



CLWYD BIRD REPORT 2000



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CLWYD BIRD RECORDING
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CLWYD BIRD RECORDING GROUP

was founded over ten years ago. It comprises representatives from a variety of interested organisations. The current membership is as follows:

Chairman and County Recorder: Norman Hallas

(also representing Wrexham Birdwatchers)

Hon. Secretary: Anne Brenchley (BTO East Clwyd Representative)

Hon. Treasurer: Elvet Jones (Clwyd Ornithological Society)
and

Andrew Dale (CCW)

Louise Jones (COS)

Paul Kenyon (WOS)

Mel ab Owain (BTO West Clwyd Representative)

Ron Plummer (DNS)

Peter Rathbone (ex-officio)

Gareth Stamp (RSPB)

AREA COVERED:

The inserted maps give some indication of the geographical and political entity covered in this Report. Another change in local boundaries meant that, in 1997, Clwyd ceased to exist as a county and Flintshire, Denbighshire, Aberconwy and Wrexham Unitary Authorities came into being to further complicate our task. To foster continuity, we have emulated the Welsh Ornithological Society in the adoption of the old Watsonian Vice-County system. Though the title of 'Clwyd Bird Report' has been retained, our area should be seen as consisting of vice counties 50 Denbigh (Dinbych) and 51 Flint (Fflint). This decision has become inevitable because, unfortunately, the boundaries of the newly-created districts bear little resemblance to the original county boundaries. For anyone unsure of the boundaries, the advice given is to continue to submit records for those areas formerly regarded as being in Clwyd. Any which are not relevant to the new recording area will be passed on to the appropriate County Recorder. To this end, it is imperative that an appropriate place name and O.S. grid reference number is included with any records sent in.

EDITORIAL

Norman Hallas

Welcome to the 2000 Clwyd Bird Report. My first task is to thank those current members of the Clwyd Bird Recording Group, for the time and effort which they have devoted to the work of the group during their period of membership. Secondly, I must thank all those who contributed to this report in any way. A list of Contributors is to be found at the end of the Report and a note of acknowledgement is appended to this editorial.

I am pleased to report that Clwyd Bird Recording Group managed to achieve its main aim last year - to produce a report for 1999. Our secondary aim - to catch up on the 'missing' years - is almost accomplished too. A supplementary report for 1993-5 was produced and we hope to publish one shortly for 1996-8. During a period of transition and disruption, when wholesale changes were made to personnel and buildings, some documents were lost and only now are emerging from attics and cupboards. CBRG sincerely apologises to those who sent in any records for these earlier years but which may have been mislaid, albeit temporarily.

Our aims in endeavouring to produce such a document remain as before - to make a collective record of bird sightings to remind participant Birdwatchers of what they and their colleagues have seen in our area. and to give some indication of the 'health' or otherwise of an area. Trends may be identified as signposts and parameters for action indicated. There is much more which can be done in both of these directions. In the absence of Local or National action in this regard, we are likely to remain as the principal custodians for ornithological records in Clwyd.

Boundary changes continue to cause confusion among those who send in records as well as among those who receive them. Please continue to send in records as outlined in this report. Any which are not appropriate to this area will be sent on to the relevant Recorder. Our area is as set out

on Page 4. I have not found it possible to distinguish in every instance between Flint (vc 51) and Denbigh (vc 50) records in this report. However, familiarity with sites and a list of O.S. numbers (key at the back of the report) should enable those who wish to disentangle them to do so. More productive, in my view, is the distinction between coastal and inland records. (In fact, in essence, this consists to a large extent of the distinction between Flintshire and Denbighshire respectively.)

Particular problems occur on the north-eastern and north-western extremities of our area. In the former, the boundary cuts across the Dee estuary and runs through the RSPB Inner Marsh Farm Reserve to the exclusion of most of the Reserve which is in Cheshire. I have thus only included records which are relevant to our area (the Border Pool and some of the surrounding fields are in Flintshire). A similar prescription applies to the north-western boundary. The WOS position on this, is that vc 49, Caernarfon, "corresponds to the pre-1974 administrative county of Caernarfonshire. However, the new County Borough of Conwy straddles the old county boundary between Caernarfon and Denbighshire along the River Conwy. Here records from west of the R. Conwy should be sent to the Caernarfon Recorder and from the east of the river to the Denbigh Recorder." However, the position may not be so straightforward: the county boundary cuts through the RSPB Conwy Reserve so that only one-third is in Denbighshire. It then runs north to Rhos-on-Sea and puts the Ormes and Llandudno into Caernarfon. I have thus included those records from RSPB Conwy which I regard as pertinent and in the belief that this is what our readers would wish although I have specifically excluded those rarities which have been attributed to Caernarfonshire. Records for Caernarfon should be sent to

*John Barnes, Caernarfon Recorder, Fach Goch, Waunfawr,
Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 4YS
and/or to*

*Rhion Pritchard, Editor, Cambrian Bird Report, Pant Afonig,
Hafod Lane, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4BU*

Finally, a word on methodologies. I have made use of all kinds of record in this report, from the casual reporting, whether on an individual or a group basis, to systematic and objective study. All are welcome and more of both are to be encouraged.

This report is a summary of information submitted and from which the Recorder and others can make assessments as to status, distribution and so on. It is neither desirable nor possible for all records to be published. It is one of our functions, however, for all records to be archived by the CBRG. This may be in written format or electronic. The Group, therefore, is endeavouring to update its current system of recording and archiving.

I hope that people will welcome this report and find it of interest. We have a diversity of habitats and the 220 or so species found in the report are partly a reflection of that. They are also an indicator of observer activity and I hope that readers will respond favourably in that direction.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Clwyd Bird Recording Group would like to thank Corus Colors of Deeside for their very generous financial support towards the 1999 Clwyd Bird Report. The current Report has been sponsored in its entirety by UPM to whom we give our grateful thanks.

Thanks go too, to our advertisers and to all those who have sent in records (listed towards the end of this report). CBRG also thanks the following: Anne Brenchley, Mike Raven and the BTO for the BBS figures; BHP Petroleum Limited for their POA systematic list for 2000; Alan Morton for the production of maps using DMAP; Ron Plummer for the illustrations and for the Shotton Paper Report 2000; CBRG members for checking the Welsh spellings; Richard Smith and the Dee Estuary Web Site <www.deeestuary.co.uk> and The Birdguides Web Site <www.birdguides.com> for any records; and the CBRG Committee for its thorough proof-reading - though, of course, any errors or omissions are mine.

Norman Hallas

NOTES ON THE SUBMISSION OF RECORDS

Standard recording forms are available from the CBRG Secretary and it would be most useful if these could be used for the submission of all records. Under the present recording system, it would be helpful if records are submitted in Voous species order and on either a monthly or quarterly basis. However, for records to be included in the Report, they must be submitted in good time.

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). For sensitive sites a four-figure reference would suffice.
- 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.

As mentioned above, please submit all records to the County Recorder promptly at the end of each year, preferably by the end of March. Also acceptable are submissions on a monthly or quarterly basis.

SUBMISSION OF RARITY RECORDS

There are three categories of rarity: National, Welsh and County 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 County 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 Journal.

Welsh Rarities

Records of Welsh Rarities are considered by the Welsh Records Panel. Welsh Rarities are defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year on average. The following list, which is reviewed annually, constitutes the species currently considered:

Cory's Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Purple Heron, White Stork, Bean Goose, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Surf Scoter, Montagu's Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard, White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagle, Corncrake, Spotted Crake, Crane, Stone Curlew, Kentish Plover, Temminck's Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Iceland Gull (of the race *L.g. kumlieni*), Short-toed Lark, Woodlark, Shore Lark, Bee-eater, Richard's Pipit, Tawny Pipit, races of Yellow Wagtail (not *flava* or *flavissima*), Nightingale, Bluethroat, Aquatic Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Barred Warbler, Pallas's Leaf Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Red-backed Shrike, Woodchat Shrike, Serin, Common Rosefinch, Cirl Bunting, Ortolan Bunting, Little Bunting. Recent additions to the list are Common Redpoll, Corn Bunting, Night Heron, American Wigeon and Rose-coloured Starling.

Descriptions of WRP species should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting, preferably via the County Recorder or alternatively direct to the WRP Secretary, Jon Green, Crud yr Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan, Ceredigion SA43 2AR, and from whom WRP description forms are available.

County Rarities

County Rarities are considered by the Clwyd Rarities Committee. Clwyd Rarities are defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year on average. With the increase in occurrence of certain species, the county rarity list needs to be reviewed regularly. To try to ensure complete accuracy in the report, records of these species will not be published without supporting evidence. The only possible exceptions to this rule (at the discretion of the Group) are long-staying birds seen by a number of observers.

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 of 48 species constitutes the species currently considered as Flintshire and Denbighshire rarities. This list will be reviewed periodically:

Slavonian Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Balearic Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Bittern, Spoonbill, White-fronted Goose (both races), Barnacle Goose, Garganey, Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Smew, Red Kite, Marsh Harrier, Honey Buzzard, Quail, Avocet, Dotterel, Wood Sandpiper, Grey Phalarope, Pomarine Skua, Long-tailed Skua, Ring-billed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Roseate Tern, Puffin, Black Guillemot, Turtle Dove, Hoopoe, Wryneck,

Water Pipit, Blue-headed Wagtail (*flava*), Waxwing, Black Redstart, Cetti's Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Firecrest, Bearded Reedling, Great Grey Shrike, Chough, Golden Oriole, Hooded Crow, Redpoll (of the race *flammea*), Hawfinch, 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 (*M.f.thunbergi*).

Any sightings submissions which are under consideration in this report are indicated by the abbreviation 'tbc' ('to be considered') with the name of the appropriate authority appended. In future editions, it is hoped to place these in an appendix rather than in the main body of sightings until verification has been accepted.

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF RARITY DESCRIPTIONS

(a form to this effect is available from the County Recorder)

SPECIES

Number of birds Sex Age

PLACE: please include the Site name, 6-figure Grid Reference where possible and the County (New and 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
If dead, is it preserved?	Where?
Was it photographed?	Photographer and address, if known
Optical aids used	Distance from bird
Previous experience of species	
Experience of similar species	
Weather conditions	
Details of trapped bird to be completed by ringer	
Date trapped	Ring number

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? Are there 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 not a great artist. A simple annotated drawing(s) 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. 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.

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 may be able to arrange for someone to do so.

Some rarities seen by many observers are not always submitted, everyone leaves it to everyone else. This applies in particular to those who submit their findings to a Birdline. 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.

Norman Hallas
Clwyd County Recorder
63 Park Avenue
Wrexham
LL12 7AW
01978 290522
e-mail: Normanhallas@aol.com

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 2000

The common English species names and their Welsh equivalent (plus the Latin scientific name) have been used throughout. Where modifiers are used from the British Ornithologists' Union *British List 2000*, these are placed in italics below the familiar name.

Birds of Conservation Concern

In 1995, the RSPB published the list entitled *Birds of Conservation Concern in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man*. 280 regularly occurring species were divided into three sections, as follows:

Red list species, of high conservation concern, numbered 36 and consisted of those whose population or range is rapidly declining, recently or historically, and those of global conservation concern.

Amber list species (110), medium conservation concern, are those whose population is in moderate decline, rare breeders, internationally important and localised species, and those of an unfavourable European conservation status.

Green list species are the remaining species (134) of lower conservation concern.

The (simplified) criteria are listed in the table below and indicated in the status description in the systematic list. In addition, Red List species identified for action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and which are likely to be of particular relevance to Clwyd are indicated as "Birds of Conservation Concern in Clwyd" and indicated thus: **BCCC**. (See 'Local Biodiversity' by Dr Anne Brenchley in the 1999 Report.)

Red List Criteria

- BD at least 50% decline in UK breeding population or range over previous 25 years
- HD historical population decline in UK between 1800 - 1995

Amber List Criteria

- BDM Moderate decline (25 - 49%) in UK breeding population or range over previous 25 years
- BR Indicates 5 year mean of 0.2 - 300 breeding pairs in UK
- BI indicates at least 20% of European breeding population in UK
- WI indicates at least 20% of non-breeding populations in UK
- BL at least half of the UK breeding population can be found in 10 or fewer sites in UK, but not BR
- WL at least half of the UK non-breeding population can be found in 10 or fewer sites
- SPEC species of European conservation concern

THE DEE ESTUARY

The Dee Estuary is the most important area for birds in Clwyd. It covers a large number of sites and many organisations have an interest in its conservation. An attempt has been made to abstract information from these sources but there is some overlap. The main components are as follows:

(a) *The RSPB Dee Estuary Reserves:*

Point of Ayr (SJ 140 840) [RSPB Management Agreement with the Environment Agency and BHP Petroleum] - designated POA in this report - is part of the Dee Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Grade 1, Ramsar and Special Protection Area. The reserve is 845 ha and consists of 814 ha of intertidal mudflats, 16 ha saltmarsh, 8 ha shingle and 7 ha sand dunes. A public car-park is located at Talacre village and access to the public hide is gained via a public footpath along the top of the seawall adjacent to the reserve. The hide overlooks the saltmarsh and adjacent mudflats. These records may be subsumed under the BHP records [see (d) below].

The Point of Ayr Colliery Lagoons - designated POA CL in this report - are owned by the Environment Agency but leased to RJB Mining UK Ltd up to 2005. The site comprises six lagoons - two saline and four freshwater/brackish. The main vegetation habitats surrounding the lagoons are grassland and ruderal vegetation communities with occasional small pockets of saltmarsh vegetation. At High Tide, some wildfowl flight on to the estuary to feed on partly submerged saltmarsh vegetation and return to the safety of the lagoons when the tide recedes.

Bagillt Bank (SJ 235 767) [RSPB Management Agreement with the Environment Agency] - designated BB in this Report - is part of the Dee Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), grade 1, Ramsar and Special Protection Area. The area spans 1680 ha. There are 1579 ha mudflats and 80 ha saltmarsh. Public footpaths and car parks overlook the reserve at Flint, Bagillt and Greenfield.

Mostyn Dock Reserve is part of the Dee Estuary SSSI, Ramsar and SPA and consists of 700ha of intertidal mud. There are two reserve compartments - Fynnon-groyw South Bay (north-west of Mostyn Dock) and Salisbury Middle (south-east of Mostyn Dock). References in this Report to the relevant systematic list are denoted by MDR.

Oakenholt Marsh RSPB Reserve (SJ 265722) - designated OMR in this Report - is part of the Dee Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Grade 1, Ramsar and Special Protection Area. The reserve is 113.30 ha consisting of 67.20 ha

saltmarsh and 46.10 ha of intertidal mud. Access is along a public footpath from Flint, overlooking the reserve. Members of Deeside Naturalists Society can view from their hide which overlooks Oakenholt Marshes from the eastern edge.

(b) RSPB Inner Marsh Farm (SSSI). (SJ 305735)

Please note: for Inner Marsh Farm (designated IMF), only parts of this Reserve relate to Clwyd viz.: the Border Pool (designated IMF BP) and some surrounding fields in Flintshire. Where possible, species counts are given for these areas only. Where birds are to be found moving between the Welsh area and the main reserve, the total reserve count is given.

(c) Deeside Naturalists Society: Connaught Quay Nature Reserve (SJ 270720). Designated CQNR in this Report. It includes Bundled Pools alongside the River Dee.

(d) BHP Point of Ayr survey area (SJ 1284) - designated BHP†. The main study area consists of Llawndy Farm & terminal; Warren Farm; The Warren; the RSPB reserve at Point of Ayr. Circuit counts are given for the fields between Prestatyn and Ffynnongroyw.

(e) Shotton Lagoons is a private industrial site at SJ 301712. Viewing can be undertaken from Weighbridge Road.

Please note also that for **Conwy RSPB Reserve** SH 795775 (designated CR) only part (approximately one-quarter) of the Reserve is in the vice-county of Denbigh. The rest is in Caernarfonshire. Therefore, only the species which may be pertinent to this report are included. Where the distribution was general, total numbers for the reserve are given. Where the particular distribution suggested that the species were definitely in Caernarfonshire these have been excluded.

Other abbreviations and symbols used in the Systematic List

BBS	British Trust for Ornithology Breeding Bird Survey
BCCC	Birds identified as of Conservation Concern in Clwyd
CP	Country Park
HT	High Tide
LT	Low Tide
ndg	no details given
tbc	to be confirmed (a description has not been received by the relevant records panel - <i>see Notes on the Submission of Records above</i>)
VC	Visitor Centre
WE	see World's End survey outlined in Appendix 2
WRP	Welsh Records Panel
†	Reported sightings from a secondary source in the public domain (such as Birdlines and magazines), frequently by an unidentified observer, and which have not been submitted to the Recorder or the Welsh Rarity Panel (and therefore not confirmed by them). WRP and CBRG would welcome both reports and supporting evidence. <i>CBRG is grateful to the Dee Estuary and Birdguides Web Sites for the inclusion of some of these records.</i>
‡	sightings reported in the BHP systematic list (see (d) above)
§	Farmland bird records from Dee floodplain (Flintshire/Wrexham) - incidental records from RSPB Breeding Lapwing Survey, 2000 (Colin Wells, Gareth Stamp & Neil Friswell)

FOR SITE NAMES AND THEIR ABBREVIATIONS AND OS NUMBERS, PLEASE SEE GAZETTEER AT THE END.

Please note: for ease of reference, BTO species codes have been used in the tables

RED-THROATED DIVER (*Gavia stellata*) TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH
Passage migrant and winter visitor to offshore waters. Amber List [SPEC]

First winter/spring period: regular off Llanddulas (from 3/01 to 22/03 where the maximum count was a remarkable 50 on 25/01) and nearby Pensarn (from 13/01 to 22/03 with 1 on 6/12; highest count 10+ on 19/01). 1-2 off Kinnel Bay, flying W, 26-27/01. Recorded offshore at POA from 7/01 to 1/05; maximum number - 31W and 2E on 7/02 (BHP).

Second period: noted offshore at POA on 12 dates between 15/09-13/12 with a peak count of 63 on 13/12 (BHP).

BLACK-THROATED DIVER (*Gavia arctica*) TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU
Occasional winter visitor. Amber List [BR, SPEC]

Three records past POA (BHP): 1 W on 7/02 and 1 (adult summer) W on 4/04; 1 flying W on 24/10. 1 off Llanddulas on 21/03.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (*Gavia immer*) TROCHYDD MAWR
Occasional winter visitor. Amber List [WI]

1 off Llanddulas on 3/01. Recorded offshore at POA from 7/02 to 18/04 (highest counts 11 on 4/04 and 13 on 18/04) and singles on 6/10, 31/10, 11/12 and 28/12 (BHP). 1 reported at Llanddulas on 14/12 (†).

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

Successfully occupies most of our limited freshwater areas with *inland* records from 13 sites at Acton Park, Coedpoeth, Dolwen, Erddig, Greenfield Valley, Flint, Hanmer, Llyn Brenig, Llyn Helyg, Moss Valley, SLJ, CLR and Ysceifiog and *coastal* records from R. Clwyd, WFL, BHP, CQNR, SBL, IMF BP, RML, Shotton Steelworks and GV. Max. counts: 18 at Ysceifiog lake on 13/02; 28 at Llawndy & Warren Farm in August.

Dee Estuary : BHP†: 4 breeding territories (0-3 during 1992-99) at Llawndy Farm (where two pairs each produced 3 young + 1 second brood of 2 and a late brood of 4 first seen on 12/08) plus two pairs at Warren Farm. 2 ads + 1 young at Kop Hole, Shotton Marsh (SJ 305722), 18/07. Peak counts of 27 at Warren Farm on 19/09 and 28 Prestatyn-Ffynnongroyw in August (†). 1-3 occasional at OMR and at CQNR where bred with 3 juveniles seen in August. Occasional at Shotton Lagoons but a pair bred and raised two young at Shotton Steelworks. RSPB Conwy: 9 pairs bred. (Total Reserve figures are tabulated.)

(LG)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	7	8	15	16	15	14	14	14	10	9	9	8

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*) GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

Breeding resident and winter visitor to coastal waters

Present at eleven *inland* sites. Breeding confirmed at Acton Park, Gresford Flash, Llyn Gweryd and Llyn Helyg where there were two pairs.

Highest counts: *inland*: 10 at Hanmer Mere on 3/01 and 3/10. Much larger numbers *offshore* where 202 off Greenfield (BB) on 8/09 (*see table*); regular off Llanddulas and Pensarn with a peak of 20+ on 26/01.

Dee Estuary: Widely distributed along the river through the year. Recorded at POA from 22/01 to 23/06 with a maximum count of 31 on 5/02. Occasional at MDR and CQNR/OMR with a peak of 12 at OMR on 13/12. Much more numerous at BB: monthly maxima are given in the table.

RSPB Conwy: 1 pair bred unsuccessfully; max.: 3 on 9/04.

(GG)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	35	-	75	-	-	53	72	92	202	157	32	13

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*) GWYACH YDDFGOCH

Scarce winter visitor

Not recorded last year but several sightings this (all singles, possibly the same bird).

1 offshore POA (BHP†), 9/03; 1 showed briefly at GF on 21/04 and 1 in summer plumage at SBL on 27-30/04. 1 adult in summer plumage at Llyn Helyg, seen 9/05 -10/06, where the bird was also heard calling and was often attacked by the resident Great Crested Grebes.

SLAVONIAN GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*) GWYACH GORNIOG

Scarce winter visitor

Not recorded last year. 1 in winter plumage, close to the shore, at Llanddulas, 8/03.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*) GWYACH YDDFDDU

Scarce winter visitor. Amber List [BR]

RSPB Conwy: another long-staying bird was present on the lower lagoon 27 August - 5 October. A second record for the Reserve following last year's.

FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

ADERYN-DRYCIN Y GRAIG

now **NORTHERN FULMAR**

Breeding resident, summer visitor, and passage migrant.

Breeding record: 20 nests at Prestatyn Quarry, 13/03 - far more than last year - but absent on 4/04; nesting again 18/04 but shot at by youths; present again in December. Regular off coast with a peak of 6 off Llanddulas on 4/03.

Dee Estuary: regular offshore at POA with highest counts of 14 on 22/01, 16 on 17/05 and 21 on 23/06, 23 on 14/07 and 80 on 6/09 (BHP).

RSPB Conwy: singles were seen on three dates, 24/07- 03/08.

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*)

ADERYN-DRYCIN MAWR

Scarce passage migrant

1 flying SW, offshore at POA, 24/10 (BHP, tbc)

MANX SHEARWATER (*Puffinus puffinus*)

ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW

Regular offshore during summer and autumn. Amber List [BI, BL, SPEC]

A westward, summer passage was observed at POA from 17/05 to 6/09, with peaks of 1350 on 17/05 and 1100 on 23/06.

STORM PETREL (*Hydrobates pelagicus*)

PEDRYN DRYCIN

now **EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL**

Occasional summer passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC]

1 flying W off Barkby Beach, Prestatyn, 14/07. 13-14 offshore POA, 10/07, 2 flying W on 14/07 and 1 W on 13/11 (BHP).

LEACH'S PETREL (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)

PEDRYN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG

now **LEACH'S STORM-PETREL**

Autumn passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC]

Offshore POA: 2 on 6/09, singles on five occasions in October.

GANNET (*Sula bassana*)

HUGAN

now **NORTHERN GANNET**

Passage migrant. Amber List [BI, BL, SPEC]

Noted offshore at POA Feb - June with peaks of 22 on 17/05, 63 on 29/05, 32 on 6/06 and 25 on 23/06 and 19 dates, July-October, mostly 1-8 but 14 on 14/07, 25 on 5/10, 60 on 29/10 and 35 on 31/10 (BHP†). 8 offshore at Pensarn, 21/05 and 76 off Gronant

on 27/07.

CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

MULFRAN

now **GREAT CORMORANT**

Common non-breeding visitor

The Dee and Clwyd estuaries are sites of national importance in Great Britain

Inland: reported in small numbers from about seven sites. 34 on R. Clwyd nr Rhuddlan on 10/03 and 100 in July.

Coastal: present in much larger numbers: 430 at Gronant at LT on 8/10; 280+ at Horton's Nose roost, Rhyl, 4/11. 1 found on a lane at Pant Idda, nr Abergele (SH 920757), unable to fly, 8/08.

Dee Estuary: Widely distributed on the river through the year. BB, OMR and POA monthly maxima are tabulated, showing late autumn peaks of 154 on 16/11 at BB, 129 on 26/10 at OMR and a much smaller peak of 18 on 15/08 at POA.

Conwy Reserve: small numbers throughout with peaks of 6 on 9/04 and 8 on 27/09.

(CA)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	70	-	25	-	-	-	-	103	105	112	154	-
OMR	48	47	43	5	3	-	2	7	72	129	90	98
POA	2	4	2	14	7	12	12	18	1	1	17	3

SHAG (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

MULFRAN WERDD

now **EUROPEAN SHAG**

Scarce, non-breeding visitor on the periphery of our area. Amber List [BI]

1 offshore at POA, 9/03 and 3 flying W on 13/11; 2 immatures off Rhos Point, 31/07; 3 ads there on 14/11.

RSPB Conwy: 1 on river adjacent to reserve, 7/01.

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)

CREYR BACH

Scarce localised winter and passage visitor

Dee Estuary Reserves: at POA, the only record was of a single bird on 27/08; 2 at OMR on 2/08 and singles on 17/09, 1/10, 16/10, 26/10 and 12/11 with a peak of 5 on 29/09; 1-2 reported at CQNR, mid-August to mid-November.

RSPB Conwy: several sightings of 1-2 between 4/06-31/08.

GREY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*)

CREYR GLAS

Widespread resident. Heronry along R. Clwyd

The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

Observed in both inland and coastal localities. Inland: seen at at least 15 sites. Maximum count: 10 along R. Clwyd (from Pont Glan y Wern at SJ 091662 to Llewenni Hall at SJ 082687) on 13/02. Also an occasional garden visitor.

Dee Estuary Reserves: Widely distributed on the river and present in most months of the year. POA CL: regularly recorded with a maximum 6 in September. BHP† maxima: 5 on coastal fields on 29/01; 5 at POA RSPB Reserve on 17/06; 5 at Llawndy Farm on 25/06. BB: regularly recorded in small numbers with a maximum of 12 on 17/09 (Walwen saltmarsh) and 13 on 4/10 on Bagillt mudbank. OMR: present most months and either roost on the marsh or feed in low water areas. The peak count was 7 on 20/03.

SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*)

LLWYBIG

now EURASIAN SPOONBILL

Scarce winter visitor

Dee Estuary Reserves:

IMF: several records from the Cheshire/Flintshire border. An adult f Mauritanian bird (ringed with white darvics - a rehabilitated bird from Slimbridge) present daily from 1/01 to 28/05. Fed on estuary and roosted at dusk at IMF. A single ringed adult European was present on 18/06 and an unringed adult and an immature European bird were present 19-25/06.

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*)

ALARCH DÔF

Breeding resident.

Nesting records from 16 areas: Acton Park, BHP area, Brickfield LNR, Rhyl, River Clwyd, CQNR, Erddig Park, Gresford Flash, GV, Llyn Helyg, PMPA, Prestatyn GC, Shotton Lagoons (where abandoned through fox predation), Shotton Steelworks, SLJ (but failed to breed at LP, Ruabon for first time in many years), Sutton Green (SJ 416487) and Ysceifiog. Also seen at TWP, Borrass and Kimberley Clark factory, Flint where a peak of 7 on 20/10.

*Highest counts: 52 at Holt on 27/12; 45 at Shotwick Lake on 23/10 and 27 *ibidem* on 11/10; 40 at Ysceifiog on 30/01; 35 at Warren Farm, BHP on 22/09 (where there were continued casualties following collisions with power lines); 14 inc. 7 juvs at Marine Lake, Rhyl, 12-16/01; 14 on Bangor on Dee floods, 1/11.*

RSPB Conwy: 2 pairs bred; max. 24 on 20-23/08.

Dee Estuary Reserves: BB: two regularly feeding on Flint saltmarsh, 23/01 - 19/03 and 5 on 12/11. OMR: 2 regular May-June, feeding on the marsh; a peak of 6 on

29/12.

IMF: less inter-change between reserve, Shotwick Lake and Burton Marsh. The main flock remained to roost on the outer saltmarsh, a new trend. *Tabulated figures are for IMF reserve and POA CL.*

Other sightings: 2 with a Black Swan on the sea at POA, 17/10.

MS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CL	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	20	7	6	11
IMF	10	24	2	2	8	7	3	8	13	15	3	1

BEWICK'S SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*)

ALARCH BEWICK

now **TUNDRA SWAN**

Uncommon winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

Seen in larger numbers this year.

The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

Dee Estuary: BB: recorded on two dates from Flint Point at LT. Three birds on Flint sandbanks on 31/01 and 14 'loafing' on the edge of Gayton Sands RSPB Reserve on 7/12. 36 on the Dee Estuary seen from CQNR, 13/12. BHP†: 6 briefly at Warren Farm (ndg). IMF/SF: a winter flock, with smaller numbers of Whooper Swans, grazed the saltmarsh flashes on Burton Marsh and adjacent potato fields and roosted at IMF/Cheshire & Flintshire. First returning birds were 9 on Shotwick Fields, 9/11, 12 on 13/11, increasing to 46 on 21/11, 57 (inc. 7 imms, 4 broods) on 9/12 and 84 (inc. 8 imms) on 22/12. IMF Reserve monthly maxima: 34 Jan., 60 Feb., 46 Nov., 84 Dec.

WHOOPER SWAN (*Cygnus cygnus*)

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon winter visitor seen in small numbers. Amber List [BR, WI, WL]

2 seen briefly at Gronant on 1/01 and 1 in flight over Rhyl beach on 2/01. The main sightings were at IMF/Shotwick fields: 7 *ads* + 1 *imm* at Burton Marsh off Shotton Tip (SJ 290725) on 16/01. 2 *ads* roosted with Bewicks on 20/01 and 28/01. 7 *ads* on 18/03, grazing saltmarsh off Shotton Tip and roosting elsewhere. Small numbers were present daily feeding on potato stubble on Cheshire/Flintshire border and roosting on the Reserve from 5/11 (2 *ads*) to end of year, reaching max of 9 *ads* on 22/12. RSPB Conwy: 2 on 6/02.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

GWYDD DROED-BINC

Winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [WI, WL]

(PG)	J	F	M	A	O	N	D
IMF	78	80	0	1	2	80	0

Inland: 1 unusually well-inland at FLQ with Canada Geese and Greylags, 23/04.

Dee Estuary: OMR: 19 on 2/01. BB: a flock of 78 visited Flint Sandbanks on 31/01 (as at IMF) and 5/03. IMF: birds fed on the adjacent potato stubble field on Cheshire/Flintshire border and roosted on Reserve with other geese. A single bird present on 27/04 (same as FLQ?). First returning birds were 2 on 7/10 and 9/10. *The table gives the figures for the whole reserve. The peak count was 80 on 14/02.*

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*)

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

now **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**

Scarce winter visitor

2 ad + 4 juvs flew up Ceiriog Valley towards Pontfadog on 20/12, circled, then flew back.

GREYLAG GOOSE (*Anser anser*)

GWYDD WYLLT

Uncommon breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL]

Present in more areas and larger numbers this year. Confirmed breeding at Llyn Brenig (two broods on 15/07) and Llyn Helyg (1 ad + 6 juvs on 23/06) and present at Borras, River Clwyd (see below), Dee estuary (see below), FLQ, GF (17 on 23/01 - probably a record for this site), Holt (where 12+ on 4/02).

Max. numbers: good numbers along R. Clwyd (from Pont Glan y Wern at SJ 091662 to Lleweni Hall at SJ 082687) with 148 on 13/02 and 107 at Pont Ganol (SJ 086659) on 4/03; and 40 on 6/05 in Denbigh area.

Dee Estuary: 1-2 seen in BHP survey area, various dates 13/02-11/06 and 2-7 in period 24/08-17/10 with 20 on 19/11; IMF Border Pool (where 20 on 22/11), Shotwick Fields (where 24 on 13/09). RSPB Conwy: small numbers, April-August; max. 13 on 19/04.

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

GWYDD CANADA

Breeding resident and winter visitor

Reported from 24 sites. *Breeding territories* confirmed/probable at BHP, Coed Coch Fishpond (SH 885739), R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, CQNR, GF, Llyn Helyg, Nant Clwyd Hall, PCR, CLR, Shotton Steelworks. *Largest numbers* were c1400 in Border Pool/Shotwick Fields area, 13/09 - 22/11; 553 at BB on 19/01; 138 at GF on 31/08; 76 at SPJ; 60+ at Hanmer Mere on 16/07; 50 on R. Clwyd nr Rhuddlan on 10/03.

Dee Estuary: the inner estuary flock were occasionally 'loafing' on the sandbanks off Flint Point at low water. Peak counts were as follows: 553 on 19/01, 500 on 22/02 and 192 on 20/12. A flock of 1200+ reported as flying from IMF and dispersing on Dee estuary and marshes, 30/01. Elsewhere, 3 were noted on Bagillt sandbanks on 8/09 and 5 on 4/10. A peak of 400 at OMR on 26/10. 3 breeding territories on BHP

land. 1 pair bred and raised 6 young at Shotton Steelworks.

RSPB Conwy: 10 pairs bred 28 young.

A **Lesser Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis parvipes / moffitti* of unknown origins was again recorded at the Border Pool, IMF on 13/09 (one here for previous two years).

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*)

GWYDD WYRAN

Rare vagrant. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

A lone feral bird at GF on 8/05; singles at POA RSPB on 30/04 and 31/05, IMF Border Pool, 13/09 and OMR on 26/10, each with Canada Geese. 7 flew W over Warren farm, 16/10.

BRENT GOOSE (*Branta bernicla*)

GWYDD DDU

Regular winter visitor in very small numbers, principally to the Dee estuary. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

PALE-BELLIED: (*B.b. hrota*) Recorded at POA in small numbers on 9 dates in the first winter period, from 7/01 to 8/03, peaking at 8 on 22-23/01 and on 8/03. In the late autumn/winter period, **there were record numbers for the Point of Ayr:** 1 on 10-11/10 then (largest counts) 17 on 28/11, 20 on 13/12 and 18 on 28/12. Additional to these were, offshore, 1 W on 6/10 and 17 W on 28/12 (£).

DARK-BELLIED: (*B.b. bernicla*) RSPB POA: 1 on 7/01 and then 3 on 10-11/10, 1 on 27-28/11, 8 on 13/12 and 1 on 28/12 (£). 1 at RSPB Conwy on 2/05.

Race unknown: 4 distantly off the hide at POA, 11/10; one fed with swans on Flintshire border potato field adjacent to IMF, 3/12.

SHELDUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*)

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

now **COMMON SHELDUCK**

Occasional breeding resident and very common estuarine winter visitor. Amber List

(SU)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	-	-	350	62	-	-	141	3950	3588	810	-	113
OMR	4	20	26	40	46	46	104	11	9	-	22	51
MDR	-	-	38	4	-	-	-	8	1	-	-	286
POA	167	140	168	133	116	29	15	183	840	1427	1286	1011
CL	22	22	4	185	14	32	48	-	31	40	3	2
CR	16	35	40	127	85	195	35	12	16	10	12	12

[BI, WI, WL] *The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK.*

Largest numbers recorded: 3950 at BB on 26/08; 1000+ at POA, 17/10

Inland: unusually, 1 at GF, January-March; 2 at Llyn Helyg on 8/04; 5 at Llyn Brenig, 30/04; 24 along R. Clwyd (from Pont Glan y Wern at SJ 091662 to Llewenni Hall at SJ 082687) on 13/02; a peak of 80 on R. Clwyd nr Rhuddlan on 10/03; 2 on Bettisfield pond, 1/05.

Dee Estuary: monthly maxima for BB, MDR, OMR, POA and POA CL are shown in the table. BB: as in previous years, a late summer/autumn influx occurred on the estuary. The main counts tabulated involved birds feeding on Bagillt/Gayton sandbanks. Additional counts for POA and Mostyn Bank, outside the standard survey area, gave peak counts of 300+ on 8/03 and 1285 on 26/09. MDR: peak count date 20/12 at LT. At OMR, the peak count was on 2/07; a pair with a brood of 7 imms present from 16/07-27/07 and 1 pair nested near Reserve boundary but nest and contents raided by ravens on 1/05.

MANDARIN (*Aix galericulata*)

HWYADEN FANDARIN

Scarce breeding resident

An uncommon exotic species: probably feral or escapes.

Breeding record: a f with 7 ducklings, R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, 31/05.

2 at Pulford Brook, 10/04. 2 drakes at Bod Petruall, Clocaenog, 21/04. 6 birds seen on Pulford Meadow survey, 27/12. *Several sightings of single birds:* a drake, flying with mallard, almost ever present at GF from October 1999 to 29/06 when seen in eclipse; 1 flying over Burton nr Rossett, 18/03; the usual drake on Llangollen canal, 1/01 and 10/02 and, in eclipse, 5/07; a drake at R. Dulas on 21/04.

WIGEON (*Anas penelope*)

CHWIWELL

now **EURASIAN WIGEON**

Fairly common winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL]

The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

(WN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	22	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	375	1420	1331
OMR	540	710	14	2	4	-	-	-	2	-	174	270
POA	1	300	1	-	-	-	1	6	50	56	107	107
CL	32	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	32	15	22
CR	11	25	-	1	-	-	-	6	180	150	100	120

Found inland in small numbers and on the Dee Estuary and offshore in larger numbers.

Inland: largest numbers at Hanmer Mere where 40+ on 3/01 and 14 on 3/10, c40 on 4/12. Smaller numbers at Llyn Helyg and R. Clwyd nr Denbigh.

Coastal: found in varying numbers along the coast principally at the River Clwyd estuary, Warren Farm, POA, IMF BP, Bagillt Bank and OMR. Highest counts: 500+ at Clwyd estuary on 22/01; c1500 at IMF BP on 22/11; 1420 at Flint sands on 8/11.

Dee Estuary Reserves: monthly maxima for BB, OMR, POA and POA CL are given in the table. The POA first winter period peak was an incidental count of c300 on 21/02. BB figures are principally for Flint sands at low water. the OMR peak counts were on 19/01 and 22/02.

RSPB Conwy: lower numbers this year (see table for total reserve).

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*)

CHWIWELL AMERICA

Scarce vagrant

IMF: as last year, a drake, usually with a large wigeon flock, was present on the Border Pool (Flintshire) from 5/11 - 25/11 (tbc).

At RSPB Conwy, a drake in eclipse arrived with 6 wigeon on 23-26/08; second reserve record following long-stayer 1994-98 (submitted to BBRC).

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*)

HWYADEN LWYD

Uncommon winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

Recorded in small numbers from three areas inland this year and along the Dee estuary.

Inland: the main site is Llyn Helyg where they were seen in good numbers in winter, with a peak of 29 on 14/01; a pair there on 9-13/05; 1 at Ysceifiog on 8/04 and a drake on Erddig Lake on 6/10.

Dee Estuary: recorded at POA CL on three dates - two on 24/02, 4 on 17/09 and 6 on 30/12. Recorded in the BHP area with 3 sightings of 2 in February and 1-4 on 13 dates, 17/09-31/12. 3 seen in gutters from west hide at CQNR on 9/03 and 11 on 13/12. Increasingly regular at Shotton lagoons where peaks of 37 on 13/02 and 40 on 28/11 and recorded at Shotton Steelworks on 16/01 when 9 there from 3/09 until 17/12 with a peak of 22 on 5/11. IMF: wintering birds moved between IMF and SL, depending on disturbance (monthly maxima for the whole IMF Reserve are given in

GA	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
IMF	12	8	7	13	11	9	9	13	15	17	2	3
CR	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	5

the table).

RSPB Conwy: 1-5 present all year (*see table for whole reserve*); a drake paired with a mallard to produce 3 hybrids.

TEAL (*Anas crecca*)

CORHWYADEN

now EURASIAN TEAL

Rare breeder but locally abundant and widespread winter visitor. Amber List [WI]

The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK

Found inland in smaller numbers: seen at Llyn Helyg January-April, with a peak of 16 on 5/04; up to 8 on Erddig Flash (02/02 - 9/04) and 4 on 19/11; 36 on a pool at Lleweni Hall, 18/03; 3 pairs at GF, 5/04; a few on Borrass pools and on SPJ and TMR in the Ruabon area (Jan - April) but c60 in a pool middle of RM, 8/10; 1 at Dolwen on 11/03.

and in larger numbers along the coast and the Dee Estuary: max. counts were 668 in BHP fields in December and 654 on Warren Farm on 18/12 (£); 445 at Flint marsh on 23/01; 416 at OMR on 13/12; 150 at Shotton Marsh (SJ 315722), 3/01. Large numbers recorded in Dee floodplain survey (q.v.) with over 250 in Pulford Meadows on 27/12.

Dee Estuary Reserves: for BB, OMR, POA and POA CL, monthly maxima are given in the table. The BB figures refer mainly to birds at Flint marsh. OMR counts were principally made at HT when the marsh flooded and birds were lifted from gutters and vegetation. The POA peak was an incidental count on 11/10. Present in April and June in BHP areas but no evidence of breeding.

RSPB Conwy: 4 "pairs" identified in breeding season but no broods found. Figures for the whole reserve are given in the table.

T.	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	445	307	66	-	-	-	-	-	282	76	429	80
OMR	200	270	40	-	-	-	-	-	4	105	387	416
POA	109	128	76	2	-	-	-	37	410	745	257	521
CL	160	24	20	25	-	-	-	11	235	86	6	90
CR	70	15	10	11	3	5	12	65	68	100	100	120

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

HWWYADEN WYLLT

Common and widespread breeding resident and winter visitor

Inland: regular and numerous at over a dozen main areas. Maximum numbers were c100 at Hanmer Mere on 3/10; 51 at Dolwen on 21/10; 66 at KCF, Flint on 19/11; 51

at Acton Park on 17/12; a winter peak of 50 on 15/01 at Llyn Brenig.

Coastal: the largest counts were at POA (see below) but other large counts (maxima) were 259 at Shotton Lagoons on 8/01; 120+ at RML on 5/01; c100 at Shotwick Fields on 9/11/00; 60+ at PMPA on 3/01; 45+ at Brickfields Pool LNR on 5/01; 35 at Shotton Marsh (SJ 315722), 16/01 and 18/07.

Dee Estuary: BB: regularly recorded at Flint marsh where peak count was 100 on 7/12. BHP: c12 breeding territories. See table for OMR, POA and POA CL monthly peak counts. At OMR, the peak count was 180 on 27/06 and the mid to late summer influx of last year was not repeated, with generally poor numbers recorded. The POA peak of 416 was on 30/09. Occasional at MDR with a peak of 52 on 27/08. A peak count of 259 on 8/01 at Shotton Lagoons where reportedly declining and 100 at Shotton Steelworks on 9/01 and 23/07.

RSPB Conwy: 11 "pairs" identified during the breeding season. Figures for the whole reserve are given in the table.

(MA)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	-	-	4	5	5	180	9	14	-	-	4	-
POA	167	96	48	11	147	100	213	390	416	351	191	245
CL	106	64	40	61	15	185	158	130	44	10	30	54
CR	20	28	25	19	25	122	48	82	138	150	100	80

PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)
now **NORTHERN PINTAIL**

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

(PT)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	235	-	90	-	-	-	-	-	2162	5280	2820	87
POA	316	315	2	-	1	1	-	2	119	310	607	757
CL	272	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	26	1	284	-

The Dee estuary is an internationally important site for this winter visitor. Amber List [BR, WI, WL, SPEC]

Almost entirely coastal but a few were recorded inland: 3 at Llyn Helyg on 3/02; 1 on the R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, 1/04.

Dee Estuary: see table for peak monthly counts for BB, POA and POA CL.

BB: the favoured resting area for the estuarine population is off Bagillt or Flint with a population dispersal in December (see table for monthly maxima at low water). It is presumed that part of the flock dispersal is up-river to feed in flooded maize and grass fields. **A Dee floodplain survey confirmed the international significance of Pintail in this region** (see appendix) with 900 counted at Pulford Meadows on 27/12 and a combined count of 1200 at Aldford (Cheshire) and Pulford meadows on 2/12. Small numbers were also found at MDR and off Greenfield Dock where there was a peak count of 114 on 15/03. The POA peak of 757 was on 28/12. Shotton Steelworks had 56 on 16/01. Occasionals at RSPB Conwy.

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*)

HWYADEN ADDEFAIN

Uncommon passage migrant. Amber List [BR, SPEC]

1 at IMF BP on 6/08. Few records: a f on 17/09 at RSPB POA (‡). A juv at RSPB Conwy on 24/08.

SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

now **NORTHERN SHOVELER**

Winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [WI]

Found inland at Gresford Flash, Hanmer Mere (where 20 on 3/01), KCF, Flint; Llyn Helyg and R. Clwyd nr Denbigh (where a pair seen on 6/04 - first for seven years here).

Coastal: recorded in small numbers along the Dee estuary, often with Wigeon and Pintail - at BB (where the highest count was a raft of 32 in the low water channel off Greenfield on 20/12); BHP (highest count was 8 at Warren Farm in February); Kop Hole, Shotton Marsh (SJ 298722) where 6 (4m+2f) on 22/04 and 5 on 18/07; Border Pool, IMF (max. 20 on 13/11 and 22/11/00) and POA CL (5 on 17/01, 2 on 24/02 and 6 on 30/12); and at Shotton Steelworks with a peaks of 30+ on 9/01 and c40 on 17/12. 1 m on Clwyd estuary on 22/01.

RSPB Conwy: 1 "pair" identified during the breeding season. Figures for the whole reserve are given in the table.

SV	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	7	7	7	6	4	1	2	3	5	7	8	14

RED-CRESTED POCHARD (*Netta rufina*)

HWYADEN GRIBGOCH

Rare: possible escapes

A f on Llyn Helyg, 27/01 (Elvet & Louise Jones) - present until 22/03 at least; a drake on the Border Pool, Flintshire on 6/11 (A.G. Stamp & C.E. Wells)

POCHARD (*Aythya ferina*)

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

now **COMMON POCHARD***Winter visitor seen in small numbers. Amber List [WI, WL]*

The main site was Shotton Lagoons where regular, peaking at 85 on 16/12 (see table). Also recorded at about a dozen other sites: BHP† (mainly at Warren Farm where the peak count was 7 on 18/10), Dolwen, Greenfield Valley (with a peak of 32 on 19/11), Gresford Flash, Hanmer Mere, KCF at Flint, Llyn Helyg, PMPA, Rhyl Brickfields Pools, SBL (where 20 on 9/11 + 2 on reservoir), Shotton Steelworks, SLJ and Ysceifiog; and at IMF BP and at RSPB Conwy where 1 "pair" was identified during the breeding season. (Total Reserve figures are given in the table.)

PO	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
SL	42	67	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	56	43	85
CR	19	18	-	1	2	6	12	8	10	15	18	20

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*)

HWYADEN GOPOG

Uncommon breeding resident and regular winter visitor

Fairly well established in small numbers on lake areas: small numbers recorded on 22 freshwater sites and on Dee Estuary marshes. Maximum count: 72 at Greenfield Valley on 18/11. Confirmed breeding at Kop Hole, Nant Clwyd Hall (where 1 ad + 7 ducklings on 16/07), small pond nr Northop (where 1 ad + 4 juvs on 14/07), Shotton Marsh (SJ 298722) where 10 ads + brood of 3 juvs on 18/07 and Shotton Steelworks where 5 pairs bred.

RSPB Conwy: 2 "pairs" identified during the breeding season. Figures for the whole reserve are given in the table.

TU	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	2	5	5	7	4	5	11	5	5	5	5	6

SCAUP (*Aythya marila*)

HWYADEN BENDDU

now **GREATER SCAUP***Regular winter visitor. Amber List [BR, SPEC]*

The largest numbers were recorded off Rhyl (50 on 28/12) and Kinnel Bay with a peak of 20+ on 22/01 (mainly f). A single recorded on 9/01 on an ebbing tide at POA CL; 4 off POA, 21/02, 1 on 14/10, 5 offshore on 13/11 and a f on 14/11; 1-2 at Llawndy Farm on five dates 24/01-18/02 and singles on 4 dates 29/09-26/12; a male

at Warren Farm, 18/02-16/04 and on 4/05 and singles from 24/09 with 2 on 21/12; 2 at MDR on 19/03; a single first winter female present at Rhyl Brickwork's Pool, 14/11.

EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*)

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

now **COMMON EIDER**

Uncommon marine winter visitor. Amber List [WL]

Several records, mostly off POA: 1 on 28/02; a male on 21/04; 1 on 7/03 and 3 f on 13/10, 2 ads on 25/10, 3f on 29/10. 4 at Rhos-on-Sea, 14/11.

LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*)

HWYADEN GYNNFON HIR

Uncommon winter visitor

An imm male showed well opposite the POA hide, 22/04; 1 seen flying west on 15/09 offshore POA (BHP).

COMMON SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*)

MOR-HWYADEN DDU

now **BLACK SCOTER**

Winter visitor. Red list [BD, BR, WL] BCCC

Often in very large numbers off-shore between Colwyn Bay and Rhyl with smaller numbers off-shore at Gronant and POA through the year and occasional at BB. The Clwyd estuary and Colwyn Bay are sites of national importance in Great Britain.

Common and regular offshore at Llanddulas where peaks of 4000 reported on 25/01 and 3000+ on 23/02. 50 off Pensarn on 3/01 and several hundred on 17/02. 1000+ off Kinnel and Towyn, by 27/01; 5000+ off Pensarn-Llanddulas coast by 4/03. Numbers building up again on 31/10 at Llanddulas and nearby Pensarn where 200+ from 24/11. 8 flying W past POA, 6/09.

SURF SCOTER (*Melanitta perspicillata*)

MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

Rare vagrant

A drake offshore at Llanddulas among huge Common Scoter flock, 23-26/02, 12/03 and on 25/03 with 1 Velvet Scoter (tbc)

VELVET SCOTER (*Melanitta fusca*)

MOR HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon winter visitor. Amber List [WL, SPEC]

1 off Llanddulas on 25/01 and an exceptional count of 15 there on 25/02; 3 off Llanddulas on 22/03 and 1 *ibidem* with Surf Scoter among huge Common Scoter flock, 25/03. 1 flying W and on the sea, POA, 20/03 and 1 W 30/10 (‡).

GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*)

HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

now **COMMON GOLDENEYE***Widespread winter visitor. Amber List [BR, WL]*

Inland: sightings at eight sites this year (10 in 1999): Dolwen, HM, KCF at Flint, Llyn Bran, Llyn Brenig, LP, SLJ and Borras.

Coastal: several sightings (peaks of 12 on 5/01 and 8/12 at Marine Lake, Rhyl; a peak of 10 at the nearby Rhuddlan-Rhyl stretch of R. Clwyd on 10/03).

Dee Estuary: regular in small numbers at POA CL in winter with a peak of 5 on 24/02 and BHP with peak of 8 in March and 6 on 21/12; 3 at CQNR on 6/03; 2 drakes nr CQNR VC, 9/03 and a single *f* at OMR on 20/03; BB: singles off Greenfield on 14/03 and 20/12, 2 off Flint on 7/12 and 2 off Walwen on 20/12. 16 at Shotton Steelworks on 20/02 and 7+ on 17/12.; a maximum of at SL in January.

RSPB Conwy: *figures for the whole reserve are given in the table.*

GN	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	5	3	5	4	-	-	-	1	2	3	3	5

SMEW (*Mergellus albellus*)

LLEIAN WEN

Scarce winter visitor. Not recorded last year.

A redhead at Hanmer Mere, 2-3/01. A redhead off Flint on 29/03 with two goosanders, perhaps same bird as at IMF. At IMF BP, the 1999 drake was joined by a redhead on 10/01; both present until 20/02; drake remained until 3/03 (Cheshire/Flintshire); in the second winter period, a drake was present daily at IMF from 23/12 - 28/12 when the Reserve froze over and the Smew moved to Shotwick Lake (Flintshire).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*)

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

Rare breeding resident and winter visitor in small numbers

(RM)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	5	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	13	3
POA	6	2	10	18	-	-	2	1	-	10	14	10
CR	15	12	18	20	2	3	-	-	5	22	18	20

Regular at Marine Lake, Rhyl in February, October and November where max. count

was 24 on 14/11; a pair displaying nearby at R. Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 10/03. Also present at Llanddulas (maximum of 10 on 23/02), Pensarn, Rhos Point and RSPB Conwy (see table). Two inland reports this year: a f on Llangollen canal, 19/05 and 1 on Llyn Brenig on 6/04 and 15/05.

Dee Estuary: offshore peak counts at POA were 29 on 7/02, 24 on 21/02, 42 on 4/04; 1 at FC on 18/11. POA CL: a single on 23/01, 2 on 11/12; 8 on 12/11 (2 on CL, 6 on nearby flushing lagoon). The monthly maxima for BB and POA are given in the table. The main BB counts were at Walwen at low water. The only records at OMR were of 2 on 20/03 and 1 on 12/11.

GOOSANDER (*Mergus merganser*)

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Breeding resident and winter visitor

A successful bird of the Dee Valley but few in the estuary. A stronghold site is Hanmer Mere where 80+ were recorded on 3/01.

Reported along the River Clwyd and at Alwen Reservoir SH 9354, Gresford Flash, Hanmer, Llay, Llyn Brenig, Llyn Helyg, Lindisfarne Lake and Monk's Pool, and along the R. Dee from the estuary (see below) and from Sutton Green to Shocklach (SJ 420485) and at Erbistock, Llangollen, Berwyn and Glyndyfrdwy.

Coastal: 1 at R. Dulas, 15/02; a pair reported at R. Clwyd estuary on 29/03; a m on 4/11 at Rhyl harbour.

Dee Estuary: The only record for POA CL was of 2 on 20/02; a drake at Llawndy Farm on 24/04 and an adult m offshore on 28/12. Recorded at Flint foreshore: 3 on 19/01, 1 on 19/02 and 2 on 29/03. 3f at OMR on 17/10.

RSPB Conwy: one record only - 5 on 28/08.

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

HWYADEN GOCH

Scarce breeding resident

Recorded at a dozen sites with a maximum count of c30 at Hanmer Mere on 3/10/00.

Bred at Coedpoeth Pool and Erddig and noted at BHP, Dolwen, GF, Hanmer, KCF at Flint, Kop Hole, Shotton Lagoons, Shotton Marsh (SJ 298722), TWP Borrass and RSPB Conwy: 4 pairs produced 10 young (see table for full reserve numbers).

RY	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	2	8	8	8	13	8	12	7	7	6	5	5

HONEY BUZZARD (*Pernis apivorus*)

BODA Y MEL

now **EUROPEAN HONEY-BUZZARD**

Rare passage migrant. Not recorded last year.

1 moving S from RM over WE, 30/09.

1 flew W over RSPB Conwy on 29/06 - **first record for the reserve.**

RED KITE (*Milvus milvus*)

BARCUD

Occasional visitor. Red list [HD, BR]

Several reports, all of single birds: an apparently unpaired bird seen in HP/Llandegla area on at least ten occasions, April-August; 1 at Eglwyseg, 16/04; 1 over Clocaenog plantation at SJ 010565 on 18/06; 1 over NW Denbigh Moors, 2/07; 1 nr Llanddulas, 6/08; 1 flying inland over Gwaenysgor, 19/09.

MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*)

BODY GWERNI

now **EURASIAN MARSH HARRIER**

Very scarce passage migrant. Red list [HD, BR,]

At POA, a *f* flew NE towards Merseyside on 9/04. Several records at IMF (all records Cheshire/Flintshire): a *f* on 25/04 and 28/04; an *imm* on 12/05; single *f* on 7/06, 23/07, 24/07, 7/08, 9/08; 2 birds (a moulting *f* and an *imm*) present daily from 21-27/08, roosting in adjacent potato field; *f* remained until 1/09. 1 over RSPB Conwy on 16/08.

HEN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

BOD TINWEN

Scarce breeding species and winter visitor. Red list [HD, SPEC]

Maintaining a precarious existence at RM: no breeding records this year but "ring-tails" present Jan-March and Sept-Dec. Successfully bred in Denbigh Moors area. A pair, male skydancing, Mwdwl Eithin SH 9153, Clocaenog area on 18/04. An adult *m* seen on the edge of our area, N. Berwyns, 12/03 and 4/08.

GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*)

GWALCH MARTH

now **NORTHERN GOSHAWK**

Rare breeding resident

Successfully bred at Clocaenog (site details withheld). Sightings of one at four scattered sites around edge of RM, Jan-May but no evidence of breeding. A *m* seen nr Prestatyn, 13/03; 1 carrying prey at Cilcain on 14/07; a *m* at Pulford Meadows, 2/12. A *m* at RSPB Conwy on 21/04.

SPARROWHAWK (*Accipiter nisus*)

GWALCH GLAS

now **EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK**

Common and widespread breeding resident with many reports. Increasingly seen in urban areas and suburban gardens.

Many sightings of *singles* seen throughout the year (including garden sightings and Wrexham Town Centre) in 23 areas across the county. 2 at AWCP on 10/08; 2 at Llawndy farm, BHP on 18/09 and 12/11; 2 at Warren Farm on 31/01, 14/11 with 3 on 28/09 and 4/11; 3 first-year birds at Pontfadog, 14/12. 1-2 recorded throughout the year at RSPB Conwy.

Still only 1 pr breeding at WE where 3 in 1980s; a nest at Pant Quarry, Gresford as for past five years - new nest built each year, all within 50m; pair nested successfully again at Warren Farm (BHP), about 7m from previous year's; a pair nested again in Llanarmon-yn-Ial conifer woodland.

Some note-worthy sightings - 1 flew through a Llanasa garden carrying prey, 15/02; 1 caught a feral pigeon in a Wrexham garden but when disturbed both flew away in a flurry of feathers, 28/04; 1 caught and ate woodpigeon on Marford front lawn, 5/08.

BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*)

BWNCATH

now **COMMON BUZZARD**

Common and widespread breeding resident. Appears to be extending its range. There are many sightings from urban and suburban areas with well over 110 sightings by Wrexham Birdwatchers alone in over 40 sites. Recorded in seven BBS squares (see table).

Sightings of five or more and other records of interest: 5 along R. Clwyd (from Pont Glan y Wern at SJ 091662 to Lleweni Hall at SJ 082687) on 13/02; 5 over Clocaenog on 23/04; a remarkably large group of 15 on 3/03 and 6 on 19/05 (both Pontfadog, Ceiriog Valley); 6 at Llyn Brenig on 19/08; 5 at Burton, 16/09; a pair soaring with peregrines, RM area, 19/03; 1 landed to eat a snake in its talons, Bryneglwys, 23/03; 5 soaring over TFR, 22/03; 5 over RM, 16/04; 1 eating a rabbit on Bagillt marsh on 12/05; 1 on a Llanddulas garden wall on 26/07; 6 over Ruabon allotments, 20/08; 6+ displaying over Trefor Rocks, 10/11; 2 at Llanasa with 1 carrying a twig in its talons, 2/12.

In the RM/HP study area, 20 pairs were monitored. Nests found of 17 with fledged young from a further two. Full layings in 14 nests with mean clutch of 2.5 (n=35 eggs); mean fledged brood from 19 nests was 1.53 (n=29 young).

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD (*Buteo lagopus*)

BOD BACSIOG

Very rare winter visitor

1 S over Pontfadog, 31/12 (tbc)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant. Red List [HD, BR, SPEC]

1 at Alwen Reservoir on 22/04; singles at Llyn Helyg on 9/05 and 11/05; †1 past POA on 22/09. 4 sightings at RSPB Conwy: 4/04, 15/04, 17/05 and 27/06.

KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus*)

CUDYLL COCH

now **COMMON KESTREL***Locally common breeding resident. Amber List [BDM, SPEC]**Recorded in some forty areas. Especially noticeable on our few "motorway" verges with regular sightings of 1-2 on A483, A5 and A55*

In RM/HP study area, all 5 nests located produced young with mean of 3.2 fledged young (n=16 young). Regular breeding in Maes y Llan, Gardden Hall, Ruabon and Coedpoeth quarry. 11 recorded in Vivod area where normally 1-2, suggesting definite influx, 28/09.

Noteworthy sightings: a *f* with ring on left leg nr Llyn Cyfynwy (SJ 165500), 6/04; a bird carefully stripped and ate a small rodent in its talons whilst still hovering/flying, Bronbannog, 7/04; a nest with 5 eggs, Denbigh Moors, 28/05; 1 *f* + 4 young at Shotton Paper, 30/06 (latter ringed by AB and IS); 1 carrying shrew in its talons at Rhyl Golf Course, 22/12.

RED-FOOTED FALCON (*Falco vespertinus*)

GWALCH GOES GOCH

Rare vagrant

A juvenile or second calendar year *f*, flying SE at Warren Farm on 9/08 (‡) tbc

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*)

CUDYLL BACH

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List [HD] BCCC

Records from 13 areas included the following noteworthy sightings, mainly singles: at Holt floods (where 1 flew along ditch for c200 yards, 13/02); 1 chasing - and missing - a goldfinch, at Llyn Brenig on 11/02; a *m* at Tainant, 4/03; recorded from 11/03-8/11 around the Ceiriog Forest; 1 on WE, 20/03; a pair seen on Llandegla Moor in April and remains of predated Meadow Pipits found on at least 5 occasions; 1 in BBS SJ 2547 on 4/05; a *f* in a Rhyl garden on 27/08 and 15/09; 1 chasing a House Martin in Penycae, 10/09; 1 chasing a meadow pipit 21/10, Denbigh Moors; 1 at Burton, 26/10; 1 at Brymbo Pool, 22/11.

Dee Estuary: a female/immature and male were regularly seen at POA RSPB Reserve in both first and second winter periods with 3 on 7/02 (‡). A single male was at POA CL on 30/12 hunting finches and larks. Only 2 sightings at OMR: a *f* on 27/01 and 17/12. 1 at CQNR on 16/01 and 19/04.

HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*)

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

now **EURASIAN HOBBY***Uncommon passage migrant and occasional scarce breeding species*

More records this year: 5 at Fenn's Moss on 1/05, 2 on 27/05 and 4 on 16/07; 1 flying N over Gresford, 12/06 and a late bird seen taking a swallow over Gresford bowling green, 3/09; 1 hunting insects over RM, 19/06; 1 over moor at Cefn Tan-y-graig SH 9457 Clocaenog area on 3/07 showing some signs of moult and aggressive to kestrel there; a pair seen at Marial Gwyn SH 997561 Clocaenog area on 6/07 both catching moths effectively and then together briefly chasing a small bird - f present only briefly but size difference noticeable; 1 over Border Pool, Flintshire on 13/07; 2 (m + f) over R. Clwyd nr Denbigh on 18/07 and engaging in a food pass on 21/07; 1 mobbed by Common Terns, BP IMF, then flew on to Inner Dee marshes, 24/07; seen throughout July and August over Pontfadog feeding on House Martins - last seen on 3/09 - and an adult nr Vivod on 21/08.

PEREGRINE (*Falco peregrinus*)

HEBOG TRAMOR

now **PEREGRINE FALCON**

Relatively successful resident breeding species but subject to human predation so as with other raptor records discretionary recording/reporting is undertaken. Amber List [SPEC]

Inland: reports from 14 areas. 1-2 sighted in Coedpoeth, Ffrith, Gresford, Llangollen, Pulford Meadow, Ruabon, Sychdyn and Vivod. RM/HP study area: a better breeding season with breeding in 7 out of 8 territories with mean clutch size of 3.8 (n=25 eggs) and fledged brood size of 2.1 (n=15 young).

Coastal: regular through the year, especially in winter, on the Dee estuary and BB (including a sighting of two chasing waders off Walwen on 23/11); POA RSPB Reserve: 1-2 birds were regular in all months but probably involved 3-4 wintering individuals; seen on three dates at POA CL, inc. an adult f perched on Recycling Plant on 30/12; 1 on pylon (possibly roosting) at Sealand (SJ 345682), 6/04; 1 on post, POA, 4/10. 1-2 occasional at OMR. A pair present in November/December at Shotton Steelworks. RSPB Conwy: 1-2 through the year.

Some interesting sightings: 1 stooped 20-30 times over lapwing which eventually escaped, River Clwyd nr Rhyl, 22/01; 1 killed and plucked pigeon, Ruabon allotments, 27/01; a juv was seen playing with a flock of ravens on 10/09 at Boncyn-y-grogen SJ 165542; 1 seen carrying a pigeon over the main road, Ruabon; an adult took a Mallard at Tregeiriog on 21/09; 1 took a Black-tailed Godwit at POA on 3/10 and carried it to the spit with great difficulty.

RED GROUSE (*Lagopus lagopus*)

GRUGIAR

now **WILLOW PTARMIGAN**

Breeding resident on heather moors. Continued decline probable

Ruabon Moors survey: first "broody droppings" of season, indicating start of incubation, surprisingly late, May 10-11. Annual max autumn transect count on 23-year old route was disappointing, involving no coveys of more than three birds, suggesting a very poor breeding season. Count figure lower than for 1999 and third lowest in last ten years. Other sightings from this area: heard but not seen, Minera, 26/02; 2 only observed *ibidem* 23/04 and 17/09; 1 flying at Pendinas, 15/04; regular by Watkins Tower, Llandegla. An increased density reported from North Berwyns study area in August-December - 8 birds per km² when normally <2 per km². Also recorded at Moel Famau where 2+ calling on 13/01, Clocaenog where 5 on 22/04, Hiraethog where singles on 3/10 and 24/11.

BLACK GROUSE (*Tetrao tetrix*)

GRUGIAR DDU

Scarce breeding resident. Red List [BD, HD, SPEC] BCCC

Ruabon Moors: an apparent increase in lekking totals but a third poor breeding season in succession. John Lawton Roberts appends this warning to his studies of the Ruabon Moor area: **Lek sites of this sensitive and endangered species should not be visited.** One over-publicised lek is receiving much disturbance from bird-watchers, who walk out into the moor and flush the birds, rather than watching from the road through telescopes!

A Black Grouse Project is currently underway (June 1999 - March 2002) for Llandegla Forest and Moor as well as the adjacent Ruabon Moor which together hold one-third of the Welsh population of Black Grouse. The figures in the table below reveal a rising trend but should be treated with cautious optimism: they may simply reflect increased observer effort as well as habitat alteration [see also article in 1999 report.] The main lek count on 24/04 showed 13 Blackcock and two greyhen. The total for Llandegla and Ruabon this year showed a 45% increase over 1999 with 72 Blackcock and 8 greyhens (source: Ron Plummer).

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Lekking <i>m</i> in Llandegla & RM	21	38	54	71
Lekking <i>m</i> in Wales	108	143	151	171

A single male in a newly cut hayfield at Bryn Farm (SJ 270549) in July could be the first Flintshire record for a long time and may also suggest that the BG Project is succeeding. Other sightings from this general area: 5 in trees in Minera top car-park, 8-30 am, 26/02; 1 *m* in flight at WE on 20/03 and 1 *m* 'lekking' alone in a field on Minera Mtn., 20/03, in an area disturbed by tree felling; several at Pendinas lek, 15/04; 1 at Offa's Dyke path, WE, 24/04; heard in distance on RM

from above Bronwylfa, 5/05; 2 on 5/08 and 4 on 8/10 (1 possibly a juvenile), WE; 1 at HP on 28/08. A peak count of 6 (2m+4f) recorded in North Berwyn area, August-December period.

Other records: 4 (2m+2f) near Llyn Brenig, 4/03 and a greyhen at Llyn Brân on 5/06; 2 nr Bronbannog, Clocaenog, 1/04 and 17 on 22/04; a *m* perched on roadside birch, nr Rhydtalog (SJ 249545), 6/04; 2 cock birds in BBS SJ 1345 on 29/05; 2 at WE on 19/08; a single *male* in Nant-y-Ffrith (SJ 267548) in December.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE (*Alectoris rufa*)

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Rare breeding resident though large numbers bred and released in moorland areas for shooting

Several sightings, mainly in Ruabon Moors and Pontfadog areas. Largest number: c500 nr Tainant breeding pens, 2/09.

GREY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*)

PETRISEN

Scarce breeding resident. Red List [BD, SPEC] BCCC

Again, only a few records were received: a single bird at Bryn Farm (SJ 270550) in January; a *m* calling at Hawarden airfield (SJ 354647), 10/05 and 5 at Hawarden Castle on 15/09; 1 at Plas Power, 21/05; 7 near Lego at Ruthin Rd., Wrexham, 21/11. Once again, no records from RM/HP study area but 2 seen on three occasions (March-May) at Llandegla Forest.

RSPB surveys: at least 11 pairs between the A550 (Queensferry road) and Saltney(§); 1+ pair probably breeding at Leeswood.

QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*)

SOFLIAR

now COMMON QUAIL

Passage migrant and possibly scarce breeding summer visitor. Red List [HD, SPEC]

Heard at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, 18/07, 21/07 and 1/08.

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*)

FFESANT

now COMMON PHEASANT

Locally common breeding resident, especially near wooded and hilly areas where breeding pens are used by shooting interests

Widespread across the county. Also an occasional garden visitor with up to 2 pairs visiting a Gresford garden feeder in winter and a cock bird seen in several Wrexham gardens!

WATER RAIL (*Rallus aquaticus*)

RHEGEN Y DWR

Scarce winter visitor and possible breeding resident. Amber List [BDM]

Observed at only a few sites: 1 at BHP coastal fields, 23/01 and 1 at Warren farm, 11/10; 2 at Gronant Marsh on 20/02 and 1 on 5/03 and 18/03 and 3 making a lot of noise on 5/11; 1 at Llyn Helyg, 22/03; 1 at PMPA on 30/11; 2 present throughout Jan-March and 3 in Nov/Dec at Shotton Steelworks. RSPB Conwy: a pair bred producing 3 young - a new breeding record. Small numbers present during autumn and both winter periods, with a peak of 8 on 30/09.

MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*)

IAR DDWR

now **COMMON MOORHEN***Locally common breeding resident*

Reported from fifteen main areas. Largest counts: 39 at KCF, Flint on 17/12; 35 in February at Llawndy farm, BHP; 17 at Shotton lagoons in August; 15 at Greenfield Valley, 18/11. *Dee Estuary:* breeding in 9 territories, BHP‡ (0-11 during 1992-99) and at CQNR.

RSPB Conwy: 6 pairs bred.

COOT (*Fulica atra*)

CWTIAR

now **COMMON COOT***Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor**Recorded through the year from twenty main sites.*

Highest counts: 186 at Llyn Helyg on 19/11; 121 at Ysceifiog on 18/12; 90 at KCF Flint on 16/01; 87 at Shotton Steelworks on 10/09; 79 at PMPA, 14/11; 78 at Dolwen on 19/08; 74 at Warren farm, BHP on 17/09 (peak monthly count); 57 at Gresford Flash, 17/12; 50 at Tommy's Wood Pool' (SJ 354530) on 6/01. 14 breeding territories at BHP‡ (0-12 during 1992-99); 3 at CQNR. At RSPB Conwy, c40 pairs bred.

(OC)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	1687	-	515	264	-	365	-	5696	6015	4350	4330	3670
OMR	88	187	190	220	550	965	500	3634	6167	4000	3500	800
POA	4820	3673	1909	1700	1900	601	2968	5559	7900	5250	5040	3748
MDR	125	70	80	120	1	11	290	600	350	250	20	-
CR	25	65	100	400	600	586	450	500	500	1000	200	150

OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

PIODEN Y MOR

now **EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER**

Scarce breeding resident and abundant winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL]

The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK

Large numbers on or near the coast: 6167 at OMR on 2/09; 6150 at POA on 30/09; 6015 at Bagillt Bank on 8/09; 1500 at MDR on 20/12; 1000+ at POA, 31/07; c370 at Llanddulas Beach (E) on 13/01; 300 at RML on 19/01 and 31/10; 180+ at Rhos Point, 26/12; 150 on R. Clwyd in July; c100 at PMPA, 14/11.

Several inland records this year: up to 4 at KCF Flint January-March and December; singles at Greenfield Valley on 9/04 and 17/09; 1-2 at Llyn Brenig, April-August; 1 at Llyn Helyg on 16/05, 1 at a Glyndyfrdwy quarry on 9/07.

Dee Estuary: Breeding: two pairs attempted to nest at OMR and one young was successfully raised; a pair nested on the arable land adjacent to IMF (outcome unknown); a pair made a breeding attempt by POA CL (outcome unknown) and another pair on abandoned colliery site (failed possibly due to stoat predation).

OMR, POA, MDR and BB (Greenfield to Flint sands) monthly maxima are shown in the table. The MDR records refer to a small HT roost at Fynnongroyw South Bay where the peak count was on 20/08. Large numbers use the mudflats here at LT to feed and roost and low water counts gave 1467 birds on 27/08 and 1500 on 20/12.

RSPB Conwy: 3 pairs produced 2 young (see table for full reserve figures).

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius dubius*)

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

now **LITTLE PLOVER**

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant. Scarce scattered breeding.

Inland: no confirmed breeding this year at Fagl Lane Quarry, Hope and Borrás Quarry (SJ 365535): 5 feeding on muddy area at former site on 8/04; 3 present on 15/04, 2 of which appeared to be prospecting for a suitable nesting habitat but no birds on 1/05 in area now walked on by cattle. 3 at Borrás Quarry on 8/04 (one displaying) and 2 on 6/05.

Coastal: Breeding: 2 young being fed by parents on 20/05 at Shotton Lagoons but no nest found and 1, agitated, possibly breeding, at Shotton Tip (SJ 295 720), 18/07; a pair nested on arable land adjacent to IMF (outcome unknown). Singles at RSPB POA: 3/05, 3/06, 5/07 and 31/07. RSPB Conwy: no confirmed breeding with only 1 seen on six dates 1/04-25/06 and a juv on 24-29/06.

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

CWTIAD TORCHOG

Breeding resident in small numbers and passage migrant. Amber List [WI]

Coastal: 2 breeding territories at POA (0-4 during 1992-99) where 2 pairs attempted to breed at RSPB POA spit but failed probably through human disturbance; four-five pairs attempted to breed in the colliery area and one brood of small chicks was seen.

The peak passage counts at POA were an incidental count of c500 on 10/02 and on 27/08 when 432 passed through during the day (*see table*). A pair on territory on arable land adjacent to IMF but no evidence of successful breeding. Small numbers regularly recorded at Flint and Bagillt where the highest count was 40 on 26/08. Two pairs nested at Flint Point and successfully fledged four young. Occasional at OMR with a peak of 14 on 17/10. Singles at Rhyl Harbour on 5/01 and 5/03; Regular at Pensarn where peak count was 50+ on 19/09 and 25 at Kinnel bay on 25/12. Good numbers were observed at Gronant where the highest counts were c150 on 27/01 and c100 on 25/11.

RP	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	35	500	23	65	230	49	21	432	20	76	23	25
CR	-	-	1	5	4	1	-	2	-	-	-	-

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis apricaria*)
now **EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER**

CWTIAD AUR

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [WI]

More sightings this year though still mainly small numbers and no confirmed breeding. Main sightings: peak counts of 26 at Bagillt marsh on 22/02; 48 on Sealand ranges (SJ 305726) on 4/04; 21 at BHP coastal fields on 27/12 though there were **fewer than ever before** at RSPB POA (*see table*). Other records: 1 on Flint foreshore, 27/01; 6 at Gronant on 27/01; 2 with lapwing at Broughton airfield, 30/03; 4 at Bagillt, 1/10; 5 at OMR on 26/10 and 3 on 29/12, roosting with lapwings; 12 flew SE past Bagillt on 1/12; 4+ with c200 lapwings in field along Ruabon by-pass, 26/12; 6 at Flint on 29/12.

GP	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	5

GREY PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

CWTIAD LLWYD

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List [WI, WL]

The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK

Maximum numbers: peak count of 117 in the Dee estuary on 26/12 and 107 flying W offshore POA on 30/10; c100 on Gronant beach on 6/02 and 68 on 25/11; similarly, a first winter period incidental count of c100 on 10/02 and a second period peak of 90 at POA on 29/10 (*see table*).

GV	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	85	c100	6	13	1	-	1	1	4	90	61	52

Dee Estuary Reserves: small numbers only at BB with a maximum of 5 on 27/01 at Flint foreshore, 13/12. Only 2 at OMR on 17/10. Numbers down on last year at POA: see table.

RSPB Conwy: 1 only on 7/05.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*)

CORNCHWIGLEN

now **NORTHERN LAPWING**

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [WI]

The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

Reported from many areas across the vice-counties.

Inland: Seen in variable numbers in 28 areas (over 2000 birds counted - a sizeable proportion of the Welsh population). Breeding records: over 28 pairs were identified as breeding on the River Alyn floodplain (RSPB survey) with 10+ pairs at Wrexham Road, Leeswood, 7+ pairs at Nercwys and 11 pairs Wrexham Road, Pontblydden. Confirmed small-scale breeding at Borrass Quarry, Halkyn Quarry (4 pairs), Llong nr Mold, RM, SPJ, WIE. 2 pairs possibly breeding - but unconfirmed - at Llay Pool and, similarly, 1 pair with Shelduck at Rhosesmor Sand Quarry and a pair near Nant-y-Ffrith in May 2000. 3 pairs at Pont Parc Ganol (SJ 088659) on 18/03 and 6 displaying at Cerrigydrudion SH 964497 on 18/04. Plus 2 in BBS SJ 3868 on 29/05/00; 8 at BBS SJ 1345 on 29/05; 8 at SJ 1851 on 7/07.

Highest counts (inland wintering sites): 400 roosting at Borrass Quarry on 23/01 and 300 on 1/12; c250 at SPJ on 23/12; 157 in field adjacent to Ruabon by-pass nr R. Dee on 20-21/02 and 170-200 on 26/12; 152 counted in field off Sandy Lane, Borrass (SJ 371529), 10/07; up to 200 counted in flooded/ploughed fields between Rossett and Holt (SJ 387561), 2-12/01; 117 at Holt on 27/12; 100+ near Bangor Is-y-Coed floods, 7/11; c100 on ploughed field, Wynnstay, 2/12; 85 feeding on Llay Pool, 15/02; 73 at Burton Meadows on 21/11; 62 at Mold near Leeswood on 23/12; 60 over Bradley on 10/01; 46 at LPJ on 19/03; 33 at AWCP (Bradley side) and 2 on Llay side, 28/02; 29 at Nant-y-Ffrith Reservoir, (SJ 259541) 26/11; c20-30 f/o Plas Coch, Wrexham, 29/10 and 31/12; 20 Gresford Roundabout fields; c10 on 30/03 at Broughton Airfield, 10 at Caemor Wood (SJ 220346), 22-27/04. *Small numbers*, usually 1 or 2, also seen at

(L.)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	530	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	38	348	-	143
OMR	240	-	4	-	-	1	-	255	530	363	500	750
POA	378	110	-	-	-	-	-	2	36	1	102	137
IMF	3000	1020	128	58	60	75	196	13	15	40	1800	1000
CR	83	120	30	26	26	26	12	6	35	112	100	90

Croesfoel Farm SJ 307482, Northop, Ceirog Valley, Coedpoeth, Llyn Helyg, Rhewl.

Coastal: found in variable numbers from 1-1000+. Main counts: a peak of 1000 along R. Clwyd, 9/01 and 14/01; peaking at 1500+ at Rhyl Marine Lake roost, 22/01 and at 150+ on 20/11; BHP: 1022 at Warren Farm and 896 in fields in January; 750 at OMR on 17/12; 530 on Flint Sands on 19/01 and 348 on 23/10; c300 at SF on 9/11; 110 at Sealand Ranges (SJ 305726) on 18/07.

Dee Estuary and Floodplain: **RSPB Survey (\$)**: a total of 138 prs were located between the A550 (Queensferry road) and Saltney, as follows: 5 prs Higher Kinner-ton (SJ 330625); 50 prs Burton Meadows (SJ 350600); 12-18 prs Pulford/Trevalyn Meadows (SJ 395565); 22 prs between Holt and Overton; 22 pairs on the Flintshire part of the Sealand Ranges (SJ 302730); 6 pairs (none nesting on first visit) Shotwick Fields (SJ 320720). In addition, another 16 pairs nested at four sites at the head of the estuary. The grand total for the first round of visits for the Welsh part of the flood plain is 265 pairs. Another 54 pairs were located on the Cheshire part of the flood plain.

The peak monthly counts for BB, OMR, POA and IMF (total Reserve and arable fields) are given in the table. For POA, the peak count was on 22/01 and for OMR on 17/12. For BB the table gives monthly maxima for Flint Sands only and other notable counts were 288 on Bagillt Bank, 14/01, 67 on Bagillt marsh on 22/02; 146 on Walwen marsh on 17/12 and 307 on Greenfield sandbanks on 20/12. A pair nested near Flint Point and successfully fledged one young; as did a pair at OMR on the fly-ash lagoon fields. 2 pairs attempted to nest on the Flintshire part of the IMF reserve and 15 pairs nested on the adjacent arable field. Shotton Lagoons: 5 pairs raised 12 young.

RSPB Conwy: an increase of the colony to 13 breeding pairs but complete breeding failure due to adverse weather and heavy predation.

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)

PIBYDD YR ABER

now **RED KNOT**

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK

Dee Estuary: good numbers recorded (*see table*). c200 at Gronant on 27/01. The monthly maxima for BB relate to Flint Sands (*peak count dates were 22/02, 5/03 and 16/11*). Other notable counts came from Bagillt sandbanks with 625 on 8/11 and

(KN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	220	800	600	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	1121	62
OMR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	100	1000	150
POA	460	315	36	85	25	-	-	41	43	235	490	488

Walwen marsh roost with 400 on 20/02. All records probably relate to the same mobile inner estuary flock. At OMR, an incidental count of 1000+ on 13/11 when the standard peak count was 450 on 12/11. At POA, the peak monthly count for the first winter period was 460 on 22/01 and 490 and 488 in November and December respectively in the second winter period (see table) but higher counts were made which included birds passing through, peaking at 720 on 13/12.
RSPB Conwy: occasional.

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*)

PIBYDD Y TYWOD

Passage migrant and winter visitor. The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

Seen in variable flocks along the coast in spring and autumn/winter, sometimes with other waders. Largest flock sizes: 55+ off Kinmel Bay beach on 26/11; 53 at POA on 21/02 (see table) and 48 on adjoining shore on 3/09; 50 at Gronant on 25/11; 21 at Pensarn on 14/11 and 15 at Horton's Nose, R. Clwyd, 9/01. 2 sightings only at RSPB Conwy (both in May).

3 on the IMF BP on 19/05, 2 on 16/06, 1 on 17/07 (this summer-plumaged bird had been variously identified as a Temminck's Stint or Baird's Sandpiper!)

SS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	52	53	-	1	7	-	14	23	5	6	6	6

LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minuta*)

PIBYDD BACH

Very scarce passage migrant; usually found in small numbers on autumn passage

Only a few records: 1 at POA on 21/07; 2 at POA on 6/08; a juv with a flock of 113 dunlin at OMR on 19/09. A poor year at RSPB Conwy with a few birds only, July-September.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*)

PIBYDD CAMBIG

Scarce autumn passage migrant

Dee Estuary Reserves: several recorded at POA as follows - 2 on 26/07, singles on 27/08, 31/08, 6 on 2/09, 5 on 3/09, 7 on 20/09 and singles on 10/10 and 14/10 with 1 at Llawndy Farm on 11/10 and 16 on area adjoining POA reserve on 1/09. 2 juvs at OMR on 2/09, 19/09 and 29/09. A single bird at CQNR on 22/07.

RSPB Conwy: several autumn juvs recorded with a maximum of 4 on 1/09.

PURPLE SANDPIPER (*Calidris maritima*)

PIBYDD DU

Winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [BR, WI]

Singles at Rhos-on-Sea groynes, 11/01 and offshore POA lighthouse on 25-26/10 and 6 at Rhos Point with Turnstones, 14/11 with 2 at 26/12.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*)

PIBYDD YMAWN

Passage migrant and common winter visitor. Amber List [WL, WL, SPEC]

The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site for wintering Dunlin though birds are found throughout the year.

Entirely coastal though numbers reported on R. Clwyd: maximum counts were 5850 at RSPB POA on 7/01 and an instantaneous peak of 4650 on 13/12.

Dee Estuary: BB: the tabulated records are for Flint foreshore. Peak count dates were 19/01, 20/02 and 1/10. Additionally, birds were recorded at Bagillt marsh HT roost with peak counts of 55 on 23/01, 100 on 20/02 and 140 on 1/12. OMR: the peak count was 2300 on 20/01. POA: taking into account turnover, higher counts were obtained than those in the table, peaking at 4900 on 13/12. Large numbers were also seen offshore, peaking at 2550 E on a falling tide on 30/10, and at Gronant beach with peaks of c2500 on 27/01 and a roost of 3600 on 26/11. A flock of c70 at Gronant beach with c40 ringed plover and a sanderling followed horses across the sand on 5/03.

Other counts included a peak of 297 on 24/11 at Warren Farm, BHP where the main passage was by night; a peak of 200 at R. Clwyd on 9/01; 50+ at RML on 9/02; peak of 3 at Pensarn on 18/08; 37 at Kinnel Bay beach on 26/11.

(DN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	458	270	135	-	-	-	-	-	-	300	95	20
OMR	2300	50	-	-	-	-	-	250	113	200	250	70
POA	5850	2600	790	130	1140	63	52	1545	430	950	3083	4650
CR	8	3	10	25	20	2	14	23	51	30	10	10

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*)

PIBYDD TORCHOG

Scarce passage migrant. Amber List [BR, WL]

The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

3 at Gronant Dunes Pool on 3/09. One at CQNR on 22/07 and a single *juv* at OMR on 29/09 and singles at POA on 18/08, 31/08, 27/09, 10/10 with 7 on 15/09 and singles at POA CL on 17/09, 10/10, 14/10 and at the flushing pool area on 30/09 and 6/10.

Conwy RSPB: 6 sightings of autumn migrant juvs with a peak of 4 on 27/09.

JACK SNIPE (*Lymnocryptes minimus*)

GIACH FACH

Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [SPEC]

1 in the middle of RM on 13/01. Singles at Gronant, 25/01 and at RSPB POA on 7/01 and 22/01 and at OMR on 29/12.

SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*)

GIACH GYFFREDIN

now **COMMON SNIPE***Rare breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BDM]*

Inland: reported mainly in small numbers from only a few sites. In good numbers along R. Clwyd (from Pont Glan y Wern at SJ 091662 to Lleweni Hall at SJ 082687) where 30 on 13/02. Regular at Erddig Flash where 1-5 reported, 1/01-9/04; and at RM but not censused; Stryt Las CP, Ruabon where 10 on 4/02, 2 on 4/03 and 12 on 24/11. Also reported from WIE where 7 on overgrown pond (SJ 382496) on 13/01, 12 on 7/02 and 1 flushed by a stream on 7/12; 1 roosting in Sychdyn garden, 13/02 and 1 f/o on 29/12 at 14.30 hrs; 1 chipping at SH 945568, Clocaenog area on 10/04; 1 on Minera Mtn. on 29/07. Observed in the following BBS squares: 1 in BBS SJ 2464 on 27/04/00 and 13/04; 1 in BBS SJ 2547 on 4/05/00.

Coastal: the highest counts were again at Gronant beach marsh where 83 were recorded on 20/02 and 155 on 17/10. Regular and in good numbers at BHP‡ and in smaller numbers at POA CL in winter in wet grassland (*see table*); a peak of 90 at POA on 22/01 and night count peaks at Warren Farm of 71 in the first winter period (28/02) and 57 in the second winter period (24/11). 2 at Flint marsh on 19/02 and 1 at OMR on 29/12. 4 at SL on 18/03 and 1 in October; 1 at Shotton Steelworks on 30/12.

(SN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	90	57	72	-	-	-	-	1	11	25	51	45
CL	2	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
CR	2	2	2	1	-	-	3	10	2	18	20	31

WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*)

CYFFYLOG

now **EURASIAN WOODCOCK***Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BDM, SPEC]*

More sightings and from more areas (18) this year as follows: regular wintering birds seen January-March, Wern Woods; 1 f/o Sychdyn, late afternoon, 3/01 and 11.30 am on 29/12; 1 Alltami nr Mold, 10/01; 2 sprang from bushes and leaf litter, Gardden Woods, Ruabon, 24/01; 2 put up in bramble scrub, Afon Eitha streamside,

6/02; 2 flew over Gwernaffield, Mold (SJ 205648) at dusk, 23/02 and 1 on 8/03; 3 birds in February on RM and 1 on 5/11; presence recorded in Gresford Wilderness area (SJ 338543) in March; 3 reported from Nercwys - a regular site - on 10/06; 1 in Bonum Forest, 18/07 and nest with hatched egg-shells c500m away; 1 flushed at Llandegla on 27/10 by Forestry Manager's dog; 2 at Clocaenog on 5/11 and 1 on 12/11 and 3 at Moel Derwydd, Hiraethog, 24/11; 1 at Warren Farm, BHP on 1/12; 1 WE on 21/12; 1-4 sightings but possibly only one bird, in Newtown Forest, Penycae, 23/12; 1 at Shotton Steelworks on 30/12.

DF & CM Richardson in a study of roding birds at Penymynydd site, Hawarden Estate (SJ 313636) tabulate the results as shown. The table shows the maximum number of birds seen roding. All sightings were in June/July with a mean roding time of 10pm.

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
6	12	2	4	1	4	3

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*) RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Passage migrant. Principally a winter visitor but increasingly found through the year. Red List [HD, BR, WL, SPEC]

The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site for this species.

Dee Estuary monthly maxima are given in the table. BB: increased numbers were found this year. Birds flighted from Flint foreshore on rising tides to roost at OMR. Peak count dates were 27/01, 26/10 and 15/11. There was also an incidental count of c400 near Flint Castle on 12/02. In the prolonged wet spell in December, flock dispersal into the estuary took place with large flocks using the wet coastal fields at Warren Farm, POA and Greenfield with over 700 at each site. Smaller flocks were at Walwen, Bagillt and Greenfield in February and December with 250 at Bagillt on 22/02, 280 at Walwen and 210 at Greenfield, both on 20/12. 4 colour-ringed birds were with the main flock on Flint sands. For OMR, there was an increased incidence and the peak counts were 29/09 and 16-17/10. IMF: the tabulated figures are for the whole reserve. For the thirteenth successive year there was a summering flock - during late evening the summering birds flew out to the estuary (Connah's Quay/Flint) to feed/roost and returned early morning. (Peak count dates were: (BB) 27/11, 26/10 and 15/11, off Flint Point at low tide before estuarine dispersal in December and January; (OMR) September 29 and October 16 and 17). BHP: good numbers on circuit fields and at Warren Farm where there was an unprecedented peak count of 1050 on 6/12.

Also recorded at BP IMF (1 on 15/05 and 11/10); Sealand Ranges (15 on 4/04), Shotwick (10 on 17/07); singles at POA CL on 2/07 and 30/12.

Also at RSPB Conwy (see table) where the peak count was 14 on 29/06.

(BW)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	914	-	510	-	-	-	-	4	813	2450	1590	450
OMR	-	290	150	1000	-	2	-	20	2280	2500	1800	327
POA	34	1	-	1	1	-	11	5	3	-	80	176
IMF	185	250	150	400	134	194	250	81	1	3	75	202
CR	-	-	-	-	1	14	6	5	5	2	1	1

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*) RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRITH

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK

Present through the year in small numbers at POA (*see table*), where there was an incidental peak in the first winter period of 60 on 10/02; a roost was present for much of September - December, peaking at 114 on 15/09. *Only a few other records received:* recorded offshore POA in October with a peak of 8 W on 30/10; recorded on four dates at BB: 3 at Flint sands on 29/03, 1 at Flint marsh on 15/06, 2 flew E at Warren Farm on 29/06, 2 at Bagillt on 4/10 and one there on 8/11; recorded on only five dates at OMR: 1 on 21/03 and 2/07 with 4 on 2/09 and 19/09 and 2 on 29/09; a single only at MDR on 27/08. Also found in small numbers at RSPB Conwy (*see table*).

BA	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	3	60	3	7	11	1	2	9	114	60	56	60
CR	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	6	7	2	-	-

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

COEGYLFINIR

Passage migrant and summer visitor. Red List [BL]

One inland record: 1 flying over Llyn Brenig on 25/04. All other records (bar 1 calling and flying over nearby Llanasa on 16/07) come from the Dee Estuary marshes (between POA and CQR), River Clwyd and RSPB Conwy.

Dee Estuary: BB: the first returning birds of the year were a flock of 15 on the sandbanks at Bagillt on 28/04. Singles were recorded on 12/05 at both Flint and Bagillt marshes and at Flint foreshore on 12/07. In September, there were 4 on Bagillt sandbanks on 6/09, 3 on Bagillt marsh on 17/09 and 2 at Flint on 19/09. At OMR the first birds were 3 at HT on 30/04; 1 on 7/05 and 3 on 2/08. BHP†: small numbers at Llawndy and Warren Farms (peak 3 on 24/04 and 15/08) and present at

RSPB POA from April until August, peaking at 32 on 2/08 (*see table*) with a single at POA CL on 20/08. 1 at Shotton Steelworks on 13/08.

River Clwyd: 4 flying N following the river and 1 at estuary, 22/04; 1 at Rhos Point on 2/07.

RSPB Conwy: small numbers on spring and autumn passage, peaking at 10 on 12/05.

WM	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	-	-	-	7	12	3	6	32	1	-	-	-

CURLEW (*Numenius arquata*)

GYLFINIR

now **EURASIAN CURLEW**

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BI, WI, SPEC]

The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site

Found *inland* (in breeding areas) in only small numbers. 1-5 birds observed at ten sites in the Ruabon area where first spring arrival was 19/02. Also recorded at Bangor Is y Coed, Bylchau (SH 9560), Caemor Wood (SJ 2234) where 10+ on 18/04, Gresford Flash, Llanarmon (SJ 185327), Llandegla Moors (where a peak count of 18 in April); Llyn Helyg area (where peak of 20 on 8/04), Nebo Road (SH 856534), Rhydtalog and in 7 BBS sites (*see table*). *In addition*, a RSPB Dee Floodplain count (§) recorded 10 pairs between Holt and Worthenbury, 2 prs Hawarden Airfield (SJ 350650), 2+ prs Burton Meadows (SJ 350600) and 5 prs Trevalyn Meadows (SJ 395565). River Alyn floodplain count revealed 1+ pairs at Nercwys.

Found in large numbers (non-breeding) in *coastal* localities with a maximum of 1772 on 17/09 at POA (less than last year) - *see table*. A peak of 500 at R. Clwyd on 22/01. Figures for the whole RSPB Conwy reserve are also given in the table.

Dee Estuary: recorded throughout the year along the estuary. BHP†: Warren Farm peak 916 on 6/11 with a further 341 on circuit counts. 43 at Sealand Ranges on 3/01 and 16 on 4/04. MDR used at LT only with a peak of 232 on 27/08. BB, OMR and POA and POA CL: monthly maxima are shown in the table. (*Peak counts for BB were on 29/03 and 26/08; for POA, 30/07 and 17/09; for OMR on 19/09*).

(CU)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	180	-	810	7	-	-	-	2532	-	560	80	-
OMR	15	3	-	4	1	3	-	16	196	10	9	21
POA	1001	1145	738	631	98	114	1735	1700	1772	1550	953	911
CL	6	25	-	14	2	10	18	1	3	6	9	1
CR	113	250	105	35	70	110	700	700	415	150	120	120

SPOTTED REDSHANK (*Tringa erythropus*)

PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

*Passage migrant and scarce over-wintering visitor**The Dee Estuary is of national importance for this species but with low figures from the Welsh side.*

9 at Rhyl on 8/04. 5 at IMF on the Flintshire border, 16/04. Recorded on three dates at POA CL - singles on 17/09 and 14/10 and 2 on 10/10. BB: recorded twice from Flint foreshore only - 2 on 1/10 and 4 on 10/12. BHP†: 1-3 seen on 9 dates with a peak count of 3 at POA on 14/10. 4 at CQNR on 16/01, 2 on 6/03 and 3 on the banded pools, 9/03; OMR figures are given in the table (*the peak count was 30/09*): RSPB Conwy: a poor year - only a *juv* 30/08-30/10.

DR	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	18	7	8	12

REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*)

PIBYDD COESGOCH

*now COMMON REDSHANK**Possible breeding resident and common winter visitor. Amber List [WI, SPEC]**The Dee Estuary is of international importance for this species*

Found along the coast in varying numbers (maximum counts: 2500 at OMR on 17/10; 1820 at Fynnongroyw South Bay, MDR on 17/09; 1164 at POA on 29/10; 1150 at Flint sands on 13/10; 694 at Warren Farm, BHP on 5/12; 200+ at RML on 1/01; c200 on an island at Rhos Point on 14/11; 200 at R. Clwyd estuary through January and 285 on 4/11; a peak of 241 at Llawndy Farm, BHP on 26/12. PMPA is a regular roost for small numbers (max. 21 on 14/11); 128 at nearby Llanddulas on 3/02 and 120+ on 25/12.

Dee Estuary Reserves: as in previous years, there was no evidence of breeding on the Welsh side of the Dee estuary though an unseasonal bird was present at Greenfield on 22/06. Dee Estuary monthly maxima and RSPB Conwy totals are given in the table. BB: the tabulated figures are for Flint sands where counts were made on a rising or ebbing tide as birds would flight on to OMR at HT. Other notable counts were 140 at Walwen marsh on 23/01, 600 there on 10/12 and 280 at Greenfield on 20/12. *Peak count dates:* BB: 29/03, 17/09 and 13/10; OMR: 17/10; POA: 29/10 and 28/11; MDR: 17/09. *There were no birds on POA CL in the Sept-Dec period; these refer to the flushing lagoon only with a LT peak count on 10/10; the peak CL count was on 20/02.*

The total figures for RSPB Conwy are tabulated. There were no breeding birds.

(RK)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	300	65	637	-	-	-	-	280	500	1150	245	252
OMR	20	200	68	2	-	-	-	176	1600	2500	395	300
POA	300	190	320	62	1	-	7	51	30	1164	1123	450
CL	13	81	1	-	1	-	-	-	54	540	450	220
MDR	100	37	-	-	-	-	-	14	1820	-	-	-
CR	116	230	200	120	-	11	70	65	166	400	250	230

GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)
now COMMON GREENSHANK
Passage migrant. Amber List [BL]

PIBYDD COESWERDD

Several records along the Flintshire coast and Dee estuary, mainly late autumn and winter: 1 at CQNR on 6/03; BHP†: recorded between 3/04 and 11/10 with a peak count of 9 at POA on 20/09; counts in the POA colliery area included 11 on 1/09 and 16 on 26/09; 1 at Shotton Steelworks on 16/07; 2 at Rhyl, 13/08; 3 in flight over Shotwick Fields, 21/08; recorded at POA CL flushing lagoon on two dates in autumn: 4 on 17/09 and 1 on 14/10 (both HT). 1 at Flint foreshore on 10/12. Singles present at OMR on 21/09, 12/11 with 2 on 12/12 and 3 on 13/12.

Also at RSPB Conwy in small numbers (see table).

GK	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	6	5	1	-	-

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*)
Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers

PIBYDD GWYRDD

Several records from a few regular sites: WIE: 1 present 2/01 to 13/01; 3 ibidem 29/11; 1 on 7/12; 1 at Pulford Brook, 10/04; 3 at Shotton Lagoons on 20/05 and 1 on 2/10; 1 at muddy pools, Shotwick Fields, 17/07 and 6/08; 1 at CQNR on 3/08; 1 at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh on 22/01, 22/07 and 3 on 1/08; 1 at POA CL at HT on 20/08 and colliery flushing pool on 19/08; singles at BHP on 31/07, 1/08 and 29/09; 1 at Shotton Steelworks on 3/09 and 22/10; 2 Pulford Meadows on 2/12 and 5 there on 27/12. RSPB Conwy: 1 on 17/04, 1 on 26/07-3/08, 2 on 27-28/07, 1 on 10/08.

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*)
Scarce passage migrant. Amber List [BR, SPEC]

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

1 at Warren Farm on 12/05†. RSPB Conwy: 2 on 2/07, 1 juv on 11/08.

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)
Passage migrant and breeding visitor

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

Fairly regular, in small numbers. BHP held the main sites.

Inland: a breeding record at Aled Isaf where 1 ad + 2 young on 23/06 plus sightings in eight other areas this year, mainly singles, at GF on 11/04; FLQ on 1/05; CLR on 5/05; Llyn Helyg from 19/04; Llyn Brenig (2+ on 21/04 and 15/07); Llanarmon DC on 19/05; Sutton Green (SJ 415478) on 31/07.

Coastal: frequently recorded at BHP† from 16/04 to 14/10 with peak counts of 7 at Llawndy Farm on 16/04 with 5 on 6/05, 5 at POA on 22/04, 3 at Warren Farm on 12/05 and 1/07; and 3 at POA CL on 17/09; 2 at OMR on 2/08 and 1 on 2/09. An exceptional peak of 10 on R. Clwyd at Rhuddlan marsh on 22/04. 2 at Llanddulas beach on 2/07 and 2 at Rhyl on 13/08. Singles at SL in April and at Shotton Steelworks on 23/04 and 16/07. RSPB Conwy: 1-4 recorded from 18/04-1/10 with a peak of 4 on 15/07.

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

CWTIAD Y TRAETH

now **RUDDY TURNSTONE**

Winter visitor. Amber List [WI]

The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK

Regular along the coast in variable numbers. Maximum counts: c50 at Rhos-on-Sea, November-December; c44 on at Llanddulas Beach, 13/01 and 70 on 1/12; 13 at Rhyl Splash Point on 18/03.

Regularly recorded in small numbers along the rocky shoreline at Greenfield and also at the nearby roost at Walwen marsh. Peak counts were 15 at Greenfield on 31/01 and 30 at Walwen on 10/12. Fewer and less regular at OMR and POA where maximum was 9 on 14/08.

POMARINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

SGIWEN FRECH

Uncommon passage migrant

Singles offshore POA on 10/08 and 5/10†

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

Passage migrant in small numbers

Several reports: noted off POA on 20 dates between 10/07-25/10 with a peak of 25 on 15/09; following strong onshore winds, a single was recorded off Greenfield on 26/08; 1 imm dark phase bird on the beach at POA, 4/10. A remarkable count of 86

off POA with other skuas on 2/10†.

LONG-TAILED SKUA (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) SGIWEN LOSTFAIN
Scarce passage migrant

Recorded off POA in July (*ndg*); a *juv* W on 6/09; 9 with 7 Great Skua, 86 Arctic Skua and 1 Black Tern on 2/10†; and 9 with 1 Great Skua on 4/10†; 4 *juvs* on 2/10 and 5 (at least 4 *juvs*) on 5/10‡

GREAT SKUA (*Stercorarius skua*) SGIWEN FAWR
Uncommon passage migrant. Amber List [BI, BL]

Singles recorded off POA on 13-14/07 and 10/10 and off Greenfield on 6/09, following strong onshore winds. 7 past POA on 2/10 and 1 on 16/09 and 4/10†.

SOUTH POLAR SKUA (*Catharacta maccormicki*)
Vagrant
1 off POA on 5/10, showing characteristics of this species‡ (tbc)

MEDITERRANEAN GULL (*Larus melanocephalus*) GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR
Scarce visitor. Amber List [BR]

Increasingly seen: several records this year
Single adults at PMPA on 10/03 and 14/11. A second-summer bird was at Shotton Steelworks on 23/04. At POA, recorded on 10 dates between 7/03-7/08, including an ad summer bird on 20/07, 2 ads winter birds + a first summer *juv* on 30/07 and a peak of 4 ads on 1/08 plus 3 other records from BHP (single ads 16/05, 9/07, 24/08) and 1 at POA CL on 20/07 at HT. At OMR, 2 first summer birds were present with black-headed gulls on 27/06 and a single first summer bird was present on 19/07. The same wandering individuals were also probably seen at IMF. A first-summer bird was located at CQNR on 2/08. An ad winter bird was at OMR on 13/12. RSPB Conwy: 5 different birds present during the year.

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*) GWYLAN FECHAN
Scarce passage migrant. Amber List [BR, SPEC]

Seen offshore POA on 5 occasions, 10/02-29/10 with peaks of 7 on 29/10 (BHP‡) and 18 on 26/10†. A first summer bird hawking insects over OMR on 30/04.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*) GWYLAN BENDDU
Common breeding resident and winter visitor
Inland sightings: regular at Acton Park (max. 82 on 22/10), AWCP (max. 100,

26/09), Coedpoeth area (max. c150 over Caego on 30/11), Erddig (max. 140 with 1 Common Gull on 22/10), GF (max. 215 on 22/10), Llyn Helyg (where a mixed flock of 1000 with Common Gulls, 27/01); Ruabon (max. c160 at SLJ on 21/01; 260 on SP, 13/03). Successful *breeding* at Llyn Helyg nr Holywell where 3 pairs nested on rafts in May and Llyn Brenig where 55+ chicks on 15/07.

Coastal: an aberrant bird at PMPA on 5/02 and a leucistic bird seen variously from 24/08 to 14/11. Numerous along the R. Clwyd estuary (where a roost of 400+ on 5/01), Kinnel Bay beach (where 300+ on 22/11), PMPA (180+ on 14/11) and POA (see below).

Dee Estuary: Shotton Lagoons is a regular breeding site; 40 birds nested and 15 young were counted. BP IMF - 1 pair on nest (many on English side), 15/05. Large numbers were seen in the BHP area, including POA (see table). Often with Common Gulls: 2300 together in Coastal Fields on 31/10, 2220 on 6/11 and 2000 on 12/12. Regular at Warren Farm where highest count was 818 in November.

BH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	115	76	4	3	5	5	3855	2900	2500	185	43	149
CR	600	800	200	4	73	160	237	500	129	120	100	100

RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*)

GWYLAN FODRWYBIG

Rare American vagrant

A first-summer bird at POA on 30/07 with 2000 Common Gulls and 4000 Black-headed Gulls. RSPB Conwy: 6 sightings from 27/01 to 23/08 probably involved just two birds.

COMMON GULL (*Larus canus*)

GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD

now **MEW GULL**

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [SPEC]

Inland: found at various sites; often with Black-headed Gulls. *Inland maxima*: records from Coedpoeth, Erddig Flash (where small numbers with larger flocks of black-headed gulls e.g. 5/70 on 13/02 and 1/140 on 22/10), GF (100+ on 5/03), Llyn Helyg (where a mixed flock of 1000 with Common Gulls, 27/01), Ruabon area.

Coastal sites: often in large numbers: the largest count was 9300 at Gronant beach on 27/01 (£). 620 at Llanddulas/Pensarn on 29/02. Often with Black-headed Gulls (*q.v.*). For POA and CR peak monthly counts, see table.

CM	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	1920	977	63	238	117	618	1431	1578	700	303	187	320
CR	836	800	50	8	2	-	2	6	45	50	100	100

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*) GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF
Breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber List [BI, BL]

Inland reports: the Gresford area now appears to hold the main roosting sites in the county where the birds are now seen through the year and in increasing numbers. A maximum of 350 at GF on 10/04 and of 600+ at TWP on 7/09. Also recorded in Wrexham (max. 70 on The Groves playing field, 7/08) and RM.

Coastal: regular but in smaller numbers at OMR (40+ at FC on 18/11) and BHP where a maximum of 141 was seen at RSPB POA in June (see table).

LB	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	5	4	8	5	20	141	183	70	23	3	6	2
CR	1	10	12	10	20	22	20	15	5	2	1	1

HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*) GWYLAN Y PENWAIG
Breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber List [BDM]

Inland: recorded at GF, where perhaps increasing (c100 on 10/04 and c400 on 25/12), Ruabon and Wrexham.

Coastal: 12 breeding territories at BHP‡ (0-7 during 1992-99). All nests were within the Llawndy Farm terminal complex and three were on roofs. BHP is discouraging breeding by broadcasting distress calls. The peak spring counts were 170 at Llawndy on 5/05, 180 at Warren Farm, same day, and 325 there on 7/05. For POA peak monthly counts, see table. Other records: 220+ at Rhyl beach, 1/01, 450+ at Kinnel Bay beach, 22/01, c400 at Llanddulas on 31/10. At RSPB Conwy, 1 pair fledged 2 young.

HG	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	191	224	76	71	325	570	773	370	292	340	516	72

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL (*Larus cachinnans*) GWYLAN GOES FELEN
Regular but scarce late summer passage migrant

Single adults (presumed ssp *michahellis*) recorded on five dates at POA: 3/06, 30/07, 19/08, 3/09, 13/09 with two adults on 1/08 and 4/08 and a possible juvenile/first-winter bird offshore on 10/08.

Recorded on two dates from Flint sands - an adult on 7/10 and 26/10. This bird was first seen on 2/08 at OMR and last seen there on 13/12.

RSPB Conwy: what was thought to be an adult *f* of the western form *michahellis* was seen 24/01-8/04.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*)
Scarce winter visitor

GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

A 1st or 2nd winter bird was at GF on 19/01; a 1st winter bird at OMR on 20/01 and a summer bird on 23/04 (possibly the same) (tbc)

GLAUCOUS GULL (*Larus hyperboreus*)
Scarce winter visitor

GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

RSPB POA: a first-year bird flew E on 3/03. An adult at Gronant beach on 8/10 and a presumed hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gull was there on 7/11 (‡).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*) GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF
Passage migrant and winter visitor
The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

Mainly a coastal visitor but an adult was seen with other gulls at GF on 21/12 and 25/12. 20 at Horton's Nose, R. Clwyd on 16/01 and 35 at Kinnel Bay beach on 22/01. Regularly present at FC/OMR high tide roosts with a peak of 164 on 13/12. See table for POA peak monthly counts. Also at RSPB Conwy in very small numbers: see table.

GB	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	50	31	26	10	10	27	52	50	82	88	60	29
CR	3	2	-	2	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-

KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*)
now **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**
Passage migrant

GWYLAN GOES DDU

Noted frequently off POA and Gronant, February - October. The highest counts were 230 on 21/02 and 700+ on 29/10. A single tired immature present on POA CL on 18/04.

SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna sandvicensis*)
Passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC]

MORWENNOL BIGDDU

The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain
Gronant and POA have become increasingly important for their pre-migratory roost of terns, especially Sandwich Tern. On July 20, a co-ordinated count was carried out

simultaneously at both sites and revealed a total of 1580 birds (1180 at Gronant and 400 at POA). (RSPB)

BHP: the first returning bird of the year at POA was on 7/03 and the last sighting was on 17/09; the peak count was 10/07 (see table). A sample flock count on 20/07 revealed 24 juvs and 47 ads. A pale leucistic bird present on 26/09. Offshore counts of birds flying out of the Dee estuary included 900 on 14/07, 335 on 18/08, 381 on 15/09 and 47 on 5/10 (last record). Still at Gronant roost on 4/10 (30).

Additional site records: 4 fishing off Rhyl beach, 19/04 and 26/04 and 50+ on 26/08; 2 at Llanddulas on 21/08; 1-6 at RSPB Conwy, 23/04-29/06.

TE	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	-	-	1	50	-	6	625	100	56	-	-	-

ROSEATE TERN (*Sterna dougallii*)

MORWENNOL WRIDOG

Scarce passage migrant

1 near POA lighthouse on 27/05 and a juv offshore flying NW on 16/09 (‡).

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*)

MORWENNOL GYFFREDIN

Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor

The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

The Shotton colony had a successful year with 491 pairs and 632 fledged young were ringed (see table, courtesy of John Birch and Paul Triggs). The first returning birds were 40+ on 23/04. The last sighting was of 6 birds on 10/09.

Dee Estuary: the first returning birds at POA were two on 18/04 and the last were two on 10/10. Noted occasionally, May-June, including 55 on 3/06 then a sharp rise in July, reaching a peak of 746 on 2/08. Offshore counts peaked at 160 on 15/09 (‡). At BB and OMR, birds from the Shotton colony fish the river along its length and rest on the marsh through summer. 2-4 birds regularly fished the channel at OMR with 20 on 1/05 and the BB peak passage was on 28/04 with 56 birds offshore at Walwen. Other records: SBL - 3 on 1/05 and 29/06; 2 mobbing a hobby on 24/07 at BP IMF; 2 at Gronant on 2/09.

Only 2 singles at RSPB Conwy on 5/07 and 3/08.

CN	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
pairs	350	393	471	433	491
young ringed	567	386	521	552	632

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*)
Uncommon passage migrant. Amber List [BDM]

MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

An erratic presence: a single adult recorded off Walwen on 28/04 with a passage of Common Terns; 6 at RSPB POA on 6/08 and 1 offshore on 30/09 (‡). 1 only at RSPB Conwy on 6-7/05.

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*)
Very rare vagrant

MORWENNOL FORSTER

An unidentified pure white tern, alone and attacked by Sandwich Terns. Flew out to sea before positive identification, Gronant, 2/09.

LITTLE TERN (*Sterna albifrons*)
Passage migrant and regular breeding summer visitor. Amber List [SPEC]
The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

MORWENNOL FECHAN

75 pairs raised 57 young at the nesting colony at Gronant (see table). The peak Gronant count was 235 on 29/07 and at POA the first returning birds were seen on 18/04 and in small numbers thereafter, peaking at 93 on 18/08.

(AF)	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
pairs	45	77	65	78	80+	35-40	86	75
fledged young	45	120 - 140	36	120+	9 - 11	20	111	57

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*)
Uncommon passage migrant

CORSWENNOL DDU

Several records - 1 flying E 200m off Rhyl promenade in full summer plumage, 15/06; 1 flying E off POA, 3/07, in summer plumage; 2 ads at POA on 14/08 and 1 ad + 1 juv resting on shingle on 19/08; 1 at Gronant on 2/09; a juv at Warren Farm (a first) on 26/09 and 1 ad offshore on 27/09; 1 past POA on 16/09† and 2/10.

GUILLEMOT (*Uria aalge*)
Regular visitor to coastal waters. Amber List [BI, BL]

GWYLOG

Llanddulas: 3 offshore on 24/01, 2 on 9/02, 5 on 23/02; Pensarn: 1 at sea, 24/01. Small numbers observed passing west off Gronant Beach through June and July and offshore POA, May to October with a maximum here of 47 on 6/06 and 13/06.

RAZORBILL (*Alca torda*)

LLURS

Small numbers occasionally recorded offshore. Amber List [BL]

A few records: noted offshore POA, June to October; maximum 5 flying W off POA, 31/10. Indistinguishable Guillemot/Razorbill noted offshore in larger numbers, May-November; maximum 690 E and 52 W on 27/09 (‡).

STOCK DOVE (*Columba oenas*)

COLOMEN WYLLT

now STOCK PIGEON

Breeding resident. Amber List [BI]

RSPB Survey (§): a min of 14 prs on territory between Sealand Ranges & Saltney; two pairs nested in nest-boxes at Sealand Range (SJ 302730). 12 feeding on re-seeded field at Sealand, 3/05. On the Cheshire/Flintshire border, birds fed on potato field adjacent to IMF in spring/summer with maxima of 50 on 16/04, 60 on 30/05 and 15 on 28/08. *Other records:* a peak count of 20 in BHP coastal fields, 2/03 (‡); 18 counted on Pulford Meadow survey, 27/12; 14 on root crop at Gronant, 6/01; regular at Shotwick Fields where max. was 10 on 13/09; 6 at Llyn Helyg on 27/01; 4-6 birds regular at SL and known to use nesting boxes; 3 at Tatham Fm., Ruabon on 10-11/09 and pairs seen at Bagillt marsh, GF, Erddig, Burton, Leeswood (where 2+ pairs probably breeding), Minera, TFR and singles at Coedpoeth, Sutton Green. BBS records: 1 in BBS SJ 1359 on 11/06; 2 in BBS SJ 2464 on 28/06.

WOODPIGEON (*Columba palumbus*)

YSGUTHAN

now COMMON WOOD PIGEON

Abundant breeding resident. Often culled by local agricultural interests. [WE]

Widespread and successful in a variety of habitats. Reports received from many areas. Maxima: 450 flying west nr Llanasa, 15/12; flocks of up to 200 in the Clywedog Valley and 100 in Erddig.

FERAL PIGEON (*Columbia livia*): found in numbers in Town Centres; smaller numbers elsewhere, including gardens. 11-14 breeding territories at BHP‡. Peak counts: 117 roosting on R. Clwyd railway bridge on 29/03, 43 at Llawndy Farm on 26/12.

COLLARED DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

TURTUR DORCHOG

now EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE

Common and widespread breeding resident

Breeds readily in suburban areas. Maximum numbers: c14 in Acton park, Wrexham inc. 2 in early copulation, 2/01; up to 15 seen in Caego in October; 25 feeding in a Marchwiell farmyard, 16/10; 20 in a Mold garden where regular, 20/10 and 17 in a Gresford garden in winter.

TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*)

TURTUR

now **EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE**

Scarce summer breeding visitor. Red List [BD, SPEC]

1 on wires at POA CL on 15/05 and 1, next day, flying SE at The Warren, BHP; 1 flying along Bagillt hedgerow, 1/06; a pair near a favoured area: in a garden for 3-4 days in July at Smithy Lane, Borrass near Wrexham.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET (*Psittacula krameri*)

1 flew E at The Warren, 16/06 (BHP†)

CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*)

COG

now **COMMON CUCKOO**

Breeding summer visitor [WE]

More reported sightings this year but still fewer records than 1989 when 50. Reported from 7 BBS squares in 1999 but from only one in 2000: 1 at BBS SJ 2863 on 30/05/00

First 'song' of spring on 9/04 at Llandegla; last on 17/06 (25/06 in 1999) (RM).

Recorded (mainly singles) in Llangollen/Ruabon area (at Bwlchgwyn, Bryn Arddyn, Vron, Clywedog Valley, HMCP, HP, Llandegla and RM where up to 3 seen); Gresford area (Trevalyn SJ 381570, Borrass Quarry where a pair on 6/05, Wineberry Gorse, Gresford allotments inc. 2 on 21/05, 2/06 and 25/06, Hosely Lane, Singret Hill and Llay), Prestatyn area (where singles at BHP, Glyn Lws nr Aberegele, Prestatyn, Rhuddlan and Gwaenysgor (SJ 075812) on six dates May-July) and Rhydtalog. None breeding this year at BHP. 3 records only at RSPB Conwy: ads on 22/04 and 21/07 and a juv on 19/07.

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

TYLLUAN WEN

Scarce breeding resident. Amber List [BDM, SPEC]

Sparse and probably declining with few records. Seven sightings/territories: 1 hunting on ffridd in WE valley, 22/03; a pair plus one other bird, not apparently breeding this year, in two sites in Dee Valley between Cynwyd (SJ 055412) and Llangollen; an apparently unmated bird from late June in another Llangollen site; 1 hunting the middle verge of the A55 at SJ 004754 on 9/06; 1 at Nercwys Mtn nr Mold on 10/06; a pair on edge of RM; one just missed by car at dusk at Bangor on Dee, 5/07. 1 on 6/07 at RSPB Conwy.

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*)
Breeding resident

TYLLUAN FACH

More records this year

Established breeding territories at R. Clwyd, Ruthin (where nest with 3 eggs on 15/05; with 2 chicks and 1 egg on 17/06); Bryn Farm/Bedd y Gwas (SJ 277554) and Heulog/Cae Glas Farms (SJ 255562) in Coedpoeth area; nearby TFR and Burton.

Plus over a dozen (16) sightings/territories (mainly singles) as follows: 1 in usual place in hole in old oak nr river Dee, Holt, 2/01 and 1, possibly same, reported similarly nr Bowling Bank (SJ 409490), 15/05 and 1-2 regular between Holt and Commonwood; 1 near R. Clwyd, Pont Glan Wern stretch, 18/03; 1 nr Ruthin Sewerage Works, 30/03; 1 at Trefonyd, 17/04; 1 at Borth nr Kinnel Bay on 14/05; 3 nr Dyserth, 21/05; 1 nr Llanelidan, perched on farm building into which it flew, 7/06; 1 sighted several times by County Hall, Mold (June-July) and on 11/11; 1 on 24/06/00 in BBS SJ 2365; 2 on edge of WIE at dusk, 5/07; 1 nr Borrass airfield, 10/07; a pair in a dead oak, Nant valley (possibly juveniles), 14/07; 1 at Trelawnyd on 14/07 and 23/08; 1 on telephone wires at Llay entrance, AWCP, 9/08 (possibly a new record for this site); 1 Rhosymadoc, 25/08; 1 Ruabon allotments, 11/09; singles at Warren farm, POA on 28/09, 29/09, 1/12, 6/12 and 2 on 29/12.

TAWNY OWL (*Strix aluco*)
Widespread breeding resident.

TYLLUAN FRECH

More records (mainly heard) and from more areas this year (records from ten areas in 1999). The following were also noted: 2 calling, 2300hrs, Sychdyn, 18/01; 1 at Llanasa, 15/04 and a pair there on 10/10 when one on a tv aerial called to another in a nearby tree; 1 found dead at SL on 20/04; 1 being mobbed at Acton Park, 1/05; a juv seen in Bersham, 18/06; 1 roosting in trees at Hanmer Mere, 16/07; 1 seen at Chirk, 21/09; 2 calling at Station Wood, Gresford, 25/11.

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*)
Rare breeding resident

TYLLUAN GORNIOG

Records from two areas: a pair in usual territory on edge of RM, 22/02, probably until early April. A breeding pair on the coast (site undisclosed).

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)
Scarce winter visitor, passage migrant and possible breeder. Amber List [SPEC]

TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

Few records but, pleasingly, one pair known to have bred this year in RM area, a

'traditional' site. 2 at POA on 21/02, 1 on 7/03 and 1 on 26/11; 1 hunting MOD rough grassland on 9/04 and 22/04 (Shotton Marsh, SJ 305722). 1 at RSPB Conwy on 24/04.

NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

TROELLWR MAWR

now **EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR**

Scarce breeding summer visitor. Red List [BD, SPEC] **BCCC**

Records from six sites: 2 churring in late June in a Llangollen clearing - a **first record from here!** A pair at Clocaenog Forest, 16/06 and 7/07; 2 nr Llyn Brenig (SH 993537), 16/06; 2 heard at Pentre Llyn Cymer and 1 heard at Denbigh Cross Roads, both 20/07. (Please note: records for Clocaenog should also be sent to Iolo Lloyd, Forestry Enterprise, Llanrwst, Gwynedd.) Nercwys Mountain (SJ 218585) is a regular site for this species as the table shows (source: Paul Kenyon). 2 pairs raised 6 young in 2000.

NJ	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
pairs	3	3	4	3	4	3	2
young	8	8	14	5	8	6	6

SWIFT (*Apus apus*)

GWENNOL DDU

now **COMMON SWIFT**

Fairly common and widespread breeding summer visitor

First record: 3 at RSPB Conwy on 23/04 and 1 over R. Clwyd, Denbigh area on 29/04. Last: 24/09 at RSPB Conwy; 1 at Gronant on 3/10.

Reported from across the county. Maximum counts: 40 at RSPB Conwy on 5/05; 38 at Warren Farm, 24/05, 39 at Llawndy Farm, 5/06, 34 at POA, 17/06 (all BHP†); 35+ at SLJ, 15/07; 50+ at Rhyl, 31/07.

KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*)

GLAS Y DORLAN

now **COMMON KINGFISHER**

Local breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC]

About 20 sightings from twelve areas (cf. c80 records in 1989).

2000: 22 sightings from 12 sites - R. Alyn (AWCP), BHP area, River Clwyd (inc. 3 on 22/07), CQNR, Erddig, IMF, Moss Valley, OMR, POA, RSPB Conwy, Shotton Steelworks, Shotwick (2 wintered along Shotwick Brook, Cheshire/Flintshire border.)

HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*)
Rare vagrant

COPOG

RSPB Conwy: one on 4/05 nr Benarth Hide before flying out over estuary - **first record for reserve.**

WRYNECK (*Jynx torquilla*)
Rare vagrant

PENGAM

1 at The Warren, 3/09 (BHP†)

GREEN WOODPECKER (*Picus viridis*)
Breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC]

CNOCELL WERDD

Regular at AWCP, Coedpoeth area, Erddig Park, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, MQ, and also recorded at Chirk, Burton, Gwersyllt, HMCP, Llandegla, Llanfair Talhaiarn (9471), Llangollen, Ruabon, Holt and Pontfadog but only 1 BBS record at SJ1144, 30/04.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopus major*) CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF
Breeding resident

Widespread: reported from over a dozen localities, including garden feeders. Regular through the year at AP, Bersham, Coedpoeth, Erddig, Llyn Helyg, Marford, Rhuddlan woodland. Occasional sightings reported for 20 other areas. BBS records: 1 in BBS SJ 1261 on 16/04; 1 SJ 1865 on 3/05; 1 SJ 1144 on 29/05.

Some breeding records: bred at Gresford where a *m* and 2 fledglings seen at garden feeders, 14/05-24/06; 2 pairs at Glyn Lws nr Betwys-yn-Rhos (SH 8872) on 20/05; bred at Burton where *ads* with young at garden feeder, 21-28/06; bred at Coedpoeth where 2 fledglings on garden tree plus 1 dead on lawn, 4/06; a pair feeding young at Bronwylfa nest-hole, 31/05; a single bird at a nest-hole, Llyn Helyg area, 8/04; a pair with a *juv* regular in July and August on a Llanddulas garden nut-feeder.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopus minor*) CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF
Uncommon breeding resident

Records from only a few sites.

1 Gwysaney Estate, 1/01; regular sightings along on River Clwyd, nr Denbigh including 2*m*+1*f* on 13/02; several calls heard at Erddig, 24/04; 1 heard near Dinbren Isa Farm, Llangollen, 3/07; a family party of 2 *ads* + 3 *juvs* at Pontfadog, 28/07; a *f* in a Wrexham garden on 8/12. RSPB Conwy: 1 among a roving tit flock along the Afon Ganol on 9/12 - first reserve record.

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*)

EHEDYDD

*Widespread breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List [BD, SPEC] BCCC**There has probably been a reduction in the breeding habitat of this once common bird the presence of which counts towards the Government's new Quality of Life Index.*

Inland: several noted from only a few main areas (seven last year) at AWCP, from 23/01 to 18/06 (definite song-flights from 22/02 to 26/05 with a max. of 8 singing on Llay side and 6 at Bradley - both 26/05); 4 singing nr R. Clwyd, Rhuddlan, 10/03; Ceiriog Valley (20+ Caemor Wood area, SJ 2234, 22/04) and bred Bryn Arddyn nr Glyn Ceiriog (max. 4+ on 29/05); 10+ singing Minera Mtn., 20/03; Llandegla, RM and HP moorland where first song of spring on 11/03. *Other areas:* 1-2 noted at Borrass, Brymbo, HMCP, Nebo Road, Plas Power, Coedpoeth.

Only a few recorded in BBS surveys: 1 in SJ 1345 on 2/05, 29/05/00; 1 in BBS SJ 2464 on 25/06/00; 1 in BBS SJ 2547 on 4/05/00 and 17/06/00

Coastal: an exceptional count of 403 flying over or landing at RSPB POA during a cold weather movement, 28/12. *Other peak counts:* 90 flying W at The Warren, 22/10; 70 flying over Llawndy Farm on 13/10; 55 at Gronant beach marsh, 6/10; 50 at Flint marsh on 29/12; 36 at Warren Farm on 29/12; 28 on linseed stubble, SF, 4/02; 19 flushed by rising tide at OMR on 13/12. 8 in Prestatyn Beach area on 14/05.

Breeding territories: 3 singing at Gronant on 6/02; 2 singing nr Rhyl Splash Point, 18/03 where 6 on 8/04; fewer again at BHP where 18 (23-31 during 1992-99) but an increase to 10 at former colliery area; 3 territories at Flint marsh and 4 at Bagillt Marsh on an ungrazed area, 6 located at OMR and 9 in grassland at POA (all outcomes unknown). At least 4 pairs bred at CQNR. Observed feeding young at SL but no nests found. 9 pairs bred at RSPB Conwy; the peak flock was 48 on 27/02.

SHORELARK (*Eremophila alpestris*)

EHEDYDD Y TRAETH

now **HORNED LARK***Occasional winter visitor*

Several reports, principally from the Gronant area, with birds moving between there and POA: a peak of 35 (†) was reached at Gronant Beach in early January, down to 16 on 5/01 and only 1 *ibidem* on 8/01; 17 on 31/01; 15 on 20/02 and 13 on 26/02; 12 at Gronant W-end on 20/03. At POA, 17 birds frequented the beach car-park area from 18/01 to 10/02. Three late birds were still present on April 16!

SAND MARTIN (*Riparia riparia*)

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List [SPEC]

Again, few reports, particularly of breeding, perhaps reflecting the loss of habitat.

Earliest records: 1 at Rhuddlan-Rhyl stretch of R. Clwyd, 10/03; 3 at RSPB Conwy on 12/03; 2 flying W, 22/03 (The Warren, BHP) and 3 over Pensarn beach, 22/03

Reported as nesting at Afonwen (breeding colony with 100+ holes), FLQ (c12 in area with c6 holes), Sutton Green (SJ 416488) where 'many pairs'. Also at RSPB Conwy where the small breeding colony established last year on the lower lagoon increased to 25 nesting burrows but failed again due to bank erosion. Spring passage peaked at 300 on 25-26/04.

Main sites: regular at GF from 27/03 to 4/09 (max. 40 on 11/04). BHP†: recorded occasionally with a maximum of 52 at Warren Farm on 23/04. 50 at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, 5/05 and 36 nr Rhyl Brickfields LNR on 28/03; 10 at Rhuddlan on 11/04. Also observed in small numbers (1-4) at Five Crosses Sewerage Works, Wrexham; Llanarmon DC; Llyn Brenig; Llyn Helyg; R. Clwyd estuary; SLJ.

SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

GWENNOL

now **BARN SWALLOW**

Common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List [BDM, SPEC] [WE]

First arrival: 5 April/00, Gresford and Borrass (last year = 1 April).

Last: 8 October (Shotton Steelworks) and 13 November† (POA) (12 September inland in 1999)

Still a common visitor though with variable numbers.

Inland: recorded from some 40 sites in about ten main areas. Main counts: 60+ over AWCP VC and at GF, 22/08; 50 inc. young vigorously dive-bombing a stoat at CQNR, 30/07.

Numbers were well up on farms in the WE area, and at Dinbren Isa, Llangollen study farm, there were 10 pairs (9 last year) but arrival was very staggered. Clutch was lowest in 8 years of study but more young were reared per pair (7.1) perhaps due to warm damp weather encouraging insects.

Coastal: 6-7 breeding territories at BHP (2-7 during 1992-99). 7 pairs nested at Shotton Paper including 1 in a visiting Guard's Van which remained in sidings until early August!

An autumn roost of 1500 on 24/07 at RSPB Conwy; 500 roosting in reedbed in Shotton Marsh (SJ 305722), 18/07; BHP† peak counts: 630 in the wider area on 9/09; 380 flying E at POA on 30/07; 210 at Warren farm on 4/05, 260 on 9/09; 270 at The Warren on 21/09. 950 moving SW at Shotton Steelworks on 10/09.

HOUSE MARTIN (*Delichon urbica*)

GWENNOL Y BONDO

Common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. [WE]

First of spring: April 11 (Cefn y Bedd). Last: September 28 (AWCP)

Inland: fairly widespread with variable numbers from about 21 areas. Largest flock numbers: 50+ Minera, 22/09 and 26/09; 40+ Berwyn on 29/08; c30, Marford, 25/09; an impressive movement E along Dee Valley at Berwyn with 668 birds counted moving low (< 1000 ft). 59 nests counted at Llanasa village.

Coastal: 1 breeding territory at BHP (none in 1992-99). *Largest counts*: 340 flying E at Warren Farm, 21/09; 140 in BHP coastal fields, 1/08; 50-100 collecting mud at Flint lifeboat jetty, 30/07; c75 moving SW at Shotton Steelworks on 10/09. 73 at POA on 15/09.

TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*)

CORHEDDYD Y COED

Scarce summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. [WE]

Very few records probably accurately reflect its relative scarcity: but surprisingly good numbers on WE survey: 17 pairs in 1998, 25 in 1999 and 26 in 2000!

1st of spring: 3 at Llawndy Farm on 16/04. Several sightings at BHP, including 5 on 18/04, 6 on 30/04 and 2 on 1/05 (presumably arriving migrants). *Other records*: singles at Clocaenog and at HP on 21/04; 1 m at Nercwys Mtn., 9/05; 1 m at Coed Llandegla, 29/05; 2 at Pendinas, 11/06; 1 displaying at Moel Findeg, 7/07

MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*)

CORHEDDYD Y WAEN

Common breeding, passage and wintering species

Inland: various sightings, especially in high moorland areas. *Highest counts*: a probable spring movement of 60 at Llyn Helyg on 23/01; 24 on migration nr R. Clwyd, Denbigh, 1/04; c100 passing through Llanasa on 5/04; 18 at WE paddock, 5/04; c20 Moel Waen Quarry, WE, 27/08. A family group at Llyn Gweryd on 11/07. *Larger numbers recorded along/near the coast*: 1 breeding territory located on Bagillt marsh (outcome unknown). 11 breeding territories at BHP (11-21 during 1992-99). Maximum numbers of spring passage birds at BHP were 142 at Llawndy Farm on 6/04, 56 at Warren Farm on 22/03 and 73 flying E at The Warren, 78 flying E at POA on 18/04 and an autumn movement of 70 on 15/09.

ROCK PIPIT (*Anthus petrosus*)

CORHEDDYD Y GRAIG

Winter visitor to Dee Estuary in small numbers

1-4 recorded at BHP on 13 dates, (singles in March-April and then seen October-December), sometimes over-flying; small numbers winter on OMR with peak counts of 5 on 22/02 and 7 on 13/12. *Other records*: 2 at Rhos Point, 14/11; 1 over Gwespyr scarp on 6/12.

WATER PIPIT (*Anthus spinoletta*)

CORHEDDYD Y DWR

Uncommon passage and winter visitor to the Dee Estuary

2 over-wintered again this year at OMR, both being seen on 22/02 and 13/12 and presumed present all winter. Seen feeding with rock pipits also exposed by the rising tide.

YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*)

SIGLEN FELEN

Passage migrant and (possible) localised breeder in small numbers

RSPB Survey (§) revealed a minimum of 12 pairs in arable fields between A550 (Queensferry road) and Saltney plus 3+ pairs at Trevalyn Meadows and 2+ pairs at Burton Meadows.

Other records: IMF: first arrival was of 2 on 8/04; pairs nested on adjacent potato field on Cheshire/Flintshire border. SBL: 2 on 1/05, 1 on 22/05, 6+ on 17/07 (mainly young). POA: 1 imm 3/07/00. BB: singles on 28/04 (with white wagtails) and 12/05 and 1 at OMR on 2/08. BHP†: recorded on 12 dates, 18 April - 11 October; all singles except 2 on 18/04. 1 at Shotton Steelworks, 27/08. 1-3 sighted on 11 dates, 17/04-12/09, RSPB Conwy.

Blue-headed wagtail (*M. f. ssp flava*)

SIGLEN BENLAS

Scarce passage migrant

RSPB Conwy: 1 m on 17/04 and 22-24/04 with 2 on 21/04 and 12/05.

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla cinerea*)

SIGLEN LWYD

Fairly common breeding resident. [WE]

Recorded in over 20 main areas. Confirmed or probable breeding sites at Nant Mill, R. Elwy at St Asaph (where 2m,2f on 8/03), Erddig, Llangollen, Moss Valley, Pendinas Reservoir nr Llandegla where probably 2 pairs; Pontfadog, Tatham, Ruabon Moors, Ysceifiog.

PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba ssp. yarellii*)

SIGLEN FRAITH

Widespread breeding species. Winter dispersals in large roosts and gatherings, often in urban areas. [WE]

Breeding territories: 7 at BHP (0-6 during 1992-99). Also breeding at Presthaven camp, Gronant and in the colliery area (about three pairs). A pair nested successfully in a machine delivery at Shotton paper and reared 4 young. 2 pairs bred successfully at CQNR.

Largest numbers: c100 at CQNR on 16/01; 90 at Greenfield Sewage Works, 17/12;

75-100 coming in to roost in ripe wheat, R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, 21/07; 75 feeding on saltmarsh at LT at OMR on 27/01; up to 70 regular at Shotton Paper; 49 at Warren farm (peak spring passage) on 8/03; c30 at TFR roost site, 11/02; 27 at RSPB POA on 27/07; 22 on Gresford Football Field on 7/08; 22 in BHP coastal fields, 12/12; 14 at R. Clwyd, Denbigh area, 6/04; 10+ at Broughton airfield, 30/03 and at Maes y Llan, Ruabon 27/01.

White Wagtail (*M.a ssp. alba*)
Fairly common passage migrant

SIGLEN WEN

BHP†: 1-8 noted on 16 dates, 5 April - 30 September. 3 feeding along POA CL shoreline, 18/04; 1 at Llyn Brenig on 21/04; 1 SW of Bylchau (SH 949616) on 23/04; 2 at Greenfield on 15/05 and 3 at Walwen marsh on 28/04. 1 in OMR tidal creeks, 19/09. A good spring passage at RSPB Conwy, peaking at 40 on 20-22/04.

DIPPER (*Cinclus cinclus*)
now WHITE-THROATED DIPPER
Widespread localised breeding resident

BRONWEN Y DWR

Confirmed or probable breeding at AWCP, R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, R. Elwy at St Asaph (where a pair indulging in mating behaviour on 8/03), Erddig Park, Plas Power, Coedpoeth, Ruthin (where 1 feeding fledged young on 27/04), WE.

Other sightings at Betwys GG, River Dulas, Ddol Uchaf NWWT Reserve, Ysceifiog, Llanarmon DC, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Pont y Ddol (SH 985725), Rhewl and Greenfield Valley.

Noteworthy sighting: 1 narrowly escaped sparrowhawk attack by diving under water at PCR, 28/11

WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)
now WINTER WREN

DRYW

Common and widespread breeding resident. [WE]

Widespread and successful. Reported from many areas. On winter transect counts on RM, autumn max of 37 counted (compared to 44 in 1999, 22 in 1998 and 13 in 1997). Most frequent bird on WE survey with 142 pairs (78 pairs in 1998 and 122 in 1999).

DUNNOCK (*Prunella modularis*)
now HEDGE ACCENTOR

LLWYD Y GWRYCH

Common breeding resident. Amber list [BDM] [WE]

Successful and widespread across the county. Peak count: 5 at Prestatyn golf course scrub area on 9/05. 3 nests at Shotton Paper with 9 young reared.

ROBIN (*Erithacus rubecula*)

ROBIN GOCH

now **EUROPEAN ROBIN***Common and widespread breeding resident and partial migrant. [WE]*

Another successful breeder in a variety of habitats. The second-most common bird on WE with 134 pairs (see table).

NIGHTINGALE (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)*Scarce passage migrant*

1 at Llyn Helyg woods, 7/05 and 1 at Llawndy Farm, 14/05 (and possibly 17/05)† (all tbc)

BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

TINGOCH DU

A scarce migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. Amber List [BR]

1 reported from alongside the railway siding adjacent to IMF Reserve but in Flintshire, 26/11 (M. Gibson). A f at RSPB Conwy on 29-30/03 - a first for the reserve.

REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

TINGOCH

now **COMMON REDSTART***Summer breeding visitor; mainly upland areas. Amber List [SPEC] [WE]*

21 pairs recorded on WE survey (q.v.) (25 pairs in 1998 and 1999). Few other records: 1st in RM area, 10/04 at PCR; first of year at R. Clwyd, Denbigh area - 8 males on 15/04; 1 nr Llanfair Talhaiarn (SH 941715) on 24/04; a m in old railway hedge, Mold on 21/04 and 1/05 and 1 at Loggerheads on 6/05; a f at The Warren, BHP on 27/04, a m on 30/04 and a m in Warren Farm hedge on 20/08; 1 Bryn Arddyn, 10/05 and a breeding pair there, carrying food to calling young in nest, 29/05; 3m+1f at Glyn Lws nr Betwys-yn-Rhos (SH 8872) on 20/05; a breeding pair at Pontblyddyn (Alyn floodplain survey); 1 ad + 3 juvs at Llyn Gweryd, 11/07; 4 m regular in summer at Llandegla forest edge. A few in BBS surveys: 3 at SJ 1144, 30/04/00, 1 on 29/05; 2 at SJ 1345 on 2/05/00 and 29/05. 1-4 at RSPB Conwy, 25/06-25/07.

WHINCHAT (*Saxicola rubetra*)

CREC YR EITHIN

Breeding summer visitor in small numbers; mainly in upland areas

More records this year. 11 pairs bred in the Clwydian Hills around Cilcain Moors. *Other records:* 1 at Ffrith sand dunes, Prestatyn, 13/03; first on RM on 22/04; 2m at Foel Frech, Clocaenog, 30/04; 1 at SJ 1345 on 2/05; a f at Flint marsh on 2/05, first

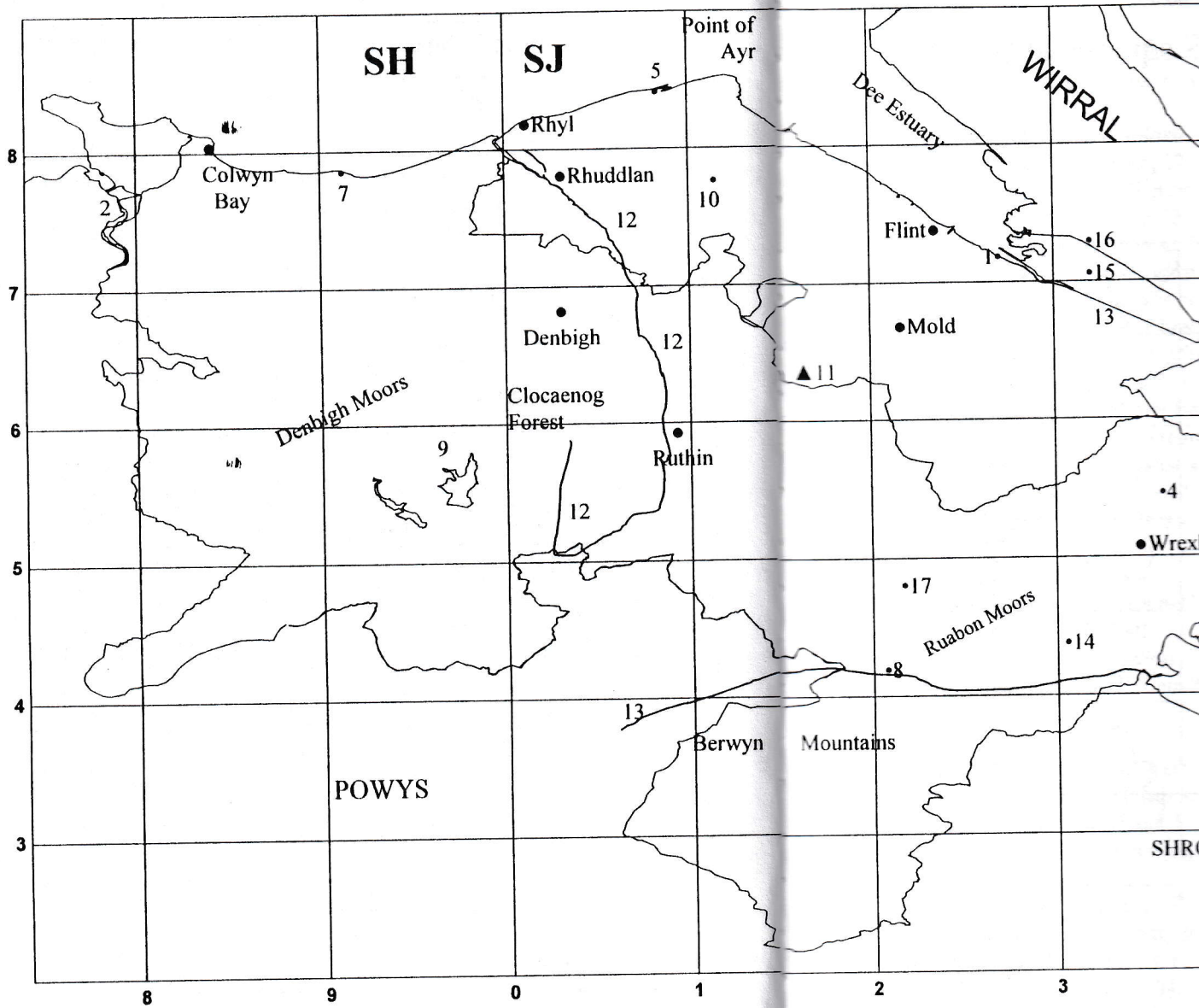
Key to selected sites shown on the centre-fold map (overleaf)

Number	Site	Grid Reference
1	Connah's Quay Nature Reserve	SJ 270720
2	Conwy RSPB Reserve and River Conwy	SH 795775
3	Bettisfield and Fenn's Mosses	SJ 490370
4	Gresford Flash	SJ 348548
5	Gronant sand dunes	SJ 090845
6	Hanmer Mere	SJ 455397
7	Llanddulas	SH 910785
8	Llangollen	SJ 215420
9	Llyn Brenig	SH 9755
10	Llyn Helyg	SJ 1177
11	Moel Famau	SJ 164627
12	River Clwyd	
13	River Dee	
14	Ruabon	SJ 238478
15	Shotton Lagoons	SJ 3071
16	Shotwick Lake and Fields	SJ 3172
17	World's End	SJ 238478
<i>See also Gazetteer</i>		

THE COUNTY OF CLWYD

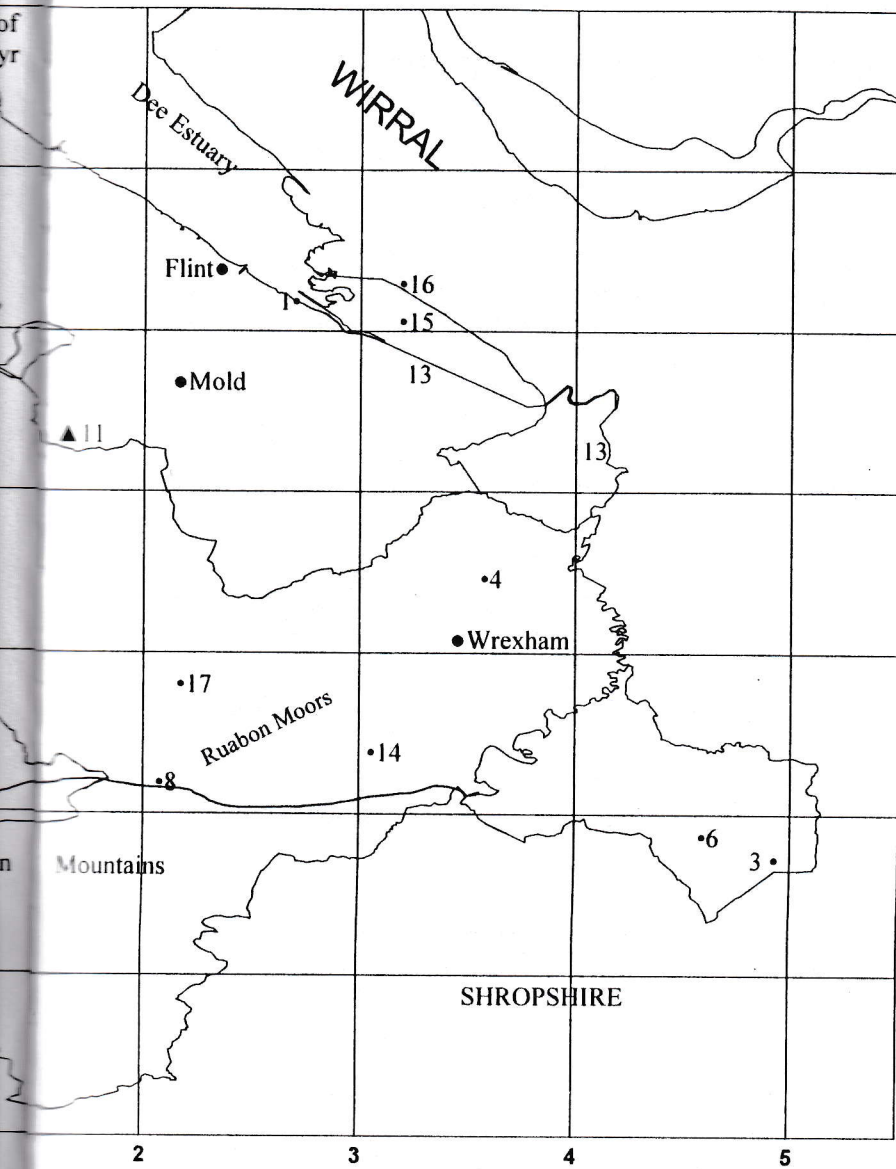
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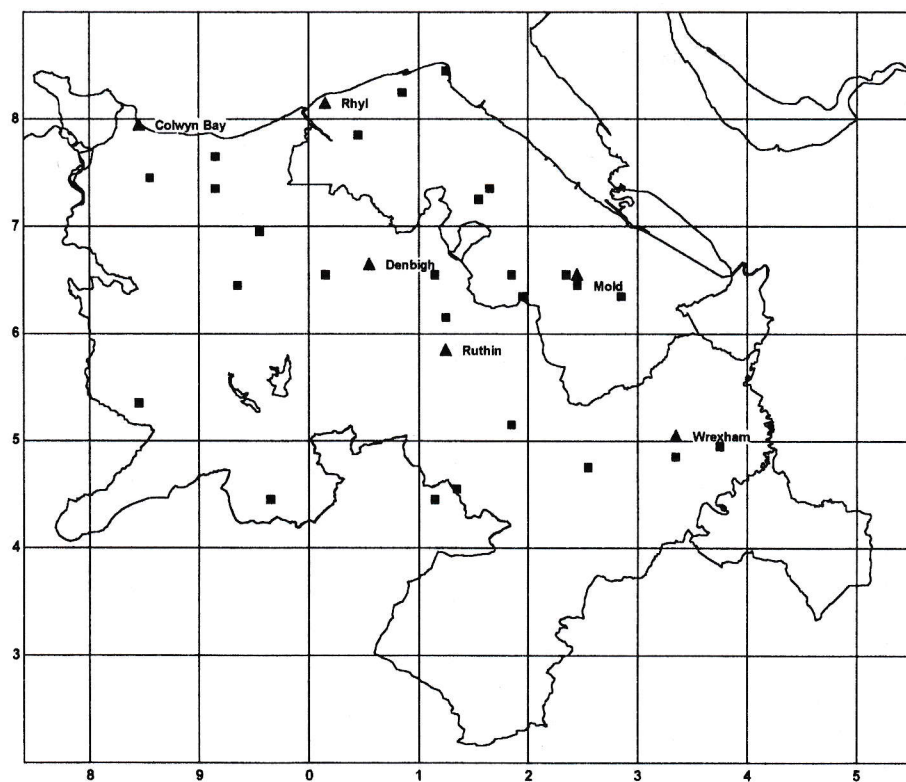


OF CLWYD

(for the Key)



The location of BTO BBS squares in Clwyd



seen at OMR on 28/04; 1 at CQNR on 7/05; a pair at Cynr-y-Brain, 29/05; 2 at Cilcain on 14/07. BHP†: a *m* on 29/04 and 1*m* + 3*f* on 9/05, 2 on 30/09 (Warren farm), 2*f* at Llawndy farm, 6/05 and 1*f* in coastal field, 7/05; a family group at WE on 19/08. BBS surveys: 1 in SJ 2547 on 4/05 and 2 on 17/06. Occasional at RSPB Conwy.

STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata*)

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

Breeding resident in small numbers. Amber List [SPEC]

Seen in small numbers in both inland and coastal areas. Maximum counts: 14+ pairs on HP/RM area; 6 at Gwaenysgor, 12/03 and 1 on 16/03; 2 pairs at Llanasa on 13/03; 3 at Eglwyseg, 25/10; a pair at Shotton Marsh (SJ 305722) on 3/01; 1-2 at Llyn Brenig from 15/01; a pair at RGC, 13/03. Regular at HMCP where 1-3 reported from 30/03-23/09. 1-2 seen on 8 dates at BHP, 3 February - 7 November *plus* 11 at The Warren on 17/03 and two pairs *ibidem* on 12/12; 1-2 frequent in juncus beds at rear of IMF Reserve on Cheshire/Flintshire border from 17/10 to year end; a pair at Prestatyn beach on 14/05 and at least 1 pair bred successfully at Gronant beach marsh. A pair + 3 juvs at Cilcain on 14/07 and a family group at WE on 19/08; resident "in good numbers" at Llandegla; 3 pairs at Ceiriog Forest (ndg).

Singles recorded at: a *m* at Kinmel Bay, 13/02; a *m* nr Minera top car-park, 26/02; 1 on Llanasa CBS survey, 1/03; Trelogan cross-roads, 16/03; a *m* nr Tainant, RM, 18/03; 1 at Bwlchgwyn moor, 21/04; 1 Caemor Wood (SJ 219349), 22/04; a *m* Llyn Brenig, 15/07; a *m* at Rhuddlan estate woods, 3/09; a *m* Borrass, 6/10; 1 WE, 8/10; 1 *f* nr Bangor is y Coed, 1/11 *plus* BBS sightings: 1 at SJ 1345 on 2/05; 2 in BBS SJ 2547 on 17/06.

WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

TINWEN Y GARN

now NORTHERN WHEATEAR

Breeding summer visitor. Earliest dates: 14/03 at BHP, 1 at Llanasa on 20/03, a single male at OMR on 21/03, 5 birds at Pensarn Beach on 22 March; 23 March on RM.

Inland: 10 pairs bred in the HP area; small numbers (1-6) seen at AWCP, Bettisfield, Borrass (inc. 2*f* of Greenland sub species '*leucorhoa*', on 6/05), Caemor Woods, Denbigh Moors (nr Aled Isaf and Llyn Aled reservoirs and Llyn Brenig where first was on 29/03), Hope Mtn., Nercwys, RM, Tainant and WE *plus* 2 at BBS SJ 1345 on 2/05.

Coastal: 2 pairs nested at Shotton Paper where regular, and raised 4 young (probably of Greenland race); frequently recorded at BHP from 14 March to 30 September where the peak count was 7 at The Warren on 30/04; a peak count of 10 at POA CL on 18/04; 2 at Walwen marsh on 28/04; 5 present at nearby OMR also on 28/04 where the first bird of the year was on 21/03; 15 at Shotton Tip (SJ 290720) on 1/05; 2*f* at POA, 4/09. Several sightings in the Rhyl area: 2 on 29/03 at R. Gele, 2 at RGC on 22/04 and

1 on 10/09, 1 at R. Clwyd marsh area on 22/04; 1 at Prestatyn beach on 14/05; a pair with a *juv* at Gronant on 12/07. A small spring passage at RSPB Conwy, peaking at 8 on 1/05.

RING OUZEL (*Turdus torquatus*)

WYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

Breeding summer visitor in small numbers to upland areas. Amber List [BDM]

1st of spring, 1 on 23/03, Eglwyseg; 6 in 1km stretch *ibidem*, 20/04; birds seen in 5 sites but only one proved breeding. 1 heard at Llandegla, 28/04 and a *m* at HP on 1/05.

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*)

MWYALCHEN

now **COMMON BLACKBIRD**

Common breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BDM] [WE]

A very successful bird across the county. The largest numbers were coastal migrants, peaking at 105 at The Warren, BHP on 23/11 (£). *Inland*: good numbers regularly in leaf litter at Acton Park, including a possible 'fall' of 50+ on 27/11; 15 feeding on cotoneaster berries with 35 Redwing, Ruabon, 20/02; 10 on 29/12; c10 in Erddig river areas, 2/02. First 'spring song' in Mold area on 14/01, in Ruabon area on 20/02.

FIELDFARE (*Turdus pilaris*)

SOCAN EIRA

A very common passage and winter migrant. Often in huge numbers with other winter thrushes and starlings. Amber List [BR]

Last winter visitor: 14 April (Llangollen and Wern)(last year: 20 February). First autumn bird: November 5 (340+ moving SW at Shotton Steelworks). A possible post-breeding flock of 18 nr Glyn Ceiriog on 23/08.

Seen throughout the county. Sizeable flocks (>100) at Gwaenysgor where there was a roost of 170 on 3/03; c100 flying N over Wern on 16/03; c100 flying high over Llanasa on 22/03; Bank Farm, Sealand (SJ 370670) (150 on carrot stubble field on 6/04) and Brook Farm, Sealand (SJ 345694) (300 on 7/04); Bangor-is-y-Coed (c100 Fieldfare with c400 Redwing in fields, 7/11); flocks of up to 120 moving W at Berwyn, 8/11 and up to 200 moving S along RM edge on 10/11; c100 on 2/12 then 600 moved NW at WE chased by peregrine; sizeable (many hundreds) mixed flocks in trees and fields in Wrexham area nr Dee floods, Holt, December 1999 - February 2000; a BHP peak of 330 at Warren Farm on 29/12.

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*)

BRONFRAITH

Widespread breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List [BD] BCCC [WE]

Reports from over 14 areas and 8 BBS sites.

10 breeding territories at BHP (1-6 during 1992-97). First noted 'spring song' at Berwyn on 1/02; 1 in early hesitant song on 14/12 at AWCP; 1 in full song in Mold on 22/12. *Other records*: a pair reared 3 broods in a Gresford garden; a pair bred with 1 juv at CQNR; several possible migrants, perched high in larches and calling, WE, 18/10; a peak count of 21 at The Warren, BHP, 23/11.

REDWING (*Turdus iliacus*)

COCH DAN-ADEN

Common passage migrant and winter visitor throughout the area. Often in large numbers with Fieldfares, Starlings and other thrushes. Amber List [BR]

Last winter bird: 16 April (Coedpoeth). First autumn bird: 21 October (Ruabon).

Reported from over 13 areas. 500 in the Llyn Helyg area on 14/01 and smaller flocks subsequently; other large flocks of 100+ noted at Bangor is y Coed, Berwyn, BHP area, Holt

MISTLE THRUSH (*Turdus viscivorus*)

BRYCH Y COED

Widespread, low density breeding resident. [WE]

Reported from 16 main areas. Main counts: 10 near Llyn Bran on 11/02; 17 at The Warren, BHP on 29/06 and 37 flying E on 7/10; 21 at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, 22/07; 44 over Llanasa on 4/08; 10+ at Wern, Coedpoeth on 31/08; in mid-September, numbers increased at Llawndy Farm with the autumn-winter migration, peaking at 25 on 11/10. 1 in brief early song on 22/12, AWCP

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (*Locustella naevia*)

TROELLWR BACH

now COMMON GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

Localised summer breeding visitor. Amber List [BDM]

First of spring on RM on 22/04; thereafter heard at 10 different sites, April-July in that area; 1 heard at nearby Llandegla on 28/04. BHP†: 5 breeding territories (3-9 during 1992-99). 2 territories at Talacre where first record was on 21/04 and 1 at Prestatyn beach area on 14/05.

Other records: a bird singing in Dyserth hayfield, 21/05; 1 singing in Burton, 29/06 -12/07; 1 at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, 21/07; 1 at Clocaenog on 22/04 and 1 ringed by IS at Bronbannog, Clocaenog, 30/07. A poor year at RSPB Conwy with only 2 records. BBS survey: 1 recorded in SJ 2464, 27/04; 1 in SJ 2547 on 17/06.

SEDGE WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

TELOR YR HESG

Breeding summer visitor

22 breeding territories at BHP (6-21 during 1992-99) with the first birds (five) on 23/04 and 3-4 birds bred on the colliery pool; 2 pairs nested at Shotton Paper and reared 5 young; 4 prs nested along ditches at Three-cornered Meadow NR (SJ

404581). *Other records*: 1 at R. Clwyd, nr Denbigh, 6/04; c12 at Shotton Steelworks on 23/04; 1 in BBS SJ 2464 on 27/04; 1 singing by LPJ from 28/04; 1 at Southsea Bog, 1/05; 5 at Glyn Morfa nr Rhyl on 2/05; 1 singing on WIE (SJ 385494), 8/05; 6 at Prestatyn GC, 9/05 and 8 at Prestatyn beach area on 14/05; 4 at Gronant, 9/05; 1 nr SBL, 1/05 and a pr at Shotwick Pools, 17/07. Late birds were registered at Clocaenog on 30/08, The Warren, BHP on 4/09 and Shotton Steelworks on 1/10 and 8/10. 14 pairs bred at RSPB Conwy - one on 9/04, the earliest spring record.

REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

TELOR Y CYRS

now **EURASIAN REED WARBLER**

Rare breeding summer visitor

Only a few records from a few areas: 2 breeding territories at BHP (birds present until 24/08) plus 2 territories at POA colliery pool and 2 at Gronant. 1 pair nested at Shotton Paper and raised 2 young. A new site: at least 4 in reed beds at Hanmer Mere, 16/07. 2 at Shotton Steelworks on 23/04 where there was a late bird on 8/10. 8 pairs bred at RSPB Conwy, the first being 2 on 25/04.

ICTERINE WARBLER (*Hippolais icterina*)

Rare passage migrant

1 at The Warren, BHP on 28/04 (‡) (tbc)

LESSER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia curruca*)

LLWYDFRON FACH

Scarce breeding summer visitor

More records this year: 7 breeding territories at BHP (1-6 during 1992-99); the first was on 23/04 and the last on 4/09; 3 newly arrived singing males at Walwen marsh on 28/04; 1 singing, N of Penrycae, 28/04 - unusual for high farmland; 1 singing, Burton, 3/05; 1 singing, AWCP, 6/05; 1 singing at Talacre Warren on 9/05; a *m* singing, close to Hawarden airfield, 10/05; a *m* singing on overgrown site on WIE, 15/05, 1 at R. Clwyd, Ruthin on 15/05 and 4/06; a *m* in song at Graig Quarry, Graianrhyd, 19/05; 1 in BBS SJ 2464 on 25/06.

WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia communis*)

LLWYDFRON

now **COMMON WHITETHROAT**

Common breeding summer visitor.

First birds: 1 at RSPB Conwy on 18/04; six birds at BHP on 23/04. Last *ibidem* on 9/09.

More records and from more areas this year, including: 34 breeding territories at BHP‡ (26-49 during 1992-99); up to 18 singing males at AWCP, 1/05; 23 territories

in Coedpoeth area; 8 in Llanasa area, 28/04; 8 at Talacre Warren, 9/05; 5+ prs on overgrown site, WIE, 8/05; 3-4 pairs nested at Shotton Paper with six young seen on 28/05. 3 prs bred at RSPB Conwy.

GARDEN WARBLER (*Sylvia borin*)

TELOR YR ARDD

Breeding summer visitor. [WE]

Few records perhaps indicating scarcity

2 singing in Lower Dulas valley on 26/04; first of spring at WE on 30/04; possibly breeding at BHP (2 territories) where recorded from 15/05 to 11/09; 2 singing at Ysceifiog on 1/05; singles at AWCP, Fenn's Moss, Gwynfryn, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Llyn Gweryd, Llyn Helyg, Southsea, Tan Llan and BBS SJ 1144 on 29/05; BBS SJ 2464 on 25/06.

BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

TELOR PENDDU

Common breeding summer visitor with small numbers wintering. [WE]

Spring birds: a *f*, garden-feeding, Gresford, 28/03; first at BHP was on 29/03 with a spring peak of 18 on 28/04; 2 at a Rhuddlan woodland on 30/03; several singing in Dulas Valley from 7/04; 1 at Erddig on 15/04; 1st at AWCP, a *m* on 18/04 with 3 *m* on 28/04; singing birds in MQ and Burton on 18/04.

Other records include: 23 singing males counted in Coedpoeth area to W of Wrexham, 16/04 - 22/07. 6 breeding territories at BHP (2-8 during 1992-99); high autumn counts there with a peak of 22 on 4/09; the last on 22/10 (two).

Wintering birds: a territorially-aggressive male (drove away another *m* plus finches and tits) in a Wrexham garden from c14/01 to 10/03, resident in honeysuckle and feeding on apples and peanuts; 1-3 regular in a Gresford garden, 16/01-1/04; a *f* in a Rhyl garden variously 16-30/01; a *m* feeding with other birds in willows and alders, AWCP, 20/01; a *m* in a Sychdyn garden, 12/02; a *f* at a bird-table, Ruabon, 15/02; 1 or 2 on ivy in a Mold garden, 29/02, 1/03, 2/03; a *m*, feeding on apples, Wrexham garden, 20/11; an aggressive *f* fed on apples in a Llanasa garden, 16/12 - chased off Blue Tit, Robin and 2 Goldcrest but ate with Jackdaw and Blackbird; a *m* at Burton, 29/12; 1 at Llawndy Farm, BHP on 26/12; 1 over-wintered at SL.

WOOD WARBLER (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)

TELOR Y COED

Uncommon breeding summer visitor. [WE]

Uncommon visitor with relatively few records, from only five areas in 1999, more this year though absent from WE survey: 3 in BBS SJ 1144, 30/04 and 1 on 29/05; fewer in Ruabon area with first on 1/05; 1 at Pothole Quarry, Llanferres, 2/05; 1 at Glyn Lws, Abergele, 20/05; 1 reeling at Vivod, 2/06; 1 at Coed Llandegla (SJ

228520), 11/06; 1 at Bod Petryal on 4/06 and 2 on 13/07; regular summer visitor to Llandegla Forest (ndg).

CHIFFCHAFF (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

SIFF-SAFF

now **COMMON CHIFFCHAFF**

Common breeding summer visitor. Small numbers may winter towards the coast.

[WE]

First sighting: 20/02, Llay then 9/03 Acton Park (last year: 21 February)

Wintering birds present at Cefn Mawr, 20/01; a late bird noted in Coedpoeth garden, 2/09; 1 at Shotton Steelworks on 22/10, 19/11 and 1 of Tristus race on 3/12; a late "willow-chiff" with 6+ Goldcrests in a small hawthorn bush above Llangollen, 10/11; 1 at POA on 19/11; 2 in Pulford Meadow survey, 27/12.

*Probable breeding records (>4): singing noted in >12 sites in Coedpoeth; 10+ in Marford; 10 at Llyn Helyg; 8 at Rhuddlan woodland, 30/03; up to 6 counted at AWCP; 4 at Erddig. 4 breeding territories at BHP (0-3 during 1992-99) where the autumn count peaked at 28 on 20/09 but smaller movements continued into November and December (last count was 7 on 7/12) - members of this high winter population were all of the west European race *collybita*.*

A Siberian chiffchaff at RSPB Conwy on 21-30/11 - a first record for the reserve.

WILLOW WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

TELOR YR HELYG

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. [WE]

First sightings: 3 at R. Chwyd, 18/03. Last: 18/11 (Greenfield Valley)

Reports from over twenty areas, including 20+ in Caemor Woods area (SJ 2234), 14+ sites in Coedpoeth area, 14 breeding territories at BHP (18-39 during 1992-99); 12+ in Marford from 19/04; 8+ on Panorama above Llangollen; 5 in Llanddulas area (SH 930715-950720) from 24/04.

autumn/winter birds - a late bird at Eglwyseg on 25/10; a peak count of 18 at BHP on 9/09 where the final autumn record was 1 in song on 20/10 (probable of eastern race) and 1 at Llawndy Farm on 5/12; 1-2 feeding with an active mixed tit and goldcrest flock at Greenfield Valley on 18/11.

GOLDCREST (*Regulus regulus*)

DRYWEURBEN

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. [WE]

Widespread across the county. Third commonest bird on World's End survey.

Highest counts: 5 above PCR, 16/03; at BHP there was 1 breeding territory where none previously; the highest spring count here was 6 on 6/04 but much higher spring counts, with a peak of 53 at The Warren on 20/10. An early bird singing in a Llanasa

garden on 15/02 and 4 exhibiting territorial behaviour nr Ysceifiog on 19/02 and at Llyn Helyg on 20/02 where there was a group of 14 on 22/03. 6+ probable migrants in a small hawthorn bush above Llangollen with a late "willow-chiff", 10/11.

FIRECREST (*Regulus ignicapillus*)

DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BR]

1 at Swinchard Brook, Flint (Ron Plummer), 15/04; 1 at Penycae, RM on 26/08; 1 at The Warren, BHP on 19/09 (‡) and a *m* at Talacre Warren on 30/12 (and probably re-located on 3/01/01). RSPB Conwy: 1 on 22/04 and 1 on 21-22/11 (the second and third reserve records).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa striata*)

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Summer breeding visitor. Red List [BD, SPEC] BCCC [WE]

Probable or confirmed breeding records: breeding pairs at 5 sites around RM; 3 at Llanarmon DC, 19/05; a pair deserted nest with four eggs at Llanarmon-yn-Ial, 22/06; 3 at Cilcain on 14/07; a pair at Bod Petryal, 15/07 and a family party at Pontfadog on 16/07. *Also seen at (singles/doubles):* 1 at Llandegla, 28/04; BHP‡, 1 in-and-out gorse bush, Ceiriog, 9/05 (SJ 197353); 1 at Llandyrnog churchyard, 22/05; 1 at Llyn Helyg, 13/05 and 10/06; 2 nr Llanddulas (SH 909755) on 22/06; 2 in a Llanasa garden, 20/07; 1 nr Gwysaney (SJ 230673), 30/07; 1 in BBS SJ 1359 on 11/06 and RSPB Conwy (20/05 and 21/07).

PIED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

GWYBEDOG BRITH

Common summer breeding visitor. [WE]

1st records of spring: 2 at Dinbren Isa, Llangollen on 19/04; 3*m* at Coed Cilygroeslwyd by 23/04; a pair at a tree-hole nr Llanfair Talhaiarn (SH 944717) on 24/04. *Principal breeding records:* (i) **Llangollen study block** of c60 boxes had 42% occupation as against 39% in 1999, 38% in 1998 and 47% in 1997. 1st egg date was 7.5 May (mean), 4 May (mode). Heavy mortality, presumably from wet May and June. Good numbers were also recorded on the WE survey with 24 pairs [John Lawton Roberts] (ii) **Nannerch:** 7 pairs bred with a mean clutch size of 7.7 and 51 young fledged giving a mean fledged brood of 7.3 [Paul Triggs]. 4 pairs at Glyn Lws, Betws-yn-Rhos (SH 8872) on 20/05 but no confirmed breeding. *Also recorded in 6 other areas* (fewer than last year when twelve): Ceiriog, Chirk Castle, Coedpoeth, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Llyn Helyg, Llandegla and Ysceifiog.

LONG-TAILED TIT (*Aegithalos caudatus*)

TITW GYNFFON-HIR

Common breeding resident. [WE]

Seen across the county in flocks of up to twenty. Increasingly a visitor to garden feeders.

Highest counts: 20+ at Bersham, 1/10; 15+ at POA and GF, 17/10; 19 in Dulas Valley nr Rhoed-y-foel, 8/09; 10-15 at RSPB Conwy. 8, all with leg-rings, at Shotton Paper, 15/10.

MARSH TIT (*Parus palustris*)

TITW'R WERN

Uncommon breeding resident. Amber List [BDM]

Seen in small numbers across the county. 1 nr Abergele Park, 3/01; a pair at Llyn Helyg on 3/03 and 2 pairs on 22/03; 1 at Glyn Lws (SH 885719) on 1/05; 1 in a Llanddulas garden, 9/06; regular at Pontfadog and at Erddig where 4 on 20/08; 1 at Llawndy Farm, BHP on 24/04; 1 at Gwaenysgor on 20/12.

WILLOW TIT (*Parus montanus*)

TITW'R HELYG

Scarce breeding resident. Amber List [BDM]

Seen in small numbers in mainly forest areas: singles noted at R. Clwyd, Erddig, Clocaenog (also 2 on 5/11), Gwaenysgor, HP, Llyn Helyg woods (inc. 2 on 19/04) and at BBS SJ 1865

COAL TIT (*Parus ater*)

TITW PENDDU

Widespread breeding resident. [WE].

Takes readily to garden feeders. Highest numbers: 4+ in two Wrexham and Gresford gardens. Nov - Dec. Good numbers on WE survey with 46 pairs. A very large mixed flock with treecreepers, nuthatches and chaffinches, feeding in conifers, Pen y Cloddiau, 23/08.

BLUE TIT (*Parus caeruleus*)

TITW TOMOS LAS

Common and widespread breeding resident. [WE]

The 1st song of 'spring' was at Berwyn on 1/01 and an early 'mating dance' was at Gwespyr on 31/01. The Llangollen study block of c60 boxes had 13% occupation, as against 30% in 1999 and 34% in 1998. There were 17 territories at Llawndy and Warren Farms, BHP (3-13 during 1992-99) where 8 pairs nested in nest-boxes. 2 pairs nested in boxes at Shotton Paper and reared 12 young. The largest flock size reported was 15 in a Llanddulas garden on 30/08.

GREAT TIT (*Parus major*)

TITW MAWR

Common and widespread breeding resident. [WE]

Highest counts: c6 at Chirk Castle, 4/02; an active group of 8 in a bush at Gwyrch

Castle, Abergele, 17/02; a pair with 7 young at Burton garden feeder, 24/07.

1st song of spring, 4/01, Berwyn; a bird seen collecting nest material from active crow nest, 30/04. At Llangollen study block of c60 boxes, occupation was 8% (11%, last year but 5% in 1998). 1 in 'spring song' in a Mold garden, 11/09. 6 breeding territories at Llawndy and Warren Farms, BHP (1-7 during 1992-99) where 3 pairs nested in nest-boxes.

NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*)

TELOR YCNAU

now **WOOD NUTHATCH**

Common breeding resident. Often visits garden feeders. [WE]

More reports this year. *Regular* at Acton Park, Coedpoeth, Erddig (where 5+ on 9/04), Gresford allotments, Burton (where parents with young at garden feeder, 25/07), Llanddulas, Mold (where 4+ at Gwysaney, 30/07 and 4+ at Loggerheads, 20/09), Rhuddlan woodlands (where 4 on 30/03).

Occasional sightings from 15 other areas, including 1 at The Warren, BHP on 16/06 (thought to be the first record for the area) and 4 at PMPA on 30/11.

TREECREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*)

DRINGWR BACH

now **EURASIAN TREECREEPER**

Widespread breeding resident. [WE]

Recorded in small numbers in woodland areas. Highest counts: 3 pairs along R. Clwyd, where regular, 1 nesting, 15/04; 1 seen ground feeding with 8+ species nr Trevor Rocks, 10/11. A Llanasa garden had its third sighting in 13 years on 11/12 - the previous one was on 13/12/99!

GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*)

CIGYDD MAWR

An occasional winter passage migrant

Two at a 'favoured' location at Clocaenog Forest: one at Craig Bronbannog mast (SJ 018520) with various sightings from 20/02-1/04; a second bird at Foel Frech on 5/03 and 21/04.

JAY (*Garrulus glandarius*)

YSGRECH Y COED

now **EURASIAN JAY**

Fairly common breeding resident. [WE]

Small but regular numbers from the usual wooded areas. Also a garden visitor. Maximum numbers: 7 at AWCP on 18/02; 7 nr Abergele, 8/08; 10+ at Nant-y-Ffrith, 3/09

MAGPIE (*Pica pica*)

PIODEN

now **BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE**

Common and widespread breeding resident. [WE]

Ubiquitous and conspicuous. A very successful bird of the area, it is subject to periodic culling by the agricultural community. Found across the region in a variety of habitats, including gardens.

18-19 breeding territories at BHP (9-25 during 1992-99). Collects in numbers during winter months: a quarrelsome group of 16, Llanasa, 20/03; 10 ground feeding, 31/03; 8 at Erddig on 12/03; 16 roosting at TFR, 15/10.

Noteworthy sights: 1 attempted to pluck a recently killed blackbird, TFR, 11/02; 1 sitting in rowan tree, taking 15 minutes to pluck and eat a mouse, Ruabon garden, 27/11.

CHOUGH (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)

BRAN GOESGOCH

now **RED-BILLED CHOUGH**

Scarce former breeding resident

1 at HP on 1/05.

JACKDAW (*Corvus monedula*)

JAC-Y-DO

now **EURASIAN JACKDAW**

Common and widespread breeding resident

A colonial breeder which also gathers away from breeding sites. Max. numbers: 50 flying over Gresford, 17/01; c50 over AWCP, dusk, 20/01 and 160+ on 23/02 (Bradley site); c60 Minera Quarry, 19/03; c300 came in to roost at Llyn Helyg on 5/04. A peak monthly count of 271 in July at BHP.

Unusual sighting: a 'pied' individual with white breast and wings, Ruabon, 13/08.

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*)

YDFRAN

Common and widespread colonial breeding resident

Rookeries recorded at Abergele (6 nests at SH 951739), AWCP (Bradley side), Coedpoeth, Gresford, Llanasa (51 nests), Llanddulas (37 nests at SH 913760); in the Llangollen area with nests in colonies in Pentredwr-Eglwyseg (SJ 198468), as follows: Eglwyseg 18, Pentredwr 19, Britannia 24, Tan Lan 40 (101 overall compared to 100 in 1999; Llanrhaedr (12 nests at 951739), PMPA (22 nests) and Rhuddlan woodland estate (15). 6 pairs nested at Shotton Paper, all on towers or ladders.

Highest flock counts: c60 feeding on pasture at Erddig, 2/02. A peak monthly count of 182 in July at BHP.

CARRION CROW (*Corvus corone corone*)
Common breeding resident. [WE]

BRAN DYDDYN

Widespread across the county. 11 breeding territories at BHP(†) (5-10 during 1992-99) where peak monthly count was 34 in October.

Hooded Crow (*Sub-species Corvus corone cornix*)
Occasional species

MAE'R FRÂN LWYD

One paired with Carrion Crow nr Llangollen, 9/04

RAVEN (*Corvus corax*)

CIGFRAN

now **COMMON RAVEN**

Fairly common breeding resident. Mainly in upland areas but may be spreading to lowlands.

One of the successful birds of the area: reports received from about 30 main areas. Highest counts: a flock of >40 at Llandegla; 13 at Dolwen Reservoir on 19/08; 11 SE of Rhyd-y-foel, 10/08; a family party of 8 (4 ads + 4 juvs feeding on sheep carcass, Llyn Brenig, 23/06); 6 over Moel Famau, 19/03; a family party of 5 (2 ad, 3 juvs) feeding on sheep carcass at Bagillt marsh on 15/06; a pair with 3 juvs at Rhyl on 1/05.

Breeding records: on Denbigh Moors, the first nests with eggs (5 + 1 respectively) were on 11/03; later 5+3 chicks seen (9/04). A pair with tree nest at Taipellaf SH 941569 Clocaenog area, on 10/04 - 3 fledged young seen here later in spring. Regularly seen at OMR and Flint foreshore where two pairs bred locally; at least three young fledged. A poor year in the HP study area: 1 pr failed to nest, another started late and failed, and two laid small clutches (2 and 3 eggs). Of 9 nests inspected at egg stage, only 4 held clutches of 6 and mean clutch was 4.8, with 9 pairs rearing a mean of 2.2 fledged young. 1 carrying sticks near Ysceifiog lake, 19/02, where 2 pairs on 1/05. A pair seen at Prestatyn Quarry, 13/03, and 1 on nest 4/04 but nest gone by 19/04 when youths seen shooting at nearby Fulmar's nest. A pair nested in old buzzard nest nr Llanarmon-yn-Ial and were seen collecting sheep wool on 12/03.

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

DRUDWEN

now **COMMON STARLING**

Common and widespread breeding resident. Often in huge autumnal/spring movements with continental over-wintering visitors. Some indication of an increase in numbers in winter months. Amber List [BDM]

A successful bird found in a variety of habitats in varying numbers. Maximum numbers: 10,000 roosting at RSPB Conwy on 21/11 and 20,000 on 21/12; up to 6000 roosting at Foryd Bridge, Rhyl in both winter periods; a peak of 3600 roosting in reed beds at Llawndy Farm, BHP on 5/12; 800 present/overflying at Warren Farm, 4/06; Other flocks >50 recorded at AWCP (where 150+ in winter months), Caego (large autumn and winter roosts, max c100, 21/12), Commonwood area (winter flocks of 100+), OMR (200+ on 13/11) and CQNR (where 50 juvs on 22/07 and 100+ birds on 5/12), Ruabon (where c250 on edge of RM, 11/02; no major autumn passage though several flocks of 100+).

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

ADERYN Y TO

Common breeding resident

Some evidence of demise of some local populations. Many houses still support small, but often decreasing, numbers.

26-28 breeding territories at BHP, 1 in a nest-box (10-24 during 1992-99). Largest reported counts: 100 at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh on 1/08; 50 in a Rhyl garden which supports a steadily increasing flock, 16/09; 39 at Warren Farm on 12/08; a peak of 35 in a Gresford garden and an average of 35+ in a Wrexham garden.

TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*)

GOLFANY MYNYDD

now **EURASIAN TREE SPARROW**

A scarce localised breeding resident. Red List [BD] BCCC

RSPB Dee Floodplain Survey (§) revealed good numbers: a minimum of 41 prs located between A550 and Worthenbury plus 20 prs at Burton Meadows.

Additional records came from only a few sites and in small numbers:

Breeding: BHP†: a pair bred by colliery road, fledging four young; 2 broods of 5 and 3 ringed at Bodelwyddan (SH 9977), 5/07 by Ian Spence and a further two broods of 5 and 4 on 30/07. A pair bred successfully at CQNR. The previous year's breeding site at Burton was abandoned and there were nil returns for HP/RM area.

Other records: several sightings in the Llyn Helyg area where the largest flock was 20 on 14/01; small flock (4-9) regular in a Gresford garden, 2/01-6/05; 4 at Trelawnyd on 30/01; recorded on 10 dates at BHP, with a peak of 9 over Warren Farm, 31/01; 4-5 at Ty Newydd Farm nr Leeswood, 5/03; 1 nr Ruthin Sewerage works, 30/03; 2 at Sontley Road, Erddig, 9/04; a pair nr Erw Fawr, Llanarmon-yn-Ial (SJ 183528), 21/04; 2 at Gwaenyssgor, 24/04 and 1 on 7/08; a pair on old railway track, Bettisfield, 1/05; a first for a Coedpoeth garden, 18/05; 1 in BBS SJ 1359, 11/06; several June records at CQNR with a peak of 6 on 16/06; several records, July-August at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, peaking at 14 on 5/08; a sizeable flock of 15 in mid-September at Hawarden Castle (SJ 3366), 1 drinking with House Sparrows

in a Gresford garden, 30/09; 2 at Gresford Lake car-park on 21/11. Two records at RSPB Conwy: 3 on 21/09 and 5 on 30/09.

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*)

JI-BINC

Common breeding resident with autumnal movement away from breeding areas.

[WE]

Widespread across the region but some suggestion of fewer numbers, especially in gardens though fourth out of 34 species in WE survey with 105 pairs.

12 breeding territories at Llawndy farm, BHP (4-13 during 1992-99); 3 at Shotton Paper where 9 young raised.

Highest counts: 400 at Shotton Tip (SJ 290720), 16/01; several high counts in the Llyn Helyg area with a peak of 400 on 27/01; c200 feeding in turnips, Llanasa, 15/03; c100 in Coedpoeth field, 6/02 though absent in winter on unploughed field; 60 flew over BHP coastal fields, 20/02 and there was an autumn/winter peak of 220 flying E over The Warren on 20/10; 150 at PMPA on 30/11.

BRAMBLING (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

PINC Y MYNYDD

Localised winter visitor in variable numbers. Amber List [BR]

Observed in only small numbers and in few areas [10]: reported from only two sites in north-eastern area of the county: 1 present for 5 weeks in January-February in a Gresford garden and a m in Burton garden, 5/01, f on 25/03.

Maximum counts: 15+ with large chaffinch flock, Shotton Tip (SJ 290720), 16/01; 8 at Clocaenog on 24/12. A mixed flock with Linnet and Chaffinch, totalling c400 at Llanasa on 20/03. 1 in a mixed flock at Llyn Helyg on 14/12.

GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*)

LLINOS WERDD

now **EUROPEAN GREENFINCH**

Common breeding resident

Successful across the region, including gardens. Largest flocks: a peak of 54 in a Gresford garden where regular feeders (ndg); c50 on telephone wires, Lindisfarne farm, 14/07; 50 in a mixed flock with chaffinches, tree sparrow and a Brambling on 14/12, Llyn Helyg; 32 at Llawndy Farm, BHP on 6/01; 25 feeding behind Pensarn beach, 14/11; 22 at Gronant beach marsh, 7/11.

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*)

NICO

now **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH**

Common breeding resident. Amber List [BDM] [WE]

Widespread across the region. Also a garden visitor. Highest counts - recorded in all months at BHP‡ where spring passage, 29/03-30/04, at The Warren included 185 flying E on last date and autumn passage peaked at 130 on 3/10; c100 at POA on 4/10; c100 on thistles nr Dee, Glyndyfrdwy, 10/09 and c50 at nearby Berwyn on 23/09; a peak flock of 50 at Pontfadog in September; 40 at Caego on 9/09; increasingly reported on garden feeders where highest count was 16, Burton, Rossett in winter. 9-11 breeding territories at BHP (1-17 during 1992-99).

SISKIN (*Carduelis spinus*)

PILA GWYRDD

now **EURASIAN SISKIN**

Winter visitor and breeding resident

Found across the region; recorded from more areas this year [over ten areas]. Highest counts: 23 at BHP on 1/05 and 29 on 26/10; 20+ in AWCP, 24/01 and at Pentrefelin by Llangollen canal, 27/01; 22 at Pontfadog on 11/10.

A garden visitor at Berwyn, Burton, Coedpoeth, Gresford, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Llanasa, Llay, Marford, Ruabon and Wrexham.

LINNET (*Carduelis cannabina*)

LLINOS

now **COMMON LINNET**

Widespread breeding resident. Red List [BD] BCCC

Found in varying numbers through the year, both inland and on the coast. Low breeding numbers at Gronant and BHP with only 11-12 breeding territories at BHP (16-43 during 1992-99). 4 pairs nested at Shotton Paper and raised 7 young.

Some sizeable non-breeding flocks: at Gronant, large flocks regular through the year, often feeding on root crops peaking at c1000 on 6/01 in the first winter period and 150 at Gronant beach on 8/10 in the second; c500 feeding in turnips at Llanasa, 13-15/03; an autumn passage peak of 340 on 26/09 at BHP where spring passage was much lower with a peak of 104 on 20/02; a flock of c200+ feeding on sparsely vegetated area at BQ, 7/09; 140 on wires at fm nr Pen-y-Bryn, RM edge, 12/09 and 110 on rape stubble, LP, 8/10; a flock present in December feeding on linseed field adjacent to IMF Reserve but in Flintshire with a maximum of 120 on 31/12; 30 on leak stubble at Sealand Nursery (SJ 360670), 6/04; small numbers usually present at POA CL with peak count of 25 on 18/04. Flocks regularly present at Flint marsh during the winter period feeding on saltmarsh seeds (where peak count was 120 on 1/03: see BB table);

(LI)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	80	80	120	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	40	10

a peak of 20 on 22/02 at OMR and 10 at CQNR. 20+ at Rhyl Marine Lake on 5/01 and 24 on R. Clwyd in July; 54 nr Rhyl Splash Point on 18/03.

TWITE (*Carduelis flavirostris*)

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

A scarce winter visitor to coastal areas. Red List [HD]

Usually present in small numbers in autumn along the coast and the Dee Estuary. Recorded at CQNR, Flint Castle, Greenfield Dock, OMR, Pensarn, POA.

Maximum counts: 60 at OMR on 22/02 and 70 on 12/12; smaller flocks at Flint Castle than last year, reaching 63 on 29/12; c30 at CQNR west hide, 9/03; 18 at POA on 20/03; 6 'very tame' birds feeding under sea-wall, Pensarn, 6/12. BB (Flint) monthly maxima are given in the table. (Peak counts were on 19/02 and 29/12. As in previous years, any of the saltmarsh areas along the Flint foreshore were used, as were adjacent patches of rough ground. Birds often sat on the Castle ruins or perched on overhead wires and fence-lines or drank from sea-wall puddles.) Present throughout the winter period at OMR where flocks often commuted to Flint Marsh, especially at HT. In the first winter period, the last was 1 on 21/03.

(TW)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	-	50	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	63

REDPOLL (*Carduelis cabaret*)

LLINOS BENGGOCH

now **LESSER REDPOLL**

Breeding resident. Possibly under-recorded though more records this year

Regular sightings at Acton Park, BHP with small numbers also seen at AWCP, Flint Point, Llyn Gweryd, Llyn Helyg (heard), Nercwys Mtn., Pulford Brook, RM and Shotton Steelworks.

Highest counts: 10 in Acton Park on 27/01; 12 in Marford Quarry on 23/02; 10+ at Hanmer Mere on 3/01; a spring peak of 13 at BHP, 28/04; 10-15 at Bod Petryal, 17/07 and 23/12; 10-20 in WE CP, 13/10

CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*)

GYLFIN GROES

now **COMMON CROSSBILL**

Scarce breeding resident

Regularly observed in small numbers at: Llandegla Forest and RM-HP-WE plantations; Clocaenog, 2 prs at Ceiriog Forest on 2/10.

Highest counts: 15+ on pipes over road, Bod Petryal, 13/07 and 20 on 16/12.

Very few records from HP plantation, in another poor Sitka cone year: a m singing in Penycae plantation, 9/03 and 2+ ibidem, 26/06; heard on 4/07 in RM pine plantation; 1+ nr WE forest, 13/10 and 2/12.

BULLFINCH (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

COCH Y BERLLAN

now **COMMON BULLFINCH**

Breeding resident. Red List [BD] **BCCC** [WE]

More records this year. Recorded in small numbers from about twenty areas, including gardens. Plus 1-3 recorded in 5 BBS Squares (see appendices).

Max. numbers: 9 at RSPB Conwy on 21/12.

LAPLAND BUNTING (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

now **LAPLAND LONGSPUR**

Scarce passage migrant

1 W over Gwaenysgor on 11/11 (‡)

SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

BRAS YR EIRA

Regular coastal winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [BR]

First part of year: reported from 1/01 to 28/02 at Gronant, peaking at 34 on 27/01; recorded at Llanddulas from 25/01 to 22/03 when peaked with c24; Pensarn peaked at 45+ on 14/01 with two flocks, flying W to E, of 30+ and 15+; last record was 20 on 22/03; 31 at POA on 7/01 with singles on 21/02 and 7/03; 3 flying E at Gronant beach on 18/03 1 at RSPB Conwy on 17/03 and 19/03.

Second period: 1 over The Warren on 24/10; 5 at Pensarn on 30/11.

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*)

MELYN YR EITHIN

Formerly common breeding resident

Probably still in decline. Seen in small numbers only and in few sites, this is a CBRG Target Species.

Recorded in very small numbers only at BHP, Caego, Coedpoeth, Dyserth mountain (where flocks of 50 in 1997-8), Gresford, Gwespyr, Hawarden (SJ 3366), HMCP, Llanasa, Llandulas, Llandegla, Llanefydd (SH 985717), Mynydd Glyn Lws (SH 8872), Nant-y-Groes (SH 844765), Rhyd-y-foel and Trelogan; the RSPB Floodplain Survey (§) found only 2 singing along the ridge above R. Dee between Isycoed and Sutton Green and 2 singing in Trevalyn Meadows! 3 BBS reports: 1 SJ 1144, 30/04/00; 2 on 9/05 and 1 on 11/06, SJ1359.

Not seen or heard again at AWCP, HMCP and no returns from the usual site at Marford Quarry and the only record for the RM area was a m singing nr Plas

Uchaf Farm, Penrycae, 4/05.

RUSTIC BUNTING (*Emberiza rustica*)

BRAS WLEDIG

Rare vagrant

1 m observed feeding below a feeder in an Abergele garden on 7/04 and found dead on 9/04. Sent to British Museum and RSPB/BBRC for confirmation of identification. Thought to be only the eighth record for Wales (Mrs C. Williams/Ian Higginson).

REED BUNTING (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

BRAS Y CYRS

Breeding resident. Red List [BD] BCCC

Recorded in only a few areas:

Inland: recorded from seven areas: 4 in reeds at SLJ, 4/03; a m in willow at GF, 13/04 and a f there, 26/09; a m singing on an overgrown site on WE, 15/05; 2 prs nested in Three-cornered meadow NR; a pr at Erddig Flash, 21/04 and 3/07 (first records for here?); 1 at HMCP on 7/06; a pair at Llyn Brenig, 23/06; 2 at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, 22/07.

Coastal: 3-4 breeding territories at BHP (4-8 during 1992-99) with 2 territories at colliery pool and at least 9 pairs at Gronant beach marsh where 28 birds counted on 6/10. 15 at Shotton Tip (SJ 290720), 16/01. A peak autumn passage of 17 on 20/10 at The Warren, BHP. BBS records: 1 at SJ 1345 on 2/05; 1 in BBS SJ 2547 on 4/05 and 17/06. A f at Rhyl Brickfields LNR on 29/03 and a m at Rhyl GC on 19/04 and 26/04. 4 pairs bred at RSPB Conwy.

CORN BUNTING (*Miliaria calandra*)

BRAS YR YD

Scarce localised breeding species. Red List [BD] BCCC

Maintaining a very precarious presence: 1 singing male on national boundary adjacent to IMF (SJ 315730), 6/07 - shown on TV as "the last corn bunting in Wales"! A single migrant, calling frequently in flight, was seen flying west along Bagillt saltmarsh on 12/05.

ESCAPES

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*)

ALARCH DDU

Several records this year: 2 on a Northop pond, 14/07; 3 on the storm pond at Warren Farm on 21/09 and 2 there on 24/09 and 26/09; 2 with Mute Swans on SBL, 11/10; 1 on sea with 2 Mute Swans at POA on 17/10.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*)

1 at Shotton Steelworks on 23/07 and 1 adult (presumably the same bird) seen well on IMF which then flew on to the Inner Dee Marshes in Clwyd, 3/08 - 7/08 and 3/09 - 7/09.

HARRIS HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*)

"A large red bird with yellow legs" was reported at Shotton Paper on 9/10. Subsequently identified as an adult Harris Hawk, it was present on a regular daily basis into the New Year 2001, taking moorhen and coot and, on one occasion, a rabbit. Wearing jesses but not ringed.

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL (*Anas bahamensis*)

1 at RSPB POA on 26/08 (‡)

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK

1 seen feeding on river at Llanddulas, 23/02

RUDDY SHELDUCK (*Tadorna ferruginea*)

HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

Rare vagrant. All British records currently treated as escapes

Dee Estuary: a *f* seen on various dates at Shotwick Fields and IMF Border Pool. Present from 1/01 - 25/05 and 19/07 to year end. Associated with Canada geese flock on arable fields and roosted on Reserve. A single *f* with Canada geese on Bagillt sandbanks on 8/09 - probably same bird.

The following 15 species were recorded in the 1999 Report but not this year:

CORY'S SHEARWATER (<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>)	ADERYN-DRYCIN CORY
MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER (<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>)	ADERYN-DRYCIN MÔR Y
CANOLDIR	
BITTERN (<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>) now GREAT BITTERN	ADERYN Y BWN
BAR-HEADED GOOSE (<i>Anser indicus</i>)	GWYDD PEN FRAITH
GREEN-WINGED TEAL (<i>Anas crecca carolinensis</i>)	CORHWYADEN ASGELL WERDD
KENTISH PLOVER (<i>CHARADRIUS ALEXANDRINUS</i>)	CWTIAD CAINT
AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER (<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>)	CORGWTIAD AUR
RED-NECKED STINT (<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>)	PIBYDD YDDFGOCH
PECTORAL SANDPIPER (<i>Calidris melanotos</i>)	PIBYDD CAIN
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>)	PIBYDD BRONLLWYD
TEREK SANDPIPER (<i>Xenus cinereus</i>)	PIBYDD TEREK
FRANKLIN'S GULL (<i>Larus pipixcan</i>)	GWYLAN FRANKLIN
ALPINE SWIFT (<i>Apus melba</i>)	GWENNOL DDU'R ALPAU
RICHARD'S PIPIT (<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>)	CORHEDYDD RICHARD
HAWFINCH (<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>)	GYLFINBRAFF

Yellowhammer 2002

CBRG Target Species
Your records are needed

Yellowhammers were once a common sight of farmland habitats throughout the UK but their overall population has more than halved in Wales over the past twenty five years. This species is now a proposed candidate for the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern.

Yellowhammers may not have the high profile of Red Kite or Black Grouse and in some places these bright little birds can still be seen regularly but who knows for how much longer.

Clwyd Bird Recording Group is high-lighting the plight of this species as a cause for concern and has thus designated it as a Target Species. Its current distribution in Clwyd is not well known and we are appealing for records in 2002 so that key locations can be identified. This is not a full survey although there may be a requirement to have more comprehensive distribution information in years to come but knowing where Yellowhammers breed in 'Clwyd' and where they are concentrated in winter could be of value to the conservationists involved in land management, policy decisions and Biodiversity Action Plan implementation in future years.

Please send all records of Yellowhammer (including date, location name or 6 figure grid reference if known, number of birds seen and any relevant notes) to the current County Recorder:

**Norman Hallas, 63 Park Avenue, Wrexham LL12 7AW
01978 290522**

Appendix 1: Sample records from Llyn Brenig log-book, 2000

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N n/c	D n/c
Little Grebe	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Great Crested Grebe	-	-	4	6	6	4	4	3	1	1	-	-
Cormorant	5	5	14	6	3	6	3	3	10	11	-	-
Grey Heron	2	1	3	1	1	-	-	2	1	1	-	-
Greylag Goose	3	-	4	4	3	-	6+7j	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Geese	-	-	6	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	50	34	20	10	9	1	8	5	10	49	-	-
Tufted Duck	-	3	1	2	-	6	20	5	-	22	-	-
Goldeneye	5	4	12	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goosander	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
Red Kite	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hen Harrier	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-
Goshawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sparrowhawk	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Buzzard	1	2	3	3	3	-	1	6	1	2	-	-
Kestrel	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Merlin	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red Grouse	✓	✓	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coot	2	-	4	5	6	3	3	-	-	-	-	-

continued on next page

Llyn Brenig log-book (continued)

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N n/c	D n/c
Oystercatcher	-	-	2	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Whimbrel	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curlew	-	-	2	3	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Black-headed Gull	-	-	10	180	200	100	✓+ 60j	1	-	-	-	-
Common Gull	2	-	5	✓	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser b.b. Gull	-	-	2	2	2	4	17	✓	-	-	-	-
Herring Gull	2	✓	8	✓	5	-	1	✓	✓	-	-	-
Greater Bb Gull	-	-	2	2	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fieldfare	25	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cuckoo	-	-	-	✓	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whinchat	-	-	-	2	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	-
Stonechat	2	2	5	2	1	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Raven	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	4j	2	1	-	6	-	-
Total = 35 species												

KEY: ✓ = present but numbers not available; a dash indicates not present
n/c = no count in November and December

Source : collated by Louise Jones

**Appendix 2: Table of count totals for
End Estate, Llangollen, 1998 -**

SPECIES	1998
Wood Pigeon	41
Cuckoo	2
Swallow	3
House Martin	0
Tree Pipit	17
Grey Wagtail	3
Pied Wagtail	2
Wren	78
Duncock	11
Robin	81
Redstart	25
Blackbird	28
Song Thrush	17
Mistle Thrush	12
Garden Warbler	10
Blackcap	11
Wood Warbler	4
Chiffchaff	9
Willow Warbler	55
Goldcrest	91
Spotted Flycatcher	0
Pied Flycatcher	21
Long-tailed Tit	4
Coal Tit	40
Blue Tit	28
Great Tit	9
Nuthatch	3
Treecreeper	4
Jay	9
Magpie	5
Carrion Crow	13
Chaffinch	103
Goldfinch	2
Bullfinch	5

Figures are for presumed breeding pairs, call, bird carrying nest material or food, except field centres barren of birds, May. Map location of each pair. Always done chorus and 11.30h. Location: SJ 2148-2 pasture plus conifer and broad-leaved wo

Appendix 2: Table of count totals for common birds in map surveys on World's End Estate, Llangollen, 1998 - 2000 (WE) by John Lawton Roberts

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Wood Pigeon	41	45	51*
Cuckoo	2	2	1-2
Swallow	3	3	8
House Martin	0	3	5
Tree Pipit	17	25	26*
Grey Wagtail	3	5	7
Pied Wagtail	2	2-3	2
Wren	78	122	142*
Duncock	11	17	20*
Robin	81	129	134*
Redstart	25	25	21
Blackbird	28	47	26*
Song Thrush	17	31	15*
Mistle Thrush	12	11	15
Garden Warbler	10	14	17
Blackcap	11	16	5
Wood Warbler	4	2	0
Chiffchaff	9	4	3
Willow Warbler	55	60	66*
Goldcrest	91	89	110*
Spotted Flycatcher	0	3	1
Pied Flycatcher	21	27	24
Long-tailed Tit	4	2	17*
Coal Tit	40	27	46*
Blue Tit	28	14	21
Great Tit	9	9	19
Nuthatch	3	4	7
Treecreeper	4	7	5
Jay	9	6	9*
Magpie	5	6	8
Carrion Crow	13	13	17
Chaffinch	103	115	105*
Goldfinch	2	4	6
Bullfinch	5	7	3*

*Figures are for presumed breeding pairs, derived from singing male, sighting of pair, alarm call, bird carrying nest material or food, locating of nest etc. Methodology: walk all ground except field centres barren of birds, May 1-June 15; record all birds with specified criteria. Map location of each pair. Always done on still mornings, preferably dry, between dawn chorus and 11.30h. Location: SJ 2148-2347. Habitat: upland organic farm with streamside pasture plus conifer and broad-leaved woodland. * Possibly affected by spring felling in 2000.*

Appendix 3: B.T.O. Farmland Common Birds Census:

estimates of breeding numbers from territory mapping, March - July,

2000. Locality: Llanasa, Clwyd [Flintshire] SJ 100817

Authors: E.E. & Z.L. Jones

Habitat: mixed farmland, mainly grazing; small field and copses.

Area = 87.7 ha		Average altitude = 170.0m		Map Reference: SJ 100817	
✓	Grey Heron	✓	Wheatear		
2	Mallard	10	Blackbird		
✓	Sparrowhawk	✓	Fieldfare		
1	Buzzard	1	Song Thrush		
1	Kestrel	1	Mistle Thrush		
2	Pheasant	10	Whitethroat		
✓	Common Gull	1	Blackcap		
✓	Lesser Black-backed Gull	✓	Chiffchaff		
✓	Herring Gull	4	Willow Warbler		
1	Stock Dove	3	Goldcrest		
4N	Woodpigeon	2	Coal Tit		
1	Collared Dove	11	Blue Tit		
1	Tawny Owl	5	Great Tit		
✓	Green Woodpecker	1	Nuthatch		
✓	Great Spotted Woodpecker	✓	Treecreeper		
5	Skylark	6N	Magpie		
✓	Swallow	1N	Jackdaw		
✓	House Martin	63N	Rook		
✓	Meadow Pipit	4N	Carrion Crow		
1	Grey Wagtail	1	Raven		
3	Pied Wagtail	23	Chaffinch		
14	Wren	3	Greenfinch		
15	Dunnock	3	Goldfinch		
15	Robin	1	Siskin		
1	Redstart	12	Linnet		
✓	Stonechat	12	Yellowhammer		
Species = 52					
Key:	✓ = present, no clusters	N = nest count			

Appendix 4: BBS (BTO) Species Summary for Clwyd, 2000

Source: M.J. Raven, BTO

<i>N</i>	= number of squares in which the species was recorded
<i>PROP</i>	= proportion of squares in which the species was recorded
<i>MEAN</i>	= mean number of individual birds recorded in each occupied square
<i>MAX</i>	= maximum number of individual birds recorded in any one square
<i>TOTAL</i>	= total number of individual birds recorded

<i>SPECIES</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>PROP</i>	<i>MEAN</i>	<i>MAX</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
LITTLE GREBE	2	9	2.0	2	4
GREY HERON	5	22	1.4	2	7
MUTE SWAN	2	9	3.0	4	6
GREYLAG GOOSE	1	4	5.0	5	5
CANADA GOOSE	7	30	3.4	6	24
SHELDUCK	2	9	5.5	10	11
MANDARIN	1	4	6.0	6	6
MALLARD	9	39	5.2	19	47
RED-CRESTED POCHARD	1	4	2.0	2	2
POCHARD	1	4	3.0	3	3
TUFTED DUCK	1	4	4.0	4	4
RUDDY DUCK	1	4	3.0	3	3
SPARROWHAWK	6	26	1.0	1	6
BUZZARD	16	70	1.8	3	29
KESTREL	2	9	1.0	1	2
MERLIN	1	4	1.0	1	1
PEREGRINE	2	9	1.0	1	2
BLACK GROUSE	1	4	4.0	4	4
RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE	2	9	10.0	19	20
PHEASANT	17	74	3.9	14	67
MOORHEN	3	13	2.3	3	7
COOT	2	9	4.0	4	8

<i>SPECIES</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>PROP</i>	<i>MEAN</i>	<i>MAX</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
OYSTERCATCHER	1	4	2.0	2	2
LAPWING	2	9	8.0	8	16
DUNLIN	1	4	5.0	5	5
SNIFE	2	9	1.0	1	2
CURLEW	10	43	2.5	6	25
REDSHANK	1	4	1.0	1	1
COMMON SANDPIPER	1	4	2.0	2	2
BLACK-HEADED GULL	6	26	2.5	4	15
COMMON GULL	1	4	1.0	1	1
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL	6	26	9.0	25	54
HERRING GULL	11	48	4.5	13	49
FERAL PIGEON	7	30	7.3	21	51
STOCK DOVE	1	4	1.0	1	1
WOODPIGEON	21	91	12.9	31	271
COLLARED DOVE	12	52	5.3	18	63
CUCKOO	3	13	1.3	2	4
LITTLE OWL	1	4	1.0	1	1
SWIFT	11	48	3.7	9	41
GREEN WOODPECKER	2	9	2.0	3	4
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER	7	30	1.4	2	10
LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER	1	4	1.0	1	1
SKYLARK	7	30	2.9	5	20
SAND MARTIN	2	9	5.0	9	10
SWALLOW	17	74	7.5	15	128
HOUSE MARTIN	15	65	7.9	21	119
TREE PIPIT	1	4	1.0	1	1
MEADOW PIPIT	4	17	24.5	46	98
GREY WAGTAIL	1	4	3.0	3	3
PIED WAGTAIL	8	35	1.9	3	15
WREN	22	96	9.8	26	215

<i>SPECIES</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>PROP</i>	<i>MEAN</i>	<i>MAX</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
DUNNOCK	18	78	4.0	11	72
ROBIN	23	100	6.9	17	159
REDSTART	6	26	5.0	10	30
WHINCHAT	3	13	4.3	6	13
STONECHAT	3	13	2.3	4	7
WHEATEAR	3	13	1.7	2	5
BLACKBIRD	22	96	10.4	35	229
SONG THRUSH	19	83	3.0	10	57
MISTLE THRUSH	9	39	1.8	4	16
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER	2	9	1.0	1	2
SEDGE WARBLER	2	9	2.5	3	5
LESSER WHITETHROAT	2	9	1.5	2	3
WHITETHROAT	7	30	1.9	3	13
GARDEN WARBLER	4	17	1.3	2	5
BLACKCAP	14	61	2.4	4	33
WOOD WARBLER	2	9	1.0	1	2
CHIFFCHAFF	13	57	3.5	9	46
WILLOW WARBLER	19	83	5.4	17	103
GOLDCREST	8	35	3.5	9	28
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER	2	9	1.5	2	3
PIED FLYCATCHER	3	13	2.3	5	7
LONG-TAILED TIT	10	43	1.7	4	17
MARSH TIT	1	4	1.0	1	1
WILLOW TIT	1	4	1.0	1	1
COAL TIT	5	22	1.6	3	8
BLUE TIT	21	91	8.6	29	181
GREAT TIT	19	83	4.1	13	78
NUTHATCH	7	30	1.9	5	13
TREECREEPER	5	22	2.2	4	11
JAY	8	35	1.8	6	14

<i>SPECIES</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>PROP</i>	<i>MEAN</i>	<i>MAX</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
MAGPIE	21	91	5.8	13	122
JACKDAW	18	78	12.9	47	233
ROOK	13	57	8.5	25	111
CARRION CROW	22	96	14.0	58	307
RAVEN	4	17	1.5	2	6
STARLING	13	57	22.4	210	291
HOUSE SPARROW	14	61	16.1	73	226
TREE SPARROW	2	9	1.0	1	2
CHAFFINCH	23	100	10.2	32	234
GREENFINCH	14	61	3.4	10	48
GOLDFINCH	19	83	3.7	10	71
SISKIN	1	4	1.0	1	1
LINNET	9	39	5.2	7	47
LESSER REDPOLL	3	13	3.3	5	10
BULLFINCH	10	43	1.7	3	17
YELLOWHAMMER	4	17	1.8	4	7
REED BUNTING	4	17	1.8	2	7
TOTAL SPECIES = 99					
Squares covered (total 23): SH 8453 SJ 0882 SJ 1359 SJ 2464 SH 8574 SJ 1144 SJ 1572 SJ 2547 SH 9569 SJ 1165 SJ 1673 SJ 2863 SH 9644 SJ 1261 SJ 1851 SJ 3348 SJ 0165 SJ 1284 SJ 1865 SJ 3749 SJ 0478 SJ 1345 SJ 2365					

Appendix 5: SELECTED BBS SPECIES COUNTS for 1 km squares, 2000
(maximum counts)

	SJ 1144	SJ 1261	SJ 1345	SJ 1359	SJ 1673	SJ 1851	SJ 1865	SJ 2365	SJ 2464	SJ 2547	SJ 2863	SJ 3749	SJ 3868
Shelduck								1					
Sparrow -hawk				1					1				
Buzzard	1	2	1	2		1		1			1		
Merlin										1			
Peregrine	1		1										
Black Grouse			2										
Lapwing			8			8							
Snipe									1	1			
Curlew	1		2	1		1				3	1		
Lesser Bb Gull						12							
Stock Dove				1					2				
Cuckoo											1		
Little Owl								1					
Green Wood- pecker	1												
Great Spotted Wood- pecker	1	1					1						
Skylark			1						1	1			
Tree Pipit													
Redstart	3		2										

Appendix 5: SELECTED BBS SPECIES COUNTS for 1 km squares, 2000
(continued)

	SJ 1144	SJ 1261	SJ 1345	SJ 1359	SJ 1673	SJ 1851	SJ 1865	SJ 2365	SJ 2464	SJ 2547	SJ 2863	SJ 3749	SJ 3868
Whinchat			1							2			
Stonechat			1							2			
Wheatear			2										
Song Thrush	1	1		2		1	2	1	2		1		1
Grasshopper Warbler									1	1			
Sedge Warbler									1				
Lesser Whitethroat									1				
Whitethroat						1							
Garden Warbler	1								1				
Wood Warbler	3												
Spotted Flycatcher				1									
Willow Tit							1						
Raven			2										
Tree Sparrow				1									
Linnet			3				5	1		2	3		
Bullfinch		3					1		1		2		
Yellow-hammer	1			2									
Reed Bunting			1							2			

Appendix 6: TOTAL WeBS COUNTS FOR THE DEE ESTUARY 2000
(Wales & England)

MONTHLY TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	23rd	20th	19th	9th	7th	4th	2nd	20th	17th	15th	12th	10th
Red-throated Diver	7	7	5	0	1	0	0	0	18	2	3	1
Little Grebe	8	8	15	15	9	5	12	39	31	33	12	15
Great Crested Grebe	50	34	28	21	13	26	13	12	25	38	13	60
Cormorant	184	154	106	157	122	134	97	438	864	660	589	357
Little Egret	1	4	3	2	0	0	0	1	4	3	7	5
Grey Heron	57	49	21	24	25	44	49	79	124	69	73	65
Spoonbill	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mute Swan	115	108	43	53	16	22	25	32	36	15	93	109
Bewick's Swan	56	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	38	57
Whooper Swan	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8
Pink-footed Goose	66	1	90	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Greylag Goose	27	11	2	12	10	6	1	18	48	47	37	53
Canada Goose	911	172	71	64	105	130	68	664	1428	1344	1280	1663
Barnacle Goose	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Pale-bellied Brent	8	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	36
Ruddy Shelduck	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Shelduck	1244	1314	724	1074	451	1004	622	92	6902	11572	9009	7344
Wigeon	1158	1112	119	137	12	7	5	2	517	2792	2253	3283
Gadwall	23	25	24	13	7	7	6	6	8	21	10	34
Garganey	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	0
Teal	2257	1783	492	301	8	4	35	380	2810	5126	5074	4818
Mallard	542	630	312	339	211	601	607	1585	1947	2015	2237	1158

continued...

MONTHLY TOTALS	Jan 23	Feb 20	Mar 19	Apr 9	May 7	June 4	July 2	Aug 20	Sept 17	Oct 15	Nov 12	Dec 10
Pintail	339	126	23	26	1	0	0	0	976	4216	4108	1197
Shoveler	42	80	32	26	11	6	1	35	99	111	157	96
Pochard	21	40	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	18	34
Tufted Duck	22	34	62	102	76	48	35	5	6	9	17	19
Scaup	1	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Eider	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Common Scoter	1	0	11	0	0	0	18	0	24	0	0	4
Goldeneye	16	24	15	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	9
Smew	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	20	17	89	33	0	0	2	0	32	18	42	23
Goosander	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	2	6	6	7	3	7	2	2	1	9	8	19
Water Rail	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	7	8
Moorhen	53	63	39	72	52	52	55	76	103	71	100	97
Coot	195	176	133	108	103	78	121	219	206	198	183	233
Oystercatcher	12506	7267	4478	5318	5437	3263	3026	12737	26713	14990	17836	20285
Little Ringed Plover	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Ringed Plover	217	151	94	197	130	36	9	111	249	167	214	223
Golden Plover	149	184	40	0	1	0	0	0	8	104	228	161
Grey Plover	12	4	10	188	5	2	0	133	141	252	64	52
Lapwing	4239	5000	143	83	95	82	447	1033	1295	2768	5393	6270
Knot	507	745	664	1729	0	0	0	5	212	407	5672	4720
Sanderling	185	3	64	452	49	1	0	1	7	245	100	20
Little Stint	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Curlew Sand- piper	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0

continued...

MONTHLY TOTALS	Jan 23	Feb 20	Mar 19	Apr 9	May 7	June 4	July 2	Aug 20	Sept 17	Oct 15	Nov 12	Dec 10
Purple Sandpiper	38	45	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	34
Dunlin	17835	8093	3675	3693	843	62	57	3081	2427	1825	41656	12305
Ruff	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	4	31	8	8
Jack Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	0
Snipe	11	45	0	8	0	0	0	8	21	42	163	189
Black-tailed Godwit	828	370	215	1033	82	150	234	51	367	1813	2145	873
Bar-tailed Godwit	3	2	17	208	9	1	1	25	158	95	42	260
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	29	7	2	7	3	0	0	0
Curlew	3356	2809	2413	2212	228	473	2562	5514	5837	3844	3586	3355
Spotted Redshank	4	5	3	8	0	0	0	3	20	9	0	5
Redshank	3056	3521	4792	2307	51	2	697	8781	1199 1	6054	5893	5234
Greenshank	2	2	2	0	1	0	44	57	83	20	5	8
Green Sandpiper	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	3	0
Wood Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cmn Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	3	6	1	0	0
Turnstone	370	381	326	578	10	7	0	151	391	495	612	598
Sandwich Tern	0	0	0	9	0	34	138	672	104	0	0	0
Common Tern	0	0	0	0	11	146	201	184	6	0	0	0
Arctic Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Tern	0	0	0	0	80	111	70	80	0	0	0	0
Kingfisher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
GN Diver												1
Spotted Crake									1			
Egyptian Goose											1	
Black Swan	2											
Black Tern					2			6				

Appendix 7: GRONANT WeBS COUNTS 2000

Source: RSPB

MONTHLY TOTALS	Jan 23	Feb 20	Mar 19	Apr 9	My 7	June 4	July 2	Aug 20	Set 17	Oct 15	Nov 12	Dec 10
Red-throated Diver	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Great Crested Grebe	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cormorant	2	15	23	53	106	28	0	57	250	320	225	105
Grey Heron	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mute Swan	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Canada Goose	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shelduck	8	3	20	28	12	5	0	0	0	0	0	7
Teal	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mallard	6	15	12	5	5	2	0	7	12	18	4	41
R-b Merganser	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moorhen	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1
Coot	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2
Oystercatcher	55	64	29	4	2	0	2	80	136	460	81	0
Ringed Plover	81	24	75	113	104	23	8	12	40	113	40	38
Golden Plover	66	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grey Plover	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	70	60	49
Lapwing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	9	37	1	3
Knot	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0
Sanderling	100	3	50	100	6	1	0	0	5	180	90	17
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	5000	1000	67	69	0	52	3	0	170	72	5000	2000
Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	26	0	0
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Curlew	0	0	11	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	0	2
Redshank	28	56	0	14	0	0	0	1	0	22	40	52
Common Sandpiper								1				
Sandwich Tern				8		4	10	500	100			
Little Tern					80	110	70					

Appendix 8: Selected WeBs Counts for Inland Clwyd, 2000

Co-ordinators: Elvet and Louise Jones

Table 8 (a): Acton Park, Wrexham SJ 345520

	Jan n/c	Feb 13th	Mar 12th	Apr n/c	May n/c	June n/c	July n/c	Aug n/c	Sept 17th	Oct 22	Nov 11th	Dec 17th
Little Grebe		1	1									
G Crested Grebe									1	1	1	1
Mute Swan		2	2						2	2	2	2
Mallard		31	37						48	40	37	51
Moorhen		5	4						3	6	7	11
Coot		7	11						13	14	18	13
Bk-headed Gull		1	12						1	82	57	-
Sparrowhawk									1			

Table 8 (b): Llyn Bran SH 962592

	Jan 15th	Feb 11th	Mar 11th	Apr 7th	May 15th	Jun 23rd	July 22nd	Aug 19th	Sep n/c	Oct 21st	Nov n/c	Dec n/c
										no birds		
Gt Crested Grebe	-	-	1	3	3	2	2	2				
Cormorant	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-				
Mallard	-	2	-	2	-	-	2	-				
Tufted Duck	8	5	8	-	4	5	18	15				
Goldeneye	3	5	3	-	-	-	-	-				
Bk-headed Gull	-	-	-	4	28	24	8	1				

Table 8 (c): Dolwen (SH 973703)

	Jan 15th	Feb 11th	Mar 11th	Apr 7th	May 15th	June 23rd	July 22nd	Aug 19th	Sept n/c	Oct 21st
Little Grebe	4	5	5	-	-	1	4	7		11
G Crested Grebe	-	-	1	2	-	2	2	5		-
Cormorant	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Canada Goose	-	-	4	-	-	3	-	-		-
Teal	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		-
Mallard	20	20	31	-	-	6	16	33		51
Pochard	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-		5
Tufted Duck	23	24	9	4	-	15	23	13		16
Goldeneye	1	3	4	-	-	-	-	-		-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		-
Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		-
Coot	27	35	24	4	5	19	40	78		27
Jack Snipe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-
Snipe	22	10	26	-	-	-	-	-		-
Bk-headed Gull	-	20	50	-	-	-	-	-		-
Common Gull	300	200	600	-	-	-	-	-		-
Buzzard	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-		1

Table 8 (d): Erddig Flash SJ 336487

	Jan n/c	Feb 13th	Mar 12th	Apr 9th	May n/c	June 25th	July 23rd	Aug 20th	Sept 17th	Oct 22nd	Nov 19th	Dec 17
Little Grebe		1	3	-		2	2	2	2	-	-	-
Gt Crested Grebe												
Cormorant		-	-	-		-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Grey Heron		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Mute Swan		2	2	2		2	2	2	2	-	-	-
Teal		3	4	8		-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Mallard		6	4	2		5	3	3	6	25	20	7
Tufted Duck		7	8	2		5	1	-	1	-	-	2
Ruddy Duck		-	-	8		4	3	5	1	1	-	-
Moorhen		6	4	2		2	2	2	1	2	1	1
Coot		12	9	6		4	13	15	18	16	7	11
Snipe		-	-	5		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bk-headed Gull		70	70	1		-	19	1	16	140	29	29
Common Gull		5	5	-		-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Buzzard		-	-	-		-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Sparrowhawk		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	1	1	-

Table 8 (e): Greenfield, Holywell SJ 1977

	Jan 16th	Feb 13th	Mar 12th	Apr 9th	May 7th	June 25th	July 23rd	Au g 20th	Sept 17th	Oct 22nd	Nov 19th	Dec 17th
Little Grebe	1	2	3	2	-	1	1	1	4	1	2	1
Cormorant	1	2	3	2	1	-	2	1	1	-	2	2
Grey Heron	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	1
Mute Swan	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	3	2	1	2	1
Mallard	19	23	29	23	31	39	27	18	19	14	23	17
Pochard	23	19	17	4	1	-	-	1	-	1	32	19
Tufted Duck	39	23	20	27	14	1	2	-	16	4	23	14
Moorhen	8	11	14	7	8	9	8	6	8	4	9	7
Coot	7	9	13	9	9	11	14	7	11	5	14	11
Oystercatcher	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Lapwing	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	3	-	-	-
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kingfisher	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Bk-headed Gull	40	31	14	16	5	-	-	7	17	6	9	4
Buzzard	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Sparrowhawk	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Table 8 (f): Gresford Flash SJ 345536

	Jan n/c	Feb 13th	Mar 21th	Apr n/c	June n/c	July n/c	Aug n/c	Sept 17th	Oct 22nd	Nov 19th	Dec 17th
Grey Heron		-	-						-	-	1
Mute swan		3	3					2	-	-	2
Canada Goose		8	11					5	9	7	6
Shelduck		1	1					-	-	-	-
Mallard		8	8					12	9	14	11
Pochard		3	1					-	-	-	-
Tufted Duck		2	-					-	-	-	-
Moorhen		2	1					4	3	2	5
Coot		9	12					21	45	31	57
Bk-headed Gull		200	100					6	215	15	150
Common Gull		-	4					-	-	-	-
Lesser B-b Gull		150	100					-	50	1	120
Buzzard		-	-					1	-	-	-
Sparrowhawk		-	-					1	-	-	-

Table 8 (g): Kimberley Clark Factory, Flint (SJ 2373)

	Jan 16th	Feb 12th	Mar 12th	Apr 8th	May 6th	June 24th	July 23rd	Aug 19th	Sept n/c	Oct 20th	Nov 19th	Dec 17th
Little Grebe	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
Grey Heron	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	1	1
Mute Swan	1	-	2	2	2	2	2	2		7	1	-
Mallard	12	28	30	7	7	10	30	17		36	66	49
Shoveler	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	2		1	-	-
Pochard	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	3	2
Tufted Duck	3	6	12	4	4	-	12	21		2	1	5
Goldeneye	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	1	1	1	5	2	1	1	-		3	2	2
Feral	35	24	9	27	19	38	22	21		17	23	23
Moorhen	26	24	18	7	5	2	13	9		9	31	39
Coot	90	80	48	29	21	24	62	52		52	48	80
Oyster- catcher	1	4	4	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	4
Snipe	1	5	2	-	-	-	-	-		1	-	-
Bk-headed Gull	6	17	-	-	-	-	-	-		3	2	13
Common Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2	-	1
Lesser B-b Gull	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		-	-	-
Herring Gull	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
Great Black- backed Gull	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-		-	-	-

Table 8 (h): Llyn Brenig (SH 9755)

	Jan 15th	Feb 11th	Mar 11th	Apr 7th	May 15	June 23rd	July 22nd	Aug 19th	Sept 22nd	Oct 21st	N n/c	D n/c
Little Grebe	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Gt Crested Grebe	-	-	-	3	6	4	4	2	1	-		
Cormorant	2	5	14	4	1	6	-	-	10	11		
Grey Heron	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1		
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	4	1	-	2	-	-	-		
Canada Goose	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-		
Mallard	50	34	8	9	9	1	3	-	11	49		
Tufted Duck	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	5	-	22		
Goldeneye	5	2	8	6	1	-	-	-	-	-		
Red-btd Merganser	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Goosander	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Coot	-	-	-	3	4	3	-	-	-	-		
Oystercatcher	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	1	-	-		
Curlew	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Cmn. Sand- piper	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-		
Bk-hd Gull	-	-	-	60	200	100	16	-	-	-		
Common Gull	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-		
L'er B-b Gull	-	-	2	-	2	4	17	-	-	-		
Herring Gull	-	-	8	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
Great B.b. Gull	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-		
Buzzard	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
Merlin	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		

Table 8(i): Llyn Helyg (SJ1177)

	Jan 14th	Feb 13th	Mar 12th	Apr 8th	May 9th	Jun 23rd	July 23rd	Aug 20th	Sept 25th	Oct 20th	Nov 19th	Dec 14th
Gt Crested Grebe	1	1	4	4	3	3	2	2	-	-	-	-
Grey Heron	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	1	1	-	1
Mute Swan	3	2	4	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	-	6	6	5	1	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
Shelduck	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wigeon	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6
Gadwall	29	11	12	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	19	17
Teal	-	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	10	10	2	1	-	3	8	4	-	-	-	3
Shoveler	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pochard	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Duck	15	23	30	3	2	5	2	-	5	6	4	27
Goosander	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Moorhen	1	-	1	-	1	-	4	1	3	1	-	-
Coot	90	85	62	38	6	30	61	48	143	182	186	183
Bk-headed Gull	5	-	-	8	7	8	-	-	-	22	-	-
Buzzard	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-crested Pochard	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 8(j): Ysceifiog Lake SJ 145715

	Jan n/c	Feb 13th	Mar 12th	Apr 8th	May 6th	Jun 24th	July 24th	Aug 21st	Sep 17th	Oct 19th	Nov 18th	Dec 18th
Little Grebe		18	14	9	2	2	4	11	8	13	14	14
Grey Heron		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Mute Swan		16	18	9	14	18	14	11	7	32	24	23
Canada Goose		-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall		-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard		16	15	4	3	9	38	8	11	16	18	20
Pochard		-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Tufted Duck		15	14	16	10	10	10	10	8	5	7	13
Moorhen		-	4	4	1	2	2	8	4	4	2	4
Coot		86	48	36	23	48	84	87	89	47	114	121

Appendix 9: Breeding Birds 2000 for Gronant Local Nature Reserve
Source: RSPB

Species	Number of pairs/ territories	Number of fledged young
Mallard	no data	no data
Kestrel	1	no data
Coot	no data	no data
Moorhen	no data	no data
Oystercatcher	1	0 young from 2 nesting attempts
Ringed Plover	6	5+
Little Tern	75	57
Skylark	no data	no data
Meadow Pipit	no data	1+
Pied Wagtail	no data	1+
Stonechat	1+	1+
Wheatear	2	4
Grasshopper Warbler	2-3 pairs	no data
Sedge Warbler	18	no data
Reed Warbler	2+	no data
Linnet	no data	no data
Reed Bunting	9+	no data
no data = birds breeding but not censused		

**Appendix 10: Survey Records for the River Dee Floodplain, Clwyd,
2000**

Source: RSPB

Pulford Meadow Records

2 December (feeding in flooded maize fields)

2 Green Sandpiper	3 Grey Heron	1 Goshawk (male)
65 Wigeon	100 Teal	4 Shoveler
800 Pintail		

27 December

A co-ordinated count took place on 27/12/00 at Pulford (Clwyd) and Aldford (Cheshire) to gain a realistic figure of wintering wildfowl. A total of 1200 Pintail, 1200 Wigeon and 1600 Teal were recorded. The Pintail figure is of great importance and confirms the international significance of Pintail in this region.

The figures below are for Pulford Meadows only.

5 Green Sandpiper	4 Little Grebe	21 Shelduck
6 Mandarin Duck	900 Pintail	2 Peregrine
200+ Wigeon	250+ Teal	4+ Shoveler
18 Stock Dove	2 Chiffchaff	

Appendix 11: Welsh Raptor Study Group North Wales Annual Report, 2000
(Nests with egg or young data only where n = occupied nests)

Species		Eggs (minimum)	Young hatched (minimum)	Young fledged (minimum)
Barn Owl	Totals	4	4	3
	(n = 2) Average	2.00	2.00	1.50
Buzzard	Totals	46	33	30
	(n = 20) Average	2.30	1.65	1.50
Goshawk	Totals	6	6	6
	(n = 3) Average	2.00	2.00	2.00
Hen Harrier	Totals	13	10	9
	(n = 3) Average	4.33	3.33	3.00
Kestrel	Totals	24	22	19
	(n = 7) Average	3.43	3.14	2.71
Little Owl	Totals	3	2	2
	(n = 1) Average	3.00	2.00	2.00
Merlin	Totals	24	15	12
	(n = 6) Average	4.00	2.50	2.00
Peregrine	Totals	30	21	18
	(n = 11) Average	2.73	1.91	1.64
Sparrowhawk	Totals	5	5	3
	(n = 1) Average	5.00	5.00	3.00
Short-eared Owl	Totals	1	1	1
	(n = 1) Average	1.00	1.00	1.00
Tawny Owl	Totals	2	2	2
	(n = 1) Average	2.00	2.00	2.00
<i>plus</i> Raven	Totals	66	36	27
	(n = 15) Average	4.40	2.40	1.80

RINGING REPORT FOR 2000

I. M. Spence

On behalf of the Clwyd Bird Recording Group, I wrote to the few ringers who are not part of Merseyside Ringing Group (MRG) and live in Clwyd to ask them for their ringing totals and recoveries received during the year. It seems that most ringing in the county area is undertaken by MRG and the Spence, Stratford and Brenchley ringing partnership, though Stuart Thomas still rings a few birds. With the welcome reappearance of these bird reports, I shall endeavour to prepare totals lists and include the most interesting recoveries to provide the reader with some idea of the species that are trapped and then some information about movements of birds to and from Clwyd.

I thank the ringers who responded to my request and submitted totals and recoveries that may be used for this report: Merseyside Ringing Group (Paul Triggs), John Lawton Roberts, Chester Rowley, Spence, Stratford and Brenchley (Ian M. Spence), and Stuart K. Thomas.

The majority of birds ringed in 2000 were caught by Merseyside RG, mainly at their site in the steelworks at Shotton, though with significant contributions from their nest-boxes in different parts of Clwyd. The totals indicate that there is continuing dedicated effort put into the ringing of: raptors, Common Tern chicks, finding nests of Whinchat and Wheatear on the Clwydian hills, Reed Warblers, and Pied Flycatchers and tits at various locations with sets of nest-boxes.

Increasingly, the ringing and nest record information is being computerised by the recorders so that the data can be transferred to the British Trust for Ornithology by electronic means (usually email) so that they are available for analysis immediately. All the records by Ian Spence are computerised and the other significant contributors – Merseyside RG and John L. Roberts are in the process of establishing their systems. Thus, the small numbers of birds ringed in north-east Wales will be able to contribute to the national picture by being used in the BTO's Integrated Population Monitoring programme.

The recoveries that have been included are those that seem to be of most interest and include further examples of the movements of Mute Swans; a fairly old Oystercatcher; examples of the movements of the Common Terns from Shotton; a Wren movement to Cornwall (that was sufficiently long to appear in the national ringing report); interesting movements involving birds caught at Shotton and at Bronbannog and the more interesting movements of birds from nest-boxes. The Chaffinch ringed as a nestling and found in the Netherlands is most surprising.

The people who ring birds generate much information on movements by catching birds ringed by other ringers ('controlled'), but ringers are always very grateful to the members of the public who report the details of dead birds that they find, using the details on the rings themselves. I thank all these people for their contributions to this report.

	TOTALS		
	FullGrown	Pulli	Total
Hen Harrier	0	9	9
Goshawk	0	6	6
Buzzard	0	25	25
Kestrel	0	21	21
Merlin	0	8	8
Peregrine	0	4	4
Water Rail	1	0	1
Common Tern	0	632	632
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4	0	4
Swallow	1	0	1
Tree Pipit	5	0	5
Wren	44	0	44
Dunnock	22	0	22
Robin	63	0	63
Redstart	5	0	5
Whinchat	0	54	54
Wheatear	0	39	39
Blackbird	20	0	20
Song Thrush	5	0	5
Grasshopper Warbler	6	0	6
Sedge Warbler	54	0	54
Reed Warbler	178	0	178

	FullGrown	Pulli	Total
Lesser Whitethroat	1	0	1
Whitethroat	13	0	13
Garden Warbler	7	0	7
Blackcap	37	0	37
Chiffchaff	17	0	17
Willow Warbler	98	0	98
Goldcrest	63	0	63
Pied Flycatcher	9	167	176
Long-tailed Tit	37	0	37
Marsh Tit	2	0	2
Willow Tit	7	0	7
Coal Tit	17	0	17
Blue Tit	111	60	171
Great Tit	50	20	70
Treecreeper	2	0	2
Jay	1	0	1
Magpie	1	0	1
Starling	5	0	5
House Sparrow	6	0	6
Tree Sparrow	0	21	21
Chaffinch	77	0	77
Brambling	1	0	1
Greenfinch	95	0	95
Goldfinch	8	0	8
Siskin	5	0	5
Redpoll	11	0	11
Bullfinch	9	0	9
Reed Bunting	32	0	32
	1130	1066	2196

Codes used in the recoveries:

M	Male
F	Female
Pull.	Ringed as a pullus (nestling)
1	Fully grown, year of hatching quite unknown
2	Hatched during calendar year of ringing
3J	Hatched during calendar year of ringing and in juvenile plumage
4	Hatched before calendar year of ringing, but exact year unknown
5	Hatched during previous calendar year
6	Hatched before previous calendar year, but exact year unknown
7	Definitely hatched two calendar years before ringing
8	Hatched more than two calendar years before ringing

Selected recoveries:

U1537	Mute Swan 7 F	
12 07 1992	Ellesmere, Shropshire	
16 09 1999	Abergele, Clwyd	
	62 km 313° 2622 days	Controlled
U6786	Mute Swan 5 F	
28 07 1996	Foryd Bay, near Caernarfon, Gwynedd	
26 05 2000	Mostyn Hall, Mostyn, Clwyd	
	72 km 72° 1398 days	Intentionally taken, released alive at River Elwy, Rhuddlan
Z54181	Mute Swan 8 F	
07 11 1989	Rhyl, Clwyd	
12 05 1999	Much Wenlock, near Telford, Shropshire	
	101 km 142° 3473 days	Dead, bird found
Z86772	Mute Swan Pull. F (Blue UIP)	
03 08 1996	Waverton Canal, Chester, Cheshire	
26 07 1997	Aber Ogwen, near Bangor, Gwynedd	
05 11 1997	Llanddulas, Clwyd	
	57 km 283° 459 days	Colour mark record
Z90856	Mute Swan 6 M (Blue UYH)	
08 12 1996	near Pulford, Cheshire	
31 01 1997	Towyn, Clwyd	
16 09 1999	Towyn, near Rhyl, Clwyd	
	45 km 294° 1012 days	Controlled
Z91360	Mute Swan Pull.	
28 08 1998	Menai Bridge, Gwynedd	
19 11 1999	Kinmel Bay, Clwyd	
	42 km 77° 448 days	Dead, bird found on beach

FV08869 Oystercatcher 5
 02 03 1980 Point of Ayr, Clwyd
 28 08 1999 Klepp, Rogaland, **NORWAY**, 58°45'N 05°30'E
 811 km 42° 7118 days Controlled

ES09114 Black-headed Gull 8
 13 03 1993 Rixton, Warrington, Cheshire
 03 07 2000 Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Mold, Clwyd
 62 km 233° 2669 days Found dying, tangled in fishing line

GK18488 Herring Gull 8
 05 12 1998 Rhos on Sea, Clwyd
 12 06 2000 Blackpool, Lancashire
 71 km 38° 555 days Dead, bird found on beach

CE02374 Common Tern Pull.
 19 06 1988 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 03 09 2000 Seaforth, Liverpool, Merseyside
 30 km 2° 4459 days Field record

SV14293 Common Tern Pull.
 21 06 1998 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 12 05 2000 off coast, **GHANA**, at sea, north Atlantic, 04°35'N 00°15'W
 5409 km 177° 691 days Caught and released

SV41227 Common Tern Pull.
 18 06 2000 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 30 09 2000 Marismas del Odiel, Huelva, **SPAIN**, 37°15'N 06°56'W
 1799 km 190° 104 days Controlled

SV41489 Common Tern Pull.
 06 08 2000 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 05 09 2000 River Teviot, near Hawick, Borders Region
 245 km 4° 30 days Found with injury, unable to fly, in care, fate unknown

SX28262 Common Tern Pull.
 19 06 1994 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 29 06 1995 Seaforth, Liverpool, Merseyside
 26 08 2000 Marismas del Odiel, Huelva, **SPAIN**, 37°15'N 06°56'W
 1799 km 190° 2260 days Controlled

SX54360 Common Tern Pull.
 16 06 1996 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 20 07 2000 The Skerries, Gwynedd
 106 km 282° 1495 days Field record

NU84666 Little Tern Pull.
 03 07 1999 near Gronant, Clwyd
 03 08 2000 Marley Common, near Haslemere, Surrey
 311 km 145° 397 days Found sick and exhausted, died in
 care overnight

1M5775 Wren 5 F
 04 06 1998 near Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest, Clwyd
 04 12 1999 near St Kew, Bodmin, Cornwall
 294 km 198° 548 days Dying, road casualty

1Z5419 Wren 3J
 11 09 1999 near Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest, Clwyd
 13 10 1999 Baschurch, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (SJ4222)
 49 km 127° 32 days Freshly dead, hit glass

Norway
 JB30953 Blackbird 3
 14 08 1998 Fiane, Kragero, Telemark, NORWAY, 58° 48'N 09° 23'E
 21 11 1999 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 989 km 231° 464 days Controlled

N090972 Sedge Warbler 4
 09 05 1999 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 11 04 2000 Laguna de la Nava, Fuentes de Nava, Palencia, SPAIN, 42°05'N
 04°48'W
 1244 km 186° 338 days Controlled

N859399 Reed Warbler 3J
 21 08 1999 Betley Mere, Betley, Staffordshire
 14 05 2000 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 50 km 297° 267 days Controlled

1Z5621 Goldcrest 3J M
 29 08 2000 near Bron Bannog, Clocaenog Forest, Clwyd
 16 11 2000 Talbot Heath, Poole, Dorset
 278 km 158° 79 days Freshly dead, taken by cat

4L1095 Goldcrest 2 M
 22 10 1997 Marley Common, Sussex
 24 04 1998 near Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest, Clwyd
 287 km 320° 184 days Contolled (again 21.06.1998)

5G5565 Goldcrest 3J M
 25 08 1997 near Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest, Clwyd
 21 03 2000 Badby, near Daventry, Northamptonshire
 178 km 121° 939 days Freshly dead, hit patio window

J941698 Pied Flycatcher 4 F
 26 05 1996 Purlogue, near Clun, Shropshire
 20 05 1999 Coed Nant-ddu, near Clocaenog, Clwyd
 79 km 344° 1089 days Controlled

K263995 Pied Flycatcher Pull. (6/6)
 19 06 1996 Great How, Thirlmere, Cumbria
 16 05 1999 Llewesog Hall, Prion, Clwyd
 10 06 2000 Llewesog Hall, Prion, Clwyd
 159 km 188° 1452 days Controlled, breeding (= F)

K418567 Pied Flycatcher Pull. 5/5
 09 07 1996 near Llanfair Talhaiarn, Clwyd
 15 05 1999 near Nantclwyd Hall, near Rhuthun, Clwyd
 26 km 130° 1040 days Controlled

N236553 Pied Flycatcher Pull. 6/6
 08 06 1997 Hawkstone Park, Weston-under-Redcastle, Shropshire
 15 05 1999 near Nantclwyd Hall, near Rhuthun, Clwyd
 52 km 295° 706 days Controlled

N548931 Pied Flycatcher 4 F
 20 05 1998 Near Kingsley, Staffordshire
 21 05 2000 Penbedw, near Nannerch, Clwyd
 85 km 280° 732 days Controlled, breeding

K810586 Blue Tit 4
 28 12 1996 Meols, Wirral, Merseyside
 28 04 1999 Coed Cilygroeslwyd, near Efenechtyd, Rhuthun, Clwyd
 35 km 198° 851 days Controlled

VX97458 Great Tit Pull. (7/7)
 30 05 1999 Pandy, near Glyn Ceiriog, Clwyd
 05 12 1999 Wistaston, Crewe, Cheshire
 52 km 69° 189 days Controlled

N284027 Chaffinch Pull. (4/4)
 05 06 1998 Pandy, near Glyn Ceiriog, Clwyd
 14 05 2000 Castricum Duinen, Noord-Holland, THE NETHERLANDS, 52°33'N
 04°37'E
 527 km 94° 709 days Controlled (= M)

VS59434 Greenfinch 4 M
 05 12 1999 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 19 03 2000 Knowlesands, Eardington, Bridgnorth, Shropshire
 88 km 152° 105 days Controlled

What does the future hold for Farmland Birds in North-East Wales?

by Nick Thomas

Countryside Council for Wales, Senior Tir Gofal Project Officer, NE Wales

The CBRG have picked the Yellowhammer as the feature bird of this year's Clwyd Bird Report as a symbol of the community of farmland birds, the decline in populations of which is now causing national concern. Other similarly affected members of this community are Grey Partridge, Linnet, Bullfinch, Tree Sparrow, Corn Bunting, Barn Owl and Kestrel. For the last few years, we have been bombarded by doom and gloom stories about the decline of farmland birds in the UK. Wales seems to have suffered more severely than most, with Corn Bunting and Turtle Dove on the verge of extinction and many others in steep decline.

Reasons for the Declines

- **Direct Loss of Habitats** - such as wetland drainage and improvement of moorland and species rich grassland.
- **The use of Inorganic Fertilisers and Pesticides**
- **The Switch from Late Cut Hay to Early and Frequently Cut Silage**
- **Increases in Stocking Rates and a Switch from Mixed Stocking**
- **The Decline in Arable Farms in Wales**
- **Intensification of Remaining Arable Crops**

At first glance, the Welsh countryside doesn't look much different to how it looked fifty years ago. The hedgerows are still there with bits of moorland here and there and plenty of livestock around - but the changes have been immense.

The overall result is a much less varied countryside than fifty or even twenty years ago, dominated by intensively managed grassland. No wonder many farmland birds are disappearing. It's easy to blame farmers

for this but they have simply responded to government incentives to intensify and it has resulted in the cheap and abundant food in the shops which we all enjoy.

The Impact of Predators

Some might want to add predators to this list, for there is no doubt that many have increased dramatically in number over the last few decades, notably Carrion Crows, Magpies, foxes and many birds of prey.

Current research on the highly complex subject of the impact of predators on farmland birds suggests that some predators can have a significant impact on some species in some years at some sites, but this can change from year to year and site to site. It is thought that where habitat quality is poor and food availability low (especially during wet summers) predators can have a significant impact. But where habitat quality and food availability is OK most species seem to be able to survive the ravages of predators. When species are down to really low numbers, predators can be the final nail in their coffin, but the real cause of their decline is the loss of suitable habitats.

Farmland Bird Hot Spots in North-East Wales

Amidst all the gloom there is some good news. The Dee Valley from just west of Chester to Bangor on Dee was once known as a very good area for wintering wildfowl, with a flock of White-fronted Geese and Whooper and Bewick's Swans on occasions, now rarely seen. Recent surveys, however, have shown that this is an outstanding area for breeding farmland birds, with approximately:

- 320 pairs Lapwing
- 20 pairs Curlew
- 60 pairs Tree Sparrow
- 50 pairs Yellow Wagtail
- small numbers of Yellowhammer, Redshank, Curlew and possibly 1 or 2 pairs of Corn Bunting

This area has seen plenty of agricultural intensification but it still retains some wet grassland and whilst the farms are mainly dairy farms, a good deal of mixed arable cropping still takes place. This mixture seems to have enabled it to retain this reasonably healthy farmland bird population.

This raises the question whether other areas could also still hold reasonable populations. The Vale of Clwyd appears to have much the same range of habitats, possibly with more arable land. We know that there is a reasonable Lapwing population, particularly between Denbigh and Rhuddlan but could there be more that has simply been overlooked?

What is being done to help?

A number of initiatives have been launched to try to halt the decline of farmland birds:

- ♦ The RSPB Welsh Lapwing Recovery Project has worked with landowners across Wales to try to improve management for Lapwings, with some success, whilst the success of "Bird Aid", where farmers are paid to put out grain over the winter has yet to be assessed. That this initiative may well be useful is indicated by the large flocks of Tree Sparrows recorded feeding on grain at Beaches farm, Saltney Ferry, one of the sites in that scheme.
- ♦ In the longer term, changes in agricultural incentives from the present production based system to one based on stewardship of the countryside, is the main hope for these birds. Steps in this direction have been taken, through the development of agri-environment schemes, and, in Wales, we now have the National Assembly's Tir Gofal scheme administered by the Countryside Council for Wales. This pays farmers to manage their land in an environmentally sensitive fashion, with payments for managing existing habitats and the re-creation of lost habitats. Of particular importance for farmland birds are the arable options with farmers

able to

- * grow unsprayed cereal crops
- * leave stubbles over the winter
- * grow root crops
- * leave margins fallow
- * grow wildlife cover crops

Approximately 700 farms have entered the scheme in Wales with 50 in north-east Wales (covering an area of 6819 ha). Of these, approximately twenty have entered land into the arable options of the scheme. It is hoped that a monitoring programme will be put together to analyse what impact, if any, they have had on farmland bird populations. With another 60 farms due to enter Tir Gofal in NE Wales by April 2002, the amount of un-intensively managed arable land will start to increase substantially in the area.

- ♦ Local birders can help conservation efforts by sending in more records to aid Local Biodiversity Action Plans as outlined in CBRG's recent Reports.

Could more be done?

There is no doubt that more could be done. For example, if every farmer grew an acre of unsprayed root crops, or left a small unharvested and unsprayed strip alongside a hedgerow to provide winter feed, what an impact that could have on seed-eating birds. Similarly, hedges can be managed to optimise the fruit crop they produce from hawthorn and other species. They can be left uncut until February when the birds will have taken the hips, haws and other seeds. Similarly, on many industrial estates there are frequently vacant lots. If these were ploughed and planted with a crop like linseed and left unharvested this could have a huge impact. Many Nature Reserves have a few adjoining acres of improved fields. If an acre of these were put to arable use this could make a difference. Nor should we underestimate the impact of gardening for wildlife and bird feeding. These can help through the lean winter months and provide invaluable oases of habitat. In some parts of the country, garden feeding has probably been the major factor in retaining Tree Sparrow and Yellowhammer populations.

HARD TO SWALLOW

by Ron Plummer

Whilst recently looking through an old book, I came across a report about the wintering habits of swallows. Although the pages were somewhat faded and the Old English text sometimes difficult to follow, the article made for compulsive reading. The author, a Mr Klein from Dantzick, had pieced together an account made up from the observations by others and called upon works by Aristotle, Pliny, Herodotus and Isidorus to give substance to his theory.

"Where do swallows go in winter?" he wonders. Surely, they cannot fly far. As the days lengthen and the weather becomes cooler with the onset of autumn, flocks of swallows can be seen flying low over pools and lakes, not singing and without any briskness to their airborne antics. If they perch on reed stems and are startled, the narrative continues, they will tend to lethargically drop and flutter only a short distance to another favourable resting place. Certainly not one would expect of a bird waiting to travel any great distance. More likely, says Mr Klein, these birds were getting ready to hibernate for the winter by dropping into the depths of the water. Not being able to write from personal experience, Mr Klein calls upon reports from distinguished and respected people in Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Sweden, Livonia and Prussia where swallows are known to change their element and retire underwater in winter.

"Why," asks the author, "should the Jamaican swallow wish to fly away from that country when the seasons there are almost of the same temperature?" Swallows in Ethiopia and Egypt stay in those places over winter and so there is no reason to suppose that the European swallow is any different.

Mr Klein tells of how his father found four black martins, or swifts, hibernating in a high cleft of an oak tree that was felled during winter. These he awakened by placing them close to the heat from the stove, but they lived for only a short while. He also tells of a swift found dead in Andalusia in Spain but because there were no records of similar birds from the area, he admits that this must have been a straggler, accidentally blown off course and across the narrowest part of the Mediterranean Sea

by strong winds from its native home in North Africa.

The Report concludes that, of the four species of swallow known in Europe, with no others in the New World, two spend their winters in holes and under thatches whilst the other two retreat under water. It is objected that the nature of swallows will not permit them to remain under water without sustenance or feeling and yet still stay alive. "But," says Mr Klein, "can it be positively proven that it is contrary to the nature of swallows to live under water?"

In reply to this article, a Doctor Wright criticises Mr Klein's assumptions and asks how swallows breathe under water. Being birds of the air, they must surely perish without oxygen. He further argues the the gathering of swallows in reedbeds is more likely to be because the birds are gathering to fly to their wintering grounds and those few which are pulled half-dead from the water are nothing more than old or ill birds. To assimilate birds with insects and fishes that can lie dormant through winters is to give a false reasoning, and, says Dr Wright, "Mr Klein should have withheld his article until all the arguments for and against the wintering habits of swallows had been discussed in full."

The year of the article? 1759.

Ron Plummer

SEA-WATCHING AT THE POINT OF AIR

by Gareth Stamp

The Point of Air is one of the premier sea-watching sites in Clwyd. To witness the best movements of seabirds, the weather and tide have to be right. The best weather conditions are when the winds blow west to north-west, preferably after gale-force south-westerly winds. The more prolonged the blow, the greater the chance of something more unusual being forced into the estuary. During west to north-westerly blows, seabirds are pushed into the estuary and then struggle out again, often passing close in front of the Dee and Air buoys. Seabird passage is usually best two or three hours either side of high tide, but petrels will

continue to pass throughout the day. Watching is possible from the hide (useful in very poor weather) but seabirds are usually more distant. Most bird-watchers congregate on the high dunes behind the lighthouse to improve their viewing of the sea.

Birds through the seasons:

Summer:

Manx Shearwater (occasionally large movements), Gannet, Fulmar, Kittiwake, Common Scoter, Guillemot, Razorbill.

From June: large concentrations of Sandwich and Common Terns congregate offshore. These often attract Arctic Skuas.

From July: British Storm-petrel and Little Gulls occur in varying numbers.

Autumn:

Offshore from August to October: Manx Shearwater, Red-throated Diver, Gannet, Guillemot, Razorbill, Red-breasted Merganser, Fulmar, large numbers of Terns, Arctic Skuas, Great Skua.

Leach's Petrel (a north-west speciality) occurs annually in varying numbers and, more rarely, Balearic Shearwater, Pomarine Skua, Long-tailed Skua, Puffin, Sooty Shearwater, Sabine's Gull and Grey Phalarope. Larger Shearwaters such as Great and Cory's are very rare but have been recorded.

Winter: Great Skua, all three divers, Long-tailed Duck, Eider and Common Scoter.

Weather conditions can be diabolical so bring waterproofs. Please note: during such conditions visibility can be very poor. Just to whet the appetite, on 3 October, 1999, when conditions were ideal, the total seabird counts recorded were:

15 Leach's Petrel	2 Long-tailed Skuas	10 Arctic Skuas
1 Pomarine Skua	100 Kittiwakes	1 Great Skua
10 Manx Shearwater	100 Fulmar	60 Common Scoter

LITTLE TERNS AT GRONANT - THE STORY SO FAR

by Gareth Stamp

Despite recent results, it is not all doom and gloom at Gronant Little Tern colony. In fact, it's a story of success. Gronant's Little Tern colony has grown from a mere 15 pairs back in 1975 to an impressive 85 pairs to date. It has endured several years of hardship to reach its stronghold position of today. The RSPB has been involved with its management since 1975. The graph illustrates the rise of the colony to its current status.

The breeding graph demonstrates the erratic breeding success of the Little Terns at Gronant, typical of this species. Little Terns are long-lived birds and their population is capable of withstanding poor breeding years. During the last decade, Gronant has had the reputation for being one of the most productive colonies in Britain, and you can see why. In excess of 100 young were raised in each of the following years - 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1999 - but subsequent results have been disappointing.

Gronant encounters similar problems to other colonies - predation by foxes, crows and kestrels; human disturbance; tidal inundation and weather. Human disturbance is kept to a minimum by fencing the beach off from the public and wardening the site. We are also able to manage nests, successfully, to avoid losing them to tides. However, natural predation is less predictable. At Gronant, a combination of 24-hour wardening, electric fencing and chick shelters have been used since 1991 to help deter foxes and crows. I am certain that these factors have strongly contributed to the very high breeding success since 1991.

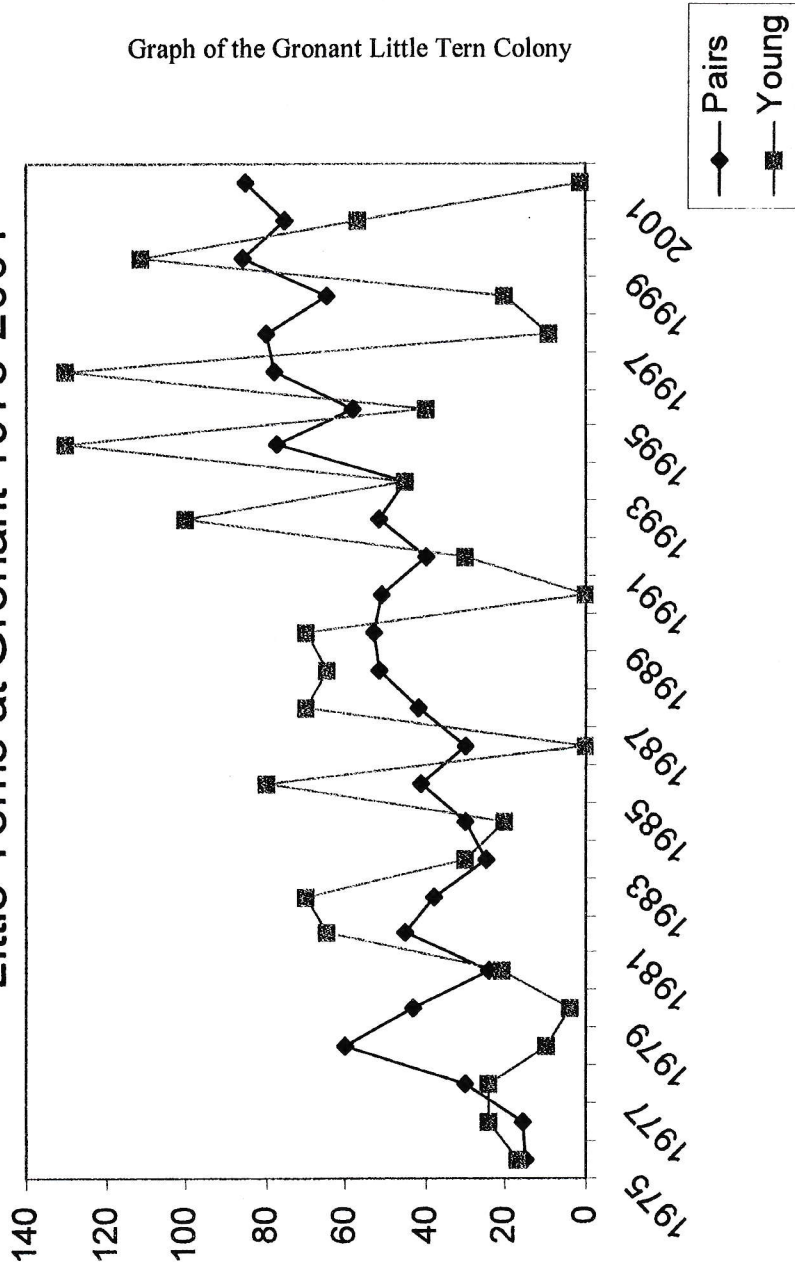
Although the last two years have not been the best, each season is reviewed by RSPB with the intention of making improvements for the following season. One thing is for certain, the Gronant Little Tern colony is thriving and at a record 85 pairs.

The RSPB is grateful to the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) for their continued support and generous funding of the Little Tern project.

TREE SPARROWS NESTING AT LLANARMON-YN-IAL

Little Terns at Gronant 1975-2001

Graph of the Gronant Little Tern Colony



Since the first week in April 2001, I have been following, as best I may, the fortunes of a Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) that took up residence in a nest-box in a cottage garden in the village of Llanarmon-yn-Iâl. For much of the time, from April 3 until 11 July, it was accompanied by an adult partner, subsequently by a juvenile (presumed offspring) and finally remained alone unaccompanied.

I noted on 3 April: "Two Tree Sparrows investigating nest-box in Ash tree, one repeatedly entering the box; in the afternoon taking nesting material into the box. Both birds together in garden from 08.00 hours until 19.00 hrs and feeding together at the bird-table." Observations up to 16 April confirmed the impression of the two birds being a pair in occupation of the nest-box, sometimes being in the box together. From 17 April until 3 May, the two Tree Sparrows were typically present in the garden in the early morning but generally were not seen later in the day. On April 19, a Great Tit perched at the entrance and looked in to the undefended box as did, on other occasions, a Pied Flycatcher, a Blue Tit, a House Sparrow, a Starling and a Nuthatch but I never saw any birds enter other than the Tree Sparrows.

On 28 April, both Tree Sparrows, whilst preening, plucked feathers and took these in to the box and from 4 May until 5 June, both made frequent visits to the box throughout the day. On the fourth of May, both were in the box together and, on leaving, attempted/achieved copulation in the Ash tree. A pattern of behaviour was becoming established in which one remained inside the box for several minutes (up to 14 minutes on one occasion) whilst the other 'stood guard' outside.

On May 9, both birds twice entered the box together carrying white feathers. On the 13th a Starling thrust its head in and, while one of the Sparrows fluttered ineffectually behind it, made off with a bill full of feathers. Half-an-hour later, the Starling returned and, after confronting the two Tree Sparrows, now perched together on a branch a little above the nest-box, it moved to the box entrance. As if launched as one missile, the two Tree Sparrows struck the back of the Starling and dislodged it. In the two succeeding months I did not see another Starling in the garden!

On two occasions, on the 18 May, whilst one Tree Sparrow was perched at the entrance, the other emerged from inside the box, pushing past the first, which then entered. On the 19th there were more copulating gestures. On the 25th, both frequently entered and exited the box, sometimes brushing past one another in the entrance. On the 30th, it became apparent that seeds from the bird-table were being fed to nestlings in the box, though foraging elsewhere continued. On the fourth of June, the pair of Tree Sparrows were continuing to convey food to the nest-box, including seeds from the bird-table, and, as the parents perched at the entrance, the head of the nestling emerged to receive food. On the sixth of June, it appeared that

only one parent bird was conveying food, and the two adults were never again seen together. Some time later a report was received of an adult Tree Sparrow having been found dead in the lane in the first week in June. On the eighth of June, it seemed that one nestling was receiving all the food, the parent rarely entering the box.

From the ninth of June until the nineteenth, one adult bird fed at the bird-table several times during the day, ignoring the nest-box and with no suggestion of it taking food elsewhere. No nestling nor fledgling was seen.

[From 12 June until 17 June the observer was absent.]

From 20 June until 7 July, a pattern of behaviour was repeated daily whereby the adult and the juvenile entered the box either together or alternating, the juvenile leaving after two minutes and the adult after ten. On the seventh, the adult entered the box twelve times but the juvenile was not seen again. On the ninth, the adult entered the box three times whilst a Nuthatch prowled around. On the tenth, between 06.15 hrs and 18.35, the adult entered the box 13 times, whilst the Nuthatch, a Great Tit and a Chaffinch showed interest in it. On the eleventh, the adult bird fed at the bird-table, entered the box twice, but, after 07.30 was not seen again. A Nuthatch and two Great tits later inspected the box but subsequently no bird was interested in it.

On the second of August, the nest-box was examined. The nest, a foundation of grasses overlaid with a generous cover of feathers, appeared fresh and clean. It contained no eggs or shell, but a partially fledged dead nestling was found.

Denis Summers-Smith has commented "it is not uncommon for Tree Sparrow pairs to nest in isolation, though loose colonial nesting is more the norm."

Leader Hawkins
13 August, 2001

Contributors

Roger & Megan Bagguley, John Beaumont, John Birch, Mark Boilstone, Anne Brenchley, Mike Clark, Lynn Davies*, Margaret Ellis, Ian Evans, Mair Evans, John Bryan Formstone, Colin Greenhalgh, Brian Grey, Mike Griffiths, Norman and Pauline Hallas, Dave Healey, Ivor Harris, Ian Higginson, Neil Hughes, Simon Hugheston-Roberts, Elvet & Louise Jones, Gareth Jones, Hazel Jones, Helen Parry Jones, Edward Lyons, Rev. Hugh Lynn, John Marchant, S. Morris*, Jason Newton, Geoff Odgers, Beryl Parry*, Ron Plummer, Brian and Wyn Prince, Peter Rathbone, D.F. & C.M. Richardson, John Lawton Roberts, G. Robinson*, Barry Rogers, Mervyn Rogers, C. Rowley*, J.P. Small, David Smith, John V. Smith, Kevin Smith, Ian Spence, Gareth Stamp, John Stokes, Nick Thomas, Paul Triggs, Colin Wells, Mrs Christine Williams*, Stephen Williams.

(refers to contributors from whom records were received indirectly)*

plus

BHP Petroleum Limited (*Helen McSpadden*); The British Trust for Ornithology (*Mike Raven*); Dee Estuary Web Site (*Richard Smith: 0151 625 2320 or richard@deeestuary.co.uk*); Deeside Naturalists' Society, Connah's Quay Reserve (*Brian Grey, Secretary*); Merseyside Ringing Group; Shotton Paper Bird Report (*Ron Plummer*); Shotton Steelworks Records (*John Birch and Paul Triggs*); Welsh Development Agency Breeding Bird Surveys; Welsh Raptor Study Group Annual Report; Wrexham Birdwatchers Annual Report

and the systematic lists for the following RSPB Reserves:

Bagillt Bank, Mostyn Dock, Oakenholt Marsh, Point of Ayr and POA Colliery Lagoons (*Gareth Stamp, Assistant Warden, Dee Estuary with acknowledgements to those recorders, including DNS members, who provided reserve log records and to Brian Grey and David Pugh for the WeBS counts and to Chester Rowley and the BHP Monitoring Programme*); Inner Marsh Farm** (*Colin Wells, RSPB Site Manager, Dee Estuary Reserve with acknowledgements to those who contributed to the IMF log book and E.J. Abrahams, B.S. Barnacle and Gareth Stamp*); Conwy RSPB Nature Reserve** (*Ian Higginson, Warden*)

***Note: only parts of the IMF and Conwy Reserves relate to Clwyd as outlined on pages 14-15.*

OBITUARY

CHARLES "CHARLIE" DONE 1920 - 2001

Charlie first became involved in the pursuit of ornithology in the late 1950s when he joined The Merseyside Naturalists Association.

Through membership of this organisation, Charlie met and befriended a group of young birdwatchers some of whom had developed an interest in bird ringing. As a result of this Charlie became a keenly active member of the then newly formed Merseyside Ringing Group.

Having lived most of his adult life in Flintshire, much of Charlie's ringing activities were centred in that County, and in particular at Shotton Steelworks. In 1964, largely through his endeavours, a Nature Reserve was set up within the steelworks. This is still a thriving area and is home to one of the largest Common Tern colonies in the UK.

Charlie's interests, however, were not confined to bird ringing. He was also very interested in the wildlife of his home county. Charlie joined the Flintshire Ornithological Society and soon became a Committee member and later chairman. In the 1960s, Charlie was the chairman of a sub-committee of FOS members who wrote *A Checklist of the Birds of Flintshire*, which was the first published checklist of the birds of the County.

Charlie was still active as a birdwatcher well into his 70s and was a frequent visitor to Shotton until shortly before his death.

Charlie had numerous friends in the bird-watching world. He was always jovial and entertaining with a tremendous, if sometimes a little wicked, sense of humour.

Charlie touched the lives of all who knew him and will be greatly missed.

John Birch
December 2001

GAZETTEER

Where appropriate (for sensitive sites and larger areas)
only four-figure grid references are used

Abbreviation (if used)	Place name	Grid Reference	Abbreviation (if used)	Place name	Grid Reference
AP	Acton Park	SJ 345520		Greenfield Dock	SJ 200780
AWCP	Alyn Waters	SJ 332553	GVHP	Greenfield Valley	SJ 1977
	Country Park, Llay	and		Heritage Park	
		SJ 320546	GF	Gresford Flash	SJ 345536
BB	Bagillt Bank	SJ 235767	GL	Gresford Lake	SJ 348548
	BHP Pool, POA	SJ 124844		Gronant Dunes	SJ 090845
	Bod Petryal	SJ 037510		Gyfelia	SJ 328453
	Brickfields Pools/ Reserve	SJ 013803			
	Bronbannog	SJ 0352	HM	Hanmer Mere	SJ 455397
	Burton, near Rossett	SJ 357573	HMCP	Hope Mountain (Waun y Llyn)	SJ 350650
	Burton Meadows	SJ 350600		Country Park	
			HP	Hawarden Airfield	
				Horseshoe Pass, near Llangollen	SJ 185470
CLR	Caego	SJ 314513	IMF	Inner Marsh Farm	SJ 305735
	Cae Llwyd Reservoir	SJ 269478	IMF BP	IMF Border Pool	SJ 305735
	Clocaenog Forest	SJ 0353	KCF	Kimberly Clark, Flint	SJ 2373
	Coedpoeth	SJ 2951	LLR	Lindisfarne Lake,	SJ 308427
CQNR	Connahs Quay Nature Reserve	SJ 270720		Ruabon	
CR	Conwy RSPB Reserve	SH795775		Llanasa	SJ 106815
				Llanddulas	SH 910785
				Llandegla	SJ 196525
				Llawndy Farm (BHP)	SJ 118840
	Ddol Uchaf Reserve	SJ 141714		Llay	SJ 332557
	Dolwen Reservoir	SH973704		Llyn Bran	SH 962592
	Dyserth	SJ 056791		Llyn Brenig	SH 9755
				Llyn Helyg	SJ 1177
	Erddig Park	SJ 327482		Loggerheads	SJ 205627
	Erddig Flash	SJ 336487	LPJ	Large Pool,	SJ 2943
				Johnstown	
FC	Fenn's Moss	SJ 490370	MQ	Marford Quarry	SJ 358562
FLQ	Flint Castle	SJ 248732	MLR	Marine Lake, Rhyl	SJ 000805
	Fagl Lane Quarry, Hope	SJ 304583	MDR	Moss Valley	SJ 312523
				Mostyn Dock Reserve	SJ 1581

continued on next page

GAZETTEER (continued)

Abbreviation (where used)	Site	Grid Reference	Abbreviation (where used)	Site	Grid Reference
NEWI	Nant Mill Nercwys Mountain NE Wales Institute, Wrexham	SJ 288504 SJ 2258 SJ 328513	SF SL SBL SLJ SPJ	Sealand	SJ 340694
				Sealand Ranges	SJ 305726
				Shotwick Fields	SJ 320720
				Shotton Lagoons	SJ 3071
				Shotwick Boating Lake	SJ 315725
				Stryt Las, Johnstown	SJ 305449
				Small Pool near Johnstown	SJ 2743
OMR	Oakenholt Marsh Reserve	SJ 265722	TFR TWP TMR	Tainant	SJ 270465
				Talacre	SJ 124847
				Tatham Farm, Ruabon	SJ 2944
				Tommy's Wood Pool, Borrass	SJ 350530
				Trevalyn Meadows	SJ 395565
				Ty Mawr Reservoir	SJ 275480
PCR PMPA POA POA CL	Pendinas Reservoir	SJ 236518	WE WIE	Vivod	SJ 191424
	Pensarn	SH 950785			
	Penycae	SJ 281452		Walwen	SJ 207766
	Penycae Reservoir	SJ 2645		Warren Farm, Talacre	SJ 115843
	Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele	SH 943785		World's End Wrexham	SJ 238478
	Point of Ayr	SJ 130850		Industrial Estate	SJ 3749
	Colliery Lagoons	SJ 126836			
	Pontfadog Pontybodkin	SJ 233381 SJ 272593			
RGC	Rhyl Golf Course	SJ 028824	YL	Ysceifiog Lake	SJ 145715
RML	Rhyl Marine Lake	SH 999805			
	Rhydymwyn	SJ 213663			
RM	Ruabon Moors Rossett	SJ 245465 SJ 368572			

LOCAL SOCIETIES

Clwyd Ornithological Society

The 'Clwyd', as it is known, is an informal birdwatching group - we meet in a pub near St. Asaph. In the winter months we have talks on birds and other related topics; throughout the year we visit a variety of places hoping to find birds etc. of interest.

Please join us - annual fee £5

Contact the treasurer: Elvet Jones, Sandiway, Llanasa, Holywell CH8 9NE
Phone: 01745 852984

Deeside Naturalists Society

A local natural history society, founded in 1973 to conserve flora and fauna on Deeside and in the surrounding area. The Society has 500 members. Meetings are monthly and slide shows are held from September to March. The Nature Reserve at Connah's Quay, alongside the River Dee, has several hides and a Field Studies Centre. (Permit required).

Current fees: Adult/Family £9; Pensioners: £5 Single, £7 Couple,
Juniors (under-18) and Students £1.50

Membership enquiries: please contact The Membership Secretary,
Keith Shannon, 6 Ffordd Pentre, Mold, Flintshire CH7 1UY
Telephone: 01352 753142

Wrexham Birdwatchers styles itself as 'the small friendly group' and members are aged from 8 to 80! We meet the first Friday and the (alternating) third Saturday/Sunday of every month. The winter Friday (indoor) programme runs from September to April and consists of a series of lectures/slide shows, currently held in the Memorial Hall, Gresford. The outdoor programme runs through the year. Social Evenings and Weekends away are also held. A Bulletin is produced regularly along with an Annual report. The current programme and further details may be obtained from:

The Hon. Secretary, Marian Williams, 10 Lake View, Gresford, nr
Wrexham LL12 8PU. Telephone: 01978-854633

Current fees: adult £7, family £12, juniors £3, OAP & students £4.

NATIONAL GROUPS

For information on National Groups in Flintshire and Denbighshire, please contact the following:

BTO Regional Representatives:

Clwyd East: Anne Brenchley, Ty'r Fawnog, 43 Blackbrook, Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6LT. Telephone: 01352 750118. E-mail: ian.anne@imsab.idps.co.uk

Clwyd West: Mel ab Owain, 31 Coed Bedw, Abergele, Conwy. LL22 7EH. E-mail: melabowain@cix.co.uk

North Wales Wildlife Trust: Adrian Lloyd-Jones, Loggerheads Country Park, Llanferres, near Mold. Telephone: 01352 - 810469

RSPB: for local **Members' Groups** please contact
(North Wales) Paul Braid 01492 516260
(Chester) Bernard Wright 01829 782243

Welsh Ornithological Society: for information on the WOS, please contact the Hon. Secretary, Paul Kenyon, 196 Chester Road, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 1LG. Telephone: 01606 77960