

**CLWYD ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

**CLWYD
BIRD
REPORT**

1980 & 1981

THE CLWYD BIRD REPORT

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INTRODUCTION.

The production of these two reports at last brings the Clwyd Bird Report up to date and work on the next report, for the first time, has commenced before the end of the year.

The number of records received has again increased and it is hoped that this is reflected in the quality of the reports.

The success of subsequent reports will largely depend upon the effort being sustained and, if possible, improved. Early submission of your notes to the County Recorder will help to ensure that this is achieved.

At the outset the Editorial Committee decided to accept the validity of all records received without subjecting them to any vetting process. It is felt that this is not a satisfactory situation and that a few records have given cause for concern. It is our intention to consider the introduction of vetting procedures before the production of future reports.

Finally the Editorial Committee would like to thank all those observers who have contributed to these and previous reports by kindly submitting their records.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED 1980

The nomenclature and systematic arrangement follows that of the 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.

RED-THROATED DIVER

Gavia stellata

Only recorded on four occasions during the year: A single bird at Rhos Point on 1st February and two birds on the 3rd: 2 birds at Point of Ayr on the 9th October and 1 on 16th October.

LITTLE GREBE

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Recorded regularly on most inland waters with a maximum count of 18 birds at Sealand Reservoirs on 1st January.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Podiceps cristatus

Small numbers recorded offshore during winter months and inland at Shotton Pools and Llyn Helyg. Maximum counts: 5 off Abergele 1st November and 12 at Shotton 30th November. Also reported during summer months from several inland waters and breeding confirmed at one site.

SLAVONIAN GREBE

Podiceps auritus

Single birds at Connah's Quay on 19th and 30th October and two birds present on 28th October. A single bird also present at Llyn Helyg on 27th December.

FULMAR

Fulmarus glacialis

Several records of birds offshore March - September usually during gales. At least 1 pair known to have bred at Llandulas Quarry.

HAWK SHEARWATER

Puffinus puffinus

Reports from Gronant and Point of Ayr July / August. Maximum counts: 50 at Gronant on 17th July and 300+ on 25th July.

LEACH'S PETREL

Oceanodroma leucorhoa

Unusually large numbers present in the Dee Estuary in mid - September following westerly gales. In a period of three hours, 314 birds were counted moving west at Point of Ayr on 14th September and on the same day a single bird was reported as far up river as Connah's Quay. On 9th October 20 birds were seen moving west at Point of Ayr.

GANNET

Sula bassana

Regularly recorded offshore June to October: Maximum count 30+ birds at Gronant 28th July.

CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax carbo

Frequent reports of birds in Dee Estuary and offshore. Maximum count: 150 at Connah's Quay during October.

SHAG***Phalacrocorax aristotelis***

Only confirmed records were: 3 at Point of Ayr on 9th October and 1 at Connah's Quay on 24th October.

BITTERN***Botaurus stellaris***

A single bird present at Shotton Reserve 16th January.

GREY HERON***Ardea cinerea***

Frequently recorded in Dee and Clwyd estuaries but no reports of breeding birds have been received.

MUTE SWAN***Cygnus olor***

Present on several inland waters during Summer but no reports of breeding pairs. Maximum count: 37 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 25th October.

BEWICK'S SWAN***Cygnus columbianus***

Reported at Connah's Quay where 3 birds were present on 30th November, at Holt 6 seen 23rd December and Llyn Helyg: 6 present 27th December.

WHOOPER SWAN***Cygnus cygnus***

The only record was of 2 birds on Nant-y-Pfrith Reservoir on 5th January.

NOTE. 9 wild swans were seen at Point of Ayr on 9th December but the species could not be determined.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE***Anser brachyrhynchus***

Only records were: circa 100 birds at Connah's Quay 6th January, 25 over Halkyn 25th January, 60 at Flint on 17th February and a single bird on the River Clwyd on 12th April.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE***Anser albifrons***

Reports of 2 birds at Point of Ayr 20th January and a single bird at Shotton on 2nd. November

GREYLAG GOOSE***Anser anser***

A single bird was seen at Shotton Reserve on 2nd November.

CANADA GOOSE***Branta canadensis***

Reported from several sites with 5 pairs breeding at Gresford. Maximum counts: 60 at Gresford 17th September and 150 at Hanmer Mere 19th October.

SHELDUCK***Tadorna tadorna***

Commonly reported in Dee Estuary from Shotton to Point of Ayr. Total count for the Welsh side of the Dee Estuary 1711 on 20th January. Maximum counts: 1037 Flint Marsh 20th January and 300 Point of Ayr on 23rd November. Breeding was reported from Connah's Quay.

MANDARIN*Anas galericulata*

A single bird at Connah's Quay on 20th January.

WIGEON*Anas penelope*

Regularly reported in moderate numbers from the Dee Estuary.
Maximum count: 300 at Connah's Quay in November.

GADWALL*Anas strepera*

At Connah's Quay 3 birds present on 25th January and 1 on 3rd September; 2 birds seen at Hanmer Mere on 19th October and 3 at Pant-yr-ochain 4th November.

TEAL*Anas crecca*

Frequently reported from from Dee and Clwyd estuaries and adjacent wetlands. Maximum counts: 180 at Shotton 8th December, 100 Point of Ayr 23rd November and 40 River Clwyd on 8th March.

MALLARD*Anas platyrhynchos*

Commonly reported from inland waters and offshore. Maximum count: 750 Point of Ayr 23rd December.

PINTAIL*Anas acuta*

Up to 500 birds present at Connah's Quay in January and 280 at Shotton 8th December.

SHOVELER*Anas clypeata*

Small numbers reported at Hanmer Mere, Shotton, Connah's Quay and Sealand. Maximum count: 12 at Sealand Reservoirs 27th December.

POCHARD*Aythya ferina*

Present at suitable localities during winter months in moderate numbers. Maximum counts: 70 Brickworks Pool, Rhyl 14th November and 125 at Shotton Reserve 27th December.

TUFTED DUCK*Aythya fuligula*

Reported to have bred at one site in the County and moderate numbers present at Shotton, Llyn Helyg and Sealand during winter. Maximum count: 45 at Shotton Reserve 17th November.

SCAUP*Aythya marila*

Records as follows:- 1 Abergelle 8th February, 2 Shotton 12th October, 3 Point of Ayr 12th October and 27 there on the 26th, 8 Marine Lake, Rhyl 12th November.

EIDER*Somateria mollissima*

Only 3 records. A pair Gronant 13th May, 3 Gronant 28th May and 1 female Rhos Point 13th November.

LONG-TAILED DUCK*Clangula hyemalis*

Single birds at Connah's Quay 26th October and at Shotton 8th December.

COMMON SCOTER*Melanitta nigra*

Reported offshore in most months of the year. Maximum counts: 40 Point of Ayr 26th July and 250 Pensarn 9th November.

GOLDENEYE*Bucephala clangula*

Regular in small numbers on most suitable inland lakes and offshore. Maximum counts: 24 Shotton 17th November and 21 at Connah's Quay 25th December.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER*Mergus serrator*

During winter months regular reports offshore and on some inland waters. Maximum count: 28 Marine Lake Rhyl, 8th November.

GOOSANDER*Mergus merganser*

Only record was 52 at Hanmer Mere on 3rd December.

RUDDY DUCK*Oxyura jamaicensis*

Up to 45 birds present on Hanmer Mere during October and a single bird at Shotton 29th September.

RED KITE*Milvus milvus*

On 19th November 2 birds were observed at Dolwen.

MARSH HARRIER*Circus aeruginosus*

Single birds at Llyn Helyg on 3rd May, Connah's Quay 3rd May and Point of Ayr on 11th May.

HEN HARRIER*Circus cyaneus*

On 19th October 2 immature birds seen on Esclusham Mountain and a single bird near the Horseshoe Pass on the same day. At Connah's Quay 2 males were regularly seen during November and December and a male seen at Shotton 5th December.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER*Circus pygargus*

A Male was observed at Shotton on 24th June, 4th and 22nd. July and a male, presumably the same bird, was also reported at Connah's Quay on 22nd. July.

SPARROWHAWK*Accipiter nisus*

Reported on 30 occasions from a wide variety of sites.

BUZZARD*Buteo buteo*

Reported regularly in the west of the County, most records involving single birds.

OSPREY*Pandion haliaetus*

A single bird observed at Point of Ayr on 25th May.

KESTREL*Falco tinnunculus*

Common.

MERLIN**Falco columbarius**

Reported on at least 16 occasions, most records involving birds wintering along the coastal strip.

PEREGRINE**Falco peregrinus**

Reported on 15 occasions usually wintering birds in the coastal strip.

RED GROUSE**Lagopus lagopus**

Recorded in small numbers from Clwyddian Range. An unusual record was of a bird at Point of Ayr on 15th November.

BLACK GROUSE**Tetrao tetrix**

Reported at leks from several localities in the Clwyddian hills.

GREY PARTRIDGE**Perdix perdix**

Fairly common, reported from many areas.

PHEASANT**Phasianus colchicus**

Common.

WATER RAIL**Rallus aquaticus**

All reports refer to up to only 3 birds. Records from Padeswood, Shotton, Connah's Quay and Pant-yr-ochain and also on the coast at Point of Ayr and Gronant.

MOORHEN**Gallinula chloropus**

Common. Maximum count: 21 birds at Padeswood 21st November.

COOT**Fulica atra**

Present on most suitable lakes and pools. Maximum count: 40 at the Brickworks Pool, Rhyl on 14th November.

OYSTERCATCHER**Haematopus ostralegus**

Only reported to have bred at Shotton. Maximum counts: 20,000 Point of Ayr 23rd November and 12,000 there on 23rd December.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER**Charadrius dubius**

A single bird present at Shotton 11th May and from the 4th to 30th July and 2 birds at Sealand on 17th August.

RINGED PLOVER**Charadrius hiaticula**

At Gronant 14 pairs reared 25 young. Also a common passage migrant. Maximum count: 68 on 26th October.

GOLDEN PLOVER**Pluvialis apricaria**

No reports of breeding received. Present in moderate numbers August to April. Maximum counts: 150 Flint Marsh 20th January, 200 Sandycroft 3rd April, 176 Sealand 12th October and 80 Point of Ayr 23rd November.

GREY PLOVER*Pluvialis squatarola*

Regularly reported from the coastal strip. Maximum counts: 100 Gronant 26th October, 48 Point of Ayr 13th November and 73 there 7th December.

LAPWING*Vanellus vanellus*

Common. Maximum counts: 1000 River Clwyd 9th February and 1500 there on 27th December, 2000 Queensferry on 22nd November and a similar number at Connah's Quay in February.

KNOT*Calidris canutus*

Numbers of wintering birds on the Welsh side of the Dee still remain low compared with former years. Maximum count: 1000 Point of Ayr 23rd November.

SANDERLING*Calidris alba*

No counts during spring passage; 300 recorded at Gronant 26th October was the maximum count.

LITTLE STINT*Calidris minuta*

Single birds at Connah's Quay 3rd May and at Rhos Point on 1st February.

CURLEW SANDPIPER*Calidris ferruginea*

Single birds at Connah's Quay during spring and autumn passage.

PURPLE SANDPIPER*Calidris maritima*

At Rhos Point 10 birds were present on 3rd February and 40 on the Clwyd Estuary on 24th February.

DUNLIN*Calidris alpina*

Common. Maximum count: 4000 Point of Ayr 23rd December.

RUFF*Philomachus pugnax*

There were 6 birds at Shotton 6th April and a single bird there on 4th July and 5 at Sealand on 17th August. Also recorded at Connah's Quay.

JACK SNIBE*Lynocryptes minimus*

At Shotton Pools 5 birds present on 1st January and a single bird there on 20th December.

SNIBE*Callinago gallinago*

Regularly reported at Shotton, Point of Ayr, Connah's Quay and Padeswood. Maximum count: 48 at Shotton 23rd November. Although known to breed in the County no records of breeding were received in 1980.

WOODCOCK*Scolopax rusticola*

Birds roding reported from Hawarden and Loggerheads. Also scattered winter records usually of single birds.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT*Limosa limosa*

Less numerous than in former years but reported from Connah's Quay, Flint Marsh and Point of Ayr. Maximum count: 100 Point of Ayr 6th November.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT*Limosa lapponica*

Records from Point of Ayr, Gronant and Connah's Quay. Maximum count: 200 Point of Ayr 23rd November.

WHIMBREL*Numenius phaeopus*

Single birds at Llandulas 12th August and Point of Ayr 9th September; 24 birds reported at Connah's Quay on 30th July.

CURLEW*Numenius arquata*

Common. Several breeding records from Clwyddian range. Passage birds at Point of Ayr reached a maximum of 1000 on 27th August.

SPOTTED REDSHANK*Tringa erythropus*

Only reported from Connah's Quay and Shotton. Maximum counts: 100 at Connah's Quay 27th August and 32 at Shotton 22nd July.

REDSHANK*Tringa totanus*

Common. Maximum count: 500 Rhyl Marine Lake 12th January. Breeding reported from Shotton Marsh and Llandegla Moors.

GREENSHANK*Tringa nebularia*

Frequently recorded in the Dee Estuary, most records being between July and October. Maximum counts: 12 at Connah's Quay and 12 at Point of Ayr on 14th September.

GREEN SANDPIPER*Tringa ochropus*

Recorded in most months of the year most frequently at Shotton Marsh. Maximum counts: 8 at Shotton on 11th July and 8 there on 28th August and 6 at Padeswood on 20th August.

WOOD SANDPIPER*Tringa glareola*

Records as follows:- 4 Connah's Quay July to August, 1 Point of Ayr 14th July. and at Shotton: 1 on 31st July, 1 on 15th August, 2 on 17th August, 1 on 26th August and 1 on 28th September.

COMMON SANDPIPER*Actitis hypoleucos*

Few records received in 1980 - 4 at Llyn Helyg 6th July, 8 at Shotton 11th July and 4 there 1st August.

TURNSTONE*Arenaria interpres*

Small numbers reported from Dee Estuary.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE*Phalaropus lobatus*

A female bird present at Shotton from 17th to 30th May. This is apparently the first record of this species in the County.

POMARINE SKUA*Stercorarius pomarinus*

A single bird at Gronant on 14th July.

ARCTIC SKUA*Stercorarius parasiticus*

Several records between July and September from Point of Ayr and Gronant and a single bird at Llandulas on 30th August. Maximum counts: 4 Gronant on 18th July and 8 at Point of Ayr on 14th September.

GREAT SKUA*Stercorarius skua*

Single birds at Point of Ayr on 12th and 14th September and one at Connah's Quay on 7th September.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL*Larus melanocephalus*

An immature bird at Llyn Helyg 14th March.

LITTLE GULL*Larus minutus*

A single bird at Gronant 5th July.

BLACK-HEADED GULL*Larus ridibundus*

Abundant. Reported breeding from Shotton, Connah's Quay and Llyn Helyg.

COMMON GULL*Larus canus*

Common winter visitor. Maximum counts: 1000 Sealand 30th November and 1350 there 5th December.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL*Larus fuscus*

Common. Maximum counts: up to 300 Connah's Quay in June and up to 800 there in August and 100 Sealand 5th December.

HERRING GULL*Larus argentatus*

Abundant.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL*Larus marinus*

Common.

KITTIWAKE*Rissa tridactyla*

Regular Point of Ayr to Rhos Point. Maximum count: 25 Rhyl 18th September.

SANDWICH TERN*Sterna sandvicensis*

Regular and common on coast particularly during late summer. Maximum counts: 650 Point of Ayr 28th July and 400 there 12th September.

COMMON TERN*Sterna hirundo*

The colony at Shotton Reserve continues to flourish and is probably the largest in Wales. Common in estuary in late summer and 2 birds at Gresford Flash in late June.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*
 Only confirmed record was of 2 birds at Llandulas on 29th July.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*
 At Gronant 24 pairs raised approximately 21 young. Maximum count: 300 birds on 17th July.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*
 A single bird at Shotton on 11th May and up to 11 birds at Point of Ayr between 25th July and 10th August.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*
 At Point of Ayr 3 birds of this species were reported with Black Terns on 25th July.

GUILLEHOT *Uria aalge*
 Small numbers reported offshore and a single bird in the upper estuary at Connah's Quay 23rd February.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*
 Not reported.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*
 Reported breeding at Gresford and Padeswood.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*
 Common.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*
 Common.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*
 Reported from Hawarden, Hoseley and Wepre woods.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*
 Common.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*
 Scarce. Only records were of single birds at Llay 29th October, Denbigh 30th October and Hoseley 28th December.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*
 Regularly reported from several localities with a number of breeding records.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*
 Common.

SHORT-EARED OWL***Asio flammeus***

Several winter records from coastal strip and two records from suitable breeding moorland areas.

NIGHTJAR***Caprimulgus europaeus***

Only record was of birds heard regularly at Dyserth in July.

SWIFT***Apus apus***

Common. First reported on 4th May from two well separated localities. Latest date 10th September.

KINGFISHER***Alcedo atthis***

Only records are from Connah's Quay and Shotton with 1 - 2 birds present August to October.

GREEN WOODPECKER***Picus viridis***

Recorded in several localities.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER***Dendrocopos major***

Common.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER***Dendrocopos minor***

Reported from Pant-yr-ochain, Rhostyllen and Hawarden.

SAND MARTIN***Riparia riparia***

Colonies still not back to former strength 90 Connah's Quay 17th April.

SWALLOW***Hirundo rustica***

Abundant.

HOUSE MARTIN***Delichon urbica***

Common. Late record 29th October at Rhydymwyn.

SKYLARK***Alauda arvensis***

Common.

RICHARD'S PIPIT***Anthus novaeseelandiae***

A bird was present at Shotton on 22nd November. This record is subject to ratification by the British Birds Rarities Committee.

TREE PIPIT***Anthus trivialis***

Recorded at Maeshafn, Loggerheads and Llandegla.

MEADOW PIPIT***Anthus pratensis***

Common.

ROCK PIPIT*Anthus spinoletta*

Only record was of 3 birds at Shotton 8th December.

YELLOW WAGTAIL*Motacilla flava*

Common.

GREY WAGTAIL*Motacilla cinerea*

Common breeding species in Clwyddian Range.

WHITE WAGTAIL*Motacilla alba alba*

Only records were of 4 birds at Abergele 21st April,
30 at Connah's Quay in mid-April and 1 at Shotton 7th July.

PIED WAGTAIL*Motacilla alba*

Common.

WAXWING*Bombycilla garrulus*

One present at Pont-y-Ddol 23rd November.

DIPPER*Cinclus cinclus*

Commonly reported from the River Alyn at Loggerheads and other
suitable streams in the Clwyddian range.

WREN*Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common.

DUNNOCK*Prunella modularis*

Common.

ROBIN*Erithacus rubecula*

Common.

REDSTART*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Regularly reported from Clwyddian Range.

WHINCHAT*Saxicola rubetra*

Breeds in Clwyddian range and less frequently on coast at
Shotton.

STONECHAT*Saxicola torquata*

Breeding reported from Shotton, Connah's Quay and Llandegla.

WHEATEAR*Oenanthe oenanthe*

Common as breeding species in Clwyddian Hills particularly in the
Cilcain area. A single bird showing the characteristics of the
Greenland race at Abergele 29th April.

RING OUZEL*Turdus torquatus*

Only record was of 2 males at Moel Arthur on 5th April.

BLACKBIRD*Turdus merula*

Abundant.

FIELDFARE*Turdus pilaris*

Common winter visitor - first autumn record 15th October.
Maximum count: 150 Denbigh 23rd January.

SONG THRUSH*Turdus philomelos*

Common.

REDWING*Turdus iliacus*

Common winter visitor; first autumn record 12th October.

MISTLE THRUSH*Turdus viscivorus*

Common. 40 recorded at Gresford in March and 30 at Dyserth on 1st October.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER*Locustella naevia*

Reported from several localities.

SEDGE WARBLER*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common in suitable localities, particularly at Shotton.

REED WARBLER*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Small colony at Shotton and a single bird ringed at Marford in August.

LESSER WHITETHROAT*Sylvia curruca*

Recorded in several localities.

WHITETHROAT*Sylvia communis*

Number of records suggests that the species is slowly increasing.

GARDEN WARBLER*Sylvia borin*

Fairly common in Clwyddian Range.

BLACKCAP*Sylvia atricapilla*

Common. Wintering records include: a male at Pant-yr-ochain on 30th November and at Hoseley in February and March.

WOOD WARBLER*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Birds, apparently breeding, reported at Loggerheads and Hawarden.

CHIFFCHAFF	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Common. Wintering records: 4 Point of Ayr 25th November, 2 Rhyl 18th December and 1 Rhuddlan 28th December.	
WILLOW WARBLER	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Abundant.	
GOLDCREST	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Common.	
FIRECREST	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>
Reported as follows:- 1 Rhydymwyn 20th November, 1 Rhys-y-Cae 30th November, 1 Downing 23rd November, 3 Point of Ayr 23rd November and 1 Point of Ayr 9th December.	
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Common.	
PIED FLYCATCHER	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>
Common in Clwyddian Hills.	
LONG-TAILED TIT	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Fairly common.	
MARSH TIT	<i>Parus palustris</i>
Common in Clwyddian Range.	
WILLOW TIT	<i>Parus montanus</i>
Fairly common but local.	
COAL TIT	<i>Parus ater</i>
Fairly common.	
BLUE TIT	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>
Abundant.	
GREAT TIT	<i>Parus major</i>
Abundant.	
NUTHATCH	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Commonly reported from woodland areas.	
TREECREEPER	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
Common in woodland areas.	

GOLDEN ORIOLE*Oriolus oriolus*

A male was present at Gwysaney Woods on 17th May.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE*Lanius collurio*

An immature bird at Point of Ayr on 12th October.

JAY*Garrulus glandarius*

Common.

HAGPIE*Pica pica*

Common.

JACKDAW*Corvus monedula*

Fairly Common but local. Maximum count: 400+ Horseshoe Pass
19th October.

ROOK*Corvus frugilegus*

Common.

CARRION CROW*Corvus corone*

Common.

RAVEN*Corvus corax*

Records as follows:- 9 at Horseshoe Pass 19th October,
2 Moel Fannau 28th November and 2 Rhyl 13th December.

STARLING*Sturnus vulgaris*

Abundant.

HOUSE SPARROW*Passer domesticus*

Common.

TREE SPARROW*Passer montanus*

Local:- isolated flocks reported during winter months.

CHAFFINCH*Fringilla coelebs*

Common.

BRAMBLING*Fringilla montifringilla*

Reported in several areas. Maximum counts: 750 Shotton Reserve
20th January and 150 Halkyn 30th November.

GREENFINCH*Carduelis chloris*

Common.

GOLDFINCH*Carduelis carduelis*

Commonly reported in moderate numbers.

SISKIN***Carduelis spinus***

Only records:- a pair at Mold 8th May and 39 at Prestatyn
23rd December.

LINNET***Carduelis cannabina***

Common.

TWITE***Carduelis flavirostris***

Only records were of 51 birds at Prestatyn on 28th August
and single birds at Connah's Quay August to September.

REDPOLL***Carduelis flannae***

Common.

CROSSBILL***Loxia curvirostra***

Only report was of a single bird at Gwernaffield 20th November.

BULLFINCH***Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

Common.

HAWFINCH***Coccothraustes coccothraustes***

At Halkyn 2 males present 15th January and 4 there on
30th November.

LAPLAND BUNTING***Calcarius lapponicus***

A single bird at Point of Ayr on 13th November.

SNOW BUNTING***Plectrophenax nivalis***

Records as follows:- 4 Gronant 3rd March, 7 Point of Ayr
13th November, 9 Gronant 25th November and 26 Gronant
13th December.

YELLOWHAMMER***Emberiza citrinella***

Common. A flock of 200 was observed at Borrass on 12th February.

REED BUNTING***Emberiza schoeniclus***

Common but local. Most frequently recorded in areas adjacent to
the Dee Estuary.

CORN BUNTING***Miliaria calandra***

Only breeding records were from Sealand. At Shotton Reserve
85 birds were present on 1st February.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED 1981

The nomenclature and systematic arrangement follows that of the 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.

RED-THOATED DIVER

Gavia stellata

Only reported on four occasions as follows:- 2 at Point of Ayr 8th January and 1 there on 15th August, 2 at Gronant on 3rd October and 6 at Rhos Point on 28th December.

BLACK-THOATED DIVER

Gavia arctica

Only recorded on one occasion when 2 birds were seen off Rhos Point on 28th December.

LITTLE GREBE

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Widely reported from most inland waters and on coast during winter months. Maximum counts were 13 at Sealand Reservoir on 6th October and 12 at Hanmer Mere 6th December.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Podiceps cristatus

Frequently recorded offshore and on several inland lakes such as Llyn Brenig, Hanmer Mere and Ysceifiog where there were 20 birds on 25th October. At Shotton a pair bred raising 3 young. Breeding also reported from Pant-yr-ochain and Acton.

SLAVONIAN GREBE

Podiceps auritus

At Llyn Helyg single birds were present on 2nd January and on 26th January and 16 birds were seen off Rhos Point on 20th December. Also a single bird at Connah's Quay on 12th August.

FULMAR

Fulmarus glacialis

Apparently breeding at Prestatyn Quarry where there were 11 birds on 14th March. Single birds seen at Connah's Quay on 19th April and at Prestatyn on 22nd April.

HANK SHEARWATER

Puffinus puffinus

Several birds passing offshore at Gronant during a gale on 17th June.

GANNET

Sula bassana

Several records offshore Point of Ayr to Rhyl. Maximum Count: 10 at Point of Ayr 3rd October.

CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax carbo

Common offshore and in the Dee Estuary. Maximum counts: 89 at Point of Ayr on 3rd October and 96 at Connah's Quay 11th October.

BITTERN

Botaurus stellaris

A single bird was reported from Kinmel Bay on 1st May.

GREAT WHITE EGRET*Egretta alba*

A bird of this species was reported at Gronant on 29th May. The record is currently being examined by the Rarities Committee.

GREY HERON*Ardea cinerea*

Common in upper reaches of Dee Estuary and several records inland but no reports of breeding in the County. Maximum count: 14 at Shotton 8th September and 18 at Connah's Quay 6th September.

MUTE SWAN*Cygnus olor*

Breeding reported from five sites in the Gresford area and birds also present at Shotton, Padeswood, Ysceifiog, Rosset, Gronant and Connah's Quay. Maximum counts: 35 Rhyl Marine Lake 24th October and 52 there on 15th November.

BENWICK'S SWAN*Cygnus columbianus*

A small flock of 6 birds were present at Llyn Helyg from 2nd January to 7th March. Also 5 birds at Hammer Mere on 7th January, 19 at Gronant on 23rd February and 3 at Rhyl on 9th December.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE*Anser brachyrhynchus*

Small flocks recorded as follows:- 80 over Gronant on 31st January, 22 at Bodelyddan on 20th December and 80 there 27th December. Single birds were observed at Gronant on 20th December and at Prestatyn on 21st December.

GREYLAG GOOSE*Anser anser*

On 5th April 2 birds were seen at Shotton.

CANADA GOOSE*Branta canadensis*

A pair bred at Padeswood rearing 2 young and birds were reported from several other lakes. Maximum counts: 6 at Abergele 26th January and 11 over Gronant 6th June.

BRENT GOOSE*Branta bernicla*

A single dark breasted bird at Point of Ayr on 18th January.

SHELDUCK*Tadorna tadorna*

Common in Dee Estuary with many records of moderately sized flocks from Shotton to Point of Ayr. Maximum counts: 250 Point of Ayr 14th March, 350 there 22nd November and 500 at Connah's Quay in December. Only record of breeding was from Shotton where a pair were seen with small young.

WIGEON*Anas peaeelope*

Regularly reported offshore in the Dee Estuary and at Llyn Helyg. Maximum count: 800 at Connah's Quay 14th / 15th December.

GADWALL*Anas strepera*

At Shotton 2 pairs present on 20th April and a pair there on 15th May, 2 birds at Gronant on 20th December and 2 at Rhyl on 20th December.

TEAL**Anas crecca**

Numerous records from the Dee Estuary and surrounding areas and also reported at Padeswood, Llyn Helyg, Rhuddlan and Pendarinas. Maximum counts: 220 at Shotton 24th February and 120 there on 8th November and 100 at Point of Ayr on 4th January.

HALLARD**Anas platyrhynchos**

Common. Maximum counts: 500 Point of Ayr 8th January, 250 Hammer Mere 24th January and 700 at Connah's Quay on 10th September.

PINTAIL**Anas acuta**

Common in upper reaches of Dee Estuary during winter months. Maximum count: 2,100 at Connah's Quay on 10th September.

GARGANEY**Anas querquedula**

Single birds at Shotton on 30th July and 30th August and a male at Connah's Quay on 4th October.

SHOVELER**Anas clypeata**

Small numbers reported from several inland waters with larger flocks at Hammer Mere; 45 on 4th October, Pant-yr-ochain; 34 on 9th January and Shotton; 25 on 4th September.

POCHARD**Aythya ferina**

Small numbers reported wintering at several lakes including Pant-yr-ochain, Deury, Dolwen and Alwen Reservoirs, Padeswood and Ysceifiog. Larger flocks were observed at Shotton, 95 on 10th January, Brickworks Pool, Rhyl, 46 on 22nd January and Rhyl Marine Lake, 125 on 29th November.

TUFTED DUCK**Aythya fuligula**

Birds were reported at nine sites in the County. Maximum counts: 26 at Llyn Helyg 26th January and 27 at Dolwen on 22nd March.

LONG-TAILED DUCK**Clangula hyemalis**

A male present at Sealand Reservoir on 1st November.

COMMON SCOTER**Melanitta nigra**

Regular records of birds offshore from Point of Ayr to Rhos Point. Maximum counts: 1,000 at Pensarn on 18th December and 300 at Kinmel Bay 5th December.

VELVET SCOTER**Melanitta fusca**

A single record of a bird at Llandulas on 27th December.

GOLDENEYE**Bucephala clangula**

Small numbers were observed on several lakes during the winter months and also less frequently noted offshore. Maximum counts: 10 at Shotton Reserve on 1st and 27th March and a similar number there on 16th November, 7 off Point of Ayr on 11th January.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER***Mergus serrator***

Frequent sightings offshore between Point of Ayr and Rhos Point and regularly reported from Rhyl Marine Lake and occasional records from Connah's Quay. Maximum counts: 38 at Llandulas on 27th December and 38 at Rhos on 28th December, 29 at Penrhyn Bay on 23rd January and 11 on Rhyl Marine Lake on 29th November.

GOOSANDER***Mergus merganser***

Most records are from Hanmer Mere with a maximum count of 32 on 7th January but a pair was seen on Llyn Brenig on 15th March and a male was present there on 15th November.

RUDDY DUCK***Oxyura janaicensis***

Regular reports from Hanmer Mere with 21 there on 7th January and 18 present on 4th October. A pair on the Range Pool at Shotton during June and July were reported to have nested but this was not confirmed.

HEN HARRIER***Circus cyaneus***

A male was observed at Shotton on 15th February and on 5th April and there was also a male at Minera on 30th and 31st May. A single bird seen at Connah's Quay on several occasions during January and February, 2 males there on 6th March and singles on 11th and 15th October.

GOSHAWK***Accipiter gentilis***

A single bird seen over Esclusham Mountain on 1st April was the only record.

SPARROWHAWK***Accipiter nisus***

Over 50 records were received covering many areas in the County. Although it is necessary to be cautious when drawing conclusions in such cases the frequency of sightings does suggest a steady increase in the number of Sparrowhawks in the area.

BUZZARD***Buteo buteo***

Almost all records are from the south and west of the County with a maximum count of 5 at Clocaenog Forest 24th January. Only one record of birds breeding. Unusual records were of single birds at Abergele on 29th May and at Llandulas on 26th December.

KESTREL***Falco tinnunculus***

Common.

MERLIN***Falco columbarius***

Reported on 24 occasions; all records with the exception of a bird at Moel-y-Faen on 12th April were from the coastal strip.

HOBBY***Falco subbuteo***

A bird was reported at Connah's Quay on 11th August.

PEREGRINE**Falco peregrinus**

There were 22 reports, all of single birds on the coastal strip, during the year. A pair of birds were also reported in a suitable breeding area during the summer.

RED GROUSE**Lagopus lagopus**

Fairly common in moorland areas - 30 were present on the Horseshoe Pass on 9th November.

BLACK GROUSE**Tetrao tetrix**

Several reports of birds from six well separated areas in the Clwyddian Range. Maximum counts: 10 birds at Ruabon on 9th January and up to 14 there on 10th April.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE**Alectoris rufa**

A single bird at Sealand on 19th April and a covey of 9 at Shotton on 2nd September.

GREY PARTRIDGE**Perdix perdix**

Fairly common with reports of small parties from nine areas in the County.

PHEASANT**Phasianus colchicus**

Common.

WATER RAIL**Rallus aquaticus**

Regular reports during winter months from Shotton, Padeswood, Gronant and Point of Ayr invariably involving only single birds.

MOORHEN**Gallinula chloropus**

Common.

COOT**Fulica atra**

Common on most suitable lakes. Maximum counts: 70 Ysceifiog on 1st November, 63 Rhyl Marine Lake 6th December, 50 Brickworks Pool, Rhyl 12th December and 40 Gresford Flash 1st March.

OYSTERCATCHER**Haematopus ostralegus**

Bred at Shotton and Connah's Quay. Maximum counts: all refer to Point of Ayr; 14,000 on 7th February, 14,000 on 14th October and 12,000 on 26th December.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER**Charadrius dubius**

Only recorded on four occasions:- 1 at Connah's Quay on 26th July and 1 there on 20th August, 2 at Rhydymwyn 23rd August and 1 at Shotton on 26th July.

RINGED PLOVER**Charadrius hiaticula**

At Gronant some 10 - 12 pairs bred. Few records of numbers during passage were received and the highest count recorded was 50 at Shotton on 31st August.

GOLDEN PLOVER*Pluvialis apricaria*

Breeding was confirmed at one moorland site. Elsewhere records are of wintering or passage birds with maximum counts as follows:- up to 600 birds in the Sandycroft / Mancot area between 10th January and 27th March, between 400 and 500 at Sealand during the period 15th March to 27th April and 276 at Prestatyn 31st October. It was not established whether the Sealand and Sandycroft birds were different flocks.

GREY PLOVER*Pluvialis squatarola*

Most records were from Point of Ayr but also reported from Connah's Quay and Sealand. Maximum count for the wintering birds at Point of Ayr was 250 on the 7th February.

LAPWING*Vanellus vanellus*

Common in all suitable sites although now absent from several former breeding areas due to drainage schemes. Maximum count: 3,500 at Sealand on 30th January.

KNOT*Calidris canutus*

Numbers of wintering / passage birds are still insignificant when compared with a few years ago. Maximum count: 300 at Point of Ayr 26th January.

SANDERLING*Calidris alba*

Small numbers wintering reported on coast between Point of Ayr and Rhyl. Maximum count: 280 at Point of Ayr 22nd November.

LITTLE STINT*Calidris minuta*

A flock of up to 11 birds present at Gronant between the 4th September and 5th October. Also 3 at Sealand on 13th September and 1 there on 26th September. At Connah's Quay 2 birds on 20th August and 1 there on 3rd September.

TEMMINCK'S STINT*Calidris temminckii*

A single bird at Connah's Quay on 20th August.

CURLEW SANDPIPER*Calidris ferruginea*

Only records were of single birds at Gronant on 8th August and 20th September and at Connah's Quay; 1 on 23rd August, 1 on 13th September and 3 on 20th September.

PURPLE SANDPIPER*Calidris maritima*

A small flock wintering at Rhos Point provided the only records. Maximum count at Rhos was 20 on 29th November.

DUNLIN*Calidris alpina*

Common. Maximum count inland was 150 at Sealand on 1st November.

RUFF***Philonachus pagax***

Several reports between July and October from Connah's Quay, Shotton and Sealand. Maximum count was of 35 birds on 14th April at Sealand.

JACK SNipe***Lymnocyrtes minius***

Only records were from Gronant where single birds were seen on 23rd February and 16th March and 2 birds present on 1st March.

SNipe***Gallinago gallinago***

Breeding probable but not confirmed at Padeswood. Otherwise a common winter visitor in suitable areas. Maximum count: 46 at Shotton 6th October.

WOODCOCK***Scolopax rusticola***

Recorded only at Rhydymwyn and Loggerheads during breeding season. Elsewhere scattered records of 1 - 2 birds during winter months.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT***Limosa linosa***

Apart from 1 - 2 birds at Sealand on 21st and 22nd of March all records refer to Connah's Quay and Point of Ayr. After a number of years when up to 1,000 birds were frequently reported in the Dee Estuary the species now seems to have reverted to it's former status of being less numerous, although significant numbers are sometimes recorded viz. 70 Point of Ayr 19th February and 120 there on 26th December; 125 Connah's Quay 25th February and 75 there on 21st November.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT***Limosa lapponica***

Regular reports of small wintering flocks at Point of Ayr from August to April. Highest count at Point of Ayr was 40 on 13th December but 20 birds were also seen at Kinnel Bay on 5th December and 6 at Connah's Quay on 20th October.

WHINBREL***Numenius phaeopus***

Most records confined to the months July to September when the species was recorded on twenty occasions, the highest numbers being 10 at Point of Ayr on 30th August and 6 there on 1st September. During spring passage 3 birds at Connah's Quay on 4th May and 4 there on the 6th.

CURLEW***Numenius arquata***

Breeding confirmed at a number of sites but most records are of wintering or passage birds. Maximum counts: 450 at Point of Ayr on 8th January and 600 on 21st January and at Point of Ayr the following autumn; 1,000 present on 13th September and 570 on 14th October.

SPOTTED REDSHANK***Tringa erythropus***

Reports from Connah's Quay, Shotton, Point of Ayr and Sealand. Most records are from Connah's Quay with highest counts of 60 on 9th August at Connah's Quay and 17 at Shotton on 16th August.

REDSHANK*Tringa totanus*

Birds were present in the breeding season at Padeswood, Llandegla and Shotton but breeding was not confirmed. Maximum counts: 450 at Point of Ayr on 10th February, 750 at Point of Ayr on 14th October and 650 at Connah's Quay in November.

GREENSHANK*Tringa nebularia*

Regular reports were received involving between 1 and 5 birds but there were 9 at Connah's Quay on 20th September, 8 at Shotton on the 8th August and 12 there on 18th August and 15 birds at Point of Ayr on 13th September.

GREEN SANDPIPER*Tringa ochropus*

Frequently reported with records covering most months of the year with a maximum of 9 birds at Shotton on 29th July. Most reports were from Shotton / Sealand but the species was also observed at Connah's Quay, Padeswood and Rossett.

WOOD SANDPIPER*Tringa glareola*

Only recorded on ten occasions; with the exception of 3 birds at Connah's Quay on 15th August all reports involve single birds.

COMMON SANDPIPER*Actitis hypoleucos*

Most reports refer to less than 10 birds but up to 15 birds at Shotton between 12th July and 8th August and 40 at Connah's Quay on 8th July and 26 there on 12th July.

TURNSTONE*Arenaria interpres*

Small numbers present from Point of Ayr to Rhos Point but the rocky shore at Rhos Point holds the highest numbers with a maximum of 300 birds on 15th November.

ARCTIC SKUA*Stercorarius parasiticus*

Between June and September there were six reports of 1 - 4 birds at Point of Ayr with 4 seen on the 12th June being the highest count.

GREAT SKUA*Stercorarius skua*

A single bird was observed at Point of Ayr on 14th September.

LAUGHING GULL*Larus atricilla*

This North American species was observed at Colwyn Bay on 27th / 28th December. This is the first record of Laughing Gull in the County of Clwyd.

LITTLE GULL*Larus minutus*

Only records were 2 at Point of Ayr on 4th January and 1 at Sealand on 4th May.

BLACK-HEADED GULL***Larus ridibundus***

Abundant. Maximum counts: 1,000 at Rhyl 29th November and 612 at Prestatyn 30th November.

COMMON GULL***Larus canus***

Common winter visitor with highest counts as follows:- 1300 on 8th February and 2,000+ in Clwyd Estuary 14th March.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL***Larus fuscus***

Fairly common. Maximum count: 200 Connah's Quay 8th June.

HERRING GULL***Larus argentatus***

Abundant. Maximum count: 1,200 at Rhuddlan 31st December.

GLAUCOUS GULL***Larus hyperboreus***

An immature bird was seen at Shotton Reserve on 6th December.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL***Larus marinus***

Fairly common. Maximum count: 170 at Gronant on 3rd October.

KITTIWAKE***Rissa tridactyla***

Only very few records this year with 3 birds at Point of Ayr on the 4th January being the most seen at any one time. A single bird was also recorded at Connah's Quay on the same date.

SANDWICH TERN***Sterna sandvicensis***

Present in small numbers throughout the summer months. Maximum counts during passage were 60 at Point of Ayr 2nd May, 90 at Gronant and 430 at Point of Ayr on 26th July and 500 at Point of Ayr on 13th September.

COMMON TERN***Sterna hirundo***

Another successful year for the colony at Shotton Reserve resulted in over 270 birds fledging and the maximum number of birds seen there was 350 on 8th July.

ARCTIC TERN***Sterna paradisaea***

A single bird was reported on 3rd September at Connah's Quay.

LITTLE TERN***Sterna albifrons***

The number of young fledged at the Gronant colony was circa 70. During late summer the number of birds at Gronant increased to a maximum of 500 on 25th July.

BLACK TERN***Chlidonias niger***

Only records were of 2 birds at Point of Ayr on 9th August and single birds at Gresford Flash on 30th August and 1st October.

GUILLEMOT**Uria aalge**

Occasional records offshore between Point of Ayr and Rhos Point. Maximum count was 13 birds on 15th June at Gronant.

RAZORBILL**Alca torda**

Only one definite record; that of a single bird at Gronant on 30th June.

STOCK DOVE**Columba oenas**

Breeds in several areas but appears to be local.

WOODPIGEON**Columba palumbus**

Common. Maximum counts: 387 at Hawarden 21st November, 250 Llyn Helyg 29th November and 248 at Prestatyn on 27th December.

COLLARED DOVE**Streptopelia decaocto**

Breeding apparently confined to suburban areas where not uncommon

TURTLE DOVE**Streptopelia turtur**

Infrequently recorded with single birds at Henllan 14th June and Rhydynwyn 7th September. Also reported to be present at Hawarden and Hoseley.

CUCKOO**Cuculus canorus**

Common. First reported on 22nd April.

BARN OWL**Tyto alba**

Scarce. Only one or two isolated records from Wrexham area.

LITTLE OWL**Athene noctua**

Fairly common. Reported from eleven different areas, usually only 1 - 2 birds being involved but 4 birds were seen together at Ruthin on 31st December.

TAWNY OWL**Strix aluco**

Fairly common.

LONG-EARED OWL**Asio otus**

Only record was from Halkyn where 1 - 2 birds were seen on 20th February.

SHORT-EARED OWL**Asio flammeus**

Several reports from Llandegla area during the breeding season. Single birds reported on five occasions from Gronant and Shotton.

NIGHTJAR**Caprimulgus europaeus**

Only record was of a bird heard several times on Ruabon Mountain in early June.

SHIFT*Apus apus*

Common. The first record was on 7th May.

KINGFISHER*Alcedo atthis*

There were frequent reports mostly involving single birds but only two were from suitable areas and at the time of year when breeding may have been likely.

GREEN WOODPECKER*Picus viridis*

Very few records, all from suitable woodland areas during the breeding season.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER*Dendrocopos major*

Fairly common.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER*Dendrocopos minor*

Only reported from five areas and in all cases single birds were involved.

SKYLARK*Alauda arvensis*

Common. Maximum winter counts were 200 at Trelawnyd on 23rd December and 300 at Rhyl on 27th December.

SHORE LARK*Erenophila alpestris*

There were 4 birds at Point of Ayr on 13th December.

SAND MARTIN*Riparia riparia*

Still less common than in former years. Breeding confirmed at Gresford where there was a small colony of about 30 pairs.

SWALLOW*Hirundo rustica*

Abundant. First recorded on 10th April when 150 birds were seen moving east at Nannerch and last date seen was on 7th November at Gronant. A roost of some 2,000 birds was at Shotton Reserve during August and September.

HOUSE MARTIN*Delichon urbica*

Common. The earliest date recorded was 19th April and the species was last seen on 14th October.

TREE PIPIT*Anthus trivialis*

Birds, apparently breeding, seen at Llandegla, Maeshafn and Loggerheads. Also 5 at Point of Ayr on 2nd May and 1 there on the 5th.

MEADOW PIPIT*Anthus pratensis*

Common. Breeds extensively in moorland areas. Also 297 birds were counted moving at Point of Ayr on 29th March.

ROCK PIPIT*Anthus spinoletta*

Single birds reported at Rhos Point on 10th January and 29th November and at Connah's Quay on 9th March.

WATER PIPIT*Anthus spinoletta spinoletta*

A single bird at Shotton on 24th February and a second bird there in summer plumage on 5th April.

YELLOW WAGTAIL*Motacilla flava*

Common but local.

GREY WAGTAIL*Motacilla cinerea*

Common on suitable streams and rivers in Clwyddian Range.

WHITE WAGTAIL*Motacilla alba alba*

Records for this sub-species as follows:- 1 Connah's Quay 4th April, 1 Abergele 15th April, 4 Shotton 19th April, 6 Range Pool, Shotton 28th April, 8 Sealand 26th April and 2 Shotton on 2nd May.

PIED WAGTAIL*Motacilla alba*

Common.

DIPPER*Cinclus cinclus*

Commonly reported from upland streams and rivers.

WREN*Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common.

DUNNOCK*Prunella modularis*

Common.

ROBIN*Erithacus rubecula*

Common.

NIGHTINGALE*Luscinia megarhynchos*

A bird of this species was present near Bodfari from 23rd May until 10th August.

BLACK REDSTART*Phoenicurus ochruros*

A female was present at Rhyl from 2nd to 6th November.

REDSTART*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

This species which was formerly not uncommon in the County is now rather scarce but records suggest a slow recovery.

WHINCHAT*Saxicola rubetra*

Present as a breeding species in many upland areas and on coastal strip.

STONECHAT*Saxicola torquata*

Uncommon. Reported from several areas in Clwyddian Range and at Ssotton and Connah's Quay on the coast. Breeding confirmed at Shotton.

WHEATEAR*Oenanthe oenanthe*

Breeding confirmed at three localities in the County including small numbers at sea level at Shotton. At Connah's Quay 10 birds were present on 27th April.

RING OUZEL*Turdus torquatus*

Several birds reported between World's End and the Horseshoe Pass and at Llyn Brenig and Llanjynhafel.

BLACKBIRD*Turdus merula*

Abundant.

FIELDFARE*Turdus pilaris*

Common winter visitor. An unusually late record was of 60 birds at Cilcain on 4th May. Maximum count was of 700 birds moving west at Gronant in two and a half hours during snow showers on 9th December.

SONG THRUSH*Turdus philomelos*

Common.

REDWING*Turdus iliacus*

Moderate numbers reported from several sites in the County during winter months. Highest counts: 100 at Padeswood on 2nd January and 155 at Prestatyn on 27th December. In a two and a half hour watch at Gronant, 2,000 birds were observed moving west during snow showers on 9th December.

MISTLE THRUSH*Turdus viscivorus*

Fairly common. Most reports involve small numbers but 23 were seen at Prestatyn on 6th August and 50 at Halkyn on 3rd October.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER*Locustella naevia*

Reported from several localities during breeding season and breeding confirmed at Llay.

SEDGE WARBLER*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common in suitable localities. Breeding confirmed at Shotton.

REED WARBLER*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Bred at Shotton Reserve. Only other record was of a single bird at Gronant on 13th August.

LESSER WHITETHROAT*Sylvia curruca*

Few records were received. Single birds were observed at Shotton 4th September and at Point of Ayr 13th September. Birds with

young were reported at Rhydymwyn on 17th July and at Connah's Quay on 19th July.

WHITETHROAT

Sylvia communis

Fairly common, being reported from several areas.

GARDEN WARBLER

Sylvia borin

Fairly common, most records from Clwyddian Range.

BLACKCAP

Sylvia atricapilla

Common. Only winter records were; 1 at Abergele on 15th March and a male at Ruthin on 15th December.

SONELLI'S WARBLER

Phylloscopus bonelli

A bird of this species was reported at Point of Ayr on 16th August. This record was not accepted by the Rarities Committee.

WOOD WARBLER

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Singing males reported from Loggerheads (5) 16th May and at Hawarden (2) on 9th. Breeding confirmed at Loggerheads and Maeshafn.

CHIFFCHAFF

Phylloscopus collybita

Common.

WILLOW WARBLER

Phylloscopus trochilus

Abundant.

GOLDCREST

Regulus regulus

Common. A party of 40 birds were seen at Llyn Helyg on 1st November.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

Muscicapa striata

Common.

PIED FLYCATCHER

Ficedula hypoleuca

Common. Breeding confirmed at several sites in Clwyddian Range.

LONG-TAILED TIT

Aegithalos caudatus

Fairly common: 21 recorded at Brynbo on 30th December.

MARSH TIT

Parus palustris

Common in Clwyddian Range.

WILLOW TIT

Parus montanus

Local.

COAL TIT

Parus ater

Fairly common.

BLUE TIT

Parus caeruleus

Abundant.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*
 Abundant.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*
 Common in woodland areas: 15 birds were reported in the Gronant area on 6th December.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*
 Common: 20 reported in Gronant area on 6th December.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*
 Common.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*
 Common: 34 birds observed roosting at Padeswood 1st January.

CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
 Only record was of a pair at Moel y Faen on 12th April.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*
 Common but somewhat local. Maximum count: 220 at Rhyl on 27th December.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*
 Common. Maximum count: 308 at Prestatyn on 27th December.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*
 Common.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*
 Reported in small numbers from eleven sites in the County.
 Breeding confirmed at Mynydd Mawr.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*
 Abundant.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*
 Abundant.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*
 Reported from several areas. Maximum counts: 200 Rossett 1st February, 80 Gresford 15th January and 42 at Trevalyn on 17th April.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*
 Common. Maximum counts: 200 at Hawarden 16th November and 300 wintering in Moss Hall Bog area.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*
 Moderate numbers were present in the early part of the year with highest counts of 400 at Gresford on 15th January and 250

at Ewloe on the 7th. Only small numbers reported during autumn and early winter.

GREENFINCH

Carduelis chloris

Common. Maximum count 130 at Point of Ayr 13th December.

GOLDFINCH

Carduelis carduelis

Common. A charm of 30 at Shotton Reserve on 7th January and a similar number at Connah's Quay on 25th November.

SISKIN

Carduelis spinaus

Reported from 14 well separated sites in the County, usually in small numbers but circa 40 birds at Prestatyn in January, 32 at Shotton on 8th November and 45 at Ruthin on 12th December.

LINNET

Carduelis cannabina

Common. Maximum count: 300 at Gronant 3rd October.

TWITE

Carduelis flavirostris

Only recorded on four occasions; 4 Connah's Quay 8th January and 12 there on 9th March, 1 at Shotton 26th April and 7 Point of Ayr on 13th December.

REDPOLL

Carduelis flammea

Common.

CROSSBILL

Loxia curvirostra

Only records were 6 at Prestatyn on 5th January and 30 at Brynhyfryd, Clocaenog Forest on 24th January.

BULLFINCH

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Common.

HAWFINCH

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Only recorded at Halkyn as follows:- 4 males and 3 females 15th March, 1 present on 18 March and 6 on 12th April.

SNOW BUNTING

Plectrophenax nivalis

Reported from Point of Ayr, Gronant and Shotton and an unusual record of a single bird at Minera on 21st March. Highest counts on coast were 32 at Gronant on 8th February and 26 at Point of Ayr on 11th January.

YELLOWHAMMER

Emberiza citrinella

Common: 36 at Point of Ayr on 13th December and 50 at Connah's Quay 25th December.

REED BUNTING

Emberiza schoeniclus

Common: 74 at Gronant 8th February.

CORN BUNTING

Miliaria calandra

Somewhat local. Bred at Sealand and 50 at Shotton Reserve on 24th February.

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