

Northumberland and Tyneside Bird Club

Registered Charity No. 517641

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Bulletin 2018 No 8

MONTHLY SUMMARY AUGUST 2018

4th October 2018



CONTENTS

County Records Committee vacancy

Ornithological reports 1935 to 1950

CLASSIFIED LIST HIGHLIGHTS

Mute Swan	Large count of 563 at Tweed Estuary.
Whooper Swan	Still two summering individuals present.
Ruddy Shelduck	Female still present at Hauxley until 21st.
Garganey	Several passage birds including first record for Derwent Reservoir.
Black-throated Diver	Two off East Chevington on 27th.
Great Northern Diver	Single at Druridge on 21st.
Black-necked Grebe	Single at Cresswell Pond on 4th.
Spoonbill	Three N past Warkworth on 2nd.
Bittern	Summering bird still at East Chevington.
Curlew Sandpiper	One or two at Cresswell Pond and Beal Pt.
Pectoral Sandpiper	Adult at East Chevington up to 16th.
Wood Sandpiper	Singles at various sites during month.
Spotted Redshank	One or two at various sites during month.
Greenshank	High count of 17 at Beal on 29th.
Mediterranean Gull	New county record of 117 at Newbiggin on 8th.
Yellow-legged Gull	Juveniles at St Mary's and Tynemouth.
Caspian Gull	Polish ringed 'PKCS' present all month at Amble Harbour.
Black Tern	One or two offshore at various sites late in month.
Long-tailed Skua	Sub-adult passed various sea watch sites on 13th.
Swift	Record day count of 580 at Seaton Sluice on 2nd.
Hobby	Several sightings during month.
Black Redstart	Single at Cocklawburn on 15th.



A common Sandpiper at Holywell Pond by Trevor Basey on 1st August

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 meetings are:

11th October

AGM followed by a talk by **Graham Sorrie** on **Swifts Going, going.....**

Swifts are an ancient species in trouble in the modern world. In this talk Graham will look at the Swift's life cycle, the issues facing these birds and how a programme in Morpeth is attempting to turn the tide.

8th November

Rick Taylor community outreach officer, Scottish Borders

An update from the **South of Scotland Golden Eagle Project**, on the first translocations and release this year, and following the progress of the three young eagles.

13th December

Professor Martin Collinson, Aberdeen University: **CSI BIRDING**

DNA technology has advanced to the stage where migrant birds can easily be identified genetically using tiny samples of feathers. The talk will describe the advances and some of the key results from DNA –based identification in recent years. Do forensic techniques spoil birding as a popular hobby or enhance it?

FIELD TRIPS

Contact Steve Anderson seaswan@btinternet.com

CLASSIFIED LIST**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

An early return was witnessed at Fenham Flats, where 420 were present on 30th (DF).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Eight flew S at Seaton Sluice on 30th. Large concentrations involved 400 at Hauxley Reserve on 10th (SRB), 280 at Buston Links on 6th (STH), 269 at Grindon Lough on 8th (PRM), 203 at Haughton Strother GP on 11th (SW), and 102-126 at Derwent Reservoir and West Ord. Groups of 55-68 were at Druridge Pools and Holywell Pond, 23-45 at Brenkley, Cresswell Pond, Killingworth Lake and Warkworth, and eight to 19 at Amble Braid, Bothal Pond, Castle Island, Newcastle Exhibition Park and the Tweed Estuary.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

One was at the Tweed Estuary on 10th (MHu).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Peak counts were 961 at Haughton Strother GP on 11th (SW), 750 at Airy Holm Reservoir on 30th (SW), 600 at Derwent Reservoir on 25th (IFo), 384 at the Tweed Estuary on 10th (MHu), 218-250 at Druridge Pools and Newton flash, and 150-167 at Big Waters and Holywell Pond. Groups of 38-63 were at Budle Bay and West Ord, and 15-23 were at/over Arcot Pond, East Chevington, Grindon Lough and Spartylea. A neck-collared individual (orange band, NJB) at Airy Holm Reservoir on 2nd had been marked at Nosterfield LNR, North Yorkshire on 21st February 2016 (IFo).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Singles were at Airy Holm Reservoir on 30th (IFo) and East Chevington on 29th (TF/JFa).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Three flew N and two S at Seaton Sluice between 19th-24th (SSWT). An impressive 563 were counted at the Tweed Estuary on 10th (MHu), 115 were at Killingworth Lake on 25th (SRB), 53 at East Chevington on 14th (IRD), and ten-19 at Bothal Pond and Castle Island. Three to eight were also at Amble Braid, Grindon Lough and Holy Island (six juveniles). Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Arcot Pond	1	3	DM. On 1st
East Chevington	1	2	TD. On 1st

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Singles were at Budle Bay all month (CGK/GPK *et al.*) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs between 8th-31st (SR).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

13 flew N and nine S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), 18 were at Cresswell Pond on 12th (DM/PJA), 12 (mostly juveniles) were at the Blyth Estuary on 4th (GB/LAR), 11 were at Elswick on 1st (SRB), eight to nine at Amble Braid and Castle Island, and one to two at Cresswell Pond, the Tweed Estuary and West Ord.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

One was at Hauxley Reserve on 1st (TRD) and 18th (CH). A female/immature bird was at both Airy Holm and Derwent Reservoirs on 20th. The latter bird remained at Derwent Reservoir until 31st except for a visit to Airy Holm reservoir on 28th (IFo).



The Hauxley Ruddy Shelduck
Tim Dean on 1st August

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

Two juveniles found at East Chevington north pool on 2nd remained until 25th (TF/JFa *et al.*). Single birds were also at Bothal Pond on several dates between 14th-27th (TF/JFa/NFO), Castle Island on 1st (TF/JFa), and Monks' House Pool on 27th (DF/CGK/GPK). One at Derwent Reservoir on 18th was a 'first' for the site (IFo).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Two flew N and one S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT) and three flew S at Cocklawburn on 7th (DF); 30+ were at East Chevington on 28th (MSH), six to seven at Arcot and Cresswell Ponds (DM/LJM) and Budle Bay (DF), and three to four at Bothal and Cresswell Ponds, Druridge Pools and Monks' House Pool. One to two were also at Grindon Lough and Linton Ponds.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Peak counts were 30 at Cresswell Pond on 12th (DM/PJA), 30 at Woodhorn Flashes on 26th (CDH), 26 at Bothal Pond on 11th (TD), 20 at Big Waters on 19th (GB), 20 at West Stobswood on 23rd (MSH), and 14-16 at Caistron and Linton Ponds. Eight were at East Chevington and one to two at Arcot Pond, Castle Island, Druridge Pools, Grindon Lough and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

A total of 14 flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). Grindon Lough held a peak of 57 on 15th (PRM), 50 were at Budle Bay on 21st-22nd (DF/GPK), and 29 at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (IFo). Six were at East Chevington, and one to three at Big Waters, Cresswell and Holywell Ponds, Druridge Pools, Low Newton scrape and St Mary's Wetland.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

A total of 12 flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT). The largest counts involved 170 at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 30th (SR), 142 at Budle Bay on 11th (CGK/GPK), 124 at Merryshield GP (Stocksfield) on 17th (DLe), 104-112 at Derwent Reservoir and Middle Ord Pond, and 52-83 at Arcot, Bothal, Holywell and Linton Ponds, Big Waters, Castle Island, Newcastle Exhibition Park, Newton Pool and the Tweed Estuary. Groups of 27-47 were at Airy Holm and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Monks' House Pool and Spartylea.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Five were at Fenham Flats on 30th (DF), four at Budle Bay on 23rd (GPK), two at Newton Pool on 25th (GB/DM/LAR), and one at East Chevington on 16th (TF/JFa).

Teal *Anas crecca*

A total of 1,652 N and 166 S at Seaton Sluice was a record August total for the site (SSWT). Peak gatherings were about 500 at East Chevington on 22nd (TRD/JD), 80 at Budle Bay on 11th increasing to 180 by 25th (CGK/GPK), 60-91 at Arcot Pond (LJM), Derwent Reservoir (IFo), Grindon Lough (PRM) and Newbiggin (GB/LAR), and 32-47 at Backworth Pond, Castle Island and Monks' House Pool. Groups of 12-15 were also at Druridge Pools and West Ord. More unusual was one, with Mallards, on Newcastle Exhibition Park lake on 14th (GB).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Holywell Pond held a peak of 20 on 4th (MSH), 11 were at Big Waters on 13th (GB), three to four at Grindon Lough (PRM) and Swallow Pond (TRD), and one to two at Bothal and Warkworth Lane Ponds, Derwent and Whittle Dene Reservoirs, Druridge Pools and Holy Island.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Two flew N at Seaton Sluice on 19th (SSWT). Peak concentrations were 72 at Caistron on 12th (JD), 28 at Killingworth Lake on 14th (LJM) and 26 at Grindon Lough on 23rd (PRM). Seven to ten were also at Bothal and Linton Ponds, Haughton Castle, Monks' House Pool and Spartylea, and one to four at Airy Holm and Derwent Reservoirs, Cocklawburn Pond and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. Breeding data were as follows (additional to previous months unless otherwise stated):

Locality	No. of broods	No. of young	Observer/notes
Haughton Strother GP	1	8	SW. On 11th
Bothal Pond	1	6	TD. On 11th (brood at least a week old)
East Chevington	1	6	PRM. On 9th
Grindon Lough	1	6	PRM. On 7th
Arcot Pond	1	3	LJM. On 1st. Later reduced to two young
Woodhorn Flashes	1	1	LJM. New brood on 1st

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Two were at East Chevington on 29th and 31st (TF/JFa/NFO). Two were on the River Coquet at 'The Buts' on 21st (per RPo).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

110 were at North Blyth on (STH/IFo), 42 at Holy Island on 5th (MJC), and four to five at Amble Braid, Budle Bay and the Tweed Estuary. A female with a brood of three young was at Amble Braid on 9th (PRM) and a duck with two large downy young were off Seaton Sluice watch tower on 18th (SSWT).

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

A pair flew N at St Mary's on 25th (JBu/AC), and one was at Holy Island on 26th (SR/AH). One off Newbiggin on 13th later flew S (AP).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

A total of 1,449 flew N and 272 S at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), and two to ten moved N at Hadston Carrs, Newbiggin and Snab Point. Three groups, totalling 40 birds, were off East Chevington on 1st (TD), and 22 were at North Blyth on 6th (STH). Two were near the Black Middens in the Tyne Estuary on 14th (AJN) and two off Warkworth.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

One flew N at Seaton Sluice on 2nd (SSWT). Three were at the regular breeding site on 6th (TRD). Singles (all fledged juveniles) were at Arcot Pond between 1st-29th (GB/LJM), Cheswick Pond on 12th (CH) and Cresswell Pond on 2nd (TF/JFa), and a female/immature drake was at Cocklawburn Pond on 15th (MHu).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

A total of 28 flew N at Seaton Sluice during the month (SSWT), six flew N at Hadston Carrs on 13th (TF/JFa), and one S at Boulmer. A flock of 160 was off Ross-Guile Point on 27th (MJC), 120 moulting birds were at Budle Point all month (CGK/GPK), 118 were at the Tweed Estuary on 10th (MHu), 88 at Cocklawburn on 9th (MHu), and 32-49 at Amble Harbour, the Blyth Estuary and New Water Haugh (River Tweed). Groups of 15-22 were at Holy Island, Howick, Linnbrigg and Warkworth, and five to seven at Derwent Reservoir, Low Newton and North Blyth. One to two were also at Arcot Pond, Caistron, Lesbury, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Five were at Amble Harbour on 10th (SRB), and singles at the Coquet Estuary and Newbiggin.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

In the Cheviots 40 were at Broadhope Hill on 19th and 20 at Hedgehope on 30th (IRD). A single was at Shirlaw Pike (Longframlington) on 17th.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

The only report was of 14 at Brier Dene Farm (Whitley Bay) on 22nd (MNC).

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

A party at Lincoln Hill (Humshaugh), observed on several days, comprised up to 37 birds (per SW/TWi). Two adults with 15 small young were flushed in a bean field at Ellington on 6th (TB) and a family party of 14 were present at St Mary's on 22nd and 26th (ASJ). 12 were at Paxton Dean (Longhorsley) on 30th (AB/LB), ten at Wallington and one to eight at Close House, Cresswell Pond, Haughton Strother, Longhoughton, Newbiggin and Spartylea.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Seven were at Brier Dene Farm on 22nd (MNC) and between two to five were at Spartylea all month (CT).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

The monthly passage total at Seaton Sluice of 11 (four N and seven S) was an average yield for August. The peak offshore count at East Chevington was a minimum of 35 present on 9th (PRM), with possible evidence of a family party – two adults sporting red throats with two immatures – there on 16th (IRD). The only other non-Druridge Bay sighting was a single at Annstead on 27th.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Two were off Chevington Burn beach on 27th (TD).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

One was on the sea off Druridge Pools on 21st (TF/JFa).

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

One was ringed overnight on 25th at Druridge Pools by Iain Robson (TF/JFa).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

The only movement of note at Seaton Sluice was 300N in five hours on 25th (SSWT). One downy chick was still in its cliff nest at Coves Haven (Holy Island) on 26th (IK).

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Passage numbers were generally low for the time of year with 11 N past Annstead Point on 26th being the highest count (CGK/GPK). One to three were recorded flying N at several other locations from mid-month with Seaton Sluice Watch Tower describing the paucity of sightings as a "dismal showing!".

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

The monthly total at Seaton Sluice was 617 (523N, 94S) in 104 hours, the peak period being 333N between 25th-26th (SSWT). Similar passage was experienced elsewhere with 68N past Annstead Point on 26th (CGK/GPK), 64N at Tynemouth between 1505-1915 on 25th (DRW), 57N past Church Point (Newbiggin) in an hour and a half, also on 25th (TF/JFa). Smaller numbers were reported from many other locations throughout the month.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) has had a productive breeding season with a peak of 25 on 12th plus at least three broods of young (TF/JFa). The highest count at Caistron was 23 during a WeBS visit, also on 12th (JD), Holywell Pond peaked at 17 on 21st (LJM) and 15 were at East Chevington on 9th (PRM). One to eight were at Airy Holm Reservoir, Arcot Pond, Bank's Pond (Dinnington), Big Waters NWT, Blyth GC, Capheaton Lake, Cocklawburn Pond, Cresswell Pond, Embleton Quarry, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strothers, Hauxley, Holy Island Lough, Howick, Linton Ponds, Milkhope Lake (Blagdon), Newton Pool and Swallow Pond.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

The highest count this month was from Widdrington Moor Lake which held up to 18 by 17th (TB). Successful breeding was reported from several locations: a total of ten birds included four young at Big Waters NWT on 13th (GB), three pairs with one, one and two young respectively were at Derwent Reservoir all month (IFo), seven at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) on 4th included four half-grown young and another adult on a nest (TRD), two adults and two juveniles were at Holywell Pond and totals of four were at Airy Holm Reservoir and Whittle Dene Reservoirs. One to three birds were at Branton GP, Chevington Burn beach, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Holy Island and Swallow Pond.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetuss*

Three birds were up in the air together at Derwent Reservoir on 18th (IFo) and one – two were seen there on several dates throughout the month including one with a blue colour ring PX5 on left leg which was ringed as a male chick on the Solway coast of Scotland on 23/07/16 (IFo). Two juveniles were at Colt Crag Reservoir on 28th (per IK). Single birds were also at Wallington on 14th (TRD), Budle Bay on 18th (CGK/GPK), Pilgrims' Way (Lindisfarne) on 25th- 27th (IK) and at Kielder Water on 29th (TRD/JD).

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Three birds, two females and a male, were in the air together at Ellington on 17th (TB). Two recently fledged juveniles were calling from a tree under Byker Bridge (Newcastle) on 8th (GB). Two birds were also noted at Newbiggin Golf Course on 21st (GB), West Hartford on 21st (LJM), Ellington on also on 21st (TB) and at Slaggyford on 29th (SW). A 1st winter female was at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) all month (RS) and other single birds were also seen at Bamburgh, Bedlington, Cramlington, East Chevington, Ellington, Haughton Castle, Humshaugh, Jesmond Dene (Newcastle), Lynemouth Flash, Monkseaton, Prestwick Carr, Prudhoe, Seaton Burn, Spartylea, Warkworth Lane, West Hartford and at Widdrington Village.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Once again most sightings came from the Druridge Bay areas with a male, female and juveniles at East Chevington (TD/NFO *et al.*) throughout the month, Single birds were observed at Druridge pools on 23rd (AJ/ASH *et al.*), Widdrington Moor Lake on 28th (MSH) and at Hemscott Hill (Cresswell) on 29th (TF/JFa). Un-sexed birds were noted flying South at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) on 10th & 17th and one flying North there on 26th mobbed by gulls (AP).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

A female was seen flying SW north of Throckley being mobbed by small birds on 30th (CFH).

Red Kite *Milvus Milvus*

Two birds were together at Derwent Reservoir on 7th (IFo) with singles noted there on 16th, 17th, 21st (If). Other birds were at Westerhope (Newcastle) on 2nd (per IK), flying South at Cresswell Pond on 5th (ADM), Hepburn Moor on 10th (AA), East Holywell on 15th (MNC) and at Snods Edge on 19th (IFo).

Correct text for June section**Red Kite** *Milvus Milvus*

An Adult was circling with Gulls over Byker Metro Station (Newcastle) before flying off NW over Shields Road on 15th (JB).

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

One – four birds were seen at Spartylea throughout the month (CT) and two adults and two juveniles were at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 12th (DM). Four birds were also at Wark (North Tyne) on 14th (PRM) and at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 28th (SR). One - three birds were noted at 23 sites during the month.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Eight birds including six large juveniles were seen at Arcot Pond on 4th (GB) and seven birds were calling from different areas of Warkworth Lane Pond on 27th (TB), six plus were reported at East Chevington on 9th (PRM). One – four birds were either heard or seen at Arcot Pond, Backworth Pond, Big Waters NWT, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Pools and East Chevington.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

30+ birds at East Chevington on 9th (PRM) was the highest count this month and 23 were at Druridge Pools on 27th (TD). 17 were at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 24th (GB), 11 at Holy Island Lough on 5th (MJC) and 10 birds were seen at Arcot Pond on 9th (DM), Castle Island (WeBS) on 12th (DM), Newton Flash on 25th (DM) and at Cresswell Pond on 26th (CDH). One to nine birds were at Cresswell Pond, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond, Linton Ponds, Newton Pool, Northumberlandia (Cramlington), River Blyth Estuary, Spartylea and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Correct text for June section**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

Eight birds were seen at Hauxley NWT on 27th (HRS); six birds were at Exhibition Park (Newcastle) on 4th (DM) and at Castle Island on 17th (DM). Five were at Arcot Pond on 27th (LJM) and three birds were at Haughton Castle on 30th (SW). Breeding was confirmed at Benton, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, East Cramlington LNR, Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Killingworth Lake and Leazes Park (Newcastle).

Coot *Fulica atra*

Killingworth Lake had the highest count with 53 birds present there on 14th (LJM), followed by Bothal Pond with 38 birds on 11th (TD), 36 at Grindon Lough on 8th (PRM), 34 at Linton Ponds on 26th (CDH) and 31 at Big waters NWT on 13th (GB). Three to seventeen birds were noted at Arcot Pond, East Chevington, Grindon Lough, Haughton Strothers and at Holy Island. A single bird in Budle Bay throughout the month was a rare patch tick which was even twitched by a birder from County Durham who visits there regular (CGK/GPK/RA).

Correct text for June section**Coot** *Fulica atra*

42 birds were at Grindon Lough on 26th (PRM) and 39 birds were seen at Swallow Pond (Wallsend) on 11th and at Killingworth Lake on 20th (LJM). 30 birds were at Bothal Pond on 17th (TD) and 16 were at Linton Ponds on 14th (PRM). Breeding was confirmed at Arcot Pond, Burradon Pond (Cramlington), Exhibition Park (Newcastle), Grindon Lough, Hadrian Pond, Heighley Gate (Morpeth), Killingworth Lake, Leazes Park (Newcastle), Linton Ponds, Middleton Hall and at Swallow Pond (Wallsend).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Coastal movement was evident with a total of 890 counted over the month at Seaton Sluice (SSWT). Budle Bay had a peak count of 160 on 12th (CGK), ca. 150 were at St Mary's on 24th (ASJ), and 108 were counted at Newbiggin, Beacon Point on 31st (AP). Counts of 49-91 came from Boulmer, Cullercoats Bay, Hartley Bay, Holy Island, Howick, North Blyth, Seahouses (Annstead) and Tynemouth with smaller counts from Blyth, Derwent Reservoir, Haughton Strothers, Newcastle (Elswick), Spartylea, Tweed Estuary, Wark (North Tyne) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

All but one record came from Cresswell Pond where, between 9th and 12th, there were reports of two adults and an immature bird (CH, AJ/ASH/AJN/TW/IK/MN, IRD). The latest report for this site was the 23rd. A juvenile was spotted in the Blyth Estuary on 24th (AC).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Post-breeding flocks were seen at Derwent Reservoir on 30th when 800 were estimated (IFo). Other large flocks were reported from Whittle Dene Reservoirs with 700 on 18th (SR), East Chevington where 520-600 were present on 7th and 28th (MSH,TD) and a peak count of 428 was made on 24th at Bothal Pond (Coney Garth) (TF/JFA). Counts of 200-393 came from Cocklawburn, Coquet Estuary, Cresswell Pond, Haughton Strothers, Holywell Pond, Monks' House Pool, Newcastle (Elswick) and St Mary's. Smaller counts came from Aln Estuary, Amble Braid, Arcot Pond, Big Waters NWT, Cocklawburn, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond NR, Howick, Linton Ponds, Monks' House Pool, Tweed (New Water Haugh), Tweed Estuary and Wansbeck (Castle Island).

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

A count of 2,000 on Holy Island on 28th (IK) appears to be the largest there since 2015 and was very early compared with previous large counts. St Mary's had a count of 550 on 22nd (ASJ), Newbiggin Beacon Point had 450 on 15th (STH) and Old Hartley reported 350 on 31st (MNC). Counts of 50-170 came from Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), Boulmer, Cresswell, Greenhaugh (Waterhead), Howick and Shiremoor. Smaller counts were reported from Backworth, Blenkinsopp Common, Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), Boulmer, Cocklawburn, Cresswell (Snab Point), Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, and Seahouses (Annstead).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Another large count was made at Budle Bay with 160 there on 12th (CPK/GPK). Fifteen were seen in summer plumage on the Holy Is. Causeway on 25th (DM). Other reports were of birds in single figures, coming from Boulmer, Seahouses (Annstead) and Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

A very large count of 500 or more was made at Budle Bay on 19th (GPK/CPK). Fifty-seven were reported from Holy Island on 5th (MJC) and 54 from Low Newton on 21st (SW). Smaller counts were reported from Alnmouth (Buston Links), Bamburgh (Stag Rocks), Beal, Berwick (Little Beach), Boulmer, Chevington Burn, Cocklawburn, Cresswell (Snab Point), Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Seahouses (Annstead), Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, St Mary's and the Tweed Estuary.



A Ringed Plover at St. Mary's by Alan Jack on 22nd August

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Up to six birds, including two juveniles were seen at East Chevington on the 1st and 2nd (TD, TF/JFa). This number declined to two by 16th. On the same date two juveniles were at Cresswell Pond (TF/JFa) and a report of a single juvenile was made at Monks' House Pool on 20th (GPK). At Derwent Reservoir a pair with three small chicks were seen on 4th, making the fifth pair to be noted there this year. Up to five birds were regularly seen here up to 17th (IFo).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Very healthy passage was observed off Seaton Sluice: on 1st-2nd some 233 were seen flying south with 156 of these seen on 2nd, 51 of which were picked up at St Mary's (JBU). The monthly total for offshore movement passing Seaton Sluice was 361 (SSWT). A flock of 24 and a separate individual was reported from Cresswell Pond NWT on 22nd (MSH). Counts of 1-15 were made at Alnmouth, Amble Harbour, Arcot Pond, Beal, Berwick (Little Beach), Blyth Estuary, Boulmer, Budle Bay, Cocklawburn, Coquet Estuary, Cresswell (Snab Point), Druridge Bay CP, East Chevington, Ellington, Hauxley NWT, Holy Island, Longhorsley (Linden Hall), Newbiggin, North Blyth, Seahouses (Annstead), St Mary's Wetland, Tweed Estuary and Tynemouth.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Holy Island had a count of 466 on 5th (MJC), 386 were in a high-tide roost at Boulmer on 28th (NFO) and 127 were seen at Cresswell Pond NWT on 23rd (IRD). Between 68 and 120 birds were counted at Amble Braid, Cresswell Pond, St Mary's and the Tweed Estuary. Smaller counts came from Big Waters NWT, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, Shield on the Wall Dam, Shotleyfield (Airy Holm Reservoir), Spartylea and R Tyne (nr. Black Middens).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Fifty-one were counted at St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) on 5th (MJC) and 15 were at Boulmer on 18th (MJC). Counts of 1-8 were made at Berwick (Little Beach), Blyth Estuary, Boulmer, Cresswell Pond NWT, East Chevington, Howick, Lindisfarne NNR (Beal Point), Newbiggin (Church Point), Seaton Sluice Watch Tower, St Mary's and Wansbeck (Castle Island).



A Bar-tailed Godwit
St. Mary's
Alan Jack
22nd August

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

A healthy passage was apparent at Seaton Sluice with a monthly total of 113S and 2N and a site record for an August day count being made on 2nd with 39S. Further north, at Monks' House Pool, another site record was established when 73 were counted on 27th, beating the short-lived record of 50 which was set on 24th (DF). Sixty-two birds were at Cresswell Pond on 12th (AJR) and the same number were in the Coquet Estuary on 22nd (ANHS) with 41 seen at Beacon Pt., Newbiggin on 2nd (AP). Budle Bay had 36 on 27th (DF) and East Chevington reported 28 on 2nd (TF/JFa). On 3rd a minimum of 23 were counted on the eastern side of Coquet Island (LJM) and 20 juveniles were in the Blyth Estuary on 24th (AC). Counts of 1-18 were reported from Alnmouth, Amble Braid, Arcot Pond, Berwick (West Ord), Bothal Pond (Coney Garth), Druridge Pools, Hauxley NWT, Holywell Pond NR, Rockcliffe, St Mary's, Tynemouth, Wansbeck (Castle Island) and Warkworth weir.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Well recorded at Seaton Sluice during the month with totals of 15N and 188S (SSWT). The highest count came from Stag Rocks with 95 on 10th (DF). Other significant counts, as passage birds returned to the county were 52 at Newbiggin on 17th (STH), 42 at Boulmer on 4th (MJC), 40 at Snab Point (Cresswell) on 25th (TB), 34 at Holy Island on 5th (MJC), 31 at both St Mary's Island on 4th and Hauxley NWT on 25th (ASJ/GB/DM) and 25 at North Blyth Staithes on 19th (STH). Twelve or fewer were reported from Amble Harbour, Cocklawburn, Cresswell Pond, the River Blyth Estuary and the River Tweed Estuary.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Passage at Seaton Sluice involved 125S (65 between 1st-3rd) and 38N during the month (SSWT). The Newbiggin area was regularly monitored with the highest roost count being recorded early in the month, with a peak of 124 on 2nd (AP). Numbers declined during the remainder of the month with only 18 (17 juveniles) recorded on 27th (NFO). Peak counts early in the month also came from Stag Rocks with a high of 70 reported on 10th and at Budle Bay, where 65 were reported on 10th (GPK/CGK) declining to three by 18th and a single on 25th as birds passed through (DF/DM). Much smaller numbers were reported from other localities with 14 at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (TF/JFa) and one-nine at Boulmer, Cocklawburn, East Chevington, Holy Island and the River Blyth Estuary.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

There were 89 records received this month with most coming from the favoured Druridge Bay wetlands. Birds were present at East Chevington all month with three on 1st increasing to 20 by 17th and reducing to nine by 30th (many observers). Birds also frequented Cresswell Pond throughout the month with a maximum of six on 9th reducing to one by 30th (many observers). Druridge Pools attracted one on 1st reaching a high of five on 16th (PG/TRD/TF/JFa *et al.*). Maximum counts from other sites were six at Monks' House Pool (MSH/DM), three at Castle Island (TF/JFa), three at Holywell Pond (ASJ/MSH) and two at each Arcot Pond, Hauxley and Newbiggin. Singles were seen at Amble, Boulmer, Holy Island, Newton Pool, St Mary's Island and West Stobswood Pool on various dates during the month.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Light passage continued, with two adults remaining at Cresswell Pond from last month and one being reported until 12th (TD/AA/AJR *et al.*). A single was at Beal Point (Lindisfarne) on 5th (MJC).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Monthly totals reported from Seaton Sluice were 135S and 57N (SSWT). Numbers fluctuated at St Mary's Island as birds moved through. On 6th 52 were counted rising to 122 by 23rd (only one juvenile) and declining to 38 (seven juveniles) by 31st (ASJ/MSH). There were other notable counts including 62 at the regular haunt of Chevington Burn, 60 at Budle Bay, Stag Rocks (reported as unusual here) and Newbiggin, 42 at Holy Island and 40 at Snab Point (Cresswell). Observers noted that numerous birds were still in summer plumage. Elsewhere, one-12 were at Alnmouth, Cocklawburn, Cresswell Pond and beach and Lynemouth.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Strong passage was noted this month with several sites attracting notable numbers. Seaton Sluice recorded 477S (228S on 3rd) and 9N during the month and the peak count at Budle Bay was 1800 on 19th (SSWT/CGK/GPK). Other sites reporting three-figure counts were Boulmer with 200 on 28th (NFO), the Coquet Estuary, with 183 on 1st (MJC) 156 at Cresswell Pond on 2nd (TF/JFa), 145 at Holy Island on 5th (MJC), 120 at Amble Braid on 2nd (STH) and 110 at East Chevington on 20th (TF/JFa) reducing to seven by 30th (TRD). The maximum count received from St Mary's Island was 82 on 20th (ASJ) and 92 were a few miles further north at Newbiggin on 6th (AP). Druridge Pools attracted 45 on 14th, 38 were at Stag Rocks on 29th and 16 were at Berwick Little Beach on 30th. Other sites where between one-eight were seen were Cocklawburn, Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond, Howdon, Monk's House Pool, the River Tweed Estuary and the River Tyne (Elswick).



A Dunlin at St. Mary's
Alan Jack
21st August

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Small numbers were seen at three typical sites. Eight were at Newbiggin on 4th (STH), four at Stag Rocks on 6th (DF) and two at St Mary's Island on 19th (ASJ).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

An adult was reported from East Chevington between 2nd-16th (TF/JFa/NFO/PRM/AA).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Birds were reported at more lowland ponds and pools than last month with a few reports from further inland. One flew S at Seaton Sluice on 8th (SSWT). In the Druridge Bay area, the highest counts received were 22 at Cresswell Pond on 6th (TRD), nine at East Chevington on 9th (PRM/TRD/JD) and six at Druridge Pools on 6th (TRD). One-eight were seen at Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Grindon Lough, Holywell Pond, Howick, Newton Pool and St Mary's Island and Wetland.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Most birds had evacuated breeding areas during the month illustrated by nine at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd but only one seen on 30th (IFo). Other maximum counts were seven at Castle Island on 12th (DM), four at Newbiggin on 2nd (AP), three at East Chevington on 2nd (TF/JFa) and three at Monks' House Pool from 7th-13th (DF/MJC). One-two were at Alnmouth, Arcot Pond, Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Colt Crag Reservoir, Cresswell Pond, Elswick (River Tyne) Foxton Bends, Hauxley NWT, Holy Island, Holywell Pond, Howick, the River Coquet Estuary, Rockcliffe (Whitley Bay), Tynemouth and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Three on 1st increased to 12 by 7th at Castle Island (TF/JFa/GB/DM/AC). Further inland, five-six were at Grindon Lough from 21st-23rd reducing to one by 18th (DRW/PRM). Arcot Pond held three on 4th reducing to one by 25th as birds moved through (LJM/GB/DM). Similarly, four were at Budle Bay on 2nd declining to one by 25th (CGK/GPK/RA). One-two were seen mainly during the first half of the month at Backworth Pond, Big Waters, Bothal Pond, Branton GP, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Holy Island, Holywell Pond, Longhirst Flash, Mootlaw Quarry, Newbiggin (Beacon Point and golf course), Ogle Bridge, St Mary's Wetland, Whittle Dene Reservoirs and Woodhorn Flashes.



A Green Sandpiper
Holywell Pond
Trevor Basey
August 1st

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

The monthly totals from Seaton Sluice were 488S (145S on 3rd) and 144N (SSWT). Counts from Budle Bay varied between 142 on 18th and a maximum of 310 on 3rd (DF/GPK). Other sites attracting three-figure counts were, Amble Braid with 176 on 9th (PRM), Holy Island with 154 on 5th (MJC), 154 at the River Tweed Estuary on 10th (MHu), 150 at the River Blyth Estuary on 4th (GB), 123 at the River Coquet Estuary on 22nd (ANHS) and 112 at St Mary's Island on 27th (ASJ). Cullercoats held 80 on 25th (ASJ), 54 were at Newbiggin on 17th (STH) and 47 were at Boulmer on 4th (MJC). Counts of 22 and fewer came from Alnmouth, Arcot Pond, Beal, Castle Island, Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir and East Chevington.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

One-two were reported from East Chevington from 1st-4th (TD/GB/TF/JFa). Singles were at Cresswell Pond on 3rd (AA), Beadnell Flash on 4th (GPK), Beal Point (Lindisfarne) on 5th (MJC) and a juvenile well inland at Grindon Lough from 15th-18th (PRM).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

At Budle Bay, the resident adult had moulted into winter plumage and was joined by a juvenile on 18th (DF/GPK/CGK *et al.*). The same two birds were probably those reported from Beal on 4th (DF) where a juvenile was also seen on 5th (MJC). There were two juveniles at East Chevington on 27th (TD/NFO/TF/JFa) and a single at Bothal Pond from 4th-6th (GB/TD/TRD).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Very well reported this month with records from 32 sites. At Beal, five were reported on 4th increasing to a record count for the site of 17 on 29th (DF/MJC). Some of these may have accounted for a report of ten at Holy Island on 26th (SR/AH) and ten were also at nearby Budle Bay on 25th (CGK/GPK). On 8th, 12 were at Alnmouth (MJC) but only one remained by 31st (MKi). At St Mary's Island, six arrived from the N on 2nd and two were also seen at St Mary's Wetland and a single flew S there on 30th (all ASJ). Birds were seen at Derwent Reservoir from 16th with the maximum count being of four juveniles on 30th (IFo). Groups of three were reported from Big Waters, Druridge Pools, Foxton Band West Ord (Berwick). One-two were at 22 other localities from the River Tweed Estuary in the north to Elswick (River Tyne) in the south.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Two counts in the River Tweed Estuary were 126 and 384 on the 2nd and 10th respectively (MHu).



A Kittiwake at Tynemouth
Colin Bradshaw
18th August

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Gatherings of around 400 were at Budle Bay (DF) and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (SR) with 300 in the Blyth Estuary (LJM), 250 at Howick (JAR) and 240 in the River Tweed Estuary, the largest of three counts there (MHu). Elsewhere, smaller counts of 157 came from Arcot Pond, 121 from Castle Island (DM/PJA), 40-90 at Boulmer and Bothal Pond (MKi/TD) with up to 20 in Jesmond Dene and at Spartylea (MJCo/CT).

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

The majority of sightings came from East Chevington where two flew S on 8th (NFO) and two flew W on 22nd (TRD/JD); single juveniles/immatures were present from 8th-27th (many observers). Two juveniles flew N at Cullercoats and St Mary's Island on 25th possibly the same individuals (CB/JBu/AC).

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

The extraordinary late-summer influx of this species, first reported last month, continued with a new record count from Newbiggin of 117 on 8th, comprising 71 adults, seven 1st-summers and 39 juveniles of which eight carried colour rings, two ringed as *pulli* in Germany and two as adults in Belgium (CH); other large counts from Newbiggin were 23-93 on dates between 4th and 30th (STH/NFO/CH/ADMc). Cresswell Pond/Snab Point held 10-15 on three days (DM *et al.*) and 12 were seen at Warkworth Lane (Ellington) and Lynemouth Beach (TB/DM). Numerous other sightings of one to six birds were recorded mainly from the Newbiggin/Cresswell/Ellington area but also at Castle Island, East Chevington, the QEII Lake, St Mary's Island, Seaton Sluice and further afield at Bamburgh, Budle Bay, Holy Island, Low Newton, Monks' House Pool, Warkworth and Whittle Dene Reservoirs; these records comprised birds of all ages (many observers).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

The late-summer build-up of returning birds included a maximum count of 2,300 in the Budle Bay roost on 18th (CGK/GPK) with smaller gatherings recorded elsewhere of 600 at Netherwitton and Whittle Dene Reservoirs (JR/SR), 500 at Old Felton (NFO), 100 at Hesleyside, Bellingham (AJH) and 60 at West Ord, Berwick (MHu). Smaller groups of 20-50 were seen at Big Waters NWT and East Chevington (DM/GB) with one to two at four other sites.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Budle Bay held 62 and East Chevington North Pool 18 on 25th (DM/GB/LAR) but the only other records were of 12 in the River Tweed Estuary and singles at Castle Island and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus argentatus*

A WeBS in the River Tweed Estuary on 10th found 568 and 330 roosted in a cut corn field at Ord Moor, Berwick (MHu). Smaller gatherings were 233 in the River Blyth Estuary (LJM), 89 at Longbridge End on the Beal salt marsh (DM), 68 at West Ord (Berwick) (MHu) and 28 at Castle Island (DM). At Quarry Cottage, Newbiggin 20 adults and immatures regularly came to feed in the garden (RS). A breeding pair with three young were at Alexandra Park, Cramlington on 11th (DM) and a total of 140 AONs (Apparently Occupied Nests) were counted in the Blyth area during May-August this year (STH/LJM).

***Caspian Gull** *Larus cachinnans*

The regular late-summer Polish-ringed visitor to Amble, with PKCS leg ring, was again recorded on a few dates throughout (CSa/TRD/TB).

The Amble
Caspian Gull
Tim Dean
14th August



***Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

A probable juvenile was noted at St Mary's Island on 7th (AC) and again at Tynemouth on 12th . Photographed by JBU.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graelsii*

The highest count was 14 at the Derwent Reservoir on 2nd (IFo) and elsewhere, counts of seven came from Arcot Pond, Castle Island and Cramlington (DM) and one to five at eight other widespread localities (PRM/MHu/DM/JR/MJCo). A total of 69 AONs (Apparently Occupied Nests) were counted in the Blyth area during May-August this year (STH/LJM).

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

Large numbers were recorded passing Seaton Sluice throughout the month with peaks of 370N, 1,390S between 1st-4th and 445N and 285S on 25th-26th (SSWT). Three-figure counts of 112-180 came from St Cuthbert's Island (Holy Island) on 25th (IK) and 170-180 at the Black Middens and Spanish Battery Rocks at Tynemouth on 9th (DRW/CB). Gatherings of 40-62 were reported from Alnmouth (TRD/JD), Annstead (DF), Hadston Carrs (AJR) and St Mary's Island (ASJ) with 20+ at East Chevington (MSH) and 12 at Boulmer (TRD). One to nine were seen at six other coastal sites between Druridge Pools and the River Tweed Estuary.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

The only record was of a single passing S at Seaton Sluice on 1st (SSWT) indicative of an early departure of the species following the disastrous breeding season.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

At Seaton Sluice two moved N and five S between 2nd-26th (SSWT) and four to six were recorded at Beacon Point, Newbiggin (STH/AP), four at Hadston Carrs (AJR), three at Low Newton (TRD) and one or two at Alnmouth, Budle Point and St Mary's Island.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Good numbers were reported throughout with peaks of 40N, 795S from 2nd-4th, 275N, 42S on 13th and 445N, 285S from 25th-26th (SSWT). Double-figure counts were 14 at Howdon on 13th (CB) and ten+ at Amble Braid and in the nearby Harbour on 9th (PRM). Elsewhere, three to eight were recorded at East Chevington (TRD/PRM), five at Whittle Dene Reservoirs (PRM) and three at Low Newton (TRD) with one or two at eleven other localities, both coastal and inland. Encouraging numbers bred successfully at the North Blyth staithe where 19 pairs raised 30 fledglings, the last two still being fed on 24th (STH).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Few sightings from Seaton Sluice where the maximum counts were 20N and 10N on 2nd and 20th respectively (SSWT). The only other records were singles at Holy Island on 5th (MJC) and at Tynemouth on 11th (DRW).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

A juvenile was recorded at Beacon Point, Newbiggin on 19th (AP/STH) and juveniles were seen at Cullercoats on 25th (CB), moving S at Seaton Sluice on 26th (SSWT) and moving N at Annstead also on 26th (CGK/GPK).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

The monthly total counted at Seaton Sluice of 7N and 3S is reported as 'well below average for August' (SSWT). Five moved N at Annstead Point, Seahouses on 13th (CGK/GPK) and two moved N at Church Point, Newbiggin on 25th (TF/JFa) but otherwise only seven singles, all flying N, were recorded at five localities namely Annstead, Druridge Bay, Holy Island, Newbiggin and Snab Point (Cresswell) (DF/NFO/JR/GB/TB/SR).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Two adults were at Newbiggin on 25th (SR) and on the following day two moved N at Annstead Point, Seahouses (IJ). A single flew N at Newbiggin on 13th (JR) and, possibly the same individual, a fully-spooned adult, was seen the same day at Annstead Point (CGK/GPK). On 25th, an adult bird at St Mary's Island was on the sea feeding on a dead Kittiwake (AC/JBU); probably the same bird was seen to fly N at Tynemouth in the late afternoon (DRW) and also to fly S from Tynemouth early the following morning (DRW). Also on 25th, a light-phase bird passed N at Cresswell, Snab Point (TB).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

The monthly total recorded at Seaton Sluice was 57 comprising 19N and 38S described as a low total for August with no sign of a return to the 'usual' peak. The largest daily count at Seaton Sluice was 9N and 14S on 26th (SSWT). Elsewhere, six were at Tynemouth on 27th (DRW), four in Budle Bay on 12th (CGK/GPK), three in Warkworth Bay on 19th (CSa) and at Annstead on 27th (DF). Twelve records of one or two came on dates throughout from five other localities, mainly Newbiggin but also Hadston Carrs, Howick, the River Tweed Estuary, Snab Point, St Mary's Island and Warkworth Bay.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Records of a single sub-adult, seen on the evening of 13th at Cresswell (Snab Point) (TB), Seaton Sluice (MH/SSWT), and Newbiggin (NFO), almost certainly relate to a single individual.

Common Guillemot *Uria aalge*

On 8th, 52, many with accompanying juveniles, were on the sea off Seaton Sluice (SSWT) and 30, including juveniles, were seen at Howick (JAR). Other sightings of adults with juveniles were eight at St Mary's Island, four at sea (IJ), four in Druridge Bay, two at East Chevington (TRD/JD) and a single off Hauxley (DM).

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Birds with young on the sea comprised six at East Chevington on 22nd and two at sea on 18th (IJ).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

The monthly total seen passing Seaton Sluice was 7 S between 2nd-3rd (SSWT) and on 8th one was seen diving for food just off the breakwater at the Coquet Estuary.

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

High count of 88 at Stakeford Railway Bridge on 12th, 46 at Waren Mill on 25th (DM/PJA), 42 at Cresswell Pond on 26th (CDH), 39 at North Blyth Staithes on 24th (STH) and one to 16 at Jesmond Dene and Seaton Sluice.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Well reported in low numbers with six+ at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 15th (PRM), five at Jesmond Dene on 5th and Cresswell Pond on 6th (MJCo/TRD) with one to two at nine other locations.



A Stock Dove in a Woosington garden
John Littleton
25th August

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

On 24th 100 were at Carterway Heads (IFo), two to eight at Spartylea all month (CT) and six at Jesmond Dene (MJCo) with singles at Newbiggin and Bedlington Colliery.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

A peak count of 19 at Dinnington on 29th (PCF), 16 at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) during the month (BS), 11 at North Blyth on the 14th and two to four at Callerton and Spartylea.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

A fledged juvenile of unknown origin was being fed in a garden at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 1st (IK) with singles at East Chevington on 6th (CB/ME), Bamburgh on 7th (BRS) and a juvenile in the observer's garden at Tynemouth on 14th possibly the same bird being seen at Spanish Battery on 16th (DRW).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Family group of a pair with three fledged chicks all month in a barn at Spartylea (CT), two at Holy Island on 13th and Plenmeller Common on 15th (MJC/PRM) with singles at eight widespread locations. A pair at Holy Island fledged two young whilst and second pair were still feeding large young in nestbox (IK).

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Four all month at Spartylea with one seen eating road kill on 18th & 21st (CT). A pair in the observer's garden at Longbenton on 15th (AJ) with singles at Ellington, Rothbury and Wark.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Reported regularly all month from Druridge Pools four being the peak on 1st, 3rd and 16th (TD/AA/TF/JFa). Singles were at Derwent Reservoir on three dates from 18th to 27th (IFo).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

One was at Holy Island on 5th, 12th and 13th (TB/AH).



A sad sight. A Long-eared Owl road casualty.
Byegate crossroads on 11th August
Tony Metcalf

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Four were at Holy Island on 13th with three there on 19th and single on 30th. One was hunting on three dates from 9th to 31st at Newbiggin by the Sea (AP), at Chevington North Pool on 19th (ADMc) and at St Mary's on 22nd (IJ).

Swift *Apus apus*

Large groups around 300 at St Mary's Island on 3rd and Backworth on 5th (ASJ/CGK) with 75 at Ellington on 18th, 70 at Humshaugh on 2nd, 54 at Amble on 4th and 50 at Lynemouth on 9th. There were double-figure counts from eight sites till 17th with single-figure counts then on from 15 locations till the last of one at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 28th (TB).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

A family party of five at Houxy Burn (Wark Common) on 4th (AJ), three at Haltwhistle on 8th, Nunwick on 11th and Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 28th with singles at a further eight locations. Two nest sites on Wansbeck at Mitford occupied last year again had young being fed from June through to August (ADMc).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Three at Dukeshouse (Hexham) on 20th the high count (AJH), two all month at Spartylea and at feeders at Holywell Pond on 21st (CT/LJM). Singles were at 11 other locations seven of which were in the Cramlington area.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Singles heard at Netherwitton Common on 5th and Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 17th (TRD/JD/TB).

Kestrel *Falco tinninulus*

A 1st summer male was at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) throughout the Month (RS). Five birds were on Holy Island on 13th (MJC), while four were at Derwent Reservoir on 17th (IFo) and at Prestwick Carr on 19th (MJC). Three birds were at Grindon Lough on 7th (PRM) and at Ingram (Breamish Valley) on 25th (MJC/EFC/DJC). One – two birds were at 16 sites including single birds in off the sea at Seaton Sluice on 24th, 26th & 31st (SSWT).

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Two birds a juvenile male and a female were at The Snook (Holy Island) on 13th (MJC) other coastal sightings included single birds at Beacon Point (Newbiggin), Boulmer, Cresswell Pond, Druridge Links, East Chevington, East Holywell, Hemscott Hill, Holy Island and St Mary's Wetland. Inland sightings involved an adult male at Derwent Reservoir on 23rd and an imm. male there on 25th (IFo) and a juvenile in the Breamish Valley on 28th (MJC/DJC).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

An adult was hunting *hirundines* at Kiln Point (Budle Bay) on 2nd (GPK) and another was observed catching Dragonflies over Chugdon Wood (Ellington) before flying off North also on 2nd TB). An adult was in Holy Island Village early morning on 5th (MJC), a juvenile flew through at Airy Holm Reservoir (Shotleyfield) on 11th (IFo) and an adult flew over the road N at Cresswell Hall on 27th (TB).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

An adult was noted at Budle Bay on 9 days throughout the month (CGK/GPK). Other birds were at Beal Point (Holy Island) on 10th (MJC), Derwent Reservoir on 16th and 24th (IFo), Castle Island on 26th (AC) and at Ross/Guile Point on 27th (MJC).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

A family party at Snods Edge on 5th (IFo), three at Thrunton Woods on 8th (JD) and one to two at 11 widespread localities.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Four at Jesmond Dene on 5th (MJCo) and a family party of four at Howick on 30th (JAR).

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

A pre-roost gathering of 1,100 at Stocksfield on 14th (DL), 115 at Dinnington on the same date (PCF) and 80+ at R Blyth Estuary also on 14th (LJM). Up to 12 seen all month at Spartylea and 11 at Jesmond Dene on 5th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

A pre-roost gathering of 65+ at Budle Bay on 18th (CGK/GPK), 36 including many juveniles at St Mary's Island on 3rd (ASJ), 14 at Alexandra Park (Cramlington) on 20th (DM) with one to five in Jesmond Dene and Newbiggin.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Two flew NW at Spartylea on 30th (CT) with singles at Alnwick Moor on 4th and Barrow Lone (Coquetdale) on 18th.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Flocks of eight at Airy Holm (Shotleyfield) on 26th (IFo), seven at Valley Park (Cramlington) on 4th (DM), six at Spartylea all month (CT) and one in Jesmond Dene on 5th.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Two at Fontburn Reservoir on 27th the only multiple sighting (PG) with singles coming to feeders at Rothbury all month and new garden tick at Shilbottle from 7th with regular sightings at Derwent Gorge and Linden Hall (Longhorsley).

A Marsh Tit
Tim Dean's garden
Rothbury
28th August

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

Regular sightings of two at Airy Holm (Shotleyfield) and at Derwent Reservoir on 28th (IFo) with a single there on 5th and at Castle Island on 1st, Rothbury on 5th, Big Waters on 8th, Linden Hall on 21st and Paxton Dean (Longhorsley) on 30th.



Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

At least 17 in the feeding station at Big Waters on 19th (GB), four all month at Spartylea and one in Jesmond Dene on 19th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

At Spartylea eight were present all month (CT) and five at Jesmond Dene on 19th (MJC).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Just one report of five at St Mary's Island on 26th (ASJ).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

More than 40 at West Stobswood Pool on 23rd (MSH), 20 at Wark (N.Tyne) on 18th (PRM), 18 at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 28th (TB), 15 S at East Chevington NR on 28th and 10 S at Ellington on 2nd. One to six were at five further locations.



A juvenile Sand Martin

St. Mary's
Alan Jack
28th August

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Large counts of 150 at Ingram (Breamish Valley) on 28th (MJC/DJC), 150 S in 2 hours at Seaton Sluice on 29th (SSWT), 120 the maximum count at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) (BS), 110 at St Mary's Island on 3rd with 100 there on 30th (ASJ). Three – 80 were at ten locations with five late broods noted at Howick on 14th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Around 175 at Cresswell on 10th with 39 occupied nests (ADM), 100+ at Bamburgh on 7th (BRS), 60 at Lynemouth on 23rd and Ingram (Breamish Valley) on 28th, 50 at Chugdon Wood Ellington on 24th and 44 at Old Hartley on the same date. Six to forty were at 14 other widespread localities with two pairs feeding second broods at Ellington on 27th and in cliff nests at Holy Island on 26th (IK).



Two juvenile Hirundines

Photographed at St.
Mary's by Alan Jack

Top: a House Martin and right: a
Swallow

28th August



Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

A 'tribe' of 23 was at Longhirst on 19th (TB); nine were at Airy Holm Reservoir on 26th and six at Derwent Reservoir on 28th. Two were noted at Blakehopeburnhaugh on 29th and Nunwick Mill on 11th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

A count of 25 at St Mary's Island on 21st were mostly juveniles, all having moved on by evening (ASJ). On the same day, 15+ were noted at Budle Point and at Newbiggin and ten + at Bamburgh. Elsewhere, 20 were at Ellington on 10th and at Coldwell (Humshaugh) on 11th and 12 at Holy Island on 13th. Six were noted at Derwent Reservoir on 28th, peak counts of five came from East Chevington on 9th and Tynemouth on 22nd, four were at Exhibition Park on 14th and one to three at a further seven inland localities.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Twelve were at St Mary's Island on 21st (ASJ) and eight at Ellington on 10th. Counts of four came from Ingram on 25th and Haughton Castle on 19th; three+ were noted at Bamburgh on 21st and three at Druridge Pools on 31st. One to two were also noted at Coldwell, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Derwent Reservoir, Haughton Strother, Nunwick and Nunwick Mill.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

There was a count of 11 from East Chevington on 9th (PRM), when two family parties of five and four were at Cocklawburn. Another family group of five was at St Mary's Wetland on several dates, two were at Bamburgh on 14th and singles at Airy Holm Reservoir on 21st and 30th, Big Waters on 19th and Druridge Pools on 14th.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Two were at Newton Pool on 14th and singles at Big Waters on 19th, Cresswell Pond and Druridge Pools on 1st and East Chevington on 9th.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

One was at East Chevington on 9th and another singing at Grindon Lough on 15th (PRM).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Twelve at Mickley Square (ten ringed and two re-traps) on 17th was the highest count (DLe). Two to four+ were noted at Bamburgh on 7th, 14th, 21st and 29th, while two were at Ellington on 4th (juveniles) and 10th and in a Tynemouth garden on 25th. Singles were also reported from Airy Holm Reservoir on 26th, Blakehopeburnhaugh on 29th, Coldwell on 11th, Chugdon Wood (Ellington) on 25th, Derwent Reservoir on 28th and St Mary's Wetland on 4th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Two were found at Newbiggin on 21st (GB) and singles at Budle Point on 21st and at Ellington on 10th.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Two were at Budle Point on 21st (GPK) when singles were also at Airy Holm Reservoir, Howick, Newbiggin and St Mary's Island; another was at Druridge Bay CP on 12th.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Ten were noted at Ellington on 9th-10th (TB). A family party of five was at East Chevington on 1st, five juveniles were at St Mary's Island on 21st and a further four juveniles were at the base of Tynemouth Pier on 19th. Elsewhere, one to three were noted at Airy Holm Reservoir from 21st-30th, numbers at Ellington had reduced to three by 31st, two were at Coldwell on 11th and singles were noted at Bamburgh, Derwent Reservoir, Exhibition Park, Holy Island, Newton Red House and Prestwick Carr.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Three were at Bamburgh on 7th and at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 15th.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Four were at Spartylea throughout the month (CT) and two at Jesmond Dene.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Up to five were at Chugdon Wood (Ellington) during the month (TB). An adult and three juveniles were at Northumberland Park (North Shields) on 23rd and one to two at Ellington, Haughton Castle, Hesleyside, Jesmond Dene, Nunwick Mill, Rothbury and Slaggyford.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

A family party of four was at Craggside on 2nd (JD). Three were at Gosforth Park NR on 20th and singles at Bamburgh on 7th and 21st, Airy Holm Reservoir, Big Waters, Derwent Reservoir, Nunwick, Simonburn and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Flocks of around 400 were reported from Belford on 19th (DF) and Newbiggin GC on 15th (STH), while 200+ were at St Mary's Island on 28th and up to 20 at Spartylea throughout.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Ten were at Holy Island (Village) on 13th (MJC) and five at Spartylea throughout.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Seven were reported from Comb (Falstone) on 29th and two were at Spartylea throughout.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

A notable 47 were at Lincoln Hill (Humshaugh) on 18th, and nearby 40 were at Coldwell and 18 at Haughton Mains on 11th (SW). A flock of 34 fed on Rowans at Corbridge Common on 18th and 24 were at Derwent Reservoir on 31st. Counts of 11 came from Billsmoorfoot (Hepple) on 21st and Horton (Blyth) on 3rd, while eight were noted at Newcastle Airport and three at Exhibition Park.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

There were seven at Humshaugh on 11th and six at nearby Haughton Castle on 19th (SW), while four were noted at Whittle Dene Reservoirs on 8th. At Linden Hall, up to four adults were noted but probably only one pair bred (two to three pairs in recent years), feeding young to the end of the month. One to two were also reported from Airy Holm Reservoir, Chugdon Wood (Ellington), Coldwell, Derwent Reservoir, East Chevington, Exhibition Park, Netherwitton Common, Newbiggin, Simonburn, Slaggyford and St Mary's Island.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Counts of five came from Gosforth Garden Village (singing) on 30th and Jesmond Dene on 19th (MJC/MJCo) and four were at Spartylea throughout the month.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

One at Holy Island (Snook) on 13th was the only report (MJC).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

A male was found at Cocklawburn on 15th (MHu).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A family party of four was at Houxy Burn (Wark Common) on 4th (AJ). A juvenile was at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd-5th and singles at Coldwell on 11th, Druridge Bay CP on 7th and 12th, Holy Island on 13th, Nunwick Mill on 11th and St Mary's Island on 23rd.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

A total of ten were noted moving through St Mary's Island from 8th-27th, with a peak count of four on 21st (ASJ). Six were at Holy Island on 13th and two juveniles at Mootlaw Quarry on 26th. A juvenile at Derwent Reservoir was the observer's first here in 15 years and only the second reported from here in the last 35 years (IFo). Further singles were noted at East Chevington on 20th, Howick, Newbiggin and Warkworth dunes on 21st and Newcastle Town Moor on 14th.

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Family parties of four were noted at Cocklawburn on 9th, Cresswell Pond on 31st, Howick on 21st and Ingram on 25th (MJC/JAR/ EFC/DJC). A pair and at least one juvenile were reported from East Chevington on several dates and two were noted at Monks' House Pool on 25th. Single males were at Druridge on 6th and Prestwick Carr on 29th.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A family group of seven was at Plashetts on 11th (PCF) and seven fed on a garden lawn at Cullercoats on 25th (ASJ). Six were found at Warkworth Pier on 21st and four at Howick on 23rd. Counts of three came from Boulmer and Newbiggin on 18th and 13th respectively, while one to two were reported from Blenkinsopp Common, Cresswell Pond, Derwent Reservoir, Druridge Pools, East Chevington, Ellington, Guile Point, Newcastle Town Moor, St Mary's Island and Whittle Dene Reservoirs.



A Wheatear on a St. Mary's wall
Alan Jack on 25th August

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Two were at Spartylea all month and at Beanley on 31st. One seen in Jesmond Dene on 29th was the observer's first here since January (DHB).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

90 were counted at Haughton Mains on 19th (SW). 75 were present at Cullercoats Bay all month and 50 at Holywell Village on several dates, 48 plus were here on 21st (ASJ/LJM). 62 were counted at a roost at a Cramlington school on 9th (DM). 60 plus were at Bamburgh on 7th and 60 all month, including many juveniles at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) (RS). 40 plus were at Bamburgh on 14th (BRS). 40 plus were also at Wark on 18th (PRM). 30 at Longhoughton on (JAR). One to 18 were at three further sites.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Counts of 16 to 65 were noted at Cresswell Pond on 12th, where ten were present on 6th (DM/PA/AJR/TRD). 45 were seen at East Holywell all month (MNC). 40 were on feeders at Chugdon Wood on 2nd (TB). A flock of 26 fed in stubble at St. Mary's on 25th, where eight flew S. on 23rd (ASJ). 20 were at Haughton Mains on 19th (SW). 13 was the peak at Tynemouth on 22nd where birds were present all month (DRW). Two to four were at five other sites, including a pair feeding young in a nest in a church wall cavity at Horton (Blyth) on 15th (LJM).



A regular visitor to a Woosington garden
A Tree Sparrow by John Littleton on 25th August

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Two were seen at Jesmond Dene, a Marden Estate garden and at Spartylea during the month.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Well reported with birds observed over the period 1st to 14th along the shore at Beacon Point (Newbiggin) with two, increasing to ten, then 14 and three juveniles on 3rd (AP). Ten at the regular site of Whittle Dene on 20th was the month's peak count there (SR). Southward movement was observed on many dates at St. Mary's Island, with a minimum of 21 birds involved. Nine juveniles paused to feed on the causeway on 3rd, with possibly up to 12 present. Six plus seen on 2nd, four on 4th and four flying S. on 6th. Two also moved through on 23rd and 25th and singles on 9th, 11th and 30th (ASJ/AC/MSH). Elsewhere, three were at Newbiggin on 1st, 3rd and 14th (MJC/STH/NFO) and three were seen at Monks' House Pool on 3rd (GPK). Two were at Alnmouth on 8th and at Monks' House on 10th, with two juveniles also at Derwent Reservoir on 13th (IFO). A pair, then two males were seen at Newbiggin on 2nd and 4th (RS). Singles were seen at a further 13 locations.



A Dunnock in a Rothbury garden
Tim Dean on 28th August

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Three were at Jesmond Dene on 5th and at the Breamish Valley on 25th (MJCo/MJC). Singles were at seven other sites during the month.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrelli*

Some good counts this month, with a peak at a pre-roost gathering at Low Newton beach on 21st of 65 birds. 21 were still here on 25th (SW/GB). 46 observed heading S from Seaton Sluice Watch Tower during the month, with four N. 32, mostly juveniles were at Derwent Reservoir on 2nd and 27 (20 juveniles) fed on the beach at St Mary's Island the following day, with 21 present here on 4th (IFO/ASJ). 26 were noted at Amble on 20th (TB). 15 were near Charlton Mires on 25th (GB).

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

A male was seen on 31st at East Chevington (NFO).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

160 were counted in the Breamish Valley on 25th, with 60 there on 28th (MJC/DJC). 16 were at Ellington on 29th, 25 on 30th, with 20 present the following day (TB). Four were on Newcastle Town Moor on 10th. Migration began to be observed with 12 flying W at Gosforth Garden Village on 25th, with six over the following day. 12 went S at Guile Point on 27th (MJC). 12 were also noted at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) on 28th and three on 30th (RS).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Three records only this month, with a family group of six being seen at Linacres on 28th and a migrant at Chare Ends (Holy Island) on 13th (AJR/MJC). Another passage bird was seen and heard at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) on 28th (RS).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Singles were seen at Cullercoats, North Blyth and Tynemouth during the month.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

A minimum of 50 were seen at Wooler Common on 18th (DF). 43 were counted across Holy Island on 13th (MJC). One to four were at three further sites.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

12 first-year birds ringed (four retraps) at Mickley Square on 12th (DLe). Five juveniles were at Howdon on 17th (CB). Five seen in Holywell Dene on 31st (MJC). A pair with two juveniles were seen throughout the month at a Morpeth garden (TD). Four were at Howick on 20th (JAR). Pairs were noted at five locations and one to three seen at a further seven sites.

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Only four records this month, with 14, including juveniles, feeding on Rose Hips at St. Mary's Wetland on 25th (ASJ). Family parties of five were at Newcastle Exhibition Park on 10th and at feeders in a Marden Estate garden on several dates (GB/ASJ). Four were seen at Spartylea all month (CT).



A species becoming less common in recent years
A male Greenfinch in Woolsington
John Littleton on 25th August

Linnets *Carduelis cannabina*

Seaton Sluice Watch Tower recorded light passage all month, with a total of 142 S and nine N. 80 were noted at Lincoln Hill on 16th (SW) and a flock of 70 at Derwent Reservoir on 6th (IFO). 40 at Berwick Drift (Lynemouth) on 11th and 30 at St. Mary's on 23rd (TB/ASJ). 25 were at Chugdon Wood on 17th and 23 plus seen at East Chevington on 9th (TB/PRM). One to 15 were noted at six other sites during the month.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis caberet*

Two were seen at Grindon on 7th and at Wark on 18th (PRM)

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Flocks of 30, seven and five noted at Thrunton Woods on 14th (JD). Singles were seen at Wark on 18th and flying S at the coast at East Chevington on 27th (PRM/CB).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Very well recorded with 128 counted feeding at Beacon Lane (Cramlington) on 12th, around 120 feeding at Mickley Square on 17th and at St. Mary's/Old Hartley on 29th (DM/DLe/ASJ), the latter flock, including many juveniles, having increased from 55 on 12th. 100 plus, also including many juveniles, were counted at Arcot Pond on 12th and 80 plus at Northumberlandia (Cramlington) on 1st (LJM). 80 also noted at Holy Island village on 13th(MJC). 60 plus were at West Hartford on 1st (LJM). 50 seen at East Holywell on 19th and at Airy Holm Reservoir, mostly juveniles, the same day (MNC/IFo). 42 were at Hauxley on 25th. At Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin), up to 35, including juveniles, present all month and at Spartylea, up to 30 noted all month (RS/CT). One to 26 seen at a further eight locations.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Seven at Quarry Cottage (Newbiggin) were calling as they flew S on 28th (RS). Three birds were observed at Bamburgh on 29th (BRS) and a single was at Grindon on 7th.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Six, including four singing males, were near Holywell Pond on 3rd and five were noted at Beacon Lane (Cramlington) the following day (ASJ/DM). Four seen at Haughton Castle on 19th (SW). Three were at Holywell Pond on 29th and two at Big Waters on 2nd (ASJ/GB). A single was heard singing at Newton Red House on 5th and one was at Arcot Lane on 9th (DM/GM/PG).

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Few reports this month with six at St. Mary's (two females) on 20th and five remaining by 28th being the peak counts (ASJ). Three were at Airy Holm Reservoir on 1st (IFo). Singles were seen at Arcot, Cresswell Pond and Newton Pool during the month (DM *et al.*).

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

No sightings

Hybrids

No sightings

Birds of Unknown Origin

No sightings

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Alnwick & District Natural History Society (R Poyer), Berwick Wildlife Group, Seaton Sluice Watch Tower.

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

This bulletin was compiled by Graeme Bowman (Geese to Mergansers), Steve Laing (Red Grouse to Cormorant), Trevor Blake (Hawks to Falcons), Tom Brewis (Oystercatcher to Godwit), Clive Hampton (Turnstone to Redshank), Eddie Crabtree (Kittiwake to Puffin), Tim Dean (Escapes, Hybrids and Unknown Origin, List of Contributors, Highlights), Peter Fletcher (Doves to Larks), Mike Richardson (Tits to Stonechat), Alan Jack (Dipper to Buntings).

Thanks to David Sanders of NNBC for providing data.

Proof reading was by Mike Smith.

Mail distribution by Paul Stewart.

Edited by Steve Barrett NTBCbulletin2012@gmail.com

RECORD SUBMISSION

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

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

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

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

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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

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

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

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual membership costs £10 for a junior, £30 for an individual, and £32 for a family. For membership enquiries please contact ntbc@jobentley.plus.com

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

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

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

Sightings – Here you can view reports of birds recently reported in the County. Anyone who would like to contribute and post sightings to this page, please email sightings@ntbc.org.uk Please note this section is moderated, so there may be a short delay before your record appears.

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

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

New content such as Birding Trip Reports etc., is always welcome and very much appreciated. To find out more please visit www.ntbc.org.uk

COUNTY RECORDS COMMITTEE

Martin Kirby will complete his four-year spell on the committee in December 2018. Hence there will be a vacancy on the CRC to be filled. Please could anyone wishing to apply to join the committee let the County Recorder Tim Dean know, either by email or letter. Applicants need to have a comprehensive knowledge of Northumberland's birdlife and will be required to attend three meetings a year to verify sightings in the county. It is envisaged that applicants will need to access online documents and have email access. A brief resume of birding credentials and experience should be forwarded when applying. This year there will be a cut-off date for applications of 15th November.

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Ornithological reports for Northumberland and Durham 1935 to 1950

The early bird reports for Northumberland and Durham were initially published as a single report in The Vasculum and then in The Naturalist, the first one being for 1935. It will come as no surprise that the early reports are very hard to find but, with the help of others, I have now put a run together for the years 1935 to 1950 and have decided to produce a number of hard copies for NTBC members and anyone else who is interested. The copy will be produced in a wire comb-binder for ease of use, with an appropriate title page and acetate covers and runs to c.100 A4 size pages.

Before finalising this one-off print run I am looking to take pre-orders in advance of finalising a total print run. I am not looking to make any profit from this exercise and consequently the cost will be only £11 each including postage or £7 without postage.

If you are interested, please email or text me your details including name, address (if posting), number of copies required and indicating how you would like to pay e.g. cash, bank transfer or via PayPal. My plan is to arrange printing before the end of the year and I'll be in touch again as the printing process nears completion.

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