

# CLWYD BIRD REPORT

## 1991 & 1992



**£3.80**

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Raptors to Rails - Peter Rathbone

Waders to Auks - Geoff Neal

Pigeons to Woodpeckers - Paul Triggs

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#### **CLWYD BIRD REPORT - Edited by:**

Geoff Neal and Ian Spence

#### **FOREWORD**

**Geoff Neal**

Anyone who purchased a copy of the 1990 Clwyd Bird Report (If you didn't they are still available from the County Recorder), will notice quite a difference in the membership of the CBRG listed above. Firstly the previous County Recorder, Peter Rathbone, decided to stand down due to pressure of work. This unfortunately caused the group to lose cohesion somewhat, until I was persuaded to take on the position of County Recorder and to reconvene the Group. By this time several of the previous members decided that they were unable to continue as members of the Group, for various reasons. I would like to thank them, namely Bryan Formstone, Brian Grey, Mervin Rogers and Julian Weldrick, for all the time and effort which they devoted to the Group during their period of active membership and to thank Peter Rathbone for his efforts during his time as County Recorder and all the help he has given to me since I took over from him. In a bid to unite all of the diverse birding elements in the county it was then decided to invite representatives of the various local and national organisations involved with birdwatching in Clwyd to serve on the Group. The response to this invitation has been excellent and has resulted in the somewhat enlarged Group membership listed above.



## INTRODUCTION

I would like to apologise for the late appearance of this report, principally for the reasons already outlined in the Foreword, i.e. the change in County Recorder and the partial disintegration of the Clwyd Bird Recording Group. Hopefully these problems are now all behind us, with the Group on a firmer footing and with a wider membership base. Having now experienced the workload of a County Recorder for myself, I can understand why Peter felt unable to continue in the position, as his expanding business interests demanded more and more of his time. However, being a glutton for punishment I have quite enjoyed my first few months in the post, and the responsibility of getting this report together and, barring unforeseen circumstances, I would hope to be able to offer my services for several years, as long as the rest of the group is prepared to put up with me, anyway.

Some interesting records were received for the years of 1991 and 1992, including several potential "firsts" for the county. Unfortunately there is still no definitive list for Clwyd, but on looking through all the readily available information it would appear that the following species are all new for the county:- Stone Curlew, Laughing Gull, (a record of this species from 1987 has recently been submitted and is currently under consideration by BBRC), Two-barred Crossbill, (the first definite record - if accepted by BBRC), Oortolan and Black-headed Bunting.

A major feature of 1991 was the exceptional numbers of Crossbills in the county, particularly in the Clocaenog Forest area, from where there were a number of reports of Parrot Crossbills submitted to Birdline Northwest. Unfortunately not one of these reports was submitted to the County Recorder or to BBRC and no descriptions are available (this species is still a national rarity), therefore all of these records are not acceptable. I would like to appeal to all observers who phone their sightings into Birdline, where a rarity is involved, be it a BB rarity, a Welsh rarity or a Clwyd rarity, please submit a description to the County Recorder so that the record can be assessed by the relevant panel and, hopefully, accepted for publication. A list of records which were submitted without descriptions is included as an appendix to the systematic list, if anyone can submit descriptions for any of these which they might have seen themselves, please do so, even if you were not the original finder.

We had hoped to include in this report a summary of records for the "missing" years of 1985 to 1988, for which no Clwyd Bird Reports appeared, but with this being a combined report for two years lack of space has precluded this. Hopefully this will now appear with the 1993 report. If any observers have any unsubmitted records for these years, or for any other years, we would be pleased to receive them, (complete with descriptions where relevant!). We would also like to receive any records for "Flintshire" for the years of 1967 to 1974, covering the period between the publication of "The Birds of Flintshire" and the first Clwyd Bird Report. These records would be most useful in compiling a list of the birds of the county.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During 1992 a very generous donation was received from National Power for the purchase of a computer and specialist bird recording software, (COBRA - County Bird Recording Application). The computer has already been used to good effect in writing and putting together this report, and from Jan. 1st 1993 all Clwyd records will be entered on to the COBRA database. On behalf of the Group I would like to express my thanks to National Power for their generosity.

I would also like to thank the organisations which have provided financial assistance towards the printing of this report, in particular our principal sponsor, Mita (UK) Limited of Abergele, manufacturer of PVC Cable Management Systems, also Phostrogen and our other advertisers, the Clwyd Ornithological Society and the Deeside Naturalists Society.

My thanks also go to Philip Snow who very kindly provided the cover illustration, to Ron Plummer for his series of drawings which appear throughout the report, to the contributors of articles and notes and to Len Walls for supplying weather data.

#### NOTES ON THE SUBMISSION OF RECORDS

Standard recording forms are still available and it would be most useful if these could be used for the submission of all records. In the past we have requested that all records be submitted in Voous order, but with the Group's acquisition of a computer and COBRA database there is no longer any need for this as all records entered can be sorted by the COBRA program. However it would still be helpful if records are submitted in either Voous species order or date order. It would also be a big help if records could be submitted on either a monthly or quarterly basis.

In submitting records please ensure that you include the following information:-

- a) Date
- b) Location (with either O.S. Map reference or nearest town, village or landmark named on an O.S. map.
- c) Species (with details of sex and age where possible)
- d) Number of birds seen
- e) Any other relevant information, particularly with reference to breeding status

The local significance of some records may not be immediately apparent to the observer, particularly with reference to common or garden birds. Please submit reports of any unusual numbers, behaviour or occurrence outside normal habitat, as well as any interesting anecdotes which may be of use in preparing a readable report.

Please submit all records to the County Recorder promptly at the end of each year, preferably by the end of February. As mentioned above monthly or quarterly submissions would be most acceptable.

#### SUBMISSION OF RARITY RECORDS

There are three categories of rarity, National, Welsh and Clwyd rarities. All of these require supporting evidence from the observer before they can be accepted for publication. For all National and Welsh rarities a full description must be submitted, together with an account of the relevant circumstances of the observation. A form for such submission is available from the County Recorder (SAE appreciated) or the basic format may be copied from the transcript below. This form may also be used for the submission of Clwyd rarities.

All rarity descriptions should be submitted via the County Recorder who will forward them to the appropriate body for ratification.

##### **National rarities**

Records of National rarities are considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) and a list of these is published periodically in British Birds magazine.



### Welsh Rarities

Following considerable criticism of the Welsh Rarities Advisory Group, particularly with reference to "lost" records, this body has now been disbanded by the Welsh Ornithological Society, and a new group, the Welsh Records Panel, has been formed under a new chairman and secretary. This group will adjudicate on Welsh rarities from 1993 onwards.

Some alterations have been made to the list of species to be considered and the following list now constitutes the species considered as Welsh rarities. This list will be reviewed annually.

Cory's Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Purple Heron, White Stork, Bean Goose, Ring-necked Duck, Ferruginous Duck, Surf Scoter, Montagu's Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard, Golden Eagle, Spotted Crane, Crane, Stone Curlew, Kentish Plover, Temminck's Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Bee-eater, Short-toed Lark, Woodlark, Shorelark, Richard's Pipit, Tawny Pipit, Bluethroat, Savi's Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Barred Warbler, Pallas's Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Woodchat, Serin, Common Rosefinch, Cirl Bunting, Ortolan Bunting, Little Bunting.

### Clwyd Rarities

In the past there has been a certain amount of leniency towards the lack of descriptions submitted with Clwyd rarities along with a certain amount of criticism (some of it justified), concerning the selection of species considered to be Clwyd rarities. The county rarity list has therefore been reviewed by the Rarities Sub-group and a number of the "less rare" species have been removed, however a number of other species have been added, including those recently dropped as Welsh rarities, and also several others of infrequent occurrence in the county. In future, in order to try and ensure complete accuracy in the report, records of these species will not be published without supporting evidence.

With apologies to the less experienced observers, it is recognised that a record from an experienced observer, having previous experience of the species concerned, may require less detail than a record from an observer unfamiliar with the species, but a basic description of at least the principal identification features should be supplied by even the most experienced of observers.

The following list constitutes the species considered as Clwyd rarities from 1993 onwards. This list will also be reviewed annually.

Red-necked Grebe, Slavonian Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Storm Petrel, Bittern, Little Egret, Spoonbill, Snow Goose, Barnacle Goose, Garganey, Red-crested Pochard, Honey Buzzard, Red Kite, Marsh Harrier, Goshawk, Osprey, Quail, Corncrake, Dotterel, Wood Sandpiper, Grey Phalarope, Pomarine Skua, Long-tailed Skua, Mediterranean Gull, Sabine's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Yellow-legged Gull, Iceland Gull, Roseate Tern, Black Guillemot, Little Auk, Puffin, Turtle Dove, Long-eared Owl, Hoopoe, Wryneck, Woodlark, Water Pipit, Nightingale, Black Redstart, Cetti's Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Firecrest, Bearded Reedling, Golden Oriole, Red-backed Shrike, Great Grey Shrike, Chough, Lapland Bunting.

In addition the Group may request supporting descriptions for otherwise common species outside their normal habitat range, e.g. inland records of seabirds; outside the normal season, e.g. summer migrants in winter or vice versa; and for records of distinctive subspecies, e.g. Grey-headed Wagtail.

# Format for submission of rarity descriptions

## SPECIES

Number of birds

Sex

Age

## PLACE

(New)

County

(Old)

DATE(S) of your observations

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 else is reporting it, if known?

Was it trapped for ringing?

Date, if known

Ringer, if known

Where?

Photographer and address,

If dead, is it preserved?

Was it photographed?

if known

Distance from bird

Optical aids used

Previous experience of species

Experience of similar species

Weather conditions

Details of trapped bird to be completed by ringer

Date trapped

Ring number

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.

And finally, is this record 100% certain?

Any who disagree?

## THE FOLLOWING EXTRA GUIDELINES MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE

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 no great shakes as an artist, a simple drawing with salient features noted at the time will suffice. Insufficient detail usually guarantees rejection, but please do not put in details of features which you think should have been there if you did not see them.

If you discover a British or a Welsh rarity always try to get at least one other independent observer to see the bird and submit a description also. Please feel free to contact the County Recorder or other member of the CBRG if you wish, they may not always be able to get to see the bird themselves but should be able to arrange for someone to do so.

Notes should be written at the time of the sighting and not after you have returned home and consulted the literature. Take a notebook with you wherever you go.



Some rarities seen by many observers are not always submitted, everyone leaves it to everyone else. Please submit the record even if you were only one of several observers to see the bird, the more supporting evidence received the better, and yours may be the only record received.



**WEATHER SUMMARY 1991**  
**Andrew Gouldstone**

January was a colder and drier month than average, with more sunshine than normal, but with fog on 7 days. Winds were predominantly from the south and south-west, with gales on 5th to 8th, producing storm force gusts. Snow fell on 13 days but lay for only 3. February was a cold month with snow lying in places for 15 days, despite some above average hours of sunshine. The first half of the month saw winds predominantly from the south-east, changing more to the south-west later.

Mild conditions prevailed in March, with rainfall at expected levels and skies generally overcast. Winds with a southerly element early on turned more easterly, with north-easterly gales on the 18th to 20th. Two days of snowfall did not produce much in the way of lying snow. Higher than average winds characterised April, mainly from the south to west quarter. Temperatures were around average as were hours of sunshine and rainfall was below that usually experienced, although the 29th was the wettest day of the year. Snow lay on just 1 day.

May was an average month with regards to rainfall, with below average hours of sunshine. Temperatures were as would be expected and fog was present on 3 days. Winds were mainly from the north or north-west. The maximum temperatures in June were very low at only 18°C, producing below average temperatures for the month generally, aided by windier conditions. Winds were variable but with a consistent south-easterly element around mid-month.

July rainfall was noticeably above that normally expected, with thunderstorms on 3 days. The month was also more overcast and windy than normal. Winds were southerly in the first half and then more westerly. August proved to be warmer, drier and brighter than normal, with maximum temperatures of 24°C. The winds were predominantly from the west or north early on but became very variable as the month progressed.

Generally sunny conditions prevailed in September, which was also a warmer and drier month than usual for this time of year. The first autumn fog appeared on 1st, with more on 27th. Winds were from the east for much of the month, but then swung more to the west or south-west. October saw winds at odds with itself, first from the east or south-east, then a steady period of northerlies, followed by an equally steady period of southerlies. It was an unusually dry and mild month with fog on 4 days.

Although snow did not lie in November, the first snows of the winter fell in the early half of the month. Conditions were otherwise very much as would be expected. A north-westerly gale on 12th reached gusts of violent storm conditions and winds from this direction dominated the first half of the month, but they swung consistently to the south-west by the month's end. December was a particularly dry month, with only half the expected rainfall and slightly above average temperatures. Storm force winds mid-month were from the west or north-west, but earlier in the month south-east and south-westerlies had dominated. Snow fell on 2 days but did not settle for long.

**WEATHER SUMMARY 1992**  
**Andrew Gouldstone**

January was a generally mild month, with half the usual rainfall and above average hours of sunshine. Winds were from the south-west early on with gales on 2nd and 3rd, turning quite calm in mid-month. Several days with fog were recorded. February was wet and saw temperatures and hours of sunshine above average. Snow fell on 4 days but



did not settle. Winds were largely from the west and north-west, turning more to the south-west by the month's end, including gale force on 22nd.

Although generally milder than would be expected, March was also overcast and wet, and snow fell on 6 days, though again it did not linger. North-westerlies predominated early in the month, but then the winds became quite variable. April too was mild, but with below average rainfall. Winds were variable and included some northerlies, becoming more south-westerly as the month progressed.

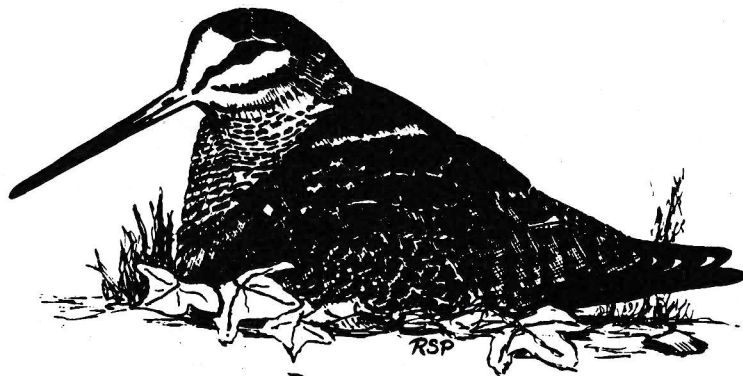
May was a warm and extremely sunny month but also wet, with thunderstorms towards the end. During the first half winds had a mainly western element, including north- and south-westerlies. South-easterlies featured more later on. June was an above average month in most ways, being warmer, drier, sunnier and calmer than is usual for this month. Thunderstorms did occur however on the 8th to 10th, and fog was noted on 4 days. A period of north-easterlies mid-month was the only consistent wind direction in an otherwise variable month.

With below average hours of sunshine, July was also quite cool. It was no wetter than normal however. After north-easterlies and south-westerlies early on, the winds swung more to the south-west for much of the remainder of the month. With top temperatures of only 20.7°C August was a cooler than usual month. It was also wetter and winds were variable but with south-westerlies occurring the most.

Winds were not strong in September and had a westerly element early on but then became quite variable. The month was cool, damp and overcast with fog on 6 days in the latter half of the month, making it the foggiest month in the period 1981 to 1992. October was very cold, wet and overcast. The first snow and sleet of the winter fell on 15th but did not settle. North-easterly and north-westerly winds dominated throughout the month, but were not unusually strong.

Relatively mild and wet conditions prevailed in November, with some snow and fog. Winds were from the south-west early on, then the north-west mid-month and then from the south to west quarter in the latter part, including the first winter gale on 23rd, a south-westerly. The winds in December were decidedly variable in direction. The month was decidedly sunny and dry, but cold and snow fell on 4 days but did not remain long.

Thanks are again due to Mr. Len Walls of the Moel-y-Crio climatological station for supplying the data, and for reading drafts of this summary.



## SYSTEMATIC LIST

The following abbreviations are used in the text:

BWNR Broadoak Wood Nature Reserve  
 CQR Connah's Quay Reserve (Deeside Naturalists Society)\*  
 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

\* These two reserves are adjacent to each other and are often combined in the report as CQR/OMR

\*\* Inner Marsh Farm Reserve straddles the border between Clwyd and Cheshire, records from this site are included only when they are considered to have relevance to Clwyd.

Note: Unless otherwise stated records from the R. Clwyd refer to the tidal section between Rhyl and Rhuddlan.

### RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata* TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

*Passage migrant and winter visitor offshore*

1991: Regularly recorded along the coastal strip, mostly in single figures, to April 7th and from Sept. 2nd to the year-end. A high count of 59 off Llanddulas on March 17th may have been a build-up of returning passage birds. Good numbers were recorded flying west at POA during gales from Dec. 20th to 26th, with maxima of 53 on 21st and 74 on 22nd.

1992: Fewer reports received than for last year, with scattered records of 1 or 2 birds along the coast from POA to Rhos Point up to April 19th. The first of autumn was 1 at POA on Aug. 31st, with again scattered records of 1 or 2 till the year-end, and a maximum of 5 at POA on Dec. 13th. Only 1 record away from the coast, a single at CQR/OMR on Nov. 28th.

### BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica* TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

*Passage migrant and winter visitor offshore*

1991: 1 to 3 occasionally recorded along the coast from January to March, on 3 dates in September from 14th and in December. The maximum was 8 off Llanddulas on Dec. 9th, and from 4 to 8 were recorded flying west daily at POA, from Dec. 20th to 26th.

1992: The only records received (all of single birds) were: between Gronant and Prestatyn on Jan. 26th, at POA on Sept. 13th and 30th and at Rhos Point on Nov. 17th.

### GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* TROCHYDD MAWR

*Occasional winter visitor*

1991: Single birds reported from Kinmel Bay on Jan. 12th, Penrhyn Bay on Jan. 25th, POA on Oct. 18th/19th and Nov. 6th, and Kinmel Bay on Dec. 15th. There were 1 to 3 daily at POA during the December gales from 20th to 24th. A first-winter bird was present on Rhyl Marine Lake from Nov. 5th to 20th.

1992: Singles at Rhos Point on Jan. 1st, POA March 4th, Gronant March 22nd, Prestatyn Nov. 2nd and Llanddulas Nov. 28th.

### LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis* GWYACH FACH

*Breeding resident and winter visitor*

1991: Breeding was confirmed at DP, Erddig Pools and Pen Dinas, with probable breeding at Gwsaney, Llyn Helyg and Ysceifiog, whilst there were several other summer records from suitable breeding sites. More widely recorded outside the breeding season, with maximum numbers reported from the R. Clwyd, a regular wintering site. Birds were present here to at least mid-April, with maxima of 9 on Jan. 4th, 10 on March 11th and 6



on April 8th; and from September, with 8 on Oct. 6th and up to 9 in November. Elsewhere the maximum numbers reported were 8 on Dolwen Reservoir on Oct. 27th and 6 at Gronant pump house on April 12th.

1992: Breeding was confirmed at Shotton, Llandegla and on a small pond near Ruabon, where a pair reared 2 broods - the first breeding record for this site. The regular wintering birds were on the R. Clwyd, with records to March 19th and a maximum of 11 on Jan. 11th, then an early record of 7 on July 26th and regular from mid-August to the end of the year with a maximum of 11 on Nov. 4th. The maximum reported was 13 at Dolwen Reservoir on Oct. 18th and good numbers were present on Prestatyn Golf Course in the early part of the year, with a maximum of 5 on Jan. 18th and March 29th.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*  
*Breeding resident and winter visitor*

GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

1991: Bred successfully at Llyn Helyg, Hanmer Mere, Llyn Gweryd and Drury Pool, with possible breeding at Dolwen Reservoir and the upper Alwen Reservoir. Good numbers recorded along the coast in winter with birds present until late March and from late August, with 1 at POA on July 12th. The maximum in the early part of the year was 22 off Llanddulas on March 17th (coinciding with a build-up of Red-throated Divers there), the highest numbers were recorded in autumn with 170+ off Pensarn on Sept. 21st and 93 off Llanddulas on Oct. 13th. Away from the coast maximum winter numbers were recorded on Shotwick Lake, with 26 there on Jan. 29th.

1992: Breeding was confirmed at Llyn Helyg, Llyn Brenig, Llyn Bran, Lindisfarne Lake, Acton Park and Shotton Rifle Range Pools. A pair attempted to nest on Shotwick Lake but were subject to too much disturbance. Small numbers present along the coastal strip and in the Dee estuary up to May 4th and from July 26th, with maxima of 34 at Kinmel Bay on Jan. 28th and 75 at CQR/OMR on Nov. 24th.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*  
*Scarce winter visitor*

GWYACH YDDFGOCH

1991: 1 on Shotwick Lake from Oct. 28th to Nov. 14th was still in juvenile plumage, with rusty neck and remnant head-stripes. 1 flew west at POA on Dec. 26th.

1992: No records.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*  
*Scarce winter visitor*

GWYACH GORNIOG

1991: 1 at Rhos Point on Jan. 1st, and a series of records from POA during strong gales in late December, with 4 on 21st, 2 on 24th and 1 on 26th.

1992: Summer plumage birds were seen on Llyn Brenig on April 5th and on Llyn Helyg on May 31st. 1 on Rhyl Brickworks Pool on Dec. 11th/12th.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*  
*Scarce winter visitor*

GWYACH GWDDF DDU

1991: Singles off Llanddulas on Feb. 17th and Nov. 10th.

1992: No records.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

ADERYN-DRYCIN Y GRAIG

*Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant*

1991: Recorded offshore throughout the year and around breeding cliffs for most of the year, with returning birds present at Cefn-yr-Ogof as early as Dec. 10th. A "blue phase" bird was present in Prestatyn Quarry throughout April, May and June, and an unfledged chick was still present there on Aug. 24th. No really big offshore movements, the maxima being 270 west at Prestatyn on June 10th and 210 west there on Aug. 17th. In the December gales 50 flew west at POA on 23rd.

1992: The first birds reported back on the breeding cliffs were 2 on Llanddulas cliffs on Jan. 26th. A "blue phase" bird was again present in Prestatyn Quarry, throughout the season, first seen on Feb. 2nd. Maximum numbers offshore were 350 off Gronant on April 12th and 230 off POA on Sept. 7th.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

ADERYN-DRYCIN DU

*Rare passage migrant*

1991: All records off POA; 1 on July 15th, 4 west on Sept. 16th and 3 west on Sept. 17th.

1992: No records.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW

*Regular offshore during summer and autumn*

1991: The only spring record was 1 off Rhos Point on April 10th, then small numbers were regularly recorded offshore from mid-June, through July and August, less frequently in September and occasionally in October, to 18th. The maximum reported was 186 west off Prestatyn on June 15th.

1992: Recorded from July to September, less frequently than last year, but with a maximum of 859 west off POA on July 12th.

MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER *Puffinus yelkouan*

ADERYN-DRYCIN MOR Y CANOLDIR

*Rare offshore visitor*

1991: 1 flew west off Prestatyn on Aug. 17th.

1992: No records.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus*

PEDRYN DRYCIN

*Scarce passage migrant*

1991: 2 west off Prestatyn on July 15th, 6 west off POA the following day and 1 west off Prestatyn on Sept. 17th.

1992: 1 off POA on Sept. 1st.

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

*Regular autumn passage migrant in varying numbers*

1991: At POA 9 flew west on Sept. 16th and there were singles on Oct. 18th (east) and 19th, Dec. 22nd and 24th. On Oct. 18th 11 were seen off Rhos Point and 1 was upriver at CQR/OMR.

1992: All records in September: 9 west at POA on 1st, 39 west and 2 east there on 4th, when 1 was also seen off Rhos Point, 1 east at POA on 14th and 10 west there on 15th.

GANNET *Sula bassana*

HUGAN

*Common passage migrant*

1991: The first record was on April 7th when 22 adults flew west at POA in an hour and a half, then small numbers recorded regularly offshore from June to early October, mostly flying west, with maxima of 300 off POA on Aug. 17th and 250 west there on Sept. 22nd. A late record was of 2 adults off POA on Dec. 22nd.

1992: Again regularly recorded offshore from March to October, with maxima of 357 off POA on March 20th, 200 to 300 there on several dates in July and August, 400+ on August 30th and c.200 on October 4th.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

MULFRAN

*Common non-breeding visitor*

Regularly recorded throughout the year along the coast and in the estuaries. The two main roost sites are on the R. Clwyd and at OMR. Maxima at these two sites were 220

on the R. Clwyd on Sept. 24th and 150 at OMR on Nov. 9th. There was a sizeable movement of 560 flying west off Rhos Point on Aug. 18th. Inland birds were regularly reported from Gresford Flash (maximum 28 on Jan. 7th) and occasionally from the following sites:- Llyn Brenig, Ruabon Moors, Llyn y Cwrt, R. Dee, Llyn Alwen and Hanmer Mere. A party of 12 flew north near Pen-y-Cae on April 13th.

1992: A similar pattern of records to last year's, with the maximum on the R. Clwyd 193 on Sept. 9th. Away from the main two roost sites there were 60 on Gronant beach on April 30th and 120 there on Sept. 2nd. Inland records were received from Alwen Reservoir, Llyn Aled, Llyn Brenig, the River Dee at Berwyn Halt and the R. Clwyd south of Glan-y-Wern. One flew over the Horseshoe Pass near Llangollen on April 18th.

OMR	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1991	116	75	66	41	55	80	10	15	55	75	150	111
1992	140	100	71	7	3	1	22	20	38	100	44	75

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*  
Scarce visitor

MULFRAN WERDD

1991: Fairly regular off Rhos Point, with a maximum of 6 there on Feb. 17th. The only other records were 3 flying west at POA on July 12th and 1 at Llanddulas on Dec. 9th.  
1992: The only record away from Rhos Point was 1 at Rhyl Splash Point on Oct. 27th.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*  
Rare visitor

ADERYN Y BWN

1991: 1 on a small pond at Pant-yr-Ochain, Gresford from Feb. 4th to 18th.  
1992: No records.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*  
Rare vagrant

CREYR BACH

1991: No records.  
1992: 1 flew south over Shotwick Lake at 1600 hrs. on Aug. 13th.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*  
Breeding resident

CREYR GLAS

1991: No breeding records received this year. Small numbers regularly seen along the estuaries and at inland sites, with the maximum numbers recorded being 25 at CQR/OMR on Oct. 12th, 14 at Ysceifiog Lake and Fisheries on June 22nd, 12 at Glan-y-Wern on Nov. 24th and 9 on the R. Clwyd on Aug. 14th.

1992: The only two records of breeding were six nests near Gwyddelwern in which 14 young were ringed (and all probably fledged) and a single bird carrying nesting material to a plantation at Glan-y-Wern on April 19th. This year's maxima were 13 at CQR/OMR on Aug. 14th, 9 at Ysceifiog on June 17th, 9 feeding in a ploughed field at Afonwen on June 26th and 7 on R. Clwyd on June 28th and Oct. 10th.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*  
Rare vagrant

LLWYBIG

1991: 1 flew into IMF from the south on May 27th and was last seen there on June 2nd.  
1992: No records.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*  
Breeding resident

ALARCH DOF

1991: Breeding records were received from DP (5 young), Greenfield Valley (4 young), Erddig (5 young), Rhuddlan and Ruabon. Regular in winter at Rhyl, with birds moving between the R. Clwyd and the Marine Lake, up to 16 in the early part of the year and a maximum of 25 in November. The maximum number recorded in the county was 37 at



Hanmer Mere on Aug. 13th and there were reports of smaller numbers from CQR, Gresford Flash, Llyn Helyg and Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
RHYL	16	14	16	4	6	-	-	-	6	-	25	15

1992: Breeding was reported at Rhuddlan (7 young), Abergele pond (7 young), a pond near Ruabon (5 young), Greenfield Valley (2 young), Shotton Pools and near Rhyl. A flock was present in the Shotwick/Burton area for most of the year, and in the Rhyl area, where birds were presumably moving between the three main sites of R. Clwyd, the Marine Lake and Brickworks Pool, as a daily count during January at the Marine Lake showed that numbers varied erratically from day to day between 3 and 21 birds. Records were also received from CQR/OMR, POA, Llyn Helyg, Gresford Flash and Hanmer Mere.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
RHYL	21	12	15	14	20	5	-	-	6	2	-	2
SH/WICK	21	26	21	25	7	16	-	6	26	17	46	45

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

#### ALARCH BEWICK

##### Winter visitor

1991: There was a record count for CQR of 40 on Feb. 3rd and there were 3 at Gronant on March 8th. In the latter part of the year there were 13 at Shotwick on Nov. 10th and 6 adults and 2 juveniles were at CQR/OMR from Nov. 10th to 19th, these were then joined on 20th by an additional 19 adults and 10 juvs., these 37 birds then moving to the Shotton/Burton area where they were seen regularly to the end of the year. There were also 6 at Gronant on Nov. 16th, 1 at POA on Dec. 20th and 8 at Bangor-is-y-Coed on Dec. 23rd (one of these fitted with a black neck-collar).

1992: There was a wintering herd in the IMF/Shotwick/Burton Marsh area during both winter periods, with 1 bird wearing a blue neck collar having been ringed at Kashin Island on the Petchora River, Siberia on Aug. 4th 1991. Elsewhere there were 20 at CQR/OMR on Jan. 4th with 7 there on Oct. 28th and 10 on Nov. 15th, and a single flew upriver at POA on Nov. 15th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
SH/WICK	33	45	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	17	70

#### WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

#### ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

##### Uncommon winter visitor

1991: In the first winter period there were 4 at CQR on Jan. 9th with a single there on 18th, and 130 flew high to the north-east over Gwsaney on March 10th. Later in the year 8 flew south over Pen-y-Cae on Nov. 17th, 6 flew west at POA on Dec. 6th and there was 1 at Llyn Helyg in December.

1992: Last December's bird remained at Llyn Helyg until Jan. 23rd then it may have moved to R. Clwyd where 1 was present from Jan. 29th to March 24th. 2 adults were on R. Clwyd on Oct. 11th and 5 were recorded at POA on Dec. 30th.

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

#### GWYDD DROED BINC

##### Winter visitor and passage migrant

1991: On Feb. 17th 170 flew high north-west over Gwsaney and 390 flew north out to sea at Llanddulas, in two skeins of 260 and 130. There were also 58 off the coast on Jan. 22nd and 2 on Oct. 23rd, a single in the Clwyd Valley on Nov. 29th and 3 at IMF on Dec. 30th.

1992: On Feb. 1st 232 were on a field west of R. Clwyd; up to 6 were present with Canada Geese at Shotwick from Jan. 1st to 22nd and up to 8 from Feb. 6th to 13th; 50 flew north-west over Shotwick on Feb. 14th; There was 1 at POA on Feb. 6th and 2 there on Oct. 14th, and 1 at Rhuddlan on March 24th.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*  
*Uncommon winter visitor*

GWYDD DALCEN WEN

1991: An immature was present on the R. Clwyd from Oct. 23rd to the year end.

1992: Last year's bird on R. Clwyd was seen on Jan. 1st and there was 1 (feral) at Gresford on March 17th.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*  
*Resident and winter visitor*

GWYDD WYLLT

1991: The summer flock in the Clwyd Valley reached a maximum of 120 on May 6th and this is now one of the top fifty sites for feral Greylags in Britain. Other records included 5 at Gwsaney on Feb. 16th and March 5th, with 3 there on Aug. 20th; 24 at Holt on Feb. 22nd; 8 at Gresford Flash on Aug. 20th; 1 at Shotwick Lake on Nov. 3rd and 3 on R. Clwyd from Nov. 29th to Dec. 19th.

1992: The highest count received for the feral flock in the Clwyd Valley was 71 on April 5th but 16 juveniles were recorded on June 13th, the first definite evidence of breeding. A flock of c.400 flew over CQR on Nov. 15th and other records from CQR/OMR were of 2 to 3 in January, 3 on Nov. 18th and 4 amongst the Canada Geese in December. There were 1 to 8 birds present on R. Clwyd from January to May, 1 at Gresford Flash on March 17th and 12 "grey" geese, probably this species, flew over Northop on Oct. 15th.

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

GWYDD CANADA

1991: A breeding survey for the Wildfowl Trust located 437 birds (including at least 138 young) in 31 different localities, and the total population was estimated at 500 to 600 birds. The highest actual count was of 210 at Shotwick Fields on Oct. 13th, though the whole Dee estuary (Clwyd & Cheshire) wintering flock was estimated at 420 birds. Over 120 were present at Gresford Flash on Aug. 26th.

1992: Breeding was confirmed at Llyn Helyg (2 pairs, 6 + 3 young), Llandegla Moors (7 young) and near Ruabon. Up to 400 were present on Shotwick fields in October, with up to 300 in November and 200 in December, and presumably some of the same birds were seen at CQR/OMR where there were up to 260 in September and 232 in December. Notable counts elsewhere included 120 at Gresford Flash on Jan. 9th, with 93 there in September; 64 at Hanmer in January; 38 at Llyn Helyg in February; 23 at Lindisfarne Lake on Dec. 20th and 24 on R. Clwyd on Oct. 25th. A bird showing characteristics of the race *minima* was seen on R. Clwyd on Oct. 11th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CQR/OMR	85	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	260	4	55	232

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*  
*Rare visitor, some feral birds occur*

GWYDD WYRAN

1991: No records.

1992: A single with the Canada flock at Shotwick from Oct 15th to Dec. 14th, subsequently seen with the Canada flock at CQR/OMR on at least 3 dates from mid December, and 1 with the Pink-feet alongside R. Clwyd on Feb. 1st.

BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla*  
*Winter visitor in small numbers*

GWYDD DDU

1991: There were 3 on the R. Dee at Shotton on Jan. 6th, and at POA there were 2 or 3 regularly from January 18th into March, with 13 pale-bellied there on March 17th. In the second winter period there were 5 records of between 2 and 5 birds at POA in November/December, 1 flew east at Prestatyn on Nov. 5th and 4 were at Gronant on Dec. 6th.

1992: At POA there were records of 2-3 dark-bellied and 1 pale-bellied in January, 3 pale-bellied on Feb. 7th, 17th & 18th, singles on Oct. 12th/13th and 25th, 5 on Nov. 8th

and singles regularly in the latter half of December. At CQR/OMR there were 11 on April 7th, 1 on April 13th and a single on 4 dates in the second half of November from 18th. Elsewhere there was 1 on R. Clwyd on Jan. 1st, 1 at Gronant on March 18th and 2 flew west close inshore at Rhyl on the unusual date of July 28th.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis*  
Rare vagrant

GWYDD FRONGOCH

1991: A single at CQR on Sept. 30th was relocated at IMF on Oct. 2nd, remaining in the Burton/Shotwick area until Dec. 30th. It had a red colour ring on its right leg.  
1992: No records.

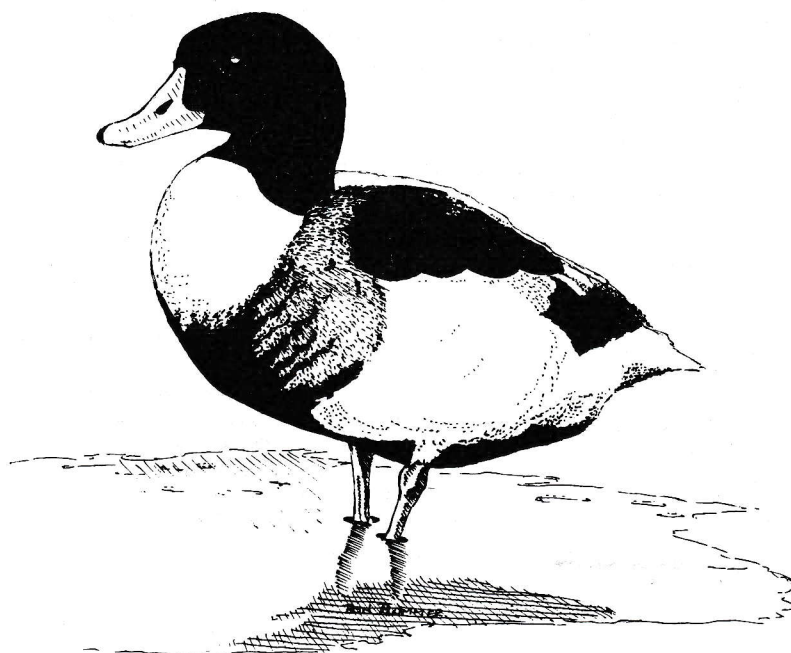
SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

Breeding resident and common winter visitor

1991: Present throughout the year with a maximum of 980 at POA in November. The May survey of the Clwyd estuary revealed 55 young among the total count of 289. Elsewhere on the R. Clwyd there were 10 at Trefnant on March 14th and 2 at Glan-y-Wern on May 6th. Also 2 at Llyn Helyg in February and May and 2 at Gresford Flash on April 24th. A pair with 6 young were seen on the R. Dee at Mostyn Dock.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	200	100	60	100	110	830	230	-	60	100	980	600
CQR/OMR	316	250	180	407	150	101	110	61	51	400	300	353
R. CLWYD	30	54	50	42	289	-	27	-	-	-	23	26





1992: The year's maximum was on Jan. 19th when 1,000 were reported from POA, and CQR/OMR also recorded its maximum in January with 600 on 19th. Up to 76 juveniles were present on R. Clwyd in July and a pair with 5 young were at CQR/OMR on June 26th, otherwise there were no breeding records although pairs were present at 3 suitable inland wetlands during April/May. Outside the breeding season there were 3 records from upland reservoirs, 2 at Pen-y-Cae on July 20th, 4 at Ty Mawr on Oct. 4th and 1 at Llyn Cyfynwy on Jan. 10th, and a juvenile was at Gresford Flash on 8th and 11th September.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	1000	300	200	240	48	32	36	55	36	350	256	346
CQR/OMR	600	250	120	18	45	166	58	300	18	155	105	61
R. CLWYD	61	109	113	128	244	201	168	14	5	14	9	66

**MANDARIN** *Aix galericulata*

**HWYADEN GRIBOG**

*Uncommon, status uncertain*

1991: A pair with 4 young on the R. Clwyd at Bodfari on May 24th.

1992: Single males at Llangollen on Jan. 28th to 30th, Ysceifiog Lake on April 19th and Lindisfarne Lake on Dec. 20th, with a female in Greenfield Valley on Aug. 23rd.

**WIGEON** *Anas penelope*

**CHWIWELL**

*Winter visitor*

1991: Regular in small numbers at CQR/OMR and R. Clwyd, with maxima of 400 at CQR/OMR on Feb. 17th and 250 on R. Clwyd on Dec. 22nd. Up to 10 occasionally at POA plus a maximum of 12 on Sept. 13th. There were also 60 at Rossett on Jan. 11th and 50 on the sea at Kinnel Bay on Feb. 11th with records also from Shotton, Shotwick, Gresford, Hanmer, Dolwen, Bodfari and Ruabon.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CQR/OMR	170	400	25	2	-	-	-	4	90	50	7	30
R. CLWYD	30	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	39	150	250

1992: The maximum was 800 at CQR/OMR on Jan. 22nd with up to 190 on R. Clwyd in February and small numbers at POA, with maximum 27 in December. Records were also received from Hanmer Mere with up to 9 in February, and Llyn Brenig with 2 on May 16th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CQR/OMR	800	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	30	25	-
R. CLWYD	150	190	66	7	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	35

**GADWALL** *Anas strepera*

**HWYADEN LWYD**

*Uncommon winter visitor*

1991: A pair was present at CQR in January with the male staying until March 18th, a pair on Abergele Pond until Feb. 22nd and again from Oct. 23rd to the end of the year, 5 at Shotwick Lake on Feb. 9th, 1 to 3 at Gronant from February to April and in October and December and 2 on R. Clwyd on April 24th and Aug. 23rd.

1992: A male was present at Abergele Pond until Feb. 9th and again from Oct. 29th to the end of the year. Single males were seen at CQR/OMR on Jan. 30th, May 17th and Sept. 29th, whilst a male and 2 females were seen there on April 10th. A pair was at Gresford Flash on March 8th.

**TEAL** *Anas crecca*

**CORHWYADEN**

*Widespread winter visitor*

1991: Good numbers in winter at CQR/OMR with up to 2,000 in January and a maximum of 4,000 on Dec. 22nd. Smaller numbers at POA and R. Clwyd with a peak of 500 at POA on Dec. 11th. Elsewhere 50 at Towyn on Dec. 8th, 32 at Dolwen on Jan. 13th, 30 at Padeswood Pool on Sept. 21st, 34 at Ysceifiog on Nov. 3rd and 26 at Llyn Brenig on Sept. 1st. A single bird was on Ruabon Moors on Dec. 15th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	40	51	30	-	-	-	-	-	30	120	150	500
CQR/OMR	2000	1500	200	30	-	-	-	150	1500	2500	3500	4000

1992: Another good year at CQR/OMR with maxima of 2,500 in January and October, but only small numbers recorded at POA. There were 90 on R. Clwyd on Oct. 26th, up to 56 at Ysceifiog in December and 20 at Dolwen Reservoir on Jan. 4th. A female was on Llyn Brenig on July 31st and single figure counts were received outside the breeding season from Llyn Helyg, Ruabon Moors, Lindisfarne Lake, Padeswood Pool and Greenfield Valley.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	17	30	-	-	-	2	-	-	20	4	4	17
CQR/OMR	2500	1500	96	34	-	-	-	45	200	2500	2000	810

#### MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

#### HWYADEN WYLLT

*Common breeding resident and winter visitor*

1991: Maxima at the main sites were 1,000 at CQR/OMR on Feb. 17th, 470 at POA on Jan. 21st and 580 at Hanmer Mere on Jan. 15th. There were also 250 on the sea off Rhyl on Feb. 4th and 424 in the Dee estuary at Ffynnongroyw on June 23rd. Breeding was confirmed at CQR, Llangollen, Cynwyd, Alwen Reservoir, Padeswood, Greenfield Valley and Gwsaney.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	470	180	NC	250	53	223	100	260	400	400	350	300
CQR/OMR	300	1000	80	14	67	510	100	850	500	250	600	500

1992: The maxima were 500 at CQR/OMR in January, 452 at Hanmer Mere in January, 410 on the sea off Rhyl in December and 300 at POA on Oct. 25th. During late August/early September a large flock fed on stubble fields at Shotwick, maximum 402 on Sept. 6th and there were also 105 at Acton Park, Wrexham in November, 83 on a pond near Ruabon on Oct. 10th, 82 at Llyn Brenig on Oct. 18th, 77 at Ysceifiog in December and 75 at Lindisfarne Lake on Dec. 20th. Breeding was confirmed at CQR/OMR (8 young), Greenfield Valley (9 + 4 young), Llyn Helyg (6 + 7 young) and on the Clwyd river (11 young).

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	250	250	150	16	20	131	100	100	250	300	180	223
CQR/OMR	500	150	12	2	130	400	100	320	150	200	16	71
R. CLWYD	30	120	40	20	-	15	-	-	40	15	-	30

#### PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

#### HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

*Winter visitor in internationally important numbers*

1991: An excellent year for this species at CQR/OMR, with peaks of 5,000 on Feb. 17th and 9,500 on the BOEE count on October 27th, also regular at POA in smaller numbers, maximum of 400 on Nov. 27th. Other records received were 65 on the Dee floods at Holt on Jan. 4th, 1 to 3 on Abergele pond in January and December and single figure records from Llyn Brenig, Llyn Helyg, Llanddulas and R. Clwyd.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	140	152	30	-	-	-	-	2	200	26	400	180
CQR/OMR	200	5000	3	-	-	-	-	2	5000	9500	8000	3000

1992: Good numbers again in the early part of the year at CQR/OMR with 5,000 on Jan. 22nd being the maximum, but considerably lower numbers recorded during the latter part. Maxima at POA were 300 on Jan. 22nd and 182 in December and there were also single figure records from Abergele Pond and R. Clwyd.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	300	250	6	-	-	-	-	-	3	35	52	182
CQR/OMR	5000	3000	21	54	-	-	1	2	600	500	5	160



GARGANEY *Anas querquedula**Rare visitor*

1991: No records

1992: A male on R. Clwyd on June 27th.

## HWYADEN ADDFAIN

SHOVERLER *Anas clypeata**Winter visitor*

## HWYADEN LYDANBIG

1991: Regular at Gresford Flash during the winter, with maxima of 57 on Jan. 22nd and 27 on Nov. 10th and Dec. 8th. Small numbers regular at Hanmer Mere with a maximum of 12 there on Nov. 17th. Elsewhere there were 8 at Shotton on Sept. 7th, 6 at CQR/OMR in November, 4 at POA on Nov. 10th, 2 at Gwaenysgor pond from March 8th to 20th and 2 at Rhyl Brickworks Pool in January and December.

1992: Maximum of 65 at Gresford Flash on Jan. 19th, but only small numbers at the end of the year, maximum 14 in November. Elsewhere 2-3 at Hanmer Mere from January to March, 2 at POA on Sept. 11th and Nov. 29th, 5 at CQR/OMR on Sept. 2nd and 1 on Sept. 30th, 3 at Ty Mawr Reservoir on March 15th, 1 on a pond near Ruabon on Feb. 9th and 16th, and 1 at Llyn Helyg in February.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina**Rare, probable escapes*

## HWYADEN GRIBGOCH

1991: Two in the Greenfield Valley, with singles at Shotwick Lake from Aug. 16th to 23rd and at Abergele pond on Jan. 10th.

1992: A male at Greenfield Valley in January, September and December and a female at Abergele Pond in January.

POCHARD *Aythya ferina**Winter visitor*

## HWYADEN BENGGOCH

1991: Regular in small numbers at several waters in the county in January to March and October to December, including Rhyl Brickworks Pool, maxima 32 in January and 38 in December; Rhyl Marine Lake, up to 20 in January; Hanmer Mere, 30 on Jan. 9th; Greenfield Valley, 20 on Jan. 28th; Rossett, 20 on Jan. 11th; Llyn Helyg, 17 on Feb. 26th and Shotwick Lake, 15 on Oct. 13th. Also single figure records from Gresford Flash, Dolwen, Drury Pool (Buckley) and Abergele Pond.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
RHYL B.P.	32	30	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	26	38

1992: There was an extraordinary count of 169 at Shotwick Lake on Jan. 22nd and a maximum of 47 at Rhyl Brickworks Pool in January, up to 12 at Dolwen Reservoir in January and up to 9 there from September to November. Elsewhere there were only single figure counts in winter from Llyn Helyg. Rhyl Marine Lake, Hanmer Mere, Drury Pool (Buckley), Abergele Pond, Llyn Moelfre and Oakenholt Pond.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
RHYL B.P.	47	31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	21	21

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula**Breeding resident and winter visitor*

## HWYADEN GOPOG

1991: Breeding was confirmed at Shotton Pools (4 pairs), Gresford Flash (3 young) and Ruabon (8 young). Numbers increased during the winter with the maximum numbers at Hanmer Mere, 51 on Nov. 17th and Shotwick Lake, 48 on Oct. 13th. Also regularly reported from Rhyl Brickworks Pool, maximum 28 in December; Rhyl Marine Lake, up to 26 in January; Llyn Helyg, 32 on Feb. 20th; DP, up to 32 in April; Greenfield Valley, 20 on Jan. 19th; Dolwen, 18 on October 15th and Llyn Bran, 16 on Sept. 1st.

1992: Eleven broods totalling 75 young were raised at DP and successful breeding was also reported from Shotton Pools and a pond near Ruabon (3 pairs). The maximum counts were 80 at Hanmer Mere in March, 31 at Llyn Helyg in January, 20 at Rhyl



Brickworks in January and 20 at Ysceifiog in November. There were 13 at Llyn Bran on Sept. 13th and many single figure records from other localities.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

HWYADEN BENDDU

Winter visitor

1991: Regular in the outer Dee Estuary and off the eastern section of the coastal strip. with a maximum of 250 on Dec. 28th, although the highest count submitted off the coast was only 16 at Pensarn on Jan. 13th. Elsewhere there were records of 1 to 3 from CQR/OMR, Flint, Rhyl Brickworks Pool and Abergele Pond, with occasional records from POA, the maximum being 13 on Dec. 6th and 24th.

1992: The maximum count was of 159 on Feb. 2nd with 126 off Prestatyn and 33 off Kinnel Bay. There were also several counts of 20 to 70 birds on the sea between POA and Towyn during January to March and December, plus 72 off Prestatyn on March 12th. Upriver there were 9 at CQR/OMR on Feb. 4th and 1 there on Sept. 13th

EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

Scarce winter visitor

1991: There were 4 at POA on April 28th and a male there on Oct. 8th.

1992: There was a female at Gronant on March 28th and 2 males and a female there on 29th, and 6 flew east at POA on Oct. 4th.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

HWYADEN GYNFFON HIR

Scarce winter visitor

1991: There were 7 female/immatures at POA on Dec. 21st, with 3 records of 6 birds there in November, 2 males at Llanddulas on Feb. 17th and 10 records of single birds along the coast during the winter months. Upriver there was 1 at CQR/OMR on Dec. 22nd.

1992: There was a male on Shotwick Lake from the beginning of the year until March 23rd, a female at POA on Jan. 22nd, 1 at Rhos Point, also on Jan. 22nd and 2 there on Sept. 23rd.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

MOR-HWYADEN DDU

Abundant winter visitor

1991: Large numbers off the coast during the winter months with maximum counts off Llanddulas of 2,100 in February and 660 in December.

1992: The highest counts were 3,050 off Prestatyn on March 29th and 1,300 there from March 10th to 12th. There were also 1,000 off Llanddulas on Jan. 26th and 390 off Rhyl on April 4th. A total of 170 flew west off POA on July 27th and 2 females were at CQR/OMR on Sept. 16th.



SURF SCOTER *Melanitta perspicillata*  
Rare vagrant

MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

1991: A male at Pensarn from Jan. 20th to 26th, with presumably the same bird off Llanddulas on Feb. 17th.

1992: No records

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*  
Scarce winter visitor

MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

1991: At Llanddulas there were 4 on Feb. 5th, 1 on Feb. 17th and 3 on Nov. 10th; A pair at CQR/OMR on Nov. 6th/7th; singles at POA on April 17th and Dec. 28th and 1 at Gronant on the unusual date of July 1st.

1992: There were 22 located in the Scoter flock off Prestatyn on March 10th, but the only other record was 1 at POA with 4 Common Scoter on Sept. 16th.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*  
Winter visitor

HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

1991: Regularly recorded in small numbers from several localities during the winter months, most commonly off the coast, with counts of up to 30 in January and 32 in December but also from Rhyl Marine Lake and Brickworks Pool, maximum 10 in February and 11 in October, R. Clwyd, POA, and CQR/OMR. Occasional records of single figures also came from Llyn Helyg, Llyn Brenig, Gresford Flash, Shotwick Lake, Pen-y-Cae Reservoir and Abergele Pond.

1992: Maximum numbers were reported from Rhyl Marine Lake, with up to 15 in January and 12 in December. Elsewhere there were 10 on Llyn Bran and 7 on Llyn Brenig on April 20th, 9 on R. Clwyd on Dec. 17th and a number of records of 1 to 4 birds from widespread localities.

SMEW *Mergus albellus*  
Rare winter visitor

LLEIAN WEN

1991: A female on Llyn Brenig on Jan. 27th.

1992: A female at Hanmer Mere from Jan. 26th to Feb. 22nd.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*  
Rare breeding resident and common winter visitor

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

1991: Most commonly recorded offshore with maximum counts of 61 on Feb. 17th from Rhos Point to Llanddulas and 55 in December, and at POA, maximum 37 on Oct. 19th, also regular at Rhyl Marine Lake, with up to 15 in January and 22 in November, CQR/OMR, with 12 on Oct. 24th and the R. Clwyd. No breeding records were received but a pair was seen displaying at Llangollen in April and 3 eclipse males were seen near Cynwyd on June 1st.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
COAST	30	61	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	10	55
POA	8	3	4	14	-	-	4	2	1	37	2	35
RHYL M.L.	15	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	22	3
R. CLWYD	6	-	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	-
CQR/OMR	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	4	-

1992: The maximum counts were 37 off Prestatyn on March 11th, 26 at POA in September and 18 at Rhos Point on Dec. 24th. A male was seen at Llangollen on May 11th and at CQR/OMR there were 2 on Sept. 24th, 1 on Oct. 29th and 3 on Nov. 28th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	5	18	15	5	2	-	1	-	26	2	10	2
RHYL M.L.	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	12
R. CLWYD	-	4	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	4

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser* HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

*Breeding resident and winter visitor in small numbers*

1991: Breeding was confirmed at Cynwyd (5 young) and Bont y Gwyddel (15 young), while up to 2 males and 4 females were present on the R. Dee at Berwyn Halt from January to May and the species was thought to have probably bred in the area. 2 pairs were present on the R. Elwy in May and 11 were on Llyn Brenig on July 18th. Larger numbers were recorded in winter, with the highest numbers on Hanmer Mere, where up to 59 were recorded in November. Also regularly recorded on R. Clwyd, with a maximum of 15 in August, there were 20 on R. Elwy on Dec. 7th and 7 on Rhyl Marine Lake in December. Singles were also recorded in winter at POA, CQR/OMR, Trefnant, the Ceiriog Valley and on several upland reservoirs.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
R. CLWYD	6	8	4	-	-	-	-	15	2	-3	8	10
HANMER	44	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	41

1992: Breeding was confirmed on the R. Elwy, with a female and 8 young at one site and a female and 6 young at another site, and at Llangollen (2 young seen). The maximum count was 36 at Hanmer Mere in January, but there were no reports from here for the second winter period. There were winter records of from 1 to 5 birds from R. Clwyd, Llyn Helyg, Llyn Brenig, Lindisfarne Lake, CQR/OMR, Llyn Alwen, Ysceifiog, Greenfield Valley and on the sea off Rhyl.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
R. CLWYD	3	4	2	2	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
HANMER	36	27	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* HWYADEN GOCH

*Uncommon breeding resident and winter visitor*

1991: The maximum counts were from Hanmer Mere with 21 in October and 19 in November. There was no evidence of breeding submitted but 5 birds were present in May at both Llyn Helyg and Gresford Flash and a pair were seen on Garegog pool on May 12th. There were singles in winter at Llyn Helyg (Oct. 14th) and Gronant (Jan. 18th).

1992: There were up to 15 on Hanmer Mere from January to March and 3 to 5 at Llyn Helyg from April to June, a male and 5 females at Llyn Moelfre on June 23rd and singles at Gresford Flash on Sept. 6th, and at Rhyl Brickworks from Oct. 25th to Nov. 8th.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus* BONCATH MEL

*Rare visitor*

1991: No records

1992: A single bird was noted both at Connah's Quay and over the R. Clwyd on May 24th, these records presumably relating to the same bird. 1 flew south-east over IMF on June 28th.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus* BARCUD

*Occasional visitor*

1991: The only record for the year was of a single bird near Llangollen on Feb 2nd.

1992: A single at Rhualt Hill on July 27th and 2 at the top of the Horseshoe Pass in September (date not specified) and 1 was reported from near Pen-y-Cae reservoir but no date was given.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus* BOD Y GWERNI

*Scarce passage migrant*

1991: A good year for this species with all records involving female or immature birds. In spring a single bird was recorded at Prestatyn on May 19th/20th, and females at Shotwick fields on 26th and IMF on June 2nd. The autumn movement began in August with a female/immature at OMR on 11th, followed by possibly the same bird recorded at



both Shotwick and CQR on the 13th; a female was at CQR on Sept. 1st with possibly the same bird at Shotwick on 2nd and 3rd; the final record was 1 at Shotwick on Sept. 9th.

1992: No records.

**HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

**BOD TINWEN**

*Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor*

1991: An immature male was observed being mobbed by a Peregrine at Pendinas on Feb. 6th, this being the earliest record of a bird on breeding territory this year. A male was seen close to Llyn Brenig (Sportsman's Arms) on March 10th. Later in the season birds were seen in suitable breeding sites on April 4th, May 3rd/12th and 22nd, June 3rd, 6th, 15th and 28th, with a male still being present in the Denbigh area on Sept. 8th and Oct. 2nd. On the coast there was a ringtail at Talacre Warren on April 11th and a male at OMR on Oct. 16th.

1992: A female was seen near Abergele roundabout on Jan. 3rd, this being the only record during the first winter period. Few records were received during the breeding season although a male was noted on territory near Wrexham on June 12th and 4 pairs were known to have attempted to breed, laying a total of 13 eggs. Only 1 of these pairs were successful, with all 5 eggs hatching and 5 young fledging. Autumn and winter records were mainly from the coast and included a female at CQR/OMR on Aug. 23rd and a male there on Nov. 24th. There was an interesting record from Ruabon Moors where 3 males were disturbed from an apparent winter roost on Oct. 17th, the same observer remarking that he had noted a decline in the numbers of ringtails during the winter of 1991/92.

**GOSHAWK** *Accipiter gentilis*

**GWALCH MARTH**

*Rare breeding resident*

1991: It is common knowledge that there is regular breeding of this species within the county but for obvious reasons locations of sightings during the breeding season remain confidential. A dead bird was found at Pen-y-Cae on Jan. 21st and inland winter records included a male at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on Jan. 23rd and another male at Gwaenysgor on Nov. 29th. The only other non-breeding record came from OMR on Sept. 18th.

1992: There was 1 at Gronant on Feb. 1st and 1 at POA on Aug. 12th with 2 over Llyn Helyg on May 5th. A male was seen at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on April 20th, soaring with 3 Buzzards. There were several other records from potential breeding areas, but in general these were fewer than in 1991, due mainly to less input from fewer observers.

**SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

**GWALCH GLAS**

*Common breeding resident*

1991: The large number of records received for the year indicate that without doubt population levels for this species are extremely healthy and that breeding success remains high. Most observers recorded sightings throughout the year although there were only 3 records of confirmed breeding submitted, from the Gwsaney estate area near Mold, where 2 pairs were successful, from Bont Newydd in the Elwy Valley, where again 2 pairs were successful and from Ruabon Moors where 3 nests were found and there was evidence of more. A female was seen to kill a Collared Dove at Saughall on April 24th.

1992: Breeding success was again noted at Gwsaney with 2 pairs in residence and the same observer reported birds preying on a winter Redwing roost on the estate. A family party of 4 birds was noted at Flint on Aug. 2nd, elsewhere, as in previous years, birds were recorded in good numbers across the county in all types of habitat with regular sightings at coastal sites during the winter months.



1991: Successful breeding was recorded at various sites throughout the county, not necessarily confined to upland areas. Traditional areas included World's End/Horseshoe Pass, where 5 nests were occupied although only 3 of these were successful, eventually fledging a total of 7 young. Breeding was also confirmed from 2 sites in the Llanarmon-yn-lal district and from Gwaenysgor, Llanfair TH and Rhuthun. Outside the breeding season there were numerous records from all parts of the county except the far south but this probably reflects the lack of observers visiting this area rather than the lack of birds. The maximum number recorded at any one time was a party of 10 at Pentre Llyn Cymer in Clocaenog Forest on March 21st.

1992: Fewer records were received this year, nevertheless interesting breeding records were received for the World's End region, where 4 pairs laid a total of 11 eggs but only 2 nests were successful, with 5 young fledging. Altogether there were 7 pairs in this general area raising a total of 7 young. Breeding was also confirmed at 3 sites at Llanfair TH and at Gwsaney, near Mold. On Sept 1st 6 were seen together at Rhyd-y-Foel and 6 were at Llanasa on Sept. 9th. Once more there were no records from the south of the county although 5 were seen over Fenn's Moss on May 3rd.



OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

*Rare passage migrant*

1991: Two records were received this year, both in March, with 1 flying north-east at Pendinas on 25th and 1 at Ty Mawr Reservoir on 30th.

1992: This was the best year for some time. The first record was of a bird which visited Ty Mawr Reservoir on two occasions (2 hours apart) on April 16th, on one occasion it was seen to catch a fish. This record was submitted as 2 separate birds but this is perhaps rather unlikely, although possible. On the same day 1 was at Rhyll Brickworks Pool and another was seen on 17th over Hawarden and Nercwys Mountain. 1 was at Llyn Helyg on May 30th/31st and on June 6th and there was an undated record from Shotwick Lake. There was one autumn record of 1 being mobbed by crows at Pen-y-Cae Reservoir on Sept. 24th.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

CUDYLL COCH

*Locally common breeding resident*

The county population appears to be still in a healthy state with records coming in from all parts of north Clwyd. Breeding was confirmed at Abergele, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Ruabon Moors (where one nest contained 7 eggs, however the observer noted that there were fewer nests there than in 1990) and Clocaenog Forest (where five nests had a minimum of 21 eggs producing 18 fledged young). Family parties were also seen in various places during August including Bwlch Pen Barras (7 birds together on Aug. 11th), Moel Fodair, near Bryn Rhyd-yr-Arian (4 on Aug. 3rd) and Mwdwl Eithin Alwen. Present throughout the breeding season at Talacre Warren.

1992: There was an apparent increase in numbers in the Ruabon Moors/Horseshoe Pass area over previous years and birds enjoyed a higher breeding success rate. Breeding was also noted at Llandegla and recorded in Clocaenog Forest (3 nests with 13 eggs and 12 young fledged). An interesting but somewhat surprising note from the RSPB at POA stated that Kestrels were uncommon there with only 1 record in April and 2 on Sept. 18th. (Perhaps the habitat is not suitable as there are no motorways running through the reserve - YET!) Elsewhere records were down in numbers, reflecting the general trend of fewer observers submitting records. The maximum number observed together was 4 at Fenn's Moss on May 3rd.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

*Scarce passage migrant*

1991: Single birds were seen at Prestatyn on July 3rd, Belgrano on July 10th, near Denbigh on Aug. 15th and Shotwick fields on Aug. 28th. A report from another site stated that an adult and 2 juveniles were seen together, indicating possible breeding within the county.

1992: A pair was watched for about half an hour at one site on May 3rd, catching and consuming dragonflies in flight, and it was thought that breeding may subsequently have taken place at this site. Elsewhere singles were seen at Rhyd-y-Meudwy near Rhuthun on July 10th and at Overton on Dee on July 11th.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

CUDYLL BACH

*Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor*

1991: As in previous years the majority of records were from coastal and estuarine regions during the autumn and winter months, although according to one observer there were more winter sightings around the Ruabon Moors area than in previous years. Peak sightings at CQR/OMR were in October with 18 records during the month. An interesting encounter between a Merlin and a Short-eared Owl was observed at Pendinas on May 8th. Although there were no confirmed breeding records for the year the Welsh Raptor Study Group are closely monitoring the population which seems to remain reasonably healthy.



1992: Relatively few records were received for the year and the wintering population on Ruabon Moors was reported to be down quite considerably. At POA there were 21 reported sightings, 13 of these in the October to December period. Seven pairs were known to have attempted to breed in the county, of which only 2 pairs were successful, with 6 young thought to have fledged.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

HEBOG TRAMOR

*Breeding resident*

1991: The future prospects for this species continue to be encouraging, for despite the loss of some breeding sites to quarrying activities and the disturbance from egg collectors and pigeon fanciers, the species continues to do very well throughout the county. Locations of breeding pairs remain confidential but of 4 pairs that nested in a central region of the county 2 pairs were successful, rearing a total of 6 young, 1 nest was found to contain infertile eggs and the other was robbed, possibly by humans. There were many sightings from across the county during the course of the year, with a large number from coastal and estuarine regions. POA had a total of 27 reported sightings, including a note that a female roosted on the colliery buildings for a week in November.

1992: In the Wrexham/Corwen area observers reported a record season with more site occupation and breeding success than previously. 10 pairs laid 18 eggs with 9 young reaching the fledging stage. Eggs disappeared from 2 nests, 1 clutch proved infertile, the eggs broke in another and 2 pairs did not lay at all. Elsewhere birds were regularly noted throughout the year from both coastal and inland sites.

RED GROUSE *Lagopus lagopus*

GRUGIAR

*Breeding resident, probably declining*

1991: The first young birds of the year were seen on Ruabon Moors on May 25th, but the breeding season was very poor due to the cold, wet weather. Autumn numbers were down on 1990 figures but a slight improvement was noted later. One observer reported "desperately low numbers" at Pendinas with only 1 record of a single bird on March 10th, and there were only very infrequent records for the Moel Famau area. Other scattered records were 2 on Llandegla Moors on May 12th; 1 at Bwlch Pen Barras on May 27th and Sept. 2nd; 1 at Mwdwl Eithin on Aug. 25th; a pair at World's End on Oct. 12th and 1 heard at Llyn Cyfynwy on Oct. 13th.

1992: Another very poor season on Ruabon Moors, probably due to heavy rains in late May and early June. The first chicks were heard on May 24th and the autumn census recorded numbers only slightly higher than in 1991. There were no reports from Llandegla this year and the only other records received were 1 at Rhaeadr y Bedd on May 3rd and 1 at Moel Garegog on May 16th.

BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix*

GRUGIAR DDU

*Breeding resident*

1991: The importance of Clwyd as a Welsh stronghold for this species was borne out by the number of records received from a range of localities. There were regular sightings from Clocaenog Forest and Cae Mor with 3 females at the latter site on Jan. 29th and 2 males and a female in Clocaenog on Jan. 30th, then most other records from these 2 sites were of single birds, between March and November. Elsewhere small numbers were reported from Llandegla Moors, Bwlch Pen Barras and the Llyn Brenig area, with a single male at Moel Famau on March 2nd/3rd. Larger numbers were recorded at the traditional sites with at least 24 males at a spring lek on Ruabon Moors and 8 females in the same area on Dec. 15th. The Pendinas lek peaked at 18 males on May 19th, with other significant numbers there being 12 on Feb. 2nd and 25th and 11 on March 24th. The Cilcain maximum was 6 on March 24th.

1992: Lek counts for Ruabon Moors were running at about the same level as in previous

years with a maximum count of 23 males. Elsewhere fewer records were received, with 5 males at a lek on Llantysilio Mountain, 5 on Jan. 15th at Cynwyd Forest and 2 pairs at Cilcain on April 24th. Small numbers were reported from Clocaenog Forest during January.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

*Rare breeding resident, status unclear due to releases*

1991: It is extremely difficult to assess numbers of truly wild birds as this species is bred as a game bird on a number of estates in the county. Records of large numbers close to these estates, for example at Llanasa and Gwsaney, can be discounted, but there is one interesting breeding record from Talacre Warren where a pair raised at least 4 young, and there was 1 at Bontuchel on April 14th.

1992: The only records of note this year were 12 at Clawdd Newydd on Jan. 13th and 1 above Dinbren Uchaf on April 16th.

NOTE: A description was received (with supporting sketch) of 2 Rock Partridges seen at Prestatyn on March 26th. These are again presumably releases from a nearby shoot and observers are reminded of the possible occurrence of this species as well as Chukar and various hybrids of Red-leg/Chukar etc. All sightings of Red-legged Partridge should be carefully checked to eliminate these possibilities.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

PETRISEN

*Scarce breeding resident*

1991: Judging from the number of records received this year it would seem that this species is improving its status in the county. Maximum numbers were recorded at Flint, with 9 to 11 recorded there on several dates from August to December and a peak of 17 on Sept. 29th. There were also 9 at DP on Nov. 15th. There were no reports of confirmed breeding but small numbers were seen during the breeding season at Padeswood, Llangollen, Llanasa, Sealand, Sandycroft and Towyn, with winter records from CQR and Corwen.

1992: Fewer records were received this year, the maximum being 9 at Flint on Jan. 6th and 4 there on Oct. 10th, with 4 at CQR on Jan. 22nd and 5 there on Oct. 26th. In the breeding season the only records were of a pair at CQR on April 30th and 2 at Talacre Warren on May 1st.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

SOFLIAR

*Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant, possibly breeding in some years*

1991: The only record was of 2 males at Llyn Helyg on May 25th.

1992: 1 was heard calling at Llyn Helyg on the early date of April 13th, suggesting a possible escape. A male was heard on Shotton Marsh on June 12th.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

FFESANT

*Breeding resident*

1991: As mentioned in previous reports large numbers are released on private estates for "sporting" purposes with many escaping and breeding elsewhere. It is therefore difficult to obtain an accurate picture of the status of this species, but there were a number of reports from areas well away from the breeding pens, including Clocaenog, Flint, Llyn Helyg, Towyn, Llanarmon-yn-Ial and Bwlch Pen Barras. A female was seen with young at Llyn Helyg on May 18th.

1992: Bearing in mind the comments above, the only record of any relevance is of 6 at Dyserth on Jan. 1st.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT *Chrysolophus amherstiae*

FFESANT Y FONESIG AMHERST

*Introduced breeding resident*



1991: All records came from the two traditional sites at Halkyn and Gwsaney. At Halkyn single males were reported on Jan. 24th and Feb. 24th, with a male and 2 females on Feb. 27th and a pair in March (date not specified). At Gwsaney all records were of single males, on Jan. 1st and 30th, Feb. 2nd and 17th, March 25th, April 25th, June 17th and July 7th and 26th.

1992: The only reports this year were of a male at Halkyn on May 22nd, 2 males displaying aggressively at Gwsaney on April 27th and 2 there on Dec. 18th.

**WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

RHEGAN Y DWR

*Uncommon winter visitor, possible rare breeding resident*

1991: Normally there are only winter records of this species, so it is interesting to note that 1 was seen at Gwsaney on June 29th. Breeding records for the county are rare therefore further observations in this suitable habitat may well bear fruit. There were many records of wintering birds from Pentre Mawr Pool, Abergele from Jan. 9th to Feb. 25th, with 2 seen on Feb. 22nd. In the second winter period there were only 2 records from this site, on Nov. 13th and 29th. Elsewhere singles were reported from POA on Jan. 3rd, 19th, Feb. 3rd and March 14th, Flint on March 31st, Gronant on Oct. 8th, 27th and Dec. 15th, and Gwsaney on Dec. 14th.

1992: The only records received this year were of singles at Gronant on Jan. 1st, Hendre on Jan. 26th and Pentre Mawr Pool on Oct. 29th and Nov. 7th.

**MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

IAR DDWR

*Common breeding resident*

1991: This species continues to be very common in the county with many successful breeding records submitted. Second broods were noted at many of the sites, eg Llanasa, Gronant, CQR/OMR and Bryn Alyn, Wrexham, with single broods at Pendinas, Gwsaney, Glan-y-Wern, Pontblyddyn, Buckley, Shotton Paper Mill Pools, Gwersyllt and on the R. Dulas behind Llanddulas beach. Notable winter numbers were 27 at Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele on Nov. 13th, 16 at Padeswood on Sept. 25th and 15 at Ysceifiog on Nov. 3rd and 10th, and there were numerous other records involving smaller numbers.

1992: There were fewer confirmed breeding records received this year with a pair at Llanasa rearing a brood of 5, first seen on May 5th and a similar number in a second brood noted on July 13th. Breeding was also reported from Pendinas, CQR, Gronant, Pen-y-Cae and Pant Glas Reservoirs, Wynnstay Lake and Ruabon. Winter records were widespread with maxima being 18 at Pentre Mawr Park on Jan. 12th, 14 at Padeswood on Oct. 10th, 10 at Ysceifiog Lake on Feb. 16th and 10 at Llandegla Fisheries on Nov. 12th.

**COOT** *Fulica atra*

CWTIAR

*Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor*

1991: Large concentrations were recorded throughout the county with confirmed breeding from many areas. Birds with a maximum of 5 young were noted at CQR fly ash pool on a number of occasions and a pair at Llandegla Trout Fisheries succeeded in raising 5 young from 2 broods. Breeding was also reported from Leeswood Top Pool, Hanmer Mere, Padeswood Pool, Ysceifiog, Drury, Shotton, Llyn Helyg, Nannerch Trout Fishery, Gwsaney, Ruabon and Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele. Largest winter numbers were noted at Llyn Helyg where there were 128 on Dec. 7th and 109 on Nov. 29th. Dolwen Reservoir held 110 on Oct. 13th and there were 57 at DP on Feb. 9th and 51 at Rhyl Brickworks Pool on Jan. 14th.

1992: Breeding records again came from the usual sites, with 6 pairs and 9 young being seen at Llyn Helyg on May 31st, and confirmed breeding also reported from Llandegla Fisheries, Ruabon, Ysceifiog and Nannerch Trout Fishery. Winter concentrations were again highest at Llyn Helyg with 130 on Feb. 19th and 117 on Jan. 8th. There were also



100+ at Shotwick on Jan. 22nd, 81 at Dolwen Reservoir on Sept. 13th and 37 at Rhyll Brickworks Pool on Dec. 26th. River records included 4 on the upper Alwen on April 4th and 1 on the R. Clwyd on April 29th.

# OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

## PIODEN Y MOR

*Scarce breeding resident, abundant passage migrant and winter visitor*

1991: Two pairs bred on the RSPB reserve at POA, 1 of which was successful, also 2 pairs on the OMR reserve, both of which failed due to nests being washed out by high tides. Inland breeding was reported from Shotton and Cynwyd (on the R. Dee), with other pairs in suitable breeding habitat at Gresford and Borras Pools, near Wrexham. Good numbers present throughout the year with up to 10,000 at POA in January, peaking at 20,000 there on Aug. 28th; and a maximum at CQR/OMR of 6,000 during September and October. Elsewhere there were up to 600 during the winter months at Rhos Point/Penrhyn Bay and between 200 and 400 on the R. Clwyd, with an autumn peak of 800 on Sept. 13th. A single albino was present in the main roost at POA during June and July and again on Aug. 26th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	10000	6500	4000	2600	2800	2800	4000	20000	16000	12000	9500	8000
CQR/OMR	1000	1000	2500	3000	2500	3200	1300	5000	6000	6000	4000	1500

1992: Breeding was reported from IMF, an island in Rhyll Marine Lake and Saltney, where a pair nested on a factory roof on an industrial estate alongside the R. Dee. Again good numbers were present in the early part of the year at POA, with a maximum of 10,000 on Feb. 3rd, but autumn numbers were somewhat lower than last year with a peak of 8000 on Aug. 30th. Up to 5,000 were regularly recorded at CQR/OMR during August to October, but numbers dropped off considerably in November and December. Numbers at other sites along the coast appeared to be similar to last year. Two partially leucistic birds were often present at POA during July.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	6400	10000	6000	2500	2500	2000	3320	8000	7500	4700	5000	5300
CQR/OMR	3000	3500	2200	550	13	34	2500	5000	5000	5000	200	320

# AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

## CAMBIG

*Rare visitor*

1991: The bird which wintered on the Dee estuary from November 1990 was seen at CQR/OMR on 4 days in January to 7th.

1992: No records.

# STONE CURLEW *Burhinus oedichnemus*

## RHEDWR Y MOELYDD

*Rare vagrant*

1991: 1 at Golden Grove, Llanasa on June 4th.

1992: No records.

# LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius* CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

*Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant, has bred*

1991: 2 at Gresford Flash on April 23rd, with 1 there on May 10th. At CQR/OMR there were singles on May 20th and July 3rd with a pair present on July 14th/15th, displaying briefly.

1992: Up to 6 were present at IMF during the summer but there was no evidence of breeding having occurred. Up to 9 birds were seen in June at a site where breeding has occurred in the past, and elsewhere there were singles at POA on July 8th and Aug. 23rd; 1 at CQR/OMR on July 17th, 2 there on 26th and 1 on 27th; an adult and 3 juveniles at a site in the north of the county on Aug. 3rd, where breeding may possibly have occurred; and 1 on the R Clwyd on Sept. 1st.

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

CWTIAD TORCHOG

Resident, breeding in small numbers, and passage migrant

1991: At least 5 pairs nested at POA, where birds were present throughout the year, with an autumn migration peak of 500 on Aug. 26th. Regularly recorded in the Rhyl/Towyn area, with highest numbers during autumn and early winter and a maximum of 77 on Sept. 24th. Fairly regular upriver at CQR/OMR with 40 on Feb. 4th and 100 on Aug. 13th being the maxima recorded.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	12	11	6	10	37	50	10	500	20	11	20	25
CQR/OMR	8	40	1	21	-	-	2	100	28	4	2	-

1992: No reports of breeding birds received this year. Again present all year at POA with peaks of 105 on May 29th, 400 in August and 500 on Sept. 1st. Apart from August with 100 present on 16th there were only 1 to 3 recorded at CQR/OMR. Numbers along the coast were also highest in autumn with a maximum of 200 at Rhyl on Sept. 9th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	8	8	12	18	105	50	13	400	500	50+	12	50
CQR/OMR	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	100	2	1	-	-

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

CWTIAD AUR

Scarce breeding resident, winter visitor

1991: The first bird back on territory was on March 10th on Ruabon Moors, from where the only report of breeding was received. Wintering flocks were generally fewer than 100 apart from 400 at Sealand on Nov. 15th, 110 on R. Clwyd on the same date and 100 at Sandycroft on March 26th. The most regular wintering sites appear to be the Deeside area and the R. Clwyd, with smaller numbers in the POA/Gronant area and CQR/OMR. There was little evidence of spring or autumn migration apart from a flock of c.75 which flew south over Hawarden at dusk on July 21st.

1992: The first bird was back on Ruabon Moors very early, on Jan. 11th but reports suggested that only 1 pair nested there this year. Winter numbers were generally low apart from 320 at IMF on Nov. 16th, otherwise the maxima were 58 at Gronant on Jan. 18th and 52 on R. Clwyd on Jan. 31st.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

CWTIAD LLWYD

Passage migrant and winter visitor

1991: Recorded at POA in every month except May, the highest numbers being in October and November with 200 to 250, dropping to 100 in December. Smaller numbers upriver at CQR/OMR, maximum 16 on Sept. 21st, and on R. Clwyd with 12 on Oct. 14th. Occasional records of single figures from Rhos Point and other coastal localities.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	20	70	14	23	-	1	12	1	24	200	250	100
CQR/OMR	8	9	6	11	-	-	-	4	16	9	2	2

1992: Recorded in every month of the year with the highest numbers this year in the early months, peaking at POA on Jan. 19th when 350 were present. There were no records this year from CQR/OMR and very few records from R. Clwyd with a maximum of 6 on Jan. 9th. A summer-plumaged bird was at IMF on May 18th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	350	200	10	15	22	2	3	33	50	95	98	76

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

CORNCHWIGLEN

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

1991: Reports of birds in suitable breeding habitat were received from several widely scattered areas, including 4 pairs on the OMR RSPB reserve. All reports of wintering flocks were from coastal areas or low-lying areas close to the Dee and Clwyd estuaries.



Maximum numbers reported were 3,000 at CQR/OMR in January and November, 1,500 at POA on Jan. 1st and 1,000+ on fields alongside the R. Clwyd on Dec. 29th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	1500	-	-	-	-	180	200	300	200	200	1000	350
CQR/OMR	3000	1000	20	6	8	150	400	500	2000	3000	2000	2000

1992: No reports of breeding birds received this year. Winter numbers followed a similar pattern to last year with maxima of 3,000 at CQR/OMR on Jan. 5th, 3,000 in the IMF/Shotwick area during November and December, and 1,900 on R. Clwyd on Dec. 15th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	500	550	30	-	-	-	2	70	100	115	50	500
CQR/OMR	3000	1500	1	1	7	38	250	500	450	600	2000	470

#### KNOT *Calidris canutus*

#### PIBYDD YR ABER

Passage migrant and winter visitor

1991: Intermittently present in good numbers in the early part of the year at POA, which seems to be used as an alternative roost site to the English side of the estuary, with up to 1,200 present in January dropping to 100 in March. A summer-plumaged bird was there on June 9th but autumn passage was rather poor. Numbers gradually built up from early November to a maximum of 500 on Dec. 22nd. The pattern was fairly similar at CQR/OMR with maxima of 400 on Jan. 17th and 300 on Nov. 24th. Elsewhere small numbers were regularly recorded at Rhos Point, maximum 15 on Feb. 23rd; Gronant, max. 100 on Feb. 26th; and the middle Dee estuary, max. 35 at Ffynnongroyw on March 2nd.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	1200	1000	100	2	-	1	2	10	8	71	200	500
CQR/OMR	400	200	300	-	-	-	-	1	1	10	300	200

1992: Numbers were generally lower than in 1991 with maxima at POA of 300 on Feb. 3rd and 250 in November, and at CQR/OMR 500 on Nov. 15th. Very few records were received from elsewhere and these involved only single figures.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	200	300	50+	2	5	-	-	10	11	21	250	200
CQR/OMR	200	200	-	4	-	-	-	-	30	70	500	-

#### SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

#### PIBYDD Y TYWOD

Passage migrant and winter visitor

1991: Wintering birds on the coast were fairly mobile but were generally to be found on the sandy beaches between Gronant and Towyn. Numbers were fairly high in the early part of the year with a maximum of 195 at Belgrano beach on Feb. 2nd, but somewhat lower in the later months with 138 at Kinmel Bay on Dec. 6th being the highest number reported. Only 1 record upriver, at CQR/OMR on Jan. 20th

1992: A similar pattern to last year, although probably under-recorded. Maxima were 180 at Prestatyn on Jan. 26th and 101 at Talacre on Dec. 24th. None reported from the Dee estuary this year.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1991	140	195	-	12	-	1	2	3	10	79	45	138
1992	180	80	-	-	5	1	-	10	3	25	100	101

#### LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

#### PIBYDD BACH

Uncommon passage migrant

1991: There were 1 to 3 at IMF from May 21st to 26th and 1 there on June 13th. At POA there were 3 on Aug. 28th, 2 on Sept. 7th and singles on Aug. 31st, Sept. 8th and Sept. 12th; singles on R. Clwyd on Aug. 22nd and 24th, 2 there on 31st and 4 on Sept. 8th; 1 at CQR/OMR on Aug. 13th and the last record was 1 at Talacre on Oct. 13th.



1992: More records this year with spring birds at POA on May 12th and at IMF on May 24th, 25th and 29th. 1 at Gronant on July 15th, then the main passage began with 1 at POA on Aug. 29th and 3 on 31st, with 1 to 4 regular there in September to 19th and a maximum of 7 on 11th. Present almost daily at IMF from Sept. 13th to Oct. 23rd, maximum 6 on Oct. 5th, and a single bird was present there from Nov. 12th to Dec. 11th, disappearing with the onset of hard weather.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

PIBYDD TEMMINCK

*Rare vagrant*

1991: No records

1992: All records from IMF Border Pool, in May, 1 on 15th, 2 on 25th and 1 on 28th and 29th.

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

PIBYDD CAMBIG

*Uncommon passage migrant*

1991: Singles at CQR/OMR on July 30th, Aug. 9th and 12th, then the main passage began on Aug. 24th when a moulting adult and 10 juveniles were at POA and 2 were on R. Clwyd. Numbers quickly built up at POA to 31 by Aug. 31st with a peak of 34 on Sept. 13th. Numbers then soon dropped off and there were none after the end of the month, apart from a very late bird on Nov. 27th. On R. Clwyd there were up to 6 during September and the last 1 there was on Oct. 2nd. Apart from the early records above there was only 1 other record from CQR/OMR, of 3 on Oct. 7th and elsewhere the only record was of 5 at Gronant on Sept. 8th.

1992: An unusually early record of 1 at POA on March 6th, then in autumn a single there on 5 days between Sept. 13th and 19th. Present daily at IMF from Sept. 12th to Oct. 13th, maximum 5 on Sept. 13th.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

PIBYDD DU

*Winter visitor in small numbers*

1991: All records from Rhos Point, where recorded up till May 9th, maximum 15 on Feb. 5th. Present again from Nov. 3rd to the year end, maximum 11 on Nov. 21st.

1992: Again, only recorded from Rhos Point, the last report being on March 8th, maximum 23 on Jan. 30th. No records from the second winter period, though presumably present.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

PIBYDD Y MAWN

*Common passage migrant and winter visitor*

1991: Recorded throughout the year at POA, with the highest numbers in November and December, maximum 4,000 on Dec. 10th. At CQR/OMR present in every month except June, maximum 4,000 on Nov. 12th and 24th. Present during winter months in small numbers on R. Clwyd, up to 250 in January and February, and 300 on Nov. 29th. Inland records were 1 at Ty Mawr on April 30th, present for "about 3 days", 11 at Gresford Flash on May 15th and 2 at Shotton on May 29th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	1000	500	500	48	100+	13	50	950	100	200	2000	4000
CQR/OMR	2500	1000	1000	1200	100	-	84	300	20	800	4000	2000

1992: Following last year's December maximum the highest numbers at POA were in the early part of the year, with a maximum of 3,700 on Jan. 22nd. Again present all year with a late winter peak of 1,500 on Nov. 29th. Considerably fewer this year at CQR/OMR, with peaks of 500 in January and 800 on Aug. 16th. The maximum on R. Clwyd was 400 on Jan. 9th and there was 1 inland record, 6 at Gresford Flash on April 22nd.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	3700	2200	2500	164	700	150	140	550	500	700+	1500	500+
CQR/OMR	500	300	10	4	-	-	30	800	90	28	150	210

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

PIBYDD TORCHOG

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

1991: There was 1 present intermittently on the bunded pool at CQR from Feb. 11th to 18th, then no further records until August with singles at CQR/OMR on 9th, 11th and 23rd, and on 5 dates during September, occasional records there during October with a maximum of 6 on 19th, and 1 still present in November. Elsewhere 2 at POA on Aug. 25th and 27th, with 1 on 28th and 30th, and Sept. 10th; singles on R. Clwyd on Aug. 25th, 26th, 29th and 30th, Sept. 15th and Oct. 2nd; 1 at Borras Airfield pools on Sept. 10th.

1992: Recorded in every month at IMF, with a maximum of 15 on Sept. 18th. At CQR/OMR there were 3 on Jan. 8th, 1 on Aug. 10th, and regular during late August and early September (to 14th), maximum 6 on 3rd. At POA singles on March 22nd, Sept. 2nd and 13th and Dec. 1st; on R. Clwyd singles on Aug. 29th and 31st, and Sept. 27th.

1992	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
IMF	4	4	11	6	5	1	5	8	15	4	6	5

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

GIACH FACH

Scarce winter visitor

1991: Most records were from Gronant and Towyn, mostly singles but up to 3 at Gronant in February and November and 6 at Towyn on Jan. 19th, recorded up to March 17th and returning birds from Oct. 14th. Elsewhere 4 at Pensarn on Jan. 21st, 1 on Ruabon Moors on Jan. 20th, 1 at Flint Marsh on Nov. 24th and 1 on R. Clwyd on Dec. 12th.

1992: 1 to 3 occasionally reported from Gronant and Towyn in January and February. The only other records were 1 on Ruabon Moors on Feb. 8th; singles on R. Clwyd on March 4th and Dec. 20th; and at Flint Marsh on March 22nd and Dec. 20th.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

GIACH GYFFREDIN

Passage migrant and winter visitor, scarce breeding resident

1991: The only reports of birds in possible breeding areas were from Cilcain on March 24th and Gwsaney on April 1st. Widespread in winter with the highest numbers reported from coastal marshes and fields, and the river estuaries and valleys. Maximum count was 85 at Gronant on Nov. 16th.

1992: Birds were present at IMF during the breeding season but no drumming was heard and there was no evidence of breeding. Up to 100 recorded regularly at Gronant from October to December but away from the above 2 sites the highest number reported was 13 on a pond near Ruabon on Feb. 17th.

1992	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
IMF	P	15	5	4	1	2	6	70	54	13	50	18

P = Present but no count made

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

CYFFYLOG

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor

1991: Roding birds were reported from the Llyn Helyg area, Gwsaney and Nercwys Mountain and reported to be present all year at Hendre. Winter records away from these areas included singles at 2 sites on Ruabon Moors from January to March and single records from 6 other sites, mostly in the south of the county, but 1 near Rhyl Brickworks Pool on Feb. 8th. Up to 10 were regularly recorded in Clocaenog Forest (in different areas) during November and December.

1992: Reports of roding birds were more widespread this year, (some of these being discovered during Nightjar surveys):- Llyn Helyg area, Cwm, Nercwys Mountain, Moel Findeg, Tir-y-Coed Wood, Ruabon Moors and Northop. There were however fewer winter records with only 4 singles reported away from the above sites:- 1 at Llanefydd



on Jan. 4th, 1 at Hawarden on March 8th, 1 in Clocaenog Forest on Nov. 10th and 1 on Moel Famau on Nov. 16th.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa* RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

*Passage migrant and winter visitor*

1991: The numbers of birds wintering on the Dee estuary are of international importance, with the vast majority usually to be found on the upper estuary, in the CQR/OMR/Flint area. Up to 1,000 were regularly seen there in January, with numbers dropping off gradually to the last 1 on May 22nd. Returning birds were present from July 17th and reached 1,000 by Oct. 12th, with up to 1,500 regularly in November and December. Much lower numbers at POA with a maximum of 57 on Jan. 15th, 2 singles in February and 1 in March, then small numbers occasionally from July to December. The only other site where recorded was R. Clwyd with 1 on Feb. 28th, 14 on July 2nd, then 1 to 4 occasionally to Oct. 10th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	57	1	1	-	-	-	1	25	6	1	12	2
CQR/OMR	1000	500	200	30	12	-	60	12	376	1400	1500	1500

1992: Even higher numbers at CQR/OMR than last year with up to 1,500 in January and 2,000 in October and November. Present all year with lowest numbers in May and June, however there was a dramatic increase in the number of birds summering at IMF during the corresponding period and these birds were often watched flying out towards CQR/OMR/Flint at dusk. Many of these birds were in the full breeding plumage of the Icelandic race. There were very few records from POA this year with maxima of 7 on May 10th and 4 on Nov. 9th. On R. Clwyd there were singles on Jan. 9th and 13th and March 24th, 1 to 4 from April 12th to 21st, 6 on June 27th and 1 to 3 occasionally in August.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	3	-	1	-	7	-	3	-	-	-	4	2
CQR/OMR	1500	1200	700	300	P	P	280	535	665	2000	2000	1500
IMF	1	3	2	140	268	287	315	150	140	95	3	5

P = Present but no count made





BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica* RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRITH

Passage migrant and winter visitor

1991: Normally recorded only in small numbers with peaks in the early part of the year of 40 at POA on Jan. 5th and 12 at CQR/OMR on March 16th. Rather more in autumn with 60 at POA on Sept. 25th and 120 on Oct. 5th, and 60 at CQR/OMR on Sept. 29th. On R. Clwyd reported fairly regularly on autumn passage from early August to mid October, mostly 1 to 10 but 40 on Sept. 25th. Occasional records from the coast as far west as Penrhyn Bay.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	40	2	1	4	-	-	1	2	60	120	25	71
CQR/OMR	-	5	12	3	1	-	-	12	60	15	2	-

1992: Some evidence of spring passage this year with peaks of 100 at POA on April 4th and 30+ at CQR/OMR on March 7th, otherwise only small numbers recorded. Elsewhere 1 at Rhyl on Jan. 10th, occasional records of singles on R. Clwyd from June 28th to Aug. 19th, with 16 there on July 9th. Small numbers (maximum 3) were present at IMF with the Black-tails from June 2nd to July 5th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	17	46	12	100	7	6	3	5	2	1	1	3
CQR/OMR	1	2	30+	1	2	4	-	-	1	3	-	-

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

COEGLFINIR

Passage migrant

1991: The first record was 1 at CQR/OMR on April 16th, then 10 were on R. Clwyd on 24th, 1 at POA on 27th and 4 there, 3 at Rhos Point and 2 at Flint on 28th. Subsequently present in good numbers until May 19th with a late record at POA on June 9th. Peak numbers were 25 at Flint on May 5th, 21 on R. Clwyd on May 7th and 18 at CQR/OMR on May 3rd and 8th. Return passage commenced at Gronant on June 28th, on R. Clwyd on July 2nd and CQR/OMR on July 19th, with autumn maxima of 15 at CQR/OMR on Aug. 13th and 11 at POA on Sept. 10th/11th. 1 or 2 were regular in September, with the last record being 2 on R. Clwyd on Oct. 25th. There were inland records of singles flying over Ruabon Moors on May 4th and Aug. 31st.

1992: The first was at CQR/OMR on April 19th, then 3 at POA on 25th and 14 near Flint on 26th. Apart from 50+ on R. Clwyd on April 29th numbers this year were generally lower than last year, with maxima of 6 at POA on May 9th and 7 at CQR/OMR on May 17th. There was 1 inland record of a bird flying over Hawarden at 10.00 PM on Aug. 20th and the last report was 1 on the R. Dee at Shotton on Sept. 17th.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

GYLFINIR

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

1991: Present all year with highest numbers at POA in the autumn and winter months and a peak of 4,000 on Aug. 28th. Present in smaller numbers at most suitable coastal and estuarine locations. Birds were reported in suitable breeding habitat from numerous inland sites, mostly on higher ground, but there were no reports of confirmed breeding.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	1030	600	650	540	90	384	1300	4000	1300	1000	700	700
CQR/OMR	38	220	230	50	107	70	170	200	100	1300	50	50

1992: A similar pattern to last year with a peak of 1,700 at POA on Feb. 23rd. Breeding was confirmed on Llandegla Moors and was reported as probable at Glan-y-Wern, Cilcain, Llyn Aled and Llyn Bran.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	1100	1700	1000	700	100	50	1000	1250	1200	1500	800	800
CQR/OMR	50	400	20	2	2	-	58	120	55	15	44	64

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus*      PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG  
*Passage migrant and scarce winter visitor*

1991: Small numbers regular at CQR/OMR from January to the end of March, maximum 11 on Jan. 5th. Autumn passage there began with 3 on July 10th and 4 on 11th, rising to 8 by Aug. 9th and peaking at 10 on Oct. 8th. Subsequently 1 to 5 there regularly in November and December. The only other records were of singles at POA on April 13th and 17th and Aug. 9th, and 4 on R. Clwyd on Oct. 8th.

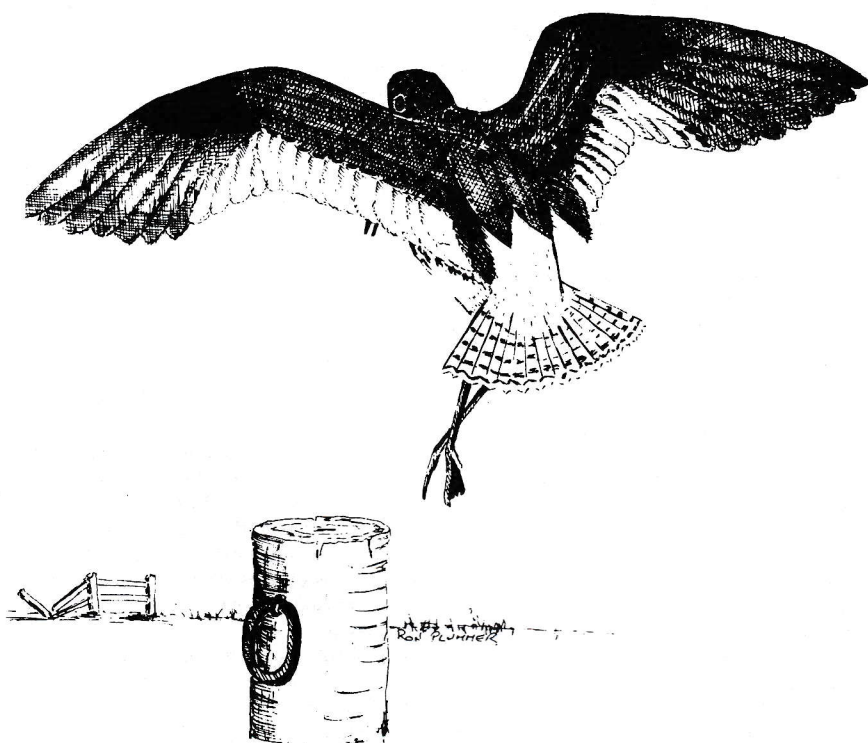
1992: Recorded at CQR/OMR throughout the autumn and winter months, usually 1 to 4 in winter, with 5 on Jan. 5th and an autumn peak of 40 on Sept. 24th. At IMF present up to May 14th, peaking at 15 on April 25th, and from June 12th. The only other records were from R. Clwyd, singles on Sept. 5th and Oct. 25th/26th.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*      PIBYDD COESGOCH

*Scarce breeding resident, common passage migrant and winter visitor*

1991: A pair was seen with young on Ruabon Moors in July. The only other inland record was 1 at Ty Mawr on Oct. 13th. Maximum numbers were recorded at CQR/OMR and POA in autumn and winter, although present in every month. Maxima of 3,000 at POA on Aug. 26th, and at CQR/OMR of 2,000 on Aug. 27th and Sept. 24th to 26th. Elsewhere up to 300 on R. Clwyd (March 13th) and small numbers at other coastal and estuarine sites.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	250	400	500	250	4	26	400	3000	1000	1300	1600	2000
CQR/OMR	38	220	230	50	107	70	170	200	100	1300	50	50





1992: Four pairs were seen displaying at IMF but no broods were seen, and possible breeding was reported from alongside the R. Clwyd. A similar pattern to autumn and winter records as last year with peaks of 1,500 at POA on Oct. 12th and 2,500 at CQR/OMR on Aug. 16th. The maximum reported away from these 2 sites was 410 at Rhyl Marine Lake on Dec. 11th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	1000	800	1000	700	12	15	500	700	515	1500	400	300+
CQR/OMR	150	200	1300	400	1	-	600	2500	1600	120	415	50

#### GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

PIBYDD COESWERDD

*Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor*

1991: Records in the early part of the year were 2 on R. Clwyd on Jan. 17th, 1 at OMR on Feb. 3rd and 1 at Mostyn on Feb. 22nd, then a few spring passage records with 1 at CQR May 5th and singles at POA on May 10th and June 8th/9th. Autumn passage commenced with a single at CQR/OMR on July 20th, then regular there until Oct. 8th with peaks of 19 on Aug. 25th and 33 on Sept. 29th. At POA small numbers present from Aug. 25th until late September, maximum 12 on 12th; on R. Clwyd regular from July 23rd to late October, maximum 7 on Sept. 8th and 28th, with 1 there on Nov. 10th.

1992: The only spring records were of 1 or 2 at IMF from mid April to mid May. The first autumn record was 2 at Whitesands, Shotton on June 29th, then fairly regular, though usually only in small numbers from July to early October, maxima of 3 at POA on several occasions, 35 at CQR/OMR on Sept. 6th, 17 on R. Clwyd on Aug. 25th and 20 at IMF on Aug. 4th.

#### GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

PIBYDD GWRYDD

*Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor*

1991: 1 at DP on Jan. 1st, 1 near Rhuddian on April 12th, 1 on the R. Clywedog at Llanynys-Pentre on July 6th. Regular at Shotton Pools in July and August, with a maximum of 12 on July 7th, 2 at POA on Sept. 12th and 1 on R. Clwyd on Oct. 2nd.

1992: Regular in single figures at Shotton and IMF from late June to early September, with maxima of 9 at Shotton on June 29th and 9 at IMF on Aug. 19th. The only other records were 1 at Ysceifiog on Aug. 13th, 3 on R. Clwyd on Sept. 13th with 1 there on Nov. 22nd and 1 at POA on Oct. 5th.

#### WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

*Rare passage migrant*

1991: 1 at Shotton Pools on Sept. 1st and 2nd.

1992: 1 at Shotton Pools on June 22nd.

#### COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

*Passage migrant and summer visitor, probably breeds*

1991: 1 on R. Clwyd near Trefnant on Feb. 23rd then the first spring record was on April 11th at Ty Mawr Reservoir. Spring passage birds were also reported from R. Clwyd, Flint, Rhyl Marine Lake, CQR/OMR, Llanasa, Gresford Flash and Hanmer Mere, which had the spring maximum of 6 on May 4th. There were no records of confirmed breeding but birds were reported in summer from suitable breeding habitat at Cynwyd (on R. Dee), Llanfair-T.H., Glan y Wern, Brenig Reservoir, Alwen Reservoir and near Corwen (R. Dee). Widespread on autumn passage in July and August with up to 31 on R. Clwyd in July and last recorded on Sept. 24th (3 on R. Clwyd).

1992: The first was at POA on April 11th, then small numbers were widespread on spring passage. Once again there were no reports of confirmed breeding but another good autumn passage from late June to early September, with the maximum on R. Clwyd of 45 on July 19th. There were October records on 10th (2 at POA), and 26th (1 on R. Clwyd) and 1 on R. Clwyd on Dec. 4th, 20th and 31st.



WILSON'S PHALAROPE *Phalaropus tricolor* LLYDANDROED WILSON

*Rare vagrant*

1991: An immature at POA on Sept. 6th (Accepted by BBRC)

1992: No records.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

LLYDANDROED GWYDDFGOCH

*Rare vagrant*

1991: A female at Gresford Flash on May 22nd.

1992: No records.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

CWTIAD Y TRAETH

*Winter visitor*

1991: Most birds are found along the coast from Rhos Point to Llanddulas, with smaller numbers in the Rhyl/Towyn area and occasional records from further east. A maximum of 200 recorded at Rhos Point in February, March and December. All the records from POA were during autumn passage between July 12th and Sept. 13th, with a maximum of 12 on July 13th. At CQR/OMR there were singles on Aug. 11th, 26th and 28th, with 2 there on Aug. 13th.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
RHOS PT.	51	200	200	97	72	-	5	20	84	80	162	200

1992: Considerably under-recorded this year with very few reports from the main site at Rhos Point. The maximum reported was 105 at Llanddulas on Oct. 26th. At POA there were singles on April 19th, May 18th and 29th, 2 on June 2nd and July 5th, 1 to 6 throughout August and singles on Sept. 1st and 17th. At CQR/OMR 3 on Aug. 10th and 2 on Sept. 9th.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

SGIWEN FRECH

*Uncommon passage migrant*

1991: 1 off POA on July 17th and 1 off Prestatyn the following day, 1 off Rhos Point on Sept. 5th, 1 POA Sept. 14th with 3 there on 22nd, an immature off Llanddulas on Oct. 13th and an adult off POA on Oct. 18th.

1992: 1 off POA on Aug. 12th, then recorded there on 7 dates between Sept. 1st and 15th, mostly singles but 2 on 7th and 3 on 11th; 1 off Gronant on Oct. 8th.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

*Passage migrant*

1991: The first record was 1 off Llanddulas on June 12th, then small numbers regularly offshore from POA to Rhos Point until late October, mostly single figures but 25 flying west off POA on Aug. 17th and 27th, 35 there on Sept. 22nd and 31 flying west off Rhyl in 1 hour on Oct. 17th. There was a pale phase adult upriver at CQR/OMR on Oct. 17th and an unusual inland record of 1 near the top of Moel Arthur (over 400 metres) on Oct. 6th on a calm sunny afternoon.

1992: The first was 1 off POA on July 26th, then a similar pattern to last year at the coast, with a maximum of 32 off POA on Aug. 30th and the last record on Oct. 13th. A pale phase adult upriver at Flint on Sept. 1st.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

SGIWEN LOSTFAIN

*Scarce passage migrant*

1991: Singles off POA on Oct. 1st and 17th and 2 there on Oct. 18th and 19th.

1992: 3 adults west off POA on Sept. 4th and a juvenile there on Sept. 11th.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

SGIWEN FAWR

*Uncommon passage migrant*

1991: An early record of 1 west off Prestatyn on June 15th, then 1 at POA on Aug. 10th, 2 Llanddulas Aug. 31st, several records from POA in October:- 4 on 1st, 3 on 13th, 4 on 18th and 4 on 19th, with 1 also seen off Rhyl on 18th. Most birds seen were flying west.  
1992: The only records this year were 5 west off POA on Sept. 4th and 1 there from October 12th to 15th, "seen well as it fed on a dead goose on the beach".

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus* GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR  
*Scarce visitor*

1991: A good year for this species. An adult at Penrhyn Bay/Rhos Point on Jan. 16th and March 5th/6th; a 1st winter at Gronant on Feb. 2nd, with an adult there on Feb. 17th and a 2nd summer on Feb. 24th; an adult at POA July 29th to 31st, Aug. 27th and Sept. 6th to 16th and 25th; a 2nd winter at Prestatyn on Aug. 15th and an adult at Gronant on Dec. 30th. A 1st summer was found dead on Shotton rifle range on April 30th.  
1992: An adult was present at Gronant throughout March; an adult at POA on Aug. 25th, Sept. 5th and 10th; a 2nd winter at Gronant on Oct. 18th with an adult there on Nov. 20th, and 1 at Abergele on Dec. 5th.

LAUGHING GULL *Larus atricilla*

GWYLAN CHWERTHINOG

*Rare vagrant*

1991: A 2nd winter bird at POA on Dec. 20th and 22nd. (Accepted by BBRC)  
1992: No records.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

GWYLAN FECHAN

*Scarce visitor*

1991: Single 1st winter birds at POA on Jan. 6th and Feb. 16th; a 1st summer at Shotwick on May 27th and at Shotton Pools on 29th; 15 off POA in gales on Dec. 20th, with 1 there on 24th.  
1992: 2 at POA on March 21st, and 1-2 occasionally at IMF from April to June.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

GWYLAN BENDDU

*Common breeding resident and winter visitor*

1991: Present throughout the year with breeding reported from several widely scattered localities. Up to 2,000 at POA in September, 1,100 on R. Clwyd on Aug. 28th, 600 at Hanmer Mere March 17th, and a total of 15,000 flying to roost over CQR/OMR on Feb. 11th.  
1992: No apparent change in status, maximum reported was 1800+ going to roost on R. Clwyd on Dec. 15th.

RING-BILLED GULL *Larus delawarensis*

GWYLAN FODRWYBIG

*Rare vagrant*

1991: A 2nd winter on R. Clwyd at Rhyl on Oct. 28th.  
1992: A very confiding 2nd summer at Rhyl Brickworks Pool from April 10th to 20th.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD

*Passage migrant and winter visitor*

1991: Common visitor to the coasts and estuaries, largest numbers in autumn and winter periods, with up to 2,000 at POA in August.  
1992: Similar status to last year, maximum reported was 1,500 at Gronant on Jan. 4th. An adult showing characteristics of the race *L. c. heinei* was at Gronant on Oct. 31st.



LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF  
*Breeding resident and passage migrant*

1991: Present in small numbers throughout the year, with maxima of 125 at CQR/OMR on Sept. 11th and an exceptional 400+ at Gresford Flash on Sept. 19th.

1992: Fewer reports than last year, with a maximum of 120 at Gresford Flash on June 17th.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus* GWYLAN Y PENWAIG  
*Breeding resident, passage migrant and common winter visitor*

1991: Present throughout the year with maxima of 1,400 at Llanddulas on Dec. 9th and 1,000 at CQR/OMR on Feb. 11th.

1992: No change in status but lower numbers than last year with a maximum of 500 at Gronant on Jan. 4th.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans* GWYLAN GOES FELEN  
*Probably rare visitor, status uncertain*

1991: All records were of adults, with 1 at Flint Marsh on Feb. 5th, 1 at Shotwick on Sept. 4th, 3 there on 11th and 6 on 14th, 1 at OMR on Sept. 7th.

1992: No records.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides* GWYLAN YR ARCTIG  
*Rare visitor*

1991: An adult at Gronant on Feb. 1st and 17th and a 2nd/3rd year there from June 28th to July 14th.

1992: A 1st winter on R. Clwyd on Feb. 23rd/24th and a 3rd summer there on June 24th, a 1st winter at OMR on March 19th.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus* GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD  
*Scarce visitor*

1991: An adult at Shotwick intermittently from Jan. 21st to Feb. 14th; single adults at Gronant on Jan. 31st, Feb. 2nd, Feb. 16th, Sept. 8th, Oct. 27th and Dec. 6th with a 2nd year there on Dec. 7th; an adult at Flint tip occasionally between Feb. 2nd and 28th, and an adult at POA on Dec. 24th, 25th and 30th.

1992: Single adults at Gronant on Jan. 4th, Feb. 1st/2nd, March 1st, 10th and 23rd, with possibly the same bird at POA on March 22nd/23rd; a 2nd summer at Rhyl Splash Point on Aug. 7th, and a 3rd winter on R. Clwyd on Sept. 29th.

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

1991: Regular visitor to the coast and estuaries, a few inland, maximum 188 at CQR/OMR on Jan. 20th.

1992: Maximum 215 at CQR/OMR in November.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla* GWYLAN GOES DDU  
*Passage migrant and non-breeding visitor*

1991: Birds from nearby Gwynedd colonies regularly reported offshore at Rhos Point, less frequently further east, except in strong north-westerly winds, as with 215 west off Prestatyn on June 10th, 250 POA Nov. 2nd and 350 west at POA on Dec. 20th. An injured bird was found on Towyn sea wall on Jan. 6th.

1992: The maximum reported was 190 west at POA on July 27th. A 1st summer bird with a damaged bill was at Greenfield Valley Country Park on May 2nd.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

MORWENNOL BIGDDU

*Common passage migrant*

1991: 1 at POA on March 19th/20th, then 2 at Rhos Point on April 10th and 2 at Talacre on 11th. The main arrival was during late April and spring passage peaked on May 11th with 30 at POA. Good numbers on autumn passage with peak counts at POA of of 550 on July 19th/20th and 800 on Aug. 4th. Elsewhere regular on R. Clwyd from late June to early September, peaking at 250 on July 18th, and at Gronant with 280 on Sept. 8th. 2 were upriver at CQR/OMR on Aug. 24th.

1992: The first record was 1 at POA on April 4th, with a spring peak there of 100 on May 4th, and 86 at Rhyl on April 29th. Autumn passage was again very good with a peak of c.1,000 at POA on July 20th, and up to 400 regularly during August. Elsewhere the R. Clwyd roost built up to a maximum of 364 on Aug. 16th and there were 230 at Gronant on July 24th. Upriver 2 were at White Sands, Shotton on June 29th and at IMF there were 3 on June 11th and 1 on Aug. 15th.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

MORWENNOL GYFFREDIN

*Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant*

1991: The first records were 5 at Flint on April 28th and 2 at POA on April 29th. Following the disastrous desertion of the Shotton colony in 1990 there was better news this year as 170 pairs nested and 306 young birds were ringed. An adult was seen still feeding young at this colony on the late date of Sept. 9th. There was one inland record of 1 at Buckley Mountain Pool on July 20th and the maximum autumn number reported was 130 at POA on Sept. 12th, although 400 Common/Arctic (probably mostly Common) were at POA on Aug. 9th. A "portlandica" phase bird was seen at CQR on Aug. 23rd.

1992: The first birds (5) were reported at Shotton on April 30th, and a very successful breeding season there resulted in 315 pairs rearing a record number of 555 young. A pair also attempted to breed at IMF for the first time, but were unsuccessful. Up to 140 were regular at POA in August and September, with up to 250 Common/Arctic on Aug. 3rd and Sept. 1st.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

*Uncommon passage migrant, has bred*

1991: Singles at CQR/OMR on July 2nd and Aug. 10th, small numbers usually present at POA during late summer and early autumn, maximum 38 on Aug. 8th.

1992: 1 at Flint on May 3rd, 10 at CQR/OMR on Aug. 12th and small numbers occasionally at POA from late July to mid September, maximum 10 on Sept. 10th.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

MORWENNOL FECHAN

*Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant*

1991: 40 pairs nested at the Gronant colony, rearing 30 young to the fledging stage. Small numbers regularly seen along the coast from May to August, and a total of 60+ flew west past Rhyl Splash Point on Aug. 4th. At CQR/OMR 1 on July 30th, 28 on Aug. 23rd, 12 on 24th and 3 on 25th.

1992: An excellent breeding season at Gronant with 52 pairs rearing over 100 young. The maximum number recorded away from the colony was 60 at POA on Aug. 3rd, and the last record was 2 there on Sept. 16th.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

CORSWENNOL DDU

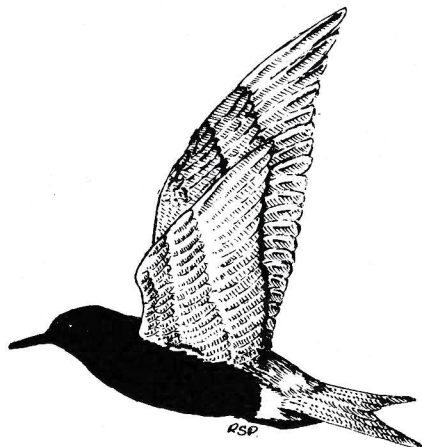
*Uncommon passage migrant*

1991: In spring there were 2 at IMF on April 28th, 1 on May 26th and 5 on 30th, then 1-2 from June 1st to 3rd, 3 at CQR/OMR on May 11th, with 1 there on 14th and 2 on June 4th; 1 at Shotwick Lake on May 25th/26th and June 3rd/4th; 1 at Shotton on May 24th and 2 in the Dee estuary at Flint on June 2nd. There were 2 at IMF on July 8th/9th and



in autumn there was 1 at IMF on Aug. 4th to 6th, singles at POA on Sept. 21st, at CQR/OMR on Oct. 17th and 1 off Rhyl promenade on Oct. 18th.

1992: 1 at Shotton on April 26th, singles at CQR/OMR on 5 occasions in early May and 6 flew south-east over IMF towards Shotwick on the evening of May 18th. In autumn 1 at POA on Aug. 1st/2nd, then an exceptional record of 35 there on Sept. 11th, resting on the mud and feeding on the edge of the tide as it ebbed; another single at POA on Sept. 17th; 2 at CQR/OMR on Aug. 23rd; at IMF 3 on Aug. 10th and singles on Sept. 16th and Oct. 2nd.



**GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge*  
*Regular Non-breeding visitor*

**GWYLOG**

1991: Small numbers offshore during the autumn and winter months, 130 off POA on Oct. 18th being the maximum reported.

1992: The maximum reported was 200 off Prestatyn on Oct. 22nd. During October and November there were regular sightings upriver at CQR/OMR, with a maximum of 3 on Nov. 13th and 28th.

**RAZORBILL** *Alca torda*  
*Uncommon non-breeding visitor*

**LLURS**

1991: 1-2 birds occasionally reported offshore in April and from July to November, maximum of 5 at Llanddulas on Sept. 13th.

1992: Only 5 records of single birds, 1 in February, 1 in September and 3 in December.

**GUILLEMOT/RAZORBILL**  
*Passage migrants*

1991: Movements of auks occasionally recorded offshore, 160 west off Prestatyn on June 10th, 270 west off POA on Oct. 17th and 310 west off POA on Dec. 23rd.

1992: No significant movements reported.

**BLACK GUILLEMOT** *Cepphus grylle*  
*Rare visitor*

**GWYLOG DDU**

1991: No records.

1992: 1 off POA on March 22nd.

**LITTLE AUK** *Alle alle**Rare winter visitor*

1991: 1 off Rhos Point on Nov. 9th and during north-westerly gales in late December there were several records of birds flying west off POA:- 1 on 20th, 1 on 21st, 2 on 22nd and 1 on 24th.

1992: No records.

**CARFIL BACH****WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus**Abundant breeding resident*

1991: Regularly recorded throughout the county, winter maximum of 100 at Flint on March 3rd. A flock of 30 was at Bwlch Pen Barras on May 27th.

1992: A roost of 500+ was present throughout the winter at Gwsaney and other notable winter flocks included 240 at Padeswood on Jan. 11th and 130 at Oakenholt on Jan. 26th.

**YSGUTHAN****STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas**Breeding resident and possible winter visitor*

1991: Records down by half on last year, but probably under-recorded. Most reports from eastern and coastal regions, maxima 41 at Flint on Nov. 17th and 23 at Trelawnyd on Feb. 22nd. Breeding confirmed at Llyn Helyg.

1992: Records were predominantly from the north-eastern part of the county, surprisingly no confirmed breeding records were received. The maximum count was 15 at CQR on Jan. 8th and 19th.

**COLOMEN WYLLT****COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto**Common breeding resident*

1991: As with the last species most records from the eastern and coastal districts and probably under-recorded. Apart from a daytime "roost" of 72 near Rhyl Brickworks Pool on Oct. 25th, the maximum was 14 at Hawarden on March 17th.

1992: The same comments apply as for 1991. The maxima recorded were 26 at St. Asaph on Jan. 6th and 25 at Talacre on Oct. 29th.

**TURTUR DORCHOG****TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur**Rare breeding summer visitor*

1991: Only 4 records received:- 1 at Bont Newydd in the Elwy Valley on June 2nd; 2 at Wrexham Industrial Estate on June 25th; 1 at Borras Airfield on June 26th; 1 at POA on July 2nd. No reports of breeding.

1992: No records received.

**TURTUR****CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus**Common breeding summer visitor*

1991: The first records were at Tai Nant and Clocaenog Forest on April 25th, then reported on some 30 occasions from both lowland and upland areas with the majority of reports being in May. The last report was of 1 at Flint on July 21st.

1992: The first record was at Northop on April 16th, followed by 1 at Carrog on 22nd, with the main arrival being in early May when birds were widely recorded from both upland and lowland areas. There were no reports received after June 21st when 1 was at Padeswood.

**COG****BARN OWL** *Tyto alba**Scarce breeding resident*

1991: Breeding confirmed in only 2 areas, near Saltney and Ruthin. Singles recorded at Cae Mor on Jan. 8th, along the Rhuddlan to Dyserth road on Jan. 17th, near Carrog on

**TYLLUAN WEN**



March 7th, near Llyn Brenig on Oct. 7th, Trefnant on Oct. 8th, Towyn on Nov. 29th and Clawddnewydd on Dec. 12th.

1992: Only 4 records received this year, 1 at Denbigh Green on Jan. 6th, Sandycroft on Jan. 25th, POA on April 14th and Corwen on May 30th. No evidence of breeding was received and this species maintains a precarious existence in the county.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

TYLLUAN FACH

*Breeding resident*

1991: Reports received from throughout the county, but no breeding records submitted.

1992: A similar pattern of records to 1991, with again no breeding records received.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

TYLLUAN FRECH

*Common breeding resident*

1991: The most frequently reported owl, but with breeding confirmed only at Clocaenog Forest (12 nests with 26 eggs producing 16 fledged young) and at Hendre, where fledged young frequented a farmhouse garden in June.

1992: Records received from most areas and a variety of habitats. In a breeding study area in Clocaenog Forest 13 pairs laid a total of 33 eggs, resulting in the successful fledging of 18 young.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

TYLLUAN GORNIOG

*Rare resident*

1991: A pair bred near Llangollen raising 1 chick and another pair were sighted in the Ruabon/Llangollen area between April 28th and May 7th, from where young were heard calling in July.

1992: Only 1 record received, of a pair present in the Llangollen area during April.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

*Scarce breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

1991: Most records were from coastal areas during winter, including a regular daytime roost near Rhyl where there were 1 or 2 in November from 14th and 1 to 5 regularly in December, maximum of 5 on 8th and 17th. Away from the coast there were records of single birds at Ruabon Moors on Jan. 12th, Oct. 18th and Nov. 24th, and 1 at Llandegla on May 8th.

1992: Last winter's roost near Rhyl continued to be used in the early part of the year with 1 to 3 birds in January, up to 4 in February (on 11th), 3 on April 12th and the last record 2 on April 21st. A single bird was present on the Llandegla moors during May and June but no evidence of breeding was received.

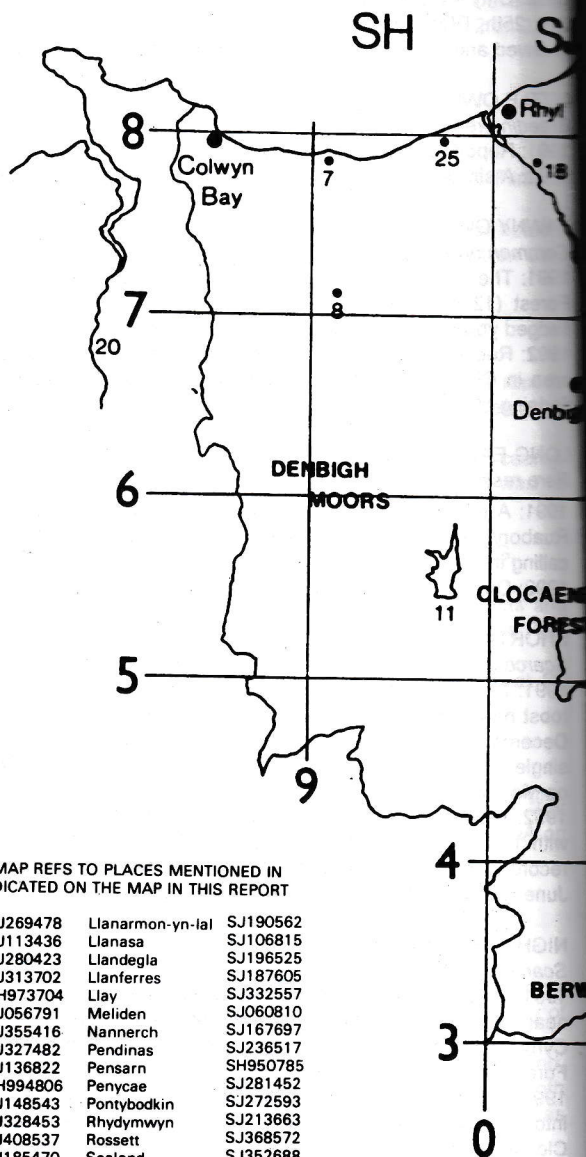
NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

TROELLWR MAWR

*Scarce breeding summer visitor*

1991: Breeding was confirmed at 2 successful nests at separate sites, near Corwen and near Llangollen. Otherwise 4 were seen in suitable breeding habitat near Pentre Llyn Cymer on June 19th and 21st, 1 in Clocaenog Forest on May 29th and 2 in Cynwyd Forest on July 13th.

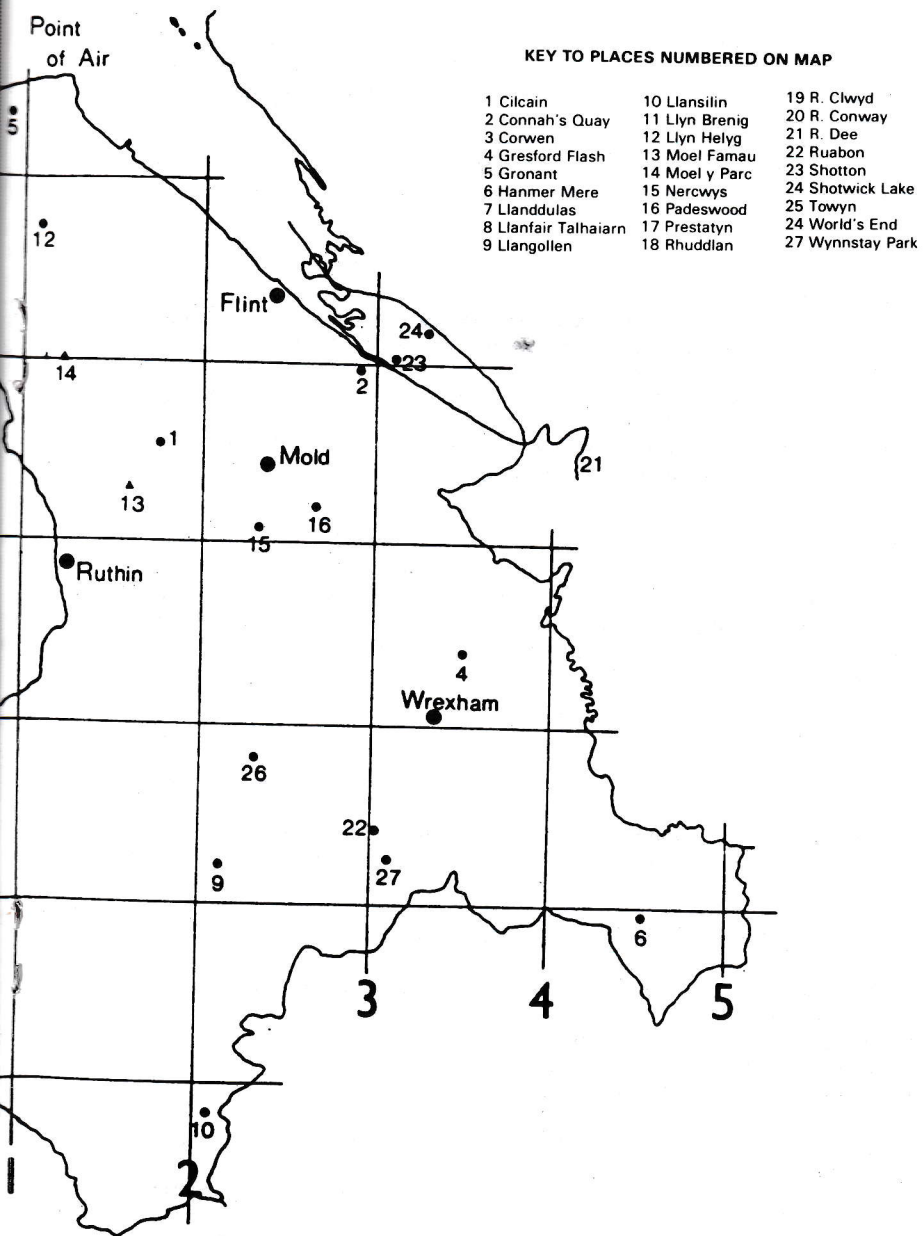
1992: An increase in records this year as a result of the nationwide survey carried out into the status of this species. A total of 21 males were recorded on territory in Clocaenog Forest at 10 different sites, the maximum at one site being 7, and single males were recorded at 7 other localities. Breeding was confirmed at 3 locations, but due to the adverse weather conditions experienced in June only 1 pair was successful, raising 2 young.



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

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





SWIFT *Apus apus*

GWENNOL DDU

*Common breeding summer visitor*

1991: The first record was 1 at Flint on April 25th then birds were widespread by the beginning of May. No large gatherings or movements reported but there was a small southerly passage over Ruabon moors on June 23rd and 40 were at CQR on July 11th. The last sighting was 1 at Flint on Sept. 16th.

1992: Widespread throughout the county. Unusually there were no April records, the first sighting being of 3 over Pen-y-Cae Reservoir on May 4th. The maximum recorded was c.300 on passage over CQR on Aug. 12th and the last record was 1 at Towyn on Sept. 27th.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

GLAS Y DORLAN

*Breeding resident*

1991: Widespread with records being received from many lowland rivers and waters present on both the Rivers Dee and Clwyd. Regular on the Clwyd estuary around Rhy and Rhuddlan during the winter months. No breeding records were received.

1992: Many records received from numerous lowland rivers and waters, with some birds moving to the coast in winter. Single birds were regular on the Clwyd estuary from late August to the year end, with 2 recorded on Oct. 7th and Dec. 13th. The fact that no breeding records were received is probably not an indication of lack of breeding in the county.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

COPOG

*Vagrant*

1991: 1 at POA on May 25th and subsequently at Talacre on the same day, where it was present for an hour and a half. What was presumably the same bird had been seen on Hilbre Island (Cheshire) in the early morning of the same day.

1992: No records.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

CNOCELL WERDD

*Breeding resident*

1991: Widespread, and recorded throughout the county in both upland and lowland areas.

1992: All records this year were from the eastern half of the county. Breeding was confirmed at a regular site at Marford, where a pair were seen feeding a juvenile on July 19th.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus major* CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF

*Breeding resident*

1991: Widespread in most areas throughout the county, with over 50 records received. Breeding was confirmed at one site.

1992: Widespread, with records from all corners of Clwyd and breeding records submitted from 3 localities. As is often the case in July/August a family party regularly visited a peanut feeder in a Llanddulas garden.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus minor* CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF

*Local breeding resident*

1991: Reported on only 9 occasions. A male was observed singing near Llangollen on June 13th and 15th.

1992: More elusive than the previous 2 species, records were received from only 5 locations in the county, therefore it is nice to record that a male was seen feeding a juvenile near Llangollen on June 11th.



SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

EHEDYDD

*Breeding resident and winter visitor*

1991: The first song was heard on Ruabon Moors on Feb. 23rd and c.25 pairs were present in the breeding season around the Shotton Paper Company Lagoon, but most reports received were of winter birds. At CQR/OMR the maximum in the early part of the year was 100 on Jan. 4th, but there were large numbers there in November/December, with a peak of 400 on Nov. 9th. At POA at least 3 pairs bred and 200 were present on Nov. 10th. There were 200 at Gronant on Oct. 27th, rising to 230 by Dec. 6th, and other noteworthy flocks were 150 at Trelawnyd in snowy weather on Feb. 2nd and 84 at Rhuddlan Marsh on Dec. 2nd.

1992: No specific reports were received of breeding bird numbers. Winter numbers at both POA and CQR/OMR were down on last year with a maximum of 70 at OMR on Jan. 27th. Passage birds were in good numbers on Oct 5th when 260 were at POA and a further 70 at Gronant and large numbers were present in autumn and winter in the IMF/Shotwick Fields area with a maximum of 500 on Sept. 30th.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

*Summer visitor and passage migrant with small numbers breeding*

1991: Apart from 1 at IMF on March 9th the first record was of 1 near Ruabon on April 2nd. Breeding was reported from Llanfair T. H. and near Afonwen but no details of numbers were received, and there were at least 10 occupied burrows at a colony near Llangollen which was not occupied in 1990. Maximum numbers reported were 60 at Gresford Flash on July 20th and 50 passing through POA on Sept. 25th

1992: The first record was at IMF on April 1st, (as was the last on Sept. 7th.) and the main influx occurred around mid to late April with 40 at Glan-y-Wern on 19th and 35 at IMF on 23rd. Breeding colonies were reported from near Nannerch (approx. 30 pairs), near Llangollen (up to 20 nest holes occupied), the R. Clwyd bank near Denbigh ("many nests"), Llanfair T. H. (pair with 3 recently fledged juveniles still present on Sept. 2nd) and Caerwys (2 birds at nesting site on May 10th).

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

GWENNOL

*Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant*

1991: The first records were of 1 flying inland at CQR at 5.10 PM on April 7th and 1 at Pen-y-Cae on April 10th, with peak spring passage numbers at POA on April 28th when 177 passed through to the north-east. The maximum numbers recorded on autumn passage were 120 at CQR/OMR on Sept. 13th and 150 at POA on Sept. 22nd. There were several records in October up to 9th when 1 was at POA, then a very late record of 6 feeding over a farm near Ruthin on Nov. 4th.

1992: On March 22nd one was found dead near Flint, considered by the observer to have been dead for at least 2 weeks, but the first live one was at POA on April 11th, followed by 2 at IMF on 13th and the main influx during the second half of the month. Breeding success seemed to be quite high with 21 pairs in a study area in the north-east of the county raising 136 young. The maximum recorded was 220 near Flint on Aug. 18th and the last record was of 5 at IMF on Oct. 17th.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

GWENNOL Y BONDO

*Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant*

1991: Two birds were reported to Birdline NW at Rhos-on-Sea on March 25th and there was 1 there on April 11th, otherwise the next record was on April 25th near Ruabon, with the main arrival in late April/early May. Recorded throughout the county with a maximum of 100 near Flint on Aug. 11th but no reports of breeding were received. Late records involved 2 at Towyn on Oct. 28th and 2 at Flint on 29th.

1992: The first reports were of 2 at IMF on April 17th and 1 at Flint on 20th. Maximum numbers were recorded in early autumn with 300 at IMF on Aug. 23rd and c.100 at Flint Marsh on Aug. 30th. Young birds were reported still in a nest at Llanasa on Sept 25th, having left by 27th and the last report was of 10 at OMR on Oct. 8th.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

CORHEDYDD Y COED

*Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant*

1991: The first record was from Carrog on April 13th, then spring passage included 6 flying north-east at POA on April 27th, followed by a further 20 on 28th and there were 4 late passage birds at Talacre Warren on May 26th. Reports of birds on breeding territory were received from several areas, mostly in the south of the county, but there were no records of confirmed breeding. Autumn passage included 1 at POA on Sept. 8th and at least 20 seen at Gwaenysgor over the period Sept. 7th to 13th and the last record was 1 above World's End on Sept. 17th.

1992: There was an exceptionally early report of 3 at Talacre Warren on March 29th, with the next record being a singing male at Panorama, near Llangollen on April 23rd. A total of 14 flew north-east at POA on April 25th and there were 15 at Talacre Warren on 27th. The last record was 1 flying south over IMF on Sept. 15th.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

*Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.*

1991: Up to 40 were recorded in both winter periods at POA, where at least 5 pairs were thought to have bred, and there was a heavy spring passage there on April 28th with 510 birds flying north-east. The first birds in song on Ruabon Moors were heard on March 10th, then in a cold snap there were 200 birds grounded near Ty Mawr Reservoir on March 21st. On Sept. 20th 100 were feeding in a clearfell area in Clocaenog Forest and small numbers were recorded flying south over Ruabon Moors between Sept. 21st and Oct. 21st.

1992: Numbers wintering on Ruabon Moors, as in 1991, showed a distinct increase over totals in the 1980's, and an exceptional breeding season was experienced there with nearly double the number of nests encountered. Otherwise there were few reports of note, the maximum recorded being 500+ in the Prestatyn/Gronant area on March 29th.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

*Winter visitor*

1991: Small numbers were present at POA in both winter periods with maxima of 5 on Jan. 30th and 4 on Dec. 10th, with an unusual record of 1 there at the end of July. Elsewhere there were 5 at CQR/OMR on Nov. 4th with 1 there on Jan 3rd and occasional records of single birds from Rhos Point/Penrhyn Bay.

1992: Apart from 8 at Flint Marsh on Oct. 25th there were only occasional records of 1 or 2 birds from POA, CQR/OMR and Rhos Point in the winter months.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

SIGLEN FELEN

*Rare breeding summer visitor, and passage migrant*

1991: The first records received were singles at Ty Mawr Reservoir on April 12th and Shotwick Lake on 13th. Spring passage included 8 flying north-east at POA on April 28th with 1 at Flint on the same date, 2 at OMR on April 29th and singles at POA and Wrexham Industrial Estate on May 9th. The small number of records during the breeding season came from the extreme north-east of the county, where a pair was seen displaying at Sealand on May 12th and there were 6 there on May 19th. A juvenile was at Shotton on Sept. 7th and autumn passage birds included 1 at POA on Aug. 31st, 1 flying over Hawarden on Sept. 12th, 3 at CQR/OMR on 14th and 1 at Flint on 15th. A female of the Blue-headed race, *M. f. flava*, was at Shotwick Lake from May 22nd to 27th.



1992: There were singles at POA on April 20th and 25th, 1 at Flint sewage works on 24th and 5 at CQR on May 3rd. All other records came from IMF/Shotwick where small numbers were known to have bred. A female of the Blue-headed race, *M. f. flava* was at Shotwick Lake on May 8th.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*  
*Common breeding resident*

SIGLEN LWYD

1991: Breeding records were received from several widely spread areas, mostly in upland areas, with some birds moving to the coast in winter. A party of 6 present on the R. Elwy, St. Asaph on Dec. 7th was a noteworthy record.

1992: A similar pattern of records to those received in 1991.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*  
*Common breeding resident and passage migrant*

SIGLEN FRAITH

1991: Widespread throughout the county with up to 200 present in July from OMR to Bagillt and a large count of 150 juveniles at POA on Sept. 13th. Over 50 flew south over Pen-y-Cae Reservoir on March 9th, possibly birds going to roost and there was evidence of spring passage at POA on April 28th, when a total of 28 Pied/White flew north-east. Good numbers of White Wagtails, *M. a. alba* were recorded in spring from March 13th when 2 were on the R. Clwyd, where there was a maximum of 50 on May 2nd, and up to 40 were present in April at CQR/OMR with 23 on May 3rd. Small numbers were also recorded from coastal regions from POA to Rhos Point.

1992: The maximum number reported was 126 on St. Asaph cricket field on Jan. 6th. White Wagtails, *M. a. alba* were only recorded in single figures with an early record of 1 at Dyserth sewage farm on Feb. 29th and a maximum of 8 at POA on April 20th.

WAXWING *Bombus garrulus*  
*Rare winter visitor*

CYNFFON SIDAN

1991: There was a large influx into North-west England in the early part of the year but the only Clwyd records were 1 at Buckley on Jan. 26th, 3 at Rhos-on-Sea on Feb. 11th and 18 at Denbigh on Feb. 19th. There was also 1 record in the latter part of the year, of 1 at POA on Nov. 27th.

1992: No records received.

DIPPER *Cinclus cinclus*  
*Widespread breeding resident*

GRONWEN Y DWR

1991: Recorded throughout the year on most suitable rivers and streams with breeding confirmed at several sites, including a number close to the coast, only marginally above sea level.

1992: No change in status.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
*Common breeding resident*

DRYW

1991: Following last year's high totals, numbers were somewhat reduced on the Ruabon Moors census plot. Otherwise no significant reports received.

1992: No apparent change in status.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*  
*Common breeding resident*

LLWYD Y GWRYCH

1991/1992: Very few records submitted. No apparent change in status.

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

ROBIN GOCH

1991/1992: Very few records received. No apparent change in status.

**REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***TINGOCH**

*Fairly common breeding summer visitor, mainly to upland areas*

1991: The first record was near Lliart-y-Parc on April 13th and the only other April record was a singing male alongside the River Alwen south of Pentre Llyn Cymer on 28th. Subsequently records were received from most suitable areas, with breeding confirmed at Cefn Du (near Caerwys) and Llyn Gweryd. Migrant birds included single females at Talacre Warren on May 26th and June 2nd, and a female in scrub alongside the A55 dual carriageway at Llanddulas on Aug. 29th. The last record was 1 at Moel Famau on Sept. 2nd.

1992: The first report was on April 23rd, when several males were in song at Dinbren Uchaf, Llangollen, then there was a similar spread of records to that in 1991, with breeding confirmed at Llanasa, Llandegla (nest site in a telegraph pole), Llanfair T. H. and Llanarmon, although numbers were reported to be down at the latter locality. The only obvious migrant was a male at Talacre Warren on April 25th and the last report again came from the Moel Famau area on Aug. 15th.

**WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra***CREC YR EITHIN**

*Fairly common breeding summer visitor, mainly to upland areas*

1991: The first record was of a male at Gronant on April 16th, then the first birds in breeding areas were 1 on Ruabon Moors on April 27th and 1 at Pentre Llyn Cymer on 28th. Migrant birds were fairly regular at POA/Talacre and CQR/OMR during May, with a maximum of 4 at Talacre on 10th. There were widespread records of birds in breeding areas and breeding was confirmed at Cilcain and on Llantisilio Moors. A male was at POA on July 20th and the last record was of 2 on Ruabon Moors on Sept. 21st.

1992: The first report was from Ruabon Moors on May 1st, with migrants again recorded from POA, Gronant and CQR from May 3rd to 11th, maximum 4 at POA on 3rd. There were fewer reports from breeding areas this year and no confirmed breeding. The last record was 1 at OMR on Aug. 31st.

**STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquata***CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG**

*Breeding resident*

1991: Five pairs bred at Talacre, compared to 4 pairs in 1990 and 1 pair in 1989, and breeding was also confirmed at 2 sites in the Llangollen area and on Ruabon Moors. Birds were also reported on territory at Llandegla Moors (2 pairs), World's End, near Betws-yn-Rhos and Moel Famau. More widespread at the coast in the winter months.

1992: At least 5 pairs bred on Ruabon Moors, and 4 pairs in the Horseshoe Pass area, with breeding also confirmed at Gronant, Llyn Brenig (where a pair was thought to have reared 3 broods), Llanfair T. H. and World's End. No reports of breeding were received from Talacre but at least 2 pairs were present there in summer.

**WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe***TINWEN Y GARN**

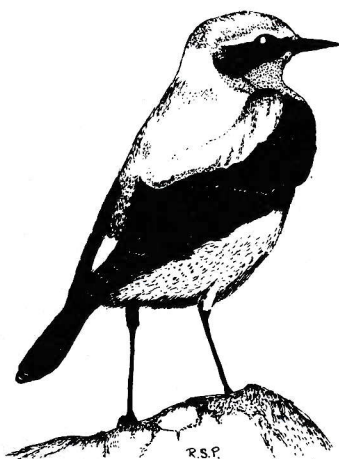
*Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant*

1991: Early migrants were a male at POA colliery on March 17th and 1 at CQR on 23rd, while the first records from upland areas were 5 at Horseshoe Pass on March 21st and 1 at Moel Arthur on 22nd. There was a steady passage through April with 6 at Rhos-on-Sea on 10th, 4 males at Talacre on 11th and 6 at POA on 27th, the maximum number recorded however was on May 10th when 40 were at Talacre Warren. The last record was at Towyn on Oct. 12th. On May 19th 6 males showing characteristics of the Greenland race, *O. o. leucorhoa* were at POA.

1992: There were early records of 2 males at CQR on March 7th and 1 near Llangollen on 8th, then birds were widespread from the second half of the month, with a maximum of 25 recorded at CQR on May 10th, and the last record 1 at Flint Marsh on Sept. 26th.



Birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race, *O. o. leucorhoa* were recorded from April 26th (a female at Flint) to May 13th (2 males and a female at Prestatyn), with a maximum of 4 at OMR on April 27th and at Flint Marsh on May 3rd.



**RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquata*

**MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD**

*Breeding summer visitor in small numbers*

1991: A male was on the Horseshoe Pass on March 13th, and a pair was reported from there on May 22nd and Sept. 8th. There was also a pair on Esclusham Mountain on May 22nd and the only other report from potential breeding habitat was 1 at Pontfadog on April 21st. Passage birds were recorded at POA with a male on Oct. 14th and a partial albino bird present there for 3 days in November.

1992: The first record was again from the Horseshoe Pass on March 25th, and the only other report received was that there were apparently low numbers breeding in the Ruabon Moors area.

**BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

**MWYALCHEN**

*Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

1991: The only noteworthy record submitted was of c.100 present in a mixed winter thrush flock at POA from Nov. 4th to 6th.

1992: An aberrant female with a white rump was seen at Llanasa on Jan. 21st.

**FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*

**SOCAN EIRA**

*Common passage migrant and winter visitor*

1991: The maximum numbers recorded in the early part of the year were 200 at Flint on Feb. 3rd and up to 500 roosting in a Spruce plantation at Gwsaney during February/March. There was quite a heavy passage on March 10th, with 1500 recorded flying east over Llandegla, 500 over Pendinas and 300+ over Pen-y-Cae and 50 flew north over Llyn Bedydd (near Hanmer) on April 9th. The last of the spring were 2 at POA on April 28th. The first of the autumn were 15 on Ruabon Moors on Oct. 3rd and there were up to 150 at POA from Nov. 4th to 6th, 200+ at Glan-y-Wern on Nov. 24th and c.200 at DP on Dec. 29th.

1992: Only small numbers in the early part of the year with the last being 20 passage birds at Gwsaney on April 20th. The first of autumn were several feeding with Redwings at Pen-y-Cae on Sept. 24th but there were no major movements reported until Nov. 20th when several flocks of up to 100 flew south over Pen-y-Cae. After this small numbers were widespread with a reported maximum of c.150 near Llangollen on Dec. 27th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

BRONFRAITH

*Common breeding resident, and winter visitor*

1991/1992: No significant records submitted.

In view of recent publicity on the continuing decline of this species, estimates of breeding birds in observers' "patches" could be most useful.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

COCH DAN-ADEN

*Common passage migrant and winter visitor*

1991: There was a significant winter roost at Gwsaney with up to 3,000 birds in January and February, otherwise the largest number in the early part of the year was 200+ in fields at CQR on Feb. 3rd. The first of the autumn were 5 flying north-west over Pen-y-Cae on Sept. 18th, followed by 20 flying north there on 27th. The main arrival seemed to be in the second week of October with birds heard flying over at night at Flint on 9th and Hawarden on 12th, and the first arrivals at Gwsaney also on 12th. Subsequently the maximum numbers reported were 200+ at Glan-y-Wern on Nov. 24th and 150 at Flint on Oct. 25th and Nov. 10th.





1992: The maximum in the early part of the year was 70 at Padeswood on Jan. 11th then the first of autumn were at Pen-y-Cae on Sept. 24th with 2-3 heard calling over Oakenholt after dark on Oct. 4th. The main arrival was again during the second week of October with 430 flying west at Berwyn Halt between 0810 and 0930 on 11th and 265 south over IMF on 13th. A large winter roost at Gwsaney built up to a maximum of 10,000 birds during December.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*  
*Common breeding resident*

BRYCH Y COED

1991: Another under-recorded species, although unlike the Song Thrush this species seems to be prospering. Several records were received of small parties, including 21 at Llanasa on June 5th, 16 near Betws-yn-Rhos on July 6th, 20+ at CQR on July 30th and 25 at Fenn's Moss on Aug. 14th.

1992: An early bird was in song at Gwsaney on Jan. 13th. Possible evidence of local movements were a group of 16 at POA on Sept. 18th and 10 flying south over IMF on Oct. 13th.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*  
*Local breeding summer visitor in fluctuating numbers*

TROELLWR BACH

1991: The first record was on April 16th when 1 sang briefly on Prestatyn golf course, then there were 3 at Gronant on April 26th, 1 near Bontuchel on May 2nd and several records from Talacre Warren, the maximum here being 3 singing males on May 26th. On Ruabon Moors there were 3 males on territory in one boggy area and 2 others in other areas, from one of which 4 young fledged in late July.

1992: The first record was on April 25th when there were 5 singing at Talacre Warren in the early morning. There were no reports of confirmed breeding and records from all other sites involved only single birds, as follows - Rhyl Brickworks Pool April 26th, Sychdyn April 30th, Ruabon Moors May 8th, Dyserth Road, Rhyl May 23rd, Gronant June 20th and Corwen July 19th. The last report from Talacre was on July 18th.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
*Common breeding summer visitor*

TELOR Y HESG

1991: The first record was on April 26th from Talacre Warren where 6 pairs bred and reports of singing males were received from several other areas in May and June, however the number of reports received does not represent the true status of this species in the county.

1992: The first record was on April 26th at Gronant and there were rather more records received than last year, including 4 singing at Talacre Warren on May 9th, 6 singing at POA on 10th, a total of 14 singing males at Shotton, also on 10th and singles at Glan-y-Wern, Rhuddlan and along the coast from Gronant to Rhyl. A male singing in scrub adjacent to the county recorder's garden at Hawarden on May 8th and on several subsequent dates was the first ever recorded in the 33 years he has lived there.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*  
*Scarce breeding summer visitor*

TELOR Y CYRS

1991: The first record was of a passage bird at Cyffiliog on May 5th. A breeding survey carried out at 3 sites in the Deeside area discovered 5, 4 and 3 singing males respectively. No survey was carried out at the Shotton reserve, from where there was only 1 report, of a male on May 29th.

1992: Only 1 report received, a male in song at Shotton on May 10th.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*  
*Breeding summer visitor*

LLWYDFRON FACH

1991: The first record was 2 at Flint on April 28th, with the main arrival in the first half of May. There were 3 males in song at Talacre on May 12th and 2 pairs are known to have bred there. Birds on territory were also reported from Hawarden, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Nercwys Mountain, Pendinas and Saughall.

1992: The earliest record was of 2 males in song at Talacre Warren on April 29th, where there were 3 birds in song on May 9th, and at least 1 pair successfully reared young at this site. Elsewhere there were 2 near Flint on May 3rd, with 5 there on 10th, and singing males recorded from Afonwen and Pantymwyn. An adult and 2 juveniles were at Kinmel Bay on July 2nd and a passage bird was at CQR/OMR on July 9th.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*  
*Common breeding summer visitor*

LLWYDFRON

1991: The first record was at Talacre Warren on April 23rd, where there were 6 birds in song on May 12th, increasing to 19 by 19th, and a survey of the area discovered 20 breeding pairs, a considerable reduction from the 37 pairs recorded in 1990. Otherwise records were fairly widespread but the only other report of breeding came from Trefechan, near Ysceifiog.

1992: The earliest record was of a male singing at Llyn Helyg on April 23rd, with other April records from between Flint and POA, and records from a number of sites from May to July, mostly from the coastal/estuarine strip but also from several upland localities, including Bwlch Pen Barras and Clocaenog Forest.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*  
*Common breeding summer visitor*

TELOR YR ARDD

1991: The first record was 1 singing at Gwsaney on May 11th, followed later in the month by singles at POA, Wepre Woods, Gronant and Llangollen. One observer reported seemingly fewer singing males in the Llangollen area than in 1990, while another reported average numbers in the Pendinas area. The last record was from Padeswood on Aug. 26th.

1992: A bird in the Dulas Valley on May 2nd was the earliest record, with records of singing males at Bwlch Pen Barras on May 17th and June 28th. Other records came from Llandegla, Bontuchel (where at least 3 pairs were noted on June 7th, with 1 pair carrying food), Padeswood, St. Asaph and Garth Woods, Ffynnongroyw. The species was reported to be down in numbers in the Llanarmon-yn-Ial area, though breeding was reported from Pendinas. The last record was of a bird mist-netted at Cyffiliog on Sept. 12th.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*  
*Common breeding summer visitor, scarce winter visitor*

TELOR PENDDU

1991: Records in the early part of the year all came from gardens, in Pentre (Deeside), a male from Jan. 1st to Feb. 15th; Llanddulas, a female on Jan. 12th & 14th; Wrexham, a male on Jan. 21st and Feb. 6th; Hawarden, a male on Jan. 23rd; Chirk, a female from Feb. 3rd to 11th; and Shotton, a female on Feb. 21st/22nd. There was 1 at Flint on March 10th, seen again on 31st and on April 7th. The first bird in song was at Gwsaney on April 11th with the main arrival during the second half of April. Late autumn and winter records were a male at Gronant on Oct. 11th, a female at Dyserth on Dec. 6th and a male in a Llanddulas garden on Dec. 15th.

1992: There were early winter records from Rhos-on-Sea, a male on Jan. 13th; Llanddulas, a male on Jan. 25th; Pentre (Deeside), a male and a female on Jan. 27th; Graigfechan, a female in a garden in January, date not specified; and Penrhynside, a female on Feb. 1st. There were 2 near Flint on April 5th but the first in song was at Northop on April 11th, with other April records from several inland sites. There were sightings of family parties at Hawarden on June 14th and at Ddol Uchaf reserve on 17th.



Records from the second winter period were a male at Dyserth on Nov. 5th, 1 at Gronant on Nov. 7th and 3 together at Oakenholt on Dec. 7th with a single female there on 21st.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

TELOR Y COED

*Fairly common breeding summer visitor*

1991: The first record was a passage bird at Connah's Quay on April 21st with the first birds in song on May 2nd in the Llangollen area, a late arrival date, as was the first at Gwsaney on May 6th, where the main arrival occurred on 12th. There were at least 7 singing males in Loggerheads Country Park on May 11th and subsequently there was a good spread of records in areas with suitable habitat.

1992: The first records were at Loggerheads on April 25th and Clocaenog Forest on 28th followed by 2 singing males at Garth Woods, Ffynnongroyw on May 4th. There were records from a number of other sites during May/June and breeding was confirmed at Llanfair T. H.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

SIFF-SAFF

*Common breeding summer visitor, small numbers overwintering*

1991: Single wintering birds were seen at CQR on Jan. 1st and Flint on Jan. 1st and 27th, then the first returning birds were in song at Gwsaney on March 13th and Flint and Hawarden on 15th. A bird at POA on April 27th showed characteristics of one of the eastern races, being very brown (like Garden Warbler) with an olive-green rump, orangey-brown legs and a thin supercilium. It was very tame, feeding on the ground and very reluctant to fly. There were no reports for the second winter period.

1992: Winter records were 1 in a Graigfechan garden in January, 2 at Connah's Quay sewage works on Feb. 15th and 1 in a Shotton garden on March 1st. The first bird in song was in Leadbrook Wood, Oakenholt on March 14th, followed by singles at POA and Hawarden on 18th. There were widespread records during the breeding season and into September with the latest being 1 at Pantymwyn from Oct. 3rd to 6th. 2 overwintering birds were seen at CQR on Dec. 10th.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

TELOR YR HELYG

*Common breeding summer visitor*

1991: The first record was 1 at Flint on April 7th, with first arrivals at many sites between 10th and 12th. The species was recorded from most parts of the county and a survey in Talacre Warren discovered 11 breeding pairs. The last record was 2 at Flint on Sept. 22nd.

1992: The earliest record of a bird in song was at Berwyn Halt on April 10th, with records from several other areas over the rest of the month and throughout the summer. On April 29th a total of 22 singing males was recorded in Talacre Warren, but it is not known how many pairs actually bred. The last reports (obviously not the last occurrences) were 1 at Llanddulas on July 25th and a total of 52, mainly juveniles, mist-netted in Clocaenog Forest on July 28th.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

DRYW EURBEN

*Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

1991: Recorded from several areas throughout the year but no reports of confirmed breeding.

1992: In July 6 were mist-netted in Clocaenog Forest on 28th and 11 were caught near Cyffiliog on Sept. 27th, with 7 at the same site on Oct. 18th. A survey carried out in different blocks of conifers in Clocaenog Forest in the latter part of the year produced the following figures:- 34 in young Sitka Spruce on Nov. 17th; 48 in young Norway Spruce on Nov. 25th; 58 in old Sitka Spruce on Dec. 10th and 26 in old Sitka Spruce on Dec. 23rd.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

*Fairly common breeding summer visitor*

1991: The first record was 1 in the Ceiriog Valley on May 17th, followed by 1 at Abergele on 18th, with the main arrival in the last week of May including 5 passage birds in Talacre Warren on 26th. A pair raised 2 broods on the verandah of a factory on the Deeside Industrial Park and breeding was also reported from Saltney Ferry. The last record was from DP in early August.

1992: The first report was of 1 at POA on May 29th. Breeding was confirmed at Llanfair T. H. and Lawnt, Denbigh and there were other breeding season records from near Llanfair T. H., Pwllglas, Pantymwyn, St. Asaph, Mynydd Bodrochwyn and near Llanynys. The last records were on Sept. 12th with 1 at Greenfield Valley and 1 mist-netted near Cyffiliog.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

GWYBEDOG BRITH

*Common breeding summer visitor*

1991: The earliest records were 1 at Pen-y-Cae Reservoir on April 10th and 1 at Cyffiliog on 13th with arrivals in most areas during late April or the first few days of May. Breeding season records were widespread and large numbers of pairs bred in nest boxes in several areas, e.g. a Llangollen study block of 60 boxes had 31 layings (2 against 36 in 1990 and 43 in 1989), and a mean brood size at fledging of 5.2, whilst a study block at Llanfair T. H. had 25 out of 31 boxes occupied. Around 96 clutches produced 605 eggs and 384 fledged young (63.47% of all eggs and 70.85% of eggs hatched).

1992: The earliest record was 1 at Berwyn Halt on April 16th. In spring and early summer males were recorded at several sites, mainly inland. In a Llanarmon-yn-Iâl garden 2 pairs occupied nest boxes no more than 15 feet apart, each pair raising up to 5 young successfully. The weather for the crucial period of early June was mainly dry, resulting in a very successful breeding season, e.g. near the River Elwy a block of 40 boxes held 40 pairs, 39 of which were successful; near Llangollen 38 broods had a mean clutch size of 7.35 eggs and a mean brood size at fledging of 5.74 young; of 111 clutches around Pwllglas (mean clutch size 7.06 eggs) 784 eggs produced 582 fledged young (74.23% of all eggs and 77.91% of eggs hatched).

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

TITW GYNFFON HIR

*Common breeding resident*

1991: Widely recorded. 2 pairs were seen nest-building at Alltami on March 24th, a pair with 10 fledged young were at Padeswood on May 18th, a family party was seen at Bodfari on May 24th and 2 family parties of 8+ were seen in the Ysceifiog area on June 22nd. Outside the breeding season the largest groups reported were 30+ at Flint on Sept. 22nd, 24 at Ewloe Green on Oct. 12th and 20+ at Gwsaney on Jan. 17th.

1992: There were records of small parties in most months of the year, with a pair with 6 young seen at Llyn Helyg on May 14th. A survey in Cllocaenog Forest produced a total of 30 in an old Sitka Spruce block on Dec. 23rd and the largest groups recorded were 20 at CQR on Nov. 15th, 14 near Rhuddlan on March 11th and 14 at BWNR on Dec. 6th.

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

TITWR WERN

*Fairly common breeding resident*

1991: Records from several areas throughout the county.

1992: Most records were in winter and involved only small numbers, maximum 5 near Flint on Jan. 6th. Also reported from St. Asaph, Pentre Llanrhaeadr and several other localities. 1 mist-netted at Cyffiliog on Oct. 22nd.

WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*

TITWR HELYG

*Uncommon breeding resident*

1991: Most reports were from the winter months and of only 1 or 2 birds, including 1 at Gwsaney that regularly visited a feeding station during January and February. The only



records during the breeding season were from the Ceiriog Valley, the St. Asaph area and Garth Woods, Ffynnonogyw but there was no evidence of successful breeding.  
1992: In contrast to last year all records received were from the late summer/early autumn period, including singles at Berwyn Halt on July 8th and 15th and Sept. 17th, Marford Quarry on July 19th and near Denbigh on Aug. 31st.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*  
*Common breeding resident*

TITW PENDDU

1991: Fairly widespread in suitable habitat. From 12 clutches studied by a local ringing team 79 young fledged from 102 eggs laid. A noteworthy record was of a party of 10 flying east along a railway embankment at Flint on Sept. 15th.

1992: Several records of 1 to 3 birds in the early part of the year. In Clocaenog Forest there were only 4 breeding attempts in nest boxes, with 38 eggs producing 37 fledged young (71.05% of eggs, lower than last year). A survey in Clocaenog Forest found a maximum of 65 in a young Norway Spruce block on Dec. 22nd.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*  
*Abundant breeding resident*

TITW TOMOS LAS

1991: From 62 clutches studied in the Pwllglas area 552 eggs were laid (mean clutch size 8.90) and 396 eggs hatched producing 331 fledged young. The only other noteworthy record was 50+ in 1 tree at Ysceifiog on Nov. 17th.

1992: The first song was recorded at Berwyn Halt on Jan. 17th. It was a poor breeding year for this species: of 65 clutches around Pwllglas (mean clutch size 9.09 eggs) 591 eggs produced 325 young (only 54.99% of eggs and 73.20% of eggs hatched.) At Bontuchel and at Coed Cooper, Clocaenog single boxes were usurped by Pied Flycatchers which built their nests on top of the Blue Tit nests with a total of 25 eggs lost.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*  
*Common breeding resident*

TITW MAWR

1991: From 45 clutches studied in the Pwllglas area 347 eggs were laid (mean clutch size 7.71), 336 eggs hatched producing 258 fledged young.

1992: An early record of song was at Berwyn Halt on Jan. 21st. The species enjoyed a good breeding season with 55 clutches around Pwllglas (mean clutch size 8.00) 440 eggs produced 373 fledged young (84.77% of eggs and 88.81% of eggs hatched).

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*  
*Common breeding resident*

DELOR Y CNAU

1991: Of 6 clutches studied in the Pwllglas area 42 eggs laid produced 31 fledged young. A bird in a Hawarden garden on Dec. 14th was seen to perch on the edge of the rainwater guttering on the house for about 2 minutes, calling loudly.

1992: A number of records were received from a well-watched garden in Llanddulas in the early part of the year and in summer. Around Pwllglas 7 clutches totalled 48 eggs (mean clutch size 6.86) and produced 25 fledged young (only 52.08% of eggs laid and 62.50% of eggs hatched.) Breeding was also reported from Llyn Helyg.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*  
*Common breeding resident*

DRINGWR BACH

1991: Records received from several areas but no confirmed breeding reported.

1992: Records of 1 to 3 birds from several widely spread localities, but again no records of breeding received.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*  
*Rare passage migrant and winter visitor*

CIGYDD MAWR

1991: There was 1 at Gronant on March 23rd and 1 near St. Asaph on Dec. 11th

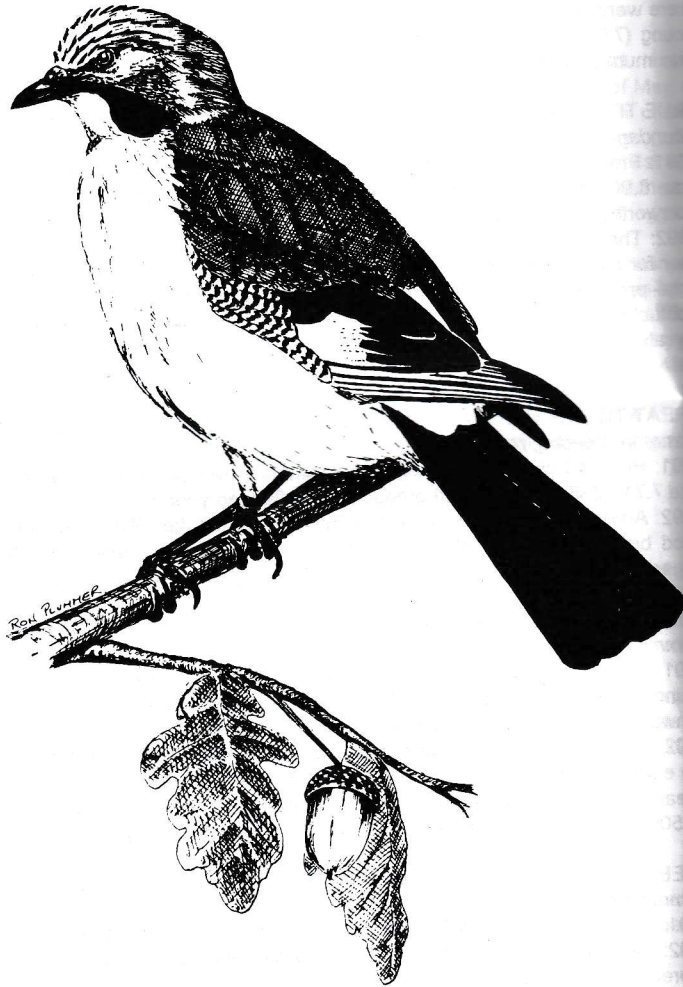
1992: There was 1 in Clocaenog Forest on Nov. 18th and 1 near Flint Mountain on Nov. 28th.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*  
Fairly common breeding resident

SGRECH Y COED

1991: A family party was seen near Llanddulas on July 17th, one observer reported "a lot about in October" and another reported "a very active autumn with groups of 6 to 8 feeding on acorns at Gwsaney".

1992: No significant records received.





MAGPIE *Pica pica*  
Very common breeding resident

PIODEN

1991: The maximum numbers reported were 24 at World's End on Oct. 12th and 19 at POA on Feb. 16th.

1992: 24 at Llandegla on March 14th was the largest group reported.

CHOUGH *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*  
Rare visitor, has bred

BRAN GOESGOCH

1991: No records.

1992: A pair appeared at a site in the south of the county on May 5th and were seen prospecting for nest sites. They were still in the area at the end of the year but apparently nesting was not attempted.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*  
Common breeding resident

JAC-Y-DO

1991: A large mixed winter roost at Northop comprising 500 birds was mostly made up of Jackdaws with some Rooks. Otherwise the largest numbers were 250 in Sealand fields on Nov. 15th and 75 near Flint on Oct. 27th. There was some evidence of spring passage at POA with totals of 27 flying north on April 7th, 128 north-east on April 27th and 82 north-east on 28th.

1992: The maximum reported was 75 at Rhuddlan on Jan. 6th.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*  
Common breeding resident

YDFRAN

1991: The combined total of nests at Pentredwr and Tan Lan colonies was 120, as against 114, 89 and 99 in the previous three years. At the Tan Lan study block the average clutch size was 3.7, higher than in 1990 but the fledging rate of 1.4 per nest was the lowest in the 7 years of study to date. The maximum numbers reported away from rookeries were c.200 on short vegetation on Ruabon Moors for 2 weeks in late June, and c.100 at Shotwick on Feb. 9th.

1992: There were 113 nests in the study colonies above and an average clutch size of 3.9, with average fledging rate of 2.1. There were no significant reports of large flocks.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone corone*  
Common breeding resident

BRAN DYDDYN

1991: The maximum number reported was c.200 on sheep pasture at Cyffiliog on April 20th.

1992: No significant reports received.

HOODED CROW *Corvus corone cornix*  
Rare visitor

BRAN LWYD

1991: 1 in fields between St. Asaph and Rhuddlan on Oct. 16th and probably the same bird at St. Asaph sewage works on Dec. 7th.

1992: 1 at Foryd Bay, Rhyl on Jan. 16th and Sept. 22nd and 1 by the R. Elwy at St. Asaph on March 2nd.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

CIGFRAN

Fairly common breeding resident, mainly in upland areas

1991: A pair bred at Flint Castle, rearing 1 young, the other young bird being killed by local youths, and a pair again bred successfully at Shotton. Many records were received from inland localities during the breeding season including a pair with 2 young at World's End crags on June 1st. One observer reported the species to be increasing around Mold and Gwsaney, with 9 being seen at Gwsaney on Sept. 15th and the maximum number

recorded was 18 at Moel Famau on Sept. 15th. Recorded regularly along the coast and estuaries in winter.

1992: A similar pattern of records to 1991, 3 pairs reared young around Ruabon Moors, an adult and 4 juveniles were seen at CQR on June 29th, presumably from the nearby Shotton breeding site, and a group of 31 was seen near Pen-y-Cae Reservoir on Sept. 19th.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

DRUDWEN

*Common breeding resident and winter visitor*

1991: A roost at Rhyl Harbour contained 2000+ birds on March 29th and up to 1500 shared a winter roost with thrushes at Gwsaney. The maximum concentrations away from roost sites were 1200 on R. Clwyd on Aug. 14th and 500 at CQR/OMR on Feb. 20th and Nov. 18th. A total of c.700 moved south-south-west across Ruabon Moors on Nov. 17th.

1992: The roost site at Rhyl Harbour contained 4000+ on Jan. 25th, 2500 on June 13th and 5000+ on Dec. 20th. Elsewhere the maximum was 1000 (mainly juveniles) at CQR/OMR on July 8th.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

ADERYN Y TO

*Common breeding resident*

1991: A male was seen to enter a Blue Tit nestbox with great difficulty at Llanasa on May 7th. Shortly after his head emerged holding a Blue Tit egg in his bill, the egg was thrown out and he then struggled out himself. The observer then went to the box and found 4 eggs remaining, the bird did not attempt to re-enter the box and the Blue Tits successfully raised their brood.

1992: No significant records received.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

*Local breeding resident and winter visitor*

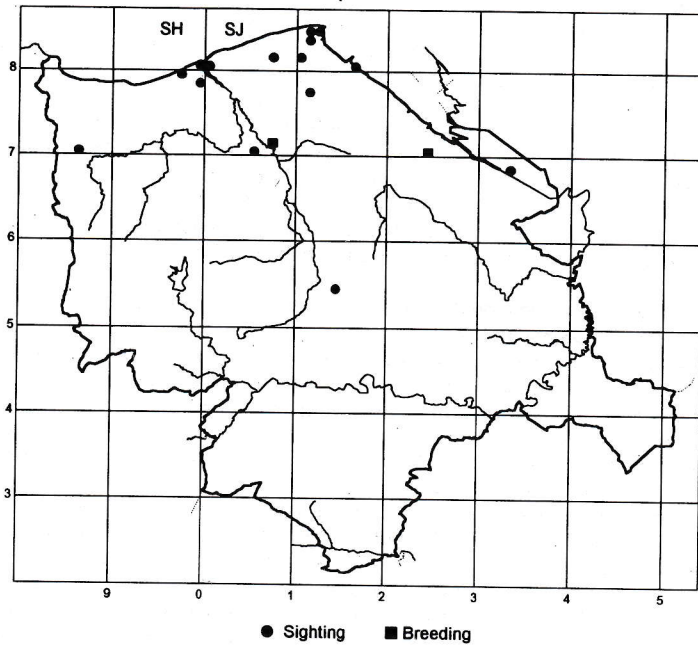
TARGET SPECIES FOR 1991 AND 1992

1991: The only confirmed breeding records came from a farm east of Flint where 2 fledged young were seen on June 17th and from a garden south of Tremeirchion. Probably bred at Sealand, where 2 very agitated birds were seen in an old hedgerow on May 12th and there were also records of 1-2 birds in the breeding season from Towyn, Kinmel Bay, Trefnant, Llanasa, Llyn Helyg and Llangernyw. Records were more widespread during the winter months, although mostly from the north of the county, at POA good numbers were present during January and February in the bushes behind the sea-wall, with a maximum of 60 on Jan. 31st and Feb. 3rd, and small numbers were present from October onwards, maximum of 20 from Nov. 22nd to 25th. Other large flocks were seen at Llanasa, where up to 100 were present with mixed finch flocks in January, February and November; Towyn, with a maximum of 80 on Feb. 8th; and R. Clwyd with up to 50 in November/December. Smaller numbers were reported from Mostyn, Talacre, Kinmel Bay, Flint, Graigfechan, Gwaenysgor and Llandegla.

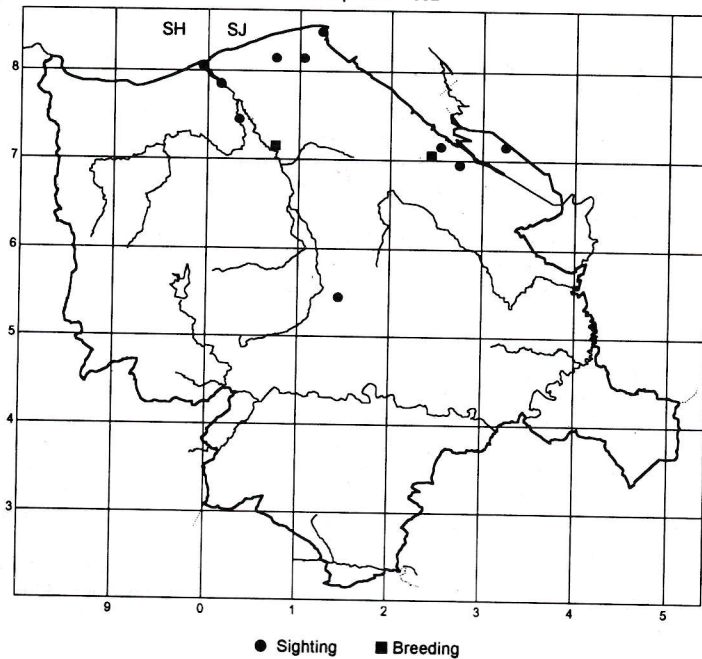
1992: The only confirmed breeding came from the same sites as last year, with at least 2 pairs breeding at the Flint site this year, and the only other breeding season records came from St. Asaph, Rhuddlan and Graigfechan. The maximum winter numbers were again from Llanasa with a maximum of 200 on Jan. 24th with a mixed finch flock, and there were 50 to 60 present on Shotwick fields from October to December, again feeding with a large mixed finch flock. Smaller numbers were recorded in winter from Gwaenysgor (max. 25 on Feb. 12th), POA, Graigfechan (max. 18 on Jan. 17th) and BWNR (max. 20 on Dec. 6th).



Tree Sparrow 1991



Tree Sparrow 1992



CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

## JI-BINC

*Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor*

1991: Widespread reports of birds during the breeding season. Small flocks were also widely recorded during the winter months, mostly of less than 50 birds, and the only record in excess of 100 was 300 on Towyn beach fields on Dec. 15th. Spring passage was recorded at POA with 52 moving north-east on April 27th and 130 the following day, and at Pendinas where a total of c.400 flew east in small flocks on March 10th.

1992: A similar pattern of records to last year, with maxima of 240 at CQR on Dec. 10th, 200+ at Llanasa on Jan. 24th and 200+ at Rhuddlan on March 11th. Autumn passage was recorded in mid October with 145+ flying west over Berwyn Halt between 0810 and 0935 on 11th and a total of 190 south over IMF on 13th.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

## PINC Y MYNYDD

*Winter visitor in variable numbers*

1991: Records were received from a wide range of localities in both winter periods, but only in very small numbers with a maximum in the first winter period of c.10 near Mountain Lodge, Tai Nant on Jan. 12th, several birds were still present in April with 2 at Gwaenysgor on 9th and 12 near Ruabon on 26th. The first record for the latter part of the year, and the maximum recorded, was c.20 at Talacre on Oct. 13th and there were 15+ near Mountain Lodge on Nov. 30th.

1992: From 1 to 4 were seen at several localities during the first winter period with numbers on Ruabon Moors gradually building up to a maximum of 40 by March 17th. There was a summer-plumaged male in Greenfield Valley on April 16th, with 1 at Talacre on 20th, then amazingly a male was found in song at a site in the south of the county on June 21st. The first bird of the autumn was 1 flying south over IMF on Oct. 7th, then there were better numbers in the second winter period with 150 on Ruabon Moors on Oct. 31st, up to 300 in Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele and 250 at Halkyn in November and December, and c.200 coming in to roost at Gwsaney on Dec. 24th.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

## LLINOS WERDD

*Common breeding resident*

1991: The maximum reported in the early part of the year was 50+ at POA on Feb. 3rd. There were 50 at CQR on Aug. 18th, building up to 200 by Oct. 23rd/24th and 350 on Nov. 13th. Counts of 150 to 200 were regular from Talacre and POA from October to December and there were several reports of smaller flocks from other localities, mostly in the north of the county.

1992: Up to 100 were recorded at POA in the first winter period and the highest numbers were reported from Shotwick fields, where a "huge" flock fed on flax stubble from late summer to the end of the year, maximum 1000 on Dec. 30th.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

## NICO

*Common breeding resident*

1991: In the first winter period up to 100 were regular at Talacre, 45 were seen at Towyn on March 6th and there were numerous reports of smaller groups. There was evidence of spring passage with 84 flying north-east at POA on April 27th, followed by another 248 the following day. Widespread reports were received of birds present in the breeding season and then numbers built up again during the second winter period, with maxima of 50 at Towyn in September, 50 Clocaenog Forest Oct. 3rd, 70 near Rhyd-y-Foel on Dec. 14th and 100 at POA on Oct. 9th.

1992: A similar pattern of records to that of 1991, although there were no reports of visible passage, maxima 30 at POA on Jan. 6th, 40 there on Sept. 30th and 70 at CQR/OMR on Sept. 22nd.



SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

## PILA GWYRDD

*Common winter visitor, local breeding resident*

1991: Following a sizeable irruption into the country in the autumn of 1990 large numbers built up in Clocaenog Forest during late winter and early spring, and it was estimated that there were probably a minimum of 2,000 in Clocaenog by late April. These irruptive birds seemed to move on shortly afterwards as observers reported no increase in numbers present in the nesting season, and if anything fewer were in evidence. Numbers in the second winter period were back to normal, with 40 at Bettisfield Moss on Sept. 1st, 60 near Flint on Oct. 27th, c. 60 flying south-east at Berwyn Halt on Nov. 3rd and c.55 at Pen-y-Cae Reservoir on Dec. 1st.

1992: The maxima in the early part of the year were 45 at Padeswood on Jan. 11th and 40+ at Flint on March 2nd, with several flocks of between 20 and 30 reported from a number of localities. There were 45+ in Garth Woods, Ffynongroyw on May 4th and several reports of birds in suitable breeding areas but no confirmed breeding. The maximum reported in the second winter period was 50 at Loggerheads C. P. on Dec. 6th.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

## LLINOS

*Common breeding resident*

1991: Most reports of large winter flocks came from coastal and estuarine sites, with 200 at Talacre on Jan. 30th, 340 at Gronant on March 16th, 200 at POA on Oct. 9th and 200 at Gronant on Dec. 1st. The only large flock reported from an inland locality was 300 at Gwsaney during January. There was some evidence of visible migration with a total of 154 flying north-east at POA on April 28th.

1992: 150 were at POA on Feb. 3rd with up to 300 regular there in October/November, 200 at Llanasa on Dec. 22nd and large numbers with Greenfinches on Shotwick fields from late summer to the end of the year, maximum 500 on Dec. 28th.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

## LLINOS Y MYNYDD

*Scarce winter visitor and rare breeder*

1991: In January a flock of up to 25 were reported on 3 occasions from R. Clwyd embankment adjacent to Rhyl Marine Lake, 22 were at POA on March 2nd and 3 at Kinmel Bay on April 12th. A pair with the male in song was seen in the Upper Alwen/Llyn Alwen area on May 26th. A nest with 6 chicks c.2 days old was discovered at last year's site on Ruabon Moors on June 5th, the nest was empty the following morning after overnight frost but the bird was still sitting. There were 2 at POA on Nov. 8th/9th with 1 there on 10th, 3 at Gronant on Nov. 24th and 1 at R. Clwyd on Nov. 30th.

1992: There was 1 at Llanddulas on Jan. 30th, between 10 and 20 at Flint Marsh in February and early March (last recorded on 8th) and 10+ again at Flint on Oct. 29th.

REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

## LLINOS BENGGOCH

*Breeding resident and passage migrant*

1991: Widely recorded from mostly upland areas in the breeding season, including Clocaenog Forest, the Upper Brenig Forest ("many in song, May 26th"), Bwlch Pen Barras, Ffrith Reservoir Plantation, Pendinas Forest ("common") and the Llangollen/Ruabon Mountain areas. Some visible migration at POA with a total of 55 flying north-east on April 28th, and the largest winter flocks were recorded at Clocaenog, with a maximum of 120 on March 10th.

1992: A similar pattern of records to last year with pairs present in most suitable breeding habitat, but fewer numbers recorded in winter, maximum 30 at Gwsaney on Oct. 3rd.

TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL *Loxia leucoptera*

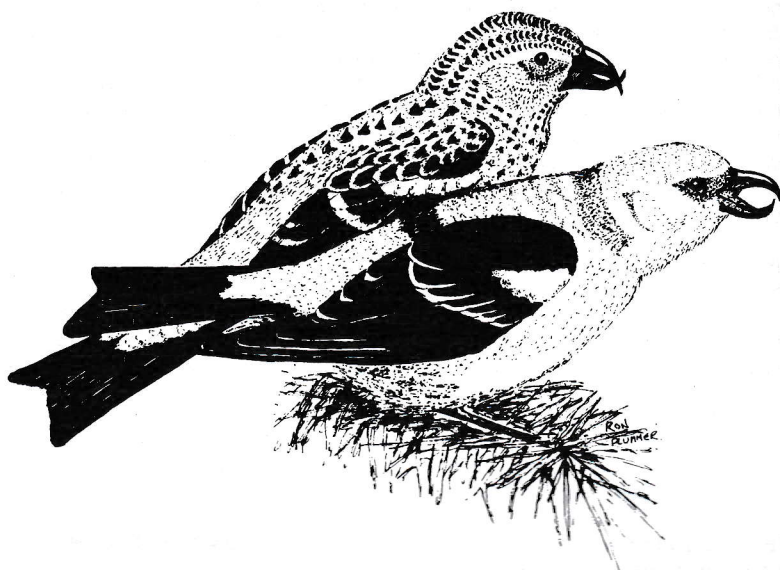
## CROES BIG WEN ADEN

*Rare vagrant*

1991: Two males (possibly 3) were reported from Tal y Cefn Isaf, Clocaenog Forest on March 3rd, with 1 male there from March 13th to 26th, seen by large numbers of

observers. The bird was in the company of Common Crossbills and frequented a small roadside sycamore copse, sometimes coming down to roadside grit and onto the roof and chimney stack of the adjacent farmhouse. This record is currently under consideration by BBRC, if accepted it will be the first record for the county.

1992: No records.



#### CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

*Scarce breeding resident and irruptive winter visitor*

1991: Following last autumn's irruption unprecedented numbers were present in upland conifer plantations in the early months of the year, particularly in Clocaenog Forest, where it was estimated that at least 5,000 were present in January, 2,000 still present in early April and 1,000 in late April, with numbers falling rapidly in May. The first birds were reported feeding young on March 10th and "many" young were present in March. Elsewhere there were records from Gwsaney (maximum 27 on June 8th), Pendinas, Gwaenysgor (8 on April 9th), Prestatyn (5 on July 3rd), Carrog (up to 30), World's End, Eglwyseg (maximum 45 on May 26th), Pen-y- Cae, Moel Famau, Dinbren and Ruabon Moors, with breeding confirmed at Carrog and probable at several other sites. There were no reports received for the months of September to December.

1992: Back to normal this year with records of small numbers from Clocaenog Forest (maximum 30 at Bod Petruall picnic site on Dec. 30th), and single figures at Gwsaney, Moel Famau and Berwyn Halt. There were no confirmed breeding records received.

#### GYLFIN GROES

#### BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

*Fairly common breeding resident*

1991: Many records received from widely spread areas in the county, with a maximum party size of 6.

1992: Fewer records received than in 1991 but with maxima of 10 at Padeswood on Jan. 11th, 10 at Clocaenog on Dec. 13th and a party of 15 males and 1 female at Llyn Helyg on Dec. 23rd.

#### COCH Y BERLLAN



HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

GYLFINBRAFF

*Scarce breeding resident*

1991: 1 at Halkyn on Jan. 11th and 1 in Clocaenog Forest on Jan. 15th were the only records received.

1992: Only 1 record, of 2 birds at Gwsaney on Dec. 23rd.

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcaeus lapponicus*

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

*Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor*

1991: All records from Gronant, with 2 on Oct. 27th, 1 on Nov. 27th & 30th and Dec. 6th, and 2 on Dec. 15th.

1992: 1 on Shotwick fields from Sept. 22nd to 24th, with 2 there on 28th.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

BRAS YR EIRA

*Regular winter visitor in small numbers*

1991: Few records in the first winter period, with singles at Gronant on Feb. 3rd and March 6th, 1 at Towyn on Feb. 11th and 2 at POA on March 17th, with 1 there on 19th. There was an inland record of 1 on the Horseshoe Pass, Llangollen on April 11th and a report of 3 (2 males and a female) on a wide open stony area in Bod Idris Forest, but unfortunately no date was given. In the latter part of the year 7 were regularly seen near the lighthouse at POA at the end of October and through November, with 8 on Nov. 11th and 10 on 18th, and 1 to 4 occasionally at Towyn in November and December.

1992: There were 5 to 6 regularly reported from Kinmel Bay in January and February, last recorded on March 6th, then 5 at POA on Oct. 30th and 5 to 7 occasionally reported from Gronant/POA during December.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

BRAS MELYN

*Fairly common breeding resident, but apparently decreasing*

1991: Small numbers still being reported from a wide range of localities, both coastal and inland, throughout the year, but personal impressions suggest that the species is far less common and widespread than it was a few years ago. There were no reports of confirmed breeding and the maximum group size reported was 20+ at Llanasa in a mixed finch flock on Oct. 21st.

1992: The same comments as for 1991 can be said to apply. The maxima recorded were 20 near Llanfair T. H. on Feb. 10th and 13 near Flint on Feb. 2nd.

ORTOLAN BUNTING *Emberiza hortulana*

BRAS Y GERDDI

*Rare vagrant*

1991: No records

1992: 1 on a stubble field adjacent to Shotwick Lake from Sept. 8th to 10th.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

BRAS Y CYRS

*Fairly common breeding resident*

1991: Confirmed breeding was reported from Talacre Warren, DP and Shotton Paper Company's Lagoon, and singing males were recorded at several other sites. Small numbers were recorded throughout the year at POA and Gronant, with numbers increasing slightly in the winter months and the maximum number reported was a flock of 36 at Llanasa on Jan. 26th.

1992: The maximum numbers recorded were 14+ at Gronant on Jan. 7th and 30+ there on Feb. 20th.

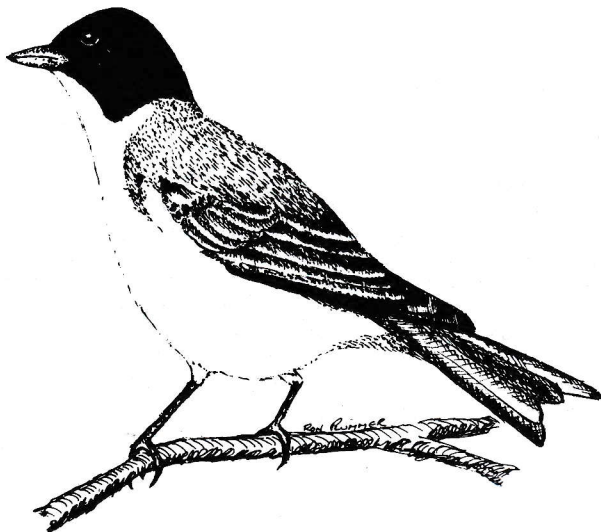
BLACK-HEADED BUNTING *Emberiza melanocephala*

BRAS PENDDU

*Rare vagrant*

1991: No records

1992: A male at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on June 9th/10th, associating loosely with a small party of House Sparrows on rough ground adjacent to the car park of the Raven Inn. Accepted by BBRC.



**CORN BUNTING** *Miliaria calandra*

**BRAS YR YD**

*Uncommon breeding resident, very localised*

1991: All records listed:- 1 at POA on April 7th, 1 Hawarden May 15th (seen and heard on several subsequent occasions), 1 singing at CQR on July 30th and a party of 10 at Shotwick fields on Oct. 13th.

1992: A pair were seen at Shotton on May 18th. A survey of arable fields in the main breeding area found 4 singing males around Shotwick Lake and fields, 1 at IMF and 4 in barley fields near Queensferry. A flock of 27 was seen near Queensferry on Nov. 27th.

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**APPENDIX**

The records on the following page were submitted without any supporting descriptions, many of them via Birdline Northwest. We are very grateful to Birdline for passing on records but could observers please note that records of British, Welsh or Clwyd rarities can not be accepted for publication without the acceptance of the relevant Rarities or Records Panel, for which a description needs to be submitted.

We are therefore printing this list in the hope that readers of this report may recognise some of their records and submit suitable descriptions so that these records can be assessed and, hopefully, accepted for publication in a future edition of this report.

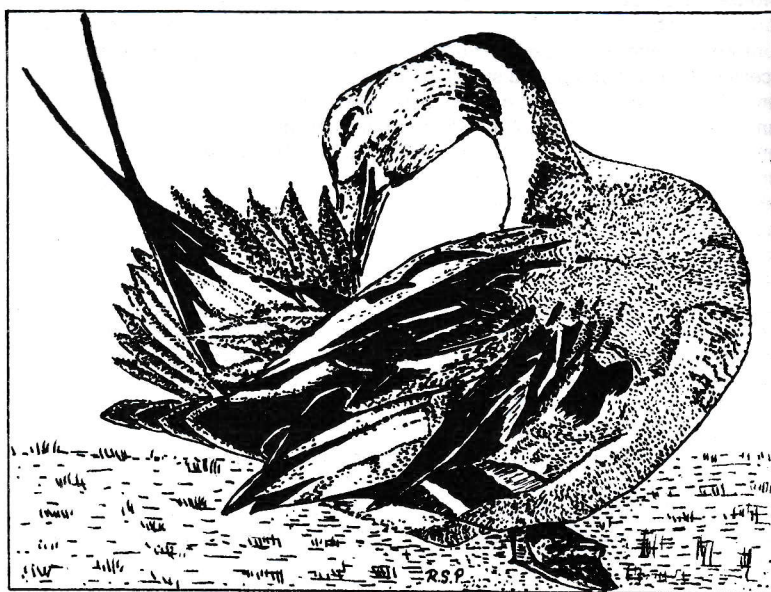


Red-necked Grebe - 1 Llanddulas - 13/1/92  
 Storm Petrel - 5 Prestatyn beach - 7/11/91  
 " " - 2 Rhyl Splash Point - 4/9/92  
 Black Stork - 1 over St. Asaph - 21/4/91  
 " " - 1 by River Ceiriog, near Chirk - 20/5 to 5/6/91  
 White Stork - 1 flew over Dee Valley near Corwen - 10/4/91  
 Lesser White-fronted Goose - 1 R. Clwyd - 22/11/91  
 Broad-billed Sandpiper - 1 POA - 8/5 to 10/5/91. A description was submitted by one observer for this bird but it was not accepted by BBRC. It was apparently seen by a number of people, so if anyone else can submit a description it can be re-submitted.  
 Long-tailed Skua - 3 juveniles off Rhos Point - 18/9/91  
 " " " - 1 juvenile POA - 22/9/91  
 " " " - 3 juveniles POA - 23/9/91  
 " " " - 1 adult POA - 24/9/91  
 " " " - 5 Rhos Point - 18/10/91  
 Sabine's Gull - 2 adults Rhos Point - 18/10/91  
 " " - 1 juvenile Prestatyn - 4/11/91  
 " " - 1 CQR - 22/2/92  
 Bonaparte's Gull - 1 adult Connah's Quay Docks - 10/9/91  
 Ring-billed Gull - 1 1st summer on R. Clwyd at Rhyl - 23/6/91  
 " " " - 1 adult Penrhyn Bay - 5/10/91  
 " " " - 1 adult Pensarn - 6 & 7/10/91  
 " " " - 1 2nd winter Llanddulas - 27/12/91, 12 to 14/1/92  
 Iceland Gull - 1 1st summer Gronant - 3 & 12/7/91  
 " " - 1 1st winter Gronant - 29/2 & 1/3/92  
 Two-barred Crossbill - 1 male Cefn Banog, Clocaenog Forest - 21/4/91  
 Parrot Crossbill - Numerous sightings of this species were reported to Birdline Northwest during the Crossbill irruption of early 1991, but no descriptions have been received. A full list of reported sightings follows.  
 Jan. 6th - 1 male near Pentre Llyn Cymer, SH985534  
 Jan. 13th - 1 male 1 mile SW of Bod Petruall picnic area  
 Jan. 19th - 1 male near Llyn Brenig Visitor Centre, SH963178  
 Jan. 26th - 1 male near Pont-y-Brenig  
 Feb. 17th - 1 male Bod Petruall  
 Feb. 19th - 1 female near Llyn Brenig Dam  
 Mar. 1st - 1 male Llyn Brenig  
 Mar. 16th - 2 males Tal-y-Cefn-Isaf, 1 male and 1 female Pont-yr-Alwen  
 Mar. 17th - 2 males Tal-y-Cefn-Isaf  
 Mar. 22nd - 1 male Tal-y-Cefn-Isaf, 1 male and 1 female Pont-yr-Alwen  
 Mar. 24th - 1 female Tal-y-Cefn-Isaf, 1 male and 1 female Pont-yr-Alwen  
 Mar. 25th - 1 male and 1 female Tal-y-Cefn-Isaf, 1 male Pont-yr-Alwen  
 Mar. 26th - 1 male Pont-yr-Alwen  
 Mar. 29th - 1 male and 1 female Tal-y-Cefn-Isaf  
 Apr. 1st - 1 male east of Llyn Brenig, towards Hafotty Newydd  
 Apr. 20th - 1 male " " " " " " "  
 Apr. 24th - 1 male " " " " " " "  
 Apr. 27th - 2 males and 1 female east of Llyn Brenig, towards Hafotty Newydd  
 May 13th - 1 male "Clocaenog"

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The following individual observers and organisations submitted records for the years of 1991 and/or 1992, from which this report has been compiled. We would like to express our thanks to all of them and apologies to anyone who may have inadvertently been missed off this list.

E.J. Abraham, M. Bagguley, R. Bagguley, B. Barnacal, J.E. Birch, Birdline Northwest, D. Bloomfield, G. Bloomfield, D.P. Broome, Clwyd Ornithological Society, R.D. Corran, J. Coupe, M. Davies, R. Dean, D. Deegan, Deeside Naturalists' Society, R. Delves-Broughton, P. Douglas, A. Duckers, D. Elphick, R.H.H. Evans, B. Formstone, Forestry Commission, A. Gooding, A. Gouldstone, D.A. Green, B.E. Grey, S. Griffiths, L. Hawkins, T. Hextell, I. Higginson, A. Illingworth, J.A. Jackson, E.E. Jones, H. Jones, R. Jones, Z.L. Jones, P. Kenyon, I.W. Lloyd, C.E. Lynch, E. Lyons, Merseyside Ringing Group, R. Moore, G.E. Morris, P.I. Morris, S.J. Morris, J.P. Moulton, M.G. Neal, J. Newton, E.C. O'Grady, D. Otter, R. Plummer, D. Quinn, M.J. Ratcliffe, B.M. Rathbone, P.H. Rathbone, G. & G. Redshaw, J.C. Rees, D.F. Richardson, J.A.L. Roberts, G. Robinson, M.D. Rogers, C.D. Rowley, RSPB, W.R. Shaw, M. Shrubbs, D. Small, I.M. Spence, E.J. Stokes, E.J. Thaw, P. Triggs, Welsh Raptor Study Group (Clwyd), J.C. Weldrick, C.E. Wells, D.R. Willett, I. Williams, Wrexham Birdwatchers.





CLWYD RINGING REPORT 1991 AND 1992  
Edited by Ian M. Spence

I am always willing to learn something new from others and in relation to presentation of this ringing report it had become increasingly obvious to me that it was pointless having 'Grand Totals' columns when I knew that I was not receiving all the ringing totals from ringers who live in Clwyd, never mind those who come from elsewhere. So, I have read with interest the reports prepared by Peter Howlett for the Welsh Bird Report and have decided to present the totals as he does - just the totals for full grown birds and pulli for the species that have been ringed in the relevant year. For this report I have included the totals from the last Clwyd Bird Report (for 1990) so that readers can make their own comparisons.

The overall level of ringing in Clwyd in 1991 and 1992 seems to have been generally the same. The 1992 total is the largest of the three years shown, partly because SCAN Ringing Group managed to make a catch at Rhos-on-Sea and partly because Iolo Lloyd, one of my ringing team, had obtained a Restricted C-permit which enabled him to do much more (saving me the time and effort of accompanying him while he was being trained) and enabled me to do other things instead. I am not aware of any other major differences in effort levels. It has been very reassuring to see that the failure of the Common Terns in 1990 has not been repeated and that these birds continue to provide interesting (entertaining, even) recoveries from the coast of west Africa. We must all hope that the increasing development on the Dee between the colony and the open water will not adversely affect their future breeding success.

For the first time since I have been preparing these reports we have had some of the large gulls ringed - all roof-nesting in Rhyl. Will this become a widespread aspect of breeding behaviour by these birds such that Rhyl may have a population like that in, say, Bristol, where the population has been growing for years (and well studied by ringing)? Watch this space. Many of the warbler species have totals which, over the three years, have gone ever downwards. I think this has been due to inclement weather (particularly thunderstorms) during the breeding season which would have affected the production of young. Sadly, with no Constant Effort Ringing site in the county, now, it is difficult to say if the adult population has been affected in some way. Pied Flycatcher continues to be the most ringed species in Clwyd, followed by Blue Tit. While checking nest-boxes during these years a diversion was the discovery of Dormice at two different sites. Two of the Dormouse nests were usurped by Pied Flycatchers and, of course, the mammals moved out. Well, would you wish to share a box to live in with a brood of freely excreting Pied Flycatchers?

I have selected the most interesting of the recoveries made available to me which give a flavour of the travels undertaken by the birds which visit our county. Despite not being one of the 'best' counties for passage migrants, it is fascinating that the birds which may seem to be resident (I would now include Siskin in that category) do actually move about quite a lot. There have been several foreign recoveries and controls, which are always welcomed and help to make the effort seem to have been worthwhile.

I thank all those ringers who have been patient and sent me ringing totals and recoveries but have had a long wait to see them being used. In future, it may be that we can make more use to the computer and its software, purchased with a grant from National Power, to provide maps of the more interesting recoveries. For this report I extend my thanks to the following ringers for submitting details of their work: I.W. Lloyd, Merseyside Ringing Group (P. Coffey and E. Samuels), J.P. Moulton, J.A.L. Roberts, C. Rowley, SCAN Ringing Group (D. Moss), I.M. Spence and S.K. Thomas.

# Ringling Totals for 1990, 1991 and 1992

	1990		1991		1992	
	F.G.	PULL.	F.G.	PULL.	F.G.	PULL.
Grey Heron	-	-	-	-	-	14
Mute Swan	6	-	19	-	11	-
Hen Harrier	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sparrowhawk	1	-	2	2	1	-
Buzzard	-	7	-	16	-	9
Kestrel	-	11	-	19	-	12
Merlin	-	8	-	3	-	9
Peregrine	-	4	-	4	-	4
Oystercatcher	-	-	-	-	45	-
Ringed Plover	-	-	-	-	1	-
Lapwing	-	7	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	3	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	1	-
Redshank	-	-	-	-	55	-
Turnstone	-	-	-	-	66	-
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	-	-	35
Lesser Black-back Gull	-	-	-	-	-	9
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	8
Common Tern	-	-	-	306	-	555
Little Tern	-	-	-	38	-	78
Stock Dove	-	5	-	6	-	5
Woodpigeon	-	-	-	-	-	2
Collared Dove	2	6	3	-	2	-
Little Owl	1	2	-	-	-	-
Tawny Owl	1	7	7	16	6	18
Swift	-	-	25	-	31	-
Kingfisher	1	-	1	-	1	-
Green Woodpecker	-	-	1	-	-	-
G. S. Woodpecker	4	2	2	-	8	-
Sand Martin	3	-	-	-	142	-
Swallow	8	330	9	178	12	199
House Martin	64	4	20	-	14	-
Tree Pipit	-	-	4	-	-	-
Meadow Pipit	-	-	-	-	-	8
Grey Wagtail	3	3	-	1	9	24
Pied Wagtail	-	7	1	2	-	5
Dipper	15	18	4	20	4	9
Wren	41	4	49	-	32	-
Dunnock	52	-	37	-	24	-
Robin	62	6	67	5	41	9
Redstart	1	32	5	34	5	37
Whinchat	-	30	1	0	-	-
Wheatear	-	80	-	11	1	38
Ring Ousel	-	2	-	-	-	-
Blackbird	56	5	79	-	34	6
Fieldfare	-	-	2	-	-	-
Song Thrush	21	-	9	4	7	-
Redwing	1	-	1	-	59	-



	1990		1991		1992	
	F.G.	PULL	F.G.	PULL	F.G.	PULL
Mistle Thrush	1	-	-	5	-	3
Sedge Warbler	91	-	53	-	5	-
Reed Warbler	123	-	72	-	33	-
Lesser Whitethroat	10	-	2	-	-	-
Whitethroat	39	-	13	-	5	-
Garden Warbler	12	-	5	-	8	-
Blackcap	44	-	40	-	13	-
Wood Warbler	2	-	-	-	1	12
Chiffchaff	36	-	32	-	7	-
Willow Warbler	43	6	122	-	86	-
Goldcrest	14	-	27	-	37	-
Spotted Flycatcher	-	14	-	-	1	8
Pied Flycatcher	166	1352	191	1180	194	1554
Long-tailed Tit	39	-	35	-	24	-
Marsh Tit	2	9	6	6	6	8
Willow Tit	1	-	7	-	2	-
Coal Tit	47	112	103	95	79	74
Blue Tit	544	466	863	415	494	630
Great Tit	124	377	183	432	79	474
Nuthatch	2	5	11	31	9	29
Treecreeper	5	6	6	4	2	-
Jay	-	-	4	-	2	-
Magpie	4	3	-	-	-	-
Jackdaw	-	13	1	1	1	12
Rook	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carion Crow	-	2	-	13	-	2
Starling	13	-	26	-	3	-
House Sparrow	-	-	14	-	2	-
Chaffinch	88	-	178	-	102	-
Brambling	1	-	1	-	-	-
Greenfinch	69	-	27	-	122	-
Goldfinch	6	-	2	5	-	6
Siskin	75	-	30	-	24	-
Linnet	3	-	1	-	-	-
Redpoll	9	-	12	-	7	-
Bullfinch	23	-	14	-	8	-
Yellowhammer	4	-	1	-	-	-
Reed Bunting	196	-	86	-	37	-
TOTALS	2180	2946	2516	2853	2008	3905

# Selected ringing recoveries received during 1991 and 1992.

The following codes are used in presenting the recovery details:

The ring number,

Age of the bird 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 in the calendar year before last
- 8 hatched before the calendar year before last, exact year unknown
- J in juvenile plumage
- M male
- F female

Controlled means caught by another ringer and released alive

## Merlin

Pull.	27 06 92	site confidential, Clwyd	
	26 07 92	Filey Brigg, North Yorkshire	'Recovered'
Pull.	27 06 92	site confidential, Clwyd	
	22 09 92	West Lulworth, Dorset	'Recovered'

## Peregrine

GH94208	Pull.	25 05 91	site confidential, Gwynedd (= F)
		09 01 92	Towyn, near Rhyl, Clwyd
			c 73 km c 16 deg 229 days
			Sick or injured, hit wires, in care with broken wing.
			Released 28 01 92 at Towyn and flew off well

## Oystercatcher

FA06934	3	19 11 83	Rhos-on-Sea, Clwyd
		01 07 91	Vidareidi, FAEROES, 62°23'N 06°32'W
			1021 km N 7y 7m Freshly dead, road casualty

## Sanderling

NB40614	4	24 05 78	Point of Air, Clwyd
		10 06 92	Taroudannt, MOROCCO, 30°31'N 08°55'W
			2577 km 190 deg 5131 days Controlled

## Curlew

FS27010	4	13 03 71	Point of Air, Clwyd
		08 05 92	Selkama, Liminka, Oulu, FINLAND, 64°50'N 25°27'E
			2065 km 52 deg 7727 days Road casualty

## Turnstone

STOCKHOLM			
4152657	3	29 08 83	Nidingen, Halland, SWEDEN, 57°18'N 11°54'E
		29 11 86	Rhos-on-Sea, Clwyd



4152657(cntd) 05 12 87 Rhos-on-Sea, Clwyd  
 =XR68060 18 01 92 Rhos-on-Sea, Clwyd  
 1082 km SW 8y 5m Controlled

#### Common Tern

SX09949 Pull. 21 06 92 Shotton Steel Works  
 15 12 92 off Casamanche, SENEGAL, 12°50'N 17° 00'W  
 4657 km 196 deg 177 days Alive and released,  
 on ship

XR88006 Pull 23 06 91 Shotton Steel Works  
 21 11 91 near Grand-Lahou, IVORY COAST. 05°09'N 05°01'W  
 5341 km 182 deg 151 days Clap-netted

XR88314 Pull. 23 06 91 Shotton Steel Works  
 14 12 91 at sea, GUINEA BISSAU, 11°0'N 16°00'W  
 4741 km 194 deg 174 days Alive and released,  
 on fishing boat

20 07 92 Lome, TOGO, 06°10'N 01°21'E  
 5241 km 176 deg 393 days Landed on dug-out  
 canoe off Guinea Bissau - released

XR87688 Pull. 18 06 89 Shotton Steel Works  
 30 06 91 Rockabill, Dublin, EIRE  
 201 km 283 deg 742 days

XR88405 Pull. 28 07 91 Shotton Steel Works  
 03 02 92 Iles de Los, off Conakry, GUINEA, 09°0'N 13°50'W  
 4953 km 191 deg 190 days  
 Landed on fisherman's head

XR88430 Pull. 28 07 91 Shotton Steel Works  
 19 06 92 Tema, GHANA, 05°41'N 00°00'E  
 5286 km 177 deg 327 days  
 Freshly dead, bird found

#### Dipper

XR70477 Pull. 28 04 91 near Cyffylliog, Rhuthun, Clwyd  
 13 10 91 Pont Eyrarth, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd, Rhuthun, Clwyd  
 9 km 102 deg 168 days Controlled (= M)

#### Blackbird

RA08278 3 M 27 11 88 Rhos-on-Sea, Clwyd  
 16 08 92 Stordragen, Kil, Varmland, SWEDEN, 59°38'N 13°13'E  
 1253 km 56 deg 1358 days Controlled,  
 breeding at Stordragen for last three years

#### Song Thrush

RV34667 3 05 11 89 South Walney, Cumbria  
 08 02 91 Pwllglas, Rhuthun, Clwyd  
 108 km 184 deg 460 days Controlled

**Sedge Warbler****PARIS**

3561618 3 25 08 89 Etang de Trunvel, Finistere, FRANCE, 47°54'N 04°21'W  
13 05 90 Shotton, Clwyd  
596 km 9 deg 261 days Controlled (= F)

**Pied Flycatcher**

F506075 Pull. 11 06 89 Grizedale Forest, Cumbria  
25 05 92 near Cyffylliog, Rhuthun, Clwyd  
141 km 191 deg 1079 days Controlled (= F)

F835713 Pull. 07 06 90 Nunnykirk, Northumberland  
09 06 92 near Nannerch, Clwyd  
241 km 202 deg 733 days Controlled (= M)

F792666 Pull. 12 06 90 Hamsterley Forest, Durham  
31 05 92 Llanfair Talhaiarn, Clwyd  
198 km 215 deg 719 days Controlled (= F)

H156043 Pull. 07 06 92 Prion, near Denbigh, Clwyd  
01 08 92 Anglet, Pyrenees-Atlantiques, FRANCE,  
43°29'N 01°30'W 1081 km 173 deg 55 days  
Found dead, hit window

**Starling**

RH23402 4 M 27 12 89 Pwllglas, Rhuthun, Clwyd  
05 03 91 St Annaparochie, Friesland, THE NETHERLANDS,  
53°17'N 05°39'W 597 km 88 deg 433 days  
Dead (not fresh), bird found, probably killed by Kestrel

**Chaffinch**

B772007 3 M 08 11 88 Westenshouwen, Zeeland, NETHERLANDS,  
51°41'N 03°41'E  
17 02 91 Shotton, Clwyd  
485 km 290 deg 831 days Controlled

**Greenfinch**

VJ14388 3 F 29 12 91 Great Meols, Wirral, Merseyside  
24 04 92 Llansilin, Clwyd  
61 km 182 deg 117 days Controlled

**Siskin**

F399012 4 F 11 04 92 Packington Park, Warwickshire  
21 04 92 Pwllglas, Rhuthun, Clwyd  
131 km 302 deg 10 days Controlled

F911781 5 F 24 03 91 Bod Petruall, Clocaenog Forest, Clwyd  
23 02 92 East Grinstead, Sussex  
05 03 92 East Grinstead, Sussex  
316 km 132 deg 336 & 347 days Controlled



## THE SHOTTON TERN COLONY

Ron & John Birch

The River Dee rises in Bala Lake in Gwynedd and flows through the picturesque Vale of Llangollen and the fertile plains of Cheshire before entering its estuary seven miles from Chester. The estuary, some fifteen miles long and five miles wide, was once much larger and deep enough to be easily navigable to shipping to such an extent that the ancient Roman city of Chester outranked nearby Liverpool as a seaport. By the fifteenth century, however, the estuary was already beginning to silt up and 300 years later, in a last desperate attempt to keep the waterway navigable, the river was canalised from just below Chester to the head of the estuary, as it is today, at Queensferry. Far from having the desired effect the ill-fated scheme only deprived the river of its flood meadows, and speeded up the formation of sand-banks and saltmarsh in the mouth of the river. As a result of the canalisation a great deal of land was reclaimed from the sea and on part of this land there now stands the British Steel Corporation's Shotton Works. During the last half century, as the silting up of the estuary progressed, an extensive area of saltmarsh became established just beyond the western limit of the factory and in 1970 in this area a small colony of Common Terns, *Sterna hirundo*, had a tenuous hold.



As Farrer remarked in his book, "The Feathered Folk of an Estuary", the history of the colony is shrouded in mystery. In 1910 T. A. Coward could find no evidence of Common Terns nesting anywhere on the Dee but by 1918 Farrer claimed that a small colony was established off Burton Point and that by 1934 fifty pairs of terns were present at the site. The colony still existed in 1970 but the number of nesting pairs varied widely, and between 1940 and 1970 contained anything between 10 and 80 pairs. The main reason for this wild fluctuation in numbers is that the area of marsh in question floods on any tide exceeding about 28 feet and it was rare that a breeding season passed without severe devastation of the colony. To quote Farrer, "the terns never seem to learn sense and continue to lay their eggs in a rather low-lying part of the marsh particularly liable to inundation". However, in the light of subsequent events it would seem that, on the contrary, the terns learn sense very quickly and that the lack of an alternative site was the over-riding factor.

As one would imagine a large steelworks uses vast quantities of water and within the factory precincts many cooling pools, reservoirs and water treatment tanks have been constructed. The largest of these, a pool about 6 feet deep and covering some 35 acres has, when viewed from the correct position, a fairly natural appearance. Although

bounded on two sides by the factory, the remainder of the perimeter is bounded by reed-beds and areas of scrub willow, birch and alder. To increase the efficiency of the water treatment effected by these oxidation ponds the flow of water is controlled by a number of narrow banks projecting out into the pool and on these one or two pairs of terns occasionally attempted to breed. Unfortunately however, having escaped the vagaries of the flood tides the birds found themselves beset by other hazards, in the form of rats, foxes, weasels and even the occasional human egg thief. The plight of the only Common Tern colony in what was then Flintshire seemed desperate when in 1970 at the request of the Merseyside Ringing Group the British Steel Corporation declared these pools and surrounding reed-beds a reserve. Like all ringers the group, about twenty strong, had a surfeit of optimistic enthusiasm and in their original letter outlining their plans for the reserve they requested permission to "build up to six rafts, to be floated on the pools, as a safe nesting area for terns.

During February and early March members of the group collected driftwood and old oil-drums in the hope that permission for the project would be granted and about five weeks before the first terns were due to arrive they received the go-ahead and the group diverted some of its not inconsiderable energy towards conservation. Hastily a raft about 12 feet square was constructed from the most ill-assorted hotch-potch of timber imaginable and, supported by rusty oil-drums, was gingerly towed to the centre of the pools and anchored with nylon line. It was already nearing the end of April and Common Terns had been reported in the Dee and neighbouring Mersey estuaries. Without a lot of hope for the success of the project I left with three other group members for a week's birding in Austria. On my return, a little over a fortnight after the launch of the raft, I was once again at Shotton Reserve and was astounded to see several Common Terns wheeling anxiously over the raft. I quickly launched the working raft, an even more perilous construction than that in which the terns were showing so much interest, and was delighted to find 3 nests with eggs in the thin layer of basic slag which had been provided as an alternative to a shingle spit. Over the next few weeks, presumably in response to the usual tidal devastation off Burton Point, the colony increased to 12/13 pairs and in due course 17 pullus Common Terns were ringed.

The group's reaction was typical and at the end of the breeding season work immediately commenced on the construction of 3 new rafts. Fortunately a local sawmill owner provided as many low quality pine planks as they could carry away. A number of 20 foot lengths of 3" x 3" secondhand timber were purchased from a nearby woodyard and used to construct the main framework of the rafts, which were then decked with the pine planks. A local oil-drum manufacturer made a slight error of judgement and produced several dozen 40 gallon drums omitting to incorporate any holes through which oil might be introduced. (Author's note: I am at a loss as to how this could have happened but since a group member, who must remain anonymous, worked for the company at the time, I have my suspicions.) Such vessels, although useless for the storage of oil, are of course ideal for keeping heavy rafts afloat. The rafts were fitted with 18" sides which prevented any chicks from leaving the safety of the colony until after fledging and the standard inch or so of basic slag completed the construction. Since the prototype raft had broken away from its nylon moorings during a summer gale and had only been relocated with considerable effort on the part of the group and with some distress to the terns, BSC were asked if they could help with the provision of anchors. In due course shackles, chains and anchors (old car engines) arrived and the rafts were duly moored with a few weeks to spare before the breeding season. The result of all this hard work during the winter months, when several members of the group took unplanned dips in the pool, was an increase in the strength of the colony to 45 pairs, the group's reward being 87 Common Terns carrying BTO rings bound for West Africa.



During the next season, apart from some fairly extensive repairs to the rafts just prior to the breeding season, no problems were experienced and the colony increased to 75 pairs, apparently limited only by the available nesting area. For their efforts the group received a Prince of Wales Award, which was accepted from the Prince on behalf of the group by the then Chairman, Charles Done. The trophy was proudly displayed in the ringing hut, having been securely attached to the wall with a six inch nail. Unfortunately the six inch nails in the raft were less secure. The constant immersion of much of the raft in water and the considerable force exerted by the submerged drums eventually took their toll and the rafts began to disintegrate. Since to continue with the rafts would involve considerable effort and expense every 2 to 3 years then clearly a radical change in thinking was necessary. If ESSO, BP and others could construct platforms in the North Sea then it seemed not unreasonable for the MRG to undertake a similar project in a 6 foot deep pool. Consequently over the next few months rubbish tips were scavenged for disused and discarded scaffolding, and old and rusty scaffold clips were heated in fires and boiled in oil to make them re-usable. Again the working raft set sail, now laden with diverse lengths of scaffold, and the working party, armed with scaffold clips, sledgehammers and spanners, bent to the new task. Numerous lengths of 10 foot scaffold were driven into the muddy bottom of the pool and 20 foot lengths, which formed the horizontal framework of the platform, were clipped into place. Next a loose framework of 12' x 3" planks was laid on the scaffold and to these the lighter upper deck was nailed. The usual sides and 2" of basic slag completed the structure. The wooden deck was now clear of the water by about 12 to 18 inches and the nesting area had been increased from 700 sq. ft. to 1250 sq. ft.

The birds rewarded these efforts by yet a further increase in the size of the colony to about 90 pairs. There was again a short period of respite for the group with only minor repairs being necessary during the winter, but a modification to the factory in the shape of a new coatings plant once again brought the working party out of retirement. The exact details of the changes are too complex to explain here but the net effect was that, almost overnight, the 35 acre pool moved 80 yards north. The tern platform, so carefully located in the centre of the pool now stood a mere 6 feet from the bank. There was no alternative but to dismantle the platform and rebuild it at the new centre of the pool. For those group members most heavily involved the winter months of 1974/75 are best forgotten, but to their eternal credit I cannot recall a single instance when anyone bemoaned the fact that it had become necessary to relocate the platform. With only days to spare the work was completed and the terns homed in from West Africa blissfully unaware of how close they had been to becoming homeless.

The following year a grant from the RSPB financed an extension to the platform area of about 30%. The increase in the colony size was rather more impressive with an estimated 150 pairs of terns nesting and 248 pulli being ringed. Between 1977 and 1979, apart from minor repairs each winter, few problems were experienced, although extremes of very wet and very hot and dry weather in 1978 appeared to be the cause of severe losses amongst very young chicks.

It was now the birds' turn to be honoured when, in 1980, BSC Shotton Works adopted the Common Tern as its new logo. Within weeks they were to be seen everywhere:- car passes, ties, football club T-shirts, rugby club sweaters, packing cases and paper, the works vehicles and even the works fire engine were emblazoned with the elegant seabird. The next two seasons saw a steady deterioration of the platforms and in the winter of 1983 a major refit became necessary and was made possible by generous grants from the Prince of Wales Award Committee and the RSPB. The birds responded to the rather more secure structure and close to 200 pairs raised a record-breaking total of 331 chicks. In 1984 considerable losses occurred amongst well-grown chicks just



prior to fledging. Normally only very small chicks are susceptible to adverse weather, as had been observed in 1978 and this new situation gave cause for considerable concern. However, subsequent examination showed that the birds had died from starvation, presumably because either there were too few fish in the estuary or that the terns, for some unknown reason, were unable to catch them.

In 1985 yet another problem faced the birds, and although the worst fears were unfounded, it still gives cause for concern. A new paper plant located about a mile from the reserve necessitated the installation of a high tension electricity supply to the factory. Regrettably this was routed directly across the flight-line from the colony to the fishing grounds in the lower estuary. Collectively birds cross the wires thousands of times during the breeding season and although the CEGB, on the advice of the MRG, went to considerable trouble to mark the lowest wire the birds took to flying over the top one. In the early part of the season six birds were found dead beneath the wires and no doubt others were killed but not discovered. Once again the birds seemed to be using their common sense as towards the end of the summer some terns had at last started to fly under the wires, as had been anticipated. In spite of this new hazard 238 chicks were reared but it was too soon to be confident that the birds had again triumphed over adversity.

The 1986 breeding season, preceded by the usual repairs to the platform during the winter months, was highly successful, with a new record of 333 pulli being ringed. Again the majority of birds persisted in crossing over rather than under the high tension power cables on their interminable flights to and from the estuary, and regrettably a few individuals paid the ultimate penalty. Nevertheless all seemed well, but within a short time three events took place which threatened to have a dramatic effect on the colony. Firstly, during the winter the repair gang had observed a serious and rapid deterioration in the scaffolding supporting the platform, which was clearly in need of a major refit. The group was then informed that a new access road to the factory was to be built, and that the only sensible route was through the middle of the reserve, passing within 100 yards of the colony. Finally, through the good offices of Graham Williams of the RSPB and the Dee Estuary Conservation Group, the MRG obtained a substantial grant from Shell UK Limited in support of the project.

It had long been the aim of the group to somehow fabricate an artificial island and thereby put an end to the constant drain on both effort and finances imposed by the maintenance of the platform. The above events at last put them in a position to proceed and they approached BSC with their master plan. This involved one of the training walls being cut through in three places, the islands so formed to be blinded with sea sand, the slag banks to be stabilised with concrete and the tern chicks to be protected until airborne by a ring of steel. The approach to BSC was, as ever, met with immediate offers of help and advice. With the backing of the Engineering Department, the work began in earnest in early 1987. The selected bund was covered with a layer of sea sand and the contractors then moved in to separate the bund into three islands. The first job was to link the islands by a series of temporary bridges to facilitate the movement of materials and equipment to the site. With the help of friends from the Hilbre Island Bird Observatory the perimeter of the central island was strengthened with concrete, and the corrugated steel barrier was erected. The work was completed on April 26th, with 60 Common Terns wheeling impatiently overhead (or so they thought!). The council, who were at this time building the access road, had been asked to try to minimise heavy work in the vicinity of the colony during the breeding season. Unfortunately the prime times for tern breeding and road building coincide, but although no firm promises could be given the road engineers agreed to do their best. In the event the engineer in charge was as good as his word and by the time the birds arrived the road across the reserve was all but complete.



Nothing now seemed to stand in the way of another record-breaking season, and although the battered platform remained the group had no doubt that the birds would nest on the pristine island a mere 20 yards to the west. The season was only moderately successful, the cool wet weather which persisted through May and June reducing the number of ringed chicks to 274, but their distribution - rickety old platform 259, high tech new island 15 - was an unmitigated disaster. The group was now faced with the agonising decision of whether the platform should be repaired or removed completely. It was the view of the principal architects that only by taking the latter step could the birds be induced to move to their new quarters. It was also felt that the 100 tons of sand should be replaced by 50 tons of pea-sized basic slag, which is not too difficult provided it is said quickly. This step was considered necessary since the water retained by the sand supported the growth of excessive vegetation. During the winter of 1987/88 therefore the bridges were put into place once more, the sand exchanged for slag (purchased with rapidly diminishing funds) and the concrete banks repaired and extended. Finally the platform was dismantled to the point where all that remained were 39 of the vertical supports. At this stage it was realised that the momentous decision meant very little, since the platform almost fell apart anyway.

In due course the terns returned and there then followed three harrowing weeks during which they studiously ignored the island. They sat around looking dejected, for the most part perched on the remains of the platform, and on one occasion I saw a bird sitting on every one of the 39 remaining supports. When all efforts seemed to be futile, a few birds finally began to take an interest. The first 2 nests were recorded on May 13th and full acceptance of their new home quickly spread to the other terns. A week later there were 101 nests and on May 30th 191 nests with a total of 511 eggs. By the end of the breeding season a new all-time record of 461 birds had been ringed. Once again the terns had triumphed, oblivious to the drama that constantly surrounds their artificial breeding grounds, but the group felt that at last they had got the birds on a more solid footing.

However, in 1990 the colony suffered its first complete failure since artificial breeding platforms were first constructed in 1970. The terns arrived at the colony on schedule, and by April 29th there were 40 birds present. A visit to the island on May 13th revealed 5 scrapes containing eggs, and a detailed count on May 27th produced a total of 265 nests containing 715 eggs, the highest number on record. The next visit to the colony by a member of the group was made on June 20th and it was immediately apparent that something was seriously amiss, with fewer than 10 adult birds being present. On June 24th there were only 4 birds and the island was visited. Most of the eggs had been taken, presumably by winged predators, and those which remained were broken. An examination of the shells indicated that none of the eggs had been incubated to the embryo stage, there were no signs of any chicks having been hatched and no adult corpses were found.

Several theories for the disaster were propounded, including predation, adverse weather and disturbance. These were discounted on the basis of information available, leaving a shortage of food as the only explanation which would fit the situation. Subsequent enquiries revealed that most other colonies on the Irish Sea coast had been similarly affected, although Sandwich Terns had bred successfully. Local fishermen were of the opinion that there had been a shortage of small fish in the Dee estuary that year. Assuming this to have been the case there are several possible explanations. Pollution of some sort is one possibility, but there is no evidence of any incident. Another theory, with some supporting evidence, is that an unusually high level of algal bloom in the estuary prevented the terns from seeing their prey. Contacts in the National Rivers

Authority have confirmed that during 1990 the amount of algal bloom did reach abnormal concentrations.

It is possible that a similar incident had occurred in 1984, although later in the breeding season when a considerable number of large chicks perished, and from an examination of a number of corpses it appeared that starvation was the cause of death on that occasion. It may be that we shall never be absolutely certain why the failure occurred and the 1991 season was awaited with keener than usual interest.

In the event the 1991 season was reasonably successful, albeit without any record-breaking figures, with 170 pairs nesting and 306 pulli ringed, but the birds were back to full strength in 1992 with 315 pairs rearing a record 555 young.

#### ANTAGONISTIC BEHAVIOUR OF FEEDING SNIPE Ron Plummer





On Sunday Nov. 22nd 1992 I was watching a group of 7 Snipe, *Gallinago gallinago*, feeding along the edge of lagoon no. 3 on land belonging to Shotton Paper Company, Deeside. The feeding area was no more than 10 metres square and I had a good, clear view of all 7 birds at all times. The distance between myself and the birds was roughly 50 metres and I was using 7 x 50 binoculars. The period of observation was from 12 noon until 1300hrs. This observation relates to antagonism between individuals, towards intruders upon their feeding area, and only occurred if a bird was feeding. The display would begin with the feeding bird turning its back upon the intruder, it would then cock its tail and slightly fan the feathers to show the pattern of a black letter "T" across the underside tips and down the centre to the undertail coverts. (This dark, vertical line is only visible when this posture is adopted, and is hidden when the feathers are once again flattened.) Then with head down and tail up the aggressor walked backwards towards the intruder. This always had the desired effect of forcing the intruder to back away.

This behaviour only took place if a bird was feeding, when a previously aggressive bird was preening or just sitting it could be approached without reaction. The phenomenon was not exclusive to just one bird and it was observed that intruder would turn aggressor when it found a feeding patch of its own.

As recently as 1990 this behaviour was reported in Fieldfares, *Turdus pilaris*, by Cedric Lynch (See Clwyd Bird Report 1990), but until now I have not come across any mention of similar behaviour in other birds. In British Birds volume 80, Dougall, Mattingley, Mattingley and Stewart record the freezing posture adopted by Snipe when in danger or disturbed, also J. Lewis Bonhote in his 1907 publication "Birds of Britain" describes how a Snipe will back up to a tussock of grass with its head down and tail up, causing the two dorsal stripes to resemble the grass. There is also a reference in BWP Volume 3, Cramp & Simmons, regarding a similar behaviour in Snipe, but this account is of a bird facing the intruder, lowering its head and raising its tail to show black spots, or "eyes" on the upper side of the feathers, then with beak parallel to the ground walking towards the intruder, but there is no mention of the rear first posture which I witnessed.

#### CONSERVATION ON THE DEE ESTUARY - A BRIEF UPDATE

Andrew Gouldstone

(RSPB Assistant Warden, Dee Estuary Reserves)

With the launch of campaigns such as the RSPB's Save Our Shorebirds, the need for successful conservation efforts on sites of supreme international importance, such as the Dee Estuary, is still clearly high on the agenda. Unfortunately developments which could put at risk parts of the estuary continue to be put forward. Plans for the Flint bypass are still not finalised and a coastal route, which would swallow up areas of important mudflats, is still a possibility. This is despite its having already been thrown out by a public enquiry on the grounds of the damage it would cause to the estuary. Proposals also exist for continued tipping of coal waste onto the mudflats and on land adjacent to the estuary, and a proposed Welsh Development Agency industrial and business estate development threatens the only remaining area in Wales where Corn Buntings, *Miliaria calandra*, can still be found, along with significant numbers of Yellow Wagtails, *Motacilla flava*.

However, positive developments also exist. Of particular importance has been the establishment of the Dee Estuary Forum, by which local authorities, industry, conservation bodies and other interested parties meet to discuss the future of the area. An important feature of this process will be the production of a Dee Estuary Strategy

Plan, a working document to allow careful use of the site whilst ensuring its immense value to wildlife is not damaged. With co-operation from all parties this surely has to be the way forward.

The activities of indiscriminate cocklers on the mudflats has been a cause of concern in recent years. During the winter of 1992/93 up to 118 cocklers could be seen operating off the Point of Air alone. Numbers of this magnitude clearly deny birds access to large areas of feeding grounds and may have a considerable effect on the cockle banks, both as a future resource for legitimate cockling interests and for birds. The National Rivers Authority has recently begun procedures for the implementation of bye-laws to control certain aspects of the cockling industry and a monitoring programme will be put in place to identify the benefits of these measures. A recent management agreement between the RSPB and the NRA over 6500 acres of the Authority's land within the estuary means the RSPB is well-placed to have a voice over such issues as cockling. It is hoped that with this co-operation, the bye-laws and support from legitimate interests, the effect of the industry in the future will be less damaging.

Construction of the Hamilton's gas terminal at Point of Air has now commenced and the company has put a lot of thought into measures to minimise the disturbance to birds on the estuary during the construction period, and to providing alternative and improved feeding and roosting opportunities for birds displaced from the construction site itself.

Getting back to what the estuary is all about, the Birds of Estuaries Enquiry counts for the Dee continue to show the huge importance of the site for wintering wildfowl and waders. The average waterfowl population (ducks and waders) in the five year period to the winter of 1991/92 shows an increase of over 13,800 birds from that in the five year period to the winter of 1990/91, to a staggering 131,685 birds. The number of species supported at internationally important levels almost crept up to 11, with Curlew, *Numenius arquata*, falling short of the threshold figure by only 11 birds.....I'm sure they were out there somewhere! Others to show increases of note included Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus*, Knot, *Calidris canutus*, Dunlin, *Calidris alpina*, Teal, *Anas crecca*, and Pintail, *Anas acuta*. The latter continues to be one of the estuary's star birds, with the Dee being the UK's premier site for this bird, supporting 14% of the NW European population. The huge flocks of this extremely attractive duck can often be difficult to get good views of, but last winter large numbers were often to be seen loafing off Bagillt at low water. Black-tailed Godwits, *Limosa limosa*, continue to increase too, not only in the winter but also in the summer when the UK's largest summering flock can usually be seen at the RSPB's Inner Marsh Farm reserve, numbering some 250 birds.

Such numbers are evidence of the benefits of all the conservation bodies involved on the Dee, but for these to be sustained our continued vigilance is clearly necessary, and surely justifiable.

#### **SUMMER POPULATIONS OF FERAL GEESE IN CLWYD IN 1991** **G. E. Morris, Z. L. Jones & E. E. Jones**

In June and July, 1991, 79 wetland sites in Clwyd were surveyed for Canada Geese and Greylag Geese as part of a national survey by the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust.

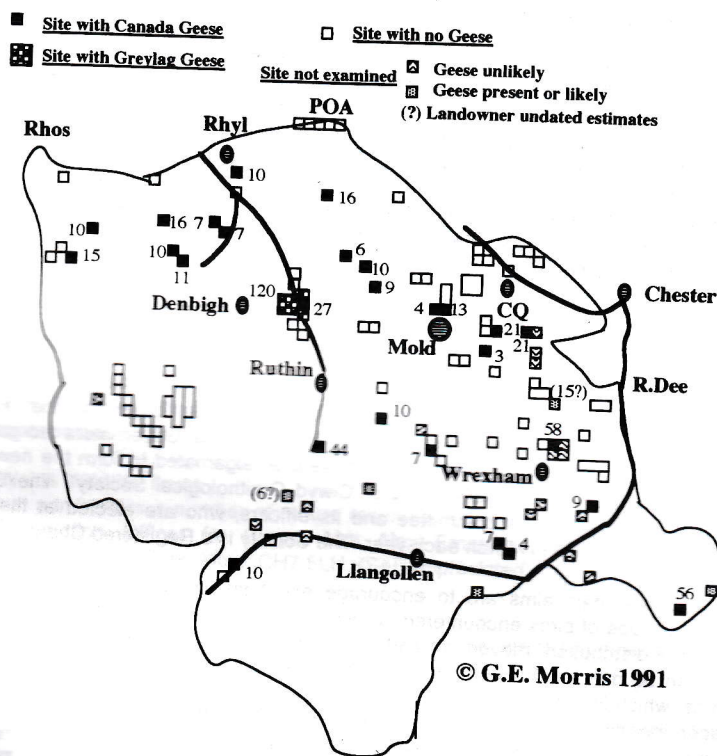
437 Canada Geese, *Branta canadensis*, were found in 31 different localities (see map). At least 138 young Canadas were raised, though many birds were so well-grown by July as to make age distinction difficult at some sites. Coverage was not complete, especially



in the south and east of the county, and was made more difficult by the fact that Canada Geese often choose small ponds, especially newly-created fishery ponds (6 sites holding 70 Canada Geese do not appear as wetland on OS maps). They require ponds with islands or inaccessible banks, often at some height above sea level, though they avoid upland lakes in heather moorland and the major winter sites for geese on the Dee estuary are deserted in summer. One site with 44 birds in July was found to have 129 in early August and some potential sites were on private land without available access (though several landowners provided useful information by letter). The figure of 437 is therefore thought to be an under-estimate of the true numbers which are likely to have been between 500 and 600.

120 Greylag Geese, *Anser anser*, were found at a single site in the Clwyd valley which places the site, just about, in the British Top 50 for this species. Numbers are still increasing with 141 present in March 1993.

We would like to thank Ian Spence, John L. Roberts, Cedric Lynch, Robin Moore, Colin Wells and Julian Weldrick for providing counts at specific sites.



## WREN FEEDING NESTLING GREAT TITS

Mrs. J. C. Rees

During the early summer of 1992 we were surprised and pleased to see a pair of Great Tits, *Parus major*, taking an interest in the nest-box on our garage, which for some reason had been completely ignored for three years. Soon it was obvious from cheeping sounds that the eggs had hatched and we watched the parent birds carrying in food and removing faecal sacs.

On July 4th a Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes*, was seen entering the nest-box and subsequently it began to take food in to the chicks, in fact it (she?) seemed to be making more feeding visits than the parent birds. Our cats were frequently attracted to the nest-box and the Wren would shout abuse at them from a safe distance, for daring to loiter near "her" nest-box.

On July 13th the young birds left the nest and the Wren seemed to be encouraging the last chick to leave, it had its head out of the hole and the Wren repeatedly dropped and picked up some sort of grub to try and tempt it out, instead of going to the box to feed it as before.

Now that the birds have left it seems very quiet by the garage, but we will be hoping for a new family next year, with or without a tiny foster parent!

## TARGET SPECIES

Due to the lateness of publication of this report, for reasons already outlined, it was thought that it would not be worthwhile to introduce a new target species at this stage. It is hoped that the 1993 report can be published before the end of 1994 and details of target species for 1995 will be detailed in that report. In the meantime please continue to send in all records of Tree Sparrows so that the information already received for this species can be added to.

## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SOCIETY

### Clwyd Ornithological Society

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

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



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

If you are interested and wish to join the Society, whatever your level of interest may be, the annual subscription is currently excellent value at only £5.00 for an adult member. Please contact the Treasurer Dr. E.M. Bell at 9 Maen Gwyn, Abergele, Telephone Abergele 826771. (SAE appreciated)

#### **Deeside Naturalists' Society**

On 26th April 1973 a public meeting was held in the Civic Centre, Connah's Quay, to determine whether there was sufficient interest to form a local natural history group. Twenty people attended and Deeside Naturalists' Society was formed. At that first meeting it was decided that the aim of the organisation should be "to stimulate interest in natural history and to play a part in the conservation of flora and fauna on Deeside and the surrounding area". This is still the aim of the Society.

Since those early days the membership of the Society has grown steadily and is currently about 500. Its success can be attributed to its wide ranging programme of illustrated lectures, its field meetings and especially its close involvement with the nature reserve on the Dee shoreline, between Connah's Quay and Flint.

Members of Deeside Naturalists' Society receive quarterly newsletters, a field meeting and indoor lecture programme, a permit to visit the Reserve (if over 18) and a key which will gain access to the hides. Members of the Society are encouraged to undertake management tasks on the Reserve and to participate in the Dee Estuary Wetland Bird Survey.

The Society works closely with other conservation bodies. It is a member of the Dee Estuary Conservation Group and is represented at the Dee Estuary Forum and the Clwyd Environmental Forum. Deeside Naturalists Society is a Registered Charity.

For further information and details of membership contact Raymond Roberts at 38 Kelsterton Road, Connah's Quay. (SAE appreciated)

#### **Wrexham Birdwatchers**

Contact the Secretary, Mr. G. Jones, 7 Bromfield Avenue, LLay, Wrexham, LL12 0RG. (SAE appreciated)

#### **North Wales Wildlife Trust**

The Trust administers a number of nature reserves in Clwyd. Further information from the Conservation Officer for Clwyd, Mrs Alex Emery at NWWT Clwyd Office, Loggerheads Country Park, Mold, CH7 5LH. (SAE appreciated)

#### **Welsh Ornithological Society**

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

Many of the wildlife habitats in Wales are under serious threat of development and it is vitally important that local ornithology has a fully co-ordinated voice if conservation issues are to be properly discussed. Much depends on the strength of that voice. If the

W.O.S. is to succeed in its main aims then it is essential that the Society should have the authority to speak out on behalf of all those who wish to protect the birds and bird habitats of Wales. It can only do so if all interested people lend their support by joining its ranks.

For further information contact the Membership Secretary, Derek Thomas, Laburnum Cottage, 12 Manselfield Road, Murton. Swansea, SA3 3AR. (SAE appreciated).

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The 1990 report contains 75 pages and includes articles on "The Mute Swan at Rhyl" by Stuart Thomas, "Antagonistic Behaviour of Feeding Fieldfare" by Cedric Lynch, "Pacific Golden Plover at Oakenholt Marsh RSPB Reserve" by Ian Higginson, "Deeside Urban Wildlife Group Broad Oak Wood Nature Reserve" by Pip Perry, "Conservation in the Forest" (in Welsh and English) by Iolo Wyn Lloyd and "Buzzards in Clwyd" by G.E. Morris.

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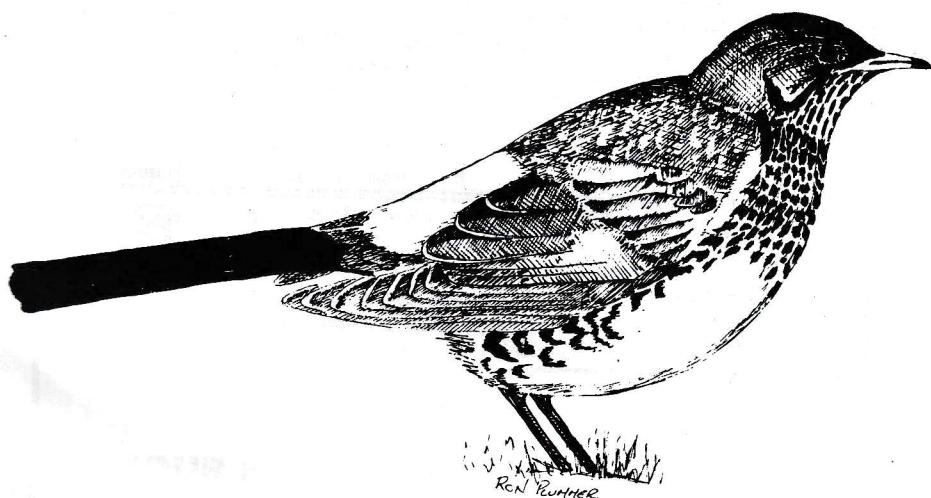
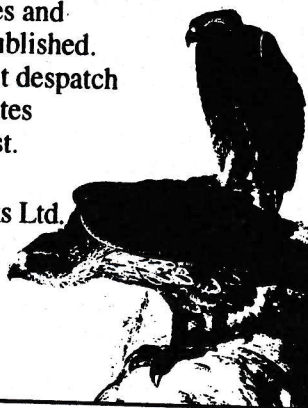
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