

Clywd Bird Report 2001



From an original watercolour painting by

John Wolf

Anne Brindley
100 N. Spence

May 2003

CLWYD BIRD REPORT

2001

**CLWYD BIRD RECORDING
GROUP**





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Warwick International Group
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CLWYD BIRD RECORDING GROUP

was founded over ten years ago. It comprises representatives from a variety of interested organisations. The membership for 2001 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)

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 2001 Clwyd Bird Report. As usual, my first task is to thank those 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.

CBRG may be unique among bird groups. We represent different interested parties, not one group or club, and our county no longer exists as a single administrative unit. Our primary aims are to produce an annual report, catch-up on missing years, and develop and encourage ornithological data collection in our area and we are making great strides in those directions (see below).

2001 will be remembered for the terrible scourge of Foot and Mouth Disease which restricted access to the countryside and to many nature reserves. Our report reflects the consequential dearth of records in this regard. The other great influence was the bad weather which probably had a deleterious effect on breeding bird populations.

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. With the development of conservation and the advent of new technology, the gradual move towards centralisation of record collection will continue apace. We hold several years of valuable bird records, mainly in paper form. In 2002, CBRG was fortunate to receive a Species Action grant from CCW to computerise records for some of the species covered in the national Biodiversity Action Plan. The purchase

of a laptop computer was enabled and the inputting of data on to the Recorder 2002 database will soon commence. Eventually, these records will find their way on to a Local Records Centre, once it is set up, and eventually on to a National Records Centre.

The question arises: has the concept of a Bird Report now outlived its usefulness? The advent of Record Centres and the existence of alternative sources of current information in the form of web-sites, Birdline reports and the like, may seem to suggest that. Somehow, however, I feel that there will be still a demand for a publication such as ours. My aims have been twofold in producing such a document. One is recreational - to make a collective record of bird sightings to remind participant Birdwatchers of what they and their colleagues have seen in our area, and, where possible, to inform interested parties from outside our area of what is going on. The second is that of conservation: to give some indication of the 'health' or otherwise of an area. Trends may be identified as signposts and parameters for action indicated. Of course, more can be done in both of these directions.

There are two more items I wish to mention before I can conclude this editorial. First, because we now input information in to a program which requires Grid References, I have had to include in our report a necessary reminder of the mechanism of such references. (*See enclosed article*). Initially, I was sceptical of such a need and, moreover, I was frightened that many of those who do not use such co-ordinates may be put off from sending in records—and they are many. May I say to those people please continue to send in records even when you do not feel confident in using grid references.

Finally, the other item to mention is that of security. It goes without saying that CBRG puts the interest of birds first. To this end, we exclude information which may lead to harm, such as site details of scarce breeding birds, unless in the public domain, and as a consequence, we have asked the Welsh Raptor Study Group (WRSG) to monitor our insertions regarding scarce raptors.

Boundary Changes

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, or tried, 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, the north-western and the south-eastern extremities of our area. In the first of these areas, 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*

The third area mentioned is that of the meres and mosses along the border area with England. There is a dearth of records for these areas. The probability is that they are covered by other groups. Hanmer Mere, our only mere in the Lakeland area, and Fenns and Bettisfield Mosses, are probably covered by Shropshire recorders as well as English Nature at Whixall Moss. Notwithstanding this, we would still welcome records from such areas.

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 submitted information from which the Recorder and others can make assessments as to status, distribution and so on. As explained above, not all records can be published but CBRG will attempt to archive every record in either written format or electronic. The updating of our system may allow the direct inputting of records from a spreadsheet format. Such records should be sent to:

anne.brenchley@cbrg1.idps.co.uk

Similarly, CBRG may also be able in future to make use of digital photographs and we would welcome such contributions.

I hope that people will welcome this report and find it of interest. We have a diversity of habitats and the 220 species or so which are found in this 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

In addition to all those who have sent in records (listed towards the end of this report) I would like to thank Warwick International Group for sponsoring this Report; those who have submitted illustrations, namely Ron Plummer, Philip Snow, Thelma Sykes and Colin Woolf; Anne Brenchley and the British Trust for Ornithology for the BBS figures; Kim Norman, Rob Palmer and Chester Rowley and BHP Petroleum Limited for their POA systematic list for 2001; Alan Morton for the production of maps using DMAP; Ron Plummer for the Shotton Paper Report 2001; Mair Evans, Elvet Jones and Paul Kenyon for checking the Welsh spellings; Richard Smith and the Dee Estuary Web Site and The Birdguides Web Site for any records; the Welsh Raptor Study Group for monitoring the raptor records; Alan Davies, John Harrison and Susan Morris for monitoring the rarity submissions and the CBRG Committee for its thorough proof-reading - though, of course, any errors or omissions are mine.

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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. Descriptions 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 and the current list of Welsh Rarities 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 should 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 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 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 and 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 which are under consideration in this report are indicated by the abbreviation 'tbc' ('to be considered') with the name of the appropriate authority appended. These are placed in the main body of the report if a description has been received or in an appendix pending the submission of a description. Verifications will be acknowledged in subsequent reports.

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF RARITY DESCRIPTIONS

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

SPECIES

Number of birds Sex Age

PLACE

County (New)

(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.

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Wrexham
LL12 7AW
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E-mail: Normanhallas@aol.com

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 2001

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, those 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 the article in the 2000 Report on Local Biodiversity by Dr Anne Brenchley.*)

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 Billiton] - 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. Separate figures designated FL refer solely to the POA Colliery Flushing lagoon.

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 consists of 700ha of intertidal mud. There are two reserve compartments - Fynnongroyw South Bay (north-west of Mostyn Dock) and Salisbury Middle (south-east of Mostyn Dock) - but in this Report reference is made only to the combined systematic list, 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 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: Connahs Quay Nature Reserve (SJ 270720). Designated CQNR in this Report. It includes Bunded 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 (including Llawndy and Warren Farms).

(e) Shotton Lagoons is a private industrial site at SJ 3071. Designated as SL in this Report. 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 by CBRG as of Conservation Concern in Clwyd |
| CP | Country Park |
| FMD | Foot and Mouth Disease |
| GC | Golf Club |
| 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 |
| 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 Web Site and BirdGuides for the inclusion of some of these records.</i> |
| ‡ | sightings reported in the BHP systematic list (see (d) above) |

PLEASE NOTE: FOR EASE OF USAGE, TABLES CARRY THE BTO SPECIES CODES IN EACH TOP LEFT CORNER

***FOR SITE NAMES AND THEIR ABBREVIATIONS AND OS NUMBERS,
PLEASE SEE GAZETTEER AT THE END OF THE REPORT***

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 and Pensarn. Llanddulas: 5+ on 2/03, 25 on 4/03, 1 on 26/03. At Pensarn there was 1 on 13/01, 5+ on 15/01 and 2 on 29/03. Also recorded off Rhos Point (1 on 9/03), Kinmel Bay (12 offshore on 3/01), Off POA/Gronant: 1 on 24-25/01, at least 6 on 25/03, 8 on 7/04, a peak of 13 on 25/04 and 4 on 6/05.

Second period: at Llanddulas there were 2 on 3/12 and 4 on 10/12. Also recorded at Rhos Point (1 on 14/12); POA where there were four records —1 on 7/09, 3 on 13/09, 2 on 15/09 and a single on 31/10; and on the River Dee at Flint Castle where there was 1 on 25/08!

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

Only three records: 1 off POA on 10/01, 1 off Llanddulas on 26/01 and 1 off Abergele beach, 3/03.

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

Five records: 1 off Colwyn Bay on 3/12 and 7/12. 1 flew past POA on 13/01 and 7/10 and 1 at Shotwick Lake on 17-18/01.

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

Successfully occupies most of our limited freshwater areas with *inland* records (mostly singles) from 17 sites at Bodfari, Borrass, Bwlchgwyn, Dolwen Reservoir (where a peak of 12 on 6/10), Erddig, FLQ, Greenfield Valley, Gresford Flash, Llandisfarne Lake nr Ruabon, Llay Pool, Llyn Brenig, Moss Valley, Nant-y-Frith Reservoir (SJ 2435341), Plas Isaf Reservoir, Plas Uchaf Reservoir (SH 9671) and at Pulford Brook (where 4 on 5/01) and Ysceifiog (where a peak of 14 on 12/02 and 6/10) and *coastal* records from 12 sites at Gronant marshes, IMF, KCF, MDR, OMR, POA, SBL, SL, Shotton Steelworks, Warren Farm and R. Clwyd at Rhuddlan and Rhyll + RSPB Conwy.

Confirmed breeding at Bodfari sandpit (SJ 114722) where a pair with 2 chicks on 3/06, Bwlchgwyn Quarry (SJ 258531) where 1 young fledged; Warren Farm, POA where there was a pair with 3 young, 27-28/06; Shotton Steelworks where 3 pairs bred and up to 3 young seen, June-September.

Maximum counts: 6 at OMR on 16/01 and 18/01; 14 at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 31/12 and 15 at RSPB Conwy on 24/06 (6 *ads* + 9 *juvs*).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*) GWYACH FAWR GOPOG
Breeding resident and winter visitor to coastal waters

Present at 12 inland sites. *Breeding confirmed* at Acton Park, Gresford Flash, Llay Pool, Llyn Brân, Llyn Brenig, Llyn Helyg (where also 2 pairs still sitting on nests by 24/06 and fledged 2 juvs each by 23/08) and Nant-y-Frith reservoir (SJ 243531).

Highest inland counts: 6 at Llyn Brenig inc. 4 juvs on 28/08; at least 5 at Hammer Mere on 31/12/01.

Coastal: recorded along the whole of the coast. A regular winter visitor to Llanddulas where a peak count of 14 were seen from 16/01 to 26/03 (including a pair displaying on 9/03) and Pensarn (peaking at 40+ on 15/01). In the second winter period there were 15+ at Llanddulas on 3/12. RSPB Conwy: 1-3 through the year.

Dee Estuary: Widely distributed along the river through the year. The main site is BB where the species is nearly ever-present. Here the peak count was 107 on 26/09 (monthly maxima are given in the table). Quite regular at MDR (see table), the peak count being 13 on 25/08/01. At POA the peak count was 102 on 31/01 and a LT count on 23/11 recorded 41. Also present at OMR with a peak of 10 on 30/11.

| (GG) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|
| BB | 24 | 2 | 15 | 56 | - | 51 | 25 | 37 | 107 | 43 | 79 | 14 |
| MDR | 5 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | 9 | 5 | 13 | 5 | - |

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*) GWYACH YDDFGOCH
Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County Rarity.

As last year, one at Llyn Helyg, 7/06-1/07 (E & L Jones, P. Triggs).

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.

FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialis*) ADERYN-DRYCYN Y GRAIG
now NORTHERN FULMAR
Breeding resident, summer visitor, and passage migrant.

Breeding record: 13 pairs nested on Llanddulas cliffs.

Birds were seen offshore from Rhos Point to Gronant. Off Rhos Point from 27/03-7/08, peaking at 30+ on 6/04. Recorded at Llanddulas breeding sites from 1/04 to 5/05, and offshore there in small numbers from 3/01 to 12/07. 20 off Gronant on 20/06 and 4 off Rhyl Splash Point on 8/09.

Dee Estuary: 10 on 8/01, 31 offshore on 7/04; 7 on 6-7/06; 22 flew W past POA on

3/09, 1 on 5/09 (2-hour sea watch), several on 9/09 and 60 on 15/09.
RSPB Conwy: 1 on 15/08.

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*)
Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

ADERYN-DRYCIN MAWR

1 past POA on 7/09 (N. Friswell).

MANX SHEARWATER (*Puffinus puffinus*)
Regular offshore during summer and autumn. Amber List [BI, BL, SPEC]

ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW

The main numbers came from sea-watches at POA where 3 seen with 3 Guillemot on 28/06 flying W, 120 on 6/06, 110 on 18/07 then varying numbers 7/09-15/09, with a peak of 300 on 9/09. 60 flying W in two hours, off Gronant, 1/06; 4 on 20/06 and 1 on 28/06. 6 past Towyn beach on 29/06. 3 off Rhyl Beach E on 6/09 and 10+ on 8/09.

STORM PETREL (*Hydrobates pelagicus*)
now EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL

PEDRYN DRYCIN

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

2 off Llanddulas (moving W, 1 feeding close inshore) on 12/07 after strong westerly winds and 2 past POA 11/07, 3 on 12/07 and 1 on 31/10. 1 at Gronant on 13/06. 2 at Rhyl Splash Point on 8/09. An in-blown bird taken by a juv Peregrine at Flint on 9/09.

LEACH'S PETREL (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)
now LEACH'S STORM-PETREL

PEDRYN GYNNFON-FFORCHOG

Autumn passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC]

After a slow start, this turned out to be an exceptional autumn

Coastal: 36 off Rhyl Beach E on 8/09.

Dee Estuary: A single record at Bagillt of 16 birds at HT on 19/01. There were six counts off Flint Point at HT giving 22 flying W on 3/09, 3-7 seen on successive days, 7-10/09 and then, in a 3½ hour period on 13/09, 305 were seen, some flying between sand dunes. Reported off POA from 3/09. About 100 were seen flying W past POA on 15/09 and 120 the next day. During very strong winds on 16/09, 15 birds were seen foraging over the River Dee very close below the tower hide at OMR as the tide flooded the marsh. Further birds were seen on 9/10 (1 past POA), 31/10 (4 past POA) and 9 were seen on 16/12.

GANNET (*Sula bassana*)

HUGAN

now **NORTHERN GANNET***Passage migrant. Amber List [BI, BL, SPEC]*

Noted offshore on various dates (from 6/04 to 14/09) at Rhos Point (6/04-7/08) Rhyl -Prestatyn (18/06-8/09), Llanddulas (14/09) and Gronant - POA (from 25/03 when 2 to 9/09). The largest counts were off Rhyl Beach E with 100+ on 18/06 and 64 on 8/09 and 80 off POA on 7/04 and 7/09. Gronant had 4 records for 1/06-9/09 and the peak count was 40 on 20/06. A peak of 10 at Rhos Point and Llanddulas on 6/04 and 12/07 respectively.

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 11 sites. Highest inland count: 27 at Llyn Brenig on 6/10.

Coastal: Common through the year and in much larger numbers than inland: peak counts of 30 on 6/04 at Rhos Point; 185 on Gronant beach on 20/06 and c450 on 18/11; 50 at Llanddulas on 12/07.

Birds are present throughout the year at the River Clwyd, Rhuddlan where S. Hughes is conducting an on-going study (*see table for the monthly counts*). Flocks flight in to roost from along the coast, from POA to the Ormes, but have diminished in numbers in recent years. Conwy Reserve: a peak of 11 on 28/03.

Dee Estuary: Widely distributed on the river through the year and regular in small numbers as far upstream as Berwyn near Llangollen. Large numbers were encountered at BB where the peak count of 463 was realised on 30/09. Other peak counts were 10 at MDR on 12/08; 27 at POA (HT) on 5/07 and 160 at OMR on 14/11 (*see table. The BB figures are aggregated counts for Greenfield, Walwen, Bagillt and Flint*).

| (CA) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| BB | 74 | 48 | 32 | 36 | - | 23 | 85 | 463 | 111 | 180 | 116 | 144 |
| MDR | 2 | - | 5 | - | - | - | 3 | 10 | 3 | 5 | - | 3 |
| OMR | 40 | 41 | - | - | - | - | - | 56 | 86 | 117 | 160 | 103 |
| POA | 22 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 26 | - | 27 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| RCR | 34 | 42 | 49 | 106 | 172 | 114 | 16 | 9 | 26 | 45 | 61 | 79 |

SHAG (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

MULFRAN WERDD

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

1 off Llanddulas on 19/02; 1 off Rhos Point on 9/03, 18/05, 2 on 19/06 and 1 on 23/11. 1 flew past POA on 3/09. 1 on Old Colwyn beach on 14/11.

BITTERN (*Botaurus stellaris*)

ADERYN Y BWN

now **GREAT BITTERN***Rare passage migrant. Clwyd County Rarity.*

A bird was "retrieved" by one of the gun dogs on the Bonwm/Corwen shoot in December and later released at Leighton Moss RSPB Reserve (via J.L. Roberts).

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)

CREYR BACH

Scarce localised winter and passage visitor

Increasingly seen, especially along the Dee estuary.

Dee Estuary Reserves: at POA, singles were present in May-July and up to six birds were regular during August to October. At OMR there were sightings from 20/07 to 15/09, peaking at 8 birds at HT on 18/08 and 20/08. CQNR had 1 on 1/10 and 3 on 3/10. Nearby Flint recorded at least 1-2 from 12/08-20/10 with a peak of 6 on 18/08 and 3 on 14/09. Bagillt had 4 on 11/09. A single was on the Dee near Shotton Steelworks on 19/08. Gronant Marsh had 1 on 13/11.

Also seen at R. Clwyd, Rhyl where 1 on 29/07, 3 on 30/08, 1 on 10/09, 2 on 29/09 and 3 on 11/11.

RSPB Conwy: singles April-August.

GREAT WHITE EGRET (*Egretta alba*)

CREYR MAWR GWYN

Rare vagrant and national rarity

A long-staying individual was seen feeding in the Dee estuary at LT off Flint Sands and occasionally roosting at OMR. Seen variously from 12/08-29/09 (report submitted to BBRC by A.G. Stamp).

GREY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*)

CREYR GLAS

Widespread resident. 2 Heronries were recorded in the Vale Of Clwyd and 2 in the South of the County. The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

Observed in both inland and coastal localities.

Inland: seen at some 27 sites. A peak count of 5 at Llyn Brenig on 23/11.

Coastal: A peak of 6 seen at R. Clwyd, S of Rhyl (12/10). Widely distributed on the Dee Estuary and present in most months of the year: 1-3 present most months at POA with peaks of 8 on 29/08 and at nearby Gronant on 13/06. OMR: present July-

November with peak count of 25 on 11/09 while nearby Flint held a peak of 34 on that date. Regular at MDR where the peak count was 9 at LT on 26/09/01. POA CL fewer records this year— only 7 sightings with a maximum of 7 on 19/08. Singles through the year at SL except for 7 on 14/06.

SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*)

LLWYBIG

now **EURASIAN SPOONBILL**

Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.

Dee Estuary Reserves: a record of a single adult on Flint Sands on 15/08 (G. Stamp).

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*)

ALARCH DÔF

Breeding resident.

Successful breeding in 8 areas: Acton Park, Brickfield LNR, Erddig Park, Gresford Flash, GV, Shotton Steelworks, SLJ, Sutton Green (SJ 416487)

Also seen at: BHP†, FLQ, Llay, Rhyl, Worthenbury and Ysceifiog.

Highest counts (of 10 or more): inland a peak of 21 at Ysceifiog on 13/01; 12 at Worthenbury (SJ 425470) on 15/02; 10 at Llay Pool on 2/05. Regular along the River Clwyd (between Rhuddlan and Rhyl) with a peak of 42 on 7/06 and at RML where a peak of 22 (inc. 6 juvs) on 1/01; 11 (inc. 2 juvs) at Rhyl Promenade on 20/01.

Dee Estuary Reserves: irregular at Flint Sands and OMR where the peak was 8 on 20/03 and 31 on 16/10, respectively; a winter visitor at POA CL where peak was 12 on 1/01. The main IMF flocked roosted on the outer saltmarsh in Cheshire—a new trend.

RSPB Conwy: a peak of 9 (7 ads + 2 juvs) on 24/06.

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: IMF/SF: during the first winter period, the flock fed on the adjacent potato fields and roosted on the reserve pools. In the second winter period, the flock grazed on the saltmarsh flashes off Shotton tip (Flintshire). The Reserve monthly maxima are given in the table.

| (BS) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| IMF | 104 | 119 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 11 | 28 | 75 |

WHOOPEE SWAN (*Cygnus cygnus*)

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

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

Located in three areas: there were 14 on the potato field adjacent to the IMF reserve on 3/01. 9 adults roosted with the Bewick Swans on 4/01. 2 adults fed on the potato field and roosted on the reserve, 1/02-21/03. 2 on R. Clwyd, Rhyl and then RML on 17/12. RSPB Conwy: 1 on 28/10 and 31/10.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

GWYDD DROED-BINC

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

Inland: 1 at Nant-y-Frith Reservoir, 22/12-28/12.

Coastal: 2 on 5/01, 1 on 7/01 then 2 with grey geese at River Clwyd nr Rhyl on 26/01-29/01 and a mobile flock of 16 in fields nearby on 20/12.

Dee Estuary: 1 at POA on 1/01 and 28 offshore on 11/01. Nearby Flint had two records: 48 on 14/02 and 55 on 25/02. IMF: birds were present on the Cheshire and Flintshire parts of the reserve and adjacent fields, feeding on adjacent potato stubble and roosting or bathing on the reserve with other geese. There was a maximum of 76 on 11/02; the first returning birds were 43 on 17/09 (*see table*).

| (PG) | J | F | M | S | O | N | D |
|------|----|----|---|----|---|---|----|
| IMF | 30 | 76 | - | 43 | - | - | 21 |

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*)

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

now **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE***Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.*

1 'European' White-front with 36 Greylag and 2 Pink-footed Geese at the River Clwyd near Rhyl (SJ 0079), 26-27/01 and 29/01 (E. Lyons, I. Evans, K. Smith) and 2 past POA on 31/10 (C. Rowley/G. Robinson).

GREYLAG GOOSE (*Anser anser*)

GWYDD WYLLT

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

Confirmed breeding at Aled Isaf Reservoir where the water was very low (a pair plus 3 juvs on 22/05), Llyn Brenig (3 adults and 12 young on 26/05) and Francis Lane, near Holt (3 pairs with 2 broods of 6 goslings near pools here on 21/05).

Recorded at FLQ, Francis Lane, Holt, GF, Llyn Brenig, POA and Warren Farm, River Clwyd, Dee estuary (*see below*).

Max. numbers: 220 at FLQ on 4/11; 85 at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 31/12; c40 at SF on 5/11; 34 at GF on 16/11 - probably a record for this site.

Dee Estuary: occasional at OMR with a peak of 15 on 8/12; 5 at Bagillt on 19/01 and 6 at Walwen on 25/02. Peaks of 30 at SF on 3/01 and c40 on 5/11.

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

GWYDD CANADA

Breeding resident and winter visitor

Reported from 20 sites. 8-9 reported *breeding territories*: Gresford Flash (5 goslings by 29/05), Hanmer Mere (70 adults and 10+ goslings on 7/06), Llyn Brenig (1 juv on 22/06), Nant-y-Frith Reservoir (1 pr bred, 3 young fledged), Shotton Pools (where a pair with 5 young on 21/05), Shotton Steelworks (a pair raised 5 young), Sutton Green (3 birds with a juv on 15/07) and probably at BHP where 3 juvs Warren Farm and 5 at Llawndy, May-June. 2 Goslings seen with a Greylag Goose at FLQ. A pair made a nesting attempt at POA CL, where a scarce visitor, but outcome unknown.

Largest numbers: 130 at FLQ on 30/09; 112 at GF on 16/11 and 220 on Clwyd estuary on 6/10 but much larger numbers along the Dee estuary.

Dee Estuary: Present at OMR from August-December with a peak count of 1564 on 8/12; occasional at BB with a peak of 1316 on 19/01. Regular at SF where maxima of c200 on 3/01 and c400 on 5/11.

RSPB Conwy: a peak of 86 on 14/06 with 51 ads and 35 young in a crèche.

Lesser Canada Goose *Branta canadensis parvipes / moffitti*

Singles of unknown origins were recorded at Bagillt on 19/01 and at OMR at LT on 16/10, feeding with the Canada Geese flock.

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*)

GWYDD WYRAN

Rare vagrant. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC] Clwyd County rarity. The majority are probably feral in origin.

1 on Shotwick Fields on 18/05 (K. Smith). There were 5 records of single birds at OMR on 18/08, 11/09, 10/10, 22/11 and 24/11 (G. Stamp). 5 sightings of 2 at Gresford Flash, 25/08-18/10 (K. Smith et al). 1 at FLQ on 4/11, 2 on 8/12 and 5 on 25/12 (K. Davies).

BRENT GOOSE (*Branta bernicla*)

GWYDD DDU

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

PALE-BELLIED: (B.b. hrota) Recorded at POA in small numbers on 6 dates in the first winter period, from 10/01 to 28/02, with a peak of 47 offshore on 11/01. In the late autumn/winter period, last year's record numbers for the Point of Ayr were almost maintained: 1 on 16/10 then 13 on 3/12, 16 on 1/12 and 19 on 4/12.

DARK-BELLIED: (B.b. bernicla) 1-5 recorded at POA on five dates in the first winter period, from 11/01 to 11/02 and a single on 16/10, in the second winter period.

1 at RSPB Conwy on 2/05.

Race unknown: 4 distantly off the hide at POA, 11/10; one feeding 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 [BI, WI, WL] The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK.

Breeding: there were possible breeding records at OMR where a pair were seen with 6 ducklings on 16/07 and 20/07 and at RCR where 4 young seen with adults but visibility restricted due to access limits from FMD.

Largest numbers recorded: 1793 at POA, 28/09

Inland: again reported from five inland sites but no breeding confirmed: 6 at Worthenbury (SJ 425470) on 15/02; 2 at FLQ on 21/04; 1 on PCR, 9/05; 2 on Bettisfield Pond on 7/07; 6 on TMR, 24/09.

Dee Estuary: the monthly maxima for BB (Flint Sands), MDR, OMR, POA and POA CL are shown in the table. As in previous years, a late summer/autumn influx occurred on the estuary. Occasional low water counts at Bagillt revealed a peak count of 3470 on 30/08. (*The peak count dates were: MDR, 26/09; OMR, 9/09 (LT); POA, 28/09 (LT); POA CL, 155 on 25/03 at HT.*) Also present at SL where the peak was 9 on 13/03.

Also seen at Gronant (30+ on 18/01), the River Clwyd, Rhyl and RML where the peak count was 23 on 13/04 and at RSPB Conwy where a peak of 192 on 9/05 and a pair with 5 young on 2/07.

| (SU) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| BB | 123 | 105 | 18 | - | - | 347 | 340 | 280 | 540 | 70 | 31 | 37 |
| OMR | 102 | 63 | - | - | - | - | 150 | 100 | 300 | 100 | 45 | 47 |
| MDR | 43 | 54 | 89 | - | - | 46 | 32 | 11 | 351 | 228 | 210 | 233 |
| POA | 207 | 200 | 180 | 114 | 60 | 390 | 255 | 183 | 1793 | 1450 | 1060 | 1427 |
| CL | - | 2 | 155 | 70 | 106 | - | 11 | 1 | - | 78 | 65 | 12 |

MANDARIN (*Aix galericulata*)

HWYADEN FANDARIN

Scarce breeding resident

Possible and potential breeding records: at Berwyn, on the River Dee, a male accompanied a female Mallard with 11 very small ducklings; a pair prospecting for a nest site in rotten trees at Hosely Hall, Rossett, 3/04/01 (outcome unknown).

The main site was again at Pulford Brook/Dee Meadows (SJ 405580) near the Cheshire border where 12 on 15/01. Several other sightings: the usual *m* on the canal at Llangollen (23/02 and 5/05) and a *m* in the Ceiriog Valley in March; 1 at GV, several dates, 11/03-5/05 and 3/09-31/12. A *m*, briefly, at Erddig, 26/05; 1 at GF on 6/09. 1 at R. Clwyd, Denbigh on 6/09; 3 m +1 f on the R. Dulas (SH 909775) on 28/12.

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

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

Inland: largest numbers again at Hanmer Mere where c70 on 20/01 and c100 on 31/12. Also seen at Borrass, GF, Llyn Helyg, TMR,

Coastal: found in varying numbers along the coast principally at the River Clwyd estuary, Rhyl where there were peak counts of >1000 on 29/01 and c500 on 15/12 and 20/12.

Dee Estuary Reserves: monthly maxima for BB (Flint), OMR, POA are given in the table. The Flint peak was 3000 at LT on 8/12. Higher than usual numbers were recorded grazing on the OMR saltmarsh at LT with a peak of 1530 on 24/11. The POA winter period peak was a HT count of 182 on 13/01. There were only 7 records at POA CL where the peak was 70 on 30/10 at LT. Also seen at SBL. A single drake at Warren Farm† on 14/04.

RSPB Conwy: found through the year with a peak of 200 on 14/10.

| (WN) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|------|----|-----|---|---|---|---|----|-----|-----|------|------|
| BB | 1000 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 34 | 298 | 320 | 1500 | 3000 |
| OMR | 1250 | - | 200 | - | - | - | - | 33 | 300 | 80 | 1530 | 500 |
| POA | 182 | 11 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 32 | 82 | 83 | 2 |

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*)

CHWIWELL AMERICA

Scarce vagrant. Welsh rarity.

A drake present at IMF, 21-29/03, spent most of its time among a large Wigeon flock on the Border Pool (Flintshire) (C.E. Wells, G. Stamp). A drake at River Clwyd, Rhyl with c500 Common Wigeon, 15/12 to the year end (G. Stamp *et al*). A hybrid drake was at RSPB Conwy from 13/10 to 15/12.

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*)

HWYADEN LWYD

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

Breeding was confirmed at Shotton Steelworks where there were 3 juveniles on 26/08.

Inland: the main site is Llyn Helyg where they were seen in good numbers in winter, with a peak of 38 on 30/12.

Coastal: 1 at RML on 20/09 and singles at RBP on 12/12 and 24/12.

Dee Estuary: recorded at POA on three dates - a single on 7/10, 3 on 17/11 and 2 on 10/12 - and at OMR twice, 2 at LT on 18/01 and a pair at HT on 2/12. 7 sightings at POA CL, 15/02-16/12 with a peak of 8 on the latter date. IMF: wintering birds moved between IMF and SL, depending on disturbance (*monthly maxima for the whole IMF Reserve are given in the table*). Resident until November at SL where the peak was 48 on 16/03.

| (GA) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|---|
| IMF | 2 | - | - | 14 | 18 | 5 | 8 | 0 | 25 | 15 | 5 | 2 |
| CR | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | - | 5 | 7 | 8 | - |

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: the largest counts were c100 at Hanmer Mere on 31/12, 52 in a pool middle of RM, 12/10 and 50 at Pulford Brook flood on 15/01. Also seen at Borrass, Dolwen Reservoir, Erddig, FLQ, Llyn Helyg and Ysceifiog

and in larger numbers along the coast and the Dee Estuary: peaks of 25+ at Gronant on 18/01 and of 30 on 28/08 at River Clwyd, Rhyl. *Dee Estuary Reserves*: for OMR, POA and POA CL, monthly maxima are given in the table. Peak counts were: 423 at POA on 17/12; 1106 at OMR on 11/10 at LT. The peak for POA CL was 300 on 14/11 (LT) and 130 for the Flushing Lagoon on 13/01 (HT). A single summering bird was present at Warren Farm on 27/06. Also present on occasion at Flint, where the peak count was 515 on 16/12 and MDR where the peak count was 90 at HT on 26/09. Also seen at IMF BP where the peak was c400 on 12/02.

RSPB Conwy: the peak count was 221 on 16/11 (*see table*).

| T: | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----|-----|-----|----|----|---|---|----|----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| OMR | 504 | 530 | - | - | - | - | - | 73 | 500 | 1106 | 760 | 285 |
| POA | 159 | 192 | 58 | 18 | - | - | - | 11 | 330 | 320 | 335 | 423 |
| CL | 5 | 1 | 31 | 8 | - | - | - | 4 | 20 | 143 | 300 | 16 |
| CR | 75 | 66 | - | 4 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 53 | - | - | 221 | - |

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

HWYADEN WYLLT

Common and widespread breeding resident and winter visitor

Inland: regular and numerous at over 30 sites. Maximum numbers were c700 at Hanmer Mere in bad weather on 31/12. Other records: a Mallard nest with 12 eggs at Denbigh Moors, 3/06 and a bird with 7 juvs at Aled Isaf Reservoir on 22/06.

Coastal: seen at various sites along the coast. The highest one-day counts for the River Clwyd, south of Rhuddlan are given in the table; 3 pairs bred. Peak counts elsewhere were 94 at RBP LNR on 11/01 and 84 at PMPA on 27/12.

Dee Estuary: See table for OMR, POA, POA CL and MDR monthly maxima. Peak counts were: OMR, 1336 on 27/08 at HT; MDR, 83 on 26/09; POA (all at HT and where counts were higher than last year), 530 on 29/09; POA CL, 250 on 14/11. Also recorded at Flint marsh, June-November, where the peak count was 830 on 30/08 and SL where there were 274 on 9/01. Breeding: 14 nests known and 32 young raised at SL. Shotton Steelworks had 100+ on 14/01 rising to c200 on 12/08 and 900 on 23/09. RSPB Conwy: a peak of 76 (57 ads + 19 juvs) on 24/06.

| (MA) | J ¹ | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|----------------|-----|----|----|----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| RCR | 100 | 65 | 20 | 12 | 16 | 9 | 24 | 70 | 220 | 120 | 55 | 130 |
| OMR | - | 20 | 20 | - | - | - | 65 | 1336 | 780 | - | 26 | 103 |
| POA | 181 | 108 | 25 | 20 | 8 | 270 | 116 | 453 | 530 | 390 | 311 | 351 |
| CL | - | - | 34 | 22 | 55 | 7 | 3 | 86 | 19 | 7 | 250 | 6 |
| MDR | - | - | 18 | - | - | 67 | 10 | 10 | 83 | 6 | 52 | - |

PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

now NORTHERN PINTAIL

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

Almost entirely coastal but several records inland, mainly along the Dee Valley: 110 at Worthenbury (SJ 425470) and 100 nr Crewe Hill, both 15/02; 4 at FLQ on 2/02; 2 at Llyn Helyg on 21/02.

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

The peaks for BB were 6120 on 19/10 at Flint (LT) and 3620 at Walwen on 26/11 (LT). Infrequent at MDR where the peak count was 725 at LT on 23/11 and at OMR where the peak was 476 at LT on 17/09. The peak count for POA was 1009 at HT on 16/12. POA CL is a LT 'loafing' area for Pintail in winter. The peak count was 600 in December (see table). A few on IMF BP (peak of 20 on 12/02). Also recorded at

GV on 1/01.

| (PT) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|-----|-----|---|----|---|---|---|-----|------|------|------|------|
| BB | 610 | 170 | 1 | 80 | - | - | - | 188 | 1560 | 6120 | 3620 | 800 |
| POA | 424 | 145 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 282 | 537 | 650 | 1009 |
| CL | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 101 | 600 | 144 |

SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)
now **NORTHERN SHOVELER**

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [WI]

Inland, found in small, and apparently decreasing numbers, at FLQ, Gresford Flash, Hanmer Mere and at KCF where 15 on 14/01.

Coastal: the largest numbers were at Shotton Steelworks with a peak of 80+ on 21/10 and IMF BP with c40 on 12/02. Regular along the River Clwyd, Rhyl-Rhuddlan in November-December when the peak was 18 on 15/12. Only 6 records at POA area – where the maximum was 8 at Warren Farm on 26/02 and with a single drake there on 14/04; plus POA CL which had 7 records, 1/03–16/12 with a peak of 23 on the latter date. Only 2 records at OMR -3 at HT on 16/01 and 1 on 17/11. Resident in small numbers at SL, from mid-November to year end; peak count 24 on 16/12.

Seen in small numbers at RSPB Conwy (see table):

| (SV) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|
| CR | 14 | 13 | 14 | - | - | 2 | - | 5 | 5 | 6 | 20 | - |

RED-CRESTED POCHARD (*Netta rufina*)

HWYADEN GRIBGOCH

Rare: possible escapes

A f at GV, 5/11-28/12 (and into 2002) - unringed but tame.

POCHARD (*Aythya ferina*)
now **COMMON POCHARD**

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

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

The peak counts were 33 at RBP on 11/01 and c30 at SBL on 5/11. At the previous main site of Shotton Paper Lagoons the numbers have fallen dramatically and the peak count was 12 on 16/12 (85 on same date last year). Shotton Steelworks had a peak of 22 on 11/11.

Also recorded at about a dozen other sites, usually in small numbers: (inland), Dolwen Reservoir, Gresford Flash, Hanmer Mere, Llyn Helyg (where 22 on 14/01),

SLJ and LLR in the Ruabon area and Ysceifiog. (Coastal) Greenfield Valley, Gronant, KCF, PMPA, POA CL, Walwen and BHP. Conwy RSPB Reserve had a peak of 12 on 14/01.

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 25 freshwater sites and with small numbers on the Dee Estuary.

Maximum counts: 70 at Llyn Helyg on 21/02; 61 at Greenfield Valley on 4/11; 60 at Hanmer Mere on 20/01; 54 at RBP on 21/01; 45 at Shotton Steelworks on 1/04.

Confirmed breeding at Erddig (2 broods of 4 and 5 by 24/06), Shotton Steelworks where 5 pairs bred and raised 20+ young and Ysceifiog Lake (where a f with 9 juvs on 1/07).

RSPB Conwy: small numbers through the year (see table).

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (TU) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
| CR | 4 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | - | - | 2 | 1 | 3 |

SCAUP (*Aythya marila*)

HWYADEN BENDDU

now GREATER SCAUP

Regular winter visitor. Amber List [BR, SPEC]

As for last year, the main numbers were seen off Towyn Beach and Kinnel Bay (SH 9880) with peaks of 34+ and 40+ (separate flocks) on 7/03. A first-winter bird at RBP on 11/01; a pair at Pensarn with Goldeneye on 15/01, 19 on 18/02 and several on 28/02. Present in small numbers at POA and BHP in January-April (and singles at Llawndy on 6/05 and at Warren Farm on 27/06) and September-December when the peak count was 18 on 3/12 at HT. A single *m* at Flint on 26/09, 2 *f* at GV on 24/03 and a *m* + 2 *f* at Greenfield on 26/09 and singles on 11/03 and 18/10. A single drake at RSPB Conwy in January.

EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*)

HWYADEN FWYTHIBLU

now COMMON EIDER

Uncommon marine winter visitor. Amber List [WL] Clwyd County Rarity

There were four records at POA, as follows: a single drake on 23/02, a single female on 16/09 and a drake on 31/10 (RSPB, G. Stamp). An exceptional 21 birds were recorded at HT on 20/10 (A. Thomas and A.J. Mabbett). A single immature male was off Rhos Point on 23/11 (E&L Jones). There were also two records for Penrhyn Bay on the edge of our area: single females on 11/08 and 21/08 (P. I. Morris).

LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*)
Uncommon winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.

HWYADEN GYNNFON HIR

2 off POA, 7/04 (C. Rowley, BHP).

COMMON SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*)
now **BLACK SCOTER**

MOR-HWYADEN DDU

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

Often seen 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. Liverpool Bay is a site of international importance and nationally important numbers winter off the Clwyd estuary and Colwyn Bay.

Common and regular at Llanddulas: from 3/01 when 1000+ to 2/03 (100+); c200 on 12/07 and c300 on 14/09. Numbers building up again by 30/11 when c1000. Pensarn had c300+ in January, down to 3 on 2/03. Sizeable flocks off Kinnel Bay/Towyn Beach (SH 9880) with 2000+ on 9/02 disturbed by 3 low-flying RAF Hercules; c200 offshore on 5/11. Small groups off Rhyl beach but c3000 2.5 miles off Rhyl on 10/12. Small numbers seen at Rhos Point.

Nine records at POA: in the first winter period, a peak of 234 offshore on 7/04; 7 mid-summer birds seen offshore on 6/06; 2 drakes on 20/08 and 40 on 17/09. Huge numbers were seen at Prestatyn (east end) with 12000 on 13/11 and at Gronant with a minimum count of 4000 on 26/11 and 3800 on 7/12.

SURF SCOTER (*Melanitta perspicillata*)
Rare vagrant. Welsh rarity—see Appendix 3.

MÔR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

VELVET SCOTER (*Melanitta fusca*)
Uncommon winter visitor. Amber List [WL, SPEC]

MOR HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

1-5 flying off Kinnel Bay with large Common Scoter flock, 9/02. A first-winter drake offshore POA on 4/11. 2 off Llanddulas with c1000 Common Scoter on 30/11.

GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*)
now **COMMON GOLDENEYE**

HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

Widespread winter visitor. Amber List [BR, WL]

Inland: sightings at 5 sites, viz. Dolwen, FLQ, Hanmer Mere, Llyn Brenig and Borras. [Reported from 4 sites in 2001, 8 in 2000 and 10 in 1999.]

Coastal: several sightings with peaks of 11 at RML (3/01-29/01, and 6 in the second winter period, on 7/12), 8 on R. Clwyd on 20/12, and 5 (2m, 3f) at Rhyl Promenade on 20/01. A peak of 11 on the sea at Pensarn on 15/01 and up to 2 pairs at Rhos Point and Llanddulas (19/01). A m at GV on 5-6/11.

Dee Estuary: the main site was Shotton Steelworks which had a peak of 12 on 18/03

and a late single bird on 29/04. Present at Warren Farm‡, January-April with a peak of 7 on 16/02; 6 flew E past POA on 31/01; a single at OMR on 11/02; 6 records of 1-2 at POA CL in winter; 2m, 1f at SL on 16/12. A f on IMF BP on 12/02, 2f on SL on 5/11.

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 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 3 | - |

SMEW (*Mergellus albellus*)

ILLEIAN WEN

Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.

Not recorded last year.

A pair at IMF BP on 10/01 and a m on 12/02 and a m on SBL on various dates, 1/01-21/01 and a pair on 17/01 (I. Evans, G. Stamp, K. Smith). 3 birds on both Cheshire and Flintshire parts of IMF, 22/12-30/12, all remaining on SL when IMF frozen over (C.E. Wells).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*) IHWYADEN FRONGOCH

Rare breeding resident and winter visitor in small numbers

All coastal records except 1 at Dee Meadows, Rossett on 21/09.

Regular at Rhos Point (a peak of 20+ on 8/12), Llanddulas (1-10 on 3/01-26/03 and 1 on 10/12) and Pensarn (a peak of 5 on 2/03), Kinnel Bay, RCR and RML (SJ 0081) (a remarkable peak of 41 on 29/11).

Dee Estuary: Frequently seen off POA and at BB (see table). The peak count at BB was at Walwen with 27 on 17/03. POA had a peak of 30 on 7/04. There were 3 sightings at POA CL, 25/03-16/12 peaking at 7 on 4/11 and 1-2 were seen at MDR and OMR.

Also seen off Llanddulas with 10 on 4/03. Regular at RSPB Conwy with a peak of 30 on 11/04.

| (RM) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|----|---|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| BB | 3 | 5 | 27 | 25 | - | 1 | - | - | 4 | 17 | 19 | 2 |
| POA | 10 | 6 | 9 | 30 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 11 | 20 | 10 |

GOOSANDER (*Mergus merganser*)

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

*Breeding resident and winter visitor**A successful bird of the Dee Valley but few in the estuary.*

Confirmed breeding at River Clwyd nr Rhuddlan where the peak count was 1 f with 23 young (probably two broods), 22/06 and Sutton Green on the River Dee where 1f with 5 juvs on 31/07.

Other peak counts were 21 f at RCR on 8-9/07 and a count of only 13 on 31/12 at Hanmer Mere, the usual stronghold site, where 80+ last year.

Reported along the R. Dee as far upstream as Berwyn where 4+ (2m, 2f) on Jan-March and 3+ (2f, 1m) near to Llangollen, March-April and Oct-Dec. A pair also seen on the Llangollen Canal at Chirk Bank on 3/01 and along the Ceiriog Valley through the year. 2 at FLQ on 28/09 (River Alyn).

Also recorded on reservoirs: at PCR (3f on 5/04) and singles at TFR in January and 21/04. 9 (5m, 4f) at Plas Isaf reservoir on 13/01 and peaks of 8 at Llyn Brenig on 28/11 and 7 on 1/12; 2m at Nant-y-Frith reservoir on 28/12; 3 at Dolwen Reservoir on 22/02 and 2 on 8/12; 2 at Llyn Helyg on 21/02 and 1 on 7/12.

Dee Estuary: 5 records at OMR of a single female, 12/08-21/09. The only coastal records were at R. Clwyd, Rhuddlan-Rhyl {where a lone f on 27/01, several on 21/05 (as above), 4 (1m, 3f) on 5/11 and 2/12 and 2f on 6/12} and at R. Dulas (SH 909767) where there was a single f on 28/12.

RSPB Conwy: a m on 14/01 and a juv on 11/08.

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

HWYADEN GOCH

Scarce breeding resident

Recorded at ten sites with a maximum count of c20 at Hanmer Mere on 18/03.

Bred at Shotton Lagoons and Shotton Steelworks, and noted in small numbers only at Acton Park, Borrass, Erddig, Hanmer, KCF, Nant-y-Frith reservoir, SBL and SL and RSPB Conwy: a peak of 9 on 4/02 and 11/05.

RED KITE (*Milvus milvus*)

BARCUD

Occasional visitor. Red list [HD, BR]. Clwyd County rarity.

*More sightings this year: a pair in the Dee Valley, April to May, but no evidence of breeding and single birds seen near Wrexham in May, and at PCR on 28/12 (JL Roberts *et al*). 1 over A55 near St. Asaph (SJ 0374) on 6/02 and 17/08 and several Spring sightings near Denbigh (R. Plummer, D.F. Richardson, G. Stamp). 1 over Denbigh Moors on 3/04 (R & M Bagguley). 1 seen tussling with 2 buzzards and a crow over Gwysaney Hall, Sychdyn nr Mold, same day (B. Griffiths).*

MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*)

BOD Y GWERNI

now **EURASIAN MARSH HARRIER**

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

Two records from nearby OMR of a juvenile at the edge of Burton marsh on 25-26/08 (G. Stamp).

HEN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

BOD TINWEN

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

Still maintaining a precarious existence at RM: no sightings during the breeding season but 1+ "ring-tails" present in early part of year and 2+ from Sept. Single males at Alwen Reservoir on 22/06, Aled Uchaf Reservoir on 28/06 and at Llyn Aled on 29/07. A single *f* was seen mobbed by a Peregrine and a Crow on Llandegla Moors on 1/07. An imm male present hunting the saltmarsh at POA on 10/12.

GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*)

GWALCH MARTH

now **NORTHERN GOSHAWK**

Rare breeding resident

Displaying birds were recorded from three areas.

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, predominantly of *singles*, throughout the year (including garden sightings and Wrexham Town Centre) in 28 areas across the county.

Some note-worthy sightings - two Ravens and several crows, Jackdaws and Black-birds were found noisily attacking a *f* Sparrowhawk under a hedge at Llanasa on 31/03—the hawk took advantage of the intervention and escaped; one seen attacking a Moorhen on PCR on 31/03 and, *ibidem*, one flushed Collared Doves which were then attacked by a Peregrine, 8/07; 1 failed to catch an early House Martin, 14/04, and a Blackbird on 16/04, at Gresford allotments, but succeeded in carrying off a newly fledged Swallow on 25/06; 2 near TFR on 2/05, 1 soaring high and 1 chasing a small bird across a field; 1 mobbed by c20 gathering Swifts, Ruabon, 13/05; 1 observed trying to catch a pipistrelle bat at dusk (8-30pm), TFR, 15/09; 1 caught a Starling in a Ruabon garden, 10/11; a hedge-hopping bird cleared a field of c300 Fieldfare at Burton on 23/12; singles recorded hunting at POA but only one recorded success— a male caught a Dunlin on 31/01.

BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*)
now **COMMON BUZZARD**

BWNCATH

Common and widespread breeding resident. Appears to be extending its range. Many sightings from urban and suburban areas. Despite FMD which restricted access to the countryside, there were still at least 167 sightings in 80 locations this year.

The RM/HP study was suspended due to FMD but most pairs appeared to have bred with several rearing more than one young.

Sightings of five or more or other records of interest: 4-5 over Nercwys Mountain, 10/01; 3 displaying plus a Sparrowhawk with 4 protesting Crows, all high and circling above Llangollen, 9/03 and 4-5 quartering low on 10/04; 5 over Dyserth on 25/03; 5 over Pont Canol, Denbigh on 22/06; 2 at Rhyd-y-foel (SH 9276), 1 carrying prey, 8/07; 3 including a juv, noisily chasing each other around a tree in Penycae, 19/07; 5 circling over Greenfield (SJ 188722) on 21/07; 5 over Llandeilo, 25/08; 5 over Cefn-yr-Ugaf nr Llanddulas, 26/08; a noteworthy sighting of 15 at Pen-y Cloddiau on 26/08; 2 adults and 2 (probable) juvs over Sainsbury's Store in Wrexham, 20/09; 6 on 11/10 mobbed by crows and jackdaws, Clywedog Valley; 1 catching worms in a field in Burton, 7/12. There were very few coastal records but RSPB Conwy had a peak count of 10 on 12/02.

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

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

1 over TMR near end-March; 1 seen perched then flying over Whitford (SJ 147782), 18/03; 1 over Rhos-on-Sea GC on 26/04; a single female over POA on 21/05 and a single on 21/08.

KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus*)

CUDYLL COCH

now **COMMON KESTREL**

Locally common breeding resident. Amber List [BDM, SPEC]

Recorded in some 48 areas. Especially noticeable on our few "motorway" verges with regular sightings of 1-2 on A483, A5 and A55

Breeding: In the RM/HP study area, the full survey was suspended due to FMD but 4 pairs (including 1 lowland) around RM produced at least 10 young. A specially designed box was fitted at SL and a pair nested. 4 young were ringed by I. Spence on 24/05; three fledged successfully but the fourth, with a badly deformed leg, died. A nest with 5 eggs on Denbigh Moors, 3/06.

A pair roosted under barn eaves, next to two occupied houses, in early December, Berwyn, apparently an increasing habit of the area.

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*)

CUDYLL BACH

*Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List [HD] BCCC**Fewer records this year.*

Inland: a *f* at Llyn Brenig on 13/01 and a single bird there on 22/06; a *m* at Nercwys Mountain on 15/01; a cock attacked a Meadow Pipit but was apparently put off by mobbing hirundines, 5/09, RM; 1 at Brymbo Pool, 14/11.

Coastal: a *f* at R. Clwyd, Rhyl on 16/11. *Dee Estuary:* a single *imm* male at POA CL on 25/03 and, as last year, a *m* and a *f* were present throughout the winter periods at POA; seen together on 2/11. 6 records of a single *f* or *imm* at OMR, 12/08-2/12. 1 at CQNR on 3/10. A *f* at Gronant Marsh on 25/03 and single birds on 7/12 and 26/12.

HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*)

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

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

Inland: Fewer sightings than last year at RM (only 3 during June-September) but recorded throughout summer at Pontfadog in the Ceiriog Valley. 1 mobbed at dusk by small birds at Ruabon, 25/06. 1 at Clocaenog, 30/06. A remarkable number of 7 at Fenn's Moss, 7/07. 1 catching and eating dragonflies at Aled Isaf Reservoir on 29/07 and 1 near Llyn Brân on 6/10.

Coastal: An adult bird flew SW over Gronant LNR towards Prestatyn, 22/04. 1 over SL on 30/08. A single at Flint Point on 26/09. Several sightings over Greenfield Valley: 2 on 9/06, chasing Swifts and martins by the Meadow Mill pond, a *m* on 29/06 and two very late birds on 11/10 and 18/10.

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]**Despite FMD restrictions, reports were received from about 16 locations.*

Inland: the RM/HP study was suspended due to FMD but pairs were known to have bred successfully in four territories.

Coastal: regular through the year, especially in winter, on the Dee estuary. 1-2 present each month at POA and OMR/CQNR. A *juv* at Gronant on 26/12. Single birds present most months at River Clwyd, Rhyl-Rhuddlan. 1 at RML on 29/11 and 1 in the Dulas valley on 25/12. A pair regular at Shotton Steelworks, February-April. 1 at GV on 18/10.

Some interesting sightings: a pair were displaced from their breeding area in the Berwyns by heavy snow but were seen returning within 20 minutes of the weather front passing, 22/03; a family of 3 was seen twice over Ruabon when the *juv* was very vo-

**Table: Welsh Raptor Study Group
North Wales Annual Report, 2001**

(Nests with egg or young data only where n = occupied nests)

| Species | | Eggs (min) | Young hatched (min) | Young fledged (min) |
|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Barn Owl (n = 2) | Totals Average | 5 2.5 | 5 2.50 | 5 2.50 |
| Buzzard (n = 3) | Totals Average | 5 1.67 | 5 1.67 | 4 1.33 |
| Goshawk (n = 2) | Totals Average | 3 1.50 | 3 1.50 | 3 1.50 |
| Hen Harrier (n = 4) | Totals Average | 15 3.75 | 9 2.25 | 9 2.25 |
| Kestrel (n = 8) | Totals Average | 24 3.00 | 19 2.38 | 19 2.38 |
| Merlin (n = 5) | Totals Average | 16 3.20 | 15 3.00 | 15 3.00 |
| Peregrine (n = 1) | Totals Average | 2 2.00 | 2 2.00 | 2 2.00 |
| Raven (n = 4) | Totals Average | 10 2.50 | 10 2.50 | 10 2.50 |

cal in demanding food, 7/08 and 2/09. A juv was seen to kill and eat a coot at FLQ on 3/09. A Bar-tailed Godwit was seen to be taken by a juv Peregrine at Flint on 9/09 and finished off by a young gull.

RED GROUSE (*Lagopus lagopus*)

GRUGIAR

now **WILLOW PTARMIGAN**

Breeding resident on heather moors. Continued decline probable

Brood counts via the Black Grouse Recovery Project were promising.. Annual counts on a 23-year old route second highest since 1994 though coveys very small (possibly breaking up earlier). *Records from* Denbigh Moors, Pendinas, RM, WE (all small numbers). *Highest count:* 18 at Watkins Tower, Llandegla, 16/09.

BLACK GROUSE (*Tetrao tetrix*)

GRUGIAR DDU

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

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. FMD prevented co-ordinated counts this year but brood counts seemed promising. Reduced human disturbance may have helped. Incidental sightings from this general area: up to 9 were seen lekking at Pendinas on 17/02; a peak of 4 seen at WE car-park on 25/02; 3m at Llandegla on 16/09.

Other records: several sighted in the Denbigh Moors area including lekking males but site undisclosed; 3 at Llŷn Aled (SH 938595) on 6/11.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE (*Alectoris rufa*)

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Now a locally common breeding resident where large numbers are bred and released in moorland areas for shooting

Several sightings, mainly around Ruabon Moors. Largest number: c300 nr Tainant breeding pens, 29/07. Small numbers also seen in a wide area at Bontuchel, Bwlchgwyn, Gwernaffield, Llanasa, Llandegla, Mold, Pontblyddyn and Rhydtalog. A garden bird at Coedpoeth!

GREY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*)

PETRISEN

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

15 at Sealand Manor Estate, 11/01; a pair at Minera on 2/05; a *f* with a well-grown juv nr SBI. on 24/07 and 6 birds on 23/07.

QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*)

SOFLIAR

now **COMMON QUAIL**

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

2-3 calling at Shotwick Fields, 23-26/07 (G. Stamp)

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—5 birds seen from
a Holywell garden on 1/12. Largest count: 80+ in fields nr Pwllglas, Ruthin, 10/11.

WATER RAIL (*Rallus aquaticus*)

RHEGEN Y DWR

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

In the first winter period, there was 1 inland record: 2 on a marshy pool, WIE, 25/02;
and 8 coastal records: 1 at Gronant Marsh on 3/01 and 2 *ibidem*, 18/01; 1 at POA
Warren on 31/01; 1 at Shotton Steelworks, Jan-March; 1 at Flint on 25/02 and 1/03; 2
at PMPA on 3/03 and 1 on 9/03 feeding with Coot and Moorhen.

In the second winter period, there were 2 at POA and 1 at Gronant Marsh on 20/09, 3
on 18/11 and 2 on 7/12; 3 present in reed beds at Shotton Steelworks, Oct-December;
1 at PMPA, skating on ice, on 18/12 and 1 there on 27/12. A pair bred at RSPB
Conwy.

CORNCRAKE (*Crex crex*)

RHEGEN YR YD

Rare passage migrant. Welsh rarity.

1 seen to eight yards at POA Warren on 30/04 (description submitted to WRP by G.
Stamp).

MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*)

IAR DDWR

now **COMMON MOORHEN**

Locally common breeding resident

*Reported from 18 main areas. Breeding recorded at GF, Gronant LNR, GV,
Llawndy†, Llay Pool, SL—and a pond in Mold.*

*Records of interest: one attacked and dropped by a Sparrowhawk at PCR; remained
in water until the Sparrowhawk, watching from a tree, gave up, 31/03. Resident all
year at SL where the peak was 13 on 20/06. 3 nests raised 7 young.*

COOT (*Fulica atra*)
now COMMON COOT

CWTIAR

Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor

Recorded through the year from 20 main sites.

Highest counts: a peak of 194 at Llyn Helyg on 18/11; 122 at Ysceifiog on 13/01; c120 at FLQ, 11/01; 113 at PMPA on 27/12; c100 on 19/08 at Shotton Steelworks; 95 at GF, 16/12; c80 grazing on grass at Hammer Mere, 29/01; 68 at KCF on 9/12; 60 at Dolwen Reservoir on 15/09; 47 at SL on 18/10.

OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ostralegus*) *PIODEN Y MOR*
now EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER

*Scarce breeding resident and abundant winter visitor. Amber List [W1, WL]
 The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK*

Large (non-breeding) numbers can be seen on or near the coast: 10,637 at POA on 18/09; 5300 at OMR on 9/09

Just five inland records this year: 1 at GF on 29/03; 1 at Llyn Brenig on 21/05 and 2 on 26/05 (but no breeding indicated), 2 at Fenn's Moss on 7/07, 1 at TMR, 5/09.

Reported along the whole length of the coast. c400 at Rhos Point on 30/01 and 9/02; 406 off Rhyl harbour on 6/12; 300+ at Llanddulas on 5/05; but the main counts are along the Dee estuary.

Coastal breeding: a pair reported as feeding at least 1 young on RML island on 13/07; 2 pairs reported as nesting at Gronant, 15/07 (outcome unknown).

Dee Estuary: Breeding: despite the presence of this species through the year, the huge numbers are largely of non-breeding winter flocks and breeding is on a minuscule scale. 1 pair successfully raised 1 young on OMR and two pairs made breeding attempts at POA and successfully fledged one young; a pair bred on the adjacent former colliery site and successfully fledged two young. A fifth pair nested on arable land adjacent to IMF and a sixth pair were seen with 2 young at the nest at SL. A pair bred at Shotton Steelworks raising 2 young (3 eggs were laid) and a second pair laid 2 eggs which failed to hatch.

| (OC) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| BB | 3365 | 3550 | 3005 | 858 | - | 396 | 650 | 1932 | 6025 | 3632 | 2840 | 3130 |
| OMR | 25 | 633 | - | - | - | - | 700 | 4267 | 5300 | 4500 | 2200 | 370 |
| POA | 3000 | 3057 | 2230 | 1500 | 1406 | 1122 | 1769 | 6732 | 10637 | 7380 | 5400 | 3100 |
| MDR | 2560 | 1374 | 2060 | - | - | 1315 | 402 | 2040 | 5605 | 3579 | 4853 | 887 |

OMR, POA, MDR and BB (Greenfield to Flint sands) monthly maxima are shown in the table. The MDR records refer mainly to LT where the peak count was 5605 on 26/09/01. The POA peak count was 10,637 on 18/09 (HT), a substantial increase on last year. The OMR peak was 5300 on 9/09 (HT). The BB figures are an aggregate for Greenfield, Bagillt and Flint at low water with a peak count of 6025 on 6/09.

RSPB Conwy: from the Foel Fras hide, 2 juvs swam to island opposite and the adult then noisily attacked 2 Lapwings guarding their own 3 chicks, 10/06.

STONE CURLEW (*Burhinus oedinenus*)

RIEDUR Y MOELYDD

Scarce vagrant. Welsh rarity.

1 at Llanddulas, 15/12 (R.I. Thorpe). Accepted by WRP: only the second record for Denbighshire.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius dubius*)

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

now **LITTLE PLOVER**

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant. Scarce scattered breeding.

Inland: Breeding: a pair of adults and three small chicks were seen several times in June at Pandy waste tip, nr Gresford, the chicks taking refuge from predators among building waste. Possible breeding at FLQ but not confirmed.

A pair were seen frequently at GF between 19/04 and 2/05 and 2 at BQ on 1/05 (possibly the same pair) but no confirmed breeding. A pair were seen at Llay Pool, 5/06-20/06 and 2 pairs on 28/06 but no apparent breeding presumably due to disturbance from cattle and anglers.

Coastal: Breeding: a pair seen at SL with 1 young; no nest found but young too small to fly.

Other records: 3 at Shotton Steelworks on 22/04 and 1 on 20/05. There were five records at POA: a single on 7/04 and 5-6/05 and 13/05 and 3 displaying on the old colliery site on 16/06 but no confirmed breeding. 1 calling over Gronant beach at 0210am on 5/06.

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

CWTIAD TORCHOG

Breeding resident in small numbers and passage migrant. Amber List [W1]

Breeding: two pairs made breeding attempts at POA but both were unsuccessful and two pairs made breeding attempts on the adjacent old colliery site but also failed.

Along the coast, the main counts were at Gronant (a peak of c40 on 21/05 and c300 on 20/09), Kinnel Bay beach (75 on 9/01) and Pensarn and Llanddulas (peaks of c25 with 75 Dunlin on 1/03 and 40+ on Pensarn beach on 9/08). Winter counts of up to 35 also seen at River Clwyd, Rhyl, Rhyl Splash Point and beach and Rhos-on-Sea promenade.

Along the Dee estuary, larger but variable numbers were found: occasional at Flint, peaking at 70 on 30/08; at MDR the peak count was 680 on 25/08; OMR peaked at 61 on 16/08 and POA on 22/08 with 297 at HT.

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis apricaria*)

CWTIAD AUR

now **EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER***Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [WI]**Breeding:* 3 pairs bred on Denbigh Moors.*Seen only in very small numbers.* The largest number sighted was 26 flying W over Tyn-y-rhyd (SJ 240350), 16/03. 2 on RM on 12/10; only 1-3 seen at POA (*see table*) but 14 at Warren Farm† on 12/01. Only 2 records at OMR; 2 on 9/09 and 1 on 3/10. Only 1 at Flint on 6/09 and at Walwen Marsh on 16/12.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (GP) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
| POA | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | - | 3 | - |

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*Birds were present for most of the year. *Dee Estuary Reserves:* The peak count was 106 at POA at HT on 1/03 (*see table*). In the second winter period, nearby Gronant beach had a peak of 84 on 18/11 but the other reserves held only very small numbers: OMR had 6 on 30/11 and 2 on 2/12; Flint had 1 on 2/12 and 4 on 16/12.

Also found at R. Clwyd, Rhyl: 1 on 17/12 and at RSPB Conwy: a peak of 3 on 12/10.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|-----|---|---|---|---|----|---|-----|----|-----|
| (GV) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
| POA | 80 | 23 | 106 | - | 1 | - | 4 | 11 | 2 | 100 | 68 | 105 |

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. *Breeding records:* confirmed breeding at Erddig where a pair guarded 2 young chicks (May-July) next to the lake. This may be a first for here and was possibly the outcome of no public access because of FMD! 4 pairs nested on old Firestone site, WIE, 20/04 but outcome unknown. 5 pairs bred near Pontfadog hills but outcome unknown. Up to 6 pairs (plus 1 pair Curlew) ceased breeding at Ffrainc Farm area (SJ 238552), nr Rhydtalog, perhaps due to heavy grazing pressure and possibly moved to Nant Y Ffrith Reservoir area (SJ 237530) where 59 birds counted on 13/03.

Highest counts (inland wintering sites): 400 at Crewe Hill (SJ 420520) and 250 at Worthenbury (SJ 425470), both 15/02; peaks of c170 inc. a likely leucistic bird in a field off A483 nr Wynnstay on 22/02 and 150 at Borrass on 7/11; a peak of c180 at FLQ on 3/09; c150 at Rossett on 28/12, c100 at GF on 28/01; 72 at Nant-y-Frith reservoir on 27/10.

Smaller numbers, up to 50, also seen at AWCP, Caego, Coedpoeth, Denhall Sluices, Halkyn, Hope, Llay, Nercwys, Tainant and several Wrexham sites.

Coastal: found in variable numbers from 1-1000+. The *highest coastal counts were found at the River Clwyd estuary*: 500 on 5/01 and 23/08 with winter roosts of up to 800 on RML. *Coastal breeding records*: 3 pairs nested on Flintshire land adjacent to IMF (outcome unknown due to FMD).

Dee Estuary and Floodplain: the peak count for OMR was 1625 on 24/11 (LT); Flint had a peak count of 350 on 8/12; the POA peak count was 278 on 17/11 at HT (*see table*) but there was a peak of 329 at Warren Farm‡ on 31/01. The BB figure is the monthly LT maxima for Flint only: there were also counts of 150 at Greenfield on 30/01, 350 at Walwen on 16/12 and 155 at Bagillt on 24/11. The peak for IMF was 2150 in December (the table gives monthly maxima for the whole reserve plus arable fields). At SL, three nests known but all failed due to harsh weather. Smaller numbers seen at SF where the peak was 50+ on 3/01.

RSPB Conwy: found through the year and peaking at 270 on 13/02.

| (L.) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|------|------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| BB | 180 | 34 | 18 | - | - | - | 60 | - | 80 | - | - | 350 |
| OMR | 1200 | 312 | - | - | - | - | 56 | 570 | 1000 | 1300 | 1625 | 1100 |
| POA | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 17 | - | - | 80 | 278 | 148 |
| IMF | 5 | 1000 | 60 | 35 | 16 | 76 | 230 | 309 | 2 | 500 | 1000 | 2150 |
| CR | 150 | 270 | 70 | 10 | - | 28 | 51 | - | 30 | 240 | 40 | - |

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

Seen along the coast-10 at Rhos Point on 2/02 and at R. Clwyd, Rhyl where 2 on 30/08 and 1 on 5/11-but principally a Dee Estuary bird where good numbers were recorded (*see table*). BHP counts for the Dee estuary count gave peaks of 4700 on 26/01, 4500 on 10/02. Peak counts: Flint, c100 on 12/02 but 2000+ off FC on 24/10; MDR, 1720 on 14/02; POA (HT), 3580 on 30/01; OMR, 600 on 18/10; Bagillt, 100 on 24/11. RSPB Conwy: 1-2 occasional.

| (KN) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|------|------|-----|-----|---|---|---|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| MDR | 410 | 1720 | 342 | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | 1 | 91 | 10 |
| OMR | - | 250 | - | - | - | - | - | 12 | 400 | 600 | 300 | - |
| POA | 3580 | 3330 | 440 | 440 | - | 1 | 9 | 6 | 52 | 140 | 30 | 110 |

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 flock sizes along the coast in spring and autumn/winter, sometimes with other waders.

Largest flocks : 200 at Gronant beach on 14/11; 130 at Pensarn on 14/11; c100 at POA on 1/12 (*see table*); 75 at Kinnel Bay on 9/01; a peak of 42 at Rhyl on 8/09. Also seen in small numbers at Llanddulas, OMR and Walwen.

| (SS) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|----|---|-----|
| POA | 6 | 1 | 42 | 1 | 6 | - | 30 | 12 | 3 | 70 | - | 100 |

LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minuta*)

PIBYDD BACH

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

There were more records this year:

Small numbers were observed at the Dee Estuary reserves, as follows: POA had singles on 11/05, 17/08, 20/09 and 2 on 30/09; OMR held an adult on 14/08 and 16/08, 6 on 28/09 and 2 on 3/10; Bagillt had two birds on 21/09 and Flint 1 on the same day; 1 at LT at MDR on 26/09.

Also seen at R. Clwyd, Rhyl (SJ 0081) on 10/05 and 12/09.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*)

PIBYDD CAMBIG

Scarce autumn passage migrant

Dee Estuary Reserves: there were 15 records, as follows: an unseasonal bird was seen at POA on 24/01, possibly oiled as preening a lot; POA also had a single adult on 12/05, 4 moulting adults on 24/07, singles on 17/08 and 5/09, 2 juvs on 6-7/09, a single on 13/09, 2 birds on 16/09 and 4 on 20/09. OMR held 3 juvs on 5/09, 7 on 21/09, 9 on 29/09 and 11 on 5/10. CQNR had 2 on 3/10. There was 1 at MDR on 26/09 and 3 at Flint on 9/10.

Also seen at Towyn Beach (SH 989803) where a juv on 6/09, and at R. Clwyd, Rhyl where 2 on 12/09 and single birds on 21/09 and 26/09.

| (DN) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|------|------|------|----|-----|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| BB | - | 25 | - | - | - | - | - | 1150 | 1100 | 550 | - | 200 |
| MDR | 580 | 760 | 40 | - | - | - | 1 | 1040 | 403 | 364 | 112 | 340 |
| OMR | 500 | 32 | - | - | - | - | 20 | 1350 | 600 | 2000 | 3000 | 2500 |
| POA | 3480 | 2300 | 1320 | 40 | 605 | 1 | 1105 | 940 | 700 | 1000 | 1500 | 2550 |
| CR | 26 | - | - | 7 | 68 | 6 | 54 | 89 | 33 | 30 | 38 | - |

PURPLE SANDPIPER (*Calidris maritima*) PIBYDD DU
Winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [BR, WI]

1 feeding with Redshank at OMR on 2/11 and 2 at Rhos Point, 9/11.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*) PIBYDD Y MAWN
Passage migrant and common winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]
The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site for wintering Dunlin though birds are found throughout the year.

Almost entirely coastal and the largest numbers are found along the Dee estuary but a small number of passage birds use the pools at Borrass and Gresford: 2 at GF on 19/04, 1 on 29/05 and a single bird was at BQ pools on 1/05.

Coastal: good numbers may be found at Kinnel Bay (where 2 separate flocks of 200+ and 150+ on 9/02) and the Rhyl area—(peak counts) c150 at RML on 27/01 and 800+ on 6/12; c100 on 29/01 at River Clwyd, Rhyl and 500 on 15/12 and on Rhyl Beach East (200 on 9/02). Also seen at Llanddulas and Pensarn (peak count of c75 feeding with Ringed Plover, Turnstones and Redshank on 1/03) and Gronant (c100 on 20/09 and 20/12).

Dee Estuary: seen in each month at POA where the peak was a count of 3480 on 11/01; a BHP estuary count gave 3650 on 10/02. The OMR peak was 3000 on 16/11 (HT). The peak count for MDR was 1040 on 25/08. The BB figures are for Flint where the peak count was 1150 on 12/08 on a falling tide (*see table*).

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*) PIBYDD TORCHOG
Scarce passage migrant. Amber List [BR, WL]
The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain but very few birds are recorded on the Welsh side.

A single at POA on 16/09. 4 records at OMR: a f on 18-19/08, 3 on 19/09 and a f on 21/09. Singles at Flint on 25/08 and 30/08.

JACK SNIBE (*Lymnocyptes minimus*)

GIACH FACH

Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [SPEC]

Just three *inland records*: 1 flushed on RM on 10/10, 3 at Dolwen on 8/12 and 1 at Clocaenog on 22/12.

Coastal: Gronant Marsh was still the main site though fewer were counted than last year with 2 at on 3/01 and 1 on 18/01 and on 3/03; small numbers counted in the period 13/11-31/12 with a peak of 8 on 18/11. At POA CL, birds were mainly flushed from damp grassland adjacent to the ponds, 24/10-10/12. The largest number was 4 on 4/11/01. A single bird was flushed by the rising tide at Flint on 2/12. 2 at R. Clwyd, Rhyl on 31/12.

SNIBE (*Gallinago gallinago*)

GIACH GYFFREDIN

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

The largest numbers are found inland at Dolwen Reservoir and in the coastal areas of Gronant and POA.

Inland: reported for 12 areas and possibly *breeding* in the Denbigh Moors area where drumming heard. The main sites were at Dolwen (where a peak count of 50 on 8/12-see *WeBs table*), Pulford Brook/Dee Meadows flood (SJ 405580) where 25 on 15/01, Stryt Las CP, Ruabon where the peak count was 19 on 26/01 and 10 at FLQ on 25/11 with 8 each at WIE (25/02) and Fenn's Moss (20/11), 2 at Bwlchgwyn Quarry on 23/09 and singles at Ceiriog Ucha (SJ 1535), AWCP and Erddig and present during spring and autumn counts on RM but with no attempt to census.

Coastal: far fewer at POA than last year; the peak count at HT was 40 on 28/02; a peak of 14 at POA CL on 16/12 (see *table*); 9 at Llawndy† on 10/01. 2 at OMR on 18/01 and 2 on 26/08. 3 at Flint on 25/08 and 16/10 and 4 on 2/12. 1 at Shotton Steelworks on 11/03. The peak counts at Gronant Marsh were 40 on 3/01 and 30 on 26/11. Smaller numbers were seen at KCF and at Rhyl where 16 were seen in a flooded field off Rhyl Road on 4/03 and at RML and R. Clwyd, Rhyl with peaks of 7 on 26/01 and 7+ on 20/12. A single bird was seen in June but with no evidence of breeding. Conwy RSPB Reserve also held good numbers throughout the year with a peak of 42 on 16/11 (see *table*).

| (SN) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| POA | 25 | 40 | 25 | 2 | - | - | - | 3 | 5 | 16 | 10 | 12 |
| CL | - | 2 | 5 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | 13 | 14 |
| CR | 21 | 9 | 15 | - | - | 1 | 7 | 5 | 16 | 30 | 42 | 40 |

WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*)

CYFFYLOG

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

11 sightings, all singles, from the HP/RM/WE area, Jan-Feb and Nov-Dec. and 1-2 flushed from leaf litter in Gardden Woods, Ruabon, 4/12 and 8/12; 1 flushed at POA Warren on 3/01; 2 flew over Black Brook, Mold at dusk on 3/01 (SJ 230649 and SJ 230652); 2 put up in woodland, Horsley Hall, Rossett, 27/02; 5 sightings of singles in January and November at R. Clwyd, Rhuddlan; 2 at a traditional site at Nercwys on 27/05; 1 nr MQ, 1/11; 1 flushed from woodland nr R. Alyn, Hope on 10/12; 1 at Clocaenog on 1/12 and 22/12.

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 or July and the mean roding time was 10pm.

| 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 6 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 |

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. The BB figures are for maxima at Flint at varying states of the tide, where the peak count was 2500 on 26/10. High counts were also registered at Walwen, with 800 on 4/04 and Bagillt, with a peak of 1200 on 8/12.

The peak count at OMR was 4000 on 5/10 and 390 at POA on 30/12 (both HT) (see table).

| (BW) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| BB | 1000 | 900 | 712 | 1082 | 4 | - | - | 250 | 1000 | 2500 | 850 | 2000 |
| OMR | 1250 | 1500 | - | - | - | - | 350 | 564 | 2500 | 4000 | 3900 | 1100 |
| POA | 157 | 40 | 44 | - | - | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 67 | 390 |
| IMF | 223 | 42 | 30 | 195 | 460 | 301 | 56 | 621 | 280 | 400 | 357 | 25 |
| CR | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 9 | 19 | 34 | 19 | 16 | 5 | 7 |

Also found at POA CL (18 on 23/11) and at MDR where the peak count was 117 on 1/03/01. The IMF peak was 621 in August. This was the fourteenth consecutive year of summering. During the late evening, summering birds flight out to the estuary

(Connah's Quay/Flint) to feed/roost and return early morning.

Also recorded at R. Clwyd, Rhyl (peak count 8 on 16/08) and at RSPB Conwy (see table) where the peak count was 34 on 26/08.

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

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

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

Recorded in small numbers (and fewer than last year) in all months at POA where the peak count (HT) was 25 on 19/08 (see table). Infrequent at BB and MDR where the peak counts were 35 at Walwen on 10/10 and 15 on 3/09, respectively. Recorded at OMR, August-November, where the peak count was 113 on 3/10 (HT). Also recorded at R. Clwyd, Rhyl where 1 on 3/09, Ffrith Beach where 3 on 19/09 and RSPB Conwy where the peak was 3 on 2/09.

| (BA) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|
| POA | 8 | 6 | 3 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 25 | 19 | 20 | 12 | 3 |

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

COEGLFINIR

Passage migrant and summer visitor in small numbers. Red List [BL]

Principally a coastal bird: all 2001 records come from the Dee Estuary marshes (between POA and Shotton), Gronant, the River Clwyd area and Rhos Point. 4 at Gronant beach on 22-24/04; 1 at R. Clwyd, Rhyl on 16/04; 2 flying N with oystercatchers over RML, 4/05; 2 flying W at Towyn on 5/05; 1 at Rhos Point on 18/05. RSPB Conwy has a peak count of 11 on 11/05.

Dee Estuary: Fewer than last year at POA where recorded from April-August; the peak count was 13 on 25/04 at HT (see table). 4 records at POA CL, 25/04-16/06 (all singles). 3 records at OMR: 1 on 16/07, 14 on 26/08 and 1 on 14/09. Fifteen records from BB, 25/04-21/05 and 13/07-3/10, peaking at 6 at Greenfield and Flint on 16/08. 5 at Shotton Steelworks on 29/04.

| (WM) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| POA | - | - | 4 | 13 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 10 | - | - | - | - |

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 ten probable breeding areas) in only small numbers, as follows: reported as a "good year" for breeding numbers on RM where the first spring record

was on 12/03; the first returning bird in the Pontfadog area was on 19/03; 2 at Borrás, 9/04; several calling on Denbigh Moors, 10/04 and 8 bathing in Aled Isaf Reservoir on 22/06; 4 at Aled Uchaf Reservoir on 28/06; 2 over TFR, 10/04; 1 at Bangor Is y Coed, 21/05; several calling at Rhewl where one 'mobbed' a Buzzard, 8/06; 2 at IIP on 17/06 and 3 displaying at Rhydtalog, same day and 1 at Wern, Minera (SJ 2850) on 17/07.

Found in large numbers (*non-breeding*) in *coastal* localities with a maximum of 2023 on 2/10 at POA (more than last year) - *see table*. Recorded all along the coast: (peak counts) Rhos Point (c30 on 9/02 and 9/11), Rhyl Promenade, RML (500 on 8/02) and R. Clwyd, Rhyl (400+ on 5/01), Llanddulas (c200 on 19/02). RSPB Conwy had a peak of 725 on 26/07.

Dee Estuary: BB, OMR and POA and POA CL: monthly maxima are shown in the table. Peak counts: at POA, 2023 on 2/10 (HT); CL, 65 on 25/03 (HT); MDR, 339 in July at LT. The BB figures refer to Bagillt at LT where the peak count was 790 on 12/08. Birds were also found regularly at Flint, Greenfield and Walwen where the peak was 260 on 4/04. The peak count for OMR was 100 on 16/07 and 24/10 (both LT). (*See table*).

| (CU) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|-----|------|-----|-----|----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| BB | 80 | 104 | 620 | - | - | 36 | 63 | 790 | 405 | 87 | 5 | - |
| MDR | 184 | 323 | 310 | - | - | 70 | 339 | 260 | 265 | 307 | 106 | 167 |
| OMR | 40 | 32 | - | - | - | - | 100 | 60 | - | 100 | 42 | 28 |
| POA | 768 | 1020 | 700 | 400 | 52 | 395 | 1350 | 1654 | 1959 | 2023 | 1365 | 790 |
| CL | - | - | 65 | 7 | 4 | 2 | - | 14 | 6 | 2 | 44 | 28 |
| CR | 78 | 176 | - | - | 35 | 8 | 725 | 461 | - | 300 | 91 | - |

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.

A single bird was present through the winter months at POA; recorded on 5 dates at Flushing Lagoons, 11/02-4/11 (all singles); 2 records of single birds from MDR on 26/09 and 10/10. 2 at Flint on 9/10, 9 at 13/12 and 12 on 16/12. The OMR peak count was 20 on 6/10 (*see table*).

Also seen at Rhyl where 2 on 6/09, 1 on 10-11/09 at R. Clwyd and 5 at Rhyl Beach E on 14/09.

| (DR) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|
| OMR | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | 15 | 20 | 13 | 2 |

REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*)

PIBYDD COESGOGII

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

There were three *inland* reports: a single bird at TMR on 4/07 and single birds at Nant-y-Frith reservoir on 15/07 and 20/08.

Coastal: seen all along the coast in winter including at Rhos Point (a peak of 120+ on 9/3), Rhyl area (a peak of 200 at R. Clwyd on 20/09), PMPA (c80 here on 29/01), Llanddulas (where the peak count was a HT roost of c225 on 13/03) and Pensarn (c30 also on 19/02). Small numbers at Gronant (c20 on 20/12).

Dee Estuary Reserves: found in varying numbers for much of the year (*see table*) but only one *breeding record*: a pair nested on Flint Marsh, raising 1 young.

Present through the year at POA where the peak count was 655 on 22/10 (HT); a winter presence at the Flushing Lagoon where the peak was a HT count of 655 on 4/11 (*see table*) and occasional at CL where the peak was a HT count of 100 on 16/12. The peak count for MDR was a HT count on 19/08/01 of 1450. OMR reached 3000 on 5/10 (HT). The BB figures refer to Flint where the peak of 650 was reached in October.

The total figures for RSPB Conwy are tabulated. A pair with a chick was seen from the Visitor Centre. The peak count was 309 on 16/11.

| (RK) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|----|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| BB | 331 | - | 272 | 210 | - | - | - | 100 | 215 | 650 | 427 | 138 |
| OMR | 50 | 160 | 100 | - | - | - | 400 | 2500 | 2500 | 3000 | 350 | 61 |
| POA | 75 | 251 | 143 | 108 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 200 | 270 | 655 | 500 | 249 |
| FL | 476 | 350 | 467 | 180 | - | - | - | - | 255 | 366 | 655 | 640 |
| MDR | 76 | 105 | 262 | - | - | - | 479 | 1450 | 1350 | 516 | 747 | 189 |
| CR | 80 | 238 | 120 | - | 2 | 77 | 240 | 200 | 220 | - | 309 | - |

GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)

PIBYDD COESWERDD

now **COMMON GREENSHANK***Passage migrant. Amber List [BL]*

One inland record: 1 at Gresford Flash on 19/08, possibly the first record for here. *Most records are along the Flintshire coast and Dee estuary, mainly late autumn and winter*: 3 at Flint on 16/12 and small numbers were present at OMR/CQNR, in January and then August-December, with a peak of 20 on 1/09. 3 records at Shotton Steelworks with a peak of 3 on 2/09. Also seen at POA, where there was a very early bird on 30/04 at the FL, and seen July-November, with a peak count of 8 at HT on 21/08.

Also seen at R. Clwyd, Rhyl where 2 juvs on 9/07, 6 birds on 23/08 and 1-2 on 27-28/08 and throughout September and 3 on 19-20/09.

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 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | - |

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*)

PIBYDD GWYRDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers

Several records from a few regular sites:

Inland: 3 at Pulford Brook/Dee Meadows on 15/01; WIE: 1 present 20/04 and 1/11, 30/11 and several dates subsequently; 1 at Llyn Brenig on 19/08; 1 at Pen-yr-Allt, Padeswood (SJ 281615) on 7/12.

Coastal: 1 at BHP Coastal Fields on 14/01; 1 at Gronant on 10-11/05; 2 at SL, 10-13/05. Singles were present at OMR and POA on 26/08 and 27/10, respectively, and a juv at POA FL on 19/08. 2 at Shotton Steelworks on 21/10 and singles on 18/11 and 2/12. 7 sightings of singles along R. Clwyd, Rhuddlan, August-December.

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*)

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

Scarce passage migrant. Amber List [BR, SPEC] Clwyd County rarity.

A single on IMF BP on 8/05 (C.E. Wells). 1 at R. Clwyd, Rhyl (SJ 0081) on 19-20/09 (J. Lunt).

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

Double passage migrant and breeding visitor

Seen in goods numbers this year.

Inland: bred at FLQ (ndg); 1-2 at on passage at GF on 20/04-23/04 then 7 on 25/04 (probably the largest ever count here); following a damaging downpour, seven were also reported at TMR on 4/07, where none the previous day. 1 at GV on 5/05. 2 at Llyn Brenig on 21/05 and 22/06, 4 at Aled Isaf Reservoir on 22/06 and 1 nr Sutton Green (SJ 418481) on 31/07.

Coastal: in the Rhyl area, there were 11+ records, R. Clwyd Splash Point-Rhuddlan, 15/04-2/09 with 6 on 25/04 and 3 on 23/08 and 2/09 and an unusually very late bird on 2/12; plus 1 at RBP on 5/05. Singles were at BHP on 12/04, 16/05 and 27/06 and at Gronant on 28/04 and 11/05. The *Dee Estuary reserves* had 3 at POA on 25/04 and 13 records involving singles at POA on 27/07, 4/08 and 6/08; 3 records of 1-2 at the FL, 25/04-7/08; 3 records at OMR: 2 on 16/07, 5 on 18/08 and 20/08; 4 at Walwen on 29/04 and singles at Walwen on 16/08 and at Bagillt on 13/07 and 29/09. Also, Shotton Steelworks had 3 records of single birds, 22/04-12/08.

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

CWTIAD Y TRAETH

now **RUDDY TURNSTONE**

Winter visitor. Amber List [W1]

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

Regular along the coast in variable numbers. Maximum counts: Llanddulas had a peak count of c140 in a HT roost on 13/03 and 25 summer-plumaged birds on 27/04; Pensarn had 50+ on 26/01 and a sizeable mixed flock (c100 in total) of Turnstone with Ringed Plovers, Dunlin, Redshank on 28/02. 1 at PMPA on 29/01. A peak of 45 at Rhos Point on 9/03; 6 at Rhyl Beach on 30/12.

Dee estuary: regular in winter months at MDR where the peak of 36 was reached at LT on 10/10 (see table). Scarce at POA where the peak count was 5 on 22/08. Only 1 at OMR, 27/08. Recorded in small numbers at BB where peak count was 11 at Greenfield on 1/03.

| (TT) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|
| MDR | 8 | 1 | 14 | - | - | - | 1 | 24 | 29 | 36 | 14 | 1 |

POMARINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

SGIWEN FRECH

Uncommon passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

Passage migrant in small numbers

Seen along the coast from Rhyl Splash Point to POA

Several reports: fewer at POA than last year with only 12 records: 4 offshore on 14/07, 3 on 18/07, 5 at HT on 25/07, 1 on 5/08, 2 at HT on 6/08, 2 on 7/08, up to 12 sightings, 2/09-16/09, and 1 on 31/10. Singles off Gronant on 10/07, 13/07, 27/07 and 5 records for Rhyl-Prestatyn, 22/07-8/09, peaking at 8 off Rhyl on 8/09—including 1 mobbing 2 Gannets on 22/07.

LONG-TAILED SKUA (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

SGIWEN LOSTFAIN

Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County Rarity—see Appendix 3.

1 at POA at HT on 2/09, a juv on a falling tide, on 4-5/09 (C. Rowley) and 7/09 (E. & L. Jones); 1-2 seen on successive days, 13/09-16/09 flying W past POA (H. John).

GREAT SKUA (*Stercorarius skua*)

SGIWEN FAWR

Uncommon passage migrant. Amber List [BI, BL]

Singles flying W past POA on 27/08 and 3/09; 4 on 13/09, 2 on 15/09 and 3 on 31/10.

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

Increasingly seen: 27 records covering 8 sites this year.

A second-winter bird at R. Clwyd, Rhyl on 27/01 and adult birds seen on 25/07, 3/09 and 6/09. 1 at Kinnel Bay on 14/09. Four records for Pensarn and Llanddulas as follows: 1 adult on 18/02, 3 on 24-5/02 (Llanddulas) and 2 birds in full summer plumage in the large Common Gull flock at the W end of Pensarn beach, 10/03. 12 records at POA as follows: an adult summer bird on 4/07, a first-summer on 20/07, a moulting adult on 24/07, an adult winter on 3/09-9/09 and 30/09 and a first winter bird on 20/10. At OMR there was a second-winter bird on 20/02. 4 records at Flint: a summer-plumaged adult on 10/03, and 20/03; a winter-plumaged bird on 15/10 and 4/12. A single adult in winter plumage was at Ffynnongroyw South Bay, MDR at LT on 19/08. A single bird at Shotton Steelworks on 25/03.

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

3 flying W off POA on 7/04 and 14 further offshore and 7 W past POA, 8/04; 1 again at OMR—an adult winter bird on 22/08; a juv flying W past POA on 13/09.

SABINE'S GULL (*Larus sabini*) GWYLAN SABINE
Scarce vagrant. Clwyd County rarity.

A juv past POA on 7/09 (N. Friswell)

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

Successful breeding sites at Llyn Brân, Llyn Brenig and Shotton Pools

Inland sightings: regular at (main sites only) Acton Park (max. 160 on 16/12), Erddig (max. 120 on 16/12), GF (max. c250 on 4/11 and 16/12), and up to a hundred at Gwersyllt, Halton nr Chirk, Eagles Meadow, Wrexham (SJ 3350) and Ruabon.

Leucistic birds were seen at GF (a white-winged bird with dull brown wing-tips) and PMPA (from 14/11/00-3/01) and, possibly the same bird, at Pensarn on 19/02.

Coastal: regular in the Rhuddlan-Rhyl area where the peak counts were 2000 on 27/12 plus 800+ at RML on 26/12 and 1200+ at Horton's Nose on 7/12 plus a large mixed flock feeding at LT (with Herring Gull) of 6000 on 31/12 along Rhyl beach; 200+ at Pensarn on 29/01. The figures for RSPB Conwy are tabulated. The peak count was 840 on 15/02.

Dee Estuary: There was a single record of 1440 birds at the Bagillt/Flint roost on 20/03. Numbers were down at POA where the peak count was 2300 on 21/08 (HT). (see table). The peak count at OMR revealed 840 on 25/08. At IMF, winter and au-

turn birds flight on to the reserve from adjoining fields to roost and bathe, the peak being 450 on 17/11. Shotton Lagoons colony had 9 nests producing 7 young (fewer than last year). The peak count was 57 on 8/04.

An unidentified unusual gull seen at POA on 24/01, possibly a Black-headed Gull/Mediterranean Gull hybrid. Right leg ringed. *Full description given.*

| (BH) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|-----|-----|---|---|-----|------|------|------|-----|---|---|
| POA | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1200 | 2300 | 1125 | 262 | - | - |
| CR | - | 840 | 500 | - | - | 236 | 800 | - | - | - | - | - |

RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*) GWYLAN FODRWYBIG
Rare American vagrant. Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

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: records from Dolwen (a peak of 500 on 22/02) and Plas Uchaf Reservoirs (c250 on 17/01), Erddig (a peak of 50 on 11/02), GF (30+ on 15/01), Llangollen (c40 at Sun Bank on 24/12), Llyn Brenig (where 500 on 22/02), Mold (c50 on 26/02) and in smaller numbers at Hanmer Mere and SLJ.

Coastal sites: often in large numbers: the largest count was a single record of 6400 birds at the Bagillt/Flint roost on 20/03, including a full albino. Gronant beach had 1850 on 18/11. Numbers were down at POA where the peak count was 500 on 22/08 (HT) (see table). C200 at Llanddulas on 19/02 and c1200 at Pensarn beach west-end on 10/03. The peak count for River Clwyd, Rhyl-Rhuddlan was 1000 on 27/12. The figures for RSPB Conwy are tabulated. The peak count was 920 on 15/02.

| (CM) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|-----|-----|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|---|
| POA | - | - | - | - | - | - | 127 | 500 | 228 | 158 | - | - |
| CR | - | 920 | 500 | - | - | 1 | 10 | 1 | - | - | - | - |

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.

The table gives unco-ordinated maximum count figures where available. Also recorded at Borrás, Ewloe (454 at Smithy Lane, Cross Farm nr Ewloe (SJ 281662) on 12/07), Llyn Brenig and at Pontfadog where many flocks of 30-50 seen passing over on 1/04.

Coastal: regular but in smaller numbers at (*see table*). A peak of 159 at POA on 25/07 (HT). The OMR peak count was 115 on 16/10. 30 at Flint on 20/03 and 100 on 25/08. The figures for RSPB Conwy are tabulated. The peak was 40 on 17/08. 2 pairs had 2 broods.

| (LB) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|----|---|-----|---|----|------|-----|----|---|---|-----|------|
| GF | 61 | | 100 | | | 100+ | 200 | | | | 250 | 200+ |
| POA | - | - | - | 7 | 11 | - | 159 | 48 | - | - | 4 | - |
| CR | - | 2 | 25 | - | 3 | 6 | - | 40 | - | - | - | - |

HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*)

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

Breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber List [BDM]

Inland: recorded at GF, where perhaps increasing (c400 on 28/01 and 25/12), Ruabon and Wrexham.

Coastal: found all along the coast but the main site was at POA where the peak count was 1398 on 23/07 (HT) (*see table*). Kinnel Bay held 250+ on 6/12, 800+ at Rhyl Beach on 30/12 and a mixed flock of c6000 there on 31/12. A count of 100 at Flint on 20/03 and 200+ on 25/08. Gronant beach held 208 on 18/11 in the second winter period when the OMR peak was only 58 on 16/10. c400 at Llanddulas on 10/12.

| (HG) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|----|---|
| POA | - | - | - | - | - | 580 | 1398 | 748 | 658 | 290 | 56 | - |

sspYELLOW-LEGGED GULL(*L. a. michahellis*)

GWYLAN GOES FELEN

Regular but scarce late summer passage migrant

More records this year. There were 9 records of the western form *michahellis* at POA as follows: 1 on 22/06 and 22/07, 5 on 23/07, 4 on 25/07, 2 on 27/07, 1 on 5/08, 3 on 12/08 and 1 on 22/08. 1 at Gronant beach on 22/04. 4 records at OMR: 2 adults on 14/08, 20/08, 24/08 and 2 winter-plumaged adults on 21/09. 6 records at Flint (all adults): 1 on 12/08, 2 on 15/08, 1 on 28/08, 2 on 3/09, 2 on 18/10 and 1 on 2/12. 3 at Shotwick Reservoirs on 10/08 and 14/08. Also seen at Pensarn on 25/02 and Rhyl on 25/07

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucoideus*)
Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County Rarity.

GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

A first-winter bird at GF on 5/02 and an adult on 29/03 and 3/04 (presumably the same bird) with other gulls which flew off at 07.50 am on the latter date (J. Newton, K. Smith).

GLAUCOUS GULL (*Larus hyperboreus*)
Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.

GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

A first-winter bird at Llanddulas, 18/02 and 20/02 (I. Higginson).

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

The peak POA count was 98 on 5/09 (HT) and for OMR it was 136 on 16/11 (see table). A record of 30 birds 'loafing' on Greenfield sandbanks on 20/03. Also seen off Rhyl Beach (a peak of 52 on 6/12), Shotwick reservoir (15+ on 10/08) and inland at Llyn Brenig.

| (GB) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| POA | - | - | - | - | - | - | 54 | 61 | 98 | 86 | 44 | 10 |
| OMR | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 44 | 80 | 116 | 136 | 120 |

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

GWYLAN GOES DDU

Seen off Rhos Point (peaks of c20 on 6/04 and of 30+ on 13/07 and 7/08), Rhyl and Llanddulas (c10 on 12/07). Fewer noted this year at POA-- 4 offshore on 25/03; 1 on 6/04 and 15 on 7/04; 4 on 7/06; 3 at HT on 8/07; and 6 sightings in September, the main counts being 70 flying past on 3/09, 20 on 15/09 and 70 on 16/09.

SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna sandvicensis*)
Passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC]
The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

MORWENNOL BIGDDU

Gronant and POA are important for their pre-migratory roost of terns.

Recorded at Gronant & POA from March(25/03)-September. A peak of 250 at Gronant beach on 22/04. 30+ off nearby Ffrith beach, Prestatyn on 4/08, some

mobbed by Arctic Skua. 4 at POA on 7/04 and 30 on 8/04. HT maxima for POA are given in the table; the peak count date was 22/07 (*see table*). A record of 80 off Greenfield on 5/08, 7 off FC on 25/08, 4 at Walwen on 2/08 and 2 at OMR on 26/08. 2 at Shotton Steelworks on 17/06.

Additional site records: frequent off Rhos Point, 6/04-12/07 with a peak count of 8+; Rhyl (a peak of 32 on 8/09) and 2 at Llandulas on 27/04.

| (TE) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|-----------------|---|---|---|-----|----|----|------|-----|-----|---|---|---|
| POA/ Gronant | - | - | - | 250 | 30 | 40 | 1300 | 500 | 100 | - | - | - |

ROSEATE TERN (*Sterna dougallii*)
Scarce passage migrant

MORWENNOL WRIDOG

Clwyd County Rarity— see Appendix 3.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*)
Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor
The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

MORWENNOL GYFFREDIN

Dee Estuary: the Shotton colony had a record year with 545 pairs and 810 fledged young were ringed (see table, courtesy of John Birch and Paul Triggs). The mortality rate was the lowest for several years. The first returning birds were 3 on 22/04; the last sighting was of 8 on 2/09.

HT counts for POA gave maximum figures of 600 in July, 300 in August and 70 in September, fewer than last year (the peak count date was 22/07). Regularly present in summer at MDR and BB, fishing the low water channels off Greenfield and Walwen. Peak counts were 550 off Greenfield on 5/08 and 165 off Flint on 15/08. A late pair fished the river occasionally at OMR up to 16/09 and several “comic” terns were off POA on 17/09. 2 early birds at Gronant beach, 22/04, presumably heading for Shotton.

| <i>Shotton Common Tern colony, recent results</i> | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| (CN) | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
| pairs | 350 | 393 | 471 | 433 | 491 | 545 |
| young ringed | 567 | 386 | 521 | 552 | 632 | 810 |

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

MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Only four records at POA: singles on 1/07 and 8/07 and 6 on 10-11/07.

LITTLE TERN (*Sterna albifrons*)

MORWENNOL FECUAN

*Passage migrant and regular breeding summer visitor. Amber List [SPEC]**The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain**The nesting colony at Gronant had a disastrous breeding season: there were 85 pairs but only a single youngster fledged (see table).**2 at Gronant by 22/04 and 20 by 25/04. Seen along the coast (presumably Gronant birds) at POA, Rhyl, Prestatyn and Flint, 2/07-8/09 with peaks of 100 at POA on 22/07 and 24/07 and 25 at Flint on 12/08.*

| <i>The Little Tern nesting colony at Gronant</i> | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|-----------|------|------|--------|-------|------|------|------|
| (AF) | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
| pairs | 45 | 77 | 65 | 78 | 80+ | 35-40 | 86 | 75 | 85 |
| fledged young | 45 | 120 - 140 | 36 | 120+ | 9 - 11 | 20 | 111 | 57 | 1 |

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*)

CORSWENNOL DDU

*Uncommon passage migrant**Several records - 1 at Gronant on 5/07; POA had five records: 1-3 on 20/08-23/08, 1 at HT on 3/09 and 1 flying W on 15/09.***GUILLEMOT** (*Uria aalge*)

GWYLOG

*Regular visitor to coastal waters. Amber List [BI, BL]**Rhos Point had c20 on 27/04 and 25/05 and singles on 19/06, 13/07 and 8/12. 4 off POA on 6/06 and 32 next day. 3 seen over River Dee, Greenfield on 13/10.***RAZORBILL** (*Alca torda*)

LLURS

*Small numbers occasionally recorded offshore. Amber List [BL]**1 off Rhyl Splash Point on 6/09.***AUK spp.** (*Uria/Alca*)*8 off POA on 7/04, 10 on 6/06, 29 on 7/06.***STOCK DOVE** (*Columba oenas*)

COLOMEN WYLLT

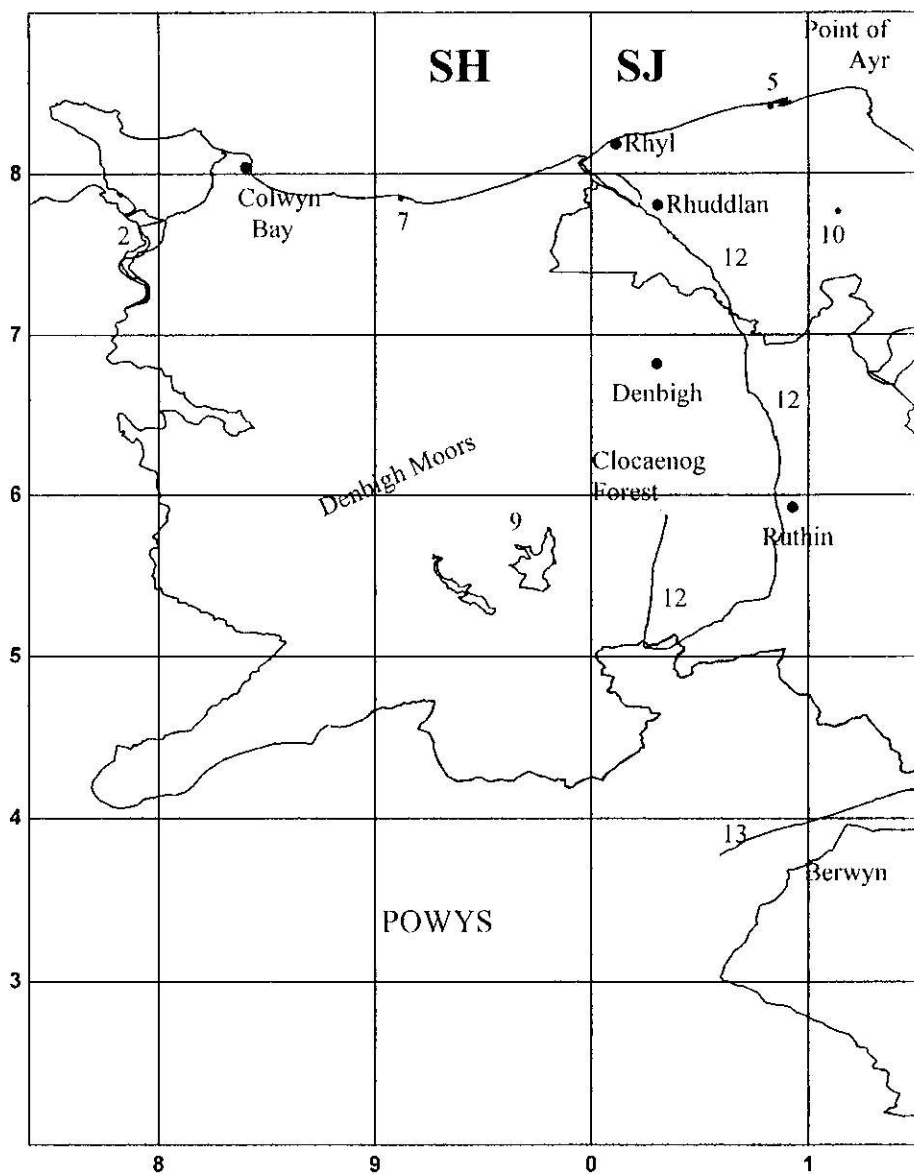
*now STOCK PIGEON**Breeding resident. Amber List [BI]**Recent records suggest that this is widespread through the county in small numbers.*

Key to 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 346538 |
| 5 | Gronant sand dunes | SJ 090845 |
| 6 | Hammer 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 301439 |
| 15 | Shotton Lagoons | SJ 3071 |
| 16 | Shotwick Lake and Fields | SJ 3172 |
| 17 | World's End | SJ 238478 |
| See also Gazetteer | | |

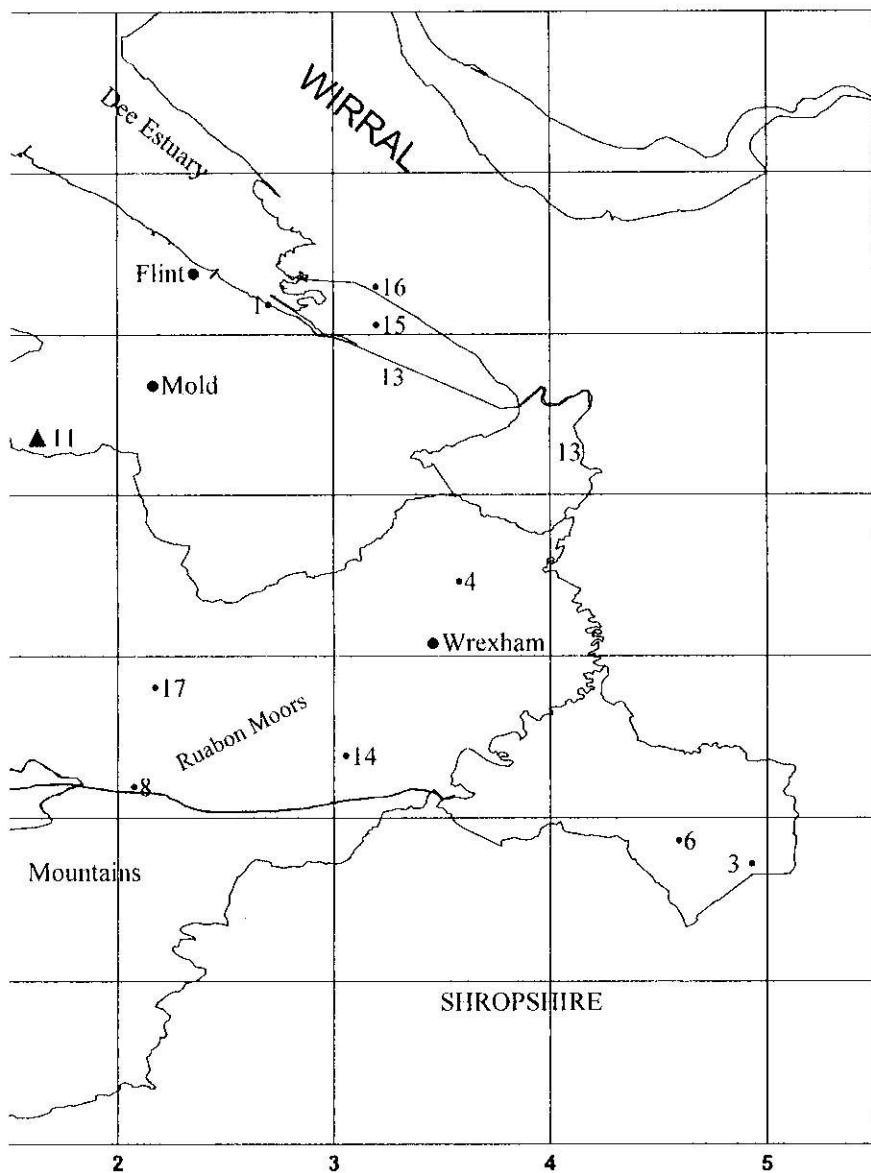
THE COUNTY

(see previous page)

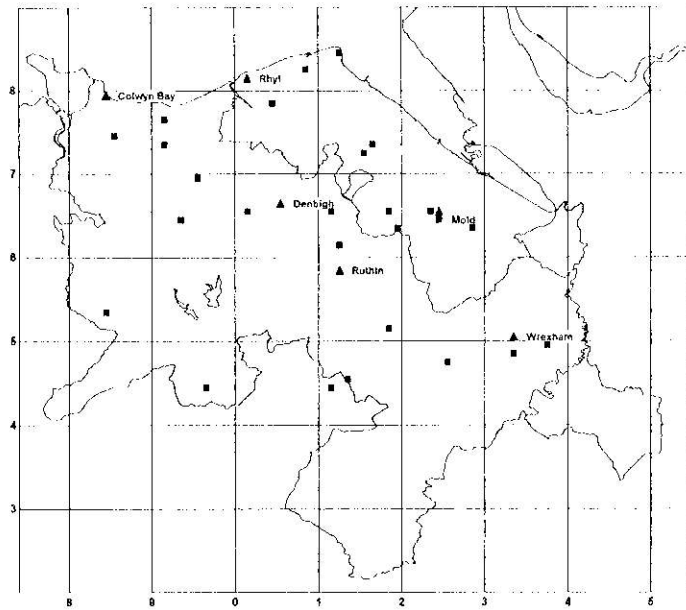


OF CLWYD

for the Key)



BBS squares for Clwyd



Breeding: 4 nest boxes at SL produced 5 young; all ringed on 24/05.

Largest counts: 70 at IMF Flintshire border on 11/04, feeding on linseed fields; 30 at CL on 14/07; 35 at Castell Dinas Bran on 16/10.

Reported in small numbers from another 16 locations: AP, BHP coastal fields, Borrás, Coedpoeth, Denbigh, Greenfield coastal fields, GF, Gwernaffield nr Mold, Halkyn, OMR, POA, Rhuddlan, Sychdyn, SF, TFR, WIE

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 (>100): 2000 moving S near PCR at 0730hrs on 9/11; 400 at Hosely Lane, Marford, 10/02; c200 at Hanmer Mere on 20/01; 180 feeding on kale stubble at Plas-yn-Brain Fm., Treuddyn, 6/12; 147 feeding at Greenfield on 23/10; a peak count of 100 at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 24/12.

FERAL PIGEON (*Columbia livia*): found in numbers in Town Centres; smaller numbers elsewhere, including gardens. Peak counts: a regular roost of up to 250 at Rhyl Railway Bridge; 50+ regular in Wrexham TC; 36 at BHP Terminal on 14/01.

COLLARED DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

TURTUR DORCHOG

now **EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE**

Common and widespread breeding resident

Breeds readily in suburban areas. Maximum numbers: a remarkable count of 140 in trees and buildings near Flint Castle on 16/11; 57 over Talacre Warren on 29/06; 55 at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 2/11; 26 at Parkside, Marford on 20/09; 20 on Flint marsh on 24/03.

TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*)

TURTUR

now **EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE**

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

1-2 in the Bwlchgwyn area, May-August, possibly breeding (L. Wood, S. Davies). 1 at Talacre Warren on 29/05 (C. Rowley). 1 on 6/06, on scrub land off Cambrian Walk, Rhyl (J. Lunt).

CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*)

COG

now **COMMON CUCKOO**

Breeding summer visitor [WE]

More reported sightings this year (30) but still fewer records than 1989 when 50.

First record of spring: Sun Bank, Llangollen on 22/04 [9/04 at Llandegla in 2000] and the last was on 13/09 (a juvenile) at POA [17/06 in 2000 at RM].

Recorded (mainly singles) in Coedpoeth area (10 sightings, mainly singles, 26/04-6/06); Gresford area (6 sightings, 27/04-12/06); and 7 sightings of 1-3 at Clocaenog, WIE and Ruabon where 3 very early /unconfirmed birds on passage, flying rapidly and emitting a croaking type of call, TFR, 15/04. 3 recorded singles on Denbigh Moors, 19/05-22/06. 1 at Shotton Steelworks on 29/04; 1 calling at Greenfield on 12/05 and 1 at GV on 9/06; a *juv* near POA hide on 17/08 and FC on 19/08 and POA coastal fields on 13/09 (same bird?).

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

TYLLUAN WEN

Scarce breeding resident. Amber List [BDM, SPEC]

Breeding: two pairs bred in Denbighshire, each with two chicks—near Cynwyd and Llangollen; reports from 5 other sites within 3km of RM. A pair bred nr Hawarden with at least 2 juvs.

At least 11 other sightings: several sightings of 1-2 crossing the Mold-Denbigh road near Lixwm; two single birds seen at Clocaenog and nr Llyn Bran, Denbigh Moors, 8/06; 1 hunting at SL on 28/06; 1 nr Llandeilo, 25/08; 1 nr Llay industrial estate, 4/09 and 1 flew across Mold Road at Gwersyllt on 24/09; a road casualty on the A55 at Bodelwydden, 5/11; 1 seen crossing the A470 near Llanrwst, on the W-edge of our area, on 10/11; 1 above Glyn Valley Tramway, Ceiriog Valley on 12/12; 1 along Ruabon by-pass, early evening, 26/12.

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*)

TYLLUAN FACH

Breeding resident

More records this year

Over 47 sightings in 23 locations (mainly singles) as follows: 1 in usual place in hole in old oak nr river Dee, Holt, 2/01; 1 frequently seen or heard at TFR, with seven sightings through the year; 1-2 regular at Warren Farm‡; 12 sightings of a single bird along River Clwyd, Rhuddlan; 2 nr Ruthin on 3/02 and 1 on Ruthin Cattle Market on 7/05; 2 on Dyserth farmland on 8/02; 1 at Pen-y-Bryn Farm, Rhyl on 11/05; 1 at Commonwood, 19/05; 1 at Trelawnyd, 19/05; 1 at Gypsy Lane, Mold on 5/06 and 21/06; 1 at New Brighton (SJ 249657), sitting on footpath sign at 22.00 hrs; 1 flying at Greenfield on 14/06 and 1 on 20/06 at Gwernymynydd Hill, Mold; 1 at Llandyrnog on 22/06; 1 at Llanasa on 2/07; 1 near Llay Industrial Estate, 3/07; a possible bird flying low at Sutton Green, 15/07; 2 at Jim Laws Golf Shop, Saltney, 16/07; 1 nr Chirk Castle, 19/08; 4 (presumably a family group) at Llay on 5/09; 1 at Bersham, 16/09; 1 (heard only) at Coed-y-Brain, Lixwm on 12/12.

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

TYLLUAN FRECH

About a dozen sightings through the year in Llanddulas, Ruabon and Coedpoeth, inc. 1 which frequently woke residents by hooting from a chimney pot at 5 am. 2 seen at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan and young heard in June. 1 seen at Dyserth on 17/08 and at Llanasa on 9/10. 1 calling at 5.10pm at Rhyd-y-foel on 14/08. Also heard at Bangor-is-y-Coed, Erddig (1-3 through the year), Greenfield, Llyn Brenig, Pen-y-Ffordd, St. Asaph and in gardens in Gresford and Wrexham.

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

TYLLUAN GORNIOG

At least one bird present in usual RM territory until February but no subsequent visits possible through FMD; pellets found in November and December but no bird seen. A bird present at usual territory along the coast, in May and 1 on 28/10.

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)

TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

Scarce winter visitor, passage migrant and possible breeder. Amber List [SPEC]

A good year for coastal passage migrants but also found inland in a traditional area. Three locations, as follows:

- (i) *Inland at RM:* reported from two areas of RM - 3 times in winter and once in July.
- (ii) *Coastal at Gronant and POA:* a single was flushed from POA marsh on 11/02, 1 at Llawndy† on 22/02 and 1 at Gronant on 13/04 and 6/05. In the second winter period, there were 2 at Gronant on 13/11, 22/12 and 31/12 (probably the same birds as at the contiguous area at POA). At POA/Talacre Warren, there were 2 'performing' on 24/11, one making a barking noise, an exceptional 8 on 28/11, then 1-3 seen 29/11-30/12 with 6, hunting the dunes an hour before dusk, on 2/12.
- (iii) *River Clwyd, Rhuddlan-Rhyl:* 1 on 15/12 (temporarily mobbed by gulls).

NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)
now EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR

TROELLWR MAWR

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

Records from six sites in 2000, 3 this year. Nercwys Mountain (SJ 218585) is a regular site for this species as the table shows (source: P. Kenyon). 2 pairs raised 8

| <i>Nightjars at Nercwys Mountain</i> | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
| pairs | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| young | 8 | 8 | 14 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 8 |

young in 2001. Single birds were reported churring from edge of RM in June-July and on 1/08. 1-2 heard churring briefly in Denbigh Moors area on 28/06.

SWIFT (*Apus apus*)

GWENNOL DDU

now **COMMON SWIFT**

Fairly common and widespread breeding summer visitor

First record: 1 over Ruabon on 24/04. [last year: 23/04 at RSPB Conwy]. Last: 6 on passage at TFR and 2 at RCR on 24/08 [last year: 1 at Gronant on 3/10].

Reported from across the county. Maximum counts: 91 over Warren Farm†, 9/06; 80 hawking over fields at Greenfield, 23/08; 70 along River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 13/08; 60-70 circling high over Gresford allotments, 25/06; 50-60 over Rhosddu on 22/06; 50-60 wheeling over Ruabon + 30 over Parish Church, 9-15pm, 16/07.

KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*)

GLAS Y DORIAN

now **COMMON KINGFISHER**

Local breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC']

About 40 sightings from 13 areas in 2000 (cf. c80 records in 1989).

Inland: singles seen at Pulford Meadow, 5/01; Erddig, 22/07; TFR, Ruabon, 28/08; Moss Valley, 25/09; Burton Weir, 4/11; Hanmer Mere, 31/12.

Coastal: 1 at Shotton Steelworks on 13/01 and 26/08; 1 at Shotwick Lake on 17/01; 6 sightings of 1-2 in winter at POA and 1 at FL on 7/10. Several sightings through the year at Flint, Bagillt and GV and regular along R. Clwyd, Rhyl-Denbigh. Two birds wintered along the non-IMF reserve section of Shotwick Brook (Cheshire/Flintshire boundary).

HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*)

COPOG

Rare vagrant. Clwyd County rarity.

A bird was in a Cilcain garden (SJ 182645) for several days in July (14/07-17/07) (H.G. Harvey).

GREEN WOODPECKER (*Picus viridis*)

CNOCELL WERDD

Breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC']

Regular sightings at Erddig Park and Greenfield Valley.

Occasional sightings from 21 locations at AWCP, Caergwle, Chirk, River Dulas (and 1 in a Llanddulas garden, 29/08 and 22/09), Llandegla Forest, Coedpoeth area, Gresford area, Llangollen, Llay, Nercwys Mtn., Pen-y-Cloddiau (where 1 seen and 2 heard on 26/08), Rhyd-y-foel, River Clwyd, Rhuddlan and Ruabon.

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

Widespread: reported from over 24 localities, including garden feeders.

Some breeding records: a *juv* at Bod Petrual on 31/05; 2 pairs were seen feeding noisy juveniles at nests in Llyn Helyg woods on 7/06 (one nest already fledged); a *juv* calling from a nest-hole at Erddig on 2/06 and a *juv* with an adult on 1/07; a *f* and 2 *juvs* regularly seen at nut feeders in a Llanddulas garden, June-December; seen all year in Rhuddlan woods with a *juv* in July.

Regular through the year at AP, Bersham, Bod Petrual, Clocaenog, Coedpoeth, Erddig, Greenfield Valley. Occasional sightings reported for 15 other areas. 1 seen moving from post to post along an old fence at Llyn Brenig, 23/08, picking at each one.

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

Records from only a few (six) sites: 1 at Ruabon on 28/01 and (possibly) 12/11; 1 at Erddig on 14/02; a pair at Acton Park, Wrexham on 1/04 and a single bird on nearby garden feeders, same date; a *m* on 3/04 and 1 heard on 31/08 at Rhuddlan woods; 1 at Rossett, 4/11; 1 at Greenfield Valley on 20/02 and 2 on 30/12 and 1 on 31/12.

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 five main areas (seven last year) - 22 seen feeding on slurried meadow at 380m near Pontfadog, 8/02; only 3 reported at AWCP (5/05); small numbers noted over RM where first spring song on 13/02; c4 at Firestone site, WIE on 1/05; 6 at CQNR on 3/10. *Other inland areas:* 1-2 noted at Bangor-is-y-Coed, Borras, Coedpoeth, Gresford, Minera and several locations in the Ruabon area.

Coastal Breeding territories: birds were in full song at Gronant Dunes by 1/02 (no count given). There were 5 breeding territories located on the POA reserve (outcome unknown) and 3 on the adjacent old colliery site. The CL site held 9 territories. Nearby BHP held 2 territories. 2 pairs on territory at the Flintshire part of IMF. 16 birds counted at SL on 6/06 and 7 young were seen. 2 at SF on 18/05 and 1 on 24/07. At least 2 breeding territories at Kimmel Bay LNR and 1 at R. Clwyd estuary. 1 nr Bodtegwel, Abergele on 1/05. A single bird at Towyn beach scrub area on 5/05 and

7/06 and 2 at Prestatyn GC on 6/05.

Notable non-breeding *coastal* counts included c100 at Gronant on 31/12, 30 at POA on 10/10 and 25 on 4/11; a peak of 10 counted at CL, 25/03-13/09. A peak count of 18 at Flint marsh on 16/10. 20+ birds at R. Clwyd, Rhyl on 20/12.

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: 2 at Warren Farm‡ on 11/03 then 1 over River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 23/03; then 5+ over GF on 3/04 with 50+ next day; c12 at Abakhan, Mostyn on 3/04 [2000: 1 at Rhuddlan-Rhyl stretch of R. Clwyd, 10/03] *Last sightings:* 2 at Shotton Steelworks on 23/09.

Breeding reported for only four sites: Bodfari sandpits (SJ 114722) where c150 nest-holes on 3/06; FLQ where 90-100 nest-holes in a pile of sand but some predated by a badger which was able to climb the bank; Sutton Green (SJ 416488) (40+ birds in July but the low-lying nest sites on the River Dee were washed away) and a small colony of 9 at Aled Isaf Reservoir on 22/06.

Other main sightings: BHP (a peak of 18 at Llawndy on 26/04), GF, Llay Pool (c50 birds on 7/06), River Clwyd, Rhuddlan (where 45 on 22/07).

SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

GWENNOL

now **BARN SWALLOW**

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

First arrival: 26/03 at GF (last year = 5 April/00, Gresford and Borrás)

Last: 4 at Aled Isaf Reservoir on 6/10 (last year: 13 November)

Still a common visitor but with variable numbers.

Main counts (>50): a mixed gathering with House Martins of 1000+ at PCR, 20/09; 78 at Llawndy, BHP on 26/04 and 84 at The Warren on 12/05; 55 over River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 18/09; 50+ over The Plassey, Ruabon on 24/08.

The study at Dinbren Isa, Llangollen was resumed in July (after FMD) but available evidence suggested only one pair more than in 2000.

Coastal: 12 pairs nested around Shotton Paper and 18 young were counted.

HOUSE MARTIN (*Delichon urbica*)

GWENNOL Y BOND

Common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. [WE]

First of spring: 2 over River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 10/04 (April 11, 2000: Cefn y Bedd).

Last: 1 at GV on 18/10. (September 28, 2000: AWCP)

Inland: fairly widespread with variable numbers from about 30 areas. Largest flock

numbers: a mixed flock with swallows over Dee at Berwyn, 60-70 on 18/09; mixed flock of 1000+ at PCR on 20/09; 50+ over FC on 14/08, 50+ at Moel y Faen (SJ 1847) on 14/09.

Largest nesting sites: c15 pairs at Coed y Glyn, Erddig in May.

Coastal: Largest counts: 70 over River Clwyd Rhuddlan on 13/08 and 17/08; 47 over Talacre Warren on 12/05; 30 hawking over CL pools on 14/07.

TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*)

CORHEDDYD Y COED

Scarce summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. [WE]

1st of spring: 2 at The Warren, POA on 11/04.

Coastal records: reported from three areas, as follows:

- a. 2 flew over Gronant LNR on 25/04, 9 there on 30/04 and 2 there on 10/05.
- b. POA Warren (Talacre) had 2 on 11/04, rising to 6 on 27/04 and a remarkable 16 on 29/04, presumably prior to dispersal, but up to 10 there on 12-13/05 and 1 on 29/06. Nearby, 7 on 26/04 at Llawndy, BHP and over POA FL on 30/04.
- c. 2 on scrub land off Cambrian Walk, Rhyl on 1/05.

Inland: reported from four areas, as follows:

- a. 3 at Clocaenog on 21/04 and 3+ singing at Bron Bannog, 5/05;
- b. 1 singing at Nant-y-Frith (SJ 261547), 5/06;
- c. 1 singing and displaying nr Llay Pool, 20/06;
- d. 1 at AWCP, 7/07;
- e. several at Pendinas, 22/07.

MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*)

CORHEDDYD Y WAEN

Common breeding, passage and wintering species

Inland: reported from over 15 locations including Denbigh Moors and Llyn Brenig, Fenn's Moss, HMCP, Llandegla Moors, Nercwys Mtn., RM. Highest counts: a spring movement of "hundreds" at Tainant near Penycae in March; 24 at Hafod, Johnstown, 15/02; 20+ over Denbigh Moors, 19/05; 18 at Llanasa on 26/01; 18 at Llyn Brenig on 23/08; 17 in a field at Burton in December; 15+ Llandegla Moors, 1/07.

Larger numbers recorded along/near the coast: at POA, the first winter peak was a count of 540 which flew W in 3 hours on 23/03; the second winter period had a peak of 70 on 18/09. 3 breeding territories were located on POA reserve (outcome unknown) and 1 on the adjacent colliery site. 3 were located on CL shore tip. A single record of 16 birds at Flint marsh on 16/10. Resident at SL where the peak count was 83 on 17/08; no breeding evidence. Smaller numbers at R. Clwyd, Rhyl-Rhuddlan where the highest count was 42 flying E on 19/03. 110 at Sealand Manor Estate on 11/01.

ROCK PIPIT (*Anthus petrosus*)

C'ORHEDDYD Y GRAIG

Winter visitor to Dee Estuary in small numbers

1 at Rhos Point on 2/02. 1 at Llanddulas on 5/05 and 2 on 14/11. 17 records at POA: 3 on 10/01 and 13/01, a remarkable 12 on 10/02, singles on 11/01, 25-26/01, 31/01, 23/03 and 8/04, 4 on 12/03, 14/03 and 25/03, 1 on 7/04. In the second winter period, there were 8 on 17/10 and 5 on 3/11 (inc. 2 at Llawndy on 12/02). A single record of 3 at Walwen on 4/11 and 4 records for Flint: 1 on 12/03, and 19/10, 2 on 16/11 and 2 on 2/12.

YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*)

SIGLEN FELEN

Passage migrant and (possible) localised breeder in small numbers

Breeding: pairs nested on the arable fields adjacent to IMF on the Flintshire/Cheshire border (Shotwick).

Inland sightings: a pair feeding amongst horses at TFR, 1/04; a male at TMR fisheries, 2nd and 4th May; unusually, 1 at Gresford Lake on 17/11.

Coastal: the first arrivals were singles at Shotton Steelworks on 22/04 and at Gronant beach same day then 2 at the LNR on 25/04; 1 at BHP VC on 26/04; 1 at POA Warren on 27/04; a *f* at Llawndy farm, POA on 6/05 and a *m* on 16/05; 1 at Gronant LNR on 10/05; 1 at Talacre Warren 12/05; 2 overhead at POA on 3/09. The main site is around SBL, where they were recorded from 2/05-26/07 with a peak of 5+ on 24/07. Also seen at RGC where 1 on 9/05.

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

SIGLEN BENLAS

Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

Single males at Rhos-on-Sea GC on 5/05 (D.F. Richardson) and at Gronant LNR on 25/05 (submitted by G. Stamp).

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla cinerea*)

SIGLEN LWYD

Fairly common breeding resident. [WE]

Recorded in 15 main inland areas and seven coastal sites. Confirmed or probable *breeding* at Erddig.

Regular sightings (1-2) at BHP, Ceiriog Valley, Clywedog Valley, Llangollen, Ruabon and Llyn Brenig and at Flint, Greenfield Valley, Llanddulas and R. Dulas, R. Clwyd (Rhyl-Rhuddlan and where 3 on 1/08 and 26/10) and Shotton Steelworks. A garden bird at Rhyl, Sychdyn and Llanddulas.

Highest counts: a pair with 2 newly fledged *juvs* at Erddig from 9/07; 4 at GF on 7/10; recorded at SSW from 22/07 to 28/10 with a peak of 4 on 23/09.

Unusual sightings: one regularly seen to display to car wing-mirrors in Ruabon; 1 fed weekly on suet on a garden patio in Sychdyn (SJ 240661), 1/01-4/03; 1 scavenging food at Chainbridge Hotel in Llangollen, by the canal in snow, 26/12.

PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba* ssp. *yarellii*) SIGLEN FRAITH

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

Recorded in over twenty areas. Breeding territories: 1 known nest produced 3 young in June at SL.

Largest numbers: 75 on 11/06 at SL where resident all year; 18 at BIIP coastal fields on 4/01, 27 at Llawndy† on 23/03 and 22 at Warren Farm‡ on 24/03; 30 at R. Clwyd on 2/09; c15 at GF on 3/10; 27 moving S over PCR, 18/10.

White Wagtail (ssp. *alba*): 1 at Kinmel Bay, 25/03; 1 at Talacre, 1/04; a remarkable count of 70 at Gronant beach on 22/04 with 20 on 25/04 and 15/05, 9 on 28/04, 4 on 10/05. Thirteen records from POA and nearby BHP sites, 7/04-31/08 with a peak of 19 at POA on 25/04. 4+ on passage at Llyn Brenig, 19/08.

WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*) CYNFFON SEDAN

Scarce and irregular winter visitor. 2001 was the first good year for at least a decade. Clwyd County rarity.

Up to 31 feeding on guelder-rose berries and rose hips in NEWI car-park on 25/01-3/02 (seen by many people). A group of c30 were reported from Borrass on 23/01 (G. Ford), 11 on 31/01 at Llan-y-Pwll (N. Penny) and, at Acton Park, a scattered flock of 20+ were seen on 11/02 to be catching insects by jumping-up from tree tops—presumably through exhaustion of berry supply (N & P Hallas).

Other reports: 2 at PMPA briefly on 16/01, 6 at Bodelwyddan on 19/01, 1 in a back-garden at Maesgwyn, Flintshire 24/01-27/01, 6 at Buckley on 26/01, 1 in a Bwlchgwyn garden, Wrexham on 4/03-6/03, 1 at Ruabon 25/03.

DIPPER (*Cinclus cinclus*)

BRONWEN Y DWR

now **WHITE-THROATED DIPPER**

Widespread localised breeding resident

Confirmed breeding at Greenfield Valley. Regular at: Erddig; the Nant, Coedpoeth; along the R. Dulais at Llanddulas. Other sightings at: AWCP, Caerwys, Pentreb-ychan, R. Clwyd at Rhyl and Denbigh (where 2 on 6/09), Wern near Llanarmon-yn-Ial and at Llangollen.

WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

DRYW

now **WINTER WREN**

Common and widespread breeding resident. [WE]

Widespread and successful. Reported from many areas. On winter transect counts on RM, autumn max of 33 (compared to 37 in 2000 and 44 in 1999). 6 in a hedge at Sutton Green on 31/07. Breeding: a nest site at SL successfully produced four young.

DUNNOCK (*Prunella modularis*)

LLWYD Y GWRYCH

now **HEDGE ACCENTOR***Common breeding resident. Amber list [BDM] [WE]*

Successful and widespread across the county. 1st spring song at Berwyn on 3/01(2 birds); 1 already in song on 26/12/01. *Breeding*: 3 nests at SL produced 7 young in June.

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. A pair were seen displaying early on 28/01 at Erddig. A pair were nest-building in a Ruabon garden on 11/02, one presenting a large worm to the other on 24/03, sitting on the nest the next day, fed by the male and young fledged on 19/04. At TFR, a second nest was built a few feet away from another on 15/04; out-of-the-nest fledglings were being fed on 29/04. Nest building at Gresford allotments started on 23/03; 5 eggs by 10/04 and fledged on 2/05.

BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

TINGOCH DU

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

Clwyd County rarity

Two instances: a *f* on the sea defences opposite Rhos-on-Sea GC, 9/11-10/11 (K. Smith). A first-winter male at Tyn-y-Morfa, POA, seen variously 15/11-2/12 (C. Rowley, E&L. Jones, G. Stamp).

REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

TINGOCH

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

1st spring song, RM, on 9/04; a *f* at Llawndy, BHP on 16/04 and 16/05; a *m* at POA Warren on 25/04, 29/04 and 13/06; a pair at Panorama on 3/05; 1 at PCR on 5/05; a *m* at Clocaenog on 6/05; 1 singing male at Loggerheads CP on 20/05; 1 at Bod Petruall on 21/05 and 31/05; a *m* at HMCP on 28/05; good numbers at Llandegla Forest (SJ 238510) where 7*m*, 3*f* were seen on 2/06 on the tree-moorland edge; a pair at HP, 17/06; a *juv* seen on 2/07 and 24/07 at Rhuddlan woods; 2 *juvs* on RM (SJ 264472) on 29/07; 4 at Pen y Cloddiau on 26/08.

WHINCHAT (*Saxicola rubetra*)

CREC YR EITHIN

Breeding summer visitor in small numbers; mainly in upland areas

The first at RM was on 22/04. 1*m* at Gronant LNR on 30/04, and a remarkable num-

ber of 18 there by 6/05 and 15 on 10/05 (presumably recent arrivals prior to dispersal); 2 at POA Warren, 30/04 then a pair there on 6/05 and 11-12/05. A *m* at Rhyl on 2/05, on scrubland off Cambrian Walk and a pair there on 11/05. A *m* seen at Denbigh Moors on 20/05. A pair at Cyn-y-Brain, 29/05 and 12 birds at WE on 25/06. 2 pairs at Llandegla Moor (SJ 243515), 2/06 and a pair with 2 juvs on 1/07.

STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata*)

CLOCHIDAR Y CERRIG

Breeding resident in small numbers. Amber List [SPEC]

Seen in small numbers in both inland and coastal areas. Maximum counts: 4-5 seen, including 2 juvs, at HMCP, several dates, 28/09-14/10. 5 at Gronant on 22/04 and 5 at Talacre Warren on 12/05.

Inland: the earliest record for RM was 1+ on 13/02/01; latest: 3, inc. an adult male, on 30/10; 3 at Bronbannog, Clocaenog on 28/02; several pairs at HMCP on 11/05 and later; 3*m* at Llandegla Moor on 2/06; a pair at WE on 25/06; 2 at Pen y Cloddiau on 26/08; a *f* at Nercwys Mtn on 4/10 and 17/10; a pair at Caemor Wood, Ceiriog on 12/12; a *m* and 2*f* at HP on 15/12.

Coastal: a *f* on Rhyl beach E on 7/01, single *m* behind RML on 9/01 and 27/01; a *m* at RGC on 8/03 and *f* on 24/11 and 25/12. A *f* at Pensarn on 3/03 and 4 sightings of 1-4 seen at Kinnel LNR on 3/01-7/06 and 2 at Prestatyn GC on 8/03. Several records from Gronant-Flint-POA: several sightings of 1-5 at Gronant on 16/01-6/05 and 2 on 18/11 and a *f* on 20/12; 2 on Flint marsh on 28/01 and 3 on 17/02; 5 sightings of 1-3 seen near POA hide, 15/02-15/07 and 4 there on 17/09; a *f* at Warren Farm on 4/01 and up to 2 pairs at POA Warren on 12/04-22/05 and a pair at Tyn-y-Morfa on 2/12.

WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

TINWEN Y GARN

now **NORTHERN WHEATEAR**

Breeding summer visitor. Earliest dates: 15+ at POA on 23/03 [2000: 14/03 at BHP]

*Inland: confirmed breeding in HP area where a remarkable count of 30 inc. 10 juvs on two sites on 17/06. A young bird also at HP on 16/07. Other records: 2 *f* on Denbigh Moors on 11/04 and 1 at Llyn Brenig on 26/05; 1 at HMCP on 19/05; 1 at Llyn Aled on 29/09.*

Coastal:

Breeding: five pairs nested at SL. These were of the Greenland race, standing more erect and larger and duller. 8 young were seen with parent birds on 4/04.

Birds were present along the coast from March-October, the peak counts being 15+ at POA on 23/03, 18 on 12/05, 10+ at Gronant LNR by 30/04 and 12 on Gronant beach on 15/05. Many of these also showed characteristics of the Greenland sub-species '*leucorhoa*'.

RING OUZEL (*Turdus torquatus*)

WYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

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

An unusual sighting of a very early male bird on a garden gorse bush at Llanasa; chased off by a male Blackbird, 1/04. A *m* nr Tal-y-Cafn bridge, R. Conwy on the extreme W of our region, 16/04. A bird calling on RM on 29/04 and a *m* at HP on 17/06. I reported at Llawndy† on 5/05. A late bird on the edge of RM, 2/10.

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*)

MWYALCHEN

now **COMMON BLACKBIRD***Common breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BDM] [WE]*

A very successful bird across the county.

Early mild weather brought increased *territorial behaviour*: the first 'spring song' in the Ruabon area was on 9/02, in Mold on 13/02 and, at the end of the year, I was in full (but muted) song before dawn at 2°C, 0745am, in Wrexham Town Centre (SJ 3350) on 16/12. A *f* started carrying nesting material into a Gresford garden on 23/03, stopped the resumed on 17/04-27/04; *juvs* present on 11/06.

Other sightings: 26 at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 18/11; 10 at RCR, 5/01; 10 at Llawndy† on 10/01; 9 together at Llanddulas on 2/10 and 10 on 26/12, possibly migrants. 2 partial albinos in a Burton garden in December—I (a female) has been around for 6 years.

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: 12 May, Talacre Warren (2000: 14 April, Llangollen and Wern)**First autumn bird: 17 October, Shotton Paper Lagoons (2000: November 5, Shotton Steelworks).*

Seen throughout the county. A very late bird said to be at Talacre Warren at 12/05. *Sizeable flocks (>100)*: 200 at Pulford Meadow on 5/01; c400 on fields near Garth, 20/02 and at least 100 there on 31/03; c200 feeding with Redwings at Penycae, 25/10; a peak of 100 at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 18/11 and 23/11; 300+ in a field at Burton in December but count aborted by appearance of a hedge-hopping Sparrowhawk which cleared the area; 120+ in farmland nr Dyserth on 16/12.

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*)

BRONFRAITH

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

Reports from over 30 areas.

Breeding: a nest with 5 eggs in at Gresford allotments, 10/04; fledged on 2/05.

Other records: a bird in full song by 13/02 in Mold and 1 in song at Burton on 22/12. 8, probably migrants, with Redwings at R. Clwyd nr Rhy1 on 26/01. Several possible

migrants with Blackbirds, Mistle Thrushes and Chaffinches, in tree tops, Berwyn, 15/10 and a remarkable count of 37, presumably recent arrivals, at Greenfield coastal fields on 7/12. A peak count of 14 on 25/11 at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan.

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: 2 over River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 29 March (2000: 16 April, Coedpoeth). First autumn bird: 28 September, 1 flying W over River Clwyd, Rhuddlan (2000: 21 October, Ruabon).

Reported from over 25 areas. Large flocks of note in the Ruabon Moors area where 4 flocks of 60-100 each at Tainant on 12/03; a passage of c700 birds in flocks of 1-60, Dee valley at Berwyn, 19/10; a 1000 briefly stopping at Penycae on 21/10; 3 flocks of 50-100 with Fieldfares on 31/10 and again, next day; an enormous mixed flock of several thousand Redwing, Fieldfare and Starlings bathing with 3 Buzzards in stream nr Dolwen, until chased off to NWWT wood by Sparrowhawk, 8/12. Other sizeable flocks(>100): a mixed flock of c160, with Fieldfare, at Erddig on 14/01; 142 at Warren Farm† on 3/01 and 160 on BHP coastal fields on 14/01; 150 on 16-23/11 at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan; 100+ were seen at Burton on 23/12 and Johnstown on 24/12.

MISTLE THRUSH (*Turdus viscivorus*)

BRYCH Y COED

Widespread, low density breeding resident. [WE]

Reported from 30 locations in small numbers. Main counts: 12 at Llyn Brenig on 23/08; 10 over PCR on 22/09; 9 at Warren Farm‡ on 12/01; recorded at Llay Pool, 10/04-4/07 when there were 8.

CETTI'S WARBLER (*Cettia cetti*)

TELOR CETTI

Scarce vagrant

A single bird found at Shotton Steelworks on 4/11 was ringed by Paul Triggs and John Parkinson. Probably a new record for Clwyd (Flintshire). The bird was subsequently present on 11/11 and 18/11 (Submitted by P. Triggs).

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (*Locustella naevia*)
now **COMMON GRASSHOPPER WARBLER**

TROELLWR BACH

Localised summer breeding visitor. Amber List [BDM]

The first was 1 at The Warren, Talacre on 12/04.

Most records are coastal, from four sites:

(i) 1 at Gronant LNR on 13/04 and 2 singing on 22/04, 1 on 28/04 and 8 singing between Gronant and Prestatyn, 25/04; 1 at The Warren, POA/Talacre on 12/04 then rising numbers peaking at 10+ singing on 30/04; then a peak of 7 on 2/05-27/06; 1-2

at Prestatyn GC, 6/05-2/07.

(ii) 4 at R. Clwyd, Rhyl on 14/05 and 2 recorded at scrubland, Rhyl, 26/04-16/07.

(iii) GV had 7 by 26/06;

(iv) a late bird showing well and singing nr Shotwick reservoir, 24/07 and heard on 25/07.

Inland sites: 1 at Tain-y-Waen, Clocaenog (SJ 006514) on 5/05; 1 at WE on 25/06.

SEDGE WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) TELOR YR HESG

Breeding summer visitor

Confirmed Breeding: 4 pairs nested at SL and 6 young were seen on 12/06; 2 adults seen feeding at least 2 young at Gronant reed-beds, 14/07; bred at FLQ, 4/05 (ndg).

Inland: 1 singing at Francis Lane, WIE on 29/04; 1 singing at Nant-y-Frith reservoir on 12/06; sev at Denbigh Moors, 4/07.

Coastal: recorded at Shotton Steelworks from 22/04 to 23/09 with a peak of 12+ on 6/05. 2 at Gronant LNR on 25/04 and 7 by 28/04; 10+ on 21/05; 6+ there on 15/07. 1 at POA Warren, 25/04, 3 by 27/04, up to 5 on 2/05-22/05 and 1 on 27/07. 1 at Llawndy, BHP on 26/04. 4 singing at Glan Morfa, Rhyl on 8/05; 1 at Rhuddlan, 21/05 and 30/05; 1 in stream at Pentrefoelas, 2/6; 2 at RCR, 12/06; 4 at Prestatyn GC on 6/05 and 2/07.

REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) TELOR Y CYRS

now **EURASIAN REED WARBLER**

Rare breeding summer visitor

Only a few records from a few areas. Breeding: the main breeding area was at Shotton Steelworks where 20 pairs bred. One pair nested in a ditch in Flintshire, adjacent to IMF. 1 pair known to have nested at SL with 1 young seen but 3 pairs were calling on territory.

Other records: 90 birds were ringed through the year at SSW and a bird ringed in May 1994 was re-trapped (*P. Triggs*). 1 at Gronant Marsh on 28/04 and two there on 20/05. 1 at Llawndy‡ 16/05 and 4 at POA Colliery area on 21/05. 1 heard at Erddig, 1/05-28/07.

LESSER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia curruca*) LLWYDFRON FACH

Scarce breeding summer visitor

Two coastal areas were important locations for incoming migrants:

- (a) *the POA area:* 1 at The Warren on 26/04, 6 on 27/04 and 1 at POA Colliery next day; 2 records of singles in the bushes along the seawall at POA on 5/05 and 13/05; 1 at Talacre on 5/05 and 2 next day; 4 singing at POA Warren on 6/05. 2 at Gronant LNR on 10/05. A late bird at POA on 27/08.
- (b) *Rhyl-Rhuddlan:* scrubland off Cambrian Road held 1 on 27/04, 2/05 and 2/07 and a pair on 7/05. 10 sightings at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan, 1/05-7/09. RBP

had 1 on 1/06.

Other records: 1 singing at Rhydymwyn, near Mold on 7/05.

WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia communis*)

LLWYDFRON

now **COMMON WHITETHROAT**

Common breeding summer visitor.

First birds: 1 singing at POA/Talacre Warren on 25/04; 1 heard at Gresford allotments on 27/04; 2 at Gronant LNR on 28/04; a remarkable 15 at POA Warren on 28/04, 17 the next day, and 20 on 22/05, presumably prior to dispersal; 2+ at WIE on 30/04.

Last birds: 1 at SBL, 24/07; 1 at Shotton Steelworks on 23/09.

More records and from more areas this year, including: 3m + 1f feeding 2 young at Talacre warren on 27/06; 2 pairs nested at SL and 3 young were seen.

GARDEN WARBLER (*Sylvia borin*)

TELOR YR ARDD

Breeding summer visitor. [WE]

More records this year. The first record of the year was 1 at R. Clwyd, Rhyl on 13/04 (also on 8/05 and 30/08); 2 singing at POA Warren, 25/04, 29/04 and 12/05 and 2 singing males on 16/06; the first of spring in the WE area was on 30/04; 1 nr Llanddulas on 30/04; 3 at Clocaenog on 13/05; a *m* at AWCP on 20/05; single males at Tan Llan Lane, 24/05, Gwynfryn on 29/05 and Southsea Bog on 5/06 (all Coedpoeth) and 1 singing at nearby Bwlchgwyn, same day; 1 singing from scrub along the Flintshire boundary of IMF on 16/05; 7 sightings at Llyn Helyg, 24/06-1/07.

BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

TELOR PENDDU

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

Spring birds: 1 at GV on 4/04 and 4 by 18/04; 2 at POA Warren from 11/04 rising to 6 by 2/05. 1 at RCR on 13/04.

Other records include: 5m, 2f at GV on 6/05. Present at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan 16/04-19/10 peaking at 7 on 24/07.

Wintering birds: 21 instances as follows: a *m* in a Llanddulas garden feeding on crab apples on 1/01 and in March when feeding on chicken skin; a *m* in a Wrexham garden on 1/01 and a *f* on 24/12; a *f* in a Marford garden then *m+f*, January-April; and a *m* in a Mold garden, 21/01-30/03 with 2*m* in territorial dispute on 21/03 and a *m+f* feeding there on ivy berries on 24/03; a *m+f* at RBP on 2/11. Single males (mainly garden birds) seen at Ruabon on 17/02, Shotton Steelworks on 14/10, GV on 16/01 and 18/10, Caego on 7/11, Burton weir, 4/11 and Burton, 9-12/12, Gresford 15/12-31/12, Rhyl on 26/12 and Borras, 28/12.

WOOD WARBLER (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)
Uncommon breeding summer visitor. [WE]

TELOR Y COED

Uncommon visitor with relatively few records,

1 at Rhydtalog, 5/05; 1 at Clocaenog on 6/05; 4 m on 13/05 and 6+ together at Bod Petruall, Clocaenog on 21/05, presumably new arrivals prior to dispersal. 1 calling at GV on 6/05; 1 at Warren Farm bushes on 13/05; 2 at Loggerheads CP on 20/05; 1 at Gv on 9/06.

CHIFFCHAFF (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
now COMMON CHIFFCHAFF

SIFF-SAFF

Common breeding summer visitor. Small numbers overwinter.

First spring sightings: one at the Warren, Gronant on 8/03 and 1 singing at Chirk Castle on 14/03 (2000: 20/02, Llay then 9/03 Acton Park)

Wintering birds: 1 at Rake Farm, Hawarden (SJ 332657) on 1/01; 2 at Sealand Manor Estate on 11/01. Late birds were singing at Llanasa on 17/09, Dee Meadows, Rossett on 21/09, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, 27/09, Llanddulas on 2/10 and GV where 2 on 16/01 and 1 on 18/10. The last record was a single bird at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 2/11.

Notable and probable breeding records (>4): 6 singing within ¼ mile area, Llanddulas on 4/04; 11 at BHP Lawndy on 6/04; 4-5 singing at GV by 12/04 and 10 calling there on 18/05; 6 calling at Erddig on 10/06; 4+ singing with other warblers on rough ground at WIE, 1/05.

WILLOW WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

TELOR YR HELYG

Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. [WE]

First sightings: 6 birds at Flint on 3/04 [last year: 3 at R. Clwyd, 18/03]. Last: 1 at Borrass on 1/09 [last year: 18/11 at Greenfield Valley].

Reports from over twenty areas. A noteworthy count of 27 at BHP Terminal South side on 25/04.

autumn/winter birds - c6 late birds, including 2 singing, at Llyn Brenig, 19/08 and a late bird at Borrass on 1/09.

GOLDCREST (*Regulus regulus*)

DRYW EURBEN

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

Widespread across the county.

Highest counts: 13 at Bod Petruall, 7/05; 12 at Llandegla Forest Car-park on 2/06 (SJ 229521); 9 at Llawndy† on 3/01.

FIRECREST (*Regulus ignicapillus*)

DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BR] Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

A *m* at Talacre Warren on 30/12/00 was probably re-located on 3/01 (G. Stamp) and 9/01 (C. Rowley). A juvenile male was caught and ringed by Ian Spence at Bronban-nog, Clocaenog on 28/10.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa striata*)

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

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

Probable or confirmed breeding records: King's Bridge, Berwyn; Ty Canol, nr WE; Wern near Llanarmon-yn-Ial

Also seen at (singles/doubles): 1 singing at Loggerheads CP on 20/05; 1 at Bod Petruall, Clocaenog on 21/05; 1 at Talacre Warren on 27/05; 2 at Llandegla Forest (SJ 238510) on 2/06; 2 nr Bodfari at SJ 114725, 3/06; 1 at Llyn Helyg woods, 7/06 and a pair on 30/06; a pair at HP on 17/06; a pair at Llanychan Churchyard (SJ 114622) on 25/06; 1 at GV on 26/06 and 5/08; 1 near Wrexham Town Centre, nr the Memorial Hall on 9/08.

PIED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

GWYBEDOG BRITH

Common summer breeding visitor. [WE]

Principal breeding records: (i) Llangollen study block not "worked" due to FMD but WE total, judging from old nests in boxes in July, up from 18 to 22 [John Lawton Roberts]; (ii) Nannerch: in an on-going study, 2001 yielded 9 pairs which raised 55 young. The average clutch size was 7.2 and the average young size was 6.1 [Paul Triggs]; (iii) Coed Cilygroeslwyd, Coed Nant-Ddu and Hendre: 19 nests were recorded of which 3 failed; the remaining 16 fledged 108 young, an improvement on the previous year [Ian Spence].

Also recorded in 6 other areas : a *m* at Clocaenog on 6/05, 13/05 and a pair at Bod Petruall on 21/05; a *m* at GV on 7/05 and 1 on 26/06 and 5/08; a *m* at Borrass on 17/05; 2 singing males at Loggerheads CP on 20/05; a *juv* at Rhuddlan on 1-2/07; 1 at Llyn Helyg woods on 7/06.

LONG-TAILED TIT (*Aegithalos caudatus*)

TITW GYNFFON-HIR

Common breeding resident. [WE]

Seen across the county in flocks of up to 50+. Increasingly a visitor to garden feeders. *Highest counts:* a remarkable count of 52 at R. Clwyd, Denbigh area on 14/09; c23 in Honckley on 2/09; c20 at POA on 3/01; c15 at Acton Park on 4/02; up to 10 on feeders at Penybryn nr Penycae.

Breeding: A pair feeding chicks at Nant-y-Frith reservoir on 12/06. A remarkable count of 30 *juvs* at Rhuddlan on 1/07.

MARSH TIT (*Parus palustris*)
Uncommon breeding resident. Amber List [BDM]

TITW'R WERN

Seen in small numbers across the county. A frequent bird-table visitor in Coedpoeth where 1 found dead in a garden tub on 29/09. Regular at Erddig where a peak count of 4 on 20/08; five sightings of single birds in 3 locations through the year at Llangollen-Ruabon area and 1 at Llandegla on 19/08. 6 at Llyn Helyg wood on 14/01; 1 at Clocaenog on 18/02; 4 sightings of singles at Rhuddlan in January and September.

WILLOW TIT (*Parus montanus*)
Scarce breeding resident. Amber List [BDM]

TITW'R HELYG

Seen in small numbers in mainly forest areas. A breeding record at Llyn Helyg: 6 juveniles on 24/06. A single bird in a bramble, well-observed and warbling (this melodious song not often heard), Erddig, 28/01; 1+ in HP plantation, 11/04; recorded at GV on 4/04, 18/04 and 9/06; 2+ in Bonwm plantation, 18/07; 1 at Clocaenog on 20/08 and 22/12.

COAL TIT (*Parus ater*)
Widespread breeding resident. [WE].

TITW PENDDU

Recorded through the year in many areas. Takes readily to garden feeders. Highest count: 5+ on garden feeders, Wrexham, in December.

BLUE TIT (*Parus caeruleus*)
Common and widespread breeding resident. [WE]

TITW TOMOS LAS

Largest reported counts: 35 at Rhuddlan on 14/09; 13 in a Llanddulas garden, 16/08. 2 pairs reared 9 young from 2 boxes in a Greenfield (Holywell) garden; several nest-boxes tried out but not used but flocks of 8+, mainly young, seen in a Wrexham garden, early June.

GREAT TIT (*Parus major*)
Common and widespread breeding resident. [WE]

TITW MAWR

Found throughout the area and through the year. Also a garden feeder and nester. Highest counts: 20 on 14/09 at Rhuddlan; 7 on a Holywell garden bird-table on 1/09. Nested in a farm wall at TFR where chicks visible in wall cavity, 25/05.

NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*)
now **WOOD NUTHATCH**

DELOR Y CNAU

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

Territorial/breeding sightings: 2 along the canal at Llangollen on 25/01 and a pair

exploring holes in trees *ibidem* on 11/02. Regular at AP where several sightings, inc. a pair investigating a tree-hole and another carrying food, 8/04. 2 families at Llyn Helyg woods on 24/06, one feeding 4 young, 24/06.

TREECREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*)

DRINGWR BACH

now **EURASIAN TREECREEPER**

Widespread breeding resident. [WE]

Recorded in small numbers in woodland areas. Highest counts: 5 at Llandegla Forest Car-park (SJ 229521) on 2/06; 5 at R. Clwyd, Denbigh on 6/09; 3 at Rhuddlan woods on 30/06-1/07; 2+ regularly on fat feeders at PCR house in December.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*)

CIGYDD MAWR

An occasional winter passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

One at a 'favoured' location at Clocaenog Forest as last year: at Craig Bronbannog mast (SJ 018520); on 7/01 and 18/02-21/02 (I. Evans, G. Stamp, K. Smith).

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. Largest count: 7 at a Holywell garden where present all year and up to 4 regular in a Llandulas garden.

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.

Main sightings: 1 nest-building in a regular site, a Douglas fir, using cut Hawthorn clippings, early February, Berwyn and 1 nest-building at Penycae by 20/02. A pair with 4 juvs at Llawndyŷ on 16/05. At least 33 in a Mold field on 4/03; 30+ roosting under willows at GF on 20/02 and 25 on 19/03; 30 in Rhuddlan woods on 10/11, 21/12 and 31/12; a flock of 26 plus a crow at TFR on 14/12; 16 in a Holywell garden where present all year.

CHOUGH (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)

BRAN GOESGOCH

now **RED-BILLED CHOUGH**

Scarce former breeding resident. Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

JACKDAW (*Corvus monedula*)

JAC-Y-DO

now **EURASIAN JACKDAW***Common and widespread breeding resident*

A colonial breeder which also gathers away from breeding sites. Also a garden visitor. Recorded as numerous and regular at Coedpoeth, GF (where a peak of 200+ on 27/11), Rhuddlan (where a peak of 400 on 1/02), WE-Panorama (50+ on 1/07), Erddig (40 on 14/01), Caego (24 on 28/03) and a resident colony of 20 at SL but no nesting evidence.

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*)

YDFRAN

Common and widespread colonial breeding resident

Rookeries recorded at Erddig, Gresford, PMPA where nest –building had already commenced by 27/12), Rhuddlan woodland and at Shotton Steelworks (where a small colony of 10 pairs bred on a single gantry at the National Power Station).

Highest flock counts: c100 in fields nr Halton, Chirk (SJ 306383); 100 at Rhuddlan in January-February; 98 at Wynnstay Lane, Marford on 31/01.

Interesting sighting: a bird seen taking an acorn “on the wing” without stopping, 28/10, Berwyn.

CARRION CROW (*Corvus corone corone*)

BRAN DYDDYN

Common breeding resident. [WE]

Widespread across the county. The highest count was 30 in January in Rhuddlan.

HOODED CROW (*Sub-species Corvus corone cornix*)

MAE'R FRÂN LWYD

Occasional species. Clwyd County Rarity.

One (a possible hybrid) paired with a Carrion Crow in old territory nr Llangollen, 1/02 (J.L. Roberts). 1 on Denbigh Moors (SH 9560) on 11/04 (I. Evans). 1 nr Abergele on 29/12 (S. Morris).

RAVEN (*Corvus corax*)

CIGFRAN

now **COMMON RAVEN***Fairly common breeding resident. Mainly in upland areas but spreading to lowlands.*

One of the successful birds of the area: reports received from about 37 main areas. Highest counts: a flock of 30-40 visited RM from September; a peak of 49 at Llandegla (SJ 202499) where present all year (ndg); 20 at Pen-y-Cloddiau on 26/08.

Breeding records: RM/HP study suspended due to FMD but 9 pairs known/believed to have reared young and all of last year's territories were occupied. A pair nested again on Flint castle raising four young (nest-building on the castle on 14/02, then 2-4 birds seen on 25/02-2/12). Confirmed breeding at Rhuddlan where 3 juvs seen in

summer. Recorded at Pendinas on 11/02 and 17/02 when seen carrying nesting materials.

Noteworthy sightings: a raven was seen in an aerial tussle with a Sparrowhawk over rough ground at WIE, 3/04, with 7+ hunting kestrels also in the area.

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: a regular roost at Foryd bridge, Rhyl with a peak of c3000 on 14/11 plus another 3000 flying towards Conwy at sunset. Also regular at nearby Rhuddlan where a peak of 1700 recorded on 29/12. Large numbers were registered at Warren Farm with a peak count of 1570 on 16/02 plus 700 at nearby Llawndy on the same day. Two notable counts at POA gave 660 on 5/07 and 500 on 14/07 and of 100 at POA CL on 16/06. One record of 800 birds at OMR on 3/08. Resident at SL where birds nest in the high lighting towers. Flocks in excess of 500 fly in to roost.

Other high counts: 400 at Nant-y-Frith reservoir on 27/10. A peak of 397 at POA on 22/06. A peak count of 270 on telephone wires at Marford on 9/09. c100 juvs scavenging Kinnel Bay CP plus c100 on roof-tops, 19/08. c120 flying W at Berwyn, 10/11. 250 feeding on high pasture (380m) near Pontfadog, 8/02.

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.

Breeding: only 1 out of 4 boxes used at Berwyn, compared with 2 pairs breeding in 1999.

Largest counts: 60+ in a hedge, WIE, 30/11/01; a flock of up to 35 at Rhuddlan, 25/06; c30 feeding on Lyme-grass seed heads on Kinnel Bay promenade, 19/08; variable flocks of up to 30 resident in gardens in Holywell and Rhyl.

TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*)

GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

now **EURASIAN TREE SPARROW**

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

Breeding: a juv with 2 adults at Trelawnyd, 11/06. 2 broods raised in boxes (as last year) at a Llanddoged/Maenan cottage (SH 815661) with up to 8 ads and young at feeders.

Other records: 15 at Burton Meadow, Kinnerton, 5/01; 6 with large finch flock, Llyn

Helyg area, 14/01; 1 at Ruthin sewerage works on 24/02; 5 returned to usual breeding site at Dyserth on 25/03; singles seen at BHP sites 12/04-16/05; singles seen at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 24/04, 1/06 and 13/07; 1 at Pen-y-Bryn Farm, Rhyl on 19/05; 2 nr Bangor-is-y-Coed with Chaffinches, 7/06; 1 on Francis Lane, WIE, 3/07; 2 at Llyn Helyg on 30/12.

A roost was found at Burton with 20+ birds (18/11) and revisited on 7/12 when 40-50 there: birds assemble in a roadside hedge and, after a noisy communal display, move into thick holly; several with a large Chaffinch flock feeding on stubble, Flint Mtn., 13/12.

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*)

JI-BINC

Common breeding resident with autumnal movement away from breeding areas.

Widespread across the region.

Highest counts: a flock of 200 in the Llyn Helyg area on 14/01; a peak count of 56 over Dee valley, Berwyn, in parties of 1-6, 19/10; a flock of c35 on a muck-heap at TFR on 2/01 and 12/11; a count of 30 at Walwen Marsh on 19/10; 130 at Bryn Mawr, Flint Mountain on mucked pasture and maize stubble, 13/12; c200 Chaffinch with c20 Brambling at Tremerchion on 16/12.

BRAMBLING (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

PINC Y MYNYDD

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

Observed in only small numbers and in only 8 areas, as follows: 1 in a large Chaffinch flock in Llyn Helyg area on 14/01; 5 at Clocaenog on 3/02; 3 at Dolywern, Ceiriog Valley on 17/02 and c10 on 27/02; 1 at POA Warren, 27/04; 2+ nr RM, 25/10; a single f at R. Clwyd, Rhyl on 20/11; 1 at Halkyn on 16/10; c20 with c200 Chaffinch at Tremerchion on 16/12.

GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*)

LLINOS WERDD

now **EUROPEAN GREENFINCH**

Common breeding resident

Successful across the region, including gardens. Largest flocks: 30 at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 1/08; 25 at Pensarn on 10/12, as last year.

First song of spring at Berwyn on 28/01.

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*)

NICO

now **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH**

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

Widespread across the region. Also a garden visitor. Highest counts - a huge number, c300 on teasels, at Greenfield coastal fields, 26/09 and 150 there on 8/10; 100 at R. Clwyd, Rhyl on 20/09; a charm of 40 on Hope Mtn on 28/09; 36 at Talacre Warren on 2/05; 20 feeding with 10 Siskin in larch near Pontfadog, 17/02.

SISKIN (*Carduelis spinus*)

PILA GWYRDD

now **EURASIAN SISKIN***Winter visitor and breeding resident**Found across the region: again recorded from more areas (over 15) this year.**Highest counts:* sizeable winter flocks of 40-200 along the Dee valley from Garth to Glyndyfrdwy; 200+ in larches at WE on 16/02 and 100+ at car-park on 25/02; c200 at Clocaenog Forest on 15/01, 22/02 and 100+ at Craig Bronbannog, Clocaenog on 19/02; c50 at Glan Conwy on 24/11. Also a frequent garden visitor.**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.**Breeding records:* bred on WE estate for first time since 1996; a pair nested at BQ, 1/05; bred at FLQ (ndg); 2 breeding territories at POA but outcome unknown. Resident at SL (peak count 20) where 4 nests produced 7 young. 2 juvs with 6 adults at RCR on 18/08.*Main coastal counts:* Gronant dunes held c250 on 31/12 and the POA peak count was 125 on 30/09 (see table). 85 at Sealand Manor Estate, 11/01. A record of 60 at Walwen on 19/10 and 5 records at Flint, peaking at 50 on 16/10 and 2/12 and 30 birds at OMR on 20/07. 100 at R. Clwyd, Rhyl on 20/09 and c50 at Rhuddlan on 18/04 and c20 at Pensarn on 26/01.*Main inland counts:* c100 nr Rhualt on 26/03; c40 at AWCP, 1/09; 30 at Llyn Brenig on 23/08; 36 on wires at Llanasa on 9/09; 15 at FLQ on 25/11.

| (LI) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|---|-----|-----|----|----|
| POA | - | - | 8 | 9 | 10 | - | 28 | - | 125 | 120 | 47 | 42 |

TWITE (*Carduelis flavirostris*)

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

*A scarce winter visitor to coastal areas. Red List [HD]**Usually present in small numbers in autumn and winter along the coast and the Dee Estuary.**The main site is adjacent to Flint Castle and the BB (Flint) monthly maxima are given in the table (the peak count was 85 on 25/01). Also recorded in very small numbers along the coast at Pensarn, Kinnel Bay, POA and at OMR and Walwen.*

| (TW) | J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D |
|------|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| BB | 85 | 60 | 65 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 22 | 60 | 67 |

REDPOLL (*Carduelis cabaret*)

LLINOS BENGOCI

now **LESSER REDPOLL***Breeding resident. Possibly under-recorded though more records this year**Regular sightings in small numbers at AWCP, Acton Park and Clocaenog; also seen at Flint, Llandegla Forest, Llyn Brenig, Mold, Nant-y-Frith reservoir and POA Warren.**Highest counts:* 30 at Llyn Brenig on 23/08; up to 30 seen at Talacre Warren, 18/04-25/05; c25 in alders at AWCP on 26/01; 23 at Clocaenog on 6/01; c12 at SLJ on 31/01, feeding on alders; 8 at FC on 19/10.*Noteworthy sightings:* a pair ground-feeding with Willow Warblers and Chiffchaff at Acton Park, 8/04.**CROSSBILL** (*Loxia curvirostra*)

GYLFIN GROES

now **COMMON CROSSBILL***Scarce breeding resident**Regularly observed in small numbers at:* Clocaenog, Llandegla Forest and RM-HP plantations. Also reported at Halkyn (2 flying S on 16/10).*Highest counts:* 20+ at Clocaenog SJ 015532 on 7/01, 20 inc. juvs at Clocaenog on 3/06, 25 at Bod Petrual on 11/12.**BULLFINCH** (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

COCH Y BERLLAN

now **COMMON BULLFINCH***Breeding resident. Red List [BD] BCCC [WE]**Recorded in small numbers with over 50 sightings from 26 areas, including gardens.**Max. numbers (>4):* 7 in a field at Wern, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, 29/12; 3 pairs seen in a Holywell garden on 2/11. 4 at Wynnstay on 14/01 and 4 flying into a hedgerow above Nercwys on 14/09. 1-2 seen in every month except April at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan but 3 on 10/11 and 5 (2m, 3f) on 24/11 and 7/12.**SNOW BUNTING** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

BRAS YR EIRA

*Regular coastal winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [BR]**First winter period:* 8 at Gronant foreshore on 1/01; up to 10 at Kinmel Bay beach on 3/01-28/01. 3 at Llanddulas on 8/02 and up to 7 at Llanddulas or Pensarn on 18/02-26/03.*Second period:* 1 at Kinmel Bay beach on 14/11, 3 at Towyn on 1/12 and 4 at Pensarn on 15/12 and 3 on 28/12 and 30/12.

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*)
Formerly common breeding resident

MELYN YR EITHIN

Probably still in decline. Seen in small numbers only and in few sites, this is one of CBRG's Target Species.

Recorded in small numbers only at Cilcain SJ 183643 (where 2m, 3f on 24/02), Coedpoeth, Dolwen Reservoir, Dyserth, Erddig, Fenn's Moss (where 5+ on 7/07), Gresford area, HMCP, Llanasa (9 on 23/06), Llanefydd, Llyn Helyg, Ruabon, POA, River Clwyd, Rhuddlan (where 5 on 13/09), Shotwick Fields, Walwen coastal fields and WIE.

REED BUNTING (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)
Breeding resident. Red List [BD] BCCC

BRAS Y CYRS

Recorded in only a few areas.

Breeding records: (Inland) a pair bred at FLQ; *(Coastal)* 2-3 pairs bred at Shotton Steelworks; 2 pairs nested in SL reeds and 1 nest produced 2 known young on 12/06. 2 territories were located on the POA saltmarsh (outcome unknown).

Inland: recorded from 5 areas: a flock of 4 and a single on RM, 12/10/01; 1 along Francis Lane, WIE on 29/04; 1 heard at Llyn Brenig, 21/05; 2 singing *m* at Nant-y-Frith Reservoir on 12/06; up to 4 (3m,1f) seen at Erddig, 9/06-16/12.

Coastal: numbers built up during winter to c30 birds at Shotton Steelworks where 38 birds were ringed in the year. 3 pairs at Gronant Marsh on 18/01; a peak of 4+ birds counted in the period 7/05-15/07 and a winter peak count of 25 on 31/12. POA: 8 records— 2 birds on 26/01 then up to 5 on 31/01-28/06 and 1 on 11/12. Single *m* at Dulas Valley on 8/03 and at Flint marsh on 24/03. 2 pairs in scrub nr RCR on 20/01 and a *f* on scrubland off Cambrian Walk, Rhyl on 1/09.

CORN BUNTING (*Miliaria calandra*)

BRAS YR YD

Scarce localised breeding species. Red List [BD] BCCC
Now added to the Welsh Rarity list.

A single male on territory on the arable field adjacent to IMF (C.E. Wells) and at least 2 calling males, possibly with two others, at Shotwick Fields, 23/07-26/07 (Gareth Stamp *et al*).

**The following species were recorded in the 2000 Report
but not in this year's:**

BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*) GWYACH YDDFDDU
Scarce winter visitor. Amber List [BR] (Recorded at Conwy RSPB Reserve)

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*) HWYADEN ADDFAIN
Uncommon passage migrant. Amber List [BR, SPEC]

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD (*Buteo lagopus*) BOD BACSIOG
Very rare winter visitor

RED-FOOTED FALCON (*Falco vespertinus*) CUDYLL TROEDGOCH
Rare vagrant

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

WRYNECK (*Jynx torquilla*) PENGAM
Rare vagrant

SHORELARK (*Eremophila alpestris*) EHEDYDD Y TRAETH
now **HORNED LARK**
Occasional winter visitor

WATER PIPIT (*Anthus spinoletta*) CORHEDDYD Y DWR
Uncommon passage and winter visitor to the Dee Estuary

NIGHTINGALE (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) EOS
Scarce passage migrant. Welsh rarity.

RUSTIC BUNTING (*Emberiza rustica*) BRAS GWLEDIG
Rare vagrant

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: ESCAPES and RELEASES

Records of species placed in Categories D or E by the BOU or species which are regarded as escapes.

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*)

ALARCH DDU

1 at OMR on 16/10. 2 at GF on 21/11.

SNOW GOOSE (*Anser caerulescens*)

GWYDD YR EIRA

1 with Canada Geese at Hanmer Mere on 7/06 – the bird was unringed. 2 at Flint Castle marshes on 13/08.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*)

A single bird present on both Cheshire and Flintshire parts of IMF on 10/05 and a lingering individual at OMR, 25/07-30/08.

RUDDY SHELDUCK (*Tadorna ferruginea*)

IIWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

A f, present with Canada Goose flock, 1/01-11/02, was often on Flintshire arable fields adjacent to IMF reserve.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET (*Psittacula krameri*)

A male bird, calling in trees at Gypsy Lane, Rhyl, 28-29/09, probably an escape (John Lunt).

PEACOCK

A local escapee at Greenfield Valley on 9/06.

APPENDIX TWO DECISIONS

(i) CRP decisions.

The Clwyd Rarities Panel is an independent panel comprising Alan Davies RSPB, John Harrison RSPB and Susan Morris with Norman Hallas acting as facilitator. CBRG would like to thank the Panel for the care and diligence exhibited in its adjudication and also those who sent in submissions in accordance with the framework outlined above. To save space, all accepted submissions have been incorporated in to the Systematic List.

(ii) WRP decisions

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|--|----------|
| Stone Curlew | Llanddulas, 15/12 | R.I. Thorpe | Accepted |
| Corncrake | POA, 30/04 | Gareth Stamp | Pending |
| Tawny Pipit | POA, 6/05 | Chester Rowley | Pending |
| American Wigeon | IMF, 21-29/03 | Colin Wells & Gareth Stamp | Pending |
| American Wigeon | RCR, 15/12 to year end | Gareth Stamp, Kevin Smith <i>et al</i> | Pending |

(iii) BBRC Decisions

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------|
| Great White Egret | OMR, 12/08-29/09 | Gareth Stamp | Pending |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------|

APPENDIX 3

RECORDS REQUIRING DESCRIPTIONS

CBRG has decided that in this and subsequent Clwyd Bird Reports, records which require substantiation should be placed in an Appendix to the Systematic List rather than the main body of that list. In the main, this will apply to the three levels of rarity outlined on page 9, viz.: National, Welsh and County. All of these require supporting evidence from the observer before insertion into the main list. All rarity descriptions should be submitted via the County Recorder who will forward them to the appropriate body for ratification. Many of these are from Birdlines and other such sources and frequently without an observer name attached. We are grateful for the Dee Estuary (here denoted as DEWS) and the BirdGuide Web sites for supplying us with their lists and we ask any participative observer to send in information in the appropriate fashion.

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 list is reviewed annually. Records may be sent to the County Recorder or directly 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

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 should 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. A basic description of at least the principal identification features should be supplied by even the most experienced of observers. The species list considered as Flintshire and Denbighshire rarities by the CBRG Rarities Sub-committee is on page 9. Rarity Submission Forms are obtainable from the County recorder. For species indicated thus† below, the Rarities Panel have asked for full descriptions and further details with particular regard to location and age.

EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*)

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

now **COMMON EIDER**

Uncommon marine winter visitor. Amber List [WL] Clwyd County Rarity

40 off Towyn on 6/09 (BirdGuides).

SURF SCOTER (*Melanitta perspicillata*)

MÔR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

Rare vagrant. Welsh rarity

An adult drake seen by boat 2.5 miles N of Rhyl (SJ 0081) with c3000 Common Scoter, 10/12 (A. Clarke).

MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*)

BOD Y GWERNI

now **EURASIAN MARSH HARRIER**

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

An immature ♀ at Gronant on 27/04 (DEWS).

†**TEMMINCK'S STINT** (*Calidris temminckii*)

PIBYDD TEMMINCK

Rare passage migrant. Welsh rarity.

A single recorded at POA on 1/08 (C. Rowley).

†**POMARINE SKUA** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

SGIWEN FRECH

Uncommon passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

2 past POA on 9/09 (Birdnet) and 9/10 (C. Rowley).

†**LONG-TAILED SKUA** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) SGIWEN LOSTFAIN

Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County Rarity—see Appendix 3.

1 at POA at HT on 2/09, a juv on a falling tide, on 4-5/09 (C. Rowley) and 7/09 (E. & L. Jones); 1-2 seen on successive days, 13/09-16/09 flying W past POA (H. John).

†**RING-BILLED GULL** (*Larus delawarensis*) GWYLAN FODRWYBIG
Rare American vagrant. Clwyd County rarity

1 on the railway bridge over the R. Clwyd at Rhyl (SJ 998802) on 26/01 (R. Fisher and E. Lyons).

SABINE'S GULL (*Larus sabini*) GWYLAN SABINE
Scarce vagrant. Clwyd County rarity.

3 (2 ads, 1 juv) on 9/09 (Birdnet) and a juv on 14/09 (H. John).

†**ROSEATE TERN** (*Sterna dougallii*) MORWENNOL WRIDOG
Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County Rarity.

There were four records of birds roosting at HT as follows: singles on 10-11/07 and 2 birds on 12/07 and 22/07. (RSPB list, G. Stamp).

ALPINE SWIFT (*Apus melba*) GWENNOL DDU'R ALPAU
Rare vagrant. BBRC.

1 at Gronant on 29/04 (Steve Holmes)

†**CHOUGH** (*Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax*) BRAN GOESGOCH
now **RED-BILLED CHOUGH**
Scarce former breeding resident

A single sighting of a single bird at Gwespyr on 1/04 (C. Rowley).

FIRECREST (*Regulus ignicapillus*) DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH
Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BR] Clwyd County rarity

1 in a hedge at Llan-y-Pwll, nr Wrexham, 3/02 (N. Penny).

HAWFINCH (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*) GYLFINBRAFF
Clwyd County rarity

1 reported at Craig Bronbanog, Clocaenog on 20/02 (BirdGuides).

Bullfinch 2003

CBRG Target Species Your records are needed

For 2003, the Bullfinch has been chosen as our target species. This species is Red-listed in the UK because of a decline of at least 50% in its UK breeding population over the last 25 years. It also features as a Bird of Conservation Concern in Clwyd (see page 14).

The Clwyd Bird Recording Group hopes to collect records to show accurately the distribution and number in Clwyd. Although some records are received (see recent Systematic Lists), we may not be getting a true picture of its status.

The presence of Bullfinch is often revealed by its far-carrying 'deu-deu' call—they have no proper song. Usually found in pairs or small family groups, they work their way along hedgerows or through thickets feeding on buds, seeds and berries. Ash keys and blackberries are autumn favourites and fruit and hawthorn buds in spring. It is secretive in its habits but is easily identified by its pure white rump.

Please send records of sightings (including date, location, six-figure grid reference if known plus any relevant notes) to the County Recorder:

Norman Hallas, 63 Park Avenue, Wrexham LL12 7AW

01978 290522

Normanhallas@aol.com

P.S. CBRG would like to thank all those who responded to our call for Yellowhammer records in 2002 (last year's target species). Please keep the records coming in. An analysis will be presented in the next report.

TABLES

Selected WeBs Counts for Inland Clwyd, 2001

Co-ordinators: Elvet and Louise Jones

Table 1 (a): Acton Park, Wrexham SJ 345520

| | Jan 14 | Feb 11 | Mar n/c | Apr 8 | May 27 | June 24 | July 22 | Aug 19 | Sept 16 | Oct 7 | Nov 4 | Dec 16 |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| G Crested Grebe | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| Mute Swan | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | 2 |
| Mallard | 57 | 34 | | 20 | 19 | 53 | 65 | 45 | 26 | 33 | 19 | 30 |
| Moorhen | 4 | 4 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| Coot | 10 | 11 | | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 25 | 15 | 13 | 10 |
| Bk-headed Gull | 38 | 20 | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1 (b): Llyn Bran SH 962592

| | Jan 13 | Feb 22 | Mar n/c | Apr n/c | May n/c | Jun n/c | July n/c | Aug n/c | Sep 15 | Oct 6 | Nov 28 | Dec 8 |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Tufted Duck | | | | | | | | | 5 | 8 | | 12 |
| Goldeneye | 5 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1 (c): Dolwen (SH 973703)

| | Jan 13 | Feb 22 | Mar n/c | Apr n/c | Ma n/c | Jun n/c | July n/c | Aug n/c | Sept 15 | Oct 6 | Nov 28 | Dec 8 |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Little Grebe | 8 | 2 | | | | | | | 7 | 12 | 11 | 9 |
| G Crested Grebe | - | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | 1 |
| Grey Heron | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| Teal | - | 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mallard | 40 | 9 | | | | | | | 6 | | | 30 |
| Shoveler | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Pochard | | | | | | | | | | 8 | 5 | 1 |
| Tufted Duck | 7 | 29 | | | | | | | 19 | 16 | 21 | 30 |
| Goldeneye | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Goosander | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Moorhen | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coot | 12 | 14 | | | | | | | 60 | 43 | 30 | 26 |
| Snipe | 21 | 26 | | | | | | | | 4 | 13 | 50 |
| Bk-headed Gull | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Gull | 150 | 500 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lesser B-b Gull | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buzzard | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1 (d): Erddig Flash SJ 336487

| | Jan 14 | Feb 11 | Mar n/c | Apr n/c | May n/c | June 24 | July 22 | Aug 19 | Sept 16 | Oct 7 | Nov 4 | Dec 16 |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Little Grebe | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | |
| Grey Heron | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Mute Swan | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| Teal | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mallard | | 2 | 20 | | | 3 | 14 | 27 | 16 | 7 | 8 | 3 |
| Tufted Duck | | | 3 | | | 5 | 4 | | | | | |
| Ruddy Duck | | | | | | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Moorhen | | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | 3 | | |
| Coot | | 4 | 8 | | | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| Lapwing | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| Bk-headed Gull | | | 33 | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Gull | | | 50 | | | | | | | | | |
| Kestrel | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1 (e): Greenfield, Holywell SJ 1977

| | Jan 14 | Feb 11 | Mar n/c | Apr n/c | May 27 | June 24 | July 22 | Aug 19 | Sept 16 | Oct 7 | Nov 4 | Dec 16 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Little Grebe | 1 | 2 | | | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Cormorant | | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Grey Heron | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Mute Swan | 2 | 2 | | | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Canada Goose | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 0 | | | | |
| Mandarin | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Mallard | 19 | 16 | | | 23 | 31 | 14 | 27 | 6 | 19 | 23 | 16 |
| Pochard | 29 | 22 | | | | | | | | | 3 | |
| Tufted Duck | 19 | 21 | | | 16 | 9 | 12 | 6 | 9 | 27 | 61 | 39 |
| Goldeneye | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 |
| Moorhen | 4 | 5 | | | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 12 | 8 |
| Coot | 5 | 9 | | | 6 | 11 | 9 | 11 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 19 |
| Lapwing | | | | | 2 | | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| Kingfisher | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bk-headed Gull | 42 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Gull | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buzzard | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1 (f): Gresford Flash SJ 345536

| | Jan 14 | Feb 11 | Mar n/c | Apr 8 | May 27 | June 24 | July 22 | Aug 19 | Sept 16 | Oct 7 | Nov 4 | Dec 16 |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Great Crested Grebe | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Cormorant | | 2 | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | | |
| Grey Heron | 1 | 2 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Mute Swan | 2 | 2 | | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 |
| Greylag Goose | | | | | | | | | 33 | | 28 | |
| Canada Goose | 9 | 33 | | 15 | 24 | 35 | 35 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 57 | 2 |
| Mandarin | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mallard | 10 | 2 | | 6 | 5 | 13 | 27 | 12 | 16 | 14 | 4 | 24 |
| Pochard | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Tufted Duck | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ruddy Duck | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Moorhen | 4 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | |
| Coot | 72 | 31 | | 15 | 7 | 13 | 18 | 42 | 26 | 34 | 38 | 95 |
| Lapwing | 18 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Bk-headed Gull | 113 | 68 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Gull | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lesser B-b Gull | 61 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1 (g): Kimberley Clark Factory, Flint

| | Jan 14 | Feb 25 | Mar n/c | Apr n/c | May n/c | June n/c | July n/c | Aug n/c | Sept 16 | Oct 7 | Nov 27 | Dec 9 |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Little Grebe | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Grey Heron | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Mute Swan | | 4 | 2 | | | | | | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| Canada Goose | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Teal | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Mallard | | 26 | 38 | | | | | | 68 | 63 | 67 | 26 |
| Shoveler | | 15 | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Pochard | | 8 | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 5 | 7 | 2 |
| Tufted Duck | | 5 | 12 | | | | | | 9 | 10 | 8 | 16 |
| Ruddy Duck | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Feral | | 26 | 35 | | | | | | 34 | 14 | 7 | 30 |
| Moorhen | | 18 | 11 | | | | | | 14 | 14 | 7 | 17 |
| Coot | | 18 | 50 | | | | | | 44 | 40 | 52 | 68 |
| Oystercatcher | | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Snipe | | 5 | 2 | | | | | | | 5 | | |
| Bk-headed Gull | | 30 | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Gull | | 70 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1 (h): Llyn Brenig (SH 9755)

| | Jan 13 | Feb 22 | M n/c | A n/c | M n/c | J n/c | Jy n/c | A n/c | Sept 15 | Oct 6 | Nov 28 | Dec 8 |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Little Grebe | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| Gt Crested Grebe | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Cormorant | | 6 | 7 | | | | | | 16 | 27 | 14 | 11 |
| Grey Heron | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 5 |
| Mallard | | 89 | 10 | | | | | | 5 | 19 | 15 | 4 |
| Tufted Duck | | | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | 8 | |
| Goldeneye | | 4 | 7 | | | | | | | | 3 | 5 |
| Goosander | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 8 | 4 |
| Bk-hd Gull | | | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Gull | | | 500 | | | | | | | | | |
| L'er B-b Gull | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Merlin | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1(j): Ysceifiog Lake SJ 145715

| | Jan 13 | Feb 12 | Mar n/c | Apr n/c | May n/c | Jun n/c | Jul n/c | Aug n/c | Sep n/c | Oct 6 | Nov 5 | Dec 16 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Little Grebe | 13 | 14 | | | | | | | | 14 | 10 | 9 |
| Cormorant | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Mute Swan | 21 | 20 | | | | | | | | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| Teal | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Mallard | 91 | 38 | | | | | | | | 40 | 56 | 48 |
| Pochard | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tufted Duck | 26 | 10 | | | | | | | | | 14 | 24 |
| Moorhen | 5 | 3 | | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Coot | 122 | 73 | | | | | | | | 70 | 68 | 87 |
| Common Gull | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |

Table 1(i): Llyn Helyg (SJ1177)

| | Jan 14 | Feb 21 | Mar n/c | Apr n/c | May n/c | Jun n/c | July n/c | Aug n/c | Sept 15 | Oct 7 | Nov 27 | Dec 12 |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Gt Crested Grebe | | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Cormorant | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grey Heron | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Mute Swan | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Canada Goose | | 24 | | | | | | | 7 | | | 5 |
| Wigeon | | 10 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gadwall | 8 | 30 | | | | | | | | 1 | | 32 |
| Teal | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | 3 |
| Mallard | 22 | 20 | | | | | | | 10 | | | 11 |
| Pochard | | 22 | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Pintail | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tufted Duck | 70 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | 25 |
| Goosander | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Moorhen | | | | | | | | | 3 | 1 | | |
| Coot | 52 | 57 | | | | | | | 148 | 144 | 175 | 190 |
| Bk-headed Gull | 1 | 50 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Gull | 1 | 50 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buzzard | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |

| <p align="center"><i>Table 2</i> Breeding Birds 2001 for Gronant Local Nature Reserve <i>Source: RSPB</i></p> | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Species | Number of territories |
| Mallard | 2 |
| Coot | 2 |
| Moorhen | 2 |
| Skylark | 22 |
| Meadow Pipit | 9 |
| Pied Wagtail | 1 |
| Stonechat | 1 |
| Blackbird | 1 |
| Wren | 2 |
| Dunnock | 3 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | 1 |
| Whitethroat | 3 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | 3 |
| Sedge Warbler | 11 |
| Linnet | 4 |
| Reed Bunting | 3 |
| Breeding birds at Gronant reed bed and marsh, outside the LNR | |
| Reed Warbler | 6 |
| Water Rail | 1 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | 1 |
| Mute Swan | 1 |

RINGING REPORT FOR 2001

Ian M. Spence

For fieldworkers, 2001 was a year with an inauspicious start with the restrictions put on access to the countryside because of the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. Thankfully, I was able to get access to two woods where I did not have to cross any grazing land and did not have to use public footpaths. Nonetheless, I missed ringing a lot of birds, so again, it seems that Merseyside Ringing Group (MRG) did most ringing in the county area.

I thank the ringers who submitted totals and recoveries that may be used for this report: MRG (Paul Triggs), John Lawton Roberts (a nil return because of Foot and Mouth restrictions), Spence, Stratford and Brenchley (Ian M. Spence) and Stuart K. Thomas.

The totals show that MRG had a very successful season ringing Common Terns at Shotton. They continue to provide interesting recoveries from their west African wintering area. With such a small sample of ringers in Clwyd, it is not possible to comment on the changes in ringing totals as possible indicators of changes in the fortunes of bird populations, as for many species the changes in number from one year to the next reflect changes in effort or other factors. There were no exceptional recoveries this year but I have included recoveries for different species that showed movements of more than 40 km.

I am very grateful to the ringers who have provided their ringing totals and recoveries for possible inclusion in this report. As usual, many of the recoveries have been generated by ringers having caught, again, birds ringed by others ('controlled') but I am especially grateful to the members of the public, in this country and elsewhere who have written to the British Museum, with the details of the ringed birds they have found.

Ian M. Spence

| | TOTALS | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| | FullGrown | Pulli | Total |
| Hen Harrier | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Buzzard | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Kestrel | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Merlin | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Oystercatcher | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Ringed Plover | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Black-headed Gull | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Common Tern | 0 | 820 | 820 |
| Little Tern | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| Stock Dove | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Woodpigeon | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Barn Owl | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Tawny Owl | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Nightjar | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Swift | 57 | 0 | 57 |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Skylark | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Swallow | 1 | 11 | 12 |
| House Martin | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Grey Wagtail | 0 | 13 | 13 |
| Dipper | 0 | 16 | 16 |
| Wren | 64 | 17 | 81 |
| Duncock | 29 | 0 | 29 |
| Robin | 70 | 24 | 94 |
| Redstart | 6 | 12 | 18 |
| Whinchat | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| Blackbird | 52 | 13 | 65 |
| Song Thrush | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Redwing | 22 | 0 | 22 |
| Mistle Thrush | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| Cetti's Warbler | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Grasshopper Warbler | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Sedge Warbler | 30 | 0 | 30 |
| Reed Warbler | 92 | 24 | 116 |

| <i>continued</i> | Full Grown | Pulli | Total |
|------------------|------------|-------|-------|
| Whitethroat | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| Garden Warbler | 13 | 9 | 22 |
| Blackcap | 31 | 0 | 31 |
| Chiffchaff | 26 | 0 | 26 |
| Willow Warbler | 70 | 7 | 77 |
| Goldcrest | 77 | 0 | 77 |
| Firecrest | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Pied Flycatcher | 44 | 342 | 386 |
| Long-tailed Tit | 18 | 0 | 18 |
| Marsh Tit | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Willow Tit | 14 | 0 | 14 |
| Coal Tit | 29 | 13 | 42 |
| Blue Tit | 240 | 681 | 921 |
| Great Tit | 71 | 254 | 325 |
| Treecreeper | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Jay | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Starling | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| House Sparrow | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Tree Sparrow | 0 | 63 | 63 |
| Chaffinch | 45 | 10 | 55 |
| Greenfinch | 76 | 0 | 76 |
| Goldfinch | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Siskin | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Lesser Redpoll | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Bullfinch | 20 | 0 | 20 |
| Reed Bunting | 43 | 0 | 43 |
| <i>TOTALS</i> | 1313 | 2410 | 3723 |

Codes used in the recoveries:

| | |
|-------|---|
| M | Male |
| F | Female |
| Pull. | Ringed as a pullus (nestling) |
| 2 | Fully grown, year of hatching quite unknown |
| 3 | 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:

| | | | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--|
| U6676 | Mute Swan | 6 M | (Blue XUU) | |
| 30 07 1995 | Aber Ogwen, near Bangor, Gwynedd | | | |
| 26 10 1997 | Deeside Industrial Park | | | |
| 01 02 2001 | Shotwick, Cheshire | | | |
| 71 km | 89° | 2013 days | | Dead, hit wires |
| U6769 | Mute Swan | 5 F | (White AAIH) | |
| 28 07 1996 | Aber Ogwen, near Bangor, Gwynedd | | | |
| 03 01 2001 | Deeside Industrial Estate, Shotwick | | | |
| 70 km | 88° | 1620 days | | Colour mark record |
| U6799 | Mute Swan | 5 M | (White AALA) | |
| 24 08 1996 | Foryd Bay, near Caernarfon, Gwynedd | | | |
| 10 01 2001 | Holywell | | | |
| 74 km | 76° | 1600 days | | Sick, now released, discarded fishing tackle |

| | | |
|--------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Z91444 | Mute Swan 3 (White AAYU) | |
| 19 08 1999 | Ruthin | |
| 20 05 2001 | Frodsham Marsh, Cheshire | |
| 43 km 59° | 640 days | Dead, not fresh, hit wires |
| SV14606 | Common Tern Pull. | |
| 19 07 1998 | Shotton Steel Works | |
| 02 06 1999 | Conakry, <u>GUINEA</u> | |
| 4951 km 192° | 318 days | Ring only found |
| SV14941 | Common Tern Pull. | |
| 27 06 1999 | Shotton Steel Works | |
| 29 07 2001 | Tanjeh, <u>GAMBIA</u> | Found dead |
| 4596 km 195° | 763 days | |
| N584179 | Sedge Warbler 3 | |
| 16 07 2000 | Shotton Steel Works | |
| 05 08 2000 | Le Massereau, Frossay, Loire-Atlantique, <u>FRANCE</u> | |
| 670 km 173° | 20 days | Controlled |
| K808964 | Pied Flycatcher Pull. (7/7) | |
| 08 06 1999 | Rhewl, near Ruthin | |
| 09 06 2001 | Radlith, Pontesbury, Shropshire | |
| 64 km 150° | 732 days | Controlled at nest box (= M) |
| K810050 | Brambling 5 M | |
| 08 03 1997 | Shotton Steel Works | |
| 06 02 2000 | Hilborough, Norfolk | |
| 260 km 106° | 1065 days | Controlled (and on 05 03 2000) |
| VS59415 | Greenfinch 3 M | |
| 21 11 1999 | Shotton Steel Works | |
| 01 06 2001 | Ulverston, Cumbria | |
| 107 km 358° | 558 days | Road casualty |
| VS59446 | Greenfinch 6 M | |
| 05 12 1999 | Shotton Steel Works | |
| 28 07 2001 | Netherton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire | |
| 93 km 61° | 601 days | Found freshly dead |

ARTICLES

The Population Status of the UK's Birds —the Red List updated

Anne Brenchley

Clwyd East Regional Representative
British Trust for Ornithology

Every five years, the leading governmental and non-governmental conservation organisations in the UK review the population status of the birds regularly found here. A total of 247 species has been assessed and each has been placed on to one of the three lists (as outlined at the beginning of our Systematic List) —red, amber or green. In the UK, forty species are red-listed, 121 are amber-listed and 86 are green-listed. The lists update earlier assessments, *Birds of Conservation Concern* and *Birds of Conservation Importance*, which were published in 1996. The five yearly review keeps track of changes in abundance and range and the new lists are based on the most up-to-date information available.

For birdwatchers in Wales, the lists are slightly different to that of the UK. Many of the UK birds are not found in Wales so the Welsh Red List has only 27 species mentioned. But even here there have been some significant additions to the red list from 2002 onwards.

- **Farmland Birds:** many widespread but rapidly declining birds of farmed land remain on the red list but in the latest assessment the **Yellowhammer** has been added to the UK and Welsh lists and the **Lapwing** is now on the Welsh list.
- **Woodland and Urban birds:** birds from two new groups now appear on the red list. **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** and **Willow Tit** have declined by 73% and 80% over the last 25 years in the

UK and although there is inadequate data to determine their actual population status in Wales, nonetheless the precautionary approach to their status has been adopted and they appear on the Welsh Red List. In the UK, a number of other woodland species have entered the amber list and **Wood Warbler** may be a species to look out for over the next few years but in Wales this is still a species that is doing reasonably well and it has not been placed on either the red or amber lists. However, it is the inclusions of two, once very common, town birds to the red list that may surprise many birdwatchers: the **House Sparrow** and the **Starling**. Admittedly, these have declined most in the south and east of the UK but the starling has also declined in Wales and although the House Sparrow is still relatively common in Wales (Welsh amber list), we should be recording these birds and not take them for granted.

- **Uplands:** here the **Hen Harrier** and the **Black Grouse** remain on the red list but **Ring Ousel** and **Red Grouse** are now added. One piece of good news is that the **Merlin** has moved to the amber list because its UK population has more than doubled over the past 25 years.

Whilst some conservation actions have been successful over the past few years, reversing the declines of widespread and common species remains the key challenge in bird conservation today.

A more detailed article concerning this subject can be found in Welsh Birds: Vol 3 (4) pp 289-302: *'The Population Status of Birds in Wales: an Analysis of Conservation Concern 2002-2007'*, R.I. Thorpe and A. Young.

Conservation of Birds on the Dee Estuary

Chris Pirie

European Marine Site Officer – Dee Estuary, English Nature (based with the Countryside Council for Wales in Mold).

The Dee Estuary is the most important site for birds in Clwyd, being of international importance for fourteen species of waterbirds. During the autumn and winter months the extensive intertidal mud flats and sand flats, saltmarsh and the surrounding coastal fields of the Dee, provide roosting and feeding sites for many thousands of ducks and waders. In summer the estuary supports internationally important colonies of breeding terns. The estuary is also an important migration stopover for waders moving along Britain's western coastline, and for Sandwich Terns on post-breeding passage.

Species for which the Dee is important

Altogether in excess of 120,000 waterbirds from 18 species are regularly recorded as spending the winter on the Dee Estuary. The Dee supports internationally important numbers of 3 species of wintering wildfowl: Shelduck, Teal, and Pintail; and 8 species of wintering waders: Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Knot, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew and Redshank. In addition, internationally important numbers of breeding Common Tern occur at Shotton Lagoons, while Wales' only breeding colony of Little Terns is found on the beach at Gronant.

Based on Wetland Bird Survey counts over the five years prior to 2000 the Dee ranks as the most important site in the UK for wintering Pintail, the second most important UK site for wintering Redshank and the third most important site for wintering Shelduck, Oystercatchers, Black-tailed godwit, and Curlew.

Why do so many birds come to the Dee?

The importance of the estuary for migratory waterfowl stems from its geographic location, and the variety and productivity of its habitats. The close proximity of the Dee to the other major estuaries of Liverpool Bay, in particular the Mersey and the Ribble means that these estuaries form network of sites, all of which provide food and shelter for waterbirds. Further these sites are situated on the North East Atlantic Flyway, the main route taken by waders and wildfowl from their breeding grounds in the Arctic and Northern Europe to their wintering grounds further south.

The invertebrate communities of the intertidal flats provide a very rich source of food for waders and wildfowl. The productivity of intertidal mud flats is high and the intertidal mudflats and sandflats of the Dee are the fifth largest within a UK estuary. Consequently the Dee supports extensive invertebrate communities providing abundant food for many species. These invertebrate communities include several important invertebrate groups: polychaete worms such as the lugworm (*Arenicola marina*) and ragworm (*Nereis diversicolor*); bivalve molluscs, in particular cockles (*Cerastoderma edule*) and Baltic tellins (*Macoma balthica*); gastropod molluscs such as the mud snails (*Hydrobia*), as well as shrimp-like amphipod crustaceans.

All of these invertebrates are food for at least one species of wildfowl or wading bird, although in general different bird species exploit different parts of an intertidal area, feeding upon a range of different invertebrates. For example Shelduck feed on the intertidal area at low water or the water's edge, usually on *Macoma*, *Hydrobia* and other small invertebrates such as *Corophium*.

In addition to the intertidal flats other areas of particular importance for birds within the estuary are the large areas of saltmarsh in the upper estuary and coastal grazing marsh along the Welsh shore. These habitats provide additional feeding areas for waders and wildfowl; ducks such as pintail and teal feed on seeds and soft-leaved plants on the

saltmarsh while wading birds feed on terrestrial invertebrates including earthworms and leatherjackets on the grazing marsh. Areas of saltmarsh and rock or shingle on the upper shore also provide important areas for birds to roost at high tide without experiencing excessive disturbance.

Statutory Designations

The Dee Estuary now enjoys some of the highest levels of statutory protection of any site in the country. The estuary and its surrounding habitats are now covered by a series of overlapping statutory nature conservation designations of four different types:

The Dee Estuary was first notified as a **Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** in 1954. Further SSSI notifications have followed resulting in six SSSIs around the estuary, all of which are at least partly notified for their bird interest. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) substantially enhances the protection of these SSSIs and makes it easier to manage their wildlife features positively.

In 1985 international importance of the Dee for waders and wildfowl was formally recognised for the first time. This year saw the designation of both the Dee Estuary **Special Protection Area (SPA)** under the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC) and the Dee Estuary **Ramsar Site** under the Ramsar Convention (The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat) signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971.

SPAs provide increased protection and management for areas that are important for breeding, wintering or migration of rare and vulnerable bird species. Government policy on Ramsar sites requires special consideration to be given to any proposals which could affect their features of international importance so as to ensure that sites do not deteriorate or suffer significant disturbance.

Finally in February 2001 English Nature and the Countryside Council

for Wales recommended the Dee Estuary as a **possible Special Area of Conservation (pSAC)** under the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora). The estuary is being considered as a pSAC because it contains habitat types and species which are rare or threatened within a European context. Habitats of European importance in the estuary include both its saltmarsh and the intertidal flats, for which the Dee is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK.

Status of key waterfowl species

The existence of statutory designations alone does not necessarily guarantee that the numbers of birds using the estuary will remain at current levels. The estuary must be managed to ensure that conditions remain favourable within the site and external factors, such as weather conditions in the breeding grounds thousands of miles away, may affect the numbers of birds coming to the Dee Estuary.

English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales have a duty to monitor the birds using the estuary and to ensure that the management of the site remains favourable. The monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBs) counts carried out by the RSPB in conjunction with volunteers contribute greatly to this process.

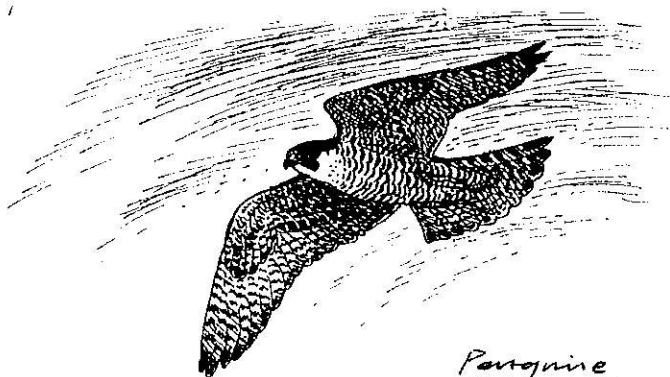
Recent research undertaken by The British Trust for Ornithology (Armitage *et al.*, 2002) examining WeBS data for trends in bird numbers has raised some concerns that eight of the species for which the Dee Estuary SPA is internationally important - teal, pintail, oystercatcher, grey plover, knot, dunlin, bar-tailed godwit and redshank - had undergone some degree of decline over varying periods prior to 2000. Yet over the last two years most of these species have shown slight increases, in particular, knot, dunlin, and redshank. However numbers of other species remained low. Oystercatcher numbers are of most concern, as they appear to show a continued decline. The Countryside Council for Wales has recently commissioned further research to investigate some of the possible causes of this apparent decline in order to

establish how it might be reversed.

Finally.....

Estuaries are dynamic ecosystems and the Dee Estuary is no exception. Natural and man-made factors are always working for change. Offshore dredging, management of the cockle fishery, diffuse pollution inputs from agricultural run-off and works associated with offshore windfarms are all issues affecting the estuary. The influence of climate change is yet to be determined. Monitoring of habitats and species is ongoing and the country agencies are consulted on all plans and projects that could potentially affect the estuary. All efforts will be made to ensure that the wildlife interest of the estuary is safeguarded for everyone to enjoy now and into the future.

Chris Pirie



*Penguin
P. Snow ©*

Grid references and all that....

Norman Hallas

When faced with a request to write something about Grid References I initially demurred. My feeling was that those who knew how to use grid references would not need such a guide—and, indeed, may take exception to being told “how to suck eggs”—and those who didn’t may be frightened off and stop sending in any records at all. What persuaded me were recent experiences when I received erroneous grid references from “professionals” (the common mistake is to put eastings last) - not to mention the agonising amount of time it takes me to check references on the maps. There is another influence, too—the intention by CBRG to use Recorder 2002 which will require the use of such references. Anyway, here goes....

1. The National Grid is a reference system which applies to all British maps. Great Britain is covered by 100 kilometre grid squares each of which is identified by two letters. The squares relevant to us are those designated SH and SJ.
2. These squares are further divided into smaller squares by grid lines representing 10 kilometre spacing, each numbered from 0 to 9, from the south-west corner, in an easterly (left to right) and northerly (upwards) direction, as shown in diagram 1. These letters are shown on the map key and in the corner of the map.
3. Using this system, you can identify a ten-kilometre grid square. For example, if you look at the map in the centrefold of this report, you can find Gresford Flash. It is in square SJ 35. This grid is further divided into 1 kilometre intervals. You can estimate or measure distances between the grid lines to give a more precise reference. By estimating the eastings and northings to one tenth of the grid interval, a full 6 figure grid reference can be given, accurate to 100 metres on the ground. All you do is estimate how many tenths away from the grid your point falls. For instance, Gresford Flash is approximately 6 tenths east of grid 34 and 8 tenths north of grid 53. So the six-figure (100 metre) grid reference for Gresford Flash is SJ 346538.
4. This is a very precise measure. Plant recorders or similar may, indeed use satellite positioning devices to pinpoint a position. We do not need that degree of accuracy. Indeed, for some species it may be preferred to give a general indicator or even none at all (e.g. for rare breeding birds).

Table 1

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

Table 2

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 60 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 59 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 58 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 57 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 56 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 54 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 53 | | | | GF | | | | | | | |
| 52 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 51 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 |

Contributors

Roger and Megan Bagguley, Mark Boilstone, Anne Brenchley, Mike Clark, Alan D. Crawford, Keith Davies, Lynn Davies, Steve Davies, Steven Davies, Tony Davies, Colin Greenhalgh, Hywel Edwards, Ian Evans, Mair Evans, Doug Formstone, J.B.Formstone, Neil Friswell, Barry Griffiths, Mike Griffiths, Norman and Pauline Hallas, Mrs H.G. Harvey, Dave Healey, Ian Higginson, Brayton Holt, Neal Hughes, S. Hughes, J.A.Jackson*, Huw John*, Elvet & Louise Jones, Helen Parry Jones, Rhun Jones, Andrew King, the Rev. Hugh Linn, John Lunt, Dr Edward Lyons, John Marchant, Alan Moore, Paul I. Morris, Susan Morris, Geoff Odgers, Ron Plummer, J. Raines*, Peter Rathbone, Mr & Mrs D.F. Richardson, Brian Roberts, John Lawton Roberts, Paul Roberts, G. Robinson*, Barry & Iris Rogers, Mervyn David Rogers, C. Rowley*, Ian Spence, Kevin Smith, Richard Smith, Gareth Stamp, E.J.Stokes, Nick Thomas, RI Thorpe*, Paul Triggs, Stephen Williams, Les Wood.

(refers to contributors from whom records were received indirectly)*

plus

BHP Petroleum Limited (*Rob Palmer/Chester Rowley*); BirdGuides Ltd Web Site (*dave.dunford@birdguides.com*); Dee Estuary Web Site (*Richard Smith: 0151 625 2320 or richard@deeestuary.co.uk*); Greenfield Valley (Holywell) Bird Survey (*Brian Roberts*); Shotton Paper Bird Report (*Ron Plummer*); Shotton Steelworks Records (*John Birch and Paul Triggs*); Wrexham Birdwatchers Annual Report

[Welsh Development Agency Breeding Bird Surveys; Welsh Raptor Study Group 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, Neil Friswell 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.*

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 |
|---------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|--|---|
| AWCP | Acton Park Alyn Waters Country Park, Llay | SJ 345520 SJ 332553 <i>and</i> SJ 320546 | GVHP | Greenfield Dock Greenfield Valley Heritage Park | SJ 200780 SJ 1977 |
| BB | Bagillt Bank BHP Pool, POA Bod Petruall | SJ 235767 SJ 124844 SJ 037510 | GF GL | Gresford Flash Gresford Lake Gronant Dunes Gyfelia | SJ 346538 SJ 348548 SJ 090845 SJ 328453 |
| BQ | Borras/Borras Quarry Brickfields Pools/ Reserve Bronbannog Burton, near Rossett Burton Meadows | SJ 356526 SJ 013803 SJ 0352 SJ 357573 SJ 350600 | HM HMCP HP | Hanmer Mere Hope Mountain (Waun y Llyn) Country Park Hawarden Airfield Horseshoe Pass, near Llangollen | SJ 455397 SJ 350650 SJ 185470 |
| CLR | Cae Llwyd Reservoir Clocaenog Forest Coedpoeth | SJ 269478 SJ 0353 SJ 2951 | IMF I.L.R. | Inner Marsh Farm Lindisfarne Lake, Ruabon | SJ 305735 SJ 308427 |
| CQNR | Connahs Quay Nature Reserve | SJ 270720 | | Llanasa | SJ 106815 |
| CR | Conwy RSPB Reserve | SH795775 | | Llanddulas Llandegla Llawndy Farm (BHP) | SH 910785 SJ 196525 SJ 118840 |
| | Ddol Uchaf Reserve Dolwen Reservoir Dyserth | SJ 141714 SH1973704 SJ 056791 | | Llay Llyn Aled Llyn Bran Llyn Brenig Llyn Helyg Loggerheads Large Pool, Johnstown | SJ 332557 SH 916579 SH 962592 SH 9755 SJ 1177 SJ 205627 SJ 2943 |
| FC FLQ | Fenn's Moss Flint Castle Fagl Lane Quarry, Hope | SJ 490370 SJ 248732 SJ 301588 | LPJ MLR | Marine Lake, Rhyl Moss Valley | SJ 000805 SJ 312523 |

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GAZETTEER (continued)

| Abbreviation (where used) | Site | Grid Reference | Abbreviation (where used) | Site | Grid Reference |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| NEWI OMR | Nant Mill | SJ 288504 | SBL | Shotwick | SJ 315725 |
| | Nercwys Mountain | SJ 2258 | SLJ | Boating Lake | |
| | NE Wales Institute, Wrexham | SJ 328513 | | Stryt Las, Johnstown | SJ 305449 |
| | Oakenholt Marsh Reserve | SJ 265722 | SPJ | Small Pool near Johnstown | SJ 2743 |
| | Pendinas Reservoir | SJ 236518 | | Tainant | SJ 270465 |
| | Pensarn | SH 950785 | | Talacre | SJ 124847 |
| | Penycae | SJ 281452 | | | |
| PCR | Penycae Reservoir | SJ 2645 | | | |
| PMPA | Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele | SH943785 | TFR | Tatham Farm, Ruabon | SJ 2944 |
| POA | Point of Ayr | SJ 130850 | | Trevalyn Meadows | SJ 395565 |
| | Pontybodkin | SJ 272593 | | | |
| | | | TMR | Ty Mawr Reservoir | SJ 275480 |
| RBP | Rhyl Brickfield Pond | SJ 013803 | | Walwen | SJ 207766 |
| RCR | River Clwyd, Rhyl | SH000800 | | Warren Farm, Talacre | SJ 115843 |
| RGC | Rhyl Golf Course | SJ 028824 | | World's End | SJ 238478 |
| RML | Rhyl Marine Lake | SH 999805 | WE | Wrexham | |
| | Rhydymwyn | SJ 213663 | WIE | Industrial Estate | SJ 3749 |
| RM | Ruabon Moors | SJ 245465 | | | |
| | Rossett | SJ 368572 | | | |
| | | | YL | Ysceifiog Lake | SJ 145715 |
| | Sealand | SJ 340694 | | | |
| | Sealand Ranges | SJ 305726 | | | |
| SF | Shotwick Fields | SJ 320720 | | | |
| SL | Shotton Lagoons | SJ 3071 | | | |

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 and holds monthly meetings and slide shows. 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, Mr Keith Shannon,
6 Ffordd Pentre, Mold, Flintshire CH7 1UY.

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 7EU. E-mail: melabowain@cix.compulink.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

