

CLWYD BIRD REPORT 1989



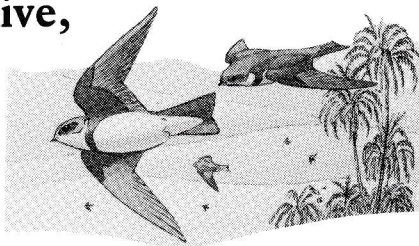
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Ducks, Swans and Geese.	G. E. Morris.
Waders.	C. D. Rowley.
Pigeons to Woodpeckers.	M. D. Rogers.
Passerines.	J. C. Weldrick and M. G. Neal.

CLWYD BIRD REPORT . . . Editorial Team

I. Higginson, P. H. Rathbone, J.C.Weldrick

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EDITORIAL

It is a great tribute to a small but enthusiastic band of dedicated people that this report, the first for five years, has finally become a reality. I hope that the rest of Clwyd's ever increasing ranks of birdwatchers will regard its appearance as a milestone in Clwyd's modern ornithological history. I also hope that despite its inevitable errors and omissions it will spur people on to greater heights of involvement over the coming years.

It would not be correct to allow the past to be forgotten and I would like to pay tribute to Ron Birch, the Flintshire and Denbighshire County Recorder for many years, who more or less single handedly produced the County Report up to 1984. It was an almost impossible task to keep up the momentum with so many more birders submitting records and therefore when Ron decided to relinquish the responsibility it was considered appropriate to form a Recording Group to carry on the work. It was in May, 1989, therefore, that a meeting was called under the Chairmanship of Mr. Peter Hope Jones, the then Chairman of the Welsh Ornithological Society, to which were invited representatives from the various active bodies in Clwyd. The main task of the meeting was to appoint a new County Recorder and then to charge him with the responsibility of first producing a 1989 report, then a composite report covering 1985/88 and thereafter an annual report of the County's ornithology. I accepted the appointment at that meeting and undertook to follow its directive regarding the preparation of the reports.

The first task was to form the Clwyd Bird Recording Group (CBRG) comprising representatives from Deeside Naturalists Society, Clwyd Ornithological Society, the R.S.P.B. and Wrexham Birders plus one or two independent individuals of high standing within the County. Various meetings have been held since and a sub-group to consider rarities has also been formed, again made up of experienced local ornithologists.

As a result, we now have a formal system for accepting and considering records and I know that many people would welcome some guidance on the manner in which these records should be submitted. This and rarity procedures are dealt with elsewhere in the report together with the agreed list of Welsh and Clwyd Rarities. These lists are not final and the CBRG would gladly receive any comments regarding species which should be added to or removed from the list. Similarly, we know that not all the decisions we have taken this year will meet with universal approval and we fully expect comment and indeed criticism of the final result. We welcome such discussion on any aspect of our organization and on the format of the report but it must be said that we will only take account of constructive and helpful comments.

I hope that you will find the contents of this new style publication of interest and that it will be accepted as the first step towards a more comprehensive and learned account of the County's avifauna. It is quite possible that in a few years time a Breeding Atlas will be considered but whatever the future holds it is the CBRG's intention to continue to strengthen and co-ordinate the undoubted talent which exists within the County. I know that I can count on the co-operation and participation of all serious ornithologists during the years to come.

In conclusion I would like to acknowledge the help and assistance I have received from many individuals, in particular the wise counsel received from Peter Hope Jones at the outset. His quiet but persuasive Chairmanship launched the present initiative. I would also like to add my thanks to Mrs Louise Jones, the Chairperson of the Clwyd Ornithological Society, who acted as a most charming catalyst in bringing the parties together and to her husband, Elvet, who kindly took on the Hon. Treasurer's task. Also many thanks to Roger Bagguley and to Ian Higginson for their superb vignettes but my very special appreciation must go to Thelma Sykes for her evocative cover design. We are fortunate to have such

talented artists within the County.

Some of the more obscure Welsh names were a problem but thanks to the advice and assistance of John Lawton Roberts and Peter Hope Jones this difficulty was overcome.

The article on Dee Estuary Conservation Issues has been submitted by Ian Higginson and Glenn Morris has written an interesting account of the wintering Black-tailed Godwits, Knot and Dunlin populations based on his observations at Connah's Quay. Ian Spence has written a most informative Ringing Report. The weather summary is the work of Geoff Neal, well known for similar articles over the years in the Spurn Bird Observatory Report. The information he used came by kind permission of Mr. Len Walls of the Halkyn Weather Station.

To all these Friends of Clwyd we extend our warmest thanks.

Last, but by no means least, I must mention the various organisations that have contributed financially to the production of this Report. These include Clwyd County Council, Delyn Borough Council, Colwyn Borough and Glyndwr District Councils, Synthite Ltd, British Coal (Point of Air), The Welsh Ornithological Society, Dee Estuary Conservation Group, Deeside Naturalists Society, Wrexham Birders and Clwyd Ornithological Society. Our advertisers too, deserve our appreciation; we hope that they will benefit from their investment.

On behalf of the CBRG, I wish to express our grateful thanks to all these bodies and individuals who have helped bring this publication to fruition. We gratefully acknowledge the co-operation of all those who have sent in their records this year; without their help there would not have been a Report and we earnestly hope that their numbers will be swelled next year. If, by any unfortunate oversight, we have omitted any name or failed to credit any organisation then we apologise wholeheartedly but thank them nevertheless.

On a personal note I would like to record my own appreciation for the marvellous camaraderie that has existed throughout the whole year amongst my CBRG colleagues. Everyone has worked so very hard to put Clwyd back on the bird map and I am most grateful for their unstinting support.

Peter H. Rathbone
County Recorder



NOTES ON THE SUBMISSION OF RECORDS

It has become very apparent over the last twelve months that the inconsistency of style adopted by individual contributors when submitting their records, has to some degree, delayed the publication of this 1989 Report. The enormous amount of painstaking sorting required takes an inordinate length of time and as we are not yet fully computerised, we are therefore without an automatic record sorting system. It is absolutely vital that some standard form of submission must be adopted to reduce the workload in future years and thereby speed up the appearance of the Report.

It is for this reason that we are enclosing a copy of a Standard Recording Form and would ask contributors to use this for their 1990 records and for subsequent years. Further copies are available from the County Recorder or from any other member of the CBRG. We urge everyone to use this system as it should ensure earlier production of the Report.

Please bring this matter to the attention of anyone you know who may be submitting records in the future. Thank you.

STANDARD RECORDING FORM

In completing the form, the following suggestions may be of help:-

- 1) Always use the Standard Form except for British and Welsh rarities.
- 2) Use one side only - full descriptions should be written on a separate sheet and attached to the form.
- 3) Use bold, legible lettering in black ink or type.
- 4) Always show
 - a) Date.
 - b) Location (with either O/S map reference or nearest town/village/landmark).
 - c) Species (with note of sex & age).
 - d) Number of birds seen.
 - e) Other relevant information if necessary.
- 5) It would help considerably if contributors sent in monthly returns on a regular basis throughout the year.
- 6) PLEASE FOLLOW THE SPECIES ORDER (VOOUS) AS USED IN THE SYSTEMATIC LIST IN THIS REPORT AND GROUP YOUR RECORDS FOR EACH SPECIES IN DATE ORDER.
- 7) The local significance of some records may not be immediately apparent to the observer. This applies mainly to common or garden birds (see special note on this subject). Any unusual behaviour, number or happening should be included as should any anecdote which may be of use in preparing a readable report.
- 8) Please send all Clwyd records promptly at the end of the year to reach the County Recorder by January 31st. As mentioned above, a monthly return would be most helpful. Any records received after February 28th. may not be published as the Report has to be ready much earlier in 1991.

N.B. If any reader has Clwyd records for the years 1985/88 inclusive, could they please submit these to the County Recorder as soon as possible if they have not already done so.

CLWYD RARITIES

The following is a list drawn up by the CBRG and includes species for which breeding records are also required (marked B). For records of these species, some brief supporting information is required (e.g. salient points, call or song and behaviour) to enable the CBRG rarity sub-group to arrive at a decision. It is accepted that some of these records will be for species which are instantly recognisable to most

observers e.g. avocet or hoopoe and our insistence on a description accompanying these records may seem unreasonable to the more experienced contributors. Nevertheless, it is felt that a fair system has to be adopted to overcome inevitable problems that are bound to arise. Records for Clwyd rarities not supported by such a description may therefore be rejected without discussion. If any person has any constructive suggestion regarding a more satisfactory method of dealing with these records, please contact the County Recorder or any member of the CBRG. Similarly, if you have any comments about the rarity list itself, please let us know.

Black-throated Diver		Great Skua	
Great Northern Diver		Mediterranean Gull	
Red-necked Grebe		Little Gull	
Slavonian Grebe		Sabine's Gull	
Black-necked Grebe		Glaucous Gull	
Sooty Shearwater		Roseate Tern	
Storm Petrel		Black Guillemot	
Bittern	B	Little Auk	
Spoonbill		Puffin	
Whooper Swan		Turtle Dove	B
Bewick's Swan		Ring-necked Parakeet	B
Brent Goose		Long-eared Owl	B
Barnacle Goose		Nightjar	B
Mandarin	B	Hoopoe	
Garganey	B	Wryneck	
Smew		Woodlark	
Velvet Scoter		Shorelark	
Red Kite	B	Water Pipit	
Marsh Harrier		Waxwing	
Goshawk	B	Nightingale	B
Osprey		Black Redstart	B
Hobby	B	Cetti's Warbler	
Quail	B	Marsh Warbler	B
Corncrake	B	Firecrest	B
Avocet		Bearded Reedling	B
Little-ringed Plover	B	Golden Oriole	B
Dotterel		Red-backed Shrike	B
Pectoral Sandpiper		Great Grey Shrike	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper		Chough	B
Wood sandpiper		Lapland Bunting	
Grey Phalarope		Twite	B
Pomarine Skua		Corn Bunting	B

Breeding Species For Which Records Required

Great Crested Grebe	Dunlin
Greylag Goose	Ruff
Teal	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
Pintail	Sand Martin
Shoveler	Rock Pipit
Pochard	Yellow Wagtail
Tufted Duck	Redwing

Red-breasted Merganser
Goosander
Ruddy Duck
Water Rail
Golden Plover

Fieldfare
Grasshopper Warbler
Reed Warbler
Hawfinch

WELSH RARITIES

The following is a list of species regarded by the Welsh Records Advisory Group (WRAG) as rare in Wales, records for which **MUST** be accompanied by a full supporting description. It is recommended that such records be submitted in the manner required by the British Birds Rarities Committee on their Report Form (reproduced below). The extra guidelines also apply. Any Welsh rarity record not accompanied by a description will be almost certainly rejected.

Cory's Shearwater	Ring-billed Gull
Great Shearwater	Iceland Gull
Purple Heron	Richard's Pipit
White Stork	Tawny Pipit
Bean Goose	Yellow Wagtail (except flava & flavissima)
Snow Goose	Bluethroat
Red-crested Pochard	Savi's Warbler
Ferruginous Duck	Aquatic Warbler
Honey Buzzard	Icterine Warbler
Montagu's Harrier	Melodious Warbler
Rough-legged Buzzard	Dartford Warbler
Golden Eagle	Darred Warbler
Spotted Crake	Yellow-browed Warbler
Crane	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Stone Curlew	Serin
Kentish Plover	Common Rosefinch
Temminck's Stint	Cirl Bunting
Red-necked Phalarope	Ortolan Bunting
Long-tailed Skua	

Please **SEND ALL WRAG RECORDS TO THE CLWYD COUNTY RECORDER** who will pass them on for consideration.

BRITISH BIRD RARITIES

Any contributor who has discovered a bird which is on the BBRC Rarity List (published from time to time in British Birds magazine or available from the County Recorder, SAE please) should send in the record in the accepted and preferred manner as shown below:-

SPECIES

Number of birds	Sex	Age
-----------------	-----	-----

PLACE

DATE(S) of your observation:

Times:

Total duration:

Earlier/later dates by others if known:

First & last dates if known:

OBSERVER (BLOCK CAPITALS):

Address:

Telephone:

Other observers (BLOCK CAPITALS):

Who found it?:

Who first identified it?:

Who is also reporting it, if known?:

Was it trapped for ringing?:

Date, if known:

Ringer, if known:

If dead, is it preserved?:

Where?:

Was it photographed?:

Photographer & address, if known:

Optical aids used:

Distance from bird:

Previous experience of species:

Experience of similar species:

Weather conditions:

Details of trapped bird to be completed by ringer.

Date trapped:

Ring number:

NB. If you were the ringer, this report should be submitted via the BTO Ringing office.

DESCRIPTION: Include an account of the relevant circumstances of the observation and a detailed description of the bird(s), preferably based on notes taken at the time of the observation before reference to books. Attach original field notes where available. Attach extra sheets if necessary.

[Enter full description here]

And finally, is this record 100% certain? Any who disagree?

_____”_____

THE FOLLOWING EXTRA GUIDELINES MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE:-

1) Do not be too brief in your description of the bird. The fullest possible detail is required, plus a sketch if possible. Do not worry if you are not a Tunncliffe or a Gillmor, a simple drawing with salient features noted at the time will suffice. Insufficient information usually guarantees rejection and please remember that all decisions are those of the BBRC and not the CBRG.

2) If you discover a British rarity, you should endeavour to obtain at least one other independent observer to submit a record also. This does not mean that you will have to necessarily share the credit but it does assist the Rarity Committee to arrive at a favourable decision.

3) Notes should be written at the time of the sighting and not after you have returned home and consulted the literature. This can often prompt you to remember points that you have not really seen. Take a notebook with you everywhere you go!

4) Some rarities, seen by many observers, are not always submitted. Everyone leaves it to everyone else. Submit the record even if you were only one of 20 or 30 people present. Yours might be the only record received.

N.B. All the above points apply equally to WRAG records.

BBRC rarity descriptions should be sent to the Clwyd County Recorder for onward submission to the Hon. Secretary of BBRC or sent direct to him, Mr. M.J. Rogers, Bag End, Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall, TR26 3AZ, with a copy to the County Recorder please.

BBRC Decisions

During our first year we have received a small number of records for species falling within the BBRC rarity category and to date we have received decisions on a few. These are tabled below together with other decisions on records from previous years.

Greenish Warbler. Prestatyn.	14th.Mar.1987.	Rejected.
Long-billed Dowitcher P.O.A.	12th.Aug.1987.	Rejected.
Short-billed Dowitcher P.O.A.	15th.Aug.1987.	Rejected.
Stilt Sandpiper P.O.A.	16th.Aug.1987.	Rejected.
Forster's Tern. Gronant.	20th.Aug.-20th.Sep.1987.	Accepted. (P.D., R.H.H.E., R.H., C.D.R. et al)
Forster's Tern. Gronant.	31st.Aug.-20th.Sep.1987.	Accepted. (P.D., R.H.H.E., R.H., C.D.R. et al)
Red-rumped Swallow. (5 or 7) P.O.A.	26th.Oct.1987. & (4) up to Oct.28th.	Accepted. (J.C.W.)
Ring-necked Duck.(f.) Rhyl.	8th./9th.Feb 1988	Accepted. (B.A.H., M.B.H., M.L.,P.L.)
Ring-necked Duck.(f.) Abergele.	13th.Feb./mid Mar	Accepted. (P.D., T.H., E.C.O. et al)
Little Egret. P.O.A.	19/24th.Aug.1989.	Accepted (N.H.)
Little Egret. Oakenholt Marsh.	14/25th.Sep 1989.	Accepted. (N.H., H.B.)

RECORDS OF COMMON GARDEN BIRDS

We have often been asked by contributors whether or not we require every record of the blue tits, chaffinches, wrens or other common birds that they count in their gardens each day. The quick answer to this is "no" but we hasten to qualify that statement. It is vitally important that we are able to build up a status picture, right across the County of those species normally regarded as common and the following notes may assist contributors how best to submit these records.

Garden Birds

Record the maximum number of birds of all species seen at any one time on a daily basis and submit monthly maxima to the Recorder with location details and any other relevant information. This type of recording will assist in building up the status and population figure for common species in different areas of Clwyd.

Walking

When taking a walk, record everything you see and hear and send in numbers for each species, with details of location and duration of walk.

Point Counts

This is a census system introduced by the BTO for their recent Breeding Atlas Survey. Select a number of your favourite birding areas, locate these on the appropriate 1:25,000 (2.5 inches/mile) Ordnance Survey map. Each sheet is divided into 25 2km x 2km squares known as tetrads and your selected areas will fall within one of these. Your count should be carried out as close to the centre of the tetrad as possible i.e. the junction of the 1km x 1km square boundaries. Record all that you see and hear (numbers please) within a ten minute period. Do this at different times of the year, preferably before midday and it is suggested that you select six places within easy reach of your home and carry out this survey once a month for a year. You will certainly find it interesting and you will have the knowledge that you are also providing useful information for the County.

These are just some of the ideas which may help those not so experienced to play a useful and significant part in Clwyd Bird Recording. Maybe even some of the more experienced ornithologists within the County will also be more cognisant of the commoner species and will also submit such records in the future.

REED WARBLERS IN WALES, 1990 AND 1991

The Council of the Welsh Ornithological Society decided, in view of the recent changes in status of the Reed Warbler in Wales, that it would be valuable to obtain an overview of the current status of this species throughout the country.

The basic needs are for a check on all potentially suitable breeding stations for Reed Warbler in each County and a count of the number of singing birds on at least one occasion during the earlier part of the bird's breeding season. It would be valuable to have a listing of all the sites visited, together with dates and results. Perhaps any records could be submitted in the following form for example:

Place + Grid Reference Date No. of singing birds.

If anyone has records for Clwyd for 1990 please send to the County Recorder as soon as possible and he will pass them on to the Survey Organiser, Mr. Peter Hope Jones, or send them direct to Peter at The Hide, 49, High Street, Menai Bridge, Gwynedd. LL59 5EF. A short report is to be prepared during the winter and plans will be drawn up for further coverage in 1991.

Your help will be greatly appreciated and all contributions will be acknowledged in the final report.

CLWYD TARGET SPECIES 1991

During the compilation of this report, discussion ranged over many topics, some of which were thought worthy of serious consideration as future projects. One such subject which came up time and time again was the uncertain status of individual species within the County and it was decided to ask observers to assist in gathering as much information as possible about specific target birds over a two year period.

The system to be adopted will involve the selection of one species for the first two years, and then in the second year, a further two year study will begin on a different species. This means that after the first year there will always be two species under review.

Observers will be requested to note every occurrence for the target species and to submit sites, dates, numbers and breeding records on a monthly basis throughout the year. All suitable habitats in the observer's chosen area should be thoroughly studied in order to obtain the maximum coverage.

The target bird for 1991 is:

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

A special monthly recording form is included in this report.

PLEASE SEND IN ON A REGULAR BASIS TO THE COUNTY RECORDER.

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1989 WEATHER SUMMARY - M.G. Neal.

January was very mild and dry with maximum temperatures over 3 degrees C above average and with less than half the normal rainfall recorded. Winds were predominantly from the south- west, quite often fresh to strong and reaching gale force on the 11th, 15th and 27th.

February was somewhat wetter with rainfall being almost double the norm for the area. Conversely the number of hours of sunshine was also above average resulting in a very mild month and maximum temperatures once again 3 degrees C above average. Much of the recorded "rainfall" fell as sleet or snow, with snow lying on the 17th and from the 25th to the 27th. It was very windy once more, particularly during the second half of the month, again predominantly from the south- west.

March continued the trend of above average temperatures but although precipitation was recorded on 22 days, the recorded rainfall was only 70% of normal. Once again it was fairly windy, reaching gale force on the 12th (south), 13th (north- west) and from the 22nd to the 24th (west to north-west) and there was snow cover on the 21st.

April began with very light easterly or north-easterly winds and mist or fog for the first six days, with snow or sleet falling daily from the 2nd to the 5th and snow lying on the 5th and 6th. There was another spell of easterly winds, again only light, from the 16th to the 19th but otherwise the wind direction was mostly between north and west. It was rather cold at times, in fact apart from December, April had the highest total of hours of air frost recorded.

May was mostly fine and sunny with sunshine and temperatures again above average and rainfall below. The early part of the month was very quiet with light variable winds, becoming more unsettled during the second week with snow or sleet on the 11th and 12th. The middle of the month was again fine with calm conditions from the 16th to the 19th followed by a spell of east or south-easterlies. There were severe thunderstorms on the 23rd, 24th and 25th before the month ended once again on a fine note.

June was also a fine, sunny month with generally only light variable winds and about average rainfall, and July was similar, but with winds predominantly from the west or north- west and fog on the 7th and 8th.

The fine weather continued into August when once again temperatures and sunshine hours were slightly above average with rainfall about normal. The wind direction, almost without exception, was between north-west and south-west in origin, mostly only light to moderate but stronger on the 10th, 14th, 15th and 20th.

In terms of average daily wind-speed, September was the quietest month of the year although there were strong conditions on the 5th, 15th, 19th, 20th and 26th and the prevailing wind direction was again west to south-west. It was a very dry month with only half the average rainfall but it was also less sunny than usual.

October began quietly with mostly only light winds for the first couple of weeks. The second half was much more unsettled with strong to gale force winds on many days, particularly the 28th to 30th, once again predominantly from the west or south-west. Both rainfall and temperature were a little above average with sunlight hours slightly down.

November's weather was fairly typical for the time of year, being quite changeable at times with strong to gale force winds on the 2nd, the 8th to 10th and the 17th to 19th. The wind was principally from the south or south-east, particularly in the second half of the month and there was fairly frequent mist or fog, especially from the 14th to the 21st.

December was the coldest and wettest month of the year with rainfall 50% above average (almost double that for 1988) and only half the average sunshine. The first snow fell on the 11th and there was snow cover

from the 14th to the 16th, while fog was recorded on 7 days. The wind direction was again mainly south to south-east with strong to gale force conditions frequent between the 13th and the 25th.

Taking the year as a whole the average maximum temperature was 1.3 degrees C above average, rainfall was 94.3% and sunlight hours 118.8%. Air frost was recorded on 31 days, compared with an average of 57, lying snow was recorded on only 11 days and fog on 24 days. The prevailing wind directions were westerly, (24.9%), south-westerly, (21.6%) and southerly, (16.0%).

All weather data quoted refer to Moel y Crio weather station, Halkyn, Clwyd, and averages referred to are based on information gathered there for the years 1981 to 1988. I am indebted to Mr Len Walls for making available this data, for which he retains the copyright, and for giving his permission to reproduce it.

Editors note: In future years it is intended to relate the yearly weather records to some of the more significant bird movements on a month by month basis.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED IN CLWYD DURING 1989

The following abbreviations are used in the text.

CQR Connah's Quay Deeside Naturalist's Reserve
DP Deeside Industrial Park Water Meadows
OMR Oakenholt Marsh R.S.P.B. Reserve
POA Point of Air including the R.S.P.B. Reserve

RED-THROATED DIVER

Gavia stellata

TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

Passage migrant and winter visitor to offshore waters.

Recorded regularly in small numbers from POA to Rhos Point with 3 records of single birds from the inner Dee Estuary on the CQR/OMR, 6 at POA on Oct.1st. and Dec.16th. and 12 at Llandulas on Nov.12th. and 16th. were the maxima noted.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER

Gavia arctica

TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

Passage migrant and winter visitor offshore, very occasionally recorded on inland waters. Has been noted more frequently in recent years probably reflecting greater coverage by competent observers.

Maxima of 5 at Towyn Nov.29th, 4 at Pensarn Dec.9th and 2 POA Oct.1st and Dec 16th with singles noted in various locations including one at CQR/OMR on Nov.5th and one in summer plumage Rhos Point Nov.3rd.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER

Gavia immer

TROCHYDD MAWR

Occasional winter visitor.

Single birds noted at POA Jan.22nd and Dec.16th and 19th.

LITTLE GREBE

Tachybaptus ruficollis

GWYACH FACH

A breeding resident and winter visitor.

Well recorded but with breeding noted at only three localities including a pair with 3 young at Erddig Hall Aug 15th. Peak winter counts, 12 below Rhuddlan Castle in Jan. (no date), 8, DP. Nov.19th, 13 River Clwyd also Nov.19th with 14 there Dec.14th. Records received suggest a minimum of 48 birds present in the County during the 1989 winter but these only covered about one third of possible suitable sites.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Podiceps cristatus

GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

Breeding resident and winter visitor to offshore waters.

Breeding status is probably under recorded but nesting confirmed at Llyn Gweryd, Lindisfarne College Lake, Acton Park and Llyn Helyg. Winter maxima, 41 Towyn - Foryd Jan.8th, 9, Gresford Flash Feb.27th, 43, Kinnel Bay Mar.4th and again on 12th., 11, Towyn Apr.15th, 29, Towyn Dec.3rd and 10th, 25, CQR/OMR Nov 4th and 16, POA Dec.16th.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* GWYACH YDDFGOCH

Scarce winter visitor.

Only one record of a single bird Pensarn, Dec.9th.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* GWYACH GORNIOG

Scarce winter visitor mainly to coastal waters.

2 at POA Dec.26th and 2, CQR/OMR Dec.29th.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* ADERYN-DRYCIN Y GRAIG

Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant.

Regularly recorded at five suitable breeding sites within the County.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus* ADERYN-DRYCIN DU

Rare passage migrant.

Two records of single birds, one 13kms. off Prestatyn Aug.23rd and the other inshore at Rhyl Oct.6th, represent a good showing for this scarce species.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW

Regular offshore during summer and autumn.

Maximum count of 250+ moving west off Gronant Jun.28th. Also 7, POA Aug.12th, 6, same place, Oct.6th and 5 off Rhyl same date. Two notable records of single birds at CQR/OMR Sep.27th and Oct.7th.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* PEDRYN DRYCIN

Occasional autumn passage migrant.

Only one sighting this year, 2 off Rhyl, Oct.28th.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* PEDRYN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG

Regular autumn passage migrant in varying numbers.

Single at POA Oct.30th was the only autumn record. One was noted at CQR/OMR Dec.24th; an exceptional winter record.

GANNET *Sula bassana* HUGAN

Common passage migrant. Occasional at other times.

Only limited records received thereby presenting a somewhat distorted picture of true status. 12, Gronant Aug.9th, 20+ POA Aug.19th and again Sep.17th. 12, POA Oct.1st, 6 off Rhyl Oct.28th and 20 off Towyn Oct.28th.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* MULFRAN

Common, non breeding visitor.

26 birds showing the characteristics of the Continental race, *P.c.sinensis* were noted at CQR/OMR Mar.24th. Other main counts were 63, River Clwyd (N.of Rhuddlan) Apr.25th, 93, POA Jun.4th, 155, Gronant Nov.12th and 132, CQR/OMR Dec.(no date given). Maximum inland count, 10, Gresford Flash, Feb.19th.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* MULFRAN WERDD

Scarce, non breeding visitor.

3 at Rhos Point Feb.12th. Single immature, CQR/OMR Jun 21st and another immature, Llandulas

Sep.5th were the only records.

BITTERN

Botaurus stellaris

ADERYN Y BWN

Rare visitor.

A single bird was seen at Hanmer Mere, Nov.5th.

LITTLE EGRET

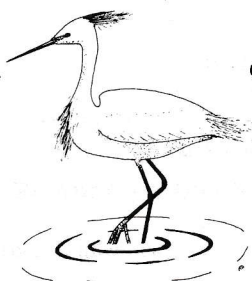
Egretta garzetta

CREYR BACH

Rare vagrant.

Single bird, POA Aug.19th-24th.

One, CQR/OMR Sep.14th and probably the same bird at Oakenholt Marsh RSPB Reserve Sep.14th-16th and again Sep.20th-25th.



GREY HERON

Ardea cinerea

CREYR GLAS

Breeding resident, with 20 pairs noted at the largest heronry. There is widespread post breeding dispersal. 11 were at Gresford Flash Oct.2nd and 18 at CQR/OMR Dec.16th. Recorded throughout the year in the Clocaenog Forest area but no breeding established. A melanistic bird was seen on a number of occasions on the Dee Estuary.

PURPLE HERON

Ardea purpurea

CREYR PORFFOR

Rare vagrant.

Single juvenile reported at Sealand in late June. (Record submitted to WRAG)

BLACK STORK

Ciconia nigra

CICONIA DDU

Rare vagrant.

Single bird mobbed by Buzzards at Carrog Jul.14th and again on Jul.16th, this time being attacked by a Hen Harrier and a Peregrine. One, presumably the same bird, was seen flying over Denbigh at 16.00 hrs.also on Jul.16th (These records submitted to BBRC and WRAG).

MUTE SWAN

Cygnus olor

ALARCH DOF

Breeding resident.

Recorded in all months on the Dee in the CQR/OMR areas with a maximum of 12 in May. There were 7 at Gresford on Jan.15th, 16 near the Dee at Holt on Mar. 17th and up to 27 were present regularly in the Rhyl Marine Lake/Clwyd Estuary area from Oct.13th onwards. During Nov/Dec.up to 27 were also present at Shotwick Lake. More than one pair bred in the Ruabon area and a pair with 6 young were present at Shotton on May 18th. Breeding was also confirmed at Rhuddlan.

WHOOPEE SWAN

Cygnus cygnus

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon winter visitor in small numbers.

There were two juveniles at Llyn Brenig on Feb.13th. Six were seen flying over the River Alyn, near Gresford, in April and two over Northop on Oct.18th.

BEWICK'S SWAN

Cygnus columbianus

ALARCH BEWICK

Regular winter visitor.

A party of 8 with 3 immatures was frequently seen in the CQR/OMR area in Jan./Feb. In the following winter, there were records of 33 on Dec.17th, the largest number ever recorded in the locality, 25 on Nov.26th and three further records of 1-6 birds in Nov./Dec. Four, at Gronant, on Dec.17th was the only other record.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

Anser brachyrhynchus

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

Regular winter visitor in small numbers.

There were records of birds in flight from the extreme north-east of the County during the early days of the year, with 110 moving east on Jan.1st, 75 flying west on Jan.3rd and 5 moving in a north-easterly

direction on Jan.6th. Two birds were regular at Inner Marsh Farm RSPB Reserve between Jan.26th and Apr.23rd, straying into Clwyd on numerous occasions and probably the same two individuals were recorded on the CQR/OMR area on Mar.21st. There were records of single birds later in the year from the Inner Marsh Farm area, between Nov.25th/30th and on Dec.7th.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* GWYDD DALCEN-WEN
Uncommon winter visitor.

A flock of 9 including 2 immatures was recorded at CQR/OMR on Mar.5th. A juvenile was at POA on Oct.15th. and 7 were reported moving through the Vale of Clwyd on Dec.10th.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus* GWYDD DALCEN-WEN LEIAF
Rare. Possible escapes.

An unringed bird was present with Canada Geese at Gresford from Jan.21st/Mar.2nd and again from Oct.8th-15th.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* GWYDD WYLLT
Uncommon resident in small numbers.

There were 40 near Llanfair Talhaiarn on Apr.2nd, 10 near Holt on Mar.4th and 7 POA on Jun.8th. Singles were recorded at CQR/OMR area on Jan.22nd. Sep.23rd and Oct 15th. A single bird was at Gresford Flash from Aug.7th onwards. Two hybrids were with Canada Geese, also at Gresford Flash, during the autumn.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* GWYDD YR EIRA
Rare. Probable escapes.

A blue-phase bird was at Gresford Flash, May 7th./8th.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* GWYDD CANADA
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

The largest flock was 200 at Gresford Flash on Oct.15th. There were twelve records of up to 140 birds at CQR/OMR and there were also records of 40-50 further up the River Dee at Shotton Pools and Shotwick Lake with a maximum of 176 at Shotwick Lake on Nov.28th. Over 100 were recorded in the Wrexham area at Pant yr Ochain, Llay and Wynnstay Park. Breeding was attempted near Llay and Padeswood and confirmed at Llyn Helyg, Gresford and in the Llandegla and Ruabon areas. There were records of 50-64 near Ruabon later in the year and small numbers at Padeswood, Hanmer Mere, Dolwen Reservoir and on the River Clwyd.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Gresford F.	100	100	30	35	5	3	54	100	185	200	90	100
CQR/OMR	57	0	4	13	17	0	0	12	140	0	0	2

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* GWYDD WYRAN
Rare. Probable escapes.

Two at Gresford Flash on Apr.9th.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla* GWYDD DDU
Regular winter visitor in very small numbers.

One at Gresford Flash in February and a dark-bellied individual at CQR/OMR from Nov.15th/17th. Two at POA on Oct.26th and Nov.14th, with 2 of the pale-bellied race reported at POA on Dec.17th.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* HWYADEN YR EITHIN
Breeding resident and very common estuarine winter visitor.

Winter numbers at Flint Sands/CQR/OMR regularly reached 300 with 500-1000 at POA/Ffynnongroew. Only 10-20 were recorded regularly on the River Clwyd, although numbers increased from 32 on Apr.9th at Rhuddlan Marsh to 80-100 in the summer. 330 were recorded at POA on Jul.5th. There were adults

with young at CQR/OMR in July and at least 60 young were raised on the River Clwyd. Two at Llyn Brenig on Feb.19th was an unusual record for this upland locality.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
POA	650	300	240	124	190	212	330	237	360	1279	940	530
CQR/OMR	50	250	200	62	97	565	132	26	166	50	200	600
R.CLWYD	-	-	-	80	-	-	100	-	-	15	21	11

MANDARIN

Aix galericulata

HWYADEN GRIBOG

Uncommon. Likely escapes.

A male at Llangollen on Apr.3rd, 7th. and 26th appeared to be paired with a female Mallard. It was also present in Jan./Feb. and a male at Wynnstay Park on Jan.9th may have been the same bird.

WIGEON

Anas penelope

CHWIWELL

Fairly common winter visitor.

Regularly present at CQR/OMR in autumn and winter with several counts of 200-400 birds. Also recorded in small numbers at POA, Hanmer Mere, Dolwen Reservoir and the River Clwyd.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	80	240	0	0	0	0	0	8	225	400	100	280
POA	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	16	2	-
R.CLWYD	112	121	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	37	55

GADWALL

Anas strepera

HWYADEN LWYD

Uncommon winter visitor.

At CQR/OMR there were 5 records of a male on Sep.2nd.,6th.,Oct.16th. and Dec.30th. Also recorded at Prestatyn on May 24th., POA Aug.14th. and Oct.14th. and at Llyn Helyg on Dec.22nd.

TEAL

Anas crecca

CORHWYADEN

Rare breeding species. Locally abundant and widespread winter visitor.

For a few days in mid-December, 7000 were roosting on Flint Sands and there were 500-2000 present for much of the winter period at CQR/OMR, the qualifying figure of 1000 for National Importance being frequently exceeded. Apart from 84 at POA on Dec.17th. and 70 on the River Clwyd on Dec.3rd., other winter records were of small numbers (14 or less) at Shotton Pools, Gronant, Dolwen Reservoir, Gresford Flash, Sontley, Holt, Erddig Park, Penycae and Hanmer Mere. A pair was seen on the Denbigh Moors in May.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/ OMR	1900	1300	450	64	2	3	2	65	1100	2000	2000	7000

MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos

HWYADEN WYLLT

Common breeding resident and abundant winter visitor.

At CQR/OMR, an unusually large influx in Aug/Sep. produced a record count of 2020 on Sep.8th. There had earlier been a substantial summer presence of over 500 in May/Jun. with a peak of 1287 on Jun.24th. Significant numbers were also recorded at POA and Gronant throughout the year and 70-100 were regularly present on the sea off Rhyl from mid-September onwards. Good counts for an inland locality were 195 Jan.22nd. and 300 Dec.29th. at Hanmer Mere, though several pools in the Wrexham area had counts of 20-40. Breeding was confirmed at Llyn Helyg, Pant yr Ochain, Gresford Flash, Wrexham, Ruabon, Towyn and on the River Clwyd. A nest at Rossett had 12 eggs on Mar.29th.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/ OMR	537	748	132	42	580	1287	730	1300	2020	490	430	830
POA	602	330	165	48	258	550	32	308	661	686	320	598
GRONANT	10	151	86	7	8	2	1	6	5	14	64	17

PINTAIL*Anas acuta*

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Internationally important winter visitor to the Dee Estuary.

An influx noted late August feeding on stubble at Inner Marsh Farm peaking at 400 on 31st. At CQR/OMR several thousand were present from early September to Oct.18th. with a count of 10,000 on Oct.15th. This is likely to be well over 10 per cent of the European population and perhaps one-third of the normal winter population in Britain. They were using Flint Sands as a low tide roost, whereas in previous years the River Dee flock has tended to remain on the English side of the estuary at Gayton Sands. There were also isolated records of 5,000 in February and 7,000 in December at Flint Sands. The only other records were at POA, with 48 on Jan.13th. and 152 on Dec.10th.

GARGANEY*Anas querquedula*

HWYADEN ADDFAIN

Uncommon passage migrant.

No records received this year.

SHOVELER*Anas clypeata*

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Winter visitor in small numbers.

At CQR/OMR, there were a few records from January to mid- April with a maximum count of 14 on Feb.12th. Birds were also present at this locality from September onwards. There were also 10-16 recorded at Gresford Flash and isolated records from POA and the River Clwyd estuary over the same periods.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD*Netta rufina*

HWYADEN GRIBGOCH

Rare. Possible escapes.

A pair was seen on the River Clwyd on Feb.18th. and on the Rhyl Marine Lake, on Feb.28th.

POCHARD*Aythya ferina*

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

Common freshwater winter visitor.

Numbers on the Rhyl Brickworks Pool increased steadily from 11 on Oct.16th. to over 100 by the end of the year, whilst the highest count at Gresford Flash was 23 on Jan.20th. There were 12 at Dolwen Reservoir on Oct.21st. and other winter records of very small numbers from POA, Rhos Point, Shotton, Llyn Helyg, Hanmer Mere, Wynnstay Park, Cwm Glas and Llyn Brenig.

TUFTED DUCK*Aythya fuligula*

HWYADEN GOPOG

Uncommon breeding resident and regular freshwater winter visitor.

Breeding was confirmed at Shotton and on Ruabon Moors. Highest counts at the principal localities were, 50 at Shotton on Oct.4th. and at Hanmer Mere on Dec.26th., 40 at Gresford Flash on Jan.25th., 35 at Llyn Helyg on Feb.5th., 20 at Pant yr Ochain in October, 21 at Rhyl Brickworks Pool and 12 at Ruabon in Nov./Dec., 13 at Dolwen Reservoir on Oct.21st., 10 at Llyn Helyg on Apr.7th. and 6 on Rhyl Marine Lake on Nov.10th. Other records were from POA, CQR/OMR, DP, Llay, Llanarmon-yn-Ial and Llyn Brenig.

SCAUP*Aythya marila*

HWYADEN BENDDU

Regular, marine winter visitor.

There were 100-300 off Rhyl in Jan./Feb. and the highest count of 372 represents about 5 per cent of the British population. There were 7 at POA on Feb.12th. and a male was present on Rhyl Marine Lake from Apr.6th./19th. Much smaller numbers were also present off the coast from Oct.-Dec. Inland, there was a female at Gresford Flash from Feb.16th./26th.

EIDER*Somateria mollissima*

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

Uncommon, marine winter visitor.

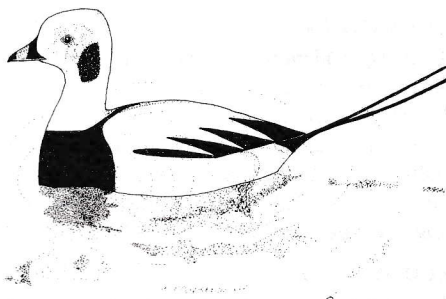
A female was on the River Clwyd Estuary from Jan.21st./ Apr.6th. and there were 3, further west, at Llandulas on Dec.6th.

LONG-TAILED DUCK*Clangula hyemalis*

HWYADEN GYNFFON HIR

Uncommon, marine winter visitor.

On the north coast, there were 3 off Llandulas Jan.8th, and two winter plumage males on Jan.22nd and a single on Jan.28th. One observer reported a summer plumaged male at Llandulas on Feb.4th and on the following day, a male in winter plumage at the same location. A female was also recorded at Llandulas on Dec.2nd. There was an inland record from Gresford Flash on Dec.18th.

**COMMON SCOTER***Melanitta nigra*

MOR-HWYADEN DDU

Abundant marine winter visitor.

Very large numbers occur in winter on the sea between Colwyn Bay and Rhyl. Notable counts were of 1635 between Rhyl and Llandulas on Jan.8th, 600 off Towyn on Apr.19th., over 1000 off Pensarn on Sep.17th. and 1735 between Towyn and Llandulas in March. The area is of National Importance with up to 5 per cent of the British winter population. Smaller numbers are seen as far east as POA with a maximum of 42 there on Apr.13th.

SURF SCOTER*Melanitta perspicillata*

MOR HWYADEN YR EWYN

Rare American vagrant.

A male was seen by many observers at Llandulas from the beginning of the year until Mar.3rd. It was recorded there again on Jul.30th. and on four occasions in Nov/Dec.

VELVET SCOTER*Melanitta fusca*

MOR HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon marine winter visitor.

3 off Pensarn on Jan.16th, 10 at Llandulas on Nov.15th. and one at POA on Jan.8th. and Oct.18th.

GOLDENEYE*Bucephala clangula*

HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

Fairly common and widespread winter visitor.

19 recorded at POA in Jan.(no date), 8 on River Clwyd Feb.19th, 7 at Llyn Cyfynwy Mar.18th. with 4 at Shotton Pools and Rhyl Brickworks Pool on the same date. All other Jan/Apr. records were of 1-3 birds only, at CQR/OMR, Padeswood Pool, Gresford Flash, Holt, Hanmer Mere, Cwm Glas, Ruabon, Llyn Helyg, Llyn Brenig, Pendinas and Rhyl Brickworks Pool. First autumn arrivals were a single at Rhyl Marine Lake Oct.18th. and 3 at CQR/OMR Oct.29th. There were records of 5-8 birds in November at these localities and at Llandulas and the Clwyd Estuary, but the highest count was of 25 on Rhyl Marine Lake, and 25, Pensarn on Dec.16th. Also recorded at POA, Gresford Flash, Hanmer Mere and Llyn Brenig.

SMEW*Mergus albellus*

LLEIAN WEN

Uncommon winter visitor.

A female or immature was present on Rhyl Marine Lake on April 6th./7th.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER*Mergus serrator*

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

Rare breeding resident and common marine winter visitor in small numbers.

Breeding was confirmed at one locality on the River Dee by the presence of a family party with at least 5 young in Jul/Aug. Like Common Scoter, these are permanent winter residents off the north coast but in much smaller numbers. There were no records of more than 34 birds on the sea (Mar.12th.) and the highest counts came from the River Dee off Mostyn with 20 on July 23rd. and Rhyl Marine Lake with 19 on Apr.6th and 18 on Oct.25/26th. There were frequent winter records of up to 10 birds at POA and

1-2 birds carried up the River Dee as far as Connah's Quay at high tide.

GOOSANDER

Mergus merganser

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Breeding resident in increasing numbers. Also winter visitor.

There were two, possibly three cases of confirmed breeding in the Denbigh area (8 eggs on May 7th. and 2 adults with 21 young on Jun. 14th). Birds were also present during the breeding season at Llyn Brenig, 12 in May and 20 in July and on the Dee, Clwyd and Ceiriog rivers. Other records were of 18 at Llyn Dolwen on Dec. 9th, 9 on the River Clwyd Dec. 3rd, 9 on the River Dee at Trevor, Sep. 11th, 8 at Erbistock, Dec. 21st, 8 at Hanmer Mere Jan. 15th-22nd, 7 at POA Oct 15th, 7 River Clwyd, Rhuddlan Apr. 9th. and single females at CQR/OMR Oct. 28th. and Llandulas Jan. 22nd.

RUDDY DUCK

Oxyura jamaicensis

HWYADEN GOCH

Rare breeding resident and fairly common freshwater winter visitor.

The highest count was of 27 at Hanmer Mere on Dec. 26th. There were records during the breeding season from Llyn Helyg, May 30th, Jun. 12th. and Jul. 15th, the Denbigh Moors May 2nd. and Gresford Flash where there were up to 5 between Mar. 14th and May 18th, but breeding was not proven. Singles Aug-Oct. at DP, Gresford Flash and Wrexham.

RED KITE

Milvus milvus

BARCUD

Occasional visitor to the County, usually birds of the year dispersing from breeding areas further south. Two records received, a bird flying east over Loggerheads Country Park, Jul. 7th. and one over the Ruabon area Aug. 22nd.

HEN HARRIER

Circus cyaneus

BOD TINWEN

Scarce breeding species and winter visitor.

No definite evidence of breeding noted this year, but birds present in suitable habitat Apr. 14th. and 26th., May 1st, 9th and 16th., Jun. 9th. and Jul. 17th. One observer commented that the birds are now less frequent in the Ruabon area than hitherto. Other records, on Sep. 9th., Nov. 5th. and 19th. from the coastal region at Llanasa, CQR/OMR and Gronant respectively.

MARSH HARRIER

Circus aeruginosus

BOD Y GWERNI

Scarce passage migrant.

Only one spring record from POA on May 24th./25th.

GOSHAWK

Accipiter gentilis

GWALCH MARTH

Rare breeding resident.

No breeding reported but a pair observed displaying in Clocaenog Forest area, Mar. 29th. where birds have been observed throughout the year. Other records, Ysceifiog Feb. 5th, Cefn Mar. 25th, Ruabon Moors Apr. 8th. and 15th., female Pwllglas "flying south" Aug. 6th. and female Cilcain Apr. 9th. Coastal records from CQR/OMR Sep. 4th., Prestatyn Sep. 11th, and POA Sep. 19th.

SPARROWHAWK

Accipiter nisus

GWALCH GLAS

Common and widespread breeding species throughout Clwyd.

Successful breeding reported from Ruabon Moors and reported as regular in Rhyl, Dyserth, Llanarmon-yn-Ial and Nercwys areas throughout the year. Many records of single birds from a wide variety of coastal & inland locations, e.g. POA, Llanferres, Marford Quarry, Llyn Brenig and Clocaenog Forest. One seen feeding on Grey Wagtail on Mar. 24th.

BUZZARD

Buteo buteo

BWYCATH

Common and widespread breeding resident in upland areas.

Successful breeding reported from World's End, Horseshoe Pass and Llanarmon-yn-Ial. One seen Nercwys on Mar. 19th where normally "rare". 5 soaring together, Pwllglas Feb. 15th. 6 at Moel Fochair May 3rd, and 1 Dolwen, Dec 9th. Lowland records from CQR/OMR where 3 on Sep. 17th., was only the

fourth record for the locality and 5 together on Sep.10th.at Gwysaney where possible breeding had been noted. Present all year at Llyn Brenig/Clocaenog Forest.

OSPREY

Pandion haliaetus

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant.

Most records were from Llyn Brenig where 2 on Apr.16th.and a single bird on May 9th. Autumn passage was noted on Sep.23rd. and Oct.16th, single birds on each occasion. Elsewhere there was a single over Moel Famau, Apr.7th. and another following the River Alun near Llanarmon-yn-Ial Apr.9th. Two probables reported by fishermen at Ty Mawr Reservoir near Wrexham Aug.16th.as "two birds of prey, like herons but definite birds of prey, wings combed at ends, circled for several minutes over reservoir close to water sometimes, black and white, eventually off to south".

KESTREL

Falco tinnunculus

CUDYLL COCH

Locally common breeding resident.

Enjoyed a good breeding year with many successful nests including Horseshoe Pass, Ruabon Moors, Pwllglas, Clocaenog Forest. One nest reported near River Clwyd, Rhyl.

HOBBY

Falco subbuteo

HEBOG YR EGEDYDD

Uncommon passage migrant.

Single bird seen hunting insects on slopes of Moel Famau,above Cilcain, Aug.7th. also single, Prestatyn late in month (no date).

MERLIN

Falco columbarius

CUDYLL BACH

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor.

Breeding confined to specific moorland locations but a decline in numbers noted during 1989 season. Regularly recorded in winter at POA, Talacre and CQR/OMR with an interesting record for Prestatyn town centre Sep.14th. Recorded throughout the year at Clocaenog Forest.

PEREGRINE

Falco peregrinus

HEBOG TRAMOR

Resident breeding species.

Very well established in the County having returned to many of its former breeding sites. Seen regularly on Ruabon Moors and Clocaenog Forest. Frequently recorded in the winter from POA, CQR/OMR, Llandulas and Sealand.

RED GROUSE

Lagopus lagopus

GRUGIAR

Breeding resident typical of heather moors although it is suspected that numbers are declining.

On Ruabon Moors census figures remain constant through to March but the breeding season was a disaster due perhaps to the dryness of the moor. The autumn maximum of 88 birds was the lowest in 12 years of study. The first chicks of the season were seen May 21st, two or three days old. Two contributors noted that numbers were much reduced on the Llandegla Moors and Llyn Brenig respectively. Other records were of small numbers from Moel Famau, Mar.29th. 3 Pont Cwm Pydew, May 17th., Carrog Quarry, Apr.30th. and Llyn Cyfynwy area, Mar.18th. and Oct.20th. Recorded as unusual, but noted throughout the year at Clocaenog Forest

BLACK GROUSE

Tetrao tetrix

GRUGIAR DDU

Scarce breeding resident.

Despite the general decline throughout Wales no change in status noted locally. Five contributors submitted reports involving four separate sites and leking was noted at two of these. Max.6 birds at one site Jan.1st. with displaying males seen in the Moel Famau area on Mar.5th. and Apr.1st. and 30th. Also recorded from Llyn Brenig area and Clocaenog Forest where also 'declining'.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

Alectoris rufa

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Rare breeding resident.

2 between Graigfechen and Llandegla Apr.4th. and one same location Jul.25th. Regularly breeding at

Marford Quarry but nest destroyed by dogs.

GREY PARTRIDGE

Perdix perdix

PETRISEN

Scarce breeding resident.

Recorded from Ruabon Moors, where 2 Mar.27th, pair Moel-y-Parc, Apr.12th., 2, Llanasa, May 16th., 5, Bodoryn, Jul.4th, 3, Towyn, Oct.28th and Nov.28th., same site. At coastal sites, 10 recorded at CQR indicating breeding and a female with 10 young at OMR, Jul.20th. Winter records 4, P.O.A., Jan.30th., 1 present Kinnerton, Feb.26th. 4, CQR/OMR Jan.31st. and 2, POA, Nov.19th.

QUAIL

Coturnix coturnix

SOFLIAR

Possibly a scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.



In common with the rest of Britain, 1989 proved to be a good year for this species in Clwyd. There were records from widely scattered localities. One contributor reported the birds near Llanarmon-yn-Ial late May/early June in barley and rough grazing. Other records, Melidan, early June and World's End, Nr.Llangollen Jun.4th.in bilberry/ling, Rhyl. Jun.7th & 14th. Also from Gronant, Jun.6th, 14th and 20th in barley, Kinnel Lodge Jun.21st, Gronant Jul.7th and Newtown Forest, Ruabon Moors Aug.15th in bracken/bilberry/ling. Between Rhuddlan/Abergele

Jun.15/29th. and Cwm, June 26th. Heard calling throughout June & July at Sealand where female seen with brood, 8 birds in all, in grazed pasture. Single bird calling at Llansilin, Jul.23rd.

PHEASANT

Phasianus colchicus

FFESANT

Locally common breeding resident.

Obviously an under recorded species. Only thirteen records submitted with a maximum of 15 birds, Dec.9th at Rhuddlan.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT

Chrysolophus amherstiae

FFESANT Y FONESIG
AMHERST

Introduced breeding resident.

A feral population is established at Halkyn near Holywell, but only one record of a male Nov.15th. was submitted.

WATER RAIL

Rallus aquaticus

RHEGAN Y DWR

A scarce winter visitor and possible breeding resident.

Only one record submitted from Padeswood near Mold Jan.1st. and two from POA, Oct.14th. and Oct.28th. Single at Abergele in Jan.(no date). Possibly overlooked in suitable areas.

MOORHEN

Gallinula chloropus

IAR DDWR

Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Many records submitted from all suitable sites. Maximum recorded, 22, Abergele Park Oct.16th. Winter records from coastal sites including Rhyl, Rhuddlan, Abergele and Ruthin.

COOT

Fulica atra

CWTIAR

Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Recorded throughout the year from various sites. Maximum 100 at Pant-yr-Ochain pools January. Occasional birds seen at coastal sites e.g. CQR/OMR.

OYSTERCATCHER	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	PIODEN Y MOR
Scarce breeding resident and abundant winter visitor.		
Maximum count of 17,000 between POA and Ffynongroew on Sep. 17th with 3,200 at CQR/OMR mid Nov and 800 plus at Llandulas Sep. 10th.		
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH
Rare summer visitor and passage migrant.		
Breeding confirmed at one site. First seen at Gresford Flash Mar. 3rd with scattering of sightings at various locations until last at Cwm Glas, Johnstown, on Jul. 18th.		
RINGED PLOVER	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	CWTIAD TORCHOG
Resident breeding in small numbers and passage migrant.		
15 pairs reported in the Gronant to POA area. Maximum count was 530 at POA on Aug. 27th followed by 222 from CQR/OMR to Gronant on Sep. 17th and 58 Foryd on Oct. 22nd.		
PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	CWTIAD AUR Y MOR TAWEL
Very rare vagrant. One reported on Oakenholt Marsh Reserve on Jul. 23rd. [Record with full description submitted to BBRC].		
GOLDEN PLOVER	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	CWTIAD AUR
Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor.		
Maximum count of 150 in Shotwick Fields on Jan 25th with 70 at CQR/OMR on Nov. 18th and 30 POA Nov. 12th.		
GREY PLOVER	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	CWTIAD LLWYD
Winter visitor and passage migrant to coastal sites.		
Scattering of low number records with maximums of 70 POA Jan. 23rd, 85 there Oct. 15th and 90, Oct. 16 plus 11 Foryd Nov. 21st.		
LAPWING	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	CORNCHWIGLEN
Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.		
A total of between 2,000-2,500 was frequently present at CQR/OMR in winter months. Also similar number at Rhuddlan Marsh Nov. 24th. Indications of a decline in breeding numbers probably as a result of changes in agricultural practice.		
KNOT	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	PIBYDD YR ABER
Passage migrant and winter visitor to coastal locations.		
Peak count of 25,000 at POA on Dec. 17th which probably involved influx of non Dee birds. Other counts were 4,500 at POA in Nov. and 2,500 at CQR/OMR on Mar. 9th.		
SANDERLING	<i>Calidris alba</i>	PIBYDD Y TYWOD
Passage migrant and winter visitor.		
Numbers of National Importance to the Gronant-Kinnel Bay region with totals building up to 700 at Gronant on Dec. 17th and 176 Kinnel Bay same day. Also 350 at Rhyl Oct. 28th, 282 Llandulas Jan. 8th and 150 River Clwyd Estuary Jan. 21st.		
LITTLE STINT	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	PIBYDD BACH
Scarce passage migrant.		
Usually found in small numbers on autumn passage. No records received for this species.		
CURLEW SANDPIPER	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	PIBYDD CAMBIG
Scarce autumn passage migrant.		
Poor showing with only two records of 3 birds at POA Jul. 15th and 2 there on Aug. 2nd.		

PURPLE SANDPIPER*Calidris maritima*

PIBYDD DU

Winter visitor to rocky coasts.

Maximum of 21 at Rhos Point on Dec. 18th. Several exceptional records for Dee Estuary with 1 POA Mar. 22nd and four records of singles at CQR/OMR from Oct. 15th-Nov. 23rd.

DUNLIN*Calidris alpina*

PIBYDD Y MAWN

Passage migrant and common winter visitor.

Recorded every month at POA with 25 in Jun., peak autumn count of 1,000 and winter maximum of 1,500 at same place in Dec. Elsewhere 2,500 at the CQR/OMR in Feb. and 1,500 in Dec. plus 1,100 at Gronant on Nov 12th. and 300 Foryd Nov. 30th.

RUFF*Philomachus pugnax*

PIBYDD TORCHOG

Passage migrant.

Maximum of 19 at CQR/OMR on Aug. 25th with a total of nine records between Aug. 3rd and Nov. 11th. Earliest date was Mar. 7th at POA with further sightings there on seven dates in Apr.-May and singles on Sep. 4th and 29th. Also 2 River Clwyd Mar. 12th.

JACK SNIFE*Lymnocyptes minimus*

GIACH FACH

Scarce migrant and winter visitor.

One present throughout the winter at Gronant and 3 on Mar 5th. with 1 reported at Gronant on the late date of Jul 7th.

SNIFE*Gallinago gallinago*

GIACH GYFFREDIN

Rare breeding passage migrant and winter visitor.

No breeding records received this year. Maximum count of 106 in Gronant region on Mar. 6th with 63 again there Nov. 12th. Also 39 Gronant Mar 5 and 23 at Glan y Wern on Apr. 2nd. Recorded in winter at Clocaenog Forest.

WOODCOCK*Scolopax rusticola*

CYFFYLOG

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor.

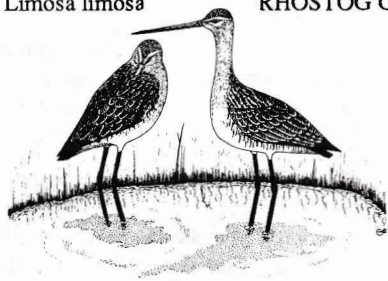
Roding birds seen at Mostyn, Llyn Helyg, Moel Findeg, Pwllglas with a pair and 3 young at Gwysaney on May 23rd. Noted in winter at Clocaenog Forest and 5 birds seen at Gronant Dec. 10th.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT*Limosa limosa*

RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Numbers of International Importance at CQR/OMR with 800- 1,000 beginning of year and again 1,000-1,500 at year end. Scarce elsewhere with 20 POA Dec. 13th and 2 Rhuddlan Marsh Jul. 10th.-11th. One CQR/OMR Aug. 20th.

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

RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRITH

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Small numbers recorded throughout year at POA with highest counts of 28 in Apr. and 29 in Nov. Up to 32 birds at CQR/OMR in May.

WHIMBREL*Numenius phaeopus*

COEGLFINIR

Passage migrant.

First seen at POA on Apr. 3rd with maximum 32 River Clwyd above Rhyl on May 3rd and 13 POA next

day. 24, Trevelyn Meadows heading north, Apr 4th. In autumn noted at POA on Jul. 9th with 5 late passage birds River Clwyd on Oct. 10th.

CURLEW

Numenius arquata

GYLFINIR

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Largest numbers noted in winter and during autumn passage as numbers build up in coastal areas during Jul.

Count of 1,400 at POA on Sep. 17th with 824 between Flint Castle and Gronant on Feb. 12th. plus 1,300 at POA during February.

SPOTTED REDSHANK

Tringa erythropus

PIBYDD COESGOCH

Passage migrant and scarce overwintering visitor.

Numbers of National Importance at the CQR/OMR with 20 there early Jan. and 28 on Sep. 6th. Other records of 1-2 birds at POA from Jul. 23rd-Dec. 13th.

REDSHANK

Tringa totanus

PIBYDD COESGOCH

Breeding resident and common winter visitor.

The Welsh side of the Dee Estuary is of International Importance for this species. Maximum of 2,422 from Flint Castle to Gronant on Feb. 12th with 1,400 POA Aug. 20th and 1,600 at CQR/OMR Sep. 17th. Also 383 on River Clwyd Estuary in Mar., 310 Rhuddlan Marsh Apr. 9th and 236 there Nov. 20th

MARSH SANDPIPER

Tringa stagnatilis

PIBYDD Y GORS

Rare vagrant.

One reported River Clwyd north of Rhuddlan on Aug. 22nd. [Record submitted to BBRC].

GREENSHANK

Tringa nebularia

PIBYDD COESWERDD

Passage migrant.

Maximum of 16 CQR/OMR Sep. 9th and 15th. Also 11 POA Sep. 17th with up to 8 on the River Clwyd in August and September.

GREEN SANDPIPER

Tringa ochropus

PIBYDD GWRYDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

A total of 26 records for year at CQR/OMR with maximum of 3 Aug. 28th. Singles at Padeswood Jul. 15th, Aug. 4th and 20th, Sep. 29th and Nov. 19th. One Singret Quarry Mar. 3rd and another Aug. 4th with 1 near Pant-yr-Ochain Mar. 29th. One POA Jan. 9th and largest total of 11 there Sep. 14th. Also 3 on River Clwyd Jul. 17th and 6 Rhuddlan Marsh Jul. 30th.

WOOD SANDPIPER

Tringa glareola

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

Scarce passage migrant.

Only records were one at CQR/OMR on Sep. 22nd and one on 24th.

COMMON SANDPIPER

Actitis hypoleucos

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

Passage migrant and summer visitor.

No breeding records received. A scattering of sightings with maximum of 22 River Clwyd north of Rhuddlan Jul. 10th, 12 CQR/OMR Jul. 25th and 5 POA May 4th.

TURNSTONE

Arenaria interpres

CWTIAD Y TRAETH

Winter visitor.

More common than perhaps realised around rocky localities between Rhyl and Rhos Point with very small numbers elsewhere along the coast. A maximum of 431 Llandulas area Jan. 8th, 190 Foryd Apr. 12th, 403 Llandulas Nov. 12th and 240 Rhos on Sea Dec. 2nd.

GREY PHALAROPE

Phalaropus fulicarius

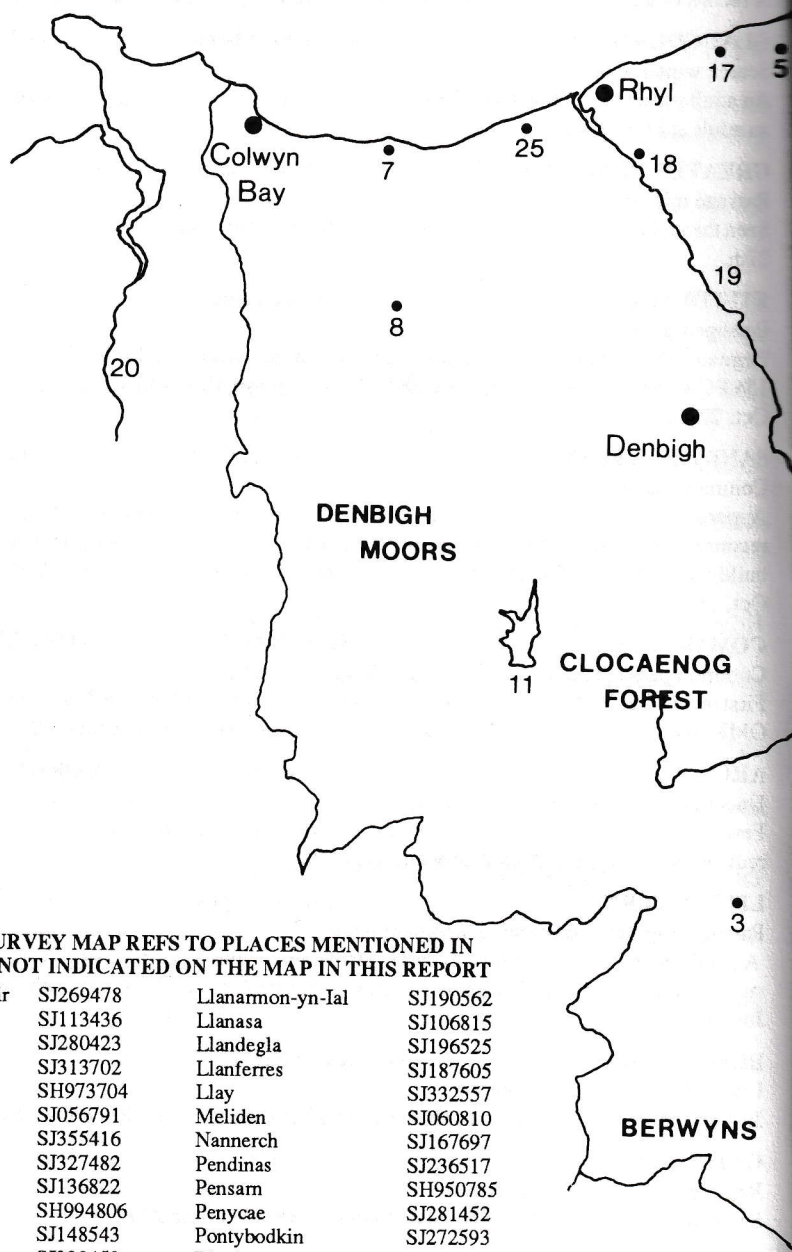
LLYDANDROED LLWYD

Passage migrant.

One at POA on Oct. 17th is a typical record for this pelagic species.

POMARINE SKUA Uncommon passage migrant. One recorded at POA Jul.15th followed by one CQR/OMR Jul. 30th and 2 there Oct. 6th.	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	SGIWEN FRECH
ARCTIC SKUA Passage migrant in small numbers. Maximums noted at POA during autumn were 5 Aug. 19th, 8 Aug. 27th, 6 Aug. 28th, 12 on Sep. 8th, 6 Oct. 1st and 6 Oct. 7th. An additional 11 bird records were received which included one Llandulas Sep. 5th and 2 CQR/OMR Jul. 30th.	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD
GREAT SKUA Uncommon passage migrant. The only record was one POA on Sep. 2nd.	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	SGIWEN FAWR
MEDITERRANEAN GULL Scarce vagrant. Single adults Foryd, Rhyl Mar. 4th and Jul. 10th with a 1st summer bird at POA Jul. 11th plus other singles there May 7th, Aug. 2nd and 30th and Sep. 3rd as well as adult Foryd, Rhyl late October.	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR
LITTLE GULL Scarce passage migrant. Seldom seen in the county despite big numbers at Seaforth Nature Reserve. 1st summer singles at Gronant Beach mid Apr. and Jun. 7th and Foryd, Rhyl Mar. 4th plus one Gresford Flash Apr. 28th and an immature CQR/OMR May 5th.	<i>Larus minutus</i>	GWYLAN FECHAN
SABINES GULL Rare vagrant. Two sightings of a 1st summer plumaged adult observed from boat 13 kms north of Prestatyn on Aug. 23rd and 26th.	<i>Larus sabini</i>	GWYLAN SABINE
BLACK HEADED GULL Common breeding resident and winter visitor. Reportedly increased numbers at coastal sites during winter months. A maximum of 3,900 at Gronant Jan. 27th.	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	GWYLAN BENDDU
RING-BILLED GULL Rare American vagrant. There were two records. An adult seen at Flint on Oct. 26th and a 2nd winter bird at Kinnel Bay Nov. 19th.	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	GWYLAN FODRWYBIG
COMMON GULL Passage migrant and winter visitor. Biggest concentration was 6,700 at Gronant Jan. 27th followed by 3,000 POA Aug. 20th, 2,500 there Jan. 20th and 1,200 Llandulas Dec. 15th	<i>Larus canus</i>	GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Breeding resident and passage migrant. There were 20-plus present at Shotwick Lake on Sep. 14th.	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF
HERRING GULL Abundant breeding resident and passage migrant. Breeding extended to rooftops in Colwyn Bay, Rhyl and Prestatyn. A yellow-legged bird was present at POA on Mar. 24th and Gronant two days later.	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

- ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucooides* GWYLAN YR ARCTIG
Scarce winter visitor.
A record of a 3rd summer bird at Foryd Jun. 25th, Jul. 10th-11th and another off Pensarn Sep. 7th.
- GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus* GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD
Scarce winter visitor.
An adult present at Gronant Jan. 15th, Feb. 5th, Mar. 4th and again in Apr with one POA Apr. 10th and an adult at Flint Nov. 7th.
- GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus marinus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF
Passage migrant and winter visitor.
Seen throughout the year on coasts and occasionally inland. Maximum noted was 157 at Gronant on Jan. 27th.
- KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla* GWYLAN GOES DDU
Passage migrant.
Regularly seen offshore with a scattering of coastal records of 1-5 birds. Highest counts recorded were 156 POA Oct. 1st with 73 there Oct. 28th. Also 12 Foryd May 24th, 6 off Rhyl Aug. 27th and 10 Foryd Oct. 22nd.
- SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis* MORWENNOL BIGDDU
Common passage migrant.
Apparently seen in reduced late summer numbers at its favourite Gronant and POA haunts, but still recorded there in hundreds. Very early record of 1 off Rhyl Mar. 23rd with next POA on Apr. 18th, totals building up there to 500 Jul. 23rd and 600 in late August with 93 Rhos Point Aug. 14th and 120 Gronant Oct. 16th.
- COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo* MORWENNOL GYFFREDIN
Common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.
First record 2 at POA May 4th with peak passage there of 1,200 Aug. 5th. Maximum count of 100 at CQR/OMR mid August. No breeding records received this year from its Shotton Steelworks stronghold.
- ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea* MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD
Uncommon passage migrant. Has bred in previous years.
Fewer seen than previous species. Noted at POA from Jul. 21st-Aug. 8th with c120 present Jul. 21st reduced to 6 Aug. 8th. Also 2 Gronant Aug. 5th.
- LITTLE TERN** *Sterna albibrons* MORWENNOL FECHAN
Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.
A good nesting season reported at the Gronant colony with 55 pairs raising 70-plus fledged young. Late summer maximum of 348 Gronant Jul. 21st with a peak of 220 POA Aug. 5th. Also c30 at CQR/OMR Jun. 9th.
- BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger* CORSWENNOL DDU
Uncommon passage migrant.
Just one record of a single on the River Clwyd between Rhyl and Rhuddlan Oct. 14th.
- GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge* GWYLOG
Regular visitor to coastal waters.
Seen all year with maximums noted 63 Llandulas Oct. 19th and 22 POA Oct. 6th and 19 there Oct. 28th.
- AUK SP** *Alcidae sp* CARFIL SP
A total of 100 unidentified auks noted at Pensarn Oct. 21st.

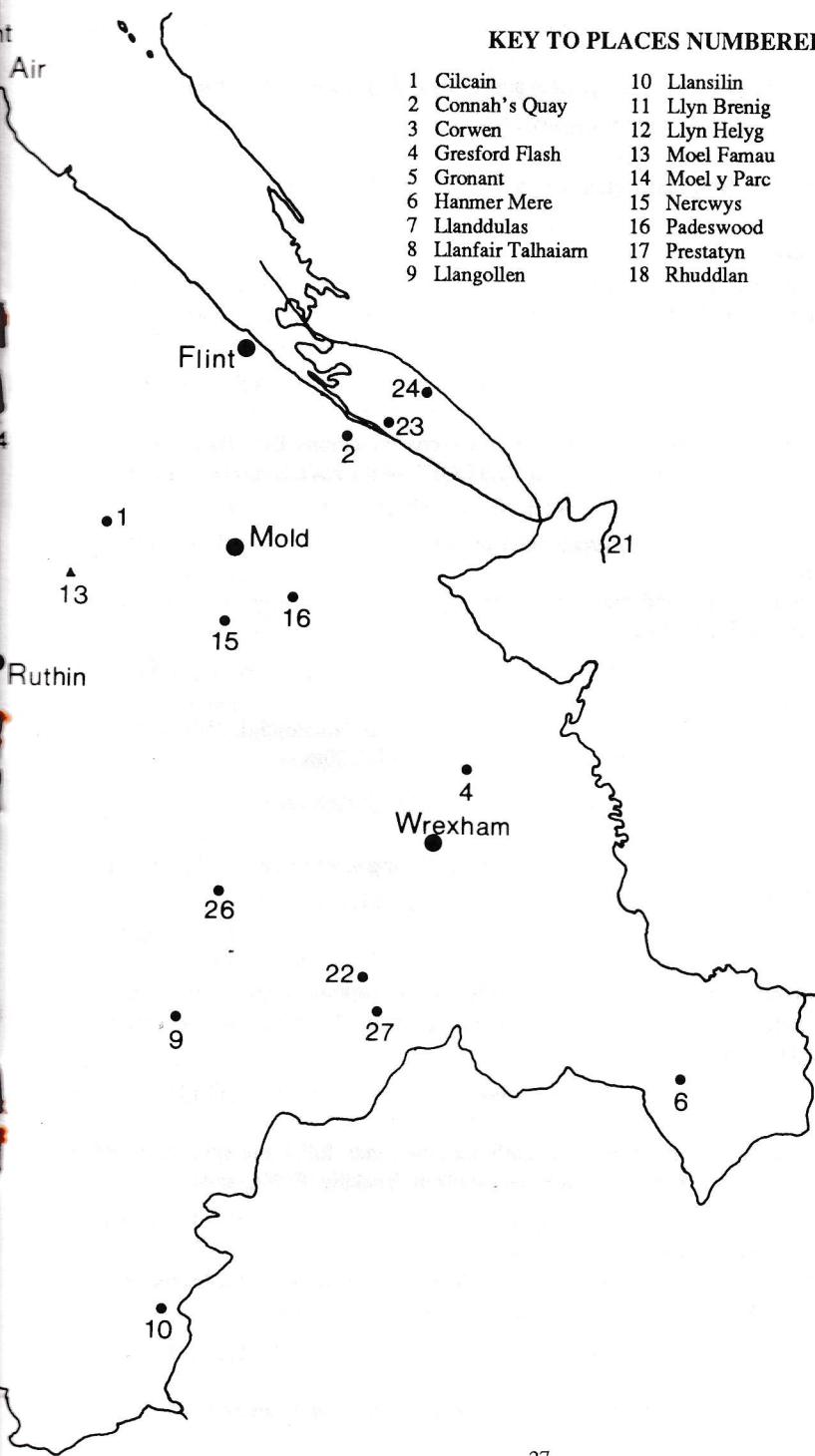


**ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP REFS TO PLACES MENTIONED IN
THE TEXT BUT NOT INDICATED ON THE MAP IN THIS REPORT**

Cae Llwyd Reservoir	SJ269478	Llanarmon-yn-Ial	SJ190562
Carrog	SJ113436	Llanasa	SJ106815
Cefn	SJ280423	Llandegla	SJ196525
Deeside Pools	SJ313702	Llanferres	SJ187605
Dolwen Reservoir	SH973704	Llay	SJ332557
Dyserth	SJ056791	Meliden	SJ060810
Erbistock	SJ355416	Nannerch	SJ167697
Erddig Park	SJ327482	Pendinas	SJ236517
Ffynnongroyw	SJ136822	Pensarn	SH950785
Foryd	SH994806	Penycae	SJ281452
Graigfechan	SJ148543	Pontybodkin	SJ272593
Gyfelia	SJ328453	Rhydymwyn	SJ213663
Holt	SJ408537	Rossett	SJ368572
Horseshoe Pass	SJ185470	Sealand	SJ352688
Kinnel Bay	SH990805	Sontley	SJ331466
Kinnerton	SJ330612		

KEY TO PLACES NUMBERED ON MAP

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1 Cilcain | 10 Llansilin | 19 R. Clwyd |
| 2 Connah's Quay | 11 Llyn Brenig | 20 R. Conway |
| 3 Corwen | 12 Llyn Helyg | 21 R. Dee |
| 4 Gresford Flash | 13 Moel Famau | 22 Ruabon |
| 5 Gronant | 14 Moel y Parc | 23 Shotton |
| 6 Hanmer Mere | 15 Nercwys | 24 Shotwick Lake |
| 7 Llanddulas | 16 Padeswood | 25 Towyn |
| 8 Llanfair Talhaiarn | 17 Prestatyn | 26 World's End |
| 9 Llangollen | 18 Rhuddlan | 27 Wynnstay Park |



RAZORBILL	<i>Alca torda</i>	LLURS
Small numbers occasionally recorded offshore.		
There were 4 Llandulas Feb. 2nd, 10 POA Sep. 24th and 17 there Oct. 28th with 15 Rhyl Oct. 31st.		
PUFFIN	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	PAL
Rarely seen offshore.		
Only record was 2 off Rhyl on Oct. 31st which is a good record for the county.		
WOODPIGEON	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	YSGUTHAN
Abundant breeding resident.		
Well distributed throughout the county with a maximum of 1,000 feeding on clover near Gresford Flash Jan. 20th as well as large numbers feeding on acorns at Llangollen in Sep. and 500 to roost in plantation above Penycae Jan. 28th.		
STOCK DOVE	<i>Columba oenas</i>	COLOMEN WYLLT
Fairly common breeding resident.		
A total of 20 records received predominately from Eastern and coastal regions. Bred Ballswood Gravel Pit and Ruabon. Maximum counts in winter months of 50 at CQR/OMR Jan. 26th and 26 Oakenholt Jan. 17th.		
COLLARED DOVE	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	TURTUR DORCHOG
Common breeding resident.		
Again recorded mainly from Eastern and coastal regions. An early nest at Gresford with eggs on Feb. 3rd. Maximum of 45 at Home Farm, Ruabon, on Dec. 28th.		
TURTLE DOVE	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	TURTUR
Scarce summer breeding visitor.		
Only four records. A pair at Borrass Airfield May 25th and singing near Horsley Jul. 25th while 2 flew east over POA Jun. 11th and a single bird Wrexham Trading Estate Jul. 20th.		
CUCKOO	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	COG
Common breeding summer visitor.		
Recorded on over 50 occasions throughout the county. First of Spring at Penycae Apr. 21st and a total of 17 sightings at CQR/OMR from Apr. 23rd-Jul. 24th.		
BARN OWL	<i>Tyto alba</i>	TYLLUAN WEN
Breeding resident.		
Recorded in small numbers with three records of breeding near Buckley, Penymynydd and Mold (although these may be same birds). Present in Clocaenog Forest throughout the year and a scattering of other sightings throughout the County.		
LITTLE OWL	<i>Athene noctua</i>	TYLLUAN FACH
Breeding resident.		
Distributed throughout the County and more frequently recorded than following species. Breeding confirmed at Mold and Pwllglas with pairs recorded at Tanyfron, Buckley, Erddig and Sontley.		
TAWNY OWL	<i>Strix aluco</i>	TYLLUAN FRECH
Breeding resident, possibly under recorded.		
At Bradley a nest was built four feet from the ground; while a nest was found on the ground at Moel Fammau in a conifer wood. Also three nest box broods ringed Clocaenog Forest.		
LONG-EARED OWL	<i>Asio otos</i>	TYLLUAN GORNIOG
Rare resident.		
Recorded from Clocaenog Forest with the only other record being one near Tremerechion Feb. 11th.		

SHORT-EARED OWL*Asio flammeus*

TYLLUAN GLUSTIUG

Winter visitor, passage migrant and possible breeder.

A bird seen quartering a young plantation at Moel Famau on May 29th is thought to have bred in the area. Pellets from one or possibly two birds wintering on Ruabon Mountain between Jan. 29th and late March showed they were mainly feeding on thrushes. Other records from a wide area.

NIGHTJAR*Caprimulgus europaeus*

TROELLWR MAWR

Scarce breeding summer visitor.

A total of 13 "purring" males recorded at an undisclosed site in the County. Birds noted at three other separate sites.

SWIFT*Apus apus*

GWENNOL DDU

Common breeding summer visitor.

First bird seen at POA on Apr. 25th with 3 the following day at Berwyn Holt, Llangollen, and widespread by May 5th. Biggest concentration was 70 at Oakenholt during May with last sighting on Sep. 18th at Llanansa. Over 100 pairs bred in Mold area.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET*Psittacula krameri*

PARACIT TORCHOG

A single bird recorded from Finger Post gutter, Inner Marsh Farm, on Sep. 20th.

KINGFISHER*Alcedo atthis*

GLMS Y DORLAN

Fairly common breeding resident.

Recorded on 80 occasions from a wide area. The remains of a kingfisher, apparently killed and discarded by a bird of prey, were found in a hayfield at Ruabon on Jun. 17th.

GREEN WOODPECKER*Picus viridis*

CNOCELL WEROD

Breeding resident.

Records from throughout the County. A bird near the field study centre at the Connah's Quay reserve was only their third record.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER*Dendrocopos major*

CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF

Breeding resident.

Widespread and probably the most common woodpecker with reports from most areas of the County.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER*Dendrocopos minor*

CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF

Breeding resident.

The least recorded woodpecker with just 19 records. A female fed on a nut basket in a Northop garden Jan. 19th into March. Maximum of 5 birds at Ruabon and one near Mold seen chipping out nest hole on May 7.

SKYLARK*Alauda arvensis*

EHEDYDD

Common breeding resident and winter visitor throughout the County.

The first birds returned to breeding sites on Ruabon Moors on Jan. 27th and song was first heard there on Feb. 11th. Autumn passage included 112 in one flock passing south over Ruabon Moors on Oct. 15th, along with other (uncounted) birds. The largest winter concentration reported involved 120 at POA Nov. 12th.

SAND MARTIN*Riparia riparia*

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Common summer and passage visitor with small numbers breeding.

The earliest records were 5 at POA on Mar. 25th and 5 at CQR/OMR on Mar. 27th. Peak numbers were recorded during late April including a maximum of 120 at Gresford Flash on Apr. 23rd. Breeding normally occurs at several sites, mostly in the south or south-east of the County, but no reports of breeding success (or lack of it) were received. The last report involved 2 at CQR/OMR on Sep. 17th.

SWALLOW*Hirundo rustica*

GWENNOL

Common summer breeding and passage visitor.

The first records involved 3 at POA and 5 at CQR/OMR on Mar.26th, closely followed by 5 moving north at Pen-y-Cae on Mar.27th and singles at St.Asaph, Sandycroft and Towyn on Apr.1st. Widespread and common during the breeding season but no reports were received concerning late summer or autumn roost sites. During north-easterly gales on Sep.8th an estimated 5000+ were grounded at POA. The last reports were of 6 at POA on Oct.18th and 1 at CQR/OMR on Oct.20th.

HOUSE MARTIN*Delichon urbica*

GWENNOL Y BONDO

Common summer breeding and passage visitor.

Six reported from Rhyl golf course on Mar.24th were exceptionally early. The next record was of a single bird at Nannerch on Apr.15th then the species became widespread by the first week of May with breeding well under way by the end of May. The largest autumn gathering involved 500 over Tregeiniog Quarry on Sep.5th, while 500+ flew south-west over Ty Mawr Reservoir on Sep.21st. The last record involved a single bird at POA on Oct.15th.

TREE PIPIT*Anthus trivialis*

CORHEDYDD Y COED

Summer visitor to favoured sites and on passage in small numbers.

The first record involved 3 flying north at POA Apr.13th, followed by single birds at Rhydymwyn on 15th and Pen-y-Cae Reservoir on the 18th. The main arrival occurred in late April and early May. Numbers at the regular breeding sites from which reports were received appeared to be about normal and the last report was of 1 flying west over Nercwys Mountain on Sep.1st.

MEADOW PIPIT*Anthus pratensis*

CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

Common breeding, passage and wintering species.

Few flocks of any size were reported during the early part of the year. The first major spring influx onto moorland breeding sites occurred at Ruabon Moors on Mar.9th. A loose flock of c.100 on Rhyl golf course on Mar.24th was presumably on passage. Autumn migration was disappointing, the largest number recorded being 85 flying south-east at POA on Sep.10th. The largest wintering flocks reported were 30 at POA on Nov.12th and 30 at Towyn on Nov.22nd.

ROCK PIPIT*Anthus petrosus*

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

Winter visitor to the Dee estuary in small numbers.

Small numbers regularly winter at POA and CQR/OMR, the maximum recorded being 5 at POA on Feb.7th. Possibly under recorded at other points on the Clwyd coastline.

WATER PIPIT*Anthus spinoletta*

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

Uncommon passage and winter visitor to the Dee estuary.

1 at Oakenholt Marsh RSPB Reserve on Feb.23rd being the only record.

YELLOW WAGTAIL*Motacilla flava*

SIGLEN FELEN

Passage visitor with small numbers breeding.

Very few records were received. The first report involved 1 at CQR/OMR on Apr.27th, the only breeding pairs reported being at Ruabon and Gresford with the stronghold in arable farmland adjacent to the Deeside Industrial Estate.

GREY WAGTAIL*Motacilla cinerea*

SIGLEN LWYD

Fairly common breeding resident.

The spread of records received indicate a fairly widespread breeding population with some birds moving to the coast in the winter. A few records were received of single birds on passage at POA during the autumn.

PIED WAGTAIL*Motacilla alba*

SIGLEN FRAITH

Fairly widespread as a breeding species with dispersal during the winter months. Also common on passage.

Breeding birds returned to Ruabon Moors on Mar. 4th and breeding was also reported from Connah's Quay and Llyn Brenig. A total of 24 flew south-west at POA on Mar. 6th and the largest autumn gathering recorded was 110 on Abergele beach on Sep. 7th. No significant winter numbers or roost gatherings were reported. White Wagtails (*M.a.alba*) were recorded in small numbers on spring passage between Mar. 3rd, with 1 at Connah's Quay and May 3rd, when 4 were at Towyn. There was a maximum of 8 on the River Clwyd near Rhyl on Apr. 25th.

WAXWING*Bombycilla garrulus*

CYNFFON SIDAN



Rare winter visitor.

The winter of '88-'89 was an invasion period for this species in many Counties. In Clwyd a party of 5 remained on the outskirts of Denbigh from Jan. 14th to at least Feb. 7th feeding on rosehips. 6 were seen on Nercwys Mountain on Mar. 19th and 2 near Mold on Apr. 12th.

DIPPER*Cinclus cinclus*

GRONWEN Y DWR

Widespread breeding resident in suitable areas.

Breeding occurred at low elevation in Wepre Park, Connah's Quay and a pair were seen at sea level near the mouth of the River Dulas several times during the autumn and winter months. A single bird occasionally visited a garden stream at Llanarmon-yn-Ial during the winter.

WREN*Troglodytes troglodytes*

DRYW

A common and widespread breeding resident.

Some evidence of an increase in numbers during the winter months in certain areas.

DUNNOCK*Prunella modularis*

LLWYD Y GWRYCH

A common breeding resident.

Under-recorded and ignored by most observers, it seems.

ROBIN*Erithacus rubecula*

ROBIN GOCH

A common and widespread breeding resident and partial migrant.

BLACK REDSTART*Phoenicurus ochruros*

TINGOCH DU

A scarce migrant and regular winter visitor. Has bred.

A male and female were recorded at Larton's Nose, Rhyl Harbour on Jan. 8th and 9th, with a male there on Feb. 19th and a female on Jan. 21st and Mar. 18th. A female was at POA from Apr. 10th to 13th.

REDSTART*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

TINGOCH

Fairly common summer breeding visitor mainly in upland areas.

The earliest recorded was near Llangollen on Apr. 16th and spring passage birds at POA included a male on Apr. 27th with 3 there on Apr. 30th. Good numbers were recorded from many of the traditional breeding sites although there were one or two exceptions to this. A juvenile was at Connah's Quay Reserve on Jul. 5th, a male at POA on Sep. 4th with the last bird of the year at Gyfelia on Oct. 6th.

WHINCHAT*Saxicola rubetra*

CREC YR EITHIN

Fairly common breeding summer visitor mainly in upland areas.

The first record involved 2 at Connah's Quay on Apr. 29th., followed by the first arrivals on breeding

grounds at Ruabon Moors on May 2nd. This date was considered by the observer to be extremely late. Five pairs holding territory in the Llandegla area was considered to be above average, while a party of 7 near Cilcain indicated a local brood. No other breeding records were received.

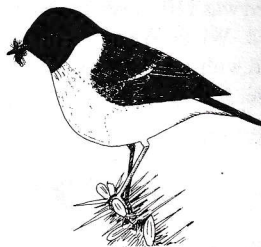
STONECHAT

Saxicola torquata

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

Breeding resident in small numbers.

One or two were regularly reported from coastal areas and from Connah's Quay during the autumn and winter months. Breeding was confirmed at POA, Ruabon Moors and the Horseshoe Pass but it is presumably more widespread in upland areas than submitted records would suggest. An unusual record was of a male on waste ground at Hawarden on Feb.26th, the first known record for the area.



WHEATEAR

Oenanthe oenanthe

TINWEN Y GARN

Common summer breeding visitor to mainly upland areas and frequent on the coast during migration. Early records were one on Hope Mountain on Mar.7th, 2 at CQR/OMR on Mar.21st, 3 at Rhyl golf course on Mar.24th and 4 at POA on Mar.26th. Most birds were back at their breeding sites by mid April. Apart from a total of 30 pairs holding territory in Moel Famau Country Park very few records of confirmed breeding were received. Late birds were 2 at Towyn on Oct.29th, one at POA on Nov.12th and one at Connah's Quay Reserve on Nov.13th. Small numbers of birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race (*O.o.leucorrhoa*) normally pass through the County in the spring but the only record received this year was of 13 at Connah's Quay on Apr.29th.

RING OUZEL

Turdus torquatus

MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

Summer breeding visitor to upland areas in small numbers.

The first birds reported were 4 males and a female at Cilcain on Apr.9th and 5 at Nannerch on 15th. The only other reports involved birds from the Eglwyseg Valley and Horseshoe Pass areas.

BLACKBIRD

Turdus merula

MWYALCHEN

A common breeding resident and winter visitor.

No evidence of any change in status.

FIELDFARE

Turdus pilaris

SOCAN EIRA

A common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Reported to have roosted in "large numbers" on Ruabon Moors between January and April but very few other records were received for the early part of the year. Spring passage was fairly minimal apart from a total of 5000 passing north over Pen-y-Cae Reservoir on Apr.4th. The earliest record was of 4 at Nercwys on Sep.16th, followed by 50 over Loggerheads on Oct.16th and 20 at Pen-y-Cae on Oct.20th. The species was widespread during November and December with several flocks running into three figures. Maximum counts of 800 at Tai Nant on Nov.25th and 900+ at Towyn on Dec.12th.

SONG THRUSH

Turdus philomelos

BRONFRAITH

A common and widespread breeding species.

As with Blackbird, there was no evidence of a change in status.

REDWING

Turdus iliacus

COCH DAN-ADEN

A common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Very few records were received for the early part of the year. The first of the autumn were 60 on Ruabon Moors on Sep.15th. The major movements occurred during October and early November with small flocks recorded flying west on many days and birds frequently heard passing over at night. Fairly

widespread during November and December with the largest flock involving 200+ at Rhuddlan on Dec.9th.

MISTLE THRUSH

Turdus viscivorus

BRYCH Y COED

A low density, breeding resident throughout most areas of Clwyd.

Several small parties were reported during late summer and autumn but no unusual concentrations were noted.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Locustella naevia

TROELLWR BACH

Fairly localised summer breeding visitor.

The first record involved a singing male at the species' stronghold at POA on Apr.14th, with 3 there next day increasing to 5 on 30th. The only other April record involved one at Marford Quarry on 25th, then single birds were noted in song from several other localities, mostly in the north or east of the county. The last record was from Berwyn Craggs on Jul.9th.

SEDGE WARBLER

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

TELOR YR HESG

Fairly common summer breeding visitor.

The first report involved a single at POA on May 1st. Very few records were submitted this year, though the species is fairly well distributed particularly in the north of the County. There would appear to be little evidence of a change in status.

REED WARBLER

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

TELOR Y CYRS

Rare summer breeding visitor.

This species is known to breed regularly at only two sites in the county. However, no reports of numbers were received from either locality. The only records involved singles at Towyn on Jul.4th and 19th. A nest was reported at Gresford Flash on May 24th but no further details were received.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

Sylvia curruca

LLWYDFRON FACH

Breeding summer visitor in increasing numbers.

The first record involved a single at POA on Apr.22nd, this being the only April record. The species appears to have become more widespread in recent years and singing males were reported from a number of areas, whilst a pair which bred in a Nercwys garden was the first breeding record that the observer has known from that area. The last report involved a single at Marford Quarry on Aug.24th.

WHITETHROAT

Sylvia communis

LLWYDFRON

Common breeding summer visitor.

A very early bird was reported from Buckley on Mar.29th. The next was at Llay on Apr.18th, then several areas reported first arrivals between 22nd and 24th. A total of 16 singing males were recorded at POA on Apr.30th, building up to a population of 23 pairs. The species appeared to be common and widespread during the breeding season. A single at POA on Sep.10th was the last record received.

GARDEN WARBLER

Sylvia borin

TELOR YR ARDD

Common breeding summer visitor to mainly higher elevations.

One at Marford Quarry on May 1st was the first record for the year and one at CQR on 7th was only their second record. There was only one breeding record from the coastal strip, at POA. Reported to be present in good numbers in the Llanarmon-yn-Ial and Llandegla areas. None were reported after Jul.19th.

BLACKCAP

Sylvia atricapilla

TELOR PENDDU

Common summer breeding visitor with small numbers wintering.

Winter records involved 5 at Tremerchion in January (no date), a male in a Shotton garden on Jan.26th.(recorded there for the sixth winter in succession), 2 males singing in Acton Park, Wrexham, on Feb.13th and a male at Nant Hall, Prestatyn on Feb.21st. Singing males at Pontybodkin on Mar.30th and Hawarden on 31st may have been early spring migrants. The main arrival occurred in late April and

early May. A bird remained at Marford Quarry until Nov.12th and there were also November records from Pentre, Deeside, on 20th and POA (2 birds) on 28th.

WOOD WARBLER

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

TELOR Y COED

Fairly common breeding summer visitor.

An early bird was at Dyserth on Apr.12th with the next records being of single birds at Chirk on 26th and Llangollen on Apr.28th. Singing birds were recorded from most of the usual areas including one of the strongholds around the Loggerheads Country Park area. Two singing birds at Llandegla were the first to be recorded there for seven years. A family party seen at Nercwys on Jul.10th included 3 fledged young.

CHIFFCHAFF

Phylloscopus collybita

SIFF-SAFF

Common summer breeding visitor with small numbers wintering mainly on the coast.

Two wintering birds were present at Connah's Quay Sewage Works during January and one was in a Ruabon garden intermittently between Feb.23rd and Mar.16th. A bird at Llay on Mar.13th may have been an early migrant along with those at Fewt and Connah's Quay on 15th, Northop on 16th and POA on 19th. There was a fairly widespread arrival over Mar.24th to 26th and most areas had recorded birds by the end of the month. Numbers were reported to be lower than usual in the Llanarmon area during the summer but this was not evident from other areas. Late birds were seen at POA on Nov.14th and at Connah's Quay Sewage Works and Padeswood on Nov.19th.

WILLOW WARBLER

Phylloscopus trochilus

TELOR YR HELYG

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first records were at Marford and Pontybodkin on Mar.30th and on 31st at Pwllglas and Connah's Quay Sewage Works. The main arrival was during early April.

GOLDCREST

Regulus regulus

DRYW EURBEN

A common breeding resident and passage migrant but under recorded.

Birds became more widespread during October and November when presumably passage birds were involved. Small numbers were also reported from coastal areas (particularly POA) during the winter months.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

Muscicapa striata

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Fairly common summer breeding visitor.

Traditionally one of the latest spring arrivals, with no reports received before May 26th, when one was observed in Clocaenog Forest. Records were received from only four other areas so it would seem that this species has been considerably under recorded.

PIED FLYCATCHER

Ficedula hypoleuca

GWYBEDOG BRITH

Common summer breeding visitor.

This species has been greatly assisted by the provision of nest-boxes. The first record was from near Llangollen on Apr.18th, then the main arrival occurred during late April and early May. A study block of 60 nest-boxes in the Llangollen area had 43 layings compared with 42 in 1988.

LONG-TAILED TIT

Aegithalos caudatus

TITW GYNFFON-HIR

A common breeding resident.

Widely reported in small numbers, with parties of 10+ recorded from several areas, the largest being 15 in a Hawarden garden on Sep.11th and in Pentre on Sep.17th.

MARSH TIT

Parus palustris

TITW-R WERN

A fairly common breeding resident.

Regularly recorded in small numbers throughout the County. An unusual record involved 2 at POA on May 7th.

WILLOW TIT	<i>Parus montanus</i>	TITW-R HELYG
A less common breeding resident than the previous species. Fewer reports were received than for the last species with most records being from upland areas. An exception to this was one at Connah's Quay on Feb.25th.		
COAL TIT	<i>Parus ater</i>	TITW PENDDU
A common breeding resident, especially in upland areas and plantations. By far the largest number recorded involved an amazing 70-80 flying west out of a Rowan tree in the middle of Ruabon Moors on Sep.23rd!		
BLUE TIT	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	TITW TOMOS LAS
Common and widespread breeding resident. A total of 105 individuals were either ringed or controlled at Pwllglas on Mar.18th. There is evidence of a continued increase in breeding numbers at a Llangollen nest-study site where 19 pairs bred, as against 16 pairs in 1988 and 8 in 1987.		
GREAT TIT	<i>Parus major</i>	TITW MAWR
Common and widespread breeding resident. No noteworthy observations during 1989.		
NUTHATCH	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	DELOR Y CNAU
Common and widespread breeding resident. No apparent change in status.		
TREECREEPER	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	DRINGWR BACH
Common and widespread resident.		
JAY	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	YSGRECH Y COED
Fairly common breeding resident. Very few reports were received.		
MAGPIE	<i>Pica pica</i>	PIODN
Common and widespread breeding resident. Apparently undergoing a population explosion, this conspicuous species can be seen in good numbers throughout the County.		
JACKDAW	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	JAC-Y-DO
Common and widespread breeding resident. This species is a colonial breeder and has taken full advantage of the numerous quarries throughout the County. The largest reported gatherings away from breeding sites were 40 at POA on Jan.16th and 100 at Oakenholt Marsh Reserve on Mar.26th.		
ROOK	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	YDFRAN
Common and widespread breeding resident. This species is a colonial breeder and it would appear to have enjoyed a good breeding season in 1989. Specific details received included figures for the combined Pentredwr and Tan Lan Rookeries, which numbered 103 nests with a new colony of 7 nests close by in the World's End Valley. This compares with 89 nests in 1988 and 99 in 1987.		
CARRION CROW	<i>Corvus corone corone</i>	BRAN DYDDYN
HOODED CROW	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	BRAN LWYD
A common breeding resident and rare visitor respectively. No unusual numbers of C.c.corone reported but a Hooded Crow was seen in the Rhyl and Prestatyn areas on a number of occasions during March from 5th onwards. There were two other records, one being noted at POA on Apr.22nd and one feeding on Rowan berries with Carrion Crows at Eglwyseg on Sep.17th.		

RAVEN*Corvus corax*

CIGFRAN

Fairly common breeding resident in mainly upland areas.

Widely reported from most upland areas in small numbers, with a maximum of 20 at Moel Famau on Sep.5th. Breeding was confirmed at several sites including a pair which nested on an electricity pylon near Shotton Steelworks. There were several records from coastal areas during the winter including 1 at Gronant on Mar.25th and 3 over Towyn on Nov.28th. Out of range records were 2 flying south over Hawarden on Mar.31st and single birds over Mold town centre on Aug.28th and Oct.22nd.

STARLING*Sturnus vulgaris*

DRUDWEN

A common and widespread breeding resident often gathering in large flocks during autumn and winter when they are joined by Continental visitors.

Some evidence of autumn passage with "thousands" flying west over the sea at Towyn on Oct.28th and flocks of 500 and 200 moving south-west near Llangollen on Nov.10th. The largest grounded flocks recorded were 750 at Oakenholt Marsh Reserve on June 10th with 700 there on Nov.12th. No reports were received from roost sites. An albino bird was observed at Buckley on Mar.2nd.

HOUSE SPARROW*Passer domesticus*

ADERYN Y TO

A common breeding resident in the vicinity of human habitation.

TREE SPARROW*Passer montanus*

GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

A localised breeding resident.

Small numbers reported from several areas but it remains fairly local, presumably under recorded. Observed regularly during the winter months at POA with a maximum of 80 on Nov.26th. Elsewhere the maximum recorded were 50 at Ruabon on Jan.18th and 40 at Nercwys on Apr.15th.

CHAFFINCH*Fringilla coelebs*

JI-BINC

A common breeding resident with some movement away from breeding areas during the winter.

There was little evidence of autumn passage this year and only a few winter flocks were reported, the largest being 500 at Abergele on Dec.29th, 350 at Connah's Quay on Nov.28th and 180 at POA on Jan.2nd.

BRAMBLING*Fringilla montifringilla*

PINC Y MYNYDD

A fairly common but localised winter visitor.

Very few records were received for the early part of the year, these mostly involving single figures apart from a flock at Ruabon from January to the end of March, peaking at 150 on Jan.31st, and 11 on Nercwys Mountain on Mar.17th. The last spring record involved a single at Marford Quarry on Apr.14th. The first of the autumn involved 6 near Cae Llwyd Reservoir on Oct.24th. Subsequently only small numbers were recorded to the end of the year, with a maximum of 20 seen regularly in Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele and 10-20 at Connah's Quay throughout December. Records were also received from Clocaenog Forest but no dates.

GREENFINCH*Carduelis chloris*

LLINOS WERWD

A common breeding resident.

Winter flocks were reported from several coastal sites with the maximum count being 300+ at POA on December 22nd.

GOLDFINCH*Carduelis carduelis*

NICO

A common breeding resident.

Regularly reported in small numbers throughout the year. The largest flocks being c.60 at Berwyn Halt on Sep.15th and c.200 near Ty Mawr Reservoir on Oct.6th.

SISKIN*Carduelis spinus*

PILA GWYRDD

A common winter visitor with smaller numbers remaining during the breeding season.

Widespread in small numbers during the winter and spring with several reports of birds using garden feeders. The largest flock recorded was 50+ at Gronant on Apr.29th. Good numbers remained through the breeding season, particularly in the Clocaenog Forest and Llangollen areas. A party of 13 were seen on Nercwys Mountain on Jul.13th. Unfortunately no reports were received of confirmed breeding. Small parties were again fairly widespread during the later months of the year, mostly in single figures apart from 30 at Nercwys on Sep.16th.

LINNET

Carduelis cannabina

LLINOS

A common and widespread resident breeding in reasonable numbers.

Post breeding flocks began to form from mid July onwards. All reports of autumn and winter flocks were from coastal areas with a maximum of 500 at POA on Jan.23rd, also 120 there on Sep.10th and 100 regularly at Towyn throughout October.

TWITE

Carduelis flavirostris

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

A scarce winter visitor to coastal areas.

A few records were received mostly from the favoured estuarine sites. 5 were at POA on Jan.23rd and 10 at Towyn on Apr.4th. In the second winter period 25 were at Oakenholt Marsh RSPB Reserve on Oct.26th with 5 there on Nov.7th and 22nd. At POA 3 were present on Dec.12th and 16th.

REDPOLL

Carduelis flammea

LLINOS BENGOGH

A fairly common breeding resident but under recorded.

Few significant records were received but seemingly commoner in upland areas such as Clocaenog Forest. Winter flocks congregate in the birch woodlands along the coast when they are joined by small numbers of Meally Redpolls, C.f.flammea.

ARCTIC REDPOLL

Carduelis hornemanni

LLINOS BENGOGH YR
ARCTIG

Extremely rare vagrant.

A bird reported as this species was first noted together with a flock of Linnets at Towyn on Apr.16th. and was subsequently seen on a number of occasions during May, September, October and December in the same vicinity. (A description has been submitted to BBRC)

CROSSBILL

Loxia curvirostra

GYLFIN GROES

A scarce breeding resident.

Reported from five areas in 1989. At least 8 were in Clocaenog Forest on Feb.5th. Regularly recorded on Nercwys Mountain from Mar.14th to Apr.10th, normally involving 1-3 birds but 10 were present on Mar.31st when a male was in song, also 1 there on Jun.29th. A pair were observed feeding three fledglings at Corwen on Apr.30th. Other records involved 2 at Llyn Brenig on May 22nd. and 9 just above Newtown Forest, Pen-y-Cae on Oct.12th.

BULLFINCH

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

COCH Y BERLLAN

A fairly common breeding resident.

Very few recorded.

HAWFINCH

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

GYLFINBRAFF

A localised breeding resident.

Apart from a regular roost site (and possible breeding area) in the garden at Gwysaney Hall, where up to 4 were recorded, single birds were reported from Llanfihangel G.M. on Feb.15th, 2 at Cyffiliog on Feb.23rd and Padeswood on Apr.9th. The only other records received involved undated reports from Clocaenog Forest during the winter months.

SNOW BUNTING

Plectrophenax nivalis

BRAS YR EIRA

A regular winter visitor to the coast in small numbers.

Regularly reported along the coast from POA to Abergele from January to March, with a maximum of 20 at POA on Jan.23rd. Three were still present at Towyn on Apr.1st with 2 there from the 3rd.- 6th. The first of the autumn involved a single at POA on Oct.18th then birds were again present along the coast from Nov.12th to the end of the year, with a maximum of 21 at Towyn on Nov.19th. Away from the normal range a flock of c.20 were at Flint Castle on Jan.29th.

YELLOWHAMMER

Emberiza citrinella

BRAS MELYN

A fairly common breeding resident.

The largest number recorded involved 37 at POA on Jan.22nd.

REED BUNTING

Emberiza schoeniclus

BRAS Y CYRS

A fairly common breeding resident.

Highest counts received involved 12 at POA on Feb.5th and 25 there on Dec.14th.

CORN BUNTING

Miliaria calandra

BRAS YR YD

A localised breeding species.

Regularly recorded in the extreme north-east of the county, where it breeds in reasonable numbers. The only other record received involved 16 at Gwaenysgor on Dec.30th.

ESCAPES

EGYPTIAN GOOSE

Alopochen aegyptiacus

GWYDD YR AIFFT

A bird with a damaged leg was present at CQR/OMR on May 8th.

WOOD DUCK

Aix sponsa

HWYADEN COED

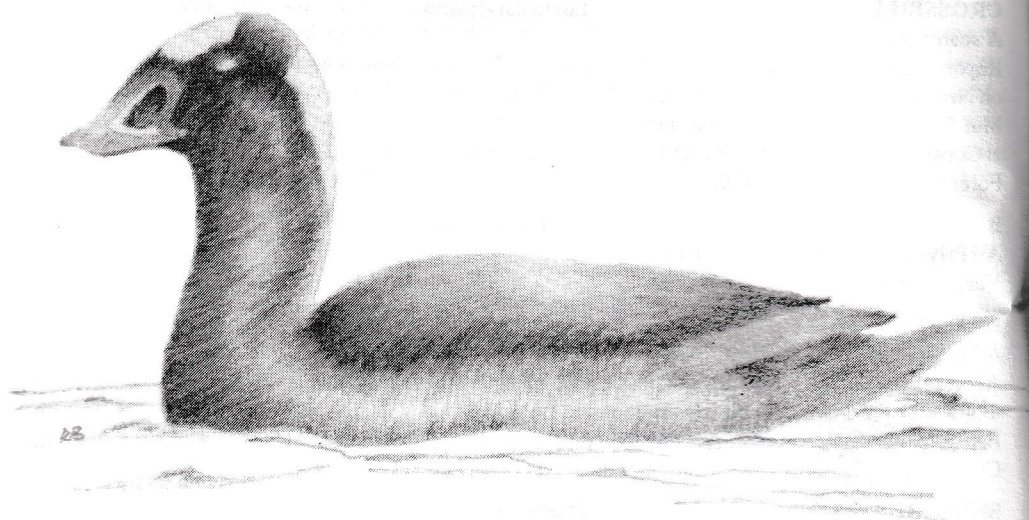
One was recorded on three occasions at Llangollen, Jan-Mar.

CHILOE WIGEON

Anas sibilatrix

CHWIWELL CHILOE

A bird was recorded at CQR/OMR on Sep.29th. A pair was reported at Shotwick Lake, no date.



CLWYD RINGING REPORT 1985-1989

Edited by Ian M. Spence

With the creation of the Clwyd Bird Recording Group I wanted to provide a means of making public some aspects of the valuable effort put in by ringers in the study of birds in the County. Currently there are thirteen ringers registered as living in Clwyd; two of these are trainees, the others are able to operate independently, one being an octogenarian! Three are members of Merseyside Ringing Group, a group which provides a substantial proportion of the annual ringing totals. There are various out of County ringers who visit more or less regularly, including members of SCAN Ringing Group.

Seven ringers provided the requested details of projects they undertake: ringing of pulli and adult Swallows in the north east of Clwyd; several nest-box schemes with Pied Flycatcher as the target species, and one with Tawny Owl as the target; mist-netting in various habitats, including one woodland Constant Effort Site; and a cannon-netting site on the coast for waders. The ringing totals show that a wealth of other work is being done, ranging from ringing at tern colonies; catching Mute Swans; mist-netting at lowland reedbed and/or scrubland; a few hard-earned raptors; and much effort on ringing pulli both in nest-boxes and of upland breeding passerines. The grand effort has produced a minimum total of 26247 birds ringed in 1985-1989, of 94 species.

Having only relatively recently moved from a distinctly crowded part of Britain, Greater Manchester (in the sense of population, hence ringer density), I still find Clwyd to be a vast area of untapped possibilities. There is plenty of scope for any ringer who might wish to move into the County. The ringing totals show the variety of species, which are mainly breeding species. The totals also show that Clwyd is not in the same league as some eastern British counties with regard to migrant species, but the north coast does cater for some long distance migrants (see the recoveries listed below).

It will be interesting over the next few years to follow the changes in totals for each species. Will changes in raptor totals give some indication of the species' fortunes, or merely in ringer effort? Some raptors and owls which have been rehabilitated or captive bred are being ringed and released in Clwyd, but they are not included in the totals. The wader ringing is mainly coastal, mainly by SCAN R.G. who only make two visits a year. While gulls have received very little attention, the terns are being well monitored by M.R.G.. Owl studies are getting under way - Chester Rowley's intriguing (but awkward to mount on small trees) boxes for Little Owl are proving to be popular with the intended residents, and Forestry Commission boxes for Tawny Owl are being monitored by Iolo Lloyd and myself. I would welcome information on where the hirundines are being ringed - at breeding sites, colonies or roosts - apart from Paul Trigg's study of breeding Swallows mentioned above. There is ample scope for Dipper ringing, but mist-netting on rivers is so much easier with more than one person. I understand it is mainly John and Ron Birch who find the chat, Wheatear and Ring Ouzel nests, which must take a lot of time and effort.

The warblers, generally, do not figure greatly in the totals. Are ringers choosing to net birds in habitats which are not favoured by warblers, is there a lack of ideal sites (e.g. reed and scrub fringed ponds), or is there a relative lack of warblers? It is very clear that Pied Flycatcher is a well studied species within Clwyd, and Figures 1, 2 and 3 show the movements of these birds to and from the county (within county movements have been omitted). Not surprisingly, Blue Tit is a numerous and much ringed species, even though some of the County's ringers choose not to ring them.

A very large number of recoveries from the five year period were sent to me to consider, and I am very grateful for the large response. The choices I made are intended to show the longer movements recorded for the species which had recoveries. From the list, three main sites stand out: Rhos-on-sea, Point of Air and Shotton. There were few distant movements from inland sites, apart from Pied Flycatchers, which

are illustrated rather than listed.

The ringers of Clwyd are obtaining much information, from the ringing and from the recoveries that eventually arrive. I hope that some of you may wish to share some of your knowledge with a wider audience, and submit articles for future ringing reports. Please send the articles to me, or contact me if you wish to discuss possibilities. I would like this report to reflect your interests, and trust that the report will enjoy your increasing support.

For information submitted for this report, I thank: P. Holmes, A.E. Male, Merseyside Ringing Group (P. Coffey & P. Trigg), J.A.L. Roberts, C. Rowley, SCAN Ringing Group (G.D. Couchman, D. & G. Moss), I.M. Spence, S.K. Thomas and L. Withington.

SPECIES	1985-88		1989		TOTALS		GRAND TOTALS
	F.G.	PULL	F.G.	PULL	F.G.	PULL	
Mute Swan	26	-	6	-	32	-	32
Hen Harrier	-	-	-	4	-	4	4
Sparrowhawk	3	28	3	2	6	30	36
Buzzard	-	14	-	6	-	20	20
Kestrel	-	8	-	3	-	11	11
Merlin	-	13	-	3	-	16	16
Peregrine	-	1	-	3	-	4	4
Oystercatcher	263	-	-	-	263	-	263
Ringed Plover	6	4	3	-	9	4	13
Lapwing	-	27	-	-	-	27	27
Purple Sandpiper	5	-	-	-	5	-	5
Dunlin	3	-	-	-	3	-	3
Snipe	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Woodcock	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Curlew	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Redshank	28	1	-	-	28	1	29
Common Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Turnstone	214	-	77	-	291	-	291
Black-headed Gull	2	-	-	4	2	4	6
Common Tern	-	1306	-	474	-	1780	1780
Little Tern	-	146	-	68	-	214	214
Stock Dove	-	20	-	2	-	22	22
Woodpigeon	2	6	2	-	4	6	10
Collared Dove	4	12	4	6	8	18	26
Cuckoo	-	-	1	-	1	-	1
Little Owl	1	12	-	10	1	22	23
Tawny Owl	-	10	7	12	7	22	29
Nightjar	1	-	1	-	2	-	2
Swift	287	-	-	-	287	-	287
Kingfisher	2	-	-	-	2	-	2
Green Woodpecker	-	-	2	-	2	-	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	9	-	6	-	15	-	15
Skylark	-	2	-	-	-	2	2
Sand Martin	102	-	109	-	211	-	211

Swallow	196	236	23	289	219	525	744
House Martin	707	-	7	-	714	-	714
Tree Pipit	-	6	-	-	-	6	6
Meadow Pipit	21	48	2	4	23	52	75
Yellow Wagtail	3	-	-	-	3	-	3
Grey Wagtail	22	5	3	9	25	14	39
Pied Wagtail	27	9	4	7	31	16	47
Dipper	18	28	1	15	19	43	62
Wren	345	-	128	4	473	4	477
Dunnock	355	-	97	-	452	-	452
Robin	524	15	138	31	662	46	708
Redstart	24	57	8	7	32	64	96
Whinchat	3	484	7	84	10	568	578
Stonechat	-	15	2	10	2	25	27
Wheatear	8	459	-	119	8	578	586
Ring Ouzel	-	7	-	4	-	11	11
Blackbird	527	12	109	-	636	12	648
Fieldfare	2	-	-	-	2	-	2
Song Thrush	109	11	37	-	146	11	157
Redwing	69	-	7	-	76	-	76
Mistle Thrush	5	2	1	-	6	2	8
Sedge Warbler	235	-	53	-	288	-	288
Reed Warbler	265	-	50	-	315	-	315
Barred Warbler	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Lesser Whitethroat	25	-	7	-	32	-	32
Whitethroat	42	8	24	-	66	8	74
Garden Warbler	55	-	16	-	71	-	71
Blackcap	249	-	80	-	329	-	329
Wood Warbler	2	17	-	-	2	17	19
Chiffchaff	155	-	89	-	244	-	244
Willow Warbler	433	62	98	6	531	68	599
Goldcrest	156	-	113	-	269	-	269
Spotted Flycatcher	9	30	2	18	11	48	59
Pied Flycatcher	470	3292	163	1200	633	4492	5125
Long-tailed Tit	155	-	105	-	260	-	260
Marsh Tit	40	-	22	16	62	16	78
Willow Tit	37	-	8	-	45	-	45
Coal Tit	128	8	51	42	179	50	229
Blue Tit	2083	1189	774	553	2857	1742	4599
Great Tit	614	354	220	230	834	584	1418
Nuthatch	20	20	6	29	26	49	75
Treecreeper	47	7	18	-	65	7	72
Jay	2	-	1	-	3	-	3
Magpie	26	-	3	-	29	-	29
Jackdaw	20	6	5	10	25	16	41
Rook	1	3	-	-	1	3	4
Raven	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Starling	307	7	43	-	350	7	357
House Sparrow	5	-	1	4	6	4	10

Tree Sparrow	-	-	2	-	2	-	2
Chaffinch	711	5	348	-	1059	5	1064
Brambling	47	-	21	-	68	-	68
Greenfinch	420	-	249	-	669	-	669
Goldfinch	17	9	7	-	24	9	33
Siskin	55	-	73	-	128	-	128
Linnet	9	7	4	-	13	7	20
Redpoll	36	2	20	-	56	2	58
Bullfinch	195	-	101	-	296	-	296
Yellowhammer	11	6	42	-	53	6	59
Reed Bunting	185	-	113	-	298	-	298
TOTALS	11195	8035	3727	3288	14921	11325	26247

Selected ringing recoveries received during 1985-89

The following codes or terms are used to present the following recoveries:

The ring number (it is vital that members of the public who find a dead bird report this!). Age when ringed using the EURING code:

- 1 pullus (nestling or chick)
- 2 fully grown, year of hatching unknown
- 3 hatched during calendar year of ringing
- 4 hatched before calendar year of ringing, exact year unknown
- 5 hatched during last calendar year
- 6 hatched before last calendar year, exact year unknown
- 7 hatched two calendar years ago
- 8 hatched three or more years ago, exact year unknown.

'Controlled' means caught by another ringer and released alive.

Cormorant

5011941 1 13.06.87 Puffin Island, Gwynedd 01.09.87 Rhyl 37km 90 deg 80 days Tangled in Mackerel lure, released

5011989 1 13.06.87 Puffin Island, Gwynedd 18.01.88 River Alwen, nr Maerdy 52 km 135 deg 219 days Found shot, not fresh

Whooper Swan

Z39871 4 08.01.84 Connah's Quay 15.10.87 Nordur Mula, ICELAND, 65°30'N 14°14'W Shot 1498 km 337 deg 1376 days

Oystercatcher

FA14589 8 27.01.85 Rhos-on-sea 22.04.85 Ellon, Grampian Dead 472 km 360 deg 85 days

FA14565 8 27.01.85 Rhos-on-sea 15.08.88 FAEROES, 61°28'N 06°44'W Dead 923 km 360 deg 1296 days

FA14791 7 27.01.85 Rhos-on-sea 24.06.86 FAEROES, 62°15'N 07°10'W Dead 1013 km 360 deg 513 days

FS27329 3 08.10.72 Point of Air 16.12.87 Pas de Calais, FRANCE, 50°59'N 02°03'E Freshly dead 450 km 126 deg 5547 days

FV08575 4 23.09.79 Point of Air 08.06.87 Streymoy, FAEROES, 62°06'N 06°54'W Dead 995 km 340 deg 2815 days

FV08598 2 23.09.79 Point of Air 10.04.89 nr Reykjavik, ICELAND, 64°10'N 23°19'W Found dead

at Mink den 1599 km 319 deg 3487 days

Knot

CC66216 4 12.08.72 Point of Air 22.04.86 N. Friesian Islands, F.R.GERMANY, 54o42'N 08o26'E
Controlled 781 km 90 deg 5001 days

Sanderling

NB40614 4 24.05.78 Point of Air 25.12.88 Taroudant, MOROCCO, 30o29'N 08o52'W Road casualty
2580 km 180 deg 3868 days

Purple Sandpiper

BV25947 2 10.11.79 Rhos-on-sea 29.12.88 Hartlepool, Cleveland Controlled 226 km 45 deg 3337
days

Dunlin

BB74808 4 06.05.73 Point of Air 07.08.86 Turku-Pori, FINLAND, 61o29'N 21o21'E Controlled
1724 km 45 deg 4841 days

BX39591 4 07.05.77 Point of Air 18.06.86 ICELAND, 66o32'N 16o02'W Controlled breeding 1622
km 337 deg 3329 days

BX69224 4 01.08.81 Point of Air 21.05.88 South Uist, Western Isles Controlled breeding 517 km
337 deg 2485 days

Snipe

CE96099 3 12.08.83 Gronant 12.02.86 Manche, FRANCE, 49o10'N 00o19'W Shot 510 km 135
deg 915 days

Common Sandpiper

BV63175 4 06.07.81 Shotton 01.05.89 Rabat, MOROCCO, 34o02'N 06o51'W Freshly dead 2151
km 188 deg 2856 days

Turnstone

CE12063 2 10.11.79 Rhos-on-sea 17.05.88 ICELAND, 65o31'N 23o12'W Controlled 1736 km
315 deg 3111 days

CE12191 6 06.03.82 Rhos-on-sea 29.06.87 GREENLAND, 77o20'N 18o45'W Controlled breeding
2744 km 360 deg 1941 days

Stockholm 4152657 3 29.08.83 SWEDEN, 57o18'N 11o54'E 29.11.86 Rhos-on-sea 1082 km 225
deg 1188 days Controlled

Common Tern

XR41516 1 19.06.88 Shotton 24.12.88 Casamence, SENEGAL, 12o40'N 16o45'W Captured on
boat 4668 km 202 deg 188 days

XS64119 1 24.06.84 Shotton 28.04.89 Safi, MOROCCO, 32o18'N 09o20'W Dead 2377 km 192
deg 1769 days

XS64179 1 14.08.84 Shotton 29.06.89 nr Safi, MOROCCO, 32o20'N 09o17'W Dead 2372 km
192 deg 1780 days

XS89574 1 21.06.87 Shotton 04.03.88 Keta Lagoon, GHANA, 05o54'N 00o56'E Dead 5268 km
180 deg 257 days

XS89992 1 19.06.88 Shotton 14.01.89 Takoradi, GHANA, 04o55'N 01o45'W Dead 5366 km
179 deg 209 days

Swift

SA33660 4 23.06.78 nr Oxford, Oxfordshire 26.06.88 Padeswood, nr Mold 211 km 322 deg 3656
days Controlled

Sand Martin

E8622403J 02.07.88 Tipperary, EIRE, 53°06'N 02°58'W 16.07.89 Marford Controlled at colony 348 km 80 deg 379 days

Blackbird

XH03658 3M 26.10.81 Llangernyw 12.03.85 Stavanger, NORWAY 847 km 47 deg 1233 days
XH27897 6M 05.01.85 Connah's Quay 30.04.86 Co Galway, EIRE, 53°26'N 09°19'W Dead 414 km 270 deg 480 days
XN18382 6F 16.02.80 Rhos-on-sea 26.04.85 Arnhem, NETHERLANDS 655 km 92 deg 69 days

Song Thrush

XN12401 3 23.07.85 Llanfair T.H. 15.01.86 Dublin, EIRE 169 km 271 deg 176 days

Sedge Warbler

C993935 3J 05.07.89 Gronant 24.07.89 Wick, nr Christchurch, Dorset Controlled 312 km 160 deg 19 days
E424257 3 05.07.87 Shotton 16.03.88 St Paul's Bay, MALTA, 35°57'N 14°23'E Controlled 2352 km 135 deg 255 days
E548977 3 29.08.88 Shotton 06.09.88 Somme, FRANCE, 50°06'N 01°27'E Controlled 463 km 135 deg 8 days

Blackcap

E424612 3 10.08.87 Shotton 30.03.89 Settati, MOROCCO, 33°04'N 07°37'W Alive & released 2267 km 189 deg 598 days

Chiffchaff

6J7096 3 08.07.85 Gronant 08.09.85 Cissbury, Worthing, Sussex Controlled 343 km 144 deg 62 days

Blue Tit

E491984 3 23.10.87 Bardsey Island, Gwynedd 06.04.88 Pwllglas, Ruthin 105 km 71 deg 166 days Controlled
KJ49518 3M 27.11.88 Wolverhampton, West Midlands 31.03.89 nr Pwllglas, Ruthin 94 km 305 deg 124 days Controlled

Starling

RB30564 6M 16.01.87 Rhos-on-sea 10.04.89 Yitebsk, USSR 2257 km 86 deg 815 days
XH03906 5M 11.01.82 Rhos-on-sea 04.03.85 Nord, FRANCE 569 km 123 deg 1148 days
XH03919 6F 12.01.82 Rhos-on-sea 20.04.86 Rogaland, NORWAY 858 km 40 deg 1559 days
XN12310 4M 14.12.84 Rhos-on-sea 07.04.85 Weser-Ems, F.R.GERMANY 744 km 91 deg 114 days
XN12446 5M 15.01.86 Rhos-on-sea 25.03.87 Arnhem, NETHERLANDS 625 km 90 deg 434 days
T040038 3F 30.06.85 Silute, LITHUANIA 14.02.86 Rhos-on-sea 1633 km 262 deg 229 days

Chaffinch

C139088 4F 23.04.85 Calf of Man 19.05.87 Llanfair T.H. 122 km 139 deg 756 days

Siskin

A661859 6F 27.02.86 Rhos-on-sea 05.06.86 Alness, Highland Region 490 km 356 deg 98 days
C113735 6F 06.05.86 Golspie, Highland Region 03.04.87 Rhos-on-sea 519 km 179 deg 332 days
C573374 5M 05.04.86 East Grinstead, Sussex 29.01.89 nr Pwllglas, Ruthin 312 km 314 deg 1030 days Controlled

Reed Bunting

E548569 3F 18.08.88 Shotton 31.01.89 Bryanston, Dorset Controlled 266 km 167 deg 166 days

Figure 1.

Recoveries in Britain of Pied Flycatchers ringed in Clwyd (circles: May and June; stars: July).

Figure 2.

Recoveries abroad of Pied Flycatchers ringed in Clwyd (circles: August to November; open stars: December to February; stars: March to June).

Figure 3.

Ringing places of Pied Flycatchers ringed elsewhere and recovered in Clwyd (circles: ringed as pulli; star: ringed as full grown bird).

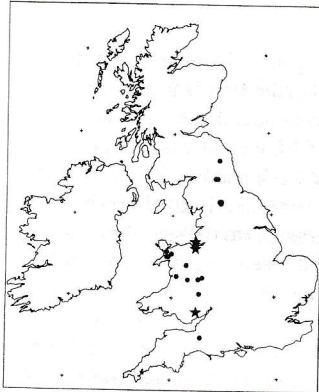


FIG 1

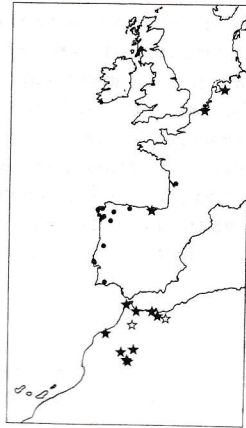


FIG 2

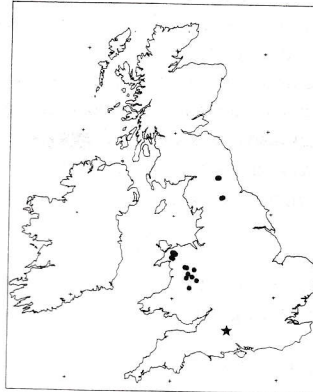


FIG 3

THE WELSH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Society was formally established in April 1989 and its aim is to promote the study, conservation and enjoyment of birds throughout Wales.

Many of the wildlife habitats in Wales are under serious threat of development and it is vitally important that local ornithology has a fully co-ordinated voice if conservation issues are to be properly discussed. Much depends on the strength of that voice. If the W.O.S. is to succeed in its main aims then it is essential the Society should have the authority to speak out on behalf of all those who wish to protect the birds and bird habitats of Wales. It can only do so if all interested people lend their support by joining its ranks.

Inside this report you will find a leaflet outlining the aims, objectives and activities of the Society and everyone who has an interest in the wellbeing of the birdlife of Wales is urged to become a member.

FILL IN THE APPLICATION FORM AND JOIN TODAY!!
FILL IN THE APPLICATION FORM AND JOIN TODAY!!

RECENT INCREASES IN WINTERING BLACK-TAILED GODWIT, KNOT AND DUNLIN IN THE FLINT SANDS/OAKENHOLT MARSH/CONNAH'S QUAY AREA OF THE DEE ESTUARY.

G.E. Morris (Deeside Naturalists)

The colonisation in winter of the Oakenholt Marsh/Connah's Quay area of the Dee estuary by Black-tailed Godwit and Knot during the 1980's appears to be due to redistribution within the estuary.

INTRODUCTION

More than half of the saltmarsh between Connah's Quay and Flint was gradually reclaimed using fly-ash from the coal-fired CEGB Power Station. When production ceased in the 1970's (permission for a nuclear power station was refused in 1972), only the large area of marsh at Oakenholt and a narrow riverside strip were left. The area was developed as a bird reserve by the CEGB and Deeside Naturalists' Society in the mid-1970s with the creation of hides, marsh scrapes and fresh and brackish pools. This work received a Prince of Wales award for conservation in 1978 and, in 1988, nearly all of the saltmarsh was purchased by the RSPB. Substantial changes (both accretion and erosion) to the sandflats and, to a lesser extent, the saltmarshes occur regularly as a result of the action of rivers and tides. In 1986, for example, the Dee changed course and caused considerable erosion of the riverside marsh before it was rerouted along the revetment, or breakwater, which forms the north bank of the river. Since 1988, accumulation of sandflats has occurred rapidly off Flint and along the south bank of the river. This is likely to increase the importance of the area as a feeding and roosting site for wildfowl and waders. The tides also create deep gulleys as water runs off the marsh and back to the river, a process exacerbated by heavy sheep grazing. These gulleys, however, make an important contribution to the bird refuge, since human intrusion, mainly in the form of children and dog-walkers, would undoubtedly make a greater impact if these natural barriers did not exist. The disappearance of common scurvy-grass flowers in 1990 from areas of the marsh where it was previously common may be a result of much greater recent grazing pressure, since it still flowers profusely on Burton Marsh. Shorter vegetation is another factor which might attract waders to the marsh.

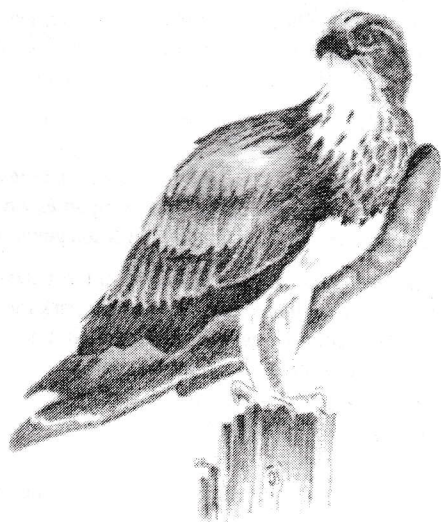
THE SPECIES

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) were considered rare on the Dee until an autumn passage of 30-40 began to be recorded in the late 1920s. By 1960, however, it was no longer thought to winter on the Dee (Bell, 1962). From the 1960/61 winter onwards there were winter records on the Cheshire side of the Dee, but these were apparently irregular and rarely exceeded 50 birds. Although occurrences continued to be irregular, counts increased to 150 in Feb. 1967 and 325 in Dec. 1968. Raines considered that the birds were feeding on remote areas of the sandflats at low tide and suggested a resident winter population of 300-400 by 1969, but their regular high-tide roosts were apparently still not established (Cheshire Bird Reports 1968/69). Prater noted that the winter population of about 600 in 1970/71 were feeding mainly on Bagillt Bank and Flint Sands with high-tide roosts between Flint and Point of Air (Cheshire Bird Report 1971). The long-term population on the Dee seems to have remained fairly stable over the subsequent 20 years, though fluctuating considerably between 300 and 1500 birds from winter to winter. There has been a steady increase in the winter flock at Oakenholt/Connah's Quay over the past three winters, from 400 in 87/88 to 880 in 88/89 and 1500 in 89/90. However, the latter figure was also reached on the Dee as long ago as 1972/73, so it is too early to say whether recent increases are anything other than normal variation in the Dee flock as a whole. The distribution of Black-tailed Godwit on the Dee, however, does appear to have changed significantly during this period. They began to overwinter in small numbers at Oakenholt/Connah's Quay in 1981/82, having previously been only passage

migrants. This event occurred 15 years after the Dee winter flock was first established in its present numbers. They then increased strikingly in the 1982/83 winter (over 500 throughout the winter) and again in 1983/84 (over 1000). The Cheshire Bird Report for 1983 notes that they were more difficult to find on the English side of the Dee than in previous years. Sykes describes large numbers using flooded fields at Shotwick during the 1984/85 winter, when numbers at Oakenholt/Connah's Quay were reduced (Deeside Naturalists Report 1983/84). Almost the whole flock now appears to be resident for the Oct-Mar period at Oakenholt/Connah's Quay, feeding on the edge of Flint Sands or along the river at low tide and displaced onto the marsh or adjacent pools at high tide. They have moved towards the head of the estuary, being seen rarely in significant numbers north of Flint at the present time. The Deeside Naturalists' Society winter feeding programme at this site suggests that both Godwit and Knot can be attracted to pools where grain has been put out for Mallard and Teal, though this occurs mainly at high tide, when the normal feeding areas are not available. Knot (*Calidris canuta*) began wintering regularly in the area only much more recently. Although abundant further downstream (usually 10,000-20,000), they have previously been quite an unusual and very sporadic sight at Oakenholt/Connah's Quay, at least as far back as 1976, until 400 were present regularly for the first time in the 1987/88 winter and 1000-2000 in the following two winters. They associate closely with Black-tailed Godwit, at both feeding and roosting sites. There was also a significant change in Dunlin (*C. alpina*) in the 1989/90 winter, with roosting flocks being both larger (up to 2000) and more regular than in previous years. This change was almost as striking as the others but whether it will be as permanent remains to be seen.

CONCLUSIONS

There is insufficient information available to account fully for Black-tailed Godwit and Knot movements into the Oakenholt/Connah's Quay area during the 1980's. One possibility is that changes in the sandflats and mudflats brought about by the river and tide have improved the area as a feeding site, but other influences, such as altered distribution patterns and vegetation density at various potential roost sites around the estuary, cannot be ruled out. REFERENCES Deeside Naturalists Society Report (T.K. Sykes, J. Davidson, 1977-84; G.E. Morris, 1985-89). Cheshire Bird Report (G.A. Williams, 1964-67; R.J. Raines, 1968-73). Dee Estuary Research Review, 1972-75 (Chaps 5 and 6, C. Thomas). Nature Conservancy Council. The Birds of Cheshire (T. Hedley Bell; 1962). Sherratts, Altrincham.



A quick look at a map of Clwyd and it can be seen that a large proportion of the 32,261 acres of the Dee estuary falls within the Clwyd boundary. An internationally important site in its truest sense, the Dee estuary is in the top 5 most important estuaries in Britain and one of the top 10 most important in Western Europe. In recognition of its importance the whole estuary was designated as a Grade 1 Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1985. As well as SSSI status, the UK Government has designated the site as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Conservation and as a Special Protection Area under the EC Directive on Wild Birds.

During 1989 various issues arose which have caused conservationists concern over the possible damaging effects on the Dee estuary. Through the Dee Estuary Conservation Group (DECG) 18 local and national bodies voice their opinion on issues affecting the estuary. Where necessary, the DECG takes the required steps to prevent or minimise any damaging proposals. Many issues were dealt with during 1989, none of them large-scale proposals such as a barrage (the threat of a Dee barrage was one reason the DECG was set up in 1973) but many small scale projects the effects of which could seriously interfere with the status quo of the estuary ecosystem.

Clwyd County Council are seeking planning permission for a coastal by-pass around Flint which, if became reality, would cut across the SSSI boundary and take a corner off Oakenholt Marsh RSPB reserve. The DECG is unanimously against this proposal and has voiced its objections against the coastal route at a public enquiry during March 1990. An alternative route is present to the landward side of Flint and at the enquiry the Council's obligations under international law were clearly stated. Any change to a Ramsar site must not occur unless it is the urgent national interest. Clearly a by-pass around Flint is only of local concern. Clwyd County Council employed an Environmental Advisory Unit to carry out an Environmental Assessment of the area. During 1989 field workers have been carrying out regular monitoring of the area. Close liaison with the RSPB occurred and all data collated ready for presentation at the enquiry. Apart from conservationists being opposed to the scheme many locals also voiced their concern. A Flint By-pass Action Group was set up and various articles appeared in local periodicals. At present we still await a decision from the Welsh Secretary, but this case will certainly be a yardstick to the future safeguard of Britain's estuaries.

The DECG also voiced its objections to the Shotton Waterfront Scheme. Tarmac Construction applied for planning permission to build a retailing, residential and watersports complex on the edge of the old Steelworks site. Thankfully Tarmac have since withdrawn their application.

Pollution continues to be a problem within the Dee estuary. Consented industrial discharges occur from many industries around the estuary. Unfortunately, a lot of these industries exceed their permitted discharge levels. The National Rivers Authority are looking towards renewing discharge levels, so maybe in the near future better enforcement will occur for those companies who pollute the water course. The NRA are also looking towards preparing a Dee Catchment Management Plan in the near future.

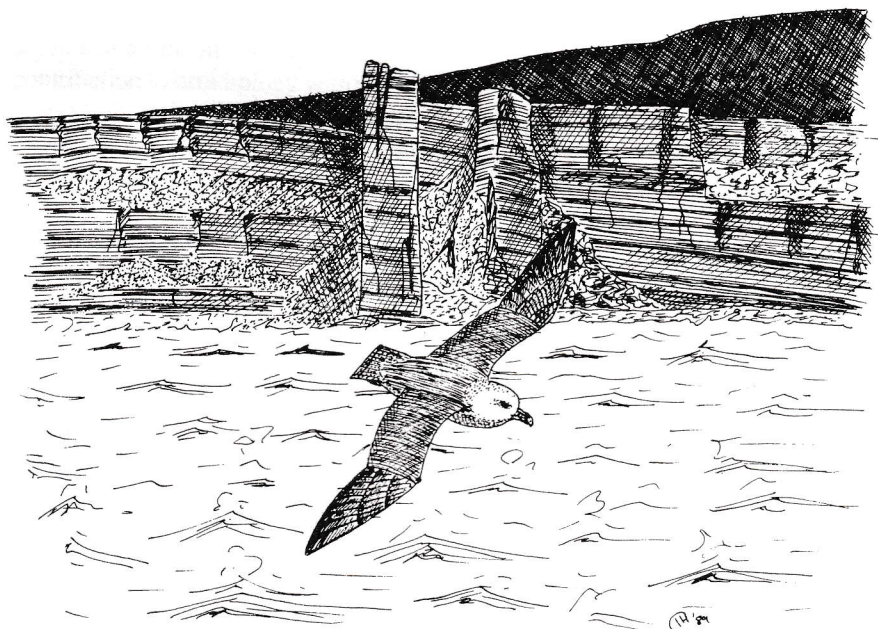
At the Point of Air, permission has been granted for an extension of the Talacre Caravan site. However, Presthaven Sands are planning to reapply for their extension and car park into the dune system SSSI. A public enquiry in the near future may occur to resolve this issue. Human pressures continue to be a problem at the Point of Air with serious erosion of the foredunes caused by up to 200 vehicles and many motorcycles using the area for recreational purposes, mainly during the summer months. Thankfully, disturbance of this area by cockle-diggers during the winter months did not occur in 1989 (as opposed to much disturbance during the 1987/88 winter).

Editors Note: Since this article was written, the Secretary of State for Wales has refused permission for the coastal by-pass around Flint.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

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NOTES

CLWYD ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Society was formed originally in 1956 and was then known as the "Flintshire Ornithological Society". However, when in 1974, due to Local Government reorganisation the counties of Flintshire and Denbighshire were amalgamated to form the new county of Clwyd, the Society was renamed the "Clwyd Ornithological Society". The Society's affairs are managed by a Committee and its Officers, who are elected at the Annual General Meeting held in March each year. The Society is a Registered Charity.

The Society's main aims are to encourage and help its members to recognise the various species of birds encountered and to assist in the study of birds, and to observe and record the distribution and movement and behaviour of the various species. So that those aims can be met, the Society organises a series of indoor meetings during the winter months, which include film shows, slide shows and lectures. Throughout the entire year outdoor meetings are held at various localities within the County, as well as some venues of special ornithological interest outside the County. The Society is a member of the Dee Estuary Conservation Group and the Welsh Ornithological Society. There is a Hide for the use of members on a private estate at Llyn Helyg.

It is hoped that all members will become competent ornithologists and consequently make their contribution to ornithology within the County. Naturally, whilst many members would like these ideals realised in full, it is appreciated that most members are less scientifically minded and just derive a great deal of pleasure and enjoyment from just simply watching birds. These members are equally welcome.

If you are further interested and require additional information and wish to join the Society, whatever your level of interest may be, please complete the attached application form and forward to the Honorary Treasurer :-

The Annual Subscription Rates are as follows :

Adult Member £4.00

Junior/Student Member £1.00

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Send to : Hon Treasurer
Mr. E.E. Jones
Sandiway
Llanasa
Nr. Holywell
Clwyd CH8 9NE

Name: Mr / Mrs / Miss (PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

Address:

Age:
(if under 16 years)

I enclose this application form for Membership of the Clwyd Ornithological Society together with the appropriate Subscription Rates to the value of :

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