

North-East Wales Bird Report 2016

Clwyd Bird Recording Group

November 2017



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www.cbrg.org.uk



Published November 2017

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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:

Anne Brenchley: Chair and BTO East Clwyd representative

Ian M Spence: Treasurer and County Recorder
(also representing the Welsh Ornithological Society)

Andrew Dale

Richard Groves

Adrian O Hibbert

Neil Hughes (Wrexham Birdwatchers)

Adrian Lloyd Jones (North Wales Wildlife Trust)

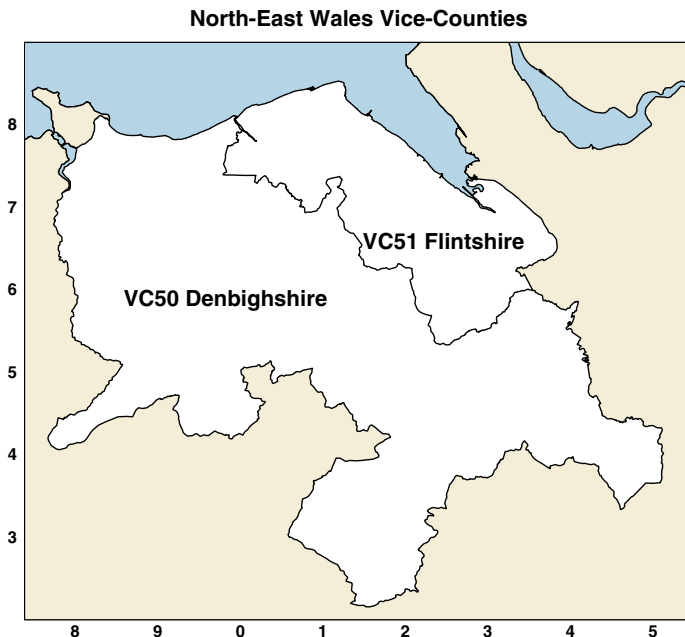
Glenn Morris (Deeside Naturalists' Society)

Giles Pepler: Secretary

Lee Barber

www.cbrg.org.uk

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



Introduction

Editorial

The purpose of the bird report

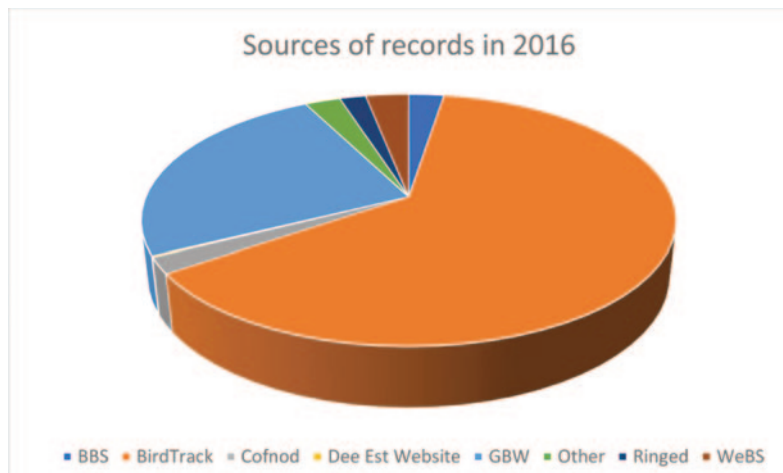
- To present a detailed list of species seen and counted during the year, and for this to be as complete as possible, particularly to assist the conservation of bird populations within the area.
- To present the data from the records in a way that, hopefully, is readable for the general public and especially for birders who provide the data.
- To present the data in a way that is useful to anyone, from any agency, who may wish to check on the local status of any species.
- To record as accurately as possible the rare and scarce birds that have occurred in the recording area.

Renewal

The average age of members of the Clwyd Bird Recording Group is increasing such that there is concern for its future. The CBRG needs new members and those who are younger than retirement age would be especially welcome. The more volunteers we have the fewer jobs any one person should have to do. I would be happy to discuss the CBRG's requirements with anyone.

Sources of records

For 2016 the Clwyd Bird Recording Group received records from the following sources, from many locations in North-East Wales, as shown in the map below. The sources were:



- Volunteer observers, mainly via BirdTrack
- RSPB Conway and Burton Mere Wetlands (reserve staff and volunteers)
- Garden BirdWatch data
- Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data
- Deeside Naturalists' Society (per Glenn Morris)
- Cofnod
- Records of ringed birds
- Nest record summaries
- WeBS data from the BTO website.

Numbers of records

For 2016 I received just over 95,700 records the majority of which have been imported to Recorder 6. The only records that are not imported are those of some feral or escaped (Category E) species or records of rarities that have not been accepted by the appropriate committee.

The number of records received looks enormous but this year at least two sources of records have not provided any. One of them has provided a run of records for over twelve years and the non-provision of the records has not been communicated and is not understood and very much regretted.

Species names

We have continued to use the English vernacular names.

The order of species

This report follows the naming and ordering of species in: Harrop, A.H.J., Collinson, J.M., Dudley, S.P., Kehoe, C. & The British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. 2013. The British List: A checklist of the Birds of Britain (8th edition). *Ibis* **155**, 635-676 with subsequent modifications by the BOU Records Committee and compiled in the British List, 24 August 2017.

Information about species

In this report we have details about 217 species in Categories A and C and 5 in Category E.

Under the species names we provide a short description of the status of the species in North-East Wales, with information about whether it is on the Red or Amber lists of conservation concern (Johnstone, I, and Bladwell, S. 2016. Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3: the population status of birds in Wales. *Birds in Wales* **13(1)** 3-31). The species accounts also show by 'S7' whether it is a bird (living organism) "of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales", (Environment [Wales] Act 2016, Section 7. The accounts also show interest in the species by the Rare Breeding Bird Panel. See other information in the introduction to the systematic list.

CBRG Website

During the year I maintained the CBRG website and made some minor changes. I have started to work on a new website that will be shared with the Cambrian Ornithological Society though progress has been slower than I had anticipated.

BirdTrack

BirdTrack is the method which I would now recommend that all observers (Individuals or organisations) use for the storage and submission of their records. This has many advantages over sending me the records in a spreadsheet. Each observer would have their own database of records that can be examined by the observer in different ways. It would help if observers still used the 1km squares as recording units and the gazetteer is still available (and updated from time to time) from the Downloads page of the CBRG website.

Anyone who stores records in BirdTrack and is happy for the Recorder to be able to access their records does not have to do anything else. At the end of the year, or when I think most people will have added their records for the previous calendar year, I can download all the records in one go.

I would recommend that all observers create a BirdTrack account, at no charge, by visiting the website **www.birdtrack.net** or by visiting the BTO website **www.bto.org**

BirdTrack has now gone global and it is possible to add records from anywhere in the world. This means that from now on your holiday bird records could be available for you and for conservation work in the country you visited. Using the Global portal, observers may also record sightings of mammals and dragonflies. Those records are shared with their wider recording communities.

BirdTrack is also available as an app for iPhone or Android smartphones. It allows observers to record their sightings wherever they are. Uploaded records are available for examination through the Global portal.

Computerisation of records

I continue to use Recorder 6 as the database for holding the records from all the different sources within separate 'surveys' which means that I may search for records supplied by any one or more of the sources listed at the start of the Editorial. Currently, there are 723,103 records in the database. I may need to investigate an alternative, possibly BirdTrack, to replace Recorder 6 as this is no longer supported by Government funding.

Submission of records

Records of bird sightings may be made available by:

- by using BirdTrack (**www.birdtrack.net**);
- using a spreadsheet available on the CBRG website;

- by using the Cofnod record submission facility (www.cofnod.org.uk).
- by using the Dee Estuary website (www.deeestuary.co.uk)

Please do not put the same record in more than one database as this causes duplicate records when the data are compiled to make this report.

For nest sites, it would be very helpful if observers stored a more accurate grid reference in the Comments. This could be either a 6, 8 or 10 figure reference, depending on whether, or not, a GPS was used.

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,
- species on the Welsh Section 7 list or
- of interest to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.

Included in this report are maps showing the distribution of the records we have received for all species apart from those with just a couple of records.

For your records to be considered for a bird report, please submit the records (eg for 2017) before the end of March of the following year (March 2018). After that date they may be too late to include.

If you do use the data recording spreadsheet it has the names of every 1 km square in the Vice-counties of Denbighshire and Flintshire and some for Meirionnydd (particularly the area of the Berwyn Mountains that were in Clwyd). For data entry the species name is entered by using the BTO two-letter code (in the systematic list, the table with the number of records has each species' code in the top-left corner). The place is entered by using the 1 km grid reference (NB in the format SJ2466, with no spaces or other characters). The grid reference also pulls in the correct VC number.

The other details cannot be known in advance, so they must be entered by the observer: date, observer name(s), sex/stage, breeding code, abundance and comments. When complete please send me the spreadsheet. 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 code (this will show the species name used in Recorder 6);
- Date of the observation;
- The 1 km square grid reference (this is crucial and will show the location name and the VC number);
- The age and/or sex of the bird;
- The breeding 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);
- 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.

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

Rarity records

Observers need to be mindful of the Welsh and national (ie UK) lists of rarities.

Welsh Records Panel: <https://birds.in.wales/rare-birds/welsh-records-panel/>

British Birds Rarities Committee: <https://www.bbrc.org.uk/submit-a-sighting>

Of interest to readers of this report is a book that has just been published: Sandham, R. 2017. *Scarce and Rare Birds in North Wales: Historic records up to and including 2016*. Private publ.

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, Andrew Dale, Richard Groves, Adrian Hibbert, Neil Hughes, Glenn Morris and Giles Pepler. I am also grateful to Lee Barber for the Ringing Report, Anne Brenchley for the weather summary, birding highlights and the list of first and last dates of migrants, Sasha Taylor for the Little Tern report and to Adrian Lloyd Jones for the article he has written.

The maps have been produced using DMAP by Dr Alan J Morton.

Glenn Morris prepared the records from Connah's Quay Nature Reserve. I thank him for his help.

I am very grateful Andy Davis, John Hawkins, Alex Humphreys-Jones, Tony Lovatt, Tony Pope, John Power and Elaine Thomas for their photographs. I am also very grateful to Dermot Smith for his drawings. These add significantly to the interest and attractiveness of the report.

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 Glenn Morris and Richard Groves for their proof-reading of the draft text and to Trevor Payne for checking 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, the Wetland Bird Survey and Garden BirdWatch.

I remain most grateful to all the observers and organisations (listed at the start of the Editorial) who submitted records for the report – the list of individual contributors is at the back of the report.

I trust that the observers and organisations think that we have made good use of the data they

have provided.

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Weather Summary 2016

2016 was a very variable year with few periods of settled weather and the trend for warmer and wetter weather than the average continued. The late winter was mild and wet with rain falling on the majority of days in January and February. The general outlook was dull with less than average sunshine. A little snow came at the beginning of March and the month was generally cold and bright. April began unsettled but temperatures rose as the month progressed. However, a surprisingly late snowfall occurred between 26/04 and 29/04. May started wet and windy but overall it was a warm month with frequent easterly winds and plenty of sunshine. June started warm and dry but this soon changed and June was the wettest month of the year and with particularly heavy rain between 9/06 and 16/06 this made life difficult for many of the migrant breeders especially Pied Flycatchers. July was another unsettled month with a brief dry and sunny period from 17/07 to 21/07 but the rest of the month was cool and windy. August was drier and sunnier than average but unsettled weather returned in September with the exception of a brief hot period around 14/09. Easterly winds prevailed for much of October and it was a mostly dry month with plenty of sunshine until the end of the month. November was varied but particularly wet and windy on 20/11 and 21/11 when Storm Angus passed through. Much of December was dry and it was a cool and generally mild month. Cold weather came at the end of the month with widespread frosts inland on 28/12 and 29/12

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max temp °C / date	15 / 24, 25	14 / 21	14 / 1, 25, 26	17 / 20, 21	25 / 8, 9	26 / 6	32 / 19	27 / 23	28 / 14	18 / 4, 5	16 / 14	17 / 7
Mean emp °C	6	5	6	7	12	16	17	17	16	11	5	6
Min temp °C / date	-3 / 16	-4 / 16	-3 / 8	-2 / 10	2 / 1, 14, 15	4 / 3	7 / 4	7 / 15	5 / 18	1 / 22	-6 / 29	14 / 28
Rain total	53.8	33.7	31.7	50.8	33.8	67.3	30.1	19.3	25.1	20.8	47.0	16.5
daily max mm / date	11.9 / 3	8.9 / 20	5.1 / 1, 2, 26,	12.9 / 4	8.9 / 4	7.9 / 11	10.9 / 9	6.1 / 19	9.9 / 3	10.9 / 19	17.0 / 26	3.0 / 21

followed by fog and light rain at the year end.

Much of this information was sourced from the UK Met Office website (www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate/uk/summaries/2016) using data from the Hawarden meteorological station.

Anne Brenchley

Birding Highlights 2016

This section briefly summarises the main birding highlights and events for 2016. It is based on all records received by the County Recorder and subsequently verified by the Welsh Records Panel and the British Birds Rarities Committee. There will be discrepancies between this report and those published in other sources because some records cannot be verified by description or are just not submitted in the first instance. Such records are not included in this report. However, genuine omissions also occasionally occur and for this we offer our apologies.

2016

The coast produces most of the interesting records at the beginning of the calendar year and this January was no exception. In January, two **Black-throated Divers** were seen off Llanddulas on the first day of the year, three **Velvet Scoters** were seen at Llanddulas between 3/01 and 9/01, a single **Long-tailed Duck** was at Old Colwyn on 11/01 and three **Surf Scoters** were seen there on 20/01. A **Little Auk** was at Connah's Quay Nature Reserve on 10/01 and on the same day a **Short-eared Owl** was spotted at the same location. Inland, five **Scaup** were present at Trevalyn Meadows between 27-29/01. An amazing 20 **Water Rails** were counted at RSPB Conwy on 19/01. **Pink-footed Geese** started to arrive in good numbers at the end of the month with numbers peaking in February with 8,500 at White Sands on 29/02. This was a new record for the Dee Estuary. **Snow Buntings** were present at Pensarn for much of January and at Kinmel Bay on 24/01. In February up to four **Short-eared Owls** were evident to the east of the River Clwyd from 1/02 to late April. The winter **Twite** flock present at Connah's Quay NR peaked at 110 birds on 9/02. A large winter flock of 2,500 **Lapwing** was at Kinmel Bay on 14/02 but sadly this is now a rare breeding bird. There was a **Slavonian Grebe** on the Dee Estuary on 20-21/02 and an **Iceland Gull** appeared at Kinmel Bay on 28/02 and stayed into March. On the moors breeding activity starts early for **Black Grouse** and fifty-nine birds were seen on two leks on Ruabon Mountain on 28/02. March was a quiet month with little of note until another **Black-throated Diver** was spotted off Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 24/03. The early spring migrants started arriving from 20/03 onwards. A very early **Ring Ouzel** was seen at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 24/03 but most of the passage birds came through in early April. The first **Sand Martin** was seen on 20/03 and the first **Wheatear** on 26/03. The peak of migration came in April but brought very little of note with the exception of a **Hoopoe** at Afonwen on 15/03. Four **Mediterranean Gulls** were present at Shotton steelworks on 13/04 and the first **Hobby** and **Little Tern** appeared on 28/04. May brought several surprises with a **Wryneck** turning up in Mold on 2/05 and **Nightingale** on 12/05. A **Black Tern** was seen at Shotton steelworks on 12/05, a single **Turtle Dove** was seen at RSPB Conwy on 20/05, sadly the only record for the year and a **Quail** was heard at Llyn Brenig on 22/05. Some exceptional wader numbers occurred this month with 60 **Whimbrel** at RSPB Conwy on 3/05 and 500 **Ringed Plovers** counted at Point of Ayr on 8/05. **Spoonbills** were recorded at the end of the month from RSPB Conwy, Rhuddlan, Rhyl and Shotwick Boating Lake. The highlight of June was a **Broad-billed Sandpiper** which turned up at Gronant on 11/06 and stayed in the area until 22/06. There was a **Stone Curlew** at Gronant on 12/06 and a **White-winged Black Tern** at Connah's Quay NR on 17/06. The Gronant **Little Tern** colony had a successful season with 141 breeding pairs and 170 fledglings counted, many of which were ringed by the Merseyside Ringing Group. In July, 807 **Little Terns** were seen at Gronant. This large number probably included an influx of passage birds from Kilcoole, Ireland. A **Great White Egret** was at RSPB Conwy on 10/07. Wader passage started in earnest in August, bringing with it the usual less common species. A **Little Tern** was at RSPB Conwy on 6/08, a **Wood Sandpiper** was found at White Sands on 7/08 and a succession of single **Curlew Sandpipers** occurred through much of the late summer and autumn from RSPB Conwy, Rhyl, Kinmel Bay and Shotton. A notable **Pectoral Sandpiper** turned up at RSPB Conwy on 31/08. A remarkable 1,500

Sandwich Terns were at Point of Ayr on 21/08. Early in September three **Marsh Harriers** were at Conna's Quay NR on 7/09 and 4,200 **Redshank** were counted there on 20/09. Very early **Waxwings** turned up in September when 6 birds were seen at St Asaph on 10/09. The month ended with a **Yellow-browed Warbler** seen at Point of Ayr on 30/09. **Little Egret** numbers reached 132 at RSPB Conwy on 08/10, six **Great White Egrets** were at the same reserve on 13/10 and five **Cattle Egrets** were at Shotwick Boating Lake on 19/10 and seen again on 4/11. Six thousand **Oystercatchers** were at a high tide roost at Point of Ayr on 16/10 and a **Hoopoe** was present at RSPB Conwy 25-26/10. November was a good month for wildfowl and waders. Counts at Flint on 11/11 included 4,000 **Pintail**, 5,000 **Wigeon** and 5,000 **Black-tailed Godwit**. On the same day 1,050 **Cormorant** were counted at a high tide roost at Gronant. RSPB Oakenholt had 1,000 **Teal** on 13/11. In mid-month, 55 **Goosander** were at Gresford Flash, 120 **Golden Plover** were at White Sands and a memorable 36 **Mandarin Duck** were seen on the River Clwyd. A **Barred Warbler** was ringed in a garden at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 18/11 and stayed in the vicinity until 24/11. **Waxwings** started to drift in this month, seen in many different localities and stayed for much of the mid-winter. This was the best year for this species since 2012. There were three records of **Water Pipit** this month from the Conna's Quay area. A **Lapland Bunting** at Kinnel Bay on 26/11 was the first record for the region since 2008. December began with six **Surf Scoter**, including three adult males, were seen off Llanddulas on 1/12. Six **Hawfinch** were at Tal-y-cafn, in the Conwy Valley, on 3/12. As the end of the year approached a **Black-throated Thrush** delighted birdwatchers by turning up at St Asaph on 12/12 and staying until the end of the year.

Anne Brenchley



WREXHAM BIRDWATCHERS

Enjoyable and friendly company , come and join us.


The Green Room, Gresford Trust Hall, High Street, Gresford, WREXHAM
LL12 8PS

We meet twice a month in most months on the first Friday and the third weekend, either on Saturday or Sunday.

During the winter months (October to April) the Friday meetings are indoors at the Gresford Trust Memorial Hall with guest speakers starting at 19.30.

For local outdoor meetings in the summer we start at 18.30 at an agreed meeting place. Winter outdoor meetings start at 09.30.

Annual subscription is £16 for adults, £12 for concessions and juniors are free.

The programme of events can be found on the **Wrexham Birdwatchers Group** facebook  page.

The Systematic List for 2016

The names of species and their order come from Harrop, A.H.J., Collinson, J.M., Dudley, S.P., Kehoe, C. & The BOURC. 2013. The British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain (8th edition). *Ibis* **155**: 635-676 with subsequent modifications by the BOU Records Committee and compiled in the British List, 24 August 2017. The Welsh names have been taken from the Welsh Bird Report 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 Lists (Johnstone, I, and Bladwell, S. 2016. Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3: the population status of birds in Wales. *Birds in Wales* **13**(1) 3-31).

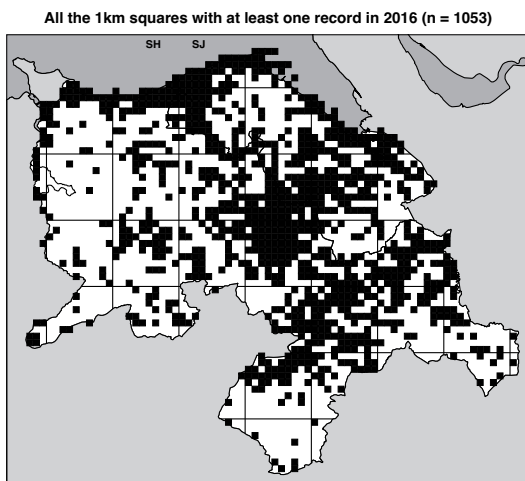
Abbreviations that appear in the report include, in tables, the BTO two letter code for the species to which the table refers, if there is one, and:

BBS	Breeding Bird Survey organised by the British Trust for Ornithology
CP	Country Park
GBW	Garden Bird Watch organised by the British Trust for Ornithology
GP	Gravel pit
NR	Nature Reserve
WRP	Welsh Records Panel (see www.birdsin.wales)
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee (see www.bbrc.org.uk)
S7	Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 7
RBBP	Breeding records of this species are of interest to the Rare Breeding Bird Panel (see www.rbbp.org.uk)

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 most 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 add to what is shown in 'The Breeding Birds of North Wales'.

The maps, below, show the sources of records used in this report. Firstly, there is the distribution of sites in our area from which at least one record has been received during 2016. Secondly, there is the map of all the BBS sites. Thirdly, there is the map showing all the GBW sites and lastly a map showing the locations of all sites from where complete lists were recorded in BirdTrack.



At the start of each species account there is a statement about status and then a table of basic data. This is an attempt to summarise the information available and to use the basic data to provide further information about how easy it is likely to be to see any particular species in this region of Wales but especially in the 1 km squares in which the species has been observed. To explain each of the headings:

Status. This is a statement about each species based mainly on the results of the Atlas project that led to 'The Breeding Birds of North Wales'.

Resident

Summer visitor

Winter visitor

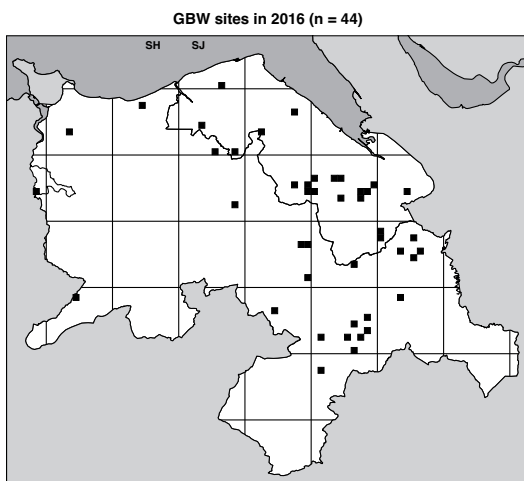
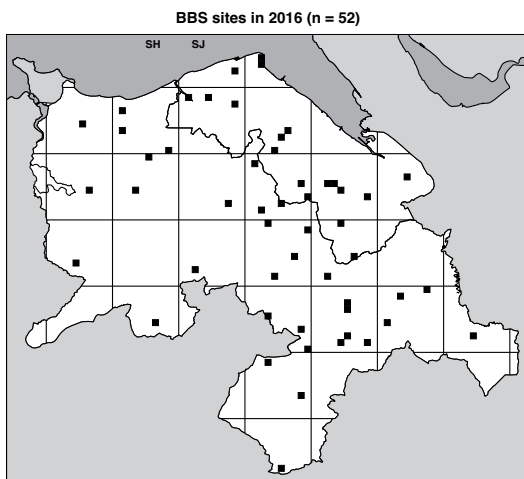
Passage migrant

Visitor

Vagrant

Escape

Occurrence. We do not have good population estimates for the majority of species in North-East Wales. Some bird reports have used words such as 'abundant' without any criteria for determining the use of the words. Here, we are using a formula to calculate a figure that is then used to determine the word to describe how abundant a species is. The formula is: **(Average max count)/3 * (Average no of records)**. These average figures are taken from a database of these figures that have been published in recent bird reports.



Descriptor	Occurrence as calculated
Abundant	25,000+
Very common	>5,000 – 25,000
Common	>1,000 – 5,000
Fairly common	>500 – 1,000
Uncommon	>100 – 500
Scarce	>10 – 100
Very scarce	>5 – 10
Rare	<=5

The word chosen to describe the species is taken from the table, above.

Number of 1 km squares. This is the number of 1 km squares in which a species was recorded during the year. The numbers of 1 km squares in each county are taken from the Gazetteer which is available from the CBRG website: Denbs = 1965, Flints = 589, total = 2554.

Maximum count. This is the same figure that has been shown in the last few reports and is the maximum count for each species in each county during the year. Records come from several sources that do not, necessarily, conform to the requirements of our database. So, there may be records e.g. from WeBS sectors that span more than one 1km square, so may be higher than the maximum count shown in the table.

Av max count prev 10 yrs. This is the average of the maximum counts for the previous 10 years. I thank Tim May, Cofnod, for providing me with the Access code to make this calculation.

Recorded in BBS squares. When a species has been recorded during a BBS survey this is the number of squares in which the species was recorded out of the number in the county. There were 30 BBS squares in Denbs in 2013 and 15 in Flints.

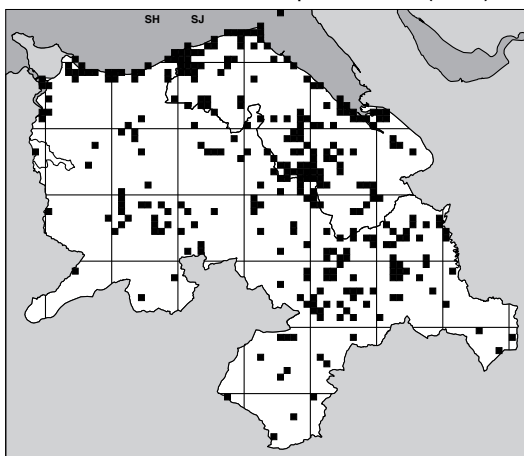
Number of records. As in previous reports, this shows the number of accepted records received for each county during the year.

% of records from GBW. Rather than mentioning this in the text for some, obvious, garden species this is included for all species that occurred in the GardenBirdWatch lists.

% of BirdTrack lists. This is a figure calculated using all the complete lists that have been submitted on BirdTrack during the year and provided by the BTO within the download of records for County Recorders. A species is more likely to be encountered if the percentage shown is higher than for another species. For some species this figure is much higher for relatively scarce species in Denbs because of the numbers of lists submitted for RSPB Conwy.

Density. This is an attempt to show how likely it is that a species will be encountered somewhere in North-East Wales. The figure is from a formula: **(Max count) * (No of locations where recorded) / (Total no of squares in that county)**. The numbers of 1km squares in each county are: 1976 in Denbs and 589 in Flints.

1km sites with 2448 BirdTrack complete lists in 2016 (n = 315)



We are grateful for the breeding codes that have been submitted with an increasing number of records. We would still 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 have been 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 Branchley 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, before they migrated away. This information shows up very well in the BirdTrack graphs created from complete lists of bird records. We are very keen to know these last dates as well as when they arrive.

The systematic list is presented in two sections, firstly the Category A and C species then those that are in Category E.

Category Explanation

A	Species recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950.
C1	Naturalized introduced species – species that have occurred only as a result of introduction.
C2	Naturalized introduced species – species with established populations resulting from introduction by Man, but which also occur in an apparently natural state.
C3	Naturalized re-established species – species with populations successfully re-established by Man in areas of former occurrence.
C4	Naturalized feral species – domesticated species with populations established in the wild.
E	Species recorded as introductions, human-assisted transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining.

Category A species

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Breeding resident.

One of our most regularly occurring waterbirds, this semi-domesticated “royal bird” is widely distributed throughout the report area being found on most inland water bodies and many estuaries. Recorded in all months from both counties.

Denbs. As usual the majority (72.4%) of records were from RSPB Conwy, the most regularly recorded site within the region, where this species was recorded throughout the year. Numbers appear to have been somewhat higher than last year with fourteen counts in double figures in comparison to only two in 2015. The majority of big counts were from the Dee floodplain where up to 20 were recorded at Trevalyn Meadows on a number of dates during late Jan to mid-Feb (KS, NHu) and the annual maximum of 37 was recorded at Sutton Green on 29/03 (NHu). On the coast Kinmel Bay also held reasonable numbers with up to 14 on various dates during mid-Feb (SD, HC) and 16 on 5/05 (HC); 20+ were also recorded at Towyn on 27/02 (SM). This year appears to have been a much better breeding season than 2015 with nesting activity recorded at a number of locations including Trofarth, Erddig Pool, Rhuthun, Pensarn, Tal-y-Cafn, Hanmer and RSPB Conwy. The first breeding activity was recorded on 31/03 at Trofarth where a male was aggressively defending nesting territory (PKi); and the first young were at Rhuthun

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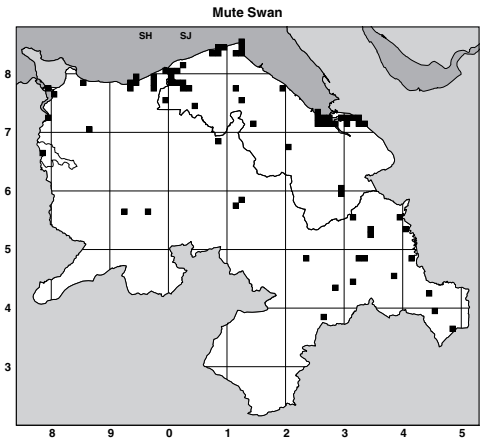
(MS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	36	40
Maximum count	37	78
Av max count prev 10 yrs	52	57
Number of records	412	437
Recorded in BBS squares	3/34	2/18
% of BirdTrack lists	23.5	32.4
Density	0.67	5.30

on 15/04 (AOH). Several of the above locations had records of adults with cygnets as the summer progressed. WeBS counts from the Conwy Estuary and a variety of other sites in the county reflected relatively low numbers at these sites, (see table below).

Flints. As usual most records were from coastal locations in or around the Dee and Clwyd Estuaries. As in previous years the largest concentrations on the Dee Estuary were on White Sands and Shotwick Fields. During the early part of the year flocks were concentrated on White Sands where maxima of 75 were recorded on various dates in Feb and Mar (DaK, CW, ShRy). The last substantial flock of the spring was 42 at White Sands on 8/05 (DaK, WeBS) and 30 in barley at Shotwick Fields on 27/05 (CW), after which adults dispersed to breeding territories. Later in the year Shotwick Fields was the favoured feeding location though numbers were somewhat lower than usual until Dec when 78 were counted on 18/12 (CW). On the Clwyd Estuary numbers were also lower than last year, the two largest counts being 32 on 9/04 (MaO) and 29 on 1/06 (AHJ), both at Rhyl. Breeding was recorded at Connah's Quay NR, Flint, Greenfield Valley, Rhuddlan, Rhyl brickworks Pool and the lower Clwyd Estuary.

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(MS)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy Estuary	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	8	6	4	8
Acton Pk, Wrexham		2	2				2	1				
White Sands	29	75	75	14	42					3	5	
Shotwick Fields									9		22	78
Clwyd Estuary	7	5		25	24						2	



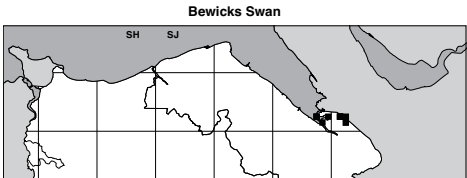
Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

ALARCH BEWICK

Winter visitor. Red List. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

(BS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares		6
Maximum count		22
Av max count prev 10 yrs		61
Number of records	0	16
% of BirdTrack lists		0.7
Density		0.22



This species is an annual visitor to the Dee Estuary and surrounding areas usually in relatively small numbers; it is much more rarely recorded from Denbs, the majority of records being from the lower Dee Valley during periods of winter flooding.

Flints. Numbers were significantly lower than usual with counts in single figures throughout most of Jan – Mar; the only more substantial records were 22 on White Sands on 17/02 and 21/02 (DaK, CW) and 10 on 18/03, which was the last record of spring. The first winter birds were 3 at Shotwick Fields on 13/11 (GR, KS) and a flock of up to 16 (on 26/12 GrJ) were at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands from 6/12 to at least 28/12 (NHu et al).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

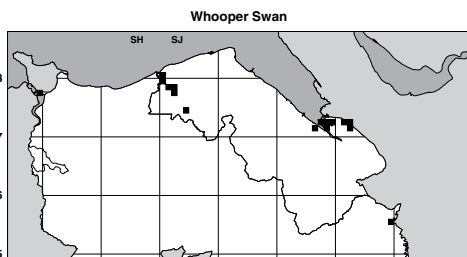
Winter visitor. RBBP.

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

Seen in these months:

D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

(WS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	2	14
Maximum count	12	36
Av max count prev 10 yrs	7	53
Number of records	14	33
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	2.0
Density	0.01	0.86



Records are primarily concentrated around the Dee Estuary, where this species is found with other swans at sites in the upper estuary. Smaller

numbers are recorded less frequently from inland and coastal sites further W.

Denbs. During the early part of the year the only records were from Trevalyn Meadows in the lower Dee floodplain where a small flock of 7-12 was present on dates from 27/01 to 13/02 (DuH, HL, SD, KS, NHu). The maximum count was 12 on 1/02 (NHu). Later in the year the only records were from RSPB Conwy where there were 3 on 22/10, 1 on 27/10, 10 on 1/11 and 3 on 19/11 (pJHg, JHg, WRM).

Flints. As in the preceding species, numbers this year were significantly lower than average. On the Dee Estuary a flock of up to 31 was present on White Sands from 10/01-13/03, the maximum count being on 17/01 (DaK) and the last record of the spring was 12 on 13/03 (ShRy). The first returning migrants of autumn were recorded at Shotwick Fields on 2/11 with 27 on the mitigation area at Shotwick and a further 12 at Burton Point the following day (CW). Thereafter modest numbers were recorded at Shotwick Fields for the remainder of the year with a maximum count of 36 on 17/12 (SAH). Away from the Dee there were scattered records from the Clwyd Estuary where 2 were at Rhuddlan on 1-2/01 (SH) and 2 on flooded meadows at St Asaph on 20/01 (JPH). Late in the year singles were at Rhuddlan on 19/11 (SH) and at Rhyl on 27-29/11 (JPH, JNW, RLE).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

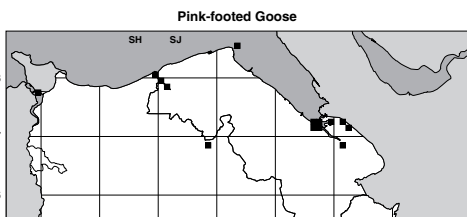
Passage migrant, and winter visitor.

GWYDD DROED-BINC

Seen in these months:

D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

(PG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very common
Number of 1km squares	4	11
Maximum count	21	8500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	30	1558
Number of records	7	77
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	5.2
Density	0.04	158.74



This species has steadily increased in numbers on the Dee Estuary since 2010. In Denbs it occurs in smaller numbers and with less regularity largely dependent on the severity of weather in its usual wintering grounds further N and E in the UK and in

continental Europe.

Denbs. There were rather more records than last year, however with one exception all sightings were of very small numbers. Early in the year a single was at RSPB Conwy on 11/02 (JOHn) and 3 at Kinnel Bay on 14/02 (HC); 1 was then at Lleweli Hall, Bodfari on 14/03 and 25/03 (JPH)

Flints. Numbers on the Dee Estuary continue to increase with a new record count for the estuary recorded during Feb. As usual the upper estuary was the most favoured location with the main flocks feeding on Shotwick Fields / RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands then flying out to roost and rest on White Sands. RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR were also used by significant numbers particularly late in the year. Counts during early Jan were relatively low with 31 at White Sands on 17/01 (DaK) which was the maximum during this period. However on 27/01 there was a major influx with up to 2,000 recorded on White Sands (PSH) and 1,200 on Shotwick Fields (CW). Numbers increased throughout Feb with 7,000 (plus a further 400 on the English side of the estuary) on 25/02 and a peak of 8,500 on White Sands on 29/02 (CW); this being a new record count of this species for the Dee Estuary. After this numbers declined during the first half of Feb with 3,000 on 18/03 (PSH) being the last record of spring for the Dee. The only summer records were singles at Shotwick on 18/05 (CW) and at Connah's Quay NR on 14/08 (PSH). The first returning birds of the autumn were 24 feeding on barley stubble at Shotwick Fields on 16/09 followed by 400 on 5/10 and 1,000 on 10/10 (CW). Reasonable numbers, between 200-1,500, were reported throughout the remainder of the year. RSPB Oakenholt Marsh held significant numbers during early Dec when the maximum count of the autumn/winter period was 2,335 on 7/12 (RBe). Away from the Dee small numbers (1-11) were recorded on the Clwyd Estuary from 15/02 to 18/04. A single was recorded twice with a flock of Greylags in early Aug (AHJ, RLE), and 2 were again with a larger Greylag flock on 2/10 (WRM). Numbers were somewhat higher from late Nov onwards with a winter maximum of 15 on 3/12 (AHJ).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

Irregular winter visitor. Red List. (*Af flavirostris* S7).

The overwhelming majority of records in the report area are of the 'European' *albifrons* race which occurs most often but irregularly, and any record not specifically attributed to any race should be taken as referring to this one. The 'Greenland' *flavirostris* race is considerably rarer and more noteworthy in our area.

Denbs. A small flock of up to 4 of the European race were recorded at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on several dates from 22/02 to 21/03 and later in the year 3 were again at the same location on 15/11 (JPH). Presence was also recorded nearby at Pont Canol, Denbigh on 28/02 (JNW).

Flints. A single of the European race was at Shotwick Fields on 29/01(CW), and an adult with an attendant juvenile was at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 27/02 (pRS). A Greenland race bird was recorded on several dates from 12/02-5/03 at sites including RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR (CW, KS, PSH).

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

GWYDD WYLLT

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

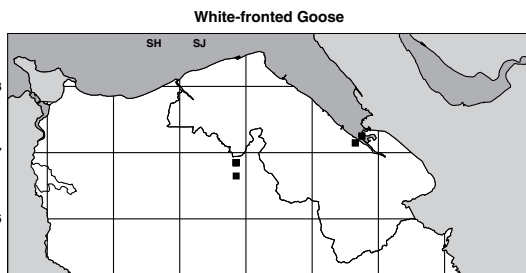
This species comprises a resident feral

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

(WG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	2
Maximum count	4	1
Number of records	6	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-
Density	0.00	0.00

breeding population relatively widespread on suitable inland water bodies. Recorded in both counties in all months of the year, 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 relatively uncommon. These resident birds concentrate into post-breeding

moultling flocks at a number of sites, notably the Dee Estuary and Gresford Flash. This population is supplemented by numbers of passage, and over-wintering birds during the winter months. When the River Dee is in flood the Trevalyn Meadows, Ridleywood and Worthenbury areas of the lower valley attract significant numbers on an almost annual basis.



Denbs. This species was widely distributed throughout the county, though RSPB Conwy is our most regularly recorded location and provided almost 54% of all records, though this year none of substantial numbers. As usual there were relatively few Jan records, the most notable being 100 on Trevalyn Meadows on 28/01 (NF). During Jan-Mar Llewenni Hall, Bodfari held its usual wintering flock with 243 on 20/01 and a maximum of 247 on 22/02. Numbers reduced towards the end of Mar with 89 on 25/03 the last substantial count of the winter period (JPH). As pairs dispersed to breeding territories there were records from a wide range of locations but the only reports of actual breeding were a nest at Glascoed NR, St Asaph on 26/04 (WRM) and a female with 11 very small young at Llewenni Hall on 12/05 (JPH). The post-breeding congregations at Llyn Brenig were somewhat smaller than usual with 97 including juveniles on 18/06 and 70 on 30/06 (SD, GEM). Gresford Flash had the county's largest count of the year with 500+ on 10/10 (HL), and as the autumn progressed other notable records were 200+ feeding on stubbles at Denbigh Green on 29/10 (PKi) and 347 at Llewenni Hall on 29/11 (JPH).

Flints. The Clwyd Estuary was again the most regularly used location for this species with 59% of all records and significantly greater counts than other sites in the county. Numbers were relatively modest early in the year with up to 75 recorded in the Rhuddlan area during Jan and Feb. Inland sites also had significant counts during late Feb, with 84 at Fagl Lane GP, Hope on 16/02 (GNR) and 50 at Penbedw the same day (GEM). Birds were present in relatively small numbers on the estuary and potential inland breeding areas throughout much of the summer but breeding activity was only recorded from Padeswood, Hope, Hendre and Penbedw. It was not until mid-Jul that post-breeding/wintering flocks on the Clwyd Estuary began to increase, with 110+ at Rhuddlan on 17/07 (WRM) and a winter peak of 450+ on 2/11 (WRM). Notable inland records for the winter period included 75 at Fagl Lane GP on 29/11 (NHu) and 200+ flying NW over Tremeirchion on 19/12 (PKi). On the Dee Estuary numbers were relatively low throughout much of the year, notable records being 43 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 27/05 (CW) and 40 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 5/06 (PeHa). Later in the year RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands had a significant influx on 16/10 with 142 on the Border Pool and 50 on Shotwick Fields (CW, DuH).

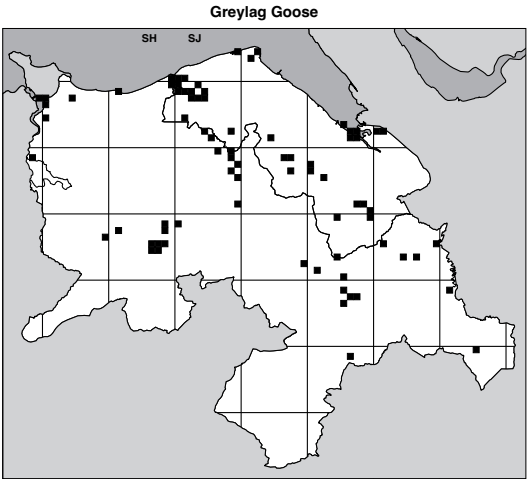
(GJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	44	34
Maximum count	500	450
Av max count prev 10 yrs	271	360
Number of records	190	215
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	3/18
% of BirdTrack lists	9.9	18.1
Density	11.13	25.98

Monthly WeBS counts at Flintshire locations.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

GWYDD CANADA
Breeding resident.

A ubiquitous species, certainly our commonest goose, found on estuaries and most lakes, ponds and other water bodies and recorded from both counties in all months of the year. Post-breeding concentrations can occur in autumn/early winter on a number of sites including the Dee Estuary, Gresford Flash, RSPB Conwy and Llyn Brenig, many birds remaining to winter.



Denbs. This species was recorded from sixty-seven inland squares and eight coastal ones, 56% of records being from RSPB Conwy. Last year's trend of low numbers was continued and once again there were very few counts of more than 100. During Jan – Mar the largest counts were at Kinmel Bay with 80+ on 14/02 (HC) and RSPB Conwy with 73 on 21/02 (JHg) and the largest count of the early months was 110+ at Cae Llwyd Reservoir, Penycae on 25/03 (SD). There were other notable counts from W of Wrexham during this period with 61 at Syddallt on 11/03 (DuH) and 52 at Bryn Golau, Penycae on 25/03 (SD). Breeding was recorded from a number of locations with family groups and juveniles reported at Conwy, Trefechan, Tal-y-cafn, Llyn Aled, Pendinas, Llyn Brenig and Ty Uchaf in the Berwyns. In Jun the highest numbers of the year are usually recorded as family groups form into post-breeding flocks. RSPB Conwy had the largest congregations with 207 on 5/06 and 188 on 22/06 (JHg). Llyn Brenig as usual also recorded good numbers with 85 including juveniles on 18/06 (SD), though again this is well down on last year's counts. As the autumn progressed the most significant records were 100+ at Kinmel Bay on 12/09 (NHu), 80+ at Hanmer on 24/09 (SD) and 75 also at Hanmer on 11/11 (NHu) which was the last record of substantial numbers in the year.

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

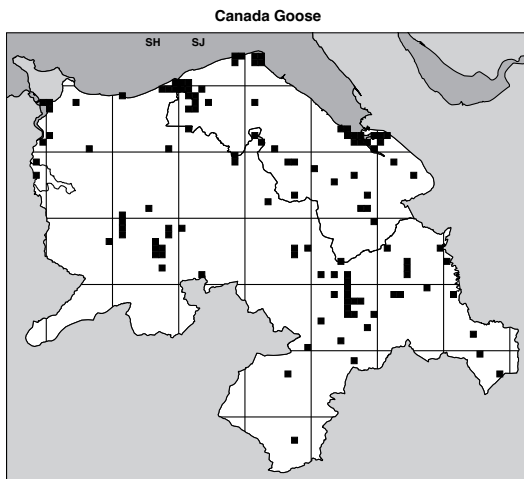
Flints. Numbers have continued to recover from past declines with a further increase in the peak count again exceeding the long term average. Records were predominantly from the Dee and Clwyd estuaries, though there were also records from seventeen inland squares. On the Dee Estuary the usual mid-estuary reserves were the most favoured locations, with large numbers regularly recorded from Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. Other locations having large numbers on occasion included RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands / Shotwick Fields, White Sands, Lawndy Farm at Point of Ayr and the Flint saltmarshes. During Jan flocks of 600-1,000 were regularly recorded from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, Connah's Quay NR and

(GJ)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clwyd Est.	2	5		3	3		160	10			4	
RSPB Oakenholt					3	40						

White Sands but the largest numbers during this period were 2,000 on Flint saltmarsh on 20/01

(GEM). The last 1,000+ count of the early months was 1,020 at Connah's Quay NR on 31/01 (PSH). Numbers continued to be modest throughout Feb and until late May, the only 100+ counts being in mid-Mar when 300 were recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 10/03 (GEM), 110 at Llawndy on 13/03 (GR), and 100 at Connah's Quay NR, also on 13/03 (PeHa). Flocks, presumably predominantly non-breeders, began to reform in late May when 157 were on barley at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 27/05 (CW). There were 200 at Connah's Quay NR the following day and 250 at Connah's Quay NR and 200 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh both on 2/06 (PSH). Numbers remained at about this level until Aug, when the first big count of the autumn was 600 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 8/08 (PSH), with 2,000 on barley stubbles at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 4/09 (CW). Substantial numbers were recorded at Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh for the remainder of the year with smaller counts at other locations around the estuary. Notable records included 1,900 at Connah's Quay NR on 15/09 (RBe), 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30/10 (PSH) and the largest count of the year, when 3,000 were again at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 21/12 (GRMP). On the Clwyd Estuary numbers are more modest than the Dee and in contrast this year's counts were somewhat down on last year with a peak less than 80% of that in 2015. The early year maximum was 134 at Rhuddlan on 27/02 (JHB). Breeding was recorded both on the estuary and at Rhyl brickworks Pond nearby where the first nesting activity was recorded on 12/04. The first juveniles on 6/05 (JPH, RLE). There was a significant post-breeding congregation of 100+ mixed adults with juveniles near Rhyl on 1/08 (pCd). Numbers peaked during Sep with 346 on 24/08 (JPH) and a year's maximum of 380 on 18/09 (WRM). Numbers declined as the winter set in with 150 remaining on 29/12 (RLE).

(CG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	75	46
Maximum count	207	3000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	371	2660
Number of records	403	438
Recorded in BBS squares	9/34	6/18
% of BirdTrack lists	23.4	33.4
Density	7.14	234.30



On the Clwyd Estuary numbers are more modest than the Dee and in contrast this year's counts were somewhat down on last year with a peak less than 80% of that in 2015. The early year maximum was 134 at Rhuddlan on 27/02 (JHB). Breeding was recorded both on the estuary and at Rhyl brickworks Pond nearby where the first nesting activity was recorded on 12/04. The first juveniles on 6/05 (JPH, RLE). There was a significant post-breeding congregation of 100+ mixed adults with juveniles near Rhyl on 1/08 (pCd). Numbers peaked during Sep with 346 on 24/08 (JPH) and a year's maximum of 380 on 18/09 (WRM). Numbers declined as the winter set in with 150 remaining on 29/12 (RLE).

(CG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy		73	65	33	39	207	12		3	15	1	
Rhuddlan, Clwyd	67	134		24	16		149					
Llawndy, Gwespyr.	38	81	110							45	72	153
RSPB Oakenholt	7	80		12			260	70	200			200
Connah's Quay NR		60	100	25	13	200		6	1000			1
White Sands	50	30	8		25		191	100	28		16	600

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

GWYDD WYRAN

Vagrant, or birds of escaped / feral origin. Amber List.

Denbs. A single bird was at RSPB Conwy on dates from 2/02-5/02 (JHg), then another (or possibly the same) again on 5/04, joined by a second on several dates from 11/04-12/05. There were 6 on 7/09 and 11 on 11/09 (JHg, JOH). One was also at Nant-y-fridd Reservoir near Wrexham on 28/02 (SD), then nearby at Sydalit on dates from 21/03-26/03 (DuH, KS, StP).

Flints. Regular sightings of 1-2 and occasionally 3 presumed feral birds from the Connah's Quay NR / RSPB Oakenholt Marsh area of the Dee Estuary from Jan-Sep (PSH, GEM, NHu). A flock of 27 at Connah's Quay NR on 3/09 (PDS) was an unusually early record if these were wild birds, though they may have been some of the feral flocks that are normally found in Lancashire. Numbers gradually increased from the beginning of Oct with up to 40 recorded in the same area during Nov/Dec (PSH et al). The maximum count of 40 were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 4/12 (PSH).

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

GWYDD DDU

Winter visitor. (*Bb bernicla* ST).

The majority of Denbs records are likely to be of the pale-bellied *hrota* race of which the majority winter in Ireland though some are present on the Menai Strait and Y Fforyd in Gwynedd. Records from Denbs can be assumed to relate to this race unless otherwise specified. However, Flintshire records can be of the dark-bellied *bernicla* race, the majority of which winter in the S and E of the UK and continental Europe.

Denbs. The only records were 1 at

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Llanddulas on 20/10 (RoH) and 3 on the beach at Towyn on 15/11 which subsequently flew W (SM).

(BY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	7
Maximum count	11	40
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	7
Number of records	19	74
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	3.3
Density	0.02	0.48

Flints. On the Dee Estuary 1 of the pale-bellied race was recorded in the RSPB Oakenholt Marsh / Connah's Quay NR area on various dates between 29/01-5/02 (PSH, PDS). Four (race unspecified) were on White Sands on 25/02 (PSH). Later in the year 1 pale-bellied was again on White Sands on 18/10 (DaK); 60+ were on the sea at Point of Ayr on 15/12 (MGW) and 1-2 pale-bellied and a single dark-bellied were in the Point of Ayr / Gronant / Talacre area on 18/12 (PMi, GR).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

Breeding resident and winter visitor.
Amber List.

This coastal duck is found on most estuaries and was recorded from both counties during all months of the year. The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this species.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

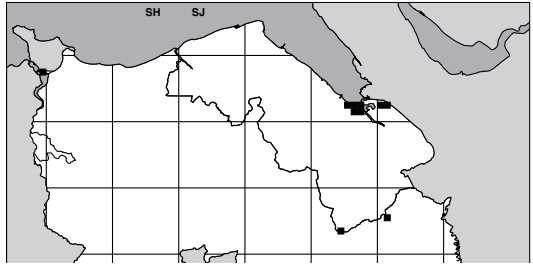
Denbs. Numbers were somewhat higher than in 2015. As usual, RSPB Conwy and the adjoining estuary contributed the

majority, 85% being from this location. The vast majority of sightings were from coastal sites, in fact, RSPB Conwy and Kinnel Bay together accounted for 93% of all records. At RSPB Conwy numbers were relatively modest during the early months, with monthly counts of up to 55. Numbers increased as the year progressed towards the period of peak numbers in May – Jun, when notable counts included an annual maximum of 237 on 22/04 (pJHg), 150+ on 10/05 and 180+ on 19/06 (DVA). Breeding was recorded at the reserve and the adjoining estuary with a pair with 11 ducklings on 24/06 (WRM) and a count of 33 juveniles with 2 adults on 29/07 (JHg). However, the largest count during the

breeding season was 50+ adults accompanied by three family crèches of ducklings numbering 57 in total counted from the platform at Glan Conwy halt on 1/07 (WRM); after which numbers were relatively modest for the remainder of the year. The general annual trend in numbers is reflected in the table of WeBS counts at RSPB Conwy (see below). Lleweni Hall, Bodfari was the only inland location where reasonable numbers were regularly recorded, particularly during Jan- Mar with a maximum during this period of 34 on 20/01, and an annual maximum of 38 on 12/05 (JPH).

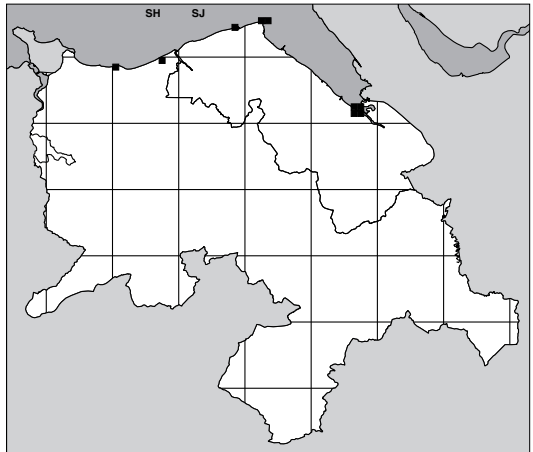
RSPB Conwy monthly WeBS counts:

Barnacle Goose



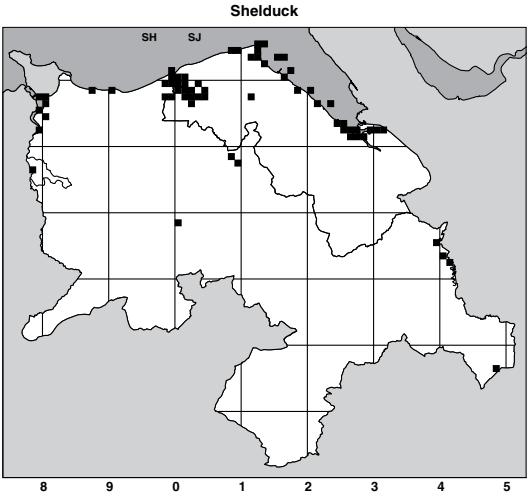
(BG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	7
Maximum count	3	60
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	34
Number of records	2	11
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.7
Density	0.00	0.71

Brent Goose



Flints. In contrast to Denbs numbers appear somewhat lower than 2015. The maximum count of 1,200 was only 78% of the long-term average. During Jan and Feb numbers were reasonable with counts of 100+ from several locations including Point of Ayr / Talacre, Mostyn, Flint, White Sands and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh though the last was particularly favoured and had the largest count of the period with 320 on 27/01 (GEM). After this numbers were rather lower during late Feb and Mar. RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR continued to be the most important locations for the first half of the year with monthly maxima in the range 150-600+ into Aug and a maximum count of 1,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 20/06 (PSH). As usual from mid-Aug onwards the outer banks of the estuary increased in importance with large numbers on Mostyn Bank and the compartments around Point of Ayr, where the year's largest count of 1,200 was recorded on 16/10 (GR). There were two records of fledged young on the Dee this year in the Connah's Quay NR area.

(SU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	23	41
Maximum count	237	1200
Av max count prev 10 yrs	102	1417
Number of records	323	418
Recorded in BBS squares	-	3/18
% of BirdTrack lists	18.8	24.6
Density	2.76	83.53



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected Dee Estuary sites:

There were good numbers on the Clwyd Estuary throughout the year with counts of 100+ at both Rhuddlan and Rhyl during the early months and a maximum of 161 at Rhuddlan on 27/02. During Nov and Dec there were several counts of 100+ near Rhyl including 105 on 26/11 and 110 on 3/12(AHJ). The maximum autumn/winter count was 142 on 13/11 (JHB) (see table below). The Clwyd appears to offer better breeding habitat than the Dee and there were several sightings of adults with ducklings and juveniles during Jun and Jul. Of particular note were a count of 109 including broods of 7, 7 and 8 on 22/06 (JPH) and 100+ on 24/07 including two crèches of 60 and 21 and 17 independent juveniles (WRM). The only inland record was one at Llyn Helyg on 22/02 (AB).

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy	7	31	51	99	63	105	4	6			11	17

Clwyd Estuary monthly WeBS counts:

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*
Breeding resident.

HWYADEN GRIBOG

The population of this showy plumaged but secretive species, introduced to the UK from its native China, appears well established in a few localities where there are quiet stretches of river close to deciduous woodland which provides suitable tree hole nesting sites.

Denbs. The steady increase in both number of records and the distribution of this species' population has continued and there were sightings in all months of the year. As usual the

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	150	76	96	45	52	57	14	200	700	1200	700	198
Flint Estuary	1	30	16	27	9	24	155	37	37	15	20	15
RSPB Oakenholt	40	100	320	150	350	230	500	400	40	40	50	40
White Sands	221	50	122	87	127		24	7	11	10	29	81
Mostyn Bank							145	450	600	300	15	8

majority of sightings were from the middle Dee Valley, primarily between Llangollen and Chirk. Within this area most records were of small groups of up to 7 or family parties of females with ducklings which were reported from Trevor Uchaf on 18/05, Froncysyllte where there were three females with 5 ducklings on 15/06 and a female with 3 small ducklings at Llangollen on 21/06 (DaHu). The population in the middle Clwyd valley continues to prosper with regular sightings at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, where up to 11 were recorded on several occasions during Jan-Mar. Notable records included a female with 12 2-3 day old ducklings and 2 males on 12/05 and 36 together on the Afon Clwyd on 15/11, which must have been quite a memorable sight (JPH). A pair with 8 juveniles was also recorded at Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd on 27/05 (JoH). Other locations with regular sightings included the lower Dee floodplain on the Pulford Brook at Trevalyn, Gresford, Erddig and Bangor-is-y-Coed.

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rhuddlan	100	161		118	81		17	20			142	

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

CHWIWELL

Winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

(MN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	30	1
Maximum count	36	2
Number of records	88	1
Recorded in BBS squares	2/34	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	0.1
Density	0.55	0.00

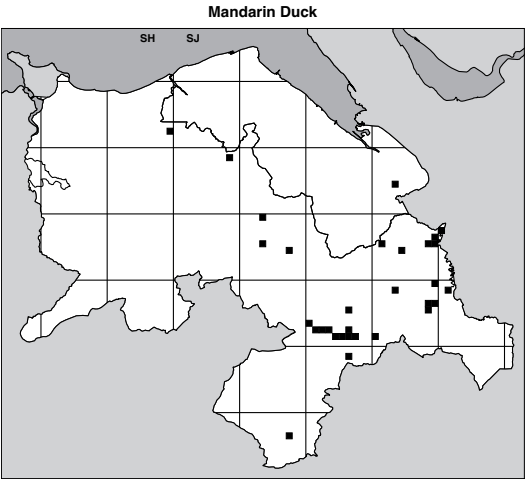
Recorded in each month in both counties. One of our commonest wintering duck, usually seen in coastal habitats, it is present in numbers on most estuaries during the winter months, often grazing on coastal fields or inland on flooded farmland. Numbers decline in the spring as birds migrate to breeding grounds in northern Europe.

Denbs. As usual RSPB Conwy provided the vast majority of records with 89% of the total recorded sightings. The trend of reducing numbers noted last year continued. The maximum count of 228 was less than 37% of the long-term average and again there were only a handful of counts of over 100 birds. The vast majority of records were from coastal locations. In addition to RSPB Conwy there were relatively small numbers of sightings from the coast from Kinnel

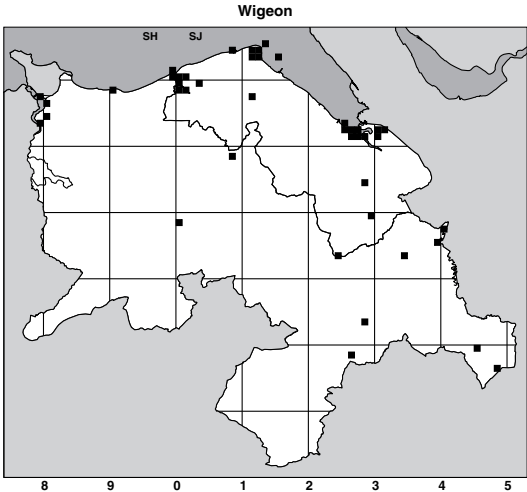
Bay to Llanddulas and up the Conwy as far as Croesau. The largest numbers during the early months of the year were at Kinnel Bay where 150+ were recorded on 20/01 (SM) and on 6/02 when 140 were at Horton's Nose (AHJ). The last significant numbers of the spring were 54 at RSPB Conwy on 13/03 (JHg, WeBS). Small numbers were present at Conwy throughout the summer months. The first significant numbers of returning migrants were 18 at RSPB Conwy on 10/09 followed by 60 on 16/09 (JHg) and 92 were at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley, on 20/09 (MiB). The largest counts of the autumn/winter were all at RSPB Conwy with 173 on 8/10, 115 on 14/10, 228 on 16/10 and 163 on 13/11 (JHg). There were inland records from Lleweni Hall, Chirk Castle, Bryn Ocyn, Fenn's Moss, Hanmer, Nant-y-ffridd, Trevalyn Meadows and Gresford Flash. Lleweni Hall was the only inland location where significant numbers were recorded with 82 on 20/01 and 68 on 29/11 (JPH).

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

Flints. As usual the vast majority of records were from coastal locations on the Dee and Ciwyd estuaries. During Jan the Dee held reasonable numbers with several counts of 100-300, chiefly from locations in the upper estuary including RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Connah's Quay NR, and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. Other exceptional records were 311 at Llawndy, Point of Ayr on 10/01 (PMi) and 800 at Flint on 18/01 (PeHa). Numbers increased in Feb with WeBS counts on 4/02 recording 2,000 at Flint and 800 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa). There were several records of 200-300 during the month, 600 at White Sands on 21/02 being the maximum for the month. Numbers decreased in the first half of Mar though there were significant counts of 400 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa) and 434 at Llawndy



(WN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	17	26
Maximum count	228	5000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	617	1661
Number of records	246	287
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/18
% of BirdTrack lists	14.1	11.5
Density	1.49	220.71



both on 13/03 (GR). The last significant numbers of the spring were 60 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 10/04 (PeHa). Small numbers of 1-6 were recorded from reserves in the upper estuary, particularly Connah's Quay NR from mid-Apr to to the end of Aug. The first double figure record of autumn was 10 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/08 (PSH). A bird showing characteristics suggesting a possible Eurasian/American Wigeon hybrid was at Connah's Quay NR from 12-17/09 (PSH). The first significant influx of autumn was 18/09 when small flocks were reported from several locations on both estuaries, though the first substantial numbers on the Dee were not until 8-9/10 when 900 were at Connah's Quay NR and 1,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 16/10 (PSH). Other exceptional counts during the autumn/winter months were 5,000 at Flint on 11/11 (JuR), 1,200 on 13/11 and 4,000 on 18/12 both at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa) and 1,000 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 23/12 (CW). The Clwyd Estuary

(WN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	90	66	54	3					80	228	163	90
Point of Ayr		2							4	250	500	700
Llawndy, Pt of Ayr	311	239	434								106	21
Connah's Quay NR	150	300	70	29	2	1	3	5	4	1		210
RSPB Oakenholt	60	100	400	60	6				23	1000	1200	4000
White Sands		20	106	17						15	219	130

also had good numbers, with an early year maximum count of 258 at Rhuddlan on 4/02 (AnRe) and 189 near Rhyl on 12/03 (AHJ). The last significant numbers of spring were 60 on 25/03 (RLE), though two stayed on to 9/05 (AHJ). Later in the year the first of autumn were 9 on 16/09 (AHJ). The autumn/winter peak was 321 on the middle estuary on 27/12 (JPH). There were only a handful of inland records from Buckley; Fagl Lane GP, Hope; Llyn Helyg and Rhyl brickworks Pond.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

HWYADEN LWYD

Winter visitor and breeding resident.

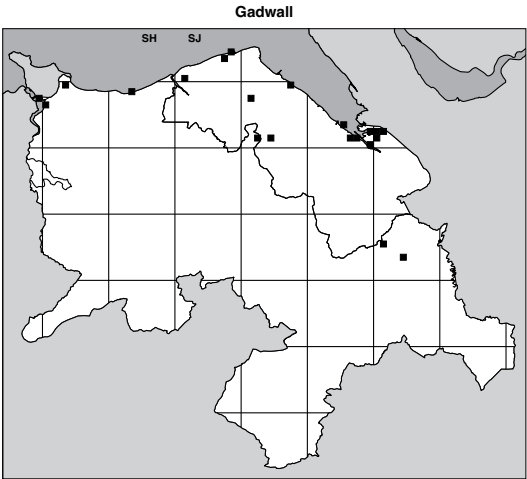
This species occurs in modest numbers intermittently throughout the year, appearing to favour freshwater or brackish ponds and lakes, with relatively few records from intertidal areas. Favoured locations include RSPB Conwy, and on the Dee Estuary, Shotton Paper Mill and Steelworks pools, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands / Shotwick Fields, rifle range and Border Pool and lakes at Talacre, as well as various inland localities. Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. As usual the principal location was RSPB Conwy, which provided 97% of all records and where the species was recorded in small numbers in all months of the year. There were also records from Afonwen, Llandrillo-yn-Rhos, Pensarn, Sydalit and Gresford Flash. Numbers at RSPB Conwy appeared to be greater than last year, the peak count of 23 on 28/03 (JPH) being almost three times that of 2015 and twice the long term average. The largest counts at RSPB Conwy were 23 on 28/03 (JPH) and 20 on 26/09 (JRi).

The monthly WeBS counts for selected sites are shown in the table below.

Flints. Recorded in all months from sites around the Dee Estuary, though numbers much reduced from mid-Mar to early Sep. The most favoured locations for this species are Shotton Paper Mill pools, which appear to attract the majority of the Deeside population, and to a lesser extent RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, though small numbers are recorded at a wide variety of locations around the estuary, comprising twelve squares in total. Shotton Paper Mill held good numbers throughout most of the year. Numbers peaked in Feb with 99 on 24/02 (IMS) but in contrast to last year there was a secondary peak later in the year, with good numbers up to 52 recorded in Sep/Oct after the breeding season, though counts declined somewhat in the later months of the year (see table above). The only other site to record double figure counts was RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands where there were counts of 10 on 10/04 and 20 on 5/06 (CW). The only inland locations where Gadwall were recorded were Llyn Helyg, Rhyl Brickworks Pool and Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog. Up to 9 were present at the last site during Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec with a maximum of 9 on 19/01 (GEM) making it the most significant inland site. Rhyl brickworks also had birds during five months of the year, Jan-Mar and Oct-Nov but in smaller numbers with a maximum of 4 on 3-4/03 (RLE, AHJ).

(GA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	7	14
Maximum count	23	99
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	31
Number of records	227	109
% of BirdTrack lists	12.9	10.4
Density	0.08	2.35



Gadwall

(GA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy		3	6	9	2	3	2	5	3			7
Shotton Paper Mill		99	63			29	29	36	50	52	42	42

Teal *Anas crecca* CORHWYADEN
Winter visitor, and breeding resident. Amber List.

The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this species. It is widely distributed at both coastal and inland locations throughout both counties and may be encountered in wetland habitats of any size with suitable cover but is probably significantly under-recorded. Recorded in each month in both counties.

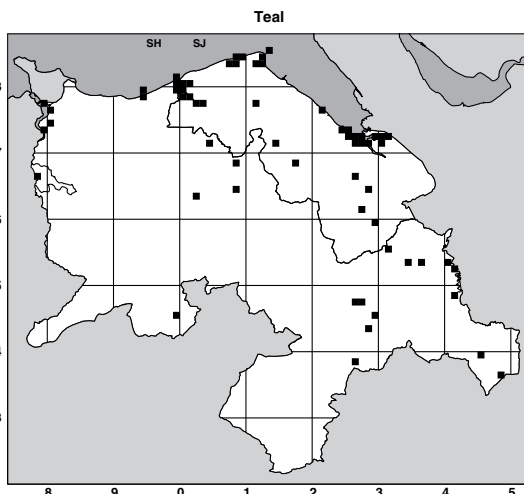
Denbs. This species was recorded from twenty inland and eleven coastal locations, of which RSPB Conwy provided 83% of records. At RSPB Conwy numbers were significantly lower than last year, particularly in the early months of the year. The early season peak count of only 40 recorded on 1/01 (RoHI) was only 28% of last year's equivalent peak for this site (see WeBS

counts in the table below). By contrast there were significant numbers in the Dee Valley in Mar, where 190 were at Holt on 1/03 and 700 on 11/03 (NFr) and 214 were at Ridleywood on 22/03 (DuH). Lleweni Hall, Bodfari was the only other inland site holding reasonable numbers during this period, with a peak of 88 on 14/03 (JPH). At RSPB Conwy mid-Jul was perhaps an unusually early date for returning migrants but 12 on 18/07 (JHg) was the first double figure count of the second half of the year. Numbers remained relatively modest until early Sep when 40 on 3/09 (SPK) presaged a major influx, with a year's peak of 218 at RSPB Conwy on 18/09 (JHg). These were apparently in transit as numbers were more modest into the later months of the year, with highest counts of 138 on 13/11 (JHg) and 94 on 20/12 (JPH). In the E, Lleweni Hall had an exceptional count of 234 on 29/11 (JPH), the maximum count of the autumn/winter, though less than 70% of the 2016 equivalent peak.

(T)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	28	35
Maximum count	700	1000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	345	1379
Number of records	365	386
% of BirdTrack lists	21.2	21.0
Density	9.92	59.42

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

Flints. The number of Teal on the upper Dee Estuary was similar or slightly higher than last year during the early months of the year, with two counts of 300+ during Jan and several of 200+ during Feb and Mar. The majority of these large counts were from Connah's Quay NR, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and to a lesser extent Flint, which attracted the largest numbers of this species throughout much of the year. The largest count during the early months of the year was 600 at RSPB



Oakenholt Marsh on 13/01 (GR) and the last substantial count of the spring was 140 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 26/03 (PeHa). The outer estuary does not appear to have been as attractive, with significantly lower numbers during this period, though Point of Ayr area had 91 at Llawndy and 60 on the gas terminal pools both on 21/03 (GR, PMi). There were relatively few records during May and early Jun, though small numbers were recorded at Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands. As Jun progressed numbers increased somewhat, counts of 24-40 at Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 16-18/06 being an unusually early date for returning migrants. However this wasn't the start of a more general influx as it was late Aug before the first 100+ counts of the autumn were 100 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 21/08 and 120 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/08 (PSH). The first substantial numbers were on 18/09 when 800 were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, 385 on White Sands and

(T)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	28	35	24	26	2	5	7	44	218		138	83
Point of Ayr	60	50	18	20					172	400	250	400
RSPB Oakenholt	120	120	200	30				100	800	600	1000	700
Connah's Quay NR	50	80	40	8		1	6	40	38	2	23	132
White Sands			92					48	385	125	121	55

172 offshore at Point of Ayr (PeHa, DaK, GR). As shown in the table of WeBS counts above numbers generally remained significantly lower than last year. The peak count of 1,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 13/11 (PSH) was only 17% of the 2015 maximum and 60% of the long-term average. The majority of substantial counts over the autumn/winter period are from WeBS counts and are in the table above. Other notable counts included 900 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 15/11 (GEM), 400 at Connah's Quay NR on 17/11 (PSH) and 677 on White Sands on 18/12 (JLy). RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands held particularly large numbers during the mid-Nov influx when a total of 4,300 was counted on various sections of the reserve on 16/11 (CW), though some of these were over the border in England and as such technically outside the report area. This year the Clwyd Estuary attracted significantly higher numbers of Teal than in 2015, particularly later in the year. Numbers were modest in the early months with a maximum of 65 near Rhyl on 18/02 (AHJ). The last of spring was a single on 3/04 (SH). The first of autumn were 11 on 18/08. The first significant numbers followed in early Sep when 85 were near Rhyl on 4/09 and 200 on 10/09 (WRM). There were several counts of 100-200 from mid-Sep onwards, the latest being 171 on 22/12 (AHJ). Away from the coast there were records from several sites, including Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog, where there was a maximum of 45+ on 2/12 (SD).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

HWYADEN WYLLT

Our commonest duck species, found on most coastal and inland water bodies. Wintering and passage migrants increase the population during the winter months especially in periods of cold weather. Recorded in each month in both counties.

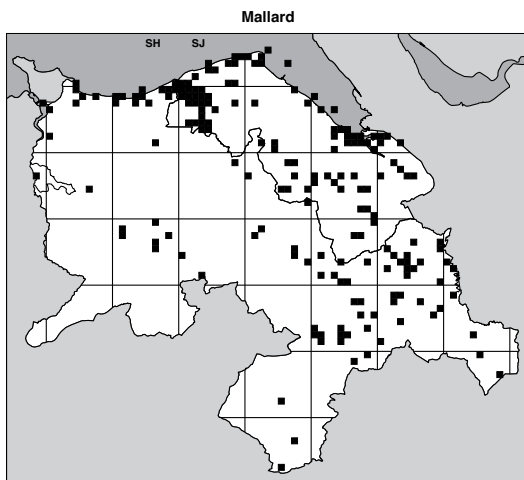
Denbs. This species is widely distributed throughout the county both on the coast and inland. Numbers appear to be somewhat lower after last year's modest recovery, possibly due to mild winters reducing migration of continental birds. RSPB Conwy provided 50% of all records and the species was recorded there in all months of the year. The peak counts for the site are all detailed in the WeBS data table below, the only records of 50+ counts not in the table being 118 on 1/07 and 122 on 20/07 (JHg). Of the coastal locations, Towyn recorded significant numbers, both early and late in the year, with an early year peak of 60+ on 30/01, and an autumn/winter maximum of 75+ on 6/11 (SM, WRM). Inland, Acton Park Lake, Wrexham held good numbers throughout Jan-Mar and Jul onwards, with the peak numbers shown in the WeBS table below. The only other notable records from inland locations were 54 at Acrefair on 12/08 (NHu) and at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, where there were counts of about 40 in Jan, Feb, Nov and Dec (JPH). Breeding was recorded at Acrefair, RSPB Conwy, Erddig Pool, Trevalyn Meadows, Llyn Aled, Kinnel Manor, Plas Uchaf Reservoir, Llyn Cyfynwy and Colwyn Bay, the first ducklings being reported on 9/04 at RSPB Conwy (JOHn).

(MA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	97	90
Maximum count	122	600
Av max count prev 10 yrs	123	456
Number of records	643	852
Recorded in BBS squares	6/34	9/18
% records from GBW	-	0.59
% of BirdTrack lists	39.1	59.2
Density	5.99	91.68

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

Flints. In the early months of the year numbers on the Dee Estuary were generally modest,

with 111 at Flint on 18/01 being the only 100+ record during Jan to Apr. Numbers then dipped until late May when 200 on 28/05 at Connah's Quay NR was the first substantial count of the summer period. As in 2015 Connah's Quay NR consistently provided the majority of substantial counts, particularly during Jun to Sep, when there were regular counts of 2-500, peaking in late Jul, when 600 were recorded on the fly-ash lagoon, though this was less than half the peak in 2015. Barley stubbles at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands attracted substantial flocks in early Sep with 400 on 8/09 (CW). The majority of large counts of the autumn period are in the table of WeBS counts above, the last 100+ count of



the year being 100 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 13/11 (PeHa), though reasonable numbers up to 80 were still present for the remainder of the year. On the Clwyd Estuary numbers were also down on last year, with a peak of 83 at Rhuddlan on 23/07 (JHB). Other notable counts included 66 near Rhuddlan on 24/01 (SH), 50 on 8/08 (GEM), 84 near Rhyl on 24/08 (JPH), 52 near Rhuddlan on 19/11 (SH) and 56 near Rhyl on 27/12 (JPH). Nearby Rhyl brickworks

(MA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	34	15	9	15	5	56	172	60	49	32	35	97
Acton Park Lake	62	43	32	17			62	67	45	42	37	39
Point of Ayr	24	4	4	2			45	80	60	90	8	30
RSPB RSPB		4	12	2	3	4	100	500	200	80	100	80
Connah's Quay NR	28	42	20	4	20	60	250	300	6	38	6	26
White Sands	12		12	15	15		4	42	4	1	36	2
Shotton Paper Mill		58	27			68	82	18	51	21	36	58

had substantial numbers with a peak count of 150+ on 12/07 (WRM). There were records from 36 inland locations the most notable of which were Rhyl brickworks pond with 72 on 7/01 (RLE); 150+ on 12/07 (WRM) and 68 on 6/12 (JPH); Fagl Lane GP, Hope with 90+ on 30/11 and 60 on 17/12 (GNR, SD). Breeding was reported from Connah's Quay NR, Rhyl brickworks, Rhuddlan, Prestatyn, Hendre, Gronant and Greenfield Valley.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

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

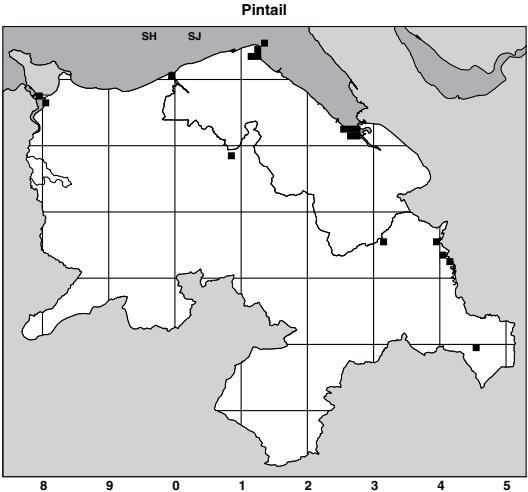
Denbs. Numbers were somewhat greater than in 2015, though still considerably less than the long term average peak counts. The main concentrations of this species were in the E of the county, Lleweni Hall, Bodfari having 197 on 20/01 and 215 on 22/02 (JPH). Sites in the lower Dee Valley also attracted somewhat smaller flocks, with 106 at Holt on 11/03 (NF) and 36 at Ridleywood on 22/03 (DaH). There were also records of small numbers from Trevalyn Meadows and Llay Pool during this period. In the W single birds were recorded at Kinmel Bay and RSPB Conwy. Between 6-14/02 and 2 were at RSPB Conwy on 11-12/02. The last record of spring was a single bird at Kinmel Bay on

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

9/05 (HC). The first returning bird of autumn was at RSPB Conwy on 14/09 (pJHg), after which 1 or 2 and on one occasion 3 were present on the reserve to the end of the year (JHg). There were 4 at Hanmer on 11/11 (NHu), 36 at Lleweni Hall on 29/11 (JPH) and 3 at Holt on 15/12 (NF).

Flints. All records were from the Dee Estuary, the greatest numbers being recorded from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, Flint, Bagillt and various on and offshore locations at Point of Ayr / Talacre. As in 2015 numbers during the early months of the year were generally modest with notable counts of 250 at Bagillt on 21/01 (GR), 120 at Flint on 26/03 (PeHa), 220 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 10/04 (PSH), 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 11/04 (GEM) and the last of spring 4 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 8/05 (PeHa). The first record of the autumn was 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/08, followed by 40 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 20/08 and 120 on 11/09 (PSH). There were a number of counts of up to 150 during Sep and early Oct, the middle of the month bringing a significant influx with 1,750 at Connah's Quay NR on 19/10 (GEM) and 4,000 on Flint saltmarsh on 11/11 (JuR) was the maximum for the year. The offshore compartments at Point of Ayr had counts of 250 during late Nov and Dec (GR).

(PT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	9	9
Maximum count	215	4000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	481	1710
Number of records	53	73
% of BirdTrack lists	2.6	2.3
Density	0.98	61.12



Monthly maxima of WeBS counts for selected Dee Estuary sites:

Garganey *Anas querquedula*HWYADEN ADDFAIN

Summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List. RBBP.

Denbs. A pair were at Henllan on 25/03; 2 were recorded at RSPB Conwy and later 1 from 2/05 to 8/05 and 1 from 21/08 to 23/10, joined briefly by a second on 16/08 (JHg).

(PT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	120	30	40	21					70	150	250	250
White Sands			45	32								
RSPB Oakenholt			90	210	4			11	50	15		

Flints A drake was at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 6/05 to 7/05 and a pair on 14/05; then 1 was on the Border Pool at the same site on 19/08 (CW).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

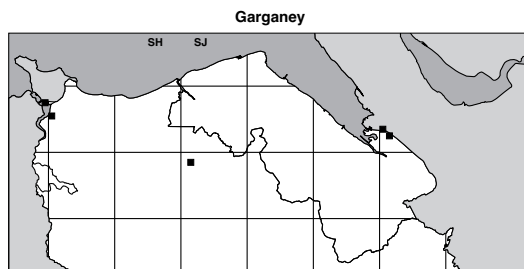
Winter visitor and breeding resident.

Amber List. RBBP.

Recorded in both counties in all months of the year.

Denbs. Recorded from coastal and inland locations throughout the county. Almost 90% of all records were from RSPB Conwy and there were sightings in all months of the year. However, numbers were for the most part modest with few records of over 1-3 individuals. Exceptional counts were 7 on 15/02 and several counts of 4-6 during the second half of Mar with peaks of 11 on 18/03 (JHg) and 18 on 28/03 (JPH). Away from RSPB Conwy the largest numbers were recorded in the E of the county with 25 at Fenn's Moss on 1/01 (JoAr) and 72 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 7/03 (JPH). Gresford Flash, Wrexham had records of small numbers in several months of the year particularly during Nov and Dec culminating in a peak count of 16 on 31/12 (SD, ID, NHu).

(GY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3	2
Maximum count	2	2
Number of records	65	4
% of BirdTrack lists	1.9	0.3
Density	0.00	0.01



(SV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	10	24
Maximum count	72	50
Av max count prev 10 yrs	53	58
Number of records	158	123
% of BirdTrack lists	9.0	10.0
Density	0.36	2.04

Monthly WeBS counts for selected sites:

Flints. Numbers on the Dee Estuary reserves were significantly lower than in 2015, with relatively few records of over 10 during the early months of the year. As usual the upper estuary sites particularly Connah's Quay NR, Shotton Steelworks pools and RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands featured strongly, with exceptional counts of 20 at Connah's Quay NR on 10/01 (PeHa), 14 at Shotton Paper Mill on 24/02 and 22 on 13/03 (IMS), 30 on the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 13/03 (RiMa) and 12 on 10/04 (CW). There were a few records of 1-4 during May to Jul from locations in the upper estuary, particularly RSPB Burton Mere

Wetlands and Shotton Paper Mill but the first substantial numbers of the autumn were on 21/08

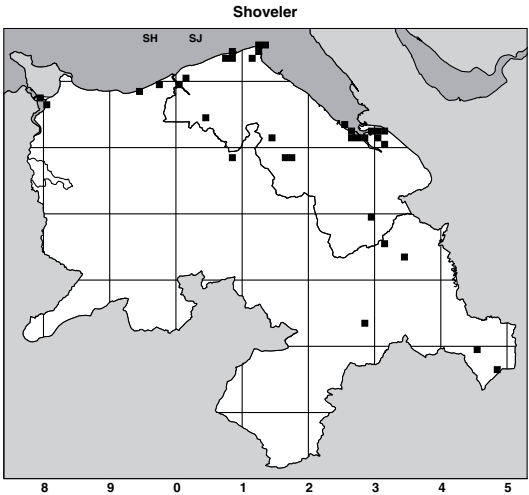
(SV)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy			2	1			1	5			1	2
Connah's Quay NR	20								1	6	20	20
Shotton Paper Mill		14	22			2	4	29	11	12	10	50

when 29 were counted at Shotton Paper Mill (IMS). This site continues to be particularly popular with this species and the majority of records of large numbers during the autumn and winter were from this location, though Connah's Quay NR also had counts of up to 20 during Nov and Dec. The peak count for the year was 50 at Shotton Paper Mill on 17/12 (IMS).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

HWYADEN BENGOC

Winter visitor and breeding resident.
Red List. RBBP.



Denbs. All records were from RSPB Conwy where this species was recorded in all months except May, though there was only a single sighting in Aug. Numbers were generally modest with only a handful of counts into low double figures, all during the early months of the year, ie 11 on 19/01, 10 on 9/02, 11 on 21/02 and 10 on 12/03. There was also a late season peak during Nov when up to 9 were recorded (JHg).

Flints. A single was present at Rhyl brickworks pond from 27/01-10/03 and was joined by a second on 15/02 (AHJ, RLE, WRM). The only sighting during the later months of the year was 3 males at Fagl Lane GP at Hope on 20/12 (NHu).

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

(PO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	2	3
Maximum count	11	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	17
Number of records	187	43
% of BirdTrack lists	10.4	3.7
Density	0.01	0.02

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

HWYADEN GOPOG

Resident breeder and winter visitor.

Our commonest diving duck, this species is widely distributed mainly favouring freshwater lakes and ponds but also occasionally found on sheltered coastal waters. Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. RSPB Conwy provided 83% of all records. Counts here were somewhat lower than in 2015, with the maximum counts of 16 on 13/03 (JHg) and 15 on 26/09 (JRR). Records of significant numbers from other locations included 20 at Hanmer on 2/04 (SD) and 20 at Llyn Brenig on 30/06 (GEM), which were the maximum counts for the year and

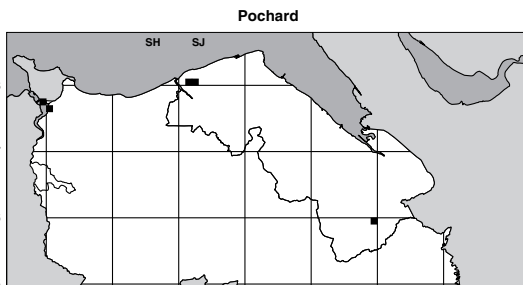
only 30% of last year's maximum. Other notable counts included 15 at Gresford Flash on 8/05 (ID), 14 at Stryd Las on 24/11 and 19 at Gresford Flash on 29/12 (NHu). The only record of breeding was from Gresford Flash, where a pair with ten ducklings were present on 12/07 (HL).

Monthly maximum counts, including from WeBS, for selected sites:

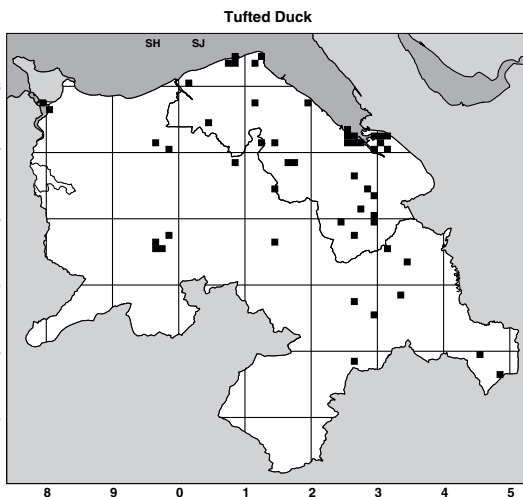
Flints. Recorded from various sites around the Dee Estuary, where freshwater lakes and pools provide suitable habitat, and fourteen inland locations. On the Dee the sites attracting the greatest numbers were the pools at Shotton Paper Mill and

Steelworks and to a lesser extent the Cop Hole pools at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, and Shotwick rifle range. In the early months of the year numbers at all locations appear to have been significantly lower than last year, when the largest numbers were during Jan-Mar. At Shotton Paper Mill the largest counts of 100+ were during Oct and Nov (see table of WeBS counts above), while the largest counts in Jan were at the steelworks pools with 104 on 23/01 (DeNi). At RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands numbers were also well down on last year, with maximum counts of 36 on 21/08 and 39 on 18/09 (RS, DaK). The other site where significant numbers were present for much of the year was Rhyl

brickworks pond, where the year started well with 41 counted on 1/01 (RLE) and regular counts



(TU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	20	32
Maximum count	20	170
Av max count prev 10 yrs	37	68
Number of records	399	345
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	2/18
% of BirdTrack lists	23.6	25.9
Density	0.20	9.24



(TU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	13	8	16	9	11	11	4	3	6	11	1	2
Gresford Flash	4		10		15	6			1	15	17	12
Ddol Resvoir											19	32
Shotwick Rifle range	12	9	22	24	24		19	36	39	3		4
Shotton Paper Mill		69	71			82	72	82	109	168	170	133

of 10-30 throughout Jan and Feb. Numbers began to taper off from the first week in Mar, the last double figure count of the spring being 13 on 19/04 (AHJ, RLE); then low throughout the summer months the majority of records in the range 1-4 and only a single record of a single during Aug. Counts increased from the beginning of Sep with 20+ regularly recorded during Oct and 40+ during Nov / early Dec, reaching a peak of 52 on 29/12 (JPH, AHJ, RLE). Away from the coast Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog recorded counts of 25 on 19/01 (GEM) and 20+ from early Nov with a peak of 32 on 18/12 (MD). Fagl Lane GP, Hope also recorded counts of 8-19 during Feb to May and Aug to Nov. Breeding was recorded at Connah's Quay NR with juveniles recorded on 2/07 (PSH). A brood of ducklings was at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Border Pools on 7/07 (CW) and a female with two recently fledged juveniles was at Alltami on 8/08 (GNR).

Scaup *Aythya marila*

HWYADEN BENDDU

Winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

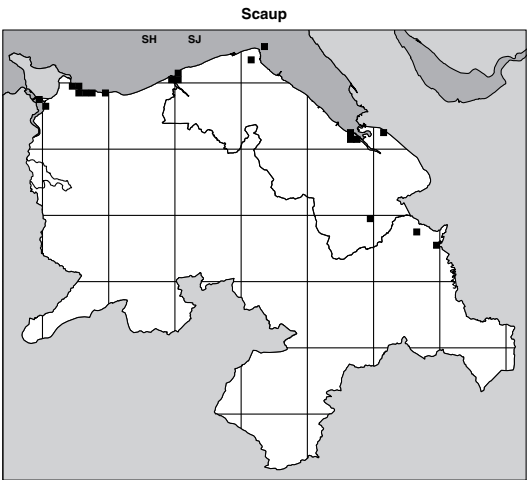
Denbs. A single was recorded at various locations between Rhos-on-Sea and Old Colwyn on dates between 3/01 and 13/03 (HC). Later in the year another singleton was at RSPB Conwy from 23/09 to 17/12 (JHg), and another, possibly the same, bird was at Kinmel Bay and Llanddulas 26-29/11 (AHJ, RoH, KS). The only records from the E of the county were 5 at Trevalyn Meadows on 27 & 29/01 (DuH, HL) and 5 at Rossett also on 27/01.

Flints. Rather more records than in 2015 but as numbers were low this may simply reflect a very few mobile individuals. Three at

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

(SP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	11	9
Maximum count	5	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	2
Number of records	58	18
% of BirdTrack lists	1.35	0.4
Density	0.03	0.05

Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 21/02 (PSH) was the only record during the early months of the year. In Aug 2 were at Connah's Quay NR on 18/08 and 1 on 24/08 (StaS, NHu). In Oct 1 was at Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 2/10 and another offshore at Point of Ayr on 16/10 (PSH, GR). In Nov 1-2 were at Shotwick on 13-15/11, and 1 was on the Clwyd Estuary at Rhyl on 26-27/11 (RLE). During Dec 1 was at Llawndy, Gwespyr on 18/12 (GR) and the only inland record of the year was 1 at Fagl Lane GP at Hope on 20/12 (NHu).



Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Winter visitor. Amber List.

This sea-duck is an uncommon but reasonably regular visitor.

Denbs. During the early months of the year 2 were at Rhos-on-Sea on 21/02 (NGo) and 2 at RSPB Conwy on 28/03 (pJHg). Later in the year 1 was at Llanddulas on 27/08 and a female at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on the

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

following day 28/08 (TG, MiB).

(E)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	4	
Maximum count	2	
Number of records	4	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.00	

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

HWYADEN GYNFFON-HIR

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

Denbs. The only record was a single at Old Colwyn on 11/01 (JFJ).

Flints. A long staying bird was at Shotwick

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Fields from 12/11 -17/12 (SAH).

(LN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	1	1
Number of records	1	8
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.3
Density	0.00	0.00

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

MOR-HWYADEN DDU

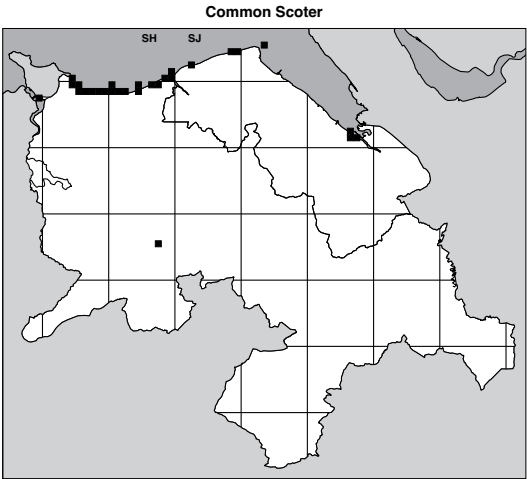
Winter and summer visitor. Amber List. RBBP. S7.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Large numbers of this sea-duck winter in Liverpool Bay and substantial flocks are present off the North Wales coast throughout the winter months. Locations are dependent on weather conditions but the most favoured locations are from Old Colwyn to Pensarn with occasional records as far E as Point of Ayr. Birds seen during late spring and summer are likely to be non-breeders remaining after the main population migrates to breeding grounds in northern Europe.

(CX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	21	7
Maximum count	3000	60
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12200	2465
Number of records	95	26
% of BirdTrack lists	4.0	1.2
Density	31.88	0.71

Denbs. Numbers were considerably lower than in previous years with peak counts less than 30% of those in 2015. There were 10,000 present off the coast during Nov and Dec 2015 but these did not persist into the early months of 2016; the peak count during Jan and Feb being 3,000 off Old Colwyn on 16/01 (SM). Counts declined after this, the only other record of substantial numbers during the early months of the year being 1,000+ at Llanddulas on 20/01 (JFJ), after which most records were of 1-500. The last record of significant numbers was 101 at Rhos-on-Sea on 8/05 (HC). The first flocks of wintering birds were 2,000 at Towyn on 23/08 (SM) and 1,800+ at Llanddulas on 28/08 (JFJ) but these numbers were not maintained. Most counts during Sep and Oct were less than 500. Numbers increased from the beginning of Nov with 1,000 at Towyn on 8/11 (SM) 1,272 off Pensarn on 8/12 (MaO) and 3,000 at Rhos-on-Sea on 19/12 (HC).



Monthly WeBS counts for selected Denbs sites:

(CX)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Llanddulas beach	200	461	505						420	161		220
Pensarn offshore	452	162		9								1272
Rhos-on-Sea	350	400	600		101				4	400		3000

Flints. The coast from Point of Ayr to Gronant had records of relatively small numbers throughout much of the year. Perhaps surprisingly the largest numbers were during the summer months. Two were off Point of Ayr on 10/01 and 1 was recorded at Connah’s Quay NR / RSPB Oakenholt Marsh from 22/01- 22/02 (StaS). During the summer a flock of up to 60 was present off Gronant, with 10 recorded on 10/04 (PJM), 25-60 from 29/05-14/07 and 7-8 on 23-4/07 (HC, GR). As the autumn/winter progressed 10 were off Rhyl on 11/09 (DCR), 5 off Point of Ayr on 16/10 (GR), 19 off Gronant on 13/11 (PJM) and 1 off Point of Ayr on 18/12 (GR).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*
Vagrant.

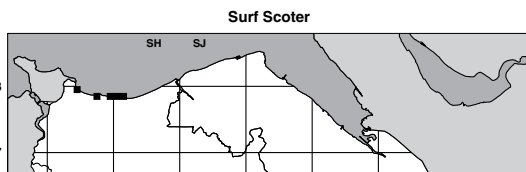
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The only record from the early months of the year was 3 at Llanddulas on 20/01 (JFJ). Later in the year 1 was at Rhos-on Sea on 16/10 (HC), a drake and an immature male at Llanddulas on 20/10, 6 (3 adult

MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

(FS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	5	
Maximum count	6	
Number of records	7	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.02	

males, an immature male and 2 females / immatures) at Llanddulas on 1/12 (RDH), after which 2-3 were at Llanddulas and Old Colwyn between 4-29/12 (RDH, Rte).



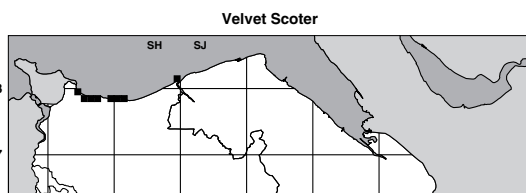
Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Winter visitor. Red List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Small numbers of this sea-duck are recorded annually with the wintering Common Scoter flocks off the North Wales coast.

Denbs. Numbers were generally rather lower than in 2015. In the early part of the year 3 were off the Colwyn Bay / Llanddulas coast on 3/01 and again on 9/01, 1 remaining at Old Colwyn on 11/01 (JBW JFJ); 1 at Rhos-on-Sea on 13/03 (HC) and another at Llanddulas on 24/04, which was the last of the spring months. In the autumn 2 were at Horton's Nose on 15/09 (AHJ), at Llanddulas on 23/09 and 3/10; up to 5 were at Llanddulas from 1-28/12 (RoH, StM).



MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

(VS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	8	
Maximum count	5	
Number of records	16	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	
Density	0.02	

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Winter visitor. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

During the winter months recorded in small numbers on lakes, reservoirs and occasionally on coastal waters.

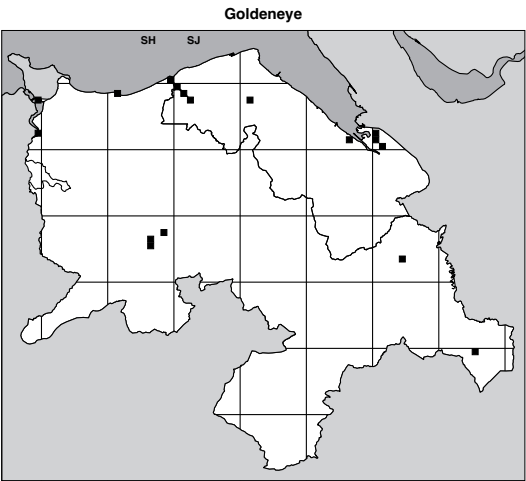
HWYADEN LYGAD AUR

(GN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	9	8
Maximum count	9	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	14	17
Number of records	130	41
% of BirdTrack lists	6.9	2.9
Density	0.04	0.08

Denbs. The vast majority of sightings were at RSPB Conwy which returned 86% of all records, though numbers were small with a maximum of 9 on 11/01 (JHg). Other coastal records were from Llanddulas, where singles were recorded on 25/03 and 24/04 (JFJ, GrJ) and Kinmel Bay, where 1-2 were present on several dates during early May (HC). Records from inland locations included 7 at Hanmer on 7/02 and again on 2/04 (NHu), 1 at Gresford Flash on 27/02 (KS) and Llyn Brenig with up to 3 from 3/03-31/03 and 1 on 20/11 (HC, JPH, JhJ).

Flints. The Clwyd Estuary provided 71% of all records with 1-4 recorded on various dates during Jan to May and Oct to Dec. Maximum counts for the early months were 4 at Rhuddlan on 10/01

and again on 27/02 (AnRe, SH). On the Dee Estuary the most favoured locations were RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands Border Pool and Shotwick Rifle Range and the Paper Mill and Steelworks pools at Shotton, though numbers were again small. The Border Pool had 2 on 25/01 (GR), 2 on 8/02, 6 on 24/02 (pCW) and 2 on 13/03 (RiMa). Later in the year 1 was on the rifle range pools on 18/10 (DaK). Shotton had 5 on the Steelworks pool on 23/01 and 6, the year's maximum, on 5/02 (DeNi) and 1 at Shotton Paper Mill on 24/02 (IMS). Connah's Quay NR had 1 on 2/02 (PDS) and the only inland record was one on Llyn Helyg on 18/01 (AB).



Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

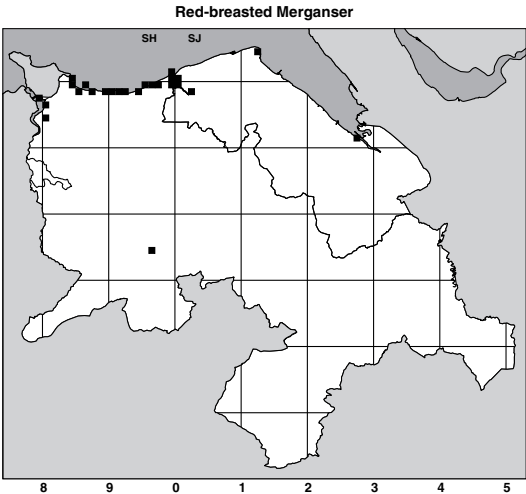
Winter visitor and breeding resident.
Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

(RM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	20	5
Maximum count	34	11
Av max count prev 10 yrs	27	13
Number of records	203	21
% of BirdTrack lists	9.7	2.7
Density	0.34	0.09

This saw-billed duck favours more marine habitats and is usually recorded from coastal locations.

Denbs. Small numbers were recorded at RSPB Conwy in all months of the year and 71.5% of records were from this location. As usual the greatest numbers were recorded early and late in the year. The early year maximum was 28 on 27/01 (RLE) after which numbers tapered off, the only other double figure counts in the early months being 13 on 21/02 (JHg) and 22 on 28/03 (JPH). A count of 5 on 9/04 (JOHn) was the last significant flock of the spring. There were very few sightings during the summer months, with 3 in Jun and Sep and only single records in Jul and Aug. All of these were of singles with the exception of the Aug count of 6 on 28/08 (JfJ). Over the winter months counts were greater than in 2015



Monthly WeBS counts at RSPB Conwy:

(RM)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	6	4	20	3	2	3			2		11	6

particularly in early to mid-Nov, with several records between 13 and the annual maximum of 34 on 22/11 (JHg), though numbers declined again into single figures during Dec. On the coast there were records from the majority of squares, mostly during the early and late months of the year. Notable counts included 17 at Pensarn Beach on 20/01 and 17 at Rhos-on-Sea on 21/01 (HC), 22 at Pentrefelin in the upper Conwy Estuary on 26/07 (MiB) and several counts of 11-18 from Kinmel Bay during late Nov- mid-Dec (AHJ, SM, NHu, KS).

Flints. The Clwyd Estuary area was the most favoured location for this species with only a handful of records from the Dee Estuary. As usual a small flock was on the Rhyl Marine Lake in late Jan with 10 on 29/01 and 8 on 1/02 (DCR). Small numbers were present on the adjoining estuary with 1-2 on several occasions between Jan and mid-Mar. The only larger counts were 8 near Rhyl on 8/01 (AHJ) and 7 on 24/02 (RLE). The first record of winter was 9 on the Marine Lake on 23/11 (WRM) and there were several further records of 1-2 on the estuary from then to the end of the year. The only other double figure count was 11 near Rhyl on 26/11 (RLE). On the Dee Estuary 2 were at Bagillt on 16/02, 1 at Mostyn on 4/03 and 5 at Bagillt on 28/03 (GR) and later in the year 2 were at Connah's Quay NR on 16/11 (RRi).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

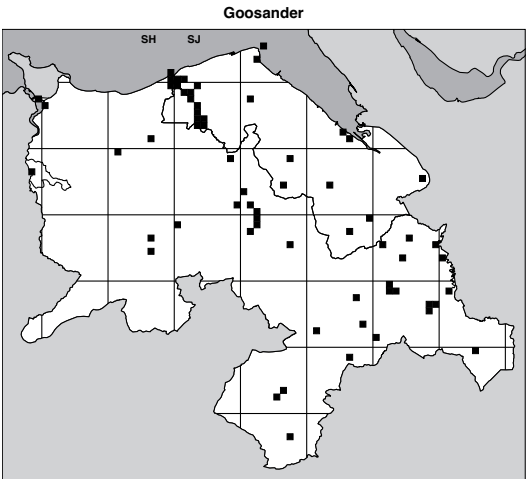
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Our other regularly occurring saw-billed duck, in contrast to the preceding species Goosander favour freshwater habitats and are usually found breeding on fast flowing rivers where there are plentiful prey fish and trees with suitable holes for nesting sites. In winter birds tend to congregate on lakes and meres.

Denbs. The majority of records were from freshwater lakes and reservoirs, though the proportion of sightings from rivers increases somewhat during the breeding season when there were good numbers of sightings on the Dyfrdwy (Dee) system. However, a total absence of reports from the Conwy during the summer period was noteworthy. The drop in records from the Conwy has been remarked upon from several sources and will need to be monitored. RSPB

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

(GD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	41	24
Maximum count	55	25
Av max count prev 10 yrs	19	21
Number of records	151	222
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	1/18
% of BirdTrack lists	6.3	15.9
Density	1.14	1.02





Goosanders. Photo: John Hawkins

Conwy provided 27% of records, though numbers were low with only two records of more than 1 or 2. These were an exceptional record of 20, presumably a family party of adults with juveniles on 5/09 and 4 on 26/12 (JHg). Gresford Flash is another favoured location with a number of records during Jan, peaking with 12 on 8/01 (HL). Later in the year there were particularly good numbers during Oct and Nov when there were several counts from 23-55, the maximum being on 19/11 (KS). Other notable counts included 12 at Llyn Gweryd, Llanarmon yn Ial on 20/03 (GoP); 17 at Erddig Pool on 23/07, 18 on 13/11 (HCt) and 20+ females with juveniles at Llyn Brenig on 2/08 (SM). There were a number of records from Kinnel Bay close to the mouth of the Clwyd Estuary which included a record of 9 adults and young ducklings on 12/05 (HC). This was the only confirmed record of breeding in the county, and is consistent with other records of family parties on the estuary noted under the Flints report. While this was the only record of ducklings for the county, it might be assumed that some of the above late summer/autumn records would relate to groups of adults with well grown juveniles.

Flints. As usual the Clwyd Estuary was the most favoured location, producing 57% of all records. Numbers were generally modest, particularly in the first half of the year, when the vast majority of records were of 1-6, with no records of double figures and a maximum of 8 at Rhuddlan on 29/04 (AHJ). There were records of adults with juveniles on the estuary from 9/05, when 19 including ducklings were at Rhuddlan (AHJ). A group of 9, including a female with five quarter grown juveniles was recorded on 26/06 (WRM). This family group was recorded with other adults on several occasions throughout the remainder of the summer/autumn and may have been the only brood reared on the estuary. There were several records of larger groups during the autumn with notable counts of 21 at Rhyl on 1/08 (RLE) and 22 on 24/04 (AHJ), which was the maximum for the year. After this numbers declined and

9 on 18/12 was the maximum count during the winter months. Inland, at Fagl Lane GP, Hope 25 were recorded on 17/12 (SD) and Hendre had up to 12 during most of Nov (MGW,GEM).

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

SOFLIAR

Passage migrant. Amber List. RBBP.

Denbs. A single was in an area to the N of Llyn Brenig on 22/05.

(Q)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Breeding resident.

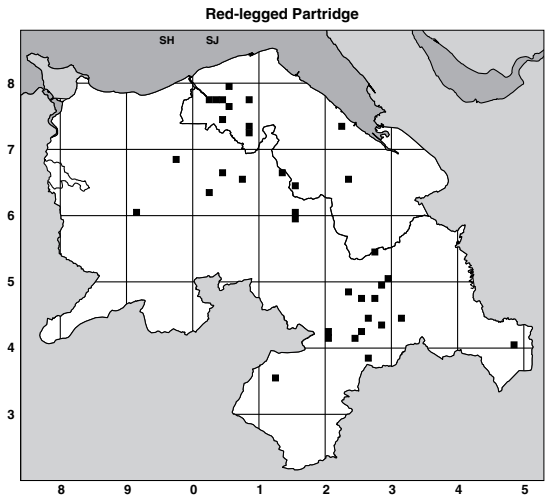
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

The records still come mainly from upland areas of the Clwydian Hills and Ruabon Mountain but there were more reports from areas further away.

Denbs. No records of confirmed breeding but number of reports still holding up despite no more captive breeding birds released from Mountain Lodge on Ruabon Mountain in last couple of years. The highest count was down from previous years but 7 were seen to the NW of Penycae on 15/10 (SD).

Flints. Records up again with sightings spread over a wider region and Rhuddlan area having the highest number with 9 recorded on 20/11 (SH).

(RL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	25	11
Maximum count	7	9
Av max count prev 10 yrs	34	9
Number of records	30	14
Recorded in BBS squares	3/34	2/18
% records from GBW	3.33	
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8	0.5
Density	0.09	0.17



Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

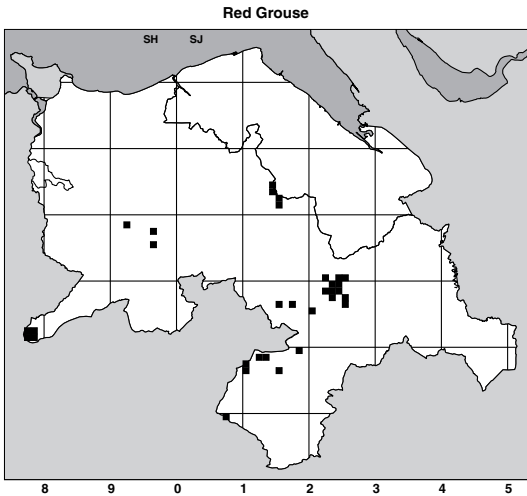
Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Records seem to be on increase and again all records came from VC50.

Denbs. Most records came from the Ruabon Mountain area as usual and also the maximum count of 31 on 15/03 (JFJ). We will see if the upward trend continues with the introduction of grouse shooting on the moor from late 2016 but work continues on habitat improvement. Other records were of small numbers with maximum counts of 2 seen around Llyn Brenig and Berwyn Mountain area and 4 recorded at Moel Famau, SW on 31/07 (GoP). The area above Conwy Valley gave records for the first time with singles seen at the Llyn Serw area on 27/04 (CoS).

(RG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Rare
Number of 1km squares	32	
Maximum count	31	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	
Number of records	56	0
Recorded in BBS squares	4/34	
% of BirdTrack lists	1.4	
Density	0.50	



Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

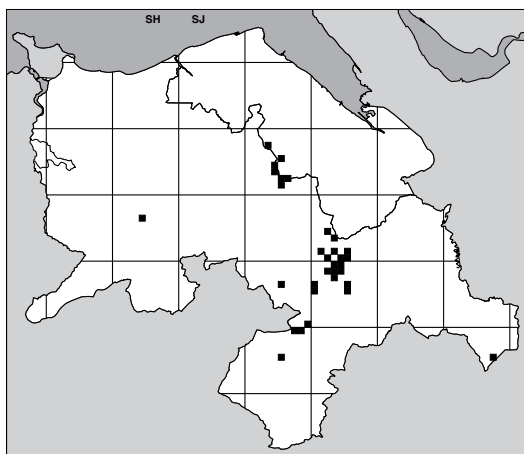
There was a similar number of reports as last year. There were no records of confirmed breeding anywhere but a number of leks were reported in the Ruabon Mountain area.

(BK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Rare
Number of 1km squares	31	1
Maximum count	59	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	25	2
Number of records	76	1
% of BirdTrack lists	2.1	-
Density	0.93	0.00

Denbs. Ruabon Mountain again had the largest number with 80% of records and highest counts with 59 at two leks, plus a few satellite males on 28/02 (GrJ). Five records from Moel Famau area with a maximum count of 6 during a BBS survey on 3/05 (IW). One record was from a BBS count above Llangollen at Blean Bache with 2 on 15/05 (JoG). One record was from Fenn's Moss with 1 on 5/05. One report was from Mynydd Hiraethog with a female flushed from heather on 4/11 (HeJo).

Flints. A single female was seen on Penycloddiau on 3/04 (EdW).

Black Grouse



Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

Denbs. One recorded at Lodge Farm, Denbigh on 17/03 (JNW).

Flints. Two were seen during a BBS count near Afonwen on 13/05 (GRMP) and 1 was seen in the neighbouring 1km square at Bryn Golau 17/07 (TK).

PETRISEN

(P)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	2
Maximum count	1	2
Number of records	1	2
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/18
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.1
Density	0.00	0.01

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Breeding resident with annual releases in very large numbers.

Recorded in each month in both counties but areas where birds were released gave the highest counts.

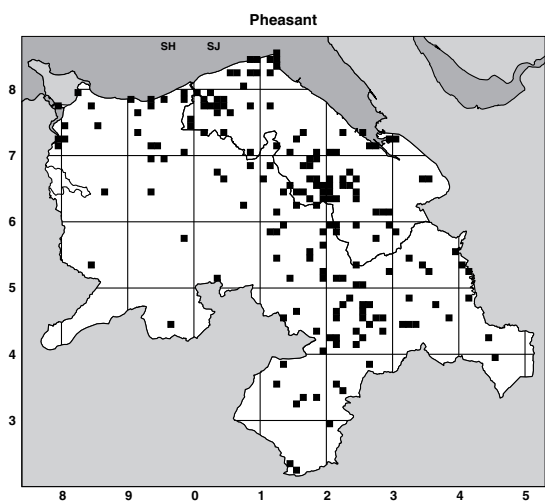
Denbs. The highest and most of the double figure counts came from Lleweni Hall, Bodfari with 19 on 1/11 (JPH). Over a third of records were from GBW sites with the highest count of 7 at Penycae on 10/01 (RMg). The highest count from a BBS site was 18 was at Gellifor, Rhos on 20/04 (TP).

FFESANT

(PH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	109	74
Maximum count	19	110
Av max count prev 10 yrs	30	43
Number of records	303	356
Recorded in BBS squares	30/34	15/18
% records from GBW	36.63	23.88
% of BirdTrack lists	9.7	25.4
Density	1.05	13.82

Flints. The highest count of 110 came from Penbedw after a large number released locally on 27/08 (GEM). The highest BBS count was 27 near Mold on 23/04 (IMS) and just under a quarter

of reports came from GBW with the highest count of 7 at Sychdyn on 28/02 (IMS). Breeding was confirmed in the wild with recently fledged young seen at Gronant Dunes on 5/05 (HC).



Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

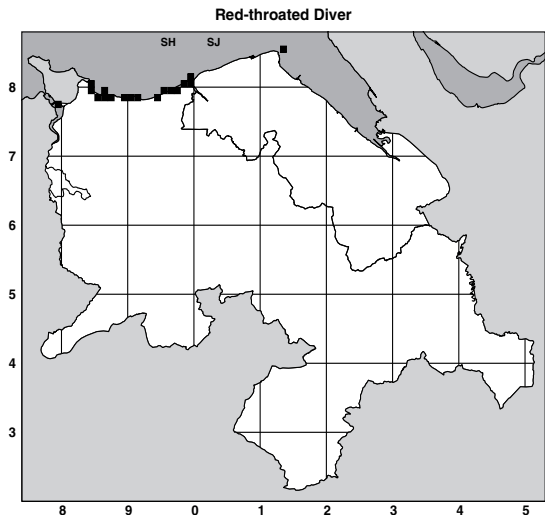
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The last spring record came with a very late single in summer plumage off Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay on 21/05 (AHJ). The highest count came on 20/01, with 16 at Pensarn (HC). Most records and the highest autumn count came from Llanddulas with 12 on 25/10 (NMH). Four reports from WeBS were all from Rhos-on-Sea with a maximum count of 6 on 21/01 (HC).

Flints. There were two records of what may have been the same bird: a WeBS count of a single off Point of Ayr on 10/01 and a single off Talacre, also on 10/01 (GR).

TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

(RH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	18	1
Maximum count	16	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	57	7
Number of records	38	2
% of BirdTrack lists	1.4	0.3
Density	0.15	0.00



Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Both records were singles in spring period first at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 24/03 and one during a WeBS count off Pensarn on 10/04 (MaO).

TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

(BV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	2	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Winter visitor. Amber List.

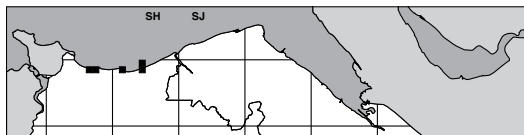
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All records came from the winter periods of Jan and Dec. The first record was 2 off Llanddulas on 1/01 (TG) and the other report of more than one was 2 off Old Colwyn on 5/12 (RTe). The last record came during the only WeBS count with a single off Pensarn on 18/12 (MaO).

TROCHYDD MAWR

(ND)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	5	
Maximum count	2	
Number of records	7	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	
Density	0.01	

Great Northern Diver



Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

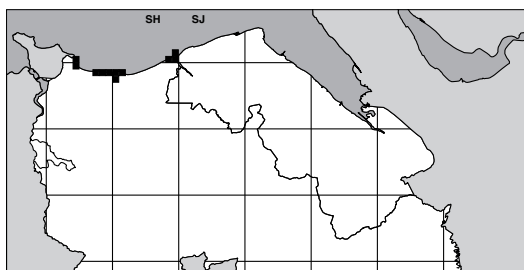
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. There was a breeding record from Llanddulas quarry with 9 at nest sites on 12/04 (HC). Breeding was also recorded at Colwyn Bay cliffs which had a higher count of 11 on seven or maybe eight nests on 21/06 (WRM). The highest count came late in the year at Llanddulas with more than 12 on quarry ledges on 27/12 (WRM).

ADERYN-DRYCIN Y GRAIG

(F)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	11	
Maximum count	12	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	
Number of records	24	0
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	
Density	0.07	

Fulmar



Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Passage migrant. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Another poor season with only two reports, both off Kinmel Bay. An area off Horton's Nose had 7 on 21/05 (AHJ) and at least 1 offshore on 14/06 (RLE).

ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW

(MX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	2	
Maximum count	7	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	11	
Number of records	2	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.01	

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Migrant. Amber List.

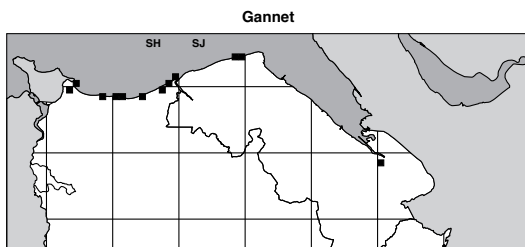
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Seen offshore in the area from Rhos-on-Sea to Kinmel Bay during the summer months from the end of Apr to the end of Sep. The maximum count came from Llanddulas with 30 on 24/04 (NGo).

Flints. All five offshore reports came from Gronant with a maximum count of 3 on 13/06 and 3/08 (HC). A single was found on a playing field at Shotton and taken into RSPB care on 5/07 (MFr).

HUGAN

(GX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	9	3
Maximum count	30	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	68	58
Number of records	16	6
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8	0.5
Density	0.14	0.02



Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Non-breeding passage and winter visitor. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

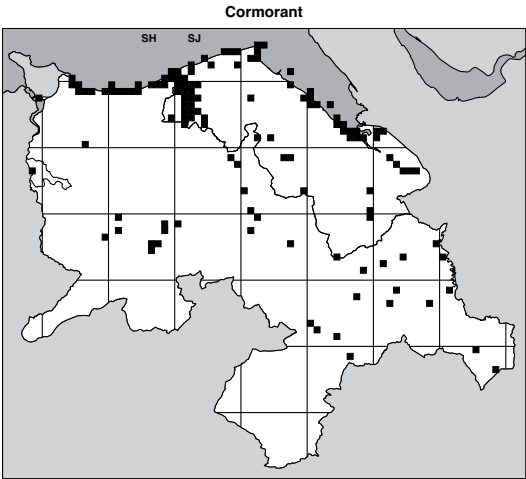
Denbs. A number of three figure counts came from Kinmel Bay, with a maximum of 144 on 24/11 (JPH). One other site had a high count 100+ at Rhos-on-Sea on 27/11 (WDH). Nearly half of the records came from RSPB, Conwy with a maximum count of 44 on 13/09 (JHg). A highest WeBS count, 63, came from Llanddulas on 16/10 (GBH). Two high inland counts were 21 at Lleweni Hall on 7/03 (JPH) and 30 seen flying over the River Clwyd to the W of Denbigh on 21/03 (GoP).

MULFRAN

(CA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	61	66
Maximum count	144	1050
Av max count prev 10 yrs	127	301
Number of records	501	571
Recorded in BBS squares	-	2/18
% of BirdTrack lists	26.9	41.7
Density	4.45	117.66

Flints. Gronant had by far the highest numbers with a maximum count of over 1,050 from three

groups during a high tide roost on 11/11 (WRM). Also the largest WeBS count came from the same area with 641 on 13/11 (PMi). A number of high counts were from the River Clwyd between Rhuddlan and Rhyl with maximum number of 237 reported on 24/08 (JPH). The highest count on the Dee Estuary was on RSPB Oakenholt Marsh with 50 during a WeBS count on 13/11 (PeHa). Away from the coast and estuary a count of 12 was the largest from an inland site at Fagl Lane GP on 29/03 (GNR).



Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Non-breeding visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

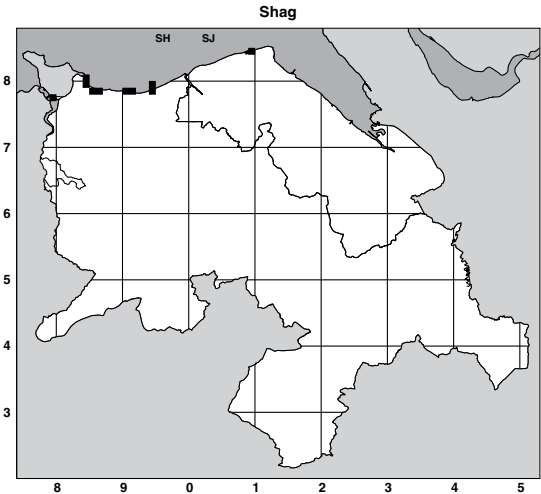
There were reports of nests on cliffs at the nearby Ormes but most records came during the winter months.

Denbs. Reports came from the coast between Pensarn and Rhos-on-Sea plus a few from RSPB Conwy in every month except May and Jul. The maximum count of 9 came from Llandulas on 19/12 (DvB).

Flints. The only record was of a single at Gronant on 29/05 (HC).

MULFRAN WERDD

(SA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	9	1
Maximum count	9	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	2
Number of records	23	1
% of BirdTrack lists	1.1	0.2
Density	0.04	0.00



Cattle Egret *Bubuculus ibis*

Vagrant. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Flints. All records came from last few months of the year in the Dee Estuary area with maximum count of 5 seen at Shotwick

Boating Lake on 19/10 and 4/11 (CW). There were 5 also recorded at White Sands on 5/11 (JoG). Singles were reported at Saltney on 17/10 and at Shotton on 22/12.

CREYR Y GWARTHEG

(EC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		3
Maximum count		5
Number of records	0	6
% of BirdTrack lists		0.4
Density		0.03

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Breeding resident and passage visitor. RBBP.

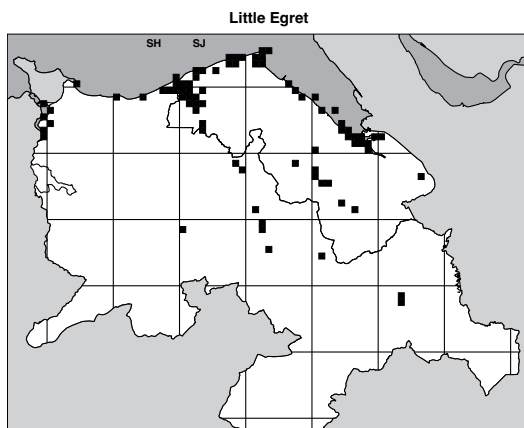
Recorded in each month in both counties. Most reports came from our three main estuaries.

Denbs. The vast majority of records were from RSPB Conwy which had a maximum count of 132 on 8/10 (JHg). Further up the valley at Pentrefelin a high tide roost held a large count of 124 on 27/08 (MiB). Once again this year there was evidence of occupied nests at a heronry in the Conwy Valley near Tal-y-Cafn with 13 birds seen at nine nests on 18/06 (WRM).

Flints. Most records were from Dee Estuary and a maximum count came from Connah's Quay NR with 43 on 16/09 (PSH). There was a report of nesting activity at Talacre on 12/05 (HC). The highest WeBS count came from near Bagillt with 39 on 18/09 (GR).

CREYR BACH

(ET)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	24	56
Maximum count	132	43
Av max count prev 10 yrs	48	43
Number of records	399	485
Recorded in BBS squares	-	2/18
% of BirdTrack lists	22.4	27.8
Density	1.60	4.09



Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Vagrant. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. 2016 was the year that Great White Egret really arrived and nearly all of over

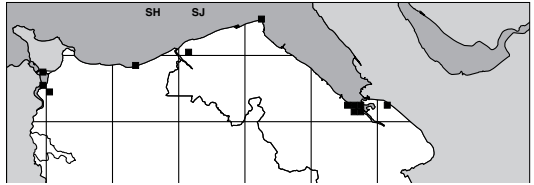
CREYR MAWR GWYN

(HW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	4	9
Maximum count	6	1
Number of records	126	33
% of BirdTrack lists	3.8	3.0
Density	0.01	0.01



Great White Egret by Dermot Smith

Great White Egret



100 reports came from RSPB Conwy with a maximum count of at least 6 on 13/10 (SM). First recorded on 10/07 and seen each month till 4/11 at Conwy and there was another report from further up valley with 6 at Llansanffraid on 6/10 (leB). Further along the coast a single was recorded at Pensarn beach on 3/11 (WRM).

Flints. All but one of the reports came from the Dee estuary. The one exception came from a single at Rhyl, Brickwork Pool on 19/11 (JPH). Nov was a peak month for records with nearly all of them from Connah's Quay NR. All records were of singles.

Great White Egret. Photo: John Hawkins



Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

CREYR GLAS

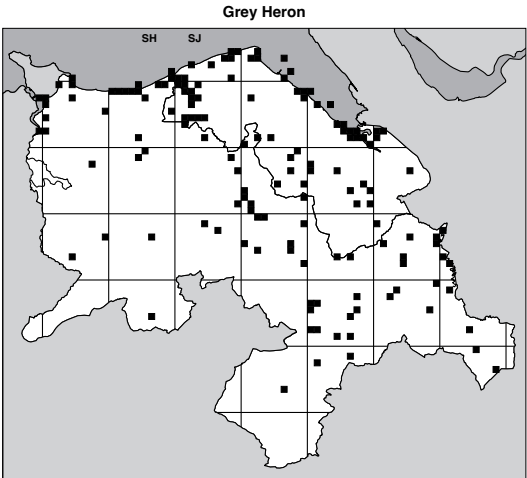
Breeding resident. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most reports and double figure counts came from RSPB Conwy, with the maximum count of 42 on 6/10 (JHg). Nesting was reported at three sites, Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, with twelve nests (ten occupied and seven with visible young) on 12/05 (JPH); Pool Park, Efenechtyd with three occupied nests on 21/05 (RG); and a heronry still held four nests at Tal-y-Cafn, Conwy Valley on 18/06 (WRM).

Flints. There were many records of singles from Connah's Quay NR with a maximum count of 14 on 9/10 (PSH) and Rhuddlan had 12 on 5/02 (SH). There were no records of confirmed breeding.

(H)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	87	60
Maximum count	53	14
Av max count prev 10 yrs	18	16
Number of records	524	413
Recorded in BBS squares	8/34	3/18
% records from GBW	0.98	2.18
% of BirdTrack lists	27.6	25.5
Density	1.85	1.43



Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

LLWYBIG

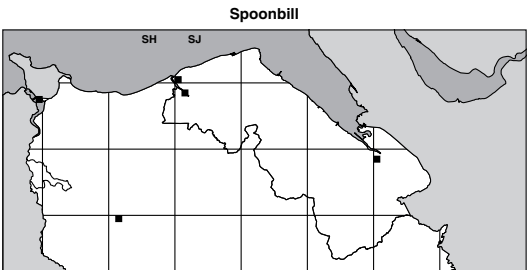
Rare visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Usually a winter visitor but six of the eight records came from two dates at the end of May from RSPB Conwy with possibly the same bird reported at Llyn Aled on 2/06. A further sighting at RSPB Conwy was on 14/09 (JHg).

Flints. The first sighting was 2 at Rhuddlan on 27/05 (HeK, MaO) and one down river near Rhyl on the same day (MaO). An immature single was at Shotwick Boating Lake on 16/05 (CW) and the last report was a

(NB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	3
Maximum count	1	2
Number of records	8	4
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/18
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	2.5
Density	0.00	0.01



single at Shotton on 5/08.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Breeding resident.

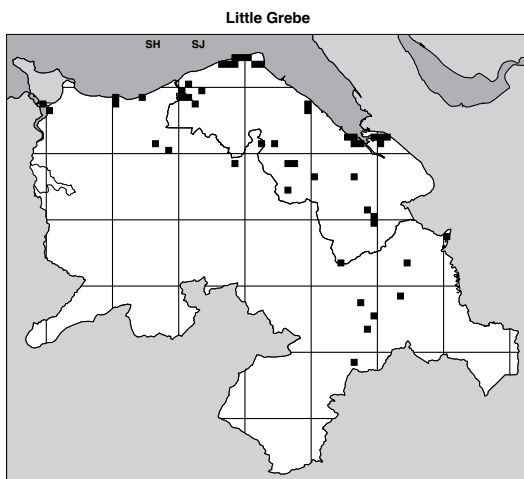
GWYFACH FACH

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Breeding was confirmed at Llanddulas Quarry, where two pairs raised at least 5 young on 24/08 (WRM). Young were also seen at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 25/08 (JPH). By far most records throughout the year came from RSPB Conwy, with no confirmed breeding but a high count of 15 on 20/12 (JHg).

Flints. Young were recorded at several sites, at Gronant on 28/04 (RyE, DWR); at Hendre on 15/05 (GEM) and at Connah's Quay NR on 23/06 (PSH), with later reports of maybe more than two broods at the same site. Breeding was also reported with young at Rhydymwyn on 9/07 and Shotton Paper Mill on 21/08 (IMS). Shotwick Boating Lake held some large numbers with a maximum count of 62 on 18/09 (RSm).

(LG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Common
Number of 1km squares	17	33
Maximum count	15	62
Av max count prev 10 yrs	8	21
Number of records	344	337
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	-
% of BirdTrack lists	19.6	14.3
Density	0.13	3.47



Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

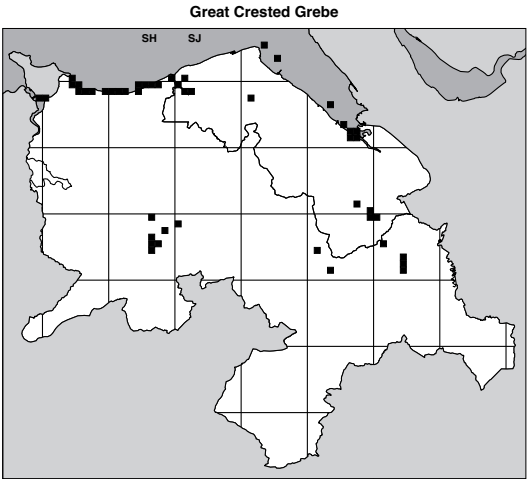
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Breeding was confirmed with young seen first at RSPB Conwy on 22/06 (JOHN), with more young recorded at Llyn Cyfynwy, Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 6/08 (SD). Good numbers were seen off the coast again during winter months stretching from Rhos-on-Sea to Kinmel Bay, with the maximum count of 40 at Llanddulas on 15/03 (GEM). Inland, the highest count came from Gresford Flash which had 11, two pairs displaying joined by a further 7 adults on 5/05 (HL).

(GG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	31	17
Maximum count	40	12
Av max count prev 10 yrs	101	19
Number of records	289	107
% of BirdTrack lists	14.1	6.6
Density	0.63	0.35

Flints. Breeding was confirmed at only one site with young seen at Padeswood on 31/05 (GMR). Fagl Lane GP had at least a pair displaying with 10 present on 29/03 (GMR); this site

also had the maximum of 12 on 20/12 (NHu).



Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Winter visitor. Red List. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. There were two reports of singles: one off Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 14/11 and one off Colwyn Bay on 19/12 (DvB).

GWYACH GORNIOG

(SZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	2
Maximum count	1	1
Number of records	2	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-
Density	0.00	0.00

Flints. A single was seen on the Dee Estuary off RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 20 and 21/02 (PSH).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

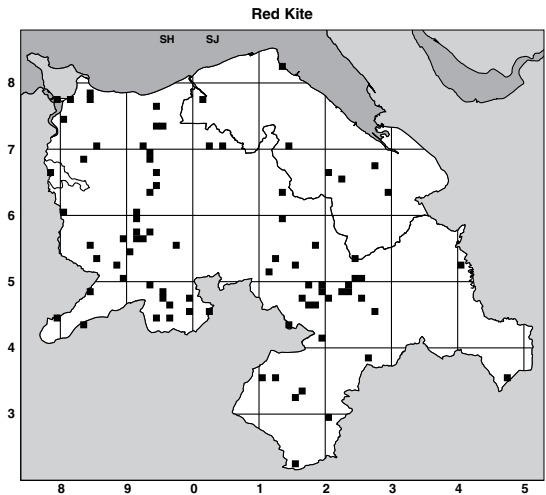
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. There were almost exactly the same number of records as last year. They were spread across the whole county but there was one record of confirmed breeding. All but three records were of 1-2 with 3 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 5/03 'loitering together' over MiB's house in the morning; 3 near Llyn Aled on 2/08 with 2 immatures and a possible adult playing in the air (SM) and 4 was a record of 2 adults and 2 chicks in a nest in the SW corner of the county.

BARCUD COCH

(KT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	77	7
Maximum count	4	1
Number of records	117	8
Recorded in BBS squares	2/34	1/18
% of BirdTrack lists	3.3	0.2
Density	0.16	0.01

Flints. All records were singles with the first on 8/04 at Buckley and the last at the same place on 26/07.



Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
Passage migrant. Amber List. RBBP.

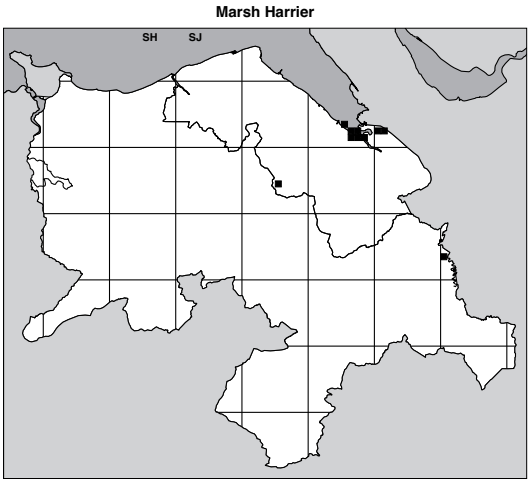
BOD Y GWERNI

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. A single was near Holt on 20/07 (NF).

(MR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	9
Maximum count	1	3
Number of records	1	40
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	2.4
Density	0.00	0.05

Flints. There was an increase in the number of records and it was seen in all but one month, mainly in the Connah's Quay / Shotwick area. Most sightings were of 1-2 and the maximum of 3 was seen at Connah's Quay NR on 7/09 (RBe). The only inland record, near Cilcain, was being mobbed by 4 Buzzards on 23/08 (GEM).



Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

BOD TINWEN

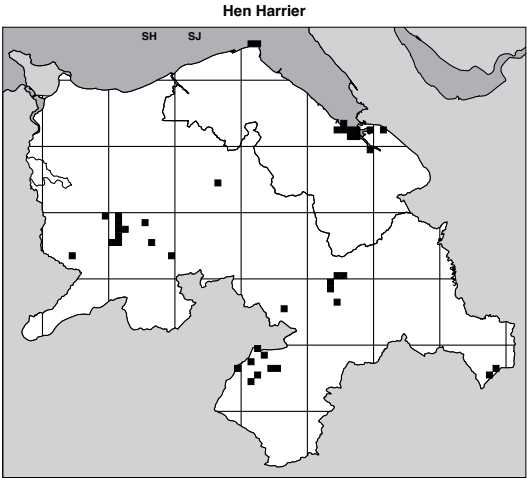
Breeder and winter visitor. Red List. RBBP. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. There were fewer records than in 2015 but they were seen in every month. All but three records were of presence or singles and 2 were at Fenn's Moss on 19/11, 3 near Llyn Aled on 24/04 (KS) and 3 near Cottage Bridge, Mynydd Hiraethog on 14/05 including a pair (JPH). There were no records of confirmed breeding.

Flints. All but one record were of presence or singles. The first was at Connah's Quay NR on 7/02 (StaS) and the last spring record was at Shotwick Fields on 11/04 (ARC). In autumn the first record was, again, at Connah's Quay NR on 23/09 (StaS) and the last was over White Sands on 11/12 (PSH). The only record of 2 was also over White Sands on 13/03 (PSH).

(HH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	29	12
Maximum count	3	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	1
Number of records	41	25
Recorded in BBS squares	2/34	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.7	1.4
Density	0.04	0.04



The occurrences of males, females and ringtails:

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

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

GWALCH MARTH

Breeding resident. RBBP.

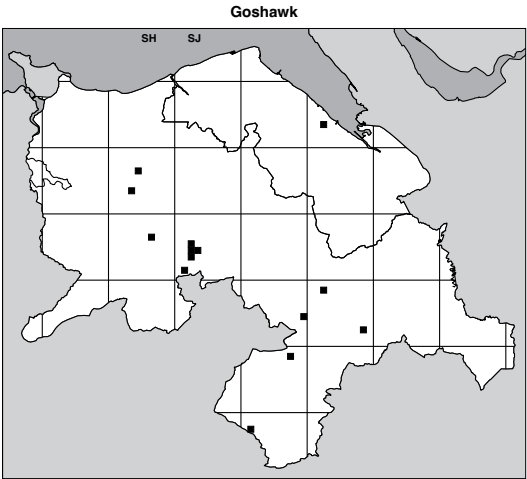
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Most records were of 1-2 with 4 seen on two occasions: two pairs circling and displaying over Craig Bron Bannog, Clocaenog Forest on 28/02 (GaJ) and 4 near Foel Gasnach, Clocaenog Forest on 5/03 (GTh).

(GI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	13	1
Maximum count	4	1
Number of records	14	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.1
Density	0.03	0.00

There were no records of confirmed breeding.

Flints. A single which flew over Bagilt on 19/09 was being mobbed by Carrion Crows and Woodpigeons (GRMP).



Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Breeding resident.

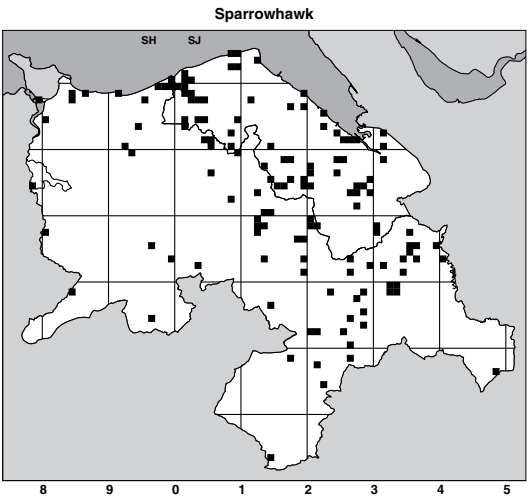
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The majority of records were of presence or singles with twenty one records of 2, which were mainly seen during Jan to Jul. Then two records on 11/11 and 13/11 were the last. Just six records included breeding activity codes: three of H, two of T and one of A. There were no records of confirmed breeding. One, near Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, circled a bush in a garden where some tits had retreated on 7/01 (GoP). Apart from the GBW records there were others where birds had been seen in, or close to, gardens.

Flints. Just six records were of 2 while all the others were a few of presence or singles. There were four records with breeding codes: one of H, two of T and one of FF – so breeding was confirmed near Greenfield on 6/07 (WRM). Apart from the GBW records, few others mentioned were linked with gardens.

GWALCH GLAS

(SH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	79	57
Maximum count	2	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	3
Number of records	417	213
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	2/18
% records from GBW	58.03	29.11
% of BirdTrack lists	5.9	10.2
Density	0.08	0.19



Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Breeding resident.

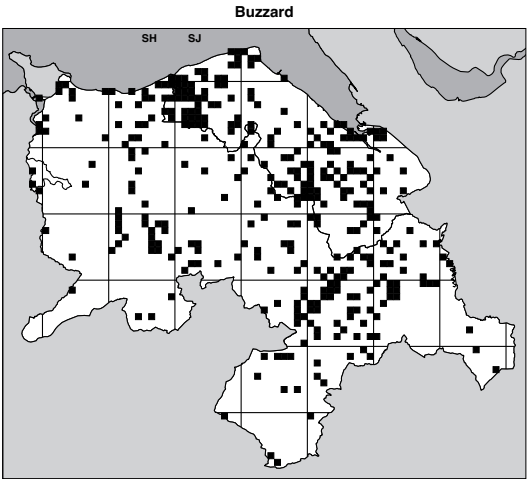
BWNCATH

Recorded in each month in both counties. The numbers of records and number of squares with records both declined compared with 2015.

Denbs. Just over three quarters of all the records were of presence or singles with 23% of 2-6. The largest counts were 7 near Llyn Brenig on 19/03 (HC), 8 flying over mature woodland on a sunny spring day near Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 14/03 (WRM) and 8 made up of four pairs having territorial disputes over Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 17/04 (MiB). There were forty three records with breeding codes with just three of confirmed breeding.

Flints. About two thirds of all records were of presence or singles with a further 32% of 2-5. The largest count was 6 together near Cilcain on 12/08 (GEM). There were eight records with breeding codes and just one indicated confirmed breeding.

(BZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	215	134
Maximum count	8	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	13	10
Number of records	596	533
Recorded in BBS squares	26/34	11/18
% records from GBW	9.73	9.38
% of BirdTrack lists	26.9	33.7
Density	0.87	1.37



Buzzard. Photo: John Hawkins



Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Spring and autumn migrant. Amber List. RBBP.

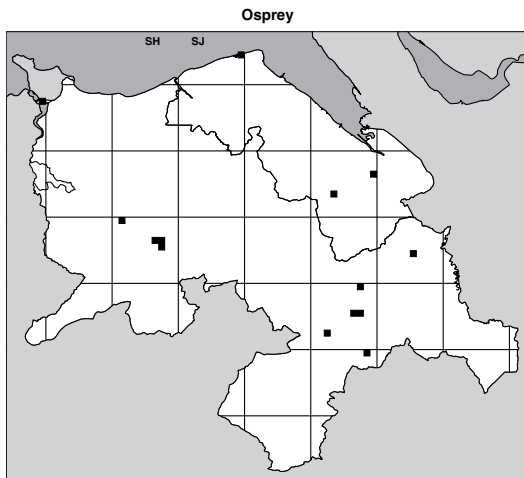
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. The earliest record was at Llyn Brenig on 26/03 and the last was one of an Osprey flying W to E over Chirk marina on 8/09 (DaHu). One, near Penrycae, on 16/04 was seen with a trout in its claws (JAJ) and not far from there another visited a pond in a large garden (hunting success not recorded). Another was seen fishing at Llyn Aled Isaf on 30/06 and a fish was taken (GEM). There were no records with breeding codes.

Flints. The first record was at Mold on 29/04 and the last was at Ewloe on 27/09.

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

(OP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	11	3
Maximum count	1	1
Number of records	13	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.1
Density	0.01	0.01



Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Breeding resident and winter visitor. RBBP.

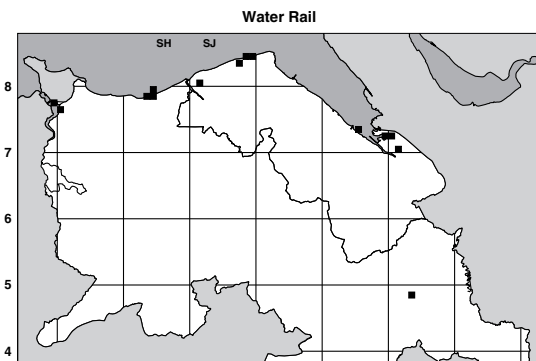
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. The first record (and the last spring record) were presence at RSPB Conwy on 1/01 and then on 25/03 (JHg). The first late summer record was at the same place on 16/07 (JNW) and the last record was 2 there on 16/12 (RLE). Most records were of presence or singles with four of 2-3. The largest counts, at RSPB Conwy, were 4 on 28/11 and 20 on 19/01 (JHg).

Flints. The first record was a single at Rhyl brickworks on 6/01 (AHJ) and the last spring record was a single

RHEGEN Y DWR

(WA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	6	8
Maximum count	20	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	7	2
Number of records	62	43
% of BirdTrack lists	3.6	4.6
Density	0.06	0.04



heard calling near Gronant on 23/04 (AHJ). The first summer record was a single at Gronant dunes on 1/06 (HC) and the last of that period was 2 there on 3/08 (HC). In the autumn there was, again, a single at Rhyl brickworks on 17/10 (AHJ) and the last was another single there on 29/12 (JPH). Most records were of singles with eight records of 2 and three of 3. At Gronant dunes WRM recorded 3 but thought there may have been up to 5 present. There were six records with breeding codes including one of confirmed breeding at Gronant dunes (HC).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

IAR DWR

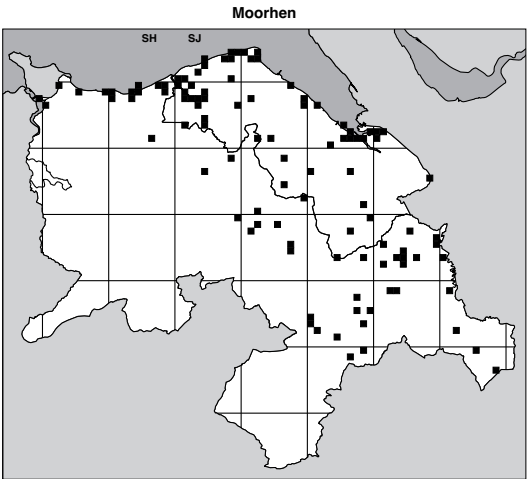
Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. The western and southern parts of the recording area continue to be Moorhen-free zones. Are there really no suitable ponds in these parts?

Denbs. Many records were of presence or singles with many other records of counts of 2-10. There were fourteen records of 11-18 and five of 19-30+. The largest counts were all at Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele with 30+ on 23/10 (WRM). Confirmed breeding was recorded nine times at six locations.

Flints. Here, too, there were many records of presence or singles and many more of 2-10. There were fourteen records of 11-18 and the largest count was 21 at Llawndy, near Gwespyr on 16/10 (NFr). There were twenty one records of confirmed breeding at twelve locations.

(MH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	57	50
Maximum count	30	21
Av max count prev 10 yrs	21	21
Number of records	533	430
Recorded in BBS squares	3/34	3/18
% of BirdTrack lists	31.0	37.5
Density	0.87	1.78



Coot *Fulica atra*

CWTIAR

Breeding resident and winter visitor.
Amber List.

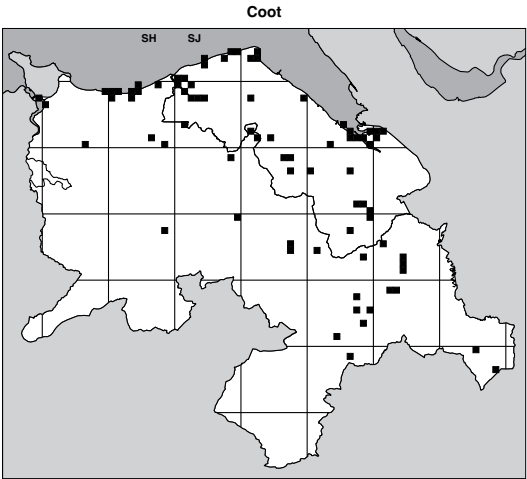
Recorded in each month in both counties. Records were distributed in a similar way to those of 2015.

Denbs. Most records were of presence, 1 or 2 with many other records of 3-20. There were thirteen records of 21-31. The largest

(CO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	38	40
Maximum count	31	140
Av max count prev 10 yrs	55	143
Number of records	520	461
Recorded in BBS squares	3/34	1/18
% of BirdTrack lists	29.5	38.7
Density	0.60	9.51

counts were 30 at Llay Pool on 11/03 (DuH), 30+ at Hanmer on 24/09 (SD) and 31 at Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele on 18/12 (MaO). There were seventeen records of confirmed breeding at eight locations.

Flints. There were, here, many records of presence, 1 or 2 with a large number of counts of 3-20. There were twenty four records of 21-31 and forty records of 32-140. The highest counts were all at Rhyl brickworks with 117 on 24/09, 124 on 2/11 and 140 on 20/10 (AHJ). There were thirty three records of confirmed breeding at twelve locations.



Stone-curlew *Burhinus oediconemus*
Vagrant. RBBP.

RHEDWR Y MOELYDD

Flints. A single was recorded near Gronant on 12/06 (HC). Accepted by the WRP.

(TN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		2
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	2
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.00

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

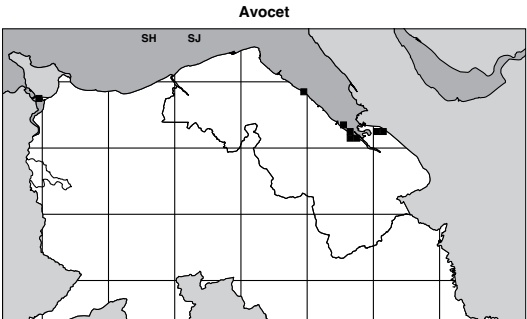
CAMBIG

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. There were 2 at RSPB Conwy on 26/04 (WAr).

(AV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	7
Maximum count	2	7
Number of records	1	112
% of BirdTrack lists	-	3.0
Density	0.00	0.08

Flints. The first record was of presence at Flint on 20/03. There followed records of 1-2 during Apr to May, with 5 at Connah's Quay NR on 29/06 (PSH) and 7 there on 15/09 (RRi). Breeding occurred just over the border at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands so Avocets may, soon, breed in our area.



Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

PIODEN Y MOR

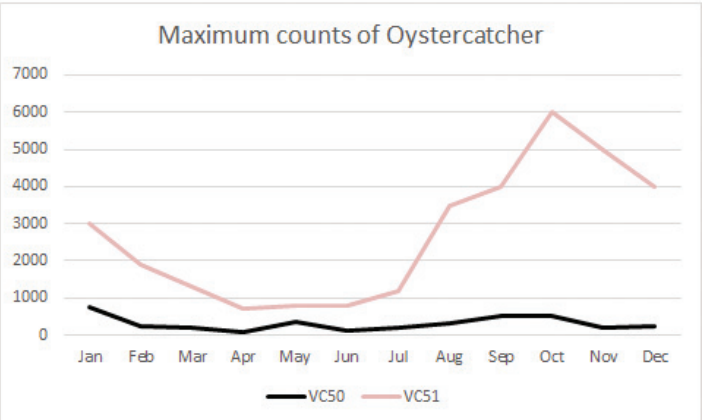
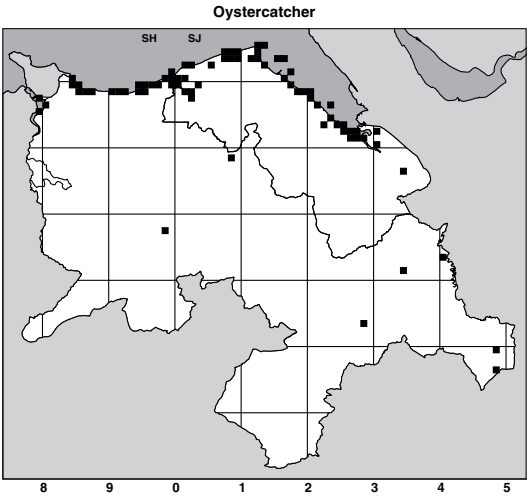
Winter visitor and breeding resident.
Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. This year a greater proportion of records was of presence or singles (67%) with a further 30% of records with counts from 2-350+. The three largest counts were 505+ at Kinmel Bay on 4/09 (WRM), 520 at Horton's Nose on 25/10 (GEM) and 750+ at Kinmel Bay on 29/01 (DCR). In the early months the highest counts dropped from 750+ in Jan to 250+ in Feb, 191 in Mar, 96 in Apr with 260 in May. During Jun, Jul and most of Aug the maximum was 140 but by 21/08 it had gone up to 250+. The later months provided 505+ in Sep, 520 in Oct then declined to 200 in Nov and 259 in Dec. There were thirteen records of confirmed breeding in the Kinmel Bay area.

Flints. This year there was a similar proportion of records of presence or singles (23%) with a further 67% of records with counts of 2-502. The remaining 10% of records were counts of 600-6,000 and the largest counts were all at Point of Ayr: 4,000 on 18/09 (GR), 5,000 on 13/11 (NFr) and 6,000 on 16/10 (GR). During the early months (Jan to Mar) the highest count was 3,000 in Jan, then during Apr to Jun the maximum was 800. Numbers started building up again from Jul with a maximum of 1,200 in Aug and the maximum for the last months was 6,000 in Oct. There were twenty-three records of confirmed breeding at just four locations.

(OC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	29	46
Maximum count	750	6000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	588	8010
Number of records	536	438
Recorded in BBS squares	-	3/18
% of BirdTrack lists	30.4	23.7
Density	11.01	468.59



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites from W to E:

(OC)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	125	86	104	71	362	110	182	332	262	201	37	57
Gronant	345	79	174	452	157	142	85	502		87	431	2300
Point of Ayr	1200	6	350	200	800	300	1000	3500	4000	6000	5000	4000
Mostyn		600	17	2			3	2		65	800	3
RSPB Oakenholt	120	100	50	51	116	120	100	240	600	240	600	400

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

CWTIAD LLWYD

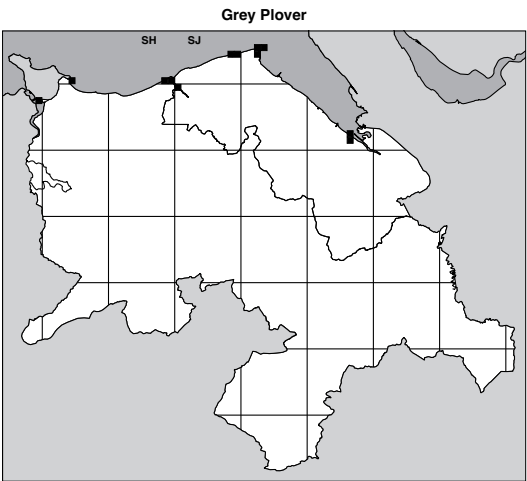
Winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. The Jan record was a single at Kinmel Bay on 21/01 and the May record was another single at RSPB Conwy on 9/05. The other records were all presence or singles between 10/08 at Kinmel Bay and 13/11 at RSPB Conwy.

Flints. The first record was a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7/01 and the last of the winter visitors was a flock of 50 at Mostyn on 16/02 and 55 at Point of Ayr on 21/02 (GR). There were three records of 1 or 2 in May and the first 'autumn' record was 2 at Point of Ayr on 21/08. Thereafter, all but one of the records were of 1-4 until a single on 28/12 at Connah's Quay NR with a maximum count of 17 near Gronant on 13/12 (WRM) at a high tide roost.

(GV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	4	8
Maximum count	1	55
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	158
Number of records	12	29
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	1.3
Density	0.00	0.75



Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

CWTIAD AUR

Winter visitor and possible breeding resident. Red List. S7.

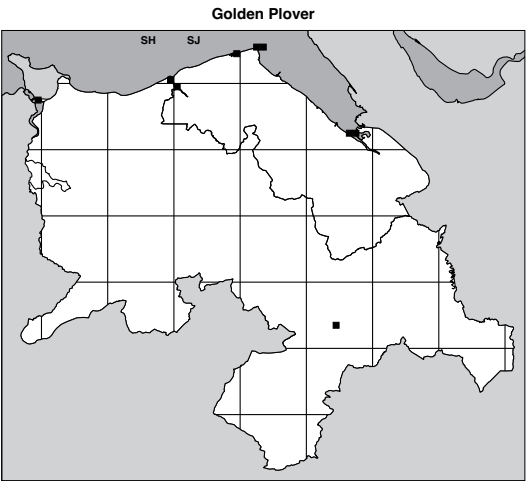
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. The first record was a single at Kinmel Bay on 18/02 then two records in

(GP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	3	6
Maximum count	2	120
Av max count prev 10 yrs	27	160
Number of records	3	16
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	1.4
Density	0.00	1.22

Sep, the later of which was 2 on the southern edge of Bryn-Adda Flat on 7/09 (JoR).

Flints. The maximum count in the early winter period was also one of the first records of the year – 25 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 10/01 (KS). The Apr record was a single at Point of Ayr on 10/04 and the first ‘autumn’ record was another single on the River Clwyd, S of Rhyl on 16/09, with most autumn records being counts of 1-9 apart from 120 at White Sands on 13/11 (DaK) and 50+ at Point of Ayr on 15/12 (MGW). The last record was 9 at White Sands on 18/12 (DaK).



Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Breeding resident and passage migrant.
Red List. S7.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. About half the records were of presence, 1 or 2, with more than another quarter of counts of 3-58. The highest

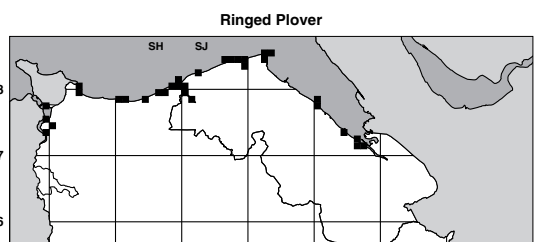
CWTIAD TORCHOG

(RP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	15	18
Maximum count	110	500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	52	194
Number of records	108	137
% of BirdTrack lists	4.9	9.3
Density	0.84	15.28

Ringed Plover. Photo: Tony Pope



counts were 100+ at Kinmel Bay on 9/02 (JFJ) and 30/10 and 110+ there on 30/08 at a high tide roost with many individuals of other species, and 110+ there on 17/10 (all WRM). The count of 100+ at Kinmel Bay on 9/02 was the highest during the first four months. Then during May to Jul the highest count was 27 at Kinmel Bay on 6/05. Numbers increased to a count of 50 at Horton's Nose on 8/08 with the peak counts during Oct and the highest count for Nov and Dec being 85+ on 13/11 (WRM). There was one record of confirmed breeding outside a protected area at Pensarn.



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(RP)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant					27		8	25			1	
Point of Ayr		2			500	20		200				

Flints. Nearly two thirds of the records were of presence, 1 or 2. Most of the remainder were counts of 3-200. The highest count was 500 at Point of Ayr on 8/05 (GR). This last count indicated that there was more evidence of migration later in this county. During Jan to Apr most counts were 1-4. The largest was 65+ near Gronant on 21/04, then during the first three weeks of May there were 500 at Point of Ayr on 8/05, 200+ at Talacre on 12/05 (HC) and 80+ near Gronant on 24/05 (RLE). During Jun to early Aug the maximum count was 30+ near Gronant. Autumn migration was evident from 14/08, with 30 at Flint on 14/08, building to 200 by the end of Aug (at Point of Ayr on 21/08), at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30 and 31/08). Most counts during Sep to Dec were 1-40 with three peaks: 100 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 29/09 (KS), 126+ near Rhyl on 10/09 (WRM) and 200+ at Point of Ayr on 15/12 (MGW). There were sixteen records of confirmed breeding at just one location.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. RBBP.

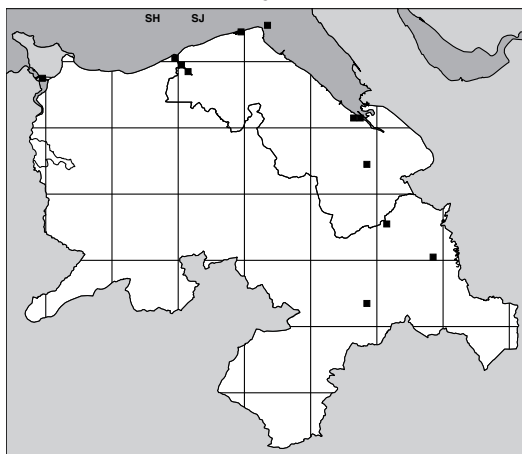
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All records were of presence, 1 or 2 with three records of probable breeding at two locations. The first record was a single near Acrefair on 30/03 and the last was a single at Llay Pool on 6/07.

(LP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	5	7
Maximum count	2	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	4
Number of records	16	21
% of BirdTrack lists	0.5	1.4
Density	0.01	0.04

Flints. All but one of the records were counts of 1 or 2, with 3 near Buckley on 21/04 (KaW). There was one record of probable breeding at one location, though two other records mentioned 'juveniles' but without the code 'FL', so maybe these birds had been raised elsewhere. The first record was a single at Connah's Quay NR on 8/04 and the last was 2 there on 1/08.

Little Ringed Plover



Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

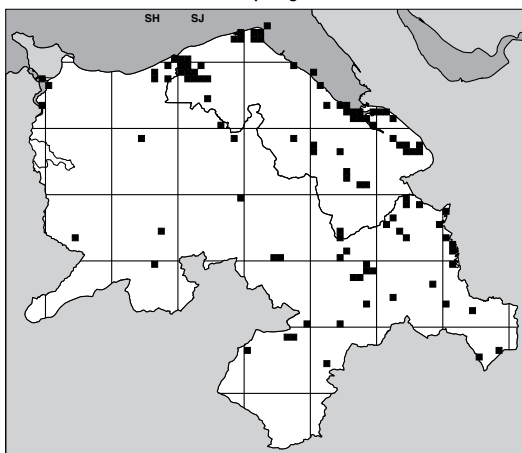
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The majority of records were of presence, 1 or 2. Most of the rest were counts of 3-850 and the largest counts were all at Kinnel Bay with 1,100 on 13/02 (MaO), 1,200 on 6/02 (SM), 2,450 on 18/02 (AHJ) and 2,500+ on 14/02 (HC). As in 2015 the peak counts were in Feb with a maximum of 350 near Holt on 1/03 (NF). Then numbers dropped considerably, with 53 at Llewenni Hall, Bodfari by 14/03 (JPH). From then until the end of Jul counts were 1-21, until 50+ near Rhyl on 28/08 (AcG). During Sep to Nov counts were 1-200+ and in Dec slightly higher, with a maximum of 300+ at Kinnel Bay on 31/12 (SM). There were two records of confirmed breeding at two locations.

CORNCHWIGLEN

(L)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	54	52
Maximum count	2500	3100
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1753	2248
Number of records	439	332
Recorded in BBS squares	3/34	1/18
% of BirdTrack lists	23.4	20.6
Density	68.32	273.68

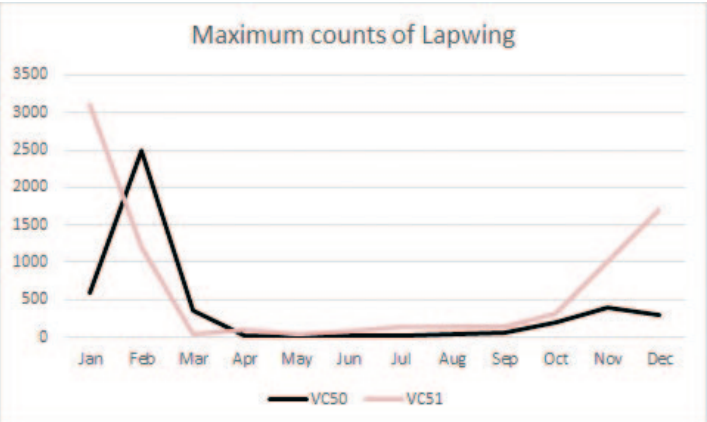
Lapwing



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(L)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	103	207	44	8	8	8	2	4	60	10	65	250
Near Rhyl	2400	86	10	2		2	20	140	54	40	500	700
Gronant	438	156	1							48	615	581
White Sands	320	200					30	2	70	320	560	1000
Connah's Quay NR	2000	800	2			52	135	120	130	96	950	1700

Flints. About a third of the records were of presence, 1 or 2. The majority of the other records were counts of 3 to 2,000. The largest counts were: 2,400+ near Rhyl on 5/01 (DCR), 2,500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22/01 (StaS) and 3,100 there on 18/01 (PeHa). The largest numbers were present in the early



months of the year, with counts during Jan to Mar being 1 to 3,100. During Apr to mid-Jul the counts were 1-100, with 135 at Connah's Quay NR on 13/07. During Aug and Sep the counts were 1-140+, then in Oct 1-320 and during the last two months more birds arrived and counts were 1 to 1,700. There was just one record of confirmed breeding at one location.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

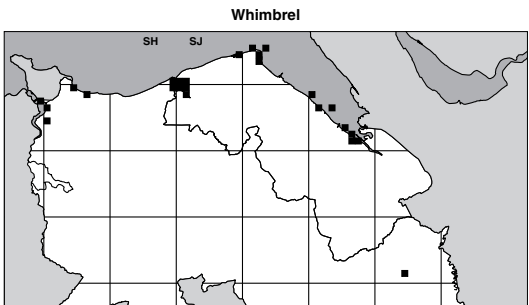
Passage migrant and summer visitor.
Amber List. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 12/04. The last record of the main period of presence was a single near Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 13/09, followed by a single two months later at Kinnel Bay on 11/11. Over two thirds of the records were of presence or singles, with twenty-two records of 2-50. The highest counts were 57 at RSPB Conwy on 30/04 (JHg) and 60 there on 3/05 (pJHg).

COEGLFINIR

(WM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	8	17
Maximum count	60	41
Av max count prev 10 yrs	24	24
Number of records	70	71
% of BirdTrack lists	2.9	3.4
Density	0.24	1.18



Flints. The first record was a single at Connah's Quay NR on 18/04. The last two records, three months apart, were near Rhyl on 2/09 and 3/12. Almost half the records were of presence or singles, with thirty-six records of 2-22. The highest counts were 31 near Rhyl on 27/04 (AHJ) and 41 there on 3/05 (RLE).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

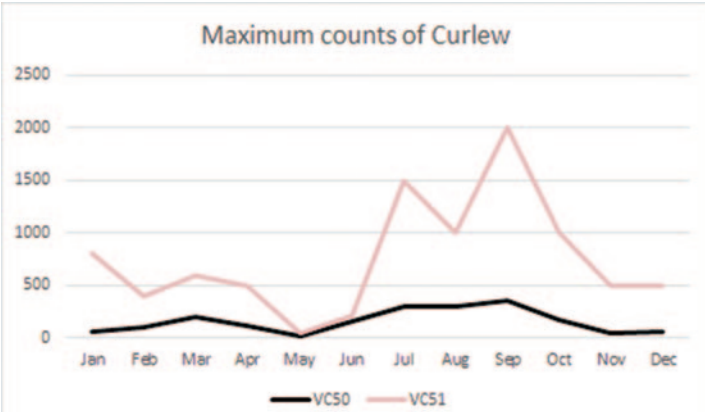
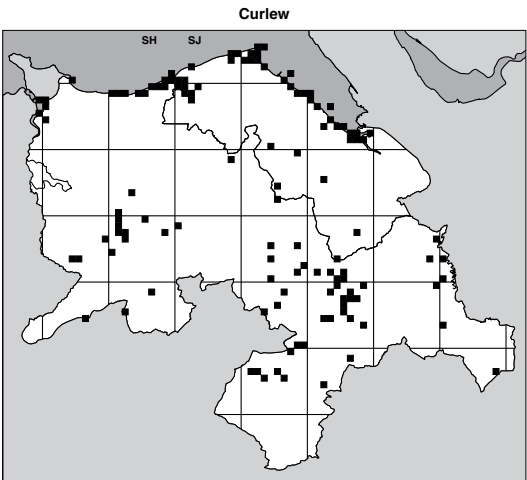
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Curlew was recorded in more BirdTrack lists this year than in 2015. Nearly three quarters of the records were of presence or singles. Most of the remainder were counts of 2-250. The largest counts were at RSPB Conwy: 270 on 16/07, 297 on 24/07 (pJHg) and on 21/08 (JHg) and 356 on 18/09 (JHg). The graph shows maximum counts each month. The maximum for the early months was 205 at RSPB Conwy on 13/03 (JHg). During Apr to Jun the highest count was 162 on 30/06 (pJHg), then an increase to 297 on 24/07 and on 21/08 then 356 in Sep. During the last three months the highest count was 55+. There were two records of confirmed breeding at two upland locations. One, sadly, was of a Raven taking a clutch of eggs.

Flints. Again, there were many more Curlew seen in Flints, as shown in the graph. Nearly one third of the records were of presence or singles and the majority of the remaining records were counts of 2-800+. The largest counts were all at Point of Ayr: 1,000 on 21/08 and 16/10 (PMi, GR), 1,500 on 24/07 and 2,000 on 18/09 (GR). During Jan to Apr the largest count was 800+ in

GYLFINIR

(CU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	81	44
Maximum count	356	2000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	419	1343
Number of records	490	440
Recorded in BBS squares	5/34	2/18
% records from GBW	0.21	-
% of BirdTrack lists	28.8	23.7
Density	12.17	149.41



Jan. During May and Jun numbers dropped to a maximum of 215+. By late Jul flocks had increased to 1,500, followed by a maximum of 1,000 in Aug, 2,000 in Sep and 1,000 in Oct. By Nov and Dec the maximum counts dropped to 500. There were no records of confirmed breeding and only three of possible breeding.

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(CU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	27	90	205	120	9	162	297	297	356	167	43	55
Point of Ayr	250	400	320	500	40	5	1500	1000	2000	1000	500	500
RSPB Oakenholt	50	200	70	106	30	1	40	164	80	50	34	45

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

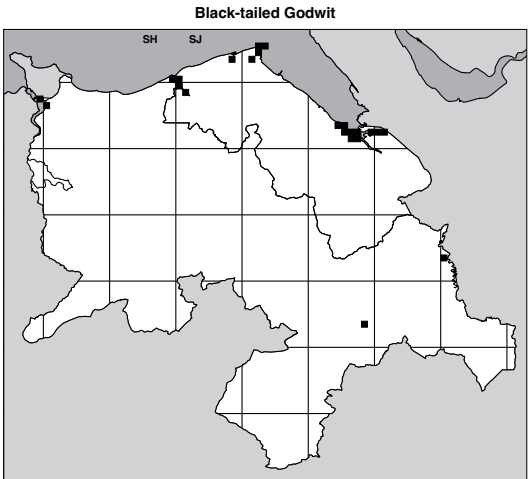
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Just less than half of the records were of presence or singles with most of the remainder being counts of 2-14. The maximum count was 60 at RSPB Conwy on 16/12 (DdC). During Jan to Apr the highest count was only 14 (at RSPB Conwy on 27/02). In May to Jul the highest count was 13, again at RSPB Conwy on 16/05. During Aug to Dec numbers stayed low (1-6), until the count of 60 in Dec.

Flints. Less than a quarter of the records were of presence or singles and over two thirds were counts of 2-850, with fifteen records of 1,000-5,000. The highest counts were 3,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 13/11 (PeHa), 3,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 15/11 (GEM), 4,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 20/11 (GEM) and 5,000 at Flint on 11/11 (JuR). During Jan to Jun the highest count was 560 at Flint on 4/02 (PeHa), with an increase to 1,100 at the end of Jul, also at Flint on 27/07 (GEM). A similar number, 1,200 was the maximum in Aug at Connah's Quay NR on 1/08 (PSH) and 2/08 (RBe). More birds arrived during Sep to Nov, with the maximum of 5,000 followed by a drop to 1,100 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 18/12 (PeHa).

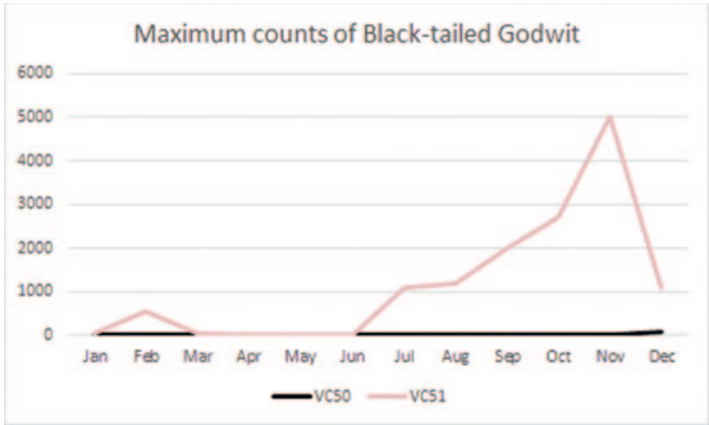
RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

(BW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	6	18
Maximum count	60	5000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	45	4501
Number of records	146	177
% of BirdTrack lists	8.1	10.2
Density	0.18	152.80



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(BW)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	2	6	2				1	4	3	4	3	3
Point of Ayr							1	3	2	400	100	10
RSPB Oakenholt		4	30	2			1000	150	60	120	3000	1100



Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. The earliest record was 2 at RSPB Conwy on 6/01, then 1 there on 9/05. The first autumn record was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 14/08, with 1-3+ present until the last record, of presence, on 13/11.

Flints. Nearly half of the records were of presence or singles with most of the rest being counts of 2-25+. The largest counts were both at Point of Ayr, with 82 on 18/09 and 110 on 16/10 (GR). The first record was a single at Mostyn on 4/03 and the last was 9 at Talacre on 13/11 (GR).

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(BA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy								3	3		1	
Point of Ayr					5	22	18	6	82	110	9	

RHOSTOG GYNFFRONFRITH

(BA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Common
Number of 1km squares	3	10
Maximum count	3	110
Av max count prev 10 yrs	28	87
Number of records	19	39
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8	2.8
Density	0.00	1.87

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

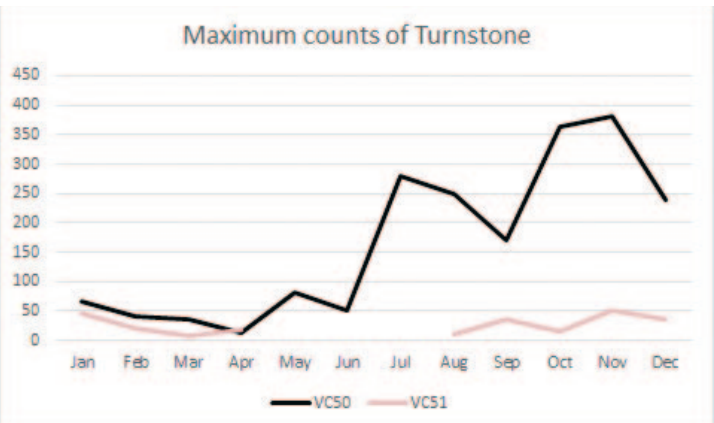
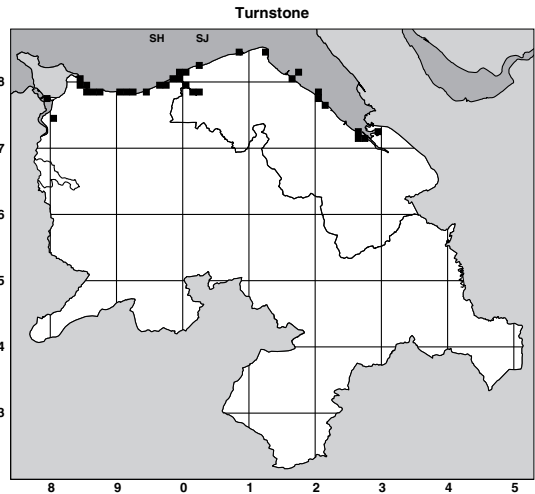
CWTIAD Y TRAETH

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. About a quarter of the records were of presence or singles, with the majority of the rest being counts of 2-285+. The maximum counts were all at Kinnel Bay: 315+ on 30/10, 335+ on 17/10 (WRM), 363 on 31/10 (JPH) and 382 (at Horton's Nose) on 4/11 (AHJ). During Jan to Mar the highest count was 65+ at Kinnel Bay on 10/01 (WRM). Then during Apr to Jun the maximum was 81 at Kinnel Bay on 24/05 (SM). Numbers increased in the latter part of the year, with Jul to Sep having a maximum of 280+ at Kinnel Bay on 31/07 (WRM). During Oct to Dec there was a maximum of 382.

Flints. Nearly a third of records were of presence or singles, with most of the rest being counts of 2-45. The maximum was 50 at Mostyn on 13/11 (NFr). During Jan to Apr most counts were 1-20 with 45 at Bagillt and Greenfield Dock on 10/01 (GR, PMi). The last record for this period was 19 near Rhyl on 17/04 (RLE). The first autumn record was 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 7/08. Counts were slightly higher during the later months with the maximum of 50 in Nov.

(TT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	17	16
Maximum count	382	50
Av max count prev 10 yrs	142	61
Number of records	134	61
% of BirdTrack lists	5.8	2.4
Density	3.29	1.36



Knot *Calidris canutus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

PIBYDD YR ABER

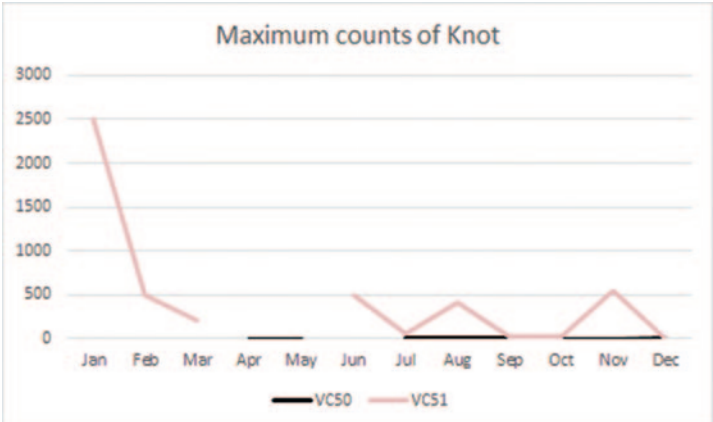
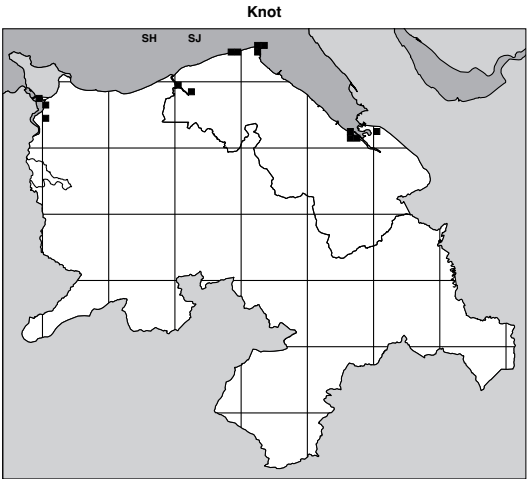
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All records were from RSPB Conwy. The first was a single on 21/02 then singles on 12/04 and 12/05. The next record was a single on 8/07 that may have been seen in two 1km squares at the reserve. The other records were of 1-3, with a maximum of 4 on 15/09 (pJHg).

Flints. About a fifth of the records were of presence or singles with most of the remainder being 2-550, with the maximum counts of 2,500 on 20/01 at Mostyn and 27/01 at Point of Ayr (GR); possibly the same birds? Clearly the largest counts were in Jan, with other records being of 1-500 during Jan to Mar. The last record early in the year was 200 at Mostyn on 4/03 (GR). There was then a gap of over three and a half months until the next record of presence at Point of Ayr on 21/06. There were only four records in Jun and Jul with a maximum of 500+ at Talacre on 21/06 (DVA). The majority of the records were during Aug with counts of 1-60, apart from one count of 400+ near Rhuddlan on 5/08 (AcG). During the remaining months

most counts were of 1-25+, with two larger counts: 200 at Point of Ayr on 13/11 (NFr) and 550 near Gronant also on 13/11 (PMi).

(KN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	3	11
Maximum count	4	2500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	6220
Number of records	30	74
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8	3.4
Density	0.01	46.69



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at one site:

(KN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	400								1	10	200	1

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Passage migrant. Amber List.

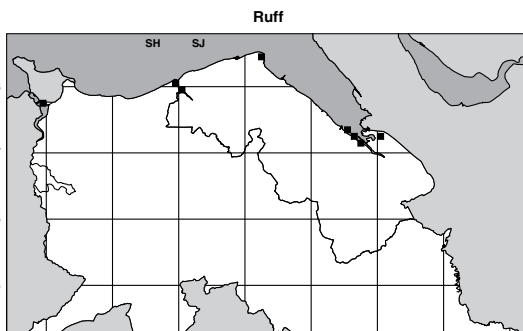
PIBYDD TORCHOG

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first record was 3 at RSPB Conwy on 28/05. The three records in Sep were of one, or more, singles, the last seen on 22/09.

(RU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	6
Maximum count	3	8
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	5
Number of records	6	34
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	5.0
Density	0.00	0.08

Flints. The first record was a single at Talacre on 12/03, with 3 at Shotwick Fields on 13/03. The last of the early records was 2 near the rifle range at Shotwick on 17/04. The first of the 'autumn' records was a single at Connah's Quay NR on 22/07. The last was also a single at Rhyl Marine Lake on 17/10. Most of the records were of 1-3, with a maximum of 8 at Talacre on 27/07 (AnM).



Broad-billed Sandpiper *Calidris falcinellus*

PIBYDD LLYDANBIG

Vagrant.

Denbs. This was relocated at Horton's Nose on 13/06 (AHJ). This record was accepted by the BBRC.

(OA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	2
Maximum count	1	1
Number of records	6	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.3
Density	0.00	0.00

Flints. A single was first located near



Broad-billed Sandpiper. Photo: Alex Humphreys-Jones



Broad-billed Sandpiper with Dunlin. Photo: Henry Cook

Gronant on 11/06. After spending at least two days (13/06 and 14/06) in Denbs it was last seen near Gronant on 22/06 (HC).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

PIBYDD CAMBIG

Passage migrant. Amber List.

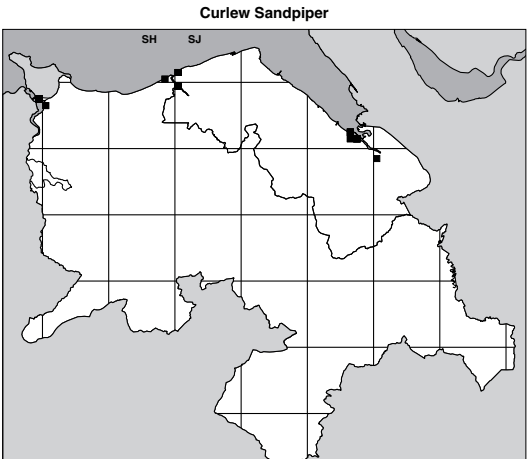
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

(CV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	6
Maximum count	1	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	5
Number of records	25	48
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	2.3
Density	0.00	0.05

There were many more records than in 2015.

Denbs. All records were of presence or singles and all but two were at RSPB Conwy; the others being at Kinmel Bay. The first record was on 19/08 and the last on 9/10. The Kinmel Bay records were found among mixed species, high tide roosts on 30/08 and 27/09 (WRM).

Flints. The first record was presence on 5/08 at Shotton and the last was a single near Rhyl on 2/10. Most of the records were of 1-4 with a maximum of 5 near Rhyl on 28 and 29/08 (AHJ, RLE).



Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

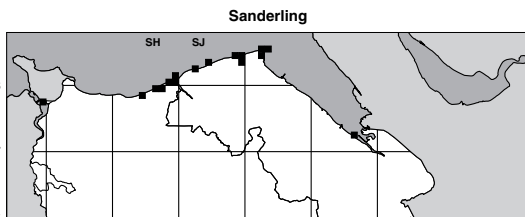
Seen in these months:

D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. During Jan to Mar all but two counts were 1-150+. The largest counts were: 162

at Kinmel Bay on 24/01 (SRG) (which was a cannon-net catch with 114 new birds and 48 retraps), and 350+ at Kinmel Bay, near Horton's Nose, on 6/03 (WRM). During May and Jun the first record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 11/05. The last was 9 at Horton's Nose on 14/06 (AHJ), with a maximum in those months of 70+ at Kinmel Bay on 12/05 (RLE). The first autumn record was 35+ at a high tide roost of mixed species at Kinmel Bay on 30/08 (WRM). During the last months most records were 1-180+, and the three largest counts were: 227 at Kinmel Bay on 27/11 (JPH), 270+ on 13/11 (WRM) and 350+ on 30/11 (AHJ), both at Horton's Nose.

(SS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	7	9
Maximum count	350	700
Av max count prev 10 yrs	158	160
Number of records	54	46
% of BirdTrack lists	2.5	3.3
Density	1.24	10.70



Flints. There were eight records during Jan to Apr, with counts of 1-30+ and, during May, counts were 3-40+. In Jun the numbers increased dramatically at a time that must have been too early to include young birds of the year – most counts were 1-15 with two exceptions: 700+, the year's maximum, on 1/06 near Gronant and 400+ there on 4/06 (HC). In Jul and Aug counts dropped to 1-100+. The last record for the 'early' part of the year was 3 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30/08 (PDS). The first records in Nov were 3 near Gronant and 11 near Prestatyn on 2/11 (WRM), with a maximum of 130+ near Rhyl on 26/12 (DCR).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

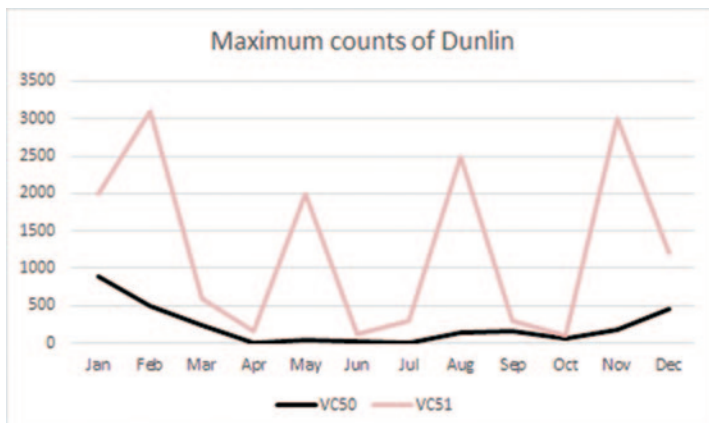
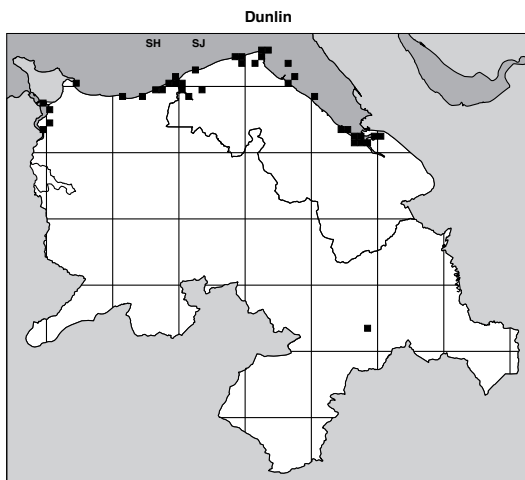
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Just over a quarter of records were of presence or singles and all but three of the remaining records were counts of 2-500+. The highest counts were: 600+ at Kinmel Bay on 9/01 and near Towyn on 13/01, with 900+ near Towyn on 28/01 (SM). After these high counts in Jan numbers decreased through the summer, with a high count of 40+ at Kinmel Bay on 12/05 (RLE), then 140+ there on 30/08 (WRM) during a roost. In the last months the highest count was 460+ at Kinmel Bay on 29/12 (WRM), also during a high tide roost with other species.

(DN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	13	25
Maximum count	900	3100
Av max count prev 10 yrs	328	4150
Number of records	198	221
% of BirdTrack lists	10.0	14.2
Density	5.92	131.58

Flints. The graph shows clearly that the pattern of high counts was very different to that of 2015. Less than one fifth of records were of presence or singles and most of the rest were

counts of 2 to 2,000+. The maximum counts were: 2,200 at Point of Ayr on 21/02 (GR), 2,500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30/08 (PDS), 3,000 at Point of Ayr on 13/11 (NFr) and 3,100 at Mostyn on 16/02 (GR). During Jan and Feb there were several counts of 2-700, with ten counts of 2,000-3,100. During Mar and Apr the highest count was 600 at Mostyn on 4/03, with the other counts being many fewer: 2-210. In May there was another peak with 2,000 at Point of Ayr on 8/05 (GR) and 2,000 at Talacre on 12/05 (HC), possibly the same flock; which were presumably migrants on their way to breeding areas to the N. There were many fewer during Jun and Jul, mainly 1-120+ but towards the end of Jul there were counts of 100+ to 300+ near Gronant from 14/07 to 25/07 (HC). These were probably returning non-breeders or failed breeders. In Aug numbers increased considerably to a maximum of 2,500 which probably included young of the year. Sep and



Dunlin. Photo: Tony Pope



Oct were quiet months with a maximum of 294+ near Rhyl on 10/09 (WRM). The numbers increased again to the maximum of 3,000 for Nov and Dec.

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites from W to E:

(DN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy			1		1		5	24	34	52	95	8
Gronant	1				230		145	12			1	85
Point of Ayr	1000	2200			200	50	20	300	20	80	3000	600
RSPB Oakenholt	400	400	100	3	70		12	50	120	50	600	130

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

PIBYDD DU

Winter visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. The early records were at Rhos-on-Sea, with counts of 1-4 and a maximum of 5 on 19/02 (MHZ). The two late records were at Kinmel Bay, both 2 on 31/10 and 27/11 (JPH).

(PS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3	
Maximum count	5	
Number of records	8	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	
Density	0.01	

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

PIBYDD BACH

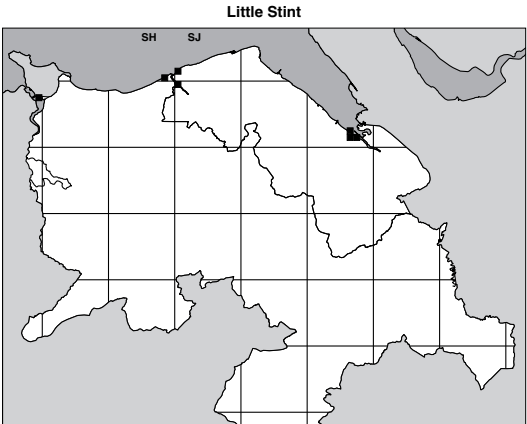
Passage migrant.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. The first record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 6/08 and the last was a single there on 7/10. All the other records were singles or presence, apart from 3 on 28/09 (JRR).

Flints. The first record was of presence at Rhyl on 28/08 and the last was also just presence there on 13/09. All records were of 1-2+.

(LX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	5
Maximum count	3	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	2
Number of records	13	25
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	1.4
Density	0.00	0.02



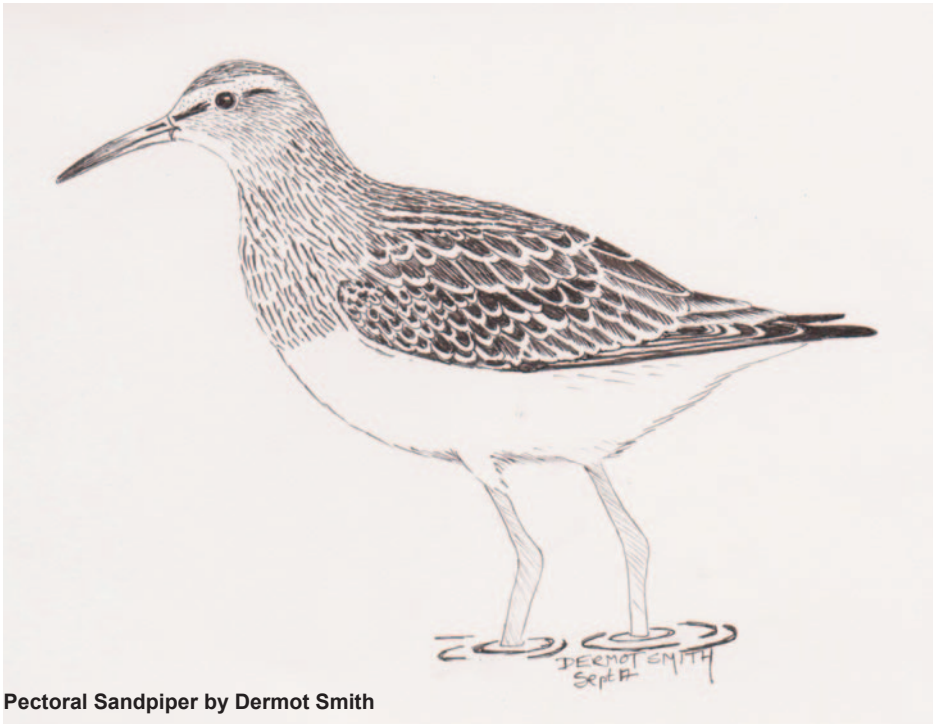
Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

PIBYDD CAIN

Vagrant.

Denbs. All records were of presence or a single on 31/08 and again on 12/09 and 13/09, all at RSPB Conwy. These records were accepted by the WRP.

(PP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	10	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	
Density	0.00	



Pectoral Sandpiper by Dermot Smith

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

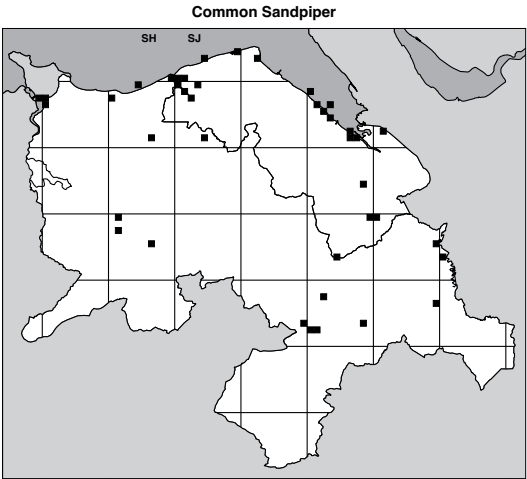
Passage migrant and breeding visitor. Red List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Some 89% of records were of presence or singles, with ten records of 2-4. The highest counts were at RSPB Conwy with 5 on 12/04 (pJHg), 5 on 26/04 (JHg) and 8 on 28/04 (JHg). The first record was a single near Pensarn on 10/04 and the last in Oct was another single at RSPB Conwy on 21/10. The last record of the year was presence at RSPB Conwy on 28/12.

(CS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	20	21
Maximum count	8	7
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	11
Number of records	114	163
% of BirdTrack lists	6.0	7.4
Density	0.08	0.25

Flints. Just less than two thirds of records were of presence or singles. Most of the rest were counts of 2-6. The highest counts were 7 near Rhuddlan on 29/04 (AHJ) and 7 mostly up-river from Connah's Quay NR on 4/07 (DvL). The first record was a single on 5/03 near Rhyl (AHJ).



Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP

PIBYDD GWYRDD

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. The first record was on 22/01 on the River Clwyd, near Rhuddlan and

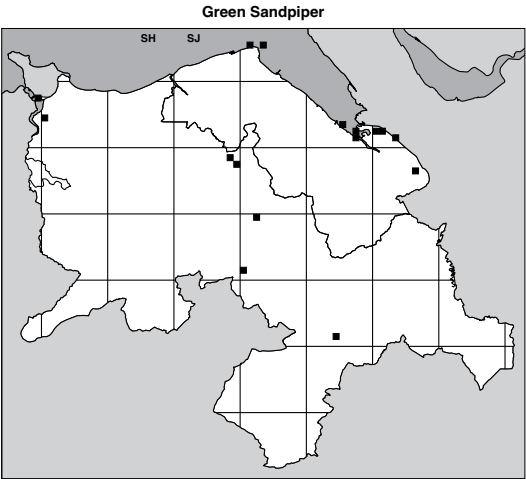
(GE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	9
Maximum count	2	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	3
Number of records	40	10
% of BirdTrack lists	1.1	1.9
Density	0.01	0.06



Green Sandpiper. Photo: John Hawkins

presumably the same bird was also seen there on 28/01. The two Mar records were from near Denbigh, with a single on the River Clwyd on 21/03 and 2 near Lleweni Hall on 25/03 (JPH). The first summer record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 23/06 and the last was presence there on 5/09. There were records of 2 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 26/07 (MiB) and at RSPB Conwy on 1/08 (pJHG).

Flints. The first record was 4 near Deeside Industrial Park on 5/03 (WAO), with presence at Flint on 20/03. The single May record was 1 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 8/05, followed by three other records of singles. The last record was a single at Shotwick Fields on 17/12. There were records of 2 at White Sands on 18/09 (DaK) and feeding in a drain at Saltney on 25/10 (GoP).



Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

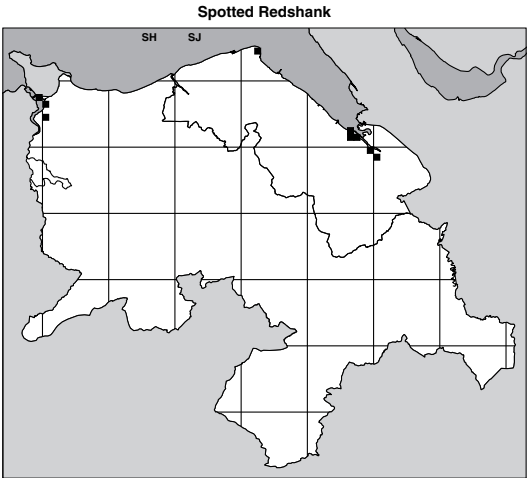
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All records were of presence or singles. The first was at RSPB Conwy on 22/04. The next record was also at RSPB Conwy on 25/08. Most records were during Aug. There were seven records at RSPB Conwy in Sep; the last record was a single there on 3/10.

Flints. All but two records were from the Connah's Quay NR / RSPB Oakenholt Marsh area. Over half of the records were of presence or 1-4 and a further third were counts of 5-10. There were nineteen records of 11-17. The largest count, 20, was in three records from Connah's Quay NR on 27/09 (PSH). During Jan to Apr the highest count was 10 at Connah's Quay NR on 5/03 (pGEM).

PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

(DR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	3	6
Maximum count	1	20
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	14
Number of records	23	205
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	1.7
Density	0.00	0.20



The last record of that period was a single on 16/04. There was a gap of just over two months and the next record was a single on 26/06. During Jun to Aug the highest count was 17 on 20/08 (PSH). During the last months of the year the highest count was 20, with at least 10 present during most of Sep and a few days in Oct. In Nov and Dec the highest counts were 7 between 2/11 and 6/11 (PSH).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP.

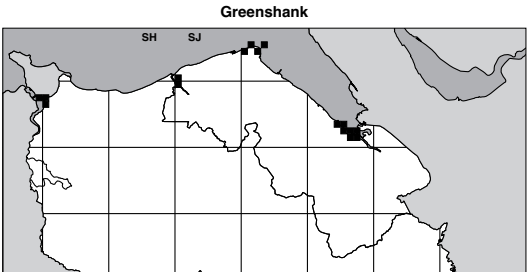
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All the records were from RSPB Conwy and most records were counts of 1-2. The three records with the largest counts were all on the same day, 11/12, with 4 (JHg) and 5 (TBT). The first record was a single on 11/02 and the last of the early months was another single on 28/04. The next record was a single on 3/07 and the last was another single on 28/12.

Flints. During Jan to Jun most records were counts of 1-7, mainly from Connah's Quay NR, with the two

PIBYDD COESWERDD

(GK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	2	13
Maximum count	5	18
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	24
Number of records	26	213
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	3.1
Density	0.01	0.40



Greenshank. Photo: Elaine Thomas



largest counts, there, of 8 on 17/02 and 22/02 (ALo). During Jul and Aug most counts were of less than 10 with ten records of 10-15. The highest count was at Connah's Quay NR on 28/08 (PSH). During Sep and Oct most counts were less than 10, with nineteen records of 10-18 with the highest counts at Connah's Quay NR on 9/09 (PSH, RBe) and 18/10 (GEM). There were fewer around during the last two months, with most counts of 1-7 but with 8 at Connah's Quay NR on 2/11 (JDM) and 13/11 (KS).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Vagrant. RBBP.

Flints. There was a record of 1 at White Sands on 7/08.

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

(OD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.00

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

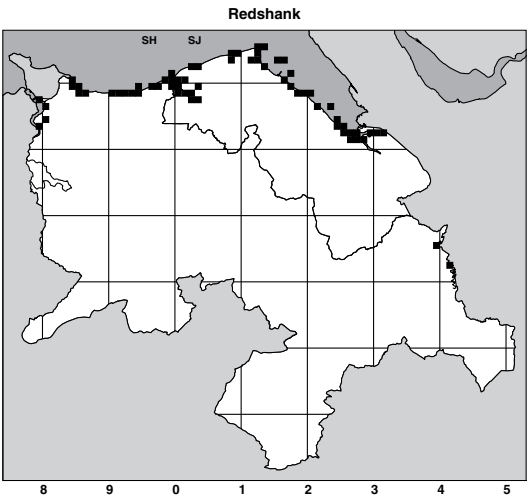
Possible breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a considerable increase in the number of records from both counties and please note that maximum counts did not, necessarily, happen on the days of WeBS counts.

PIBYDD COESGOCH

(RK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	24	42
Maximum count	941	4200
Av max count prev 10 yrs	362	2741
Number of records	419	440
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/18
% of BirdTrack lists	23.0	21.0
Density	11.30	299.49

Denbs. Two thirds of the records were of presence or singles and most of the rest were counts of 2-100. There were thirty records of counts of 106-930. The two highest counts were at RSPB Conwy: 504 on 10/04 and 930 on 18/09 (pJHg). The graph of counts is similar to that for 2015, with more birds in Denbs. later in the year. During the first four months of the year the highest counts were 205 on 1/01 at RSPB Conwy (RoHl), 213 there on 11/02 (pJHg), 145+ there on 18/03 and 165+ there on 9/04 (JOHn). During May and Jun numbers dropped to a maximum of 30. Then in late Jul there was an increase to 337 on 24/07 (pJHg). There was a further increase to a high of 420+ on 31/08 (WRM) and the maximum for the year, 930, on 18/09. During the last three

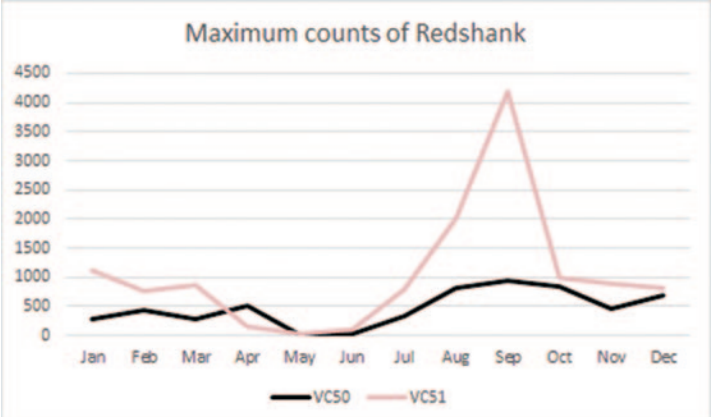


months the maximum was 450+ on 18/11 (WRM), also at RSPB Conwy.

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at sites from W to E:

(RK)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	282	422	276	504	1	1	337	804	941	852	364	697
Point of Ayr	220	150	65	10	1		40	300	300	700	400	150
Mostyn											30	
RSPB Oakenholt	200	240	120	70			300	200	500	1000	900	400
Connah's Quay NR	70	23	14	28			350	1450	1580	881	50	10

Flints. Nearly a quarter of records were of presence or singles. Most of the rest were counts of 2-950. There were twelve records of 1,000-4,200. The two highest counts were both at Connah's Quay NR: 3,500 on 16/09 and 4,200 on 20/09 (PSH). During Jan to Apr the maximum counts for each



month were 1,120 at Flint on 18/01 (PeHa), 760 on 10/02 at Connah's Quay NR (GEM), 876 at Flint on 26/03 (PeHa) and 155 between Rhuddlan and Rhyl on 10/04 (ChMo). During May and Jun the highest count was 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/06 (PSH). Then in Jul numbers increased to 800 on 18/07 (GEM) and on 21/07 (PSH). There was a further increase in Aug to 2,000 on 14/08 at Flint (GEM). The year's maximum was 4,200 on 20/09 after which there was a decline to 1,000 on 16/10 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa). The maximum for the last two months was 900 on 13/11 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa). There were no records of breeding.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtes minimus*

Winter visitor. Amber List.

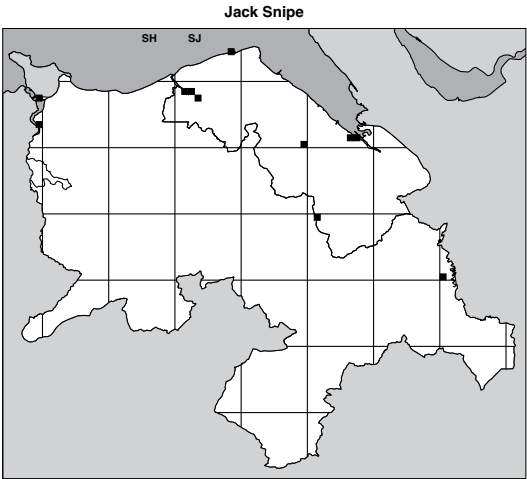
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 11/03 and the last of the early months was a single at Isycoed, near Wrexham, on 11/04. The first autumn record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 7/10. All other records were of singles and the last was at RSPB Conwy on 18/12.

GIACH FACH

(JS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	8
Maximum count	1	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	2
Number of records	17	13
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.2
Density	0.01	0.04

Flints. During the early months there were two records of singles near Nercwys Mountain on 1/01 and near Gronant on 11/02. The first autumn record was another single on 23/10 near Rhes-y-cae, followed by several records of 1-2, with maxima of 3 at two locations near Rhuddlan on 18/12 (SH).



Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

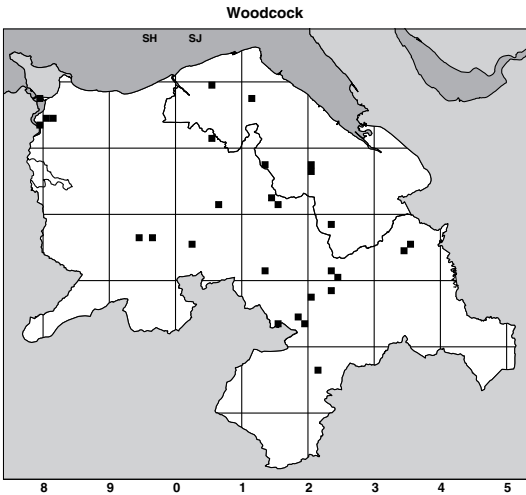
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. During the first three months the highest count was 4 at Pendinas Reservoir on 20/03 (SJHa). The other records were of presence, 1 or 2. There was one Aug record of plucked remains found on 26/08 at Taipellaf, Mynydd Hiraethog. The next record was of 2 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley, with most of the remaining records of 1-8, 12 at Horseshoe Falls, Llangollen on 14/11 (JoG) and 12 near Llyn Brenig on 20/11 (JPH).

Flints. The first record in the early months was a single near Rhydymwyn on 20/02 and the last was presence near Treuddyn on 14/03. The next record was a single at Dyserth on 14/11. The maximum for the year was 15 near Penycloddiau (EdW), seen flying up the valley in ones and twos at dusk on 20/11.

CYFFYLOG

(WK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	22	6
Maximum count	12	15
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	3
Number of records	3840	6
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	0.1
Density	0.13	0.15



Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

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

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

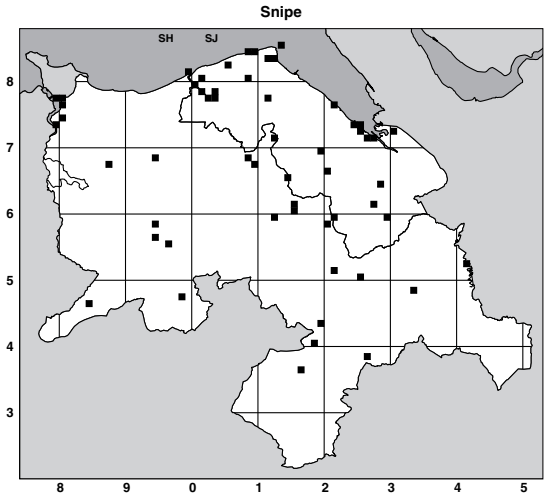
Denbs. Nearly 70% of records were of presence or singles. Most of the rest were counts of 2-50+. The three largest counts were all at RSPB Conwy: 60 on 10/12 (pJHg), 68 on 1/01 (RoHl) and 106 on 18/12 (pJHg). The last record for the early months was a single, 'chippering' (code S) near the Sportsman's Arms, Mynydd Hiraethog on 18/05 (GEM). The first autumn record was 3 flushed from a pond near Bryn Rhyd-yr-Arian on 16/08 (GoP). Most records were less than 10, until 50+ at RSPB Conwy on 21/10 (WRM), where two flocks were seen flying round the reserve as if spooked by a predator. Numbers increased in Dec with the maximum of 106.

Flints. Just over a quarter of the records were of presence or singles.

Most of the remaining records were counts of 2-39. The two largest counts were 40: on 25/02 near Rhuddlan (SH) and on 16/10 at Flint (ChMo). The last record of the early months was a single at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 11/05, that was drumming (CW). The next record was a single at Gronant dunes on 24/07 (HC). During the last four months, the highest counts were 3 at Rhydymwyn on 15/09 (IMS), 40 at Flint on 16/10, 14 near Rhuddlan on 20/11 (SH) and 30+ near Rhuddlan on 22/12 (AHJ).

GIACH GYFFREDIN

(SN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	29	27
Maximum count	106	40
Av max count prev 10 yrs	52	66
Number of records	204	177
% of BirdTrack lists	10.9	7.9
Density	1.56	1.83



Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Passage migrant.

Flints. An injured juvenile was recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 18/09 (NHu). Sadly this individual later died that evening while sitting on the lagoon (SuHa).

SGIWEN FAWR

(NX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	2
% of BirdTrack lists		0.1
Density		0.00

Razorbill *Alca torda*

LLURS

Winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. One was recorded at Old Colwyn on 3/10 (PJW).

Flints. A single was seen being carried ashore by an incoming tide at Point of Ayr on 20/10 (WRM). It was presumed to have been unwell.

(RA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	1	1
Number of records	1	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.1
Density	0.00	0.00

Little Auk *Alle alle*

CARFIL BACH

Vagrant.

Flints. All but one of the records were of a single from Connah's Quay NR on 10/01, with one recorded at a pool at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (GR) on the same day.

(LK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	8
% of BirdTrack lists		0.1
Density		0.00



Little Auk. Photo: Tony Lovatt

Guillemot *Uria allge*

GWYLOG

Winter visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The four seen at Rhos-on-Sea on 8/05 (HC) was the first sighting of the year as well as being the only record of more than a single. Singles were seen on four occasions at Llanddulas between 28/08 (JFJ) and 17/12 (DdC).

Flints. A single was at Connah's Quay NR on 19/09 (PDS).

(GU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	1
Maximum count	4	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	27	15
Number of records	10	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.1
Density	0.01	0.00

LittleTern *Sternula albifrons*

Passage migrant and summer breeding visitor. Red List. RBBP.

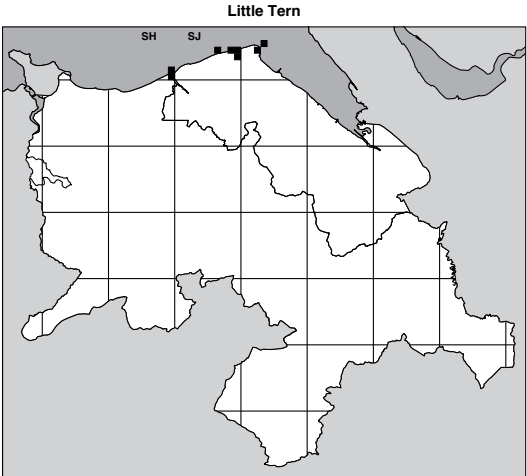
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. All records came from Kinmel Bay at Horton's Nose, Rhyl Harbour. A maximum count of 3 was seen on each of the following occasions: 21/05, 4/06 (both AHJ) and 8/06 (RLE).

Flints. The first sighting was on 28/04, with a maximum of 6 at Gronant (DWR). Most records came from the breeding sites of Gronant and Point of Ayr. The Gronant colony had a successful season with 141 breeding pairs and 170 fledglings. For the second consecutive year, Point of Ayr had one breeding pair that successfully fledged 2 young. An exceptionally high maximum count of 807 was recorded on 20/07 (HC), with re-sighting of colour rings suggesting many were part of an influx of birds on passage, including from Kilcoole,

MORWENNOL FECHAN

(AF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Common
Number of 1km squares	2	6
Maximum count	3	807
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	298
Number of records	3	65
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	4.0
Density	0.00	8.22



Little Tern brooding chicks. Photo: John Power

Ireland (Gronant Tern Report 2016, AOH). Merseyside Ringing Group were again active at Gronant with nestlings ringed on the following dates: 13 on 18/06, 52 on 20/06, 79 on 25/06, 28 on 3/07, 16 on 6/07 and 6 on 10/07 (pBH). There were also 2 nestlings ringed on 2/08 (GWC). Two adults were colour ringed at Gronant on 18/06 (pBH). The last sighting was at Point of Ayr on 21/08 (PMi).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

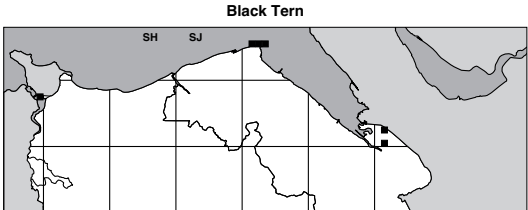
Passage migrant.

Denbs. All three records were at RSPB Conwy, each with 3 on 19/08 (pJHg, RS).

Flints. The first record came on 12/05, with a single at Shotton Steelworks (pDEW). A maximum count of 4 was at Point of Ayr on 20/08 (JuR) and also on the 21/08 (PMi).

CORSWENNOL DDU

(BJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	5
Maximum count	3	4
Number of records	3	7
% of BirdTrack lists	-	-
Density	0.00	0.03



White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Vagrant.

Flints. A single was recorded on 17/06 at Connah's Quay NR (PSH). Accepted by the WRP.

CORSWENNOL ADEINWEN

(WJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.00

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Summer migrant. Amber List.

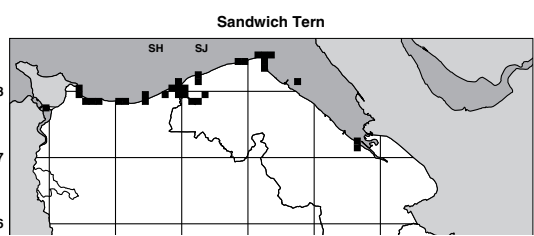
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first sighting came on 24/04 at Kinnel Bay where 40 were recorded (AOH). Birds were seen each month in that area until 27/09, with at least 18 present (WRM). A notable number of records were gained from RSPB Conwy, with a high count of 36 on 3/09 (SPk). The highest count, substantially more than any other sighting, was of 700, observed S of the railway bridge at Kinnel Bay on 8/08 (WRM).

MORWENNOL BIGDDU

(TE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	15	17
Maximum count	700	1500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	270	606
Number of records	65	86
% of BirdTrack lists	3.3	5.7
Density	5.31	43.29

Flints. The first record was of 30 on 21/04 at Gronant Dunes (GNR). Most sightings again came from three areas: Point of Ayr, Gronant and the River Clwyd. A very high count for the region was recorded on 21/08, with 1,500 at Point of Ayr (PMi). The couple seen at Point of Ayr on 18/09 (GR) were the last of the year.



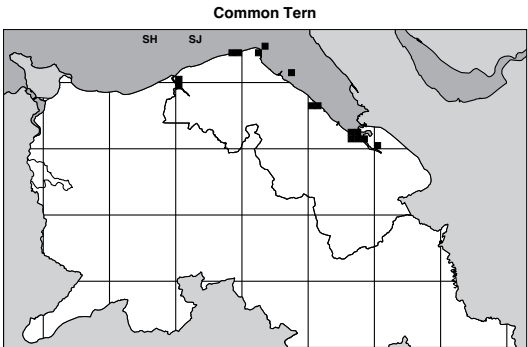
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Red List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Flints. The three at Connah's Quay NR on 24/04 was the first sighting of the year (KeLJ). In line with previous years most records came from Connah's Quay NR (34 of 67). Early May saw a number of sightings at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, with the highest count of 48 seen there on 5/05 (KeLJ). The only colony in the region at Shotton Steelworks had their annual ringing of nestlings: 296 on 19/06, 114 on 3/07 and 13 on 17/07 (pBH). The last sightings were on 21/08, with a highest number recorded of 25 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa).

MORWENNOL GYFFREDIN		
(CN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very common
Number of 1km squares		15
Maximum count		296
Av max count prev 10 yrs		554
Number of records	0	67
% of BirdTrack lists		2.8
Density		6.72



Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

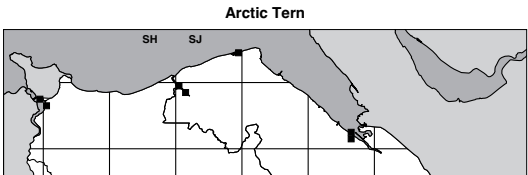
Passage migrant. Red List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All sightings were at RSPB Conwy and were singles, with the first record on 31/07(pJHg) and last recorded on 9/08 (WRM).

Flints. The first record was on 18/05 with a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PSH). At Gronant Dunes two

MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD		
(AE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	5
Maximum count	1	2
Number of records	4	9
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.5
Density	0.00	0.02



were seen on both 10/06 and 8/07 (HC). The last sighting on 9/08 was a single at Rhyl Harbour (AHJ).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Passage migrant. Red List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Although there were only four records in 2016, remarkably three of them came from inland, although it is likely that both of the Gresford Flash reports were of the same bird. 1 was at Gresford Flash on 16/03 (KS), 11 were just offshore at Pentrefelin, Conwy on 28/08 (MiB). An unusual report was of 1 over Esclusham Mountain, Ruabon on 16/11 (GaBI).

GWYLAN GOESDDU

(KI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3	
Maximum count	11	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	24	
Number of records	4	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.02	

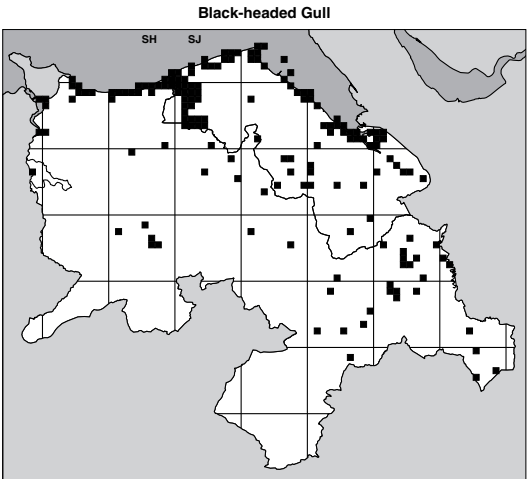
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

GWYLAN BENDDU

(BH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	75	88
Maximum count	2170	5000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1577	1877
Number of records	602	655
Recorded in BBS squares	3/34	2/18
% records from GBW	0.17	-
% of BirdTrack lists	35.4	52.4
Density	82.36	747.03

Denbs. There were nine three-figure counts from the beginning of Jan to the second week in Mar, as against fifteen in the same period of 2015. The distribution this year was different with no high counts from Pensarn and only one from RSPB Conwy of 100 on 11/02 (GEM). In the far east of the county there were 120+ at Gresford Flash on 6/01 (MGW), 300+ at Trevalyn Meadows on 1/02 (NHu) and 160 at Holt on 1/03, rising to 400 on 11/03 (NF). By far the largest counts came from Lleweni Hall, Bodfari: 824 on 20/01, the highest Denbs count of the year of 2,170 on 22/02, 1,022 on 7/03 and 374 on 14/03 (all JPH). After the second week in March there were only five



counts of 100 or more through the rest of the year: 230 at RSPB Conwy on 9/07 (per JHg), rising to 300+ on 22/07 (WRM), 200 at Gresford Flash on 13/11 (KS) and 24/11 (NHu) and 100+ at Towyn on 6/12 (SM).

Flints. In contrast with lower numbers in Denbs, there were sixty-two three-figure counts up to the end of the second week in Mar – more than three times as many large counts as in 2015. The majority came from the Rhuddlan area and the Dee estuary between Flint and Connah's Quay NR. Thirteen of these counts were of 500 or more birds. Eleven of these were in the Rhuddlan area, peaking at 3,000 on 4/01 (SH), with more than 700 at Rhyl on 30/01 (SH) and 1,033 at Gwespyr, Llawndy on the WeBS count of 21/02 (PMi). 500 were still at Rhuddlan on 20/03 (SH) but 160 on the Dee estuary at White Sands on the WeBS count on 10/04 (DaK), was the only Apr three figure count and there were none in May. There were two three figure counts in the RSPB Oakenholt and Connah's Quay NR area during Jun and Jul. Numbers built up rapidly to the highest count of the year – 3,000 at Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt on 18/07, with 5,000 on the Dee at Connah's Quay NR at low tide on the same day (all GEM). The day of the Jul WeBS count, 24/07, produced 3,000 at Ffynnonogroyw Bay (GR), with 2,500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PSH), 400 at Flint (ChMo) and a further 400 on the Dee estuary at White Sands (DaK). The Aug WeBS count on 21/08 produced two more high counts of 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa) and 1,500 at White Sands (DaK) but after 1,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 1/09 (GEM), numbers tailed off, with 564 at Rhyl on 29/12 (JPH), the largest count for the rest of the year. Between May and Jul a total of 533 nestlings were ringed at the Shotton Steelworks colony (pBH).

Monthly maxima from selected locations:

(BH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	15	100	67	12	25	1	230	1	80	35	30	20
Near Rhuddlan	3000	500	2000	14	15	1	580	0	40	0	350	6
RSPB Oakenholt	100	200	300	0	0	100	5000	2000	40	24	100	0
Connah's Quay NR	240	150	200	6	40	160	3000	1500	1000	6	100	100

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

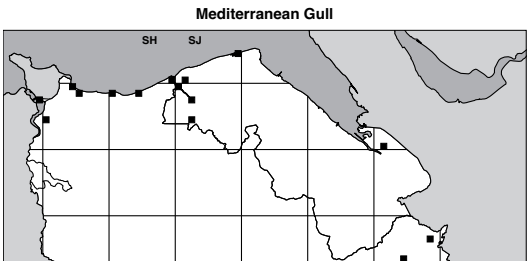
Visitor: RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

An increasing number of records in each county, especially in Flints. There were records in every month of the year in one or both counties.

(MU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	10	5
Maximum count	2	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	3
Number of records	22	16
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	1.5
Density	0.01	0.03

Denbs. All records were of singles, except for 2 at RSPB Conwy on 2/11 (per JHg). Records in 2016 came from a number of different locations, both coastal near Conwy and inland near Wrexham.



Flints. An increase from six to sixteen records, all of singles, except for 2 at Rhyl on 30/01 and 23/07 (AxJ). There were 4 at Shotton Steelworks on 13/04 (DeNi). Apart from the Shotton birds, all records came from Rhyl or Gronant.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

Recorded in every month of the year in Flints and all months except Jul in Denbs. Numbers are generally lower in Denbs than Flints and there were rather fewer Denbs records this year but an increase of almost 57% in reports from Flints. With the exception of flocks at Cilcain, there were rather fewer inland records than in 2015 in both counties and far fewer in the second half of the year than the first.

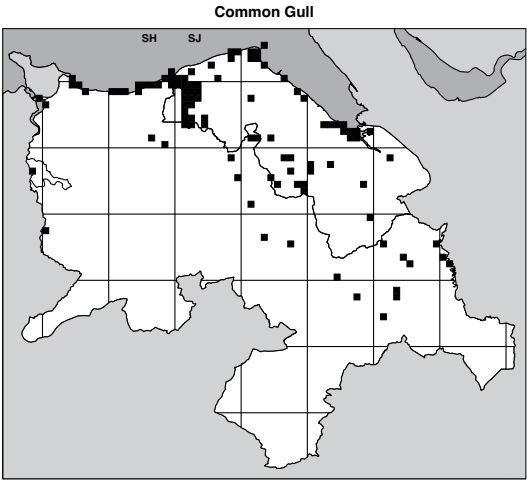
Denbs. There were only five three-figure counts, four early in the year and one towards the end. 100 were recorded at RSPB Conwy on 9/01 (JHg) and more than 200 at Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd on 13/01 (GoP). 300 were at Rhewl on 12/02 (GoP) and more than 100 at Llanefydd, Plas Uchaf on 27/02 (SM). The final three-figure gathering came right at the end of the year on 29/12, with in excess of 200 at Afonwen (MGW).

Flints. There was a further increase of almost 57% in the number of reports.

By the second week in Apr forty-four three figure counts had been recorded, thirty-four of which were in the Rhuddlan area, where numbers peaked early in Jan with 1,000 on 3/01 and 2,500 on 4/01 (SH). Four further three figure counts came from Gronant, with 350 on 10/01 the highest (PMi). The other six high counts came from inland sites, most notably at Cilcain, with 580 on 14/02 and 270 on 15/03 (GEM). There were also more than 175 at Rhydymwyn on 20/01 (MGW). From the second week in Apr until the end of Aug there were no counts of more than 20, with the exception of 60+ at Gronant on 3/08 (HC). From the end of Aug numbers were much lower than in the first three months of the year, with no high counts from the Rhuddlan area and Gronant and Cilcain the only sites with significant numbers: a peak of 365 at Gronant on 16/10, with 115 on 13/11 and 280 on 18/12 on the WeBS counts (PMi). Cilcain had 220 on 4/09, 140 on 6/09 and 110 on 18/11 (GEM). The only other large count was of 350+ at Rhyl on 9/12 (AxJ).

GWYLAN GWEUNYDD

(CM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	45	57
Maximum count	300	2500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2155	2070
Number of records	108	351
Recorded in BBS squares	2/34	-
% records from GBW	-	0.85
% of BirdTrack lists	6.1	28.9
Density	6.83	241.94



Monthly maxima recorded:

(CM)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	200	300	40	20	35	1		10	2	2	60	200
Flints	2500	580	600	210	17	3	50	165	220	365	115	350

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF

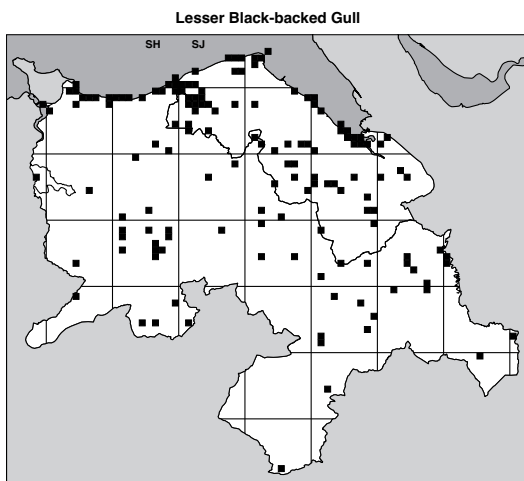
Passage migrant and breeding resident.

Amber List.

Recorded in all months in both counties, with similar numbers of reports to 2015 in Denbs and a further slight increase in Flints. The ten-year average maximum count continues to decrease in Denbs but has marginally increased again in Flints.

(LB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	80	66
Maximum count	250	185
Av max count prev 10 yrs	989	116
Number of records	352	395
Recorded in BBS squares	8/34	9/18
% of BirdTrack lists	23.0	33.8
Density	10.12	20.73

Denbs. Recorded in eight BBS squares, with breeding proved in two coastal sites and inland at Llyn Brenig. There were only five counts of 50-99 birds: 54 at Gresford Flash on 20/01 (TP); 60 at Holt on 1/03 (NF); at least 50 at Llyn Brenig on 18/06 (SD) and 26/07 (FiW) and 90 at Wolvesacre Hall on 28/09 (JLR). There were four counts of 200 or more, three of these at Gresford Flash in Nov, with at least 200 on 13/11 (KS), 24/11 NH) and 27/11 (KS). The only other three-figure count was a Spring one of at least 250 at Kinmel Bay on 9/05 (HC).



Flints. Whereas the trend in Denbs shows worrying declines, reports increased by a further 11% on 2015, following the 45% increase that year. The totals of maximum monthly counts for RSPB Oakenholt Marsh recovered from 445 in 2015 to 567 in 2016 – almost identical to the 2014 total. None at all were recorded there in Mar or Apr. The bracketed total refers to a count at the neighbouring Connah's Quay NR of 21 on 28/07 (GEM). There were eight counts of 50-99 birds; 60 at Penbedw on 26/06 (GEM) was the earliest and the remainder came from Gronant and the Connah's Quay NR area in the second half of the year. Six three-figure counts were recorded: 185 at Rhuddlan on 23/07 (JeBr), four of 100 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on successive WeBS counts from Aug to Nov (PeHa), with 120 at the neighbouring Connah's Quay NR on 27/10 (GEM). Breeding was confirmed at one site.

Maximum monthly counts:

(LB)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Oakenholt	30	40			21	30	(21)	100	100	100	100	46

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

Recorded in each month in both counties. The number of reports remained relatively constant in both counties. The average maximum count fell slightly in Denbs but increased slightly in Flints. The table above shows that the larger flocks in the first quarter were to be found in Denbs but this switched to Flints during the second and third quarters, associated with the large breeding colonies at Gronant. There was then a relatively equal distribution in the final three months of the year.

Denbs. There were two four-figure counts: 1,062 at Bodfari on 20/01 (JPH) – these were with the 824 Black-headed Gulls in the same flock that day – and at least 1,000 at Kinmel Bay on 14/02 (HC). Breeding was confirmed at eleven sites, ten of them coastal. The only inland colony recorded this year was at Llyn Brenig.

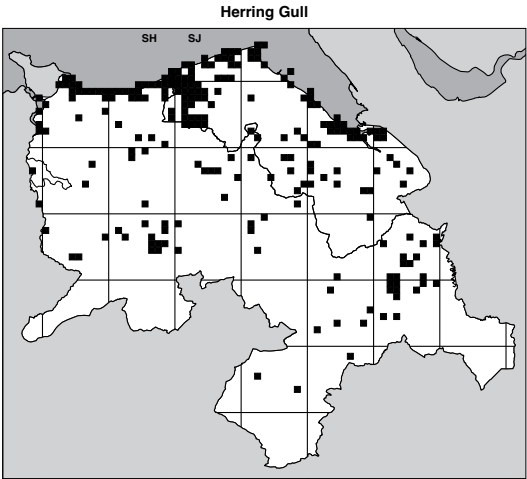
Flints. The three four-figure counts were all associated with the non-breeding flocks at Gronant: at least 1,000 at Gronant on 10/06 (HC) and subsequently 2,500 offshore at Point of Ayr on 21/08 (PMi) and 4,000 there on the WeBS count on 18/09 (GR). The highest count away from this area was of 850 feeding on stubble at Bagillt on 9/11 before flying down to the Dee estuary to roost (GRMP). Breeding was confirmed at seven coastal sites.

Monthly max counts for selected coastal locations:

(HG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Colwyn Bay / Rhos-	200	65	28	91	50	76	-	63	190	27	251	300
Llanddulas	60	100	800	230	50	-	-	200	1	1	1	60
Towyn / Pensarn	500	500	10	30	40	10	60	1	50	1	20	100
Rhuddlan area	150	100	100	106	211	1	-	74	-	-	294	14
Point of Ayr / Talacre	-	400	1	32	1	400	700	2500	4000	300	-	18

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

(HG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	124	101
Maximum count	1062	4000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2153	1867
Number of records	1009	721
Recorded in BBS squares	12/34	8/18
% records from GBW	-	0.75
% of BirdTrack lists	62.3	62.1
Density	66.64	685.91



Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

GWYLAN GOESFELEN

Visitor. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

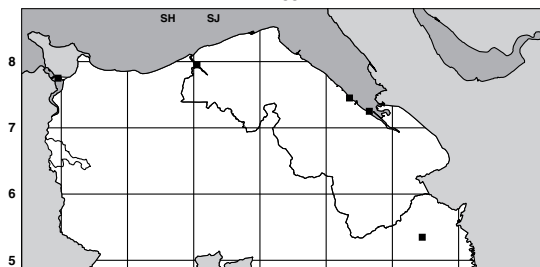
All records in both counties were of single birds.

Denbs. 1 at RSPB Conwy on 5/09 (per JHg); 1 at Gresford Flash on 11/12 and 29/12 (KS).

Flints. Recorded at three locations: 1 at Rhyl on 24/05, 28/07 and 28/08 (AHJ); 1 on RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 24/07, 1/08 and 8/08 (PeHa & PDS) and 1 at Bagillt on 2/10 (EdW).

(YG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	3
Maximum count	1	1
Number of records	3	7
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.2
Density	0.00	0.01

Yellow-legged Gull



Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

Winter visitor.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. It seems likely that all five records may be of the same bird: a single seen during a period of a week at the end of Feb and beginning of Mar on 28/02 and 5/03 at Kinmel Bay (ANB), also at a different Kinmel Bay location on 5/03 (AHJ) and then on 6/03 at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos (ANB).

(IG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	5	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

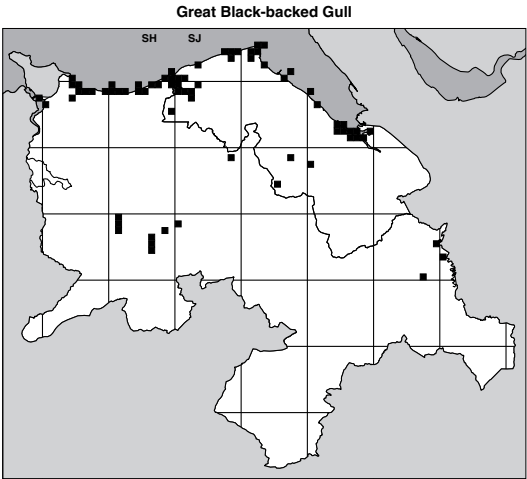
Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a substantial increase in reports – by 37% in Denbs and 45.6% in Flints – but the maximum counts were only slightly higher in Denbs and rather lower in Flints than in 2015. Although it is probable that breeding took place in both counties, it was only proved at one location.

(GB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	36	36
Maximum count	30	85
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	93
Number of records	310	249
% of BirdTrack lists	18.6	16.8
Density	0.55	5.20

Denbs. Apart from gatherings of at least 30 at Llanddulas on 1/01 (RoHI & SAH) and MHu) and 27 at Kinmel Bay on 4/09 (WRM), there were only six other counts in double figures – five from Llanddulas beach, with the majority of records being of single birds at RSPB Conwy.

There were twenty inland reports, largely from Llyn Brenig, where breeding was probable but not proven and Mynydd Hiraethog. There were also two from the Wrexham area and two from the large mixed flocks of gulls at Bodfari between Jan and Mar.

Flints. When the table above is compared with the 2015 report, it is clear that numbers at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh were much lower than in 2015, especially in the second half of the year, although reasonable numbers were recorded on the Dee estuary nearby between Flint and White Sands. The Jul figure in brackets refers to 2 recorded on the neighbouring Connah's Quay NR. In the other blank months none were recorded in this area. In contrast to Denbs there were forty-four double figure counts, eighteen of them from the Dee estuary between Flint and Connah's Quay NR. The area between Gronant and Point of Ayr produced a further seventeen double figure counts, with WeBS counts recording 34 on 21/08 (PMi), 32 on 16/10 (GR) and 40 on 13/11 (NFr) at Point of Ayr and four Gronant counts of 30 or more. The highest total for the year was 85 at Gronant on 10/01 (PMi) and there were at least 30 there on 22/06 (HC), at least 40 on 30/09 (JRR) and 65 on 11/11 (PMi). An adult with 3 juveniles begging for food was amongst a count of 21 at Rhyl on 18/08 (WRM).



Maximum monthly counts:

(GB)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flints	85	25	8	9	10	30	20	34	40	32	65	25
RSPB Oakenholt	24	20			5		(2)	12	15	10	6	10

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

COLOMEN Y GRAIG

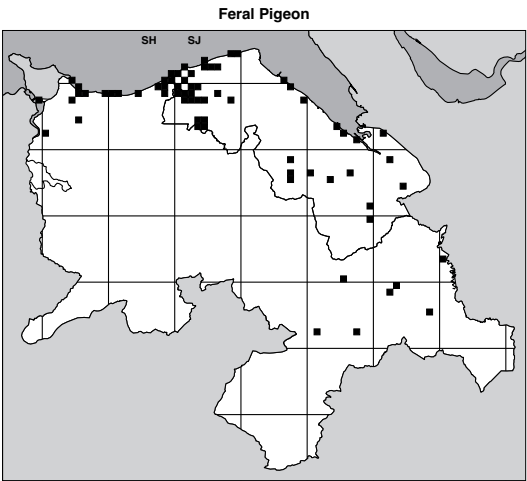
Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties; numbers may be increasing in Flints but appear fairly stable in Denbs. The map illustrates the concentration of records along the coast for both counties, with the highest counts coming on the border area along the River Clwyd estuary.

(FP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	26	42
Maximum count	90	127
Av max count prev 10 yrs	111	41
Number of records	376	324
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	2/18
% records from GBW	8.24	16.67
% of BirdTrack lists	24.1	28.3
Density	1.18	9.06

Denbs. The highest count of 90+ was from Kinmel Bay on 17/10 (WRM). The only proof of breeding came from the same location with an occupied nest on 9/05 having hatched young on 17/07 (WRM).

Flints. The highest count of 127 was made near the River Clwyd at Rhyl on 22/05 (JPH). There were no records of probable or proven breeding submitted this year.



Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Breeding resident.

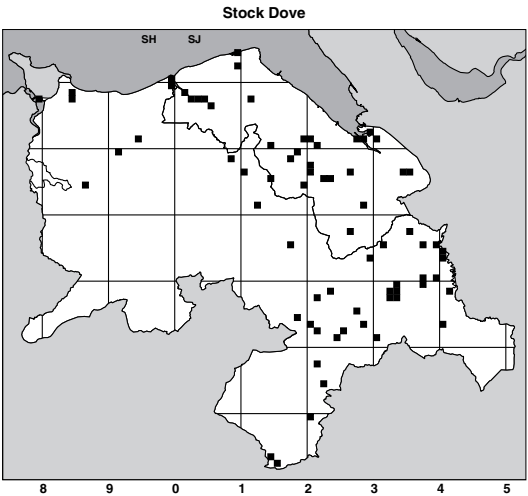
Recorded in each month in both counties. The map illustrates the scarcity of this species in upland areas. The density overall is considerably less than Woodpigeon.

Denbs. The highest counts from ninety-four records were 20+ at Cloy Hall near Bangor-is-y-Coed on 29/05 (NHu) and 16 near Acrefair on 26/04 (JLR). Two were present in a Wrexham garden for the whole of December (NHu). There were no records of confirmed breeding but probable breeding was recorded at Eglwyseg (NJS), Colwyn Bay (HC) and Llansilin (JO).

Flints. The Deeside area held the highest counts with the maximum of 38 coming from Connah's Quay NR on 31/01 (PSH). Away from the Dee estuary, the highest counts were 11 at Rhuddlan on 29/11 (SH) and 10 near Treuddyn on 1/01 (ACm). Breeding was proven by the ringing of nestlings at Shotton Paper Mill (IMS) and probable breeding was recorded at Pontblyddyn (GNR) and Gronant

COLOMEN WYLLT

(SD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	46	27
Maximum count	20	38
Av max count prev 10 yrs	79	38
Number of records	94	88
Recorded in BBS squares	6/34	3/18
% records from GBW	14.89	-
% of BirdTrack lists	3.9	9.3
Density	0.47	1.74



(HC).

Breeding (IMS):

(SD)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Shotton Paper Mill	5	10	4	4	0.80

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

YSGUTHAN

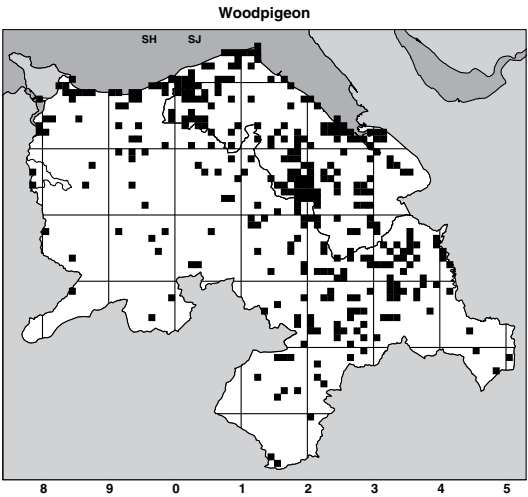
Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. The highest counts all came during the winter months, with increasing numbers likely reflecting arrivals from continental Europe.

Denbs. The highest count was an extraordinary estimate of 2,500 in a single field near Wrexham on 9/02, with 200 present in the same field on 24/01 (JAJ). There were seven further records of 100 or more birds during the winter months. Breeding was confirmed by recently-fledged young at Nant-y-Glyn on 5/12 (HC) and by ringing of 2 nestlings at Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog on 11/06 (pBH).

Flints. The highest count was of a flock of over 200 flying west along the coast at Gronant on 19/11 (WRM) but there were 16 further records of over 50 birds, mostly in winter and mostly in the north of the county. Breeding was confirmed by occupied nests in Wepre Park on 24/04 (RPJ) and Rhyl brickworks on 16/06 (AH), by a nest with 2 young at Rhyl brickworks on 11/10 (AH), and by recently-fledged young at Connah's Quay NR on 3/07 (GEM) and at Pantymwyn on 24/06 (GEM).

(WP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	198	144
Maximum count	2500	2000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	783	316
Number of records	1512	1432
Recorded in BBS squares	30/34	18/18
% records from GBW	45.04	42.46
% of BirdTrack lists	51.7	76.3
Density	250.51	488.96



Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

TURTUR DORCHOG

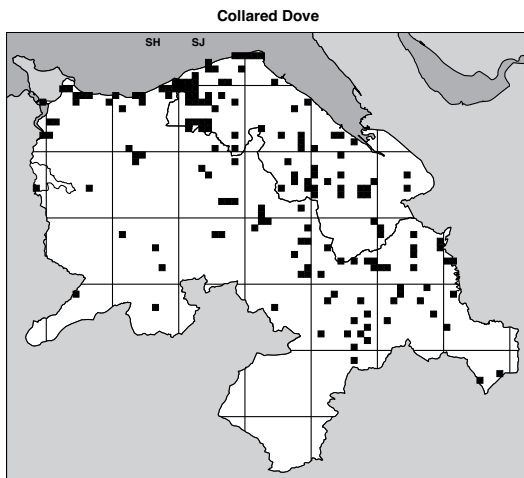
Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties, the distribution map shows a concentration in urban areas. The number of records remained very similar to the last couple of years, again with a high percentage from GBW. The trend in bird numbers (density) is towards an increase rather than a decrease.

(CD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	101	69
Maximum count	50	75
Av max count prev 10 yrs	26	61
Number of records	991	759
Recorded in BBS squares	10/34	8/18
% records from GBW	65.89	50.20
% of BirdTrack lists	20.5	34.0
Density	2.56	8.79

Denbs. The highest count was of 50 perched on wires at Rhuthun sewage works on 7/10 (GoP). The highest GBW count was at Ysbyty Ifan with 9 on 11/12 (SGb). Breeding was confirmed by recently-fledged young at Towyn on 1/05 (SM)

Flints. The highest count was of at least 75 roosting on Ynys Farm rooftops near Rhyl on 9/12 (AHJ). There were several other records of up to 38 roosting in trees at Ynys Farm in the latter half of the year (all WRM). The highest GBW count of 30 came from St. Asaph on 10/01 (DDo). Breeding was confirmed by an occupied nest at Rhyl brickworks on 22/03 (AHJ).



Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

TURTUR

Summer visitor. Red List. S7.

Denbs. A single at RSPB Conwy on 20/05 was the only record this year.

(TD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	3	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

COG

Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

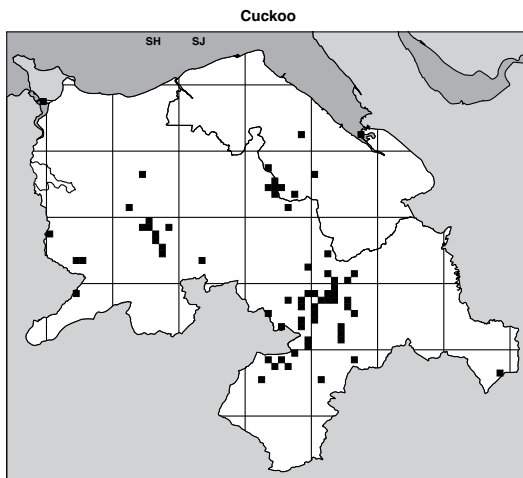
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Most records were, as usual, from the upland areas of Mynydd Hiraethog, Ruabon Mountain / Berwyns and the Clwydian range. The decline in numbers over the past 10-20 years has been especially marked in lowland areas.

(CK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	62	6
Maximum count	5	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	2
Number of records	91	9
Recorded in BBS squares	8/34	-
% records from GBW	1.10	-
% of BirdTrack lists	2.4	0.5
Density	0.16	0.02

Denbs. The first record came from RSPB Conwy on 11/04 (pJHg) and the last report came from Rhydtalog on 6/08 (SD). The highest number recorded was 5+ on a circuit of World's End, Mountain Lodge, Frondeg and Pool Park on 27/05 (TK). On 24/05 a male and hepatic female were seen together on a tree at Llyn Bran, with another male singing nearby (leB).

Flints. The first record came from Cilcain with a single on 15/04 (AOH) and the last report was of 2 at Penycloddiau on 30/05 (EdW). Six of the nine records were from the Clwydian range.



Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Breeding resident.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

This was not a good breeding season with few nests found and they were not very productive in terms of young fledged per nest.

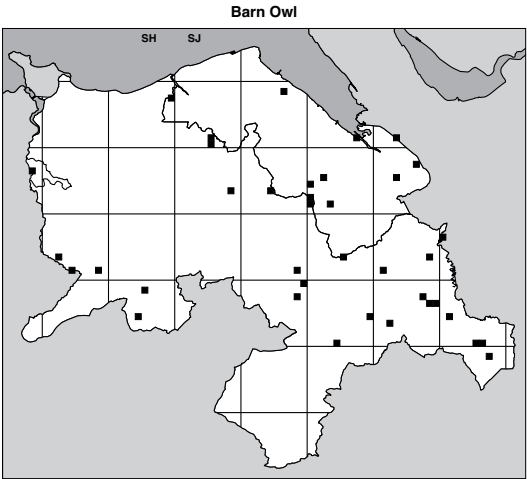
TYLLUAN WEN

(BO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	29	9
Maximum count	4	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	3
Number of records	31	10
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.1
Density	0.06	0.05

Denbs. Four nestlings were ringed near Bodelwyddan on 22/07 and an adult was ringed at Bwlchgwyn on 20/07 (IMS). The highest adult count was of a likely nesting pair near Holt on 10/04 (NHu). There were two records of birds seen in full daylight, one at Capel Siloam on 10/01 and another at Llandegla on 15/03 (JLR). The Wrexham Barn Owl Project found a total of 10 breeding pairs in Wrexham CB, similar to the situation in 2015 (pJLR). However, production of young was poor, with at least two clutches failing completely and partial or

complete brood losses in several other cases. No breeding was found at two sites near Llangollen, where young were reared last year (pJLR).

Flints. Two nestlings were ringed in the Hawarden / Sandycroft area on 6/06 and another three were ringed near Maes Pennant on 20/07 (IMS). One was seen hunting W of Mold during the breeding season on both 11/05 (TP) and 6/06 (JoHu), with another record from the same area in winter on 2/02. Other winter records were from a fence post S of Mold near Nercwys on 12/12 (AE) and from Connah's Quay NR at 20.00 hrs on 24/10 (pGEM).



Barn Owl. Photo: John Hawkins

Breeding (JLR, IMS):

(BO)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Denbs	7	28	13	9	1.29
Flints	3	8	8	4	1.33

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Breeding resident.

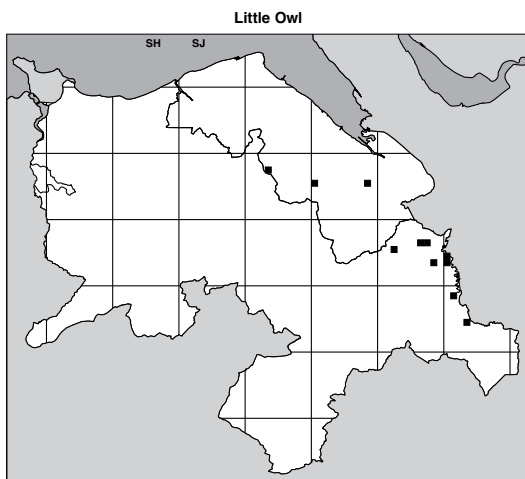
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All sixteen records this year were from the outskirts of Wrexham. There were nine records from a site near Holt during Feb-May and Aug-Sep, including a pair on 20/03 and 4 on 30/3 (all NF). In the same general area N of Wrexham, there were records from Marford on 1/05 (KJS), Rossett on 2/05 (NHu), Llay on 24/06 (EB, JLR), Commonwood on 15/08 and 7/12 (both JtH). A used nest was found at Tallarn Green on the Cheshire border on 30/06 (EB, MSJ, JLR) and a single was seen at nearby Sutton Green on 24/10 (NHu).

Flints. Three birds on a farmhouse roof at Rhydymwyn on 15/08 (MB), may have been a family party. One was seen at Penycloddiau on 18/09 (MGW) and another was caught in car headlights at Buckley on 1/12 (GNR).

TYLLUAN FACH

(LO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	8	3
Maximum count	4	3
Number of records	16	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-
Density	0.02	0.02



Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Breeding resident.

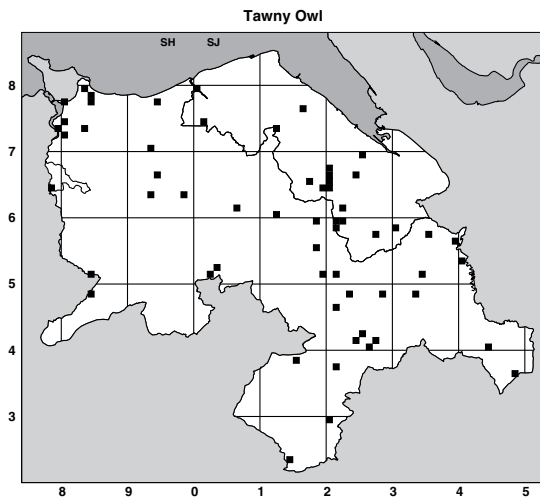
Recorded in each month in both counties. Again, the majority (57%) of records came from BTO GBW counts.

Denbs. The highest count was 3 at both Froncysyllte on 14/03 (DaHu) and Trefriw on 25/09 (EMN). One was found dead at RSPB Conwy on 27/05. A nestling was ringed at Prion on 20/05 (MRG). Both juvenile and adult calls were heard at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 29/07 (MiB) and an occupied nest was reported at Rhos-y-Brithdir on 30/04 (PWh). At Clocaenog Forest on 20/04, a bird was seen flying from a nest-box but the box was empty (IMS).

Flints. The highest count was 3 at Rhydymwyn on 29/10 (IMS). One was found dead by the roadside at Gorsedd on 7/09. No records of confirmed breeding were submitted.

TYLLUAN FRECH

(TO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	43	17
Maximum count	3	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	3
Number of records	139	65
% records from GBW	57.55	55.38
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8	1.1
Density	0.07	0.09



Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Breeding resident. Amber List. RBBP.

Flints. The only record submitted was from the Dee estuary at Flint on 17/01 (GMW).

TYLLUAN GORNIOG

(LE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		0.5
Density		0.00



Short-eared Owllet.
Photo: Tony Pope

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. Red List. RBBP.

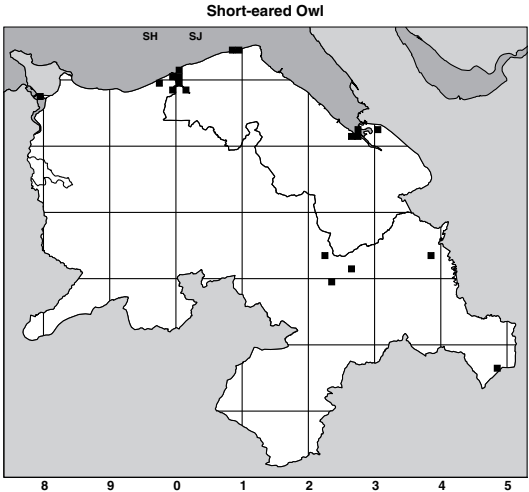
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. There were only three records from the Towyn / Kinnel Bay area W of the River Clwyd; singles on 14/02 (HC) and 4/04 and 2 together on 24/04 (WRM). Two records on the same day (6/03) at Ruabon Mountain and Minera Quarry may have been the same bird (both DuH), as may a bird at nearby Moel Garegog on 12/03. The remaining three records were at Commonwood near Holt on 11/03 (JHu), RSPB Conwy on 14/04 (pJHg) and Fenn's Moss on 23/04 (JoAr). There were no summer or later records this year.

Flints. There were eleven records of up to 4 birds E of the River Clwyd between Rhyl and Rhuddlan during 1/02 to 20/04 and a single at Connah's Quay NR on 10/01. There were summer records of singles at Gronant on 4/05, 5/05 and 29/05, and from the inner Dee estuary close to Connah's Quay NR on 21/05 and 20/06. The last records were from Shotwick Rifle Range on 11/11 and 12/12 (both MGW).

TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

(SE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	9	10
Maximum count	2	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	3
Number of records	10	21
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	1.9
Density	0.01	0.07



Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

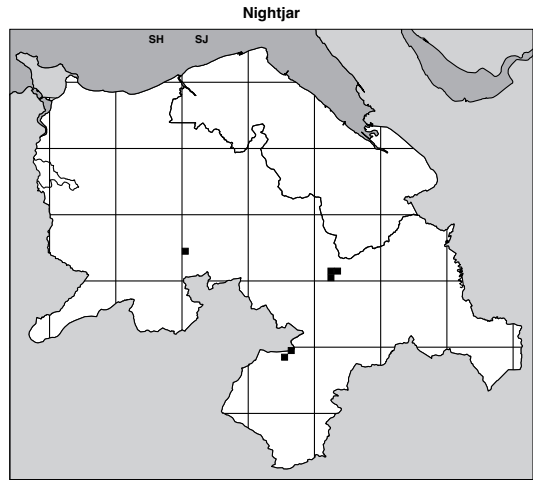
Breeding summer visitor. Amber List. S7.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. There were 10 males and a female at Vivod in the Berwyns on 9/06 and a total of 8 (4 + 4) in two different parts of the Llandegla Forest on 14/07 (NHu). A nest with eggs and 2 adults were found in Clocaenog Forest on 15/07 (HC). The only other report submitted was from Ceiriog Forest on 12/07 (NHu), although birds were present at Moel Famau.

TROELLWR MAWR

(NJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	6	
Maximum count	11	
Number of records	8	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.03	



Swift *Apus apus*

Summer visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

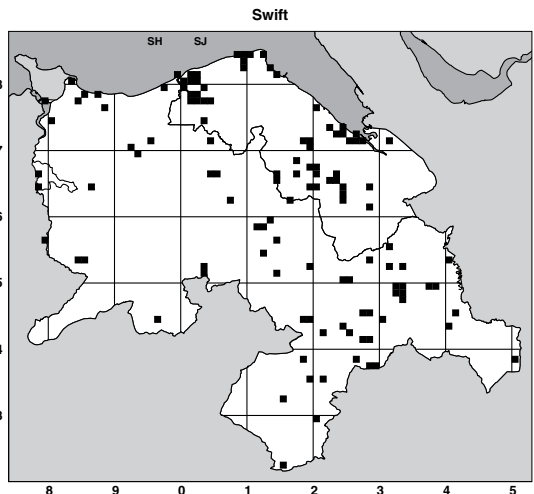
A fairly common sight around towns and tall buildings containing suitable nesting sites but only two nesting records.

Denbs. The first record was on 17/04 and the highest count was 200 on 30/04, both at RSPB Conwy (pJHg). The last record was on 23/08 near Ruabon (JAJ). Breeding was confirmed near Fenn's Bank (AB) and at Penycae (JAJ).

Flint. The first record was at Rhyl brickworks on 29/04 (AHJ) and the last at Rhuddlan on 15/08 (SH). The highest count of 150 was at Bagillt on 9/07 (GRMP). Near Hendre on 31/07, 33 were migrating S through the Chwiler Valley (GEM).

GWENNOL DDU

(SI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	71	50
Maximum count	200	150
Av max count prev 10 yrs	130	116
Number of records	198	144
Recorded in BBS squares	9/34	2/18
% records from GBW	10.10	4.17
% of BirdTrack lists	8.5	10.5
Density	7.19	12.73



Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Vagrant.

COPOG

Denbs. One was present at RSPB Conwy on 25/10 and 26/10 and another was seen at Afonwen on 15/04.

(HP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	1	1
Number of records	11	1
% of BirdTrack lists	-	-
Density	0.00	0.00

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Breeding resident. Amber List.

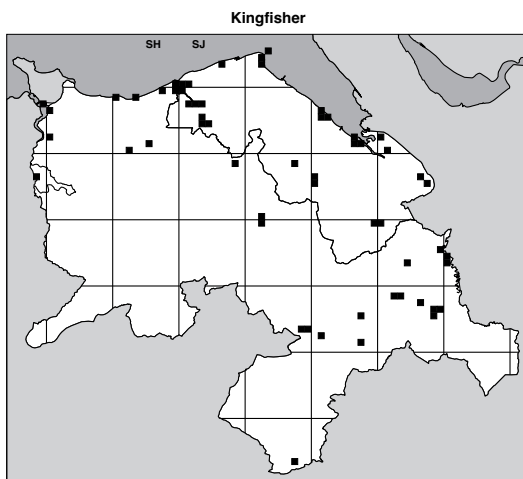
GLAS Y DORLAN

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. There were no records of confirmed breeding but a bird was seen carrying food at RSPB Conwy on 8/08 and 3 were seen together there on 14/09 (JHg). There were other breeding season records from Erddig, Llanfair Talhaiarn, Trevalyn Meadows, Rhewl and Bodnant. One was found dead at North Wales Business Park, Abergele (perWRM).

(KF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	30	28
Maximum count	3	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	2
Number of records	102	138
Recorded in BBS squares	2/34	-
% of BirdTrack lists	3.7	4.3
Density	0.05	0.10

Flints. There were over 60 post-breeding records at Connah's Quay NR between 16/07 and the end of the year. Although breeding was not confirmed, there were breeding season records from the River Clwyd (Rhyl-Rhuddlan), Rhydymwyn (where 2 were ringed) and Fagl Lane GP.



Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Vagrant. RBBP.

PENGAM

Flints. One was seen feeding on a garden rockery in Mold on 2/05.

(WY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.00

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Breeding resident. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

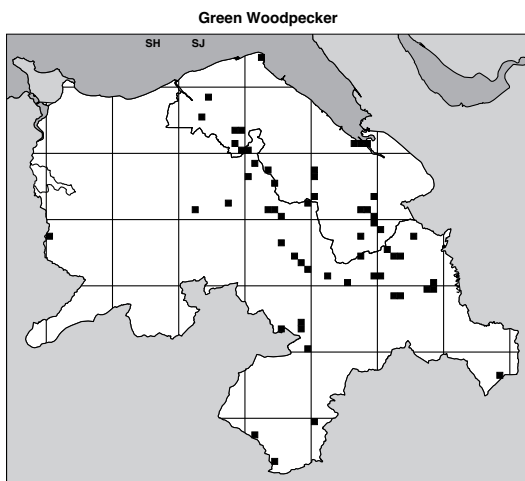
Records suggest that numbers may be increasing again in both counties after a historical decline.

Denbs. The highest count was 4 on a BBS walk near Llanrhaeadr on 30/06 (HLR). A recently-fledged bird at Alyn Waters CP near Wrexham on 20/06 (ABr), was the only confirmation of breeding; a pair had been seen there on 4/04 (EB). There were four records each from Fenn's Moss and Erddig.

Flints. The highest count was 3 at Fagl Lane GP on 31/08 (GNR). There were thirteen records from Rhydymwyn during May-Nov. A juvenile was seen at Connah's Quay NR on eight different days between 7/08 and 3/09.

CNOCELL WERDD

(G)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	37	21
Maximum count	4	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	2
Number of records	52	42
Recorded in BBS squares	7/34	1/18
% records from GBW	1.92	2.38
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	2.5
Density	0.07	0.11



Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Breeding resident.

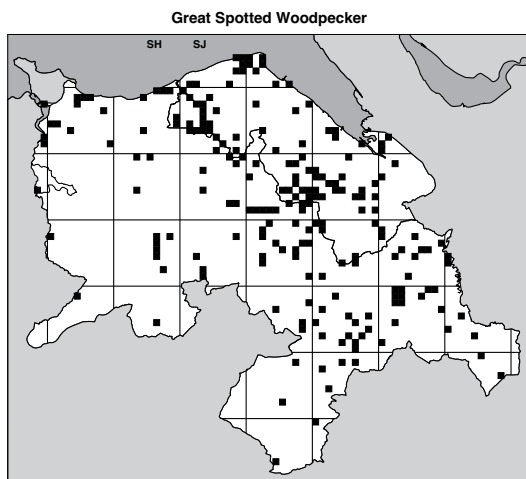
CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF

Recorded in each month in both counties with again a high GBW percentage. There is no evidence of any recent decline in numbers.

Denbs. The highest count was 4 (seven observers at five locations) during Jan-Jun. Occupied nests were seen at Colwyn Bay on 28/05 (HC), at Pwllglas on 30/05 (HC), at Trevalyn on 31/05 (NHu), at Kinnel Bay on 1/06 (WRM) and at Ceiriog Forest on 2/06 (NHu).

Flints. The highest count was 9 during a BBS walk at Afonwen on 18/06 (GRMP). Occupied nests were seen at Rhydymwyn on 23/05 and 29/05, and at Northop on 2/06.

(GS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	129	82
Maximum count	4	9
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	5
Number of records	733	477
Recorded in BBS squares	15/34	9/18
% records from GBW	64.53	52.62
% of BirdTrack lists	12.0	19.5
Density	0.26	1.25



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF

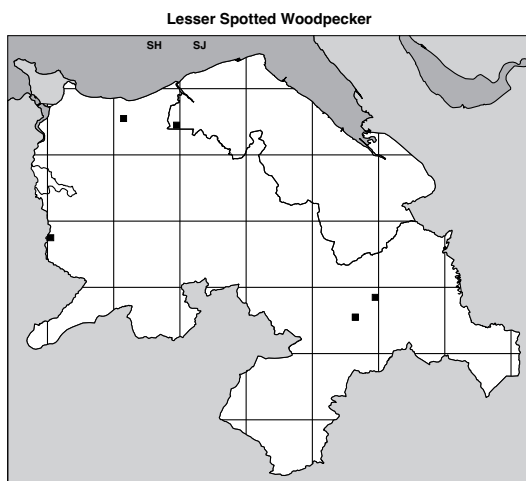
Breeding resident. Red List. RBBP. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Both records in 2015 were from Flints, whereas this year, all 6 records were from Denbs.

(LS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	5	
Maximum count	2	
Number of records	6	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.01	

Denbs. Three of the records were singles from the Rhosllanerchrugog / Penycae area on 13/01, 16/01 and 11/04 (all JAJ). There were further singles in the Dulas valley on 20/04 (GBH) and near Betwys-y-Coed on the same day (HC) and there was a possible pair at Bodelwyddan Castle on 30/03.



Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

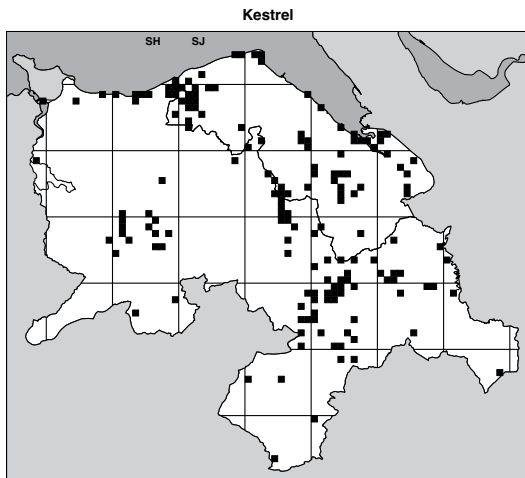
CUDYLL COCH

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Nearly 88% of the records were of presence or singles with seventeen records of 2, three of 3. The largest count was a brood of 4 nestlings ringed near Wrexham on 17/06 (IMS).

Flints. Nearly 92% of records were of presence or singles. There were nine records of 2, one of 3 and the largest counts were 4 near Cilcain on 23/08 (GEM) and 5 nestlings ringed at Shotton Paper Mill on 1/06 (IMS).

(K)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	103	59
Maximum count	4	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	5
Number of records	179	149
Recorded in BBS squares	2/34	2/18
% records from GBW	0.56	0.67
% of BirdTrack lists	5.8	8.8
Density	0.21	0.50



Breeding (IMS):

(K)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	2	9	9	9	4.50

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. RBBP.

CUDYLL BACH

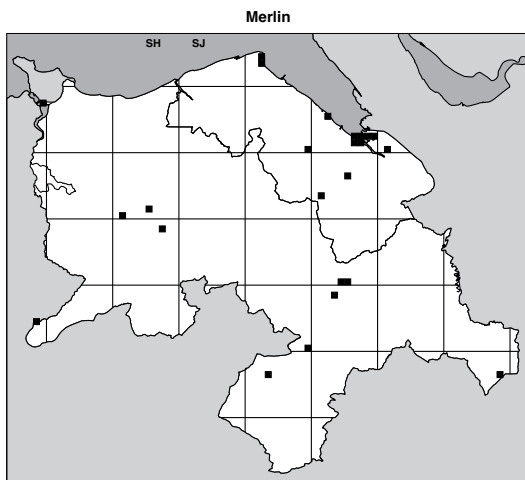
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All records were of presence or singles. The first was as RSPB Conwy on 7/02 and the last in Jun was at Blaen Bache, near Llangollen on 24/06 during a BBS visit. The only other record was near Llyn Aled Isaf, Mynydd Hiraethog on 2/08.

(ML)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	11	13
Maximum count	1	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	2
Number of records	12	36
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	1.7
Density	0.01	0.04

Flints. All but two records were of presence or singles. The last record in the early months was a single at Connah's Quay NR on 10/04. The next record was a single over White Sands on

14/08. The records of 2 were late in the year: over White Sands on 13/11 (KS) and at Connah's Quay NR on 23/11 (StaS) when a female and juvenile were perched on a fence, side by side, the female passing prey to the juvenile.



Merlin with Skylark. Photo: Tony Pope



Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Passage migrant and summer breeder. RBBP.

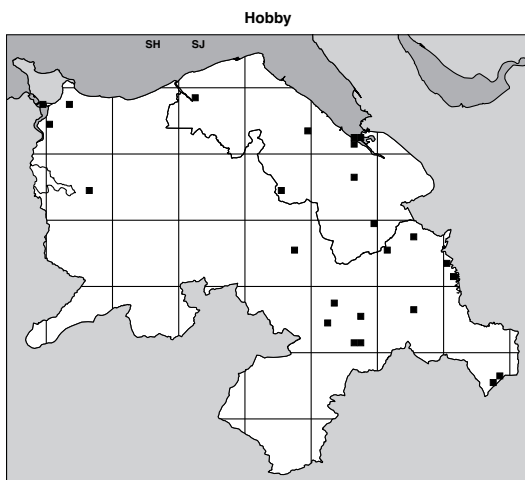
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first record was a single near Eglwyseg, Llangollen on 28/04. All but three of the other records were of presence or singles. There were 2 seen at Fenn's Moss on 4/06 (NHu), 2+ including a juvenile SE of Wrexham on 15/09 (JLR) and 4 near Ridleywood on 2/09, which included juveniles (EB, MSJ, JLR). Thus, there were two records of confirmed breeding. The last record was a single near Penycae on 18/09.

Flints. The first record was a single at Dolphin, near Holywell, on 11/05. All but three records were of presence or singles. There was a record of 2 near Mold on 8/08, when they were seen mobbing a Buzzard (GMR); 2 were seen at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 20/08 flying together, one of which was eating a bird in flight; and 2 were seen in that same area near Mold on 24/08 (GRMP, IMS). The last record was a single soaring near Mold on 14/09.

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

(HY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	17	8
Maximum count	4	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	2
Number of records	28	17
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	-
% records from GBW	7.14	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.6
Density	0.03	0.03



Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Breeding resident. RBBP.

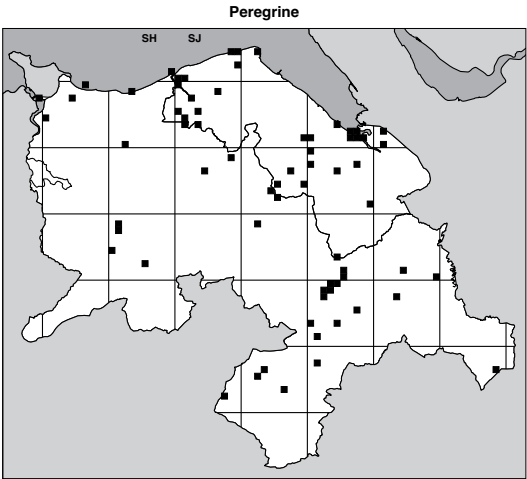
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Nearly 90% of the records were of presence or singles, with seven records of 2. The highest count was 3 at Penycae on 12/05 (JAJ), being mobbed by a Buzzard. One was seen at Pen Bwlch y Garnedd, Mynydd Hiraethog on 23/06 (GEM) persistently attacking one of a group of 16 crows. Another was a new garden tick at Nant-y-Glyn on 15/12 (HC), from where it gained height and stooped down towards Colwyn Bay – presumably to hunt pigeons. There was one record of confirmed breeding.

HEBOG TRAMOR

(PE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	40	29
Maximum count	3	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	3
Number of records	63	85
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	-
% records from GBW	1.59	-
% of BirdTrack lists	2.6	4.0
Density	0.06	0.15

Flints. Again, nearly 90% of records were of presence or singles, with nine records of 2. On 5/08 at least 3 were seen together near Penyffordd (APc), at least one of which was a juvenile. The birds perched on the cement works suggesting successful breeding at that site. One was seen near Gronant on 13/12 attacking a high tide roost of Oystercatcher and Dunlin but was not seen to catch anything (WRM).



Breeding (JLR):

(PE)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Denbs	6	17	11	9	1.50

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

PARACIT TORCHOG

Visitor.

Not recorded in 2015 but back again this year in the far N of Flints only.

Flints. There were 2 at Gronant on 5/05 and 5 at Mostyn Hall on 14/05 (per HC). There were 2 W of Rhuddlan on 17/09 (AOH) and 6 at Gwaenysgor on 6/10.

(RI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		4
Maximum count		6
Number of records	0	4
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.04



Ring-necked Parakeet by Dermot Smith

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

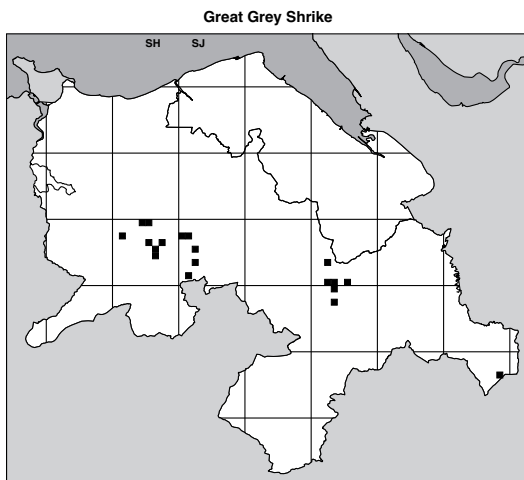
Winter visitor.

CIGYDD MAWR

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All were singles apart from two which were at Fenn's Moss on 14/11. There were nineteen records from the Ruabon Mountain / Llandegla / Moel Garegog area between 3/03 and 4/04. One was present at Fenn's Moss on 25/03 (JoAr) and again on seven occasions between 28/10 and 4/12. The twenty-nine records from the Clocaenog / Mynydd Hiraethog area could represent at least 2-3 individuals. There were nine records from Llyn Brenig between 3/01 and 10/04 (and another on 15/11), thirteen records from Clocaenog Forest (5/03-17/04 and 23/10-27/11) and six records from Mynydd Hiraethog (29/02-26/04).

(SR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	19	
Maximum count	2	
Number of records	58	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	
Density	0.02	



Chough *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax*

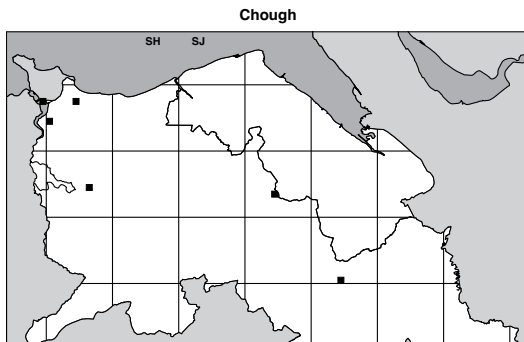
Breeding resident. Amber List. RBBP. S7.

BRAN GOESGOCH

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. There were more records than at any time since 2004. RSPB Conwy was again the best place to see this species, where 2 or more were seen on thirty three different dates, mainly between Jan and Feb and Oct to Dec, with 4-10 seen in these autumn and winter months. The maximum of 10 was seen on 6/12 (pJHg). During the breeding season, sightings of 2, probably pairs, came from three inland sites including Llangynhafal, Nant-y-Glyn and Pandy Tudur.

(CF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	6	
Maximum count	10	
Number of records	58	0
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	
Density	0.03	



Magpie *Pica pica*

Breeding resident.

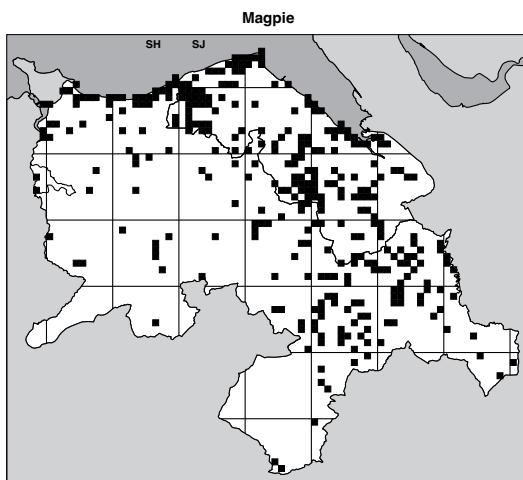
PIODEN

Recorded in each month in both counties. This is a widespread species in all lowland habitats.

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1-9 but there were fifteen larger counts, with the most notable being 19 near Ruabon on 13/05 (LHu).

(MG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	187	139
Maximum count	19	65
Av max count prev 10 yrs	29	24
Number of records	1464	1217
Recorded in BBS squares	26/34	18/18
% records from GBW	41.87	14.91
% of BirdTrack lists	54.5	66.3
Density	1.80	15.34

Flints. Most records were of 1-9 with thirty one records of 10 or more. Many of these larger counts were accumulative counts from BirdTrack lists or BBS surveys, with the largest counts of 18 (14/01) and 19 (26/02) coming from Bagillt (GRMP). Notable garden records came from Buckley where DaSh saw 11 on 21/02, 24/04 and 12 on 6/03. The large winter roost located behind Rhyl college again produced the highest numbers recorded. Between 36 and 65 were seen flying into roost on dates between 22/01 and 6/02. A maximum of 65 was seen on 8/01 (AJH). Records of any other winter roosts would be welcome.



Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Breeding resident.

SGRECH Y COED

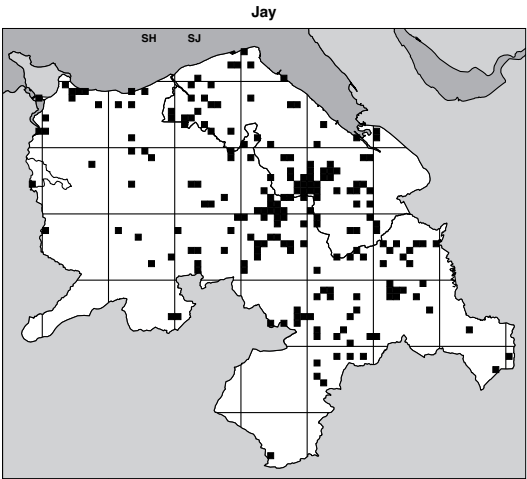
Recorded in each month in both counties with the distribution and numbers of records very similar to 2015.

Denbs. The vast majority of records were counts of 1-2, with surprisingly few records of more than 2. The maximum number recorded was only 6 at Ffrith on 20/11 (MGW). Also the number of gardens recording this species was down to nine this year. One interesting observation was of a bird appearing to predate on foraging Blue Tits at Pensarn on 3/11 (WRM). Despite this being a relatively common bird, there was only one record of confirmed breeding and no family parties were noted.

(J)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	140	64
Maximum count	6	11
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	7
Number of records	353	215
Recorded in BBS squares	11/34	4/18
% records from GBW	29.75	33.49
% of BirdTrack lists	9.6	12.3
Density	0.43	1.20

Flints. Most records were of 1-2 with only sixteen records of 3-11. The maximum seen was of

11 at Fagl Lane, Hope on 9/05 (GNR). One notable record of confirmed breeding was at Greenfield Valley, Holywell on 6/07, when WRM observed a juvenile being fed a small bird, possibly a Goldcrest (as a family party was close by).



Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*
Breeding resident

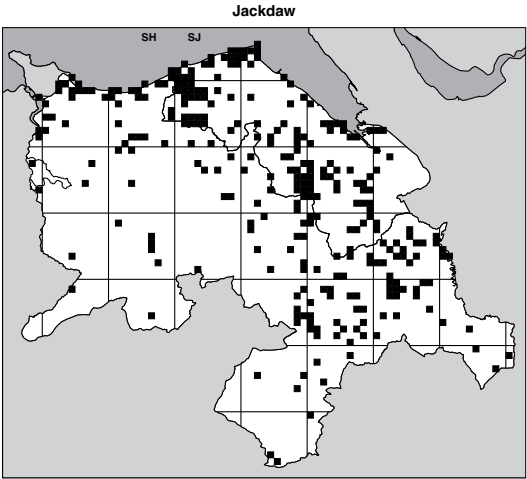
JAC-Y-DO

Recorded in each month in both counties. The distribution of records was very similar to that of 2015.

Denbs. The majority of records were of counts less than 20. There were thirty-seven records of 20-100 but sightings of larger flocks were very unusual. Only three were recorded. The maximum count was 200+ at Marchweil, Wrexham on 31/12, where a roost was observed in the woods by the sewage farm (SD).

Flints. This was a good year for records as there were more records than for any of the past twelve years. Most records were of 1-20 but there were one hundred and fifty records of flock sizes between 20 and 100. There were thirty-two records of flocks larger than 100+ but the largest flocks were observed in the Cilcain area with 250 seen on 10/07, 31/07 and 300 on 13/03 (GEM). The Rhuddlan flock reached 260 on 14/03 (SH) but the largest number was 320 again at Cilcain on 18/11 (GEM).

(JD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	172	120
Maximum count	200	320
Av max count prev 10 yrs	479	278
Number of records	1171	1079
Recorded in BBS squares	23/34	15/18
% records from GBW	36.21	36.52
% of BirdTrack lists	46.3	62.1
Density	17.41	65.20



Breeding (MRG):

(JD)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	7	21	21	19	2.71

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

YDFRAN

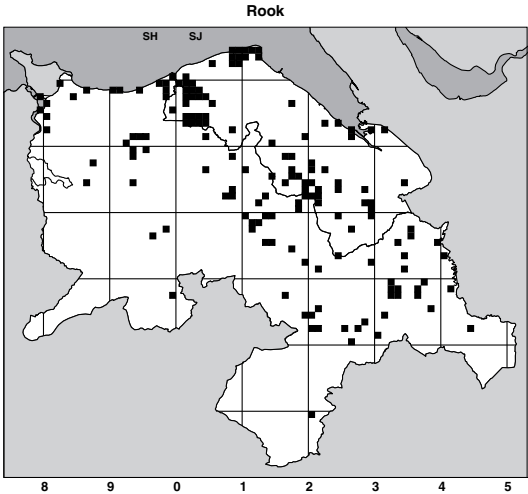
Colonial breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a significant increase in records this year in both counties. Further rookery locations were identified this year, helping to map the locations of rookeries across North-East Wales. We would encourage more records like these. Observers are encouraged to make annual counts of their local rookeries, particularly during the months of Mar and early Apr, when the rookeries are highly visible and the number of nests can be easily counted.

Denbs. Most records were in single figures with twenty-three records of 11-49 and seven records of 50-100: a very similar pattern to 2015. There were seven larger counts: 120+ at Valle Crucis, Llangollen on 29/08 (HN), 120+ at Nant-y-Glyn on 23/09 and 200+ on 24/10 (HC). Flocks of 134 and 194 were seen in fields at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 10/09 and 11/09 (MiB). Bont-y-Gwyddel had 200+ on 7/02 (SM) and the largest count was of 250+ at Llanbedr Dyffryn Ciwyd on 11/12 (GoP).

Flints. Most records were in single figures, with thirty-five records of 11-49. There were six counts of 50 or more. The maximum count was of 140+, seen at two separate rookeries to the NE of Rhuddlan on 6/04 (WRM).

(RO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	92	64
Maximum count	250	140
Av max count prev 10 yrs	379	146
Number of records	352	307
Recorded in BBS squares	11/34	7/18
% records from GBW	34.38	35.83
% of BirdTrack lists	12.2	20.3
Density	11.64	15.21



Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Breeding resident.

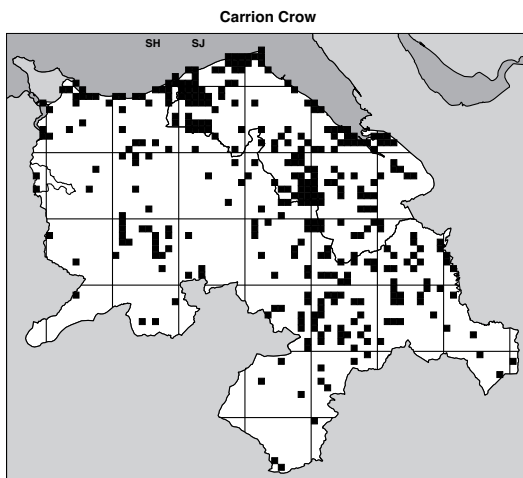
BRAN DYDDYN

Recorded in each month in both counties. This is an exceedingly common bird found in the majority of BirdTrack lists and almost all BBS surveys.

Denbs. The majority of records were in single figures with fifty records of 10-30. Three records exceeded 30. These were 40 at Holt on 5/05 (NF), 45+ at RSPB Conwy on 11/02 (JOHn). The maximum recorded was 47 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 1/11 (JPH). It would seem that Jays are not the only corvid to feed on acorns, as several observers recorded feeding on acorns directly from the tree.

Flints. All records were either in single figures (the majority) with fifty-nine records of 10-30 and twenty-six records of 31-100. There were six records in excess of 100, all of these at either Talacre, Gronant or Penbedw, Nannerch. The maximum count was of 160 recorded at Gronant on 23/07 (HC).

(C)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	211	142
Maximum count	47	160
Av max count prev 10 yrs	143	86
Number of records	1125	962
Recorded in BBS squares	30/34	18/18
% records from GBW	16.80	14.03
% of BirdTrack lists	62.6	76.8
Density	5.02	38.57



Carrion Crow. Photo: Ian M Spence



Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Vagrant. Amber List.

BRAN LWYD

Denbs. A single bird was seen on three occasions at RSPB Conwy on 1/01, 12/06 and 16/07 (pJHg).

(HC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	4	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.00	

Raven *Corvus corax*

Breeding resident.

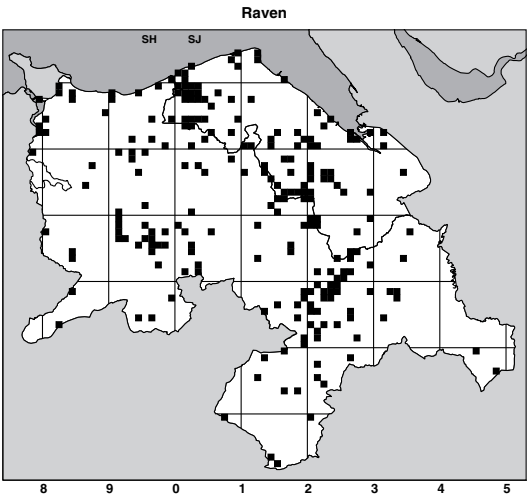
CIGFRAN

Recorded in each month in both counties. The number of records increased again this year, showing an ever increasing geographic spread.

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1-4, with fourteen records of 5-9 and ten records of 10+. One record came from a garden at Talygarth in the week beginning 8/05 (DCg). The largest numbers came from the uplands: 30+ seen at Llyn Aled, Mynydd Hiraethog on 16/02 (SM), 40 at Coed Tai-isaf, Mynydd Hiraethog on 26/09 (WyJ). The maximum of 55+ was noted on Ruabon Mountain on 13/08 (SD). Ravens have little fear of birds of prey. One was observed mobbing a Sparrowhawk and a Buzzard at Towyn on 13/03 (SM) and another chasing a Red Kite at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 2/06 (AIC).

Flints. Most records were in single figures, with nine of 5-9. Two records exceeding 10 were 11 at Nercwys Mountain on 28/02 (GEM) and the maximum of 12 seen at Rhuddlan on 27/02 (SH). There were a couple of garden records from Rhydymwyn when DMH saw a single on 16/10 and 30/10.

(RN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	151	76
Maximum count	55	12
Av max count prev 10 yrs	43	12
Number of records	327	299
Recorded in BBS squares	14/34	8/18
% records from GBW	0.92	0.67
% of BirdTrack lists	18.6	21.2
Density	4.20	1.55



Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Breeding resident and winter visitor.
Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Whilst this, our smallest bird, may often be overlooked due to its size and its high pitched calls and song, the number of records increased again this year.

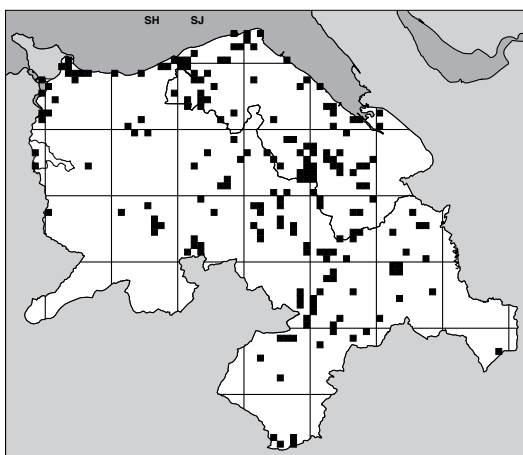
Denbs. Most records were of 1-4. Thirty-one records were of 5 or more, of which eight were in double figures. The maximum count was 50+ recorded on BirdTrack by SEIJ in Llandegla Forest on 11/10. Far fewer birds were ringed in 2016 due to reduced ringing effort. Breeding was noted at several sites.

Flints. Most records were of 1-4. Eight records were of 5 or more. All bar one of these records were from ringing activity. The highest numbers were of 8, 9 and 11 ringed at Rhydymwyn between 15/09 and 2/10 (IMS) and 10 at Bagillt on 26/10 (GRMP).

DRYW EURBEN

(GC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	124	72
Maximum count	50	11
Av max count prev 10 yrs	41	8
Number of records	361	286
Recorded in BBS squares	10/34	6/18
% records from GBW	11.91	11.19
% of BirdTrack lists	15.6	17.5
Density	3.14	1.34

Goldcrest



Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.
RBBP.

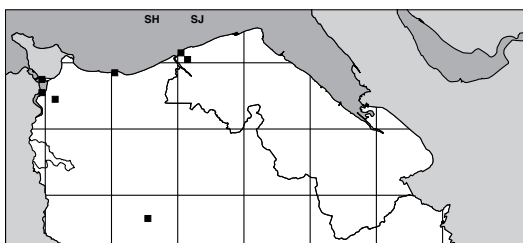
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

This year the records came primarily from one coastal site, RSPB Conwy.

DRYW PENFFLAMMGGOCH

(FC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	5	2
Maximum count	2	1
Number of records	61	2
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	-
Density	0.01	0.00

Firecrest



Denbs. With the exception of one record, all sightings came from autumn, winter and early spring. Several sightings were likely to relate to a single individual. One was seen for much of Jan from 1/01 up to 16/03 at RSPB Conwy. On 6/01 and 22/01, 2 were seen on the reserve. There

was a very interesting record of a single in suitable breeding habitat at Mynydd Hiraethog on 15/05. The first autumn record was on 25/09 at RSPB Conwy. There were sightings of a single on several dates until 26/12. A single was seen at Llandulas on 20, 24 and 26/10 (DHu). A single was ringed at Glan Conwy on 13/11 (MiB).

Flints. A single winter bird was seen on 7/01 in the Rhyl area (AHJ).

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. The recording effort increased slightly from 2015. Winter flocks are still under-recorded and observers are encouraged to submit more winter flock counts. The overall breeding results are very poor, with only two years being worse in terms of young per nest (2008 – 3.66 and 2005 – 2.68) compared with the best year (2010 – 6.34).

Denbs. Most records were of 1-10, with only forty-three sightings of 11-50+. The largest count was of 50+ seen in winter at Abergele golf course on 16/01 (SM). Breeding was recorded at several locations, many of which were gardens. The maximum daily ringing effort was of 47 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 7/06 (pBH).

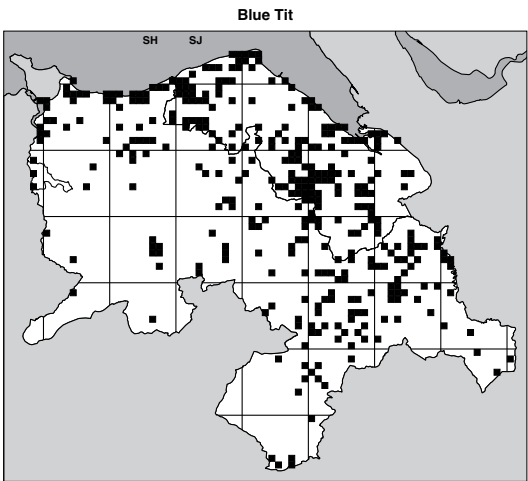
Flints. Most records were of 1-10 with seventy-three records of higher counts of 11-50 The highest count

Breeding (MRG, IMS, JLR):

(BT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	20	131	108	86	4.30
Pandy	20	153	121	80	4.00
Llewesog Hall	28	235	174	148	5.29
Brynhafod	16	116	58	44	2.75
Various	24	197	99	58	2.42
Coed Nantddu	8	73	51	42	5.25
Gellifor	8	63	50	39	4.88
Coed y Felin	15	120	75	60	4.00
Rhydymwyn	24	173	101	61	2.54
TOTALS	163	1261	837	618	3.79
Mean yng/nest for 2004 to 2015 (n = 1589)					4.23

TITW TOMOS LAS

(BT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	208	142
Maximum count	50	50
Av max count prev 10 yrs	50	77
Number of records	2063	1438
Recorded in BBS squares	29/34	18/18
% records from GBW	48.04	42.98
% of BirdTrack lists	59.1	63.4
Density	5.26	12.05



recorded was 50 at Bagillt on 14/01 (GRMP). The most notable ringing records were from IMS who ringed 48 nestlings at Coed y Felin, Hendre on 30/05.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties and breeding was confirmed at several locations. There was a noticeable increase in recording effort in Flintshire this year compared to 2015 but no winter flocks were recorded. The overall breeding results are close to the long-term average. Clearly, breeding Great Tits fared better than Blue Tits in 2016.

Denbs. Most records were of 1-10, with only eleven larger counts, the largest of which related to ringing activities. This record was 38 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 22/05 (pBH).

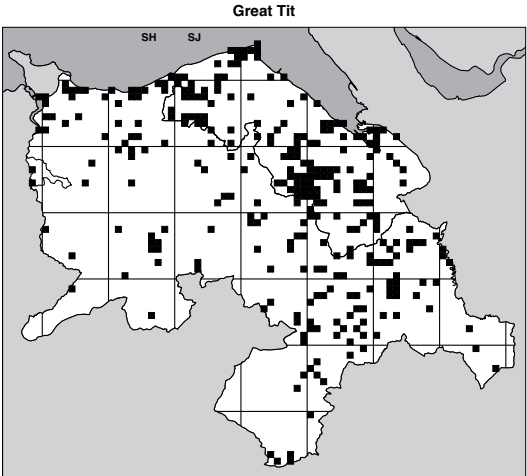
Flints. The majority of records were of 1-10, with only twelve records of between 11 and 35. The maximum came from ringing: 35 nestlings were ringed at Rhydymwyn on 26/05 (IMS).

Breeding (MRG, IMS, JLR):

(GT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	11	63	48	48	4.36
Ddol-hir	2	11	8	8	4.00
Pandy	19	134	107	73	3.84
Llewesog Hall	15	90	71	60	4.00
Glasfryn	3	28	28	28	9.33
Coed y Felin	11	57	52	44	4.00
Rhydymwyn	16	96	73	63	3.94
Near Llangollen	16	110	94	71	4.44
TOTALS	93	589	481	395	4.25
Mean yng/nest for 2004 to 2015 (n = 1281)					4.74

TITW MAWR

(GT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	175	129
Maximum count	38	35
Av max count prev 10 yrs	54	37
Number of records	1544	1095
Recorded in BBS squares	28/34	18/18
% records from GBW	59.46	46.30
% of BirdTrack lists	33.0	46.3
Density	3.37	7.67



Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Breeding resident.

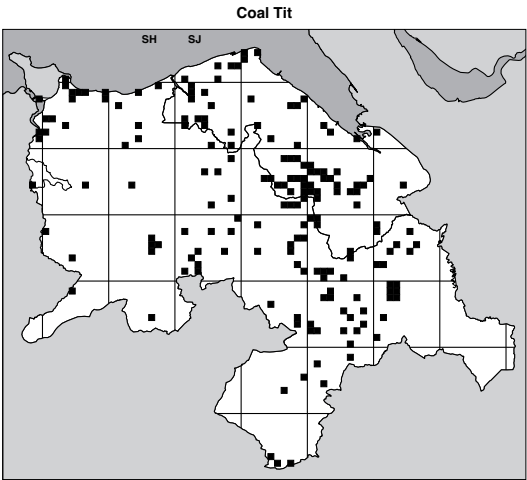
TITW PENDDU

Recorded in each month in both counties.
Recording effort was very similar to 2015.

Denbs. All records were in single figures, with the exception of three records of 12, 12 and 15 from BirdTrack walks. Twelve were seen by JFJ on Ruabon Mountain on 15/03, 12 again were encountered by NHu at Penycae on 12/08. The maximum of 15 was recorded on 20/03 in Clocaenog Forest (NGo). Coal Tit nests are not easy to find or to access so it was good to see that Merseyside Ringing Group (pBH) ringed 14 nestlings this year, reared in boxes: 6 at Pandy on 28/05 and 8 on 5/06 at Llangwyfan, Glyn Arthur.

Flints. All counts were in single figures (the majority were of 1-2) with the maximum count of 7 seen on four occasions at three different locations: Nercwys Mountain on 28/02, Pantymwyn on 7/09 (GEM) and on a BBS survey at Bwlchwyn on 23/04 and 22/06 (GaBu). At Bagillt 17 full grown birds were ringed outside the breeding season (GRMP).

(CT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	112	66
Maximum count	15	7
Av max count prev 10 yrs	15	7
Number of records	1006	587
Recorded in BBS squares	10/34	7/18
% records from GBW	68.99	68.48
% of BirdTrack lists	15.4	14.7
Density	0.85	0.78



Willow Tit *Poecile montana*

Breeding resident. Red List. RBBP. S7.

TITW'R HELYG

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

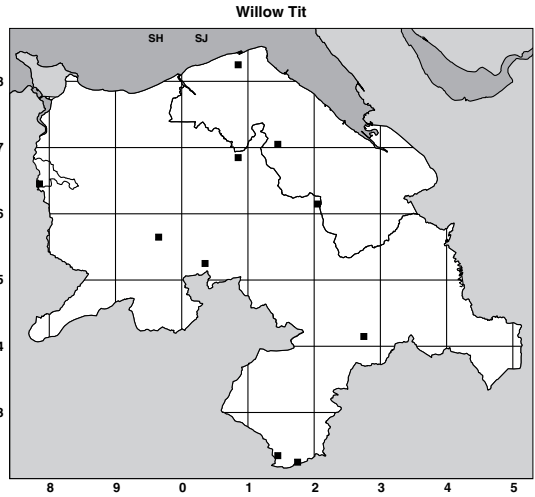
Whilst the total numbers of records increased this year, particularly in Denbs., this was not significant. Records came from ten locations this year. Although some were seen in the breeding season, no indications of breeding were provided. Field identification can be difficult and this, maybe, prevents observers from sending in records. It is interesting to note that half of the Denbs. records came from ringing captures, when definitive identification is possible.

(WT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	8	2
Maximum count	2	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	3
Number of records	14	2
Recorded in BBS squares	-	2/18
% records from GBW	7.14	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	-
Density	0.01	0.01

Denbs. There were six records of singles and four records of 2. Two fullgrown birds were ringed

at Bwlchddar on 26/07 (MkH) and also at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 27/08 (IMS). A further 2 were sighted by JPH at Llyn Brenig on 20/11 and 2 more at Moel Findeg on 22/11 (MrHu).

Flints. The only two records came from the breeding season on two separate BBS squares at Gronant on 30/04 and Afonwen on 13/05 (GRMP).



Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

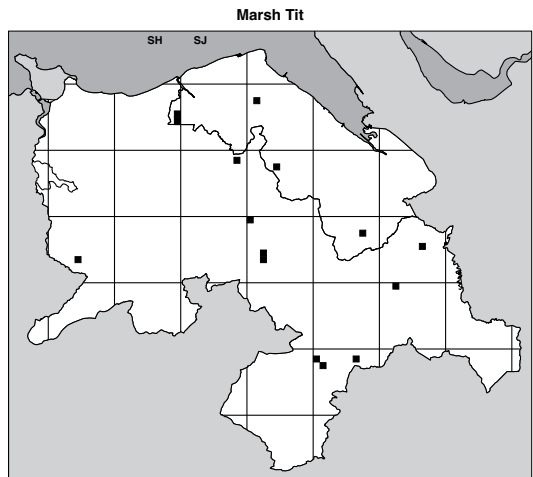
The number of records for this species decreased again this year.

Denbs. There were six records of singles and five records of 2-6. Records of 2 came from Rhewl and Capel Siloam. Recently fledged young were noted at two sites near Pwllglas, Rhuthun: 3 on 30/05 (HC) and 4 on 2/06 (AHJ). A count of 5 was noted on 5/01 at Bodelwyddan Castle (PJW). The maximum count was 6 at Chirk Castle on 30/10 (PeBa).

Flints. There were three records of singles and the maximum sighting of 2 came from Llyn Helyg on 14/11 (AB).

TITW'R WERN

(MT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	12	3
Maximum count	6	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	3
Number of records	12	4
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	-
% records from GBW	8.33	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.2
Density	0.04	0.01



Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

EHEDYDD

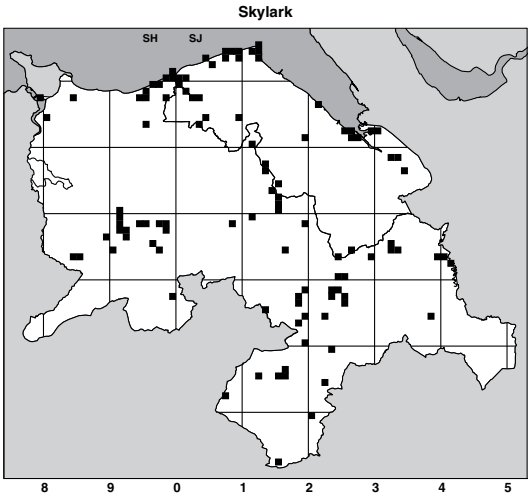
Breeding resident and winter visitor.
Amber List. S7.

Recorded in each month in both counties but only three Aug reports. There is a paucity of records from the beginning of Jul until early in Sep – could this be because birds are in moult and difficult to locate? Once again there were no three figure counts in either county but there was an overall increase in records in both, continuing the 2014 and 2015 trend. However, whilst there were records from an additional BBS square in Denbs, there was a loss from one in Flints.

Denbs. Records were mainly of 1-5. There were twelve double figure counts, up from just five in 2015. Six of these came from the Kinmel Bay area, with at least 12 on 29/01 (DCR), 10 on 5/05 and 12/05 (HC), 10 in two different parts of the bay on 26/11 (RoE & AHJ) and 10 on 29/12 (AHJ). Three double figure counts came from Mynydd Hiraethog during the breeding season, with a maximum of at least 30 on 11/06 (SM). The other three counts were from Esclusham Mountains, Ruabon with at least 10 on 25/03 (RSw), 11 at Blaen Bache on a BBS visit on 13/05 (JoG) and at least 15 at Llangwyfan on 10/10 (SEIJ).

Flints. As in 2015, most reports were in single figures but there were substantially more double figure counts than in Denbs. There were twenty-one counts of 10-24 birds, with eight from the Rhyl area and a further fourteen counts of 25-60 in four different largely coastal areas. Early in the year there was a sizeable flock in the Flint area, with 40 on Flint saltmarsh on 20/01 (GEM) and 30 on neighbouring RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30/01 and 12/02 (StaS). Gronant produced good numbers throughout the year, including the two highest counts, with at least 50 in the dune system on 2/11 and at least 60 on 19/11 (WRM), whilst there were 40 at neighbouring Point of Ayr on 15/12 (MGW). 50 were recorded at Sealand Manor on 20/12 (AB). The highest BBS counts were at Sandycroft, with 13 on 30/04 and 12 on 23/06 (IMS). Breeding was only proved definitely in the Gronant area but clearly occurred elsewhere as well.

(S)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	74	34
Maximum count	30	60
Av max count prev 10 yrs	62	390
Number of records	189	187
Recorded in BBS squares	9/34	5/18
% of BirdTrack lists	13.0	18.4
Density	1.12	3.46



Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

EHEDYDD LLWYD

Vagrant.

Denbs. A single was heard and then seen just S of Kinnel Bay on the bank of the River Clwyd on 13/09 (MHu). Accepted by the WRP.

(VL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

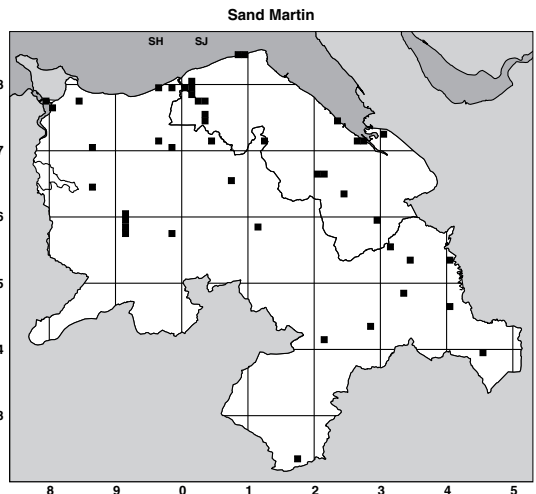
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Plenty of Mar records from both counties this year, with good spring passage numbers under way before the end of the month and lasting well into May. Post-breeding gatherings were smaller than spring numbers, with a scattering of records in Denbs into early Sep but the last in Flints on 31/08.

Denbs. The earliest report was of 1 at RSPB Conwy on 20/03 (several observers) and at least 30 by 26/03 (PWb). There were five further counts of 30+ birds at the site up to 2/05, with a peak of at least 70 on 9/04 (JOHn). Good spring passage numbers were also recorded at Gresford Flash, with peaks of 30 on 2/04 and 50 on 1/05 (KS). There were also 23 at Mynydd Hiraethog on 20/04 (leB) and at least 20 at Hanmer on 25/05 (NH). Only two post-breeding gatherings reached double figures: 17 at RSPB Conwy on 22/06 (JOHn) and at least 10 at Gresford Flash on 3/09 (NH). 20 were at the Afonwen colony on 28/06 and at least 40 on 18/07 (MGW). Breeding was also proved at Brookhouse, Denbigh. The last report was of a single at RSPB Conwy on 11/09 (JHg).

Flints. The first record was of 2 at Rhyl brickworks on 23/03, followed by 12 there on 26/03 (AHJ). Good spring passage numbers were recorded there and also at Connah's Quay NR through Apr and into May, with 40 or more on seven separate dates at Rhyl, including a peak of 270 on 12/04 (JPH), which was the highest count of the year. Connah's Quay NR recorded 20 or more on seven separate dates between 1/04 and 21/05, with a peak of 50 on 25/04 and

(SM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	27	18
Maximum count	70	270
Av max count prev 10 yrs	169	71
Number of records	109	79
Recorded in BBS squares	2/34	7/18
% of BirdTrack lists	5.2	6.2
Density	0.96	8.25



27/04 (PeHa). There was also a count of at least 45 at Fagl Lane GP, Hope on 29/03 (GR), which was the highest Mar count in the two counties. Post-breeding gatherings were generally smaller, as in Denbs, with a maximum of 30 at Connah's Quay NR on 12/07 (PeHa) and at least 30 at Gronant dunes on 20/07 and 24/07, with a peak of 100 on 23/07 sandwiched between (HC). There were only seven Aug records, with the final single at Fagl GP, Hope on 31/08. Breeding was proved at Rhydymwyn (MGW) but the low cliffs near Bagillt have now been eroded beyond suitability (pBT).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

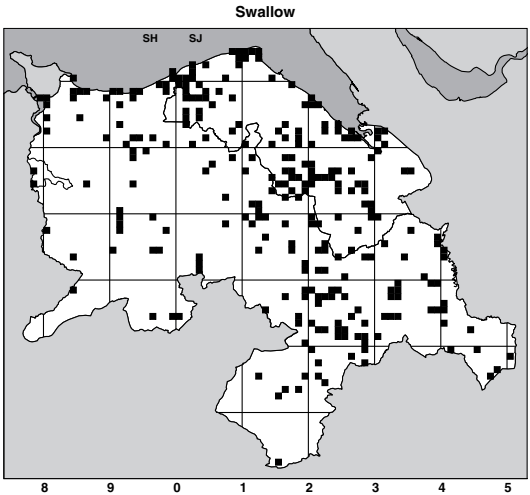
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

As with Sand Martin, there were Mar records in both Denbs and Flints. Autumn departures were largely completed by the end of Sep and there were only five Oct records but a very late individual was seen on 15/12 in Flints. The breeding results suggest that Swallows did not have a good season with their overall output in terms of young per nest being well below average, with just one year with worse results (2005 – 2.68).

Denbs. The earliest arrival was a single on the golf course at Abergele on 24/03 (SM). 1-4 were widely recorded on spring passage until early Apr, with the first double figure counts of at least 10 at Erddig Pool, Wrexham on 7/04 (NH), followed by 25 at RSPB Conwy on 9/04 (PW), at least 10 at Gresford Flash on 10/04 and a flock of 25 flying rapidly north at Penycae on 25/04 (JAJ). The highest spring count was at least 50 at RSPB Conwy on 2/05 (MPB). Almost all other records were in single figures throughout the spring, summer and early Aug, with 21, the highest BBS count at Pand y Tudur on 9/05 (HC). Autumn migration movements were noted on 15/08, with 75, moving in a slow stream along the coast at Llanddulas (GEM), at least 30 flying around and resting on telegraph wires at Kinmel Bay (SM) and at least 40 at Nant-y-Glyn (HC). At least 40 were flocking at Penycae on 25/08 (JAJ). The two highest counts of the year both came from Pentrefelin, Conwy (MiB): 340 on 29/08 and 365 on 4/09. Steady numbers continued to be seen on migration until the last week in Sep, with 25 at Froncysyllte on 25/09 (DaHu), the last double figure count. There were only three Oct records, with the last a single at Fenn's Moss on 5/10 (DaHu).

GWENNOL

(SL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	168	100
Maximum count	365	200
Av max count prev 10 yrs	509	662
Number of records	478	224
Recorded in BBS squares	27/34	17/18
% records from GBW	9.62	6.25
% of BirdTrack lists	22.7	30.8
Density	31.03	33.96



Flints. There were nine Mar records in 2016 at a variety of locations, with the first a single at Shotton Steelworks on 24/03 (DeNi) – the same date as the first Denbs record. Thereafter returning migrants trickled in, with the first double figure counts of 10 at Connah's Quay NR on 9/04 (PeHa) and 20 at Rhyl brickworks on 15/04 (AHJ). Most reports during the spring migration were in single figures, though at least 50 at Gronant dunes on 26/05 (HC) may have included some late migrants. At Sandycroft, 14 on 30/04 (IMS) was the highest BBS count. Significant post-breeding numbers were noted at Gronant dunes on 18/07 – at least 30 – rising to at least 50 on 20/07 and peaking at 100 on 23/07 (HC). No autumn roosts were reported this year but migrant gatherings included 50 at Cilcain on 16/08 (GEM), 50 at Connah's Quay NR on 19/08, with 60 there the following day and 200 over neighbouring RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 28/08 (PeHa). 120 were hawking for insects over fields at Bagillt on 31/08 (GRMP) and at least 70 were at Rhyl on 4/09 (WRM), rising to at least 180 on 6/09 (AHJ). After 20 at Connah's Quay NR and 40 over RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 21/09 (PeHa) only single birds were recorded up to the last of the 'regular' season at Flint on 15/10 (MGW). However, after a gap of two months, there was a very late record of a single hawking insects over Rhyl on 15/12.

Breeding (MRG, JLR, IMS):

(SL)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Ceiriog	17	78	57	49	2.88
Eglwyseg	8	35	35	30	3.75
Fron Fawr	3	11	10	10	3.33
Hendre,	8	31	30	30	3.75
Rhydymwyn	4	18	18	15	3.72
TOTALS	58	247	222	200	3.45
Mean young/nest for 2004 to 2015 (n = 628)					3.29

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

There was a similar number of reports to 2015, with Mar records in both counties but only three Oct reports, suggesting a prompt arrival and few late broods. The distribution of records was slightly more widespread than in 2015 with the maximum counts larger but there was a reduction from eleven to six in the number of Flints BBS squares with records.

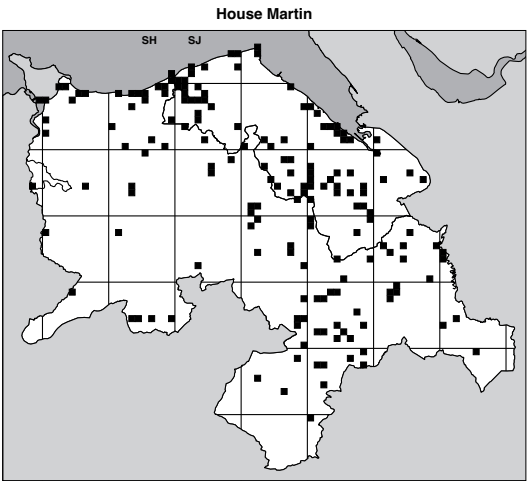
GWENNOL Y BONDGO

(HM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	103	70
Maximum count	118	70
Av max count prev 10 yrs	131	161
Number of records	366	201
Recorded in BBS squares	10/34	6/18
% records from GBW	15.30	5.97
% of BirdTrack lists	15.9	16.8
Density	6.15	8.32

Denbs. A record of 3 near Rhewl, Rhuthun on 26/03 was the first of the year (GoP), followed by a single at RSPB Conwy on 27/03 (JHg). There were nine counts of 40 or more, with one spring count of at least 40 at RSPB Conwy on 2/05 (MPB). The other eight sizeable counts were all between 2/08 and 11/09 when flocks could reasonably be assumed to contain young birds. 40 were at Llansannan on 2/08 (SM), 40 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 13/08 (MiB), at least 60 at Penycae on 18/08 (JAJ), 40 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 28/08 (GEM), 80 at Abergele on 10/09 (MaO) and 50 at Eryrys on 11/09 (GEM). The maximum counts came from Lleweni

Hall, Bodfari with 118 on 25/08 (JPH) and Pentrefelin, Conwy with 105 on 4/09 (MiB). The last record was of 4 at RSPB Conwy on 1/10 (JHg).

Flints. The first record was of 2 at Fagl GP, Hope on 29/03 (GNR). There were five counts of 40 or more between 6/08 and 4/09. A total of 50 gathered on the roof of Theatr Clwyd in Mold on 6/06 (GEM) – though they will have waited in vain for a performance that day – 50 at Mold on 14/08 (GEM), 40 at Connah’s Quay NR on 20/08 (PeHa), 63 at Rhydymwyn on 31/08 (MD). The maximum count for the year of 70 at Penbedw on 4/09 (GEM). The last record was of 2 on a GBW count at Rhydymwyn in the week beginning 2/10 (DMH).



Cetti’s Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Rare visitor and potential breeding resident. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

A

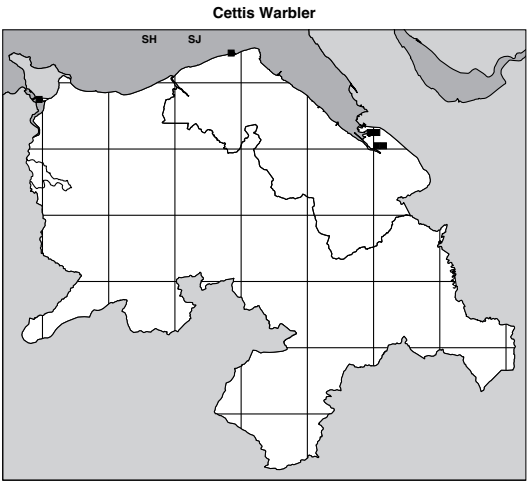
TELOR CETTI

(CW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	5
Maximum count	2	5
Number of records	28	19
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	2.6
Density	0.00	0.04

significant increase in records from 2015 but no suggestion yet that the species is breeding except at one site in Flints.

Denbs. All twenty-eight records were of 1-2 at RSPB Conwy (JHg) but still no reports during the summer months.

Flints. Records came from two areas: the established sites at Shotton Steelworks / Shotwick and at Gronant. All were of 1-2, except for 5 seen at the Shotton Steelworks pool on 13/04 (DeNi). 9 were ringed at Shotton Steelworks between Mar and Nov (pBH) and 1 was recorded at Gronant on three dates in the first half of Nov (WRM).



Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

TITW CYNFFON-HIR

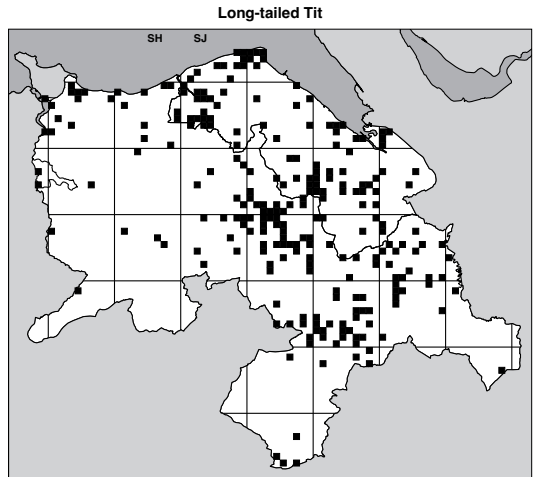
Breeding resident. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties, with similar numbers of records to 2015 but decreases in the reports from BBS squares, GBW counts and BirdTrack lists.

Denbs. Thirty counts were of 10-16 birds (4.9% of all records and a similar percentage to 2015), but none of 20 or more, with the sole exception of at least 60 counted flitting between gardens at Penycae on 25/07 (JAJ). Fifteen of the double figure counts came in Jan to Mar and twelve in Oct to Dec.

Flints. Twenty-three counts were of 10-16 birds (5.1% of all records and a similar percentage to 2015) and a further two of at least 20 birds: at Connah's Quay NR on 10/07 (PeHa) and at Shotton Paper Mill on 18/09 (IMS). Seven of the double figure counts were recorded in Jan and sixteen between Sep and Dec, with none between Feb and Jun.

(LT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	162	85
Maximum count	60	20
Av max count prev 10 yrs	31	26
Number of records	616	451
Recorded in BBS squares	12/34	5/18
% records from GBW	48.86	35.48
% of BirdTrack lists	12.7	23.8
Density	4.92	2.89



Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

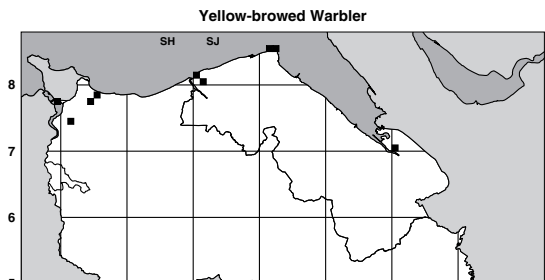
TELOR AELFELYN

Winter visitor.

With unprecedented numbers passing through the UK during the autumn, it is perhaps surprising that there were only eleven records, all of single birds, in the two counties, with one ringed in each of them. All the records were concentrated between 30/09 and 18/10 and some of them may be multiple reports of the same individuals.

Denbs. 1 was ringed at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy on 8/10 (MiB). There were three records of 1 at RSPB Conwy on 11/10 (JHg; ANB; pJHg), which may all have been of the same

(YB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	4	5
Maximum count	1	1
Number of records	6	5
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.1
Density	0.00	0.01



bird. There was 1 seen and heard calling in flight over Rhodfa Brenig at Nant-y-Glyn on 18/10 (HC) and 1 on the same day at Colwyn Bay (ANB).

Flints. 1 was at Point of Ayr (west) on 30/09 (DEW) and 1 in a different 1km square at Point of Ayr on the same day (ANB). 1 was at Rhyl on 4/10 (ANB) and 1 was photographed at Rhyl brickworks on the same day (AHJ). 1 was ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 9/10 (pBH).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

TELOR Y COED

Summer visitor. Red List. S7.

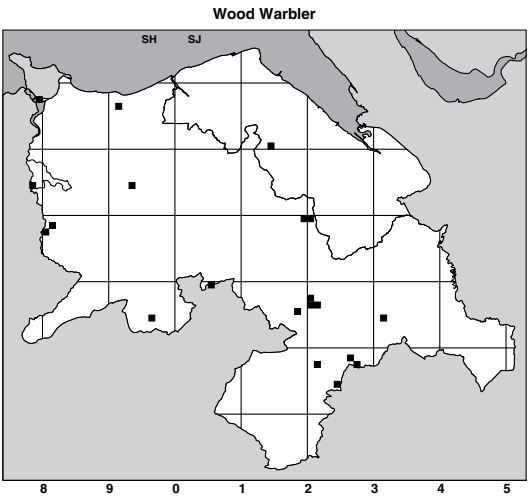
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

There was an encouraging increase in records in 2015, especially in Denbs but only two records from Flints. Records came from four BBS squares in Denbs and one in Flints but it still seems impossible to locate any after Jun!

(WO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	18	2
Maximum count	8	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	1
Number of records	35	2
Recorded in BBS squares	4/34	1/18
% records from GBW	2.86	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	-
Density	0.07	0.01

Denbs. The first records were on 20/04, with 2 at Rhyd-y-Foel on a BBS visit (GBH) and 4 at Coed Hafod (HC). All records were of 1-2, except at the Coed Hafod site, where as well as the first 4, there were 7 on 23/04 and 8 on 14/05 (HC). Breeding was proved in two locations and was possible or probable in seven others. None were recorded after a single at Chirk Castle on 28/06 (JaR).

Flints. The two records both involved singing males (hence possible breeding): the first on 13/05 near Afonwen on a BBS visit (GRMP) and there were 2 at Nercwys Mountain on 30/05 (GEM).



Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

SIFF-SAFF

Breeding summer visitor and winter visitor.

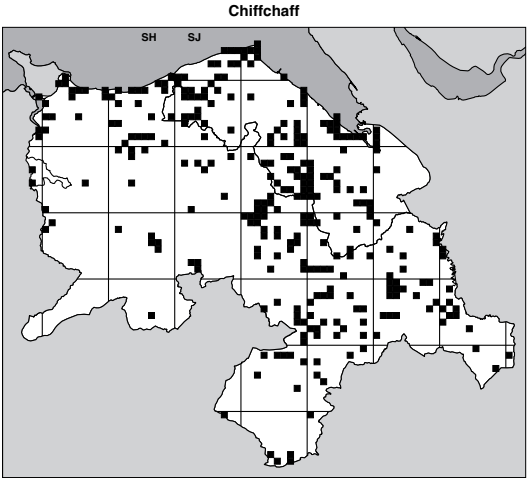
Recorded in each month in both counties. After last year's 47% increase in reports from Flints there was a slight drop this year but reports from Denbs increased by 31%. Almost all the double figure counts in both counties came from BBS visits or ringing sessions.

Denbs. The first record was a single at RSPB Conwy 2/01 (ANB) and there was a steady trickle

of records of 1-4 through Jan and Feb, mostly at RSPB Conwy. Reports suggest that the spring influx started in earnest on 10/03, after which there were reports almost daily until the end of Sep, with the first of twenty double-figure counts being 23 at RSPB Conwy on 3/04 (JHg). The maximum count apart from ringing sessions was of at least 20 at Mynydd Hiraethog on 11/06 (SM). The highest BBS count was 15 at Pentre Llanrhaeadr on 30/06 (HLR). Ringing sessions at Bwlchyddar generated 11 on 25/06, 14 on 3/07, 19 on 5/08, 12 on 14/08, 17 on 27/08, 21 on 1/09 and 11 on 6/09 (MkH). From mid-Oct records were of 1-2 only, with the last report being 2 at RSPB Conwy on 31/12 (pJHg).

Flints. The first of the year was 1 at Sychdyn on 3/01 but unlike the steady trickle in Denbs there were only two further Jan reports and three in Feb. The spring influx appears to have started around 19/03, a week or so later than in Denbs. There were then almost daily reports through to the third week in Oct. The first of thirteen double-figure counts was of at least 10 at Rhyl brickworks on 12/04 (RLE). The highest BBS count was 17 at Gronant on 30/04 (GRMP). Ringing sessions at Rhydymwyn produced an impressive run of numbers from the end of Jun to the third week in Sep, with 20 ringed on 28/06, 21 on 6/07, 16 on 19/07, 12 on 1/08, 11 on 23/08, 29 on 15/09 – the highest count of the year – and 13 on 18/09 (IMS). After 20/10 there were only reports of singles, with the last of the year at Rhyl brickworks on 29/12 (JPH).

(CC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	193	106
Maximum count	23	29
Av max count prev 10 yrs	17	12
Number of records	707	449
Recorded in BBS squares	29/34	16/18
% records from GBW	8.47	8.69
% of BirdTrack lists	30.2	30.6
Density	2.25	5.22



Breeding (GRMP):

(CC)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Rhydymwyn	1	5	5	5	5.00

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

TELOR YR HELYG

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

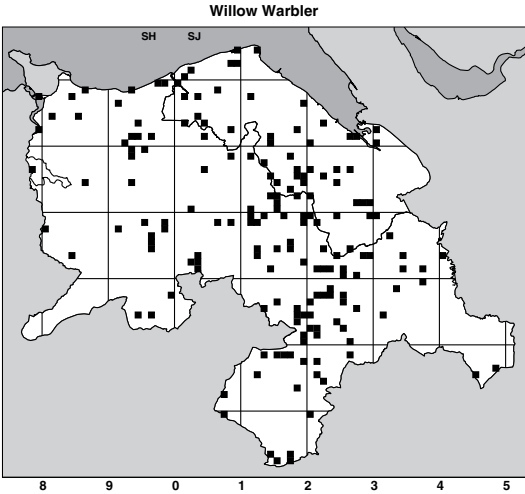
There were again no Mar records in either county this year. The first records were on 3/04 in both counties and the last on 18/09, also in both counties. Overall numbers of reports increased by around a third on 2015 – by 33.75% in Denbs and 32% in Flints. BBS square reports increased in Denbs but decreased in Flints; however the percentage

of GBW records decreased in both counties.

Denbs. The first report was of 3 at RSPB Conwy on 3/04 (JHg). Thereafter records came in almost daily throughout spring migration and the main breeding season up to the end of Jun. The first double-figure count – and also the highest BBS count – was of 25 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 21/04 (TP). This was the earliest of five counts of 20 or more: there were at least 30 at Mynydd Hiraethog on 11/06 (SM), 34 were ringed at Bronbannog on 23/07 and 20 there on 5/08 (IMS). At Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, 22 were counted on 25/08 (JPH). There were also twelve counts of 10-19, five of them on BBS visits. From the beginning of Sep records were of 1-2 only, with the final report of 1 at Llangollen on 18/09 (HN).

Flints. The first three records were all of singing males on 3/04 – at Rhyl brickworks (WRM), Rhuddlan (SH) and Penycloddiau (EdW). Thereafter records followed a similar pattern to Denbs up to 10/07, though numbers were lower and there was only one count of 10-19: 14 on BBS visit at Bwlchgwyn on 23/04 (GaBu). There were three counts of 20 or more: at least 20 at Rhyl brickworks on 12/04 (RLE), 21 at Penycloddiau on 23/04 and 23 there on 30/05 (EdW). After 10/07 reports were of 1-2 only, except for 6 at Rhydymwyn on 6/09 (MGW) and the last report was of 2 on a GBW count at Sychdyn in week beginning 18/09 (IMS).

(WW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	127	47
Maximum count	34	23
Av max count prev 10 yrs	37	22
Number of records	321	132
Recorded in BBS squares	27/34	7/18
% records from GBW	0.62	2.27
% of BirdTrack lists	15.6	8.5
Density	2.19	1.84



Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

TELOR PENDDU

Breeding summer visitor and winter visitor.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Similar numbers of reports in both counties compared with 2015 and an increase of the percentage of reports from GBW stations in Flints.

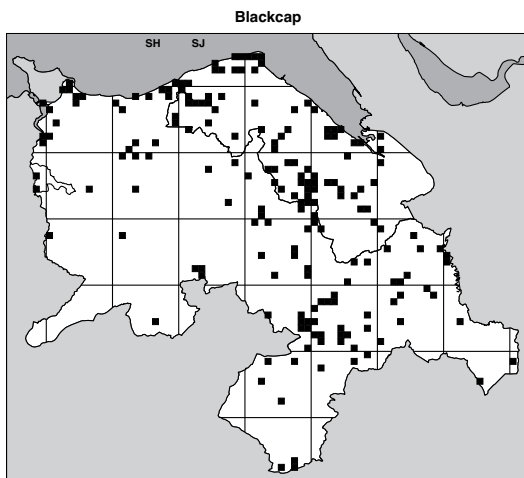
Denbs. 1-2 were recorded regularly in a number of locations – notably Towyn (SM) and Burton (HL) - up to the second week in Mar. There was then a gap in reports until 3/04, suggesting that wintering birds left some three weeks before spring arrivals started. From 3/04 records occurred virtually daily until 23/09,

(BC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	114	73
Maximum count	11	9
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	7
Number of records	405	294
Recorded in BBS squares	20/34	12/18
% records from GBW	18.77	17.01
% of BirdTrack lists	14.2	16.4
Density	0.63	1.12

when there was a gap until 7/10, again suggesting that summer migrants all left before wintering birds arrived. From 7/10 there were records of 1-2 until the end of the year, with 3 at a GBW station at Trefriw on 4/12 (DvP). During the spring, summer and early autumn, most records were of 1-5, with ten counts of 6-9, including 8 at Berwyn on 14/05, which was the highest BBS count. There were three counts of 11: at Chirk Castle on 9/05 (JR), ringed at Bwlchyddar on 5/08 and ringed at the same site on 1/09 (MkH).

Flints. 1-2 were recorded at several sites up to 9/02, then apart from a single report on 6/03, there were none until 22/03, after which reports

followed a similar pattern to Denbs. This suggests a gap between the departure of winter visitors and arrival of summer breeders, albeit earlier than in Denbs. Through the spring, summer and early autumn there were no double-figure counts but ten of 6-9, with 9 the highest BBS count at Gronant on 30/05 (GRMP). At Rhydymwyn 7 ringed on 15/09 by IMS was the last significant count but unlike Denbs there was no clear gap between summer visitor departures and winter arrivals, with 1-2 regularly reported from 25/09 until the end of the year and 4 ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 9/10 (pBH).



Blackcap. Photo: John Hawkins.



Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Breeding summer visitor.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

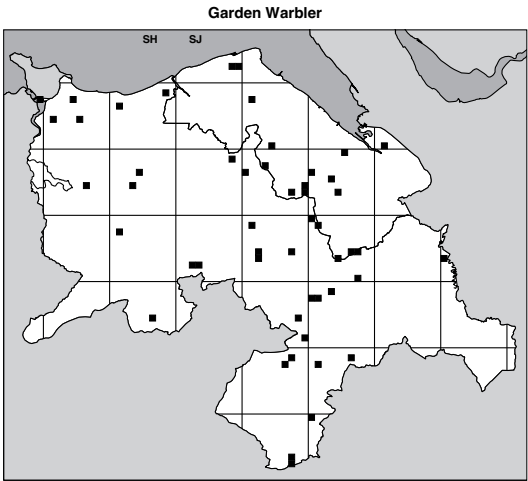
Reports from Denbs were back up to 2014 levels whilst Flints records remained steady. Arrivals were recorded in both counties from the third week in Apr.

Denbs. The first record was of 2 at Ruabon Mountain on 17/04 (HCt). All records were of 1-3, except for 4 at Pandy Tudur during a BBS count on 9/05 (HC). Seventeen of the increased number of records came from ringing, suggesting that inconspicuous coloration and retiring behaviour may make individuals difficult to find. There was a steady trickle of reports through to late Aug, with the final record a single ringed at Ty-nant on 24/08 (MkH).

Flints. The first two records were of singles at Shotton Steelworks (DeNi) and Mold (IMS) on 23/04. All records were of 1-2 birds, except for 5 at Penycloddiau on 15/05 (EdW). After 19/07, there were no further records until Sep, with a juvenile ringed at Rhydymwyn on 15/09 (IMS) the final bird for the year.

TELOR YR ARDD

(GW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	35	16
Maximum count	4	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	5
Number of records	78	29
Recorded in BBS squares	7/34	5/18
% records from GBW	2.56	-
% of BirdTrack lists	2.6	1.3
Density	0.07	0.14



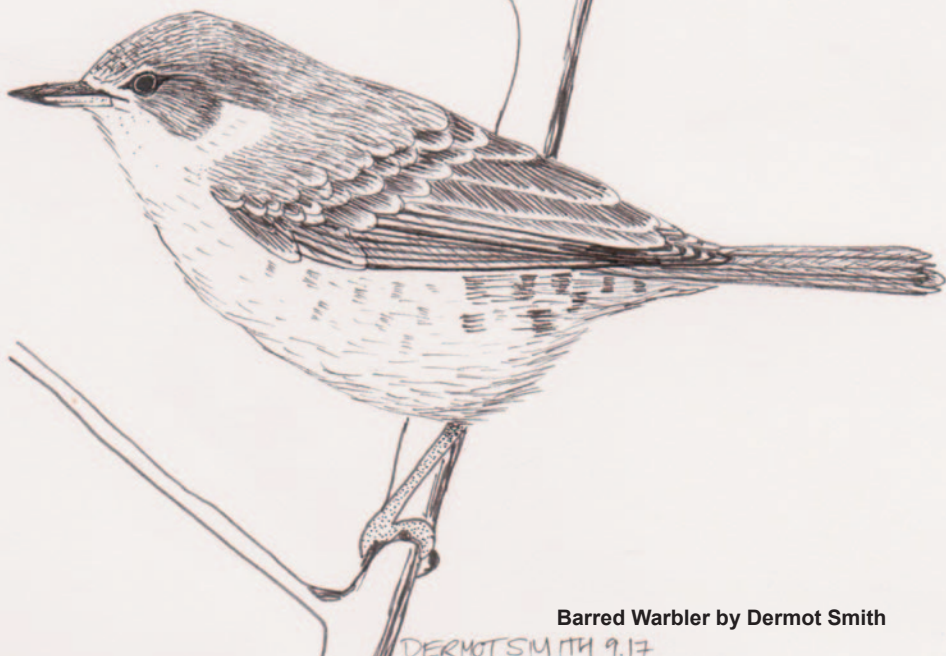
Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Vagrant.

Denbs. Both reports refer to the same individual: a very late vagrant ringed in a garden at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 18/11 (STH) and retrapped at the same location on 24/11.

TELOR RHESOG

(RR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	2	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	



Barred Warbler by Dermot Smith

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Breeding summer visitor.

Seen in these months:

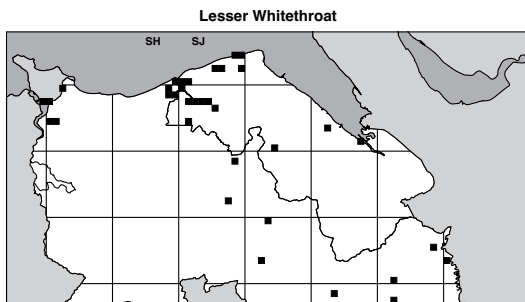
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

The Denbs reports bounced back to the 45 recorded in 2014 and the Flints reports maintained the increase recorded in 2015. Records were widely but thinly spread across both counties.

LLWYDFRON FACH

(LW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	20	15
Maximum count	2	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	3
Number of records	45	65
Recorded in BBS squares	2/34	1/18
% of BirdTrack lists	2.2	5.6
Density	0.02	0.13

Denbs. The first three singles were all on 24/04, at Kinnel Bay (WRM), Hafod Wood, Erddig (Hct) and RSPB Conwy (pJHg). Thereafter 1-2 were recorded in a number of locations up to the end of the first week in Jun, after which reports tailed off, with none in Jul, a trickle in Aug and a late individual at RSPB Conwy on 17/09



(pJHg).

Flints. The first was at Prestatyn on 17/04 (WRM). Forty-one of the subsequent sixty-four records (63%) came from Rhyl, with a further four each from Bagillt and Rhuddlan. The spring and early summer run of reports continued to the third week in Jun. There were only three in Jul, two in Aug and the final individual was at Rhyl on 10/09 (WRM). All records were of 1-2, except for 4 at Rhuddlan on 6/05 (SH) and 5 at Rhyl on 22/05 (JPH).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

LLWYDFRON

Breeding summer visitor. Red List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

There were increases of 31% in Denbs records and 15.5% in Flints. From initial arrivals in both counties in mid-Apr, there was a consistent run of records until the end of Aug, with the last few in Sep but no very late reports.

(WH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	57	50
Maximum count	15	9
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	9
Number of records	184	149
Recorded in BBS squares	16/34	11/18
% records from GBW	1.63	-
% of BirdTrack lists	8.4	10.6
Density	0.43	0.76

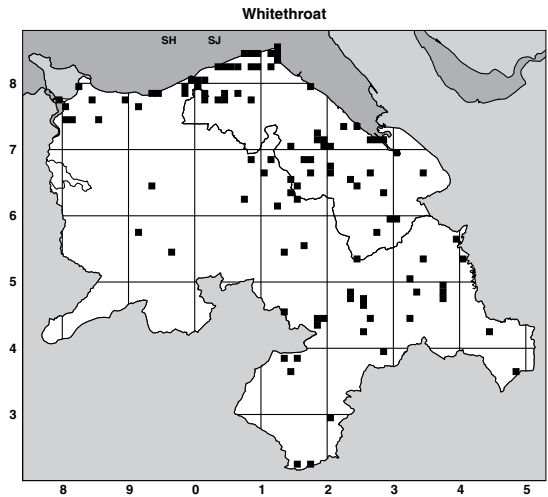
Denbs. The first was at RSPB Conwy on 12/04 (JHg). Thereafter records of 1-4 were widely spread. There were six counts of 5-9 at six different locations, including 7 at Pensarn beach on 11/06, where there were five territories and at least two pairs feeding young (WRM). There were three counts of 10 or more, including 10 at Ruabon Mountain on a BBS visit on 10/05 (WkR). The last of the year was a single at RSPB Conwy on 11/09 (JHg).

Flints. The first was 1 at Prestatyn on 17/04. Most reports were of 1-4, with ten counts of 5-9 but none in double figures. The maximum count of 9 was recorded on a BBS visit to Talacre gas terminal on 15/06 (PMi). After 15/07, when there were 5 at Halkyn Mountain (GEM) all counts were of 1-3, with 3 at



Whitethroat. Photo: Tony Pope

Rhydymwyn on 6/09 being the last and only Sep record.



Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

TROELLWR BACH

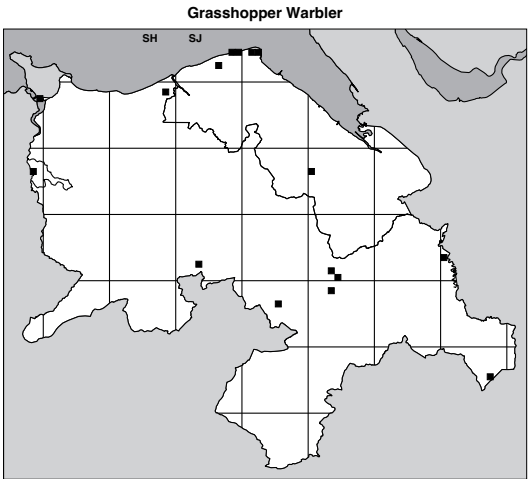
Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

(GH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	10	6
Maximum count	3	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	3
Number of records	23	22
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	1.8
Density	0.02	0.04

A similar pattern of records to 2014 in Denbs but reports doubled in Flints, albeit these are still low numbers. Spring arrival dates conformed to the usual pattern and are highly dependent on hearing singing males. Given the skulking behaviour of the species post-breeding records tend to be from ringing only.

Denbs. The first record was 1 at Plas Maenan on 20/04 (HC). Singles were recorded in a number of locations from then until the end of May, with 3 at Esclusham Mountain, Ruabon on 22/04 (CMP) and 3 at Towyn on 5/05 (HC). There were no Jun records but a trickle from the end of Jul to the end of Aug, with 2 ringed at Bronbannog on 5/08 and 1 on 27/08 (IMS) which was the last report of the year.



Flints. The first report was of 2 at Gronant on 21/04 (GNR). All records were of 1-2, except for 4 at Gronant on 5/05 and 3 there

on 19/07 (HC). There were no Aug records and one in Sep – a single ringed at Rhydymwyn on 15/09 (IMS), which was the last of the year. Apart from 1 at Prestatyn on 29/05 (WRM), all reports came from the Gronant / Talacre area and Rhydymwyn.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

TELOR HESG

Breeding summer visitor.

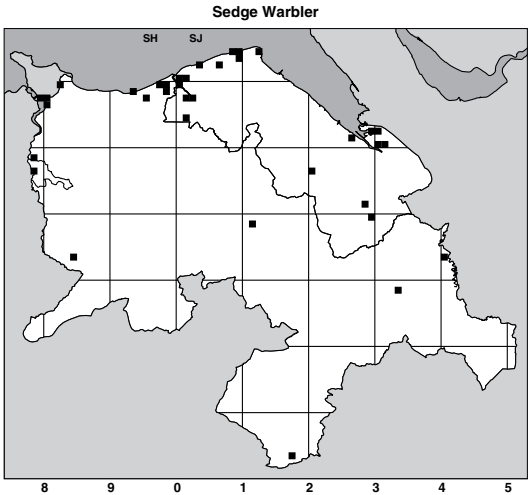
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

A similar pattern of records to 2014 and similar numbers. Arrivals commenced from mid-Apr as usual, though departures were relatively early, with none recorded in Flints after the end of Jul and only one after the third week in Aug in Denbs.

Denbs. As usual RSPB Conwy produced the bulk of the records – 76% this year - with the first of the year there on 8/04 (JHg). All records were of 1-4, except for at least 5 at Pensarn on 5/05 (WRM), at least 6 at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on the same day and again on 7/06 (WRM) and four of the RSPB Conwy counts: 7 on 12/05, 8 on 22/06 (JOHn), 6 ringed there on 3/07 (SGD) and at least 6 in family parties on 11/07 (WRM). The only record after 17/08 was of 1 at RSPB Conwy on 21/09 (pCd).

Flints. The first record was of 1 at Shotton Steelworks pool on 13/04 (DeNi). All records were of 1-4, except for three reports from Gronant of 6 on 5/05 and 26/05 and 5 on 10/06 (HC). Some 83% of the records were concentrated in three coastal and estuarine areas: Rhyl, Gronant and Shotton Steelworks. No records were received after 25/07 – a single at Gronant (HC).

(SW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	17	19
Maximum count	8	8
Av max count prev 10 yrs	8	6
Number of records	133	82
Recorded in BBS squares	2/34	-
% of BirdTrack lists	7.6	8.2
Density	0.07	0.26



Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

TELOR Y CYRS

Breeding summer visitor.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

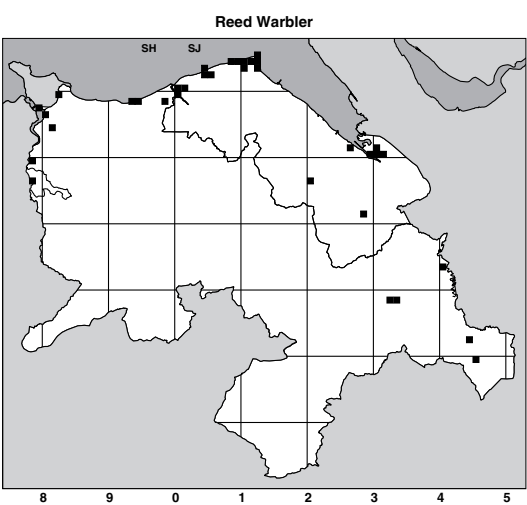
Increases in the numbers of reports in both counties – by 36% in Denbs and 43% in Flints. The increases were also reflected in

(RW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	14	21
Maximum count	10	15
Av max count prev 10 yrs	11	16
Number of records	113	77
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	2/18
% of BirdTrack lists	6.3	7.1
Density	0.07	0.53

the numbers of different 1km squares, numbers of BBS squares and proportion of BirdTrack lists. Given the species' specialised habitat requirements it is unsurprising that the small number of locations was similar to previous years. Arrivals and departures were within the normal date ranges.

Denbs. Once again around three quarters (76%) of records came from RSPB Conwy, with the first of the year there on 17/04 (pJHg) and the last one on 22/09 (JHg). All counts were of 1-4, except for three at RSPB Conwy, with 10 on 28/05 (EdDJ), 7 on 29/05 (DdS), at least 5 on 1/07 (JPM) and 7 at Pensarn on 11/06, with at least five territories there (WRM).

Flints. The first of the year was at Shotton Steelworks pool on 13/04. All five counts of 5 or more came from this area, with ringing producing 15 on 8/05, 7 on 15/05, 5 on 31/07 and 7 on 14/08 (pBH). 7 were also counted at Shotwick on 31/05 (CW). There were no Sep records this year, with the final single seen at Shotton Paper Mill on 21/08 (IMS).



Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*
Winter Visitor. RBBP.

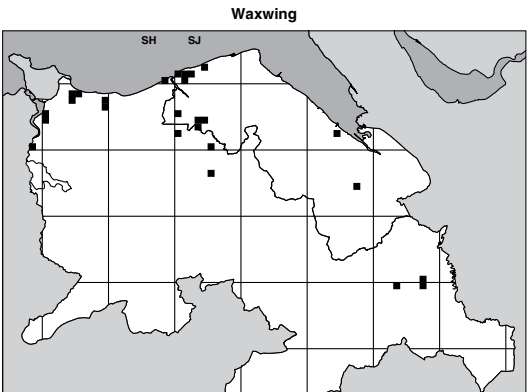
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

The great majority of records came from lowland areas. This was the largest influx since 2012, producing maxima of 90 in Denbs and 61 in Flints, which were close to the average figures for 2004 to 2015.

Denbs. The first record was of 1 at Bodelwyddan on 13/11. Until the middle of Dec records were mostly from the coast and the lower Conwy valley, with the highest counts being 40 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 19/11 (MiB), and also at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy on 19/11 and 24/11. There was then a general shift of records eastwards and southwards

CYNFFON SEDAN

(WX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	16	10
Maximum count	90	61
Av max count prev 10 yrs	64	55
Number of records	44	71
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	2.4
Density	0.73	1.04



with the most notable counts being: 10 at Colwyn Bay on 25/12 with 25 there on 26/12; a large number of records from St Asaph (see Flints below); 70 at both Erilas Hall, Wrexham and in Wrexham town on 30/12 (HL), and 90 in Denbigh on 31/12.

Flints. The first record was 6 at St Asaph, on the comparatively early date of 10/09 (SM). There was a sprinkling of records from Rhyl in Nov and Dec but St Asaph provided the great majority of records for this period (fifty-nine out of the seventy-one received). The largest of these was a count of 61 at St Asaph on 24/12 (JPH).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

DELOR Y CNAU

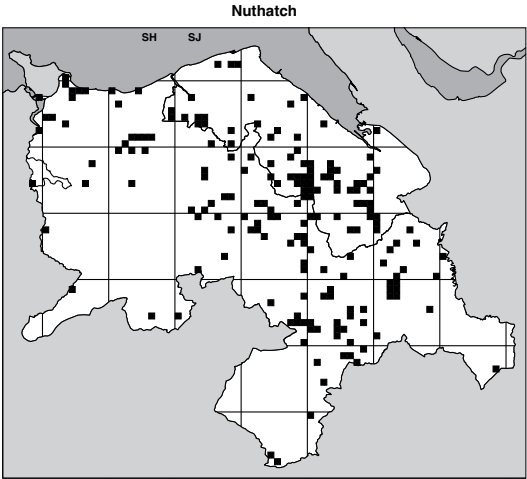
Breeding resident.

Seen in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Records during the first winter period were mostly of 1-2. The highest counts in this period were: 4 at Erddig pool, Wrexham on 19/01 (NHu), with 5 there on 14/2 (HCt). The highest count in the breeding season was 6 on a BBS walk at Berwyn on 25/06 (JoG). There were only two records of confirmed breeding: 8 nestlings ringed at Coed Nant Ddu, Clocaenog on 22/05 (IMS), and a nest with young at Bryn Euryn, Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 28/05 (WRM). Thereafter, most records to the end of the year were of 1-2 with the highest count being 5 at Loggerheads CP, Mold on 16/10 (TP).

Flints. The counts in the first winter period were mostly of 1-2. The highest count was 4 at Pantymwyn on 25/02 (TP). The highest count in the breeding season was 4 on a BBS walk at Pentre on 5/05 (DeD). The only record of confirmed breeding was 13 nestlings ringed at Hendre on 23/05 (IMS). Records to the end of the year were mostly of 1-2. The highest count was 5 at Pantymwyn on 22/11 and on 27/11 (both GEM).

(NH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	123	64
Maximum count	8	13
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	7
Number of records	669	407
Recorded in BBS squares	13/34	7/18
% records from GBW	67.12	57.25
% of BirdTrack lists	8.8	15.7
Density	0.50	1.41



Breeding (IMS):

(NH)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Coed Nantddu	1	8	8	8	8.00
Coed y Felin	2	13	13	13	6.50

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties.
Most records were of singles.

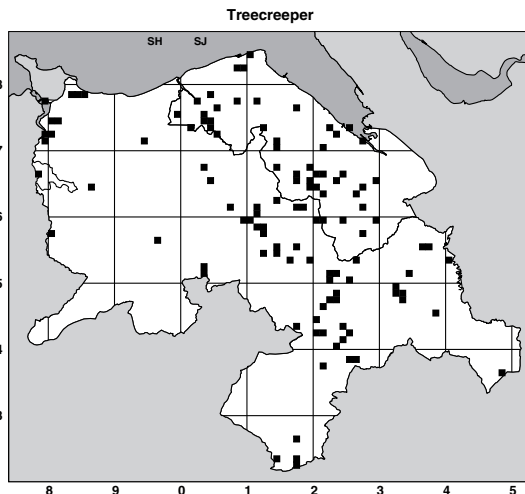
Denbs. All records in the first winter period and into the early spring were of 1-2.

The highest counts were in the spring when there were 4 at Coed Hafod on 10/03, and again on 20/04 (both HC), and 4 at Trefor Uchaf on 20/04 (JoR). The latter was the only record from a BBS walk. There were five records of confirmed breeding. Three of these came from Pwllcrochan woods, Colwyn Bay, where an adult carrying a faecal sac or food was recorded on 29/04 and also on 22/05, and a nest with young was discovered on 28/05 (all HC). Elsewhere, fledglings or downy young were recorded at Pandy Tudur on 9/05 (HC). There was a similar record from Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 14/07 (IMS). Records were of 1-2 for the remainder of the year.

Flints. Records were of 1-2 during the whole of the year. There was one record of confirmed breeding: a fledgling at Rhydymwyn on 19/07 (IMS).

DRINGWR BACH

(TC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	72	42
Maximum count	4	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	3
Number of records	137	103
Recorded in BBS squares	4/34	6/18
% records from GBW	10.95	38.83
% of BirdTrack lists	4.1	4.2
Density	0.15	0.14



Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

Recorded in each month in both counties.
Most counts were of 1-2.

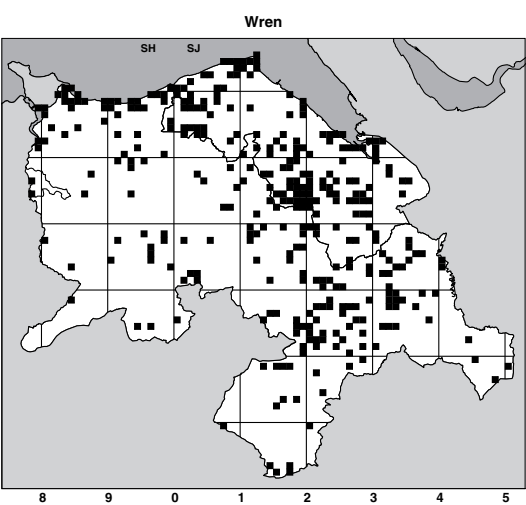
Denbs. The maximum counts in the first winter period were 4 at Talygarth in the weeks beginning 10/01, 7/02 and 28/02 (DCg). In the early spring there were 7 at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 15/03 (HC), and later, a similar number at RSPB Conwy on 9/04 (JOHn). The highest BBS count was 30 at Pandy Tudur on 9/05 (HC). There were eight records of confirmed breeding. The first was of a nest with young at Pwllcrochan woods, Colwyn Bay on 29/04 (HC), and the last was of a fledgling at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 5/08 (IMS). Up to the end of the year most records were of 1-2, with the highest

DRYW

(WR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	205	134
Maximum count	30	21
Av max count prev 10 yrs	19	17
Number of records	1185	872
Recorded in BBS squares	34/34	18/18
% records from GBW	34.51	20.53
% of BirdTrack lists	48.6	59.9
Density	3.11	4.78

being 6 at Fenn's Moss on 11/11 (NHu).

Flints. The maximum count in the first winter period was 5 at Padeswood on 24/02 (GNR). In the early spring the highest count was 8 at Rhyl brickworks, on 12/03 (AHJ). The highest BBS count was 21 at Mold on 23/04 (IMS). There were eleven records of confirmed breeding. The first was of a fledgling at Rhyl brickworks on 1/06 (AHJ), and the last was of a fledgling at Rhydymwyn on 1/08 (IMS). Records to the end of the year were mostly of 1-2. The highest count in the second winter period was 6 at Rhyl on 3/12 (AHJ).



Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

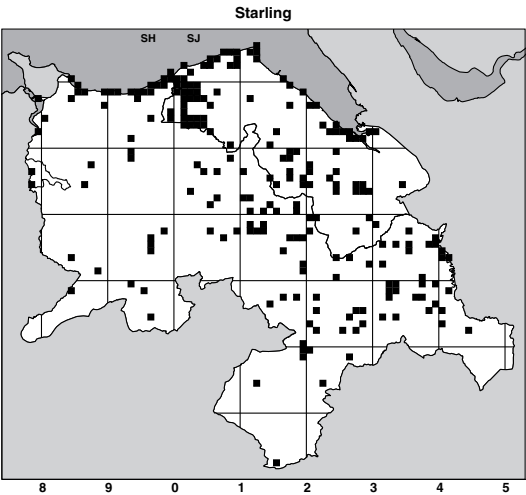
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

Recorded in each month in both counties. The majority of records were of 1-10. Numbers of this species can fluctuate markedly between years. The maxima in 2016 were 50,000 (Denbs) and 5,000 (Flints). The Denbs figure was a significant increase on the average of 12,458 for 2004-2015. The average for Flints for this period was 3,600. The 50,000 at RSPB Conwy in 2016 was the largest flock recorded in Denbs since 2002. The 5,000 at Rhuddlan in 2016 was the largest flock recorded in Flints since a figure of 7,500 reported in 2011.

Denbs. In the first winter period the largest count was 6,000 at RSPB Conwy on 21/01 (per JHg). Numbers at this site varied markedly during this period. There was no indication that numbers would climb so quickly to 50,000 on 10/03. The flock disappeared as quickly as it arrived suggesting that these were birds moving through on spring passage.

DRUDWEN

(SG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	137	85
Maximum count	50000	5000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	13850	4110
Number of records	857	635
Recorded in BBS squares	6/34	8/18
% records from GBW	35.71	26.77
% of BirdTrack lists	31.5	43.2
Density	3466.60	721.56



Thereafter, the highest figure at this site up to the end of Apr was 10 on 9/04 (PWb). Elsewhere, the maximum at Colwyn Bay pier was 2,500 on 12/02 (SD), a similar figure to the maximum there in 2015. Away from the coast the daytime records were mostly of less than 100; the highest figure was 600 at Cerrigydrudion on 6/03 (JoG). The first sign of breeding was nesting material being collected at Towyn on 30/03, and “youngsters” in a small flock there on 17/05 (both SM). The highest count on a BBS walk was 10 at Mynydd y Glyn on 2/06 (MkH). There were six records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Kinmel Bay on 5/05 (HC), and the last was of fledglings at Kinmel Bay on 1/06 (WRM). Post-breeding flocks built up slowly, and the first three-figure count was 100 at Pensarn on 28/07 (SM). A flock of 120 fed on blackberries at the same location on 24/08 (WRM). Two months later, RSPB Conwy recorded 1,000 on 24/10 (JHg). By far the largest flock recorded between then and the end of the year was 6,000 at Pandy Tudur on 8/11 (JoG). The second highest inland count was 2,000 at Ty'n-twl, Berwyn Mountains on 11/11, which were in trees around farm buildings (ArHu). RSPB Conwy provided another record of 1,000 on 28/11 (PeK), with 500 there on 6/12 (JHg) but all other records from the site in this second winter period were of singles. At Colwyn Bay pier a minimum of 400 were recorded on 25/11 but they seemed to use the site only for a pre-roost assembly before flying off to roost elsewhere (WRM).

Flints. The maximum count in the first winter period was 5,000 at Rhuddlan on 10/01, with 2,500 there on 26/01, and 1,000 there on 2/02 and 4/03. The highest count on a BBS walk was 40 at Buckley on 16/04 (GMR). There were thirteen records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Talacre dunes on 28/04 (RyE), and the last was of an occupied nest at Cilcain on 15/06 (GEM). The largest post-breeding flock was 800 at Gronant Dunes on 18/07 (HC). In the second winter period the largest counts were: 1,200 at Rhyl on 20/11 (DCR), 1,000 at Northop on 29/11 (PeK), and 2,500 in the Gronant area on 13/12 and 20/12 which were roosting in a local reed bed (WRM). Most records during this period were of less than 20.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Breeding resident.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

After last year's dip in the number of records submitted there was a recovery to something like 2014 levels. Overall breeding success was very low (0.36 young per nest) compared with 2.60 young per nest in 2015.

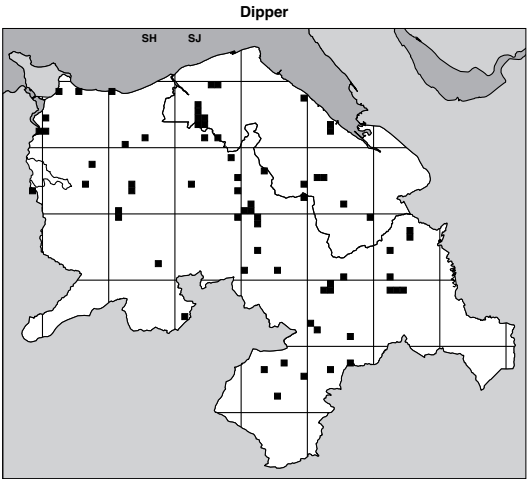
BRONWEN Y DWR

(DI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	54	16
Maximum count	4	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	2
Number of records	104	29
Recorded in BBS squares	2/34	-
% of BirdTrack lists	3.4	0.8
Density	0.11	0.05

Denbs. Numbers in the first winter period were mostly of singles and did not exceed 2. The highest count in the spring, before breeding records were received, was 3 at Bron-y-Garth on 1/04 (JaR) with a similar number at Llangollen on 7/05 (JMS). Recorded on three BBS walks: 2 at Llansannan on 21/04, with 1 there on 23/06 (both GBH), and 1 at Pandy Tudur on 9/05 (HC). The first records of breeding were: 3 nestlings ringed at Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog and also at Pandy on 8/05 (pBH). Thereafter, there were a further six records of confirmed breeding: an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Pandy Tudur on 9/05 (HC); a fledgling at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 16/05 (HC); an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at

Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog on 27/05 (NHu), and fledglings at Priddbwll, Llansannan on 28/05 (PJHo), Pwll Glas on 30/05 (HC) and Llangollen on 21/06 (DaHu). Most records in the second winter period were of 1 and none exceeded 2.

Flints. All records were of 1-2 throughout the year and it was not recorded on any BBS walks. There was only one record of confirmed breeding: a nest with at least 2 young at Greenfield Valley on 1/05 (RPJ).



Breeding (MRG, JLR):

(DI)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog	1	4	3	3	3.00
Pandy	4	13	4	3	0.75
Llangollen area	6	28	23	18	3.00
TOTALS	11	45	30	24	2.18

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Passage migrant and possible breeder.
Red List. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

There were no records of confirmed breeding. Compared with last year there has been an increase in the number of

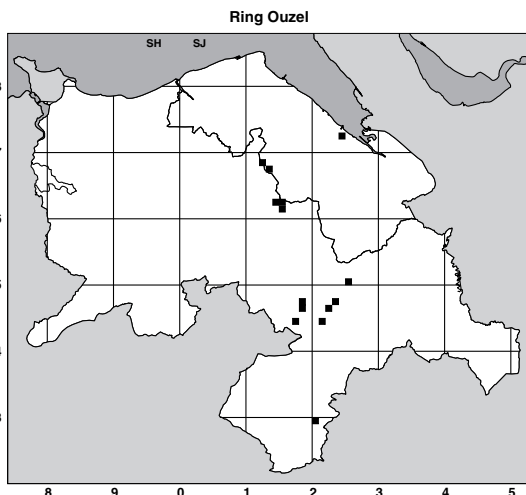
Denbs records from six to nineteen, and an increase in the number of Flints records from two to five. However, the differences are marginal and there were no records of confirmed breeding in either county. The distribution of records continues to show that the majority are from the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB.

MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

(RZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	11	3
Maximum count	5	8
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	5
Number of records	19	5
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-
Density	0.03	0.04

Denbs. The first of the year was 1 at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 24/03, fifteen days earlier than last year. Records thereafter were of 1-2 but there was a small increase in early Apr: 5 at Moel Famau on 3/04 (GoP); 4 at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 8/04 and 4 (3 males and 1 female) at the Horseshoe Pass on 9/04 (JLR). Records after that were of 1-2 with the last spring record being of 2 at Esclusham Mountain on 7/05 (JMS). There was just one record in the autumn: 1 at Rhewl, Llangollen on 12/10 (JMS), the date of which was within the main passage period for this species.

Flints. Five records were received, all of birds on spring passage. Four of the records were from the Penycloddiau area: 4 (2 males and 2 females) on 3/04 (EdW), which were also the first of the year; 1 male on 8/04 (WAO); 1 on 10/04 (EdW), and 8 (2 males and 4 females feeding together followed by 2 flyovers half an hour later) on 23/04 (EdW). The fifth record was from the more unusual location of Flint on 12/04. There were no autumn records.



Blackbird *Turdus merula*

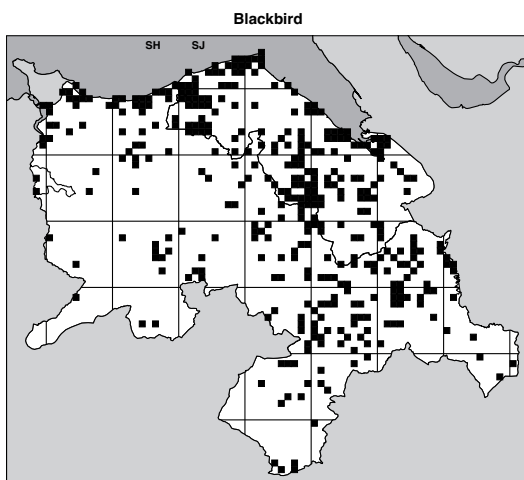
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Most records were in single figures.

Denbs. The highest count in the first winter period was 30 at Kinmel Bay on 14/02 (SM). In the early spring there were also 30 at Penycae on 17/03, which formed a loose flock on the ground and in the trees (JAJ), and may have been on passage. The highest BBS counts were: 32 at Rhos, Gellifor on 20/04, with 27 there on 22/06 (both TP); 21 at Pandy Tudur on 9/05, and 20 at Ruabon on 13/05 (LHu). There were thirty-nine records of confirmed breeding, and a further five records of nests where young were ringed. The first record of confirmed breeding was of distraction display at Towyn on 25/02, with fresh eggshells found in the same area on 9/03 (both SM). Inland, the first evidence of young in the nest was of a male and female collecting worms in Rhuthun on 13/03 (RG). The last record of confirmed breeding was of a fledgling at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 5/08 (IMS). Counts

MWYALCHEN

(B)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	229	151
Maximum count	50	47
Av max count prev 10 yrs	37	45
Number of records	2088	1470
Recorded in BBS squares	31/34	18/18
% records from GBW	45.69	39.46
% of BirdTrack lists	67.6	75.5
Density	5.79	12.05



thereafter were in single figures until the autumn, when there were five records of flocks which may have been on passage: 24 in trees at Penycae on 29/09 (JAJ); 50 at Llangwyfan on 10/10 (SEIJ); 20 at Castell Dinas Bran, Llangollen on 12/10 (SEIJ); 10 at Burton on 16/10 (HL), and 12 at Kimmel Bay on 30/10 (WRM). The majority of the records to the end of the year were of less than 5 but there were two notable exceptions: 30 at Kimmel Bay on 6/12, and 20 at Towyn on the same date (both SM).

Flints. The highest count in the first winter period was 26 at Pantymwyn on 17/01 (GEM). In early spring the highest count was 22 at Pantymwyn on 13/03 (GEM). The highest BBS count was 30 at Buckley on 16/05 (GNR). There were twenty-eight records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Rhuddlan on 5/04 (SH) and the last was a late record of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Garth, Cilcain on 16/08 (GEM). The counts during the rest of the year were mostly of 1-5. There was a small but detectable increase in the number of flocks, and in flock size, in the second half of Dec with: 40 at St Asaph on 17/12 (HC), followed by 47 there on 27/12; 36 at Rhyl on 27/12, and 36 at Rhyl brickworks on 29/12 (all JPH). It seems likely that this flocking may have been encouraged, at least in part, by a cold spell in the second half of December.

Breeding (MRG, JLR):

(B)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Ceiriog	9	35	19	14	1.56
Brynhyfryd	3	13	8	7	2.33
Llangollen area	5	18	15	14	2.80
Pentrefelin, Llangollen	4	15	7	4	1.00
Penycae	3	13	6	6	2.00
Ty Canol,	2	8	8	8	4.00
TOTALS	26	102	63	53	2.04

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis atrogularis*

BRYCH GYDDFDDU

Vagrant.

This bird is a first record for both counties, for North Wales and only the second for all of Wales.

Denbs. A single spent most of its time on the Flints side of the border at St Asaph, but strayed into Denbs on at least one occasion on 27/12.

Flints. A single was recorded by many observers at St Asaph from 12/12 into the New Year. It has been accepted by the BBRC. It was reported to have spent its time feeding on earthworms and perching and resting in local hedges and trees.



Black-throated Thrush. Photos: Alex Humphreys-Jones

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

SOCAN EIRA

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

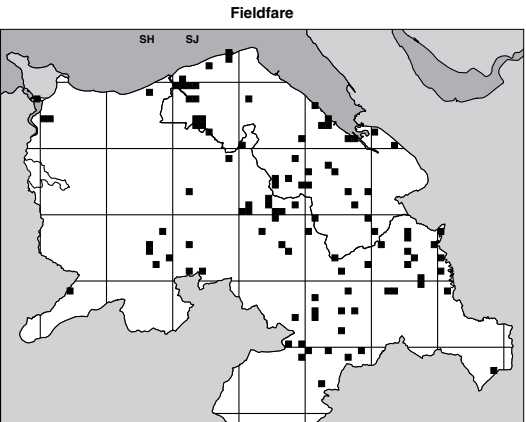
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

The

majority of records were of less than 10.

(FF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	66	38
Maximum count	1000	150
Av max count prev 10 yrs	888	469
Number of records	92	90
% records from GBW	8.70	8.89
% of BirdTrack lists	2.1	5.7
Density	33.40	9.68

Denbs. The first of the year was 1 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 1/01 (MiB). The largest count in the first winter period was 200 at Erddig park, Wrexham on 20/01 (NHu). In the late winter/early spring there were 150 at Foel Gasnach, Clocaenog Forest on 5/03 (GTh), and 120 at Eglwyseg on 28/03 (JoG). The last spring record was 7 at Esclusham Mountain on 4/04 (MGW). The first record of the autumn was 5 at Bodfari on 21/08 (PWh). The highest count in the main migration period was 1,000 flying W at Penycae on 14/10 (JAJ). There were six counts of 100-200 up to 25/11, including one of 110 flying to



roost on the open moor at Cae Llwyd reservoir, Ruabon Mountain on 27/10 (pJLR). The highest count to the end of the year was 80 at Llechrydau on 31/12 (AIDa).

Flints. Present on 1/01 with 20 at Rhuddlan (SH). The highest counts in the first winter period were 50 at Glust on 12/01 (MGW), and 67 flying SW at Bagillt on 4/03 (GRMP). The last of the spring records was of 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 15/04 (PSH). The first autumn record was 38 at Garth, Cilcaïn on 30/10 (GEM). As in 2015, there were no large flocks during the main migration period. There were only three counts of more than 100 up to the end of the year: 140 at Ynys, Rhyl on 28/11 (DCR); 150 at Deeside Industrial Park on 11/12 (pRS), and 112 at Rhyl on 18/12 (JPH). The majority of records during the autumn and the second winter period were less than 10.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Breeding resident and winter visitor.
Amber List. S7.

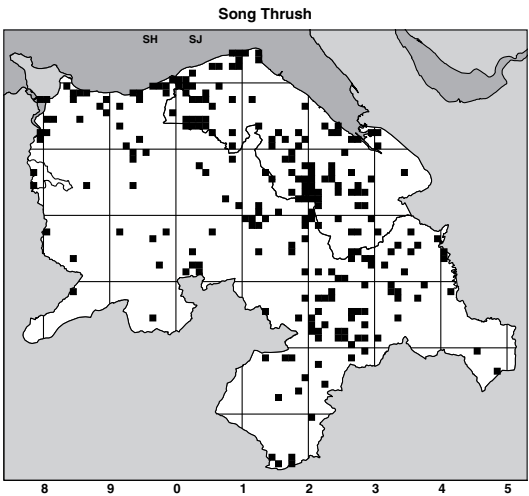
Recorded in each month in both counties.
Most records were of 1-2.

Denbs. In the first winter period the highest counts were 6 at RSPB Conwy on 16/01 (MOT), with 4 there on 11/02 (JOHn). Song was noted at Rhewl on 26/02 (GoP). There was a flock of 20 at Penycæ on 17/03, and one of 10 at Eglwyseg on 19/03 (both JAJ), both of which were probably on passage. The highest BBS counts were: 11 at Rhos, Gellifor on 22/06; 9 at the same location on 20/04, and 9 at Llanarmon-yn-Iâl on 15/06 (all TP). There were six records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Coed Hafod on 23/04 (HC), and the last was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Ceiriog Forest on 12/07 (NHu). In addition, there were 5 broods ringed at Pandy during this period (pBH). Autumn passage was represented by 35 at Llangwylfan on 10/10, and 20 at Castell Dinas Bran, Llangollen on 12/10 (both SEIJ). Thereafter, numbers were of 1-3 to the end of the year.

Flints. The highest count in the first winter period was 7 at Rhyl brickworks on 6/01 (RLE). Unlike Denbs there was no evidence of spring passage. The highest BBS counts were 8 at Bwlchgwyn on 23/04, with a similar number there on 22/06 (both GaBu). There were four records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at

BRONFRAITH

(ST)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	154	90
Maximum count	35	10
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	14
Number of records	607	510
Recorded in BBS squares	23/34	16/18
% records from GBW	18.62	16.47
% of BirdTrack lists	27.9	32.8
Density	2.73	1.53



Padeswood on 23/04 (GNR), and the last was of three fledglings begging for food from an adult at Greenfield valley on 6/07 (WRM). Numbers in the autumn and second winter period were mostly of 1-2 but 10 were ringed at Rhydymwyn on 2/10 (IMS) and 5, forming a small flock, were recorded at Hendre on 21/10 (GEM). These, together with 9 at Rhuddlan on 15/11 (JPH) were all within the autumn passage period for this species. The last significant count of the year was 10 at St Asaph on 31/12 (RSw), which may have come together during a short, cold spell at the end of the month.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

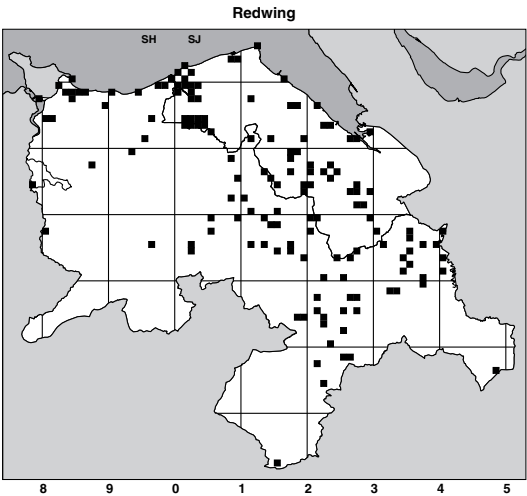
The majority of records were of less than 10.

Denbs. The highest count in the first winter period was 200, which were seen on newly sprayed fields at Erddig park, Wrexham on 20/01 (NHu). There were only two other three-figure counts in this period. Later, in Mar, there was a count of 300 at Eglwyseg on 22/03 which appeared to be moving N (JAJ) on a date suggestive of spring passage. The last spring record was of 20 at the same location on 28/03 (JoG). The first of the autumn was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 4/10 (JHg) and 90 on the same date at Penycae (JAJ). This was bettered by a flock of 100 at Castell Dinas Bran, Llangollen on 12/10 (SEiJ), and by 130, moving NW in twelve or more flocks of 6-14 birds, at Penycae on 22/10 (JAJ). Records were mostly in single figures in the second winter period but there were seven three-figure counts between 20/11 and 15/12 with a peak of 500 at Llysfaen on 4/12 (RS), possibly linked to cold spells during this period (see also Flints below).

Flints. The highest counts in the first winter period were: 70 at Sychdyn on 17/01 (AB), and 125 at Rhuddlan on 5/02 (SH). There were two records which were probably of birds on spring passage: 200 feeding in a field at 1400hrs, at Buckley on 15/03 (StB), and 150 at the same location (and possibly involving the same birds) on 23/03 (StB) which was also the last spring record. The first autumn record was 1 at St Asaph on 10/09 (SM) but the second record was not until 2/10 when there was 1 at Rhuddlan (SH). During the main period of autumn passage there were 93 at Pantymwyn on 23/10 (GEM). In the second winter period there were: 300 at

COCH DAN-ADAIN

(RE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	91	55
Maximum count	500	300
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1057	736
Number of records	209	236
% records from GBW	22	8.47
% of BirdTrack lists	7.8	15.8
Density	23.03	28.01



Bagillt on 28/11 (GRMP); 208 at Pantymwyn on 1/12, with 140 there on 3/12 (both GEM), and 140 also at Gronant on 4/12 (WRM). Altogether, there were nine three-figure counts between 19/11 and 3/12, and, as with Denbs above, these increases may have been in response to cold spells during that period.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Breeding resident and winter visitor.
Amber List.

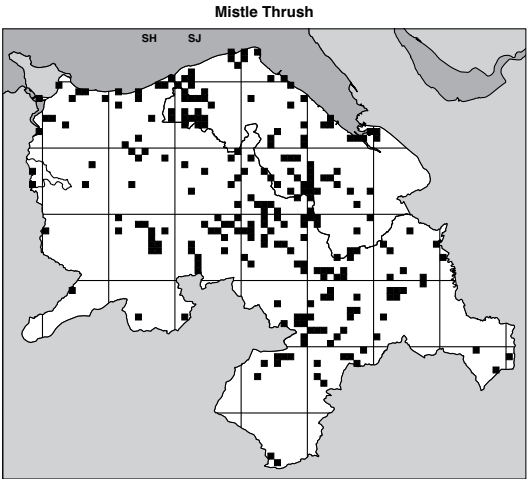
Recorded in each month in both counties.
Most records were of 1-2.

Denbs. Records were mostly of 1-2 throughout the first winter period with the highest count being 4 at St Asaph on 11/02 (SH). Later there were 4 at Esclusham Mountain on 13/03 (TBy). The highest BBS count was 4 at Berwyn on 14/05 (JoG). Away from the BBS walks there were also two other counts of 4: one at Chirk Castle on 19/04 (JaR) and the other at Moel Arthur on 5/05 (GEM). There were eight records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Coed Hafod on 23/04 (HC). The last was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Ceiriog Forest on 12/07 (NHu). Breeding was also confirmed from Pandy Tudur, Old Colwyn, Pensarn, Pendinas reservoir, and Bryn Rhydyr-Arian. There were five double-figure counts of post-breeding flocks between Jul and Oct: 10 at Erddig Park, Wrexham on 31/07 (HCT); 29 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 4/09 (MiB); 14 at Penycae on 29/09 (JAJ); 15 at Llangwyfan on 10/10 (SEIJ), and 23 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 11/10 (SEIJ). In the second winter period most of the records were of 1-2 but 22 were recorded at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 13/12 (JPH).

Flints. In the first winter period and up to the end of Mar the highest counts were 6 at Mold on 17/01 (AB), with 6 at Connah's Quay NR on 31/01 (PSH) and at Rhuddlan on 12/02 (SH). The first song of the year was noted on 12/03 at Buckley (StB). Recorded on 11 BBS walks with counts of 1-2. There were six records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an occupied nest at Point of Ayr on 25/04 (RLE), which was followed by records from Cyffredin, Gronant, Connah's Quay NR, and Garth, Cilcain. The last record of confirmed breeding was of fledglings at Gronant on 6/07 (WRM). There were two double-figure counts of post-breeding flocks: 11 at Shotton Paper Mill on 21/08 (IMS), and 10 at Pantymwyn on 25/08 (GEM). Thereafter, the

BRYCH Y COED

(M)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	174	73
Maximum count	29	17
Av max count prev 10 yrs	44	21
Number of records	358	270
Recorded in BBS squares	17/34	9/18
% records from GBW	15.08	9.26
% of BirdTrack lists	12.1	19.2
Density	2.55	2.11



records for the rest of the year were mostly of 1-2, with the highest count being 8 at St Asaph on 17/12 (AHJ).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

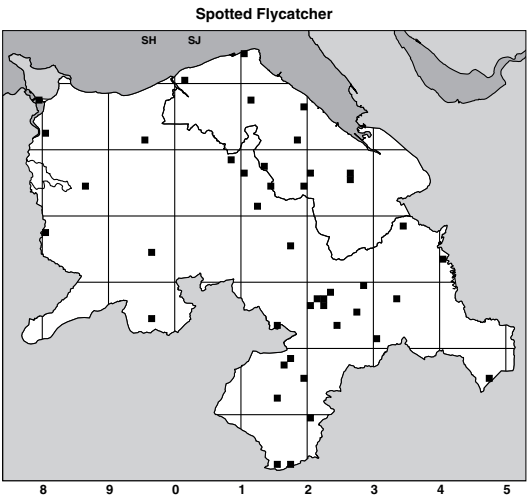
Most records were of 1-2. There was a significant increase in observer records received: 29 in 2015 and 71 in 2016.

Denbs. The first of the year was 1 at RSPB

Conwy on 4/05 (pJHg), twelve days earlier than in 2015. Recorded on six BBS walks (two in 2015): 1 at Llangwm on 8/05 and 12/06; 6 at Pand y Tudur on 9/05 with 3 there on 12/06 (both HC); 1 at Mynydd y Glyn on 2/06, and 1 at Rhos, Gellifor on 22/06. There were eight records of confirmed breeding (two in 2015): an occupied nest at Llansilin on 11/05 (JO); a nest with eggs at the same location on 13/06 (JO); a nest with eggs at Coedpoeth on 2/06 (per JLR); an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Rock Farm on 18/06 (JLR); an occupied nest at Sontley on 19/06 (Hct); a nest with an egg at Eglwyseg on 22/06 (JLR); a nest with young in Ivy on a building at Bont-y-Gwyddel on 30/06 (SM); a nest with young at Burton Green on 18/08 (HL), and fledglings at Llewenni Hall, Bodfari on 25/08 (JPH). In addition to the above, 4 nestlings were ringed at Pand y Tudur on 17/06 with another three ringed at the same location on 22/06 (both pBH). The last records of the year were: 1 at RSPB Conwy on 29/08; 2 at Llyn Gweryd, Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 29/08 with 1 there on 2/09 (GEM), and 1 ringed at Bwlchydardar on 6/09 (MH). The last of the year in 2015 was on 13/09.

Flints. The first of the year was 1 at Rhyl brickworks on 7/05 (AHJ). This was fourteen days earlier than in 2015. Not recorded on any BBS walks (one in 2015) but there were two confirmed breeding records (one in 2015): a nest with young (with two pairs counted in the locality) at Llyn Helyg on 5/06 (MGW), and a nest with young in a mill wall at Greenfield valley on 6/07 (WRM). In addition, there were two unconfirmed breeding records: a pair were thought to be nesting under the eaves of a public house in Alltarni on 13/07 (AB), and there were 2, possibly 3, juveniles at Point of Ayr on 23/07 (MrHu). In the case of the latter it is not known whether the juveniles had been reared in the recording area. There were three Aug records: 1 at Alltarni on 9/08 with 1 at the same location on 16/08, and 1 (the last of the year) at Rhys-y-

(SF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	33	10
Maximum count	14	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	3
Number of records	57	14
Recorded in BBS squares	4/34	-
% records from GBW	-	14.29
% of BirdTrack lists	1.7	0.9
Density	0.23	0.07



Cae on 18/08 which was in a bush on the moor and was considered to be on passage. The last of the year in 2015 was on 13/09.

Breeding (MRG):

(SF)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	3	12	8	5	1.67

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

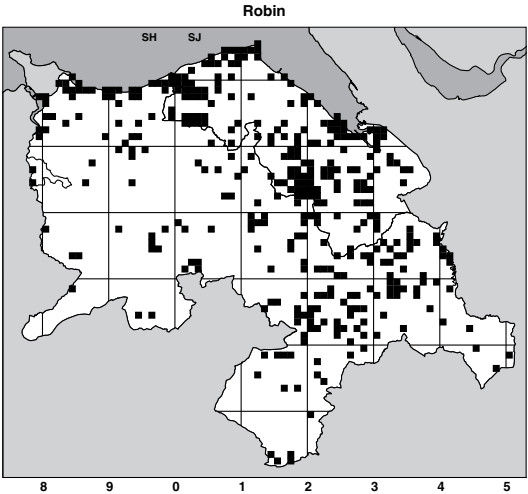
ROBIN GOCH

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties.
Most records were of 1-2.

Denbs. In the first winter period the highest count was 30 singing during a 1.5 hour walk round Rhuthun on 2/01 (RG). There were two other counts in double figures up to the end of Feb: 10 at RSPB Conwy on 16/01 (MOT), and 10 at Loggerheads CP on 25/02 (TP). In the early spring there were 14 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 14/03 (JPH). The first sign of breeding behaviour was on 16/03, when one was seen collecting moss at Towyn (SM). Later in the month there were 10 at Alyn Waters, Gwersyllt on 25/03 (TP). One interesting record in terms of habitat was of 1 in an “area of gorse by a stream below Moel Famau” on 3/04 (GoP). The three highest counts on BBS walks were: 26 at Pandy Tudur on 9/05 (HC); 21 at Erddig pool, Wrexham on 30/04 (NHu), and 19 at Craig Bron Bannog, Clocaenog Forest on 17/04 (HeK, MaO). There were 27 records of confirmed breeding (25 in 2015) but one or two of these may have been

(R)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	221	151
Maximum count	30	17
Av max count prev 10 yrs	20	15
Number of records	2055	1381
Recorded in BBS squares	31/34	17/18
% records from GBW	46.37	41.42
% of BirdTrack lists	66.3	67.1
Density	3.36	4.36



duplicates where observers had recorded a nest more than once under different breeding codes as nesting progressed. The first record was of an occupied nest at Towyn on 14/04. Fledged young were being fed mealworms by adults at this location on 28/04, and new nest-building was noted on 28 and 29/05. The same site also produced the last record of confirmed breeding with a fledgling noted on 20/08 (all records for this site were provided by SM). Most of the records to the end of the year were of 1-2. Post-moult, the first counts in double-figures were: 14 at Holt on 1/09 (NF); 24 at Holt on 20/09 (NF), and 14 at Nant-y-Glyn on the same day (HC). During the late autumn and the second winter period the most notable counts were: 16 at Loggerheads CP on 16/10 (TP); 13 at Holt on 2/11 (NF); 12 at Holt on 15/12 (NF); 13 at RSPB Conwy on 20/12 (JPH), and 17 at RSPB Conwy on 29/12 (RoHI).

Flints. The first count in double-figures was 11 at Greenfield valley on 8/01 (IMS). There were seven further counts in double figures up to 4/04 the highest being of 15 at Padeswood on 24/02 (GNR). The highest counts on BBS walks were: 17 at Mold on 23/04 (IMS); 13 at Bwlchgwyn on 23/04 (GaBu), and 13 at Talacre gas terminal on 12/05 (PMi). There were twenty-nine records of confirmed breeding, with two additional records where nestlings were ringed. The first record of confirmed breeding was of an adult carrying a faecal sac at Connah's Quay NR on 6/05 (GEM). The first fledgling was recorded at Rhydymwyn on 21/05 (IMS). The last breeding record was of a fledgling at Garth, Cilcain on 16/08 (GEM). Numbers were generally of 1-2 to the end of the year and the only double-figure count was 14 at Pantymwyn on 28/10 (GEM).

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

EOS

Vagrant.

Flints. A single was discovered near Mold on 12/05 by PWo. It was heard singing from thick cover by several observers but stayed for only one day (GRMP). Accepted by the WRP.

(NG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		0.1
Density		0.00

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

GWYBEDOG BRITH

Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

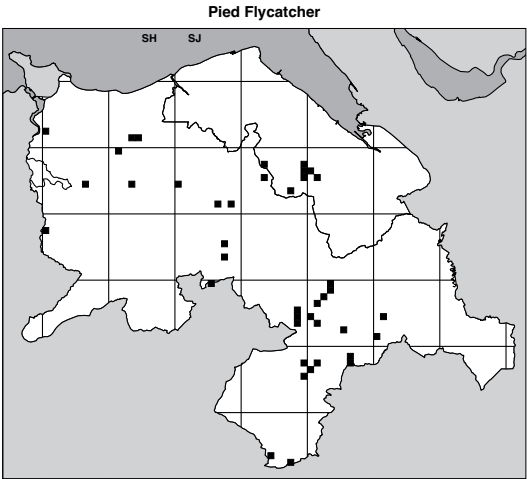
Most records were of 1-2, except where the ringing records of nestlings were included; the latter are set out in the accompanying table. Breeding was around average with only three years with better results for numbers of young per nest (2006 – 4.78, 2014 – 5.37 and 2010 – 5.38).

(PF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	34	7
Maximum count	104	24
Av max count prev 10 yrs	67	18
Number of records	108	10
Recorded in BBS squares	4/34	-
% records from GBW	1.85	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.1	0.2
Density	1.79	0.29

Denbs. The first of the year was a pair at Rhos-y-brithdir on 13/04 (DWh), two days later than last year. The highest counts during Apr were 11 at Coed Hafod on 20/04, with 14 there on 23/04 (both HC), and 10 at Mynydd Bodrochwyn on 21/04 (SM). Recorded on six BBS walks where the highest count was 6 at Berwyn on 14/05 (JoG). Aside from the ringing records there were only two records of confirmed breeding: an occupied nest at Coed Hafod on 30/05 (EdDJ), and a similar record from Cribin, Eglwyseg on 1/06 (NiSu). The first nestlings of the year were ringed at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 4/06 (pBH), and the last being ringed at Parc Postyn, Prion on 22/06 (pBH). The last record of the year was an adult ringed at Bwlchyddar on 5/08 (MkH). JLR has provided the following information from his ongoing study of 102 nestboxes in the Eglwyseg valley, Llangollen: "Compared with 2015 there were fewer first layings in 2016 (24 vs. 34). Laying began later in 2016 (the average first-egg date was 12/5 vs. 7/5); clutch size in the two years was similar (average 6.9) but the size of fledged broods in 2016 was nearly double those of 2015 (an average of 4.5 vs. 2.9). More pairs bred, and reared markedly more

young, in woods where Oak, Birch and Alder were dominant than where Sycamore, Ash and conifers were the commonest trees. This did not apply in 2015. Cold, wet conditions after the species arrival in in the second half of Apr may have been the cause of death of 2 females found in their respective nest boxes during this period. Egg-laying corresponded with a spell of very warm weather”.

Flints. The first records of the year were 1 at Nant Alyn, Pantymwyn, and 1 at Rhydymwyn, both on the relatively late date of 30/04 (both MB). It was not recorded on any BBS walk. Apart from ringing activity there was only one confirmed breeding record and that was of a juvenile at Rhydymwyn on 19/07, which provided the last record of the year (IMS).



Breeding (MRG, IMS, JLR):

(PF)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	17	111	82	78	4.59
Dol-hir	5	34	33	31	6.20
Pandy	16	105	73	45	2.81
Llewesog Hall	50	338	314	262	5.24
Brynhafryd	7	50	47	32	4.57
Dinbren Isaf	5	30	27	27	5.40
Pentrefelin,	4	25	24	22	5.50
Eglwyseg	9	59	48	32	3.56
Llangollen area	6	40	36	24	4.00
Coed Nantddu	7	46	29	28	4.00
Coed y Felin	4	25	24	24	6.00
TOTALS	130	863	737	605	4.65
Mean yng/nest for 2004 to 2015 (n = 1109)					4.34

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

TINGOCH DU

Winter migrant, passage visitor and casual breeder. Amber list. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

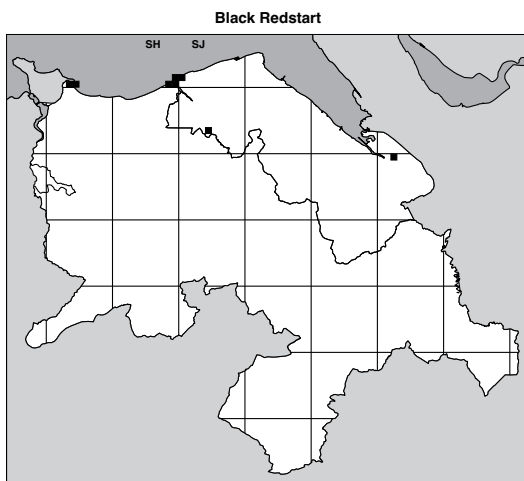
On average, 1-2 have been seen in the

(BX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	5	3
Maximum count	2	1
Number of records	13	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.2
Density	0.01	0.01

recording area in every year since at least 2009.

Denbs. In the first winter period, and into the early spring, there was 1 at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 23/01, 6/02 and 12/03 and 1 at Rhos-on-Sea on 21/02. There were no further records until the second winter period, when there were 2 in the Kinmel Bay / Horton's Nose area on 26/11 and 27/11 (AHJ, RLE, JPH and KS).

Flints. There was 1 in the spring at Garden City on 7/04, and three records in the second winter period: 1 at Rhyl on 27/11 and 1 at St Asaph on 17/12 and 30/12 (both JOHn).



Black Redstart, male. Photo: John Hawkins



Black Redstart, female. Photo: Andy Davis



Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Breeding summer visitor.

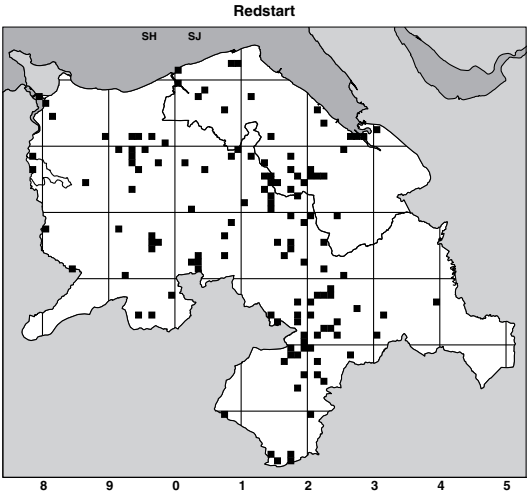
TINGOCH

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Most records were of 1-2. The number of records received was the highest since the early 2000s.

Denbs. The first records of the year were 2 at Henllan, 4 at Saron (both MTB), and a male at Trevor Uchaf (JLR) all on 13/04, two days earlier than in 2015. All of the counts on BBS walks were in single figures except for one of 10 at Mynydd y Glyn on 4/05 (MkH). Apart from the ringing / nest records, which are set out in the accompanying table, there were ten confirmed breeding records, as in 2015. The first was of an occupied nest at Llansilin on 11/05 (JO), and the last was of a juvenile at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 5/08 (IMS). The last record of the year was of 1 at RSPB Conwy on 14/09 (pJHg).

(RT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	102	29
Maximum count	19	11
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	8
Number of records	181	100
Recorded in BBS squares	15/34	5/18
% of BirdTrack lists	3.2	5.1
Density	0.98	0.54



Redstart, male. Photo: Andy Davis

Flints. The first of the year was 1 at Rhyl on 9/04 (MaO), five days earlier than in 2015. BBS walks recorded only 1-2. The highest count of the year was 11 at Penycloddiau on 30/05 (EdW). Apart from ringing records there were seven records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an occupied nest at Rhydymwyn on 21/05 (IMS), and the last was of a juvenile at Rhydymwyn on 1/08 (IMS). The last record of the year was 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 24/08 (PSH). Between 30/06 and 24/08 the Connah's Quay area produced thirty-five out of the fifty-four records received for this species. The numbers passing through the reserve and its environs during this period were all of 1-5.

Breeding (MRG, JLR, IMS):

(RT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	4	25	25	25	6.25
Pandy	6	31	26	19	3.17
Brynhyfryd	4	24	18	17	4.25
Llangollen area	5	27	26	25	
Glasfryn	2	14	14	13	6.50
Rhydymwyn	2	10	10	10	5.00
TOTALS	23	131	119	109	4.74

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Breeding summer visitor. Red List.

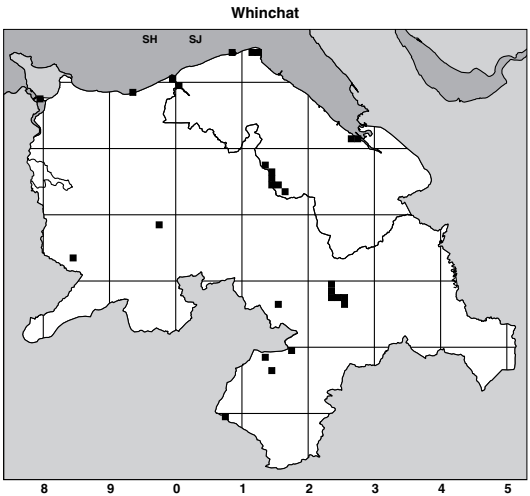
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Most records were of 1-2.

Denbs. The first of the year was 1 at Pensarn on 21/04 (SM), four days earlier than in 2015. Between 21/04 and 8/05 there were seven records of 1-2 from the coastline between RSPB Conwy and Kinmel Bay, all of which are likely to have been birds on passage. After 8/05 all of the records received were from the traditional, inland breeding areas. The highest counts on BBS walks were 3 at Cerrig-duon on 5/05 (DeS), with a similar number at Capel Siloam on 3/07 (HeK, MaO). Away from the BBS there were 7 at Moel Famau on 20/05 (EdW), 4 at Pistyll Rhaeadr on 3/05 (MWB), and 4 at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 26/06 (HCT). Although records of pairs and singing birds were received there was only one record of confirmed breeding: a

CREC YR EITHIN

(WC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	18	10
Maximum count	7	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	11	7
Number of records	28	20
Recorded in BBS squares	4/34	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.7	0.5
Density	0.06	0.07





Whinchat, male. Photo: Tony Pope

fledgling at Moel Arthur on 1/07 (GEM). Only three records were received for Jul/Aug and there were no obvious records of autumn passage. The last of the year was 1 at Gors-Maen-Llwyd, Mynydd Hiraethog on 13/08 (MaO), over three weeks earlier than last year.

Flints. The first of the year were 2 at Gronant on 23/04 (AHJ), twenty-one days later than in 2015. Between 23/04 and 5/05 there were eight records (all of 1-2 and birds likely to have been on passage) from three locations: Gronant (two records), Rhyl (one) and Connah's Quay NR (five). The species was not recorded on any BBS walks. May produced the highest count of the year: 4 at Penycloddiau on 30/05 (EdW). This date would have been in the middle of the breeding cycle for this species but no further such records were received. The species was not recorded in Jun. Between 3/07 and 6/10 there were nine records, all of 1-2. The majority were probably of birds on passage. Seven records were from the coast or Deeside: Connah's Quay NR (four records), Talacre (two), and Talacre dunes (one). Two were from inland sites: Moel Famau and Penycloddiau. Two of the Connah's Quay NR records were also the last records of the year: 1 at Connah's Quay NR (Central) and 1 at Connah's Quay NR (W), both on 6/10 (PSH). It is possible that these records refer to the same bird. This date was twenty-three days later than the corresponding date in 2015.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Resident breeder and winter visitor.

Recorded in each month in both counties.
Most records were of 1-2.

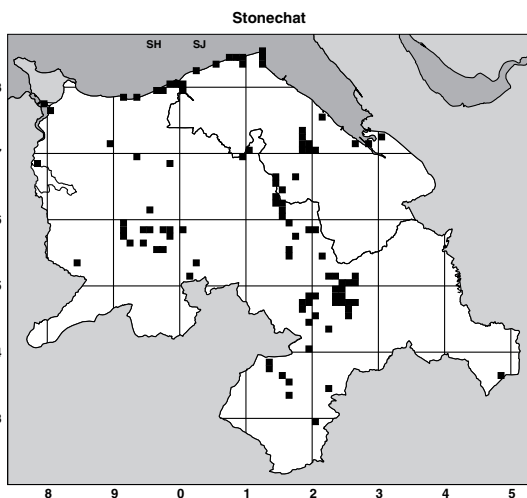
Denbs. In the first winter period there was a male and 2 females at Kinmel Bay on 22/01 (DCR). These were the only records in Jan. In Feb and Mar there was a handful of records from the coast, e.g. RSPB Conwy but the majority were from traditional inland locations e.g. Ruabon Mountain and the Clwydian Range. Song was noted at Tyddyn Norbury on 14/03 (GoP). The species was recorded on eight BBS walks, with the highest count of 4 at Mountain Lodge, Ruabon Mountain on 9/05 (WKR). Away from the BBS walks there were 8 at Cyrn-y-Brain on 30/05 (NiSu), and 6, with display noted, at Moel Arthur on 3/06 (GEM). There were fourteen records of confirmed breeding, the first being an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Llyn Cefn on 14/05 (JPH), and the last a fledgling at Moel Arthur on 1/07 (GEM). The earliest record of fledglings was a brood of 3, with

adults in attendance, at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 27/05 (TK). Post-breeding and up to the end of the year, the highest count was 5 at Moel Arthur on 26/08 (GEM). Inland records dominated until the beginning of Sep and from then until the end of the year the majority were from the coast. The last inland record was 2 at Esclusham Mountain on 27/12 (JLR), and the last from the coast, which was also the last of the year, was 1 at Kinmel Bay on 29/12 (WRM).

Flints. The first record was 1 at Rhyl on 16/01 (AHJ). The first eight records of the year were from the coast; the first from an inland site was 2 at Rhes-y-cae on 17/04 (RPJ). There were no records from BBS walks. There were eight records of confirmed breeding. The first was 1 male with 2 fledglings at Halkyn on 22/05 (RPJ), and the last was a fledgling at Garth, Cilcain on 19/07 (GEM). Breeding was also recorded by several observers at Gronant, and Gronant dunes. Post-breeding, the highest count was 8 at Garth, Cilcain on 29/08 (GEM). The species was widely distributed in the breeding season but, after breeding, and up to the end of the year, most of the records came from the coast or Deeside. Between 2/09 and the end of the year, only three out of twenty-seven records submitted were from inland sites; those were Rhes-y-cae, Cilcain, and Halkyn Mountain. The last record of the year was 1 at Rhyl on 25/12 (AHJ).

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

(SC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	77	25
Maximum count	8	8
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	6
Number of records	169	93
Recorded in BBS squares	6/34	-
% of BirdTrack lists	9.7	8.0
Density	0.31	0.34



Wheatear
Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe

TINWEN Y GARN

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

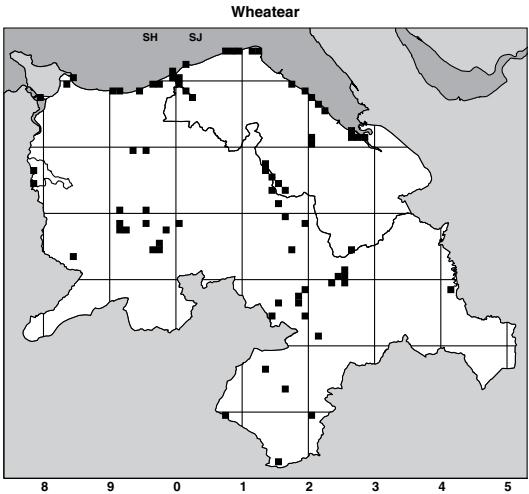
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Most records were of less than 5.

Denbs. The first of the year was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 26/03, eight days later than in 2015. The first inland record was 2 at Sutton Green on the following day (NHu). RSPB Conwy dominated the records up to mid-Apr with a maximum of 54 there on 12/04 (JHg), the largest count for the recording area since 2004. Thereafter, inland sites produced the majority of records. The species was recorded on five BBS walks, with the highest count of 5 recorded at three sites: Mynydd y Gyrt on 3/05 (AIC); Capel Siloam on 7/05 (HeK, MaO), and Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 15/06 (TP). Records fell away after mid-May and only two were received for the whole of Jun. There were no confirmed breeding records. There were only eight records in Jul, the highest of which was 6 at Llyn Brenig on 19/07 (FiW). Autumn passage gathered momentum in Aug. The highest counts were from the coast, with 6 at Towyn on 23/08 (SM), and 6 at Rhos Point, Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 29/08 “which paused briefly on rocks near the Point and then moved quickly on” (WRM). All but one of the nine Sep records came from the coast, with the highest count being 7 at Pensarn on 14/09 (WRM). Four out of the five Oct records were from inland sites, the highest count being 6 at Llangwyfan on 10/10. The last record of the year was 1 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 11/10 (both SEIJ).

Flints. The first of the year was 1 at Rhyl on 25/03, six days later than in 2015, and ten days later than in 2014. Most of the records from Flints were from the coast and Deeside, particularly during the two passage periods. During the period of spring passage there were 12 at Connah’s Quay NR on 17/04 and 19/04 (PSH) and 12 at Rhyl on 20/04 (AHJ). The species was recorded on one BBS walk with 3 at Rhuddlan on 2/05 (HeK, MaO). There was one record of confirmed breeding: a fledgling at Garth, Cilcain on 19/07 (GEM). The number of records increased in the second half of Aug as moult was completed and autumn passage began. Most of the records were of 1-2, the one exception being a count of 5 at Garth, Cilcain on 23/08 (GEM). There were fourteen records in Sep, all from the coast or Deeside, suggesting that these were mostly birds on passage. The highest count was 4 at Connah’s Quay NR on 8/09 (PSH). The last record of the year was 1 at Gronant on 4/10 (GNR).

(W)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	51	25
Maximum count	54	12
Av max count prev 10 yrs	17	26
Number of records	98	98
Recorded in BBS squares	4/34	1/18
% records from GBW	1.02	-
% of BirdTrack lists	5.5	4.6
Density	1.39	0.51



Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*

TINWEN Y GARN

Passage migrant.

Both records were of spring passage.

Denbs. There was a large count of 14 at Kinnel Bay on 5/05 (HC).

Flints. There was 1 at Gronant on 28/04 (RyE).

(W)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	14	1
Number of records	1	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.1
Density	0.01	0.00

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

LLWYD Y GWRYCH

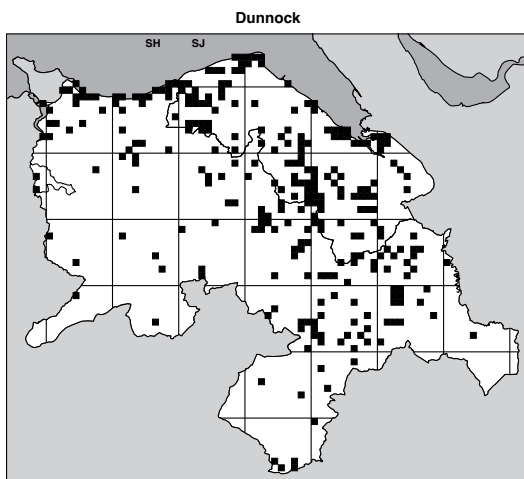
Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. During Jan to Mar most records were of presence or counts of 1-8 with 9 at Talygarth on 28/02 (DCg) and at RSPB Conwy on 4/03 (JOHn)..There were twenty-two records of possible or probable breeding. In the next three months the records were again of presence or counts of 1-8, with 9 near Ruabon on 13/05 (LHu) and 11 near Gellifor on 20/04 (TP), both during BBS walks. There were many records of possible or probable breeding and fourteen records of confirmed breeding at seven locations. During Jul to Sep most records were of presence or counts of 1-6 with 9 at Nant-y-Glyn on 23/09 (HC). There were two records of confirmed breeding at just one extra location. The last three months were as Jul to Sep, with three larger counts, all at Nant-y-Glyn: 7 on 10/10, 8 on 26/10 and 10 on 31/10 (HC).

Flints. During the first three months most records were of presence or counts of 1-9 and the four highest

(D)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	164	117
Maximum count	11	14
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	14
Number of records	1551	1128
Recorded in BBS squares	26/34	16/18
% records from GBW	51.90	47.52
% of BirdTrack lists	43.0	51.1
Density	0.91	2.78



counts were all from Pantymwyn: 11 on 28/02, 12 on 17/03 and 13 on 13/03 and 24/03 (GEM). On 13/03, there, a group of 5 were seen in a "discussion group". Presumably the main topic was sex: who with whom. The next three months were mainly records of presence or counts of 1-10, with the highest counts coming from BBS walks: 11 at the Talacre gas terminal on 12/05 (PMi), 12 near Mold on 23/04 (IMS) and 14 at Talacre gas terminal on 15/06 (PMi). There were many records of possible or probable breeding and six of confirmed breeding. The months of Jul to Sep were relatively quiet, though this is the time of year when adults would have been

moulting, so probably lurking even more than usual. All but one record for this period was of presence or counts of 1-5 with 6 at Pantymwyn on 7/09 (GEM). There were three records of confirmed breeding at two locations. During the last three months most records were of presence or counts of 1-9, with 11 at Pantymwyn on 7/10 (GEM).

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

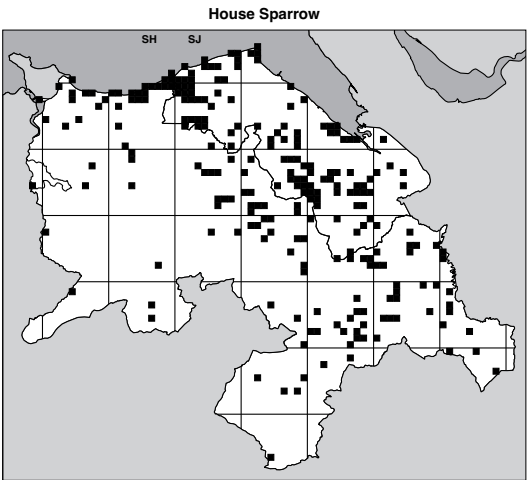
Breeding resident. Amber List.

ADERYN Y TO

Recorded in each month in both counties except Sep in Denbs.

Denbs. During Jan to Mar most records were of presence or singles, with most of the rest being counts of 2-100+. The four largest counts were 150+, all at Towyn, on 1/01, 4/01 ,5/01 and 13/01 (SM). During Apr to Jun most records were of presence or singles. All but one of the other counts were 2-50+. The largest count was 52 near Cefn Mawr on 8/06 during a BBS walk (DAW). In these months there were twenty-two records of confirmed breeding from eight locations. During Jul to Sep most records were of presence or singles and the rest were counts of 2-100+. The two largest counts were again at Towyn, with 120+ on 4/09 and 6/09 (SM). During this period there was just one more record of confirmed breeding at RSPB Conwy on 18/07. During the last months about one third of the records were of presence or singles and many other counts of 2-100+. The ten largest counts were all at Towyn with 120+ on 12/10, 150+ on 14/10, 20/12 and 22/12, then 200+ on 19/10, 21/10, 22/10, 2/11, 23/11 and 24/12 (SM).

(HS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	138	105
Maximum count	200	110
Av max count prev 10 yrs	105	129
Number of records	1537	1019
Recorded in BBS squares	18/34	14/18
% records from GBW	52.90	47.99
% of BirdTrack lists	45.8	45.1
Density	13.97	19.61



Flints. During Jan to Mar about half of the records were of presence or singles with most of the rest being counts of 2-21+. The two largest counts were 24 at Gwernaffield on 14/01 (TP) and 30 near Rhuddlan on 1/01 (SH). During Apr to Jun over a third of records were counts of 2-53. The largest counts were 58 near Rhyl on 22/06 (JPH), then near Buckley, 68 on 16/04 and 93 on 16/05 during BBS walks (GNR). There were eight records of confirmed breeding from seven locations. The period Jul to Sep had many fewer records, with about one third being presence or singles and most of the rest being counts of 2-45+. The largest count was 110+ near Rhyl on 1/08 (RLE). There were no records of confirmed breeding in this period. During Oct to Dec about a quarter of the records were of presence or singles. Most of the rest were counts of 2-28, with the two largest counts being 40 near Cilcain on 18/11 (GEM) and 40+ at Ffrith,

Prestatyn on 2/11 (WRM).

Breeding (MRG):

(HS)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Ceiriog Valley	2	11	11	10	5.00

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Breeding resident. Red List.

Seen in these months:

D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

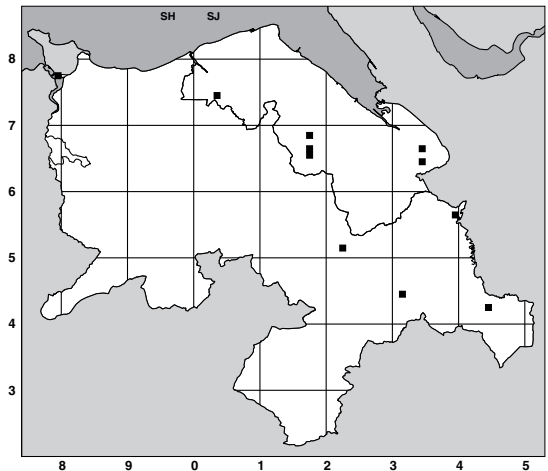
Denbs. The first record was 8 at Trevalyn Meadows on 9/02 followed by 3 near Horseman's Green on 8/05 (EB). There was another record of 8 near Ruabon on 13/05 (LHu). Other records were of 1-7, with the last of the year being presence at RSPB Conwy on 9/08.

Flints. All but three records were from a GBW site at Cilcain, from each month with presence recorded. The other records were a single near Cilcain and 3 near Hawarden airport with the year's maximum, a brood of 7 nestlings ringed at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 1/06 (IMS) the only record of that species from a once thriving colony.

GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

(TS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	5	6
Maximum count	8	7
Av max count prev 10 yrs	21	38
Number of records	9	56
Recorded in BBS squares	3/34	-
% records from GBW	-	94.64
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.2
Density	0.02	0.07

Tree Sparrow



Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

Seen in these months:

D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

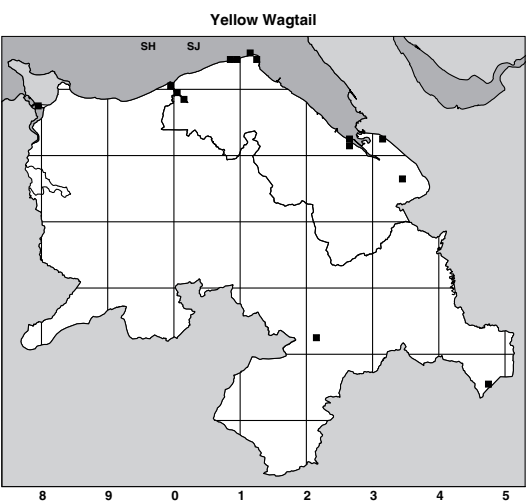
A welcome increase in overall records on 2014 and 2015, particularly in Denbs, though numbers are still very low.

SIGLEN FELEN

(YW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	10
Maximum count	3	10
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	13
Number of records	18	26
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/18
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	1.6
Density	0.01	0.17

Denbs. The first was an early single at RSPB Conwy on 3/04. None were then recorded until 27/04, the first of a run of ten records of single Blue-headed birds on spring passage through RSPB Conwy up to 5/05. All records were of singles and the latest record was of 1 at RSPB Conwy on 16/07.

Flints. The first record was a single at Rhuddlan on 20/04. Thereafter there was a scattering of records through to the beginning of Aug, all at coastal sites except for 2 at Sandycroft on a BBS walk on 21/04 (IMS). All reports were of 1-4, except for two groups on autumn passage: 5 at Shotwick Fields on 1/08 (DEW) and the last report of the year of 10 at Point of Ayr on 20/08 (JuR).



Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

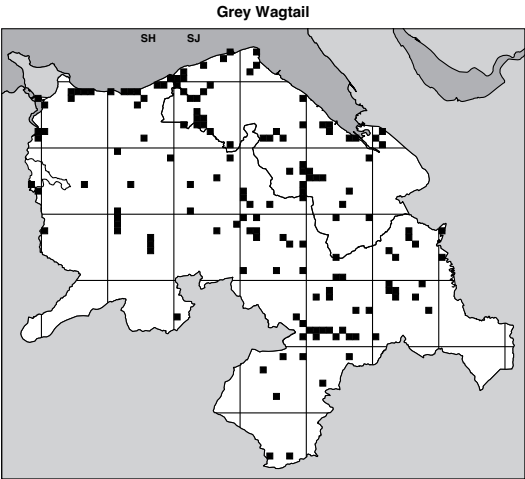
Breeding resident. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties, with a similar number of reports to 2015 in Denbs but a 31.3% increase in Flints.

Denbs. Widely reported: all records of 1-4, except for two broods of 5 nestlings at Llanaramon Dyffryn Ceiriog (pBH) and 5 at Llangollen on 15/09 (Hct).

Flints. Although there was a substantial increase in reports, the locations – widespread across the county – did not vary much from 2015. As in Denbs, almost all records were of 1-4, apart from a brood of 5 nestlings at Rhydymwyn (IMS) and 6 recorded at the same site on 15/07 (TP).

SIGLEN LWYD		
(GL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	103	48
Maximum count	5	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	4
Number of records	238	155
Recorded in BBS squares	4/34	4/18
% records from GBW	4.64	2.58
% of BirdTrack lists	10.3	9.3
Density	0.26	0.49



Breeding (JLR, MRG, IMS):

(GL)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Llanarmon Dyffryn	2	10	10	10	5.00
Llangollen area	4	20	20	14	3.50
Ty Canol,	4	20	14	10	2.50
Rhydymwyn	1	5	5	5	5.00
TOTALS	11	55	49	39	3.55

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Passage migrant. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

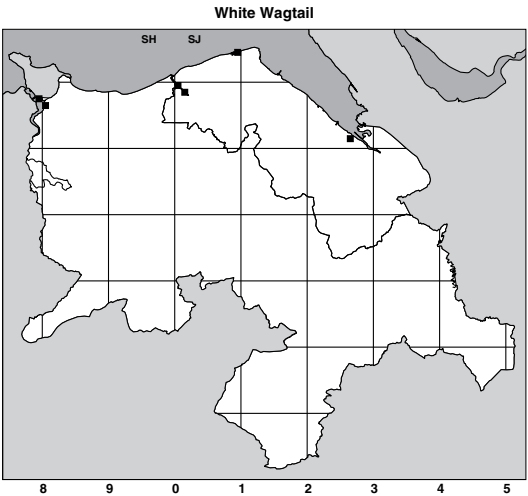
An increase in records in Denbs but a decrease in Flints.

Denbs. All records were at RSPB Conwy, the first of which was an early single on 28/03. Spring passage ran through to 24/05, with most reports being of 1-4 but passage peaked at 10 on 30/04 and 2/05. There were ten records of presence on autumn passage between 25/08 and 29/09, which was the last one.

Flints. Only seven reports this year, with two of them undoubtedly referring to the same remarkable passage flock at Gronant dunes. The first record was 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 9/04 (PeHa) followed by a run of reports from Rhyl, Rhuddlan and Gronant dunes between 21/04 and 29/04, the highlight of which was a large movement of 110+ on the beach at Gronant dunes on 21/04 (GNR). There were no further records, with none reported during the autumn passage season.

SIGLEN WEN

(WB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	2	4
Maximum count	10	110
Av max count prev 10 yrs	31	46
Number of records	35	7
% of BirdTrack lists	1.9	0.4
Density	0.01	0.75



Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

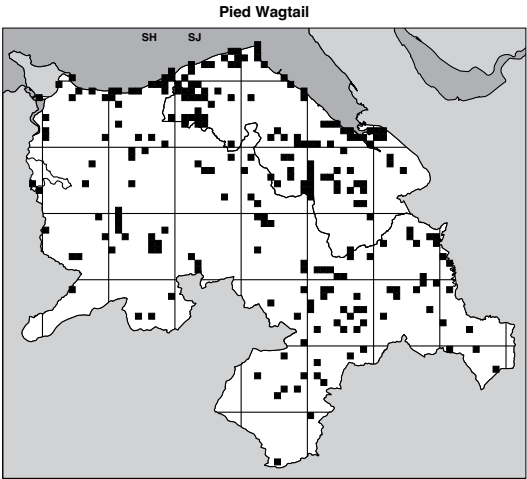
Breeding resident.

SIGLEN FRAITH

Recorded in each month in both counties. Whilst there was an increase of 10% in reports from Denbs on 2015 (when numbers were similar to 2014), reports from Flints increased by 22.5% on 2015 and have now risen from 245 in 2014 to 430 in 2016.

(PW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	146	93
Maximum count	120	52
Av max count prev 10 yrs	119	45
Number of records	636	430
Recorded in BBS squares	20/34	12/18
% records from GBW	10.53	5.35
% of BirdTrack lists	33.7	34.6
Density	8.87	8.21

Denbs. The majority of records were of single figure counts. The highest counts in May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Nov and Dec all came from RSPB Conwy (JOHn, JHg, WRM, MPB, RS). The highest counts in other months came from Pentrefelin, Conwy valley with 90 on 7/01 (MiB), 80+ at Rhuthun on 31/01 (GoP), 24 at Graig on 5/02 (AB) and 24 at Llay Pool on 13/02 (SD), 14 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 14/03 (JPH), 10 at Erddig pool on 12/04 (HCt), 4 at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay on 26/07(AHJ), with 5 nestlings ringed near Gwytherin (IMS) on the same day and 22 at Ysbyty Ifan on a GBW count in week beginning 9/10 (SGb).



Flints. Again, the majority of records were of presence or 1-2. There were sixty five records of 3-5 and twenty eight of 6-30. There were nine records of confirmed breeding from nine locations.

Maximum monthly counts in each county:

(PW)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	90+	24	14	10	9	15+	4	65+	120	22	33	40+
Flints	22	52	40	10+	8	15	30+	13	10	8	12	5

Breeding (MRG, IMS):

(PW)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	1	5	5	0	0.00
Gwytherin	1	5	5	5	5.00

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

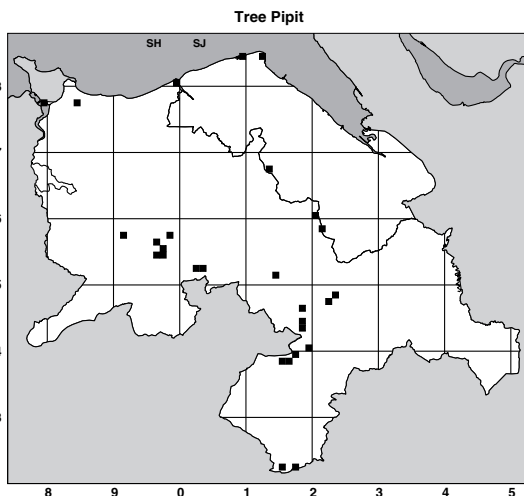
A welcome increase in reports from both counties.

Denbs. The first record was of 1 at Nant-y-Glyn on 15/04 (HC). Almost all records were of 1-2, from twenty different locations. There were 4 at Llyn Brenig on 30/05 (PJHo) and 3 there on 16/08 (GRMP), which was also the last record for the year. There were 4 also in Ceirog Forest on 12/07 (NHu), where breeding was proved.

Flints. The four records this year were all between 21/04 and 13/05 – two coastal and two inland.

CORHEDYDD Y COED

(TP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	24	4
Maximum count	4	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	5
Number of records	34	4
Recorded in BBS squares	6/34	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	0.2
Density	0.05	0.01



Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Breeding resident and both passage and winter visitor. Amber List.

The number of reports stayed the same as in 2015 in Denbs but increased by 35% in Flints. The large majority of records came from coastal areas, particularly during the autumn and winter months but almost all the highest counts came from inland, largely moorland areas, during the breeding season and late summer. It is possible that this is partly but not entirely, due to variations in observer coverage.

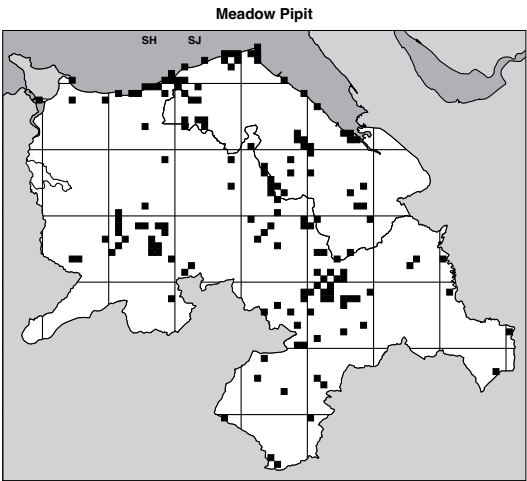
CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

(MP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	108	48
Maximum count	100	40
Av max count prev 10 yrs	109	99
Number of records	330	210
Recorded in BBS squares	12/34	3/18
% of BirdTrack lists	22.9	18.1
Density	5.47	3.26

Denbs. Whilst the Jan and Feb reports were almost exclusively on the coast, birds were moving in to inland breeding areas by the beginning of Mar and the two reports of 50+ reflected this: at Llanrheadr on 21/03 (AnRe) and the Ruabon Mountain area on 25/03 (RSw). 50 were at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 24/04, with 20 in the Esclusham area the same day (KS). May and Jun maximum counts were all on BBS walks, with 31 at Moel Famau on the late visit on 19/06, following 28 there on the early visit on 3/05 (IW), 29 at each of two different areas of

Ruabon Mountain on 9/05 and 10/05 (WkR) and 34 at Cerrigydrudion on 5/05 (DeS). Mkh ringed a total of 215 at Mynydd y Glyn on six days between 7/09 and 2/10, with the best catch of 85 on 20/09. The largest autumn flocks were of 100+ at Llangwyfan on 10/10 (SEIJ) and near Wrexham on 17/12 (JAJ).

Flints. The large majority of records were from coastal sites but this is only reflected in the maximum counts for Feb, Apr and Oct. A count of 34 at Hendre on 19/01 (GEM) was a notable inland winter count. The two highest Mar counts were also well inland, in contrast to Apr, where all three counts of 20+ came from Connah's Quay NR, on 4/04, 9/04 and 15/04 (PeHa). The two highest autumn / second winter counts came from well inland, with 40 at Rhes-y-Cae on 25/09 (MGW) and 25+ at Padeswood on 14/12 (GNR). Numbers were generally lower than in Denbs, as reflected in the occurrence table above.



Maximum counts each month in each county:

(MP)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	6	4	50+	50	34	31	27	25+	85	100+	46	100
Flints	34	20+	29	20	6	8	10	14	40	20	13	25+

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

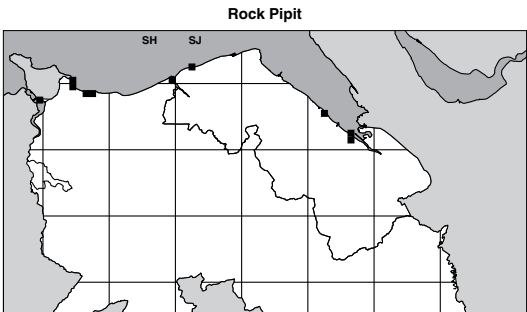
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All records in the first and last three months were of 1-2, at RSPB Conwy, Rhos-on-sea or Colwyn Bay, with the exception of 5 at RSPB Conwy on 3/11 (pJHg) and a report of 2 of the Scandinavian sub-species littoralis at Kinnel Bay on 14/02 (HC). There was also a record of confirmed breeding at Colwyn Bay, with 2 adults seen feeding 2 fledged young on 21/06 (WRM) and 2 were also seen at the same location by HCT on 20/08.

Flints. All records were of 1-3 in the

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

(RC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	4
Maximum count	5	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	3
Number of records	23	20
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	0.6
Density	0.02	0.02



Connah's Quay NR, RSPB Oakenholt and Bagillt area, with the exception of 1 at Rhyl on 27/03 (DCR).

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Winter visitor.

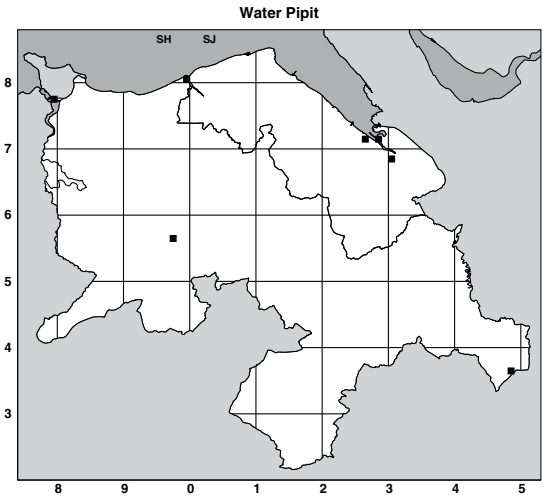
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. The apparently dramatic increase in records may well relate to a single bird seen at RSPB Conwy from the beginning of Jan to 6/04. There were three other reports: 1 at Kinmel Bay on 14/02 (HC) – the same day as HC found 2 Scandinavian Rock Pipits there – 1 at Fenn's Moss on 31/03 emerging into breeding plumage (LRC) and 1 at Llyn Brenig on 11/12.

Flints. All three reports came from the Connah's Quay area: 2 at White Sands on 6/11 (JoG), 1 at Shotton on 17/11 and 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 12/12 (StaS).

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

(WI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	4	3
Maximum count	1	2
Number of records	50	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	0.3
Density	0.00	0.01



Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Winter visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

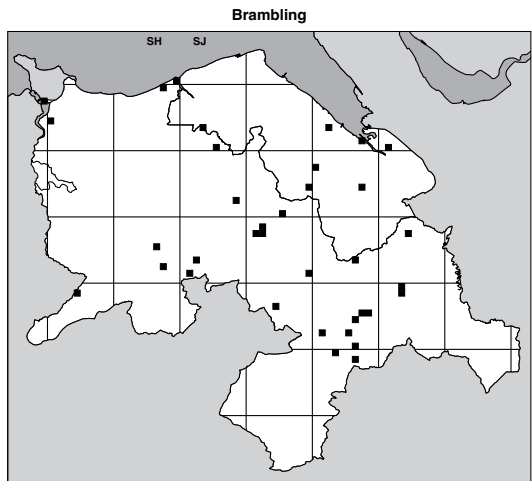
The number of records was up in both counties compared to 2015, but overall it was an average year with no large flocks reported. The records were geographically quite widespread, especially in Denbs.

PINC Y MYNYDD

(BL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	29	7
Maximum count	23	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	106	28
Number of records	92	32
% records from GBW	61.96	18.75
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	1.4
Density	0.34	0.06

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1-2 with only 5 records of 11-23. The maximum number, 23, was observed at Garth, Trevor Hall on 28/03 (LB). Birds were mainly observed in the last two months of the year. The last, early winter record was 2 on 24/04 also at Garth, Trevor Hall (JuBa). The first record of the end of the year was a single at RSPB Conwy on 2/11. It was notable that 62% of records came from gardens.

Flints. The majority of the records came from Jan-Apr and all reports were of singles. The maximum number of 5 came from Pantymwyn on 17/03 (GEM). Two were ringed at Bagillt on 14/02 and 31/03 and 1 ringed in Dec 2015 was retrapped at the same site in Mar (GRMP).



Brambling. Photo: Tony Pope



Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

JI-BINC

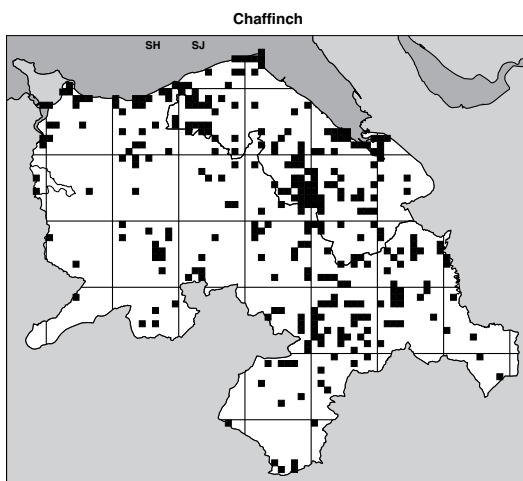
Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. The reporting rate was fairly average. Maximum counts were down on the previous few years.

Denbs. Some 93% of records were in single figures, a remarkably similar percentage to the previous year. One hundred and eighteen were counts of 10-30, with eight counts higher than this, the maximum being 100+ in Clocaenog Forest on 26/03 (SM) and a flock of 100 on a stubble field at Pontfadog on 6/12 (GoP). The largest BBS count was of 27 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 15/06 (TP) and the highest GBW count was 20 at Bwlchgwyn in week beginning 11/12 (MaT). Several observers noted diseased or sick birds in gardens.

Flints. As in Denbs most of the counts were of 1-9 (92%), with seventy-two counts of 10-30 and only three above this. The maximum counts were 40 at Bagillt on 14/01 (GRMP) and 40 at Point of Ayr on 25/10 (GEM). The largest BBS count was 23 at Marian Cwm on 10/05 (MrJ) and the highest GBW count was 20 at Holywell, in week beginning 24/01 (LMO). Over the year 100 fullgrown birds were ringed at Bagillt (GRMP).

(CH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	204	114
Maximum count	100	40
Av max count prev 10 yrs	313	270
Number of records	1677	984
Recorded in BBS squares	32/34	17/18
% records from GBW	51.76	44.61
% of BirdTrack lists	48.1	44.3
Density	10.32	7.74



Maximum counts each month in each county:

(CH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	19	40	100	40	18	40	19	20	10	20	85	100
Flints	40	28	24	23	15	11	10	12	27	40	23	23

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

GYLFINBRAFF

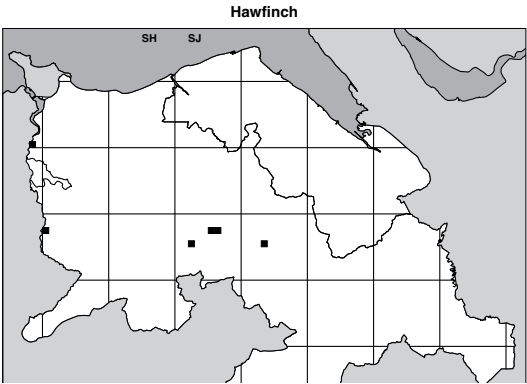
Winter visitor and possible breeding resident. Amber List. RBBP. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The highest number of records since 2005 was recorded this year.

(HF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	6	
Maximum count	6	
Number of records	14	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.02	

Sightings came from six locations, the most regular came from a site in the Vale of Clwyd on several dates between 1/01 and 10/02 and between 26/12 and 28/12, where 1-2 were recorded. Elsewhere sightings were from two locations on the E side of the Conwy valley: at Tal-y-cafn the maximum number of 6 was recorded on 3/12 (RDH) and the other site was Coed Hafod, where the only indication of breeding activity occurred on 14/05 (HC). The remaining three sites were in Clocaenog Forest and Cyffylliog.



Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

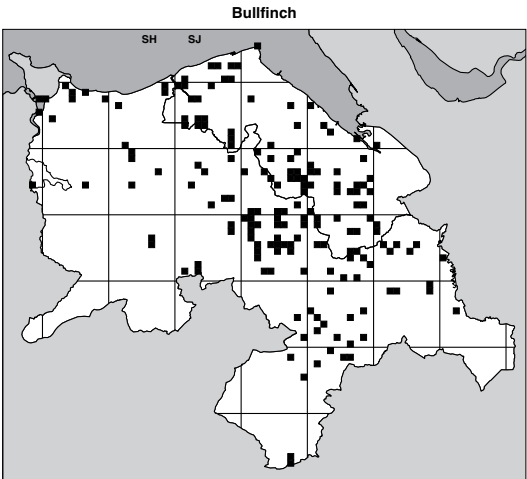
Recorded in each month in both counties, with a significant increase in records from Denbs. The geographic spread of records also increased markedly in both counties.

Denbs. A similar pattern to previous years, with 98% of records of no more than 5. There were 14 recorded by HCT in Clocaenog Forest on 24/02. In total, 72 were ringed at five sites by IMS, pBH, MiB and Mkh.

Flints. Some 96% of reports were of 1-5 with sixteen records of 6 or more at a number of locations. The maximum counts of 8 were recorded at Rhydymwyn on 25/04 (MD) and at Connah's Quay NR on 30/11 (RTE). In total, 32 were ringed at Bagillt, Rhydymwyn and Shotton Steelworks by GRMP, IMS and pBH.

COCH Y BERLLAN

(BF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	110	65
Maximum count	14	8
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	10
Number of records	481	417
Recorded in BBS squares	8/34	6/18
% records from GBW	27.44	46.04
% of BirdTrack lists	15.8	14.8
Density	0.78	0.88



Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Breeding resident. Amber List.

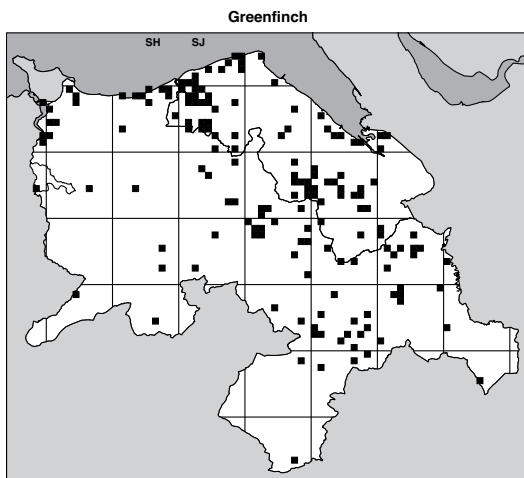
LLINOS WERDD

Recorded in each month in both counties, with the number of records dropping slightly again this year. Very few flocks exceeding 20 were recorded. There were several records of sick birds in the Towyn area.

Denbs. As in 2015, almost all records were of 9 or fewer – 97% of all reports, with just thirty-two counts of 10-40. The maximum number of 40 came from garden feeders at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 4/08. A ringing session at Glan Conwy captured 29 fullgrown birds on 1/09.

Flints. Some 96% of records were of 9 or fewer, with twenty-four counts of 10-60. Only five flocks of 30 or more came from two coastal sites, Connah's Quay NR and Bagillt. The maximum counts were 45 (29/03), 54 (4/03) and 60 (14/01), all from Bagillt (GRMP). Breeding season numbers were low, although 13 were recorded on a BBS walk near Mold on 23/04 (AB / IMS). Ringing sessions at Bagillt captured 103 fullgrown birds on various dates throughout the year.

(GR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	94	69
Maximum count	40	60
Av max count prev 10 yrs	102	53
Number of records	1085	651
Recorded in BBS squares	11/34	11/18
% records from GBW	49.49	38.10
% of BirdTrack lists	29.8	31.6
Density	1.90	7.03



Maximum counts each month in each county:

(GR)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	15	10	11	10	6	6	5	40	29	12	12	12
Flints	60	10	54	13	5	12	30	20	19	10	8	25

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

LLINOS

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a significant increase in records from both counties. The majority of large flock counts came from coastal sites.

Denbs. Some 86% of reports were of 9 or fewer. There were nine counts exceeding 30, all of which, with one exception came

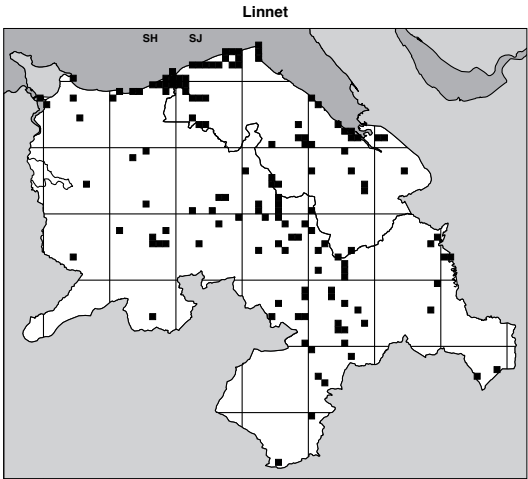
(LI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	94	47
Maximum count	93	180
Av max count prev 10 yrs	198	323
Number of records	276	275
Recorded in BBS squares	12/34	6/18
% of BirdTrack lists	15.7	23.4
Density	4.42	14.36

from either RSPB Conwy or Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay. The maximum count of 93 was recorded on a BBS walk at Gellifor on 22/06 (TP).

Flints. Here, 74% of counts were of 9 or fewer, indicating that records in double figures were much higher than in 2015. There were seventy-three counts of 10-50 and a further twenty of more than 50. Records exceeding 100 came from coastal sites: Connah's Quay NR, Gronant, Point of Ayr, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Talacre. The maximum count of 180 was recorded on 26/12 and 28/12 at Connah's Quay NR (RBe and pRS).

Maximum counts each month in each county:

(LI)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	15	20	30	12	12	93	8	70	70	70	50	33
Flints	60	24	20	15	22	40	70	110	115	153	100	180



Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

Winter visitor. Amber List. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

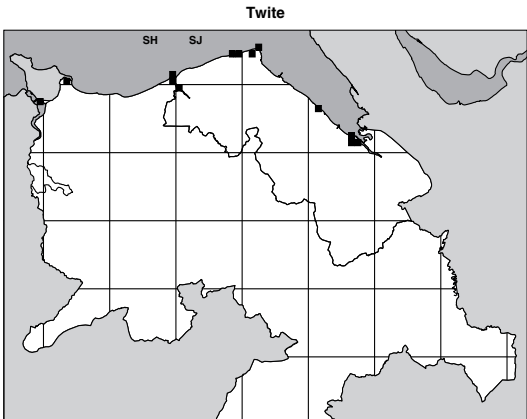
There were fewer records and possibly fewer birds in both counties than in the previous two years.

Denbs. There were no inland records this year. The five records came from RSPB Conwy, Kinnel Bay, Llandrillo-yn-Rhos with the maximum number, 25+, seen at Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay on 1/02 (DCR).

Flints. Flocks of 40-99 birds were regularly reported at Connah's Quay NR throughout the winter months but there were only three records of flocks of 100 or more: 100 on 12/02 (StaS), 110 on 9/02 (RBe) and 120 on 27/11 (PSH). Jan, Feb and Mar

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

(TW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	4	9
Maximum count	25	120
Av max count prev 10 yrs	17	75
Number of records	5	119
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.7
Density	0.05	1.83



numbers varied between 20 and 110. A handful of birds remained into Apr when the last sighting of the winter was on 16/04 when 2 were recorded (GRMP). A total of 33 were newly ringed and individually colour-ringed in Feb and Mar. Several controls added to the exciting picture of the movements of Twite between Wales, England and Scotland. The first returning birds of the autumn were in mid-Oct, when a flock of 25 was sighted by RPI, a whole month later than in 2015. The Dee flock then gradually built up to a maximum of 80-120 towards the end of the year. Away from the Connah's Quay NR / Flint area, the only sightings were at Rhyl, Gronant, Talacre and Point of Ayr, where small numbers were occasionally seen. One interesting record was of 2 on 31/07 at Gronant dunes (HC).

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

Breeding resident. Amber List. S7.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

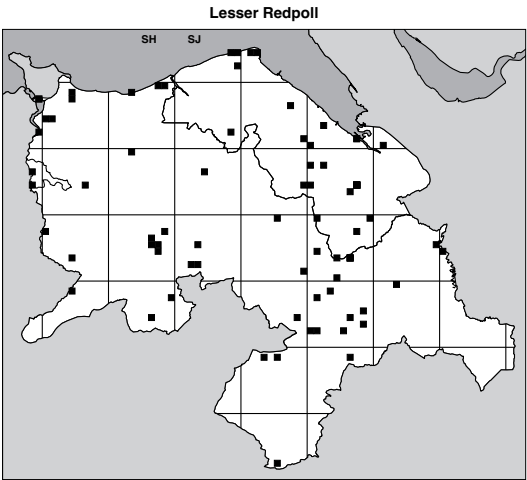
This was a good year for records in Denbs. but below average for Flints. The distribution of records followed a similar pattern to previous years, with very few if any records coming in late summer and early autumn.

Denbs. The highest numbers of records were reported this year since 2004 but in general the number of birds seen was less than in some previous years. There were only five counts that reached double figures: there were 10 at Acrefair on 1/05 (KS), 15+ at RSPB Conwy on 22/01 (RLE), 20 at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 21/04 (GoP), 20+ at Ruabon Mountain on 13/03 (TBy) and the maximum of 30+ at Nant-y-ffrith Reservoir on 2/10 (KS). Birds were recorded singing at several localities in the breeding season and recently fledged young were seen on Ruabon Mountain in Jul.

Flints. A slight increase in records from 2015 but unlike last year only one record came from Rhydymwyn. There were only two records reaching double figures when 13 were reported at Connah's Quay NR on 19 and 21/12 (PSH).

LLINOS BENGOCH LEIAF

(LR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	49	21
Maximum count	30	13
Av max count prev 10 yrs	48	19
Number of records	199	51
Recorded in BBS squares	6/34	-
% records from GBW	54.27	25.49
% of BirdTrack lists	5.1	1.8
Density	0.74	0.46



Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

GYLFIN GROES

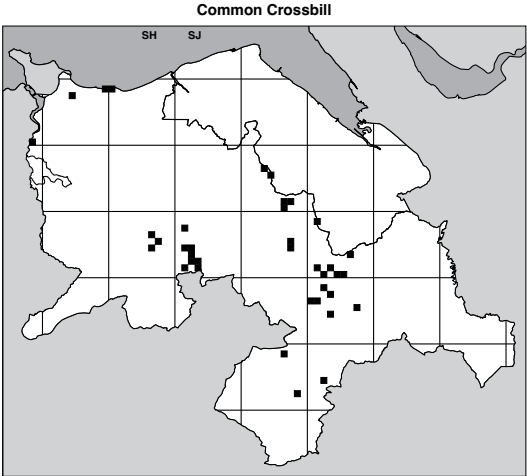
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

This was a below average year for reports in Denbs, although the number of records was up slightly from 2015. It was a very poor year in Flints.

(CR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	37	1
Maximum count	30	7
Av max count prev 10 yrs	187	12
Number of records	58	1
Recorded in BBS squares	1/34	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.6	0.1
Density	0.56	0.01

Denbs. There were more records again this year, with eight into double figures, six of which were 10-14. There was one autumn record of 10 at Foel Fenlli on 10/10 (SEIJ), six winter records and one spring record, when 27 were recorded at Ruabon Mountain on 15/03 (JFJ). The maximum recorded was of 30 at Penycae on 29/01 (JAJ).

Flints. There was only one record this year when GEM recorded 7 in Nercwys Forest on 1/12.



Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Breeding resident.

NICO

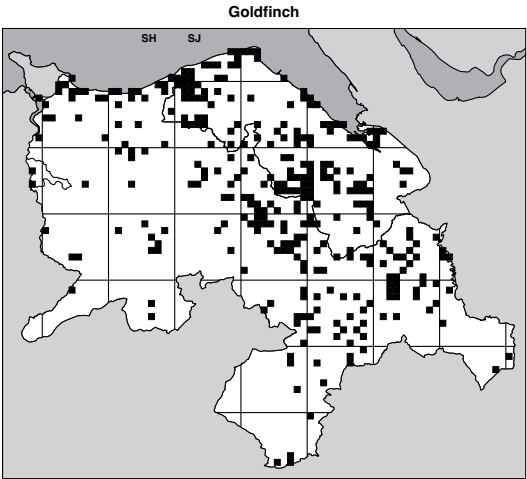
Recorded in each month in both counties, with a slight increase in number of records from 2015. The pattern of monthly maxima is similar in both counties, with the largest charms recorded after the main breeding season, from Aug to the end of the year.

(GO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	200	124
Maximum count	80	200
Av max count prev 10 yrs	70	167
Number of records	1528	1088
Recorded in BBS squares	27/34	17/18
% records from GBW	43.00	31.43
% of BirdTrack lists	48.5	61.3
Density	8.10	42.11

Denbs. Most, 91%, of counts were of 1-10+. The number of counts between 11 and 50+ was one hundred and thirty one, which was very similar to 2015. There were three counts of 51+. These three highest counts were 55 at Holt on 15/12 (NF), 70 at Eryrys on 11/09 (GEM) and 80+ flying around garden feeders at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 10/01 (MiB).

Flints. The percentage of counts of 1-10+ was very similar to that in Denbs at 90%. There were ninety-seven counts of 11-50+ and seven counts of 51+. The largest counts came in the autumn and early winter: 100 on both 1/10 and 9/10 at Connah's Quay NR (RRI , PSH), 100+ at Rhydymwyn on 15/09 (IMS), 100+ at Rhyl on 11/09 (WRM), 108 at Rhuddlan on 15/11 (JHi)

and 200 at Talacre on 20/09 (WRM). Ringing produced a total of 226 captures at Bagillt during the year, with 162 of these during Oct and Nov (GRMP).



Maximum monthly counts in each county:

(GO)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	80	30	40	30	20	17	11	30	70	40	45	55
Flints	27	18	34	18	19	20	70	40	200	100	108	25



Goldfinches. Photo: John Hawkins

Siskin *Spinus spinus*

PILA GWYRDD

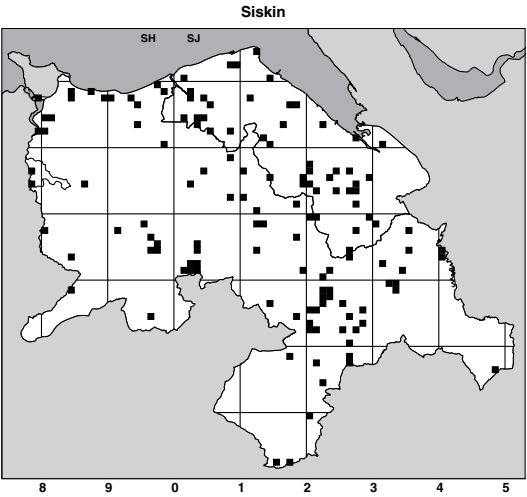
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

Recorded in each month of the year in Denbs and in all except Sep in Flints. In Denbs, 2015 was the best year for number of records and birds, spread across a wide geographic area, since 2004. In Flints, this was a fairly average year. This just serves to highlight the manner in which Siskin numbers can fluctuate widely from year to year.

(SK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	93	42
Maximum count	60	41
Av max count prev 10 yrs	257	44
Number of records	590	193
Recorded in BBS squares	7/34	5/18
% records from GBW	61.02	50.26
% of BirdTrack lists	11.0	5.6
Density	2.82	2.92

Denbs. There were seventy-two double count figures, with regular flocks of 10-32 recorded from gardens in Llangollen, Llandegla and Conwy Valley. The two highest counts were of 40 at Llyn Brenig on 26/07 (FiW) and the maximum of 60+ at Nant-y-Glyn on 15/04 (HC).

Flints. The majority of records came from gardens, mainly as part of the GBW survey. There was a wide geographic spread of records but only eleven of these were in double figures - between 10 and 41. The maximum number recorded, 41, came from a garden in Sychdyn on 14/02 (IMS). In total, 89 were captured at Bagillt on dates between 23/01 and 1/05 with a notable 32 on 19/04 (GRMP).



Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

BRAS YR EIRA

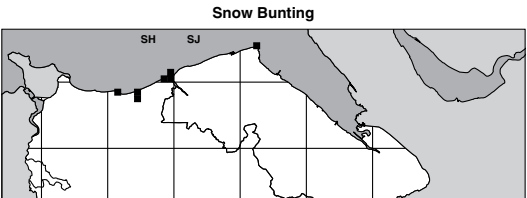
Winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Most records were of 1-2, with twelve records of between 3 and 5. Five were seen at Pensarn by several observers between 9/01 and 13/01. Another record of 5 was from Kinmel Bay on 24/01.

(SB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	6	1
Maximum count	5	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	5
Number of records	41	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	0.1
Density	0.02	0.00

Flints. The single record of 2 was from Point of Ayr on 10/03 (MGW).





Snow Bunting. Photo: Andy Davis

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

Winter visitor. Amber List.

The first record of this species in Denbs since 2008.

Denbs. The three records were all from the same day and from approximately the same location, so in all probability referred to a single individual in the Kinmel Bay area on 26/11 by AHJ and RLE.

(LA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	3	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.00	

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*

BRAS MELYN

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

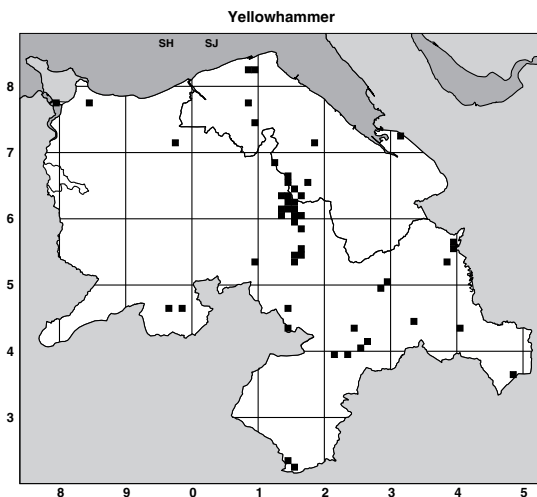
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

This was an average year for records in both counties although the spread of reports throughout the year was better than usual. Probable breeding was recorded in only two locations in Denbs and one location in Flints.

(Y)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	40	11
Maximum count	6	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	16	14
Number of records	58	38
Recorded in BBS squares	-	2/18
% records from GBW	1.72	52.63
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	0.7
Density	0.12	0.11

Denbs. Almost all records were of 1-2 with eight records of between 3-6+. The maximum count, 6+, was on 26/09 at Clawddnewydd.

Flints. There were only four records of 3-6. The maximum count of 6+ was recorded at Moel Maenefa on 9/10 (SEIJ). A single bird frequented a garden in Cilcain on many dates between 7/02 and 4/09 (RWes).



Yellowhammer. Photo: John Hawkins

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

BRAS Y CYRS

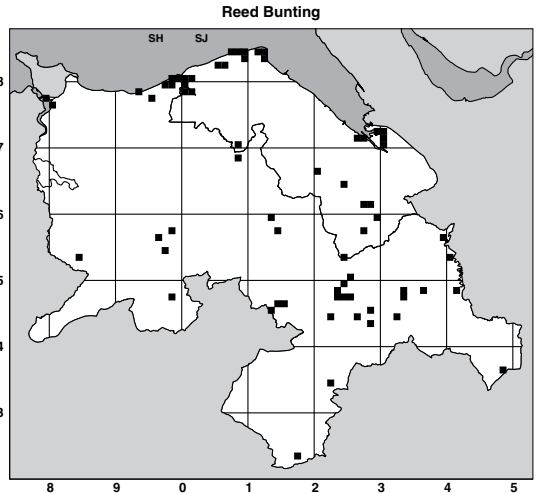
Breeding Resident. Amber List. S7.

This was an average year for records in Denbs, but a good year in Flints with a significant increase in the number of records. Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. There was only one record in double figures when 10 were seen at Fenn's Moss on 11/11 (NHu). Surprisingly there were two records of birds feeding in gardens: Towyn on 4/03 (SM) and Llanrhydd, Rhuthun on 12/04 (TT, JLR). There was one record of confirmed breeding, when recently fledged young were observed at the North Wales Business Park, Pensarn on 11/06 (WRM).

Flints. Whilst most records were in single figures, there were notable counts of 10+ at Rhuddlan on 14/12 (JDa), 13 at Connah's Quay NR on 27/12 (PSH) and the maximum of 14 at Gronant on 24-25/07. These last two records were almost certainly family parties. Most records were from coastal sites. Breeding was confirmed at Gronant in Jun, when HC recorded both adults taking food to a nest site and later saw recently fledged young.

(RB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	41	26
Maximum count	10	14
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	12
Number of records	200	136
Recorded in BBS squares	5/34	2/18
% records from GBW	12.5	-
% of BirdTrack lists	11.3	14.0
Density	0.21	0.62



Category E species

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

ALARCH DDU

Flints. There were thirteen records, all but one of which came from three 1km squares in the Shotwick area between 1/01 and 28/12 with 1-4 seen. The exception was 2 at Point of Ayr on 1/08.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginaea*

HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

Flints. There were six records of singles between 23/06 and 18/08 in the RSPB Oakenholt Marsh / Connah's Quay NR area.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

HWYADEN FWSG

Denbs. There was a single at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 25/03 and another at the Horseshoe Falls, Llangollen on 28/05.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

HWYADEN GRIBOG Y COED

Denbs. One was seen near Penycae on 22/04.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

PAUN

Denbs. A single was recorded near Dyserth for GBW in week beginning 27/03.

First and last dates of selected migrants 2016

	First dates		Last dates
Summer migrants	2016		2016
Hobby	28/04		18/09
Little Tern	28/04		21/08
Sandwich Tern	21/04		18/09
Common Tern	24/04		21/08
Arctic Tern	18/05		9/08
Cuckoo	11/04		6/08
Nightjar	9/06		15/07
Swift	17/04		23/08
Sand Martin	20/03		11/09
Swallow	24/03		15/12
House Martin	26/03		2/10
Tree Pipit	15/04		16/08
Yellow Wagtail	3/04		20/08
Redstart	9/04		14/09
Whinchat	21/04		6/10
Wheatear	25/03		11/10
Ring Ouzel	3/04		12/10
Grasshopper Warbler	20/04		15/09
Sedge Warbler	8/04		21/09
Reed Warbler	13/04		22/09
Garden Warbler	17/04		15/09
Lesser Whitethroat	17/04		17/09
Whitethroat	12/04		11/09
Wood Warbler	20/04		28/06
Willow Warbler	3/04		18/09
Spotted Flycatcher	4/05		13/09
Pied Flycatcher	13/04		5/08
Winter migrants	Last dates		First dates
Fieldfare	15/04		21/08
Redwing	28/03		10/09

This table shows the recorded first and last dates for most of the species regarded as migrants in north-east Wales.

The winter visitors appeared to leave us a little earlier than usual this year. The last Redwing left before the end of March and the Fieldfares followed a couple of weeks later. However, the arrival dates for many species were average or later than usual. The first Sand Martin was not seen until 20/03, which was a week or more later than usual and all the terns were particularly

late. Sandwich Terns arrived later than at any time since 2004, as did Wheatear. By April the arrival of spring migrants was in full flow. However, there were a few surprising early arrivals as a Yellow Wagtail was seen on 3/04, earlier than in the past thirteen years and a Sedge Warbler on 8/04 was also rather early. Early May brought a Spotted Flycatcher about seven to ten days earlier than usual.

In general, the hirundines and swifts left early in 2016. The last Sand Martin was on 18/09 and the last House Martin on 2/10. Swifts were last seen on 23/08, which is unusual as a few stragglers are normally seen into September. An extremely late and notable Swallow was seen on 15/12. For the warblers and chats there were a couple of late leaving dates: Whinchat on 6/10 and Sedge Warbler on 21/09 (which was the latest since 2004).

The winter visitors began arriving very early with the first Fieldfare seen on 21/08 and Redwings on 10/09, both dates the earliest records since 2004.

Anne Brenchley



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No. SC039193 (Scotland)



Minera Quarry

The North Wales Wildlife Trust has recently acquired Minera Quarry from Tarmac to be developed as a new nature reserve. This 40ha disused limestone quarry, situated near the villages of Minera and Gwynfryn in Wrexham County Borough, owes much of its wildlife interest to its history of limestone extraction, which dates back over 400 years.

Small-scale lime burning at Minera is recorded from as early as 1620 but the establishment of the Minera Lime Company in 1852 and a subsequent injection of capital, increased production to a truly industrial scale and enabled the company to build the first of two large Hoffmann kilns in 1868. The Minera Limeworks soon became the largest lime workings in North Wales.

The limeworks closed in 1972 but limestone quarrying continued until 1993 with operations finally ceasing in 1994. In 2004 the quarry areas were cleared of all standing materials and the area was partially restored by landscaping and infilling. Many of the old limeworks buildings remain, including one of the impressive Hoffmann kilns, which are of great interest as industrial heritage.

By this time long-abandoned parts of the quarry, particularly old limestone spoil heaps, had become host to many notable, rare and threatened plant species, including round-leaved wintergreen, autumn gentian, moonwort, butterwort, pale toadflax, water avens and small scabious, as well as orchids such as pyramidal, fragrant, northern marsh and frog. These areas now form part of the Ruabon and Llantysilio Mountains and Minera SSSI and other smaller areas of the reserve are included within the Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC. More recently-worked parts of the site are now undergoing a similar process of naturalisation and already support impressive displays of pyramidal and common-spotted orchids, numbered in the hundreds.



Minera Quarry is also of speleological interest with the Ogof Dydd Byraf cave, discovered in 1964 by local cavers, which extends under Esclusham Mountain from its entrance in the south face of the quarry. Fears of it being quarried led to it being designated as a SSSI and now it is further protected by the recently extended Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB that encompasses the entire site and much of its surrounding land.

Minera Quarry's potential as a site for wildlife and quiet recreation has been appreciated by people across North-East Wales for many years and the Minera Quarry Trust was established in 2005 with the explicit aim of conserving Minera Quarry for the benefit of wildlife and people. Since 2009 the North Wales Wildlife Trust has been working alongside the Minera Quarry Trust, negotiating with the former owners of the site (latterly Tarmac) to secure the site as a nature reserve.

As well as interesting plant species the site also supports at least three species of bat: lesser horseshoe, brown long-eared and Natterer's. The Hoffman kiln is an important roosting site for these species and it is regularly monitored by Clwyd Bat Group volunteers.

The tops of the quarry faces offer nest sites for resident peregrine falcon and raven, and other bird species that can often be encountered within the site include Spotted Flycatcher, Wheatear, Redstart, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Whitethroat, Stonechat, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Tawny Owl, Willow Warbler, Long-tailed Tit, Blackcap and Song Thrush among many others. House Martin, Swift and Buzzard are often seen overhead, as well as occasional Red Kite which, is becoming more common in North Wales.

The North Wales Wildlife Trust is currently undertaking a range of groundworks on the site to



Minera cliffs. Photo: Simon Mills.

enable better access and signage, and ensure that the site is safe for the public to visit. A management plan is being produced, with scrub control within the important grassland habitats being a priority to preserve their fabulous floristic diversity. With its wildlife interest, industrial heritage and striking views from its highest points Minera Quarry will be a fantastic place to visit. It is hoped that the site will be ready for an official opening by summer 2018.

Adrian Lloyd Jones

North Wales Wildlife Trust

Gronant Little Tern season summary, 2016.

The 2016 season was one of the most successful in the history of the Gronant Little Tern colony. In total, 170 fledglings were produced from 141 breeding pairs. For the 2016 season, breeding success was 1.21 fledglings per pair exceeding the 0.7 target set by Cook and Robinson to maintain the population of Little Terns in Britain and Ireland. For the second year in succession, 2 chicks also successfully fledged from a breeding pair at Point of Ayr.

The main threat to the Gronant Little Tern colony in 2016 was predation by Red Foxes *Vulpes vulpes*. During the season, Foxes were responsible for predating at least 20 nests and 3 fledglings. It should be noted however, that nests lost only resided outside of the protective electric fencing, which successfully prevented any terrestrial predators from entering the pens. No aerial predators targeted the colony in 2016, including Common Kestrels *Falco tinnunculus* which were sighted very infrequently compared to previous years, when predation has been a significant problem. Other predators sighted throughout the season included Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* and Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*.

The weather conditions and tides this year were generally favourable. Rainfall was between 50-200% of the monthly averages from 1981 to 2010, whilst temperatures were up to 1.5°C higher than normal. High tides claimed seven nests containing a total of 13 eggs.

For the 34th consecutive year, David Norman from the Merseyside Ringing Group returned to ring the Little Terns. This season, he was able to fit 2 Little Tern adults with colour rings and 155 chicks with metal rings as well as 34 colour rings for the EU LIFE+ Nature Little Tern Recovery Project.

Along with 10 other organisations, Denbighshire County Council is a partner in the EU LIFE+ Little Tern Recovery Project. The project is a five year partnership, which aims to secure the future of the Little Tern in the UK. The scheme has greatly benefitted colonies nationwide, allowing sites to hire more wardens, purchase equipment for monitoring purposes, establish a colour ringing programme and generate more public awareness. The colour ringing program is a valuable tool in learning more about Little Tern trends and behaviour, with new discoveries being made every season. Previously, it was thought that newly fledged Little Terns did not return to breeding sites until they were ready to breed at 2-3 years old. However colour ring re-sightings have shown that multiple birds ringed as chicks in Kilcoole, Ireland in 2015 had visited Gronant during their first summer. Another bird ringed on the Isle of Man in 2014 was also recovered at Gronant in 2016. Without these colour ring re-sightings, knowledge about the movements of Little Terns would be limited. Should you spot a colour ring, please report your sighting to Professor David Norman (MRG), Adrian Hibbert (DCS) and the BTO (www.ring.ac). The success of UK Little Tern colonies relies heavily on support from staff and volunteers. This year volunteers invested an amazing 860.5 hours of their time, which was

spent helping wardens to maintain and repair fencing as well as deter predators. Figure 1 shows the general upward trend of breeding pairs and fledglings from 1975 to 2016. Year on year, there has been an encouraging rise in numbers and it is hoped that the colony will continue to grow for many years to come. A huge thankyou to all who were involved this season at Gronant, as well as all the other colonies nationwide, as this success could not be achieved without your help.

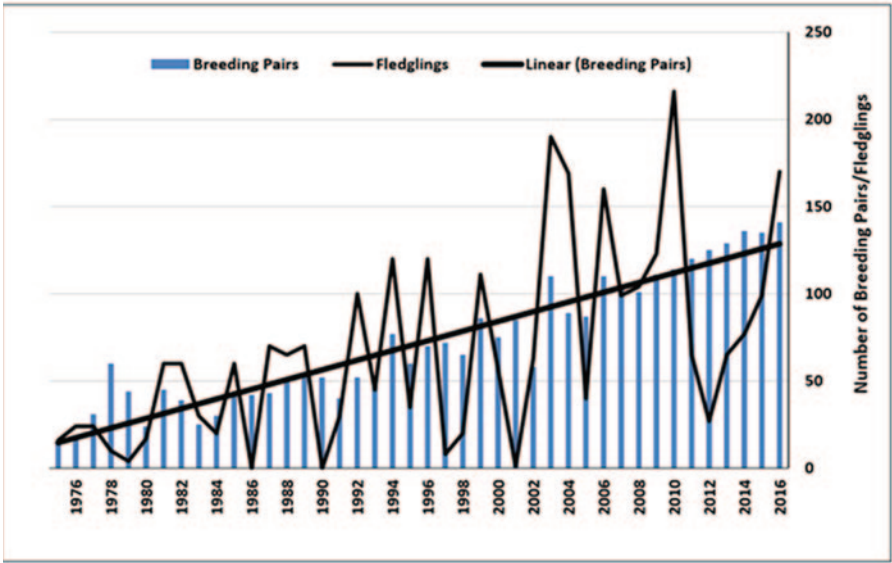


Figure 1: Number of Little Tern Breeding Pairs/Fledglings at Gronant between 1975 and 2016.

If you are interested in volunteering at Gronant, no matter whether you can spare a few minutes or a whole day, please email us at: littleterns@denbighshire.gov.uk or phone the Brickfields office on 01745 35619.

We understand that it can be difficult to find time to volunteer, if you are looking for other ways to get involved and support the Little Terns, why not join the North Wales Little Tern Group? You can become a member for just £5, and will receive a welcome pack, a regular newsletter, updates and an invitation to the end of season event. If you are interested please email nwlittletern@gmail.com.

Sasha Taylor

Reference

Cook, A. and Robinson, R. 2010. *How representative is the current monitoring of breeding success in the UK?* BTO Research Report No. 573. Thetford: British Trust for Ornithology.

Ringling Report

The number of birds ringed in N E Wales increased yet again in 2016 but by a smaller amount compared with 2015. The number of pulli ringed was slightly lower than 2015 but this was made up for by a larger increase in the number of fully grown birds.

There was an increase in the number of Siskin (+693), Goldfinch (+338), Lesser Redpoll (+301) compared with 2015. These species are now commonly seen visiting garden feeders and are thus potentially easier to catch by ringers. Last winter, Lesser Redpoll and Siskin in particular were utilising gardens in large numbers. They are also quite mobile and can produce a relatively good recovery rate. Captures of species that did not do so well compared to 2015 were Dunlin (-715), Blue Tit (-593), Common Tern (-204) and Swallow (-122). Blue Tit, Common Tern and Swallow did not have a very productive breeding season which may account for the reduction in the numbers caught. Very few Dunlin were caught in our area, with most being caught further west, where the birds appeared to have moved to.

While over the past two years, the breeding season has not been particularly good for many species, the ringing totals still increased. A contributing factor to this increase in the numbers ringed in recent years is an increase in the number of active ringers, as well as increases in the amount of effort put in by existing ringers.

Productivity of Black-headed Gull at Shotton, Flintshire increased the ringing totals by 103 chicks (23%) but this was probably to the detriment of Common Tern which competes for nest sites in the same area. The terns were also severely affected by the weather, which caused high mortality in recently fledged chicks.

Total number of birds ringed per year in the last ten years:

Year	Full grown	Pulli	Total
2016	7957	3818	11775
2015	7648	3911	11559
2014	5161	3568	8729
2013	3387	2374	5761
2012	3449	1881	5330
2011	4448	2137	6585
2010	3908	2776	6684
2009	2385	2229	4614
2008	2127	3703	5830
2007	2740	4745	7485

The selected recoveries listed below show some very interesting reports. It is worth noting that the distance the Great Spotted Woodpecker travelled, from Hereford to Wrexham (100km), is not representative of the species, as it was likely to have been helped for most of the journey by the front of a car. The Redstart in Brighton, East Sussex also had a similar fate although this occurred several years after being ringed.

Canada Goose recoveries do not feature that often in this report but two from Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria feature below, with one hitting a power line and the other having silage bale twine around its feet. Luckily the latter was cared for and released.

During 2016, there were two foreign ringed birds found in N E Wales, and five birds were recorded travelling abroad. Alan Robinson must have been thrilled to catch a Lesser Redpoll wearing a French Ringing Scheme ring, especially as it's only the 12th record in the history of our ringing scheme. Chiffchaff ringed at Bwlchyddar, Powys by Mike Haigh were notable, with one being caught (twice) in Spain and one being found dead in France. There were quite a few reports of Common Tern being recovered or sighted locally but having one bird ringed in the area then being recovered in Senegal is particularly noteworthy.

In May 2017, Ian Spence received notification from the BTO that a Goldfinch which Giles Pepler ringed at Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire on 14/07/2015 was controlled 170 days later on 31/12/2015 at Bois-de-Lessines, Hainaut, Belgium (561km). The delay in reporting was due to a delay in receiving the details from the Belgian Ringing Scheme.

I am grateful to the ringers in the area who have given up their time to study and catch these birds (in order of number of birds ringed): Merseyside Ringing Group, Spence and Brenchley Partnership, Mike Haigh, Kieran Foster, Alan Robinson, Shropshire Ringing Group, John Lawton Roberts, SCAN Ringing Group, Stuart Thomas, Lee and Rachael Barber, Kelvin Jones, Steve Dodd, Derek Cotgrave, Phil Woollen and Mid Wales Ringing Group.

Ringers are reliant on members of the public reporting ringed birds that they find. Rings can also be read on live birds, helping to 'fill in the gap' of the birds life history. To report a ringed bird, go to **www.ring.ac**, and you will be sent the details of the bird including where and when the bird was ringed.

Number of birds ringed per species

Ringling totals	2015			2016			Year total difference
Species	FG	Pull.	Total	FG	Pull.	Total	
Mute Swan	0	0	0	7	0	7	7
Shelduck (A)	4	0	4	7	0	7	3
Mallard (A)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Shoveler (A)	3	0	3	0	0	0	-3
Cormorant	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Buzzard	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Sparrowhawk	6	0	6	3	0	3	-3
Oystercatcher (A)	0	1	1	10	3	13	12
Ringed Plover (R)	19	6	25	0	10	10	-15
Little Ringed Plover (S)	0	3	3	0	0	0	-3
Lapwing (R)	0	0	0	4	0	4	4
Curlew (R)	0	0	0	4	0	4	4
Turnstone (A)	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Sanderling (A)	20	0	20	114	0	114	94
Dunlin (R)	745	0	745	30	0	30	-715
Common Sandpiper (R)	1	4	5	0	0	0	-5
Redshank (R)	0	0	0	50	0	50	50
Jack Snipe	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Woodcock (R)	0	0	0	9	0	9	9
Snipe (A)	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Little Tern (R) (S)	1	52	53	2	157	159	106
Common Tern (A)	0	626	626	0	422	422	-204
Black-headed Gull (R)	0	430	430	0	533	533	103
Herring Gull (R)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Stock Dove	3	4	7	1	4	5	-2

Ringing totals	2015			2016			Year total difference
Species	FG	Pull.	Total	FG	Pull.	Total	
Woodpigeon	5	2	7	2	2	4	-3
Collared Dove	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Cuckoo (R)	1	0	1	2	0	2	1
Barn Owl (S)	7	32	39	5	18	23	-16
Little Owl	1	5	6	0	0	0	-6
Tawny Owl	0	11	11	0	3	3	-8
Long-eared Owl (A)	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Nightjar (A)	18	12	30	18	8	26	-4
Swift (A)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Kingfisher (A) (S)	3	0	3	4	0	4	1
Green Woodpecker (A)	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	36	0	36	23	0	23	-13
Kestrel (R)	0	12	12	0	9	9	-3
Hobby (S)	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
Peregrine (S)	0	11	11	0	8	8	-3
Chough (S)	0	3	3	0	2	2	-1
Magpie	8	0	8	8	0	8	0
Jay	11	0	11	10	0	10	-1
Jackdaw	4	43	47	7	25	32	-15
Rook	1	0	1	2	0	2	1
Goldcrest	344	2	346	317	0	317	-29
Firecrest (S)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Blue Tit	1495	822	2317	964	760	1724	-593
Great Tit	403	400	803	324	395	719	-84
Coal Tit	199	0	199	131	14	145	-54
Willow Tit (R)	4	0	4	8	0	8	4
Marsh Tit (R)	6	0	6	0	0	0	-6
Sand Martin	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Swallow	70	202	272	6	144	150	-122
House Martin	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Cetti's Warbler (S)	0	0	0	6	0	6	6
Long-tailed Tit	201	0	201	236	0	236	35
Yellow-browed Warbler	1	0	1	3	0	3	2
Wood Warbler (R)	0	0	0	0	7	7	7
Chiffchaff	548	12	560	530	6	536	-24
Willow Warbler (R)	170	7	177	206	9	215	38
Blackcap	334	0	334	283	0	283	-51
Garden Warbler	49	5	54	40	3	43	-11
Barred Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Lesser Whitethroat	3	0	3	9	0	9	6
Whitethroat (R)	26	0	26	34	0	34	8
Grasshopper Warbler (R)	6	0	6	4	0	4	-2
Sedge Warbler	16	0	16	15	0	15	-1
Reed Warbler	49	0	49	33	0	33	-16
Nuthatch	24	54	78	22	33	55	-23
Treecreeper	17	4	21	22	0	22	1
Wren	167	26	193	222	4	226	33
Starling (R)	13	2	15	7	0	7	-8
Dipper (A)	0	25	25	0	29	29	4
Blackbird	196	22	218	237	30	267	49

Ringling totals	2015			2016			Year total difference
Species	FG	Pull.	Total	FG	Pull.	Total	
Fieldfare (A)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Song Thrush (A)	42	10	52	57	15	72	20
Redwing (A) (S)	45	0	45	152	0	152	107
Mistle Thrush (A)	3	0	3	4	0	4	1
Spotted Flycatcher (R)	2	9	11	2	7	9	-2
Robin	245	12	257	244	16	260	3
Pied Flycatcher (R)	117	850	967	112	939	1051	84
Black Redstart (A)	0	5	5	1	0	1	-4
Redstart	37	83	120	40	127	167	47
Wheatear	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Duncock	135	0	135	153	1	154	19
House Sparrow (A)	16	38	54	25	21	46	-8
Tree Sparrow (R)	0	26	26	0	17	17	-9
Grey Wagtail (A)	7	9	16	6	21	27	11
Pied Wagtail	0	16	16	0	10	10	-6
Tree Pipit (A)	8	0	8	3	0	3	-5
Meadow Pipit (A)	206	4	210	218	0	218	8
Brambling (S)	2	0	2	3	0	3	1
Chaffinch	285	11	296	367	0	367	71
Bullfinch (R)	101	0	101	102	4	106	5
Greenfinch	380	3	383	357	0	357	-26
Linnet (R)	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Twite (A)	68	0	68	33	0	33	-35
Lesser Redpoll (A)	183	0	183	484	0	484	301
Common Redpoll	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Goldfinch	452	0	452	790	0	790	338
Siskin	43	0	43	736	0	736	693
Yellowhammer (R)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Reed Bunting (A)	22	0	22	16	0	16	-6
TOTALS	7643	3916	11559	7949	3826	11775	216

In the table on the previous pages, 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 Johnstone and Bladwell, 2016). Species where a Schedule 1 licence is required during the breeding season, are indicated with S. The ringling totals are derived from the online Ringling Report: www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports.

Lee Barber

Codes used in the recoveries:

M	Male
F	Female
Pull.	Ringed as a pullus (nestling)
2	Fully Grown, year of hatching unknown
3 (3J)	Hatched during the current calendar year (in juvenile plumage)
4	Hatched before the current calendar year, exact year unknown
5	Hatched during the previous calendar year
6	Hatched before the previous calendar year, exact year unknown
7	Hatched two years ago
8	At least three years, exact year unknown

2016 Selected recoveries

ZZ8584		Mute Swan 6 M	
	10 10 2008	The Mere, Ellesmere, Shropshire	
	07 08 2016	Acton, Wrexham	
		18km NNW 7y 9m 28d	Put to sleep
5272950		Canada Goose 4 M	
	29 06 2014	Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria	
	28 03 2016	Oakenholt, Flintshire	
		127km S 1y 8m 28d	Freshly dead, hit wires
5272531		Canada Goose 4 M	
	02 07 2013	Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria	
	28 06 2014	Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria	
	05 04 2016	Coed Coch, Betws-Yn-Rhos, Conwy	
		134km SSW 2y 9m 3d	String around feet – released
5269393		Cormorant Pull.	
	28 06 2014	Puffin Island, Isle of Anglesey	
	08 02 2016	Llyn Brenig, Conwy	
		44km SE 1y 7m 11d	Entangled in fish farm netting
GR47605		Little Egret Pull.	
	25 06 2012	Penrhyn Castle, Bangor	
	03 11 2016	Point of Ayr, Flintshire	
		55km ENE 4y 4m 9d	Colour ring sighting
FP81443		Oystercatcher 8	
	02 12 2006	Rhos-on-Sea, Conwy	
	03 02 2016	Talisker Bay, Highland	
		476km NNW 9y 2m 1d	Freshly dead
FA34632		Oystercatcher 8	
	01 10 1989	Conwy Morfa, Conwy	
	21 04 2016	Glan Conwy, Conwy	
		5km ESE 26y 6m 20d	Freshly dead
NV69227		Ringed Plover 6 F	
	24 02 2013	Kinmel Bay, Conwy	
	27 05 2016	Rue Point, Point of Ayr, Isle of Man	
		137km NNW 3y 3m 3d	Controlled

L113044	Reed Warbler 3		
01 08 2010	Shotton, Flintshire		
08 05 2016	Shotton, Flintshire		
	0km 5y 9m 7d		Retrapped
DD28759	Lapwing Pull.		
01 05 2003	Sealand Manor, Flintshire		
24 02 2016	Venus Pool, Shrewsbury, Shropshire		
	65km SSE 12y 9m 23d		Metal ring read
FH27932	Curlew 6 M		
07 05 2016	Ysbyty Ifan, Conwy		
17 07 2016	Jacob's Island, Cork Harbour, Cork, EIRE		
	341km WSW 0y 2m 10d		Colour ring sighting
FH27934	Curlew 6 M		
08 05 2016	Ysbyty Ifan, Conwy		
20 12 2016	Inish & Ballyteige Slob, Wexford, EIRE		
	217km WSW 0y 7m 12d		Colour ring sighting
NR86817	Dunlin 6		
25 01 2015	Kinmel Bay, Conwy		
17 07 2016	Ujście Wisły, Swibno, POLAND , 54°21'N 18°55'E		
	1478km E 1y 5m 22d		Controlled
NW71532	Little Tern 6		
13 06 2014	Rue Point, Point of Ayre, Isle of Man		
29 07 2016	Gronant, Flintshire		
	135km NW 2y 5m 16d		Colour ring sighting
SV92708	Common Tern Pull.		
20 06 2004	Shotton, Flintshire		
04 04 2016	La Somone, SENEGAL , 14°28'N 17°04'W		
	4481km SSW 11y 9m 15d		Controlled
SX54471	Common Tern Pull.		
16 06 1996	Shotton, Flintshire		
17 07 2016	Shotton, Flintshire		
	0km 20y 1m 1d		Freshly dead
GR78189	Barn Owl Pull.		
14 06 2014	Waenreef, Whitewell, Wrexham		
06 06 2016	Sleap, Shropshire		
	14km N 1y 11m 23d		Controlled in nest box
LE98837	Great Spotted Woodpecker 3		
11 07 2016	Hope under Dinmore, Herefordshire		
31 12 2016	Wrexham		
	100km N 0y 5m 20d		Hit by car
ERT917			Goldcrest 3 F
09 10 2016	Pen-y-Groeslon, Bryn croes, Gwynedd		
28 12 2016	Rhos-on-Sea, Conwy		
	81km NE 0y 2m 11d		Controlled

JCP661	Chiffchaff 3		
	27 08 2016	Bwlchyddar, Powys	
	12 11 2016	Manecorro, Huelva, SPAIN , 37°04'N 6°31'W	
	13 11 2016	Manecorro, Huelva, SPAIN , 37°04'N 6°31'W	
		1764km S 0y 2m 17d	Controlled
HRD847	Chiffchaff 3		
	29 08 2015	Bwlchyddar, Powys	
	03 04 2016	Octeville sur Mer, Seine-Maritime, FRANCE , 49°31'N 0°06'E	
		430km SSE 0y 7m 5d	Found dead
JCC847	Willow Warbler 4		
	22 04 2016	Bardsey Island, Gwynedd	
	06 07 2016	Rhydymwyn, Mold, Flintshire	
		118km ENE 0y 2m 14d	Controlled
LJ37148	Blackbird 4 F		
	27 12 2015	Rhos-on-Sea, Conwy	
	04 11 2016	Schiermonnikoog, THE NETHERLANDS , 53°28'N 6°10'E	
		657km E 0y 10m 8d	Controlled
7573383	Blackbird 3 F		
	28 10 2013	Log, Ana Sira, Sokndal, Rogaland, NORWAY, 58°16'N 6°25'E	
	19 02 2016	Rhos-on-Sea, Conwy	
		842km SW 2y 3m 22d	Controlled
D028238	Redstart Pull.		
	08 06 2013	Llewesog Hall, Prion, Denbighshire	
	23 08 2016	Brighton, East Sussex	
		341km SE 3y 2m 15d	Freshly dead, hit by car
Z214414	Chaffinch 3 F		
	12 12 2014	Llanfyllin, Powys	
	04 05 2016	Pardshaw, Cumbria	
		203km N 1y 4m 22d	Freshly dead
L586170	Twite 4 M		
	08 10 2014	Machrihanish, Argyll and Bute	
	18 02 2015	Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire	
	14 03 2015	Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire	
	25 03 2015	Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire	
	12 02 2016	Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire	
	06 03 2016	Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire	
	11 03 2016	Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire	
	28 09 2016	Machrihanish, Argyll and Bute	
		298km SE 1y 5m 3d	Controlled
7260240	Lesser Redpoll 3 M		
	08 11 2013	Avion, Pas-de-Calais, FRANCE , 50°23'N 2°49'E	
	03 05 2016	Llwynmawr, Wrexham	
		499km NW 2y 5m 25d	Controlled

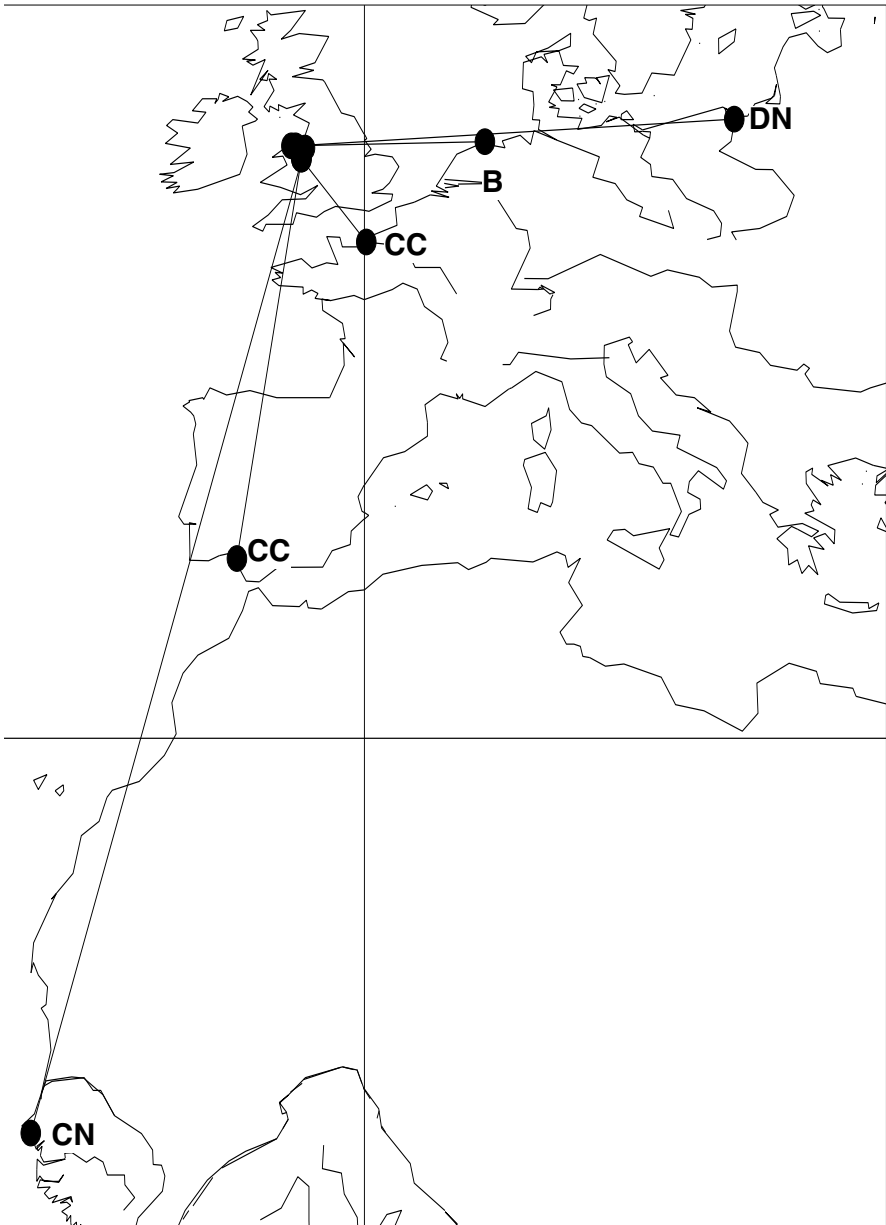
D245176	Goldfinch 5 F	10 04 2014	Leswalt, Dumfries and Galloway		
		08 01 2016	Pentrefelin, Conwy	206km SSE 1y 8m 29d	Controlled
Y936753	Goldfinch 3 F	29 10 2013	Icklesham, Sussex		
		01 05 2016	Llwynmawr, Wrexham	346km NW 2y 6m 2d	Controlled
D195981	Siskin 6 F	23 02 2014	Straight Mile, Romsey, Hampshire		
		10 04 2016	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire	277km NNW 2y 1m 18d	Controlled
Z841518	Siskin 3 F	18 09 2015	Thetford, Norfolk		
		01 05 2016	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire	278km WNW 0y 7m 13d	Controlled

Movements from overseas to NE Wales



The codes used in this map above relate to birds that were originally ringed abroad and found in NE Wales. These are: B. – Blackbird, LR – Lesser Redpoll

Movements from NE Wales to overseas



The codes used in this map above relate to birds that were ringed in N E Wales and found abroad. These are: B. - Blackbird, CC - Chiffchaff, CN – Common Tern, DN – Dunlin

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David Prime	DvP	Nicholas J Suckling	NJS
Gill Pritchard	GiP	David Sulway	DSu
Rhion Pritchard	RhPc	Rob Swift	RSw
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Local groups

Clwyd Ornithological Society

Secretary: Angela Ross. Telephone: 01745-338493.

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 450 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: Bob Lane. Telephone 01352-770633

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.

Nest records for 'Clwyd' for 2016

Species	Number of nest records	Records for Britain & Ireland	% of national records
Pheasant	1	18	5.56
Oystercatcher	6	482	1.24
Ringed Plover	17	244	6.97
Little Tern	250	524	47.71
Herring Gull	1	353	0.28
Stock Dove	16	1163	1.38
Woodpigeon	4	506	0.79
Barn Owl	11	2403	0.46
Tawny Owl	2	497	0.40
Kestrel	3	568	0.53
Hobby	1	106	0.94
Peregrine	5	275	1.82
Chough	1	14	7.14
Jackdaw	7	493	1.42
Raven	10	133	7.52
Blue Tit	205	6739	3.04
Great Tit	102	4162	2.45
Coal Tit	3	99	3.03
Swallow	60	2474	2.43
Wood Warbler	2	77	2.60
Chiffchaff	1	212	0.47
Willow Warbler	2	191	1.05
Garden Warbler	1	41	2.44
Dartford Warbler	1	24	4.17
Nuthatch	4	269	1.49
Treecreeper	3	49	6.12
Wren	6	374	1.60
Dipper	13	458	2.84
Blackbird	30	1362	2.20
Song Thrush	10	689	1.45
Mistle Thrush	1	71	1.41
Spotted Flycatcher	5	142	3.52
Robin	6	562	1.07
Pied Flycatcher	185	1619	11.43
Redstart	25	296	8.45
Duncock	3	365	0.82
House Sparrow	2	437	0.46
Tree Sparrow	8	2468	0.32
Grey Wagtail	12	157	7.64
Pied Wagtail	10	206	4.85
Chaffinch	1	235	0.43
Bullfinch	2	50	4.00
Greenfinch	1	45	2.22

National groups

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)

BTO Cymru - Development Officer, Kelvin Jones; Senior Ecologist, Rachel Taylor

BTO Cymru, Thoday Building, Deiniol Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2UW

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Clwyd West: Mel ab Owain, 31 Coed Bedw, Abergele, Conwy, LL22 7EU.
Telephone: 01745-826528. Email: melabowain@gmail.com

North Wales Wildlife Trust

Head Office: 376 High Street, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1YE. Telephone: 01248-351541.

North East Office: c/o 376 High Street, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1YE. Telephone: 01248-351541.

Contact: Adrian Lloyd Jones, Conservation Officer (East). 07764-897412

North Wales Wildlife Trust local groups:

Clwydian: Sue Loose. Telephone: 07791-195963

Wrexham: Steve Palin. Telephone: 01244-577987 or 07876-501014

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

North Wales Office: RSPB Cymru, Uned 14, Llys Castan, Ffordd y Parc, Parc Menai, Bangor Gwynedd, LL57 4FD. Telephone: 01248-672850.

RSPB Members' groups:

Chester: Norman Sadler. Telephone: 01244-335670.

North Wales: Norman Marshall. Telephone: 01492-592247.

Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS)

Membership Secretary: Alan Williams, 30 Fairfield, Penperlleni, Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 0AQ. Email: mochdreboy@waitrose.com

<https://birdsins.wales>

Honorary Secretary: Ian M Spence



The Clwyd Bird Recording Group is affiliated to the Welsh Ornithological Society. Together we intend to work for the conservation of birds in Wales and we need your records and support to achieve this.

Subscription (covers two people over 26 years of age)

£20.00

To join, visit the membership page of the WOS website

https://birdsins.wales/support_wos/

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