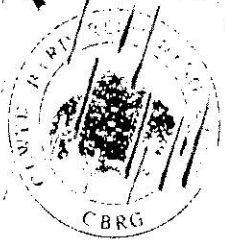


Clwyd Bird Report

2002



TKS





Photograph: thanks to Gary Bellingham for providing the photograph of the Short-toed Lark, found at Towyn in May by Susan Morris and probably the rarest bird seen in Clwyd in 2002.

CLWYD BIRD REPORT

2002

**CLWYD BIRD RECORDING
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 2002 is as follows:

Chairman and County Recorder: Norman Hallas

(also representing Wrexham Birdwatchers)

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

Hon. Treasurer: Elvet Jones (Clwyd Ornithological Society)

and

Andrew Dale (CCW)

Louise Jones (COS)

Paul Kenyon (WOS)

Mel ab Owain (BTO West Clwyd Regional Organiser)

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 2002 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.

For this report, a number of important points need to be stated:

- It may be necessary to re-iterate that 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 continue to make great strides in those directions (see below).
- To encourage members of the public to send in records and to acknowledge such contributions, we have decided to identify particular records by inserting the name or initial of the observer, where this has been possible.
- We have used the new Welsh listings for the current population status assessments. For the first time, species have been assigned to red, amber, or green lists in Wales, by the publication in 2002 of *The population status of birds in Wales: an analysis of conservation concern, 2002-2007* (Thorpe and Young). Whilst status differences still exist within Wales, this may be a more appropriate indicator of population movements and conservation concern than the broad brush of UK status (see below).
- Another innovation is the insertion of information on weather, kindly provided by Mr Len Walls. Clearly, weather conditions have an important effect on breeding bird populations.
- For this year, for the first time, we have been able to publish an analysis of our high-lighted Birds of Conservation Concern in

Clwyd series, in this case the Yellowhammer (see article). Thanks to those people who sent in records, to Dr Anne Brenchley for analysing them and to Ian Spence and D-Map for the provision of the maps.

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 continue 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 has commenced. 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 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 the concept of a Bird Report has outlived its usefulness. 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 and signposts and parameters for action indicated. Of course, more can be done in both of these directions.

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 or electronic format. 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

CBRG would like to thank Synthite of Mold for their generous financial support towards the production of this Report.

In addition to all those who have sent in records (listed towards the end of this report), we would especially like to thank Thelma Sykes for allowing us to use part of a design for the production of our cover, and Gary Bellingham for his photographs; and to Ron Plummer and Thelma Sykes for other illustrations, Len Walls for the weather report; Anne Brenchley and the British Trust for Ornithology for the BBS figures; the BTO for Migrant Report records; Kim Norman, Rob Palmer and BHP Petroleum Limited for their POA systematic list; Alan Morton for the production of maps using DMAP; 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 their 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.

Photographs: thanks to Gary Bellingham for providing the photographs of the Short-toed Lark, found at Towyn in May by Susan Morris and probably the rarest bird seen in Clwyd in 2002, and of the wintering American Wigeon seen at IMF Border Pool.

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THE WEATHER IN 2002

Len Walls

CBRG has attempted to give an overview of the general weather situation in Clwyd for 2002. Clearly, the weather has an enormous impact on the breeding and movement of birds, and we have tried to indicate important movements in that direction. The weather data quoted below refer to Moel y Crio weather station, Halkyn, Flintshire, and averages referred to are based on information gathered there since 1981.

We are indebted to Mr Len Walls for making this data available.

2002 was yet another **warm and wet year** with the overall temperature of 9.2°C being just 0.5°C above average and the rainfall total of 968.7mm (38.1 in) was 106% of average. Looking at the year as a whole, we had a warm spring with February particularly warm with an average temp 2.4°C above average, followed by a cool summer and mild wet winter. The warmest day was on August 17th with a maximum temperature of 24.8°C . The coldest day was on January 3rd with a minimum temperature of -4.8°C . While July was the coldest with respect to average with a deficit of -1.2°C below average, October was also a cold month with a deficit of -0.6°C but in general the winter months were warm and wet (October, November and December were the wettest months) – October taking the top prize with a total of 136.9mm (5.4in) with fewer air-frosts and days of lying snow than usual. The driest month was September with a final total of 25.4 mm (just 1.0in). However, although it was a wet year, we have had 21 wetter years since 1931 in the area.

The **sunshine** total for the year was 1406 hrs, just 98% of average. Unusually April and May were the sunniest months with May being top with 188.8 hrs, but that was only 96% of average. On the other hand April with 183.8 hrs was 130% of average. June, July and August were dull months; September had some nice sunny spells. **Winds** were mainly from the SE and SW. The average speed was 8.1 mph with the maximum gust of 81 mph on the 28th of Jan.

Month by month account:

January started with a cold snap with 8cms of lying snow 1st to the 6th. After that the temperature rose peaking out on the 27th with a maximum of 12.3°C , ending the month 1.2°C above average. Rainfall was light until the 13th, followed by a wet spell for the rest of the month. The maximum fall was 8.7mm on the 25th, the final total was 51.1mm (71% of average). Winds were SW, just average speed with a maximum gust off 81mph on the 28th.

February started with a storm, with winds gusting up to 67 mph. The temperature started warm, but there was a cold spell from the 14th to the 23rd. The month ended with an average of 5.7°C (-1.5°C above average). It rained on most days, but it was much wetter towards the end, the final total was 93mm (163% of average). Sunshine was also evenly spread throughout the month with a final total of 74.6 hrs

(98% of average) The sunniest day was on the 27th with 8.5 hrs of bright sunshine.

March. A cold start with 2 night air frosts but temperature steadily increased throughout the month with a maximum value of 14.9°C on the 30th, the average mean temperature was 6.5°C (+0.6°C above average) Rainfall amounts peaked out on the 14th with a fall of 13.0mm. Total was 68.4mm (108%). It was the sunniest March since 1981, with a grand total of 123.9 hrs (132%). The sunniest day was on the 28th with 11.3 hrs. Winds were mainly from the SW with an average of 10.2 mph. We had 1 gale, on the 10th, max gust 58mph.

April. This was the warmest April since 1987, it started warm but cooled off by the 11th but the warm weather re-established itself by the 19th with a max of 18.6°C on the 24th. The average for the month was 7.8°C (+0.4°C) A dry spell 4th to 17th was followed by heavy showers on the 20th giving a max fall of 10.9mm, the month ended with a total of 59.3mm(99% average). It was also a very sunny month, ending with a total of 183.8hrs (130%) The maximum was 12.8 hrs on the 13th. Winds were Westerly 9mph 1.5 mph below average.

May. A cold start to the month, but the temperature gradually warmed up until the 16th with a maximum of 21.7°C. The average was 10.4 °C (+0.1), the coldest May since 1996, with only 2 days with the temp over 20°C. There was little rain until the 12th then fairly wet from the 17th onwards, the maximum fall was 8.6mm on the 26th. Sunshine total of 188.8 was equal to average spread evenly throughout the month with only 2 days without any sunshine, the maximum was 12.9 hrs on the 31st. Winds were mainly from the S-SW. average 11 mph (2mph above average) the windiest May since 1986. We had 1 gale on the 24th 1 minor thunderstorm on the 27th

June. A very variable month with hot and cold spells, average 12.7°C (= to average value) the maximum was 21.0°C on the 1st. Most rain fell between the 1st and the 14th the maximum was 10.7mm on that day, the total was 60.4mm (82%) Sunshine was hard to find it was the cloudiest June since 1987, this gave a low total of 142.2 hrs (77%) Maximum 13.9 hrs on the 1st. Wind mainly SW 9mph (0.6mph above average).

July. A cold start to the month, gradually warming up to give a maximum on the 29th of 23.7°C the average for the month was 14.1°C (-0.9°C). After a wet start on the 4th with a maximum for the month of 21.9mm it became quite dry with several dry spells ending with a total of 62.2mm (103%). It was a dull month with sunshine in short supply ending the month with only 147.4 hrs (79%) max was 13.8 hrs on the 14th, it was the dullest July since 1981. We had one minor thunderstorm on the 30th. Winds mainly from the SW, average 6mph.

August. This was the warmest month of the year but we did have a cold spell from

8th to the 11th, the average was 15.1°C (+0.6°C) the maximum was 24.8°C on the 17th. August 1st was the wettest day of the year with a fall of 34.4mm there was not much rain after the 9th but we ended with 100.5mm (141%), Although the sun was a little reluctant to shine, we did have some nice spells around the middle of the month the maximum was 13.0 hrs on the 21st the total was 147.9 hrs (86%). Winds were mainly from the NW. With an average of 6mph (-1.3 mph) we had a gust of 55mph on the 30th.

September. This was a warm month with several warm spells maximum was 20.5 on the 13th ending the month with an average of 13.0°C (+0.7°C) Rainfall was the lowest in September since 1986 with a total of only 24mm (29%), as 18.2 mm fell on the 9th. it stands out that we had a very delightfully dry sunny month. We had an official dry spell from 10th –24th with no measurable rain. Sunshine was well above average with a total of 143.4hrs (110%) the max was 12.0 on the 11th. Winds were mainly from SE, average 5mph (-2mph) this month must get 1st prize.

October. This was very much a “going down hill type month”, It started warm but went cooler as the month progressed ending with an average of 8.6°C (-0.6°C) the maximum was 19.7°C on the 2nd. Little rain to start the month, but a heavy fall on the 11th yielded 22.2mm. Total rain was 136.9mm (148%) made it the wettest month of the year. Sunshine was about average with a total of 96.3hrs (98%) Maximum shine was 10.0 hrs on the 3rd. Winds were from the SE, average speed was 9 mph (+0.2), and a major storm of 984 millibars crossed the area on the 27th with a maximum gust of 73 mph.

November A warm month with an average of 7.3°C some 1.4°C above average the maximum was 14.7°C on the 5th. Another very wet start to the month until the 14th and after fairly dry, the maximum fall was 23.4 on the 8th and the total for the month was 131.3 mm (132%). Sunshine was slightly below average the total being 60.7hrs (97%) 9 days with no sunshine at all, the maximum was 7.1 on the 15th. The winds were from the S, average 10 mph (+1.0). We had 10 days of fog/low cloud, the most recorded since 1981. A record low barometer reading was recorded on the 14th of 968.4 mb

December The temperature started and ended warm with a cold spell in the middle, average was 4.3°C (= average value) the maximum was 11.2 °C on the 24th the minimum was -2.6°C on 18th. It was a wet month with a dry spell from the 5th to the 13th and very wet after the 21st the total amounted to 129.2mm (137%) the maximum fall was on the 21st with 16.6mm. We had the lowest number of snowfalls since 1988. The sunshine was marginally above average with a total of 48.8 hrs (102%) 15 days with no sun shining. Winds were from the SE speed 10mph (-0.6).

We are indebted to Mr Len Walls for making this data available, for which he retains the copyright, and for giving his permission to reproduce it. Although 2002 was not particularly noteworthy, Moel y Crio was highlighted on the TV Newscast several times during the year.

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.

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. No action will be taken by the County Recorder unless and until such a submission is made.

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 for 2002. 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. **For 2003 records, the Rarities Panel have removed Red Kite and Black Redstart from the list but have added Yellow-legged Gull.**

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.

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

THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 2002

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*, these are placed in italics below the familiar name.

Birds of Conservation Concern

The first assessment of the population status of birds in Wales was published recently (see references below). CBRG has taken the opportunity to utilise this list as more pertinent to our needs and it thus replaces the more general RSPB UK lists.

The population status for 221 regularly occurring species in Wales was assessed and the species were divided into three sections, as follows:

Red list species, of high conservation concern, numbered 27 and consisted of those whose population or range is rapidly declining, recently or historically, and those of global conservation concern.

Amber list species (69), 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 (125) of lower conservation concern.

The (simplified) criteria are listed in the table overleaf 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.*)

References:

The Population Status of the UK's Birds — the Red List updated, Dr Anne Brenchley, BTO Clwyd East Regional Representative (*Clwyd Bird Report* 2001)

The Population Status of Birds in Wales: an Analysis of Conservation Concern 2002-2007, R.I. Thorpe and A. Young, RSPB Cymru (*Welsh Birds*: Vol 3 (4) pp 289-302)

The Population status of birds in the UK: an analysis of conservation concern 2002-2007 (*British Birds*, 95:410-448)

Qualifying Criteria for Status Assessment

Red List Criteria:

IUCN	Globally threatened species that have occurred in Wales in each of the last 25 years
HD	historical population decline in UK between 1800 - 1994
BDp	Rapid decline (at least 50%) in Welsh breeding population over previous 25 years
BDr	Rapid contraction (at least 50%) of Welsh breeding range over previous 25 years
WDp	Rapid decline (at least 50%) in Welsh non-breeding population over previous 25 years

Amber List Criteria:

HDrec	Historical population decline, 1800-1995, but recovering; population has more than doubled over previous 25 years
BDMp	Moderate decline (25 - 49%) in Welsh breeding population over previous 25 years
BDMr	Moderate contraction (25 - 49%) in Welsh breeding range over previous 25 years
WDMp	Moderate decline (25 - 49%) in Welsh non-breeding population over previous 25 years
SPEC's 2 & 3	species with unfavourable conservation status, concentrated in Europe (2) or not (3). W = wintering population only.
BR	Indicates 5 year mean population size of 1-30 breeding pairs in Wales
BL	at least half of the Welsh breeding population can be found in 1 site, but not rare breeders
WL	at least half of the Welsh non-breeding population can be found in 1 site
BI	indicates at least 2% of NW European (wildfowl), East Atlantic Flyway (waders), or European (other) non-breeding population in Wales
WI	Internationally important during the non-breeding season

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: Connaahs 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
BTO MR	Unattributed records received from the BTO Migrant Record Web Site
CP	Country Park
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GC	Golf Club
HT	High Tide
LT	Low Tide
ndg	no details given
SL	sightings reported in the various systematic lists e.g. BHP SL, RSPB SL (see The Dee Estuary, section (d))
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
WES	World's End Survey (see Appendices)
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>see Appendices</i>). <i>CBRG is grateful to the Dee Estuary Web Site (DEWS) and BirdGuides (BG) for the inclusion of some of these records.</i>

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 [WL]

First winter/spring period: regular off Llanddulas and Pensarn. Llanddulas: 1 on 22/01 (DCR), 2 on 18/02 and 1 on 27/03 (JKS); 2 off Pensarn on 30/01 (DCR). Also recorded off Rhos Point: 2 on 22/01 and 6+ on 2/02/02 (JKS); 1 off Rhyl Splash Point on 30/01 (DCR) and 3/02 (RMB).

Second period: 6 off Towyn on 9/10 (SM); 2 off Llanddulas on 6/12 (SD).

BLACK-THROATED DIVER (*Gavia arctica*) TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU
Occasional winter visitor.

No records received this year. [Only three records in 2001].

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

Only 2 records this year: 1 off Towyn beach on 30/01 (SM); 4 at Rhos Point on 24/02 and 6 on 26/02 (‡/RSPB SL).

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 in 2001] 12 sites at Afonwen, Bwlchgwyn, Dolwen Reservoir, Gresford Flash, Holt, Erddig, Greenfield Valley, CLR, SPA, LP, Nercwys Mtn and at Pulford Brook (where 3 on 12/01, GS).

and *coastal* records from 12 sites CQNR, IMF, Gronant marshes, OMR (where regular with 4 in Jan, RSPB SL), POA and POA WF, SBL, Shotton Steelworks, R. Clwyd at Rhuddlan and Rhyl, and Shotton (3 sites)

Confirmed breeding at Afonwen (where 2 prs with young on 30/06, ELJ), Bwlchgwyn Quarry (SJ 259531) (where 2 juvs with 1 ad on 22/06, SD), LPR (JLR) and POA WF (where 8 inc. 3 juvs on 30/08, BHP SL).

Maximum counts: 7 at GV on 9/01 (ELJ); 9 at POA WF and 4 at Llawndy, 3/09 (BHP SL); 10 at RCR on 9/10 (ELJ) and 24/10 (SM); 7 at SBL on 2/12/02 (JKS).

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

Present at 13 *inland* sites in 2002: DR, Hanmer Mere, FLQ, GF, GV, Holt, LB, LG, LH, AP, PDR, NYF, PCR

Present at GF from February until end-September. Nesting by 15/05 when 6 birds but first young not seen until 29/07 (JN, JKS). A pair at nest at Llyn Helyg on 28/07 plus

another pair with 2 juvs from different broods (ELJ).

Breeding confirmed at Acton Park, Dolwen Reservoir, FLQ, GV, Gresford Flash, Llyn Gweryd, Llyn Helyg, Nant-y-Frith reservoir

Highest inland counts: 8 at Llyn Brenig on 7/06 (ELJ); 6 adults at GF on 16/05 (JKS); 6 (2ad, 4juvs) at GV on 17/07 (SM).

Coastal: recorded along the whole of the coast. Regular off Towyn where the peak count was 100+ on 26/08 (SM). 12 off Rhyl Splash Point on 3/02 (RMB); 10 at Rhos Point on 12/02 (JKS).

Dee Estuary: Widely distributed along the river through the year. The main site is BB where the peak count was 96 in September (monthly maxima are given in the table). A peak of 15 at MDR in August (RSPB SL) and 10 at SBL on 10/01 (JKS).

(GG)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	10	15	27	35	-	3	-	2	96	32	32	1
OMR	2	7	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	8	10	23

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

Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County Rarity—see Appendix 3.

As in the last two years, 1 at Llyn Helyg (recorded 8/05-17/05, ELJ, PL, PMR).

SLAVONIAN GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*) *GWYACH GORNIOG*

Scarce winter visitor.

I recorded in 2001. Singles at OMR on 14/02 (GR) and in March (RSPB SL) and off Towyn on 16/02 and 16/10 (SM).

FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialis*) *ADERYN-DRYCIN Y GRAIG*

now **NORTHERN FULMAR**

Breeding resident, summer visitor, and passage migrant.

Breeding records: 2 on '70° Hotel' cliffs near Colwyn Bay from 10/02-26/05 (ELJ, DCR). 7 pairs nesting at Prestatyn Quarry by 30/03 (ELJ) and recorded at Llanddulas breeding sites from 4/03 (EL).

Birds were seen offshore from Rhos Point to Gronant, from 25/01/02, peaking at 30+ on 19/04 off Rhos Point (EL).

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*) *ADERYN-DRYCIN MAWR*

Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

There were no records this year

MANX SHEARWATER (*Puffinus puffinus*) ADERYN-DRYGIN MANAW
Regular offshore during summer and autumn. Amber List [BI, BL, SPEC2]

20 flying W, off Towyn on 27/06; plus singles on 31/08, 6/09, 10/09 (SM). 100 off Rhyl Splash Point on 3/07 (RMB). 1 passing POA on 7/09 (BHP).

STORM PETREL (*Hydrobates pelagicus*) PEDRYN DRYGIN
now **EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL**
Occasional summer passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC2]

3 flying W past Gronant on 2/07 (GS).

LEACH'S PETREL (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) PEDRYN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG
now **LEACH'S STORM-PETREL**
Autumn passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC]

1 off Rhyl Splash Point on 3/07 (RMB) and 2 flew NW out of the Dee estuary on 27/10 (‡).

GANNET (*Morus bassanus*) HUGAN
now **NORTHERN GANNET**
Passage migrant. Amber List [BI, BL, SPEC2]

1 off Rhos Point on 13/04 and 10+ on 19/04/02 (JKS). Small numbers off Prestatyn and Towyn, 3/08-31/08 and an exceptional count at Towyn of 100+ on 31/08 (SM). Seen off Rhyl Splash Point, inc. *juvs*, 3/02-1/09 with a peak count of 50 on 29/04 (RMB).

Small number seen off POA from March-December, including 4 following 5 Porpoise off Rhyl on 12/07 (‡) and a peak of 7 passing the light-house on 16/12 (NF, BHP SL, RSPB SL).

CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) MULFRAN
now **GREAT CORMORANT**
Common non-breeding visitor. Amber List [BDMr, BI]
The Dee and Clwyd estuaries are sites of national importance in Great Britain

Inland: reported in small numbers from about 10 sites.

A bird of the *sinensis* race at Dolwen reservoir on 2/03 (ELJ). Seen most months at GF where peaks of 15 on 25/02 and 25/03; 3 continental birds (*sinensis*) present here on 25/02 with singles on 25/03 and 4/04 (JKS).

Coastal: present along all the coast. In a River Clwyd, Rhuddlan ongoing survey (S. Hughes), birds were present each month and overall numbers were up on last year; the peak count was 144 on 24/12 (see table). A bird of the *sinensis* race was present

29/04-1/04.

Other peak counts: 50+ on Rhyl beach on 18/04 (JKS), 400 at River Clwyd, Rhyl on 29/05 (RMB) and 121 on 6/09 (DCR), peak counts of 600+ on Gronant beach on 18/10 (ELJ) and 110 at POA on 22/10 (BHP).

Dee Estuary: (see table for BB and OMR); present along the Dee valley as far as Glyndyfrdwy.

(CA)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	72	30	2	5	-	6	3	1	14	2	26	19
OMR	80	61	55	9	8	5	15	18	30	69	90	91
RCR	64	73	60	112	120	88	8	8	22	43	129	144

SHAG (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

MULFRAN WERDD

now **EUROPEAN SHAG**

Scarce, non-breeding visitor on the periphery of our area.

A first-year bird at Rhos Point on 25/01; an adult on 2/02 and 16/03 (JKS).

BITTERN (*Botaurus stellaris*)

ADERYN Y BWN

now **GREAT BITTERN**

Rare passage migrant. Clwyd County Rarity. [RED LIST: HD, BDP, SPEC 2&3, UK]

One reported at CR on 19/12.

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)

CREYR BACH

Scarce localised winter and passage visitor. Amber List [BR]

Increasingly seen, especially along the Dee estuary.

Dee Estuary: 23 sightings at POA, 14/02-20/12, with a peak of 8 on 23/08 (ELJ).

BB/Flint/OMR/CQNR had 32 sightings, 4/01-18/12 with a remarkable peak of 14 at CQNR on 27/08 (ELJ). 3 f/o Shotwick Fields on 18/05; 3 at IMF BP on 27/07 (JKS).

Also seen at RCR (2 on 23/05, SH, 1 on 12/08, SM, 1 on 28/08, ‡) and RSPB Conwy.

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 (Corwen). The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain.

Observed in both inland and coastal localities.

Inland: seen across the county at some 11 sites. A peak count of 5 birds at Holt on 28/04 and 4/05 (NiF).

Coastal: a peak count of 11 at RCR on 22/09 (EL). Widely distributed on the Dee Estuary and present all year with peaks of 10 at CQNR on 2/09 (JKS) and 8 at BB and OMR, June-Oct.(RSPB SL).

Sightings of interest: 1 seen at Berwyn nr Llangollen, apparently hunting moles by street light (JLR).

SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*)

LLWYBIG

now **EURASIAN SPOONBILL**

Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

TBC by WRP: an adult bird at RCR on 2/06 (IE). 1 on a rising tide off Flint Castle with a Little Egret on 14/08 (‡).

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*)

ALARCH DÓF

Breeding resident.

Inland. Breeding/nesting reported for 9 sites: Acton Park, CQNR, Erddig Park, Gresford Flash, Holt, KCF, LPR, Llyn Helyg, Whitford Park.

Some interesting outcomes:

(i) A pair at LPR reared 6 young from 6 eggs but a Canada Goose egg in the nest did not hatch (JLR).

(ii) only 1 juv left at Erddig by 16/09—the others were shot.

(iii) *Irregular behaviour was again observed at GF:* 1 bird on a nest by 8/04 but moved to a second nest on 20/04; change to a third nest on 6/05. 2 or 3 different males were seen 2/04—6/05. First of 5 cygnets on 30/05, down to 3 by 12/08; still there 24/10 (JKS).

Also reported inland at 7 other areas (Gresford Lake, Bangor Dee floods, Francis Lane, NFR, SLJ, Worthenbury)

Highest counts (of 10 or more): 25 at Worthenbury/Shocklach on 2/02 (NF).

Coastal: reported from over a dozen sites. Coastal Breeding: A pair nested again at Tir Prince, Kinnel Bay but no young fledged (SKT). 1 pair bred at SSW but unsuccessfully due to predation (PT). A pair with 7 cygnets at PMPA on 22/06 and a pair with 6 cygnets at Prestatyn GC on 26/08 (DCR). Peak counts: 62 at RCR on 9/10 (ELJ) and 3 juvs there (SH).

Dee Estuary: 20+ on 16/12 at Shotwick Rifle Range/Inner Dee Estuary (JKS).

BEWICK'S SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*)

ALARCH BEWICK

now **TUNDRA SWAN***Uncommon winter visitor. Amber List [SPEC3w]**More seen this year. The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain*

Dee Estuary: 13 on SF on 15/10; Shotwick Rifle Range/Inner Dee—9 on 23/11 and 30+ on 16/12/02 with other swans (JKS). 2 on the Dee at Worthenbury/Shocklach on 8/02 and 20/02 (NF).

WHOOPEE SWAN (*Cygnus cygnus*)

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

*Uncommon winter visitor seen in small numbers. Amber List [BR, WI, WL]**Located from more areas this year.*

Inland: 6 on the Dee at Worthenbury/Shocklach on 8/02 (NF); 3 on TMR, 11/03 (JLR)

Coastal: 8 on Shotwick Rifle Range/Inner Dee with other swans on 23/11 and 4 here on 16/12 (JKS/NPH). 4 on the Border Pool, IMF on 2/12. A late bird nr Rhyl on 15/04 (RMB) and 1 at RCR on 24/10 and 18/11 and 3 on 21/12 (SM). 4 off Towyn, over the sea, flying W, 17/11 (SM).

BEAN GOOSE (*Anser fabalis*)

GWYDD Y LLAFUR

*Rare and irregular winter visitor. Welsh rarity—see Appendix 3.***PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

GWYDD DROED-BINC

Winter visitor in small numbers.

A mobile flock of 35 at RCR, 2/01, then flew W (SM); 2 there on 30/01 (JL) and a single summer bird there on 20/05 (SH) and 26/05 (SM). A peak count of 55 on 27/02 at OMR (RSPB SL) and 1 at Warren Farm, POA on 11/02 (JKS). 5 at Poulton floods on 21/02 (NF). 12 at Shotwick Rifle Range/Inner Dee pools on 16/12 (JKS).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*)

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

now **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE***Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity. [RED LIST: WDP]**Birds were seen at a few sites only, in small numbers and probably of feral origin.*

On the Dee estuary, 2 European birds were seen on border fields, IMF on 29/03 and a single bird with Canada Geese, 14/12-30/12 (CEW). 2 at OMR in 31/03-1/04 (RSPB SL) and 7 European Race birds at Warren Fm fields, POA; 8-16/12 (JB, JKS, BHP SL)

R. Clwyd, Denbigh area held 1 on 4/03 and 9/05 (E&L Jones) and 1 downstream on 29/05 (RMB). 7 were seen on 21/12 (SM) and 15+ next day with Greylags (DCR).

Inland, there was 1 at FLQ on 14/04 (KD).

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser erythropus*) GWYDD DALCEN-WEN LEIAF
Vagrant. BBRC.

Several sightings, all singles: 1, R. Clwyd, (SJ 003794) 25-6/06/02, 6/07, 3/08 and 21/08 (SM, DCR, JKS); 1 with Canada Geese at POA WF, 23-6/05 (BHP SL). 1 at CR on 8/04.

GREYLAG GOOSE (*Anser anser*) GWYDD WYLLT
Uncommon breeding resident and winter visitor.

Confirmed/possible breeding at IMF BP where a pair with 6 young on 18/05 and 4/06 (JKS); 24 adults with 4 young at FLQ on 5/05 (KD, DH); 7 adults with 6 young at Whitford Park on 14/05 (ELJ); 2 adults with 8-9 young at Llyn Brenig on 19/05 (IE). Recorded *inland* in 2002 at 12 sites, viz.: Bangor-on-Dee floods, Borrass, FLQ, GF, Francis Lane near Holt, Llandegla Moors Duck Pool, Nant-y-Ffrith Resr, Llay Pool, Llyn Brenig, R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, WE. *Peak counts:* 250 at FLQ on 1/01 (KD); 230 at Poulton on 8/02 (NF); 30 at GF in October (JKS), 21 at Borrass on 11/08 (JN).

Coastal records were from 2 main areas: the R. Clwyd at Rhyl and Rhuddlan and the Dee Estuary (at CQNR, Flint, IMF BP, OMR, POA and Warren Farm, and SF). A Canada/Greylag hybrid was at SF on 9/03 and 15/10 (JKS).

Max. numbers: 131 at R. Clwyd, Denbigh area, on 4/03 (ELJ) and 177 in the second winter period on 9/10 (ELJ); c50 at Flint on 22/11, c40 at SF on 15/10 (JKS); 42 at RCR on 4/01 (ELJ) and 106 on 21/12 (SM).

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*) GWYDD CANADA
Breeding resident and winter visitor

Reported from 28 inland sites and 10 coastal sites. *Confirmed breeding* at GF, Llandegla Fisheries (SJ 229522), POA WF, Rhosesmor Sandpit (SJ 216670), RM, PCR, CLR, Pant Glas Resr, SSW and Afon Morwynion. A bird laid an egg in a Mute Swan nest and another 6 in its own nest at LPR but all failed (JLR).

Largest numbers: huge counts along the Dee estuary with a peak count of 1780 at OMR on 31/01 (see table. Source: RSPB SL) and 1000+ reported at Flint on 22/11 and at IMF BP the next day; peak counts of 700+ at SF on 11/02 and 15/10; 480 at BB in Nov.; c150 at CQNR on 2/09 (RSPB SL et al).

Further along the coast, RCR held 400+ on 2-4/10 (SH, SM). Smaller numbers upstream and inland where the highest counts were 520 at Poulton and 110 at Crewe Hill, both on 8/02 (NF) and c100 at Hammer Mere on 21/01 and at GF in June (JKS).

Dee Estuary: a pair bred at SSW and raised 5 young (PT); 27 ads + 5-6 juvs at POA WF on 23/05 (BHP SL).

Lesser Canada Goose *Branta canadensis parvipes / moffitti*

Two records of single birds: 1 at FLQ on 10/02 (DH) and a single cackling bird with

the Canada Geese flock in SF on 15/10 (JKS).

(CG)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	1780	1100	-	-	20	29	-	-	54	800	480	-

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*)

GWYDD WYRAN

Rare vagrant. Amber List [SPEC2w] Clwyd County rarity. The majority are probably feral in origin.

6 at R. Clwyd, Denbigh area on 4/03 and 9/03 (ELJ); 3 at GF, 7/10-24/10/02; 3 at IMF, 23/11; 1 at SF, 11/02 and 15/10/02 (all JKS).

BRENT GOOSE (*Branta bernicla*)

GWYDD DDU

Regular winter visitor in small numbers, principally to the Dee estuary. Amber List [SPEC3w]

PALE-BELLIED: (B.b. hrota) 20 off POA in Jan (RSPB SL), 25 on 28/02 (ELJ) and 12 on 2/03 (SD); 7 at BB in Jan (RSPB SL); singles at OMR in Apr, May (RSPB SL) and on 1/05 (PMR).

DARK-BELLIED: (B.b. bernicla): singles off POA in Feb-March (RSPB SL).

Race unknown or not specified: 30 at POA on 29/01 (KD), 24 on 28/02 (SM), 16 on 2/03 (SGR) and 9 on 29/11 (BHP); 2 flying W at Towyn beach on 31/10 (SM).

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: a pair with 10 juvs at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh on 31/05 (down to 6 juvs by 12/06) (ELJ). Ducklings seen at RSPB Conwy on 8/06.

Largest numbers recorded: 2260 at POA 7/10 (BHS SL).

Inland: reported from six inland sites: 40 at R. Clwyd near Denbigh, 4/03 (ELJ); 2 on Dee flats nr Gresford, 5/03 (JLR); a pair at Bettisfield Pond on 6/05 (JKS) and 23/05

(SU)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	68	78	37	9	14	88	72	20	1800	10	76	30
OMR	46	80	78	30	174	129	210	24	157	300	70	50
MDR	170	106	-	6	4	-	-	-	34	133	136	-
POA	471	135	208	42	18	68	102	80	2000	2260	620	141

(PMR); a pair at Llyn Helyg on 8/05 (ELJ); 4-5 at BQ in April-May (LW) and 1 in flight at GF on 27/08 and 1f on 23/09 (JKS).

Coastal records: recorded along the Dee estuary (see table. Source: BHP/RSPB SL, DCR) and floodplain (at Flint, OMR, SBL, SSW, POA and Gronant and Poulton floods) and along the coast (at RCR and Towyn). R. Clwyd, Rhuddlan-Rhyl had a peak of 200 on 07/03 (RMB); a flock of 50 on 19/06 and 26/06 included 30 juvs (SM, DCR); 130 there on 18/11 (SM).

MANDARIN (*Aix galericulata*)

HWYADEN FANDARIN

Scarce breeding resident

Possible and potential breeding records: confirmed breeding at R. Clwyd, Denbigh where 1f + 1 juv on 26/06 (pairs sighted 9/03-9/05) (ELJ) and at R. Dee, Holt where 11 birds on 21/07 included a group of 3 adults with 3 young and 6 juvs with an eclipse male on 3/08. (NiF)

Single males seen at GF on 4/07– 29/07/02 and 4/10 and 6/10/02 (JKS) and at GV, one present from 3/09/01-9/01/02 (ELJ, SM).

Several sightings *along the River Dee:* the usual *m* on the Dee near Llangollen (11/04 and 14/04) and a *f* there on 13/06 (§) and a possible pair on the Dee nr Glyndyfrdwy on 11/04 (JLR). 2 at R Dee, Pulford on 12/01 and a *m* there on 7/04 (GS) plus several sightings at Holt, 28/04-19/10 inc. juvs as above (NiF).

WIGEON (*Anas penelope*)

CHWIWELL

now **EURASIAN WIGEON**

Fairly common winter visitor. Amber List [BR, W1, WL]

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

Found inland in small numbers, especially along the Dee floodplain, and in larger numbers on the Dee Estuary and along the coast.

Inland: good numbers in the first winter period with 300 nr Worthenbury on 14/02, 450 at Poulton floods on 21/02 and 4/03 (NF) and c100 at Bangor-on-Dee Floods, 25/02 (JKS). The second winter period saw 35 at Worthenbury on 30/10 (NF). Also seen at HM, NFR and TMR.

Coastal: found in varying numbers along the coast principally at the River Clwyd estuary, Rhyl where there were peak counts of 600 on 10/01 (JKS). 1f there on 18/07 and 1000 by 21/12 (SM).

Dee Estuary Reserves: BB is the main site (see table) with an exceptional count of

(WN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	310	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	2	2445	300
OMR	510	200	140	100	-	-	-	-	-	95	150	350
POA	1	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	240	7	158

2445 on 13/11(RSPB SL); a first winter peak of c100 at Warren Farm on 11/02 (JKS) and 350 on 13/12 (BHP) in the second period; a peak count of c80 at IMF BP on 4/02 and c60 at CQNR on 2/09 (JKS).

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*)

CHWIWELL AMERICA

Scarce vagrant. Welsh rarity.

1m at IMF BP, 30/12 (IE).

An American x Eurasian hybrid male was at CR 11/01, 14/01, 31/01 and 17/10.

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*)

HWYADEN LWYD

Uncommon winter visitor and scarce breeding resident. Amber List [WL, SPEC3]

Breeding: no records received this year.

Inland: the main site is Llyn Helyg where they were seen in good numbers in winter, with a peak of 25 on 9/01 in the first-winter period and 21 on 26/10 in the second (ELJ); a drake at GF on 31/08-10/09/02 (probably the first records for this site (JKS).

Coastal: seen in small numbers at Gronant, OMR, POA, RBP, Rhyl, SBL and CQNR where the peak counts were 20 on 13/01 (ELJ) and 11 in the second winter period on 15/12 (IE).

Dee Estuary: regular at SSW where the peak was 7 on 15/09 (PT). Small numbers winter at IMF and move between the reserve and SBL, depending on disturbance (CEW).

TEAL (*Anas crecca*)

CORHWYADEN

now **EURASIAN TEAL**

Rare breeder but locally abundant and widespread winter visitor. Amber List [BDMr, WI]. The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK.

Inland: flocks larger in winter; usually in smaller numbers on possible breeding territory in spring/summer- 2 pairs at FLQ on 28/03; 6 birds on 14/04 (DH); 3 on Fenn's Moss, on 27/05 (JKS, NPH); 4 on a small pond at Cynwyd nr Corwen, 5/06 (CT); 1 at Borrass on 25/08 (JN). A pair with 4 young was seen at RSPB Conwy on 5/07.

Inland winter flocks: 22 on SPR, 19/03; 51 on RM pool, 10/10 (JLR); c20 on TMR, 9/12 (JAJ) plus small numbers at Borrass in January (JN), 1 at Holt on 21/09 (NiF) and 1m at NFR on 21/12 (SD).

(T.)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	441	58	115	-	-	-	-	-	2500	210	650	12
OMR	350	200	104	11	-	-	-	50	60	266	300	400
POA	338	10	17	3	-	-	-	-	50	520	3	96

Seen in larger numbers along the coast, the Dee Estuary and the Dee floodplain: the peak count was 2500 at BB on 30/09 (see table). Other counts: IMF BP had c150 on 4/02; 100+ at CQNR on 2/09 and c50 on 2/12; a peak of 320 on 27/11 at POA WF (BHP); RCR: peaks of c80 on 2/01 (SM) and 120 on 4/10 (SM). Along the Dee floodplain, there were 50 at Pulford Meadow on 12/01 (GS), and peak counts of 450 at Worthenbury on 14/02 and 400 at Poulton on 4/03. The second winter period saw 10 at Worthenbury on 30/10 (NF).

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

HWYADEN WYLLT

Common and widespread breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BDMp]

Inland: regular and numerous at over [34] sites. Maximum numbers were c100 at Hanmer Mere on 21/01 (JKS)

Coastal: seen at various sites along the coast. Peak monthly counts for River Clwyd, Rhuddlan are given in the table (source: Simon Hughes). The peak count was 250 on 23/09. 3 broods were seen in July with 11, 6 and 9 young. Birds were also seen at the estuary where the peak count was 200 on 19/11 (RMB).

Dee Estuary: See table for OMR, POA and MDR monthly maxima. A peak of 200+ at SSW on 21/07 and 18/08; 6 pairs bred (PT).

(MA)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
RCR	145	70	40	30	30	17	27	90	250	220	75	75
BB	76	8	4	-	14	26	2	83	335	2	80	7
OMR	15	-	-	2	86	280	-	56	11	127	15	18
POA	300	90	92	5	7	150	21	243	190	420	31	55

PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

now **NORTHERN PINTAIL**

The Dee estuary is an internationally important site for this winter visitor. Amber List [BR, WI, SPEC3]

Almost entirely coastal but several records inland, mainly along the Dee Valley: huge numbers in the first winter period near Worthenbury/Shocklach (SJ 425470),

(PT)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	1600	60	-	61	-	-	-	-	4770	-	2940	-
MDR	70	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	450	-
POA	1365	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	150	320	460	355

peaking at 800 on 14/02, and at Poulton (SJ 405580) where the peak count was 1050 on 4/03 on extensive shallow floods. In the second winter period, there were 20 on 30/10 (NF). Other counts: 3 drakes at Hanmer Mere on 21/01 and c120 birds on Bangor on Dee floods on 25/02 (JKS). Also seen inland at NFR where 5 on 25/03 (SD).

Coastal records were received for CQNR, Flint, IMF BP, POA, POA WF and RCR where 2 f on 10/10 (SH) which may be the first record for this site. The peak counts were 4770 at BB on 30/09, 1365 at POA on 13/01 (*see table; source: BHP SL, RSPB SL, JKS/NPH, SM*). Other counts include 2000 at OMR on 5/12 (RSPB SL).

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

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [WI]

The Dee estuary (for England & Wales) is a site of national importance in GB.

Breeding probable at Fenn's Moss with a pair on territory on 27/05 (JKS).

Inland, found in small, and apparently decreasing numbers, at Bangor-on-Dee, Borras, Erddig, Fenn's Moss, FLQ, Gresford Flash, Hanmer Mere and Worthenbury. The peak counts were 30 at Poulton floods on 4/03 (NF) and 15 at GF on 24/12 (JKS).

Coastal: found in small numbers at GV, PMPA, POA, POA WF, IMF BP, RBP, RCR, SRRP and SBL. The highest counts were 50+ at SBL on 4/02 (JKS) and at SSW on 13/10 where regular through the year (PT).

RED-CRESTED POCHARD (*Netta rufina*)

HWYADEN GRIBGOCH

Rare: possible escapes

The single f remained at GV, from 5/11/01 until 10/01/02 (ELJ, JKS).

POCHARD (*Aythya ferina*)

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

now **COMMON POCHARD**

Winter visitor seen in small numbers.

The peak counts were 50+ at SBL on 10/01 (JKS), 30(27m, 3f) at RBP NR on 10/01 (DCR) and 25 at Poulton floods on 21/02 (NF). Present through the year at Shotton Steelworks though lower numbers again with a peak of 17 on 29/09 (PT). 15 at Llyn Helyg on 23/12 (ELJ).

Also recorded at about a dozen other inland sites, usually in small numbers: Borras, Dolwen Reservoir, Erddig, FLQ, Gresford Flash, Hanmer Mere, SLJ,

Coastal sites: CQNR, Greenfield Valley, POA WF, SBL and SRRP.

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 21 freshwater sites and on RCR, POA and the Dee Estuary.

Confirmed breeding at Shotton Steelworks where 2 pairs bred and raised 5 young (PT). A pair with 6 young at RSPB Conwy on 4/08.

Maximum counts: 72 at Greenfield Valley on 15/12; c50 at SBL on 10/01 (JKS); c50 at GV on 9/01 (ELJ); 36 + 4 young at Shotton Steelworks on 21/07 (PT); 35 at POA WF on 8/12 (BHP SL); 25 on Llyn Helyg on 23/12 (ELJ).

SCAUP (*Aythya marila*)

HWYADEN BENDDU

*now GREATER SCAUP**Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [SPEC3w]*

As usual, the main numbers were seen off Pensarn, Rhyl Splash Point, Towyn Beach and Kinnel Bay (SH 9880).

First winter period: seen offshore at Pensarn from 2/01 with peaks of 20 on 10/01 (RP) and 29 (4m, 25f) on 16/01 (DCR); up to 25 (3m, 22f) off Kinnel Bay on 14/01 (JL, DCR); 13 sightings at POA, 6/01-26/02, with a peak of 6 on 26/02 (KD, IE, DCR, JKS/NPH, RSPB SL, Birdguides).

Second winter period: 15 off Kinnel bay on 18/12; 30+ off Pensarn on 19/12 (PM, SM) and 13 off Old Colwyn same day (MD); 4 (1m, 3f) off Pensarn on 27/12 (DCR); 2 (1m, 1f) off Towyn on 20/12 (SM); 30 (10m, 20f) off Rhyl Splash Point on 26/12 (RMB); 4 sightings off POA, Oct-Dec (RSPB SL) and a pair flew in from the estuary to Warren Farm just before dusk on 13/12 (BHP).

EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*)

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

*now COMMON EIDER**Uncommon marine winter visitor. Amber List [BR] Clwyd County Rarity.*

Rhos Point: 2f on 14/01 and 1m flying W on 19/04 (JKS).

LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*)

HWYADEN GYNNFON HIR

Uncommon winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

An immature m on Shotwick Rifle Range Pool on 12/12 - 16/12 (JKS/NPH). A drake at RSPB Conwy on 1/06-6/06.

COMMON SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*)

MOR-HWYADEN DDU

*now BLACK SCOTER**Winter visitor. Amber list [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.

A rare inland record: 1 was present at BQ pool for 3 hours on 3/04 (LW).

Common and regular at Llanddulas-Kinnel Bay: peak counts in the first winter period were 500+ on 18/02 (recorded from 2/02/02-27/03). The second winter period peak counts were c2000+ off Pensarn/Towyn/Kinnel, 2/08-17/11 with 3000+ on 22/10 (SM) and 28/12 (DCR).

Also recorded at Rhos Point (c50 on 17/03), Rhyl Splash Point (50 on 10/05, RMB), Gronant (50 on 23/09, ELJ), POA (20 on 10/09, JKS).

VELVET SCOTER (*Melanitta fusca*)

MOR HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon winter visitor.

3 off Towyn on 9/10 (SM). 4 reported from a pelagic trip from Rhyl on 16/12 (‡).

GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*)

HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

now **COMMON GOLDENEYE**

Widespread winter visitor.

Inland: sightings at 6 sites, viz. Acton Park (unusually a f here on 14-15/01/02, NPH, JN), Aled Isaf Reservoir (a pr on 30/02, EL), FLQ, Hanmer Mere, Llyn Brenig (where 2m, 2f on 30/02, EL), SLJ.

Coastal: sightings, with small numbers only, and mainly in the first winter period, were at Pensarn, Rhyl (RML and RCR), POA WF, the Shotwick area (SBL, Shotwick Reservoirs, SSW, IMF BP) and OMR. The peak coastal counts were 12 (4m, 8f) at RCR on 1/01 (RMB, DCR) and 7 at RML on 31/01 (JKS) and 8 on 28/12 (Birdguides). On the *Dee Estuary*, the main site was Shotton Steelworks where birds present 1/01-14/04 (a peak of 12 on 17/02) and from 3/11 to the year end (peak of 8 on 15/12) (PT).

SMEW (*Mergellus albellus*)

LLEIAN WEN

Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.

2 drakes and a red-head were still present at IMF from 2001 until 20/02 (a m until 26/03) and there was much movement between the reserve and SBL. Various sightings at SBL of 1-2m and 1f, 1/01-10/01 (IE, ELJ, PMR, JKS, CEW). A m then seen variously on SBL, Shotwick water tanks and IMF on 26/03 (PM). IMF BP: 1m on 30/12 (IE).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*) HWYADEN FRONGOCH*Rare breeding resident and winter visitor in small numbers**One inland record this year: a male at Llyn Brenig on 15/04 (JKS).**Regular at Rhos Point (a peak of 20+ on 4/01, JKS), Rhyl (a peak of 15 at RCR on 01/01 (RMB), 20 at RML on 3/12 (‡) and singles at RBP NR and Rhyl Splash Point, on various dates, 1/01-31/03 (DCR, JKS); a pair off Llanddulas on 11/01 (EL).**Dee Estuary: Frequently seen off POA—a peak of 16 on 6/10 (see table. Source: BHP, JKS, RSPB SL). Recorded at BB Jan-April with a peak of 31 on 12/03 and at MDR, Aug-Nov with a peak of 37 on 8/09 (RSPB SL).*

(RM)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	7	6	9	5	1	-	-	-	3	16	11	11

GOOSANDER (*Mergus merganser*)

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

*Breeding resident and winter visitor**A successful bird of the Dee Valley but few in the estuary.**Confirmed breeding: an adult with 9 young was seen on the Dee at Erbistock on 9/06 (MG) and 1 with 2 well-grown young at Carrog on 24/06 (ELJ); along the R. Clwyd, various counts of juvs from 26/05-18/07 (RMB, SH, ELJ, SM, JKS), with a peak of three families with 3, 4 and 9 juvs near Denbigh on 31/05 (ELJ) and 20 juvs at RCR on 25/06 (SM).**Reported in small numbers along the R. Dee, mainly in winter months, as far up-stream as Berwyn and Glyndyfrdwy and along the Ceiriog Valley.**Also recorded inland at Afonwen (SJ 115721) (a pair there on 26/03, AB); Clocaenog (a pair on 25/12, IE); FLQ (1m on 10/02, 1f on 28/03, DH), Hanmer Mere (where 14 on 21/01/02, JKS), Llyn Brenig (1f on 15/04/02, JKS), Llyn Helyg (7 on 2/03, ELJ), NFR (a f on 22/08, SD) and Erddig (1f on 7/10/02); a pair at R. Clwyd, Ruthin on 26/12 (IE).**Coastal records: regular at RCR where the peak count was 30 (10f, 20juvs) on 25/06 (SM); 2f at Coed Coch Lake, Bryn-y-Maen (nr Dolwen) on 6/04 and a pair there on 3/05 (SM); 1f on R. Dulas, S of Rhyd-y-foel on 6/01 and nr beach on 10-12/01; 2f on 14/02 (EL).***RUDDY DUCK** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

HWYADEN GOCH

*Scarce breeding resident**Recorded at ten sites with a maximum count of 25 at Hanmer Mere on 7/04 (JKS).**Bred at Shotton Steelworks where present all year (a peak of 11 inc. 3 young on 4/08) (PT) and noted in small numbers only at Acton Park, Borras, Erddig, GF, Hanmer, Llyn Helyg, POA WF and Llawndy and SL.*

RED KITE (*Milvus milvus*)

BARCUD

Occasional visitor. Amber list [HDrec]. Clwyd County rarity.

There were more records (17) this year and it has been decided to remove this species from the County rarity list.

Birds were seen in every month across the county. Records were received from Mike Cahill, ELJ, HJ, JAJ, PK, MM, PM, WO, RSP, PMR, PW

MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*)

BOD Y GWERNI

now **EURASIAN MARSH HARRIER**

Very scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

An immature bird flew inland before being mobbed over POA on 29/07 (JKS/NPH) and a single female flew through the wader and gull flock on the 25/8 but did not catch anything despite several attempts (ICF). A single *f* was also seen on 3/08 nr Towyn (SGR).

1-2 at IMF were seen hunting over SF (a single from 3/08 was joined by a second bird, 17/08-23/08. Singles were seen on 26/08, 19/09, 25/09 and an immature bird on 2-3/11) (IMF SL—JH, CEW).

There were several sightings of a *f* at RSPB Conwy, 2/06-25/06.

HEN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

BOD TINWEN

Scarce breeding species and winter visitor. Red list [HD, SPEC3, UK, BR]

There were reports from 5 areas:

(i) *Ruabon Moors*: At least 2 ring-tails on RM, Jan-Feb (GK); a bird at WE on 3/03 (via DH); a *f* on 20/04 (GJ); a *m* on 23-4/04 and a *f* in a different area but again no sign of breeding; 2 ring-tails in early May and a *m* in July, RM (GK); 1 ring-tail Sept-Oct, RM but 3 from 3/11 to year-end (GK). A *m* at WE on 20/04 (Paul Roberts). A *f* at Minera on 11/03 (JKS); 1 at Esclusham on 4/06 (PM).

(ii) *Borras*: Unusually, there was a *f* at BQ for 7 weeks (Jan-Feb) (LW).

(iii) *Denbigh Moors* area: sightings were received through the year from IE, ELJ, SM, S. Mooney, DCR, JKS/NPH, WO

(iv) *POA*: a ringtail at Gronant on 6/01 and at POA on 19/01 (IE) and 1 in April (RSPB SL).

(v) *Shotwick*: a *f* hunting at SF on 23/11/02 (JKS).

GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*)

GWALCH MARTH

now **NORTHERN GOSHAWK**

Rare breeding resident

Birds were recorded from six areas, as follows:

2 sightings in RM area in April and July but no sign of breeding (JLR). 1 at WE on 7/04 and 15/04 (PK). 1-2 at Clocaenog on 7/04 (MC) and 1 tousing with a Buzzard there on 4/05 (JKS/NPH). 1 over Coed Hafod nr Betwys-y-Coed, on the edge of our area, on 7/04 (EL); an adult *f* at Warren Farm POA on 24/07 (RoP). 1 flew N over Burton nr Rossett on 14/09, exciting the attention of a Raven (HL). There were several sightings of a *m* or a *f* at RSPB Conwy, 21/02-5/11.

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 33 areas across Clwyd.

Some note-worthy sightings - a male hawk was attacked by a Great Spotted Woodpecker at PCR bird-feeders on 28/08; the hawk retreated to a nearby branch "looking dazed" (JAJ). An adult bird was seen feeding two or more young at POA on 10/08 (IE). Several sightings of 1-2 juvs in a Rhyl garden in August (RMB).

BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*)

BWNCATH

now **COMMON BUZZARD**

Common and widespread breeding resident. Appears to be extending its range. Many sightings from urban and suburban areas.

There were at least 300 sightings in over 50 locations.

Some breeding records: 22 pairs were monitored in the RM/HP study area but only 19 laid; the clutch size was 2.56 and a mean of 0.95 young reared. Abnormally high mortality of well-grown young probably from heavy rain (JLR). 2 were known to fledge from behind Llanddulas Chapel, 20/08 (EL).

Sightings of groups of five or more or other records of interest: 10+ over Clocaenog Forest on 15/04/02 (JKS); 9 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial 'shelf' (SJ 158457) on 9/09 and 5 over nearby Wern on 23/09 (PMR); 8 circling over Dyserth on 19/01 until moved on by a Peregrine (MC); 6 at R. Clwyd near Denbigh on 4/03 (ELJ); a pair nesting at Y Graig, Tremerechion on 23/05 (ELJ); 6 at SSW on 15/09 and 3/11 (PT); 8 near RCR on 6/10 (SH); 5 circling very high over POA on 7/10 (ELJ).

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant.

Seven records this year: 1 passing over Llyn Brenig on 3/04 and 11/05 (IE); 1 flying E over Holywell on 6/04 (‡), 1 over the Rhyl area on 12/04 (RMB); 1 flying N over WE on 15/04 (PK); 1 flying from Llyn Aled towards Llyn Alwen, 14.00 hrs, 11/09 (WJR), 1 S over RCR on 12/09 (‡). 4 sightings at RSPB Conwy, 29/03-8/09.

Table: Welsh Raptor Study Group

(WRSRG do not monitor all raptors in the Clwyd area—see information on page 140)

North Wales Annual Report, 2002

Selected records

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

Species		Eggs (min)	Young hatched (min)	Young fledged (min)
Barn Owl (n = 3)	Totals Average	11 3.67	10 3.33	10 3.33
Buzzard (n = 17)	Totals Average	42 2.47	23 1.35	17 1.00
Hen Harrier (n = 3)	Totals Average	13 4.33	11 3.67	11 3.67
Kestrel (n = 12)	Totals Average	53 4.42	42 3.50	34 2.83
Long-eared Owl (n = 1)	Totals Average	5 5.00	3 3.00	2 2.00
Short-eared Owl (n = 2)	Totals Average	3 1.50	3 1.50	3 1.50
Merlin (n = 10)	Totals Average	39 3.90	34 3.40	26 2.60
Peregrine (n = 12)	Totals Average	37 3.08	25 2.08	22 1.83
Raven (n = 27)	Totals Average	121 4.48	68 2.52	60 2.22

KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus*)

CUDYLL COCH

now **COMMON KESTREL***Common breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC3]**[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 RM/HP study area, 8 nests located. The mean clutch size was only 2.4 young fledged, including 2 failed broods. Probable Raven predation at 2 nests (JLR). *Other notable sightings:* 2 juvs at RCR on 29/07 and 2 birds on 4/10 (SM) and 19/11 (RMB) and a pair upstream towards Denbigh on 31/05 (ELJ); regular sightings at POA inc. a pair on 24/05 and 3 juvs in August (BHP); a pair noisily chasing buzzards at Llanasa on 8/07 (ELJ); 1 mobbed by migrating pipits at POA on 9/09 (ELJ); a m with a juv at FM on 10/09 (PMR).

Maximum counts: 4 at HP on 12/08/02 (JKS)

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*)

CUDYLL BACH

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [HDrec] BCCC

Inland: a m at HP on 6/04 (DCR); a pair at Denbigh Moors on 24/04 (SM). A f chasing a Swallow on 21/08, Llyn Brenig (ELJ).

Coastal: most sightings were in winter along the Dee estuary. POA had 6 sightings of a single f, at POA, 19/01-13/03 (IE, ELJ, SM, SGR, JKS/NPH) and 1 on 6/11 (SM) and 4 sightings of a single m, 22/07-20/12 (ELJ, BHP); 1m at Gronant on 8/01 (ELJ) and 2 birds on 7/02 (JL). OMR: singles in Jan and Feb, 2 in Nov (RSPB SL); a f at CQNR on 6/10 (ELJ). 1f at RCR on 20/01 (SH);

Some sightings of interest: a male bird carrying a redshank flew past the hide at POA and perched on rock on salt marsh 6/12 (BHP) and a bird chasing a lark there on 20/12 found itself chased by a kestrel (ELJ); 1 chasing a brambling flock at Pentre Foelas (SH 867522) on 26/10 (SM); a f in a Rhyl garden on 11/04 (RMB).

HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*)

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

now **EURASIAN HOBBY***Uncommon passage migrant and occasional scarce breeding species. Amber List [BR]*

Inland: many sightings of up to 7 birds at FM 11/05-10/09 (IE, ELJ, PMR, JKS/NPH); 1 hunting moths over HP on 19/06 (JLR); and 4 sightings in July of a bird hunting Swallows near Penycae (JAJ). Several sightings at Burton, 24/06-7/08, including 1 seen taking a Swallow on 29/07 (HL); 3 sightings on 11/08—1 nr Eccleston (HL), an adult chasing a Sand Martin at Holt (NiF) and 1 at Etna Park, Buckley (GMR).

Coastal: 1 over Abergele on 20/05 (‡); 1 over CQNR on 27/05 and 24/06 (BR); 1 nr Llansannan on 19/06 (SM); 1 near Rhuddlan on 29/06 (‡); 1 hunting House Martins at Holywell on 3/09 was chased towards the Dee estuary by crows (BR); 1 adult over Gronant marsh on 4/09 (‡); 1 hunting over IMF BP on 5/09 (JKS); 2 at Gorsedd near

Llanasa on 14/09 (P. Jones); 1 at POA on 16/09 (BHP).

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 [SPEC3, BI]

Inland: there were some 32 sightings in 25 locations.

Breeding—the RM study area had a poor year: 9 pairs held territory and laid 8 eggs with a mean clutch of 3.1; the brood size, including two complete failures, 1.62. Interference from non-breeding birds may have depressed breeding success. An adult pair on St Giles Church, Wrexham “dropped” 2 eggs probably through lack of a suitable nesting “substrate”. Birds were seen from April to year-end on the church or on the Police Tower (JM, JLR, JKS). A pair at Dyserth Quarry, displaying on 22/01; there on 24/07 (MC) and 1 mobbing a raven there on 20/07 (SGR). 1f preening on a post at Brenig on 18/11 and 1f at Aled Isaf reservoir (ELJ).

1 at Minera Quarry on 8/01 (SD); a f at Burton Meadows on 10/01; 1 over Northop on 21/01 (GS); 1 at RCD on 9/03 (ELJ); 1 at Legacy PS on 22/04 (JLR); HP (1 on 15/04 and 5 on 12/08); Llandegla Forest (1m on 15/04), Panorama (1 on 4/05), 1 at HP on 24/06 (ELJ), Holt (1 at Francis Lane on 10/12) (JKS). a juv over Wern on 23/09 and a m later (PMR).

Coastal: regular through the year, especially in winter, on the Dee estuary and RCR.

RED GROUSE (*Lagopus lagopus*)

GRUGIAR

now **WILLOW PTARMIGAN**

Breeding resident on heather moors. Continued decline probable. Red list (HD, BDMr)

Records from two areas only:

1. On RM, the first broody droppings, indicating the start of incubation, was on 21/04 (GK). Probably a very poor breeding season here as indicated by the annual transect count on a 25-year old route being the lowest yet (JLR). Very small numbers only were recorded at RM-WE-HP-Esclusham, 6/04-28/06 (MC, ELJ, GJ, PM, DCR) with a peak of 8 at WE on 7/04 (GJ);
2. On *Denbigh Moors*, 2 at Llyn Brenig on 16/03 (IE) and 1 seen and several heard on 15/04 (ELJ) and 6/05 (JKS/NPH). 2 at Clocaenog on 7/04 (MC).

BLACK GROUSE (*Tetrao tetrix*)

GRUGIAR DDU

Scarce breeding resident. Red List [BD, HD, SPEC3, UK] 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. During the 2002 all Wales

census, 183 lekking males were recorded on 73 leks in Clwyd. This equates to 74% of the Welsh population. (Source: Patrick Lindley, RSPB).

Reported sightings: reported from WE, 24/02-28/06, with peak counts of 15+ on 7/04 (MC, GJ, PK) and 10+ (inc. 3 greyhens) either flying or in trees on 11/03 (JKS). Up to 19m, 3f were seen near Minera on 6/04 (via DCR).

Other areas: 1 at Clocaenog on 7/04 (MC); 1m at Esclusham on 4/05 (PM); 4m at Rhydtalog Moor (SJ 231535) on 9/09 (PMR); 8-9 males, Llyn Cyfynwy, Llandegla moors, 18/12 (JAJ).

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. Small numbers also seen over a wide area—at Llanasa, POA WF, Rhosesmor, Rhydymwyn and River Clwyd at Rhuddlan.

Noteworthy sighting: A hen at PCR was seen to defend downy chicks against a Kestrel by butting it, 22/08 (JAJ).

GREY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*) PETRISEN

Scarce localised breeding resident. Red List [HD, BDr, BDp, SPEC3] BCCC

More records this year, though there are reports of shooting pen releases. Reported from four areas as follows:

1. The usual main site is SF where a pair at SF on 26/03 (PM); 1 near SBL on 22/04 (JKS); 5 on fields near SSW, 15/12 (PT).
2. POA WF: 1-3 seen, June-July, inc. 3 ads on 27/06 and 7 birds on 16/07; 1 on 4/09 (BHP).
3. 1 at Llanasa on 26/03 (ELJ);
4. 2 at Rake Lane, Hawarden on 30/03 (GS);
5. 1-2 at BQ in July-August (LW).

QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*) SOFLIAR

now COMMON QUAIL

Passage migrant and possibly scarce breeding summer visitor. Amber List [SPEC3, BR] Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

Birds were reported from three areas:

1. 1 bird calling in SF—on Clwyd-Cheshire border, 8/07 (JKS/NPH) and 25/07 (MD)
2. Up to 3 heard calling in cornfields at Bettisfield on 13/07-28/07 (PMR and RES)
3. 1 calling at Three-corners Meadow, Pulford on 3/06 (NF).

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—up to 5 birds, inc. *juvs*, regular in a Llanfwrog garden (AAL). Largest count: 50+ at Vivod, 12/08/02 (JKS). Also seen on POA salt-marsh (3 on 6/12, BHP).

WATER RAIL (*Rallus aquaticus*)

RHEGEN Y DWR

Scarce winter visitor. Amber List [BDMr]

In the *first winter period*, there were 3 at SSW in January (PT); 1 at POA on 6/01 (IE); 1 in a Prestatyn stream on 12/01 (DCR) and four sightings of 1 at PMPA 15/01-26/02 (SM, DCR);

In the *second winter period*, there were 3 at SSW from 3/11 to year end (PT); and 1 at Gronant on 8/10 (ELJ) and 25/11 (SM). 1 at SRRP on 11/12 (‡).

Bred at Conwy RSPB Reserve with up to four there through winter.

CORNCRAKE (*Crex crex*)

RHEGEN YR YD

Rare passage migrant. Welsh rarity. Red List [IUCN, HD, BDp]

1 heard at GC, Gronant at 6-30 on 7/08 (RoP/JA).

MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*)

IAR DDWR

now **COMMON MOORHEN**

Locally common breeding resident

Reported from [22] main areas. Breeding recorded at Bwlchgwyn Quarry, GF, Llanasa, LPR, POA WF, RCR.

Peak counts: 12 at RCR on 18/01 (SH); 12 at WF sites on 4/12 (BHP).

Records of interest: a pair with 6 young at Llanasa on 4/06 (ELJ).

COOT (*Fulica atra*)

CWTIAR

now **COMMON COOT**

Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor

Recorded through the year from 32 main sites. Bred for the first time at PCR.

Highest counts: 209+ on Llyn Helyg on 29/01 (DCR); 100 at FLQ on 18/01 (KD); 90 at PMPA on 11/01 (DCR); 70 at GF on 17/02/02; 69 at Poulton floods on 4/03 (NF); c50 at SBL on 10/01 (JKS); peaks of 50+ at SS on 4/08 and 13/10 (PT).

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

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

Inland: present on two presumed breeding territories: Llyn Brenig (1 or 2 seen, 15/04-19/06) (SM, JKS/NPH) and a pair at Bettisfield Pond (SJ 463358) on 6/05 (PMR) plus 1 calling at nearby Fenn's Moss on 27/05 (JKS/NPH). Also a record of 2 at GF on 29/05 (JN).

Reported along the whole length of the coast. Peak numbers: 180 at Rhos-on-Sea on 2/02 (SD); 200+ at Llanddulas on 18/02 (JKS) and 200+ at Pensarn on 26/12 (DCR). In the Rhyl area there were c150 at RML on 31/01 and c50 on 9/09; 100+ at Rhyl Beach on 14/02 (RMB) and 200+ on 28/12 (DCR); RCR had 300 on 29/05 (RMB); 260+ at Horton's Nose on 4/01 and a roost there of 350+ on 13/12 and 250+ at Kinmel Bay beach on 26/12 (DCR). There was an albino bird at Gronant on 8/10 (ELJ).

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. A pair bred at SSW and successfully raised 2 young (PT). A pair nested on arable land in Flintshire adjacent to IMF-outcome unknown (IMF SL).

OMR, POA, MDR and BB (Greenfield to Flint sands) monthly maxima are shown in the table (source: RSPB SL). The peak counts were POA: 12,503 on 8/09, OMR: 3560 on 11/08, MDR: 3031 on 21/01, BB: 2350 on 21/01.

RSPB Conwy: 3 chicks on the saltmarsh on 10/06.

(OC)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	2350	1556	122	1247	200	125	11	23	1	38	290	665
OMR	171	300	200	230	1000	230	230	3560	3300	2500	2500	500
POA	3790	2174	2743	1250	1262	860	4100	2751	12503	8250	5720	4014
MDR	3031	2905	156	10	95	85	132	160	1000	1031	2435	1627

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius dubius*) CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH
 now **LITTLE PLOVER**

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant. Scarce scattered breeding.

Inland: Seen in the usual sand and gravel sites; breeding likely but not confirmed. A pair at GF between 27/03-10/08 with 3 on the latter date (JBF, JN, NPH, JKS) and up to 4 at BQ 21/04-4/07 (NPH, JKS, LW). Up to 4 birds at FLQ on 14/04-1/07 with 2 pairs on 5/05, one displaying (KD, DH). Pandy coal tip had a pair on 13/05 & 17/06

(JN)

Coastal: 1 at Shotton Rifle Range Pools on 14/05 (£); IMF BP: 2 on 4/06 and 1 on 8/06 (JKS), 2 at POA in August inc. a *juv* on 23/08 (BHP/RSPB SL). There were 2 breeding attempts at RSPB Conwy: 1 was predated by magpies but a second had 3 young fledged.

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

CWTIAD TORCHOG

Breeding resident in small numbers and passage migrant. Red List [WDp, WI]

Confirmed breeding at R. Dulas where a pair were seen with a week-old chick at the river mouth on 1/08 (SKT) and Gronant had 10 birds inc 3 *juvs* on 14/06 (EL).

Along the coast, the main counts were c100 on 20/01 (DCR) and 17/11 at Kinmel Bay (SM); 43 on Llanddulas E sea-defences on 25/09 (EL); c40 at Gronant on 4/05/02 (all JKS); 30 at RCR on 29/07 (SM). Along the *Dee estuary*, there was an exceptional peak of 420 at POA on 24/08 (BHP) (*see table*), 54 at BB in August, 18 at OMR (all in Aug.), 6 at MDR in Dec. (BHP and RSPB SL), and 2 at QCNR on 2/09 (JKS).

(RP)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	18	26	3	2	10	6	-	420	28	1	-	9

DOTTEREL (*Charadrius morinellus*)

HUTAN Y MYNYDD

Uncommon migrant. Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

A pair at Moel Sych, 200m from the summit, on 5/05 (JEM).

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis apricaria*)

CWTIAD AUR

now **EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER**

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List [BDp]

Generally seen only in small numbers. Reported from 6 areas, mainly *coastal*, as follows: C100 in Belgrano fields, nr Abergele (SH 967877), 1/01 (SM); a peak of 50 at RCR on 2/01 (SM); SF: 19 on 8/04, 21 on 11/04 and c22 on 15/10/02 (JKS). POA had only 1 on 23-24/08 (ICF, EL, ELJ) with 1-2 at WF on 2/09 and 7/10 and 1 f/o Llawndy on 11/11 (BHP). 1 at CQNR on 28/09 (ELJ).

Inland: 5 at Carnedd y Filiast (SH 861449) on the edge of our area, on 13/07 (WO).

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 but on the Welsh side they are found in small numbers only.

Birds were present for most of the year though in small numbers. *Dee Estuary*

(GV)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	81	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	40	79	60

Reserves: a peak of 81 in January at POA (see table. Source: BHP/RSPB SL); 2 at Flint on 10/01; OMR had 3 in Nov, and there were singles only at OMR and MDR in Dec. (RSPB SL).

Also found at Kimmel Bay (2 on 20/01, DCR; 1 on 19/12, PM); RCR (1 on 18/07, 4/10, 20/12 SM), Rhos-on-Sea (3 on 3/01, PM; 2 on 2/02, SD).

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*)
now **NORTHERN LAPWING**

CORNCHWIGLEN

*Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List [BDp]
The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain*

Reported from many areas: CBRG received about 100 records from some 40 areas across the county.

Inland: Seen in variable numbers in 22 localities.

Inland breeding records: 2+ pairs apparently nesting nr Nant-y-Ffrith Resr, 3/05 (JLR). Up to 8 ads and 4 juvs near Llyn Helyg, 15/05-12/06 (ELJ). Successfully bred at Dyserth (SJ 047776) with 11 birds inc 2+ juvs seen by 6/07 (MC, EL); 2 nesting pairs in a ploughed field in Dyserth, 27/05 (DCR). 5 pairs nested at Borras Quarry; only 1 monitored to reduce disturbance—4 young hatched (LW). An apparent breeding area near Morfa Rhuddlan (SH 9777) (SM) - see *Survey Appendix*. Back on territory at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh by 17/03 (a single bird) (ELJ). 3 birds with 4 chicks at FLQ, 5/05 (DH). 22 birds inc. 4 juvs at Burton Meadows on 3/06 (NF). 1-3 birds at AWCP, 8/05-4/06 (AC/EM). 2ads + 4 unfledged young at Bettisfield on 28/07 (AB).

Highest counts (>50) (inland wintering sites): 200+ in fields nr Hawarden (SJ 327637) on 1/01, feeding with gulls and corvids (AB/IS); 450 at Crewe Hill on 8/02 (NF); 59 inc juvs by footpath, Llandegla Forest to Maes Maelor (SJ 2452), 4/07 (JLR); regular at Bettisfield where a peak count of 53 nr Bettisfield Pond on 26/07 (PMR); 50 at Holt on 3/11 (NiF); 300+ at FLQ on 14/09 (KD); a peak count of 250 in December at BQ where ever-present (LW).

Smaller counts, (<50), reported from 17 other sites, often in very small numbers.

Coastal: found in variable numbers from 1-1800+. Large counts are invariably found in winter; breeding, both inland and coastal, is on a relatively small scale.

Dee estuary breeding records: 1+ displaying pairs were seen at POA WF (BHP) and 3 pairs nested in Flintshire on land adjacent to IMF RSPB Reserve (IMF SL).

The *highest counts* are to be found along the coast in winter, particularly on the R. Clwyd estuary, as follows:

1. *Rhyl area:* RCR had a peak of 2000+ on 22/12 (DCR) and RML had an island roost of c1800 on 22/01 (SM); 500+ at Belgrano nr Abergele on 1/01 (SM);
2. *Dee estuary:* the figures for BB, OMR and IMF are given in the table. The

IMF figures are for the whole reserve, inc. the adjacent arable fields in Flintshire. Other Dee estuary records: POA had c1000 at Presthaven on 22/12 (RMB); 700+ around BHP on 29/01 (DCR) and a peak count of 527 around POA WF and CF on 4/12 (BHP); 200+ at SF on 15/10; c100 at IMF BP on 4/02 and 23/11; 71 at MDR in Nov (RSPB SL); CQNR: c50 on 2/09 and 2/12 (JKS).

3. *Dee Floodplain*: seen in large numbers during winter flooding with a peak counts of 450 at Crewe Hill on 8/02, 120 at Worthenbury on 14/02 and 800 at Poulton on 21/02. 85 at Worthenbury on 7/12 (NF).

(L.)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	565	20	-	-	-	-	44	2	36	19	220	305
OMR	850	950	-	-	-	170	13	242	150	390	530	700
IMF	900	400	600	40	45	165	53	233	150	200	850	60

RSPB Conwy: 2 young were fledged by 10/06.

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)

PIBYDD YR ABER

now **RED KNOT**

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List [WDp, SPEC3w, WI, WL]

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

Peak counts: the main sites are OMR and POA (see table) where the peak counts were 2190 and 2400 respectively, on 3/11 and 20/11 (RSPB SL, JKS/NPH, SM). Unusually, Gronant beach held 1000 on 25/11 (SM).

(KN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	-	20	-	50	-	-	-	-	320	30	205	-
MDR	1	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	260	11
OMR	8	200	40	50	200	-	-	13	-	420	2190	300
POA	440	20	18	-	-	-	-	2	50	166	2400	255

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. One inland sighting: 1 at Llyn Brenig on 19/05 (IE).

Largest flocks : c220 at Kinmel Bay on 31/10 and 17/11 (SM); 100+ at Gronant on 8/10 (ELJ); 60 at Rhyl Splash Point on 30/11 (RMB); 232 at POA in Nov (RSPB SL).

LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minuta*)

PIBYDD BACH

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

Very few records this year: 5 at R. Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 4/01 (ELJ). 4 were observed during a count by the red flag on the POA north shore before a dog disturbed the flock on the 24/08. A single bird seen on 4/09 (‡) and thought to be in with Dunlin from the RSPB hide on 11/09 (BHP). 1-2 were seen at RSPB Conwy, 24/07-23/12.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*)

PIBYDD CAMBIG

Scarce autumn passage migrant

Dee Estuary Reserves: 2 juvs at CQNR on 2/09 (ELJ, JKS/NH) and 3 birds on 28/09 (ELJ); a single bird at POA on 7/09 (SM) and a juv there, in front of the hide, on 10-11/09 (JKS/NPH, BHP) and 5 on 27/09 (JKS). 1 at Gronant on 6/10 (‡).

Also seen at RCR (where several sightings of 1 or 2 on 3/09-16/09 (‡, DCR), and a juv on 24/10 (SM)) and at RSPB Conwy (2 juvs, 14/09-20/09).

PURPLE SANDPIPER (*Calidris maritima*)

PIBYDD DU

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

Rhos Point is the favoured area to see this species: 1 with Turnstones there on 4/01 (JKS); singles on 11/01 (ELJ), 4 on 2/02 (SD), 1 on 31/03 (SM), 2 on 2/04 (DCR) and 7 on 8/12 (SM).

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*)

PIBYDD Y MAWN

*Passage migrant and common winter visitor. Amber List [WDMp, BL, WI, WL, SPEC3w]**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.

Inland: 15 at Poulton floods on 4/03 (NF), 3 records of single birds at GF on 24/04, 26/04 and 16/05 (JN, JKS) and up to 5 at BQ in May (LW).

Coastal: huge numbers off Backley Beach, Prestatyn where some 2000+ in rough weather on 1/02 (DCR); a peak count of 400+ on 11/01 (DCR) at River Clwyd, Rhyl and 250+ at RML on 28/12 (DCR). Good numbers at Kinnel Bay (where c100 on 17/11, SM) and very small numbers at Pensarn and Llanddulas beaches.

Dee Estuary: seen most months at OMR and POA (inc. BHP estuary counts) where the peak counts were 5000 in January and 4150 in November, respectively (*see table; source: BHP/RSPB SL*). Other records: Flint: c50 on 10/01 and 22/11; c200 at Gronant on 4/05; c50 at CQNR on 2/12 (JKS).

(DN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	150	220	41	-	-	-	20	400	700	24	690	670
MDR	-	60	1	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	30	108
OMR	5000	1750	110	-	20	-	3	46	250	150	2500	2500
POA	2542	1790	3	-	230	1	1300	132	306	465	4150	1100
CR												

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*)

PIBYDD TORCHOG

Scarce passage migrant.

The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain though few birds are recorded on the Welsh side.

Inland: 3 at Poulton floods on 4/03 (NF); 1 at Bettisfield Pool, 10/09 (PMR).

Coastal: 3 at SF on 25/07 (MD); 1 at RCR on 17/08 (IE); POA had 1 on 9-11/09, 5 on 22/10 and 2 on 7/11 and 29/11 (BHP, ELJ).

JACK SNIFE (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*)

GIACH FACH

Scarce migrant and winter visitor.

1 at Belgrano nr Abergele on 1/01 (SM); up to 3 at Gronant on 6/01 (IE, JL) and 1 on 20/02 (DCR); 2 at R. Clwyd near Denbigh on 4/03 (ELJ).

Conwy RSPB Reserve had 7 sightings, 21/09-5/11.

SNIFE (*Gallinago gallinago*)

GIACH GYFFREDIN

now **COMMON SNIFE**

Rare breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BDMr]

The largest numbers were found inland at Pulford and in the coastal areas of POA and RCR.

Inland: reported for 9 locations—1 flew off calling at AP on 1/01, possibly a first for this site (NPH); at 2 sites on WIE with a peak of 18 on 10/12 (JBF, JKS/NPH). 1 at NFR on 2/01 (SD). At least 30 at Three-corner Meadow, Pulford on 12-14/01 (NF, GS) and 3 on 7/12 (NF). In the Ruabon area, SLJ had 6 on 16/02 (MDR) and 2 on 13/10 (NH); Delph Pool, Acrefair had 3 on 13/10 (NH). 5 at FLQ on 1/01 (KD) and 2 on 14/04 (DH); 2 at Bettisfield Pond on 26/07 (PMR); up to 3 at BQ, Oct-Dec (LW).

Coastal: recorded, usually in small numbers, at Abergele/Towyn, BB, BPR, Gronant, OMR, POA and RCR. The peak counts were 30 at POA in January (RSPB SL); 29 at RCR on 2/01 (SH); 15+ at RML on 31/01 (DCR); 15 at Belgrano nr Abergele on 1/01 (SM); 15 at POA WF on 16/12 (BHP); 12 at MDR in Nov (RSPB SL); 9 at Gronant

on 10/01 (JKS). Conwy RSPB Reserve: the peak count was a remarkable 102 on 23/01.

WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*)

CYFFYLOG

now **EURASIAN WOODCOCK**

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BDMr, SPEC3w]

1 at SSW on 16/02 (PT). 10+ sightings of 1-2 around RM/WE area, 8/01-9/04 and 30/11-26/12 (JLR). 1 at RCR on 29/04 (SH). 2 roding at Penymynydd site, Hawarden Estate (SJ 313636) on 11/05 (DCR). Nercwys Mountain had 1 on 16/05 (JB) and 2 roding on 10/06 and heard on 11/07 (JKS, SGR). 1 roding at Wern, Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 15/07 (RES). 1 at POA WF, 9-16/12 (BHP). Only 1 record at RSPB Conwy: 1 on 12/01.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*)

RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Passage migrant. Principally a winter visitor but increasingly found through the year. Amber List [SPEC2, WI, WL]

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

One recorded inland at GF on 21/06, possibly the first record for this site (JKS/NPH). Dee Estuary monthly maxima are given in the table (source: BHP/RSPB SL, DCR). Peak counts: 3450 at BB, 3500 at OMR (both October-see tables); at Flint there were c1500 on 10/01, 600+ on 27/09, c500 on 22/11; CQNR had a peak of 3000 on 19/10 (‡); IMF BP 300 in flight on 18/05; (JKS/NH); POA WF had 163 on 4/12 (BHP). Also seen in small numbers at BPR, Rhos Point, RCR (where peak was 21 on 3/08, SM) and RSPB Conwy.

(BW)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	1500	600	430	277	50	30	11	13	3000	3450	3000	-
MDR	48	22	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	11	60	-
OMR	820	1500	1075	1200	600	3	70	990	200	3500	3200	3000
POA	38	1	1	-	1	-	-	2	20	38	328	-

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*)

RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRITH

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List [WDp, SPEC3w, WI, WL]

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

Recorded at 4 locations on the Dee estuary: MDR, OMR, POA and POA WF (where 20 on 4/12, BHP) (see tables. Sources: DCR, ELJ, JKS, BHP/RSPB SL) and at RCR (7 on 8/05, SM) and RSPB Conwy (2 on 2/08).

(BA)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
MDR	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39	1
OMR	7	5	2	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	12	16
POA	3	30	7	5	-	3	2	6	40	75	78	52

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

COEGLFINIR

Passage migrant and localised summer visitor in small numbers. Amber List [WL]

Inland sightings: 24 were flushed by a small aeroplane at Trelogan on 20/04 (ELJ); 2 probables, flying W from TMR on 3/05 (JAJ); 1 at Llyn Brenig on 19/05 (IE).

Coastal records: 1 over Towyn beach on 19/04 (SM); 3 at RCR on 24/04 (JKS), 7 there on 8/05 (SM) and 1 on 14-15/05 (DCR); 1 calling over Rhos-on-Sea on 2/08 and 2 on 1/09 (SKT); 1 at RGC on 10/08 and 15/08 (DCR) and 1 calling and f/o Llandrillo College, Colwyn Bay on 22/08 and 6/09 (MD). 1 at RSPB Conwy on 15/04 (a first for this site) and 8 on 28/04.

Dee Estuary: 25 sightings reported for POA/Gronant, May-December, peaking at 3 on 16/07 (ELJ) and 7 at Gronant on 18/05 (PM). BB-OMR-CQNR had 17 sightings, April-August, with a peak of 5 at CQNR on 1/05 (PMR); 5 sightings at MDR, Aug-Nov (RSPB SL)

CURLEW (*Numenius arquata*)

GYLFINIR

now **EURASIAN CURLEW**

*Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List [BDp, SPEC3w, WI]
The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site.*

Found *inland* (in 9 [ten] probable *breeding* areas) in only small numbers, as follows:

1. *in the RM area* the 1st of spring in upland grass was 1 nr NFR, 2/03; the 1st on moorland on 5/03 (GK); 18 by CLR on 11/03 and 1 nr IsyCoed Fm (SJ 4051) on 20/03; 23 at TMR on 23/03 (JAJ); 2 pairs apparently breeding nr NFR by 3/05 (JLR); 1 at Tainant on 4/05 (JKS/NPH); a juv on the road nr Llansannan on 25/06 (ELJ).
2. Denbigh Moors: 1 by Llyn Aled on 30/02 (EL)
3. Ceiriog Valley: 1 nr Chirk, 3/03 (JLR); Cynwyd, 5/06 (CT)
4. Other areas: 1 nr HM, 27/03 (JLR), 6 at Rake Lane, Hawarden on 31/03 (GS); 1 at Francis Lane, Holt on 29/03 and 4/05 (JKS/NPH); 1 at Holt on 4/05 (NiF); 1 at Fenn's Moss on 27/05; (JKS/NPH).

Found in large numbers (*non-breeding*) in *coastal* localities. The principal site was at POA where ever-present (*see table; source: BHP/RSPB SL*) and the peak count was 1550 on 7/10 (BHP). Other main sites and peak counts: 450+ at RCR on 22/02

(DCR); 60 at Belgrano nr Abergele on 1/01 (SM); c30 at SBL on 6/01; c30 at Flint on 10/01 and 27/09 (JKS); 250 at Colwyn Bay GC (SH 830813) on 2/02 (SD); c100 at POA WF on 11/02 (JKS) and 80 on 1/08 (BHP); 39 at Llanddulas E on 25/09 (EL); CQNR: 40+ on 2/12 (JKS). A peak of 252 at RSPB Conwy on 3/07.

(CU)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	119	498	34	326	1	-	3	5	34	29	57	60
MDR	169	270	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	31	262	102
OMR	15	30	6	-	60	-	2	4	3	5	54	44
POA	430	956	559	165	7	85	871	1367	1090	1550	455	555

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.

The main site was OMR/CQNR (see table. Source: IE, ELJ, JKS/NPH, RSPB SL). The peak count was 17 on 28/09 (ELJ). Also seen at POA where 1 on 27/09 (JKS).

(DR)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR/ CQNR	5	11	1	-	1	-	1	4	17	1	2	8

REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*)

PIBYDD COESGOCH

now **COMMON REDSHANK**

Possible breeding resident and common winter visitor. Amber List [BDMp, WI, WI, SPEC2]

The Dee Estuary is of international importance for this species.

There was only one *inland* report: 5 birds at Francis Lane, Holt on 10/12 (JKS).

Coastal: seen all along the coast in winter including Rhos Point (a peak of c40 on 4/01, JKS), the Rhyl area (a peak of 150 at R. Clwyd on 07/03 (RMB) and 18/04 (JKS) and c100 at RML on 31/01, JKS and 250+ on 28/12, DCR), PMPA (c50 here on 18/02, JKS), Llanddulas (a peak HT roost of 285 on 2/01, EL) and Pensarn (c40 on 11/03 and 25/11, JKS, EL). Small numbers at Ffrith, Kinnel Bay and Gronant.

Dee Estuary Reserves: found in varying numbers for much of the year (see table) but no breeding records.: At OMR and POA (see table) the peak counts were 800 in September and 550 in October, respectively (RSPB SL. Other counts: c150 at Flint on 10/01; c1000 at CQNR on 2/09; (ELJ).

(RK)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	75	620	211	50	-	-	70	242	399	372	394	169
OMR	35	600	225	200	-	250	600	650	800	390	500	200
POA	359	380	251	64	-	4	250	150	100	550	492	127
FL	?	?	?	88	-	-	97	209	197	550	-	481
MDR	87	101	84	20	-	-	266	1028	1102	-	431	210

GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)

PIBYDD COESWERDD

now **COMMON GREENSHANK**

Passage migrant.

Most records are along the Flintshire coast and Dee estuary, mainly late autumn and winter: 1 at BB in Feb and 3 in March (RSPB SL), 10 sightings at OMR with a peak of 4 in Oct (RSPB SL) and 7 at CQNR on 27/08 (ELJ), peaking at 14+ on 2/09 (SM, JKS/NPH); 44 sightings at POA and POA FL, 9/06-5/12 (EL, ELJ, SM, JKS/NPH, BHP/RSPB SL) peaking at 8 on 7/10 (BHP).

and at R. Clwyd, Rhyl (inc. the Gele confluence) where there were 29 sightings, 8/05-4/10, peaking at 6 on 3/08 (SM).

Also seen at Colwyn Bay (1 heard t/o on 22/08 and 4/10, MD); RSPB Conwy with a peak of 4 on 9/08.

Inland: 1 at Llyn Brenig on 19/06 (SM); 1 at BQ in August (LW); 1 at Bettisfield Pool, 10/09 (PMR).

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*)

PIBYDD GWYRDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers

Several records from a few regular sites:

Inland: 1 at Burton Meadows, 10/01 (GS), 2 at Poulton floods on 4/03 and 3 at Poulton on 7/12 (NF).

Coastal: 1 on RCR, 13/03, 26/03, 24/10, 18/11 (SM); SF had 2 on 20/07 (JKS), 4 on 25/07 (MD) and 1 on 9/08 (IE); 1 at Gronant on 2/08 (IE); 1 at CQNR on 4/08 (IE); 1 at POA on 6/08 (JH, RoP); 1 at SSW on 3/11 (PT). RSPB Conwy had 1 on 10/01 and 18/06.

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*)

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

A feeding bird was flushed from IMF to fly over the Border Pool on 4/06 (JKS).

1 at SF on 9/08 (IE). RSPB Conwy had 4 sightings, 19/07-11/08.

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

*Double passage migrant and breeding visitor**Seen in good numbers again this year.**Inland:* reported from 8 sites as last year. *Breeding:* a pair with young at Horseshoe Falls, Llangollen on 24/06 (ELJ).

7 sightings of 1-2 at GF, 19/04-30/09 (JKS); in the RM area, the 1st of spring was at PCR on 20/04 followed by several at reservoirs next day (JAJ); 1 at PDR (JLR) and 4-5 at TMR (JAJ) on 3/07; recorded at FLQ, 27/04-1/07 with a peak count of 6 on 27/04 (DH); 2 at Llyn Brenig on 19/06 (SM) and 3 on 25/06 (BTO MR); 1 at Bettisfield Pond on 26/07 (PMR); 1 at NFR on 6/08 (SD) and 1 at BQ in August (LW).

Coastal: in the Rhyl area, there were an exceptional 82 reports for R. Clwyd (from Splash Point to Rhuddlan), for 10/04-22/09, with an early peak of 7 on 23/04 with 13 on 3/08 and 10 on 12/08(SM); 6 at Rhos Point on 21/04 and 6 at PMPA, same day (SM).The *Dee Estuary* had 8 sightings at OMR with a peak of 4 in May, a peak of 10 birds at BB in June and 17 sightings at POA and POA FL, 26/04-10/09, peaking at 4 birds on 10/09 (BHP/RSPB SL); 1 at Gronant on 4/05 (JKS). 1 at SSW on 28/04 (PT).**TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*)

CWTIAD Y TRAETH

now **RUDDY TURNSTONE***Winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL]**The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK*Regular along the *coast* in variable numbers. The main sites are at MDR on the Dee estuary (*see table. Source: RSPB SL*) and Llanddulas where the peak count was >80 on 25/10 (EL). Other peak counts: c30 at Rhos Point, 4/01-2/04; the Rhyl area had peaks of 37 at the Splash Point on 27/09 (RMB) and 20+ at RML on 9/09 (JKS); 25+ at Abergele beach on 26/03 (DCR).

(TT) J F M A M J J A S O N D

MDR 13 6 29 - - - 1 - - 55 26 35

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:* 1 off POA on 11/08 (SM) and 12/08 (NF), and 3-4 chasing Sandwich

Terns there on 31/08 and 7-9/09 (BHP, ELJ). 2 flying W off Towyn on 25/08, 1 on 26th, 2 on 31st. (SM). A dark-phase bird flew inland among the pylons at QCNR and then out to sea, 27/08 (ELJ).

LONG-TAILED SKUA (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) SGIWEN LOSTFAIN
Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County Rarity—see Appendix 3.

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

A single dark-phase bird flying E at Gronant on 30/07 (BHP). An exceptional report of 4 at POA on 27/10 (SGR).

SKUA species

1 distant dark-phase bird off POA on 10/09, possibly Arctic Skua (JKS).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL (*Larus melanocephalus*) GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR
Scarce visitor.

Fewer records this year: 15 sightings, all of single birds, at 10 sites. [In 2001, 27 records covered 8 sites.]

Inland: Dolwen Reservoir had an adult bird on 2/03 (ELJ). Llyn Brenig: 1 adult summer bird with Black-headed Gulls, 10/04-6/05 (IE, ELJ, JKS/NPH).

Coastal: BB: 1 on 13/03 (RSPB SL). 1 adult at PMPA on 27/02 which then flew towards Pensarn beach (‡); 1 first-winter bird at Pensarn with many Common Gulls on 16/03 (JKS). RCR: a first-year bird on 23/04 (SM); a first-summer bird there on 26/05 (SM); an adult winter bird on 12/09 (JKS) and 1 on RML on 31/12 (‡). A first-summer bird at Gronant beach on 12/06 (‡); POA had a second-summer bird on 25/07 (ELJ); 1 adult moulting from summer to winter in gull roost on 29/07 (JKS) and 1 on 10-11/08 (IE, SM, SGR) and a second-winter bird on 27/08 (‡). A *m* at Rhos-on-Sea GC on 15/12 (DCR).

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

1 close-in at Rhos Point on 3/01, flying E (PM). A peak count of 10 at POA on 27/02 (POA SL). 1 reported at RCR estuary on 8/09 (‡).

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*) GWYLAN BENDDU
Common breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BDMr]

Successful breeding sites at Llyn Brenig (where 100+ nesting on 15/04, NPH/JKS),

Llyn Helyg (7 nests, ELJ, DCR) and Shotton Pools.

Inland sightings: regular at (main sites only with peak counts) AP 200+ on 17/01, JN); BQ (130 in January, LW); Erddig Flash (100+ on 27/01 and 3/11, NH); FLQ (a peak of 150+ on 13/01, DH); GF (500 on 15/01, JM); HM (200+ on 31/08 & 100+ on 30/11, NH); NFR (80 at on 6/01, SD) and Sutton Green (300+ on flooded fields on 12/02, NH).

Coastal: large numbers in the Rhyl area where RCR had a peak of 2000 on 6/02 (SH). A leucistic bird at PMPA on 7/01 (ELJ) and 18/02 (JKS), 27/12 (DCR) and, as last year, at Pensarn on 16/03 (JKS) and 25/11 (EL).

Dee Estuary and floodplain: 2000 at Poulton floods on 4/03 (NF) and 390 at Holt on 3/11 (NiF). 956 at POA in August (RSPB SL).

RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*)

GWYLAN FODRWYBIG

Rare American vagrant. Chwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

COMMON GULL (*Larus canus*)

GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD

now **MEW GULL**

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Inland: found at various sites; often with Black-headed Gulls.

Inland: records from Borrás (where 300 at BQ in Feb., LW and c100+ in fields on 25/03, JKS), FLQ (30+ on 13/01, DH); GF (c30 on 18/01, JKS); NFR (50 on 6/01, SD); 40+ in fields at Johnstown on 5/03; 'common' in winter in the Eglwyseg area with 34 nr Castell Dinas Bran on 30/03 (JLR); 300 at Poulton floods on 4/03 (NF).

Coastal sites: often in large numbers: the largest count was 3500 at Gronant Beach at LT on 2/02 (GS); c2000 on Pensarn beach on 11/03; 1916 at POA in August and 1850 in Feb (RSPB SL); c1000 at RCR on 6-7/02 (SH); c500 at Llanddulas E on 15/02 (EL).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*)

GWYLAN GEFNDDU LELAF

Breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber List [BDMr, 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 peak counts were 250+ on 29/04 (JKS) and 300 on 25/10 (ME); BQ had a peak of 400 in October (LW). Also recorded at FLQ, Llyn Brenig, NFR

Breeding: 2 adults displaying at NFR on 3/05 then with 7 imms on 5/06 (JLR).

Coastal: regular but in smaller numbers. A peak of c100 at Rhos Point on 19/04 (JKS); 90 at POA on 7/11 (BHP) and 40 at RCR on 27/04 (SH).

HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*)

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

Breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber List [BDMr]

Breeding: 2 pairs nesting by 30/03 at Prestatyn Quarry (ELJ).

Inland: regular at GF where peaks of c400 on 18/01 and 16/12/02 (JKS). Also recorded at FLQ, NFR

Coastal: : POA peaked at 2600 in December (see table. Source: BHP/RSPB SL, DCR); peaks of 200+ at Rhos Point on 19/04 (JKS), 100 at RCR on 21/04 (SH) and a huge roost of 1800+ at Horton's Nose, Rhyl on 13/12 (DCR); 300+ at Gronant beach on 26/08 (DCR).

(HG)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	32	1570	-	-	-	340	-	65	250	5	1000	2600

sspYELLOW-LEGGED GULL (*L. a. michahellis*) GWYLAN GOES FELEN
Regular but scarce late summer passage migrant

Inland: a single third-winter bird was present at GF on 15/10 and 22/11 (JKS).

Coastal: 9 sightings of 1-2 birds in gull roost at POA, July-Oct (JKS, RSPB SL).

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*) GWYLAN YR ARCTIG
Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County Rarity.

A second-summer bird at Borras near Wrexham on 13/04 and 17/04 (JN).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*) GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BDMr]

Inland: seen in very small numbers at three sites: BQ, GF and Llyn Brenig (JKS, LW).

Coastal: the peak counts were 100 at OMR in Dec (SL); 60 at MDR in Aug (RSPB); 44 at POA on 24/08 (DCR), 50+ at Gronant on 26/08 (DCR) and c30 at Flint on 27/09 (JKS). A roost of 70+ at Horton's Nose, Rhyl on 27/12 (DCR).

KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*) GWYLAN GOES DDU
now **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**
Passage migrant. Amber List [BDMp]

Seen in small numbers along the coast. The largest count was 10+ flying at Kinmel Bay on 28/10 (JKS). 1 at POA on 9/08 (EL) and 5 on 27/10 (SGR); 2 at Foryd Est., Rhyl on 29/07 (SM) and off Rhyl Splash Point (2-3 on 3/02 and 3/07) (RMB).

SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna sandvicensis*) MORWENNOL BIGDDU
Passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC2]
The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

Seen along the coast, as follows:

- (a) In the Rhyl area, the main site was at the Foryd estuary where there were 6 inc. a juv on 6/07 (DCR) and the peak count was 350 on 3/08 (SM). Also seen at Rhyl Splash Point 7/05-4/10 (RMB, SM, DCR, JKS) where the peak was 30 on 27/09 (RMB). Seen off Rhos Point (from 26/03 when c10, JKS); 2 off Towyn on 5/04 and 16 inc. 5 juvs on 2/08 (Belgrano) and 30-50+ in total feeding on 25/08-17/09 (SM);
- (b) POA & Gronant: c50 on 4/05 at Gronant; and a peak of 320 there on 2/08; 60 there on 23/09. Reported off POA, June-October, inc. juvs, with a peak of 220 on 25/07 (BHP, IE, ELJ, SM, DCR, JKS/NPH).
- (c) Dee estuary: 2 at SSW on 21/07 (PT) and 5 at BB in Sept. (RSPB SL).

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*)

MORWENNOL GYFFREDIN

Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Amber List [BL]

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

Unusually, an inland record: 1 at GF on 1/07 (JKS).

Dee Estuary: **The Shotton colony increased by ten pairs to 555 pairs. 617 young were ringed of which 582 fledged.** (see table, courtesy of John Birch and Paul Triggs). The poor weather in June/July caused higher than normal mortality among young during the first few days after hatching. The first returning birds were 10 on 21/04; the last sighting was 4 on 1/09. [Last year, there were 3 on 22/04; the last sighting was of 8 on 2/09.]

Other records: 60 in June and July at BB (SL); 2ads, 1 juv off Belgrano beach on 2/08; 15 off POA on 25/07 (BHP), 10+ on 11/08 (SM) and a very late bird on 27/10 (SGR).

Shotton Common Tern colony, recent results

(CN)	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
pairs	350	393	471	433	491	545	555
young ringed	567	386	521	552	632	810	617

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*)

MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon passage migrant. Amber List [Hdd, BL]

Several birds seen passing off POA, and in the roosts with Sandwich and Common Terns, end of July and early August; 5 birds recorded on the 11/8 (BHP, WeBS).

LITTLE TERN (*Sterna albifrons*)

MORWENNOL FECHAN

Passage migrant and regular breeding summer visitor. Red List [HD, SPEC3, BL]

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

The nesting colony at Gronant (see table and graph). Birds were reported from 27/04

(5 off Gronant, SM) to 12/08 (8+ off RSP, DCR) with a peak count of 300+ birds there on 13/07 (DCR).

<i>The Little Tern nesting colony at Gronant (selected figures)</i>											
(AF)	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1975-2002 (ave)
pairs	45	77	65	78	80+	35-	86	75	85	58	49.79
fledged young	45	120 - 140	36	120+	9 - 11	20	111	57	1	63	44.43

GUILLEMOT (*Uria aalge*)

GWYLOG

now **COMMON GUILLEMOT**

Occasional visitor in small numbers to coastal waters.

4 at Rhos Point on 2/02 and 1 on 15/02 (JKS). 1 off POA on 29/11 (BHP).

RAZORBILL (*Alca torda*)

LLURS

Small numbers occasionally recorded offshore.

Rhos Point: 1 inshore on 14/01 and 4 on 8/02 (JKS). Up to 30 passing through in ones and twos, off Rhyl Splash Point on 3/02 (RMB). 1 reported as passing POA on 27/10 (SGR).

BLACK GUILLEMOT (*Cepphus grylle*)

GWYLOG DDU

Rare winter visitor. Clwyd County Rarity

An unusual sighting of 1 at MDR on 8/09 (JH).

PUFFIN (*Fratercula arctica*)

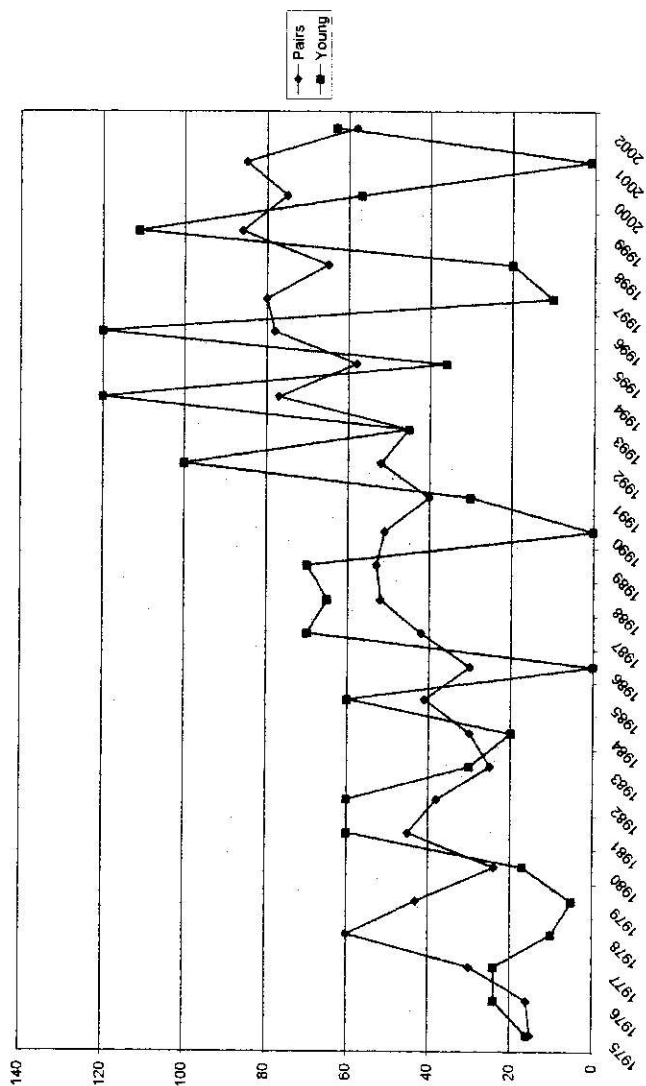
PAL

now **ATLANTIC PUFFIN**

Occasional visitor in small numbers to coastal waters. Clwyd County Rarity.

There was only one record: 1 on the sea off POA, 2/02 (GS).

The Little Tern Colony at Gronant, 1975-2002 (Source: John Harrison, RSPB)



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.

Breeding:

Largest counts: 54 at Rake Lane, Hawarden on 31/03 and 1/04 (GS); 30 at RCR on 12/02 (SM); 15 at GF on 25/04 (JKS).

Reported in small numbers from another [16] 11 locations: Abergele, Borrass, Dulas Valley, Francis Lane, GF, Pulford Meadows, SBL, Trelawnyd, WIE. [AP, BHP coastal fields, Coedpoeth, Denbigh, Greenfield coastal fields, Gwernaffield nr Mold, Halkyn, HK, Leeswood, OMR, POA, Pontblyddyn, Rhesycae, Rhuddlan, Sychdyn, SF, TFR,]

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): c300 feeding on young brassicas at Llanasa, 6/01 (ELJ); flocks of 200 in Jan-March at BQ (LW).

FERAL PIGEON (*Columbia livia*): found in numbers in Town Centres; smaller numbers elsewhere, including gardens. Peak counts: a regular roost approaching some 200 in August at Foryd Railway Bridge, Rhyl (DCR).

COLLARED DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

TURTUR DORCHOG

now **EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE**

Common and widespread breeding resident

Breeds readily in suburban areas. Maximum numbers: a peak count of 75 at RCR on 26/01 (SH); 60 near FC on 31/01 (GS).

TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*)

TURTUR

now **EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE**

Scarce summer breeding visitor. Red List [BDr, BDp, SPEC3, BR] Clwyd County rarity

2 short bursts of song heard clearly c500m S of PDR, Llandegla Forest on 2/06 (JLR); 1 same day, flying with Collared doves at Cynwyd nr Corwen (CT). Single birds were also seen again at Bwlchgwyn (LW) and at Stryt Isa, Hope on 8/06 (DH). 1 flew S at RSPB Conwy on 21/05.

CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*)
now **COMMON CUCKOO**
Breeding summer visitor [WE]

COG

More reported sightings this year with 40 observed in 23 localities but still fewer records than 1989 when 50. Also recorded each year in BBS Surveys with 14 sightings this year (see Table 4).

First record of spring: 1 at Holt on 5/04 (NiF). [Last year: Sun Bank, Llangollen on 22/04 and the last was on 13/09 (a juvenile) at POA.]

Recorded (mainly singles) in 7 main areas:

- (a) Denbigh Moors: at Llyn Brenig (1 or 2 recorded 23/04-25/06, ELJ, SM, JKS/NPH, BTO MR); 1 at Llyn Bran on 7/06 (ELJ). 1 at Clocaenog on 5/05 (IE); 1 chased by a swallow at Pentre Llyn Cymer on 25/06 (ELJ).
- (b) the Clwydian Hills: Cilcain (1 on 11/05, ELJ; 2m on 16/06, PT); 1 harassed by a Mistle Thrush at Wern, Llanarmon on 15/06 (PMR); 1 h at Llanferres, 26/05 (JF); 1 at Coed-y-felin on 6/05 (BTO MR).
- (c) Fenn's Moss: several from 6/05 with 4 on 27/05 (1 seen, 3 heard) (JKS/NPH, PMR)
- (d) RM/HP/WE: 1 on 19/04 (JAJ); 2 on 4/05 (JKS/NPH) and 5/06 (‡); singles at Pendinas on 4/05, Trefor Rocks on 6/05 and 1 at Minera on 9/05 (BTO MR)
- (e) WIE area: 3 singles recorded, 2/05-18/06 (NPH/JKS, JLR)
- (f) POA: 1 on 24/04 (MC), 1 flew from sand dunes to Prestatyn GC on 15/06 (DCR) and a juv at POA WF on 21/08 (BHP).
- (g) Other areas: recorded at Penley (1 on 24/04, BTO MR); Holt, 5/04-17/08, peaking at 4 on 28/04 (NiF); Erddig (1 heard calling on 2/05, NPH); 1 at HMCP on 5-6/05 (DH); 1 hd at MHCW on 5/06 (EM); 2 calling at MGL on 24/05 and 1 on 4/06 (EL); 1 at Penymynydd off A5118 on 30/05 (GS);

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

TYLLUAN WEN

Scarce breeding resident. Amber List [BDMr, SPEC3]

Fewer records this year and probably under-recorded

Breeding: a pair bred successfully at Bettisfield.

Other records: 1 present at WE using nest box though did not breed (JLR). 1 at 22.10 hrs nr Mold (SJ 254626), (PMR); 1 at Nant-y-Garth Pass on 7/04 (JR); 1 heard at Gronant/Talacre, 6/02 (DCR), and seen on 12/02 (‡) and 4/10 (DCR); 1 at Borrass Road nr Commonwood on 24/08 (CG); 1 on farmland nr St. Asaph, 29/09 (DCR); a single bird flying over B5102 between Llay and Burton on 8/10 (HL); 1 sunning itself at 1.15pm nr Pwll Glas (SJ 128549) on 15/11 (MKB).

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*)
Breeding resident

TYLLUAN FACH

About 45 sightings in a dozen locations: frequently seen at Holt (NiF); 28 sightings at RCR inc. 2 on 17/07 (SH); 7+ sightings through the year of 1-3 at POA WF (BHP); 1 at Penybryn Fm, Rhyl on 25/03 (JL); 1 nr Ruthin on 7/04 (MC); 1 at FLH at dusk on 18/04 (JKS); 1 at Penymynydd nr Hawarden on 11/05 (DCR); 1 being mobbed by small birds at Dyserth on 12/05 (MC); 1 flew up from the road nr Alltami, 30/05, AB; 1 at Glascoed (SJ 281543) on 12/06 (SD); 1 at Trelawnyd on 2/07 (ELJ); 1 nr Fenn's Moss on 16/07 and 28/07 (PMR); 1 nr St Asaph on 29/09 (DCR); 1 at Llanasa on 14/10 (ELJ).

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

TYLLUAN FRECH

About 35 'sightings' reported through the year, mainly singles, in 15 localities, including 12 records of single birds at RCR (SH);
Some notable records: regular at Llanferres where a peak of 4 in mid-February (JF); 1 seen in daytime at Llanasa on 15/06 (ELJ). 2 calling at Nercwys Mountain 11/07 (JKS). 1 flew over Rhuddlan dual carriageway on 5/08 and 2 f/o the A548 at Gronant Garage on 10/11 (DCR).

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*)
Rare breeding resident. Amber List [BR]

TYLLUAN GORNIOG

A pair bred at usual coastal site. 1 bird wintered in regular area on RM (JLR).

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)
Scarce winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. Amber List [BDMr, SPEC3, BR]

TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

2 pairs reported as having bred at traditional sites and fledging 3 young (WRSG). Found in more coastal locations this year but absent from RM (JLR).
Coastal records:

1. Gronant, Tyn-y-Morfa and POA Warren: 13 sightings of 1-2 hunting here on 6/01-29/08 (1E, ELJ, SM, GS, JKS); plus 1 on 25/11 (SM) and 3 on 30/11 (BHP).
2. River Clwyd, Rhuddlan-Rhyl: 1 on 01/01 (DCR, RMB), 07/03 (RMB) and 5/04 (£).
3. Kinmel Bay beach (Foryd dunes): 1 on 17/11 (SM) and Towyn Beach fields: 1 on 21/11 (SM).
4. 1 at RSPB Conwy on 2/02.

NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

TROELLWR MAWR

now **EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR**Scarce breeding summer visitor. Red List [HDd, BDMr, SPEC2] **BCCC**

Records from only a few sites: Nercwys Mountain, Flintshire (SJ 218585) is the principal regular site for this species as the table shows (source: P. Kenyon). 3 pairs raised 6 young in 2002.

Other sightings: 1 put up at 9am at Moel Findeg (SJ 207608) on 27/05 but not subsequently located (MKB). A pair noted at a Llangollen clearfell, 20/06-17/07 (JLR). 2 at Pentre Llyn Cymer on 25/06 and 1 nr entrance to Alwen Dam, same day (ELJ).

<i>Nightjars at Nercwys Mountain</i>									
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
pairs	3	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	3
young	8	8	14	5	8	6	6	8	6

SWIFT (*Apus apus*)

GWENNOL DDU

now **COMMON SWIFT**

Fairly common and widespread breeding summer visitor

First record: 1 at RSPB Conwy on 20/04 (SL). [last year: 1 over Ruabon on 24/04].

Last record: 1 at RCR on 30/08 (SH). [last year: 6 on passage at TFR and 2 at RCR on 24/08]

Reported from across the county. Maximum counts: 75+ over Gronant reed-beds on 15/06 (DCR); 50 on six days in July at RCR (SH).

PALLID SWIFT (*Apus pallidus*)

Extremely rare vagrant. BBRC—see Appendix 2.

KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*)

GLAS Y DORLAN

now **COMMON KINGFISHER**

Local breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC3]

About 47 sightings from 12 areas (cf. c80 records in 1989).

Main inland sightings, including breeding: a pair were seen displaying over a tiny heavily polluted pool near Llay Pool on 27/05 (JKS); a family, inc. 4 fledged young, on the Dee nr Glyndyfrdwy 29/06 (JLR). 2 at Holt on 3/08 (NiF).

Coastal: 1 at POA on 6/01 (IE), 1 in Feb (RSPB SL); 30 sightings at RCR inc. 3 on 22/09 (EL) and 2 on 29/09 (SH, SM) and upstream nr Denbigh on 12/06, 26/06 (ELJ); 1 on R. Dulas on 18/10 (EL); 1 at OMR in Oct (SL), CQNR on 30/09 (NPH/JKS) and 6/10 (ELJ); 2 at SSW on 3/11 (PT); 2 birds wintered along Shotwick Brook on the Flintshire/Cheshire border (IMF SL).

HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*)

COPOG

*Rare vagrant. Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.***GREEN WOODPECKER** (*Picus viridis*)

CNOCELL WERDD

Breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC2]

22 sightings at 19 localities, including gardens. Regular sightings at Erddig Park, Cilygroeslwyd (a peak of 3 on 4/05, AB), Llangollen area (where birds heard at 12 sites, February-May, JLR, JKS/NPH), MQ and Marford.

Occasional sightings from Betws yn Rhos (1 on 26/08, RB); Burton (an adult was seen feeding a juv in a garden on 29/07, and 1 on 14/09, HL); Caergwle Castle (1 on 4/01, DH); Coed y Felin, Hendre (SJ 192677) (1 seen flying on 5/05, AB), FLQ (1 on 14/04, DH); Glyn Lws (SH 8272) (1 on 23/04, EL); HMCP (1 on 7/04, 6/05 DH); HP (1 on 7/04, MC and 9/04, PM); Llanasa (1 on 23/03, ELJ), Llanfair TH (1 on 28/03 and 6/04, SM; 2 on 6/08, PM); RCR (1 on 15/07 and 17/08, SH); 1 at Ysceifiog on 3/05 (ELJ); Llay (a pair were seen feeding at Llay Pool on 27/05, JKS); 1 nr Wern on 30/07 and 23/09 (PMR). A garden bird at Burton, Marford

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopus major*) CNOCELL FRAITH

FWYAF

Widespread breeding resident

Reported from over 25 localities, including garden feeders.

Regular through the year at Caergwle Castle and Woods, Dulas Valley (inc.3 drumming in Dulas Valley on 29/03 and a juv being fed in a Llanddulas garden on 7/06, and seen into July, EL), Erddig, Holt (where 3 on 6/10, NiF), Llanferres (JF) and POA WF (BHP). 10 ringed in a Glyn Ceiriog garden, Jun-July (AR).

Occasional sightings reported for 12 other areas. Early drumming reported from 1 of 2 birds near Llyn Helyg on 2/03 (ELJ). 4 (2m, 2f) at R. Clwyd near Denbigh on 4/03 (ELJ); 3 at Rhuddlan on 7/06 and a juv on 18/07 (SH).

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopus minor*) CNOCELL FRAITH

LEIAF

Scarce breeding resident. Red List [BDp],

Again, records from only a few (seven) sites: 1 at Coed Hafod, Llanrwst on 3/03 (Bangor Bird Group); 1 at R. Clwyd, Denbigh area on 17/03, 2 on 10/04 and a pair on 31/05 (ELJ) and 3 sightings at Rhuddlan (SH); a *m* calling and drumming in alders at Dinbren, Llangollen and facing aggression from a GSW, 30/03 (JLR); 1 at GF on 23/08 (JN); 1 at Erddig on 14/09 (BH); POA Warren: 1 calling on 21/08 (BHP) and 1 on 30/09 (JKS); 1 nr Llandegla fisheries on 17/11 (DCR).

SHORT-TOED LARK (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) EHEDYDD LLWYD

now **GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK**

Rare visitor. Welsh rarity.

A 1st for Clwyd (Denbighshire) and only the fifth mainland Welsh record. A single bird on a small grassy area at Towyn Beach (SH 965797), loosely associating with House Sparrows, 18-20/05 (SM et al).

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*)

EHEDYDD

Widespread breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [SPEC3] 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 Breeding Territories: Wrexham CBC's Skylark Survey found 13-15 territories at MHCW, 15-19 for AWCP (W) and 25-31 for AWCP (E) (AC); the 1st song of the year on RM (several birds) was noted on 14/03 (JLR); Borrass (2 on 25/03 and 4/05, JKS/NPH), Burton Meadows (5 singing birds on 3/06, NF), Hawarden (20 at Rake Lane Farm on 31/12, AB), Tainant, WIE

Other inland areas: singles birds singing at Fenn's Moss, Alwen Res'r, HP, Llyn Brenig, WE, Ridley Wood (SJ 3950), Glyn Ceiriog, Chirk (JLR).

Coastal breeding territories: 9-10 breeding pairs at POA/Gronant Dunes (BHP). Smaller numbers at: Kinnel Bay (which had 8 inc. 4 singing on 14/03), RCR and Towyn (SH, DCR, JKS). As last year, IMF had 2 pairs on territory on the Flintshire part/SF (RSPB SL).

Notable non-breeding *coastal* counts included a remarkable flock of over 2000 in a stubble field near Hawarden (SJ 328658) on 1/01 (AB/IS). Other counts included c30 at Gronant on 10/01 (SM) and 40+ on 18/10 when some in spring song (ELJ) and c30 at RCR on 24/10 (SM).

SAND MARTIN (*Riparia riparia*)

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List [SPEC3]

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

Earliest records: 2 flew NW at PCR on 16/03 (JAJ); c10 at GF on 27/03; next passage c20 on 4/04 (JKS). *Last records:* 2 at NFR on 4/09 (SD).

Breeding: more colonies reported this year, for five sites, at Afonwen sand quarry where 68 nest-holes (ELJ); Borrass Quarry where 110 nests (LW); FLQ where 110 nest-holes by 1/07 (KD); R. Clwyd nr Rhuddlan had c25 nests and a peak bird count of 75 on 28/04 (SH); R. Dee at Holt-Sutton Green where 41+ holes on 7/07 and the peak bird-count was 90 on 21/07 (NiF); a colony nr Chirk Aquaduct (ELJ).

Other main sightings: c60 at GF on 9/04; c100 at Borrass Pool on 22/04; (JKS). 100+ moving W over SS on 4/08 (PT).

SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

GWENNOL

now **BARN SWALLOW***Common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List [SPEC3]; [WES]**First arrival: 1 at RSPB Conwy on 20/03 (SL) then 2 at RCR on 4/04 (SH) and 10 at FLQ (KD). [Last year: 26/03 at GF]**Last: 1 at RCR on 07/11 (RMB) [Last year: 4 at Aled Isaf Reservoir on 6/10]**Still a common visitor but with variable numbers. At the ongoing Dinbren Isa farm, Llangollen study there were 9 pairs (8 in 2000) with a clutch size of 4.86 (4.29 in 2000); total young fledged per pair was 6.1 (7.1 in 2000) with 2 clutches deserted and 1 predated (JLR).**Main inland counts (>50): flocks of c100 and c60 over PCR (JAJ); 50+ hawking over Bodelwyddan farmland on 25/07 (DCR); 60 at Holt on 15/09 (NiF). 2 Swallows were seen flying N over Burton on 22/11 as Redwings were seen moving S (HL)!**Coastal: 120 at RCR on 30/08 (SH); 100+ over Kinnel Bay on 28/08 and a late flock of 50+ on 17/09 flying E (SM).***RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** (*Hirundo daurica*)

GWENNOL Y BONDO

*Vagrant. BBRC**1 in with a large hirundine flock over arable fields on the Flintshire/Cheshire border adjacent to IMF reserve, on 9/08 (IMF SL—B.S. Barnacle et al).***HOUSE MARTIN** (*Delichon urbica*)

GWENNOL Y BONDO

*Common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. [WES]**First of spring: 1 at RCR on 14/04 (SH). [Last year: 2 over RCR on 10/04]**Last: 1 on 19/10 at RCR (SH). [Last year: 1 at GV on 18/10.]**Inland: fairly widespread with variable numbers reported from about [35] areas.**BoD, LDC, E, DQ**Largest nesting sites: an increase in the Plas Uchaf colony to 17 (15 in 2001, 5 in 2000) (JLR); 17 at Llanasa (ELJ) and still nesting there on 23/09 (ELJ).**Coastal: Largest counts: 75 at RCR on 28/05 (SH); flocks of 30 regular at POA Llawndy (BHP); 30 at Flint on 13/05 (BTO MR) and c30 at CQNR on 2/09 (JKS).***TREE PIPIT** (*Anthus trivialis*)

CORHEDDYD Y COED

*Scarce summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. [WES]**1st of spring: 1 displaying at Clocaenog on 7/04 (MC); (last year: 2 at The Warren, POA on 11/04.)**Inland: reported from eight areas, mostly upland as follows:*

- a. Clocaenog: 1 displaying on 7/04 (MC); 1 on 5/05 (IE); 1 seen carrying food on 3/06 (AB).

- b. Cilcain: 6 on 11/05 (ELJ).
- c. 1+ at Glyndyfrdwy on 11/05 (NiF)
- d. Llyn Brenig: 2 on 15/04 (JKS).
- e. Fenn's Moss: at least 5 on 27/05, 1+ on 4/08 (NPH/JKS).
- f. Nercwys Mountain: 1 on 10/06 (JKS) and 11/07 (SGR).
- g. RM area: 1 on 6/04 (DCR) and 1 singing at WE on 13/04 (JLR). 1 displaying at Panorama on 4/05 (JKS/NPH).
- h. WIE: 1 on 2/05 (NPH).

Coastal records: reported from three areas, as follows:

- a. POA Warren (Talacre) had 2 on 21/04 (ELJ). 2 very late birds reported as being there on 5/12 (BHP).
- b. Small numbers usually present at Mochdre (BH)
- c. 1-2 seen at RSPB Conwy, 7/04-20/04.

MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*)

CORHEDDYD Y WAEN

Common breeding, passage and wintering species

Inland: reported from over [17] mainly upland locations including RM where the 1st spring arrival was on 17/03 (JLR).

2002: BQ, LB, Minera Mtn, Hope Mtn, HP, BP, WIE//Denbigh Moors and Llyn Brenig, Fenn's Moss, HMCP, Llandegla Moors, Nercwys Mtn., RM, Worth.]

Highest inland counts (>37): autumn passages of 45 at Brenig on 8/09, 100+ at POA on 9/09 (ELJ) and S over RM with largest flock of 37 on 13/09 (JLR). 100+ in stubble at Llanasa on 25/09 and at Dolwen Reservoir on 5/10 (ELJ). 45 at Worthenbury on 7/12 (NF).

Larger numbers recorded along/near the coast:

Highest counts (>40): c40 at RCR on 3/04 (SH); POA: 50 on 6/12 (BHP); c50 passing over SSW on 15/09 (PT).

ROCK PIPIT (*Anthus petrosus*)

CORHEDDYD Y GRAIG

Winter visitor in small numbers

Rhos Point: 1 on 4/01 (JKS). 2 on Towyn sea-wall on 31/07 and 21/10 (SM). 3 at Colwyn Bay (SH 872787) on 6/12 (SD). 1 at RCR on 21/12 (SM). 1 on Kinmel Bay promenade on 26/12 (DCR).

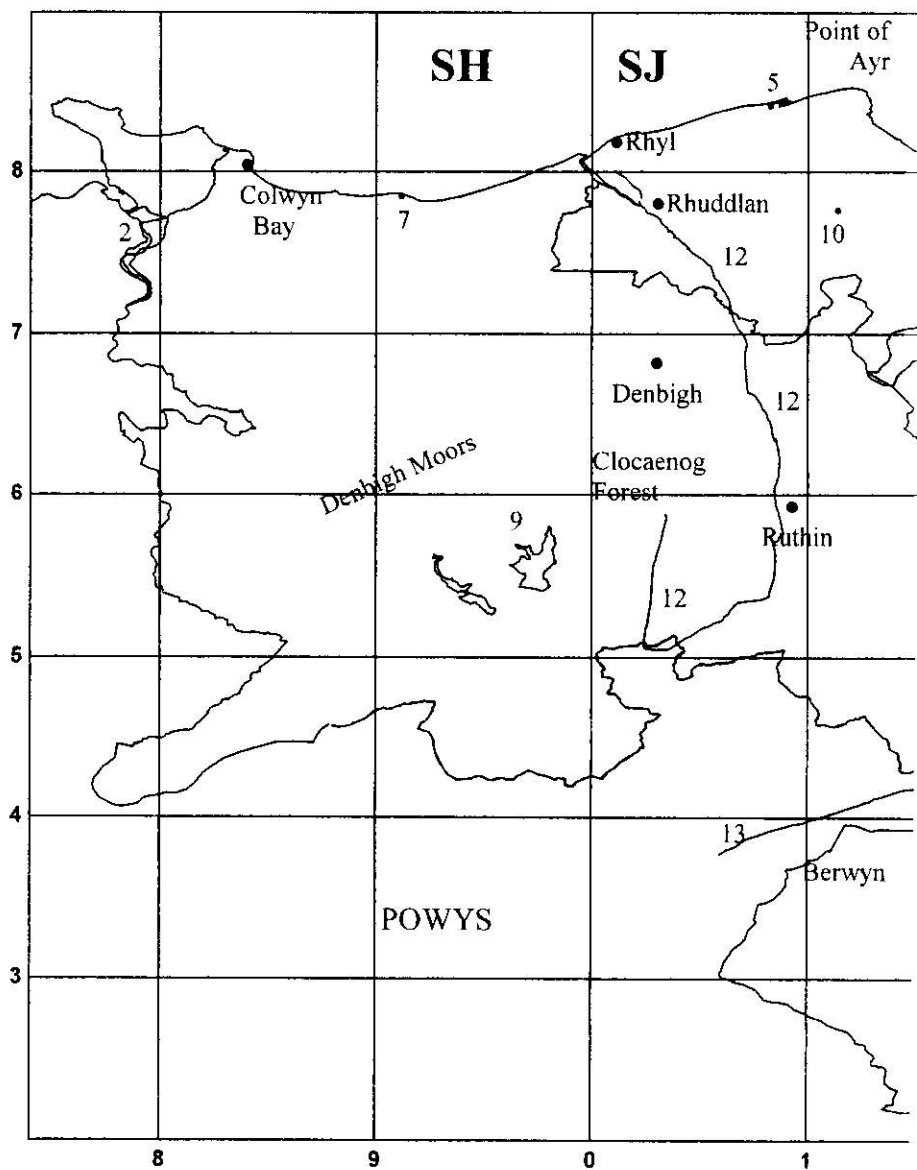
POA had 7 sightings, Jan-March (RSPB SL), 1 on 10/09 (BHP) and a peak count of 6 on 6/11 (SM) and 1 in Dec. OMR had 1 in Nov and 4 in Dec (RSPB SL).

RSPB Conwy had a peak of 10+ on 4/11.

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	Hanmer Mere	SJ 455397
7	Llanddulas	SH 910785
8	Llangollen	SJ 215420
9	Llyn Brenig	SH 9755
10	Llyn Helyg	SJ 1177
11	Moel Famau	SJ 164627
12	River Clwyd	
13	River Dee	
14	Ruabon	SJ 301439
15	Shotton Lagoons	SJ 3071
16	Shotwick Lake and Fields	SJ 3172
17	World's End	SJ 238478
See also Gazetteer		

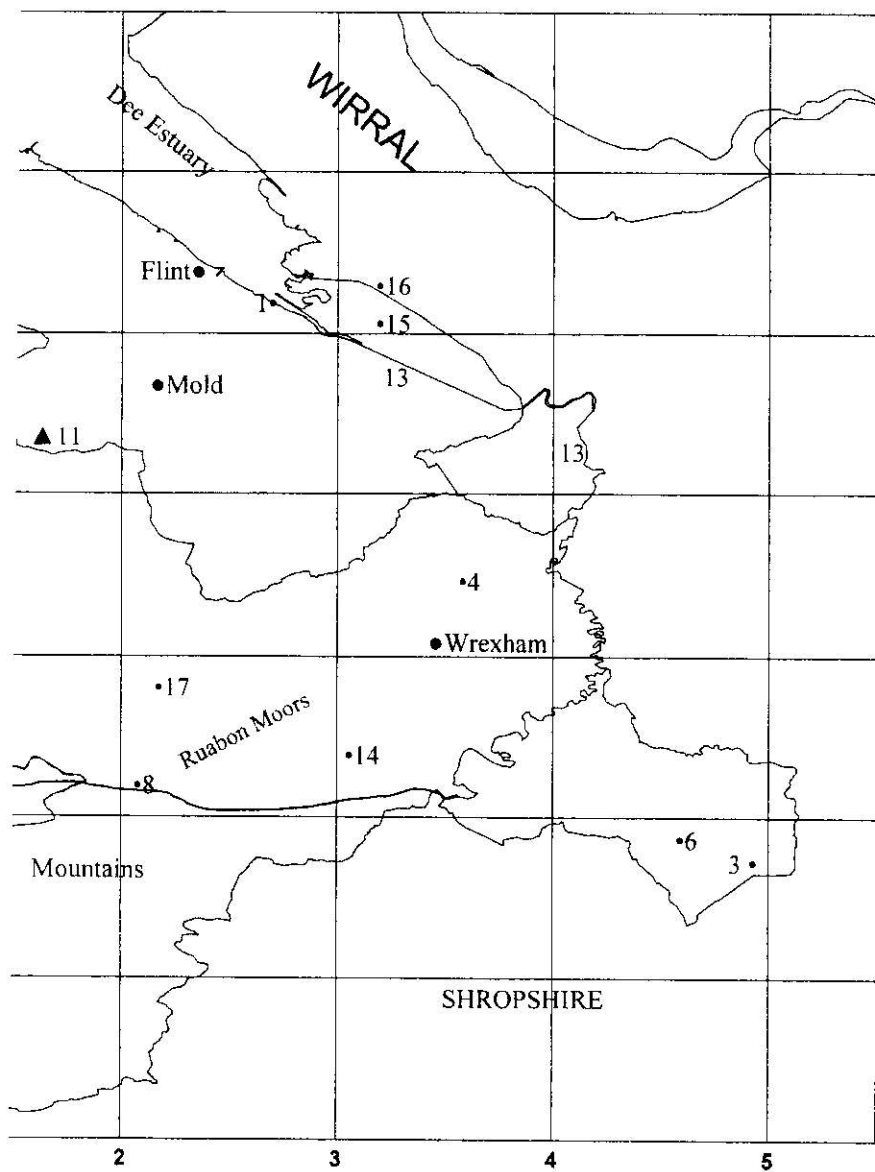
THE COUNTY

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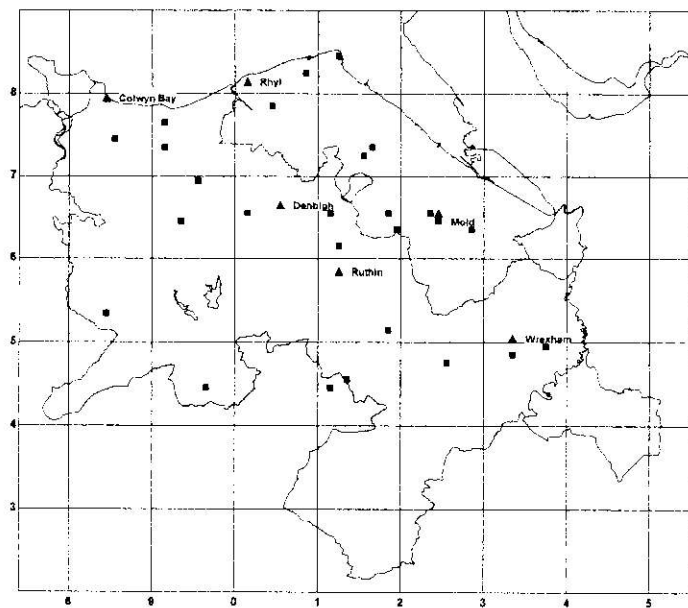


OF CLWYD

for the Key)



BBS squares for Clwyd



YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*)

SIGLEN FELEN

*Passage migrant and localised breeder in small numbers. Amber List [BDMr]**Confirmed or probable breeding was in two areas:*

1. As usual, pairs nested on the *arable fields adjacent to IMF* on the Flintshire/Cheshire border (Shotwick). 1st arrival at IMF on 17/04 (IMF SL). 2 *imm* on 20/07 at Shotwick Reservoirs and up to 7 birds here or SF inc. juvs on 6/05-9/08 (MD, IE, DH, JKS/NPH).
2. Probable breeding at *POA* where occasional sightings, May-June, inc. single birds carrying food and a family party on 23/06 nr the colliery site (BHP).

Inland sightings: 1 at AWCP (E) on 08/05 (AC & EM); 1 at Dobshill on 14/05 (GNR). *Other coastal sightings:* 2 at PMPA on 21/04 (SM); OMR had 1 in June and 2 in July (RSPB SL) and a single *f* at CQNR on 2/09 (JKS/NPH). 1 at RCR on 3/08 (SM). Several sightings at RSPB Conwy, 20/04-15/07.

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

SIGLEN BENLAS

Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

1 at RSPB Conwy, 3/05-13/05.

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla cinerea*)

SIGLEN LWYD

Fairly common breeding resident. [WES]

Fewer sightings this year. Recorded in 12 main inland areas and 12 coastal sites. Confirmed or probable *breeding* at HP (a pair displaying in a quarry on 8/03, part of a recent local movement away from streams) (JLR); Llanddulas and R. Dulas (where a *f* with nest materials on 27/03, and 1 or 2 carrying food on 28/04-17/07 to nest under bridge; and a *m* with a juv in the Upper Dulas Valley at Lllysfaen SH 878975, on 12/06 EL), a family group seen at Chain Bridge Hotel, Llangollen on 24/06 (ELJ).

Regular sightings of 1-2 were at Erddig, GF, Greenfield Valley, POA WF, RCR (where 4 on 01/01, RMB and 3 on 29/09, SH), WE and Wrexham. A garden bird at Rhyl (RMB) and at Glyn Ceiriog where 13 were ringed, September-October (AR). Also recorded in 17 other areas, inc. OMR where 4 in October.

Highest counts: a winter roost of c20 at SSW reed-beds, 15/12 to year-end (PT).

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 [28] areas. FLQ, GF, Holt, PB, PUR, RCR, RCD, POA *Breeding territories:*

Largest numbers: 51 at R. Clwyd near Denbigh on 4/03 (ELJ) and a peak count of 30 at Rhuddlan on 28/04 (SH); c20 at Pensarn beach on 16/03 with 1 White Wagtail; 20

at Holt on 13/10 (NiF).

White Wagtail (ssp. *alba*): 1 at Pensarn beach on 9/02 (DCR) and 1 there with c20 Pied Wagtails on 16/03 (JKS); 4 at Rhos Point on 19/04 (ELJ); 20 at PMPA on 21/04 (SM); a group of 7 at GF on 23/04 (JKS); 3 at Towyn Beach fields on 29/04 (SM); a peak of 26 at RSPB Conwy on 30/04; 1 at FLQ on 5/05 (DH); 10 at RCR on 8/05 (SM); 9 at POA on 26/04 (EL) and 2 with Pied Wagtails there on 10/09 (JKS).

WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

CYNFFON SEDAN

Scarce and irregular winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity. No reports this year.

DIPPER (*Cinclus cinclus*)

BRONWEN Y DWR

now **WHITE-THROATED DIPPER**

Widespread localised breeding resident

Confirmed breeding at upper Eglwyseg river, Llangollen (where 3 pairs bred, the most for 12 years, JLR); R. Clwyd nr Denbigh where 3 on 4/03 and a pair + juv on 12/06 (ELJ).

Regular at: Coedpoeth (Bersham and Plas Power), Erddig, Greenfield Valley (where 2 on 1/03, SM) and along the R. Dulas at Llanddulas (EL, DCR)

Other sightings include: Llanarmon DC (1 on the Ceiriog on 15/07, NPH); Dee Valley, Llangollen (1 on 2/11, PM) and Carrog (1 on 3/10, GO); Oakenholt stream (24/01), WE (28/04), Pwllglas/Ruthin on R. Clwyd SJ 122548 (2 on 13/01, IE; 1 on 21/05, PMR); 1 on 11/08 at Ffyddion stream nr Dyserth (SGR); 2 on Llanfwrog stream (SJ 111577) on 27/11 (AAL).

WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

DRYW

now **WINTER WREN**

Common and widespread breeding resident. [WES]

Widespread and successful. Reported from many areas.

On winter transect counts on RM, the maximum was 36 (compared to 33 in 2001, 37 in 2000 and 44 in 1999) (JLR). 5 ringed in a Glyn Ceiriog garden, June-October (AR).

Some interesting sightings: one successfully built/used a nest in an old Martin nest on a house in Llanasa, (21/04-8/07) (ELJ); a group of 8 at RCR on 17/11 (SH).

DUNNOCK (*Prunella modularis*)

LLWYD Y GWRYCH

now **HEDGE ACCENTOR**

Common breeding resident and garden visitor. [WES]

Successful and widespread across the county.

1st song of the year at Berwyn was again on 3/01; 1 already in song on 27/12—almost same dates as last year (JLR). The largest count was 6 inc. 2 juvs at Llanferres (JF). 8 ringed in a Glyn Ceiriog garden, March-December (AR).

ROBIN (*Erithacus rubecula*)

ROBIN GOCH

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

Another successful breeder in a variety of habitats.

Interesting sightings: 1 singing from a birch, 470m into open moorland, RM, 19/03 and 1 likewise in a different valley on 17/11 (JLR); a group of 10 at RCR on 18/01 (SH). 14 ringed in Glyn Ceiriog garden, February-October (AR).

BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

TINGOCH DU

A scarce migrant and winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.

Several sightings this year, in 3 main areas:

1. 1m seen briefly at Towyn Beach (SH 965797) on 5/04 (SM) and 1f on sea defences at the W end of Towyn beach, several sightings from 29/11-5/12 (SM *et al*).
2. 1 at Station Rd, POA and 2 in BHP VC, 7/11 (BHP/CR)
3. 1 on Mynydd Marian, Llysfaen (SH 887774) on 24/04 (EL)

REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

TINGOCH

now **COMMON REDSTART***Summer breeding visitor; mainly wooded upland areas. Amber List [SPEC2] [WES]
Seen in small numbers across the county.*

The first record was probably a very early bird at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh on 17/03, then 10/04; 7 there by 2/05; fledged young seen on 31/05 and a family on 12/06 (ELJ); and a juv m at Rhuddlan on 14/08 (SH); a m at Llanfair TH on 6/04 and 10 mostly m) on 3/05 (SM);

1 reported at HP on 6/04 (‡); the 1st of spring at PCR was 1 on 10/04 (JAJ); 1 at Glan-y-gors (SJ 2060) on 16/04 (BTO MR); a m at Glyn Lws (SH 885725) on 23/04 and 1 singing on 24/05 (ELJ); 3 at Gwaenysgor on 27/04 and 1 at Llanasa, same day, and 1 singing on 19/05 (ELJ); a pair at Panorama on 28/04 and 1 on 4/05 (JKS/NPH); 1 at Clocaenog on 27/04 (IE) and a pair at Bod Petruel on 4/05 and heard on 6/05 (JKS/NPH); 6 at Cilcain on 11/05 (ELJ) and a pair present throughout June (PT); 1+ at Glyndyfrdwy on 11/05 (NiF); 1 in-and-out of nest box at Y Graig NR, 23/05 (ELJ); a f at Glasfryn, nr Cerrigydrudion, on 5/06 (AB); 1 ringed in a Glyn Ceiriog garden in June (AR);

1 at MQ on 16/06 (BTO MR); 2 at NFR on 18/06 (BTO MR); 1 at Llyn Brenig on 25/06 (BTO MR); 1f nr Rhualt on 29/06 and 13/07 and 1 near Dyserth on 6/07 (SGR); 1f at Talacre Warren on 16/07 (SM); a juv on Wern lane, 12/09 (PMR).

WHINCHAT (*Saxicola rubetra*)

CREC YR EITHIN

Breeding summer visitor in small numbers; mainly in upland areas

Reports from two main upland areas: 1st of spring at RM were 2 *m* in separate valleys, 23/04 (JLR); 4 reported for WE on 19/05 (NiF) and 4*m* at Esclusham on 4/05 (PM); 5+ (inc. young) at HP on 12/08 (JKS/NPH). c15 pairs bred above Cilcain reservoir (PT).

Other records: 1 at R. Alyn (SJ 2464) on 23/04 (BTO MR); 1 at Llanasa on 27/04, 1*m* on 8/05 (ELJ); 1*m* at Towyn Beach fields on 29/04 (SM); 1 at SRRP on 6/05 (‡); 1 at RCR on 14/05 (‡); 1*m* at FM on 23/05 (PMR); 1 at NFR on 24/07 (SD); 2 reported for POA on 14/09 (‡).

STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata*)

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

Breeding resident in small numbers. Amber List [SPEC3]

Seen in small numbers in both inland and coastal areas.

Inland: found in four main areas, as follows:

(i) *upland areas around RM:* pairs at 17 sites on RM and 5 on HP, 2 at Llandegla Moors—an apparent increase possibly due to absence of usual snow and ice (JLR); a pair plus 2*m* at Esclusham on 4/05 and 2 at Moelfre Isaf on 6/08 (PM); c10 at HP inc young on 12/08 (PMR)

(ii) *Denbigh Moors area:* singles at Llyn Bran, Aled Isaf on 2/03; a pr at Llyn Bran on 15/04 (ELJ); 1-2 at Llyn Brenig, 2/03-4/05; 2+ at Clocaenog on 7/04 (MC, ELJ, EL, DCR, PMR, JKS/NPH);

(iii) *other upland areas:* a pair at HMCP on 7/04 (DH); 3 pairs bred above Cilcain (PT) and 8 birds there on 11/05 (ELJ); 1 at MGL on 4/06 (EL); 3 nr Llanarmon-yn-Ial (SJ 158547) on 8/09 (PMR); a family of 6 inc 4 juvs) on Bryn Alun SSSI nr Eryrys (SJ 200590) on 27/08 (AB).

(iv) 1*m* at Fenn's Moss on 27/05 (PMR)

Coastal: found in five localities, as follows:

1. *POA Warren/Gronant:* 1 pair bred with up to 4 juvs seen, 4/07-10/07 (BHP). Birds were seen throughout the year with a peak of 7 on 30/09 (JKS/NPH).
2. 2*f* at Kinnel Bay dunes and 1*m* at Foryd Mill Yard on 16/02; 1*m*, 1*f* at Towyn on 20/03 and 1 on 21/10 (SM); 1*f* nr R. Gele nr Abergele on 18/09 (EL).
3. A first-winter bird was at R. Clwyd at Rhuddlan on 28/09, possibly the first record for this site (SH) and a pair at R. Clwyd, Rhyl on 19/11 (RMB); 3 (1*m*, 2*f*) were at RGC/RSP on 21/03 (RMB).
4. 1*f* on the sea-defence rocks at Llanddulas on 31/08 (EL) and 1*m* on Pensarn beach scrub on 28/12 (DCR).
5. A pair with 4 young at RSPB Conwy.

WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

TINWEN Y GARN

now **NORTHERN WHEATEAR**

Breeding summer visitor. Earliest dates: a m at Dinbren Uchaf on 17/03 (JLR) and 1 at RSPB Conwy on 17/03. [Last year: 15+ at POA on 23/03] Last: 1f at POA on 10/09 (JKS).

More sightings and from more areas this year.

Inland: 6 pairs bred at HP (PT); many sightings in the RM/HP area, 17/03-18/07, with a peak count of 3 at Panorama on 28/04 and a pr with young on 24/06 (ELJ); 6 (5m, 1f) at Llanasa on 26/03 (ELJ); up to 3 seen at HMCP, 26/03-6/05 and 1 at FLQ on 27/04, 2 on 5/05 (DH); many sightings at Llyn Brenig/DM, 30/03-25/06 with peak of 5 on 25/06 (ELJ, EL, JKS/NPH, BTO MR); many sightings at Borrás, 30/03-18/05 with a peak of 5+ Greenland birds on 1/05 (JKS); a pair at MGL on 23/04 (EL); Francis Lane, Holt: 3 on 4/05 (JKS/NPH); 1 at Llyn Gweryd on 4/5(GO) and 9 at Cilcain on 11/05 (ELJ) where 2 pairs bred (PT).

Coastal: birds were present along/near the coast from March-October (20/03-11/10), but in fewer numbers than last year, the peak counts being 14 at Gwaenysgor and 13 at Llanasa, both on 27/04 (ELJ), 10 at Shotwick on 28/04 (BTO MR), 9 reported at Talacre on 29/03 (‡) and 8 at CQNR on 1/05 (PMR); 10 sightings at POA, 26/04-10/09 (ELJ, EL, JKS/NPH) with a peak of 5 on 26/04 (EL); 5 (3m, 2f) at Morfawcwybr, Rhyll on 30/03 (JL).

Breeding: 2 pairs bred within the POA dunes and 1 nr RSPB hide. 2 ads + 2 juvs seen on the warren on 21/08 (BHP). Up to 6 seen at RGC, 29/03-31/08 with 2 juvs there on 15/08 (DCR).

Interesting sightings: 2 brightly coloured males on different parts of RM attracted the interest of Meadow pipits: one had 17 "dancing" above it and a second was "mobbed" by six pipits, 19/04 (JLR). A late garden bird at Rhyll on 11/10 (RMB).

RING OUZEL (*Turdus torquatus*)

WYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

Breeding summer visitor in small numbers to upland areas. Red List [BDp, BDMr]

Several main sightings:

1. In the RM/Llangollen/WE area: seen or heard at various sites at HP from 8/03-19/09 inc. a pair feeding young on 21/05 (JLR), an imm seen on 12/08 (JKS/NPH), 3 birds (a pair and a juv) on 19/09 (JLR). 1 at Dinbren Uchaf on 17/03 and 3 at WE on 23/04 (JLR). The peak count was 13 birds seen in a single flock at WE on 7/04 plus a pair at HP (PK) (*see article*). [PM]
2. A male on *Denbigh Moors* on 28/04 (IE)
3. On the edge of our area at Cwm Penanner (SH 883474), a pair on 13/07 (WO).
4. A late bird reported at POA on 7/10 (‡).

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*)

MWYALCHEN

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

A very successful bird across the county. *Sightings of interest*: 1 carrying nesting material near Summerhill (SJ 3153) on 5/03 (JLR);

Largest numbers: a peak count of 30 at RCR on 19/10 (SH); a flock of 20 young birds over Llanasa on 9/08 (ELJ). Regular at Caergwle castle and fields where 16 on 6/01 (DH).

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: 15 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 20/04 (PMR). [Last year: 12 May, Talacre Warren]

First autumn bird: 1st at RM, 13/10 (JAJ). [Last year: 17 October, Shotton Paper Lagoons]

Seen throughout the county. Sizeable flocks (>100): a mixed flock with Redwings of 100+ at Belgrano nr Abergele on 1/01 (SM); 300 at Holt on 13/01 and 200 on 3/11 (NiF); 'hundreds' in trees, very excited at PCR on 10/02 (JAJ); c400 at Bangor-is-y-Coed on 25/02 (JKS); 100 at Pulford Meadow on 7/04 (GS); 2 flocks of 300-400 (inc. some Redwings) flying high over RM to WE on 4/11 (JAJ); 100 at RCR on 18/11 (SM); 200+ at Francis Lane, Holt on 10/12 (JKS); 450 at Poulton on 7/12 (NF).

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*)

BRONFRAITH

Widespread breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BD] BCCC [WES]

Reports from across the county. In a survey of all Wrexham County Borough, 9/03-9/04, JLR recorded birds in 135 tetrads and 184 1km squares. Neighbouring Denbighshire recorded 81 territory-holding birds in 37 1km squares, March-June.

See cbrg sheet—Holt, Rhudlan, BPC, FLQ, FLH, B, cloc. Llanasa, Sychdyn, Hawarden,

Breeding: an adult with 4 young at Bod Petruel on 4/05 (JKS/NPH); a family at Loggerheads on 2/06 (ELJ); 1 pair bred at POA Llawndy Farm (BHP).

Other records: a peak winter flock of 20 at RCR on 01/01(RMB); 6+ with other thrushes, excited and perched in bushes, suggesting migrants, Berwyn, 16/10 (JLR)

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: 1 at RCR on 17/04 (SH). [Last year: 2 over River Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 29 March (SH)]

First autumn bird: heard at RCR on 6/10, then 4 seen on 7/10 (SH). [Last year: 28 September, 1 flying W over River Clwyd, Rhuddlan (SH)]

Reported from over 29 areas. CCW, GF, RHudd, WXM x2, BoD, FLH, B, RM, LPS, Glyndy, Holt, Llanddulas, W, PCR, BW, WE, LLH, RCD, Sychdyn, Worth 25+ flew over Wrexham Town Centre on 19/10 (JKS); 20 in a Sychdyn garden on 20/10 (AB/IS).

Main counts (100+): 200+ flying W over RCR on 2/01 (SM); c150 nr Llyn Helyg on 2/03 (ELJ); c100 flying W at Berwyn on 28/10; c120 at WE on 31/10 and a peak flock of 300 on 4/11 along Dee valley at Glyndyfrdwy (JLR); a peak count of 100 at RCR on 9/11 (SH); 150 at Poulton on 7/12 (NF).

MISTLE THRUSH (*Turdus viscivorus*)

BRYCH Y COED

Widespread, low density breeding resident. [WE]

Reported from [30] 19 locations in small numbers. Main reports: a flock of 13 over Llanasa on 20/07 (ELJ); 11 at Holt on 11/08 (NiF); 5+3juvs on 6/05 and 13 on 27/09 at RCR (SH); a pr at Lower Dulas Valley on 4/04 and 28/04, 1 carrying food/nesting material (EL); a family of 5 at MGL on 24/05 (EL); a peak count of 24 at POA colliery terminal on 29/11 (BHP).

Abergele, SF, Rhu, Wxm, Llang, LB, DM, Llandu, LP, Cilygroes, AP, GF, Holt, FLH, RCR, Sychdyn

CETTI'S WARBLER (*Cettia cetti*)

TELOR CETTI

Scarce vagrant. Clwyd County Rarity.

A single bird (a 3 year old f) was netted at Shotton Steelworks by Paul Triggs *et al* on 3/11/02 (present until 5/01/03). The bird was ringed on 23/06/02 at Chew Valley Lake, Avon. This is the second record for Flintshire. Full details submitted by Paul Triggs.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (*Locustella naevia*)

TROELLWR BACH

now **COMMON GRASSHOPPER WARBLER**

Localised summer breeding visitor. Red List [BDp, BDMr]

The first was 1 on RM on 16/04 (PL).

Inland sites (more reports this year): the 1st of spring on RM was on 16/04 (PL); 4 singing elsewhere here, April-May (JLR), 2 at WE on 19/05 (NiF) and 3 at Esclusham on 4/05 (PM); 1 singing at Trelogan on 20/04 (ELJ); 1-2 at R. Alyn nr Mold (SJ 2464) on 23-24/04 (BTO MR); 1 at Gwaenysgor on 27/04 (ELJ); 1 at Bod Petruel on 27/04 (‡); 2 singing on Llandegla Moors, 3/05 and 2 singing nr NFR, 4/07 (JLR).

Coastal records: 1 reeling near SR on 22/04 (JKS) and 2/05 (‡); 1 at POA on 24/04 (MC), 29/04 (IE) and 12/06 (BHP); several sites at Talacre-Gronant with 2 on 12/05 and 15/06 and 1 on 13/07 (DCR).

SEDGE WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) TELOR YR HESG
Breeding summer visitor

The first record was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 10/04.

Confirmed Breeding: up to 5 birds at Towyn reeds, inc. 3-4 juvs on 4/07 (SM).

Inland records came from 5 locations: 3 at Holt on 4/05, 2 on 7/07 and 1 on 23/07 (NiF); 1 at MHCW on 8/05 (AC/EM); 5 singing at Nant-y-Frith reservoir by 11/05 (SD); 1 at FLQ on 1/07 (KD); 1 at Dolwen Reservoir on 22/08 (EL).

Coastal: found in 4 main areas: (i) in the Shotton area, Shotton Steelworks recorded birds from 21/04 to 15/09 with a peak of 14 on 19/05 (PT) and SRRP had 4+ on 8/07. (ii) Gronant/Talacre Warren/Prestatyn GC had 1 on 21/04 (ELJ), 5+ by 4/05 (JKS/NPH), 7 by 12/05 (DCR) and 11 males by 27/05 (ELJ); 3-4 breeding pairs recorded by BHP.

(iii) RCR had 4 records: 1 on 22/04, 27/04 and 16/05 (SH) and 1 calling on 11/07 (JKS);

(iv) up to 5 birds at Towyn reeds, inc. 3-4 juvs on 4/07 and 2 at Towyn beach on 27/05 (SM).

REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) TELOR Y CYRS
now **EURASIAN REED WARBLER**
Rare breeding summer visitor

Only a few records from a few areas.

The first record was 1 at SSW on 14/04 (PT).

Breeding: the main breeding area was at Shotton Steelworks where c20 pairs bred (126 birds were netted; present 14/04 - 20/10) [PT].

Other records: 1 calling at Gronant on 4/05 (JKS) and 27/05 (ELJ); 1 at Towyn Beach fields on 17/06 and 4/07 (SM); 1 at Holt on 21/07 and 5 on 3/08 (NiF).

BARRED WARBLER (*Sylvia nisoria*) TELOR RHESOG
Rare autumn passage migrant. Welsh Rarity—see Appendix 2.

LESSER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia curruca*) LLWYDFRON FACH
Scarce breeding summer visitor

The first record was 1 at MQ on 24/04 (JBF).

Coastal areas:

- (a) *the POA area:* several breeding pairs—3 in sand dune scrub, 1-2 at Llawndy and 2 at WF (BHP).
- (b) *River Clwyd, Rhyl-Rhuddlan:* the first *m* was on 3/05 (SH). 1 on 18/07 (SM) then 5 on 12/08 and the last on 1 on 7/09 (SH).
- (c) *plus* a singing bird was at RSPB Conwy on 7/07 and a juv on 19/08. A late bird was seen at SSW on 1/09 (PT)

There were more inland records this year (from 9 locations): in the Gresford area, there were singles singing at Marford Quarry on 25/04 (JBF), Borrass on 3/05 and GF on 7/05. 1 was also seen at Pant yr Ochain on 3/06 and in scrub at nearby GF on the same day (JN). 2 singing in scrub on WIE on 2-4/05 (JKS/NPH); 3 singing at Pantymwyn Pasture nr Mold on 3/05 (MKB); c10 singing in/around Buckley (GR); 1 at Eyarth Rocks, Pwllglas (SJ 120538) on 24/05 (PMR); 1 nr Dyserth on 3/07 (SGR); 2 at Holt on 3/08 and 11/08 (NiF).

WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia communis*)

LLWYDFRON

now **COMMON WHITETHROAT**

Common breeding summer visitor.

First birds: 1 at RSPB Conwy on 10/04 then 2 at Almere nr Holt on 24/04 (GO).

Other records include: 15+ at WIE scrub area and 3 at nearby FLH, all 4/05 (JKS/NPH); 5 at Llanasa on 19/05 (ELJ); 5 pairs bred at POA sand scrub and 3-4 at WF and Llawndy (BHP); 4 at Rhyl Splash Point on 8/06 (RMB).

Last birds: 1 heard at SBL on 8/07 (JKS/NPH).

GARDEN WARBLER (*Sylvia borin*)

TELOR YR ARDD

Breeding summer visitor. [WE]

Singles singing in Tan-y-Gopa Wood, Abergele and at Lower Dulas Valley on 16/04 (EL); 1 at Caergwle Castle on 28/04 (DH); 1-2 at Pantymwyn Pastures nr Mold (SJ 1964), 3/05-26/06 (MKB); 1 in song at Wern, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, 5/05 (PMR); 2 at Clocaenog on 5/05 (IE); a m at Cilcain on 8/05 (ELJ); 1 at Glyndyfrdwy on 11/05 (NiF); 1 ringed in a Glyn Ceiriog garden in June (AR); 1 at Minera Quarry (SJ 254522) on 16/06 (SD); 1 nr Ruthin on 13/07 (ELJ); 1 at RCR on 15/08 (SH).

A single bird, possibly over-wintering, was netted in a Rhos-on-Sea garden on 17/11 (SKT).

BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

TELOR PENDDU

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

Spring birds: 1 singing at Llyn Helyg on 30/03 (ELJ) and 2 at Rhuddlan woods, same day (SH). [*Last year:* 1 at GV on 4/04 and 4 by 18/04].

Other records include: birds present at R. Clwyd, Rhyl-Rhuddlan 30/03-8/11 and up to 5 pairs nested (SH). A pair fledged 3 young in a wooded Dyserth garden, 30/05 (SGR).

Late or wintering birds: an exceptional count of 11 birds were ringed in a Rhos-on-Sea garden, 1/01 and 30/10-29/12 (SKT); 1f in a Towyn garden on 7/01 (SM); 1m in Llanddulas garden on 9/01, 19/11 and 18/12 (EL); up to 3 (2m, 1f) in a Rhuddlan garden, 12/01-23/03 (SH); 1 f in a Llanferres garden, 17/02-31/03 (JF); a m + f in a Wrexham garden, 1/01-23/01 and then 11/12-31/12 (NPH); a m in a Dyserth garden, 25/02 (MC); 1 at SSW, 6/10 (PT); 1 at POA in December (RSPB SL).

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) TELOR AELFELYN
Scarce autumn passage migrant. Clwyd County Rarity.

1 at Tan Lan Banks Wood, nr Talacre (SJ 113834), briefly, on 28/02 (SM).

WOOD WARBLER (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) TELOR Y COED
Uncommon breeding summer visitor. [WES]

More records and localities this year. 1 singing at Acton Park, Wrexham, on 22/04 (unusual for here and probably moved on) (JN); 1st at RM area was 1 singing from the Foel, Pentredwr, 25/04 (JLR). Up to 3 birds at Bod Petruall/Clocaenog, 26/04 – 6/05 (IE, SM, JKS/NPH). 1+ at Glyndwyfrdwy on 11/05 (NiF); 1 at Llanfair TH on 14/05 (SM). 4 at Loggerheads on 2/06 (ELJ). 1 at Nant-y-Ffrith (SJ 267541) on 12/06 (SD). 1 at Vivod on 24/06 (ELJ).

CHIFFCHAFF (*Phylloscopus collybita*) SIFF-SAFF
now COMMON CHIFFCHAFF

Common breeding summer visitor. Small numbers overwinter.

First spring sightings: 1 at R. Clwyd, Rhyl-Rhuddlan area on 16/03 (SH). [Last year: 1 at the Warren, Gronant on 8/03 and 1 singing at Chirk Castle on 14/03]

Notable and probable breeding records (>4): 9 singing at Nant-y-Ffrith (SJ 267541) by 26/03 (SD); a peak of 8 at RCR on 14/07 (SH).

Late sightings: 1 calling at POA on 10/09 (ELJ, JKS); 1 singing at Wern on 11/09 (PMR); 1 singing at Llanasa on 23/09 (ELJ); 1 singing at Galltegfâ (SJ 109578) on 28/09 (AAL); the last at RCR was 1 on 10/10 (SH); a very vocal bird in a Rhos-on-Sea garden on 16/10 (SKT).

Wintering birds: the last records were of 2 at SSW on 3/11 (PT), 2 reported at POA on 22/11 (‡), 1 at RCR on 24/11 and 1 singing and calling at Smuggler's Inn, POA on 6/12 (BHP).

WILLOW WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) TELOR YR HELYG
Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. [WES]

First sightings: a very early bird, possibly over-wintering, in a Rhyl garden on 31/02 (RMB) then 1 calling at RSPB Conwy on 2/04 (SL) and 2 calling at RCR, 3/04 (SH). [Last year: 6 birds at Flint on 3/04]

Last: 1 at RCR on 4/09 (SH). [Last year: 1 at Borras on 1/09]

5 singing males at Pantymwyn Pastures nr Mold on 3/05 (MKB); 4+ at WIE on 4/05 (JKS/NPH). 6 on RM on 23/04 (JLR); 7 at Llyn Brenig on 25/06 (BTO MR).
autumn/winter birds - last at POA on 30/09 (BHP).

GOLDCREST (*Regulus regulus*) DRYW EURBEN
Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. [WES]
Widespread across the county. Smaller numbers this year.

FIRECREST (*Regulus ignicapillus*)

DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

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

1 seen from 3 metres on honeysuckle in a Holywell garden (SJ 190771), 10/09 (BR). RSPB Conwy had 4 sightings, 6/01-1/03 and 1 on 24/10.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa striata*)

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Summer breeding visitor. Amber List [SPEC3] **BCCC** [WE]

Probable or confirmed breeding records: 2 breeding pairs at WE estate, nests only 240m apart, with a possible third pair in between (JLR); a pair nested on a security light at Llanferres but all 4 fledglings found dead out of nest, 25/05-July (JF); Llanarmon DC (1 bird feeding 1 young, 12/08), (JKS/NPH); 2 pairs bred in nest-boxes at Llanarmon-yn-Ial (PMR). A pair seen 23/06-8/08, bred at Llanfwrog (SJ 115577) and raised two young in a garage but nestlings found dead on 14/07 (AAL). A pair feeding (at least) 2 large young in a nest at Chain Bridge Hotel, Llangollen on 24/06 and 2 more fledged young seen nearby (ELJ). A family party nr Chirk aqueduct on 8/08 (ELJ). Pairs/doubles also seen at Llanasa on 26/05 and at Gwaenysgor on 1/06, Llyn Helyg on 28/07 (ELJ).

Also seen at (singles/doubles): 1 at Bryneglwys, 1 at Berwyn Station (JLR), 1 at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh on 31/05 (ELJ); 1 ringed in a Glyn Ceiriog garden in June (AR); 1 at Nant Alyn (SJ 197662) on 9/06 (MKB); 2 in a Ruthin garden on 12/06 (IE) and 1 nr Ruthin (BBS SJ 1359) on 13/06 (MKB); 1 at Nant-y-Garth Pass on 24/06 (ELJ); 1 at Wrexham Police Station, 13/08 (JKS).

PIED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

GWYBEDOG BRITH

Summer breeding visitor. [WES]

Principal breeding records:

(i) Llangollen study block: 56 boxes had 30.4% occupation, as against 42% in 2000. Of 26 boxes at WE, 11 were occupied, with mean clutch of 7.1 (n=10) but very low productivity per pair at 2.94; the 1st singing male at Dinbren was on 10/04 and an independent *juv* was seen fly-catching at WE on 21/07 [John Lawton Roberts];

(ii) Nannerch: in an on-going study, 7 pairs which raised broods. The average clutch size was 7.7 and the average young size was 7.4 [Paul Triggs];

(iii) Coed Cilygroeslwyd, Coed Nant-Ddu, Hendre, Nantclwyd Hall and Wern: 27 nests were recorded of which 4 failed; the remaining 23 fledged 149 young [Ian Spence].

Also recorded in 11 other areas : seen from 3/04 at Nant Mill, Coedpoeth (JM); 2m at Llanfair TH on 6/04 and 10 (mostly *m*) on 3/05 (SM); Bod Petruall: 4 sightings of 1-2 seen/heard, 4/05-18/07 (JKS/NPH); 1 at TMR on 9/05 (NH); 5 singing males at Coed-y-Felin (SJ 192678) by 10/05 (MKB); 1 at Glyndyfrdwy on 11/05 (NiF); a pair

at Llanasa on 19/05 (ELJ); 1 at tramway Glyn Ceiriog 20/5 (GO); a *m* at Glyn Lws on 24/05 (EL); a pair in Tan-y-Cut Woods, Froncysyllte and a pair at nest box above Llangollen on 5/6 (MDR).

LONG-TAILED TIT (*Aegithalos caudatus*)
Common breeding resident. [WE]

TITW GYNFFON-HIR

Seen across the county, usually in small flocks. Increasingly a visitor to garden feeders.

Highest counts >25: a peak count of 26 inc. 12 juvs at Rhuddlan on 31/05 (SH).

Breeding: a nest located at R. Clwyd nr Denbigh on 17/03 and 2 on 10/04 (ELJ); 2 pairs bred in POA scrub (BHP).

MARSH TIT (*Parus palustris*)
Uncommon breeding resident. Red List [BDp]

TITW'R WERN

Seen in small numbers across the county.

1 at Golden Grove, Llanasa on 10/01 (ELJ); several visits of a bird to a Dyserth garden seed tray, 22/02-31/03 (SGR); 1 at Fenn's Moss on 3/03 (IE); 1 at Wych Brook, Wrexham (SJ 474442) on 22/03 (JLR); a singing male at Pantymwyn Pastures nr Mold on 8/04 (MKB); 1 at Colwyn Bay Zoo on 13/04 (GJ); a family group nr Chirk Aqueduct on 8/08 (ELJ); 1 at Eyarth Rock, Pwllglas on 21/08, hovering to take this-tledown (ELJ); 1 on garden nut feeder at Llanfwrog nr Ruthin on 26/08 and 1 at Rhyd-y-Gareg on 18/11 (SJ 109569) (AAL); 1 at Rhuddlan on 16/09 (SH); 2 at Bon-tuchel on 14/12 (IE).

WILLOW TIT (*Parus montanus*)
Scarce breeding resident. Red List [BDp]
Seen in small numbers in mainly forest areas.

TITW'R HELYG

1 at Fenn's Moss on 3/03 (IE); 7 sightings of 1-2 at Clocaenog on 7/04-1/09 (IE); a pair at Llyn Helyg on 17/04 (ELJ).

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

TITW PENDDU

Recorded through the year in many areas. Takes readily to garden feeders. Highest counts: a total of 73 were ringed through the year in a Glyn Ceiriog garden (AR). 5+ on garden feeders, Wrexham, 1/01 and 16/12 and 5+ in Clocaenog on 15/04 (JKS).

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

TITW TOMOS LAS

Largest reported counts: a peak count of 35 at Rhuddlan on 1/11 (SH). A total of 221 were ringed in a Glyn Ceiriog garden, with a peak of 53 in March (AR).

GREAT TIT (*Parus major*)

TITW MAWR

Common and widespread breeding resident. [WES]

Found throughout the area and through the year. Also a garden feeder and nester. Highest counts: a peak of 20 on 1/11 at Rhuddlan (SH); 12 inc 4 juvs in a Llanferres garden (JF). A total of 80 were ringed through the year in a Glyn Ceiriog garden, with a peak of 21 in September (AR).

NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*)

DELOR Y CNAU

now **WOOD NUTHATCH**

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

Territorial/breeding sightings: a family at Loggerheads on 2/06 (ELJ); a pair inc. 1 juv resident in a Llanferres garden on feeders (JF); 3 at Rhuddlan on 18/07 (SH).

TREECREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*)

DRINGWR BACH

now **EURASIAN TREECREEPER**

Widespread breeding resident. [WES]

Recorded in small numbers in woodland areas and gardens. Highest counts: Also seen on fat-feeders at PCR in early Feb (JAJ).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*)

CIGYDD MAWR

An occasional winter passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

1 at OMR on 14/04 (GR).

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 counts: 7 at Llanfwrog (SJ 111570) on 22/09 (AAL); 6 at Nant-y-Ffrith (SJ 264539) on 7/01 (SD); 5 at Clocaenog on 15/04 and 18/07; 5 at Llanfwrog nr Ruthin on 22/09 (AAL).

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: 34 at Rhuddlan on 11/09 and 30/09 (SH).

CHOUGH (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)

BRAN GOESGOCH

now **RED-BILLED CHOUGH**

Scarce breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC3] Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

Believed to have bred at two sites within the County.

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 GF (where c100 on 1/01, JKS), Llangollen (c150 on 17/03, JKS), HP (50+ nesting on ledges, 15/04, JKS), Llyn Helyg (60+ on 29/01, DCR), Minera Quarry (where 70 on 8/01, SD), POA (a peak of 78 on 22/07, BHP), Rhuddlan (a peak of 200 on 23/09, SH). A pair seen stealing the fatballs from a Llanferres garden (JF).

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*)

YDFRAN

Common and widespread colonial breeding resident

Rookeries recorded at Erddig, Gresford, Llangollen, PMPA (where 70 nests, SM), Rhuddlan Estate Woods (35 nests, DCR), Shotton Steelworks (where a small colony of 10 pairs again bred on a single gantry at the National Power Station, PT) and Gors Wood at Towyn. In Llangollen, the Pentredwr-Eglwyseg colonies totalled 84 nests compared to 101 in 2000 and 100 in 1999 (Eglwyseg 0, Pentredwr 13, Britannia 19, Tan Lan 52). The first flock of summer on moorland was c40 at HP on 3/06 (JLR).

Highest flock counts: 63 at POA Warren on 22/07 (BHP); 50 at Rhuddlan, 8-27/09 (SH).

CARRION CROW (*Corvus corone corone*)

BRAN DYDDYN

Common breeding resident. [WE]

Widespread across the county. The highest count was 35 at Flint on 2/11 (SH).

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

MAE'R FRÂN LWYD

Occasional species. Clwyd County Rarity.

1 still present at Llangollen site, 5/02-12/04 (JLR). 1 at Belgrano, nr Abergele (SH 958792) on 13/01 (first seen on 29/12) (SM).

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 44 main areas.

Highest counts (10+): 11 at Llyn Brenig on 12/01 (ELJ); 10 feeding on a dead sheep at Llansanan on 5/02 (ELJ); 20 tumbling near Dolwen Reservoir on 2/03 (ELJ); a flock of 14 on RM on 19/03 (JLR); 12 at WE on 7/04 (PK); a flock of 50+ near Llyn Brenig on 15/04 (JKS/NPH); 18 at Pen-y-Cloddiau on 18/09 (ELJ); flocks of 7 and 10 at Llanarmon DC on 12/08 (JKS/NPH)

Nesting and possible breeding records: 1 nesting within 1 metre of a fulmar's nest at Prestatyn Quarry on 30/03 (ELJ); a pr with 2 young at HP on 1/04 (JKS); a nest at Gwaenysgor on 27/04 (ELJ); a nest at Ysceifiog on 3/05 (ELJ); a pr with 3 young at RCR on 26/05 (SM) and a resident pair nested again on Rhuddlan castle with 4 young seen from May onwards and 7 birds on 28/06 (SH).

The RM/HP study showed an increase in numbers of pairs since 2000 (study suspended in 2001 due to FMD) with at least 3 new territories with active nests. Clutch size high at 5.56 (n=11) but production of young disappointing, averaging only 2.2 per laid-in nest (n=13). 2 pairs failed, 1 probably from interference from non-breeding birds. Partial brood losses were very high, with 2 broods of 2 and 4 of only 1 chick. Possible causes were reduced carrion availability through good spring weather and mortality from heavy rain in May (JLR).

Noteworthy sightings: seen over Wrexham TC (1 on 19/10, JKS) and a pair battling with Peregrines over St. Giles Church on 15/12 (Hywel Jones).

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. Red List [BDp]

A successful bird found in a variety of habitats in varying numbers. Maximum numbers: the usual winter roost on Foryd Bridge Rhyll— c4000 on 7/01 (ELJ) and an enormous temporary first winter (January) roost, possibly peaking at 50,000, in a nursery at Rhuddlan; in the second-winter period, the peak was c3500 on 6/12 (SH). Conwy Reserve held some 3000, chased by a Peregrine on 15/03 (ELJ). A huge winter roost developed at Wrexham Police Station numbered in thousands (JM *et al*) - the consequent smell and mess on vehicles subsequently led to trees being removed; c250 moving W at Berwyn, c600 in a WE field waiting for fog to clear before moving and c1000 nr Ponderosa on HP, all 11/11 (JLR). Large winter flocks came in to roost at POA caravan parks, with 5000 on 8/11 (BHP); c1500 at CQNR on 9/12 (ELJ).

Other high counts (>100): 700 at POA on 25/11 (RSPB SL); a peak of 300 at BQ in November (LW); 200+ at Rhuddlan on 1/01 (DCR); 200 at Holt on 13/01 (NiF); 200+ in Llanferres fields on 23/01 (JF); 300+ on Dyserth farmland on 2/02 (DCR); 200 in a Rhyll garden on 27/08 (RMB); 150+ at Llanasa on 27/09 (ELJ); c200 in Llanfwrog fields on 2/12 (AAL); 300+ on Prestatyn GC on 1/02 and 200+ on 17/12 (DCR).

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING (*Sturnus roseus*) DRUDWEN WRIDOG
now **ROSY STARLING**. Welsh rarity.
Rare visitor

1 at Ruthin on 17-18/06 (JWB, SM).

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) ADERYN Y TO
Common breeding resident. Amber List

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

Some breeding records: 1 pair only bred in boxes at Berwyn, but raised 3 broods (JLR); 1 pair successfully built/used a nest in a House Martin's nest at Llanasa, 8/07 (ELJ).

Largest counts: 40 in a Rhyl garden on 26/01 (RMB); 30+ at Old Rhuddlan on 1/01 (DCR); 30+ at GF on 26/08 (JKS); 50 at Rhuddlan on 31/08 (SH).

TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*) GOLFAN Y MYNYDD
now **EURASIAN TREE SPARROW**
A scarce localised breeding resident. Red List [BDP, BDMr] **BCCC**

Breeding: In 2001/2 ground feeding on a 6 acre set aside field was started at Morfa Clwyd, Bodelwyddan, resulting in a maximum count of 73 Tree Sparrows and 44 House Sparrows on 22/02/02. Boxes covered 10 acres and, in the summer of 2002, 15 active nests fledged 113 young (*see article by John Hickerton in this report*). *Other breeding records:* 2 territories at Burton on 29/07 (HL); a pair visiting and then feeding young at a bird-table, Dyserth, 4/03-9/06 (CM).

Other records: [see CBRG sheet] 3 nr Hawarden (SJ 328661) on 1/01 (AB/IS); regular at Gwaenysgor with a peak count of 18 on 27/01 (BDK); 15 at Cambrian Walk, Rhyl same day (JL); 8+ at Green Lane, Sealand on 8/04 (GS); 1 at R. Clwyd, Ruthin on 13/01, 3 on 18/08, 1 on 22/08 (IE); a single bird only at Bangor on Dee, 25/02 and 4/05 (JKS); 1 in a Burton garden on 11/02 (WP); present at Mochdre (Mrs Parry); 2 at Towyn on 23/03 and 1 on 20/12 (SM); 1 at RCR on 23/04 (SM); 1 at Ysceifiog on 3/05 (ELJ); 1 at Llanasa on 20/06 (ELJ); 2 nr Bettisfield on 28/07 (AB); a pr on 15/08 at BHP; 4 nr Llandegla (SJ 187531) on 8/09 (PMR); singles occasionally seen in a Dyserth garden then 4 on 26/10 (SGR).

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*) JI-BINC
Common breeding resident with autumnal movement away from breeding areas.

Widespread across the region and a garden bird in small numbers. [WES]

Highest counts: c200 moving N over PCR on 13/02 (JAJ); c100 at Llyn Helyg farm on 12/01 (ELJ); 100+ on beeches at RM edge on 17/11 (JLR); 70 at Wern, Llanar-

mon-yn-Ial on 17/07 (RES); 40 at Rhuddlan on 26/01 (SH); c40 at CQNR on 2/12 (JKS); 50+ at PMPA on 19/12 (SM). A total of 144 were ringed through the year in a Glyn Ceiriog garden (AR).

The 1st song of the year was at Berwyn on 15/01! (JLR).

BRAMBLING (*Fringilla montifringilla*) PINC Y MYNYDD
Localised winter visitor in variable numbers. Amber List [BR]

Observed in small numbers only in the first winter period but more widespread and in larger numbers in the second.

Observed in only small numbers but from more areas this year, as follows:

First winter period: a single bird in a Dyserth garden, 23-30/01 (MC); at Gwaenysgor, 2/01-25/01(BDK); a m and f at BPR on 25/02 (JL); 1 ringed in a Glyn Ceiriog garden in March (AR); 1 with Chaffinches at a feeder, PCR, 16/03 and 2-3 there on 23/03 (JAJ). 1 at Rake Lane, Hawarden on 31/03 (GS). 4 at Bwlchgwyn (SJ 267535) on 26/03 (SD).

1st autumn record: 1 over PCR on 13/10 and several with Chaffinches *ibidem* on 22/10 (JAJ); a flock with Chaffinches, eating beech mast, and chased by a Merlin, Pentre Foelas, 26/10; 20-30 at Clocaenog on 16/11 (IE); 6 with Chaffinches feeding under RM beeches, 17/11 and c40 with Chaffinches at WE on 6/12; a single bird at Llanferres on 28/11, investigating a seed-feeder (JF); 1+ calling from beeches at Pentredwr on 7/12 (JLR). 1m at PMPA on 17/12 and a f there on 19/12 (PM, SM); 2 at POA in Dec (RSPB SL).

GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*) LLINOS WERDD
now **EUROPEAN GREENFINCH**
Common breeding resident

Successful across the region, including gardens. Largest flocks: a large coastal flock of 500+ at Towyn on 22/10 (SM); 55 at Rhuddlan on 9/10 (SH). A total of 76 were ringed through the year in a Glyn Ceiriog garden (AR).

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 flock of 100+ feeding on scabious and knapweed at Pantymwyn Pastures on 16/09 (MKB); 100+ at Llanasa on 27/09 then 250+ next day (ELJ); a peak of 130 at Rhuddlan on 3/09 (SH); 60+ at Dolwen reservoir on 5/10 (ELJ);

SISKIN (*Carduelis spinus*)

PILA GWYRDD

now **EURASIAN SISKIN***Winter visitor and breeding resident.**Found across the region: again recorded from more areas 29 this year, usually in very small numbers (over 15 in 2001). Also a frequent garden visitor.**Highest counts (>50): 50 at Llanasa on 27/04 (ELJ); sizeable winter flocks of 150+ over Towyn sea-wall, flying E, 17/11 (SM); 50 at Rhuddlan on 30/12 (SH) and 100 at R. Clwyd, Ruthin on 26/12 (IE). A total of 171 were ringed in a Glyn Ceiriog garden, March-December (AR). A report of 300 with 150 Common Crossbill in Clocaenog Forest on 16/11 (£).***LINNET** (*Carduelis cannabina*)

LLINOS

now **COMMON LINNET***Widespread breeding resident. Amber List [BD] BCCC**Found in varying numbers through the year, both inland and on the coast.**Breeding records: 1-2 presumed territories at AWCP and MHCW, 04/06-20/06 (AC/EM); 6+4juvs at Rhuddlan on 6/06 (SH); 3 pairs bred at POA (BHP).**Main coastal counts: peak counts of 500 at Gronant on 23/09 (chased by a male Kestrel) (ELJ) and 450 at POA on 6/10 (RSPB SL) and c100 at CQNR on 2/12 (JKS).**Main inland count: 100 at Moor Lane, Higher Kinnerton on 1/04 (GS).***TWITE** (*Carduelis flavirostris*)

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

*Winter visitor to coastal areas. Amber List [BR]**The main site is adjacent to Flint Castle and the monthly maxima for FC/OMR/BB (Flint) are given in the table (the peak count was 80 on 18/12, ELJ). 2 at nearby CQNR with pipits and linnets on 28/09 (ELJ). The second site is at Gronant where there were 32 on 24/11 (ELJ), 10 next day (SM) and 40 on 21/12 (ELJ).**Also recorded in small numbers at Pensarn, Kinmel Bay, Rhyl Splash Point and POA. [ELJ, PM, SM, DCR, JKS/NPH, BHP/RSPB SL]**Inland: a pair at Llyn Bran on 7/06 (ELJ).*

(TW)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB/ OMR/ FC	70	65	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	70	80

REDPOLL (*Carduelis cabaret*)

LLINOS BENGGOCH

now **LESSER REDPOLL**

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

Regular sightings in small numbers at Acton Park (17 on 3/01, NPH), Clocaenog (18 on 16/03, IE), Llandegla Forest, Llyn Helyg (25 on 10/05, ELJ), RM/HP/WE, SSW (recorded 17/02-8/12 with a peak of c20 on 8/12, PT) also seen at Cox's Wood, Rossett (JKS/NPH), Cilcain (PT), Gwaenysgor (ELJ); Marford (JLR); POA Warren (BHP), Rhos-on-Sea (SKT), Trelogan (ELJ) and Wrexham (NPH).

Highest counts: a remarkable flock of c200 at Llandyn nr Llangollen on 8/05 (JLR) Sightings of interest: 1 f/o Towyn Beach on 21/05 and 11/08 (SM); 1 very pink-flushed bird, calling loudly and feeding on a silver birch tree, Wrexham, on 1/01 and a flock of c13 daily in a Wrexham garden in spring, feeding on cherry blossom (NPH); 1 perched on the leaded light of a sitting room at Llanfwrog on 27/11 (AAL).

CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*)

GYLFIN GROES

now **COMMON CROSSBILL**

Scarce breeding resident

More records this year. Regularly observed at: Clocaenog, Llandegla Forest, Llangollen area, WE and RM-HP plantations. Also reported at Bwlchgywn Quarry (SJ 259531), Glyndyfrdwy, Llyn Alwen, Moel Famau and Nercwys.

The highest counts: there was a dramatic increase in the number of birds seen in winter with an estimated 1000+ birds in Clocaenog Forest (IE). Exceptional flock counts of 200-250 at Clocaenog on 16/11-20/12 (IE, ‡) and 100-150 on 22/12 - 31/12 (IE) and 100-150 circling and noisy near Pendinas Reservoir, Llandegla Forest, 26/11 (JAJ); 20+ at WE CP on 17/10 (JLR). A flock of 25 nr Loggerheads on 15/12 (‡) and 2 flocks of 20 and 15 respectively at Nercwys on 31/12 (PK).

BULLFINCH (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

COCH Y BERLLAN

now **COMMON BULLFINCH**

Breeding resident. Red List [BDp] BCCC [WES]

More records were received this year, with 70 sightings from some 45 areas [2001: 50 sightings from 26 areas, including gardens.]

Main records (4+): Deeside Urban Wildlife Group undertook a Bullfinch Survey in the Buckley area, January-June: 104 sightings were made. 4 (2m, 2f) seen flying along a lane nr Hendrerwydd (SJ 125634) on 16/04 (AB); a pair with 2 juvs at Loggerheads on 2/06 (ELJ); a pair with 4 juvs at Back Lane, Llanarmon-yn-Ial (SJ 186575), 25/07 (PMR); a remarkable count of 10 (5m, 5f) in Blackthorn scrub at Pantymwyn Patures nr Mold on 5/03 (MKB); 2 pairs nr Hendre on 24/11 (AB/IS);

4 (2m, 2f) at Galltegfa (SJ 109578) on 27/12 (AAL).

Other records: a male seen at BHP VC on 11/06 was the first for 18 months; 1 or 2 seen then until 3/08 (BHP).

HAWFINCH (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)

GYLFINBRAFF

Scarce breeding resident. Clwyd County Rarity.

The Conwy valley is an important location for this species and two records were received from the Wedge of our area: 1 at Coed Hafod, Llanrwst on 3/03 (Bangor Bird Group) and 2 at Bodnant Gardens, 13/04 (Ian Sims).

SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

BRAS YR EIRA

Regular coastal winter visitor in small numbers.

Inland sightings: a m in Llandegla Forest, 22/01 (JAJ) and 3 birds, inc. 2 definite f, seen feeding at 20m, on RM mines, 17/11 (JLR) - all three records at sites used in previous years.

Coastal records:

First winter period: observed from 8/01 peaking at 8 at Pensarn on 10/01 (RP); 1 at POA on 27/02 (RSPB SL).

In the second winter period birds were observed along the coast from Pensarn to Kinmel Bay, from 16/10-31/12, peaking at 18 on 14/12 and 28/12 at Kinmel Bay W and 9 at Pensarn on the same day (SD, IE, ELJ, SM, DCR, JKS/NPH).

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*)

MELYN YR EITHIN

Formerly common breeding resident. Red List [BDp]

Probably still in decline. Seen in small numbers only and in few sites, this is one of CBRG's Target Species: see article by Anne Brenchley in this report.

REED BUNTING (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

BRAS Y CYRS

Breeding resident. Amber List [BD] BCCC

More records from more areas this year.

Inland: recorded from 10 areas, including breeding territories, as follows:

1. *High Moorland:* 1 at HMCP on 10/03 and 2f on 26/03 (DH); 1st spring song on RM was on 19/03 (JLR); Denbigh Moors had a f at Llyn Bran on 15/04 and a m singing at Llyn Brenig on 7/06 (ELJ); 1m at Aled Uchaf Res'r on 25/06 (ELJ).
2. *Fenn's Moss* had good numbers (5+) (6/05-27/05, JKS/NPH, PMR).
3. *In the lower Dee valley,* there were 3 singing birds at Burton Meadows on 3/06 (NF); 9 sightings at Holt, 21/07-3/11 with a peak of 4 on the latter date (NiF) and 4 at Poulton on 7/12 (NF). 1m at Sutton Green on 12/2/02(NH).
4. *Sighted at Erddig* from 12/05-2/09, with a peak of 2m + 1f in June-July (NH,

NPH, JKS).

5. *Other areas*: 4 at Rake Lane, Hawarden on 31/03 (GS); 1 only at AWCP (W) on 20/06 (AC/EM); 1-2 at GF, 11/02-11/04 (JN,JKS); 1 at FLQ on 1/07 and 2 on 18/08 (KD).

Coastal: recorded from main areas, including breeding territories, as follows:

1. *the Dee estuary*: at SSW numbers build up in the winter months; 2-3 pairs bred and 34 birds were ringed through the year (PT). Also recorded at BB (2 in Jan, RSPB SL); CQNR (2 with pipits on 28/09, ELJ) and Flint (2 on 29/03, JKS).
2. recorded through the year at *Gronant*, where the peak counts were 10+ on 10/01 (JKS/NPH) and 6 *ibidem* on 27/05 and 24/11 (ELJ); *POA* held 4 in January, and 14 by 7/10 and 4 on 20/12 (ELJ).
3. *R. Clwyd*, Rhyl-Rhuddlan had single males on 3/01 (DCR), 18/07 (EL), 10/10 and 12/10 (SH). The E-bank of *Afon Conwy* (Tanlan-Maenan) held 5 territories (RP).
4. *along the coast*, there were 18 at Towyn on 18/01 (SM); 1 in a Rhyl garden on 9/03 (JL);

CORN BUNTING (*Miliaria calandra*)

BRAS YR YD

Scarce localised breeding species. Red List [HD, BDp, BR] BCCC

1 male on territory on arable field adjacent to IMF (Flintshire/Cheshire border) (IMF SL); 1 at SF on 25/07, Mike Duckham.

WRP: several sightings of 1 or 2 singing on telegraph wires, Bettisfield, 16/07-28/07 (PMR *et al*).

Those readers sending in records are reminded that for a rarity to be considered, at any level, details should be submitted on the appropriate forms (see Appendices below).

Dates for migrants

Species	First date, 2002	Last year	Last date, 2002	Last year
Whimbrel	19/04, Towyn	16/04, RCR	POA, December	3/10, Bagillt Bank
Sandwich Tern	26/03, Rhos Point	25/03, POA	4/10, Rhyl Splash Point	8/09, RCR
Common Tern	21/04, SSW	22/04, SSW	27/10, POA	17/09, POA
Little Tern	27/04, Gronant	22/04, Gronant	12/08, Rhyl Splash Point	12/08, Flint
Cuckoo	5/04, Holt	22/04, Llangollen	21/08, POA	13/09, POA
Swift	20/04, RSPB Conwy	24/04, Ruabon	30/08, RCR	24/08, TFR & RCR
Sand Martin	16/03, PCR	11/03, POA	4/09, NFR	23/09, SSW
Swallow	20/03, RSPB Conwy	26/03 at GF	7/11 at RCR	6/10 at Aled Isaf Reservoir
House Martin	14/04, RCR	10/04, RCR	19/10, RCR	18/10, GV
Redstart	17/03, R. Clwyd, Denbigh	9/04, RM	12/09, (juv), Wern	26/08, Pen y Cloddiau
Whinchat	23/04, RM & R. Alyn	22/04, Denbigh Moors	14/09, POA	1/07, POA

Wheatear	17/03, Llangollen	23/03, POA	10/09, POA	29/09, Llyn Aled
Ring Ouzel	8/03, HP	1/04, Llanasa	7/10, POA	2/10, RM
Grasshopper Warbler	16/04, RM	12/04, Gronant	13/07, Gronant	25/07, Shotwick reservoir
Sedge Warbler	10/04, RSPB Conwy	22/04, SSW	22/08, Dolwen	14/07, Gronant
Reed Warbler	14/04, SSW	28/04, Gronant	20/10, SSW	28/07, Erddig
Lesser Whitethroat	24/04, MQ	26/04, POA	7/09, RCR	27/08, POA
Whitethroat	10/04, RSPB Conwy	25/04, POA	8/07, SBL	23/09, SSW
Garden Warbler	16/04, Abergele & Dulas Valley	13/04, RCR	17/11, Rhos-on-Sea	30/08, RCR
Wood Warbler	22/04, AP	5/05, Rhydtalog	24/06, Vivod	9/06, GV
Chiffchaff	16/03, RCR	8/03, Gronant	6/12, POA	2/11, Rhuddlan
Spotted Flycatcher	25/05, Llanferres	20/05, Loggerheads	13/08, Wrexham	9/08, Wrexham
Pied Flycatcher	3/04, Coedpoeth	n/a	18/07, Bod Petruel	2/07 (juv), Rhuddlan
Tree Pipit	7/04, Clocaenog	11/04, POA	4/08, Fenns Moss	22/07, Pendinas

**The following species were recorded in the 2001 Report
but not in this year's:**

BLACK-THROATED DIVER (<i>Gavia arctica</i>) <i>Occasional winter visitor.</i>	TRUCHYDD GYDDFDDU
SOOTY SHEARWATER (<i>Puffinus griseus</i>) <i>Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.</i>	ADERYN-DRYCIN MAWR
GREAT WHITE EGRET (<i>Egretta alba</i>) <i>Rare vagrant and national rarity</i>	CREYR MAWR GWYN
SURF SCOTER (<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>) <i>Rare vagrant. Welsh rarity.</i>	MÔR-HWYADEN YR EWYN
SABINE'S GULL (<i>Larus sabini</i>) <i>Scarce vagrant. Clwyd County rarity.</i>	GWYLAN SABINE
GLAUCOUS GULL (<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>) <i>Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.</i>	GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD
BLACK TERN (<i>Chlidonias niger</i>) <i>Uncommon passage migrant</i>	CORSWENNOL DDU
HOOPOE (<i>Upupa epops</i>) <i>Rare vagrant. Clwyd County rarity.</i>	COPOG
WAXWING (<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>) <i>Scarce and irregular winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.</i>	CYNFFON SEDAN

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 Worthenbury/Shocklach on 2/02 and 8/02 (NF).

SNOW GOOSE (*Anser caerulescens*)

GWYDD YR EIRA

1 at OMR in February (RSPB SL). A single bird with Canada Geese, flew NW, at RCR on 23/05 (SH). A hybrid "blue phase" bird but with orange legs at GF, 21/06 - 29/07 (JKS).

EGYPTIAN GOOSE (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*)

GWYDD YR AIFFT

2 at SF on 13/11 (CEW).

ROSS'S GOOSE (*Anser Rossii*)

3 records of a single bird, probably the same one: 1 adult with Canada Geese on IMF BP (Flintshire), 6/02 (CEW); 1 with Greylags on the Dee at Poulton on 21/02 (NF); 1 on R. Clwyd nr Denbigh, 4/03-10/04 (ELJ).

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL

A single *f* on Dee estuary at POA with Teal and Pintail on 22/11 (BHP).

BUDGERIGAR

1 flew N at Rhuddlan on 16/07 (SH).

ZEBRA FINCH / SENEGALESE FINCH

A single *m* bird was found feeding with House Sparrows on the BHP VC table on 16/12 (BHP SL).

EAGLE OWL

1 found dead on the tide-line at RSPB Conwy on 10/02.

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

American Wigeon	IMF, 21-29/03, 2001	Colin Wells & Gareth Stamp	Pending
American Wigeon	RCR, 14/12 to year end, 2001	Susan Morris, Gareth Stamp, Kevin Smith <i>et al</i>	Pending
Bean Goose	1 at Warren Farm, POA on 24/10/02	Rob Palmer	Pending
Barred Warbler	1 at Gamfa Wen, POA on 28/09 and 30/09/02	Rob Palmer	Pending

(iii) BBRC Decisions

Great White Egret	OMR, 12/08-29/09/01	Gareth Stamp	Accepted
Lesser White-fronted Goose	R. Clwyd, Rhyl-Rhuddlan, 21/08/02	Kevin Smith	Pending
Ross's Gull	Rhyl Harbour, 7/09/02	Rob Palmer	Pending
Gull-billed Tern	RSPB POA, 25/07/02	Rob Palmer	Pending
Red-rumped Swallow	Cheshire/Flints border, IMF, 9/08	B.S. Barnacle <i>et al</i>	Pending
Pallid Swift	1 at POA WF on 22/05	Rob Palmer	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 Bird-lines and other such sources and frequently without an observer name attached. We are grateful for the Dee Estuary 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 or sightings indicated thus† below, the Rarities Panel have asked for full descriptions and further details, especially with regard to location and age.

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

1 reported at RML on 27-28/12.

SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*) LLWYBIG
now EURASIAN SPOONBILL
Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.

1 on a rising tide off Flint Castle with a Little Egret on 14/08.

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

An immature *m* on Shotwick Rifle Range Pool on 11-15/12.

BLACK KITE (*Milvus migrans*) *barcud du*
Vagrant. BBRC.

1 reported heading N over CQNR on 30/03.

MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*) BOD Y GWERNI
now EURASIAN MARSH HARRIER
Very scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

† a f at Gronant reed-bed on 18/01 (DCR).

QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*) SOFLIAR
now COMMON QUAIL
Passage migrant. Clwyd County Rarity.

1 singing at Old Rhyl Tip on 4/06 and 1 at Bodelwyddan on 17/07.

AVOCET (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) CAMBIG
Scarce visitor. Clwyd County Rarity.

2 on R. Clwyd at Rhy! (SJ 0081) on 3/04.

DOTTEREL (*Charadrius morinellus*)
Uncommon migrant. Clwyd County rarity

HUTAN Y MYNYDD

† 1 at POA on 29/09 (PW).

STONE-CURLEW (*Burhinus oedicnemus*)
Scarce vagrant. Welsh rarity.

RHEDUR Y MOELYDD

1 present briefly on Gronant shingle ridge (SJ 0983) on 8/06.

POMARINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)
Uncommon passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

SGIWEN FRECH

† Up to 3 passing POA lighthouse on 7/09 with Arctic Skua (RoP).

† **LONG-TAILED SKUA** (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) SGIWEN LOSTFAIN
Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County Rarity—see Appendix 3.

†2 reported at POA on 31/08 with 13 Arctic Skua (BHP). 2 reported passing Rhy! promenade (SJ 0081) on 5/10 and singles at POA on 23/10 and 26/10 (†).

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

GWYLAN SABINE

An adult reported at POA on 27/10.

LITTLE AUK (*Alle alle*)
Rare winter visitor

CARFIL BACH

† 1 seen on pelagic trip from Rhy! (SJ 0081) on 16/12.

HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*)
Rare vagrant. Clwyd County rarity.

COPOG

†1 reported as near Rhuddlan (SJ 020770), 23/06-29/06.

WATER PIPIT (*Anthus spinoletta*)
Scarce winter visitor

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

1 reported at POA marsh on 22/11.

GOLDEN ORIOLE (*Oriolus oriolus*)

EURLYN

Rare summer visitor

Two reports: 1 in hawthorns nr Rhes-y-Cae (SJ 187713) on 4/07 and 1 in poplars at POA sea-wall on 15/07.

APPENDIX 4 SURVEYS

Clwyd Bird Recording Group has received the results from a number of surveys, undertaken by individuals or organisations. It is not possible to incorporate full details in this report. Readers requiring further information are advised to contact the authors/researchers of these. A list of some of the surveys is given below.

- *Skylark Breeding Surveys: Alyn Waters CP and Maes Hafod Community Woodland, 2002. A Report to Wrexham CBC, Andrew Clarke.*
- *Bullfinch Survey, Deeside Urban Wildlife Group.*
- *Distribution of Lapwings near Morfa Rhuddlan (SH 9777), Susan Morris.*
- *Summary of Earthwatch Song Thrush Survey in Wrexham County Borough, John Lawton Roberts.*
- *Birds at Borrass Quarry in 2002, Les Wood.*

Lapwing 2004

CBRG Target Species Your records are needed

For 2004, the Lapwing has been chosen as our target species. This species is Red-listed because even in Wales it has suffered a rapid decline of at least 50% in its Welsh breeding population over the last 25 years. Following the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (section 74), the Welsh Assembly Government confirmed this species' inclusion in the list of 23 principal biodiversity species. In addition, as indicated in the status comment in the Systematic List in this Report, the Dee estuary is a site of national importance for this Red-listed species.

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.

With its characteristic 'peewit' call and 'bouncy' flight, this once familiar farmland bird needs no description to readers. Once widespread it can still be found in good numbers as a wintering bird and passage migrant in our area but it is as a breeding bird that it has suffered the greatest decline.

Please send records of sightings (including date, location, six-figure grid reference if known plus any relevant notes, especially those which indicate breeding attempts e.g. birds displaying, calling or defending territory, or any chicks seen) to the County Recorder:

Norman Hallas, 63 Park Avenue, Wrexham LL12 7AW

01978 290522

Normanhallas@aol.com

CBRG would like to thank all those who responded to our call for Yellowhammer records (the target species in the 2000 Report). An analysis of these can be found on the following pages.

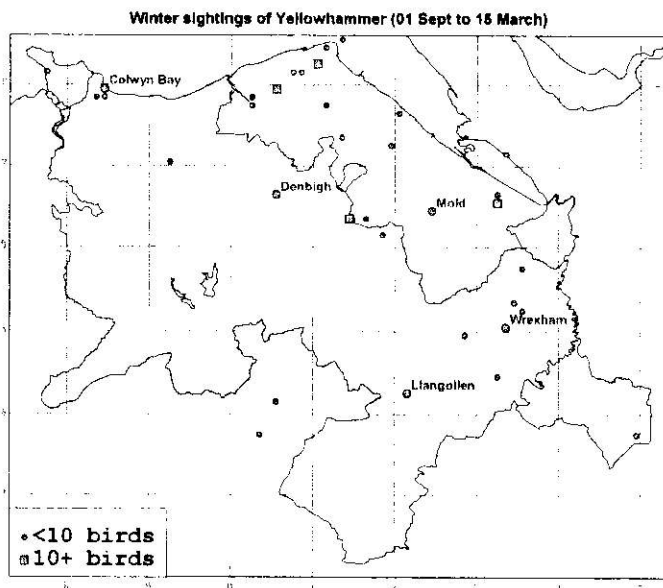
Yellowhammers in Clwyd – 2001-2002

Anne Brenchley

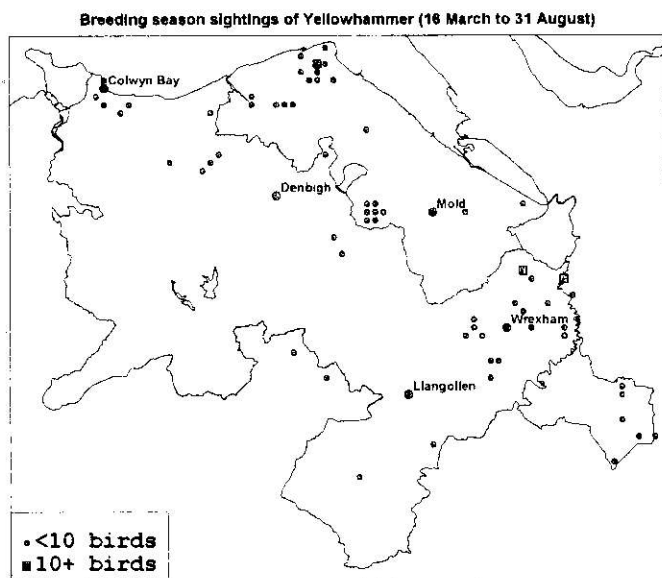
Closer links are now being made between the bird records generated by local birdwatchers and the conservation actions being undertaken by the conservation agencies. The CBRG decided that the Clwyd annual bird report should focus on one Biodiversity Action Plan/Birds of Conservation Concern Red listed species each year, featuring the chosen species on the cover, publicising the need for records and then publish the results in future bird reports.

The general decline in seed eating farmland birds has been very dramatic in Wales over the past few decades. Yellowhammers in particular have become a scarce sight and in 2002 were added to the both the UK and Welsh Red Lists. This easily recognised species was an obvious choice for the CBRG bird of the year.

In late 2001, articles were published in local newspapers and requests for Yellowhammer records were made to local bird and natural history clubs as well as publicising the need for records in the 2000 report, published in spring 2002.



It would be difficult to claim that the number of records received shows the true distribution of Yellowhammers in Clwyd but the increase in records was pleasing and indicated that our efforts in gaining additional records had been successful. Records of Yellowhammers were collated from 2001 (41) and 2002 (105) and mapped to show distribution in the wintering (see above) and breeding period (see below). Sightings came primarily from the Flintshire and Wrexham areas. Records of Yellowhammer flocks exceeding 10 or more birds were unusual and there were only two records of 20 plus birds (21 at Rake Lane, Hawarden in November and 24 on farmland within Moel Famau Country Park in late March respectively); all seen in 2002.



The winter distribution was slightly more restricted than that for the breeding season, but it would be difficult to conclude much from the limited records received. Are Yellowhammers more widespread in Flintshire and Wrexham or is this simply related to the geographic distribution of the recorders? We do not know. It would be nice to have any indicative trends confirmed by receiving more records in future years, particularly from Denbighshire and Conwy.

It is difficult to say whether Yellowhammers have become scarcer since the publication of the 1988-1991 Breeding Atlas (Gibbons *et al* 1993), but the

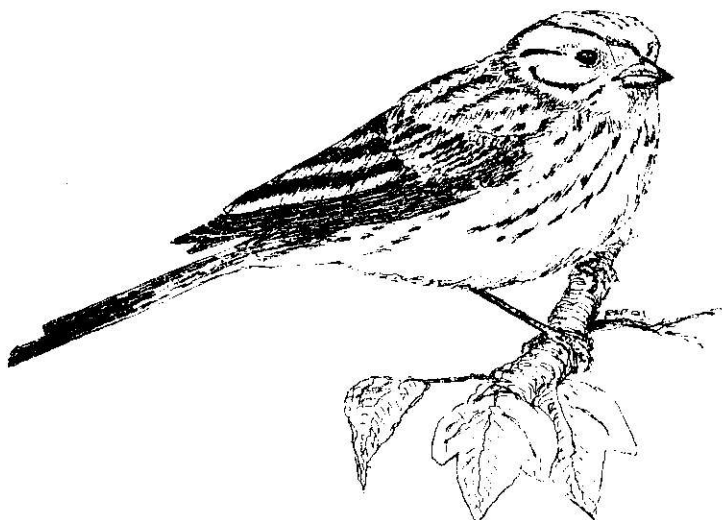
distribution of breeding records from 2001-2002 was very similar to that found between 1988-1991. Maybe the gap in records from 10km squares at higher altitude is a real one?

I hope that this article stimulates other birdwatchers and local landowners to send in records so that a more realistic distribution map can be published. The next national Atlas is due in 2007-2011 and it would be good to know that the Yellowhammer is recovering its status in Clwyd and certainly that the decline noted in recent years has been halted.

Acknowledgements: many thanks to the numerous recorders who sent in records (see acknowledgments on page 135) and for the interesting letters and comments that accompanied many of them. The maps have been produced using DMAP by Dr A.J. Morton.

References:

Gibbons, D.W., Reid, J. D. & Chapman, R. A. (1993) *The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991* Poyser, London.



**Table 1 : Count totals for common birds in map surveys on
World's End Estate, Llangollen, 1998 - 2002 (WES)
by John Lawton Roberts**

<u>Species</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2002</u>
Woodpigeon*	41	45	51	46
Cuckoo	2	2	1-2	1
Swallow	3	3	8	4
House Martin	0	3	5	17
Tree Pipit*	17	25	26	20
Grey Wagtail	3	5	7	8
Pied Wagtail	2	2-3	2	2
Wren*	78	122	142	103
Dunnock*	11	17	20	32
Robin*	81	129	134	91
Redstart	25	25	21	37
Blackbird*	28	47	26	41
Song Thrush*	17	31	30	17
Mistle Thrush	12	11	15	11
Garden Warbler	10	14	17	23
Blackcap	11	16	5	15
Wood Warbler	4	2	0	1
Chiffchaff	9	4	3	10
Willow Warbler*	55	60	66	61
Goldcrest*	91	89	110	74
Spotted Flycatcher	0	3	1	2-3
Pied Flycatcher	21	27	24	30

Continued overleaf

Table 1 (World's End Survey) continued ..

Species	1998	1999	2000	2002
Long-tailed Tit*	4	2	17	4
Coal Tit*	40	27	46	29
Blue Tit	28	14	21	27
Great Tit	9	9	19	20
Nuthatch	3	4	7	5
Treecreeper	4	7	5	4
Jay*	9	6	9	6
Magpie	5	6	8	4
Carrion Crow	13	13	17	13
Chaffinch*	113	115	105	97
Goldfinch	2	4	6	4
Bullfinch*	5	7	3	4

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

** Possibly affected by felling of a large area of conifer forest between autumn 1999 and early 2001.*

Table 2
Clwyd BBS County Summary: main species numbers in 2002
Source: BTO

<i>Name</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1994</i>
Little Grebe	2		4	-	4	2	-	-	-
Grey Heron	7		7	6	5	2	-	-	-
Mute Swan	8		6	2	4	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	6		24	20	11	5	12	6	-
Shelduck	4		11	2	-	2	3	-	203
Mandarin	-		6	5	6	-	-	-	-
Mallard	63		47	48	43	13	18	12	20
Tufted Duck	6		4	6	6	9	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	3		3	9	9	-	-	-	-
Sparrowhawk	6		6	3	3	-	2	1	1
Buzzard	55		29	20	12	6	3	6	9
Kestrel	7		2	6	2	-	1	-	2
Red Grouse	4		-	1	1	-	2	-	3
Black Grouse	27		4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pheasant	68		67	39	52	40	22	36	38
Moorhen	1		7	12	9	1	-	1	2
Coot	10		8	11	9	7	-	1	-
Oystercatcher	4		2	4	-	-	-	-	251
Lapwing	29		16	5	3	8	18	6	9
Snipe	3		2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Curlew	41		25	25	8	6	13	12	182
Black-headed Gull	36		15	6	8	-	8	8	5

Table 2 continued....

<i>Name</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1994</i>
Common Gull	18		1	-	11	60	10	-	-
Lesser B-b Gull	10		54	525	17	8	8	8	1
Herring Gull	118		49	22	30	9	3	7	28
Great B-b Gull	5		-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Feral Pigeon	29		51	20	29	-	1	-	6
Stock Dove	8		1	11	11	6	7	1	5
Woodpigeon	313		271	266	225	73	65	69	83
Collared Dove	60		63	74	44	7	5	2	10
Cuckoo	14		4	12	6	2	4	1	8
Swift	67		41	43	72	9	12	19	14
Green Woodpecker	4		4	1	6	-	-	4	-
G. S. Woodpecker	19		10	11	11	7	1	4	4
L. S. Woodpecker	-		1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Skylark	22		20	20	26	3	13	14	30
Sand Martin	2		10	-	2	-	-	2	5
Swallow	213		128	196	165	65	58	79	104
House Martin	187		119	103	105	22	7	45	38
Meadow Pipit	157		98	134	111	-	70	21	71
Grey Wagtail	12		3	2	7	-	-	1	3
Pied Wagtail	45		15	16	20	14	6	10	18
Wren	269		215	227	149	54	37	64	71
Dunnoch	95		72	70	47	19	14	16	35

Table 2 continued....

<i>Name</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1994</i>
Robin	203		159	154	121	49	45	58	70
Redstart	29		30	20	6	8	3	4	9
Whinchat	27		13	12	17	-	16	5	12
Stonechat	11		7	5	4	-	1	-	2
Wheatear	41		5	11	6	-	5	1	3
Blackbird	347		229	264	230	63	41	65	73
Song Thrush	66		57	54	55	16	11	12	17
Mistle Thrush	24		16	47	19	8	7	6	9
Grasshopper Warbler	2		2	1	4	-	1	-	-
Sedge Warbler	12		5	3	1	-	-	-	1
Lesser Whitethroat	2		3	1	4	-	-	-	-
Whitethroat	24		13	23	18	8	8	4	15
Garden Warbler	6		5	13	6	3	5	1	9
Blackcap	48		33	35	40	16	11	10	10
Wood Warbler	5		2	1	3	3	1	1	4
Chiffchaff	80		46	63	76	23	12	16	12
Willow Warbler	85		103	113	103	45	33	56	66
Goldcrest	25		28	28	19	7	4	5	3
Spotted Flycatcher	5		3	10	4	7	2	4	4
Pied Flycatcher	7		7	9	11	8	4	3	5
Long-tailed Tit	30		17	25	9	5	4	6	2
Coal Tit	28		8	18	10	4	2	4	8

Table 2 continued....

<i>Name</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1994</i>
Blue Tit	285		181	187	159	91	84	67	76
Great Tit	102		78	76	54	24	10	26	22
Nuthatch	24		13	12	14	9	4	4	6
Treecreeper	15		11	13	11	4	1	2	2
Jay	24		14	10	4	6	5	1	2
Magpie	141		122	166	136	53	30	57	52
Jackdaw	339		233	282	384	84	102	74	92
Rook	177		111	189	140	52	90	5	75
Carrion Crow	506		307	345	296	121	121	92	127
Raven	33		6	12	9	3	1	-	4
Starling	316		291	309	153	16	43	44	97
House Sparrow	231		226	192	159	50	43	50	100
Chaffinch	302		234	239	205	105	61	91	122
Greenfinch	74		48	50	42	17	4	16	32
Goldfinch	123		71	101	59	34	16	33	31
Linnet	72		47	59	48	17	38	12	22
Lesser Redpoll	20		10	12	3	-	2	6	5
Bullfinch	16		17	9	10	-	1	3	3
Yellowhammer	15		7	5	2	2	-	2	1
Reed Bunting	21		7	14	7	-	2	1	7
Species recorded	99		99	90	92	63	69	69	76
Squares surveyed	34		23	26	20	7	7	7	11

Table 3: B.T.O. Farmland Common Birds Census:*estimates of breeding numbers from territory mapping, March - July, 2002.*

Locality: Llanasa, Clwyd [Flintshire] SJ 100817

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

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

Area = 87.7 ha Average altitude = 170.0m ✓ = present, no clusters N = nest count

✓	Sparrowhawk	1	Blackcap
2	Buzzard	1	Chiffchaff
1	Red-legged Partridge	✓	Willow Warbler
4	Pheasant	2	Goldcrest
✓	Common Gull	1	Pied Flycatcher
✓	Herring Gull	✓	Long-tailed Tit
✓	Stock Dove	1	Coal Tit
3N	Woodpigeon	11	Blue Tit
2	Collared Dove	7	Great Tit
✓	Tawny Owl	1	Nuthatch
✓	Swift	1	Treecreeper
✓	Gt. Sp. Woodpecker	✓	Jay
1	Skylark	5N	Magpie
✓	Swallow; House Martin	2N	Jackdaw
✓	Meadow Pipit	40N	Rook
2	Pied Wagtail	2N	Carrion Crow
19	Wren	1	Raven
9	Duncock	✓	Starling; House Sparrow
13	Robin	24	Chaffinch
✓	Redstart; Whinchat	2	Greenfinch
✓	Wheatear	3	Goldfinch
10	Blackbird	✓	Siskin; Lesser Redpoll
1	Song and Mistle Thrush	19	Linnet
5	Whitethroat	8	Yellowhammer

RINGING REPORT FOR 2002

Ian M. Spence

This year's ringing totals show an increase of about 1700 birds over that for 2001 and this was largely due to the fact that full access to the countryside was restored and ringing effort from the regular ringers was increased. I am grateful to the sources of ringing totals and recoveries that have been used in this report: Merseyside Ringing Group (Pete Coffey and Bob Harris), John Lawton Roberts, the Spence, Stratford and Brenchley partnership (Ian M. Spence) and Stuart K. Thomas. The MRG provided the bulk of the ringing totals and also most of the recoveries that are included, below.

The number of Common Terns ringed was lower than last year, but there was a good increase in the number of Little Terns. No doubt this means that the tides did not do their worst and the protection scheme organised by the RSPB was successful. The numbers of owls ringed is still low, though my first Short-eared Owl was an unexpected bonus while returning from ringing a brood of Merlin. Many of the common passerines were ringed in similar numbers to last year, though Willow Warblers numbers were down, at least in part because I was not able to do my first ringing session at Bronbannog until mid-August and most of the birds had migrated away soon afterwards. The Goldcrest total and the Firecrest were because I had a successful late summer, though the desired Yellow-browed Warbler did not appear this year.

The large increase in Pied Flycatcher numbers (386 to 837) was probably a combination of the access to all sites and to more boxes being available. Similarly, there were good increases in the numbers of Blue Tits and Great Tits ringed. More House Sparrow and Tree Sparrows were ringed mainly due to the increase in size of a colony near Bodelwyddan, that has been pos-

sible due to the provision of more boxes. Nonetheless, not all boxes were used, so there is scope for further expansion. This is useful, as both species are of conservation concern. All the Tree Sparrows are colour-ringed with a single ring to denote the colony, and it is possible to determine from the position of the ring whether the bird was ringed as a nestling or fully grown. Many of the increase in Chaffinch and Greenfinch totals were because of mist-netting at the colony in winter to target Tree Sparrow, but with limited success – this last species is more wary and less dominant near feeders.

Turning to the recoveries, the Mute Swan from Abbotsbury, Dorset, which was a late notification, was unprecedented. Of the 700+ Mute Swans ringed in north Wales over the past ten years, none have moved beyond Lancashire to the north and the Midlands to the south and nor have birds moving in to the area come so far. The large number of Common Terns that were controlled in Senegal was exceptional – it is good to know that these birds would all have been released alive and well and not used as toys, tied to strings, by children, as is often the fate of terns recovered in west Africa. The Cetti's Warbler shows an interesting movement and we can only hope that more will arrive and colonise suitable habitat in this area. The Pied Flycatcher to Morocco gives an indication of the route these birds take during autumn migration, though the recovery date does not necessarily mean that the bird was staying in Morocco in mid-winter as the recovery details are not precise. I have included in the list the recoveries for different species that showed movements of more than 40 km.

Once again I am very 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		
	Full Grown	Pulli	Total
Sparrowhawk	3	0	3
Kestrel	0	5	5
Merlin	0	3	3
Peregrine	0	4	4
Moorhen	1	0	1
Oystercatcher	0	2	2
Ringed Plover	0	1	1
Black-headed Gull	1	0	1
Common Tern	0	617	617
Little Tern	0	66	66
Stock Dove	0	2	2
Woodpigeon	1	2	3
Collared Dove	4	0	4
Barn Owl	0	6	6
Little Owl	0	4	4
Tawny Owl	0	2	2
Short-eared Owl	0	1	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	8	0	8
Skylark	0	2	2
Swallow	0	30	30
Grey Wagtail	4	17	21
Pied Wagtail	0	12	12
Dipper	0	17	17
Wren	63	13	76
Dunnock	34	2	36
Robin	63	12	75
Redstart	3	7	10
Whinchat	0	23	23
Stonechat	1	0	1
Wheatear	0	16	16
Blackbird	51	16	67
Fieldfare	3	0	3
Song Thrush	10	3	13
Redwing	1	0	1
			/over
	116		

	Full Grown	Pulli	Total
Grasshopper Warbler	5	0	5
Sedge Warbler	31	0	31
Reed Warbler	115	10	125
Lesser Whitethroat	1	0	1
Whitethroat	20	2	22
Garden Warbler	4	11	15
Blackcap	42	1	43
Chiffchaff	71	0	71
Willow Warbler	35	7	42
Goldcrest	184	0	184
Firecrest	1	0	1
Spotted Flycatcher	0	25	25
Pied Flycatcher	90	747	837
Long-tailed Tit	57	0	57
Marsh Tit	1	0	1
Willow Tit	6	0	6
Coal Tit	39	12	51
Blue Tit	406	802	1208
Great Tit	179	512	691
Nuthatch	2	35	37
Treecreeper	3	0	3
Jackdaw	0	15	15
Starling	2	0	2
House Sparrow	15	20	35
Tree Sparrow	35	116	151
Chaffinch	152	6	158
Brambling	1	0	1
Greenfinch	330	0	330
Goldfinch	38	2	40
Siskin	3	0	3
Lesser Redpoll	35	0	35
Bullfinch	8	5	13
Yellowhammer	0	3	3
Reed Bunting	40	0	40
<i>TOTALS</i>	2202	3216	5418

Codes used in the recoveries:

M Male

F Female

Pull. Ringed as a pullus (nestling)

Fully grown, year of hatching quite unknown

Hatched during calendar year of ringing

3J Hatched during calendar year of ringing and in juvenile plumage

Hatched before calendar year of ringing, but exact year unknown

Hatched during previous calendar year

Hatched before previous calendar year, but exact year unknown

Definitely hatched two calendar years before ringing

Hatched more than two calendar years before ringing

Selected recoveries:

1285123 Grey Heron Pull. (3/3)

21 04 1995 Pool Park, near Efenechtyd, Rhuthun, Clwyd

12 05 2002 Llanarmon-yn-Ial, near Mold, Clwyd

9 km 90° 2578 days Dead, not fresh, hit overhead electricity
cables

Z78122 Mute Swan 3 F (Blue KU7)

21 09 1992 Abbotsbury Head, Dorset

17 12 1995 Towyn, near Rhyl, Clwyd

302 km 348° 1182 days Colour ring sighting

Z87122 Mute Swan Pull. M (3/6)

11 09 1995 Shrewsbury Sewage Works, Shropshire

17 12 1995 Towyn, near Rhyl, Clwyd

85 km 319° 97 days Colour ring sighting

SV14705 Common Tern Pull.

02 08 1998 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd

22 01 2002 Ile Senghor, SENEGAL, 13°41'N 16°40'W

4557 km 195° 1269 days Controlled

SV40559 Common Tern Pull.
27 06 1999 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
05 04 2002 La Somone, SENEGAL, 14°29'N 17°05'W
4660 km 197° 1013 days Controlled

SV40942 Common Tern Pull.
18 06 2000 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
06 12 2001 Palmarin, SENEGAL, 14°01'N 16°46'W
4523 km 196° 536 days Controlled

SV41147 Common Tern Pull.
18 06 2000 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
01 02 2002 Djinak, SENEGAL, 13°35'N 16°32'W
4564 km 195° 593 days Controlled

SV41369 Common Tern Pull.
02 07 2000 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
20 07 2002 Seal Sands, Teesmouth, Cleveland
197 km 38° 748 days Controlled

SV62338 Common Tern Pull.
17 06 2001 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
12 02 2002 Off Dakar, SENEGAL, 14°45'N 17°20'W
4458 km 197° 240 days Alive and probably healthy,
caught and
released, but not by a ringer

SV62350 Common Tern Pull.
17 06 2001 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
14 01 2002 Ile aux Oiseaux, SENEGAL, 13°39'N 16°40'W
4560 km 195° 211 days Controlled

SV62364 Common Tern Pull.
17 06 2001 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
03 12 2001 Palmarin, SENEGAL, 14°01'N 16°46'W
4523 km 196° 169 days Controlled

SV82479 Common Tern Pull.
 23 06 2002 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 07 11 2002 at sea, off Mbour, SENEGAL, 14°22'N 16°54'W
 4488 km 196° 137 days Alive and probably healthy – fate unknown

NV38326 Little Tern Pull.
 03 07 1994 near Gronant, Clwyd
 26 05 2002 Gronant, Clwyd
 2 km 149° 2884 days Found freshly dead

P723310 Cetti's Warbler 3J F
 23 06 2002 Chew Valley Lake, Avon
 03 11 2002 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 15 12 2002 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 213 km 352° 175 days Controlled

N090759 Reed Warbler 3
 16 08 1998 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
 13 05 2001 Gosforth Park, Newcastle upon Tyne
 221 km 25° 1001 days Controlled (= 4 M)

1M2341 Chiffchaff 4 M
 18 03 2002 Meols, Wirral, Merseyside
 27 08 2002 near Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest, Clwyd
 42 km 208° 162 days Controlled

N581284 Pied Flycatcher 6 M
 12 06 2001 Pandy, near Glyn Ceiriod, Clwyd
 12 12 2002 Ouarzazate, MOROCCO, 30°57'N 06°50'W
 2456 km 187° 548 days Condition on finding unknown

P291209 Pied Flycatcher 5 F
 29 05 2000 Dodd Wood, Littlethwaite, Cumbria
 11 06 2001 Pandy, near Glyn Ceiriog, Clwyd
 189 km 177° 378 days Controlled

ARTICLES

Britain's first major offshore windfarm started transmitting electricity recently. North Hoyle, 7 km off Rhyl, comprises 30 wind turbines which will generate approximately 60 MW of power. A further 16 offshore windfarms have been given the go-ahead, and by 2005, there could be over 500 British offshore wind turbines, generating over 1000 MW, and even larger development is likely in the future. In the light of this, CBRG asked Sian Whitehead of CCW to provide a short notice on the effect of windfarms on Common Scoter populations.

ALL WALES COMMON SCOTER SURVEY

Dr Sian Whitehead

Senior Ornithologist, CCW

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* is a sea duck protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981), under the EU Birds Directive and is listed on Appendix III of the Bern Convention. It is also a BAP priority species that suffered some of the worst effects of the *Sea Empress* oil spill in 1996. In response to this incident, CCW funded two three year PhD studies in Carmarthen Bay to study the numbers and distribution of over-wintering Scoter and the distribution and dynamics of associated food, the marine benthic invertebrate communities. Aerial and land-based surveys conducted over this three year period identified Carmarthen Bay as the most important site in the UK for over-wintering scoter. Subsequent aerial survey work has provided further data to support the status and extent of the UK's first marine Special Protection Area (SPA). An SPA has the highest level of protection under European law. This designation has been timely because of the proposed development of potentially threatening shellfisheries.

Developing on this work in Carmarthen Bay, aerial surveys of scoter were started in Liverpool Bay in 2000/01, covering an area from Red

Wharf Bay in the west, to Shell Flats in the east. The bay is known to support significant concentrations of scoter, but is also a focus for offshore wind turbine developments and for other commercial operations such as oil extraction. This ongoing work is developing an accurate picture of the numbers and distributions of scoter using the Bay. **Over the last three winters, surveys have confirmed that the bay regularly supports internationally important numbers of scoter, thus reaching qualifying levels for designation as an SPA. Work is now in progress to determine possible SPA boundaries, prior to anticipated designation in 2004.**

CCW have also commissioned aerial surveys in north Cardigan Bay, which is recognised as a third Welsh stronghold for inshore concentrations of non-breeding sea ducks and divers. This work, combined with surveys in Liverpool and Carmarthen Bays, has found unprecedented numbers of common scoter in Welsh waters.

Following designation of the SPA in Carmarthen Bay, for its population of non-breeding scoter, CCW have contracted the British Trust for Ornithology to continue with surveys, with emphasis on development of a suitable method for ongoing monitoring of the qualifying feature of the site. It is hoped that monitoring methods developed here can also be applied at other future marine SPAs, such as Liverpool Bay, as they are identified and designated.

Ongoing commercial developments in Liverpool Bay, particularly by the offshore wind industry, have provided opportunities for CCW to work with commercial partners to develop further research and survey of scoter in the bay. Aerial surveys, undertaken by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, are providing ongoing surveillance of the scoter population. Another project, led by the School of Ocean Sciences at University Wales Bangor, is undertaking a detailed examination of the relationship between scoter distributions and their benthic faunal prey, the aim being to develop predictive models of the relationship between the birds, their prey, and other environmental factors that might influence the birds' distribution. Other work, being progressed by wind-

farm developers, and developing on work undertaken in Denmark and the Netherlands, is investigating the use of Marine Surveillance Radar and infra-red cameras as tools to measure possible impacts of turbines on bird movements, and collision risk. Given the high densities of scoter in Liverpool Bay, and the current paucity of knowledge about their movements, and how they might respond to the presence of wind turbines, possible displacement and associated indirect habitat loss are of particular concern.

Through a combination of all this work, we will have a much better understanding of the species distribution and ecology that will enable us to prioritise conservation action, and ensure that commercial development can progress without being to the detriment of common scoter populations.

Sian Whitehead

Reed Bunting by Thelma Sykes



RING OUZELS AT WORLD'S END

Paul Kenyon

Sunday 7th April 2002 saw the annual pilgrimage to World's End to see the Black Grouse lek. This time it coincided with the monthly outdoor meeting of the North Cheshire RSPB. It was a cold crisp morning and although we arrived at the unearthly hour of 07:00 am (it was only just light) we had been preceded in attendance by another organised group of birders who had been present since 05:00am. We felt quite smug as they had only heard one call in the previous two hours. Over the next two hours we saw a good number of these birds either in flight or on the ground both behind and in front of the car park. Eventually activity died down and the other group got into their cars muttering that they were looking for Ring Ouzels at some place or other where a bird had been sighted the previous day. We decided that we would do our normal circular walk to Rock Farm, looking out for more Black Grouse or perhaps a passing Hen Harrier or two but hoping that we would eventually find the pair of Ring Ouzels that normally breed on the craggy slopes.

Time passed and we eventually came to a path where we could look down into the valley with its many hedgerows when I saw what looked like a Blackbird perched on a rock. Further examination showed it to be a male Ring Ouzel in full breeding plumage. Very quickly I scanned behind it and to the left where I saw a flock of birds together. They were all Ring Ouzels, seven males and six females all passing through this little valley at the same time. I watched in awe as this flock one by one made its way over the rocks on to tree tops and then through the valley and away. For reference at Grid Ref SJ 226 475.

This was without doubt the largest flock of these birds I had ever seen and well worth the early morning trip to Worlds End. We also saw another two birds at the Horseshoe pass later in the afternoon but I could never imagine becoming blasé about this species. If you are thinking 'I wonder if the other group ever saw any', then the answer is no. I met the same group another time a couple of months later and with tongue in cheek asked that very question. If only we had stayed with you they retorted ..but hindsight is a wonderful thing.

"Our bit of the River Clwyd"

Elvet & Louise Jones

The Waterways Bird Survey (WBS) is an on-going mapping-type survey organised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). It has been running nationally since 1974 and aims to provide an annual index of population levels for riparian species in order to assess the influence of management plans along rivers and canals.

We took part from 1994-2002 on a stretch of the River Clwyd from Pont Glan-y-Wern (SJ 029659) to Lleweni Hall (SJ 082687), near Denbigh. This is a slow-flowing part of the river, dropping only 5 metres in 4.5 kilometres. The surrounding fields are mainly grazed by sheep, cattle and horses, with an occasional crop of hay or barley. The field boundaries are usually sparse, tall unkempt hedges and there are numerous alder and willow trees along the river banks. We chose this area because it has a public footpath all along—it is **not** a nature reserve—just a patch used by walkers and fishermen (and the farmers, of course).

The work involved 10 evenly spread visits during the breeding season each year (March-July). We recorded on large-scale maps (1:10,000) using BTO codes, the position, number, sex and activity of each water-bird encountered. Analysis was carried out at the end of each season to plot the number of territories present. An annual habitat survey was also a requirement.

A tabulated summary of our results is shown overleaf. To qualify as a territory, a pair had to be recorded on **three** separate visits.

Comments

Cormorants were seen on each visit. They were always fishing, flying through the area or resting on one of two dead, twigless trees. The maximum number seen was 11 on 28/04/94. **Grey Herons** occupy a small heronry, which is to be found in a copse adjacent to the river. It has been successful each year of the survey with a maximum number of 15 nests in 1994. The greatest number of birds seen together was 48 on the ground, plus another 4 in trees, on 12/05/97, after a gale the previous night. **Mute Swans** nest on a nearby fishing pool then bring their cygnets to the river. The maximum number seen was one pair with 7

**Waterways Bird Survey—estimates of territories found
(for site details see the article)**

Species	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002
Cormorant	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Grey Heron	15N	7N	9N	8N	12N	5N	6N	5N
Mute Swan	1	1	1	P	1	P	P	1
Pink-footed Goose	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	-
Greylag Goose	5	46	29	28	62	37	23	66
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P
Canada Goose	P	1	2	1	6	5	7	8
Barnacle Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P
Ross's Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P
Shelduck	1	3	3	4	8	9	7	10
Mandarin	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	2
Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
Teal	-	P	P	P	P	P	2	1
Mallard	14	19	14	25	22	19	22	20
Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
Tufted Duck	P	-	-	P	-	-	-	-
Goosander	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2
Moorhen	8	5	5	3	10	7	7	6
Coot	P	-	P	P	P	1	4	-
Lapwing	3	9	8	12	3	3	2	3
Jack Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	P
Snipe	-	-	-	P	P	P	P	P
Black-tailed Godwit	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	-
Curlew	1	1	2	1	2	1	P	4

Waterways Bird Survey—continued

Species	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002
Redshank	-	-	-	P	-	-	-	-
Green Sandpiper	P	-	-	-	P	P	-	-
Common Sandpiper	P	P	P	P	P	P	-	P
Black-headed Gull	P	P	P	P	P	-	-	P
Common Gull	-	-	-	-	P	-	-	P
Lesser B-b Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	P	P
Kingfisher	-	-	P	P	P	-	1	P
Sand Martin	20N	14N	62N	51N	14N	19N	33N	26N
Grey Wagtail	1	2	1	1	P	-	P	-
Pied Wagtail	4	5	4	6	6	8	8	5
Dipper	1	2	4	4	3	2	1	1
Sedge Warbler	P	-	P	P	-	1	P	-
Reed Bunting	P	P	1	P	P	1	1	-
Whitethroat	1	P	2	P	P	1	1	P

Key P = present

N = nest count

- = absent

Note: in 2001 no survey was possible due to Foot and Mouth Disease

cygnets on 06/06/94. **Greylag Geese** breed near the river. The largest number seen was 245 on 10/03/97. The biggest crèche was 42 adults with around 100 mixed-age goslings seen on 21/05/95. This is the largest breeding flock in Clwyd, possibly in Wales. **Canada Geese** breeding numbers have steadily increased from being just present in 1994 to 8 breeding birds in 2002. **Pink-footed Goose, White-fronted Goose, Barnacle Goose, Wigeon, Pintail and Shoveler** were recorded in small numbers, presumably on passage. **Shelduck**, like Canada Geese, have steadily increased, from 1 to 10 pairs. The maximum number seen together was 40 on 04/03/02. A family with 10 ducklings, seen on 21/05/02, diminished to 6 ducklings by 12/06/02. **Mandarin Ducks** were recorded frequently outside the survey period and bred in 2002 when a female was seen with 7 young on 31/05/02. **Teal** held territory in the last two years of the survey. **Mallard** breeding numbers were fairly consistent throughout, as were **Goosander** numbers. For this species, the largest broods seen were a female with 10 youngsters on 30/04/95 and one with 12 on the same date in 1999. This family was reduced to 9 by 22/05/99. **Moorhen** bred along the entire stretch of the river each year. On 19/06/94, an adult was seen with 5 young; on 24/06/94, a nest was found with 7 warm eggs. **Coots** were scarce, breeding only twice on a side pool. **Lapwing** numbers decreased throughout the period, as nationally. On 10/03/95, 55 were seen together; on 28/03/97, twelve pairs were seen on territory. On 20/06/98, a fox was seen leaving a colony of nesting Lapwings carrying an adult bird. On the subsequent visit, this colony was totally deserted. **Common Snipe** were present only in the early weeks of the year and did not stay to breed. The maximum number seen was 40 on 16/01/97, prior to the survey dates. Only 2 **Jack Snipe** were recorded, both on 04/03/02. One or two pairs of **Curlew** bred on the river flood-plain. Occasionally, they were seen in larger numbers on their way to higher breeding grounds. 71 were seen together on 10/03/97 and more than 100 on 06/03/99. **Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper** (3 on 01/08/00) and **Black-tailed Godwit** were present on passage only. **Kingfishers** were seen most years, often outside the survey period. One territory was recorded in 2000. Three birds were seen together on 22/07/00. **Sand Martin** nest numbers fluctuated from 14 to 62, de-

cygnets on 06/06/94. **Greylag Geese** breed near the river. The largest number seen was 245 on 10/03/97. The biggest crèche was 42 adults with around 100 mixed-age goslings seen on 21/05/95. This is the largest breeding flock in Clwyd, possibly in Wales. **Canada Geese** breeding numbers have steadily increased from being just present in 1994 to 8 breeding birds in 2002. **Pink-footed Goose, White-fronted Goose, Barnacle Goose, Wigeon, Pintail and Shoveler** were recorded in small numbers, presumably on passage. **Shelduck**, like Canada Geese, have steadily increased, from 1 to 10 pairs. The maximum number seen together was 40 on 04/03/02. A family with 10 ducklings, seen on 21/05/02, diminished to 6 ducklings by 12/06/02. **Mandarin Ducks** were recorded frequently outside the survey period and bred in 2002 when a female was seen with 7 young on 31/05/02. **Teal** held territory in the last two years of the survey. **Mallard** breeding numbers were fairly consistent throughout, as were **Goosander** numbers. For this species, the largest broods seen were a female with 10 youngsters on 30/04/95 and one with 12 on the same date in 1999. This family was reduced to 9 by 22/05/99. **Moorhen** bred along the entire stretch of the river each year. On 19/06/94, an adult was seen with 5 young; on 24/06/94, a nest was found with 7 warm eggs. **Coots** were scarce, breeding only twice on a side pool. **Lapwing** numbers decreased throughout the period, as nationally. On 10/03/95, 55 were seen together; on 28/03/97, twelve pairs were seen on territory. On 20/06/98, a fox was seen leaving a colony of nesting Lapwings carrying an adult bird. On the subsequent visit, this colony was totally deserted. **Common Snipe** were present only in the early weeks of the year and did not stay to breed. The maximum number seen was 40 on 16/01/97, prior to the survey dates. Only 2 **Jack Snipe** were recorded, both on 04/03/02. One or two pairs of **Curlew** bred on the river flood-plain. Occasionally, they were seen in larger numbers on their way to higher breeding grounds. 71 were seen together on 10/03/97 and more than 100 on 06/03/99. **Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper** (3 on 01/08/00) and **Black-tailed Godwit** were present on passage only. **Kingfishers** were seen most years, often outside the survey period. One territory was recorded in 2000. Three birds were seen together on 22/07/00. **Sand Martin** nest numbers fluctuated from 14 to 62, de-

pending mainly on site availability. The river banks suffer from continual erosion by weather, animals and maintenance work by river authorities. In addition, one colony was predated by a fox which dug in from the top of the bank. **Grey Wagtails** seem to have disappeared. Why? On the other hand, **Pied Wagtails** breed each year and a nest with six warm eggs was found on 21/07/00. 51 Pied Wagtails were found feeding round a flooded pool on 4/03/02 and about 100 were seen going to roost in a nearby wheat field on the evening of 21/07/00. **Dippers** breed each year but seem to be decreasing. The highest number seen on one visit was 5 adults and 3 juveniles on 28/06/96. The area is not productive for warblers or buntings as there is insufficient cover available, but they were present most years and territories were recorded as in the table.

Examples of other birds seen include the following: Goshawk, Buzzard, Kestrel, a Merlin which attempted to pick up a Pied Wagtail from a frozen pool and a pair of Hobbies undertaking a food pass. A Peregrine in an oak tree was bombarded by breeding Lapwings, crows and a buzzard. Tawny and Little Owl are present as well as all three woodpeckers and in 1997 a Common Crane was seen to fly down the river!

Other fauna observed

A **Stoat** was seen moving two squealing young on 06/06/94. **Otter** spraints were frequently found beneath bridges and on prominent outcrops. **Foxes** were often seen. **Brown Hares** seem to be declining: 5 were seen together on 24/04/98, 2 observed 'boxing' on 18/03/00 but none in 2002. **Butterflies** such as Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock were common as there are many flowering plants nearby but the star sighting was that of a **Camberwell Beauty** on a willow tree on 21/08/99.

In conclusion, we reckon that since finding this beautiful stretch of the river over 10 years ago, we have recorded over 100 bird species, walked 1000 kilometres and consumed 10,000 sandwiches (mainly cheese!). Therefore, we feel entitled to call it "our bit of the River Clwyd".

AN EXPANDING TREE SPARROW COLONY ON MORFA CLWYD BY JOHN HICKERTON

The Tree Sparrow is known for its historical fluctuations of population in the UK. However, an 87% fall in population between 1972 and 1996, according to the Common Bird Census, put it on the Red List as a bird of high conservation concern.

In the winter of 97/98 a pair of Tree Sparrows were regularly seen feeding on peanuts at a small feeding station in a garden near Bodelwyddan. A 30mm entrance hole nest box was put up and promptly used by Great Tits who fledged 4 young. Within 1 week of the tits fledging, Tree Sparrows began building a nest on top of the old nest and laid 4 eggs. All four fledglings died nine days after hatching and no adults were seen in the garden until November.

In the winter of 98/99 a sunflower based seed mix was fed alongside peanuts and up to 4 birds were seen at any one time. Another nest box was erected. This one was used by Great Tits, leaving the Tree Sparrows to fledge 3 broods, one of 4, and two of 3 in the original box.

For the 2000 season more boxes were put up and all year round feeding with seed started. 31 young fledged from 4 boxes.

In 2001 boxes filled the garden and spread into a 4 acre paddock. Sixty one birds fledged from 8 active boxes and another successful brood in a starling box was not counted as the fledglings fled the box just prior to ringing commencing!

In 2001/2 ground feeding on a 6 acre set aside field was started, resulting in a maximum count of 73 Tree Sparrows and 44 House Sparrows on 22/02/02. Boxes now covered 10 acres and in the summer of 2002 15 active nests fledged 113 young.

This colony is based in a garden with mature fruit, walnut and willow trees set on the totally flat morfa near Bodelwyddan. The surrounding farmland is a mixture of pasture for sheep, cattle and horses and arable, mainly winter wheat with occasional fields of maize and set aside. The fields are intersected by deep drainage dykes and the Gele stream. As Tree Sparrow nestlings are fed almost entirely on insects these ditches and the associated hedgerows are vital to successful fledging. It is believed that summer feeding of seed enables the adults to spend more time searching for live food for the chicks.

The birds use both wooden and woodcrete boxes with holes of 30 and 32 millimetre diameter. These are set at a height of 2 to 4 metres. Nest sites are probably at a premium as a Starling box with a 45mm hole has been used for three years and on three occasions Tree Sparrows have promptly used boxes immediately after vacation by successful Great Tit broods.

The site of the boxes does not appear to be critical and birds have used boxes on Plum, Poplar, Walnut, Willow, Silver Birch, Sycamore, and electricity poles, wooden fences and posts.

If 32mm entrance holes are used, then House Sparrows can take over the boxes, which resulted in 5 boxes being used by these bigger birds in 2002. The House Sparrows produced only 3.4 fledged young per box compared to 7.5 fledged young per box of Tree Sparrows.

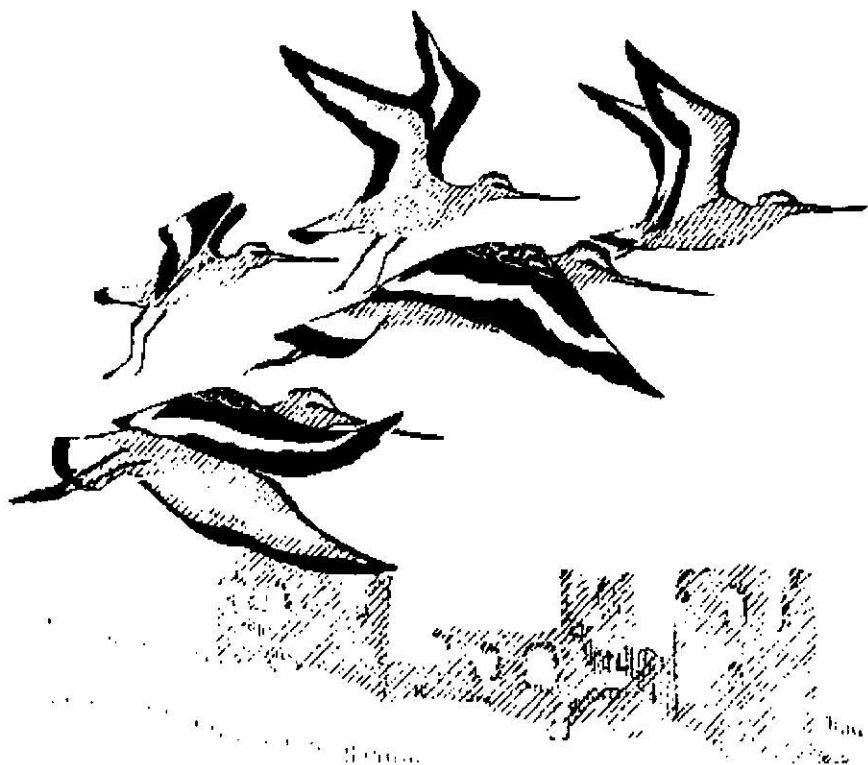
6 boxes produced 3 broods but it is not known if each box was used by the same pair all the time. More colour ring studies will be needed to show whether or not this is the case.

In spite of all but 10 young produced at this site being ringed, when winter ringing began in 2001/2 only one site-bred young was caught, compared to 34 "new" birds. This implies a further population is present in the winter months. One bird ringed in 2002 was re-trapped on the Wirral in winter. All birds ringed at this site are now colour ringed to indicate the year of ringing.

So..... if any tree sparrows with coloured rings on are sighted, please let use know. We would be interested to obtain much more data than is currently available.

Thanks are due to Ian Spence for vast amounts of ringing effort, encouragement and boxes and to the RSPB for subsidising winter feeding.

J P Hickerton. Rhianfa, 83 Russell Rd, Rhyl.



'Black-tailed Godwits over Flint Castle' by Thelma Sykes

Contributors

CBRG has adopted the policy of identifying particular records, where appropriate, with the name of the observer. Where several records are inserted in the Systematic List, initials have been used as indicated below.

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

plus

BHP Billiton SL (*Rob Palmer*); BirdGuides Ltd Web Site—designated BG (*dave.dunford@birdguides.com*); Dee Estuary Web Site—designated DEWS (*Richard Smith: 0151 625 2320 or richard@deestuary.co.uk*); Shotton Steelworks Records—designated SSW (*John Birch and Paul Triggs*); Ruabon Moors Gamekeeper—via JLR (*designated GK*); Wrexham Birdwatchers Annual Report; and the Welsh Raptor Study Group Annual Report (WRSG)

and the systematic lists for the following RSPB Reserves:

Bagillt Bank, Mostyn Dock, Oakenholt Marsh, Point of Ayr and POA Colliery Lagoons (*John Harrison, 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 Rob Palmer 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** (*Alan Davies, Warden*)

***Note: only parts of the IMF and Conwy Reserves relate to Clwyd as outlined on pages 14-15.*

A list of surveys received by CBRG can be found in Appendix 4 on page 102.

CBRG Target Species

Each year, CBRG features a target species for which we would like records, both breeding and non-breeding, for a particular year. These may include, but are not limited to, those species outlined in our reports as Birds of Conservation Concern in Clwyd (BCCC). Recent target birds have included Yellow-hammer (for 2001), Bullfinch (2002) and Lapwing (2003). The intended target for 2004 will be Barn Owl. To this end, CBRG would welcome any sightings of this species, particularly breeding records.

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	SJ 345520	GVHP	Greenfield Dock	SJ 200780
	Alyn Waters	SJ 332553		Greenfield Valley	SJ 1977
	Country Park, Llay	SJ 320546		Heritage Park	
BB	Bettisfield	SJ 4635	GL	Gresford Flash	SJ 346538
	Bagillt Bank	SJ 235767		Gresford Lake	SJ 348548
	BHP Pool, POA	SJ 124844		Gronant Dunes	SJ 090845
BQ	Bodelwyddan	SJ 0075	HM	Gyfelia	SJ 328453
	Bod Petruel	SJ 037510		Hanmer Mere	SJ 455397
	Borras/Borras Quarry	SJ 356526		Hope Mountain	SJ 350650
BPR	Brickfields Pools/ Reserve, Rhyl	SJ 013803	HMCP	(Waun y Llyn) Country Park	
	Bronbannog	SJ 0352		Hawarden Airfield	
	Burton, near Rossett	SJ 357573		Horseshoe Pass, near Llangollen	SJ 185470
CLR	Burton Meadows	SJ 350600	HP		
CQNR	Cae Llwyd Reservoir	SJ 269478	IMF	Inner Marsh Farm	SJ 305735
	Coed Cilygroeslwyd	SJ 121554			
	Clocaenog Forest	SJ 0353			
CR	Coedpoeth	SJ 2951	KB	Kinmel Bay (LNR)	SH 987808
	Connahs Quay Nature Reserve	SJ 270720			
	Conwy RSPB Reserve	SH 795775			
FC	Crewe Hill	SJ 420520	LLR	Lindisfame Lake, Ruabon	SJ 308427
				Llanasa	SJ 106815
				Llanddulas	SH 910785
FLQ	Ddol Uchaf Reserve	SJ 141714		Llandegla	SJ 196525
	Dolwen Reservoir	SH 973704		Llanferres	SJ 185614
	Dyserth	SJ 056791		Llanfwrog	SJ 113579
	Erddig Park	SJ 327482		Llawndy Farm (BHP)	SJ 118840
	Erddig Flash	SJ 336487		Llay	SJ 332557
				Llyn Aled	SH 916579
	Fenn's Moss	SJ 490370		Llyn Bran	SH 962592
	Flint Castle	SJ 248732		Llyn Brenig	SH 9755
	Fagl Lane Quarry, Hope	SJ 301588		Llyn Helyg	SJ 1177
			LPR	Loggerheads	SJ 205627
				Large Pool, Ruabon	SJ 297433

continued on next page

GAZETTEER (continued)

Abbreviation (where used)	Site	Grid Reference	Abbreviation (where used)	Site	Grid Reference
MHCW	Maes Hafod	SJ 310468	SF	Shotwick Fields	SJ 320720
MLR	Community Woodland		SL	Shotton Lagoons	SJ 3071
MQ	Marine Lake, Rhyl	SJ 000805	SSW	Shotton Steelworks	SJ 3070
MGL	Minera Quarry	SJ 2552			
	Moss Valley	SJ 312523	SBL	Shotwick	
	Mynydd Glyn Lws	SH 885725		Boating Lake	SJ 315725
NFR	Nant Mill	SJ 288504	SLJ	Stryt Las,	
	Nant-y-Ffrith Resr	SJ 243530		Johnstown	SJ 305449
NEWI	Nercwys Mountain	SJ 2258	SPA	Shallow Pool,	
	NE Wales	SJ 328513		Acrefair	SJ 281436
OMR	Institute, Wrexham			Sutton Green	SJ 416488
	Oakenholt Marsh				
	Reserve	SJ 265722		Tainant	SJ 270465
PDR				Talacre	SJ 124847
	Pendinas Reservoir	SJ 236518			
PCR	Pensarn	SH 950785	TFR	Tatham Farm,	
	Penycae	SJ 281452		Ruabon	SJ 2944
PMPA	Penycae Reservoir	SJ 2645		Trevalyn	
	Pentre Mawr Park,			Meadows	SJ 395565
PUR	Abergele	SH943785	TMR	Ty Mawr	
POA	Plas Uchaf Res'r	SH 969714		Reservoir	SJ 275480
	Point of Ayr	SJ 130850		Walwen	SJ 207766
	Pontybodkin	SJ 272593		Warren Farm,	
	Poulton	SJ 405580		Talacre	SJ 115843
RBP					
RCR	Rhyl Brickfield			Worthenbury	SJ 425570
RGC	Pond LNR	SJ 013803	WE	World's End	SJ 238478
RML	River Clwyd, Rhyl	SH000800	WIE	Wrexham	
	Rhyl Golf Course	SJ 028824		Industrial Estate	SJ 3749
	Rhyl Marine Lake	SH 999805			
	Rhydymwyn	SJ 213663			
RM	Ruabon Moors	SJ 245465	YL	Ysceifiog Lake	SJ 145715
	Rossett	SJ 368572			
	Sealand	SJ 340694			
	Sealand Ranges	SJ 305726			

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 £8.00 (single), £12.00 (joint)

Contact the Treasurer: George Courtenay (01745 339266) or
the Secretary: Llyn Davies (01352 781106)

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.

Wales Raptor Study Group – North Wales

The Wales Raptor Study Group – North Wales is a small number of fieldworkers who are dedicated to protecting raptors, owls, Chough and Raven. Currently, in the area that used to be Clwyd there are about ten people who contribute records to the Group. We try to organise ourselves to cover as much of the total area as possible, but we are not able to record the nests of all the species we are interested in every year. However, most of the nests of Schedule 1 species are checked.

Most of the fieldworkers are volunteers and do fieldwork in their spare time, though we are fortunate that two people are able to spend more time and they cover intensively two 10 km squares within the county.

One of the key problems for the species we record is that of disturbance. Several of the species we check are protected by Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, so their nests cannot be wilfully disturbed without a licence to do so. All of the fieldworkers in our Group have the appropriate licence each year from the Countryside Council for Wales, with which we have a close working relationship. Each fieldworker covers an area and this ensures that only one or two people visit each nest, but those visits are co-ordinated to prevent undue disturbance. We also have good working relations with the local Police Wildlife Liaison Officers.

Each year I prepare a report for the fieldworkers which shows how each nest has fared, but each nest is only referred to by its code – we never discuss openly, where the nests are located. The breeding success data from this report are shared with the Clwyd Bird Recording Group so that they may be published in the Clwyd Bird Report.

Ian M. Spence, Coordinator

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





Photograph: thanks to Gary Bellingham for providing the photograph of the wintering American Wigeon seen at IMF Border Pool.