

North-East Wales Bird Report 2017



Clwyd Bird Recording Group
November 2018

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2017

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www.cbrg.org.uk



Published November 2018

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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 (VC50) and Flintshire (VC51), and to publish an annual bird report. The group, at the time of publication, comprises:

Anne Brenchley: Chair and BTO Clwyd East representative

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

Andrew Dale

Adrian O Hibbert

Neil Hughes (Wrexham Birdwatchers)

Adrian Lloyd Jones (North Wales Wildlife Trust)

Glenn Morris (Deeside Naturalists' Society)

Giles Pepler: Secretary

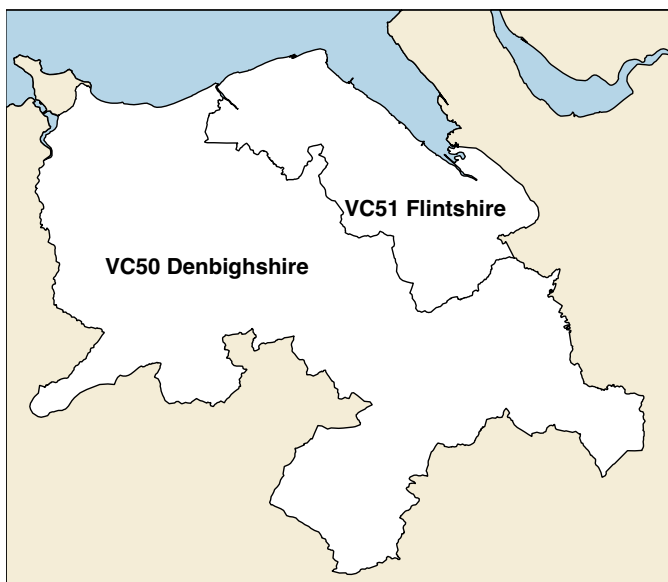
Lee Barber

Henry Cook (Photo Editor)

www.cbrg.org.uk

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

North-East Wales Vice-Counties



Introduction

Editorial

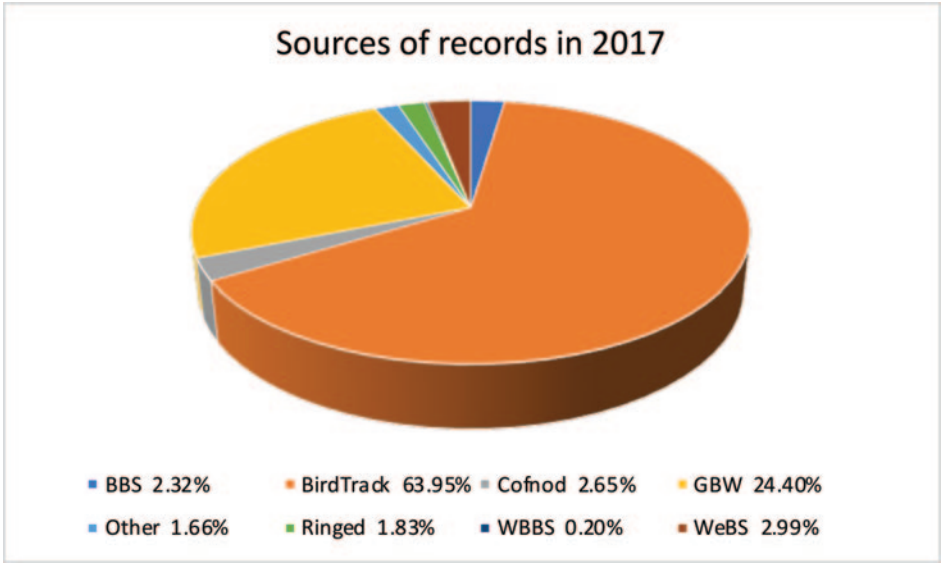
The purposes of the bird report

- 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

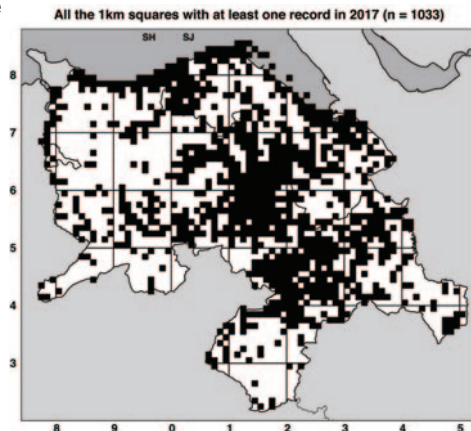
The average age of members of the Clwyd Bird Recording Group is increasing such that there is concern for its future. The CBRG needs new members and those who are younger than retirement age would be especially welcome. The more volunteers we have the fewer jobs any one person should have to do. I would be happy to discuss the CBRG's requirements with anyone. I was very pleased that Henry Cook agreed to join us and take on the role of Photo Editor. At the time of preparing this report I was informed of the resignation of Richard Groves. I thank him for his various contributions over the years.

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 Conwy 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.
- WBBS (Waterways Breeding Bird Survey) data from the BTO.



Numbers of records

For 2017 I received just over 97,000 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.

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: British Ornithologists' Union (BOU). 2018. The British List: a Checklist of Birds of Britain (9th edition). *Ibis* 160: 190-240.

Information about species

In this report we have details of 218 species in Categories A and C and 1 in Category E and 8 subspecies.

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 show whether it is a Section 7 bird (living organism) "of principal importance for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in relation to Wales", (Environment [Wales] Act 2016. 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 still been slower than I had would have liked.

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 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 820,137 records in the database. I have made no progress in finding an alternative to Recorder 6.

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

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 Biodiversity Action Plan (WBAP) list or
- of interest to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.

Included in this report are maps showing the distribution of all the records we have received for all species which have been recorded at four or more locations.

For your records to be considered for a bird report, please submit the records before the end of March of the following year. After that date 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.wales/rare-birds/welsh-records-panel/>

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

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, Henry Cook, Andrew Dale, Richard Groves, Neil Hughes, Glenn Morris and Giles Pepler. I am also grateful to Lee Barber for the Ringing Report and to Julian Hughes, Tim Wallis and Graham Jones for the articles they have

written.

All but two maps have been produced using DMAP by Dr Alan J Morton. The two exceptions were produced using Googlemaps.

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

I am very grateful to Stephen Barlow, Henry Cook, Andy Davis, Marc Hughes, Mel Hughes, Neil Hughes, Martyn Jones, Hugh Linn, Tony Pope and Dave Williams for their photographs. I am also very grateful to Dermot Smith for his drawings. All these add significantly to the interest and attractiveness of the report. I thank Henry Cook for sourcing the photos.

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 Richard Groves and Giles Pepler for their proof-reading of the draft text and to Trevor Payne for checking the typeset report.

I am grateful to Anne Brenchley for preparing a weather summary and the review of the year.

I thank the British Trust for Ornithology for its support and assistance in making available bird records submitted to: Birdtrack, the Breeding Bird Survey, Waterways 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 2017

2017 was a particularly wet and variable year, with few periods of settled weather. The trend for warmer, wetter weather than the average continued. The year started dry and cold with some snow in the middle of January and this month was generally much drier than average. February started with a short cold spell but was mostly mild and dull with average rainfall. Storm Doris caused some structural damage and resulted in many fallen trees between 22/02 and 23/02. March was a wet month with notable rainfall on 1/03 and 23/03. High pressure developed from the south in April and this was mostly a dry and warm month with a short cold spell at the end of the month. May was a remarkably warm and dry month, with plenty of sunshine. This all boded well for breeding birds. June, however, was changeable with rain and westerly winds. There was a short hot spell between 16/06 and 21/06 but this was atypical of the summer as a whole. July was warm with short spells of particularly heavy rainfall, notably 21.4mm was recorded at Hawarden on 21/07. Whilst August was drier, it was a dullish month with low pressure systems and fronts moving in from the west at regular intervals. The changeable weather continued into September with rain falling on most days. Westerly/south-westerly winds prevailed for much of October and it was a much drier month but rather dull. The first frosts of the late autumn occurred on 30/10. November was generally mild, wet and

dull. There were occasional frosts but no prolonged cold spells. December was the wettest month of the year. There were alternating mild and cold spells. Scattered wintry showers were recorded between 7/12 and 16/12 and significant snowfall came on 10/12. The year ended with the arrival of Storm Dylan.

2017	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max temp °C	13	16	17	20	28	28	28	24	24	21	16	13
date	10	20	15	9	5	21	18	22	4	16	22	6
Mean temp °C	8	10	13	13	19	20	21	20	17	16	11	9
Min temp °C	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	8	8	7	5	-1	-2	-7
date	21	6 & 9	25	8	9	14	17	31	22	30	13	12
Rain mm.	45.6	63.2	68.6	19.0	19.6	63.8	69.4	46.2	86.4	43.2	75.2	96.0
Daily max	7.2	15.6	10.8	4.4	7.0	12.8	21.4	10.4	11.6	10.4	12.6	12.9
date	14	23	1	16	29	5	21	16	13	19	25	29
Sun hours	21*	42	123	126*	208	139	181	137	103	71	64	58
Daily max	4.8	5.9	11.8	12.7	14.6	15.6	15.0	11.4	10.1	6.8	6.3	6.4
date	20	4	25	8	26	18	17	15	1	5	24	1

* incomplete data

This information was provided from the UK Met Office using data from the Hawarden meteorological station. © Crown Copyright 2018. Information provided by the National Meteorological Library and Archive – Met Office, UK.

Birding Highlights 2017

This paper briefly summarises the main birding highlights and events for 2017. The paper is based on all records received by the County Recorder and subsequently verified by the Welsh and 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.

2017

As usual, the coast didn't fail to disappoint the birdwatcher at the beginning of the calendar year. In January there was a maximum of 23 **Bewick's Swans** at Shotwick Boating Lake on 8/01 along with a single **Long-tailed Duck**. A **Glaucous Gull** and an **Iceland Gull** were seen off Towyn on 14/01. Two drake **Surf Scoters** were seen offshore between Llanddulas and Colwyn Bay for several weeks from 16/01 to 13/02 along with two **Velvet Scoters** at approximately the same time. Two **Great Northern Divers** were reported off Llanddulas on 29/01. The first **Firecrest** of the year appeared at RSPB Conwy and **Black Redstart** were recorded at several coastal locations. Inland a **Rough-legged Buzzard** at Fenn's Moss was notable. The winter influx of **Waxwings** continued in 2017, with a maximum of 190 seen at Denbigh on 7/01. January was the peak month but some **Waxwings** stayed on into March. Five **Snow Buntings** were regularly seen between Gronant and Point of Ayr from mid-January into March. February got off to a good start with a **Green-winged Teal** at Connah's Quay NR on 6/02. At the same site the **Twite** flock peaked at 103 on 11/02. The only **Grey Partridge** record of the year came from the Wrexham area on 9/02. A **Slavonian Grebe** was seen off Llanddulas on 20/02. A maximum of 20 **Brent Geese** (pale-bellied *hrota* sub-species) were seen at Talacre on 14/02. **Mediterranean Gulls** were seen at several locations, including two inland at Gresford flash.

March was a fairly quiet month but large numbers of **Common Scoters** accumulated offshore and 20,000 were seen from Point of Ayr on 12/03. There were several sightings of the usual **Great Grey Shrike** in Clocaenog Forest and of several late winter records of **Water Pipit**. Seven of these were in March at RSPB Conwy. An early **Wheatear** on 8/03 was notable. The main migration month was April but there was little out of the norm, other than a single **Black Tern** at Shotton on 22/04, followed by 5 at Connah's Quay NR on 30/04 and 11 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 5/05. The first **Yellow Wagtails** appeared on 18/04 but there were fewer records overall for this species compared to previous years. The only **Spoonbill** record for the year was at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 8/05 and at the same site a **Garganey** was seen on 11/05. A **Wood Sandpiper** flew into RSPB Conwy on 5/05 and the biggest surprise of the month was a **Caspian Gull** at the same RSPB reserve on 13/05. Fenn's Moss was the most reliable site for seeing **Hobby** and breeding was proved there later in the summer. A **Blue-headed Wagtail** was sighted at Talacre on 22/05. The highlight of June was the confirmation of **Firecrest** breeding in Clocaenog Forest. This was followed by the probable breeding of **Osprey** at Llyn Alwen, Mynydd Hiraeddog. Seabird movement at Point of Ayr on 8/06 included **Manx Shearwater**, **Arctic** and **Great Skua**. The **Common Tern** colony at Shotton had 407 nests which resulted in 399 young being ringed over the summer. Uncommon species in July included **Garganey** and **Little Stint** at RSPB Conwy and two records of **Quail** at Gronant and Fenn's Moss. Wader and seabird passage produced 6,000 **Common Scoters** off Towyn on 15/07 and 1,200 **Curlew** at Point of Ayr on 23/07. Whilst it was nice to see so many **Curlews**, none of these birds appeared to breed in the recording area – a sad state of affairs. A maximum of 600 **Little Terns** were counted at Gronant in July. This was after an excellent breeding season with 161 breeding pairs producing 202 fledglings. The only bird of note in August was a **Corncrake** flushed from Shotwick Rifle Range on 4/08. There were many good records of seabirds and seaduck in mid-September. This included two **Leach's Petrels** and a **Great Skua** off Colwyn Bay and a **Sabine's Gull** at Point of Ayr. A **Grey Phalarope** turned up at RSPB Conwy on 14-15/09. **Great White Egrets** are now turning up on a regular basis and six individuals were present on the Dee Estuary from 10-21/09. There was an exceptionally late **Yellow Wagtail** at Shotwick Fields on 30/09. In October two **Pomarine Skuas** flew over RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22/10 and unusually there was an inland sighting of **Long-tailed Duck** at Fagl Lane, where the bird remained until 5/11. The **Black-tailed Godwit** numbers on the Dee Estuary peaked at 4,000 in November. Nine **Greenland White-fronted Geese** turned up at Warren Farm, Talacre and stayed to the end of the year. A **Great Grey Shrike** was seen in the Llyn Brenig area at the end of the month. Gull watching proved rewarding in December. An **Iceland Gull** was at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 16/12 and it was likely that the same bird was then seen at Connah's Quay NR the following day. At Llanddulas an adult **Glaucous Gull**, which appeared on 23/12, obligingly stayed around well into 2018 and was seen by many, many birdwatchers. A **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** was found at Marford Quarry, near Wrexham on 19/12 and allowed several local birdwatchers to view what is now an increasingly uncommon species. Despite the major UK **Hawfinch** influx in 2017, few birds were sighted in NE Wales but 2 were seen at Gwynfryn on 27/12 – a nice end to the year.

Anne Brenchley

The Systematic List for 2017

The names of species and their order come from British Ornithologists' Union (BOU). 2018. The British List: a Checklist of Birds of Britain (9th edition). *Ibis* 160: 190-240. The Welsh names have been taken from previous reports and where necessary, from the website www.avionary.info.

We have continued to use conventions from previous reports – dates are presented as day/month (in digits) and we have stated where birds are on the Red or Amber 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:

BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee (see www.bbrc.org.uk)
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
RBBP	Breeding records of this species are of interest to the Rare Breeding Bird Panel (see www.rbbp.org.uk)
S7	Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Section 7
WRP	Welsh Records Panel (see www.birdsin.wales)

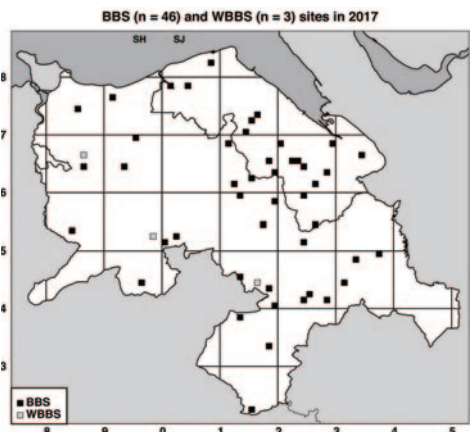
We have abbreviated the names of months to just three letters (eg Jan, Feb, etc).

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. First, there is the map of all the BBS sites. Second, there is the map showing all the GBW sites and last a map showing the locations of all sites from where complete lists in 1km squares were recorded in BirdTrack.

We have continued to include a table which 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'. Generally these are:



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 (NB NOT numbers of birds)
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 words chosen to describe the species are taken from the table, above.

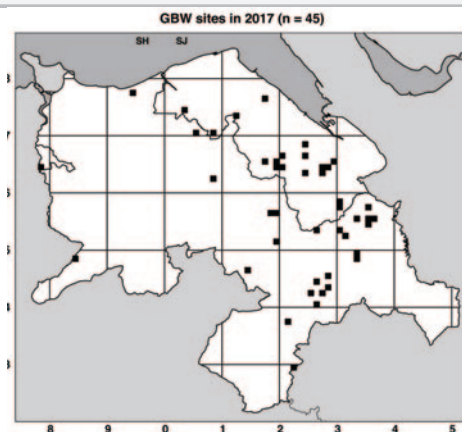
Number of 1 km squares. This is the number of 1 km squares in which a species was recorded during the year. The numbers of 1 km squares in each county are taken from the Gazetteer which is available from the CBRG website: Denbs = 1965, Flints = 589, total = 2554.

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.

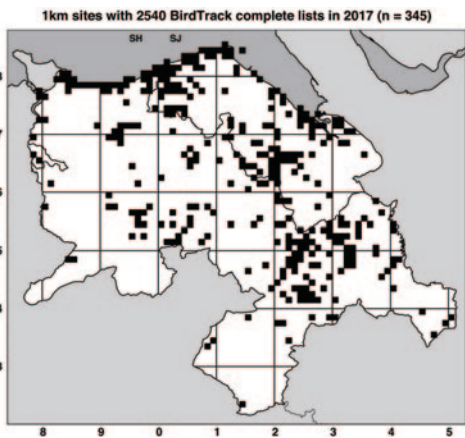
Recorded in BBS squares. When a species has been recorded during a BBS survey this is the number of squares in which the species it was recorded out of the number in the county. There were 30 BBS squares in Denbs in 2013 and 15 in Flints.

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.

Max breeding evidence. This is the Atlas code of the evidence of breeding of the highest level found during the year. Sometimes this was given by an observer within BirdTrack. Sometimes, this was derived, e.g. from the ringing of nestlings (= NY). Please add breeding codes whenever possible.

At the end of this section Anne Brenchley has written about the first and last dates for migrants. Please continue to send records of the first dates you see migrant species and keep records so that you know when you last saw them, when they have migrated away. 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.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

GWYDD DDU

Winter visitor. (*B.b. bernicla* S7).

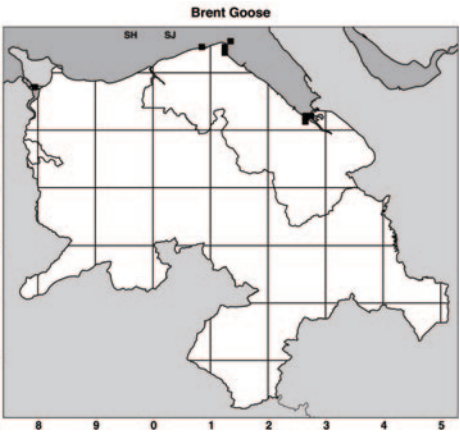
(BG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	7
Maximum count	1	20
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	22
Number of records	1	18
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.6
Density	0.00	0.24

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 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 Foryd in Gwynedd. Records from Denbs can be assumed to relate to this race unless otherwise specified. However, in Flints, while most records in recent years have again been of the pale-bellied race, there are occasional records of the dark-bellied *bernicla* race, the majority of which winter in the S and E of the UK and continental Europe. This year all records which specified race were of the pale-bellied sub-species.

Denbs. The only record was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 27/10 (JFJ).

Flints. On the Dee Estuary 15 were recorded at Talacre on 11/02 and numbers had increased to 20 by 14/02 (GR); after this numbers declined, a single being seen at various locations until 12/04 (TMT, PeHa) . The first of the autumn were 6 at Talacre gas terminal on 3/10 (RLE), 1-2 were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on various dates until 3/11 (PSH). There were 13 recorded during WeBS counts on 19/11 (GR) were the last of the year and the largest count of the autumn.



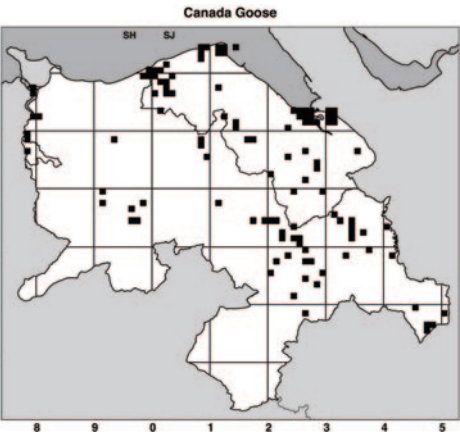
Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

GWYDD CANADA

Breeding resident.

(CG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	59	51
Maximum count	400	2347
Av max count prev 10 yrs	371	2807
Recorded in BBS squares	4/31	7/19
Number of records	388	479
% of BirdTrack lists	23.5	36.8
Density	11.94	203.22
Max breeding evidence	ON	NY

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 53 inland squares and 6 coastal ones, 54% of records being from RSPB Conwy. Numbers appear to have recovered somewhat from the lows of the last two years, this year's maximum count for the county of 400 at RSPB Conwy on 25/06 (SCh) being almost twice that of 2016. During Jan – Mar the largest counts were at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari where there were 42 on 27/02 and 32 on 6/03 (JPH) and RSPB Conwy with 55 on 12/03 and 57 on 9/04 (JHg). Other notable counts during the early months of the year were 33 at Kimmel Bay on 4/02 (JPH), 65 at Cae Llwyd Reservoir, Penycae on 14/04 (SD) and at Acrefair with 58 on 21/04 (NHu) and 60 on 4/05 (JLR). Breeding was observed at Sydallt, Lllys Aled Isaf, Hiraethog, Gresford Flash, Lleweni Hall and RSPB Conwy, rather fewer locations than last year. Interestingly, the first reported hatchlings were all reported from Sydallt, Lllyn Aled Isaf and Gresford Flash on the same day, 17/05. From early Jun flocks of non-breeders and some early family parties began to form and as usual RSPB Conwy hosted the largest concentrations with 319 on 11/06 (JHg), the annual maximum of 400 on 25/06 (SCh) and there were 255 on the Conwy Estuary on 14/07 (WRM). Recorded numbers were low during Aug to Oct until the regular post-moulting flocks began to gather at Gresford Flash during early Nov, when 300 on 3/11 was the winter maximum, after which numbers tailed off as the month progressed. The Dec maxima were 45 at Lleweni Hall on 18/12 (JPH), 21 on 23/12 at Gresford (SD), and 52 at RSPB Conwy on 26/12 (JPH).

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(CG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	20	2	55	57	18	319	38					
Rhuddlan, Clwyd Estuary	57	227		62	34		155	507		17	5	
Llawndy, Gwespyr.	152	180	72								65	96
RSPB Oakenholt		230	50	24	100	200	500	700	700		600	34
Connah's Quay NR		60	120	9	4	7	8	40	100			
White Sands	90	600	140	8	5	2		1500	420		100	300

Flints. In general, last year's recovery in numbers was maintained, though the peak count for the year of 2,347 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 31/10 (DWn) was somewhat lower than last year and still below the long-term average. Records were predominantly from the Dee and Clwyd estuaries, though there were also sightings from eighteen inland squares. On the Dee Estuary the usual mid-estuary reserves were the most favoured locations, with large numbers regularly recorded from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh especially during the later months of the year, though Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and Shotwick Fields appear to have attracted smaller numbers than in recent years. White Sands remains the most favoured roosting/ loafing area and Llawndy Farm at Point of Ayr attracted significant numbers on several dates throughout the year. During Jan numbers on the estuary were generally low, the largest counts being 250 at Connah's Quay NR on 3/01 (MD) and 290 at Talacre on 26/01 (DCR). During Feb things improved somewhat with 600 on White Sands on 12/02 (DaK) and the same number at Connah's Quay NR on 18/02 (DCR), after which numbers declined and remained low on the estuary into the spring/early summer breeding season. The usual flocks of non-breeders and early family groups began to form from mid-May, when 131 were recorded on RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 14/05 (CW), 250 at Connah's Quay NR on 29/05 (JHo) and 400 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 27/06 (PSH). The first 1,000+ count of the year was 1,500 on White Sands on 13/08 (DaK), numbers increasing steadily thereafter, especially at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh where 2,000 were recorded on 22/09 (PSH) and an annual maximum of 2,347 recorded on 31/10 (DWn). Numbers remained high throughout the remainder of the year with several counts of 1,000-2,000 from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, and significant numbers also recorded at White Sands, Flint saltmarsh and Talacre/ Llawndy. On the Clwyd Estuary numbers were more modest than the Dee, though significantly higher than in 2016. The early year maximum was 280+ at Rhuddlan on 3/02 (DCR) and the post-breeding congregations during Aug/Sep included 507 at Rhuddlan on 13/08 (JHB) and the estuary's maximum of the year of 515 on the middle estuary on 12/09 (JPH). Numbers declined from the end of Sep with 326 on 28/09 (JPH), being the estuary's last 100+ count of the year. The only breeding records were from Connah's Quay NR and Rhyl Brickworks pond.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

GŴYDD WYRAN

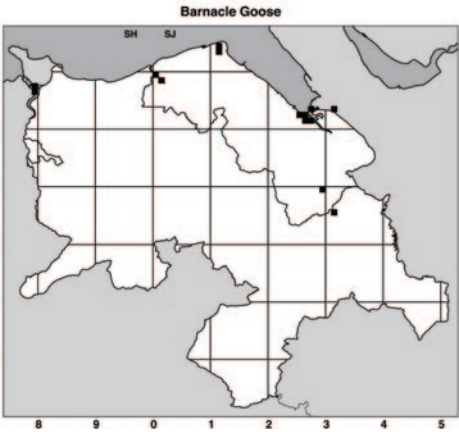
Vagrant, or birds of escaped/feral origin. Amber List.

(BY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	11
Maximum count	5	19
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	10
Number of records	5	78
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	3.7
Density	0.00	0.35

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. Singles were at RSPB Conwy on 26//03 and Sydlallt on 27/03 (GNR, KS); then 1-2 were again at RSPB Conwy from 7-22/06 (JHg).

Flints. Small numbers were present in the RSPB Oakenholt Marsh RSPB / Connah's Quay NR area from 2/02, when 11 were at Oakenholt; up to 5 were regularly recorded in this area until mid-Mar (GEM, PSH), after which 2 remained throughout the summer until at least Oct. There was an influx of small numbers towards the end of Oct, with 17 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 31/10 (DWn). These remained throughout the rest of the year, with a maximum count of 19 on 24/11 (DWn); during this period they remained largely faithful to the Oakenholt / Connah's Quay area and occasional birds showed up in other parts of the estuary.



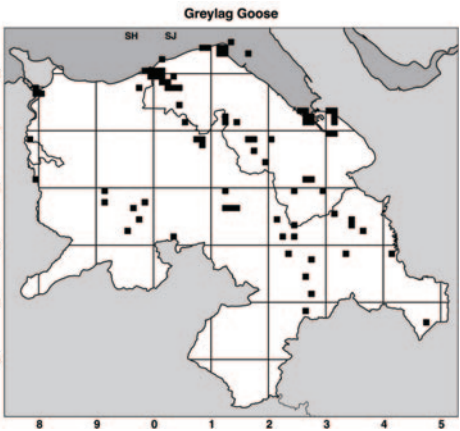
Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

GŴYDD WYLLT

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

(GJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Vary common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	42	42
Maximum count	650	500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	339	370
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	4/19
Number of records	197	219
% of BirdTrack lists	9.6	19.2
Density	13.82	35.65
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL

This species comprises a resident feral breeding population that is relatively widespread on suitable inland water bodies. This population is supplemented by numbers of passage, and overwintering birds during the winter months. 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 moulting flocks on a number of sites notably the Dee Estuary and Gresford Flash. 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. As usual RSPB Conwy, the most regularly recorded location, provided most records, though this year its share was somewhat reduced at 43%. Numbers were relatively low, the annual maximum for the site being 29 on 6/07 (JHg). Lleweni Hall, Bodfari again held the largest numbers in the county. Early in the year numbers increased during early Feb with 93 on 2/02, an early year maximum of 169 on 27/02, 117 on 13/03 and 59 on 3/04 (JPH), after which pairs dispersed to breeding territories. Breeding behaviour was reported from several locations, the first pair on territory being noted on 6/04 and the first goslings on 7/05. Goslings were seen at Nant-y-fridd, Afonwen, Llyn Aled, Lleweni Hall, and Llyn Brenig. The post-breeding flocks at Llyn Brenig were somewhat larger than in 2016, with 120 including juveniles on 22/07 (SD). Gresford Flash, Wrexham attracted the county's largest congregations of the year, with numbers beginning to climb in late Oct, with 150 on 22/10 (KS) and an annual maximum of 650 on 3/11 (HL). Numbers remained relatively high throughout the remainder of Nov, with 320 on 21/11(BF). Lleweni Hall also recorded good numbers during Dec with 426 on 18/12 (JPH).

Flints. The Clwyd Estuary was again the most regularly used location for this species, with almost 50% of all records. During Jan and Feb numbers in the middle estuary were significantly higher than in 2016, with an early year maximum of 348 on 29/01 (JPH). As usual, relatively small numbers were on the estuary during the summer, but post-breeding congregations began to gather in late Jul, with 133 on the middle estuary on 20/07, increasing to 480 on 13/08. There were several counts of close to 200 throughout late Aug, Sep and Oct, culminating in an autumn peak count of 500 on 29/10 (JPH, WRM). By contrast numbers on the Dee Estuary were relatively modest for much of the year. While small numbers were widely distributed at locations throughout the estuary, there were very few records approaching 100. RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands recorded the majority of significant counts with Shotwick Fields attracting modest numbers during the spring and early summer, after which the Border Pool had several significant counts, with a maximum of 90 on 23/07 (CW) and other counts of up to 63 during late summer and early winter. However, the areas around Point of Ayr appeared to attract the largest numbers of the autumn and early winter, with 150 in Ffynnonogroyw Bay on 10/09 (GR) and 477 at Talacre dunes on 19/11 (JPH).

Monthly WeBS counts at locations in Flints.

(GJ)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clwyd Estuary		18		4	6		7	320		4		
Point of Ayr			15						40	35		

Significant counts from inland sites during the early part of the year included 31 at Hendre on 8/02 (MGW); 70 at Penbedw on 26/02 (GEM) and 31 at Fagl Lane GP on 25/03 (SD). While there were birds present in suitable inland breeding habitat throughout the spring and summer, pairs with young were only recorded from three regular locations at Fagl Lane GP on 30/04, Padeswood on 2/05 and Penbedw on 12/07. The only record of significant numbers at an inland location during the winter months was 85 at Fagl Lane GP on 30/10 (GMR).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

GŴYDD DROED-BINC

Passage migrant, and winter visitor.

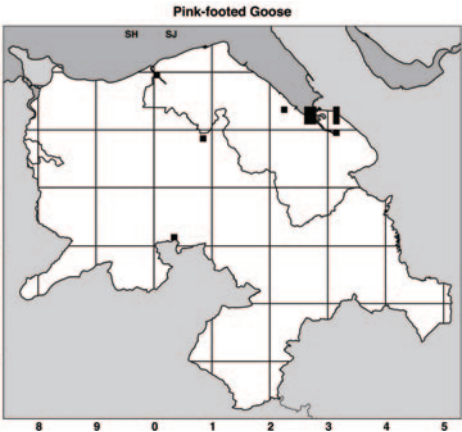
Seen in these months												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

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.

(PG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very common
Number of 1km squares	2	12
Maximum count	12	3500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	23	2770
Number of records	2	78
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	5.6
Density	0.01	71.31

Denbs. There were only two records during the year, 1 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 13/03 (JPH) and 12 flew over at Brynhyfryd in Clocaenog Forest on 26/10 (JOH).

Flints. The overwhelming majority of records were from the Dee Estuary, where the recent trend of substantially increased numbers continued, though peak counts were significantly lower than in 2016. On the Dee the majority of Jan records were from RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, where modest flocks were feeding during the early part of the month, numbers increasing to a maximum of 1,500 here on 15/01 (CW). As the year progressed most records were from middle estuary locations where numbers continued to increase with 2,000-3,000 recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh or Connah's Quay NR and roosting on White Sands from early Mar to mid-Apr, with an annual maximum of 3,500 recorded on White Sands on 23/03 (PSH). Numbers declined from mid-Apr, the last of the spring being 2 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 5/05 (CW). The first returning birds of the autumn were 70 on White Sands on 10/09 (PSH). Modest numbers were feeding at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands during much of Sep and early Oct, counts increasing to 300 on 6/10 and 1,000 on 9/10 (pCW). These may have been short staying passage birds as there were no further records of significant numbers until 2/11, when 2,000 were recorded from both RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and White Sands (PSH, AGr). After this there were regular records of 2,000+ from various locations in the middle estuary during Nov and early Dec, with notable counts of 2,500 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 6/11 (CW), 2,850 at White Sands on 29/11 (PDS) and an annual maximum count of 3,000, again at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 7/12 (pCW). Numbers appear to have declined somewhat towards the turn of the year. The only records from locations away from the Dee were from the Clwyd Estuary, where 4 were recorded on 29/01 (JPH) and 1 on dates from 7/10 to 10/10 (WRM).



White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Irregular winter visitor. Red List.

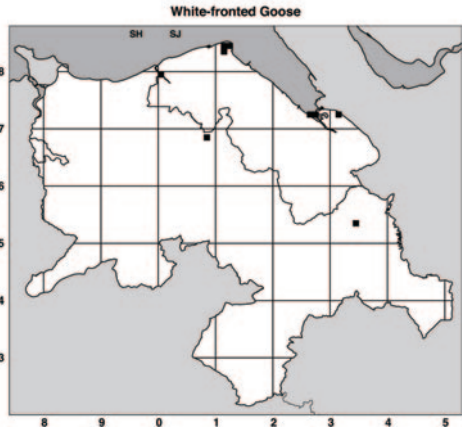
(WG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	7
Maximum count	2	9
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	8
Number of records	16	19
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	0.6
Density	0.00	0.11

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 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.

GŴYDD DALCEN-WEN



Denbs. There were 2 of the European race at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on several dates between 6/02 and 27/03 (JPH); then later in the year a single at Gresford Flash, Wrexham on dates between 13/11-5/12 (HL).

Flints. Two birds of the European race were on the middle Clwyd Estuary on 7/01 (AHJ) and 1 on 1/02 (DCR). On the Dee 1 was on White Sands on 28/02. Later in the year 1 was at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30 to 31/10 (PSH, DWn); then at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on dates between 11/11 and 16/12 (CW). A particularly notable record for the report area was a small flock of up to 9 Greenland Whitefronts which wintered on fields at Talacre/Gwespyr and were recorded from 18/11 to the end of the year.



European White-fronted Goose (with Greyags), Gresford Flash (Neil Hughes)

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*

GŴYDD DALCEN-WEN LEIAF

Vagrant or feral escape. Red List.

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

Flints. Three birds of this extremely rare species were recorded at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, on 17/12 (MREP).

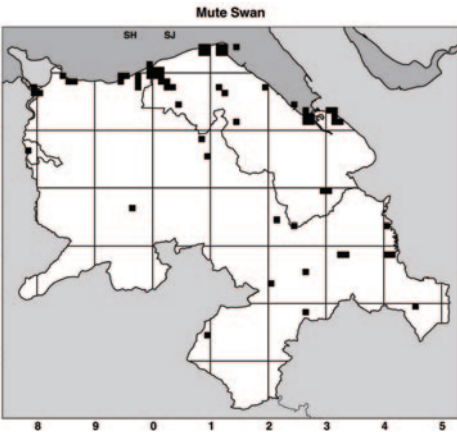
Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

ALARCH DOF

Breeding resident. Amber List.

(MS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	31	35
Maximum count	35	139
Av max count prev 10 yrs	49	62
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	2/19
Number of records	449	482
% of BirdTrack lists	25.5	35.7
Density	0.55	8.26
Max breeding evidence	ON	NY

One of our most regularly occurring water-birds, 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 (69.5%) of records were from RSPB Conwy, where this species was recorded throughout the year. The largest numbers recorded during the early months of the year were at Sutton Green in the lower Dee floodplain where 22-35 were recorded on various dates from 11/02 to 20/03, after which numbers declined to 11 on 6/05 (NHu). Another location with significant numbers was offshore at Towyn, where a small herd of 20-27 was recorded from 11/02 to 21/03 (JPH). At RSPB Conwy up to 18 were recorded in the southern section of the reserve from 15/01 to 19/05 (JHg). Birds bred on the reserve at Conwy and the first cygnets were observed on 19/05 (GEM) and 5 were counted on 30/05. A pair with two cygnets was also recorded at Pensarn on 25/06 (WRM). After the breeding season numbers settled down and at RSPB Conwy up to 18 were counted on various dates during the later months of the year. The largest inland count of the early autumn was 16 at Hanmer on 15/07 (SD).

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(MS)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy Estuary	12	10	11	12	18	6	4	8	5	6	10	10
White Sands	6										60	
Shotwick Fields	68	79										
Clwyd Estuary	14	5		16	32		1			4		

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 Shotwick Fields and later in the year on White Sands. The year started with substantial numbers in the upper estuary particularly at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, where there were 139 on 1/01 (AGr), 50 at Deeside Industrial Park on 2/01 (DSw) and 79 at Shotwick on 12/02 (BaB). Otherwise small numbers were widely distributed around the estuary throughout the early months of the year. The first record of breeding was from Connah's Quay NR, where cygnets were seen on 20/05 (PSH). Later in the year White Sands attracted the largest concentrations with counts of 50-60 during Nov and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh had up to 38 in mid-Dec (PeHa). However, these were exceptional and very few counts of 10+ were reported during the second half of the year. On the Clwyd Estuary numbers were similar to 2016. There were counts of up to 36 during the first half of the year, the maximum being recorded at Rhuddlan on 1/05 (DCR). After mid-Jun numbers declined; the majority of records were in single figures and the late year maximum of 11 was in the middle estuary on 28/12 (RLE). Breeding was recorded from the middle estuary, with cygnets seen on 13/05 (AHJ) and from Rhyl Brickworks pond where the first cygnets were on 20/05 (HC) and on 15/06, when there were 7 including juveniles (JPH).

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

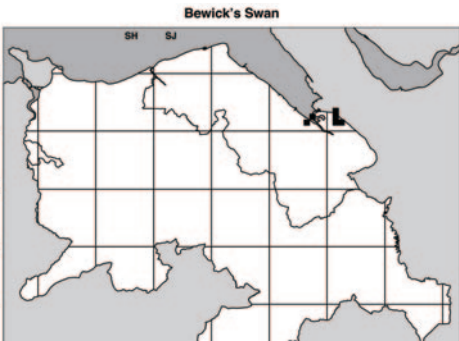
ALARCH BEWICK

Winter visitor. Amber List. WBAP.

(BS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	-	6
Maximum count	-	23
Number of records	-	26
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.9
Density	-	0.23

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 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 had only recovered a little from the low point of 2016, the maximum count remaining less than 50% of the 10-year average. A small flock was present at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and adjacent compartments from the start of the year until mid-Mar. Counts were usually from 3-14, with a maximum of 23 at Shotwick Boating Lake on 8/01 (IMS). The only other locations from which this species was recorded were Connah's Quay NR and White Sands, the latter providing the last record of the year with 9 on 12/03 (DaK).

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*
Winter visitor.

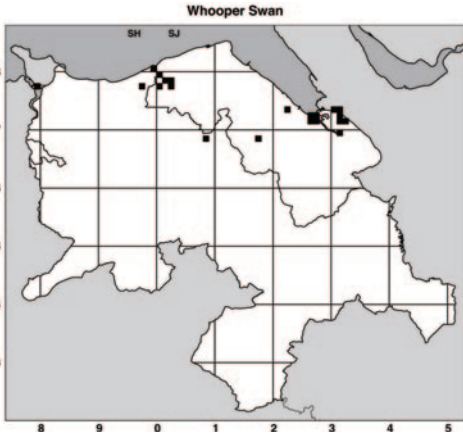
ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

(WS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	4	17
Maximum count	2	47
Av max count prev 10 yrs	8	58
Number of records	6	61
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	2.7
Density	0.00	1.36

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

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 west.



Denbs. Singles were at Kinmel Bay on 29/01 (JNW) and another (or possibly the same) nearby at Towyn, on dates between 9/03 and 21/03 (SM, JPH). Later in the year one was at RSPB Conwy on 7/10 (JHg) and 2 at Lleweni Hall on 18/12 (JPH).

Flints. RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and adjacent locations attracted significant numbers during Jan, with 47 on 1/01 (Agr, pCW) providing the maximum count of the year. This flock remained in the area for most of the month, though numbers varied markedly, with 36 on 8/01 (IMS) being the last double figure count at Shotwick Fields. During Feb and Mar records were mostly from middle estuary locations; Connah's Quay NR and White Sands were favoured. The latter provided the only double figure counts during these months, with 28 on 12/02 and 12 on 12/03 (DaK, WeBS). The last Dee record of the spring was one at Connah's Quay NR on 23/03 (PSH). The first of the autumn were on 8/10, when 4 were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa) and 3 on White Sands (DaK). Numbers remained modest until mid-Nov when the first double figure records of the autumn were on 19/11, with 18 on White Sands (DaK) and 28 on the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands (Agr). Modest numbers remained on the estuary for the remainder of the year favouring RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. Away from the Dee singles were recorded on the middle and upper Clwyd Estuary, on various dates from 1/01 to 13/04 (JPH, AHJ, WRM). In the autumn one was again on the middle estuary on 10/10 and 3 on 17/10 (WRM) and 2 were near Rhuddlan on 3/12 (JPH). The only record from an inland location was 2 at Hendre on 2/03 (GEM).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

GŴYDD YR AIFFT

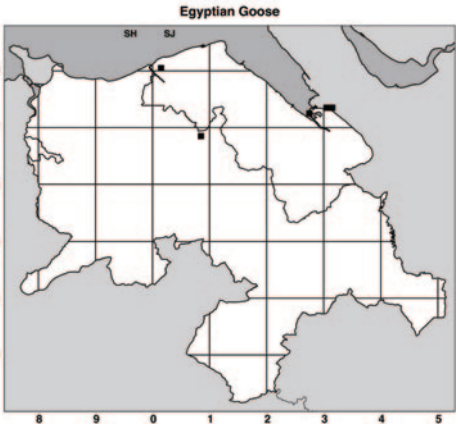
Feral.

(EG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	4
Maximum count	1	3
Number of records	2	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.6
Density	0.00	0.02

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 recorded at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 27/02 and 6/03 (JPH).

Flints. Three were recorded at Rhyl Brickworks pond on 22/09 (AHJ), on the Dee at White Sands on 4/10 (PSH) and at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 14/10 and 17/10 (MERP, pCW).



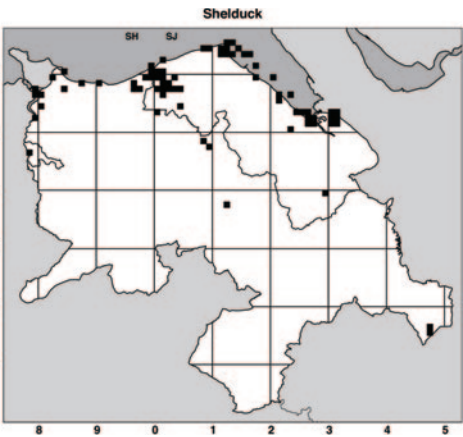
Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

(SU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	27	48
Maximum count	157	2315
Av max count prev 10 yrs	137	1348
Recorded in BBS squares	-	2/19
Number of records	320	481
% of BirdTrack lists	17.7	31.3
Density	2.15	188.66
Max breeding evidence	NY	FL

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.



Denbs. Only ten reports were from inland and these constituted only 9% of all records. RSPB Conwy provided 85% of the total number of sightings. Numbers were significantly lower than during 2016, with only two counts on the same day of 100+. The maximum count of 157 was 34% down on that of 2015. During Jan and Feb, virtually all records were from coastal locations, predominantly RSPB Conwy, its adjoining estuary and Kinnel Bay. Numbers were relatively modest, with most counts less than 20 and a maximum of 55 at RSPB Conwy and the adjacent estuary on 11/02 (WRM). During Mar numbers began to increase and continued to an early peak on 4/04, when 157 were counted at Conwy (TMH), which was also the annual maximum. These congregations remained into early Jun when the breeding season got underway. The first family party of adults with small ducklings was seen at RSPB Conwy on 27/06. By 10/07 a scan of the E bank of the estuary revealed five families with attendant crèches of young (WRM). After the breeding season the majority of records were of small numbers in single figures, the only counts of 10+ being between 30/11 and 4/12, when 12-14 were at RSPB Conwy. The general annual trend

in numbers is reflected in the table of WeBS counts at RSPB Conwy (see below). The only inland location where significant numbers were recorded was Lleweni Hall, Bodfari where there were notable counts of 33 on 27/02, 29 on 6/03 and later in the year 39 on 18/12 (JPH).

RSPB Conwy monthly WeBS counts:

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy	6	26	79	32	99	50	1			1	7	3

Flints. Only four locations were inland and from these there were only six records, again emphasising the maritime habitat favoured by this species. The most important locations were the Dee and Clwyd Estuaries. In contrast to Denbs, counts were considerably up on last year's disappointing numbers, with a maximum count of 2,315, almost double that of 2016. During Jan to Mar the largest numbers were in the Point of Ayr / Talacre area, where there were several counts of 120-169, though the maximum count for the period was 200 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 18/02 (PSH). In Apr and May there were 100+ counts from Point of Ayr, Ffynnongroyw and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. From mid-May the last location increased in importance, with several counts of 1,000+ during Jun with a mid-year maximum of 1,200 on 8/06 (PSH). There was only one record of breeding on the Dee, juveniles being recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 4/06 (PSH). As can be seen from the table of WeBS counts below, the largest concentrations of the year were after breeding in Sep and Oct. This year the areas that attracted the largest numbers were Point of Ayr and Ffynnongroyw Bay where on 10/09 the WeBS count recorded 400 at Ffynnongroyw and 800 at Point of Ayr (GR). A month later on 8/10 the count was even higher, with 600 at Ffynnongroyw and 2,315 at Point of Ayr (JLg); the latter was the maximum count of the year and almost twice that of last year. A thousand at Oakenholt on 26/10 (DWn) was the last record of this magnitude, although there were several counts of 100-300 during Nov and Dec.

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected Dee Estuary sites:

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	127	48	115	80	109	100	28	8	800	2315	281	183
Fynnongoyw Bay W		3	23	140	6	7	22	73	400	600	300	39
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	34	60	50	150	120	700	220	50	150	500	40	40
White Sands	43	64	71	34	45	89		8	31	44	25	21

On the Clwyd Estuary numbers were rather more modest, though there were counts of 100+ from both the upper and middle estuary in several months of the year particularly during Feb-Mar. At this time 170 were near Rhuddlan on 9/04 (JHB) and during the May to Jul breeding season, when crèches of juveniles added to the flocks in the mid-estuary S of Rhyl, a maximum count of 126 was recorded on 15/06 (AHJ). From the end of Jul numbers declined, though there were several counts of 80-100 during late Nov and Dec (WRM, JPH).

Clwyd Estuary monthly WeBS counts:

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rhuddlan	97	115		170	116		17	8		38	63	

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

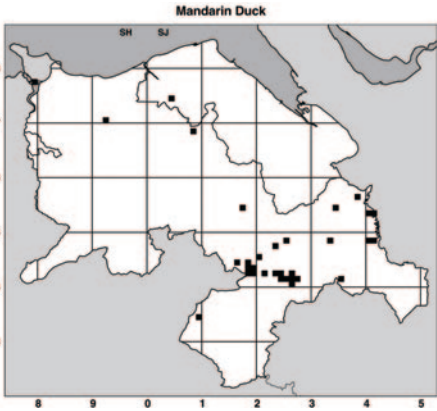
HWYADEN FANDARIN

Breeding resident.

(MN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	31	1
Maximum count	31	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	1
Recorded in BBS squares	5/31	1/19
Number of records	79	1
% of BirdTrack lists	2.8	-
Density	0.49	0.01
Max breeding evidence	FL	

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 population of this showy-plumaged but secretive species, introduced to the UK from its native China, appears well established and spreading steadily from a few localities in the W of the report area, where there are quiet stretches of river or secluded ponds 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 has continued. As usual the majority of sightings were from the middle Dee Valley, primarily between Llangollen and Chirk, but also several from locations in the lower valley. Within this area most records were of small groups of up to 7 or family parties of females with ducklings. A female with 9 ducklings was at Holt dykes on 14/05, a family group near Trevor on 17/05, another female with 8 was at Froncysyllte on 23/05 and a female with 3 presumably larger juveniles at Sutton Green on 24/07 (DaHu, SuLo, NHu). The population in the middle Clwyd valley continues to prosper with regular sightings at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, where there were records of significant numbers in almost all months of the year except during the breeding season between May and Jul. Notable records at Lleweni Hall included several counts of 10+ including 21 on 4/09, a maximum for the year of 31 on 11/12 and 24 on 18/12 (JPH).

Flints. The only record was a group of 5 at St Asaph on 19/04 (ShG).

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

HWYADEN ADDRRAIN

Summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

(GY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	1	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	1
Number of records	10	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	0.5
Density	0.00	0.00

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. A single was recorded at RSPB Conwy on several dates between 8/07 and 19/07 (JHg, JPH).

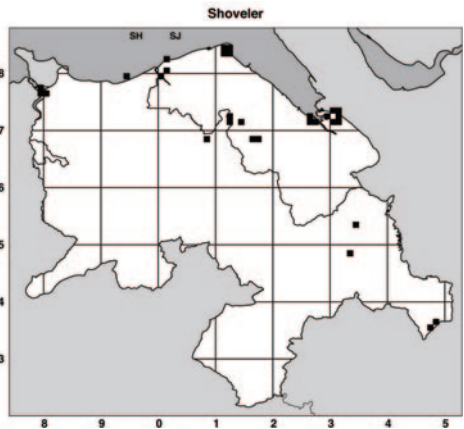
Flints. Two were reported from RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 11/05 (PEM).

Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

(SV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	10	20
Maximum count	45	99
Av max count prev 10 yrs	56	65
Number of records	192	114
% of BirdTrack lists	9.6	10.4
Density	0.23	3.36
Max breeding evidence	P	P



Recorded in each month in both counties except Aug in Flints.

Denbs. Recorded from coastal and inland locations throughout the county. Almost 80% of all records were from RSPB Conwy, where this species was recorded in all months of the year.

However, numbers were generally modest, the majority of records being 1-3. No counts reached double figures, 8 on 12/12 (JHg) being the maximum for the year at this location. Away from Conwy the largest counts were recorded in the E of the county, though numbers appear to have been lower than last year. Gresford Flash was the only location which recorded counts into double figures, good numbers being present throughout Jan, with a maximum of 45 on 13/01 (HL) and smaller numbers present during Feb and Mar. The last of the spring was 1 seen on 6/03 (SzB). The first record of the winter was 2 on 16/09 while small numbers remained to the close of the year, 29 on 14/12 was a higher count than most (HL).

Monthly WeBS counts for selected sites:

(SV)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	2	3	1		2		3	1			2	7
Connah's Quay NR	24	13							6		9	10
Shotton Paper Mill	10	2	8	9						48	99	78

Flints. Most, i.e. 90%, of records were from locations around the Dee and Clwyd estuaries. There were only ten records from inland locations. On the Dee Estuary the majority of records were from the usual upper estuary locations at Connah's Quay NR, Shotton Paper Mill and RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands. There was a marginal increase in numbers from last year. During the early months of the year modest numbers were recorded from all the above sites. While the majority of sightings were in single figures, Connah's Quay NR had several instances when 10-20 were present. The maximum for the period was 24 on 15/01 (PSH). The last spring record of significant numbers was 9 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 9/04 (CW) and presumably the same 9 nearby at Shotton Paper Mill the following day (IMS). There were very few records after this during the summer months to the end of Aug. The only sightings during this period were odd singles (and on one occasion 2) seen on a few occasions at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and 5 at Broken Bank, Shotwick on 31/07 (KS). There were no sightings at all during Aug. The first birds of autumn were 4 at Connah's Quay NR on 6/09 (PSH), with increasing numbers present on this reserve from then onwards. As usual the pools at Shotton Paper Mill attracted the largest numbers during the autumn and winter periods. The first WeBS count of substantial numbers was 48 on 9/10 (IMS). Good numbers were present for the remainder of the year (see table above); the maximum count of 99 on 19/11 was almost double that recorded in 2016. Away from the Dee, 1-5 were recorded on the Clwyd Estuary from 22/01 to 3/04, 12 on 19/02 being exceptional (WRM, AHJ, RLE). Notable records from inland sites included 11 at Hendre on 8/02 and 14 on 19/02 (MGW, GEM), and 8 at Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog on 1/12 (SD).

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

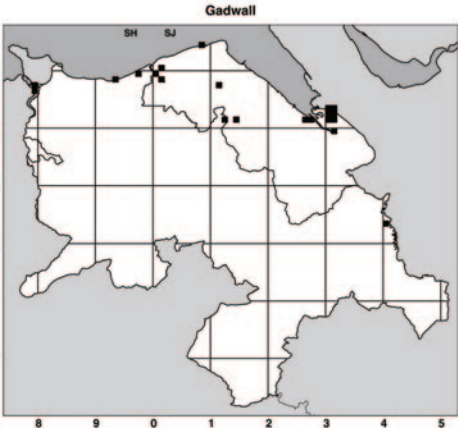
HWYADEN LWYD

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

(GA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	6	15
Maximum count	43	61
Av max count prev 10 yrs	45	34
Number of records	322	115
% of BirdTrack lists	18.3	9.1
Density	0.13	1.55
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL

Recorded in each month in both counties except Aug in Flints.

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.



Denbs. As usual the principal location was RSPB Conwy, which provided 98% of all records and where the species was recorded in small numbers in all months of the year. There were other coastal sightings from Towyn and Pensarn, each of which had single records and inland records from Afonwen and Holt. At RSPB Conwy the late winter/early spring peak in numbers was in mid-Mar when 33 on 14/03 and 31 on 19/03 (JHg) were the largest counts of this period. Numbers tailed off as the spring breeding season arrived and from mid-Apr to Sep there were very few double figure records. The only record of breeding was a female with seven half-grown ducklings on 14/07 (WRM). Numbers increased from the beginning of Oct and 37 on 1/10 (JPH) was the first record of significant numbers in the latter half of the year. From Oct onwards numbers were significantly up on last year, with counts regularly in the range 10-20 during Nov and Dec with notable records of 40 on 15/12 (RLE), 43 on 3/12 and again on 30/12 (JPH), all at RSPB Conwy. The only other location with more than a single record was Afonwen, where 2-8 were recorded on several dates between 8/10 and 27/12 (MGW, SD).

(GA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	8	9	16	18	10	13	9	10	5	7	8	18
Shotton Paper Mill	61	20	36	15		33				36	39	23

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

Flints. The locations with most regular records for this species were Shotton Paper Mill pools, which appeared to attract the majority of the Deeside population, and to a lesser extent RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and Connah's Quay NR; though the last two sites do not attract the numbers recorded at Shotton Paper Mill. Together these three sites account for 74% of all records in the county. During the early months of the year, up to the start of the breeding season, Shotton Paper Mill pools recorded the largest numbers with an annual maximum of 61 on 16/01 (IMS) and several other records of significant numbers (see table of WeBS counts above). Reasonable numbers were also recorded at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on a few occasions, with notable counts of 21 on 21/01 (MREP), 10 on the Border Pool on 12/03 (TG) and 10 on 9/04 (CW). Connah's Quay NR regularly had small numbers, mostly from 1-4 throughout this period. From early Apr numbers reduced as breeders left and during May and early Jun most records were of 1 or 2. The only record of breeding was at Shotton Paper Mill, where ducklings were present among a total of 33 on 12/06 (IMS). There was an even larger count of 55 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands two days later on the 14/06. There were only two records during Jul.; singles seen at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 2/07 and Connah's Quay NR on 4/07 (CW, PeHa), but there were no sightings during Aug. Small numbers were recorded from all these

locations for the remainder of the year, but Shotton Paper Mill continued to attract comparatively substantial numbers with a maximum of 39 on 19/11 (IMS). Away from the Dee, 1-2 were recorded on the Clwyd Estuary on several occasions during Mar to May. The only inland records were from Llyn Helyg, with 8 on 16/01 and 2 on 13/02 (AB), Rhyl Brickworks Pond where 1 (and on two occasions 2) was seen on various dates in Jan and Mar (AHJ, JPH, RLE) and Ddol Reservoir, Ysceiog with 4 on 12/02 (MD) and 8 on 1/12 (SD).

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

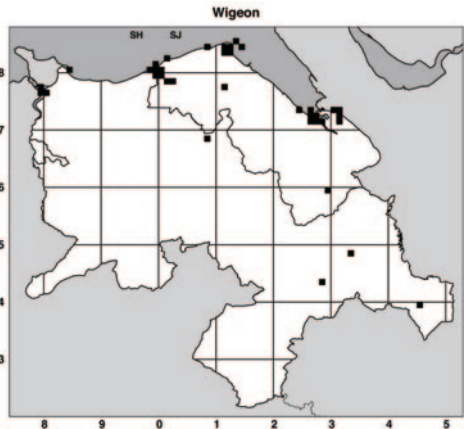
CHWIWELL

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

(WN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	12	25
Maximum count	370	5500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	545	2369
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/19
Number of records	200	326
% of BirdTrack lists	11.8	20.2
Density	2.25	233.45

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

One of our commonest wintering ducks, 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 91% of recorded sightings. The trend of reducing numbers noted over the last few years has continued. The maximum count of 370, while almost twice that of 2016, was only 64% of the long-term average and again there were only a handful of counts of over 100. The vast majority of records were from coastal locations, and in addition to RSPB Conwy there were relatively small numbers of sightings from coastal locations around the Kinnel Bay area. As last year the largest numbers during the early months of the year were recorded at the latter location, where on 4/02, there were 370, another 125 in another area of the bay and 126 nearby at Horton's Nose (JPH, AHJ). At RSPB Conwy numbers remained modest throughout the early months, with only two records of 100+ (see WeBS data in the table below). The last of the winter/early spring period were 21 on 28/03 (JPH). The only records during the summer months were several records of a single at Conwy from 27/05 to 2/06 (JHg, MiB, RLE). The first returning birds of autumn were 4 on 27/08 and 10 on 30/08, but the first significant numbers did not arrive until late Sep, when there were 65 on 27/09 and 106 on 2/10 (WRM, JHg). There were three counts of 151-155 during early/mid-Nov, after which all subsequent records were less than 100. Inland locations produced far fewer records than usual, small numbers (<10) being seen at several locations. Lleweni Hall, Bodfari had 15 on 4/12 and 33 on 18/12 (JPH).

Flints. As usual the vast majority of records were from coastal locations on the Dee and Clwyd estuaries. The year began with good numbers throughout the Dee Estuary, several counts of 600+ being recorded from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, Connah's Quay NR and White Sands, the last having 700 on 15/01 (JLg). Counts remained high into Mar and on 12/03 801 were recorded at Llawndy, Point of Ayr (RCR) and 720 on White Sands (AGr), but as the month progressed numbers declined. There were 330 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 19/03 (PSH), the last substantial count, though smaller numbers hung on into Apr, and 25 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 9/04 (CW) was the last double

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(WN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	99	114	143							151	154	75
Point of Ayr f'rshre				1					3	11	4	200
Llawndy, Pt of Ayr	267	330	801								159	367
Connah's Quay NR	560	320	10	4	3	3	2	2	2		1	230
Oakenholt Marsh	600	100	200	45		2					4000	
White Sands		38	263								4	
Clwyd Est												
Rhuddlan	318	344									12	144

figure count of the spring. From late May to late Sep the only records were sightings of 1-4, mostly from Connah's Quay NR, after which the first returning migrants started to arrive. The first count of significant numbers was 125 at Connah's Quay NR on 30/09 (PSH). From Oct on, counts at Connah's Quay NR increased steadily, peaking during Nov, when 2,500 were recorded on 8/11, 4,000 on 19 and 23/11 and 5,500 at Flint on 27/11 (PeHa, DWn). The last was the year's maximum. Numbers were more modest throughout the estuary during Dec, most counts being 100-700 and 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 13/12 (PeHa) was the only record of 1,000+ for the remainder of the year. The Clwyd Estuary also had significantly higher numbers than last year with several counts of 230-450 recorded during Jan to mid-Mar. The maximum for the early months was 643 S of Rhyl on 18/02 (JPH). This was over twice the 2016 maximum. As migration got under way in mid-Mar, the last significant count of spring was 54 on 25/03 (AHJ). The only summer records were 1 or 2 seen on dates during Apr and 1 on 27/05 (RLE, AHJ, WRM). The first bird of autumn was 1 on 31/08 (WRM), followed by 17 on 22/09 (AHJ). There were several counts of 100-600 from late Oct to the end of the year, the maximum for that period being 745 on 5/12 (JPH). There were even fewer records from inland locations than usual, the only sightings reported being 1-5 noted at Fagl Lane GP, Hope on various dates in Oct (NHu, GNR) and 27 at Llyn Helyg on 20/11 (AB).

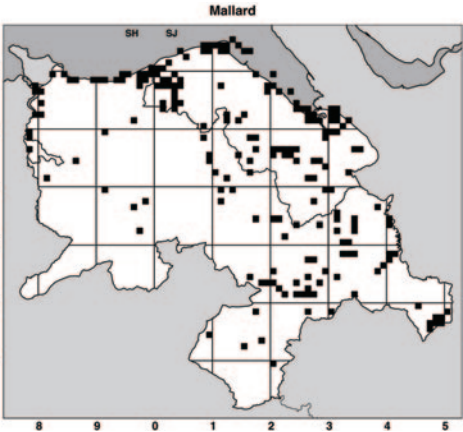
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

HWYADEN WYLLT

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

(MA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	109	88
Maximum count	300	840
Av max count prev 10 yrs	115	633
Recorded in BBS squares	10/31	10/19
Number of records	723	855
% of records from GBW	0	0.23
% of BirdTrack lists	19.4	20.5
Density	16.55	123.50
Max breeding evidence	NY	FL

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. Numbers may also be increased in some locations due to birds released by shooting interests. Recorded in each month in both counties.



Denbs. RSPB Conwy provided 46% 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. Of the coastal

locations, Towyn recorded significant numbers both early and late in the year, with an early year peak of 60 on 23/01, 50 including juveniles on 4/07 and an autumn/winter maximum of 50 on 24/11 (SM). Inland, Stryt Las, Rhosllanerchrugog had the largest count during Jan with 65 on 8/01(SD); Acton Park had modest numbers throughout the year, which peaked in Sep with 64 on 10/09 (GPr). Erddig Pool also attracted good numbers throughout the second half of the year, with counts of 60+ during Aug to Nov (NHu, HCw). The largest count of the year was 300 at Hafoty in the lower Conwy Valley on 28/08 (HC), though these could have been released birds. Breeding was recorded at several locations and the first ducklings were reported on 10/04 at Erddig Pool (HCw).

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(MA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	66	22	9	33	37	74	136	102	22	135	42	77
Acton Park Lake	39	47	22	17	14	34			64			
Clwyd Estuary /Rhuddlan	39	30		11	30		37	137		47	21	
Point of Ayr	15	7		1	5		30	85	60	5	10	22
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	40	40		90	70	150	100	60	80	100	40	6
Connah's Quay NR	34	22	9	8	40	130	83	30	40	8		
White Sands	4	2	3	8	12	63		20	75		14	
Shotton Paper Mill	42	19	30	25		29				32	48	69

Flints. On the Dee numbers were generally modest, with very few records of 50+ throughout much of the year and most records were of less than 30. The majority of the larger counts are detailed in the table of WeBS counts above. During Jan the outstanding counts were 50 at Deeside Industrial Park on 2/01 (JAt) and at Gronant where there were counts of 30-56 from 15 to 18/01, reasonable numbers being maintained at the latter location until mid-Mar (GR, WRM). The outstanding count of the early months and indeed the year was on 12/03, when 840 were recorded during WeBS counts on the NW section of White Sands (AGr), but there were no other records approaching anywhere near these numbers. It was not until 23/05 that the first ducklings of the year were recorded at Connah's Quay NR (PSH), over a month later than other inland locations and the more enclosed Clwyd Estuary. There were also records of juveniles from Point of Ayr Fields, Greenfield Valley, Shotton Paper Mill and Prestatyn in late May and Jun. Numbers began to increase on the middle estuary reserves from mid-May, with 280 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 16/05 (GEM) and 200 at Connah's Quay NR on 26/05 (PSH). There were several counts of 100-400 on these reserves during Jun and Jul. As the year progressed numbers declined and there were none of the large autumn counts usually encountered. White Sands and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh produced counts of 75-100 from during Sep and early Oct (see WeBS table above), but the only 100+ records of the later months were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh in Dec with 160 on 6/12 and 100 on 13/12 (PeHa). On the Clwyd Estuary numbers were broadly similar to 2016, though the peak count of 137 at Rhuddlan on 13/08 (JHB) was a 65% increase on the 2016 equivalent. Other notable counts included an early season peak of 62 on 8/01, 57 at Rhyl on 15/06, 65 on 23/09 and 54 on 5/12 (JPH). The fluctuations in numbers throughout the year can be seen on the table of WeBS counts above. Rhyl Brickworks pool had modest numbers throughout the year. The peak count there was significantly down on last year, with 65 on 29/12 (JPH). Other inland locations with notable counts included Hendre with a peak of 39 on 14/11 (GEM); Fagl Lane GP with 53 on 2/01 (NHu) and 60 on 18/11 (SD); and Ddol reservoir, Ysceiog with 40 on 1/12 (SD). Breeding was recorded at several other locations.

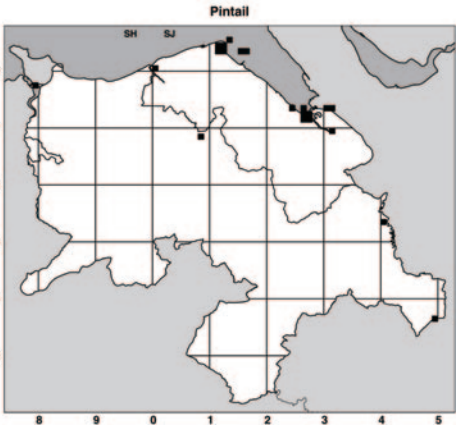
Pintail *Anas acuta*

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Winter visitor. Amber List.

(PT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	4	17
Maximum count	52	2000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	464	2060
Number of records	5	74
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	5.5
Density	0.11	57.72

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

Denbs. One was at RSPB Conwy on 24/02 (GSR) and another at Fenn’s Moss the same day (StBw). The largest count of the year was 52 at Holt on the lower Dee on 15/03 (NFr). A single seen at RSPB Conwy on 17/06 (JHg) was an unusual summer record. The only wintering birds later in the year were 6 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 18/12 (JPH).

Flints. All but one of the records were from the Dee Estuary, the exception being a single record from the neighbouring Clwyd Estuary. The most favoured locations on the Dee were RSPB Oakenholt Marsh Reserve, White Sands and the Point of Ayr offshore mudflats, which between them provided all the counts of substantial numbers, many of which are shown in the table of WeBS counts below.

Monthly WeBS counts for selected Dee Estuary sites:

(PT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	320	320	74	2					1	5	235	250
White Sands		42	9								1	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	400	200									20	4

The Dee Estuary had significant numbers from early in the year. The Jan WeBS counts on 15/01 recorded 320 at Point of Ayr (GR), 400 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa) and 700 on White Sands (JLg). Numbers peaked during Feb and Mar, when 2,000 were recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 2/02 and 3/03 (PSH), though these numbers were exceptional 200-500 was a more characteristic level, particularly after the end of Mar, when numbers declined rapidly, the last record of spring was 27 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30/04 (PSH). The first early returners of the autumn were 2 at Connah’s Quay NR on 13/08 (PeHa). There were several records of up to 5 in succeeding weeks, but it was not until early Oct when 800 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 11/10 (PSH) marked the first significant influx of the autumn. However, these did not stay and apart from two records of 235 at Point of Ayr mudflats on 19/11 and 250 on 3/12 (GR), counts were more usually in the range 1-34 during the autumn/winter period. The only record away from the Dee was of 2 on the middle Clwyd Estuary on 3/12 (MaO).

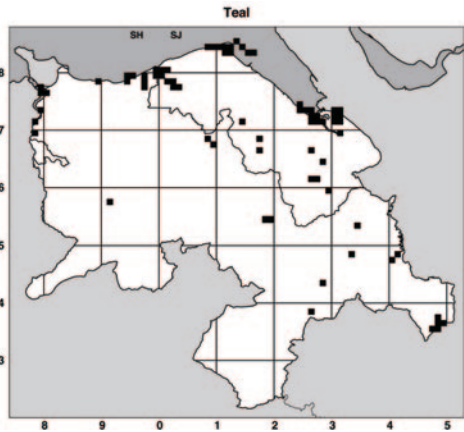
Teal *Anas crecca*

CORHWYADEN

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

(T)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	31	42
Maximum count	100	1000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	386	1778
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/19
Number of records	382	422
% of BirdTrack lists	21.3	26.7
Density	1.57	71.31
Max breeding evidence	FL	P

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



Denbs. This species was recorded from eighteen inland and thirteen coastal locations, of which RSPB Conwy provided 83% of the records. At RSPB Conwy numbers were somewhat higher than last year, with an early year peak of 100 on 5/01 (NHB). While this was significantly up on 2016's early year maximum, it perhaps gave an indication of the year to come that this was also the annual peak count, the sole three figure record of the year, and only 46% of last year's annual maximum for this site. As can be seen from the table of WeBS counts below, numbers remained modest throughout the early months of the year, the majority of counts during Jan to Mar being less than 30. The only other notable records were 83 on 15/01 (JHg) and 58 on 7/02 (JPH). Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, was the only other location where significant numbers were recorded during the early months, with several counts of 18-33 during Jan to Mar and a peak count of 65 on 27/02 (JPH). As might be expected only small numbers were recorded from late Mar to late Jul, as the majority of birds left for breeding grounds, but the sole record of breeding within the county was a sighting of a female with six ducklings at Llyn Aled on 31/05 (GEM). The first double figure count of the late summer/autumn was 11 at Conwy on 24/07 (JPH) followed by 27 on 4/08 (JHg). During the autumn and winter months numbers remained modest, 93 at Conwy on 10/09 (JHg, WeBS) being the largest count of the second half of the year. There were also several counts of 50-80 during Sep to Dec. Lleweni Hall had significant numbers in Dec with 56 on 18/12 (JPH).

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(T)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	83	30	23	8	3	3	5	9	93	89	51	83
Point of Ayr	250	50	103	40					82	45	50	180
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	300	100	200	91					1000	1000	100	30
Connah's Quay NR	224	30	74	42			3	8	180	366	20	48
White Sands	6	7	27	1				12	141	22	15	110

Flints. The overwhelming proportion of records was from locations around the Dee and Clwyd estuaries. On the Dee there were reasonable numbers throughout the upper estuary sites during Jan, as shown in the table of WeBS counts above. Numbers drifted lower during Feb and Mar. A count of 91 at Oakenholt on 9/04 (PeHa) was the last substantial count of the spring and 25 at Connah's Quay on 14/04 (GEM) was the final double figure record. There were only four May and Jun records of small numbers (1-3) at Gronant dunes, Shotwick Fields and Hendre. The first returning migrants of autumn began to arrive during mid-Aug, with 30 at Connah's Quay NR and 20 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 18/08 (PSH), followed by a major influx on 21/08, with 500 at the same place (GR). Numbers

peaked during Sep and Oct, with 1,000 recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7/09, 10/09 and 8/10 (PeHa), declining somewhat into Nov and Dec. As well as RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, Connah's Quay NR and to a lesser extent Point of Ayr/Talacre and White Sands, continued to record counts of 100-600 during the remainder of the year. On the Clwyd Estuary, the middle estuary attracted most birds during the early months with a maximum of 129 on 8/01 (JPH); the last significant numbers of the first half of the year were 100 on 4/03 (WRM), small numbers remaining into Apr when the last spring sighting was 8 on 11/04 (JPH). There was an early returning single on 13/08 (WRM), but larger numbers were not until 10/09, when 40 were S of Rhyl (WRM), followed by 150 on 22/09 (AHJ), numbers increasing through Sep to Dec peaking with 386 on 5/12 (JPH).

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

CORHWYADEN ASGELL-WERDD

Vagrant.

(TA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	1
Density		0.00

Flints. One was at Connah's Quay NR on 6/02 (JuR). Accepted by the WRP.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

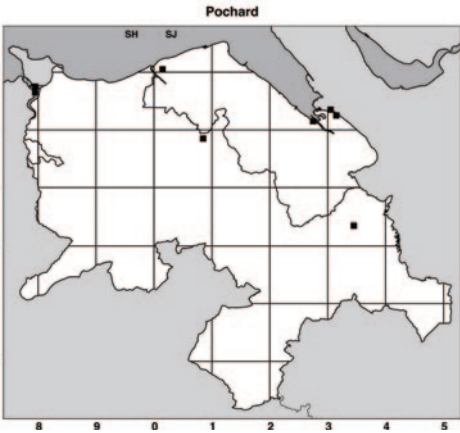
Winter visitor and breeding resident. Red List. RBBP.

(PO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	4	4
Maximum count	9	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	11	12
Number of records	180	24
% of BirdTrack lists	9.6	1.8
Density	0.02	0.04
Max breeding evidence	P	

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 species was only missing for a couple of months of the year here and numbers peaked at 9 on two occasions: 11/02 (SABk) and 14/12 (WRM). A single record with a breeding code concerned a pair present in Jun, but breeding was not proven.

Flints. A single was on the Brickfields pond, Rhyl from 27/01 to 20/02 and accounted for most of the records (77%). Elsewhere there were: 3 at Shotwick on 2/01 (JPH), with 6 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 13/11 (pCW), 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 12/03 (WK) and a single at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 30/10 (JPH).

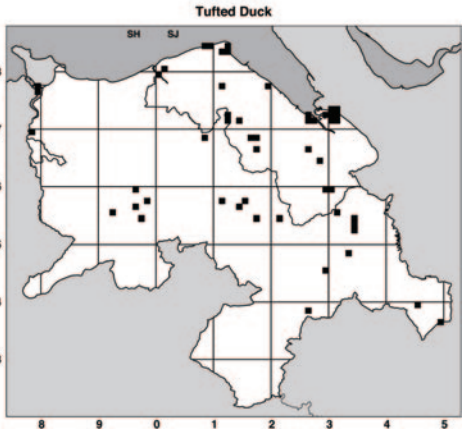


Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

HWYADEN GOPOG

Resident breeder and winter visitor.

(TU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	24	28
Maximum count	42	129
Av max count prev 10 yrs	37	92
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	-
Number of records	393	341
% of BirdTrack lists	22.0	25.0
Density	0.51	6.13
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL



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

Denbs. The majority, 75%, of all records came from RSPB Conwy. The highest count here was 42 on 14/03 (JPH). Numbers here during the breeding season fell to single figures and there was no breeding reported. Significant records elsewhere included: 8 at Bodfari on 3/04 (JPH), 32 at Llyn Brenig (with recently fledged young) on 22/07 (SD), 15 at Llyn Bran on 4/04 (TK), 7 at Rhoslanerchrugog on 10/07 (SD), 8 at Llay Pool (DuH), 7 at Erdding Pool on 26/02 (HCw) and 26 at Gresford Flash on 12/02 (ID).

Monthly maximum counts, from WeBS, for selected sites:

(TU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	1	2	23	15	8	9	4	4	6	5	1	6
Brickfields Pond	63	75	42	16	5	8	15	8	15	60	50	59
Gresford Flash	14	26		12		8			5			
Connah's Quay NR	4		6	4	8	3	10	1	6	1		
Shotwick Rifle Range.			17	43	10	6		23		13	1	3
Shotton Paper Mill	45	84	72	117		67				18	129	25

Flints. Several sites around the Dee Estuary held sizeable flocks, some of which persisted through the summer. Breeding was confirmed at Connah's Quay NR in Jul. Elsewhere the Brickfields pond, Rhyl, maintained counts during every month of the year and similarly confirmed breeding in Jul. There was a peak at many sites in Mar and Apr, with one of the highest counts of the year, 117 at Shotton Paper Mill on 10/04 (IMS). In the late winter period this site recorded the largest flock of the year, with 129 on 19/11 (IMS), higher counts than the average for the previous 10 years. Other sites reporting counts of 10 or more during the year were as follows: 20 at Deeside Industrial Park on 2/01 (DSu), 10 at Gwespyr on 15/01 (RCR), 18 at Ddol Reservoir on 12/02 (MD), 10 at Penbedw on 24/10 (GEM), 13 at Greenfield Valley on 6/11 (WRM) and 11 at Fagl Lane GP on 13/11 (NHu).

Scaup *Aythya marila*

HWYADEN BENDDU

Winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

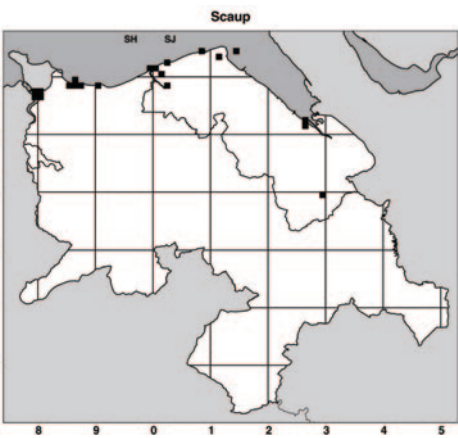
Seen in these months												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. There was a record of 2 off Llanddulas on

(SP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	10	10
Maximum count	4	3
Number of records	70	91
% of BirdTrack lists	3.0	5.9
Density	0.02	0.05

25/01, which was followed by 4 off Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay from 4/02 to 8/02 (AHJ). There were 2 off Old Colwyn from 8/02 (RTe), rising to 4 on 18/02 (SABk), with 2 remaining until 6/03. A single was at RSPB Conwy on 24/02 (JHg, GSR) and 2 were also here from 8/10 and remained till the year end, accounting for 75% of all records.

Flints. There was a much larger number of records this year, compared with 2016, largely relating to 2 at Brickfields pond, Rhyl which stayed from 12/01 till 7/04 (AHJ, JPH, RLE) and accounted for 74% of all records. A single was also present here from 23/10 till 3/11. Singles were also off Gronant on 18/01 (WRM), Connah's Quay NR on 24/2 (SS), Point of Ayr on 5/03 (JPH) and Gwespyr from 19/11 to 12/03 (RCR). Higher counts were of 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7/11 (pGEM) and 3 at Fagl Lane GP on 26/11 (KS).



Eider *Somateria mollissima*

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

(E)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3	1
Maximum count	11	1
Number of records	4	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.1
Density	0.02	0.00

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 the first half of the year a single was at Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay on 11/02, with 11 there on 1/04 (AHJ). Later in the year 1 was at Rhos-on Sea on 14/11 (WRM) and presence was recorded at Llanddulas on 26/12 (JFB).

Flints. After no records last year, a single was at Point of Ayr on 13/05 (GR).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

Vagrant.

(FS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	
Number of 1km squares	5	
Maximum count	3	
Number of records	16	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.01	

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 more records this year but only relating to a maximum count of 2 drakes, which were present off Llanddulas, both in the early and late winter periods (RLE, PEM). Drakes were also seen off Colwyn Bay from 28/01 to 13/02 and Rhos-on-Sea on 16/01 and 12/03 (HC) and likely related to the same birds off Llanddulas, as the flock of sea-duck was rather mobile.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

Winter visitor. Red List.

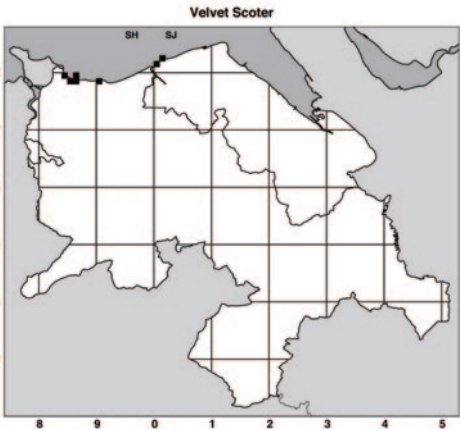
(VS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	6	2
Maximum count	2	2
Number of records	11	2
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.1
Density	0.01	0.01

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. Records were all likely related to the same couple of wintering individuals, with the first on 16/01 at Rhos-on-Sea (HC). This was followed in Feb with 2 off Old Colwyn on 11/02 to 25/02 (SAB). Also, there were 2 off Llanddulas on 25/01 and the only late winter period sighting was also here with a single on 23/12 (PEM).

Flints. There were 2 offshore from the Rhyl Promenade on 25/03 (AHJ), a rare sighting in the county.



Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

MOR HWYADEN DDU

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

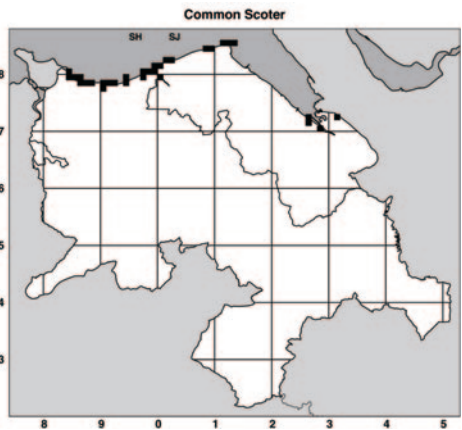
(CX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	18	13
Maximum count	6000	20000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12100	2483
Number of records	107	30
% of BirdTrack lists	4.7	1.6
Density	54.66	441.43

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

Internationally important numbers of this sea-duck winter in Liverpool Bay.

Denbs. Numbers fell considerably for the second year in a row with the flock of tens of thousands choosing to spend their time elsewhere. The peak of 6,000 was recorded on 15/07 from Towyn (SM). Winter counts only reached 3,000 on a couple of other dates (HC, PEM). Sightings came from Rhos-on-Sea in the W to Kinmel Bay in the E. Occasionally, single figure flocks were reported close inshore at these sites.



Monthly WeBS counts for selected sites:

(CX)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rhos-on- Sea	200	5	730	2	101			400		3000		1500
Pensarn	400	1080								1470		
Point of Ayr		250	20000			10	120					

Flints. There was a large increase in numbers at sites along the open coast in Mar. The maximum count of the year occurred to the E of the Point of Ayr, with an impressive 20,000 on 12/03 (GR). There were other counts from here, but only up to 250 birds earlier in the winter. Elsewhere, records included: 3,000 off Rhyl on 25/03, falling to 250 by 8/04 (AHJ) and 70 at Gronant on 12/03 (PMi). A record of 100 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 5/10 (PSH) was a particularly high count this far up the Dee estuary, with a single further upstream at Connah's Quay Bridge on 8/03 (GRMP) and Connah's Quay NR on 4/11 (PDS).

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

HWYADEN GYNFFON-HIR

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

Denbs. Offshore, sightings stretched from Rhos-on-Sea on 12/03 (HC) to Pensarn on 20/01 (GNR). The mobile nature of the sea-duck flocks, however, means many records likely related to the same individual. Old Colwyn was the most reliable site to encounter the species accounting for 58% of the records, from 7/02 to 6/03 (RTe, PEM) and included a record of 2 on 15/02. A flock of 4 at Gresford Flash on 14/11 (NHu) was the highest count for years in the recording area.

Common Scoter (Mel Hughes)

Flints. Individuals were recorded in both the early and late winter periods. The first was at Shotwick Fields from 4/01 to 13/02 (SAH, IMS, AGJ) and accounted for 73% of all records. A single at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 1/01 (MREP) was the only other sighting in the early winter period. In the late winter period there was a single at Fagl Lane GP from 29/10 to 5/11 (NHu, KS, TBT).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

HWYADEN LYGAD AUR

Winter visitor. RBBP.

Recorded in small numbers on lakes, reservoirs and occasionally on coastal waters during the winter months.

(LN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	9	3
Maximum count	4	1
Number of records	18	15
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	0.4
Density	0.02	0.01

Seen in these months

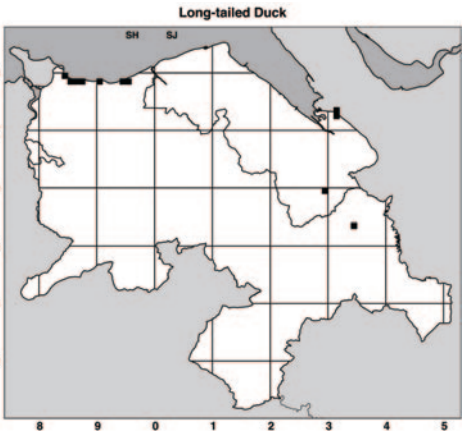
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs.

RSPB

Conwy

produced 92% of all records, with a peak count of 6 on 30/01 (JHg). The only other regular site was Llyn Brenig with 3 on 19/03 (KS, NHu). Elsewhere there were singles at: Kinmel Bay on 7/01 (AHJ), Llanddulas on 19/02 (GrJ), Hanmer on 17/12 (TBT) and Gresford Flash from 2/12 to 19/12 (KS, HL).



Flints. Some 91%/ of all records came from the Clwyd Estuary between Rhyl and Rhuddlan, where numbers peaked at 4 on several dates in Jan and Dec (WRM, JPH). Singles were recorded at four other sites: near Rhuddlan on 2/01, Connah's Quay NR on 4/11, Fagl Lane GP on 13/11 and Shotwick on 19/11.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

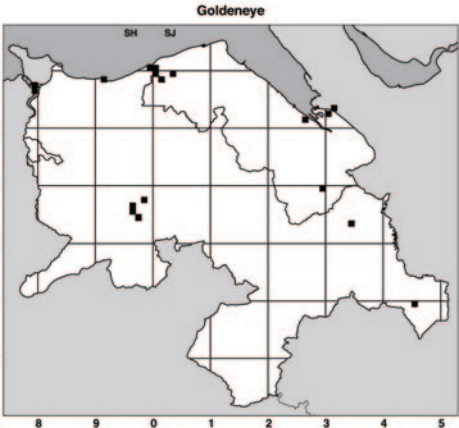
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

Recorded in each month in both counties. This species favours freshwater habitats and is usually found breeding on fast flowing rivers where there are plentiful prey fish and trees with suitable cavities for nesting sites. In winter they tend to congregate

(GN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	10	8
Maximum count	6	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	11	9
Number of records	91	45
% of BirdTrack lists	4.5	3.1
Density	0.03	0.05

Seen in these months												on lakes and meres.
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 drop in records from RSPB Conwy continues, with just 9% of records coming from this location in the winter months, with a maximum of 2 from 19/11 to 21/11 (WRM, JHg). The Wrexham area accounted for many records (40%). At Erddig Pool the species was present for nine months of the year, only absent for a few summer months, with a peak count of 13 on 9/10 (NHu). At Gresford Flash there were records from seven months of the year, with numbers generally in single figures, although a peak count of 28 on 9/11 (HL) was the largest count of the year in the area. Other sizeable counts were: 8 at Kinnel Bay on 4/02 (JPH), 7 at Holt on 2/05 (NF), 4 at Trevor Uchaf on 14/06 (JoR) and 7 at Llangollen on 15/06 (MaO). Breeding was proven at Llyn Brenig on 1/08, where a flock of 25 birds included recently fledged young (JPH). Later in the year, a count of 3 off Llanddulas beach on 8/10 (GBH) was an uncommon occurrence in coastal waters.



Flints. The lower River Clwyd was the most favoured location, producing 52% of all records. Sightings were focussed from Rhyl to Rhuddlan. Breeding was proven on 8/05 with 16 birds seen, rising to 24 on 16/05 (AHJ), suggesting multiple family parties were involved. By Jul, reports mentioned that the young were so similar-looking to adults they could not be distinguished, with counts peaking at 28 on

(GD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	42	24
Maximum count	28	28
Av max count prev 10 yrs	24	22
Recorded in BBS squares	6/31	1/19
Number of records	135	241
% of BirdTrack lists	5.4	17.3
Density	0.60	1.14
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL

13/08 (JHB). Nearby, the Brickfields pond had birds present for six months of the year, with counts usually in single figures, but peaking at 13 on 14/01 (AHJ). There is much interchange between here and the River Clwyd sites. Elsewhere, notable counts included: 5 at Llyn Helyg on 16/01 (AB), 1 at Gronant Dunes on 21/05 (HC, JPH), 8 at Pantymwyn on 3/08 (GEM), 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 9/10 (NHu), 10 at Hendre on 15/10 (GEM), 12 at Fagl Lane GP on 18/11 (SD) and 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh from 24/08

to 17/12 (PSH, DWn, PDS).

Goosander

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

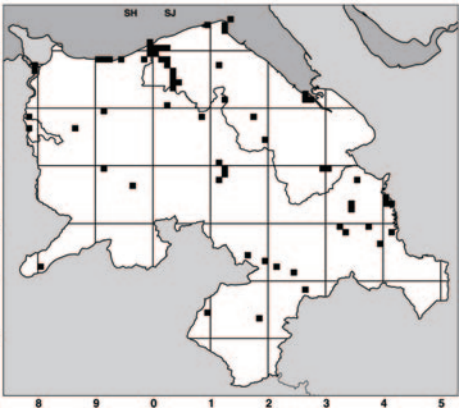
Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

This saw-billed duck favours more marine habitats and is usually recorded from coastal locations, where it gathers in flocks in the winter months.

Denbs. The most reliable site to see the species, by far, was RSPB Conwy, which accounted for 80% of all records. It was seen in all months of the year here. Numbers peaked at 28 on 23/02 (JJ) in the early winter and 21 on 23/11 (RLE) in the later winter period. During the summer months there were records of 1-5. Away from here records of note included: 12 at Kinnel Bay on 15/01 (WRM), 20 off Colwyn Bay on 20/01 (JHg), 12 at Rhos-on-Sea on 14/11 (WRM), 12 off Llanddulas on 23/12 (PEM) and an uncommon inland sighting at Gresford Flash on 14/11 (JmS).

Peak monthly counts at RSPB Conwy (including WeBS):

Flints. Most records were concentrated around Rhyl, either offshore or on the lower River Clwyd. The peak count was of 12 off Rhyl on 25/03 (AHJ), but generally numbers were 1-2, with 2 on the Brickfields pond on 17/01. Other records were mainly from the Dee Estuary and consisted of: 2 at the Point of Ayr on 5/03, 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 12/03 and again on 9/08, 1 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 24/08, 1 at Talacre on 8/10 and 1 at Flint on 5/12.



Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

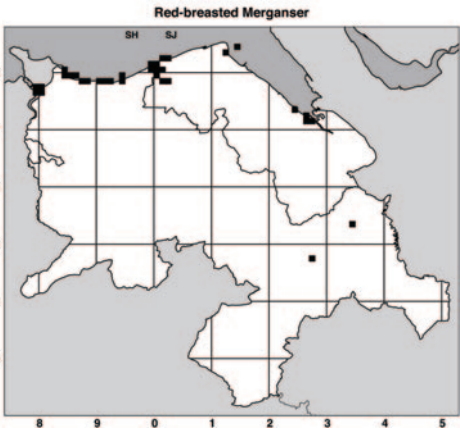
(RM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	19	14
Maximum count	28	12
Av max count prev 10 yrs	32	12
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/19
Number of records	191	22
% of BirdTrack lists	10.1	2.3
Density	0.27	0.29

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

GRUGIAR DDU

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.



The number of records increased in Denbs from 76 to 159. The number of squares more than doubled, showing that Grouse are moving out from their Ruabon Mountain stronghold. Still only a few records in Flints, five records compared to only one last year. There were no records of confirmed breeding anywhere, but a number of leks were reported in the Ruabon Mountain area.

Denbs. Ruabon Mountain and its surrounds again had the largest number, with over 60% of records and the highest counts, with 51 on 15/03 (DvB). The Moel Famau area held double figure records, with a maximum count of 10 on 20/04. The only other double figure count away from Ruabon Mountain

(RM)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	27	28	11	4	1	1	1	5	6	14	23	21

came from nearby Moel Garegog with 10 on 28/04.

Flints. All the records came from areas around Moel Famau in the months of Mar to May, with a maximum count of 3 males in two areas on 20/04.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

GRUGIAR

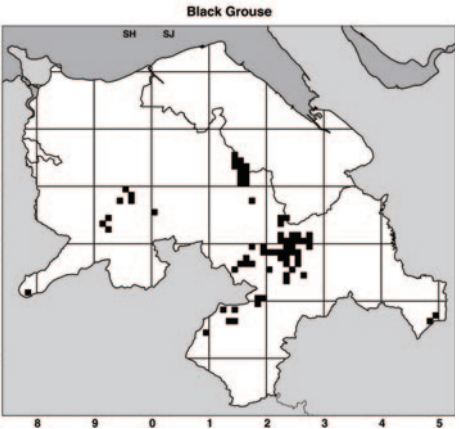
Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

(BK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Rare
Number of 1km squares	69	3
Maximum count	51	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	36	1
Recorded in BBS squares	3/31	-
Number of records	159	5
% of BirdTrack lists	1.9	-
Density	1.78	0.02
Max breeding evidence	D	

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

slight increase in records from Denbs.



Denbs. Most records came from the Ruabon Mountain area as usual and also the maximum count



Black Grouse (Martyn Jones)

of 20 on 12/03 (SABk). Introduction of grouse shooting on the moor from late 2016 does not seem to have had a big impact, but work continues on habitat improvement. Low numbers, with a maximum of 2, were recorded elsewhere.

Flints. The single record came from below Moel Famau, when 2 flushed from heather on 21/03 (GPI).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Breeding resident.

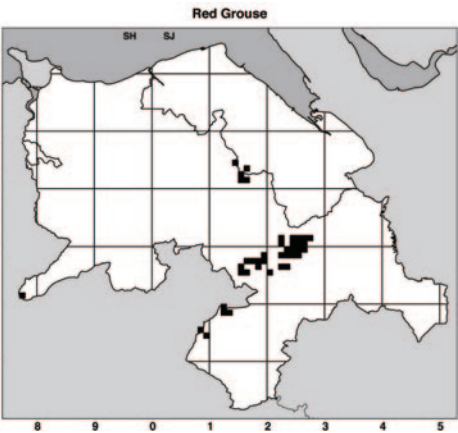
Denbs. No record of confirmed breeding and the only double figure count came from an area near Denbigh, with 28 in a field margin near Denbigh on 18/12 (GPI). Since the captive breeding stopped at a site on Ruabon Mountain a few years ago, sightings are down.

Flints. Breeding was confirmed (NE) near Cwm

(RG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Rare
Number of 1km squares	39	1
Maximum count	20	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	0
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	-
Number of records	78	1
% of BirdTrack lists	2.3	-
Density	0.39	0.00
Max breeding evidence	T	

Seen in these months												on 9/03
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 records to those of the last few years, with the highest count of 5 on hill pasture below Penycloddiau on 21/03 (GPI).



(RL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	18	14
Maximum count	28	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	42	9
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	1/19
Number of records	28	15
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	0.8
Density	0.26	0.12
Max breeding evidence		NE

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

PETRISEN

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

Denbs. One record of 3 sighted near Brymbo on 9/02 (TK).

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

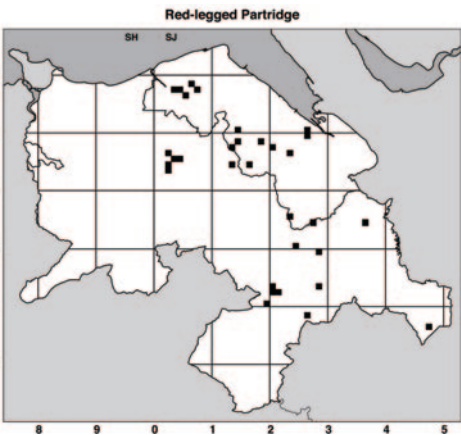
Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

SOFLIAR

Passage migrant. Amber List. RBBP.

Denbs. A single record with 1 at Fenn's Moss on 20/07 (StBw).

Flints. A single record with 1 at Gronant on 5/07.



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.

(P)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	3	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.00	

Denbs. The highest counts came from Chirk Castle, with a maximum count of 102 on 3/12 (KGr). A number of double figure counts came from Lleweni Hall, Bodfari with a maximum of 26 on 4/12 (JPH). The highest BBS count was 21 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 2/05 (RDB). The maximum

count from four WBBS sites was 6 from Wern-ddu, near Glydyfrdwy on 20/06 (NDg). No confirmed wild breeding was reported.

Flints. The highest count of 75 came again from Penbedw after a large number were released locally on 11/08 (GEM). The highest BBS count of 25 was from N of Mold on 23/04 (IMS) and the highest GBW count was 8 at Sychdyn, in week beginning 19/02 (IMS). Two WBBS records came from the St. Asaph area, with a maximum of 12 on 19/04 (ShG). No confirmed wild breeding was reported.

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

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

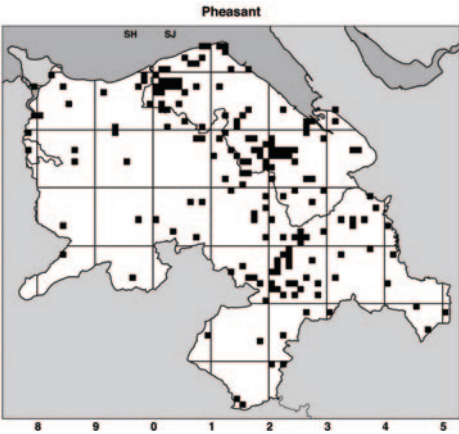
TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

Denbs. Over half the records came in the spring period, from over half a dozen sites from Rhos-on-Sea to Kinmel Bay. The highest count was 17 at Llanddulas on 5/01 (JHg) and the last spring record was 2 at Horton's Nose on 6/05 (AHJ). The first autumn record was a single at Rhos-on-Sea on 9/10 and the highest late season count was 9 off Colwyn Bay on 15/11 (WRM). There were three reports from WeBS counts at Rhos-on-Sea, with a maximum count of 3 on 17/12 (HC).

Flints. There were five records during the early spring, all offshore at Rhyl with a maximum of 19 on 8/04 (AHJ). One record came later in the year from same area off Rhyl, a single on 10/09 (JPH).

(PH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	110	72
Maximum count	102	75
Av max count prev 10 yrs	27	44
Recorded in BBS squares	24/31	16/19
Number of records	335	334
% of records from GBW	22.69	18.26
% of BirdTrack lists	14.1	25.2
Density	5.68	9.17
Max breeding evidence	P	T



Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

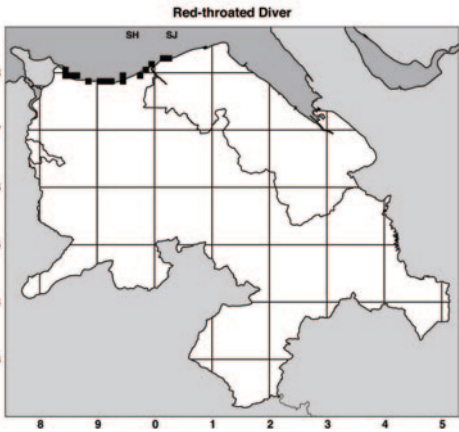
TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

Winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

Denbs. The only record was a single off Llanddulas on 24/03.

(RH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	13	2
Maximum count	17	19
Av max count prev 10 yrs	63	6
Number of records	40	6
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.5
Density	0.11	0.06

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



Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

TROCHYDD MAWR

Winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. Llanddulas had the maximum count of 2 on 29/01 (RTe). Colwyn Bay had 1 offshore on 19/02, the last record from the first winter period. The first in the autumn was a single at Pensarn on 19/10 (MaO), with a single at Rhos-on-Sea on 14 and 24/11 (WRM), the latter being the last of the year.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

PEDRYN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG



Passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. Two were recorded off Colwyn Bay on 15/09 (KS).

(BV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Flints. The first record was a single off Rhyl promenade on 10/09. There were three further records from that site, including 2 on 11/09. There were two records from the Dee Estuary, with 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 5/10 and 22/10 (PSH).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

ADERYN-DRYCIN Y GRAIG

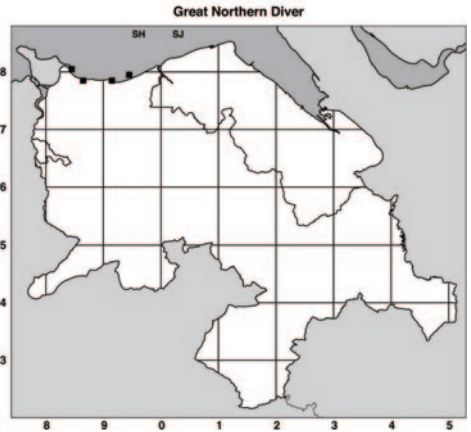
Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

(ND)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	4	
Maximum count	2	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	
Number of records	5	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	
Density	0.00	

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 the first period there were counts of 1-24 with the maximum at Llanddulas on 1/06. Confirmed breeding was recorded from quarries,



with 18 apparently occupied nests recorded at the E site and 7 at the W site. This total looks as if there has been a 40% reduction since the 2002 survey, which had 42 nests (WRM). All but one report were from the Colwyn Bay / Llanddulas area, with a single at Horton's Nose on 1/04 (AHJ). The only count in Dec was 9 on 23/12 at Llanddulas (WRM).

Flints. Singles were recorded at Rhyl in Apr, May and Sep, when the higher of two counts was 4 on 11/09 (AHJ).

(TL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	2
Maximum count	2	2
Number of records	1	6
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.4
Density	0.00	0.01

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

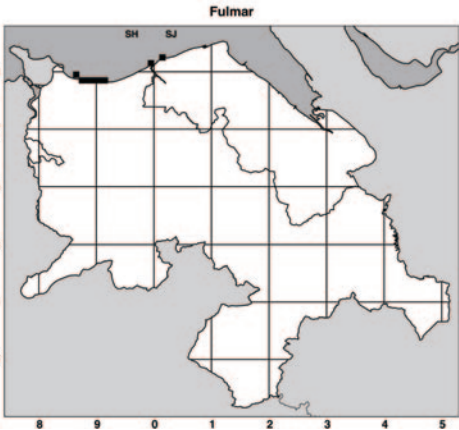
ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW
Passage migrant. Amber List.

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

Flints. Three records were from offshore at Rhyl, with the first record of 2 on 13/05 and later 6 on 11/09 (AHJ). There were two WeBS counts from Point of Ayr, the first on 13/05, with 1 seen and the maximum of 10 on 11/06 (GR). Reports from off Connah's Quay NR were a single on 11/09 and a further 1 on 5/10.

(F)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	1
Maximum count	24	4
Number of records	23	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	0.3
Density	0.09	0.01
Max breeding evidence	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



Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
GWYFACH FACH
Breeding resident.
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. RSPB Conwy: had 78% of records, the highest count with 20 on 9/09, the highest WeBS count of 17 on 10/09 (JHg), plus fledged young seen on 19/05 (GEM) and 30/05 (WRM) which indicated confirmed breeding. Breeding was also confirmed with fledged young seen at several other sites. Llanddulas Quarry had possibly its second or third brood on 31/08 (WRM).

Flints. Connah's Quay NR had over 50% of records and young seen on 4/07, 6/07 and 10/07 (PSH). The highest count of 52 was at Shotwick Boating Lake during a WeBS count on 15/01 (CW). Breeding was confirmed (FL) at a few other sites.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

(MX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Common
Number of 1km squares		3
Maximum count		10
Av max count prev 10 yrs		1264
Number of records	0	7
% of BirdTrack lists		0.3
Density		0.05

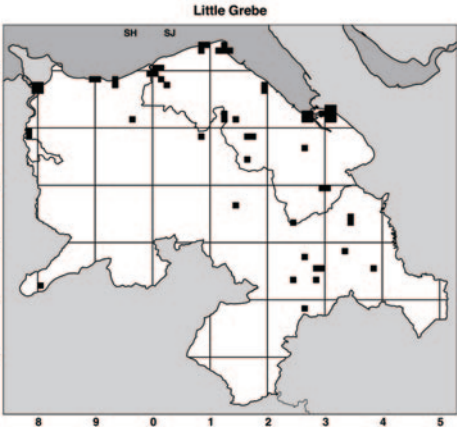
Breeding resident and winter visitor.
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. During the first three months, counts were of 1-38, with 38 at Llanddulas on 29/01 (RTe). During Apr to Jun, counts had reduced to 1-10, but with several records of probable breeding at inland waters. In Jul to Sep counts were just 1-6 but breeding was confirmed at Llyn Cyfynwy. During the last three months coastal numbers down with counts of 1-6.

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. During Jan to Mar counts were just 1-10 with 10 offshore at Rhyl on 25/03 (AHJ) and a pair were displaying at Fagl Lane, Hope on 25/03 (SD). During Apr to Jun, counts were 1-8, with records of probable breeding (P). One full-grown grebe was ringed at Deeside Industrial Park on 26/06 (pBH), after being captured on a wet road (presumably the grebe was thinking it was a river or pond). This is a very rare event, as only one adult was ringed, nationally, during 2016 (the last year for which

(LG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Common
Number of 1km squares	27	33
Maximum count	20	52
Av max count prev 10 yrs	14	18
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	-
Number of records	413	360
% of BirdTrack lists	22.3	21.1
Density	0.27	2.91
Max breeding evidence	NE	FL



ringing totals are currently available). During Jul to Sep counts were 1-3, but there was an increase in the number of records and birds seen during the last three months, with counts of 1-6, many of which were in the Dee Estuary, at Connah's Quay NR.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

GWYACH GORNIOG
Winter visitor. Red List. RBBP.

Denbs. A single was recorded off Llanddulas on 20/02.



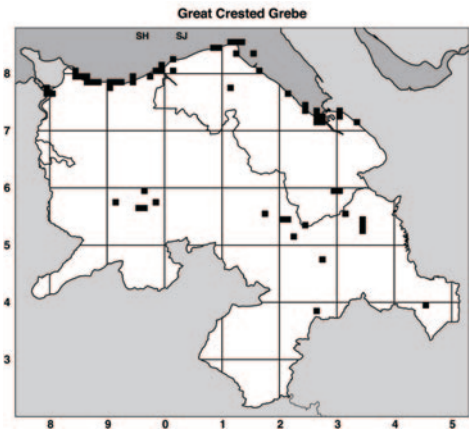
Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Little Grebe (Andy Davis)

LLWYBIG
Rare winter visitor. Amber List.

(GG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	37	24
Maximum count	38	10
Av max count prev 10 yrs	106	18
Number of records	208	131
% of BirdTrack lists	9.4	7.7
Density	0.71	0.41
Max breeding evidence	FL	D

Flints. A record of a single came from RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 8/05 (CW).



Cattle Egret *Bubuculus ibis*
Becoming a near regular visitor. RBBP.

CREYR Y GWARTHEG

Flints. The first record was a single at Shotton on 4/06 with a single last seen at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 31/08. After about five weeks a single was present at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands again on 6/10. However, by 7 and 9/11 there were 3 there (CW). Accepted by the WRP.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Breeding resident. Amber List.
Recorded in each month in both counties.

CREYR GLAS

Denbs. Just over half of the records came from RSPB Conwy. The maximum counts for each quarter of the year were 28, 19, 15 and 18, with the maximum count of 28 on 15/01 (JHg). Confirmed breeding was reported from Lleweni Hall, Bodfari with 8 large young visible on 12/06 (JPH).

Flints. Nearly one third of records came from Connah's Quay NR. The quarterly maximum counts were 6, 7, 12 and 12. The maximum counts of 12 were from the adjacent RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 31/08 and 6/12 (PSH). The max WeBS count came at Llawndy, near Talacre, with 9 on 8/10 (RCR). No breeding evidence was reported.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

CREYR MAWR GWYN

Becoming a near regular visitor. RBBP.

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

Denbs. The number of records was well down from 2016 and all came from RSPB Conwy. All were of singles, except for 2 on 8/04 (HC).

Flints. This was the first year that the county had this species present in every month. All but five of the reports came from the Dee Estuary, though three records were on the same day from the Gronant area, with a single on 9/07. Most records came from the Connah's Quay NR area with 1-6 and the maximum was on 13/11 (DWn). Also across the estuary at White Sands, there were 6 on 10/09 and 21/09 (PSH).

(NB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		0.2
Density		0.00

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* CREYR BACH

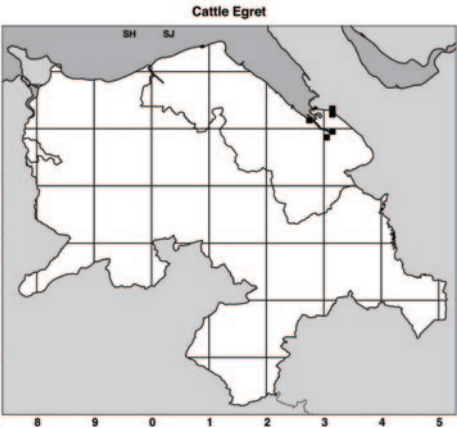
Breeding resident and passage visitor. RBBP.
Recorded in each month in both counties. Most reports came from our main three estuaries: from W to E, the Conwy, Clwyd and Dee.

Denbs. Just over 83% of records were from RSPB Conwy and the maximum count of 138 came from there on 31/07. During the first half of the year counts were 1-30, so presumably the larger counts in the second half of the year related to young that fledged from various heronries. The second largest count was 124 at RSPB Conwy on 16/08 (JHg). During the last three months of the year the highest count was 56, so many birds had either died or moved away. There was evidence of probable breeding (N) in Conwy Valley near Tal-y-Cafn on

(EC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence		Rare
Number of 1km squares		5
Maximum count		3
Number of records	0	10
% of BirdTrack lists		2.6
Density		0.03

Seen in these months												15/04 (WRM).
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

Flints. Most records were from the Dee Estuary and during the first half of the year counts were of 1-25. During the second half of the year the maximum count was from near Bagillt, with a WeBS count of 152 on 10/09 (ChMo). The other counts during Jul to Dec were 1-65. Confirmed breeding (ON) was recorded at Talacre during Apr and May (HC, SD).



Gannet *Morus bassanus*

HUGAN

Migrant. Amber List.

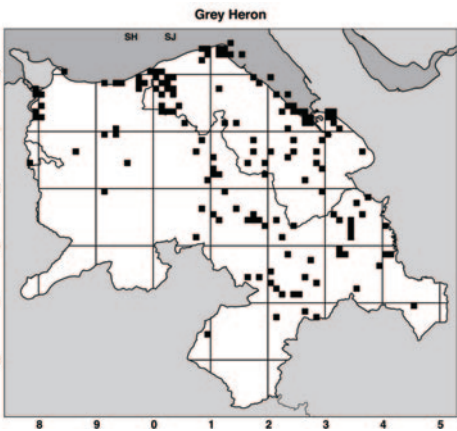
Denbs. The first record was a single at Horton's Nose on 24/02 with two other records of singles in Mar. A count of 57 was easily made, as many were just sitting on the sea on 1/04 (AHJ). Another

large count recorded off Colwyn Bay was 50 on 10/04 (JFJ), though other counts in Apr were 1-10. The last record of the early period was a single at Horton's Nose on 16/06. The next record was a

(H)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	84	66
Maximum count	28	12
Av max count prev 10 yrs	21	19
Recorded in BBS squares	5/31	4/19
Number of records	554	384
% of records from GBW	1.81	0.26
% of BirdTrack lists	27.7	28.7
Density	1.19	1.34
Max breeding evidence	NY	

single at Llanddulas on 2/08, with counts of 1-10 in Sep, the last on 15/09 followed by a single record of presence on 2/11.

Flints. The first record was 2 at Rhyl on 25/03 and the last of the first period was a single off Gronant dunes on 17/05. The largest count in those months was 50 on 1/04 off Rhyl, so was probably the same group as reported off Kinmel Bay (AHJ). There was a gap of about ten weeks until a single was seen off Gronant dunes on 28/07. During the later period there were counts of 1-15.



Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

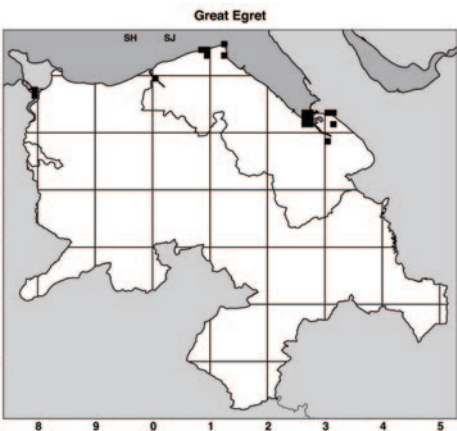
MULFRAN WERDD

Non-breeding visitor. Amber List.

(HW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	16
Maximum count	2	6
Number of records	16	128
% of BirdTrack lists	0.5	6.9
Density	0.00	0.16

Seen in these months												Denbs. During the first
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

three months there were records of 1-2 from several sites, with the last record a single at Rhos-on-Sea on 12/03. More of the year's records came from Rhos-on-Sea than any other site. The first autumn record was a single at Llanddulas on 2/08 and that was followed by counts of 1-6, with the maximum from a WeBS count at Rhos-on-Sea on 9/10 (HC).



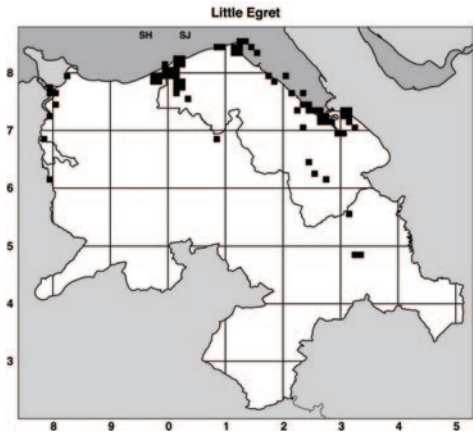
Flints. Singles were at Rhyl on 12/03 and at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7/12.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

MULFRAN

Non-breeding passage and winter visitor. Amber List.

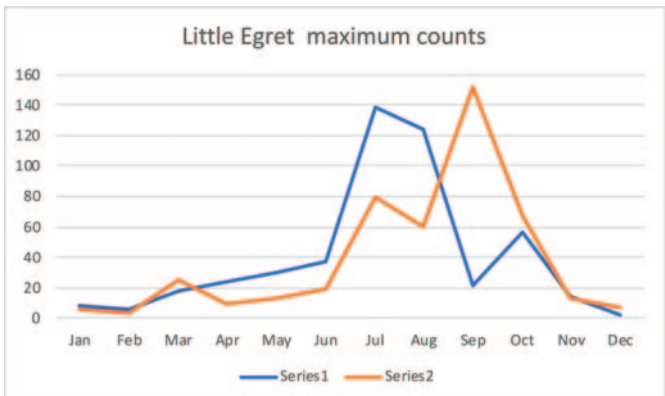
(ET)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	19	33
Maximum count	138	52
Av max count prev 10 yrs	69	18
Number of records	385	486
% of BirdTrack lists	21.5	31.0
Density	1.33	13.42
Max breeding evidence	N	ON



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. During the first two quarters, counts were 1-100, with the largest counts on 22/01 at Horton's Nose (KS) and on 25/05 at Kinmel Bay (SM). During the third quarter counts were 1-188, with the maximum at Kinmel Bay on 25/07 (JPH). In Oct to Dec counts were 1-95, with 95, again at Kinmel Bay, on 12/12 (JPH). The highest inland count came from Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, with 17 on 13/03 (JPH).

Flints. During Jan to Mar counts were 1-293, with the maximum near Gronant on 15/01 (GR) from a WeBS count. During Apr to Jun counts were 1-300, with maxima from Gronant dunes on 3/05, 4/05 and 12/05



(HC). In Jul to Sep numbers increased considerably, with counts of 1-514. The two highest counts of 500 were at Gronant dunes on 8/07 (HC) and 514 on the River Clwyd, near Rhyl on 12/09 (JPH). During Oct to Dec counts were 1-460, with the maximum on the River Clwyd, near Rhyl on 7/10 (WRM), with numbers reducing thereafter and a maximum of only 257 in Dec on 3/12 near Gronant (JPM). Away from coast and estuaries a count of 16 was the largest from an inland site, at Fagl Lane, Hope, on 26/01 (NHu).

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(GX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	9	9
Maximum count	57	50
Av max count prev 10 yrs	60	48
Number of records	19	25
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8	1.6
Density	0.26	0.76

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* GWALCH Y PYSGOD
Spring and autumn migrant and potential breeder.
Amber List. RBBP.

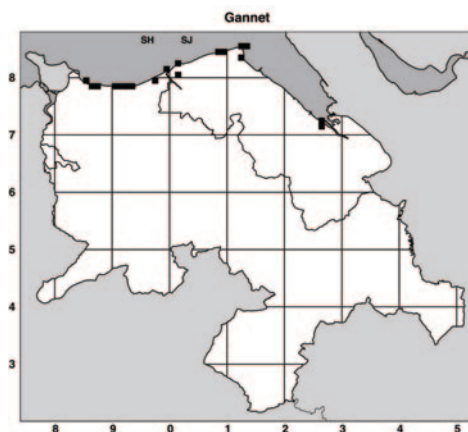
Denbs. The first record was a single at Bodnant on 5/04. Five of the records were from the Mynydd Hiraethog area, the first at Llyn Aled Isaf on 7/04, then 2 at Pen-y-ffrith, Alwen Reservoir on 10/05 (leB). Other interesting sightings were a single flying high carrying a fish at Moel Derwydd on 7/06

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

and a pair on an artificial nest site at Llyn Alwen on 12/07 (WAO), an indication of probable breeding (P or N). The last record was a single high over Rhuthun on 31/08 (JAJ).

Flints. A single was recorded at Shotton on 19/04.



(SA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	10	2
Maximum count	6	1
Number of records	20	2
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	0.1
Density	0.03	0.00

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

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

GWALCH GLAS

Breeding resident.

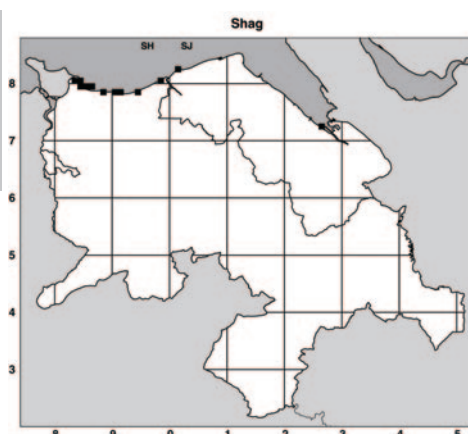
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or singles.

Two were only recorded on four occasions and at

four locations: near Trefriw on 29/01, at Felin Puleston, Erddig on 7/03 (HCi), at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 8/04 (MiB) and at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 18/04 (GEM). The only indication of probable breeding was on 7/03.

Flints. There was one ringing record of a full-grown at Bagillt on 15/11 (GRMP). There was one record of confirmed breeding, in the area S of Rhyl on 21/07 and 23/07 (WRM). Most records were of presence or singles with 2 seen on five dates: 6/02 near Rhuddlan (SH), 2/04 at Rhydymwyn (DMH), 16/08 near Rhydymwyn (GRMP), near Rhyl on 22/09 (AHJ) and at Pantymwyn on 16/11 (GEM).



(CA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	57	65
Maximum count	188	514
Av max count prev 10 yrs	133	313
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/19
Number of records	520	620
% of BirdTrack lists	28.7	47.4
Density	5.42	56.72

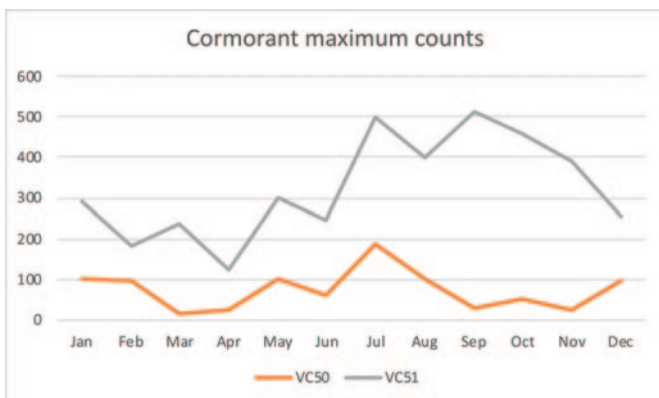
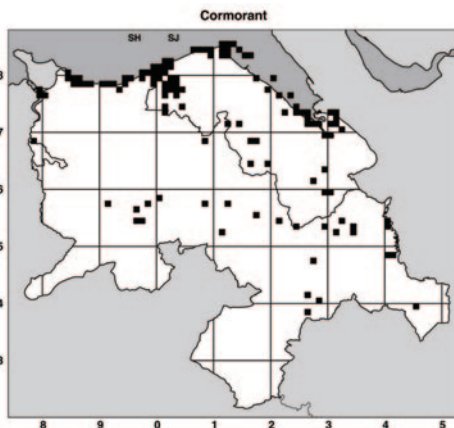
Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

GWALCH MARTH

Breeding resident. RBBP.

Denbs. More than half the reports came from Clocaenog Forest, with the highest count of 4 displaying (the only record of probable breeding) above Craig Bron Bannog on 15/03 (GrJ). Other counts of more than one were also from the same area: 2 at Bronbannog on 25/03 (GEM) and 3 at Cefn Du on 3/04 (MkN). Most reports were of singles and about 75% were from Mar and Apr, when activity would have been high and the birds would have been a bit more obvious.

Flints. Both records were singles: at Pantymwyn on 15/03 (GEM) and near Gwernaffield-y-Waun on 16/04 (MkN).



(CA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant	293	181	237	122	226	212	135	306		190	391	257
Point of Ayr	67	37	32	5		2	6		64	102	80	40
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	12	30	30	12	10	8	12	10	30	30	10	40

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

WAOD Y GWERNI

Passage migrant. Amber List. RBBP.

(OP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	8	1
Maximum count	2	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	1
Number of records	9	1
% of BirdTrack lists	-	-
Density	0.01	0.00
Max breeding evidence	P	

Denbs. A single wing-tagged female had its photo taken diving/displaying at World's End on 24/03 (pJLR). This was not considered to be evidence of breeding, as it was alone.

Flints. There were sixteen records in the first four months, of presence or 1-2, with two records of 3: over White Sands on 2/03 (PSH) and at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 22/03 (AGr). The last record in the early part of the year was a single at

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

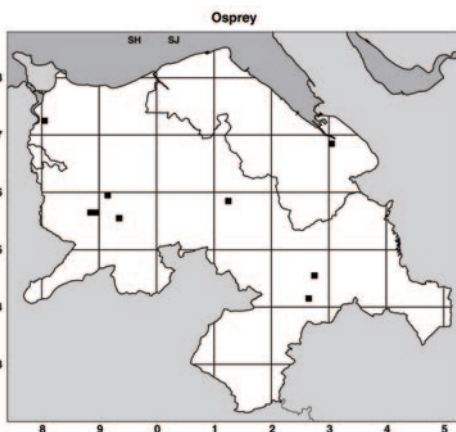
Connah's Quay NR on 20/04 (SuHa). The first 'autumn' record was a single over White Sands on 2/06 (PSH). During the later months most records were of singles or 2-3, with 4 seen on four occasions: at White Sands on 9/09 (PDS), at Connah's Quay NR on 30/09 (PSH), at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 23/11 (PeHa) and there again on 3/12 (PSH).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

BOD TINWEN

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

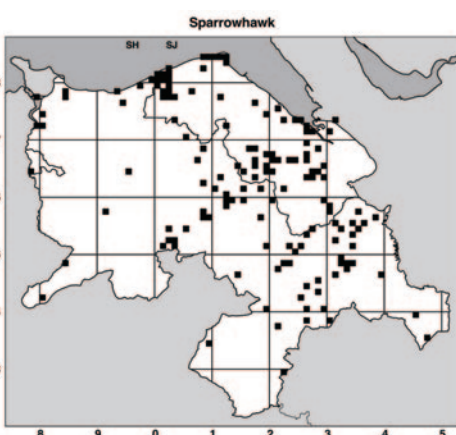
Denbs. Most records were of presence, singles or 2, with one record of 3 and one of 4. There was one record of confirmed breeding (ON) from the Berwyn Mountains on 14/06 (DJS). The maximum count of 4 was at Pen-plaenau, Berwyn Mountains on 21/04 (AED) and there were 3 at Fenn's Moss on 1/05 (StBw).



Flints. In Jan and Feb there were four records and the one record in Apr was at Connah's Quay NR.

(SH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	80	66
Maximum count	2	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	3
Recorded in BBS squares	4/31	1/19
Number of records	279	208
% of records from GBW	48.75	23.56
% of BirdTrack lists	4.8	9.7
Density	0.08	0.22
Max breeding evidence	P	FF

The first autumn record was the one inland record from Rhes-y-cae on 22/10 (MGW). All other records were from the area around Connah's Quay NR.



The occurrences of males, females and ringtails (none available for Flints):

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*.

BARCUD COCH

Visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

Denbs. Most of the records were of presence, singles or 2-5 with one count each of 8,17 and 25. There has been suspected breeding in the last few years at Llanelidan, and the maximum counts of 23 on 13/02 and 17 there flying E to W on 18/12 are a sign of the increase of this species throughout Wales. Three were displaying at Llansilin on 15/03 (JO), the only record of probable breeding (D). The only GBW count was of 2 at nearby Bwlch-y-rhiw in week beginning 5/03 (SmJ). The highest BBS count was 5 at Blaen Bache, SW of Llangollen on 16/05 (JoG).

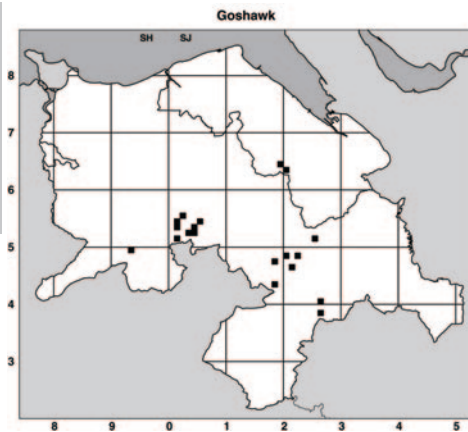
Flints. The number of reports and their corresponding areas remain roughly the same as in the last few years, with no real trend upwards. All but one record were of singles with a maximum count of 3

on 21/06 from S of Mold (DMH).

(GI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	17	2
Maximum count	4	1
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	-
Number of records	21	2
% of BirdTrack lists	0.5	0.1
Density	0.03	0.00
Max breeding evidence	D	

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



Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare winter visitor.

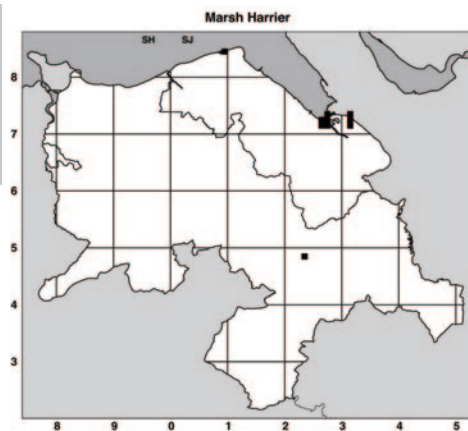
BOD BACSI OG

Denbs. A single at Fenn's Moss on 22/01 was the only record in our recording area (StBw). Accepted by the WRP.

(MR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	9
Maximum count	1	4
Number of records	1	55
% of BirdTrack lists	-	6.1
Density	0.00	0.06

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



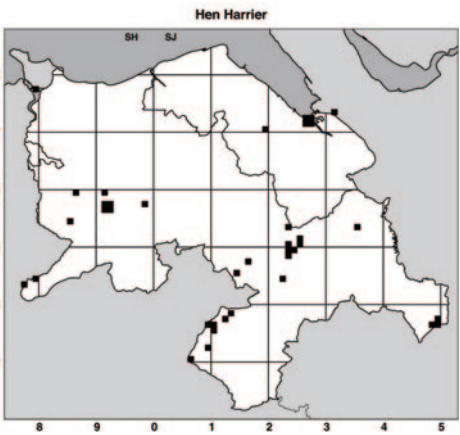
Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

BWNCATH

(HH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	32	6
Maximum count	4	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	1
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	-
Number of records	57	19
% of BirdTrack lists	2.5	1.8
Density	0.06	0.01
Max breeding evidence	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

Breeding resident.
Recorded in each month in both counties.



Denbs. The number of records and sites remain roughly the same as in the last few years. Most counts were of 1-8, with three in double figures, a maximum count of 16 at Gellifor on 4/04 (GPI), 12 at Ysbyty Ifan on 15/03 (GrJ) and 10 at Craig Bron Bannog on 2/04 (HCw). The most recorded on a BBS count was at Trevor Hall, with 5 on 9/04 (MaEv). Breeding was confirmed (FF) at Llanddulas on 1/06 (WRM), with fledged young at Llanferres on 27/06 (JaH), Towyn on 15/07 (JPH) and at Erddig on 7/08 (HCw).

Flints. Most counts were of 1-4, with four of 5, three of 6, one of 7 and three of 8. The maximum

(HH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs. Male			1	6	4	1			1		1	
Female							1					
Ringtail				1						1		

counts were near Rhuddlan on 7/04 (SH), near Gronant during a BBS walk on 22/04 (GRMP) and at Nant Coed-y-Mynydd on 18/05 (GEM), which was also the only record of confirmed breeding.

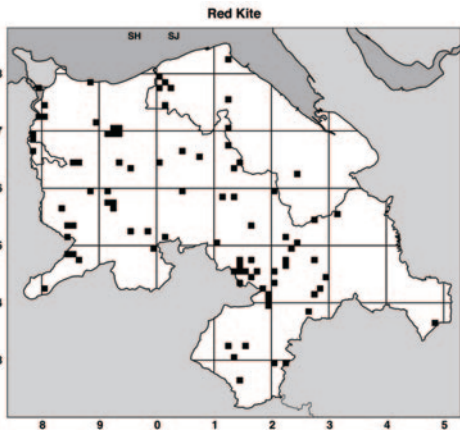
Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

RHEGEN Y DWR

(KT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	80	10
Maximum count	23	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	1
Recorded in BBS squares	6/31	-
Number of records	106	11
% of records from GBW	0.94	0
% of BirdTrack lists	4.3	0.4
Density	0.93	0.05
Max breeding evidence	D	

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

Breeding resident and winter visitor. RBBP.



Recorded only in winter in Denbs, but almost all year in Flints, with breeding confirmed in the same locality as in 2016. Apart from Erddig Pool in Wrexham, all records were from near the coast.

Denbs. During the first three months most records were of presence or counts of 1-4. The count of 4 was from RSPB Conwy on 20/02 (WRM) and the last record from the early months was presence at Erddig, Wrexham on 27/03. The first 'autumn' record was, again, a single at Erddig on 13/08. Most winter records were from RSPB Conwy, with a maximum count of 6 on 21/12 (JHg). The other records were presence or counts of 1-5.

Flints. During Jan to Mar all but one counts were of singles, with 3 near Gronant on 14/02 (WRM). The last record from that period was a single at White Sands on 12/03. There was then a gap of nearly ten weeks until the next record, a single at Gronant dunes on 20/05. Most of the remaining records were from Gronant dunes. Breeding was confirmed (FL) again by recently-fledged young seen four times from 26/06 to 11/07 (WRM, HC). The highest count in the later months was 5 at Gronant dunes on 13/07 (HC).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

IAR DWR



Red Kite (Dermot Smith)

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The highest counts were 37 (on 9/03) and 36 (on 1/10) at RSPB Conwy (JHg) and there were

nineteen other counts of over 20. Breeding was confirmed at thirteen locations. Two juveniles were seen feeding a second brood of chicks at Towyn on 4/07 (SM)

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

from this site, plus one count of 21 from Greenfield Valley (SD). There were twenty-eight records of confirmed breeding from eleven locations.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

Coot *Fulica atra*

CWTIAR

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The highest count was 45 at RSPB Conwy on 9/03 (JPH) and there were twenty-four other counts of 20+. The highest summer count was 29 at RSPB Conwy on 9/07 (JPH). There were twenty-eight records of confirmed breeding from sixteen locations. Chicks were first seen on 16/04 at Pensarn and Llanddulas (WRM). The largest brood size was 4 and several broods of 3 were recorded.

(BZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	229	120
Maximum count	16	8
Av max count prev 10 yrs	11	9
Recorded in BBS squares	21/31	15/19
Number of records	643	481
% of records from GBW	7.00	9.98
% of BirdTrack lists	32.1	30.5
Density	1.85	1.63
Max breeding evidence	FF	FL

Flints. The highest count was 106 at Rhyl Brickworks Pool on 29/12 (JPH) and there were twelve further winter counts of 60+ at this site. There were also 100+ at Deeside Industrial Estate on 2/01 (JAt). The highest summer count was 40 at both Rhyl Brickworks on 26/06 (AHu) and Connah's Quay NR on 6/07 (GEM). There were fifty-five records of confirmed breeding at ten locations. The earliest chicks were seen at Rhyl Brickworks on 20/04 (RLE).

WeBS counts from selected sites:

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

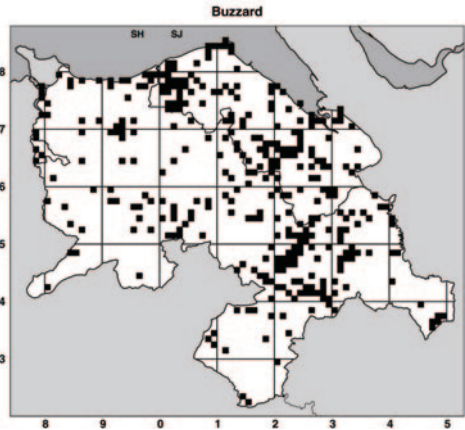
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The majority of records were of presence. In Jan and Feb, counts were 1-300 with the

Flints. The highest count was 28 at Rhuddlan on 8/01 (SH). There were four other counts of 20+



Rough-legged Buzzard (Stephen Barlow)



PIODEN Y MOR

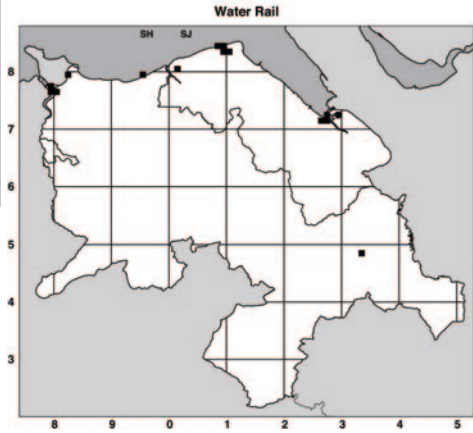
maximum early, on 2/01 at Llanddulas (RTe). During Mar and Apr counts were 1-300, the 300 seen at Horton's Nose on 1/04 (AHJ). Again, the counts during May and Jun were 1-300, the maximum,

(WA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	6	9
Maximum count	6	5
Number of records	90	52
% of BirdTrack lists	5.1	4.7
Density	0.02	0.08
Max breeding evidence		FL

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

again, at Horton's Nose on 6/05 (AHJ). In Jul there were fewer birds (maximum 147 on 23/07) and in Aug counts were 1-275 with the maximum at RSPB Conwy on 13/08 (JHg). During Sep and Oct counts were 1-320, the 320 at Kinmel Bay on 1/10 (RLE). Counts were of fewer birds during the last two months at 1-160, the 160 again at Kinmel Bay on 3/12 (MaO).

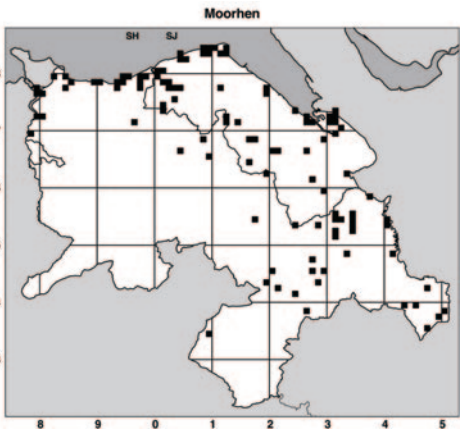


Flints. The largest count in the early part of the year was 4,000 at Point of Ayr on 15/01 (GR), during a WeBS count and with the counts from other sites that day, the total was close to 5,000. The other counts were 1-1,500+ and in Feb numbers dropped with counts of 2-800, though the WeBS total on 11/02 was about 2,400 from four sites. During Mar and Apr numbers had dropped and counts were 1-1,200 with the WeBS totals from several sites on 12/03 amounting to about 1,400, suggesting that there had been migration away from our area. In Apr the maximum single count was 1,200 at Point of Ayr on 9/04 (GR). However, the WeBS total for ten sites that day came to about 2,100. There were some records of probable breeding (P) at Connah's Quay NR during Apr. During May and Jun counts were 1-1,300, with the maximum at Gronant on 2/05 and 11/05 (HC). After late May numbers reduced to a maximum of 600 then to a maximum of just 200 in Jun and a WeBS total of about 400 from



several sites. There were records of confirmed breeding (ON) at Connah's Quay NR and near Gronant , then NY at Gronant. During Jul and Aug there were some slightly larger counts at individual sites,

(MH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	62	45
Maximum count	37	28
Av max count prev 10 yrs	24	24
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	1/19
Number of records	586	429
% of BirdTrack lists	32.1	37.4
Density	1.16	2.14
Max breeding evidence	NY	NE

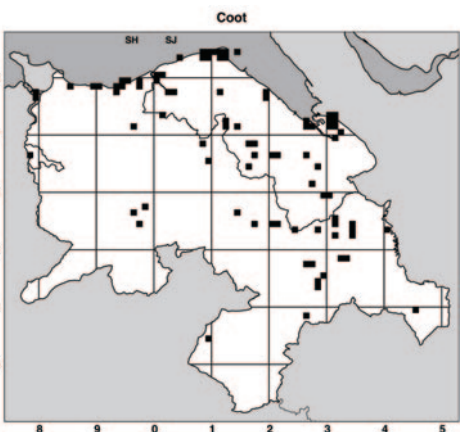


with 1-1,000: in Jul the maximum was 700 near Ffynnongroyw on 23/07 (GR), with the WeBS total from several sites of about 1,300. In Aug there was evidence of birds having arrived in the area ,as there was the maximum of 1,000 near Ffynnongroyw on 13/08 (GR), contributing to a WeBS total of about 2,640 in the Dee Estuary that day. A count of 1,000 was at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 21/08 (GR). Numbers built up during Sep and Oct, with 1-5,000 and the two largest counts were 4,000 at Point of Ayr on 10/09 (GR), 4,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 8/10 (PeHa) and 5,000 near Ffynnongroyw on 8/10 (JLg), contributing to a WeBS total of about 9,000 in the Dee Estuary. During Nov and Dec counts were 1-4,000, with the largest counts of 3,000 at Ffynnongroyw on 19/11 (GR), 3,500 there on 3/12 (GR), 4,000 at Point of Ayr on 19/11 (GR) and 4,000 there on 3/12 (GR) contributing to Dee Estuary WeBS totals of about 8,500 on 19/11 and about 10,000 on 3/12.

(MH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	23	10	7	4	7	4	9	19	16	26	23	13
Connah's Quay NR	15	2	6	6	6	3	5	4	2	4	4	6

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(CO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	44	43
Maximum count	45	106
Av max count prev 10 yrs	53	98
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	-
Number of records	372	500
% of BirdTrack lists	31.5	41.5
Density	1.00	7.74
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY



Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

CAMBIG

Visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

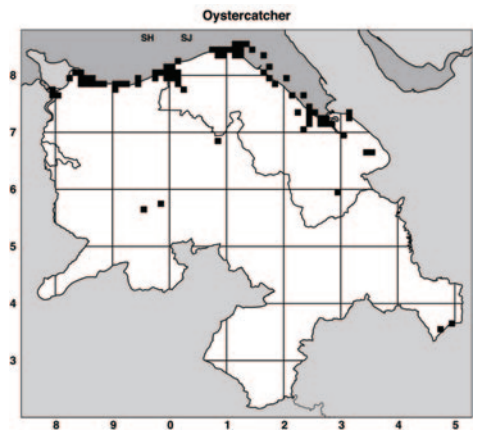
This species is becoming a regular for more months of the year, undoubtedly helped by breeding on the English part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands. Breeding may even happen on the Welsh part of the reserve in the near future.

Flints. The first, and only, record for Feb was presence at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 18/02. There were then two records of singles (one at Connah's Quay NR) in Mar, followed by a maximum of 50+ at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 19/04. Other Apr counts were 1-6 at White Sands or RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands. During May and Jun, all but one record came from RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands with counts of 1-36. The last record in Jun was 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/06. From Jul on, presumably with breeding activity in England completed, most records came from Connah's Quay

(CO)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	6	8	14	13	23	22	20	14	12	11	8	9
Connah's Quay NR	45	27	40	10	10	35	25	15	10	10	8	16
Shotton Paper Mill	8	9	9	8		8				25	16	23

NR or RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. During Jul and Aug counts were 2-12, with 12 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 8/08 (PSH). During Sep and Oct there were only four records of 2-4. Then, in Nov and Dec, there were fourteen records of singles, except for 2 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Border Pool, on 5/11 (CW).

(OC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	31	49
Maximum count	326	5000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	627	8175
Recorded in BBS squares	-	2/19
Number of records	485	438
% of BirdTrack lists	27.7	29.3
Density	5.11	415.96
Max breeding evidence	P	NY



Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*.

CORNCHWIGLEN

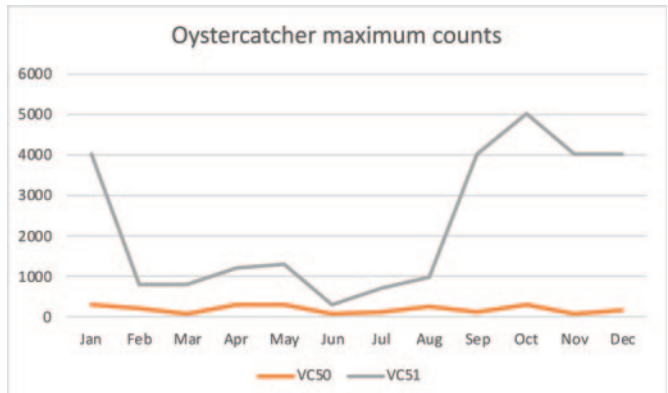
Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red List. S7.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Numbers increased considerably from the start of the year. In Jan and Feb there were counts of 1-1,500, with three of 1,000 or more: 1,000 at Kinnel Bay on 8/01 (SM), 1,200 there on 4/02 (WRM) and 1,500 there on 2/02 (SM). During Mar and Apr numbers dropped, with counts of 1-77, with the maximum near Acrefair on

6/03 (JLR) which may have been migrants. After that date the maximum seen together was only 7, but breeding was confirmed. During May and Jun counts were 1-26. The 26 were at Pentrefoelas on 4/06 (MaO). Breeding was confirmed (FL) at another site. Numbers stayed low in Jul and Aug with the few counts of 1-36 (most records were of presence). The 36 were at RSPB Conwy on 22/07 (JPH). During Sep and Oct numbers continued to remain low with counts of 1-54, the maximum at RSPB Conwy on 27/10 (GEM). Numbers increased during the last two months, but not dramatically



so, with counts of 1-143, the 143 at RSPB Conwy on 23/11 (RLE).

Flints. Many fewer records in Flints were only of presence. At the start of the year many stayed in the area, with counts of 1-3,800, with most being 100 or more. There were three counts of 2,500 or more: 2,500+ near Rhyl on 24/01 (DCR), 3,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 15/01 (PeHa) and 3,800 + at Rhyl Marine Lake on 7/02 (DCR). Most had migrated away by the end of Feb and during Mar and Apr counts were 1-110, with 110 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 12/03 (TG). Only probable breeding (D) was recorded. In May and Jun counts were 1-80, then in Jul there was a slight increase in numbers, which may have included flocks of recently fledged young, with counts of 1-220, the maximum recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 21/08 (GR, JuR). Numbers stayed fairly low during Sep and the counts for Sep and Oct were 1-700, with all the counts over 150 during Oct. The maximum was at Connah's Quay NR on 14/10 (MD). Large numbers returned in Nov and Dec, though not as many as were present early in the year. Counts were up to 2,000, with the maximum at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 23/11 (PeHa).

WeBS counts from selected sites:

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

CWTIAD AWR

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

(OC)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	75	15	44	35	60	99	147	275	143	62	46	38
Gronant	980	650	568	381	9	180	72	15		352	168	302
Point of Ayr	4000	800	800	1200	400	4	300	600	4000	2800	4000	4000
Ffynnongroyw Bay		400	100	10	100		700	1000	1000	5000	3000	3500
Greenfield, offshore	235	600	400	100	130	27	178	280	1350	1440	1350	460
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	450	50	20	52	50	40	60	400	1600	4000	100	40

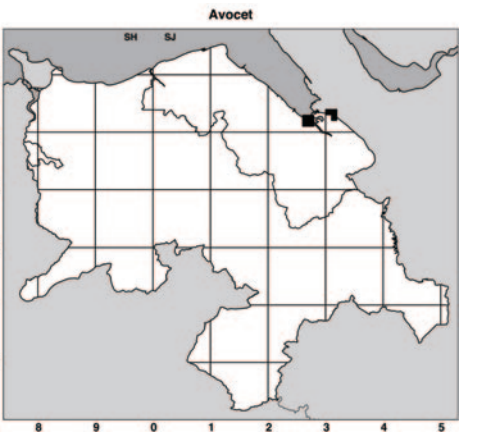
Denbs. There were just two records in Jan and Feb, of 4 at Kinmel Bay. During Mar and Apr counts were 1-20, with the maximum seen at Moel Eithinen on 2/04 (GPI). The two May records of 1 and 2 were from adjacent squares in the Berwyn Mountains, where probable breeding was recorded. The last spring record was of a male on 31/05 at a 'nest site', but the type of record was not specified (N,

(AV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares		7
Maximum count		50
Av max count prev 10 yrs		7
Number of records	0	56
% of BirdTrack lists		4.4
Density		0.83

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

NE or NY). The first autumn record was 2 at RSPB Conwy on 14/09. The two Oct records were of 40 flying over Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog on 6/10 and 200 at Llyn Aled Isaf on 23/10 (RLE).



Flints. During Jan and Feb counts were 1-150, the maximum recorded at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 1/02 (CW). The three Mar records were 50-85, all from the RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands area, the last, a count of 85 on 9/03 (AGr). The single May record was 2 near Rhyl on 27/05. The first autumn record was from the same area, a single on 10/09. The Sep and Oct counts were 1-45, and

the Nov and Dec counts were 1-112, the maximum at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 4/11 (AGr).

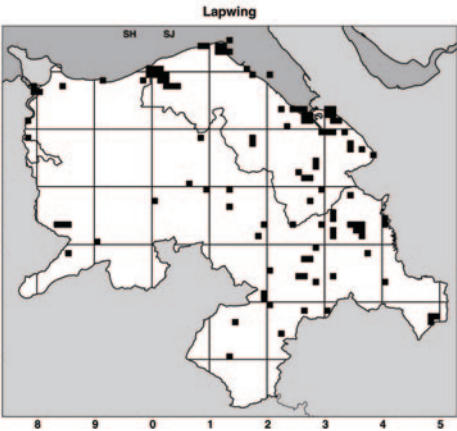
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

CWTIAD LLWYD

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

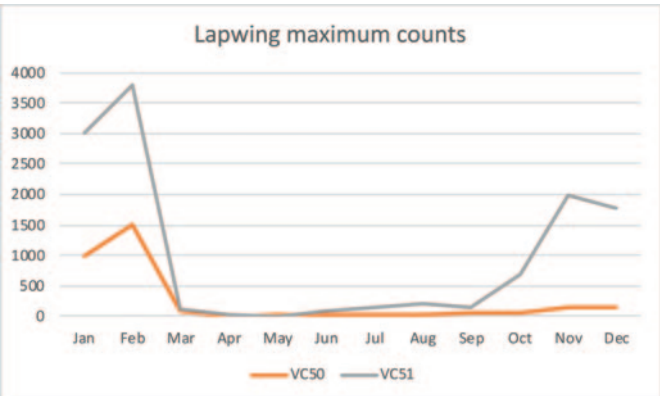
Denbs. The first, and only Feb record, was a single at Horton's Nose on 9/02 (AHJ). The only record

(L)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	44	53
Maximum count	1500	3800
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1853	2450
Recorded in BBS squares	3/31	4/19
Number of records	379	356
% of records from GBW	2.37	0
% of BirdTrack lists	20.2	24.5
Density	45.55	341.94
Max breeding evidence	NE	D



in Apr was presence at RSPB Conwy on 15/04. There were two records on the same day of a single at RSPB Conwy on 21/11 and the last record was a single at Rhos-on-Sea on 16/12 (JFBY).

Flints. The first record was presence at Connah's Quay NR on 1/01 (IMS). During Jan and Feb there were records of 1-2 from three other sites. The May and Jun records were singles then 1-10 were recorded in Sep and the last record that month was 2 near Rhyl on 29/09. After a gap of about six weeks the year's maximum, 28, was at Point of Ayr on 19/11 (GR). For the rest of the year there were five records of 1-10.



Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

CWTIAD TORCHOG

Breeding resident and passage migrant. Red List. S7.
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. In the first two months there were counts of 1-50 with 50, the highest count of the year, at Kinmel Bay on 26/01 (GPI). During Mar and Apr counts were 1-25, the 25 seen at Kinmel Bay on 28/04 (RLE). In May and Jun counts were 1-29, with 29 at Horton's Nose on 6/05. During these

months probable breeding was recorded. During Jul and Aug there were the lowest numbers, with counts of 2-13. In Sep and Oct there was an increase in numbers, with counts of 1-45 with 45, again at Kinnel Bay, on 1/10 (RLE). There was a slight decrease in numbers during the last two months, with counts of 2-35. The 35 were at Rhos-on-Sea on 16/12 (WRM).

Flints. There were only four records in Jan and Feb, with the highest count, 30, at Greenfield dock on 17/01 (ETh). The numbers of records increased in Mar and Apr, but there were few birds (counts of 1-6). During May and Jun there were many more records and counts of 1-40, the maximum at Gronant dunes on 21/05 and 22/05 (HC). During these months breeding was confirmed and during

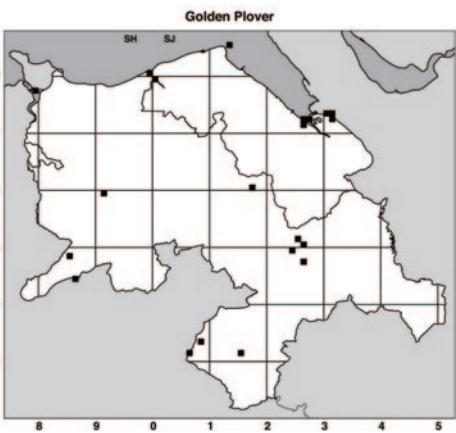
(L)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	114	165	1	2			5	13	17	20	116	139
near Rhuddlan	350	150						6		9	490	
Point of Ayr	1000								1			
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	3000	800								400	500	1000
White Sands	650							1	109	142	417	400

the next two months 3 nestlings were ringed. There were other records of confirmed breeding. Counts were 1-200, the maximum seen at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 21/08 (GR). In Sep and Oct, counts were 1-150, the 150 at Point of Ayr on 10/09 (GR). There were only six records during Nov and Dec, with counts of 1-22.

(GP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	13	8
Maximum count	200	150
Av max count prev 10 yrs	46	172
Number of records	14	29
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	1.9
Density	0.03	2.04
Max breeding evidence	P	

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



WeBS counts from selected sites:

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. RBBP.

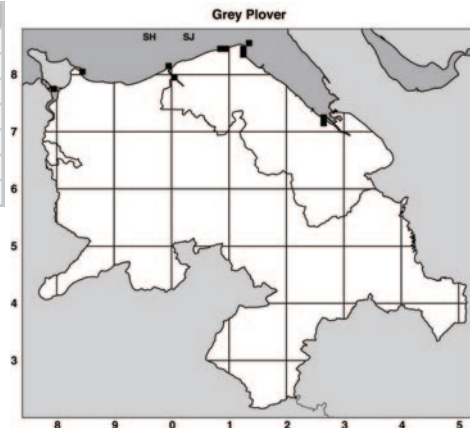
Denbs. The first record was 3 at Llay Pool on 27/03 (KJS). The remaining records were of 1-3, with a pair (probable breeding) at one site. The last record was presence at RSPB Conwy on 19/07 (JHg).

Flints. The first record was 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 3/04 (JuR) with twenty other records of 1-4 in Apr from six sites. During May records were of 1-3 ,with probable breeding recorded at two sites. In Jun there were records of 1-5, with confirmed breeding at two sites. In Jul records were of 1-2, with another record of confirmed breeding, though this was not, necessarily, a second brood. There was one record of 2 in Aug, then two late records of 2 on 31/10 and 1 on 7/11 near Buckley (KAW).

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

(GV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Common
Number of 1km squares	3	8
Maximum count	1	28
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	83
Number of records	5	19
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.8
Density	0.00	0.38

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



Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

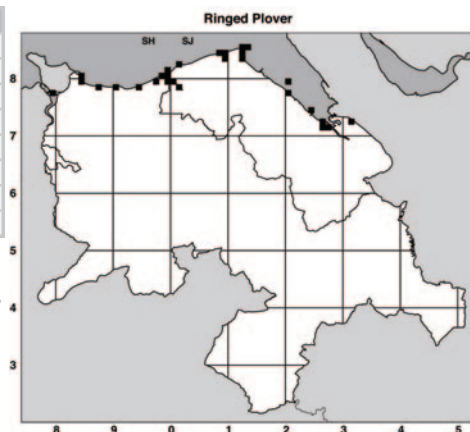
COEGLFINIR

Passage migrant and summer visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

Denbs. The first record was a single at Kinmel Bay on 8/03 (JDG). During Apr counts were 1-11, mainly at RSPB Conwy and in May slightly fewer with 2-7. The last spring record was presence at RSPB Conwy on 14/05. The first 'autumn' record was nearly two months later, with 3 at RSPB Conwy on 9/07 (JHg). The autumn counts were lower, with records of 1-4 and the last record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 24/09 (PJS).

Flints. The first record was a single at Point of Ayr on 9/04 (GR). In Apr, counts were 1-32 with 32 near Rhyl on 27/04 (AHJ). During May there were 1-21 with 21 near Gronant on 3/05 (HC) and in Jun there were just three records of 1-5. None were recorded for about five weeks between 11/06 and 19/07 when 36 were at Gronant (HC). This was the maximum for Jul and in Aug and Sep only 1-3 were recorded, with the last record a single flying over Rhyl, calling on 26/09 (DCR).

(RP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	11	17
Maximum count	50	200
Av max count prev 10 yrs	61	212
Number of records	63	149
% of BirdTrack lists	3.9	10.5
Density	0.28	5.77
Max breeding evidence	N	NE



Curlew *Numenius arquata*

GGLFINIR

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Red List. S7.

Recorded in each month in both counties. There were no records of confirmed breeding, which is an increasing concern with this species.

Denbs. The majority of records were of presence only. During Jan and Feb counts were of 1-200, with the maximum at RSPB Conwy on 10/02 (WRM). In Mar and Apr counts were 1-109 and the maximum was at RSPB Conwy on 12/03 (JHg). During these two months there were many inland

records, mainly of presence, 1 or 2. In May and Jun counts were of 1-21, with 21 at RSPB Conwy on 26/06 (JHg). Early in Jul there was an influx, with 149 at RSPB Conwy on 2/07 (JHg) and during Jul and Aug counts were 1-212, with the maximum at RSPB Conwy on 13/08 (JHg). Numbers increased further during Sep and Oct, with counts of 1-500, with 500 at RSPB Conwy on 9/09 (NHt). During Nov and Dec numbers decreased, with counts of 1-47, with 47 on 19/11, again at RSPB Conwy (JHg).

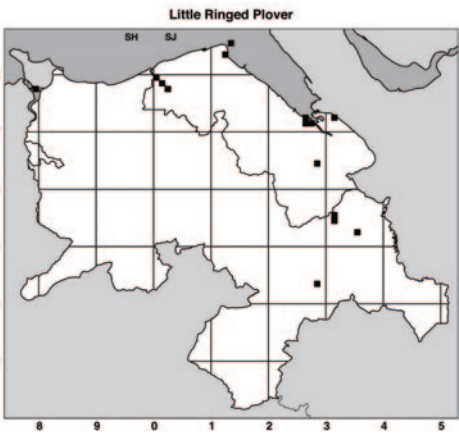
Flints. There were much larger counts of Curlew in Flints. During Jan and Feb counts were 1-850, with 850 at Point of Ayr on 15/01 (GR). During Mar and Apr counts were 1-1,000, with the maximum again at Point of Ayr on 12/03 (GR). In May and Jun there were considerably fewer birds present with counts of just 1-32, though in Jul numbers increased to 1,200 by 23/07 at Point of Ayr (GR). This was

(RP)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr				6	12	12	10	100	150	30		
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh					4			24	12			

the highest count for Jul and Aug but was repeated on 10/09, again, at Point of Ayr (GR). Another relatively high count, 1,100, was again at Point of Ayr on 8/10 (JLg). During Nov and Dec counts were 1-800, with 800 at Point of Ayr on 19/11 (GR). Thereafter, numbers reduced with a maximum of 400 during Dec.

(LP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	5	10
Maximum count	3	5
Number of records	10	85
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	1.8
Density	0.01	0.08
Max breeding evidence	P	FL

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



WeBS counts from selected sites:

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

RHOSTOG GYNFFRONFRITH

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

Denbs. There were two records in Apr, almost certainly of the same single at Kinmel Bay / Horton's Nose on 6/04. The first 'autumn' record was a single at Rhos-on-Sea on 17/09 and for the rest of the year there were 1-3 at RSPB Conwy or Rhos-on-Sea.

Flints. During the first half of the year records were of 1-14 at various sites from Rhyl to RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. The first record was presence at Connah's Quay NR on 17/02 and the last record of the first period was 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 14/05. The first, early, 'autumn' record was a single at Point of Ayr on 23/07. Records during Aug to Oct were of 1-16, but in Nov counts were 1-60, with the maxima seen at different ends of the estuary – at Hawarden Bridge on 6/11 (JDG) and at Point of Ayr on 19/11 (GR). This could well have been the same flock. There were only four records in Dec of 1-40, with the maximum at Point of Ayr on 3/12 (GR).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

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

Recorded in each month in both counties.



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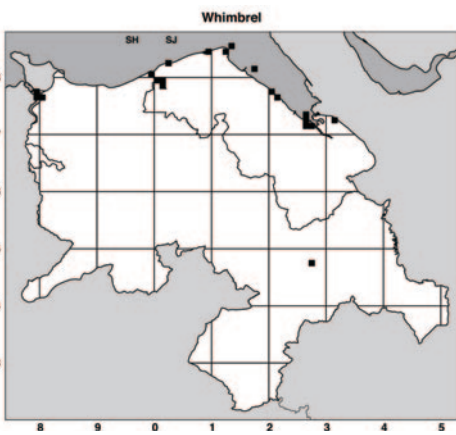
Denbs. About a quarter of records were of presence and all were at RSPB Conwy. During Jan to

(WM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	5	15
Maximum count	11	36
Av max count prev 10 yrs	29	25
Number of records	61	73
% of BirdTrack lists	3.4	3.1
Density	0.03	0.92

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

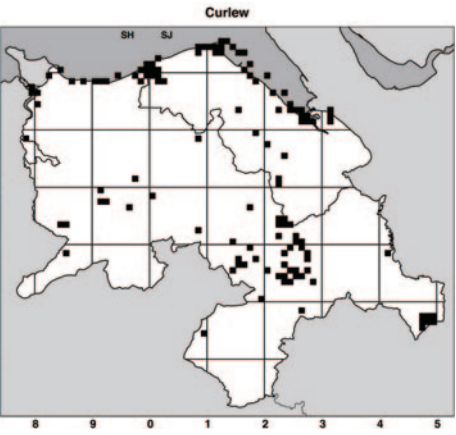
May counts were of 1-9, with the last record of that period being 4 on 13/05. There were then two months with no records, except one of presence on 30/06. Records picked up again from 10/07, when there were 3 and during Jul and Aug counts were of 1-43, with the maximum on 31/08 (JFJ). During Sep and Oct counts were 1-35, the maximum on 3/09 (JHg). During Nov and Dec counts were lower, with 1-4; the maximum on 5/11.



Flints. In Jan counts were of 1-400 (maximum at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 15/01 (PeHa)); in Feb they were 1-1,500 (maximum, again at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, on 2/02 (PeHa)). In Mar, numbers had dropped, with 1-500 (maximum at Connah's Quay NR on 5/03 (GEM)) and in Apr there were 1-400 (maximum at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 28/04 (PSH)). During May and Jun counts were 1-150, with the quietest month, Jul, having just 1-65. Numbers started to increase from 8/08 with 200 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PSH). Other counts were 1-2,000 in Aug with the maximum on 25/08, again at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (GR). During Sep there were 1-3,000 with 3,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 27/09 (PSH). During Oct there were 1-3,000 (maximum at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 20/10 (GR)). In Nov there were up to 4,000 (maximum, again, at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 20/10 (GR)); in Nov there were up to 4,000 with 4,000, again at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, on 4/11 (GR) and in Dec there

(CU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	75	47
Maximum count	500	1200
Av max count prev 10 yrs	427	1440
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	1/19
Number of records	417	490
% of BirdTrack lists	24.4	30.2
Density	18.98	95.76
Max breeding evidence	A	P

were 5-2,000, with the maximum at Talacre on 13/12 (DWn).



WeBS counts from selected sites:

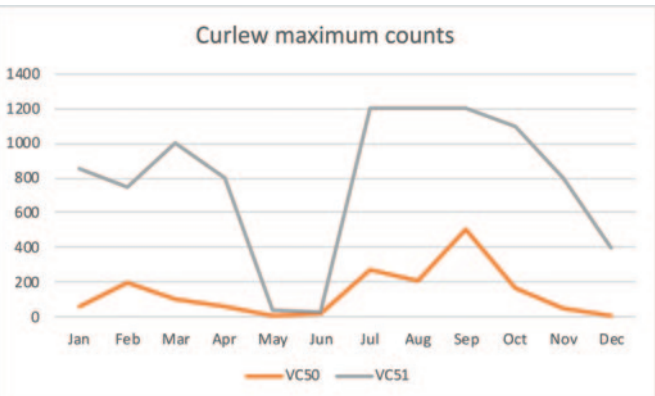
Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

CWTIAD Y TRAETH

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. Unlike 2016, the largest counts were in the early part of the year. Relatively few records were of presence or singles – the more specific counts being very welcome. In Jan the counts ranged from

1 to 325, with the maximum at Kinmel Bay on 15/01 (WRM). In Feb, counts were of 1-133, with the maximum, again, at Kinmel Bay on 13/02 (JPH). There were fewer records in Mar, which were counts of 3-250 and the maximum was at Horton's Nose on 30/03 (AHJ). These relatively high numbers continued into Apr, with 3-300 (300 at Kinmel Bay on 23/04 (WRM)). Numbers reduced considerably during May to Jul, with maxima of



36 in May, 68 in Jun and 127 in Jul. Numbers increased again in Aug, with counts of 1-260, and the maximum was at Kinmel Bay on 24/08 (WRM). In Sep the three records were 70-220, in Oct counts were 2-230 (230 at Kinmel Bay on 17/10 (WRM)) and in Nov counts were just 15-83 and in Dec, 2-36.

Flints. There was just one record of presence during the year. During Jan to May counts were 1-26, with the maximum at Holywell Bank on 11/02 (GR). The last record of the early months was a single near Gronant on 21/05. There were no records for about eight weeks, until a single was at Connah's Quay NR on 20/07. During Jul to Sep counts were 1-7 and the last of that period was 2 at Connah's

(CU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	17	29	109	24	1		273	212	236	167	47	5
Point of Ayr	850	750	1000	800	42	32	1200	1200	1200	1100	800	400
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	12	70	50	34	20	20	40	100	100	70	20	33

Quay NR on 10/09. There was another gap of about seven weeks, with no records, then a single near Rhyl on 2/11. During the last two months counts were 1-68, with the maximum near Mostyn on 3/12 (GR).

(BA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Common
Number of 1km squares	6	15
Maximum count	3	60
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	93
Number of records	15	41
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8	1.7
Density	0.01	1.53

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

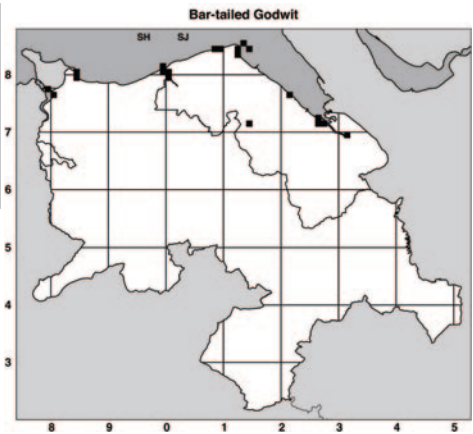
WeBS counts from selected sites:

Knot *Calidris canutus*

PIBYDD YR ABER

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

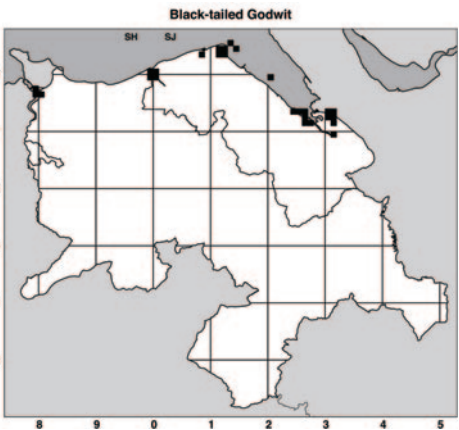
Denbs. Fewer birds were seen in fewer months than in 2016. A single was at RSPB Conwy on 15/01, then the next record was 2 on 5/07. Presence or singles were the other records, all at RSPB Conwy,



with the last, a single, on 31/12.

Flints. There was a dramatic reduction in the number of Knot seen during the year, with the maximum count down from 2,500 in 2016 to just 200. The number of records was much lower, too. During Jan to Mar the highest count was 100 at Talacre on 14/02 (NHu), with other counts of 1-28. After a five-week gap, there was presence at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 4/03 and 23 at Point of Ayr on 5/03 (JPH), with just 7 there on 12/03. After another gap of about seven weeks, there was a single at Gronant on 6/05 and 6 there on 14/05. There followed another period of absence of about eleven weeks, with just a single at Gronant in that period until 3 were at Point of Ayr on 10/09. Small numbers, 1-20, were seen until the year's maximum of 200 was at Point of Ayr on 19/11 (GR), with presence recorded on 18/12. Clearly, there has been a dramatic change in the migrations, and possibly population size, of Knot, for so few to be seen in the area.

(BW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	5	22
Maximum count	47	4000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	46	4516
Number of records	169	200
% of BirdTrack lists	9.1	15.7
Density	0.12	149.41



WeBS counts from one site:

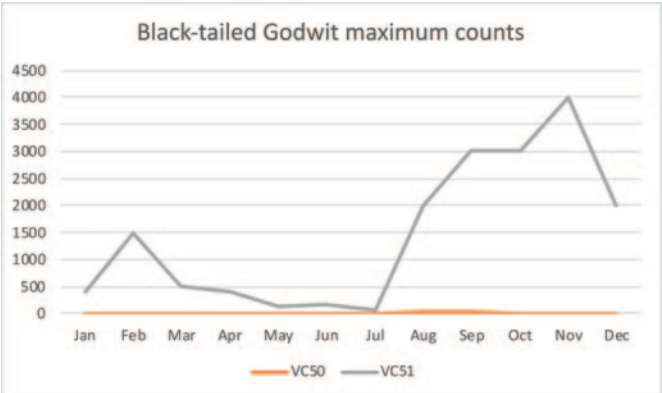
Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

PIBYDD TORCHOG

Passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. A single was in the environs of RSPB Conwy from 23/08 to 9/09.

Flints. Surprisingly, the only month in which Ruff was not recorded was Jul and then for a period of just six weeks between the last record in Jun and the first in Aug. The first 3 were recorded at Deeside Industrial Park on 2/01 then just a single was recorded until 24/03, when 5 were at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands (a more normal arrival date). Only 1-3 were seen from then until 12 were



at Connah's Quay NR on 10/09 (PeHa). Counts dropped to 1-4, until the last 3 were seen at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 3/12 (CW).

(BW)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	100			3					100	150	10	100
Flint, estuary	100	260	150		120			650			450	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	400	1000	200	10	14		30	1000	600	1000	500	6

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

PIBYDD CAMBIG

(TT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	15	14
Maximum count	325	68
Av max count prev 10 yrs	187	86
Number of records	114	38
% of BirdTrack lists	5.9	1.8
Density	2.47	1.62

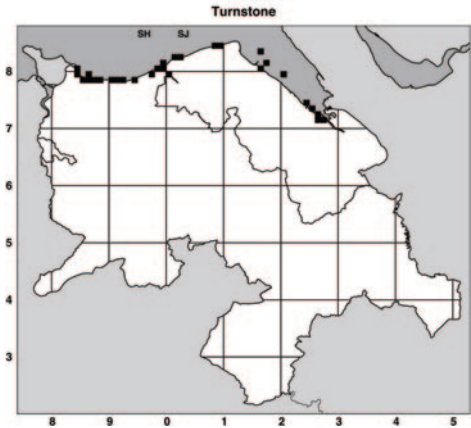
Seen in these months

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

Passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. The only record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 10/09.

Flints. The first record was a single near Rhyl on 15/08. The counts for the rest of the year were 1-6 with the maxima near Rhyl on 26/09 and 10/10



Turnstone (Mel Hughes)

(WRM). The last record was a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 13/12 (DWN).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*
PIBYDD Y TYWOD
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. During Jan and Feb counts were 7-474, with the maximum at Kinmel Bay on 24/02 (JPH). Thereafter, the counts during the early months dropped to 1-98. The last spring record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 12/05. The first 'autumn' record was 70 at Kinmel Bay on 19/09. There were just four records during Sep and Oct of 6-160, with the latest record of those months a count of 160 at Kinmel Bay on 17/10 (WRM). There followed a gap of about nine weeks before the next record, presence at Llanddulas on 26/12. The larger of two counts in Dec was 200 at Kinmel Bay on 26/12 (JFBy).

Flints.There were only seven records during Jan and Feb, with counts of 1-62, the maximum near Gronant on 12/02 during a WeBS count. There were no records from other sites that day. There were only two records for Mar and Apr, with counts of 1-2 but there was a modest increase during May and Jun, with counts of 2-50. There was a further increase during Jul and Aug, with birds returning from the N, with counts of 2-210, the maximum at Gronant dunes on 2/08 (HC). The remaining months were quiet with counts of 1-21.

(TT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rhos-on-Sea	86		3	4								
Llanddulas		14		34						41	78	4
Greenfield, offshore	20	26	17	1	6							

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

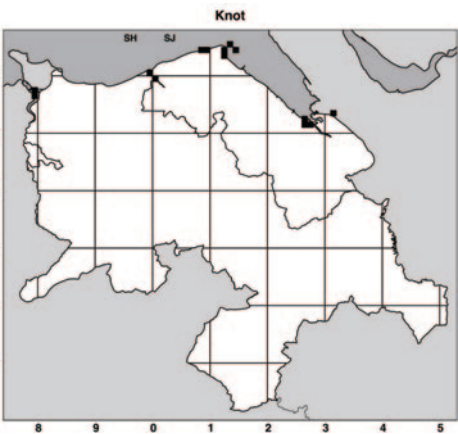
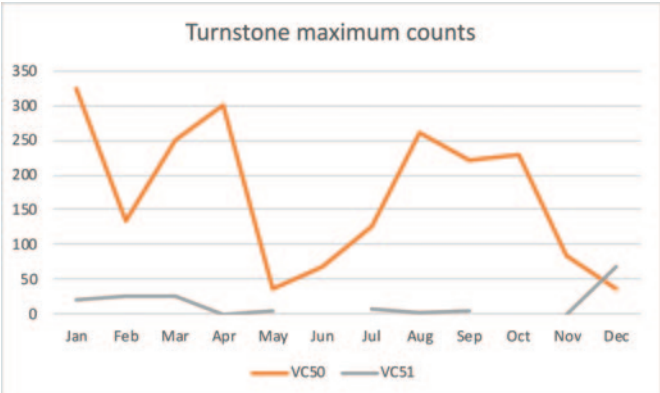
PIBYDD Y MAWN

(KN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	3	11
Maximum count	2	200
Av max count prev 10 yrs	7	5925
Number of records	8	31
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	1.6
Density	0.00	3.74

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

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.
Recorded in each month in both counties, except Jun in Denbs.

Denbs. The first two months had good numbers



with counts of 2-800, with eight records of 200+. The maxima were at Towyn on 19/01 and 24/02 (SM). During Mar and Apr numbers of both records and birds decreased considerably, with counts of 1-34. In May numbers decreased further, with counts of 3-25. The last 'spring' record was presence at RSPB Conwy on 30/05. The first 'autumn' record was presence there on 9/07. During Jul and Aug counts were 1-26, which were presumably non-breeding adults. Numbers increased somewhat during Sep and Oct, with counts of 1-90, the 90 at Kinnel Bay on 1/10 (RLE). For most of Nov and Dec numbers remained low, with counts of 1-96, but the last record of the year was the highest late winter count, with 600 at Kinnel Bay on 26/12 (JFBY).

Flints. Jan and Feb provided the highest counts of the year – 2-4,500, with twenty-two counts of 200+. The two highest counts were: 4,000 at Holywell Bank on 15/01 (GR), which was part of a set of WeBS counts, which totalled about 7,200 from eight sites; and 4,500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh

(KN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	28		7						3	200		

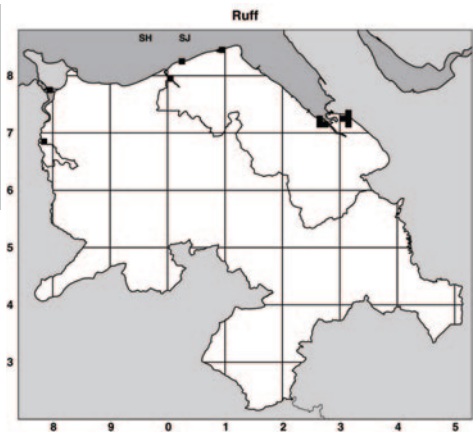
on 2/02 (PSH). Numbers reduced during Mar and Apr, with counts of 1-500, though in Apr the maximum was only 30. There was an increase in May, with counts of 1-1,000 which were probably migrants that had wintered further S, passing through on their way to breeding grounds in the Arctic. In contrast, Jun was quieter, with few records and counts of just 2-6. Jul saw an increase in numbers,

(RU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	9
Maximum count	1	12
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	6
Number of records	4	31
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	5.2
Density	0.00	0.18

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

with counts of 1-300, the maximum at Gronant dunes on 28/07 (HC). The numbers of records and birds increased during Aug, with birds arriving from the N. Counts were 1-800 with the maximum at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 21/08 (GR). During Sep and Oct there were good numbers of records, with counts of 1-300, the 300 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 4/10 (PSH). During Nov and Dec numbers increased with counts of 1-2,500. The maximum was at Point of Ayr on 19/11 during a WeBS count (GR). That day the WeBS total was about 3,800 from seven sites, about half the total in Jan.

WeBS counts from selected sites:



Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

PIBYDD DU

Winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. The two records were both at Llanddulas: 2 on 14/02 and a single on 24/12 (JPH).

(CV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	4
Maximum count	1	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	4
Number of records	1	34
% of BirdTrack lists	-	1.5
Density	0.00	0.04

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

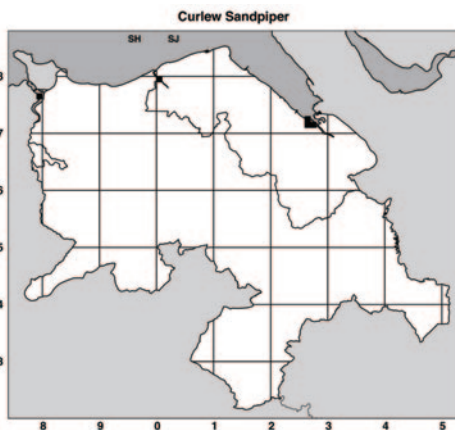
Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

PIBYDD BACH

Passage migrant.

Denbs. The records were of presence or singles, with one in each month. The first was at RSPB Conwy on 30/07 and the last, also there, on 25/10.

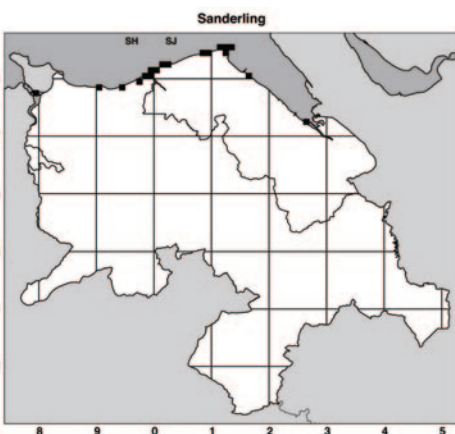
Flints. The first record was 5 at Connah's Quay NR on 17/09 and the last was 7 near Rhyl on 10/10. Counts were of 1-12, with 12 seen near Rhyl on 30/09 and 1/10 (WRM), probably the same birds.



(SS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	7	11
Maximum count	474	210
Av max count prev 10 yrs	198	220
Number of records	32	37
% of BirdTrack lists	1.7	2.8
Density	1.68	3.92

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



Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

CYFFYLOG

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

Denbs. All but one of the records were of singles. The exception was 3 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 7/01 (MiB). The first was at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 5/01 and the last early year record was at Llandegla Forest on 9/04. The first of the autumn was flying round over MiB's house at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 1/10. The last record was near Moel y Gwy in the Clwydians on 24/12.

Flints. The three records were all within a three-day window, 22 to 25/01 and all were singles. We are certain that this species is under-recorded. We need some gamekeepers to provide records on

Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus*

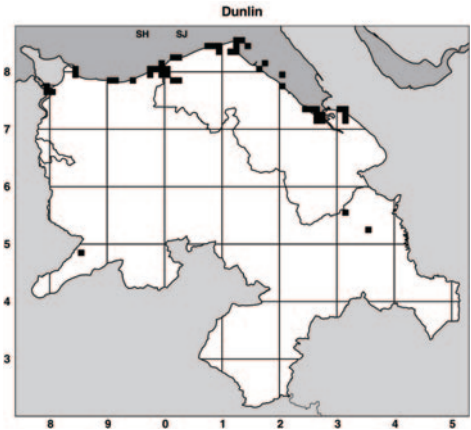
GĪACH FACH

Winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. All records were singles, with two exceptions. The first record was presence at RSPB Conwy

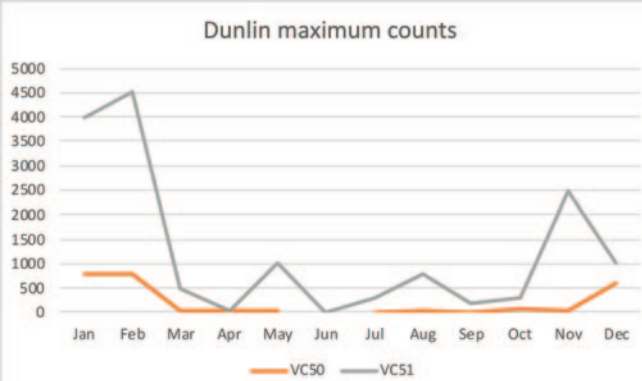
(DN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	17	31
Maximum count	800	4500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	445	4450
Number of records	165	303
% of BirdTrack lists	1.9	19.3
Density	6.88	236.84

on 1/01 and the last of the early year records was at Esclusham Mountain on 15/03. The first winter record was at Cae Llwyd Reservoir, Penycae on 3/12 and the last was at Esclusham Mountain on 22/12. The other exception was 3 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 11/12 (JPH).



Flints. All but one record were of singles. The first

record was near Rhuddlan on 1/01 and the only Feb record was near Gronant on 1/02. There followed a record from near Broughton on 19/04, then a long gap until 3/10 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands. The last record was at Connah's Quay NR on 6/12. The exception was 2 near Rhuddlan on 3/01 (AHJ).



Snipe *Gallinago*

gallinago

GĪACH GYFFREDIN

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

Denbs. Nearly 50% of records were of presence – a welcome increase in the number of counts. During Jan and Feb counts were 1-54, with 54 at RSPB Conwy on 15/02 (WRM). In Mar and Apr counts were 1-26, mainly at RSPB Conwy. In May and Jun there were just four records, but one was of confirmed breeding near World's End on 26/06 (JLR). The first 'autumn' record was presence at RSPB Conwy on 10/08. All the Aug and Sep records were from there, with counts of 1-9. The records from the last three months were mainly from RSPB Conwy, where there were the largest counts. Records were of 1-111 with 111 on 28/12 (WRM).

Flints. There were very few records of presence. During Jan and Feb counts were 1-80, with most fewer than 30. There were 80 at Gronant dunes on 9/01 (HC). In Mar and Apr, counts were 1-52, with most counts less than 20. The maximum was seen by the estuary at Flint on 12/03, during a WeBS count (ChMo). There was one record in Jun, a single at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands; four records

in Jul and four in Aug all of which were singles. There were seven records in Sep, with counts of 1-10. The number of records increased in Oct, with counts of 1-20. During Nov and Dec counts were 1-74, with many counts of 40+. The maximum was seen at Connah's Quay NR on 11/12 (DWN). There

(DN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	24	13	3	4			4	17	12	9	11	10
Point of Ayr	2000	2200	2	1	200	4	3	100	150	75	2500	
Greenfield, offshore	4000	800									280	350
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	200	1600	300	1	200			60	100	100	500	1000

were no records of breeding activity.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(PS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	-
Maximum count	2	-
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	-
Number of records	2	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-
Density	0.00	-

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

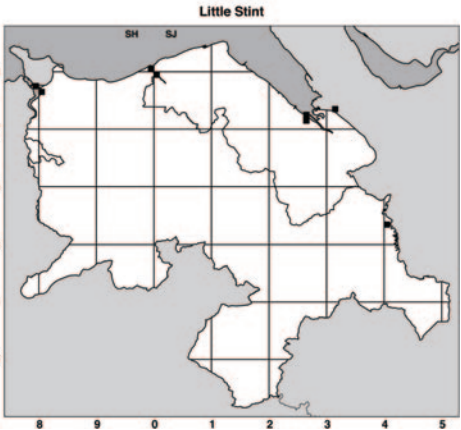
Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*
LLYDANDROED LLWYD

Vagrant.

Denbs. A single was at RSPB Conwy on 14 and 15/09 (WRM, ACD, RLE, JPH).

(LX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	5
Maximum count	1	12
Number of records	3	26
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	1.8
Density	0.00	0.10

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



Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

Passage migrant and breeding visitor. Red List.

Denbs. The first record was presence at Tal-y-cafn on 16/02, followed two months later by twenty-six records in Apr, the first of which was a single at RSPB Conwy on 10/04. The Apr records were of 1-3, mainly at RSPB Conwy. During May records were of 1-4, with 4 near Pont-yr-Alwen, Mynydd Hiraethog on 1/05 (PWh) and 4 at Wern-ddu, near Glyndyfrdwy, during a WBBS walk (NDg). During Jun and Jul most records were from RSPB Conwy, with a maximum of 7 perched in a line on a weir near Rhuthun on 4/07 (GPI). During Aug and Sep there were 1-3, mainly at RSPB Conwy, with the latest, a single, there on 14/09. There followed a record of presence at RSPB Conwy on 27/10.

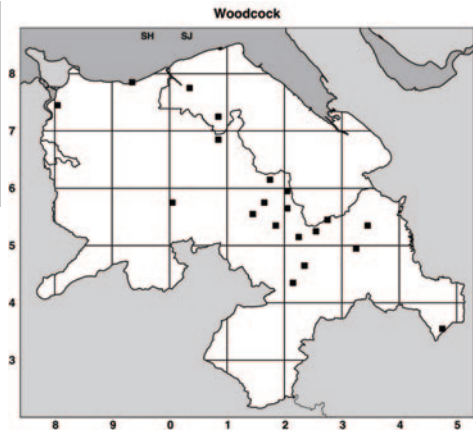
Flints. During Jan and Feb all but two records were of singles, the exception being 2 near Rhyl on

(WK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	17	3
Maximum count	3	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	7	5
Number of records	21	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.1
Density	0.03	0.01

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

24/02 and 27/02. The numbers of records increased considerably during Mar and Apr. The highest count was 7 at Connah's Quay NR on 26/04 (RRI). There were just five records in Jun, all singles, but more records in Jul, counts of 1-5, with 5 at Connah's Quay NR on 8/07 and 10/07 (possibly the same birds). During Aug and Sep there were counts of 1-3, mainly at Connah's Quay NR and during the last three months counts were 1-2, mainly at Connah's Quay NR.



Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

PIBYDD GWYRDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

Denbs. The first records were the largest counts of the year – 5 near Llandymnog and 9 in a flooded field near Denbigh on 18/01 (GPI). Thereafter, records were of presence or singles except for 2 near Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 27/03 (JPH). The last spring record was a single near Holt on 4/04. There was a single at RSPB Conwy during Jul from 3 to 22/07 and a single at Ysbyty Ifan on 25/07. A single

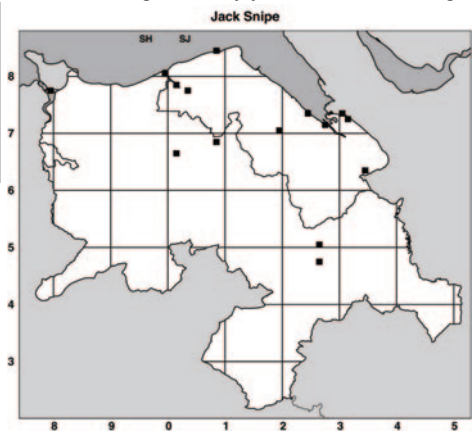
(JS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	6	9
Maximum count	3	2
Number of records	8	12
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.4
Density	0.01	0.03

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

was near Lleweni Hall on 6/11 and 4/12 (JPH).

Flints. All records were of singles. There were two records at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 7 and 15/01. The Apr record was near St Asaph on 19/04. The first 'autumn' record was near Rhyl on 20/07, followed by several records at Connah's Quay NR between 31/08 and 6/09. The last record was at Queensferry on 7/12 (DWn).



Redshank *Tringa totanus*

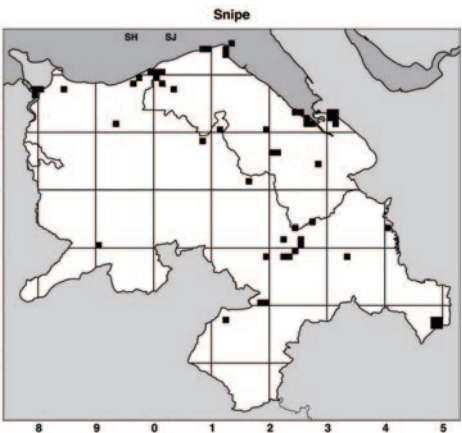
PIBYDD COESGOCH

Possible breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. About two thirds of the records were of presence or a few singles. During Jan and Feb the counts were 1-339, with 339 at RSPB Conwy on 12/02 (JHg) on a WeBS count. Numbers increased

(SN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	30	24
Maximum count	111	80
Av max count prev 10 yrs	56	72
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	-
Number of records	206	212
% of BirdTrack lists	10.9	9.9
Density	1.69	3.26
Max breeding evidence	H	

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



in Mar, with Mar and Apr counts of 2-479. The highest count was at RSPB Conwy on 2/03 (WRM). During May and Jun there were just eighteen records and counts of just a single in May and up to 26 in Jun. There was a large increase in Jul, with birds returning from their breeding grounds and counts of 1-507, the highest at RSPB Conwy on 23/07 (JHg) on another WeBS count. During Aug counts were 1-554, with the highest from another WeBS count on 13/08 (JHg). During Sep and Oct there were counts of 1-981, with the maxima recorded on WeBS counts: 981 on 10/09 and 582 on 8/10 (JHg). The last two months followed a similar pattern with two highest counts from WeBS counts: 548 on 19/11 and 398 on 17/12 (JHg).

Flints. There were many fewer records of presence than in Denbs. During the first two months counts were of 1-350, with the maximum at Talacre gas terminal on 11/02 (GR), during a WeBS count on a day with a total of 490 on the Dee Estuary. There was an increase in the number of birds in Mar, with counts of 1-1,200 and the 1,200 were at White Sands on 12/03 (AGr), part of a WeBS count with an estuary total of about 2,700 from ten sites. In Apr counts were 1-750, with 750 during a WeBS count at Flint on 9/04 (ChMo). That day there was a total of about 1,100 from eight sites. During May and Jun there were just fifteen records with counts of 1-1,600, the 1,600 at Connah's Quay NR on 27/07 (GEM). There were further increases in Aug, with counts of 1-5,000, the maximum at Connah's Quay NR on 24/08 (PSH). Numbers stayed about the same in Sep with counts of 1-4,800. The 4,800 were

(SN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	49	30	26	5				2		5	24	54
Flint, estuary	18	22	52									30
Connah's Quay NR	32	25	5							2	17	46

at Connah's Quay NR on 10/09 (PeHa), part of a WeBS count that gave an estuary total of about 6,400 from six sites. By Oct many had moved away, with counts of 4-2,000, with the highest count on 8/10 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa) as part of a WeBS count with a total of about 3,900 from ten sites. During Nov and Dec counts were 1-2,500, with the highest count at Flint on 27/11 (DWn) and a high count of 1,000 on 21/12 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa).

WeBS counts from selected sites:

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

Vagrant. RBBP.

(PL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	4	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	
Density	0.00	

Denbs. A single was at RSPB Conwy on 5/05.

Flints. The first record was at Rhydymwyn, when a single flew over GRMP and IMS, calling, during a Constant Effort Site ringing session on 13/07. The last record was at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 11/10 (AGr).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

(CS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	23	20
Maximum count	7	7
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	25
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	2/19
Number of records	122	220
% of BirdTrack lists	5.9	6.7
Density	0.08	0.24
Max breeding evidence	P	P

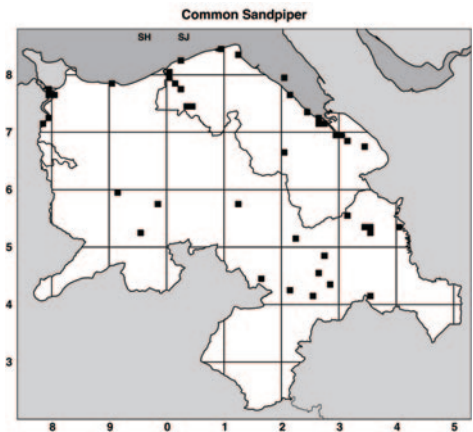
Seen in these months

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

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. All records were of presence or singles, with the first on 26/08 and the last on 30/08.

Flints. During Jan and Feb counts were 1-10, with 10 at Connah's Quay NR on 15/01 (PeHa). During Mar and Apr counts had decreased to 1-4, with the last of spring a single at Connah's Quay NR on 29/04 (RPI). The first 'autumn' record was 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 1/07 (PSH). In Jul and Aug counts were 1-14, with 14 at Connah's Quay NR on 24/08 (PSH). During Sep and Oct counts were 1-16, with 16 at Connah's Quay NR on 16/10 (PDS). During the last two months counts were 1-12, with 12 on 4/11 at the same place (GEM).



Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* PIBYDD COESWERDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP.

(GE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	8
Maximum count	9	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	4
Number of records	13	14
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	0.9
Density	0.03	0.01

Denbs. All of the records were from RSPB Conwy and most were of presence, with the first record on 20/04 and the last spring record on 5/05. The first 'autumn' record was on 14/07, a single, and

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

most of the remaining counts were of 1-3, with 4 on 5/11 (GNR) and the last record was on 6/11.

Flints. During Jan and Feb most counts were of 1-8, with 9 on 25/02 at Connah's Quay NR (PSH), this being where most records came from. During Mar and Apr counts were lower at 1-5, then in the next two months there were only seven records of 1-2. During Jul and Aug there was a modest increase in counts, 1-14, with 14 at Connah's Quay NR on 20/08 (PSH). In Sep and Oct there was another modest increase with counts of 1-20 with 20 at Connah's Quay NR on 2/10 (PSH) and on 27/10 (KLB). During Nov and Dec numbers reduced slightly, with counts of 1-12.

(RK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	26	44
Maximum count	981	5000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	432	3065
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	-
Number of records	376	510
% of BirdTrack lists	21.6	32.5
Density	12.91	373.51

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

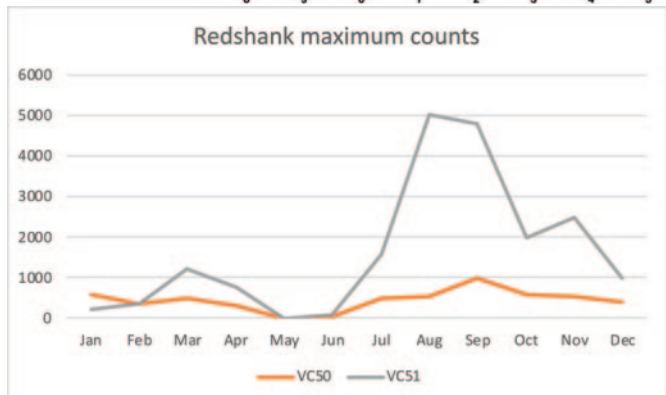
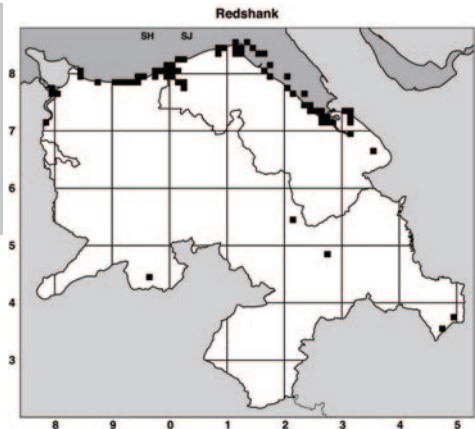
GWYLAN GOES DDU

Passage migrant. Red List.

There were rather more records this year than in 2016, with all except one coming in the early autumn. All records were coastal.

Denbs. There was a single at Colwyn Bay on 13/09 and 5 there on 15/09 (KS). There was also a late record of a single at Rhos-on-Sea on 16/12 (JFBy).

Flints. There were four records from Rhyl promenade in mid-Sep, with a maximum of 10 on 11/09 (RLE), two records of 1 and 2 from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh in Oct (PSH) and 10 at Point of Ayr on 12/09 (MGW).



Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Passage migrant.

Flints. A juvenile was at Point of Ayr on 12/09 (MGW).

GWYLAN SABINE

(RK)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	605	339	314	320	1		507	554	981	582	548	398
Point of Ayr	150	100	200	40			120		400	850	300	300
Greenfield, offshore	2	6	150	40			26	100	68	45	60	70
Flint, estuary	100	160	300	750			200	85	15		105	65
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	100	200	500	200			300	700	600	2000	400	200

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

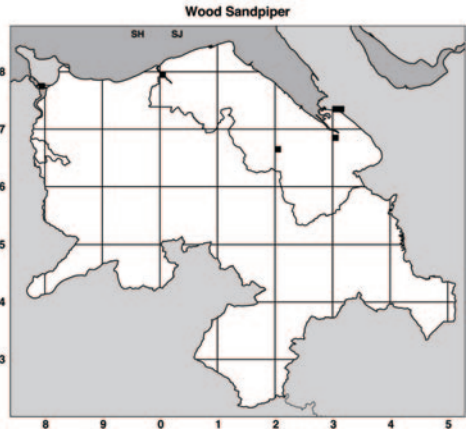
GWYLAN BENDDU

(OD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	5
Maximum count	1	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	0	0
Number of records	1	6
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.8
Density	0.00	0.01

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

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. S7.
Recorded in each month in both counties. The numbers of records were similar to 2016 and the maximum counts were lower than in 2016, though the Flints maximum was higher than the ten-year average.



Denbs. The majority of records were of presence only. During the first three months the maximum count was 1,000 at Horton's Nose on 9/02 (AHJ). There were eleven three-figure counts of 108-332 during that period and of these the highest was near Rhuddlan on 17/01. There were many fewer records during Apr to Jun and the maximum for that period was only 11 at RSPB Conwy on 14/05. The number of records increased during the next three months, with a maximum of 249 on 23/07 at

(DR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	1	7
Maximum count	1	18
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	16
Number of records	6	201
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	5.0
Density	0.00	0.21

RSPB Conwy (JHg). There were just three other three-figure counts of 100-205. During Oct to Dec there was a considerable increase in the number of records, with a maximum of 1,266 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 18/12 (JPH). During these months there were fourteen three-figure counts of 100-500. The only record of probable breeding (T) was from near Llyn Aled. This is an area where twenty

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

years ago there were at least three active colonies, even though they were small.

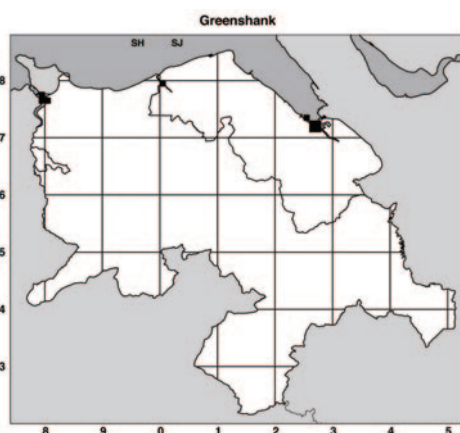
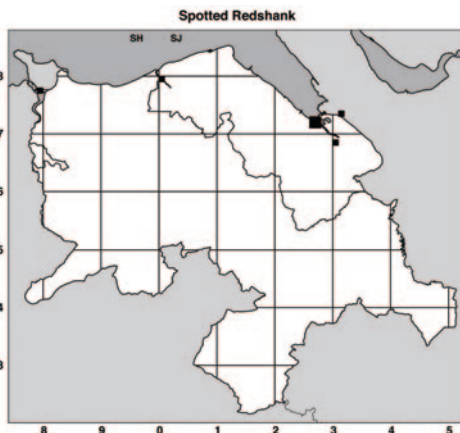
Flints. Many records were of presence. During Jan to Mar the maximum count was 1,000 at Rhyll promenade on 5/02 (AHJ) and there were thirty three-figure counts of 100-860. There were fewer records during the next three months and counts were lower with a maximum of 240 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 11/06 (PeHa) from a WeBS count. There were just six other three-figure counts of 104-200. One of them was 171 nestlings ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 18/06 and another 116 nestlings were ringed on 2/07 (pBH). During Jul to Sep the maximum count was 3,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh during a WeBS count on 13/08 (PeHa). There were three other four-figure counts of 1,000-1,500 and twenty-two three-figure counts of 100-700. During the last three months the maximum count was 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, a WeBS count on 8/10 (PeHa). There were twenty-six three-figure counts of 100-800, dropping

(GK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	4	6
Maximum count	4	20
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	24
Number of records	58	225
% of BirdTrack lists	3.1	5.1
Density	0.01	0.20

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

to a maximum in Dec of 300 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 11/12 (DWn).



Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

GWYLAN FECHAN

Passage migrant. Amber List.

Flints. All records were of singles. The first was seen in the Welsh section of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 24/03 (PEM), then at Connah's Quay NR on 23/04 (PSH). Five reports were all from Connah's Quay NR in early May: on 1/05 (PDS), on 15/05 (PSH) and on 17/05 (PSH).



Greenshank (Dermot Smith)

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

Visitor. RBBP.

(KI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	3
Maximum count	5	10
Av max count prev 10 yrs	22	9
Number of records	3	7
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.4
Density	0.01	0.05

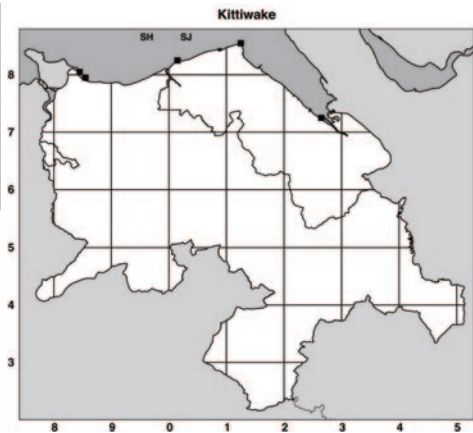
Seen in these months

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 further increase in the number of records in Flints, but slightly fewer in Denbs than in 2016.

Denbs. Most records came in Feb, from six different locations, including two inland near Wrexham. All were of 1-2, except for 3 at Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay on 24/02 (AHJ).

Flints. Eighteen records were from the Rhyl area, with the second concentration towards the top of the Dee Estuary around RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR. All were of 1-2, except for 4 in the Welsh corner of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 11/05 (PEM).



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

Common Gull *Larus canus*GWYLAN
GWEUNYDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

Recorded in each month in both counties, except Jul in Denbs and Jun in Flints. The maximum count in Flints was considerably lower than in

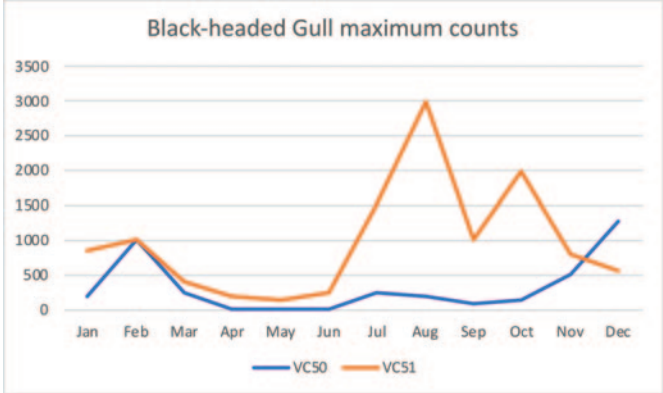
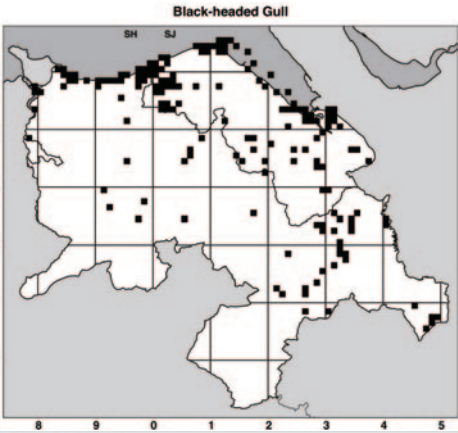
2016.

Denbs. During Jan to Mar the maximum count was 354 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 6/03 (JPH). The year started quietly, with a high count of only 167 in Jan (down slightly from 200 in Dec 2016). There was an increase to a maximum of 312, again at Lleweni Hall on 27/02 (JPH). Apart from these counts there were only three other three-figure counts of 100-300 in that period. There were only nine records in Apr to Jun, with a high count of 60 at RSPB Conwy on 10/06 (TP). There were only seven records in Aug and Sep with a maximum of 4 at Llanddulas on 6/08. Clearly, almost all had moved N to their northern breeding grounds. During Oct to Dec numbers increased with a maximum of 276 near Towyn on 26/11 (JPH) and four other three-figure counts of 100-214 during these months.

Flints. During Jan to Mar there was, initially, a large influx of gulls early in the year with a maximum of 1,000 at Gronant dunes on 9/01 (HC), up from a maximum of 350 in Dec 2016. In the first months

(BH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	86	81
Maximum count	1266	3000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1565	2354
Recorded in BBS squares	-	4/19
Number of records	608	681
% of records from GBW	0	0.15
% of BirdTrack lists	34.8	55.1
Density	55.10	412.56
Max breeding evidence	T	FL

there were fourteen three-figure counts of 100-550. During Apr and May the largest count was early, with 500 at Rhuddlan on 1/04 (SH) after which numbers dropped to a maximum of 50. During Jul to Sep the maximum was 80 near Gronant on 22/08 and most other counts were of 22 or fewer. The number of records increased during the last three months, with the highest count of 200+ at Glust, near Hendre, on 12/12 (MGW). During these months there were six other three-figure counts of 105-180.



Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The majority of records were of presence. During Jan to Mar the highest count was 52 at Kinmel Bay on 24/02 (JPH). There were five other two-figure counts of 10-20. Apr to Jun were nearly without gulls, as the maxima for those months were 4, 2 and 2. Jul had a high count of just 2 and a record of possible breeding (H) at Llyn Brenig. There were a few more in Aug (maximum 15) and Sep (maximum 9). Numbers stayed low (i.e. 10 or fewer) until late Dec, when between 24 and 29/12 there were five two-figure counts of 16-40.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(BH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	6	6	78	2	11	5	249	205	39	152	173	10
White Sands	160	40	400	75	71	12		250	250	200	2	15
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	100	100	40	23	36	240	120	3000	1000	2000	200	

Flints. There were relatively few records of presence. In the first three months there were seven two-figure counts of 10-57, with the maximum near Gronant on 15/01 (GR), a WeBS count. During Apr to Jun there were only three two-figure counts of 10-14, but breeding was confirmed near Prestatyn. There was a modest increase during Jul to Sep, with eighteen two-figure counts of 10-45. The maximum was near Rhyl on 12/09 (JPH). During Oct to Dec numbers increased a bit more, with eighteen two-figure counts of 10-63. The year's maximum was at Point of Ayr on 8/10 (JLg), a WeBS count.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(LU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		3
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	8
% of BirdTrack lists		0.8
Density		0.01

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

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus* GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

Winter visitor.

Denbs. The first record was a single at Horton's Nose on 14/01 (AHJ), then a single at Gresford Flash, Wrexham on 29/01 (KS) and a single at Old Colwyn, Colwyn Bay on 25/02. The first autumn record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 25/10 (JHg). The remaining records were of a single at Llanddulas from 23/12 to 30/12 (many observers) – the same bird continued to be seen well

into 2018.

(MU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	9	12
Maximum count	3	4
Number of records	16	31
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	2.9
Density	0.01	0.08

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

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

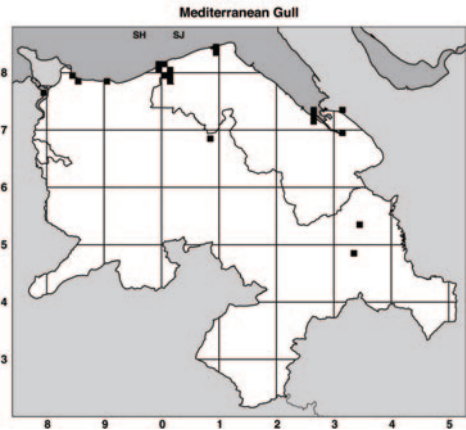
GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

Winter visitor.

With only three records in each county it is likely that just three separate birds were involved.

Denbs. A single was at Towyn on 14/01, then there were two reports of a single at RSPB Conwy on 10/03 (JHg).

Flints. A single was on the Welsh section of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 16/12 (MRP) and a single was at Connah's Quay NR the following day (PSH).



(CM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	47	49
Maximum count	354	1000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1985	2310
Number of records	130	314
% of BirdTrack lists	7.2	26.3
Density	8.42	83.19

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

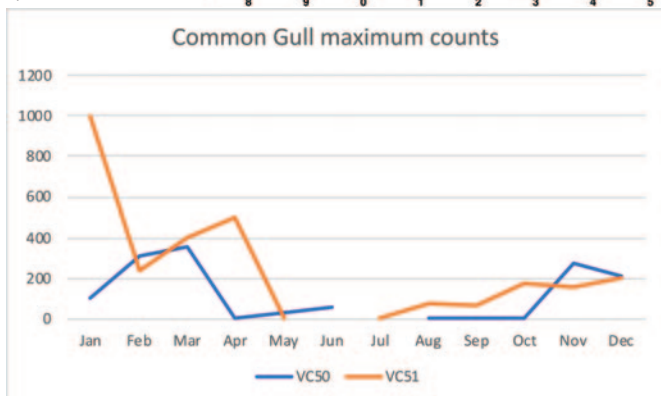
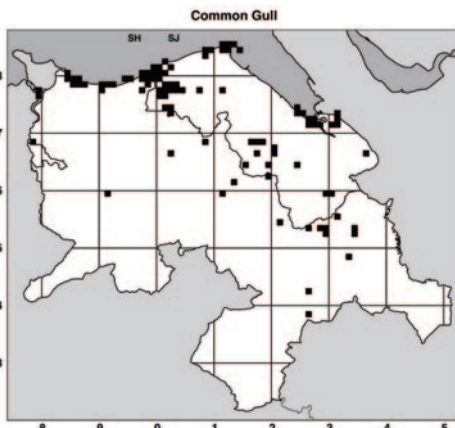
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Over half of the records were of presence only. In Jan to Mar the maximum count was 2,945 at Kinmel Bay on 24/02 (JPH). There were five other four-figure counts

(1,293-2,000 between 5/01 and 8/02). There were seventeen three-figure counts of 100-800. The counts decreased considerably in Mar, to a maximum of 176. During Apr to Jun there were still many records but the counts were of small numbers, with a maximum of 500 at Kinmel Bay on 25/05 (SM). There were just three other three-figure counts of 100-305. Counts remained low in Jul,

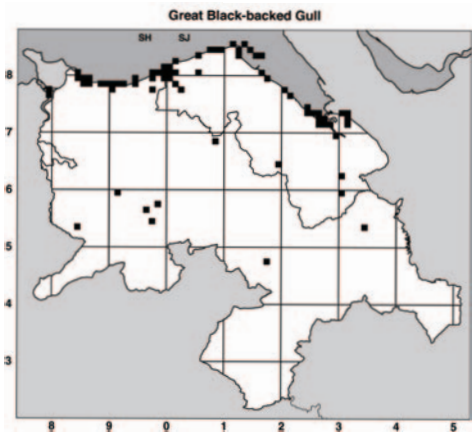
with a maximum of 169 at RSPB Conwy on 23/07 (JHg) and there were three other three-figure counts of 100-150. Numbers increased in Aug and Sep, with a maximum of 800 at Llanddulas on 2/08 (GEM) and three other three-figure counts of 100-321. During the last three months the highest count was 1,240 S of Towyn on 30/12 (JPH). There were twelve three-figure counts of 100-557. Breeding was confirmed mainly on the coast but also at Llyn Brenig.

Flints. Here, too, about half of the records were of presence only. During Jan to Mar the highest count was 3,500 at Point of Ayr on 15/01, a WeBS count (GR), with a total in that general area of about 5,800 from WeBS counts during the day. There were two other four-figure counts, 1,208 and 2,000 and seventeen three-figure counts of 100-550. After a drop in Mar to a maximum of 380, numbers increased in Apr to Jun with maxima of 1,000 at Point of Ayr during a WeBS count on 9/04 (GR), 1,200 at Talacre on 22/05 (HC) and 1,000 at Point of Ayr, during a WeBS count on 11/06 (GR). There were twenty-three three-figure counts in Apr to Jun of 127-900. During Jul to Sep there was a dramatic change. Jul was similar to the previous months with a high count of 1,200 at Gronant dunes on 17/07 (HC) and on a WeBS count at Point of Ayr on 23/07 (GR). Aug had a maximum of 700 at Gronant dunes on 2/08. The huge change was a maximum of 8,000 at Point of Ayr, on another WeBS count on 10/09 (GR), though this time most of the gulls in the area were together for that one count. During Jul to Sep there was another big count of 1,544 near Rhyl on 12/09 (JPH) and twenty-nine three-figure counts of 100-800. During Oct to Dec numbers dropped to lower than during the summer months, with maxima of 857 in Oct, 163 in Nov and 286 in Dec and eight other three-figure counts of



100-430. Breeding was confirmed at sites on or near the coast.

(GB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	31	40
Maximum count	52	63
Av max count prev 10 yrs	22	89
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/19
Number of records	305	315
% of BirdTrack lists	17.6	26.5
Density	0.82	4.28
Max breeding evidence	H	NY



Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

GWYLAN CASPIA

Vagrant.

Denbs. A single was at RSPB Conwy on 13/05 (JHg). Accepted by the WRP.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

GWYLAN GOES FELEN

Visitor. RBBP.

Denbs. A single was at Gresford Flash, Wrexham on 19/11 (KS).

Flints. Recorded in two areas: near Rhyl and around Connah's Quay NR. Most sightings were singles

(GB)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant	57	24	24	6	6	4	13	8		53	59	27
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	12	10	6	5	7	4	3	23	10	25	8	

but 2 were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30/07, 20 and 21/10 (PDS).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF

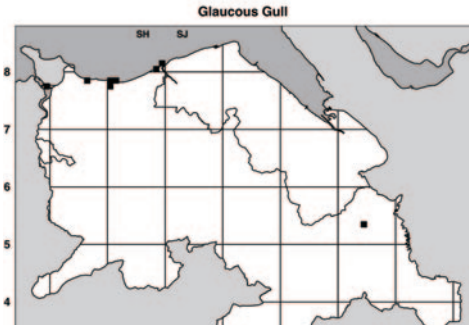
Passage migrant and breeding resident. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties. The highest count in Flints increased considerably this

(GZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	8	
Maximum count	2	
Number of records	25	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	
Density	0.01	

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

year.



Denbs. At least half of the records were of presence only. In the first three months the highest counts were 200 on 29/01 and 12/02 at Gresford Flash, Wrexham (KS), dropping to 145 there on 2/03 (IMS). All other counts were 1-43. During Apr to Jun numbers decreased further to maxima of 50 in Apr, 20 in May and 26 in Jun. In Jul numbers increased to 120 near Rhosllanerchrugog on 10/07 and 100 at Llyn Brenig (SD). Maxima in Aug and Sep were 9 and 5. There were very few records during Oct to Dec, with maxima of 4 in Oct, 90 in Nov and 50 in Dec. Breeding was confirmed at two coastal sites and Llyn Brenig.

Flints. There were many fewer records of presence than in Denbs. Early maxima were 30 in Jan, 30 in Feb and 40 in Mar. There was a slight increase in Apr to 100 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 9/04 (PeHa), then maxima of 40 in May and 60 in Jun. There was another slight increase in Jul to 100, inland near Bagillt, on 18/07 (GRMP) and then a relatively huge increase to 1,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, during a WeBS count on 10/09 (PeHa). During the last three months numbers dropped to maxima of 400 in Oct, 356 in Nov (both DWn) and 155 in Dec (PDS), all at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. Breeding was confirmed (NY) at one coastal site.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

MÔRWENNOL BIGDDU

Summer migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. The first sighting was over a month earlier than last year, with 2 at Kinmel Bay on 22/03 (AHJ). Only small numbers were seen during spring passage. During the year 38% of records came from the Kinmel Bay area, with the highest count being 300 on two occasions in Aug (SM). There were also 200 at Colwyn Bay on 13/09 (KS). The last record was 2 at Colwyn Bay on 10/10 (PJW).

Flints. The first record was 5 at Rhyl promenade on 8/04 (AHJ). A large amount of overlap of Denbs records occurred around the River Clwyd where mobile flocks contained up to 800 on 19/08 (RLE). This is an important area for the species post-breeding and 32% of records came from here. The other main site was Gronant beach, which hosted 42% of records, with a peak count of 500 from 11 to 12/05 on spring passage and 400 post-breeding on 8/08 (HC). The last record was 25 at Rhyl promenade on 15/09 (RLE).

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

MÔRWENNOL FECHAN

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

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

Flints. The first record was 30 at Gronant dunes on 2/05, four days later than last year (HC). All but one record came from the Point of Ayr and Gronant areas where the species bred. The outlying record was of 4 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 9/07 (Agr). A total of 161 pairs

fledged 202 young at Gronant, the highest number of pairs and the second highest number of fledged young since wardening began in the 1970s reflecting a very good breeding season. Merseyside Ringing Group applied metal rings to half of all chicks that hatched and a fifth were colour-ringed. Two adults were also colour-ringed. The highest count here was 600 on 25/07 (HC), a total that included family groups from the Isle of Man and Ireland, feeding up post-breeding. A pair once again bred at Point of Ayr and had two chicks, but only one fledged. The last sighting of the year was 5 there on 12/09 (MGW).



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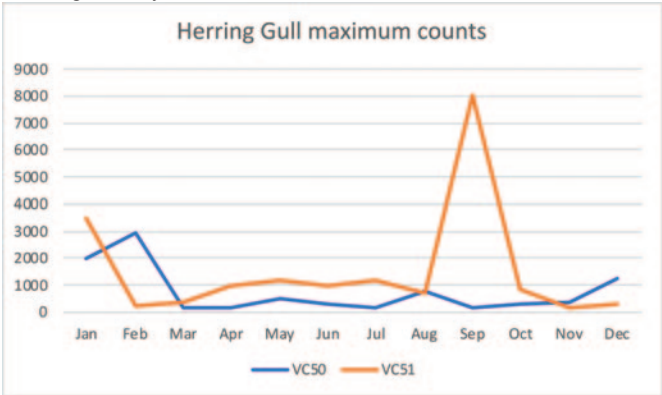
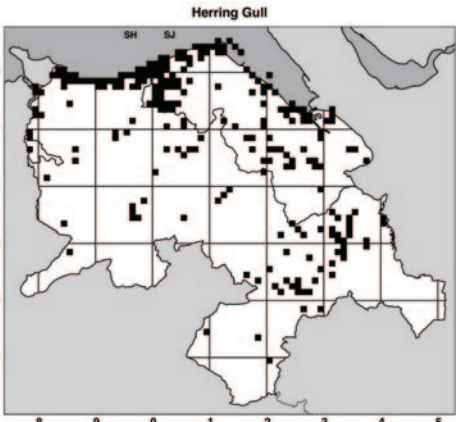
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

MÔRWENNOL GYFFREDIN

Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Red List.

(HG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	134	102
Maximum count	2945	8000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2099	1892
Recorded in BBS squares	12/31	11/19
Number of records	1017	752
% of records from GBW	0.29	0.53
% of BirdTrack lists	60.9	63.2
Density	199.71	1385.40
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

Flints. The first of the year was a single at Rhyl promenade on 8/04 (AHJ). Otherwise records were almost exclusively from the Dee Estuary area. Connah's Quay NR hosted half of all records, the site's proximity to the large colony at Shotton steelworks accounting for these. Numbers at Connah's Quay NR peaked at 50 on several dates in Jun (PSH). Records also came from Bagillt, Point of Ayr, White Sands, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (hosting 150 on 01/05 (PDS)) and Shotton Steelworks. At the last site, 399 chicks were ringed during Jun and Jul (pBH). The last sighting of the year was of a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 3/10 (PSH).



Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

MÔRWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Passage migrant. Red List.

Denbs. A single was at RSPB Conwy on 27/10 (JJ).

Flints. The first was a single at Shotton on 17/04. In Apr there was a large flock of 50 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 27/04 (PSH). There were two records of singles in Aug: at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 8/08 and Holywell Bank, Dee Estuary on 13/08 (ChMo). The former site also hosted the last records of the year, with 2 on 3/10 and 5/10 (PSH).

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(HG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	37	133	176	88	177	154	169	321	159	207	79	67
near Rhuddlan	220	70		127	89		144	276		368	13	
Gronant	550	180	380	421	49	900	264	200		857	66	172
Point of Ayr	3500	200		1000	30	1000	1200		8000	167	40	10
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	12	30	5	46	12	24	12	100	40			

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

CORSWENNOL DDU

Passage migrant.

Denbs. A single was at Kinmel Bay on 1/10 (RLE).**Flints.** A relatively good showing of the species this year. The first was a single at Shotton from 22 to 23/04. This was followed by 5 at Connah's Quay NR on 30/04 (PDS) and 11 on the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 2/05 (CW). One late season record was a single on 3/10 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PSH).**Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

SGIWEN FAWR

Passage migrant.

Denbs. A single was at Colwyn Bay on 13/09 (KS)

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

Flints. Singles were seen from Rhyl promenade on 3/09 (JPH) and 11/09 (RLE), with 2 there later the same day (AHJ). A single was at Point of Ayr on the following day, 12/09 (MGW).

Caspian Gull (Marc Hughes)

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

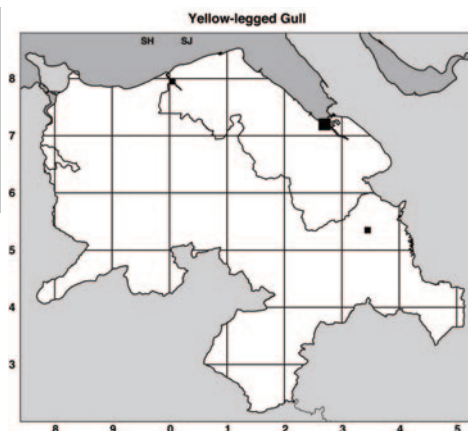
SGIWEN FRECH

(YG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	5
Maximum count	1	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	1
Number of records	1	23
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.6
Density	0.00	0.02

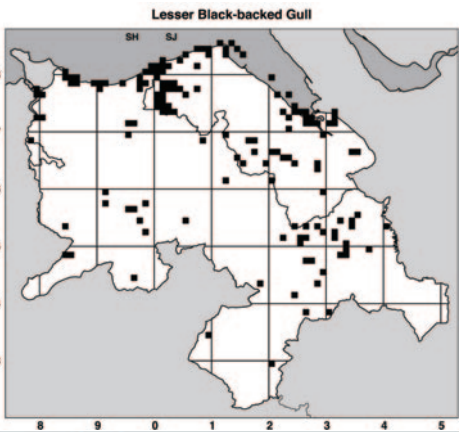
Seen in these months

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

Passage migrant.

Flints. There were 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22/10 – the first record since 2013 (PSH).

(LB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	81	67
Maximum count	200	1000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	899	118
Recorded in BBS squares	7/31	6/19
Number of records	381	475
% of BirdTrack lists	24.5	40.2
Density	8.20	113.75
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY



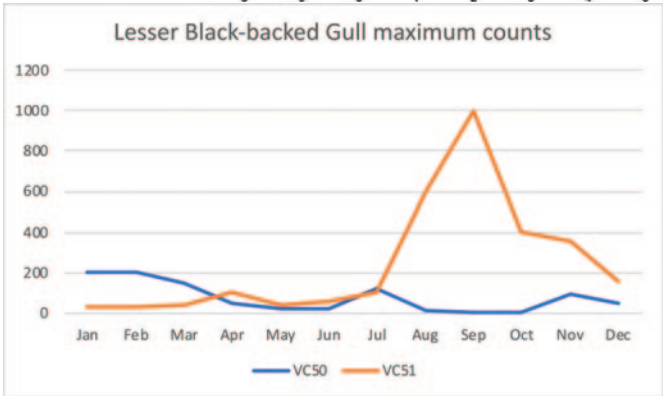
Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

Scare passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. There was a single at Colwyn Bay on 13/09 and again on 15/09 (KS).

Flints. In spring a single was at Gronant Dunes on 3/05 and an early autumn one there on 8/08 (HC). There was 1 at Rhyl on 25/08, then 2 on 10/09 and 11/09 (JPH). There were 2 off Point of Ayr on 12/09 (MGW) and the last record was of a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 3/10 (PSH).



Guillemot *Uria aalge*

GWYLOG

Winter visitor. Amber List.

The nearest nest site is on the Ormes just outside our area.

Denbs. The highest count was 5 off Colwyn Bay on 15/09 (KS), while most records were singles. The last sighting in spring was a single at Pensarn on 9/04 (MaO) and the first autumn sighting was on 13/09 at Colwyn Bay (KS).

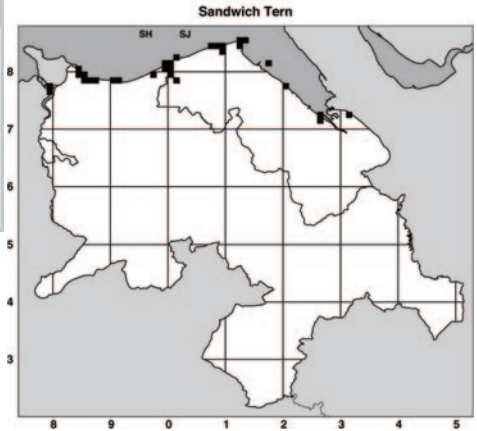
(LB)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy			7	9	9	10	8	4				
near Rhuddlan	9	2		15	4		19	22		3	6	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	30	30	20	100	40	50	70	600	1000	200	20	
White Sands	5	3	12	7	6	12		8	58	18	3	7

Flints. The highest count was 10 at Rhyl Promenade on 11/09 (AHJ). There was an unusually high count of 6 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22/10 (PSH). The only sighting in the first half of the year

was from Rhyl Promenade on 1/04 (AHJ) and the first autumn sighting was a single on 9/09 at Connah's Quay NR (PDS).

(TE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	13	17
Maximum count	300	800
Av max count prev 10 yrs	316	726
Number of records	47	100
% of BirdTrack lists	2.5	6.4
Density	1.97	23.09
Max breeding evidence		H

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



Razorbill *Alca torda*

LLURS

Winter visitor. Amber List.

The nearest nest site is on the Ormes just outside our area.

Denbs. The highest count was 6, resting on the sea close inshore at Llandudlas on 16/10 (GEM) and 5 were seen offshore at Pensarn on 9/04 (MaO). One was seen at Rhos-on-Sea on 17/01 (WRM) and another was found dead at Colwyn Bay on 1/12.

Flints. The highest count was 3 on 1/04 at Rhyl Promenade, where there were 2 on 25/03 and 1 on 8/04 (all AHJ). The only other report was of 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22/10 (PSH).

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

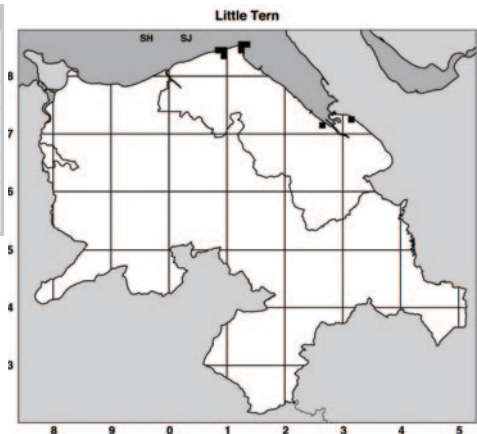
COLOMEN Y GRAIG

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Although there are many truly feral birds nesting at

(AF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Common
Number of 1km squares		8
Maximum count		550
Av max count prev 10 yrs		352
Number of records	0	85
% of BirdTrack lists		5.6
Density		7.47
Max breeding evidence		NY

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



quarries, bridges and other man-made structures, some flocks of homing and racing pigeons may be included here.

Denbs. The highest count was 230 at Kinnel Bay on 19/09 (SD). Nearly all counts of 30+ came from the coastal area at the mouth of the Clwyd estuary, though there were 51 at Nant-y-Glyn on 30/10 (HC). There were three records of confirmed breeding (ON, NY) at Pensarn and Towyn, where an

occupied nest was present on an old petrol pump at Towyn Road car wash, as early in the year as 8/02 (all WRM).

Flints. The highest count was 56 at both St Asaph on 4/01 and Rhyl on 28/09 (both JPH). Away from the Clwyd estuary, the highest count was 41 at Flint on 27/11 (DWn). There were three records of confirmed breeding (NY) at Rhyl and Prestatyn (JPH, WRM).

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

COLOMEN WYLLT

(CN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very common
Number of 1km squares		14
Maximum count		255
Av max count prev 10 yrs		498
Number of records	0	75
% of BirdTrack lists		3.3
Density		6.06
Max breeding evidence		N

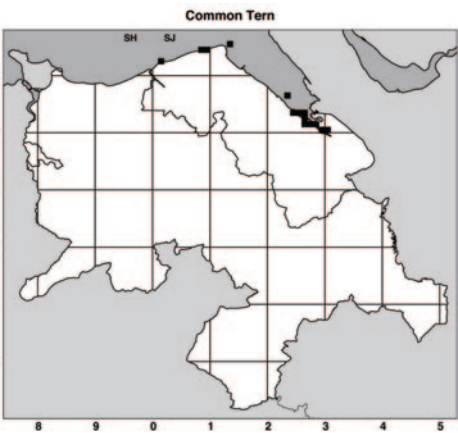
Seen in these months												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident.
Recorded in each month in both counties. The maps show that this species is scarce along the coast, compared with Wood and Feral Pigeons.

Denbs. The highest count was 16 at Dyserth on 15/04 (SH). Breeding was confirmed by ringing of nestlings on 16/06 at both Glasfryn (IMS) and Mynydd-y-Glyn near the Tanat Valley (MkH). Nest building was observed at Llansilin during 21/03-29/04 (JO).

Flints. The highest count was 40 at Connah's Quay NR on 16/09 (PeHa). Breeding was confirmed (NE) at Shotton Paper Mill on 16/06 (IMS).

Breeding (IMS):



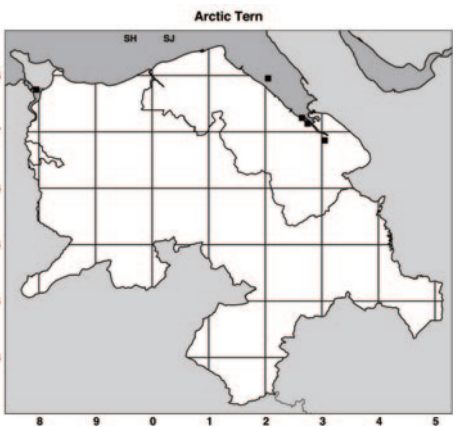
(AE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	4
Maximum count	1	50
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	2
Number of records	1	7
% of BirdTrack lists	-	-
Density	0.00	0.34

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

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

YSGUTHAN

Breeding resident.
Recorded in each month in both counties.



Denbs. The highest count was an extraordinary 956 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 28/11 with two other winter counts of 100+ at the same site (JPH). Other high counts were 350 flying N at Penrycae on 13/11 (JAJ), 300 at Rhewl on 1/12 (GPI), 254 at Chirk Castle on 3/12 (KGr), 250 at RSPB Conwy on 20/11 (JHg) and 160 which were flushed by shooting at Hanmer on 21/11 (SD). There were six records of confirmed breeding. Nestlings, broods of 2, were ringed at Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog on two occasions (pBH).

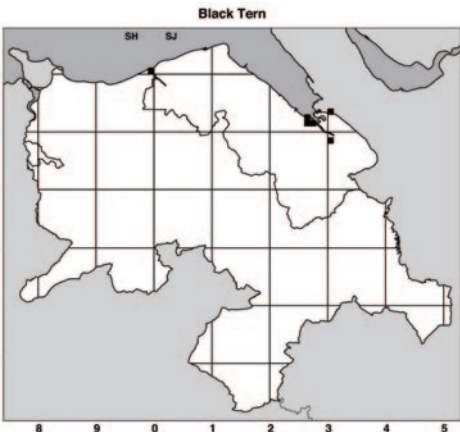
(BJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	5
Maximum count	1	11
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	2
Number of records	1	6
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-
Density	0.00	0.09

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

Flints. The highest count was 350 at Shotwick Fields on 4/01 (SAH). There were seven records of confirmed breeding at five locations.

Breeding (MRG):



WREXHAM BIRDWATCHERS

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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.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

TURTUR DORCHOG

Breeding resident.

(NX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	2
Maximum count	1	2
Number of records	1	4
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.3
Density	0.00	0.01

Recorded in each month in both counties. The maps show that the urban and rural distribution of this species is very similar to that of the House Sparrow, whereas the Feral Pigeon is much more concentrated in urban areas and the Wood Pigeon follows the observer coverage map quite closely.

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 counts were 30 in a stubble field near Rhuthun on 1/11 (GPI) and 20 at Bangor-is-y-Coed on 21/11 (SD). There were five records of confirmed breeding (FL) on

five different dates at Towyn, with recently-fledged young on 29 and 30/04, 29/08, 15/10 and as late as 16/12 (all SM).

Flints. The highest counts of 97 on 8/01 (AHJ) and 55 on 2/11(SM) were both from the area S of Rhyl Brickworks. There were three records of confirmed breeding (FL, NY) at Prestatyn on 18/06 (JPH) and Rhyl Brickworks on 22/06 (RLE) and 26/06 (AHJ).

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

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* COG

Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

Successful breeding is hard to confirm for this

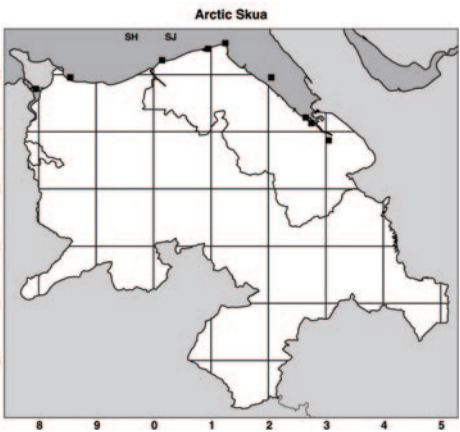
species without locating a parasitised nest. "Territoriality over one week" was the highest breeding code supplied (at Moel Arthur, GEM) and there were no records that specifically identified juvenile birds.

(AC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	4
Maximum count	1	2
Number of records	2	7
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.5
Density	0.00	0.01

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 arrival was on 16/04 at Penycae (RMg) with many records from 20/04 onwards. The latest date was 10/08 at Fenn's Moss (StBw), presumably a juvenile. The highest counts were 3 at Moel Famau on 2/05 (IW) and at Ruabon Mountain on 24/05 (JmS). At RSPB Conwy on 27/06, one was seen to take 16 caterpillars from the ground, within twelve to fifteen minutes (WRM).

Flints. The first record was a single on 18/05 near Pontblyddyn (GNR) and the latest date was 22/06 at Gwernaffield (TP). The highest counts were 2 singing males near Ddol on 26/05 (GRMP) and at Penycloddiau on 27/05 (EdW).



Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

TYLLUAN WEN

(GU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	3
Maximum count	5	10
Number of records	11	6
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	0.3
Density	0.02	0.05

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

Breeding resident.

Denbs. Breeding was confirmed (NY) on 16/06 by ringing of 6 nestlings at Glasfryn and 4 nestlings near Gwytherin (both IMS). There were numerous Jun-Jul records of evidence of nest box use in the Wrexham area (EB, JLR). One was found dead in a field by the A5 road at Cerrigydrudion (HWJ). Pellets in an empty house in the Nantglyn-Bwylchau area suggest use as a winter roost (TK). Of three sightings in the Wrexham area, two were after dark at Pentre on 19/09 (EB) and during a bat survey near Holt on 12/06 (AE) and one was at mid-day at Gyfelia on 13/12 (pJLR).

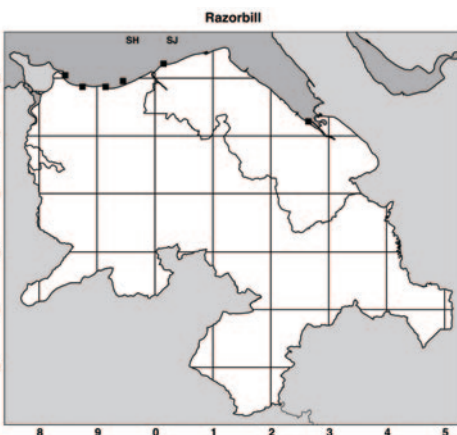
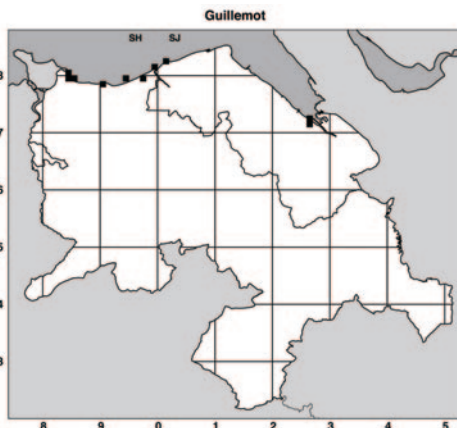
Flints. Breeding was confirmed (NY) by the ringing of 4 nestlings near Hawarden Industrial Estate on 28/06 (IMS) and a pair was present on 15/03 at Shotton Paper Mill (IMS - one was ringed). There were sightings at Mold on 9/02 (AE), at Rhuddlan on 23/05 (JNW) and at Connah's Quay NR on 29/09 (PDS).

Breeding (JLR, IMS):

(RA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	4	2
Maximum count	6	3
Number of records	4	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.3
Density	0.01	0.01

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



Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

TYLLUAN FRECH

Breeding resident.

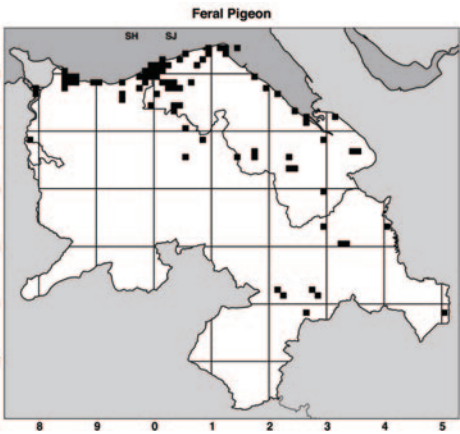
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The majority of records were of presence or counts of 1-2. There was just one record of confirmed breeding at Eglwyseg on 21/05. The highest count was 4 at the same place on 26/08 (both NiSu). There were three records of probable breeding at three other locations.

Flints. More than half the records were just of presence with several counts of 1-2. There was one

record of confirmed breeding at Penycloddiau on 27/05 (EdW). The highest count was 3 at Rhydymwyn on 18/09 (IMS). There was one record of probable breeding at another location. On

(FP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	40	42
Maximum count	230	56
Av max count prev 10 yrs	93	52
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	4/19
Number of records	425	342
% of records from GBW	6.82	25.44
% of BirdTrack lists	27.4	25.7
Density	4.66	3.99
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



18/09, IMS was with GRMP ringing and in the dark IMS whistled at a couple of calling owls. Very soon after, a juvenile flew into a net where IMS had been standing.

Breeding (MRG):

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

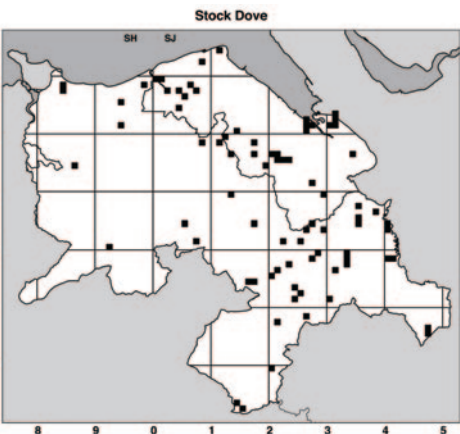
TYLLUAN FACH

Breeding resident.

There were only two records this year, compared with nineteen records in 2016 (although nine of those were from this year's site at Holt and all were from the Wrexham area). There were no Flints records this year, compared with reports from three different sites in 2016. The scarcity of records is surprising since Little Owls are often active in daylight. This species has been under-recorded, but by how much? All records are welcome.

Denbs. The only records were of singles at Holt on 14/03 (NF) and Chirk Castle on 14/06 (JRn). There was no evidence of breeding.

(SD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	50	30
Maximum count	16	40
Av max count prev 10 yrs	78	47
Recorded in BBS squares	7/31	5/19
Number of records	109	89
% of records from GBW	13.76	2.25
% of BirdTrack lists	4.3	10.3
Density	0.40	2.04
Max breeding evidence	NY	NE



Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

TYLLUAN GLYSTIOG

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

This is a very scarce, but regular, breeding visitor to moorland areas and a winter visitor to lowland areas.

Denbs. There were winter records from Fenn's Moss on 12/01 (MaS) and 9/02 (DvT, GgO) and spring

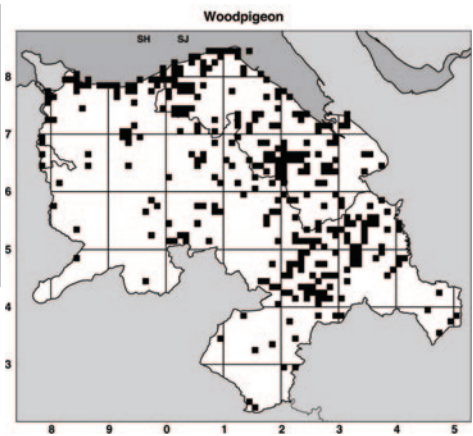
records at Ruabon Mountain on 27/03 (pJLR) and Rhydtalog on 28/04, but the only summer record was a single in the Berwyns on 1/06 (WyJ).

Flints. Winter records only of singles at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 1/01 (MREP), RSPB

(SD)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glasfryn	1	2	2	2	2.00

Oakenholt Marsh on 21/12 (PeHa) and Gronant on 1/11 (WRM).

(WP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	220	126
Maximum count	956	350
Av max count prev 10 yrs	873	497
Recorded in BBS squares	29/31	19/19
Number of records	1634	1395
% of records from GBW	41.86	42.72
% of BirdTrack lists	57.9	71.1
Density	106.44	74.87
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

TROELLWR MAWR

Breeding summer visitor. Amber List. S7.

This species has been under-recorded, as it is almost certainly present in Cioacaenog Forest (Denbs) and Nercwys Forest (Flints). All records are welcome.

Denbs. The first record was on 28/05 at Coed Hafod near Betws-y-Coed (MiPB). The last, very late on 3/09 at Fenn's Moss, was flushed from old pine logs (AtG, RGa). All other records were in Jun and Jul. The highest count of 8 was recorded five times between 14/06 and 12/07 at Llandegla Forest (NoWi). There were two records from Ceiriog Forest, 4 on 14/06 (DeS) and 3 on 15/05 (NHu). There were no records of confirmed breeding this year and one record of probable breeding.

(WP)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Ceiriog Valley	5	10	5	3	0.60

Swift *Apus apus*

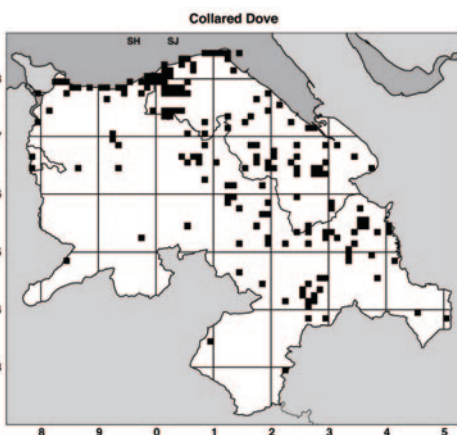
GWENNOL DDU

Summer visitor. Amber List.

The best way to confirm breeding of this species is to see "Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating Occupied Nest (including high nests or nest holes, the contents of which cannot be seen)". Descriptions that appear to meet this criterion are mentioned below, even when no breeding codes were submitted.

(CD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	107	72
Maximum count	30	97
Av max count prev 10 yrs	23	41
Recorded in BBS squares	8/31	11/19
Number of records	954	752
% of records from GBW	67.71	52.53
% of BirdTrack lists	18.0	32.5
Density	1.62	11.86
Max breeding evidence	FL	NY

Denbs. Both the first record on 25/04 and the last on 17/09 were from RSPB Conwy (JHg). The highest count was 60 at Pentrefelin in the Conwy Valley on 29/07 (MiB). Records where nesting was implied were received from Pendre, Penycae, Colwyn Bay, Glyndyfrdwy, Rhos-on-Sea and Valle Crucis Abbey.

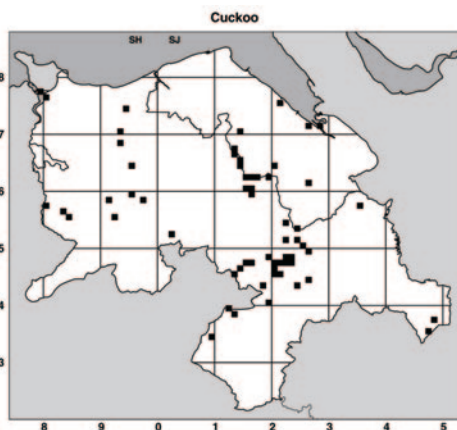


Flints. Both the first record on 27/04 and the last on 10/09 were at Connah's Quay NR (PSH). The highest count was 340 at Connah's Quay NR on 6/08 (PDS). The only records where nesting was implied were from two buildings in Flint.

(CK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	54	7
Maximum count	3	2
Recorded in BBS squares	7/31	2/19
Number of records	82	8
% of records from GBW	1.22	12.5
% of BirdTrack lists	2.3	0.1
Density	0.08	0.02
Max breeding evidence	T	S

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



Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

GLAS Y DORLAN

Breeding resident. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

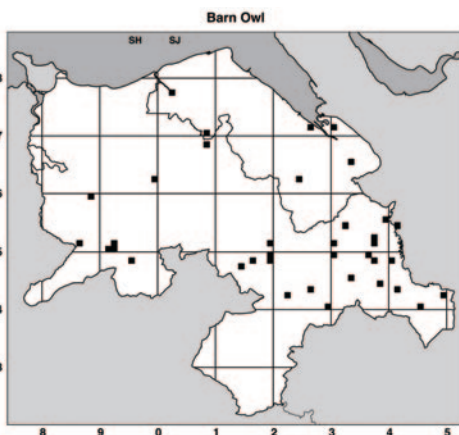
Denbs. All records were of presence or counts of 1-2. There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding but there were Apr-May records from the River Clwyd at Rhuthun (GPI), from the River Dee at Holt (SuLo) and from near the River Elwy at Llangernyw (AnWi), which suggest that breeding may have taken place nearby.

Flints. A pair was seen displaying at Rhyl Brickworks on 10/04 (HC) and another entering a nesting burrow at an unusual location near Flint on 1/05 (NHu). There were also Apr-May records from the River Clwyd at Rhuddlan (SH) and St Asaph (ShG), and from the River Alun at Mold (GEM) and Rhydymwyn (AE). The wintering birds at Connah's Quay NR were last seen on 12/03 (WK) and they re-appeared there on 25/06 (PSH). Ninety-seven of the records in Flints (61%) were from Connah's Quay NR and twenty-five (16%) were from Rhyl Brickworks.

(BO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	32	3
Maximum count	6	4
Number of records	33	8
% of records from GBW	3.03	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.2
Density	0.10	0.03
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

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



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*

CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF

Breeding resident. Red List. RBBP. S7.

All five records were of singles in winter.

Denbs. Singles were reported at RSPB Conwy on 3/03 (RoH), Penycae on 19/12 (JAJ) and Marford Quarry on 19/12 (TBT). One near Rhuthun on 12/11 was described as a regular visitor.

Flints. A female at Rhydymwyn on 12/11 (MGW) was the only record.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF

Breeding resident.

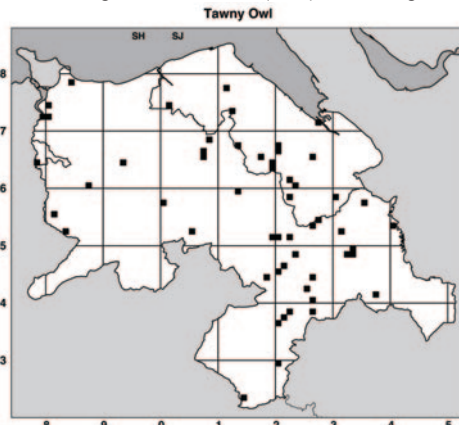
Recorded in each month in both counties

(BO)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Denbs	16	59	50	42	2.63
Flints	1	4	4	4	4.00
TOTALS	17	63	54	46	2.71

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1-3. The highest counts were 10 at Chirk Castle on 17/03 (JRn) and 8 on feeders at Pentrefelin near Llangollen on 28/12 (JLR). Breeding was confirmed at eight localities, including nests with

(TO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	41	14
Maximum count	4	3
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	1/19
Number of records	136	66
% of records from GBW	48.53	51
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	1.352
Density	0.08	0.07
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

young at both Eglwyseg on 31/05 (NiSu) and in a silver birch at Plas Maenan in the Conwy Valley on 19/05 (ABa).



Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1-3. The highest counts were on BBS walks, with 7 at Mold on 23/04 (IMS) and 5 at Wepre Park on 14/05 (JSy). The only records of confirmed breeding were a juvenile ringed at Bagillt on 24/06 (GRMP) and one seen at Rhydymwyn on 15/08 (MGW).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

CNOCELL WERDD

Breeding resident. Amber List.

This species remains scarce and numbers have changed little over the past 10 years.

(TO)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Near Pandy	1	2	1	1	1.00

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1-2. Breeding was confirmed at Bodfari, when a juvenile was seen near a used nest on 22/07 (OPJ). There were two records of probable breeding at Llansilin (JO) and Fenn's Moss (RbHa). Many records were from the Clwydian Hills or the Vale of Llangollen

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

Flints. Thirteen out of thirty-four records were from Rhydymwyn. The only records of 2 were from Rhydymwyn on 16/08 (GRMP) and Penycloddiau on 27/02 (EdW)

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

CUDYLL COCH

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

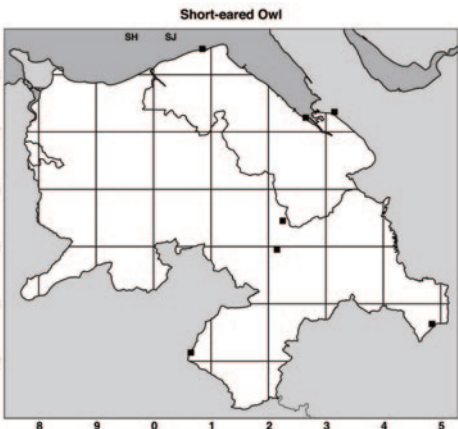
Denbs. Only presence or singles were recorded during the first four months, with three exceptions: records of 2 twice in Mar and 4 on 9/03 at Esclusham Mountain (JFJ). During May and Jun there were two more records of 2. A brood of 4 nestlings was ringed near Wrexham on 7/06 (IMS). During Jul and Aug most records were singles, with one record of 2 and two of 3. During the last four months most records were of presence or singles, with three records of 2 and two records of 3. There was

(SE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	4	3
Maximum count	2	1
Number of records	5	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.6
Density	0.00	0.01

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

just the one record of confirmed breeding.

Flints. In the first four months most records were of presence or singles, with four records of 2. During May to Aug, again most records were of presence or singles, with seven records of 2 and one of 5: nestlings ringed at Shotton Paper Mill on 7/06 (IMS), the only record of confirmed breeding



(NY). During the last four months most records were of presence or singles, with one record of 2 and one of 4 at Connah's Quay NR on 7/09 (PSH).

Breeding (IMS):

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

CUDYLL BACH

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. RBBP.

Denbs. All but two records were of presence or singles. The two exceptions were counts of 2 at

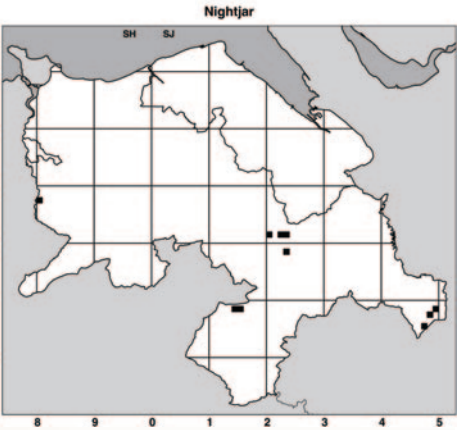
(NJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	10	
Maximum count	8	
Number of records	15	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	
Density	0.04	
Max breeding evidence	T	

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

Fenn's Moss on 13/01 (DeK) and at Esclusham Mountain on 24/06 (SD), which was the only record of probable breeding.

Flints. All but one of the records were of presence or singles, with 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 26/10 (PSH). There were no records of breeding activity.



Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

Passage migrant and summer breeder. RBBP.

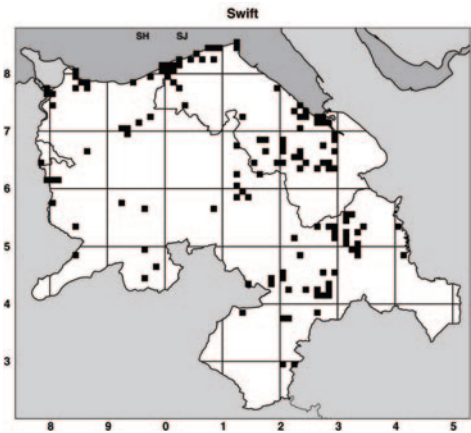
Denbs. The first record was a count of 4 at Fenn's Moss on 3/04 (BaP), one of only two records in Apr. During the summer there

were twenty-six records of presence or singles, six records of 2 and one each of 3 and 5. All the large counts were at Fenn's Moss, with 3 on 1/05 and 5 on 14/05 (BaP). There was one record of a family,

(SI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	81	56
Maximum count	60	340
Av max count prev 10 yrs	131	140
Recorded in BBS squares	8/31	7/19
Number of records	233	162
% of records from GBW	7.30	4.94
% of BirdTrack lists	8.5	8.5
Density	2.46	32.33
Max breeding evidence	B	P

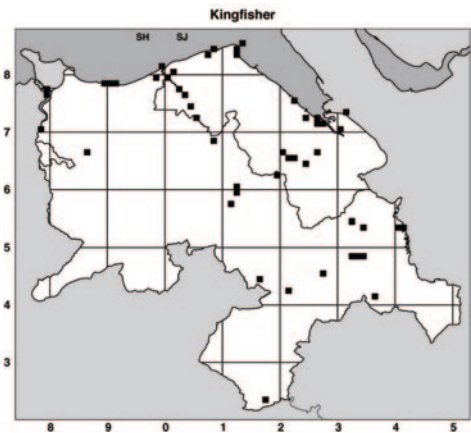
Seen in these months												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

including an adult and a juvenile, and though no breeding code was provided this is equivalent to confirmed breeding. This was also the last record on 10/08 near Almere.



Flints. The first record was a single at Connah's Quay NR on 1/05 (AW). The last was a single there on 23/09 (PSH). There were no records of breeding activity.

(KF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	27	22
Maximum count	2	2
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	2/19
Number of records	70	159
% of BirdTrack lists	2.7	4.7
Density	0.03	0.07
Max breeding evidence	H	D





Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

HEBOG TREMOR

Breeding resident. RBBP.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. All but two records were of presence or singles. There were 2 seen near Eglwyseg on 1/06 (NiSu) and 4 at a site with confirmed breeding (NY) on 4/06 (JNW). There were two records of probable breeding at other sites.

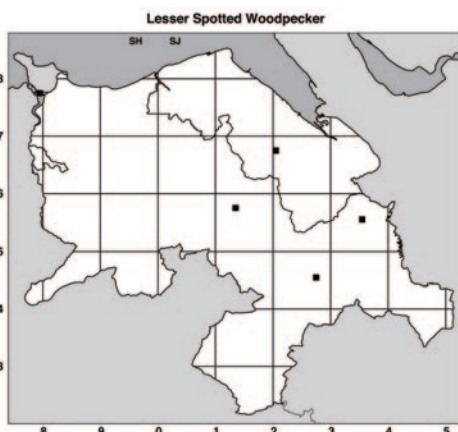
Flints. Ninety-seven records were of presence or singles and seventeen were records of 2. Counts of 3 were recorded at Dyserth on 13/06 (JPH), at Connah's Quay NR on 4/07 (TBT) and at RSPB

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

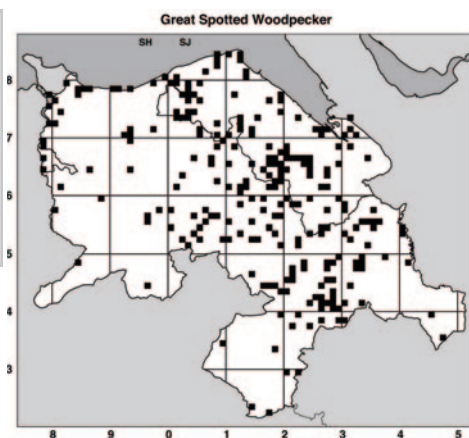
Seen in these months

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

Oakenholt Marsh on 4/10 (PSH). Two counts of 4 were recorded, the first of juveniles with their parents (totalling 6 altogether) at a nest in the N of the area on 14/06 (MrHu). By ten days later the young had fledged. The other count of 4 was at Gronant dunes on 2/08 (HC). There were two records of confirmed breeding (NY) at different sites.



(GS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	165	82
Maximum count	10	7
Recorded in BBS squares	16/31	13/19
Number of records	827	499
% of records from GBW	54.29	54.31
% of BirdTrack lists	16.5	16.5
Density	0.84	0.97
Max breeding evidence	NY	FL



Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

PARACIT TORCHOG

Occasional visitor from a growing UK feral population.

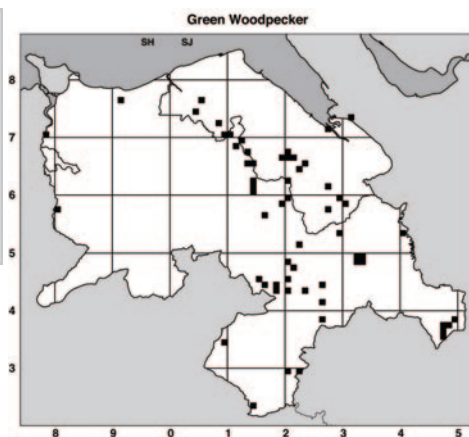
Denbs. There was an inland sighting at Wrexham on 24/04 (NHu) and a second at Kinmel Bay on 2/11 (TBT); both of singles.

Flints. There were 4 flying over Llanasa on 20/01 (AB) and 3 singles at the same location in Rhyl, possibly of the same bird: 22/09 and 29/09 (AHJ) and 2/11 (NHu), the latter record possibly being the same bird seen just W of Rhyl, in Denbs on the same day. There was one inland record of a single at Greenfield Valley on 27/11.

(G)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	40	20
Maximum count	2	2
Recorded in BBS squares	4/31	2/19
Number of records	64	34
% of records from GBW	1.56	2.94
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	2.9
Density	0.04	0.07
Max breeding evidence	P	S

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



Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

CIGYDD MAWR

Winter visitor.

Denbs. Twelve records from the Clocaenog Forest area all came in the space of a fortnight between 11/03 and 26/03. Two records were from Llyn Brenig: 29/11 (PEM) and 30/11 (SM). These two records probably related to a single individual.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

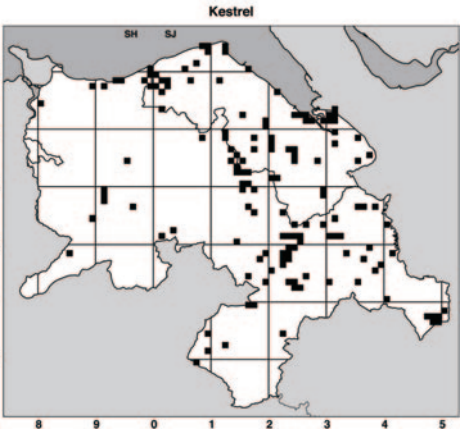
YSGRECH Y COED

Breeding resident and winter visitor.
Recorded in each month in both counties, with the distribution and numbers of records similar to previous two years.

Denbs. The vast majority of records were counts of 1-2, with only forty-two records of more than 2.

(K)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	90	52
Maximum count	4	5
Recorded in BBS squares	3/31	2/19
Number of records	153	177
% of records from GBW	3.27	0.56
% of BirdTrack lists	5.6	12.8
Density	0.18	0.44
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

The maximum number recorded was of 9 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 23/10 (JPH). Reporting from BBS squares increased this year with over a third of surveys recording Jays. Despite this being a relatively common bird, there was only one record of confirmed breeding.



Flints. Most records were of 1-2, with only six records of 3-5. The maximum seen was of 5 at Bagillt on 14/01 (GRMP). Records came from over half of the BBS squares this year.

Magpie *Pica pica*

PIODEN

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1-9, but there were twelve larger counts, with the largest being 18 at Nant-y-Glyn on 10/10 (HC).

(K)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Wrexham	1	4	4	4	4.00
Shotto Paper	1	5	5	5	5.00
TOTALS	2	9	9	9	4.50

Flints. Most records were of 1-9, with twenty-eight records of 10 or more. Many of these larger counts were accumulative counts from BirdTrack lists or BBS surveys, with between 10 and 14 birds regularly encountered on BirdTrack lists from Rhuddlan (SH). Notable garden records came from Buckley where DaSh saw 13 in week beginning 29/01. The large winter roost located behind Rhyl college again produced the highest numbers recorded; 26 on 26/02 and the maximum of 73 on 8/01 (AJH). Records of any other winter roosts would be welcome.

(ML)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	14	14
Maximum count	2	2
Number of records	20	35
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	2.3
Density	0.01	0.05
Max breeding evidence	P	

Seen in these months

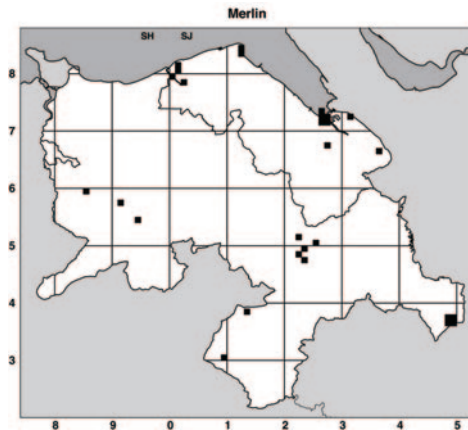
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

BRAN GOESGOCH

Resident and sometimes breeder. Amber List. RBBP. S7.

Denbs. Most records were from RSPB Conwy outside the breeding season, when 2 were seen on several occasions. The maximum of 3 was seen on 7/10 (JHg). During the breeding season, 2, probably pairs in each case, were seen at Ruabon Mountain, World's End on 3/04 (MNg) and at Tal-y-Cafn on 21/05 (ABr).



Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

JAC-Y-DO

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. The distribution of records was very similar to the previous two years and the number of records was almost identical to 2016.

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. Whilst the majority of records were of counts less than 20, the number of records of 20-100 increased significantly this year to ninety-six. Only three larger flocks were recorded; 103 at Chirk Castle on 17/03 (JRn), 166 at Llewenni Hall, Bodfari on 16/08 (JPH) and the maximum of 228 at Llandyrnog on 14/09 by HC. One interesting observation was of hunting down and catching a male House sparrow through the apple trees and taking it off to eat in the oak trees at Towyn on 1/05 (SM).

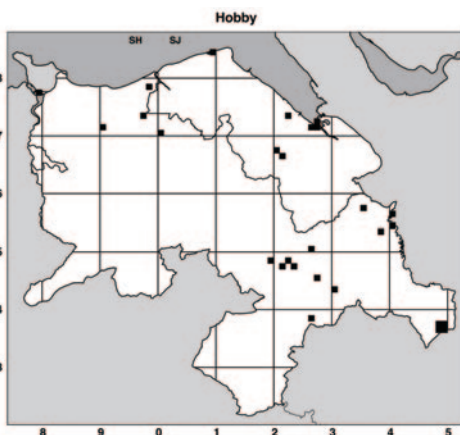
Flints. Most records were of 1-20 but there were one hundred and thirty-five records of between 20 and 100. As many of these larger counts came from BirdTrack lists they do not necessarily relate to individual flock sizes. There were nineteen records of 100+, with notable numbers coming from Connah's Quay NR and Rhuddlan but the largest flocks were observed in the Cilcain area with 250 seen on 30/06 and 11/08 (GEM).

Breeding (MRG):



Hobby (Henry Cook)

(HY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	21	7
Maximum count	5	1
Number of records	37	13
% of records from GBW	2.70	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	0.4
Density	0.05	0.01
Max breeding evidence	FL	



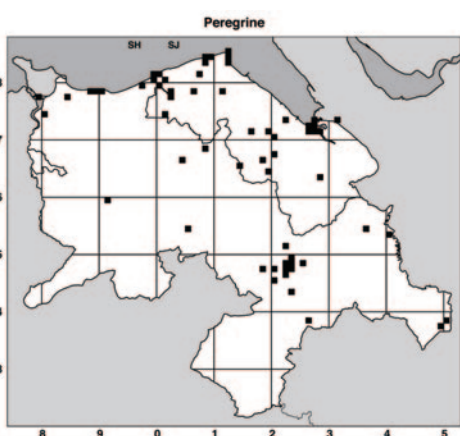
Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

YDFRAN

Colonial breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a significant decrease in records from 2016 in both counties. Very few rookeries were recorded. Efforts to locate and count rookeries would be appreciated in future years. 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.

(PE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	31	29
Maximum count	4	6
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/19
Number of records	50	119
% of BirdTrack lists	1.6	5.6
Density	0.06	0.20
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



Denbs. Most records were in single figures, with thirty-two records of 11-49 and four records of 50-100: a very similar pattern to the previous two years. There were three larger counts: 144 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 4/09 (JPH) and the maximum of 200 at Nant-y-Glyn on 23/09 and 9/12 (HC). Interestingly, two Rooks, both with damaged bills, were seen together at Towyn on 8/02 (SM).

Flints. Most records were in single figures with thirty-two records of 11-49. There were only four counts of 50 or more. The largest counts were of 100 at Pentrehobin, Mold on 27/01 (JaH), 134 at Rhyl on 23/05 (JPH) and the maximum count of 172 came from Connah's Quay NR on 1/12 (PDS).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. This is the most common and widespread member of the

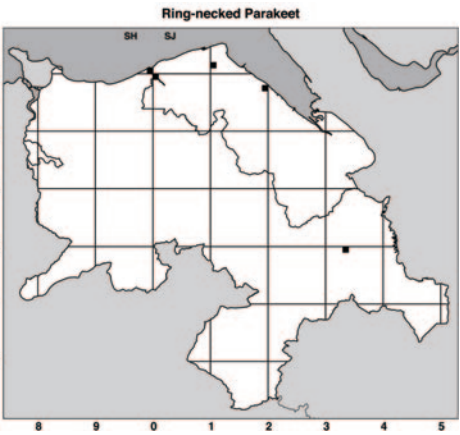
BRAN DYDDYN

corvid family, found in the majority of BirdTrack lists and almost all BBS surveys.

(RI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	3
Maximum count	1	4
Number of records	2	5
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.1
Density	0.00	0.02

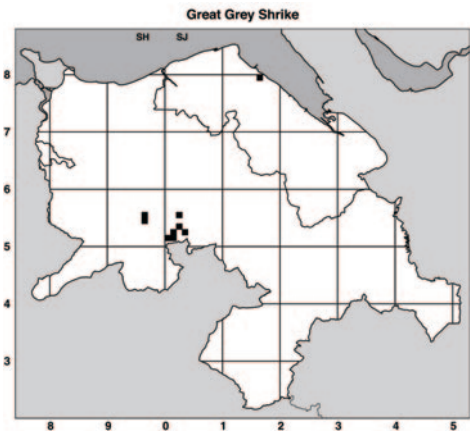
Denbs. The number of records increased slightly this year but the pattern of recording remained much the same with the majority of records in single figures, with sixty-seven records of 10-30. There were two larger counts, the largest of which was 33 seen at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 15/02 (JPH).

Flints. The majority of the records were in single figures with ninety-two records of 10-30 and twenty-four records of 31-80. Many more smaller flocks were recorded this year but the maximum numbers were halved from 2016. The maximum of 80 was recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 23/05 (PSH) and on 3/12 (GEM).



(SR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	8	1
Maximum count	1	1
Number of records	14	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-
Density	0.00	0.00

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

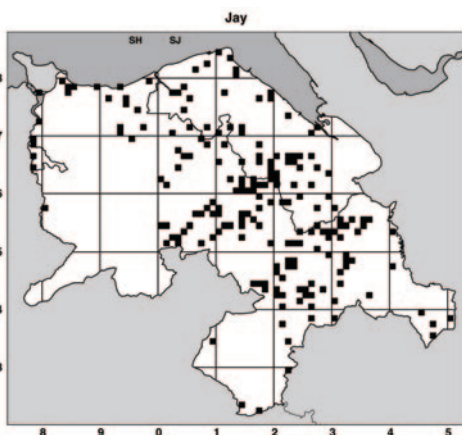


Great Grey Shrike (Tony Pope)

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* BRAN LWYD
Vagrant. Amber List.

Flints. A single bird was seen at Connah's Quay NR on 28/04 (PSH).

(J)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	145	48
Maximum count	9	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	8
Recorded in BBS squares	12/31	10/19
Number of records	391	173
% of records from GBW	29.41	34.68
% of BirdTrack lists	12.5	9.6
Density	0.66	0.41
Max breeding evidence	FL	H



Raven *Corvus corax*

CIGFRAN

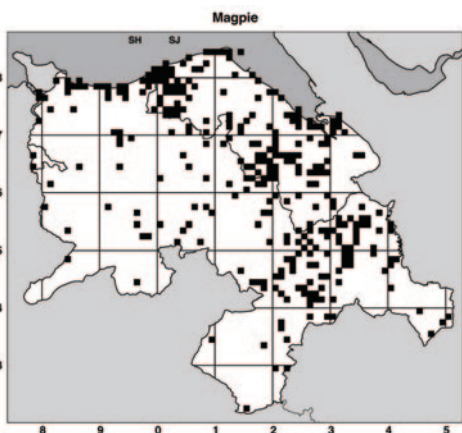
Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was an increase in records from Denbs and a decrease in records from Flints.

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1-4, with fifteen records of 5-9 and ten records of 10+. A large roost was noted at Llechrydau, above the Ceiriog Valley, early in the year with 63 on 23/01, 120 on 26/02 and the maximum of 160 on 16/02 (AIDa). A pair was regularly seen on a church steeple at Towyn in the months of Mar and Apr (SM).

Flints. Most records were in single figures with two of 5-8. The maximum was 8 at Rhyl on 8/01 (JPH). There was a single record from a garden at Rhydymwyn in week beginning 10/09 (DMH).

(MG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	190	124
Maximum count	18	73
Av max count prev 10 yrs	26	33
Recorded in BBS squares	24/31	19/19
Number of records	1481	1151
% of records from GBW	39.91	38.31
% of BirdTrack lists	55.3	63.3
Density	1.73	15.37
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL



Breeding (JLR):

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

CYNFFON SEDAN

Winter Visitor. RBBP.

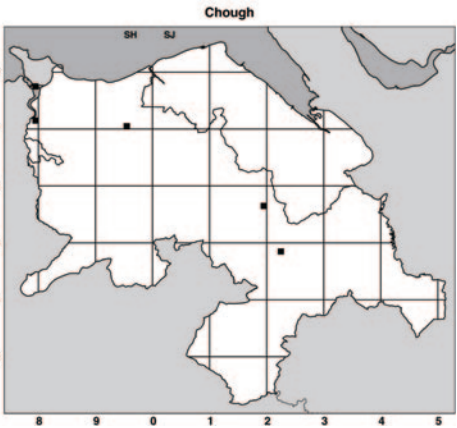
The great majority of records came almost exclusively from urban areas in the lowlands. The winter of 2016-2017 was an excellent one for this species and sightings continued into Jan, Feb and Mar. There were winter records in the latter half of the year. Birds were seen feeding on hawthorn, cotoneaster and rose hip berries and occasionally fly-catching.

Denbs. The 2016 winter influx continued, with flocks of between 30 and 99 coming from eleven sites,

(CF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	
Number of 1km squares	5	
Maximum count	3	
Number of records	21	0
% of records from GBW	4.76	
% of BirdTrack lists	0.9	
Density	0.01	
Max breeding evidence	P	

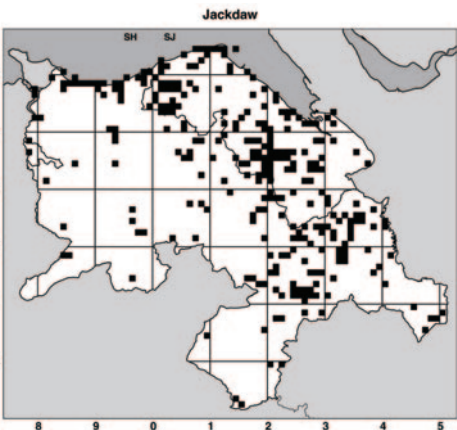
Seen in these months											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

mainly Kinmel Bay, Denbigh and Wrexham from Jan to Mar. Numbers varied between 50 and 160 were seen at Kinmel Bay between 2/01 and 12/01 (SM). There were six records of 100 and over. The maximum was of 190 in Denbigh on 7/01.



Flints. A flock of between 30 and 64 stayed around the Rhyl area between 7/01 and 9/01, with the maximum count of 64 seen on 7/01. Another flock of 40 was seen in Mold on 1/01 (JtH).

(JD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	176	117
Maximum count	228	250
Av max count prev 10 yrs	501	285
Recorded in BBS squares	21/31	17/19
Number of records	1245	1018
% of records from GBW	37.43	37.43
% of BirdTrack lists	47.7	56.8
Density	20.31	49.66
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

TIT PENDDU

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Recording effort was slightly up on 2016.

Denbs. All records were in single figures with the exception of eleven records of 10 or more. Most of

these larger numbers were probably cumulative counts from BirdTrack lists. The Merseyside Ringing Group ringed 10 nestlings at Pandy on 14/05 and then 13 nestlings were ringed at Glyn Arthur, Llangwfan on 21/05 (pBH). The maximum count of 17 came from a garden record near Marford Quarry, Wrexham in week beginning 24/12 by MKT.

Flints. All counts were in single figures (the majority were of 1-2), with the maximum count of 8 seen at Pantymwyn on a BirdTrack list by GEM. During the autumn and winter months GRMP ringed 25 full grown birds at Bagillt and IMS ringed 31 full-grown birds in a garden at Sychdyn.

Breeding (MRG):

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

TITWR WERN

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

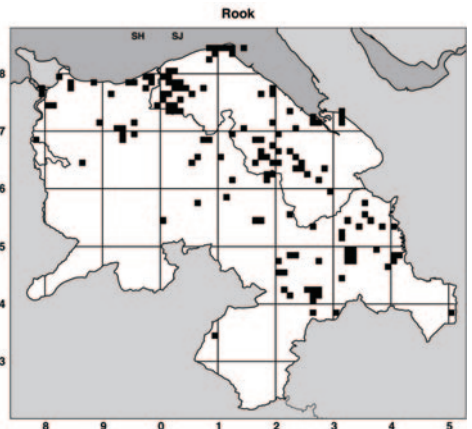
(JD)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	7	26	17	13	1.86

The number of records for this species vastly increased this year, notably in Denbs. However, the distribution remained very similar to 2016.

Denbs. Most records were of singles, with seven records of 2-4. The six records of 2 came from Alyn

(RO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	86	57
Maximum count	200	172
Av max count prev 10 yrs	372	149
Recorded in BBS squares	8/31	5/19
Number of records	257	272
% of records from GBW	26.46	34.19
% of BirdTrack lists	9.9	19.7
Density	8.70	16.65
Max breeding evidence	ON	NY

Waters CP (Gwersyllt), Bodelwyddan Castle, Chirk Castle, Felin Puleston (Wrexham), Fenn's Moss and Lleweni Hall (Bodfari). The only indication of breeding was of a pair at Fenn's Moss seen on 14/04 (BH). The maximum count of 4 was noted at Pwllglas near Rhuthun on 25/09 (HC).



Flints. There were two records, both at Llyn Helyg. A single was seen on 16/01 and 2 on 20/11 (AB).

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

TITWR HELYG

Breeding resident. Red List. RBBP. S7.

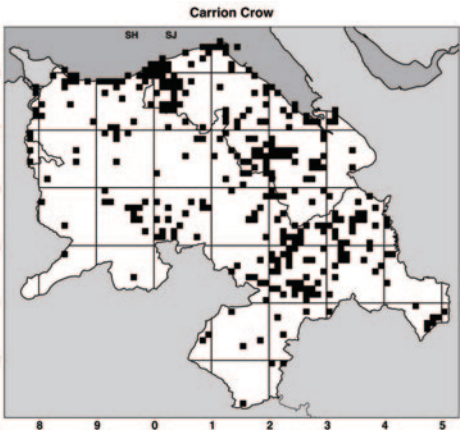
The total number of records decreased this year, particularly in Denbs, which was the reverse of the situation in 2016. Records came from six locations this year. A bird singing in the breeding season was the only indication of breeding. Field identification can be difficult and this, maybe, prevents observers from sending in records. It is interesting to note that half of the records came from ringing captures, when definitive identification is possible.

Denbs. There were three records of singles (including two individuals ringed), one record of 2 at Froncysyllte on 6/04 (DaHu) and the maximum of 3 in Clocaenog Forest on 18/09 (HC). Two full-grown birds were ringed at Bwlchddar on 15/04 and 27/08 (MKH).

Flints. One record came from the breeding season on a BBS square at Afonwen on 26/05 (GRMP).

The other two records were of full-grown birds ringed at the end of the breeding season at Shotton Steelworks on 30/07 and 6/08 by the Merseyside Ringing Group (pBH).

(C)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	225	114
Maximum count	33	80
Av max count prev 10 yrs	94	89
Recorded in BBS squares	30/31	18/19
Number of records	1280	939
% of records from GBW	16.48	14.59
% of BirdTrack lists	40.2	73.9
Density	3.76	15.48
Max breeding evidence	ON	ON



Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

TITW TOMOS LAS

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Overall the recording effort was very similar to 2016, although there was an increase in records from Denbs and a decrease from Flints. Winter flocks are still under-recorded and observers are encouraged to submit more winter flock counts.

Denbs. Most records were of 1-10, with one hundred and twenty-four sightings of 11-50+. The largest count was 56 seen on a woodland walk at Colwyn Bay on 5/04 (HC). Breeding was recorded at several locations. The maximum daily ringing effort was of 64 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 27/05 (pBH).

Flints. Most records were of 1-10, with fifty-one records of higher counts of 11-52. The maximum count recorded was 52 at Rhyl on 29/10 (JPH). The most notable ringing records were from IMS who ringed 33 full-grown birds on 9/02 and 49 full-grown birds on 7/01 in a garden at Sychdyn.

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

Breeding (MRG, JLR, IMS, GRMP, GaBu, JSy):

Great Tit *Parus major*

TITW MAWR

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties and breeding was confirmed at several locations.

Recording effort increased slightly in Denbs. No winter flocks were recorded.

Denbs. Most records were of 1-10, with only eighteen larger counts. The largest sighting was of 44 in a garden at Bwlch-y-rhiw in week beginning 22/01 (SmJ). The maximum number recorded related to ringing activities, when 70 nestlings were ringed at Pandy on 14/05 (pBH).

(RN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	136	58
Maximum count	160	8
Av max count prev 10 yrs	38	14
Recorded in BBS squares	11/31	6/19
Number of records	372	235
% of records from GBW	0	0.85
% of BirdTrack lists	20.7	15.2
Density	11.01	0.79
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

Flints. The majority of records were of 1-10, with only four records of between 11 and 25. The maximum sighting was of 25 at Bagillt on 14/01 (GRMP).

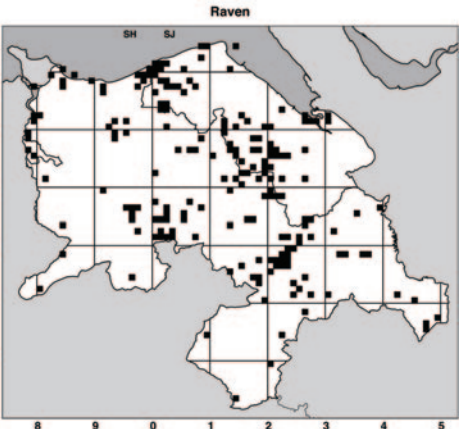
Breeding (MRG, JLR, GaBu, JSy):

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

EHEDYDD

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List. S7.
Regular in most months but harder to come by in late summer, as birds moult and have stopped singing. Recorded in each month in both counties except Aug in Denbs.

Denbs. There were only seven double-figure counts this year. Kinnel Bay hosted small numbers throughout the early winter, with a maximum of 14 on 2/01 (JPH). On 26/01 a brief song flight was recorded here, perhaps brought on by sunny or warmer weather. The only other large count in this period was of 30 at Glyn Ceiriog



(RN)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Denbs	9	25	25	25	2.78

on 5/01 (GPI). Records increased from Mar onwards, as birds moved to breeding grounds and began holding territory at sites, including: Ruabon Mountain from 1/03 (JLR), Llansilin from 13/03 (JO), Acrefair from 14/04 (SD) and Cloy Hall, near Bangor-is-y-coed from 11/04 (NHu). During the summer there were no records of confirmed breeding this year. Later in the year larger counts consisted of:

(WX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	22	6
Maximum count	190	64
Av max count prev 10 yrs	54	41
Number of records	54	12
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	0.4
Density	2.12	0.65

30 flushed from a stubble field at Glyn Ceiriog on 17/10 (GPI), 11 over Nant-y-Glyn on 27/10 (HC) and 16 at Kinnel Bay on 12/12 (JPH).

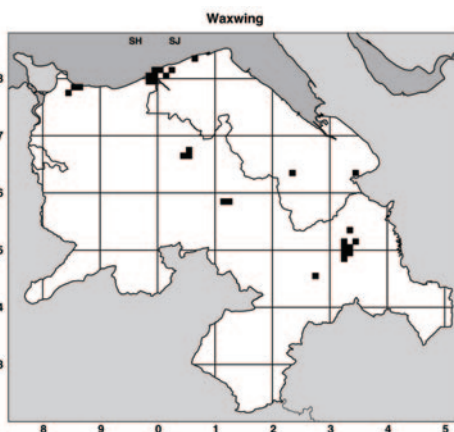
Flints. Again, there were no three-figure counts this year but there was an increase of double-figure counts, with thirty-nine. (thirty-five last year). In the early part of the year larger congregations included: 50+ at Deeside Industrial Park on 2/01



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

(JAt), 58 S of Rhyl on 29/01 (JPH), 15 at Talacre on 2/01 (SD) and 20 at Bagillt on 30/03 (ETH). Singing was first recorded from Gronant on 14/02 (WRM). During the breeding season many of the larger counts were from the Gronant dunes, where a good population can still be found. This was the only site where breeding was proven, on 10/05 (HC), with an adult carrying food back to a nest. Post-breeding, Gronant had several of the largest counts, with a maximum of 35 on 30/10 (WRM). Elsewhere there were: 20 S of Rhyl on 2/11 (AHJ), 18 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 6/11 (PDS) and 15 at Flint on 4/12 (DWn).



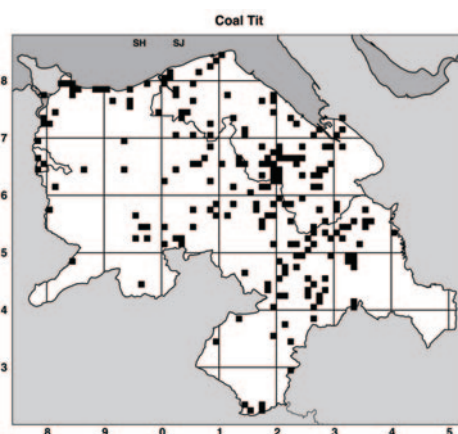
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

Denbs. As usual, the earliest report came from RSPB Conwy, with 6 on 11/03 (JPH). Almost 60% of

(CT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	101	72
Maximum count	17	8
Recorded in BBS squares	13/31	10/19
Number of records	1094	621
% of records from GBW	66.09	69.08
% of BirdTrack lists	18.9	13.5
Density	1.17	0.98
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF



the Denbs records came from this site. Spring passage got under way in earnest from 28/03, with 11 at RSPB Conwy (JPH) increasing to 30 there the following day (WRM). The heaviest spring passage was recorded during mid-Apr, with maxima of 100 at RSPB Conwy on 12/04 (RLE), and at Gresford Flash, Wrexham on 13/04 (HL), 17/04 and 26/04 (KS). Breeding was recorded at five locations but confirmed from just one. Post-breeding dispersal was noted from 20/06 onwards, but only in small numbers, with the only double figure count of 10 at Gresford Flash on 10/07 (HL). Reports tailed off during Aug and the last of the year was a single at RSPB Conwy on 15/09 (JPH).

Flints. The first record was of 2 at Rhyl Brickworks on 12/03 (JPH). Spring passage followed a similar pattern to Denbs, but larger peaks came earlier, with 80 near Rhuddlan on 1/04 (SH) and 70 at Rhyl Brickworks on 7/04 (AHJ). Passage records continued well into May, largely from coastal sites. Probable breeding was reported from two sites and post-breeding dispersal was noted from 20/06

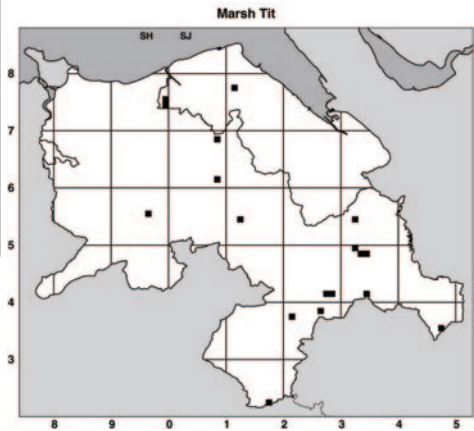
(CT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	2	17	17	13	6.50
Pandy	1	10	10	10	10.00
TOTALS	3	27	27	23	7.67

(the same day as in Denbs), with 40 over Bagillt and 50 there the following day (GRMP). Dispersal numbers were much higher than in Denbs, with 110 at Gronant on 9/07, increasing to a maximum of

(MT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	17	1
Maximum count	4	2
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	-
Number of records	36	2
% of records from GBW	8.33	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	0.5
Density	0.03	0.00
Max breeding evidence	P	

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

500 on 19/07 (HC). After 50 there on 2/08 (HC), records tailed off, with only two further reports in Aug and the last of the autumn was a single at Hendre on 12/09 (GEM).



Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

GWENNOL

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

First arrivals were a fortnight later than Sand Martins, but there were Mar records in both Denbs and Flints. Autumn departures were largely completed by the end of Sep and there was only one Oct



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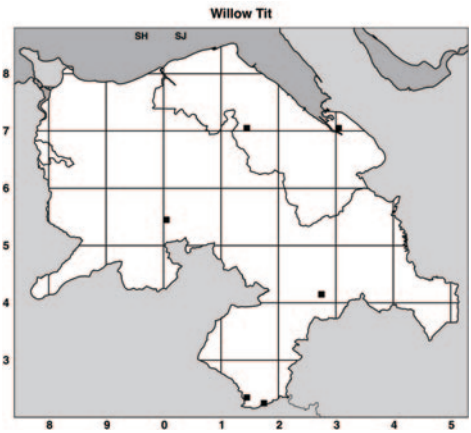
record in Denbs and none in Flints.

(WT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	4	2
Maximum count	3	1
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/19
Number of records	5	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-
Density	0.01	0.00
Max breeding evidence	S	

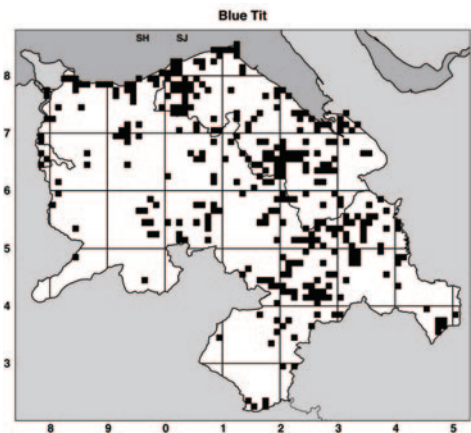
Seen in these months											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The earliest arrival was a single at Rhuthun on 29/03 (GPI). Whereas Sand Martin arrivals were strongly concentrated over water at RSPB Conwy, Swallow arrivals were spread over a wide area, both coastal and inland, with the first double figure counts of 16 at Pendre, near Llangollen, on 17/04 (JoG), followed by 12 at Chirk Castle on 18/04 and 22 there on 21/04 (JRo). The highest BBS count was 24 at Pandy Tudur on 11/05 (HC). There was a notable concentration of nests at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, with 42 around at least nine active nests on 12/06, rising to 64 on 10/07 and 166 on 4/09, when many fledged young were present (JPH). Breeding was confirmed at several locations. Post-breeding dispersal and autumn migration movements were noted from 24/07, with at least 60 near Llangollen (JLR), 36 at Llyn Brenig on 1/08 (JPH), at least 150 at Penycae on 9/08, with a Hobby hunting them (JAJ) and 42 at Moel Arthur on 8/09 (GEM). Although no roosts were recorded, there must have been a spectacular brief roost near RSPB Conwy, where 10,000 were seen over the large lagoon at dusk on 14/09 (JHg). Steady numbers continued to be seen on migration until the last week in Sep, with 50 at Chirk on 25/09 (DaHu) the last double figure count. The latest report was the only Oct record, with 7 near Moel Famau on 6/10 (AOH).

Flints. The first was a single returning to a breeding site at Bagillt on 28/03 (GRMP) – one day earlier than the first Denbs record. Thereafter returning migrants trickled in, with the first double figure counts of 10 at Rhyl Brickworks on 10/04. There was then notable passage past Gronant in early May: 40



(BT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	225	126
Maximum count	64	52
Av max count prev 10 yrs	48	84
Recorded in BBS squares	27/31	19/19
Number of records	2137	1411
% of records from GBW	47.17	45.64
% of BirdTrack lists	60.1	55.3
Density	7.32	11.12
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



on 2/05, 20 on 3/05, 50 on 4/05, 250 on 5/05, 200 on 10/05 and 150 on 11/05, with 300 at nearby Talacre on 9/05 (all HC). There were 43 at Rhyl on 23/05 which were probably still on migration (JPH). A count of 19 near Mold on 23/04 (IMS) was the highest BBS count. Breeding was confirmed (FL, ON, NY) at a few locations. Significant post-breeding numbers were first seen at Bagillt

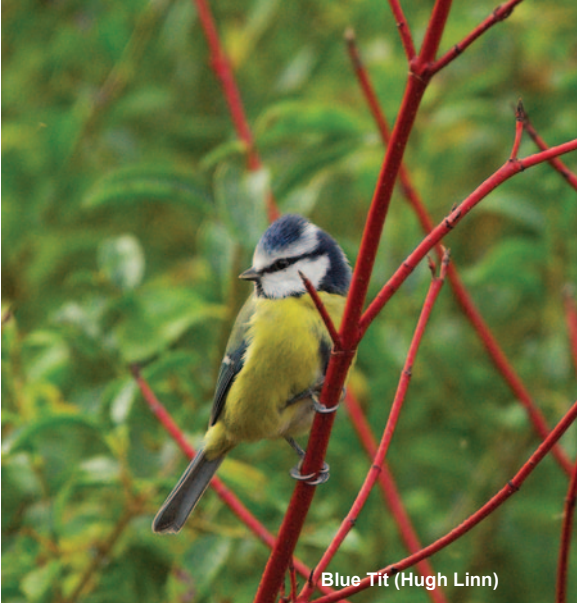
on 20/06, with 100, rising to 300 later in the day, alongside numbers of Sand Martins (GRMP). Gronant dunes and Rhyl recorded the best totals on post-breeding dispersal / autumn migration, with 1,500 on 19/07, 350 on 23/07, 400 on 24/07 (HC) and 300 on 22/08 (RLE) at Gronant, whilst 212 on 8/08 and 165 on 20/08 were the maxima near Rhyl (JPH). The last double figure count was of 14 at Hendre on 19/09 (GEM) and the final record was of 2 at Bagillt on 30/09 (GRMP).

Breeding (MRG, JLR, GRMP):

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

GWENNOL Y BONDO

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. There was a similar number of reports to 2015 and 2016, but with no Mar records in either



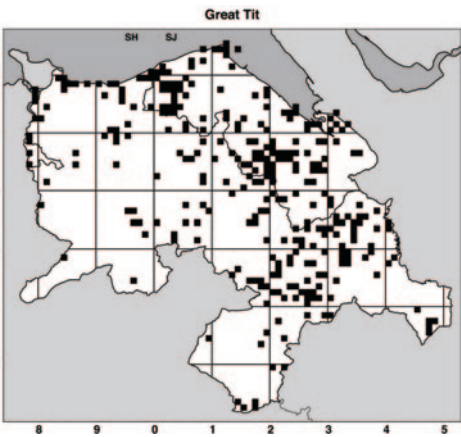
Blue Tit (Hugh Linn)

(BT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	31	252	209	188	6.06
Near Pandy	6	53	45	36	6.00
Llewesog Hall	27	267	236	193	7.15
Pandy	16	120	108	93	5.81
Bagillt	3	26	26	14	4.67
Coed Nantddu	3	29	25	25	8.33
Dinbren Isaf	15	136	102	100	6.67
Near Llandollen	18	168	134	123	6.83
Rhydymwyn	15	112	97	84	5.60
TOTALS	134	1163	982	856	6.39
Mean yng/nest for 2004-2016, n = 1752					4.74

county. Departures were early, with no Oct records in Flints, although one late straggler was seen in Nov.

Denbs. The first record was 3 at Ysbyty Ifan on 2/04 (SGb). The main arrival period started in the

(GT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	192	111
Maximum count	70	25
Av max count prev 10 yrs	48	36
Recorded in BBS squares	24/31	16/19
Number of records	1654	1063
% of records from GBW	56.77	50.42
% of BirdTrack lists	36.4	37.4
Density	6.80	4.71
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



first week of Apr and continued into May, with the first large feeding flock of 100 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley, with Swallows, on 8/05 (MiB). The highest BBS count was 17 at Llansannan on 19/06 (GBH), but the largest concentration of

adults at a colony was 31 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 12/06 (JPH). In addition to the Pentrefelin flock, there were five other three-figure gatherings: 180 at Bodnant on 14/05 (MiB); at least 150 at Penycae on 9/08, feeding with Swallows and being harassed by a Hobby (JAJ); 113 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 16/08 (JPH); 100 near Eglwyseg on 28/08 (NiSu) and 160 at Chirk Castle on 12/09 (KGr). Breeding was confirmed (ON, NY) at a few locations. Smaller numbers were recorded through Sep and the last report of the year was of 7 at RSPB Conwy on 2/10 (WRM).

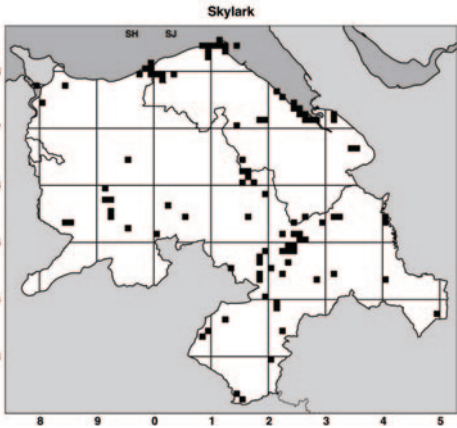
Flints. The first record was a single at Flint on 10/04 (MGW). Arrivals in Flints were rather later than

(GT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	22	152	118	88	4.00
Near Pandy	18	122	114	86	4.78
Llewesog Hall	11	91	78	75	6.81
Dinbren Isaf	8	61	57	55	6.88
Near Llandollen	6	43	33	26	4.33
Rhydymwyn	18	126	101	90	5.00
TOTALS	83	595	501	420	5.06
Mean yng/nest for 2004-2016, n = 1374					4.11

in Denbs, with numbers picking up from mid-Apr. The highest BBS count was 23 near Mold on 11/06 (IMS) and there were only two three-figure flocks recorded, both in spring, with 100 at Rhyl on 24/04 (PWh) and at least 200 at Queensferry on 26/04 (JuRs). Breeding was confirmed (ON, NY) at just two locations. The last substantial count was 80 at Connah's Quay NR on 10/09 (PSH) and the last

(S)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	66	33
Maximum count	30	58
Av max count prev 10 yrs	62	358
Recorded in BBS squares	10/31	4/19
Number of records	171	196
% of BirdTrack lists	13.6	20.3
Density	1.00	3.25
Max breeding evidence	N	FF

single of the main season was at Rhyl Brickworks on 30/09. There were no Oct records, but a late straggler was seen at Rhyl Brickworks on 14/11 (RLE).



Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* TELOR CETTI

Visitor and potential breeding resident. RBBP.

There were rather fewer reports than in 2016 and still limited to a handful of sites.

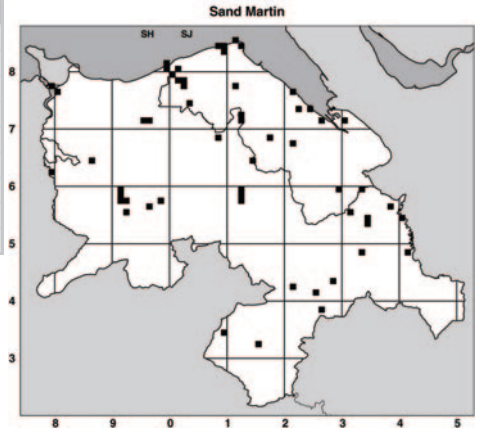
Denbs. All except one of the records were of singles at RSPB Conwy (JHg), with the sole exception a singing male at Wrexham Industrial Estate on 21/05 (StP).

Flints. All records came from the same two areas as previous years: the established sites at the Shotton Steelworks / Shotwick and at Gronant. All were singles, except for 2 in the Welsh area of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 24/03 (PEM). A total of 8 was ringed at Shotton Steelworks during the year (pBH).

(SM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	34	22
Maximum count	100	500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	176	100
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	1/19
Number of records	133	109
% of BirdTrack lists	7.2	9.3
Density	1.72	18.68
Max breeding evidence	NY	N

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



Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

TITW GYNFFON HIR

Breeding resident. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties, with similar numbers of records to 2015 and 2016, and increases in the reports from BBS squares in both counties and on BirdTrack lists in Denbs.

Denbs. Thirty-four counts were of 10-19 birds (4.8% of all records and a similar percentage to 2015 and 2016), with six flocks of 20 or more. A flock of 40 at Gresford Flash, Wrexham on 16/09 was the highest count of the year (HL). None of the double figure counts came between 14/02 and 24/06. Breeding was confirmed at several locations.

Flints. Twenty-one counts were of 10-19 birds (4.5% of all records - a slightly lower percentage than 2015 and 2016) and a further three of at least 20 birds. A WBBS count of 15 at St Asaph on 23/05 (ShG) was the only double figure count between 12/02 and 10/08. Breeding was confirmed at several locations.

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

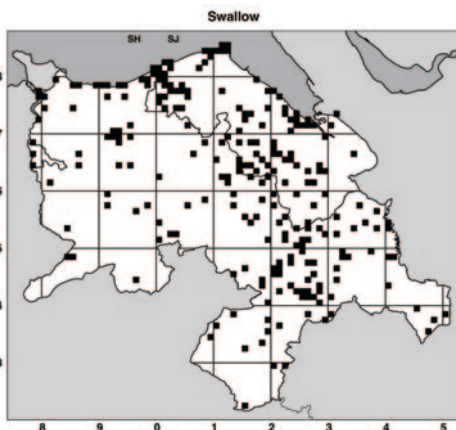
Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*. TELOR YR

HELYG

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

(SL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	154	86
Maximum count	10000	1500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	528	725
Recorded in BBS squares	22/31	16/19
Number of records	455	382
% of records from GBW	11.87	2.09
% of BirdTrack lists	20.8	27.9
Density	779.35	219.02
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

Denbs. The first report was a male singing near Llangollen on 2/04 (JLR). Thereafter, records came in almost daily throughout spring migration and the main breeding season through to the first week in Jul. There were fewer double-figure counts, with eleven of 10-19 and the only count over 20 was also the highest BBS count – of 23 near Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 16/04 (TP). With no ringing at Bronbannog, late summer and early autumn counts were down on previous years. There were only three Sep records, two from ringing at Ty-nant (MkH) and the last record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 11/09 (JFJ).



Flints. There were three Mar records, with the first a singing male on 22/03 at Tremeirchion (PKI). Thereafter, records followed a similar pattern to Denbs up to 10/07, though numbers were lower and there were no counts in double figures apart from 23 at Bwlchgwyn during a BBS visit on 24/04 (GaBu). After 27/08 there were only two Sep records, with the last report of a single at Nercwys Mountain on 22/09 (GEM).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

SIFF-SAFF

Breeding summer visitor and winter visitor.

Recorded in each month in Flints and all except Dec in Denbs, with similar numbers of reports from both counties to 2016. Almost all the double-figure counts in both counties came from BBS visits or ringing sessions.

Denbs. There was a steady trickle of records of 1-4 through Jan and Feb, with 5 at Llanferres on 14/01 (JaH). Reports suggest that the spring influx started in earnest around 12/03, after which there were reports almost daily until the end of Sep, with the first of twenty-two double-figure counts being 10 at Chirk Castle on 24/03 (JRn). The maximum count, apart from ringing sessions, was 18 at

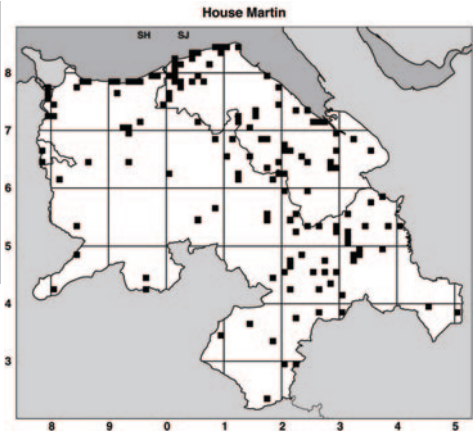
(SL)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	23	111	91	71	3.09
Bagillt	2	8	8	8	4.00
Hendre, Llangollen	15	62	58	56	3.73
Near Llandollen	10	42	34	30	3.00
Eglwyseg	18	75	65	54	3.00
Rhydymwyn	3	10	10	10	3.33
TOTALS	71	308	266	229	3.23
Mean yng/nest for 2004-20016, n = 686					3.31

Pwllcrochan Woods, Colwyn Bay on 5/04 (SM) and the highest BBS counts were 14 at Erddig on 8/04 (NHu), 14 near Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 16/04 (TP) and 14 near Ruabon on 29/04 (CoRW). Breeding

was confirmed (FF) at one location. Ringing sessions at Bwlchyddar generated three of the four highest counts, with 29 on 21/06 the year's maximum (MkH), and 27 were ringed at Llansanffraid,

(HM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	93	52
Maximum count	180	200
Av max count prev 10 yrs	96	160
Recorded in BBS squares	9/31	8/19
Number of records	338	202
% of records from GBW	15.09	5.94
% of BirdTrack lists	13.7	14.5
Density	8.47	17.66
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

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



Glan Conwy on 26/06 (MiB). The last double-figure count was of 10 at Gresford Flash, Wrexham on 16/09 (HL) and the latest record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 24/11 (pJHg).

Flints. The first of the year was a single ringed at Bagillt on 18/01 (GRMP). There were only five more reports until 10/03, when spring migration clearly started with records every day from then on, with 8 at the Welsh part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 24/03 (PEM) and 8 at Connah's Quay NR on 9/04 (PSH). Some birds clearly bred very early, with a well-grown brood of 6 nestlings ringed at Bagillt on 7/05. Breeding was confirmed (FL, NY) at just three sites. The first of eleven double-figure counts was 15 at Rhydymwyn on 14/04 (IMS) and the highest BBS counts were of 11 at Afonwen on 18/04, Gronant on 22/04 (GRMP) and Rhosesmor on 26/04 (GaBu). Ringing sessions at Rhydymwyn were again very productive from 26/06, when 16 were ringed, rising to 24 on 5/07. The highest daily total was 27 on 2/09 (IMS), which was also the last double-figure count of the year. After this there were only singles to the end of the year, apart from 2 at Gwernaffield on 3/12 (TP) and 4 at Talacre on 14/12 (JLg) and the last of the year was at Talacre on 18/12 (TBT).

In addition to the Common Chiffchaff records, there were also three reports of the *tristis* subspecies: 1 at Abergele on 4/02 and 11/02 and 1 at Pensarn beach on 11/02 (HC).

Breeding (GRMP):

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

TELOR Y COED

(CW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	4
Maximum count	1	2
Number of records	14	15
% of BirdTrack lists	0.9	3.0
Density	0.00	0.01
Max breeding evidence	S	S

Summer visitor. Red List. S7.
The number of records dropped in Denbs and there were only three records from Flints. There were no records from BBS squares in either county. Surprisingly, there were actually Jul and Aug records from Denbs!

Denbs. The first arrival was a week later than 2016, with a singing male at Chirk Castle on 23/04 (JRn). Reports came from fourteen different locations, of which thirteen are likely breeding sites, but breeding was only confirmed (UN) at one location. Most records were singles, but there were up to 5

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

at Eglwyseg Foel on 9/05 (JoG). The last recorded was a single at RSPB Conwy on 27/08 (DvS), almost seven weeks after the single Jul record.

Flints. All three records were of 2 and came from Nercwys Mountain in May and Jun, with the first record on 11/05 and 2 apparently holding territory (probable breeding, T) on 14/06 (GEM) the last.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

TELOR HESG

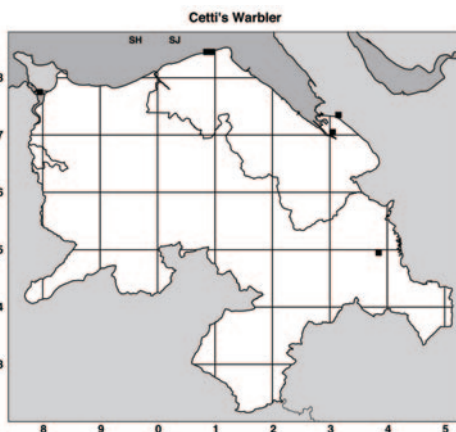
Breeding summer visitor.

Although reasonable numbers were recorded, their distribution was concentrated in two main locations, with 75% of Denbs records at RSPB Conwy and 67% of Flints records in the Gronant area. Arrivals in Denbs at RSPB Conwy were early, but dates were normal in Flints. Departure dates were relatively normal in both counties.

(LT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	174	94
Maximum count	40	21
Av max count prev 10 yrs	36	29
Recorded in BBS squares	16/31	12/19
Number of records	713	472
% of records from GBW	43.42	36.44
% of BirdTrack lists	19.4	20.5
Density	3.52	3.55
Max breeding evidence	NE	FL

ringed at Ty-nant on 10/09 (MkH).

Flints. Unlike Denbs the first record was quite late, with a single at Rhyl Brickworks on 21/04 (HC). The majority of records were of 1-3, but there were twenty records of 4-9 in the Gronant dunes area, with the highest count of 9 on 21/05 (JPH). Breeding was confirmed (FL, FF) at two locations in the Gronant area. The last record was of a single ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 13/08 (pBH).



Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

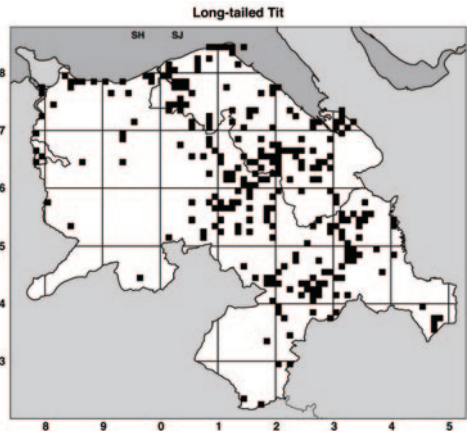
TELOR Y CYRS

Breeding summer visitor.

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 for Denbs, but ringing in Flints produced much later records than in 2016.

Denbs. The predominance of records from RSPB Conwy was even greater this year, with 81.2% from the reserve, including the first report of the year of presence on 7/04. All counts were of 1-3 except for 5 at RSPB Conwy on 19/05 (GEM) and 6 the following day (DvSt), 4 at Plas Maenan on 14/06 (WRM) and 6 at Pensarn beach on 19/06 (WRM), where several pairs breed. Breeding was confirmed (FL, FF) at eight locations. The last report of the year was presence at RSPB Conwy on 16/09 (JHg).

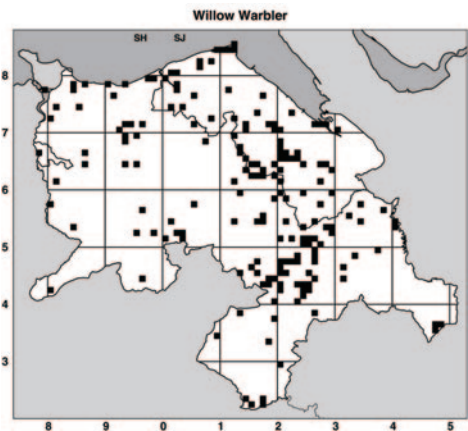
Flints. The first of the year was at the Welsh part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 19/04 (PSC) – quite a late arrival date. All except one of the records came from the coastal strip from Rhyl to Gronant and into the upper Dee estuary, including Shotton Steelworks. The exception was a single at Bagillt on 28/07 (GRMP), which strayed into a mist-net at least a mile from the nearest reed bed. All records were of 1-3, except for 5 at Gronant on 18/05 (JFJ), 4 at Shotton Paper Mill on 12/06 (IMS) and ringing records from Shotton Steelworks, with 7 on 11/06, 5 on 9/07, 9 on 30/07 and the maximum for the year of 12 on 27/08 (pBH). Breeding was confirmed (FL, FF) at three locations. Although there were only seven reports after the end of Jul, a trickle of birds continued at Shotton Steelworks, with the last of the year a single ringed there on 8/10 (pBH).



(WW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	123	58
Maximum count	23	23
Av max count prev 10 yrs	36	25
Recorded in BBS squares	28/31	8/19
Number of records	300	137
% of records from GBW	0.67	4.38
% of BirdTrack lists	15.2	8.2
Density	1.43	2.26
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF

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



Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

TROELLWR BACH

Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

There was a similar pattern to 2016 in both counties, with records highly dependent on hearing singing males. Arrivals and departures were around the usual dates; there was probable breeding (T) in several locations, but no instances were confirmed and there were no records from BBS squares.

Denbs. The first record was presence at RSPB Conwy on 9/04. All records were of 1-2, with only three Jul records. In past years later records have come from ringing at Bronbannog, which has now ceased. The last report was of presence at Pendinas reservoir on 19/07 (HCw).

Flints. The first report was of 3 at Talacre on 19/04 (RLE). Twenty-two out of the twenty-five reports came from Gronant, with the other three from neighbouring Talacre and Prestatyn. All were of 1-2, except for the first record of the year at Talacre and 4 at Gronant dunes on 27/06 (HC). The last report was of 2 at Gronant dunes on 2/08 (HC).

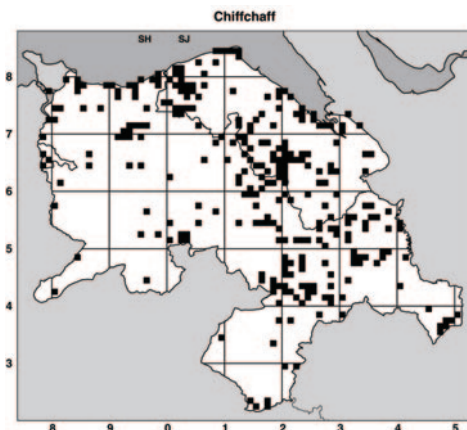
(CC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	191	98
Maximum count	29	27
Av max count prev 10 yrs	15	16
Recorded in BBS squares	27/31	19/19
Number of records	659	455
% of records from GBW	9.15	7.69
% of BirdTrack lists	27.3	26.9
Density	2.80	4.49
Max breeding evidence	FF	NY

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 2016, but a decrease in the percentage of reports from GBW locations.



Denbs. Most records were of 1-5 throughout the year. There was no discernible gap between winter and spring dates, but in the autumn there were no records between 8/10 and 29/10, suggesting that summer breeders left about three weeks before wintering visitors arrived. The highest BBS counts were of 6 at Erddig pool on 19/05 (NHu) and 7 at Berwyn on 15/05 (JoG). Breeding was confirmed (UN, FL, FF) at three locations. Chirk Castle is currently the best site for good numbers, with 10 on 14/05 (JRn) the only double-figure total apart from ringing sessions: 17 were ringed at Bwlchychddar on 26/06 and 14 on 20/08 (MkH).

Flints. As in Denbs, there was no apparent gap between winter and spring dates, but a similar gap in autumn, with none recorded between 19/09 and 9/10. Most records were of 1-5 and the best BBS counts were 5 near Mold on 23/04 (IMS) and 4 at Babell on 18/04 (KDF) and Pontblyddyn on 19/04 (GNR). Breeding was confirmed (FL, NY) at five locations. The only three double-figure counts came from ringing sessions at Rhydymwyn, with 12 on 8/08, 15 on 2/09 and 14 on 18/09 (IMS & GRMP).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

TELOR YR ARDD

Breeding summer visitor.

Similar numbers and patterns of records to 2016, though fewer reports from GBW locations. There were some earlier arrivals in Denbs but the usual pattern in Flints.

Denbs. The first record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 7/04, followed by a single at Llansilin on 9/04 (JO) and another at RSPB Conwy on 13/04 (JHg). The main arrival started on 23/04 and all records were of 1-2, except for one ringing session – 3 at Bwlchychddar on 18/06 (MkH) and five BBS counts: 4 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on the early visit on 2/05 and 3 on the late visit on 31/05 (RDB); 4 at Berwyn on 15/05 (JoG); 3 at Pandy Tudur on 11/05 (HC) and Blaen Bache on 16/05 (JoG). Breeding

(CC)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Bagillt	1	6	6	6	6.00

was confirmed at one location. The last report was of a single ringed at Ty-nant on 29/08 (MkH).

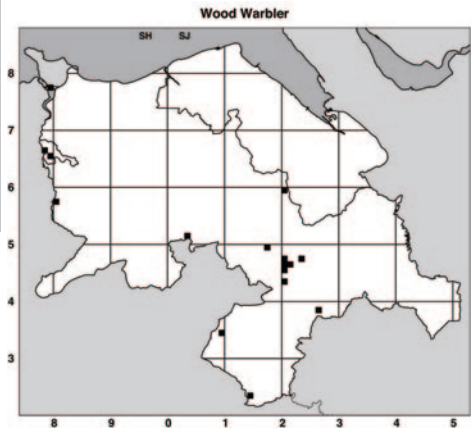
Flints. The first was a single at Gronant on 22/04 (GRMP). As in Denbs, all records were of 1-2, except for two BBS counts: 3 at Bwlchgwyn on 19/06 and 3 at Rhosesmor on 23/06 (GaBu). There

were 3 at Nercwys Mountain on 11/05 (GEM) and the highest count was 5 at Penycloddiau on 27/05 (EdW). Probable breeding was recorded at two locations. There were only five reports after 5/07, with

(WO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	15	1
Maximum count	5	2
Recorded in BBS squares	-	-
Number of records	25	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	-
Density	0.04	0.00
Max breeding evidence	UN	T

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 last of the year a single at Connah's Quay NR on 28/09 (PSH).



Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

LLWYDFRON FACH

Breeding summer visitor.

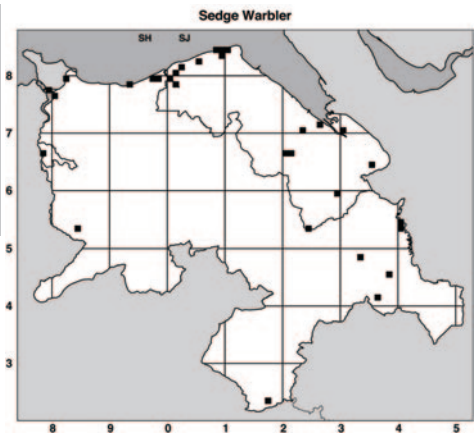
There was an increase in the number of records in Denbs, but a decrease in Flints. There was an unusually early arrival in Denbs, but departures were normal. Records were widely but thinly spread across both counties.

Denbs. An unusually early arrival was a single at RSPB Conwy on 3/04 (CBs). The main arrival started in mid-Apr and 71% of reports came from RSPB Conwy. All were of 1-2, except for 4 at Capel

(SW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	15	16
Maximum count	12	9
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	1/19
Number of records	119	79
% of BirdTrack lists	6.7	7.8
Density	0.09	0.24
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF

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

Siloam on 4/05 (NF) and 5 near Towyn on 2/05 (JPH). Singles were recorded in two BBS squares: at Pentre Maelor, Wrexham on 21/05 (NF) and Rhuthun on 11/06 (MB). Breeding was confirmed at two locations. The last of the year was a single at RSPB Conwy on 17/09 (JHg), the same date and place as in 2016.



Flints. The first was a single at Rhyl Brickworks on 10/04, with the main arrivals from the third week of Apr. All records were of 1-2, except for 3 near Buckley on 27/06 (KaW). Singles were recorded in two BBS squares: at Sandycroft on 29/04 (IMS) and Pontblyddyn on 18/05 (GNR). Probable breeding was recorded at one location. There were no Sep records and the last of the year was a single at Connah's Quay NR on 15/08 (pGEM).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

LLWYDFRON

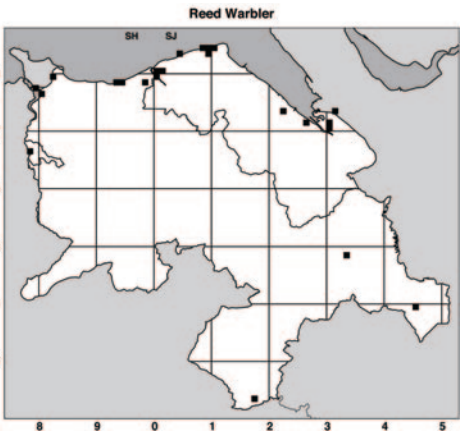
Breeding summer visitor. Red List.
There was a similar pattern and number of records to 2016 in both counties, though an unusually late arrival in Denbs and fairly early departures in both counties.

Denbs. The first record was presence at RSPB Conwy on 20/04, which is later than usual, and thereafter records of 1-3 were widely spread. There were no double-figure counts, with the maxima only 6 at Pensarn beach on 29/05 (WRM) in the same area that regularly holds multiple territories,

(RW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	10	13
Maximum count	6	12
Number of records	85	87
% of BirdTrack lists	15.3	6.8
Density	0.03	0.26
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF

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

and on Ruabon Mountain on 20/05 (DvSt). The best BBS counts were of 5 at Pentre Maelor, Wrexham on 21/05 (NF) and 4 near Gellifor on 24/06 (TP). Breeding was confirmed (FL, FF) at two locations. There were five other counts of 4-5 in widely spread locations and the only Sep record (and last of the year) was 1 ringed at Ty-nant on 4/09 (MkH).



Flints. The first was a single at Rhuddlan on 13/04 (JPH). All reports were of 1-3, except for 4 at Rhyl on 13/05 (AHJ), Gronant on 2/06 (HC) and 6/07 (BaD) and Prestatyn on 4/06 (WRM). The highest BBS counts both came from the Sandycroft BBS square, with 6 on 29/04 and the only double figure count of the year of 10 on 2/07 (IMS). Breeding was confirmed (FL, FF) from four locations. There were no Sep records, with the last of the year a single ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 27/08 (pBH).

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

DRYW PENFFLAMMGOCH

Migrant and possibly irregular breeding resident. Amber List. RBBP.
This year was exceptional with confirmation of breeding for the first time in the recording area since a 1987 record at Nercwys (Lovegrove, Williams & Williams. 1994. Birds in Wales. T & AD Poyser: London). Breeding was said to have occurred in 1998 and possibly in 1999, also at Nercwys (Green. 2002. Birds in Wales 1992-2000. Welsh Ornithological Society) but there are no such records in Clwyd Bird Reports.

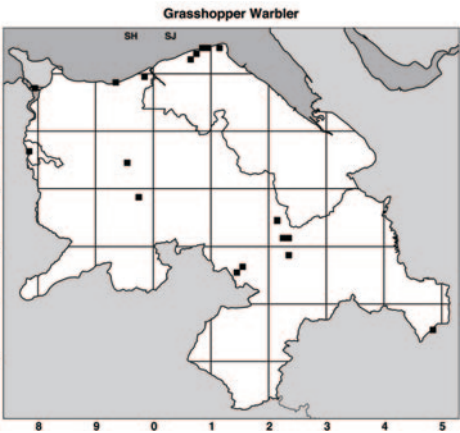
Denbs. RSPB Conwy was again a regular site, accounting for 60% of all records, with one bird seen in much of Jan and from 9/03 to 11/03. There were often records of 2 in the late winter period, falling to 1 from 4/12 till the year end. All the other records related to a pair in Clocaenog Forest. Initially a

bird was seen carrying a feather to build a nest on 23/04 (AnCu) and still building on 11/05 when one was carrying moss and feathers. On 28/05 a bird was still in the area, although the nest was not

(GH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	13	5
Maximum count	2	4
Number of records	24	25
% of BirdTrack lists	1.9	2.6
Density	0.01	0.03
Max breeding evidence	T	T

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

visible, but breeding was finally proven when, on 22/06, one was carrying food to the nest. On 23/07 there were 2 or possibly 3 in the area but young were not definitely seen (WJR).



Flints. An improved year for records with singles at Bagillt on 6/03 (ET_h) and the Rhyll Brickworks pond on 10/03 (HC). Later in the year another single was at Flood Pool, Bagillt on 4/12 (ET_h).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

DRYW EURBEN

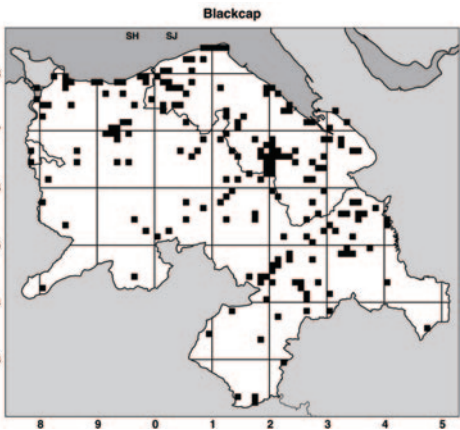
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. There was a large increase in the number of records and the number of 1km squares from last year. The number of double-figure counts increased from eight to ten, with the peak count of 25 from Tal-y-cafn on 15/02 (PEM) and Mynydd Hiraethog on 1/05 (PWh). Other double-figure counts included: 13 at Chirk Castle on 24/01 (JRn), 10 at Erddig Park on 24/01 (HCw), 11 at Plas Buckley on 13/02 (HCw), 12 at Coed Pwlycrochan on 5/04 (HC), 20 in Clocaenog Forest on 18/09 (HC) and

(BC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	125	77
Maximum count	17	15
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	8
Recorded in BBS squares	23/31	15/19
Number of records	375	286
% of records from GBW	13.33	11.89
% of BirdTrack lists	13.6	14.2
Density	1.08	1.96
Max breeding evidence	FF	NY

10 ringed at Mynydd y Glyn on 9/10 (MkH). Breeding was confirmed at Llanfair TH.

Flints. The number of records remained stable, most of which were counts of 1-4. There was one double-figure count of 12 ringed at Rhydymwyn on 18/09 (IMS). Other notable counts included: 7 at Pantymwyn on 1/06 (GEM) and 8 at Rhyll on 8/10 (AHJ). Breeding was proven at Presthaven, Rhydymwyn and Bagillt.



Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

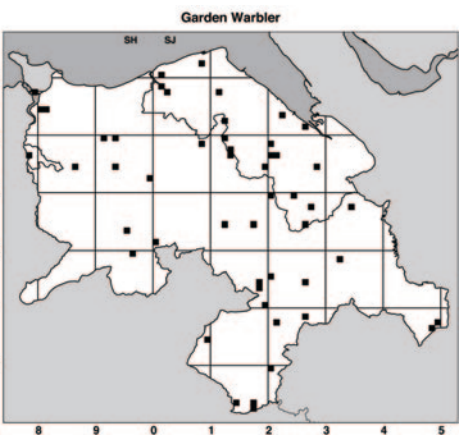
DRYW

Breeding resident and winter visitor.
Recorded in each month in both counties. This is one of our most widespread and frequently encountered species. Most counts were of 1-2.

Denbs. The maximum count in the first winter period was of 10 at Chirk Castle on 27/01 (JRn). As spring approached territorial birds became more evident and 15 were recorded again at Chirk Castle on 7/03 (JRn). During the BBS season counts of between 10 and 18 were not unusual and the highest BBS count was 29 at Craig Bron Bannog, Clocaenog Forest on 17/06 (HKd, MaO). However, the maximum count was 43 in a BirdTrack list for Pwllcrochan Wood, Colwyn Bay on 15/04 (HC), indicating a very high density of breeding birds. There were ten records of confirmed breeding. Up to the end of the year most records were of 1-2, but higher numbers were regularly recorded at Chirk Castle in the months of Oct, Nov and Dec, the highest being 18 on 19/10 (KGr).

(GW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	32	19
Maximum count	4	5
Recorded in BBS squares	6/31	4/19
Number of records	70	30
% of records from GBW	4.29	0
% of BirdTrack lists	2.5	1.4
Density	0.06	0.16
Max breeding evidence	UN	B

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. There were no counts exceeding 4 in the first winter period, but in early spring the highest count was 8 at Rhydymwyn on 14/04 (IMS). The highest BBS count was 25 along a stretch of river at St Asaph on 23/05 (ShG). There were fourteen records of confirmed breeding. Thirty individuals were ringed at Rhydymwyn between 26/06 and 18/09 (IMS). Records to the end of the year were mostly of 1-2. The highest count in the second winter period was 4 at Greenfield Valley on 6/11 (WRM).

Breeding (JSy):

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

DELOR Y CNAU

Breeding resident.
Seen in each month in both counties. The recording effort in Denbs. increased this year.

Denbs. Most records were of 1-2. The highest count in the breeding season was 12 on 13/07 at Chirk Castle in a BirdTrack list (JRn). There were five records of confirmed breeding: 4 nestlings ringed at Prion on 25/05 and 8 nestlings at Pandy on 7/05 (pBH). Six nestlings were ringed at Pentre Llanrhaeadr on 22/05 (DRR) and an occupied nest was observed at Erddig pool, Wrexham on 8/05 (NHu). Recently fledged young were seen at the same location on 21/05 (HCw).

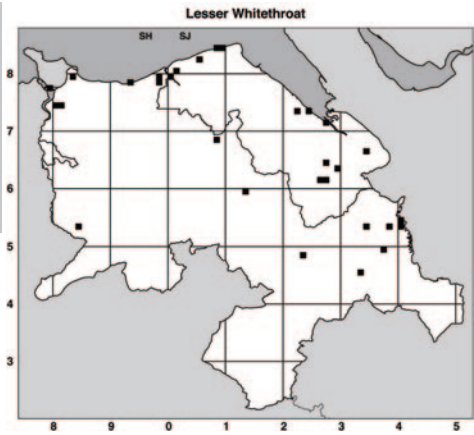
Flints. Most counts were of 1-2. There was only one record of confirmed breeding, when GEM found an occupied nest at Pantymwyn on 17/05 and then recorded the maximum count of 6 when a group

of birds, including recently fledged young, were seen at the same location on 31/05. Later in the year the same number of birds were seen again at Pantymwyn on 29/10 (GEM). One interesting

(LW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	17	13
Maximum count	5	3
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	2/19
Number of records	62	27
% of BirdTrack lists	3.4	2.1
Density	0.04	0.07
Max breeding evidence	FF	T

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

observation on 7/02 related to one individual seen at Buckley, climbing up an electricity 'telegraph' pole, pecking as it went. The bird flew off into nearby trees once it had reached the top of the pole (STB).



Breeding (MRG):

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

DRINGWR BACH

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Breeding was confirmed in both counties.

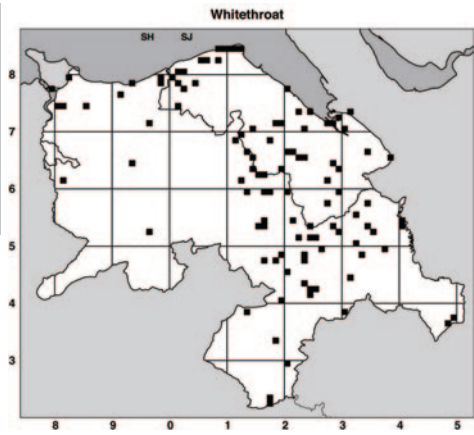
Denbs. This bird is rarely recorded in numbers exceeding 2, even in BirdTrack lists but this year there were twenty-four records of 3-9. The maximum of 9 was recorded from Pwllcrochan woods, Colwyn Bay on 5/04 (HC). Other records of 4 or more came from Chirk Castle, Coed Hafod and Bodnant. The only records of confirmed breeding were of an adult feeding a fledgling along a lane at Llanrhydd, Rhuthun on 21/05 (GPI) and the nest records (below).

Flints. Records were of 1-2 during the whole of the year, with two exceptions. Three were seen at Cilcain on 2/06, when either an adult carrying food or a faecal sac was observed by GEM. This was the only record of confirmed breeding. The maximum of 4 was seen at Wepre CP, Connah's Quay on a BBS walk on 24/06 (JSy).

(WH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	64	41
Maximum count	6	10
Recorded in BBS squares	15/31	8/19
Number of records	153	117
% of BirdTrack lists	6.5	8.5
Density	0.19	0.70
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF

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

Breeding (MRG):



Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

DRUDWEN

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a general increase in the number of records and a slight increase in distribution from 2016, but there was a marked decrease in the numbers of birds recorded this year. Very few records of breeding are reported each year and most of these are coastal. It would be good to receive breeding records from rural sites in the coming years. The majority of records were of 1-10. Numbers of this species can fluctuate markedly between years. The maxima were 5,000 in Denbs, a significant decrease from 2016, and 10,000 in Flints. The 10,000 roosting at Gronant in 2017 was the largest flock recorded in Flints since a figure of 15,000 was reported on passage over Rhuddlan in 2007.

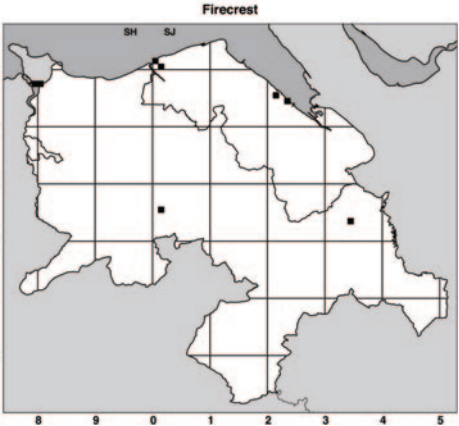
Denbs. In the first winter period the largest count was from an inland site, when 2,000 were observed feeding in wet moorland at Rhydlydan near Pentrefoelas on 15/01 (JoG). The large roost observed at RSPB Conwy in 2016 failed to materialise in 2017 and appeared to have transferred to the Gronant site in Flints. Similarly, the Colwyn Bay pier roost did not exceed 250 during the year, when this number was counted on 16/11 (WRM). The pier will be demolished in 2018 so this roost site will disappear. As the breeding season approached, two flocks of 1,000+ were seen at Penycae on 4/03 (JAJ) and Bryn Ffynon, Llangwm on 13/03 (WO). The highest count on a BBS walk was 40 near Ruabon on 18/06 (CoRW) and the highest garden count was of 45 at Ysbyty Ifan, in week beginning 25/06 (SGb). The first confirmation of breeding was of recently fledged young seen at Towyn on 10/05

(FC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	4	4
Maximum count	2	1
Number of records	35	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	0.1
Density	0.00	0.01
Max breeding evidence	FF	

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

(SM). Post-breeding, there were few flocks recorded in Jul, Aug and Sep but one of the largest was 60+ seen at Meadow Farm, Higher Kinnerton on 1/07 (JLR). There were no large flocks noted in the early winter leading up to the end of the year, with the exception of the maximum count for the year of 5,000 when SM observed a 'huge' flock flying westwards over Towyn on 13/11.

Flints. The maximum count in the first winter period was 4,000 at Gronant on 18/01, but there were no other counts exceeding a thousand and most counts were in the low hundreds. The highest count on a BBS walk was 44 at Buckley on 15/04 (GNR). Records of confirmed breeding came from eight, mostly coastal sites. The only inland site was at Cilcain. The first was of a nest with young in Rhyl on 21/04 (JPH), and the last was of another nest with young in Prestatyn on 18/06 (JPH). The largest post-breeding flock was 800 at Gronant dunes on 23/07 (HC). In the second winter period the largest counts were: 1,200 at Rhyl on 22/10 (WRM), 4,150 at Gronant dunes on 1/11 (WRM), 1,562 at Rhyl on 5/12 (JPH), and 3,000 at Berthengam, E of Prestatyn on 25/12 (IMS). The largest counts were of 5,000, when a large flock, stretching hundreds of metres, was seen flying over the town of Caerwys at 09:20hrs on 21/11 (JoW). The large roost at Gronant, in a reedbed behind the Presthaven caravan site, reached peak numbers of 10,000 on 12/11 (WRM). Notable garden counts during this period were of 51 and 54 in Buckley, during the weeks beginning 3/12 and 10/12 (DaSh).



Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

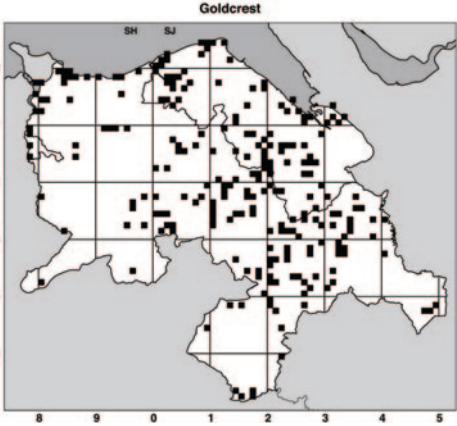
WYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

(GC)	Denbs		Flints	
	Common		Uncommon	
Occurrence				
Number of 1km squares	161		77	
Maximum count	25		12	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	47		8	
Recorded in BBS squares	18/31		11/19	
Number of records	441		284	
% of records from GBW	9.07		13.73	
% of BirdTrack lists	18.8		15.8	
Density	2.04		1.57	
Max breeding evidence	FL		FL	

Passage migrant and possible breeder. Red List. S7.

Denbs. The first records were from Horseshoe Pass with a maximum count of 4 on 2/04 (pJLR) and at least 4 on 19/04 (JLR). The only evidence of possible breeding (S) was on 2/04. The last spring record was 2 near Llangynhafal on 17/05 (RhPi). The only autumn record was near Pistyll Rhaeadr on 28/08 (LaC).

Flints. The first record came from two parts of Connah's Quay NR, with at least one seen on 11/03 (JDAr). Five of the eight reports were from Penycloddiau. The maximum count of 11 was on 2/04 (EdW) and the last record was 3 there on 22/04 (EdW).



Blackbird *Turdus merula*

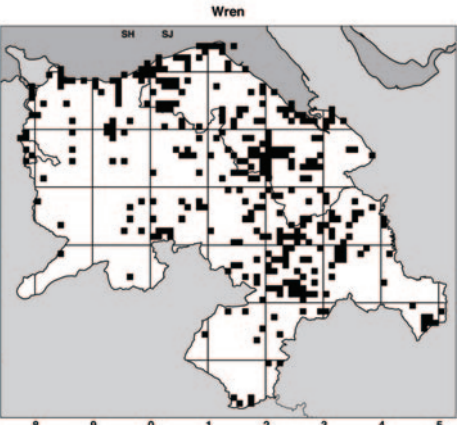
MWYALCHEN

Breeding resident and winter visitor.
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or 1-20, with sixteen records of 21-28 and a maximum of 32 which was from the Holt area on 2/05 (NF). The first winter count of 28 was at Alyn Waters CP, Gwersyllt on 4/01 (KGF), with two others at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 4/12 and 18/12 (JPH). There

(WR)	Denbs		Flints	
	Common		Common	
Occurrence				
Number of 1km squares	233		120	
Maximum count	43		25	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	20		17	
Recorded in BBS squares	31/31		19/19	
Number of records	1240		832	
% of records from GBW	30.24		26.08	
% of BirdTrack lists	52.6		51.3	
Density	5.07		5.09	
Max breeding evidence	NY		FF	

were 23 records of confirmed breeding. The first was at Rhos-y-Brithdir on 21/03 (DWh) and the last, from Erddig on 30/06 (NHu). GBW produced over 40% of reports, with the highest and only double-figure count of 11 at Talygarth in week beginning 15/01 (DCg). There were twenty-four ringing records, mainly from the Conwy Valley, with others from the very S of the county. The highest BBS counts, both of 26, came from Pentre Maelor on 23/04 (NF) and from Gellifor on 5/05 (TP).



Flints. Again, most records were of presence or 1-20 with nineteen records of 22-37 and maximum counts of 38 near St Asaph on 4/01 (JPH), 38 near Rhyl on 4/02 (AHJ) and 39 at Rhyl Brickworks on 14/11 (JPH). There were twenty-two records of confirmed breeding. The first such record was at Rhyl Brickworks on 10/04 (HC) and the latest was at Rhydymwyn on 8/08 (GRMP). There were fifty-three ringing records from every month of the year (pBH, GRMP, IMS). GBW had the same percentage of counts at last year and a maximum count of 17 at Buckley in weeks beginning 29/01 and 5/02 (DaSh). The highest BBS counts of 30 came from Buckley on 15/04 and from near Mold on 23/04 (IMS).

Breeding (MRG, JLR):

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

SOCAN EIRA

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. The majority of records were counts of 1-50 and the three counts were: 190+ at Rhyd Galed, Clocaenog Forest on 8/02 (MTB), 200 at Rhosymadoc on 7/02 (GPI) and 200+ in a mixed flock flying due S at Penycae on 13/04 (JAJ). The last record from the early months was 4 at Eglwyseg on 20/04. Most of the autumn / winter counts were 1-50, with the only three figure count of 170 near Holt on 14/11 (NF). The first autumn record was from Denbigh, with 3 on 12/10 (HaE). Of the thirteen GBW records, four came from Bwlch-y-rhiw, all counts of 10, from weeks beginning 5/11 to 3/12 (SmJ).

Flints. During the first three months most counts were 1-40, with the largest count of 64 at Shotwick Fields on 2/01 (JPH). The last record from the early period was 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 20/03 (RRI). The first autumn record was 14 near Bagillt on 27/09 (GRMP). The largest, and only three-figure count came during the second winter period with 157 seen due S of Rhuddlan on 2/12 (JPH). The first record in this period came from Bagillt with 14 on 27/09 (GRMP). During the later months most counts were just 1-30, with the largest count of 157 near Rhuddlan on 2/12 (JPH). GBW records were all of presence only, and one of a single, and most came from a garden at Cilcain in both winter periods.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

COCH DAN ADEN

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

(WR)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Rhydymwyn	2	8	0	0	0.00

Denbs. During Jan to Apr most records were 1-100 and the largest count was 200 near Sontley on 12/02 (HCw). The last spring record came from RSPB Conwy, with presence on 4/04 (JHg). The first autumn record was 18 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 3/10 (MiB). In the later months most counts were 1-75, with two larger counts: 250+ moving W at Penycae on 10/10 and 2,500 moving on a broad

(NH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	123	53
Maximum count	12	6
Recorded in BBS squares	10/31	8/19
Number of records	752	331
% of records from GBW	64.49	62.24
% of BirdTrack lists	11.6	12.2
Density	0.75	0.54
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

front towards the SW with some landing in bushes (JAJ). A Burton garden had by far the highest GBW count with 35 in week beginning 12/11 (HL). The only ringing record was of a single from Bodnant Gardens on 12/11 (MiB).

Flints. In the early months most counts were 1-42, with three larger counts: 80+ near Buckley on 28/01 (StB), 100+ there on 7/02 (StB) and 100 near Bagillt on 6/03 (GRMP). The last record from

the early months was 4 at Cilcain on 23/03 (GEM). The first autumn record was 6 near Bagillt on 27/09 (GRMP). Counts during the later months were 1-150 with two larger counts: 204 near Rhuddlan on 11/11 (JPH) and 1,000 near Bagillt on 31/10 (GRMP). The largest GBW count was 11 on 29/10 at Rhydymwyn (DMH). There were twelve records of 1-6 ringed near Bagillt, mainly in the autumn (GRMP).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

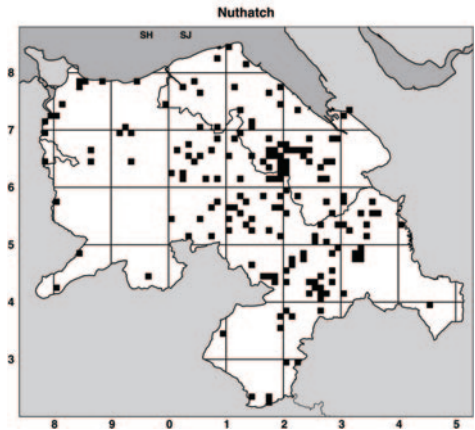
BRONFRAITH

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List. S7.
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most counts were 1-10 and the three larger counts were 12 at Chirk Castle on 17/02 (JRn), 13 at Pwlycrochan Woods, Colwyn Bay on

(NH)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Llewesog Hall	1	8	8	8	8.00
Pandy	1	5	5	2	2.00
TOTALS	2	13	13	10	5.00

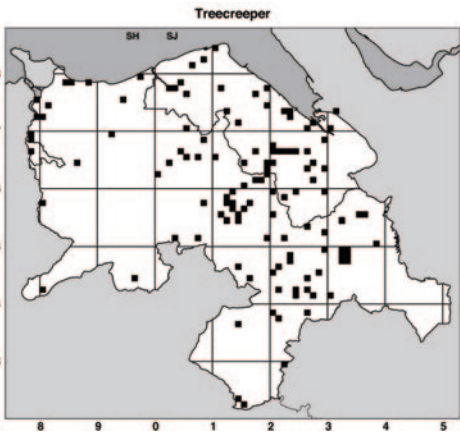
5/04 (HC) and 14 during a BBS count at Gellifor on 5/05 (TP). The first song was noted near Pensarn,



Nuthatch (Dermot Smith)

on a very early date of 8/01 (WRM). The eleven records of confirmed breeding came from ten sites, the first from Rhos-y-brithdir, with an occupied nest on 21/03 (DWs). The last breeding record came

(TC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	80	41
Maximum count	9	4
Recorded in BBS squares	5/31	5/19
Number of records	177	91
% of records from GBW	11.30	35.16
% of BirdTrack lists	7.0	3.3
Density	0.36	0.28
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF



from RSPB Conwy, with fledged young seen on 10/07 (JHg). The percentage of GBW records was similar to the previous year and had a maximum count of 3 at Ysbyty Ifan in week beginning 30/04 (SGn). There were ten ringing records of 1-3 at three sites (MIB, Mkh).

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1-12, with three larger counts: at Connah's Quay NR 15 on 13/12 (PeHa), 17 on 12/12 (PSH) and near St Asaph, 23 on 4/01 (JPH). The percentage of GBW records nearly doubled and the maximum count of 3 came from Rhydymwyn in week beginning 15/10 (DMH). Breeding was confirmed (FL, FF) on six occasions, the first, FF, near Rhuddlan on 13/04 (JPH) and the last confirmed breeding report (FL) came from Rhydymwyn on 16/08 (GRMP). There were nineteen ringing records of 1-3 ringed from four sites, Bagillt, Rhydymwyn, Shotton Steelworks and Sychdyn (GRMP, pBH, IMS).

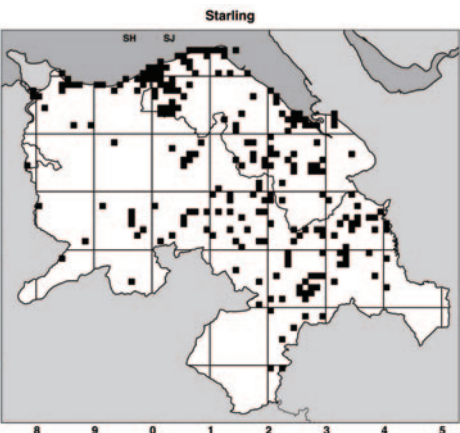
(TC)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	2	8	0	0	0.00

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

BRYCH Y COED

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.
Recorded in each month in both counties.

(SG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	144	92
Maximum count	5000	10000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	18200	4400
Recorded in BBS squares	4/31	7/19
Number of records	952	688
% of records from GBW	40.65	29.07
% of BirdTrack lists	32.6	45.3
Density	364.37	1561.97
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



Denbs. The bulk of the records were counts of 1-9 and the three largest counts were 10 near Llyn Brenig on 14/07 (RLE), 19 at RSPB Conwy on 8/08 (JHg) and 22 at Chirk Castle on 1/08 (JRn). There were five records of confirmed breeding (FL, FF). The BBS maximum count of 7 came

from near Llananarmon-yn-Ial on 17/06 (TP). The only ringing record came from Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog with 3 nestlings on 22/04 (pBH).

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1-14, with the two largest: 20 in pasture fields near Rhuddlan on 12/09 (GPI) and 23 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/07 (PDS). There were two records of confirmed breeding (FL). The highest BBS count of 4 came from Bodrhyddan Hall, Dyserth on 25/06 (PtB). Most of the GBW records came from Rhydymwyn, with maximum counts of 2 in weeks beginning 22/01, 22/07 and 23/07 (DMH).

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

There was a fall in the numbers of records from last year and a fall in density in Denbs too. Whether this is related to actual declines or observer coverage is not clear and the species is too infrequently recorded on the BBS for a Welsh trend to be calculated.

Denbs. The first of the year was at Garth on 8/05 (JoR), four days later than in 2016. Recorded on four BBS walks (four in 2016) with counts of 3 at Pandy Tudur on 11/05 (HC), 2 at Tregeiriog on 18/05 (JO), 1 at Llangwm on 16/06 (HKd, MaO) and 1 at Berwyn on 26/06 (JoG). There were four records of confirmed breeding (eight in 2016): a nest with young at Llansilin on 13/06 (JO), a pair feeding 4 young at Drury Lane on 21/06 (EB, JLR), an adult with 2 recently fledged young at Holt on 20/07 (NF) and a nest with young at Erddig on 6/08 (HCw). The last record of the year was of 1 at Chirk Castle on 25/08 (WTh), twelve days earlier than the latest in 2016.

Flints. The first of the year were on 13/05, at two sites: 1 at Pantymwyn (GEM) and 1 at Rhuddlan (JPH), six days later than in 2016. Recorded on one BBS walk with 2 at Bodrhyddan Hall, Dyserth on 25/06 (PtB), following none in 2016. Breeding was not confirmed this year but there were pairs recorded at: Penycloddiau on 27/05 (EdW) and Nercwys Mountain on 14/06 (GEM). There were no Aug records this year, the last record being a single at Nercwys Mountain on 31/07 (GEM).

Breeding (MRG):

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

ROBIN GOCH

Breeding resident.

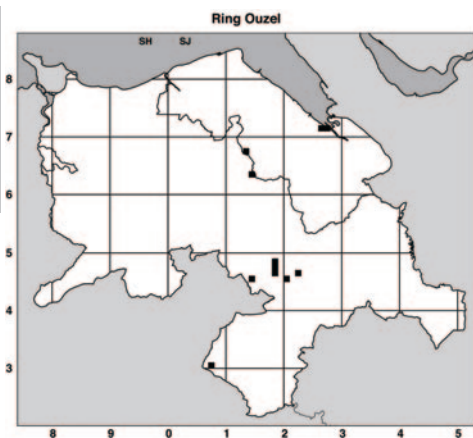
(RZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	8	3
Maximum count	4	11
Number of records	12	8
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-
Density	0.02	0.06
Max breeding evidence	S	

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

Recorded in each month in both counties. Most records were of 1-2.

Denbs. Records were highest in the early part of the year with the peak in Jan and another peak in

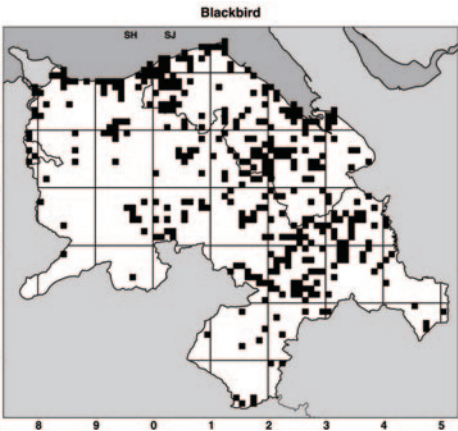


Apr, before falling away to a sustained low throughout the summer months. However, numbers of records did not build up again in the late winter period. There were sixty-two counts of 10 or more during the year, with the most regular site being Chirk Castle (30%). In the early winter the largest count was of 17 at Nany-y-Glyn on 24/02 (HC). In the spring, as birds became more vocal, numbers increased. A full survey of Pwllcrochan Woods, Colwyn Bay on 5/04 revealed 44 individuals (HC). The highest count away from here was of 20 at Chirk Castle on 14/05 (JRn). Seven confirmed breeding records were received, a fall from twenty-seven in 2016, and included a particularly late record on 18/09 at Llanfair TH of a recently fledged youngster (AIC). Several records related to juveniles found dead in or around nests in gardens, possibly killed by domestic cats, Magpies or crows. Late in the season again many of the largest counts were at Chirk Castle, with a maximum of

(B)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	253	135
Maximum count	32	39
Av max count prev 10 yrs	39	46
Recorded in BBS squares	30/31	19/19
Number of records	2174	1445
% of records from GBW	42.78	40.14
% of BirdTrack lists	71.6	69.4
Density	4.10	8.94
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

20 on 12/10 (KGr) but the peak was 28 at Holt on 22/12 (NF).

Flints. The largest number of records occurred in Jan with another peak in Apr as birds became more vocal. Records dropped off during the summer and autumn before rising slightly again in the late winter period. There were fifteen double-figure counts this year with the first on 18/04 with: 12 at Babel (KDF), 15 at Afonwen (GRMP) and 15 at Pentre (DeD). There were twenty-three confirmed breeding records (twenty-nine in 2016). The first record of recently fledged young was on 4/05 at Rhuddlan (AHJ). Many of the remaining breeding records came from this area and Rhydymwyn, where the last was confirmed on 16/08 (GRMP). A particularly dextrous individual hung from a nut feeder like a tit at Rhuthun on 20/11 (GPI). The last large count of the year was of 18 at Connah's Quay NR on 16/12 (PeHa).



Breeding (MRG):

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

GWYBEDOG BRITH

Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

Most records were of 1-2, except for nest and ringing records, which consisted of comprehensive counts; these are set out in the accompanying table. It was a relatively productive breeding season, with the average young per nest higher than the long-term average.

Denbs. The first of the year was on 4/04 at Rhos-y-brithdir (DWs), nine days earlier than last year.

(B)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	2	7	3	3	1.50
Near Llandollen	4	17	12	12	3.00
TOTALS	6	24	15	15	2.50

From the middle of the month onwards there were many more records including 7 at Bodnant Gardens NT on 22/04 (MiB), the highest count in Apr. The BBS recorded this species on 5 squares including at Pandy Tudur, where the species hadn't been recorded previously (HC) (6 squares last year). The first nestlings were ringed on 21/05 and the last on 21/06 (pBH). Aside from the ringing records there was only one site with confirmed breeding, at Eglwyseg, Cribin on 31/05 (NiSu). The only record in Jul was the last of the season and occurred at Nant-y-Ffrith Reservoir on 22/07 (SD).

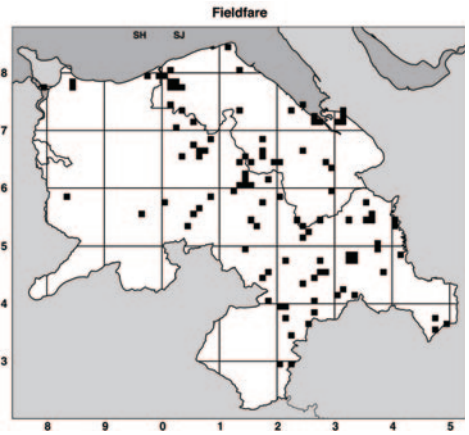
Flints. There were 2 at Gwernaffield-y-Waun on 16/04 (MNg), the first of the season. None were

(FF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	79	30
Maximum count	200	157
Av max count prev 10 yrs	718	465
Number of records	115	85
% of records from GBW	12.17	8.24
% of BirdTrack lists	3.1	5.8
Density	8.00	8.00

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

recorded on BBS squares or with confirmed breeding codes, although a ringing record concerned 7 nestlings processed on 3/06 (IMS), which was also the last record of the season.



Breeding (MRG, JLR, IMS, JSy):

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

TINGOCH DU

Winter migrant, passage visitor and casual breeder. Amber list. RBBP.

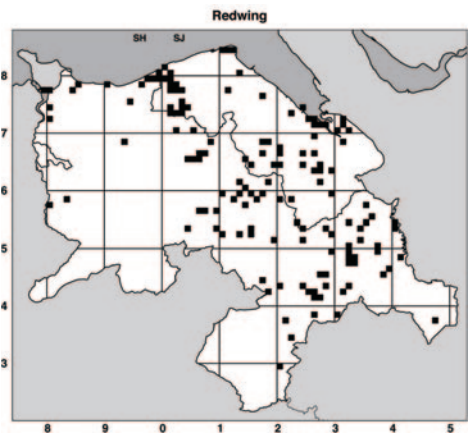
This year's records follow the annual pattern of 1 or 2 recorded in the majority of the previous ten years.

Denbs. In the first winter period there were eight records of singles from the coast. These were between the dates of 7/01 and 17/01. It is possible that these were of the same individual. On 14/01 there was 1 feeding with 3 Rock Pipits amongst seaweed on the beach at Rhos-on-Sea. In the second winter period there was only one record: presence at Kinnel Bay on 21/12.

(RE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	93	50
Maximum count	2500	1000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	912	266
Number of records	207	179
% of records from GBW	6.28	10.06
% of BirdTrack lists	9.0	11.3
Density	117.66	84.89
Max breeding evidence	S	

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



Flints. In the first winter period there was 1 at Rhyl on 7/01 and later in the year there was 1, probably

on passage, at Connah's Quay NR on 29/09.

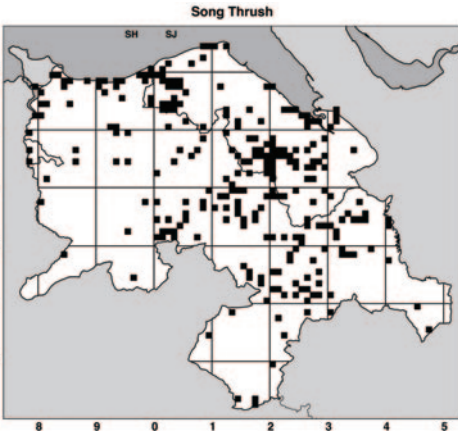
Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

TINGOCH

Breeding summer visitor.
Most records were of 1-2.

Denbs. The first record was 1 at Chirk Castle on 6/04 (JRn). The first date in 2016 was 13/04. This was followed by 1 at Pentredwr on 7/04 (JLR). There was then a gap of a week before sightings became more regular. The highest counts before breeding records were received were 12 at Chirk Castle on 24/04 and again at the same site on 1/05 (JRn). There were 7 counted on a WBBS walk at Wern-ddu on 5/05 (NDg) and the species was recorded on eighteen BBS walks, with the highest number recorded being 9 at Tregeiriog on 18/05 (JO). There were eight records of confirmed breeding. The first was of a used nest at Rhos-y-brithdir on 20/05 (DWh) and the last was of recently fledged young or of downy young, present in a nest at Gors-Maen-Llwyd, Mynydd Hiraethog on 22/07 (SD). A pair at Pentrefelin in the Conwy Valley fed at a feeder on 3/06, 4/06 and 6/06 and took food away to feed their young (MiB). The last of the year was 1 ringed at Ty-nant on 7/09 (MkH). The last date in 2016 was 14/09.

(ST)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	168	92
Maximum count	14	23
Av max count prev 10 yrs	15	13
Recorded in BBS squares	23/31	17/19
Number of records	680	469
% of records from GBW	19.85	29.64
% of BirdTrack lists	28.8	25.4
Density	1.19	3.59
Max breeding evidence	NE	FF



Flints. The first of the year was 1 at Penycloddiau on 9/04 (EdW). This was also the first date in 2016. As with Denbs, regular sightings were not achieved for another week. The highest count before breeding was recorded was 10 at Penycloddiau on 27/05 (EdW). Recorded on eight BBS walks with the highest count being of 4 at Gronant on 19/06 (GRMP). There were six records of confirmed breeding (FL, ON). The first was of an occupied nest at Penycloddiau on 27/05 (EdW) and the last was of a fledgling at Rhydymwyn on 8/08 (GRMP). The ringing of 13 nestlings, at Rhydymwyn on 28/05, also provided the highest count of the year (GRMP). The last of the year was 4 ringed at Rhydymwyn on 2/09 (IMS). The last date in 2016 was 24/08.

Breeding (MRG, GRMP):

Breeding (MRG):

(ST)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	1	2	2	0	0.00
Derwen	3	8	0	0	0.00
TOTALS	4	10	2	0	0.00

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

CREC YR EITHIN

Breeding summer visitor. Red List.

Most records were of 1-2. The maxima for 2017 were broadly similar to the average maxima for the previous ten years.

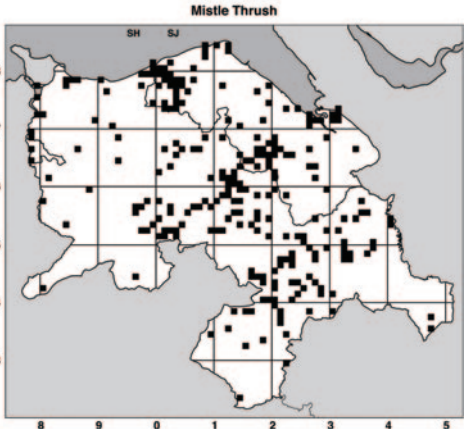
Denbs. The first record of the year was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 20/04 (JHg), a day earlier than in 2016. Apart from a further record from RSPB Conwy on 1/05 (JHg) all of the remaining records (twenty-five

(M)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	177	74
Maximum count	22	23
Av max count prev 10 yrs	39	15
Recorded in BBS squares	22/31	9/19
Number of records	377	226
% of records from GBW	8.75	11.95
% of BirdTrack lists	13.8	14.2
Density	1.97	2.89
Max breeding evidence	FF	FL

out of a total of twenty-seven) were from inland sites. There were records from five BBS walks and the highest count was 6 at Gwynfryn on 18/05 (NHu). There were no records of confirmed breeding, but there were six records of possible or probable breeding from traditional inland sites.

The last record of the year was 1 at Llandegla Forest on 12/07 (NoWi). The last record in 2016 was on 13/08.

Flints. The first of the year was 1 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 21/04 (CW). The first record in 2016 was on 23/04. In contrast to Denbs, the majority of records (eighteen out of nineteen) were from the coast, most of which would have been on passage. The one exception was of a record of confirmed breeding of 4 pairs on a bracken-covered hillside between Moel Famau and Cilcain on 25/06. A minimum of 11 young fledged at this site, giving a total count of 19 (EdW). There were no records from BBS walks. The last of the year was 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 19/09 (PSH). The corresponding date in 2016 was 6/10, also from the Connah's Quay site.



Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

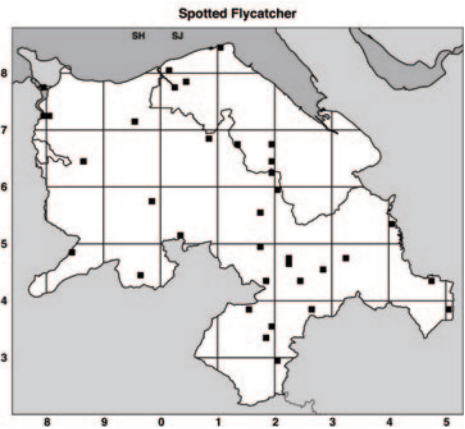
CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

(SF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	26	8
Maximum count	9	2
Recorded in BBS squares	4/31	1/19
Number of records	44	12
% of records from GBW	15.91	0
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	0.5
Density	0.12	0.03
Max breeding evidence	NY	P

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

Resident breeder and winter visitor.



Recorded in each month in both counties. Most records were of 1-2.

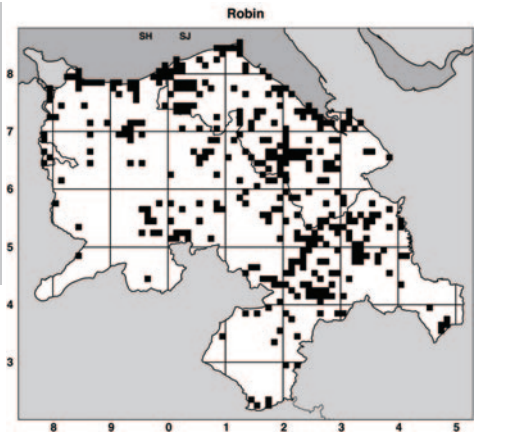
Denbs. In the first winter period the highest count was 4 at Moel Morfydd on 25/01 (NB). Most records in Jan were from the coast. Counts from traditional inland haunts increased during Feb and dominated from Mar into the breeding season. The species was recorded on ten BBS walks, with the highest count being of 8 at Gwynfryn on 18/05 (NHu). There were six records of confirmed breeding (FL): a fledgling at Tan-y-Fron (the first of the year) on 4/06 (JHg); at Moel Famau on 25/06 (EdW); at Boncen y Waen-grogen on 3/07 (AB); at RSPB Conwy (the only breeding record from the coast) on 9/07 (JHg); at Llyn Brenig on 14/07 (RLE) and 4 fledglings being fed by an adult female at Llyn Brenig on 1/08 (JPH). Post-breeding, the highest count was 6 at Moel Arthur on 12/09 (GEM). The number of coastal records began to increase in Oct and during the second winter period, a total of thirteen out of twenty-one records was received from the coast.

Flints. In the first winter period the highest count was 3 at Rhuddlan on 27/2 (AHJ). There were eight records during this period, four from the coast and four from inland sites. In Mar eight out of a total of eleven records came from the coast and by Apr most records were of birds on territory at coastal sites. Not recorded on any BBS walks. There were thirteen records of confirmed breeding (FL), all from the coast. The first was of a fledgling at Gronant dunes on 10/05 (HC), and the last was of a fledgling on the late date of 28/09 at Gronant (WRM). Gronant dunes provided the other eleven records. The highest count during this period was 8 at Gronant on 24/06 (MPB). Inland, probable

(SF)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	2	7	5	5	2.50

breeding, in the form of agitated behaviour, was recorded at Halkyn Mountain on 29/04 (JaH). Post-breeding, coastal records predominated and during the second winter period all seventeen records were from the coast, with a maximum of 5 at Gronant on 1/11 (WRM).

(R)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	246	128
Maximum count	44	18
Av max count prev 10 yrs	23	16
Recorded in BBS squares	30/31	19/19
Number of records	2127	1346
% of records from GBW	43.63	43.54
% of BirdTrack lists	69.7	60.6
Density	5.48	3.91
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*

TINWEN Y GARN

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.
The maxima for 2017 were broadly similar to the average maxima for the previous ten years.
Numbers of records by month in each county:

(R)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs.	262	207	202	243	193	139	148	138	139	147	156	153
Flints.	165	106	146	142	120	101	82	74	87	89	127	107

Denbs. The first of the year was 1 at Kinmel Bay on 8/03. The first of the year in 2016 was 26/03. Records were more regular from the third week of Mar. Typically, there was an equal split between inland and coastal records and passage was on a broad front. The highest count before breeding was recorded was 16 at Moel Famau on 23/04 (EdW). Recorded on seven BBS walks, the highest count of which was 4 at Gwynfryn on 9/04 (NHu). There were three records of confirmed breeding: an occupied nest at Llansilin on 28/05; distraction display at Llansilin on 13/06 (JO), and a fledgling at Llyn Brenig on 22/07 (SD). Thereafter, the highest post-breeding count was of 5 at Kinmel Bay on 1/10 (AHJ). The last bird of the year was 1 at Moel Famau on 9/10, two days earlier than in 2016.

Flints. The first of the year was 1 at Rhyl on 9/03, which was matched by 1 near Rhuddlan on the same date (AHJ). The first of the year in 2016 was 25/03. As with Denbs, records became more regular after 21/03 with, as might be expected for Flints, significantly more records from the coast than inland. The highest count in the early part of the year was 35 at Penycloddiau on 2/04 (EdW). That site was still attracting 31 on 22/04 (EdW). Recorded on three BBS walks and the highest count was 2 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 29/04 (IMS). There were no records of confirmed breeding in Flints. In terms of passage, numbers appeared to peak in the second half of Apr, with several records in double figures at that time, reaching a maximum of 30 near Rhyl on 29/04 (AHJ). There were twenty-three records from around the coast during May but none even hinted at breeding having

(R)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Llewesog Hall	1	4	4	4	4.00
Pandy	5	26	20	20	4.00
TOTALS	6	30	24	24	4.00

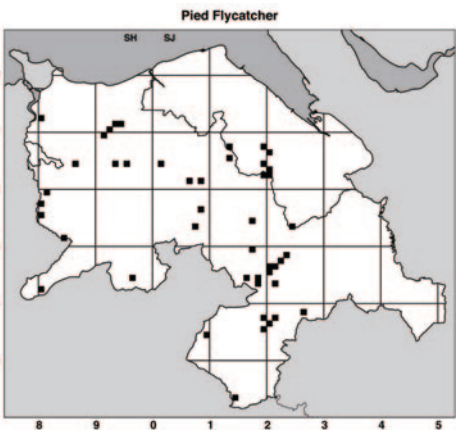
Robin (Henry Cook)



taken place. The largest record in that month was of 8 at Talacre on 16/05 (DCR). There were no records in Jun and then only six in Jul and nine in Aug. Passage was underway by the end of Aug,

(PF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	40	6
Maximum count	81	7
Av max count prev 10 yrs	72	18
Recorded in BBS squares	6/31	-
Number of records	138	13
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	0.7
Density	1.64	0.07
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

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



with 10 at Connah's Quay NR on 30/08 (RRI). There were eleven records in Sep with all but one of them from the coast. The highest count was 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 31/08 (PSH). There were ten records in Oct, all but one from the coast, and all of 1-2. The last of the year were 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22/10 (PSH). The last in 2016 was 4/10.

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorroha*

TINWEN Y GARN

Passage migrant.
The species has appeared on spring passage in small numbers in the majority of the last ten years.

Denbs. There were 2 at RSPB Conwy on 13/05 (JPH).

Flints. All records were of spring passage at Gronant dunes: 2 on 2/05, and singles on 3/05, 10/05, 21/05, 22/05 and 25/05 (all HC).

(PF)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	24	160	127	106	4.42
Near Pandy	5	36	36	14	2.80
Llewesog Hall	55	386	351	279	5.07
Pandy	18	120	103	76	4.22
Derwen	1	7	4	4	4.00
Coed Nantddu	9	59	51	45	5.00
Dinbren Isaf	16	110	105	84	5.25
Near Llandollen	15	116	83	72	4.80
Rhydymwyn	1	7	7	5	5.00
TOTALS	144	1001	867	685	4.76
Mean yng/nest for 2004-2016, n = 1239					4.37

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

BRONWEN Y DWR

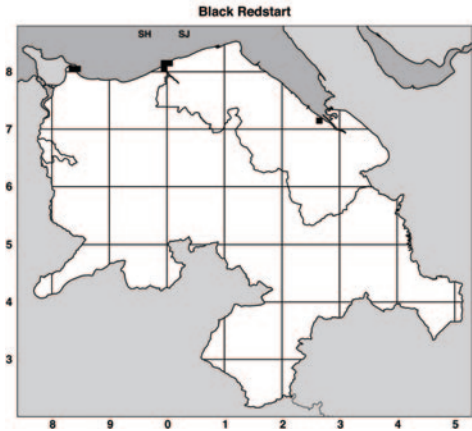
Breeding resident.
Most of the records submitted were of 1-2.

Denbs. Counts in the first winter period were of 1-2, the only exception being a record of 3 at Erddig pool, Wrexham on 7/01 (NHu). Recorded on six BBS walks, all of which were of singles. Also recorded

(BX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	5	2
Maximum count	1	1
Number of records	9	2
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-
Density	0.00	0.00

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

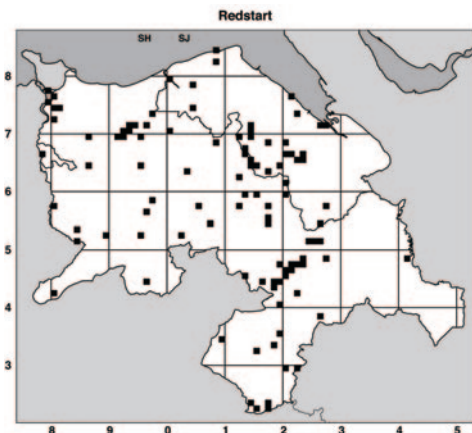
on four WBBS walks, two of which recorded only singles, and two, at Llangernyw on 23/04 (AnWi) and at Wern-ddu on 5/05 (NDg) recorded 2 each. There were six records of confirmed breeding: a pair carrying food for young under the decking of a riverside restaurant at Llangollen on 6/04 (CBs); 3 fledglings at Llangollen on 9/04; 3 nestlings ringed at Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog on 16/04 (pBH); 4 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 16/04 (pBH); 4 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 7/05 (pBH), and fresh droppings below a regular nest site at The Dingle, Colwyn Bay, the outcome of which was thought to be threatened by very low water levels (WRM). Counts were of 1-2 in the second winter period, and through to the end of the year, except for a record of 3 at Llangollen on 11/08 (DaHu).



Flints. Records in the first winter period were of 1-2. Recorded on one BBS walk with 1 near Mold on 10/05 (GEM). There was one record of confirmed breeding (ON): an occupied nest at Greenfield Valley on 9/04 (RPJ). Post-breeding and to the end of the year all records were of 1-2 with the exception of 3 recorded near Rhuddlan on 25/09 (DCR). The last record of the year was 1 at Fagl Lane GP, Hope on 29/10 (NHu).

(RT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	76	27
Maximum count	12	13
Recorded in BBS squares	14/31	8/19
Number of records	146	52
% of records from GBW	5.48	0
% of BirdTrack lists	4.7	1.8
Density	0.46	0.60
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

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



Breeding (MRG, JLR):

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

ADERYN Y TO

Breeding resident. Amber List.
Recorded in each month in both counties. The largest numbers were seen outside the breeding season with the highest counts recorded at Towyn in Denbs. Excluding Towyn's records the counts from the two counties were very similar in pattern and numbers.

Denbs. The records for this species divide into two groups, with relatively high counts from Towyn and smaller counts from the rest of the county. At Towyn there were twenty-six counts of 100-200 between 5/01 and 18/03. The size of the flocks at Towyn decreased during the breeding season but a count of 80 was recorded on 30/06, possibly through the fledging of the first young of the year. Thereafter, counts in double figures became more regular again culminating in 19 records of 100-120 between 14/09 and the end of the year (all Towyn data from SM). Away from Towyn, the species' numbers followed a similar pattern during the year but most records were in single figures. The exceptions were all from RSPB Conwy where, in the first winter period, there was a maximum of 60 on 10/02 (WRM), followed by a count of 45 on 2/03 (WRM). Recorded on twenty-five BBS walks with the highest count being 58 at Cefn Mawr on 5/05 (DAW). There were twenty-two records of confirmed breeding in the vice-county as a whole. Confirmed breeding (FL, ON, FF, NY) was recorded and the first was of a nest with young at Towyn on 19/04; the first fledgling of the year was recorded at Towyn on 6/05, and the last confirmed breeding record was of a fledgling at Towyn on 5/08 (all SM). Breeding was also confirmed at RSPB Conwy, where there was an adult carrying food or a faecal sac on 27/04 and a record of a fledgling on 31/05 (JHg). Elsewhere, two broods of 5 nestlings were ringed at Pandy on 6/06 and 9/07 respectively (pBH). Post- breeding and up to the second winter period, the highest

(RT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	1	7	7	0	0.00
Pandy	2	10	70	6	3.00
Rhydymwyn	2	14	13	13	6.50
TOTALS	5	31	27	19	3.80

counts were 60 at RSPB Conwy on 21/08 (WRM). Inland there were 40 at Llanarmon yn Ial on 17/09 (IW) and a similar number at Nant-y-Glyn on 23/09 (HC). Numbers at RSPB Conwy were generally very low during the second winter period but, towards the end of the year, the site provided the highest count for this period with 60 on 14/12 (WRM); this along with the other records for the site (see above)

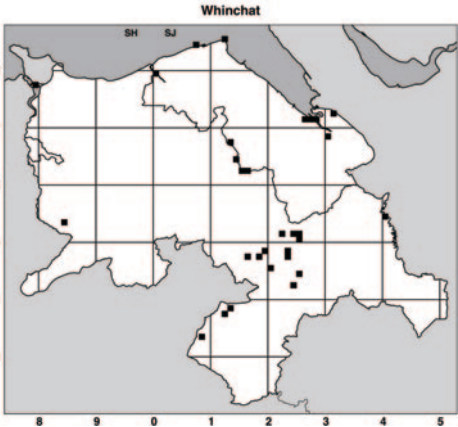
(WC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	21	9
Maximum count	19	2
Recorded in BBS squares	4/31	-
Number of records	27	19
% of BirdTrack lists	1.7	0.2
Density	0.20	0.03
Max breeding evidence	FL	S

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

suggests something of a semi-resident population there.

Flints. Most records were in single figures. The maximum count in the first winter period was 20 near Rhuddlan on 8/01, with a similar number near Cilcain on 19/02 (GEM). Recorded on twenty-six BBS walks. The highest counts were 64 at Buckley on 15/04 and 84 there on 17/05 (GNR). There were twelve records of confirmed breeding (FL, ON, FF, NY). The first was an adult carrying a faecal sac or food on 3/05 at Gronant dunes (HC). The first fledgling was noted at the same site on 2/06 (HC). The last confirmed breeding record was a nest with young at Gronant on 9/07 (SD). Post-breeding and up to the second winter period the highest count was 30 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/07 (RRi). In the second winter period the highest count was 54 near Cilcain on 21/11 (GEM).

Breeding (MRG):



Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

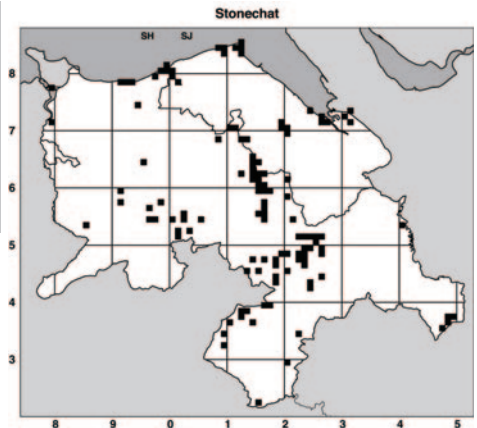
Breeding resident. Red List.

The maxima for 2017 were clearly smaller than the average maxima for the previous ten years. The more significant reduction was in Flints, which recorded a maximum count of 3, compared with a ten-year average of 34. This is thought to be due in no small part to the loss of a breeding colony at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft.

(SC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	96	24
Maximum count	8	8
Recorded in BBS squares	6/31	-
Number of records	240	114
% of BirdTrack lists	13.2	9.4
Density	0.39	0.33
Max breeding evidence	FL	FF

Denbs. There were no records from BBS walks and only six records for the whole year: 1 in a GBW at Llanarmon-yn-Ial in weeks beginning 22/01 and 29/01 (MAJo); 1 at Allt Gybydd Farm on 19/02 (SzB); 4, including a probable breeding pair in suitable habitat, at Trevalyn Meadows on 16/04 (NHu) - the only suggestion of breeding in Denbs; 6 at RSPB Conwy on 13/05 (KeD) and 1 in a GBW at Froncysyllte in week beginning 9/07 (JVT), which was the last record of the year.

Flints. At first sight the records from Flints appear a lot healthier than those from Denbs. However, fifty-two of the Flints records were from one GBW site in Cilcain (RWes). Four to five records were provided from this site in every month of the year. Every record was of presence only. There was no obvious pattern to the numbers recorded, other than that the population appears small but stable. There were a further two records from the village: 3 on 8/03 and 1 on 12/03 (GEM). The only record away from Cilcain, and the only BBS record, was 1 at Gronant on 22/04 (GRMP). No breeding records were received, confirmed or otherwise.



Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

LLWYD Y GWYRCH

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Records were of mostly of 1-2 throughout the year.

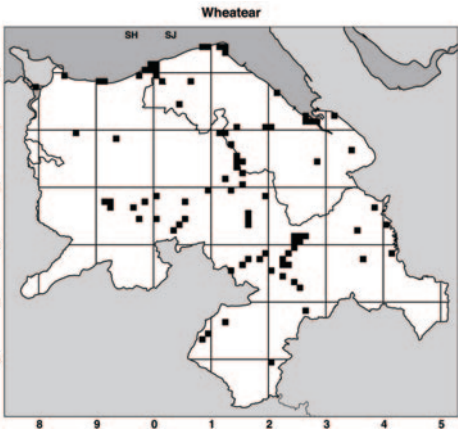
Denbs. In the first winter period most counts were of 1-2, but double-figures were recorded twice with 11 at Nant-y-Glyn on 19/02 (HC) and 10 at Bodelwyddan Castle on 12/01 (RTe). In the early spring there were 18 at Nant-y-Glyn on 15/03 (HC), which proved to be the year's maximum count. The species is probably most visible in late winter / early spring when breeding starts, but then records appear to reduce considerably until young start to fledge. Out of ten records of confirmed breeding, two were of occupied nests and eight were of recently fledged young. It is possible that some of the latter records were duplicates but the pattern appears to hold for Flints also (see below). The first record was of an occupied nest at Nant-y-Glyn on 12/04 (HC), and the last was of a fledgling at Towyn on 26/06 (SM). Recorded on thirty-two BBS walks. The highest counts were 9 at Pentre Maelor, Wrexham on 23/04 (NF) and also at Castell on 7/05 (MD). Post-breeding and up to the end of the year the maximum number recorded was 15 at Nant-y-Glyn on 30/10 (HC), but this was exceptional

and the majority of records were of 1-2.

(W)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	63	26
Maximum count	16	35
Av max count prev 10 yrs	21	35
Recorded in BBS squares	5/31	3/19
Number of records	140	121
% of BirdTrack lists	6.5	5.1
Density	0.51	1.54
Max breeding evidence	ON	P

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

Flints. Numbers in the first winter period and the early spring were mostly of 1-2, with no records in double-figures. Recorded on twenty-six BBS walks. The highest count was 14 at Mold on 23/04 (IMS). There were twelve records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Fagl Lane GP, Hope on 26/04 (GNR). The other eleven records were of recently fledged young, the last of which was from Rhydymwyn on 8/08 (GRMP). Post-breeding and up to the end of the year most of the records were of 1-2. The highest count during this period was 7 at Pantymwyn on 26/10 (GEM).



Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

SIGLEN FELEN

Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7. The maxima for 2017 show significant reductions compared with the average maxima for the previous ten years.

Denbs. Just two records, both of birds apparently on spring passage: 1 at RSPB Conwy on 21/04 and 1 at Nant-y-Glyn on 30/04 (both HC). The first in 2016 was 3/04 and the last was 16/07.

Flints. The first record was 3 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 18/04, with 6 there the following day (AGr). The first in 2016 was 20/04. There were five records in Apr, ten in May, three in Jun, three in Jul, four in Aug and one in Sep. All but one of the records were from the coast between Gronant dunes and Shotwick Fields/RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, with evidence of breeding at just one site – Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 29/04. The last of the year was of 2 at Shotwick Fields/RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 30/09 (CW). This was an exceptionally late date. The last date in 2016 was 20/08.

(W)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	2	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	3
Number of records	1	6
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.6
Density	0.00	0.00

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 **Blue-headed Wagtail** (ssp. *M.f. flava*) was recorded at Talacre on 22/05 (HC) and on the

same date at Point of Ayr. This was quite possibly the same bird.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

SIGLEN LLWYD

Breeding resident. Amber List.
Recorded in each month in both counties.

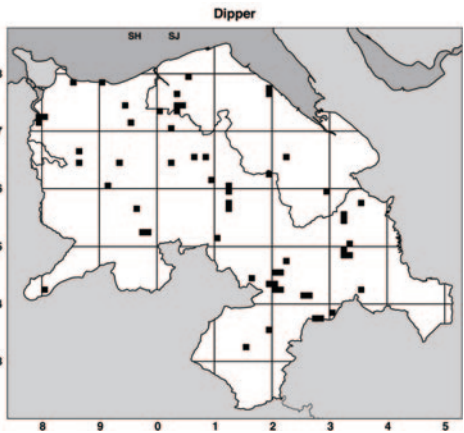
Denbs. The first record of the year was 1 at Abergele hospital on 5/01 (NHB). The highest counts in

(DI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	50	9
Maximum count	4	3
Recorded in BBS squares	6/31	1/19
Number of records	96	17
% of BirdTrack lists	1.9	0.6
Density	0.10	0.05
Max breeding evidence	NY	ON

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 first winter period and early spring were: 2 at Erddig pool, Wrexham on 19/02 (NHu), and 3 at Tal-y-cafn on 26/03 (JOHn). Recorded on two BBS walks: 2 at Erddig pool, Wrexham on 8/04 and on 19/05 (NHu). There were eight records of confirmed breeding (UN, FL, FF): an adult carrying a faecal sac or food, which was part of a count of 6 (the highest count of the year) at Llangollen on 9/04; an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at RSPB Conwy on 25/04 (JHg); 4 nestlings ringed at Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog on 30/04 (pBH); a fledgling at Erddig pool, Wrexham on 17/05 (NHu); a used nest from the current year at Rhos-y-Brithdir on



20/05 (DWh); 4 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 24/06 (pBH); 3 nestlings ringed at Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog on 9/07 (pBH) and a fledgling at Erddig park, Wrexham on 6/08 (HCw). Post-breeding, numbers were of 1-2 and this was the case into the autumn and during the second winter period. The last record of the year was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 31/12 (JAC).

Flints. The first record of the year was 1 at St Asaph on 1/01 (NDu). Numbers were of 1-2 in the first winter period and into the early spring. Recorded on two BBS walks: 1 at Afonwen on 18/04 (GRMP), and 1 at Pentre on the same date (DeD). There were four records of confirmed breeding (FL, ON, NY): an occupied nest at Rhydymwyn on 28/05; a nestling ringed at Rhydymwyn on the same date (GRMP); 5 nestlings ringed at Rhydymwyn on 11/06 (IMS), and a fledgling at Greenfield Valley on 3/07 (WRM). All post-breeding records up to the end of the year were of 1-2. The last record of the year was 1 near Rhyl on 25/12 (JPH).

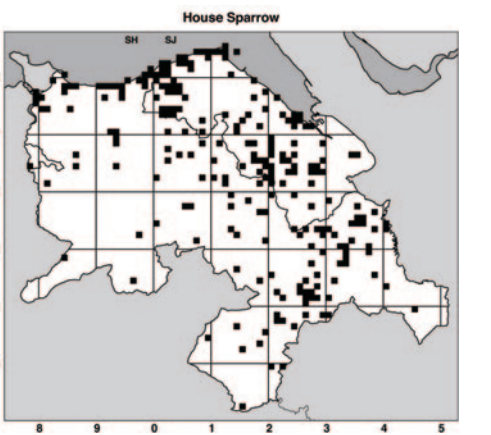
(DI)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Ceiriog Valley	3	13	12	12	4.00
Near Llandollen	4	19	16	10	2.50
TOTALS	7	32	28	22	3.14

Breeding (MRG, JLR, IMS, GRMP, GaBu, JSy):

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

SIGLEN WEN

(HS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	142	96
Maximum count	200	84
Av max count prev 10 yrs	129	143
Recorded in BBS squares	15/31	14/19
Number of records	1562	994
% of records from GBW	48.91	50.50
% of BirdTrack lists	48.7	40.1
Density	14.37	13.69
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



Passage migrant. RBBP.
Most records were of singles. The maxima for 2017 show a clear reduction compared with the average maxima for the previous ten years.

Denbs. There were thirty-seven records from RSPB Conwy, with nine between 19/03 and 9/05 during the spring passage and twenty-eight between 24/07 and 2/10 during the autumn passage. All records from this site were of singles, apart from two records of 2 and one of 3 during the autumn passage (all JHg). The first date in 2016 was 28/03 and the last 29/09 both from RSPB Conwy. Elsewhere there was 1 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 20/03 (MiB), and 8 were at Borras, Wrexham on 26/4 (KS).

Flints. There were four records from the spring passage: 3 at Rhuddlan on 3/04; 2 near Rhyl on 8/04 (AHJ); 2 at Talacre on 29/04 (SD), and 9 at Talacre on 9/05 (HC). There was one record of autumn passage with 3 at Rhyl promenade on 3/09 (JPH). The first date in 2016 was 9/04 but there were no autumn passage records in that year.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

SIGLEN FRAITH

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Most records were of 1-2, with larger numbers recorded on passage or associated with roosting. The maxima for 2017 were slightly higher than the average maxima for the previous ten years.

Denbs. In the first winter period most counts were of 1-2, but there were also some significant flocks, probably associated with roosting. The highest of these were: 60 perched on wires at Rhuthun sewage works on 17/01 (GPI); 60 at Sutton Green on 11/02, which were in maize stubble where muck had been spread (NHu), and 34 at Cefn Meiriadog on 19/01 and again on 23/01 (SH). In Mar, more smaller flocks were recorded, with the highest being 25 at Pentrefelin in the Conwy Valley on 19/03, with 17 there on 20/03 and on 21/03, and 10 there on 28/03 - the last spring count in double-figures (MiB). Commensurate with this reduction in the size of the flocks was an increase in the counts of 1-2. A notable exception was a flock of 100+ in a roost at Erlas Hall, Wrexham on 2/05. Recorded on twenty-one BBS walks, with the highest count being 5 at Castell on 10/06 (MD). There were 10 records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an apparently occupied nest at Llansilin on 16/05 (JO). The first fledgling of the year was noted at Eglwyseg on 31/05 (NiSu). The last confirmed breeding record of the year was of a fledgling at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 16/08 (JPH). A crevice in the Jubilee Tower on Moel Famau provided a nest site, which was revealed on 24/05 by an adult carrying food back for

(HS)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Tregeiriog	5	20	17	15	3.00
Pandy	2	11	10	10	5.00
TOTALS	7	31	27	25	3.57

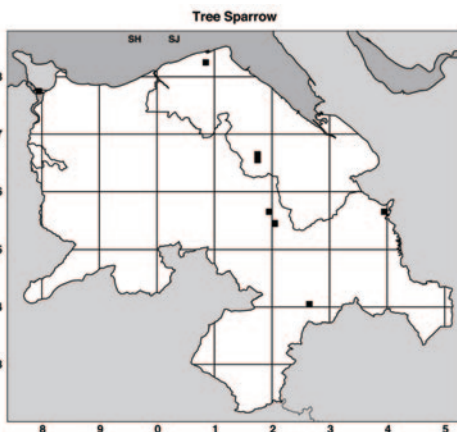
the young (RG). Towards the end of the breeding season the first flock in double figures was 11 at RSPB Conwy on 13/06 (JPH), but more regular flocking was not noted until Aug. The highest monthly counts up to the end of the year were: 30 at RSPB Conwy on 21/08 (WRM); 30 at RSPB Conwy on 27/09 (WRM); 7 at Holt on 17/10 (NF); 100 at RSPB Conwy (a pre-roost assembly) on 9/11 (JHg),

(TS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	5	3
Maximum count	6	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	15	34
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/19
Number of records	6	55
% of records from GBW	50.00	94.55
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.3
Density	0.02	0.02
Max breeding evidence	P	

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

and 5 at RSPB Conwy on 31/12 (JAC).



Flints. In the first winter period there were only two records of flocks in double figures: 30+ at St Asaph on 5/02 (DCR), and 12 at Connah's Quay NR on 5/02 (RRI). In Mar the highest count was 65 at Rhyl Promenade on 12/03 (JPH). Thereafter, numbers reduced to single figures until the end of the breeding season. The highest count was 8 at Mold on 23/04 (IMS). There were six records of confirmed breeding. The first, and also the first fledgling of the year, was 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 3/06 (PSH). The last, and also the last fledgling of the year was 1 at Gronant dunes on 27/06 (HC). Flocks began to form once again post-breeding and the highest count in this period was 30 at Gronant dunes on 28/07 and again on 2/08 (HC), but the majority of records were in single figures. In the second winter period there were seven counts in double figures, but by far the highest were two counts of what was probably substantially the same flock: 79 at Flint saltmarsh on 25/11 with 90 there on 29/11 (DWN).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

CORHEDYDD Y WAEN

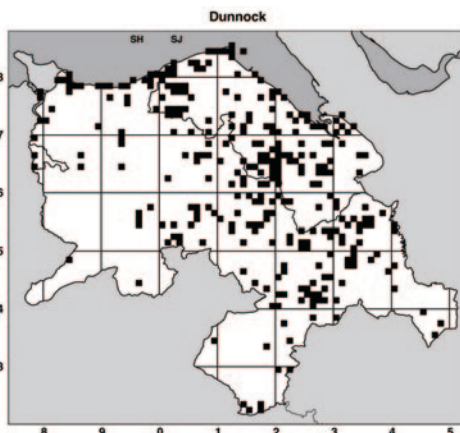
Breeding resident and both passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Most counts were of 1-3 birds.

Denbs. The first record of the year was presence at RSPB Conwy on 1/01. In the first winter period the highest count was 15, perched on wires in a pasture at Denbigh on 18/01 (GrJ). The records during this period were fairly evenly divided between coastal and inland sites. During Mar there was a general increase in the number of records (with some 68% coming from inland sites) and in the

(D)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	188	117
Maximum count	18	14
Recorded in BBS squares	22/31	16/19
Number of records	1683	1107
% of records from GBW	51.34	50.68
% of BirdTrack lists	46.8	44.3
Density	1.71	2.78
Max breeding evidence	ON	FF

size of the flocks, with the highest count being 100+ at Penycae on 28/03 (JAJ). The next highest counts were of flocks of 20 at: Esclusham Mountain on 15/03 (DvB); Pentrefelin in the Conwy Valley on 21/03 (MiB); Esclusham Mountain on 24/03 (NDu), and Eglwyseg on 25/03 (NiSu). Apr was dominated by inland records with the largest being 33 at Llyn Brenig on 16/04 (JPH). Recorded on seventeen BBS walks; the highest count was 34 at Cerrig-duon on 5/05 (DeS). There were six records of confirmed breeding, including one of a used nest at Rhos-y-brithdir on 20/05 (DWWh). The remaining five records were all of adults carrying a faecal sac or food at the following locations: two separate records from Esclusham Mountain on 24/06 (SD); Llyn Aled Isaf on 9/07 (GEM); Ceiriog Forest on 15/07 (NHu) and Nant -y-Ffrith Reservoir on 22/07 (SD). Post-breeding, the first record from the coast was presence at RSPB Conwy on 27/08 (DvS). Numbers on the coast steadily increased in the autumn. The highest number inland during this period was 35 at Mynydd y Glyn on 19/09 (MkH). At the start of the second winter period the coastal records dominated, with a maximum of 35 at Kinmel Bay on 19/11 (JPH). In Dec, some 65% of the month's records were from the coast, though the largest flock in that month was 10 at Holt on 22/12 (NF).



Flints. The first record of the year was 12 near Rhuddlan on 1/01 (SH). Most of the records in every month of the year were from coastal sites. The largest count in the first winter period was 26 near Rhuddlan on 27/02 (AHJ). Most of the records in Mar were also from the coast, where there was a maximum of 79 (probably on passage) at Rhyl promenade on 12/03 (JPH). There was further evidence of birds moving back to their breeding grounds, with 40 at Penycloddiau on 31/03 (GPI), 30+ at Rhos-y-cae on 5/04 (MGW) and 14 at Halkyn Mountain on 29/04 (JaH). Recorded on two BBS walks, with 1 at Gronant on 19/06 (GRMP) and 1 at Rhosesmor on 23/06 (GaBu). There were thirteen records of confirmed breeding. The first was of distraction display at Llanfynydd on 9/05 (GNR). The remaining twelve records were all from Gronant / Gronant dunes, between 15/05 and 17/07. Post-breeding and into the autumn the highest count was 28 at Connah's Quay NR on 22/09 (PDS), which were probably on passage. In the second winter period the highest count was 14 at Flint on 5/12 (DWn).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

CORHEDYDD Y COED

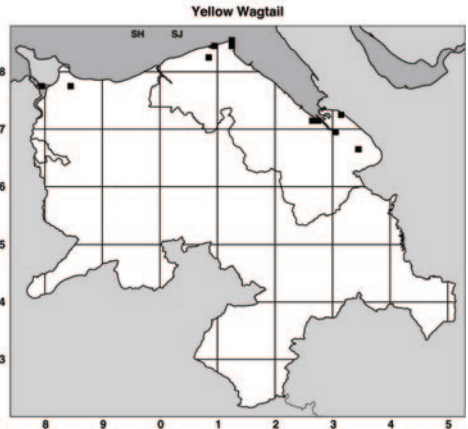
(YW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	9
Maximum count	1	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	13
Recorded in BBS squares	-	2/19
Number of records	2	26
% of BirdTrack lists	-	1.4
Density	0.00	0.09
Max breeding evidence		T

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

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List. S7.

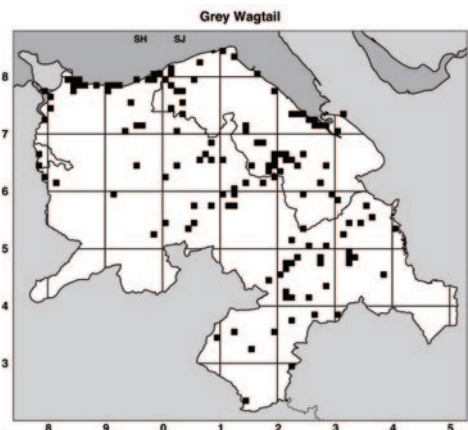
The maxima for 2017 were similar to the average maxima for the previous ten years.



Denbs. Most records were from inland, upland sites, although the first record of the year was 1 at Fenn's Moss on 6/04 (RbHa). The first date in 2016 was 15/04. This was followed by 1 at Pentrefelin in the Conwy Valley on 23/04 (MiB), 1 at Pendre on 25/04 (JoG) and 1 at Llandegla Forest on 30/04 (NoWi). It is possible that some of the records in the first half of May (nine out of a total of sixteen in May) were of birds on passage as numbers peaked during that period. There were seven records in Jun and one in Jul, the latter at Llandegla Forest on 12/07 (NoWi). This was also the last record of the year. The last date in 2016 was also 12/07. Recorded on five BBS walks: 2 at Mynydd y Glyn on 3/05, with 1 there on 3/06 (MkH); 2 at Berwyn on 15/05 and 1 there on 26/06 (JoG), and 1 near Llanarmon yn Ial on 17/06 (TP). There was only one record of confirmed breeding (UN) and this was at Rhos-y-brithdir on 20/05 (DWh).

Flints. The first record was 3 at Talacre on 9/05 (HC); followed by 1 at Gronant dunes on 10/05 (HC), and 1 at Gronant on 11/05 (DCR). All three records were probably of birds on passage. The first date in 2016 was 21/04. Not recorded on any BBS walks. There were no records of confirmed breeding but the last record of the year, 2 at Nercwys Mountain on 2/07, was thought to be of a pair in suitable breeding habitat (GEM). The last date in 2016 was 13/05.

(GL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	91	46
Maximum count	6	5
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	2/19
Number of records	240	111
% of records from GBW	3.33	3.60
% of BirdTrack lists	11.4	7.4
Density	0.28	0.39
Max breeding evidence	FF	ON



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

Winter visitor.

Denbs. The first record was of a single at RSPB Conwy on 11/01 (WRM). There were four records from RSPB Conwy in Jan, four in Feb, seven in Mar and one in Apr, the last on 12/04. It seems likely that most of these records refer to the same bird. In the second winter period there were 2 at RSPB Conwy on 28/12 (MPB).

Flints. The sole record was of 1 at Flint on 5/12 (DWN).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

(GL)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Ceiriog Valley	3	14	13	12	4.00
Near Llandollen	5	22	13	13	2.60
Rhydymwyn	1	5	5	4	4.00
TOTALS	9	41	31	29	3.22

Counts were mostly of 1-3.

Denbs. The first record was of 1 at Rhos-on-Sea on 10/01 (HCw). Records in the first winter period were of 1-2, with the exception of 3 at Rhos-on-Sea on 14/01 (WRM). There were a further four

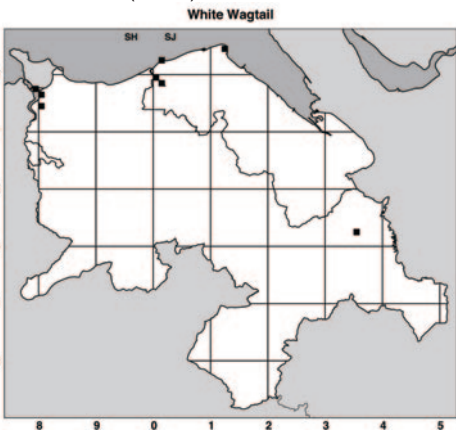
(WB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	4	4
Maximum count	8	9
Av max count prev 10 yrs	29	50
Number of records	39	5
% of BirdTrack lists	32.4	30.2
Density	0.02	0.06

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

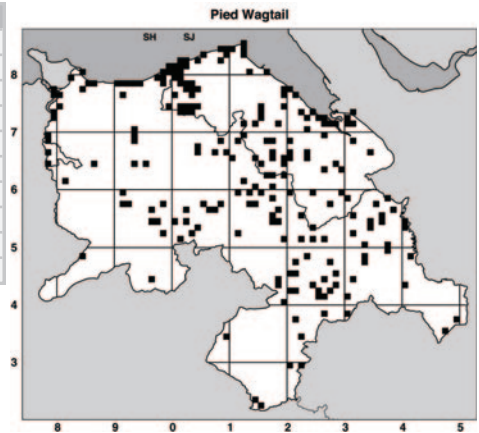
records from this site in the same period, but the last of the early winter period was 2 at Old Colwyn on 11/02 (SABk). There were two spring records of the Scandinavian ssp. *A.p. littoralis*: 1 at RSPB Conwy on 4/04 (JHg), and 1 at Towyn on 31/05 (SM). There was no evidence of breeding and the next records were not received until the autumn, when there was 1 at Llandulas on 16/10 (GEM), 1 at Rhos-on-Sea on 16/10 (WRM) and 1 flying over Nant-y-Glyn on 30/10 (HC). Of the eleven records for Dec, seven were from RSPB Conwy and four were from Rhos-on-Sea. The last of the year, 4 at RSPB Conwy on 31/12 (JAC), was also the highest count of the year.

Flints. The first record was a single of *A.p.littoralis* near Rhyl on 29/01 (JNW). There were four



records of *A.p.petrosus* in the first winter period and early spring: 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 30/01 (TBT); 1 near Rhyl on 4/02 (AHJ); 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/02 (PSH), and 1 at Rhyl promenade on 12/03 (JPH). There was no evidence of breeding and the next record was not received until 21/10, when there was 1 at Connah's Quay NR (PDS). There were fifteen records from the second winter period, five from Connah's Quay NR and ten from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. The highest counts were of 3 and these were from: RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 2/11 (PSH); Connah's Quay on 4/12 (PSH), and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 4/12 (DWn). The last record of the year was 1 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 19/12 (PSH).

(PW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	142	77
Maximum count	100	90
Av max count prev 10 yrs	95	45
Recorded in BBS squares	16/31	8/19
Number of records	654	400
% of records from GBW	13.76	12.50
% of BirdTrack lists	27.2	25.1
Density	7.19	11.77
Max breeding evidence	NY	FF



Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

JI-BINC

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. The reporting rate was about average. The maximum counts in Flints returned to normal levels after a dip in 2016.

Denbs. Some 92% of records were in single figures, very similar to previous years. One hundred and twenty-one were counts of 10-30, with five counts higher than this. A flock of 30+ was seen feeding in a small turnip field at Clawddnewydd on 10/02 (GPI). The maximum was 112 at Nant-y-Glyn on 30/10 (HC). The largest BBS count was of 22 at Craig Bron Bannog, Clocaenog Forest on 17/06 (HKd, MaO), but considering that this is one of our most common and widespread species it was surprising that there was no evidence of confirmed breeding. The highest GBW count was 36 at Ysbyty Ifan in week beginning 17/09 (SGb). Only one sick bird was noted this year.

Maximum monthly counts in each county:

Flints. As in Denbs most of the counts were of 1-9 (92%), with sixty-four counts of 10-30 and eight above this. The maximum counts were 250 at White Sands, Dee Estuary on 18/11 (PSH, PDS), with 150 still present at the same site on 14/12 (PDS). At Plas Bellin between Northop and Connah's Quay, 150 were seen on 29/11 (DWn). The largest breeding survey count of 18 was along a stretch of river at St Asaph on a WBBS transect by ShG on 19/04. The highest GBW count was 33 at Rhydymwyn in week beginning 12/02 (DMH). Over the year 82 full-grown birds were ringed at Shotton Steelworks (pBH), 60 at Bagillt (GRMP) and 12 at Sychdyn (IMS).

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

PINC Y MYNYDD

Breeding (MRG, JLR):

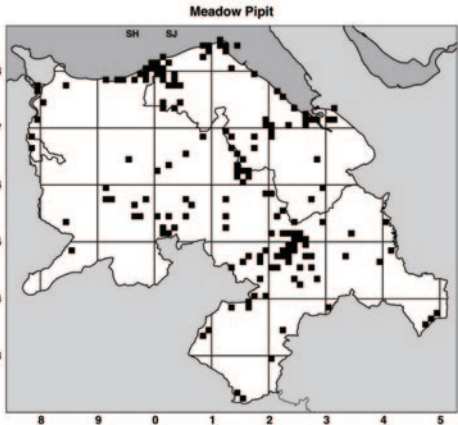
(PW)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	2	8	0	0	0.00
Near Llandollen	8	37	30	27	3.38
TOTALS	10	45	30	27	2.70

Winter visitor. Amber List.

There was a similar number of records, but these were more widely distributed and recorded in higher numbers, to those of 2016. Sightings in the latter part of the year were much earlier than on average.

Denbs. The majority of records were in single figures, with ten records of 11-40. At Chirk Castle numbers at the beginning of the year fluctuated between 2 and 40 from 5/01 to 1/02. The maximum number of 40 was observed on 14/01 and 1/02 (JRn). The last, early winter records were all on 16/04 when 2 were at Garth, Trevor Hall (JuBa) and singles were seen at Penycae (RMg) and Bwychgwyn (MaT). Birds are not usually seen again until early winter but this year sightings began in autumn. A single was seen in a garden at Bryneglwys, in the weeks beginning 10/09 and 17/09, which are extremely early records (LAF). Then two more singles were seen at RSPB Conwy on 18/10 (NDP) and central Wrexham on 30/10 (NHu) and 10 were at Nant-y-Glyn on 30/10 (HC). Many records came from gardens and sadly on 12/03 a bird was seen in a Rhuthun garden that appeared to be

(MP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	115	50
Maximum count	100	79
Av max count prev 10 yrs	130	104
Recorded in BBS squares	10/31	3/19
Number of records	340	232
% of BirdTrack lists	23.2	20.3
Density	5.82	6.71
Max breeding evidence	FF	NY



suffering from Trichomonosis. In the wider countryside birds were seen in woodland and in stubble fields, often accompanied by other species such as Siskin, Chaffinch, Goldfinch and Yellowhammer.

Flints. All records were in single figures. The maximum of 5 came from Pantymwyn on 8/03 and 22/03 (GEM). The last of the 2016/17 winter was seen on 9/04 at Penycloddiau (EdW) and the first of the following winter was sighted on 30/10 at Gronant (HC). Two individuals were ringed: 1 in a garden at Sychdyn on 10/03 and another at a garden at Bagillt on 8/11 (GRMP).

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

GYLFINBRAFF

Winter visitor and possible breeding resident. Amber List. RBBP. S7.

Despite the well publicised influx of Hawfinches across much of the UK in Oct-Nov, very few records were received in NE Wales. The number of records was actually fewer than from 2016.

Denbs. The number of records was more usual this year. Sightings came from six locations, all very scattered around the county. With the exception of one record on 14/05 from the east side of the Conwy valley at Llanrwst (MCh), all records were from outside the breeding season. Two were seen near Rhuthun on 2/02 and 9/02 (KS) and two at Gwynfryn on 27/12 (SD).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

COCH Y BERLLAN

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

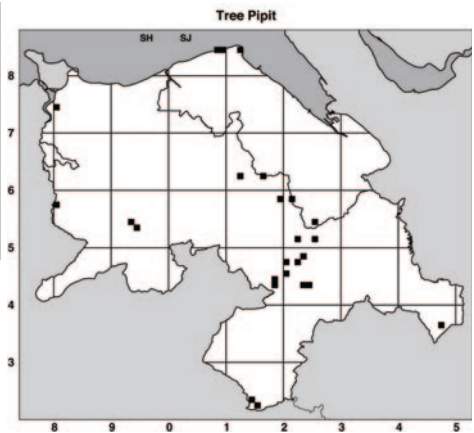
Recorded in each month in both counties, with a significant increase in records from both counties. The geographic spread of records increased in Denbs. almost trebling in five years.

Denbs. A similar pattern to previous years, with the large majority of records in single figures. There were twelve records of between 10 and 28, ten of which came from RSPB Conwy, particularly at the end of the year when an amazing 28 were seen on 9/12 (JHg). A good garden record was of 6 seen at Bwlchgwyn in weeks beginning 1/01 and 8/01 (MaT).

Flints. Some 96% of reports were of 1-5 with thirty-three records of 6 or more at a number of locations. The maximum counts of 10 were recorded at Pantymwyn on 30/11 and 8/12 (GEM) and 12 at Llanfynydd on 19/01 (GNR). In total, 35 were ringed at Bagillt (GRMP), Sychdyn (IMS) and Shotton Steelworks (pBH).

(TP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	21	4
Maximum count	3	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	4
Recorded in BBS squares	3/31	-
Number of records	28	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8	0.3
Density	0.03	0.02
Max breeding evidence	UN	P

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



Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

LLINOS WERDD

Breeding resident. Amber List.

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 only two records of sick birds in the Towyn area this year.

Denbs. As in 2016, almost all records were of 9 or fewer – 97% of all reports - with just twenty-three counts of 10-41. The maximum of 41 came Towyn on 13/08 (JPH) and 30 at RSPB Conwy on 10/07 (JHg). During the year ringing sessions at Glan Conwy captured 135 full-grown birds, mainly during the winter months. In gardens, 15 were counted at Trevor Hall, Garth in week beginning 8/10 (JuBa).

Maximum monthly counts in each county:

Flints. Some 96% of records were of 9 or fewer, with twenty-seven counts of 10-51. There was only one flock over 30 and this maximum of 51 was seen on the mudflats at Point of Ayr on 23/03 (JPH). Breeding season numbers were low with the highest count of 4 recorded on a BBS transect at Cilcain on 29/04 (JaH). Ringing sessions at Bagillt captured only 50 full-grown birds on various dates throughout the year, only half the number from 2016.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

Winter visitor. Amber List. S7.

There were fewer records and possibly fewer birds in both counties than in the previous three years.

Denbs. There were no inland records this year. The two records came from Kinmel Bay on 8/03 (JoG) and RSPB Conwy on 10/09 (JHg).

Flints. The flock sizes regularly reported at Connah's Quay NR throughout the winter months were smaller this year, but there was one record of a flock of over 100: 103 on 11/02 (RBe). Jan, Feb and Mar numbers varied, with flocks of up to 60 seen and a few birds remained into Apr when the last sighting of the winter was on 24/04, when 6 were recorded. A total of 24 was newly ringed and individually colour-ringed in Feb and Mar. This year only one bird from other ringing sites was recaptured, that being a Twite ringed at Machrihanish on the Mull of Kintyre in October 2014 and recaptured at Connah's Quay NR three

(WI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	2	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	1
Number of records	17	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	0.3
Density	0.00	0.00

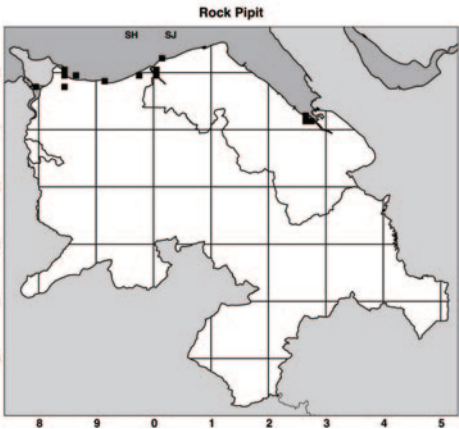
Seen in these months												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

times in each of the next three winters. The first returning birds of the autumn were at the end of Oct, when a single was seen at Gronant on 31/10 (WRM) and 20 returned to Connah's Quay NR on 31/10 (DWN). The Dee flock then

gradually built up to a maximum of 70 towards the end of the year. Away from the Connah's Quay NR / Flint area, the only sightings were at Rhyl, Gronant and Talacre, where small numbers were occasionally seen.

(RC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	6
Maximum count	4	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	4
Number of records	22	21
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	0.8
Density	0.01	0.03

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



Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

LLINOS

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.
Recorded in each month in both counties. The increase in records continued this year from Flints. The majority of large flock counts came from coastal sites. Breeding was confirmed in both counties.

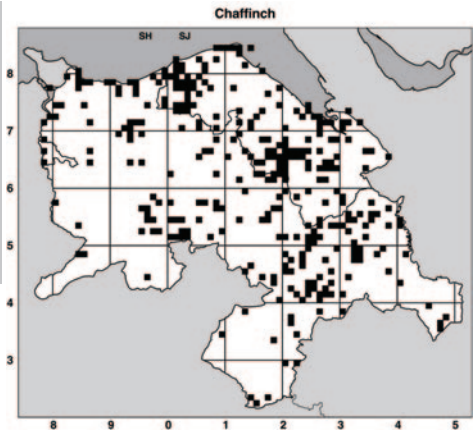
Denbs. Some 88% of reports were of 9 or fewer. There were ten counts exceeding 30. The largest counts were 80 at Kinnel Bay on 30/09 (WRM), 100 feeding on a weedy fallow, agricultural field near Rhuthun on 26/03 (GPI), 100+ on a weedy stubble field at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 5/04 and the maximum of 162 at Towyn in a larger finch flock feeding on a field of recently harvested oilseed rape behind Kinnel Bay sewage plant on 13/08 (JPH). A count of 55 was recorded on a BBS walk at Gellifor on 24/06 (TP).

Maximum monthly counts in each county:

Flints. Here, 62% of counts were of 9 or fewer, showing that the increase in records in double figures has continued this year. There were one hundred and twelve counts of 10-50 and a further twenty-four of more than 50. Records exceeding 100 came from coastal sites. Flocks at Gronant/Talacre built up over the summer from 50 to 150 between 27/06 and 2/08 (HC). At Connah's Quay NR, the regular summer and autumn flock exceeded 100 on several dates with the largest flock of 280

recorded on 18/09 (RBe). The maximum count of 301 was recorded on 15/01 at Talacre Gas Terminal (AnRo).

(CH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	208	119
Maximum count	112	250
Av max count prev 10 yrs	116	236
Recorded in BBS squares	30/31	19/19
Number of records	1658	978
% of records from GBW	51.75	46.73
% of BirdTrack lists	46.6	39.5
Density	11.79	50.51
Max breeding evidence	B	FL



Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

LLINOS BENGOGH LEIAF

Breeding resident. Amber List. S7.

This was a good year for records in Denbs, with birds recorded from a much wider geographical area and in all months of the year. In Flints the distribution of records meant that birds were not seen in the summer months of Jun, Jul and Aug. Breeding evidence was very limited this year, with only probable breeding in both counties.

Denbs. The highest numbers of records were reported this year since 2004 but numbers are still low compared to ten years ago. There were only six counts that reached double figures: these were 11 on 6/03, 16 on 20/09 and 22 on 3/02 all from Chirk Castle (JRn/KGr); 12 at RSPB Conwy on 1/11 (PEM); 50 at Tanyfron west of Wrexham on 29/01 (SD) and 60 in a mixed flock with about 50 Goldfinch

(CH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	30	30	15	17	17	22	24	24	36	112	50	35
Flints	30	33	20	18	17	14	22	16	10	20	250	150

on 9/02 at Brymbo, Wrexham (TK).

Flints. The number of records was down slightly from 2016. Only four records were in double figures: there were 12 at Bagillt on 7/03 (ETh), 15 at Connah's Quay NR on 20/12 (PeHa/SuHa) and 15 again at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa) on 21/12 (possibly the same birds?). The maximum of count of 25 was of a flock on Penycloddiau on 2/04 (EdW).

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

GYLFIN GROES

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

Denbs. There were more records again this year with twelve into double figures, ten of these were

(BL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	41	12
Maximum count	40	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	102	27
Number of records	95	36
% of records from GBW	44.21	30.56
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	1.8
Density	0.83	0.10

between 10 and 25. These larger counts came from various locations in Clocaenog Forest, at Nant-y-Glyn, at Loggerheads near Mold and Vivod in the Berwyn Mountains. The maximum counts of 50+ came from Talfarn-y-Gelyn on 17/11 and Y Foel on 29/11 (GPI). Breeding was confirmed in Clocaenog Forest when two adults were observed feeding a juvenile on 15/03 (GPI).

Flints. Of the seven records received three were

Seen in these months

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

in double figures. These were 19 seen at Nant Coed-y-mynydd on 22/05 (RLE), 30+ heard and seen flying over a clear-fell area into the trees at Nercwys Forest on 24/10 (JoW) and 34 at Penycloddiau on 9/04 (EdW).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

NICO

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties, with numbers of records very similar to 2016. The pattern of monthly maxima is similar in both counties, with the largest charms recorded after the main breeding season from autumn to the end of the year.

Denbs. Most, 90%, of counts were of 1-10+ and the number of counts between 11 and 50+ was one hundred and forty-eight, which was very similar to 2016. There were five counts of 51+. These five highest counts were 60 at Ffrith on 4/09 (MGW), 60 on 3/03 and 13/12 and 80 on 10/11 at Towyn (SM) and the maximum count of 100 was of a large flock flying around garden feeders at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 1/10 (MiB). Ringing at a single site at Glan Conwy caught a phenomenal 357 full-grown individuals throughout the year, with 33 on 23/10 alone (MiB).

Maximum monthly counts in each county:

Flints. The percentage of counts of 1-10+ was very similar to that in Denbs at 90%. There were one hundred and two counts of 11-50+ and thirteen counts of 51+. There was an interesting observation

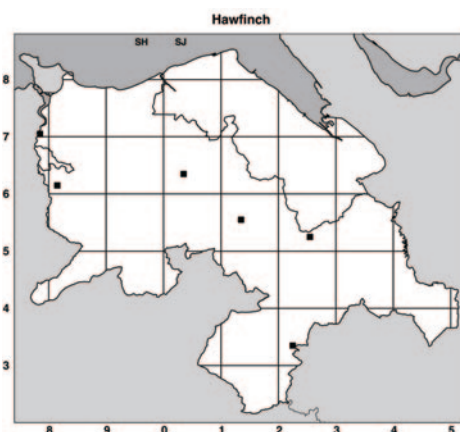
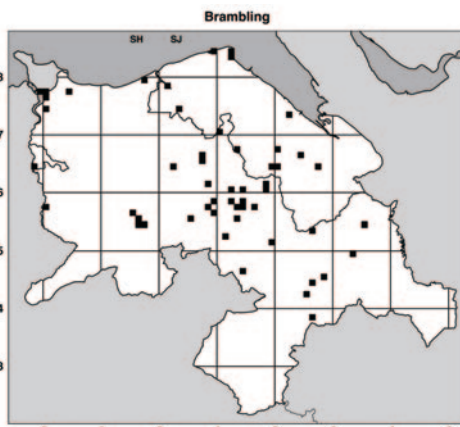
(HF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	6	
Maximum count	2	
Number of records	7	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.01	

Seen in these months

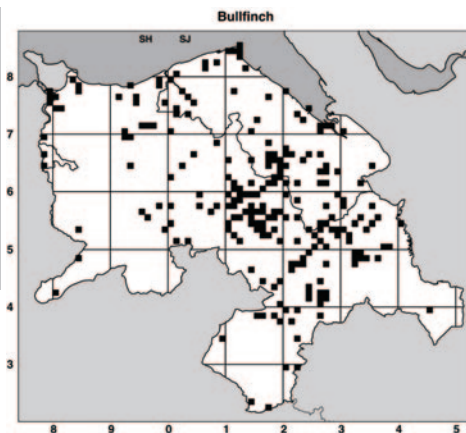
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D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

of 56 seen at dusk at a pre-roost gathering in a tree at Sychdyn on 3/01 (AB). The largest counts of 100 or more came in the autumn: 100 on both 9/09 (AHJ) and 23/09 (WRM) at Rhyl, 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 11/10 (PSH), 100 at Talacre on 27/09 (MCo) and 150 at Talacre gas terminal on 3/10 (RLE). The maximum of 200+ was on 29/09 at Talacre (MCo). A BBS walk at Sychdyn on 23/04 recorded 32 individuals (IMS). Ringing produced a total of 32 captures of full-grown birds at Rhydyrnwyn, 61 at Sychdyn (IMS), 76 at Bagillt (GRMP) and 161 at Shotton Steelworks (pBH) during the year.

Breeding (IMS, GRMP):



(BF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	164	61
Maximum count	28	12
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	11
Recorded in BBS squares	8/31	7/19
Number of records	583	487
% of records from GBW	24.87	49.28
% of BirdTrack lists	19.6	18.9
Density	2.32	1.24
Max breeding evidence	FL	FF



Siskin *Spinus spinus*

PILA GWYRDD

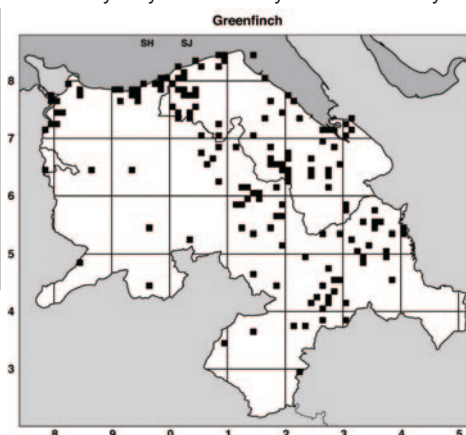
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

Recorded in each month of the year. In Denbs, the geographic spread increased again.

Denbs. There were forty-six counts in double figures with small flocks of 10+ seen at a wide range of sites throughout the winter months. Some of these records came from gardens in Llandegla, Talygarth and Trefriw. The five highest counts were of 42 at Bod Hyfryd on 8/01, 50 at Llangollen 17/10 (GPI) and the maximum of 50+ seen at Pwllglas on 11/01, Llandyrnog on 18/01 (GPI) and Marford Quarry on 2/02 (TrB). Ringing at Glan Conwy recorded 91 captures of full-grown birds in the first four months of the year (MiB). The only record of confirmed breeding came from Llyn Brenig, when JPH observed recently fledged young on 1/08.

Flints. The majority of records came from the eastern half of the county, with fewer garden records than in 2016. Only eight records were in double figures mostly between 10 and 20. However, the maximum number recorded was 200 when on a morning walk AB saw a very large flock congregating in coniferous forest north of Bwlchgwyn. The sounds of these birds twittering was almost deafening. IMS caught and ringed 44 full-grown birds in a garden at Sychdyn in the early months of the year

(GR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	99	58
Maximum count	41	51
Av max count prev 10 yrs	87	46
Recorded in BBS squares	12/31	7/19
Number of records	949	537
% of records from GBW	45.52	42.64
% of BirdTrack lists	27.2	23.5
Density	2.05	5.02
Max breeding evidence	FL	FF



between 29/01 and 7/04. The only record of confirmed breeding came from Pantymwyn, when GEM observed recently fledged young on 8/05.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

MELYN YR EITHIN

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

The number of records was down this year, particularly notable in Flints. Also, the geographic spread

of records was much reduced.

Denbs. Almost all records were of 1-2 with thirteen records of 3-7. The maximum count of 7 was on 22/01 at Bodfari (OPJ). Probable breeding was recorded in only two locations, although singing males

(GR)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	11	12	19	16	6	7	30	41	14	15	10	13
Flints	25	8	51	4	6	8	10	11	10	11	12	20

were reported from several locations. Regular records came from a garden in Bwlch-y-rhiw, where 1-3 were seen from Apr through to Jul (SmJ).

Flints. There were only four records of 3-6. The maximum count of 6 was recorded at Gronant on 6/10 (AB). A single frequented a garden in Cilcain throughout Apr into early May (RWes). Probable breeding was only recorded from one site.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

BRAS Y CYRS

Breeding Resident. Amber List. S7.

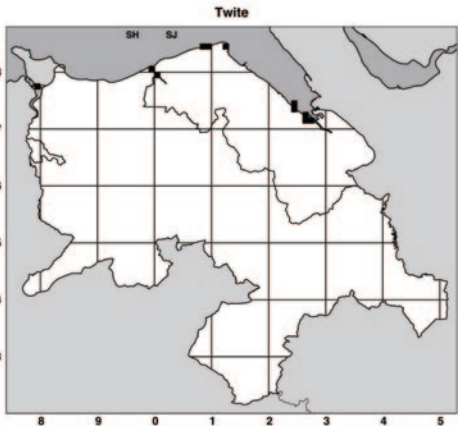
Recorded in each month in both counties.

(TW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	2	9
Maximum count	1	103
Av max count prev 10 yrs	22	93
Number of records	2	92
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	1.9
Density	0.00	1.57

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 was only one record in double figures, when 12 were seen at Holt on 18/07 (NF). In Penycae, there were regular visits of 1-3 to two gardens on dates between weeks beginning 8/01 and 6/08 (RMg/JoR). Records of confirmed breeding came from Pensarn, Erddig, Wrexham and RSPB Conwy.



Flints. Whilst most records were in single figures, there was one count in double figures when 12 were seen in the Welsh part of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 24/03 (PEM). Evidence of confirmed breeding came from two different locations at Gronant, seen by several different observers.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

BRAS YR EIRA

Winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

There were significantly reduced numbers of records this year, with more records from Flints than Denbs, a reversal of 2016.

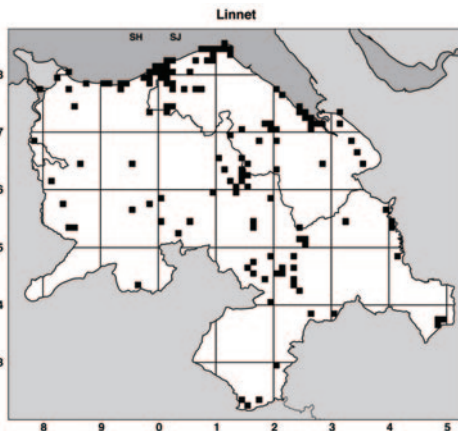
Denbs. Six records in total, all coming in Dec. Most records were from Kinnel Bay, with one other sighting at Towyn. The maximum recorded was of 2 at Kinnel Bay on 14/12 (SM) and at the same site on 26/12 (JFBY).

Flints. Five of the nine records were from the Gronant area, with 5 seen between 5 and 7/02 by several observers. At Point of Ayr between 3-5 were seen from 16/01 to 23/03. Further E at White

Sands in the Dee Estuary a single was seen on 2/02 (AGr).

Category E species

(LI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	83	54
Maximum count	162	301
Av max count prev 10 yrs	150	211
Recorded in BBS squares	8/31	5/19
Number of records	229	363
% of BirdTrack lists	14.3	26.7
Density	6.80	27.60
Max breeding evidence	ON	FF



Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

Flints. A single was recorded on several dates between 20/06 and 9/07 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR.

First and last dates of selected migrants 2017

(LI)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	30	26	100	100	10	55	6	162	80	30	7	6
Flints	301	35	63	56	14	60	150	90	280	150	50	50

(LR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	68	22
Maximum count	60	25
Av max count prev 10 yrs	49	20
Recorded in BBS squares	10/31	-
Number of records	227	30
% of records from GBW	47.14	26.67
% of BirdTrack lists	7.0	1.3
Density	2.06	0.93
Max breeding evidence	P	D

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

This table shows the recorded first and last dates for most of the species regarded as migrants in north-east Wales.

The mild warm spring seemed to have two effects, winter visitors left a little later than usual and many migrants, warblers in particular, arrived early. Both Redwings and Fieldfares stayed into April with 20/04 being the last date on which a Fieldfare was recorded. Sedge Warblers, Garden Warblers,

(CR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	57	6
Maximum count	50	34
Av max count prev 10 yrs	181	10
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	-
Number of records	106	7
% of BirdTrack lists	3.6	-
Density	1.44	0.35
Max breeding evidence	FL	

Seen in these months

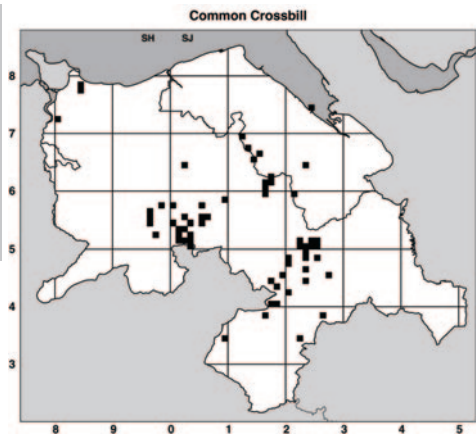
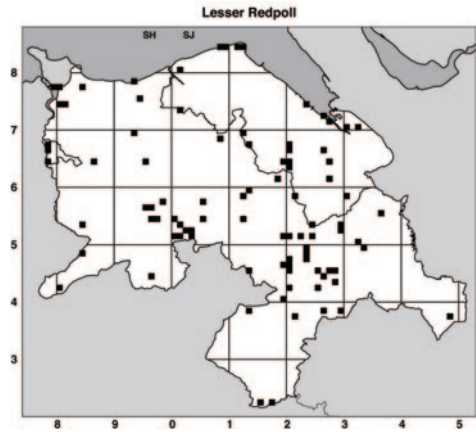
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Lesser Whitethroats and Wheatears arrived on the earliest date since records were kept in 2004. The first Garden Warbler arrived five days earlier than in any year in the previous fourteen years. Hobby also arrived much earlier than on average with the first sighting on 3/04. However, the arrival dates for many other migrants were fairly average this year and by April most migrants had put in an appearance.

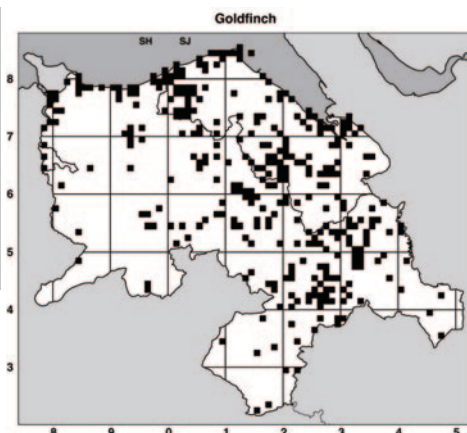
After the breeding season, some terns were late leaving and a Common Tern was seen on 3/10 and an Arctic Tern on 27/10. A Nightjar flushed at Fenn's Moss on 3/09 and a Yellow Wagtail sighted at Shotwick Fields on 30/09 were notable. The Swifts left in mid-August and many hirundines stayed into September and October, which is quite usual. However, there was a late straggler House Martin at Rhyl Brickworks on 14/11.

September brought the first records of winter thrushes, with fourteen Fieldfare and six Redwing seen at Bagillt on 27/09.

Anne Brenchley



(GO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	220	121
Maximum count	100	200
Av max count prev 10 yrs	85	177
Recorded in BBS squares	22/31	18/19
Number of records	1595	1121
% of records from GBW	40.31	34.7
% of BirdTrack lists	52.6	55.3
Density	11.13	41.09
Max breeding evidence	FL	NY



Breeding passerines at RSPB Conwy nature reserve

Introduction

RSPB Cymru's nature reserve at Conwy is a 50 hectare (125 acre) wetland site located between the A55 trunk road and the Conwy estuary. More than 95% of the surface area of the nature reserve is within vice county 50 (Denbighshire), with a small piece of land adjacent to the A55 lying in vice county 49 (Caernarfonshire). The habitats have been created in the 24 years since the RSPB took on the lease from the Crown Estate in 1994. It is a major visitor attraction, with more than 80,000 visits annually, providing many people – especially families and schoolchildren – with their first opportunity to discover nature.

(GO)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	30	25	60	20	15	17	31	38	60	100	80	60
Flints	56	80	25	32	10	15	37	25	200	150	64	24

Hughes and Money (2016) provided an overview of the first 20 years of the nature reserve, including the results of the first two surveys of breeding passerines. A third survey was undertaken in spring/summer 2017, and the results are presented below, along with some discussion on the changes recorded.

Method

The survey is an adapted version of the British Trust for Ornithology's Common Birds Census (Marchant 1983), involving four visits, one in each survey period: 1 to 15 April; 16 April to 7 May; 8 May to 28 May; 29 May to 14 June. Surveys were undertaken early in the morning (completion prior to 9am), in conditions of little or no wind. Surveys have been undertaken every five years: in 2007,

(GO)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Rhydymwyn	1	5	5	5	5.00

2012 and in 2017. The survey involves walking to within 50 metres of all parts of the site, and recording the activity of all passerines on a large scale map.

Maps were analysed at the end of the final survey period, and an assessment made of the number of pairs/territorial males of each species that occurred. For resident species that are present throughout the year, the four maps provide a good means of identifying individual territories consistently through the season. For summer migrants, greater caution has been used in interpreting the results during April to mid-May, when individuals singing on passage will be among the birds that attempt to breed on the site.

Results

The table shows the population estimates for passerines recorded during the three surveys. 24

(SK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	112	38
Maximum count	50	200
Av max count prev 10 yrs	242	46
Recorded in BBS squares	9/31	-
Number of records	572	130
% of records from GBW	52.80	34.62
% of BirdTrack lists	11.8	5.7
Density	2.83	12.90
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL

species have been recorded breeding in these three years, the most being 21 in a single year. The final column shows the 10 year trend (2004-14) for each species from the Breeding Bird Survey squares in Wales (Robinson et al. 2016), to provide some context of the overall population.

Discussion

The species fall into four categories, based on the trends in breeding pairs.

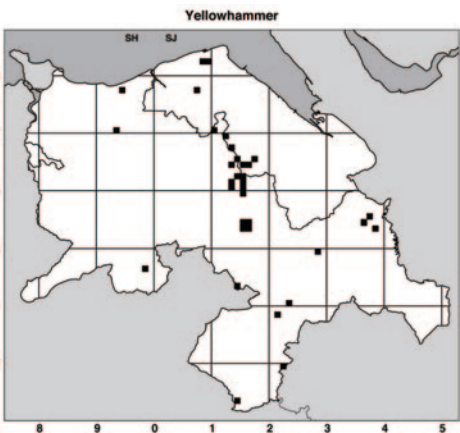
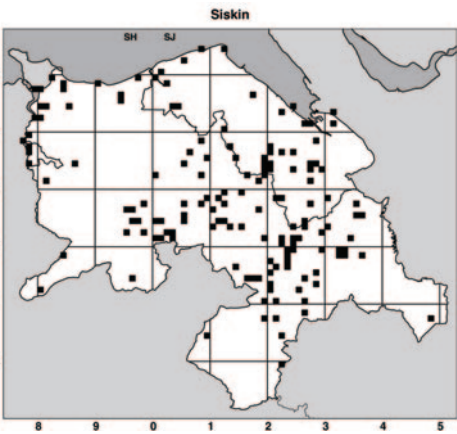
Birds with a sustained increase in numbers: Wren, Garden Warbler, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Song Thrush, Blue Tit. With the exception of the last two species, all are increasing at a national level (Breeding Bird Survey in Wales), so the increase in numbers at Conwy is not too surprising. Garden Warblers are not abundant in North Wales, so it is gratifying to see the number of territories increase in 2017, probably to its highest ever level. The three warblers and Wren will all have benefited from the increase in mature scrub on the reserve, which provides both nesting habitat and a source of

(Y)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	26	8
Maximum count	7	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	13
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/19
Number of records	50	13
% of records from GBW	22.00	38.46
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	0.3
Density	0.09	0.08
Max breeding evidence	P	P

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

invertebrate food.

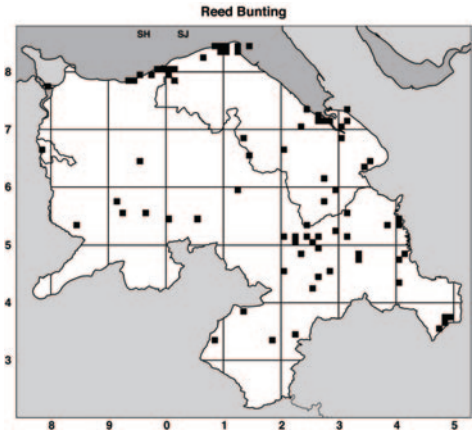
Birds with a stable population since 2012: Dunnock, Robin, Blackcap, Lesser Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Great Tit, House Sparrow, Goldfinch, Greenfinch. All these species saw a substantial increase in numbers between 2007 and 2012, as the early successional habitats of the first decade of the reserve gave way to more mature trees and scrub, and older stands of Phragmites in the reedbed. Their numbers now appear to have stabilised, and some species may have reached carrying capacity for the site in its current state. The national trend for these species during the period varies greatly, between -61% for Greenfinch and +81% for Blackcap. Nationally, Greenfinch survival has fallen sharply since 2005, owing to Trichomonosis, a condition that affects the upper digestive tract. Some Greenfinches were seen at Conwy in 2009-10 with the disease, but their numbers appear



to have recovered quickly.

(RB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	49	30
Maximum count	12	12
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	11
Recorded in BBS squares	6/31	1/19
Number of records	238	172
% of records from GBW	13.03	0
% of BirdTrack lists	15.3	14.7
Density	0.30	0.61
Max breeding evidence	FF	NY

Birds showing a declining trend: Blackbird, Whitethroat, Chaffinch, Reed Bunting. All four species are stable or increasing nationally (no Wales BBS trend is available for Reed Bunting, but its UK population increased by 12% during 2004-14), so it's harder to explain why numbers have declined at Conwy. Blackbird is, we suspect, a blip, but the decreases in the other species at the site are borne out by *ad hoc* observations by regular watchers.



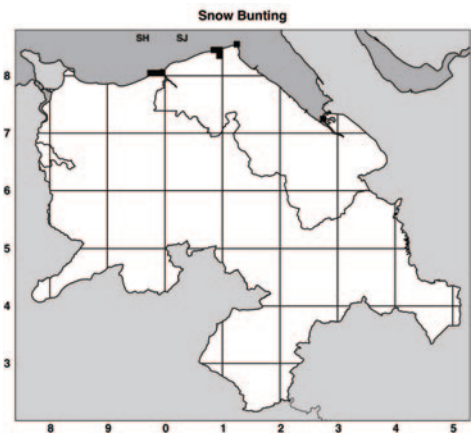
Sporadic or colonising breeders: Woodpigeon, Carrion Crow, Bullfinch and Long-tailed Tit. These species have been recorded holding territory in just one of the three survey years. *Ad hoc* observations during the intervening years suggest they breed in some years but not others (as does Magpie, which didn't nest in any of the survey years). Woodpigeon and Carrion Crow require fairly mature trees in which to build their nests, and most trees on the reserve are only just reaching the size that they could host such nesting. Bullfinch and Long-tailed Tit are thought to have bred annually since 2013, and on a few occasions before 2012.

(SB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	5
Maximum count	2	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	5
Number of records	6	9
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	0.1
Density	0.00	0.04

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

Implications for habitat management

None of these birds are a conservation priority for the management of the nature reserve, but we do want to maintain a variety of species that will be of interest to visitors, particularly those that are not abundant elsewhere in North Wales (e.g. Lesser Whitethroat, Garden Warbler) and those whose visibility or acoustic presence provides interest to new birdwatchers (e.g. Bullfinch, Reed and Sedge Warbler). This interest will be balanced with habitat management for priority species, including breeding waterbirds and moths of the grassland and scrub.



The area dominated by scrub (principally Bramble) has increased during the last 10 years, at the expense of open grassland. This has doubtless benefited many of the species surveyed here, but during the next decade, we anticipate that the structure of this scrub may become less suitable for some of these birds, as it becomes more 'leggy'. Selective removal and cutting back of scrub, on rotation, should maintain a patchwork of dense scrub and grass/herb sward of various height, managed through grazing by the reserve's Carneddau mountain ponies.

Stands of reeds (*Phragmites*) are a feature of the shallow edges of the lagoons, which were planted during the mid 1990s, and which provide nesting and feeding habitats for Reed and Sedge Warblers, and Reed Buntings in particular. The silty substrate and the constraints on control of water levels makes it difficult to manage the reeds using large-scale mechanical measures that would be seen at other major wetlands. Small-scale cutting and removal of reeds, and the removal of successional plants such as Willow, will be deployed to maintain the open nature of the reedbed and to encourage new growth.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to wardens Sarah Money for undertaking the 2012 survey and to Mike Duckham for the 2007 survey.

Julian Hughes and Tim Wallis

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A Birder's Guide to Point of Ayr

Introduction

The RSPB Dee Estuary reserve is the fourth largest amongst the 200 it owns or manages in the UK. It covers just over 6,000ha, and encompasses over half of the entire estuary. At the western tip of the reserve, extending into the mouth of the estuary is Point of Ayr - a rich mosaic of tidal mudflat, shingle ridge, sand dune, and saltmarsh, bordered by migrant-loving scrub known as the Warren. Most of the Point is owned by ENI, the gas terminal company, and the RSPB manage the area east of the lighthouse in partnership with them. Natural Resources Wales are the other main landowner, along with Flintshire County Council. Virtually the entire Point has public access, and although the Talacre area is also a busy holiday resort during the summer months, it is still surprisingly easy to slip the crowds and enjoy some peace and quiet. Indeed, the area is shockingly under-watched, and has huge potential for finding your own rarities.

Waders and Wildfowl

The best place to view the waders and wildfowl that the estuary is justifiably famous for - the Dee is

the seventh most important estuary in the UK for wintering shorebirds and wildfowl – is at the RSPB hide. This can be accessed from the sea wall, and is a ½ mile walk east from Station Road. For

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	2017		2017
Summer migrants	First dates		Last dates
Hobby	3/04		23/09
Little Tern	2/05		12/09
Sandwich Tern	22/03		10/10
Common Tern	8/04		3/10
Arctic Tern	17/04		27/10
Cuckoo	16/04		27/06
Nightjar	28/05		3/09
Swift	25/04		17/09
Sand Martin	11/03		15/09
Swallow	28/03		6/10
House Martin	2/04		14/11
Tree Pipit	6/04		12/07
Yellow Wagtail	8/04		30/09
Redstart	6/04		7/09
Whinchat	20/04		19/09
Wheatear	8/03		22/10
Ring Ouzel	11/03		28/08
Grasshopper Warbler	9/04		2/08
Sedge Warbler	4/04		10/09
Reed Warbler	7/04		8/10
Garden Warbler	7/04		28/09
Lesser Whitethroat	3/04		17/09
Whitethroat	13/04		4/09
Wood Warbler	23/04		27/08
Willow Warbler	22/03		22/09
Spotted Flycatcher	8/05		25/08
Pied Flycatcher	4/04		22/07
Winter migrants	Last dates		First dates
Fieldfare	12/04		27/09
Redwing	4/04		27/09

maximum
spectacle
an hour or
before the
Even on
biggest
the spit
rarely

completely covered, and consequently is an important area for roosting waders. With Over 6,000 Oystercatcher, 3,000 Dunlin, 2,000 Knot and 2,000 each of Curlew and Bar-tailed Godwit recorded roosting during peak winter periods. The area is also important for wintering Pintail, Wigeon, Teal and Shelduck, with rafts of thousands of birds on the best winter tides. Peregrine regularly hunt the roosting waders, adding further to the spectacle, with Merlin regularly recorded here hunting the lark and finch flocks (which also regularly hold Twite).

Terns

Late summer sees the build-up of post-breeding terns, prior to their migration. High-tide roosts of over 1,500 Sandwich Tern are regularly recorded on the beach, or from the hide, with smaller numbers of Common Tern present too. Little Tern, from the nearby Gronant colony can also be present in good numbers.

Representing the only Little Tern colony in Wales, the conservation importance of this colony can't

be overstated. In 2016 and 2017 Little Tern successfully bred at the RSPB Point of Ayr reserve on the shingle ridge, for the first time in many years. An anti-predator fence is erected each year to help increase the terns' chances, with a few pairs of both breeding Ringed Plover and Oystercatcher regularly successful inside the safety of the fence too.

Warren Farm

Although just outside Point of Ayr boundary, this site is easily viewable from Station Road on route to Point of Ayr. Park in the car park on the right, just after the railway bridge, and then walk back to the bridge to view the wet fields to the west. The water levels here are managed for wintering birds, and are part of the mitigation for the offshore gas production.

The winter of 2017-18 saw a group of 9 Greenland White-fronted Geese overwinter here, with an accompanying spectacle of several hundred Black-tailed Godwit, along with thousands of other waders and wildfowl.

Another wetland area of pools and scrapes that is also managed under the same mitigation can also be viewed on the west side of the sea wall when walking to the RSPB hide. The small woodland here has a small colony of Little Egret and can be very good for wintering Chiffchaff.

Scrub and fixed dune

As mentioned in the introduction, the abundant scrub and fixed dune can be a superb area to search for migrant passerines, and the list of past finds is impressive. The 5 Red-rumped Swallow that roosted overnight on the 26th October 1987, is one of my personal rarity highlights from here, along with the splendid June Tawny Pipit in 2003.

The area is also very good for wintering Short-eared Owl, along with occasional Black Redstart and wintering Snow Bunting in the dunes.

Seawatching

For those prepared to be sand blasted along with their precious optics, the high dunes can be an excellent area to sea watch from during autumn westerly or north-westerly gales. Leach's Petrel is the Holy Grail, with all four skua species also possible along with Sabine's Gull. Sea watching from the hide is also possible, but there is trade-off between better weather protection and the loss of height and perspective.

Graham Jones

Gronant Little Tern season summary, 2017.

This was the thirteenth season that Denbighshire Countryside Service have managed the Little Tern protection scheme at Gronant and the fourth year of involvement in the EU LIFE+ Nature Recovery Project. Having had reservations beforehand, primarily with concerns over tidal predictions at crucial moments in the season, the 2017 breeding period proved indeed to be a challenging one. However, the birds showed remarkable resilience and with the hard work by warden staff and volunteers the colony had a successful season with a productivity of 1.25 fledglings per pair. Of the many highlights of the year, breeding pairs were at record numbers and the 5-year average for fledglings per pair is now back at a sustainable figure. Details of the key numbers from the season are shown below.

A lot of effort was put into re-sighting colour-ringed terns this year and provided us with interesting results. The monitoring work highlighted mid-season colony swaps by adults, such as Isle of Man to Gronant, and fledglings moved from Kilcoole, Ireland to the Dee Estuary – a north-easterly direction!

Species	Pairs (or territorial males)			BBS Wales 10 yr trend
	2007	2012	2017	
Woodpigeon	0	1	0	+11%
Wren	6	5	16	+2%
Duncock	5	21	19	-2%
Robin	4	9	11	-11%
Song Thrush	4	5	8	-15%
Blackbird	4	13	8	+6%
Chiffchaff	1	4	9	+40%
Willow Warbler	1	4	6	+27%
Blackcap	2	8	9	+81%
Garden Warbler	1	0	5	+15%
Lesser Whitethroat	1	4	4	not available
Whitethroat	8	7	5	+19%
Sedge Warbler	14	32	33	not available
Reed Warbler	18	15	16	not available
Great Tit	0	2	2	+7%
Blue Tit	1	3	7	-2%
Long-tailed Tit	0	0	2	+46%
Carriion Crow	0	1	0	+4%
House Sparrow	0	4	5	+14%
Chaffinch	4	3	0	-2%
Goldfinch	0	3	4	+4%
Bullfinch	0	0	1	+1%
Greenfinch	3	6	6	-61%
Reed Bunting	8	5	3	not available
No of species recorded	17	21	21	

Important changes too, detailed in this report, were made to our visitor management arrangements to help broaden our people demographic to the hut. The telescopes and binoculars proved popular with 300 visitors recorded using this equipment provided on site over the two and a half months.

Next year is the last of the EU LIFE+ Nature Little Tern Recovery project funding. There is still a lot of work to do if we are to make full use of this fantastic opportunity but we have already made great strides. Future plans include a proposal to find out about spatial distribution of our migrating little terns on passage. Current opinion points to use geolocators on a sample of birds to vastly improve our knowledge, presently based on a handful of recoveries and sightings outside Northern Europe.

If you are interested in volunteering at Gronant, for however long you can give it, please e-mail the North Wales Little Tern Group who will provide more information at nwlittletern@gmail.com.

Henry Cook

Ringling Report

During 2012-2015 the ringling totals of NE Wales increased substantially by approximately 6,000 birds. This increase continued slightly in 2016, but in 2017 the totals dropped by 242 birds, the first decline since 2011. Over the past one and a half decades, the pulli totals have averaged around 3,300 birds and between 2001 and 2008 there were more pulli ringed than full grown birds but this seems to be a thing of the past. The dramatic increase in full grown birds ringed in the past three years is likely due to increased ringling effort.

After two poor breeding seasons, 2017 nationally proved to be better for most species but there were exceptions to this overall trend. In NE Wales, warbler totals were generally lower than the previous year apart from Reed Warbler, which mirrored the national productivity results very well. Some of the biggest declines in the number of birds ringed were seen in Willow Warbler (-158) and Chiffchaff (-39). The finches were another group where the totals were down, particularly Chaffinch (-91), Greenfinch (-84) and Bullfinch (-29). This may be due to the persistence of Trichomonosis. However, there are signs from other parts of the country of small increases in numbers.

On a more positive note, a better catch of Dunlin (+217) and Sanderling (+82) helped to increase the totals and subsequent recaptures/controls by SCAN Ringling Group. More Barn Owls were also ringed, but this could be due to an increased effort by ringers in providing more suitable breeding locations, namely nest boxes. Another factor in the increase in a number of species like Blue Tits (+419) ringed is likely to be an increase in mist netting effort. Blue Tits are one of the most commonly caught species at feeding stations, reflected in the ringling totals.

Total numbers of birds ringed per year in the last ten years:

Very few Stock Dove were ringed in the area (6), even with the good number of Barn Owl boxes being monitored. Stock Dove are listed as Amber on the 'Birds of Conservation Concern', compared with Barn Owl which are now listed as Green. It is perhaps an opportunity for ringers who are monitoring Barn Owl boxes to contribute some valuable data to this species.

We are lucky enough to have Little Tern breeding in NE Wales. However colonies seem to find it hard

to breed successfully without human assistance, so the Merseyside Ringing Group must have been thrilled when a report came through of a bird they had ringed as a chick which was later caught by a ringer on the Isle of Man.

During 2017, there were five birds found in NE Wales wearing foreign rings and five found in foreign locations, which were ringed in NE Wales. Half of these 10 were waders with the remaining five birds either gulls or passerines. A Goldfinch originally ringed in France was caught by Alan Robinson at Llywynmawr in April. The 140th Redwing from the BTO ringing scheme to be found in Portugal was ringed near Bwlchyddar, Powys in November 2016 and was found in Alijo in December 2017. Finally a very surprised Stuart Thomas caught the 10th British or Irish record of a Blackcap with a Czech Republic ring on.

I am grateful to the ringers in the area who have given up their time to study and catch these birds (in



Point of Ayr (Alasdair Grubb)

order of number of birds ringed): Merseyside Ringing Group, Spence and Brenchley Partnership, Mike Haigh, Alan Robinson, Shropshire Ringing Group, SCAN Ringing Group, John Lawton Roberts, Stuart Thomas, Lee and Rachael Barber, Hugh Hanmer, Kelvin Jones, Derek Cotgrave, Kieran Foster, Steve Dodd, Mid Wales Ringing Group, David Cookson, RSPB Ringing Group and James Grant.

Ringers are reliant on members of the public reporting ringed birds that they find. Rings can also be read on live birds by members of the public, 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.

Numbers of birds ringed per species

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 & Bladwell (2016). Species where a Schedule 1 licence is required during the breeding season, are indicated with S. The ringing totals are derived from the BTO database and similar numbers can be seen on the online Ringing

Lee Barber

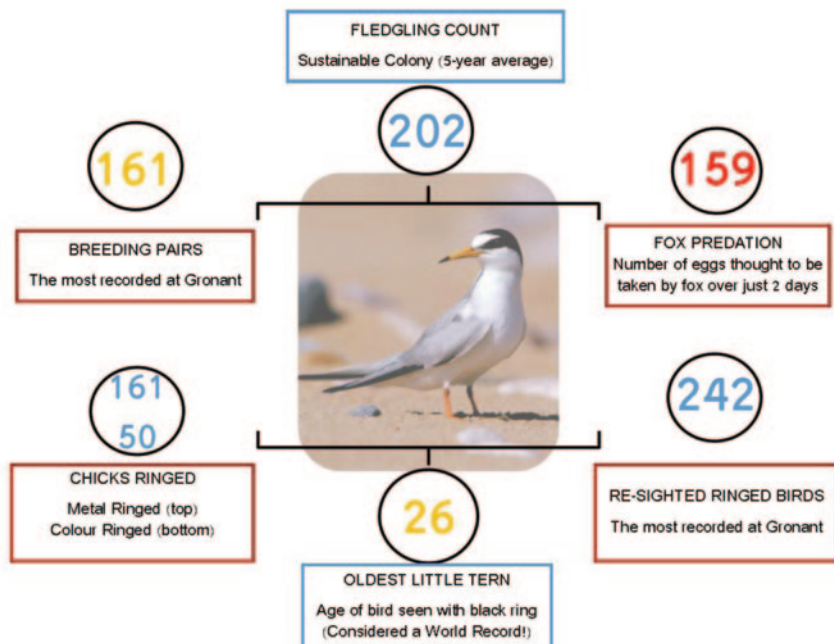
Codes used in the recoveries:

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

2017 Selected recoveries

4117283	Oystercatcher. Pull.
21062016	Brunnastadir, Gullbringusýsla, Iceland , 64°0N 22°22W
11032017	Kinnel Bay, Conwy
	1606km. SE. 0y 8m 18d Colour ring sighting
FH27932	Curlew. 6M
07052016	Ysbyty Ifan, Conwy
07072017	Jacob's Island, Cork Harbour, Cork
	341km WSW. 1y 2m 0d Colour ring sighting
8108496	Sanderling 6
22052016	Sandgerdi, Gullbringusysla, Iceland , 64°1N 22°41W
11032017	Kinnel Bay, Conwy
	1621km SE. 0y 9m 17d Caught by ringer
BT24905	Sanderling 6
24022013	Kinnel Bay, Conwy
18052017	Sandgerdi, Gullbringusysla, Iceland , 64°1N 22°41W
	1621km NW. 4y 2m 24d Caught by ringer
BT80353	Dunlin 5
11032017	Kinnel Bay, Conwy
05062017	Barvikmyran og Blodskytodd, Norway , 70°25N 30°55E
	2586km NE. 0y 2m 25d Metal ring read
NR86938	Dunlin 6
25012015	Kinnel Bay, Conwy
28072017	Ottenby, Sweden , 56°12N 16°23E
	1318km. ENE. 2y 6m 3d Caught by ringer
NV84975	Little Tern Pull.
21062004	Near Gronant, Denbighshire
07062017	The Ayres, Isle of Man
	136km. NW. 12y 11m 17d Caught by ringer
EZ28479	Black-headed Gull Pull.

03072016	Shotton, Flintshire	
19012017	Blois, France , 47°34N 1°19E	
	699km SSE 0y 6m 16d	Metal ring read
HRD958	Chiffchaff. 3	
07092015	River Tanant, Llangedwyn, Powys	
04042017	Sheffield, South Yorkshire	
	134km ENE. 1y 6m 28d	Found fresh dead
JVB223	Chiffchaff 3J	
13072017	Rhydymwyn, near Mold, Flintshire	
23092017	Haxton Down, Wiltshire	
	237km SSE. 0y 2m 10d	Caught by ringer
HDB608	Willow Warbler 4F	
08052017	South Walney, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria	
13082017	Shotton, Flintshire	
	92km S. 0y 3m 5d	Caught by ringer
TT41169	Blackcap 3F	
16092016	Opcno, Kralovehradecky Kraj, Czechia , 50°16N 16°5E	
29012017	Rhos-on-Sea, Conwy	
	1400km. W. 0y 4m 13d	Caught by ringer
RF63660	Redwing 3	
11112016	near Bwlchyddar, Powys	
01122017	Alijo, Portugal , 41°16N 7°28W	
	1319km. SSW. 1y 0m 20d	Found fresh dead
S019420	Robin 3J	
15082016	near Clowne, Derbyshire	
11022017	Connah's Quay, Flintshire	
	122km W. 0y 5m 27d	Killed by cat
S291588	Pied Flycatcher Pull.	
08062016	Hendre, Llangollen, Denbighshire	



10042017	Portland Bill, Dorset 281km S. 0y 10m 2d	Caught by ringer
S381148	Pied Flycatcher Pull. Wigmore Rolls, Herefordshire	
12062016	Llwynmawr, Wrexham	
22052017	70km NNW. 0y 11m 10d	Caught by ringer
S411867	Twite 5M Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire	
15022017	Cockerham, Lancaster, Lancashire	
08042017	83km N. 0y 1m 24d	Colour ring sighting
7091559	Goldfinch 2M Maison, St. Venant, France , 50°37N 2°31E	
03022013	Llwynmawr, Wrexham	
17042017	468km. NW. 4y 2m 14d	Caught by ringer
S235010	Goldfinch 5M Tal Goed Nursery, Conwy	
03042016	Naul, Dublin, Ireland	
14112017	170km WNW. 1y 7m 11d	Found fresh dead
V955590	Siskin 5F Llwynmawr, Wrexham	
22042016	Fleet Pond, Hampshire	
06032017	243km SE 0y 10m 12d	Caught by ringer
S301460	Siskin 5F Llwynmawr, Wrexham	
07032017	Near Kildary, Highland	
25092017	540km N. 0y 6m 18d	Caught by ringer
FS72676	Mediterranean Gull Pull. Bec de Galle, France , 50°42N 1°24E	

Colwyn Corn Supplies

Supplier of Pet & Bird Food

Nest records from 'Clwyd' for 2017

25 Queen's Road Colwyn Bay LL29 9EE

Lindsay A Finch
Kenneth George Fletcher
Bryan Formstone
Matt Francis
Nick French
Paul Furnborough
Anthony Gallon
Richard Gallon
John D Gambles
Alec George
Geoff Gibbs
S Gibson
Thomas Giles
Mike L. Graham

LAF
KGF
BF
MFs
NF
Pfu
AtG
RGa
JoG
AeG
GG
SGb
TG
MLG

Rob Fryer

Proprietor

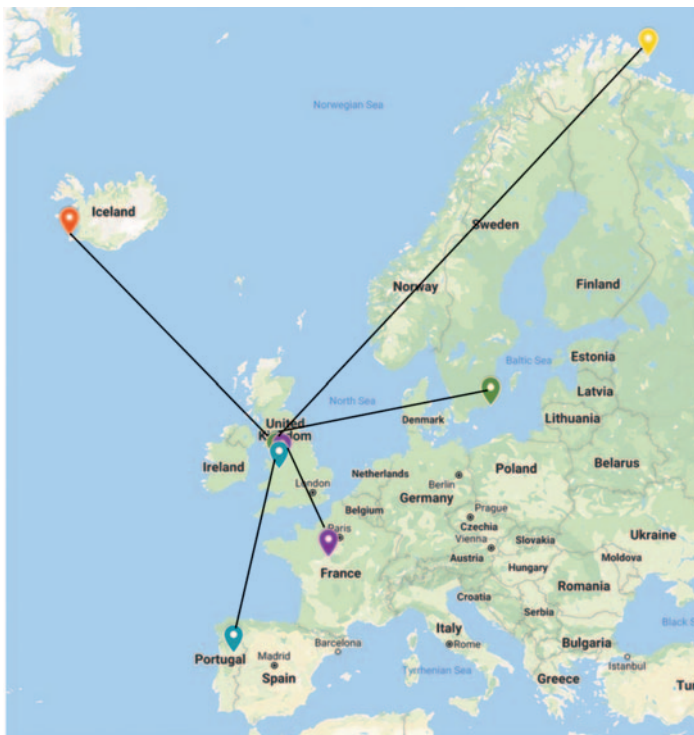
Telephone: (01492) 514373

Mob: 07876 751992

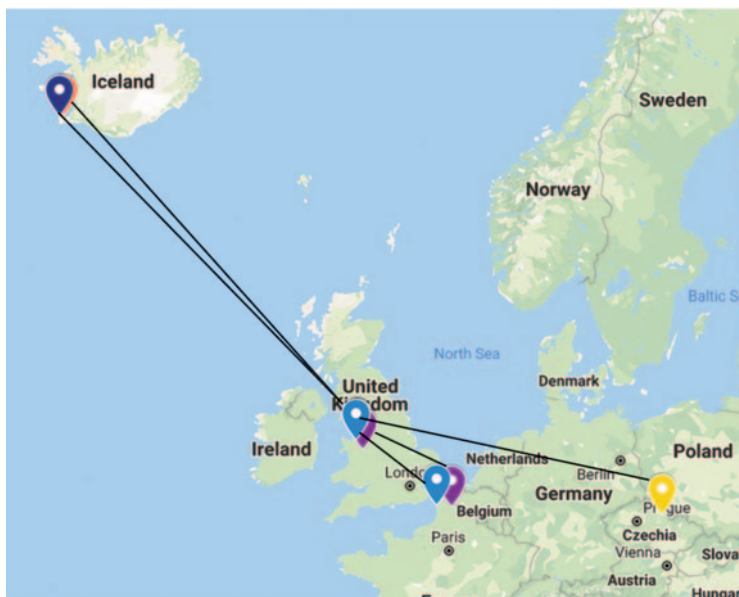
N Godden	NGo
Tim D Godson	TDG
Sheila Gordon	ShG
Brenda M Gough	BMG
Keith Griffith	KGr
Richard L Groves	RG
Derek J Guar	DJG
Al Grubb	Agr
Mike Haigh	MkH
Norman Hallas	NH
Duncan Halpin	DuH
Shelagh A Halsey	SAH
Neil Hammatt	NHt
Jon C Hannam	JoCH
Steve Harcombe	SHc
Ivor Harris	IH
Bob Harris	RbHa
per Bob Harris MRG	pBH
Peter Haslem	PeHa
Peter and Sue Haslem	PSH
Sue Haslem	SuHa
John Hawkins	JnHa
MA Hayes	MAH
Glenn B Heaton	GBH
Jane Hemming	JaH

Year	Full grown	Pulli	Total
2017	7810	3711	11521
2016	7939	3824	11763
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

Steven Heywood	SHy
Adrian Owen Hibbert	AOH
Tom M Hibbert	TMH
John P Hickerton	JPH
Thomas Hiles	ThH
NM Hilton	NMH
Sue M Hodgkinson	SMH
Joan Hotchkiss	JHo
Phil Hotchkiss	PhHo
L Hough	LHo
L Howell	LH
Arfon Hughes	ArHu
E Celia M Hughes	ECMH
Julian P Hughes	JHg
Mark JD Hughes	MJDH



Birds ringed in NE Wales and recovered abroad: Red - Sanderling, yellow - Dunlin, green - Dunlin, turquoise - Redwing, purple - Black-headed Gull



Birds ringed abroad and recovered in NE Wales: Dark blue - Oystercatcher, red - Sanderling, yellow - Blackcap, purple - Goldfinch, blue - Mediterranean Gull.

Mark Hughes	MrHu
Neil Hughes	NHu
per Julian Hughes	pJHg
Robert D Hughes	RoH
Simon T Hughes	SH
Jonathan Hulson	JtH
Alex Humphreys-Jones	AHJ
Dave Hunter	DaHu
JS Alan Hunter	JSAH
David M Hytch	DMH
Brian Iddon	BI
J Isterling	JIs
Tony G Jackson	AGJ
JA Jackson	JAJ
Lynne Jackson	LyJ
Simon Jackson	SmJ
Eryl Jones	EJ

Ringling totals	2016			2017			Year total difference
Species	FG	Pull.	Total	FG	Pull.	Total	
Mute Swan	7	0	7	7	22	29	22
Greylag Goose	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Shelduck (A)	7	0	7	0	0	0	-7
Mandarin Duck	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Teal (A)	0	0	0	3	0	3	3
Mallard (A)	1	0	1	3	0	3	2
Little Grebe	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Great Crested Grebe	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Red Kite (A)	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Hen Harrier (R) (S)	0	0	0	0	6	6	6
Sparrowhawk	3	0	3	2	0	2	-1
Water Rail	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Oystercatcher (A)	10	3	13	0	4	4	-9
Golden Plover (R)	0	0	0	6	0	6	6
Ringed Plover (R)	0	10	10	7	3	10	0
Lapwing (R)	4	0	4	3	0	3	-1
Curlew (R)	4	0	4	0	0	0	-4
Turnstone (A)	2	0	2	1	0	1	-1
Sanderling (A)	114	0	114	196	0	196	82
Dunlin (R)	30	0	30	247	0	247	217
Redshank (R)	50	0	50	2	0	2	-48
Jack Snipe	1	0	1	8	0	8	7
Woodcock (R)	9	0	9	22	0	22	13
Snipe (A)	2	0	2	17	0	17	15
Little Tern (R) (S)	2	157	159	2	130	132	-27
Common Tern (A)	0	422	422	0	399	399	-23
Black-headed Gull (R)	0	533	533	3	309	312	-221
Herring Gull (R)	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Stock Dove	1	4	5	2	4	6	1
Woodpigeon	2	2	4	1	5	6	2
Collared Dove	1	0	1	1	0	1	0

Ringling totals	2016			2017			Year total difference
Species	FG	Pull.	Total	FG	Pull.	Total	
Cuckoo (R)	2	0	2	2	0	2	0
Barn Owl (S)	4	19	23	8	79	87	64
Tawny Owl	0	3	3	3	4	7	4
Nightjar (A)	18	8	26	15	9	24	-2
Swift (A)	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Kingfisher (A) (S)	4	0	4	4	0	4	0
Green Woodpecker (A)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	23	0	23	42	0	42	19
Kestrel (R)	0	9	9	0	12	12	3
Hobby (S)	0	3	3	0	0	0	-3
Peregrine (S)	0	8	8	0	6	6	-2
Chough (S)	0	5	5	0	3	3	-2
Maggie	8	0	8	9	0	9	1
Jay	10	0	10	4	0	4	-6
Jackdaw	7	25	32	0	13	13	-19
Rook	2	0	2	2	0	2	0
Goldcrest	318	0	318	229	0	229	-89
Firecrest (S)	1	0	1	2	0	2	1
Blue Tit	979	760	1739	1350	808	2158	419
Great Tit	324	395	719	418	329	747	28
Coal Tit	138	15	153	143	49	192	39
Willow Tit (R)	8	0	8	3	0	3	-5
Marsh Tit (R)	0	0	0	5	0	5	5
Sand Martin	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Swallow	6	144	150	24	162	186	36
House Martin (A)	1	0	1	13	0	13	12
Cetti's Warbler (S)	6	0	6	5	0	5	-1
Long-tailed Tit	236	0	236	201	0	201	-35
Yellow-browed Warbler	3	0	3	0	0	0	-3
Wood Warbler (R)	0	7	7	0	0	0	-7
Chiffchaff	530	6	536	491	6	497	-39
Willow Warbler (R)	206	9	215	53	4	57	-158
Blackcap	292	0	292	269	0	269	-23
Garden Warbler	40	3	43	25	0	25	-18
Barred Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Lesser Whitethroat	9	0	9	3	0	3	-6
Whitethroat	34	0	34	26	0	26	-8
Grasshopper Warbler (R)	4	0	4	0	0	0	-4
Sedge Warbler	15	0	15	8	0	8	-7
Reed Warbler	33	0	33	50	0	50	17
Nuthatch	22	33	55	20	30	50	-5
Treecreeper	22	0	22	22	0	22	0
Wren	222	4	226	151	5	156	-70
Starling (R)	7	0	7	5	0	5	-2
Dipper (A)	0	29	29	4	44	48	19
Blackbird	237	30	267	254	19	273	6

Ringling totals	2016			2017			Year total difference
Species	FG	Pull.	Total	FG	Pull.	Total	
Fieldfare (A)	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Song Thrush (A)	57	15	72	46	0	46	-26
Redwing (A) (S)	152	0	152	45	0	45	-107
Mistle Thrush (A)	4	0	4	0	3	3	-1
Spotted Flycatcher (R)	2	7	9	1	5	6	-3
Robin	247	16	263	205	20	225	-38
Pied Flycatcher (R)	112	939	1051	144	1099	1243	192
Black Redstart (A)	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Redstart	40	127	167	14	44	58	-109
Stonechat	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Wheatear	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Duncock	154	1	155	150	1	151	-4
House Sparrow (A)	25	21	46	32	38	70	24
Tree Sparrow (R)	0	17	17	0	2	2	-15
Grey Wagtail (A)	6	21	27	5	17	22	-5
Pied Wagtail	0	10	10	0	0	0	-10
Tree Pipit (A)	3	0	3	0	5	5	2
Meadow Pipit (A)	218	0	218	131	1	132	-86
Brambling (S)	3	0	3	2	0	2	-1
Chaffinch	367	0	367	276	0	276	-91
Bullfinch (R)	102	4	106	73	4	77	-29
Greenfinch	357	0	357	273	0	273	-84
Linnet (R)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Twite (A)	33	0	33	24	0	24	-9
Lesser Redpoll (A)	484	0	484	421	0	421	-63
Common Redpoll	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Goldfinch	790	0	790	943	5	948	158
Siskin	736	0	736	600	0	600	-136
Yellowhammer (R)	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Reed Bunting (A)	16	0	16	19	0	19	3
TOTALS	7939	3824	11763	7810	3711	11521	-242

Graham Jones
Heledd Wyn Jones
Ifor Jones
John F Jones
Margaret A Jones
Peter D Jones
RP Jones
Wyn Jones
James Keegan
Denis Kelly
Heather Kidd
Paul King
Wilf King
Peter Kirk
David Knass
Tom Knight

GrJ
HWJ
IfJ
JFJ
MAJo
PDJ
RPJ
WyJ
JKe
DeK
HKd
PKi
WK
PeK
DaK
TK

John Langley	JLg
Peter Lawton	PLa
Betty Lee	BL
EA Lewis	EAL
Hugh Linn	HL
Keith Lloyd-Jones	KLJ
Susan Loose	SuLo
Tony Lovatt	ALo
John P Martin	JPM
Dave Mayfield	DM
Stephen Mcavoy	StM
Wendy McCarthy	WMC
MA McLellan	MAM
Paul E Miller	PEM
Peter John Milner	PMi
FR Moore	FRM
L Moore	LMo
Adrian J Morgan	AJM
Richard Morgan	RMg
Chris Morley	ChMo
Gareth Morris	GaMo
Glenn E Morris	GEM
per Glenn E Morris DNS	pGEM
Susan J Morris	SM
Dave Musgrove	DvM
Bill R Myerscough	WRM
Steve M Neal	SMN
Alan Nevitt	AN
SJ Newton	SJN
Mark Nightingale	MNg
EM Nottage	EMN
Joe O'Hanlon	JOHn
Keith Offord	KO
Jeffrey Olstead	JO
Greg Osborne	GgO
Mel ab Owain	MaO
Bill Owens	WAO
Amanda Palethorpe	AmP
Steve Palin	StP
Trish Parkin	TrP
Michael Parry	McP
Trevor G Payne	TP
Mark RE Peers	MREP
Giles RM Pepler	GRMP
per Cofnod	pCd
E Pettit	EPe
ND Pierce	NDP
Rhian Pierce	RhPi
Michael Pittaway	MiP
Gordon Plater	GPI
Ron Plummer	RPI
David Prime	DvP
DM Pritchard	DMPr
Gill Pritchard	GiP
Rhion Pritchard	RhPc

Barry Probin	BaP
Oliver E Prys-Jones	OPJ
Barrie Puttock	BrP
R Ready	RRy
Gill S Reid	GSR
Al R Reiss	ARR
David and Carol Richardson	DCR
D Rigby	Dry
R Riley	RRI
CEE Ripstein	CEER
John R Rivoire	JRi
Andy Roberts	AnRo
David Roberts	DRo
Dafydd R Roberts	DRR
Glyn Neville Roberts	GNR
Ian Roberts	IaR
John Lawton Roberts	JLR
per John Lawton Roberts	pJLR
W John Roberts	WJR
Geoffrey Robinson	GR
Janet Robinson	JRo
James Roden	JRn
Julie Rogers	JuR
Ken Rome	KR
Julie Rose	JuRs
DW Rothwell	DWR
John Rushton	JoR
Deborah Sainsbury	DS
Robin Sandham	RS
Declan Savage	DcS
Graham Scarborough	GhS
David J Shaw	DvS
Paul David Shenton	PDS
David CA Shone	DaSh
James Shrimpton	JmS
Rebecca Simpson	RbS
Steve Skelton	SS
Jack Slattery	JSy
Dermot J Smith	DeS
David Smith	DSt
Kevin J Smith	KS
Mike Sokolowski	MkS
Zak W Spaul	ZWS
Ian M Spence	IMS
Martin Spenser	MaS
P Squire	PSq
Ben Stammers	BSm
Craig Stockham	CSk
David Strath	DvSt
Neil D Stratton	NDS
Nicholas Suckling	NiSu
David Sulway	DSw
PJ Swinhoe	PJS
Roy Tapping	RoTa
C Taylor	Cty

Species	Number of nest records	Records for Britain & Ireland	% of national records
Mute Swan	1	145	0.69
Canada Goose	2	85	2.35
Little Grebe	1	32	3.13
Hen Harrier	1	20	5.00
Buzzard	2	236	0.85
Moorhen	3	255	1.18
Coot	2	342	0.58
Oystercatcher	8	378	2.12
Ringed Plover	22	249	8.84
Little Tern	336	610	55.08
Stock Dove	6	1058	0.57
Woodpigeon	9	517	1.74
Collared Dove	1	111	0.90
Barn Owl	22	3011	0.73
Tawny Owl	2	520	0.38
Kestrel	2	546	0.37
Peregrine	4	220	1.82
Chough	1	3	33.33
Jackdaw	9	406	2.22
Carrion Crow	1	7	14.29
Raven	10	142	7.04
Blue Tit	181	6693	2.70
Great Tit	109	4263	2.56
Coal Tit	7	125	5.60
Swallow	72	2373	3.03
Long-tailed Tit	3	266	1.13
Chiffchaff	1	221	0.45
Garden Warbler	1	66	1.52
Dartford Warbler	1	40	2.50
Nuthatch	6	237	2.53
Treecreeper	4	54	7.41
Wren	7	430	1.63
Dipper	12	438	2.74
Blackbird	10	1506	0.66
Song Thrush	9	770	1.17
Mistle Thrush	2	59	3.39
Spotted Flycatcher	4	157	2.55
Robin	15	608	2.47
Pied Flycatcher	152	1509	10.07
Redstart	7	223	3.14
Stonechat	1	327	0.31
Duncock	3	365	0.82
House Sparrow	17	536	3.17
Tree Sparrow	1	2451	0.04
Grey Wagtail	9	179	5.03
Pied Wagtail	11	190	5.79

Species	Number of nest records	Records for Britain & Ireland	% of national records
Tree Pipit	1	66	1.52
Meadow Pipit	1	309	0.32
Linnet	1	420	0.24
Lesser Redpoll	1	8	12.50
Goldfinch	5	156	3.21
Reed Bunting	1	118	0.85

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Leah Williams	LhW
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M Williams	MWi
Norma Williams	NoWi
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David Winnard	DWn
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D Woodhouse	DWs
K Woodhouse	KWo
P Woodhouse	PWh

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.

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

Tel: 01248-383285

BTO regional representatives:

Clwyd East: Anne Brenchley, Tŷ'r Fawnog, 43 Blackbrook, Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6LT. Telephone: 01352-750118.
Email: annebrenchley@imsab.myzen.co.uk

Clwyd West: Temporarily contact Anne Brenchley
Telephone: 01352-750118. Email: annebrenchley@imsab.myzen.co.uk

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: Mark Hughes. Telephone: 07800-771570

Wrexham: Dan Rose. Telephone: 07976-962251

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: Alison Noble, 25 Belle Vue Gardens, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7NY. Email: membership@birdsinsin.wales

<https://birdsinsin.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://birdsinsin.wales/support_wos/

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