at Big Waters (GB) and Linton Ponds (TF). Five to eight were at East Chevington and Holy Island Lough, and one to four at Bothal and Cresswell Ponds, Marden Quarry, St Mary's Wetland and Woodhorn Flashes.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

Three flew N at St Mary's Island on 29th (MSH/AC). Largest counts were 57 at Marden Quarry on 4th (KWY), 56 at Big Waters on 11th (GB), 49 at Linton Ponds on 1st (TF), 42 at Caistron on 11th (TRD), 46 at Woodhorn Flashes (AT), 29 at Hauxley Reserve (HRS), and 12-17 at Bothal Pond and East Chevington. Four to six were also at Druridge Pools and Killingworth Lake, and two off Druridge Links.

**Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

A total of 373 flew N at Newbiggin between 8th-24th including 196 on 19th (AT/GB/TF/JFa), 104 N and ten S at Cullercoats between 1st-29th (CB), 85 N at St Mary's Island on 9th-10th (MSH), and 47 N at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR). At Budle Bay, a peak of 2,600 was noted on 15th (KWY). Other peak counts were 300 at East Chevington on 21st (IFo), 130 at Holy Island Lough on 24th (MJC), 58-69 at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) and Hauxley Reserve (HRS), and ten to 45 at Big Waters, Calder, the Coquet Estuary, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Links (offshore), East Chevington and Woodhorn Flashes. One to six were also at six further sites, including, more unusually, two at Craggside on 28th (TRD/JD) and one, with Mallards, on the River Pont at Berwick Hill on 10th (AHB).





Wigeon, Budle Bay, September 2022, Tim Dean

#### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Nine flew N at Druridge Pools on 2nd (IDR) and five flew N at Seaton Sluice on 18th-19th (SSWT). This month's peak counts were 187 at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (IFo), 152 at Castron on 11th (TRD), 150 at Calder on 20th (MSH), 127 at Big Waters on 11th (GB), 109-118 at Bothal Pond (TD) and St Mary's Wetland (MSH), and 51-71 at Budle Bay, Hauxley Reserve, Holy Island Lough, Linton Ponds, Monks' House Pool, Newcastle Exhibition Park, West Ord and Woodhorn Flashes. Counts of 13-42 came from Airy Holm Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Dukeshouse (Hexham), Holy Island Lough, Killingworth Lake, Marden Quarry and QEII CP.

#### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

12 flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), a total of seven N at Newbiggin between 10th-24th (GB/NFO), two N at St Mary's Island on 10th (MSH) and singles N at Cullercoats and Tynemouth. Four flew S at Hauxley on 24th (HRS). Two at East Chevington on 1st (NFO) increased to a peak of ten on 21st (IFo), four were at Budle Bay on 12th and 27th (DF/CGK/GPK), and one to two at Big Waters, Cresswell Pond and Hauxley Reserve from 4th.

#### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

At Seaton Sluice, 1,365 flew N and 213 S, including 550 N on 19th (SSWT), 384 moved N at Cullercoats on 1st (CB), 228 N at Newbiggin Point on 19th (AT) and 12-36 N at Cocklawburn, Cullercoats, Druridge Links, Hauxley, Snab Point and St Mary's Island on several dates. At Budle Bay, 120 on 6th increased to a peak of 600 by 23rd (DF), 450 were at Grindon Lough on 2nd (AJR), 76 at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd increased to 426 by 30th (IFo), 410 at Holy Island Lough on 24th (MJC), and 125-150 at Arcot and Linton Ponds, and East Chevington. Counts of 60-65 came from Druridge Pools and Hauxley Reserve, and 12-40 were at Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Castron, Castle Island, Elswick, Holywell Pond, Monks' House Pool, St Mary's Wetland and West Ord.

#### **Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Poor numbers involved peaks of five at Druridge Pools on 23rd (TRD), four at 'Northumberlandia', Cramlington on 14th (LJM), two at Linton Ponds (CDH) and one at Widdrington Moor Lake (TRD).

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Three flew N at Cullercoats on 1st (CB) and one N at Seaton Sluice on 19th (SSWT). Peak gatherings were 46 at Druridge Pools on 11th and 13th (IFo/IDR/JF), 42 at Tynemouth boating lake on 28th (KWY), 34 at Ladyburn Lake on 13th (IFo), 24 at Killingworth Lake on 10th (LJM), and 11-18 at Bothal Pond, Northumberlandia' (Cramlington) and QEII CP. One to seven were also at Big Waters, Cocklawburn Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Newcastle Exhibition Park, Paddy Freeman's Park (Heaton).

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

A party of six was on the River Wansbeck near Castle Island on 24th (GB/LAR) and 26th (CB). Two were at Druridge Pools on 19th (NRSW). Singles were also at Cresswell Pond on 17th (NFO) and Druridge Pools on 19th (TB).

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

93 were at Stag Rocks on 30th and 82 at nearby Budle Point on 23rd (DF), while 32-33 were at Blyth Harbour on 18th (STH) and Cocklawburn on 2nd (MHu), and 13 at Amble Harbour (CDH). Three to five were also at Alnmouth, Druridge Links and Warkworth.

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

A below-average seven flew N and one S at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), one flew N and two S at Cullercoats on 29th (CB), and singles N at Cullercoats (CB), Newbiggin (GB) and Tynemouth (DRW) on 10th, and Hauxley (HRS) and Seaton Point, Boulmer on 17th (MKi). One flew S at Newbiggin on 3rd (AP).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A below-average 1,327 flew N and 31 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). A total of 333 moved N at Cullercoats between 1st-29th (CB) and 193 N past Newbiggin Point on 19th (AT). Ten to 76 flew N at Annstead, Boulmer, Druridge Links, Hauxley, Holy Island, Newbiggin, Snab Point and St Mary's Island on various dates. A total of 350, in several flocks, was noted off Druridge Links on 23rd (IDR), 228 were at Saltpan Rocks, Cocklawburn on 30th (MHu), 70 at Seaton Point, Boulmer on 7th (MKi), 24-50 at Alnmouth Bay and Cresswell, and one at Stag Rocks.

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Two flew N at Hauxley on 17th (HRS). Six were at Hauxley Reserve on 11th and five there on 13th and 17th (HRS). Three were at East Chevington on 21st (IFo) and one to two at Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Caistron, Maiden's Hall Lake on scattered dates between 11th-29th. Five were at the regular breeding site on 24th (JD).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total was 34 N and six S (SSWT). A single flock of about 70 flew N off Druridge Links on 10th (IDR/JF) and three flew S there on 7th (IDR). 80 were at Holy Island on 4th (TRD/JD), 36 at the Tweed Estuary on 10th (TBr), 24 at Low Newton on 28th (PCA), 14-19 at Budle Bay (DF), Hauxley (MJC) and Thrum Mill (TRD/JD), and six to nine at the Blyth Estuary, Castle Island, Felton, Meadow Haven and West Ord. One to three were also at Amble, Blyth Harbour, Branton GP, Castle Island, Derwent Reservoir, Doddington, Ingram, Rothbury and Warkworth.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

A total of seven flew N at Stag Rocks between 20th-29th (DF/MSH), five flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and one S at St Mary's Island on 14th (MSH). Four were off Stag Rocks on 29th (DF), five at Ross on 11th (MJC), and one to two at Blyth Harbour, Boulmer and Budle Bay.

**Swift** *Apus apus*

Movement on 12th saw five S through Woodhorn (AT), four over the Aln Estuary (NRSW) and two at East Chevington on (TF/JFa). One to two were at Big Waters NWT, Budle Bay, Druridge Links and East Ord (Berwick). The final record in the month was at Druridge Bay CP on 16th (NRSW).

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

One was at Budle Bay on 2nd (GPK), a juvenile was at Holy Island from 3rd-7th (presumably the same bird throughout)

and an adult was present there from 7th-9th.

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

318 were at Castle Island on 5th (LJM), 130 were in stubble at Donnington on 17th (JD), 40 at Carterway Heads (Crooked Oak) on 18th (IFo), a single at Druridge Links and the species noted as "present" in Jesmond Dene on 25th.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

25 at Howdon on 24th was this month's high count (CB). Eight were at Cresswell Pond NWT on 17th (MSH), six were spread around Jesmond Dene on 2nd (MJCo) and one to five were at Carterway Heads, Chugdon Wood, Druridge Links, Elswick (Newcastle), Hauxley Ringing Station and a Tynemouth garden.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

Approximately 60 were at Chathill on 4th (TRD) and one to 18 were at many other places.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

Around 40 were at Low Stead Farm, Longhoughton on 2nd (MKi), 28 were at Saltwick (AHB), 18 were at St. Coombs Farm, Holy Island on 18th (CB), 12 at Horton Burn (Cramlington) on 19th was considered a high count there with the species now scarcer than in the past (LJM). Nine were at Dinnington and four were at Chathill.

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Two juveniles were at Arcot Pond on 3rd (LJM) and two adults on 4th (GB). Four were at Big Waters NWT on 6th (GB), three at Gosforth Park NR on 23rd (MJC/DJC) and two at Holy Island Lough on 20th (MJC). Singles were at Bothal Pond, Branton GP, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Holy Island dunes and Warkworth.

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

23 at Hauxley NWT on 11th was this month's highest count (HRS). 17 were at both Castle Island on 24th and Exhibition Park on 28th (GB) and both Arcot Pond and Woodhorn Flashes peaked at 14. Totals of 11 were reported from both Killingworth Lake and Linton Lane NR whilst one to nine were seen at several other typical haunts.

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

Numbers gradually built up at East Chevington to a peak of 130 on 25th (TRD), Linton Ponds held 95 on 1st (TF), 63 were at Big Waters NWT on 11th (GB), 44 at QE11 CP on 18th (CDH) and 43 at Killingworth Lake on 10th (LJM). 23 were at Druridge Pools, 22 at Woodhorn Flashes, 16 at Bothal Pond and five were at Hauxley NWT.

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Numbers at East Chevington peaked at 54 on 12th (TF/JFa), 31 were at Bothal Pond on 1st and 4th and 28 at Castle Island on 23rd (AT) reduced to 24 on 29th (IFo). A WeBS survey at Caistron recorded 23 on 11th (TRD) and 20 were at Hauxley NWT on 17th (HRS). 18 were at Big Waters NWT on 7th (GB), Holywell Pond held 15 on 26th (MN) and 11 were at Druridge Pools on 13th (IFo). One to ten were at Airy Holm Reservoir, the Blyth Estuary, Boulmer, Budle Bay, Craggside, Cresswell Pond NWT, Hedgeley GP, Linton Lane NR, New Mills (Berwick), Northumberlandia, Spindlestone Woods, Tynemouth Boating Lake, Widdrington Moor Lake and Woodhorn Flashes. A late breeding record came from Druridge Pools where an adult and four young chicks there on 13th (TRD/JD/MSH).

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps Grisegena*

Passage was observed at the coast with singles N at Tynemouth and Newbiggin on 10th (DRW/GB) and Seaton Sluice on 17th and 23rd (SSWT). Two were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 2nd (AA) with display noted on 3rd (ADMc) and one still on 19th (TB), two were at Warkworth Beach on 8th (CSa) and one was with scoters and Great Crested Grebes in Druridge Bay on 7th (IDR).

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Seawatching produced passage sightings as follows: one N and two S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), two N off Druridge Links on 19th (IDR) and, on 29th, two singles S at Cullercoats (CB). Ten were in Druridge Bay on 7th, with up to seven recorded on later dates amongst a Scoter flock (IDR/TRD/JD). Five were at both Killingworth Lake and Widdrington Moor Lake with one to three at many other inland and coastal localities.

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auratus*

Two headed N past Hauxley between 10.55-13.30 on 17th (HRS) and singles were watched heading N past Seaton Sluice on 9th and 19th (SSWT). Singles, perhaps all of the same mobile individual, were at Maiden's Hall Lake on 12th (NFO), Druridge Pools on 15th (MJC/TW/AJ/ASH/MN) and Widdrington Moor Lake on 19th (TB) and 23rd (TRD).

**Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps Nigricollis*

One headed N past Cullercoats during the morning of 29th (CB).

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Numbers at Budle Bay peaked on 15th at 250 (KWY). Counts between 81-187 were made on three other dates (DF/MSH). Three-figure concentrations at other locations included 118 at Newbiggin on 14th (AP) and 110 at both Howick on 12th and St Mary's island on 21st (JAR/ASJ). Elsewhere, 96 were at Annstead on 23rd, 56 at Seaton Point (Boulmer) the following day, 36 at Birling Carrs on 25th and 32 at Berwick Little Beach on 5th. Four-eight were reported from Newbiggin ash lagoon, the River Coquet Estuary and Snab Point. Inland, two resided at Airy Holm Reservoir on 1st with one remaining to 11th and an injured individual was at Derwent Reservoir on 1st-7th (IFo).

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

Numbers reduced this month with single-figure counts being made at Cresswell Pond for most of the month, the peak being seven on 26th (NFO/MN/IDR *et al.*). Five were at the River Aln Estuary on 7th (MKi) and three flew N at the Long Nanny Estuary on 27th (PCA). Three were at Druridge Pools on 11th with a single there on 29th (IDR/JF/AJ *et al.*).

**Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Reports of passage included 110 S at Big Waters on 11th (GB), 61N at Seaton Sluice on 8th-9th (SSWT) and 18 arriving from the SE at Holy Island on 19th (CB). Numbers increased at the coast with a notable 700+ at Yarrow Slake on 18th (MSH). WeBS counting in the River Tweed Estuary revealed 260 on 10th (TBr). A high of 560 at Arcot Pond on 11th declined to 200 by 24th (STH/LJM/GB). Elsewhere, flocks were St Mary's Island with 500 on 21st (ASJ), 400 at Elswick on 14th (GB) and at Holywell Pond on 19th (MN), 350 at Bothal Pond on 1st and 200 at Warkworth weir on 24th (TB). 100-150 were at Cocklawburn, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Links, Monks' House Pool and Widdrington Moor Lake. Two-89 were at five coastal locations. Inland, Grindon Lough held ca. 265 on 2nd (AJR) with 160 at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (IFo).





Lapwing, St Mary's Island, September 2022, Alan Jack

#### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Movement was recorded at several locations with 450N in a 2.5 hour sea-watch at Cullercoats on 15th the largest count. Other passage noted was 65S at Annstead (Seahouses) on 3rd (DF), 40S at Big Waters on 11th (GB), 38 'in-off' at Stag Rocks on 30th (DF), 31 W at Ellington on 16th (TB) and 30 E at Newcastle Town Moor on 5th (GB). The flock at St Mary's Island began with 250 on 1st increasing to a peak of 2,100 on 12th with lower numbers reported on other dates (ASJ/MSH/KWY *et al.*). In the Bamburgh area, 800 were noted at Glororum on 10th (CGK) with 700 at Stag Rocks on 18th (MSH). A flock in the Boulmer-Longhoughton Steel area from 1st-21st varied between 300-600 on several dates. Other notable concentrations were 600 at Low Newton on 21st (JAR), 500 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 4th (GB), 400-500 at Holy Island on 4th and 20th (MJC/TF/JFa) and 400 at Howick on 13th (JAR). Inland, an estimated 575 were present at Grindon Lough on 2nd (AJR) with 35 at Whittingham on 27th and ten at Hedgehope (Cheviots) on 14th. Elsewhere, 20-120 were reported from five other lowland and coastal locations.

#### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Four flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 26th (DF), single summer-plumaged individuals flew N at Seaton Sluice on 18th & 19th (SSWT) and a single flew N at Tynemouth on 18th (DRW). The largest count was 45 on the west shore of Holy Island on 22nd (CB). Birling Carrs (Warkworth) attracted between 7-13 from 13th-25th (MKi/RPo). The maximum number seen at other locations was nine at Annstead on 23rd, six at Boulmer-Longhoughton Steel on 25th. Two at Hauxley NWT on 23rd (noted as unusual there) and singles at Cheswick Black Rocks and the Long Nanny Estuary.

#### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Numbers had declined somewhat since last month but a notable 200 were still in the Holy Island causeway area on 16th (CB). The peak count at St Mary's Island was made on 14th when 80+ were seen (MSH) with a monthly high of 76 at Berwick Little Beach on 19th (MHu). At Annstead (Seahouses), 76 were on rocks on 23rd (DF) and the regular roost at Ferguson's roof at Blyth Harbour attracted 66 on 18th (STH). Other coastal flocks included 61 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 23rd, 40 at Lynemouth Bay on 4th and a high of 30 at East Chevington on 8th. A group was regularly reported from Druridge Links and Pools reaching a maximum of 26 on 30th (IDR/JF). Ten-25 were seen at Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Boulmer, Cocklawburn, Monks' House Pool and Stag Rocks (Bamburgh). A migrant flock of 20 arrived at Derwent Reservoir on 7th with one remaining until 20th (IFo).

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

A very welcome three (possibly four) were reported this month. Last month's juvenile remained in the Boulmer-Longhoughton Steel area on 1st and 2nd (TRD/JD/MKi) and one (un-aged) flew over Holy Island near the Lough on 10th (TF/JFa). One (possibly two) were discovered on the eastern flank of the Cheviot summit on 14th (MJC).

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

Passage was much reduced this month with Seaton Sluice recording singles flying S on 1st and 5th (SSWT). At least two flew S calling at Tynemouth on 8th (CB) with reports of singles S at Druridge Pools/Links on 2nd and 5th (IDR). Singles flew N at Amble on 8th and E at Elswick (Newcastle) on 14th. Two were seen at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 7th (MKi) with one at each of Beal, East Chevington, Holy Island (3rd & 7th), Low Newton, Newbiggin, Old Hartley, the River Coquet Estuary (3rd and 13th) and the River Tweed Estuary.

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

Two three-figure counts were reported this month with 220 at Budle Bay on 15th (KWY) and 145 at Hauxley NWT on 19th (HRS). On 13th 92 at Warkworth Old Water and 88 at Amble Braid may relate to the same flock. The Beacon Point (Newbiggin) wader flock contained 84 on 1st (AP). A peak count of 70 was made at Monks' House Pool on 20th (MSH) with 64 counted at Cocklawburn on 30th (MHu) and 56 in a field at St Mary's the previous day (MSH). In the Druridge Pools and Links area there was a low of two on 5th, peaking at 41 on 21st, before declining to three on 30th (IFo/MSH/IDR/JF). There were 30 at Newbiggin Ash Lagoon on 6th and 8th and 16 were roosting at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 2nd. One-nine were at six other localities with six still well inland at Derwent Reservoir on 7th.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 7N and 4S (SSWT) with 11 N at Stag Rocks on 14th (DF) and five N at Hauxley on 24th (HRS). Two flew S at Tynemouth on 11th and a single flew W at St Mary's Wetland on 4th. Last month's flock at St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) remained, with a peak of 750 roosting there on 19th (CB). On other dates, counts were received of 100-250 (CB/ASJ/TF/JFa). On 10th, 18 were feeding at Newbiggin Moor (GB), 16 at Budle Bay on 19th (MSH) and 14 at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 11th & 24th (Mki). One-nine were seen at Amble, Berwick Little Beach, Boulmer, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Hauxley, the River Coquet Estuary and St Mary's Island.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Six flew W at Big Waters on 11th (GB). Well reported but in much lower numbers than last month with the highest counts 52 at Castle Island on 2nd (AT), 35 at the River Aln Estuary on 11th (MKi), 33 on the Sleekburn (River Blyth) on 21st (IFo) and 30 at East Chevington on 10th (TF/JFa) where five were seen on 19th (TB). The monthly peak at Budle Bay was 25 on 18th (CGKGPK). At Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington), 24 were present on 19th (TF/JFa), 19 were with other waders feeding at Newbiggin GC on 5th (TB), 12 nearby at the River Blyth Estuary on 12th (LJM) and 11 at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) on 18th (MSH). One-five were seen at Amble Braid, Cresswell Pond, Hauxley NWT, Holy Island, Middle Ord Pond (first-ever sighting) and St Mary's.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

A group of 12 flew N at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR). Most reports came from the northern half of the coastline with 116 at Howick on 12th being the largest concentration (JAR). Counts from Stag Rocks were in the range 32-77 with the high count occurring on 24th (ASJ/MKi/MSH/DF). Boulmer held 68 on 11th (MKi) with 65 at Annstead (Seahouses) on 23rd (DF) and 52 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on the same day (MKi). A high-tide roost at Hauxley attracted 30 on 13th (TRD/JD) and 14 were present at Cresswell Pond on 4th reducing to two on 8th (TB/TRD). One-six were at five other localities including three a short way upstream at Castle Island on 22nd (TRD).

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

A poor month was reported at Seaton Sluice with six N and two S (SSWT). Three flew N in a four-hour sea-watch at Cullercoats on 1st (CB). The roost at St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) increased dramatically from last month with a count of 1,000 made on 17th (CB). A group of 16 flew into East Chevington north pool at high tide on 8th (TRD) and 16 was the maximum count at the River Coquet Estuary on 13th (MKi). Berwick Little Beach attracted 12 on 5th (MHu). One-nine were seen at eight other locations including one on the River Tyne at Elswick (Newcastle) on 13th-14th (MPF/GB).

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

As usual, the majority of reports came from locations in the Druridge Bay area with counts probably involving some of the same birds. The largest group was 30 (29 juveniles, 1 adult) in a pasture at Red Row on 19th (TF/JFa). The highest



number at East Chevington was 24 on 12th and 19th (TF/JFa/TB) with lower numbers down to a one on other dates (TRD/JD/NFO *et al.*). The peak at Druridge Pools occurred on 15th when 20 were seen (MJC/TW/AJ/ASH) with lower numbers down to one on other dates (MN>IDR/JF *et al.*). At the north end of Druridge Bay, Hauxley attracted a high of 15 on 4th and a low of one on 24th (HRS/PMHa/RMHa *et al.*). On 24th, 15 were at Maiden's Hall Lake, on 24th (TF/JFa). Away from the Druridge Bay area, one-nine were seen at Amble, Beal, Big Waters, Bothal Ponds, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Holy Island, Holywell Pond, Newbiggin, the River Aln Estuary and St Mary's Island.

#### **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

A deluge of reports with strong passage recorded Counts were made from 11th-30th at Budle Bay with a peak of 19 occurring on 11th (CGK/GPK/KWY *et al.*). Seven juveniles were present at Cresswell Pond on 27th (NFO) with lower numbers on other dates including a single adult on 4th (TB/CB/TRD *et al.*). Five (1 adult, 4 juveniles) were seen at Castle Island on 5th and 7th (LJM/NFO) and numbers built up at East Chevington from mid-month to a high of four on 29th (AJ/MN/ASH/AJN *et al.*). At nearby Druridge Pools, three juveniles was the maximum reported on 5th (IDR) with two seen during the remainder of the month (RB/MB/MN/*et al.*). Three juveniles were well inland at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (IFo) with three individuals also noted at Holy Island and St Mary's Island. One-two were reported from Boulmer, Hauxley (beach and NWT), the Long Nanny Estuary, Newbiggin, the River Coquet Estuary, the River Tweed Estuary, Seaton Point (Boulmer) and Warkworth. A notable record for Newcastle was of a juvenile on the River Tyne at Elswick on 14th-15th (MPF/GB).



Curlew Sandpiper (juvenile), Northumberland, September 2022, Clive Saunders

#### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Numbers were retained at favoured sites following last month's arrivals with 220 reported at St Mary's Island on 9th decreasing gradually until only three were seen on 22nd (ASJ/MSH/TRD). Further north 156 were at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 20th (AP). Hauxley beach held 175 on 1st (TF) and the peak count at Berwick Little Beach was an estimated 120 on 5th (MHu). At Low Newton 64 were seen on 13th (MJC/DJC). One-20 were present at Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Boulmer, Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary), Cocklawburn, Cresswell, Druridge Links, Holy Island, Lynemouth, Ross and Snab Point.

### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

High numbers continued to be reported with some sites recording record numbers. Seaton Sluice reported record September passage with 248N and 282S with 205N between 17th-21st (SSWT). Elsewhere, 16 flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 25th (DF) and 11 flew S at Blagdon Lane Pools on 14th (LJM). At Lindisfarne NNR, 700 was the high count at Budle Bay on 11th (CGK) and ca. 400 were at Fenham Mill on 4th (TRD/JD). An impressive 315 had gathered on rocks at Annstead on 23rd (DF) with ca. 220 at Berwick Little Beach on 5th (MHu). A report of 220 at Boulmer on 1st was regarded as high for the locality, with a reduction to 40 by 21st (TRD/JD). Peak numbers at St Mary's Island were 210 on 9th with 60+ reported on 14th (ASJ/MSH). At the River Blyth Estuary 183 were counted on 12th (LJM). Other peak counts on various dates were ca.150 at Seaton Point (Boulmer),142 at Amble Braid, 140 at Hauxley beach, 121 at Newbiggin and 114 at West Ord (Berwick) which was the largest flock ever recorded there. Other counts of 50-97 were made at Calot Shad, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Hauxley NWT, the River Coquet Estuary and the River Tweed Estuary. Numbers between 11-42 were at six coastal locations. Inland, a peak of 24 occurred at Derwent Reservoir on 11th with lower numbers on other dates (IFo). Six were at Grindon Lough on 2nd (AJR).

### **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Again small numbers were present this month with 2N and 4S at Seaton Sluice during the month with two on the rocks there on 17th (SSWT). Mainly single figures were present at the regular haunt of Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) but with a peak of 24 on 24th (ASJ/MSH/DF). One-two were seen at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 23rd & 25th (MKi/RPo).

### **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Passage continued this month with many reports. At East Chevington a single on 8th increased to five (juveniles) on 12th decreasing to two from 21st-29th (NFO/TRD/IFo *et al.*). Three were at Hauxley NWT on 8th-9th (CSa/MJC) with one-two on the reserve or beach up to 19th (CSa/TF/HRS). The peak at Budle Bay was three on 14th-15th (CGK/GPK/KWY) with one-two on other dates up to 25th. Singles were at Druridge Pools on 13th and 23rd (IFo/MSH/TRD/IDR) with two noted on 22nd (AJ/MN/AJN/ASH/TW). One at Big Waters between 3rd-6th was the first there since 1995 (GB). Other single reports came from the River Coquet Estuary on (CSa), Derwent Reservoir on 9th and 11th (different individuals-IFo), Boulmer on 10th (CSa), inland at Grindon Lough on 11th (MS) and Monks' House Pool on 13th (KWY).

### **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

In Druridge Bay juveniles were present at East Chevington on 24th (IF/MB/RB/TF/JFa *et al.*) and 29th (IFo/ADMc) and Cresswell Pond on 26th (TB/CB/ADMc) and 27th. Another juvenile was found at Bothal Pond on 23rd (AT).

### **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Migrants were seen at several coastal locations with three E high over Tynemouth on 1st (KWY). Three flew W on 29th at Druridge Links with singles 'in-off' at St Mary's on 3rd (CB) and Boulmer on 21st (TRD/JD). One also flew W at Ord Moor (Berwick) on 18th (MHu). Moderate numbers were reported with six-14 noted at Arcot Pond from 3rd-24th (GB/STH/LJM). Grindon Lough retained numbers from last month with 13 present on 2nd (AJR). Counts of one-11 came from East Chevington between 21st-29th with the peak occurring on 25th (TRD/PG/IFo). Castle Island attracted a peak of seven on 21st, with six at West Ord (Berwick) on 18th and five at St Mary's Wetland on 11th. One-four were at Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Hauxley and Holy Island Snook.

### **Red-necked Phalarope** *Phalaropus lobatus*

One was found on the sea off the north shore of Holy Island on 10th (TF/JFa).

### **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

Three singles flew S at Seaton Sluice from 6th-9th (SSWT). Ten flew around Blyth Harbour before landing on the East Pier on 5th (STH). A WeBS survey at the River Tweed Estuary revealed six present on 10th (TBr). Three were seen at Tynemouth on 3rd (DRW), Druridge Pools on 5th (PG) and Holy island on 10th (MJC/RA). Two were at Derwent Reservoir and Hauxley and singles were recorded at Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Holywell Pond, Howdon, Low Newton, Seaton Point (Boulmer) and St Mary's Island.

### **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Three were seen at Linton Lane NR on 1st (DF) and two on 4th (ADMc). Singles were at Big Waters, Doddington, Druridge Pools, Hauxley NWT and St Mary's Island.



**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Some large gatherings were still at sites occupied last month with slightly lower peak numbers, as presumably some had moved on. An estimated 350 were at Beal on 16th with 266 just further south at Budle Bay on 12th (DF). The high count at the River Coquet Estuary was 225 on 18th with 154 at Amble Braid on 21st probably involving some of the same birds (KWY/IFo). Other three-figure counts were 166 at St Mary's Island on 23rd (ASJ), 150 at the River Blyth Estuary on 12th (LJM), a WeBS count of 124 at the River Tweed Estuary on 10th (TBr), 115 at Howick on 12th (JAR), 100+ at Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary) on 18th (MSH) and 100 at Elswick (River Tyne) on 14th (GB). Elsewhere, 75 were at Hauxley NWT, 65 at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) and 61 at Cresswell Pond. One-16 were at nine other locations including a single at Derwent Reservoir on 19th (IFo).

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Presumably, last month's single at Hauxley NWT remained until 11th (HRS/RB/MB *et al.*). Other singles were at Bothal Pond on 2nd-3rd (AT/TF) and Arcot Pond on 10th (GB).

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

An Autumn arrival into the county brought reports from seven sites. A maximum of three were present at Budle Bay on 11th with one-two on other dates during the month (CGK/GPK/MSH *et al.*). Two were at Holywell Pond on 6th (MN) with singles at East Chevington from 2nd-12th (AA/TRD/NFO) and Hauxley from 11th-24th (HRS/TRD/JD *et al.*) Other singles were seen at the River Coquet Estuary on 13th (MKi), Elswick (River Tyne) on 19th and up to three days before (GB) and Druridge Pools on 22nd (MN/ASH/TW *et al.*).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Well reported this month with southbound migrants noted at Druridge Links and Pools on three dates (IDR/JF) and St Mary's Island on two dates (ASJ). As usual, the Lindisfarne NNR was favoured but with lower numbers than August with peaks of ten at both Beal on 13th (DF) and Budle Bay on 11th (CGK/GPK). Five were seen near Holy Island causeway on 10th (TF/JFa) with singles there, Chare Ends and the Lough on other dates. Reports were received from Castle Island for most of the month with a peak of five on 7th (NFO) and 18th (TF/JFa) with lower numbers on other dates. Four were at Bothal Pond on 3rd (TF) with three at the River Aln Estuary on 11th (MKi). Two were at Caistron (unusual there), Druridge Pools (TB), Hauxley (HRS/MJC) and the River Tweed Estuary (TBr). Singles were noted at Brandon, Druridge Links, Holywell Pond, Maiden's Hall Lake and St Mary's Island.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Well-recorded on dates throughout with northbound movements ranging from a maximum 1,000/hour at Hauxley on 17th (HRS), 1,000+ at Annstead on 29th (CGK) and 100's/hour moving offshore at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR). 120/hour moved S at Cocklawburn (MHu). The largest gatherings elsewhere, either feeding or roosting, included 442 and 256 on the Blyth Harbour east pier (STH), at least 300 offshore at St Mary's Island (MSH) and 150 at Druridge Links. 11-60 were at Bamburgh, Snab Point, Hauxley and St Mary's Island on 30th

**Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*

Four juveniles were noted at Hauxley on 29th (per TRD) and on the same day two moved N together at Annstead (CGK) and one at Cullercoats (ASJ). There were three sightings, probably of the same individual, at Hauxley on 24th (HRS/TRD).

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

800 followed a plough at Embleton on 21st (JAR) and groups elsewhere of 200-300 were at Berwick (Spittal Bay and West Ord), Boulmer, Cocklawburn, Monks' House Pool and the Tweed Estuary (MKi/MHu/MSH/TBr). Other counts of up to 90 came from seven widespread localities.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Sightings this month comprised birds of all ages from adult to juvenile. Large counts included 80 moving N in one hour at Hauxley on 24th (HRS), 31 N at Annstead on 29th (CGK), 25 offshore at Budle Point on 27th (CGK). A monthly total of 16 N at Seaton Sluice included ten on 23rd (SSWT), 15 were noted offshore at Longhoughton Steel on 22nd, twelve were offshore at Bamburgh on 26th (DF) and ten N at Hauxley on 17th (HRS). Smaller numbers of up to eight were at 12 other widespread coastal localities between Berwick and Tynemouth.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

A new county record high count came from an offshore roost at Cresswell on 25th when 312 were counted. Fields inshore from Cresswell Snab Point held two counts of 35 and 55 (GB) and regular reports throughout at Ellington found a maximum of 40 (TB). The majority of the many other single-figure records, comprising birds of all ages, came from the Druridge Bay area but also further afield at Bothal Pond, Boulmer, Budle Bay, Holy Island, Holywell Pond, Linton Ponds, Maiden's Hall Lake, St Mary's Island, Stag Rocks and Widdrington Moor Lake. An adult at Bothal Pond, seen previously in Northumberland, was yellow-ringed (AY.JK) in 2009 in Denmark and had also bred in Germany (TRD).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

At least 1,000 were in a pre-roost gathering at Budle Bay, Kiln Point on 23rd (MSH) and 130 were in a roost at Berwick, West Ord on 4th (MHu). Other records included 60 at Druridge Links, 50 offshore at Annstead and eight at Ellington.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Blyth Harbour held 102 on 18th (STH) with counts elsewhere of 50-100 at East Chevington and Longhoughton Steel, 11-50 at Amble Braid, Annstead, Budle Bay, Castle Island, Druridge Links and three at Derwent Reservoir.



Great Black-backed Gull (juvenile), Northumberland, September 2022, Tim Dean

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

The largest numbers were 825 from a WeB survey in the Tweed Estuary (TBr), 620+ at Budle Bay, Kiln Point (MSH) and 510 at Bothal Pond (TF) with 100-200 at Annstead, the Blyth Estuary and Maiden's Hall Lake. Several counts throughout at Druridge Links found a maximum of 45 and up to ten were at four other localities.

**Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

The regular adult marked PKCS was noted on two occasions, on 5th in the Coquet Estuary (CSa) and on 19th in Amble Harbour (HRS) and a 1st-winter was at Castle Island on 4th (TF/JFa) and another 1st-winter flew west at Holy Island the same day (NRSW).

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

A 1st-winter was in the gull roost at Beacon Point, Newbiggin, on 12th (AP).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

The usual large gathering in late September was again seen at Branton GP with 146 on 20th (IBDa/KDa). Elsewhere, five were at Castle Island and Derwent Reservoir, three at Bamburgh, Stag Rocks and one or two at nine other coastal and inland localities.

**Tern sp.**

An estimated 750 roosted on 12th at the mouth of Budle Bay (DF).

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Many records involved movements N and S with a maximum of 300 S in three hours on 11th at Ross (MJC) and 243 N in four hours at Hauxley on 17th (HRS). Smaller movements elsewhere, of up to 160 generally in the first half of the month, were recorded at Annstead, Birling Carrs, Cullercoats, Druridge Links, Howick and Seaton Sluice. A group numbering 65 mixed adults and juveniles was at Howick with smaller groups of up to 10-25 at Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary), Cocklawburn, East Chevington and Hauxley with one to five at a further ten localities.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

One flying N at St Mary's Island on 9th was the only sighting (MSH).

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

Small numbers were at Beacon Point, Newbiggin early in the month including two on 5th (TB) and four on 7th (AT). One flew S at Annstead on 11th (DF) and one was with 'commic' terns at Bamburgh on 23rd (MSH). The final record of the month was two at Ross Back Sands on 24th (NRSW).

**'Commic' Tern** *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

Large numbers remained at Stag Rocks on 24th (MSH) and at least 100 were there on 27th (DF); considerable numbers passed Hauxley on their seasonal migration during the last week (HRS) and few remained by the month end.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Passage was noted at Seaton Sluice with 410 N in six hours on 9th (SSWT), 300 S in one hour at Cullercoats on 8th (CB) and 150 S in three hours at Ross on 11th (MJC) with smaller numbers moving at Annstead and Cresswell. Prior to around mid-month groups of 30-75 were at Annstead, Bamburgh, Hauxley, Old Hartley and St Mary's Island but numbers declined rapidly thereafter to single figures at several sites with the latest being one at Druridge Links on 29th.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Passage counts included 100/hour N at Cullercoats on 8th and 15th (CB), 60/hour at Ross on 11th (MJC) with small numbers seen moving on later dates at Annstead, Cullercoats, Druridge Links and Hauxley. At Bamburgh, 52 fed offshore on 24th but at this late date very few remained elsewhere.

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

Two flew N at St Mary's Island on 15th (MSH) and single juveniles were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 3rd (ADMc) and in the roost at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 5th (TB).

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

Another very poor showing at Seaton Sluice, no doubt due to the recent heavy mortality from Avian Flu, with only five recorded (SSWT). Three flew N on 29th at Annstead, two N at Cullercoats, Holy Island and St Mary's Island on 29th, 19th and 9th respectively and a single N at Hauxley on 17th; another single at the Long Nanny on 3rd and 4th was described as 'not well' (PCA).

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

At Newbiggin Point, Newbiggin, nine flew past in 90 minutes on 29th, including three together with full spoons and two chasing a Peregrine out at sea (GAS). Elsewhere, four, comprising two adults and two juveniles, flew N at Annstead Point on 29th (CGK) and other records, all singles N, were from Cullercoats on 1st, Hauxley and Seaton Sluice on 17th, Bamburgh on 18th, and Cullercoats, Druridge Links, Cresswell (Snab Point) and St Mary's Island on 29th.

#### **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The monthly total of 94 N and 52 S at Seaton Sluice was described as 'below average' (SSWT). Elsewhere, on 29th, significant numbers moved N including 25 at Annstead (CGK), 17 at Druridge Links (IDR), 12 at Cullercoats (CB) and 11 at St Mary's Island (MSH/AC). 13 flew past Newbiggin Point on 19th (AT). Many other sightings of mainly northward movement, on dates throughout, came from numerous observers with five to ten at Annstead, Boulmer, Cresswell, Cullercoats, Druridge Links, Hauxley, Newbiggin and one to four at many of these sites plus Bamburgh, Berwick, Birling Carrs, Cocklawburn, Cullernose, Holy Island, Howick, Ross and Warkworth.

#### **Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Single juveniles passed N at Cullercoats on 1st and 8th (CB) and another was at Seaton Sluice on 10th (SSWT). On 29th six single juveniles, comprising at least two if not three individuals, were recorded from Annstead (CGK), Cullercoats (CB), Hauxley (per TRD), Newbiggin Point (GAS) and St Mary's Island (MSH/SAC).



Long-tailed Skua (juvenile), Newbiggin Point, September 2022, Graham Sorrie

#### **Auk Sp**

A huge count of 10,000, mainly Razorbill, passed N in 2.5 hours sea-watching at Cullercoats on 15th (CB) and on 29th another high count there recorded 3,000 over 3 hours, again mainly Razorbill (CB). Other significant numbers seen moving N were 1,500 at Annstead on 29th, 1,000 at Druridge Links on 24th, 570+ at Bamburgh on 22nd and 360 at Hauxley on 19th. c.500 on the sea at Saltpan Rocks, Cocklawburn on 6th were mainly Guillemot families.

#### **Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Light movement N was noted on various dates throughout at Annstead, Bamburgh, Cresswell (Snab Point), Druridge Links and Newton Point. Groups of 100 and 55 were on the sea/feeding offshore at Cocklawburn and Annstead with up to 20 elsewhere at Alnmouth Bay, Boulmer, the Blyth Estuary, Druridge Links, East Chevington and Tynemouth,

#### **Razorbill** *Alca torda*



At Cullercoats 1,000 per hour moved N in two hours on 15th, (ASJ) and 60 were on the sea there on 28th (CB). Smaller groups of 11-30 were seen at Cresswell (Snab Point), Cocklawburn, Druridge Links with singles at four other localities.

#### **Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

Small numbers were recorded moving N from the 15th including 41 at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), 20 at Annstead, ten at Cullercoats and up to three at Hauxley and Holy Island.

#### **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

At Seaton Sluice the monthly total was 457 with 277N and 180S and was above average for September (SSWT). 35 moved past at Cullercoats (25N and 10S) on 15th and again on 29th (25S and 10N) (CB) and 26 flew S there on 14th (ASJ). 25 were noted passing Newbiggin Point on 19th (AT) and 21 were noted at Holy Island on 18th (CB). 18 were at Hauxley on 17th (HRS) and at Druridge on 23rd (TRD).

#### **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

Three were at Cullernose on 17th (IBDa/KDa) and three were at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 30th (MHu). Individuals were noted N at Seaton Sluice on 3rd (SSWT), S at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), St Mary's Island and Cullercoats on 17th (ASJ). One flew N offshore at Druridge on 19th (IDR), another N at Tynemouth on 25th (DRW). On 28th at St Mary's Island one flew S (ASJ) and on 29th singles moved N at Annstead Point (Seahouses) (CGK) and at Cullercoats (CB).

#### **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

Two adults flew N in three hours at Cullercoats on 29th (CB) and two moved N at Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 29th (CGK). On 24th one moved N at Druridge (IDR) and on 29th another was northbound at St Mary's Island (MSH).

#### **White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamssi*

An immature was noted N at 07:15 at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), on 15th and was tracked further up the east coast.

#### **Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Singles flew N at Whitley Bay on 17th (NRSW) and Annstead Point (Seahouses) on 29th (CGK).

#### **Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

22 were at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 6th (IDR), 15 flew N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 1st, and 10 N there on 7th and 10th (DF). Nine passed N at Druridge Links on 7th (IDR), five N at Boulmer on 1st (TRD/JD). One–three were at Annstead Point, Druridge Bay, Lynemouth Bay and two blue morph individuals noted at Holy Island on 19th (CB).

#### **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis*

One flew N at Cullercoats (ASJ) and it or another moved N at Annstead Point (Seahouses) (CGK) on 29th.

#### **Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*

At Seaton Sluice Watch Tower only 37 were noted in the month with 32N and 5S, with a peak of 10N on 15th (SSWT). 15 flew N in a 3hr sea-watch at Cullercoats on 29th (CB), 14 N at Tynemouth on 10th (DRW), 11 sheared past at Newbiggin on 16th (TF/JFa) and at Hauxley on 17th (HSRS), 10 were noted from Cullercoats on 10th and 15th (CB) and 10 were also noted at Holy Island on 19th (CB). One–five were also reported from Cullercoats, Cullernose, Druridge Links, Hauxley, Snab Point, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

#### **Great Shearwater** *Ardenna gravis*

In the south of the county singles made their way N at Tynemouth and St Mary's Island on 10th (DRW/NRSW) and slowly N offshore at St Mary's Island on 15th (Jbu/NPD). Further north individuals flew N at Cresswell and Longhoughton Steel on 14th, Howick on 15th and 17th (NRSW).

#### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

Seaton Sluice recorded a new site high count for September with 2,358 individuals (2,037N and 321S), with maximum

counts of 690 N on 15th and 355 N and 150 S on 9th (SSWT): also of note were several hundred feeding and loafing offshore there on 8th and 9th (SSWT). 250 flew N in the first hour after dawn at Cullercoats on 15th (CB), 161 N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 29th (CGK) and 150 N at Cullercoats the same day (CB). 140 passed N at Hauxley on 17th (HRS). 90 went N at Cullercoats on 10th and 75 N on 1st (CB), 72 went mostly S at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 6th (IDR), 65 went N at Church Point (Newbiggin) on 18th (TF/JFa) and 50 N at Cullercoats on 15th and at Holy Island on 19th (CB).

**Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

At Seaton Sluice Watch Tower singles flew S on 7th and N on 9th (SSWT). On 15th, singles moved N at Cullercoats (CB) and St Mary's Island (MSH).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

820/hour moved S at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 30th (MHU) and 750/hour S there on 17th (MHu). 415 passed N offshore at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR). Annstead (Seahouses) had a peak daily count of 317 on 7th with counts ranging from 77 to 316 between 1st and 26th (all DF). On 9th 59 moved N in one hour (MSH) and 51 were at Snab Point on 6th (IDR), 45 were at Druridge Links on 7th and 24th (IDR). One–32 were at 10 other coastal sites during the month.

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

An evening roost at Blyth Harbour had 206 on 5th (STH), 68 warmed themselves at North Shields Fish Quay on 9th (AT), 46 were in the R Blyth Estuary on 12th (LJM), movements at Annstead (Seahouses) included 26 N on 26th, 19 N on 14th with 19 present on rocks on 23rd (all DF). Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary) held 18 on 18th (Mhu). A group of 16 went N at Berwick Pier on 28th (MHu). One–thirteen were recorded at seven other locations.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

100+ were at Stag Rocks on 22nd (MSH). The monthly count at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower was 25 with 23N and 2S (SSWT). Eight were at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn) on 30th (MHu), two were at St Mary's Island on 10th (MSH) and at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 15th (TRD) and a single was in Blyth Harbour on 18th (STH).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

29 were in the R Tweed Estuary during a WeBS survey on 10th (TBr), 16 were at Hauxley NWT on 11th (HRS) and 14 were seen at Sleekburn on 21st (IFo). Ten were at Hauxley NWT on 17th (HRS) and at Castle Island on 19th (STH). One–eight were at 21 sites including one which was seen to catch and swallow a vole at Big Waters NWT on 11th (GB).

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

One dropped in at St Mary's Wetland briefly before leaving S on 3rd (MSH/AC/CB). One was at Cresswell Pond on 3rd, 4th and 8th (TB/IF/IDR/JF/MN). On 11th the long-staying individual at Caistron was noted again after approximately 11 months in the area (TRD). One was at Rising Sun CP and Holywell on 11th (ASJ) and one ranged along the R Wansbeck between Castle Island and Stakeford between 21st–25th (IFo/TB/GB/IF).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

At West Ord (Berwick) 26 were present on 2nd (MHu), with 18 on the Tweed Estuary during a WeBS survey on 10th (TBr). 16 were at Castle Island on 5th (LJM) and on 25th (TF/JFa) with smaller numbers on several other dates. 78 records were received involving one–nine individuals at over 25 sites including three at Borough Woods (Morpeth) on 18th (ADMc) and one at Berwick Hill bridge (R Pont) on 27th (AHB).

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

Two were at Derwent Reservoir between 1st–9th (IFo), with singles there on six dates (IFo). Singles were noted at Beal on 1st (MJC), Holy Island on 6th and 10th (CB/MJC/ADM) and in flight S at the R Coquet Estuary on 12th (CSa).

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Two were on Holy Island on 7th (MJC), 10th (MJC/ADM), 12th (MJC) and 21st (CB), two were also Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 11th (IFo), Hauxley Ringing Station on 17th (HRS), Gosforth Park NR on 23rd (MJC/DJC) and at Ellington on 29th (TB). Singles were recorded at 24 sites during the month including a juvenile present for most of the month at Chathill (PCA).

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

On 1st one flew over the observer's garden at Rothbury (JD). Another was noted at Hedgehope on 14th (MJC).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Once again most sightings came from the Druridge Bay area. Two were recorded at East Chevington on 12th and 21st (TF/JFa/IFo), Druridge Pools on 13th and 22nd (Ifa/MN), these records involving up to four different individuals. Singles were also seen in the area throughout the month and, further afield, singles were at Holy Island on several dates (MJC/ADM/JBu) and Holywell Pond on 7th and 14th (MN).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

A female flew low over the dunes at East Chevington burn mouth on 1st (AJN) and a ringtail was on Holy Island on 10th (Jbu/TF/JFa) and 11th (GAS/IBDa/KDa) with another individual noted on 29th (IBDa/KDa).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Most of the sightings in September came from Derwent Reservoir with three on 7th and two there on 11th; singles were noted there on six dates during the month (IFo). Singles were also at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 4th and Carterway Heads on 18th (IFo).

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Eight were circling over the observer's house Lemmington Hall (Edlingham) on 19th (AHa/PHa). Five were noted at Tynemouth on 17th (DRW) and at Widdrington Moor Lake on 19th (TB). Four were at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on 4th (CB). One—three were at 27 locations during September.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

One to two were at daylight roost at Derwent Reservoir during the month (IFo) with single birds at Holy Island on 3rd and 21st, Howick on 18th and 23rd, Druridge Links on 23rd and 30th. On 4th, three dead roadside birds were found on the A1 at Detchant, Adderstone, and north of Alnwick (ADM).

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

Two called at Howick all month (JAR) with singles at Rothbury during the month, Preston Cemetery (North Shields) on 3rd, Seghill on 6th, Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 10th, Hauxley Ringing Station on 11th, Harbottle on 19th and a female at Gosforth Garden Village on 20th.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

One was at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (IFo) and at Startup on 23rd (AHB).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

One was at Holy Island all month being recorded on three dates from 3rd to 29th (ADM/MJC) with one arriving from the east at St Mary's Island on 9th (ASJ).

**Hoopoe** *Upupa epops*

One was on the golf course at Embleton on 13th (CSa).

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Three were at Borough Woods (Morpeth) on 6th with singles there on 2nd and 12th and more than three were at High Ford (Mitford) on 19th with two near Mitford on 17th (ADMc). Two were at Fourstones on 23rd (AJH) with singles regularly at Budle Bay, Castle Island, Low Angerton, Big Waters (NWT), Hauxley (NWT), and 19 other widespread localities.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

An influx on Holy Island started with singles on five dates from 3rd to 9th, peaking on 10th with three to four individuals identified by combined efforts (MJC/ADM/RA/AH/SR/JBASJ/JFa/NFO/SJM/PCA). A single remained at Holy Island on

11th with one at Hauxley beach on the same date, presumably the same individual as found on 9th (CSa/MJC).

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

There was only one multiple sighting of two at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 4th (TB), with singles there on three other dates, at Howdon on 3rd, St Mary's Wetland on 4th, Druridge Links on 5th, Woodhorn Church on 10th, Dinnington on 11th, Blyth and Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 14th, Brandon (Breamish Valley) on 20th and Wallington Hall on 27th.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

On 12th five were at Prestwick Carr (STH), three at Holywell Pond on 3rd and Derwent Reservoir on 7th (MN/IFo) with two at East Chevington on 1st, Ross and Big Waters NWT on 11th, Bewick Drift (Lynemouth) on 12th, the pier base Tynemouth on 21st and Alnwick Moor on the same date. Singles were in the Ellington area, East Chevington, Town Moor (Newcastle), Druridge links, West Hartford regularly, Holy Island from 7th to 12th and 12 other widespread localities

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Two juveniles were at Holy Island from 4th to 24th, one remaining until 29th (MJC/ADM) with juveniles also at Cresswell Pond NWT on 4th, Newbiggin on four dates from 6th to 28th, Backworth on 9th and Ross on 11th. Singles were at Boulmer on 3rd and 24th, Seahouses on 9th, Low Cocklaw (Berwick) on 10th, Budle Bay on 14th and Hauxley Ringing Station on 17th.



Merlin, Holy Island, September 2022, Mike Carr

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

A juvenile was at Holy Island on 3rd and an adult over the Snook on 4th (MJC). Another juvenile was at East Chevington on 24th (TF/JFa).

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*



Well reported with the only multiple sighting being of an adult and juvenile at Budle Bay throughout the month, with singles reported there regularly (CGK/GPK *et al.*). Singles were regularly at Tynemouth, Newbiggin, Holy Island and at Derwent Reservoir late in the month. Singles were at 15 other widespread localities.

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Five were at Heaton Park Bowling Green on 18th (MJCo), four at Tynemouth on 25th (DRW), three at Brunswick Village on 15th and Gosforth Park on 23rd (GB) with one at Heaton on 21st.

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

On 10th one was found at Strawberry Field (Holy Island) (S Ripon per ASJ/TF/JFa).

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Five were at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo) and Ellington on 16th with four there on 19th, three at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 11th and one to two at both locations regularly (TB). Three were at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 25th (MJCo), two at Kyloe Woods on 19th and Howick on 29th with singles at 18 other widespread localities.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

On 14th five were at Chathill and Dinnington (PCA/PCF), four at Druridge Pools and Links on four dates with one to three on seven other dates (IDR/JF), three at Hauxley Ringing Station on 7th, two at Newbiggin on 6th and 8th and one ringed at Hauxley Ringing Station on 4th.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

An evening roost at Big Waters numbered 200 on 13th (GB), 13 were at Jesmond Dene on 18th (MJCo), ten at Woodhorn Church on 25th with six there on 11th and seven at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR). Six were at Newbiggin on 6th, two at Chathill on 14th and a white-breasted leucistic individual was at Seaton Sluice on 9th.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

A feeding flock of 122 was at Derwent Reservoir on 20th with 74 there on 15th (IFo), 20 at Woodhorn Church on 11th and 25th (IDR/JF), eight at Chathill on 29th and seven at Newbiggin on 6th.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

On 10th 208 were found during a WeBS survey at R.Tweed Estuary (TBr), 52 were at Blagdon Lane Ponds (Cramlington) on 14th (LJM), 12 at Druridge Links on 23rd with two-eight there on 11 other dates during the month (IDR). Nine was the high count at Chathill on 4th, six at Woodhorn Church on 25th with two to four at four other locations.

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

Three flew E at Spindleston Heugh on 13th (KWY), two at Debden (Rothbury) on three dates from 15th to 25th, at Kielder Forest Drive on 9th, Alnwick Moor on 21st and Whittingham on 28th, with a single at the excavations (Holy Island) on 12th.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Three were at Druridge Links on 7th and 10th with one-two there on four dates (IDR/JF). Two were ringed at Hauxley Ringing Station on 4th and one on 17th, Woodhorn Church on 11th and Jesmond Dene on 25th also held two. Singles were at Chathill, Lynemouth Bay and coming to feeders at Walkerville.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Two was the only multiple count at Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 20th (NFO) with singles to feeders at Fulbeck (Morpeth) on 6th, heard at Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 16th, in bird bath at Rothbury on 21st and at Felton on 23rd.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Three was the high count at Prestwick Carr on 12th (STH), with counts of two at Hauxley on 9th and Druridge Pools on

29th. Singles were at Newbiggin ash lagoon banks on three dates from 7th to 21st, Brier Dene (Whitley Bay) on 7th and 12th, ringed at Hauxley Ringing Station on 11th and heard on 13th and 23rd at Marden Quarry on 12th, Druridge Pools on 15th, 29th and 30th, Big Waters NWT and Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 20th.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Two of eight at Hauxley Ringing Station on 11th were ringed, with seven ringed there on 4th and one on 7th (HRS). Eight were at Druridge Links on 24th with one-six there and at Druridge Pools on 12 other dates (IDR/JF). Seven were at Woodhorn Church on 11th and four there on 25th, four at Cresswell Pond NWT 4th and one-two at three other locations. A five-year-old bird was recaptured at Howick on 2nd (HwRS).

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

Four of ten at Hauxley Ringing Station were ringed on 11th with four ringed there on 4th and two on 7th (HRS). Eight were at Woodhorn Church on 11th (IDR/JF) with three there on 25th, at Chathill on 9th and Jesmond Dene on 2nd.

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

One was at East Chevington on 15th (MJC/TW/AJ/ASH).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Movements included 110 S in one hour at St Mary's Island on 12th with 50 in fields there on 13th (ASJ), over 60 moved N at Waren Mill (Bamburgh) on 24th (MSH), 54 S over Straight Lonnen, Holy Island on 29th, 30 there on 24th (MJC/ADM) and 50 S at Beal on 29th (MJC). 45 were at Maiden's Hall Lake on 19th, more than 40 'in off' at Stag Rocks on 23rd, 31 N at Druridge Links on 19th, 28 S at Hauxley Ringing Station on 24th, 22 S at Ross on 11th and over 20 at Fenham-le-Moor on 19th. 10 -18 were at Felton, Druridge Links, Berwick, Hauxley, Cocklawburn.



Skylark, Holy Island, September 2022, Colin Bradshaw

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Mainly southerly movement was noted with 18 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 12th (TB), 12 at St Mary's Island on 30th with five there on 12th (ASJ/CB), ten at Ross on 11th (MJC) and eight at Ellington on 12th (TB). Five were at Druridge

Links on 7th, two at Fontburn Reservoir on 2nd with singles at Big Waters NWT, Ellington, Felton and Newton Red House in the first half of the month.

#### **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

An estimated 600/hour moved S at Woodhorn on 12th (AT). A total of 200 flew S on the morning of 11th at Big Waters NWT (GB) with 140 N between 07.30 and 09.00 at Tynemouth on 19th (DRW), 120 gathered at dusk over the Village at Holy Island on 10th (MJC/ADM) with 50 S there on 10th and more than 100 flew S at St Mary's Island on 12th (ASJ). On 11th 95 flew S at Ross, 71 were at Druridge Links on 7th and 54 on 11th, 70 at Holy Island on 5th, Dinnington on 11th and S at R.Blyth Estuary on 12th with 50 at Hauxley Ringing Station on 11th, 40 at Holywell Pond on 5th and 35 at Town Moor (Newcastle) on 6th. Ten to 30 were at eight locations and one to nine at a further 14 being recorded till the month end with six birds at St Mary's Island, four at Budle Point, three at Stakeford, two at Cocklawburn and Druridge Links and one at Newton Red House on 30th.

#### **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

An estimated 500/hour moved S at Woodhorn on 12th (AT), when 60 moved S at St Mary's Island (CB/ASJ), 50 at Holywell Pond on 5th (ASJ), 30 S at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 12th (KWY), 18 at Ellington on the same date and 15 on 5th (TB), 17 S over the Snook (Holy Island) on 7th and 15 at the Village there on 10th (MJC/ADM). 14 remained around nest site at Dinnington on 6th, 12 at Ellington on the same date and S in a group at Druridge Links on 11th. One to nine were at 16 widespread localities with a pair feeding young in a nest above a shop at Rothbury from 12th till 15th and two at St Mary's Island with one at Stakeford on 30th.

#### **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cettia*

Individuals were heard at East Chevington on 1st (TF) and 25th (TB), at Big Waters NWT on 1st, 11th and 13th (GB), and at Druridge Pools on ten dates between 2nd–19th (IDR, JF, MSH). Singles were also at Hauxley NWT on 9th (MJC) and 24th (HRS), and at Gosforth Park NR on 23rd (MJC/DJC).

#### **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Druridge Links held a maximum of 18 on 2nd and 4th (IDR), and a tribe of 15 were at Hauxley on 9th (MJC). Six (four on 4th, one on 7th and 11th) were also ringed there (HRS). Other reports included 14 at Arcot Pond on 13th (STH), six at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 12th (MSH), and six at Chathill on 19th (PCA).

#### **Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Two were found on Holy Island on 10th, with one at the Strawberry Field/car park boundary hedge whilst another was in the village churchyard (MJC/SJM, TF/JFa). Singles were also at Tynemouth Haven on 4th (MN, DRW) and at Cresswell Pond NWT on 4th (IDR/JF, GAS, TB).

#### **Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

The first arrivals of Autumn were two on Holy Island and one at Howick on 20th (RA/MJC/HwRS). One was still present on Holy Island 21st-22nd but numbers peaked at four (three in the vicar's garden, one in the churchyard) on 29th (MJC). Two were at Newbiggin on 21st (AT/AP) and singles at St Mary's and Inner Farne on 21st (ASJ/NRSW), at Bamburgh on 22nd (MSH), Goswick on 23rd and in a garden at East Holywell on 27th (NRSW).



Yellow-browed Warbler, Holy Island, September 2022, Colin Bradshaw

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Numbers on Holy Island peaked at 85 on 10th, with 32 at The Snook, 39 in the village, four at Chare Ends, four at the excavations, and six on the Straight Lonnen (MJC/ADM/RA/AH/SR/ASJ/JFa/JBu/NFO/SJM). 26 were at Hauxley on 9th (MJC), with singles ringed there on 7th and 11th (HRS). There were seven at Druridge Links, including a singing male, on 7th (IDR) and 10th (IDR/JF). Four were on the ash lagoon banks at Newbiggin on 6th (IDR), and St Mary's Wetland had a maximum of four on 11th (MSH/AC). Two to three were reported at eight other localities, with singles at a further five.

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

Passage was noted at Corbridge Common, where ringing captures included 34 (two adults, 32 1st-winters) on 11th, and 30 (three adults, 27 1st-winters) on 19th (DLe). Druridge Links produced 24 on 2nd, with only part of the patch covered (IDR). Holy Island had a maximum of 22 on 10th (ASJ) and Hauxley's maximum was 18 on 4th, with 13 ringed between 4th–24th (HRS). Gosforth Park NR had 17 on 23rd (MJC/DJC), Howick had 11 on 20th (HwRS), and St Mary's had ten on 13th (ASJ). There were nine at Woodhorn Church on 11th (IDR/JF) and seven at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 18th (TB). A maximum of six were at Derwent Reservoir on 1st, Newbiggin on 8th, Low Newton on 13th, and Tynemouth on 23rd. One to five were at 32 other widespread localities, including singing males at Walkerville (Newcastle) on 5th, Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 7th, Caistron on 11th, Arcot Pond and Felton Lane on 13th, Alnwick on 14th, Kylloe Woods and Cambois on 19th, and Newton Red House on 19th and 21st.

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

On Holy Island, one was in the willows at the north end of the Straight Lonnen on 1st - 4th (RA, MJC/NRSW), and one was at Snook House on 5th (CB). Probables were heard calling briefly in gardens at Hauxley on 4th and at Woodhorn Church on 10th (HRS/NRSW).

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Singles were at St Mary's Wetland on 1st (MSH), Cresswell Pond NWT on 4th (IDR/JF), and at Druridge Links on 11th (IDR/JF).



**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A maximum of three (one in the village, two at the Lough) were on Holy Island on 10th (AH/MJC/ADM). Two were at Big Waters NWT on 1st (GB), and singles were at Druridge Pools on 2nd (IDR), Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 7th (MSH), Cresswell Pond NWT on 8th (TRD, MN), and at Hauxley on 9th (MJC).

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*

On Holy Island, one was in the willows at the north end of the Straight Lonnen 3rd–5th (MJC/ADM, IBDa/KDa, GAS, TF/JFa, NFO, CB), and another was at The Snook on 4th (MJC/ADM).



Icterine Warbler, Holy Island, September 2022, Neil Osbourne

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Holy Island held a maximum of 17 on 10th (MJC/ADM/RA/AH/SR/ASJ/JFa/JBu/NFO/SJM). Mickley Square had 13 1st winters (ten ringed, two retraps, one control) on 2nd (DLe). Five were ringed at Hauxley between 4th–11th (HRS). There were four at Woodhorn Church on 11th (IDR/JF) and three at Druridge Links on 2nd and 7th, Exhibition Park on 6th, and Tynemouth Pier on 9th. Two were reported from Newbiggin, St Mary's Wetland and Budle Bay, with singles at Big Waters NWT, Howick, Brierdene (Whitley Bay), Castron, Rothbury, and Bamburgh Dunes.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Numbers on Holy Island peaked at 23 on 10th (MJC/ADM/RA/AH/SR/ASJ/JFa/JBu/NFO/SJM), with four at St Mary's Wetland on 11th (MSH/AC) and three at Woodhorn Church on 11th (IDR/JF). Two were at Druridge Links on 2nd and 10th (IDR/JF), and at Tynemouth on 9th and 11th (DRW). A 1st-winter was ringed at Mickley Square on 2nd (DLe). Singles were at Spital Point (Newbiggin) on 4th, Old Hartley on 5th, Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 7th, and at Hauxley on 9th (MJC).

**Barred Warbler** *Curruca nisoria*

Two were found at Budle Point on 10th (CGK). On Holy Island, one was at The Snook on 4th (MJC), and a 1st-winter was at the excavations on 10th (ADM). A typically elusive individual was at Warkworth beach car park 22nd–23rd (TRD, CSa) and another was at Newton Pool on 29th (NRSW).

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

There were 13 on Holy Island on 10th (MJC/ADM/RA/AH/SR/ASJ/JFa/JBu/NFO/SJM), four on St Mary's on 11th (ASJ), and three at Tynemouth Pier base on 9th (MN). Hauxley held two on 9th (MJC), and there were singles at Howick on 2nd, Cresswell Pond NWT on 4th, Newbiggin on 10th, and at Old Hartley and Woodhorn Church on 11th.

**Whitethroat** *Curruca communis*

Budle Point had six on 10th (CGK), with three at St Mary's Wetland on 2nd (MSH), Holy Island on 3rd (MJC/ADM), Spital Point (Newbiggin) on 4th (GB), Druridge Links on 7th (IDR), and at Woodhorn Church on 10th (GB). An adult male and a juvenile were at Tynemouth Pier base on 10th (CB), and two were at Ellington on 11th (TB). Singles were at Beal and Big Waters NWT on 1st, Castle Island on 5th, Cocklawburn on 6th, Derwent Reservoir on 7th, Arcot Pond on 13th, Howick on 17th, and at Lindisfarne NNR (Fenham-le-Moor) on 19th.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

17 were on Holy Island on 29th (MJC/ADM). Corbridge Common had 13 ringed (one adult, 12 1st-winters) on 11th (DLe). There were seven at St Mary's Wetland on 30th (MSH) and five at Druridge Links on 23rd and 29th (IDR). Hauxley had four on 9th (MJC), with one ringed there on 24th (HRS). Four were also at Bamburgh on 22nd (MSH) and Chathill on 29th (PCA). One to three were reported at Eshott, Brierdene (Whitley Bay), Woodhorn Church, Wallington Hall and Newbiggin.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

The highest monthly count came from Hauxley with 16 on 4th; also 12 were ringed there between 4th–17th (HRS). There was a maximum of 12 at Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR) and at Holy Island on 29th (MJC/ADM). Newbiggin ash lagoon bank held seven on 6th (IDR), as did Woodhorn Church on 11th (IDR/JF). There were three at Jesmond Dene on 25th (MJCo) and singles at Chathill on 14th (PCA) and at Hedgehope, where one fed in the summit's cairn on 14th (MJC).

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

There were only six records this month, with four at Jesmond Dene on 2nd (MJCo), two at Mitford and at Brandon (Breamish Valley), and singles at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley), Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads), and Calder.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

The highest count came from Gosforth Park NR, with five on 23rd (MJC/DJC). Three (one on 11th, two on 24th) were ringed at Hauxley (HRS). Singles were at Exhibition Park, Woodhorn Church, Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Spindlestone and Chathill. Unusual sightings included one on a garden wall in Rothbury on 19th (TRD/JD) and one in the plantation at Druridge Links, where it is rare, on 23rd (IDR).

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The largest flock was at Druridge Links, with 800 on 10th (IDR/JF). Cullercoats had 320 feeding on rowan berries on 1st (KWY), and Seaton Point (Boulmer) had 140 on telephone wires on 29th (MKi). Flocks of 100 were at Big Waters NWT on 13th (GB), Ponteland on 20th (PCF), and Cresswell on 29th (PCF). Hazlerigg (nr Wideopen) had 50 on 9th, Dinnington had 40 on 18th, and Chathill had five on 2nd.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Hauxley had 16 on 11th, with eight ringed there between 4th–11th (HRS). Newbiggin, Woodhorn Church and Holy Island each had four on 8th, 11th and 29th respectively. There were two at Lynemouth Bay on 10th, two at Chathill on 14th, and one at Cresswell Pond NWT on 4th.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

One was at The Snook (Holy Island) on 29th (ADM).



**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

An early arrival was ringed at Hauxley on 4th (HRS). Two were recorded in the Breamish Valley on 19th (NRSW). Later passage was noted at Budle Point, with 300 SSW on 30th (CGK). There were 32 on Holy Island on 29th (MJC/ADM), nine at Tynemouth on 30th (DRW), six at Hedgeley GP on 29th (JD), and six W at St Mary's Wetland on 30th (HRS).

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

Howick had the highest count, with 28 on 19th (JAR). There was a group of six at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (IFo), and singles were ringed at Hauxley on 7th and 24th (HRS).

**Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

A sizeable post-breeding flock of 27 was at Longframlington Common on 11th (JD). There were groups of nine at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (IFo) and eight at Great Ryle (Whittingham) on 17th (CW). Housesteads had seven on 20th (AJH), and Ellington had six on 19th (TB). At East Ord (Berwick), six flew into trees off the coast on 25th (MHu). Three at Howick on 20th may have been incoming migrants (HwRS). There were two at Gosforth (Newcastle) on 9th (GB), and two at Druridge Bay CP on 19th (TB).

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

A small 'fall' on Holy Island produced 30 on 10th (MJC/ADM/RA/AH/SR/ASJ/JFa/JBu/NFO/SJM). Three were at Woodhorn Church on 12th (AT) following two there on 10th (GB). There were two at Budle Point on 9th (CGK) and at Ross on 11th (MJC). Singles were at Druridge Links, Old Hartley, Newbiggin, Cresswell Pond NWT, Hauxley, Tynemouth, Longframlington Common and Brierdene (Whitley Bay).



Spotted Flycatcher, Woodhorn Church, September 2022, Alan Tilmouth

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Holy Island had a maximum of 34 on 20th (MJC) and a 2 km walk by Horton Burn (Cramlington) produced 20 singing on 19th (LJM). Hauxley had 13 on 11th, with 11 ringed there between 4th–24th (HRS). There were nine at Druridge Links on 10th and at Woodhorn Church on 11th (IDR/JF). Corbridge Common also had nine (seven ringed, two retraps) on 11th (DLe). There were eight at Newbiggin ash lagoon bank on 8th (IDR). One to three were reported from Chathill, Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) and Cresswell.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

There were two in the month with one at Tynemouth Pier base 9th–10th (MN, KWy, DRW, CB) and a 1st-winter at The Snook (Holy Island) on 10th (MJC/ASJ).

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Migrants on Holy Island during the first week of the month rose from 19 on 3rd (MJC/ADM) to 48 on 4th (MJC/ADM/AH/RA/JFa). Numbers had fallen to seven by 12th (MJC). There were seven at Newbiggin ash lagoon bank on 6th (IDR), four at Hauxley on 9th (MJC) and three at Druridge Links on 10th (IDR/JF). One to two were at a further twelve, mostly coastal, localities with no records later than 12th.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

One was near St Coombs on Holy Island between 17th and 23rd (CB). The same individual may have been involved in reports from Holy Island on 10th and 13th (NRSW).



Black Redstart, Holy Island, September 2022, Colin Bradshaw

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Holy Island had a peak of 54 on 10th (MJC/ADM/RA/AH/SR/ASJ/JFa/JBu/NFO/SJM), with numbers falling to two by 29th (MJC/ADM). There were four at Hauxley on 9th (MJC), three at Tynemouth on 9th (DRW) and three at St Mary's Wetland on 11th (MSH/AC). Amble Dunes and Ross had two on 9th (CSa) and 11th (MJC) respectively. Singles were noted at a further 11 mainly coastal localities, including juveniles at Newbiggin on 1st and 6th (AP), Druridge Links 9th–11th (IDR/JF), and Ellington on 24th (TB).

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*



Autumn migration peaked at Holy Island, with 24 on 10th (RA/AH/SR/ASJ/JFa/JBu/NFO/SJM/MJC/ADM). Elsewhere, Old Hartley had four on 6th (MSH). Budle Point had four on 10th (CGK) and St Mary's had three on 6th (ASJ). There were two juveniles at Newbiggin GC on 5th (TB), two at Longframlington Common on 11th (JD) and two at the Long Nanny (Newton) on 13th (PCA). Singles, including a juvenile at Derwent Reservoir on 7th, were at Warkworth Dunes on 8th and Bamburgh Dunes on 13th. The last record for the month was one by the Rocket Pool, Holy Island, on 29th (MJC/ADM).

#### **Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

There were 14, including five juveniles, on Holy Island on 7th (MJC/STH). Ross had 12 on 11th (MJC) and Cocklawburn had ten on 17th (MHu). There were eight, including four juveniles, at St Mary's on 13th (ASJ) and eight (four pairs) in the Breamish Valley on 18th (TD). Druridge Links had a maximum of six on 30th (IDR), Howick had a pair and three juveniles on 12th (JAR) and Beanley Moor had four on 14th (RPo). Annstead (Seahouses) had four, including two juveniles, on 23rd (DF), and there were three at Newbiggin on 4th, Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 8th, and Warkworth Old Water on 13th. One to two were at a further 13 localities.

#### **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A peak count of 67 was recorded at Holy Island on 12th (MJC). Tynemouth had 15 on 9th (DRW) and Newbiggin had 14–15 on 10th (GB). There were ten at Hauxley beach on 8th and at Budle Bay on 10th (CGK). Ross (MJC) and Boulmer (MB/RB) both had six on 11th and Old Hartley had four on 5th and 11th (MSH). Three were at Beal, St Mary's and Druridge Pools, and two at Warkworth Dunes, Blyth South Harbour and Birling Northfield Farm, with singles at a further eight localities.

#### **Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Two were at Highford Woods (Morpeth) on 19th and on the River Coquet at Felton on 20th (TB/NFO). Singles were also reported at five other sites.

#### **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

50 were noted all week from 18th at Holy Island (CB). Around 50 were also at Cullercoats Bay all month (ASJ). Numbers in a Dinnington garden this month peaked on 14th at 36 (PCF). 35 were at Craster on 13th (JAR) and 11 were at Chathill on 2nd.

#### **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

40 were at High Buston on 29th (RPo). 30 were noted at Budle Bay throughout the month (CGK). One to 20 were also at 12 other sites during the month.

#### **Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

16 were at Hauxley on 4th, where six were ringed and 11 (three ringed) there on 11th. Four were on Holy Island on 20th and seven there on 29th (MJC/ADM). One to three were at 12 sites.

#### **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Three juveniles were around Low Newton Scrape on 11th (CB). Two were at Holy Island on 4th, at Hauxley beach on 8th, Druridge Pools on 13th and at Budle Bay on 22nd. Singles were at another six locations.

#### **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Four were in Jesmond Dene on 18th (MJCo). Three were seen at Ouseburn (Byker) on 15th and at Highford Woods on 19th. One to two were noted at a further 26 sites during the month.

#### **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

At least 80 were in a field at Kiln Point (Budle Bay) on 23rd with up to 13 there the previous week (MSH). 25 were in the St. Coombs Farm area on Holy Island on 17th (CB). 24 were noted feeding at Derwent Reservoir on 5th and at Bothal Pond on 18th (IFo/IRD). 14 were noted at Newbiggin on 6th (IDR). One to 12 were also at five sites.

#### **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Southerly passage was evident this month, with strong movement noted at Druridge on 11th, where 600 were counted moving S or in fields here (IDR/JF). On the morning of 7th, 500 flew S in ninety minutes at Beal (MJC); also 403 were counted that day moving S at Druridge (IDR). 300 also flew S at St. Mary's on the morning of 5th, including 100 in one hour; 400 did likewise on 11th, with 200 noted past Tynemouth that morning and at Gosforth Garden Village on 13th (ASJ/MSH/DRW/MJC). One to 110 observed at 16 further locations, mostly heading S but feeding flocks of 40 or more were recorded at Derwent Reservoir and Prospect Hill during the month.

#### **Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

16 migrants were noted at Holy Island on 10th (MJC/ADM/ASJ/JBu/RA *et al.*). Two were at Budle Point the previous day (CGK) and two at Holy Island on 12th (MJC). Singles were also at coastal sites at Low Newton, St Mary's, Newbiggin Ash Lagoon and Druridge Links up to 10th.

#### **Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*

On 20th, a pipit arrived at St. Mary's from offshore calling. The pipit alighted very briefly among foreshore rocks but could not be seen. It then flew west over the observer's head, again calling and was not seen again. (T Tams per ASJ).

#### **Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

Nine were seen at Beal on 29th (MJC) and five noted at Little Beach (Berwick) on 9th (MHu). Four were seen in the final week at Tynemouth Pier, Cullercoats and St. Mary's (MN/ASJ). A single was at Blyth Harbour on 5th (STH).

#### **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

200 flew S at Holy Island on 5th (CB). Ca. 50 were at Low Cocklaw on 11th (TBr). Elsewhere, one to five were at five other sites.

#### **Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

49 arrived at Holy Island on 29th, with the majority in the village. 12 had been seen to fly S at the Lough on 20th (MJC/ADM). Two singles at Tynemouth and one at Cresswell in the final week, were the only other sightings.

#### **Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

At a Rothbury garden feeders, numbers dropped to a monthly maximum of six (TRD/JD). Three juveniles were observed at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 7th (MSH). Two were seen at three other sites.

#### **Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Three together were an excellent find at Holy Island's Strawberry Field on 10th (RA *et al.*). One, perhaps a different individual, was found later that day at Straight Lonnen and another was found in the Vicar's garden (ADM/JBu). One was also found on the island at the Snook on 4th (MJC).

#### **Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

36 were watched feeding on rosehips at St. Mary's on 28th (ASJ). 13 were at Hauxley on 11th (HRS). One to five were at four other sites.

#### **Twite** *Linaria flavirostris*

The first arrivals this Autumn were four found at Cocklawburn Beach on 6th (MHu). Six were watched at Cresswell beach on 29th, with three also on that date at Beal (IRD/MJC).

#### **Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

Some large flocks had gathered this month, with 350 noted at Low Newton on 11th, 300 at Longhoughton Steel on 21st and 200 at Druridge on 18th and 19th (CB/TRD/JD/IDR/JF). 200 were also at Boulmer, Whittingham and Stag Rocks and at RAF Boulmer during the month. At least 150 were at Breamish Valley on 20th (MSH). 30-90 were noted at a further 16 sites and one-26 at six sites. Migration was noted at Holy Island on 20th where 128 were counted flying S during the day (MJC).

**Common Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea*

Two were noted at Holy Island on 5th and 22nd (CB).

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

15 were seen at Garret Lee Wood on 26th (CB). On 29th, four were seen to fly S at Holy Island. Singles were noted there on two other dates.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

Only three reports this month, with four at Garret Lee Wood on 4th and at Old Hazelrigg on 19th. One was heard calling at Debdon on 24th.

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

120 were noted in Holy Island village on 10th (MJC/ADM). 100 were seen at Crooked Oak on 14th (IFo). 70 – 95 were counted at Gibb's Hill, Holy Island and Newbiggin this month and two-65 were also at 13 locations.

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

A total count of 204 was made at Holy Island on 10th (MJC/ADM/ASJ *et al.*). Other island counts here involved 165 on 4th and 116 on 7th. Ca. 85 were watched at Corbridge Common on 19th (DLe). One – 60 were seen at 14 sites during the month.

**Lapland Bunting** *Lapponicus calcarius*

One was found at Holy Island on 19th and one flew S over The Wideopens the following day (MJC). A calling individual was seen to arrive from the NE at St. Mary's on 15th. Aged as a 1st-winter male after it was heard to sing briefly after alighting on a fence in a stubble field, it moved to cliff-top paths where it spent the next 12 days. It was joined on two dates by a second individual (ASJ). One was watched flying W over Straight Lonnen (Holy Island) on 24th (MJC).



Lapland Bunting (1st-winter), St Mary's, September 2022, Alan Jack

### **Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

One was recorded on 20th, flying SW at Holy Island. Another was at Cresswell beach on 29th (MJC/IRD).

### **Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

At least 30 were at Fenham Le Moor on 19th. This was the only sizeable group seen this month (MSH). Six were at Chugdon Wood on 2nd and at Chathill on 14th.

### **Rustic Bunting** *Emberiza rustica*

On 20th at St. Mary's, a calling individual arrived flying in from E. After landing in a stubble field out of view, it again took flight and flew NW and away out of view over adjacent fields, once again calling several times. On 29th, a 1st-winter was found in Willows at the end of Straight Lonnen, Holy Island. After a brief stay it flew W across the island and was lost to view. There were no further sightings of either individual (ASJ/MJC).

### **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

25 were counted at Holy Island on 29th (MJC/ADM). 18 were at St. Mary's on 20th (ASJ). On 23rd, four males arrived from offshore at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh)(MSH). One to three were also seen at nine sites.

## **ESCAPES, HYBRIDS AND BIRDS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN**

No reports this month.

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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), Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Proof reading was by Mike Smith. Mail distribution by Paul Stewart. Clive Hampton is Data Manager.

Edited by Alan Tilmouth [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

## **RECORD SUBMISSION**

Please email records for the month to [ntbc.records@googlemail.com](mailto: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 Alan Tilmouth at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

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.



## 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 November and will feature a talk by Northumberland National Park Ecologist Gill Thompson 'Wader Surveys and Curlews in Northumberland National Park'.

## FIELD TRIPS

Next Field Trip – tbc

## 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.

Subscriptions can be paid using online banking: please include your name as the reference and email Jo Bentley at [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com) to confirm payment.

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.

If you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome. For membership enquiries please contact Jo Bentley (Hon Treasurer) [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

## NTBC Web and Social Media

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds, with a wide range of content from photo galleries, county checklists, Records Committee updates, information on surveys and many useful articles on bird identification and birding both locally and internationally, to find out more please visit [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

Please submit any other new content (eg trip reports, identification notes, site guides etc) for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

NTBC can also be found on Facebook [here](#) and Twitter [here](#)

## Other News

### Member's Images

Many member's submit images for inclusion in the bulletin. As everyone will be aware we are unable to include all images submitted due to space limitations. As NTBC now has a social media presence across multiple platforms such as Twitter and Facebook we would like to be able to use images submitted for the bulletin to help promote the club and it's aims across these platforms. In order to achieve this we will assume that all images submitted can be used in this way. Any members who prefer their images are only used in the bulletin can email to [ntbcbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcbulletin2012@gmail.com) to register their preference. All images used will be credited appropriately.

Alan Tilmouth – Bulletin Editor

### Birds in Northumbria 2021

BiN 2021 will be distributed at our January 2023 meeting at Northern Rugby Club. We haven't been helped this year by an early December meeting date of Thursday 8th. However, other factors are going to make distribution in December difficult in future years too.

When I took over the role of Editor of BiN, an assurance I gave to Committee was that we'd always distribute it at the following year's December meeting. This has mostly been achieved and where it hasn't has usually been down to 'external' factors (such as one bindery we used going out of business at the end of the year). But, due to an absence of a local bindery who can do the work for us, we now have to use a large national binder in Wakefield. This adds up to 2 weeks to the deadline every year. It may occasionally be possible for a December distribution, especially where we have a later club meeting.

On a happier BiN note: As ever, photographs or artwork for consideration are welcomed. Photographs - All members are free to submit images (taken within the county) to the editor. Images should be 300Dpi max. resolution images, max. width and height 246mm x 346mm and sent by 31st May of the following year. Email: [highroller10@btinternet.com](mailto:highroller10@btinternet.com)

Back Papers - Papers from members (on any bird-related topic in the county) are always welcome for publication. I have one paper agreed for BiN 2022 (on a species), but would welcome further ideas. To discuss a possible paper for BiN 2022, or a future BiN, please contact Andy Mould on 0191 2664265, or email: [highroller10@btinternet.com](mailto:highroller10@btinternet.com).

Andy Mould – BiN Editor



Siberian Stonechat, Budle Bay, October 2022, Graham Sorrie

## OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

<b>Taiga Bean Goose</b>	Two at East Chevington on 18th; also a Bean Goose S at Druridge on 18th
White-fronted Goose	One at Grindon Lough on 9th
Ruddy Shelduck	Singles at Maiden's Hall lake on 21st and at Low Newton on 7th
<b>Surf Scoter</b>	Drake observed from two coastal sites on 20th
<b>Black Scoter</b>	Returning drake at Cocklawburn until end of month
<b>Pallid Swift</b>	Unprecedented arrival of one to four at 11 localities
<b>Common Crane</b>	Groups of four noted flying over three sites on two dates in the month
<b>Pacific Golden Plover</b>	Adult photographed offshore from school on Holy Island on 21st
Pectoral Sandpiper	Juveniles at East Chevington, Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough and the Long Nanny
<b>Long-billed Dowitcher</b>	First-winter at Castron was a surprise find on a WeBS survey on 9th
Grey Phalarope	Singles at Boulmer, Newbiggin and Farne Islands
<b>Collared Pratincole</b>	Brief visit to Cresswell Pond by an individual on 12th
<b>Sabine's Gull</b>	Single juveniles at Newbiggin and Beadnell
Glaucous Gull	Adult south off Druridge on 30th
Caspian Gull	Three first-winters in the month
Yellow-legged Gull	Two second-winters and two adults in the month
Long-tailed Skua	A late juvenile past Newbiggin on 20th

Great Egret	Singles at seven localities again, a sign of continued presence in the county
Short-eared Owl	Noticeable arrival during easterlies with peak of 11 in off sea at St Mary's on 19th
Wryneck	Good passage between 7th and 9th with up to four on Holy Island and one at Hauxley
Hobby	Juvenile at East Chevington remained to 14th giving excellent views
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>	Super individual found at Seaton Point, Boulmer on 15th
Hooded Crow	Returning adult between Ellington and Linton all month
<b>Woodlark</b>	One briefly at Newton Pool on 21st
Yellow-browed Warbler	Subdued arrival from 19th with easterlies but only one to three at any one locality
<b>Pallas's Warbler</b>	Excellent influx from 20th with one to two at eight localities
<b>Radde's Warbler</b>	Record breaking influx with singles at Newbiggin, Holy Island and Newton
Siberian Chiffchaff	Up to three on Holy Island plus singles at Howick and Druridge
Barred Warbler	Singles on Holy Island and at Hauxley
<b>Subalpine Warbler sp.</b>	Long-stayer at Tynemouth from 21st to end of month
Firecrest	Influx with singles at Holy Island, Boulmer and Druridge
<b>Red-flanked Bluetail</b>	One ringed on 21st at Hauxley and another at Whitley Bay cemetery on 21st and 22nd
<b>Red-breasted Flycatcher</b>	Singles on Holy Island from 19th to 24th and another at Low Newton on 21st
Black Redstart	Singles at Holy Island, Tynemouth and Blyth
<b>Siberian Stonechat</b>	A first-winter was an excellent find at Budle Point from 27th to end of month
<b>Richard's Pipit</b>	One at Football Hole for four days
Water Pipit	Singles at Druridge, St Mary's and Holy Island from 18th
Hawfinch	Singles at Low Hauxley on 23rd and on Holy Island on 19th
Lapland Bunting	Singles noted at Holy Island, St Mary's, Druridge and Boulmer

## OCTOBER CLASSIFIED LIST

### **Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix*

Two males and a female were noted at Cowbyers Fell, Blanchland on 25th (MH/AA) but the landowner reported 17 males and five females there on his hill farm.

### **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

Four were at Thirlmoor Hill, Otterburn Training Area on 16th (JR/NA) and one was at Lordenshaw.

### **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

A total of 67 (in groups of 35, 20, 10 and 2), were at Druridge Lane on 28th (TB), while 25 were at nearby Widdrington Station on 3rd (TB) and 20 at Widdrington village on 7th (TB). All of these are presumably from recent releases for shooting. Three to seven were also at Brandon (Breamish Valley), Druridge Pools and Holywell Dene, and one at Wall.

### **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

30 in the St Mary's-Hartley area on 6th included a flock of 22 (KWY), 28 (in groups of 12, eight, six and two) were at Berwick Drift, Lynemouth on 26th (TB), while counts of 20 came from Big Waters (GB) and Craster (BS), and ten to 17 from Alnwick, Druridge Links-Pools, Dunstanburgh Castle, Ellington, Longhorsley, Rowley Burn, Seaton Sluice, Snab Point, Spital Point, Newbiggin, Waren Mill and Woodhorn Flashes. Six to nine were also at Alnmouth, Ellingham, Ellington, Gloucester Lodge Farm (Seaton Sluice), Howick and South Newsham, and one to four at Cambois, Newbiggin ash lagoons and Widdrington village. More unusual was a covey of ten which appeared in a suburban street in Cramlington in the early morning of 18th, having been presumably flushed from nearby fields by new building works (STH).

### **Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

Largest concentrations included 47 in the Druridge Links-Pools area on 13th (IDR), presumably recently released for shooting, 26 at Alnwick on 30th (JR), and nine to 16 at Chathill (PCA), Low Hauxley (HRS) and Lynemouth Bay (IDR/JF).

### **Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

About 4,000 of the pale-bellied *hrota* race were at Chare Ends, Lindisfarne NNR on 23rd (TRD/JD), while 2,500 were noted there on 20th (CB), 40 were at Budle Bay on 7th (DF) and a total of 19 flew N and three S at Seaton Sluice on 19th-20th (SSWT).

Dark-bellied *bernicla* race individuals involved 400 at Holy Island on 20th (CB) and three there on 23rd (TRD/JD), with seven at Newbiggin Beacon Point on 20th (AP).

Reports of un-raced Brent Geese included 3,000 at Fenham Flats, Lindisfarne NNR on 3rd (JPL), 28 S at Meadow Haven on 16th and 16 S at Cocklawburn on 18th (MHu).

#### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

30 flew N at Ellington on 11th (TB) and 24 NW at Wark (N. Tyne) on 18th (PRM). Grindon Lough attracted a peak of 550 on 9th (MRS), 200 were at Hauxley Reserve on 1st (HRS), 180 at Big Waters on 17th (GB), 160 at Low Cocklaw, Berwick on 28th (TBr), and 100-122 at Bothal Pond (TF), Maiden's Hall Lake (TF) and West Stobswood Pool (MSH). Counts of 50-95 came from Alnmouth, Derwent Reservoir, Killingworth Lake, QEII CP and Warkworth, while 12-30 were at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Farm, Ellington, and Newcastle Exhibition and Leazes Parks, and eight at Yarrow Slake. One, with Barnacle Geese, at Budle Bay on 8th was possibly of the *parvipes* race (DF).

#### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

Northerly movement involved 68 at Boulmer on 18th (BS), 48 at Annstead Point on 8th (DF), and ten at East Chevington on 8th (GB). Southerly passage involved 205 at Boulmer on 18th (BS), a total of 70 at Cocklawburn on 7th-8th (TRD/JD/KWY), 62 at Berwick pier on 17th (MHu), 60 (including a leucistic individual) at Longhoughton on 8th (TB), 50 at Holy Island on 21st (MJC/ADM), 40 at Cresswell Pond on 15th (TF), 22 at Seaton Point on 16th (MKi), and 11-15 at Ellington (TB), Meadow Haven (MHu), Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and Snab Point (AA) on various dates. A large flock was heard moving W over Wark (N. Tyne) at 21:45hrs on 18th (PRM). Numbers at Budle Bay rose from 27 on 7th (DF) to 1,500 on 7th (CGK/GPK) and a peak of 1,700 on 19th (DF) and 31st (CGK). Other peak counts were at least 800 at Elwick on 19th (DF), 67 at Druridge Pools on 8th (TF), 55 were at Ross on 1st (IBDa/KDa), and 24-42 at Brandon, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Fenham Flats and Goswick. One to nine were also at Hauxley Reserve, Howick, Low Cocklaw, Maiden's Hall Lake and Togston. A leucistic individual was at Budle Bay on several dates between 11th-19th (DF), while one flew S at East Chevington on 8th (GB) and was noted there on 11th (TRD/JD).

#### **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Passage involved 40 SW at Humshaugh on 14th and 22 S there on 4th (SW), while five flew NW at Ellington on 11th (TB). At Derwent Reservoir, 1,400 on 1st rose to a healthy 2,100 by 9th (IFo). Other peak concentrations elsewhere were 1,451 at Big Waters on 11th (GB), 650 at Airy Holm Reservoir on 8th (IFo), 386 at Bothal Pond on 1st (TF), 320 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 27th (CDH), 300 at Hauxley Reserve (HRS), 150 at Blagdon Lane pools (Cramlington) and Grindon Lough, and 45-60 at Bothal and Cresswell Ponds. One to two were also at QEII CP and Yarrow Slake.

#### **Bean Goose sp. (Taiga Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis* **or Tundra Bean Goose** *Anser serrirostris*)

A calling individual flew S at Druridge Pools on 18th (NFO).

#### **Taiga Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis*

Two, with a flock of Greylag Geese, were at East Chevington north pool on 18th (AA).

#### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Strong passage on 8th involved 415 N and 2,075 S at Boulmer (BS), 1,500 S at East Chevington (GB), 395 S at Tynemouth (DRW), and 110-175 S at Ellington (TB) and Low Hauxley (IF). Other peak passage concerned about 1,500 over (no direction given) Low Cocklaw on 5th (TBr), 1,407 S at East Chevington on 1st (IF), 1,260 N at Tweedmouth on 2nd (MHu), about 1,000 N at East Ord (MHu) and 625 S at Ellington (TB) on 3rd, 500 S at Belford on 28th (DF), 400 N at Lowick on 7th (TRD/JD), 350 NW at Low Cocklaw on 3rd (TBr), 269 S at Newbiggin on 24th (GB), 250 S at Druridge Pools on 22nd (IDR), and 200 S at Ellington on 9th (TB) and Holywell Pond on 18th (MSH). Further inland, 310 flew E at Wark (N. Tyne) on 3rd (PRM), 170 NW at Rothbury on 3rd (JD), 150 over Morpeth on 23rd and 120 there on 18th (TD), 130 SW at Prestwick Carr on 12th (IK), 100 N at Benton on 3rd (MP), and 100 W at Humshaugh on 23rd (SW). A peak of about 4,000 was noted at Widdrington Moor Lake on 3rd (LJM), 3,000 were at Doddington on 11th (JD), 2,500 at Budle Bay on 4th (CGK/GPK), 2,450 (not the 'local' flock) heading N from Holy Island Snook on 9th (AH/ADM/PR), 2,000 at Kimmerston (Milfield Plain) on 23rd (DGB/RHB), 1,000 at Togston on 18th (TB), 800 at Druridge Pools on 2nd (IDR), 500 at Cresswell Pond on 13th (MN), and 400 at Holywell Dene on 13th (MNC). Counts of 100-268 came from Big Waters, East Chevington, Goswick, Linton Ponds and Low Cocklaw, while 50-95 were at/over Alnmouth, Boulmer, Chapel House (Newcastle), Cramlington, Murton, Prudhoe, QEII CP, Stag Rocks and West Ord, and ten to 19 at Bothal Pond and



Hauxley Reserve.

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser flavirostris*

An un-raced individual was at Grindon Lough on 9th (MRS).

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Three flew N at Spittal Bay on 5th (MHu). Peak counts were 52 at Big Waters on 30th (GB), 50 at Fenham Flats on 3rd (JPL), 41 at QEII CP on 10th (CDH), 32-37 at Killingworth Lake (LJM), Low Cocklaw (MHu) and the Tweed Estuary (MHu), and 11-18 at Bothal and Linton Ponds, and West Stobswood Pool. Six to nine were also at Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Druridge Pools and Holy Island.

**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Two were at Cresswell Pond on 1st-2nd (IDR/IF/MSH), two flew S at St Mary's on 2nd (ASJ) and on 7th, 22-24 were at East Chevington (TB/ADMc/NFO) and seven flew S there (ADMc), 14 flew S at Cresswell Pond (ADMc), ten S at Bell's Farm (Cresswell)(ADMc), seven S at St Mary's (ASJ), and six over Haggerston Castle (PCA). Larger numbers on 8th included 81 S at Budle Bay (CGK), 43-45 S at East Chevington (TF/ASJ), 30 S at Stag Rocks (DF), 26 S at Tynemouth (DRW), 19 S at Cocklawburn (KWY), 14 at Maiden's Hall Lake (TF), and three to seven at/over Cresswell Pond and Howick. Ten flew S at Newbiggin on 9th (AP) when two lone juveniles were at Cresswell Pond (IF/MSH/ADMc). On 11th, about 50 flew S at Ellington Colliery (IDR), 27 S at Budle Bay (DF), 18 (17 adults) were at Holywell Pond (DLo) and ten at East Chevington (STH/IFo). The latter site held 27 on 17th (CB). A further southerly movement was apparent on 18th, when flocks of 37, 34, 33 and 21 passed Newbiggin (MH/AP/AT), 90 at Boulmer (BS), and 12 at Old Hartley (MSH), while 18-23 were at Cresswell Pond (NFO) and East Chevington north pool (AA). Low Newton held 33 on 21st (AT), 21 were near Northumberlandia on 26th (STH/GMi), and 31 (no apparent juveniles) flew S at Low Hauxley on 29th (HRS) when 13 moved S at Blyth Harbour (STH). Counts of 13-14 also came from Buston Links (six young; RPo) and Hauxley Reserve (NFO), while one to eight were at/over Big Waters, Broomlee Lough, Cocklawburn Pond, Holy Island, Newbiggin, QEII CP, Rothbury, Wark (N. Tyne), West Ord and Widdrington Moor Lake on various dates in the latter half of the month.



Whooper Swan, Holywell, October 2022, Alan Jack

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Budle Bay held a peak of 330 on 9th (SW), ten were at Ross Back Sands on 23rd (MJC), and three to four at the Blyth

Estuary (LJM) and East Chevington north pool (GB). One was at Big Waters on 18th .

### **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

A female was at Maiden's Hall Lake on 7th (NFO) and an unsexed individual was noted distantly at Low Newton on 21st (AT).

### **Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

Four flew S at Boulmer on 9th (BS). Numbers at Budle Bay increased steadily through the month from 48 on 1st to a peak of 99 on 30th (DF/CGK *et al.*). Peak counts elsewhere were 23 at Big Waters on 9th (GB), 21 at Hauxley Reserve on 20th (HRS), ten to 17 at Arcot Pond (STH), Bothal Pond (AT), Cresswell Pond (MSH), East Chevington north pool (GB), Grindon Lough (PRM), Linton Lane NR (AT) and Woodhorn Flashes (AT) and five to eight at Marden Quarry and Newton Pool. One was also at Branton GP.

### **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

The largest concentrations were 90 at Big Waters on 4th (ASJ), 70 at East Chevington on 17th (CB), 69 at Swallow Pond on 30th (ASJ), 52 at Linton Lane NR on 10th (CDH), 34-36 at Caistron (TRD) and Marden Quarry (ASJ), and 14-19 at Bothal Pond and Killingworth Lake. Two to four were also at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough and Hauxley Reserve.

### **Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

A total of 1,269 flew N and 25 S at Seaton Sluice on 19th-20th (SSWT), 22-95 flew N at Newbiggin (STH) and Snab Point (IDR) on 19th, 25 N Stag Rocks on 21st (DF), and 40 S at Snab Point on 12th (TB). At Lindisfarne NNR, about 4,000 were at the Fenham Flats section on 3rd (JPL) and 2,500 at Budle Bay on 8th (CGK/GPK). Peak counts elsewhere were 400 at East Chevington on 9th (KWY), 251 at Grindon Lough on 6th (PRM), 240 at the Coquet Estuary on 17th (BS), and 52-79 at Bothal and Linton Lane NR, and West Stobswood Pool. Counts of 15-40 came from Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Havannah NR and Stag Rocks. More unusual was a duck on Tynemouth boating lake on 8th (DRW).

### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

A total of 15 flew N and two S at Seaton Sluice on 19th (SSWT). No three-figure counts were reported. Peaks were 96 on the River Wansbeck at Stakeford on 9th (KWY), 91 at Budle Bay on 7th (DF), 89 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 27th (CDH), 60-67 at Bothal Pond (TF), Hauxley Reserve (HRS), Holywell Pond (MSH) and West Ord (MHu), and 50-59 at Havannah NR, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Exhibition Park and Seaton Point (Boulmer). Counts of 30-46 came from Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Cresswell Pond, Grindon Lough, Killingworth Lake and Newton Pool, and ten to 28 at the Alwin Valley, Druridge Pools, Jesmond Dene, Linton Lane NR, QEII CP, the Tweed Estuary and Wark (N. Tyne).

### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

17 flew N at Seaton Sluice on 19th (SSWT), and 24 N at Seaton Point, Boulmer on 20th (BS) when one flew N at Newbiggin (AT). 40 were at Fenham Flats, Lindisfarne NNR on 3rd (JPL), seven at Budle Bay on 15th (CGK/GPK), a peak of four at East Chevington on 13th (TRD/JD), three at Big Waters on 10th (AJJ per GB), and one to two at Arcot Pond, Hauxley Reserve, Holy Island Lough and Marden Quarry.

### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total was 238 N and 82 S, including 190 N and 16 S on 19th (SSWT), 40 flew N at Snab Point on 19th (IDR) and ten S there on 12th (TB). Numbers at Budle Bay peaked at 800 on 6th (CGK/GPK), 480 were at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFo), 454 at Grindon Lough on 6th (PRM), and 100-154 at Arcot Pond (DM), Blackshiel Bog (Plenmeller; MH/AA), Caistron (TRD), East Chevington (TF) and Linton Lane NR (CDH). Groups of 60-83 were at Alnmouth, Bothal Pond and Druridge Pools, and 12-49 at Big Waters, Hauxley Reserve, Holywell and Middle Ord Ponds, Howdon, Newton Pool and West Ord.

### **Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Low numbers involved six at Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th (NFO), five at Big Waters on 2nd (GB), three at Bothal Pond on 25th-26th (TF/AT), three at Holywell Pond on 2nd (MSH), and singles at Broomlee Lough, Druridge Pools and East Chevington.

**Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Three flew N and two S at Seaton Sluice between 14th-19th (SSWT), three moved S at Boulmer on 19th (IDR) and one N there on 20th (BS). Peak counts were 46 at Druridge Pools on 9th (IRD), 36 at Killingworth Lake on 12th (LJM), 32 at Tynemouth boating lake on 14th (DM), 21-26 at Big Waters (GB), Bothal Pond (AT), East Chevington (IF) and QEII CP (CDH), and ten to 16 at Broomlee and Greenlee Loughs, and 'Northumberlandia' (Cramlington). One to six were also at Cresswell and Linton Ponds, Derwent Reservoir, Hauxley Reserve and Newcastle Exhibition Park.

**Scaup** *Aythya marila*

On 19th, three flew S at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and one N at Boulmer (BS). Single drakes (perhaps the same individual) were at Newbiggin Beacon Point on 7th and 11th (AT) and Snab Point on 13th and 21st (GB/TRD/JD/DLo). A drake was at Big Waters on 22nd and a pair there on 23rd (GB/ISD) and a first-winter drake at Bothal Pond on 4th (AT).

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

Three flew N at Snab Point on 19th (IDR). Peak numbers were 42 off Ross Back Sands on 23rd (MJC), 23 at the Blyth Estuary on 10th (LJM), and 16 at Blyth Harbour on 29th (STH). Six to nine were at Meadow Haven (Berwick) and the Tweed Estuary, and two to three at Newbiggin, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

**Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata*

A drake flew north past Newbiggin Point in the company of Common Scoter on 20th and was later seen passing Seaton Point, Boulmer (NRSW).

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

At Seaton Sluice, a total of ten flew N and 13 S during the month (SSWT). Other passage birds involved five to seven S at Boulmer (BS) and Newbiggin on 7th (NFO/AT), two N at Snab Point on 13th (DLo) and one N at Newbiggin on 20th (AT). Three were at Holy Island on 18th (RA) and one was with Common Scoters off Druridge Links on 28th (IDR).

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A total of 607 flew N and 93 S at Seaton Sluice during the month, including 421 N and 65 S on 19th (SSWT) but few were reported on the move elsewhere; one to eight N at Druridge Links and Snab Point. A peak of 380 was noted at Cocklawburn on 11th (MHu), 140 were off Druridge Links on 22nd (IDR), 70 at Newbiggin bay on 19th (STH), 40 at Stag Rocks (DF), 13-25 at Alnmouth Bay-Birling Carrs, and nine at Seaton Point, Boulmer.

**Black Scoter** *Melanitta americana*

The regular drake was regularly reported at Cocklawburn between 1st and 30th (BirdGuides).

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 14th (SSWT), and singles N at Stag Rocks on 18th (DF) and Newbiggin on 19th (STH), while one flew S at the latter site on 30th (AP). Two were at Cocklawburn on 11th (MHu) and one in Newbiggin bay on 27th (AT). A juvenile was well inland at Branton GP on 30th (IBDa/KDa).

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total was 30 N and 12 S (SSWT) and three flew N at Newbiggin on 19th (STH). Eight were at East Chevington on 17th (CB), seven at Broomlee Lough on 30th (PRM), three to four at Bothal Pond, Holy Island, New Water Haugh, West Ord and Widdrington Moor Lake, and one to two at Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, Druridge Links, Stag Rocks and Wark (N. Tyne).

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

A total of 15 flew N and nine S at Seaton Sluice between 16th-20th (SSWT), and a total of 16 flew S at Newbiggin on 24th-27th (GB/STH). Numbers at Branton GP rose from 41 on 3rd to 57 by 9th and a very notable 129 on 17th and were thought to have included birds dispersing away from the River Tweed for unknown reasons (IBDa/KDa/JD). Other peak counts were nine at Castle Island on 4th (TF), three to four at Holywell Pond, Wark (N Tyne) and West Ord. One to two were also at/over Airy Holm Reservoir, Big Waters, the Blyth Estuary, Caistron, the Coquet Estuary, Derwent Reservoir, offshore at Druridge Links, Felton, Jesmond Dene, Marden Quarry, Redesmouth, Tynemouth boating lake and Wallsend

Dene.

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

A peak of 16 was noted off Druridge Links on 22nd (IDR), 14 were at Budle Bay on 30th (CGK), nine at Ross Back Sands on 23rd (MJC), four at Cresswell Pond on 26th (MN), four at Druridge Pools on 18th (TRD/JD) and singles at Castle Island and Ladyburn Lake.

**Swift sp.**

Three were noted over Whitley Bay on 27th and a single at Seahouses the same day (NRSW). On 29th, one heading S over the priory at Tynemouth (JBU) and one circling over Ferguson's warehouse at Blyth South Harbour (STH) were both thought to be Pallid Swift *apus pallidus* but views were not ideal, the latter individual was noted again on 30th (NRSW).

**Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*

Unseasonably warm weather combined with a strong southerly airflow brought an influx of this southern European species to the UK at the end of the month. The first to appear was a juvenile at Boulmer on 26th (NRSW) followed by individuals at Cullercoats on 28th (ASJ), Embleton Quarry on 29th (IF) and Cullercoats again on 30th (JBU). Three were photographed lingering over Howick Hall on 29th (NRSW) and perhaps the same three were well-watched at Amble and Warkworth on 30th (GAS/MN/CSa/IDR/JF/*et al.*) and up to four were in the Seahouses-Bamburgh-Budle Bay area on 31st (CGK), presumably the individuals that visited Inner Farne and Berwick on 31st (NRSW) were of this group.



Pallid Swift, Cullercoats, October 2022, Jack Bucknall

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

60 were at Cullernose Point on 5th (IDR), 12 at Amble on 30th and a single was at the Ash Lagoon Bank, Newbiggin on 22nd. The species was noted as "present" in Jesmond Dene on 30th (MJCo).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*



44 at dusk at Howdon on 9th was this month's high count (CB), 20 were at Fourstones on 26th (AJH) and one to five were at Big Waters NWT, Cresswell Home Farm (Lynemouth), Cresswell Pond NWT, Ellington, Jesmond Dene and Low Cocklaw (Berwick).

#### **Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

50 flew S at Exhibition Park on 11th (GB). A regular pre-roost gathering at Howdon peaked at 76 on 23rd (CB), 30 were at Linton Ponds on 9th (IDR) and 21 were at Druridge Pools on 30th. One to eight were reported from many other localities.

#### **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

25 were at Widdrington Village on 21st (TB), 16 at St Coomb's (Holy Island) on 20th (CB), 11 at Carterway Heads on 3rd (IFo) and ten at Hazlerigg on 29th (GB). Nine were at Dinnington, five at Amble and a single at Low Hauxley.

#### **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Two were at both Big Waters NWT and Holy Island and singles were seen or heard at Cresswell Pond NWT, Druridge Pools, East Chevington and Woodhorn Flashes.

#### **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

27 at Hauxley NWT on 15th was this month's highest count (HRS). Exhibition Park, Newcastle, held ten on 3rd, 23 on 7th and 26 on 10th (GB), 19 were at Druridge Pools on 9th (IDR) and the peak count at Killingworth Lake was 15 on 12th (LJM). One to eight were at Low Hauxley, Jesmond Dene, Linton Lane NR, Newton Pool and QEII CP. A juvenile was flushed from a stunted Willow at the Snook (Holy Island) on 20th (MJC/ADM).

#### **Coot** *Fulica atra*

The autumn build-up of numbers at East Chevington increased to a peak of 210 on 11th (TRD/JD), Big Waters NWT hit a high of 100 on 30th (GB) and Linton Lane NR held 72 on 10th (CDH). 47 flew east at Killingworth Lake on 12th suggesting local movement (LJM) and 20 were at Bothal Pond on 10th (TD). 15 were at Druridge Pools and two at Hauxley NWT.

#### **Crane** *grus grus*

Four flew S at East Chevington and then Hauxley on 1st. These were later seen moving south through Durham (BirdGuides/NRSW). Four flew SE at Carter Bar on 19th (per PCF).

#### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

The highest count came from Castle Island with 42 there on 17th (STH). East Chevington North Pool peaked at 33 on 8th (GB), 18 were present during a WeBS count at Caistron on 9th (TRD), 13 were at Bothal Pond on 8th (TF), 12 at both Hauxley NWT on 1st (HRS) and Holywell Pond on 2nd (MSH) and eight at Big Waters NWT on 9th (GB). One to seven were at the Blyth Estuary, Boulmer, Broomlee Lough, Cocklawburn Pond, Cresswell Pond NWT, Druridge Pools, Linton Lane NR, Long Nanny, Northumberlandia, St. Mary's Wetland, West Ord and Widdrington Moor Lake.

#### **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps Grisegena*

One headed S past Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSWT). Last month's individual at Widdrington Moor Lake remained until at least 18th (TRD/JD/MSH/NFO/TB), with a second individual for company on 2nd (ADMc). Singles were on the sea at both Cocklawburn Beach on 13th (DLo) and 27th (TRD/JD) and Low Newton on 24th (TF).

#### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

One flew S past Berwick Pier on 9th (MHu). A group off Warkworth Beach peaked at 13 on 13th (CSa), seven were at Killingworth Lake on 12th (LJM), six at Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 8th (TF) and five at Widdrington Moor Lake on 3rd (LJM). One to four were at Big Waters NWT, Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Branton GP, Cresswell Pond NWT, Druridge Bay, Druridge Pools, East Chevington North Pool, Holywell Pond, Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

#### **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auratus*

At least one (possibly two) were on the sea with Divers (sp) in Druridge Bay on 16th (IDR). Off the sea individuals were found at Bothal Pond on 22nd (TD), East Chevington, Maiden's Hall Lake and Widdrington Moor Lake.

#### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Budle Bay retained high numbers with 256 noted on 7th and 173 on 17th (DF). The only other report of over 100 was a roost of 148 at St Mary's Island on 18th (ASJ). Counts of 58-75 came from Cullercoats, Druridge Links, Howick and the River Coquet Estuary, with 15-32 seen at Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary), Cullernose Point and Tynemouth Priory. One-eight were at seven other locations.

#### **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

Two remained at Cresswell Pond until 7th (MSH/NFO/IF *et al.*)

#### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

At Seaton Sluice, 104 flew S between 21st-28th (SSWT) with eight noted flying N at Druridge Links 2nd and one S at Tynemouth on 8th (noted as scarce there by the observer). Numbers increased from last month with a peak of 1,500 at Budle Bay on 8th (CGK/GPK). At East Chevington, 400+ on 1st increased to 1,100 by 11th (TRD/JD/MSH/TF) and at Derwent Reservoir 200 on 6th increased to at least 1,000 on 9th (IFo). Ca. 550 were at Grindon Lough on 6th (PRM) and flocks of 500 were seen at Gloucester Lodge Farm, Blyth on 17th (LJM), St Mary's Island on 21st (ASJ) and West Minsteracres on 25th (MH/AA). Peak counts elsewhere on various dates during the month were 409 at Longhoughton Steel (BS), ca.350 at Blagdon Lane Pools, Cramlington (LJM), 258 at Bothal Pond (TD), 240 at the River Coquet Estuary (RPo), 220 roosting in a field at Hipsburn (MKi), 210 at Cocklawburn (MHu), and 200 at both Hemscott Hill and Yarrow Slake (River Tweed Estuary). Flocks of 100-190 were reported from Big Waters, Druridge Pools, Holywell Pond, Longhoughton, Monks' House Pool, Newton Pool, Northumberlandia, Warenford and Widdrington Moor Lake. Sightings of 12-90 were at seven other locations including 82 at Dudlees on the Otterburn Ranges on 16th (JR/NA).

#### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Large numbers were noted in several locations with large concentrations of 2,400 at Longhoughton Steel on 10th (BS) and 2,300 at Holy Island on the 9th (AH/ADM/PR). An estimated 1,800 roosted at Goswick Sands on 5th (DF) and a high of 1,200 at East Chevington was reached on 17th, with numbers of between 300-800 on dates before and after this peak. (CB/TRD/JD *et al.*). Boulmer attracted 1,000+ on 17th (JAR) and Budle Bay held 900 on 22nd (CGK). Counts of 800 came from Gloucester Lodge Farm on 17th-18th, Foxton on 22nd and Monks' House on 27th (LJM/IRD/TRD/JD). On 5th 750 were seen at Newton Pool and 700 were at Cullercoats Bay. Other flocks in the range of 120-500 were reported from Annstead dunes, Bamburgh, Hemscott Hill, Howick, Northumberlandia, and St Mary's Island. Groups of 15-75 were seen at Beacon Point, Newbiggin, Blagdon Lane Pools, Cramlington. Cresswell Pond, Ellington, Low Hauxley, the River Coquet Estuary and Snab Point. Inland peak counts were 250 at West Minsteracres on 25th and Plenmeller on 11th (both MH/AA), 160 at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (IFo) and 100 at Grindon Lough on 9th (MRS).

#### **Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

An adult was with Golden Plovers on the beach below Holy Island school on 21st (JFa).

#### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Two were observed flying south at Berwick pier on 17th (MHu). The largest count by far was 160 at Budle Bay on 1st (CGK/GPK). Two other notable counts later in the month were 46 at Birling Carrs (Warkworth) on 25th and 29 at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 22nd (MKi). One-six were reported from Annstead (Seahouses), Beacon Point, Newbiggin, Berwick Little Beach, Boulmer, Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary), Cocklawburn, Druridge Pools, Holy Island, Low Newton, the River Coquet Estuary and Warkworth Gut.

#### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

The roost on Ferguson's roof at Blyth Harbour held 84 on 18th (STH). The peak at Beacon Point, Newbiggin was 58 on 31st (AP) and a beach roost at Druridge Links increased from 26 on 2nd to 48 on 28th (IDR). Stag Rocks attracted 37 on 7th (DF) with Birling Carrs (Warkworth) holding 34 on 25th (MKi). Other reports of double figures were 17 at Boulmer on 17th (JAR), 16 at Snab Point on 6th (TB), 14 at Cocklawburn beach on 18th (MHu) 12 at St Mary's Island on 22nd and 11 at Tynemouth Priory on 24th (WB). Seven were at both Calot Shad and Druridge and singles were at Cresswell Pond and East Chevington.

#### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

On 27th, 25 flew N at Druridge Links (IDR). The largest concentration was 271 roosting at Longhoughton Steel on 9th (BS). At Low Hauxley 103 were present on 22nd (HRS), there were 77 at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 31st (AP), 65 were at the River Coquet Estuary on 1st (RPo) and Howick on 5th (JAR). The peak at St Mary's Island was 62 on 18th (ASJ) with the same number at East Chevington on 26th (TF). Marden Estate (Tynemouth) attracted 58 on 8th (MN) with a high of 40 reported at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (IDR) and Druridge Pools attracting a maximum of 33 on 4th (AT). One-25 were seen at Caistron, Druridge, Lynemouth Bay, Prestwick Carr, Seaton Point (Boulmer) and Tynemouth Priory.

#### **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

The highest numbers were present at Holy Island with 300 on 20th (CB), 100 there on 20th and 50 on 23rd (TRD/JD). At nearby Beal, a minimum of 120 were seen on 5th (DF). Several reports were received from the Boulmer area with the high count being 27 at Seaton Point on 22nd (MKi) with lesser numbers on 17th and 22nd (JAR/TRD/JD). At Foxton (Alnmouth) 14 were noted on 22nd and 11 were at Budle Bay on 19th. One-four were seen at six locations between Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary) in the north and Beacon Point, Newbiggin in the south.

#### **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

There were still some high numbers present in the area with 65 at the River Coquet Estuary on 7th being the largest count (Csa). Numbers built up at East Chevington from a single on 3rd to a peak of 50 on 11th (STH/IFo/CB *et al.*). A high of 39 was reported from Newton Pool on 24th (TF) and at Lindisfarne NNR, 11 were at both Budle Bay and Fenham-le-Moor on 3rd (CGK/JPL) and 11 was also the peak count at Druridge Pools on 9th (IDR). One-nine were seen at Big Waters (flying W), Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Holy Island causeway, Snab Point and Widdrington Moor Lake.

#### **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Stag Rocks held 88 on 7th (DF) and 70+ were concentrated at high tide at Whitley Bay on 24th (MSH). The maximum noted at Seaton Point (Boulmer) was 56 on 27th (MKi) and in the Newbiggin area counts were received of 45 at Beacon Point on 13th and 43 in the south bay on 25th, (IDR/STH). A high-tide roost at the River Coquet Estuary attracted 37 on 27th (RPo) and 30 were noted at both Snab Point on 6th and Cullercoats on 7th (TB/MN). The maximum seen at Cocklawburn was 22 on 18th and 17 were reported at St Mary's Island on 28th. One-ten were at Birling Carrs (Warkworth), Boulmer, Cresswell, Fenham-le Moor, Holy Island causeway and King Edward's Bay (Tynemouth).

#### **Knot** *Calidris canutus*

Few reports were received with 12 at Holy Island on 20th being the highest count (CB). Four were seen at Longhoughton Steel on 18th with two at East Chevington North Pool on 8th. Singles were at Boulmer and the River Coquet Estuary.

#### **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

Reports of one-18 were received from East Chevington from 1st-18th with the peak occurring on 11th (TRD/JD/DLo *et al.*). Presumably some of the same individuals were involved in reports at Maiden's Hall Lake of 15 on 7th with 13 remaining on 8th (TF/MN).

#### **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

Small numbers lingered into October with three at Budle Bay on 3rd and two on 8th (CGK/GPK). Single juveniles were seen at Druridge Pools on 1st (NFO), East Chevington from 3rd-9th (LJM/GB/SW *et al.*), Hadston on 14th (CSa) and Boulmer between 17th-19th (/NRSW/BS).

#### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Flocks persisted from last month at several locations with peaks of 138 at St Mary's Island on 16th reducing to 51 on 30th (ASJ). A flock was present in Druridge Bay all month with a low of four seen on 18th and a peak of 125 on 28th (IDR/TRD/JD). Football Hole (Low Newton) held 110 on 24th (TF) and in the Newbiggin area peak counts of 110 were made in the village bay on 25th (STH) and 90-91 were at Beacon Point on 11th and 13th (AP/IDR). At Holy Island, 80 had gathered at Coomb's Haven Bay on 24th (ADM), 50 flew S at Low Hauxley on 8th (HRS) and 35 were at both Snab Point (Cresswell) and Whitley Bay on 11th. The peak at Boulmer was 28 on 17th (JAR), with 18 present at Cocklawburn and 12 at Foxton. One-eight were seen at four other coastal locations.

#### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Numbers were much reduced from last month as birds moved on. At Budle Bay, 53 on 15th increased to a minimum of 300 on 19th with only a single being seen on 30th (DF/TRD/JD). Other three-figure counts were 192 at the River Blyth

Estuary on the 10th (LJM), 112 at the River Coquet Estuary on 27th (RPo) and an estimated 100 at Berwick Little Beach on 1st (TBr). The maximum counted at Beacon Point, Newbiggin was 95 on 27th (AT) and 86 were present at Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary) on 23rd (MHu). Other sightings were 32 at Boulmer, 19 at Cresswell Pond and just further north, 15 at Druridge Pools and 12 at East Chevington. One-eight were seen at five other locations.

**Correction-** in the September Bulletin, 315 reported at Annstead on 23rd should be 12.

#### **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

An arrival was apparent at Stag Rocks with 75 on 7th and 31 seen on 18th (TRD/JD/DF). The Birling Carrs flock had increased to 30 by 25th (MKi) and 17 were at Newbiggin on 27th (AT). One to five were noted at Annstead, Cocklawburn, Football Hole (Low Newton), Howick, Seaton Point (Boulmer), Seaton Sluice, Snab Point and St Mary's Island.

#### **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

Three juveniles remained from last month at East Chevington on 2nd with two lingering until 8th and a single observed on 9th (TF/GB/SW *et al.*). Singles were present at Budle Bay on 1st (CGK/GPK) and Monks' House Pool on 4th (DF).

#### **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos*

Last month's individual in the Druridge Bay area was reported at East Chevington on 1st and Cresswell Pond on 2nd (IF/NFO/IDR/ADMc). One was found at the Long Nanny Estuary on 17th (CB) and remained until 20th (NRSW). Another was well inland at Grindon Lough on 19th (NRSW).

#### **Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus*

A surprise find on a WeBS survey at Caistron was a 1st-winter on 9th (TRD).



Long-billed Dowitcher, Caistron NR, October 2022, Tim Dean

#### **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Immigrants were conspicuous on Holy Island between 19th-24th but exact numbers were difficult to determine. Ten were flushed at the 'dunes' on 21st (JBu), with four at Chare Ends and one 'in-off' at the end of the Crooked Lonnen on the same date (MJC/ADM/SR). Others were seen at the village, Snook and Quarry during this period and later dates. Three



were recorded at Hauxley NWT on 20th (HRS) with two at each of Low Hauxley, Tynemouth and Warkworth Gut on 19th-21st (AJ/DRW/HRS). Singles were at Newbiggin plus one flying S over the sea at Church Point with others at St Mary's Island and Warkworth beach car park.

#### **Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

The first of the autumn was seen and photographed at Cresswell on 3rd (CB). One fed on the rocks with five Snipe before leaving at Longhoughton Steel on 10th (BS), with a single 'in-off' at Warkworth beach on 15th (CSa) and another at St Mary's Island on 17th which later flew W (MSH). Reports from Holy Island covered the period 9th-30th with at least two noted on occasions. Sightings came from the Chare Ends, North Dunes, Snook, Snook House slack, Straight Lonnen, with one flying S over the Heugh, with a small group of Redwings on 30th (ADM/RA/PRM *et al.*). One was found on Newbiggin GC on 20th (AP) and a single was at Budle Bay on 30th (CGK).

#### **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

East Chevington and Cresswell Pond harboured the highest numbers with peaks of 18 at East Chevington on 3rd and 16 at Cresswell Pond on 11th (CB/MSH/TB *et al.*). Counts of six were received from Holywell Pond on 14th (KWY) and St Mary's on 19th (IF) with five at Caistron on 9th (TRD) and Bothal Pond on 16th (TD). One-three were seen at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Druridge Links and Pools, Holy Island, Prestwick Carr, the Bothal 'Shooter's Pools' and Widehope.

#### **Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

One was seen close inshore at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 12th (GAS). One was present at Newbiggin near Beacon Point on 13th moving into the south bay by 16th, where it remained offering excellent views in the surf until 19th (AP/IDR/*et al.*). Another individual was photographed on the sea at the Farne Islands on 24th (BirdGuides).



Grey Phalarope, Newbiggin. October 2022, Alan Jack

#### **Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

A late individual was noted at Castle Island on 3rd (ADMc).

#### **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Singles were seen at Ogle Bridge on 2nd (AHB), Bothal Pond on 8th-12th (TF), Linton Lane NR on 10th (CDH) and Berwick Hill Bridge on 30th (AHB).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Peak numbers were lower this month with 167 at Budle Bay on 7th being the highest (DF). High tide at Whitley Bay concentrated 150+ on the beach and 150 were also at the River Coquet Estuary on 1st (RPo). The River Blyth Estuary held 142 on 10th (LJM) and 142 was the highest count from the Newbiggin area on 19th where they roosted on the breakwater (LJM). Other counts at Newbiggin included 105 in south bay on 25th and 62 at Beacon Point on 2nd (STH/AP). St Mary's Island attracted 63 on 29th (KWY), with 62 seen at Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary) on 9th (MHu). On 27th 51 were at Boulmer and 29 at nearby Seaton Point (MKi) and West Ord (Berwick) held 42 on 6th (MHu). One-twelve were reported from Bothal Pond, Cocklawburn Pond, Cresswell Pond and dunes, Cullernose Point, Druridge Links and Pools, Newbiggin ash lagoon and Tynemouth (King Edward's Bay and Priory).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Most reports were from Lindisfarne NNR with much reduced numbers from last month. The monthly maximum at Budle Bay was ten on 6th (CGK/GPK). Three were at Beal on 15th (DF) with the last report this month being a single at Holy Island causeway on 20th (TRD/JD). The only report away from Lindisfarne was one at Alnmouth on 4th (JAR).

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincola*

An individual was photographed during a brief visit to Cresswell Pond on 12 (NRSW). Presumably the same individual was at Saltholme RSPB, Cleveland the following day.

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

At Druridge Links at least 45 moved S offshore on 30th (IDR) but few others were recorded with only 13-15 at Newbiggin and Ross Back Sands and a single immature at Stag Rocks.

**Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*

A juvenile lingered briefly on the sea at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 13th before flying off N (AP). Another juvenile was recorded off Beadnell on 22nd (NRSW).



Sabine's Gull, (juvenile), Beacon Point, Newbiggin, October 2022, Alan Priest



**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

The largest gatherings were ca. 1,500 on a ploughed field at Longhoughton (JAR), 400 offshore at Druridge Links and 355 in Budle Bay. Elsewhere, groups of 100-200 were in Blyth South Harbour, Monks' House Pool and at QEII CP, whilst 50-80 were at Jesmond Dene, St Mary's Island, Tynemouth and 11-50 at Annstead, Bothal Pond, Budle Point, Cullernose Point and Newbiggin.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Post-breeding dispersal brought varying numbers offshore daily at Budle Point with a maximum of 100 recorded on 7th (GPK/CPK), nearby at Stag Rocks at least 42 were seen on 9th, individuals of all three ages were noted. Other counts included 14 N at Newbiggin on 20th (AT), three S on 1st at Annstead and one or two on various dates throughout the month at Boulmer, Druridge Bay, Ross Back Sands, Seaton Sluice and Warkworth beach.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

A continued large presence offshore at Cresswell Snab Point peaked at 150 on 8th (ASJ) with at least 60 there the previous day (MSH). Nearby 80 were on fields at nearby Cresswell Home Farm on 1st (MSH). At Ellington, multiple counts on days throughout recorded a range of seven to 34 (TB) and similarly at Newbiggin numbers varied from two to eight. Away from these favoured localities five were seen at East Chevington, Longhoughton and Seaton Sluice (monthly total, SSWT), with one or two at Bamburgh, Bothal Pond, Budle Bay, Cullercoats Bay, Holy Island, Low Hauxley, Ross Back Sands, St Mary's Island and Whitley Bay.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

Good numbers were recorded from multiple counts on various days throughout at Druridge Links, mainly coming in to roost on the sea, some also flying over, with a maximum of 1,950 on 3rd and smaller totals of 150-1,100 on other days (IDR). Groups of 100-200 were at Alnwick, Budle Bay, Chatton and Maiden's Hall Lake.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

The largest counts were 201 and 185 at Blyth Harbour on 29th and 18th (STH), 144 on Widdrington Moor Lake (AT) and 85 in the Coquet Estuary (TBr). Numbers elsewhere comprised 25-50 at Budle Bay, Castle Island, East Chevington, Maiden's Hall Lake and Warkworth weir with one to four at ten other localities including Derwent Reservoir and Grindon Lough.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

An adult moved S close inshore at Druridge Links on 30th (IDR).

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoideus*

Adults were off the Heugh, Holy Island on 12th (NRSW) and at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 27th (AP).

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

At Berwick Pier ca. 500/hour moved S on 17th of which 70% were immatures (MHu). Budle Bay held 405 on 21st (DF), 315 were in Blyth South Harbour (LJM) and groups of 150-250 were recorded at Maiden's Hall Lake, Monks' House Pool and the Tweed Estuary. Several counts offshore at Druridge Links found a maximum of 50 with 40 at Snab Point, Cresswell and QEII CP, 12 at St Mary's Island and one to six at ten other widespread sites.

**Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

First-winters were found at Budle Point on 3rd and 6th (NRSW) and in the Coquet Estuary on 4th (CSa).

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

A 2nd-winter was at East Chevington on 2nd (TF) and perhaps the same individual at Longhoughton Steel on 3rd (NRSW). There were also two sightings of perhaps the same adult at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 18th (AT) and at Maiden's Hall Lake on 19th (NFO).



Yellow-legged Gull (adult), Newbiggin, October 2022, Alan Tilmouth

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Few were reported with a maximum five at Grindon Lough on 9th (MRS), four moved S at Creswell and Ellington on 12th and 26th respectively, three S at Stag Rocks on 21st and one or two at Big Waters, Caistron, Cresswell Home Farm/Pond/Snab Point, Derwent Reservoir, Thrunton and St Mary's Island.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Four fed offshore at Howick on 4th (JAR), two at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 13th and singles, the majority moving S, were at Stag Rocks, Berwick (Meadow Haven), Budle Bay, Newbiggin and Snab Point, Cresswell the latest sighting being one on 30th.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

An adult first seen on 5th at Stag Rocks remained there until at least 14th (DF).

**'Commic' Tern** *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

Surprisingly high numbers remained so late during the first two weeks with 80 in Budle Bay on 7th (CGK/GPK) and at Bamburgh, Stag Rocks at least 70 were offshore on 7th declining to ca.15 on 18th (DF).

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

At Stag Rocks 35-45 gathered on the rocks between 1st-9th, including many juveniles (DF/TRD/JD) and six remained there on 14th (AA). One to three were seen also in Druridge Bay, East Chevington and Low Hauxley with two at Boulmer on 22nd being the latest recorded in the month (TRD/JD).

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

During 1st-21st up to six hung around Stag Rocks with six present on 14th (DF/TRD/JD) and elsewhere, a monthly total of three flew S at Seaton Sluice of which two were seen on 30th (SSWT) and three were at Boulmer on 23rd. Singles were in Budle Bay on 30th and were also present on earlier dates at Druridge Bay, St Mary's Island and Whitley Bay



beach. Juveniles formed an encouraging proportion of all these sightings.

#### **Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

The almost total lack of records continued to highlight the tragic situation for the species resulting from the avian flu mortalities. The only sightings were two flying N at Boulmer on 9th (BS) and, again at Boulmer, two N on 19th with possibly the same two seen there moving S later that day (BS).

#### **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Four moved N at Seaton Sluice on 19th and presumably the same group passed Cresswell later that day. On the same day two flew N at Newbiggin (AT), two also passed by Cullernose Point on 30th (NRSW). Singles also flew past Holy Island on 1st (NRSW) and N at Boulmer on 20th (BS).

#### **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Although the numbers seen last month were quite encouraging, this month's records are very sparse. A juvenile seen on seven occasions between 1st-14th at Bamburgh, Stag Rocks was considered, from identical plumage details, to be a single individual (DF) and another observer's record there on 7th was perhaps the same (JD); two un-aged birds were also seen there on 9th (SW). Singles were elsewhere at Ross Back Sands on 1st (IBDa/KDa), Newbiggin on 19th (STH) and two moving N on 19th, seen at Boulmer (BS), Newbiggin (AT) and Seaton Sluice (SSWT) were possibly the same pair.

#### **Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

The only record was an intermediate morph juvenile at Church Point, Newbiggin on 20th (AT).

#### **Little Auk** *Alle alle*

Three flew N at Boulmer on 19th and on the following day; a single was noted N at Craster the same day. On 20th, two flew N at Boulmer (NRSW/BS) and two N at Newbiggin Point (AT). Three were recorded N at Beadnell on 22nd (NRSW).

#### **Auk** *sp*

Records of mixed Guillemot/Razorbill groups comprised 60, mainly moving N, at Druridge Links on 30th and 25 at Cresswell, Snab Point on 19th (IDR).

#### **Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Numbers were higher than usual for this late time of year with 52 at Ross Back Sands on 23rd (MJC), 50 at Low Hauxley, 40 S at Snab Point, 11-30 at Berwick (Meadow Haven), Cocklawburn and Druridge Bay and up to ten at 11 other widespread localities between Berwick and St Mary's Island.

#### **Razorbill** *Alca torda*

A high of 92 were offshore at Ross Back Sands on 23rd and at least 50 were in Druridge Bay on 3rd (MSH). Elsewhere one to seven were recorded on dates throughout at a dozen widespread localities.

#### **Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

At Boulmer, passage N of ca. 70/hour on 19th continued at a similar rate throughout the day which was unusually high for this time of year (BS). Few were seen elsewhere with only one to three noted at Bamburgh, Berwick, Birling Carrs, Druridge Bay, East Chevington, Howick, Low Newton, Newbiggin, Seaton Sluice and Warkworth beach.

#### **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

The monthly total in 22 hrs at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower was 143 with 87N and 56S (SSWT). A large count of 85 were on the sea off Druridge Links on 16th (IDR) after 37 were counted there on 3rd (MSH), 13-23 were recorded between 18th and 30th. 13 were at Newton Point on 19th (IBDa/KDa) and 10 flew past Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 19th (AT). One to eight were at 22 locations including one at Cresswell Pond NWT on 1st (MSH).

#### **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

Three were in Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 5th (MHu), two were noted flying N at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 20th (BS). Individuals were recorded at Warkworth Beach on 24th (AJ) and at Druridge Links on 28th (IDR).

#### **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 19th (SSWT).

#### **Diver sp.**

One large diver flew S at Low Hauxley on 22nd (HRS) and a large bulky diver flying S at Ross Back Sands on 23rd was head-lifting and may have been a White-billed Diver but views were too poor to be certain. (MJC).

#### **Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*

On 19th three moved N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower (SSWT) and singles N at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) (AT) and Boulmer (BS).

#### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

Two flew N at Boulmer on 19th (BS) and singles moved N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 8th (DF) and at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 19th (SSWT).

#### **Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

300 were noted at Annstead (Seahouses) on 3rd with 252 N and 48 S (DF), 272 flew N at Stag Rocks on 9th (DF) and 103 went N at Annstead (Seahouses) on 2nd with 74 N there on 8th (DF). One to eight were noted at nine locations during the month.

#### **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

61 were at North Shields Fish Quay on 14th (LJM), 48 were in Blyth Harbour on 18th (STH) and 46 were in the Coquet Estuary on 27th (RPo). 29 were at the R Blyth Estuary on 10th (LJM), 24 at the mouth of Budle Bay on 7th (DF) and 22 were in the roost at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 16th (Mhu). Ca. 15 were at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 27th (CDH), 12 were at Ross Back Sands on 23rd (MJC) and at Big Waters NWT on 30th with 10 there on 23rd (GB). One to eight were noted at 13 sites during the month.

#### **Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

At Ross Back Sands on 23rd 27 were counted (MJC), 26 were in the roost at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 16th and 10 were noted on 7th (MHU). Six were in Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 5th (MHU), five were at Cocklawburn on 27th (TD/JD), four at Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 28th (MHU) and three at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 7th (TRD/JD). Singles were at Blyth South Bay and harbour on 5th (TB) and 10th (LJM) and moving N at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 19th (IDR).

#### **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

22 was the monthly peak at Howdon on 9th (CB). Eight were at Hauxley NWT on 1st (HRS), seven were at Monks' House Pool on 16th (KWY) and six were on the East Pier at Blyth Harbour on 29th (STH). Five were at Hauxley NWT on 15th (HRS), Boulmer on 17th (JAR) and at Blyth Harbour on 18th (STH). One to three were at a further 16 sites.

#### **Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

One flew in from the north at East Chevington North Pool on 4th (ADMC), one was on the north side of the R Wansbeck by the A189 at North Seaton on 5th (TB) and probably the same individual was at Stakeford on 9th (KWY) and at Castle Island on 17th (STH). The long-staying individual at Caistron, now into its 11th month, was noted on 10th (TRD/JD) and one was at Hedgeley GP between 15th and 17th (IBDA/KDa). One flew S at Beacon Point and landed at the ash lagoon at Newbiggin on 21st. (GB/MH/AP/LAR) and one flew S at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 22nd (BS).

#### **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

A good month for this species with 84 records from 33 locations. 10 were at Castle Island on 11th (AT), nine were in a group together at Caistron on 10th (TRD/JD) and seven were noted at Budle Bay and Fenham Flats on 7th (DF/TRD/JD). Six were seen at Fenham-le-Moor on 3rd (JPL), Caistron on 9th during a WeBS count (TRD) and near the A189 road

bridge on the R Blyth Estuary on 15th (LJM). One to five were noted at 31 other sites.

### **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

On Holy Island on 19th up to four were noted (three at the Straight Lonnen and one at the Snook) (MJC/ADM/SR) and three were at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) also on 19th (KWY). Two were noted at East Chevington (SW) and

Ellington (TB) on 9th, Holywell Pond on 18th (MSH), a male and female were hunting the feeders at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 22nd (TB) and two were seen at QEII CP on 30th (AT). Singles were recorded at 30 sites including one harassing a juvenile Hobby *Falco subbuteo* at East Chevington on 13th (DLo).

### **Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

Only one record this month of this elusive species with a female at Simonburn on 15th (PRM).

### **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosa*

Once again most of the sightings came from the Druridge Bay area, with up to four individuals a male, female and two juveniles noted throughout the month. Reports of three came at Widdrington Moor Lake on 4th and 6th (AT/ASJ) and at East Chevington on 6th and 8th (TF/SW), with one to two at both of these locations throughout the month (MH/LJM *et al.*). Singles were also seen away from the Druridge Bay area with a female at Holywell Pond on 1st (MN), an unsexed cream-crowned individual at Linton Ponds on 7th (AT) and a female flew S at Holywell Pond on 25th (MN). One was caught on video at The Lough (Holy Island) early in the morning by the farmer (per ADM), one flew S at Budle Bay also on 30th (CGK) and a juvenile was hunting next to the A189 at Sleekburn on 31st (TB).

### **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

An immature male and female were hunting together at Plenmeller on 11th (MH/AA), a ringtail was quartering fields at Goswick on 5th (DF), a female flew NW at Stonehaugh on 8th (SW), a ringtail was seen at Lambley Viaduct on 11th (MH/AA) and a male was recorded at Wark Forest on 27th (MH).

### **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Five hunted with three Buzzards *Buteo buteo* over rough ground and stubble at Kiln Pit Hill on 25th (MH/AA). Four were near Snods Edge on 3rd, two were at Derwent Reservoir also on 3rd (Ifo) and two were seen at Pithouse Fell (Slaley) on 25th (MH/AA). Singles were noted at Derwent Reservoir on 1st, 2nd and 7th, Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 3rd and at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 10th (all IFO).

### **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Seven were at Fourstones on 8th (AJH) and seven were over the north side of Newcastle Airport on 13th (MH), five were soaring in the air together at Sheepwash on 9th (KWY) and four were at Newburn on 5th (MH), Prestwick Carr on 7th PCF) and at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on 31st (CB). Three were on the Kielder Forest Drive on 7th (ADM) and three were hunting with five Red Kites *Milvus milvus* at Kiln Pit Hill on 25th (MH/AA). Records of one to two emerged from 24 other sites during the month.

### **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Two were at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd with two visible in a box there on 25th (a fledged juvenile and an adult) (IFo/MH/AA) and two were also noted at Bilton Mill, R.Aln on 31st (AHa/PHa). Singles were at Haughton Strother on 11th, Monks' House on 12th, Chatton on 14th, hunting at Howick on 21st and 22nd, Holy Island on 24th and Wark (North Tyne) on 25th. For the second month in a row, three road casualties were found on the A1 all at Alnwick (IDR).

### **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

A male and female were at Wark (North Tyne) on 9th and 17th (PRM), with two at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 13th (MNC) and two hunting at 7.30 at the arboretum, Howick on 21st and calling all month there (AHa/PHa/JAR). Singles were at Wark regularly, Hexham on 5th, Humshaugh on 11th, Nunwick on 12th, Yearle on 18th, Hepple on 21st and Longbenton on 27th.

### **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

On 8th two called and were seen at Boulmer being the first record in ten years (BS) with two in buildings at Gloucester

Lodge Farm (Blyth) on 18th (LJM) and one at Ponteland on 16th (AHB).

#### **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

An arrival occurred on 19th with three at Holy Island ((MJC/ADM) and singles at St Mary's Island, Boulmer Haven and Seaton Sluice (ASJ/BS/SSWT). Singles remained at Holy Island on 21st and 22nd with one found roosting at the ash lagoon bank at Newbiggin on 21st (Jbu).

#### **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

A significant arrival with many noted arriving in off the sea, was noted on 19th with a remarkable 11 in two hours between St Mary's Island and Old Hartley (ASJ) with six counted at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower and at St Mary's Island (SSWT/JBu). Four to five were counted 'in off' at Holy Island with singles also arriving at Newton, Newbiggin and Warkworth Gut. On 20th three were at Seaton Point (Boulmer) with three remaining at Holy Island and one to two till 24th. Singles were at Warkworth Dunes on 20th and St Mary's Island till 23rd.

#### **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

A high count of three was made at Jesmond Dene on 30th with singles on five other dates during the month (DHWB/MJCo). Two were at Castron on 9th (TRD) with a single on 10th and one to two at Tynemouth on 16th with a single on 8th (DRW). Single birds were at Big Waters NWT, Cresswell Pond, Fourstones and Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on two dates during the month and at ten other widespread localities.

#### **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

Two were at Whitley Bay Cemetery on 21st (MSH) with singles at Low Hauxley regularly during the month (HRS), Druridge Bay CP on 3rd, Wark (North Tyne) on 5th and 8th, Jesmond Dene and Holy Island on 9th, West Hartford on 12th, Spital Point (Newbiggin) on 19th and 27th, East Cramlington Pond NWT on 24th and Bedlington on 30th.

#### **Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Just one report was of a single at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on 28th (CB).

#### **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Three were at East Chevington on 9th (IF), Holy Island on 19th (MJC/ADM/SR) and Prestwick Carr on 24th (PCF) with two there on 31st and at St Mary's on 2nd, 7th and 28th, Derwent Reservoir on 3rd, East Chevington on 8th, East Sleekburn on 25th and Warkworth on 27th. Singles were regularly at many of the above locations and Cresswell, Druridge Links, Ellington, Howick, Lynemouth, Tynemouth as well as 19 other widespread localities.

#### **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Two were at the Snook (Holy Island) on 9th with a juvenile female and juvenile on the island on 19th and single juvenile on 28th (AH/ADM/PR/MJC/SR). Singles were at Elwick on 14th, Ross Back Sands on 23rd and St Marys' Island on 24th.

#### **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

A juvenile was found at East Chevington on 1st (IF) being seen there and at nearby Druridge Bay CP almost daily by many observers till 13th.





Hobby (juvenile), East Chevington, October 2022, Colin Bradshaw

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

At Budle Bay two adults and a juvenile were present all month (CGK/GPK) with four other reports of singles. All other reports were singles at Holy Island and Tynemouth regularly, Big Waters NWT on 2nd, a juvenile female at Cresswell Pond NWT on 4th with possibly the same individual at East Chevington on 9th. A juvenile was at Stag Rocks on 15th, one at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 16th and moving south carrying prey 1km out from Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

On 1st 15 flew parallel to the coast road at Wallsend (ATR) with 11 the peak at Walkerville (Newcastle) on 30th and one to two noted most days (KWY). Nine were at Percy Park (Tynemouth) on 16th, seven flew north at Holywell Dene on 14th and six in gardens at Melton Park (Gosforth) on 11th. Individuals were present all month at Heaton and Armstrong Park (Newcastle) with one to two at the Town Moor and Jesmond, North Shields (Cemetery and Preston Village) and Wallsend GC.

**Red-eyed Vireo** *Vireo olivaceus*

One was found in the caravan park at Seaton Point, Boulmer late on 15th. A small number of observers managed to get there just ahead of heavy rain descended and it was lost and not refound despite an extensive search the following day (NRSW).

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

Typically well-reported with nine the high count at Derwent Reservoir on 6th and five there on 3rd (IFo), four at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on the same date (CB) and at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 13th (MNC). Three were at Ellington on 10th and Chugdon Wood there on 23rd with one to two at both locations and Northumberland Park on many other dates (TB) and also at 23 other widespread localities.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

On 28th 16 flew in to roost at Brockwell / Westwood Grange (Cramlington) (LJM), six were at Prestwick Carr on the same date (PCF) and five at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 9th (MJCo). Four were at Druridge Links on 2nd, Dipton Mill on

11th and Dinnington on 28th with one to three at ten other locations.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

High counts of 300 were made at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (IFo) and 275 over to roost at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 14th (IDR/JF). 75 noted at Dinnington on 15th, 60 at QEII CP on 9th, 48 at Howdon on the same date and 30 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 15th. One of 20 at Dinnington on 25th showed characteristics of the nominate *monedula* race **and** two-13 were noted at five other locations.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

Ca. 220 were at Low Cocklaw (Berwick) on 30th (TBr), 88 was the monthly maximum at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (IFo), 85 at Howick on 4th (JAR), 60 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 15th (IDR/JF) with 50 over there on 14th and the same number at QEII CP on 9th. One to eight were at four other locations.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

A high count of 32 was at Druridge Pools on 9th with 19 at Druridge Links on 27th and one to 16 there on ten other dates (IDR). Ten were at QEII CP on 9th, six at Low Hauxley on 19th and Jesmond Dene on 30th with one to four at six other locations.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus corone cornix*

The long staying adult was in the Ellington Wind Farm / Linton area all month (AT/TB).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

The species was present at Holy Island all month with four the peak count on 9th (AH/ADM/PR), three noted there on 19th and 30th, at Derwent Reservoir on 8th (IFo) and Plenmeller on 11th (MH/AA). Two were at Budle Bay on six dates, Cocklawburn on 11th, Craster on 21st and Alnwick Moor on 27th with singles at four other locations.

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

On 7th 25 were at Kielder Forest Drive with 15 there on 13th (ADM), seven at East Sleekburn on 25th (JR) with three at Low Hauxley on 15th and Ross Village on 23rd. Two were regularly at Druridge links, at QEII CP on 10th and Dinnington on 19th with singles at four other locations.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

All reports were of singles at Lordenshaw on 1st, Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 8th and 23rd, Dipton Mill on 11th, Swarland Wood on 15th and Thrum Mill (Rothbury) on 21st.

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Three were at Prestwick Carr on 12th (IK) with two there on 7th and at Linden Hall on 2nd and 23rd, Holywell Pond on 10th, Newbiggin on 2nd and 18th, Craster on 21st, Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 24th and Druridge Links and Pools on 30th. Singles were at six other locations.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

There was a high count of 15 at East Sleekburn on 25th (JR) with 11 at Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 26th (JR). At Low Hauxley 11 were present with three ringed on 23rd, 11 with two ringed on 29th and nine with two ringed on 22nd (HRS). Five was the peak count at Druridge Links on 21st with one to four on many other dates, four at Dinnington on 7th, three at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 15th and Hauxley on 21st with one to two at five other locations.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

A high count of 11 at East Sleekburn on 25th (JR) with 7 at Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 26th (JR). Nine were at Low Hauxley with three ringed on 29th and seven on 21st with one ringed and singles ringed on 15th and 22nd (HRS). One to two were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Druridge Links and Jesmond Dene.

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea*

An individual was discovered and photographed feeding just below the hide at Newton Pool on 21. It flew west and could not be relocated despite searching (NRSW).

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

Well reported with southerly movement noted in the majority of reports, the peak being 920 over three sites at Holy Island during the morning of 21st and 186 on 20th (MJC/ADM/SR), 228 S over East Chevington early morning of 8th (ASJ), 166 S at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 22nd (BS), 87 S at Ross back sands on 23rd (MJC) and 70 S in three hours at Spittal on 24th (GB). More than 50 were at St Mary's Island on 2nd with 32 S there on 25th, 40 S in 2.5 hours at Big Waters on 9th, 31 at Low Hauxley on 21st, 30 at Boulmer on 8th and S over Gosforth Garden Village on 25th. Ten-29 were at nine locations and one to nine at a further seven.

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

Just one report of one S at East Chevington on 3rd (CB).

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

The highest counts were at East Chevington with 28 S the peak on 3rd and 21 noted on 1st, 2nd and 3rd (CB/IF/MH/LJM). A late flock of ten was at Edlingham on 1st with eight S at Big Waters NWT on 2nd and Lambley Viaduct on 11th and six at Druridge Bay CP, Derwent Reservoir and Spittal Bay (Berwick) on 1st. Two to five were at Derwent Reservoir until 7th with one to five were at nine further locations until 17th and late singles at Holy Island on 21st and Amble on 30th.

**House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

On 1st 11 were at Bothal Pond and six at Druridge Bay (TF/NFO). Three were at Stakeford on 2nd and three also moved S at Druridge Pools on 8th with singles at Football Hole (Newton) on 6th, the north pool at East Chevington on 8th and the last feeding over the village all afternoon at Longhoughton on 24th.

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cettia*

Two were at Big Waters NWT on 12th (IK), and two were calling from widely separated locations at East Chevington on 22nd (MH), where song was heard from 4th–18th. One was also at Hauxley NWT on 1st and on 22nd (HRS, MJC/DC). A site first was reported for Rising Sun CP with an individual present from 16th until the end of the month (ASJ). One was at Druridge Pools and Links on 18th (TRD/JD) and 27th (IDR). One was heard calling/singing three times in 25 minutes at Holywell Pond on 30th (MSH).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

The highest counts this month came from coastal locations. Low Hauxley had a maximum of 35 on 19th, with 21 ringed there during the month. Druridge Links held 17 on 21st and 30th (IDR). 15 were at Milkwell (Corbridge) on 21st (RB/MB) and 14 at Howick on 21st (HwRS). 12 roamed Cambois on 8th, the same number at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 15th, St Mary's Wetland on 17th, Northburn (Cramlington) on 23rd and Alnmouth on 25th. 11 were at Prestwick Carr on 13th, Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) had ten on 12th (KWY), as did North Tyne (Wark) on 25th, and Tynemouth on 27th. One to eight were reported at Craster, Ellington, Jesmond Dene, East Chevington and Widdrington Moor Lake.

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Druridge Links had a maximum of three on 21st (IDR) and Druridge Pools had one on 20th (MN) and 21st (ASJ). Two were heard in Craster on 19th (TRD/JD), one in the Arnold Memorial reserve and one 100m north of the car park. Singles were at Holy Island on 2nd (IBDa/KDa), and on 21st (MJC/PAT, PRM, NFO). A juvenile was at Howick on 3rd and an adult on 21st (HwRS). One was at St Mary's on 19th (JBU *et al.*) and still present until 21st at least (MSH). Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) had one on 20th (KY), and Whitley Bay Cemetery had one on 20th (MSH) and on 21st–22nd (ASJ). At Low Hauxley, one was ringed on 21st and retrapped on 22nd, and one was heard calling there on 29th (HRS).



Yellow-browed Warbler, Howick, October 2022, Phil Hamner

**Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Two were found at Low Hauxley on 20th, one in gardens (HRS), and another in the village (CSa). There were also two at Holy Island on 21st (MJC/PAT, NFO) and one found at the Straight Lonnen by a visiting birder on 19th was seen thereafter from 20th–21st at Coombs Farm and the main car park bushes (MJC *et al.*). One was with Goldcrests in Prior's Park (Tynemouth) on 20th (DRW) and 21st (MK), and one was also at Ridley Park (Blyth) on 20th–21st (STH). Individuals were at Druridge Links (IDR), Craster (BS), and Warkworth Beach car park (CSa) on 21st, and at Whitley Bay Cemetery (MN, ASJ) and Newbiggin (GB, LAR) on 21st–22nd.





Pallas's Warbler, Holy Island, October 2022, Peter Tapsell

**Radde's Warbler** *Phylloscopus schwarzi*

One was found along the ash lagoon bank at Newbiggin on 22nd (DD *et al.*), and one was at the Strawberry Field, Holy Island on 23rd (RA).

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

One was in Chare End gardens (Holy Island) on 19th (ADM).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

The species was well reported this month, with a maximum of 16 on Holy Island on 21st (MJC/ADM/SR), 15 (including one ringed) at Hauxley on 8th (HRS), and 12 at Warkworth Beach car park on 22nd (AJ). St Mary's held nine on 22nd, eight noted at Howick on 3rd (HwRS) and Druridge Links recorded seven on 2nd (IDR). Counts of five came from Marden Quarry on 2nd (KWY), with a tit flock behind the hide at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (CB), and at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 8th (TB). Four were at Stonehaugh on 8th (SW) and three were at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd (IFo). Reports of one–two came from a further 19 localities.

There was a maximum of three Siberian race Chiffchaffs (*P.c. tristis*) at Holy Island on 20th (RA), two at Druridge Links on 21st (IDR) and one at Howick on 22nd (HwRS). Eastern races of the species were also recorded, with two at Holy Island on 21st (MJC) and one on 24th (ADM).

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

One was ringed at Hauxley on 23rd, and re-trapped on 29th, having increased its weight by 15%. Close examination revealed the possibility it was a hybrid with Blyth's Reed Warbler (*A. dumetorum*), investigations into its identity continue (HRS).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Coastal passage included a maximum count of 17 at Holy Island on 20th (MJC/ADM), with seven at Craster on 21st (BS). Counts of three emerged from St Mary's (MSH), at Ridley Park, Blyth (STH) and Newbiggin (GB) on 21st. There were two

at Howick on 3rd and 29th, two at Druridge Links on 21st, and two at Low Newton on 24th. There were also two at Low Hauxley on 22nd and 29th, with two ringed there during the month.

#### **Barred Warbler** *Curruca nisoria*

A first-winter was at Hauxley NWT on 20th (HRS), and one was at Holy Island 23rd–24th (IBDa/KDa, IK, TRD/JD, RA).

#### **Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca*

An eastern ssp. was at Holy Island on 18th (RA), and a probable Siberian Lesser Whitethroat (*C.c. blythi*) was at Budle Point on 23rd (CGK).

#### **Subalpine Warbler** sp. *Curruca iberiae/subalpina/cantillans*

An elusive individual defying exact species identification was at Tynemouth Pier 22nd–30th (PA *et al.*).

#### **Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

There were two at Holy Island on 21st, and two at Druridge Links (one in plantation with Goldcrests and Pallas's Warbler, and one behind the Budge Hide) on 21st (IDR). There was also one at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 20th (BS) and one at the mound (Newbiggin) with a Long-tailed tit flock on 22nd (AP).

#### **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Howick recorded the highest counts, with 250 on 21st and 100 on 29th, with 14 ringed (HwRS). Holy Island had a maximum of 143 on 20th (MJC/ADM), and Craster had 80 on 21st (BS). There were 45 at Druridge Links on 21st (IDR), 35 at Stonehaugh on 8th (SW), 30 at Warkworth Beach carpark on 21st (CSa), and 30 at Broadpool Common (Wark Forest) on 30th (SW). Low Hauxley had a maximum of 26 on 20th, with 11 ringed there during the month (HRS). The Ash Lagoon Bank (Newbiggin) also had a maximum of 26 on 21st, with numbers dwindling to four by 22nd (IDR). St Mary's had 25 on 21st (MSH), Ellington had 20 on 19th (TB), Tynemouth had 20 on 20th (DRW), and Ross village had 18 on 23rd (MJC). One to ten were reported from a further 13 localities, including ten ringed (eight first-winters, two adults) at Corbridge Common on 30th (DLe).

#### **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

The highest counts came from the coast, with a maximum of 45 at Holy Island on 21st (MJC/ADM/SR), 28 at Low Hauxley on 29th, with 27 ringed there during the month (HRS), and 18 at Druridge Links on 21st (IDR). Nine to one were reported at a further nine localities.

#### **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

There were two at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle) on 2nd (MJCo), at Garrett Lea Wood (Longhorsley) on 8th (CB), at Humshaugh on 28th (SW), and at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 29th (TB). One was calling at Northumberland Park (North Shield) on 14th (LJM), and one was a regular garden visitor during the month at Yearle (DGB/RHB).

#### **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Low Hauxley had a maximum of three on 23rd, with five ringed there during the month (HRS). Two were at East Sleekburn on 25th (JR) and reports of single birds came from a further 14 widespread localities throughout the county.

#### **Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The largest flocks were at Druridge Links, with 450 on 28th (IDR), and Warkworth Beach and Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), with 400 on 2nd (AJ) and 28th (TF) respectively. There were 300 at Boulmer on 11th (JAR) and at Gloucester Lodge Farm (Blyth) on 17th (LJM). Howick had 250 on 1st (JAR), Derwent Reservoir had 200 on 3rd (IFo) and Low Hauxley had 100 on 20th (HRS). There were 90 N at Cresswell Pond NWT on 2nd (IDR), and 87 S over three hours at Spital (Newbiggin) on 24th (GB). Smaller flocks (below 50) were noted at Amble, Linton Ponds, St Mary's Wetland, and King Edward's Bay (Tynemouth), with two at Jesmond Dene (Newcastle).

#### **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

Four passed through Rising Sun CP (Wallsend) on 23rd (ASJ), and a maximum of two were at Holy Island 20th–21st (RA,

MJC, ADM). Singles were reported at the mound (Newbiggin) on 20th (AP) and 22nd (GB), and at St Mary's (ASJ), Seaton Point (Boulmer) (BS), and Tynemouth Pier on 22nd (GB, MN).

### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Passage was notable on Holy Island, with 785 on 20th (MJC/ADM). 200 were at Low Hauxley on 20th, with 31 ringed there during the month (HRS), and 200 or more arrived at Craster during the day on 21st (BS). Howick had 50 on 29th, with 18 ringed there (HwRS), and 44 were observed feeding on ripe berries in Alexandra Park (Cramlington) on 24th (DM). Howdon had 25 on 23rd (CB), as did Druridge Links on 27th (IDR). Smaller numbers (below ten) were reported from a further eight localities.

### **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

On Holy Island, a maximum of 648 were counted on 20th, with 385 leaving the village for the mainland (MJC/ADM). At Bewick Drift (Lynemouth), 60 flew W off the sea on 26th (TB). Broomlee Lough had 45 on 30th (PRM), Tynemouth had 25 on 20th (DR), and there were 22 S at Arcot Pond on 30th (LJM). At Druridge Links, 16 were observed coming in S over the sea on 30th (IDR). One to 15 were at a further ten localities.

### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

In a very busy day on Holy Island, a maximum of 2,660 was counted on 20th (MJC/ADM), with 920 watched leaving the village for the mainland. On the same day, 800 were at Low Hauxley, with four ringed there 20th–22nd (HRS), and 560 were at Tynemouth (DRW). Passage was also noted at inland sites on 19th, with 350 S/SW at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) (GB), and 200 W/SW at Pegswood (AT). 200 or more arrived at Craster during the day on 21st (BS), where sub-song had been heard from one on 19th (TRD/JD). Howick had a maximum of 150 on 15th (JAR), and 11 were ringed there during the month (HwRS). Budle Point had 150 on 22nd (CGK), Wark (North Tyne) had 110 on 17th (PRM), and Druridge Links had 80 on 21st (IDR). Flocks of 60 were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 14th, Humshaugh on 15th, Earsdon Cemetery on 19th and Prestwick Carr on 31st. Flocks of 20–42 were at Howdon, Snab Point (Cresswell), Ellington, Lemmington (Edlingham), Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay), Low Cocklaw (Berwick), and Broadpool Common (Wark Forest). Smaller groups were reported at a further eight localities.

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

There were 13 on Holy Island on 21st (MJC/ADM), five at Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor) on 11th (GB) and five at Ross Back Sands on 23rd (MJC). Low Hauxley had four on 22nd, with two ringed there 20th–22nd (HRS). Spital (Newbiggin) also had four on 24th (GB). One to two were at Tynemouth, Budle Point, Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Druridge Links, and at Howdon, where one was singing on 9th (CB).

### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Druridge Bay CP had the highest count, with eight there on 1st (IF). There were three S at Druridge Links on 27th (IDR). Two were observed at Clennell Farm (Upper Coquetdale), Holy Island, West Hartford and St Mary's, and singles were at Low Hauxley, Redesmouth, Linton Ponds, Exhibition Park (Newcastle Town Moor), and Gosforth Park (Newcastle).

### **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

Individuals were seen at Holy Island on 9th (AH/PR), Low newton on 21st (AT), and at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 22nd (BS).

### **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

Holy Island had a maximum of 82 on 20th, with 50 at the village. Around 80% of the 32 seen away from the village were identified as Continental Robins (*E. r. rubecula*) (MJC/ADM). Low Hauxley had a maximum of 50 on 21st, with 12 ringed there 20th–22nd (HRS), and Ross Village had 35 on 23rd (MJC). There were 16 at Druridge Links on 21st (IDR) and 11 at Prestwick Carr on 31st (PCF). One to nine were reported from a further 12 localities.

### **Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus*

An adult female was ringed at Low Hauxley on 21st, but not seen again after release (HRS). A first-winter was at Whitley Bay Cemetery 21st–22nd (AC *et al.*).



Red-flanked Bluetail, Whitley Bay, October 2022, Graham Sorrie

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

A first-winter was at the Captain's Garden, Chare Ends (Holy Island) from 19th–26th (RD *et al.*). One was also seen at Low Newton on 21st (AT).

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Female types were at Tynemouth Pier and Priors Park 20th–25th (DRW, MN, KWY), Holy Island on 21st (MJC/ADM, JFa, PRM), Lynemouth Power Station on 21st (AP) and at Ferguson's yard in Blyth Harbour on 29th (MN, JBu).

**Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

One was at the village on Holy Island on 20th (RA).

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

A late bird was seen in gorse near the railway at Newbiggin on 24th (GB).

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

The species was well reported this month, with a maximum of 14 at Holy Island on 21st (MJC/ADM/SR), 11 (including four pairs) between East Chevington and Hadston on 22nd (MH), nine at Old Hartley on 8th (MNC), seven at Longhirst Flash on 17th (AT), and six at St Mary's on 25th (ASJ). Two to five were recorded at 20 other localities, with singles at a further eight.

**Siberian Stonechat** *Saxicola maurus*

A putative first-winter male was found at Budle Bay Caravan Park on 27th and remained until 31st (RA *et al.*).

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*



There were seven records this month, with individuals at Weetslade Colliery Park CP on 1st (GB), the Long Nanny (Newton) on 6th (PCA), East Chevington on 7th (NFO) and Boulmer on 8th (BS). Three late records came from Holy Island, with sightings on 21st (PRM), 23rd (RA) and 24th (ADM).

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Singles only were noted this month at eight sites including Rothbury, Jesmond Dene and Corbridge.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Only one report this month of 20 at Holy Island on 20th.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

Southward passage was evident at East Chevington on 8th, where many flocks totalling at least 200 were observed in the early morning (ASJ). 55 also flew S at Tynemouth on 8th (DRW). 40 flew S on 24th at Spital Point, Newbiggin (GB). 35 were noted at Chugdon Wood on 29th (TB). 30 were at Hauxley on 21st-23rd. One-20 were recorded at 13 other sites.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Hauxley ringing station noted a peak of 20 on 22nd. Three to four were noted in a Cullercoats garden all month and three at St. Mary's on 20th increased to ten there on 21st (ASJ/MSH). One to four were seen at eight sites during the month.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Five were counted on 30th at Jesmond Dene (MJCo). Four flew S at East Chevington on 9th (IF). Three to four were seen at a Wallsend park on 1st (CDH). Three were at Tweed Estuary and Low Hauxley on 29th. Reports of two this month came from seven sites and singles at a further 25 sites.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

25 were counted at Druridge Links on 25th (IDR). 18 were at Prestwick Carr on 31st and 16 were noted at St Mary's on 25th (PCF/ASJ). (IDR/LJM/IFo). Two-12 were observed at eight sites during the month, with singles at a further seven.

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus ricardi*

One was located near Football Hole on 15th and was still present on 18th (NRSW).

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

40 flew S at Holy Island on the morning of 21st (MJC/ADM). 35 fed on Boulmer beach on 17th (JAR). 23 flew S in two hours at Spital Point, Newbiggin on 27th, 15 doing likewise on 24th (GB). 16 were counted at St. Mary's on 25th (ASJ). Inland, 16 were watched at Leighton Hill (Otterburn) on 16th (JR/NA). 12 were at Druridge Links on 9th (IDR). One to five were at seven other sites.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

One was at Druridge Pools on 18th (PA/TD/JD). Another was at St. Mary's from 22nd to month's end (AC/MSH). One was also found at Holy Island's east shore on 28th (ADM).

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

A good count of 56 moving S was made at Ross Back Sands on 23rd (MJC). The coastline of Holy Island provided counts of 23 on 24th and 36 on 30th, with lower counts made on several other days. 25 here on 21st were moving S (ADM/MJC). At St. Mary's/Whitley Bay beach at least 15 were seen on 9th and 26 on 11th (MSH/ASJ). On 15th, 26 were also counted at Seaton Point (Boulmer) (BS). 16 moved S at Tynemouth Pier on 10th (AJ). One to 12 were also observed at eight sites during the month.

Autumn records of Scandinavian Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis*, when the species is difficult to identify though likely to occur in large numbers, are difficult to confirm, but four arriving on 1st to Budle Bay, two seen to fly S at Tynemouth on 10th and six at Boulmer on 16th (CGK/AJ/BS) were all considered to be of this race.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

On 13th, 25 were noted along the Kielder Forest Drive (ADM). 21 were at Low Hauxley on 20th (HRS). Visible migration was observed on 24th at Newbiggin, as 19 flew S (GB). One to 13 were seen at nine sites this month.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

A count of 94 was made at Holy Island on 20th. Four to 40 were also counted here on five other dates (ADM/MJC *et al.*). 15 were at Budle Bay on 23rd (CGK). Elsewhere, one to seven were seen at 12 locations.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

On 19th, one flew SE towards the village at Holy Island and at Low Hauxley one was present early morning of 23rd (MJC/HRS).

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

10 were found on 21st at Howick (JAR). Eight were at Clennel Farm on 8th and one to seven were at a further 17 sites.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

A flock of 38 was watched feeding on rosehips at St. Mary's Wetland on 19th (ASJ). A total of 40 were seen at Budle Bay during the month (CGK). 35 were at Alnmouth on 16th and at Low Hauxley on 24th, with several lower counts made at the latter site on several dates (JAR/HRS). 30 also fed on rosehips at Tynemouth on 25th (WB). 27 was a good count on The Snook, Holy Island on 21st and 19 were noted across the Island on 30th (PRM/ADM). Two to six were seen at six other sites during this month.

**Twite** *Linaria flavirostris*

65 were seen flying S on 23rd at Ross Back Sands (MJC). Two to 56 were at The Snook, Holy Island during the month with the peak count on 20th (CB *et al.*). Around 40 were at Coquet Estuary on 3rd, Druridge Links on 30th and at Long Nanny on 31st (TBr/IDR/PCA). One to eight were also seen at seven other sites.



Twite, St Mary's, October 2022, Mike S Hodgson

### **Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

Large flocks began to be noted this month, with 350 at Monks' House Pool on 16th and around that number at Easington on 20th (KWY/NFO). Flocks of 200 were at Warkworth, Low Steads, Dunstanburgh and Craster during the month (RPo/BS/TRD/JD/TF). 70-120 were noted at five sites and two - 65 at ten other sites.

### **Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

66 flew S at Seaton Point on 22nd and 55 flew S in two flocks on 17th at Gosforth Garden village (BS/MJC). 30 were noted at Broadpool Common on 30th and 20 at Stonehaugh on 8th (SW). 23 were seen at Chugdon on 29th (TB). One -18 were also seen at 16 sites, including several birds migrating S.

46 redpoll sp. flew S at Spital Point, Newbiggin on 24th and 21 on 27th (GB).

### **Common Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea*

One or two were seen on 20th at Snook and one at Chare Ends, Holy Island (CB/MJC/ADM/ASJ).

### **Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

Three were seen at Kielder Forest on 7th and at Stonehaugh on 10th where a male was in song (ADM/SW). Two were also noted at Longframlington Common on 8th (JD).

### **Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

55 were noted at Fenwick on 12th (JAR) and a charm of 40 at Druridge on 9th (IDR). At least 30 fed at St. Mary's on several dates and 30 were at Horton Park on 1st (ASJ/MSH/LJM). One to 18 were also seen at 22 locations during the month.

### **Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

140 in two flocks was the largest count this month, at Corbridge Common on 30th (Dle). At Budle Point, 60 flew NW on 28th (IDR). On 8th, a total of 55 flew S at East Chevington and 50 were watched at Derwent Reservoir (ASJ/IFo). 40 noted at Big Waters on 30th (GB). 33 were at Druridge Links on 21st (IDR). 33 flew S at Spital on 24th and 32 did likewise there on 27th (GB). At least 30 also headed S at Monkseaton on 3rd (MSH). Elsewhere, one to 20 were seen at 24 sites.

### **Lapland Bunting** *Emberiza lapponicus*

On 24th, two flew S at St. Mary's, one with Skylarks (ASJ). Singles were found this month at Boulmer, at Chare Ends and The Snook on Holy Island and at Druridge, where one was also flying S with Skylarks (BS/PRM/MJC/IDR).

### **Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Druridge Bay on 3rd saw a flock of 31 fly S 200 metres offshore (MSH). Two to six were seen this month at Holy Island, Budle Point, Cocklawburn, Dunstanburgh and at Ross Back Sands. Singles were seen at three other sites on several dates.

### **Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

Poorly recorded this month with 14 at Earsdon on 3rd (MNC). Singles seen at Big Waters and Newbiggin.

### **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

30 noted at Budle Bay on 9th (CGK) and 25 were seen across Holy Island on 21st (PRM). One to 12 were seen at 13 widespread locations from Stonehaugh to Ross Back Sands.

## **Escapes, Hybrids & Birds of Unknown Origin**

Escapes

## **Cayuga Duck** *Anas platyrhynchos domesticus*

One of these distinctive forms was at Rothbury riverside on 24th (JD).

Hybrids No sightings Birds of Unknown Origin No sightings

### **List of Contributors**

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BirdGuides, Hauxley Ringing Station, Howick Ringing Station (HwRS), North Northumberland Bird Club, Northumberland Rare & Scarce Whatsapp (NRSW), Seaton Sluice Watch Tower (SSWT).

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

Proof reading was by Mike Smith. Mail distribution by Paul Stewart. Clive Hampton is Data Manager.

Edited by Alan Tilmouth [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

### **Record Submission**

Please email records for the month to [ntbc.records@googlemail.com](mailto: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.

### **Images and Illustrations**

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent images. Please send to Alan Tilmouth at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality. Submitted images may be used elsewhere on NTBC social media to help the club promote its aims.

### **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 8th December and will feature two speakers – Richard Willis will talk on Northumberland County Council's 'Space for Shorebirds' project and Tom Cadwallender will entertain with "Paddington Gets the Bird – Peru Highlights".

### **Field Trips**

**Next Field Trip – tbc**

### **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.

Subscriptions can be paid using online banking: please include your name as the reference and email Jo Bentley at [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com) to confirm payment.



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.

If you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome. For membership enquiries please contact Jo Bentley (Hon Treasurer) [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

### NTBC Web and Social Media

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds, with a wide range of content from photo galleries, county checklists, Records Committee updates, information on surveys and many useful articles on bird identification and birding both locally and internationally, to find out more please visit [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

Please submit any other new content (eg trip reports, identification notes, site guides etc) for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

NTBC can also be found on Facebook [here](#) and Twitter [here](#)

## OTHER NEWS

### The British List/Birds in Northumbria 2021

The British Ornithologist's Union recently updated and issued the 10th edition of the British List (full list can be downloaded [here](#)) which included some changes in the order species appear in the list. Birds in Northumberland 2021 will adopt these changes and the order in which species will appear in the monthly Ebulletin will change to adopt the changes from January 2023.

Tim Dean County Recorder, Andy Mould BiN Editor, Alan Tilmouth Bulletin Editor.

### Widdrington Moor Lake

The increasingly productive Widdrington Moor Lake has recently been purchased by Park Holidays with outline plans in place to site a major holiday park on the site. The outline planning application approved in January 2020 when the site was owned by a different holiday park provider was reported as containing the following plans:

*"The detailed element of the application includes 200 pitches for touring units in the south west corner of the site, accompanied by all-weather plots, electric hook up points and a heated toilet, shower and laundry block. 275 pitches for static caravans will also be provided further north. The main site entrance would be to the south of the site from the C115 road, providing a gateway feature in the design of a castle, with an entry road system that would separate static caravan users from the touring units.*

*An outdoor play area would be located to the north of the main building, with visitor parking located to the west of the entrance. Additionally, an existing lake on the site will house water based adventure activities, while a small beach area will also be created at the south western corner of the lake. The outline element of the application includes provision for a café located at the north east corner of Widdrington Moor Lake, accommodation for up to 475 units, a nine-hole golf course and potentially a second entertainment building. It is expected that the park will create approximately 43,000 additional overnight visitors per annum to the local area."*

Obviously these plans will significantly alter the attractiveness of the site to both wintering raptors and wildfowl and it remains to be seen whether anyone can influence the plans.

### Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club Conservation Officer

The club continues to have a vacancy for the voluntary role of Conservation Officer to help support its aims and interactions with other organisations. The committee would be delighted to hear from individuals who feel they have suitable experience or qualifications. Please forward any expressions of interest to Andrew Brunt at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

## FOR SALE

**MANFROTTO XPRO** 2-way fluid tripod head c/w QR plate. 1/4" & 3/8" bushes. Excellent condition £50

**OPTICRON** Car Window Mount 1/4" thread. Good condition £20

Please contact Mike Hodgson (07946 582666)



# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

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

Bulletin No 11 2022

November

Issue Date 7 January 2022

011

NTBC



Pied Wheatear, Whitley Bay, November 2022, Alan Jack

## November Highlights

### Todd's Canada Goose

White-fronted Goose

Egyptian Goose

Ruddy Shelduck

Green-winged Teal

Marbled Duck  
British List)

### Black Scoter

### Pallid Swift

Red-necked Grebe

Black-necked Grebe

Grey Phalarope

### Sabine's Gull

Three at Budle Bay from 1st to 3rd

Single at Low Hauxley on 19th

One at Newbiggin on 27th and 28th

One at Newton on 18th

Drake at Colt Crag Reservoir on two dates

One of unknown origin on Holy Island lough from 13th to 15th (not recognised on

Adult drake in Cocklawburn area until 20th

Continued influx with up to three at Seahouses and one at Budle Bay.

Several sightings with unusually three inland on Widdrington Moor Lake.

One offshore at St Mary's on 13th

One on sea at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 7th

One past St Mary's and Seaton Sluice on 17th

<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>	Returning adult at Stag Rocks from 6th to 29th
Glaucous Gull	Adult at Newbiggin
Caspian Gull Island	Adult and first-winter at Ellington wind farm, singles at St Mary's and Castle
Long-tailed Skua	Late passage record of two past Cullercoats on 17th
Little Auk	Notable movement with peak of 29 past North Blyth on 17th
<b>Rough-legged Buzzard</b>	A juvenile noted at a sensitive site in north of county on 22nd
Sooty Shearwater	Late movement on 17th with one to four past several sites
Cattle Egret	One in Budle Bay/Bamburgh area on 14th
Waxwing	Up to 11 seen at several sites
<b>Shore Lark</b>	One at Ross Back Sands on 27th
<b>Hume's Warbler</b>	Singles on Holy Island, Druridge, Whitley Bay and Low Newton
Yellow-browed warbler	Individual at Whitley Bay, Low Newton and Newbiggin
<b>Pallas's Warbler</b>	Singles at Bamburgh and Newbiggin on 19th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Singles at Hauxley and Holy Island
Firecrest Pools	Singles at Hauxley and East Sleekburn plus two popular individuals at Druridge
Black Redstart	At least four on Holy Island on 22nd plus singles at five other sites
Wheatear	Late individuals at Boulmer and Budle Point on 18th and 19th
<b>Pied Wheatear</b>	Astonishingly tame first-winter male at Whitley Bay between 1st and 12th
Water Pipit	Singles at Druridge, St Mary's and Newbiggin
Hawfinch	Singles on Holy Island plus one in a Lesbury garden
Common Redpoll	Three on Snook, Holy Island on 20th
Lapland Bunting	Singles noted at Holy Island on 13th and at Newbiggin on 20th
Snow Bunting	Large flocks of 33 on Holy Island on 20th and 29 at Budle Point on 12th

## November Classified List

### **Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix*

The sole report was of a male feeding in a roadside field at Hotburn Hill near Derwent Reservoir on 11th (AA).

### **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

Four were at Cateran Hole (near Eglingham) on 27th (SW).

### **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Large numbers at Druridge Lane included a peak of 100 (in groups of 28, 22, 20, 16 and 14) on 23rd (TB), while 50-70 were at nearby Widdrington on 16th (PCF) and 27th (GB/DM). Eight ran along the road between Cresswell-Ellington on 13th (TB), and four to five were at Debdon, Quarry House Moor and Widdrington Moor Lake.

### **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

Peak counts were 27 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 24th (PRM), 17 at Old Hartley on 20th (MSH), 14 at nearby St Mary's Island on 3rd (PRM/MP), 14 at Big Waters on 6th (GB), 11-13 at Beaconhill (Cramlington; STH), Bebside (JR), Bothal (JR) and Druridge Links (IDR/JF), and five to nine at Black Callerton, Doddington, Ellington, Felton and Lynemouth Flash. Three to four were also at Holywell Pond and Widdrington, and several at Easington.

### **Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

75 were at Hartburn Reservoir on 5th (IRD), 58 in the Druridge Pools-Links area on 6th (IDR/JF), 12-17 at Holywell Dene (MNC) and Plessey Checks (JR) and four to six at Cresswell, Linton and Lynemouth Bay. More unusual was a female at Tynemouth on 2nd (DRW).

### **Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Pale-bellied *hrota* race birds included a peak of only about 500 at Fenham Flats, Lindisfarne NNR on 16th (TRD), six N at Cullercoats (CB) and North Blyth (PRM) on 17th, and singles N at Seaton Sluice on 21st (SSWT) and Tynemouth on 6th (DRW). The latter bird was noted travelling with a flock of Gannets!

Reports of dark-bellied *bernicla* race involved 127 in a field by the Crooked Lonnen, Holy Island on 18th (MJC/ADM), 93 at Fenham Flats on 16th (TRD), a total of 23 N and two S at Seaton Sluice between 13th-18th (SSWT), nine N at Amble on 13th (TF/JFa) and one N at Tynemouth on 19th (DRW).

Two un-raced Brent Geese flew N at Snab Point on 17th (JR).

A party of four at Newbiggin GC (AP) and later in a field at Snab Point (GB) on 19th included three dark-bellied individuals and one possible *hrota* x *bernicla* hybrid that resembled a 'Grey-bellied' Brent Goose.

### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Variable numbers at Grindon Lough throughout the month included peaks of 971 on 2nd (PRM) and 953 on 28th (SW), and a low of 292 on 10th (PRM). Largest counts elsewhere were 250 at Hipsburn on 7th (MKi), 212 at Derwent Reservoir on 15th (IFo), 200 at Low Hauxley on 19th (HRS), 186 at Big Waters on 6th (GB), 160 at West Stobswood Pool on 9th (MSH), 150 at Birling Carrs and Maiden's Hall Lake on 12th, and 58-95 at Bothal, Coquet Island, Greenlee Lough, Hedgeley GP and Killingworth Lake. Groups of 18-43 were at Bell's Farm, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Farm Pools and Newcastle Leazes Park (including three leucistic individuals), and four to eight at Colt Crag Reservoir on Widdrington Moor Lake.

An individual of the *interior* race, known as 'Todd's Canada Goose', was at Budle Bay on 1st (CGK/NFO).

### **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

2,000 were at Fenham Flats on 7th (BS), while 1,500 at Budle Bay on 3rd fell to 800 by 28th (CGK/GPK). A peak of 17 was noted at Grindon Lough on 13th (MRS), with two to 14 on several dates between 2nd-28th (PRM/AJR/SW). Singles were also at Bothal Pond, Castron, Low Hauxley and Monks' House Pool on sporadic dates.

### **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

Nine flew S at Seaton Sluice on 4th (SSWT). The largest groups involved 450 at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (IFo), 342 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 24th (PRM), 320 at Newton Pool on 4th (AJR), 300 at Low Hauxley on 8th (HRS), 200-15 at Blagdon Lane Ponds (LJM) and Hipsburn (MKi), and 149 at Linton Ponds. Counts of 50-76 came from Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools, Hedgeley GP, Prestwick Carr and Warkworth-Beal Bank Flash, while 18-32 were at/over Broadpool Common (Wark Forest), East Chevington, Grindon Lough and Maiden's Hall Lake, and one at Haughton Strother GP.

### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

The only report of northerly movement was of 40 over Druridge Pools on 12th (IDR). Southerly movement involved 1,550 at Ellington between 9th-24th (TB), 1,200 at East Chevington on 3rd (TRD) and 12th (TF), about 1,200 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 20th (TRD), a monthly total of 1,033 at Seaton Sluice (SSWT), 900 at Druridge Pools on 12th (IDR), 600 at Boulmer on 4th (BS) and 290-380 at East Ord and Longhoughton Steel on 12th. At Budle Bay, 2,000 roosted on 12th and 27th (CGK), about 1,200 were at Doddington on 27th (TRD/JD), about 1,200 in the Low Hauxley area on 20th (HRS), 400 over Elwick on 16th, 300 at Eshott on 25th and 105-200 at Cresswell, Druridge Pools, East Chevington and Widdrington Moor Lake. Counts of 50-75 came from Newbiggin and Newton Pool, and one to 14 were at/over Castron, Derwent Reservoir, Dinnington, Maiden's Hall Lake and Morpeth (where nocturnal fly-overs were heard on 2nd (TD)).

Two were found dead at Druridge Pools on 12th and one found in bushes there on 13th died two days later – a victim of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza ('Bird Flu'). A sickly individual was at East Chevington on 3rd (TRD).

### **White-fronted Goose** *Anser flavirostris*

One of the Eurasian *albifrons* race was at Low Hauxley on 19th (HRS).

### **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*



Six flew W at Hadston on 15th (TB) and one S at Seaton Sluice on 12th (SSWT). Peak counts were 47 at Big Waters on 13th (GB), 42 at Howdon (mainly on the River Tyne) on 5th (CB), 32 at Hartburn Reservoir on 5th (IRD), 32 at Killingworth Lake on 14th (LJM), 20-28 at East Chevington (PRM) and QEII CP (CDH), and ten to 18 at Haughton Strother GP, Linton Ponds, Low Hauxley and New Berwick. Seven to nine were also at Bothal and Duke's Ponds, Hedgeley GP and West Ord, and one to four at Branton GP, Cocklawburn and Cresswell Ponds, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Norham and Paddy Freeman's Lake (Heaton).

#### **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Totals of 123 flew S at Newbiggin on six dates between 1st-29th (AP/AT) and 103 S/SW at Budle Bay during the month (CGK/GPK), 28 flew S at Seaton Sluice on 12th and nine S there on 16th (AJ/SSWT), 25 S at Tynemouth on 5th (DRW), 15 S at Longhorsley on 29th (CB), 11 S at Tynemouth (DRW) and Whitley Bay (IF) on 2nd (DRW), and four to six S at Druridge Pools and Ellington on several dates. A flock was heard moving S over Wark during darkness on 3rd (PRM). Five flew E at Amble on 15th (TB) and three NW at Humshaugh on 22nd (TWi). At Birling Carrs (Warkworth), 30 on 5th increased to 36 by 26th (TB), 24 (two juveniles) were at East Chevington north pool on 6th (MH), 21 at Derwent Reservoir on 4th (RMH), 19 at Castron on 12th (BS), 18 (seven juveniles) at QEII CP on 30th (TB) and 11 (five juveniles) at Hartburn Reservoir on 5th (IRD). One to nine were also at/over Airy Holm Reservoir, Berwick, Big Waters, Bothal and Cresswell Ponds, Capheaton, Greenlee and Grindon Loughs, Newton Pool, Prestwick Carr, Rothbury (having roosted at Craggside) and West Ord. Two adults were offshore at Whitley Bay on 4th (MSH) and two lone juveniles were at Druridge Pools on 3rd (TRD).

#### **Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

One was in a field with about 50 Pink-footed Geese at Woodhorn on 27th (AP). It was noted flying N and then W over Newbiggin on 28th (AT).

#### **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Six flew N and four S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and one flew N at Newbiggin on 21st (AT), 448 were counted at Fenham Flats on 12th (ASJ) and one was at Cresswell Pond (IDR/JF). Two were well inland at Grindon Lough on 13th (MRS).

#### **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

One was at Newton Steads on 18th (PCA).

#### **Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

Four flew N at Tynemouth on 13th (DRW). The peak count at Budle Bay was 103 on 1st (CGK/GPK). Modest numbers elsewhere included nine at Grindon Lough on 2nd (PRM), eight at Marden Quarry (AC), six at Druridge Pools on 19th (IDR), five at Big Waters on 6th (GB), and three to four at Arcot, Bothal Ponds, Cresswell, Linton and Swallow Ponds, Branton GP, East Chevington, Hauxley Reserve, Holy Island Lough and Monks' House Pool.

#### **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

Peak site counts were 53 at East Chevington on 18th (PRM), 48 at Hedgeley GP on 25th (PRM), 42 at Duke's Pond, Wallsend on 11th (CDH), 34 at Branton GP on 25th (PRM), 32 at Castron on 13th (TRD), 20-29 at Killingworth Lake (MSH), Linton Ponds (CDH), Marden Quarry (AC) and Swallow Pond (CDH), ten to 18 at the Blyth Estuary (LJM), Bothal Ponds (TF), Hauxley Reserve (HRS), Lyne Burn, Lynemouth (GB) and West Allotment Pond (ATR). Four to seven were also at Big Waters and Druridge Pools, and singles at Haughton Strother GP, Holy Island Lough and Maiden's Hall Lake.

#### **Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total was 325 N and 54 S (SSWT), 130 moved N at Cheswick Black Rocks on 4th (MHu), 64 N at Snab Point on 18th (JR), 61 flew past Newbiggin Point in the month and 30 N at North Blyth on 17th (PRM). About 4,000 were at Elwick on 12th (ASJ), 1,600 at Budle Bay on 3rd (CGK), at least 600 at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (IFo), 550 at Cresswell Pond on 30th (AJR), 400+ at East Chevington north pool on 12th (MN), 360 at Grindon Lough on 13th (MRS), 213 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 24th (PRM), and 132-165 at Bothal Pond (TF), Branton GP (PRM), Linton Ponds (TF/JFa) and Widdrington Moor Lake (CB). Counts of 50-90 came from Big Waters, Colt Crag Reservoir, Druridge Pools, Haughton Strother GP, Hedgeley GP and Prestwick Carr, while 20-47 were at Hauxley Reserve, Maiden's Hall Lake, West Stobswood Pool and Woodhorn Flashes.

#### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

A modest nine flew N and four S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), 320 were at Ellingham on 27th (SW), 227 at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (IFo), 94 at Caistrion on 13th (TRD), 92 at Wallsend Park on 30th (CDH), 52-76 at Airy Holm Reservoir (IFo), Hauxley Reserve (HRS), Holywell Pond (MSH) and Killingworth Lake (LJM), and 21-45 at Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Colt Crag and Hallington Reservoirs, Grindon Lough, Hedgeley GP, Marden Quarry, Newcastle Exhibition Park, Norham, QEII CP and West Ord. Counts of 12-18 also came from Druridge Pools, Greenlee Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Middle Ord Pond, Northumberland Park (North Shields), St Mary's Wetland and Widdrington Moor Lake.

#### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Four flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). A peak of five was at Budle Bay on 4th (CGK/GPK), three were at Caistrion on 12th (BS), three at Cocklawburn beach on 21st (CB), two at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (IFo) and singles at Big Waters, Cresswell Pond and East Chevington on several scattered dates.

#### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total numbered 283 N and 98 S (SSWT), 83 flew past Newbiggin in the month (AT) and 24 N at Snab Point on 18th (JR). At least 660 were at Grindon Lough on 5th (AJR), 412 were at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (IFo), 3,035 at Colt Crag Reservoir on 10th (PRM), 268 at Castle Island on 16th (AT), 209 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 24th (PRM), 110-190 at Bothal Pond, Caistrion, East Chevington, Holy Island (lough and 'rocket field pool'), Howdon and Widdrington Moor Lake, and 52-76 at Arcot and Cresswell Ponds, Druridge Pools and Hedgeley GP. Counts of 20-46 came from the Blyth Estuary, Branton GP, Holywell Pond and Maiden's Hall Lake, and 11-20 were at Big Waters, Hauxley Reserve and Middle Ord Pond.

#### **Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis*

A drake was at Colt Crag Reservoirs on 4th and 25th (per Birdguides).

#### **Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Numbers at Bothal Pond peaked at 24 on 26th (a high count by recent standards; TF), seven were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 20th (TF/JFa), two at Airy Holm Reservoir on 14th (IFo) and singles at Derwent Reservoir and Linton Ponds.

#### **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Five flew N at Seaton Sluice between 16th-18th (SSWT). Peak numbers involved 78 at East Chevington on 18th (PRM), 61 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th (PRM), 38 at Branton GP on 25th (PRM), 30 at Bothal Pond (TD), 30 at Killingworth Lake (MSH), 20-29 at Hedgeley GP (PRM) and Ladyburn Lake (IFo) and 14-19 at Big Waters, Newcastle Leazes Park and QEII CP Lake. Five to eight were also at Druridge Pools, Greenlee Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley Reserve, Newcastle Exhibition Park, and Maiden's Hall and Paddy Freeman's Lakes, and one to four at four further sites.

#### **Scaup** *Aythya marila*

At Seaton Sluice, three flew N on 17th and four N on 18th (SSWT). Singles were at East Chevington north pool on 26th (JFa) and Widdrington Moor Lake on three dates between 18th-27th (TB/NFO *et al.*).

#### **Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total was 98 N and 39 S (SSWT). Peak counts were 95 off Ross Back Sands on 27th (MJC), 32 at Meadow Haven, Berwick on 27th (MJC), 21-22 at the Blyth Estuary (LJM), Newbiggin (STH) and Stag Rocks (IDR) and ten to 12 at North Blyth and Snab Point.

#### **Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

A monthly total at Seaton Sluice of ten N included nine N on 17th (SSWT), three flew N at Whitley Bay (ASJ) on 18th, two N at Cullercoats on 17th (CB) and singles S at North Blyth on 17th (PRM) and Newbiggin on 18th (GAS). At least seven were at Cocklawburn on 21st (CB) and singles at Longhoughton Low Steads on 4th (BS) and Stag Rocks on 28th (GAS). A highly unusual record involved a drake at the freshwater Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th (TB/PRM), 20th (TRD/TF/JFa) and 21st (GAS).



Velvet Scoter, Widdrington Moor Lake, November 2022, Graham Sorrie

#### **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A total of 1,262 flew N and 345 S at Seaton Sluice during the month, including 1,137 N and 193 S between 14th-19th (SSWT), while 261 flew past Newbiggin Point in 14 hours during the month, 64 flew N and four S off Druridge on 18th (IDR/JF) and 20 N at St Mary's Island on 16th (MSH). A gathering of 1,500 at Cocklawburn on 21st included only 20 adult drakes (CB), 600 were in the Budle Point-Skate Road area on 28th (CGK), 200 at nearby Stag Rocks on 20th (JPL) and 80 off Druridge on 25th (TRD/JD). Two to seven were also at/past Berwick pier, Cambois, North Blyth and Snab Point. A duck was at East Chevington north pool on 18th (PRM).

#### **Black Scoter**

The returning drake was noted regularly at Cocklawburn between 1st-20th (per Birdguides).

#### **Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Seven flew N and one S at Seaton Sluice in the month (SSWT), two flew past Newbiggin Point on 19th and 22nd and singles N at Tynemouth on 18th (DRW), Boulmer on 20th (BS) and Stag Rocks on 21st (NFO). Apart from 63 off Ross Back Sands on 27th (MJC), there were no large gatherings, with eight at Fenham Flats on 7th (BS) and singles at Cocklawburn and Cresswell Pond. At Druridge Pools, one was noted on 13th and 16th (TB/IDR/GAS), two on 19th and 29th (IDR/AT) and three (all juveniles) regularly between 20th-28th (TRD/TF/JFa *et al.*). Further inland, a juvenile was at Branton GP on 25th (PRM) and 27th (TRD/JD).

#### **Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

The Seaton Sluice monthly total was a lowly 25 N and 15 S (SSWT), 11 flew N at Tynemouth on 18th (DRW) and eight N and three S at Boulmer on 20th (BS). Peak concentrations were 52 at East Chevington on 18th (PRM), 25 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th (PRM), 19 at Maiden's Hall Lake on 18th (PRM) and 13-15 at Branton GP (TRD/JD), Derwent Reservoir (IFo), Fenham Flats (BS), and Ladyburn Lake (IFo). Six to nine were at Big Waters, Grindon Lough, Hedgeley GP and West Ord, and one to four at Airy Holm, Hallington and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, Bothal, Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, Castron, Druridge Pools, Football Hole, Hauxley Reserve, Killingworth Lake, Newbiggin Bay, North Blyth and

West Stobswood Pool.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

Seven moved N and one S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), while three flew S at Stag Rocks on 19th (TF/JFa) and one N at St Mary's Island. Four, with two Red-breasted Mergansers, were fishing on the River Tyne at Elswick on 20th (GB/AIB), four were at Norham on 25th (PRM), three at Colt Crag and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (PRM), and one to two at Abbey Mill, Big Waters, Branton GP, Airy Holm, Derwent and Hallington Reservoirs, Druridge (offshore), Haughton Strother GP, Tyne Green, Tynemouth boating lake, Wark (North Tyne)

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

A poor monthly total at Seaton Sluice concerned just three N and one S (SSWT), and two flew N at Snab Point on 18th (JR). Peak counts came from the north of the county and involved 26 at Budle Point on 18th (NFO), 24 at Fenham Flats on 7th (BS) and 20 off Ross Back Sands on 27th (MJC). A peak of 13 (seven drakes) was noted at Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th (PRM), nine were at the Blyth Estuary on 13th (MSH), three to four at Cambois and off Druridge-Chevington and one to two at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, East Chevington and St Mary's Island. More unusual were two drakes, together with four Goosanders, feeding in the River Tyne at Elswick on 19th-20th (GB/MPF).



Red-breasted Merganser, Whitley Bay, November 2022, Mike S Hodgson

**Pallid Swift** *Apus pallidus*

At least four from last month's unprecedented influx remained in the Annstead/Seahouses/Warren Mill/Budle Bay area on 1st (NFO/CGK/MEA) as did a single individual at Whitley Bay (per AJ). The final sighting of this remarkable influx was an individual at Stag Rocks on 6th (NRSW).

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

Ca. 400 were feeding near the farm at Doddington on 27th (TRD/JD), ca. 120 were on roofs in Wallsend Town Centre on 3rd (CDH) and the species noted as "present" in Jesmond Dene on 6th (MJCo).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*



66 headed W at Abbey Mill, Morpeth between 0830-1000 on 10th (CB), the peak count at Howdon was 45 at dusk on 26th (CB) and 15 were at Northumberland Park, North Shields on 21st (MNC). One to eight were at several other localities.

#### **Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

1,000 went to roost at Ross Links on 28th (CGK), approximately 270 were in flooded fields at Gainslaw House, Berwick on 20th (MHu) and one to 12 were noted at several other locations.

#### **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

20 were at Widdrington Village on 3rd (TB), 18 at Carterway Heads, Crooked Oak on 16th (IFo) and 12 at Slaley Village on 16th (RMH). 11 were perched on a fence at Edlingham on 9th (JD), seven were at Ogle on 13th (AHB), six were seen regularly at Dinnington and four were at Chathill all month.

#### **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Big Waters NWT held four on 18th (PRM), two were at Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Linton Lane NR and Prestwick Carr whist singles were at Castron, Cresswell Pond, Longhirst Flash, Newton Pool and Woodhorn Flashes. Good views of an individual in an iced-up channel were obtained from the Ponteland Hide at Hauxley NWT on 29th (TRD).

#### **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

A grand total of 29 were at Exhibition Park on 4th (GB), a minimum of 22 were at East Chevington on 18th (PRM), 21 were at Hauxley NWT on 19th (HRS) and 15 were at QE11CP on 7th (LJM). 11 at Waren Mill on 2nd was an unusually high count for the site and may have been part of a movement (CGK), 11 at Wallsend Park on 6th included five juveniles (CDH) and 11 was the peak count at both Branton GP and Killingworth Lake. One to eight were at many other usual sites.

#### **Coot** *Fulica atra*

125 were at East Chevington on 18th (PRM), Big Waters NWT peaked at 100 on 6th (GB) and Linton Lane NR held 67 on 14th (CDH). 30 were at Killingworth Lake on 14th (LJM), 28 were at Marden Quarry, 24 at Bothal Ponds and 21 at Branton GP. One to six were at Druridge Pools, Exhibition Park, Haughton Strother GP, Hedgeley GP, Leazes Park and St. Mary's Wetland. One at Cragside was an unusual sighting there and two at Holy Island Lough were also rare sightings at that site.

#### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

East Chevington peaked at 24 on both 18th and 24th (PRM/IFo), 11 were at Hedgeley GP on 25th (PRM), nine at Widdrington Moor Lake, eight at Castron and one to seven were at Big Waters NWT, on the sea at Boulmer, Bothal Ponds, Branton GP, Colt Crag Reservoir, Cragside, Cresswell, Druridge Pools, Haughton Strother GP, Hauxley NWT, Holy Island Lough, Killingworth Lake, Norham Bridge, St. Mary's Wetland, Swallow Pond, West Ord and Woodhorn Flashes.

#### **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps Grisegena*

At Seaton Sluice, singles were spotted heading S on 20th and N on 22nd (SSWT). The northbound individual may have been the same individual seen passing Newbiggin on the same day (CB/ADMc). Last month's two Widdrington Moor Lake individuals were joined by a third on 20th and all remained until at least 28th (TF/JFa/TB/LJM/MSH *et al.*). Elsewhere, a juvenile was at East Chevington on 6th (TF) and one was noted from the north hide at Druridge Pools on 16th (GAS).

#### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

The only offshore movement was one heading S past Seaton Sluice on 30th (SSWT). Widdrington Moor Lake peaked at seven on 18th (PRM) with signs of courtship observed on 16th (GAS), three adults and three juveniles were at Killingworth Lake on 14th (LJM). Three were on the sea off Cocklawburn Beach on 21st (CB) and two at Bothal Ponds on 5th was an unusual winter sighting there (TF). Two were also at Chevington Burn Mouth, Cresswell, Druridge Bay and Druridge Pools whilst singles were seen at Airy Holm Reservoir (unusual for the time of year), Big Waters NWT, Branton GP, Colt Crag Reservoir and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

#### **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auratus*

Six were off Ross Back Sands on 27th (MJC), whilst two were at both Cocklawburn Beach on 21st (CB) and St. Cuthbert's Island, Holy Island on 27th (IK). Singles were at Budle Bay, Druridge Pools, Newbiggin and Stag Rocks, Bamburgh.

#### **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

One was on the sea at St. Mary's on 13th (DLo).

#### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

A high-tide gathering at Sharpness Point, Tynemouth contained an estimated 110 on 20th (CDH). The previous day 84 had been reported at Tynemouth (KWY). There was a concentration of 84 at Snab Point, Cresswell on 2nd (TB) and the maximum at St Mary's Island was 66 on 16th (MSH). A few miles further north, 61 roosted at North Blyth Staithes on 22nd (DM). Reports of 12-33 came from Berwick (Gainslaw House & Little Beach), Cocklawburn and Low Hauxley. One-seven were seen at Druridge Pools, Lynemouth and Stag Rocks, Bamburgh.

#### **Avocet** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

One was briefly at East Chevington North Pool on 3rd and a juvenile was noted at Newton Pool the next day (TRD/AJR). (Interesting to note, a juvenile was discovered in Findhorn Bay, Moray & Nairn in December that may have been this individual given the scarcity of the species at this time of year.)

#### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

The monthly passage at Seaton Sluice was 40N and 305S (SSWT). Apparent immigration was noted on 18th when six arrived 'in-off' the sea at this location and 17 were noted 'in-off' at Tynemouth on the same date. Large flocks were present at both coastal and inland locations with 2,200+ at East Chevington on 11th (PRM), 1,600+ at Grindon Lough on 14th (PRM), 1,550 at Fenham Mill (Lindisfarne NNR) on 12th (ASJ), a monthly maximum of 1,200 at Derwent Reservoir on 12th (IFo) and 900+ at Haughton Strother GP on 10th (PRM). Counts of 500 or more were made at St Mary's Island on 3rd and 16th (ASJ/MSH), with 400 present at Blagdon Lane Pools, Cramlington on 13th (LJM), 400 at Widdrington Moor on 14th (CB) and 400 also seen on a flooded field at Prestwick Carr on 21st (IK). Flocks of 200-385 were noted at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Cocklawburn and Holywell Pond with 27-130 present at seven other localities.

#### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Reports came from East Chevington through the month with a low of 200 on 25th and a peak of 1,600+ on 18th (PRM/TRD/JD *et al.*). A huge flock of 3,500+ at Grindon Lough on 2nd had declined to 95+ on 28th (PRM/AJR). Other large coastal concentrations were 2,500 at Fenham-le-Moor (Lindisfarne NNR) on 12th (ASJ), 2,250 at Marden Rocks (Alnmouth) on 22nd (AB/LB) and 2,200 at Budle Bay on 28th (CGK). At Derwent Reservoir 800 were present on 12th before an influx on 16th increased to 1,400, which was the observer's highest count at that locality for 19 years (IFo). By 20th, only 63 remained. Counts of 1,000 were made at Monks' House Pool on 20th, Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 25th and the River Coquet Estuary on 28th. At Gloucester Lodge Farm, Blyth, ca. 800 were present on 18th and 24th with a maximum of 500 at St Mary's Island on 3rd. Blagdon Lane Pools, Cramlington and Kiln Pit Hill both attracted flocks of 500 with 430 seen at Cocklawburn, 300 over Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) and 172 at Prestwick Carr. 50-80 were seen at Hemscott Hill, Hartford and Old Moor, Berwick with two still on Plenmeller Common on 10th (PRM).

#### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Four flew N at Seaton Sluice on 17th and four were observed flying N at Newbiggin on 22nd (SSWT/CB). A group of 55 at Fenham-le-Moor on 12th was the largest count (ASJ). Five were at Berwick Little Beach on 27th (MHu) with two and four recorded at Newbiggin on 9th and 28th (AT/GAS). Two were at both Holy Island Causeway on 16th and Annstead Dunes on 21st (TRD/PCA). Singles were noted at Boulmer on 4th (AJR) and East Chevington on 18th (PRM).

#### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Many fewer reports than last month with lower numbers, as presumably northern breeders moved south. Chevington Burn Mouth attracted 34 on 11th (MH) with 28 at Boulmer on 4th (AJR) and 20 at Newbiggin on 14th (CDH). One-five were seen at Cocklawburn, Holy Island and Newbiggin Bay.

#### **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

The peak count came from an inland location with 95 seen at Caistron on 12th (BS). The monthly peak at St Mary's was

90 on 3rd including a male which had been ringed on 1 June 2022 in Estonia (PRM). Cocklawburn had a maximum of 74 on 25th (MHu) and in the Druridge area, the highest count was 46 at Druridge Farm on 6th with smaller counts at other areas close by (IDR/JF/MSH/TD). Away from these locations, 24 were at Gainslaw House, Berwick on 20th (MHu). One-11 were at Cresswell, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Hedgeley GP, Holywell Pond, Lynemouth Bay, Old Hartley, Snab Point (Cresswell), Tynemouth and Warkworth.

#### **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Numbers increased from last month at Lindisfarne NNR where 420 were at Fenham Mill on 12th (ASJ). Last month's flock residing at Boulmer remained with 18 counted on 4th (AJR/BS). Five were at Low Hauxley, two at Newbiggin and a single at St Cuthbert's Island.

#### **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

Numbers were much reduced this month with the peak being 13 at Newton Pool on 4th reducing to two on 24th (AJR/TRD/JD). The monthly maximum at Budle Bay was 12 on 28th (CGK/GPK). Six were at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and Howdon on 12th-13th, with a single at Newbiggin on 12th.

#### **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Stag Rocks retained numbers from last month with 100 counted on 20th (JPL). Other significant groups were in the South East with 80+ at St Mary's Island on 1st (MSH), 47 at Newbiggin on 4th (STH) and 40 flying S at Seaton Sluice on 24th (LJM). In the Cocklawburn area, the peak count was 18 at Middle Skerr on 12th with 16 at Lynemouth Bay on 20th and 12-15 at Cresswell Pond and nearby Snab Point. One-seven were seen at Cheswick Black Rocks, Holy Island, Low Newton, Tynemouth and Tynemouth Boating lake.

#### **Knot** *Calidris canutus*

The only report was of two, at Seaton Sluice on 20th (SSWT).

#### **Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

As usual, the majority of reports came from the wetlands in the Druridge Bay area, possibly involving some or all of the same individuals. A peak count of nine was at Widdrington Moor Lake on 15th with lower numbers on other dates (ADMc/TB/GAS *et al.*). Cresswell Pond held six on 24th (BS) with a high of five reported at East Chevington from 3rd-12th (TRD/TF/MN). Five flew towards Maiden's Hall Lake (West Chevington) on 23rd (TB) and two were present at Druridge Pools on 18th. Singles were well inland at Grindon Lough on 2nd and on the coast at Monks' House Pool on 20th.

#### **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

A late individual was found at Boulmer on 4th (BS).

#### **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

Concentrations in the Newbiggin area between Beacon Point and the village bay from 4th-27th peaked with a count of 234 on 13th and a low of 112 on 4th (AP/CDH/STH). In other locations, peak counts were 82 at St Mary's Island on 5th (ASJ), 60 at Sandham Bay, Holy Island on 22nd (ADM), 38 at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh and 37 at the Chevington Burn Mouth, both on 11th (IDR/MN). Cocklawburn and East Chevington both held 22 during the end of the month with seven-11 at Cheswick, Druridge and Low Newton.

#### **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Fenham-le-Moor, Lindisfarne NNR attracted a large gathering of ca. 650 on 12th (ASJ). At Boulmer a peak of 197 occurred on 4th (BS/AJR) and 102 were at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 9th (AT). Much smaller numbers were reported elsewhere with 30 at Low Newton scrape on 24th and 25+ at East Chevington on 18th being the only groups reported over ten. Two to ten were present at Cresswell Pond, Holy Island Harbour, Monks' House Pool and St Mary's Island. Inland, eight were seen at Grindon Lough on 2nd reducing to two on 24th (PRM).

#### **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

The regular Stag Rocks, Bamburgh winter flock was well-reported with peak numbers on 20th when 150 were present and a low of 30 on 27th (ASJ/IF/JPL *et al.*). Numbers were as usual much smaller elsewhere but records came from

eleven other locations. North Blyth attracted 25 on 22nd with 23 seen on 28th (LJM/BS). The high count at Low Newton was 15 on 4th (AJR) and Snab Point, Cresswell held 11 on 20th-21st (IDR/MH). One-nine were seen at Amble, Cocklawburn, Craster, Holy Island, Newbiggin, North Shields, Seahouses, Seaton Sluice, St Mary's Island and Tynemouth.

#### **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

As last month, immigrants were conspicuous around Holy island particularly from 13th-18th when 15 were detected. One-five were reported from the Snook, causeway area, Straight Lonnen, Chare Ends, Village, Lough, Castle, north shore, east shore, Harbour and excavations. (MJC/ADM/TAC *et al.*). Four were at each of Cresswell on 20th and 27th (IDR/JF), Lynemouth on 24th (BS) and Houxty, Wark on 30th (AJ). Three were flushed at Corbridge Common during a 45-minute woodland walk on 24th, three were also seen at Low Hauxley on 20th and at 'the Mound' at Newbiggin on 15th. Two likely immigrants were flushed from cover between Lynemouth and Cresswell and two were also at Druridge Pools and Tynemouth. Singles flew in off the sea at Seaton Sluice on 9th and 20th, Tynemouth Haven on 1st and Tynemouth on 18th. Singles were at Edlingham, Exhibition Park, Football Hole (High Newton), near Longdyke (Morpeth) and Wark Forest. Individuals in urban habitat were observed at Chapel Park, Newcastle and North Shields.

#### **Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

More arrivals were seen this month with three at Jimmy's Scrapes, Woodhorn Flashes on 13th being the only multiple sighting (AP). Two were at Dunstanburgh on 1st (NRSW). Singles were at Annstead Dunes, Seahouses on 7th (PCA), Goswick Burn on 21st (CB), Newbiggin beach on 22nd (CB) and the Shooter's Pools, Bothal Ponds on 26th (TF).

#### **Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

Increased numbers were reported this month, with 30 at Prestwick Carr on 28th being counted as they were flushed at different times by Hen Harriers and a Sparrowhawk (MH). Other double-figure counts were 28 at Bothal Ponds on 20th (TD), 24 at Cresswell on 14th (CB) and 15 at Monks' House Pool on 16th (TRD). One-seven were noted at Big Waters, Cocklawburn Pond, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strother GP, Hedgeley GP, Holy Island, Longhorsley, St Mary's and Widdrington Moor Lake.

#### **Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

One was feeding on the sea with gulls at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 7th (BS). One flew north at Newbiggin Point on 17th and two fed off Newton Point on 28th (NRSW).

#### **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Last month's single at Berwick Hill Bridge on River Pont was again noted on 19th (AHB). One was at Caistron on 12th (BS).

#### **Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Reports were received from the St Mary's area from 1st-21st with a low of 100 on 8th and a peak count of at least 200 on 1st & 21st (MSH/PRM/KWY *et al.*). Other main concentrations were in the SE with 147 at Howdon on 12th (CB), 116 at Newbiggin bay on 4th (STH), 111 roosting on North Blyth Staithes on 28th (BS) and 75 on the River Tyne at Elswick on 20th (GB). Counts of 50 and 80 were made in the River Blyth Estuary on 9th and 13th (LJM/MSH). Cresswell attracted 30 on 12th and 28 were present at Cocklawburn on 25th. One-eleven were at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools and East Chevington, Maiden's Hall Lake, Prestwick Carr and Stag Rocks. One was still well inland at Grindon Lough on 2nd (PRM).

#### **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

Four at Budle Bay reduced to a single by 27th (CGK/GPK). One was seen at Holy Island causeway on 16th (TRD).

#### **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Considerable passage movement N was witnessed on 17th at five watchpoints, Cullercoats, Newbiggin, North Blyth, Seaton Sluice and Snab Point with up to 3,000/hour recorded during 2-3 hour periods of sea-watching (CB/PRM/JR/GAS/SSWT). Very few were seen on other days apart from 45-50 in a very light movement N on 22nd at Newbiggin and Seaton Sluice; one to four were recorded on other dates at four other localities.



**Bonaparte's Gull** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

An adult at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh (IF/GAS) between 6th and 29th was almost certainly the returning individual noted there or on the Farne Islands almost annually during November since 2013.



Bonaparte's Gull (adult), Stag Rocks, November 2022, Graham Sorrie

**Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini*

A juvenile flying N on 17th was observed at St Mary's Island (AC) and Seaton Sluice (SSWT). Two flew east at Holy Island on 18th (NRSW).

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

The largest group was 300 at Airy Holm Reservoir, nr. Shotleyfield (IFo) and three-figure counts elsewhere were 200 and 122 offshore Druridge Links/Pools (IDR) and 100+ at Holywell Pond (MSH). Smaller gatherings of up to 70 were at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Jesmond Dene, Lynemouth Bay, Snab Point and Stag Rocks. A Finnish-ringed bird at the QEII Lake had been marked as an adult in 2009 and the observer had recorded this individual, now at least 14 years old, in three previous years up to 2016 (MSH).

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

At Seaton Sluice 25 N, 8 S passed during the month (SSWT) and movement mainly S was noted elsewhere with 24 at Cullercoats on 17th (CB) and 13 at Newbiggin in the month (AT). Good numbers remained at Budle Point/Stag Rocks with 60 on 12th (CGK/GPK/NFO), 34 on 7th (BS), 20 on 19th (TF/JFa) and five to ten were seen almost daily offshore at Budle Point. Up to three were at eight other widespread localities.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

Several counts at Newbiggin ranged up to 50 and included individuals passing offshore at Beacon and Newbiggin Points (AT/CB *et al.*) and several records with a maximum of 28 were from Ellington (TB). Cresswell Pond held 17+ (ADMc) and a maximum of 15 were found from several counts at Widdrington Moor Lake (ADMc) with one or two at eight other localities, all in the SE apart from Bamburgh. A colour-ringed individual at St Mary's Island, marked as a nestling in Germany in 2018, had been seen previously on seven occasions at Newbiggin and also at other sites in England,

Scotland, France and Netherlands (MSH).

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

A roost of 2,300 at Budle Point on 28th was the lowest November roost total in this millennium (CGK). At Widdrington Moor Lake on 12th, ca.1,000 arrived from the west, to bathe, before flying off to the east (AT) and totals of 100-250 were counted on various dates at Alwinton, offshore Druridge Links, Grindon Lough and Todburn. Smaller groups of up to 50 were present at eight other coastal and inland sites.

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Small numbers with maxima of 20-40 at Blyth South Harbour, Druridge Links, Linton, Snab Point and St Mary's Island and up to five at Bamburgh, Colt Crag Reservoir and Grindon Lough.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

An adult flew out to sea at Newbiggin Point on 8th with the same individual also seen there the following day (AT).

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argentatus*

The largest gatherings of 150 were at Linton (IDR), 109 at the QEII CP (CDH) and 100+ at St Mary's Island of which at least seven showed characteristics of northern *argentatus* race (MSH). Elsewhere, 10-40 were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Big Waters NWT, Chathill, offshore Druridge Links, Grindon Lough and Snab Point with one to seven at four other localities.

**\*Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

An adult and a 1st-winter were at the Ellington wind farm on 19th (AT), a 1st-winter at St Mary's Island on 2nd (TRD) with two 1st-winters there on 13th (MSH/AC) and a 1st-winter at Castle Island on 16th (AT).



Caspian Gull (adult), Ellington Wind Farm, November 2022, Alan Tilmouth

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

The largest of several counts at Grindon Lough was five on 24th (PRM), three at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (IFo) and two at Airy Holm Reservoir, Castron, Cramlington, Colt Crag Reservoir and Hedgely GP. All other sightings, the majority

during the first half of the month, comprised single birds at Big Waters, Blyth South Harbour, Budle Bay, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Ellington, Newbiggin and Seaton Sluice.

#### **Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

A late individual flew S at Ross on 13th (NFO).

#### **Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

The latest for several years was one at Bamburgh, Stag Rocks on 16th (TRD).

#### **Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Several late/very late records included seven at Ross on 13th (NFO), 11 at Stag Rocks on 12th (ASJ), ten offshore at Budle Point from 1st -12th (CGK), three at St Mary's Island on 3rd (PRM) and a 1st-winter flew S at St Mary's Island on 3rd (MP).

#### **Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

Following the disastrous breeding season, a small passage of 19 N, 1 S was the monthly total recorded at Seaton Sluice, the majority being seen on 17th (SSWT). Other observers also tapped into this movement with 10 N at St Mary's Island (AC), 5 N at North Blyth (PRM) and 4 N at Cullercoats (CB). On 18th one moved S offshore at Druridge Links (IDR/JF).

#### **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Northbound movements on 17th included 10 at Newbiggin Point (NRSW), seven at North Blyth (PRM) and Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and two at Cullercoats (CB); a juvenile flew N at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh, on 19th (TF/JFa) and one flew past Seaton Point, Boulmer on 13th (NRSW).

#### **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

At Seaton Sluice a site November record was set with a total of 33 N, 1 S, an unusually high number, including a day record of 31 N on 17th (SSWT). Elsewhere on that day, 33 moved N in three hours of seawatching at North Blyth (PRM), at least 20 N at Cullercoats (CB) and six in a half-hour at Snab Point (JR). At St Mary's Island, one was on the causeway rocks on 22nd/23rd (AC).

#### **Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*

The large sea-bird passage on 17th included at least two N at Cullercoats (CB).

#### **Little Auk** *Alle alle*

The strong winds in the North Sea throughout the month, unusually mostly from the south, generated good numbers particularly during the period 17th-27th. In the first half of the month singles were in Staple Sound on 4th and flew N at Seaton Point (12th) and Newbiggin (14th) with two passing Seaton Sluice on 15 (SSWT). At Newbiggin, over 100 flew N on 17 and totals of 70-75, mainly moving N, were recorded on 22nd (CB/ADMc). At Seaton Sluice a monthly total of 18 N, 35 S included peaks of 28 S on 19th/20th and 15 N, 1 S on 22nd (SSWT). These movements were seen elsewhere by many other observers with totals of 15-30 at Boulmer, Hauxley, Holy Island, Newbiggin, North Blyth, Ross Back Sands and Stag Rocks. At Budle Point, five still lingered offshore on 28th and smaller numbers of one to four were recorded from a further eight localities. One stranded individual was rescued from a garden at Seaton Sluice and was returned to the sea (LJM) and another was found 1.5km inland at Castle Island on 22nd (AT).



Little Auk, Castle Island NR, November 2022, Alan Tilmouth

**Auk** *sp*

At Seaton Sluice there were very few records prior to and beyond 17th when ca.1,000 mainly Guillemot, flew N in 2.5 hours (SSWT) and also on 17th ca.560 Guillemot/Razorbill passed N at North Blyth (PRM).

**Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Few reports were received of only one to six at eight widespread localities between Ross Back Sands and Tynemouth on dates throughout.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

Few reports were received of only one to six at five localities between Ross Back Sands and Tynemouth on dates throughout.

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

Seaton Sluice had 70 records, peaking at 10 S on 15th and 30 N on 17th with only a few recorded before and after these dates (SSWT). Seven were counted from Stag Rocks to Budle Point on 12th (NFO) with up to five at Stag Rocks on several other days and one to four elsewhere at five other localities.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

The monthly count at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower was 259 in 42 hrs with 110N & 149S (SSWT). The count at Newbiggin Point was 113 in nearly 14 hrs with peak passage on 21st (AT). 24 were noted at Newbiggin on 22nd with 14N, 5S and 5 on the sea (CB), 17 were at Snab Point on 20th with 9 on the sea, 5S and 3N (IDR). 14 were offshore at Druridge Links on 14th (IDR) and 14 were noted at Ross Backs Sands on 27th (MJC), 10 were at The Heugh, Holy Island on 27th (IK). One to seven were at 17 locations including an adult at Linton Lane NR that sadly had two fishing floats caught up in its belly on 20th (TF/JFa).

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

Two were at Ross Backs Sands on 27th with one in the channel between Guile Point and Holy Island (MJC). Singles were offshore at Budle Point on 5th and 28th (CGK). On 14th one flew S at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower (SSWT) and 1 was off St Cuthbert's Island (DGr/ADM *et al.*). One moved N at Newbiggin on 22nd (CB) and one was in a Common



Scoter *Melanitta nigra* flock off Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 28th (GAS).

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

At Seaton Sluice Watch Tower a total of four were seen between 15th – 26th, with 3N & 1S (SSWT). On 17th two went N at Cullercoats in a two-hour sea-watch (CB), two went S at Newbiggin in 2.5 hrs on 22nd (CB) and two flew S at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 28th (GAS). Singles were noted S at Tynemouth on 5th (DRW), N at Snab Point on 12th (DLo). On 16th one was seen constantly diving off Stag Rocks, Bamburgh (TRD) and one flew S at Beacon Point, Newbiggin (AP), One moved N at Cullercoats on 17th (ASJ), one was at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 19th (JFa) and 20th (JPL) and one was in Sandham Bay, Holy Island also on 20th (MJC). One flew S at Cocklawburn Beach on 21st (CB) and one was off Birling Carrs, Warkworth on 29th (CSA).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Only singles were noted at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower in the run up to the 17th when 70 went N on 2.5 hrs, including two blue morph individuals; only small numbers were noted thereafter with 5 off Colywell Bay on 30th (SSWT). Snab Point, Cresswell had 11 on 20th (IDR), eight on 21st (MH) and three N on 18th (JR); three were also at Coquet Island on 27th (SW).

**Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea*

On 17th 10 flew N at Newbiggin Point (NRSW) and four moved N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower (SSWT), two flew N at North Blyth (PRM) and a single flew N at St Mary's Island (AC).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

During the month at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower 225 were counted, the main period being between 13th – 17th with 131N & 53S (SSWT). At Newbiggin Point in nearly 14 hrs 35 flew past (AT), 30 moved N at North Blyth on 17th (PRM), 25 were at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 12th (ASJ) and on 27th 15 were seen at Ross Back Sands (MJC). Four flew S at Berwick Pier on 2nd (MHU), three were off Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 11th (IDR) and two went S at Spittal Bay, Berwick on 2nd (MHU).

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

North Shields Fish Quay had the highest counts with 76 on 14th (MSH), 75 on 8th & 18th (MN) & 66 on 20th CDH). 71 were in the River Blyth Estuary on 9th (LJM) and 55 were on Colt Crag Reservoir on 10th (PRM). The monthly total at Newbiggin Point in just under 14 hrs was 34 (AT) and 32 were in the Ross Back Sands area on 27th (MJC). 18 were in the roost at Meadow Haven (Berwick) on 9th (MHu), 12 were off Snab Point, Cresswell on 20th (IDR) & at Hedgeley GP (PRM), 11 were at Big Waters NWT on 6th (GB) & 10+ were seen at Tynemouth on 3rd (PRM). One to nine were at 15 sites, with a count of five at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 11th which was the observer's highest count there (Ifo).



Cormorant, Big Waters NR, November 2022, Jack Bucknall

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

267 were at Ross Back Sands on 27th (MJC) and 150 were feeding offshore at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 12th (ASJ) with 50 there on 16th (TRD). The roost at Meadow Haven, Berwick held 42 individuals on 9th (MHU) and 30 were still at Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 27th (IF). At Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, the monthly count was nine with 5N & 4S (SSWT). Three were in Spittal Bay, Berwick on 2nd (MHU), and one was in Newbiggin Bay on 23rd (TB).

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

One flew SE at Budle Bay on 14th and was later relocated in a field near Glororum (per BirdGuides).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

The highest counts this month were six at Haughton Strother GP, Humshaugh on 10th (PRM), Widdrington Moor on 14th (CB) and at Old Hartley on 27th (MNC). Five were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th (PRM) and four were at East Chevington (PRM) and Druridge Pools (IDR/JF) the same day. Four were at Longhirst Flash on 25th (AT). Three were at Bothal Pond on 13th (TD), Old Hartley on 21st (MNC) and at North Blyth Staithes on 22nd (LJM). One to two were at 13 sites.

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

The long-staying individual was still at Caistron on 12th and 13th after nearly one year in the area (BS/TRD). Another individual was seen at Prestwick Carr on 18th and again flying E at Dinnington on 29th (PCF).

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

On 12th six were at Beal (ASJ), five were in Budle Bay on 4th (CGK/GPK), Fenham Flats, Lindisfarne NNR on 7th (BS) and Caistron on 12th (BS) with three at the latter site on 13th (TRD). One to two were at 28 other sites during the month.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Four, three males & a female, were at the Snook, Holy Island on 20th (MJC). Two were at Abbey Mill, Morpeth on 10th (CB), Howdon on 12th (CB) and two were at Wall on 12th (SW) and at Low Hauxley on 20th (HRS). Singles were noted at 16 locations throughout the month.

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*

A surprise sighting for the observer was one flying over the town centre at Rothbury on 5th (TRD). Another individual was also at a confidential site on 21st (JPL).

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

Once again this month the majority of sightings came from the Druridge Bay area with four noted including an adult male and at least two juveniles at East Chevington on 11th and 16th, with three there on 6th (MH). Up to three (a male, female and juvenile) were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 6th (TB), 12th (MN) and 27th (TB). Singles were also seen in the area at Druridge Pools, East Chevington and Widdrington Moor Lake. Elsewhere a juvenile was seen at Grindon Lough NWT on 10th (PRM).

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

Three ringtails were in the air together at Prestwick Carr on 27th (BS), two ringtails were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 5th (TF), 6th (ADM), 18th (YB), 20th (ADM), 23rd (TB) and 25th (TRD/JD). Two were also at Prestwick Carr on 27th (GB) and 28th (MH/STH). Two were seen at a confidential site on 8th (MH/AA) and a male at the same site on 23rd (TRD/JD). Singles were recorded at Prestwick Carr and Widdrington Moor Lake on several dates throughout the month and at Edges Green, Haltwhistle on 3rd (MH), Elwick on 12th (ASJ), West Chevington on 23rd (TB) and Big Waters on 27th (ISD per GB).

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Three were at Derwent Reservoir on 30th (IFo) with two there on 12th, 16th and 20th (IFo). Singles were at Broomley on 9th (AJ/TW/ASH/AJN), Derwent Reservoir on 14th and 25th (IFo), Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 23rd, 25th and 27th (IFo). One flew W over Beaconhill Estate, Cramlington on 24th (STH), one was at Carterway Heads on 25th, Kiln Pit Hill on 26th and at Crooked Oak, Carterway Heads on 29th (all IFo).

**Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

A juvenile was seen in N Northumberland on 22nd (MH).

**Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Six were at Old Bewick, Chillingham on 26th (MH), five were noted at Widdrington Moor Lake on 21st (MH) and at Hedgeley GP on 25th (PRM). Four were in the Upper Coquetdale at Blindburn on 27th (JR/NA) and at Widdrington Moor Lake also on 27th (TB). At least three were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 12th (MN), three were noted at Great Ryle, Whittingham on 8th (CW), Kielder Forest Drive on 11th (ADM), West Chevington on 23rd (TB) and Stonehaugh on 24th (SW). One to two were at a further 22 sites.

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Two were regularly at the daytime roost at Derwent Reservoir (IFo) with a well developed juvenile looking out of nest box on 11th (AA) and a single at Wark, N.Tyne, on four dates from 3rd to 28th (PRM). Singles were also at East Chevington on 6th, near Eglington on 9th, West Fleetham on 11th, Morpeth on 13th, Widdrington Moor Lake and Holy Island on 18th, Haughton Strother on 23rd, Rothbury on 24th, Caistron on 25th, Brunton (Gosforth) on 28th and Whittingham on 30th.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

At least five called at dusk at Garrett Lea Wood, Longhorsley on 13th (CB), three males were calling at Wark, N.Tyne on 19th with two (including a female) there on 12th and 28th and two calling regularly all month at Waren Mill Caravan Park, Bamburgh (CGK/GPK). Singles were regularly at Wark, Humshaugh on 8th, Milkwell, Corbridge on 23rd and two locations at Shilbottle on 27th and 30th.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

Singles were at Hallington Reservoir on 24th and Embleton Mill on 26th (PRM/JR).

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Disappointing given the numbers incoming last month with singles at Prestwick Carr and 'in off' at Tynemouth on 13th, at Holy Island on 14th and 20th and Budle Point on 23rd.

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Four were found at three locations in Jesmond Dene on 13th (MJCo) with one to three there on 4th and 24th (DHWB), two were at Wark, N.Tyne on 21st (PRM) and one on seven dates at Budle Bay and four dates at Horton Burn, Cramlington during the month (CGK/GPK/LJM). Singles were seen at 16 other widespread localities.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

There was only one multiple report of three at St Mary's Wetland on 20th with a single there on 16th (MSH). All other reports were singles at Stannington and Wallsend on 4th, Low Hauxley on 5th, Big Waters NWT and Wark Forest on 6th, Wall on 12th, Arcot Pond on 14th, Humshaugh on 20th, Norham Bridge on 25th, Little Mill and West Ord on 27th and Wallsend Park on 30th.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

Four was the high count at Longhirst Flash on 4th, Widdrington Moor Lake on 6th and Prestwick Carr on 14th (AT/TB/MH) with three at the last two locations on three dates and Alnwick Moor on 8th. Two were at Holywell Dene on 3rd, East Chevington on 10th, Derwent Reservoir on 11th and 19th, Widdrington Moor Lake on 14th, Maiden's Hall Lake and Stannington on 18th, Whittle Dene Reservoir on 24th and West Hartford on 30th. Singles were at an impressive 40 additional widely spread localities.

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

A juvenile male and female were at the Snook, Holy Island on 20th (MJC) with singles at Holy Island on four dates till 22nd, Chevington on 6th and 21st, Alnwick Moor on 9th, East Chevington on 13th, Annstead, Seahouses and Elwick on 16th.

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Two adults and a juvenile female were at Budle Bay during the month (CGK/GPK et al.) with at least one present at Tynemouth all month (DRW/MN) and single juveniles at Widdrington Moor Lake on five dates. Singles were also at Boulmer on 4th and 20th, Grindon Lough NWT on 13th, Newbiggin Point on 14th, Stag Rocks, Bamburgh on 19th, Holy Island, Howick Dene, Prestwick Carr and Newcastle on 20th and N at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower on 22nd.

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

Six was the high count at Melton Park, Newcastle on 8th and Preston Avenue, North Shields on 11th (GB/DLo) with four at Jesmond Dene on 20th and Wallsend Park on 30th. Three were at Melton Park and Richardson Dees Park on 4th with two at eight locations in Newcastle and two in North Shields and one at Berwick Parish Church on 9th.

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

A peak of six occurred at Derwent Reservoir on 29th with five there on 14th (IFo), four were at Bebside (Blyth) on 2nd and Garrett Lea Wood, Longhorsley on 6th. Three were at Jesmond Dene on 6th, Widdrington Moor Lake on 12th and Northumberland Park, North Shields on 21st with one to two at 20 other widespread localities.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

A pre-roost gathering at Abyssinnia Wood, Ashington on 25th numbered 19 (AT), nine were at Prestwick Carr on 20th (PCF), five were at Jesmond Dene on 6th and Rising Sun CP, Wallsend on 11th with three at Chathill on 4th, Druridge Pools on 19th and Cresswell on 27th. One to two were at Druridge links and Cresswell regularly.

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

On 6th 800 roosted at Tritlington (AT), around 90 at Netherton on 27th and at Makendon Farm, Otterburn Ranges on the



same date (JR/NA), 89 at St Mary's on 8th (CDH) and around 60 at Bolam on 4th (JR). 45 were at Abbey Mill, Morpeth on 10th, 37 at Slaley Village on 16th, 25 at Druridge Pools and Links on 12th with two to ten at Chathill, Jesmond Dene and Low Hauxley.

#### **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

On 12th 40 were at Druridge Pools and Links, 15 at Druridge Pools on 6th, five at Lynemouth on 20th and two at Cresswell on 27th (IDR/JF).

#### **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

30 fed in fields at St Mary's on 8th with 25 at Toft House Farm and 20 at Siloans Farm, Otterburn Ranges on 27th (JR/NA). 16 was the peak count at Druridge Pools and Links on 6th and one to seven at seven other locations with one killing and eating a presumably sick Common Gull at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd.

#### **Hooded Crow** *Corvus corone cornix*

The long-staying adult was at Ellington Wind Farm on 3rd and 28th and at Potland (Linton) on 20th (AT/IDR).

#### **Raven** *Corvus corax*

A high count of six was made at Hedgeley GP on 25th (PRM) with two at Holy Island on three dates including a pair prospecting nest sites on the Priory ruins on 12th (IK) and two at five further locations. Singles were at Holy Island on two dates and six other locations.

#### **Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulous*

On 24th, 11 were found feeding at Gosforth Academy, Newcastle (GB) with some remaining in the area till 28th. Four were at Acklington on 23rd (TB) and two at Morrison's, Amble on 26th (JFa/CSa) with singles at Plessey Woods CP on 10th and over Holy Island on 20th.

#### **Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

Eight were found at Kielder Forest drive on 11th (ADM) with six trapped and ringed at Eschott during the month (MSH), three at Low Hauxley on 20th and Ross Village on 27th. Two were at Druridge links on 12th, Cresswell on 20th and Chathill on 23rd with singles at six other locations.

#### **Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Two were at Linden Hall, Longhorsley on 24th with one there on 14th (NFO) and singles coming to feeders at Fulbeck, Morpeth on 5th (TD), at Wark (N.Tyne) on 8th and Felton on 28th.

#### **Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Regularly seen at Druridge links from 12th to 19th with two on 12th and 13th (IDR/JF/TB), two at The Mound, Newbiggin and Prestwick Carr on 19th, Beaconhill, Cramlington on 22nd, Linden Hall, Longhorsley on 24th and Brierdene, Whitley Bay on 26th. Singles were at six other locations.

#### **Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

An impressive 38 were trapped and ringed at Eschott during the month (MSH), seven of 16 ringed at Low Hauxley on 5th and five to eight there on two dates (HRS). 14 was the peak at Druridge links on 6th with three to ten there on seven other dates (IDR/JF), eight at Bebside, Blyth on 2nd, six the peak monthly count at Chathill and more than five at Milkwell, Corbridge on 15th. Two to four were at four other locations.

#### **Great Tit** *Parus major*

24 were trapped and ringed at Eschott during the month (MSH) with one of nine ringed at Low Hauxley on 5th and one of five on the 20th (HRS). Two to five were at Druridge links on five dates with one to four at six locations.

#### **Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

At Holy Island 138 flew south (90 at the Snook and 48 at the village) on 20th with 61 south on 13th (MJC/RGD), 90 SSW in 60 minutes at Budle Point on 4th and 66 in 45 minutes on 12th (CGK). On 12th 39 flew south in 30 minutes at Boulmer whist 34 of 35 headed north at The Snook, Holy Island on 22nd, 26 in coastal fields at Cocklawburn on 25th and 23 south at Druridge links on 12th. 14 were at Broomley on 8th with one to ten at six other locations.

#### **Shore Lark** *Eremophila alpestris*

One was in salt marsh on the west side of Old Law Dunes at Ross Back Sands on 27th (MJC).

#### **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

One stayed around the Village Hall at Cresswell on 4th and 5th (TB) with presumably the last S at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 10th (AP).

#### **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*

On 1st one flew NW at Annstead Point, Seahouses (CGK) and one S at Boulmer on 12th (BS).

#### **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cettia*

Two singing males were heard at East Chevington on 18th (PRM), with song heard there on 2nd, 11th, 16th, 24th and 26th. Song was also heard at Big Waters NWT on 13th and 18th. One was at Swallow Pond, Rising Sun CP on 16th (ASJ).

#### **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

A maximum of 25 were at Druridge Links on 19th (IDR). Two flocking parties totalling 20 were at the Mound, Newbiggin on 19th (GAS), 22nd (CB), and 27th (GB). A maximum of 20 were at Low Hauxley on 27th (HRS). Smaller parties were recorded at widely distributed locations throughout the county, with 15 at North Yardhope, Otterburn Ranges on 27th (JR/NA) and 12 at Bebside, Blyth on 2nd (JR), Longhorsley on 15th (AB/LB), Marden Quarry on 16th (KWY), Branton GP on 25th (PRM), and Todburn on 29th (CB). Derwent Reservoir had 11 on 22nd (IFo), Counts between four to ten came from a further 19 localities.

#### **Hume's Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei*

One was found on Holy Island on 14th (ADM) and photographed in the north dunes on the same day (ADM/AH). At Druridge Links, one was seen and described on 18th (IDR/JF), and seen briefly again behind the Budge Hide on 19th (IDR). One was found at Brierdene, Whitley Bay on 19th (ASJ, MN), recorded several times subsequently (GAS, CB, DLo), and stayed until 25th. The last record for the month was one in the walled garden next to the Ship Inn at Low Newton between 23rd and 30th where two were thought to be present on 28th (NRSW/PCA).

#### **Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Two were at Brierdene, Whitley Bay on 23rd (ASJ, MSH/AC, DLo) and still present on 25th (ASJ). One was in a party of Long-tailed Tits at the Mound, Newbiggin on 19th (GB, GAS), and one was photographed at Cresswell on 20th (IDR). Another was heard, but not seen, at the Tin Church, Low Newton on 24th (TRD/JD).

#### **Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus*

One was in a party of Long-tailed Tits at the Mound, Newbiggin between 19th-20th (GB/NRSW), not the same flock as the Yellow-browed Warbler also present there. One was at Castle Wood, Bamburgh on 19th (TF/JFa).

#### **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

One was at Tynemouth on 3rd (PRM) and a very late individual was found at the Lough on Holy Island on 20th (MJC).

#### **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

A maximum of ten were at The Snook, Holy Island on 20th (MJC). Three, including a possible Siberian race (*P.c. tristis*), were at Cresswell on 20th (IDR) and three were at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 22nd (ASJ). There were two at Bamburgh on 3rd and 19th, two were ringed at Low Hauxley on 5th, two at Tynemouth and at St Mary's Wetland on 20th and two at Druridge Links on 26th. A late inland sighting involved one at Branton GP on 27th (TRD/JD), with singles noted at a

further seven localities. Eastern races of the species were recorded on Holy Island, with a maximum of two on 18th (MJC). A Siberian race (*P.c tristis*) was there on 20th (MJC) and one was ringed at Low Hauxley, also on 20th (HRS).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

A maximum of six were in Holy Island village on 20th (MJC) and two were at Howick Dene on 20th (BS). Singles were at Tynemouth, Dinnington, Druridge Links, Marden Estate (Cullercoats), Low Hauxley and Newbiggin, and a male was trapped and ringed at East Sleekburn on 13th (JR).

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

Two were together by the viewing screen at Druridge Pools on 28th (CB), with sightings of singles there on 19th (IDR), 26th–27th (IDR/JF) and 29th (MH/AA, TRD). One was also at Hauxley on 22nd (BS) and 27th (CSa). An immature male was trapped and ringed at East Sleekburn on 28th (JR).



Firecrest, Druridge Pools, November 2022, Tim Dean

#### **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

The highest count came from Broadpool Common, Wark Forest, with 50 on 13th (SW). There were 15 at Holy Island on 18th (MJC/ADM) and 11 were trapped and ringed at Eshott during the month (MSH). Low Hauxley held a maximum of 11 on 5th, with seven ringed there throughout the month. Pundershaw, Wark Forest and East Chevington had ten on 6th and 18th respectively (PRM). Druridge Links held six on 19th (IDR), Branton GP had five on 25th (PRM) and the Mound, Newbiggin had four with one of the tit flocks on 19th (GAS). Reports of one to three came from a further eighteen localities..

#### **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Holy Island had a maximum of 34 on 20th (MJC) and Druridge Links held 18 on 12th (IDR). Eight were at Low Hauxley on 5th, with three ringed there during the month, and Cresswell held seven on 20th (IDR). Four were singing at Cateran Hole, Eglington on 27th (SW) and there were three at Jesmond Dene on 13th, two at Chathill on 4th, and two at the Lyne Burn Mouth on 27th.

#### **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Jesmond Dene and Bolam Lake each had five on 13th (MJCo, ASJ) and Humshaugh had four on 20th (SW). Two were at Holywell Pond on 11th (DLo), Norham Bridge on 25th (PRM) and Eshott on 28th (MSH). Singles were at seven other localities.

#### **Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

Three were trapped and ringed at Eshott during the month (MSH), three were at Bolam Lake on 13th (ASJ) and three were seen feeding in the same birch at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (IFo). Two were at Bebside (Blyth) on 2nd (JR), Chugdon Wood, Ellington on 3rd (TB), Low Hauxley on 8th and 11th (HRS), the Mound, Newbiggin on 19th (GAS) and Garrett Lea Wood, Longhorsley on 24th (CB). Two were observed feeding on the priory building at Brinkburn on 25th (TWi). Singles were recorded at ten other localities, including singing males at Humshaugh on 7th and 18th (SW) and one



in a garden at Longbenton on 12th (AJ).

### **Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

The largest roosting flocks were at Wall, with 2,000 on 12th (SW), and at Druridge Pools, with 2,000 on 18th (IDR/JF). There were 1,000 E at dusk over Kingston Park on 10th (PCF). Longhorsley held 500 on 14th (AB/LB), and 500 flew E at dusk at Darras Hall (Ponteland) on 25th (PCF). Smaller flocks were at Houxty, Wark with 201 on 30th, Prestwick Carr with 150 on 18th and at Great Ryle (Whittingham) with 70 on 25th. Passage was observed at Seaton Sluice, with small numbers in off the sea 13th–15th (SSWT).

Thrush sp.

Small numbers were observed coming in off the sea at Seaton Sluice up to 18th, including 60 Fieldfares on 7th (SSWT).

### **Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

One was at Holy Island Village on 13th (MJC/RGD) and it or another at the Straight Lonnen on 18th (MJC). One was also at St Mary's on 14th (ASJ).

### **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

Passage continued at Holy Island, with 1,302 on 18th (MJC/ADM), most of which (1,070) were observed leaving the island from the village. Elsewhere on the coast, 55 flew in off the sea at Tynemouth on 18th (DRW) and a maximum of 50 were at Low Hauxley on 20th, where 11 were ringed during the month (HRS). There were also 50 at West Ord (Berwick) on 20th (MHu). 37 were counted along the Ash Lagoon banks at Newbiggin on 1st (AT) and Gosforth Garden Village, Newcastle had 30 S on 24th and on 26th (MJC). At St Mary's, 22 arrived from the east on 14th (ASJ). Smaller numbers (no more than 11) were reported at eight other localities.

### **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

The highest counts came from Holy Island, with 758 on 13th (MJC/RGD), and from Prestwick Carr, with 500 by sunset on 25th (MH). There were 250 at Haughton Strother GP (Humshaugh) on 10th (PRM), 200 at Haltwhistle Common on 9th (SW), 150 at Longhorsley on 14th (AB/LB) and a maximum of 130 at West Ord, Berwick on 20th (MHu). 120 were at Longhirst Flash on 25th (AT) and Houxty, Wark had 110 on 30th (AJ). Flocks of 100 were recorded at Greenhead, Housesteads, Simonburn, Crooked Oak, Carterway Heads, and at Whittingham, where many smaller flocks had been observed during the month. Flocks of 40–93 were reported from 13 widespread localities, with smaller flocks of 11–30 at 11 other sites. Numbers of ten and below were recorded at a further 16 localities.

### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

The highest counts came from Holy Island, with a maximum of 484 on 13th (MJC/RGD), and from Prestwick Carr, with 200 on 27th (BS). There was a maximum of 100 at West Ord, Berwick on 20th (MHu), 48 at Chillingham on 27th (SW), 47 W at Abbey Mill, Morpeth on 10th (CB), and 40 W at Beal at first light on 14th (ADM). Garrett Lea Wood, Longhorsley had 30 on 3rd, Amble had 30 W on 7th, and 20 flew in off the sea at Tynemouth Haven on 1st. Flocks of 20 were also at Red Row on 7th, Haughton Strother GP on 10th and Little Mill on 27th. Smaller groups of 12–18 were at eight sites, with numbers of ten and below at a further 15 localities.

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

There were 12 on Holy Island on 18th (MJC/ADM) and six at Hauxley on 5th, with one ringed there on 20th (HRS). Bebside, Blyth had three on 2nd (JR). Two were at Abbey Mill, Morpeth on 14th, at Cresswell on 14th, 19th, and 20th and at Druridge Links on 19th. One was singing at Exhibition Park on 15th and singles were at the Wansbeck Estuary on 5th, Big Waters NWT on 6th, Chathill on 9th and Jesmond Dene on 20th.

### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

Small numbers were reported from widely distributed localities this month. There were four at Milkwell, Corbridge on 7th (RB/MB), four at Widdrington Moor on 27th (JR/NA), and three in coastal fields at Cocklawburn on 25th (MHu). Two were recorded at Garrett Lea Wood, Longhorsley on 3rd, Chathill on 4th, Ellington on 9th, Bothal Ponds on 13th, Low Hauxley on 20th, and Little Ryle on 27th. One was keeping other birds off a yew tree in a cemetery at Wideopen for most of the month (GB). Singles were at a further seven localities, including one singing at Jesmond on 15th (GB).

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

The highest counts came from Holy Island, with a maximum of 48 on 20th (MJC), and from Low Hauxley, with 26 (four ringed) on 20th (HRS). Slaley village had 14 on 16th (RMH), Bebside, Blyth had eight on 2nd (JR), and Druridge Links had seven on 12th and 19th (IDR). There were six at Cresswell on 20th (IDR), four at Jesmond Dene on 20th (MJCo), and two at Chathill throughout the month (PCA).

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Holy Island had a maximum of four (possibly six) female types on 22nd (ADM), and an adult male on 14th (DGr/ADM *et al.*) with individuals noted on 13th, 20th and 21st (per NRSW). Singles were at Blyth South Harbour on 3rd (NRSW), Farne Islands on 14th, Seaton Sluice on 18th (SSWT) and at Budle Point on 19th (TF/JFa), and an adult male was at Low Hauxley 20th–22nd (HRS, CSa).

**Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

The highest count came from Budle Bay, with eight on 28th (CGK). Druridge Links had a maximum of six on 6th (IDR/JF). There were three pairs on Holy Island on 13th (MJC/RGD), two pairs on St Mary's on 13th (DLo), at Ross Back Sands (MJC) and Hauxley (SW) on 27th and at Prestwick Carr on 28th (MH). Single pairs were at East Chevington on 13th (TD) and at Hepburn Moor on 27th (SW). Upland sightings included four at Ottercops Moss on 24th (AB/LB) and singles at Blindburn (Upper Coquetdale) and Otterburn Camp on 27th (JR/NA). There were one to four at a further ten widespread localities.

**Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Individuals were at Seaton Point on 18th (NRSW) and on the beach towards Budle Point on 19th (TF/JFa).

**Pied Wheatear** *Oenanthe pleschanka*

A confiding first-winter male was found at Whitley Bay Promenade and Skate Park on 1st (ASJ) and stayed until 12th, providing close views for club members and for hundreds of twitchers from around the country. Once accepted this will be the sixth county record.

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Singles only were seen this month at five sites including Rothbury, Jesmond Dene and Warden.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

A flock of around 110 was seen around the farm at Elwick on 12th and up to 38 were at Cullercoats Bay during the month (ASJ). 35 were noted at Widdrington on 18th, 32 seen at Slaley on 16th and 25 noted on 25th at Dinnington, 24 at Horton Burn, Cramlington on 7th (PCF/RMH/LJM). 20–22 were at garden feeders all month at Cullercoats (ASJ). Eight to 12 were seen at three further sites.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

A Sunflower crop at Elwick attracted a large feeding flock of 150+ on 12th, which were being hunted by a Hen Harrier (ASJ). At Beal that day, 50 were counted in a hedgerow (ASJ). 26 were at garden feeders at Slaley on 10th as were 18 all month at Cullercoats (RMH/ASJ). 15 were seen at Widdrington on 27th and at Hauxley on 29th (GB/TRD). 14 was the maximum count at Chathill with a regular presence during the month (PCA). One to 12 were also seen this month at eight sites.



Tree Sparrow, Big Waters, November 2022, Jack Bucknall

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Twelve were counted at Low Hauxley on 20th. Six were at Druridge Links on 12th, with three on 18th and singles on other dates (IDR/JF). Three to four were noted in a Cullercoats garden all month (ASJ). One to two were at a further four sites during the month.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Four were counted on 13th at Jesmond Dene (MJCo). Three were calling from a house roof at Holywell on 4th (MSH). Two were noted from four sites this month and singles at a further 21 locations.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

45 were counted at Prestwick Carr on 23rd with 32 there on 26th and 17 on 28th (AB/PCF/MH). On 6th, 23 were feeding below the promenade at St. Mary's (ASJ). Ten were seen at Druridge on 16th (PCF). One to eight were seen at another eight sites.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Around 50 at Otterburn Camp on 27th was somewhat unusual for November at this upland location, as were 23 at Derwent Reservoir on 20th (JR/NA/IFo). 20 were at St. Mary's on 14th (ASJ). 17 were at Druridge Links on 12th, 12 of which flew S (IDR). 16 flew S at Seaton Point on 12th and 15 were seen at the Snook, Holy Island on 20th. 13 were also inland at Ottercops Moss on 24th and seven at Alnwick Moor on 4th. One to ten were at a further five sites.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

The bird present in October remained at St. Mary's Island throughout the month (AC/ASJ/MSH/MN *et al.*). It or another was seen feeding on a weedy grass bank 1km south of St. Mary's at Whitley Bay Promenade on 18th (ASJ). One was noted at Newbiggin on 9th and another was seen at Druridge Pools on several dates during the latter half of the month (GAS/IDR).

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

A good count of 55 was made at the coastline of Holy Island on 13th, with up to 28 seen on subsequent days (MJC/RJD/ADM). 19 were seen at Berwick on 22nd (MJC). At St. Mary's/Whitley Bay beach, 11-12 plus were seen on 14th (MSH/ASJ). One to seven were also at six other sites this month. Five 'Scandinavian' ssp *littoralis* were observed during the month at Budle Bay.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

Around 80 were seen at Little Ryal on 27th (JR/NA). 20+ were at Shankhouse Bridge on 7th (LJM). Two to 15 were also at ten locations.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Few were reported this month. Five were seen at Holy Island on 14th and 18th, mainly in the village, and singles at Rothbury and Cresswell.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Two were watched at Abbey Mill on 8th (ADMc). One was at Straight Lonnen, Holy Island on 14th, remaining until 18th (ADM/MJC). One visited a Hipsburn garden on 22nd (TC/MC/MKi).

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

A good count of 24 was made at Walker Riverside Park on 18th, with 20 there on 21st (ASJ per SP). 10+ were found on 29th at Wark and seven there on 14th (PRM). One to seven were at a further 26 sites this month.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

A good count of 60 was made at the regular site of Snab Point on 20th (TRD). 20 spent the month at Anstead dunes (PCA). One to 12 were seen at a further 13 sites.

**Twite** *Linaria flavirostris*

120 were seen on 14th at Cresswell and ca. 25 also near the Drift Inn Café in the final week (CB/TB/GB). 100 were watched on 6th on saltmarsh at Budle Bay (CGK). A flock of 70 was at Beal on 12th (ASJ). 40 were at Long Nanny all month and at Druridge on 6th (PCA/IDR). Between 15th and 22nd at the Snook, Holy Island, 30 -36 were seen (ADM/MJC). Well inland, 16 were watched at Shillmoor, Upper Coquetdale on 4th (JR). 16 were also seen at Cocklawburn on 25th (MHu). Two to seven were also at two other sites.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

100 at Crooked Oak, Caterway Heads on 16th had increased to 350 by 29th (IFo). Three flocks totalling 94 were seen feeding in game crops on 14th at Bywell (MH). 88 were noted at Sandham Bay, Holy Island on 13th (MJC/ RGD). 82 were also noted at Ross Back Sands on 27th (MJC). One to 40 were observed at a further seven localities this month.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

50 were seen at Castron on 13th (TRD) and 36 were noted at Druridge Links on 12th, some flying S (IDR). 35 were seen feeding at Airy Holm Reservoir on 28th and 25 at nearby Derwent Reservoir earlier in the month, on 12th(IFo). Two to 12 were also seen at eight sites, including several on coastal passage.

**Common Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea*

Three were at the Snook, Holy Island on 20th (MJC).

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

21 were watched at the regular site of Corbridge Common on 24th (DLe). Seven seen at Debdon on 26th increased to ten by 29th (JD). Five were at Stonehaugh, four at Wark and four at Chillingham and two at Humshaugh during the month (SW).



**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Around 100 were noted at Elwick on 16th and 90 were at Druridge that day. Lower counts were made on subsequent days at the latter site (TRD/PCF). 75 were at Cresswell on 27th (GB). A total of 55 were seen at Holy island on 18th. At Slaley, 50 were seen on 16th (RMH). One to 37 were counted at another 17 sites during the month.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

At Budle Point, 60 were noted on passage on 4th (CGK). 48 were seen at Druridge Links on 12th (IDR). 40 were noted at Abbey Mill on 14th (CB). Two to 30 were observed at 17 other sites.

**Lapland Bunting** *Emberiza lapponicus*

Two records this month involved a single seen at Holy Island Quarry on 13th and one flying S at Newbiggin on 20th (MJC/RGD/AP).

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Snook (Holy Island) held a flock of 33 on 20th, with up to 19 seen in the north east of the island on several other dates (MJC). About 23-29 were seen at Budle Point/Bay on 12th (NFO). Numbers frequenting Beacon Point, Newbiggin early in the month peaked at 15 on 15th (AP). Three at Whitley Bay Promenade and Links on 14th increased to ten on 20th (ASJ). One to five were seen at a further six coastal locations.



Snow Bunting, Whitley Bay, November 2022, Iain Johnson

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citronella*

Small numbers were reported this month with 28 at Glororum on 5th being the peak count (KWY). 18 were counted at Crow Hall Farm, Holywell and 15 seen at Humshaugh on 6th (MNC/SW). 12 were at Longhorsely on 15th (AB/LB). One to six were at eight other sites this month.

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Another species that was reported only in small numbers this month. Nine roosting in reedbeds at St. Mary's Wetland on 6th was the peak count for the site (ASJ). Six were found at the Snook, Holy Island on 20th and at Low Hauxley on 27th (MJC/HRS). Five were at Druridge Links on 12th (IDR). One to four were noted at 11 locations during the month.

## Escapes, Hybrids & Birds of Unknown Origin

Escapes - No sightings

Hybrids

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

One of these regular hybrids was noted at Big Waters on 6th (GB).

Birds of Unknown Origin

**Marbled Duck** *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

An intriguing record of one at Holy Island Lough on 14th and 15th (RS *et al.*). It was un-ringed and full-winged arriving just after an influx of Pallid Swifts during southerly winds. Even though the circumstances suggest a wild individual, it is unlikely to be accepted onto the British List as all previous records of this species have been relegated to category D (Reasonable doubt that the species has been recorded in a natural state).

## Corrections

Entries in the October Bulletin for Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* and Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* should have read as follows:

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

One was ringed at Hauxley on 23rd (HRS).

**Blyth's Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

One (or a hybrid) was ringed at Hauxley on 23rd and re-trapped on 29th, having increased its weight by 15%. Close examination revealed the possibility of hybridisation, investigations into its identity continue (HRS).

## List of Contributors

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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), Helen Snaith (Cettis to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Proof reading was by Mike Smith. Mail distribution by Paul Stewart. Clive Hampton is Data Manager.

Edited by Alan Tilmouth [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

## Record Submission

Please email records for the month to [ntbc.records@googlemail.com](mailto: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.

### **Images and Illustrations**

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent images. Please send to Alan Tilmouth at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality. Submitted images may be used elsewhere on NTBC social media to help the club promote it's aims.

### **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 8th January and Richard Baines will deliver a talk on 'The Birds and Wildlife of Bhutan'.

### **Field Trips**

**Next Field Trip – tbc**

### **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.

Subscriptions can be paid using online banking: please include your name as the reference and email Jo Bentley at [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com) to confirm payment.

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.

If you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome. For membership enquiries please contact Jo Bentley (Hon Treasurer) [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

### **NTBC Web and Social Media**

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds, with a wide range of content from photo galleries, county checklists, Records Committee updates, information on surveys and many useful articles on bird identification and birding both locally and internationally, to find out more please visit [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

Please submit any other new content (eg trip reports, identification notes, site guides etc) for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

NTBC can also be found on Facebook [here](#) and Twitter [here](#)

## **Other News**

### **National Patchwork Challenge**

Many members will be familiar with the Patchwork Challenge project from previous years and social media. 2023 sees the 10th Anniversary of the original launch and the competition has been relaunched to celebrate. It's fairly easy to join and free and encourages birders to map out a patch covering 3km<sup>2</sup> and watch it during the year recording the results online so they can be compared in friendly competition against other patches that are similar. More details can be found at the Patch Birding Twitter feed [here](#) (@patchbirding on Twitter). It's a great way of encouraging birders to stay local, drive less and enjoy all that their local area has to offer.

### **Helicopter Disturbance at East Chevington**

Birders visiting East Chevington were horrified to see a helicopter making at least two low passes over the north lake in early December and causing huge disturbance to the wildfowl on the lake in the process. After NTBC were informed we shared details of the episode with site owners Northumberland Wildlife Trust and both NWT and ourselves contacted the helicopter company operating out of Newcastle Airport to highlight the disturbance issues. In addition NTBC will be supplying the helicopter company (Northumbrian Helicopters) with a list of sites to avoid during training flights when the pilot may go lower than usual for training purposes. We would ask all club members to be vigilant for disturbance issues such as this at wetland sites so that we can address any issues directly.

### **Howdon Wetland Access Arrangements**

Northumbrian water has informed NTBC that they have agreed with Northumbrian Wildlife Trust for the Trust to take over

both habitat management and access arrangements for Howdon Wetland. This arrangement should be effective from the 9th January 2023, depending upon lock changes being achieved. So existing keys may not work after that date.

After the "contract" negotiations during Summer 2021 the club got a batch of keys cut in August at our expense and anyone who received a key after that paid £15. NWL have agreed to refund our costs on this so those people will receive a £15 refund.

Currently we do not know how NWT plan to manage access. They were informed of the current arrangement during the negotiations and have been asked to contact the NTBC and we are waiting for that contact. We will of course keep members informed of progress.

### **Changes to Tyne Kittiwake Partnership**

Following a promotion Blanaid Denman (RSPB) will be stepping down as Chair of the TKP and a new Chair will be appointed. Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club wish Blanaid well in her new role with the RSPB as UK Sites Policy Officer and look forward to continuing to work with the TKP to help promote and conserve the Tyne Kittiwakes.

### **Lars Svensson visits Holy Island**

Lars Svensson, whose name will be well known to every serious birder and ringer throughout Europe and beyond, recently made his first visit to one of our own local hotspots, Holy Island – and he was very impressed with the place. He found the whole island very beautiful and was impressed both with its varied habitat and the island's and Lindisfarne NNR's range of species, now standing at 350. Unfortunately, he was just too late for the peak of autumn migration although watching our waders and wildfowl was adequate compensation. During his weekend visit, his host, Max Whitby, and I had the pleasure of showing him parts of the island, including the Heugh and harbour, the North Shore and the Causeway area where we watched waders and wildfowl moving in response to the rising tide.

Lars came to the island while in Britain for a couple of weeks working on a project which involved examining hundreds of bird skins in the Natural History Museum's collection.

We couldn't have timed his visit the Heugh for a better time as it coincided with the unexpected appearance of a pair of Ravens, a species very familiar to him from Sweden. While he was there they turned up and for half an hour busily and very noisily prospected the ruins of the Priory below, apparently looking for a nesting site.

By co-incidence, that same morning I was giving a completely non-scientific presentation in St Mary's parish church, on the "The Birds of the Lindisfarne Gospels." This was part of island celebrations to mark the return to the region of the early masterpiece of Anglo-Saxon art and literature which was on show at the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle.

Having such a prominent birder in the audience was a bit daunting but turned out to be very fortuitous. Lars was able to confirm my belief that one of the finest illustrations in the Gospels, the Eagle of St John, was based upon a White-tailed Eagle rather than Golden Eagle as experts have previously thought. After checking beak colour and fringing to the throat and breast markings, Lars was able to confirm it as a sub-adult, probably around three years old.

It's long been believed that Bishop Eadfrith, credited with producing the Gospels, probably had a live eagle to work from and Lars' comments about the accuracy of details seems to give added confirmation to that theory. White-tailed Eagles are an everyday sight for Lars as he has a nest site he can watch from his home on one of the Swedish islands where he's also adapted his house roof to accommodate nesting Oystercatchers.

I first became aware of Lars' huge contribution to birding back in the 1970s when, as a trainee member of the Northumbria Ringing Group, I became the proud owner of a copy of the small orange-backed second edition of his Identification Guide to European Passerines, a highly scientific little volume invaluable to ringers because it contained so much information about plumage, weights, measurements and other details. It was constantly referred to at Hauxley ringing station and other localities where we used our mist nets; like the other copies of that edition, it came with a pasted-in page giving an index of the English bird names provided by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) for the benefit of ringers. Lars was fascinated to hear that I still had this little book on my shelves – and was still using it from time to time for reference despite the availability of so many other more modern publications and reports and, of course, the wealth of information on the internet.

Apart from St John, the White-tailed Eagle was also used as a symbol of strength and power by the Romans who came to Britain and they were later one of the favourite standards of the Vikings whose arrival on Lindisfarne in 793, their first raid on England, was to have such momentous implications for our history. Fortunately for us today, the Vikings either didn't come across the Gospels or if they did, ignored them as being of no value.

793 is largely forgotten in Britain's history, except of course on Holy Island, but in Scandinavia it is regarded as the start of the Viking Age with its impact on so much of Europe, Iceland, Greenland and perhaps even North America. Much earlier, the same eagles were obviously important for perhaps religious or superstitious reasons to the Neolithic people of Orkney where the beaks and talons of 20 eagles were found in a tomb containing the remains of 300 people dating back to 2,000BC.

Later the Eagle of St John was also adopted by the first Christian rulers of the newly united Spain, Ferdinand and Isabella. They're, of course, best remembered for commissioning Christopher Columbus to set off and find a new sea passage to India. Well, we all know how that turned out even if the Vikings had probably beaten him to it many centuries earlier!



Lars is best known to today's bird-watching community for providing the species write-ups and maps for the birders' "bible," Collins Bird Guide, which has sold over 1.2 million copies in 27 languages since it was first produced in Swedish in 1999, the result of 15 hard and dedicated years' work in partnership with Killian Mullarney, Dan Zetterstrom and the late Peter J Grant.

The latest updated and expanded edition was published in late 2022, just at the time Lars was guest on the island of Max, co-founder of BirdGuides and now head of NatureGuides, publishers of my own book, The Birds of Holy Island. A new updated edition is due out in 2023 containing details of all species so far recorded on the island and the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve.

Max's company has, among many other projects, digitised the Collins guide as well as the famous BWP – covering the birds of the Western Palearctic. Another of its publications, a guide to the impressive flora of Holy Island, is also due out in 2023

Ian Kerr

# Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

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NTBC



Redwing, December 2022, Wansbeck Estuary, A Tilmouth

## December Highlights

Ruddy Shelduck	Single at Airy Holm Reservoir on 8th and same at Derwent Res on 16th
<b>American Wigeon</b>	Returning drake to Big Waters from 11th
Pochard	Counts of 26 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th and 22 at Bothal Pond on 31st
Red-necked Grebe	Three still inland at Widdrington Moor lake up to 10th; one at Holy island on 29th
Whimbrel	Returning wintering individual at Cambois
Green Sandpiper	Four together at Caistron during WEBS survey on 11th
Greenshank	One at Beal on 9th
Glaucous Gull	Norwegian-ringed 2nd-winter at St Mary's on 4th; one at North Shields on 26th
Iceland Gull	Returning adult at Big Waters
Caspian Gull	1st-winter at Linton Lane NR from 3rd-10th plus one at Alnwick from 22nd-23rd
Little Auk	Small numbers still until mid-month.
Black Guillemot	One on sea at Boulmer on 11th then flew north

<b>White-billed Diver</b>	One flew past Holy Island on 29th
<b>Cattle Egret</b>	One at Druridge from 2nd-13th
<b>Rough-legged Buzzard</b>	Brief sighting of one at Grindon Lough on 19th
Green Woodpecker	Singles at Newburn on 1st and at Longhorsley on 31st
Ring-necked Parakeet	Peak counts of 14 at Gosforth on 11th and 13 at North Shields
Hooded Crow	Long-staying individual remains in Linton area (despite the local crow trap!)
Waxwing	11 at North Shields on 15th and up to three at four other localities
<b>Hume's Warbler</b>	One still at Newton until 12th
Siberian Chiffchaff	Two on Holy Island on 4th
<b>Firecrest</b>	Two still wintering at Druridge Pools
Black Redstart	Individuals at Holy Island on 4th and Seaton Point on 24th
Water Pipit	Wintering individuals at St Mary's and Newbiggin
Hawfinch	One wintering at Linden Hall
Common Redpoll	One to two at Gosforth on 3rd and 19th

### December Classified List

#### **Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix*

Three males and a female were at Plenmeller Common on 2nd (PRM). A male fed on roadside Hawthorn berries at Derwent Reservoir on 5th and 8th (IFo).

#### **Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

A total of 51 was counted in a five-hour circular walk around the Plenmeller-Fellhouse-Agarshill Fell area on 14th (MH), and 23+ were noted at Plenmeller Common on 2nd when 14 were at Simonside (AT).

#### **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

A total of 36 (24 and 12) was noted at Houndalee, Widdrington on 13th (TB), 35 were at Druridge Lane on 24th (TB), 27 at Bewick Folly on 30th (JR) and one to six at Druridge Pools and Widdrington Village.

#### **Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

A total of 22 was counted at Lynemouth on 11th (TB), 21 were at Elwick on 15th (BS) and 17 at Hemscott Hill, Cresswell on 2nd and 6th (TB). Counts of ten to 12 were recorded at Druridge Lane Pools, Longhirst Flash, Old Hartley, Prestwick Carr, St Mary's Island and Warkworth. Four to nine were also at Boulmer, Cresswell Pond, Furnace Bridge, Millfield, Pegswood Moor and QEII CP.

#### **Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

83 were at Bewick Folly near Chillingham on 30th (JR), 54 at Druridge Pools and Links on 2nd (IDR) and nine at St Mary's Wetland (KWY). More unusual was one at Marden Quarry during an icy spell on 14th (KWY). A dead female was being eaten by a Stoat at Druridge Pools on 3rd (PG).

#### **Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

The only report was of 15 pale-bellied *hrota* race individuals at Budle Bay on 2nd (TRD).

#### **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

A peak of 980 was noted at Grindon Lough on 1st-2nd (PRM), 560+ were at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (IFo), 193 at Hipsburn on 10th (MKi), 168 at Big Waters on 11th (GB), 84-108 at Druridge Pools and Lilliestead (Berwick) and 20 at QEII CP.



**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

1,500 flew in to Budle Bay on 2nd (TD), 11 were at Grindon Lough on 1st-2nd and four to five there on 8th and 19th (PRM), six were at Branton GP on 20th (IBDa/KDa) and singles at Cresswell Pond and Hipsburn.

**Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

22 flew N at East Ord on 18th (MHu). Peak counts were 550 at Derwent Reservoir on 9th (IFo), 476 at Caistron on 11th (TRD), 268 at Big Waters on 26th (IF), 228 at Hipsburn on 10th (MKi), 200 at Branton GP (IBDa/KDa), 130-142 at Druridge Pools and Lilliestead (Berwick) and 12-32 at Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary) and Plenmeller Common. One to eight were also at Grindon Lough, QEII CP, Wark (N Tyne) and Woodhorn.



Greylag Goose, Druridge Pools, December 2022, Tim Dean

**Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Southerly movement involved a total of 1,470 at Ellington between 6th-24th (TB), 180 at Tweedmouth on 12th (MHu), 140 at Berwick on 20th (MHu), and 45-60 at Cocklawburn, Holy Island, Longhorsley, Newbiggin, QEII CP and the Tweed Estuary on various dates between 3rd-31st. Peak gatherings (possibly involving some overlap) were 2,000 at Hadston on 6th (TB), 1,500 at High Newton on 3rd (TD), 1,350 at Woodhorn on 27th (IDR/JF), 850 at Blyth-Seaton Sluice on 19th (STH), 770 at Druridge Pools on 29th (IRD), 750 at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (TF), 670 at Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 31st (MNC) and 560 at Buston Links on 17th (RPo). Counts of 100-300 came from Big Waters, Budle Bay, Doddington, Ellington, New Moor (Ashington), Old Hartley, Snab Point and near Whitley Bay Cemetery, while 20-75 were at Derwent Reservoir, Hipsburn, Lilliestead (Berwick), Nedderton and Widdrington Moor Lake.

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser flavirostris*

Individuals of the Eurasian *albifrons* race involved nine (seven adults) at Derwent Reservoir on 10th and one adult there on 19th (IFo), while three were at Woodhorn between 24th-31st (AP *et al.*).

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Seven flew W at Whitley Bay on 16th (MSH). Peak counts were 110 in a kale field at Lilliestead (Berwick) on 29th (MHu), 79 at Killingworth Lake on 19th (ATR), 38 at QEII CP on 12th (CDH), 20 at Howdon on 24th (CB), and 11-17 at Big Waters, Buston Links and the Tweed Estuary. Four to six were also at Hauxley Reserve and Holy Island Lough. One at



Airy Holm Reservoir on 23rd was a 'first' for the observer at this site (IFo). Six to seven corpses at Linton Lane NR on 12th were possibly Avian Flu victims (CDH).

### **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

A small southerly movement early in the month involved 17 at Longhoughton on 5th (BS), 16 at Druridge Pools on 2nd (IDR) and 11-15 at Longhoughton (CB) and Newbiggin (AP) on 1st, while four moved SW at Humshaugh on 28th (TWi), 12 NW at Amble on 14th (TB) and two N at Newbiggin on 6th (AT) and Stag Rocks on 10th ((IDR). The largest 'herd' was 78 at Buston Links, Alnmouth on 2nd (RPo), with 12 juveniles counted amongst them on 24th (MKi). Other peak counts were 44 (23 juveniles) at Low Newton on 3rd (TD) and 11 (three juveniles) at Derwent Reservoir on 1st (IFo). One to six were also noted at Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools, Kiln Pit Hill, Maiden's Hall Lake, QEII CP, Red Row, West Chevington, West Ord and Widdrington North Steads. Two lone juveniles were in the company of the resident Mute Swan family at Holy Island Lough on 4th (IK).

### **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

63 were at Budle Bay on 9th (SW), a peak of 26 at Howdon on 24th (CB) and two to three at the Blyth Estuary (GB) and Boulmer (BS).

### **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

One was at Airy Holm Reservoir on 8th and presumably the same individual was at Derwent Reservoir on 16th (IFo).

### **Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

Budle Bay held a peak of 69 on 12th (BS) and 24th (NFO), ten were at Holy Island 'rocket field' on 31st (ADM), eight at Marden Quarry on 14th and 17th (KWY), five to seven at Druridge Pools, Linton Lane NR and St Mary's Wetland. Two were also at Big Waters, Bothal Pond and Cresswell Ponds, Gosforth NR, Killingworth Lake and Monks' House Pool.

### **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

Peak counts were 77 at QEII CP on 12th (CDH), 42 at Big Waters on 11th (but all gone by 18th when lake largely frozen; GB), 22-28 at the Blyth Estuary (GB), Caistron (TRD), Howdon Wetland (CB), Linton Lane NR (IDR), Marden Quarry (KWY) and St Mary's Wetland (MSH), and ten to 16 at Druridge Pools, Gosforth NR and Killingworth Lake. Five to nine were also at Bothal and Holywell Ponds, East Chevington, Hauxley Reserve and Howick Burn Lake, and one to two at Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Monks' House Pool and QEII CP.

### **Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

Two flew N at Cullercoats on 5th (CB). On 19th, 500+ were at Druridge Pools, about half of which flew out on to the bay (MSH). Other peak concentrations were 470 at Derwent Reservoir on 22nd (IFo), 300+ at Branton GP during the month (IBDa/KDa), 202-220 at Big Waters (GB), Bothal Pond (TF) and Grindon Lough (PRM) and 59 at Longhoughton Steel. One to 20 were also at the Blyth Estuary, Howdon Wetland, Linton Lane NR and Prestwick Carr.

### **American Wigeon** *Mareca americana*

A drake was at Big Waters on sporadic dates from 11th to the end of the month (GB/IF).

### **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Apart from 216 at Big Waters on 11th (GB) and 195 at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (IFo), larger gatherings were fairly modest: 94 at Marden Quarry on 17th (KWY) and 52-77 at Airy Holm Reservoir (IFo), Grindon Lough (PRM), Hauxley Reserve (HRS), QEII CP (CDH), the Tweed Estuary (MHu) and West Ord (MHu). Counts of 21-48 came from Berwick Little Beach, Byker, Castle Island, Chirton Dene Park (North Shields), Corbridge, Druridge Pools, Haughton Castle, Holywell Pond, Holy Island, Newburn Haugh and Newcastle Exhibition Park, while 12-18 were at Bothal Pond, QEII CP and Spindleston.

### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

187 were counted at Fenham Flats on 29th (NFO). Two were at Big Waters on 11th and one on 25th-26th (GB/IF).

### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

12 flew N at Cullercoats on 5th (CB). The largest concentrations involved 592 at Derwent Reservoir on 11th (IFo), 500 at Holy Island (300+ at the 'rocket field' and 200 at the lough) during the month (IK), 405 at Grindon Lough on 8th (PRM), 342 at Castle Island on 13th (AT), 240 at Howdon (CB) and 114-189 at Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Caistron, the Coquet Estuary and Druridge Pools. Counts of 12-48 came from Gosforth NR, Hauxley Reserve, Holywell, Linton Lane NR and Middle Ord Ponds, Monks' House Pool, Prestwick Carr and West Ord. Three to eight were at nine further localities. Two on a small pond at Debdon (Rothbury) on 30th were considered unusual for the site (JD).

#### **Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

Peak site counts were 26 at Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th (TF/JFa), 22 at Bothal Pond on 31st (AT), five at Holywell Pond on 6th (MSH) and Linton Lane NR on 4th (IDR), and three to four at Big Waters (GB), Druridge Pools (IDR) and Killingworth Lake (GB).

#### **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

Killingworth Lake held a healthy 130 on 17th (ASJ), 63 were at QEII CP on 12th (CDH), 24 at Druridge Pools on 17th (IDR), 24 at Marden Quarry on 14th (KWY) and 13-15 at Big Waters (GB), Bothal Pond (TF) and Newcastle Leazes Park (GB). Six to eight were also at Linton Lane NR and Newcastle Exhibition Park, and one to four at Cocklawburn Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Gosforth NR, Grindon Lough, Hauxley Reserve, Monks' House Pool and Paddy Freemans Lake (Heaton).

#### **Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Singles were at Druridge Pools on 2nd and 4th (TB/TD), Ladyburn Lake on 18th (TF/JFa) and Widdrington Moor Lake on 7th (BS).

#### **Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

A total of 42 flew N and two S at Seaton Sluice between 2nd-4th (SSWT). The largest counts were 62 at Blyth Harbour on 14th (STH), 28 at Holy Island North Shore on 4th (MJC), 25 at Stag Rocks on 2nd (TD), 21 at St Mary's Island on 16th (MSH) and eight to 14 at North Shields Fish Quay and the Tweed Estuary.

#### **Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

Northerly movement involved two at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and one at Tynemouth on 3rd (DRW), and one at Newbiggin on 6th (GAS). Five were at Stag Rocks on 27th (NFO), two off Druridge Links on 30th (IDR), Ross Back Sands on 15th (BS) and Tynemouth Pier between 24th-27th (MN/DRW *et al.*). Singles were at Birling Carrs on 22nd (RPo) and Stag Rocks on 2nd and 24th (TD/TRD/NFO).

#### **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

A total of 99 flew N and 47 S at Seaton Sluice between 2nd-9th (SW/SSWT), 27 moved N and 11 S at Cullercoats on 5th (CB), 26 N at Holy Island on 4th (MJC) and seven N at Newbiggin on 22nd (GB). 600 were off Ross Back Sands on 15th (BS) and a peak of 420 at nearby Stag Rocks on 2nd (TRD), while 64 were at Alnmouth Bay on 22nd (RPo) and two off Druridge Links. One was at Ladyburn Lake on 7th (MSH) and one was on the beach at Snab Point on 23rd (TB).

#### **Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

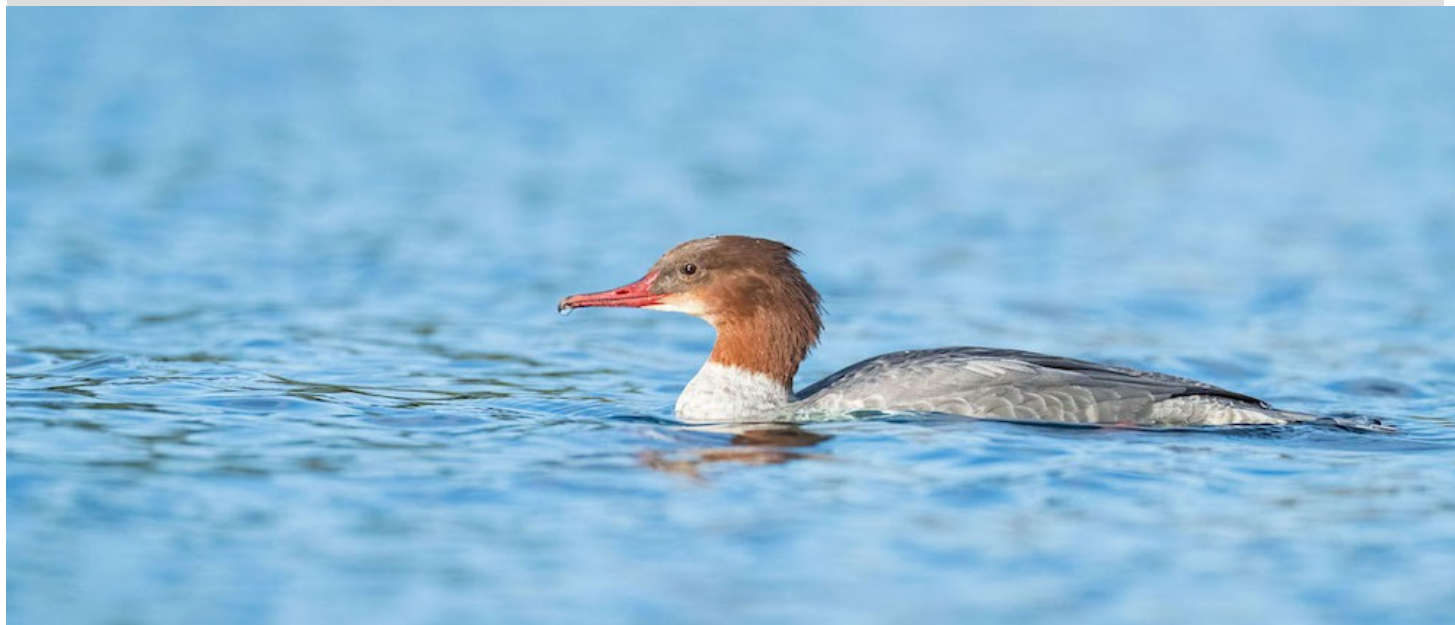
Two flew N at St Mary's Island on 3rd (MSH) and one N at Cullercoats on 5th (CB), while one flew S at Holy Island on 31st (ADM). A total of 40 were off Ross Back Sands on 15th (BS) and 15 on 26th (NFO). Three were at Druridge Pools on 3rd-4th (TD/TF) and one to two there on 2nd, 5th and 17th (TB/IDR/GAS), three at Holy Island on 9th (SW), two at Budle Bay on 2nd (TD) and singles off Seaton Sluice on 16th (MSH) and Stag Rocks on 2nd (TD/TRD).

#### **Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

The north pool at East Chevington held a peak of 60 on 7th (MH), 27 were at Ladyburn Lake on 18th (TF/JFa), 27 at Low Newton on 23rd (JAR) and ten to 17 at Branton GP, Caistron, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough, Killingworth Lake, New Water Haugh, QEII CP and West Ord. Five to seven were also at Big Waters, Bothal Pond and Holywell Ponds, Holy Island (North Shore), Howick and Tyne Green (Hexham) and one to three at Airy Holm and Derwent Reservoirs, Birling Carrs, Corbridge, Cresswell and Linton Lane NR, Football Hole, Gosforth NR, Rothbury, the Tweed Estuary and Widdrington Moor Lake.

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

At least 20 were at Branton GP on 26th (AHa/PHa), seven at Fourstones on 15th (AJH), five at West Ord on 29th (MHu), three to four at Killingworth Lake and Morpeth (Borough and Scotch Gill Woods, and Carlisle Park), and one to two at Airy Holm and Derwent Reservoirs, Corbridge, Rothbury, Wark (North Tyne) and Warkworth.



Goosander, Tynemouth, November 2022, Colin Bradshaw

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 4th (SSWT). Peak site counts were ten at Holy Island on 31st (ADM), eight at the Blyth Estuary on 29th (IFo), six at Alnmouth Bay on 9th (RPo), five at Ladyburn Lake on 29th (IFo) and five at Widdrington Moor Lake on 24th and 29th (IRD/TRD). Two to three were also at Birling Carrs, Budle Bay, Druridge Pools (and offshore), the Long Nanny Estuary and Stag Rocks, and singles at Blyth Harbour, Cresswell Pond, Holy Island and St Mary's Island.

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

120 were at the Tweed Estuary on 10th (IDR/JF), numbers at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) varied between 60 on 1st and 100 on 27th (IFo), two were at Alnwick Waste Recovery Centre and a single was at Ellington Pond. The species was noted as "present" in Jesmond Dene on 18th (MJCo).

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

26 were at Howdon at dusk on 8th (CB), 23 at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 11th (MJC) and 15 at both Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 16th (MNC) and Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 19th (IFO). The individuals at Northumberland Park were observed displaying and "singing" on 20th (MSH). One to seven were at Abbey Mill, Big Waters NWT, Druridge Lane, Ellington, Jesmond Dene, Low Steads (Longhoughton), Newburn Haugh, Newton Red House, Widdrington Moor Lake and Woodhorn Church.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

The peak count at Gosforth Subsidence Pond was 1,300 on 11th (MJC), 600 were at Backworth on 17th (CB) and 260 were at Gosforth on 13th (ADM). 25 were at Ellington Pond, 12 at Jesmond Dene and one to three at several other localities.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

On Holy Island a grand total of 45 were counted from the village-Coombs Farm area on 31st (ADM). Ten were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 6th (IFo) and numbers at Dinnington peaked at nine on 22nd (PCF). Two were regularly in a Chathill garden during the month (PCA).

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Up to four were heard at Prestwick Carr on 13th (STH), at least three were calling at Gosforth Park NR on 3rd (MJc/DJC)

and three were seen on ice at East Chevington North Pool on 13th (MH/AA). Two were at both Big Waters NWT and Holy Island Lough and singles were at Branton GP, Caistron, Cresswell Pond NWT, Haughton Castle, in a drainage channel at the harbour on Holy Island, Holywell Pond, Lesbury, Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay), Northumberland Park (North Shields), St Mary's Wetland, Stakeford Bridge and Tynemouth.

#### **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Numbers at Castle Island fluctuated during the month with a peak of 29 on 13th (AT), 15 were at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 20th (GB) and 13 was the peak at QE11 CP on 27th (IDR/JF). One to nine were at 13 other usual haunts. Unusually, one was on "the mound" at Newbiggin.

#### **Coot** *Fulica atra*

Numbers at Big Waters NWT peaked at exactly 100 on 11th (GB), 72 were at QE11 CP on 12th (CDH), 61 at Linton Ponds on 4th (IDR), 32 at Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) on 17th (KWY) with peaks of 24 at Bothal Pond and 21 at Druridge Pools. 17 were at Gosforth Park NR and a single at Castle Island during the cold spell was the observer's first record there in several years (AT).

#### **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

13 at both East Chevington North Pool on 7th (MH) and Castle Island on 13th (AT) were the peak counts this month. Nine were present at Caistron during a WeBS survey on 11th (TRD) and eight were at Cresswell on 1st (CB). Six were at Druridge Pools, Holywell Pond and QE11 CP whilst one to three were at Big Waters NWT, the Blyth Estuary, Blyth Harbour, Bothal Pond, Cocklawburn Pond, Corbridge, Furnace Bridge (Bedlington), Hauxley NWT, Killingworth Lake, Linton Lane NR, Long Nanny, Newburn Haugh, St. Mary's Wetland, Stakeford Bridge, Wark and Widdrington North Steads.

#### **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps Grisegena*

Singles were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 4th (TF) and 10th (MD) and at Holy Island Harbour on 29th (MJC).

#### **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

As last year, a large group started to assemble in Alnmouth Bay with 13 on 9th (RPO) gradually increasing to 22 on 22nd (MKi). Up to three were at Druridge Pools, two at Widdrington Moor Lake and singles at Boulmer and Killingworth Lake.

#### **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auratus*

Only singletons were sighted this month at Druridge Bay, East Chevington North Pool, Holy Island and Widdrington Moor Lake.

#### **Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Calot Shad (River Tweed Estuary) held the highest number this month, when 86 were counted on 28th (MHu). A feeding flock of 75 was in pastures to the north of the Crooked Lonnen on Holy Island on 30th (IK) and 75+ were present at St Mary's Island on 24th (MSH). Smaller concentrations of 11-35 were seen at Birling Carrs, Hauxley NWT, Low Newton, River Tweed Estuary, Tweedmouth and West Ord (Berwick). One to five were reported from five other locations including a single at Howdon on 11th where it was noted as very scarce by the observer (CB).

#### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

Some movement was still noted this month with 70 N at Druridge Links on 2nd and groups of 65 and 55 S on 28th (IDR/JF). At Seaton Sluice, 50 flew S on 4th (SSWT), 25 flew N at Bedlington on 7th (TB) and three flocks totalling 94 flew into Prestwick Carr from the east on 29th (MH). The largest count came from Monks' House Pool, where approximately 1,500 were noted on 6th (AJR). Numbers at St Mary's Island fluctuated from 500 on 1st, 400 on 4th and 150+ on 30th (ASJ/CB/WB). A flock of 500 was 'wheeling around' Kiln Pit Hill on 6th (IFo), with 400 counted at Grindon Lough on 1st-2nd (PRM), 300 at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 31st (IFo) and 200 at Gloucester Lodge (Blyth) on 27th and Amble Harbour on 29th (MSH/WB). Elsewhere, 160 were seen at Holywell Pond, 158 at Cocklawburn, 150 at Derwent Reservoir and a monthly peak of 116 at Bothal Pond. There were reports of three-98 from seven other locations.

#### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Some cold weather movement was noted with 43 at Tynemouth on 18th, where it is considered rare (DRW), 37 flying S at



Seaton Delaval on 9th (SW) and 12 arriving from the east at Prestwick Carr on 29th (MH). As with Lapwing, the largest flock was seen at Monks' House Pool where approximately 2,500 were present on 6th (AJR). Other four-figure concentrations were 2,000 at Holy Island on 4th (MJC), approximately 1,800 at Buston Links (Alnmouth) on 2nd (RPo) and 1,100 circling Airy Holm Reservoir on 2nd (IFo). At Kiln Pit Hill, 800 were 'wheeling around' with Lapwings on 6th (IFo) with 563 counted at Grindon Lough on 1st and approximately 80 still there the next day (PRM). Counts of 300 were made at Gloucester Lodge (Blyth), Shoreston and St Mary's Island and 280 were present at the River Coquet Estuary. Maximum counts elsewhere were 156 at Newbiggin GC, 120 at Low Newton and 108 at Saltpan Rocks (Cocklawburn). Four other locations held 13- 40 during the month. Three were still on Plenmeller Common on 2nd (PRM) and three were also noted feeding on the Royal Grammar School playing fields, Newcastle, at night on 8th. A single was observed feeding during daylight in freezing conditions at the same site, this being the first time the observer has ever seen one during daylight hours (GB).



Golden Plover, St Mary's Island, December 2022, Mike Hodgson

#### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

A single flew N at Newbiggin on 6th (GAS). Birling Carrs held 37 on 22nd (RPo/MKi) and ten were between Beacon Point and Newbiggin Point on the same date (GB). Seven were seen at Seaton Point, Boulmer on 19th (MKi) with five at Berwick Little Beach on 1st (MHu). Five were ca. 1km upstream at Castle Island, being regarded as unusual by the observers (GB/DMc/LAR). Two were located at Holy Island harbour on 9th (AJR) and a single was seen at Low Newton on 2nd (TRD).

#### **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

A total of 42 was counted at Berwick Little Beach on 1st (MHu) with 32 present at Holy Island Harbour on 9th (AJR) and 30 at the Ouze (Holy Island) on 22nd (IK). Counts of 25 on 4th and 31 on 5th were made at Chevington Burn beach (TD/MH) and 14 resided at Cocklawburn beach on 22nd (MHu). On the same date, ten were present at Newbiggin between Beacon Point and Church Point (GB). Other sightings were six at Cresswell Pond, with singles at Low Newton and Stag Rocks.

#### **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

One, presumably last winter's returning individual, was noted at Cambois on 22nd and 31st (GB/AT).

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

An impressive 301 were roosting at Longhoughton Steel on 27th (BS). Other three-figure counts were, 194 in fields north of Cresswell Pond on 29th (IFo), 160 at Ross Farm on 26th (NFO), 150 present at Easington on 22nd (NFO) and 130 seen at Howick on 15th (JAR). Reports of ten-98 during the month came from Amble, Calot Shad (River Tweed), Cheswick, Cocklawburn, Druridge Pools and Links, Longhirst Flash, Monks' House Pool, Newburn Haugh (River Tyne), New Water Haugh (River Tweed) and Shoreston. One to two were at five other sites including a single well inland at Plenmeller Common on 2nd (PRM).

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

A high-tide roost at St Cuthbert's Island, Holy Island, attracted 450 on 22nd (KI). Numbers as usual were much lower elsewhere with sightings at Boulmer being 11 on 19th (MKi) and 39 on 27th (BS). Ten were present at Budle Bay on 2nd (TD). Single-figure counts were four at Berwick Little Beach, three at Newbiggin, with singles seen at Low Newton and Cresswell Pond.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

The Rocket Field pools at Holy Island attracted six on 9th and ten on 29th (AJR/IK). The peak count at Howdon was six on 22nd reducing to a single by 29th (CB). Amble Braid held five on 29th (IFo) with three seen at both Low Newton on 3rd and Hauxley NWT on 17th (TD/HRS). Two were at Cambois on 31st (AT) and singles were reported from Big Waters (first December record), Fenham Flats (Lindisfarne NNR), Linton Lane NR, Lynemouth and the River Blyth Estuary.

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

At St Mary's Island a peak of 70+ on 1st declined through the month until only two were seen on 30th (MSH/ASJ/WB). Other flocks were 36 on the north shore of Holy Island on 4th (MJC), 26 in the bay at Newbiggin on 24th (STH), 24 counted at Cocklawburn beach on 22nd (MHu) and a scattered group of 20 at Stag Rocks on 2nd (TD). A group of 20 was seen at Low Newton on 3rd (TD) and six were seen at Berwick Little Beach on 1st.

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

There was a paucity of sightings as last month with four at Longhoughton Steel on 31st (BS), three at Amble on 3rd (MKi) and two at Low Newton, also on 3rd (TD), being the only reports.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax*

A few remained at Druridge Pools from 3rd-7th with the peak being nine on the last date (MSH/TF/TD).

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

The Newbiggin flock persisted from last month with a peak of 242 at Beacon Point on 28th (AP). On 3rd, Low Newton held 150 (TD), 142 were huddled together in strong wind at Chevington Burn on 5th (MH), 112 were present at Berwick Little Beach on 1st (MHu) with 100+ concentrated at high tide at Stag Rocks on 2nd (TD). At St Mary's Island 85 were reported on 3rd with at least 20 there on 13th (ASJ/MSH). Cocklawburn attracted 36 on 22nd with a peak of 21 at Druridge Links on 17th. Elsewhere, 17 were on the north shore at Holy Island, 14 at Seaton Point (Boulmer) and four at East Chevington.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

The flocks at Boulmer and Newbiggin increased from last month with 316 at Boulmer on 31st (BS) and 223 at Beacon Point Newbiggin on 28th (AP). Smaller groups were noted at other locations, with 90 being seen at Low Newton (50 on the shore and 40 at the scrape –TD/TRD) on 2nd-3rd and 75 was the peak count at the River Coquet Estuary on 14th (RPo). Cresswell Pond attracted 60 on 24th (TRD), with 40+ at St Mary's Island on 1st (MSH), 34 at the River Blyth Estuary on 29th (IFo) and 16 seen at Berwick Little Beach on 1st (MHu). One-nine were present at six other localities including three still well inland at Grindon Lough on 1st-2nd (PRM).

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

Numbers at the regular wintering site of Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) reached a modest peak of 60 on 2nd with lower numbers on other dates (TRD/IDR/TD). Beacon Point, Newbiggin, held 28 on 28th (AP) and 19 were at Birling Carrs, Warkworth, on 22nd (RPo/MKi). One-eight were seen at Cocklawburn, Low Newton, Sandham Bay, Holy Island, Seaton

Point (Boulmer), Seaton Sluice, Snab Point and St Mary's Island.

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

Four to five were found at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 16th (DRW/MNC/ASJ) and three were seen at both Harwood Forest and Howdon on 29th (ADM/CB). Singles were found at 25 localities during the month from North Shields Fish Quay in the south to a Berwick garden in the north and inland at Breamish Valley, Brocolitia, Derwent Reservoir, Longhorsley and Whittingham.

**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Three were flushed at Ellington on 13th (TB). Singles were noted between 1st-16th at Castle Island, Hemscott Hill, Newburn Haugh (River Tyne), Prestwick Carr and Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth). Hard weather may have been responsible for individuals found sheltering beside a wall next to Cresswell Ices on 14th (TB) and one sheltering under a trampoline at Lynemouth on 16th (TB).

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

The peak count this month was 44 at Grindon Lough on 2nd (PRM). Other double-figure counts were 30 at Castle Island on 13th (AT), 18 at Newburn Haugh on 1st (PRM), 16 present at Little Waters NR (Seaton Burn) on 3rd (GB), 12 seen at St Mary's Wetland on 4th (AC) and 11 in an unfrozen channel at Newbiggin GC on 13th (AP). Five were noted at each of Ord Moor (Berwick), Shoreston and Whittingham and four seen at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield), Caistron and Tynemouth (noted as rare here by the observer and probably cold weather migrants). One-three were observed at 23 other locations including singles at Northumberland Park (North Shields), Marden Quarry (Whitley Bay) where the species is a rarity and the drill yard of West Hartford Fire Station.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

A notable group of four was seen together at Caistron on 11th being the observer's highest day total in Northumberland (TRD). The regular wintering individual was seen at Berwick Hill Bridge (River Pont) on 3rd (AHB).

**Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Numbers remained high at last month's favoured locations, with a peak of 240 on 12th counted at Howdon on 12th and 150 being present on 29th (CB). A significant increase was noted at St Mary's Island where 200+ were observed on 24th (MSH) with 163 present at Cresswell Pond on 29th (IRD) and the peak count in the Newbiggin area being 111 in the village bay on 22nd (STH). Reports of 82 at Warkworth Harbour on 30th and 61 at Amble on 3rd may have referred to the same flock (SW/MKi). Elsewhere, 32 were seen at Hauxley NWT on 17th, 29 were roosting at the foot of Battery Walls at Berwick on 7th and 26 at Rocky Island, Seaton Sluice, on 16th. One to nine were also at seven other localities including singles upstream on the River Tyne at Newburn Haugh on 1st (PRM) and the Lower Ouseburn (Byker) on 25th (AJN).

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

The sole report was of one at the favoured haunt of Beal on 9th (SW).

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Very few were recorded except during the period 3rd-5th when light passage took place with peaks on 4th of 125 N/hour at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and 68 moving S and E in a half-hour sea-watch at Emmanuel Head, Holy Island (MJC); smaller numbers were seen passing N at Cullercoats, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island and on 5th a 1st-winter was inland at Bothal Pond (AT).

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

At least 500 were at St Mary's Island on 14th increasing to over 1,000 the following day (MSH) and another large gathering of 450 was at Airy Holm Reservoir, Shotleyfield on 10th (IFo). Smaller groups of 100-150 were at Calot Shad (Tweed Estuary), Hauxley NWT, QEII CP, Newburn Haugh (R. Tyne), 15-30 at Bothal Pond, Druridge Pools, Jesmond Dene and Longdyke with up to ten at eight other localities.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Passage was noted on 4th at Emmanuel Head, Holy Island, when 15 moved S in a 30 minutes and five were off Back Skerrs (MJC) but few remained elsewhere with two immatures at Stag Rocks on 2nd (TRD) and one feeding offshore at

Longhoughton on 4th (BS).

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

The numbers declined significantly from last month with a maximum of 27 in the South Bay at Newbiggin on 22nd (STH) and 13 were offshore at Newbiggin Point on 6th (AT). Elsewhere, three were at St Mary's Island with singles, all adults, at Boulmer, Chevington Burn, Druridge Pools, Gosforth Subsidence Pond, Holywell Pond, Killingworth Lake and Seaton Sluice.

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

An estimated 1,000 (not in a roost) were at Derwent Reservoir on 15th (IFo) and an unusually high number of 600 were at Howdon on 8th (CB). Groups of 50-200 were at Brandon, Glanton, Howtel, Longhorsley, Mindrum/Pawston, Otterburn, Scots' Gap and West Woodburn and up to 20 were at another nine localities. On 4th, 22 moved S in a 30-minute period at Holy Island (MJC)

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

Smaller numbers than usual included 52 at Castle Island, 25 at Linton Lane NR and ten at Grindon Lough with one to eight at four coastal and four inland localities.

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

A 2nd-winter, ringed in Norway (black darvic JPU52), was briefly at St Mary's Island on 4th before flying off S (AC/DRW) and on the same day an un-aged individual was at the North Shields Fish Quay (DLo). A juvenile was reported from Budle Bay on 30th (NRSW).

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides*

The returning adult was seen at Big Waters NWT on 1th (GB) and was reported regularly on several dates mid-month as well as from nearby Dinnington on 26th (Birdguides); an immature frequented Longhoughton Steel on 29th (Birdguides).

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus argenteus*

Several counts at Linton Lane NR ranged from 1,700 on 10th (TF) to 239 on 4th (CDH/TF/IDR) and over 1,000 were in fields at Newham on 11th (BS). An estimated 220 roosted at Calot Shad in the Tweed Estuary on 28th (MHu) and other groups of 50-200 were at Alnwick Waste Disposal Centre, Mindrum/Pawston, QE II CP, St Mary's Island and Widdrington Moor Lake with up to 30 at a further eight inland and four coastal sites.

**Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

A 1st-winter was at Linton Ponds on 3rd/4th (TF/IDR) with a different individual there on 9th-10th (AT/TF) and an immature was reported at the Black Middens, North Shields, on 11th (Birdguides). An adult at the Alnwick Waste Disposal Centre on 22nd/23rd (IDR) was also seen there the following day (Birdguides).





Caspian Gull, December 2022, Linton Lane NR, Alan Tilmouth

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus graelsii*

Six (three adults, three 1st-winter) remained at Grindon Lough on 2nd (PRM), two were at Linton Lane NR on 3rd (TF) and singles were on various dates from 1st-22nd, at Big Waters, Budle Bay, Derwent Reservoir, Gosforth Subsidence Ponds and Newham.

**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

The only sighting was one flying N on 4th at Longhoughton, Low Steads (BS).

**Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

One flew S at Emmanuel Head, Holy Island on 4th (MJC).

**Auk** *sp*

At Cullercoats, 75 flew S in a two-hour sea-watch on 5th (CB) and 250 Guillemot/Razorbill flew N in four hours on 4th at Seaton Sluice (SSWT).

**Little Auk** *Alle alle*

Last month's significant influx tailed off but small numbers were still to be seen, particularly during the first six days with birds moving both N and S including eight/nine at Newbiggin Point on 6th (AT/GAS) and five on 5th (MH), eight at Holy Island on 4th (MJC). Counts of seven came from Seaton Sluice on 3rd/4th (SSWT) and three were at Stag Rocks on 2nd (TD). Eleven moved past Seaton Point, Boulmer in one hour 15 minutes (NRSW). On 16th one was photographed on a snow-covered lawn in Kingston Park (per NRSW). One or two were recorded on these and later dates at nine further localities with the latest being on 17th at Cheswick.



Little Auk, Newbiggin Point, November 2022, Colin Bradshaw

**Common Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

Seen from Emmanuel Head, Holy Island, on 4th 15 flew S during a half-hour sea-watch (MJC) and eight were offshore at Newbiggin on 6th (AT). Singles were recorded on 17th and 22nd at Druridge Links and Newbiggin.

**Razorbill** *Alca torda*

One to six were seen either on the sea or moving N or S on a few days throughout at Druridge Links, Holy Island, Newbiggin and Newton Point.

**Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle*

One was on the sea before flying off N on 11th at Boulmer Haven (BS).

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica*

A monthly total of 15 (five on 3rd, ten on 4th) flew N at Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and small numbers were seen elsewhere including a maximum of nine on 2nd at Stag Rocks (TRD), three moving S at Holy Island on 4th and two S at Cullercoats on 5th.

**Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

The highest count was 46 at Cullercoats on 5th with 37S and 9N in 2hrs (CB). 32 were noted during the month at Seaton Sluice Watch Tower with 19N and 13S (SSWT). 18 were seen at Newbiggin Point with 13N, 2S and two on the sea (AT). 18 were also seen in Alnmouth Bay on 17th with 17 there on 22nd (Rpo). 11 were noted at Newbiggin on 7th with six on the sea and 5S (STH). One to nine were at eight locations.

**Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

Only two sightings this month with singles off The Heugh (Holy Island) on 4th (MJC) and another off Emmanuel Head (Holy Island) on 29th (NFO).

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

Two flew N at Cullercoats in two hours' sea-watching on 5th (CB). Two were in the channel at The Heugh, Holy Island on 9th (AJR) and one moved S at the north pier Tynemouth on 27th (MSH). Singles were at Boulmer Haven on 4th (BS), at Holy Island on 29th (MSH) and on 31st (ADM).

**White-billed Diver** *Gavia adamssi*

One flew W at Back Skerrs, Holy Island at 13:50 on 29th (MJC).

**Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

At Seaton Sluice Watch Tower 30 flew N on 4th (SSWT) and 11 went S at Holy Island on 4th (MJC). 30 were on the cliffs at Howick on 13th (JAR), five were at Spital cliffs, Newbiggin on 22nd (GB), four were on the quarry at Bamburgh Golf Course on 2nd (TD), three were at Stag Rocks on 10th (IDR) and two were at Bamburgh Castle on 24th (PCA).

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

42 moved past Seaton Sluice Watch Tower between 2nd–4th with 40N and 2S (SSWT). 12 were noted at Low Steads (Longhoughton) on 27th, nine at Boulmer on 17th and eight at Seaton Point (Boulmer) on 14th (all BS). Three were at St Mary's Island on 3rd (MSH) and at Holy Island on 4th (MJC) and a single immature was at Seahouses on 30th (PG).

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

North Shields Fish Quay held the highest counts in the month with 103 on 2nd (KWY), 75 on 6th and 70 on 13th (MN). 58 at Blyth Harbour on 1st increased to 64 on 14th (STH), 22 were on the R Tyne at Elwick on 19th (MH) and 10 were at Tyne Green, Hexham on 12th (AJH). One to nine were noted at 15 sites during the month.

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

50 at Stag Rocks on 2nd was the highest count in the month (TRD), with 15 noted there on 10th (IDR). Nine were off the north shore at Holy Island on 29th (MJC), eight were in Blyth Harbour on 1st and again on 14th (STH). Individuals were noted at North Shields Fish Quay on 2nd (KWY) and off Druridge Links on 30th (IDR).

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

One was watched in flight around the N end of East Chevington's North Pool on 10th (TF) and again on 21st (per NRSW).

**Cattle Egret** *Bulbulcus ibis*

An individual was noted around the Druridge Farm area on 2nd (AA/TB/JF/IDR). It offered superb close views down to 20m. It was also seen in the same area on 3rd (TB/IF), 4th (TD) and 6th (GAS).

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Eight at Howdon on 29th was the largest gathering in December (CB), six were at Holy Island on 31st (ADM), five were in the Longhirst Flash/Abysinnia Wood area on 9th (AT) and four were at Monks' House Pool on 29th (IDR/JF). One to two were at eight sites.

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

Five were at Beal Sands (Lindisfarne NNR) on 9th (SW). Two were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond (MJC/DJC) and at Cresswell Pond NWT (TF) on 3rd, while two were also noted on Holy Island on 4th (ADM). Individual reports came from 15 sites including one standing by a small unfrozen patch on the lake at Exhibition Park, Newcastle on 13th (GB), the observer's first sighting of the species at this site.

**Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

Three were on Holy Island on 4th (MJC), two were at Great Ryle (Whittingham) on 14th (CW) and at Howdon on 24th (CB). Singles were recorded at 27 locations throughout December.

### **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

An adult male was noted at East Chevington's north pool on 5th (MH), a female-type flew past at Plenmeller on 9th (MH) and a juvenile was hunting the hedgerows opposite QEII CP on 12th (TB).

### **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*

Two ringtails were at Prestwick Carr on 1st (KWY/AJ), with single ringtails noted on 24th (PCF), 25th (MH), 26th (IK) and 31st (MH). Two ringtails were at Widdrington Moor Lake on 24th (TB) with a single ringtail noted in the area on 9th (IDR/JF) and 21st (TB), while on 29th a smaller individual thought to be an immature male was present (IDR/IFo). An adult male was seen in the Alnwick area on 15th (MH) and next to the A1 at Charlton Mires from a moving bus on 30th (DF).

### **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

Up to five were noted at the A68 at Riding Mill during a FoRK survey on 8th (AJ/ASH/AJN/TW/IK). Numbers at Derwent Reservoir peaked at five on 21st (IF), with four seen there on 2nd and 5th (IFo) and one to three on several dates (IFo). Three were at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 16th and 23rd (IFo) with singles there on 20th and 22nd (IFo). Two were at Carterway Heads (Crooked Oak) and Kiln Pit Hill on 13th (IFo) and 29th (AA). Singles were at Snods Edge on 12th and Whittonstall on 14th (IFo).

### **Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus*

On 19th one put in a brief appearance over Muckle Moss (Grindon Lough NWT) at 10:00, before flying off strongly to the SW (PRM).

### **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

Counts of five came from Garrett Lee Wood (Longhorsley) on 1st (CB) and at Wark (N Tyne) on 12th (PRM), four were at Corby Crags (Edlingham) on 15th (MH) and at Grindon Lough NWT on 19th (PRM). Three were seen at Pundershaw (Wark Forest) on 3rd (PRM), Fourstones on 15th (AJH) and at East Chevington on 29th (IFo). One to two were at at least 20 locations during the month.

### **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Three in daytime roosts at Derwent Reservoir regularly during the month (IFo) was the only multiple count. All other reports were of singles, at Wark on three dates, Longhirst Flash on two and at seven other locations including a female roosting in a Tawny Owl box at Low Newton on 5th, originally having been ringed at Bacton, Suffolk on 17th July 2022, a movement of over 499km. There was one road casualty on the A1 at Blagdon on 19th.

### **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

At least five called at dusk at Garrett Lee Wood (Longhorsley) on 3rd (CB), three males and a female were calling at Wark (N,Tyne) on 8th (PRM) with a single male there regularly and three males at Humshaugh on 5th (SW). Two called at Howick all month and two were at Tynemouth on 27th with singles at four other locations.

### **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

One was at Gloucester Lodge Farm (Blyth) on 16th (per NRSW)

*Asio* sp. One flew over the A1 at Deanmoor at 7.08 am on 31st (ADM).

### **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

At least seven were at the established roost in the SW of the county on 3rd (GB).

### **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Two roosted at the Snook (Holy Island) on 31st after one there on 4th (ADM) and one was at Longhirst Flash on 15th.

### **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*



A male and female were at Jesmond Dene on five dates from 6th to 22nd (DHWB/MJCo) with two at Fourstones on 6th and 15th (AJH) and at Wallsend Park on 22nd (ASJ) with singles on three further dates. On 3rd and 4th one was on rocks at Seaton Sluice with one regularly at Northumberland Park (North Shields), Tynemouth and singles at four coastal and four inland locations.

### **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

More than two were at Northumberland Park, North Shields on 20th (MSH) with two at Bradford on 29th (IDR/JF), all other reports being singles from 15 locations, all in the second half of the month.

### **Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

One was at Spindleston on 29th and one at Howick on 31st (IDR/JF/JAR).

### **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

High counts of five were made at Prestwick Carr on 7th and 26th (MN/IK) with three to four there on three other dates and five were also at Brocolitia / Settlingstones on 22nd (ADM). Three were at Longhirst Flash on 15th and Widdrington Moor Lake on 21st with two there on 24th, at Derwent Reservoir regularly and eight other locations. Singles were at Hadston regularly and 36 other widespread localities.

### **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

On 4th, two were at Holy Island (MJC/ADM) with males at Cresswell Pond NWT on 13th and Berwick on 30th, females at Grindon Lough NWT on 19th, Amble Braid on 21st and Fenham-le-Moor on 29th. Unsexed singles were at Boulmer on 17th, Kiln Pit Hill on 20th, Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 23rd, Newbiggin Ash Lagoon on 24th, Branton GP on 26th and Shorestone on 29th.

### **Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

Two were at Cresswell Pond NWT on 3rd (TF) with a female at Tynemouth Priory on 6th and 9th and an adult at Grindon Lough NWT on 2nd with a 1st calendar year bird there on 8th (PRM). Singles were over Chapel House (Newcastle) on 1st, S at Seaton Sluice on 4th, Bamburgh on 8th, Fenham Flats on 15th, Widdrington Moor Lake on 18th, R. Tyne Elswick on 19th and Blyth on 24th.

### **Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

The maximum monthly count was 14 at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 11th (MJC) with 13 at Preston Park (North Shields) on 21st and 11 there on 22nd (DLo) and five there on 8th. Seven were at Melton Park (Newcastle) on 13th, five at Walker and Heaton on 21st and 22nd with five at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 24th. One to four were at three other locations during the month.

### **Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

A group of seven was at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (IFo), five at Cow Village (Thrunton Wood) on 3rd (JR) and four at Garrett Lee Wood (Longhorsley) on the same date (CB). Two were at Newburn Haugh on 1st, Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 2nd, Newbiggin on 11th, Howick on 16th, Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 16th and 20th, Lincoln Hill on 24th, Ellington on 26th and Newton Red House on 28th. Singles were at 12 other locations.

### **Magpie** *Pica pica*

Roost gatherings numbered 64 at Balliol Business Park (Newcastle) on 19th (ADM), 41 at Abyssinia Wood (Ashington) on 15th (AT), 33 at Cobalt Business Park (North Shields) on 1st (ATR) with 24 feeding on sea buckthorn on 24th at R. Wansbeck Estuary (AT). 17 were at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 14th, 13 at Dinnington on 16th, 12 at Derwent Reservoir on 8th with nine in a small garden at Chapel House (Newcastle) and eight at Tyne Green (Hexham) on 21st. One to three were at four other locations.

### **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

Approximately 1,000 roosted at Monkseaton on 10th (ASJ), 800 were at Gosforth Subsidence Pond on 11th (MJC) and more than 600 were in roost at Red House Farm (Whitley Bay) on 25th (MN) with 350 at roosting in Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 19th (CB). 70 were at Hazlerigg (nr Wideopen) on 22nd, 30 at R Tweed Estuary on 10th, 27 at Longframlington on 3rd and 25 at Alnwick Waste Disposal Centre on 23rd with one to 14 at five other locations.

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

On 22nd 181 fed in paddocks at Bothal Pond (AT). 176 were at Low Leam (West Woodburn) on 31st (JR) with 73 at Longframlington on 3rd and Derwent Reservoir on 21st. 24 were at Shorestone on 29th with 12 at High Chibburn Farm (Druridge) on 28th and two at Stag Rocks (Bamburgh) on 10th.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

A high count of 36 was made at Sandstell Point (Spittal) on 7th (MHu) with 31 at R Wansbeck Estuary on 13th (AT), 25 at R Tweed Estuary on 10th (IDR/JF) and a group of 12 at Derwent Reservoir on 30th. One to five were at seven other locations.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus corone cornix*

The long-stayer was still preferring a dead tree at Potland Burn (Linton) on 7th (GAS).

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

A pair plus one were at Plenmeller on 14th (MH) with two at Grindon Lough NWT on 19th, New Water Haugh (R Tweed Estuary) on 21st, Great Ryle (Whittingham) on 25th and Kielder Forest Drive on 29th. Singles were at Derwent Reservoir and Holy Island on two dates and at Easington.

*Corvid sp* Around 480, mainly Rooks and Jackdaws, were at East Ord (Berwick) on 18th (MH).

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulous*

On 15th, 11 fed on Rowan at North Shields (DLo) with two there on 7th and 8th. Four were briefly in a Howick garden on 18th (per NRSW). Three fed on apples at Brunswick Village (Wideopen) on 27th-30th (GAS/NRSW) with two at Scremerston on 10th and one at Morpeth on 11th.



Waxwing, Brunswick, December 2022, Graham Sorrie

**Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

A high count of 28 was made at Harwood Forest on 29th (ADM) with nine at Coe Village (Thrunton Wood) on 3rd and eight at Kielder Forest Drive on 29th. One to three were at eight sites with singing noted at two.

**Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

Two visited garden feeders at Rothbury on 1st, Linden Hall (Longhorsley) on 12th, Garrett Lee Wood, Longhorsley on 17th and 22nd and Lightwater House, Mitford on 28th. Singles were at Longhorsley and Scotch Gill Woods (Morpeth).

**Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus*

Regularly at Prestwick Carr with four on 2nd and 4th (GAS/PCF) and one to two on three dates. Three was the maximum monthly count at Linden Hall on 3rd (NFO) with singles there and at Derwent Reservoir on two dates and at seven other locations.

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

There was a high count of 25 at Bradford (Lucker) on 29th with 15 at Spindleston on the same date (IDR/JF). 13 were at Coe Village (Thrunton Wood) on 18th (JR) with seven at Ellington on 18th and one to three at Druridge Links, Chathill and Jesmond Dene.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

15 were at Bradford on 29th and 10 at Spindleston on the same date (IDR/JF), four at Ellington Pond on 18th and Dinnington on 29th with one to three at Jesmond Dene, Chathill and Humshaugh.

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

A stubble field at Howick held 30 on 13th with 20 at Boulmer on 12th (JAR) and more than 20 were at Crow Hall Farm (Holywell Dene) on 14th (MSH). At least 17 were at Fenham Flats on 15th, 16 at Newbiggin on 22nd, 15 at Holy Island on 31st, 11 at St Mary's Island on 18th and eight at Newton Red House on 28th with one to three at four locations.

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cettia*

The only records this month came from Big Waters NWT, with a single male singing on 11th and two singing on 25th (GB).

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

25 were at Ellington on 11th (TB), 21 at Tyne Green (Hexham) on 12th (IAJH), and Druridge Links held a maximum of 18 on 28th (IDR/JF). There were 13 at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 15th (STH), 12 at Brierdene (Whitley Bay) on 16th (MSH) and at Howick on 19th (JAR), 11 at Wideopen on 3rd (GB) and ten at Derwent Reservoir on 5th (IFo). Smaller parties of four to nine were noted at a further 13 localities, including seven making regular visits to garden feeders at Longdyke (Shilbottle) during the month (MKi).

**Hume's Warbler** *Phylloscopus humei*

The individual found at Low Newton last month was again noted high up in conifers in a garden north of the Ship Inn on 2nd (TRD).

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

There were only eight records this month, compared with 35 in November. Woodhorn Church had two, including one showing some characteristics of an eastern race on 9th (AT). There were singles at Druridge Pools, Holy Island, Boulmer, QEII CP, Tyne Green (Hexham), and Longbenton. Two of the Siberian race (*P.c. tristis*) were on Holy Island on 4th (MJC/ADM).

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

Single garden visitors included a male feeding on apples in Lancaster Park (Morpeth) on 1st (GAS), and a female, also

on apples, at Marden Estate (Tynemouth) on 10th (ASJ). Single females were seen on feeders in Hexham on 15th (AJR), and in Tynemouth on 19th (CB) and 31st (DRW).

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

Two were still at Druridge Pools on 2nd (TB) and 3rd (IF), with one noted between 5th–6th (GAS).



Firecrest, Druridge Pools, December 2022, Graham Sorrie

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

Kielder Forest Drive held five on 8th (ADM). Reports of two came from the beach car park at Warkworth, West End (Tweedmouth), Northumberland Park (North Shields), Grindon Lough, Branton GP, Wark (North Tyne), Lincoln Hill and Tynemouth, with singles at Newburn Haugh (Tyne), Linton Lane NR. North Steads (Widdrington), Ellington Pond and Woodhorn.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Numbers remained high on Holy Island, with 27 on 31st (ADM), and at Druridge Links, with 15 on 2nd (IDR). 11 were counted at West Hartford on 17th (STH). There were four at Kielder Forest Drive on 8th and 29th (ADM), and one to three at a further five localities.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

Records of three came from Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 20th (MSH), and two at Humshaugh on 1st and 28th (SW). There were also two at Jesmond Dene on 18th, Garrett Lee Wood (Longhorsley) on 22nd, Haughton Castle on 23rd and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 25th. Singles were at Bellingham, Wark (North Tyne), Wallsend Park, and Lucker.



**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

The species was recorded at 21 widespread sites this month. Pairs or two were noted at Derwent Reservoir on 1st and 16th (IFo), at Big Waters NWT on 3rd (GB), Woodhorn Church on 9th (AT), Tyne Green (Hexham) on 12th (AJH), Wark (North Tyne) on 22nd (PRM), Humshaugh on 24th (PRM), and at Richardson Dees Park (Wallsend) on 31st (AJ). Singles were at a further 14 localities.

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

2,000 moved N in the early morning of 6th at Humshaugh, presumably from the roost at Wall (SW). Ca. 300 were between Sweethope–Ferry Rigg on 31st (JR), and ca. 200 were at the Nabs plantation (Longdyke) on 30th (MKi). Smaller flocks of 30–50 were at Woodhorn, Druridge Links, Shoreston, Stag Rocks, the Tweed Estuary and Otterburn, with numbers below 20 at the Alnwick Waste Disposal Centre, Chathill, and Ellington Pond.

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

The highest count came from Humshaugh, with a surprising 32 in a small garden on 15th (SW). Druridge Links had 13 on 2nd (IDR) and Ellington Pond had 12 on 18th (IDR/JF). Fallen apples were popular as a food item, with groups of nine at Newton Red House on 7th (PG) and six at East Ord (Berwick) on 13th (Mhu), all feeding on apples. There were nine at Prestwick Carr on 24th (PCF), eight at Dinnington on 13th (PCF) and seven at Great Ryle (Whittingham) on 5th (CW). One to five were at a further six localities.

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

The species was recorded at 42 sites throughout the county this month. Doddington held 300 on 24th (JD), Otterburn held 230 on 31st (JR) and 200 were between Sweethope–Ferry Rigg on 31st (JR). A maximum of 140 were at Ord Moor (Berwick) on 29th (Mhu), 80 at Bothal Pond on 22nd (AT), and 75 at Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield) on 24th (IFo). There were 60 at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on 6th (IFo), at Glanton on 30th (JR), and at Pigdon (Morpeth) on 31st (JR). Flocks of 50 were at Wark (North Tyne) on 12th (PRM), North Shields on 16th (DRW), Haydon Bridge on 22nd (ADM), and between Thropton–Lorbottle on 30th (JR). Smaller numbers (20–42) were at Milkwell (Corbridge), Houndalee (Widdrington), Mitford, Howick, Linden Hall (Longhorsley), Whittingham and Derwent Reservoir. Groups numbering below 20 were at 14 localities, with singles at a further eight.



### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

The largest flock in the month was at Doddington with 100 there on 24th (JD). There were 60 at Ord Moor (Berwick) on 29th (MHu), and between Sweethope-Ferny Rigg on 31st (JR), with 40 at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 16th (ASJ) and at Haughton Castle on 23rd (SW). Wark (North Tyne) held 30 on 8th (ADM), 21 were at Otterburn on 31st (JR) and Dinnington and Little Mill recorded 20 on 29th (PCF) and 30th (SW) respectively. Smaller groups (10–16) were at Brierdene (Whitley Bay), Garrett Lee Wood (Longhorsley), Prestwick Carr, Airy Holm Reservoir (nr Shotleyfield), Widdrington Moor Lake, Ellington and Howick. Numbers below ten were recorded at a further 15 sites.

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

At Seaton Point (Boulmer), six were observed feeding on the strand line during freezing conditions on 14th (BS). There were four at Garrett Lee Wood (Longhorsley) on 10th (CB), and two at Milkwell (Corbridge) on 5th (RB/MB), North Shields on 16th (DLo) and Howdon on 17th (CB). Singles were noted at Druridge Links on 2nd, Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 2nd, Little Waters NR on 3rd, North Steads (Widdrington) on 9th, Jesmond Dene on 18th, St Mary's on 19th and Shoreston on 29th.

### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

There were five at Furnace Bridge (Bedlington) on 22nd (GB), four at Garrett Lee Wood on 22nd (CB) and three at North Shields on 16th (DLo). Two were recorded at Bellingham and at Mitford Steads on 7th, at Dinnington on 18th, Widdrington Moor Lake on 21st, Prestwick Carr and Lincoln Hill on 24th, at Tynemouth on 26th, and at Woodhorn on 27th. Singles were at a further six sites.

### **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

17 were counted at Holywell Dene on 10th (ASJ), Holy Island recorded 11 on 4th (ADM) and Kielder Forest Drive held five on 8th (ADM). There were three at Druridge Links on 2nd (IDR) and at Jesmond Dene on 11th (MJCo). Two frequented a garden at Chathill during the month (PCA) and singles were at Ellington Pond, Shoreston, Bradford, and Spindlestone.

### **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

A female-type was still at the castle on Holy Island on 3rd-4th (NRSW/ADM) and another was at Seaton Point, Boulmer on 24th (per NRSW).

### **Stonechat** *Saxicola rubicola*

Six were at Plenmeller (two pairs and two singles), all observed on sunny banks during freezing conditions on 14th (MH). There was a maximum of five at Prestwick Carr on 13th (STH), four at Holy Island on 4th (ADM), four (two pairs, one in snow at higher level) at Kielder Forest Drive on 8th (ADM) and four (two pairs) at St Mary's on 16th (DLo). Two were at Monks' House Pool on 2nd, Whitley Bay beach on 9th and Newbiggin on 22nd. There was a pair at Dunstanburgh Castle on 19th. Singles were at seven another sites, including an unusual winter sighting at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd.

### **Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

Two were at Jesmond Dene on 11th and at Wark on 12th. Singles seen this month at six sites including Rothbury and Morpeth.

### **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

48 were counted on 14th at garden feeders at Beaconhill (Cramlington) (LJM). 35 were noted at Cullercoats Bay on 9th and up to 16 attended garden feeders at Marden (Cullercoats) all month (ASJ). Five and nine were also seen at two other sites.

### **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

A Sunflower crop at Elwick continued to attract a large feeding flock of around 200 on 22nd (ASJ). 28 were at a bird table at Lemmington Hall on 16th (AHa/PHa). 18 were at feeders all month at Marden (Cullercoats) and 17 likewise at Holywell Pond on 10th and 12 here on 29th (ASJ/CB). 16 were seen at Linden Hall on 18th (NFO). Two to ten were at a further seven sites during the month.

**Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*

Four at a Chathill garden was the largest group in the month (PCA). One to two were reported from four sites.

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Two were counted on 11th at Jesmond Dene (MJCo). Two were also seen at St. Mary's Wetland that day and at Ouseburn (Byker) on 25th (MSH/AJN). Singles were noted this month at 12 locations.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

25 were counted at Spittal on 10th (IDR/JF). On 12th 13 were feeding below the promenade at St. Mary's. Four were seen at Tynemouth Pier on 13th (ASJ). One to two were at eight sites.

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

At least 50 was an excellent mid-winter count at Crow Hall Farm (Holywell) on 14th (MSH). 38 was the peak count at Derwent Reservoir on 3rd, declining to seven by 26th (IFo). 20 were at Ellington on 11th (TB). 13 were well inland and at height on Simonside on 2nd and 12 were at St Mary's on 18th, with at least ten still there on 2nd (AT/ASJ/MSH). One to eight were noted at a further eight sites.

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

The wintering individual remained at St. Mary's Island throughout the month (AC/ASJ/MSH/ *et al.*). On 27th one was on the beach at Beacon Point, Newbiggin (AP).

**Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

A good count of around 40 was made at Sandstell Point (Spittal) on 10th (IDR/JF). 36 on 4th was the peak count from several visits made to Holy Island this month (ADM/MJC). Eight were noted at St. Mary's and five at Cullercoats and three at Tynemouth on 18th (ASJ). Five were noted on 10th at Stag Rocks (IDR). Two were at Blyth Harbour and a single at Druridge Links during the month.

**Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

80-100 were seen at Crooked Oak on 6th and 27th (IFo). 53 were counted at Bradford on 29th (IDR/JF). One to 20 were noted at a further 11 locations this month.

**Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Only reported from two sites this month. Two were at garden feeders at Beaconhill (Cramlington) on 18th, with one there on 27th (STH). A male was seen in a Rothbury garden on several dates.

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

One was found at Linden Hall on 12th and 16th (NFO).

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Another good count of 24 was made at Walker Riverside Park on 9th (ASJ per SP). Eight were at Fulbeck, Morpeth throughout the month (TD) and also at Branton on 30th (IBDa/KDa). One to eight were at a further 27 sites this month.

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

11 going to roost at Linden Hall on 12th increased in number to 21 on 16th (NFO). On 31st, 15 were around Snook House, Holy Island, nine having been here on 4th (ADM). One to eight were also seen during the month at 15 sites.

**Twite** *Linaria flavirostris*

55 at Druridge Links on 2nd was the month's peak count (IDR). 43 were noted on 31st at Snook (Holy Island) (ADM). 30 were at Cresswell on 2nd, at Fenham Flats on 15th, Druridge on 18th and 28 at Cocklawburn on 22nd. Up to 25 were at Long Nanny early in the month and six to 20 were at four sites.

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

120-500 were at Crooked Oak (Carterway Heads) on several dates (IFo). Around 240 were observed on 22nd at Easington (NFO). 62 were noted at Alnmouth on 11th and 55 fed at Red House Farm (Whitley Bay) on 13th (MKI/ASJ). 55 were also at Shoreston on 29th (IDR/JF). Two to 30 were also at three sites.

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis caberet*

45 were seen at Gosforth Park on 3rd (MJC). 35 were noted on 1st feeding at Airy Holm Reservoir (IFo). 30 were at Garrett Lee Wood on 3rd and at Gosforth Garden Village from 11th to the month's end (CB/MJC). One to 15 were also seen at seven other locations.

**Common Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea*

Two were found at Gosforth Garden Village on 19th and one was at Gosforth Park on 3rd (MJC).

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

14 were counted at Kielder Forest Drive on 29th (ADM). On 3rd, 12 were observed at Pundershaw in Wark Forest and ten or more were at nearby Stonehaugh, including two singing males on 18th (PRM). Also on 18th, nine were seen at Longframlington Common Woods (IDR). Four were noted at Harwood on 29th and three were at Garrett Lee Wood 22nd (ADM/CB). Two at Humshaugh on 30th and one at Broadpool Common the previous day (SW).

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

A charm of 70 was at Widdrington Moor on 29th (IFo). Around 60 were noted at Longwitton on 24th (JR) while 42 was the maximum count at East Ord during the month (MHu). 14 sites held one to 20 during the month.

**Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

At Gosforth Park, 65 were noted on 3rd (MJC/DC). Around 50 were seen at Linden Hall on 6th, East Chevington on 24th, at Big Waters on 25th and Kielder Forest Drive on 29th (NFO/AJ/GB/ADM). 28-45 were seen at Branton, Derwent Reservoir, Grindon and Pundershaw this month. One to 22 were observed at ten other sites.



Siskin, College Valley, December 2022, Amanda Fall

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*



The Snook, Holy Island, held seven on 4th as did Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 8th which was the month's peak count with smaller numbers present on several other dates (ADM/AP). A male and two females were at Chevington Burn on 3rd (AJ). Singles were also noted during the month at Ross Back Sands, Holy Island, Druridge Bay and Seaton Point.

#### **Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

50 were counted at Newton Red House (Throphill) on 28th (GB) and 32 counted at Shoreston on 29th (IDR/JF). On 28th, 28 were at Haughton Mains and 26 were part of a mixed finch flock at Eden Hill on 11th (SW/MKi). One-12 were seen at 11 other sites this month.

#### **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

The month's only sizeable group was at Red House Farm (Whitley Bay), where 30 fed in a crop field on 13th (ASJ). Nine roosted at St. Mary's Wetland on 15th (ASJ). Elsewhere one to four were reported from seven locations.

### **Escapes, Hybrids & Birds of Unknown Origin**

**Escapes** - No sightings

#### **Hybrids**

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

One of these regular hybrids was noted at Big Waters on 11th (GB).

##### **Wigeon hybrid**

One at Big Waters on 11th though parentage not possible to pin down, thought to be either America Wigeon or Pintail involved. (GB).

**Birds of Unknown Origin** - No sightings

#### **List of Contributors**

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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), Helen Snaith (Cetti's to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights),

Proof reading was by Mike Smith. Mail distribution by Paul Stewart. Clive Hampton is Data Manager.

Edited by Alan Tilmouth [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

#### **Record Submission**

Please email records for the month to [ntbc.records@googlemail.com](mailto: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.

### Images and Illustrations

Please keep submitting your articles, photographs, sketches and illustrations for the bulletin. Thanks again to those who have supplied the excellent images. Please send to Alan Tilmouth at [NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com](mailto:NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com)

Please ensure you include the following information with your submissions: name, species, date taken, locality. Submitted images may be used elsewhere on NTBC social media to help the club promote it's aims.

### 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 9 February and will feature a talk from Conrad Dickinson 'Owl Photography and the Wider Use of Cameras in Bird-watching'.

### Field Trips

Next Field Trip – tbc

### 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.

Subscriptions can be paid using online banking: please include your name as the reference and email Jo Bentley at [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com) to confirm payment.

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.

If you know anyone who might like to join NTBC please pass on the club information - new members are always welcome. For membership enquiries please contact Jo Bentley (Hon Treasurer) [ntbc@jobentley.plus.com](mailto:ntbc@jobentley.plus.com)

### NTBC Web and Social Media

The club website is an excellent online resource for anyone interested in birds, with a wide range of content from photo galleries, county checklists, Records Committee updates, information on surveys and many useful articles on bird identification and birding both locally and internationally, to find out more please visit [www.ntbc.org.uk](http://www.ntbc.org.uk)

Please submit any other new content (eg trip reports, identification notes, site guides etc) for the website to the main club email address at [ntbcorg@gmail.com](mailto:ntbcorg@gmail.com)

NTBC can also be found on Facebook [here](#) and Twitter [here](#)

## Other News

### Small Grant Scheme – ERIC North East

ERIC North East has a small grant for biodiversity and geodiversity voluntary recording work in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, County Durham and the Tees Valley. £3000 is available to help fund recording activity for the 2023-2024 year. £1000 has been kindly donated by Northumbrian Water to support biological recording in the region. **The deadline for applications is Friday 24 February 2023 and grants will need to be spent between 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024.**

Note that in some cases, in the past, they have been unable to award the full amount requested for each application but instead have been able to part-fund some of them. More details about previous grants and the application form can be found at: <https://www.ericnortheast.org.uk/small-grant-scheme/>

### GWCT/BTO Woodcock Annual Monitoring Survey

In a 2015 review of the species' breeding population status, the Woodcock was added to the UK Birds of Conservation Concern Red List because of a long-term decline in breeding numbers and range. The purpose of national Woodcock Survey 2023 is to provide an updated national population estimate and assessment of range change compared to the previous surveys in 2003 and 2013. In addition, habitat use will be investigated to improve our knowledge of habitat requirements, which can improve future woodland management for Woodcock. You can take part in this survey by selecting a national Woodcock Survey 2023 square in your region using the interactive map at <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/woodcock-survey>

### Tyne Kittiwakes

Whilst outside the NTBC recording area many members will no doubt be interested to hear work on a new breeding tower on the south side of the River Tyne has commenced adjacent to the existing tower. It is hoped that this work will be complete in time for the 2023 breeding season.

In other Kittiwake-related news Dr Helen Wilson (Durham University) has been appointed as the new Chair of the Tyne Kittiwake Partnership. NTBC looks forward to continuing to work with the Tyne Kittiwake Partnership to ensure the conservation of this important colony.