

North-East Wales Bird Report

2007



Clwyd Bird Recording Group

November 2008

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www.cbrg.org.uk



Published November 2008

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Clwyd Bird Recording Group

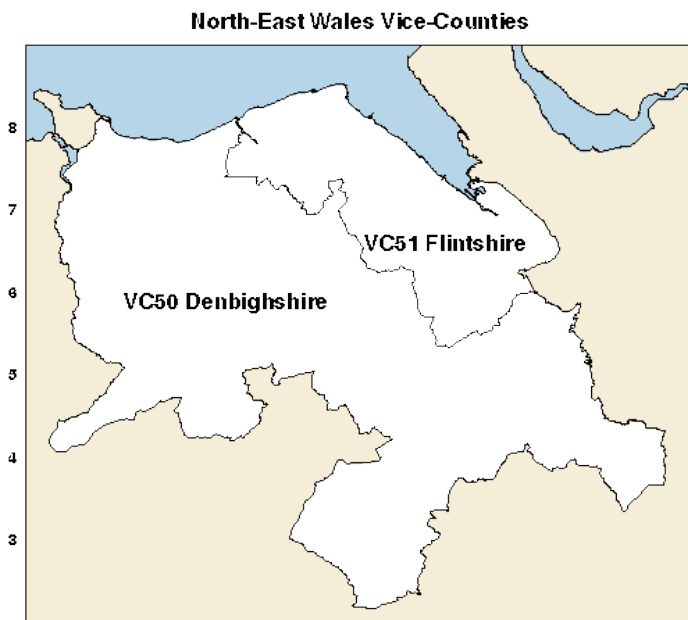
The group was founded in 1989 with the main aims to collect bird records for what was then Clwyd, but is now the area of the Vice Counties of Denbighshire and Flintshire, and to publish an annual bird report. The group, at the time of publication, comprises:

Chairman, Treasurer and County Recorder: Ian M Spence
(also representing the Welsh Ornithological Society)
Honorary Secretary: Julie Rogers

Anne Brenchley (BTO East Clwyd representative and N Wales Atlas organiser)
Peter Coffey (Merseyside Ringing Group)
Andrew Dale
Neil Hughes (Wrexham Birdwatchers)
Adrian Lloyd Jones (North Wales Wildlife Trust)
Geoff Robinson (RSPB)
Paul Triggs
Andrew Wallbank (Deeside Naturalists' Society)
Ian Evans (Wales Raptor Study Group – North-East Wales)

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The recording area for this report is shown in the map below.



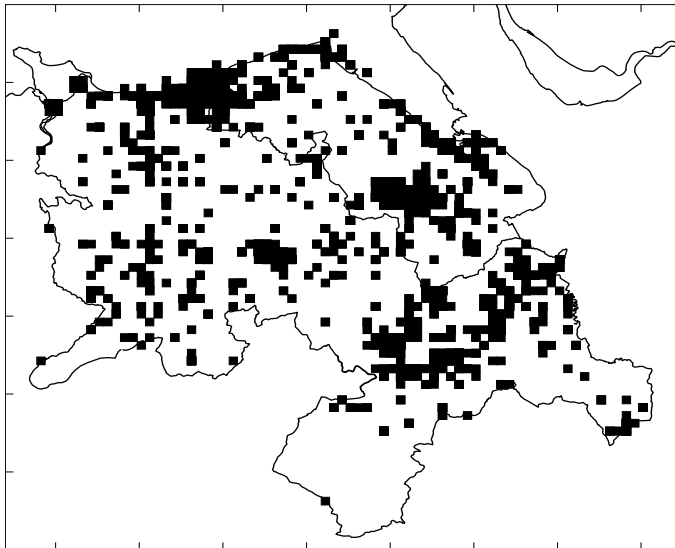
Introduction

Editorial

The Clwyd Bird Recording Group is pleased that the report for 2004-2006 has been relatively well received, so we have tried to produce this report as soon as is humanly possible (given that we were still receiving new records until late July). As it is 100 years since the publication of 'The Fauna of North Wales' written by HE Forrest, it seemed sensible to try to make some comparisons with the descriptions of the status of bird species at that time. Our own, contemporary, time constraints, have meant that the task has not been done in as much depth as some readers may have wished, but we have tried to make observations about changes. Please see the short article on pages 12-15.

There has been a large increase in the number of records submitted or gathered from various sources, for which we are very grateful. It may also be that there has been a wider geographical coverage of North-East Wales this year, as is shown in the map below (though we desperately need records from the Tanat Valley and surrounding area):

All 574 1 km squares with at least one record in 2007



This map is really essential in the report so that the reader may judge our interpretation of the data we have received and reported on. The distribution maps give an idea of how widespread a particular species is, but also provide some notion of the huge task facing the North Wales Breeding Birds Atlas project – it hopes to receive records for every tetrad (a square of four 1 km squares) in North Wales. If you live in an area and know that one or more species live and breed near you, but that are not represented in our maps, then please keep the records and submit them, either to me as Recorder or to the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) by way of the Atlas website (www.birdatlas.net). If you wish information on the progress of the North Wales atlas, please check its website (www.northwalesbirdatlas.co.uk).

Many of our records have come from BTO surveys: Birdtrack, Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), and the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) but for several reasons I was unable to receive records for the Garden Birdwatch (GBW) for all contributing gardens in north-east Wales. If I had received them all, the number of bird records for the year would have doubled! I hope that we will be able to use these records in the near future. For this report we have received our first Atlas records, either at the 1 km level (very welcome) or by tetrad. These have mainly been Roving Records as all records from Timed Tetrad Visits have to be submitted to the BTO, preferably via the Atlas website so that the data can be viewed – almost instantaneously.

In the past year I have managed to deal with most rarities that have come to me in a more organised way and now have a system that is much better than for 2004-2006. Records of any rarity that has been accepted by its relevant panel are included in this report. If you see a local rarity, do please take a description and a photograph and submit a record form with both – together they help in assessing records. If you are only able to take a description, please describe the plumage and appearance of the bird as carefully as you can. We have had to leave some records as 'not accepted' because the information given to us did not convince the panel that the bird seen was necessarily the species claimed. Mainly, this was because of insufficient detail for us to be certain, but non-acceptance does not mean that the bird claimed was not seen, it just means that the information was not enough to persuade us - so the record cannot be accepted into the database of records.

I have received some records that should have appeared in the last report, but were too late to include in that report. I have included these records in the systematic list for the species concerned. There is a separate entry labelled by the year.

The CBRG hopes that you will enjoy reading this report and that it will encourage you to either continue to send us records or to start doing so. The report can only get better with more and better information. As Recorder, I look forward to hearing from you.

Boundary issues

The changes that I wrote about in the report for 2004-2006 have been confirmed in the article: David Balance and Judith Smith, 2008, 'Recording Areas in Great Britain', *British Birds*, 101, 364-375. I have been sending records to the Recorders of the surrounding counties and have received some records from them. I trust that this cooperation will continue.

Website

I managed to put together a simple website (www.cbrg.org.uk) just before publication of the 2004-2006 report. It is not a whizzy, exciting website, but it presents information about the CBRG and our work to the public. It makes available the latest versions of documents that are needed in order to submit records and has been visited by a small band of returning visitors. If any reader of this report has ideas about how the website could be improved, please do let me know (ianspence.cr@btinternet.com).

Computerisation of records

The CBRG database now holds 95,000+ records with records from the latter half of 2008 still to be received and imported – which means that the number of records imported for 2007 was double the number for any of the three preceding years (at 30,000+). I am very grateful to all the observers who send me their spreadsheets or paper records. In this section I wish to mention my gratitude to two people who do a huge amount of work to assist my recording – Chris Leighton who types up the records from the logbooks in the hides at the Connah's Quay Nature Reserve, on behalf of the Deeside Naturalists' Society and Jim Hulse, who types up the records received from the few observers who do not have computers.

Submission of records

A standard record form is available on the CBRG website or from me and it would be most helpful if these forms were used and submitted to me, as Recorder, by email. All the records are imported to a database so it does not matter about the order of the records – it is probably easiest (though not necessary) to use the forms chronologically, just entering the latest observations that you have recorded. The crucial aspects of each record are:

- Species name (as in the 2006 edition of the British Ornithologists' Union checklist);
- Date of the observation;
- Location name (preferably from the gazetteer, but if not then a name for the 1km square that looks sensible);
- The 1 km square grid reference (this is crucial);
- The age or sex of the bird or 'None' if you do not know;
- The activity code, where relevant (see the BTO Atlas codes);
- The number of birds seen (please do not enter pairs as one record – please enter the number of males then on the next line, the number of females);
- The Vice County number, if known (eg 50 or 51); and
- In the comments column please enter any other aspects of the observation that are pertinent.

All of these details are stored. As the records are handled electronically, it does not matter how frequently you record the observations. Please keep records of common species as much as rarities, but of particular concern now are those species that are either Amber or Red listed in 'The status of birds in Wales, 2005 (the latest edition available), or are species on the Welsh Biodiversity Action Plan (WBAP) list. Included in this report are maps showing the distribution of the records we have received for some species either of high conservation concern or some that were did not have records mapped in the last report.

Records can be made available to the CBRG in a variety of ways, some of which are better than others. They would all be equally good, if they all had the same requirements, but that is

expecting a lot. Records of bird sightings may be made available by:

- using a spreadsheet available on the CBRG website together with a gazetteer for place names, and a list of the BOU 2006 checklist species names; all of these documents are also available direct from me at ianspence.cr@btinternet.com
- by using Birdtrack (www.birdtrack.net);
- by using the Cofnod record submission facility (www.cofnod.org.uk);
- by using the Birdguides record submission facility (www.birdguides.com but please give your name and address – see the rarity section, below); and
- by using the website run by Richard Smith (www.deeestuary.co.uk) emailing your records to him.

Please submit your records regularly, preferably no less frequently than every quarter. For your records to be considered for a bird report, please submit the records before the end of March of the following year. After that date and they may be too late to include.

I look forward to continue receiving records from existing and new observers.

Rarity records

If you see a bird that is considered to be a rarity please refer to the copy of the BOU 2006 checklist of species that I prepared that show if each species is a national, Welsh or local rarity – it is available from the Downloads page on the website – or the list, below. The rarity form that should be completed is also available from the Downloads page of the website. If you take any digital photos, please label them with date, species, place and your name.

Please submit records of rarities to me as soon after the observation as is possible.

I have made improvements in the way that rarities have been dealt with this year and many have been verified at two meetings of the local rarity panel or sent to the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) or the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). Unfortunately, there were records submitted of species that were local rarities but no descriptions or photographs were sent to support the records. Some of these unsupported records have had to be omitted. Again, many records of rarities came from the Birdguides website, but were anonymous, so I was unable to follow them up with enquiries about descriptions or photographs, so they have not been used as they could not go through any verification process. If you see a rarity and use the Birdguides, or other, website, please give contact details as well as details of the observation.

One national rarity has been submitted to the BBRC (secretary@bbrc.org.uk), been accepted and is included in this report – the Desert Wheatear. Some records of Welsh rarities have been submitted to the Welsh Records Panel (jonrg@tiscali.co.uk), have been accepted so they have been included in this report.

Local rarity species list

The list of local rarities is currently as follows (but is due to be reviewed soon):

| List of local rarities that require descriptions | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Greater White-fronted Goose | European Honey-buzzard | Atlantic Puffin |
| Lesser White-fronted Goose | Eurasian Marsh Harrier | European Turtle Dove |
| Barnacle Goose | Pied Avocet | Hoopoe |
| Garganey | Eurasian Dotterel | Eurasian Wryneck |
| Common Eider | Wood Sandpiper | Water Pipit |
| Long-tailed Duck | Grey Phalarope | Bohemian Waxwing |
| Smew | Pomarine Skua | Cetti's Warbler |
| Common Quail | Long-tailed Skua | Yellow-browed Warbler |
| Red-necked Grebe | Sabine's Gull | Firecrest |
| Slavonian Grebe | Ring-billed Gull | Eurasian Golden Oriole |
| Black-necked Grebe | Yellow-legged Gull | Great Grey Shrike |
| Sooty Shearwater | Iceland Gull | Red-billed Chough |
| Balearic Shearwater | Glaucous Gull | Hooded Crow |
| Great Bittern | Roseate Tern | Hawfinch |
| Eurasian Spoonbill | Black Guillemot | Lapland Longspur |
| | | Yellow Wagtail (blue-headed) |

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to those members of the CBRG who contributed by writing a suite of species accounts. The contributors who helped me with this report were: Anne Brenchley, Peter Coffey, Andrew Dale, Neil Hughes, Geoff Robinson, Julie Rogers, Paul Triggs and Andrew Wallbank.

I thank Alan Davies, Julian Hughes, Ian Evans and Susan Morris – the panel who helped me to make decisions about local rarities – for their assistance.

Many thanks to the authors who contributed articles that have added interest to this report.

I am very grateful to Amanda Bunnell for her assistance with technical aspects of preparing the photographs for the report.

The maps have been produced using DMAP by Dr Alan J Morton. I am grateful to him for his assistance.

Chris Leighton types up the records from Connahs' Quay Nature Reserve and Jim Hulse has

typed up other people's records and is submitting his own - I am very grateful to them both for their help.

The database for the CBRG is Recorder 6 with which I have faced several difficulties and needed help. I am very grateful to Sarah Shaw and Steve Wilkinson of the JNCC, and Mike Weideli and Charles Roper, with whom I have had contact via the NBN Forum which provides support for users of Recorder 6. All of these people have helped me out when I have been stuck or otherwise needed assistance, for which I am extremely grateful.

Len Walls has been very helpful in providing weather data from his Moel y Crio weather station at Halkyn, Flintshire.

I am very grateful to Barry Barnacal, Gary Bellingham, Andrew Wallbank, Marc Hughes, Chris Jones and Alan Nevitt for their photographs that add significantly to the attractiveness of the report.

The CBRG is very grateful to one contributor for its donation that has helped to make this report possible: the Wales Raptor Study Group – North-East Wales.

I am very grateful to the members of the CBRG for their ongoing support and assistance with all that is needed to coordinate a report such as this. I also thank Andrew Dale for his careful proof-reading of the text and to Lynne Farrell and Trevor Payne for their careful checking of the typeset report.

I thank the British Trust for Ornithology for its support and assistance in making available bird records submitted to: Birdtrack, the Breeding Bird Survey and the Wetland Bird Survey.

I remain most grateful to all the observers and organisations who submitted records for the report – the list of individual contributors is at the back of the report. Among the organisations that submitted records are the RSPB (Conwy, Inner Marsh Farm and the office at Bangor), Deeside Naturalists' Society, Clwyd Monitoring and BHP Billiton (per Sam Dyer). I trust that the observers and organisations think that we have made best use of the data they have provided.

Ian M Spence, Recorder

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Birding Highlights 2007

This paper briefly summarises the main birding highlights and events for 2007. It is based on all records received by the County Recorder and subsequently verified by the local, Welsh and British Birds Rarities Committee. Unfortunately it is still the case that not all records reach the County Recorder and, therefore, discrepancies between this report and records highlighted in other reports and monthly magazines still occur. Also other records noted in magazines and bulletins, which subsequently cannot be verified by description, are either not submitted or do not stand close scrutiny and are not included in this report. Omissions also occasionally occur and for this we offer our apologies.

2007

The year began rather quietly with most birdwatching activity taking place on the coast but with little of special note until a **Water Pipit** was seen at Point of Ayr at the end of January. February started with the year's only **Velvet Scoter** seen off Towyn and a **Great Northern Diver** off Gronant. An **Iceland Gull** at RSPB Conwy delighted birdwatchers in the middle of the month. Two to three **Short-eared Owls** were regularly seen at Kinnel Bay industrial estate and the 25 **Brent Geese** at Point of Ayr were an unusual record for north-east Wales. In March, winter met spring as winter visitors such as **Brambling** (a maximum of 100+ at World's End) and thrushes were reluctant to leave and early spring migrants such as **Sand Martins**, **Wheatears** and **Swallows** made their first appearance. Strong winds on 19 March brought two records of **Leach's Petrel** at the coast, with a third more unusual sighting of a single bird flying over Oakenholt Marsh on the same day. The winds brought 10+ **Little Gulls** to Towyn and 12 were seen the following day, the maximum count for the year. An exceptional number of **Siskins** (1000) were seen at Pendinas Reservoir on 23 March. A **White-tailed Sea Eagle** put in an appearance at World's End on 13 April. It had been seen over the Wirral and was subsequently seen at several locations in North-West Wales. Two **Avocets** were recorded at RSPB Conwy in the middle of the month and these were maybe the same two birds seen the following day at Connah's Quay Reserve. The only recorded **Wryneck** of the year was seen at World's End this month. The rain began in May and went through to August making this a very wet spring and summer and many of the migrant warblers and flycatchers had a bad breeding season as a result. **Barn Owls**, however seemed less affected by the weather and their good breeding season was probably the result of the high vole population. Five **Bee-eaters** were photographed in the Tanat Valley, an area from which we receive very few records! Three **Spoonbills** were photographed flying south of Rhyl in June and at Shotton Steelworks the **Common Tern** colony (the 5th largest in the UK) had 762 apparently occupied nests, the maximum ever recorded here. Sadly the wet summer meant that breeding success was not correspondingly high. The **Little Terns** at Gronant had similar mixed fortune with 103 pairs producing 99 young. In July and August the regular seabird passage occurred between Gronant and Point of Ayr with the highlight being a single **Pomarine Skua** in late August. **Little Egrets** have become more widespread this year with several inland records but the peak count of 56 birds at Connah's Quay in late August was particularly notable. A quiet autumn brought three **Little Stints** to RSPB Conwy in late September. A single bird seen at Connah's Quay a couple of days later may have been one of these birds. Four **Lapland Bunting** were sighted at Point of Ayr in October. November was a more exciting month as an adult male **Desert Wheatear** was seen at Towyn, a **Smew** was seen at RSPB Conwy, the year's only confirmed **Firecrest** was caught, ringed and photographed at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos, and the number and diversity of gulls, duck and waders built up. A count of 5,000 **Pintail** on the Dee Estuary was the highest number recorded since 2001. A **Purple Sandpiper** was the first for

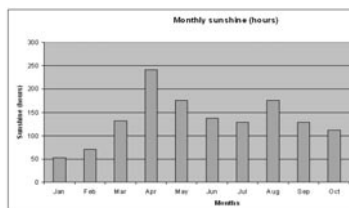
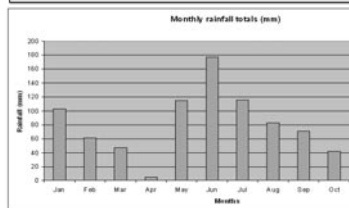
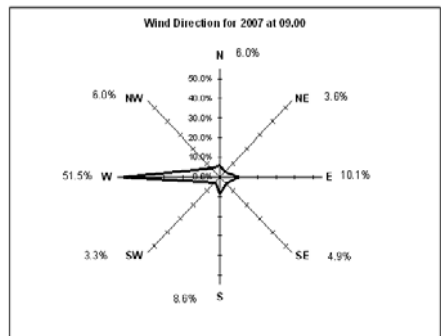
RSPB Conwy and **Glaucous Gull** and **Iceland Gull** were seen daily at Gresford Flash until the end of December. The year ended with 1,000 **Crossbill** seen in Clocaenog Forest.

Anne Brenchley

Weather Summary 2007. Data kindly supplied by Len Walls

| 2007 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Max temp °C / date | 11.5 / 19 | 11.5 / 22 | 12.6 / 14 | 20.0 / 14 | 19.9 / 23 | 24.2 / 11 | 21.4 / 16 | 24.6 / 5 | 19.5 / 13 | 17.3 / 11 | 15.1 / 1 | 13.1 / 6 |
| Mean temp °C | 6.1 | 4.8 | 6.2 | 10.4 | 10.7 | 13.9 | 13.7 | 14.1 | 12.8 | 10.6 | 7.4 | 4.7 |
| Min temp °C / date | -2.2 / 25 | -4.9 / 7 | -3.8 / 21 | -0.3 / 4 | 3.4 / 5 | 6.9 / 28 | 7.6 / 19 | 6.7 / 20 | 3.6 / 27 | 2.2 / 24 | -2.3 / 24 | -3.4 / 22 |
| Rain mm | 103.2 | 61.9 | 47.2 | 5.0 | 114.7 | 177.1 | 115.8 | 83.0 | 70.7 | 41.9 | 98.4 | 86.6 |
| Sun hours | 53.3 | 71.3 | 132.7 | 241.5 | 175.3 | 137.9 | 128.9 | 175.9 | 13.0 | 113.1 | 45.8 | 63.7 |

The year started unusually warm (Jan and Apr) but the summer had the coolest Jul and Aug since 1954. The warmest day was only 24.6°C and the coldest day was 7 Feb at -4.9°C. The wettest day was 13 May with 37.1 mm of rain and May, Jun and Jul were very wet with a total of 408 mm of rain which is 205% of the long term average and the wettest period for those three months since at least 1954. By contrast, between 21 Mar and 4 May only 6.6 mm of rain fell which is officially a drought! There were only six days with accumulations of snow; the period 8 to 11 Feb had most, with 19-30 cm of lying snow on 10 Feb. The amount of sunshine was average and the sunniest day was 6 Jun with 15.7 hours. April was, by far, the sunniest month. The winds were like 2006 but more pronounced with 51.5% from the W with gale force winds on 14 days and a maximum gust of 77 mph on 18 Jan. There were 6% of days with flat calm – not shown on the chart.



Len Walls (www.moelycricio.co.uk)

100 years since the publication of ‘The Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales’

At the time of the publication of our bird report for 2007 it seems timely to consider what was written in the book by Forrest which has two names – on the cover the word ‘vertebrate’ is not present, but on the frontispiece it is. The book is:

Forrest, HE, 1907, ‘The Vertebrate Fauna of North Wales’, London: Witherby & Co.

The book covered mammals, birds, amphibians and fishes and all the information about these taxa were provided by 187 contributors. The geographic area of the book is most of north Wales – ie more than in the modern sense. It included the vice counties: Flintshire, Denbighshire, Caernarfon, Anglesey, Meirionnydd, Montgomeryshire and a small part of the top of Cardiganshire; all of which is ably shown on a map at the back of the book. Forrest included a table with some information about the physical features of the area and I have reproduced, here, the information only for the area covered by this bird report:

| | Under 1000 feet | Over 1000 feet | Highest point | Water | Salt marsh and fore-shore | Waste land | Coast line |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------|---------------------------|------------|------------|
| | Sq miles | Sq miles | Feet | Sq miles | Sq miles | Sq miles | Miles |
| Denbigh | 428 | 235 | 2194 | 3.0 | 5.6 | 74 | 11 |
| Flint | 247 | 9 | 1820 | 1.0 | 27.1 | 7 | 24 |

These details are not correct for the way we now interpret the two vice counties for modern biological recording as they include in Flintshire the enclave to the east of the River Dee, which we now include in Denbighshire.

In order to give a flavour of the countryside at that time, I quote a section of the chapter, ‘*The Physical Features of North Wales*’ about moorlands: “*These are situated principally in Denbighshire, but overlap the adjoining parts of Meirioneth and Caernarvon, whilst the north and west borders of Montgomeryshire consist largely of grouse-moors. It is only on these last that the Blackcock appears to be really indigenous. Next to the Grouse the most characteristic birds of the Welsh moors are the Curlew and Ring-Ouzel; the Cuckoo and Meadow-Pipit are very numerous, the Wheatear common; the Golden Plover breeds in many places, the Dunlin but rarely, whilst the Dotterel occurs irregularly an only as a passing migrant. The Merlin still breeds in fair numbers on the moors, but the Harriers are almost extinct locally.*” This short passage gives a flavour of what North Wales was like at that time with several differences in relation to the abundance of certain species.

There have been some major changes in habitat since the time of Forrest’s book – after the First World War there was the creation of the Forestry Commission and the planting of large forests, including Clocaenog. This forest was created on what was open moorland. This would have led to a fairly quick and complete change in the avifauna of that area. Two other major developments in that area were the creation of the Alwen and Brenig reservoirs. Another main change (that is beyond my capability to completely describe) is the change in agriculture to our modern, intensive, use of the landscape that has had a profound effect on the birdlife of the area.

The changes in the status of bird species is what is of key interest within this bird report. In

Forrest's day he had a smaller number of contributors and many of them were shooters, egg-collectors (including the Rev Jourdain), and nest finders. Within the book there is no mention of 'bird watching' or 'counting' as activities in relation to birds and this does make some comparisons difficult. This aspect shows so clearly why our modern bird-watching, with its surveys and atlases, is so important and why there is a good reason to continue to publish an annual bird report based on regular records from interested bird-watchers and ringers.

There have been winners and losers over the last century and these are tabulated, below. I have put a species in either column because the species:

- are new (five species were not here in Forrest's time and one has been created by a systematic split within the last 10 years);
- show decline in the breeding population;
- have started to behave in a different way in relation to migration – particularly that some overwinter; and
- have become locally extinct.

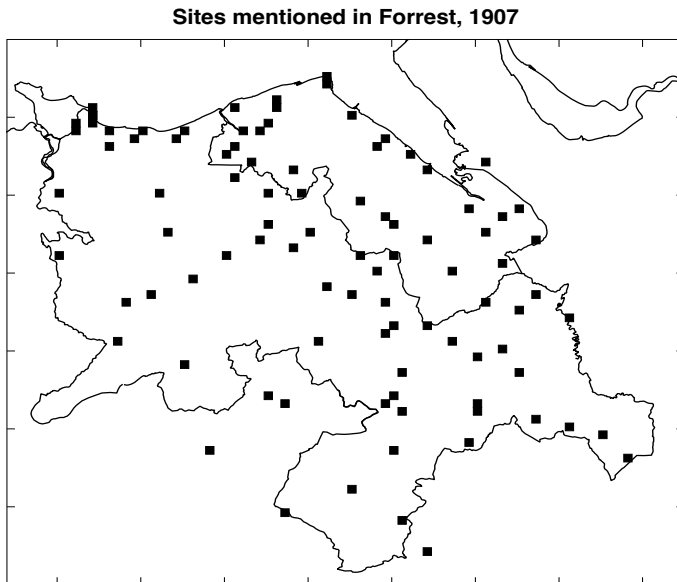
The species for which there appears to be sufficient evidence to indicate a change in status since 1907 are:

| Increases | Decreases |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Mute Swan | Barnacle Goose |
| Greylag Goose | Greater Scaup |
| Greater Canada Goose | Willow Ptarmigan |
| American Wigeon | Grey Partridge |
| Green-winged Teal | Common Kestrel |
| Mandarin Duck | Merlin |
| Gadwall | Water Rail |
| Northern Shoveler | Common Moorhen |
| Common Pochard | Corn Crake |
| Tufted Duck | Ringed Plover |
| Common Eider | European Golden Plover |
| Goosander | Northern Lapwing |
| Ruddy Duck (New) | Dunlin |
| Black Grouse | Jack Snipe |
| Red-legged Partridge | Common Snipe |
| Northern Fulmar | Eurasian Curlew |
| Little Egret (New) | Green Sandpiper |
| Eurasian Spoonbill | Common Sandpiper |
| Red Kite | Black-headed Gull |
| Hen Harrier | Black-legged Kittiwake |

| Increases | Decreases |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Northern Goshawk | European Turtle Dove |
| Common Buzzard | Common Cuckoo |
| Osprey | Barn Owl |
| Eurasian Hobby | Long-eared Owl |
| Peregrine Falcon | European Nightjar |
| Little Plover (New) | Green Woodpecker |
| Grey Plover | Lesser Spotted Woodpecker |
| Red Knot | Wood Lark |
| Black-tailed Godwit | Sky Lark |
| Spotted Redshank | Tree Pipit |
| Ruddy Turnstone | Rock Pipit |
| Arctic Skua | Yellow Wagtail |
| Mediterranean Gull (New) | White-throated Dipper |
| Little Gull | Common Redstart |
| Yellow-legged Gull (New) | Whinchat |
| Herring Gull | Ring Ouzel |
| Great Black-backed Gull | Song Thrush |
| Sandwich Tern | Common Grasshopper Warbler |
| Common Tern | Sedge Warbler |
| Eurasian Collared Dove (New) | Lesser Whitethroat |
| Little Owl | Common Whitethroat |
| Eurasian Reed Warbler | Wood Warbler |
| Blackcap | Common Nightingale |
| Common Chiffchaff | Spotted Flycatcher |
| Firecrest | Pied Flycatcher |
| Willow Tit | Marsh Tit |
| Wood Nuthatch | Red-backed Shrike |
| Great Grey Shrike | Common Starling |
| Eurasian Siskin | House Sparrow |
| Common Crossbill | European Greenfinch |
| Snow Bunting | Common Linnet |
| | Lesser Redpoll |
| | Common Bullfinch |
| | Hawfinch |
| | Yellowhammer |
| | Cirl Bunting |
| | Reed Bunting |
| | Corn Bunting |

The table includes 51 species that have probably had favourable changes in status and 58 species that have had unfavourable changes in status.

The map, below, shows the sites from which Forrest quotes records in his species accounts. They are evenly distributed across the area and can be compared with the sites from which we received records for 2007 in the Editorial on page 4 of this report.



Within each species account in the systematic list I have made a comment about the status of the species now, compared with what can be learned from the text in Forrest.

Ian M Spence

The Systematic List for 2007

The names of species and their order come from Dudley, SP et al (2006), The British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain (7th edition), Ibis 148, 526-563. The Welsh names have been taken from previous reports and where necessary, from the website www.avionary.info

We have continued to use conventions from previous reports – dates are presented as day/month (in digits) and we have stated where birds are on the Red or Amber List (from Thorpe, RI and Young, A (2002), The population status of birds in Wales: an analysis of conservation concern, 2002 – 2007, Welsh Birds 3(4), 289-302), and those that are the priority species for action, found in Wales, as defined by the 2007 UK Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species review.

Within the text we have used abbreviations (see table below) for some places that appear frequently or in tables.

| Code | Common name, or gazetteer name, for location | 1 km square |
|------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| APMP | Abergele, Pentre Mawr Park | SH9478 |
| CON | Conwy RSPB Nature Reserve | SH7977 |
| CQNR | Connah's Quay Nature Reserve | SJ2672 |
| FLQ | Hope, Fagl Lane Quarry | SJ3058 |
| GF | Wrexham, Gresford Flash | SJ3453 |
| IMF | Inner Marsh Farm, RSPB reserve | SJ3073 |
| OMR | Oakenholt Marsh Reserve | SJ2671 |
| POA | Point of Ayr | SJ1284 |
| RM | Ruabon Mountain | (SJ24) |
| SS | Shotton, Steelworks | SJ3070 |
| TB | Towyn, beach | SH9779 |
| WS | White Sands | SJ2772 |

Other abbreviations that appear in the report include, in tables, the BTO two letter code for the species to which the table refers and:

| | |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BBS | Breeding Bird Survey organised by the British Trust for Ornithology |
| GBW | Garden Bird Watch organised by the British Trust for Ornithology |

We have abbreviated the names of months to just three letters (eg Jan, Feb, etc).

We have included maps to show the distribution of the records received for some species where we considered that maps would assist the summarising of those records. If you are aware of areas of the country where those species are present, but there are no symbols to show their presence, please send in records to the Recorder. Please also use the maps to spur you into action if you know that a species breeds near you but is not shown. This will help the North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas project.

Each account has a table showing the number of records received during the year and the maximum number of birds counted. Some species have a table of breeding success data – these are the results from those nests that have been found and recorded and are not, necessarily, the actual number of nests that occurred in the area.

As in previous reports, it is apparent that we receive very few records of proven breeding by species that are not subject to specialist study. We would welcome knowing where any of these species are found to breed using the codes for evidence that are generally used for bird atlas purposes (by the time this report is published we expect that many of you will be acquainting yourselves with these codes for the BTO atlas – they are listed on the Atlas page of the CBRG website).

Where particularly relevant the initials of the observers are included in brackets.

At the end of this section Anne Brencley has written about the first and last dates for migrants. Please continue to send records of the first dates you see migrant species and keep records so that you know when you last saw them when they have migrated away. We are very keen to know these last dates as well as when they arrive.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

LARCH DÔF

Breeding resident.

1907

This handsome species is resident in a domesticated state on many lakes and pools throughout North Wales, whilst it breeds regularly in a perfectly wild state on Whixall Moss, Flintshire, on a portion of the moss which is an impassable morass.

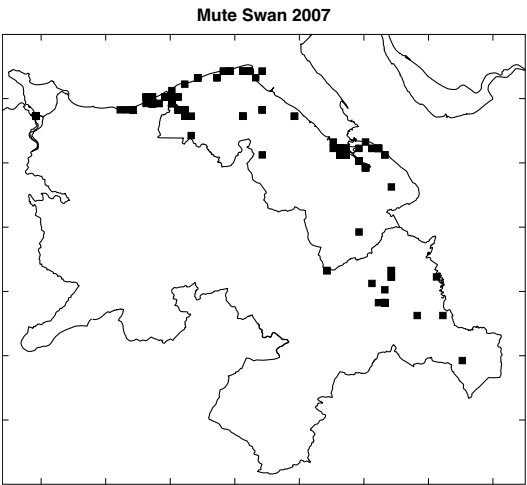
2007

Denbs. Most records were of pairs but with higher counts from a number of sites including CON with maximum count of 15 on 22/04 (pALD). Highest number was 30+ at Kinmel Bay on 6/01 (RC, AC, HC) and floods on River Dee at Ridleywood held 20 birds on 17/01 (NFr). Juvenile birds reported from Acton Park and Erddig Park at Wrexham, APMP and at CON (pALD, NHu, SM)

| (MS) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 110 | 30+ |
| Flints. | 178 | 50+ |

Flints. The highest counts came from along the Clwyd or Dee estuaries. Rhuddlan area had a maximum count of 49 birds on 20/05 (SH) while 50 were recorded on fields in the Shotwick area on 30/12 (MGi) and 50+ S of Rhyl on 21/06 (SM). Juvenile records: 3 seen on River Clwyd, Rhyl on 13/04 (SM), 7 at Llyn Helyg on 7/05 (ELJ), 5 at Rhuddlan on 15/06 (SH) and 7 at Ffrith, Prestatyn on 20/06 (DCR).

It seems that this species breeds much more widely across our part of north Wales than was the case 100 years ago.



Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)

ALARCH BEWICK

Annual, but uncommon winter visitor. Amber list. WBAP

1907 Bewick's Swan

Winter visitor, not uncommon on flat coasts and estuaries; rarer on inland waters.

2007

Flints. The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance for this species, Shotwick Fields and boating lake being a particularly favoured location. All records were from this area and IMF. Smaller numbers noted than in previous years, with up to 20 recorded during the early part of the year, the last substantial numbers being 15 recorded on 17/01, though two lingered at IMF until 18/02 (WeBS). The first returning autumn birds were 25 flying over the boating lake on 24/10 (WAO), smaller numbers of 4-9 being present throughout the remainder of the year, with a maximum of 18 at Shotwick Fields/Broken Bank on 26/12 (GrJ).

| (BS) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 0 | |
| Flints. | 22 | 25 |

There does not seem to be much, if any, change in the status of this species in the last 100 years.

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

Annual, but irregular winter visitor in small numbers.

1907

Winter visitor, not uncommon on flat coasts and estuaries; rarer on inland waters.

2007

Records are primarily concentrated around the Dee Estuary where this species is found with other swans at Shotwick Fields and boating lake, IMF and other sites in the upper estuary. Smaller numbers recorded less frequently from coastal sites further west.

| (WS) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 7 | 7 |
| Flints. | 44 | 30 |

Denbs. Two were recorded near Kinmel Bay on 6/01 (ABr, HC), and then at CON on 8/01 (pALD). A single bird returned to CON on 17/10, numbers increasing to a maximum of 7 on 25/11 (pALD).

Flints. Birds were recorded from the beginning of the year, when 30 were at Shotwick boating lake from 1-6/01 (ANB). These were also the maximum spring count. Similar numbers recorded from sites throughout the upper Dee Estuary until 23/03 when 25 at White Sands were the last birds recorded in spring (GR/WeBS). The first record of returning birds in the autumn was of 3 birds on the Shotwick boating lake on 24/10 (WAO). There were further records from various sites on the estuary during the remainder of the year, up to a maximum of 30 on 30/12 (MGi). Away from the Dee up to 3 were present at Rhyl from 6/01 – 16/03 (MC, SM, SH); and a substantial count of 25+ E of Prestatyn on 16/12 is a notable record (DCR).

Again, there does not seem to have been much change in the status of this species since 1907.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

GWYDD DROED-BINC

Passage migrant, and winter visitor in small numbers.

1907

Winter migrant, occurring regularly on the Dee marshes... and elsewhere.

2006

Denbs. A small flock of 12 flew over Rhos-on-Sea on 23/02 (STh).

2007

Denbs. Only two records for the year, eighty at CON on 17/02 (pALD), and a single bird at Llandulas on 16/11 (RB).

| (PG) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 2 | 80 |
| Flints. | 13 | 154 |

Flints. The majority of records were from the Dee Estuary where birds were present from the beginning of the year, when 20 were at CQNR (AW). Thereafter, generally small numbers until 23/01 when 93 were at Shotwick Fields (pCW), subsequently building to a maximum count of 154 at the same site on 21/02(CW). The last birds of the spring were 75, again at Shotwick Fields on 20/03(CW). The first autumn migrants were 15 at IMF on 27/10 (CW); but the only other autumn record was of 27 at Shotwick Fields on 12/11 (ST).

There seems to have been little change in status, though the flocks seen now may be slightly larger than were usually seen in North Wales 100 years ago.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

Scarce winter visitor. Red List. WBAP

1907 White-fronted Goose

Winter migrant, not uncommon on the estuaries, obtained in all counties.

2007

No records during this year. Despite the quotation from Forrest, there were no records in his book of other than singles in our area. It appears that the status of this goose has not changed markedly in our area.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

GWYDD WYLLT

Winter visitor and uncommon breeding resident.

1907 Grey Lag-goose

Winter migrant of rare and irregular occurrence on the estuaries.

2007

This species comprises a small resident feral breeding population which is relatively widespread on suitable inland water bodies. The majority of records during the spring and summer months are of small numbers on inland sites, probably indicating resident territorial breeding pairs. These birds concentrate into post-breeding moulting flocks on a number of sites such as the Dee

| (PG) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 55 | 150 |
| Flints. | 50 | 200 |

Estuary and Gresford Flash. These flocks are often supplemented by numbers of migrant wintering and passage birds during the winter period.

Denbs. Recorded from coastal and inland sites throughout the vice county, including Gresford Flash, Trevalyn Meadows, CON, Llyn Brenig, Marford, TB, Nant y Ffridd, Dolwen NE, Rhuthun, Glasfryn, Llyn y Cwrt, NE of Ridleywood and near Kinnel Bay. Small numbers were recorded during the breeding season from a variety of possible inland sites, however actual breeding records are confined to an individual recorded nesting on an island at Llyn Brenig on 11/04 (EIJ). Significant concentrations, possibly of moulting birds, were recorded during Sept/Oct at Gresford Flash, Wrexham with a maximum of 130+ on 17/10 (pALD); while smaller numbers, up to a maximum of 46 on 18/10 were at CON during the same period (pALD). Winter floods in the lower Dee valley attracted substantial flocks with 80 at Worthenbury on 17/01 (NFr); 150 at Trevalyn Meadows, Pulford Brook also on 17/01, and 120 NE of Ridleywood on 10/12 (NFr).

Flints. The majority of coastal records are from around the Dee Estuary where the species was recorded from OMR, POA, IMF, Shotwick Fields, CQNR and Whitford; also recorded in some numbers from the Clwyd Estuary in the Rhyl/Rhuddlan area. Inland sites from which summer sightings were noted include FLQ, Hanmer Mere, and Bettisfield. Notable counts were a maximum at Rhuddlan of 32 on 28/01 (SH); a max count of at least 120 at IMF on 20/08 (NH); at least 140 at Y Graig NR, Tremeirchion on 23/12 (PKi), and 200 at Rhyl S on the same date (SH) which was the maximum count of the year.

This species is now considerably more common and widespread than it was 100 years ago with the resident feral population now much more obvious, in contrast to Forrest's day when most records were mainly winter migrants.

Greater Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

GWYDD CANADA

Breeding resident.

1907 Canada Goose
Semi-wild birds are seen occasionally on pools and marshes near the English border, generally in winter, when these, like other geese, are prone to wander.

2007
A ubiquitous species found breeding on most lakes, ponds and other water bodies. The Mersey Estuary is an important area for moulting congregations, and post-moulting peaks occur in late September/October on a number of sites including the Dee Estuary, GF and CON, many birds remaining to winter.

| (CG) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 94 | 400 |
| Flints. | 239 | 2800 |

Denbs. Recorded from various sites in relatively small numbers throughout the year, a notable early peak being 240 on winter floods at Ridleywood on 17/01; the same site also holding 280 on 10/12(NFr). CON regularly held good numbers with a peak of 253 recorded on 13/06 (pALD). The largest count of the year in the vice county was 400 at Trefechan, Penycae on 23/09 (JAJ).

Flints. Present throughout the year on Dee Estuary reserves OMR and POA being particularly favoured. Up to 1,500 birds were recorded at OMR and CQNR on 1/01, substantial numbers remaining on the Dee Estuary until mid-Jan. Subsequently counts from reserves throughout

the estuary were less than 100 until late Jul when numbers began to rise with 100 at OMR on 1/06 (AW) and over 250 on 30/07, increasing to a peak of 2,800 on 24/10 (CL). At least 2,000 remained until 18/11, after which numbers tailed off, though up to 1,380 were at OMR on 17/12 (CL). Away from the Dee the majority of substantial records were of flying birds though a maximum count of 250 at Rhuddlan on 31/08 (SH) was notable. Breeding was reported from SS with several nests, the first of which was recorded on 9/04, and broods throughout the breeding season (PT). Pairs with broods were also recorded from Rhyl, and Rhuddlan golf course on 9-10/06 (SH).

This is another introduced species of which the population has increased dramatically, largely within the last 20 or so years and is now much more common and widely distributed than in 1907.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

GWYDD WYRAN

Rare vagrant, or birds of escaped/feral origin. Amber List.

1907 Barnacle Goose

Winter visitant to the coasts, chiefly on the north; now very rare.

2007

Denbs. A single bird at CON on 28/12 (pALD).

Flints. Singles at OMR on 16/01 (BH), and at Hope N on 13/10 (NH).

| (BY) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 2 | 1 |

Forrest states that prior to 1862 this goose was 'very common' on the Dee marshes but had since declined in numbers and occurrences. It is possible that climate change will reduce the likelihood of this species occurring in our area but it does not appear to be much different in status from in 1907. It is also probable that as with all records of unusual waterfowl, there is now a much higher probability that such records relate to escaped or feral birds than in Forrest's day, when more sightings would have been true vagrants.

Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla*)

GWYDD DDU

Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List.

Recorded particularly in the Dee Estuary.

1907

Occasional winter visitant to the estuaries, chiefly on the west coast.

2007

Flints. In contrast to recent years when good numbers of this species have wintered on the Dee Estuary, this year numbers were lower and the birds relatively short staying. Representatives of both the dark-bellied "bernicla" race, and the light-bellied "hrota" race were recorded. Up to 5 of the dark-bellied Russian race were at OMR and CQNR from 1/01 – 20/01 (AW, GR et al); while 2 adults and 4 juveniles of the pale-bellied Svalbard race were at POA from 27-29/09 (BH, GR

| (BG) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 0 | |
| Flints. | 18 | 25 |

et al), and a single of the same race also at POA on 28/11(GR). There were 25 birds of indeterminate race at POA on 22/02 (JR) which was the maximum count of the year.

Forrest reported that this was rarer than the Pink-footed Goose and that is still the case today, indicating little change in status over the century.

Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

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

The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this species.

1907 Common Sheld-duck
Resident, and common on sandy coasts... and estuaries.

2007
Denbs. Recorded throughout the year from a number of coastal sites including KBRH, CON, TB, and Pensarn. CON appears to be the most important location in the county, with several counts of 40+ during the year, and an annual maximum count of 136 on 11/04 (pALD). Away from CON, numbers at other sites were generally in single figures, though 60+ near Kinmel Bay on 23/12 (CoRi) was a notable record. The only record away from the coast was a single bird at Gresford Flash, Wrexham on 30/03 (NH).

| (SU) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 62 | 100+ |
| Flints. | 414 | 2100 |

Flints. The vast majority of records are from the Dee Estuary, where the upper estuary reserves at OMR and CQNR, with White Sands, and POA are favoured in the early part of the year. As the year progresses numbers increase at POA with up to 1,000 recorded by WeBS on the mudflats at this site between Sep and Nov.

Maximum monthly records for the key Dee Estuary compartments are given in the table below.

| (SU) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|
| BB | 170 | 57 | | | 18 | 202 | 40 | 124 | | | | |
| CQNR | 69 | 140 | 156 | 60 | 154 | 219 | 155 | 105 | 115 | 57 | 14 | 112 |
| OMR | 120 | 275 | 224 | 92 | 200 | 300 | 180 | 124 | 330 | 425 | 187 | 104 |
| POA | 50+ | 110 | 170 | 184 | 400 | 600 | 550 | 500 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 170 |
| WS | 160 | | 180 | 83 | 70 | 240 | 130 | 28 | 127 | 65 | 40 | 70 |

The maximum count on the estuary was on the mudflats off Llannerch-y-mor, Greenfield where 2,100 were recorded on 21/10 (RSm). Juveniles were noted at OMR during Jul and Aug, with 21 present on 10/08 (CL). Away from the Dee birds were recorded at Rhyl, St Asaph, and Rhuddlan, where a maximum count of 18 was recorded on 21/01 (SH); and inland at Worthenbury, where winter floods held 4 on 17/01, and 10 on 25/01 (NFr); and 2 were at Bettisfield on 14/04 (NHu).

This species can certainly be described today as ‘common’ on the coasts and estuaries and it occurs in large numbers now. It is likely that this species is now more numerous than it was 100 years ago.

Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*)

HWYADEN FANDARIN

Scarce breeding resident

1907

(No records)

2007

Denbs. Recorded from several sites, including Acton Park Lake, Wrexham where a male was present from 3/01 16/03 (NH et al) and again on 7/11 (NHu); Sutton Green, a pair on 14/04 (NHu); Eglwyseg, a pair on 28/04 (JuR); a pair at Hendre, Llangollen on 1/05 (JLR); 2 pairs on a small pool at Ridleywood on 3/05 (NHu); and 3 males with 5 females at Almere on 9/09 (NHu).

| (MN) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 11 | 8 |
| Flints. | 4 | 1 |

Flints. One at CQNR on 18/02 (ABr), and single males (probably the same bird) recorded from IMF on 15-26/08 (pCW et al).

This introduced species is gradually increasing – in both the numbers of records and the numbers of birds seen. This is a new species locally compared with the list of 100 years ago.

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

CHWIIWELL

Common winter visitor. Amber List.

The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance in the UK for this species.

1907

Winter migrant, abundant on flat coasts... rarer inland...

2007

Denbs. Most records were from CON. The sightings were all outside of summer months except for 1 male reported several times at CON during the middle of Jun. Peak count at CON was 134 on the 25/09 (pALD). Larger counts were recorded during periods of floods along River Dee floodplain: flooding on River Dee at Worthenbury had a maximum count of 800 birds on 3/01, Ridleywood 220 on 17/01 and 315 on 10/12 also at Trevalyn with 240 on 17/01 and 250 on 29/01 (NFr). Kinmel Bay had 60+ birds reported offshore on 17/02 (SM) and 100+ on 29/12 (AC, HC, RC). Only a few birds reported elsewhere.

| (WN) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 62 | 800 |
| Flints. | 208 | 1760 |

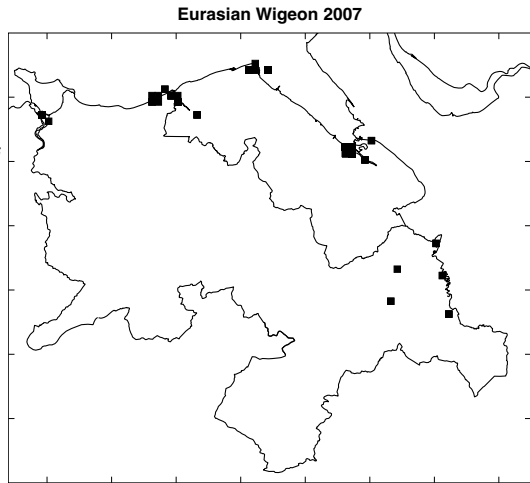
Table below shows maximum counts at selected sites.

| (WN) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| CQNR | 1200 | 577 | 15 | | | | | 2 | 2 | 500 | 158 | 277 |
| OMR | 1400 | 600 | 200 | | | | | | 24 | 600+ | 1760 | 600+ |
| POA | 700 | 700 | 250 | | | | | | | 120 | 400 | 650 |

Flints. There were large counts recorded in Nov-Feb. OMR was the centre of largest numbers with 1,400 there on 12/01 (GR) and 1,760 recorded on 19/11 (CM). Next door at CQNR

maximum count was 577 on 26/02 (CM) and across the river at White Sands 450 recorded on 22/01 (GR). POA had max counts of 700 on 10/01 and 19/02 with 650 on 21/12 (pSD). Records from River Clwyd, Rhyl area had a maximum count of 200+ on 6/01 (DCR) and Rhuddlan had 170 on 30/12 (SH). Border Pool, IMF had 350 on 9/12 (CW).

In winter it used to occur in 'vast flocks' – possibly more than 1,760. We still, regularly have flocks of 1,500-3,000 so it may be that the status of the Wigeon is largely unchanged in 100 years.



American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)

CHWIWELL AMERICA

Rarity

2006

Flints. An adult male seen near Connah's Quay on 31/03 (CL) has been accepted by the WRP.

Forrest has no record of American Wigeon, so this is a new species, but still sporadic in occurrence and in only small numbers of 1-2 birds.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

HWYADEN LWYD

Uncommon winter visitor and scarce breeding resident. Amber List.

1907

Rare winter visitor.

2007

Denbs. Present at CON in small numbers throughout the year with records from 4/04 11/11. A maximum of 14 was counted on 11/11 (pALD).

Flints. Recorded throughout the year from the Dee Estuary reserves chiefly favouring CQNR, SS, and OMR. Maximum count of 26 was at SS on 4/11 (PT).

In 1907 this was a very rare species, so it has increased, though not hugely.

Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*)

CORHWYADEN

Widespread and locally abundant winter visitor, and rare breeder. Amber List.

The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this species.

1907

Common in winter, and a few breed in all ... counties.

2007

Denbs. The majority of records were from CON (see table below), but also seen inland at Trefor Uchaf, Dee Valley, Acrefair, Trevalyn Meadows, Pulford, Marford, Pont ar Gonwy, Migneint, and Erddig Pool. The maximum count away from the Conwy was on floods at Pulford Brook, Trevalyn where there were 90 on 29/01(NFr), Worthenbury held 400 on 3/01, and 450 on 25/01 (NFr).

| (T.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 76 | 130+ |
| Flints. | 298 | 1200 |

Eurasian Teal: CON 2007 monthly maximum counts

| (T.) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| CON | 50+ | 25+ | 4 | | 2 | 13 | 1 | 40 | 130+ | 159 | 104 | 100 |

Flints. Inland: Very few records away from the coast. There were 32 were at Pentrehobyn, Mold on 12/03 (MD), and at Rhuddlan a maximum count of at least 30 was recorded on 20/12 (SH, PG).

Coastal: Dee Estuary numbers significantly greater than last year, but very few coastal records away from the Dee. Notable summer records are of 9 at Rhyl on 27/06 (SH); 55 at Shotwick Fields on 29/06 (CW); and 28 on the Border Pool at IMF on 17/07 (ST). See table below for monthly maximum counts for main Dee Estuary locations.

| (T.) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| BB | 28 | 88 | | | | | | | | | | 5 |
| CQNR | 401 | 130 | 89 | 17 | | | | 65 | 650 | 230 | 221 | 493 |
| IMF(BP) | | | 14 | 25 | | | 28 | | | | 60 | 200 |
| OMR | 1000 | 200 | 40 | 6 | | | | 90 | 1000 | 1000 | 1200 | 500+ |
| POA | 100 | 100 | 90 | 6 | | | | 50 | 100 | 100 | 140 | 200 |

In 1907 this was a species that was '*occasionally met with on estuaries*' but bred across the area. As in Forrest's time, birds arrive in the area in autumn and winter to boost the population that may breed here (we have not had any records of breeding this year).

Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*)

CORHWYADEN ADEINWERDD

Rare vagrant.

1907

(No records).

2007

Flints. A single bird was recorded from OMR on 10/03 (GR), and a male at IMF on 10/07, 8/11

and 5/12 (CW, EL).

This rare species seems to be a relatively recent addition to our bird list.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

HWYADEN WYLLT

Common breeding resident. Amber list.

1907

More or less common resident everywhere; numbers greater in winter.

2007

Denbs. Recorded from inland and coastal water bodies throughout the county. The largest counts were from CON where at least 200 were recorded on 27/01, and Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele where there were 146 on 19/12(DCR).

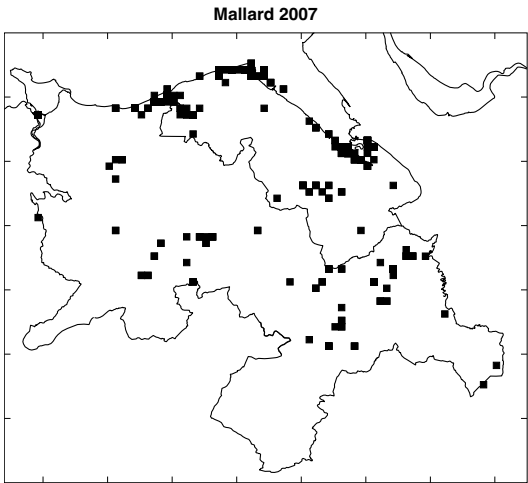
| (MA) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 205 | 200+ |
| Flints. | 525 | 600 |

Table of maximum counts at selected sites:

| (MA) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| CQNR | 124 | 101 | 34 | 29 | 40 | 185 | 59 | 351 | 118 | 41 | 101 | 92 |
| OMR | 60 | | | 2 | | | 5 | 300 | | | 100 | |
| POA | 22 | 17 | 10 | 4 | 40 | 121 | 12 | 200 | 160 | 100 | | 50 |

Flints. Various locations on the Dee Estuary produced the majority of records. Notable maxima included 200+ at SS on 22/07 (PT); 351 at CQNR on 13/08 (CM); 600 at IMF Border Pool on 20/08 (CW); 200 at POA on 30/08 (GR); 450 at Shotwick Fields on 8/09 (CW); and 600 at OMR on 17/08 (GR). Major counts away from the Dee included monthly maxima of 100 near Rhuddlan on 3/01 and 12/09 (SH).

There is no evidence to suggest a major change of status for Mallard in the last 100 years.



Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Winter visitor. Amber List.

The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this winter visitor. Most records are from site on or close to the estuary; though significant numbers are also recorded on the

middle Dee floodplain when winter flooding provides suitable conditions.

1907

Winter visitor, not uncommon on flat coasts; rare inland.

2007

Denbs. The majority of records relate to CON where 2 were present on 3/02, a single male remaining until 20/02; a juvenile was also at CON from 1-22/10, a female on 26/10, and 2 males on 5/11, 1 of which remained until 15/11 (pALD). Inland, the River Dee floods attracted 400 at Ridleywood on 5/01, 100 at Pulford Brook, Trevalyn on 29/01 and in the Worthenbury area on 17/01 there were 900 (all NFr).

| (PT) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 22 | 400 |
| Flints. | 79 | 5000 |

Flints. As usual all records are from the Dee Estuary, where substantially increased numbers were recorded this year. The maximum of 5,000 counted at OMR on 26/11 (GR), is the most recorded since 2001. See table below for maximum monthly counts from main locations.

| (PT) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|
| CQNR | | 1 | | | | | | | | 40+ | 380 | |
| IMF(BP) | | | | | | | | 8 | | | 61 | |
| OMR | | 40 | 10 | | | | | | 200 | 1250 | 5000 | 194 |
| POA | 90 | 70 | | | | | | 15 | 120 | 200 | 400 | 250 |

Good numbers were also on Shotwick Fields during early Sep with a maximum of a 140 counted on 8/09 (CW).

The status of this species appears to be unchanged from that of 100 years ago.

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

HWYADEN ADDRAIN

Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

1907

Rare visitor to flat country near or on the coasts.

2007

Denbs. A single male was on the north lagoon at CON on 1/05 (pALD, RS).

| (GY) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 2 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

This species is still a rare and irregular visitor to our area compared with 100 years ago.

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List.

The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance for this species.

1907

Not uncommon in winter on flat coasts, rarer inland...

2007

Denbs. Recorded mainly on larger bodies of water from across the county, but in lower numbers and with a lower frequency than in Flints. The species was recorded in all months except May.

| (SV) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 33 | 25 |
| Flints. | 110 | 100+ |

Inland: The maximum counts were from GF with 16 birds on 28/01, 20 birds on 28/12 (JuR) and 25 at Worthenbury on 3/01 (NFr). Small groups of 4-8 birds are seen in the winter months from GF and Pulford Brook, Trevalyn. A pair was recorded at Nant y Frith reservoir on 5/04 (SD).

Coastal: Records of 1-2 birds at CON were received frequently from 8/06 to 13/09 (HC). APMP held 6 birds on 10/01 (DR) and 6 males on 15/02 (SM). All other records were of 1-2 birds.

Flints. Recorded in all months of the year, although only eight records were received from May to Sep. This is mainly a coastal species and can be recorded in moderate numbers.

Inland: The largest number was 4 birds recorded near Rhuddlan on 2/12 (SH).

Coastal: The main recording sites for this species are CQNR with fifty two records and POA with thirty eight records. However the largest individual counts were at SS with 80+ on 7/10, 100+ on 14/10, 60+ on 21/10 and 70+ birds on 28/10 (PT). Records were also received from IMF Border Pool (6), Rhuddlan (1) and Gronant (1).

It appears that we see larger numbers of Shovelers and for more of the year than did birdwatchers (or shooters) of 100 years ago.

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

Winter visitor.

1907

Winter visitor, fairly common, but irregular in distribution...

2007

Denbs. Most of the records were from CON with a peak of 15 on 3/02 (pALD). Birds were present here right through the year with a peak of 9 in the second half of the year on the 19/11 (pALD). The only records away from CON were 2 birds on Erddig Pool Wrexham on 4/04 (NHu) and a single at New Hall, Ruabon on 1/04 (NH).

| (PO) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 35 | 15 |
| Flints. | 31 | 19 |

Flints. In the first part of the year the peak count was 20 birds at the pools at Warren Farm, POA on 15/01 (SD), 7 males were at CQNR on 4/01 (CL) and 4 at Rhyl Brickworks pool on 6/01 (NHu). Last birds in spring were 2 at SS on 24/06. The first autumn birds were seen at OMR/CQNR on 16/10 (CM). Peak count in the second half of the year was 19 birds at SS on 4/11 (PT).

This species is seen in what appear to be larger numbers than were seen 100 years ago and seen in every month

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

HWYADEN GOPOG

Resident breeder in small numbers and locally common winter visitor. Relatively widely distributed on lakes and other still waters throughout the year.

1907

Winter visitor, not very common anywhere in the district...

2007

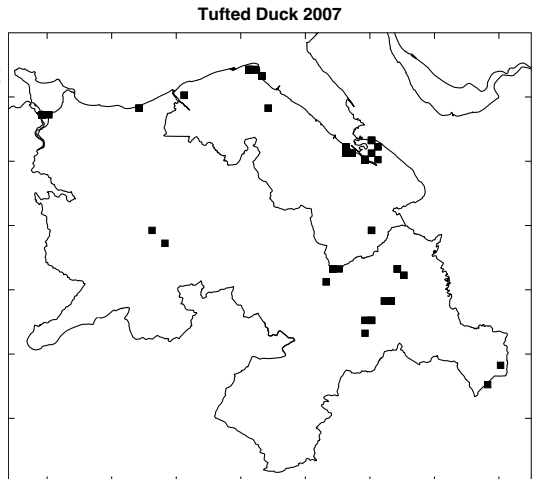
Recorded in every month of the year in both counties.

| (TU) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 88 | 25 |
| Flints. | 203 | 76 |

Denbs. The highest count of 25 was at CON on 20/05 (pALD). Juveniles were recorded at CON on 17/06, 3/07 and 13/07 (pALD) and Erddig Pool on 4/11 (NHu).

Flints. The highest count of 76 was at Shotton Paper Mill on 18/05 (IMS). Breeding was confirmed at Connah's Quay during Jul (BH, JMW, GP, AW) and SS during Jul and Aug (PT).

This species seems to be more common than it used to be and occurs all year in both counties, whereas 100 years ago it was mainly a winter visitor.



Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*)

HWYADEN BENDDU

Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List. WBAP

1907 Scaup duck

Winter visitor, not uncommon on flat coasts; rare on fresh water.

2007

Denbs. A single juvenile was at CON 28-30/09, and a single male (possibly the same) also at the same site until at least 9/12 (pALD, JR). A single bird (probably the same) was at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 1/12 (AWh).

| (SP) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 17 | 1 |
| Flints. | 9 | 2 |

Flints. There were up to 2 at POA from 8/01-18/02 (ANB, GR, CP, PDS), and a single bird at POA on 7/12 (pSD).

Forrest quoted that the Scaup was 'numerous' off POA in winter. Our recent records suggest that it is likely to be less numerous now than 100 years ago.

Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

Uncommon marine winter visitor. Amber List.

1907

(No records).

2007

No records.

This species has been seen in several recent years in small numbers of 1-4 though 40 were seen in 2001.

Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)

MOR HWYADEN DDU

Winter visitor. Amber list. WBAP

1907

Plentiful on sea in winter; whilst many stay throughout the year; very rare inland.

2007

Denbs. Often seen in large numbers offshore between Colwyn Bay and Rhyl. The maximum count was 5,000 off Towyn on 14/10 (SM). In the first part of the year the highest count was 4,000 again off Towyn on 16/01 (SM). Birds were seen in every month of the year with numbers building up in late July and 1,000 were counted off Towyn on 27/07 (SM). Peak count off Llanddulas was 700 seen on 18/12 (DCR). The only record away from the open sea was a single bird found dead at CON on 12/04.

| (CX) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 59 | 5000 |
| Flints. | 28 | 3000 |

Flints. Usually a lot less of these birds are seen in this area than further W but this year 3,000 birds were seen off the POA on 3/02 (RSm, GR) after being disturbed by the Dee pilot boat. Again seen in every month of the year with a peak summer count of 160 off Gronant on 4/07 (RSm). Most of these summer birds were moving W further along the coast. The peak count late in the year was 100 birds seen off POA on 15/12 (RSm).

Forrest says that this species was 'numerous' and suggests that means thousands of birds. There is no evidence, here, to suggest that its status has changed markedly, though it is now under various threats.

Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)

MOR HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

Regular winter visitor in small numbers.

1907

Rare winter visitor recorded at the mouth of the Conway River...

2007

Denbs. The only record was of a bird offshore at Towyn on 1/02 (SM).

| (VS) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

There seems to have been a slight change in the status of this species in the last 100 years.

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

HWYADEN LYGAD AUR

Widespread winter visitor.

1907

Winter visitor, common on the coast... fair common on inland waters.

2007

Denbs. Most of the records were from CON and Llyn Brenig. In the early part of the year the peaks were 10 at CON on 2/03 (pALD) and 9 at Llyn Brenig on 15/03 (DD, SD) Last birds were 2 at Llyn Brenig on 15/04 (DD). The first returning birds were 4 females at CON on 26/11 (pALD).

| (GN) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 30 | 10 |
| Flints. | 61 | 7 |

Flints. The peak count in the early part of the year was 7 birds at SS on 14/01 (PT). Four were at OMR (GR) while the peak at IMF Border Pool was 7 on 11/03 (ST). The last birds were 4 at SS on 1/04 (PT). The first returning birds appeared at IMF Border Pool with 2 on 2/11 (CW). The peak in the second half of the year was 7 on IMF Border Pool on 29/12 (CW).

There is no evidence of major change since 100 years ago but Forrest quotes that it was sometimes '*numerous*' on the Dee Estuary. We have had no counts in recent years that would fit the description '*numerous*'.

Smew (*Mergellus albellus*)

LLEIAN WEN

Scarce winter visitor.

1907

Winter visitor occurring sometimes on the north coast...

2007

Denbs. The only record was of a redhead at CON on 4/11(pALD).

| (SY) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

Forrest quotes a record of 7 on the Dee near Saltney Ferry in 1891 during severe weather and several of his records were from inland. Our recent records have been of 1-3 birds suggesting little change in status.

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

Winter visitor.

1907

Winter visitor, occurring commonly on the west coast of Merioneth; less frequently inland or on other coasts.

2007

Denbs. Recorded mostly from the coast between Llanddulas and Towyn and also from CON. The maximum offshore in the first part of the year was 11 off Towyn on 14/03 and 10 males were here on 17/02 (SM). CON held 18 birds on 18/03 (pALD) while 8 were off Pensarn on 11/04. In the latter part of the year CON held a max count of 23 birds on 28/10 (pALD).

| (RM) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 63 | 18 |
| Flints. | 48 | 17 |

Flints. All records were from the coast with a maximum count in the early part of the year of 17 birds on Rhyl Marine Lake on 11/01 (DCR). Maximum count at POA was 8 birds seen on 18/02 (GR). The last birds of the spring were 2 at POA on 15/04. First returning birds were 5 at POA on 27/09 (GR). Maximum winter counts in the latter part of the year were 15 birds at POA on 25/11 (GR) and 17 females on Rhyl Marine Lake on 8/11 (RMB).

There seems to be no evidence of any local change of status since 1907.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

1907

Winter visitor, not uncommon on north and west coasts and on the Upper Dee.

2007

Denbs. Records received from many parts of the county. The biggest count came from near Llangollen where there was a flock of 30 redheads on 4/10 (AIT). CON had a good run of records with a maximum of 6 on 21/03 (pALD). Seven females were at Bryn Goleu, Penycae on the 5/03 (JAJ), 7 birds were at Sutton Green on 14/04 (NH), 8 were at Worthenbury and 9 near Ridleywood on 17/01 during Dee floods (NFr). Three juveniles were at Erddig Pool on 4/11 and a single juvenile on the Afon Clywd at Denbigh on 12/04 (ELJ).

| (GD) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 73 | 30 |
| Flints. | 47 | 23 |

Flints. Seven females were at Rhuddlan on the 23/03, 18 were here on the 13/06 and breeding was proven in the area with 4 juveniles here on 17/05 (SH). Six juveniles were seen at Rhyl on the 27/06 (SH) and POA had a series of records with a maximum of 7 females on 30/08 (GR). A single female was seen at CQNR/OMR on 27/04. In the latter part of the year the maximum count was 16 birds at Rhuddlan on 23/12 (LS).

Mainly seen as 1-2 birds a century ago, it seems that Goosander is now a more common and numerous resident breeder.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

HWYADEN GOCH

Uncommon breeding resident.

1907

(No records).

2007

Denbs. All records from CON from 29/03 through to 12/09 and mostly male birds. Peak counts were 3 on 27/07 and 13/05 (pALD).

| (BY) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 57 | 3 |
| Flints. | 49 | 3 |

Flints. All records from the inner Dee Estuary again mainly male birds seen right through the year with a peak count of 3 on 30/07 found on the Ash Pool at CQNR.

This species only started to breed in Britain about 1960 after some birds escaped from Slimbridge, so is a new species now under threat from culling because of its potential threat to the survival of Iberian White-headed Ducks.

Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*)

GRUGIAR

Declining breeding resident on heather moors. Red List. WBAP

1907 Red Grouse

Resident and common on heather clad moors and mountains.

2007

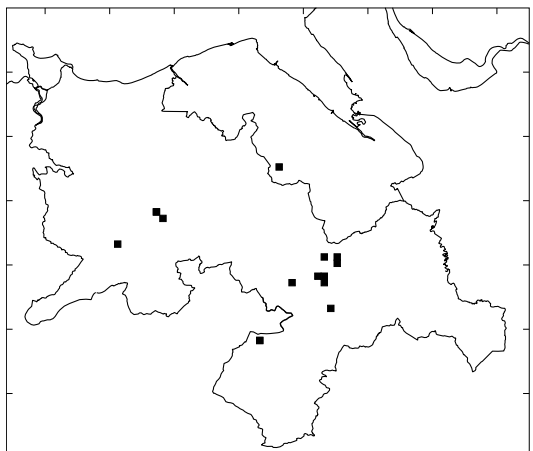
Denbs. All records were during Apr to Jul. The Mynydd Hiraethog records were of single birds except 2 on Mwdwl Eithin on 22/06 (IMS) and 4 near Llyn Brenig on 24/07 (ELJ). A single bird was seen in the Berwyns on 28/07 during a late BBS walk.

| (RG) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 14 | 4 |
| Flints. | 1 | 1 |

Flints. The only record was a bird W of Cilcain on 13/04 (ELJ).

This species is still resident, but now far from 'common'. Forrest talks of there being 'few finer grouse moors in the kingdom' than the Berwyns and that across the Dee in Denbs. there is an 'extensive tract of country.. which is almost equally famous for its grouse'. The area referred to is probably the Ruabon and Llantilio Mountains and much of this is now planted with forest, as are the moors that are now Clocaenog Forest, so this species has declined badly in the last 100 years.

Willow Ptarmigan 2007



Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*)

GRUGIAR DDU

Scarce breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

1907

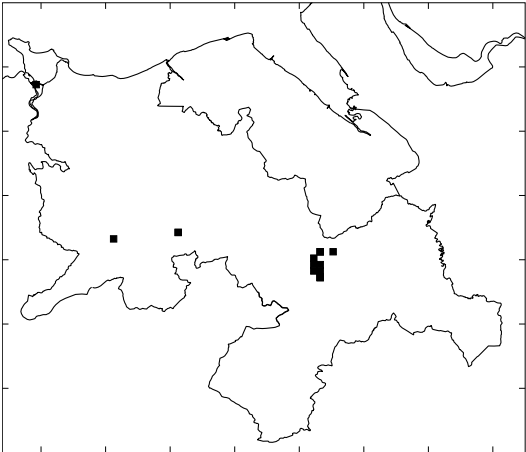
Resident and indigenous in Montgomeryshire, where it is fairly common; a few here and there in the other counties except Anglesey; usually introduced.

2007

Denbs. Most of the records came from the Ruabon Mountain area, with surprisingly few from Clocaenog Forest / Mynydd Hiraethog. There was one unusual record at CON on 7/05 (pALD). The map shows the distribution of records received but RSPB records that are not, as yet, available include birds on the Berwyns, the Clwydian hills and in the Denbs. part of the Migneint.

| (BK) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 26 | 14+ |
| Flints. | 0 | |

Black Grouse 2007



Forrest reports that the Black Grouse was almost extinct in our part of Wales by 1907 despite attempts to introduce it. It may be that the introduction of large areas of coniferous forest has helped the species, as it is thought that young plantations provide good habitat, though it is now doing worse than it was about twenty years ago as plantations mature and become less suitable habitat.

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.

1907

An introduced species, met with in all counties...; rare.

2007

Denbs. Most records from area around RM release point. Highest counts were 10 at Penycae on 6/01 (PLa) and 10 at Bwlchgwyn on 5/11 (JC). Away from RM, 2 reported at Bronington on 14/04 (NHu) and 1 at Capel Siloam on 21/06 (MaO).

| (RL) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 18 | 10 |
| Flints. | 19 | 4 |

Flints. Records came from six sites, with the highest counts: 4 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 27/04 (IMS) and 4 recorded N of Mold on 29/04 (AB, IMS). Also reports from CQNR, Northop Hall, Rhosesmor and Rhydymwyn (VHu, JHu, JHo, PKi, CL).

This species may be a little more common now than 100 years ago, partly because of birds introduced for shooting because of a lack of Grey Partridge.

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)

PETRISEN

Scarce localised breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

1907 Common Partridge

Common in all suitable country, and up to 1200 feet in elevation.

2007

Denbs. There were at 2 birds at Pulford on 18/02 (NFr), and single birds at Towyn on 31/03 (SM) and on 20/10 at CON (DH).

| (P.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 3 | 2 |
| Flints. | 5 | 3 |

Flints. There was a single record of 2 birds at Sandycroft on 26/04 (IMS) and four records from Shotwick Fields with 2 birds seen on 23/02 and 16/03 (CW), 3 birds seen on 20/08 (GR) and a single bird on 24/05 (CW).

This species has certainly declined from its '*common*' status in 1907.

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)

SOFLIAR

Passage migrant. Amber List.

1907

Irregular summer migrant met with in all counties; numerous in 1870 and 1893.

2007

No records.

There is no evidence of a change of status as this species is still irregular and appears in small numbers (of 1-6 birds) in those summers when it does arrive.

Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

Passage migrant and winter visitor to offshore waters. Amber List.

1907

Common on the west coast from autumn to May; less frequent on the north coast.

2007

Denbs. Most records for first winter period were off Towyn with 10 being the maximum on 7/03 (SM) when a passing boat disturbed them. Last of the spring was 1 off Towyn on 30/04 (SM). First of the autumn were 20 offshore at Towyn on 22/09 (SM). Good numbers continued to be seen here until the year's end with a max count of 40 on 7/10 (SM).

| (RH) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 31 | 40 |
| Flints. | 9 | 18 |

Flints. In the early part of the year there were single birds seen off POA on the 8/01 (GR),

19/01 (PDS) and 21/01. On 19/03 18 birds were seen offshore at POA (LC) indicating spring passage as birds move N to their breeding grounds. Last bird in the early part of the year was seen on 17/04 (PDS) off POA. The first returning bird of the autumn was seen on 16/09 (GR) off POA with 2 present here on 27/09 (GR).

There is no evidence of a change of status in this species, locally, in the last 100 years.

Black-throated Diver (*Gavia arctica*)

TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

Irregular winter visitor in small numbers. WBAP

1907

Recorded...once in... the Dee Estuary; and once inland in Flintshire.

2007

Flints. The only records were of a bird seen at POA on the 27/06 (GR), and again on the 29/06 (PS). These are unusual dates as this is normally a winter visitor.

| (BV) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 0 | |
| Flints. | 2 | 1 |

There is no evidence of a change of status for this species, locally, in the last century.

Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*)

TROCHYDD MAWR

Irregular winter visitor.

1907

Not uncommon, autumn to spring, in the west; rarer in the north, and only a straggler inland.

2007

Denbs. Single bird, in summer plumage, seen offshore at Towyn on 24-25/04 (SM).

| (ND) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 2 | 1 |
| Flints. | 1 | 1 |

Flints. The only record was a bird seen offshore at Gronant on 5/02 (CP).

There is no evidence of a change of status in this species, locally, since 1907.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

GWYFACH FACH

Breeding resident in small numbers.

1907

Resident and generally distributed, but somewhat local.

2007

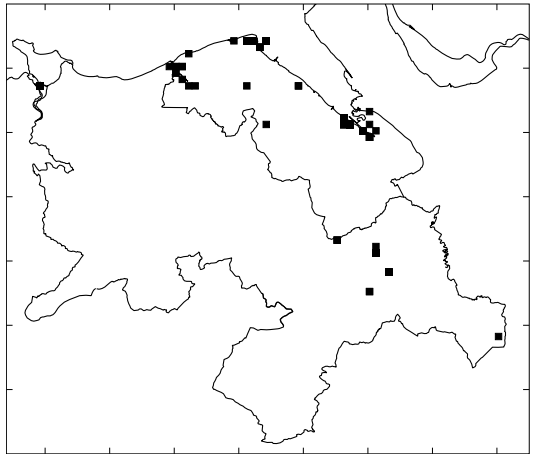
Denbs. The maximum count for the early part of year was from CON where 5 were seen on 6/01 (pALD). Birds were also seen at Erddig Pool on 12/04 (NH), near Ruabon on 15/03 (NH) and Gatewen, Wrexham on 28/05. In the latter

| (LG) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 62 | 12 |
| Flints. | 149 | 6 |

part of the year maximum counts were again at CON where 12 were present on 13/09 (pALD). Breeding was confirmed at CON where 3 juveniles were seen on 18/06 (pALD), Bwlchgywn Quarry with 3 juveniles on 28/06 (SD) and Erddig Pool which had 4 juveniles on 29/10 (NH).

Flints. Most of the records were from around the Dee Estuary where the maximum count was 6 at OMR on 3/09 (CM). Five birds were at Rhuddlan on 23/12 (SH) while POA had 4 birds on 12/12 (SD). Away from the coast, Ddol reservoir Ysceifiog held 6 birds on 25/02 and Llyn Helyg had a single on 26/03 (ELJ) as did Fenn's Bank on 7/03 (SD). Also Greenfield valley held 2 on 28/09. The only confirmed breeding was at CQNR where 2 juveniles were seen in the ash pool on 30/07 (CL).

Little Grebe 2007



There is no evidence of a change of status for this species, locally, in the last century.

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

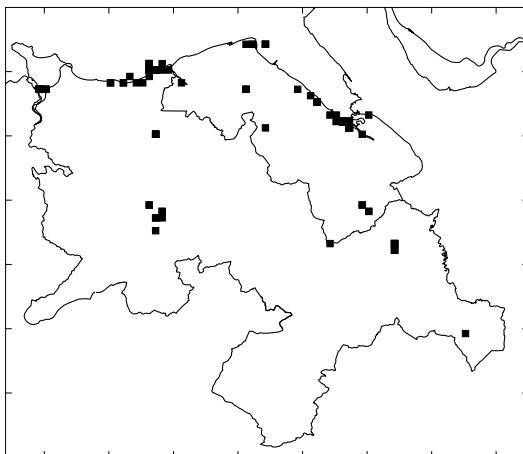
Breeding resident on inland lakes and ponds, and winter visitor to coastal waters.

1907

Not uncommon; a few pairs breed along the English border and in Anglesey, but elsewhere it is only a winter visitor to the coasts and estuaries.

2007

Great Crested Grebe 2007



| (GG) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 76 | 15+ |
| Flints. | 93 | 15 |

Denbs. Mostly coastal with a winter concentration recorded off Towyn on 7/03 (SM) with 15+ birds. Seven were off Pensarn on 27/03, 6 were off Towyn on 14/10 (SM) with 4 birds off Llanddulas on 16/11 (RMB). A pair was at Dolwyn reservoir on 26/03 and 6 birds were at CON on 19/05 (pALD) where breeding was confirmed with 2 juveniles seen on 6/07 (pALD). Birds were also seen at Llyn Brenig 15/04 (ELJ), Llyn Bran on 21/5 (BO), Nant y Frith reservoir 12/05 (JAJ) and

Gresford Flash on 2/05 (CP), although no breeding was confirmed at these sites.

Flints. The majority of coastal records received were from locations along the Dee Estuary with sightings throughout the year. The maximum count was 15 off OMR on 20/01 (AW) and 9 were here in full breeding plumage on 27/05 (DJ). Maximum count in the latter part of the year was at OMR on 26/11 (GR) with 5 at White Sands on 11/11 (GR). Inland birds were seen at Llyn Helyg on 26/03 and Ysceifiog, Ddol Reservoir on 25/02 (ELJ) and FLQ on 20/04 (JuR). Breeding was confirmed only in the Rhuddlan area, where 2 juveniles were seen on 12/10 (SH).

As in 1907 this species is still mainly one to be found on the coasts in winter.

Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)

GWYACH GORNIOG

Scarce and irregular winter visitor.

1907

Winter visitor, not infrequent on the Merioneth estuaries; rare elsewhere.

2007

No records.

This species is still rare and when seen there are usually only 1-2 birds.

Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

ADERYN DRYCIN Y GRAIG

Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant.

1907

Rare occasional visitor...

2007

Denbs. All records were of single birds seen offshore between Colwyn Bay and Towyn (SM, DCR). Twelve of the sightings seen in months Feb to Jul with maximum count of 8+ seen on cliffs, Colwyn Bay on 19/02 (SM). 1 bird seen at CON on 14/04 (pALD).

| (F.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 14 | 8+ |
| Flints. | 8 | 4 |

Flints. All records were from three sites in Apr to Jul, 2 each at Gronant and POA with two inland records from Dyserth with highest count of 4 at Moel Hiraddug on 17/04 (JfW).

This species is now much more common along the coast than in 1907. In the interim, breeding colonies have established on cliffs near Colwyn Bay and further west on the Welsh coast and birds from these colonies are seen off our shores.

Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*)

ADERYN DRYCIN MANAW

Regular offshore during summer and autumn. Amber List.

1907

Not recorded in Denbs. and Flints.

2007

Denbs. All records were of single birds at Towyn on 14/09, 21/09 and 25/09 (SM).

| (MX) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 3 | 1 |
| Flints. | 9 | 40 |

Flint. All records were between 27/06 and 12/08 all from the POA/Gronant area. A maximum count of 40 birds which were offshore at POA on 6/06 (NFr). Other significant counts were 20 birds off POA on 27/06 (GR); 25 birds seen from Gronant dunes also on 27/06 (RS) and 30 birds were seen at POA on 6/07 (GNR).

Was this species not recorded in 1907 as the birds fly out of the range of shotguns, or were they really less common? There is no evidence of a major change in status.

European Storm-petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*)

PEDRYN DRYCIN

Occasional summer passage migrant. Amber List.

1907 Storm Petrel

Met with on the coast occasionally during rough weather in winter.

2007

Flints. One bird was seen at POA on 28/07 (NFr).

| (TM) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 0 | |
| Flints. | 1 | 1 |

There is no evidence of a change in status of this species since 1907.

Leach's Storm-petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)

PEDRYN GYNFFON FFORCHOG

Autumn passage migrant. Amber List.

1907 Leach's Fork tailed Petrel

Occasional winter visitor to both west and north coasts.

2007

Denbs. One bird was flying E to W on 19/03 and 1 flying W to E on 25/09 both at Towyn (SM).

| (TL) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 2 | 1 |
| Flints. | 6 | 2 |

Flints. An unusual record was a single bird seen over OMR on 19/03 (BH), 2 birds were also seen at POA on the same day (LC); strong winds were reported for that day. A further three records were received from POA and all of single birds, on 24/08, and two records on 11/11 (NFr, GR)

There is no evidence of a change in status of this species since 1907.

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassana*)

HUGAN

Regular long distance visitor to coastal waters in small numbers. Amber List.

1907

Occasional visitor seen over the sea during the herring season; sometimes driven inland by gales.

2007

Denbs. All records were from three sites: Pensarn (SM, RMB); Towyn (SM) and Kinmel Bay (SM). Records were received every month except Feb and Nov, with the highest count of 250+ from Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay on 30/09 (SM).

| (GX) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 38 | 250+ |
| Flints. | 20 | 80 |

Flints. Records were received in Mar, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep and Oct from four sites: Point of Ayr; Gronant; Barkby Beach, Prestatyn and Splash Point, Rhyl. The highest count of 80 was from POA on 29/06 (PDS).

The 'herring season'! Oh how times have changed! Forrest details few records, but most Gannets fly out of range of shotguns, and we now do not have seasons when herring are numerous off our shore so it is difficult to assess if there has been any change in status in the last 100 years.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

MULFRAN

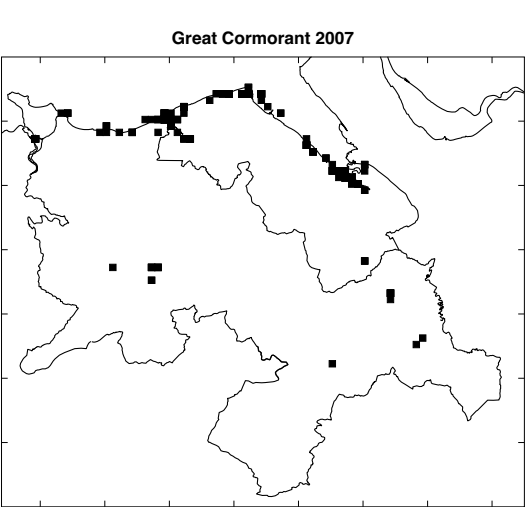
Common resident throughout the year, with no known breeding sites. Amber List.

This species is mainly seen along the coast, but with increasing records on rivers and at inland waters.

1907

Resident, common ...; feeds also off other parts of the coast, and occasionally far inland.

2007



| (CA) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 67 | 300 |
| Flints. | 299 | 211 |

Denbs. The key site is Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay with counts in Jan-Apr of 30 birds, rising in May to 100, then falling back to 60 in Jun before rising to 120 on 18/08 and peaking at 300 on 20/09 before falling back to just 20 by 18/10 (SM/ RMB). Counts elsewhere along the coast were much smaller, including 30 at Pensarn on 4/04 and 50 offshore at Towyn on 14/10. Inland records include 1 and 2 birds respectively being regular winter visitors at Acton Park and Gresford Flash, Wrexham. There were eight

records from Llyn Brenig during Mar-Apr, with a maximum count of 12 on 15/03 (DD/SD). A single bird was observed flying over Pickhill Meadows, Bangor-is-y-Coed on 24/11 (NHu) and 1 was seen at Trevor Hall, Garth on 30/12 (LB).

Flints. Present throughout the Dee Estuary, with the highest counts in Jan-Mar and Oct-Dec. The maximum was 107 at CQNR on 20/03. Numbers at Gronant built up in the summer months, peaking at 211 on 27/06 (RSm). High numbers were also reported in the Rhyl area during Apr-Oct, including 148 S of Rhyl on 4/04 (CRD), 130 S of Rhyl on 6/06 (SH) and 200 NE of Rhyl on 10/10 (MRB). Birds were recorded at Rhuddlan all year, with a spring peak of 53 on 9/05 and higher autumn counts peaking at 201 on 14/12 (SH). The only inland record was 2 birds at FLQ on 3/02 (NHu).

Monthly maximum counts near Rhuddlan (SH):

| (CA) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 45 | 31 | 46 | 9 | 53 | 23 | 21 | 28 | 88 | 134 | 154 | 201 |

There is no evidence of a change of status for this species in the last century.

European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

MULFRAN WERDD

Scarce non-breeding visitor.

1907

... not common ... and very rarely seen inland.

2007

Flints. One record of 2 birds seen at Gronant dunes on 28/07 (AC, HC, RC).

This species is still rare in our area so there is no evidence of a change of status, here, since 1907.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

CREYR BACH

Uncommon resident with breeding on the periphery of our area. Amber List.

Increasingly seen at suitable coastal and estuary locations.

1907

(No records in Denbs. and Flints.).

2007

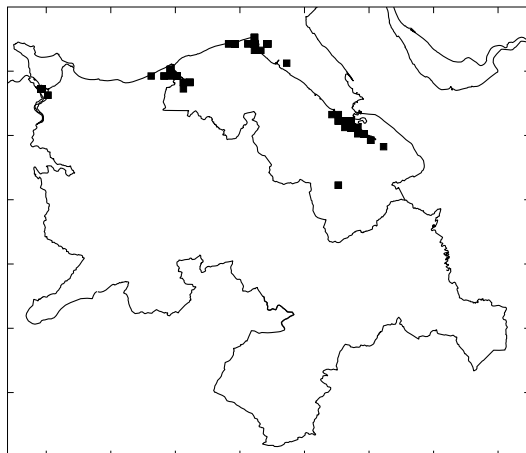
Recorded in every month of the year in both counties.

Denbs. All sightings were from coastal areas with the main site being CON. The highest counts were in Jul, with 29 recorded at CON on 28/07 (pALD). The increase in numbers over the previous three years appears to be continuing. Records away from CON were from the Kinmel Bay with 3 birds on 6/01 (HC, ABr) and 4 on 14/01 (SM) and from Towyn where a single bird was seen on 8/07 (SM).

| (ET) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 74 | 29 |
| Flints. | 339 | 56 |

Flints. The recent increase in sightings from across the region appears to be continuing with

Little Egret 2007



an increase in numbers recorded every year since 2004. Most records were from coastal areas, but there appears to be an increase in records from more inland areas. Inland: Pentrehobin, Mold had 2 birds on 12/03 (MB). Rhuddlan held 3 birds on 23/03 (SH) other records from Rhuddlan were of 1-2 birds.

Coastal: As with previous years (2004 to 2006) CQNR appears to be the primary site for this species. A peak of 56 birds on 26/08 (AW) and 50 on 28/08 (RE) along with previous years peak counts in Aug/early-Sep appears to show a post breeding build up of birds. Records from Connah's Quay/OMR are of 1-16 birds throughout the year, with the highest

counts being in late summer. POA had 10 birds or more on at least three occasions.

The status of this species across the UK has changed dramatically in the last 20 years. In Forrest's time the species was scarcely known, whereas as a result of expansion in its worldwide range it is now regularly seen on our coasts and wetlands.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

GREYR GLAS

Widespread resident. The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance in the UK.

Despite this being a common species, few heronries are known and counted regularly.

1907 Common Heron

Resident; generally distributed throughout the lowlands.

2007

Denbs. Records were received from every month of the year.

Inland: Trevor Uchaf had 7 birds on 18/07 (JLR). There were 13 birds recorded at a puddle in a wet field at Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd on 26/07 (IMS). Twenty two records were received from the Wrexham area, although mainly of single birds. A breeding colony near Corwen had about seven active nests and a newly found colony near Llangollen had 4 active nests.

Coastal: The peak count of 37 birds was at CON on 17/01 (pALD) other high counts from CON were 18 on 21/06 (DCR) and 20 on 15/05 (pALD).

| (H.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 109 | 37 |
| Flints. | 294 | 14 |

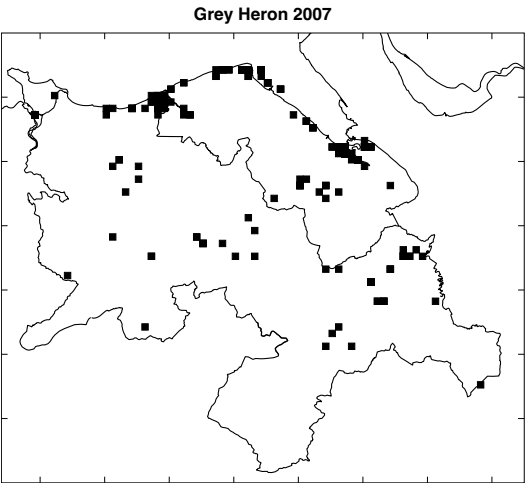
Flints. Most records were from coastal areas. No reports of any Heronries were received.

Inland: Single birds were recorded at Alltami on 25/10 (IMS), Mold on 29/04 (IMS) and from Rhydymwyn, nine times (all JHu) and Sychdyn, three times (all IMS). There were 2 birds at Mold on 6/05 (GEM) and at least 1 bird at Fenn's Moss on 20/05 (KP).

Coastal: Connah's Quay and OMR were the main sites for records, with records mainly of 1-2 birds, but regular counts of 4 birds were received. The peak count of 14 birds was from

Walwen Marsh, Bagillt on 12/08 (GR).

There is no evidence of a change of status during the last 100 years.



Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

LLWYBIG

Scarce winter visitor.

1907 Spoonbill

Rare ... recorded once on the Dee Estuary.

2007

Flints. Three birds were seen flying (and photographed by GB) S of Rhyl on 27/06 (SH) and 1 seen and photographed at CQNR on 25/12 (CL).

| (NB) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 0 | |
| Flints. | 1 | 3 |

This species is now seen almost every other year so is more frequently recorded than was the case 100 years ago.



Eurasian Spoonbill - Gary Bellingham

European Honey-buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)

WAOD Y MEL

Occasional visitor. Amber List.

1907

Summer migrant, occurring chiefly on the autumn migration; very rare.

2007

No records.

Records in recent years have been in May and Jul rather than during autumn migration, though none is yet known to have bred in our area. It is still a rare species here.

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)

BARCUD

Occasional visitor, has bred. Amber List.

1907 Kite

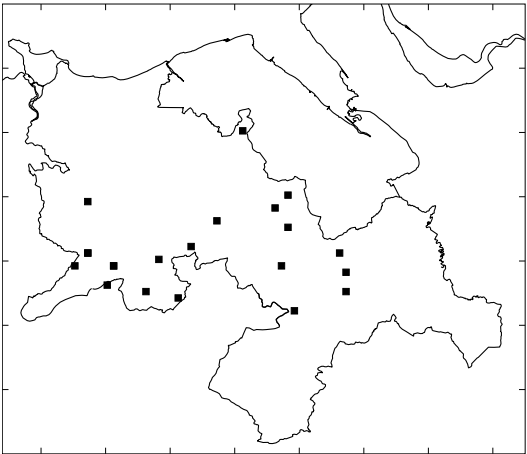
Former resident, now only a rare casual visitor.

2007

Denbs. Birds were seen in all months except Jan, Jul and Dec. If the birds are present most (if not all) of the year they must try to breed again soon (the last known attempt, successful, was in 2003). Please report any sightings of birds carrying sticks in March as soon as they are seen! Most of the records were of single birds, but 2 were at Maerdy and 2 near Llangwm on 20/03 (GG), 2 were near Llanfihangel GM on 22/05 (SM) and 2 were seen N of Ysbyty Ifan on 21/08 (TT). There was one possible breeding attempt, but no young were seen so any nest may not have been successful.

| (KT) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 22 | 2 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

Red Kite 2007



The increase in the Red Kites nesting in Wales is well known, and the greatest change has been within the last fifteen years. Its status, here, is much more promising now than 100 years ago.

White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)

ERYR Y MÔR

1907

Rare winter or spring visitor

2007

Denbs. One bird was seen over World's End on 13/04 (JuR, JC). A bird has subsequently been seen several times in NW Wales.

| (WE) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

There has been no change in the status of this species in the last 100 years – it remains very rare.

Eurasian Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

WAOD Y GWERNI

Very scarce passage migrant.

1907

Resident; now very rare; occurs on bogs and moors.

2007

Several records were received without descriptions, so had to be omitted as they were unsubstantiated.

| (MR) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 4 | 1 |

Denbs. A male was at GF on 5/11 (JN).

Flints. Three birds were identified as females: at Shotwick Fields on 20/08 (GR), at OMR on 28/08 (RSm) and at CQNR on 19/10 (JHo). An unsexed bird was seen at CQNR on 5/12 (DW).

In our part of Wales, Marsh Harrier was very rare 100 years ago and it is still rare (from the number of accepted records) and is not '*resident*'.

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

WAOD TINWEN

Scarce breeding species and winter visitor. Red List.

1907

Resident; now very rare; occurs chiefly on moorlands.

2007

Denbs. The first record was a ringtail at World's End on 2/02 (ANB); the last was a ringtail near Llangollen on 5/10 (NH). All the records came from RM or Mynydd Hiraethog – the 5 males were seen at separate places.

| (HH) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 22 | 1+ |
| Flints. | 5 | 1 |

The table shows the counts of males and ringtails during the year

| (HH) | | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Denbs. | Male | | | 1 | 3 | 5 | | | | | | | |
| | Ringtail | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Flints. | Ringtail | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 |

Flints. The first record was from near Rhuddlan on 25/01 (PRE); the last was of a ringtail from POA on 23/12 (LC). The other records were from the Shotwick area in Feb, Aug and Oct.

Breeding (WRSG):

| (HH) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 7 | 33 | 17 | 2.43 |

It is likely that the numbers are now higher and more regularly successful as breeding birds than they were 100 years ago, when this species was not protected and was subject to regular persecution by gamekeepers seeking to protect their grouse stocks.

Hen Harrier nestlings - Ian M Spence

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)

BODA MONTAGU

1907

Summer migrant, very rare; only known to have occurred in Denbigh and Merioneth.

2006

Denbs. There was 1 at Fenn's Moss on 22-30/06. Accepted by the WRP.

2007

No records were received this year.

There has been no obvious change in the status of this species over the last century.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

GWALCH MARTH

Rare breeding resident, probably under-recorded in our area.

1907

(No records).

2007

Denbs. A female was seen soaring on thermals at Cyffylliog on 8/04 (DDi) and a bird was seen near Eglwyseg on 16/06 (JLR). A nest in Clocaenog Forest was photographed illegally and the female deserted her clutch of 3 eggs. The perpetrators were caught red-handed by the Wildlife Liaison Officer and a WRSG fieldworker. They were subsequently prosecuted and found guilty.

| (Gl) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 2 | 1 |
| Flints. | 1 | 1 |

Flints. One bird was seen flying E over Rhydymwyn on 5/08 (JHu, VHu).

This species is now a rare but regular breeder, a small, but significant, change from the situation 100 years ago.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

GWALCH GLAS

Common and widespread breeding resident

1907

Resident, common in most wooded districts...

2007

Recorded in every month of the year in both counties.

Denbs. The majority, ninety two, of the records were of single birds, but 2 were seen at Marford on 17/02 (JuR), 2 were seen on two occasions in different 1 km squares near Cyffylliog on 8/04 (DDi); there is a possibility they may have been the same birds.

| (SH) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 95 | 2 |
| Flints. | 54 | 3 |

Flints. Again, most of the records were of single birds, but 2 males were near Rhuddlan on 3/03 (SH), 2 were at CQNR on 16/03 (CL), 2 females were near Rhuddlan on 7/04 and 2 close by on 12/12 (SH). An adult and 2 juveniles were seen at SS on 5/08 (PT).

Breeding (WRSG):

| (SH) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 1 | 5 | 4 | 4.00 |

It is difficult to judge if there has been a change in the fortunes of the Sparrowhawk over the last 100 years. There is more woodland because of the planted coniferous forests and they have recovered from the low points in the 1960's when the worst of the DDT effects took their toll.

Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

BWNCATH

Common and widespread breeding resident.

There were records from widely distributed locations except E of the River Dee and S of the Berwyns. We have no reason to believe that Buzzards are absent from these areas.

1907

Not uncommon resident in the west; occasional autumn visitor to the east...

2007

Denbs. Most records were of 1-2 birds though there were thirty seven records of 3-5 birds. There were 6 birds over Llyn Brenig on 12/04 (PDS) and 6 circling over NE Wrexham on 6/10 (NH). In the study area near Llangollen there was proof of breeding in 38 nests, 35 of which produced fledged young – the highest success rate since 1988 (JLR).

| (BZ) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 223 | 6 |
| Flints. | 260 | 9 |

Maximum counts each month at a single location.

| (BZ) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Denbs | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Flints | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 3 |

Flints. Most records were of 1-2 birds and there were thirty three records of 3-5 birds. There were 6 birds over Rhydymwyn on 20/08 and 24/11 and 7 there on 14/09 (JHu), 7 near Rhuddlan on 1/04 (SH), 7 circling over Sychdyn on 6/04 (IMS) and 7 at SS on 23/09 (PT), 8 near Cilcain on 13/04 (EIJ) and 9 near Rhuddlan on 20/01 (SH).

Breeding (WRSG):

| (BZ) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 43 | 108 | 71 | 1.65 |

The increase in the Buzzard population across the UK has been very marked over the last twenty years and is reflected in our area. They breed in all parts of the area and are much more than the '*occasional autumn visitors*' that they were in 1907.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant

1907

Rare visitor in autumn or winter.

2007

Denbs. Birds were seen in Mar, Apr, May, Jul and Aug – with most records made during the spring passage. One bird was seen to behave in a way that suggested it may have a nest – but no nest was found.

| (OP) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 14 | 1 |
| Flints. | 4 | 1 |

Flints. Two records of the same bird came from Greenfield Valley on 4/04 when a single bird crossed the Dee towards Parkgate (ANB, BrR). One bird was seen at Shotton Paper Mill on 16/05 (ANB) and 1 at Deeside Industrial Park on 9/10 (DSm).

In recent years, the Osprey has mainly been recorded as a spring migrant. With breeding happening not too far away, it is possible that they may try to breed in our area within the next few years. This is a small, but significant, change from the situation in 1907.

Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

CUDYLL COCH

Common breeding resident. Amber List.

The records were not evenly distributed across the area – there were large gaps in central Denbs., E of the River Dee and S of the Berwyns. The majority of records were of 1-2 birds.

1907

Partial migrant; in summer generally distributed and common, especially on precipitous coasts.

2007

Denbs. Records included 3 at Trevalyn Meadows on 6/11 during an atlas surveying visit and 4 on 4/11 (JuR). At a site on Mynydd Hiraethog 5 nestlings were ringed on 20/06 (IMS). In the study area near Llangollen there were at least four empty territories and only four active nests.

| (K.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 114 | 2 |
| Flints. | 108 | 5 |

Flints. There were records of 3 at Shotwick Fields on 4/08 (CW), 3 at SS on 7/10 (PT) and 5 at CQNR on 14/08 (ATR). There were 5 juveniles in a nestbox at Rhydymwyn on 27/06 (JHu) which fledged soon after and 5 nestlings ringed at Shotton Paper Mill on 29/06 (IMS).

Breeding (WRSG):

| (K.) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 9 | 36 | 33 | 3.67 |

Forrest quotes that just outside our area, near Betws y Coed, between 1874 and 1902 a total of 1,988 were killed on a local estate and the birds were still considered '*common*'. In recent years we have had concerns about Kestrels nesting in or near forests because of the threat from Goshawks. Undoubtedly, the local status of this species is much more precarious than it was in 1907.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

CUDYLL BACH

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

1907

Partial migrant; breeding on moorlands, and met with in the lowlands on migration...

2007

Denbs. Single males were seen at RM on 7/05 (JuR) and near Penycae on 31/12 (JAJ). A single brood of 4 nestlings was ringed at Mynydd Hiraethog on 22/06 and no birds were seen in the RM area (WRSG).

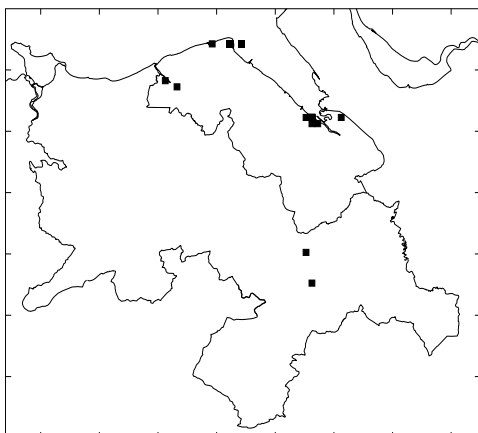
| (ML) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 3 | 4 |
| Flints. | 35 | 2 |

Flints. There were records each month except during the breeding season (Apr to Jul). Birds were seen in just three areas with 2 at CQNR on 20/02 (AW) and 2 at POA on 9/11 (PDS).

Breeding (WRSG):

| (ML) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 2 | 9 | 4 | 2.00 |

Merlin 2007



It seems that Merlin were more successful at breeding and more numerous 100 years ago.

Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)

HEBOG YR EHDYDD

Uncommon passage migrant and scarce breeding species. Amber List.

1907

Summer visitor met with rarely on autumn migration.

2007

Denbs. The first, single, was seen at Erddig on 8/05 during a BBS walk (NH). The last record was of a single bird at Commonwood on 23/09 (JLR). The other records of singles were spread over May to Aug – corresponding to the breeding season. Two birds were seen near Marford on 5/08 (JuR). There was one successful breeding attempt in the county.

| (HY) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 7 | 2 |
| Flints. | 18 | 3 |

Flints. The first record was of 2 birds near Higher Kinnerton on 10/05 (JCh). The last was a single at CQNR on 2/10 (CL). The other records were at Fenn's Moss on 27/07 (JuR) and 3 there on 21/08 (NHu).

Breeding (WRSG):

| HY) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|-----|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2.00 |

Forrest did not claim Hobby as a breeding species in our area so the recent breeding successes and increases in other sightings indicates that there has been a small, but significant, improvement in status since 1907.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

HEBOG TREMOR

Breeding resident. Amber List.

1907

Resident and breeds in fair numbers amongst the mountains and on precipitous coasts; in the east it occurs chiefly as a passing autumnal migrant in small numbers.

2007

Denbs. The records came during all months except Mar, Sep and Nov and the majority were of single birds from across the county. Two birds were seen at CON on 3/02 and 14/02 (pALD), 2 were seen copulating in the Llantysilio Mountains on 1/04 (NH), 2 flew over World's End on 9/04 (KS, NH) 2 were near Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 28/04 (RES) and 3 were seen at Wrexham on 30/06 (ANB). In the study area near Llangollen there were ten pairs with territories, but eggs were laid in nine nests. The most productive nest this year was on the Police tower in Wrexham where 4 young fledged from four eggs (JLR).

| (PE) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 28 | 3 |
| Flints. | 88 | 3 |

Flints. Recorded in every month, mainly as single birds. There were 2 seen at CQNR on 29/04 (TL), 2 were seen during a BBS walk near Mold on 17/06 (GEM), 2 were at CQNR on 18/06 (CL) and on 5/10 (DW), 2 were at POA on 2/11 (GR), 2 were at Rhyl on 20/12 (RMB), 2 at CQNR on 26/12 (RR), 2 at Shotwick Fields on 28/12 on 28/12 (DG) and 2 were near Rhydyrnwyn on 30/12 (MD). There was one sighting of 3 birds at POA on 27/10 (PDS).

Peregrine Falcon nestling - Ian M Spence

Breeding (WRSG):

| (PE) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 12 | 37 | 13 | 1.08 |

The data in Forrest are not very detailed, but it is likely that we have more pairs breeding in our part of Wales, now, than was the case in 1907 and as they are recorded throughout the year they are still '*resident*'.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)

RHEGEN Y DWR

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

1907

Common in winter on lowland marshes; nest rarely found, but probably many pairs breed.

2007

Denbs. Inland: All records were of single birds and from winter months. Erddig Pool held a single bird that was either heard on 30/03 and 16/12 (NH) or seen on 11/02 due to snow (NH). A bird at Gatewen was seen on 9/04 and 1/11 (GMT).

| (WA) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 17 | 3 |
| Flints. | 9 | 4 |

Coastal: All records were received from CON with a peak count of 3 birds seen on 7/02 (pALD). All other records were of single birds (pALD, JH, HC).

Flint.

Coastal: All records received were from coastal areas. Records of single birds were received from POA on 21/01 (GR), SS on 7/10, 21/10 and 28/10 (PT) and Greenfield Valley on 16/11 (ELJ). SS had 4 birds on 4/11 and 3 birds on 30/12 (PT).

It is likely that this species is less common both in winter and as a breeding species, now, than was the case 100 years ago.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

IAR DWR

Locally common breeding resident.

1907

Resident, common everywhere in suitable country.

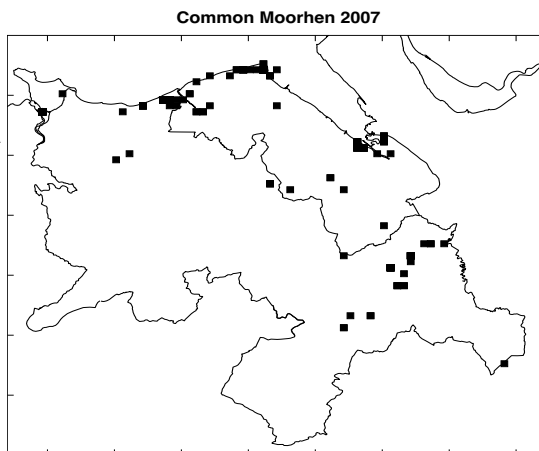
2007

Denbs. Widely reported in all months. Highest counts from two sites: APMP with 16 birds on 19/12 (DCR) and CON with 10 on 11/09 (JCI). Juvenile birds reported at Kinmel Bay, Pentre Mawr and the first were 5 at Towyn on 28/04 (SM).

| (MH) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 124 | 16 |
| Flints. | 136 | 11 |

Flints. Area on or near coast held most with highest counts also reflecting this: 10 at POA on 5/02 (pSD), 11 at CQNR on 12/11 (CL) and 10 at Oakenholt on same day (CM). Juvenile birds reported from three sites CQNR, POA and Brickworks, Rhyl (RMB, BH, JHo, HJ).

It is likely that the 'suitable country' for Moorhen is rather less widespread than it was 100 years ago, so it is now likely to be less abundant.



Common Coot (*Fulica atra*)

CWTIAR

Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor.
Found on many inland lakes and other still waters.

1907

Resident; irregularly distributed throughout the district. Occurs on the sea in winter.

2007

Denbs. Recorded from 19 locations with the highest counts from larger bodies of water. Breeding was confirmed at a number of locations with adults seen sitting on eggs and young birds out of the nest. The maximum count was 37 birds seen at Ridleywood on 17/01 (NFr). Other high counts were 27 birds seen at APMP on 10/01 and 15+ birds seen at CON on 27/01 and 17/11 (DCR). The highest counts were in winter months; most summer records are of 1-2 birds.

| (CO) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 120 | 37 |
| Flints. | 235 | 100+ |

Flints. Recorded from 21 locations with breeding confirmed at CQNR, Rhyl Brickworks, Whitford and Shotwick. All records from SS were of 50+ birds, with a maximum of 100+ birds seen on 7/10. As with Denbs. the peak counts from around the county were during the winter months. The majority of records were of groups of birds, with only fifty four records of 4 or less birds.

It is difficult to judge if there has been any change in the status of Coot over the last 100 years. If there has, it is likely to have been a small change.

Corn Crane (*Crex crex*)

RHEGEN YR ȲD

Very rare

1907 Land rail

Summer migrant, common in all counties... in lowlands, and on hillsides up to 1000 feet elevation.

2007

No records

This species is much rarer now than it was 100 years ago. In line with national declines the Corn Crane no longer occurs as a regular breeder or passage migrant in our area. This decline is principally due to a huge change in the habitat available within our area in that period.

Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

PIODEN Y MOR

Abundant winter visitor around coast but scarce breeding resident. Amber List.

1907

Resident, common on the coasts; flocks in winter; very rare inland.

2007

The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site for this species. The largest flocks are found there but this species can be seen anywhere on the Clwyd coast. Successful breeding attempts were recorded in both Denbs and Flints.

| (OC) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 114 | 250 |
| Flints. | 412 | 6500 |

Denbs. Small flocks of up to 200 birds were regularly reported at a variety of locations along the coast in spring, including 130 W of Towyn on 5/01, 100 at Pensarn on 2/02 (SM), 177 at CON on 7/02 (pALD), 200 at Towyn on 23/03 and 130 at Kinnel Bay (DCR). Autumn numbers started to build in August with 80 at CON on 15/08 followed by 100 at Pensarn on 14/11 and 250 at Llanddulas beach on 30/12 (DCR).

Breeding was reported from coastal and inland sites. The earliest sighting of a pair N of Llyn Brenig was on 7/04 (EL) but there was also a record of a bird sitting on a nest NE of Llyn Brenig as late as 10/07 (SM). JAJ saw 1 bird at Plas y Fron, Ruabon Mountain on 24/06. Numerous records of breeding at CON included 3 pairs of chicks on 18/06 (pALD).

Flints. Peak numbers were below the average for 2004-06. Monthly maxima for Dee Estuary locations are shown below (data provided by WeBS and low tide counts, GR, CL, PDS):

| (OC) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| POA | 1500 | 1200 | 700 | 600 | 450 | 450 | 70 | 4000 | 4000 | 6500 | 2000 | 3000 |
| MDR | 3500 | 4500 | 800 | 580 | 300 | 150 | 1525 | 2340 | 1460 | 3280 | 3980 | 5543 |
| BB | 737 | 1763 | 467 | 16 | 341 | 252 | 69 | 357 | 240 | 430 | 874 | 2266 |
| OMR* | 300 | 100 | 500 | 420 | 450 | 350 | 130 | 1700 | 2000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |

*Represents maxima for OMR and CQNR

Maxima for the Rhyl area were 250 at River Clwyd Rhyl on 9/01 (DCR) and 300 NE of Rhyl on 11/10 (MRB). Breeding was confirmed at Shotton (PT) and CQNR (CL, BH). Adults were recorded at Bettisfield on 14/04, Sandycroft on 10/06 and juveniles in late Jun/early Jul at CQNR and Gronant.

There is no evidence that there has been a marked change in the local status of the Oystercatcher in the last century.

Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

CAMBIG

Scarce visitor.

1907

(No records in North East Wales).

2007

Denbs. Only one record, of 2 birds at CON on 15/04 (pALD).

| (AV) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 2 |
| Flints. | 4 | 2 |

Flints. At OMR/CQNR 2 birds were seen on 16/04, down to 1 on 17/04 (BH, CL). JuR reported 1 bird on 22/06 flying over Shotwick Boating Lake.

There is no dramatic change in status since 1907 but we have had records of 1-2 birds for the

last eight years. This species has recently started breeding at IMF so is likely to become a breeding species in our area in the near future.

Little Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant. Scarce breeder.

1907

(No records).

2006 Correction

Denbs. The 19 birds seen at CON on 10/02 were actually Ringed Plover.

2007

Denbs. CON only had 1 sighting this year, of 1 bird on 7/05. GBH recorded 1 at Rhyd y Foel on 20/05 during his BBS visit.

| (LP) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 2 | 1 |
| Flints. | 18 | 5 |

Flints. Earliest record was 1 bird on 27/03 at CQNR; 2 birds were at FLQ from 4/04 – 20/04 (NH, JuR). A pair first sighted on 20/04 at CQNR successfully bred there, with 3 young reported on 8 11/08. SH reported up to 2 birds at Rhuddlan from 4/05 throughout the season. SM reported 1 bird feeding on a pebble beach S of Rhyl on 21/06.

This species first bred in the UK in 1938 and 1944 and has spread since then. This is a considerable change since 1907.

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

CWTIAD TORCHOG

Breeding resident in small numbers, passage migrant. Red List.

1907

Resident, common on all flat parts of the coast; very rare inland.

2006 Correction

Denbs. At CON there were 19 birds on 10/02.

2007

Small groups can be seen along the whole of the Clwyd coast. Breeding was confirmed from a small number of sites.

| (RP) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 66 | 100 |
| Flints. | 73 | 300 |

Denbs. The flock of 100 reported at Kinmel Bay on 2/02 (RMB) was unusual in 2007; numbers were less than 25 for the rest of the year including 22 at Kinmel Bay on 13/06 and 20 on 20/09, and 23 at CON on 19/12 (pALD).

SM confirmed breeding with a nest of 4 eggs at Pensarn on 2/05 and a very late nest of 3 eggs at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay on 31/08. She also reported alarm calling and possible nest sites W of Towyn, on Llandulas beach and at Sandy Cove, Kinmel Bay.

Flints. The largest spring flocks were at Gronant – 100 on 15/02 (RMB); 50 on 6/05 (KC) and

40 on 13/06 (RSm). A small group (14) was reported at Rhuddlan on 27/05 (SH). Autumn brought flocks of 300 at POA from 12-30/08 (GR) and 75 at OMR on 21/08 (JMW). Probable breeding shown by 2 juveniles at Gronant on 19/06 (RMB).

It is possible that this species is less common than it was in 1907 – one possibility is that the huge increase in the human population will cause much disturbance at its breeding sites along the coast.

European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)

CWTIAD AUR

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

1907

Occurs in autumn and spring; often numerous; many breed on the moors.

2007

This species has been seen at both coastal and inland locations, usually in very small numbers (less than 5) but larger flocks occasionally occur on the coast, with IMF/Shotwick Fields the favoured area.

| (GP) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 7 | 250 |

Denbs. The only record was of 1 bird, with no dark feathers on its belly, seen at Horton's Nose, Kimmel Bay on 31/08 (SM).

Flints. A flock of 250 was at Shotwick Fields on 24/02 (CW). All other records were of 1-2 birds: POA had 2 on 6/03 and Shotwick Fields had 1 on 18/04. The first autumn sighting was 1 at POA on 12/09 (GR) followed by 1 on 13/09 at OMR and 2 at CQNR on 8/10. The latest sighting was 1 at OMR on 2/12 (NJ).

This species is seen in significantly smaller numbers and is far less common both as a breeding species and a winter visitor in our area than was the case 100 years ago. This mirrors national population trends and is thought to be primarily due to loss of breeding habitat in upland areas and changes to wintering habitat on lowland farms.

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

CWTIAD LLWYD

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

1907

Occurs between August and May on the coasts and estuaries, generally in small parties.

2007

Denbs. All records came from CON between 29/09 – 22/11. The maximum count of 5 was recorded on three days.

| (GV) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 16 | 5 |
| Flints. | 44 | 275 |

Flints. The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance but only small numbers are found on the Welsh side, concentrated at POA. Maxima of 55 and 65 were recorded at POA in Jan/Feb respectively. Higher numbers in autumn include maxima of 80, 70, 52 in Oct Dec at POA but the highest number was 275 at CQNR on 31/10 (DHa).

This species seems to be seen in larger numbers now than a century ago but most records are still between Aug and late Apr.

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

CORNCHWIGLEN

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP

1907

Resident; very common, not only on lowlands, but on moors and hillsides.

2007

This species is recorded in moderate numbers at coastal and inland locations throughout Clwyd during winter months.

| (L.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 107 | 2050 |
| Flints. | 350 | 2500 |

Denbs. Winter floods brought large flocks to Pulford Brook, Trevalyn (510 on 17/01 and 900 on 29/01) and NE of Ridleywood (2,050 on 18/02, NFr). On the coast, 500 were at KBRH on 6/01 (AC, HC, RC) and 300 were at CON on 11/02 (DCR). Autumn numbers were relatively low, with 109 W of Ruabon on 5/09 and a maximum of 220 at CON on 29/11 (pALD) but in Dec numbers increased, with 300 at KBRH on 29/12 and 2,000 at Pentrebychan, Wrexham on the same day (JAJ).

Adults were reported from nineteen different locations during the breeding season, up from sixteen in 2006. Early records include 8+ birds SE of Towyn on 16/03 (SM) and 16 at CON on 22/03, increasing to ten pairs by 17/04 (pALD). Most records were for inland sites with one or two pairs but 100 were at a breeding site at Bryn Goleu, Penycae by 26/03, with 50 reported from the same site on 4/07 (JAJ).

Flints. The coastal area around Rhyl and the Dee Estuary at OMR/CQNR hold the largest flocks (See table. Data provided by WeBS, CM, GR, CL, RMB, DCR, pSD).

| (L.) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Rhyl* | 2000 | 1900 | 65 | | | | | | 20 | 100 | 600 | |
| POA | 800 | 800 | | | | | | | | 150 | 50 | 1200 |
| OMR | 1500 | 1060 | | | | | 46 | 100 | 187 | 200 | 500 | 2500 |
| CQNR** | 1200 | 350 | | | | | 50 | 148 | 250 | 550 | 320 | 950 |

*Rhyl: includes maxima recorded at River Clwyd Rhyl, Rhyl Marine Lake and S of Rhyl

**CQNR: includes maxima for CQNR and White Sands.

Large flocks were also recorded at Shotwick Fields, with a maximum of 1,800 reported on 17/02 (CW). Smaller flocks were counted at RSE, including 250 on 14/12(SH) and 300 at SSW on 30/12 (PT). The only significant flocks reported from inland locations were 150 at Worthenbury on 25/01(NFr) and 100 at Pentrehobin, Mold on 7/12 (MD)

Birds were observed during the breeding season at seven locations, usually in small numbers but including 23 at Sandycroft on 27/04 (IMS), 30 at IMF on 15/04, 50 on 30/05 at Shotwick Fields and 28 on 8/06 at MOD coastal grazing marsh (CW) . Successful breeding was confirmed at a number of locations.

The Lapwing is much less common now than it was 100 years ago when it used to be seen,

in winter, in ‘vast flocks’. This, again, mirrors national population declines primarily due to loss of suitable breeding and wintering habitat as a result of changes in lowland agriculture.

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

PIBYDD YR ABER

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

1907
Migrant appearing in flocks on flat coasts from autumn to spring.

2007
The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this species. The main locations are POA and OMR/CQNR; this species is uncommon along the Denbs. coast.

| (KN) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 22 | 8 |
| Flints. | 107 | 5000 |

Denbs. All records were from CON. The only spring record was a single on 7/03. The first autumn birds were seen on 16/08 and small numbers were present through to 10/10, with a maximum of 8 on 21/09 (pALD)

Flints. Strong autumn passage helped to keep the numbers at recent levels. Monthly maxima for the two key sites are shown below. Data were drawn from WeBS, low tide counts, GR, AW, CL..

| (KN) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| POA | 300 | 600 | 1 | | 1 | | | 50 | 400 | 500 | 1500 | 2500 |
| OMR* | 600 | 1000 | 300 | 10 | 1 | 6 | 40 | 200 | 4000 | 5000 | 1000 | 300 |

* Represents maxima for OMR and CQNR.
A flock of 400 was recorded on a low tide count at Mostyn Dock Reserve on 19/12 (GR).

Forrest quotes flocks of 200+ in spring and autumn. Our records indicate that it now occurs in much larger numbers, especially in autumn.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)

PIBYDD Y TYWOD

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

1907
Occurs on flat parts of the coast in autumn and spring, most numerous in May.

2007
The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance but significant sightings at locations on the Welsh side of the estuary are unusual.

| (SS) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 42 | 200 |
| Flints. | 32 | 150 |

Denbs. Small flocks were seen at many locations along the coast, the largest flock being 200 birds at Kinmel Bay on 2/02 (MRB) and 90 were recorded west of Towyn on 23/03. Small groups were still present in late spring; 46 birds present at Belgrano beach, Pensarn on 1/06 included several in full summer plumage (SM). The highest autumn counts included 60 seen flying west to east at Towyn on 14/10 and 35 at Sandy Cove,

Kinmel Bay on 30/10 (SM).

Flints. Sightings along the coast from POA westwards occur regularly, usually in small groups of up to 35 birds with occasional larger flocks. The maximum for POA was 24 birds on 8/01 (GR). RSP had much better numbers, with a spring maximum of 34 on 13/02 and autumn maximum of 150 on 2/12 (RMB). The first birds of the autumn passage were 20 at Gronant on 28/07 (RC, AC, HC).

It seems that the status of Sanderling may not have changed much, if at all, over the last 100 years.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)

PIBYDD BACH

Very scarce passage migrant, usually found on autumn passage.

1907

Autumn and spring migrant met with occasionally on the coasts and estuaries.

2007

Denbs. A single record of 3 birds at CON on 29/09 (pALD).

| (LX) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 3 |
| Flints. | 2 | 1 |

Flints. Two records for possibly the same bird recorded on 1/10 at OMR and CQNR (GR).

This is still an uncommon species seen in small numbers each year, mainly in autumn, as was the case a century ago.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

PIBYDD CAMBIG

Scarce autumn passage migrant. WBAP

1907

On autumn and spring passage occurs on the coasts and estuaries, especially the estuaries of the Dee and Dovey; not common.

2007

Denbs. All records were at CON and were for 1 bird; it is probable that some records relate to the same bird. A sighting on 10/05 was the only spring record. The first autumn bird was recorded on 2/10 and the last one was on 20/12 (pALD)

| (CV) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 26 | 1 |
| Flints. | 26 | 2 |

Flints. As in Denbs, this scarce migrant was recorded on spring passage. Single birds were seen at IMF on 16 18/03 and 26/04(CW). The autumn passage produced more records, starting with 1 on 6/09 at CQNR (CL), closely followed on 8/09 by 1 at River Clwyd, Rhyl (ANB). Birds were reported from CQNR/White Sands/OMR area of the Dee Estuary through to 14/12. The only record for POA was 1 on 27/09 (GR).

There is no evidence to suggest that the status of this species has changed in any way since 1907.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*)

PIBYDD DU

Irregular winter visitor in very small numbers.

1907

... rare in the north; generally occurs singly or in pairs.

2007

Denbs. The only record was for 1 bird at CON on 6/11, the first for the reserve (pALD).

| (PS) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 2 | 1 |

Flints. The first records for this bird in Flintshire for several years with 1 bird seen at OMR on 16/09 (CM, RR).

There is no evidence of change in the status of Purple Sandpipers since 1907. Most records are now between Nov and Mar and of just a few birds.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

PIBYDD Y MAWN

Passage migrant and common winter visitor. Amber List.

1907

Common on flat coasts in autumn and winter, some remaining through the summer; breeds sparingly on the Denbigh and Merioneth moors, and formerly nested on the Dee marshes.

2007

The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site for wintering Dunlin and flocks seen on the Flintshire coast contribute to that status. Small flocks are seen along the Denbighshire coast but flocks of 100+ are unusual.

| (DN) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 53 | 300 |
| Flints. | 173 | 3000 |

Denbs. Better spring numbers were reported than in 2005 and 2006; 300 were seen W of Towyn on 1/01(SM), 300 were also seen at Kinmel Bay on 2/02 (MRB) and 66 were recorded E of Llandulas on 3/02 (EL). Numbers dropped very low after 20/02 although a small flock of 32 was seen at Sandy Cove, Kinmel Bay on 13/06. The autumn passage did not provide any significant flocks, the largest being 65 birds at Towyn on 14/10.

Although there was no confirmed breeding, there were three records of birds at inland locations in the breeding season: 4 were seen at Bryn Goleu, Penycae on 14/06 (JAJ), 1 was seen NE of Wrexham on 16/06 (CoJ) and 1 was at Llangwm on 27/06 during a BBS visit (GKJ).

Flints. Recorded numbers were lower this year than recently, with a maximum count of 3,000 at OMR in Jan-Feb compared to 7,000 in 2004 and 5,000 in 2005. Monthly maxima for the two key sites are shown in the table. (Data provided by WeBS, low tide counts, CM, GR, PDS, CL, BH).

| (DN) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|
| POA | 1000 | 1500 | 2 | 3 | 500 | 10 | 20 | 300 | 20 | 100 | 50 | 900 |
| OMR* | 3000 | 3000 | 260 | 6 | 200 | | 12 | 100 | 1000 | 500 | 700 | 1000 |

* Represents maxima for OMR, White Sands and CQNR

Bagillt Marsh had a flock of 400 on 21/01 (WeBS count). Only small flocks were seen west of POA: 53 birds, part of a late spring passage, were reported at Rhuddlan on 27/05 (SH) and 47 at Gronant on 3/06 (MRB). Although a few birds were reported at various locations in Jul, 80 at Gronant on 28/07 gave the first signs of the coming autumn passage (AC, HC, RC).

Dunlin are still common on the coasts but the big change has been the almost total decline in the breeding population on the moors since 1907. This will not have been helped by the creation of coniferous forests and reservoirs on moorland in Denbs.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

PIBYDD TORCHOG

Scarce passage migrant.

1907

Occasional visitor in spring and autumn; chiefly on the Dee and Dovey Estuaries.

2007

Denbs. All seven records were recorded at or near CON. Four records on 11 12/09 probably relate to 1 bird, aged as a juvenile by one recorder (pALD). The other records were in October, 2 being seen on 1/10, 2 more on 10/10 and 1+ on 20/10 E of CON (DHor).

| (RU) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 7 | 2 |
| Flints. | 14 | 10 |

Flints. There were seven records for the period Jan-Apr, all in the Shotwick Fields/ IMF/MOD coastal grazing marsh area. The earliest was for 1 at IMF on 6/01(ST) and the largest count was 10 at Shotwick Fields on 17/02 (DCR). The last bird of spring was seen at IMF on 2/04 (CW). Autumn sightings started on 12/08 when 2 were seen at Bagillt Marsh (GR). Individuals were sighted at CQNR, River Clwyd Rhyll and POA in early Sep, followed by 3 at IMF on 16/10, 3 at the MoD coastal grazing marsh on 12/11 and 2 at IMF on 9/12 (CW, ST).

The Ruff is still seen in just small numbers, mainly in autumn with some records in spring, so its status does not seem to have changed in the last century.

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocryptes minimus*)

GIACH FACH

Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Probably under-recorded.

1907

Winter visitor; fairly common in most districts, especially in the west, but decreasing in some.

2007

Denbs. All records except one were recorded at or near CON. There were five records between 28/01 and 14/02, usually for 1 bird but 2 were seen on 14/02. In autumn, the

| (JS) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 22 | 2 |
| Flints. | 7 | 1 |

first record was on 16/09 and further sightings were made through to 26/12, with 2 birds being seen on 25/11 (pALD). NH had a possible sighting at New Hall, Ruabon on 15/03.

Flints. All records were for single birds. The earliest was 6/02 at Gronant (DCR) followed by two sightings, possibly of the same bird, on 16/03 at NW of Rhuddlan and by the River Clwyd, Rhyl (SM, ANB). There was a rare record from SSW on 21/10 (PT), 1 at MOD coastal grazing marsh on 12/11 (CW) and two sightings of 1 on 25-26/12 at Rhuddlan (SH, ANB).

Jack Snipe seems to be a species that has declined considerably since 1907 with most records between Oct and Mar.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

GIACH GYFFREDIN

Rare breeding resident; more common as a passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

1907
Resident; common on bogs almost everywhere; more numerous in winter.

2007

| (SN) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 40 | 64 |
| Flints. | 58 | 91 |

Denbs. Low counts in spring, with a maximum of 9 on 21/03 at Erddig Pool, Wrexham, the site that consistently held the highest counts throughout Jan-Mar (NHu). The first sign of an autumn influx was 17 birds on 28/10 at CON and numbers peaked at 64 on 27/11 (pALD). Very few birds were recorded at inland locations in autumn; 5 birds at Pickhill Meadows, Bangor-is-y-Coed on 24/11 (NHu), 1 at Mwdwl Eithin, Mynydd Hiraethog on 17/10 (WAO) and 1 at Erddig Pool on 29/10 and 4/11.

Four records during the breeding season included 1+ bird(s) drumming at Pendinas Reservoir on 1/04 (JuR), 2 W of Ruabon on 15/04 (JLR), 1 drumming bird at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 15/04 (JuR) and 1 bird seen on a BBS visit E of Capel Siloam on 21/06 (MaO).

Flints. All reports were from coastal sites and around Rhuddlan. The spring maximum was 25 at POA on 1/02. Other spring counts included 10 at CQNR on 7/02 (CL) and 17 NW of Rhuddlan on 16/03 (SM). POA was the main site for autumn records, with 15 on 30/08, 12 on 28/11 and the year's maximum of 91 on 9/12 (WeBS, GR). SH regularly counted birds in a small marshy area of a field SE of Rhuddlan, with a highest count of 39 on 2/12.

Snipe have definitely declined markedly since 1907 though they can still be found breeding in some places – but far from being ‘on bogs almost everywhere’. There are more contemporary records in spring than autumn and the only time of year virtually devoid of records is the Jun-Jul period.

Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

CYFFYLOG

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

1907
Common from autumn to spring; breeds sparingly in all counties...

2007

Denbs. An unusual record was a single bird at CON on 27/01 (pALD). All other records were from wooded areas in the more upland parts of the county. There were no summer records. The highest counts were of 3 birds seen at Gresford on 20/02. Two birds were seen at Penycae flying high towards woodland at 15:00 on 8/10 (JAJ). A single bird was recorded at Erddig on 15/02 (JLR). All other records were of single birds and were from the RM area or the Gwersyllt area.

| (WK) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 17 | 3 |
| Flints. | 5 | 1 |

Flints. A single bird was recorded roding at Nercwys on 1/06 (NH) with another roding on 22/06 (ABr). Three records were received from Rhuddlan with single birds seen on 6/01, 25/10 and 19/12 (SH). The record on 25/10 was of a bird flying through the middle of town at 07:30.

Woodcock are present from autumn (late Oct) to Apr but are not easily seen, so it is difficult to judge if they are still '*common*' and it is not frequently met during the breeding season, so its status may not have changed much since 1907. However, as Snipe and Jack Snipe definitely seem to have declined, maybe Woodcock have too.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

RHOSTOG GYNNFONDDU

Passage migrant. Principally a winter visitor but increasingly found through the year. Amber List.

1907

Somewhat rare autumn visitor to the estuaries of the Dee ...

2007

The Dee Estuary is an internationally important area for this species. The principal site is OMR where a substantial wintering population roosts on the saltmarsh at high tide. There is also a small population in summer that appears to alternate between OMR and IMF.

| (BW) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 38 | 50+ |
| Flints. | 287 | 5000 |

Denbs. Away from the Dee Estuary the peak count was 50+ in Rhyl harbour on 6/01 (HC, AC, RC). There were also a series of records from CON with the peak count in autumn being 22 on 7/09 (pALD). Peak count there in spring was 7 on 22/04 (pALD).

Flints. OMR was again the principal site. Peak counts were in the latter part of the year with 5,000 birds recorded on 1/10, 9/10 and 24/10 (GR). A total of 4,200 was recorded on White Sands on 16/10. Numbers in the first half of the year were lower with peak counts of 1,500 on 7/01 (GR) and 1,500 on 5/02 (GR). Away from OMR/CQNR 150 were at Warren Farm at POA on 8/01 and 600 were at Walwen on 10/01 (GR). The peak counts at POA were in the autumn with 400 birds present on 27/10 (GR) and 1,000 birds were present on the high tide of the 23/12 (LC), while 3,000 birds fed with oystercatchers on the Salisbury middle sandbank on 19/12 (GR). The fields at Warren Farm, POA attract good numbers of birds after heavy rain. The peak count here was 450 birds on 10/12 (GR). The peak count of summering non breeding birds was 1,240 feeding on the mud flats at OMR/CQNR on 15/07. These birds commute between here and IMF.

Dee Estuary monthly maxima

| (BW) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1500 | 1500 | 81 | 330 | 50 | 400 | 1240 | 3000 | 4300 | 5000 | 3500 | 3000 |

This species is now recorded in every month and in large numbers so its status has improved markedly since 1907.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

RHOSTOG GYNFFFRONFRITH

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

1907

Not uncommon on flat parts of the coasts and estuaries in autumn; fewer in spring; rare inland.

2007

Denbs. Two records were received from Towyn, with 7 birds on 27/07 and a single bird seen on 5/10 (SM). All other records were from CON with 2 birds seen on 8/03 (pALD). All other records were of single birds.

| (BA) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 16 | 7 |
| Flints. | 31 | 27 |

Flints. POA is the primary site, with eighteen records. A peak count of 27 was on 27/09 (GR). A single bird was recorded at POA on 20/04 starting to come into summer plumage (NH). Away from POA records were received from OMR and a single record of a bird in summer plumage at River Clwyd on 20/07 (SH).

This species is also recorded in every month of the year, with peaks in spring and autumn, but at much lower numbers than Black-tailed Godwit. Its status may not have changed very much from that of 100 years ago.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

COEGLFINIR

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

1907

A passing migrant in spring and autumn: more numerous on the west than on the north coast; in spring than in autumn.

2006

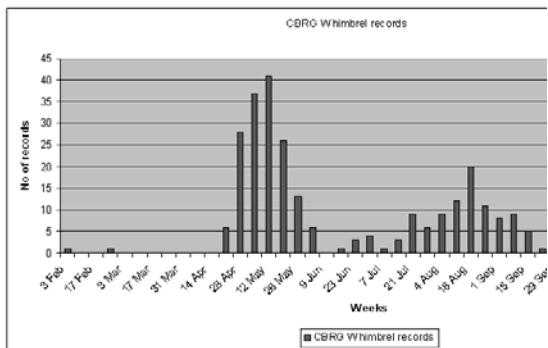
Denbs. Addendum. A group of 39 was seen flying S on 17/08 at Rhos on Sea (STh).

2007

Denbs. A single inland record was of 1 bird at Cae Llwyd Reservoir, Penycae on 21/02 (JLR). All other records were from coastal locations, with the majority of records coming from CON where a peak of 10 birds was recorded on 26/04 (pALD). Towyn had 8 birds on 24/04 with 2 birds on the beach and 6 birds flying over whilst there were 6 birds on 29/04 with 5 flying over from NW to SE and a single bird on the beach wall.

| (WM) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 39 | 10 |
| Flints. | 63 | 9 |

Flints. An unusual record was a single bird at SS on 26/08 (PT). There were 9 birds at POA on 16/05 (PDS) and 7 also at POA on 17/05 (GR). Over half of the sightings are from Apr and May with a steady number of records through to Sep. The first record of the year was noted on 15/04. The last record was of a single bird seen at POA on 14/10 (GR).



Its passage is still markedly that of late spring and early autumn and in fairly small numbers (as shown above) – it seems that its status has not changed much since 1907.

Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

GYLFINIR

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site.

1907

Resident and common, breeding on all the moorlands and on some lowland bogs; resorts to the coasts from autumn to spring.

2007

Denbs. Inland: A number of records indicating possible breeding were received from upland areas. Counts of 5 birds and 4 birds were received from moorland areas to the W of Cerrigydrudion. The majority of summer records are from the SW of the area. RM had 36 birds on 3/03 (JAJ). Records of single birds were received from various locations throughout the year including Pendinas reservoir, Nant y ffrith reservoir, Mynydd Hiraethog and RM.

Coastal: There were 500+ birds recorded at Rhyl harbour on 29/12 (HC). At CON there were counts of 450 on 1/10 (pAD), 300+ on 7/09 (HC) and 345 on 7/02 (pALD). Towyn had 160+ birds on 5/01 (SM) with other records coming from Pensarn and TB.

| (CU) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 110 | 500+ |
| Flints. | 449 | 1200 |

Maximum numbers at selected sites:

| (CU) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|
| CQNR | 145 | 167 | 44 | 29 | 20 | 30 | 157 | 134 | 1200 | 138 | 61 | 48 |
| POA | 65 | 130 | 160 | 70 | | 230 | 150 | 1000 | 600 | 500 | 10 | 30 |
| POA mudflats | 200 | 350 | 300 | 223 | 132 | 220 | 700 | 1000 | 1000 | 700 | 450 | 450 |

Flints. Inland: Fenn's Moss provided four records with single birds seen or heard on 9/04 (EB) and 20/05 (KP) and 5 birds seen on 27/07 (JuR). A single bird was heard at Maeshafn on 14/04 (AE). There were 12 birds at Rhuddlan on 16/09 and 5 on 20/10 (SH).

Coastal: CQNR/OMR and POA are the primary sites for coastal sightings, with significant numbers being recorded in Aug and Sep. On the 4/09 there were 1,200 birds recorded on the river at low tide between OMR and the bunded pools at CQNR. At POA 1,000 birds were recorded on 12/08 and 16/09 (GR) and 800+ on 15/08 (DG). Other large counts include 800+ at Rhyl on 6/01 (DCR) and 300 at Bagillt on 12/02 (GR).

Curlew continue to breed in the area now, but only just, and there are records throughout the year at the coast. This suggests the main change since 1907 is the decline in the breeding population.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

Passage migrant and scarce over wintering visitor.

1907

Very rare; obtained on three or four occasions.

2007

The Dee Estuary is of national importance for this species.

| (DR) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 15 | 1 |
| Flints. | 230 | 16 |

Denbs. Recorded only from CON on spring and autumn passage. The first spring bird was seen on 30/03 and the last bird on 29/04 (pALD). Autumn passage began on 25/07 with a single bird recorded in full summer plumage. A juvenile was present on 31/08 and the last bird of autumn was recorded on 16/09 (pALD).

Flints. Nearly all the records were from the inner Dee Estuary, CQNR /OMR, where the peak count in the early part of the year was 10 birds on 12/01 (GR). The 5 birds present on 3/04 (CL) were probably migrants moving through. Last bird in spring was a single on the 26/04 (CL). First returning birds were seen on 26/07, when 3 birds were present at OMR. Peak count in the autumn was 16 birds present at OMR on 9/10 (GR). Peak winter count was 10 on 18/12 (MB). The only records away from CQNR /OMR were a single bird overwintering at POA in both winter periods. Two birds were seen here on 27/10 and 5 were seen on White Sands on 16/10.

Dee Estuary monthly maxima

| (DR) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 10 | 8 | 5 | 5 | | | 1 | 12 | 15 | 16 | 9 | 12 |

There are records of Spotted Redshank from virtually all months of the year except Jun and it is seen in parties of up to 20 birds. Certainly, this species is more common now than 100 years ago.

Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

PIBYDD COESGOCH

Possible breeding resident and common winter visitor. Amber List.
The Dee Estuary is of International importance for this species.

1907

Common as a migrant on and near the coasts; rare inland; a few pairs breed in scattered localities.

2007

Denbs. Only one record from an inland location, with a single bird recorded at Capel Siloam on 21/06 (MaO). CON is the principal site for sightings, with 55 records; other records were received from Abergele, Kinnel Bay, Llanddulas and Pensarn. The highest count was 382 at CON on 10/11 (pALD). The highest count away from CON was 100 birds at Llanddulas on 16/11 (RB).

| (RK) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 85 | 382 |
| Flints. | 454 | 2590 |

Flints. Most records were received from CQNR, OMR and POA. Peak counts were 2,590 on the Dee Estuary, White Sands area on 3/09 (CM), 1,840 at Mostyn on 16/09, 1,700 at Connah's Quay on 16/09 (CM) and 1,300 at OMNR on 10/09 (CL). Away from the Dee Estuary birds were recorded in the Rhyl area at the River Clwyd with 40+ on 6/01 (DCR) and the Marine Lake on 2/03 (SM), as well as at Rhuddlan and Gronant.

There is no evidence to suggest that the status has changed over the last 100 years. They are now recorded in every week of the year except at the end of May and early Jun, but proof of breeding is hard to obtain.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

PIBYDD COESWERDD

Passage migrant.

1907

Not uncommon on the coasts and estuaries in autumn and spring; fewer in winter; rare inland.

2007

Denbs. A single inland record was of 1 at Plas y Fron, RM on 26/09 (JAJ), presumably on migration. All other records were from CON with a peak of 4 seen on 4/09 (HC). The first record was 24/02 (pALD) and the last bird was seen on 29/12 (pALD).

| (GK) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 30 | 4 |
| Flints. | 213 | 50 |

Flints. Twenty records were received from POA, with a highest count of 6 birds on 12/08 and 16/08 (GR). Three records were received from Bagillt, each of 2 birds on 21/01 (GR), 31/01 (ST) and 12/08 (GR). All other records were from the Connah's Quay/OMR area, with a high count of 50 birds recorded at CQNR on 12/09 (DW). There appears to be a small over-wintering population, with records of single birds or small groups being seen throughout the winter. Records were received from every month, apart from May and Jun. The last spring record was 21/04 at POA (GR) and the first 'autumn' record was 4/07 at CQNR (JMW).

There is little evidence to suggest a change in status since 1907.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

PIBYDD GWYRDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

1907

Not uncommon in the eastern half of the district in autumn, and occasionally met with at other times...

2007

Denbs. All records were of single birds; 1 from Nant Lewis Alyn on 12/04 (EJ) the last from CON on 8/09 (pALD). Four records were received from CON, the remaining was 1 at Marford on 29/04 (JuR).

| (GE) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 6 | 2 |
| Flints. | 8 | 1 |

Flints. Four records were from Rhuddlan, three from Shotton and a record of a single bird at Shotwick on 10/02 (BO). Both records from Rhuddlan on 11/02 and 1/04 (SH) and from SS on 21/10 (PT) were of 2 birds.

It seems that this species is less common than it used to be a century ago. It is, now, uncommon and only seen in small numbers.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

Double passage migrant and breeding visitor

1907

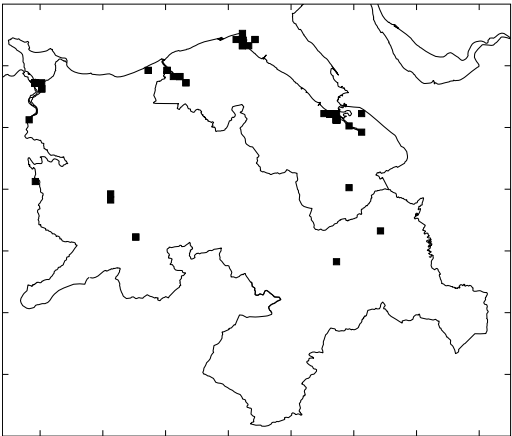
Summer migrant. Generally distributed and common in all suitable places...

2007

Denbs. Probable wintering birds had been seen at both Tal y Cafn on 23/02 (SM) and at CON 25/02 (possibly 1 of the 2 birds present at Tal y Cafn) (pALD). The first spring bird was seen at CON on 10/04 (pALD). Three birds were at Plas y Fron on RM on 15/04 (JLR), while 5 birds were at CON on 25/04 (pALD). Although birds were seen at Llanrwst and at Llyn Aled Isaf on Mynydd Hiraethog, which are potential breeding areas, no breeding was confirmed this year. Peak count was 7 at CON on 12/07 (pALD) and last bird of the year was a single seen at CON on 13/09 (AC, HC, RC).

| (CS) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 42 | 7 |
| Flints. | 103 | 23 |

Common Sandpiper 2007



Flints. An excellent first part of the year for wintering birds with a regular at CQNR and up to 4 birds on the coastal fields at POA on 15/01 (pSD). The first spring migrants were probably 3 birds at CQNR on 20/03. There was an amazing count of 23 birds at Rhyl on the high tide of 20/04 (SM) with 5 at Rhuddlan on the

same date. A juvenile was seen on the bunded pools at CQNR on 11/07 (CL) indicating successful breeding nearby. Four birds were on the flushing lagoon at POA on 15/07 (GR). Last birds of the autumn were probably 2 at Shotton on 11/10 (CL). Again a bird wintered at CQNR until the end of the year.

If there is any difference from 100 years ago it is probably that we have fewer birds breeding in the hills on reservoirs lakes and streams.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

CWTIAD Y TRAETH

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

1907

Not uncommon on the west coast in autumn and spring, some remaining as late as June; rarer on the north coast.

2007

Denbs. Records were from all four seafront areas along the coast and from every month. Maximum counts were 20 at Kinmel Bay on 2/02 (RMB), 80+ at Llanddulas on 17/04 (EL), 35 at Pensarn on 8/03 (RMB) and 47 at Towyn on 14/11 (SM).

| (TT) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 60 | 80+ |
| Flints. | 58 | 100 |

Flints. Recorded in every month except Jul. Largest counts coming from Rhyl area where Splash Point was the main site with a maximum count of 100 on 11/10 (RMB) and 51 on River Clwyd, Rhyl on 18/11 (DCR). Smaller numbers recorded along Dee Estuary from SS to POA, with the highest count 24 at Bagillt on 18/02 (GR).

It is difficult to judge if the flocks we see are larger than were seen 100 years ago, but there are records from almost every week of the year except the end of Jun and early Jul, so it is no longer clearly a spring and autumn migrant.

Pomarine Skua (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

SGIWEN FRECH

Irregular and uncommon passage migrant.

1907 Pomatorhine Skua

Occasional visitor to the coasts in spring and autumn.

2007

(PK)Flints. One record of a single bird at POA on 29/08 (GNR).

| (PK) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 0 | |
| Flints. | 1 | 1 |

There is no evidence of any change in status since 1907.

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

Passage migrant in small numbers. WBAP

1907

Occasional visitor, chiefly to the western coasts and estuaries.

2007

Denbs. Four records were offshore at Towyn; single birds on 28/06 and 29/06 and 2 on 6/08 and 17/08 (SM). Kinmel Bay had 1 bird offshore on 22/07 and 3+ offshore on 4/09, one pale, one dark phase (SM).

| (AC) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 6 | 3+ |
| Flints. | 15 | 5 |

Flints. All records were from either Gronant or POA with 5 at the former on 8/08 (RSm) and 4 at the latter on 28/07 (NFr). A late sighting was of 1 at POA on 9/11 (PDS).

Forrest reported that this species was only recorded from the Dee Estuary and timing of its visits were erratic, but now almost all records are made in autumn from anywhere along the north coast. It seems to be a little more common than it was 100 years ago.

Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*)

SGIWEN FAWR

Uncommon passage migrant.

1907

Reported several times, but no specimen obtained.

2007

Flints. A single bird was at POA on 9/11 (SH).

Now, these are recorded mainly in autumn in small numbers. There is no evidence of a change of status since 1907.

| (NX) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 0 | |
| Flints. | 1 | 1 |

Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*)

GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

Scarce but increasing visitor

1907

(No records).

2007

Denbs. All records were from CON in Feb, Mar, May, Aug and Nov, the majority being during the winter months, with 4 present on 16/02 (pALD).

| (MU) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 14 | 4 |
| Flints. | 19 | 4 |

Flints. Most records came from either the Rhuddlan or Rhyl areas but with single sightings at Gronant and SS. The records were collected in each month except Jan, Feb, Apr, May and Nov. The highest count was of 4 at the River Clwyd, Rhyl on 22/07 (ANB).

During the last century, this species has spread to the west and north of its main range and first bred in the UK in 1968. Here, it now occurs regularly in small numbers.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*)

GWYLAN FECHAN

Scarce passage migrant.

1907

Occasional visitor, rare; has been met with on ... north coasts.

2007

Denbs. All the records were of 1-2 in Mar, Apr, May or Sep; with the exception of two sightings, both off Towyn - one of 10+ on 19/03 and 12 on 20/03 (SM).

| (LU) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 9 | 12 |
| Flints. | 2 | 5 |

Flints. Both sightings were off POA, 5 on 19/03 (LC) and 1 on 9/11 (PDS).

This is now an annually recorded species in fairly small numbers, mainly in spring. It would appear to be slightly more common than it was 100 years ago.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

GWYLAN BENDDU

Common resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

1907

Resident and common on the coasts; several breeding colonies on inland moors.

2007

Recorded in every month in both counties.

Denbs. Sightings reported throughout the county, with very few of only 1-2 birds and the highest count being 1,800 on flooded land near Ridleywood on 3/01 (NFr).

| (BH) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 169 | 1800 |
| Flints. | 200 | 3500 |

Flints. The majority of sightings were from coastal areas but the largest counts were inland with 3,500 near Rhuddlan on 19/01 (SH) and 1,000+ feeding on pasture NW of Mold on 16/11 (IMS). Surprisingly, no reports were received of breeding activity.

The greatest change in the last 100 years has been the decline of breeding colonies in our area, several having disappeared in the last 20 years. Otherwise, it is still a common and numerous species.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*)

GWYLAN FODRWYBIG

Irregular and scarce winter visitor.

1907

(No records).

2007

Denbs. One record received; of an adult bird at GF on 29/11 (JN).

| (IN) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

The lack of records in 1907 may have been because the species was not properly differentiated from Common (Mew) Gulls, so there is no clear evidence of a change of status from that time.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

1907 Common Gull

Common on the coast from autumn to spring, but does not breed in North Wales.

2007

Recorded in most months of the year in both counties. No records were received from either county in May and none for Oct in Denbs.

| (CM) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 55 | 3500 |
| Flints. | 41 | 5000 |

Denbs. Sightings throughout the county, although the records of large flocks were, as expected, from inland sites. The highest count was of 3,500 near Pulford on 18/02 (NFr).

Flints. Records were received from many localities in the county, with a large flock of 5,000 at Rhuddlan SE on 19/01 (SH).

Nowadays, this species can be seen on fields inland in large numbers and it has been recorded in every month of the year, but still with no evidence of breeding. Its status seems, largely, to be similar to that of 100 years ago.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber List.

1907

Fairly common on the coasts as a resident or partial migrant; few breeding places.

2007

Recorded each month in both counties apart from Jan in Flints.

| (LB) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 95 | 1000+ |
| Flints. | 41 | 100+ |

Denbs. Sightings throughout the county, with flocks of 1,000+ reported from GF on 25/09, 2/10 and 5/11 (JuR).

Flints. Records were received from mostly coastal areas with no sightings of large flocks, the highest count being 100+ at FLQ on 10/11 (NHu).

This species seems to have altered its status at least twice since 1907. During the 1900s the species was largely a summer migrant, mainly vacating the UK during the winter. Contemporary records occur in all months but with a dip during the winter. It now breeds on roofs in Rhyl, at least.

Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*)

GWYLAN GOES FELEN

Regular but scarce vagrant.

1907

(No records).

2007

Flints. All records were of single birds; at POA on 26/02 (ST), at CQNR on 28/06 (CL) and again at CQNR on 31/08 (JuR) and 15/10 (CL).

| (YG) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 0 | |
| Flints. | 3 | 1 |

This species has only been recognised and split from Herring Gull within the last ten or so years.



Yellow-legged Gull - Julie Rogers

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

Common resident, breeding on the coast, mainly on roofs. Amber List. WBAP

1907

Abundant on the coasts...

2007

Recorded in each month in both counties.

| (HG) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 243 | 5000+ |
| Flints. | 101 | 2500 |

Denbs. Sightings throughout the county, with most large flocks reported from coastal areas; the exception being 350+ at GF on 26/12 (GrJ). On the coast, regularly reported in flocks of 1,000+ with the highest count of 5,000+ W of Towyn on 29/03 (SM). Breeding took place in Towyn with a pair first noted on a nest on 30/05 increasing to between 10 and 12 nests containing well grown young, recorded on 2/07 (SM).

Flints. Records were received from a wide range of areas with a highest count of 2,500 at POA on 21/01 (GR). Breeding took place near Rhuddlan, with 2 young noted on 4/06 but unfortunately the birds did not survive to fledging (SH).

This is still a common resident species but it now breeds on rooftops in several towns on the coast – the change in breeding seems to be the only change in status since 1907.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*)

GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

Irregular and scarce winter visitor.

1907

(No records in North-East Wales).

2007

Denbs. There was an adult at CON on 12/02 (pALD) and a first winter bird at GF, where it was seen daily from 19/11 until the end of the year (NFr, JN, KS).

| (IG) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 2 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

It is possible that this species was not properly identified in 1907, but there is no clear evidence of a change in status since then.



Iceland Gull - Kevin Smith

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)

GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

Irregular and scarce winter visitor.

1907

Rare winter visitor.

2007

Denbs. One record of a single first winter bird at GF on 12/11 (JN).

| (GZ) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

There is no evidence of any change of status since 1907.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF

Non breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

1907

Fairly common in winter.

2007

Recorded during each month of the year in both counties.

| (GB) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 44 | 10 |
| Flints. | 85 | 100 |

Denbs. Sightings were mainly from coastal areas, with less than 10% of records received being inland. Most records were of 1-2, with the highest count of 10 seen W of Towyn on 14/11 (SM).

Flints. All records received were from coastal areas, with seven sightings of flocks over 50, the highest count being 100 at OMR on 7/01 (GR).

This species is now recorded in each month, but there are more records from the winter months. As yet, it has not been found to breed in our area. Its status has changed from being just a winter visitor, as it seemed to be in 1907.

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

GWYLAN GOES DDU

Passage migrant. Amber List.

1907

(Common on coast and estuaries of Denbigh and Flint, but does not breed in these counties).

| (KI) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 13 | 10+ |
| Flints. | 4 | 10 |

2007

Denbs. Sightings were from early spring through to autumn (all months except Jan, Feb, Apr, Nov and Dec); all offshore at Towyn with a maximum of 10+ on 28/06 and 22/07 (SM).

Flints. All records were from POA; 1 on 21/01, 10 on 27/06 both (GR), 1 on 6/07 (NFr) and 4 on 9/11 (PDS).

This is recorded every year but it could not be called '*common*'. It seems that there may been some decline since 100 years ago.

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*)

MORWENNOL FECHAN

Passage migrant and regular summer breeding visitor. Red List.

1907

Summer migrant, common on the coast; many breeding colonies on flat shores in all the maritime counties...

2007

Flints. The first sighting of the year was on 22/04 with 6 reported back at Gronant (JA). By the end of May 150+ were present, with a peak of 350 on 18/07 (RSm). There were at least 103 breeding pairs and 99 young were fledged. Away from the colony dispersed birds were seen regularly at POA with numbers building up at the end of Jul through to the mid Aug with 250 present on 15/08 (GNR). The last record was of a single bird at Gronant on 16/09 (JA).

| (AF) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 0 | |
| Flints. | 27 | 350 |

In 1907 the only breeding site in our area was reported as POA. There is no evidence to suggest a change in status since then.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)

CORS WENNOL DDU

Irregular, scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn.

1907

Somewhat rare passing migrant met with chiefly on estuaries.

2007

Denbs. One record received of 2 at CON on 20/07 (pALD).

There is no evidence of a change in status, locally, in the last 100 years.

| (BJ) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 2 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)

MORWENNOL BIGDDU

Summer migrant. Amber List.

1907

Has occurred once or twice.

2007

Denbs. The first record for the year was of 2 far offshore at Pensarn on 11/04 (SM). Thereafter there were regular sightings each month through to early Oct from CON, Kinnel Bay and Towyn. The highest count was of 260+ on 31/08 at Kinnel Bay, Horton's Nose. The last record was of a single bird at Towyn on 14/10 (SM).

| (TE) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 90 | 260+ |
| Flints. | 48 | 515 |

Flints. First sighting for the year was of 2 at Rhyl on 12/04 (DCR). Thereafter they were reported regularly during spring and summer at many areas at the head of the Dee Estuary. The furthest inland record was 3 at SS on 1/07 (PT) with the highest count being an impressive

515 at Gronant on 4/07 (RSm). Last sighting for the year was 2 at POA on 28/10 (PDS).

There are now many records between the end of Mar and Nov and it is seen in reasonably large numbers. There does seem to have been a beneficial change in the local status of Sandwich Tern.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

MORWENNOL GYFFREDII

Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Amber List.

1907

Summer migrant, met with on all the coasts...

2007

Denbs. All records were single birds from two localities (CON and Towyn). The last sighting was at Towyn on 30/09 (SM).

| (CN) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 5 | 1 |
| Flints. | 90 | 1500+ |

Flints. First sighting for the year was of 3 at the SS breeding colony on 15/04 (PT); thereafter sightings in the Dee Estuary area were widespread and frequent with a flock of 200 near Flint on 12/05 (PLa). A count of breeding birds at SS on 3/06 (PT) noted 762 apparently occupied nests, a new high; the colony is around the fifth largest colony in the United Kingdom. The colony recorded below average breeding success with 41.4% mortality rate from chicks that hatched (understandable, given the atrocious summer weather experienced). A total of 811 young were ringed, of which it is estimated that a minimum of 690 successfully fledged from the colony. As birds started to disperse from the colony, flocks of 450 and 500 were reported from POA on 15/08 (GNR) and 16/08 (GR) respectively. The last record at the colony was of 4 on 2/09 and the last sighting of the year was 1 at POA on 16/09 (GR).

The main change, locally, has been the construction of the tern rafts at SS that have provided this species with a safe breeding site for at least twenty years. This causes the large number of records in Flints. which means that its status has been improved since 1907.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Passage Migrant. Amber List.

1907

Distribution similar to that of the Common Tern...

2007

Denbs. Seven sightings on consecutive days, presumably of the same bird at CON from 23/09 to 29/09 (pALD).

| (AE) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 7 | 1 |
| Flints. | 7 | 2 |

Flints. Seen at only two localities, CQNR and POA, with a maximum of 2 on 11/07 (CL) and an exceptionally late record of 1+ on 27/10 (SBr).

There is no evidence of a change in status over the last 100 years.

Common Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)

GWYLOG

Regular visitor in small numbers to coastal waters.

1907

Breeds on precipitous coasts; common at sea all round the coast... the "ringed" variety occurs but rarely.

2007

Denbs. Ten reports from Towyn with a maximum count of 200+ on 7/10 (SM), 1 at CON on 21/01 and 1 on 16/09 (pALD)

| (GU) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 14 | 200+ |
| Flints. | 7 | 47 |

Flints: Five reports from POA with maximum count of 47 on 28/10 (PDS), 5 at Gronant on 27/06 (pRS) and 1 at White Sands in the Dee Estuary on 19/09 (GR).

There is no evidence of a change in status over the last 100 years.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

LLURS

Small numbers occasionally recorded offshore

1907

Breeds on precipitous coasts; common at sea all round the coast especially in the west.

2007

Denbs. Birds were recorded offshore: 1 at Towyn on 1/02, 7/03, 17/03 and 2+ on 21/09 (SM) with 1 at Llanddulas on 16/11 (RMB).

| (RA) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 7 | 2+ |
| Flints. | 2 | 1 |

Flints. Both records were offshore at POA, 1 on 6/07 (DG) and 1 on 11/11 (GR).

There is no evidence of a change in status over the last 100 years.

Stock Pigeon (*Columba oenas*)

COLOMEN WYLLT

Breeding resident. Amber list

1907

Resident, and more or less common throughout the district; more numerous on the coasts than inland.

2007

Denbs. Recorded every month except Aug. Most of sightings in S of area: 33 at Trevalyn Meadows on 20/04 (JC), 16 at GF on 5/11 (JuR) and 17 at Ridleywood on 31/12 (NFr).

| (SD) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 42 | 33 |
| Flints. | 24 | 110 |

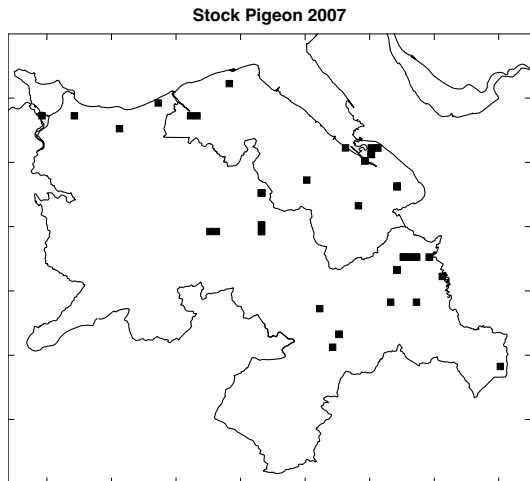
Flints. Recorded in most months. Nesting records from Beeches Farm, Sandycroft and at Shotton Paper; 15 birds in total ringed between 26/04 and 3/09 (IMS). Highest count logged

at Shotwick Fields with 110 birds on 29/12 (CW).

Breeding (JLR, IMS):

| (SD) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 31 | 64 | 47 | 1.52 |

There is no clear evidence for a change of status since 1907 except that now they are not so clearly numerous on the coasts.



Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

YSGUTHAN

Abundant breeding resident, often culled by local agricultural interests.

1907

Common throughout North Wales; often large flocks during winter.

2007

Recorded in every month in both counties.

Denbs. Maximum counts were 500 near Ruabon on 18/04 (JLR), 139 at Eglwyseg on 12/11 (JLR) and 115 at Marford on 19/11 (JuR).

| (WP) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 254 | 500 |
| Flints. | 330 | 352 |

Flints. Maximum counts were 100+ at CQNR on 25/12 (CL) and 352 recorded during a BBS walk at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 26/06 (IMS).

Breeding (JLR):

| (WP) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 10 | 20 | 1 | 0.10 |

There is no evidence for a change of status in the last 100 years.

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

TURTUR DORCHOG

Common and widespread breeding resident, chiefly of suburban areas.

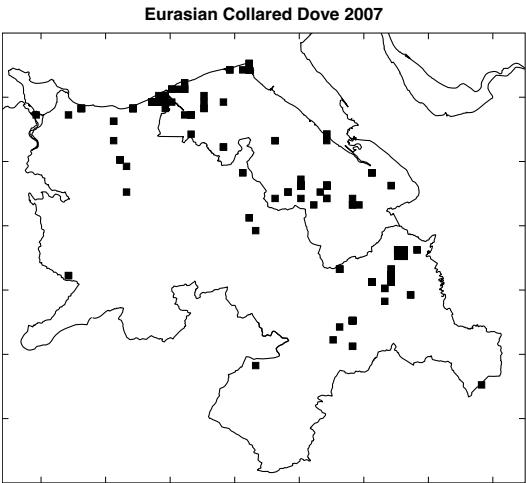
1907
(No records).

2007
Recorded each month of the year in both counties.

Denbs. The highest counts of birds come from areas of parkland in suburban areas with 5+ birds regularly at Acton Park in Wrexham, and a maximum of 12. The highest counts of 13 however were at Towyn on 29/02 (SM) and Trevalyn Meadows on 6/11 (JuR). Most sightings are of 1-2 birds and the population appears to be distributed around the county, but most prominent in suburban areas.

Flints. The highest count was 48 birds seen on 8/12 at Rhuddlan (SH). Rhuddlan also had high counts of 30 on 11/09 and 24 on 3/2 (SH). Most other counts were of 1-2 birds, with the most records (168) coming from Rhydymwyn (all JHu). The population appears to be distributed fairly evenly around the county possibly due to less rural make-up of the county than Denbs.

| (CD) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 173 | 13 |
| Flints. | 242 | 48 |



This is a new species. It spread across Europe from the near E during the first half of the last century and first bred in the UK in 1955. It has since spread to all parts of the UK.



Eurasian Collared Dove - Julie Rogers

European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)

TURTUR

Very scarce summer visitor and possibly breeding. Red List. WBAP

1907

Summer migrant; common in eastern half of the district and gradually increasing and spreading westwards.

2007

Denbs. One was seen on 10/06 and may have been breeding and 1 on 1/08 – observers and exact locations not disclosed.

| (TD) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 2 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

This species has clearly declined in the last 100 years and its breeding attempts are now restricted to the eastern parts of our area.

Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

COG

Increasingly uncommon breeding summer visitor. WBAP

1907

Summer migrant, common everywhere.

2007

Denbs. First record from Clocaenog Forest at Foel Frech on 15/04 (DD). First heard at World's End on 20/04 (JGr, MSJ) and at Moel Famau on 21/04 (JaH). Highest counts were 5 at Cerrig-duon, Nantyr Forest area on 31/05 during a BBS walk (DJT) and 4 at Capel Siloam on 10/06, also during a BBS visit (BVO). The last bird seen was on the early date of 19/06 on RM (JAJ).

| (CK) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 34 | 5 |
| Flints. | 3 | 1 |

Flints. First record from Moel y Parc, heard on 28/04 (OPJ) and then on 20/05 (KC). The other record was from near Cilcaïn on 20/05 (DCR).

This species has also declined since 1907 and is still becoming more and more scarce – for reasons that are not clear.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

TYLLUAN WEN

Scarce breeding resident. Amber List.

As the Barn Owl Project continues our knowledge of the breeding population improves. We are now finding that new records are coming by word of mouth among landowners and farmers who are cooperating with the project. From the number of successful nests found and the number of young birds ringed, this has been the best year for breeding, certainly in at least the last twenty years. The map indicates the positions of the breeding attempts recorded this year, with each place displaced by at least 1 km.

1907

Resident and more or less common in most parts of the lowlands.

2007

Denbs. A mixture of sightings and some breeding records shows that the distribution is across much of the county though the under-recorded section S of the Berwyns remains a mystery. The range in altitude for breeding attempts is from sea level to c 400m. All sighting records were of single birds.

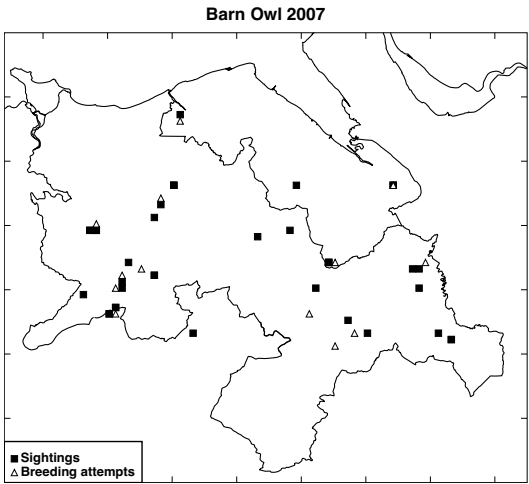
| (BO) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 36 | 2 |
| Flints. | 5 | 2 |

Breeding (WRSG):

| (BO) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 21 | 74 | 55 | 2.62 |

Flints. The sightings, of single birds, were mainly at low altitude – near Rhuddlan and Sandycroft, but breeding occurred at up to 300m.

Barn Owls are now far more scarce than they were 100 years ago.



Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)

TYLLUAN FACH

Uncommon breeding resident.

1907

(No records in North-East Wales).

2007

All records of this species would be very welcome.

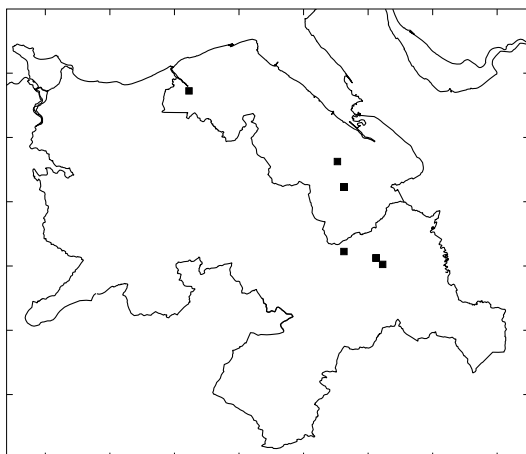
Denbs. The records came from near Wrexham, with three from Gatewen on 8/03, 17/04 and 13/11 (GMT).

| (LO) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 5 | 1+ |
| Flints. | 10 | 1 |

Flints. The records were from just three sites, with singles near Padeswood on eight dates between 7/02 and 10/10 (JuR).

Although Little Owls had been introduced to Britain by 1907 they had not yet become resident in our area, as they are currently. However, at the present time they appear to be suffering low numbers and reduced distribution.

Little Owl 2007



Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

TYLLUAN FRECH

Widespread breeding resident.

1907

Resident and generally distributed in the wooded lowlands...

2007

Denbs. Birds were recorded each month except Sep, mainly as singles. Two were recorded at Garth on 30/12 (LB) and 2 nestlings were ringed at Pandy on 20/05 (pBH).

| (TO) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 24 | 2 |
| Flints. | 33 | 2 |

Flints. Birds were recorded each month except Jan, Feb and Jul, mainly as singles. There were four records of 2 birds, all at or near Rhydymwyn: on 5/10 and 9/11 (JHu, VHu) and on 26/11 and 2/12 (MD).

Breeding (WRSG):

| (TO) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 6 | 13 | 9 | 1.50 |

There is no clear evidence of much change in status since 1907.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)

TYLLUAN GORNOG

Rare breeding resident. Amber List.

1907

Resident; occurring in most districts where there are pine woods.

2007

Denbs. One bird was heard calling near Pendinas Reservoir on 1/04 (JuR).

| (LE) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

This species seems to be less common now than 100 years ago.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

TYLLUAN GLYSTIOG

Scarce winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. Amber List.

1907

Winter migrant, occurring in limited numbers on bogs and moors throughout the district; occasionally remains to breed.

2007

Denbs. Birds were recorded in Jan, Feb, Mar, Jul and Oct. Many of the early year records were in the general area of the industrial estate at Kimmel Bay to S of Towyn. There were six records of 1 or 1+ birds, six records of 2 birds and 3 were seen there on 2/01 (GC, MC). An adult was seen feeding 2 young on Mynydd Hiraethog on 15/07 (PBu, IE).

| (SE) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 15 | 3 |
| Flints. | 10 | 3 |

Flints. Birds were recorded in Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Aug, Oct and Nov. All but one of the records were of 1 or 1+ birds but 3 were seen at POA on 25/11 (PDS).

There is no clear evidence of a change of status in this species since 1907.

European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

TROELLWR MAWR

Scarce breeding summer visitor. Amber List. WBAP.

1907

Summer migrant, generally distributed...

2007

This has been a very poor year for the number of records submitted.

| (NJ) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 2 | 2 |

Denbs. One female was seen near Llanrwst on 21/06 – none were heard calling that evening (DCR).

Flints. Both records came from Nercwys – 2 birds seen on 1/06, one of which was churring (NHu) and 1+ birds were seen on 22/06 (ABr).

Generally, it seems that the Nightjar is probably less common in our area, now, than it was a century ago.

Common Swift (*Apus apus*)

GWENNOL DDU

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor.

1907

Summer migrant, common almost everywhere.

2007

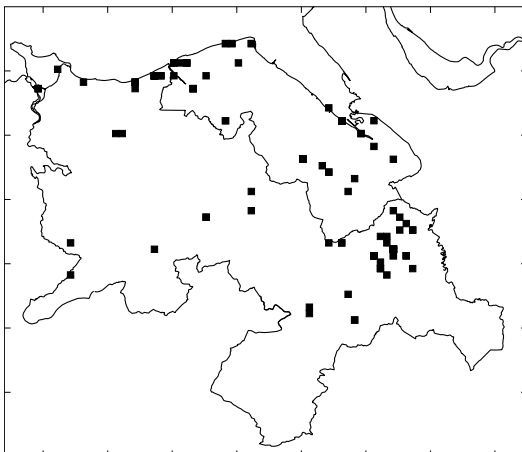
Denbs. The first of the year was at CON on 17/04 (pALD). The majority of records were from Wrexham and other urban areas. There were 20+ at Towyn on 17/07 and at Kinnel Bay on 25/07 (SM). A total of 21 was counted during a BBS walk near Cefn Mawr on 17/06 (GWo) and 60+ were seen at Burton Green on 17/07 (JuR). The last record was of a single over Wrexham on 11/09 (NH).

| (SI) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 79 | 60+ |
| Flints. | 95 | 90 |

Flints. The first of the year was near Rhuddlan on 23/04 (SH). The records have come from less urban areas (than Denbs.), with the largest counts being: 30+ at CQNR on 11/06 (BH), and on 5/07 (CL), 80+ at CQNR on 28/06 (CL) and 90 near Rhuddlan on 5/08 (SH). The last of the year were 3 at SS on 2/09 (PT).

There is no clear evidence of any change of status during the last 100 years.

Common Swift 2007



Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

GLAS Y DORLAN

Local breeding resident. Amber List.

1907

Resident, generally distributed in lowlands...

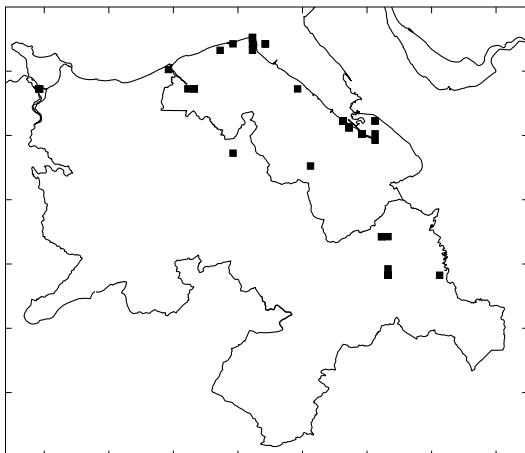
2007

Denbs. Recorded from two main locations: CON mainly during the winter months and from the Wrexham area during the summer months. All records were of 1-2 birds. Records came from every month apart from Mar and Oct. There was no recorded evidence of breeding.

| (KF) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 20 | 2 |
| Flints. | 67 | 2 |

Flints. More records than from Denbs., but most records were from CQNR where a single bird was seen regularly from Aug through until Dec. There was a single record of 2 birds at CQNR on 26/09 (JHo). Away from Connah's Quay, most records were from coastal areas, with single birds being recorded at POA, SS and the Rhyl area. Two birds were seen at Rhuddlan on 1/04 with a number of records in the same area from Oct (all SH). The only inland record was a single bird at Rhydymwyn on 30/11 (JHu). There was no recorded evidence of breeding, and

Common Kingfisher



no records were received in Feb, May or Jun.

It is difficult to assess if there may have been a real change in status, but now, the Kingfisher is still clearly recorded mainly in lowlands, but especially near the coast (where it would be unlikely to find suitable banks in which to breed).

European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*)

GWYBEDOG Y GWENYN

Rare visitor

1907

(No records)

2007

Denbs. A most surprising and lucky record was a group of 5 seen and photographed at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant on 27/05 (AnCe). Accepted by the WRP.

| (MZ) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 5 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

There is no clear evidence of a change in status since 1907.

Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

PENGAM

Rare visitor

1907

Summer visitor of rare and uncertain occurrence.

2007

Denbs. A single bird was at World's end, RM on 13/04 (DeS) - the first record since 2000.

| (WY) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

There is no evidence of a change of status for this species in the last 100 years.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

CNOCELL WERDD

Breeding resident. Amber List.

1907

Resident and common in all suitable parts of the district... it is decidedly more numerous and widely distributed than the other woodpeckers.

2007

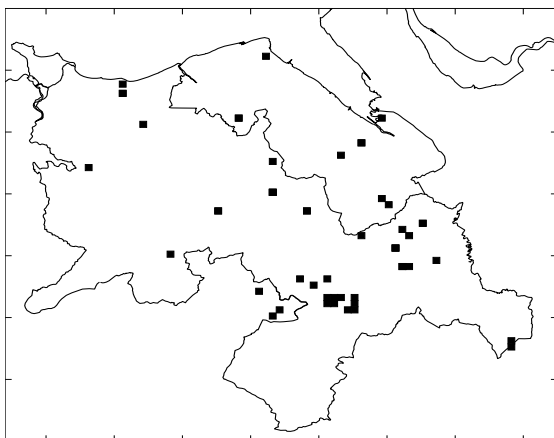
Denbs. Most records were of single birds seen or heard mainly in the S of the area. Possible breeding was recorded at Rhyd y Foel, where 2 birds were seen on 10/04 (RS). A high count was 4 birds at Alyn Valley, Wrexham on 10/07 (NH). All other records were of single birds from every month apart from Jan, Mar and Nov.

| (G.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 37 | 4 |
| Flints. | 9 | 2 |

Flints. There were 2 birds at Fenn's Moss on 27/02 (JuR) and all other records were of single birds.

The Green Woodpecker has declined substantially since a century ago and is now far less common than the Great Spotted Woodpecker.

Green Woodpecker 2007



Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)

CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF

Widespread breeding resident

Mainly recorded by surveys – ringing, GBW, BBS.

1907

Resident; fairly common in wooded parts of the district; occurring in all the counties except Anglesey.

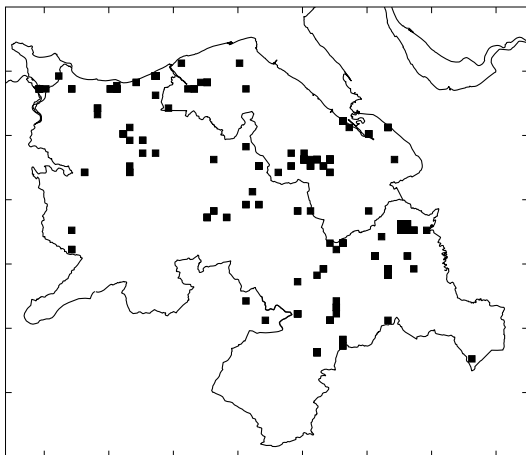
2007

Denbs. Birds were recorded in all months across most parts of the county. Most sightings were of single birds but 5 were seen at Gellifor, Rhos on 11/04 during a BBS visit (MT). Drumming was reported mostly from late Mar through to the end of Apr but there was a late report of 1 bird drumming on an electricity pylon on 13/06 E of Llanddulas (EL). At Marford 2 birds were observed confronting each other in a tree on 4/04 (JuR).

| (GS) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 167 | 5 |
| Flints. | 83 | 5 |

Flints. Birds were again recorded in all months across a wide range of sites. The maximum count of 5 was made on 5/05 N of Rhydymwyn (ELJ).

Great Spotted Woodpecker 2007



The status of this species appears to have remained stable over the last 100 years.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*)

CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF

Scarce breeding resident . Red List. WBAP.

1907

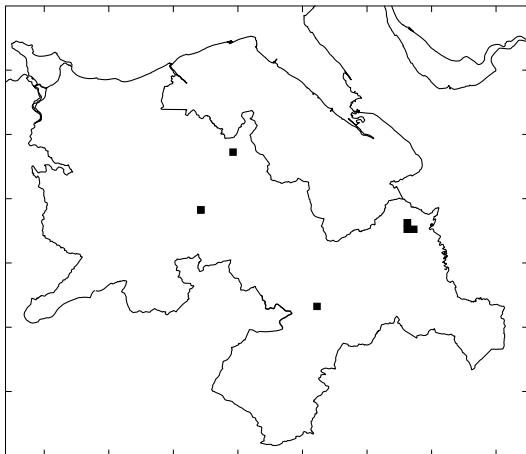
Resident; not uncommon in the eastern half of the district; unknown in the west.

2007

Denbs. There were five records from the Marford area between 17/02 and 24/03 which may relate to 3 birds (JuR, ANB). ELJ recorded 1 on 12/04 at Nant Lewis Alyn, Afon Clwyd, Denbigh, 1 was S of Foel Uchaf, Cyffylliog on 20/04 (DD) and 1 was N of Castell Dinas Bran, Llangollen on 21/04 (ELJ).

| (LS) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 9 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker 2007



Flints. There were no records for 2007.

This species appears to have declined severely in the last 100 years.

Wood Lark (*Lullula arborea*)
Locally extinct

EHEDYDD Y COED

1907
Rare resident, very local...

2007
There have been no records within the last twenty years.

Although not common 100 years ago, this species has been absent from our area for many years.

Sky Lark (*Alauda arvensis*)
Widespread though localised breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List. WBAP.

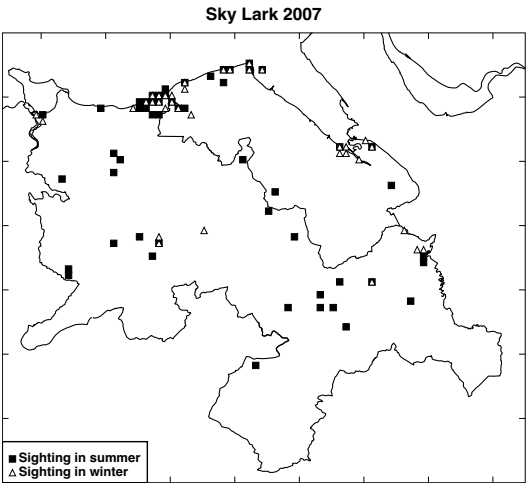
EHEDYDD

1907
Common and generally distributed; flocks pass along the coasts in winter.

2007
Denbs. The earliest displaying bird was on 18/02 W of Towyn (SM). Through the breeding season birds were recorded at 34 sites, ranging from coastal areas to high altitude areas such as Moel Famau and RM. Outside the breeding season, birds were most commonly observed at coastal locations but 12 were seen NW of Pulford during floods on 18/02 (NFr). A maximum of 24 birds were seen at Towyn on 13/10 (SM) but small groups were counted throughout Oct.

| (S.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 139 | 24 |
| Flints. | 143 | 55 |

Flints. The earliest singing male was heard at CQNR on 16/03 (NH). Records from only 10 locations were submitted for the breeding season and only one of those, W of Cilcain (4 males on 2/04 ELJ), was for a site away from the coastal or adjacent areas. The highest count was 20 birds at Gronant on 27/04 (MRB). Outside the breeding season, counts of up to 30 birds were regularly recorded in the



Dee Estuary area. The highest counts were 50 at White Sands, on 2/01 (CW), 55 at Shotwick Fields on 15/10 (ST) and 50 at POA mudflats on 12/12 (GR). Smaller flocks were counted on the coast between POA and Rhyl.

This species is almost certainly less generally distributed now than it was 100 years ago, largely due to changes in farming practices such that the amount of suitable habitat for breeding has been reduced.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

1907

Summer migrant, generally distributed in suitable localities...

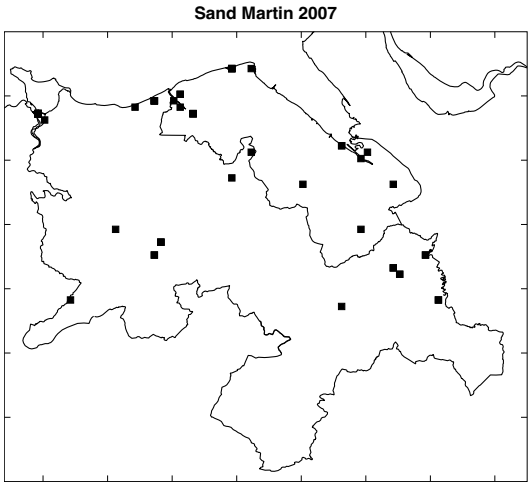
2007

Denbs. First spring sighting was of 1 bird on 23/02 at CON (pALD, DF) and numbers there built to a peak of 400 on 25/04. The breeding colony at Sutton Green had 30+ birds by 14/04 (NHu) and W of Afonwen there were 22+ birds on 20/05 (IMS). Records from other possible breeding sites were for 5 or less birds. The latest record was on 3/09 at CON (AC, HC, RC).

| (SM) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 37 | 400 |
| Flints. | 18 | 400 |

Flints. First spring record was on 16/03 when 2 were seen at Rhyl Brickworks (AOH). Birds were regularly recorded near Rhuddlan from Mar-Aug, with a peak of 75 on 26/04 (SH). On 25/07, 6+ were at Rhydymwyn (JHu, VHu). The last record was of 2 birds near Rhuddlan on 15/08.

There is no clear evidence of a change in status since 100 years ago although the large crash in the population that occurred in the late 1960s (caused by a lack of rain in the Sahel region in Africa during the winter) has almost certainly reduced the numbers of birds but not, necessarily, the distribution.



Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

GWENNOL

Common and widespread summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

1907

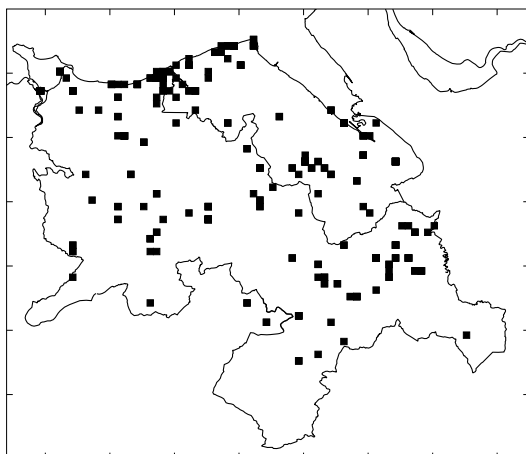
Summer migrant, generally distributed and common.

2007

Denbs. First spring record was on 25/03 N of World's End (NHu). Records came from sixty two locations across the county, mostly involving small counts at or near breeding sites. AAL recorded 18 SW of Llandegla on 22/05; RJ had 30+ at CON on 28/05; RBu had 12 E of Betws-yn-Rhos on 11/06 and SM counted 15 at Ysbyty Ifan on 10/07. In the autumn, small flocks of local birds and passage birds were recorded including 30+ at Erddig Pool on 15/08 (NH), 50+ at Gatewen, Wrexham on 3/08 (NHu), 100 at CON on 13/09 (AC, HC, RC) and 30+ at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 28/09 (PT). The last record was for a very late breeding pair in a warehouse on a

| (SL) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 203 | 100 |
| Flints. | 128 | 700 |

Barn Swallow 2007



Wrexham industrial estate, still trying to coax their young to move on 11/10 (NHu).

Flints. The earliest spring records were on 1/04, with 5 birds seen E of Llanasa (ELJ) and 1 near Rhuddlan (SH). Records were submitted for thirty six locations, again mostly involving small counts. In the early breeding season, counts of 20 were reported near Rhuddlan on 19/04, at Gronant dunes on 27/04 (RMB) and near Flint on 12/05 (PL). In autumn, counts of 30 were reported near Rhuddlan on 11/09 (SH) and at POA on 13/09 (RMB). A roost of 700+ birds formed at SS on 25/08 (PT); ringing studies have shown that such roosts include

passage and some locally bred birds. The last record was of 5 birds near Rhuddlan on 3/10 (SH).

Breeding (IMS, JLR):

| (SL) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 40 | 178 | 138 | 3.45 |

There is no clear evidence for a change of status in the last century.

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)

GWENNOL Y WAONDO

Common and widespread summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

1907

Summer migrant, common in lowlands and valleys...

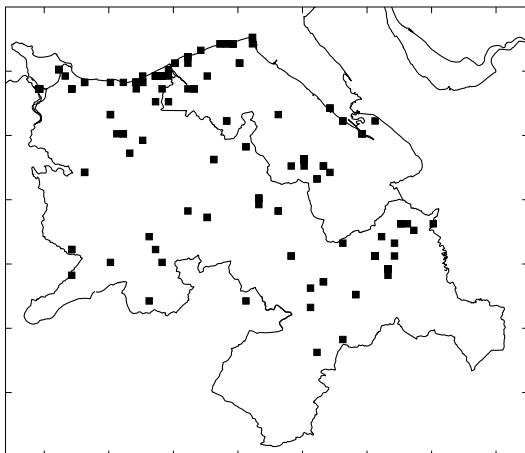
2007

Denbs. First record of spring was 1 at Betws-yn-Rhos on 5/04 (IMS). Nest sites recorded at Cyffylliog, South Wrexham, Glasfryn, Llansannan and APMP. Larger numbers recorded in Sep, when birds start to get ready to move away for the winter, with a maximum count of 70+ at CON on 7/09 (AC, HC, RC) and 50+ at Llangollen on 21/09 (JLR). The last record was from Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, with 10 on passage on 2/10 (PT).

| (HM) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 111 | 70+ |
| Flints. | 112 | 100+ |

Flints. First record of spring, 3 at Rhuddlan on 9/04 (SH). There were 30 at Flint on 12/05 (PLa), 50+ at CQNR on 5/07 (CL), 100+ at SS on 26/08 (PT), 30+ recorded at Rhydymwyn on a few dates in Sep (VHu, JHu) and 45 at Rhuddlan on 11/09 with the last, single, bird recorded there on 19/10 (SH).

House Martin 2007



There is no clear evidence for a change of status in the last 100 years, though recently there have been concerns about the UK population declining.

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)

CORHEDDYD Y COED

Scarce summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. WBAP.

1907

Summer migrant; common in all wooded districts; and occurs in smaller numbers on bare hillsides up to about 1500 feet...

2007

Denbs. The first records were on 7/04: 1 bird at Dulas Valley, Llanddulas (SN) and 4 birds feeding on the ground at Llyn Brenig (EL). The last record was of 1 bird at Pentrefoelas on 10/07 (SM). Records were also received from Trefor Uchaf, World's End, CON, Nilig and Foel Frech, Clocaenog Forest, Pandy Tudur, Llandegla Forest, Berwyn, Ceiriog Forest and Llyn Aled Isaf, Mynydd Hiraethog.

| (TP) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 18 | 4 |
| Flints. | 4 | 2 |

Flints. The first record was of 2 birds at Fenn's Moss on 14/04 (NHu) and the last was of 1 bird at POA on 30/08 (GR). Records were also received from NW Gronant and Gronant Dunes.

Today, the Tree Pipit could not be called '*common*' in our part of Wales, so there does seem to have been a major change in status since 1907.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)

CORHEDDYD Y WAEN

Common breeding resident and both passage and winter visitor.

1907

Partial migrant; common everywhere, especially on moors and hillsides.

2007

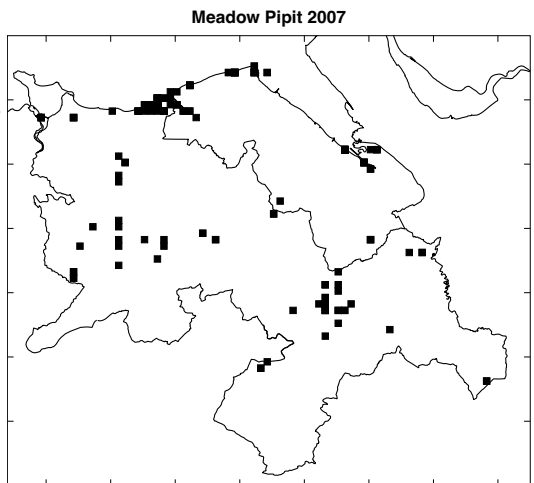
Recorded in every month of the year in both counties.

| (MP) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 143 | 220 |
| Flints. | 89 | 60+ |

Denbs. Widespread throughout the county. A sizeable flock of 220 at RM on 29/03 (JAJ) was likely to have been birds returning from their wintering grounds at coastal locations.

Flints. Records received from numerous localities along the Dee Estuary coastline with a maximum of 60+ at Rhyl on 4/04 (DCR). Seen inland on only five occasions with a maximum of 20+ at FLQ on 13/10 (CL).

There is no evidence of a change in status in the last century.



Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*)

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

Scarce, mainly winter, visitor on the coast.

1907

Resident and common on coasts and islands.

2007

Denbs. Four records were from CON; 1 on 4/01, 2 on 6/01, 4 on 1/10 and 2 on 5/11 (pALD). The other sighting was of 1 at TB on 30/09 (SM).

| (RC) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 5 | 4 |
| Flints. | 15 | 5 |

Flints. As expected all records received were from the Dee Estuary area with a maximum count of 5 at POA on 21/01 (GR).

It is distinctly possible that the increase in the human population may have caused a decline in this species over the last 100 years, by disturbing possible breeding sites at the coast.

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*)

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

Scarce winter visitor.

1907

(No records in North East Wales).

2007

Flints. A single bird was seen at POA on 28/01 (GR).

| (WI) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 0 | |
| Flints. | 1 | 1 |

There is no clear evidence of a change of status for this species in the last century.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

SIGLEN FELEN

Passage migrant and localised breeder in small numbers. Amber List. WBAP.

1907

Summer migrant, distributed irregularly throughout all the counties...very common on Sealand.

2007

Denbs. The first record was of 1 bird at CON on 1/05 (pALD) and the last was again of 1 bird at the same site on 13/09 (AC, HC, RC, pALD, Birdtrack). Reports were received from CON during May, Jul and Sep and Ruabon in Jun (JLR).

| (YW) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 6 | 1 |
| Flints. | 14 | 8 |

Flints. The first record was of 2 males at Shotwick Fields on 18/04 (CW) and the last was of a juvenile at Rhuddlan on 27/07 (SH). The highest count was of 8 juveniles at CQNR on 30/06 (CW). Records were also received from NW Gronant and Gronant dunes, Rhyl and Shotwick Boating Lake.

As with other parts of the UK, the Yellow Wagtail has declined locally over the last 100 years and it could not, now, be described as 'common' in any locality.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

SIGLEN LWYD

Fairly common breeding resident.

1907

Resident or partial migrant; common on hill streams in summer, but resorts to lower ground in winter...

2007

Recorded in every month in both counties.

| (GL) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 93 | 5 |
| Flints. | 50 | 4 |

Denbs. Records of more than two birds: 3 at Erbistock on 5/04 (NHu), 3 at Llangollen on 23/06 (NHu), 3 at Nant y Ffrith on 6/07 (JC), 4 in Moss Valley including 2 juveniles on 3/08 (NHu), 3 at Towyn on 22/09 (SM) and 3 on Trevalyn Meadows on 6/11 (JuR). The maximum count was a brood of 5 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 5/05 (pBH).

Flints. Records from over twenty widespread sites. Usually only single birds recorded but 4 reported at Rhuddlan on 10/03 (SH) and 3 at Mold on 6/05 (GEM).

Breeding (JLR, pDN):

| (GL) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 9 | 40 | 23 | 2.56 |

There is no clear evidence of a change in status of this species since 1907.

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba alba*)

SIGLEN WEN

Passage migrant.

1907

Regular migrant up west coast in April and May; some evidence of its breeding occasionally. Very rare elsewhere, except some few migrants seen in April at mouth of River Conway.

2007

Denbs. Recorded during the spring and autumn passage periods. A number of records came from CON during the spring migration period with a maximum count of 6 seen on 11/04, 12/04 and 27/04 (pALD). Recorded at Towyn in both seasons with 2 on 24/04, 1 on 30/04, 2 on 11/10 and 1 on 29/11 (SM). Coastal records also from Llanddulas, Kinmel Bay and Pensarn (RMB). Inland records were from Penycae with 1 on 13/03 and several reports from Llangollen area, 1 at Horseshoe Pass on 7/05 (JuR), 2 at Castell Dinas Bran on 5/10 and 2 on the Panorama on same day (NH).

| (WB) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 20 | 6 |
| Flints. | 18 | 51 |

Flints. Recorded at the same times of year as Denbs but all on or near the coast. The largest count was 51 at Gronant on 24/04 (GNR). The other counts were in single figures with 4 at POA on 21/04 (GR) and 5 at Rhyl on 18/10 (RMB) being the other biggest counts.

There is no clear evidence of a change in status since 100 years ago, though now we do record birds in autumn, not just spring.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*)

SIGLEN FRAITH

Common breeding resident.

1907

Resident or partial migrant; generally distributed throughout the lowlands, and to a moderate elevation in the mountains.

2007

Recorded in every month of the year in both counties.

Denbs. Mostly seen in small numbers with the only large roost of 50 birds recorded near the Railway Station, Colwyn Bay on 10/02 (STh). Other large counts were at three sites: 15 at Cyffylliog on 11/03 (DDi), 30+ at CON on 13/09 (AC, HC, RC) and 12 at Penycae on 12/10 (JAJ).

| (PW) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 203 | 50 |
| Flints. | 155 | 30+ |

Flints. Most records were of single birds but larger counts were from four sites with maximum counts of 25 at Rhuddlan including juveniles on 27/07 (SH), 30+ at CQNR on 20/08 (NHu), 20+ roosting in a reed bed at SS on 25/08 (PT) and 18+ at Rhydymwyn on 4/11 (JHu, VHu).

Breeding (IMS):

| (PW) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 3 | 15 | 5 | 1.67 |

There is no clear evidence of a change in status since 1907.

White-throated Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*)

BRONWEN Y DWR

Widespread localised breeding resident

1907

Resident; common on rapid streams everywhere...

2007

Denbs. Single birds were regularly reported at Bontuchel (DDi) and Alyn Waters CP (ABr, EB) and single birds or pairs were regularly reported at Cyffylliog (DDi), Dulas Valley (DCR, EL) and Erddig Pool (NHu, NH). Records were also received from: Bedwlyn; Cefn Mawr; Denbigh, Dolwen; Cribin, Eglwyseg; Llanfair Talhaiarn; Llangollen; Llansannan; Prion; Rossett; World's End; Bryn Alyn, Wrexham and Wrexham centre, S. At Prion on 6/06, 4 nestlings were ringed (pBH) and 1 juvenile was reported at Erddig Pool on 25/07 (NHu).

| (DI) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 68 | 2 |
| Flints. | 14 | 2 |

Flints. Single birds were regularly reported at Dyserth (SM), and a pair was reported regularly at Greenfield Valley (ELJ). Records of single birds were also received from Pentrehobin, Mold on 12/03 (MD), near Rhuddlan on 3/02 and 26/04 (SH), Rhydymwyn on 30/11 (JHu, VHu), St Asaph on 14/04 (PKi) and Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog on 25/02 (ELJ). A pair was reported near Dyserth on 1/03 (RMB).

Breeding (pDN):

| (DI) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 2 | 9 | 7 | 3.50 |

If there has been a change in status since 1907 it has not, yet, been large, but may be happening now. The change is in a declining population that may be related to acidification of waterways.

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

DRYW

A common breeding resident and winter visitor.

1907

Resident, and numerous everywhere.

2007

Recorded in every month from both counties.

Denbs. Most of the records were of 1-4 birds but some of the twenty six BBS surveys provided totals of 8-19 birds with 17 at Coed Bryndansi on 2/06 (HTD), 17 at Erddig on 11/06 (NH) and 19 near Rhuthun on 9/05 (MB).

| (WR) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 192 | 19 |
| Flints. | 108 | 23 |

Flints. Most of the records were of 1-6 birds but the seven BBS surveys provided the highest totals, eg 16 NE of Mold on 17/06 (GEM), 17 near Gronant on 21/04 (LJ) and 23 N of Mold on 17/06 (AB, IMS).

Breeding (IMS):

| (WR) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 6 | 33 | 30 | 5.00 |

There is no evidence of a change of status over the last 100 years.

Hedge Accentor (*Prunella modularis*)

LLWYD Y GWRYCH

Common breeding resident and garden visitor. WBAP.

1907 Hedge Sparrow

Resident, common and generally distributed in all suitable districts, even to a considerable elevation on the moors and mountains.

2007

A severely under-recorded species mainly noted from gardens and suburban areas in all months of the year. Records from farmland and the wider countryside would be appreciated.

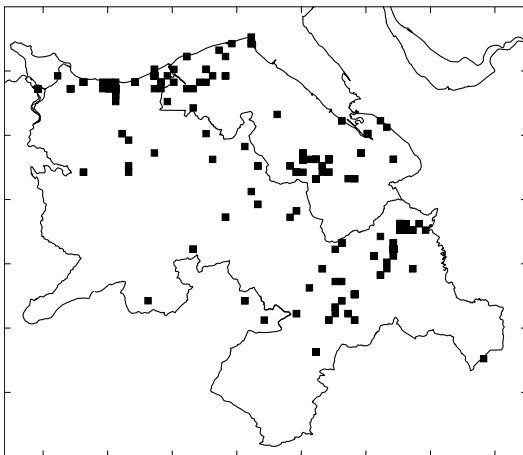
| (D.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 214 | 9 |
| Flints. | 283 | 10 |

Denbs. Mainly recorded as 1-4 birds though 6 were seen near Rhuthun on 6/06 (MB) and 6 near Pandy Tudur on 24/06 (GEHB), both during BBS walks, 6 were at Bwlchgwyn on 18/10 (JC), 7 at Marford on 4/03 and 9 there on 24/03 (JuR).

Flints. Again, mainly recorded as 1-4 birds, with 7 being seen near Rhuddlan on 25/11 (SH). BBS walks provided most of the large counts: 7 near Cilcain on 2/05 (HJ), 7 NE of Mold on 6/05 (GEM), 10 N of Mold on 29/04 and 7 there on 17/06 (AB, IMS) and 9 near Sandycroft on 26/06 (IMS).

There has been no clear indication of a change of status in the last 100 years.

Hedge Accentor 2007



European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)

ROBIN GOCH

Common breeding resident.

1907 Redbreast

Plentiful everywhere except on very elevated land.

2007

Recorded in every month of the year in both counties.

| (R.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 354 | 21 |
| Flints. | 271 | 17 |

Denbs. Most records were of 1-2 birds and most of the large counts were during BBS walks. The largest counts were 14 at Marford Quarry on 13/04 (CP), 14 at Erddig on 8/05 (NH), 15 at Marford Quarry on 5/03, 16 there on 27/03 (CP) and 21 near Cefn Mawr on 29/04 (GWo).

Flints. Again, most of the records were of 1-2 birds. The largest counts were 16 near Sychdyn on 8/03 (AB) and 17 N of Mold during a BBS walk on 29/04 (AB, IMS).

Breeding (JLR, IMS):

| (R.) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 6 | 31 | 13 | 2.17 |

There is no evidence of a change in status since 1907.

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

TINGOCH

Summer breeding visitor mainly in wooded upland areas. Amber List.

1907
Summer migrant, somewhat local but common in most wooded districts...

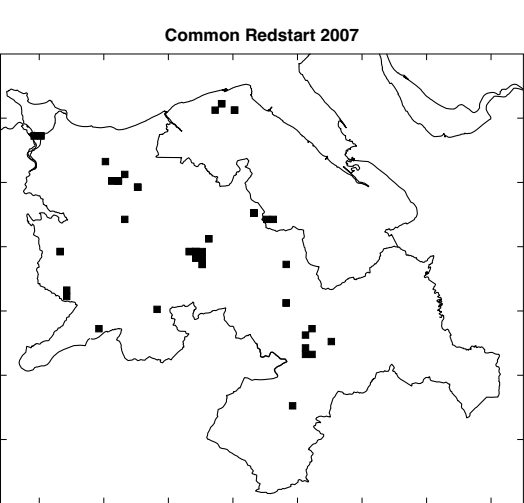
2007

Denbs The first bird of the year was seen at Dinbren Hall, Llangollen on 8/04 (JLR) and 4 birds were seen at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 4/05 (ELJ). Breeding was proven at Prion where 7 nestlings were ringed on the 31/05 (pBH). Ten birds were ringed at Llangwyfan on 3/06 (and 6 birds at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 13/06 (pBH). The last bird of the year was seen at CON on 27/08 (pALD).

| (RT) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 52 | 6 |
| Flints. | 7 | 2 |

Breeding (pDN):

| (RT) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 5 | 28 | 22 | 4.40 |



Flints. The first bird of the year was seen at Gronant on 14/04 with 2 there on 21/04 (ELJ). Two males were singing at Gwaenyssgor on 22/04 (ELJ) and 2 at Cilcain on 20/05 (DCR). The last bird of the year was seen at Llanasa on 29/07 (ELJ).

The Redstart is not ‘common’ in most wooded districts now, so it seems that there may have been a decline in the population over the last century.

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)

CREC YR EITHIN

Breeding summer visitor in small numbers, mainly in upland areas.

1907

Summer migrant, generally distributed and common in parts...

2007

Denbs. First recorded on the early date of 1/04 with 2 males at the Horseshoe Pass (NH), with the next sighting of a male at TB on 24/04 (SM). Breeding was suggested on RM in the World's End area with the sighting of 5 juveniles on 28/07 (NHu). This and the sighting on the same day of 1 at Cerrig-duon (DJT) were the last records of the year.

| (WC) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 19 | 10 |
| Flints. | 13 | 2 |

Flints. The first sighting was of a single bird at CQNR on 23/04 (CL) with the last record of the year being one at Fenn's Moss on 21/08 (ST). A possible juvenile bird was seen at Rhuddlan on 9/07 (SH).

It would appear there has been a decline in the population of Whinchat since 1907 as it could not be described as '*common*', even in those localities where it does breed.

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

Breeding resident in small numbers. Amber List.

1907

Partial migrant; most numerous on the coasts...

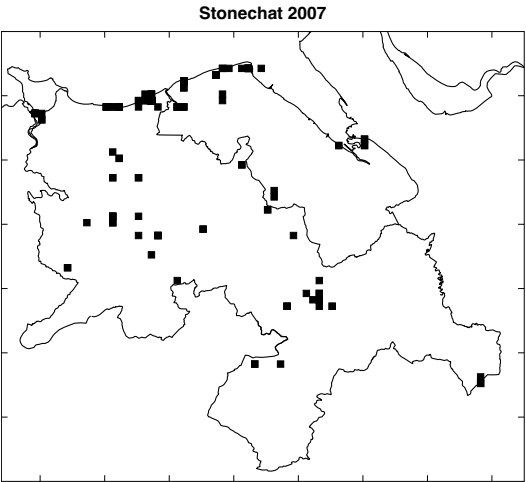
2007

Denbs. Recorded throughout the year with sightings in every month from a variety of locations. The highest number seen was 8 on 28/07 at Cerrig-duon (DJT).

| (SC) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 102 | 8 |
| Flints. | 46 | 12 |

Flints. Recorded in all months except Nov throughout the county. The highest count was at Cilcain with 12 on 2/04 (ELJ).

We know that the population of Stonechats can be severely affected by harsh winters, but we have not had such a winter for over twenty years. The local breeding population has recovered since the last cold winter so its status seems to be similar to that of 1907.



Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

TINWEN Y GARN

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

1907

Summer migrant arriving in March; common on downs round the coast, and on warrens and stony hillsides inland.

2007

Denbs. First sighting of the year was 1 at CON on 12/03 (pALD), thereafter recorded with increasing frequency during Mar and Apr both on the coast and in traditional breeding localities. Breeding was proven in the Llyn Aled Isaf area of Mynydd Hiraethog with the sighting of 3 juveniles on 10/07 (SM). The last record of the year was of a single bird at CON on 10/10 (pALD).

| (W.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 101 | 7 |
| Flints. | 105 | 20+ |

Flints. First seen at the River Clywd, Rhyl with the presence of 1 on 16/03 (SM). Sightings became more frequent and widespread during the rest of Mar and Apr with a maximum count of 20+ at CQNR on 27/04 (AW). Although no evidence was received of breeding in the upland areas of the county, several juveniles were recorded at CQNR on passage through Jul, Aug and Sep. The last sighting of the year was from CQNR where a single bird was seen on 15/10 (BH).

There is no clear evidence of a change in status since 1907.

Desert Wheatear (*Oenanthe deserti*)

TINWEN Y DIFFEITHWCH

Rare vagrant

1907

(No records).

2007

Denbs. One adult male was seen at Towyn on 20/11 (SM). Accepted by the BBRC.

| () | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

There is no evidence of a change in status since 1907.

Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*)

WYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

Breeding summer visitor in small numbers to upland areas. Red List. WBAP.

1907

Summer migrant, common on moors and mountains...

2007

Denbs. The first record for the year was a single male at World's End on 9/04 (KS, NH) Three birds were at Moel y Parc on 22/04 and 28/04 (OPJ), and a single bird was seen at the Horseshoe Pass on 28/04 (JHe).

| (RZ) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 6 | 3 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

There has been a major decline in the population of this species over the last 100 years and it is nowhere 'common on moors and mountains' any more.

Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)

MWYALCHEN

Common and widespread breeding resident .

1907

Plentiful everywhere, even on mountain sides...

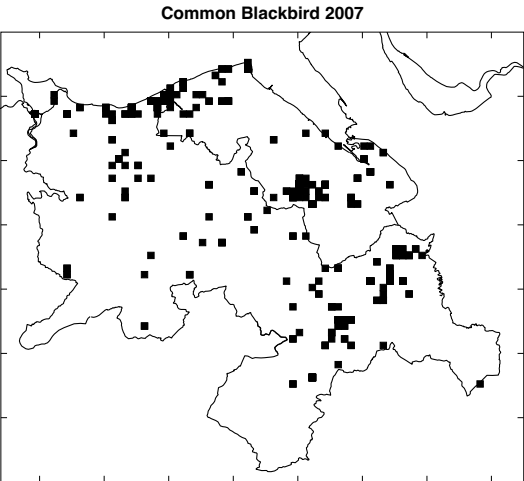
2007

Denbs. The records of this common bird showed some obvious autumn peaks, probably as birds moved into the county from the continent and many of the records were of groups of 5-20 birds. There were 31 counted at Cefn Mawr on 17/06 during a BBS walk (GWO), 32 were at Towyn on 21/12 (SM) and 38 were at Marford Quarry on 21/05 (CP). Peak count in the first part of the year was 40+ at Kinnel Bay, feeding on a muddy track on 5/02 (SM).

| (B.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 359 | 40+ |
| Flints. | 437 | 70 |

Flints. There were many records of 1-9 birds and the largest counts were 45 near Buckley on 13/04 and 29 there on 18/05, counted during BBS visits (GNR). The peak winter count was 70 near Rhuddlan on 30/12 (SH).

There is no evidence of a change of status for this species since 1907.



Breeding (JLR, IMS):

| (B.) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 12 | 46 | 26 | 2.17 |

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

SOCAN EIRA

A very common passage and winter migrant.

1907

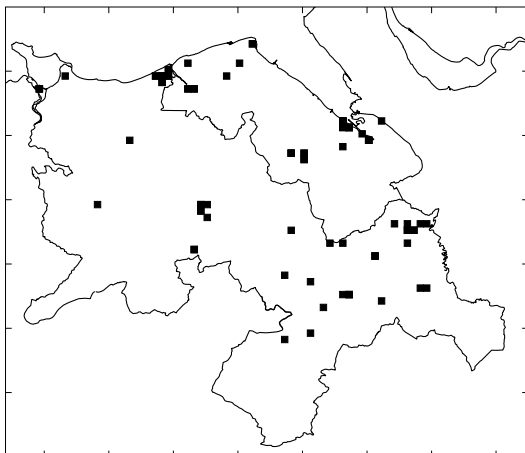
Winter migrant, common on lowlands, most numerous inland.

2007

Denbs. The last spring record was of 2+ birds heard on 7/04 at Foel Ganol, Cyffylliog (DDi) and the first autumn record was 25 birds at Penrycae on 4/10 (JAJ). The highest count

| (FF) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 54 | 350 |
| Flints. | 38 | 250 |

Fieldfare 2007



was 350 at Penycae, moving south on 28/12 (JAJ).

Flints. The last spring record was of 40 birds at Northop Hall on 1/04 (PKi). The first autumn record was of 10 birds S of Rhuddlan on 11/10 (SH). The highest count was 250 near Rhuddlan on 4/01 (SH).

There is no evidence of a change in status of this species over the last century.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

BRONFRAITH

Widespread breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List. WBAP.

Records were received from individual observers, Birdtrack, BBS, GBW and ringing.

1907

Common in suitable country throughout the district; leaves the uplands in winter.

2007

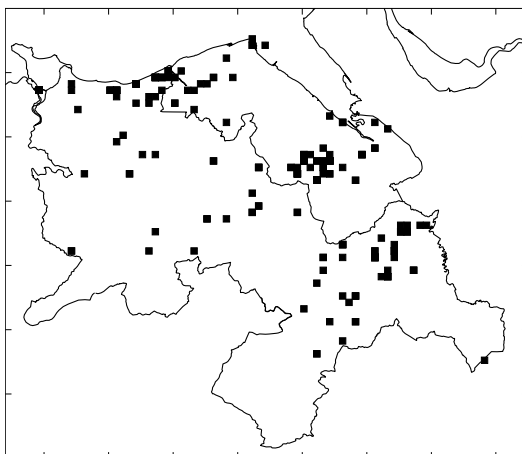
Denbs. Records were received from across the county every month. The highest count of 7 birds was at Erddig Pool, Wrexham on 11/06 (NH).

| (ST) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 136 | 7 |
| Flints. | 107 | 14 |

Flints. Records were received from across the county every month except Aug and Sep. The highest count of 14 birds was at Rhuddlan on 27/11 (SH).

Although there does not appear to be much different in the way we describe this species a century after Forrest, it is highly likely that the bird is much less numerous now, especially as we know the population has declined significantly in the UK over the last 20-30 years.

Song Thrush 2007



Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

COCH DAN ADEN

Common passage migrant and winter visitor throughout the area. Amber list.

1907

Winter migrant, common in lowlands, especially on the coast.

2007

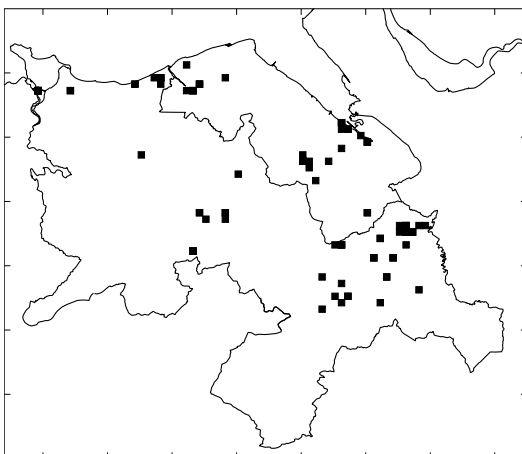
Denbs. The last spring record was of 20 birds on 30/03 at Bontuchel (DDi) and the first autumn record was of 1+ birds at World's End on 27/09 (JLR). The highest count was 550 birds, moving S at Penycae on 4/03 (JAJ).

| (RE) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 69 | 550 |
| Flints. | 46 | 140 |

Flints. The last spring record was 25 birds at Northop Hall (PKi, Birdtrack) and 6 birds at Rhuddlan (SH), both on 1/04. The first autumn record was 2 birds over CQNR on 24/09 (CL). The highest count was 140 birds at Rhuddlan on 30/12 (SH).

There does not seem to have been a change in status of this species since 1907.

Redwing 2007



Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)

BRYCH Y COED

Fairly common breeding resident.

Records were received from individual observers, Birdtrack, BBS and GBW.

1907

Generally distributed except in very mountainous districts; increasing.

2007

Denbs. Records were received from across the county every month except Sep. The highest count of 16 was received from near Gwynfryn on 5/08 (JuR).

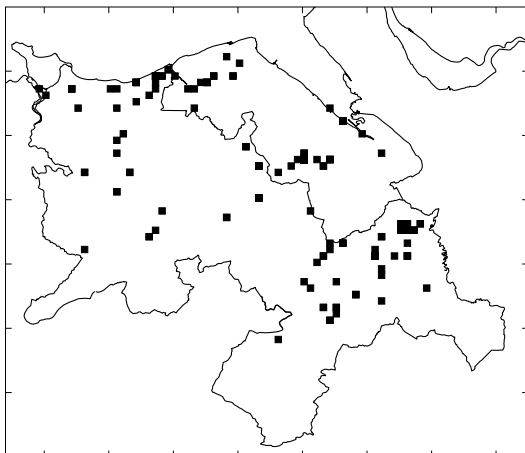
| (M.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 115 | 16 |
| Flints. | 72 | 25 |

Flints. Records were received from across the county every month except Aug and Sep. The highest count of 25 was seen flying over a house at Llanasa on 14/07 (LJ, EIJ).

There is no evidence of a change of status in the last century. It is certainly not '*increasing*' currently.

(See distribution map overleaf)

Mistle Thrush 2007



Common Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)

TROELLWR BACH

Localised summer breeding visitor. Red List. WBAP.

1907

Summer migrant; generally distributed; fairly common on hills inland, less numerous on flats by the coast.

2007

Denbs. The first record was on 21/04 at World's End (JuR) and the last was on 27/06 at Black Wood, Garth (LB). Both records were of single birds. Single records were received from CON on 24/04, Kinnel Bay on 28/04, World's End on 28/04 and 7/05 and Pentre Maelor, Wrexham on 3/05. On 29/04 at Nilig, Clocaenog Forest, 2 birds were reported reeling, one of which was seen (DDi).

| (GH) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 9 | 2 |
| Flints. | 12 | 1+ |

Flints. The first two records were of single birds at Gronant Dunes and Gronant, NW on 24/04 (GNR). The last record was of a single bird on 17/06 at Barkby Beach, Prestatyn (KPr). Records of single birds were received from Wepre Wood, Connah's Quay on 26/04, 10/05, 30/05 and 12/06, from Rhydymwyn on 28/04 and 6/05 and from Mold on 6/05.

A nest with eggs was reported near Ewloe on 24/05 (RCa), and 6 nestlings were ringed at the same location on 30/05 (IMS).

It seems that there has been a reduction in distribution and probably numbers over the last 100 years as there is nowhere that it can be called '*fairly common*'.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

TELOR YR HESG

Breeding summer visitor.

1907

Summer migrant, generally distributed in lowlands...

2007

Denbs. First record for the year was from CON with 1 on 15/04, which is earlier than in the last few years. CON had 8 by 22/04 and a maximum count of 28 on 4/05 (pALD). Most records were of 1-2 birds, with more than 2 recorded at three sites: 4 at Capel Siloam on 22/04 (MaO), 6 at Erddig on 8/05 (NH) and 3 at APMP on 20/05 (SM). The last record also came from CON with 1 bird on 4/09 (AC, HC, RC).

| (SW) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 67 | 28 |
| Flints. | 23 | 5+ |

Flints. The first record was 2 at SS on 22/04 (PT). The highest count was near Ewloe on 22/05 with 5+ birds – the site also contained a nest with eggs (RCa) and 5 at Rhuddlan on 12/05 (SH). The last record was at SS when a brood of 4 was ringed on 26/08 (pBH).

The population, now, seems to be both more restricted in distribution and probably less numerous than it was in 1907.

Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

TELOR Y CYRS

Localised breeding summer visitor.

1907

Summer migrant; very local and rare except on the Shropshire border...

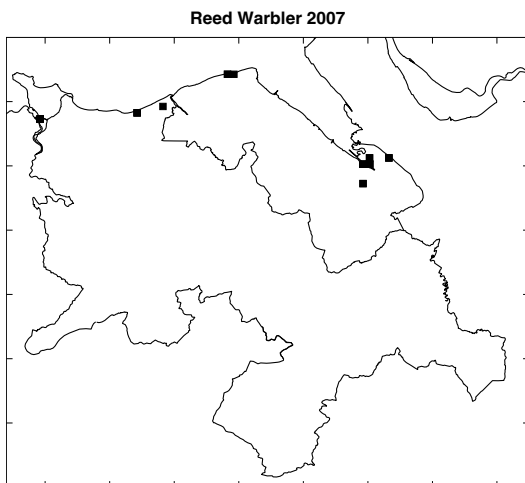
2007

Denbs. The first record was 1 at CON on 19/04 (pALD). The last record was 2+ birds at CON on 13/09 (AC, HC, RC). Records were received from three sites: APMP; CON and Kinmel Bay. On 11/08 15 full grown birds were ringed at CON (IMS).

| (RW) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 14 | 15 |
| Flints. | 19 | 11 |

Flints. The first record was of 2 birds at NW Gronant on 24/04 (GNR) and the last record was 1 bird at SS on 2/09 (PT). The maximum count was 11 full grown birds ringed at SS on 5/08 (pBH). All records came from the Dee Estuary / Deeside area, from Shotwick Fields to Gronant. A nest with eggs was reported near Ewloe on 24/05 (RCa) and 4 nestlings were ringed at Shotwick Fields on both 12/06 and 2/08 (pBH).

This species has spread both north and west, generally in the UK, and its distribution in our area, now, seems to have moved to the north, to the coast, compared with 100 years ago. Near



the coast there may be better growing stands of reed to breed in.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

TELOR PENDDU

Common breeding summer visitor with small numbers wintering.
The distribution of records suggests that the Blackcap is widespread and common across our area.

1907
Summer migrant, common...

2007
Records were received every month of the year in each county (except for Sep in Flints.), with a peak at the time of spring arrival. There were no records of proven breeding.

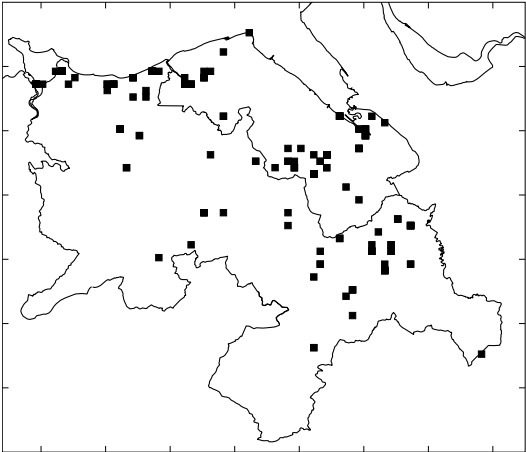
| (BC) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 144 | 7 |
| Flints. | 82 | 4 |

Denbs. Most records were of 1-2 birds, with the largest counts being 5 on 8/05 at Erddig during a BBS walk (NH) and 7 heard at Llanddulas on 23/04 (SM).

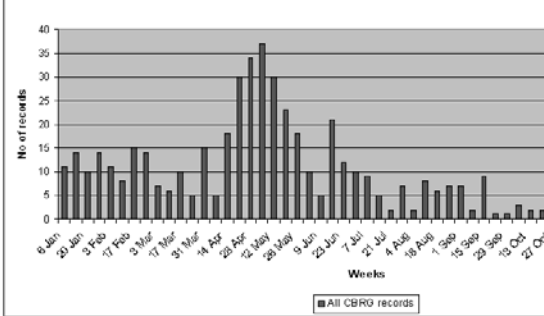
Flints. Most records, again, were of 1-2 birds and the largest counts were: 4 males near Rhydymwyn on 5/05 (ELJ), 4 at Pantymwyn on 20/04 (MB) and 4 during a BBS walk near Cilcain on 2/05 (HJ).

The biggest change in the status of Blackcap since 1907 is the relatively new wintering population of birds that come from eastern Europe, some of which winter in our area. Otherwise it remains fairly common and widespread (though probably under-recorded) across North-East Wales.

Blackcap 2007



Blackcap - all CBRG records



Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*)

TELOR YR ARDD

Breeding summer visitor mainly recorded in spring.

Records were received from around the county from individual observers, Birdtrack, BBS and ringing records.

1907

Summer migrant; generally distributed in the southern half of the district, local in the northern half...

2007

Denbs. The first bird of the year was 1 at Bwlchgwyn on 15/04 (JC). Most records were of singles each month from Apr to Oct (except Jul), with 3 full grown birds ringed at CON on 11/08 (IMS) and – the only proof of breeding – 4 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 17/06 (pBH). The last bird of the year was a single at CON on 10/10 (pALD).

| (GW) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 23 | 4 |
| Flints. | 5 | 2 |

Flints. The first was 1 near Buckley on 29/04 (GNR). There were four other records in Apr, May and Jun with 2 seen at Pantymwyn on 13/05 (MB). The last bird was seen very early – 1 at Pantymwyn on 2/06 (MB).

There seems to be little evidence to suggest any major change in status over the last 100 years, but Garden Warblers are distributed across our area so, now, occur regularly in the area considered to be part of the '*northern half*' by Forrest.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)

LLWYDFRON FACH

Scarce breeding summer visitor.

This year has seen an increase in the number of records received, particularly in Denbs.

1907

Summer migrant, fairly common in the eastern but very rare in the western half of the district.

2007

Denbs. Three separate first of the year records of single birds were received for 14/04: near Holt (ANB); Hem House and near Marford (JuR, JC). The last record was of 1 at CON on 13/09 (pALD). The highest count of 5 was also from CON, on 9/08 (pALD) and 3 full grown birds were ringed there on 11/08 (IMS).

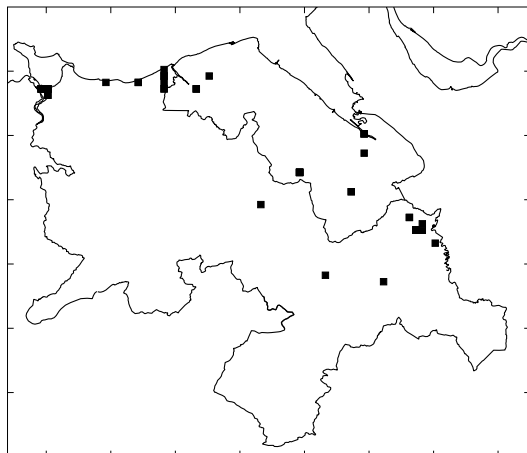
| (LW) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 42 | 5 |
| Flints. | 13 | 3 |

Flints. Two separate first of the year records, each of 1 bird, were received on 20/04. One was from near Rhuddlan (SH) and the other was from Pantymwyn (MB). The maximum count of 3 birds was recorded on two dates near Rhuddlan: 10/05 (2-3 pairs in the area) and 21/07 (SH). The latter of these two records was the last of this year.

This species cannot, now, be called '*fairly common*' and seems to be distributed more towards the northern rather than just the eastern part of our area. It seems there may have been a decline in the population since 1907.

(See distribution map overleaf)

Lesser Whitethroat 2007



Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)

LLWYDFRON

Common breeding summer visitor.

1907

Summer migrant, common and generally distributed.

2007

Denbs. The first record was from Trevalyn Meadows on 20/04 (JuR, JC) and the last was from CON on 13/09 (AC, HC, RC). The maximum count of 4 was recorded at the Brickworks, Rhosllanerchrugog, on 1/06 (NHu). On 20/05 1 bird was observed displaying while another collected food at Pensarn Beach (SM).

| (WH) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 34 | 4 |
| Flints. | 45 | 6 |

Flints. The first record was from CQNR on 18/04 (CL) and the last was of a full grown bird ringed at SS on 5/08 (pBH). The maximum counts of 6 were received from Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 27/04 and 26/06, both during BBS walks (IMS). On 29/06 at Rhuddlan 1 juvenile was reported (SH) and 3 juveniles were reported at CQNR on 19/07 (BH).

It is almost certain that this species is much less numerous than it would have been in Forrest's days. Apart from the effects of habitat changes, at the end of the 1960s there was a dramatic crash in the population caused by a lack of rain in the Sahel region of Africa during our winter and since then the population has never recovered to its previous levels.

Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)

TELOR Y COED

Scarce, localised breeding summer visitor. WBAP.

1907 Wood wren

Summer migrant, common in open woods generally...

2007

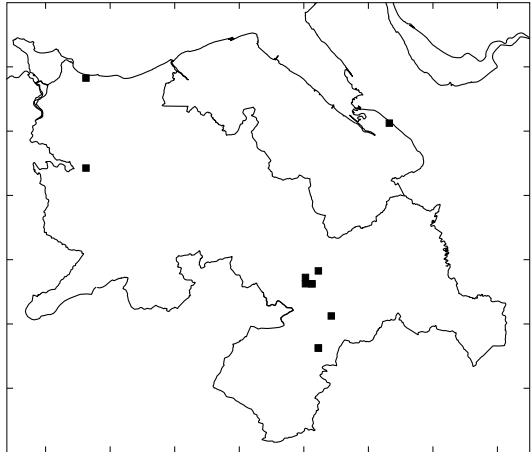
Denbs. The first of the spring was seen at Eglwyseg on 22/04 and 2 birds were singing close together near there on 2/05 (JLR). Two occupied nests were found at Eglwyseg on 11/06 (JLR). Last birds of the year were seen at Old Colwyn with 2 present on 13/08 (JAJ). Just 3 birds were ringed in spring this year at Bedwlyn, 2 on 29/04 and 1 on 1/05 (pBH).

| (WO) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 10 | 2 |
| Flints. | 1 | 1 |

Flints. The only record for the year was of a bird ringed at Shotwick Fields on the 31/07 (pBH).

The population of this warbler seems to have declined markedly in the last century.

Wood Warbler 2007



Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

SIFF SAFF

Common and widespread summer breeding visitor, with some birds overwintering.

1907

Summer migrant; common...

2007

Denbs. First seen on 22/02 at CON; probably an overwintering bird. The first probable spring migrants were seen, again at CON, when 2 birds were present on 13/03 and 6 were here on the 22/03 (pALD). There were 9 birds singing at Castell on 15/04 (MD) and 9 seen at Coed Bryndansi on 2/06 (HTD) during BBS walks, with 9 seen at CON on 5/09 (AC, HC, RC). The last bird of the year was 1 seen at Bwlchgwyn on 26/09 (JC).

| (CC) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 132 | 12 |
| Flints. | 92 | 7 |

Flints. The first bird was seen on 4/01 (SH) at Rhuddlan and 3 were in Connah's Quay sewage works on 5/01 with 4 there on the 26/02 (CL). The first genuine spring migrant was a single bird at Rhuddlan on 11/03 (SH). Seven birds were singing at Cilcain on the 27/06 (HJ) while 10 birds were ringed at SS on 5/08 and 25/08 (pBH). The last birds of the year were 2 seen at SS on 4/11 (PT).

The main change from 100 years ago is that we have regularly wintering birds, though the majority are still summer migrants arriving from south of the UK.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

Common and widespread summer breeding visitor.

TELOR YR HELYG

1907 Willow wren
Summer migrant, common in all but very bare localities; the most abundant of the warblers.

2007
Denbs. The first record was of a single bird at CON on 6/04 (pALD) and the last record was of a single full grown bird ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 6/09 (IMS). The highest count was of 15 full grown birds ringed at CON on 11/08 (IMS). Further evidence of breeding was received from Towyn on 26/07 and 6/08, with 1 juvenile reported on each occasion (SM).

| (WW) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 86 | 15 |
| Flints. | 55 | 6 |

Flints. The first record was of a single bird at CQNR on 12/03 (BH) and the last record was again of a single bird at the same site on 12/09 (KJ). The highest count of 6 birds was at Fenn’s Moss on 20/05 (KP). At CQNR on 26/07 2 juveniles were reported (CL).

This is probably still the most abundant warbler but its population, now, is known to be declining from data gathered over the last twenty years. It is quite possible that with habitat changes it was at a lower level even in the 1980s than at the start of the last century.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)

Common and widespread breeding resident.
Records were received from individual observers, Birdtrack, BBS and ringing.

DRYW EURBEN

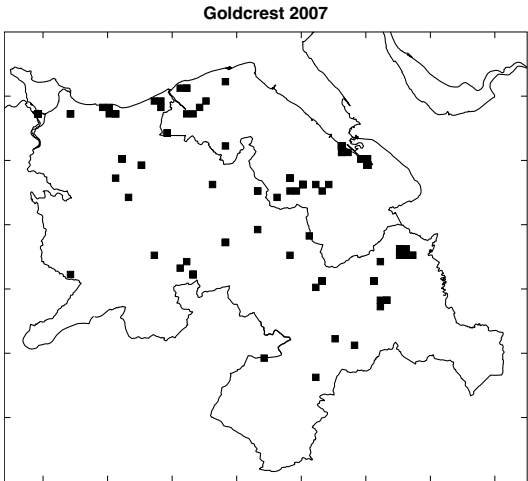
1907 Golden-crested Wren
Resident and common... more numerous in winter.

2007
Denbs. Records were received every month, except Jul, from across the county. Three highest counts, each of 22 full grown birds, were from separate ringing records at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 30/08, 6/10 and 8/10 (IMS).

| (GC) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 77 | 22 |
| Flints. | 53 | 10+ |

Flints. Records were received every month, except Jul, from across the county. The highest counts of 10+ birds were from by the sewage works at Wepre Brook, Connah’s Quay on three separate dates: 15/02; 21/02 and 23/02 (CL).

There is no evidence to suggest the local status of this species has changed over the last 100 years.



Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*)

DRYW PENFFLAMMGOCH

Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

1907 Fire crested Wren

(Not recorded in North-East Wales).

2007

Denbs. Of three records received only one was verified. On 9/11 a single female was ringed and photographed at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos (STh).

| (FC) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

There has been a slight change since 1907 in that this species is now recorded almost every year, but with only 1-2 birds being seen.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Uncommon breeding summer visitor. Amber List. WBAP.

1907

Summer migrant, common throughout the lowlands.

2007

Denbs. The first record was of 1 at Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr on 22/05 (SM) and the last was of 1 at CON on 7/09 (AC, HC, RC). The highest count was of a family party of 4 at Pentredwr on 21/08 (JLR). Breeding was also confirmed at Pandy on 23 and 30/06, with 3 nestlings ringed on both days (pBH), and near Llanarmon-yn-lal on 27/07 when 4 nestlings were ringed (IMS).

| (SF) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 13 | 4 |
| Flints. | 3 | 1 |

Flints. Three records only were received, each of 1 bird: Rhuddlan on 28/05 and 2/06 (SH) and NW Gronant on 31/05 (DGi).

Breeding (IMS, pDN):

| (SF) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 5 | 21 | 15 | 3.00 |

There has been a large change in status of this species over the last 100 years, accelerated over the last twenty years. The change has been a dramatic and unwelcome decline.

Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

GWYBEDOG BRITH

Breeding summer visitor.

1907

Breeding migrant, occurring in all counties except Anglesey; rare along the north coast, and rather local inland, but common in many wooded valleys...

2007

Denbs. The first record was of 1 male at Llanarmon-yn-lal

| (PF) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 85 | 52 |
| Flints. | 15 | 14 |

on 14/04 (PR) and the last record was of 5 nestlings (a late brood) ringed at Bedwylwyn on 2/07 (pBH). It is amazing how invisible Pied Flycatchers are after they leave the nest! The majority of records were of birds ringed – both adults caught at the nest and nestlings – 14 adults at Prion on 26/05, 50 nestlings at Prion on 6/06 (a more usual date) and 52 nestlings near Llangwyfan on 2/06 (all pBH).

Flints. The first record was of 6 males near Rhydymwyn on 5/05 (ELJ) and the last was of 6 nestlings ringed at Coed y Felin on 17/06 (IMS). The Flints. breeding sites that are checked have considerably fewer birds than those in Denbs. – the largest count was of 14 nestlings ringed at Coed y Felin on 1/06 (IMS).

Breeding (pDN, IMS):

| (PF) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 52 | 363 | 166 | 3.19 |

There does not seem to have been much change in the status of this species since 1907 apart from a decline that has become apparent within the last twenty years.

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)

TITW GYNFFON HIR

Common breeding resident.

1907 Long-tailed Titmouse

Resident; generally distributed and common in most districts...

2007

Recorded in every month in both counties.

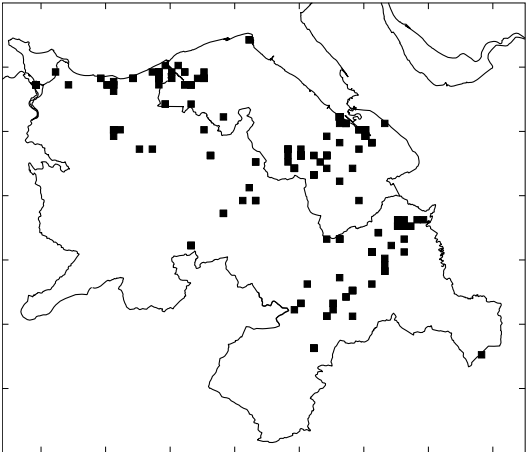
| (LT) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 131 | 20+ |
| Flints. | 114 | 20+ |

Denbs. Many of the records were of 1-9 birds with larger counts being: 15+ at Marford on 22/01 (CP), 18 at Erddig on 21/01 (NHu), 19 near Gwersyllt on 13/11 and 20+ at Trevalyn Meadows on 9/11 (EB).

Long-tailed Tit 2007

Flints. Most of the records were of 1-9 birds. The larger counts were: 15 near Connah's Quay on 30/01 and 23/02 (CL), 16 at CQNR on 28/09 and 17 there on 28/09 (CL). The largest counts were: 20 near Rhuddlan on 20/06 and 20 nearby on 11/11 (SH) and 20+ near Connahs' Quay on 15/02 (CL).

There is no evidence that there has been a major change in status of this species over that last 100 years.



Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)

TITW TOMOS LAS

Common breeding resident.

Widely distributed across the areas which are regularly recorded. Most records were of 1-3 birds.

1907 Blue Titmouse

Resident, and common everywhere.

2007

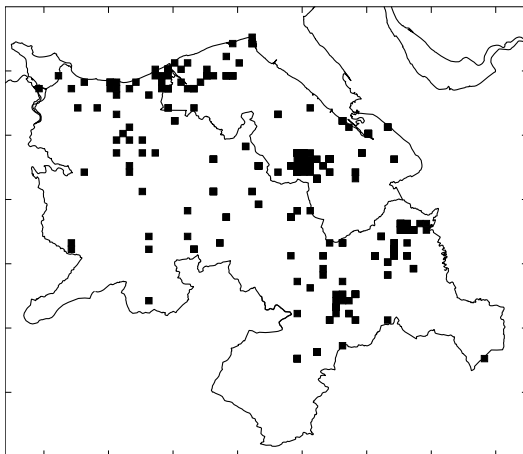
Denbs. The largest count of 27+ was at Marford Quarry on 22/01 (CP), with other large counts being: 18 at APMPon 15/02 (SM), 18 near Llanfair Talhaiarn on 25/12 (JW), 19 near Wrexham on 12/06 (NH) and 20+ at Marford Quarry on 5/01 (CP).

| (BT) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 458 | 27+ |
| Flints. | 388 | 30+ |

Flints. The largest count was of 30+ juveniles at CQNR on 7/06 (CL). Other large counts were: 18, mainly juveniles, near Rhuddlan on 9/07 (SH), 20 at Sychdyn on 21/01 (IMS), and near Rhuddlan there were 22 on 27/11 and 24 on 5/01 (SH).

There is no evidence to suggest a change of status since 1907.

Blue Tit 2007



Breeding (IMS, pDN):

| (BT) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 124 | 1033 | 502 | 4.05 |

This table is clear evidence of a very poor breeding season for Blue Tits - in a good year there can be broods of up to 13 or so, with many broods of 8+, all of which fledge.

Great Tit (*Parus major*)

TITW MAWR

Common and widespread breeding resident.

1907 Great Titmouse

Resident, and more or less common everywhere...

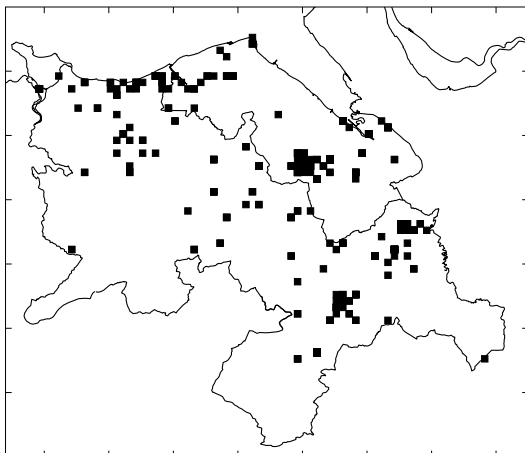
2007

Recorded throughout the year in both counties.

| (GT) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 312 | 33 |
| Flints. | 363 | 39 |

Denbs. Most of the records were of 1-9 birds and the largest

Great Tit 2007



counts of full grown birds seen flying were: 14 at Marford on 13/04 (CP), 15 near Cefn Mawr on 17/06 during a BBS walk (GWO), 20+ at Marford on 5/03 and 22+ there on 27/03 (CP). The largest counts were of nestlings ringed at a site: 33 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 18/05 and 78 near Llangwyfan on 12/05 (pBH).

Flints. Most of the records were of 1-9 birds. The largest counts of full grown, flying birds were: 16 near Rhuddlan on 5/01 and 16 nearby on 24/11 (SH) and 20+ at CQNR on 7/06 (CL). The largest count of nestlings ringed at one site was 39 at Rhydymwyn on 12/05 (IMS).

Breeding (IMS, pDN):

| (GT) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 85 | 570 | 335 | 3.94 |

There is no evidence to suggest that the status has changed in the last 100 years.

Coal Tit (*Periparus ater*)

TITW PENDDU

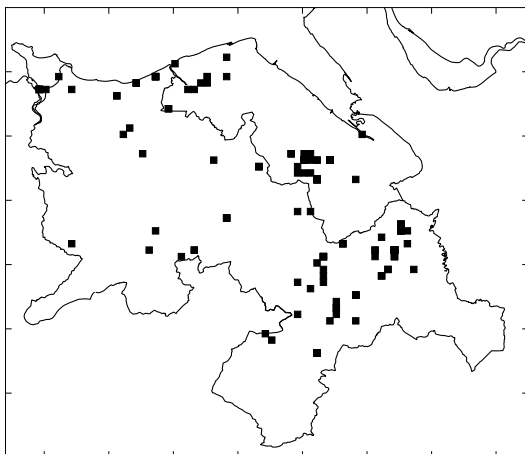
Widespread breeding resident, found in woodland and gardens.

Mainly recorded by surveys – ringing, GBW, BBS – but also on Birdtrack. More thinly distributed than Blue Tit and the majority of the records were of 1-3 birds.

1907 Coal Titmouse

Resident. Generally, but unequally, distributed throughout the district.

Coal Tit 2007



| (CT) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 160 | 14 |
| Flints. | 215 | 6 |

2007

Recorded in every month in both counties.

Denbs. The largest count was from the most southerly location it was recorded at this year – Ceiriog Forest on 22/12 (NHu). Another forest provided the next largest count of 10+ at Pendinas on 16/03 (JuR) and 11 were ringed at Bedwlwyn on 21/11 (pBH).

Flints. The largest number seen was 6 on 8/03 (AB) during a walk near Sychdyn. All other records were of 1-4 birds.

There is no evidence to suggest a change in status since 1907.

Willow Tit (*Poecile montanus*)

TITW'R HELYG

Scarce breeding resident in recently wooded areas. Red List. WBAP.

1907

(No records).

2007

Denbs. One bird was seen at Erddig on 7/04 (AdT), 2+ were seen at Bontuchel on 12/01 and 19/01 (JuR) and 3 were ringed at Bronbannog on 6/09 (IMS).

| (WT) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 5 | 3 |
| Flints. | 2 | 2 |

Flints. Both records came from near Sychdyn – 2 on 1/01 and 1 on 8/03 (AB).

All records of this species are welcomed, especially of any breeding attempts. This is a species that was not reliably discriminated from Marsh Tit which probably accounts for the lack of records in Forrest.

Marsh Tit (*Poecile palustris*)

TITW'R WERN

Uncommon breeding resident frequenting well wooded habitats. Red List. WBAP.

1907 Marsh Titmouse

Resident, and common generally in the eastern half of the district, but very rare in parts of the west, except the Conway Valley...

2007

Denbs. Records were made every month except May, Jun, Sep and Oct with a thin distribution across the county.

| (MT) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 21 | 2+ |
| Flints. | 3 | 1 |

Flints. Singles were seen at Llyn Helyg on 17/02 (ELJ), at POA on 11/08 (LC) and at Sychdyn on 16/12 (AB, IMS).

Even if Marsh and Willow Tits were not separated by Forrest's observers, it seems that Marsh Tit is considerably less common now than in 1907.

Wood Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*)

DELOR Y CNAU

Common and widespread breeding resident.

1907

Resident... and common in parts of the English border; very rare elsewhere; not known to occur along the north coast...

2007

Recorded mainly as 1-2 birds in each month of the year in both counties.

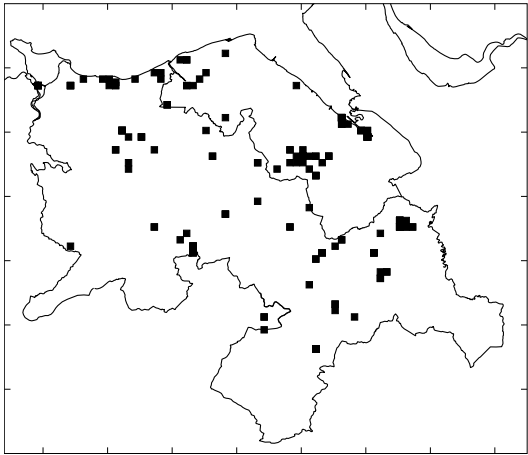
| (NH) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 136 | 13 |
| Flints. | 117 | 7 |

Denbs. The largest count was 13 nestlings ringed near Clocaenog on 13/05 (IMS).

Flints. The largest counts were, again, nestlings ringed: 7 at Coed y Felin on 12/05 and 7 at Rhydymwyn on 19/05 (IMS).

This species has changed by increasing its population and distribution since 100 years ago and is known to be moving slowly northwards within the UK. It does now occur along the north coast of our area.

Wood Nuthatch 2007



Breeding (IMS, pDN):

| (NH) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 11 | 67 | 57 | 5.18 |

Eurasian Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

DRINGWR BACH

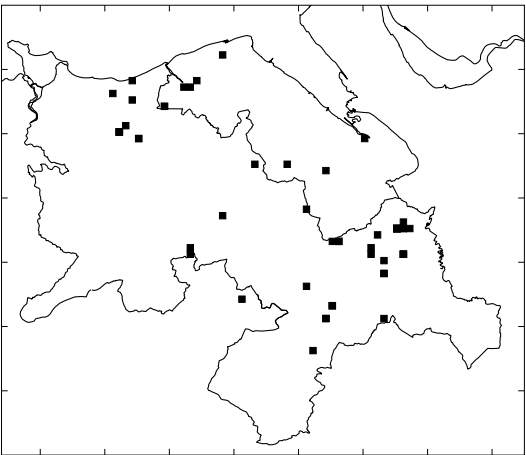
Widespread breeding resident.

Most records are from surveys – ringing, GBW, BBS.

1907

Resident, and common in all wooded districts.

Eurasian Treecreeper 2007



| (TC) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 39 | 2 |
| Flints. | 8 | 2 |

2007

Denbs. Recorded throughout the year from suitable habitat across the county mainly as single birds and 2 were seen at Marford Quarry on 22/01 and 13/04 (CP) and 2 were at Marford on 22/02 (JuR).

Flints. Five records were of single birds and 2 were seen at Dyserth on 13/02 (DR), 2 near Connah's Quay on 15/02 (CL) and 2 near Gronant on 21/04 (LJ).

It is possible that the interpretation of 'common' now would be at a lower level than in 1907, but otherwise its status seems not to have changed markedly.

Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*)

CIGYDD CEFNGOCH

1907

Summer migrant, distributed irregularly throughout the district, but common in only one or two localities...

2007

There have been no records, in any localities, within at least the last twenty years.

Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)

CIGYDD MAWR

Scarce winter visitor.

1907

Autumn or winter migrant, occasional...

2007

Denbs. One was at Nilig in Clocaenog Forest on 27/12 (RB).

| (SR) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

This species is recorded almost every year, so it would appear that there has been a slight change in status, an improvement, since 1907.

Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

YSGRECH Y COED

Fairly common breeding resident.

1907

Resident and common throughout the district in wooded country...

2007

Denbs. Recorded throughout the year from suitable habitat across the county as 1-3 birds. Groups of 4 were seen at Marford Quarry on 27/03 (CP), near Cyffylliog on 1/04 (DDi) and at World's End on 9/04 (NH).

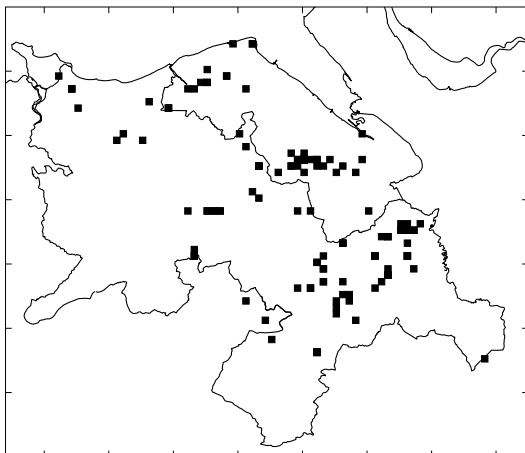
| (J.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 100 | 4 |
| Flints. | 52 | 8 |

Flints. Recorded throughout the year from suitable habitat across the county, mainly as 1-2 birds, though 3 were seen near Rhuddlan on 6/10 (SH) and 8 at Rhydymwyn on 14/10 (JH) during an Atlas training exercise.

There is no evidence to suggest a change of status in the last 100 years.

(See distribution map overleaf)

Eurasian Jay 2007



Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*)

PIODEN

A common and widespread breeding resident.

1907

Resident, common and generally distributed; occurring up to a considerable elevation on moors and hillsides.

2007

Recorded in every month of the year in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of 1-4 birds and the highest counts were: 20 at Towyn on 31/03 (SM), 15 at Cefn Mawr on 17/06 (GWO) and 14 at GF on 20/03 (JuR).

| (MG) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 220 | 20 |
| Flints. | 294 | 22 |

Flints. Again, most records were of 1-4 birds, with the highest counts being: 22 from Rhuddlan on 27/12 (SH), 20 at CQNR on 23/02 (JMW), 20 at Sychdyn on 8/03 (AB) and 20 at POA on 9/11 (pSD).

There is no clear evidence of a change of status since 1907 though Magpies are now not commonly recorded on moors.

Red-billed Chough (*Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*)

BRAN GOESGOCH

Rare breeding resident. Amber List.

1907

Resident... still occurs, but in small and decreasing numbers.

2007

Denbs. Two birds were near Llangollen on 13/04 (JC) and a single bird flying W to E over Towyn on 10/09 (SM). Surely

| (CF) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 2 | 2 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

this bird must have reached Flints.?

Breeding (WRSG):

| (CF) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 2 | 7 | 3 | 1.50 |

The Chough has never been numerous in our area, so there is little evidence that its status, now, is much different from that of 100 years ago.

Eurasian Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

JAC Y DO

Common breeding resident.

1907

Resident; common almost everywhere...

2007

Recorded in all months with individuals and small flocks, rarely exceeding 100, seen from a wide range of localities.

| (JD) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 174 | 120 |
| Flints. | 253 | 180 |

Denbs. Maximum 120 seen at Penrycae on 19/10 (JAJ).

Flints. Maximum 180 seen near Rhuddlan on 26/12 (SH). Six other flocks of over 100 birds also seen there in the winter and also near Connah's Quay (CL).

There is no evidence of a change of status since 1907.

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

YDFRAN

Common and widespread colonial breeding resident.

1907

Resident and common; least numerous in the west.

2007

This common species is not reported as often as expected and few rookery locations are identified but records are up from 2004-2006.

| (RO) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 88 | 80 |
| Flints. | 33 | 150 |

Denbs. Seen in all months except Jul. Sixty five active nests counted at APMP (SM). Maximum flock seen at Marford on 27/12 (JuR).

Flints. Maximum flock of 150 seen at Rhuddlan on 30/11 (SH).

There is little evidence of a change of status during the last century.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone corone*)

BRAN DYDDYN

Common breeding resident.

1907

Resident; common except where killed down; abundant in mountainous country.

2007

This widespread species was reported across the recording area but significant numbers were recorded at Rhuddlan, where flocks were counted on a regular basis (SH).

| (C.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 216 | 53 |
| Flints. | 146 | 120 |

Denbs. Small numbers were seen throughout the year with occasional flocks of 20+ observed at Pensarn beach on 27/03, Trevalyn Meadows 20/04 and CON on 12 and 13/09. Maximum count of 53 was at Llansannan on 29/04 (JfW).

Flints. Birds were seen in all months of the year. Flocks of over 40 birds were seen on twelve occasions, mainly at CQNR and Rhuddlan with maximum counts of 120 on 3/08 and 14/09 (SH) and also Brynford and Gwernaffield.

Breeding (JLR):

| (C.) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 5 | 19 | 15 | 3.00 |

There is no evidence that the status of this species is changed from that of 100 years ago.

Hooded Crow (*Corvus corone cornix*)

MAE'R FRAN LWYD

Occasional visitor.

1907

Rare winter visitant, recorded in all counties; has nested once or twice.

2007

No records. This is the first year since 2000 without a record of this species.

There is no evidence of a change of status since 1907.

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)

CIGFRAN

Fairly common and widespread breeding resident.

1907

Resident; not uncommon in the west; much more rare and local in the east.

2007

This species is thought to be increasing in numbers and indeed the annual sightings are increasing year on year. Birds were seen in all months of the year from a wide variety of locations. Coastal sightings are usually only reported in

| (RN) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 87 | 50 |
| Flints. | 59 | 6+ |

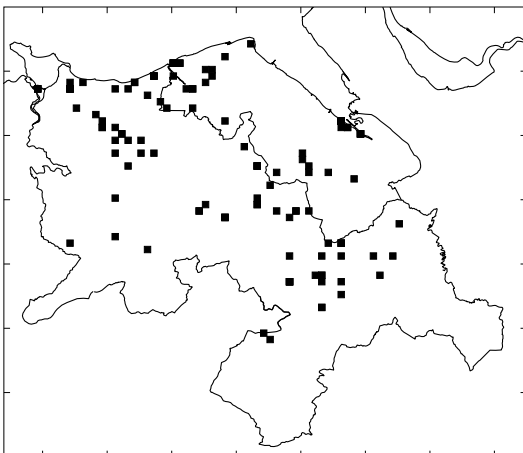
autumn and winter.

Denbs. Sightings of individuals and small flocks were scattered across the area throughout the breeding season. The largest flock of 50 was seen in flight over the summit of Foel Ganol near Cyffylliog on 20/02 (DDi) and a roost of 21 birds was counted in a quarry near the Horseshoe Pass on 2/11 (JLR).

Flints. Small numbers, never exceeding 6, were seen in all months, scattered across the county.

It seems that the status of this species has changed for the better since 1907, in that there are Ravens fairly commonly across our area, except perhaps in the easternmost part.

Common Raven 2007



Breeding (WRSG):

| (RN) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 23 | 112 | 68 | 2.96 |

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

DRUDWEN

Common and widespread breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

1907

Resident; numerous everywhere...

| (SG) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 209 | 3000+ |
| Flints. | 299 | 15000+ |

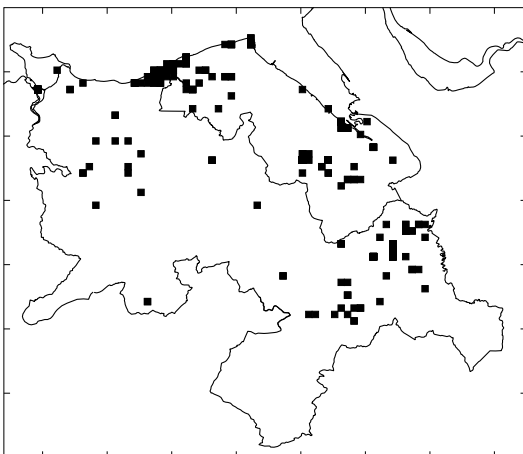
2007

This species, seen in all months, was reported more widely and more often than in previous years. However, has anyone noticed if they are returning to breed in rural areas?

Denbs. A winter roost of 3,000+ was counted at CON on 10/11 (DCR) but numbers were down on previous years. Another roost of 2,000+ was recorded at KBRH on 6/01 (DCR). Breeding was confirmed at several localities. Post breeding numbers built up to over 100 in Towyn and Penycae.

Flints. In late winter a roost of over 5,000 birds built up in Rhuddlan town

Common Starling 2007



centre and was recorded on several occasions in Jan and Feb (SH). Larger flocks of 15,000 and 10,000 were seen moving over Rhuddlan in Dec. (SH).

Despite the large roosts that take place in winter, it is probable that the status of Starling has changed considerably from 100 years ago, with many fewer birds present now.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

ADERYN Y TO

Common breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP.

1907

Resident; abundant throughout the district.... numerous almost everywhere in the lowlands...

2007

Reported widely across the recording area throughout the year.

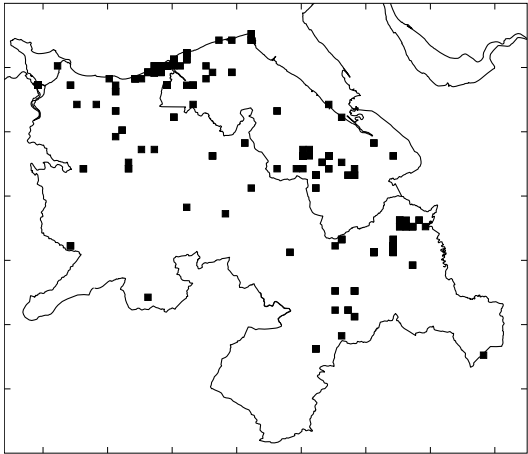
| (HS) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 266 | 90 |
| Flints. | 275 | 73 |

Denbs. Flocks counted in all months at Towyn (SM) with a maximum of 90 recorded on 19/08.

Flints. The maximum (73) recorded was around Buckley on a BBS survey in mid-Apr (GNR). Small flocks of between 10 and 20 reported throughout the year from Rhydymwyn (JHu).

From the text in Forrest, there can be little doubt that this species now has a population at a much lower level than a century ago.

House Sparrow 2007



Breeding (IMS):

| (HS) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 64 | 261 | 133 | 2.08 |

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

A scarce localised breeding resident. Red List. WBAP.

1907

Resident; very local; probably occurs in all counties... there are but meagre records of the species in North Wales.

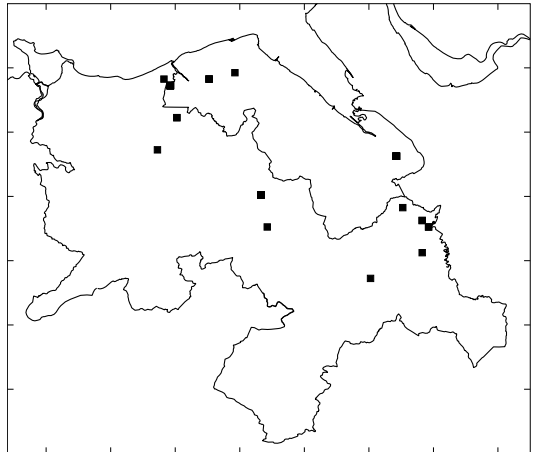
2007

Denbs. They were mainly recorded from the end of Mar to early Sep with just one record of a single bird near Bryn Rhyd yr Arian on 28/12 (JW). Do the Denbs. breeding birds move away in winter or is it a lack of recording? One breeding colony at Cefn Meiriadog was deserted in late Sep 2006 and only 4 nestlings were ringed there, in total, in 2007 (compared with 109 in 2006). Most records were of 1-3 birds, the larger records being the numbers of nestlings ringed – eg 20 near Bodelwyddan on 13/05 (IMS).

Flints. These records were from just three places. Near Trelawnyd, 3 were seen on 15/01 (RMB), singles were seen at a garden feeder at Dyserth on three dates in Dec (MC, GC) and all the other records were from the breeding colony at Sandycroft from which came the largest count – 35 nestlings ringed on 23/06 (IMS).

| (TS) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 37 | 20 |
| Flints. | 16 | 35 |

Eurasian Tree Sparrow 2007



Breeding (IMS):

| (TS) | Nesting attempts | Eggs | Young fledged | Young per nest |
|------|------------------|------|---------------|----------------|
| | 70 | 348 | 230 | 3.29 |

It is much less clear if the status of this species has changed in the last 100 years, though we know that within the last thirty years there has been a very large decrease in the population size. However, we do not know if the population had increased from its level in 1907 before the more recent decline.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

JI BINC

Common and widespread breeding resident.

1907

Resident, and more or less abundant throughout the district.

2007

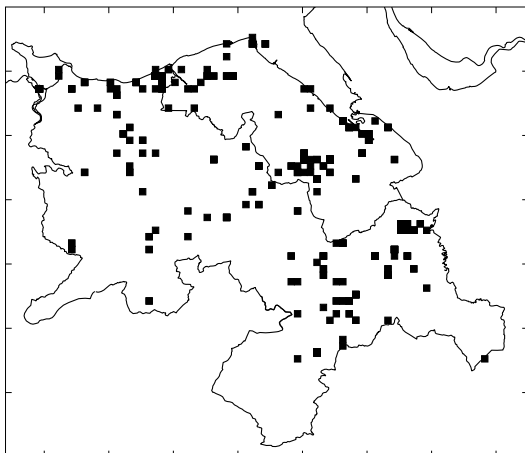
This species was reported widely across the recording area in the breeding season and flocks noted at lower elevations near the coast outside the breeding season.

| (CH) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 333 | 34 |
| Flints. | 485 | 200 |

Denbs. Flocks of 10-30 birds were seen outside the breeding season, with the maximum of 34 seen at Bwlchwyn on 11/10 (SD).

Flints. Flocks of 30-100 were seen regularly at coastal sites outside the breeding season. Maximum count of 200 was seen at Trelawnyd on 15/01 (RB).

Chaffinch 2007



It is not clear if there has been a change in status since 1907, though it may not be as abundant now as it was then.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

PINC Y MYNYDD

Localised winter visitor in variable numbers.

1907

Winter migrant, occurring irregularly throughout the district.

2007

Winter 2006-2007 was a good year for this species and birds stayed in reasonable numbers until Apr. Smaller numbers arrived in autumn 2007, mostly seen at the coast.

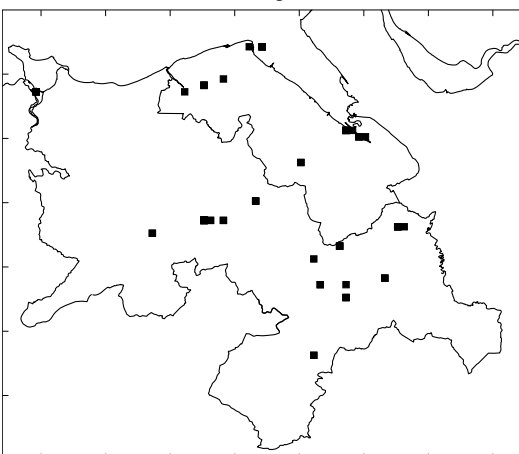
| (BL) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 37 | 100+ |
| Flints. | 24 | 3 |

Denbs. Spring numbers reached a maximum of 100+ on 17/03 (ANB) at World's End but smaller flocks of 20-30 were seen at Cyffylliog (14/01), Bwlchgwyn (25/03) and World's End (28/03). The first autumn bird arrived on 1/10 at CON and small numbers were reported from sites around Wrexham until the end of the year.

Flints. These records were mainly autumn sightings of individuals at the coast from in and around the Dee Estuary including CQNR and SS. Records were from 24/11 to the end of the year.

There is no clear evidence of a change in status of this species since 100 years ago.

Brambling 2007



European Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)

LLINOS WERDD

Common breeding resident.

Mainly recorded by surveys – ringing, GBW, BBS.

1907

Resident, generally distributed, and abundant almost everywhere... one of the most abundant birds in the district.

2007

Recorded in every month in both counties.

| (GR) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 186 | 350+ |
| Flints. | 343 | 40 |

Denbs. Most records were of 1-6 birds. The highest counts recorded were on the coast in autumn winter period with a maximum count of 350+ in a mixed flock at Pensarn on 1/12 (DCR). The other larger counts were: 20+ at TB on 5/10, 30+ W of Towyn on 7/10, 40+ S of Kinnel Bay on 25/07 (SM) and 35 at Pensarn on 16/11 (RMB).

Flints. Most records were of 1-8 birds with over half the records from Rhydydmwyn in the latter half of the year. The highest counts were: 16 at CQNR on 5/07 (CL), 16 at Rhydymwyn on 21/10 (JHu, VHu), 20 at POA on 12/01 (RMB), 40 near Rhuddlan on 6/04 (SH) and 40 near the coast at Rhyl on 11/10 (RMB).

The Greenfinch is still common, but it is not '*one of the most abundant birds*' so this suggests that there has been a change in status since 1907 and that the population is at a lower level than it was, then.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

NICO

Common breeding resident

1907

Resident, generally distributed and common.

2007

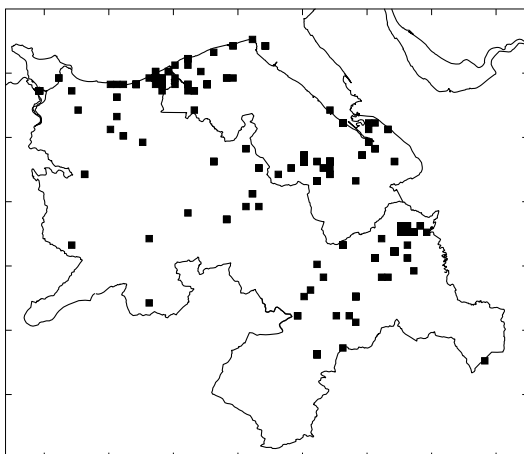
Recorded in every month for the year in both counties – there was no, clear, evidence of migration away from the area in winter.

| (GO) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 266 | 85 |
| Flints. | 351 | 200 |

Denbs. Most of the records were of 1-9 birds, the largest counts being: 15 at Wrexham on 12/08 (GMT), 15 at CON on 5/09 (AC, HC, RC), 17 near Gwersyllt on 13/11 (EB), 35 by TB on 22/09 (SM), 50 at Bwlchgwyn on 11/10 (JC) and 85 near Llangollen on 1/09 (JLR).

Flints. Again, the majority of records were of 1-9 birds. There were several larger counts, the largest being: 40+ at CQNR on 15/02, 50 there on 1/01 (CL), 50+ at Rhydymwyn on 17/08, 9/09 and 15/09 (JHu, VHu), 80 at

European Goldfinch 2007



OMR on 9/10 (GR) with 200 at POA on 27/09 (GR) and 200 at Trelawnyd on 17/10 (RMB).

There is no clear evidence of a change in status since 1907 (though Forrest mentions that a birdcatcher despatched over 3,000 in a season!).

Eurasian Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*)

PILA GWYRDD

Breeding resident in forests, with marked spring passage of migrants in April.

1907

Irregular winter migrant occurring in all counties; rarely breeds.

2007

Most records were from surveys: ringing, BBS and GBW.

Denbs. Recorded in every month of the year, mainly as singles or small groups of up to 6 birds. The largest flocks were of 51 near Eglwyseg on 2/03, 85 near the Britannia Inn, Llangollen on 16/03 and 90 there on 30/01 (JLR), with an exceptional flock of 1,000 near Pendinas Reservoir on 22/03 (JAJ).

| (SK) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 100 | 1000 |
| Flints. | 18 | 30+ |

Flints. Only recorded in Mar, Apr, Oct, Nov and Dec, again, mainly in groups of 1-6 birds. The largest flocks were 14 at POA on 24/10 (GR), 18 at SS on 4/11 (PT) and 30+ at CQNR on 22/10 (CL).

The status of Siskin has undoubtedly changed for the better with the introduction of coniferous forests during the last century such that it now has breeding opportunities that did not exist in Forrest's time. Most records now occur in spring when birds are likely to feed in gardens (on feeders that people did not use in Forrest's days) before moving to breeding sites either locally or further away.

Common Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*)

LLINOS

Widespread breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP.

1907

Resident and numerous almost everywhere, particularly in places where there is gorse.

2007

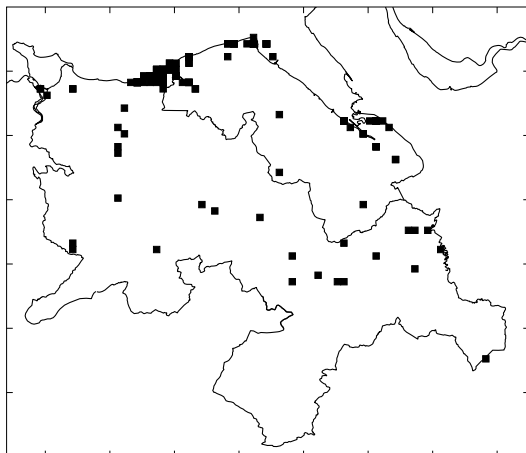
This species is most regularly seen along the coast, where large flocks can sometimes be recorded at any time of year. Inland, this is probably an under-recorded species and breeding is rarely confirmed.

| (LI) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 127 | 100+ |
| Flints. | 97 | 150 |

Denbs. Coastal flocks of 10-50 were recorded on twelve occasions, mainly from Towyn, Kinmel Bay and Pensarn. Inland, a flock of 35 was recorded from Ridleywood on 31/12 (NFr), 50 at Bwlchgwyn on 23/07 (JC) and flocks of 50 and 100+ from Llanfair Talhaiarn on 30/06 (JfW).

Flints. Small flocks of 10-30 were regularly encountered at coastal sites. Larger flocks of up to 150 birds were seen on fourteen occasions, with 150 birds recorded at Rhuddlan on 5/04

Common Linnet 2007



(SH) and POA on 27/09, 28/11, 6/12 and 19/12 (GR).

There can be little doubt that the population of the Linnet has declined considerably since 100 years ago. Sadly it can no longer be referred to as '*one of the commonest and most generally distributed birds in North Wales*', as Forrest stated.

Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*)

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

Winter visitor to coastal areas. Red List. WBAP.

1907

Occurs from autumn to spring on moors and mountains; rarely in summer.

2007

Denbs. One individual was at Pensarn on 16/11 (RMB).

| (TW) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 1 | 1 |
| Flints. | 11 | 33+ |

Flints. Seen at seven sites (Flint, POA, CQNR (two sites), Rhyl, Rhyl River Clwyd and Bagillt). Maximum count was 33+ on 6/01 at Flint (ANB).

There is no clear evidence that the status has changed in the last 100 years, and though contemporary records are still mainly in winter, they are usually from the coasts and not from '*moors and mountains*', so there may have been a change in the way Twite use our area.

Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*)

LLINOS BENGOGH

Breeding resident. WBAP.

1907

Resident, and breeds in all counties; numbers increased in winter months by immigrants.

2007

This species is probably under-recorded and most records are received in the autumn, winter and early spring period from inland afforested areas such as Clocaenog, Landegla, Ruabon Mountain and Llyn Brenig.

| (LR) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 42 | 100+ |
| Flints. | 9 | 2 |

Denbs. Flocks of 50 and 60+ were seen on RM in mid Mar (ANB) and the maximum of 100+ was seen flying E at Llandrillo yn Rhos on 21/10 (STh). Small numbers were seen during the breeding season but breeding was not confirmed.

Flints. Seen only as 1-2 birds at several sites in autumn, winter and early spring with no records from May to Sep.

It is possible that the status of this species is less favourable, now, than it was 100 years ago, when it was increasing across north Wales.

Common Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)

GYLFIN GROES

Scarce breeding resident.

1907
Winter migrant, occurring irregularly chiefly in the eastern half of the district... sometimes occurs in summer, and very rarely breeds.

2007
Denbs. Single figures or small flocks seen early in the year but numbers built up in the autumn and winter with a maximum count of 1,000 seen in Clocaenog Forest on 30/12 (ANB). Juveniles were sighted at RM in April (JuR). This was the only confirmation of breeding this year.

| (CR) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 50 | 1000 |
| Flints. | 0 | |

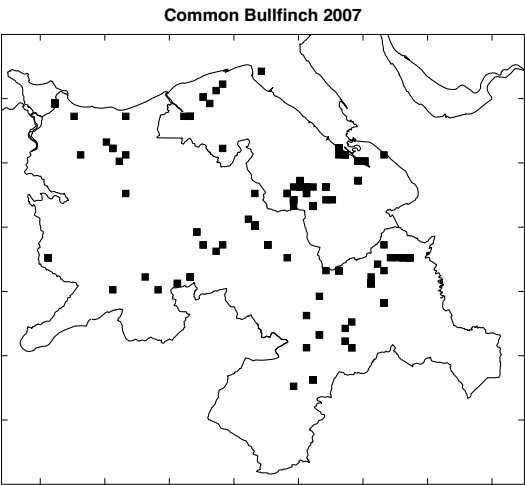
With the forests that have been created in the last century, the status of Crossbill has undoubtedly improved since 1907 as it now has much more breeding and feeding habitat.

Common Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

COCH Y BERLLAN

Breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

1907
Resident; common in wooded country throughout the district.



| (BF) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 132 | 10 |
| Flints. | 148 | 5 |

2007
Mainly recorded in single figures throughout the year with a widespread distribution.

Denbs. Recorded in all months in small numbers from 40 locations. Breeding confirmed at several sites with juveniles seen from Jun to Aug. Maximum count of 10 was at Bwlchgwyn on 11/02 (JC).

Flints. Recorded in most months in

small numbers from 20 sites. Breeding was confirmed at only one site Rhydymwyn. The largest count of 5 was during a BBS walk near Cilcain on 27/06 (HJ).

It seems that the status of Bullfinch is now less favourable than it was 100 years ago.

Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)

GYLFINBRAFF

Scarce breeding resident. WBAP

1907

Resident, fairly common though local in Denbigh, Flint...

2007

No records.

This species was unknown in NE Wales at about 1880 but by Forrest's time it was '*gradually increasing and extending its range westward*' such that it was '*fairly common*'. Since then the population has declined considerably.

Lapland Longspur (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

Scarce vagrant.

1907

(No records)

2007

Flints. Four were seen briefly at POA on 3/10 (GR).

There has been no marked change in status since 100 years ago.

| (LA) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 0 | |
| Flints. | 1 | 4 |

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

)BRAS YR EIRA

Regular coastal winter visitor in small numbers.

1907

Winter migrant, occurring irregularly in all parts of the district, on the coasts and on hills inland.

2007

Denbs. Maximum of 5 birds seen at the W end of Pensarn beach on 1/12 (SM).

Flints. All records from POA, CQNR, Gronant dunes and Flint marshes. Only small numbers this year with a maximum of 6 seen at POA on 14/01 (pRS).

| (SB) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 4 | 5 |
| Flints. | 33 | 6 |

We seem to see Snow Bunting more regularly, mainly at the coast in winter, than did Forrest's observers.

Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citronella*)

MELYN YR EITHIN

Formerly common breeding resident. Red List. WBAP.

1907 Yellow Bunting

Resident, and more or less numerous in all parts of the district.

2007

Denbs. Recorded in all months except Sep, Oct and Nov.

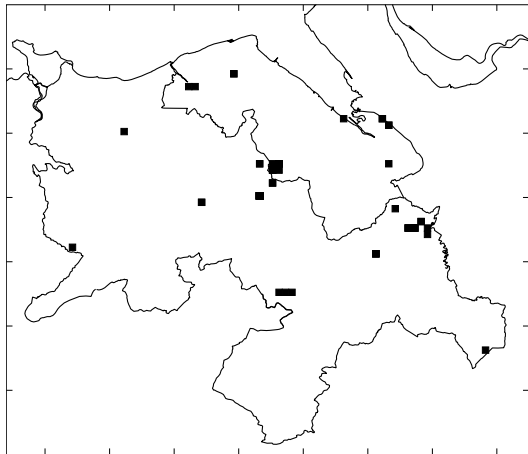
Most of the records were of 1-3 birds, the largest counts being 5 at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 24 25/02 (PT).

| (Y.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 77 | 5 |
| Flints. | 17 | 6 |

Flints. Recorded in all months except Mar, Aug and Sep. Most of the records were of 1-2 birds, the largest counts being 4 males near Cilcain on 2/04 (EJ), 4 females near Trelawnyd on 15/01 (RB) and 5 at Fenn's Moss on 27/07 (JuR).

This species has definitely declined considerably in status since 100 years ago when it was 'very common and generally distributed'.

Yellowhammer 2007



Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*)

BRAS FFRAINIC

1907

Resident; not uncommon locally in Denbigh, Flint, and Conway Estuary; rare elsewhere.

2007

No records

There have been no records within the last twenty years, at least, so the status of this species has changed drastically for the worse since 1907 (as elsewhere in the UK, except the area of south Devon where it still survives).

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

BRAS Y CYRS

Breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP.

1907

Resident or partial migrant, common generally in boggy lowlands.

2007

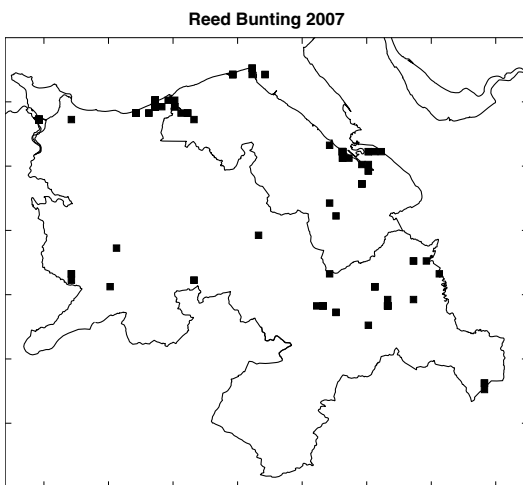
Seen from a few scattered sites inland at low elevations, most records are received from Dee Estuary sites and the Towyn, Rhyl and Abergele area. Under-recorded as a breeding species.

| (Y.) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 77 | 5 |
| Flints. | 17 | 6 |

Denbs. Most records came between Apr and Jul. Recorded on five BBS surveys and presumed to be breeding. Juveniles were only seen on three occasions. The largest counts were 5 seen at CON on 11/02 (DCR) and 5 seen during a BBS visit to Erddig on 11/06 (NH).

Flints. Seen at thirteen sites in the breeding season, with breeding confirmed near Ewloe on 24/05 (RCa). There were 4 males seen at Rhuddlan on 5/07 (probably indicating four breeding pairs, (SH)) and 6 were seen at POA on 12/12 (GR)

The status of this species has worsened during the last century.



Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)

BRAS YR YD

Scarce localised breeding species. Red List. WBAP.

1907

Resident; abundant near the west coast... less numerous near north coast; rare inland.

2006

Three records have become available since the last report was printed:

Denbs. A singing male was near Bettisfield between 1/06 and 29/06 with another singing male across the border in England (RIT).

Flints. A singing male was photographed at Shotwick Fields on 12/06 (BaB).

2007

Flints. A singing male was seen at Shotwick Fields on 27/05 (BaB).

| (CB) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 0 | |
| Flints. | 1 | 1 |

The status of Corn Bunting has changed considerably for the worse since 1907, probably with most of the decline happening in the latter half of the last century.

Feral species and presumed escapes

Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*) ALARCHWYDD

Two records of a pair seen near Rhuddlan on 14/01 and 1/04.

Canada / Greylag Goose hybrid

A single bird was seen at OMR on 24/10 (CL).

Common x Ruddy Shelduck hybrid

Twenty five records of 1-2 males at CQNR between 12/03 and 17/06.

American / Eurasian Wigeon hybrid

Four records of 1 bird at CON between 2/01 and 3/02.

Ringed Teal (*Calonetta leucophrys*)

One bird seen at CON on 17/06 and 24/06.

Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*)

PETRISEN SIWCAR

One record of 4 birds near Penycae on 16/04.

Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

FFESANT

Locally common breeding resident, especially in areas where large numbers released by shooting interests.

2007

Denbs. Widespread throughout the county with records received from every month of the year apart from Sep and from all areas of the County. Most records are of single birds or small groups. The highest count was 16 birds at Llangwm on 11/05 (GKJ). Unusual sightings include a male seen on TB on 11/11 (SM), a bird on a house roof in Towyn on 23/02 (SM) and a bird attacking the observers' ankles at Llanddulas on 1/01 (EL).

| (PH) | No of records | Max count |
|---------|---------------|-----------|
| Denbs. | 119 | 16 |
| Flints. | 267 | 30 |

Flints. A count of 30 birds were recorded at Northop Hall on 1/04 (PKi) and at Mold on 17/06 (IMS). Most other records were of 1-2 birds. Records were received from all months of the year. Rhydymwyn had most records with 196 (all JHu). These were mainly of single birds,

although records from Jun were of 3 birds.

Record for which we await decision by the British Birds Rarities Committee:

Red breasted Goose, Gresford Flash, Wrexham, 5/02

If accepted, this will be incorporated into the report for 2008.

Records submitted to the Welsh Rarities Panel too late for acceptance prior to this report

Common Redpoll, 28-29 January 2006, Wrexham, Borrass Pool (WRP awaiting further information)

Caspian Gull, Gresford Flash, Wrexham, 15/10 to 11/12

Caspian Gull, Gresford Flash, Wrexham, 14/11

Caspian Gull, Gresford Flash, Wrexham, 29/10 to 30/12

Caspian Gull, Gresford Flash, Wrexham, 3/12

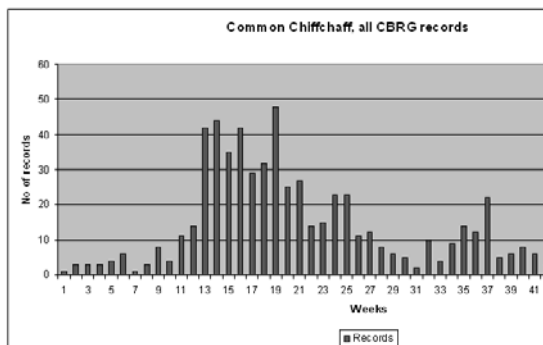
If accepted, these will be incorporated into the report for 2008.

First and last dates of selected migrants

| | First dates | Last dates |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------|
| | 2007 | 2007 |
| Eurasian Hobby | 8/05 | 21/08 |
| Little Tern | 22/04 | 16/09 |
| Sandwich Tern | 11/04 | 28/10 |
| Common Tern | 15/04 | 30/09 |
| European Nightjar | 1/06 | 22/06 |
| Common Cuckoo | 15/04 | 19/06 |
| Common Swift | 17/04 | 11/09 |
| Sand Martin | 23/02 | 3/09 |
| House Martin | 5/04 | 19/10 |
| Barn Swallow | 25/03 | 11/10 |
| Tree Pipit | 7/04 | 30/08 |
| Yellow Wagtail | 18/04 | 13/09 |
| Common Redstart | 8/04 | 27/08 |
| Whinchat | 1/04 | 21/08 |
| Northern Wheatear | 12/03 | 15/10 |
| Ring Ouzel | 9/04 | 28/04 |
| Fieldfare | 4/10 | 7/04 |
| Redwing | 24/09 | 1/04 |
| Common Grasshopper Warbler | 21/04 | 27/06 |
| Sedge Warbler | 15/04 | 4/09 |
| Eurasian Reed Warbler | 19/04 | 13/09 |
| Garden Warbler | 15/04 | 10/10 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | 14/04 | 13/09 |
| Common Whitethroat | 18/04 | 13/09 |
| Wood Warbler | 22/04 | 13/08 |
| Willow Warbler | 12/03 | 12/09 |
| Spotted Flycatcher | 22/05 | 7/09 |
| Pied Flycatcher | 14/04 | 2/07 |

This table shows the recorded first and last dates for most of the species regarded as migrants in north-east Wales. Three additional species are included in 2007 that were omitted in 2004-2006. These are Common Cuckoo, Pied Flycatcher and Spotted Flycatcher. Chiffchaffs are now being more regularly reported in the winter months and so it is becoming increasingly difficult to tell when genuine migrants start appearing compared to overwintering birds staying on to breed (see the chart, below). For this reason, Chiffchaff is now excluded from the list.

In 2007, spring was very mild, warm and early. Hirundines were recorded quite early compared to previous years and the Sand Martin seen on 23 Feb was very early indeed! Other species that were seen earlier than in many previous years were: Tree Pipit, Common Redstart, Whinchat, Sedge, Reed, Garden and Wood Warbler, Lesser and Common Whitethroat. Later arrivals were Ring Ouzel and Common Grasshopper Warbler. Many species appeared to hang



on longer into the autumn before departing but was this just that the mild autumn meant that birdwatchers were more vigilant and had taken heed of requests for last dates for migrants as well as first dates? However, there were no records of Ring Ouzel outside the arrival month of April and Common Grasshopper Warblers were seen no later than 27 Jun. Was 2007 a bad year for these two species? Another puzzle is that Pied Flycatchers are rarely seen after breeding is over. Does this species genuinely depart in early July or are they good at the art of disguise? Climate change would appear to be having an impact on many migrant visitors and so the continued monitoring of first and last dates is to be encouraged.

Anne Brenchley




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Articles

Aberduna Nature Reserve – Maeshafn, near Mold

Aberduna lies on 8.7 hectares of limestone outcrop, which had been left unmanaged for many years until it became a nature reserve in 1992. While the North Wales Wildlife Trust leases the existing site from Hanson plc, who operate the adjacent quarry, plans are in place to acquire additional land around the reserve, which will significantly extend the interest to encompass additional woodland, meadow, hedgerow and pond habitats.

The upper half of the reserve is calcareous grassland with some scrub; the lower half is scrub and woodland with small clearings. There are public footpaths through the reserve which afford good views over the Alyn Valley to Moel Famau.

The grassland plant communities vary with soil depth. Moonwort, Common Rockrose and Fragrant Orchids can be found on limestone outcrops. In shallow soils, Early Purple Orchids and Cowslips provide a colourful spring display. Knapweed, thistles (an important nectar source for butterflies), bracken and gorses grow in areas with deeper soil. The bracken and gorses are cut to maintain the open grassland habitat.

Aberduna is particularly good for butterflies and moths. The 28 recorded species of butterfly include some scarce or declining species in North Wales. The woodland supports both Purple and White-letter Hairstreaks. Violets growing under bracken provide good breeding areas for Pearl-bordered, Small Pearl-bordered and Dark Green Fritillaries. Dingy Skipper, Green Hairstreak and Northern Brown Argus occur on the grassland, together with many more common species.

Diverse broadleaved woodland covers almost half of the reserve. It has developed naturally, creating a rich habitat for many woodland plants and animals. The understorey, containing Hazel, Hawthorn and Blackthorn provides nesting and feeding sites for a range of birds. On the woodland floor, you will find a rich array of mosses, ferns and plants including the rare Upland Enchanter's Nightshade as well as 23 other plants which reveal the woodland's ancient origins.

Birds found on the reserve reflect the variety of habitats and include breeding Whitethroat and Blackcap, overwintering Woodcock and the occasional Peregrine Falcon.

Aberduna reserve is 3 miles southwest of Mold, just north of Maeshafn. From the village green at Maeshafn, take either the public footpath past the chapel to the west or the one heading north. Both lead on to the eastern part of the reserve (grid reference SJ 200614).

For more information on this and other Wildlife Trust reserves, please go to www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/northwales or call 01248 351541.

Michelle Brown

Conservation Support Officer
North Wales Wildlife Trust

(When I checked to see which bird records we had for the area that includes Aberduna reserve the number was very few. If you visit any NWWT, or other, nature reserve in our area please

send a copy of your bird records to me – see the Editorial for further information about sending records. Ian M Spence).

The Little Terns of Denbighshire

The Little Tern is the smallest of the five tern species that breed around the coasts of the UK. They are summer visitors, returning from their over-wintering sites on the west coast of Africa in April and early May. They nest in small coastal colonies on sand or shingle beaches, before beginning their return migration in August. Breeding begins with an aerial courtship display involving the male calling and carrying a fish to attract a mate which chases him up high before he descends, gliding with his wings held in a 'V'. Between 1 and 3 eggs are laid in shallow scrapes in May and chicks hatch in June.

The Little Tern breeds in the UK in internationally important numbers. In the year 2000 there were 2,400 breeding pairs found in Britain, with a further 390 in Ireland. This constitutes 13% of the European population. Their stronghold is in the east and south of England but colonies are also found in the north, between the Humber and the Scottish border, in Scotland and the Isle of Man. During the nineteenth century, the Little Tern population underwent a major decline. More recently numbers were found to have dropped by 27% between the comprehensive 1985-1987 Seabird Colony Register Survey and the 1999-2001 Seabird 2000 Survey. The Little Tern was quite widely distributed around the Welsh coast in the early 20th century but as it progressed the number of breeding colonies declined. Since 1989, Gronant beach near Prestatyn has become the only extant breeding site for this species in Wales.

Little Terns are susceptible to disturbance, which makes them extremely vulnerable. It is probably no coincidence that the period of their greatest decline – the 1930s to the 1960s – coincided with a boom in numbers of people visiting the seaside. As ground nesters they are also at high risk of predation of both eggs and chicks. A single fox can take most of a colony's eggs in one visit. Other predators include kestrels, crows, rats, and larger gull species. High summer tides and blown sand can also cause nest loss. Beach engineering works and offshore dredging can damage their habitat. In addition global climate change may cause increased incidence of storm waves that could destroy the shingle they require or increase the occurrence of drowned nests.

The Gronant terns are protected 24 hours a day by wardening and the use of an electric fence. Denbighshire County Council, with support from the RSPB and Countryside Council for Wales, employs three contract wardens to patrol the colony but relies heavily on volunteer help. To date there are a dedicated group of nearly 50 volunteers who use their spare time and holidays to come and help protect this important colony; some even getting there at 4 o'clock in the morning to put in a few hours before work! Without this effort there is no doubt that the colony would not persist. In 2007, 99 young fledged from 103 pairs. This stability in numbers is testament to the hard work of all involved.

Kate Taylor
Biodiversity Officer
Denbighshire County Council

Cofnod – Focussing wildlife data for North Wales.

Cofnod is the Local Records Centre for North Wales, helping to collate, manage and disseminate species and other related environmental information. The area we cover is large and varied, with proportionally more protected land than in any other region of Wales. Wildlife recording is well established here, by both those living in and visiting the region. Thus our task of collating this data under one roof is daunting, but one which we have started well and making solid progress to achieving.

A first for Wales

Cofnod forms an integral part of the Local Records Centre (LRC) jigsaw of Wales. Together with centres in the East, West and the South East, Wales has the UK's first national network of LRCs. This is an amazing achievement considering the first LRC in Wales was only established in 2001. As 'not for profit' organisations, Welsh LRCs operate for the public benefit to a set of shared principles (see www.lrcwales.org.uk). Creation of an LRC network across Wales is truly a remarkable partnership success, relying on the support of data suppliers and users alike. Together we have established a safe place for local wildlife data, allowing it to be better shared with those who need it locally and nationally.

The data

One of our key aims is to increase the depth and indeed the breadth of the data we hold, whilst also maintaining and improving its quality. Although we accept data from a variety of sources, we have concentrated initially on obtaining electronic data from larger data collations. We currently hold over half a million individual species records, spread across around 130 different datasets. These vary widely in size and type, from those with just a few hundred records, to those with tens of thousands. Much of the data comes from partnership organisations such as the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), who are actively promoting the sharing of their data through us. However about 50% comes from volunteer recorders, primarily through data submitted to Vice County Recorders, County Recording Groups or through National Schemes or Societies. Each data supplier agrees the terms under which the data are exchanged, usually through a formalised Data Exchange Agreement (DEA). This sets out how the data will be shared and used, with the data supplier crucially setting their own requirements. The DEA thus ensures that issues such as sensitivity and confidentiality of records are properly addressed and Recorders are identified to those using the data.

Once we have agreed the terms of data exchange and we receive the data, our skilled team and well developed systems swing into action, validating records where necessary, before it goes into our bespoke species database. This forms the hub to our other systems, allowing rapid retrieval and reporting across a wide variety of uses.

Data use

Our information services provide data in useful forms, allowing easy assessment of possible impacts upon biodiversity. In Wales this is particularly important, as biodiversity is one of the key elements of the 'Wales Environment Strategy'. At a recent Cofnod meeting, the Minister for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing, Jane Davidson, strongly advocated that all public bodies must adhere to their legal obligations to protect biodiversity. One of the key ways of achieving this is to ensure that all decisions are based on the best available biodiversity information. Hence whether a Local Authority is considering impact on biodiversity from an individual planning application or the Forestry Commission is considering a new planting and management regime; such bodies can now routinely consult Cofnod for biodiversity information.

Bird data

Although Cofnod holds significant amounts of species data, only approximately 6% are birds, compared to 32% plants and 31% lepidoptera. These figures are surprising, as birds are arguably the best recorded species on the planet. So why do we hold so little bird data? There are many reasons for this. However the main ones are as follows: firstly, there are already several established routes for bird data, many of which pre-date the existence of an LRC in North Wales. Although we advocate these routes, it is useful for us to hold copies of this data so it can be stored safely in our system for access to serve local requirements. Secondly, much of the data is locked up in paper based recording systems. This is a widespread problem, not necessarily present in North-East Wales, but common throughout the UK. Thirdly, all access to data needs to be made after discussion, negotiation and agreement. In this area there have been some notable successes, including formal agreement with the Wales Raptor Study Group (WRSG), to share its data at an agreed level of access across North Wales, thus ensuring that these important species are considered as part of the decision making process.

It is hoped that the variety and numbers of bird records held by us will rise significantly over time. North-East Wales already contributes over 30,000 bird records, though we hope this will significantly increase in due course with agreement from the Clwyd Bird Recording Group to share its data. In North-West Wales the Cambrian Ornithological Society has 'in principle' agreement with us, although much of its data is in paper format. Over the coming year Cofnod plans to establish a method for inputting this data, thus making it more usable and sustainable to all concerned.

Data sharing

For Cofnod the sharing of data is seen as a two way process and we have been actively sharing records given to us by members of the public with County Bird Recorders. Although the numbers of records are relatively small, it does illustrate that there are people who wish to submit records directly to us through our 'Online Recording System' (go to www.cofnod.org.uk). Although this tool is 2 years old and currently being redesigned, it has filled a gap for those who wish to pass us their casual sightings, which in turn are checked by County Recorders. Interestingly out of all the records received through this system, over 46% are bird records - the highest percentage for any species group.

Over the coming year we hope to increase access to a wide range of bird records, including data from the RSPB, the BTO, CCW and local recorders and recording groups. We very much hope that the Clwyd Bird Recording Group will be one such potential data supplier, thus helping us to raise the profile of birds in our database and in turn to raise their profile with those who wish to make use of the data.

If you wish to find out more about Cofnod, please visit our website at www.cofnod.org.uk or contact us on 01248 672603.

Roy Tapping

Manager
Cofnod

(The CBRG must deal with the practicalities of seeking the consent of observers for the records in our database to be stored with Cofnod. This would provide a vital backup service in case of any disaster wherever the CBRG database normally resides. I have negotiated with Cofnod a Data Exchange Agreement between Cofnod and the Wales Raptor Study Group – North

East Wales and we have had no problems with the sensible solution of a secure backup with our local record centre. If any observer has any issue with this way forward I would be very pleased to hear from them to see if we can resolve any concerns. Ian M Spence).

WeBS Counts for selected sites in North-East Wales

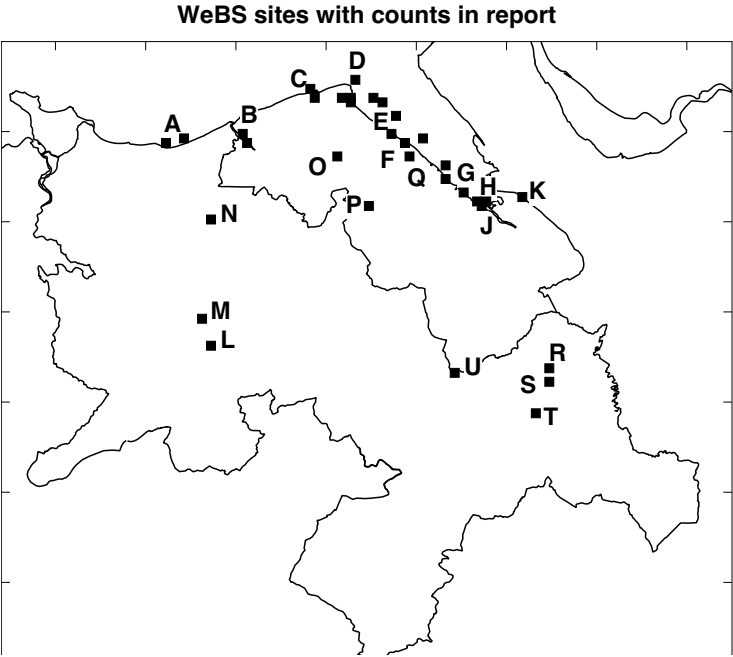
The sites that have been selected are those that were reported on by Norman Hallas in earlier Clwyd Bird Reports. The table, below on pages 142-145, gives the details of the sites and the map shows their locations. The BTO two-letter, species codes are used in the continuation table to keep track of species' totals. The totals are the maximum count

| Key to selected North-East Wales WeBS sites (with WeBS reference) | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| A | Llanddulas to Abergele shore (69406) and Abergele shore (69413) | SH920788, SH943790 |
| B | Clwyd Estuary (69403) and Sector 1 (69404) | SJ005795, SJ010788 |
| C | Gronant (69421) and Gronant Fields (69341) | SJ082847, SJ087837 |
| D | Point of Ayr (69451), Point of Ayr Fields (69342), Flushing Lagoons (69091) and Colliery Lagoons (69092) | SJ133857, SJ118836, SJ127838, SJ127833 |
| E | Ffynnongroyw Bay North (69452), South (69461), Mostyn Dock Shore (69453) and Glan-y-Don Fields (69454) | SJ150837, SJ161832, SJ177818, SJ170797 |
| F | Greenfield Fields (69455) | SJ188786 |
| G | Bagillt Fields (69343) and Saltmarsh (69457) and Walwen Fields and Saltmarsh (69456) | SJ231745, SJ233760, SJ207791 |
| H | Flint Saltmarsh (69460) and Oakenholt Saltmarsh (69459) | SJ254734, SJ268722 |
| I | White Sands (69427) | SJ278721 |
| J | Deeside Naturalists' Reserve (69426) | SJ271716 |
| K | Shotwick Lake & Reservoirs (69428) | SJ315725 |
| L | Llyn Brenig (69111) | SH973560 |
| M | Llyn Bran (69001) | SH962592 |
| N | Dolwen Reservoir (69101) | SH973703 |
| O | Llyn Helyg (69021) | SJ112772 |
| P | Ysceifiog Reservoir (69125) | SJ147716 |
| Q | Greenfield Valley (69036) | SJ190770 |
| R | Gresford Flash (69060) | SJ346536 |
| S | Acton Park Lake (69050) | SJ345520 |
| T | Erddig Park Lake (69055) | SJ331485 |
| U | Nant-y-Frith Reservoir (69114) | SJ243530 |

at each site, for each species over the period July 2006 to end of June 2007, the period for which all WeBS counts were available at the time of preparing this report.

The data for the table on pages 142-145 were taken from the WeBS website, with permission.

Data were supplied by the Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS), a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protections of Birds and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (the last on behalf of the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment and Heritage Service, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage). Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated. Therefore, for any detailed analyses of WeBS data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU (webs@bto.org).



| | Site = | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|------|-----|------|------|----|-----|------|
| Mute Swan (MS) | | 8 | 53 | 3 | 11 | | | 3 | 12 |
| Whooper Swan (WS) | | | 2 | | 1 | | | | |
| Pink-footed Goose (PG) | | | 2 | | 1 | | | | |
| Greylag Goose (GJ) | | | 125 | | | | | | |
| Greater Canada Goose(CG) | | | 39 | | 322 | | | | 77 |
| Ruddy Shelduck (UD) | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Shelduck (SU) | | | 96 | 17 | 1000 | 350 | 1 | 4 | 210 |
| Mandarin Duck (MN) | | | | | | | | | |
| Eurasian Wigeon (WN) | | 19 | 212 | | 700 | | | | 78 |
| Gadwall (GA) | | | | | | | | | |
| Eurasian Teal (T.) | | 2 | 35 | 12 | 210 | 2 | | 7 | 320 |
| Mallard (MA) | | 92 | 148 | 30 | 188 | 26 | 1 | 7 | 60 |
| Northern Pintail (PT) | | | | | 241 | 4 | | | |
| Northern Shoveler (SV) | | 10 | | | 14 | | | | |
| Common Pochard (PO) | | | 8 | | 2 | | | | |
| Tufted Duck (TU) | | 4 | 28 | | 12 | | | | |
| Greater Scaup (SP) | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| Common Scoter (CX) | | 1800 | | | 300 | | | | |
| Common Goldeneye (GN) | | | 12 | | 4 | | | | |
| Red-breasted Merganser (RM) | | 14 | 31 | | 12 | | | | |
| Goosander (GD) | | | 12 | | 1 | | | | |
| Ruddy Duck (BY) | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Red-throated Diver (RH) | | 3 | | | 1 | | | | |
| Great Northern Diver (ND) | | | | | | | | | |
| Little Grebe (LG) | | | 7 | 1 | 4 | | | | |
| Great Crested Grebe (GG) | | 5 | 5 | | 5 | 1 | | 2 | 2 |
| Great Cormorant (CA) | | 47 | 210 | 420 | 43 | 1 | | 31 | 57 |
| Little Egret (ET) | | | 4 | | 5 | | | 1 | 2 |
| Grey Heron (H.) | | | 12 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 4 |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk (SH) | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Common Buzzard (BZ) | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Water Rail (WA) | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| Common Moorhen (MH) | | 11 | 9 | 5 | 12 | | | | |
| Common Coot (CO) | | 23 | 41 | 6 | 65 | | | | 1 |
| Eurasian Oystercatcher (OC) | | 493 | 282 | 400 | 4500 | 2000 | 50 | 800 | 2400 |
| Pied Avocet (AV) | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| Ringed Plover (RP) | | 6 | 9 | 38 | 100 | | | 27 | 3 |
| European Golden Plover (GP) | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| Grey Plover (GV) | | | | | 80 | | | | 1 |
| Northern Lapwing (L.) | | | 2000 | 25 | 800 | | | 20 | 1060 |
| Red Knot (KN) | | | | | 120 | | | 70 | 960 |
| Sanderling (SS) | | 9 | 1 | 41 | 14 | | | | |
| Curlew Sandpiper (CV) | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| Dunlin (DN) | | 2 | 300 | 100 | 1500 | | | 400 | 2500 |

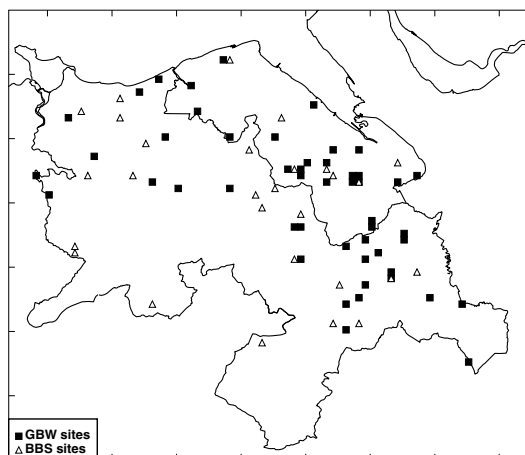
| | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U |
|----|------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|
| MS | 37 | 12 | | 2 | | 2 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| WS | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PG | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GJ | | | | 22 | | | | 8 | | 53 | | | |
| CG | 105 | 420 | | 45 | | 8 | 2 | 17 | 2 | 68 | 41 | | 15 |
| UD | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| SU | 403 | 66 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| MN | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| WN | 1500 | 145 | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| GA | | 19 | 14 | | | | 7 | | | | | | |
| T. | 550 | 893 | | | | 9 | 1 | | | | | | |
| MA | 97 | 132 | 49 | 4 | 4 | 12 | 12 | 43 | 49 | 22 | 31 | 30 | 6 |
| PT | 2000 | | | | | | 8 | | | | | | |
| SV | | 5 | 1 | | | | | 4 | | 7 | | | |
| PO | | 2 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | |
| TU | | 15 | 40 | 24 | 37 | 30 | 27 | 37 | 24 | 2 | | 13 | 2 |
| SP | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CX | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GN | | 3 | 10 | 14 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | |
| RM | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| GD | | 1 | | 1 | | | 10 | | | | | 4 | |
| BY | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RH | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ND | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| LG | | 3 | | | | 10 | 2 | 16 | 4 | | | 2 | 1 |
| GG | 4 | 6 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 |
| CA | 2 | 70 | | 21 | 1 | | | 2 | 3 | | 1 | | |
| ET | 15 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| H. | 22 | 4 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 1 |
| SH | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BZ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WA | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| MH | | 5 | | | | 2 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 1 |
| CO | | 23 | 97 | 1 | | 81 | 60 | 118 | 19 | 45 | 31 | 8 | 2 |
| OC | 25 | 9 | | 2 | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| AV | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RP | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GP | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GV | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| L. | 527 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 6 |
| KN | | 22 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CV | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DN | 200 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Site = | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|------|------|-----|----|-----|------|
| Jack Snipe (JS) | | 2 | | | | | | |
| Common Snipe (SN) | | 31 | | 7 | | | | 1 |
| Black-tailed Godwit (BW) | | 12 | | 347 | 2 | | 160 | 3000 |
| Bar-tailed Godwit (BA) | | | | 21 | | | | 1 |
| Whimbrel (WM) | | 2 | | 6 | | | 3 | 1 |
| Eurasian Curlew (CU) | 163 | 265 | 140 | 1000 | 56 | 31 | 130 | 64 |
| Spotted Redshank (DR) | | | | 2 | | | | 3 |
| Common Redshank (RK) | 39 | 330 | 20 | 600 | 100 | | 32 | 620 |
| Common Greenshank (GK) | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 2 |
| Common Sandpiper (CS) | | 1 | | 2 | | | | 1 |
| Ruddy Turnstone (TT) | 116 | 40 | | 3 | 2 | | 24 | |
| Black-headed Gull (BH) | | 45 | | 30 | | | | 52 |
| Mew Gull (CM) | | 3 | 2244 | | | | | 1 |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull (LB) | | 21 | 4 | 7 | | | | 2 |
| Herring Gull (HG) | | 6 | 1232 | 2500 | | | | |
| Great Black-backed Gull (GB) | | 16 | 14 | 25 | 1 | | | 18 |
| Little Tern (AF) | | | 250 | 5 | | | | |
| Sandwich Tern (TE) | | | 250 | 300 | | | | |
| Common Tern (CN) | 1 | | 3 | 15 | | | 8 | 100 |
| Common Guillemot (GU) | 1 | | 2 | | | | | |
| Razorbill (RA) | 8 | | | | | | | |
| Short-eared Owl (SE) | | 3 | | | | | | |
| Common Kingfisher (KF) | | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| Grey Wagtail (GL) | | | | | | | | |
| Common Linnet (LI) | | | | | 83 | | | |
| Twite (TW) | | | | | 2 | | | |

The map on the page, opposite, shows the distribution of Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and Garden Birdwatch (GBW) sites in North-East Wales.

| | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U |
|----|-----|------|---|----|----|----|---|---|----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| JS | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SN | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 8 | 1 |
| BW | 150 | 480 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BA | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WM | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CU | 100 | 241 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DR | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RK | 600 | 2500 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GK | 4 | 21 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CS | 1 | 3 | | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| TT | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BH | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CM | 200 | | | 5 | 10 | 14 | 1 | | 41 | 100 | 100 | 200 | |
| LB | | | | 12 | | 55 | | | | 10 | 1 | 2 | |
| HG | | | | 15 | | | | | 1 | 200 | | | |
| GB | | | | 46 | 2 | | | | 3 | 200 | | | |
| AF | 2 | | | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | | |
| TE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CN | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GU | 200 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RA | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| KF | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GL | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | |
| LI | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| TW | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

GBW and BBS sites in North-East Wales, 2007



Ringling Report 2007

The total number of birds ringed in 2007 is slightly below last year's and is the fourth successive decline since the high of 8,199 in 2004. The decline has been in the numbers of full grown birds that have been mist-netted (the lowest total since 2004) as the number of nestlings (pulli) ringed increased slightly over the total for 2006 and is the second highest total in recent years after 2005 (4,793). The majority of nestlings ringed have been from nest-boxes and, of course, the tern rafts at Shotton. The contributors to these totals have been the regulars for the last few years and I am very grateful to them all: Merseyside Ringing Group (Peter Coffey, Nicola Edmonds, Dave Faulkner, Bob Harris, Kenny McNiffe, Alan Robinson, Paul Triggs), John Lawton Roberts, the Spence and Brencley partnership (Ian M Spence) and Stuart K Thomas.

Many of the nestlings ringed have been part of an effort to contribute Nest Records to the BTO, and the systematic list contains breeding information from such records by Merseyside RG (per David Norman), John Lawton Roberts, Ian Spence and the Wales Raptor Study Group – North-East Wales, the majority of which involved ringing.

There were excellent numbers of Hen Harriers ringed and fledged, mainly from Mynydd Hiraethog, despite the atrocious weather – a fishing umbrella was in regular use to enable us to ring and take DNA samples (mouth swabs) from these wonderful birds. The harriers on the Berwyns and the Migneint seemed to experience even worse weather as none of them fledged at all. John Lawton Roberts was very active in his study area and ringed the majority of the Buzzards which required considerable tree-climbing effort.

The number of Common Terns ringed is down on last year because of the very poor weather – see the systematic list for more details – and no Little Tern pulli were ringed. The Barn Owl project showed a positive return this year with the largest number of Barn Owls ringed within the last 20 years – but still very small numbers compared with other parts of the country. It was a very good vole year and there were two nests with five owlets. In contrast, Tawny Owls were not doing well (only one brood of two young in 17 nest-boxes in Clocaenog Forest).

Those species that breed early in nest-boxes fared well – eg Great Tit and Nuthatch. Those species that breed later were affected by all the rain and did not do as well as they might have done – eg Blue Tit, Pied Flycatcher. I had one Tree Sparrow colony fail almost completely (only 3 young fledged from one nest), and another colony did less well than in the past. A third colony is still increasing and doing well. My personal highlight of the year was ringing a brood of six Grasshopper Warbler pulli. I am amazed that Richard Castell found the nest at all, with just an indistinct bending of some plants indicating a meandering path through the vegetation. Even standing beside the nest, I had to have it pointed out to me – with an adult scurrying round our feet! I wish I had the skills to find nests like that myself!

The full-grown total is lower than it has been in previous years and part of the reason was that fewer birds were available to catch, indicating that the bad weather had been harsh on the breeding attempts of warblers and other open-nested species. Nonetheless, Merseyside RG ringers caught good numbers of finches and Great Spotted Woodpeckers.

| 2007 | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-------|--------|
| Species | FG | Pull. | Totals |
| Mute Swan | 1 | | 1 |
| Hen Harrier (R) | | 18 | 18 |
| Sparrowhawk | 3 | | 3 |
| Buzzard | | 56 | 56 |
| Kestrel (A) | | 31 | 31 |
| Merlin (A) | | 4 | 4 |
| Peregrine (A) | | 7 | 7 |
| Moorhen | 10 | | 10 |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull (A) | 1 | | 1 |
| Herring Gull (A) | 8 | | 8 |
| Common Tern (A) | | 811 | 811 |
| Stock Dove (A) | | 15 | 15 |
| Woodpigeon | 7 | | 7 |
| Barn Owl (A) | 4 | 44 | 48 |
| Tawny Owl | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Kingfisher (A) | 1 | | 1 |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | 41 | | 41 |
| Swallow (A) | 8 | 126 | 134 |
| House Martin | 2 | | 2 |
| Grey Wagtail | 7 | 25 | 32 |
| Pied Wagtail | 1 | 9 | 10 |
| Dipper | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| Wren | 41 | 30 | 71 |
| Dunnock | 36 | | 36 |
| Robin | 95 | 4 | 99 |
| Redstart | 4 | 28 | 32 |
| Blackbird | 138 | 22 | 160 |
| Song Thrush (A) | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Redwing (A) | 15 | | 15 |
| Mistle Thrush | | 3 | 3 |
| Grasshopper Warbler (R) | | 6 | 6 |
| Sedge Warbler | 4 | | 4 |
| Reed Warbler | 43 | 8 | 51 |
| Blackcap | 48 | 0 | 48 |
| Garden Warbler | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Lesser Whitethroat | 3 | | 3 |
| Whitethroat | 1 | | 1 |
| Wood Warbler | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| Chiffchaff | 52 | 6 | 58 |

| 2007 | | | |
|------------------------|------|-------|--------|
| Species | FG | Pull. | Totals |
| Willow Warbler | 27 | | 27 |
| Goldcrest | 118 | | 118 |
| Firecrest (A) | 1 | | 1 |
| Spotted Flycatcher (A) | | 14 | 14 |
| Pied Flycatcher | 114 | 574 | 688 |
| Long-tailed Tit | 56 | | 56 |
| Blue Tit | 713 | 1385 | 2098 |
| Great Tit | 256 | 982 | 1238 |
| Coal Tit | 89 | 8 | 97 |
| Willow Tit (R) | 4 | | 4 |
| Marsh Tit (R) | 4 | | 4 |
| Nuthatch | 22 | 71 | 93 |
| Treecreeper | 2 | | 2 |
| Jay | 9 | | 9 |
| Chough | | 3 | 3 |
| Jackdaw | 2 | 15 | 17 |
| Starling (R) | 24 | 8 | 32 |
| House Sparrow (A) | 12 | 167 | 179 |
| Tree Sparrow (R) | 2 | 234 | 236 |
| Chaffinch | 261 | 5 | 266 |
| Brambling (A) | 4 | | 4 |
| Greenfinch | 179 | | 179 |
| Goldfinch (A) | 109 | | 109 |
| Siskin | 107 | | 107 |
| Lesser Redpoll | 5 | | 5 |
| Bullfinch (R) | 21 | 5 | 26 |
| Yellowhammer (R) | 4 | | 4 |
| Reed Bunting (A) | 4 | | 4 |
| | | | |
| TOTALS | 2740 | 4745 | 7485 |

Looking at the totals it is a worry that we are able to ring so few of the species that are not doing well – the amber and red-listed species of greatest conservation concern. In the totals list I have indicated those that are in each list by a symbol (A) or (R) after the species name. Of more concern is that some species are not on the list at all, eg Stonechat, Linnet. The two sparrow species only have reasonable totals because they breed in boxes – it is much harder to target the other open-nesting species either for nest-recording or ringing. Although harder, the challenge is there; the BTO needs more information about these species.

Ringers enjoy their ringing and contribute to the analyses, conducted by BTO staff, that show changes in survival rates. These changes can affect bird populations and their conservation status. Ringers retrap birds ringed by other ringers, but the majority of ringed birds are found dead, often by members of the public. If you find a dead bird with a ring on it, please ensure that the BTO receives the information. This can be done by writing a letter, or the information can be submitted via a website, www.ring.ac.uk However you send in the information you will, eventually, receive a sheet of paper showing where and when the bird was ringed, the distance moved and how long it lived.

Ian M Spence

2007 Selected recoveries

Codes used in the recoveries:

| | |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| M | Male |
| F | Female |
| Pull. | Ringed as pullus (nestling) |
| 2 | Fully grown, year of hatching unknown |
| 3 | Hatched during the calendar year of ringing |
| 3J | Hatched during the calendar year of ringing and in juvenile plumage |
| 4 | Hatched before the calendar year of ringing, but exact year unknown |
| 5 | Hatched during the calendar year prior to the year of ringing |
| 6 | Hatched before the previous calendar year, exact year unknown |

| | |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| U6986 | Mute Swan 3 |
| 01.09.1997 | near Glan Conwy, Gwynedd |
| 30.07.2007 | Deeside Industrial Park, near Shotwick, Clwyd |
| | 54 km 94° 3619days Controlled |
| MA17060 | Buzzard 3 |
| 08.10.2007 | Brimstage, Wirral, Cheshire |
| 26.11.2007 | Carrog, Clwyd |
| | 45 km 205° 49 days Field record |
| EK48623 | Kestrel Pull. (3/3) |
| 26 06 2006 | Shotton Paper Mill, Clwyd |
| 12 12 2006 | Newent, Gloucestershire (SO7225) |
| | 153 km 164° 169 days Road casualty, cared for, now released |
| 07 06 2007 | Southport, Merseyside (SD3616) |
| | 45 km 8° 346 days Dead, bird found |
| EW54208 | Merlin Pull. F (4/4) |
| 22 06 2007 | Site confidential near Bwlch Gwyn, Mynydd Hiraethog, Clwyd |
| 21 09 2007 | Burntwood, Walsall, Staffordshire (SK0509) |
| | 122 km 111° 91 days Sick or injured, entered building, in care |

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| SX54387 | Common Tern | Pull. |
| 16.06.1996 | Shotton Steelworks, Clwyd | |
| 19.07.1998 | Seaforth, Merseyside | |
| 02.07.2007 | Nobut, Leigh, Staffordshire | |
| | 81 km 115° 4033 days | Found dead |
| SV14848 | Common Tern | Pull. |
| 27.06.1999 | Shotton Steelworks, Clwyd | |
| 25.04.2007 | Zeebrugge, West-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM , 51°20'N 03°11'E | |
| | 473 km 117° 2859 days | Controlled |
| SR42331 | Common Tern | Pull. |
| 18.06.2006 | Shotton Steelworks, Clwyd | |
| 22.09.2006 | Paraje Natural Marismas del Odiel, Huelva, SPAIN , 37°16'N 06°55'W | |
| | 1798 km 190° 96 days | Controlled |
| SX09790 | Common Tern | Pull. |
| 22.06.1997 | Shotton Steelworks, Clwyd | |
| 15.12.2003 | Fata, SENEGAL | |
| 22.11.2004 | Fata, SENEGAL | |
| 03.03.2007 | Palmarin, SENEGAL , 14°04'N 16°46'W | |
| | 4518 km 196° 3541 days | Controlled |
| SR42887 | Common Tern | Pull. |
| 25.06.2006 | Shotton, Steelworks, Clwyd | |
| 07.02.2007 | Mile 4 Salt Works, NAMIBIA , 22°35'S 14°32'E | |
| | 8595 km 169° 227 days | Controlled, ring FPP 4H42155 added |
| FC92228 | Barn Owl | Pull. 4/4 |
| 27 07 2006 | Site confidential near Pentrellyncymmer, Clwyd | |
| 21 07 2007 | Site confidential near Gwytherin, Clwyd | |
| | 13 km 307° 259 days | Controlled at nest box (= M) |
| GC00399 | Barn Owl | Pull. |
| 19.07.2006 | Saughall Massie, Wirral, Cheshire | |
| 21.01.2007 | Connah's Quay, Clwyd | |
| | 21 km 174° 186 days | Freshly dead, bird found |
| 9967164 | Sedge Warbler | 3 |
| 18.08.2006 | Pepingen, Vlaams, Brabant, BELGIUM , 50°45'N 04°10'E | |
| 06.05.2007 | Shotton Steelworks, Clwyd | |
| | 565 km 300° 261 days | Controlled |
| N584270 | Pied Flycatcher | Pull. |
| 12.06.2001 | Penbedw, near Nannerch, Clwyd | |
| 26.05.2004 | Purlogue, near Clun, Shropshire | |
| 20.05.2006 | Purlogue, near Clun, Shropshire | |
| 22.05.2007 | Purlogue, near Clun, Shropshire | |
| | 90 km 172° 2170 days | Controlled (= F) |

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| T536981 | Blue Tit 3 F |
| 28.10.2005 | Norton Priory, Runcorn, Cheshire |
| 20.12.2006 | Llwynmawr, Clwyd |
| 20.12.2007 | Llwynmawr, Clwyd |
| | 57 km 215° 783 days Controlled |
| | |
| 158966 | Great Tit 5 F |
| 21.01.2006 | Bidston, Wirral, Cheshire |
| 11.05.2007 | Ruabon, Clwyd |
| | 47 km 178° 475 days Dead, bird found |
| | |
| R674123 | Chaffinch 3 F |
| 07.11.2004 | Shotton Steelworks, Clwyd |
| 18.02.2007 | Guisborough, Cleveland |
| | 197 km 42° 833 days Freshly dead, bird found |
| | |
| TE83400 | Greenfinch 5 F |
| 29.03.2006 | Deeside Industrial Park, near Shotwick, Clwyd |
| 15.07.2007 | Hanthorpe, Bourne, Lincolnshire |
| | 181 km 106° 473 days Dead, bird found |

Contributors to the bird report for 2007

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| Peter Lawton | PLa | John Roberts | JR |
| Betty Lee | BL | Lyle Roberts | LR |
| Pat Legge | PLe | Patricia Ann Roberts | PAR |
| Chris Leighton | CL | Raymond Roberts | RR |
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| Martin Thompson | MT | Frank Wright | FW |
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| Greg Martin Thurnham | GMT | Arthur Young | AY |
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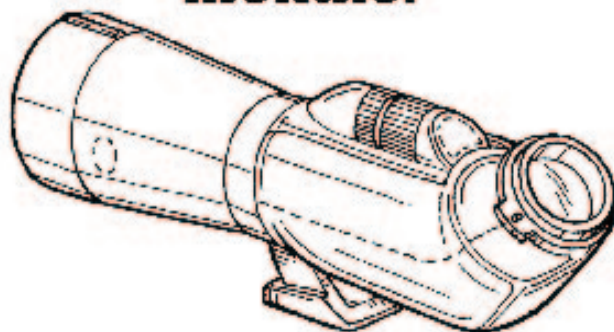


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Local groups

Clwyd Ornithological Society

Secretary: Jacquie Irving. Telephone: 01745-854132.

Deeside Naturalists' Society

The DNS is a local natural history society that was founded in 1973 to conserve flora and fauna on Deeside and in the surrounding area. The society has about 700 members and holds monthly meetings and slide shows through the winter months. The Nature Reserve at Connah's Quay, alongside the River Dee, has five hides and a Field Studies Centre. Access is by permit only, available to all members.

Membership Secretary: Walter Griffiths. Telephone: 01244-813287.

Wrexham Birdwatchers

Wrexham Birdwatchers meet on the first Friday each month and on Saturday or Sunday every other month. The winter indoor programme (on Fridays) runs from September to April and is a series of lectures and slide shows, currently held in the Memorial Hall, Gresford. The outdoor programme runs through the year. Social evenings and weekends are also held. An Annual Report is produced.

Honorary Secretary: Marian Williams. Telephone: 01978-854633.

Wales Raptor Study Group – North-East Wales

The Wales Raptor Study Group – North-East Wales is a small number of fieldworkers who are dedicated to protecting raptors, owls, Chough and Raven. Currently, in the Vice Counties of Denbighshire and Flintshire there are about ten people who contribute records to the Group. We are not able to record the nests of all the species we are interested in every year but most of the nests of Schedule 1 species are checked. Most of the fieldworkers are volunteers and do fieldwork in their spare time.

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 a report 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.

Ian M Spence, Coordinator

National groups

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)

BTO regional representatives:

Clwyd East: Anne Brenchley, Tŷ'r Fawnog, 43 Blackbrook, Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6LT. Telephone: 01352-750118. Email: anne.brenchley@btinternet.com

Clwyd West: Mel ab Owain, 31 Coed Bedw, Abergele, Conwy, LL22 7EU. Telephone: 01745-826528. Email: melabowain@btinternet.com

North Wales Wildlife Trust

Head Office: 376 High Street, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1YE. Telephone: 01248-351541.

North East Office: Loggerheads Country Park, Mold, Denbighshire, CH7 5LH. Telephone: 01352-810469.

Contact: Adrian Lloyd Jones, Conservation Officer (East).

North Wales Wildlife Trust local groups:

Conwy Valley: Jean Robertson. Telephone: 01492-512726

Denbigh: Brian Burnett. Telephone: 01978-790442

Wrexham: John and Jill Smith. Telephone: 01978-854030

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

North Wales Office: RSPB Cymru, Maes y Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW. Telephone: 01248-363800.

RSPB Members' groups:

North Wales: John Morris. Telephone: 01745-855687.

Chester: Roger Nutter. Telephone: 01829-782237.

Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS)

Membership Secretary: Alan Williams, 30 Fairfield, Penperlleni, Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 0AQ. Email: mochdreboy@waitrose.com

www.welshos.org.uk

Honorary Secretary: Ian M Spence



Welsh Ornithological Society
Cymdeithas Adaregol Cymru
www.welshos.org.uk



The Clwyd Bird Recording Group is now affiliated to the Welsh Ornithological Society. Together we intend to work for the conservation of birds in Wales and we need your records to achieve this.

A benefit of this affiliation is that anyone who contributes bird records to the CBRG will be eligible to a discount of £2.00 on a subscription to the Welsh Ornithological Society.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|
| Individual subscription (before discount): | £15.00 |
| Family subscription (before discount): | £18.00 |

Send your cheque (made out to the 'Welsh Ornithological Society') to:

Alan Williams
30 Fairfield
Penperlleni
Pontypool
NP4 0AQ

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