



North-East Wales Bird Report 2008

Clwyd Bird Recording Group

November 2009

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www.cbrg.org.uk



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Clwyd Bird Recording Group

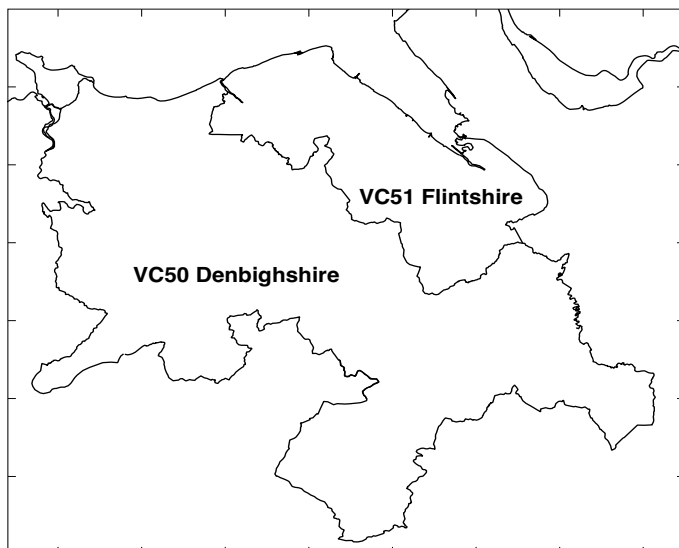
The group was founded in 1989 with the main aims to collect bird records for what was then Clwyd, but is now the area of the Vice Counties of Denbighshire and Flintshire, and to publish an annual bird report. The group, at the time of publication, comprises:

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)
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.



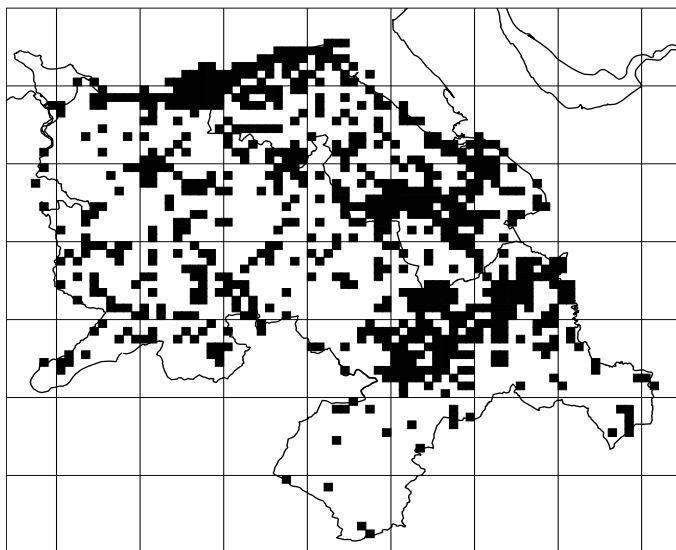
Introduction

Editorial

We trust that our readers enjoyed the 2007 reports with its brief comparisons with the bird situation in 1907. The year we are reporting here was ordinary by comparison. In order to provide the best picture we can of the state of play with our bird populations we need as many records as we can receive, be they from casual observers, regular observers, surveys local or national that take place during the year. See below for the numbers of records received.

For the year 2008 the Clwyd Bird Recording Group received records from all of the above-mentioned sources, from many locations in North-East Wales, as shown in the map below.

All 758 1 km squares with at least one record in 2008



However, these are not all the records that we know to be available. For the first time, I received all of the weekly records from Garden BirdWatch (GBW) sites for the common species. Unfortunately there were capacity issues at the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the less common species were unable to be computerised in time for us to use for this report. I understand that the situation should be resolved for 2009. Also, due to protracted discussions with Cofnod about a Data Exchange Agreement (and much of the delay has been at our end, not Cofnod's) we were unable to complete agreements about the best format for me to receive data that are submitted to Cofnod in time to include in this report. As our negotiations are nearly complete I expect that we will have Cofnod data included in our report for 2009.

One important survey that is taking place currently is the national breeding and wintering atlas, organised by the BTO, on the back of which there is an ambitious project to try to collect breeding data from every one of the 1800 tetrads (a tetrad is a square of 2 x 2 km in area) in North Wales. The records for this project are being dealt with separately, but anyone who

sends in records from Atlas fieldwork at the one kilometre square level, that I use for standard recording, will have their records included in this report. Please see the article by Anne Brechley about progress with the Atlas project towards the end of this report.

Computerisation of records

After the reorganisation of the database and the importing of nearly all the 2008 data there are now about 145,000 records in our database, an increase of 50,000 in the last year, and for 2008 we received a total of 65,534 records, about half of which were the GBW records. There are small numbers of duplicate records still to be weeded out and I hope to do this over the forthcoming winter. When the system works well, the database is very helpful in preparing records for the species account authors as their species can be exported to Excel and all of its useful features can then be used to help prepare the accounts you will read, below. Key features are sorting and pivot-tables. As part of the preparation for being able to send data to Cofnod I had to restructure the CBRG database of records – this took a considerable amount of time.

CBRG Website

The large amount of time needed to restructure the database and then catch up with routine tasks has meant that the website has been rather neglected during the year. It was never intended to be the kind of website where people go every day for the birding equivalent of 'Twitter'. It was intended as a resource to help ensure that information about the Clwyd Bird Recording Group was publicly available and that the forms needed to help with electronic data submission were readily available to anyone interested. It still serves that purpose.

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. The records do not have to be in any particular order – 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. However, please enter each record on a separate row. Please keep records of common species as well as rarities, but of particular concern now are those species that are either Amber or Red listed, 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 did not have records mapped in the last report.

I am developing a new record submission spreadsheet that originates in Scotland from the Scottish Ornithologists' Club. The spreadsheet enables species' names to be entered using just the two-letter BTO codes (a list is available from the Downloads page on the website) and all the place details are entered automatically when the grid reference for the 1 km square (eg SJ2466) is entered. The task of entering the location details for every 1 km square in our potential recording area (if 'Clwyd' is included) is enormous and is only half-completed to date. The task will be completed during the coming winter. This will make data entry for observers very much easier. The only catch is the size of the spreadsheet in Excel, and observers may wish to explore using the much smaller version that is available in OpenOffice format. The completed spreadsheet will mean that observers should no longer have to refer to a gazetteer of location names.

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 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.

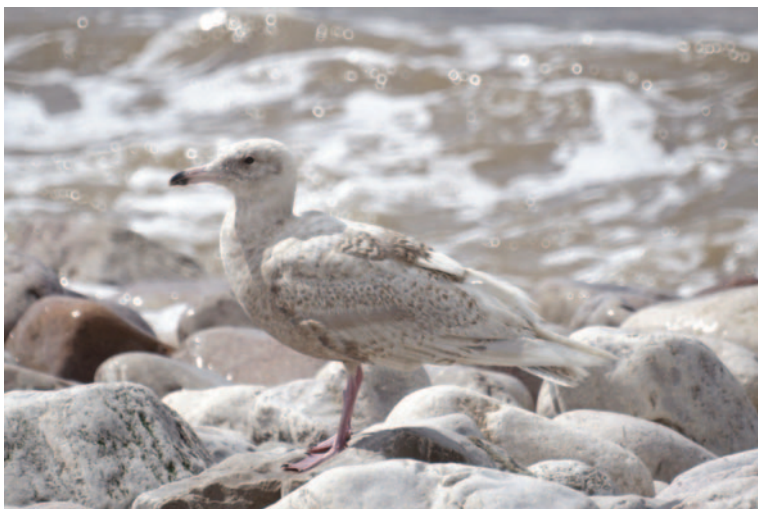
Again, many records of rarities came from the Birdguides' website, but were anonymous, so I was unable to follow them up with enquiries about descriptions or photographs, so they have not been used as they could not go through any verification process. If you see a rarity and use the Birdguides, or other, website, please give contact details as well as details of the observation.

Some records of Welsh rarities have been submitted to the Welsh Records Panel (jonrg@tiscali.co.uk) and have been accepted so they have been included in this report.

The local rarities list has been reviewed and amended. The criteria for being on the list are:

Five or fewer records annually over the five most recent consecutive years

This enables us to maintain an annual check of the species that should be on the list. As some species become more common (as has the Little Egret in recent years) so it will be removed from the list. If a species is not seen regularly enough to be in the list, it will require a rarity form to be submitted.



Glaucous Gull, Llanddulas, Julian Welldrick

Local rarity species list

The list of local rarities that will apply from 1 January 2010 is as follows:

List of local rarities that require descriptions		
Brent Goose – dark-bellied	Eurasian Spoonbill	Little Auk
Garganey	European Honey-buzzard	Atlantic Puffin
Common Eider	Pied Avocet	Rose-ringed Parakeet
Long-tailed Duck	Purple Sandpiper	Long-eared Owl
Velvet Scoter	Wood Sandpiper	Hoopoe
Smew	Pomarine Skua	Eurasian Wryneck
Common Quail	Long-tailed Skua	Richard's Pipit
Lady Amherst's Pheasant	Great Skua	Yellow Wagtail – blue-headed
Great Northern Diver	Little Gull	Black Redstart
Black-throated Diver	Sabine's Gull	Cetti's Warbler
Red-necked Grebe	Ring-billed Gull	Dartford Warbler
Slavonian Grebe	Yellow-legged Gull	Yellow-browed Warbler
Black-necked Grebe	Iceland Gull	Firecrest
Sooty Shearwater	Glaucous Gull	Red-billed Chough
Balearic Shearwater	Black Tern	Hooded Crow
European Storm-petrel	Roseate Tern	Hawfinch
European Shag	Black Guillemot	Lapland Longspur
Great Bittern	Razorbill	

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 and Andrew Wallbank.

I thank Julian Hughes, Ian Evans and Marc Hughes – the panel who helped me make decisions about local rarities – for their assistance. I thank Susan Morris for her assistance in the past. Unfortunately she was unable to assist this year due to ill-health and has been replaced on the panel by Marc Hughes.

Many thanks to the authors, Adrian Lloyd Jones, Anne Brenchley and Stuart Thomas, who contributed articles that have added interest to this report.

I thank Amanda Bunnell for her assistance with some technical aspects of preparing the photographs for the report and Carl Barimore (BTO)

The maps have been produced using DMAP by Dr Alan J Morton, and I am very grateful to him when he has assisted with any query I have made to him.

Chris Leighton has typed up the records from Connahs' Quay Nature Reserve but decided not to continue and now Andrew Wallbank sends me those records. I thank them both for their

help. Jim Hulse has continued to be my 'Assistant Recorder' and has typed up other people's records and is submitting his own. I am very grateful to him for the great amount of help he gives.

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, Steve Collins, Mike Nesbitt, Joe O'Hanlon, Robin Sandham, Andrew Wallbank, Julian Welldrick and David Williams for their photographs that add significantly to the attractiveness of the report.

The CBRG is very grateful to two contributors for their donations that have helped to make this report possible: the Wales Raptor Study Group – North-East Wales and Awards for All 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, Andrew Wallbank and Julie Rogers for their proof-reading of the draft text and to Trevor Payne for his 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, Garden BirdWatch 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, BHP Billiton (per Julie Rogers) and Merseyside Ringing Group (ringing data per Bob Harris and nest records per David Norman). I trust that the observers and organisations think that we have made good use of the data they have provided. Any errors or omissions are my responsibility.

Ian M Spence, Recorder

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Birding Highlights 2008

This paper briefly summarises the main birding highlights and events for 2008. The paper 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) are not included in this report. Omissions also occasionally occur and for this we offer our apologies.

2008

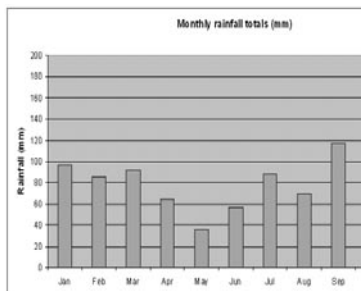
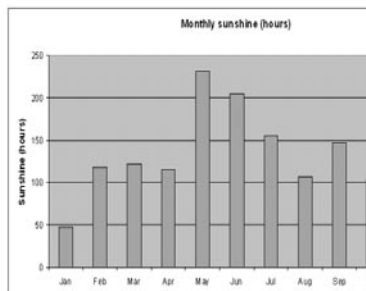
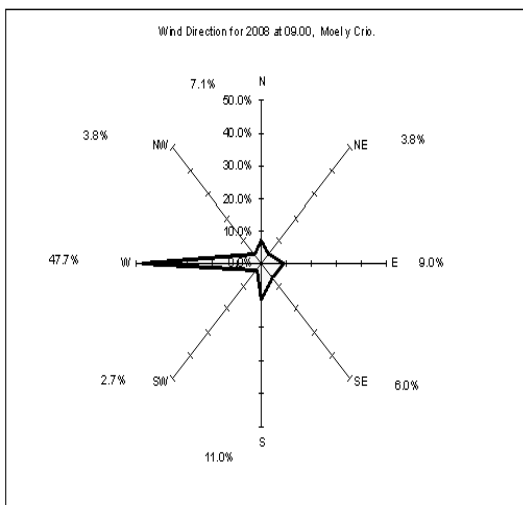
The year started well with 61 **Whooper Swan**, 50 **Mute Swan** and 6 **Bewick's (Tundra) Swans** seen at Shotwick fields on the first day of the month. January and February were good months for gulls at Gresford Flash with **Glaucous**, **Iceland** and **Yellow-legged Gull** seen fairly frequently and a large flock of **Common (Mew) Gull** (2,300) seen at Trevalyn Meadows on 25 January. A **Great Grey Shrike** appeared at Llyn Brenig on 27 January. February saw the year's only **Slavonian Grebe**, five **Pied Avocet** at Oakenholt Marsh and another **Great Grey Shrike** regularly appearing at Craig Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest. **Bramblings** were reported quite widely until April but flock sizes never exceeded 42. March was a fairly quiet month as spring approached although the year's only **Velvet Scoters** were seen off Towyn in the middle of the month. April marked the leaving of our winter visitors as 2,000+ **Fieldfare** were seen flying over Penycae on 13 April but the highlight of the year was a **Citrine Wagtail** at Conwy RSPB Reserve on 30 April. Raptors were on the move this month with **Osprey** and **Hobby** particularly in evidence. May was one of the driest months of the year and birdwatchers were able to get and about and see the wide variety of species on view. Three **Garganey** were seen between Kinnel Bay and Rhuddlan at the beginning of the month, a **Whiskered Tern** was seen at Conwy RSPB Reserve on 9 May and a **Richard's Pipit** turned up at Gronant on the same day. A **Quail** was recorded at Trevalyn Meadows on 22 May. Gulls and terns didn't seem to mind the wet weather in June and one **Roseate Tern** was photographed roosting with **Sandwich Terns** at River Clwyd, Rhyl at the end of the month. Two **Mediterranean Gulls** were seen at Shotton Steelworks on 8 June. The **Little Terns** at Gronant had another variable year with 101 pairs producing 104 young. In July and August the regular seabird passage occurred along the coast and the only **Little Gull** of the year was seen at Kinnel Bay and Rhyl. In August, the highlight was a single **Spoonbill** at Connah's Quay, first seen on 20 August but stayed well into the autumn. A wide variety of waders were seen at coastal sites but the real attraction of September were the two **Black Terns** and the single **White-winged Black Tern** seen at Shotwick lakes between the 3 and 10 of the month. Up to two **Honey Buzzards** were seen over Gresford Flash between 17 and 18 September. **Fieldfare** and **Redwing** came in at the end of the month heralding the cold winter to come. Strong northerly winds on 3 October brought in 30 **Leach's Petrel** at Rhos-on-Sea and **Redwing** came in big numbers with 3,420 seen over Penycae on 19 October. The month ended with a **Woodlark** seen at Gresford Flash, the first confirmed sighting in North East Wales for over twenty years. Winter was in real evidence as three **Waxwings** were seen at Towyn on 19 November and numbers built up to 15+ at Colwyn Bay by the middle of December. **Bramblings** also appeared in small numbers from mid-October to the end of the year. A **Lapland Bunting** was seen at Gronant on 16 November and 38 **Twite** sighted at Connah's Quay NR on 11 November. The year ended fairly quietly with the main record being of one **Ringed-billed Gull** seen at Gresford Flash on 2 December.

Anne Brenchley

Weather summary 2008. Data kindly supplied by Len Walls

2008	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max temp °C / date	11.7 / 18	15.6 / 12	12.1 / 31	15.3 / 26	24.1 / 11	20.7 / 9	26.2 / 28	21.9 / 30	20.0 / 20	18.8 / 12	12.4 / 14	11.2 / 21
Mean temp °C	65.7	5.6	5.2	6.8	12.5	12.4	15.1	14.9	12.3	9.0	6.2	3.4
Min temp °C / date	-2.3 / 3	-3.7 / 7	1.6 / 5	-2.7 / 6	3.3 / 2	5.2 / 17	7.6 / 13	7.6 / 23	4.9 / 23	-0.7 / 29	-2.3 / 30	-5.8 / 31
Rain mm	97.4	35.7	92.0	64.7	35.9	57.1	88.5	70.0	117.0	178.7	72.5	63.6
Sun hours	47.5	119.0	122.8	116.0	231.7	204.6	155.8	107.1	146.8	104.8	57.2	56.7

The year started with a warm Jan (similar to 2007) and Feb. The warmest day was 28/07 at 26.2°C and the coldest was 31/12 at -5.8°C (a warning of what was to come in early 2009). Late spring and early summer, May, Jun and Jul, were much drier than in 2007, with a total of 156.7 mm of rain, which is less than half of last year's total for that period. However, there were no prolonged dry periods this year and the period Aug, Sep and Oct was much wetter with 365.7 mm of rain (only 195.6 mm in the same months of 2007). May was the sunniest month with 231.7 hours – not quite as good as Apr 2007. The chart of wind directions is nearly identical to that of 2007 with 47.7% of days with winds from the west. There were just 3.0% of days with flat calm (not shown on the chart) – half the number of 2007.



The Systematic List for 2008

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 listed in The State of Birds in Wales 5: a review of 2006 and 2007, RSPB Cymru, Cardiff.

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
BB	Bagillt Bank	SJ2275
CON	Conwy RSPB Nature Reserve	SH7977
KBRH	Kinmel Bay, Rhyl Harbour	SH9980
CQNR	Connah's Quay Nature Reserve	SJ2672
FLQ	Hope, Fagl Lane Quarry	SJ3058
FS	Flint, saltmarsh	SJ2572
GF	Wrexham, GF	SJ3453
IMF	Inner Marsh Farm, RSPB reserve	SJ3073
OMR	Oakenholt Marsh Reserve	SJ2671
POA	Point of Ayr	SJ1284
RM	Ruabon Mountain	(SJ24)
RML	Rhyl, Marine Lake	SH9980
SS	Shotton, Steelworks	SJ3070
TB	Towyn, beach	SH9779
WS	Dee Estuary, 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
TTV	Timed Tetrad Visit (during national Atlas fieldwork)

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 (we expect that many of you are now well-acquainted with these codes that are used both for the BTO Atlas and the North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas project – they are listed on the Atlas page of the CBRG website).

At the end of this section Anne Brenchley 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*)

ALARCH DÔF

Breeding resident.

Denbs. Over a dozen sites produced the highest counts along River Dee floods with 25 at Pulford Brook on 1/02, 17 at Worthenbury on 21/01 and 37 at Ridleywood on 21/11 (NFr). On the coast 33 recorded at Kinmel Bay on 22/05 (RMB). Nesting reports from Erddig Park and Tir Prince Park.

(MS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	116	37
Flints.	144	72

Flints. Most records were of 1-10 birds with seventeen records of 11-50. WS in the Dee Estuary had high counts with the maximum of 72 on 14/12 (GR). Jan saw good numbers on Shotwick fields area with 50+ on 5/01 (AC, HC, RC). Other high counts were 53 near Rhuddlan on 18/05 (SH), 57 at WS on 19/10 and 68 there on 7/12 (GR). Nesting records from CQNR, Oakenholt, Rhuddlan, Ysceifiog and Whitford.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)

ALARCH BEWICK

Annual, but uncommon winter visitor. Amber list. WBAP

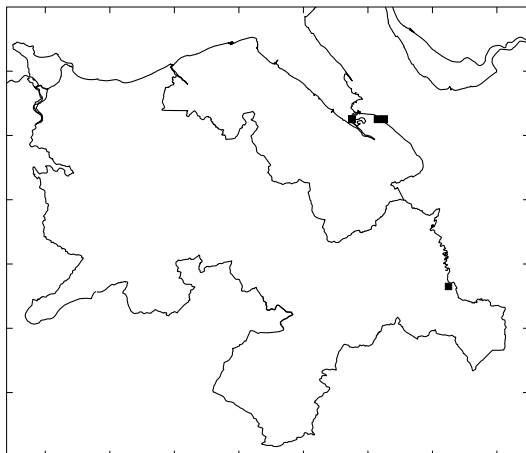
Denbs. The only records were of 4 birds on the Dee floods at Worthenbury on 25/01 (NFr, ANB).

(BS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	4
Flints.	13	50

Flints. The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance for this species. Small numbers were recorded at Shotwick fields from 1-13/01, with a maximum of 6 on 5/01 (KS et al). More significant numbers were at WS during the period with a maximum of 50 on 13/01 (GR). The latest spring record was 9 on WS on 28/02 (CL). The birds were late returning, the first winter record being of 18 at WS on 7/12 (GR), which was also the maximum winter count.

See next page for map of the distribution of records.

Tundra Swan 2008



Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

Annual, but irregular winter visitor in small numbers.

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 inland and coastal sites further west.

(WS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	5	4
Flints.	29	61

Denbs. Up to 4 were present on the Dee floods at Ridleywood NE on 08-15/10 (NFr), and a single bird was at CON on several dates between 12-26/10 (pJH).

Flints. Birds were recorded from the beginning of the year, when 38 were at Broken Bank (GJ) and 61 at Shotwick fields on 1/01(DHa, ANB). These were also the maximum spring counts. The latest spring record was 47 flying NW over SS on 16/03 (PT). The first record of returning birds in the autumn was of 7 birds at CQNR on 4/11 (GR). There were further records from various sites on the estuary during the remainder of the year, with up to a maximum of 40 on WS on 4/12 (GR). The only record away from the Dee was of 8 over Rhuddlan on 16/11 (SH).

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

GWYDD DROED-BINC

Passage migrant, and winter visitor in small numbers.

Denbs. Only three records for the year, each of single birds. At Llyn Brenig, 1 was with the mixed flock of other geese on 17/02 (DDi), an unseasonal record of another at CON on 30/05 probably relates to a feral bird (pJH), and a third individual was at the same site on 23/12 (pJH).

(PG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	1
Flints.	11	350+

Flints. As usual all records were from the Dee Estuary and Shotwick fields. The year started

well with 350+ seen flying west over SS on 20/01 (PT). Birds were present at Shotwick until 13/03 when 32 were the last spring record (CW), another notable count being 195 on 2/03 (CW). The first to return in autumn were 6 on Border Pool IMF on 30/09 (KS), while the first substantial numbers were 100 at CQNR on 19/10 (SL) and birds were present in this area for the remainder of the year.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

Scarce winter visitor. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. The only records were of 1+ birds at CON on 13/04 (SBr), and 2, possibly the same birds, also at the same site on 7/07 (MF) in which case, these are unlikely to be of truly wild origin.

(WG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	2
Flints.	0	

Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*)

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN LEIAF

Vagrant, or feral escape.

Denbs. Two at CON on 12/07 (HC) were likely to be of escaped or feral origin.

(LC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	2
Flints.	0	

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

GWYDD WYLLT

Winter visitor and uncommon breeding resident.

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, though records of actual breeding are uncommon. These birds concentrate into post-breeding moulting flocks on a number of sites including the Dee Estuary and GF. These flocks are supplemented by numbers of passage and over-wintering birds during the winter.

(GJ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	46	260
Flints.	45	340+

Denbs. Recorded from coastal and inland sites across the county, including GF, Trevalyn Meadows, CON, Llyn Brenig, and near Kinmel Bay. Small numbers were recorded throughout the year from a variety of inland sites, however no records of breeding were received. The mixed goose flock at Llyn Brenig included up to a maximum of 30, while GF also had a flock of up to 11 for much of the early part of the year. As usual GF held a significant concentration, possibly of moulting birds, during Oct/Nov with a maximum of 100 on 6/11 (JN), while Kinmel Bay also held a substantial flock from Sep to the end of the year with a maximum of 150+ on 25/09 (RMB). As usual, winter floods in the lower Dee Valley attracted significant numbers with 260 at Trevalyn Meadows, Pulford Brook, and 122 at Worthenbury on 25/01 (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, WS and SS. They were also recorded in some numbers from the Clwyd Estuary in the Rhyl/Rhuddlan area. FLQ was the main inland site from which summer sightings were noted. Notable counts were 90 at FLQ on 24/02 (KS), 106 there on 19/09 (GNR), and a peak of 224 at Whitford on 24/10 (ELJ). A substantial flock

of 300-350 were using the Rhyl Estuary during the autumn and winter, 300 were recorded flying regularly over Rhuddlan during Nov (SH), and feeding on wet meadows near Rhyl on 7/12 (DCR).

Greater Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

GWYDD CANADA

Breeding resident.

An 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.	101	480
Flints.	133	4000

Denbs. Recorded from various sites in relatively small numbers throughout the year. As usual the Dee floods held the most substantial concentrations with 440 near Ridleywood on 19/01, 480 at Trevalyn Meadows, and 245 at Worthenbury both on 25/01 (NFr). Later in the year a significant moulting flock of up to 200 birds was at CON during early Jul, 155 were at Borrass, Wrexham on 5/08 (JN), 170 were on GF on 10/09 (JN), 250 were near Penycae on 22/09 (JAJ) and 290 were, again, on the Dee floods at Ridleywood on 17/09 (NFr).

Flints. Present throughout the year on Dee Estuary reserves. There were 1,300 at CQNR on 3/01 (CL), numbers reducing substantially after that. Subsequently counts from reserves throughout the estuary were less than 100 until late Jul when numbers began to rise with 194 at CQNR on 20/07 (GR), increasing to a peak of 2,000 feeding on stubbles at Shotwick fields on 3/08 (CW). The maximum number recorded was 4,000 at CQNR on 18/12 (ELJ). Away from the Dee the only substantial numbers were in the Rhyl/Rhuddlan area where notable counts include 275 on 31/08 near Rhuddlan (SH), 300+ at the same site on 13/09 (DCR) and 380+ near Rhyl on 27/12 (DCR). Breeding was reported from SS with several broods (PT), CQNR where there were two broods on 31/05 (ELJ) and Rhuddlan golf course where there was a brood of 8 on 25/05 (SH).

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

GWYDD WYRAN

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

Denbs. Trevalyn Meadows held 2 on 25/01 (NFr), a single was at CON on 3/05 (pJH), and a northward migrating flock of 24 stopped briefly also at CON on 26/12 (RS, pJH).

(BY)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	24
Flints.	3	2

Flints. Two were at FLQ on 8/01 (SD) and singles were at CQNR on 15/01 (BH) and at FLQ on 17/10 (GNR) with 2 also at the latter site on 11/12 (NH).

Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla*)

GWYDD DDU

Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List. WBAP (Bb bernicla)

Recorded particularly in the Dee Estuary.

(BG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	4	40

Flints. There were fewer records but more birds seen this year compared with 2007. One was found dead in Deeside Industrial Park on 12/11 apparently the victim of collision with power lines (DDi). There were 24 pale-bellied (Bb hrota) at POA on 13/01, then 2 black-bellied (Bb bernicla) with 40 pale-bellied at POA again on 19/10 (GR).

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)

GWYDD YR AIFFT

Feral species presumed to have escaped

Flints. A male and a female were seen at CQNR on 30/03 (BCE) and a single was reported there on 26/08 (CM).

(EG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	3	2

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)

HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

Rare vagrant. Likely to be of feral origin.

Denbs. A pair was at Llay Pool on 12-13/04 (BF).

Flints. Single birds were at FLQ on 25/03 (GNJ) and at CQNR on 9/06 (CM).

(UD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	2
Flints.	2	1

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.

Denbs. Recorded throughout the year from a number of coastal sites including KBRH, CON and TB. CON and KBRH appear to be the most important with several substantial counts during the year. The maximum count was 141 at CON on 11/05 (pJH), while KBRH held 130+ on 30/11 (DCR). Maximum monthly records for these two sites are given in the table below. Away from the coast small numbers of birds were recorded from Worthenbury, Trevalyn Meadows, Ridleywood, Borrass, Sutton Green and GF.

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
CON	6	48	10	4	141	4	50+	1+		8	15	4
KBRH	6		30		30	31	12		10		130+	25+

Flints. The vast majority of records are from the Dee Estuary, where the upper estuary reserves at OMR and CQNR, with WS, and POA are favoured in the early part of the year. As the year progresses numbers increase at POA and Mostyn between Sep and Dec. Maximum monthly records for the key Dee Estuary compartments are given in the table below.

The maximum count on the estuary was 1600 at POA on 30/09 (GR) in contrast to over 2,000 recorded off Greenfield in Oct 2007. Away from the Dee birds were recorded at Rhyl, with a maximum of 80 on 15/09 (SH), Rhuddlan where a maximum count of 38 was on 9/05 (SH) and inland at FLQ where there was a pair on 5/05 (KS).

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
FS	34	7	7		12	40		1		200+	36	14
CQNR	186	138	100+	45	67	340	115	30	156	62	102	40
OMR			6	36	25	20	2					
POA	143	181	172	99	137	550	500	80	1600	800	437	100
WS	175	182	425	144	30	129	91	120	52	100	95	128
Mostyn	47	26	29	15	6		7	350	59	59	46	88

Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*)

HWYADEN FANDARIN

Scarce breeding resident

(MN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	20	11
Flints.	0	

Denbs. Recorded from several sites, including Acton Park, Wrexham where a male was present on 12/01 (KS), CON, a male on 16/02 (RS, pJH), Erddig where up to 3 were present on various dates from 29/03-12/04 (NHu), Marford, a female on 11/04 (JuR), Sutton Green, 6 on 12/04, and 3 on 1/11 (NHu), 11 at Trevalyn Meadows on 22/05 (JLR), 1 at Gatewen on 30/11 (GMT), and single males at Llangollen on 5/05 (KS), and 28/12 (SD).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

CHWIIWELL

Common winter visitor. Amber List.

(WN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	45	300+
Flints.	173	1500

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

Denbs. Records were from eight sites with highest counts from along the coast during winter months with maximum counts of 130 offshore at Towyn on 6/01 (SM), 220 at Kinmel Bay on 1/03 and 300+ on 7/12 (DCR). The only reports between the months of Apr to Oct were from CON with 25+ being the maximum on 18/10 (LM). Inland, large counts were recorded on River Dee floods with 130 at Pulford Brook on 1/02 and 120 at Ridleywood on 3/11 (NFr).

The table below shows maximum counts at selected sites

(WN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	600	500	240	3				7		360	51	1500
OMR	68	126	20	1	1					2	66	
POA		5							20	100	150	450

Flints. Records were from eleven sites with numbers recorded down from last year in the first winter period. The Dee Estuary had most reports and highest counts from CQNR-OMR area were 600 on 11/01 (GR), 440 on 23/01 (CL), 500 on 14/02 (BH) and in the second winter period a maximum count of 1,500 on 15/12 (GR). Away from the Dee, the Clwyd estuary held 230+ at Rhyl on 4/01 (DCR) and Rhuddlan had a maximum of 24 on 27/12 (SH). Another inland record was 7 at FLQ on 24/02 (KS).

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

HWYADEN LWYD

Uncommon winter visitor and scarce breeding resident.
Amber List.

(GA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	32	13+
Flints.	137	46

Denbs. Present at CON in small numbers throughout the year, with a maximum of 13+ on 30/12 (pJH). Also recorded from the Dee Valley where 3 were on floods at Worthenbury and 2 at Trevalyn Meadows on 25/01 (NFr) and GF which hosted 1 male on 22/08 (JN).

Flints. Recorded throughout the year from the Dee Estuary reserves, chiefly favouring SS, IMF Border Pool, CQNR and OMR. Maximum counts were 46 at SS on 23/11 (PT) and 45 at IMF Border Pool on 25/08 (CW).

Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*)

CORHWYADEN

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

(T.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	63	228
Flints.	271	1000

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

Denbs. Recorded throughout the year. The majority of records were from CON (see table below), but also seen inland at Fenn's Moss, Sutton Green, Borrass, Trevalyn Meadows, Pulford, Marford, Llewini Hall, Bodfari, Ridleywood and Erddig Pool. Notable counts away from CON were 25 at Trevalyn Meadows on 1/02 (NFr) and 40+ at Sutton Green on 27/12 (NHu). The maximum count for CON was 228 on 20/10 (pJH). Numbers generally seem to have been significantly lower than in previous years.

Eurasian Teal: CON 2008 monthly maximum counts:

(T.)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
CON	8	8	11	3		7	20	12		228	21	88

Flints. Inland: Records confined to Rhuddlan, where a maximum count of 18 was on 21/11 (SH); Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog, 5+ on 1/01 (AB, IMS) and 2 at Rhydymwyn on 4/04 (JVHu).

Coastal: Dee Estuary numbers were lower than last year, and no coastal records away from the Dee. Maximum count was 1000 at CQNR on 17/12 (PDS). Summer records were confined to CQNR, OMR and IMF. See table below for monthly maximum counts for main Dee Estuary locations.

Table below shows maximum counts at selected sites

(T.)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
BB	160	65	23							65	130	250
CQNR	500	249	89	28	4	5		180	493	400	600	1000
IMF(BP)	30	20	10	2	4				300	5		13
OMR	18	12	45	18			7	2		159	12	7
POA	100	210	115	30				10	100	150	100	100
WS	32	20	23	4				37	150	22	21	90

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

HWYADEN WYLLT

Common breeding resident. Amber list.

(MA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	179	60+
Flints.	460	470

Denbs. Recorded from inland and coastal water bodies throughout the vice-county. Numbers reverted to more normal levels after last year's high counts. The largest counts were from CON where at least 60+ were recorded on 18/10 (LM), and Sutton Green which also held 60 on 27/12(NH).

Table of maximum counts at selected sites:

(MA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	76	113	61	20	263	380	360	264	88	103	160	56
OMR	38	10	19	22	58	159	201	82	6	6	10	160
SS	60+	40+			12+		100+	100+				50+
RML	25	2	2		2					25	200+	104
POA	50	20	35	20	10	82	17	145	124	80	50	50

Flints. Various locations, all on the Dee Estuary, produced the majority of records. Numbers were significantly down from last year and notable counts included 380 at CQNR on 25/06, most of which were male and 470 there on 28/07 (CL). The Marine Lake at Rhyl also held significant numbers over the winter months with a peak count of 200+ on 27/11 (DCR).

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Winter visitor. Amber List.

(PT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	5	400
Flints.	48	1000

The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this winter visitor. Most records are from sites on or close to the estuary, though significant numbers are also recorded on the middle Dee floodplain when winter flooding provides suitable conditions.

Denbs. The River Dee floods attracted the only significant numbers of this species recorded this year with 331 at Trevalyn and Pulford Brook on 1/02; and 400 at Ridleywood on 8/02 (NFr). CON's only record was a single juvenile present from 2/09-11/10 (pJH).

Flints. Coastal: As usual all records are from the Dee Estuary, Bagillt and WS being the most favoured locations. However, as with many other wildfowl species, numbers were considerably lower than in 2007, the maximum count of 1,000 at Bagillt on 20/11 (GR) being only 20% of last year's peak. Spring numbers were generally low with a maximum of only 77 on 3/01 at Mostyn; the last record of the spring being 2 at IMF(BP) on 6/04 (CW). The first autumn returning birds were 212 at WS on 15/09 (GR). See table below for maximum monthly counts from main locations.

(PT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
FS		20								20+	1000	
CQNR		3		4						1		
IMF(BP)			2	2								2
OMR		2										
WS	2	12	26						212	134		
Mostyn	77											30

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

HWYADEN ADDRRAIN

Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. The only records were of 2 males and a female at Kinmel Bay on 3/05 (KS).

(GY)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	3
Flints.	5	3

Flints. A similar group of 2 males and a female, probably the same birds, was recorded at Rhuddlan, also on 3/05 (SH). A single male was also present at IMF on 5/05 and 10/05 (JuR, KS).

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.

(SV)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	46	114
Flints.	61	21

Denbs. Records were received from CON, GF, Fenn's Moss, Ridleywood, Towyn and Trevalyn. Sightings were of birds in Jan, Feb, Mar, Jun, Sep, Oct, Nov and Dec. The highest count of 114 was from GF on 7/02 (JN). A pair were seen offshore of Towyn on 6/01 (SM). There was a slight increase in records over 2007 and the number of birds recorded also seemed to be on the increase.

Flints. Most sightings were from CQNR, although records were also received for FLQ, Rhuddlan, SS and Ysceifiog. The peak count of 21 birds was from SS on 28/12 (PT). No evidence of breeding was recorded although records of birds in pairs were received from CQNR throughout Feb and Mar.

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

Winter visitor.

Denbs. Most records were from CON, with a peak count of 8 males on 29/02 (pJH). Birds were present right through the year with a peak in late winter of 3 on 18/12 (HC). The overall peak count of the year was on the Dee floods at Worthenbury where 11 were present on 15/02 (JN).

(PO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	31	11
Flints.	30	20

Flints. Most records were from the Dee Estuary where the peak count was on the pools at Warren Farm with 20 on 20/02 (GR). Nine birds were at SS on the 24/02 (PT). Inland the only birds seen were 5 at FLQ on 24/02 (KS). The last bird of the first winter period was a single male at CQNR on 30/03 (StaS). The first returning birds were 6 at SS on 9/11 (PT).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

HWYADEN GOPOG

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

Denbs. Records were received every month with most

(TU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	85	34
Flints.	168	35

records being of more than 1 bird. The larger counts were 25 near Rhosllanerchrugog on 22/10 (PL), 29 near Borrás on 23/01 and 25/01 (JN), 30+ at CON on 18/05 (NiW) and 34 at Worthenbury on the River Dee floods on 25/01 (NFr).

Flints. Records were received every month with the highest count of 35 at SS on 4/05 (PT). Juveniles were reported from SS on 27/07 and 3/08 (PT). See the table below for highest monthly counts at two regular sites.

Monthly maximum counts:

(TU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
OMR	3	9	12	9	16	23	12	2	4	4	5	1
SS	12	22	30	32	35	32	22	3	23	13	14	

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*)

Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List. WBAP

Denbs. A single juvenile female was at Borrás, Wrexham for several weeks from at least 15/10-1/11 (JN) and a single female was at CON on 29/12 (SC).

Flints. Single males were at CQNR and OMR on 10/03 (AW, ANB, BH, CM), 1 male and 1 female at OMR, and a male at CQNR on 30/03 (SS, NH), 1 male at OMR on 8/07 (BH), 2 females at Rhyl NE on 4/10 and a single female at CQNR on 19/10 (StL, SDe).

HWYADEN BENDDU

(SP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	1
Flints.	14	2

Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)

Winter visitor. Amber list. WBAP

Denbs. Often seen in large numbers offshore between Colwyn Bay and Rhyl. The maximum count in the early part of the year was 5,000+ off Towyn on 14/03 (SM). Birds were seen in every month of the year with numbers building up in late Jul to 2,000+ off Pensarn on 18/08 (SM). The peak autumn count was 2,500+ off Towyn on 29/10 (SM), although they were very hard to count due to the distance offshore.

Flints. Usually a lot fewer of these birds are seen in this area than further W. The maximum count was 2,125+ seen off Prestatyn on 14/03 (IMS). The maximum summer count was 84 seen off Gronant on 16/07 (RS). An unusual sighting this year was of a single bird at WS on the Inner Dee Estuary on 15/09 (GR).

MOR HWYADEN DDU

(CX)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	74	5000+
Flints.	13	2125+

Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)

Regular winter visitor in small numbers.

Denbs. The only birds seen were off Towyn: a male offshore on 9/03 and 2 there on 16/03 moving W to E with Common Scoter (SM).

MOR HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

(VS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	2
Flints.	0	

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

HWYADEN LYGAD AUR

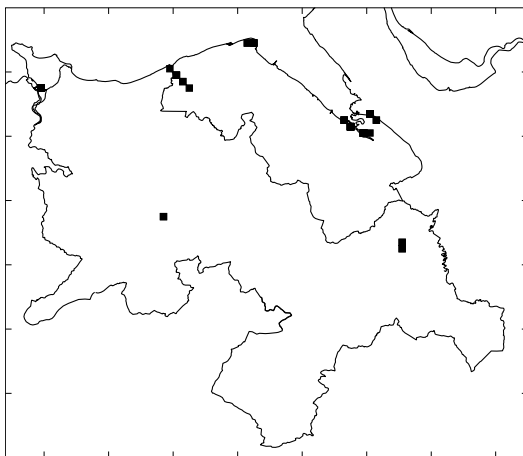
Widespread winter visitor.

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 24/02 (RSw) and 9 females at Llyn Brenig on 17/05 (pJH).

The first returning bird was again a female at CON on 2/11 (pJH) where a peak of 9 occurred on 18/12 (HC).

Flints. The peak count in the early part of the year was 16 on the Border Pool at IMF on 23/02 (CW). Eight birds were at SS on 24/02 (PT) and 8 at Rhuddlan on the River Clwyd on 13/01 (SH). The last bird in spring was a female on the Border Pool at IMF on 4/04 (CW). The first returning bird was a female at Rhuddlan on 25/10 (SH). The peak late winter count was 5 at SS on 21/12 (PT).

(GN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	35	10
Flints.	47	16

Common Goldeneye 2008**Red-breasted Merganser** (*Mergus serrator*)

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

Winter visitor.

Denbs. Recorded mainly from the coast between Llanddulas and Towyn, also frequently from CON. The peak count in the early part of the year was 20 off Llanddulas on 17/02 (KS), while CON had 19 males on 21/02 (pJH). The peak count at CON was 28 on 24/03 (pJH). Kinmel Bay had 7 juveniles on 22/05 (RMB), probably indicating local breeding. Peak autumn counts were 12+ birds at CON on 18/10 (LM), while 7 were offshore at Towyn on 16/11(SM).

(RM)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	73	28
Flints.	22	12

Flints. All records were from the Dee Estuary or the adjacent coast. The peak count in the first part of the year was 7 at POA on 9/03 (GR). In the latter part of the year the peak count was 12 on Rhyl Marine Lake on 30/11(DCR). There was no proof of any breeding.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

Denbs. Records were received from many parts of the county. Kinmel Bay had a flock of eight birds offshore on New Years Day, but the largest flock in the early part of the year was 9 at Worthenbury on the Dee floods on 25/01 (NFr). Eight birds were also on the Dee

(GD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	77	13
Flints.	39	16

at Erbistock on 23/02 (KS). The largest spring count was 9 at Llangollen on 5/05 (KS). Breeding was proven at Worthenbury with 3 juveniles seen on 22/02 (NFr). Juveniles were also present at Erddig Pool on 11/10 (NH). The peak autumn count was a flock of 13 seen offshore at Kinmel Bay on 14/09 (KS).

Flints. The peak count in the early part of the year was a flock of 9 seen at FLQ on 25/03 (GNR). Breeding was proven at Rhuddlan when 6 juveniles were seen on 16/05 (SH). The largest count on the Dee Estuary was of 6 seen on the Bunded Pools at CQNR on 29/11 (AM). The peak winter count in the second half of the year was a mixed flock of 16 seen at Rhuddlan on 14/12 (SH).

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

HWYADEN GOCH

Uncommon breeding resident.

Denbs. All records were from CON from 18/03 through to 21/07, mostly of male birds. Peak counts were 2 males on 24/03 (pJH) and 6/05 (EdW).

(BY)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	16	2
Flints.	18	4

Flints. All records were from the Inner Dee Estuary, mostly from SS, where the peak count was 3 fully grown birds on 13/04 (PT). Also seen at Shotton Paper lagoon was a pair on 5/05 (KS) and at CQNR a pair on 23/06 (CL). Successful breeding was confirmed at SS with two broods seen on the 21/09: one of 4 and the other of 3 young (PT).

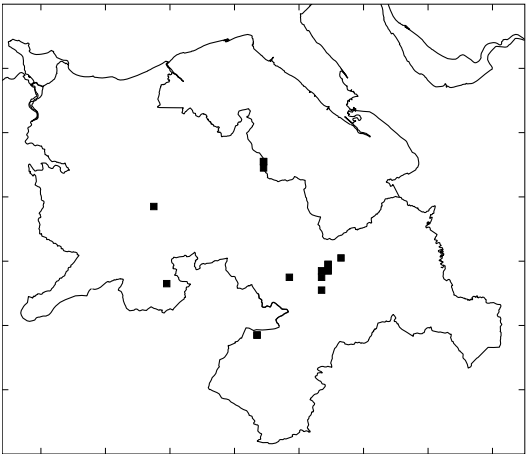
Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*)

GRUGIAR

Declining breeding resident on heather moors. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. Birds were recorded in Jan, Feb, Apr, May, Jul, Aug and Sep, with half of the records being singles. There were 2 birds recorded on five dates with 3 seen near Cerrig-duon on 31/05 during a BBS walk (DJT), 4 seen near Gors Maenllwyd on 1/01 (DDi) and 5 on Esclusham Mountain on 21/05 (JLR, HN). Numbers have continued to decline, largely due to the fact that specialist management of heather moors in NE Wales for Red Grouse shooting has now virtually ceased, and few moors now hold more than a small, scattered, remnant population.

Willow Ptarmigan 2008



Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*)

GRUGIAR DDU

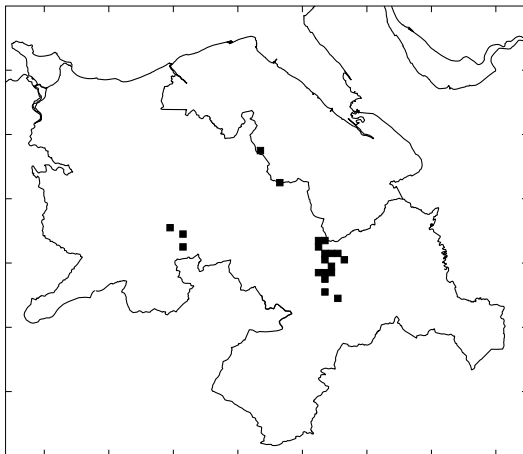
Scarce breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

(BK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	40	20
Flints.	1	1

The increase in records indicate an improvement in the prospects for this species, probably as a result of biodiversity planning actions. Let us hope that there will be more birds and more records in future years.

Denbs. The majority of records came from on or close to RM, where the management to improve the habitat for Black Grouse seems to be very successful. Only a few records were of just one bird – the larger numbers were of 10 near Pendinas Reservoir on 4/05 (StM), 10 on Esclusham Mountain on 21/05 (HN, JLR), 15 males near World's End on 30/03 (KS) and a total of 20 lekking males at two sites near World's End on 5/05 (KS). The map shows records from a much larger area than in 2007.

Black Grouse 2008



Flints. The single record of one bird was from Penycloddiau on 5/05 (EdW).

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*)

PETRISSEN GOESGOCH

Common residents, breeding in small numbers, the wild populations being supplemented by annual releases by shooting interests.

Denbs. Most of the records were from the area around the RM release point. 12/10 must have been on or near release day as 300+ birds were seen around RM Mountain Lodge and nearby Newtown Mountain held over 200 birds (NHu). Penycae had counts of 17 on 1/11 and 19 on 14/12 (PLa). Away from RM 8 were seen at Glyn Arthur on 11/09 (RA), 1 at Golly on 27/03 (KS) and 2 at Bettisfield on 27/04 (NH)

(RL)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	23	300+
Flints.	14	7

Flints. Records were from three sites. Most came from Rhydymwyn with a maximum of 7 on 30/10 (MD), There were 4 juveniles in a group of 5 reported on 12/07 (JVHu).

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)

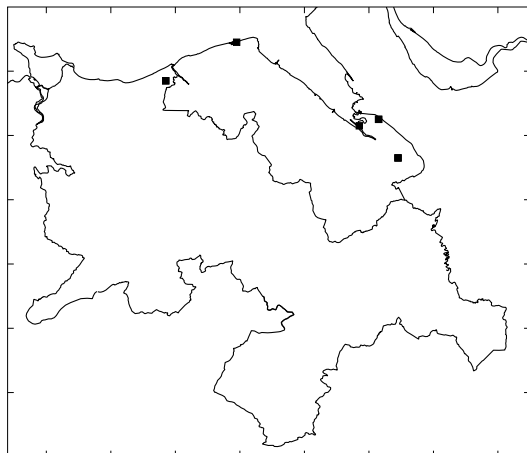
PETRISSEN

Scarce localised breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. Both records received were of singles at Towyn on 27/03 and 9/05 (SM).

(P.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	1
Flints.	5	14

Grey Partridge 2008



Flints. A similar number of records to previous years, although a much higher maximum count of 14 seen at Beeches Farm on 22/07 (IMS). Single birds were seen at CQNR on 17/02 (StaS), and Gronant dunes on 25/06 (RSm). A covey of 3 was seen at Shotwick fields on 26/02 (ST) and 2 were recorded at the same site on 16/04 (CW).

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)

Passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. A single bird was at Trevalyn Meadows on 22/05 (RCa).

SOFLIAR

(Q.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Common residents, breeding in small numbers, the wild populations being supplemented by annual releases by shooting interests.

Denbs. Far fewer records were received than 2007. This species was recorded mainly in the first half of the year with only six records from Oct to Dec. The highest count of 8 females was from Marford on 20/01 (JuR).

FFESANT

(PH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	70	8
Flints.	331	20

Flints. An increase in records from 2007 although 88.8% were from Rhydymwyn. The maximum count of 20 was from Llyn Helyg on 24/10 (ELJ).

Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

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

Denbs. All records were offshore between Towyn and Llanddulas with 10 being the early year peak off Llanddulas on 17/02 (KS). Ten birds were seen off Towyn on 27/04 (SM), probably part of the spring movement northwards to their breeding grounds. The peak count in the latter part of the year was 6+ off Towyn on 11/10 (SM).

TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

(RH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	18	10
Flints.	0	

Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*)

TROCHYDD MAWR

Irregular winter visitor.

Denbs. Both records were from Towyn - a single bird seen on the 28/03 and 9/04 (SM).

(ND)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	1
Flints.	0	

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

GWYFACH FACH

Breeding resident in small numbers.

Denbs. The maximum count in the early part of the year was 8 at CON on 24/02 (RS). Up to 4 were at Gatewen, Wrexham on 6/01 (GMT). Birds were also present at Erddig Park with 3 there on 25/09 (NH). In the latter part of the year the maximum count was again at CON with 9 present on 18/10 (LM).

(LG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	59	9
Flints.	134	6

Flints. Most records were from around the Dee Estuary where the maximum count was 6 at CQNR on 14/07. Breeding was confirmed at SS, Shotton Paper Mill Lagoon and at CQNR on the Ash Pool. Juveniles were seen at all three sites. The maximum count for the latter part of the year was 5 at Rhuddlan on 19/12 (SH). Away from the Dee Estuary, single birds were seen at FLQ on 11/12 (NH), Whitford on 24/10 (LJ, EJ), and Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog on 1/01 (AIBr). Greenfield Valley had 4 on 16/11 (ELJ).

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

GWYFACH FAWR GOPOG

Breeding resident in small numbers

Denbs. Mainly coastal with a winter concentration in the first part of the year of 20+ birds off Towyn on 6/02 (SM) and 20 off Llanddulas on 17/02 (KS). GF had a pair of birds on 24/02 (KS), while 2 were at CON on 24/02 (RS). The peak count in the first part of the year was 25+ off Towyn on 13/03 (SM). In the spring pairs were at GF on 6/05 (KS) and Sydlit on 5/05, and at CON on 18/05 (NW). All these birds were seen displaying. There was no positive evidence of any breeding. The peak count in the autumn was only 3 off Towyn on 18/09 (SM).

(GG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	18	10
Flints.	82	40

Flints. The majority of records received were from locations along the Dee Estuary with sightings throughout the year. The peak count in the early part of the year was 4 seen at OMR on 25/01 (CL). Away from the estuary the only birds seen were singles at Llyn Helyg on 27/01 and 17/03 (LJ, EJ). The spring peak was 5 seen at OMR on 7/04 (GR). The autumn peak was an amazing 40 seen on a flat calm river channel off Flint on 27/09 (DCoa). Twelve birds were seen at OMR on 14/11 (GR). In the latter part of the year the only inland bird was a single seen between 9/12 and 11/12 at FLQ (SD).

Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)

GWYFACH GORNIOG

Scarce winter visitor.

Flints. A single bird was seen at Rhyl Marine Lake on 11/02 (JnW).

(SZ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	1	1

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

GWYACH YDDFDDU

Scarce migrant

Flints. A first-winter was seen at Shotwick lake on 6/09 (KS).

(BN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	1	1

Northern Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

ADERYN DRYCIN Y GRAIG

Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant.

Denbs. All reports of singles, all from the Towyn area on 27/04, 17/05 and 19/06 (SM).

(F.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	1
Flints.	6	15

Flints. There were 2 at Gronant on 3/06 (RSm) and the other five reports were from Gwaenysgor with 15 occupied nests in a quarry on 4/04 and 3 on nests on 23/05 (ELJ).

Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*)

ADERYN DRYCIN MANAW

Regular offshore during summer and autumn. Amber List.

Denbs. A single bird was off Belgrano on 8/07 while others, pushed in by fog, were 7 on 28/07 and 1 on 17/09 both at Towyn (SM).

(MX)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	7
Flints.	3	33

Flints. Gronant Dunes provided all three records, with 3 on 3/06, 33 on 25/06 and 2 on 30/07 (RSm).

European Storm-petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*)

PEDRYN DRYCIN

Occasional summer passage migrant. Amber List.

Flints. A single bird was recorded flying W, close inshore at Rhyl on 3/10 (DCR).

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

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

PEDRYN GYNFFON FFORCHOG

Autumn passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. Birds were seen from Rhos-on-Sea: 3 on 2/10 and 30 on 3/10 in strong N winds (RS).

(TL)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	30
Flints.	0	

Northern Gannet (*Morus bassana*)

HUGAN

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

Denbs. All records were from three different parts of the north coast and from one observer (SM). Records were received in Mar, Apr, Jun, Jul, Aug and Sep, mainly in small groups of 2-10, with the highest count of 30 from W Towyn on 19/06.

(GX)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	18	30
Flints.	7	80

Flints. Records were received in Jun, Jul and Aug from three sites: POA, Gronant dunes and Rhyl. The highest counts were 26 off Gronant on 18/06, 31 there on 2/07 (both RSm) and 80 at Rhyl on 12/08 (RMB).

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

MULFRAN

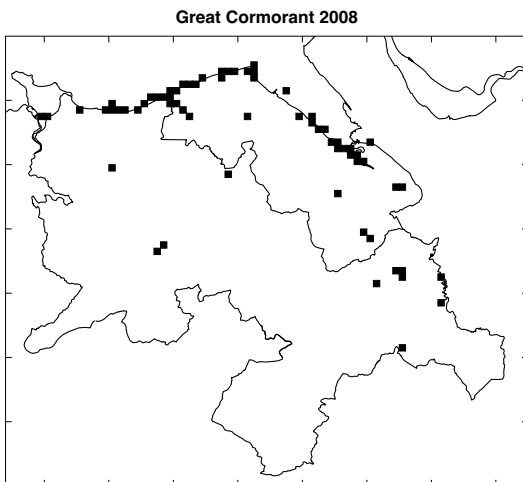
Common resident throughout the year, with no known breeding sites. Amber List.

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

Denbs. Spring counts along the coast were lower than last year, with records of 30 flying offshore at Llandulas on 17/02 (KS) and 60 E of Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay on 4/06 (RMB) standing out. By contrast, some inland sites recorded high numbers, including 35 near Ridleywood on 8/02 (NFr) and 40 near Llyn Brenig on 16/03 (DDi). Coastal counts rose in autumn, with Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay having 50 on 22/08 (SM) and 120 on 7/12 (DCR), the highest count for the year.

Flints. Present in all coastal areas but concentrated at CQNR and S of Rhuddlan. Both sites had counts each month, the highest at CQNR in spring being 88 (Jan) and 98 (Apr) with 93 (Oct) and 112 (Nov) in autumn (CM, GR, RR, CL, KS, NH). Birds recorded S of Rhuddlan showed a spring peak of 62 (Feb) and higher autumn counts

peaking at 77 (Oct) and 80 (Nov) (SH). Numbers at Gronant built up in early Jul, peaking at 80 on 9/07 (DCR). High numbers were also reported in the Rhyl area during Oct/Nov, including 88 S of Rhyl on 5/10 (DCR), and 100 NE of Rhyl on 4/11 (RMB). Four records from inland sites included three for singles during Jan-Mar and the fourth was for 4 birds at Fagl Lane, Hope on 11/12 (NHu). The presence of 3 juveniles at CQNR on 5/06 and 4 at WS on 9/06 (CL) indicates successful breeding.



Monthly maximum counts near Rhuddlan (SH):

(CA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	88	32	62	98	51	19		23	79	93	112	47

European Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

MULFRAN WERDD

Scarce non-breeding visitor.

(SA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	3
Flints.	1	1

Denbs. Three were seen E of Kinmel Bay on 1/01 (AC, HC, RC) and 1 was recorded at Towyn on 11/10 (SM).

Flints. One record of a single bird seen at Gronant dunes on 6/07 (AC, HC, RC).

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.

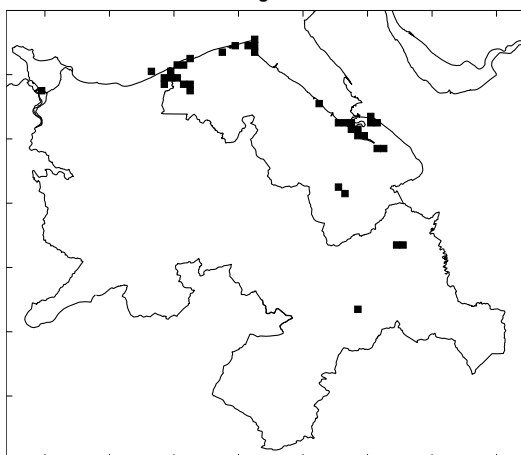
(ET)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	60	30
Flints.	303	40

Denbs. Slightly fewer records than in 2007, but this species does appear still to be increasing in numbers in our area.

CON is the primary site for records, although four records were received from inland locations, with singles at Acrefair on 19/07 (IMS), Borrás, Wrexham on 3/05 (JN) and GF on 26/01 (NH, JN).

Flints. As with Denbs, there were slightly fewer records than in 2007. The majority of records were from CQNR where there was a peak count of 40 seen on 16/08 (InN). Inland records were received from near Pontblyddyn where records of single birds were submitted for 4/01, 1/02 and 22/11 and 2 birds on 1/03 (IMS) and from Pentrhobin, Mold where 2 birds were seen on 10/12.

Little Egret 2008



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.

(H.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	104	22
Flints.	307	15+

Denbs. Records were received from every month, although no breeding evidence was recorded. Most records were of 1-3 birds with 10+ seen at CON on 12/07 (HC) and again on 22/07 (IMS) with 12+ there on 6/07 (HC). A bird made an aborted landing in a garden in Cyffiliog and the next day was seen to stand in the open front porch of a house before roosting on the roof (DDi). The highest count of 22 was recorded at CON on 24/02 (pJH).

Flints. Records were received from every month of the year, with juveniles recorded in May, Jun and Jul at CQNR indicating breeding in or around that area. No evidence was recorded

of any heronry in our recording area. Most records were of 1-5 birds with 10 at CQNR on 18/07 (JHo), 10 near Bagillt on 19/10 (GR), 10 at WS on 26/08 (CM) and 12 at WS on 16/11 (GR). The high count of 15+ was from CQNR on 16/08 (InN).

Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

LLWYBIG

Scarce winter visitor.

Flints. A single was seen at CQNR on several dates: 20/08 (GR), 25/08 (StC), 31/08, 6/09 and 10/09 and photographed (KS), and 4/09 (GR). Information from Birdguides indicates that it stayed until about 18/10.

(NB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	6	1

European Honey-buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)

WAOD Y MEL

Occasional visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. Just three records that were submitted were accepted, all at GF: 1 on 17 and 18/09 and another bird on the latter date (all JN).

(HZ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	1
Flints.	0	

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)

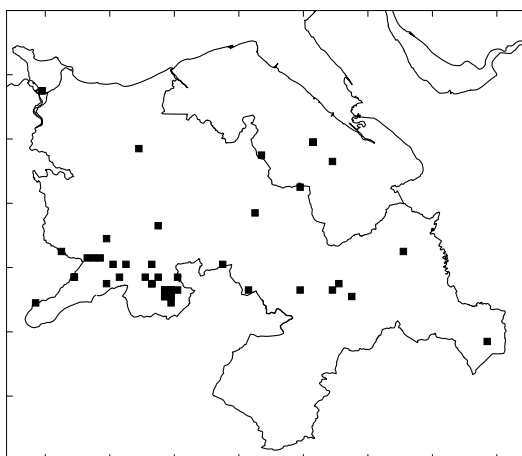
BARCUD

Occasional visitor, has bred. Amber List.

Denbs. There were records from every month of the year except Jan and there were increasing records from S of Mynydd Hiraethog, but no new breeding sites identified as yet. Most of the records were of single birds with 2 seen near Rhydianfair on 7/03 (RG), 2 near Cerrigydrudion on 11/08 (Jl), 2 on the Migneint on 19/06 (WAO) and 2 adults and 3 juveniles seen near Ysbyty Ifan on 21/08 (RMB).

Flints. After last year's lack of birds, at least one has been back – singles were seen over Penycloddiau on 5/05 (EdW), over Rhosesmor on 10, 11 and 12/05 (LeW) and over Sychdyn on 19/06 (ErB).

Red Kite 2008



Eurasian Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)

WAOD Y GWERNI

Very scarce passage migrant.

Flints. The only accepted record was of a female at OMR on 11/01 (GR).

(MR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	1	1

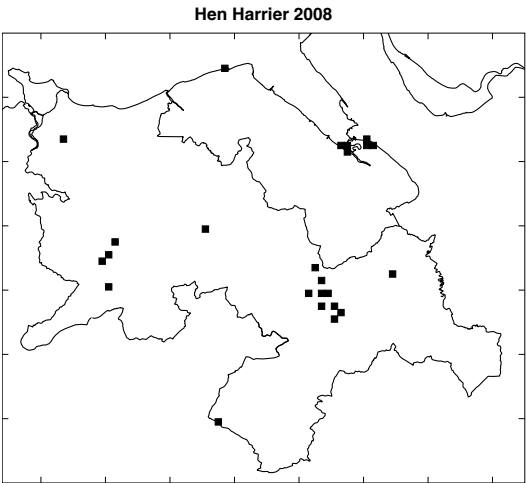
Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

WAOD TINWEN

Scarce breeding species and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. Recorded in every month from Apr to Dec. The first record was a male at World's End on 7/04 (NHu) and most of the records were of singles clustered on Mynydd Hiraethog and RM. No nest locations are shown on the map. The only record of 2 was a pair at World's End on 5/05 (KS).

Flints. Recorded in Jan, Feb, May, Aug, Sep, Nov and Dec. The first record was a ringtail at WS on 9/01 (MBa). There were records of 2 birds, all ringtails as follows: at WS on 30/01 (KJ), Shotwick fields on 9/09 (CW), there on 11/09 (pCW) and at Shotwick rifle range on 16/11 (ST).



The table shows the records of males and ringtails during the year.

(HH)		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	Male				2		1	3				1	1
	Ringtail								1	1			
Flints	Ringtail	4	1						1	5		2	1

Breeding (WRSG):

(HH)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	6	29	21	3.50

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

GWALCH MARTH

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

(GI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	1
Flints.	1	1

Denbs. Three of the records were of singles from the Clocaenog Forest area in Feb and Mar but 1 was seen near Wrexham on 6/05 (NH).

Flints. A single was seen near Broughton on 12/04 (AH).

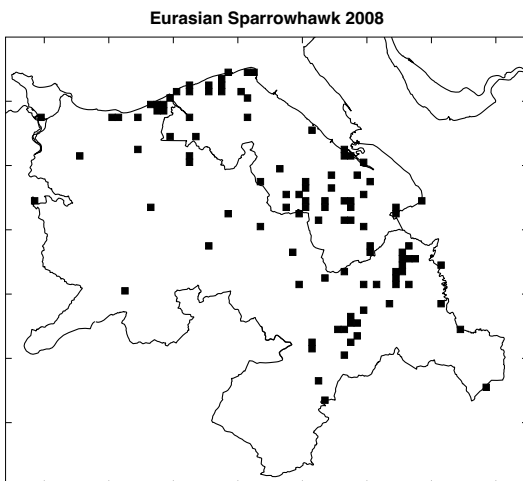
Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

GWALCH GLAS

Common and widespread breeding resident

Recorded in every month of the year in both counties. The GBW returns have greatly increased the number of records received. The map shows that the records are not evenly distributed over the area but are clumped in a few areas which include many, but not all, GBW sites. We receive negligible breeding data but are not aware of any particular threats. It would seem that Sparrowhawk is still under-recorded in the wider countryside. More records away from gardens, and especially breeding records, would be very welcome.

Denbs. Some 66.8% of records were from GBW. Most of the records were of single birds but 3 were seen near Penycae on 20/04 (IES). There were nine records of 2 birds from various locations, six of which were from GBW sites. Reported prey species included: Collared Dove, Song Thrush and House Sparrow.



Flints. In this county there were also 66.0% of records from GBW. Most of the records were of single birds with again, nine records of 2 birds. No prey species were recognised though one was seen carrying prey.

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. Recorded in every month across the area.

(BZ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	258	12
Flints.	352	8

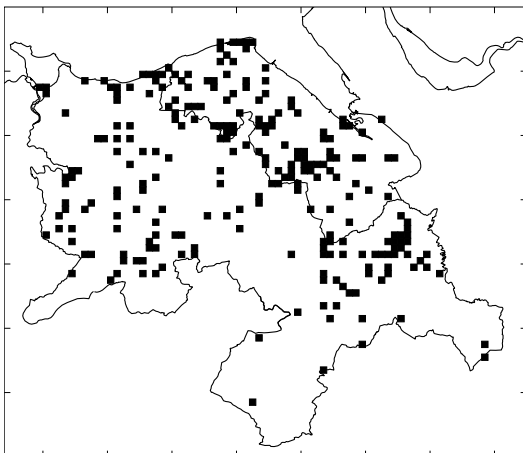
Maximum counts each month at a single location:

(BZ)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	5	11	5	5	4	5	2	4	12	2	9	4
Flints	3	3	8	6	5	4	4	8	6	5	5	5

Denbs. Most records were of 1-5 birds from most parts of the county. The largest counts were of 7+ at Llyn Brenig on 22/05 (NiW), 9 at Cefn Du on 19/11 (DeE), 11 together, looking for worms in a field near Llanrhaeadr on 2/02 (JoH) and 12 near Wrexham on 18/09 (NH).

Flints. The majority of records were of 1-5 birds spread across the county. The largest counts were of 8 birds: near SS on 30/03 (PT) and near Penycloddiau on 10/08 (EdW).

Common Buzzard 2008



Breeding (WRSG):

(BZ)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	45	100	68	1.51

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Rare spring and autumn migrant

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

Denbs. Seven of the records were of passage birds in Apr and May – the bird seen at CON on 19/04 being mobbed by 2 gulls (pJH). The other records were of singles on passage flying SE over Borrás on 29/08 (JN) and flying S over Penycae on 7/09 (JAJ).

(OP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	9	1
Flints.	6	1

Flints. Two of the records were of passage birds in Mar and two in May. The other records were also on passage; both at CQNR on 7/09 (NH) and 15/09 (InN).

Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

Common breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP

CUDYLL COCH

Records were distributed across the area in a broadly similar way as in previous years with records in each month of the year in both counties. There are still concerns about apparent declines in the numbers of Kestrel that we have in the area.

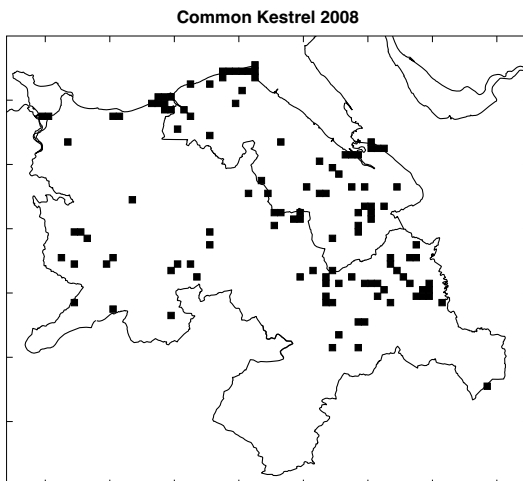
(K.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	112	4
Flints.	98	5

Breeding (WRSG):

(K.)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	9	44	32	3.56

Denbs. The majority (97%) of the records were of 1-2 birds, the exceptions being: 3 seen at Marford on 15/01 (JuR), 3 at World's End on 19/07 (KS) and 4 nestlings ringed near Gwytherin on 16/06 (WRSG).

Flints. Again, most of the records were of 1-2 birds (97%). Three birds were seen at Shotwick fields on 6/09 (CW), 3 were near Rhuddlan on 17/09 (SH) and 5 nestlings were ringed at Shotton Paper Mill on 23/06 (WRSG).



Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

CUDYLL BACH

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

The breeding status of this species continues to be of concern with large areas of apparently suitable habitat unoccupied. It is not clear why there is a lack of breeding adults.

(ML)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	7	4
Flints.	21	1

Denbs. All the sightings of flying birds were of singles during Jan, Apr, Jun and Dec and 4 nestlings were ringed on Mynydd Hiraethog on 24/06 (WRSG) – the location is not shown on the map.

Flints. The majority of the sightings were of birds wintering on the coast from the Oakenholt – CQNR area in Jan and Feb; and every month from Jul to the end of the year.

Breeding (WRSG):

(ML)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	3	11	9	3.00

Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)

HEBOG YR EHDYDD

Uncommon passage migrant and scarce breeding species. Amber List.

While climatic change due to global warming may not be advantageous for much of our fauna, it does seem to suit the Hobby. This species may have become a regular breeder away from its presumed 'stronghold' at Fenn's Moss.

(HY)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	28	8
Flints.	8	2

Denbs. The first record was of a single at GF on 17/04 (JN). Most of the records were of singles, but 2 adults were seen with a juvenile on 25/08 at an undisclosed location suggesting that breeding had occurred nearby, though a nest had not been found. This is the fourth successive year that a Hobby has bred in the county. The last record was a single at Bettisfield on 27/09 (NH).

Flints. The first record was a single at Rhuddlan on 4/05 (SH) and the last was a single hunting over IMF on 30/09 (KS). There were just two records of 2 birds: at Rhyl on 20/09 (ANB) and at IMF on 26/09 (EL).

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

HEBOG TREMOR

Breeding resident. Amber List.

Recorded in every month of the year in both counties, mainly as singles. It was not a good breeding season, with low productivity compared with the number of eggs laid but nonetheless, the numbers of young per nest showed a big improvement on 2007.

(PE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	52	2
Flints.	78	2

Denbs. There were ten records of 2 birds some of which were at breeding sites (eg in Wrexham, near the Police Station on 10/04 (NH)).

Flints. There were ten records of 2 birds, half of which came from CQNR in Jan, Mar, Apr and Oct. One lucky observer saw 1 during a BBS walk at Buckley on 20/05 (GMR).

Breeding (WRSG):

(PE)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	11	34	24	2.18

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)

RHEGEN Y DWR

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. All records were from CON or Wrexham Erddig/Gatewen. Birds were seen at CON every month apart from Sep. Singles were recorded at Gatewen on 7/03, 1/04 and 28/09 (GMT). Erddig held 2 or 3 birds from 15/03 to 31/03 (NH). The maximum counts of 5 were from CON on 16/01 and 26/12 (pJH, RS)

(WA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	35	5
Flints.	8	2

Flints. Records were only received from three locations. SS had up to 2 over the winter periods with records from 6/01, 20/01, 17/02, 7/10, 21/12 and 28/12 (PT). At Brickworks pond there were 2 seen on 26/02 (AOH) and 2 were at Shotwick fields on 11/03 (GR).

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

IAR DWR

Locally common breeding resident.

Denbs. Reported across the area and in every month of the year. There were double figure counts from four sites - 21

(MH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	92	21
Flints.	92	17

at Acton Park, Wrexham on 11/01 (NH), 15 at Stryt Las on 2/02 (PLa), 11 at Gatewen on 17/02 (GMT) and 10+ at CON on 7/07 (MF). Breeding activity was reported at CON, Fenn's Moss, Llyn Brenig and juveniles were reported at Tir Prince with 7 on 14/07 (SM) and 4 at Dyserth on 28/08 (SH).

Flints. Records were from the whole area with mostly single figure counts. Two sites had larger numbers, with 11 at Oakenholt on 6/10 (CM) and 17 at Greenfield Valley on 6/11 (LJ). Juveniles were recorded at Rhuddlan with 4 on 7/05, Dyserth with 3 on 7/06 (SH) and at Rhydymwyn which also had 3 on 24/07 (JVHu).

Common Coot (*Fulica atra*)

CWTIAR

Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Found on many inland lakes and other still waters.

Denbs. Records were received for all months of the year and a peak count of 77 on 25/01 was from Worthenbury (NFr). Breeding was only confirmed at Towyn where a pair of birds was observed building a nest and up to 7 juvenile birds were seen on 13/08 (SM). Large counts were received from GF where 40 or more birds were recorded on four dates (NH, NHu), and CON where 30 birds were recorded on 18/12 (HC).

(CO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	112	77
Flints.	108	81

Flints. The largest count of 81 was from CQNR (CM) on 10/11. Other large counts were 35 at FLQ on 9/12 (SD) and SS with 50+ birds seen on four occasions (PT). Breeding was confirmed from Gronant, CQNR and SS.

Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

PIODEN Y MOR

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

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. The maximum monthly count of 6,500 is the same as in 2007.

(OC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	101	300
Flints.	334	6514

Denbs. Small flocks of up to 150 were regularly reported at a variety of locations along the coast in spring, including 150 at Belgrano beach, Pensarn on 1/03 (DCR), 100 at Kinmel Bay on 5/03 (RMB), and 110 W of Towyn on 3/04 (SM). Autumn numbers started to build in Jul with 80 at CON on 12/07 (AC, HC, RC) followed by 120 at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay on 15/11 rising to 300+ on 6/12 (DCR) and 95 at Belgrano beach, Pensarn on 25/11 (SM). Adults were recorded at three inland sites during the breeding season. A single bird was seen NE of Llyn Brenig on 10/04 (SD), a pair was seen at GF between 21/04 and 27/05 (JN, KS) and 2 birds were seen at Borrás, Wrexham on 22/04 (JN).

Flints. As usual the largest counts were in the Dee Estuary and at POA during the year (see the table below) with a maximum of 6514 at Mostyn on 6/04 (GR). The Rhyl area had 150 at Marine Lake, Rhyl on 21/02 (NH) and 400+ at the same site on 6/12 (DCR). A flock of 1,000 was reported at Gronant on 3/06 (RSm). Breeding was confirmed at Shotton (PT), Oakenholt NR (CL) and CQNR (CL, ELJ).

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

(OC)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
POA	2500	2500	2000	1000	300	1200	100	4500	4000	4500	3000	2500
Mostyn	2700	5500	1200	6518	550	535	1900	865	3290	745	6000	5500
BB	3300	1750	120	110	400	400	450	470	660	1550	1200	700
OMR*	1600	1000	530	500	340	170	400	1020	840	2000	800	150

*Represents maxima for OMR and CQNR

Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

CAMBIG

Scarce visitor.

Flints. There were 5 adults at OMR on 18/02 (GR), WS had 4 birds on 19/03 (AE, AST) and CQNR had 2 on 14/09 (CM).

(AV)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	4	5

Little Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant. Scarce breeder.

Denbs. Single birds were recorded at CON on 27/04, 29/07 (juvenile) and 1/08 (pJH). A pair was sighted S of Fenns Moss on 12/06 (AIK).

(LP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	2
Flints.	45	2

Flints. The earliest record was a male on 15/03 at CQNR (WG). The records came from six locations: CQNR, FLQ, NW of Rhuddlan, IMF, Connah's Quay (Wevre Brook) and Queensferry. Nesting was confirmed at CQNR (CL). IMF had 5 on 18/07, and 2 on 20/07 (CW) being the latest record.

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

CWTIAD TORCHOG

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

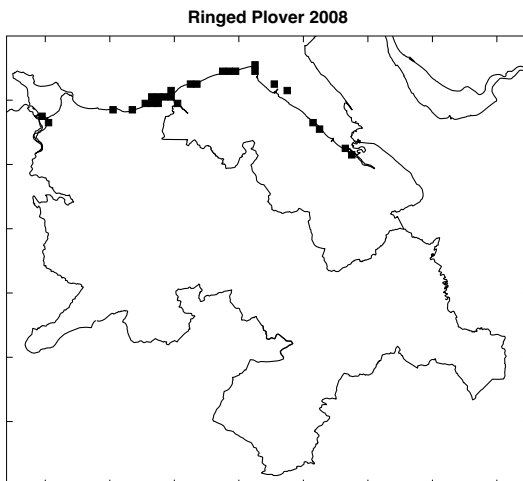
Denbs. The highest spring count was only 6 until a build-up at CON in the last few days of May, peaking at 53 (pJH). In autumn the highest count was a mere 30 birds E of Kinmel Bay on 14/09 (KS), with other counts of 27 at Towyn on 20/10 (SM) and 20 at CON on 30/12. SM confirmed breeding at sites W of Towyn and W of Pensarn beach.

(RP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	47	53
Flints.	60	100

Monthly maxima at POA:

(RP)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
POA	6	4	12	6	60	5		100	100		7	6

Flints. The counts at POA suggested only a few wintering and summering birds supplemented by a small amount of spring and autumn passage through the site (see table on p38). Elsewhere only small spring flocks were reported: 21 NE of Rhyl on 1/01 (RMB) and 26 at Walwen Marsh, Bagillt on 10/02 (GR) but records of 5 or less were more common. Autumn brought equally low flock sizes, with 40 at CQNR on 20/08 and 29 at Walwen Marsh on 16/11(GR). Breeding was confirmed at Gronant on 4/07 when 2 chicks were ringed (pBH).



European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)

CWTIAD AUR

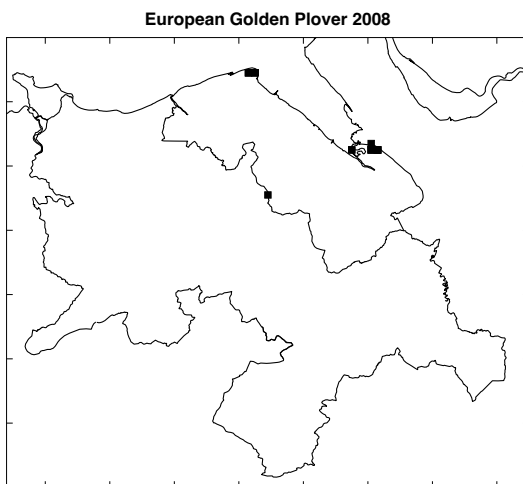
Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP

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. There were no records of breeding.

(GP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	15	400

Denbs. The only record was of 1 seen near Glyn Arthur on 1/09 (RA).

Flints. Most birds were reported from the IMF/Shotwick fields/Shotwick Rifle Range area. A flock of 150, seen at Shotwick Rifle Range on 4/01, increased to a maximum of 400 at Shotwick fields on 25/02 before falling to 50 on 13/04, the last spring record (CW, GR). The first, and largest, autumn sighting was 172 birds at Shotwick Rifle Range on 16/11, the same day that had 78 at WS (GR, ST).



Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

CWTIAD LLWYD

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

(GV)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	24	12

Denbs. The only record was for a single at Towyn on 20/10 (SM).

Flints. The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance but only small numbers are found on the Welsh side, concentrated at POA (see table, below). The only spring record away from this site was for 4 at CQNR on 9/02 (GR). In the autumn, up to 3 were counted at CQNR on 20/08 and 17/10 and on 14/12 at WS.

Monthly maxima at POA:

(GV)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
POA	92	70	31	15					30	25	20	30

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

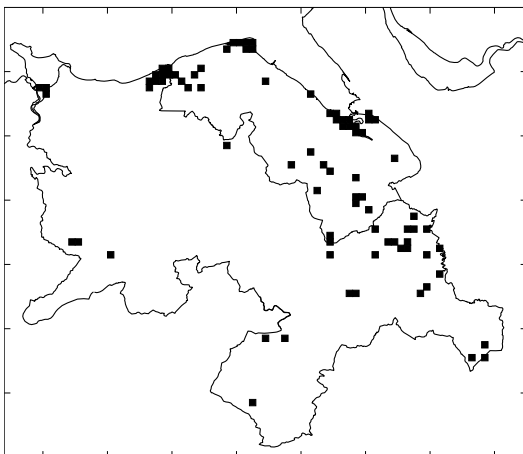
CORNCHWIGLEN

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

(L.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	109	2800
Flints.	248	1700

This species is recorded in moderate numbers at coastal and inland locations throughout Clwyd during winter months. Unusually in 2008 the maximum count was registered in Denbs not Flints.

Northern Lapwing 2008



Denbs. The largest flock of the year, 2,800, was recorded E of Kinnel Bay on 19/01 (DCR). Most other large flocks in spring were seen at inland sites: 200 in Alyn Valley, Wrexham on 6/01 (KS), 460 S of Trevalyn Meadows on 1/02, 370 NE of Ridleywood on 8/02 (both NFr), and 700+ at Borrass Quarry on 26/02 (JN). On the coast, numbers were more modest, with 80 SW of Towyn on 7/04 (SM). Autumn numbers were relatively low, the highlights being 280 at Borrass Quarry on 23/08 (JN), reducing to 130 by 28/09, and 1,000 seen E of Kinnel Bay on 27/11 (DCR). Adults were

noted in nineteen possible breeding sites, the same as in 2007. Further reports had display activity or possible nest sites at five of those locations: Bettisfield, Borrass Head, E of Marford, S of Towyn and CON (NH, JuR, SM, StM, NiW) and recently fledged young were recorded at CON on 4/05 (StM).

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

(L.)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rhyl*	1100								30	30	250	780
POA		300								100	200	
OMR	800	400							280	76		420
CQNR**	1500	870					80	175	330	335	1700	200
WS	1600	500				120	70	80	150	72	910	545

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

**CQNR: includes maxima for CQNR and WS.

A large flock of 990 was also recorded at IMF on 13/01 (CW). There were few significant flocks reported at inland sites, the largest being 46 birds at FLQ on 19/09 (GNR). Birds were observed during the breeding season at nine locations, usually in small numbers but including 27 pairs at Shotwick fields on 16/04 (CW), 53 birds at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 11/05 and 53 there on 23/06 during BBS walks (IMS). Successful breeding was confirmed at Whitford (3 juveniles on 28/06) (BH) and Sandycroft (3 chicks ringed on 7/06) (IMS).

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

PIBYDD YR ABER

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

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

(KN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	1
Flints.	111	3000

Denbs. Singles were seen on 8-9/08 at CON (pJH) and on 14/09 E of Kinmel Bay (KS).

Flints. This year's counts were lower than in recent years. A flock of 3,000 at CQNR in Jan (GR), the maximum recorded for the year, had reduced to 550 by Feb (CL). On 9/03 flocks of 600 were seen at Bagillt (Walwen Marsh) and 250 at Mostyn (GR). The monthly totals at POA are shown in the table, below. In autumn, birds concentrated at CQNR between Sep-Dec, peaking at 2,000 in Oct (GR, PDS, CM, RR). A flock of 600 was recorded at POA on 7/12 (GR). Away from the Dee Estuary, the only significant sighting was 200 birds at Rhyl Marine Lake on 21/02 (NH).

Monthly maxima at POA:

(KN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
POA	1200	400	600					6	200	150	350	1000

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)

PIBYDD Y TYWOD

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

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.	28	30
Flints.	28	100

Denbs. Very small flocks were seen at a number of coastal locations, the largest flock being

30+ W of Towyn on 12/01 (SM) and 30 at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay on 5/03 (RMB). Autumn counts remained small, with a maximum of 23 seen at Horton's Nose on 15/08 (SM).

Flints. Sightings along the coast from POA westwards occur regularly, usually in small groups with occasional larger flocks. Ffrith beach, Prestatyn had 70 on 13/01 (DCR) and 100 were reported NE of Rhyl on 3/02, falling to 40 by 3/03 (RMB). Autumn flocks included 40 NE of Rhyl on 24/10 and 30 at Gronant dunes on 3/12 (RMB). The first birds of the autumn passage were 20 at Gronant on 28/07 (RC, AC, HC).

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)

PIBYDD BACH

Very scarce passage migrant, usually found on autumn passage.

Denbs. Ten of the records are of sightings at CON. The earliest was a single on 3/08 (pJH) and a total of six records, all singles, between 3-10/08 (RS, pJH). Two birds were seen E of Kinmel Bay on 14/09 (KS), 2 at CON between 18-21/09 and the last date they were seen (8/10) there were a single and 3 recorded separately at CON (pJH, DGi).

(LX)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	11	3
Flints.	8	3

Flints. An adult in summer plumage was an exceptional sighting NW of Gronant on 13/05 (JuR). In autumn, up to 3 were seen at or S of Rhyl between 7-20/09 (ANB, SH), 2 were at POA on 14/09 (GR) and the last record was a juvenile at CQNR on 12/10 (ANB).

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

PIBYDD CAMBIG

Scarce autumn passage migrant. WBAP

Denbs. All records were at CON where there was an early record on 4/05 and the rest were seen between 17/10 and 31/10. All records were for singles except on 17/10 when 2 were seen (pJH, PSu).

(CV)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	7	2
Flints.	18	2

Flints. Between 7/09 and 20/09, there were eight records of up to 2 at Rhyl (ANB), 2 at POA on 14/09 (GR), 2 far S of Rhyl on 16/09 (SH) and 2 at CQNR on 20/09 (StaS). A second wave of sightings started on 5/10 with a single at CQNR (GR) followed by singles at Rhyl on 11/10 and 17/10 (ANB), and at CQNR 2 on 11/10 and singles between 12/10 and 16/10 (PDS, ANB).

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

PIBYDD Y MAWN

Passage migrant and common winter visitor. Amber List.

The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site for wintering Dunlin and flocks seen on the Flintshire coast contribute to that status. The monthly maximum count, 3,000, is the same as last year but that was the lowest since at least 1999. Small flocks are seen along the Denbighshire coast but flocks of 100+ are unusual.

(DN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	62	400
Flints.	158	3000

Denbs. 400 were seen W of Towyn on 19/01(SM), and 100 at CON on 27/04, falling to 69 on 29/05 (pJH). The autumn passage did not provide any significant flocks, the largest being 50 E of Kinmel Bay on 14/09 (KS) and 50+ W of Towyn on 14/11 (SM). Two records for inland

locations were for singles at GF on 27/04 (JN) and NE of Wrexham on 2/12 (CoJ).

Flints. Monthly maxima for CQNR are shown in the table. (Data provided by WeBS, low-tide counts, CM, GR, PDS, RR). At POA the maxima at the start of the year were 1,000 on 9/01 and 800 on 10/02 (GR), with the end of year maxima being 500 on 21/11 and 500 on 3/12 (GR).

(DN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
POA	1000	800	30	20	150	20	20	28	250		500	500
OMR*	3000	2000	70	10	10		9		100	300	1200	2500

* Represents maxima for OMR, WS and CQNR

Smaller flocks were seen west of POA: 200 were at Rhyl Marine Lake on 29/02 (ST), 45 at Gronant dunes on 28/05 (RMB) and 300+ S of Rhyl on 7/12 (DCR).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

PIBYDD TORCHOG

Scarce passage migrant.

Denbs. Nine of the sightings were at CON between 30/07 and 20/09 (pJH, StC). A single was also seen E of Kinmel Bay on 14/09 (KS).

(RU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	10	1
Flints.	23	5

Flints. Eleven records were in spring, nine of them at IMF. The earliest was 1 at IMF on 13/01 (CW) followed by 1 at CQNR on 6/02 (SDe). Birds were regularly reported at IMF between 4/03 and 16/05, peaking at 5 birds between 21/03 and 6/04. The last bird of spring was seen at IMF on 2/04 (CW). Autumn sightings started on 17/08 when 1 was present at IMF (CW) and peaked in the following week with 3 at Rhyl on 24/08, 4 S of Rhuddlan on 29/08 and 2 more at Rhyl on 31/08 (ANB). Singles were recorded on eight dates in Sep: five from Rhyl or S of Rhyl (DCR, SH) two from CQNR (CM, PDS) and the last bird of the year was seen at IMF on 30/09 (KS).

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*)

GIACH FACH

Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Probably under-recorded.

Denbs. Two records were in spring, a single at CON on 16/02 (pJH) and 1 near Bryneglwys on 22/04 (JLR). In autumn, the first record was on 29/10 at Towyn (SM). All further sightings were at CON in Nov-Dec (pJH, StC).

(JS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	7	1
Flints.	9	4

Flints. In contrast to Denbs, eight of the nine records were in the period Jan-Mar. The earliest was a single on 4/01 at Shotwick Rifle Range (GR) followed by 2 at Gronant dunes on 11/01 (DCR). Sightings for the IMF/Shotwick fields area on four dates between 14/02 -11/03 had a maximum of 4 birds (ST/GR) but potentially 10 individuals. The only autumn record was on 14/11 at Gronant dunes (ANB).

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

GIACH GYFFREDIN

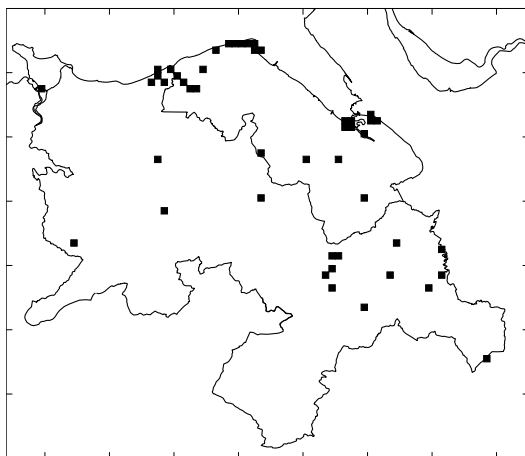
Rare breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor in moderate numbers. Amber List.

Denbs. Regular records from CON with maxima of 40 in Jan and 30 in Feb (pJH). SM reported 11 at Towyn on 28/02. The first autumn sighting was 18 on 15/10 NE of Ridleywood (NFr). CON had 25+ in Oct and numbers peaked at 78 on 15/11 (pJH). Although birds were seen at five potential breeding locations, there was only one record of a male 'singing' N of Llyn Brenig on 10/06 (RCa).

(SN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	65	40
Flints.	82	156

Flints. The maximum count, 156 birds, was at CQNR on 19/01 (CM). Shotwick fields also had good numbers, with 58 on 11/03 (GR) and there were 30 at POA on 14/12 (GR). Smaller groups were found at many coastal locations during spring but the only records from inland sites were from Rhydymwyn with 4 on 30/01 and 5 on 17/02 (JVHu). In autumn, birds returned in small groups to predominantly coastal locations, with a peak of 76 at Shotwick fields on 16/11 (ST). There were 27 seen SE of Rhuddlan on 22/11 (SH) and further inland 36 were recorded at FLQ on 21/11 (GNR), and 23 E of Sychdyn on 7/12 (PDM). There were no records at all between 22/04 – 25/07 and records in the weeks prior to this period did not indicate any breeding activity.

Common Snipe 2008



Eurasian Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

CYFFYLOG

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. All records were of single birds, and only a single summer record was received from Foel Frech, Clocaenog on 14/06 (DDi). Winter records were from Llyn Brenig on 6/01 (IE, PBu), CON on 13/02, 25/11 and 26/11 (pJH) a regular wintering site at Abergele hospital on 2/12 (RS), Melin-y-Coed on 2/12 (RAP) and Loggerheads on 31/12 (DDi).

(WK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	8	1
Flints.	12	2

Flints. Nerwys Mountain had 2 on 4/07 where they were observed roding (NH, KS). Single birds were observed at SS on 6/01 (PT), Llyn Helyg on 23/04 (ELJ), Dobshill on 7/06 (DCR) and numerous dates through Nov and Dec at Rhuddlan (SH).

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

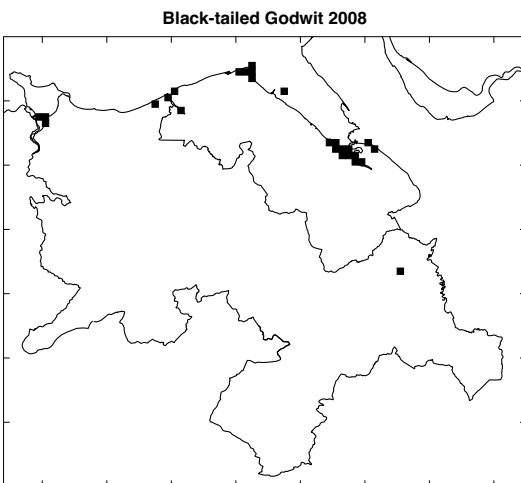
Passage migrant. Principally a winter visitor but increasingly found through the year. Amber List.

(BW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	70	39
Flints.	208	4000

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

Denbs. Away from the Dee Estuary nearly all the records were from CON where the peak count was 39 on 15/09 (pJH). The peak summer count was 23 on 7/07 (MF) while the peak count in the spring was 4 on 9/05 (pJH). Away from CON, Kinmel Bay had a flock of 9 on the beach on 1/07 (KS) while the only inland record was a single at Borras, Wrexham on 17/12 (JN).

Flints. Nearly all records were from the Dee Estuary where the peak early year count was 2,500 at OMR on 11/01 (GR). The birds peaked in the autumn when 4,000 were present at OMR on 4/09 (GR) and 24/09 (GR), down on last year's peak count. There were 3,500 present on WS on 10/11 (CM). Peak counts at POA were 2,000 on 3/12 (GR), a place where numbers seem to be on the increase, while 427 birds were feeding on the flooded fields at Warren Farm on 14/12 (JuR). The peak summer count of non-breeding birds was 1,000 feeding on the mudflats at OMR on 30/07 (PSU). These birds regularly commute between OMR/CQNR and IMF. Away from the Dee Estuary a flock of 8 was seen on the beach at Rhyl on 3/07. On 27/09 there were 2 colour-ringed birds, both of which were ringed in Iceland. See the Ringing Report, Selected Recoveries for more details.



Dee Estuary monthly maxima:

(BW)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2500	1000	800	470	175	388	1000	2860	4000	3500	3500	2000

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

RHOSTOG GYNFFRONFRITH

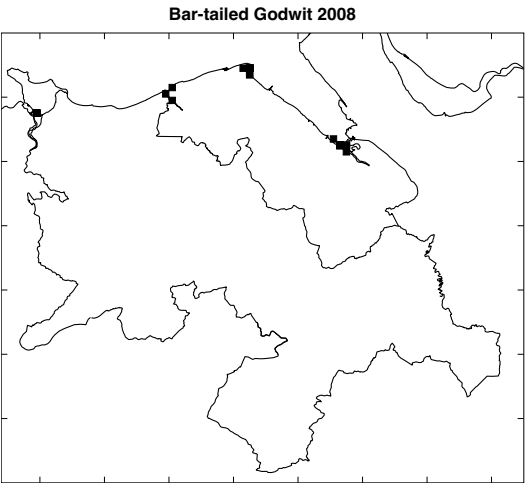
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. A single bird was recorded at Kinmel Bay on 14/09 (KS) and all others were recorded at CON between May and Oct with 3 there on 15/06 (DCR).

(BA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	10	3
Flints.	37	20

Flints. The Dee Estuary is the primary site with twenty seven records. A single bird was seen on mud flats from Flint on 8/12 (GR). The highest counts were at POA with 12 on 18/05, 20 on 14/09 and 17 on 30/09 (GR). Away from the Dee Estuary two records were received from

Rhyl, both of singles on 31/08 and 16/09.



Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

COEGLFINIR

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

Denbs. Records were from Apr, May, Jun, Jul and Aug. The high count of 25 birds was from Marford on 2/05 (JuR). The first record was of 3 birds at CON on 17/04 (pJH) and the last of 2 flying S over Rhos-on-Sea on 28/08 (STh).

(WM)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	22	25
Flints.	26	31

Flints. An early record of 31 was from Llyn Helyg on 17/03 (ELJ). The last record was of 3 at Walwen marsh, Bagillt on 17/08 (GR). Records were received from Mar to Aug.

Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

GYLFINIR

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

The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site.

(CU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	118	506
Flints.	362	1200

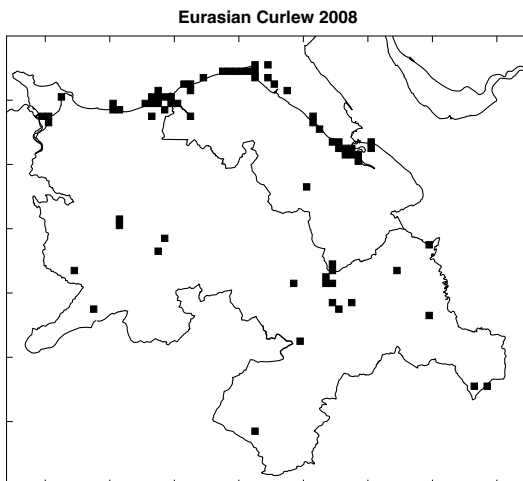
Denbs. Records were received from every month of the year. The highest counts were all from CON, with 200 or more birds recorded on eight occasions. Away from CON the highest count was 295 seen at Towyn on 14/11 (SM). Probable breeding was recorded in the county from at least three sites.

Maximum numbers at selected sites:

(CU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	84	94	45	21	23	12	86	134	155	62	60	20
POA	350	500	500	450	50	170	700	1000	1200	800	450	300
WS	64	80	54	45	14	3	92	51	80	51	17	23

Flints. As with previous years the majority of records are received from CQNR and the surrounding area and along the coast to Rhyl. The table, above, shows the monthly maxima seen at POA. A high count of 500 at Mostyn docks was lower than in previous years. The only inland record was a single bird heard at Rhydymwyn on 17/04 (JVHu). No evidence of breeding was recorded.

MAP



Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

Passage migrant and scarce over wintering visitor.

Denbs. Recorded mainly from CON on autumn passage with a single bird seen on 30/07 (pJH), 31/07 and 3/08 (DCR). The only other record was of a single bird seen on 11/09 at Borrás, Wrexham (JN).

(DR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	1
Flints.	160	13

Flints. All records were from the Inner Dee Estuary, CQNR/OMR where the peak count in the early part of the year was 12 on 1/01 (CL). The peak spring passage count was 6 seen on the Border Pool at IMF on 24/04 (CW), with all birds in full summer plumage. The peak autumn passage count again was 13 at CQNR on 21/07 (CM), with the peak late winter count again at CQNR of 12 on 11/11 (PSU). The only record away from the Dee Estuary was of a single bird seen at Rhyl on 13/09.

Dee Estuary monthly maxima:

(DR)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	12	7	4	6			13	12	10	12	12	11

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.

(RK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	75	178
Flints.	392	3000

Denbs. Records were received from ten locations, seven coastal and three inland. Inland records were of singles at Tal-y-Cafn on 5/04 (StC) and Gresford Lake on 7/12 where a bird was recorded roosting on ice in the middle of the lake (JN).

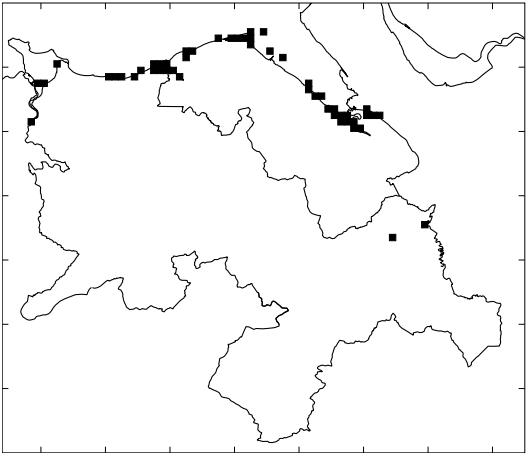
There were 2 at Trevalyn Meadows on 1/02 (NFr). From coastal sites there were seventy seven records with a peak count of 178 at CON on 27/03 (pJH). Records were received from every month of the year.

Flints. CQNR/OMR was the principal site with 225 records. Peak counts were 3,000 on 23/07 (WG) and 2,000 on 4/09 and 17/10 (GR) and the monthly maxima for POA are shown in the table, below. Records of displaying birds were received from Shotwick fields from May although there were no records of confirmed breeding. Away from the Inner Dee area records were received from Bagillt, Gronant, POA, Prestatyn and Rhyl. The only inland records were received from Rhuddlan with 7 seen on 2/01 and 17 there on 3/08 (SH).

POA monthly maxima:

(RK)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	200	400	300	233		6	70	250	400	700	1000	300

Common Redshank 2008



Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Passage migrant.

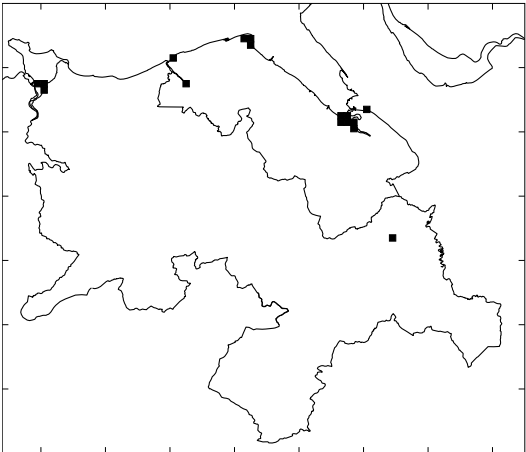
Denbs. A single record was received from GF of a single on 27/08 of a calling bird possibly flushed from pools (JN). All other records were from CON with a peak count of 3 seen on four dates between Jul and Sep (pJH). Sightings were mainly from May onwards, with only a single bird seen on 10/01.

Flints. In a similar pattern to 2007 records were received for all months of the year apart from May and Jun. The highest count of 30 was from CQNR on 21/08 (DNS). Only ten records were received away from CQNR area, these were single birds at Rhyl on 24/08 (ANB), Rhuddlan on 29/08 (ANB) and IMF on 12/04 (CW) and seven records from POA with 2 on 9/07, 17/08, 3/09, 14/09, 30/09 and 3

PIBYDD COESWERDD

(GK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	33	3
Flints.	209	30

Common Greenshank 2008



on 20/07 (GR).

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

PIBYDD GWYRDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

Denbs. Records were received from 3 sites. Singles were recorded at Fenn's Moss on 12/06 (AIK), Borras, Wrexham on 22/08 (JN) and GF on 18/09 (JN). CON was the site of the remaining records with 5 birds seen on 30/08 (pJH), all other CON records were of singles. Records were received from Apr, Jun, Jul, Aug and Sep.

(GE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	12	5
Flints.	12	3

Flints. All but two records were from Jan to Apr, indicating over-wintering birds. A single was recorded at SS on 6/01 (PT), whilst 2 were recorded at Rhuddlan on 8/02 and 7/03 and a single on 9/02, 22/02, 30/03 and 18/04 (all SH). Shotwick fields on 16/02, Deeside Industrial park on 25/02 (both BO) and Padeswood on 3/03 (GNR) also had records of 1 bird. Later records were of 1 at Rhuddlan on 17/08 (SH) and 3 at WS on 18/08 (GR).

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

Double passage migrant and breeding visitor

Denbs. The first spring bird was a single at Tal-y-Cafn on 24/03 (AnC, HC) with 2 present on 5/04 (STC). At least 5 were present at CON on 21/04 (pJH) and 6 there on 11/07 (pJH) while 4 were seen around GF on 24/04 (JN). Records were received from CON right through the summer. The last migrant birds were seen as singles at GF on 17/09 (JN), but wintering birds were present at Tal-y-Cafn on 26/12 (RSW), a regular wintering spot, and at Sutton Green on 27/12 (NH).

(CS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	37	6
Flints.	109	9

Flints. A bird was present at CQNR right through the early part of the year, mainly around the bunded pools. The first real migrant appeared at Rhuddlan on the 11/04 (SH) with 6 here on 26/04 (SH). The only inland birds were seen at FLQ with 5 on 27/04 (KhD). A juvenile was seen at CQNR on 7/07 (CL), probably indicating local breeding. The peak count on the estuary was 9 seen close to the Connah's Quay bridge on 1/08 (LC). The last migrant of the year was a single at Rhuddlan on 17/09 (SH). A wintering individual was in place at CQNR from 16/10 to the year's end.

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

CWTIAD Y TRAETH

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. All records were from coastal sites, from CON to Kinmel Bay and only missing in Jun and Jul. Maximum counts were 56 at Towyn on 3/04 (SM), 45 at Llanddulas on 1/09 (EL), 48 at Kinmel Bay on 15/08 (SM) and 30 at CON on 1/08 (pJH).

(TT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	37	56+
Flints.	50	55

Flints. Recorded in every month except Jun. Rhyl area had most reports with 40 at Rhyl golf course on 26/02 (RMB) and 46 at Gronant on 15/11 (DCR). Dee Estuary held a number of records with Mostyn having the maximum of 55 on 16/11 (GR).

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

Passage migrant in small numbers. WBAP

Flints. The records of 3 birds were seen at Gronant dunes on 2/07 and 16/07 (RSm, ANB).

(AC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	4	3

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

GWYLAN GOES DDU

Passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. There were far fewer records this year and all were from two locations during Apr, Jun and Jul: offshore at Towyn and CON. The highest count of 5+ was from offshore at Towyn on 30/06 (SM).

(KI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	7	5+
Flints.	1	1

Flints. There was 1 at Talacre on 19/08 (GNR).

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

GWYLAN BENDDU

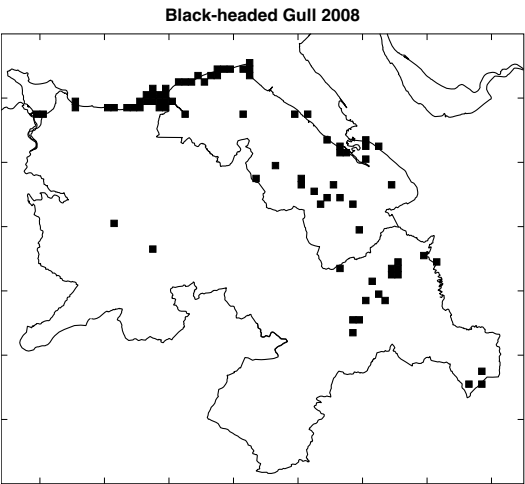
Common resident and winter visitor. Amber List. WBAP

Recorded in every month in both counties.

(BH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	178	1000
Flints.	193	1200

Denbs. Records were received from across the county in every month, with the highest count of 1000 at CON on 2/08 (pJH). Some 8.4% of records came from GBW sites, not just in winter, but during every month except Jan, Jun, Sep and Oct. Presumably food scraps attract them into gardens. Breeding activity was recorded in just two locations: Fenn's Moss on 12/06 (AlK) and Llyn Brenig on 22/05 (NiW).

Flints. Most records were from coastal areas with the highest count of 1200 at CQNR on 4/07 (GR). A surprising 38.9% of records came from GBW sites, not just in winter but in every month of the year. There was just one breeding record when a single nestling was ringed at SS on 13/07 (pBH).



Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)

GWYLAN FECHAN

Scarce passage migrant.

Denbs. A single first-summer bird was recorded at KBRH on 1/07 (KS).

(LU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	1	1

Flints. A single first-summer bird, possibly the same as the bird seen in Denbs, was reported at Rhyl on 3/07 (ANB).

Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*)

GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

Scarce but increasing visitor

Denbs. All records were of single birds at six locations: CON on 7/07 (MF, pJH), Llanddulas on 13/03 (JuR) and 16/03 (KS), Pensarn beach on 4/03 (RS), Towyn on 14, 25 and 26/03 (SM), near Borrás, Wrexham on 18/11 (JN) and GF on 22/11 (ANB).

(MU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	10	1
Flints.	9	2

Flints. Records were received from five locations. There were singles at WS on 16/02 (MMu), near Rhuddlan on 7/04 (SH), CQNR on 4/07 and Flint saltmarsh on 21/07 (GR). There were 2 adults near SS on 27/04 and 8/06 and an adult and a second-winter were there on 4/05 and a first-summer bird on 27/07 (PT).

Mew Gull (*Larus canus*)

GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Denbs. Records were received from across the county with the highest count of 2,300 on the River Dee floods at Trevalyn Meadows on 25/01 (NFr). Further large flocks were recorded with 1,200 on the River Dee floods near Ridleywood on 8/02 (NFr), 1,100+ flying over Acton Park, Wrexham on 1/03 and 1,350+ on spring passage over GF on 2/03 (JN).

(CM)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	70	2300
Flints.	33	600

Flints. All records were from coastal sites except Llyn Helyg, Penycloddiau and near Bodfari. The highest count of 600 was near Bodfari on 24/02 (JiW). There was also a flock of 500 near Rhuddlan on 25/02 (SH).

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*)

GWYLAN FODRWBIG

Irregular and scarce winter visitor.

Denbs. An adult was at GF on 2/12 (JN).

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

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF

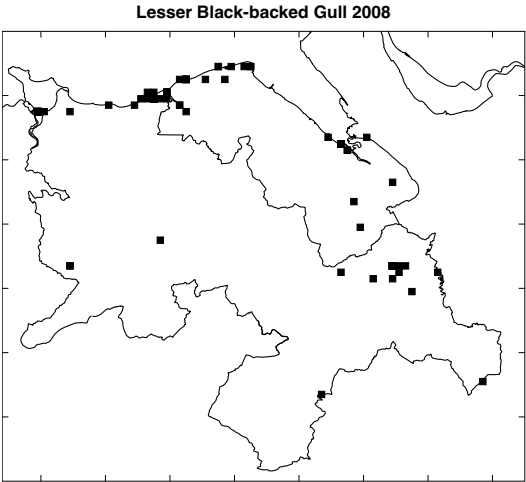
Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber List.

Recorded each month in both counties, except Apr and Nov in Flints.

(LB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	80	900+
Flints.	31	80

Denbs. Records were received from across the county with large flocks recorded at GF, Borras Head and NE Borras. The highest count of 900+ was at GF on 7/07 (JN). There was one breeding record at Towyn on 6/06 when one bird was recorded sitting on a nest, with another bird also possibly on a nest (SM).

Flints. Records were received from coastal areas except for one record of 1+ birds at FLQ on 9/12 (SD). There were no sightings of large flocks and the highest count was of 80 near Rhuddlan on 16/05 (SH).



Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

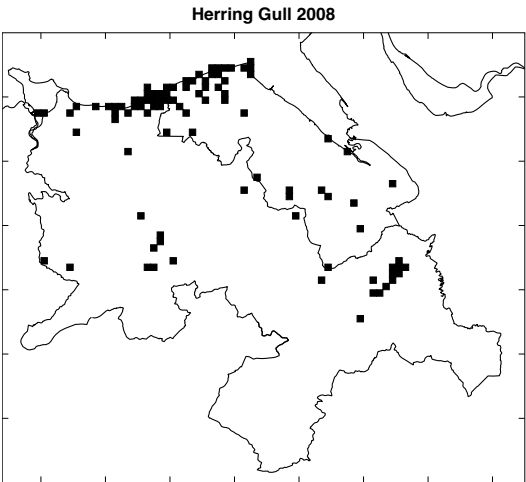
GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

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

Denbs. Records were received from across the county with large flocks reported at GF, KBRH, CON, Rhyd-y-Foel, and Towyn. The highest count of 1100+ was at GF on 1/01 (JN). Breeding activity was recorded at S Kinnel Bay and Towyn (SM).

(HG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	284	1100+
Flints.	83	500

Flints. Records were received mainly from coastal areas with large flocks reported at Gronant, Dyserth and Rhyl, near Rhuddlan and Barkby Beach, Prestatyn. The highest count of 500 was at the golf course at Rhyl on 14/03 (RMB). The only breeding record was at Gwaenysgor on 4/04 when a bird was reported sitting on a nest (ELJ).



Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*)

GWYLAN GOES FELEN

Regular but scarce vagrant.

Denbs. All records were from GF where a single adult was present on 1/01 and 23/02 and 2 adults were present on 22 and 23/09 (all KS).

(YG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	2
Flints.	0	

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*)

GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

Irregular and scarce winter visitor.

Denbs. The first-winter bird from the end of 2007 continued to visit GF until it was last reported on 24/02 (JN, KS). There were 2 there on 13/01 (KS), both of which were juveniles. A single first-winter bird was then reported on 30/11 at the same location (JN).

(IG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	8	2
Flints.	0	

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)

GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

Irregular and scarce winter visitor.

Denbs. A single second-winter bird was recorded at GF on 10 and 12/01 (JN) and a single first-summer bird was a long-stayer near Llandulas, on the beach, on 28/06 (JuW) and 25/08 (StC). Records from Birdguides indicate the bird was present from 7/04.

(GZ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	1
Flints.	0	

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF

Non-breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. Records were received every month, mostly from coastal areas, with the maximum count of 10+ at CON on 7/07 (MF). Inland records, mainly of singles, were received from Berwyn, Pentrellyncymmer, Llyn Brenig, GF with up to 4 on 15/01 (JN) and Llyn Aled.

Flints. All records were from coastal areas with the highest count of 80 at CQNR on 14/11 (GR).

(GB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	48	10+
Flints.	56	80

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*)

MORWENNOL FECHAN

Passage migrant and regular summer breeding visitor. Red List.

Flints. The first seen this year were 4 at Gronant on 15/05 (KS). The peak count in spring was 200 birds at Gronant on 28/05 (RMB). The colony at Gronant held 101 pairs eventually fledging 104 chicks, 21 of which were ringed on 4/07 (pBH). Peak count in the late summer was 340 seen on 16/07 (RSm) as a second wave of birds arrived at Gronant. The last birds of the year were 8 seen at POA on 20/07 (GR).

(AF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	17	340

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Rare vagrant

CORS-WENNOL FARFOG

Denbs. One was seen at CON on 9/05 (pJH). Accepted by the BBRC.

(WD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)

Irregular, scarce passage migrant in spring and autumn.

CORS-WENNOL DDU

Flints. All six records were from Shotwick fields over three days in Sep. The first record was of 1 adult on 6/09 (KS, NHu, GNR). On 7/09 2 were present (HC, NT) and on 9/09 a single juvenile was reported (AN).

(BJ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	6	2

White-winged Black Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)

Rare passage migrant

CORS-WENNOL ADEINWEN

Flints. A juvenile was at Shotwick lakes, seen and photographed, on 3, 6 and 10/09 (BaB). Accepted by the WRP.

(WJ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	1	1

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)

Summer migrant. Amber List.

MORWENNOL BIGDDU

The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain for summer/autumn passage. Adults bring newly fledged chicks to feed in the mouth of the Estuary.

(TE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	57	400
Flints.	29	590

Denbs. First birds seen were 2 offshore at Towyn on 14/04. There were 15 there on 23/05. Also, 20 juveniles were off Towyn with a flock of 300 adults on 30/07. The peak count was 400+ off Kinmel Bay on 15/08 and the last of the year was a single off Towyn on 26/09 (all SM).

Flints. First bird of the year was seen at Gronant on 22/04 (JuR). There were 6 at SS on 15/06 (PT) while 64 were at Gronant on 3/06 (RSm). The peak summer count was 590 at Gronant beach on 30/07 (RSm). The last of the year were 20 off Rhyl on 23/09 (RMB).

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Amber List.

MÔRWENNOL GYFFREDIN

Denbs. First record of the year was on 24/04 (JN), a single bird at GF. There were 85+ on the beach at Towyn on 30/07 (SM) while 15+ juveniles were also there on the same day (SM). There were 24 at Kinmel Bay on 15/08 (SM). The last of the year were 2 off Towyn beach on 18/08 (SM).

(CN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	7	89+
Flints.	39	1248

Flints. First birds of the year were seen on 25/04 (LC) at SS when 5 were present in the colony area. The larger counts were 50 at WS on 20/07 (GR), 50+ near Gronant on 2/07 (DG), 50+ at CQNR on 3/07 and 60+ at SS on 27/04. At SS 624 pairs bred, leading to an estimate of 1248 birds present assuming 2 adults for each 'apparently occupied nest'. These pairs produced only 537 chicks. There were 150 near Bagillt on 23/06 (GR) and at Gronant on 30/07 (RSm), 114 birds were present in the tern roost. Last bird of the year was seen on 4/09 (GR) at OMR/CQNR.

Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*)

MÔRWENNOL WRIDOG

Irregular, scarce passage migrant. WBAP

Denbs. A single was recorded at the River Clwyd, Rhyl on 28/06 and photographed (StC). This bird visited both sides of the river so was also a record in Flints.

(RS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	2	2

Flints. Apart from the river-crossing bird, there was a record of 2 adults at SS on 13/07 (PT).

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

MÔRWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Passage Migrant. Amber List.

Flints. Three of the records were for two consecutive days from the Dee Estuary. Two separate reports were received from Shotwick fields on 10/09, of 1 adult (ANB) and 1 juvenile (KS). The third record was of 1 at Border Pool, Inner Marsh Farm RSPB on 11/09 (pCW). The last record was of 2 at POA on 14/09 (GR).

(AE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	4	2

Common Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)

GWYLOG

Regular visitor in small numbers to coastal waters.

Denbs. There were 2 offshore at Towyn on 14/03 (SM).

(GU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	2
Flints.	0	

Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

LLURS

Small numbers occasionally recorded offshore

Denbs. There were 2 offshore at Llanddulas on 17/02 (KS) and five other records from offshore at Towyn with a maximum count of 40+ on 3/04 (SM).

(RA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	6	40+
Flints.	0	

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

COLOMEN Y GRAIG

Common feral species, especially in towns

Denbs. Recorded in every month of the year with 72.6% of

(FP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	117	194+
Flints.	101	120+

records from GBW sites at Towyn and Tallarn Green. Most of the records were of 1-10 but the highest count was at a railway bridge roosting site at KBRH with 194+ on 5/10 (DCR).

Flints. Again recorded in every month with 66.3% of records from GBW sites, mainly at Buckley, Prestatyn and Rhuddlan. Again, most records were of 1-10 birds but the highest count was 120+ at River Clwyd, Rhyl (close to the railway bridge) on 4/01 (DCR).

Stock Pigeon (*Columba oenas*)

COLOMEN WYLLT

Breeding resident. Amber list

(SD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	60	140
Flints.	27	120

Denbs. Recorded every month except Dec. Most of the sightings were in S of area with highest count of 140 at Holt on 14/03 (NFr). One nesting record with 2 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 21/06 (pBH).

Flints. Records were from Jan to Sep, mostly of 1-4 birds. There was one nesting record from Beeches Farm, Sandycroft and 2 nestlings also ringed there (IMS). The larger counts were all from the Shotwick area with the highest count of 120 at Shotwick fields on 7/02 (CW).

Breeding (JLR, IMS):

(SD)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	23	50	30	1.30

Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

YSGUTHAN

Abundant breeding resident, often culled by local agricultural interests.

(WP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	892	450
Flints.	1324	300+

Denbs. The records were widely distributed from all areas, with 72.8% from GBW sites, with the largest garden count of 6 at Rhosllanerchrugog on 2/11 (GAM). Most counts were of 1-12 birds and the highest count was 450 flying over Penycae to NE on 16/12 (JAJ). Other larger counts were: 20+ at Bodelwyddan Castle on 1/01 (AC, HC, RC), 30+ at Kinmel Bay on 6/07 (DCR), 30 at GF on 10/11 (JN), 50 at Bontuchel on 16/11 (DDi) and 117 near Penley during a Bird Atlas visit on 15/11 (NHu).

Flints. Again, most (68.1%) of records were from GBW sites with the highest garden count coming from Buckley with 10 on 10/02 (DSh). Recorded from the whole area with higher counts outside summer months, the exception being the largest count coming from Sychdyn with 300+ on 18/08 (AB, IMS). Other large counts were: 47 at CQNR on 30/01 (CL), 40+ at POA on 23/02 (DCR), 82 at Oakenholt on 11/02 (CL), 25 at Rhydymwyn on 10/01 (JVHu) and 100 at Rhuddlan on 26/10 (SH).

Breeding (AmB):

(WP)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	2	2	0	0.00

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

TURTUR DORCHOG

Common and widespread breeding resident, chiefly of suburban areas.

Denbs. There was a huge increase in records over 2007 with 88.6% from GBW sites. The maximum count was also substantially higher at 45, though most records were of 1-10 birds. There were records in every month of the year with evidence of breeding recorded from Towyn, Penycae and Wrexham, including mating behaviour witnessed in Nov. Most records were from the Wrexham and Towyn areas. The peak count of 45 birds was recorded at GF on 11/09 (KS, JN).

(CD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1014	45
Flints.	1248	40

Flints. As with Denbs there was another huge increase in records, with 68.8% from GBW sites and many more provided by JVHu. Rhydywmwyn provided almost a quarter of all records, with a maximum of 7 recorded on 17/09 (JVHu). Most of the records were of 1-10 and the maximum count of 40 was from Rhuddlan on 13/11 (SH). Records were received from all months of the year. The only recorded evidence of breeding was at Dyserth in Mar and at Rhydywmwyn in Apr.

European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)

TURTUR

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

Denbs. A pair attempted to breed at least once but was unsuccessful.

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

Rose-ringed Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*)

PARACÎT TORCHOG

Rare, feral species

Denbs. A female was feeding on a peanut feeder in a garden near Llangollen on 17-19/11 (TEB).

(RI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

COG

Increasingly uncommon breeding summer visitor. WBAP

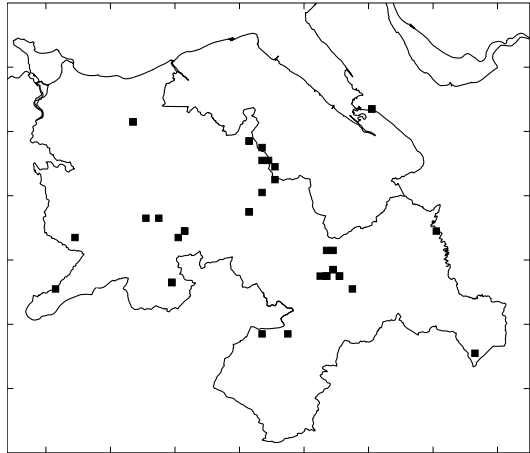
Denbs. The first record was nearly two weeks later than last year with 1 at Penycae on 25/04 (JAJ). There were 2 at Foel Frech, Clocaenog Forest on 5/05 (DDi) and 2 at World's End on 10/05 (NH). Juvenile birds were recorded near Cerrigydrudion with 1 on 8-10/08 (JI, DHI), 1 at Llanfwrog, Rhuthun on 5/09, photographed in a back garden (JBo) and 1 at Rhos-on-Sea in a garden on 8/09 (STh).

(CK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	28	2
Flints.	4	1

Flints. All records were of singles with two records from Border Pool at IMF, the first on 3/05 (pCW) and second on 11/05 (CW). One was also recorded on the same day at Penycloddiau (EdW) and at Cilcain on 19/05 (WAO).

See distribution of records on next page.

Common Cuckoo 2008



Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

Scarce breeding resident. Amber List.

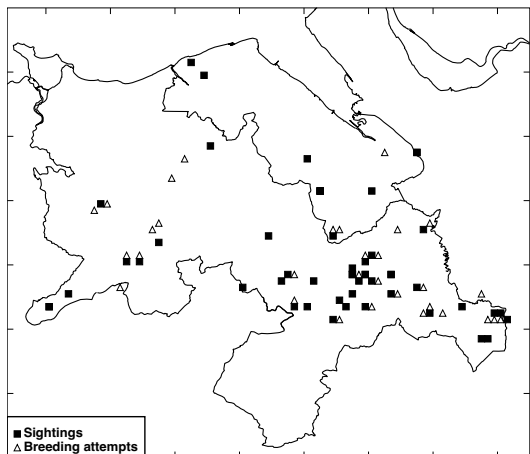
TYLLUAN WEN

The relatively small number of records does not include the breeding records gathered by the WRSG. What we have suggests either that there are still only a few Barn Owls in our area or that records of birds seen are not being submitted. This year produced another excellent total of eggs but the numbers of young ringed and fledged was fewer than in 2007. The map indicates the general locations of the breeding attempts recorded this year, though each site has been displaced by at least 1 km.

(BO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	42	3
Flints.	9	1

Denbs. Most records were of singles, with five records of 2. There were 3 nestlings ringed near Wrexham on 25/07 (JLR) and 3 were seen together near Gwytherin on 10/09 (IMS). There were no records from the extreme N or S of the county.

Barn Owl 2008



Flints. All records were of single birds from locations across the area.

Breeding (WRSG):

(BO)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	22	84	46	2.09

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)

TYLLUAN FACH

Uncommon breeding resident.

The distribution of records is very similar to that in 2007, with an eastern bias.

(LO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	18	2
Flints.	18	2

Denbs. Recorded every month except Feb and all records were of singles broadly around Wrexham/Llangollen with 2 seen near Gyfelia on 26/01 (NHu) during a winter TTV.

Flints. Recorded during Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Oct and Dec and all the records came from just four sites, with fourteen records from near Padeswood where JuR saw 2 on 28/02, 7/04, 9/04 and 23/04. There were 2 seen near Rhuddlan on 27/12 (SH) where there were six other undated records of singles (not included in the table above).

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

TYLLUAN FRECH

Widespread breeding resident.

Recorded in every month of the year in both counties.

(TO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	126	4
Flints.	97	3

Denbs. 80.2% of the records were from GBW (probably with people recording birds heard at their convenience at home in the evening or night as few observers venture out at night deliberately to record crepuscular species). Most records were of single birds with twelve records of 2 birds. There were 3 near Erddig on 24/03 and 21/09 (NHu) and 4 near Bont-newydd on 20/03 (AH).

Flints. Just 55.7% of records were from GBW (but there were many records from JHu and VHu). Most records were of single birds with seven records of 2 birds. There were 3 at Rhydymwyn on 25/01 (JVHu) and 2 nestlings were ringed near Coed y Felin, Hendre on 24/05 (IMS).

Breeding (WRSG):

(TO)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	8	17	15	1.88

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)

TYLLUAN GORNOG

Rare breeding resident. Amber List.

Denbs. The only record was of a single near Foel Frech, Clocaenog Forest on 15/06 (DDi).

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

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

TYLLUAN GLYSTIOG

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

Denbs. The records were of mainly wintering birds in Jan, Feb, Mar, May and Oct at coastal locations either near CON

(SE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	15	4
Flints.	5	2

or in the Towyn area. Just over half the records were of singles and 3 were near Kinmel Bay on 27/01 (DcS), 4/02 (NH), 8/02 (RMB) and 16/03 (KS) with 4 seen near Towyn on 17/02 (NHu). There was no evidence of breeding.

Flints. These records were also from the winter months and also near the coast, with 2 birds seen near Gronant on 14/11 (ANB), 15/11 (RL) and 2 at Shotwick fields on 21/12 (ANB).

European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

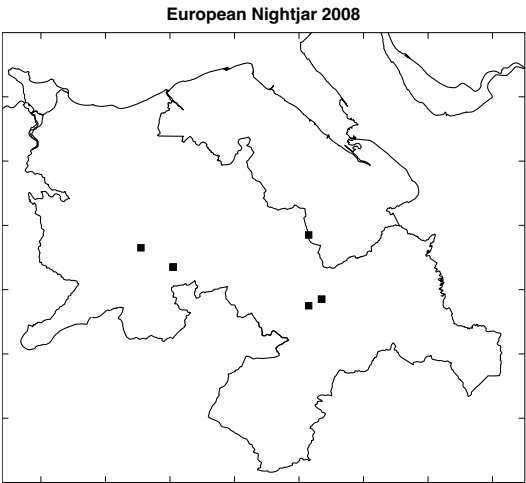
TROELLWR MAWR

Scarce breeding summer visitor. Amber List. WBAP.

(NJ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	6	3
Flints.	3	1

Denbs. The first record was a male at World's End on 21/05 (HN, JLR). There were 2 near Foel Frech, Clocaenog Forest on 14/06 and 3 there on 7/06 (DDi) and the last record was of 2 churring males at World's End on 15/07 (HN, JLR).

Flints. There were two records of a male churring at Nercwys Mountain on 4/07 (KS, NHu) and another bird there on 26/07 (JuR).



Common Swift (*Apus apus*)

GWENNOL DDU

Fairly common and widespread summer visitor.

(SI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	92	200+
Flints.	108	150

Denbs. The first record for the year was nine days later than in 2007 with 2 seen near Wrexham on 26/04 (NH). Most of the records were of 1-15 birds, the larger counts being: 20 at Erbistock on 19/05 (KS), 27+ at Marford Quarry on 11/07 (JuR), 30+ at Fenn's Moss on 15/06 and 30/06 (DG), 60+ near Acton Park, Wrexham on 20/06, 75+ at two sites near Borrass on 29/07 (JN), 200+ at CON on 18/05 and 200+ at GF on 10/07 (JN). The last record, six days later than last year, was a single moving W over Towyn on 17/09 (SM).

Flints. The first record was of 10 over SS on 27/04, only four days later than in 2007 (PT), and 7 over Rhuddlan the same day (SH). Most records were of 1-11 birds and the others were: 25 over Penycloddiau on 15/06 (EdW), 40 near Rhuddlan on 23/07 and 50 there on 19/05 (SH), 80+ near Sandycroft on 11/08 (AB), 100+ at SS on 29/06 (PT) and 150 at Shotwick fields on

26/05 (CW). The last bird was seen near Rhuddlan on 5/09 (SH) which was three days later than in 2007.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

GLAS Y DORLAN

Local breeding resident. Amber List.

Denbs. Records were received from twelve locations with the most records being from CON. Records of 2 birds were received for three occasions, all from CON on 12/05, 17/08 (pJH) and 21/08 (KL).

(KF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	41	2
Flints.	44	2

Flints. CQNR was the primary site for records with thirty one, all out of the breeding season. There were 2 there on 4/09 (KS) and 6/09 (GR). Shotwick fields also had 2 on 25/02 (CW) and 1/03 (WAO). All other records were of single birds.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

CNOCELL WERDD

Breeding resident. Amber List.

Denbs. A slight decrease in records from 2007, although the overall trend over the last 5 years appears to be an increase in sightings. As with previous years the main area for sightings appears to be Erddig Park, Wrexham. Records were received from every month except Feb and Jul. A juvenile was seen with an adult at Cyffiliog on 15/06 (DDi). There are more records of birds being heard rather than seen.

(G.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	33	2
Flints.	12	2

Flints. Records were only received from four sites. Singles were seen at Rhydymwyn on 26/03 (MD), Mostyn on 29/04 (ELJ) and FLQ on 21/11 (GNR). There were seven records from Penycloddiau between Apr and Nov of both 1 and 2 birds where they were recorded as being in suitable breeding habitat (EdW).

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)

CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF

Widespread breeding resident

Mainly recorded by surveys – ringing, GBW, BBS.

Recorded in all months across both counties. Some 69.7% of records in Denbs were from GBW and 74.7% in Flints.

(GS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	569	6
Flints.	387	4

Denbs. Most sightings were of single birds but 6 were seen at Erddig pool on 29/03 (NHu) and also coming to a feeder at Penycae on 10/12 (JAJ), 5 at Marford on 15/01 (JuR) and 4 at the following locations: Mynydd Bodrochwyn between 23/03-20/04 (HCa), S of Gyfelia on 14/06 (NHu), Tallarn Green on 22/06 (MA) and near Rhosllanerchrugog on 12/10 (GAM). Breeding was confirmed from a number of locations.

Flints. Most records were of 1-2 birds and the only larger count was of 4 made W of Coed y Felin, Hendre on 19/03 (MD).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*)

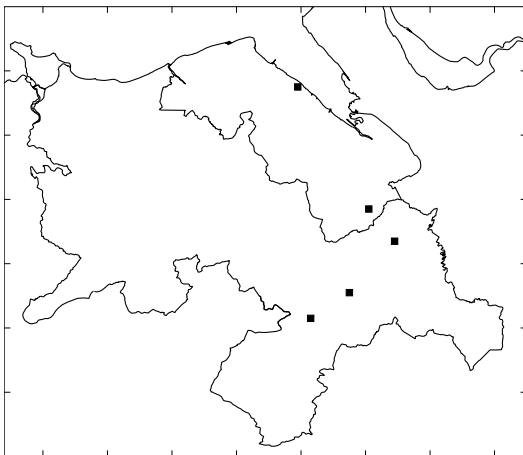
CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF

Scarce breeding resident . Red List. WBAP

Denbs. One was reported S of Llangollen on 23/02 (MAR), 1 at Penycae on 1/09 (JAJ) and 1 at GF on 16/12 (JN).

(LS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	1
Flints.	2	1

Flints. A male was reported from FLQ on 9/04 (KhD) and 1 at Greenfield on 16/04 (BrR).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker 2008**Wood Lark** (*Lullula arborea*)

EHEDYDD Y COED

Locally extinct. WBAP

Denbs. A single bird was reported from GF on 31/10 (JN). This is the first record for anywhere in North-East Wales for more than twenty years. It was reviewed by the local rarities panel and accepted.

(WL)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Sky Lark (*Alauda arvensis*)

EHEDYDD

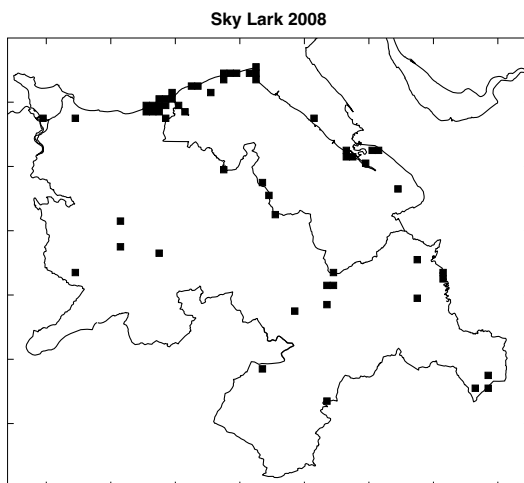
Widespread though localised breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List. WBAP

Denbs. Records were generally of 5 or less birds but a flock of 55 was seen NE of Ridleywood on 8/02 (NFr). The earliest displaying bird reported was on 3/04 W of Towyn (SM). During the breeding season, sightings were recorded at only 17 sites, half the number in 2007. NiW counted 12+ at Llyn Brenig on 22/05, 6 were sighted E of Kinmel Bay on 22/05 (RMB) and 6 N of Fenns Moss on 8/06 (ELJ). Outside the breeding season, birds were most commonly observed at coastal locations but 12 were seen at Bettisfield on 27/09 (NH).

(S.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	93	55
Flints.	66	117

Flints. Small groups were reported at coastal sites throughout spring but a large flock of 117 was counted at Shotwick fields on 4/01 (GR). Other spring flocks include 40 at CQNR on 9/02

(GR) and 19 on 7/04 (BH), and a count of 19 among the dunes at Barkby Beach, Prestatyn on 14/03 (IMS). Records were received from only 10 sites during the breeding season. The earliest singing male was heard at CQNR on 24/03 (NH), 5 singing males were seen NW of Rhuddlan on 27/04 (SH) and 14 singing males were counted during a BBS walk at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 11/05 (IMS). After the breeding season, flocks of 20 were seen NW of Gronant on 2/07 (DG), at Shotwick Rifle Range on 17/11 (GR), at POA on 26/11 (GR) and at CQNR on 14/12 (GM).



Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. First spring sighting was more than three weeks later than last year, when 5 were seen at CON on 16/03 (pJH, CJ). Counts throughout the season were also lower than in 2007. GF had the largest numbers, the first birds arriving on 24/03 and building to a peak of 80 on 24/04 (JN, KS). Smaller colonies were reported by NHu on 19/04 from Bangor-is-y-Coed (12+ birds seen) and nearby Pickhill Meadows (10 birds). CON had 50+ on 7/07 (MF) and the last record for the year was on 11/09 at GF (KS).

(SM)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	36	80
Flints.	14	50

Flints. First spring record was on 17/03 when 1 was seen at Rhyl Brickworks (AOH). Birds were recorded at nine locations but usually in very small numbers (5 or less). The two exceptions were 50 reported S of Rhuddlan on 27/04 (SH) and 12+ at Rhydymwyn on 1/06 (JVHu). The last record was a single on 7/09 at Shotwick fields (HC).

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

GWENNOL

Common and widespread summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. First spring record was on 16/03 at CON (pJH, CJ). Records came from fifty-two locations across the county, mostly involving small counts at or near breeding sites. The largest spring count was 30 at Pickhill Meadows on 19/04 (NHu). In the autumn, a flock of up to 500 birds was roosting near Acton Park, Wrexham between 19/08–8/09 (JN). Smaller flocks of 50 were recorded near Cerrigydrudion on 4/09 (DHI, JI) and E of Sutton Green on 7/09 (NHu). Two records on 27/09, the latest for the year, were from the far west of the vice-county: 6 were seen NW of Nebo (IMS) and 3 at Bryn Mawr, Migneint (WAO).

(SL)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	172	500
Flints.	223	100

Flints. Records were submitted for forty locations, mostly involving small counts. The earliest spring record was on 29/03, a single bird S of Rhuddlan (SH). The largest spring counts were 60 at SS on 20/04 (PT) and 40 S of Rhuddlan on 27/04 (SH). There were several records of successful breeding and 76 chicks were ringed by IMS at just one site in Sandycroft. In autumn, 75 birds were reported S of Rhuddlan on 5/09 (SH) but no large roosts were reported. The last record was a single bird at SS on 7/10 (PT).

Breeding (IMS, MRG, AmB, JLR):

(SL)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	55	256	196	3.56

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)

GWENNOL Y BONDO

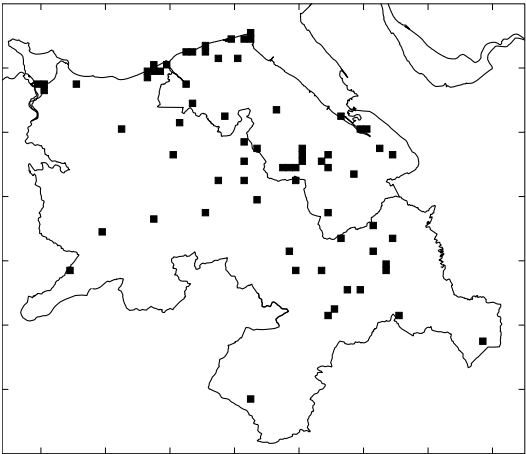
Common and widespread summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

Denbs. Several records came from CON where there were the first, last and joint highest counts: first on 3/04, last on 2/10 (pJH) and 40+ on 18/05 (NiW). There were also 40 moving NW over Penycæ on 25/04 (JAJ), 40+ at Horseshoe Pass on 11/08 (JuR), 15+ at Kinmel Bay on 13/08 (SM), 12+ near Henllan on 10/09 (IMS) and 20 at Cyffylliog including juveniles on 13/09 (DDi).

Flints. The first spring record was 4 at Rhuddlan on 4/04 (SH). A good number of records came from Rhydymwyn with a very large count of 300+ on 26/08 (JVHu). Other large counts were made at the end of summer with 75 at Rhuddlan on 5/09 (SH), 30 at Rhyl on 30/08 (DCR, RMB), 90 at Penycloddiau on 14/09 (EdW) and 37+ at Cilcain on 28/09 (AB, JBe, MBe, IMS). The last record was from Mancot with 1 on 7/10 (IMS).

(HM)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	57	40+
Flints.	179	300+

House Martin 2008



Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardii*)

CORHEDYDD RICHARD

Rare migrant

Flints. One was seen at Gronant on 09/05 (RVe).

(PR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	1	1

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)

CORHEDDYD Y COED

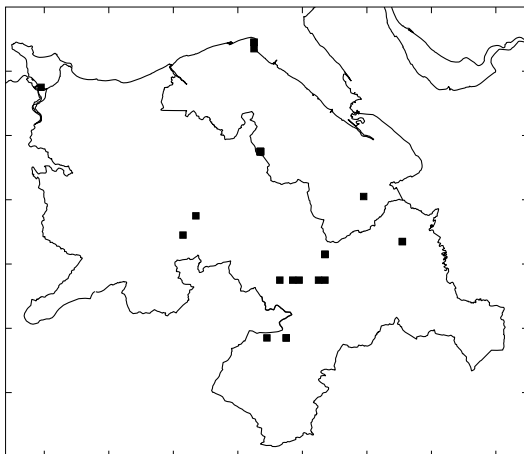
Scarce summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. WBAP

Denbs. The first record was of 1 flying over near Borras, Wrexham on 16/04 and the last record was also of 1 flying over the same location on 6/10 (JN). The highest count was a TTV record of 12 near Ceiriog Forest on 28/06 (NHu).

(TP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	16	12
Flints.	8	4

Flints. The first record was of 2 on Penycloddiau on 28/04 (EdW) and the last was of 1 at FLQ on 24/09 (GMR). The maximum count of 4 was on Penycloddiau on three dates: 5/05, 11/05, and 9/06 (EdW).

Tree Pipit 2008

**Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)**

CORHEDYDD Y WAEN

Common breeding resident and both passage and winter visitor.

Recorded in every month of the year in both counties.

(MP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	116	200
Flints.	72	150+

Denbs. Records were received from across the county, with the maximum count of 200 flying over Penycae towards RM on 27/03 (JAJ). There were also large numbers at Towyn where 50 were reported on 8/09 (SM), at Pensarn where there were 50+ birds on 10/04 (SM) and on RM with 80+ on 30/06 (DG). Breeding activity was reported at Towyn on 19/06 and 4/07 (SM).

Flints. Records were also received from across the county, with the maximum count of 150+ at Shotwick fields on 5/01 (AC, HC, RC). There was also a large flock of 120+ birds at Gronant dunes on 9/07 (DCR). There was just one record of breeding activity, on Penycloddiau on 9/06 (EdW).

Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*)

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

Scarce, mainly winter, visitor on the coast.

Denbs. All records except one were from CON, where singles were reported from Jan to Mar (pJH). There were reports of up to 2 there during Oct and Nov (pJH, PSu) and the last record was of 2 on 3/11 (pJH). On 17/10 there were 2 reported at GF (JN).

(RC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	12	2
Flints.	3	3

Flints. All three records were from CQNR. The first, and highest, count was of 3 on 9/02 and singles were there on 1/11 and 4/11 (GR).

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*)

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

Scarce winter visitor.

Denbs. A single was reported at CON on 14 and 16/02 and 2 were reported there on 24/02 (pJH). There was 1 at the same location on 4 and 12/11 (pJH) and a single was reported at GF on 14/11 (JN).

(WI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	6	2
Flints.	2	1

Flints. A single was at POA on 12/02 (GR) and 1 was at Talacre on 28/11 (JuR).

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

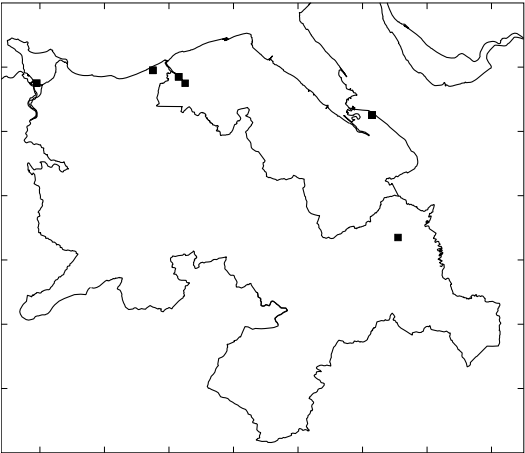
SIGLEN FELEN

Passage migrant and localised breeder in small numbers. Amber List. WBAP

Denbs. There were three first records on 27/04: a single was recorded at Towyn (SM) and 2 were recorded at CON (pJH). The third record was of a possible Iberian male at CON (RS). The last record of the year was of one passing migrant at NE Borrás, Wrexham on 12/08 (JN). The highest count of 4 was of 3 females and 1 male at Towyn on 4/05 (SM).

Flints. The first record was of 2 males at Shotwick fields on 16/04 (CW) and the last was of a single calling male at the same site on 3/09 (KS). The highest count of 15 included 8 males on territory and was also at Shotwick fields, on 29/05 (CW). Records were also received from near Rhuddlan.

Yellow Wagtail 2008



Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*)

SIGLEN SITRAIDD

Rare vagrant

Denbs. One, probably adult, male was at CON on 30/04 (JH, RS). Accepted by the BBRC.

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

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

SIGLEN LWYD

Fairly common breeding resident.

Denbs. Records came from over thirty sites and every month of year. Most records were of 1-2 birds but larger counts were: 6 at Erbistock on 15/06 (KS) counted during a breeding season TTV, 5 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 5/06 (pBH) and 4 at Erddig on 16/04 (NHu).

(GL)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	99	6
Flints.	71	8

Flints. Records came from twenty widespread sites and every month of year. Most records were of singles but 8 were at Loggerheads, including 4 juveniles, on 4/07 (KS). A large number of records were from Rhydymwyn included 5 nestlings ringed on 14/06 (AmB). There were 3 at Rhuddlan on 9/02 (SH) and 3 at Greenfield Valley on 16/04 (BrR).

Breeding (AmB, MRG, JLR):

(GL)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	14	61	33	2.36

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba alba*)

SIGLEN WEN

Passage migrant.

Denbs. Recorded at three sites and in both seasons - CON held most records all in Apr with a maximum of 33 on 29/04 and 30/04 (pJH). At least 1 was recorded at Glyn Arthur on 28/04 (EdW) and 1 near Colwyn Bay on 20 and 21/09 (LWW).

()	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	9	33
Flints.	4	12

Flints. There were 2 near POA on 22/04 (GR), 12 near Rhuddlan on 25/04 (ANB), 10 near POA on 29/04 (GR) and 1 at CQNR on 23/05 (JHo).

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*)

SIGLEN FRAITH

Common breeding resident.

Denbs. Most records were of 1-3 birds and 54.7% were from GBW sites from a widespread area and in every month. Larger counts were recorded in the Gresford area with the local industrial estate having a large winter roost with 100+ recorded there on 31/01 (NHu) and nearby GF had several 100+ counts with a maximum of 110+ on 22/12 (JN). Other double figure counts: 10 at CON on 3/08 (DCR), 17+ at Kinmel Bay which included 12 juvenile birds on 9/09 (SM) and 40 at Penrycae, flying SW with thrushes on 19/10 (JAJ). Juvenile birds were also recorded at Towyn on 1/08 and 1/09 (SM).

(PW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	311	110+
Flints.	274	30+

Flints. Most records were of 1-6 birds, with 28.8% from GBW sites (less than Denbs because of the large number of records from JVHu) from all parts of the area in all months. Larger counts were from five sites with counts of 14 at Rhyll Golf Club on 26/03 (RMB), 18 near Rhuddlan on 26/04 (SH), 20+ at Prestatyn on 13/09 (DCR), 30+ at SS on 31/08 (PT) and 18 at Rhydymwyn on 12/10 (JVHu). Juveniles were recorded at CQNR, Gronant, Oakenholt and Rhydymwyn.

Breeding (AmB):

(PW)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	2	10	7	3.50

Bohemian Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

CYNFFON SEDAN

Scarce and irregular winter visitor.

Denbs. There were three records from Towyn, two on 19/11: one was of 8 (RS) and the other record was of 10 feeding on berries in trees (SM) with at least 1 on 21/11 (MN). There were 4 at Rhos-on-Sea on 24/11 and 1 there on 3/12 (STh).

The highest count of 15+ was from Pwllcrochan Woods, Colwyn Bay on 15/12 (JWy).

(WX)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	15+
Flints.	0	

White-throated Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*)

BRONWEN Y DWR

Widespread localised breeding resident

Denbs. Most of the records were of singles with seven records of 2. Other records were 3 at Cyffylliog on 13/09 (DDi) and 4 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 1/06 (pBH).

(DI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	50	4
Flints.	10	4

Flints. Most records were of singles, but there were 2 juveniles seen in a nest at St Asaph on 11/05 (RaSw), 3 also there on 15/05 (RMB) and the maximum count of 4 was a record of two pairs at Greenfield Valley on 16/04 (BrR).

Breeding (MRG):

(DI)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	5	24	20	4.00

Winter Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

DRYW

A common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Reported widely from across the recording area in all months of the year. Recorded on 20 BBS surveys (13 in Denbs. and 7 in Flints) and regularly from gardens (73.0% of all records from GBW in Denbs and 75.5% in Flints).

(WR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	619	21
Flints.	465	8

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1-10 birds. On both 26/04 and 7/06 there were 21 individuals seen on Waterways BBS visits near Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant (RG) indicating how abundant this species can be.

Flints. Most records were of 1-4 birds with 7 near Rhuddlan on 5/01 and 8 there on 29/12 (SH).

Hedge Accentor (*Prunella modularis*)

LLWYD Y GWRYCH

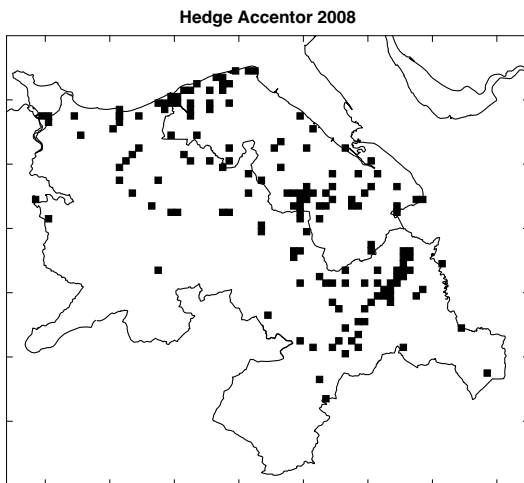
Common breeding resident and garden visitor. WBAP

Many more records received this year but this was due to the inclusion of GBW data. The distribution of this species outside gardens is still poorly recorded. Records from farmland and the wider countryside would be appreciated. Records were received from 21/25 BBS squares.

(D.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1277	11
Flints.	1213	11

Denbs. The majority of records were from GBW (82.3%) and were of 1-5 birds, with 6 at Bwlchgwyn from GBW in the weeks beginning 6/07 and 13/07 (JC) and near Coedpoeth from GBW in week beginning 10/08 (GWO), 8 at CON on 3/04 (JuR) and 11 during a BBS walk at Castell on 6/05 (MD).

Flints. Again the majority of records were from GBW (67.9% - but there were many records from JVHu) and most were of 1-5 birds. There were seven records of 6 with 7 at Rhydymwyn on 4/04 (JVHu) and 11 on both BBS walks near Mold on 10/05 and 14/06 (AB, IMS).



European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)

ROBIN GOCH

Common breeding resident.

Recorded in every month of the year in both counties.

(R.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1529	15
Flints.	1312	16

Denbs. The majority of records were from GBW (77.4%) of 1-9 birds, with most records being of singles. The largest counts were: 14 at Marford on 15/01 (JuR), 14 at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant on 26/04 during a Waterways BBS walk (RG) and 15 at Borras on 7/11 (JN).

Flints. Most records were from GBW (73.0% - with many others by JHu and VHu) of 1-9 birds. The largest counts were during BBS walks: 12 near Brynford on 5/05 (CMi), 13 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 11/05 (IMS) and 16 near Mold on 10/05 (AB, IMS).

Breeding (IMS):

(R.)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	2	9	4	2.00

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

TINGOCH

Summer breeding visitor mainly in wooded upland areas. Amber List.

Denbs. First bird of the year, a male, was seen at CON on 16/04 (RSw). Five were singing at RM by 5/05. Breeding was proven by nestlings ringed at Pandy (7), Llanfair Talhaiarn (7), Glasfryn and Loggerheads throughout June in all of these locations. Last bird of the year was seen at CON on the late date of 25/10 (BrS).

(RT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	45	7
Flints.	15	6

Flints. First bird of the year was seen at Penycloddiau on 20/04 (EdW), with 6 singing there by 28/04 (EdW). Two males were singing at Gwysaney, Sychdyn on 8/05 (AB) with three at Trelawnyd-y-Gop on 22/04 (ELJ). A female was seen at CQNR on 8/07 (BH) with the last bird of the year seen at Penycloddiau on 10/08 (EdW).

Breeding (JLR, MRG):

(RT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	14	77	39	2.79

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)

CREC YR EITHIN

Breeding summer visitor in small numbers, mainly in upland areas.

There were no confirmed breeding records from either county.

(WC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	24	20+
Flints.	7	2

Denbs. The first record was of 1 male at CON on 24/04 (pJH) and the last record was of a single near World's End on 19/07 (KS). The highest count of 20+ was near World's End on 20/06 (NHu).

Flints. The first record was of a single on the boundary fence at IMF (BP) on 28/04 (CW) and the last record was of 2 males at Prestatyn on 13/09 (DCR). There were also 2 males near Rhuddlan on 4/05 (SH) and 2 on Penycloddiau on 15/06 (EdW).

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

Breeding resident in small numbers. Amber List.

Denbs. Recorded every month from locations across the county. The highest count of 12+ was at Llyn Brenig on 22/05 (NiW). Breeding was confirmed at Moel Garegog, near Llangynhafal, Foel Ganon, Cyffylliog and CON.

(SC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	132	12+
Flints.	59	10

Flints. Recorded every month, except Oct, mainly from coastal locations, with the highest count of 10 on Penycloddiau on 3/08 (EdW). Breeding was confirmed near Cilcain, at Rhyl golf course and on Penycloddiau.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

TINWEN Y GARN

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Denbs. The first record of the year was a single at CON on 17/03 (pJH) and the last record was of 2 at Towyn on 26/09 (SM). The highest count of 18 was at Foel Lwyd, Mynydd Hiraethog on 29/04 (JfW). Records of single juveniles were received from near World's End on 20/06, CON on 28/07 and near Borras on 18/08.

(W.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	92	18
Flints.	87	39

Flints. The first record was of 1 at FLQ on 25/03 (GNR) and the last record was of 2 on the very late date of 15/11 (RL). The highest count of 39 was near Rhuddlan on 4/05 (SH). There was just one record of breeding activity with a recently fledged young bird reported on Penycloddiau on 3/08 (EdW).

Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*)

WYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

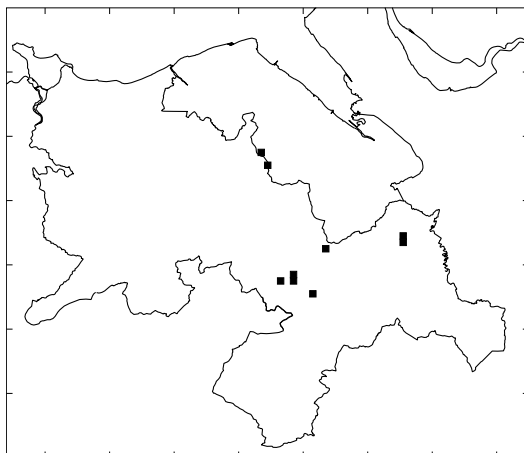
Breeding summer visitor in small numbers to upland areas. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. The first record was a female in flight at Borras, Wrexham on 16/04 (JN). Singles were seen on migration in the area around Llantysilio Mountain, while 3 were present at Glyn Arthur on 28/04 (EdW). Last bird of the year was a juvenile on passage at Gresford on 12/09 (JN).

(RZ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	8	3
Flints.	3	9

Flints. Seen only at Penycloddiau with 2 on 13/04, 3 there on 20/04 and an amazing 9 seen on 28/04 (all EdW).

Ring Ouzel 2008



Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)

MWYALCHEN

Common and widespread breeding resident.

Denbs. The records were mainly from GBW (77.9%) and most were of 1-10 birds with some records of 11-20. The counts show some obvious autumn peaks, probably as birds moved into the county from the continent. Twenty birds were at Rhosllanerchrugog on 6/11 (PLa), with 40 at Acton Park, Wrexham on 4/12 (JN). Largest counts in the early part of

(B.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1565	43
Flints.	1763	34

the year were 43 at Bangor-is-y-coed on 5/01 (NHu), 18 at Towyn on 15/02 (SM) and 18 at Erbistock on 19/05 (KS). Other large counts were from BBS walks: 23 near Llandyrnog on 6/05 (StMa), 31 near Cefn Mawr on 4/05 and 33 there on 15/06 (GWO).

Flints. Many of the records were from GBW (59.5% - with many other records from JVHu) and most were of 1-10 birds, with a few of 11-20 birds. In the early part of the year the highest count was 34 at Rhuddlan on 3/01 (SH). Other large counts were from BBS walks: 30 near Mold on 14/06 (AB, IMS), 40 also near Mold on 1/06 (GM) and 43 near Buckley on 20/05 (GNR).

Breeding (JLR, AmB):

(B.)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	9	35	7	0.78

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

SOCAN EIRA

A very common passage and winter migrant.

Denbs. There were two separate last spring records on 18/04: a flock of 150+ near Borras, Wrexham (JN) and a single flew E over Cyffylliog (DDi). Another very late record was of a single near Llangollen on 23/06 (JLR) – did this bird stay for the summer? The first autumn record was of 25+ birds at NE Wrexham on 18/09 (NH). Some 23.4% of all records were from GBW sites during Jan to Apr, most being from near Moel Grugoer. The maximum count was of 2,000+ birds flying N over Penrycae on 13/04 (JAJ).

(FF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	83	2000+
Flints.	31	270

Flints. The last spring record was of 1+ birds at Cilcain on 3/02 and the first autumn record was also of 1+ birds at a GBW site near Cilcain in the week beginning 26/10 (RWe). 48.5% of all records were from GBW sites in Jan, Feb, Nov and Dec, mainly near Cilcain (RWe), but some at Rhydymwyn (DHy). The highest count was 270 on Penycloddiau on 6/11 (EdW).

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

BRONFRAITH

Widespread breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List. WBAP

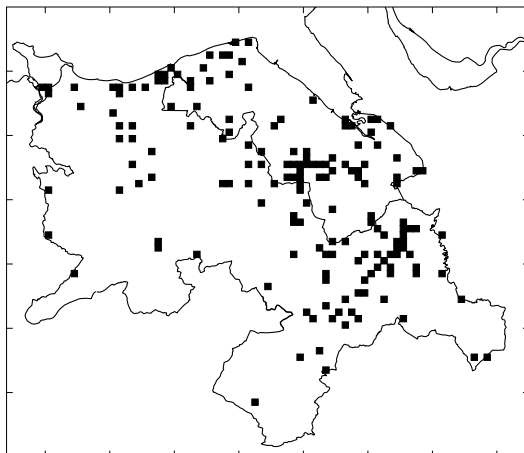
Records were received from individual observers, Birdtrack, BBS, GBW and ringing.

(ST)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	365	9
Flints.	364	20

Denbs. Records were received from across the county every month. Most records were of 1-3 birds and 55.2% of all records were from GBW sites. The largest counts were 7 at Erbistock on 19/05 (KS) and from BBS walks: 7 at Pentre Maelor, Wrexham on 3/05 (NH), 7 near Llandyrnog on 5/06 (StM) and 9 near Garth on 6/06 (StM). Breeding was confirmed at several sites.

Flints. Records were received from across the county every month. Most records were of 1-6 birds with 57.1% of records coming from GBW sites. The larger counts were 8 at Shotwick on 4/01 (ST), 8 near Rhuddlan on 6/01 (SH) and during BBS walks near Pantymwyn by NRT, 20 on 15/05 and 11 on 20/06. Breeding was confirmed at several places.

Song Thrush 2008



Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

COCH DAN ADEN

Common passage migrant and winter visitor throughout the area. Amber list.

Denbs. The last spring record was of a single bird on 31/03 at CON (pJH) and the first autumn record was of 2+ birds near Borras, Wrexham on 8/10 (JN). Nearly half the records were of groups of 20-100 and only 6.2% of records came from GBW sites in Nov and Dec. The highest counts were of 2000+ birds near Towyn on 1/01 (AC, HC, RC), 3420 at Penycae on 19/10 and 3000+ there on 4/11 (JAJ).

(RE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	69	3420
Flints.	58	820

Flints. The last spring record was of a single at CQNR on 3/04 (CL) and the first autumn record was of a single heard flying over after dark at Rhuddlan on 24/09 (SH). About a third of records were of groups of 20-150 and 36.2% of records were from GBW sites – during Jan, Feb and Mar at Rhydymwyn (DHy) and Nov, Dec at Buckley (DFD). The highest count was of 820 birds at Penycloddiau on 1/11 (EdW).

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)

BRYCH Y COED

Fairly common breeding resident.

Records were received from individual observers, Birdtrack, BBS and GBW.

Denbs. Records were received from across the county and in every month. Most of the records were of 1-4 birds and 31.9% of records were from GBW sites. There were 9 near Ceiriog Forest on 14/05 seen during a breeding season TTV (NHu), 30 at Nilig, Clocaenog Forest on 18/09 (DDi) where they were feeding on berries and the largest counts of 200 at Penycae on 10/08 and 26/10 (JAJ).

(M.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	137	200
Flints.	196	6

Flints. Records were received from across the county and every month. Most records were of

1-5 birds and 49.8% of records were from GBW sites, but the largest counts were: 6 at CQNR on 12/03 (CL); 6 near Cilcain on 28/09 (AB, JBe, MBe, IMS), 6 near Rhuddlan on 14/10 (SH) and 6 at Talacre on 4/12 (pJR). Recently fledged young birds were reported at Penycloddiau on 9/06 (EdW).

Common Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)
Localised summer breeding visitor. Red List. WBAP

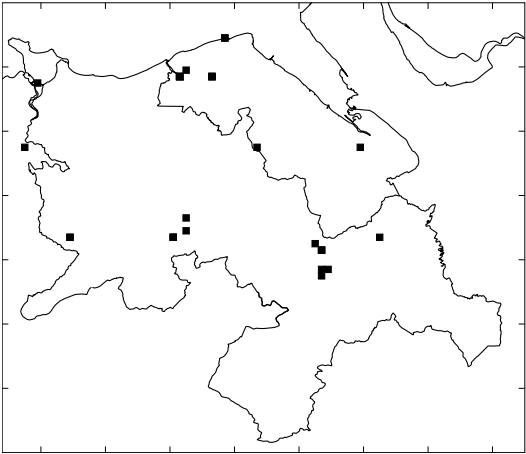
TROELLWR BACH

Denbs. The first record was on 19/04 at Moel Garegog, Llandegla (DeS) and the last was on 20/06 at Gwersyllt (JN). Both records were of single birds. Other records were of singles except 2 at Foel Frech on 14/06, Nilig on 7/06 (DDi) and World's End on 5/05 (NHu, KS).

Flints. The first and last records were both from near Rhuddlan – 20/04 and 3/08 (SH). There were reports of 1+ birds at Wepre Wood, Connah's Quay on 10/05 and near Rhuddlan on 25/04 (RCa).

(GH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	17	2
Flints.	16	1+

Common Grasshopper Warbler 2008



Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)
Breeding summer visitor.

TELOR YR HESG

Denbs. Records were from eight areas but CON was the most notable with the first record of year - 1 on 19/04 (pJH) a little later than last year. The last record was 1 on 11/08 (BENC), and the largest count was 8+ on 18/05 (NiW), both also at CON.

Flints. Recorded from only six areas. The first record was 1 at SS on 20/04 two days earlier than last year (PT). A single was recorded during each BBS walk near Mold on 3/05 and 1/06 (GEM). There were 2 juvenile birds near Rhuddlan on 20/06 and the last record was from there on 6/09 (SH). Birds were also observed at Gronant, Shotwick fields and Wepre Wood.

(SW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	34	8+
Flints.	20	3

Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)
Localised breeding summer visitor.

TELOR Y CYRS

Denbs. The first record was of 1 at CON on 20/04 (pJH) and

(RW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	12	17
Flints.	19	15

the last record was of 2 on 8/08, also at CON (HC). Records were received from four sites: CON, S of Kinnel Bay, SE of Towyn and inland at Erddig. The largest number was 17 ringed at CON on 25/07 (IMS).

Flints. The first and last records were each of singles at SS on 20/04 and 31/08 (PT). Most of the records were from ringing at SS and over the season there were 39 fullgrown birds and 9 nestlings (indicating proof of breeding). The best day was 3/08 when 15 fullgrown birds were ringed (pBH).

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.

(BC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	159	4
Flints.	162	5

Denbs. Reports were received every month from across the county. Most records were of single birds and 40.4% of all records were from GBW sites and these were recorded in every month except Jul and Sep, including during the winter. One or two were trapped in a garden at Rhos-on-Sea in each winter period (STh) – see the article after the Ringing Report. The highest counts were 4 at Gwynfryn on 11/06 during a BBS walk (LW) and 4 were ringed at CON on 25/07 (IMS).

Flints. Reports were received every month except Sep, again from similar sources. Most records were of singles and 64.7% of records were from GBW sites in every month except Sep and Oct. The largest counts were 5 on 10/05 near Mold during a BBS walk (AB, IMS) and 5 on Penycloddiau on 13/07 (EdW).

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.

(GW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	32	4
Flints.	14	5

Denbs. The first record was of a single at CON on 19/04 (pJH) and the last record was of a passing migrant at Borrás, Wrexham on 24/09 (JN). The only birds ringed this year were 1 at Bedwlwyn on 10/05 (pBH) and 1 at CON on 25/07 (IMS). The largest count was 4 during a Waterways BBS walk near Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant on 7/06 (RG).

Flints. The first record was of 3 on Penycloddiau on 28/04 (EdW) and the last records were 2 seen and 2 ringed on 3/08 at SS (PT, pBH). The largest counts were 4 on 5/05, 4 on 9/06 and 5 on 15/06, all on Penycloddiau (EdW).

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)

LLWYDFRON FACH

Scarce breeding summer visitor.

(LW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	22	4
Flints.	12	2

Denbs. The first record was of a single bird at CON on 24/04 (pJH) and the last records were two separate reports on 22/08 of a single bird near Borrás, Wrexham and Gresford

(JN). The highest count was 4 seen and heard near Towyn on 9/05 (SM).

Flints. The first record was also on 24/04 when 2 were reported at Wepre Brook, Connah's Quay (CL). The last record was of a single at CQNR on 14/09 (GEM). There was one other record of 2 which was on 4/05 at SS (PT).

Common Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)

LLWYDFRON

Common breeding summer visitor.

Denbs. The first record was 1 at CON on 15/04 (pJH) and the last was 1 at Kimmel Bay on 9/09 (SM). The largest counts were 4 at the S end of Fenn's Moss on 12/06 (AIK) and 10 at the N end of Fenn's Moss on 8/06 (ELJ).

(WH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	36	10
Flints.	39	6

Flints. The first record was 1 near Rhuddlan on 22/04 (SH) and the last was 1 near Rhuddlan again on 5/09 (SH). The largest counts were 5 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 23/06 during a BBS walk (IMS), 5 on Penycloddiau on 23/06 (EdW), 6 at Talacre dunes on 30/05 and 6 at CQNR on 31/05 (ELJ). Breeding was confirmed at W Pentre Halkyn where a nest with young was found on 6/06 (RCa).

Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)

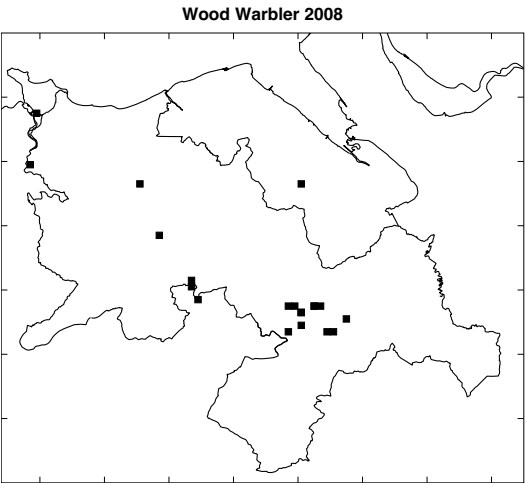
TELOR Y COED

Scarce, localised breeding summer visitor. WBAP

Denbs. The first bird of the spring was seen and heard singing on 25/04 (KS) at Eglwyseg. Two males were singing here by 3/05 (JuR). Last bird of the year was seen at CON on 7/07 (MF).

(WO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	21	2
Flints.	1	1

Flints. The only bird seen was a bird singing at Rhydymwyn on 1/06 (JVHu).



Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

SIFF SAFF

Common and widespread summer breeding visitor with some birds overwintering.

Denbs. First seen at CON on 9/02 (pJH), possibly a wintering bird. Probably the first true migrants were 2 at Cyffylliog on 29/02 (DDi). Five birds were singing at Erddig by 29/03 (NH), from then on widespread throughout the area. Nesting was proven at Prion with 6 nestlings ringed on 12/06 (pBH). The last autumn bird was seen on 12/10 at CON (pJH). Wintering birds were then seen at CON from 12/11 to the year's end, with 2 on 29/11 (pJH) and another wintering bird was seen at Llangollen on 3/12 (HN).

(CC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	122	6
Flints.	63	9

Flints. First bird was seen at Llanasa on 17/03 (ELJ). Four birds were present at CQNR on the 27/04 (CL) and 9 were in song at Rhuddlan on 14/04 (SH). Breeding was proven at SS on 4/05 and 11/05 (pBH) with young birds ringed on both dates. The last autumn migrant was seen at SS on the 7/10 (PT). Overwintering birds were seen at Deeside Industrial Park on 3/12 (DDi), Rhuddlan on 14/12 (SH) and CQNR on 17/12 (PSu).

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

TELOR YR HELYG

Common and widespread summer breeding visitor.

Denbs. The first record was of a single singing at Acton Park, Wrexham on 31/03 (JN) and the last record was of a single in a garden at Llangollen on 3/10 (HN). Most records were of 1-5 birds with other records being 6 singing at Fenn's Moss on 12/06 (NiW), 6+ there on 15/06 (DG), 8 ringed at CON on 25/07 (IMS), 8 at Capel Siloam on 9/05 during a BBS walk (MaO), 10 were in a garden at Rhos-on-Sea on 22/04, of which 3 were trapped and ringed (STh) and the highest count was of 20 recorded during a TTV near Ceiriog Forest on 14/05 (NHu).

(WW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	83	20
Flints.	32	25+

Flints. The first record was of a single near Rhuddlan on 5/04 (SH) and the last record was the highest count of 25+ birds at FLQ on 18/08 (GNR). Most records were of 1-5 birds with several of 8-15. Other records were 25 on Penycloddiau on 11/05 and 20 there on 15/06 with evidence of confirmed breeding (EdW). Another record of confirmed breeding was near Pentre Halkyn on 6/06 (RCa).

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)

DRYW EURBEN

Common and widespread breeding resident.

Records were received from individual observers, Birdtrack, BBS and ringing.

Denbs. Records were received every month from across the county. Most records were of 1-5 birds but there were three large counts near Cyffylliog, the last two of which may have been the result of an influx of migrants: 100 on 24/08, 200 on 11/10 and 160 on 12/10 (DDi). The species was reported to be very abundant in and around the village and it is very unusual to be able to count such large numbers of this tiny bird at one place. Some 28.5% of all records came from GBW sites.

(GC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	159	200
Flints.	104	5

Flints. Records were received every month. Most records were of 1-3 birds with 43.3% of all

records from GBW sites. The larger counts were 4 near Cilcain on 28/09 (AB, JBe, MBe, IMS), 4 at Llyn Helyg on 24/10 (ELJ), 4+ at Rhydymwyn on 18/09 (JVHu) and 5 near Cilcain on 13/05 during a BBS walk (HJ).

Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*)

DRYW PENFFLAMMGOCH

Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. Single birds were reported near Wrexham on 2/10 and 5/11 and Acton Park, Wrexham on 12/11 and a juvenile was at GF on 8/10 (JN). Singles were reported at CON on 23/11, 14/12 and 18/12 (StC, HC).

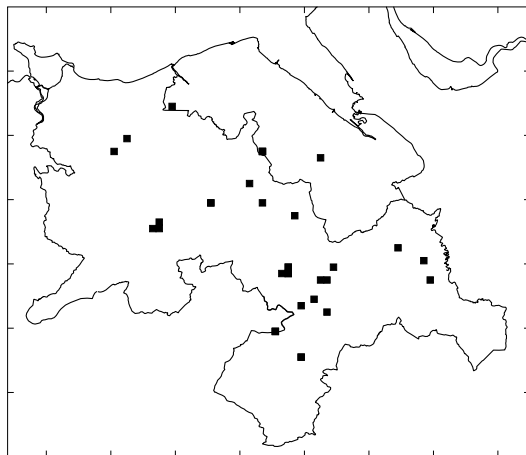
(FC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	7	1
Flints.	0	

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Uncommon breeding summer visitor. Amber List. WBAP

Spotted Flycatcher 2008



(SF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	32	4
Flints.	4	4

Denbs. The first record was of 1 at Acton Park, Wrexham on 30/04 (JN) and the last was of a juvenile ringed at Rhos-on-Sea on 23/09 (STh). Most sightings were of 1-2 birds but the three highest counts of 4 were: nestlings ringed at Pandy on 19/06 and again on 28/06 (pBH) and a family group near Pickhill Hall on 14/07 (NH).

Flints. The first record was of 1 at Gwysaney, Sychdyn on 8/05 (AB) and the last was of 4 recently fledged young at Penycloddiau on 3/08 (EdW).

Breeding (IMS, MRG):

(SF)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	4	17	17	4.25

Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

GWYBEDOG BRITH

Breeding summer visitor. WBAP

There was a large increase in the numbers of nests checked this year and each nest produced, on average, one extra nestling, so the breeding season was better than in 2007.

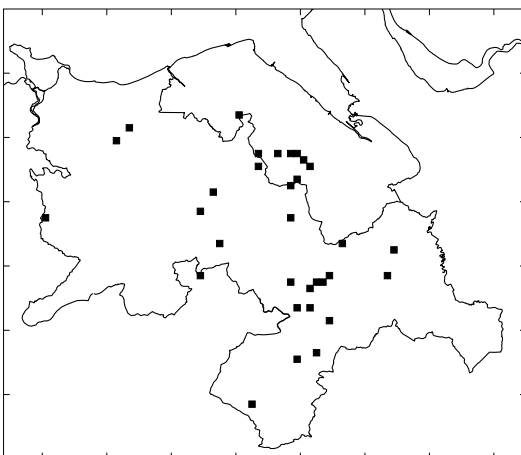
(PF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	82	100
Flints.	24	18

Denbs. The first record was a male at Erddig on 9/04 (NHu) and the other records were during

Apr, May and Jun with the last record on 29/06 at Prion when 2 nestlings were ringed (pBH). This is a late record for nestlings – almost certainly a relay after an earlier failure. Many of the records were of birds ringed and the largest counts were of nestlings, eg, 36 ringed at Glyn Arthur on 8/06, 43 at Pandy on 7/06, 63 near Llanfair Talhaiarn on 8/06 and 100 at Prion on 7/06 (all pBH).

Flints. The first record was of a single at Penycloddiau on 28/04 (EdW) and there were a few records each month from Apr until the last record of 2, again at Penycloddiau, on 10/08 (EdW). Most of the records were of nestlings ringed but at much lower numbers than in Denbs. – eg 13 near Nannerch on 8/06 (pBH), 12 at Coed y Felin, Hendre on 31/05 (IMS) and 18 there on 5/06 (IMS).

Pied Flycatcher 2008



Breeding (MRG, IMS, AmB, JLR):

(PF)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	143	978	610	4.27

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)

TITW GYNFFON HIR

Common breeding resident.

There were records from every month of the year in both counties, the majority from GBW, and mostly seen during the winter months – Jan to Mar and Nov, Dec.

(LT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	532	50+
Flints.	430	38

Denbs. Most records were of 1-20 birds and 68.4% of records were from GBW sites. The larger counts were 23 near Llanfair Talhaiarn on 21/07 (JfW), 24 full grown birds ringed at Beddwlwyn on 10/12 (pBH), 25+ at Towyn on 29/10 (SM), 32 in a garden near Llandegla in the week beginning 8/06 (JRo), 50 at Acton Park, Wrexham on 24/11 (JN) and 50+ in small parties near Erddig on 26/12 (NHu).

Flints. Despite the records from JHu and VHu, mainly at Rhydymwyn, some 70.7% of records were from GBW sites. Most records were of 1-20 birds and the larger counts were: 21 near Rhydymwyn on 21/10 (MD), 23 at the recycling centre near Nercwys on 22/06 (IMS), 30 on the E side of Penycloddiau on 6/11 (EdW) and 38 near Rhuddlan on 1/08 (SH).

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.

(BT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1668	44
Flints.	1491	75

The distribution of records is broadly similar to that of 2007.

Recorded in every month of the year in both counties. There were more nests than in 2007 but overall, they produced fewer young per nest.

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1-15 birds, with 74.6% of all records from GBW. The largest counts were of nestlings ringed: 37 at Bedwlwyn on 1/06, 44 there on 30/05, 38 at Glyn Arthur on 1/06 with 38 full grown birds ringed at Bedwlwyn on 16/04 (all pBH).

Flints. The majority of records were from GBW (67.6%) and were of 1-15 birds with the largest counts being 20 S of Rhuddlan on 5/01 (SH), and of nestlings ringed: 27 near Rhydymwyn on 31/05 (AmB), 45 there on 1/06 (AmB) and 75 at Coed y Felin, Hendre on 31/05 (IMS).

Breeding (IMS, MRG, AmB, JLR):

(BT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	227	1681	830	3.66

Great Tit (*Parus major*)

TITW MAWR

Common and widespread breeding resident.

The distribution of records is broadly similar to that of 2007 and records were from each month of the year in both counties. The majority of records were from GBW sites.

(GT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1402	43
Flints.	1397	38

There was a large increase in the number of nests checked but, on average, each nest was less productive than last year suggesting that 2008 was a poor breeding season.

Denbs. Most records were of 1-10 birds with 78.0% of all records from GBW. There were a few records of 11-20 birds and the largest numbers were from woods when nestlings were ringed: 30 at Glyn Arthur on 1/06, 43 there on 24/05, 33 at Pandy on 31/05 (all pBH) with 38 near Clocaenog on 31/05 (IMS).

Flints. Again, most of the records were of 1-10 birds with 67.6% of all records from GBW sites (lower than Denbs because of the records from JHu and VHu). There were a few records of 11-20 birds and all of the largest counts were of nestlings ringed: 26 at Deeside Industrial Park on 23/05, 21 there on 24/05 (pBH), 36 at Coed y Felin, Hendre on 31/05 (IMS) and 38 near Rhydymwyn on 24/05 (AmB).

Breeding (IMS, MRG, AmB, JLR):

(GT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	202	1230	741	3.67

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.

(CT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1147	26
Flints.	963	11

The records were from more locations than in 2007 and spread across the recording area except the SW and far SE. Recorded in all months across both counties.

Denbs. Most records were from GBW (82.6%) and were of 1-10 birds with the largest counts being 14 at Ceiriog Forest on 9/02 during a winter TTV (NHu) and 26 near Brynhyfryd, Clocaenog Forest on 23/12 (NHu). In total 23 fullgrown birds were ringed at Beddwlwyn on 29/11 (pBH). Coal Tits are not frequent users of nest boxes so the largest number of nestlings ringed was 8 at Glyn Arthur on 1/06 (pBH), probably all from one brood.

Flints. Most of the records were from GBW (73.9% - less than in Denbs because of many records from JVHu) and were of 1-6 birds. The largest count was of just 11 birds at Rhydymwyn on 29/08 (JVHu). There were no records of nestlings ringed.

Breeding (MRG):

(CT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	3	13	12	4.00

Willow Tit (*Poecile montanus*)

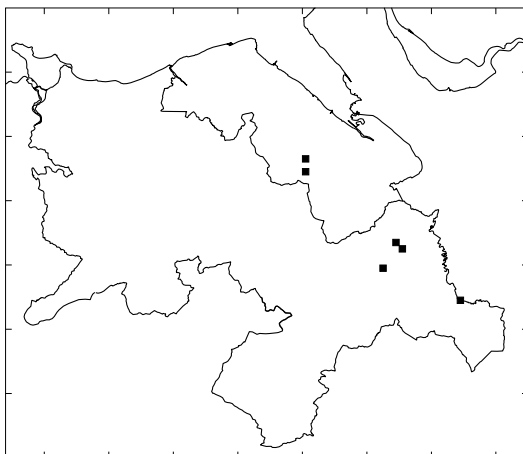
TITW'R HELYG

Scarce breeding resident in recently wooded areas. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. The records were of 1 at GF on 28/08 (JN), 1 at Borrass on 27/11 (JN), 1 near Tallarn Green during GBW week beginning 29/06 (MA) and 2 at Felin Puleston on 29/03 (NHu).

(WT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	2
Flints.	2	1

Flints. The only records were of singles at Rhydymwyn on 16/01 (JVHu) and at Gwernaffield on 12/12 (TP).

Willow Tit 2008

Marsh Tit (*Poecile palustris*)

TITW'R WERN

Uncommon breeding resident frequenting well wooded habitats. Red List. WBAP

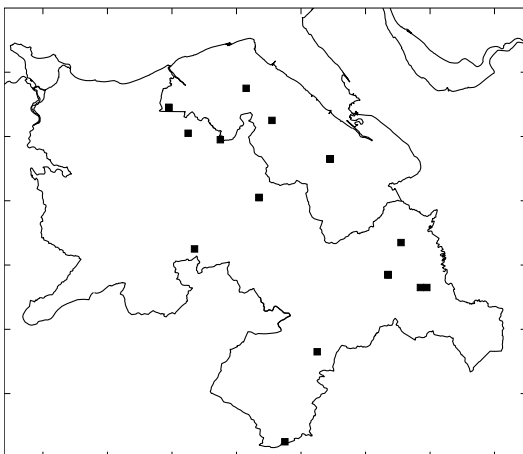
The distribution is broadly similar to that shown in the report for 2004-2006.

(MT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	17	5
Flints.	7	2

Denbs. There were no records from GBW sites. Most records were of singles with 2 seen at Erddig on 9/03 (NHu), 2 near Bangor-is-y-Coed on 19/04 (NHu), 2 at Bodelywyddan Castle on 16/11 (RS), 2+ there on 27/08 (JuR), 2 full grown birds were ringed at Bedwlwyn on 31/07 (pBH) and there were 5 near Bont-newydd on 24/04 (AH) where he reports they occur regularly.

Flints. Four of the records were of singles at a GBW site in Sychdyn during the weeks beginning 17, 24 and 31/08 and 7/12 (AB, IMS). There was just one record of 2 birds near Babell on 1/01 (AB, IMS).

Marsh Tit 2008



Wood Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*)

DELOR Y CNAU

Common and widespread breeding resident.

Recorded throughout the year from suitable habitat across both vice-counties with 78.3% of records in Denbs and 68.2% in Flints from GBW counts.

(NH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	585	10+
Flints.	466	6

Denbs. Most records were of 1-2 birds, the exceptions being 5 near Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant during a Waterways BBS walk on 26/04 (RG), 6 near Rhosllanerchrugog in the week beginning 25/05 (GAM) and 10+ at Erddig on 29/03 when birds were seen and heard, with a lot of calling (NHu). None of the nest box schemes is large enough (ie large numbers of boxes over a wide area) to have more than 1-2 breeding attempts in each. The largest brood was 8 ringed near Clocaenog on 22/05 (IMS).

Flints. Most records were also of 1-2 birds with the largest counts of full-grown, flying birds being 3 at Rhydymwyn on 16/01 (JVHu) and 4 during a BBS walk near Cilcain on 17/06 (HJ). There were two broods in Coed y Felin, Hendre with 4 nestlings ringed on 24/05 and 6 ringed on 20/05 (IMS).

Breeding (IMS, MRG):

(NH)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	8	52	44	5.50

Eurasian Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

DRINGWR BACH

Widespread breeding resident.

Most records are from surveys – ringing, GBW, BBS.

Denbs. Most of the records were of 1-2 birds and only 23.8% came from GBW. Is the lack of birds because of lack of suitable habitat in or near gardens or have not many Treecreepers learned about artificial food supplies in gardens? The largest counts were of 3 at Acton Park, Wrexham on 2/05 (NH), 3 there again on 24/11 (JN) and 4 near Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog on 5/11 (NHu).

(TC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	86	4
Flints.	64	3

Flints. All but one record were of 1-2 birds with 60.9% from GBW sites. This is a very different proportion from GBW sites in Denbs with no obvious reason for it. The largest count was 3 near Rhuddlan on 4/04 (SH).

Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)

CIGYDD MAWR

Scarce winter visitor.

Denbs. Single birds were seen at Llyn Brenig on 27/01 (CGo) and from the regular winter site at Craig Bron Bannog in Clocaenog Forest on 17/02 (DDi), 20/02 (KS), 14/12 and 27/12 (DDi).

(SR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	5	1
Flints.	0	

Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

YSGRECH Y COED

Fairly common breeding resident.

Denbs. All but eleven records were of 1-2 birds, with six records of 3 and 53.8% of all records coming from GBW sites. At a Penrycae garden a Jay seized a Blue Tit that was on a feeder and at another, near Rhosllanerchrugog there were 4 during the weeks beginning 22/06, 6/07 and 13/07 (GAM), possibly a small family party. There were also 4 at Marford on 15/01 (JuR) and 6 at Marford Quarry on 28/02 (SD).

(J.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	250	6
Flints.	177	5

Flints. Most records were of 1-2 birds and 51.4% of all records were from GBW sites. The largest counts were 4 at Rhydymwyn on 16/07 and 20/09 (JVHu) and 5 near Cilcain on 28/09 (AB, IMS, JB, MB).

Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*)

PIODEN

A common and widespread breeding resident.

Denbs. Recorded in every month of year with 75.7% of records from GBW sites with most counts being 1-4 birds. The highest counts were 40 at GF on 14/11 (JN) and 24 at Gatewen, Wrexham on 27/02 (GMT).

(MG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1025	40
Flints.	1189	22

Flints. (62.3% GBW) Again, recorded in every month of the year with 62.3% of records from GBW sites. Most records were of 1-5 birds with the largest garden count from Caergwrle with 8 in the week beginning 17/08 (ECMH). The largest count was 22 near Rhuddlan on 5/01

(SH).

Breeding (JLR):

(MG)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	5	26	6	1.20

Red billed Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)

BRAN GOESGOCH

Rare breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP

Denbs. The records were from two sites: on 23/04 (3 birds), 5/05 (1) and 10/09 (2).

(CF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	3
Flints.	0	

Breeding (WRSG):

(CF)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	3	12	5	1.67

Eurasian Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

JAC Y DO

Common breeding resident.

Recorded in all months with individuals and small flocks, rarely exceeding 30 birds, seen from a wide range of localities. Large flocks seen going overhead at GF regularly in the autumn and winter months. Significantly increased number of records received due to Birdtrack and GBW. Birds were seen in 22/25 BBS squares.

(JD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	801	900+
Flints.	883	250

Denbs. Maximum 900+ seen going to roost over GF on 29/09 (JN).

Flints. Sightings from across the area with almost daily records coming from Rhydymwyn (JVHu). Maximum was 250 seen at Rhuddlan on 30/01 and also 12/12 (SH).

Breeding (IMS, AmB):

(JD)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	6	16	5	0.83

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

YDFRAN

Common and widespread colonial breeding resident.

The number of records has doubled since 2007 and this is due to GBW (55.3% of all records in Denbs and 67.0% in Flints) and possibly the additional activity for the Atlas project. Locations for rookeries have also increased but rookery counts are still rather sparse. Birds were seen on 14/25 BBS squares.

(RO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	215	1000+
Flints.	221	220

Denbs. Seen in all months of the year. Flocks of 20-43 most noticeable in the winter and early

spring months. However, an estimated flock of 1,000+ (mixed flock of Rooks and Jackdaws) was seen at GF on 8/07 (JN) and smaller flocks of 100-200 were seen in the same vicinity over the autumn and winter period (JN).

Flints. Maximum flock of 220+ seen at Meliden on 29/12 by DCR.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone corone*)

BRAN DYDDYN

Common breeding resident.

This widespread species was reported across the recording area with flocks only noted in the autumn and winter months. Birds were observed in the breeding season in 24/25 BBS squares.

(C.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	533	200
Flints.	568	120

Denbs. The records were from 91 sites. Small numbers were seen throughout the year with flock size rarely exceeding 10. The exceptions were 12 at Llyn Brenig on 22/05 (NiW), 18 at Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant on 07/06 (RG), 20 at Holt on 14/03 (NH) and a significant flock of 200 birds at Fenn's Moss on 8/06 (ELJ).

Flints. The records came from 75 sites. Birds were seen in all months of the year. Flocks of over 10 birds were seen on ten occasions, mainly near the coast at Rhuddlan, Rhyl and Prestatyn, an exception being 30+ seen at Babell on 1/01 (AB, IMS). The maximum count of 120 on 29/12 was at Meliden (DCR).

Breeding (JLR):

(C.)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	4	15	8	2.00

Hooded Crow (*Corvus corone cornix*)

BRÂN LWYD

Occasional visitor

Denbs. The single that has been present in the Llangollen area in recent years was seen near Pentredwr on 26/04 (JLR) and near Eglwyseg on 21/07 (SNI).

(HC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	1
Flints.	0	

Common Raven (*Corvus corax*)

CIGFRAN

Fairly common and widespread breeding resident.

A further increase in records was noted this year. Birds were seen in all months of the year from an ever increasing variety of locations. Coastal sightings are usually only reported in autumn and winter. Birds were reported from 4/25 BBS squares.

(RN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	106	60
Flints.	71	7

Denbs. Sightings of individuals and small flocks were seen in all months of the year and at 73 locations. There were 30 seen around the summit of Foel Ganol near Cyffylliog on 6/01 (DDi), 33 at Horseshoe Pass on 3/04 (JLR, MSJ) and a non-breeding flock of 60 near Bryneglwys

on 6/06 (JHe).

Flints. Small numbers, never exceeding 7, were seen in all months scattered across the county from 24 locations.

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

DRUDWEN

Common and widespread breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

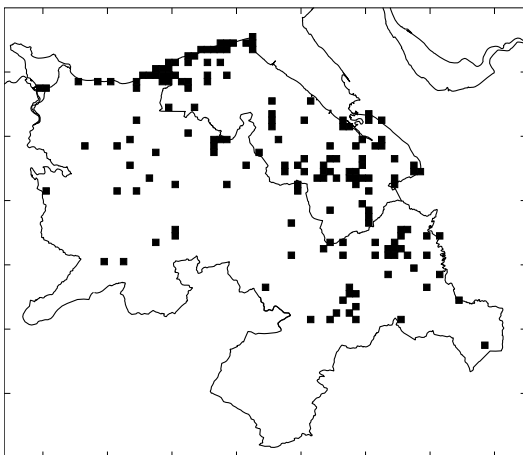
Many more records were received for this species thanks to GBW and Birdtrack observers. Starlings were seen in all months from a range of locations and elevations but in the breeding season sightings were mainly confined to the lowland parts of the region, where possible breeding was recorded in 10/25 BBS squares.

Denbs. Winter roost numbers at CON reverted to high numbers this year with the maximum count of 20,000 recorded on 15/10 (pJH). Other winter flocks of between 100 and 1,000 were counted at several locations. Breeding was also confirmed at several localities.

Flints. Rhuddlan again hosted a large winter flock, peaking at 4000 on 4/02 (SH). Other winter flocks between 100 and 1000 were seen at a few places. Sightings were widespread in the breeding season.

(SG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	679	20000
Flints.	918	4000

Common Starling 2008



Breeding (AmB, IMS):

(SG)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	2	9	3	1.50

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

ADERYN Y TO

Common breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP

Reported widely across the recording area throughout the year with enhanced numbers of records received thanks to GBW. Birds were recorded in 14/25 BBS squares.

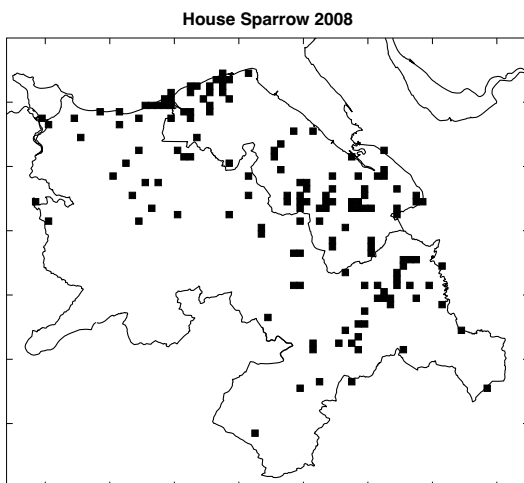
(HS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1335	115+
Flints.	1216	86

Breeding (IMS, JLR):

(HS)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	56	204	119	2.13

Denbs. Most records were from GBW (82.4%) but flocks were counted in all months at Towyn with flocks of 60+ on 20/07, 60+ on 21/11, 65+ on 25/02, 80+ on 23/08 with a maximum of 115+ (two separate flocks of 90 and 25) recorded on 24/11 (all SM).

Flints. This species was widely reported from gardens and village locations across the area with 65.1% of records from GBW. Regular flocks of 20-30 birds were seen in Rhydymwyn throughout the year with numbers going up to 40+ on several occasions and reaching 50+ on 25/11 (JVHu). Other large counts were 60 at Rhyl on 30/10 (RMB) and during BBS walks at Buckley: 63 on 14/04 and 86 on 20/05 (GNR).



Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

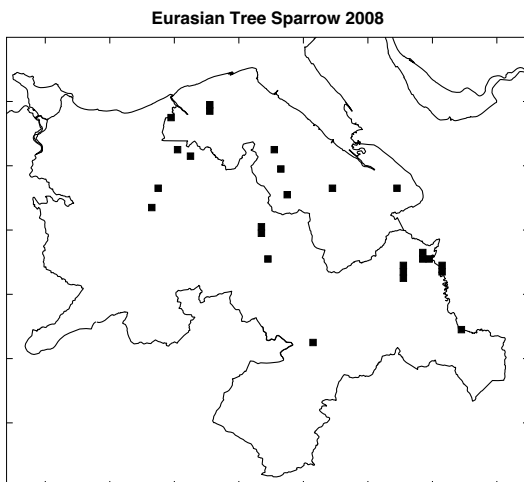
GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

A scarce localised breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

GBW provided the majority of records – 84.5% in Denbs and 78.7% in Flints.

(TS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	101	14
Flints.	75	63

Denbs. Most records were of more than 1 with 1+ recorded in a garden near Bont-newydd in the late summer and autumn (HMM) and 2 were seen regularly during GBW at Tallarn Green throughout the year (MA). Though the latter is in the Dee flood-plain it is not near a known breeding site. There were at least 8 seen at Trevalyn Meadows on 26/06 near some nest boxes. There were 11 at a bird table near Llanfair DC on 15/10 and 15/12 and 12 there on 15/01 (JoH). During the breeding season 11 nestlings were ringed near Bodelwyddan on 24/05 and 14 nestlings were ringed there on 24/06 (IMS).



Breeding (IMS):

(TS)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Young fledged	Young per nest
	66	339	250	3.79

Flints. There were records of at least one bird from several locations and at a GBW site near Cilcain (RWe) throughout the year, again with no known breeding colony in that area. The relatively large numbers of birds were seen at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft with 18 seen during a BBS walk on 11/05, 38 nestlings ringed on 8/08, 50 nestlings ringed on 30/06 and 63 nestlings ringed there on 24/05 (IMS). There was one other notable record of 26 at a GBW site in Dyserth during the week beginning 21/12 (AGB) which is close to a breeding colony at Cwm.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

JI-BINC

Common and widespread breeding resident.

A large increase in reporting was due to the inclusion of records from GBW. Records came from widely across the recording area throughout the year with small numbers seen in gardens in every month. Birds were observed in the breeding season in 24/25 BBS squares.

(CH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1538	200
Flints.	1545	100

Denbs. Small flocks between 10-20 birds were mainly noted during the winter months. The larger counts were 47 near Bwlchgwyn on 19/10 (JC), 80+ at GF on 22/12 (JN) and 200 at Penycae on 19/10 moving SW with, mainly, Redwings (JAJ).

Flints. In Jan flocks of 40-100 birds were regularly reported from the coastal belt from Flint, Oakenholt and Rhuddlan, with the maximum number recorded on 17/01 at CQNR (GR). As the breeding season approached a flock of 28 was still present at Rhuddlan on 7/04 (SH). Small flocks began to build up again in Jul with peak numbers (not exceeding 50) again evident on the coast in Dec.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

PINC Y MYNYDD

Localised winter visitor in variable numbers.

Birds were more widespread but in smaller numbers than the previous year. Birds stayed in reasonable numbers until late April. Small numbers arrived in mid-autumn 2008, mostly seen inland.

(BL)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	92	42
Flints.	72	15+

Denbs. The records were from 22 sites. Winter numbers reached a maximum of 42 on 27/01 (JC) at Bwlchgwyn and flocks not exceeding 37 birds were seen well into late April. The last spring record was a single at Bwlchgwyn on 4/05 (JC). The first autumn bird arrived on 11/10 at Llangedwyn (ToJ) and small numbers not exceeding 10 were reported from sites across the county until the end of the year.

Flints. The records came from 20 locations. These were mainly spring sightings of small numbers not exceeding 15+ (Pontybodkin on 16/01 (ANB)) from sites across the county from Caergwile to Trelawnyd including coastal sites at CQNR and SS. The last spring record was a male at SS on 13/04 (PT). Autumn records were from 26/10 to the end of the year.

European Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)

LLINOS WERDD

Common breeding resident.

Mainly recorded by surveys – ringing, GBW, BBS.

(GR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1029	41
Flints.	1155	42

Denbs. Recorded in every month of year with 80.4% of records from GBW sites and most counts were of 1-10 birds.

The largest counts were 20 at Towyn on 3/02 (SM), 20 at Bwlchgwyn in week beginning 20/07 and 41 there in week beginning 16/03 (JC), the last two being at a GBW site.

Flints. Recorded in every month of the year with most records being 1-15 birds and 62.4% of all records came from GBW sites (again, JVHu provided many other records). The largest counts were 20 and 25 at Northop in the weeks beginning 2/11 and 16/11, 20+ at Shotwick fields on 7/09 (HC) and 42 fullgrown birds were ringed at SS on 30/11 (pBH). Several of the birds at Rhydymwyn showed signs of trichomoniasis, a disease that has caused problems in many parts of the UK this year.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

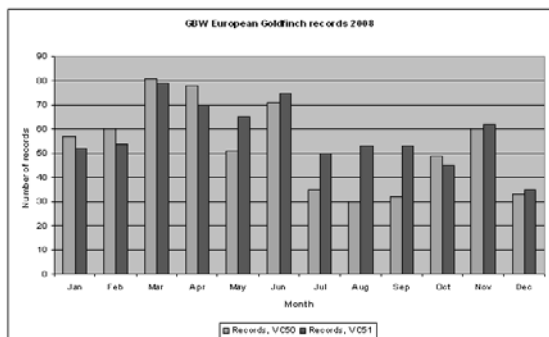
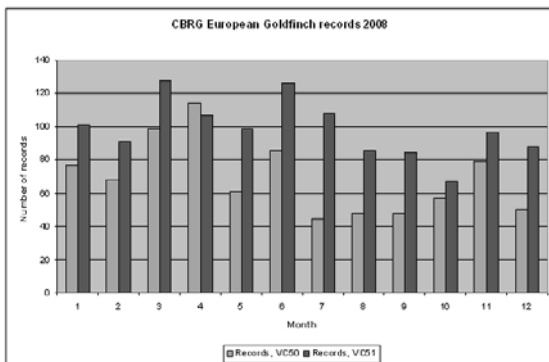
NICO

Common breeding resident

(GO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	853	200
Flints.	1193	300+

This is a species that regularly appears in gardens, often seen with Siskins at some times of the year. In Denbs 74.7% of the records were from GBW sites while in Flints only 58.1% were from GBW largely because of the records from JVHu at Rhydymwyn. The pattern of records for Goldfinch is very different to that of Siskin in that there are large numbers of records throughout the year, both from gardens and from other locations (see the charts for all records and for GBW records). Also, unlike Siskin, the majority of Goldfinch records are from Flints – even if the JVHu records are not counted. Presumably there is more weedy habitat with small seeds in Flints (as well as many garden feeders with nyjer seed!).

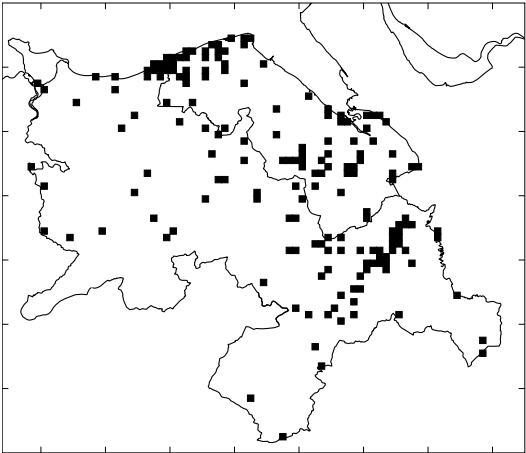
Denbs. Most of the records were of 1-20 birds, the larger groups mainly in winter/spring and then in autumn, with smaller numbers during the summer. The biggest charms were: 25 at Acton Park, Wrexham on 10/11 (JN), 30 at Denbigh Crossroads, Clocaenog Forest on 19/09 (RMB), 30 at Kinmel Bay on 25/09 (RMB), 43 near Cyffylliog on 19/09 (DaN), 45+ near Borrass on 3/08 (JN) and by far the largest charm



was of 200 near Penrycae on 2/10 (PLa).

Flints. Most of the records were of 1-20 birds in the same seasons as in Denbs. with another eight records of 21-40+ birds. The largest charms were: 100 at CQNR on 14/09 (GM), 100 there on 5/10 (GR) and 100 there again on 17/10 (ELJ), 200 also at CQNR on 23/09 (DPar) and 200 there on 24/09 (GR), 200+ at Shotwick fields on 7/09 (HC), 200+ at Rhydymwyn feeding on willowherb and knotweed on 18/09 (JVHu) and 300+ near Rhuddlan on 13/09 (DCR).

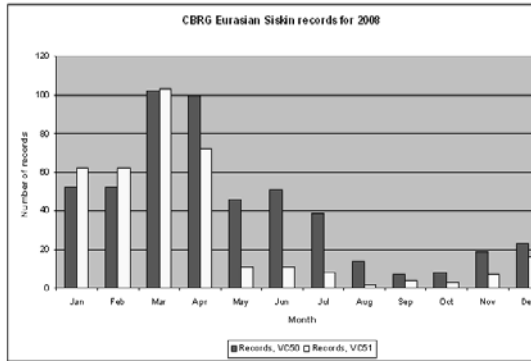
European Goldfinch 2008



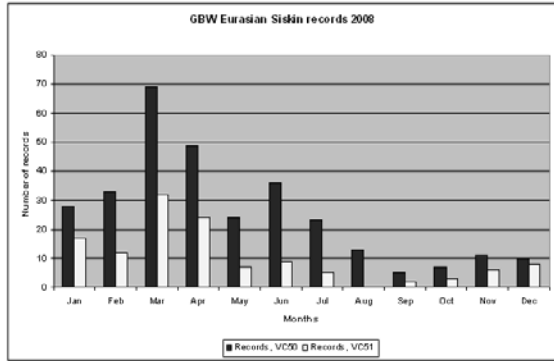
Eurasian Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*)

PILA GWYRDD

Breeding resident in forests, with marked spring passage of migrants in April.



(SK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	515	995+
Flints.	361	30

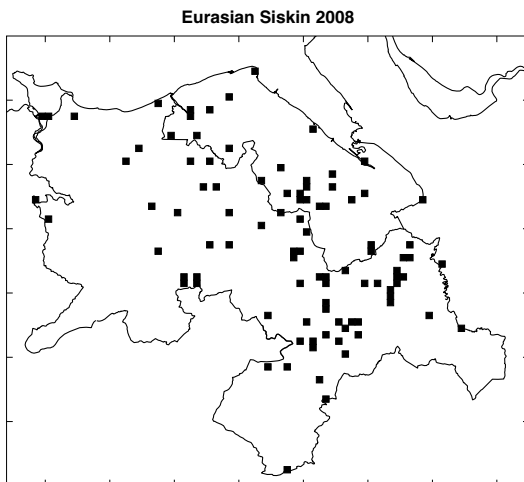


The map shows that this species was recorded at many more sites in Denbs than in Flints though the numbers of records are not hugely different (Flints records are about 70% of the Denbs number). The chart shows that the distribution of records through the year is similar Jan to Apr in both counties, but in May to Jul there are many more records in Denbs, presumably because it has much more coniferous forest breeding habitat. During the autumn there are many fewer records in both counties. The GBW chart shows that many winter and spring records are from gardens, especially in Denbs.

Denbs. 24.7% of the records were of singles. There were many records of flocks of 2-40 birds and the largest

flocks seen were: 100 at Craig Bronbannog on 17/02 (KS), 100 at Cyffylliog on 28/06 (DaN), 200 at Brynhyfryd, Clocaenog Forest on 17/02 (ELJ) and an exceptional flock of 995+ at Brynhyfryd on 23/02 (StC).

Flints. The numbers of Siskins recorded here are considerably smaller with the majority being of 1-20 birds. Larger flocks were: 24 near Rhuddlan on 24/12 (SH), 27 at Caergwrle on 16/03 (ECMH), 24+ at Rhydymwyn on 31/01 and 25+ there on 3/04 (JVHu) and 30 near Mold on 9/03 and 16/03 (EP).



Common Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*)

LLINOS

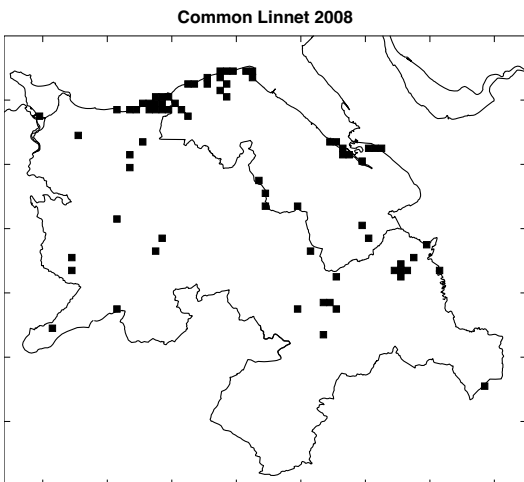
Widespread breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP

This species is most commonly recorded at coastal sites and inland records were infrequent. There were fewer records than in previous years. Potential breeding was only recorded in 5/25 BBS squares.

(LI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	104	140
Flints.	67	200

Denbs. Coastal flocks of 10-50 were recorded on five occasions, all from Kinmel Bay. Inland, a flock of 50+ was recorded from Borrás, Wrexham on 5/03 and another of 100+ on 13/09 (JN) but the maximum number of 140 was recorded in a weedy field at Holt on 17/09 (NFr).

Flints. Small flocks of 10-30 were regularly encountered at coastal sites. Larger flocks of up to 200 birds were seen on eleven occasions. The maximum flock of 200 was recorded at Gronant dunes on 4/08 (ELJ).



Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*)

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

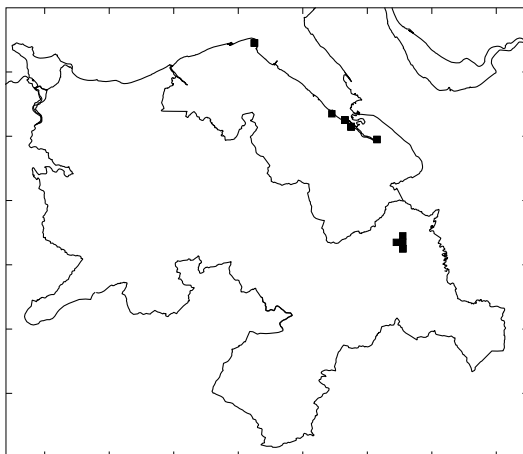
Winter visitor to coastal areas. Amber List. WBAP

(TW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	6	1
Flints.	16	38

Denbs. All records were from the Wrexham area (GF and Borrás) in the autumn months only, with the first seen on 26/09 and the last on 15/11 (JN).

Flints. Seen mainly at CQNR but also at Shotton and Flint. The maximum of 38 birds was seen at CQNR on 11/11 (PDS, ANB).

Twite 2008



Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*)

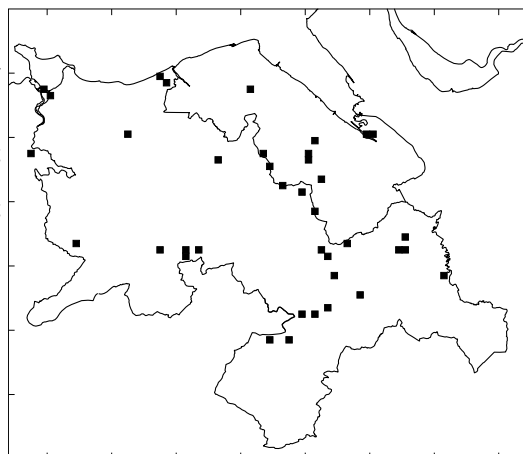
LLINOS BENGOGH

Breeding resident. WBAP

(LR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	51	65
Flints.	21	10

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, Llandegla, RM and Llyn Brenig.

Lesser Redpoll 2008



Denbs. Birds were seen in fewer numbers this year with only four flocks exceeding 10 in number though 30 were counted at a GBW site at Bwlchgwyn in the week beginning 8/04 (JC). The largest flock was seen at Llandegla on 7/12 (DeS). Breeding activity was recorded on several occasions mainly due to observers taking part in Atlas surveying. One BBS square reported this species in the breeding season and GBW records were only 5.9% of the total.

Flints. Mainly seen in single figures

from 9 locations in most months of the year with the exception of Feb and Oct. The largest count of 10 was at Penycloddiau on 11/05 when display was seen, indicating probable breeding nearby (EdW). There were no records from GBW.

Common Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*)

GYLFIN GROES

Scarce breeding resident.

Denbs. A similar number of records to 2007 but mainly of single figure sightings and small flocks not exceeding 30+. The large numbers from 2007 obviously dissipated before the end of the year and in 2008 the largest flocks (30+) were seen on 27/03 at Clocaenog Forest (ANB) and at Llandegla on 19/04 (DeS). Juveniles were seen in Llandegla Forest at the end of Mar (JuR).

(CR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	54	30+
Flints.	2	4

Flints. Both records were in Aug, from Penycloddiau, with the maximum number of birds (4) seen on 10/08 (EdW).

Common Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

COCH Y BERLLAN

Breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

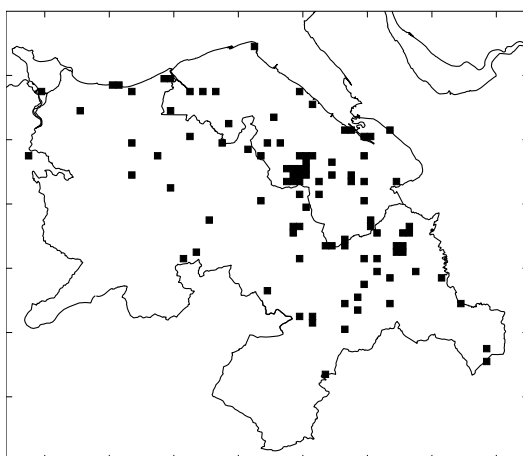
Mainly recorded in single figures throughout the year in both counties with a widespread distribution. Birds were seen in the breeding season in 6/25 BBS squares.

(BF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	263	10
Flints.	364	12

Denbs. Of all the records 54.6% were from GBW. Breeding was confirmed at several sites with the first juvenile seen on 20/07 at Bwlchgwyn (JC). Maximum count of 10 was at Bwlchgwyn on 20/01 (JC).

Flints. Here, 70.1% of records were from GBW. It is unclear why a higher percentage of records should come from this source in Flints compared with Denbs. Perhaps there is less suitable natural habitat in Denbs? The maximum count of 12 was at Buckley on 6/01 (DSh).

Common Bullfinch 2008



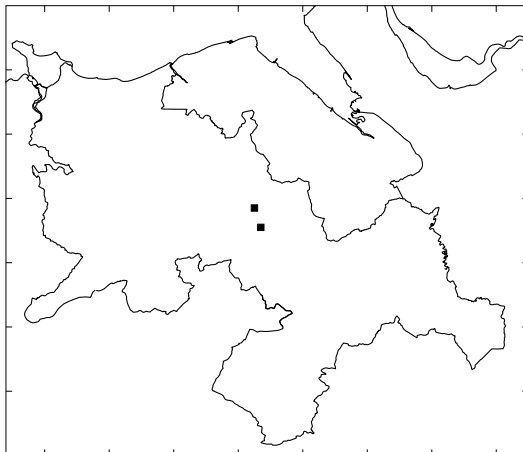
Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)

GYLFINBRAFF

Scarce breeding resident. WBAP

(HF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	5	2
Flints.	0	

Denbs. This species was seen on four separate occasions in the Llanfair DC vicinity between 22/01 and 6/03 (JoH) and once near Rhuthun on 3/11 (JoH).

Hawfinch 2008**Lapland Longspur** (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

Scarce vagrant.

(LA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Denbs. A single bird was seen at GF on 6/11 (JN).

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

BRAS YR EIRA

Regular coastal winter visitor in small numbers.

(SB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	7
Flints.	1	1

Only four records in total across the whole recording area this year, which is very few in comparison to previous years.

Denbs. Maximum of 7 seen at Belgrano, Pensarn beach on 19/01 (MC).

Flints. Only one record from Shotwick fields on 20/09 (ANB).

Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citronella*)

MELYN YR EITHIN

Formerly common breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

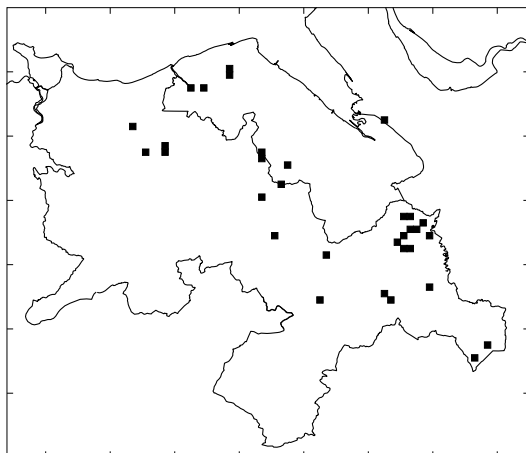
2007

The table to the right shows the correct numbers of records and maximum counts for 2007.

(Y. 2007)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	101	5
Flints.	47	6

2008

Yellowhammer 2008



(Y. 2008)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	136	7
Flints.	44	4

Denbs. There were no GBW records and most came from near Llanbedr DC where a maximum of 7 were seen together on 30/04 (PT). There were no records from a known site near Bodfari – hopefully the birds are still there.

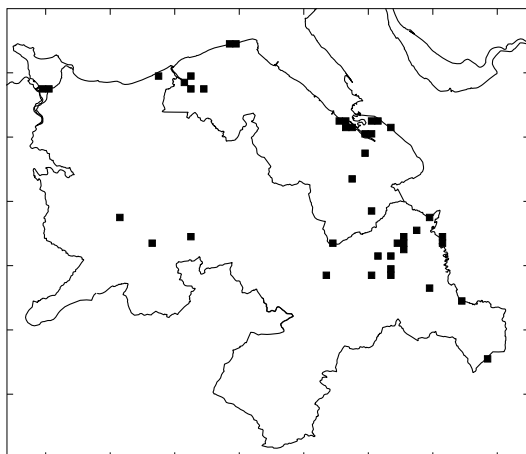
Flints. Some 60.0% of records came from one GBW site near Cilcain and the largest counts were of 4 at Penycloddiau on 5/05, 11/05 (when at least one pair was seen), and on 15/06 when birds behaved as if on territory, so breeding there was probable (all EdW).

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

Breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP

BRAS Y CYRS

Reed Bunting 2008



(RB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	84	8
Flints.	46	8

Distribution and numbers very similar to 2007. Under-recorded as a breeding species.

Denbs. Most records came in the first half of the year from twenty five sites. The largest count of 8 was from Holt on 21/11 (NFr). Recorded on three BBS surveys and presumed to be breeding. Some 31.0% of records came from GBW, mainly in the Wrexham area.

Flints. Seen at eighteen sites and in all months of the year except Aug and

Oct. Breeding was confirmed at two sites: Gronant where 5 recently fledged young were seen (AC, HC, RC) and Rhuddlan where a nest was found containing young (RCa). Birds were seen on a BBS square near Mold and 23.4% of all records came from a GBW site at Buckley (DFD).

Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)

BRAS YR YD

Scarce localised breeding species. Red List. WBAP

(CB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	0	

This species has always been considered to be on the western edge of its British range in N Wales. In recent times it has only ever been recorded from a few locations in NE Wales, notably Shotwick fields and the Bettisfield area. However, it is a real concern that during 2008 we received no records of Corn Bunting from either county.

Feral species and presumed escapes

Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*)

ALARCH DU

Denbs. A single was recorded at CON on four days in May. Another was near Ridleywood on 21/11 (NFr).

Flints. A single was seen at WS on three days in Feb/Mar – possibly the same bird as was later seen at CON.

Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*)

GŴYDD BENRHESOG

Denbs. Singles were seen at GF on 26/01 (JN) and near Trevalyn on 1/02 (NFr).

Flints. A single was seen at FLQ on 24/02 (KS).

Ross's Goose (*Anser rossii*)

GŴYDD ROSS

Denbs. A single was seen at CON on 7/07 (MF).

Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*)

ALARCHWYDD

Flints. Probably the same two birds as last year were recorded near Rhuddlan on 8/02 (SH) where they are often seen.

Denbs. Two were seen at Bettisfield on 27/04 (NH).

American / Eurasian Wigeon hybrid

Denbs. There were thirteen records of a single at CON between 16/01 and 6/03 (pJH).

Indian Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*)

PAUN

Flints. Three were recorded near Tremeirchion on 16/02 (PKi).

Records for which we await decisions by the British Birds Rarities Committee:

Red breasted Goose, GF, Wrexham, 5 February 2007 (still in circulation)

If accepted, this will be incorporated into the report for 2009.

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)

Common Redpoll, 8 April 2008, Bwlchgwyn (in circulation)

If accepted, these will be incorporated into the report for 2009.

First and last dates of selected migrants

	First dates		Last dates
	2008		2008
Eurasian Hobby	17/04		27/09
Little Tern	15/05		20/07
Sandwich Tern	14/04		26/09
Common Tern	25/04		04/09
Common Cuckoo	25/04		05/09
European Nightjar	21/05		26/07
Common Swift	26/04		17/09
Sand Martin	16/03		11/09
Barn Swallow	16/03		07/10
House Martin	03/04		07/10
Tree Pipit	16/04		06/10
Yellow Wagtail	16/04		03/09
Common Redstart	16/04		25/10
Whinchat	24/04		13/09
Northern Wheatear	17/03		15/11
Ring Ouzel	13/04		12/09
Fieldfare	18/09		18/04
Redwing	24/09		03/04
Common Grasshopper Warbler	19/04		03/08
Sedge Warbler	19/04		06/09
Eurasian Reed Warbler	20/04		31/08
Garden Warbler	19/04		24/09
Lesser Whitethroat	24/04		14/09
Common Whitethroat	15/04		09/09
Wood Warbler	25/04		07/07
Willow Warbler	31/03		03/10
Spotted Flycatcher	30/04		23/09
Pied Flycatcher	09/04		10/08

This table shows the recorded first and last dates for most of the species regarded as migrants in north-east Wales. Observers are now being more vigilant with recording their first and last sightings of many of these species and as the years go on we should be able to note some trends in arrival and leaving times.

In 2008, Hobby arrived earlier than in the past four years but the arrival dates for all the tern species were the latest noted in five years which may be a genuine reflection of the late spring. However, many of our summer visitors appeared to stay with us a bit longer this year but this may be due to more accurate bird recording. Notable late dates were for Ring Ouzel, Cuckoo and Wheatear. Pied Flycatchers were recorded into August. This year our winter visitors (Fieldfare and Redwing) came a little earlier than in previous years.

Anne Brenchley

Articles

Gors Maen Llwyd

At 280 hectares, Gors Maen Llwyd is the largest nature reserve managed by the North Wales Wildlife Trust. Situated on the northern end of Llyn Brenig, the reserve is made up of heathland and blanket bog with smaller areas of grassland, coniferous woodland and riparian habitats. It forms part of the Mynydd Hiraethog Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Traditionally, heather moors were managed for game species such as grouse, and burnt on a 15 year rotation to keep them in good condition. Following a general decline in grouse shooting after WW1, management at Gors Maen Llwyd had not occurred for many years by the time the NWWT purchased the site in 1988. The heather stems had become old and 'leggy' and the bogland habitats overgrown with grasses. The NWWT began a program of selective heather cutting, burning and light grazing to restore the habitats and the site is now in good condition for a variety of upland species.

The dominant plant in the heathland areas is heather, with bilberry being abundant in some areas. Cross-leaved heath and bell-heather are also frequent, particularly in the more boggy areas. Around a third of the reserve is either blanket bog or mire. Plant species present in these areas include sphagnum mosses and cotton grasses as well as cranberry, bog bean, and bog asphodel, which has a bright yellow flower in the summer months. Fourteen sedge species are also found on the reserve including the very rare hybrid *Carex x gandiniana*. Wetter parts of the reserve also support round-leaved sundew and butterwort - insectivorous plants that catch insects on their leaves to provide them with nutrients.

Grassland areas within the reserve support wildflowers such as mountain pansy, harebell, speedwells, violets and tormentil. Small streams running through the site cut deep gulleys, which support shade loving plants such as wood-sorrel, lady fern, buckler fern and polypody.

The reserve is important for an abundance of invertebrates including golden-ringed dragonfly, emperor moth and the heath moth. Birds breeding on the reserve include meadow pipit, skylark, stonechat, whinchat and wheatear. Red and black grouse also breed on site and feed on the young heather shoots. Sand martins also breed on the reserve, nesting in the sandy banks on the shore of Llyn Brenig. Hen harriers have bred on the reserve and other raptors such as kestrel, merlin and buzzard are regular sights. The reserve is a good place to see reed bunting, common sandpiper, oystercatcher, greylag goose and many other common wetland birds.

Frogs and toads breed on the reserve and provide food for adders which can be seen basking on rocky outcrops on sunny days. The reserve provides good habitats for small mammals including water voles, which live on the stream banks. Otters are present in the area and hunt along the streams that enter Llyn Brenig.

Gors Maen Llwyd is situated at the northern end of Llyn Brenig off the B4501. From Denbigh, take the A543 and after around 7 miles turn left onto the road to Llyn Brenig. After 1 mile turn left and follow the road through the reserve. There are two car parks – one at the brow of the hill (SH970580) and one near the reserve's bird hide (SH983574), which also has toilet facilities.

The surrounding land is owned by Dwr Cymru and managed for recreation with way-marked

paths and picnic sites. The Llyn Brenig Visitor Centre on the west bank of the lake has an information centre and shop, as well as a café that gives a donation to the NWWT with every order. So why not buy a paned (cuppa) and help protect wildlife in North Wales!

Adrian Lloyd Jones
Conservation Officer
North Wales Wildlife Trust

North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas 2008-2011 – Progress so far



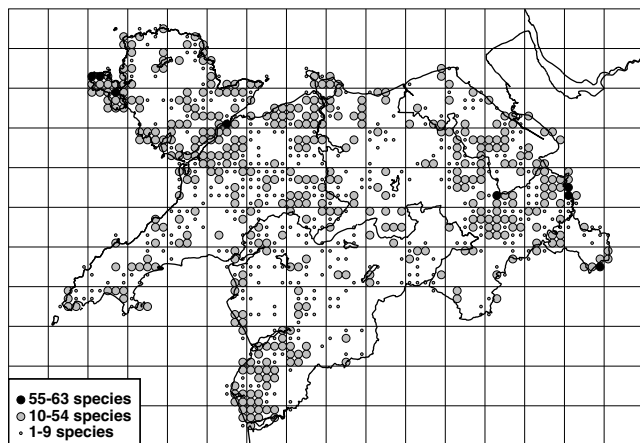
We have now reached the midway point in our ambitious project to map the distribution of all the birds found breeding here in North Wales. Over 160 species have so far been recorded as breeding in our area. We are still receiving data for the 2009 season so the following map shows only the records received for 2008 and the progress is tremendous.

However, there are clearly gaps in coverage and not always in the more remote or unpopulated areas. There are also tetrads where a reasonable number of records have been received but many of these records do not indicate the breeding situation and this

means that these records may not be of use in our Atlas project. Therefore, we are urging observers, whether they contribute to the project through Birdtrack, Garden BirdWatch, Roving

Records or Timed Tetrad Visits (TTVs) to supply breeding codes. In the final publication we will be producing maps that show either Possible, Probable or Confirmed breeding in every one of the 1860 tetrads across North Wales.

Tetrads with breeding codes 2008



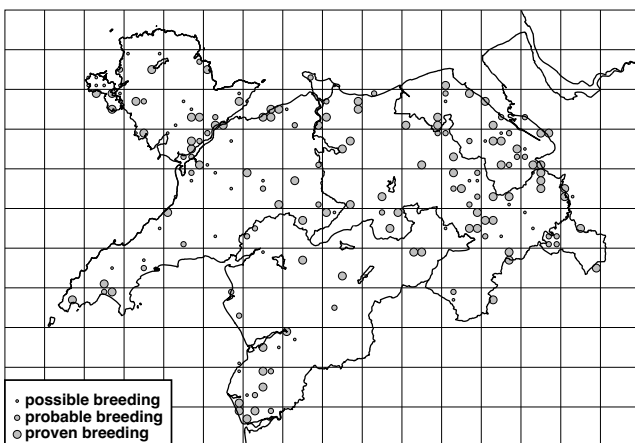
Over 600 birdwatchers have contributed in some way to the records received so far although it would be fair to say that the bulk of the records have come from only 100 individuals. However,

every little bit of effort helps. The online system has meant that observers can log on and see what species have been recorded in a tetrad (each observer can view 10 tetrads each day) and the highest level of breeding evidence. This is a useful way of targeting effort. Every person contributing to this bird report should also be helping with this local and extremely vital conservation project. Several training courses for potential observers or existing observers who want to enhance their skills have been put on since autumn 2007 and more courses are

planned for this autumn and spring 2010. These courses are free so do look out for details on the North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas website (www.northwalesbirdatlas.co.uk) or contact local BTO Regional Reps or the County Recorders.

Early results have shown interesting information. Some of our 'common' species are less common than we thought. Where have all our House Martins and Swifts gone? Once upon a time every village or small hamlet would have at least one building occupied by House Martins but sadly there are now whole tetrads where this species is missing as a breeding bird. If you know of breeding House Martins in any areas on this map without a dot and have the details of the record (date, tetrad or Grid Ref.) then please put them on the national website (www.birdatlas.net) or send the records to me.

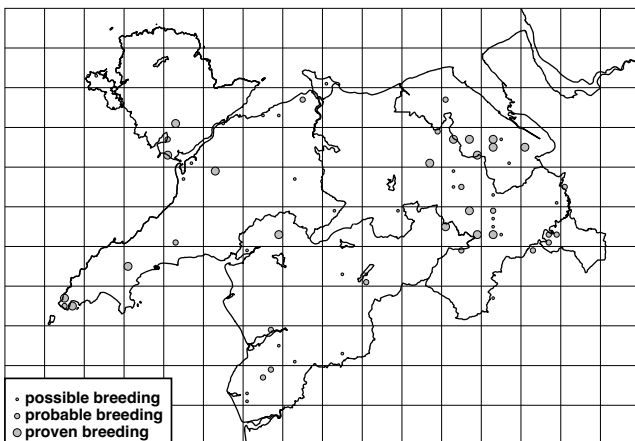
House Martin 2008



Likewise, Swifts have also been less frequent in recent years and the demise of some traditional colonies, especially in and around Ruthin is to be deplored.

Spotted Flycatcher 2008

We know that Spotted Flycatchers are a much less common breeding bird than they were during the last national Breeding Atlas in 1988-1991 but they are probably not as rare as this map would suggest. Again if you have records for this species in either 2008 or 2009 please let us know.



How can you take part?

We hope that all readers of this report can contribute in some way. Whatever your birdwatching skills there is something you can do. The regular birdwatcher can adopt a tetrad and find as many of the breeding species within that tetrad as your time will allow. Surveyors will need to visit all the major habitats in the tetrad and where possible make an evening visit to sites you think may have

night-time species such as owls, woodcock etc. Two to four hours should be a the minimum time allocated to each tetrad but experience from pilot surveys, elsewhere in the UK, indicates that few extra species are found after ten hours effort and that volunteer time is then best used by moving on to another tetrad. Given our restricted volunteer workforce this is what we would advise. All birdwatchers can provide Roving Records (casual reports) for records of birds seen in the breeding season from right across the atlas area, from garden records to one-off birding trips. It is vital, however, that recorders note down the tetrad where birds are seen and the full date where possible. All recording forms and guidance on how to identify tetrads are available from the Atlas Coordinators. In 2009, we have been grateful for the support from Awards for All Wales, whose grant has enabled us to run training courses and buy other materials needed to support this major volunteer project. More detailed information on the project and ideas of how you can help are to be found on our website: www.northwalesbirdatlas.co.uk



Anne Brenchley

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House Martin by M S Wood

WeBS Counts for selected sites in North-East Wales

The sites that have been selected are those that were reported in the 2007 report but there are no data within the reporting period for sites M, N and Q. The table, below, 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 at each site, the date of that count (and if the same count occurred on several dates, it is the latest date) for each species over the period July 2007 to end of June 2008, the period for which WeBS counts were available at the time of preparing this report.

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

The data for the tables below 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 Protection 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).

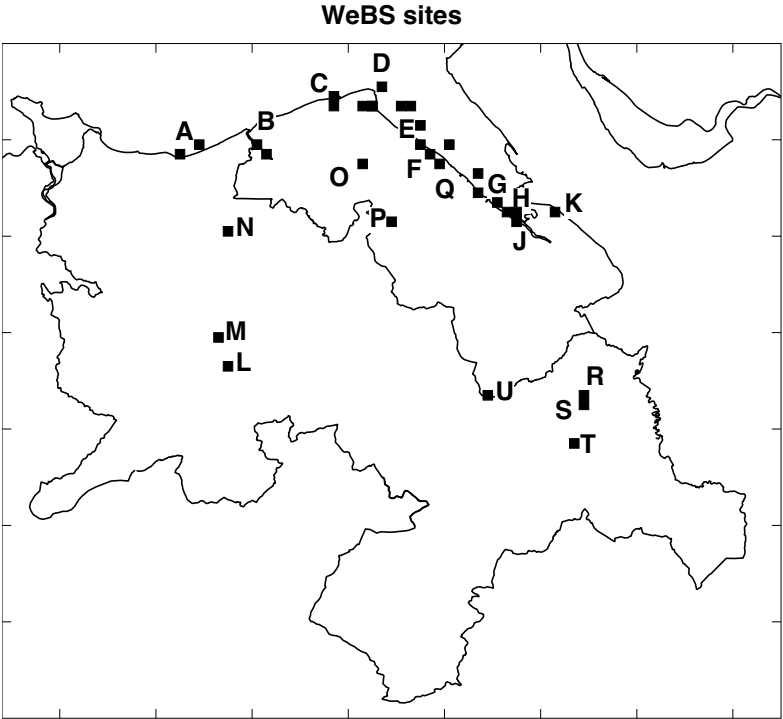
Site =	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	8/02	18/05		13/02			13/01	
Mute Swan (MS)	4	53		3			2	
Tundra Swan (BS)								
		13/01					11/11	
Whooper Swan (WS)		1					3	
		10/11						
Greylag Goose (GJ)		92						
		9/03		9/01				16/09
Greater Canada Goose(CG)		34		294				290
		9/12		14/10	14/10		18/05	22/06
Common Shelduck (SU)		96		311	342		9	208
		9/12		9/01				12/11
Eurasian Wigeon (WN)		212		750				230
Gadwall (GA)								
		13/01		7/12			9/12	16/09
Eurasian Teal (T.)		33		109			5	360
	22/06	16/10	9/01	12/03	16/09		13/01	13/08
Mallard (MA)	74	117	6	57	60		7	300
				9/01	16/09			9/03
Northern Pintail (PT)				14	12			4
	8/02			7/12				
Northern Shoveler (SV)	4			10				
		10/02		13/02				
Common Pochard (PO)		3		12				
	11/11	10/11		10/02				
Tufted Duck (TU)	2	18		18				
				7/12				
Greater Scaup (SP)				1				
	9/12				9/12			
Common Scoter (CX)	1600				1			
		9/03		12/03				
Common Goldeneye (GN)		8		2				
	8/02	13/01		9/03				
Red-breasted Merganser (RM)	15	3		7				
		10/02						
Goosander (GD)		9						
	8/02							
Red-throated Diver (RH)	1							
		13/01		7/12				
Little Grebe (LG)		7		4				

	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
	10/02	6/04	1/11				22/09	17/09		22/06	6/04	22/06	16/09
MS	36	5	9				7	5		2	2	2	2
	14/01												
BS	50												
	11/03												
WS	39												
	14/01	6/04								7/10			
GJ	12	1								120			
	15/10	9/03						20/07		12/08	22/06		6/04
CG	1000	164						4		102	24		18
	11/03	18/05											
SU	425	34											
	14/01	10/12	1/11										
WN	350	91	15										
		6/04							4/12				
GA		21							6				
	17/09	10/12	1/11					4/12		6/04		7/10	
T.	300	60	24					1		3		1	
	22/06	10/12	1/11				29/11	20/07		7/10	15/07	7/10	9/12
MA	77	92	21				18	65		20	42	20	7
	11/03												
PT	26												
	18/05	9/03								10/02			
SV	2	4								85			
		9/03							7/10				
PO		2							1				
		23/06		1/08			29/11	4/12				10/02	7/10
TU		15		3			1	55				16	1
		9/03											
SP		1											
CX													
		13/01											
GN		1											
RM													
							29/11					9/03	
GD							1					5	
RH													
		15/07	1/11					7/10				7/10	
LG		6	13					15				3	

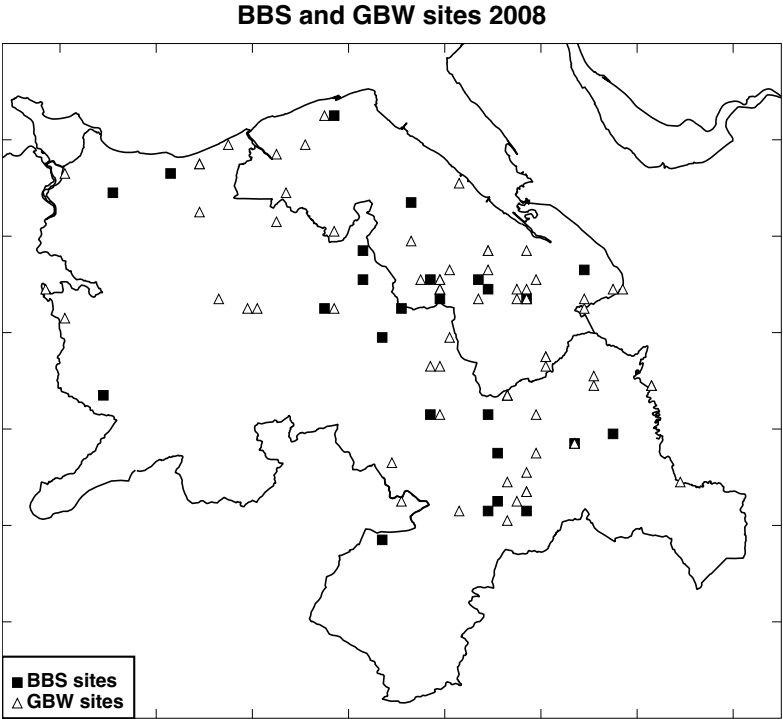
Site =	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	7/10	18/05					11/11	
Great Crested Grebe (GG)	8	1					4	
	7/10	6/04		12/03	16/09		9/12	12/11
Great Cormorant (CA)	45	210		8	5		46	54
		9/03		12/03	16/09			15/07
Little Egret (ET)		4		2	11			2
		13/01	13/02	11/11	12/08	9/12	12/08	12/11
Grey Heron (H.)		4	2	1	6	1	14	7
		10/02						
Common Buzzard (BZ)		1						
	8/02	9/03	13/02	7/12				
Common Moorhen (MH)	17	9	2	8				
	9/12	16/10	12/03					
Common Coot (CO)	21	33	56					
	11/11	18/05	7/12	14/10	6/04	13/01	13/01	13/08
Eurasian Oystercatcher (OC)	422	65	23	350	6514	20	3174	750
	13/01	18/05			12/08		10/02	13/01
Ringed Plover (RP)	10	9			5		26	3
		9/12	7/12	9/01	9/12		10/02	10/02
Northern Lapwing (L.)		2000	12	858	290		30	870
					9/03		9/03	10/12
Red Knot (KN)					250		600	300
		10/02		13/02	12/08		9/12	13/01
Dunlin (DN)		220		1	45		160	3000
		10/02						
Jack Snipe (JS)		2						
		10/11		13/02	9/12			12/11
Common Snipe (SN)		31		3	2			1
		6/04	13/02	9/01	9/03		11/11	12/11
Black-tailed Godwit (BW)		12	140	500	60		86	2480
					16/09			22/06
Bar-tailed Godwit (BA)					1			4
		6/04			16/09			13/08
Whimbrel (WM)		2			1			2
	7/10	13/01	13/02	7/12	9/12	13/01	9/12	10/02
Eurasian Curlew (CU)	2	265	107	202	186	47	92	18
								12/11
Spotted Redshank (DR)								7
	9/12	10/02	9/01	10/02	16/09		12/08	8/10
Common Redshank (RK)	74	182	10	400	1840		46	130
	7/10	10/11			14/10		9/03	
Ruddy Turnstone (TT)	77	40			14		15	
								6/04
Common Greenshank (GK)								3

	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
	12/11	8/10					29/11			13/01	22/06		22/06
GG	5	2					2			2	2		2
	13/08	16/09		1/08						13/01			
CA	3	67		18						2			
	15/10	8/10											
ET	11	9											
	12/11	13/01	1/11				29/11	20/07		15/07	22/06	22/06	22/06
H.	5	5	2				1	1		1	1	1	1
										6/04			
BZ										4			
	17/09	12/11		1/08			22/09	4/12		9/03	13/01	10/02	
MH	1	10		1			2	5		2	21	2	
		13/01	1/11				22/09	4/12		13/01	11/11	16/09	12/08
CO		34	2				28	116		45	10	7	1
	10/02	15/07											
OC	22	25											
RP													
	14/01	8/10								10/02			
L.	1500	211								1			
		9/03											
KN		150											
	12/11	13/08											
DN	150	39											
JS													
		9/03										10/02	
SN		10										16	
	12/11	23/06											
BW	50	240											
		10/12											
BA		14											
	13/08												
WM	4												
	17/09	8/10											
CU	110	68											
		13/08											
DR		5											
	12/11	16/09											
RK	250	2210											
	13/08												
TT	1												
	13/08	16/09											
GK	3	17											

Site =	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
		6/04		15/07				
Common Sandpiper (CS)		1		4				
	8/02	18/05		12/08	12/08			
Black-headed Gull (BH)	156	45		50	300			
	8/02	18/05			22/06			
Mew Gull (CM)	21	3			350			
		10/11						
Lesser Black-backed Gull (LB)		21						
	22/06	18/05		12/08	12/08			
Herring Gull (HG)	108	6		500	300			
	6/04	9/12		12/08				
Great Black-backed Gull (GB)	4	15		10				
							15/07	
Common Tern (CN)							100	
		10/02		9/12			9/03	
Common Kingfisher (KF)		1		1			1	



	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
	13/08	15/07								6/04			
CS	1	2								1			
	13/08						29/11			11/11	9/03	7/10	
BH	101						21			300	100	100	
							29/11			9/03		9/03	
CM							221			2		5	
				1/08						9/12			
LB				9						500			
				1/08						11/11	6/04		
HG				35						300	1		
	13/08			1/08						7/10			
GB	3			2						1			
	16/07	15/07											
CN	150	1											
		12/11											
KF		1											



Ringling Report 2008

The total number of birds ringed is the lowest since 2002 (5418). There has been a considerable drop in both the numbers of full grown birds and pulli ringed. A contributory factor to the former is that I was unable to do any ringling at my main mist-netting site at Bronbannog (the ringling season conflicted with the time I needed for production of the 2007 bird report) and the wet summer undoubtedly had an effect on the number of nestlings produced and therefore available for ringling. Again, the majority of nestlings ringed have been raised in nest-boxes and the Common Terns on the rafts at Shotton. I am very grateful to all the contributors to this ringling effort: Merseyside Ringling Group (Peter Coffey, Nicola Edmonds, Dave Faulkner, Bob Harris, Kenny McNiffe, Alan Robinson, Paul Triggs), John Lawton Roberts, the Spence and Brencchley partnership (Anne Brencchley, Amanda Bunnell, Ian M Spence) and Stuart K Thomas.

The majority of nestlings ringed will have been done while the ringers have been recording the progress of nests for the BTO Nest Records Scheme – both ringling and nest record information can be submitted electronically to the BTO adding great value to the ringling information. The main contributors in this way have been Merseyside Ringling Group (per David Norman), John Lawton Roberts, Amanda Bunnell, Ian Spence and the Wales Raptor Study Group – North-East Wales.

The numbers of Hen Harriers ringed was down from last year's total because we arrived too late at a couple of nests and one nest was found too late for any of the nestlings to be ringed. John Lawton Roberts was very busy, again, with his study of Buzzards (a paper about his work with Buzzards is due to appear in an edition of Welsh Birds as I prepare this report). There was another reduction in the number of Common Terns ringed, though there are still good numbers of interesting recoveries accumulating from the ringling effort of previous years. Senegal and Ghana feature in the recoveries list, below. The Barn Owl project continues to bear fruit, though that is masked by the ringling totals – 2008 was not a good vole year, and though more nests were found and checked, there were fewer nestlings ringed as brood sizes were generally lower than in 2007. Work proceeds with nest-box building and erecting.

The weather contributed to overall very poor productivity from nest boxes occupied by tits, though Pied Flycatchers were more productive in 2008 than in 2007. The ringling totals of Blue and Great Tits are considerably lower than in 2007 – more than can be accounted for by my not ringling at Bronbannog. Presumably the poor breeding season also showed in reduced numbers of first year birds being netted in the autumn. Given that this is the second summer with poor weather and its side-effects, are these an aberration that will be corrected, or is this the new way it will be because of the effects of global warming? Whichever it is, the important thing to remember is that ringers and nest recorders must continue their annual monitoring so that analysis is possible with good samples from all areas of the country. That way we may learn from the BTO if the results we are seeing are just regional variation or if it is part of the same, national picture.

The Selected Recoveries contain details of some well-travelled birds. There is the usual selection of Common Terns, several of which were caught by a South African ringer in Senegal and released. It is possible we may hear of these birds again, another year. Our knowledge of Hen Harrier movements has mainly been from winter resightings of wing-tagged birds that were ringed over ten years ago. Sadly, our first bit of information from a breeding area was when an Eagle Owl ate a breeding female, ringed by me the summer before. Stuart Thomas now rings mainly just in his garden (see his article about the Blackcaps he rings after this

report) but he seems to get more than his fair share of interesting Blackbirds too! In September 2008, John Best and I examined about 3,000 Black-tailed Godwits just outside the West Hide at Connah's Quay Nature Reserve and we were able to see, and read, just two colour-ring combinations. I was amazed at the detail in the histories of these birds that I received. If you see any similar birds, please email the details to J.Gill@uea.ac.uk The other recoveries are a selection that I hope will provide interest and some idea of where birds move to and from.

While ringers trap new birds and those ringed by other ringers, all are dependent for much of the information about ringed birds on members of the public who find dead birds. If you find a dead bird please check to see if it has a ring on its leg and take the basic information: species (if you can identify it), ring number and address (to identify the country of origin), the place and the date. You may write to the address on the ring, or use a website to log the information – see www.ring.ac.uk If you do submit the information, you will eventually receive a sheet of paper telling you where and when the bird was ringed. I thank the members of the public who have sent in the details of ringed birds.

Ian M Spence

2008			
Species	FG	Pull.	Totals
Hen Harrier (R)		15	15
Sparrowhawk	5		5
Buzzard		55	55
Kestrel (A)		36	36
Merlin (A)		4	4
Peregrine (A)		20	20
Moorhen	15		15
Oystercatcher		1	1
Ringed Plover		2	2
Lapwing		3	3
Black-headed Gull		1	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull (A)	2		2
Herring Gull (A)	7		7
Common Tern (A)		537	537
Little Tern		21	21
Stock Dove (A)		6	6
Woodpigeon	7		7
Swift	7		7
Barn Owl (A)	9	38	47
Tawny Owl		6	6
Great Spotted Woodpecker	25		25
Swallow (A)	3	164	167
House Martin	1		1
Grey Wagtail	6	18	24
Pied Wagtail		10	10
Dipper		24	24

Species	FG	Pull.	Totals
Wren	15	1	16
Dunnock	35		35
Robin	61	18	79
Redstart	3	31	34
Stonechat		5	5
Blackbird	132	18	150
Song Thrush (A)	5	13	18
Redwing (A)	1		1
Sedge Warbler	6		6
Reed Warbler	28	9	37
Whitethroat	1		1
Garden Warbler	4		4
Blackcap	28		28
Chiffchaff	21	6	27
Willow Warbler	7	6	13
Goldcrest	24		24
Spotted Flycatcher (A)	1	17	18
Pied Flycatcher	111	780	891
Long-tailed Tit	138		138
Marsh Tit (R)	3		3
Coal Tit	123	8	131
Blue Tit	462	651	1113
Great Tit	181	696	877
Nuthatch	22	61	83
Treecreeper	4		4
Jay	4		4
Magpie	1		1
Chough		5	5
Jackdaw	1	26	27
Carrion Crow	1		1
Starling (R)	8	3	11
House Sparrow (A)	22	120	142
Tree Sparrow (R)	1	250	251
Chaffinch	247	18	265
Brambling (A)	23		23
Greenfinch	148		148
Goldfinch (A)	51		51
Siskin	95		95
Lesser Redpoll	1		1
Bullfinch (R)	6		6
Yellowhammer (R)	8		8
Reed Bunting (A)	7		7
TOTALS	2127	3703	5830

In the table, above, R indicates the species is on the Red list of conservation concern and A indicates it is on the Amber list (see the reference to Thorpe and Young, 2002, on p12).

2008 Selected recoveries

Codes used in the totals table and recoveries:

FG	Full grown
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

FC92226	Hen Harrier Pull. 1/1
21 07 2006	Site confidential near Alwen Reservoir, Clwyd
28 07 2007	Middle Knoll, near Dunsop Bridge, Lancashire 124 km 35° 372 days Freshly dead, some remains near Eagle Owl nest

Left: Lime over yellow, Right: Yellow over lime flag

	Black-tailed Godwit Pull.
13 07 2006	Skjalón, Eyjafirði, ICELAND
19 11 2006	Mont St Michel, Ille et Vilaine, FRANCE
26 11 2006	Mont St Michel, Ille et Vilaine, FRANCE
30 11 2006	Mont St Michel, Ille et Vilaine, FRANCE
20 12 2006	Mont St Michel, Ille et Vilaine, FRANCE
25 01 2007	Mont St Michel, Ille et Vilaine, FRANCE
14 08 2008	End-on-Sea, Lancashire
27 09 2008	West Hide, Connah's Quay NR, Clwyd

Left: Lime over black, Right: Orange over red

	Black-tailed Godwit Pull.
30 06 2005	Road 60, Gillastadir, ICELAND
19 01 2006	Hernán Cortés, near Badajoz, Extremadura, SPAIN
28 05 2006	Inner Marsh Farm RSPB Reserve, Cheshire
24 01 2008	Marshside, Ribble Estuary, Lancashire
25 01 2008	Marshside, Ribble Estuary, Lancashire
18 02 2008	Heswall Shore, Wirral, Cheshire
20 02 2008	Heswall Shore, Wirral, Cheshire
13 04 2008	Claughton, Lancashire
19 04 2008	Leighton Moss, Lancashire
20 04 2008	Leighton Moss, Lancashire
22 04 2008	Leighton Moss, Lancashire
01 09 2008	Marshside, Ribble Estuary, Lancashire
27 09 2008	West Hide, Connah's Quay NR, Clwyd
01 10 2008	Gilroy Nature Park, West Kirby, Wirral, Cheshire
03 10 2008	Gilroy Nature Park, West Kirby, Wirral, Cheshire
04 02 2009	Thurstaston Shore, Wirral, Cheshire

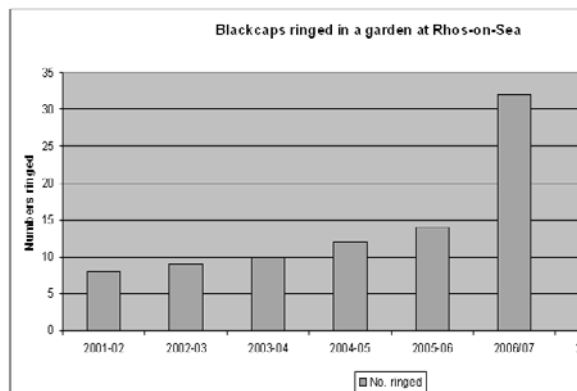
SR42836	Common Tern	Pull.	
25 06 2006	Shotton Steel Works,	Clwyd	
24 09 2008	Parque Natural Bahia de Cadiz, SPAIN ,	36°29'N 06°15'W	
	1876 km	188°	822 days Controlled
SR50222	Common Tern	Pull.	
09 07 2006	Shotton Steel Works,	Clwyd	
02 04 2008	La Somone, SENEGAL ,	14°29'N 17°05'W	
	4481 km	197°	633 days Controlled
SR50416	Common Tern	Pull.	
23 07 2006	Shotton Steel Works,	Clwyd	
01 04 2008	La Somone, SENEGAL ,	14°29'N 17°05'W	
	4481 km	197°	618 days Controlled
SR50597	Common Tern	Pull.	
24 06 2007	Shotton Steel Works,	Clwyd	
03 04 2008	La Somone, SENEGAL ,	14°29'N 17°05'W	
	4481 km	197°	284 days Controlled
SR50924	Common Tern	Pull.	
01 07 2007	Shotton Steel Works,	Clwyd	
05 04 2008	La Somone, SENEGAL ,	14°29'N 17°05'W	
	4481 km	197°	279 days Controlled
SV40557	Common Tern	Pull.	
27 06 1999	Shotton Steel Works,	Clwyd	
09 09 2008	Accra, GHANA ,	05°53'N 00°10'W	
	5266 km	178°	3362 days Found freshly dead
SV92777	Common Tern	Pull.	
20 06 2004	Shotton Steel Works,	Clwyd	
01 05 2008	Zeebrugge, West-Vlandereen, BELGIUM ,	51°20'N 03°11'E	
	473 km	117°	1411 days Controlled
SV92951	Common Tern	Pull.	
25 07 2004	Shotton Steel Works,	Clwyd	
30 03 2008	La Somone, SENEGAL ,	14°29'N 17°05'W	
	4481 km	197°	1344 days Controlled
GF66172	Barn Owl	Pull. F	
19 07 2006	near Hockenhull Hall,	Cheshire	
24 03 2008	Bangor-on-Dee,	Clwyd	
	22 km	201°	614 days Found dead
V286298	Swallow	Pull. 4/4	
21 08 2007	Beeches Farm,	near Sandycroft, Clwyd	
03 10 2007	Farmoor,	Oxfordshire	
	194 km	146°	43 days Controlled

L294220	Blackbird 4 M
25 10 2007	Vlieland Barakkenkamp, Vlieland, THE NETHERLANDS , 53°15'N 04°25'E
09 12 2007	Rhos-on-Sea, Clwyd 577 km 271° 45 days Controlled
BHJ767	Chiffchaff 1J
24 07 2008	Meols, Wirral
05 08 2008	Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd 20 km 161° 12 days Controlled
N584270	Pied Flycatcher Pull.
12 06 2001	Penbedw, near Nannerch, Clwyd
26 05 2004	Purlogue, near Clun, Shropshire
20 05 2006	Purlogue
22 05 2007	Purlogue
07 06 2008	Purlogue 90 km 172° 2552 days Controlled at nest box (= F)
T227828	Pied Flycatcher Pull.
10 06 2006	Llanwyddyn, Lake Vyrnwy, Powys
08 06 2008	Pandy, near Glyn Ceiriog, Clwyd 24 km 46° 729 days Controlled (= M)
T831336	Pied Flycatcher Pull.
02 07 2006	Pandy, near Glyn Ceiriog, Clwyd
15 05 2008	near Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Clwyd 23 km 358° 683 days Controlled at nest box (= F)
T974440	Pied Flycatcher Pull.
10 06 2006	Grwn Oer, Lake Vyrnwy, Powys
16 05 2008	Llwynmawr, Clwyd 27 km 46° 706 days Controlled (= F)
T974455	Pied Flycatcher Pull.
10 06 2006	Grwn Oer, Lake Vyrnwy, Powys
24 05 2008	Glyn Arthur, Clwyd 48 km 13° 714 days Controlled at nest box (= F)
R248390	Blue Tit Pull.
26 05 2003	Llewesog Hall, Prion, Clwyd
23 01 2004	Ffynngroyw, Clwyd 22 km 21° 242 days Found dead
TH51874	Nuthatch Pull.
19 05 2007	Carrog, Clwyd
10 12 2008	Llangollen, Clwyd 11 km 101° 571 days Found freshly dead

TE83391	Greenfinch 5 F
29 03 2006	Deeside Industrial Park, near Shotwick, Clwyd
21 01 2008	Frodsham, Cheshire
	19 km 73° 663 days Found freshly dead
V382200	Siskin 5 M
24 02 2007	Llwynmawr, Clwyd
11 04 2008	Flimby, Mayport, Cumbria
	198 km 354° 412 days Controlled
R120629	Lesser Redpoll 3J
06 08 2006	near Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest, Clwyd
21 10 2007	Sandwich Bay Estate, Kent
	365 km 122° 441 days Controlled

Wintering Blackcaps in North-East Wales

Recent studies suggest that the number of wintering Blackcaps in the UK is now 30,000+. With more time in retirement to observe the Blackcaps that winter in our garden in Rhos-on-Sea I have seen considerable variation in diet and behaviour. Ringing the birds has provided interesting information also in the shape of biometrics and duration of stay of the birds in our area. After obtaining a ringing permit I trapped Blackcaps between Southport and Liverpool in the 1970s. On moving to North Wales I had less time to ring but still began to trap occasional wintering Blackcaps in my garden. I became acquainted with the late Alan Male who used traps and ringed large numbers of Blackcaps in winter in his Rhos-on-Sea garden. His record was 76 in one winter. I have trapped over 20 in each of the last three years but windy weather affects the number of birds catchable by mist-netting, usually in one 13m net. The chart, below, shows the numbers of birds ringed for the years 2001 to early 2009.

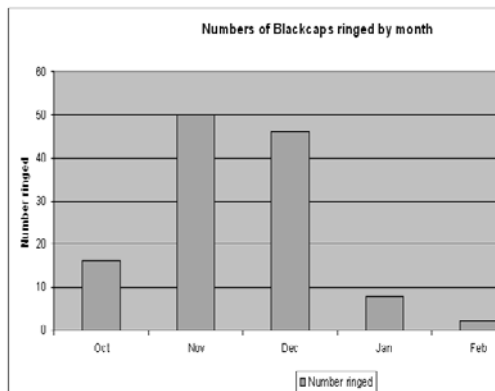


Overwintering birds seem to arrive from mid-October and there is the possibility some seen at this time were late summer leavers but birds ringed in November and thereafter seem to stay. About 80% of the Blackcaps I handle are not

retrapped. This may represent wariness of mist-nets after previous capture or movement of the birds to other wintering sites. The chart, below, shows the month of ringing of Blackcaps for the years 2001 to early 2009.

The behaviour of the Blackcaps I have observed has been very variable. I have seen males

establish territories around food sources and defend them furiously against all-comers while at other times I have seen as many as five birds, three males and two females, associating amicably in what could be called a small flock. I have also observed birds feeding from a fat cylinder in turn, the one not feeding waiting patiently for the other to stop before feeding itself.



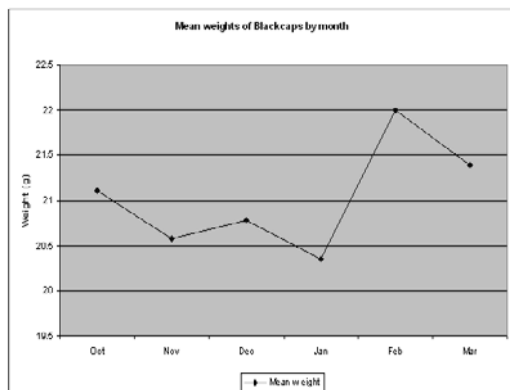
I have trapped two birds very close together in a mist-net suggesting they may have been in pursuit of one by the other – I have once seen a male chase a female across the garden after she came near him when he was feeding.

Various factors may contribute to the increase in wintering Blackcap numbers. Milder winters and increased food supplements from bird tables seem likely causes.

Early arrivals in October seem to eat berries. Sorbus, pyracantha, cotoneaster and Himalayan honeysuckle are taken, with ivy and viburnum later in the winter. Windfall apples are used, fat may be taken avidly and also bread from the ground. Pollen may be taken by probing flowers and in some cases eating them – I have watched a female Blackcap eating the flowers of a winter heather whole. The birds will use peanut feeders, especially where titmice have left nuts half eaten. They will hawk for insects in mild weather with some success. This flexibility of the birds' diet helps them to maintain body weight even in cold conditions by changing their diet if necessary.

Winters in North-East Wales tend to be mild on the so-called Creuddyn peninsula. I have found it strange that in some winters birds use fat cylinders regularly but in 2006 not at all – there seemed to be no obvious reason for this.

I have found little disparity in wing length of wintering birds, but weights, however, vary. The average in mild spells tends to be 18-21 grams but may get as high as 26-27 grams in prolonged cold spells. The mean weights of birds ringed 2003 to early 2009 are shown in the chart below.



The species seems to have some faithfulness to wintering sites. A bird ringed in my garden on 23 November 1997 was controlled by Alan Male who caught it in his garden on 27 December 1998. Since then I have ringed two female birds in my garden which returned the following winter. One was 12 months after ringing and the other was 16 months later.

Mild weather in spring may bring wintering males into song very early. I

have heard a male Blackcap in full song on 6 March and found two males singing in central Colwyn Bay on 12 March 2007. A male I ringed in my garden on 26 January 2006 began to sing in mid-March. I last retrapped it on 7 April and last heard it on 22 April. It possibly left to go to breeding grounds at that time.

I have trapped female Blackcaps with one or no tail feathers – presumably the result of predation that was unsuccessful. One of the birds had completely regrown the tail when retrapped three months later. Another bird I trapped had all the secondary feathers in its left wing regrowing – they were only half grown but the bird flew well on release suggesting that they seem to be capable of coping with attack and plumage loss.

Ringling and other studies of Blackcaps have shown that the overwintering British birds nest in Austria and Germany – wintering numbers of these birds may continue to increase as they have been doing, perhaps connected with the fact the birds now have a shorter migration to their breeding grounds. More information will continue to build on the clue first obtained when a cat in Dublin in December 1961 caught a Blackcap ringed in Austria!

Stuart Thomas

Contributors to the bird report for 2008

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Klaus Armstrong-Braun	KAB	Jean Dale	JeD
M Arnold	MA	Keith Davies	KhD
Roger and Megan Bagguley	RMB	Steven Davies	SD
Jean Baker	JBa	RM Daw	RMD
David Balance	DB	Allan Dawes	AIDa
Mike Ball	MBA	Paul Day	PaD
Lee Barber	LB	Sam Deane	SDe
Barry Barnacal	BaB	Harvey T Dearden	HTD
N Barton	NB	DF Dennis	DFD
Bethan Beech	BB	Deeside Naturalists' Society	DNS
John Berry	JoB	D Dillon	DDil
John Best	JBe	David Dixon	DDi
Marion Best	MBe	D Dowell	DDo
per Anon Birdguides	ANB	M Dowell	MDo
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Susan Brealey	SBr	Peter Dryburgh	PeD
Anne Brenchley	AB	Keith Duckers	KD
Eric Brenchley	ErB	Jim Dyson	JiDy
Alan Brewster	AlBr	Lyn Dyson	LyDy
JH Briggs	JHB	BC East	BCE
Anthony Britner	ABr	Dewi Edwards	DeE
Emma Broad	EB	M Edwards	ME
AG Brown	AGB	M Ellis	MaE
FAM Brown	FAMB	Tegi Ellis-Brown	TEB
GEH Brown	GEHB	Alun Evans	AE
Mick Brummage	MB	Ian Evans	IE
Jean Bulmer	JeB	Michael Evans	MiE
Amanda Bunnell	AmB	T Evans	TE
NS Burns	NSB	Matthew Farrier	MF
Pete Burton	PBu	LA Finch	LAF
John Calder	JoCa	PRE Forman	PREF
BEN Carpenter	BENC	Bryan Formstone	BF
Jimmy Carter	JiC	Graham Foster	GF
Leon Castell	LC	Wendy Fowler per JLR	WF
Richard Castell	RCa	Neil Friswell	NFr
H Castle	HCa	Geoff Gibbs	GG
Kathryn Chapple	KC	Derek Gifford	DGi
Julie Chicken	JC	Clemency Godfrey	CGo
Gisela Clark	GC	David Goodwin	DG
Mike Clark	MC	Keith Griffith	KGr
P Clarke	PCI	John Griffiths	JGr
Steve Clethro	SCI	Walter Griffiths	WG
D Coan	DCoa	D Groom	DGr
Steve Collins	StC	Richard Groves	RG
Anne Cook	AnC	PJ Gruar	PJG
Arthur Cook	AC	John Haddy	JoHa
Henry Cook	HC	David Haigh	DHa

Norman Hallas	NH	Stuart Lawrie	StL
I Harris	IH	Peter Lawton	PLa
per Bob Harris MRG	pBH	G Lee	GL
John Harrop	JoH	Kenneth Lee	KeL
Alex Hatton	AH	Chris Leighton	CL
Jim Haycock	JiHa	Red Liford	RL
Bob Hayes	BH	Keith Lloyd	KLI
MA Hayes	MAH	K Lloyd-Jones	KLJ
SJ Hayes	SJH	Keith Longshaw	KL
GB Heaton	GBH	A Lovatt	ALo
Jane Hemming	JaH	Tony Lyne	AAL
John Henson per JLR	JHe	Barry Lynes	BLy
Adrian Owen Hibbert	AOH	D Lynes	DL
J Hirst	JHir	Edward Lyons	EL
D Holgate	DHg	M Lyons	ML
R Holme	RHo	B March	BM
Joan Hotchkiss	JHo	HM Massey	HMM
Dave Howey	DHw	Stuart Mathieson	StMa
B Hughes	BHu	Stephen Mcavoy	StM
D Hughes	DHu	Laura Mcbrien	LM
ECM Hughes	ECMH	MA McLellan	MAM
Julian Hughes	JH	Daphne McWha	DMW
Neil Hughes	NHu	John McWha	JMW
per Julian Hughes	pJH	David Meredith	DaMP
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David Insall	DHI	PM Mitchell	PMM
Jeanette Insall	JI	GA Molloy	GAM
JA Jackson per John L Roberts	JAJ	Malcolm Monie	MM
Des James	DJam	Clwyd Monitoring	CM
Tony Jaques	ToJ	PD Moore	PDM
MA Jarman	MAJ	P Morley	PMo
Chris Jones	CJ	Glenn E Morris	GEM
Colin Jones	CoJ	Susan Morris	SM
Daniel Jones	DJ	Sylvia Morrow	SyM
David Jones	DvJ	Mark Murphy	MMu
Elvet and Louise Jones	ELJ	Hilary Nash	HN
Eryl Jones	EJ	Mike Nesbitt	MN
Evelyn Jones	EvJ	Alan Nevitt	AN
F Jones	FJ	Jason Newton	JN
GK Jones	GKJ	S Nicholas	SNi
Gordon Jones	GJ	David Nixon	DaN
Graham Jones	GrJ	E Nixon	EN
Hazel Jones	HJ	Innes Nixon	InN
Julie Jones	JuJ	EM Nottage	EMN
Keith Jones	KJ	Mark O'Sullivan	MOS
M Jones	MJo	Mel ab Owain	MaO
MA Jones	MAJo	Brenda Joyce Owen	BJO
Mike Jones	MSJ	EW Owen	EWO
Pauline Jones	PJ	Bill Owens	WAO
J Keegan	JKee	Zara Paris	ZP
Paul King	PKi	D Parry	DPar
John Kitchen	JoK	Elspeth Parry	EP
Alan Kydd	AIK	Geoff Parry	GP

T Parry	TPa	Alan Stones	ASt
John Patterson	JP	Paul Sutton	PSu
Trevor Payne	TP	Rob Swift	RSw
Richard Andrew Phelan	RAP	Ralph Swindlehurst	RaSw
M and J Phillips	MJP	Ray Teesdale	RTe
Howard Pimborough	HP	Andrew Thomas	AdT
Michael Pittaway	MiP	M Thomas	MTh
Ron Plummer	RPI	Marina Thomas	MaT
Rachael Portnall	RPo	Nick Thomas	NRT
Julian Powell	JuP	Stuart K Thomas	STh
Abbie Price	APr	JV Thompson	JVT
CN Pritchard	CNP	Greg Martin Thurnham	GMT
B Proward	BPr	Paul Triggs	PT
Elfyn Pugh	EIP	Nigel Troup	NT
David Richardson, Carol Richardson	DCR	Declan J Tuer	DJT
Brenda Rigby	BR	Amy Vanstone	AV
Alan Thomas Roberts	ATR	D Vernon	DV
Brian Roberts	BrR	R Vernon	RVe
D Roberts	DRo	G Wallace	GWa
Gareth Roberts	GRO	Andrew Wallbank	AW
Glyn Neville Roberts	GNR	Len Walls	LeW
John Lawton Roberts	JLR	Mike Ward	MW
John Roberts	JR	Damian Waters	DW
Megan Amy Roberts	MAR	Bridie Watson	BW
Patricia Ann Roberts	PAR	Nigel Watson	NiW
Pauline Roberts	PaRo	J Watts	JWa
Peter Roberts	PeR	Julian Welldrick	JuW
Raymond Roberts	RR	Colin Wells	CW
Geoffrey Robinson	GR	Stephen Wende	SW
J Robinson	JRo	R Weston	RWe
Julie Rogers	JuR	G White	GWh
Julie Rogers per BHP	pJR	Elizabeth Whitehead	EIW
S Rogers	SR	Adrian Williams	AWi
Alan Rowley	AR	Carl Williams	CaW
John Rushton	JoR	Eddie Williams	EdW
Deborah Sainsbury	DS	Geoff Williams	GeWi
Robin Sandham	RS	Ian Williams	IW
Declan Savage	DcS	Jeff Williams	JW
Jill Sellars	JSe	Joseph Nicholas Williams	JNW
Paul David Shenton	PDS	K Williams	KWi
Brian Sherwin	BrS	Peter Williams	PWi
D Shone	DSh	Lawrence W Willis	LWW
Bob Shortis	RSh	Mark Wilson	MWi
Fiona Shortis	FSh	Mrs M Wilson	MMWi
H Simpson	HS	Jim Wood	JiW
Stan Skelton	StaS	Les Wood	LW
Dermot Smith	DeS	Alan Woods	AlW
Kevin Smith	KS	H Woodward	HW
Richard Smith	RSm	Geoff Wookey	GWo
Ian M Spence	IMS	Frank Wright	FW
Tony Stachnicki	ToS	Fred Wright	FrW
M Stachowski	MSt	Neville Wright	NW
IE Stein	IES	Teresa Wright	TeW
Archie Stewart	ArS	Jane Wynne	JWy
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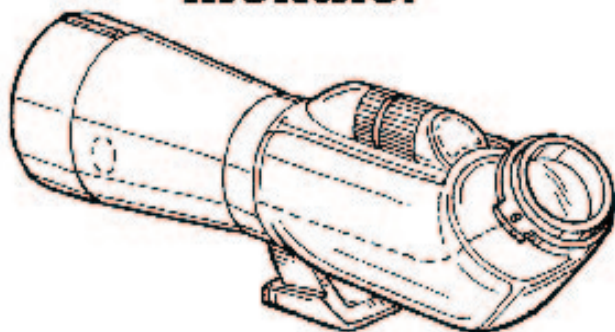


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Local groups

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:

Chester: Liz McClure. Telephone: 01244-409414.

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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