

CLWYD BIRD REPORT 1990



£3.50

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CLWYD BIRD REPORT...Editorial Team

P.H.Rathbone, I.M.Spence, J.C.Weldrick

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EDITORIAL

In the Editorial column last year, I expressed the hope that the 1989 Clwyd Bird Report would attract comment and some criticism on its content and format. I am pleased to say that I was not disappointed. Much of the comment was of a favourable nature and it was gratifying to the CBRG that most interested people welcomed the re-emergence of the Report and were satisfied with the style that had been adopted. The guidance on the submission of records was apparently of particular benefit to many observers although a number of refinements to the system have been suggested and acted upon.

It was more or less predictable that much of the comment would be aimed at the choice of Clwyd rarities and at our request that records of the birds listed should be accompanied by some brief supporting information. This year in fact we have received a number of records of birds on the local rarity list which had no supporting evidence whatsoever and it is evident that some revision of the procedure is called for. The way we propose to deal with this problem is set out on Page 6.

This year we have persuaded more contributors to submit articles on various relevant topics although disappointingly, despite polite requests, a few prominent ornithologists in the County chose not to reply to our plea for assistance. Unfortunately, this lack of co-operation does nothing to help the cause of bird study in the County. To those who did respond, may I extend my grateful thanks. I am sure you will enjoy reading their very diverse articles.

During the year, the CBRG has lost the services of Ian Higginson and Chester Rowley. Ian has moved down to Radipole Lake in Dorset, where he is furthering his career with the RSPB. Chester found it difficult to continue for other, very understandable reasons. To both these two friends we offer our thanks for all their help and wish them well in the future. Chester, we hope, will continue to send in his records as he is still living in Clwyd.

My thanks also to Ron Plummer, Roger Bagguley and to Ian Higginson for their superb line drawings, and again to Thelma Sykes whose cover design once more graces the Report.

Geoff Neal has produced the weather summary and this year added a few comments concerning weather related movements. The detailed information he used to compile the summary was again provided by Mr Len Walls of the Halkyn Weather Station. This is a most useful project and one which we hope to continue and expand in future years. We are most grateful for this input and warmly thank both Geoff and Len for their contributions.

Coming now to the financial situation, our funds were given a tremendous boost in February when Roger Lovegrove, the RSPB Wales Officer addressed a public meeting at the Springfield Hotel, Pentre Halkyn. This meeting was organised by the Clwyd Ornithological Society and the Deeside Naturalists' Society to assist our

finances and was an overwhelming success. I would like to record my thanks to both Societies and, of course, to Roger Lovegrove for his kind help.

Our Local Authorities, both Clwyd County Council and Delyn Borough Council again came to our aid, together with Synthite Ltd of Mold. Their donations, when added to the funds generated from the sale of the 1989 Report ensure our financial viability in the immediate future. Finally, the CBRG extends a big thank you to all the contributors who have sent in their records. They have played their part in the production of an improved Report although this year the number of people sending in records has slightly reduced. If you have a birdwatching friend or know of anyone who records birds in Clwyd, yet does not submit records please ask them to do so for 1991. The more information we have at our disposal, the more accurate our account of the birds of Clwyd. Thank you.

Peter H. Rathbone
County Recorder



INTRODUCTION

One of the future tasks facing the CBRG is to compile a full county list so that it can be stated with a fair degree of certainty whether or not a particular species is new for the county or whether it is the second, tenth or so sighting since records began. Unfortunately, as there are so many gaps in our knowledge, this is likely to be a slow process; one which is further complicated by the merger of Denbighshire and Flintshire in 1974. On reflection, it would perhaps have been more sensible to maintain vice-county recording at that time and to encompass records in a Clwyd annual report showing the vice-county origin of each record.

Prior to the formation of the new county, Denbighshire records were the responsibility of the Cambrian Ornithological Society, whereas the Flintshire Ornithological Society controlled the records in their county. In 1968, this latter organisation published 'The Birds of Flintshire: A Checklist of the Avifauna of the County' prepared by an editorial panel consisting of J.E.Birch, R.R.Birch, J.M.Birtwell, C.Done (Chairman), E.J.Stokes and G.F. Walton. This useful publication drew together all the known records to date and together with the annual reports published intermittently since that time, these records provide the basis on which we can begin a Clwyd county list. This still leaves the problem of the records for the old county of Denbighshire and the years 1985 to 1988 but at least we have a start.

Having set out the current position, we can now discuss some of the more interesting 1990 records in detail. I think that it is safe to assume that the Serin, recorded at POA on June 5th by Ian Higginson is a new bird for the county and the Marsh Sandpiper discovered by Dr John Raines at Connah's Quay Reserve in May was also in the same category. Both were exciting finds for the people concerned and their pleasure was shared by others who were present at the time. The Pacific Golden Plover found on Oakenholt Marsh in late July and identified, again by Ian Higginson, stayed for some time enabling many people to obtain first class views of an adult in virtually full breeding plumage. We were also fortunate to be visited by another Little Egret (or was it the 1989 bird again?), present in the Oakenholt Marsh/Connah's Quay Reserve area on two dates in May. Let us hope that future years will add further exciting species to our records.

Coming on to the commoner birds of which we know far too little, there is always a considerable amount of discussion during the editing of the Report concerning the true status of some of our familiar birds and how we can justify comparisons when our knowledge is based more on a feeling rather than on facts. This situation is bound to improve as more information becomes available over the years but, for instance, what do we know about the distribution of truly wild pheasants or how do we know that moorhens had a good year when all we have to work on are the records for one or two years and, then, only from a few favourite bird watching localities? Please keep on sending in your breeding records for common birds otherwise we will not have any hard facts on which to base the future status corrections.

NOTES ON THE SUBMISSION OF RECORDS

Last year, contributors were requested to use the Standard Recording Forms issued with the 1989 Report when submitting their records for 1990. Whilst a minority of people followed our recommendation, the majority did not. As explained before, this causes the Group a tremendous amount of extra work in sorting through the vast amount of information submitted and a plea is made once again for some degree of consistency in writing up your notes into a useful list. Monthly returns are of great benefit and if each species is listed in Vooous order and each record for each species is shown in date order this would make the data sifting operation much smoother and faster. It does not matter if you do not have one of the forms, but please list your records in the prescribed manner.

We are enclosing a further copy of the Standard Recording Form and hope that you will use this system or a similar sheet of your own making to submit your records for 1991. Further copies are available from the County Recorder or from any other member of the CBRG.

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 (VOOVS) 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.

***N.B.** If any reader has Clwyd records for the years 1985/88 inclusive, could they submit these to the current County Recorder as soon as possible please, if they have not already done so. We have been unsuccessful in obtaining records for these years from the previous County Recorder so any assistance which individuals can offer would be gratefully received.*

CLWYD RARITIES

As previously mentioned, the reluctance of some observers to include brief descriptions of those species classed as county rarities and our understanding of that reluctance, has caused a rethink on how we should approach this potentially thorny subject.

Many experienced observers find it hard to accept the need for descriptions of difficult species when their name is attached to the record but we have to keep in mind that less proficient birders, whilst firmly believing in their own identification abilities, fail to realise the pitfalls that some species can present. We selected for the original Clwyd list, not only those species which are obvious rarities such as hoopoe and avocet, but also those which, whilst appearing regularly in the county, also present teasing identification problems.

This year we received a number of very good descriptions of birds on our original list and these were considered and adjudicated upon by the Rarities Sub-group. There were other records, unsupported by even the briefest of descriptions, which by our own rules should not have been included in the systematic list. To leave them out however, would have left glaring gaps although this would have been the correct treatment. It was, nevertheless, unfair to those who did bother to support their records with descriptions for us to have also included unsubstantiated county rarity reports without some explanation.

In order to overcome this tricky situation, we have decided to include all records this year and next but to serve notice that from 1st January 1992 onwards no record of a Clwyd rarity will be included in the report unless supported by a satisfactory description for consideration by the Rarities Sub-group. Please take note of this but let the Group have your comments if you think that this is not a fair and reasonable way of approaching the problem.

The Clwyd list this year has been amended to reflect some of the problems and is as follows:-

(F = female)

Black-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Red-necked Grebe, Slavonian Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Storm Petrel, Bittern, Spoonbill, Whooper

Swan, Bewick's Swan, Brent Goose, Barnacle Goose, Mandarin, Garganey (F), Smew (F), Red Kite, Marsh Harrier, Goshawk, Osprey, Hobby, Quail, Corncrake, Little-ringed Plover, Dotterel, Pectoral Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Grey Phalarope, Pomarine Skua, Mediterranean Gull, Sabine's Gull, Glaucous Gull, Long-eared Owl, Roseate Tern, Little Auk, Woodlark, Water Pipit, Nightingale, Black Redstart, Cetti's Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Firecrest, Bearded Reedling, Golden Oriole, Red-backed Shrike, Twite, Lapland Bunting, Corn Bunting.

WELSH RARITIES

With effect from 1st January 1991, the following species will no longer be considered by British Birds Rarities Committee and have, therefore, been added automatically to the Welsh Rarities Advisory Group list:

Little Egret, Surf Scoter, Bee-eater, Pallas's Warbler and Woodchat Shrike.

WRAG has decided to delete Red-crested Pochard from the Welsh list as it is normally only recorded from Glamorgan/Gwent where a presumed feral population appears to be circulating. It was also agreed to re-instate Buff-breasted Sandpiper which was removed when it was occurring more frequently, but which has since become scarce. The following is the revised 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 on page 8). The extra guidelines also apply. Any Welsh rarity record not accompanied by a description will be almost certainly rejected.

Cory's Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Little Egret, Purple Heron, White Stork, Bean Goose, Snow Goose, Ferruginous Duck, Surf Scoter, Honey Buzzard, Montagu's Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard, Golden Eagle, Spotted Crake, Crane, Stone Curlew, Kentish Plover, Temminck's Stint, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Long-tailed Skua, Ring-billed Gull, Iceland Gull, Bee-eater, Richard's Pipit, Tawny Pipit, Yellow Wagtail (except *flava* & *flavissima*), Bluethroat, Savi's Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Barred Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Pallas's Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Woodchat Shrike, Serin, Common Rosefinch, Cirl Bunting, Ortolan Bunting.

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 Rarities 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

Arctic Redpoll	Towyn	16th April 1989	Rejected
Black Stork	Carrog	16th July 1989	Rejected
Black Stork	Denbigh Moors	16th July 1989	Rejected
Marsh Sandpiper	Rhyl	22nd August 1989	Rejected
Bonaparte's Gull	Oakenholt Marsh	27th January 1990	Rejected
Little Egret	Oakenholt Marsh	11th May 1990	(N.T.M., G.E.M.) Accepted
Little Egret	Oakenholt Marsh	20th May 1990	(H.B.,I.H.) Accepted
White-throated Robin	Pensarn	8th September 1990	Rejected

The Pacific Golden Plover recorded at Oakenholt Marsh between July 31st and August 4th has been pending subject to a full review of American and Pacific Golden Plovers by the Rarities Committee.

COMMON OR GARDEN BIRDS

The notes that were included last year as guidance for recording the commoner species were well received and acted upon and it was felt that these should be

repeated this year for newcomers to the birding scene and for those who did not have the opportunity to read them before.

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 figures 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.

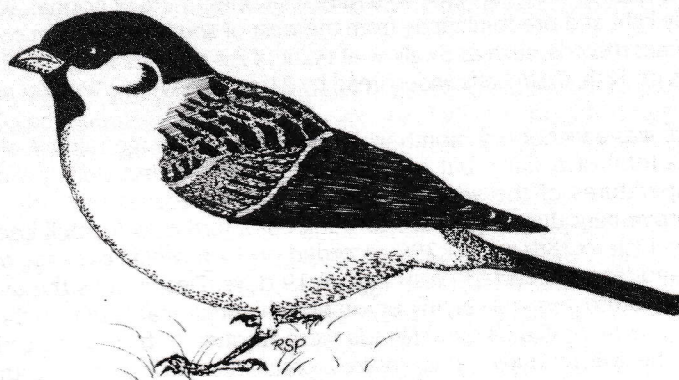
These are just some of the ideas which may help those not so experienced to play a useful and significant part in Clwyd Bird Recording. Maybe even some of the more experienced ornithologists within the County will also be more cognisant of the commoner species and will also submit such records in the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

CLWYD TARGET SPECIES 1992

The choice for next year's target bird was again the subject of some interesting discussion but after considerable deliberation it was felt that as so little was known about the true status of LONG-EARED OWLS, *Asio otus*, we should make some attempt to log their breeding and roosting distribution a little more accurately. We realise that this is a difficult task but hopefully it will present a challenge and will catch the imagination of at least some of our keener birders. If you locate any birds at all please send in your records immediately to the County Recorder but if this is not possible, then within four weeks of the sighting date.

This study will cover 1992/1993 and the results will be published in the 1993 County Report.

It is important to remember that TREE SPARROW, *Passer montanus*, is still our overlap target species carried forward from 1991, therefore 1992 records for this species will also be required. During 1991 we have received many reports of wintering Tree Sparrow flocks but we would like to learn more about their breeding distribution. The results will be published in the 1991 Report.



WEATHER SUMMARY

M.G. Neal

In general 1990 was slightly warmer than normal, with average maximum temperatures 1°C higher than normal. Rainfall was near to normal at 98.6% of the yearly average but the monthly rainfall distribution was far from normal, with February receiving more than three times the average and March less than 16%.

January was generally mild throughout the country, with local average maximum temperatures over 3°C higher than normal. It was also rather wet with precipitation recorded on a total of 22 days, including snow on 8 days (all in the second half of the month), and total recorded rainfall almost 50% up on average. The wind direction was predominantly south-west and reached gale force on 19th, 22nd, 23rd, 25th and 31st.

February was exceptionally mild with the average maximum temperature for the whole of Britain up by 3.4°C and locally by 4.8°C. On 23rd the temperature in many areas was the highest for February since 1961, including Prestatyn at 18.6°C. However, other aspects of February's weather were rather more unpleasant as rainfall was over three times the recorded average and frequent gales were experienced, climaxing on 26th when heavy seas backed by north-westerly gales breached sea defences in the Towyn area causing disastrous flooding. On a lighter note this resulted in a few out of season seabird records with 20 Gannets and 82 Kittiwakes being seen off Point of Air.

March was another warm month, albeit with more frequent frosts, but in contrast to February it was very dry, with rainfall at only 15.3% of normal. Winds were mostly fairly light and predominantly from the west or south, resulting in some early summer migrant records, such as Swallow at Point of Air on 18th, Ring Ouzel at the Horseshoe Pass on 18th, Chiffchaffs widespread by 21st and a Willow Warbler at Sontley on 26th.

April was another dry month with only 60% of average rainfall, although snow fell on a total of 8 days, but a cold spell during the first week produced the lowest temperatures of the year so far with -10.3°C recorded on 5th. There was some improvement during the second week but a further cold spell became established from 13th to 28th with -7.2°C recorded on 14th, whilst over the month as a whole ground frosts occurred on a total of 19 days. Despite this the average maximum temperature was still slightly up on normal, presumably due to the more than 20% increase in sunlight hours. Winds were frequently from the north or east which, together with the low temperatures, conspired to delay the northward migrations of many species. A very warm and exceptionally sunny spell from April 29th to May 6th produced the best start to May on a national basis since records began in 1875. The month was warm and dry everywhere with rain on only five days, resulting in only 25% of normal rainfall being recorded. Average maximum temperatures were again up, this time by 2.6°C and winds were predominantly from the south or south-west, allowing the remaining migrants to make up for lost time.

June was rather dull with sunlight hours at only 70% of the norm and rainfall 15% up, while temperatures were a little lower than normal. Wind direction was again predominantly between south and west.

July was very fine with sunlight hours over 50% above average and rainfall at only 53%, with winds predominantly between south-east and south-west. August was another warm month everywhere and on 3rd many parts of England and Wales had their hottest day since records began, although in Clwyd the 2nd was generally the hottest with 35.5°C recorded at Prestatyn. It was also another dry month with rainfall at only 61% of average and the winds were generally only light to moderate, mostly from between south-west and north-west.

September was rather cooler with average maximum temperatures 1.2°C below average and a particularly cool spell from 19th to 27th. This was partially due to the preponderance of north to north-westerly winds, which reached gale force on 6th and 18th to 20th, moderating somewhat by 21st and resulting in some interesting sea-watching at the coast, with record numbers of Leach's Petrels being blown up-river, 15 reaching CQR/OMR on 21st. September was also a fairly wet month with rainfall up 20% on the norm.

October was again warm everywhere, particularly from 12th to 15th, although there was a cooler spell over the last three days. Rainfall was slightly up and winds were predominantly from the south or west although an easterly airstream became established over the country from 18th to 23rd, initially very light on 18th but increasing over the next couple of days. This resulted in very large arrivals of Fieldfares and Redwings on the east coast of England, reflected slightly in the increase in numbers of these species recorded in Clwyd towards the end of the month, as birds drifted further west.

The first half of November was generally warm but the second half was much colder with winds frequently from the north or north-west. Rainfall was about average but snow fell on 20th to 24th and the wind reached gale force (from the south-east) on 23rd.

Over Britain as a whole December was the coldest since 1982 with much of central Britain having substantial snowfalls on 7th and 8th, causing considerable disruption. As usual Clwyd escaped the worst of these although light snowfalls were recorded on a total of eight days. From 20th the weather turned considerably milder with a temperature of 14.2°C recorded at Colwyn Bay on 26th. The winds were somewhat variable in direction but reached gale force on 7th, 8th, 9th, 25th, 26th and 28th.

Unless otherwise stated 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 1990. 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.

MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)

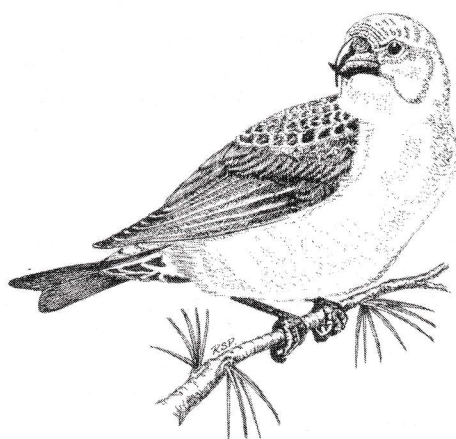
	AVERAGE 1990	AVERAGE 1981-90	HIGHEST 1990	HIGHEST 1981-90	LOWEST 1990	LOWEST 1981-90
JAN	8.1	5.8	11.7	12.4 (1989)	4.0	-6.3 (1987)
FEB	9.3	4.5	16.3	16.3 (1990)	3.9	-5.4 (1985)
MAR	10.4	7.8	19.0	19.0 (1990)	4.0	-1.0 (1987)
APR	11.2	10.2	20.5	20.5 (1990)	5.6	2.3 (1989)
MAY	15.9	13.9	23.6	25.0 (1989)	10.7	5.7 (1983)
JUN	15.8	16.3	21.0	25.6 (1986/9)	12.3	8.8 (1985)
JUL	20.0	19.0	26.2	28.5 (1983)	12.2	11.5 (1987/8)
AUG	20.2	17.6	31.7	31.7 (1990)	13.0	10.8 (1987)
SEP	14.6	15.8	19.7	25.3 (1982)	10.0	10.0 (1990)
OCT	12.9	12.2	19.6	23.9 (1985)	8.0	5.5 (1988)
NOV	7.8	8.4	15.2	17.6 (1989)	2.6	0.5 (1985)
DEC	6.0	6.7	10.7	14.0 (1985)	1.4	-2.7 (1981)

MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)

	AVERAGE 1990	AVERAGE 1981-90	HIGHEST 1990	HIGHEST 1981-90	LOWEST 1990	LOWEST 1981-90
JAN	2.9	0.9	9.2	9.2 (1990)	-0.9	-11.0 (1983)
FEB	3.5	0.0	9.8	9.8 (1990)	-1.0	-8.8 (1985)
MAR	4.1	1.7	10.7	10.7 (1990)	-0.5	-6.8 (1986)
APR	2.9	2.8	8.0	11.0 (1987)	-3.1	-4.3 (1984)
MAY	7.1	5.8	12.9	12.9 (1990)	2.6	-0.8 (1982)
JUN	8.6	8.6	12.7	16.2 (1987)	4.5	2.4 (1981)
JUL	10.8	10.9	14.7	17.9 (1983)	6.7	5.3 (1984)
AUG	12.7	10.4	19.5	19.5 (1990)	7.9	5.5 (1989)
SEP	8.1	8.8	13.0	15.5 (1984)	3.7	1.9 (1986)
OCT	7.7	6.2	13.1	15.3 (1985)	3.0	-2.0 (1983)
NOV	3.3	3.4	10.5	10.7 (1981)	-2.4	-4.7 (1983)
DEC	1.4	1.8	6.7	10.8 (1987)	-2.2	-8.3 (1981)

RAINFALL (MILLIMETRES)

	AVERAGE 1990	AVERAGE 1981-90	HIGHEST 1981-90	LOWEST 1981-90	MAX.24 HRS 1990	MAX.24 HRS 1981-90
JAN	115.0	74	115 (1990)	14.5 (1987)	31.6	31.6
FEB	109.3	46	109 (1990)	4.1 (1986)	20.1	20.1
MAR	12.7	72	136 (1988)	12.7 (1990)	4.6	24.5
APR	37.6	62	118 (1986)	14.0 (1984)	8.2	31.2
MAY	17.3	55	138 (1983)	17.3 (1990)	5.0	41.0
JUN	83.7	75	139 (1987)	37.5 (1988)	18.2	24.3
JUL	27.5	49	110 (1988)	11.7 (1984)	6.9	29.2
AUG	52.4	82	167 (1986)	52.4 (1990)	12.5	88.4
SEP	92.4	72	138 (1984)	13.6 (1986)	18.2	33.6
OCT	116.3	104	174 (1987)	53.4 (1985)	18.2	31.0
NOV	107.3	97	156 (1984)	49.3 (1988)	21.0	32.9
DEC	90.1	95	142 (1989)	40.0 (1987)	14.3	33.2



SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED IN CLWYD DURING 1990

The following abbreviations are used in the text:

COR Connah's Quay Deeside Naturalists' Reserve
 DP Deeside Industrial Park Water Meadows
 IMF Inner Marsh Farm RSPB Reserve
 OMR Oakenholt Marsh RSPB Reserve
 POA Point of Air including the RSPB Reserve
 BWNR Broadoak Wood Nature Reserve

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH
Passage migrant and winter visitor to offshore waters.

Recorded regularly in small numbers along the coast from POA to Rhos-on-Sea from January to April with a late bird on May 3rd and again from September to December. Maximum numbers recorded were 10 at Rhos-on-Sea on Apr. 11th and 8 at Pensarn on Dec. 5th. Away from the coast single birds were recorded at Shotwick Lake between Mar. 3rd/31st and on the R. Clwyd between Rhyl and Rhuddlan between Apr. 3rd/20th.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU
Passage migrant and winter visitor offshore.

Recorded less often than the previous species. Sightings from POA to Rhos-on-Sea up to Mar. 30th and from Sep. 22nd of mostly only 1-3 birds.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* TROCHYDD MAWR
Occasional winter visitor.

Single birds were noted at POA on Jan. 28th and Llanddulas on Nov. 10th, 18th and 22nd. There was an additional report of 1 at Rhos-on-Sea in October.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* GWYACH FACH
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

Widely recorded but very few reports of breeding birds were received. Peak winter counts were on the R.Clwyd with 9 on Jan.21st and 13 on Nov.29th with 13 at DP on Oct.14th. Singles were noted in the main saltmarsh creek at POA on several dates in February/March and November/December.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus* GWYACH FAWR GOPOG
Breeding resident and winter visitor to offshore waters.

Breeding was reported from Llyn Brenig, Lindisfarne College Lake and Acton Park with pairs holding territory and/or displaying at several other sites. Seen on the river at CQR/OMR in every month of the year with maxima of 20 on Oct.20th and 23rd. Regular along the coast in winter with maxima of 34 at Kinnel Bay on Jan.14th, 35 at Pensarn on Dec.5th and about 50 at Llanddulas on Dec.2nd.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena* GWYACH YDDFGOCH
Scarce winter visitor.

Single birds reported from Rhos Point on Jan.17th and Apr.2nd.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus* GWYACH GORNIOG
Scarce winter visitor, mainly to coastal waters.

Up to 4 birds were reported off Llanddulas during December.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis* ADERYN-DRYCIN Y GRAIG
Breeding resident, passage migrant and summer visitor.

Regularly recorded from breeding sites and offshore from February to November. Away from the coast single birds were at Glan-y-Don in the Dee Estuary on Feb.3rd, at CQR/OMR on Apr.25th and 1 found alive in a field at Gresford on Sep.7th.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus* ADERYN-DRYCIN DU
Rare passage migrant.

A good year for this species with singles recorded off Prestatyn on Aug.20th and 28th and off POA on Sep.7th with 3 there on Sep.19th.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW
Regular offshore during summer and autumn.

Three were seen off Rhos-on-Sea on Apr.19th, then recorded there from Jun.6th (1 off Rhyl) to Sep.23rd (2 POA) with maxima of 81 west off Gronant and 200 at Rhos-on-Sea on Jul.25th and 46 west off POA on Jul.29th.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus* PEDRYN DRYCIN
Occasional autumn passage migrant.

More records than usual with 3 off Rhos-on-Sea on Jul.5th, 2 there on Jul.9th and 13 on Jul.10th plus 8 west off POA on Sep.7th and 1 off Gronant on Oct.6th.

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* PEDRYN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG
Regular autumn passage migrant in varying numbers.

Good numbers were recorded between Sep.6th/24th between POA and Towyn with a maximum of 72 on 7th, followed by 30 on 19th and 32 on 21st, all POA. Record numbers were recorded up river at CQR/OMR from Sep.7th (10) to 24th (2) with a maximum of 15 on 21st, one of which was taken by a Peregrine.

GANNET *Sula bassana* HUGAN
Common passage migrant.

Regularly recorded offshore from Feb.25th to Oct.28th with 20 seen off POA during a storm on Feb.26th. Then most records involved single figures until May 24th when 111 were counted flying west past POA in half an hour. Subsequent maxima were 200 west on Jul.1st and 103 on Sep.7th, both at POA.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo* MULFRAN
Common, non-breeding visitor.

Present throughout the year. Maximum counts, normally of roosting birds, were 240 on the R.Clwyd on Aug.21st, 204 at Rhyl on Sep.13th, 200 at Gronant on May 23rd, Jun.9th and 27th and 158 at OMR on Jan.16th. Maximum inland count was 34 at Gresford Flash on Jan.26th. A bird showing characteristics of the continental race, *P.c. sinensis*, was present at OMR on Jan.28th.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* MULFRAN WERDD
Scarce, non-breeding visitor.

Most often reported at Rhos-on-Sea during January and February, and October to December, with a maximum of 5 there on Dec.24th. Other records were an immature at POA between Mar.12th/15th when it was picked up exhausted, 2 there on Sep.21st and 1 on 29th and 1 at OMR on Sep.23rd.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta* CREYR BACH
Rare vagrant.

A single was seen at CQR/OMR on May 11th and 23rd.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea* CREYR GLAS
Breeding resident.

No reports received concerning breeding birds this year. Present throughout the year on the Dee Estuary with maximum numbers from July to October when up to 10 were seen at CQR/OMR. Also regular at several inland waters with a maximum of 9 at Gresford Flash on Jan.21st.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* ALARCH DOF
Breeding resident.

Breeding was confirmed at two sites in the Rhyl/Rhuddlan area (3 and 4 young), DP (one pair with 5 young and one pair failed), Shotton (2 young), Gresford (4 young) and near Ruabon (6 young). Lead poisoning was confirmed as the cause of death of three Gresford cygnets. The Rhyl Marine Lake/R.Clwyd estuary area remains the principal gathering site entirely within the county with a maximum of 44 on May 22nd. The highest count from Shotwick Lake was of 33 on Oct.21st, though the whole

Burton Marsh (Cheshire) flock (maximum 49 in December) roosted there. Elsewhere near the coast and along the main river valleys there were counts of up to 11 birds at CQR/OMR, Erbistock, Holt, Bangor-Is-y-Coed, Greenfield Valley, Abergele Park, Rhyl Brickworks Pool and Gronant. Inland, there were 2 at Llyn Brenig on Feb.8th, 2 at Hanmer Mere on Mar.3rd and a male at Ysceifiog Lake on Mar.10th.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Burton Ma.	23	34	42	43	0	0	0	0	0	35	41	49
Rhyl ML	26	25	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	14	16
R.Clwyd	6	4	2	31	44	20	-	10	8	-	-	2
CQR/OMR	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	1	11	0	7

The table illustrates movement to the estuary when Rhyl Marine Lake is disturbed in summer, though counts received for this site are incomplete. Counts at Burton Marsh are given since those at Shotwick Lake were also incomplete.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus bewicki* ALARCH BEWICK
Regular winter visitor in increasing numbers.

In the 1989/90 winter, there was a new record count of 34 at CQR/OMR on Jan.28th and 31 at Shotwick Lake the following day. Numbers on the R.Dee continued to increase in the 1990/91 winter, the IMF arable fields count building up from 3 on Oct.15th to 13 on the 23rd, 24 on the 24th, 36 on the 27th, 45 (3 imms) on Nov.7th, 66 (8 imms) on the 18th and a maximum of 71 (11 imms) on Nov.27th, 65 remaining until late December. There were also several records of 5-14 birds at CQR/OMR from mid-November to early December and an adult and immature at Llyn Helyg from Oct.28th/Nov.9th, all possibly originating from the IMF flock, plus a quite different adult at Ewloe Pond from Sep.19th/26th.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* ALARCH Y GOGLEDD
Uncommon winter visitor in small numbers.

There were 4-7 birds at Llyn Brenig in December. At IMF arable fields there were 6 on Jan.13th, 8 on Nov.2nd, 7 on Nov.5th and 1 adult to the end of the year. There were also single adults at CQR/OMR from Nov 15th to the end of the year and at Ewloe Pond for at least the first two weeks of December, apparently three different birds.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* GWYDD DALCEN-WEN
Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

Early in the year there were four records of 4-12 birds at IMF arable fields between Jan.23rd and Mar 2nd. There was also a single there from Nov 27th to the end of the year and two at Shotton Pools on Oct 7th.

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

There were two at IMF arable fields Jan.6th/24th and Feb.1st/6th and three from Oct.8th/Nov.2nd, all of the nominate Russian race.

GREYLAG GOOSE

Anser anser

GWYDD WYLLT

Resident and winter visitor in increasing numbers.

There were 21 at Holt on the R.Deer on Feb.8th, 11 at Gresford Flash on Feb.11th and 7 at Glan-y-wern on the R.Clwyd on Apr.8th. Near the coast, there were 6 on May 8th and 2 on Jul.5th at Gronant, with singles at POA on Apr.9th and Rhos-on-Sea golf course on Dec.30th. Long-stay visitors were a single in January and February and two from August onwards at Gresford and two at Shotwick from January to mid-April and early August onwards.

CANADA GOOSE

Branta canadensis

GWYDD CANADA

Breeding resident and winter visitor in increasing numbers.

Breeding was confirmed at Gresford Flash (6 young), a trout farm near Abergele (5 young), Bryneglwys (3 young), Llyn Helyg (2 young), Llay, near Ruabon and on the Llandegla moors. There were also 3 at Cilcain reservoirs on Apr.6th, 3 on the R.Clwyd in April/May and 17 at Coed Coch (Dolwen) on Jun.26th. There are three principal winter flocks at Shotwick Lake/IMF arable fields (270 in November), Gresford Flash (130 on Jan.14th) and Hanmer Mere (112 on Jan.7th). Other high counts at Stryt Las (120 on Nov.3rd), CQR/OMR (106 on Feb.20th), DP (70 on Jan.5th), Cwm Glas (50 on Feb.11th), Llyn Helyg (24 on Aug.19th).

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Gresford	130	60	60	26	25	15	30	82	100	110	74	45
Shotwick	162	70	41	32	21	13	23	217	246	200	270	250

At Gresford Flash, there was a Canada/Greylag cross on 3 occasions and an individual of a "small" race on Sep.30th, considered to be an escape by the observer.

BRENT GOOSE

Branta bernicla

GWYDD DDU

Regular winter visitor in small numbers.

There were 6 dark-bellied on Burton Marsh (Clwyd side) on Dec.18th, 5 at POA on Feb.10th, 24th and 25th and singles at CQR/OMR (dark-bellied Jan.5th, Apr.4th, dark-bellied Nov.2nd) and Gresford Flash (Apr.26th).

SHELDUCK

Tadorna tadorna

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

Breeding resident and very common estuarine winter visitor.

On the R.Clwyd estuary, 34 juveniles were present in June and 40 in July. An RSPB breeding survey of the Welsh R.Deer estuary revealed 24 pairs, including two pairs with broods of 9 and 5 young at CQR/OMR in June. Winter numbers were lower than last year though numbers for the summer moult held up well.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
POA	350	300	188	239	340	650	515	235	471	500	460	272
CQR/OMR	100	120	294	210	132	340	220	150	66	90	232	240
R.Clwyd	62	24	72	138	217	211	39	45	13	15	50	30

Elsewhere, there were 10 at Holt on Mar.2nd, 4 at Llyn Helyg on Apr.19th, 3 at DP on May 13th, 2 at Towyn on Jan.2nd and one at Llyn Cyfynwy on Mar.3rd.

WIGEON

Anas penelope

CHWIWELL

Fairly common winter visitor.

At the beginning of the year, there were up to 100 regularly at CQR/OMR and several records from the north coast, including 20-50 at Rhyl in January, 17 at Gronant on Feb.3rd and 2 females at Abergele Park on Jan.5th. Towards the end of the year, a flock of 200-460 was present at CQR/OMR for most of September and there were single figure records from Rhos-on-Sea, Abergele Park, Dolwen and Pendinas Reservoirs and Erddig.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	100	7	7	0	1	1	0	8	460	8	7	6
POA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	30	4	2
R.Clwyd	-	20	-	-	1	-	-	-	37	9	20	-

AMERICAN WIGEON

Anas americana

CHWIWELL AMERICANAIDD

Rare. Possible escapes.

A male was seen at the Clwyd end of Inner Marsh Farm RSPB reserve on Dec.26th, having been present on the Cheshire side from Nov.30th/Dec.2nd and Dec.17th/25th. Submitted to BBRC as a wild bird.

GADWALL

Anas strepera

HWYADEN LWYD

Uncommon winter visitor.

An unusually high count of 20 at Shotwick Lake on Jan.20th, with 3 other records of 3-7 there up to Mar.6th and a male on Oct.24th. Perhaps a small reflection of the nationwide increase in this species. A male was also present regularly at CQR/OMR until Apr.6th (9 records), followed by 3 on May 28th and a single on Jun.1st and then a male again from Aug.20th to end of year (12 records), with 3 records of a pair. Elsewhere on the R.Deer, there was a male at POA on Feb.9th and several records of 1-2 from Sep.23rd/Dec.9th. Also a male at Shotton on Sep.30th and, near the sea-coast, a male at Gwaenyssgor pond (Apr.13th/19th), a female at Prestatyn Golf Course (Gronant) on Oct.8th, two at Rhyl Brickworks Pool (Oct.26th/29th) and two females at Abergele Park on Dec.14th.

TEAL

Anas crecca

CORHWYADEN

Widespread and locally abundant winter visitor.

CQR/OMR remains by far the most important site in the county and the high numbers typical of recent years were reached once again with a maximum count of 5000 in November.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	2000	2500	200	50	0	5	1	200	1200	3000	5000	2000
POA	130	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	20	70	50
R.Clwyd	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	18	8	14	35

Also at Shotton Pools (max. 62 on Nov.4th) and small numbers at Llyn Helyg, Dolwen and Pendinas Reservoirs, Erddig, Ysceifiog Lake and on the coast.

MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos

HWYADEN WYLLT

Very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

The summer moulting flock on the Welsh side of the R.Deer is greater than winter numbers; up to 1000 birds in eclipse could be found on Flint Sands and Oakenholt Marsh at low tide.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	346	400	40	60	1050	950	590	800	450	600	400	250
POA	395	300	137	41	268	450	65	400	669	400	350	500
R.Clwyd	10	20	15	18	13	15	6	8	20	100	59	24

Maximum counts at other significant winter sites included 300 on Rhyl beach (Jan.2nd), 170 at Ffynnongroew (Jan.20th), 150 at Shotton Pools (Oct.7th), 100 at Hanmer Mere (Dec.8th), 80 at Rhyl Marine Lake (Jan.19th), 50 at Llyn Helyg (Aug.19th), 40 at Pendinas Reservoir (Oct.13th), 38 at Abergele Park (Jan.20th), 36 at Shotwick Lake (Oct.21st) and 30 at Ysceifiog Lake (Mar.10th). Breeding was widespread and was confirmed at Gresford Flash (3 pairs), Abergele Park (13 young), Prestatyn and Carrog (9 yng), Llanfair T.H. (8 yng), Rhuddlan (5 yng), Llandegla trout fishery (3 yng), Cynwyd (2 yng), Wepre (Connah's Quay), Llyn Helyg, Clocaenog Forest and the Ruabon moors.

PINTAIL

Anas acuta

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Local winter visitor in internationally important numbers.

Apart from two at Abergele Park on Jan.5th, all records came from the Dee Estuary. RSPB counts from Flint Point indicate that vast numbers now roost regularly on the Welsh side of the estuary opposite Gayton Sands, with 5700 in October, 7830 in November and 8500 in December. In September/ October there was a repeat of last year's spectacular low-tide arrivals at the southern end of Flint Sands at CQR/OMR.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	400	12	30	0	1	0	0	300	3500	5000	3000	1000
POA	170	130	2	2	-	-	-	-	30	30	30	400

Elsewhere the maximum count at Shotwick Lake was 61 on Oct.21st but there was a substantial flock at Holt in February with 250 on Feb.16th and Mar.2nd.

GARGANEY

Anas querquedula

HWYADEN ADDFAIN

Uncommon passage migrant.

A pair was seen at Glan-y-wern (Denbigh) on Apr.8th.

SHOVELER

Anas clypeata

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Winter visitor.

A good year with over 100 at Shotwick Lake from Oct.20th to Nov.7th and a maximum of 130. Gresford Flash and CQR/OMR also had good numbers and there were 10 on the Holt floods on Mar.4th. Most of the Shotwick Lake birds spent the rest of the winter at IMF reserve.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Shotwick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130	21	-
CQR/OMR	4	8	15	0	0	0	0	18	2	10	7	11
Gresford	-	21	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25

Elsewhere, there were isolated records of 1-3 birds at Hanmer Mere, Shotton, Rhyl Brickworks Pool and POA.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina* HWYADEN BENGGOCH
Winter visitor.

The highest winter counts were 74 at Hanmer Mere on Mar.3rd, 36 at Rhyl Brickworks Pool on Dec.18th and 34 at Shotton Pools on Nov.25th. Other winter records were received from Dolwen Reservoir (9 on Dec.6th), the Holt floods (17 on Feb.16th), Shotwick Lake, DP, Gresford Flash (9 in January), Ysceifiog Lake, Llyn Brenig and Llyn Bran.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula* HWYADEN GOPOG
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

Breeding was confirmed at Gresford Flash (4 broods with 20 young), DP (7 yng), near Ruabon (4 yng) and Shotton pools (4 yng). The highest winter count was at Shotton with 43 on Nov.25th. There were 39 at Hanmer Mere on Mar.3rd, 28 at Shotwick Lake on Oct.21st, 22 at Rhyl Brickworks Pool on Jan.8th, 20 at DP (Mar.10th) and Dolwen Reservoir (Feb.6th), 17 at Ysceifiog Lake on Mar.10th and 12 at Llyn Helyg on Mar.11th. Also recorded at Llyn Gweryd, Erddig, Cwm Glas and CQR/OMR.

SCAUP *Aythya marila* HWYADEN BENDDU
Winter visitor to the coast.

There were numerous records of up to 85 birds from the coast in the early part of the year and a maximum count of 150 in January between Rhyl and Llanddulas. Inland, there was a male at Shotwick Lake on Dec.2nd and 4 at Rhyl Brickworks Pool on Dec.19th. Appears to be more concentrated between Rhyl and Abergele than other sea-duck.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima* HWYADEN FWYTHBLU
Uncommon winter visitor.

All records this year came from POA where 2 males and a female were present from Feb.9th to Mar.3rd, the males staying to Apr.5th and a single male to Apr.7th. Also 2 at POA on Sep.7th and a pair on Nov.5th.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* HWYADEN GYNFFON HIR
Uncommon winter visitor.

There were 4 records of singles from the coast in January, February and December. Single females were seen at CQR/OMR on Oct.23rd and Shotwick Lake on Dec.2nd and from Dec.16th to the end of the year.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra* MÔR-HWYADEN DDU
Abundant winter visitor to the coast.

There were winter records all along the coast from Rhos-on-Sea to POA with a maximum count for the whole area of 4100. The highest at any one location was 1000 off Rhyl on Feb.3rd. There were also 2 at CQR/OMR on Oct.21st.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
COAST	2244	4100	325	260	-	-	-	-	290	1170	483	647

SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata* MÔR-HWYADEN YR EWYN
Rare American vagrant.
 A male was recorded again this year at Rhos-on-Sea (Nov.28th/30th) and then Llanddulas (Dec.2nd/17th).

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* MÔR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD
Uncommon winter visitor.
 The only records received were of 3 at Llanddulas on Mar.3rd and 1 on Mar.12th, a male there on Nov.18th and a female at POA on Sep.22nd.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula* HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR
Widespread winter visitor in small numbers.
 Winter records from the coast, the estuaries and inland lakes at all altitudes throughout the county. Maximum counts of 26 in February for the coast between Rhyl and Llanddulas, 15 at Rhyl Marine Lake on Dec.18th, 13 at Towyn on Jan.3rd, 7 at POA and CQR/OMR in November and 6 at Llyn Cyfynwy in March. Apart from 5 on Jun.11th and a single on Jun.15th on the R.Clwyd, last and first dates for the county were Apr.22nd and Oct.24th.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
COAST	15	26	2	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	4	8

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator* HWYADEN FRONGOCH
Rare breeding resident and common winter visitor.
 Although pairs were recorded at two suitable sites on the R.Dee in April/May, there were no confirmed breeding records this year. All other records were on, or close to, the sea and estuaries. The maximum winter counts were of 50 at Rhos-on-Sea in March and December. There were also 26 in mid-January between Rhyl and Llanddulas, 30 on Rhyl Marine Lake at the end of December and at POA, 17 on Mar.31st and 18 on Oct.18th.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
COAST	26	6	10	5	-	-	-	-	2	12	5	3

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG
Increasing breeding resident.
 Breeding was confirmed on the R.Dee (10 young), R.Clwyd (6 yng) and R.Aled/R.Elwy (4 yng). Unlike the coastal Merganser, this species is recorded mainly from inland lakes in winter. The maximum counts were 28 at Hanmer Mere, 17 at Ty Mawr Reservoir (Aug.3/7th), 12 at Llyn Brenig (Aug.17th and Sep.15th), 8 on the R.Clwyd and 7 at Dolwen Reservoir.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* HWYADEN GOCH
Uncommon breeding resident and winter visitor.
 Although a visitor from its Cheshire strongholds for many years, it is spreading only slowly as a breeding species. Breeding was confirmed at one site in the west of the county with 2 young raised. Birds were present during the breeding season at Gresford Flash and Llyn Helyg, but the highest count was once again from Hanmer Mere with 37 on Jan.7th. There were singles at Shotwick Lake and Glan-y-wern.

Three at COR/OMR on Sep.19th was only the second record for that locality and there were also 3 at Acton Park (Wrexham) on May 8th.

RED KITE

Milvus milvus

BARCUD

Occasional visitor to the county usually birds of the year dispersing from breeding areas further south.

It is interesting to note, that of the limited sightings this year, 2 birds were seen together at an undisclosed site on May 19th/20th. This may herald some extension of breeding range as more pairs are successful at their stronghold in central Wales. A single bird was also seen at Mochdre on the more usual date of Jul.16th.

MARSH HARRIER

Circus aeruginosus

BOD Y GWERNI

Scarce passage migrant.

There were two spring records of migrating birds this year, one more than in 1989. The first was on Apr.22nd at The Warren, Talacre. The other record came from Shotwick Fields where a female was noted on Jun.18th.

HEN HARRIER

Circus cyaneus

BOD TINWEN

Scarce breeding species and winter visitor.

The first male was reported back on the county's breeding grounds on the relatively early date of Mar.18th but whilst seven pairs were reported throughout the county during the breeding season, only 3 of these bred and of these only one pair was successful. They reared 4 fledged young. The sites, for obvious reasons, must remain undisclosed. During the winter period most of the records came from the coastal region with a single bird at OMR/COR Feb.13th, a ring-tail at Shotton Feb.21st, and an adult female at OMR on Oct.19th. Occasional ring-tails were seen in the Clwyd part of Burton Marsh during the second winter period. Inland exceptions were a male at World's End on Jan.20th and another flying north east at Alwen Reservoir on Oct.29th.

GOSHAWK

Accipiter gentilis

GWALCH MARTH

Rare breeding resident.

Once again this year there were no confirmed breeding records although the presence of birds throughout the year in suitable locations does indicate the possibility. There were sightings of individuals from Dyserth on Apr.13th, from Tremeirchion on May 30th and a male from Gwaenysgor on Jun.3rd. A pair was seen in the Corwen area in the autumn and there were records of single females from Llanarmon-yn-Ial and Shotwick on Nov.18th and 28th respectively.

SPARROWHAWK

Accipiter nisus

GWALCH GLAS

Common and widespread breeding species throughout Clwyd.

Whilst very few confirmed breeding records were received, the presence of this species throughout the county during spring and early summer together with frequent sightings of immature birds, would indicate that it is now at probably its highest breeding density since before the pesticide problems of the 1960s and 70s. It has been regularly noted at both inland and coastal sites in each month of the year and has even been described as "numerous" on the edge of Ruabon moors.

BUZZARD

Buteo buteo

BWNCATH

Common and widespread breeding resident in upland areas.

Numbers recorded throughout Clwyd remain encouragingly high but it was disappointing to note that in the World's End/Horseshoe Pass area only 4 young were successfully reared from a total of 9 eggs in 4 nests. Birds were recorded from many different parts of the county each month. Notable records for the year included 8 birds soaring together at Llanfair T.H. on Apr.28th and 6 behind Abergele on Mar.27th. Reported as present throughout the year at Gwysaney near Mold and at Clocaenog Forest. A pale bird with a white rump was noted at Llyn Brenig on Apr.27th.

OSPREY

Pandion haliaetus

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant.

There was only one confirmed record of a single bird at POA on Oct.24th.

KESTREL

Falco tinnunculus

CUDYLL COCH

Locally common breeding resident.

Judging from the many records received together with evidence of successful breeding there appears to be a healthy population. Four young were reared in the Clocaenog Forest area and three broods fledged on the Horseshoe Pass. A pair nested at Hendre but the outcome remains unknown. Three immature birds were seen hunting with an adult female at Cynwyd on Aug.5th. Reported as 'less common than in recent years' at CQR/OMR with only fourteen sightings throughout the year, it was conversely noted as common in the Wrexham, Rhyl and Llandegla areas. One observer recorded fifty three sightings in the year from the Gwaenysgor area with a maximum of ten sightings in September.

HOBBY

Falco subbuteo

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

Uncommon passage migrant.

The only two records this year were in June and July with a female at Cilcain on Jun.17th and a single bird at Shotton on Jul.22nd.

MERLIN

Falco columbarius

CUDYLL BACH

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor.

The majority of records received were from coastal regions during the period September to March but one observer commented that this species was recorded on and around Ruabon moors out of the breeding season more frequently than in the past. As one would expect there were winter records from points all along the coastal strip from Kinmel Bay in the west through Rhyl and the R.Clwyd estuary, Gronant, POA, OMR/CQR to Shotton and Sealand in the east. A female was seen to catch and then lose a Redshank at Flint Marsh on Nov.25th and a male was seen in the heart of Wrexham on Feb.20th. Confirmed breeding records were few and far between and the location of these must remain classified, but there seems every reason to believe that the breeding population is somewhat more healthy than thought hitherto.



PEREGRINE

Falco peregrinus

HEBOG TRAMOR

Breeding resident.

The breeding locations of this species still remain confidential but from the records received there was a considerable measure of success this year. Three nests in central Clwyd raised 7-9 flying young and there was equally heartening news from at least two other sites. On the down side one nest was known to have been robbed by egg collectors. During the winter months there were regular sightings both from the coast and inland. The species was recorded in every month except May at OMR/CQR where the sightings involved 2 birds on five occasions and 3 birds on Sep.6th and 23rd. Interesting notes recorded a bird being robbed of prey by gulls at POA on Feb.9th, a male showing interest in the Gronant Little Tern colony on Jun.21st and an immature killing a Leach's Petrel at CQR on Sep.21st.

RED GROUSE

Lagopus lagopus

GRUGIAR

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

On Ruabon Moors there was a slightly lower maximum recorded than in 1989 and four day-old young were first recorded on May 18th. Major records included 13 at Moel Fferna in the Berwyns on Jul.22nd and 11 at Pendinas on Apr.1st. There were records of between 1 and 6 birds at various places during the year, including a pair at Moel Morfydd, Llantysilio, on Jun.10th and three pairs at Llyn Cyfynwy on Apr.11th. There is still a possibility that numbers are steadily reducing year by year and observers are specially requested to faithfully record all sightings when visiting suitable areas.

BLACK GROUSE

Tetrao tetrix

GRUGIAR DDU

Scarce breeding resident.

From the records received, numbers appear to be much improved since 1989 although this could indicate a more intense coverage of the well known sites. Between 20 and 25 males were on a lek on Ruabon Moor during May and a maximum of 15 males and 4 females were noted at the Llandegla site on Apr.8th. This same location produced 15 males and 2 females two days earlier and 13 males were noted on Apr.13th. There were 18 males on leks in the Clocaenog area during March (up to 30 recorded during March, 1989). Other sites in the county were Moel Famau where 4 males and 1 female were on a lek on Feb.14th, 10 at Moel Fenlli on Dec.29th and smaller parties at Llantysilio May 27th, Pentre Llyn Cymmer May 30th, Cilcain Aug.3rd and Llyn Brenig Apr.30th and Nov.27th.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE

Alectoris rufa

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Rare breeding resident, but birds are released.

Four widely scattered records of this species were received. Single birds were recorded near Nannerch on Mar.3rd, at Talacre on Apr.22nd, Gronant on Jul.1st. and there were two birds noted at Clawddnewydd Forest Centre on Oct.19th.

GREY PARTRIDGE

Perdix perdix

PETRISEN

Scarce breeding resident.

Many more records were received this year. Maximum numbers were 11 at CQR on Oct.18th with the same number at Flint on Nov.4th. Parties of 10 were recorded

at CQR on Nov.10th and at Flint on Oct.21st and Nov.18th. Other significant numbers were 8 at Towyn on Nov.27th, 6 on Hope Mountain on Feb.23rd, 6 at Saughall Station on Nov.11th and 6 at Honkley Dec.29th. There were smaller numbers recorded at many other sites including OMR, Halkyn, Shotton, Nurse Fawr, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Bersham, Llanbedr D.C., Panorama, Cyfnydd (Llangollen), Horseshoe Pass, Tai Nant and Foel Llanfihangel. Successful breeding was confirmed at Deeside Pools where a pair was noted with 3 young on Jun.3rd.

QUAIL

Coturnix coturnix

SOFLIAR

Possibly a scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

In contrast to 1989 there were very few records of this irruptive species, with no confirmed or even suspected breeding occurrences. One was regularly heard calling at Rossett between May 21st and Jun 1st with one at Llyn Helyg at 03.36 on May 28th. In the east of the county there was a calling bird at Shotwick Fields on Jun.30th and a final record for the year when 2 were at the Warren, POA, on Jul.26th.

PHEASANT

Phasianus colchicus

FFESANT

Locally common breeding resident.

The number of records almost doubled thereby presenting a slightly better picture of the birds status in the county. It is appreciated that large numbers are produced on private estates for sporting purposes, but away from places like Gwysaney and Bodrhyddan Hall, Rhuddlan, varying numbers of birds were noted as far apart as Wrexham, Clocaenog, Towyn, Bettws-yn-Rhos, Llanarmon-yn-Ial and Wepre. A leucistic bird was noted at POA in February and was still present on Mar.17th.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT *Chrysolophus amherstiae* FFESANT Y FONESIG AMHERST

Introduced breeding resident.

There were three records, each of a single male from Halkyn Hall on Feb.23rd, Apr.9th and Aug.23rd. Apparently there is now a small population present in the Gwysaney woodland, although no definite records were submitted for this site.

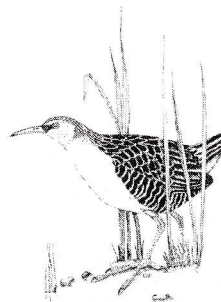
WATER RAIL

Rallus aquaticus

RHEGAN Y DŴR

A scarce winter visitor and possible breeding resident.

A slightly greater presence this year than last, with birds being noted at POA and along the Cob during the winter. Single birds were recorded at the POA reserve on Mar.11th and 14th and Apr.14th. Elsewhere individuals were observed at Acton Park on Jan.14th and Feb.22nd, Rhyl Brickworks Pool on Nov.27th plus one seen feeding at Llyn Bedydd near Hanmer on Dec.17th.



MOORHEN

Gallinula chloropus

IÂR DDŴR

Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor.

The large number of records received for this species confirms its very healthy status both as a breeding bird and as a winter visitor to the county. Successful breeding was confirmed at the fly-ash lagoon CQR where two broods were raised, at Wepre Park, Llyn Helyg, Llanasa, the Rhuddlan/Cwm area and Connah's Quay Sewage Works. Birds with young were also noted at Pentre Halkyn, Towyn, Pentre Mawr Park (Abergele), and on the River Clwyd near Rhuddlan, as well as at Gronant and on the Pump House Pool, POA. Notable winter numbers included 35 at Rhyl Brickworks Pool on Feb.5th, 13 at Pentre Mawr Park on Oct.10th and 12 at Connah's Quay Sewage Works on Dec.30th. Also noted as regularly breeding at Gresford Flash where a maximum of 14 birds was recorded, no date.

COOT

Fulica atra

CWTIAR

Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor.

There were many breeding records, the main sites being Pentre Mawr Park, Rhyl Brickworks Pool and the Deeside Pools where on May 13th 19 adults and 8 juveniles were recorded. Smaller numbers were successful at Llandegla trout fishery, Home Farm, Ruabon, Llyn Helyg and Gresford Flash. Large numbers built up over the September to March period with a maximum of 107 being noted at Dolwen Reservoir, Llanefydd, on Dec.12th. The maximum number at Hanmer Mere was 100 (no date), with 62 at the Deeside Pools on Jan.5th. Llyn Helyg hosted over 80 on ice Dec.14th, and 60 were at Ysceifiog Lake on Mar.3rd.

OYSTERCATCHER

Haematopus ostralegus

PIODEN Y MÔR

Scarce breeding resident and abundant winter visitor.

A few pairs bred along the coast and the estuaries but several clutches were washed out by high tides at POA and OMR. At least one pair bred successfully inland in the Wrexham area. Present throughout the year in good numbers on the R.Deer and in smaller numbers along the coast from Gronant to Rhos-on-Sea. The highest numbers were recorded in the autumn with a peak of 11000 at POA on Oct.5th. The highest counts away from the main areas were 1200 on the R.Clwyd on Aug.9th and 850 at Llanddulas on Oct.10th.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	3000	2500	2500	800	520	600	720	2500	8000	6000	1450	2000
POA	8000	8000	2500	2000	2608	1830	2550	8150	10000	11000	7500	9850
GRONANT	1430	540	1350	325	59	2	208	390	1980	770	1500	3500

AVOCET

Recurvirostra avosetta

CAMBIG

Rare visitor.

A single bird wintered on the R.Deer from Nov.19th to the year's end. It was present at CQR/OMR from Nov.19th to 30th and was seen there intermittently throughout December.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

Charadrius dubius

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant.

Three pairs bred at one site in the county with another pair displaying nearby. Birds

were present at this site from Apr.9th to Aug.2nd. Other records came from CQR/OMR on Jul.5th (2), Jul.10th (1) and Sep.26th (1), at Gresford Flash with 2 on Apr.14th and 17th and Borrass Airfield Pools with 1 on May 3rd.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula* CWTIAD TORCHOG
Resident breeding in small numbers and passage migrant.

At least thirteen pairs nested at POA and Gronant, but only two pairs were confirmed as successful. Small numbers were present throughout the winter with maxima of 55 at Towyn on Jan.15th and 59 at Kinmel Bay on Nov.3rd. Spring passage peaked in early May with 215 at POA on 7th, then numbers built up on return passage through July and August to give maxima of 500 at POA on Aug.19th and 400 at CQR/OMR on Aug.26th.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	1	4	-	1	-	-	15	400	89	15	-	-
POA	20	24	10	15	215	10	64	500	160	35	20	25
GRONANT	19	31	20	32	34	20	17	82	151	43	32	7
COAST	36	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	63	78	54	64

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva* CWTIAD AUR Y MÔR TAWEL
Rare vagrant.

An adult in almost complete breeding plumage was noted at OMR from Jul.31st but only positively identified on Aug.2nd, staying until the 4th. [Record with full description submitted to BBRC].

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria* CWTIAD AUR
Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor.

Breeding was confirmed at one site in the south of the county. Small numbers winter, often associating with Lapwing flocks. The largest numbers reported were 100 at CQR/OMR on Jan.10th, 200 at Shotwick on Feb.1st and 40 there on Oct.28th.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola* CWTIAD LLWYD
Winter visitor and passage migrant to coastal sites.

Most birds are reported from POA and Gronant with smaller numbers on the R.Clwyd and at CQR/OMR. The maximum number recorded in the early part of the year was 48 at Gronant on Feb.11th. The first autumn record was 1 on the R.Clwyd on Aug.8th, then recorded maxima were 164 at Gronant on Oct.21st and 152 at POA on Dec.9th.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	5	5	5	16
POA	24	13	31	9	-	-	-	3	28	60	92	152
GRONANT	37	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	164	65	60

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* CORNCHWIGLEN
Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Six pairs nested at CQR/OMR as opposed to two pairs in 1989, but all broods were washed out by high tides. Good numbers were present during both winter periods at CQR/OMR and also at Shotwick fields where up to 2000 were regularly present

from October to December. The largest numbers reported away from the coast and estuaries were 150 near Rossett on Jan.2nd and 100 at Gresford Flash on Jan.14th.

KNOT *Calidris canutus* PIBYDD YR ABER

Passage migrant and winter visitor to coastal locations.

Recorded in every month except May. Only recorded from the Dee Estuary, Gronant and POA apart from 4 on the R.Clwyd on Sep.13th and 6 on 27th. Peak numbers at CQR/OMR were 2500 on Feb.11th and 1000 on Nov.3rd/4th. At POA there were 800 on Jan.28th and 5000 on Dec.17th.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	2000	2500	600	3	-	1	1	1	30	600	1000	300
POA	800	200	15	1	-	-	2	-	40	500	500	5000

SANDERLING *Calidris alba* PIBYDD Y TYWOD

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Most birds were recorded along the coast, with only small numbers at POA and in the estuaries. The main roost sites were at Gronant and in the Rhyl/Kinmel Bay/Towyn area. Recorded in every month with a maximum of 850 at Gronant on Nov.18th. A single bird was at Shotton on Jun.2nd.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	12	1	-	-	-
POA	-	29	-	-	2	-	1	2	10	-	30	50
GRONANT	111	290	129	19	-	22	76	76	132	500	850	526
RHYL/ TOWYN	200	60	76	20	-	-	-	-	4	83	264	300
COAST	24	-	77	25	-	-	-	-	0	83	85	458

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta* PIBYDD BACH

Scarce passage migrant.

The only spring record was 2 at CQR/OMR on May 23rd. One was at Shotton from Jul.27th to 30th. Regular at Shotwick Lake through September with a maximum of 13, with 8 still present on Oct.6th, the last one being seen on Oct.24th. Singles were at POA on Sep.16th, 21st and 25th and at CQR/OMR on Sep.8th, 22nd and 25th with 2 on 28th and singles again on Oct.3rd and Nov.3rd.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* PIBYDD CAMBIG

Scarce autumn passage migrant.

The only spring record was 1 in breeding plumage at POA on May 26th. An excellent autumn for this species with 4 adults at POA on Jul.22nd followed by 1-2 birds on three dates to Aug.15th. Recorded on six dates during September with a maximum of 13 on 19th and 21st, 5 on Sep.3rd and 2 on Oct.5th and 1 on Nov.1st. At CQR/OMR 20 were seen on Jul.23rd, 4 adults on Jul.21st with singles on Jul.22nd and 26th, then regular from Aug.20th to Nov.7th peaking at 19 on Sep.10th. Also recorded in good numbers on R.Clwyd from Sep.11th to Oct.1st with a maximum of 12 on Sep.23rd.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	4	19	4	2	-
POA	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	1	13	5	1	-

PURPLE SANDPIPER

Calidris maritima

PIBYDD DU

Winter visitor to rocky coasts.

A single bird was at POA on Sep.21st/22nd and Oct.6th with presumably the same bird at Gronant on Sep.23rd. All other records were from Rhos-on-Sea where it is regular in winter in small numbers; the last record was 6 on May 3rd with returning birds present from Nov.9th, peaking at 30 on Dec.24th.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
RHOS	8	5	12	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	4	30

DUNLIN

Calidris alpina

PIBYDD Y MAWN

Passage migrant and common winter visitor.

Recorded every month but only in single figures in June. Good numbers wintered on the Dee Estuary with up to 2000 at CQR/OMR during the early part of the year with peaks of 3000 on Nov.16th and Dec.4th and 4000 at POA on Dec.9th. Autumn passage began in early July with maxima of 2000 on Jul.26th and Aug.19th at CQR/OMR and 2500 at POA on Aug.19th. Smaller numbers were recorded on the R.Clwyd and along the coast with the highest counts being 244 at Towyn on Jan.15th, 295 on the R.Clwyd on Oct.29th and 500 at Rhyl on Dec.2nd. There was an inland record of a single at Borrass Airfield Pools on Sep.22nd.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	2000	500	500	75	120	5	2000	2000	600	2000	3000	3000
POA	1200	1500	500	35	82	2	500	2500	800	1500	2500	4000
GRONANT	80	111	-	-	25	8	37	3	79	650	250	160
COAST	170	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	45	45	574

RUFF

Philomachus pugnax

PIBYDD TORCHOG

Passage migrant and possible winter visitor in small numbers.

Increased numbers of birds wintered at Shotwick, feeding on the fields with Lapwings, with up to 3 in January, 5 in February and March, then 2-3 nearby at Shotton Rifle Range to Apr.12th. Returning birds were again at Shotwick from Oct.21st to the year end with a maximum of 18 on Oct.27th, up to 8 in November and 11 in December. The only other records for the early part of the year were singles at CQR/OMR on Feb.2nd and Mar.29th and 1 at POA on Apr.1st. The best autumn passage on record for CQR/OMR began with 2 on Aug.9th, the main passage peaking at 22 on 18th and continuing to Oct.18th. Winter records included 2 on Nov.4th, 1 on 10th and 2 on Dec.5th. Elsewhere, records came from the R.Clwyd with singles on Jul.16th, Aug.28th and Sep.25th with 5 on Sep.27th. There were 4 at Borrass Airfield Pools on Sep.26th and 2 on Oct.3rd.

JACK SNIBE

Lymnocyrtus minimus

GIACH FACH

Scarce migrant and winter visitor.

Small numbers of up to 5 were reported from coastal areas between POA and Towyn during both winter periods, up to Apr.8th and from Oct.1st. Singles were on Ruabon Moors on Mar.18th, Apr.14th and 21st, Oct.22nd and Nov.25th while 2 were at CQR on Apr.6th and 1 at Shotton on Oct.29th. An unprecedented report of 15 was received from Talacre on Dec.19th.

SNIPE

Gallinago gallinago

GIACH GYFFREDIN

Rare breeding passage migrant and winter visitor.

Birds were reported on breeding territories from three areas. Most winter records were from the coast and estuaries, maximum numbers recorded being 134 flushed from the saltmarsh at POA by a high tide on Jan.14th and 87 at Gronant on Nov.11th.

WOODCOCK

Scolopax rusticola

CYFFYLOG

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor.

Roding birds were thinly but widely distributed where suitable habitat occurs. Wintering birds were reported from throughout Clocaenog Forest, the Llyn Brenig area, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Wepre Woods and Gronant.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

Limosa limosa

RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

The Dee Estuary is of international importance for this species and the increase in numbers using CQR/OMR was maintained during 1990. Recorded throughout the year with up to 1500 in both winter periods with numbers dropping after February but building up again through September and October. Away from the main area small numbers were noted fairly regularly at POA with a maximum of 25 on Dec.16th. There were 16 at Shotton on May 6th, 5 flew north-west over Shotwick on May 9th, 2 at Gronant on May 18th and 4 on the R.Clwyd on Jul.31st with 8 over-flying on Aug.1st.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	1500	1200	62	8	21	18	65	58	960	1460	1500	1200
POA		2	10	1	2	1	1	-	3	-	1	- 25

BAR-TAILED GODWIT

Limosa lapponica

RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRITH

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Recorded in every month except July but only in small numbers. Most records were from CQR/OMR with small numbers recorded during both winter periods. The spring passage peaked at 26 on May 8th. One was at POA on Jun.29th. The main autumn passage occurred during September and October with 20 at POA on Sep.7th and 20 at CQR/OMR on Sep.13th. Birds were also recorded from the R.Clwyd from Sep.11th to 27th with a maximum of 4 on 13th, with 2 at Gronant on Oct.17th and 7 on Dec.16th, 1 at Llanddulas on Oct.5th and 6 at Queensferry on May 20th.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	1	2	10	19	26	-	-	3	20	10	4	1
POA	8	2	2	4	1	1	-	-	20	14	4	3

WHIMBREL

Numenius phaeopus

COEGYLFINIR

Passage migrant.

There was a very early record of 1 at POA on Feb.25th with the main spring passage between Apr.22nd and May 20th, peaking at 9 on Apr.24th/25th. At CQR/OMR passage occurred from Apr.25th to May 23rd with a maximum of 3 on May 5th and on the R.Clwyd from Apr.25th to May 22nd with 47 on Apr.30th and 53 on May 1st. Autumn passage ranged from Jul.8th to Sep.25th with maxima of 40 at POA on Aug.19th, 11 at CQR/OMR on Jul.31st and 7 on R.Clwyd on Aug.8th. Away

From these three areas there were singles at Rhos-on-Sea on May 3rd, DP on May 13th, Shotton on Jul.15th and Gronant on Aug.19th.

CURLEW

Numenius arquata

GYLFINIR

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Displaying birds were widespread in upland areas. Present on the coast throughout the year with the highest numbers recorded during autumn passage, with a peak of 2500 at POA on Aug.21st.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	390	300	250	300	110	107	6	200	500	50	40	60
POA	900	1000	673	610	253	400	1500	2500	1600	1000	800	642
R.CLWYD	750	200	280	40	-	1	50	100	100	195	200	380
COAST	-	-	101	-	-	-	-	-	25	177	20	5

SPOTTED REDSHANK

Tringa erythropus

PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

Passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

A wintering flock of at least 10 birds was present at CQR/OMR during January and February with the last one seen on Mar.27th. Return passage started on Jun.23rd with numbers building to a maximum of 25 on Sep.11th. Up to 13 wintered during November and December. At POA singles were recorded on five dates from Feb.14th to Apr.21st, autumn passage lasted from Aug.6th to Oct.6th, peaked at 6 on Oct.2nd, with further singles in November and December. Singles were recorded from the R.Clwyd on Sep.14th and 29th, Oct.1st and Nov.25th.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	10	10	3	-	-	2	6	17	25	17	12	13

REDSHANK

Tringa totanus

PIBYDD COESGOCH

Breeding resident and common winter visitor.

Common throughout the year except from the end of April to the middle of June. Numbers at POA and CQR/OMR are of national importance with maxima occurring during autumn passage, 1200 at POA on Oct.17th and 3000 at CQR/OMR on Aug.19th. Inland records were 1 at Llyn Helyg on Apr.20th, 1 at Borras Airfield Pools on Jul.10th and 1 at Stryt Las Pool, Johnstown, on Dec.25th and 29th.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CQR/OMR	1000	500	700	300	4	250	1060	3000	1400	1000	800	200
POA	723	800	1000	500	1	100	280	1000	1122	1200	800	800

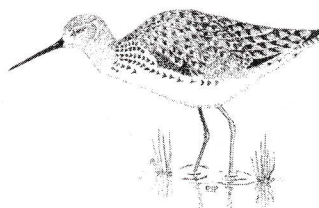
MARSH SANDPIPER

PIBYDD Y GORS

Tringa stagnatilis

Rare vagrant.

An adult in breeding plumage was at CQR/OMR on May 7th.
(Record submitted to BBRC).



GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* PIBYDD COESWERDD
Passage migrant.

Occasional winter records from CQR/OMR with 1 at POA from Jan.12th to 14th. There were seven spring records from five sites between May 8th and 24th then autumn passage started on Jun.27th lasting until late October with maxima of 18 on the R.Clwyd on Sep.2nd, 9 at POA on Aug.15th and 19th and 7 at CQR/OMR on Aug.30th and Sep.14th.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* PIBYDD GWRYDD
Passage migrant and winter visitor.

The only winter records were 2 at Shotwick on Jan.21st, 1 at Connah's Quay Sewage Works on Jan.27th, 1 at Ty Mawr Reservoir on Nov.21st and 1 at Stryt Las, Johnstown, on Dec.25th and 29th. One was at POA on May 1st then most autumn records were from Shotton between Jul.2nd and Aug.29th with maxima of 11 on Jul.18th and 12 on Aug.2nd with additional records of single birds from DP on Jul.2nd and 10th, POA on Jul.22nd and R.Clwyd on Oct.11th.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* PIBYDD Y GRAEAN
Scarce passage migrant.

All records involved single birds, from R.Clwyd on Jul.30th, 31st and Aug.4th, at Shotton on Aug.1st/2nd and 5th/7th, at POA on Aug.21st and at OMR on Sep.11th.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* PIBYDD Y DORLAN
Passage migrant and summer visitor.

There was one winter record from POA on Feb.10th. The first spring records were 2 at POA on Apr.16th and 1 at Llyn Brenig on 17th with a spring passage peak of 25 on R.Clwyd on Apr.28th. Breeding was strongly suspected at several inland sites but no confirmation was received. Autumn passage lasted from Jun.23rd with 2 at Shotton to Sep.3rd on R.Clwyd, with maxima on R.Clwyd of 24 on Jul.16th and 25 on Aug.1st.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres* CWTIAD Y TRAETH
Winter visitor.

Winters along the coast in reasonable numbers from Rhyl to Rhos-on-Sea. Recorded up to May 3rd (10 at Rhos-on-Sea) and from Jul.29th (3 at Rhos-on-Sea) with maxima of 270 at Towyn on Feb.18th and 200 at Rhos-on-Sea on Nov.9th. A small flock is usually present on the Dee in the Mostyn area with up to 55 recorded in March and April and 36 on Dec.16th. It is only an occasional visitor to POA and CQR/OMR.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Coast												
maxima	126	270	108	250	10	-	3	40	100	144	200	137

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus* SGIWEN FRECH
Uncommon passage migrant.

Single birds recorded from POA on Jul.15th and Sep.8th and from Prestatyn on Sep.16th.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD
Passage migrant in small numbers.

There were two winter records from POA with single birds on Jan. 15th and Feb. 14th. One was off Llanddulas on Jul. 1st and 1 at Gronant on Jul. 18th, then small numbers were regularly seen along the coast from Aug. 19th (2 at POA) to Oct. 7th (1 Rhos-on-Sea) with a maximum of 37 at POA on Sep. 7th. In the Dee Estuary 2 were present off Flint on Sep. 23rd.

LONG TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus* SGIWEN LOSTFAIN
Scarce vagrant.

An adult flew west at POA on Sep. 22nd.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* SGIWEN FAWR
Uncommon passage migrant.

One was present off OMR from Feb. 14th/17th and on Mar. 1st with 1 flying east into the estuary at POA on Feb. 19th. In autumn there were 2 at POA on Sep. 7th and 3 on Sep. 19th with 1 off Rhos-on-Sea on Oct. 31st with a late winter record there on Dec. 27th.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* GWYLAN MÔR Y CANOLDIR
Scarce vagrant.

More records than usual were received this year. Single adults were at POA on Jan. 14th and 17th, Feb. 28th, Mar. 1st and 3rd, Aug. 19th and Sep. 21st. An adult and a 1st winter were at Rhos-on-Sea on Feb. 4th with the adult seen intermittently to 27th. A 2nd winter was at Prestatyn and Kinnel Bay on Feb. 10th, adults at Flint on Aug. 24th/31st, Nov. 17th and Dec. 22nd, an adult at Shotwick on Oct. 24th/25th and an adult at Rhos-on-Sea on Oct. 30th.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus* GWYLAN FECHAN
Scarce passage migrant.

The first of the year was at Penrhyn Bay on Jan. 3rd. On Apr. 10th there were 3 at POA and a 1st winter at CQR/OMR. An adult and 3 immatures were at Shotton on May 6th with 2 immatures still present on 13th and 1 on 20th. A 1st winter bird was at Llanddulas on Nov. 18th and an adult at Shotwick Lake on Dec. 2nd.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini* GWYLAN SABINE
Rare vagrant.

An adult and a juvenile were seen off POA during stormy weather on Sep. 24th.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus* GWYLAN BENDDU
Common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Present throughout the year, the largest numbers were recorded in winter with maxima of 5000+ at CQR/OMR on Feb. 4th, 3000+ at Rhyl on Nov. 12th, 2000 on R.Clwyd on Dec. 24th and 1800 at Gronant on Nov. 2nd.

RING-BILLED GULL
Rare vagrant.

Larus delawarensis

GWYLAN FODRWYBIG

A 1st winter bird was at POA on Jan.17th and an adult on Flint Marsh on Mar.30th/31st. These records have been accepted by WRAG.

COMMON GULL

Larus canus

GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Present throughout the year with largest numbers recorded during winter. Maxima of 2500 were at Llyn Brenig on Nov.27th and up to 2000 at POA during the early part of the year with 1000 there on Sep.21st and 1000 on R.Clwyd on Dec.24th.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Larus fuscus

GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF

Breeding resident and passage migrant.

Recorded throughout the year with maximum numbers at Flint, 150 on Apr.14th, 250 on Sep.12th and 550 on Dec.21st. The largest total recorded inland was 130 at Gresford Flash on Oct.16th. Individuals showing characteristics of the race L.f.fuscus were recorded at CQR/OMR as follows: 4 on Jan.27th, 1 on Feb.17th and 2 on 28th while 8 birds showing characteristics of the race L.f.intermedius were seen at the same locality on Nov.3rd.

HERRING GULL

Larus argentatus

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

Breeding resident, passage migrant and common winter visitor.

Maximum numbers were 3060 at Llanddulas on Nov.28th, 3000 at POA on Sep.21st and 2000+ at Gronant on Nov.2nd. Birds showing characteristics of the race L.a.michahellis (Yellow Legged Herring Gull) were recorded as follows: 1 at Rhos-on-Sea on Apr.11th, 2 at Flint on Sep.12th, 3 at POA on Sep.21st, 1 at CQR/OMR on Sep.24th, 1 at Shotwick on Oct.24th, 2 at Flint on Nov.12th and 1 at Shotwick on Dec.2nd.

ICELAND GULL

GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

Larus glaucoides

Scarce winter visitor.

A single adult was reported from POA on Feb.26th. This record has been accepted by WRAG.

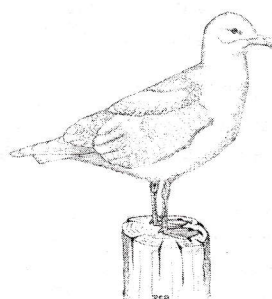
GLAUCOUS GULL

Larus hyperboreus

GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

Scarce winter visitor.

Single adults were reported at Prestatyn on Jan.20th, Flint on Jan.28th, Feb.28th and Dec.21st/22nd, Gronant on Jul.21st, Sep.1st and Nov.4th and Rhyl on Jul.25th.



GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF
Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Present throughout the year at the coast and estuaries, the highest numbers occurred during autumn and winter with 330 at POA on Sep.21st, 152 at CQR/OMR on Nov.21st and 120 at Gronant on Dec.14th. Inland records were 4 at Gresford Flash on Feb.3rd and 1 at Llyn Brenig on Sep.17th.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* GWYLAN GOES DDU
Passage migrant.

Regularly seen offshore in the west of the county, less frequently at POA where unusually there were 82 during a storm on Feb.26th. More frequently recorded there during the autumn with maxima of 20+ on Sep.18th and 23rd. Singles were recorded at CQR/OMR on Feb.27th, Mar.1st and 15th and May 10th with 9 there on Dec.8th.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis* MORWENNOL BIGDDU
Common passage migrant.

The first record was of 2 at POA on Apr.5th, then regularly recorded along the coast from POA to Rhos-on-Sea with monthly maxima of 50 at POA on Apr.25th, 202 at Gronant on May 16th, 82 at POA on Jun.17th, 800 at POA on Jul.15th and 24th, 450 at POA in August with 400 on R.Clwyd on Aug.21st and 300 at POA on Sep.7th. The last records were 20 at POA and 4 at Rhyl on Sep.29th followed by 1 at POA on Oct.27th. The only records away from the coast were 2 at Shotton on May 6th and 8 at CQR/OMR on Sep.12th.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo* MORWENNOL GYFFREDIN
Common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first record was 1 at CQR/OMR on Apr.25th with the first 4 birds recorded back at the Shotton colony on Apr.28th. The number of eggs laid at this colony was the highest ever with 715 being counted, but then for some unknown reason the entire colony deserted. The only spring record from POA was 3 on May 7th while autumn passage started with 2 birds on Jul.5th and ended with 1 on Oct.21st. The maximum in this period was 450 on Jul.21st. The only inland record was 2 at Gresford Flash on May 2nd.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD
Uncommon passage migrant, has bred in previous years.

The only spring records were 2 at CQR/OMR on May 9th with 1 there on 12th. Otherwise only reported from POA on passage from July to September with a maximum of 109 on Jul.15th and the last sighting of 7 on Sep.18th.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons* MORWENNOL FECHAN
Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The first record was 3 at POA on Apr.29th. At least fifty one pairs bred at Gronant but almost all failed with probably only 7 birds fledging. Autumn passage birds were recorded at POA with 18 on Jul.6th to the last sighting of 1 on Sep.8th with a maximum of 316 on Jul.15th. The only records away from the coast were 5 at CQR/OMR on Aug.19th/20th.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger* CORSWENNOL DDU
Uncommon passage migrant.

At the beginning of May large numbers were present throughout northern Britain and Clwyd had a reasonable share of these. On May 2nd there were 31 at Shotton, 38 at Gresford Flash, 2 at Shotton on May 13th, and 1 at Queensferry Flash Farm on May 20th. Autumn records were 1 immature at CQR/OMR on Aug.18th, 1 on Sep.19th and 1 at Gronant on Oct.6th.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge* GWYLOG
Regular visitor to coastal waters.

Present offshore in small numbers during all months of the year. Maxima were 20 off Rhyl on Oct.25th and 12 at POA on Nov.4th. Singles were seen at CQR/OMR on Mar.12th, Oct.20th and Nov.3rd.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda* LLURS
Small numbers occasionally recorded offshore.

Only five records received with sightings in February, March, June, and October from POA to Rhos-on-Sea with a maximum of 10 off Rhyl on Oct.25th.

BLACK GUILLEMOT *Cephus grylle* GWYLOG DDU
Scarce visitor to coastal waters.

There was 1 at Rhos-on-Sea on Jul.10th and 1 at POA on Sep.7th.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle* CARFIL BACH
Rare winter visitor.

There were 2 off Rhos-on-Sea on Oct.31st and 1 on Dec.5th.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus* YSGUTHAN
Abundant breeding resident.

Regular throughout the county. Winter maxima were 65 at Flint on Dec.30th, 53 at Broadoak Wood on Dec.29th, 30 at Bodrhyddlan Hall Estate woods on Dec.29th and 30 at Gresford Flash on Apr.6th.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas* COLOMEN WYLLT
Fairly common breeding resident.

Over forty five records submitted, predominantly from eastern and coastal regions. Bred at Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Clocaenog Forest and Ruabon. Maxima were 35 at CQR/OMR on Feb.3rd and 52 at Wrexham Industrial Estate on Apr.19th.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto* TURTUR DORCHOG
Common breeding resident.

Recorded mainly from eastern and coastal regions. Maxima were up to 30 birds at Llay Industrial Estate on Feb.23rd and 60 at Darland on Aug.12th. A single bird was observed to eat 52 peanuts in a few minutes from outside a lounge window at Llanasa on Feb.13th.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur* TURTUR
Scarce summer breeding visitor.

Six records were received from five sites. One at Wrexham Industrial Estate on May 5th, 2 were noted along the Cob at POA on May 10th and a single on Jun.30th. One was at Talacre, May 19th, and a bird was singing and displaying above a plantation on Ruabon moors on May 20th, but was not seen or heard subsequently. One was singing at Borrass Airfield on May 21st. No breeding records were submitted.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* PARACÏT TORCHOG
A rare breeding visitor.

A single bird at Packsaddle on Jul.6th was the only record.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus* COG
Common breeding summer visitor.

Recorded on only forty occasions throughout the county in lowland and upland areas compared to over fifty in 1989. The first spring sightings were at Penycae on Apr.27th and Saughall the following day. Last song was heard on Jun.27th. At a site above Glyndyfrdwy numbers were said to be much reduced compared to 1989.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* TYLLUAN WEN
Breeding resident.

Recorded in small numbers. Breeding confirmed only in the Llangollen area (1+ young). Two birds flew from a nest box in Clocaenog Forest on Apr.10th which was later used by Jackdaws. Singles were recorded at Gresford on Mar.16th, near Llyn Brenig centre on May 22nd, Oct.4th and 9th, Plas Teg on Jul.6th, from the A550 at Deeside on Nov.5th/10th and at Wrexham Industrial Estate on Dec.12th.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* TYLLUAN FACH
Breeding resident.

The most frequently recorded owl mainly from lowland areas throughout the county. The only breeding records were at Wepre Park and Llanarmon-yn-Ial.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco* TYLLUAN FRECH
Breeding resident.

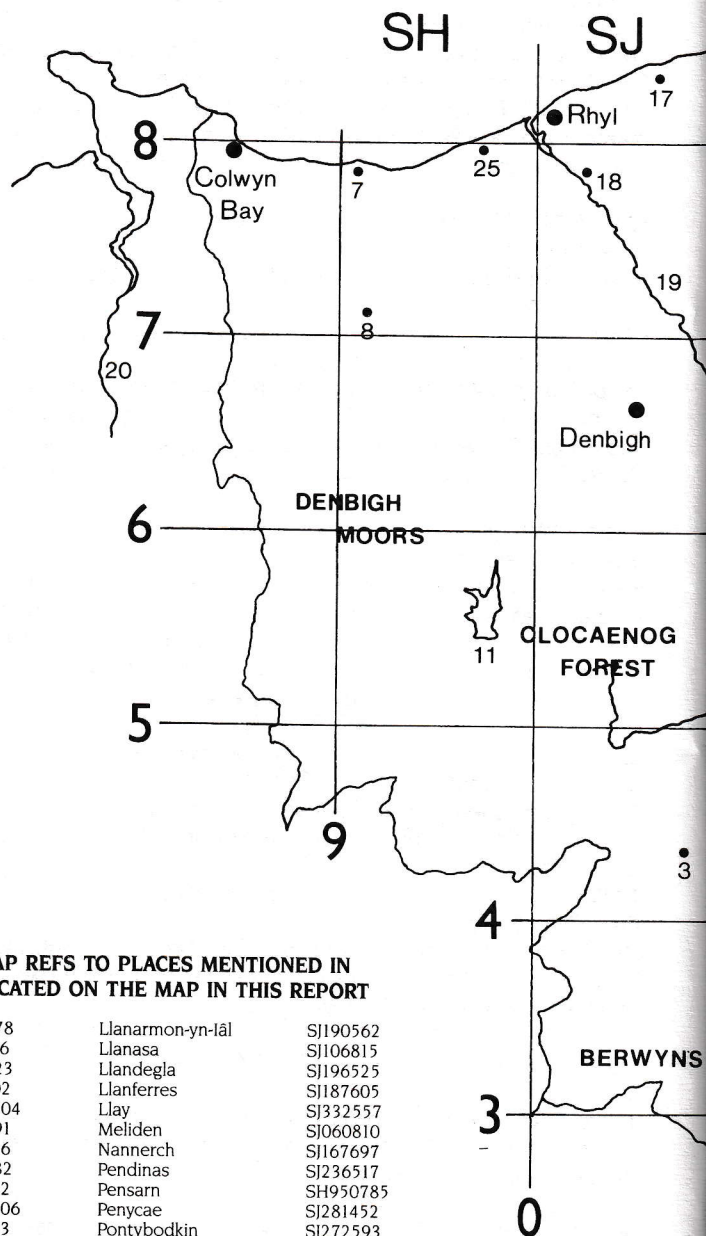
Distributed throughout Clwyd, but with breeding confirmed only at Wepre Park, Llanarmon-yn-Ial and Clocaenog Forest where, in nestboxes, six clutches with a total of 11 eggs produced 7 fledged young.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus* TYLLUAN GORNIOG
Rare resident.

There were only two records, one was calling in mature woodland in the Pentre Llyn Cymmer area on Jun.4th and young were heard calling in a plantation in the Ruabon/Llangollen area.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus* TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG
Winter visitor, passage migrant and scarce breeder.

Breeding was confirmed only at Ruabon moors, where at least 2 young were reared,



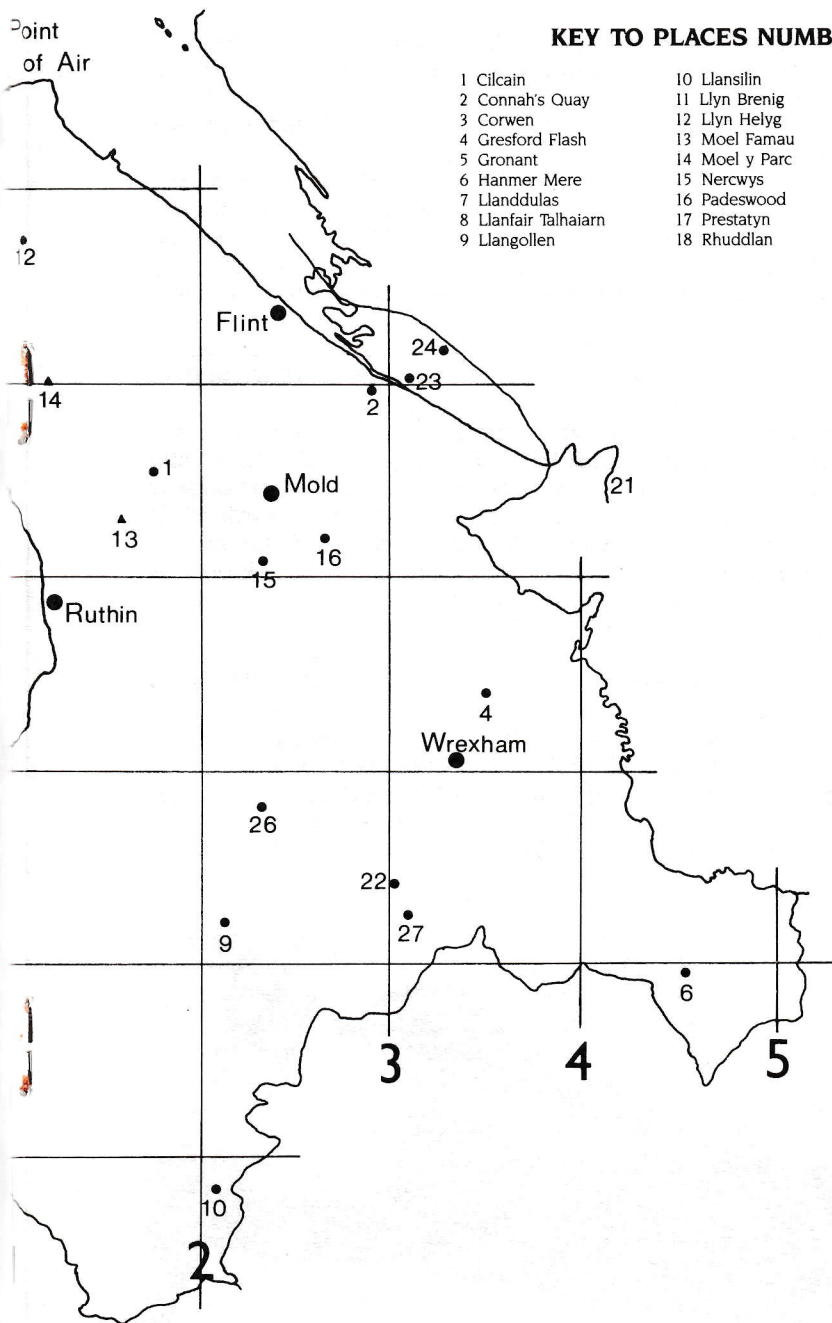
**ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP REFS TO PLACES MENTIONED IN
THE TEXT BUT NOT INDICATED ON THE MAP IN THIS REPORT**

Cae Llwyd Reservoir	SJ269478	Llanarmon-yn-lâl	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
Gyfeilia	SJ328453	Rhydymwyn	SJ213663
Holt	SJ408537	Rossett	SJ368572
Horseshoe Pass	SJ185470	Sealand	SJ352688
Kinnel Bay	SH990805	Sontley	SJ331466
Kinnerton	SJ330612		

Point
of Air

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 |



but suspected at Bwlch Pen Baras with 2 birds on Jul.17th and 24th. Other records were from the moors between Ruabon and Llandegla and at POA.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus* TROELLWR MAWR
Scarce breeding summer visitor.

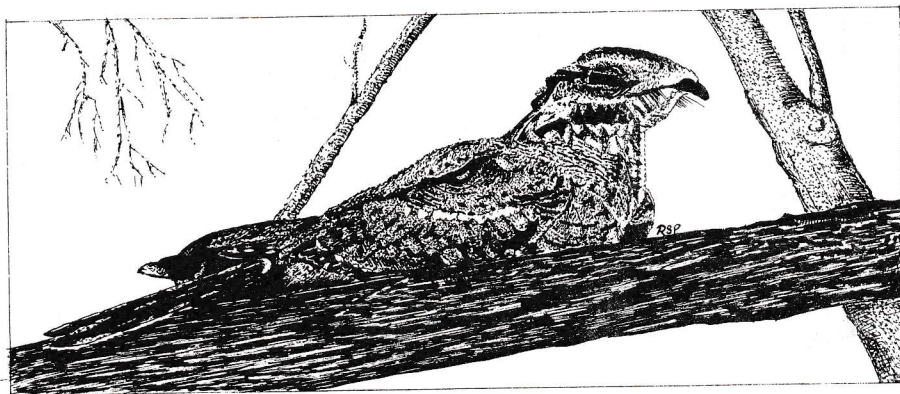
An increase to ten records this year compared to four in 1989. Three birds were seen in suitable habitat on May 17th, 2 in the Pentre Llyn Cymmer area on May 30th and 1 on Jun.4th, 1 in Clocaenog Forest, Jun.26th, 3 birds in a forest clearing near Cynwyd on Jul.13th, and 1 at the edge of Clocaenog Forest on Jul.24th. Breeding confirmed at two successful nests in separate sites, on Ruabon moors and near Corwen.

SWIFT *Apus apus* GWENNOL DDU
Common breeding summer visitor.

Widespread throughout the county and 100% increase in records submitted. First 3 birds at Ruabon on Apr.29th, recorded at Mold and Pen-y-Cae on Apr.30th and widespread by May 1st. At POA 140 birds were noted moving north-east on May 19th and on Jun.29th about 1000 per hour were recorded heading eastwards. Birds also common on passage at Gronant. A small colony nesting at old lime kilns at Gwynfryn and a further 70 birds recorded over Ruabon, Jul.28th. Hundreds of birds were over the R.Dee at Cynwyd bridge, Jul.1st and 40 birds at Connah's Quay reserve, Jul.7th. Last birds were 10 at Llay, Aug.25th.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis* GLAS Y DORLAN
Fairly common breeding resident.

Widespread and recorded on no fewer than eighty occasions on lowland rivers and waters. Recorded on the R.Dee, 2 at Llangollen, 2 at Rhewl both on Sep.9th. No fewer than 4 birds between Erbistock and Penylan, Jul.27th, and birds reported to have bred on the R.Alyn between Pontblyddyn and Caergwrle. Regular on Wepre brook during the summer months and on R.Clwyd, reservoirs and coastal waters during winter time.



HOOPOE

Upupa epops

COPOG

Rare vagrant.

One bird by the cattle grid between Castell Dinal Bran and Panorama Road on Mar.25th and on Mar.31st one reported by a motorist at Panorama view near Llangollen: "A very unusual bird landed on the road in front of the car at a range of 20 yards. It had black and white bars along its wings and tail, pink breast and down-turned bill and a crest on its head and a little larger than a Blackbird." These two records possibly refer to the same individual.

GREEN WOODPECKER

Picus viridis

CNOCELL WERDD

Breeding resident.

Widespread and recorded throughout the county in both lowland and upland areas (no fewer than fifty three records). Breeding confirmed at Llay Quarry, juveniles being fed by an adult, Jul.12th.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major* CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF
Breeding resident.

Widespread and probably the most common woodpecker. Recorded on over eighty occasions throughout the county, but more from lowland areas. Breeding recorded at nine sites.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor* CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF
Breeding resident.

Recorded on only fifteen occasions, all in the eastern part of the county. Bred near Dinbren, Llangollen with 4 newly fledged young, Jun.6th, whilst 2 birds at Brobney Moor probably bred.

WOODLARK

Lullula arborea

EHEDYDD Y COED

Rare non-breeding summer visitor.

A single bird was reported at Gronant on Jul.15th.

SKYLARK

Alauda arvensis

EHEDYDD

Common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Most records were of large flocks during autumn and winter. On Jan.22nd 125 were at CQR/OMR, 72 at Rossett on Feb.16th, 100 at Rhyl on Dec.24th and 100 at Gwaenysgor on Dec.29th. Large numbers were seen on autumn passage at the POA with a maximum of 150 on Nov.1st.

SAND MARTIN

Riparia riparia

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Common summer and passage visitor with small numbers breeding.

The first sightings were 1 at POA and 2 at CQR/OMR on Mar.15th. Reports were widespread during April with 60 at Gresford Flash on Apr.17th. There were no records of confirmed breeding. None bred at a colony near Llangollen. Nine birds were seen at another at Llanfair T.H. on May 12th and only 3 near Pwllglas on Apr.11th where there were two occupied holes in a bank which had collapsed the previous winter. The last bird was recorded at CQR/OMR on Oct.6th.

SWALLOW

Hirundo rustica

GWENNOL

Common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

A single bird was recorded at POA on Mar.18th and 2 were at Gresford Flash on Mar.25th. Small numbers were recorded in April but birds were common by May 2nd. There was a late spring passage of 170 flying north-east over POA on May 19th. Near Pwllglas, twenty clutches with a mean clutch size of 4.71 eggs produced 71 fledged young (75.53% of eggs and 83.53% of eggs hatched). Flocks were gathering on wires from late July at Llanfair T.H. and Llanasa. On Sep.1st 2000+ were grounded on sandbanks west of the lighthouse at POA. Southerly migration was widespread in mid-September and hundreds were seen with House Martins flying over Penycae on Sep.14th. The last sighting was of 3 birds at CQR/OMR on Oct.21st.

HOUSE MARTIN

Delichon urbica

GWENNOL Y BONDO

Common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

The first sighting was of a single bird at Ty Mawr reservoir on Apr.1st. There were very few records for the remainder of April but on May 1st birds were widespread. At Llanasa birds were first seen on May 1st, nest building on May 20th, hatched eggs were found on Jul.2nd and birds last seen on Sep.28th. There was a reoccupation of former nest colonies at Llanarmon-yn-Ial. Autumn gatherings were noted in early to mid-September with 200 on wires at Northop on Sep.12th and about 115 at Flint on Sep.16th. The final sighting was of 2 birds at CQR/OMR on Oct.6th.

TREE PIPIT

Anthus trivialis

CORHEDYDD Y COED

Summer breeding visitor and on passage in small numbers.

The earliest record is a single bird at Talacre on Apr.19th with small numbers passing over POA on migration from late April to late May and a maximum of 11 on May 2nd. Singing birds were reported from Maeshafn on Apr.29th, World's End on May 6th and Llanfair T.H. on May 13th. A pair was seen carrying food at Pendinas on Jun.10th but no records of confirmed breeding were submitted.

MEADOW PIPIT

Anthus pratensis

CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Highest spring passage numbers were 100+ on Mar.21st and 150 on Apr.2nd at CQR/OMR and about 100 at POA on Apr.10th. The largest flock reported was on autumn passage when 300 birds were in a field at CQR/OMR on Sep.23rd.

ROCK PIPIT

Anthus petrosus

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

Winter visitor to estuarine and coastal sites.

Recorded at four sites. A single bird was at Colwyn Bay on Jan.2nd. Small numbers winter at POA and birds were recorded on Jan.20th when 9 were seen and Oct.17th when 7 were present. Further along the coast at Gronant Marsh 5 were recorded on Oct.17th. Birds were also found over the winter period at CQR/OMR with 2 on Jan.28th, 1 on Feb.11th, 7 on Feb.28th, 3 on Nov.15th and 6 on Nov.25th.

WATER PIPIT

Anthus spinoletta

CORHEDYDD Y DŴR

Uncommon passage and winter visitor.

Two records were received of single birds at Glan-y-Don sewage farm, Mostyn, on Dec.12th and Shotwick fields on Nov.13th.

YELLOW WAGTAIL

Motacilla flava

SIGLEN FELEN

Passage visitor with small numbers breeding.

The majority of records received were of sightings within the Dee estuary except for a single bird at Gresford Flash on May 4th, a party of 5 including juveniles at Saltney on Jul. 10th and 2 at Llyn Brenig on Oct. 14th. The first bird of the year was at Shotwick Lake on Apr. 9th followed by numerous sightings throughout April and May at Shotwick fields and Lake, POA, CQR/OMR and Gronant. The maximum spring count was 15 at Shotwick Lake on Apr. 24th which included a blue-headed variant (M.f.flava). Breeding was confirmed at IMF where five pairs nested in an arable field. A juvenile was seen at Shotwick Lake on Aug. 2nd and a party of 5 birds including 3 juveniles was at POA on Aug. 8th. Small flocks of up to 6 birds were present at CQR/OMR throughout July and August but sightings in September were rare. The 2 present at Llyn Brenig in October were the last recorded.

GREY WAGTAIL

Motacilla cinerea

SIGLEN LWYD

Common breeding resident.

Breeding widespread throughout the county but nesting reduced on higher reaches of the R.De. Family parties were recorded at Llanddulas, Ruthin, Wepre Wood, Cyffiliog, World's End and on the R.Clwyd. A maximum of 7 birds was seen at Loggerheads on Aug. 5th. Birds overwinter on the coast and 2 were seen regularly at CQR/OMR throughout the winter months.

PIED WAGTAIL

Motacilla alba

SIGLEN FRAITH

Breeding resident and common passage migrant.

During the first winter period 9 were at POA on Jan. 9th and a maximum of 28 was reported from CQR/OMR on Jan. 31st. Breeding was confirmed at CQR/OMR, POA Colliery and Kelsterton where recently fledged young from a second, possibly third brood were sighted. Autumn passage movements included 35 over POA on Jul. 11th and at CQR/OMR 46 on Jul. 27th and 26 on Sep. 15th. Good numbers were also recorded in the final winter period with 26 at POA on Nov. 11th and 30 at CQR/OMR on Dec. 3rd. White Wagtails (M.a.alba) were recorded mainly on spring passage at Shotwick with a maximum of 85 at the end of April. Gronant had 20 birds on Apr. 25th while at POA the maximum recorded was only 4 on the same date. Autumn passage sightings were 2 at CQR/OMR on Aug. 10th and 1 on Sep. 11th.

WAXWING

Bombycilla garrulus

CYNFFON SIDAN

Rare winter visitor.

In contrast to the winter of 1988-89, only 3 birds were recorded. A bird which 'frequented' The Seagull at Towyn was recorded by many observers between Jan. 13th and 18th. During the same period one was seen at a housing estate in Ruthin. The only autumn record was a single at Prestatyn on 25th/26th Oct.

DIPPER

Cinclus cinclus

GRONWEN Y DŴR

Widespread breeding resident.

Recorded throughout the year on rivers and streams across the county. Breeding confirmed on the R.De, R.Clwyd, at Nant Isaf, Cyffylliog and a pair reared two clutches at Wepre Park.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes* DRYW
Common breeding resident.

Record numbers were reported on census walks on Ruabon Moors. At Pantymwyn a nest in a teapot had fledglings on Jun.13th. Seven were recorded at POA on Oct.26th.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis* LLWYD Y GWRYCH
Common breeding resident.

The only breeding records received were from POA and Wepre Park. At POA 10+ birds were noted during the winter months. Very few records were submitted.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula* ROBIN GOCH
Common breeding resident and partial migrant.

Breeding confirmed at POA, Wepre Park and Cilcain. Too few records were received to comment on any possible change of status.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus* TINGOCH DU
Scarce migrant and winter visitor, has bred.

A male was recorded at Towyn between Jan.2nd and 27th. Females were seen at Foryd on Jan.14th and Rhyl harbour on Jan.20th. A single bird was at Pensarn on Oct.24th. No supporting descriptions were received for any of these sightings.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* TINGOCH
Fairly common summer breeding visitor mainly in upland areas.

The first record was at Dinbren on Apr.13th but the main arrival was not until the end of the month. On Apr.29th 5 were singing at Moel Arthur. During May singing birds were recorded at many sites throughout the county. In Clocaenog nest boxes were used (in two clutches at least 15 eggs produced 13 fledged young) and breeding was confirmed at Cynwyd, Dulas Valley, Corwen, Glan-yr-Afon, Eryrys, Minera and Tianant. Juveniles were present at CQR/OMR on Jul.16th and Aug.8th. The last record was a single at POA on Sep.8th.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* CREC YR EITHIN
Fairly common breeding summer visitor mainly in upland areas.

The earliest record was of 3 at Moel Fodiar on Apr.7th and the first song of the year was reported from the Panorama on Apr.30th. At Talacre birds were seen on passage on May 2nd with 4 males at CQR/OMR on the same day. Denbigh Moors held 6 males on territory on May 27th and at Clocaenog birds were seen in some open parts of the forest. Young were only recorded from POA with 3 on Jul.28th. A high count of 10 birds came from Glyndyfrdwy on Jul.29th.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata* CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG
Localised breeding resident in small numbers.

At Talacre Warren four pairs were confirmed breeding, three of these in the rough grassland areas with scattered bushes. A further three pairs bred in the dunes at Gronant and a fourth near the pump house. Breeding was confirmed in upland areas at Llantysilio Mountain with three pairs recorded. Ruabon Moors also held three

pairs and the Panorama two pairs. Single males were recorded at numerous other upland areas in April and May. Reports would indicate that birds move to the coast from upland areas for the winter months.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe* TINWEN Y GARN
Common breeding visitor to mainly upland areas and frequent on the coast during migration.

The earliest migrant recorded was 1 at Rhyl promenade on Mar.8th. Other singles were seen at POA on Mar.14th and 17th, a male at Rhos Point also on the 17th with a maximum of 13 at CQR/OMR on Mar.25th. After this date birds were regularly recorded at coastal sites through March and April with a maximum of 12 on passage at POA on Apr.22nd. Only one record of confirmed breeding, at Eryrys, was received but pairs were reported from a number of suitable sites. Two juveniles were seen at CQR/OMR on Jul.11th. Autumn passage at POA was restricted to single birds on six dates between Aug.27th and Oct.24th. At CQR/OMS autumn passage extended into November with a single bird recorded on the 2nd and a maximum of 4 on Sep.15th. Birds showing features of the Greenland race (*O.o.leucorrhoa*) were present in good numbers at CQR/OMR on spring passage in late April/early May. At Talacre there were 11 on May 1st and 27 the following day. Autumn passage sightings were 2 at CQR/OMR on Oct.3rd and 2 at POA on Oct.5th.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus* MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD
Summer breeding visitor to upland areas in small numbers.

A single bird was present at the Horseshoe Pass on Mar.18th. At least four pairs were seen in this area with 1 bird still present on Oct.23rd. A male was at Shotton on Apr.29th. At World's End two pairs bred successfully. Records do not necessarily reflect the true breeding population of this species in the Clwydian hills.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula* MWYALCHEN
Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A female was reported sitting on eggs in a Wrexham garden on Mar.31st. The only spring passage recorded consisted of 19 birds at Talacre on Apr.25th whereas autumn passage involved greater numbers with 18 on Oct.17th, 70 on Oct.18th and 70+ on Oct.26th. Most observers seem to have ignored this highly visible species.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* SOCAN EIRA
Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The largest roost counts occurred towards the end of the year. A movement of 30 birds flying north over Penley on Apr.19th was the only spring passage noted, but CQR/OMR had a very late record of 30 on May 11th. An early returning bird was below Mountain Lodge on Sep.22nd but numbers did not increase until mid October when 50 were at Sontley on the 9th. An easterly movement of a flock of 250 birds was seen at Mountain Lodge on Nov.6th. Broadoak Wood Reserve, Connah's Quay, held about 200 on Dec.1st, Connah's Quay Sewage Works and POA both had 120 on Dec.30th. At Gwysaney a combined roost of Fieldfare and Redwings held 500 birds in late October rising to 3000+ in December, most of the birds entering the roost from the north.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos* BRONFRAITH
Common breeding resident and winter visitor.

This species was reported to be "fairly common" and "seen regularly on walks". A female was noted on a nest at Loggerheads on Apr.28th. At POA on Oct.18th a count of 8 birds were thought to be migrants.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus* COCH DAN-ADEN
Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

The first winter period yielded high counts at Pen-y-Cae Reservoir with 200 on Jan.11th and a mixed flock of 500 birds involving mainly Redwings plus a view Fieldfares at Holt on Feb.11th. No spring sightings were reported. Very early autumn migrants were seen at Hawarden with 2 flying south on Aug.9th and 7 flying west on Aug.11th. Birds were common in mid to late October but large numbers were recorded only in December with 150 at Flint on the 9th and 500+ flying south east at the same site on an undisclosed date.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus* BRYCH Y COED
Common breeding resident.

An under recorded species with only two breeding records received, both from the east of the county. In the autumn 18 were noted at CQR on Oct.11th with 17 at Talacre on the 17th.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia* TROELLWR BACH
Fairly localised summer breeding visitor.

Records were received from eight sites. At Talacre the first song was heard on Apr.21st with 4 on the 25th. Birds were also reported from POA, Gronant and Ruabon Moors with 2 males "reeling" at sites on May 2nd. Talacre Warren remains the species' stronghold in Clwyd and five pairs are thought to have nested in the open grassland areas. A singing male recorded at Bwlch Pen Baras on May 22nd was still present on Jul.24th.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* TELOR YR HESG
Fairly common summer breeding visitor.

All records refer to sightings in late April and May except for 4 birds by the R.Clwyd on Jun.15th. The first of the year was recorded at Talacre on Apr.25th. Singing males were reported from Mold, Cynwyd, Gronant and at Shotton where, rather surprisingly, the only record was of a single male on Apr.28th. Breeding was confirmed at POA Colliery with five pairs, at Flint Marsh with 3 pairs and at Talacre Warren where four pairs bred in the bramble thickets of the open grassland areas.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* TELOR Y CYRS
Rare summer breeding visitor.

Earliest record was of at least 10 males singing at Shotton on May 20th. A survey carried out on the Sealand Rifle Range revealed 6 singing males on May 23rd. Other records included singles at POA reedbed, Bagillt and Llyn Helyg in early July. Bagillt Marsh held two pairs. Despite these good numbers throughout the county, breeding was not confirmed at any site.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

Sylvia curruca

LLWYDFRON FACH

Breeding summer visitor.

Birds were first recorded at POA with 3 on Apr.25th. Singles were recorded throughout the county during May and June with birds still singing on Jun.17th. A pair bred at POA along The Cob. Two pairs bred in willow scrub at Talacre Warren and a fledged chick was seen at Gronant on Jul.15th. The last record was of 2 at CQR on Aug.12th.

WHITETHROAT

Sylvia communis

LLWYDFRON

Common breeding summer visitor.

The earliest record was of 1 at Talacre Warren on Apr.25th. A count of 8 singing males was recorded at POA on Apr.28th followed by 37 on passage on May 3rd. The species appears very common in the north east of the county especially at Talacre Warren where 37 pairs bred in the more open areas, compared with 23 pairs in 1989. Breeding was also confirmed at Gronant, along the Cob at POA and at Mold where a possible second brood was being fed on Jun.15th. The last record was of a single at CQR on Aug.12th.

GARDEN WARBLER

Sylvia borin

TELOR YR ARDD

Common breeding summer visitor.

Probable migrants were at POA on May 2nd and 11th. Many singing males were recorded with 6 at Llyn Helyg on May 27th. Several pairs were present at Llandegla and Llanarmon-yn-Ial and described as a "common breeder" at Llangollen. There was a juvenile together with an adult near Cilcain on Jun.17th. A ringed bird was seen at POA on Sep.12th whilst unusually late records were from Dolwen with 2 on Oct.14th and 1 on Oct.24th.

BLACKCAP

Sylvia atricapilla

TELOR PENDDU

Common summer breeding visitor with small numbers wintering.

A number of birds overwintered, but probably the first spring visitor was a single at Gwysaney on Apr.1st. Single males were present in good numbers throughout the county in late April indicating the main influx. Breeding was confirmed only at Wepre Park and at Llangollen. The number of sightings suggest the breeding population is much higher than the records indicate. Males were numerous from October to December but only one record of a female came from Ruthin in December. Birds were noted feeding on crab apples and berries.

WOOD WARBLER

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

TELOR Y COED

Fairly common breeding summer visitor.

Loggerheads was the site for the earliest record of a single bird on Apr.22nd and also for the maximum number of singing males with 5 on Apr.24th and May 20th. The steep wooded slopes alongside the R.Alyn are ideal habitat for the species which is very numerous in this area. Records were received from similar habitats in other parts of the county, but breeding was confirmed only at Clocaenog.

- CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita* SIFF-SAFF
Common summer breeding visitor with small numbers wintering.
 There were several records during the first winter period and at Wepre Park a bird stayed throughout the whole winter. The first returning migrant was by the R.Clwyd near Rhyl on Mar.14th. Spring migration appeared to be early and singing males were common and widespread by Mar.21st. Birds were abundant in suitable habitat during March and April but the only breeding records received were from Wepre Park, Clocaenog, Llanarmon-yn-Ial and Talacre where four pairs are reported to have bred in the willow scrub. At Talacre 2 birds were in song on Sept.16th and 2 were also seen on Oct.18th. A large fall was observed at POA on Oct.27th, although numbers were not reported. In the second winter period a bird was at POA from early November to early December and a bird showing characteristics of the Siberian race (*P.c.tristis*) was recorded at Talacre Warren on Oct.26th/27th.
- WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus* TELOR YR HELYG
Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.
 The earliest arrival was at Sontley on Mar.26th, the first in song being noted at Lixwm on Apr.1st. Many records refer to birds seen on territory in April including 12 at Flint Point. Spring passage included 70+ at POA on Apr.25th. At Talacre eight pairs bred in the willow scrub and at Loggerheads an adult was carrying food to a nest on Jul.1st, possibly a second brood. Breeding was reported to be substantially reduced at Wepre Park. The last record was one at Talacre on Oct.15th.
- GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus* DRYW EURBEN
Common breeding resident and passage migrant.
 A small spring passage was noted in the Gronant/Talacre area during Mar.15th/18th. Larger movements were recorded at POA between Sep.8th and Oct.27th, a maximum of 250+ being reported at Talacre on Oct.26th.
- FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus* DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH
Rare winter visitor
 One was seen within a few feet of the kitchen window of a house in Ruthin. No date was given.
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata* GWYBEDOG MANNOG
Fairly common summer breeding visitor.
 The earliest record was of a bird at Pentre on Apr.21st. The next sighting was on May 20th when 3 were present at POA. Breeding was confirmed at four sites only and is probably under recorded.
- PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca* GWYBEDOG BRITH
Common summer breeding visitor.
 There was an early record of a bird at Llangollen on Apr.11th, but at Llanarmon-yn-Ial a male returned one week later than usual on Apr.28th. Most records refer to a successful breeding season with many young ringed at several sites. At Llangollen, a study site of sixty nest boxes was down to 36 layings compared with 43 and 42 in 1989 and 1988 respectively. The mean brood size at fledging was 6.3, down

slightly from 7.2. Within a 12 km radius of Pwllglas 85 clutches totalling 505 eggs (mean clutch 5.94) produced only 296 fledged young (58.61% of eggs and 66.67% of eggs hatched). None of the sites was in prime oak woodland habitat and cool, wet weather in early June seemed to cause starvation in many broods (worse in areas of Ash woodland), almost certainly because of the adults' difficulty in finding sufficient food.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus* TITW GYNFFON-HIR
Common breeding resident.

Small parties seen regularly throughout the year. An early autumn count of 12 birds at Broadoak Wood Reserve built up to a maximum of 27 on Dec.1st. Juveniles reported from three only areas with 11 at Wepre Park on Jun.10th. Other winter counts included 20 at Flint and 25 at Llyn Helyg.

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris* TITW'R WERN
Fairly common breeding resident.

Single birds reported across the county. Present in small numbers in the valleys around Llangollen and Corwen. Bred near Bontuchel (a brood of 9) and a family party of 5 recorded from Cefn on Jun.22nd.

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus* TITW'R HELYG
Uncommon breeding resident.

Recorded in small numbers in early spring and early winter. Bred at Wepre Park. Few reports submitted.

COAL TIT *Parus ater* TITW PENDDU
Common breeding resident.

Records of nest box breeding from Wepre Park and Clocaenog. At Clocaenog 11 clutches (mean clutch 8.91 eggs) of 98 eggs in total produced 84 fledged young (85.71% of eggs, 89.36% of eggs hatched).

BLUE TIT *Parus caruleus* TITW TOMOS LAS
Common breeding resident.

A very successful breeding year. At Pantymwyn a brood fledged on Jun.4th. Around Pwllglas 43 clutches with a total of 399 eggs (mean clutch 9.28) produced 281 fledged young (70.43% of eggs, 81.45% of eggs hatched). At Pwllglas birds were displaced by wasps taking over their nestbox. On Sep.16th 20 birds were at POA, probably post breeding dispersal.

GREAT TIT *Parus major* TITW MAWR
Common breeding resident.

Generally under recorded but reported as scarce at Talacre. Around Pwllglas, 36 clutches with a total of 287 eggs (mean clutch 7.97) produced 219 fledged young (76.31% of eggs, 85.55% of eggs hatched).

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea* DELOR Y CNAU
Common and widespread breeding resident.

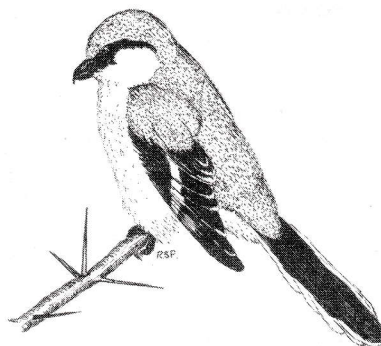
Most records refer to birds seen in winter and early spring. Breeding confirmed at Wepre Park, Llanddulas and near Ruthin.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris* DRINGWR BACH
Common and widespread resident.
 Family parties observed at Cynwyd and Carrog on May 27th and at Corwen on Jul.1st.
 Breeding confirmed at Wepre Park, near Clocaenog village and 2 adults were at a nest near Flint on Jul.19th.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio* CIGYDD CEFNGOCH
Scarce migrant.
 Two records of a bird at Gronant Marsh on Oct.12th.
 (No supporting descriptions received)

GREAT GREY SHRIKE CIGYDD MAWR
Lanius excubitor
A rare passage migrant.
 A bird in Clocaenog Forest was seen on three occasions between Mar.12th and Apr.1st.

JAY SGRECH Y COED
Garrulus glandarius
Fairly common breeding resident.
 Few records submitted. Bred in Wepre Park.



MAGPIE *Pica pica* PIODEN
Common and widespread breeding resident.
 Foraging flocks reported from Llandegla with 18 on Mar.5th, Gwaenysgor with 25 on Dec.19th and CQR/OMR with 16 on Nov.23rd.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula* JAC-Y-DO
Common and widespread breeding resident.
 Recorded throughout the year in large flocks from a variety of habitats. On Jul.7th, 150 were seen at Rhydymwyn. Several records referred to mixed flocks of Jackdaws and Rooks at winter roosts. At Gwysaney a roost held a total of 300-400 birds. There was a passage of 55 flying north at POA on Apr.22nd. One observer noted that birds only came to the garden when cheese was put down on the lawn, the largest numbers present when breeding was underway in May and June.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus* YDFRAN
Common and widespread breeding resident.
 Good numbers recorded at colonies throughout the county. The combined nest count at the Pentredwr and Tan Lan Rookeries increased from 104 in 1989 to 114 with a slightly higher fledgling success. Other nest colonies included 10 at Greenfield, 13 at Rossett, 11 at Cefn-y-bedd, 19 and 21 at different sites at Sealand and 7 at Maeshafn. The maximum flock size was 100 at Bangor-on-Dee on Feb.11th.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone corone* BRÂN DYDDYN
A common breeding resident and rare visitor.

The maximum flock size recorded was 46 on the R.Clwyd on May 14th. An unusual record was of a bird having a full set of pale grey primaries and secondaries.

RAVEN *Corvus corax* CIGFRAN
Fairly common breeding resident in mainly upland areas.

Small numbers recorded throughout the year. Breeding can begin in January but at Llangollen a pair did not start laying until early April. Breeding confirmed at six sites one of which was on a pylon at Shotton Steelworks fledging 4 birds. The same nest was successful in 1989.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris* DRUDWEN
A common and widespread breeding resident and winter visitor.

All records referred to large winter flocks. Roosting birds included 3000+ at a site on the Rhyl to Dyserth road and 500+ at Rhyl harbour on Jan.3rd. At Rhuddlan 1650 were seen on Dec.24th and 1000 at CQR/OMR on Oct.26th. On Jul.7th a single leucistic bird was seen among a flock at CQR/OMR.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus* ADERYN Y TO
A common breeding resident.

No significant records received.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus* GOLFAN Y MYNYDD
A localised breeding resident.

No breeding records submitted. Most sightings were of medium sized flocks at POA during the winter months. Birds can always be found in the small trees and bushes along the Cob from October to February. BWNr had 80 on Dec.29th in a hedgerow at the side of the wood, 40 were at CQR on Mar.3rd and a maximum of 40 at POA on Oct.5th. Records indicate the species to be more widespread than previously thought, but reports were all from the east of the county.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs* JI-BINC
A common breeding resident.

Flocks of about 300 at CQR/OMR on Jan.7th, 100 at Pentre on Jan.24th and CQR/OMR on Feb.6th were the only significant first winter period sightings. Autumn movement included 210+ flying east over Talacre on Oct.24th and 40 flying south east over BWNr on Oct.19th.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla* PINC Y MYNYDD
A fairly common but localised winter visitor.

A small flock, maximum 11 birds, was seen regularly at POA in January and February. The largest winter congregations were about 30 at CQR/OMR on Jan.7th and 31 at Gwaenysgor on Jan.27th. Males in partial summer plumage were among a flock of 12 birds at CQR/OMR on Feb.20th. The latest spring record was of a party of 12 feeding in tree tops at Halkyn on Apr.6th. The earliest autumn arrival was recorded at Penycae Reservoir on Oct.13th. Other reports for the remainder of the year involved 1 to 2 birds.

SERIN *Serinus serinus* LLINOS FRECH
A rare migrant.

A male was seen and heard at POA in scrub behind the Smugglers Inn on Jun.5th. This record has been accepted by WRAG and is the first known for the county.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris* LLINOS WERDD
A common breeding resident.

Large flocks were regularly seen at POA during the early and late winter periods. On Jan.20th 150 was the highest count for winter/spring period whilst 250 were seen in early winter on Dec.9th. Other large flocks were reported from Rhyl, CQR/OMR and Clocaenog Forest. At Talacre an autumn passage of 126 flying east occurred on Oct.17th.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis* NICO
A common breeding resident.

Up to 100 birds recorded at Talacre in January. At Penrycae Reservoir about 50 roosted in a holly bush in April and similar size flocks were also recorded at POA in the same month. Single males were seen and heard throughout spring but only two records of breeding were received from Talacre and Wepre Park. Birds appear plentiful especially in the winter months.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus* PILA GWYRDD
A common winter visitor and breeding resident, mainly in plantations.

A species recorded by most observers. Birds were mainly seen feeding at garden nut-holders and in alder and larch. There were no significant numbers in the first winter period but one was noted at Llangollen on Feb.8th. The only evidence of breeding was from Cynwyd Forest where 2 adults and 2 juveniles were seen on Jul.1st. An autumn passage of 147 birds flying east over POA on Oct.24th was the largest recorded. Flocks of up to 80 were reported from the Llangollen area in December and 50 at Lixwm on Oct.24th. Small winter flocks were numerous and widespread.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina* LLINOS
A common and widespread breeding resident.

Common in winter in large flocks at coastal sites. The largest flocks were recorded at POA with 500 on Oct.17th. There were 200+ present regularly during the winter months. Inland sightings of note were 200 at Gwaenysgor on Dec.5th and 60 at the Horseshoe Pass on Sep.16th. No breeding records were received.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris* LLINOS Y MYNYDD
A scarce breeding and winter visitor.

Flint Marsh held 7 on Jan.28th and again on Mar.13th. A pair reared 5 chicks on Ruabon Moors. Records of small parties in the second winter period were 20 at POA on Oct.17th, 13 at Gwaenysgor on Oct.22nd, 3 at Flint Marsh on Dec.14th and 15 at Rhyl Marine Lake on Dec.30th.

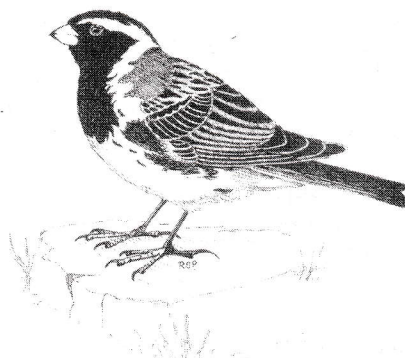
- REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea* LLINOS BENGGOCH
A breeding resident.
 Common in spring in plantations around the Horseshoe Pass, Corwen, Llandegla and World's End. Seen throughout Clocaenog Forest and a flock of 25 was at Loggerheads on Feb. 15th. Peak counts of spring passage at POA were 21 on Apr. 25th and 19 on May 2nd. A male in song was recorded at Bwlch Pen Baras on May 26th but no breeding records were submitted. The largest autumn/winter flock was 30 at Flint Point on Dec. 4th.
- ARCTIC REDPOLL *Carduelis hornemanni* LLINOS BENGGOCH YR ARCTIG
Extremely rare vagrant.
 Records of a single bird at Kinmel Bay on Jan. 13th and by the R. Clwyd on Jan. 21st. No supporting descriptions were submitted.
- TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera* CROES BIG WEN ADEN
A rare winter visitor.
 A party of 13 birds reported as having the characteristic and conspicuous two white wing-bars was seen at Llandegla on Nov. 7th. No supporting descriptions have been received.
- CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra* GYLFIN GROES
A scarce breeding resident.
 Recorded widely in large numbers during autumn and winter as expected after a reported irruption. Ruabon Moors had two pairs in April increasing to 40 birds on Jun. 24th. "Hundreds" were reported drinking in a stream at Nantyr Forestry Picnic Site on Oct. 18th and an "abundance" of birds in Clocaenog Forest. Specific numbers included 40 at Gwysaney in November and at the Horseshoe Pass on Dec. 2nd. No nesting or breeding records were received.
- PARROT CROSSBILL *Loxia pytyopsittacus* GYLFIN GROES PENDEW
A rare winter visitor.
 An unsubstantiated record of 7 or 8 males and 5 females at Gwaenysgor on Oct. 26th.
- BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* COCH Y BERLLAN
A fairly common breeding resident.
 Recorded in small numbers throughout the year. Breeding confirmed at Wepre Park, Pantymwyn and Cilcain.
- HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* GYLFINBRAFF
A localised breeding resident.
 Singles recorded at the Packsaddle on Jul. 6th, Hawarden Park on Dec. 19th and Halkyn Cemetery on Dec. 5th and 21st.

LAPLAND BUNTING*Calcarius lapponicus*

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

A scarce winter visitor.

A single bird was at Gronant on Feb. 17th. Other records were of birds in autumn of which the maximum count was 13 at one locality on the Dee Marshes. Gronant had 7 on Oct. 10th, 5 were noted at Shotwick on Oct. 24th and 4 were at CQR/OMR on Nov. 2nd. Singles were seen at POA on Oct. 14th and 24th, R. Clwyd on Oct. 22nd and Shotwick on Oct. 24th. Regrettably, no descriptions for any of these birds have been submitted.

**SNOW BUNTING***Plectrophenax nivalis*

BRAS YR EIRA

A regular winter visitor to the coast in small numbers.

Birds were present at regularly used coastal sites in the first three months of the year. In January 20 were at Gronant on the 14th. In February 17 were at Towyn on the 10th, 13 at Pensarn on the 15th. A single bird was at Gronant on Mar. 11th. Surprisingly, no records were submitted for POA, another favourite haunt.

YELLOWHAMMER*Emberiza citrinella*

BRAS MELYN

A fairly common breeding resident.

No breeding records were submitted but singing males were very common at inland sites. A party of 16 was seen at BWNR on Oct. 30th.

REED BUNTING*Emberiza schoeniclus*

BRAS Y CYRS

A fairly common breeding resident.

Gronant had 8 males in full song on Jun. 18th. Breeding was confirmed at Gronant, Deeside Pools, POA and Talacre. The highest counts were 30 at Towyn on Jan. 4th and 12+ at BWNR on Dec. 29th.

CORN BUNTING*Miliaria calandra*

BRAS YR YD

A localised breeding species.

All records were on the inner Dee Estuary. A total of 25 males was counted at Shotwick Lake and Fields on Apr. 9th. No breeding records were submitted.

ESCAPES

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus* GWYDD DALCEN-WEN LEIAF
One at Gresford Flash on Jan. 7th and one with three Canada Geese at Cynwyd on May 27th are likely escapes.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* GWYDD YR EIRA
There were two at Gronant on May 15th and at Gresford, one blue-phase on Feb.11th
and a white-phase on Sep.30th.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* GWYDD WYRAN
Singles at IMF arable fields, Jan.21st, and Gresford Flash, Mar.26/27th.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN
An adult at COR/OMR, Feb.12th/15th.

MANDARIN *Aix galericulata* HWYADEN GRIBOG
A male near Ruabon, Jan.20th and Feb.17th, and at Coed Coch (Dolwen), Apr.17th
and a female on the R.Dulas, May 6th.

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys* CORHWYADEN GYLCHOG
One at POA and Gronant on Oct.7th.

CHUKAR PARTRIDGE *Alectoris chukar* PETRISEN CHUKAR
A bird reported as this species was seen at POA on May 5th but no supporting
description was received.

SUDAN GOLDEN SPARROW *Passer luteus* GYLFAN AUR SUDAN
A singing male at POA on May 1st and 17th.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

The following observers voluntarily submitted their records, notes and papers without which this Report would not have been possible. We are most grateful for their support.

E. Abrahams, M. Allen, M. Bagguley, R. Bagguley, B. Barnacal, A.V. Basil, E. Basil, C. Bennett, Birdline North West, G. Bloomfield, Broadoak Wood Nature Reserve, Clwyd Ornithological Society, R.D. Corran, O.M. Davies, D. Deegan, Deeside Naturalists' Society, R. Delves-Broughton, P. Douglas, R. Evans, R.H. Evans, B. Formstone, Forestry Commission, A. Gradwell, B. Grey, N. Hallas, I. Higginson, J.A. Jackson, D.O. Jones, E.E. Jones, G. Jones, Z.L. Jones, I.W. Lloyd, Llyn Brenig Visitor Centre, C. Lynch, E. Lyons, J. Mattocks, G.E. Morris, H.V. Morris, P. Morris, S.J. Morris, M.G. Neal, E.C. O'Grady, D. Otter, J.C. Peters, R.J.H. Raines, B.M. Rathbone, P.H. Rathbone, G.H. Rhodes, D.F. Richardson, J.L. Roberts, G. Robinson, M.D. Rogers, C.D. Rowley, RSPB, D. Small, J. Smith, K. Smith, D. Smithers, I.M. Spence, E.J. Stokes, P. Triggs, J.C. Weldrick, C.E. Wells, I. Williams, R. Williams, R.A. Williams, Wrexham Birdwatchers.

CLWYD RINGING REPORT 1990

Edited by Ian M. Spence

The ringing totals listed here for 1990 are lower than for 1989. It is not certain that the number of birds ringed in Clwyd is less as a couple of resident ringers have not submitted their totals and I suspect some ringers living elsewhere may have been ringing in the County but have not submitted any totals. SCAN Ringing Group was unsuccessful when making its annual attempt to catch Turnstone at Rhos-on-sea and there were some other nil returns. It is very helpful to have returns from every ringer operating in Clwyd and I will welcome all contributions to share with our wider audience.

Of the ringing projects in Clwyd the ringing of Swallow pulli continued, Pied Flycatchers were ringed in good numbers, and the ringing of Mute Swans continued. It was a disappointing year for Tawny Owls and I eventually gave up my Constant Effort Site in woodland — it required too much effort for the numbers of birds caught. As mentioned above SCAN R.G. failed to catch waders, but the greatest disappointment of the year was the complete failure of the Common Tern colony at Shotton. As yet it is unknown why all the adults deserted without breeding. It will be of interest to see the outcome of the 1991 season.

My request, last year, for articles about the results of ringing studies has not been in vain. I am very grateful to Stuart Thomas for providing an account of his study of Mute Swans. Stuart considers these results to be preliminary, but for so few birds ringed he already has a wealth of detail and knows what he wishes to discover in the future. He also has some ideas of direct relevance to helping protect his study

species. I would welcome similar contributions from other ringers — I am sure such articles will be of interest to the birdwatching public in and around Clwyd.

Due to an unfortunate error in transferring word-processor files from one computer to another an acknowledgement was omitted from last year's report. Under the maps of Pied Flycatcher recoveries should have appeared the following:

"I thank the British Trust for Ornithology for providing the Pied Flycatcher recovery data and the ringers whose hard work generated the recoveries".

I give my apologies to the BTO and the ringers for this error.

The recoveries I have selected are what I consider to be the most interesting — the longest movements, the longest lived, the quickest movements, etc. I trust that the reader will find the selection interesting and draw attention to the Common Tern in South Africa, the quick movements of Sedge and Reed Warblers, the Blackcap in Morocco and the interesting days in January at Shotton controlling Reed Buntings.

Again, I thank the ringers for their considerable efforts in catching the birds, ringing them, working out yet another ringing totals list and providing recoveries, particularly the following for submitting their data for this report (some were of nil ringing totals): P. Challinor, Merseyside Ringing Group (P. Coffey & P. Trigg), M. Potts, J.A.L. Roberts, C.D. Rowley, SCAN Ringing Group (G. Moss), I.M. Spence and S.K. Thomas.

Ringing totals for 1990 and grand totals for 1985-90

SPECIES	1990 TOTALS		GRAND TOTALS	
	F.G.	PULL	F.G.	PULL
Mute Swan	6	-	38	-
Hen Harrier	-	-	-	4
Sparrowhawk	1	-	7	30
Buzzard	-	7	-	27
Kestrel	-	11	-	22
Merlin	-	8	-	24
Peregrine	-	4	-	7
Oystercatcher	-	-	263	-
Ringed Plover	-	-	9	4
Lapwing	-	7	-	34
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	5	-
Dunlin	-	-	3	-
Snipe	-	-	-	1
Woodcock	-	-	1	-
Curlew	-	-	1	-
Redshank	-	-	28	1
Common Sandpiper	-	-	1	-
Turnstone	-	-	291	-
Black-headed Gull	-	-	2	4
Common Tern	-	-	-	1780
Little Tern	-	-	-	214

SPECIES			1990 TOTALS				GRAND TOTALS
	F.G.	PULL	TOTAL	F.G.	PULL		
Stock Dove	-	5	5	-	27	27	
Woodpigeon	-	-	-	4	6	10	
Collared Dove	2	6	8	10	24	34	
Cuckoo	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Little Owl	1	2	3	2	24	26	
Tawny Owl	1	7	8	8	29	37	
Short-eared Owl	-	2	2	-	2	2	
Nightjar	-	-	-	2	-	2	
Swift	-	-	-	287	-	287	
Kingfisher	1	-	1	3	-	3	
Green Woodpecker	-	-	-	2	-	2	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4	2	6	19	2	21	
Skylark	-	-	-	-	2	2	
Sand Martin	3	-	3	214	-	214	
Swallow	8	330	338	227	855	1082	
House Martin	64	4	68	778	4	782	
Tree Pipit	-	-	-	-	6	6	
Meadow Pipit	-	-	-	23	52	75	
Yellow Wagtail	-	-	-	3	-	3	
Grey Wagtail	3	3	6	28	17	45	
Pied Wagtail	-	7	7	31	23	54	
Dipper	15	18	33	34	61	95	
Wren	41	4	45	514	8	522	
Dunnock	52	-	52	504	-	504	
Robin	62	6	68	724	52	776	
Redstart	1	32	33	33	96	129	
Whinchat	-	30	30	10	598	608	
Stonechat	-	-	-	2	25	27	
Wheatear	-	80	80	8	658	666	
Ring Ouzel	-	2	2	-	13	13	
Blackbird	56	5	61	692	17	709	
Fieldfare	-	-	-	2	-	2	
Song Thrush	21	-	21	167	11	178	
Redwing	1	-	1	77	-	77	
Mistle Thrush	1	-	1	7	2	9	
Sedge Warbler	91	-	91	379	-	379	
Reed Warbler	123	-	123	438	-	438	
Barred Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Lesser Whitethroat	10	-	10	42	-	42	
Whitethroat	39	-	39	105	8	113	
Garden Warbler	12	-	12	83	-	83	
Blackcap	44	-	44	373	-	373	
Wood Warbler	2	-	2	4	17	21	
Chiffchaff	36	-	36	280	-	280	
Willow Warbler	43	6	49	574	74	648	
Goldcrest	14	-	14	283	-	283	
Spotted Flycatcher	-	14	14	11	62	73	

SPECIES	F.G.	PULL	1990 TOTALS		PULL	GRAND TOTALS
			TOTAL	F.G.		
Pied Flycatcher	166	1352	1518	799	5844	6643
Long-tailed Tit	39	-	39	299	-	299
Marsh Tit	2	9	11	64	25	89
Willow Tit	1	-	1	46	-	46
Coal Tit	47	112	159	226	162	388
Blue Tit	544	466	1010	3401	2208	5609
Great Tit	124	377	501	958	961	1919
Nuthatch	2	5	7	28	54	82
Treecreeper	5	6	11	70	13	83
Jay	-	-	-	3	-	3
Magpie	4	3	7	33	3	36
Jackdaw	-	13	13	25	29	54
Rook	1	-	1	2	3	5
Carrion Crow	-	2	2	-	2	2
Raven	-	-	-	1	-	1
Starling	13	-	13	363	7	370
House Sparrow	-	-	-	6	4	10
Tree Sparrow	-	-	-	2	-	2
Chaffinch	88	-	88	1147	5	1152
Brambling	1	-	1	69	-	69
Greenfinch	69	-	69	738	-	738
Goldfinch	6	-	6	30	9	39
Siskin	75	-	75	203	-	203
Linnet	3	-	3	16	7	23
Redpoll	9	-	9	65	2	67
Bullfinch	23	-	23	319	-	319
Yellowhammer	4	-	4	57	6	63
Reed Bunting	196	-	196	494	-	494
TOTALS	2180	2946	5126	17102	14271	31373

Selected ringing recoveries received during 1990

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
- J in juvenile plumage
- M male
- F female

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

Cormorant

5011996 1 13.06.87 Puffin Island, Gwynedd 05.09.90 Pensarn, Abergele 31 km 90 deg 1180 days Found freshly dead
L06101 1 28.05.88 Puffin Island 23.04.90 Prestatyn Beach, Gronant 44 km 90 deg 695 days Found dead
L06168 1 18.06.88 Puffin Island 08.05.90 Trefnant, Denbigh 42 km 135 deg 689 days Found dead

Mute Swan

Z68022 7 19.11.89 The Groves, Chester, Cheshire 06.02.90 Marine Lake, Rhyl 45 km 294 deg 79 days

Oystercatcher

FS66286 4 15.12.74 Thurstaston, Wirral, Merseyside 02.03.80 Point of Air, controlled 13.05.90 Porlakshofn, Arnes, ICELAND, 63°51'N 21°22'W 1567 km 318 deg 5628 days Found freshly dead
FS66110 4 15.12.74 Thurstaston 30.08.90 Point of Air 12 km 270 deg 5737 days Found dead

Dunlin

NB63937 4 M 01.08.81 Point of Air 12.05.90 Walney Island, Cumbria 80 km 4 deg 3206 days Controlled
NB46609 6 25.05.78 Point of Air 10.08.90 Newbiggin, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria 88 km 9 deg 4460 days Controlled

Turnstone

CE12061 2 10.11.79 Rhos-on-sea 23.08.90 Vickerstown, Walney Island, Cumbria 94 km 360 deg 3939 days Controlled
XS56172 4 29.11.86 Rhos-on-sea 23.08.90 Vickerstown, Walney Island, Cumbria 94 km 360 deg 1363 days Controlled

Common Tern

XS89521 1 F 21.06.87 Shotton 06.07.90 Glas Eileanan, Sound of Mull, Strathclyde 405 km 335 deg 1111 days Taken by animal, sexed by dissection
XR41639 1 10.07.88 Shotton 02.07.90 Collingham, Nottinghamshire 152 km 93 deg 722 days Sick, taken in care
XR25093 1 18.07.86 Ynys Goran Goch, Menai Bridge, Gwynedd 13.08.89 Shotton 77 km 91 deg 1122 days Found dead
XR87646 1 18.06.89 Shotton 16.03.90 Bernard, SENEGAL, 14°40'N 17°30'W 4469 km 197 deg 271 days Alive on ship
XS72219 1 28.06.86 Shotton 18.02.90 Strand, Cape Province, SOUTH AFRICA, 34°06'S 18°49'E 9931 km 168 deg 1331 days Found dead

Sedge Warbler

F403680 3 18.07.90 Yonderton, nr Inchinna, Strathclyde 29.07.90 Shotton 310 km 163 deg 11 days Controlled
F913922 3J 29.07.90 Shotton 14.08.90 Etang de Kergalan, Finistere, FRANCE, 47°54'N 04°22'W 596 km 189 deg 16 days Controlled

F598711 4 20.05.90 Shotton 25.08.90 Mortagne sur Gironde, Charente Maritime, FRANCE, 45°29'N 00°47'W 873 km 169 deg 97 days Controlled

Reed Warbler

F913995 3 26.08.90 Shotton 16.09.90 Shotton 26.09.90 Prawle Point, Devon 337 km 188 deg 31 days Controlled

F913991 3 26.08.90 Shotton 02.09.90 St-Seurin-D'Uzet, Charente Maritime, FRANCE, 45°30'N 00°50'W 870 km 169 deg 7 days Controlled

Blackcap

C230420 3 Hawarden 02.05.90 Sidi Ali Ben Yekhllef, Berkane, MOROCCO, 34°56'N 02°20'W 2028 km 178 deg 276 days Found dying

Willow Warbler

7N9618 3 28.07.89 Shotton 28.04.90 Low Hauxley, Northumberland 254 km 22 deg 274 days Controlled

Pied Flycatcher

F042536 1 11.06.88 Dinbren, LLangollen 23.05.89 Loggerheads, nr Mold 25.05.90 nr Bontuchel, Rhuthun 19 km 314 deg 713 days Controlled at nest box (= F)

F347040 1 04.06.89 Glyn Arthur 26.07.90 Conisbrough, South Yorkshire 141 km 77 deg 417 days Found freshly dead

Chaffinch

E940557 3 F 30.10.88 Shotton 27.11.90 Great Ayton, North Yorkshire 190 km 41 deg 758 days Taken by cat

Greenfinch

VH15544 3 M 10.12.89 nr Pwllglas, Rhuthun 08.07.90 Thorpe Audlin, Pontefract, West Yorkshire 147 km 65 deg 210 days Freshly dead, taken by cat

Siskin

F108054 5 F 29.03.89 Wellington, Telford, Shropshire 30.03.90 Pwllglas, Rhuthun 68 km 308 deg 366 days Controlled

F364450 5 M 26.03.90 Marley Common, Sussex 01.04.90 Pwllglas, Rhuthun 285 km 322 deg 6 days

Reed Bunting

C380342 3J M 21.07.84 Scotsmans Flash, Wigan, Greater Manchester 14.01.90 Shotton 46 km 216 deg 2003 days Controlled

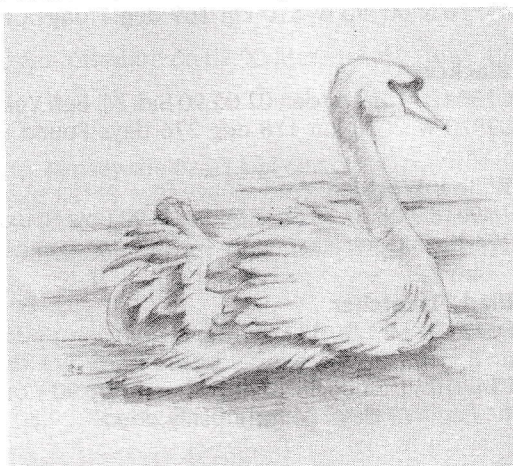
E801250 4 M 16.11.88 Walcot, Wellington, Shropshire 21.01.90 Shotton 63 km 332 deg 431 days Controlled

C598610 3J F 09.09.85 Wellow, nr Romsey, Hampshire 14.01.90 Shotton 268 km 338 deg 1588 days Controlled

THE MUTE SWAN AT RHYL

Stuart Thomas

The Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) breeds sparingly in West Clwyd — established nesting sites exist near Rhuddlan Castle and near Rhyl Brickpits with more sporadic attempts at St Asaph near the River Clwyd and also Bodelwyddan. These birds have some breeding success but insufficient to account for the wintering flock of Mute Swans on the Marine Lake at Rhyl. Mute Swans have used Rhyl as a wintering site for years and the local townspeople here fed them since time immemorial — my grandfather remembered feeding them before the 1939-45 war.



Built in 1901, Rhyl Marine Lake is oval in shape and 1701 yards in circumference. It is mostly shallow and the maximum depth does not exceed six feet. The lake has a central island which is not used by the swans but concrete slipways at either end of the lake give access to rainwater pools in holes in the concrete and 20 or more birds may use this source of fresh water. The lake itself is brackish and saline enough for jellyfish to survive. It is drained in late autumn and refilled from a tidal sluice gate in the New Year. It is at this time of drainage when the bottom growing weed is most accessible that the birds are at their most numerous.

My interest in the Rhyl swans began on reading the 1981 BTO ringing report. This cited the movement of three cygnets (Z48531/48532/48536) from Hamstall Ridware, Stafford to Rhyl. These birds were brood mates and the movement of 126 km was fairly substantial as only 3% of British Mute Swans move more than 100 km from their site of origin. Other birds had moved from Burton on Trent to Rhyl — one via Caernarfon. Study of further ringing reports shows more evidence of birds moving from the Midlands to North Wales and so I began ringing the Mute Swans at Rhyl and Abergele — initially with BTO rings only, but since December 1989 with Darvic rings also. My thanks go to Dennis Elphick of the North West Swan Study Group for supplying me with Darvics and including West Clwyd in the study area.

NUMBERS

These fluctuate widely — small parties may arrive in early September — usually second year birds and a slow build up may then occur from October until the lake is drained in mid-November when over 30 birds may be present. A count of 80+ was made in the mid-1980's — perhaps a sizeable flock rested for a time before moving on. I have never seen more than 32 birds on the lake at one time. The

numbers usually dwindle until late March but spring and autumn may see the arrival of what could be termed passage birds, small parties whose stay is very brief. Adults tend to be relatively scarce — the wintering flocks are more usually juveniles and second year birds.

BEHAVIOUR

The birds are usually fairly sociable once the resident winter flock is established but a family party which arrived in October 1989 with four unusually dark cygnets was exceptionally aggressive, the adults and cygnets would combine to drive away all other birds when bread was being fed to them. This behaviour persisted into the winter and only ceased in a cold spell in December.

FEEDING

In the absence of handouts of bread, etc. from the public the birds feed on the weed growing on the lake bottom — they may upend to do this but do not need to once the lake is drained. The Rhyl public are generous to the birds and undoubtedly help them through the winter when food is scarce. The birds seem to prefer to be fed in the water but are not averse to walking up the slipway and well onto the concrete at the side of the lake if need be. Food from the public is mostly bread although one or two people feed corn and greenstuff.

EFFECTS OF WEATHER AND DISTURBANCE

The birds will leave the lake and fly onto the River Clwyd if disturbance is excessive from wind surfers. They also 'commute' down the coast to Abergele to the two seepage ponds there.

Severe gales drive them into the lee of the island or under the Marine Lake wall to seek shelter but they will tolerate rough conditions surprisingly well and still feed. The lake seldom freezes unless the weather is very severe — a total freeze drives the birds off.

RINGING

I have ringed over 40 Mute Swans in West Clwyd since 1986 mostly at Rhyl Marine Lake. A number of recoveries have resulted — several unfortunately killed by hitting wires over the Clwyd at a site where 'loafers' may congregate. All the birds have been caught by hand after first coaxing them onto the lake bank with food. Birds are much easier to catch, on average, in autumn — though new arrivals continue to be catchable until spring. It is usually not possible to catch more than one bird at a time but when the flock divides and disperses to different parts of the lake it is possible to catch individuals at different slipways.

Recoveries:

Z54155 3 16.11.86 Abergele, 53°18'N 03°35'W 29.12.86 Rhyl, 53°19'N 03°29'W
8 km 61 deg 43 days Found dead

Z54158 3 07.12.86 Rhyl 29.01.87 Willenhall, Walsall, West Midlands, 52°36'N
02°02'W 125 km 128 deg 53 days Found dying

Z54182 3 05.12.89 Rhyl 12.07.90 Westport Lake, Burslem, Stoke on Trent,
Staffordshire, 53°03'N 02°13'W 89 km 109 deg 219 days Colour ring sighting

Controls:

Z42314 8 F 01.05.81 Caernarfon, Gwynedd, 53°08'N 04°17'W 02.11.86 Abergele 49 km 70 deg 2011 days Colour ring sighting
Z60712 5 F 24.05.87 Worcester, Hereford & Worcester, 52°11'N 02°13'W 06.10.87 Rhyl 150 km 326 deg 135 days Colour ring sighting
Yellow Darvics S90, S92, S93, all cygnets, 07.08.88 Gailey Reservoir, Staffordshire, 52°41'N 02°06'W 07.02.89 Rhyl 113 km 315 deg 184 days Colour ring sightings

There have been many other controls at Rhyl involving Darvic ringed birds from Nantwich, the Dee at Chester (see the Selected Recoveries section elsewhere in this report) and Slimbridge. There has also been the return to Rhyl from Westport Lake of Z54182; the bird remained at Rhyl from October 1990 until March 1991.

Other 'non-Darvic' birds have included two from Aber Ogwen and Bangor Harbour, Gwynedd, proving with the Caernarfon bird that some up and down coastal movement takes place in the winter. Autumn flocks on Rhyl lake have included one or two escaped Black Swans. These flocks are normally seen at Bangor suggesting the Bangor birds may be a little nomadic following the growth of new flight feathers after the summer moult.

OBSERVATIONS

The over-riding impression I have had from five years ringing Mute Swans at Rhyl and Abergele is that it has confirmed just how many birds use Rhyl Marine Lake in winter, either as a wintering place or stop-over point. Perhaps a decline in lead poisoning will see Rhyl numbers increase — there is certainly a preponderance of second year birds in the winter flock.

A definite link appears between Rhyl and Cheshire and Rhyl and the Midlands. The longer distance movements confirm the tendency of the birds to follow a river system. As yet no Darvic ringed bird with a blue 4 (Lancashire) or blue 6 (Cumbria) has turned up at Rhyl. It may happen as a Worcester bird has reached Barrow in Furness in the past.

Several birds have appeared to be suffering from lead poisoning when at Rhyl but none has succumbed. They probably do not ingest more lead at Rhyl as there is negligible fishing in the lake and so they may excrete sufficient to recover.

FURTHER STUDY

Reports suggest that the Clwyd may hold a summering flock of non-breeding Mute Swans which use the Clwyd as a moult site. Knowledge of where these birds originate and disperse to would be informative. These 'loafers' may wander the Clwyd and use Rhyl Brickpits before the breeders move in.

The occurrence of a significant number of fatalities at one site, mentioned earlier, is obviously a problem worthy of solution. Markers on the wires would certainly be helpful and efforts will be made to have these fitted, if possible.

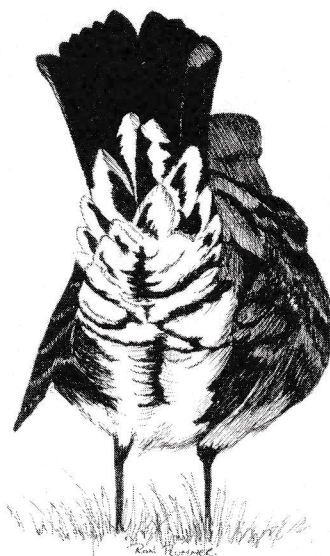
ANTAGONISTIC BEHAVIOUR OF FEEDING FIELDFARE

Cedric Lynch

During a spell of severe weather in early February 1991, a party of fifteen Fieldfares, *Turdus pilaris*, visited our garden feeding station, attracted by an abundant supply of apples.

Blackbirds, *Turdus merula*, and Redwings, *Turdus iliacus*, were driven away and the Fieldfares then settled to eat their selected chunks of apple. If other Fieldfares approached, the male birds displayed aggression — fanning the tail, flicking open the wings and raising and presenting the breast to potential competitors. This was very much in line with behaviour recorded in Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa: The Birds of the Western Palearctic, Volume V.

An additional feature, however, which I have not discovered as being recorded in the literature is the use of the under-tail coverts in this threat display. As these birds were feeding in a restricted area of some twenty-five square metres, there was obviously potential competition on all sides. During our observations it became quite clear that in addition to the forward display of the breast, etc, the fanned tail over the strongly marked under-tail, pale edged with dark centres, gave a startling display of the rear aspect of the bird when its head was lowered. This was a clear deterrent to any individual approaching from behind.



PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER

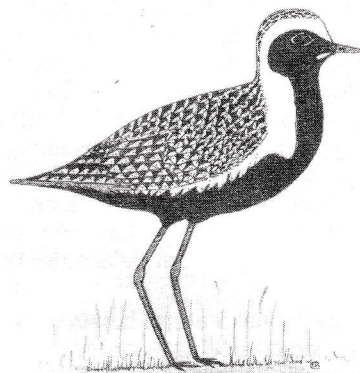
AT OAKENHOLT MARSH RSPB RESERVE, 2nd/4th AUGUST 1990

Ian Higginson

On arrival at the West hide of the Deeside Naturalists' reserve at Connah's Quay on 2nd August 1990 at 1330 hrs, I noticed in the log a reference to a small Golden Plover, *Pluvialis apricaria*, a few days earlier (C.Bennet). A summer-plumaged 'Golden Plover' was soon located on Oakenholt Marsh some 300 yards in front of the hide. Two other observers were also present in the West hide, G.E.Morris and N.Griffiths. Some discussion then occurred on Lesser Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*, identification. However, probably due to the range of observation I dismissed this bird as a normal Golden Plover, *P. apricaria*. The weather at the time was very hot and clear with a lot of heat haze.

On arrival home later that day, I remember recalling the bird having black underparts extending under the tail. Realising my mistake, N.Griffiths and myself quickly shot back to Oakenholt.

The bird was still present at 1600 hrs when it was approached down to 10 yards. A full description was taken and the bird was also photographed. Positive identification, however, still eluded me. The bird had all the plumage characteristics of a Pacific Golden Plover, *Pluvialis fulva*, including the primary projection, but the black undertail coverts still indicating American Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*.



The bird was still present early the following day and positive identification could still not be made. At lunchtime on the 3rd, Ted Abrahams and Barry Barnacal were contacted and later shown the bird. On receiving further literature on Pacific Golden Plover identification (Birding World Vol.4 No.6), it was apparent that this bird was, in fact, a Pacific Golden Plover, the black undertail coverts, as earlier thought, not being diagnostic of American Golden Plover. This was confirmed when two observers saw the bird in the afternoon on the 3rd.

The news was then put on Northwest Birdline and with the cooperation of the Deeside Naturalists Society, the reserve was opened up on the 4th when some 60-70 people saw the bird.

DESCRIPTION

Generally, at a distance, the bird resembled a summer-plumaged Golden Plover, though appearing more slender with black underparts extending onto the undertail coverts. Even at a distance the long-legged appearance of the bird could be discerned.

Bare parts

Bill dark, straight and short with a slight curve on the lower mandible. Similar to Golden Plover except noticeably finer. Legs distinctly long and thin, being greenish in colour. The long-legged appearance was very noticeable, especially when the bird was alarmed.

Upperparts

A white flash extended from the bill base to the front of the crown, forming a broad, white forehead patch. This line narrowed behind the eye and extended onto the sides of the breast, forming two broader, white, breast patches. Close to, a thin, broken white flank line could be observed. Crown, nape and mantle feathers black, broadly edged with golden yellow and white blotches. The yellow feather edgings

being very distinct. Wing-coverts and tertials black, broadly edged with greyish blotches. The bird was just starting to moult out of summer plumage. The tertials were long and extended to the tip of the tail. The primaries were very indistinct; 1-2 brownish primaries extended about 1 cm beyond the tip of the tertials (and hence, the tip of the tail).

Underparts

Black underparts, extending from the bill base onto the throat, cheeks, just above and behind the eye narrowing on the upper breast where the white breast patches end. The black extended onto the belly and through to the undertail coverts. On the flanks, the black ended along a thin, blotchy line. A few white feathers were present in the black plumage including two on the undertail coverts. Two pale 'dots' were noticeable on either side of the bill base. The bird was seen to fly twice (briefly). A pale wing-bar was noticed along with dusky-grey axillaries and underwing.

Call

In flight, the bird was heard to call a soft, two-tone 'sui-it'.

Discussion

Until recent times, American and Pacific Golden Plovers were treated as conspecific under the name "Lesser Golden Plover". Discussion in recent years conflicted with this status (Connors 1983) and they were officially separated as distinct species on the British list in 1986 (Knox 1987).

The above bird in virtually pristine breeding plumage should have presented few identification problems, especially with the close, prolonged views obtained. Flaws in the current literature (in particular that of 'Shorebirds' the supposed authoritative text on wader identification) led to a much delayed positive identification. Clearly, the extent of black on the undertail coverts is not a diagnostic feature which can be used to separate American from Pacific Golden Plovers (in breeding plumage). Any variation from all black to all white (and any combination of the two) can occur with either species depending on the time of year and moult. Black undertail coverts on Pacific Golden Plover may prove to be a feature predominantly of male birds in breeding plumage (Golley and Stoddart 1991).

When confronted with a 'Lesser Golden Plover', identification can only be confirmed by the length of the primaries. With Pacific Golden Plover, the tertials are very long and extend almost to the tip of the tail. The primaries are very indistinct, being almost completely hidden by the tertials. However, they do extend a short distance (1-2 cm) beyond the tip of the tertials.

On American Golden Plover, the tertials fall well short of the tip of the tail, revealing more of the primaries (length of exposed primaries equals length of the tertials). The primaries also clearly extend beyond the tip of the tail, giving a long-winged appearance. Plumage characteristics can then back-up identification on wing-formula as follows.

Pacific Golden Plover

In breeding plumage, similar to American Golden Plover except upperparts more golden, 'spangled' yellow; white flash on forehead more extensive, extending from the base of the bill to the front of the crown. White on breast sides less extensive, leading to irregular white flank line. Undertail coverts variable, generally white with varying amounts of black. Complete black undertail coverts are not uncommon. Juvenile plumage more yellow in tone, especially on flight feather edges and on the head and neck. Compared with Golden Plover, more lightly built, longer-legged with dusky-grey underwing and axillaries.

American Golden Plover

In breeding plumage, similar to Pacific Golden Plover except black on underparts more extensive, occurring on undertail coverts and on lower forehead. The white forehead patch, therefore, being less extensive, while the white breast sides are more extensive, 'bulging out' distinctly. No white flank line is present. Juvenile plumage more grey in tone with a distinct, white supercilium (yellow in Pacific Golden Plover). Build similar to Pacific Golden Plover though appearing longer in wing (due to primary extension). Underwing pattern similar to Pacific Golden Plover.

N.B. *Extent of black on underparts of both species (in breeding plumage) depends on time of year and extent of moult.*

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DEESIDE URBAN WILDLIFE GROUP BROADOAK WOOD NATURE RESERVE Pip Perry

In 1988 a considerable amount of land around the Llwyni to Mold Road area of Connah's Quay became earmarked for residential development. Most of this land was Council owned but rounded off with privately owned land. The private land, which included the larger part of Broadoak Wood was purchased by a Chester developer.

The Broadoak Wood, together with all its small adjacent spurs and wet area covers approximately 20 acres and is owned in three parts, Alyn and Deeside District Council, a Northop Hall farmer and the Chester developer. The Group was concerned for the future of the wood and approached the developer to ask if they could either

manage or purchase part of it. With legal assistance from the North Wales Wildlife Trust, licence to manage the area as a Nature Reserve was agreed in November 1989. Twelve months later, in autumn 1990, Alyn and Deeside also granted the Group licence to manage its part of the wood. These two areas together make up the larger and most valuable section of the wood. Unfortunately, to date, the Group has not been able to negotiate management of the Northop Hall end which, although not wide, completes a 'green' link between Connah's Quay and Northop Hall.

Broadoak is a semi-natural, ancient, broad-leaved woodland site in a stream valley. It is predominantly Alder on the flatter ground near the stream; Sycamore and Oak on the steep, drier slopes with a scattering of shrubs, mainly Blackthorn, Hazel, Hawthorn and Holly throughout. There is an abundance of the flora normally to be found on such sites, such as Dog's Mercury, Golden Saxifrage, Celandine, Wood Anemone, Wood Sorrel, Sweet Violet, Wild Violet, Meadowsweet, Marsh Marigold, Common Spotted Orchid, Starwort and many others, including a spectacular carpet of Bluebells in April and May and slopes of Soft Shield Fern. Adjacent to the wood is a marshy grassland area dominated by Reed Canary-grass, Pond Sedge and Soft Rush. Also present are Wild Angelica, Marsh Thistle, Great Horsetail, Hemlock Water Dropwort, Water Figwort and Great Willowherb. It is an area already noted as being of nature conservation importance and the Group hopes, eventually, to be able to acquire management of this also; it being a natural extension to the wood and a valuable area for butterflies.

Management of the wood did not commence until April 1990, in National Environment Week, when over 100 people made up of Group members, members of the public (which included local school children, Cubs and Scouts), turned out to help clear the wood of rubbish and level the pathway. The local Ranger service came in to cut down and remove trees which were leaning across the path. Dr Joan Daniels of the North Wales Wildlife Trust came along to advise on woodland management. Since then, with the assistance of grant aid from the Nature Conservancy Council, the Prince of Wales Committee, Shell Better Britain Campaign, the Julian Melchett Trust (British Steel) and the Granada Green Life Guide a considerable amount of improvement work has been done. A new path has been dug; the existing path has been drained and improved; a bridge has been constructed to join two paths over the stream and trees have been cleared where necessary to let in more light, especially around the pond area. The local Cub Scouts, in the 1990-91 winter have been making bird nestboxes and in mid-January helped to put them up, which was just in time to provide some shelter for the smaller birds during the spell of cold weather. A few of the boxes were soon vandalised by local youths, but 18 survived. In early October when maintenance was carried out on the boxes, we were delighted to record that eleven of them had been used by nesting Blue Tits.

At the widest point of the wood is a large, wet area and pond which overflows under the path and runs down to the stream. This area has great potential, but was full of debris, heavily silted and shaded to the south side. A number of trees have now been removed to let in more light, together with much of the debris and silt. A dam has been constructed at the path end which through the dry summer has retained a good level of water. In spring 1991, Flag Iris and Pond Sedge were planted in

the banks and in May a few Smooth Newts, dragonfly larvae and other aquatic life were introduced. A survey in spring 1992 will, it is hoped, reveal that this project so far has been a success.

A management plan, to be implemented over the next three years, has been drawn up. Work is carried out mainly through the winter on the second Sunday in each month when volunteers meet and 'muck in' with whatever task is designated for the day.

Since management commenced, there has been evidence of increased wildlife activity throughout the wood. The Group has acquired a moth trapping station for use in the wood and hope to be able to do a butterfly and small mammal survey through the coming year. A survey of the bird population was commenced in October 1990 which is to be carried out for the 12 month period. To date, 65 species of birds have been recorded, in and around the wood, some in interestingly large numbers. Records are being kept of the woodland flora which produce the occasional surprise when a different plant is found.

As planned, future development closes in around the wood, its value as a wildlife habitat will increase and we hope that the Group will be able to carry on the management successfully for the benefit of the wildlife and enjoyment of the general public.

CADWRAETH YN Y GOEDWIG

Iolo Wyn Lloyd

Gwarchodwr Cadwraeth a Bywyd Gwyllt
Dosbarth Comisiwn Coedwigaeth Clwyd

Mae coedwig Clocaenog tua 5000 ha ac wedi ei lleoli yng nghanol gorllewin Clwyd lle man'n taro ar fynydd Hiraethog ac yn amgylchynnu cronfeydd dŵr Llyn Alwen a Llyn Brenig.

Yn b ystod y pum mlynedd diwethaf, mar'f Comisiwn Coedwigaeth wedi anelu at roi mwy o ymroddiad i wella gwerth cadwriaethol y goedwig er budd i'r dyfodol. Golyga hyn agor allan ffosydd a glanhau ochrau ffyrdd i greu llwybrau i fywyd gwyllt drafaelio ac i roi blaenoriaeth i ddethol lleoedd newydd fydd yn hybu cadwraeth.

Mewn ardaloedd lle cliriwyd coed, fe blennir tua 5% o goed caled. Fodd bynnag, daeth hyn â ni i drafferthion ag ardal unigryw y wiwer goch o herwydd wrth blannu coed caled rydym yn creu amgylchfyd mwy ffafriol i'r wiwer lwyd hefyd gan mai'r rhain yw prif gystadleuwyr y wiwer goch sy'n gallu addasu'n well i goed conifer.

Un o'r adar mwyaf diddorol yw'r grugiar ddu yn enwedig pan mae'n arddangos. Fe astudiwyd yr aderyn yma yn ddiweddar gan y Gymdeithas Frenhinol Er Gwarchod Adar o dan nawddogaeth y Comisiwn Coedwigaeth. O'r astudiaeth yma, lluniwyd cynllun gweithredol lle gadewir rhannau o rug, coed llus a phlu gweunydd i gynhyrchu bwyd i'r grugiar ddu. Gadewir hefyd leoedd gwlyb, agored yn arbennig ar gyfer y cywion sy'n bwydo arnynt a thorrir i lawr rannau o'r grug er mwyn gwella ei ansawdd.

Mae fy chwilio blynyddol am sŵn y troellwr yn awgrymu fod yr haf wedi cyrraedd unwaith eto. Mae'r aderyn swil, cyfareddol yma wedi mabwysiadu'r rhannau lle mae'r coed wedi eu clirio. Yn ystod y tair blynedd dewethaf dengys ein harchwiliad blynyddol eu bod yn dewis rhannau a gliriwyd ers tua phump i chwe blynedd yn ôl.

Yn y goedwig gadewir i 2% o goed i heneiddio a phydru'n naturiol erbyn hyn. Gadewir i 10% arall sefyll yn hwy nag sydd ei angen i goed aeddfedu. Mae'r rhannau yma'n bwysig i lawer o adar yn cynnwys y pila gwyrdd a'r gylfin groes sydd wedi bod â phoblogaeth uchel yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Manteisia'r bwncath a'r cudyll glas ar y rhannau yma hefyd fel lleoedd addas i nythu.

Mae ail dyfiant naturiol yn gorchuddio tua 80% o'r goedwig. Golyga hyn fod clytwaith o goed ifanc a thir agored mewn lleoedd wedi eu clirio o goed yn creu amgylchfyd delfrydol i ddryw'r helyg ac adar eraill ac yn diwallu eu anghenion. Mae hyn yn syrthio'n naturiol i'r cylchdro o glirio coed fydd bob amser yn cynhyrchu'r amgylchedd yma yn y goedwig.

Gosodwyd tua 600 o focus nythu i ystumod, wiwerod coch, tylluanod ac adar eraill a chedwir cofnodion manwl a chyson o nythu a modrwyo gan Ian Spence a'r B.T.O. sy'n rhoi gwybodaeth i ni o'i llwyddiant.

Trwy agor y goedwig wrth dorri rhannau clir o goed, fe godwyd nifer poblogaeth anifeiliaid bychain fel llygod a llŷg. Gwnaeth hyn ein galluogi i gymryd rhan mewn ail ollwng creaduriaid yn ôl i'r gwyllt. Cychwynnodd hyn pan ddarganfuwyd tylluan glustig gan weithiwr a ddaeth a hi i ni i ofalu amdani. Gyda gofal Malcolm Ingham a'r "Wirral Wildlife Rehabilitation Unit", Thurstaston Park, fe'i gollyngwyd yn ôl i'r gwyllt yn llwyddiannus. Ers hynny, gollyngwyd nifer o adar yn cynnwys tylluanod gwynion, Cudyll Coch, hebog tramor, a bwncath yn ogystal â moch daear yn ôl yn llwyddiannus.

Ar y cyfan mae'r gymysgfa integredig gafodd ei chreu naill a'i wrth reoli'r goedwig i gynhyrchu coed marchnadol neu'r ymdrech i greu ennill cadwriaethol sydd weithiau'n cael llwyddiant yn sgil hyn yn argoeli'n dda at werth y goedwig yn y dyfodol.

CONSERVATION IN THE FOREST

Iolo Wyn Lloyd

Conservation Ranger
Clwyd Forst District

Clocaenog Forest is approximately 5000 ha situated in the mid-west of Clwyd, bordering Hiraethog moors and surrounding Llyn Alwen and Llyn Brenig reservoirs.

During the last five years the Forestry Commission has been gearing up to putting more commitment into improving the forest's conservation value for the future. This involves opening up streams and roadsides to create corridors for wildlife to travel and to designate new priority conservation management areas. In clearfelled areas a minimum of 5% of the area is planted up with broadleaves. However, this has

brought us into conflict with our Red Squirrel reserved area. By planting large seeding broadleaves it would create a good habitat for grey squirrels, these being the main competitors to red squirrels which are better adapted to conifers.

One of our most impressive displaying birds is the Black Grouse lekking. This bird was recently studied by the RSPB with funds provided by the Forestry Commission. From this research a Management Plan has been implemented by providing areas of heather, bilberry and cotton grass which are some of the grouse's main diet. Open, wet flushes are also being left for chicks' feeding areas and some of our heather areas and rides are mowed to improve the heather structural age.

My annual search for the purring nightjar indicates that summer is once more upon us. This mysterious and fascinating bird appears to be adopting our clearfell areas well. In the last three years an annual survey has been carried out to see the distribution and site preference and it shows that they select sites after 5-6 years of clearfell.

Within the forest 2% is now left to over-mature and decay naturally. A further 10% is extended rotation and will be left to stand longer than the normal age of harvesting. These areas prove valuable to a host of birds such as siskins and crossbill which have had high populations in recent years. Buzzards and sparrowhawks also take advantage of these permanent areas for nesting.

The natural regeneration of sitka spruce covers up to approximately 80% of clearfelled areas. This means that a patchwork of crop and open ground in the clearfell provides diversity for warblers and other birds to nest and utilise. This fits into the cycle of clearfelling which will always provide these habitats within the forest.

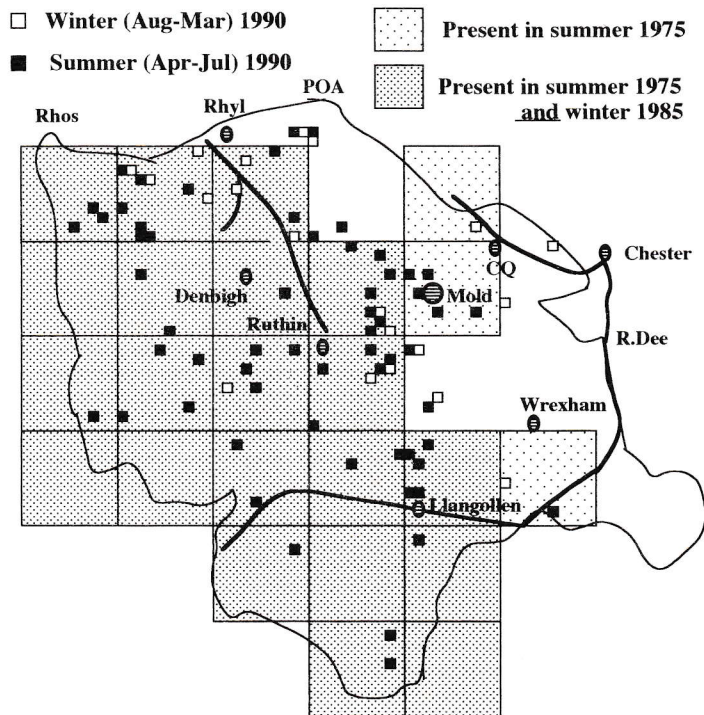
Approximately 600 nestboxes for bats, red squirrels, owls and other birds have been provided and annual ringing and nesting schemes are monitored by Ian Spence and the British Trust for Ornithology which gives us an insight to their success.

With the opening up of our forest through clearfelling we have a higher population of small mammals, etc. It has enabled us to participate in some wildlife rehabilitation and release schemes.

The first took off when a Long-eared Owlet was picked up accidentally by a member of the public and eventually ended up in our care. With the aid of Malcolm Ingham and the Wirral Wildlife Rehabilitation Unit, Thurstaston Park, it was successfully released back into the wild. Since then a steady selection of birds including barn owls, kestrels, peregrines and buzzards and some badgers have been successfully released.

On the whole the integrated diversity created either by the managing of the forest for producing commercial, marketable timber or the input to create a Conservation gain which sometimes is best achieved by not doing anything, can only be for the good of our improving, future forest.

BUZZARDS (*Buteo buteo*) IN CLWYD G.E. MORRIS



The map is based largely on records submitted for 1990, though a few from 1989 and 1991 have been added to complete the picture. The small squares are probably a fairly accurate reflection of the current distribution of Buzzards in the populated north and east of the county, but certainly under-represent numbers in the remote moorland areas of the south and west. Also, people are more likely to submit Buzzard records from areas where they are thought to be uncommon than from areas where they are known to be abundant.

Comparison of the 1990 records with recent 10 km square surveys (BTO Breeding Atlas, 1976 and BTO Winter Atlas, 1986) suggests a retreat from the Mold and south Wrexham areas between 1975 and 1985 which has now been reversed; indeed, breeding may have occurred in three 10 km squares not occupied in 1975. Factors which might affect breeding success in Clwyd include forest maturation (nest sites), food supply (e.g. rabbits) and various forms of human persecution.

Movement into the Vale of Clwyd and into the far north-east of the county in autumn and winter is evident from the map.