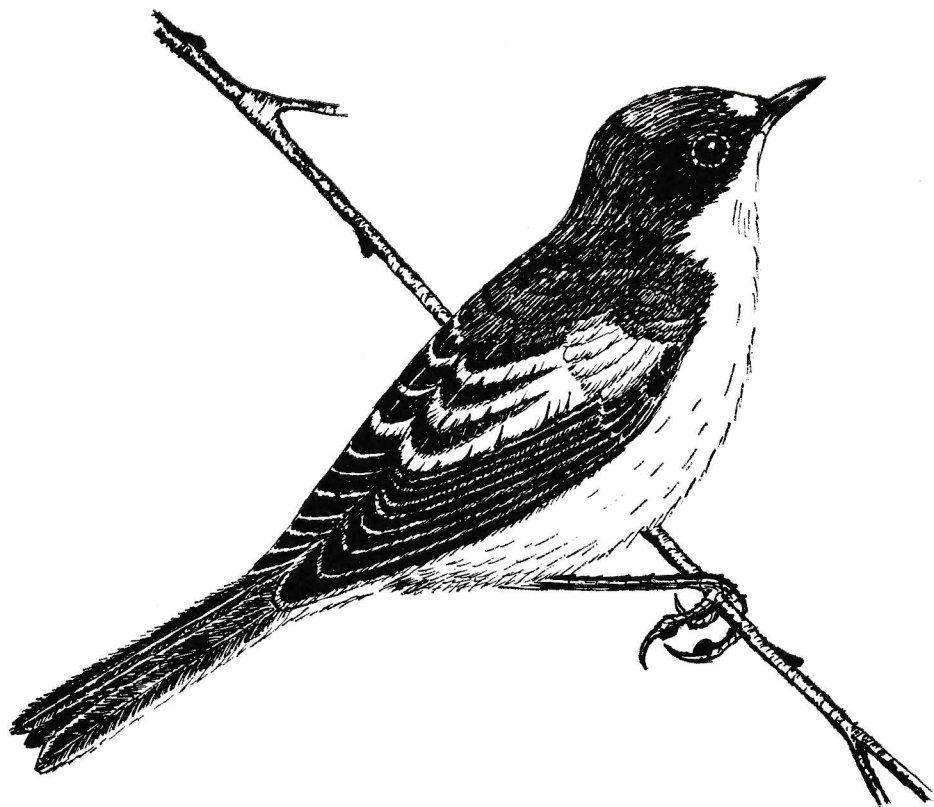


CLWYD BIRD REPORT



1984

FORSTER'S TERN

Sterna fosteri

The first summer bird was present in the vicinity of Gronant/Point of Ayr between 3rd July and 14th September and was reported at both sites by numerous observers between these dates. The record was subsequently accepted by the Rarities Committee.

THE CLWYD BIRD REPORT — 1984



The records for 1984 were again sorted by computer with a few modifications to overcome minor problems with the original programmes and to speed things up even further. Unfortunately after a flying start things slowed down somewhat due to the usual editors having other commitments. As a result most of the report was written by the COS committee who kindly stepped into the breach. Finally the report was even further delayed at the preparation for printing stage but it is now hoped that this problem has been solved for the foreseeable future.

Rather disappointingly the numbers of contributors has fallen this year and although this can partly be explained by several regular contributors having moved from the area there is still a very significant and rather disturbing decrease.

Clearly the production of the report largely depends on the submission of sufficient records and we would like to take this opportunity to ask you to submit your observations to the County Recorder as soon as possible after the end of the year and to encourage your friends and associates to follow your example. Incidentally the computer programme has been written to accept records in any order and it is unnecessary to spend valuable time sorting your observations before submission. In fact records presented in chronological order are easier to process so a simple copy of your field notes is ideal.

Finally we would like to thank all those observers who have contributed to the report and look forward to their continued support in the future.

RED-THROATED DIVER***Gavia stellata***

Seen regularly off-shore between September and April ; maximum count of 12 seen at Rhos Point 25th November. A less usual record was of 4 birds at Rhos on 14th April one of which was in summer plummage.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER***Gavia arctica***

Single bird reported at Sealand 1st January which remained there until the 20th of the month. Only other record was of 2 birds at Gronant on 8th July.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER***Gavia immer***

Single bird reported at Rhos Point on 9th December.

LITTLE GREBE***Tachybaptus ruficollis***

Regularly reported throughout the county with a maximum count of 12 at Ysceifiog on 8th and 25th January. Reported to have bred at Ysceifiog, Gresford, Drury and Pendinas.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE***Podiceps cristatus***

Breeding confirmed at Llyn Helyg, Hanmer Mere, Sealand and Pant-yr-Ochain. Frequently reported off-shore during winter months with maximum counts of 14 Rhos Point/Pensarn on 21st January, 14 at Point of Ayr on 12th September and 20 at Pensarn on 16th December.

SLAVONIAN GREBE***Podiceps auritus***

Single sightings of this uncommon species recorded at Sealand on 16th/18th January and at Llandulas on 23rd December.

FULMAR***Fulmarus glacialis***

Seen regularly throughout the year ; maximum counts 116 at Rhos Point 14th March and 103 there on 25th November.

MANX SHEARWATER***Puffinus puffinus***

Infrequently recorded ; only reports were 46 flying east at Gronant 15th June and 1 at Prestatyn on 23rd September.

STORM PETREL***Hydrobates pelagicus***

Only three records this year all on 23rd September with two separate reports from Shotton of single birds and five seen at Connah's Quay.

LEACH'S PETREL***Oceanodroma leucorhoa***

All records confined to September with highest counts of 12 at Prestatyn on 23rd and 12 at Point of Ayr on the same day.

GANNET***Sula bassana***

Small numbers reported in nearly every month with highest counts of 32 at Point of Ayr on 10th June and 58 at Rhos Point on 22nd September.

CORMORANT***Phalacrocorax carbo***

Common ; maximum counts 716 at Rhos Point on 15th September.

SHAG***Phalacrocorax arisotelis***

Single birds seen at Rhos Point in March and October and 3 at Rhos Point on 12th September.

BITTERN***Botaurus stellaris***

A single bird was seen at Hanmer Mere on 25th February.

GREY HERON***Ardea cinerea***

Reported in all months in suitable localities. Maximum count of 40 at Llyn Helyg on 20th August.

MUTE SWAN***Cygnus olor***

Breeding confirmed at Rhuddlan and 4 cygnets were also observed at Gresford Flash. Maximum counts were 11 at Sealand on 27th December and 10 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 30th December.

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

Regularly reported throughout the winter months with a maximum count of 18 at Connah's Quay on 27th December.

WHOOPEE SWAN***Cygnus cygnus***

Highest counts were 8 at Sealand on 2nd January and 7 at Connah's Quay on 11th November.

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

Reported at Sealand and Rhuddlan with maximum counts of 184 at Sealand on 27th January and 40 at Rhuddlan on 8th December.

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

A small flock of 13 Greenland White-Fronts were seen at Sealand on 1st and 2nd of January and 3 were present at Connah's Quay on 27th December but the race was not ascertained.

GREYLAG GOOSE***Anser anser***

Several sightings at Gresford Flash with a maximum count of 5 on 20th January. Maximum count was 33 at prestatyn on 24th March.

SNOW GOOSE***Anser caerulescens***

Reported from Gresford Flash as follows: 3 on 23rd January, 2 on 20th February and 1 on 15th March.

CANADA GOOSE***Branta canadensis***

Breeding confirmed at 6 sites in the county. Maximum count of 150 at Gresford on 21st January with 130 at the same locality on 30th November.

BARNACLE GOOSE***Branta leucopsis***

Single birds reported at Gresford Flash on 4 occasions in October and January.

BRENT GOOSE***Branta bernicla***

A dark bellied bird was seen at Point of Ayr on 8th April and 6 light phase birds were seen there on 25th November.

SHELDUCK***Tadorna tadorna***

Breeding confirmed at Connah's Quay and Shotton. Reported regularly from the estuaries in substantial numbers with 720 birds at Point of Ayr on 5th February and 830 there on 2nd December.

WIGEON***Anas penelope***

Numbers appear rather lower than in previous years; maximum counts 115 at Gronant on 15th February and 80 at Connah's Quay on 20th September.

GADWALL***Anas strepera***

Recorded at Sealand, Hanmer Mere, Gronant and Gresford; maximum count 14 at Sealand on 21st February.

TEAL***Anas crecca***

Common. Maximum count of 3,000 at Connah's Quay on 23rd November.

MALLARD***Anas platyrhynchos***

Common, frequently recorded on coasts, estuaries and inland waters. Maximum counts; 700 at Connah's Quay on 9th September and 660 on 19th August, 500 at Kinnel Bay on 4th February.

PINTAIL***Anas acuta***

Recorded more frequently than in previous years. Highest counts were 1,200 at Shotton on 19th February and 550 at Connah's Quay on 9th September. Also reported at Sealand, Hanmer Mere, Rhyl, Padeswood Pool and Llyn Cyfynwy.

SHOVELER***Anas clypeata***

Recorded at a number of suitable locations in the county including counts of 24 at Pant-yr-Ochain on 4th January, 18 at Connah's Quay on 29th November and 14 at Sealand 20th-22nd January. Smaller numbers were reported at Rhyl, Gresford Flash, Padeswood Pool, Llyn Helyg and Hanmer Mere.

RED CRESTED POCHARD***Netta rufina***

A male was present at Shotton from 16th to 29th July.

POCHARD***Aythya ferina***

Reported at most inland waters during the winter with significantly higher numbers this year. Highest counts included; 230 at Sealand on 16th November and 160 there on 2nd December.

30 at Hanmer Mere on 11th February and 17 at Rhyl on 27th January. Also seen at Ruabon, Llyn Gweryd, Pant-yr-Ochain, Gresford Flash and Llyn Helyg.

TUFTED DUCK

Aythya fuligula

Recorded at most inland waters in the county; maximum count was 90 at Hanmer Mere on 12th December and 5 pair reported to have bred in the Gresford area.

SCAUP

Aythya marila

Single birds were seen on two occasions at Sealand and also at Gresford, Point of Ayr and Rhyl. On 2nd April a flock of 30 birds were seen at Kinnel Bay.

EIDER

Somateria mollissima

Recorded on 5 occasions as follows: 2 Rhos Point 19th February, 1 Point of Ayr 8th April, 4 Rhos Point 14th April and 1 on 28th December, 1 Point of Ayr 30th December.

COMMON SCOTER

Melanitta nigra

Regularly reported between Rhos Point and Point of Ayr; maximum counts included 230 at Llandulas 26th February, 180 at Llandulas on 28th January and 150 at Abergele on 2nd December.

GOLDENEYE

Bucephala clangula

Widely distributed but in smaller numbers than in the previous year; highest counts were 15 at Sealand on 23rd March, 12 at Pensarn on 21st January, 10 at Llyn Cyfynwy on 16th December and 10 at Rhyl on the same date. Also reported from Llyn Bran, Nantyr-Ffrith and Ruabon.

SMEW

Mergus albellus

Frequent sightings of a female or immature Smew from Sealand and Connah's Quay between 1st January and 1st of April and may well have been the same bird.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

Mergus serrator

Frequently reported off-shore throughout the year. Maximum counts included 30 at Rhos Point on 1st January, 22 at Rhos on 21st January, 26 Llandulas on 21st January and 26 on 19th February. Smaller numbers were seen at Rhyl, Shotton, Gronant, Connah's Quay, Prestatyn and Llandrillo.

GOOSANDER

Mergus merganser

The species appears to be increasing in the county with records from five locations. Highest counts, all at Hanmer Mere, included 14 on 29th January, 20 on 11th February and 30 on 25th and 8 males and 12 females on 12th December. Also reported in smaller numbers from Llyn Brenig, Llyn Cyfynwy, Llyn Gweryd and Pendinas.

RUDDY DUCK***Oxyura jamaicensis***

Records from Sealand, Hanmer Mere, Pant-yr-Ochain and Borrás. Highest counts were of 55 birds at Hanmer on 16th September and 22 on 12th December.

MARSH HARRIER***Circus aeruginosus***

A female was seen in the vicinity of Prestatyn on 30th April.

HEN HARRIER***Circus cyaneus***

Occasional reports from breeding areas during the summer and numerous records of wintering birds from the Dee estuary.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER***Circus pygargus***

A female was reported from Point of Ayr on 2nd of June.

GOSHAWK***Accipiter gentilis***

Only records were of single birds at Connah's Quay on 30th September and 7th October.

SPARROWHAWK***Accipiter nisus***

Widely reported throughout the county in all months of the year.

BUZZARD***Buteo buteo***

Breeding confirmed near Llanarmon-yn-Ial. Most other records also from the Clwyddian range where the species is fairly widely distributed.

KESTREL***Falco tinnunculus***

Frequently recorded throughout the county in all months of the year.

MERLIN***Falco columbarius***

Recorded in every month of the year with sightings at Connah's Quay, Point of Ayr, Wrexham, Llyn Cyfynwy, Esclusham Mountain, Ruabon and Dyserth.

HOBBY***Falco subbuteo***

Only reported on two occasions: 1 at Gresford on 15th May and 1 at Shotton on 15th August.

PEREGRINE***Falco peregrinus***

The number of reports suggest that the species is still increasing in the county and a number of breeding pairs were located this year.

RED GROUSE***Lagopus lagopus***

Reported at most suitable moorland areas in the county with a maximum count of 30 near Horseshoe Pass on 26th February.

BLACK GROUSE***Tetrao tetrix***

Regular sightings from specific areas in the Clwyddian range with the highest count being 11 at a lake near Pendinas during February.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE***Alectoris rufa***

A pair seen at Marford on 14th May may have bred and also reported from six other localities.

GREY PARTRIDGE***Perdix perdix***

Recorded in most months of the year with a maximum count of 21 at Connah's Quay on 30th December.

QUAIL***Coturnix coturnix***

Only record was of a single bird at Gronant on 24th May.

PHEASANT***Phasianus colchicus***

Common.

WATER RAIL***Rallus aquaticus***

Most records were from Padeswood Pool with a maximum count of 4 on the 25th February. Also reported from Connah's Quay, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Pendinas, Ruabon and Shotton.

MOORHEN***Gallinula chloropus***

Common, maximum count 40 at Abergele on 28th December.

COOT***Fulica atra***

Common. Maximum counts included 166 at Ysceifiog on 22nd January and 160 at Gresford Flash on 25th.

OYSTERCATCHER***Haematopus ostralegus***

Common throughout the year with a maximum count of 10,800 at Point of Ayr on 12th August and frequent reports of flocks between 3,000 and 7,600 at the same site. Breeding confirmed at several localities on the coastal strip.

AVOCET***Recurvirostra avocetta***

A bird was present at Connah's Quay from 1st — 5th April.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER***Charadrius dubius***

Recorded on several occasions between May and August at Shotton Pools and Pendinas Reservoir. At the former site 2 juvenile birds were seen on 29th — 31st August.

RINGED PLOVER***Charadrius hiaticula***

Highest counts were recorded during autumn passage with 120 at Point of Ayr on 5th August. The species bred at Gronant.

GOLDEN PLOVER***Pluvialis apricaria***

Highest counts were at Sealand with a maximum of 1,080 on 25th November. Also reported from Broughton — 200 on 16th

January, Rhuddlan — 42 on 3rd April, Shotton — 80 on 23rd July, Gronant — 3 on 24th August, Point of Ayr — 63 on 7th November and Queensferry — 300 on 11th November.

GREY PLOVER

Pluvialis squatarola

Seen throughout the winter months on coastal strip between Rhos Point and Connah's Quay; maximum count was 116 at Prestatyn on 19th February.

LAPWING

Vanellus vanellus

Seen throughout the year with a maximum count of 2,800 at Rhuddlan on 3rd February. There were frequent sightings of 2 leucistic birds at Connah's Quay. Breeding was confirmed at several sites.

KNOT

Calidris canutus

Frequent reports between January — March and July — December. Highest counts included 3,000 at Point of Ayr on 22nd January, 2,000 at Prestatyn 18th/19th February and 3,000 at Point of Ayr on 23rd December.

SANDERLING

Calidris alba

Records again seem to indicate a small wintering population between Point of Ayr and Kinnel Bay. Maximum counts being: 367 at Prestatyn on 18th March, 142 there on 7th April, 78 at Gronant on 21st July and 97 again at Prestatyn on 15th December.

LITTLE STINT

Calidris minuta

Only recorded on four occasions with 2 birds present at Shotton from 26th to 29th August and 3 at Gronant on 27th August.

WHITE RUMPED SANDPIPER

Calidris fuscicollis

A single bird present at Shotton from 31st July to 4th August.

CURLEW SANDPIPER

Calidris ferruginea

Reported as follows: 1 at Point of Ayr 1st August, a juvenile bird at Shotton on 26th August and 1 at Point of Ayr on 15th September.

PURPLE SANDPIPER

Calidris maritima

Reported on four occasions from Rhos Point with 3 birds present on 1st and 22nd January, 10 on 4th March and 8 on 17th March. On 9th December 6 birds were seen at Rhyl.

DUNLIN

Calidris alpina

Present throughout the year with the highest numbers during winter months and during migration periods. Highest counts included 450 at Rhyl on 29th January and a similar number on 12th February, 1,250 at Point of Ayr on 18th February, 4,000 at Connah's Quay on 4th May, 1,800 at Gronant on 18th July, 2,000 at Connah's Quay 28th July, 1,700 at Point of Ayr on 4th November and 1,800 at Sealand on 27th November.

RUFF***Philomachus pugnax***

Recorded only from Shotton, Connah's Quay and Sealand with all sightings between 18th July and 10th December. Maximum count was of 4 birds at Sealand on 24th November.

JACK SNIFE***Lymnocyptes minimus***

A reduction in the number of sightings compared with previous years with only single birds seen at Point of Ayr on 20th January, Holt on 15th February, Pant-yr-Ochain on 21st March and Padeswood Pool on 1st April.

SNIFE***Gallinago gallinago***

Seen throughout the year on the coastal strip between Shotton and Rhos Point. Maximum counts included 80 at Shotton on 2nd February and 50 there on 12th, 4 at Rhos Point on 4th March, 35 at Shotton on 11th March, 8 at Padeswood Pool on 8th September and 30 at Shotton on 10th November.

WOODCOCK***Scolopax rusticola***

Birds seen roding at three sites: Llyn Helyg, Loggerheads and Tir-yr-Coed; highest count was of 5 birds at Glyn Ceiriog in November. Also reported from Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Ruabon, Pendinas and Gresford.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT***Limosa limosa***

Most sightings were at Connah's Quay and Sealand with numbers increasing over the past decline and also increased counts over previous years. Highest counts at Connah's Quay included: 500 on 9th January, 1,000 on 22nd and 1,000 on 27th, 1,000 on 17th and 20th February, 600+ on 11th November and 1,000 on 27th December.

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

Reports from Rhos Point, Gronant, Connah's Quay and Point of Ayr usually in small numbers but 65 at Connah's Quay on 2nd August and 500 at Point of Ayr on 8th December.

WHIMBREL***Numenius phaeopus***

With the exception of 2 birds seen at Dyserth on 24th May and 2 at Llyn Helyg on 21st August all other records are from the coastal strip. Maximum counts being 13 at Connah's Quay on 26th April and 11 there on 2nd August.

CURLEW***Numenius arquata***

Once again records show that birds were present on the coastal strip in every month of the year except June. Maximum counts included 730 at Point of Ayr on 22nd January and 860 there on 5th February, 400 at Rhuddlan on 18th February, 445 at Point of Ayr on 17th March, 1,000+ at Point of Ayr on 7th August and 1,050 there on 12th, 760 at Point of Ayr on 25th November and 279 at Rhuddlan on 8th December.

SPOTTED REDSHANK

Tringa erythropus

Only recorded at Connah's Quay, Shotton and Point of Ayr. Highest counts at Connah's Quay were 13 on 7th August, 23 on 29th September and 26 on 21st October.

REDSHANK

Tringa totanus

Common on the coastal strip between Shotton and Abergele. Maximum counts being 1,000 at Connah's Quay on 2nd January and 1,000 there on 27th August, 1,000+ at Point of Ayr on 21st October, 3,000 at Connah's Quay on 23rd November and 1,800 there on 24th November.

GREENSHANK

Tringa nebularia

Seen along the coastal strip with frequent sightings from Point of Ayr, Shotton and Connah's Quay. Most records involved fewer than 10 birds but counts of 15 at Point of Ayr on 12th August and 12 there on 23rd and 13 at Shotton on 26th August were also reported.

GREEN SANDPIPER

Tringa ochropus

Recorded in most months of the year mainly along the Dee in small numbers with maximum of 4 at Shotton on 5th July and 12th August. Also recorded at a few suitable localities inland with a maximum of 7 at Padeswood Pool on the 24th and 25th August.

WOOD SANDPIPER

Tringa glareola

Single birds recorded at Connah's Quay on 2nd and 10th July, 2 there on the 4th July and a maximum of 3 on the 7th July. 1 at Wrexham on 4th September.

COMMON SANDPIPER

Tringa hypoleucos

Recorded at many localities throughout the season, the first at Connah's Quay on the 26th March. No definite breeding records were received but seen at suitable sites such as Llanarmon DC on 22nd April and Llyn Brenig on 5th July. Maximum numbers 14 on 7th July, 20 on the 14th July and 15 on the 5th August all at Connah's Quay. 12 at Shotton on the 12th August.

TURNSTONE

Arenaria interpres

Noted most months of the year along the coastline, the largest numbers favouring Rhos Point and Pensarn. Maximum numbers 320 at Rhos on the 17th March and 314 at Pensarn on the 16th December.

ARCTIC SKUA

Stercorarius parasiticus

Small numbers noted offshore between May and November with a maximum of 5 at Prestatyn on the 23rd September.

GREAT SKUA

Stercorarius skua

There were only 4 reports of this rather scarce visitor. 1 at Rhos Point on 22nd September, 1 at both Point of Ayr and Connah's

Quay on the 23rd September and finally a single bird again at Point of Ayr on 20th October.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL

Larus melanocephalus

Reports suggest an adult and an immature bird present at Gronant/Point of Ayr during June and July. Sightings reported were: adult bird at Gronant on 7th June and again on 13th July and at Point of Ayr on 7th July; adult and immature birds at Point of Ayr on 7th June and at Gronant on 16th June.

LITTLE GULL

Larus minutus

Single birds on the 8th July at Point of Ayr and the 13th July at Gronant.

BLACK-HEADED GULL

Larus ridibundus

Common. Present throughout the year along the coast with maximum numbers of 9,000+ at Rhyl Marine Lake on the 15th January. Maximum numbers inland 180+ at Llyn Helyg on the 9th September and 300 at Ruabon on the 21st September.

COMMON GULL

Larus canus

Largest numbers noted during the winter with 2,000 at Rhuddlan on the 27th January, 6,000+ at Gronant on the 28th January and 1,400 at Colwyn Bay on the 26th February. 415 birds were noted moving west at the Point of Ayr on the 10th June.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Larus fuscus

Fairly common. Largest count: 1,180 at Sealand on the 11th November.

HERRING GULL

Larus argentatus

Common. Maximum count: 3,000 at Rhyl on the 5th February. A 'yellow legged' bird was recorded at Connah's Quay on the 7th and 13th July.

GLAUCOUS GULL

Larus hyperboreus

First winter birds recorded at Sealand on the 25th January and at Rhos Point on the 19th February. Immature birds were seen at Connah's Quay on the 29th November and 29th December.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Larus marinus

Fairly common. Maximum count: 200 at Rhyl on the 5th February.

KITTIWAKE

Rissa tridactyla

An unusually large number noted on the 9th June at Rhos Point when 692 birds were counted moving in a westerly direction. Apart from this other notable counts were 55 on the 13th May, 50 on the 22nd September and 73 on the 25th November, all at Rhos Point and 60 at Prestatyn on the 23rd September.

GULL BILLED TERN

Gelochelidon nilotica

A single bird reported at Gronant on 11th, 12th and 13th July.

SANDWICH TERN

Sterna sandvicensis

Observed in reasonable numbers between April and September. Maximum counts: 650 Point of Ayr on 14th July, 200 at Gronant on 21st July, 800 at Point of Ayr on 29th July and 173 at Point of Ayr on 8th September.

ROSEATE TERN

Sterna dougallii

Uncommon. 1 Shotton 14th May and 3 14th July, 2 16th July, 3 17th July, 3 19th July and 1 20th July, all at Point of Ayr.

COMMON TERN

Sterna hirundo

Up to 300 birds were recorded at the Shotton colony during the Spring. Common along the Dee during late summer with an unusually late record of a single bird on the River Clwyd, Rhyl, on the 10th November.

ARCTIC TERN

Sterna paradisaea

Most records were from the Point of Ayr in July with 4 on the 8th, 3 on the 13th, 2 on the 14th and a maximum count of 10 on the 17th. Other records were 1 at Connah's Quay on the 30th April and 2 at Rhyl on the 12th August.

FORSTER'S TERN (See front cover)

LITTLE TERN

Sterna albifrons

An estimated 30 pairs bred at the Gornant colony this year, with 20-30 young birds fledged. The maximum count was 400+ on the 19th July. Little Terns were also noted at other places along the Dee during the season but these presumably emanated from the colony.

BLACK TERN

Chlidonias niger

A single bird was at the Point of Ayr on the 4th July, and the same location produced other individuals on the 7th August and the 8th and 10th September. Rhos Point provided 2 birds on the 30th September and singles at Connah's Quay on the 30th September and the 11th November. The only inland record was from Gresford Flash on the 3rd September.

GUILLEMOT

Uria aalge

Small numbers recorded off shore mainly during the autumn and winter months with maximum of 6 at Llandulas on the 19th February and at Rhos Point on the 9th December. The only summer record was of a single bird at Point of Ayr on 10th June. A storm blown individual was found at Hawarden on the 8th February.

BLACK GUILLEMOT

Cephus grylle

A single bird in summer plumage was observed at Rhos Point

on 30th September. This is believed to be only the second record for the county.

AUK SPECIES

***Alcidae* spp**

At Rhos Point on 6th October 172 unidentified auks were observed moving west and a similar movement involving 188 birds was also reported at Rhos on 25th November.

RAZORBILL

Alca torda

Seen in small numbers during the winter months with a maximum of 5 at Rhos Point on the 28th December.

STOCK DOVE

Columba oenas

More records than usual for this often overlooked species, being noted at many different localities at all times of the year. Maximum counts 34 Kinnerton on 26th May, 30 Connah's Quay on 4th August, and 90 at Borrass on 19th November.

WOODPIGEON

Columba palumbus

Common and increasing resident. Maximum counts 250 at Sealand on 2nd January and the same number at Ruabon on 12th March. Breeding was noted at Gresford on the 14th November when 2 young were found in a nest.

COLLARED DOVE

Streptopelia decaocto

Becoming common and widespread in many suburban areas. Maximum counts 22 at Rhuddlan on 15th July and 24 at Gresford Flash on 30th December.

TURTLE DOVE

Streptopelia turtur

Scarce summer visitor, two birds being recorded at Gronant on the 6th May and single birds at Point of Ayr on 12th May, Bodelwyddan on the 31st July and Dyserth on the 10th September. A juvenile was recorded at Pendinas on the 17th September and 3 males in song at Nercwys on an unrecorded date.

CUCKOO

Cuculus canorus

A fairly common summer visitor in upland areas but also recorded regularly at Shotton during the season. Earliest date was at this location on the 21st April.

BARN OWL

Tyto alba

Very few records received for this scarce resident. Two birds were regularly seen in the Kinnel Bay area and 2 at Penymynydd between the 16th and 21st July. The only other records were of single birds at Rhuddlan on 29th October and 20th December.

LITTLE OWL

Athene noctua

Widely reported throughout Clwyd during the year, although there were no confirmed reports of breeding.

TAWNY OWL

Strix aluco

The small number of reports received do not reflect the status of this fairly common species within the County. 3 birds were recorded at Llyn Helyg on the 12th April and 2 at Dobshill on the 26th December. Other records were of single birds from widely scattered localities.

SHORT-EARED OWL

Asio flammeus

As usual there were many reports from the coastal strip during the autumn and winter with a maximum seen at the Point of Ayr on the 11th and 17th March and again at the same location on the 25th March. There were no breeding records submitted this year.

NIGHTJAR

Caprimulgus europaeus

Only one record received of this very scarce summer visitor. This was from Tainant on the 14th June.

SWIFT

Apus apus

Common and widespread. First seen at Ruabon on the 26th April and the last at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on the 16th August.

KINGFISHER

Alcedo atthis

Regularly recorded throughout the year from many different localities, although no confirmed breeding reports received.

GREEN WOODPECKER

Picus viridis

Recorded throughout the year from most suitable localities.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Dendrocopus major

Common throughout the County.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Dendrocopus minor

Scarce resident. Single birds recorded at Dobshill on 12th January, Penymynydd on the 21st April, Trefnant on the 23rd May and Llanfair DC. on 24th August. A male bird was seen at Cilygroeslwyd Wood on 24th August and a female at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 23rd December. 2 birds were recorded from Pant-yr-Ochain and Gresford Flash on 30th December. Undated sightings were received from Llanarmon when a bird was seen 'daily between February and April', and also this species was recorded regularly in spring at Nercwys.

SKYLARK

Alauda arvensis

Most records received were of winter flocks from coastal areas with maximums of 300+ at Sealand on 21st January and 500+ at Connah's Quay on 23rd November. Whilst this bird is quite widespread as a breeding species it was apparently ignored by observers. Future breeding records would be of considerable interest in view of the threat posed by changing agricultural practices.

SHORE LARK***Eremophila alpestris***

The only record received for this scarce winter visitor was of 2 birds at the Point of Ayr on the 21st January.

SAND MARTIN***Riparia riparia***

Few records received for this diminishing species, with a maximum of 12 birds on the 29th April at Gronant. Earliest date was of a single bird at Sealand on the 13th April and 2 at Connah's Quay on 14th April.

SWALLOW***Hirundo rustica***

Abundant and widespread. First recorded at Llanasa on 11th April the latest date being the 15th November at Connah's Quay.

HOUSE MARTIN***Delichon urbica***

Common. Earliest date 14th April Point of Ayr. Latest date 21st September at Gresford where a pair was observed with young.

TREE PIPIT***Anthus trivialis***

Local. Recorded at Nercwys, Cilcain and Pendinas during the breeding season. Coastal records were of a single bird at Point of Ayr on 6th May, and 9 at the same location on 12th May.

MEADOW PIPIT***Anthus pratensis***

Common breeding species on moorland and locally at sea level. Largest count was from Point of Ayr on 8th April when a flock of 320 birds was noted.

ROCK PIPIT***Anthus spinoletta***

Uncommon. Recorded mainly during the winter months in small numbers. 1 at Connah's Quay on the 9th January and 20th February. 1 at Rhos Point on the 26th February and 3 at Point of Ayr on the 18th March. 1 at Rhos Point on the 15th September and 5 at the same location on the 26th October with 4 at Point of Ayr on the same date. 2 at Point of Ayr on 4th November and a single bird on the 11th November. Single birds were recorded at Connah's Quay on the 19th November and at Rhos Point on the 25th November and the 23rd December.

YELLOW-WAGTAIL***Motacilla flava***

Local. Largest concentrations were 17 at Connah's Quay on the 23rd April, 25 at Shotton on the 5th August rising to 50 on the 15th August and peaking at 100 on the 16th August. 1 Blue headed race recorded at Gronant on the 21st May. The only reported breeding record was of a nest with young at Connah's Quay on the 26th May.

GREY WAGTAIL**Motacilla cinerea**

Regularly noted on streams in the hills and on lower ground during autumn and winter. Definite breeding recorded at Llan-dulas and Llanarmon-yn-Ial.

WHITE WAGTAIL**Motacilla alba alba**

A regular passage migrant during spring although numbers were down somewhat this year. Maximum count of 20 at Sealand on the 21st April.

PIED WAGTAIL**Motacilla alba yarrellii**

Common and widespread.

DIPPER**Cinclus cinclus**

Reported from a number of localities mainly in the Clwyddian range.

WREN**Troglodytes troglodytes**

Common throughout the County.

DUNNOCK**Prunella modularis**

Common and widespread.

ROBIN**Erithacus rubecula**

Common.

BLACK REDSTART**Phoenicurus ochruros**

Very local winter visitor. Two females at Prestatyn 31st October, 1 male Shotton 21st December.

REDSTART**Phoenicurus phoenicurus**

Breeding recorded in various areas mostly in Clwyddian range.

WHINCHAT**Saxicola rubetra**

Common breeding bird in upland areas.

STONECHAT**Saxicola torquata**

Recorded throughout the year with widespread reports in both coastal and upland regions. e.g. Esclusham mountain and Gronant.

WHEATEAR**Oenanthe oenanthe**

A common breeding species along the Clwyddian range and in other upland areas. First recorded at Connah's Quay on the 26th March the last sighting at Mostyn on 28th October.

RING OUZEL**Turdus torquatus**

Few records received for this shy breeding species. A party of 12 were seen moving through the Llanarmon-yn-Ial area on the 14th April and 1 male and 3 females were seen in the Cilcain area

on the same date. Other records refer to 1 or 2 birds at various other upland sites and a pair noted at Eglewseg on the 24th June.

BLACKBIRD

Turdus merula

Abundant.

FIELDFARE

Turdus pilaris

Common winter visitor. First autumn record 1 at Prestatyn on the 1st November. Maximum count 2,000 birds at Rhuddlan on the 3rd of February. The last spring record 18th April at Llanarmon-yn-Ial.

SONG THRUSH

Turdus philomelos

Common.

REDWING

Turdus iliacus

Common winter visitor. Largest counts being 1,300 at Rhuddlan on the 3rd February and 1,500 at Nercwys, no date given.

MISTLE THRUSH

Turdus viscivorus

Common throughout the County. Highest counts included 30 at Esclusham mountain on the 5th August. 17 at Penymynydd on the 15th August and 16 at Prestatyn on the 17th August.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Locustella naevia

Only three records received this year. There were singing males at Sealand on the 7th May and at Wrexham on the 25th June. 1 at Nercwys on the 7th September.

SEDGE WARBLER

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

No breeding records received this year but mostly noted at Shotton during the summer and early autumn. Other records include two males at Gronant on the 19th May, 1 male at Moss Valley on the 3rd June and 1 male Padeswood Pool on the 17th June.

REED WARBLER

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Apart from a bird singing at Borrass on the 21st June all other records refer to Shotton with a maximum of 6 at this site on the 21st July. No definite breeding records submitted.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

Sylvia curruca

Scarce breeding species often overlooked but recorded at a number of sites in the County mainly along the coastal fringe. Exceptions were single males at Padeswood Pool on the 19th May and the 15th June.

WHITETHROAT

Sylvia communis

Recorded at many widely separated areas during the season indicating a healthy population once more. No definite breeding records.

GARDEN WARBLER***Sylvia borin***

Locally common. A nest with eggs was found at Erddig on the 10th June.

BLACKCAP***Sylvia atricapilla***

Common. Winter records included two daily between the 9th and 26th January at Ruabon and a male at Gresford on the 20th December.

WOOD WARBLER***Phylloscopus sibilatrix***

Reasonably common. 12 males recorded in the Loggerheads on the 20th May.

CHIFFCHAFF***Phylloscopus collybita***

Common. Winter birds recorded at Wrexham on the 26th November and at Point of Ayr on the 26th December, the former being noted as a 'pale bird'.

WILLOW WARBLER***Phylloscopus trochilus***

Abundant and widespread.

GOLDCREST***Regulus regulus***

Common.

FIRECREST***Regulus ignicapillus***

The only record received this year was of a single bird at Shotton on the 16th November.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER***Muscicapa striata***

Fairly common. No breeding records received.

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER***Ficedula parva***

Single birds recorded at Point of Ayr and Talacre on the 28th October possibly referring to the same individual.

PIED FLYCATCHER***Ficedula hypoleuca***

Common breeder but few records received. One pair using nestbox at Llanarmon-yn-Ial successfully raised 7 young.

LONG-TAILED TIT***Aegithalos caudatus***

Fairly common resident. Maximum 40+ Tir-yr-Coed, no date.

MARSH TIT***Parus palustris***

Fairly common. Reported from several lowland localities in addition to the Clwydian Range from which it has most usually been reported in recent years.

WILLOW TIT***Parus montanus***

Scattered records. Apparently less common than the last species.

COAL TIT Fairly common.	Parus ater
BLUE TIT Abundant and widespread.	Parus caeruleus
GREAT TIT Abundant and widespread.	Parus major
NUTHATCH Fairly common.	Sitta europaea
TREE CREEPER Fairly common.	Certhia familiaris
GREAT GREY SHRIKE A single bird at Connah's Quay on 16th August.	Lanius excubitor
JAY Common and widespread.	Garrulus glandarius
MAGPIE Abundant.	Pica pica
CHOUGH Reported from the Horseshoe Pass on five occasions in the first half of the year.	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax
JACKDAW Common.	Corvus monedula
ROOK Common.	Corvus frugilegus
CARRION CROW Common.	Corvus corone
RAVEN Reported frequently from upland areas and in small numbers, mainly in winter, from the Dee Estuary and Prestatyn. 14 were seen at Llanfihangel on 21st March.	Corvus corax
STARLING Abundant. On 28th October 20 — 30,000 were roosting at Connah's Quay.	Sturnus vulgaris
HOUSE SPARROW Abundant.	Passer domesticus
TREE SPARROW Widespread, but with no reports of large flocks this year.	Passer montanus

CHAFFINCH***Fringilla coelebs***

Common, but with the highest count being 510 flying south-east at the Point of Ayr on the 11th November.

BRAMBLING***Fringilla montifringilla***

Commonly reported, mainly from areas adjoining the Dee Estuary in the early part of the year. No records however, from the end of March until 22nd December when a few were seen at Tir-yr-Coed.

GREENFINCH***Carduelis chloris***

Common, but with no high counts this year.

GOLDFINCH***Carduelis carduelis***

Common and widespread.

SISKIN***Carduelis spinus***

Frequently recorded from many areas, the highest count being 89 at the Point of Ayr on the 11th November. Breeding only confirmed at Llanfihangel, but presumably occurred more widely.

LINNET***Acanthis cannabina***

Common. Unusually, the largest reported flock was seen in summer when 200 birds were at Connah's Quay on the 29th July.

TWITE***Acanthis flavirostris***

Only four records were received, all relating to sightings at Connah's Quay. The largest flock by a considerable margin was one of 50+ on the 23rd November.

REDPOLL***Acanthis flammea***

Common.

CROSSBILL***Loxia curvirostra***

The only records were of one heard in Clocaenog Forest on the 28th January, one female seen at Hawarden on the 4th March, three at Pont Petryal, Clocaenog, on the 27th August and one at Nercwys on the 9th December.

BULLFINCH***Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

Common.

HAWFINCH***Coccothraustes coccothraustes***

Single records from Halkyn on the 15th January and the 18th March and one adult and a juvenile were seen at Tremeirchion on the 8th July.

LAPLAND BUNTING***Calcarius lapponicus***

One at Rhos Point on the 25th November was the only record.

SNOW BUNTING

Reported from the coast, mainly at the Point of Ayr between the 21st January and the 17th March inclusive and between the 4th November and the 23rd of December inclusive. The largest number reported was of 33 at the Point of Ayr on the 9th December. A single bird was reported from Connah's Quay on the 25th January and 8 were at Shotton on the 23rd November.

YELLOWHAMMER

Fairly common with a maximum count of 37 at the Point of Ayr on the 11th November.

REED BUNTING

Common in suitable areas.

CORN BUNTING

Birds were reported frequently from Sealand, Shotton and Connah's Quay with a maximum count of 52 at Sealand on the 25th November. Single birds were recorded at Kinnerton on the 28th May and the 18th June and at the Point of Ayr on the 27th October.

Plectrophenax nivalis

Emberiza citrinella

Emberiza schoeniclus

Miliaria calandra

CONTRIBUTORS 1984



R. CORRAN

Mrs. C. A. COCKBAIN

C. M. POOLE

P. DOUGLAS

M. D. ROGERS

D. F. RICHARDSON

R. BAGGULEY

G. MORGAN

P. FRANKS

R. R. BIRCH

E. J. ABRAHAM

Mrs. K. CORRAN

P. FORMSTONE

S. J. POOLE

Mrs. L. ROBERTS

P. H. RATHBONE

J. PHILLIPS

Mrs. M. BAGGULEY

R. DELVES-BROUGHTON

J. N. PARKINSON

L. BAXTER

R. P. COCKBAIN

J. B. FORMSTONE

L. HAWKINS

M. G. NEAL

M. R. JONES

Mrs. M. RATHBONE

B. K. HASSALL

C. E. WELLS

J. C. PETERS

J. E. BIRCH

E. J. STOKES

R. HANDLEY

**MEMBERS OF WREXHAM BIRDWATCHERS
MEMBERS OF DEESIDE NATURALISTS SOCIETY
MEMBERS OF MERSEYSIDE RINGING GROUP**