

North-East Wales Bird Report 2018



Clwyd Bird Recording Group
November 2019

North-East Wales Bird Report

2018

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www.brnw.cymru



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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)

Giles Pepler Secretary

Lee Barber Ringing Report Editor

Henry Cook (Photo Editor)

Alex Humphreys-Jones

Corinne Williams

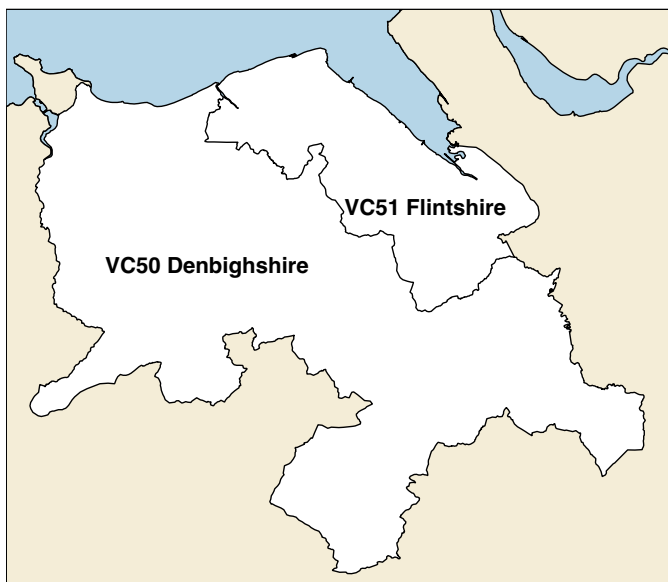
Peter Haslem (Deeside Naturalists' Society)

David Winnard Webmaster

www.brnw.cymru

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

North-East Wales Vice-Counties



Introduction

Editorial

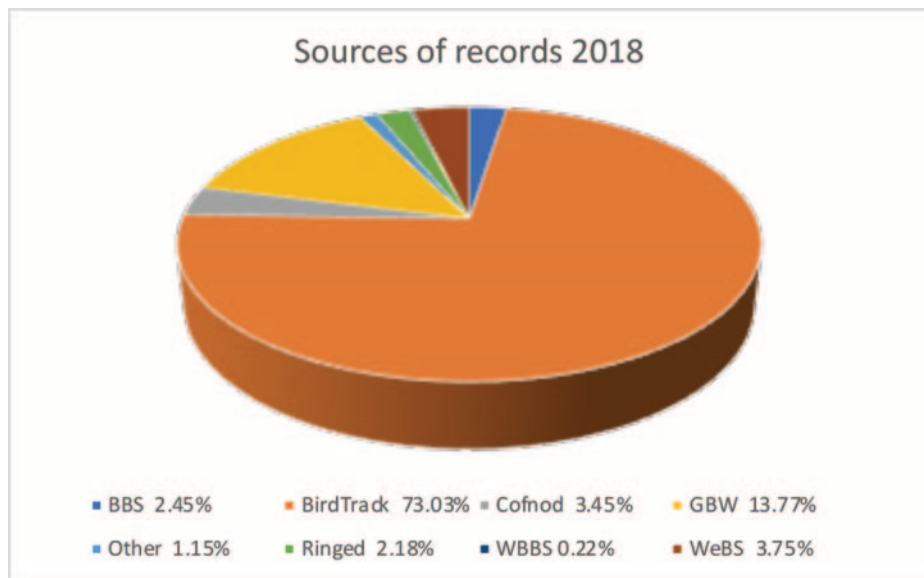
The purposes of the bird report

- 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 verified rare and scarce birds that have occurred in the recording area.

Renewal

Following Henry Cook joining us in 2017 I was very pleased that two other young people joined us during 2019: Corinne Williams and Alex Humphreys-Jones. We also welcomed Peter Haslem as the Deeside Naturalists' Society representative.

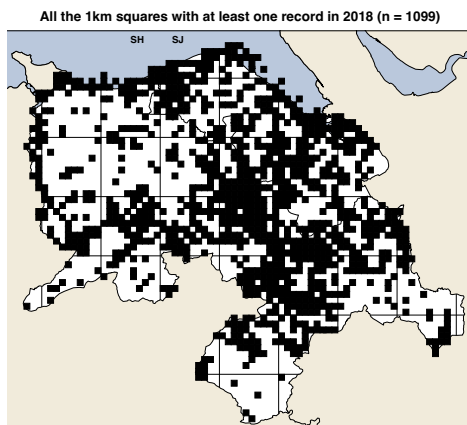
Sources of records



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 Burton Mere Wetlands (reserve staff and volunteers)
- Garden BirdWatch data

- Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data
- Deeside Naturalists' Society (per Peter Haslem)
- 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 2018 I received just over 115,000 records, many of which have been imported to Recorder 6. Of these, only 84,113 were 1km records that I was able to use for this report, with 37,137 from Denbs and 46,976 from Flints. This is a very large reduction in the number of records from Denbs (12,714 could not be used as they were 10km or tetrad records and there were no records from two sources). 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 219 species and 6 subspecies in Categories A and C and 3 in Category E.

Under the species names we provide a short description of the status of the species in North-East Wales, with information about whether it is on the Red or Amber lists of conservation concern (Johnstone, I, and Bladwell, S. 2016. Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3: the population status of birds in Wales. *Birds in Wales* 13(1) 3-31). The species accounts also show 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, now Bird Recording North Wales, www.brnw.cymru

Since the last report, the CBRG website has not been updated and a new website has been created by David Winnard, to whom I am very grateful. The web address is [brnw.cymru](http://www.brnw.cymru) This is now a

website that serves the whole of North Wales and is a joint venture with the Cambrian Ornithological Society. I hope that this will become a successful site that will serve the needs of the birding community across North Wales.

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**

When you set the parameters for your locations, please note that for this report I cannot use other than records set as 1km squares. For polygons, please designate a 1km square that would be most suitable for the majority of records from the polygon.

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. 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 using BirdTrack on the web, wherever.

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 904,681 records in the database. I have made no progress in finding an alternative to Recorder 6 but for the 2019 data Aisling May, at Cofnod, has agreed to process all the incoming data and provide me with a data file for all of the area in a format that I have requested. I hope that the trial goes without any hitches as it could make preparation of the report much easier.

Submission of records

Records of bird sightings may be made available by:

- by using BirdTrack (**www.birdtrack.net**);
- using a spreadsheet available on the BRNW website (**www.brnw.cymru**);
- by using the Cofnod on-line record submission facility (**www.cofnod.org.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 in the Environment [Wales] Act, 2016, Section 7 list (S7), 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 names used in Recorder 6, which are not the English vernacular names);
- 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 Birds Rarities Committee:

<https://birdsin.wales/overview-of-birds-in-wales/recording-rare-birds/>

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, Adrian Hibbert, Neil Hughes, Giles Pepler and Corinne Williams. I am also grateful to Lee Barber for the Ringing Report and to Amy Green, Mark Greenhough and Giles Pepler for the articles they have written.

All of the maps have been produced using DMAP by Dr Alan J Morton.

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

I am very grateful to Toby Carter, Henry Cook, Malcolm Down, John Gambles, John Hawkins, Hugh Linn, Tony Pope, Robin Sandham and David Winnard for their photographs. These add significantly to the interest and attractiveness of the report.

I am very grateful to the members of the CBRG for their ongoing support and assistance with all that is needed to coordinate a report such as this. I also thank David Winnard and Giles Pepler for 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. The official acknowledgements for the BTO data are:

Data were provided by WeBS, a Partnership jointly funded by the British Trust for Ornithology, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Joint Nature Conservation Committee, in association with The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, with fieldwork conducted by volunteers. Although WeBS data are presented within this report, in some cases the figures may not have been fully checked and validated. Therefore, for any detailed analyses of WeBS data, enquiries should be directed to the WeBS team at the British Trust for Ornithology, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU (webs@bto.org).

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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The Clwyd Bird Recording Group is 30 years old!

This is not world-shattering news but I did wish to create a record of who has contributed to the work of the CBRG over those 30 years. In April 1989, Peter Rathbone convened a meeting at his

Years	Recorder	Secretary
1989 – 1990	Peter H Rathbone	?
1991 – 1994	Geoff Neal	Ian M Spence
1995 – 1998	Geoff Neal	Andrew Gouldstone
1999 – 2006	Norman Hallas	Anne Brenchley
2007 – 2012	Ian M Spence	Julie Rogers
2013 – 2019	Ian M Spence	Giles Pepler

house, of people in North-East Wales who were known to have an interest in birds. I was pleased to be one of those invited to the meeting. There have only been four Recorders but at least 41 other people have contributed to the work of the group. The written records are not complete, so there may be one or two errors. If you are aware of any please send me corrections. In the first table is a list of Recorders and Secretaries.

In the next table (p10) is a list of all the known individuals who have attended meetings and contributed to the work of the CBRG.

Congratulations to Andrew Dale for being the longest standing member of the Group! I would like to think that the CBRG, under whatever name, will continue to record the birds of North-East Wales for many more years.

Weather Summary 2018

January. This was a predominantly changeable westerly dominated month with fronts crossing the country at regular intervals. Storm Eleanor arrived on 2nd and 3rd bringing heavy rain and high winds. It was colder and more settled between 6th and 12th. It was generally mild for the rest of the month with a notable high of 14.2°C at Hawarden on 28th. There was some snow on high ground in the third week.

February. It began with a week of generally cold weather with winds often from the north or east, followed by changeable weather and mainly westerly winds during the middle fortnight of the month. However, there was often plenty of sunshine in-between rain belts. There was a settled spell between 20th and 25th, then at the end of the month easterly winds brought exceptionally cold weather with increasingly widespread snow and thus began the period now known as 'The Beast from the East'.

March. This was the coldest March since 2013. Rainfall was above average, particularly in the east. The month began with an exceptionally cold easterly bringing widespread snow and sub-zero maxima. It then turned milder and generally wet, then on 17th/18th another notably cold easterly (called the Mini Beast from the East) brought further widespread snow. A brief dry sunny spell followed, then the rest of the month was generally wet with low pressure in charge.

April. This month started cold with an unsettled regime persisting for most of the first two weeks. There was a notable sunny warm spell between 18th and 21st before turning unsettled and gradually cooler from the 22nd onwards. This was another month of above average rainfall.

May. A cool and unsettled start, with westerly winds, soon changed to plenty of warm sunny weather with easterly winds in the second half of the month. The last week, while still warm, was rather unsettled with rain or showers with thunder at times.

June. This month was the beginning of a long generally warm, and sometimes hot, period of weather. This was the warmest June since 1910. However, almost a month's rain fell on the 1st (26.2mm at

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Peter Rathbone	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																	
Ian Higginson	Y																															
Glenn Morris	Y	Y																						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
Geoff Neal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																						
Merfyn D Rogers	Y	Y																														
Chester Rowley	Y																															
Ian Spence	Y	Y	Y	Y													Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Julian Weldrick	Y	Y																														
Bryan Formstone		Y																														
Brian E Grey		Y																														
Paul Triggs			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y								Y	Y												
Andrew Dale			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Andrew Gouldstone			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																									
John Hickerton			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																									
Iolo Lloyd			Y	Y																												
Cedric Lynch			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																									
Mel ab Owain			Y	Y								Y				Y			Y													
Ron Plummer			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																	
John Stokes			Y	Y																												
Barry Rogers					Y	Y	Y																									
Norman Hallas											Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y														
Anne Brenchley											Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Elvet Jones											Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																
Louise Jones											Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																
Paul Kenyon											Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																
Gareth Stamp											Y	Y	Y	Y	Y																	
Julie Rogers																	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y								
Peter Coffey																	Y	((Y	Y	Y										
Michael Whitley																	Y															
Lynn Davies																	Y															
Neil Hughes																	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Adrian Lloyd Jones																	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Geoff Robinson																		(Y	Y	Y											
Andrew Wallbank																			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y								
Ian Evans																	Y				Y	Y	Y	Y								
Rhian Pierce																							Y	Y	Y	Y						
Hilary Nash																							Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Adrian O Hibbert																								Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Richard Groves																								Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y			
Giles Pepler																										Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lee Barber																										Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Henry Cook																															Y	Y
Alex Humphreys-Jones																																Y
Corinne Williams																																Y
Peter Haslem																																Y

The members of the Cwyd Bird Recording Group, 1989 to 2019.

Hawarden) potentially causing disruption to the breeding season. Otherwise it was mostly settled and warm until the 12th with a fair amount of sunshine but some cloudier days. Westerly winds brought an unsettled spell from 13th to 20th and it was unseasonably windy on 14th. From the 21st onwards, high pressure brought dry weather and almost unbroken sunshine and it turned increasingly hot on the last few days.

July. The first half of July was mainly dry, sunny and very warm, particularly inland. The second half of the month was less settled but in all there were only three days of significant rain. Temperatures

were generally above the long term average, such that this was the third warmest July since 1910. Rainfall was 68% of average and sunshine was 140% of average.

August. The first week was mostly settled and warm with variable amounts of cloud. The rest of the month was generally cloudy and unsettled with westerly winds. It turned cooler but also brighter in the last week. This was the driest month of the year.

September It started and ended with predominantly settled weather. The middle of the month was very windy and wet as the area was affected by a series of storms, notably Storm Helene on 18th and Storm Ali on 19th and 20th. Particularly heavy rain fell at Hawarden on 20th (34.2mm). Temperatures noticeably dropped in the last ten days.

October. It was generally settled and dry with variable amounts of cloud in the first week and from 18th to 25th. It was very warm in the second week with frequent southerly winds, albeit windy and very wet around the 12th. The month ended with sunny weather but notably low temperatures for this time of year.

November. The cold and sunny weather continued for the first two days of the month but from 3rd to 14th it was mild and changeable and also windy at times. There was a settled interlude from the 15th to 18th, followed by a week of cold easterly winds. From the 27th onwards it was mild, wet and windy. In general, this was a dry month.

December. Mild, cloudy weather prevailed for much of the month, with temperatures above the long-term average. In general, there was changeable and windy weather until the 23rd and then mostly quiet anticyclonic weather dominated from the 24th onwards. There was a brief cold snap in the middle of the month, brought about by Storm Deirdre, which gave widespread freezing rain on 15th.

2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max temp °C / date	14.2 28	12.4 10	13.3 26	21.8 19	26.8 27	30.4 26	29.0 2	27.5 5	25.1 2	22.0 16	14.9 4	14.7 2
Mean temp °C/ date	10.5 28	7.7 19/20	9.7 16	16.4 18	19.4 31	20.6 27	22.6 2	21.6 2	20.8 2	18.0 13	12.6 7	11.1 2
Min temp °C/ date	-6.3 8	-6.0 28	-5.8 1	-0.3 9	0.8 17	6.9 24	8.0 20	5.5 31	0.9 25	-3.3 29	-3.0 27	-2.7 14
Rain mm	54.2	35.6	93.2	94.6	27.6	31.4	34.8	27.2	79.2	49.0	41.2	93.6
Daily max Date	8.8 21	14.2 8	14.2 30	18.0 1	7.0 27	26.2 1	8.6 20	6.6 10	34.2 20	18.0 12	11.6 27	13.6 9
Sun hours	66	78	71	120	249	266	246	142	125	101	56	37
Daily max Date	6.8 7	9.8 25	9.3 20	13.0 19	14.8 14	15.6 27/30	15.6 23	12.2 31	11.1 5	9.6 10/18	7.0 2	5.0 14

This information was provided from the UK Met Office using data from the Hawarden meteorological station.

National Meteorological Library and Archive

Met. Office, FitzRoy Road, Exeter, Devon, EX1 3PB, UK

Tel: +44 (0)1392 885680. Fax: +44 (0) 1392 885681

Email: enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk

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Birding Highlights 2018

This paper briefly summarises the main birding highlights and events for 2018. 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.

2018

Many birdwatchers head for the coast in the first few days of the year to get their annual lists off to a good start and this year was no exception. New Year's Day saw 4 **Great White Egrets** at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and regular sightings of these birds were reported around the Dee Estuary throughout the year. **Surf** and **Velvet Scoters** were sighted off Llanddulas / Pensarn as part of the much larger **Common Scoter** flocks present in Liverpool Bay. An annual peak of 91 **Pale-bellied Brent Geese** were at Greenfield Dock, a well viewed **Glaucous Gull** at Llanddulas / Abergele stayed for the whole of the month and the first of only two records for the year of **Grey Partridge** came from Connah's Quay NR. A single **Firecrest** was at RSPB Conwy on the first day of the month. Other January coastal sightings included the usual flock of **Whooper Swans** around the Dee Estuary, 9 **Greenland White-fronted Geese** were present at Warren Farm, Talacre, from 6/01 staying until 20/03, 25 **Red-throated Divers** and an immature male **Eider** were sighted off Pensarn on 20/01 and a single **Black-throated Diver** off Llanddulas on 10/01. Other notable sightings for the beginning of the year were 312 **Skylark** on RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 3/01, brought off the saltmarsh by a high spring tide and on the same day 5 **Jack Snipe** were at Connah's Quay NR. Inland, a single **Glaucous Gull** was present at Acrefair pool, Ruabon on 14/01 and a single **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** was at Marford Quarry on 7/01 and 5/02 but did not appear to stay to breed. A small flock of **Hawfinch** seen regularly near Rhuthun in the early months of the year peaked at 23 on 9/01. Coastal birding continued to be fruitful into February. A phenomenal **Starling** roost developed on the Point of Ayr coastal fields and Gronant dunes and the numbers peaked at an estimated 100,000 on 4/02 and 18/02. There were 9 **Scaup** off Towyn on 6/02. There was a **Great Northern Diver** off Pensarn on 17/02 and another bird off Rhos-on-Sea the following day. WeBS counts identified 5,000 **Dunlin** at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and the **Twite** numbers on the Dee Estuary peaked at 98 on 5/02 at Connah's Quay NR. Slightly inland, a **Long-tailed Duck** was on Rhyll Brickfields Pond LNR on 4/02. Another **Grey Partridge** was seen around the Dyserth / Trelawnyd area on 18/02. In Clocaenog Forest a **Great Grey Shrike** was observed at varying different locations from 17/02 until last sighted on 9/04. Firecrest sightings continued at RSPB Conwy through February and March and peaked with 4 on 16/03 and the last sighting was on 25/03. In March, an **Iceland Gull** was sighted at Shotton Steelworks on 2/03 and 2 more were recorded at Rhuddlan on 26/03. 14 **Scaup** were sighted off Colwyn Bay on 13/03 and 8,000+ **Common Scoter** at the same site on 24/03. A **Yellow-legged Gull** was seen at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 9/03. **Egyptian Geese** maintained their regular presence in the recording area with one seen at Bodfari on 5/03 and up to 3 seen at other inland sites during the year. However, breeding has yet to be confirmed. As the month progressed there were the first signs of spring migration with terns, martins and a few warblers. The first **Ring Ouzel** of spring appeared at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 25/03. On the same day, the annual **Black Grouse** counts recorded 55 at 3 leks on Ruabon Mountain. In the first week of April, 10,000 **Pink-footed Geese** on the Dee Estuary highlighted the increasing winter presence of this species in North-East Wales, compared to only a 1,000 ten years ago. A surprise **White Stork** was seen at Horseshoe Falls, Llangollen on 13/04. Two **Garganey** were at Flint on 21/04 and a splendid male **Ring-necked Duck** turned up at RSPB Conwy on 22/04. This was only the second record of this species for the region. As the month progressed spring migration was in full swing. On Penycloddiau, 31 **Ring Ouzels** were sighted on 8/04. Iconic Welsh species such as **Pied Flycatchers** and **Redstarts** arrived mid-month and **Wood Warblers** and **Whinchats** at the end of April. At Llyn Brenig an **Iceland Gull** was sighted on 5/04 and 2 **Ospreys** were observed mating on 21/04. These birds went on to successfully produce a single youngster: a first

for our area. On 1/05, 30 **Whimbrel** were at Connah's Quay NR. A **Little Gull** was observed on the Welsh section of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 18/05 and a **Black Tern** flew over Shotwick Fields on 29/05. **Spotted Flycatchers** appeared mid-month but this is an ever increasingly uncommon sighting with only thirty-two records for the whole year. The first **Nightjar** of the year was seen at Nercwys Forest on 23/05. June was a relatively quiet month. The breeding colony of **Little Tern** at Gronant dunes continued to grow with 171 pairs fledging 192 young. A recently trapped adult was ringed in 1993, a new longevity record for the species. Five **Red Kite** flew over Moel Arthur heading towards Moel Famau on 27/06. Sightings of ones and twos are now quite common in the recording area and breeding almost certainly takes place but is difficult to prove. A **Honey-buzzard** was seen over the Ceiriog Valley at Cefn Coch on 29/06 and two very unusual garden sightings of **Brambling** occurred at Bryneglwys on 10/06 and at Trevor Hall on 8/07. In July two early **Curlew Sandpipers** turned up at Connah's Quay NR on 8/07. The breeding of **Long-eared Owl** was confirmed in Llandegla Forest on 11/07 and this site is also the best place to see **Nightjar** in the region and 11 were counted on 11/07. A **Quail** was seen at Eglwysbach in the Conwy Valley on 20/07. August began with a **Little Gull** at Connah's Quay NR on 2/08. RSPB Conwy had a **Curlew Sandpiper** on 7/08 and a single **Wood Sandpiper** stayed from 8/08 to 22/08. A **Great Skua** was observed close inshore at Gronant on 15/08. In September, the regular **Cattle Egret** at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands ventured onto Border Pool on 16/09 and it was possibly the same bird sighted at nearby Shotwick Fields in October. Unusually a **Leach's Petrel** was sighted in the Dee Estuary on 21/09. A **Spotted Crane** turned up at RSPB Conwy on 22/09, as did a **Little Stint** on 25/09: the only record for the year. Notable autumn wader and wildfowl migration included 1,000 **Knot** at Point of Ayr on 7/10 and 3,000 **Black-tailed Godwit** with 5,000 **Pintail** at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 11/10 must have been quite a sight. In October, several **Spoonbill** records, all of single birds, came from the Dee Estuary between 4/10 and 25/10. A **Lapland Bunting** was at Bagillt on 18/10 and a **Leach's Petrel** was sighted off Point of Ayr on 23/10 and two more were off RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 26/10. Just inland, several sightings of **Yellow-browed Warblers** came from Llandrillo-yn-Rhos, Towyn, Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR and Connah's Quay NR between 16/10 and 30/10. Apart from 102 **Brambling** at Connah's Quay NR on 6/11, November began quietly. On 13/11 the only record of **Ring-necked Parakeet** came from Connah's Quay NR where good numbers of **Snipe** also built up as the winter progressed, with 8 on 29/11 and 83 on 2/12. A **Black Guillemot** was sighted at Rhos-on-Sea on 13/11. A **Long-tailed Duck** was sighted at RSPB Conwy from 24-26/11 and another individual was seen on Afon Clwyd at Kinmel Bay on 25/11. A splendid **Slavonian Grebe**, which proved very photogenic, stayed at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR from 19/11 to 7/12. Close observation revealed a **Yellow-legged Gull** at Llyn Brenig on 15/11 and another individual was seen at Gresford Flash on 25/11. The Llyn Brenig area had its usual wintering **Great Grey Shrike** which was first seen on 23/11 and another occurred in Llandegla Forest on 9/12. December ended very quietly with a **Black Redstart** regularly seen at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay for much of the month.

Anne Brenchley

The Systematic List for 2018

The names of species and their order come from the 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:

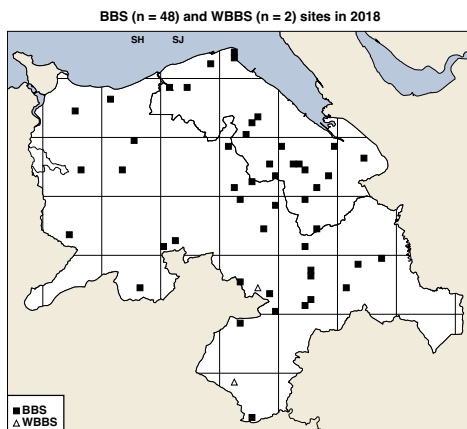
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey organised by the British Trust for Ornithology
CP	Country Park
GBW	Garden Bird Watch organised by the British Trust for Ornithology
GP	Gravel pit
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NR	Nature Reserve
WRP	Welsh Records Panel (see www.birdsin.wales)
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee (see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

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

We have included maps to show the distribution of the records received for most species where we considered that maps would assist the summarising of those records (four or more locations). 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 lastly a map showing the locations of all sites from where complete lists were recorded in BirdTrack.

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

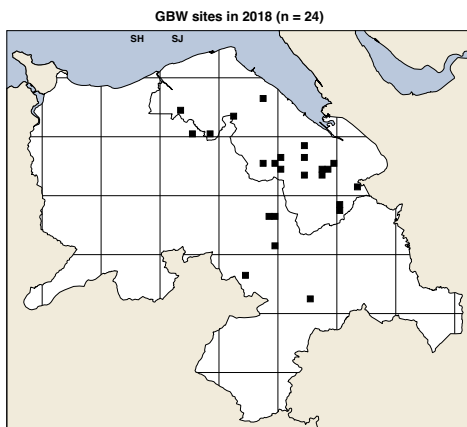


Status. This is a statement about each species based mainly on the results of the Atlas project that led to 'The Breeding Birds of North Wales'.

Resident
Summer visitor
Winter visitor
Passage migrant
Visitor
Vagrant
Escape

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

These average figures are taken from a database of these figures that have been published in recent bird reports.



Descriptor Occurrence as calculated (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 word chosen to describe the species is taken from the table, above.

Number of 1 km squares. This is the number of 1 km squares in which a species was recorded during the year. The numbers of 1 km squares in each county are taken from the Gazetteer which is available from the BRNW website: Denbs = 1978, Flints = 591, total = 2569.

Maximum count. This is comparable information to what 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 was recorded out of the number in the county. There were 31 BBS squares in Denbs in 2018 and 21 in Flints.

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

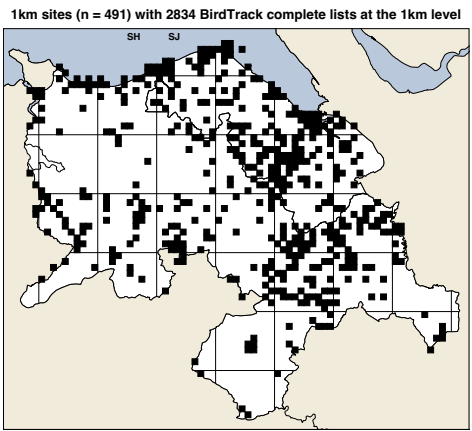
% of records from GBW. Rather than mentioning this in the text for some, obvious, garden species

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).**

Max breeding evidence. This shows the highest breeding code that was submitted for the species during the year.



We are grateful for the breeding codes that have been submitted with an increasing number of records. We would still welcome knowing where any of these species are found to breed using the codes for evidence that are generally used for bird atlas purposes. Atlas codes are shown in the BRNW website.

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

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.

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

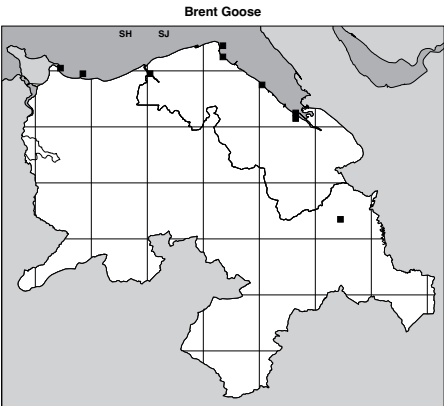
Category A and C species

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*
Winter visitor. (*B.b. bernicla* S7).

GŴYDD DDU

(BG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	3
Maximum count	2	12
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	21
Number of records	3	6
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.2
Density	0.00	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



The majority of Denbs records are likely to be of the pale-bellied hrota race which breeds in Canada and Greenland and mostly winter in Ireland, though some reach 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 which breeds in northern Russia and mostly winters in the S and E of the UK and continental Europe.

Denbs. Two of the pale-breasted race were at Colwyn Bay on 7/01 (RS) and possibly the same birds were seen again at Rhos-on-Sea on 9/03 (KeK, SvK). The only record from the second half of the year was presence at Gresford Flash on 10/10 (SzB).

Flints. Small numbers (1 to 3) of both races were present in various parts of the Dee Estuary during Jan to Mar, though Connah's Quay NR was the predominant location. The only sightings of more substantial numbers were 91 of the pale-breasted race at Greenfield Dock on 1/01 (DWn) and 12 of unspecified race in flight over Connah's Quay NR on 10/01 (MGW). The last record of the spring was 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/03 (PeHa). The only records from the latter half of the year were singles at Ffynngongroyw on 11/11 (StM) and on the Clwyd Estuary on 9/12 (WRM).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*
Breeding resident.

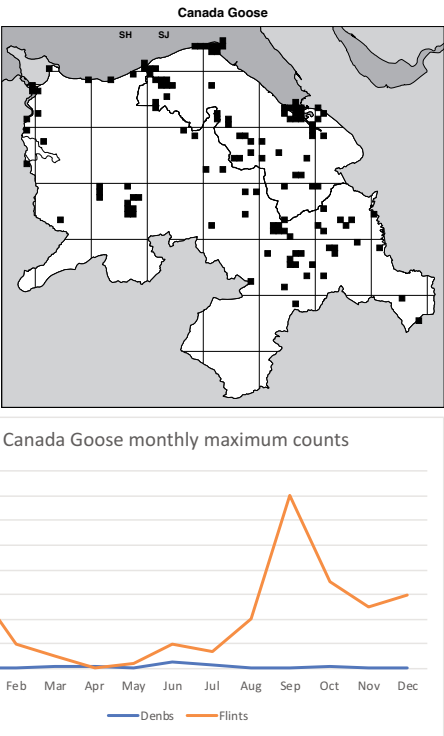
GŴYDD CANADA

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 at a number of locations including the Dee Estuary, Gresford Flash,

(CG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	72	56
Maximum count	126	7000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	371	2762
Recorded in BBS squares	6/31	8/21
Number of records	373	644
% of BirdTrack lists	28.3	27.9
Density	9.44	665.53
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY

RSPB Conwy and Llyn Brenig, many birds remaining to winter.

Denbs. Some 53% of records were from RSPB Conwy. The 2018 maximum of 259 was recorded during a WeBS count at RSPB Conwy on 17/06; it was only 65% of the 2017 maximum and substantially below the ten-year average. This is in contrast to Flints where numbers increased significantly and may indicate an eastward shift in habitat preferences for this species at certain times of the year. During the early months of the year numbers were modest, 40 at RSPB Conwy on 5/01 (KeK, SvK) and 51 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 15/01 (JPH) being the most notable counts during this period. Towards the end of Mar there was a significant increase in counts at Acrefair and Penycæ, with 90+ at Acrefair, 80+ at Bryn Goleu and 100+ at Cae Llwyd Reservoir, all on 30/03 (SD). As breeding pairs settled on territories the first nesting behaviour was recorded at Gellifor where an occupied nest was recorded on 3/04 (GPI). The first goslings were recorded at Lleweni Hall on 11/05 (JPH) six days earlier than in 2017. In total, there were twenty records of confirmed breeding from seven locations. Post-breeding/moulting congregations were also relatively modest, the two most notable being 126 at RSPB Conwy on 9/06 (JHg) and 120+ at Llyn Brenig on 17/07 (WRM). It may be that after breeding most birds chose to travel E to moult on the Dee Estuary. During the later months of the year numbers were generally modest, with very few reports of more than 20 from any of the regular sites, the exception being Hanmer, where there were counts of 28 in Sep, 114 in Oct and 35 in Nov (WeBS).



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(CG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy		52	2	47	50	259	173				1	
Rhuddlan, Clwyd est		97		55	68		173		6	85	50	4
Llawndy, Gwespyr		188	129		23						4	101
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh		120	50	7	11	200	400	200	400	80		1200
Connah's Quay NR			20	6	3	50	12					
White Sands	140	84	500	16	49	4	300	700	600	150		

Flints. 2018 appears to have been a bumper year for this species on the Dee estuary. The annual maximum count of 7,000 recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 28/09 (PeHa) was over 250% of the 10-year average and a 55% increase on the previous maximum count in 2009. However, these statistics need to be viewed with an element of caution as what was undoubtedly an extraordinary count was in fact twice the next largest and so cannot be taken as representative of the local population of this species. Canada Geese were recorded from nineteen inland locations, while the rest were coastal. The vast majority of records were from the Dee and Clwyd estuaries. On the Dee estuary substantial counts were recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR throughout Jan with regular counts of 1,000+, a maximum of 3,200+ at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh

from 12 to 14/01 (DWn) then 2,800 at Connah's Quay NR and 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh both on 28/01 (PeHa), which almost certainly involved the same birds. From early Feb numbers declined markedly, the largest counts being in the low hundreds and 500 at White Sands on 18/03 (WeBS), 300 at Connah's Quay NR on 20/03 (NHu) and 290 there on 25/03 (PeHa), marking the end of the winter period; after which the majority of breeding birds dispersed to nesting territories. The first record of breeding behaviour was recorded at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR on 4/04 (JPH). In total there were twenty-eight records of confirmed breeding from five locations, though almost certainly this represents considerable under-reporting. There were significant congregations at Connah's Quay NR in late May/early Jun, presumably of non-breeders and juveniles, peaking at 1,000 in early Jun. As referred to above the post-breeding peak numbers were recorded in late Sep, but numbers were high throughout Aug to Dec, when particularly notable records included 2,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 7/08 and 7,000 on 28/09 (PeHa), and at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh where there were 3,500 on 31/10 and 3,000 on 31/12 (DWn, KS). On the Clwyd estuary numbers were more modest, 400+ at Rhuddlan on 7/02 (DCR) being the maximum recorded during the early months of the year. The majority of counts were 40 to 100, with up to 230 on rare occasions. The post-breeding peak count was on 1/09 when 547 were on the lower estuary, numbers declining after mid-Sep, with a maximum of 142 during Oct to Dec (JPH).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

GŴYDD WYRAN

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

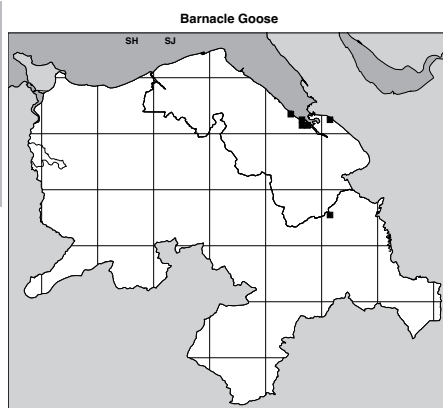
(BY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	6
Maximum count	3	10
Av max count prev 10	4	12
Number of records	1	43
% of BirdTrack lists		
Density	0.0	0.10

Seen in these months

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

Denbs. The only record was of 3 at Llay Pool on 25/03 (NHu).

Flints. The two long staying birds remained in the RSPB Oakenholt Marsh / Connah's Quay NR area of the Dee Estuary from 8/01 until 25/03, from 2/06 to 21/06, briefly in early Aug and finally from 5/10 to the end of the year. They were joined by a third on several occasions throughout the year. A small influx of migrants increased numbers to 9 to 10 from 1/11 to 3/11.



Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*

GŴYDD YR EIRA

Rare vagrant or escape.

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

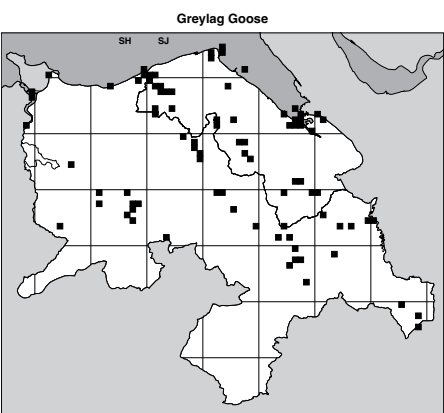
Flints. A lone bird was at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 23/04 (DWn). What is considered to be the same bird was subsequently seen at Marshside, Southport and later in Scotland, so is likely to have been a wild bird.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

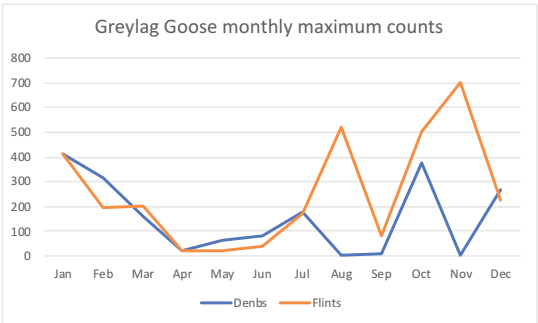
GŴYDD WYLLT

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

GJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	50	38
Maximum count	412	700
Av max count prev 10 yrs	389	400
Recorded in BBS squares	4/31	6/21
Number of records	187	258
% of BirdTrack lists	14.2	12.7
Density	10.43	45.16
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 over-wintering birds during the winter months, as is especially apparent in the graph of maximum counts for Flints, below. Recorded in both counties in all months of the year. The majority of records during the spring and summer months are of small numbers at 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. RSPB Conwy, the most regularly recorded location, provided most records - 43% of the total. However, numbers at this site were, again, relatively low, the annual maximum being 32 on 20/07 (TP). There was only one further count of 20+ with 26 on 8/10 (PKC, KeK, SvK). As usual the largest numbers were recorded at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, with a maximum count of 412 on 15/01 (JPH). Numbers remained high at this location throughout the early months of the year, with counts of 100 to 300 until mid-Mar. Elsewhere, numbers were more modest. The only other records of substantial numbers during the early part of the year were 100 at Gresford Flash on 1/01 (KS) and 300 on a flooded field by the Afon Clwyd at Nant Lewis Alyn near Denbigh on 9/01 (GPI). There were four records of confirmed breeding from four locations and the first record of goslings was on 26/05 almost three weeks later than last year. After the breeding season flocks of post-breeders increased with 175+ at Llyn Brenig on 17/07 (WRM) and at Lleweni Hall from mid-Oct, when 374 on 15/10 was the autumn / winter maximum (JPH), though the usual late season numbers were not seen at Gresford Flash.

Flints. This year the most favoured location during the early months of the year was Fagl Lane GP, Hope with substantial flocks of 100 to 200 recorded in the area from the turn of the year until mid-Mar and a maximum of 360 there on 8/08 (WeBS). The only other location with substantial numbers during this period was the Clwyd estuary where 412 were recorded on 7/01 (JPH). These numbers were not sustained and the estuary appeared to have been less favoured than usual during the early months of the year. However, numbers did increase markedly in later months. There were

four records of confirmed breeding from three locations and the first goslings were recorded at Caerwys on 18/05 (MGW). After the breeding season the Clwyd estuary came into its own with good numbers from late Jul, including 170+ on 22/07, 520 on 16/08 and 590 on 18/11 (WRM). The only inland site hosting significant post-breeding numbers was Bryn Goleu, Pen-y-Cae where up to 61 were recorded during Jul/Aug (WeBS). As usual the Dee estuary hosted smaller numbers than the Clwyd, though there were records from locations throughout the estuary in most months of the year. The most substantial numbers were in the post-breeding period, when notable records included 125+ on the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 10/08, 105 on 7/10 (DWn, TG) and 700 at Mostyn on 11/11 and 129 on Shotwick Fields on 9/12 (WeBS)

Monthly WeBS counts at Flintshire locations.

(GJ)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clwyd estuary		5			2		7		9	500		
Hope	360	197	201	13	23	19						

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

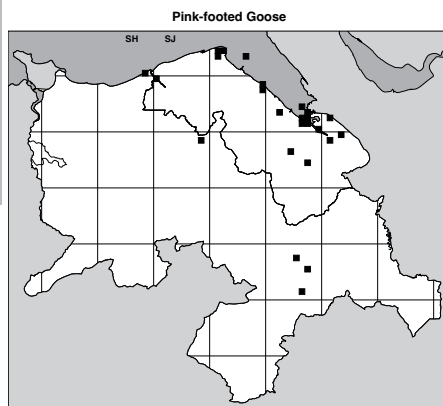
GŴYDD DROED-BINC

Passage migrant, and winter visitor.

(PG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	5	20
Maximum count	4400	10000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	16	3105
Number of records	15	130
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	4.7
Density	11.13	339.56

Seen in these months

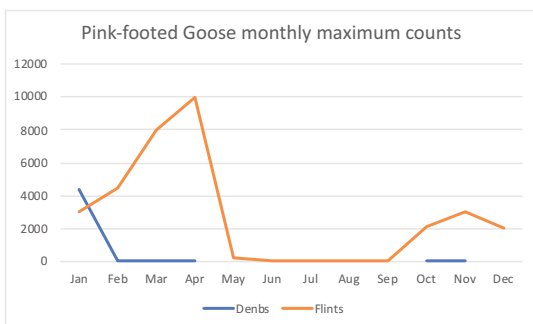
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D



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.

Denbs. A movement of several migrating flocks totalling about 4,500, all travelling N, was observed over the Wrexham area on 6/01, when 100+ were seen over Ruabon Mountain at 08.30 (JLR) and several flocks of 600 to 2,000, totalling perhaps 4,400, passed over Penycae at about 11.30 (JAJ). A flock of varying numbers from 4 to 72 was at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari from 15/01 to 27/02 and a single remained until 16/04 (JPH). In the autumn 1 was at Kinmel Bay on 1/10 (KeK, SvK), 2 were at Lleweni Hall on 15/10 and 1 on 26/11 (JPH), and 9 at Froncysyllte on 25/11 (TK).

Flints. As usual virtually all records were from the Dee estuary, where the trend of increasing numbers continued in line with increases in the UK wintering population. This trend began in 2010



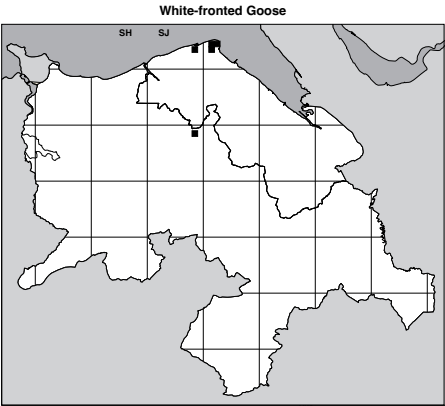
when the first annual maximum of 1,000+ was noted on the Dee, as compared to the current year maximum of 10,000. There were records from most locations on the estuary, though the greatest concentrations were recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, Connah's Quay NR, White Sands and adjacent areas. Substantial numbers were recorded from the start of the year, with 3,000 at Bagillt on 6/01 (GRMP). Numbers increased as the winter continued, with 4,500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 2/02 (DWN) and up to 10,000 at White Sands on 4/04 and again at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7/04 (PeHa). These are presumed to have been a migrating flock, as numbers declined markedly thereafter, with the last record of 200 on White Sands on 2/05 (PeHa). The only record of this species from locations away from the Dee estuary was 160+ flying N over Sychdyn on 6/01 (IMS). There were records of small numbers (1 to 3) of overwintering birds in the Connah's Quay NR / RSPB Oakenholt Marsh area during Jun to Sep. The first returning migrants of the autumn were 100 at White Sands on 2/10 (PeHa). The first substantial numbers arrived shortly after, when 2,075 were recorded at Shotwick Fields on 7/10 (WeBS). These did not stay long and numbers remained modest throughout late Oct and early Nov, with only two counts of c1,000 on 18/10 at White Sands and 22/10 at Connah's Quay NR (PeHa). In late Nov numbers increased again with 3,000 + at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22/11, 1,080 at Shotwick Fields and 2,000 at White Sands, all on 9/12 (DWN, WeBS). The only records from away from the Dee in the later months of the year were from the Clwyd estuary, where 1 to 2 were recorded on the lower estuary on dates from 26/09 to 19/12 (JPH, AHJ, WRM).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*
Irregular winter visitor. Red List.

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

(WG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares		2
Maximum count		9
Av max count prev 10 yrs		9
Number of records	0	6
% of BirdTrack lists		1.7
Density		0.03

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 overwhelming majority of records in the report area are of the 'European' *albifrons* race which occurs most often, but irregularly. The 'Greenland' *flavirostris* race is considerably rarer and more noteworthy in our area.

Denbs. There were 2 of the European race at Llewenni Hall, Bodfari on several dates between 15/01 and 9/04 (JPH).

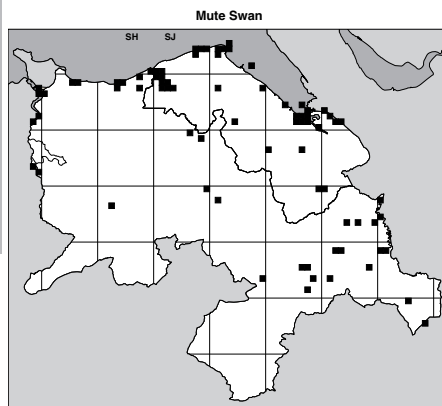
Flints. A small flock of up to 9 of the Greenland race wintered in the Talacre area and was recorded at Talacre dunes / Llawndy / Gronant from 6/01 to 20/03 (NHu, JPH et al).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Breeding resident. Amber List.

ALARCH DOF

(MS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	38	41
Maximum count	49	70
Av max count prev 10 yrs	50	71
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	2/21
Number of records	382	488
% of BirdTrack lists	25.7	25.8
Density	0.94	4.87
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY



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

Denbs. Records were received from twelve coastal locations and twenty-six inland. As usual, RSPB Conwy provided the majority of records (66%) though numbers were relatively modest as can be seen from the table of WeBS counts below. Counts were similar to 2017 and the only records in excess of those in the table were 18 on 5/01 and 20 on 6/08 (KeK, SvK). Nesting behaviour was noted on 5/05 (SM, DCR), though there was no record of cygnets being successfully hatched or reared. Sutton Green in the lower Dee Valley near Wrexham again recorded the largest numbers of the year, with 34 (22 adults and 12 juveniles) on 28/03 and later in the year, 49 on 31/12 (NHu). There were thirteen records of confirmed breeding from six locations. The first cygnets of the year were at Towyn, estimated to be approximately two weeks old on 24/05 (SM).

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(MS)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy estuary	15	12	13	16	20	23	4	18	11	14	13	13
Clwyd estuary		2		4	48						3	
White Sands	21	44	2	20	25	1						5
Shotwick Fields		1									47	70

Flints. As usual, most records were from coastal locations in or around the Dee and Clwyd estuaries. On the Dee numbers were much lower than in 2017, with a maximum count of 44 recorded at White Sands on 18/02 (WeBS). The majority of counts were in single figures, with a handful between 10 and 20. The first records of hatched cygnets were from Gronant on 22/05 (WRM) and there were further reports of young at Connah's Quay NR in succeeding weeks (PeHa). There were single figure counts from various locations on the estuary for the remainder of the year. The only location attracting larger numbers was Shotwick Fields, where there were several large counts during Nov and Dec, for which see the table of WeBS counts above. The most notable of these was 70 on 9/12 and again on 16/12, which were the maximum counts for the year (WeBS, NHu). On the Clwyd estuary numbers were broadly stable throughout much of the year. Most counts were of 2 to 5, particularly on the upper estuary at Rhuddlan, where it is assumed a territorial pair held sway. On the lower estuary up to 18 were recorded during Jan and 14 in Mar. Numbers increased in May and Jun, when up to 48 were recorded near Rhuddlan on 20/05 (WeBS). There were several counts of up to 25 on the lower estuary near Rhyl during the same period (JPH, WRM et al). There were thirty-seven records of confirmed breeding from nine locations. There were records of 3 sitting on nests on 24/04, though only one brood of 6 appeared to have been successfully reared (WRM). The largest number recorded during the autumn and winter months was 12 near Rhyl on 28/10 (WRM).

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

ALARCH BEWICK

Winter visitor. Amber List.

(BS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares		4
Maximum count		7
Av max count prev 10 yrs		53
Number of records	0	9
% of BirdTrack lists		0.2
Density		0.05

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. The loss of what were important fields for wintering waterfowl to a solar farm at Shotwick has affected 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. In line with the major decline in the European and UK wintering populations, numbers on the Dee estuary were again markedly lower with no records into double figures. Up to 7 were recorded between 8/01 and 21/02 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, Connah's Quay NR and White Sands (DWn, PeHa, WeBS). This is only 14% of the 10-year average.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

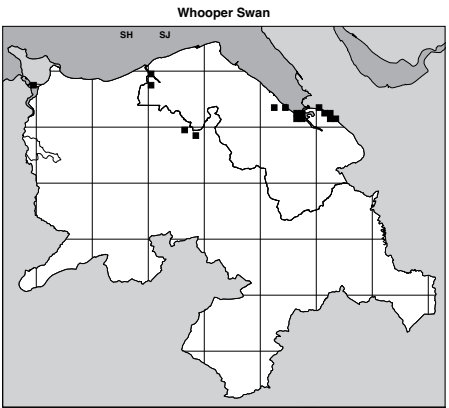
ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

Winter visitor.

(WS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	3	13
Maximum count	4	36
Av max count prev 10 yrs	8	60
Number of records	18	32
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	1.3
Density	0.01	0.79

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

Records were primarily concentrated around the Dee estuary, where this species is usually found with other swans at sites in the upper estuary, an area affected by the loss of land to a solar farm. Smaller numbers are generally recorded less frequently from inland and coastal sites further W.



Denbs. Two were at RSPB Conwy on 7/01 (JFJ), then 2 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, from 15/01 to 19/02 and 2 (possibly the same) at Denbigh Green on 13/03 (JPH). Later in the year 3 were at Lleweni on 20/10, 1 at RSPB Conwy on 23/10 (JFJ, JPH); after which 4 were at Lleweni Hall until 17/12, 3 remaining until the end of the year (JPH).

Flints. Numbers on the Dee Estuary were somewhat down on 2017, with relatively few counts reaching double figures. The most favoured locations during the early months of the year were RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, Connah's Quay NR and White Sands. While the majority of records were in single figures, notable records included 23 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 20/01, 13 at White Sands on 18/02 and the annual maximum of 36 also at White Sands on 21/02 (WeBS). The last record of spring was 1 at White Sands on 15/04 (WeBS). The first returners of the autumn were 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/10 ((PeHa). Shotwick Fields attracted small numbers from late Oct to the end of the year, though numbers were usually less than 10. The only double figure records were 13 on 11/11 and 22 on 9/12 (WeBS). The only records from locations away from the Dee were from

the Clwyd estuary where 2 were near Rhuddlan on 16/01 (JPH) and later in the year a single was on the lower estuary near Rhyl on 25/11, 16/12 and 30/12 (WRM, JPH, DWn).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

GŴYDD YR AIFFT

Feral.

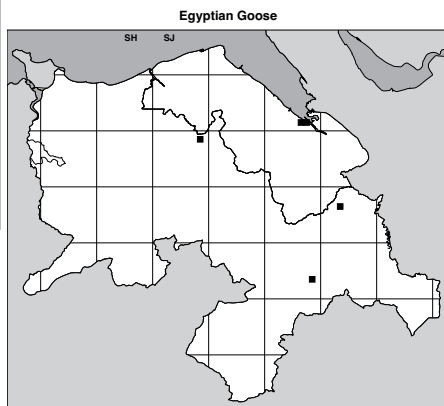
(EG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3	2
Maximum count	3	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	0	1
Number of records	5	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	0.0
Density	0.00	0.01
Max breeding evidence	P	

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

Denbs. A single was recorded at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 5/03 (JPH), 3 were at Llay on 24/03 (TBT), then 2 at Acrefair on 25/03 (NHu) and again at Lleweni Hall on 9/04 and 16/04 (JPH).

Flints. One was at Connah's Quay NR on 17/06 then 2 were there on 23/09 (JBW).



Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

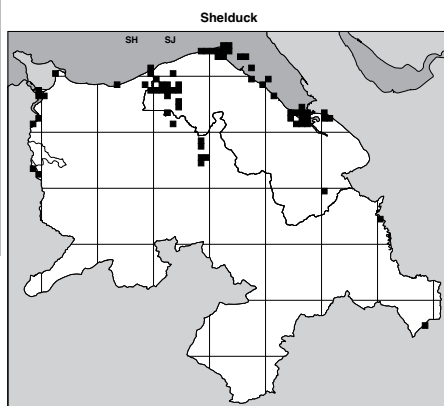
HWYADEN YR EITHIN

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

(SU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	24	49
Maximum count	204	1500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	139	1370
Recorded in BBS squares		5/21
Number of records	301	691
% of BirdTrack lists	23.4	25.6
Density	2.48	124.79
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. Inland locations provided only 15% of the records. Of the coastal sites RSPB Conwy produced 58% of all reported sightings and Kinmel Bay a further 5%. Lleweni Hall, Bodfari was the most recorded of the inland sites, providing 7% of all records. Numbers on the Conwy estuary appear to have recovered somewhat from last year's dip and were in the same broad range as 2014-16, with an annual maximum for the year of 204, 46% up on the ten-year average. During the early months of the year numbers were modest, with peak counts of +/-30 during Jan / early Feb, increasing as Feb progressed, with 87 on 27/02 (JHg). As

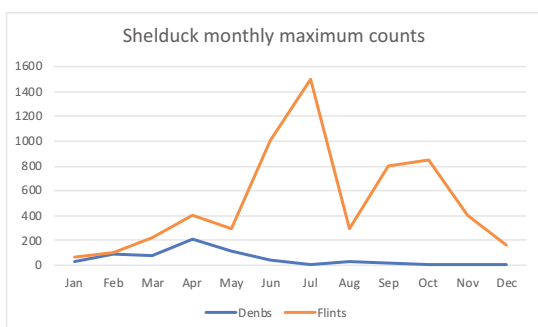


usual counts peaked during Apr when the annual maximum count of 204 was recorded on 9/04 (PJS). Other substantial records included 120 on 23/04 (JHg) and 189 on 29/04 (PJWo). Numbers declined subsequently as pairs dispersed to breeding territories. Other notable records away from RSPB Conwy during the early months included 39 at Towyn on 11/02 (JPH) and 30+ at Tal-y-Cafn on 19/05 (DCR). The only record of breeding was from RSPB Conwy where a pair with 6 small ducklings was recorded on 22/06 (WRM). After the breeding season, numbers on the coast remained low, with two counts of 10 to 11 during Dec, the only records to reach double figures. The majority of inland sightings were from Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, where this species was recorded during Jan to Jun and Nov to Dec. Numbers peaked in late Apr with 24 on 16/04 (JPH).

RSPB Conwy monthly WeBS counts:

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy		29	64	52	117	42	7	26	12		3	4

Flints. As usual the vast majority of records were from the Dee and Clwyd estuaries. Only 1% of sightings were reported from five inland squares. Numbers appear broadly stable and the maximum count of 1,500 was slightly above the ten-year average, though this was a 35% reduction on the particularly high maximum count recorded during 2017. On the Dee estuary birds were widely spread across most areas of the estuary during the early months of the year, with few counts reaching 70+, though in mid-Apr RSPB Oakenholt Marsh attracted up to 400 from 19/04 to 21/04. Surprisingly there were no reports of breeding or sightings of ducklings from the Dee this year. During much of Jun and Jul, Connah's Quay NR attracted significant numbers with counts of up to 1,000 during Jun and peaked with the annual maximum of 1,500 on 7/07 (PeHa). Counts declined markedly in the latter part of the month. Later in the year, flocks were concentrated around Talacre and Point of Ayr, with 400 at Point of Ayr on 17/06 (WeBS). There were several counts of 200 to 450 at Talacre from the beginning of Aug to mid-Oct and 800 at Point of Ayr on 9/09 and 850 on 7/10 (WeBS). Another notable count was 600 at White Sands on 11/10 (PeHa). On the Clwyd estuary, numbers were relatively stable throughout the year, with monthly high counts in the range 66 to 197. There were notable peaks during Mar, when 194 were recorded on the lower estuary near Rhyl on 10/03 (JPH) and in late May and early Jun, when a count of 167 on 3/06, again in the lower estuary, included 41 ducklings in various family parties. Numbers were somewhat reduced during Aug and Sep, with maximum counts of 45+ and 88 respectively, recovering to between 118 and 122 during Oct to Dec (JPH, WRM, WeBS et al).



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	60	67	98	95	12	400	250	220	800	850	400	67
Fynnongroyw Bay W	2	1	35	7		30	50	16	160	310	2	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	30	60	220	50	100	500	300	120	40	35	150	40
White Sands	45	65	15	43	38	86	176	65		5		18

Peak monthly counts from the Clwyd Estuary:

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	66	88+	194	74	147	167	113	45+	88	122	118	122

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

HWYADEN FANDARIN

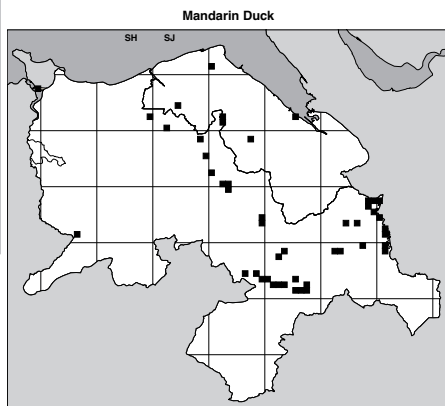
Breeding resident.

(MN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Rare
Number of 1km squares	42	5
Maximum count	23	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	1
Recorded in BBS squares	4/31	1/21
Number of records	115	5
% of BirdTrack lists	3.2	0.3
Density	0.49	0.04
Max breeding evidence	FL	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

The population of this showy-plumaged but often 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 provide suitable tree-hole nesting sites.



Denbs. The steady increase in both number of records and the distribution of this species has continued and there were records in all months of the year. As usual the majority of sightings were from the middle Dee Valley, primarily between Llangollen and Chirk where the species is now regularly seen on the River Dee in Llangollen town. Within this area most records were of individuals, small groups or family parties of females with ducklings, though occasionally up to 14 were recorded. As well as this core area there were records from the lower River Dee, the Clwyd and several other locations. Breeding was recorded at Gresford Flash where there was a brood of 12 on 28/05 (KS); near Rhewl, Rhuthun, where there was a female with 4 young on 3/06 (GPI); Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, where there were at least 2 young were seen on 19/06 (JPH) and Garth, Trevor where 6 females with 17 young were recorded on 6/07 (DaHu).

Flints. There was a slight increase in the number of records, perhaps indicating a spread from the species heartland in Denbs. Two were at Caerwys on 10/02 (MGW); 1 at Hendre on 9/03 (GEM); 5 at St Asaph on 17/04 (ShG); 1 on Flint saltmarsh on 11/06 (DWn) and 2 at Llanasa on 30/08 (SM). Breeding was reported from Ddol Reservoir, Ysceiog where there were two broods of 12 and 5 on 25/05 (RBn).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

HWYADEN ADDRAIN

Summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

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

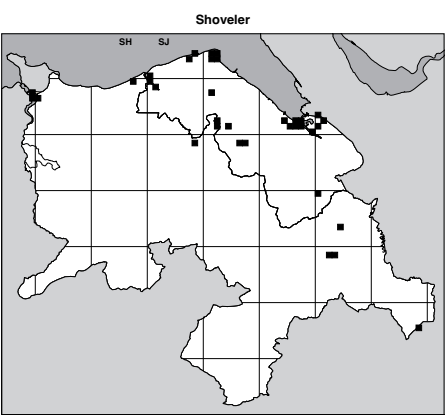
Flints. Two were reported from near Flint on 21/04 (NF).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

SV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	10	26
Maximum count	23	62
Av max count prev 10 yrs	57	65
Number of records	187	155
% of BirdTrack lists	12.7	6.5
Density	0.12	2.74
Max breeding evidence		P



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Recorded from both coastal and inland locations throughout the county. RSPB Conwy produced the vast majority of sightings, over 82% of the total. However, as during 2017, numbers at RSPB Conwy were modest with a high count of 8, though there were several such records throughout the year. It appears the average number of birds at this location may have been slightly greater than last year. Other locations with notable counts included Gresford Flash, with 10 on 7/01 (KS) and Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, where there were 23 on 13/03 (JPH). RSPB Conwy was the site that had the highest numbers during the autumn and winter, when up to 8 were recorded on several occasions. Elsewhere 1 to 2 were seen, mostly during Dec. The largest count of the inland locations was 6 at Erddig Pool on 30/13 (HCw).

Monthly WeBS counts for selected sites:

(SV)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	4	5	2	1					1	2	4	8
Connah's Quay NR	16	22	10			1				9		2
Shotton Paper Mill	48	22	29	8		6			43	48		62

Flints. Over 82% of sightings were from locations around the Dee estuary and as usual the most favoured sites were Shotton Paper Mill pools, Connah's Quay NR and the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands. While there was an increase in the number of sightings, numbers were somewhat lower than in 2017, the maximum count being approximately 38% down on last year, though very close to the ten-year average. There were good numbers at Shotton Paper Mill during Jan with 48 on 22/01 (IMS). This was the largest count of the first half of the year by some margin. Connah's Quay NR also had good numbers with several double-figure counts of up to 16 during the month (WeBS, DWn et al). Numbers were somewhat lower during Feb with counts of up to 22 at both Connah's Quay NR and Shotton Paper Mill. However, 25 were recorded at Talacre on 5/02 (KeK, SvK). The Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands had 19 on 18/02 (TG). Mar brought a maximum of 29 at Shotton Paper Mill on 18/03 (IMS), followed by 17 at Shotwick Fields and 10 at White Sands both on 18/04 (WeBS), which were the last double-figure counts of the spring period. From mid-Apr to mid-Jun the only records were occasional reports of 1 to 2 at Connah's Quay NR, Talacre or RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands. Numbers increased to a maximum of 6 to 7 during late Jun to early Jul. The first higher counts of the autumn were 15 on the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 9/09 (DKg) and 43 at Shotton Paper Mill on 11/09 (IMS). As the autumn progressed the usual locations attracted reasonable numbers with Connah's Quay NR producing several counts of 10 to 15 during early Oct, though this may have been due to short staying passage birds, as numbers at the reserve dropped to single figures for much of the remainder of the year. There were good numbers at Shotton Paper Mill for the remainder of the year (see table of WeBS counts above), with a maximum of 62 on 11/12 (IMS). Other notable counts during the autumn / winter period included 18 on the Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, on 7/10 (TG) and 11

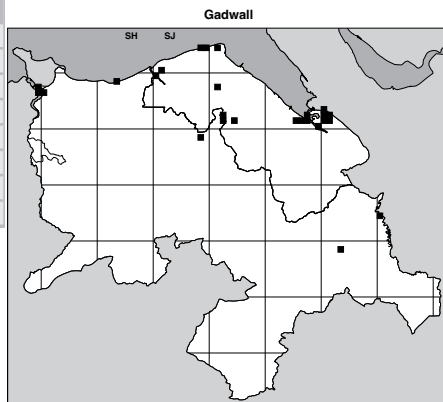
at Gronant on 9/12 (WeBS). The Clwyd estuary had 1 to 3 during Feb to Apr and later in Dec (WRM, JPH, WeBS). Away from the coast small numbers from 1 to 4 were recorded during Feb and Mar from various inland locations, particularly Fagl Lane GP, Hope and Hendre (GEM, WeBS). The only inland record of substantial numbers was from Ddol Reservoir, Ysceiog, where there were 30+ on 17/12 (SD).

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

HWYADEN LWYD

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

(GA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	8	18
Maximum count	42	121
Av max count prev 10 yrs	48	43
Number of records	251	109
% of BirdTrack lists	16.9	4.0
Density	0.17	3.70
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL



Recorded in each month in both counties. 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. The only other coastal record was a single sighting at Pensarn beach. There were inland records from Afonwen, Lleweni Hall, Holt and Erddig Pool. Numbers in the county appeared broadly stable, this year's maximum count being slightly above the ten-year average. At RSPB Conwy there were several counts of 28 to 30 during Jan and Feb (JHg, JPH et al), after which numbers declined somewhat into Mar and Apr when the largest counts were between 15 and 23. Later in May and Jun, as the breeding season approached, counts were more often in single figures. The first ducklings were reported on 22/06, when a female and 8 small ducklings and another female with a single well grown juvenile, were observed (WRM). Several broods were observed and on 16/07 three broods of 9, 6, and 5 were seen, together with a possible fourth (WRM). After the breeding season, the first sizeable records of the early autumn were 36 on 9/08 (JPH) and 42 on 1/11 (WRM), which was the maximum count during the second half of the year. The high count at a location away from RSPB Conwy was 20 at Afonwen on 29/12 (KeK, SvK).

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

(GA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	24	23	14	16	9	13		12	9	13	36	39
Shotton Paper Mill	14	106	14	14		60	7		50	97		121
Shotton Steelworks			9	4	3		1	37	11	20	65	38

Flints. The pools at Shotton Paper Mill and Shotton Steelworks are the core locations of the Deeside population of this species. Together with two records from White Sands and one from Shotwick Fields they produced all sixteen of the largest counts in the year (from 11 to 121). Numbers appeared to be increasing and for the last four years there has been a steady increase in annual maximum counts. This year's maximum of 121 was at Shotton Paper Mill on 11/12 (IMS) and was almost three times the ten-year average. As shown in the table above, the Shotton Paper Mill pools attracted significant numbers from the early months of the year, with a pronounced first half peak of 106 on

18/02, after which counts were lower during Mar to May, as most birds dispersed to breeding grounds. Numbers increased again from Jun, when a count of 60 was recorded on 21/06 and the first (and only) ducklings of the season were seen. As the autumn progressed, numbers increased steadily to the maximum of 121. At Shotton Steelworks numbers were in single figures during the first half of the year but increased steadily from Aug onwards from 37 on 12/08, through a slight dip in Sep to Oct to a maximum of 65 on 11/11 (WeBS). Other notable counts included 15 at White Sands on 18/02 and 37 on 15/04, when Shotwick Fields also had 11 (WeBS). There were five records from four inland locations, Llyn Helyg had 2 on 19/03 (AB); Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR 4 on 22/06 (JPH); Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog 4 on 18/09 and 3 on 17/12 (GEM, SD) and Caerwys with 4 on 11/12 (MGW).

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

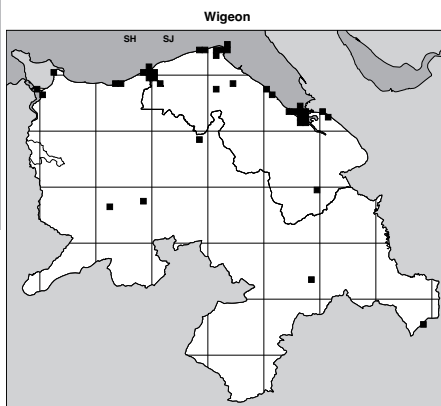
CHWIWELL

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

(WN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	14	27
Maximum count	275	5000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	502	2743
Recorded in BBS squares		1/21
Number of records	178	374
% of BirdTrack lists	15.7	15.4
Density	1.95	229.20

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



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 84% of recorded sightings. The trend of reducing numbers in Denbs was maintained. This year's maximum count of 275 was only 55% of the ten-year average. This is in marked contrast to the Dee estuary where there has been a marked increase, perhaps indicating a population shift is underway. There were reasonable numbers of Wigeon during Jan with several counts of 100+ at RSPB Conwy. There were 160 there on 9/01 (RhPc) and 275 (the annual maximum) at Kinmel Bay the same day (JPH). Numbers were maintained during Feb and early Mar, with counts of 100 to 150 at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay, and RSPB Conwy. The last significant numbers of the spring were in mid-Mar when 80+ were grazing wet fields at Glanwyddan, Llandrillo-yn-Rhos (WRM). The following day 24 were at Kinmel Bay (WeBS) and presence was recorded at RSPB Conwy until 22/04. The only record during May and Jun was a single at RSPB Conwy from 6 to 7/06 (JHg, DAq), but it was not until mid-Aug that small numbers of returning migrants were noted, with 6 at RSPB Conwy on 13/08 (KCY), followed by the first substantial numbers in early Oct, when 40 were recorded on 5/10 (RLE) and 103 on 23/10 (JPH). The last was the largest count for the second half of the year at RSPB Conwy though 50 to 100 were recorded on several dates and Llanwyddan fields at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos again attracted a sizeable flock of 140+ on 9/12 (WRM). Small numbers were reported at other inland locations.

Flints. As usual the vast majority of records were from coastal locations on the Dee and Clwyd estuaries with a small number from inland locations. There were substantial numbers on the Dee from the start of the year, with counts of 2,000+ reported during Jan from both RSPB Oakenholt

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

WN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conway	62	79	82						2	30	157	100
Rhuddlan, Clwyd est		283		13							8	156
Point of Ayr f'rshre									1	14	140	20
Llawndy, Pt of Ayr	172	557	411							3		172
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	200	50	200						120	3000	2000	550
Connah's Quay NR	370	450	120	4					7	12	12	
White Sands	26	127	85	38								9

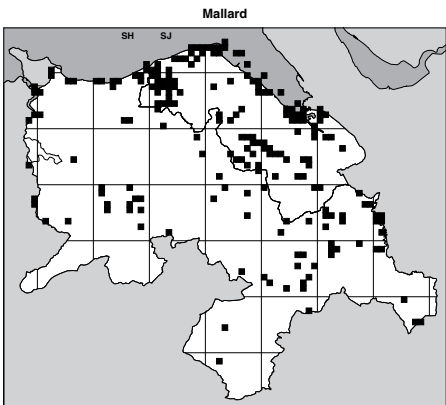
Marsh and Connah's Quay NR and 500 at Talacre. During Feb counts were somewhat smaller at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR, the majority being 150 to 300 and the largest 450 at Connah's Quay NR on 18/02. Talacre continued to attract up to 500 on several dates, with 557 at Llawndy on 18/02 (WeBS). Numbers increased somewhat during Mar, with 1,200 to 1,300 at Connah's Quay NR on 10/03 and 800 at White Sands on 22/03 (PeHa). White Sands also produced the last substantial numbers of the spring, with 300 on 11/04, though the very last birds of the first half of the year were 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 1/05 (PeHa). There were no records during the remainder of May and until mid-Aug when a single was at Connah's Quay NR on 22/08 (MD, PeHa). However, the first bigger numbers did not arrive until early Sep when 120 were recorded again at Connah's Quay NR on 9/09. Numbers remained high for the remainder of the year with several counts of 2,000 to 5,000 from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, Connah's Quay NR and, to a lesser extent, White Sands. The Clwyd estuary attracted sizeable numbers, particularly during Jan to Mar. There were regular reports of 145 to 283 during this period, with exceptional counts of 800+ at Rhuddlan on 7/02 (DCR) and 542 on the lower estuary near Rhyl on 3/03 (JPH). Numbers declined from mid-Mar and 50 near Rhyl on 12/04 (WRM) were the last substantial numbers, though a few hung on until the end of the month, when two pairs on 28/04 were the last record of spring. Early Sep saw the first trickle of returning autumn birds, but it was not until mid-Oct that larger numbers arrived, with 55 at Rhyl on 15/10 (WRM). During the rest of the autumn and winter regular counts of 100 to 200 were recorded from the middle estuary, with a peak of 341 on 2/12 (JPH). There were very few records from locations even a short distance from the coast.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

HWYADEN WYLLT

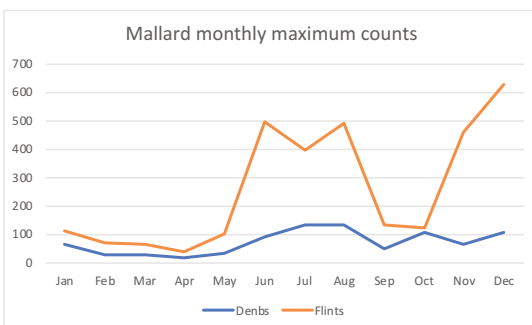
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

(MA)	Densbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	98	108
Maximum count	136	630
Av max count prev 10 yrs	125	657
Recorded in BBS squares	10/31	16/21
Number of records	708	1251
% of records from GBW	0.00	0.45
% of BirdTrack lists	46.5	55.0
Density	6.74	115.52
Max breeding evidence	FL	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 39% of all records and monthly WeBS counts for this location are shown in the table below. Numbers were generally modest, the maximum count for the year was under half that in 2017. Numbers were low on most sites during the early months of the year, most counts being below 50, though RSPB Conwy, Afonwen and Erddig Pool all recorded counts of 50 between 5 and 7/01 (KeK, SVK, HCw). Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, had the largest count of the Jan to Apr period, with 64 on 22/01 (JPH). In fact, numbers at almost all locations remained low from the end of Jan to the breeding season; the largest count of that period being 30+ at Tal-y-Cafn on 6/03 (HC). The first ducklings of the year were recorded on 16/04 at Moss Valley, Wrexham (TBT). Birds with young were reported from 11 inland 1km squares and 3 coastal ones. The largest counts over the second half of the year were the 15/07 and 12/08 WeBS counts at RSPB Conwy shown in the table below. Other counts of reasonable numbers during the later months of the year included 117 at Erddig on 9/08 (NHu); 100 at Towyn on 14/08 (SM); 80 at Trevor on 1/10 (LmC) and 93 at Lleweni Hall on 15/10 (JPH).



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at RSPB Conwy:

(MA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	31	26	13	8	35	93	133	136	49	109	65	110

Flints. On the Dee, numbers were modest during the early months of the year as shown in the table of WeBS counts below. In a similar pattern to last year, numbers on the main reserves were rather low during Jan to Apr, Connah's Quay NR, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Gronant all had maximum counts of about 40 during this period. The exception was Shotton Paper Mill where 68 were present on 22/01 and 41 were at Shotton Steelworks the same day (IMS, WeBS). Talacre dunes also attracted reasonable numbers with 40+ on 23/01 (GrJ), 62 on 4/02 and 64 on 8/03 (JPH). Numbers increased dramatically from mid-May, with 90 at Connah's Quay NR on 19/05 (PeHa) and a steady increase to 500 on 8/06, and several counts of 200 to 400 until the end of Aug. RSPB Oakenholt Marsh also recorded good numbers during the same period, with 200 on 17/06 and 490 on 12/08 (WeBS). Shotton Paper Mill had 121 on 17/07 and Talacre 100 on 14/09 (DCR). As might be expected, Nov and Dec produced records of good numbers from around the estuary. Among the WeBS counts not included in the table below were the following notable records: Flint had 420 on 12/11 and 630 on 9/12, White Sands 330 on 12/11 and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh 300 on 8/12. On the Clwyd estuary numbers reverted to levels last seen in 2016, last year's particularly high peak counts were not maintained. The largest counts on the upper estuary were near Rhuddlan during Jun and Jul, when there were 70 on 17/06 and 66 on 15/07 (WRM, WeBS); while on the lower estuary nearer to Rhyl there were 76 on 31/07 and 85 on 4/09 (JPH). Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR attracted good numbers, with counts of 15 to 55 throughout the year and a maximum of 67 on 6/07 and then again on 22/12 (JPH).

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected Flintshire locations:

(MA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clwyd est Rhuddlan		20		13	40		66		29	19		26
Point of Ayr	8	20		1	1	20	30	100	53	26	32	40
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh			21		21	200	60	490	135	40	21	300
Connah's Quay NR	2	14	2	2	50	90	200	8	14	125	6	6
White Sands	2	13	8	11	6	7	14	25	19	53		
Shotton Paper Mill	68	59	28	21		108	121		23	58		34

Pintail *Anas acuta*

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

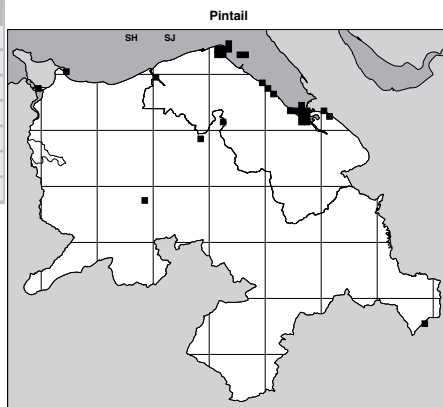
Winter visitor. Amber List.

(PT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	6	24
Maximum count	63	5000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	379	1760
Number of records	29	141
% of BirdTrack lists	2.6	4.7
Density	0.19	203.74

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 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. Last year's marked decline in numbers of this species was maintained in 2018, when the maximum count was only 17% of the ten-year average. Almost all records of this species during the first half of the year were from Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, where fluctuating numbers from 2 to 63 were recorded from 15/01 to 13/03, with a maximum count of 63 on 29/01 and the last count of the spring there was 18 on 13/03 (JPH). The only other records during the first half of the year were 2 at RSPB Conwy on 2/03 (JHg) and the last record of the spring was presence at Fenn's Moss on 20/03 (AnCa). The first returning autumn migrants arrived at the end of Aug, when 4 were at Rhos-on-Sea on 26/08 and 1 was with Mallard and Teal at Llyn Brenig on 4/09 (WRM). Counts remained low for the remainder of the year. Only 1 to 3 were recorded at RSPB Conwy on dates throughout the autumn and early winter from 27/08 to 27/11 and 1 at Afonwen on 29/12 (KeK, SvK) was the only Dec record.

Flints. All but one of the records were from the Dee and, to a much lesser extent, the Clwyd estuaries. In contrast to Denbs, numbers on the Dee appear to be stable or increasing with the maximum count approaching three times the ten-year average, though these statistics are skewed by a particular dip in counts from 2010-14. During the first half of the year counts on the Dee were relatively modest, the majority being 1 to 120, with a very few reaching 200 to 300 and one exceptional record of 2,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 5/03, which must have been a brief stop-over by passage birds (PeHa). The last large numbers of the period were 300 at Connah's Quay NR on 4/04, but up to 40 remained there until 1/05. The very last of the early summer was 1 on the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 20/05 (TG). The first returning birds of autumn were 5 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/08 (PeHa), but the first substantial flock was not seen until 29/09 when 110+ were recorded at Flint (SD). Numbers increased dramatically from mid-Oct, when 5,000 were reported from Connah's Quay NR, White Sands and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 11/10. There were further counts of this magnitude from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh until early Nov. These exceptional numbers declined from mid-Nov. The largest counts were from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR from then to the end of the year were 800 on 9/12 (PeHa). By contrast the Clwyd

Monthly WeBS counts for selected Dee estuary sites:

(PT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	145	83	4	14					17	130	250	145
White Sands		32	5							200	309	435
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	7		24						8	24	1000	800

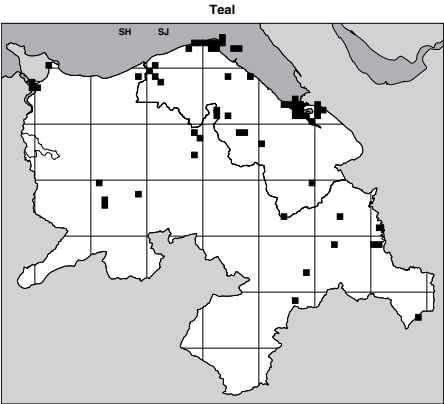
had much smaller numbers with 2 to 16 recorded on the lower estuary from 28/01 to 18/04, with a maximum of 16 on 19/03 (WRM). There were no records during the latter half of the year.

Teal *Anas crecca*

CORHWYADEN

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

(T)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	23	40
Maximum count	108	6000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	351	1758
Recorded in BBS squares		1/21
Recorded in BBS squares		1/21
Number of records	299	581
% of BirdTrack lists	24.5	23.1
Density	1.26	407.47
Max breeding evidence	H	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. Some 90% of records were from RSPB Conwy. In common with several other waterfowl species, numbers appear to have decreased markedly in Denbs. The annual maximum for 2018 was less than 32% of the ten-year average. This trend was mirrored at RSPB Conwy where this year, as in 2017, there was only a single count of 100+ in the year, which was on 1/09 (WRM). During Jan and Feb there were several counts of 25 to 60, though most of these were during the first week of Jan. After that numbers fell away during Feb most records being in the range 25 to 35. In Mar to Jun virtually all sightings were of less than 10. The only record of breeding was an adult with two juveniles at RSPB Conwy on 8/06 (GoC). The first returning migrants arrived in late Jul, but numbers remained small, with no counts greater than 20, until 8/08, when 40 was the first record of greater numbers (WRM). Counts remained modest for the remainder of the year with none greater than 60, apart from the maximum for the site of 100+ on 1/09 referred to above. The only substantial numbers from inland sites were from Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, where 108 on 19/02 was the county's maximum count of the year. Presence in varying numbers was recorded during Jan to Mar and Oct to Dec (JPH).

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(T)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	45	31	15	5	1	11	17	58	52	180	53	33
Point of Ayr	170	100	19	15					40	150	450	50
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	50	200	300	9					270	60	4000	360
Connah's Quay NR	56	70	97	12		3	4		23	90	2045	72
White Sands	33	54	3	22				41	19	17		121

Flints. The overwhelming proportion of records were from locations around the Dee and Clwyd estuaries. Numbers in 2018 increased dramatically from those recorded during 2016 and 2017, the annual maximum being six times that of 2017 and over three times the ten-year average. On the Dee the largest numbers during Jan to early Mar appear to have been concentrated at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, with several counts of 100 to 400 and one outstanding record of 800+ on 4/01

(DWN). Connah's Quay NR had rather fewer. Its largest counts were 120+ on 1/02 (DWN) and 130 on 4/04 (PeHa). There were also good numbers at locations around Point of Ayr, with 150+ at Gronant dunes on 9/01 (WRM), 170 at Gronant on 21/01 (WeBS) and 100 at Talacre on 10/02 (KS). Numbers tailed off dramatically from mid-Apr when 57 at White Sands on 15/04 was the last record of good numbers during the spring period. Small numbers (1 to 8) were recorded from various locations from mid-Apr to mid-Jul, though there were only two records during May. Numbers of sightings increased slowly from mid-Jul onwards, though the first higher numbers did not arrive until late Aug, when 160 were recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 24/08 (PeHa). Really big numbers arrived in Oct and peaked in a count of 6,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 27/10. Counts of 1,000 to 4,000 were recorded at Connah's Quay NR, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and occasionally White Sands throughout the remainder of the year (PeHa, GEM, DWN et al). On the Clwyd estuary records followed a similar pattern, though numbers were more modest. During the early months of the year counts were usually 15 to 100, though there were two particularly notable records of 450 near Rhuddlan on 7/02 (DCR) and 210 near Rhyl on 4/03 (WRM). While small numbers were present throughout the summer, there were no records of substantial numbers (10+) from mid-Apr to early Aug, when 28 on 5/08 (JPH). Later 50 on 3/09 (WRM) were the first, bigger numbers of the autumn and 185 on 18/11 (WRM) the first 100+ count. The winter and annual maximum for the estuary was a count of 347 on the middle estuary S of Rhyl on 1/12 (JPH).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

HWYADEN BENGOC

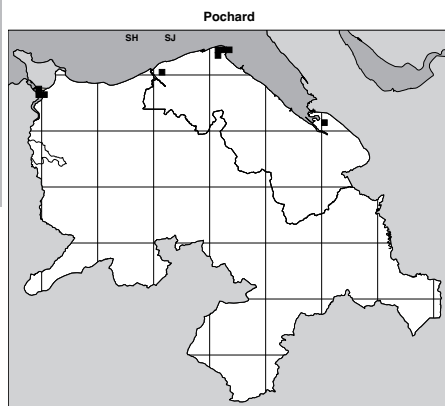
Winter visitor and possible breeding resident. Red List. RBBP.

(PO)	Densbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	3	6
Maximum count	15	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	11
Number of records	154	10
% of BirdTrack lists	10.1	0.3
Density	0.02	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

There were fewer records of this diving duck from both counties compared with last year but the peak count in Denbs was higher. Counts continue to fall in Flints. No records contained breeding codes.



Denbs. All observations were from RSPB Conwy. The species was only missing during Jul. Numbers peaked at 15 on 9/01 (RhPc), with counts during the early winter period more often around 6 or 7. The later winter period counts were often of 1 to 2 but peaked at 8 on 20/12 (WRM).

Flints. All records were of singles, bar a count of 3 at Talacre on 10/02 (KS). The last 'spring' record was a single Llawndy, Gwespyr on 18/05 (WeBS) and the first of autumn was a single at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR on 11/08 (JPH).

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

HWYADEN DORCHAG

Vagrant.

(NG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	6	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	
Density	0.00	

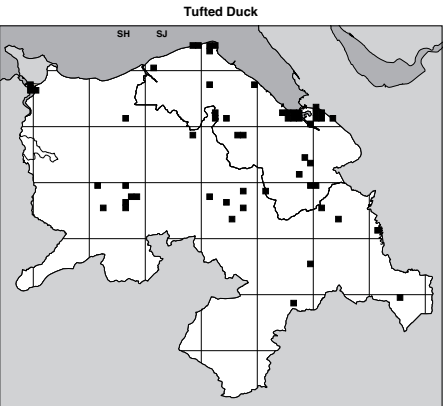
Denbs. A drake in fine attire was at RSPB Conwy on 22/04 (MHu et al), associating with 5 Pochard. This represents the second for the region, the previous being at Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele on 8/02/1988.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

HWYADEN GOPOG

Resident breeder and winter visitor.

(TU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	24	32
Maximum count	82	209
Av max count prev 10 yrs	39	97
Recorded in BBS squares		1/21
Number of records	322	395
% of BirdTrack lists	21.7	17.7
Density	1.00	11.35
Max breeding evidence	NY	FL



Recorded in each month in both counties. Our commonest diving duck is widely distributed, mainly favouring freshwater lakes and ponds. Peak counts were approximately double those of last year.

Denbs. Some 66% of all records came from RSPB Conwy, where the highest count was 36 on 20/02 (JHg). Numbers reduced during the spring, with 11 still in Apr. Breeding was confirmed when a female with 5 juveniles was seen on 3/07 (WRM). Breeding was also confirmed at: Llyn Brenig, where a count of 26 included two broods of 3 and 6 ducklings (JPH) and 28 at Llyn Bran, including 3 unattended ducklings too small to fly. Peak counts during the year at other sites were: 18 at Afonwen on 11/03 (KK, SK), 10 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 13/03 (JPH), 10 near Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 8/04 (GPI), 77 at Llyn Brenig on 18/10, with 82 at nearby Llyn Bran on 30/10 thought to be the same flock (WRM), 12 at Llay Pool on 31/03 (SD) and 12 at Gresford Flash on 1/01 (IMS, KS)

Monthly maximum counts, from WeBS, for selected sites:

(TU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	28	9	11	11	3	2	7	11	6	1	3	11
Gresford Flash		13	17	6	5	10	5					1
Connah's Quay NR	1	5		14	2	1	10	1				28
Shotton Steelworks			22	39	26		9	8	13	9	24	29
Shotwick Rifle Range		8	9	19	8	8	2	11		15		57
Shotton Paper Mill	33	80	50	61		55	68		38	153		209

Flints. Nearly 40% of the records were from Rhyll Brickfields Pond LNR, where numbers peaked at 43 on 2/01 (JPH). Pairs remained during the breeding season but breeding was not proven. Elsewhere breeding was confirmed at Connah's Quay NR and Shotton Paper Mill, with fledged

young reported from both. Flock sizes increased in the late winter period around the Dee estuary sites. The maximum for the year was at Shotton Paper Mill with 209 on 11/12 (IMS). Double-figure counts at other sites included: 20 in Deeside Industrial Park on 9/01 (DSw), 13 at Greenfield on 17/01 (DWn), 22 at Gwespyr, Llawndy on 9/12 (WeBS), 24 at Hendre on 6/04 (GEM), 46 at Fagl Lane GP, Hope on 28/02 (WeBS), 19 at Llyn Helyg on 22/01 (AB) and 12 at Talacre on 4/02 (SAH).

Scaup *Aythya marila*

HWYADEN BENDDU

Winter visitor.

(SP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	1
Maximum count	14	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	2
Number of records	61	3
% of BirdTrack lists	4.0	0.2
Density	0.05	0.00

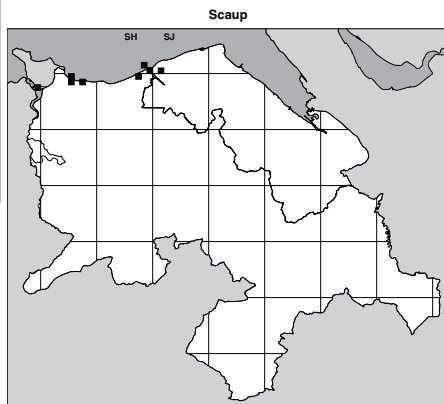
Seen in these months

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

Occasionally seen offshore or on inland water bodies, where it often stays for an entire winter period.

Denbs. Up to 2 were at RSPB Conwy in the early winter period till 15/02 (JFJ), whereafter, a single, thought to be a first-winter male, remained till 13/03 (JPH). This site accounted for the majority of the records. Elsewhere there were larger numbers offshore, bucking the trend, with: 9 at Towyn on 6/02 and again on 6/03 (SM), 1 male at Kinmel Bay on 18/02 (NHu, TBT), and 14 in Colwyn Bay on 13/03 (KS), the highest count of the year, reducing to 2 on 24/03 (GrJ).

Flints. A single called in to Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR, from 22 to 24/10 (JPH, WRM), the only record of the year.



Eider *Somateria mollissima*

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

Winter visitor. Amber List.

(E)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	2
Maximum count	3	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	0
Number of records	7	2
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	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

This sea-duck is an uncommon visitor and occasionally seen on passage from coastal watchpoints.

Denbs. An immature male was off Pensarn on 20/01 (DWn, AH, CP) and seen again on 3/02 (DW). These were the only early winter records. On 1/09, 3 were feeding on crabs close to shore at Rhos-on-Sea (WRM). Gulls attempted to steal the crabs but the Eiders appeared to work together to deter their attempts.

Flints. As with last year there was a single recorded at the Point of Ayr, from 9 to 10/12 (WRM, WeBS).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

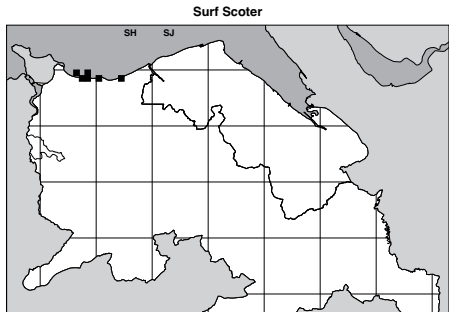
MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

Vagrant.

(FS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	
Number of 1km squares	6	
Maximum count	2	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	
Recorded in BBS squares		
Number of records	6	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



Despite being a vagrant, small numbers of males continue to appear amongst the large Common Scoter flocks in and around Colwyn Bay.

Denbs. Two were occasionally reported between Pensarn and Colwyn Bay in the early winter period, likely relating to the same birds in the large flocks of sea-duck offshore. They were first reported from Pensarn on 4/01 (RS), with a single reported on 7/01 (RS) and 11/01 (JPH) from Colwyn Bay and Llanddulas respectively. There were 2, again, offshore from Colwyn Bay on 24/03 (GrJ, RA) and again on 29/03 (DWR). There were no sightings in the late winter period.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

Winter visitor. Red List.

(VS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3	
Maximum count	1	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	15	
Number of records	4	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	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Very small numbers of this sea-duck are recorded annually with the wintering Common Scoter flocks in Liverpool Bay. After a better year, last year, this year the species was barely registered.

Denbs. All the records probably related to the same wintering individual on the following dates: 7/01 from Colwyn Bay (RS), 29/01 from Llanddulas (JBW), 15/02 from Colwyn Bay (NT) and again on 24/03 (GrJ).

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	9
Maximum count	8000	2000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12200	4183
Number of records	88	15
% of BirdTrack lists	3.9	0.4
Density	72.87	30.56

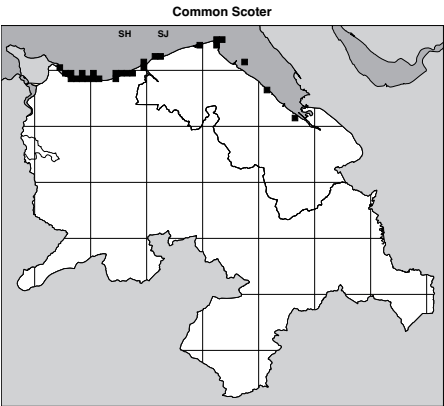
Seen in these months

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. The flocks move locally from year to year and numbers can vary dramatically.

Denbs. In the early winter period counts around Colwyn Bay ranged from 1,000 to 3,000. However, there was a peak count of 8,000+ on 24/03 (GrJ). A single off Colwyn Bay on 14/01 was a very pale individual (DW) showing leucism. Counts further E included 87 off Kinmel Bay on 8/01 (JPH). There was a single Jun sighting of 13 off Llanddulas on 25/06 (WK). The late winter period produced smaller numbers, peaking at 1,000 at Llanddulas on 20/10 (JFJ).

Flints. After large counts offshore from the Point of Ayr last year, numbers fell by an order of magnitude as flocks seemingly found other feeding areas to use during the winter periods. There was a count of 2,000 at Point of Ayr on 23/10 (DWn), the largest count of the year. In the early winter period a high count of 17 was off Rhyl, on 15/03 (JPH). A single was at Connah's Quay NR on 8/12 (PeHa).



Monthly WeBS counts for selected sites:

(CX)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rhos-on- Sea	1800	4500	4000		4					1		
Towyn	2000									270	340	
Point of Ayr	1			6			20		200	50		8

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*
 Winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

HWYADEN GYNFFON-HIR



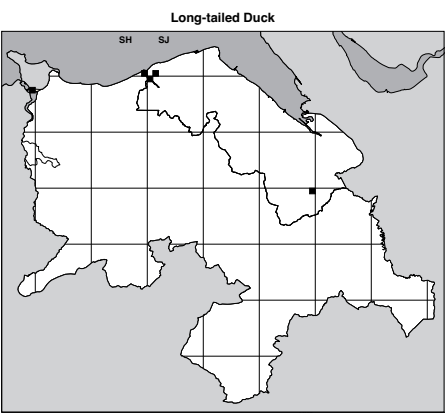
Long-tailed Duck (David Winnard)

(LN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	3
Maximum count	1	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	1
Number of records	11	10
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	0.8
Density	0.00	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

Denbs. A single was at RSPB Conwy from 24 to 26/11 and seen by multiple observers. It was a female and chose the shallow lagoon to dive in for food. A different individual was on the Afon Clwyd at Kinmel Bay, just making it into Denbs on 25/11 (WRM).

Flints. There was one early winter period record, at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR, on 4/02 (SM). The other records related to a female on the Afon Clwyd at Rhyl, crossing both sides of the river from 21/11 (WRM) on to the year's end.



Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

HWYADEN LYGAD AUR

Winter visitor. RBBP.

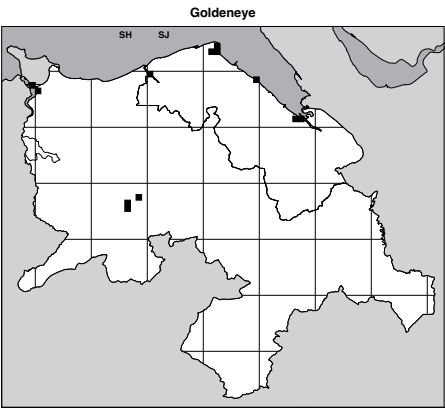
(GN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	5	7
Maximum count	8	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	9
Number of records	104	26
% of BirdTrack lists	8.0	1.4
Density	0.02	0.05

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

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

Denbs. RSPB Conwy maintained its grip on records with 93% occurring there. The highest count there was 5 on 2/02 (JHg) and 4 on 10/01. It consisted of 3 males and a female (NHu). The other main site with records was Llyn Brenig. There, 3 were present on 14/02 (JPH). The last spring record was presence at RSPB Conwy on 5/04. The first autumn record was a single at Llyn Brenig on 30/10 (WRM), whilst the late winter period saw a maximum of 8 there on 26/11, feeding with c70 Tufted Duck (WRM), the highest count of the year.

Flints. About 70% of records came from the regular site of the Afon Clwyd, between Rhyl and Rhuddlan, where numbers peaked at 4 on several dates in Jan and Feb (WRM, JPH). The last spring record was 2 near Rhyl on 1/04 (WRM) and the first of autumn was a single, there, on 4/09 (JPH). All records for the rest of the year were of singles.

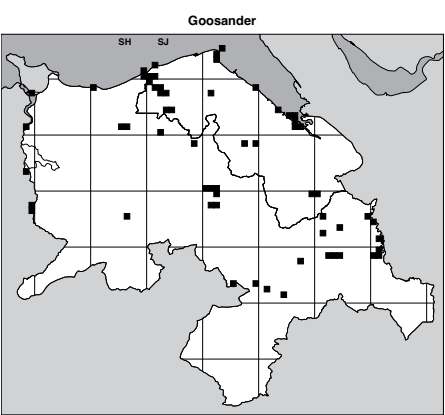


Goosander *Mergus merganser*

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

(GD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	36	25
Maximum count	53	18
Av max count prev 10 yrs	23	23
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	2/21
Number of records	134	234
% of BirdTrack lists	11.0	14.6
Density	0.97	0.76
Max breeding evidence	NY	FL



Recorded in each month in both counties. This saw-bill 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 birds tend to congregate on lakes.

Denbs. Most records were received from RSPB Conwy, with high counts of 7 on 18/09 (WRM) and 6 at Wrexham, Erddig Pool on 7/01 (HCw) These two sites accounted for 27% and 19% of all records respectively. Breeding was confirmed at: Ridleywood, with an adult and 12 ducklings on 4/05 (GPI), Holt on 20/05 with a female and 10 young (NF), near Glyndyfrdwy on 23/05, with 1 female and 8 ducklings (GPI), Trevalyn Meadows on 28/05 with a female and 7 well-grown young (TK) and Bont-y-Gwyddel with a female and 2 fledged young on 30/05 (PKi). The maximum count was double last year's, at 53, on Gresford Flash on 21/11 (TBT). There were no double-figure counts elsewhere.

Flints. Sites where the species was present frequently included (% of total records in brackets): Connah's Quay NR (5%), Hope (8%), Afon Clwyd (53%) and Rhyl, Brickfields Pond LNR (22%). The maximum count was lower than last year's, at 18, from near Rhyl on 12/08 (WRM). Breeding was confirmed at the regular site of the Afon Clwyd near Rhyl on 6/05, with a female and 2 week-old ducklings (JPH), which by 3/06 were nearly full-sized. There were 5 offshore at Point of Ayr on 11/11 (WeBS), an uncommon sight on the sea.

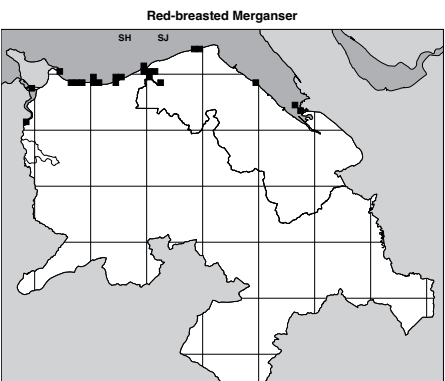
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

(RM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	14	10
Maximum count	21	12
Av max count prev 10 yrs	32	12
Number of records	156	29
% of BirdTrack lists	11.2	2.6
Density	0.15	0.20
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



This duck favours marine habitats and is usually

recorded from coastal locations where it gathers in flocks in the winter months.

Denbs. Similar to last year, RSPB Conwy accounted for 76% of records, with a maximum of 21 on 2/01 (WRM). Flock sizes were variable but there was another total of 19 on 3/03 (WRM). Counts fell away with 2 on 28/06 (JPH), the last before the autumn return. In the late winter period there was a high count of 14 on 20/11 (WRM). Elsewhere counts were made at a number of locations along the coast including: Kinnel Bay with 12 on 11/11 (JPH), Llanddulas with 18 on 21/02 (PEM), Pensarn with 10 on 20/01 (AH, CP), Colwyn Bay with 6 on 24/03 (GrJ) and Rhos-on-Sea with 3 on 9/03 (SvK, KyK). Display and pairs were noted at RSPB Conwy during the spring but breeding was not known to have taken place there.

Peak monthly counts at RSPB Conwy (including WeBS):

(RM)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	21	4	19	9	2	2			9	11	14	8

Flints. The peak count was off Greenfield on 4/02 with 12 present (DWN). Elsewhere the regular sites of the Rhyl coastline and lower Afon Clwyd had the most records (41%) and numbers reached 4 on 4/03 (WRM). An unusual record was at the Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR with 1 on 3/01 and again on 8/01 (AOH). There were a few sightings at Gronant, with singles on a few dates in spring and autumn, likely passage birds.

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

GRUGIAR DDU

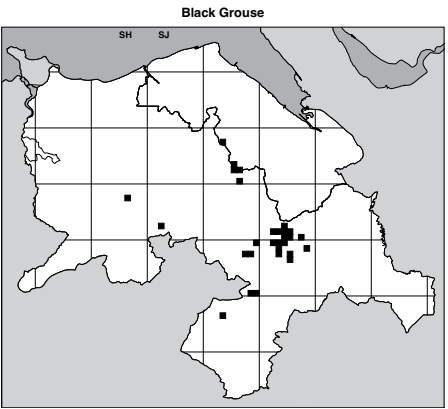
Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

(BK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Rare
Number of 1km squares	27	2
Maximum count	55	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	40	2
Recorded in BBS squares	5/31	
Number of records	53	2
% of BirdTrack lists	1.6	0.1
Density	0.75	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

The number of reports decreased in Denbs from 159 to 53 which is just below the recent average, and the number of 1km squares went down from 69 in 2017 to 27 in 2018. The weather conditions during the year most likely caused the reduction in reports, with sections of the moor on fire during the early summer. There were only two records in Flints, compared with five records 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 surrounds again had the largest number of records with 87% and the maximum count of 55 on 25/03 with 3 leks holding 18, 21 and 16 (NGo, GrJ). That area also held the highest BBS count of 9 on 15/05 (NHu). The Clwydian Range had four records, all but one of singles, with a high count of 4 at Moel Famau on 6/04 (JoW).

Flints. Both records came from the W side of the Clwydian Range: a single at Penycloddiau on 8/04 (EdW) and 1 on Moel Famau on 14/06 (GPI)

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

GRUGIAR

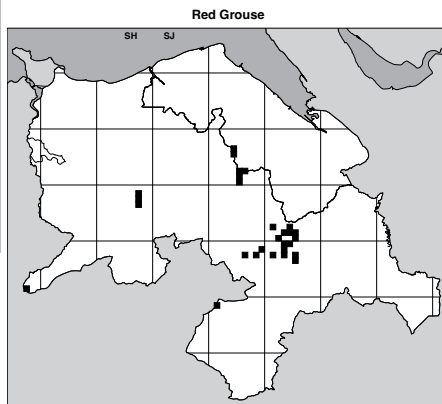
Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

(RG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Rare
Number of 1km squares	27	1
Maximum count	15	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	13	1
Recorded in BBS squares	4/31	
Number of records	50	1
% of BirdTrack lists	2.6	0.3
Density	0.20	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

The number of records and 1km squares were down for the first time since 2014 in Denbs and, again, there was only one record from Flints.



Denbs. Over of 70% records came from the Ruabon Mountain area, as usual, and the maximum count of at least 15 on 15/08 (JmS). That area also had four BBS counts with highs of 4 seen on two occasions, 10/05 and 13/05 (WR). While most counts were 1 to 8, 14 were recorded at Horseshoe Pass on 20/04 (JoG) and 12 at Llyn Brenig the day after on 21/04 (MJDH).

Flints. The only record of a single came from Moel Famau on 30/06 (JPH).



Red Grouse (John Hawkins)

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

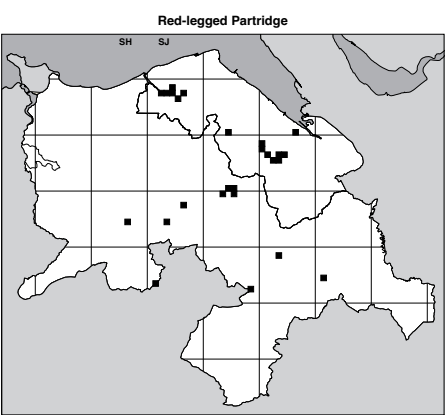
PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Breeding resident.

(RL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	12	14
Maximum count	15	8
Av max count prev 10 yrs	44	9
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	4/21
Number of records	16	24
% of records from GBW	0.00	4.17
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	1.5
Density	0.09	0.19

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 records show a wide distribution of sightings in both vice counties.



Denbs. Since the captive breeding stopped at a site on Ruabon Mountain a few years ago, the numbers of sightings and 1km squares where seen are down but widespread, with a record from Dyserth in the N to Ruabon Mountain in the S. The maximum, and only double figure count, came from W of Corwen, with 15 at Wern Uchaf, Maerdy on 7/12 (GPI). There were a couple of BBS reports and a highest count of 2 seen E of Ruabon on 9/06 (CoRW).

Flints. The maximum count of 8 came from Cyffredin on 19/05 (SH). A third of all reports came from the Rhuddlan area and a quarter came from BBS walks with a high count of 2 from Bodrhyddan Hall, Rhuddlan, on 9/06 (PtB) and Rhosemor on 20/06 (GaBu). There was one GBW record from Sychdyn, with 2 recorded in week beginning 22/04 (IMS).



Red-legged Partridge (Malcolm Down)

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

PETRISEN

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

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

Flints. One record was from W of Connah's Quay at Plas Bellin when 2 were seen on 1/01 (DWn). The other was from the area between Dyserth and Trelawnyd with presence on 18/02 (KBr).

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

SOFLIAR

Passage migrant. Amber List. RBBP.

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

Denbs. A single record came from the Vale of Conwy. One flew from a field of barley onto the road in front of a car near Eglwysbach on 20/07 (DO).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

FFESANT

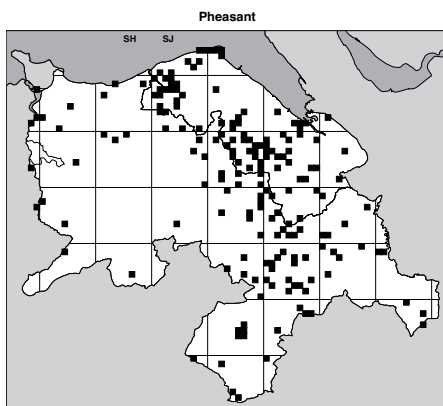
Breeding resident with annual releases in very large numbers.

(PH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	107	77
Maximum count	54	60
Av max count prev 10 yrs	36	48
Recorded in BBS squares	25/31	20/21
Number of records	277	436
% of records from GBW	17.69	20.41
% of BirdTrack lists	17.3	24.8
Density	2.92	7.84
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL

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

Denbs. The number of records and 1km squares were similar to the last few years. Several double figure counts came from Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, with the maximum count of 54 on 15/10 (JPH). The area S of Moel Arthur produced some high counts, with a high of 50 on 13/07 (GEM), some of which had just been released. The highest GBW count of 4 was from near Bodfari in week beginning 25/02 (JHB). The highest BBS count of 24 was at Llangwm on 20/04 (HKd, MaO). The three WBBS records had a high count of 6 again from Wern-ddu on 26/06 (NDg). There was one record of confirmed breeding.

Flints. The highest count of at least 60 came from Cyffredin on 9/12 (RLE). The highest BBS count of 40 was again from N of Mold on 22/04 (AB, IMS) and again one fifth of reports came from GBW, with the highest count of 6 at Rhydymwyn in week beginning 9/12 (DMH). Two WBBS records came from E of St Asaph with a high count of 10 on 17/04 (ShG). Fledged young were reported from Connah's Quay NR on 7/07 and 21/07 (PeHA).



Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

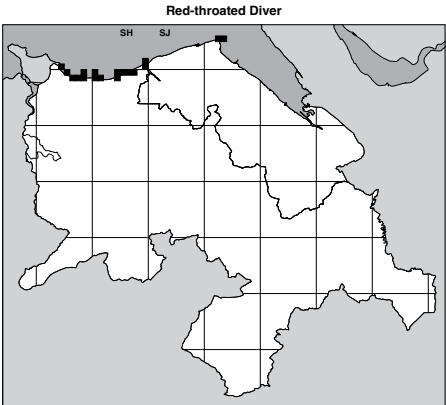
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

(RH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	16	2
Maximum count	25	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	60	6
Number of records	53	2
% of BirdTrack lists	2.4	0.1
Density	0.20	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. The first four months of the year had 87% of all the reports and the maximum count of 25 off Pensarn on 20/01 (AnHy, CPr). Double figure counts also came from off Colwyn Bay and Llanddulas, with the latter having a late season high count of 14 on 20/10 (JFJ). Rhos-on-Sea had the highest of seven WeBS counts with 13 on 21/01 (WeBS)



Flints. Both reports were of singles at Point of Ayr on 5/09 (WeBS) and on 23/10 (DWN).

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

Winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

(BV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	
Number of 1km squares	3	
Maximum count	1	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	
Number of records	3	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.00	

Denbs. Two records were from off Llanddulas, with presence on 10/01 and 1 on 20/10 (JFJ), and a single WeBS count from off Pensarn with 1 on 14/10 (WeBS).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

TROCHYDD MAWR

Winter visitor. Amber list.

(ND)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	
Number of records	3	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.00	

Denbs. There were two records from WeBS counts during the first winter period: 1 off Pensarn on 17/02 and 1 off Rhos-on-Sea the next day, 18/02. During the late period there was a single off Llanddulas on 2/10 (JFJ).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

PEDRYN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG

Passage migrant. Amber list.

(TL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence		Scarce
Number of 1km squares		3
Maximum count		2
Av max count prev 10 yrs		7
Number of records	0	4
% of BirdTrack lists		0.1
Density		0.01

Flints. All four reports were from the Dee estuary in Sep or Oct. Two were of probably the same bird: a single off RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and off Connah's Quay NR on 21/09 (PeHa). A single was off Point of Ayr on 23/10 and a further 2 off RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 26/10 (DWN).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

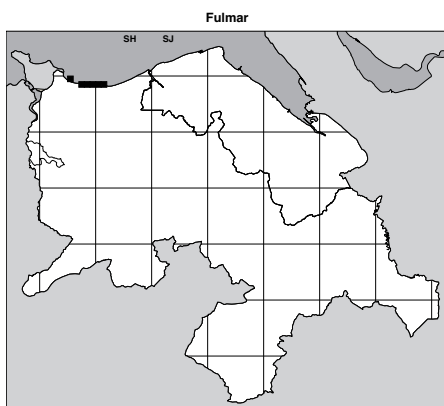
ADERYN-DRYCIN Y GRAIG

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

(F)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	
Number of 1km squares	6	
Maximum count	10	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	
Number of records	17	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8	
Density	0.03	
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



Denbs. All seventeen records came from the Colwyn Bay and Llanddulas area and the maximum count of 10 was at Llanddulas on 15/04 (TBT). Breeding reports came from Llanddulas with two occupied nests on cliff faces on 14/05 (DCR) and at least six occupied nests in quarries on 15/04 (NHu). Breeding was confirmed with more than one young seen in nests at both quarries on 5/08 (WRM)

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW

Passage migrant. Amber list.

(MX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	1	20
Av max count prev 10 yrs	7	1261
Number of records	1	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.1
Density	0.00	0.03

Denbs. A single was off Rhos-on-Sea on 29/05 (KeK, SvK).

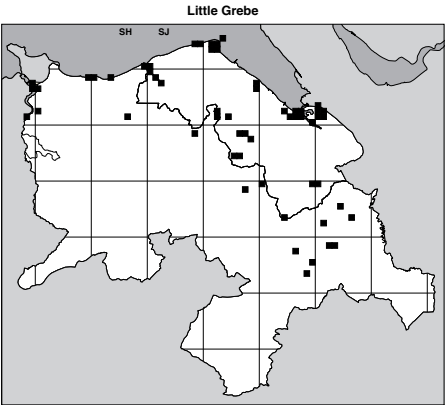
Flints. A single report was from Rhyl with 20+ seen off the coast on 25/08 (RLE).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

GWYFACH FACH

Breeding resident.

(LG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Common
Number of 1km squares	22	35
Maximum count	18	78
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	22
Number of records	320	487
% of BirdTrack lists	24.6	19.1
Density	0.20	4.63
Max breeding evidence	FL	ON



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. RSPB Conwy had over 76% of records and the highest count with 18+ on 17/09 (WRM) and the highest WeBS count of 17 on 9/09. Breeding was confirmed at RSPB Conwy with the first record of young on 29/05 (JHg). Fledged young were seen at other sites: Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 20/05 (JPH), Llanddulas quarries on 1/07 (WRM) and Cae Llwyd Reservoir, Penycae on 25/08 (SD).

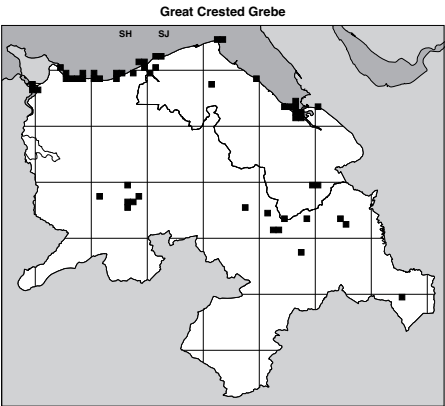
Flints. Connah's Quay NR had over 45% of records, with a high count of 15 on 7/10 (WeBS). The WeBS data also accounted for 17% of reports and the maximum count of 78 at Shotwick Boating Lake on 11/11. Confirmed breeding was recorded at a pool W of Hendre on 10/06 (GEM), at Gronant on 18/06 (WRM) and Shotton Paper Mill on 17/07 (IMS).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

(GG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	36	19
Maximum count	80	13
Av max count prev 10 yrs	108	18
Number of records	226	116
% of BirdTrack lists	11.8	2.5
Density	1.46	0.42
Max breeding evidence	ON	



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The coast had the only double figure counts, with eleven in the first two months, most of which were off Llanddulas, which also had the maximum count of 80+ on 21/02 (PEM). During the first two months there were also double-figure counts off Colwyn Bay, with 32 on 14/01 (DWn), 20 off Belgrano 18/02 (KS) and 10+ off Kinmel Bay the same day 18/02 (NHu). The only double figure WeBS count came in the late period with 11 off Towyn on 12/11. Breeding was confirmed at Llyn Bran on 7/06 (WRM), Nant-y-Ffrith on 15/07 (SD), Llyn Brenig on 17/07 (WRM) and 22/07 (JPH), at Penycae (SD) and Gresford Flash on 25/08 (TP).

Flints. Most of the records came from the Dee estuary and the maximum count of 13 was from

Connah's Quay NR on 2/06 (PeHa). The other main area was Fagl Lane Quarry, Hope, with 35% of records, mostly from WeBS and a high count of 9 on 11/01. A few records were from the coast with 2 seen off Rhyl on 22/11 (JPH). No breeding evidence was recorded.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

GWYACH GORNIOG

Winter visitor. Red List. RBBP.

(SZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	1	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	0	1
Number of records	1	33
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	1.5
Density	0.00	0.00

Denbs. Presence was recorded off Llanddulas on 10/01.

Flints. One, a well-watched individual, was recorded at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR, with thirty-three records between 19/11 (AHJ) and 7/12 (NHu).

Slavonian Grebe (David Winnard)



White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

CICONIA GWYN

Vagrant.

(OR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	0	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0	
Density	0.00	

Denbs. One was at Horseshoe Falls, Llangollen, and photographed, on 13/04 (JoG).



Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

LLWYBIG

Winter visitor. Amber list.

(NB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence		Rare
Number of 1km squares		3
Maximum count		3
Av max count prev 10 yrs		1
Number of records	0	5
% of BirdTrack lists		0.2
Density		0.02

Flints. All five records came from the Dee estuary: a single at Flint on 18/10 (DWn) and the rest were singles from White Sands on 4/10 (PeHa), 7/10 (WeBS), 23/10 and 25/10 (PeHa).

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

CREYR Y GWARTHEG

Becoming a near regular visitor. RBBP.

(EC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence		Rare
Number of 1km squares		2
Maximum count		1
Av max count prev 10 yrs		1
Number of records	0	2
% of BirdTrack lists		0.0
Density		0.00

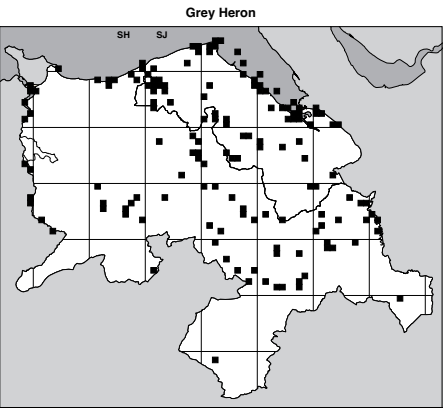
Flints. Both records were from Deeside with a single seen at Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, on 16/09 (NHu) and at nearby Shotwick Fields on 7/10 (GrJ).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

CREYR GLAS

Breeding resident. Amber list.

(H)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	85	65
Maximum count	26	16
Av max count prev 10 yrs	20	19
Recorded in BBS squares	6/31	3/21
Number of records	435	449
% of BirdTrack lists	28.1	21.3
Density	1.12	1.77
Max breeding evidence	NY	H



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. All but twenty-one records were counts of 1 to 9. The other records were counts of 10 to 26, with the maximum from Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 5/02 (JPH). About half of the records were from RSPB Conwy. There were twelve records of confirmed breeding from four locations, with at least eleven active, occupied nests at Lleweni Hall on 25/06 (JPH).

Flints. Over half of the records were from Connah's Quay NR. All but five records were counts of 1 to 9, the others were counts of 10 to 16. The maximum count was from a WeBS count at White Sands on 7/10. No breeding evidence was reported.



Grey Heron (Hugh Linn)

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

CREYR MAWR GWYN

Becoming a near regular visitor. RBBP.

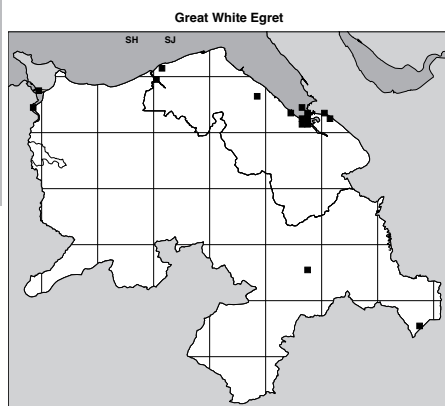
(HW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	4	13
Maximum count	4	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	7
Number of records	5	137
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	2.7
Density	0.01	0.11

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 status of this species is likely to be considered to be that of a resident, in the near future, if it is not resident already.

Denbs. There were fewer records than during the last couple of years. The first record was a single at Penycae in Jan (date uncertain) and the next



was a single at RSPB Conwy on 15/04. The record in Aug was a single roosting, with Grey Herons and Little Egrets on the E bank of the Afon Conwy on 17/08, with the suggestion that this bird had been in the area for a few weeks (WRM). In Sep a single was at Fenn's Moss on 29/09 and there were 4 at RSPB Conwy on the same day.

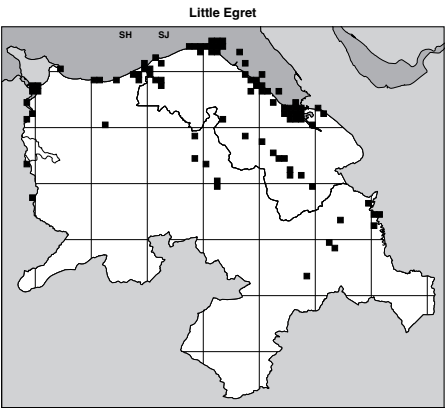
Flints. All but ten records came from the Connah's Quay NR, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, White Sands area of the Dee estuary, with others from the Shotwick area and by Rhyl. The majority of records were counts of 1 to 3 with four records of 4: at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 1/01 (PeHa), from RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Border Pool, on 18/03 (TG), Connah's Quay NR on 9/08 (PeHa) and a WeBS count at White Sands on 7/10.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

CREYR BACH

Breeding resident and possible migrant.

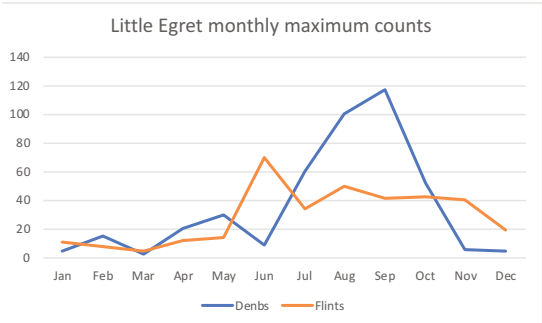
(ET)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	33	59
Maximum count	117	50
Av max count prev 10 yrs	80	57
Recorded in BBS squares		2/21
Number of records	288	553
% of BirdTrack lists	22.8	24.9
Density	1.95	7.01
Max breeding evidence	ON	N



Recorded in each month from both counties. The graph suggests that in late summer, the number of birds is increased by either an influx of young birds from nearby colonies or some autumn migration.

Denbs. Over three quarters of records were from RSPB Conwy and nearly half of the records were of presence only. Most of the counts were of 1 to 9 with twenty-eight counts of 10 to 117. The maximum count of 117 was there on 19/09 (WRM) and the other two highest counts were 101 on 17/08 and 103 on 18/09 (WRM). All the double figure counts start in Apr and finish by mid-Oct. Once again there was evidence of confirmed breeding at a heronry in the Conwy Valley near Tal-y-Cafn on 24/05 (WRM).

Flints. Most reports came from the Dee estuary and were counts of 1 to 9. There were seventy-four records in double figures and the maximum count of 50 was from Connah's Quay NR on 22/08 (PeHa). The highest WeBS count was 41 at White Sands on 12/11. All the counts of more than 2 were from locations close to the coast. There were no records of confirmed breeding but nesting (N) was seen in the rookery wood at Talacre on 21/04 (SD) and 16/05 (Nhu). The River Clwyd estuary produced about 20% of the records and a high count of 42 came from near Rhyl on 1/09 (JPH).



Gannet *Morus bassanus*

HUGAN

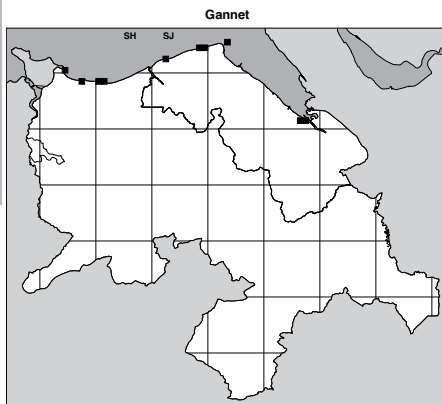
Migrant. Amber List.

(GX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	4	6
Maximum count	3	40
Av max count prev 10 yrs	41	45
Number of records	5	11
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.3
Density	0.01	0.41

Seen in these months

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

Denbs. The first record was a single at Old Colwyn on 24/03 and the high 'spring' count was only 3 off Llanddulas on 22/04 (GrJ). The last spring record was a single at Llanddulas on 2/05. The first 'autumn' record was a single at Rhos-on-Sea on 13/08 and the last record was 3 there on 21/09 (KeK, SvK).



Flints. The first record was from Gronant, when 2 were seen on 19/04 (JPH). Most subsequent records were counts of 1 to 7, with the maximum count of 40 at Point of Ayr on 17/06 (WeBS). The last record was also a WeBS count of 2 on 7/10 also at Point of Ayr.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

MULFRAN WERDD

Non-breeding visitor. Amber list.

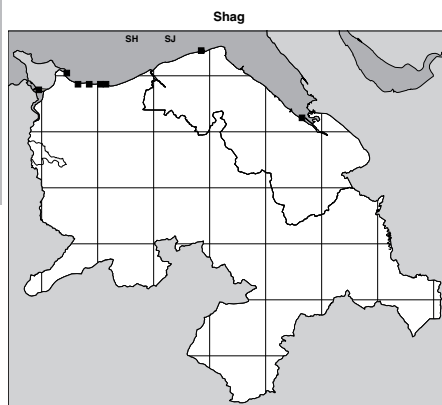
(SA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	6	2
Maximum count	2	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	1
Number of records	18	2
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	0.2
Density	0.01	0.00

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

There have been reports of nests on cliffs at the nearby Ormes but Shag mostly visit our region during the winter months.

Denbs. Most of the records were during the winter months at either end of the year. All but one count was of 1 to 2+ and the highest count came from Rhos-on-Sea with 9 on 18/02 (WeBS).



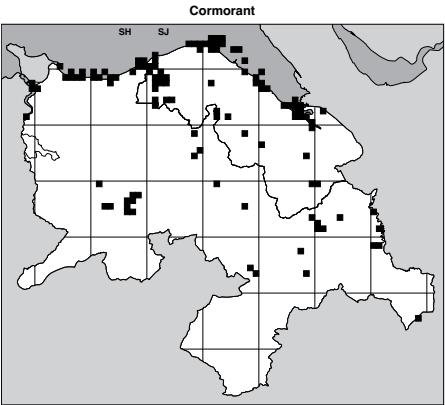
Flints. A single was recorded off RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 6/01 and presence near Gronant on 18/04.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

MULFRAN

Non-breeding passage and winter visitor. Amber list.

(CA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	55	60
Maximum count	100	390
Av max count prev 10 yrs	121	343
Recorded in BBS squares		1/21
Number of records	391	635
% of BirdTrack lists	30.6	37.6
Density	2.78	39.73
Max breeding evidence	T	



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. About 40% of records were of presence only and nearly half were counts of 1 to 9. Fifty-six records were counts of 10 to 100+, with those larger counts spread through the year with no apparent, seasonal pattern. Many of these larger counts were from Kinnel Bay and the largest counts of 100+ were from that area on 26/04 (SM) and 1/10 (KeK, SvK). The next largest count was 60 at Rhos-on-Sea on 6/06 (GEM). The highest WeBS count was 53 at Horton's Nose on 18/02. The highest inland count came from Llyn Brenig, with 24 on 4/09 (WRM). There were no records of confirmed breeding.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(CA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rhuddlan		100		72	90		110		62	120	87	170
Gronant	85	126	49	109	120		96	18	154	128	312	390
Point of Ayr	28	25	6	5		2	1	2	29	26	85	25
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	12	30	23	5	5	6	7	12	15	25	27	37

Flints. About 45% of the records were counts of 1 to 9 and a further 14% were of presence. The remaining counts were 10 to 390, with the maximum, a WeBS count, near Gronant on 9/12, a site which produced several other large counts. There were several large counts (i.e. 150+ to 270+) from the Afon Clwyd, near Rhyl and the highest count in the Dee estuary was 298 near Flint on 21/01 (WeBS). There were no records of breeding activity.

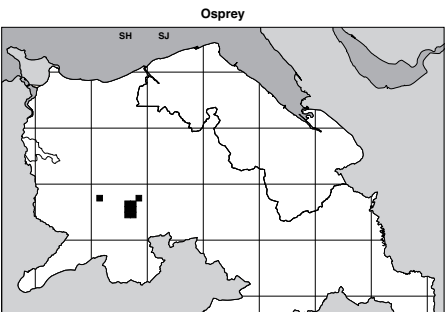
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

GWALCH PYSGOD

Passage migrant and newly established breeding resident.

(OP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	
Number of 1km squares	8	
Maximum count	3	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	
Number of records	19	0
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	
Density	0.01	
Max breeding evidence	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



Denbs. This was the year that Denbs had its first breeding Ospreys after several years of exploratory behaviour at Llyn Brenig. A pair successfully raised a single chick to fledging. The first record was a single, fishing, at Llyn Aled on 5/04 (GEM). All but one of the remaining records were from Llyn Brenig with the first indication of breeding on 21/04, when 2 were seen mating on the nest platform (MJDH). There were records of an occupied nest from 18/05 until 5/06 then no records with breeding codes until a record of an adult with 1 well-grown young in the nest on 17/07 (WRM). The last NY record was on 22/07 (JPH) when 3 were recorded and 3 were last recorded there on 6/08 (HCw). The last record was a single at Llyn Aled on 21/08 (GEM).

Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

BOD Y MEL

Summer visitor. RBBP.

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

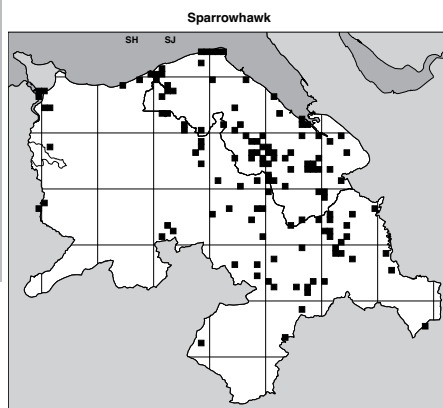
Denbs. One reported at Cefn Coch above the Ceiriog Valley on 29/06. This was the first record since 2015.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

GWALCH GLAS

Breeding resident.

(SH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	69	63
Maximum count	3	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	3
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	3/21
Number of records	180	219
% of records from GBW	28.89	17.81
% of BirdTrack lists	6.1	8.8
Density	0.10	0.21
Max breeding evidence	D	



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The number of records was down, again, to their lowest level since 2007, but the numbers of 1km squares where seen were holding up. The vast majority of records was of singles, with a few records of 2 and the highest count of 3 came from the Conwy Valley, with 3 at Pentrefelin on 27/04 and 27/07 (MiB). There were no records of confirmed breeding. Records from GBW were all presence or singles and there were twenty-six reports from a garden near Bryneglwys from weeks beginning 21/01 to 23/12 (LAF).

Flints. Most records, including GBW, were of singles with no breeding evidence recorded at any site. Two were recorded at five locations in the last four months of the year, three times at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR with 2 on 6/09, 10/10 and 24/10 (JPH). There were counts of 2 on 5/11 at Connah's Quay NR (DWn) and at Gwernymynydd (GEM), at Gronant on 10/11 (WRM) and in the Rhuddlan area on 28/12 (JPH). Singles were ringed at Bagillt on 20/04, 28/08 and 30/08 (GRMP).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

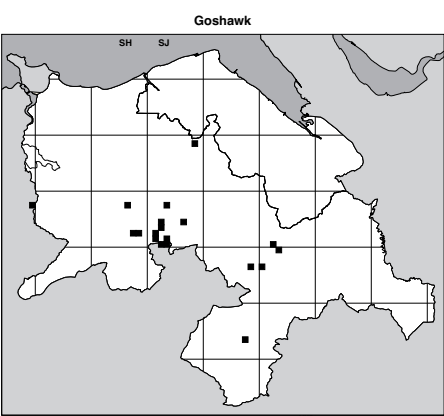
GWALCH MARTH

Breeding resident. RBBP.

(GI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	
Number of 1km squares	19	
Maximum count	4	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	
Number of records	23	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	
Density	0.04	
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

Denbs. Just over half of the reports came from Clocaenog Forest and in first four months of the year. The highest counts were 4+ seen at Waen Uchaf, Clocaenog Forest, on 25/03 (NGo) and 4 with some displaying above Craig Bron Bannog on 25/03 (GrJ). Singles accounted for most reports but 2 were in the same area at Bod Petruel on 17/02, at Derwydd Bach on 25/03 (JBW) and at Nilig (all Clocaenog Forest) on the same day (GrJ).



Goshawk (John Hawkins)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

WAOD Y GWERNI

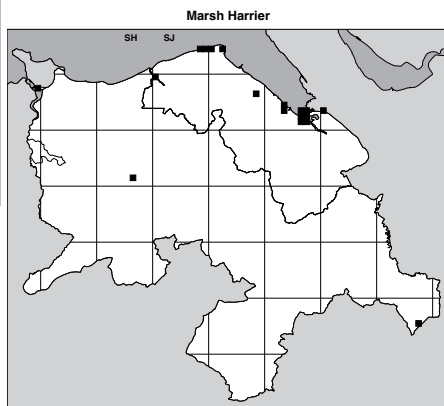
Passage migrant. Amber List. RBBP.

(MR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	15
Maximum count	2	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	2
Number of records	5	69
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	2.4
Density	0.00	0.15

Seen in these months

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

Denbs. The first record was presence at RSPB Conwy on 16/04. The last record was a single at Fenn's Moss on 10/08. The highest count of 2 was from S of Moel Grugoeir on 7/07 (JqT).



Flints. There was a slight increase in the number of records and most were from locations in the Dee estuary. Most records were singles, sixteen records were counts of 2 to 3, three were counts of 4 and the highest count was 6 over White Sands on 6/09 (PeHa).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

WAOD TINWEN

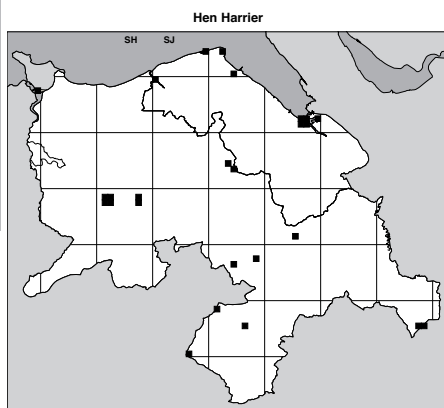
Breeder and winter visitor. Red List. RBBP. S7.

(HH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	17	9
Maximum count	4	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	1
Number of records	21	50
% of BirdTrack lists	2.0	1.3
Density	0.03	0.03
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

Denbs. Most records were of singles and many records during the breeding season were from Mynydd Hiraethog or other upland areas. A pair was recorded in the Berwyns at Cerrig Coediog on 14/05 (GPI) and 4 were seen near Llyn Aled on 17/07. They appeared to be a pair with two juveniles.



Flints. All but one record was of presence or singles and the majority were at Connah's Quay NR. The last early winter record was at Shotwick, Broken Bank, on 1/04 (NHu). After a break of six months the first autumn record was at Connah's Quay NR on 1/10 (PeHa). The only record of 2 was from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 20/11 (DWn).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

BARCUD

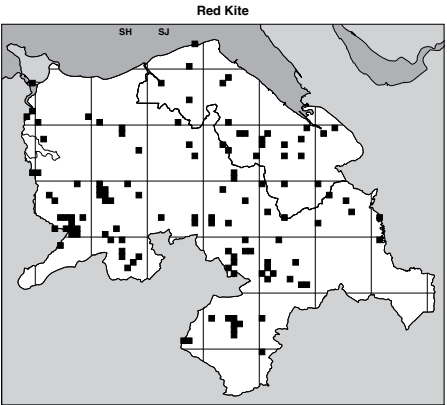
Visitor and breeding resident. Amber list.

(KT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Rare
Number of 1km squares	97	23
Maximum count	5	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	2
Recorded in BBS squares	4/31	1/21
Number of records	123	27
% of BirdTrack lists	4.9	0.8
Density	0.25	0.08
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

Red Kites are spreading through NE Wales with both the numbers of records, and the number of 1km squares where they have been seen, again increasing.



Denbs. All but four records were counts of 1 to 3, with three records of 4 and the maximum count of 5 came from near Moel Arthur on 27/06, with the birds flying towards Moel Famau (GEM). The records of 4 were from Pentrefoelas on 3/02 (KBr), at Moel Twysog, near Bylchau, on 10/10 (PWh) and near Llangwm on 19/10 (IMS). The highest BBS counts of 2 were from Llangwm on 20/04 (HKd, MaO) and Trevor Hall, Garth on 29/05 (BCP).

Flints. All but three records were of singles with counts of 2 from near Mold on 6/06, near Whitford at Pen-ffordd-lan on 11/06 (DPar) and at Pantymwyn on 4/10 (GEM). The only BBS count was of a single near Pentre, near Treuddyn, on 13/06 (DeD).

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

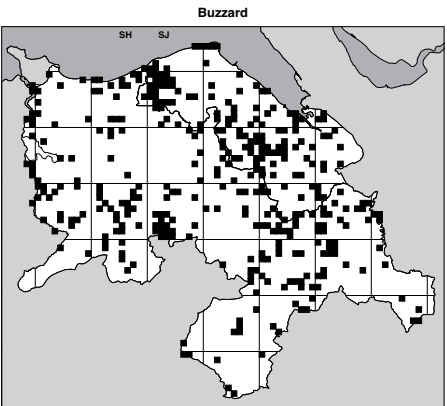
BWNCATH

Breeding resident.

(BZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	251	119
Maximum count	14	7
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	9
Recorded in BBS squares	20/31	15/21
Number of records	618	544
% of records from GBW	0.00	7.72
% of BirdTrack lists	35.8	3.8
Density	1.78	1.41
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of counts of 1 to 7, with four records of 8 and only one double figure count of 14 at Trefnant on 29/10 (JPH). All 14 were on the ground in a freshly tilled field. A number of sites had multiple reports. Some 10% were from RSPB Conwy, where there was a high count of 6 on 29/04 (PJW). There were three records of



confirmed breeding at three locations. There were four records of 3 during BBS walks and counts of 4 at Trevor Hall, Garth, on 29/05 (BCP) and during a WBBS walk near Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant on 14/05 (WR).

Flints. Most records were counts of 1 to 5 with three counts of 6. The maximum counts of 7 came from near Rhyl on 1/04 (WRM) and from Caerwys on 4/04 (MGW). The GBW high count of 6 came from Rhydymwyn, in weeks beginning 8/04 and 15/04 (DMH). The highest BBS count of 5 came from Bodrhyddan Hall, Dyserth on 9/06 (PtB) and the highest WBBS count of 5 was from near St Asaph on 17/04 (ShG). There were two records of confirmed breeding, involving two locations.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

RHEGEN Y DWR

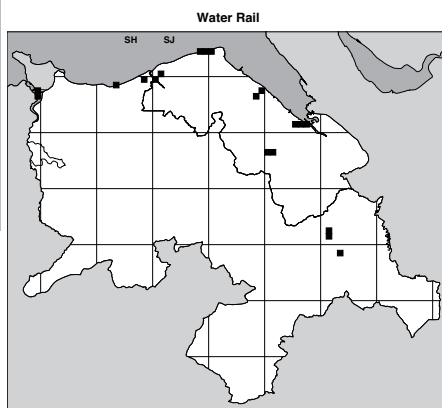
Breeding resident and winter visitor. RBBP.

(WA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	13
Maximum count	5	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	2
Number of records	50	55
% of BirdTrack lists	3.4	3.6
Density	0.02	0.13
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

Although there was a 44% reduction in Denbs records, numbers in Flints were maintained. Records were spread throughout more months in the year in both counties. This appears to be almost exclusively a coastal species in our area, with only 8.6% of records coming from inland.



Denbs. Some 72% of records were from the first three months of the year and 86% of all records came from RSPB Conwy. There were five inland reports from the usual Wrexham locations. All records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2, with five higher RSPB Conwy counts: 3 on 10/07 (JqT) and 25/11 (TyC) and 4 or 5 on 25/11 (EJB, GrJ). There was no reported evidence of breeding.

Flints. Recorded in all months except Jun, though only a single report in Apr. Forty-three reports (78% of the total) came from the Gronant / Point of Ayr area and a further six from Rhyl, with breeding probable at Gronant. Only four records came from inland – one from Holywell and three from Rhydymwyn, one of which was a bird ringed on 29/09 (IMS). All reports were of presence or counts of 1 to 2, except for five of the Gronant records, where there were 3 on 4/02, 6 on 9/05, 3 on 22/05, 5 on 16/10 and 3 on 10/11 (WRM).



Water Rail (Ian M Spence)

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*
Vagrant.

RHEGEN FRAITH

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

This was the first record for nine years.

Denbs. One seen and photographed at RSPB Conwy on 22/09 (TyC).

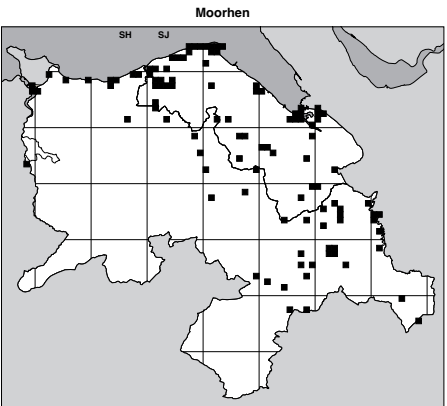


Spotted Crake (Toby Carter)

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Breeding resident

IAR DWR

(MH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	54	53
Maximum count	22	22
Av max count prev 10 yrs	26	26
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	4/21
Number of records	460	560
% of BirdTrack lists	27.8	29.8
Density	0.60	1.98
Max breeding evidence	FL	NY



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Almost half the records were of presence only. The monthly maximum counts varied little over the whole year and the counts were mainly of 1 to 9 with seventeen counts of 10 to 22. The maximum was seen at RSPB Conwy on 16/01 (JPH). There were fifteen records of confirmed breeding from eleven locations.

Flints. There were many fewer records of presence. Most counts were 1 to 9 with twenty-three counts of 10 to 22. The maximum was a WeBS count near Gwespyr on 11/01. There were twenty-two records of confirmed breeding at fourteen locations.



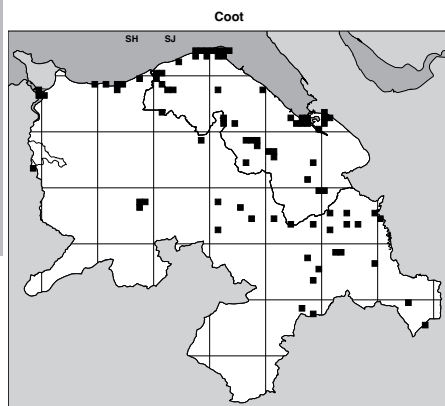
Moorhen (Hugh Linn)

Coot *Fulica atra*

CWTIAR

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

(CO)	Denbs		Flints	
	Common	Very common		
Occurrence				
Number of 1km squares	40		45	
Maximum count	37		92	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	52		99	
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31		1/21	
Number of records	449		584	
% of BirdTrack lists	28.2		30.2	
Density	0.75		7.03	
Max breeding evidence	ON		NY	

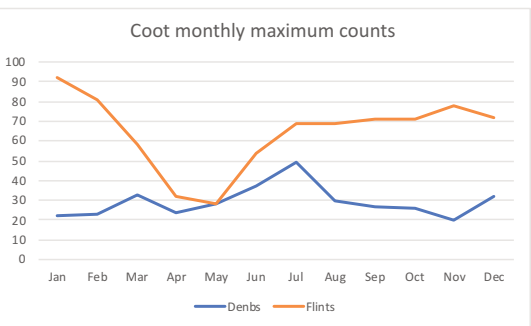


Recorded in each month in both counties. The graph does not, clearly, indicate that NE Wales has winter visitors, as has been assumed. It appears that, in Flintshire, large numbers in the early winter probably disperse to smaller water bodies for breeding and the rise in numbers from Jun suggests new recruits (ie young birds bred locally) joining the breeding population. There is no spike in autumn to suggest the arrival of winter visitors. While the Denbshire pattern of maximum counts is different, there is no, clear, indication of the arrival of winter visitors.

Denbs. RSPB Conwy produced just under 60% of reports and the highest count of 49 on 15/07

(WeBS). Most other counts were 1 to 9 with sixty-one counts of 10 to 49 and about a third of them were WeBS counts. There were twenty-two records of confirmed breeding from twelve locations, the first from Brymbo pool, Wrexham on 15/04 and the last from Penycae on 25/08 (SD).

Flints. Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR had over 25% of reports. Most counts were 1 to 9, with nearly one hundred counts of 10 to 92, with the peak count of 92 on 2/01 (JPH). The most recorded on a WeBS count was 78 at Shotwick Fields on 11/11. There were forty-one records of confirmed breeding from eleven locations with the first report from Brickworks pool on 6/04 (JPH) and the last reports from near Rhyl on 7/08 (WRM).

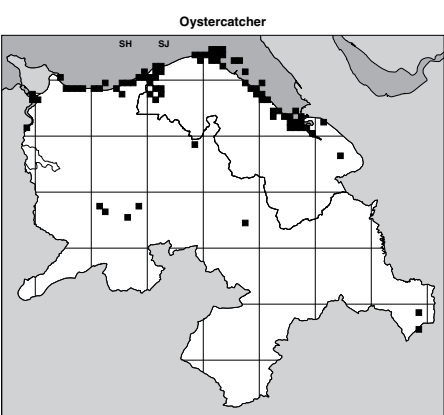


Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

PIODEN Y MOR

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

(OC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	29	54
Maximum count	300	8500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	635	8025
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	3/21
Number of records	404	553
% of BirdTrack lists	31.1	28.4
Density	4.40	779.29
Max breeding evidence	NY	FF



Recorded in each month in both counties.

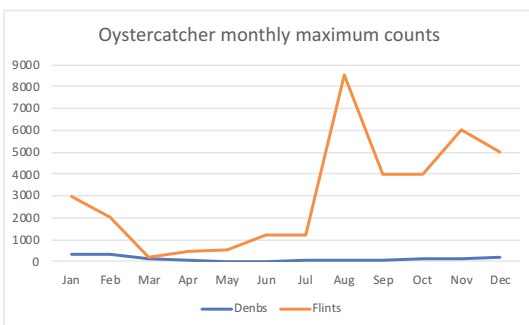
Denbs. This year, also, the majority of records were of presence. The year's highest counts were in Jan and Feb with 300, a WeBS count on 21/01 at Kinmel Bay, 300 at Pensarn on 28/01 (DCR) and 300 at Kinmel Bay on 7/02 (JoG). Numbers dropped in succeeding months until the lowest high count of 15 in Jun. Counts stayed low until a high of 68 during a WeBS count at Horton's Nose on 8/09, then 102 at Rhos-on-Sea on 6/10 (WRM), and at least 200 near Kinmel Bay on 19/12 (PEM). Breeding was confirmed at two locations.

Maximum monthly counts for each county:

(OC)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	250	300	150	32	20	15	30	40	68	102	100	200
Flints	3000	2000	180	500	550	1200	1200	8500	4000	4000	6000	5000

Flints. The largest single count in Jan was 3,000 at Point of Ayr on 21/01 during a WeBS count. With counts from other locations that day the total was close to 5,000 (as in 2017). The other Jan counts ranged from 1 to 2,000. In Feb the highest count was 2,000 at Point of Ayr on 18/02, another WeBS count. The remaining counts in Feb were 1 to 700. By Mar most Oystercatchers had moved away to their breeding grounds to the N, with a highest (WeBS) count of 180 at Greenfield docks on 18/03. There was an increase in Apr to a high WeBS count of 500, again at Point of Ayr on 15/04.

May was similar with a high count of 550 (WeBS) on 20/05 at Ffynnongroyw. The highest count in Jun was more than double, 1,200 at Point of Ayr on 17/06 (WeBS), with the same number counted there on 15/07 (WeBS). The numbers rapidly increased in Aug, with an influx, presumably of adults and this year's young. There was a high count, the year's maximum, of 8,500 on 12/08, again at Point of Ayr (WeBS). Other Aug counts were 1 to 700. So Point of Ayr was the key place for Oystercatchers. In



Sep the birds spread to other sites – the highest count at one place was 4,000 at Point of Ayr on 9/09 but the total from all locations that day was 10,336, spread along the Dee shoreline. In Oct, the highest count at one place was, again, 4,000 at Point of Ayr on 7/10 but the WeBS total for the Dee had dropped to 6,715. The highest count in Nov was 6,000 at Point of Ayr on 11/11, with a WeBS total of 8,784. In Dec there were 5,000 at Point of Ayr on 9/12 and the WeBS total for the Welsh shore was slightly lower at 6,953. There were records of confirmed breeding at five locations.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(OC)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	25	33	19	38	43	39	101	179	116	88	56	12
Gronant	270	122	37	180	17		194	240	780	1206	216	882
Point of Ayr	3000	2000	60	500	353	1200	1200	8500	4000	4000	6000	5000
Mostyn	1517	550	60	330	550	12	330	800	3050	1110	1900	1600
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	40	20	26	30	140	36	70	700	1000	50	400	150

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

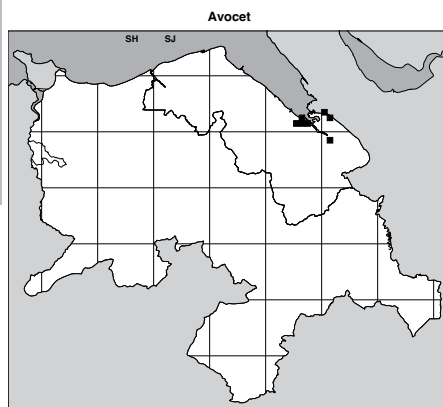
CAMBIG

Previously a visitor, but now nearly resident. Amber List. RBBP.

(AV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence		Scarce
Number of 1km squares		7
Maximum count		38
Av max count prev 10 yrs		12
Number of records	0	23
% of BirdTrack lists		1.0
Density		0.45

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



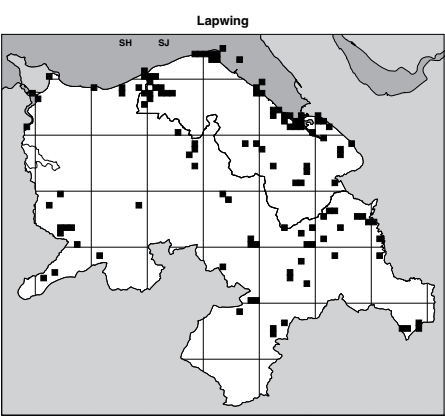
Flints. The first two records were from different parts of Connah's Quay NR on 10/01, presumably involving different birds, with 2 and 1 (PeHa). After a break of nearly two months, there was a run of records, starting with 5 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 4/03 (DWN) and records of 1 to 6 until 2 were at Connah's Quay NR on 10/06 (PeHa). There were two considerably larger counts from the Flints parts of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands – 15 at Border Pool on 1/04 (NHu) and 38 at Shotwick Fields on 15/04 (WeBS). The last record of the year was a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 26/09 (DWN).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

CORNCHWIGLEN

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

(L)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	68	52
Maximum count	1000	4000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1798	2580
Recorded in BBS squares	3/31	3/21
Number of records	320	524
% of BirdTrack lists	25.2	23.5
Density	34.41	353.14
Max breeding evidence	DD	FL



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The highest count in Jan was 519 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 15/01 (JPH). Other counts were 1 to 400. The high count in Feb was 264, again at Lleweni Hall, on 27/02 (JPH). The other counts were 1 to 250. During the next three months the high count was 36, again at Lleweni Hall, on 5/03 (JPH). Other counts were 1 to 30, though the counts in May were only 1 to 4. In Jun most counts were 1 to 7, with one count of 30 near Glasfryn on 21/06 (JDu). Jul was another month of low counts, 1 to 11, with the exception of 24 at Fenn's Moss on 3/07 (MiP). There was evidence of Lapwings returning during Aug, with a high count of 100 at Gresford Flash on 27/08 (HL). There were only seven records in Sep with a high count of 52. Oct was also fairly quiet with a high of 73. Numbers increased during the last two months. In Nov most counts were 1 to 200 with 400 flying at Kinmel Bay on 25/11 (WRM). In Dec most counts were 1 to 500 with 1,000 flying over Kinmel Bay on 19/12, after being flushed from nearby fields (PEM). Breeding was confirmed at one location.

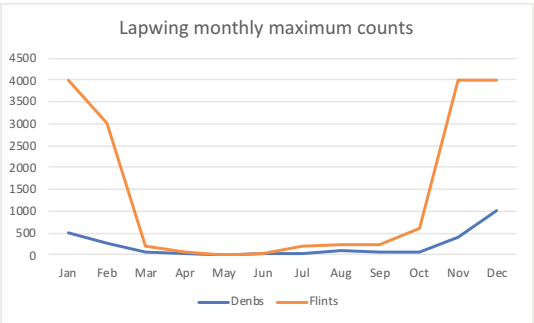
Maximum monthly counts for each county:

(L)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	519	264	50	30	4	30	24	100	52	73	400	1000
Flints	4000	3000	206	68	6	45	200	230	250	600	4000	4000

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(L)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	5	57				10	11	18	12	20	165	32
Point of Ayr		60		1							450	750
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	1000	2000				7	40	40	110	30	1000	500
Connah's Quay NR	550	800				5	100	40	60	104	50	

Flints. During the winter months there were many more Lapwings recorded than in Denbs. The counts in Jan were 1 to 3,300 with twenty-three of 1,000+ . The highest count of 4,000+ at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 28/01 (IMS). During Feb, most counts were 1 to 2,400, with seven of 1,000+. The highest count was 3,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 8/02 (PeHa). Numbers reduced drastically in Mar with most counts of 1 to 200 and a high of 206 at Talacre



dunes on 8/03 (JPH). During Apr counts were further reduced, with 1 to 24 and a high of 68 at Shotwick Fields on 15/04 (WeBS). In May counts were 1 to 6 and in Jun most counts were 1 to 23, with 45 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 5/06 during a BBS walk (IMS). There was a slight increase in Jul with a high count of 200 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/07 (PeHa), with other counts of 1 to 166. Counts remained at this level during Aug and Sep. There was an increase in numbers during Oct, with a high count of 190 during the first half, but 600 at Connah's Quay NR on 24/10 (PeHa). During Nov there was an influx with many counts of over 100 and a high count of 4,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 25/11 (PeHa). There were similar counts of 1 to 2,200 in Dec. The highest was 4,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 2/12 (PeHa). Breeding was confirmed at one location.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

CWTIAD AWR

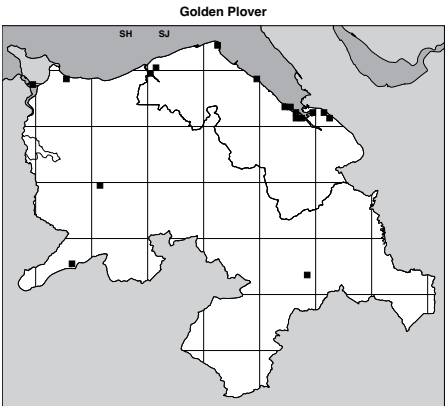
Winter visitor and possible breeding resident. Red List. S7.

(GP)	Denbs		Flints
	Uncommon	Fairly common	
Occurrence			
Number of 1km squares	5	13	
Maximum count	50	200	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	65	162	
Number of records	7	76	
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	2.6	
Density	0.13	4.41	

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 no evidence of breeding this year.

Denbs. The early year records were of presence at RSPB Conwy on 2/03 with a single at Colwyn Bay the same day. The next was a single at Acrefair on 5/04. The first autumn record was presence at RSPB Conwy on 21/09 closely followed



Golden Plover (Tony Pope)

by 20 near Gylchedd, Migneint on 24/09 (DSt). There were 50 at Llyn Aled Isaf on 18/10, an exact count on a beautiful day (WRM) and 50+ there on 1/11, when the birds were not located until a Peregrine flushed them (WRM).

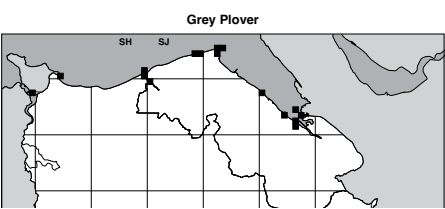
Flints. During Jan there were 1 to 40 in the Connah's Quay NR/RSPB Oakenholt Marsh area. In Feb most counts were 1 to 71, with high counts at Connah's Quay NR of 99 on 15/02 and 100 on 18/02 (PeHa). During Mar most counts were 1 to 26, with 80 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/03 (PeHa). There was one record in Apr, the year's maximum of 200 at Connah's Quay NR on 4/04 (PeHa). After a gap of three months, the first 'autumn' record was a single near Rhyl on 17/07 and it seemed the same bird was recorded until 31/07. During Aug and Sep there was a single at Connah's Quay NR from 14/08 to 9/09, followed by a gap of nearly a month. There was a count of 19 at Connah's Quay NR on 6/10 (PeHa) and for the rest of the year counts were 1 to 40, with a high count of 54 on the estuary at Flint on 9/12 (DWn).

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

CWTIAD LLWYD

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

(GV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	4	13
Maximum count	3	58
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	58
Number of records	7	40
% of BirdTrack lists	0.5	1.3
Density	0.01	1.28



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. Counts of 1 to 3 were made between 4/03 and 20/03 at RSPB Conwy and along the N coast.

Flints. During Jan five records were of 1 to 4, though 48 were near Gronant on 21/01 during a WeBS count. The two records during Feb were 4 and 5. During Mar, nine of the records were counts of 1 to 2, with 10 at Gronant dunes on 7/03 (WRM). Ten records in Apr and May were of singles. The last spring record was 13 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/05 (PeHa). The first autumn record was 7 near Gronant, during a WeBS count on 7/10. The four records at the end of the year included two

of 2 and WeBS counts of 58 at Point of Ayr on 11/11 and 30 near Flint on 9/12.



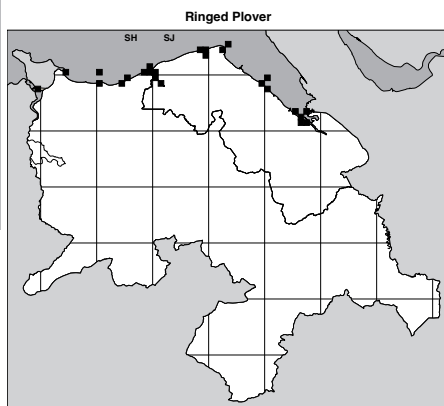
Grey Plover (Tony Pope)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

CWTIAD TORCHOG

Breeding resident and passage migrant. Red List. S7.

(RP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	10	16
Maximum count	200	173
Av max count prev 10 yrs	56	202
Number of records	75	135
% of BirdTrack lists	6.1	7.7
Density	1.01	4.70
Max breeding evidence	ON	ON



Recorded in each month in both counties, except Nov in Denbs.

Denbs. During the first two months nearly half of the records were of presence and most counts were 2 to 30, with a high count of 41 near Kinmel Bay on 18/02 (WeBS). During Mar to Jul counts were 1 to 11, with 13 at Kinmel Bay on 8/05 (WRM). During Aug there were two high counts of 61 at Horton's Nose on 12/08 (WeBS) and at Kinmel Bay on 14/08 (JPH). Counts were lower during the last four months, 2 to 14. There were records of confirmed breeding from three locations.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(RP)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant	26	2		30	11		18	39	28		2	
Point of Ayr				8		12		173	5	22		
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	6							12	12	1		

Flints. There were only ten records during the first two months with counts of 2 to 26, with a high of 63 at Gronant dunes on 4/02 (WRM). There were more records during Mar and Apr, with most counts of 1 to 50+ and a high of 80+ at Gronant dunes on 7/03 (WRM). During May to Aug most counts were 1 to 45, with a high WeBS count of 173 at Point of Ayr on 12/08. During the last four months the autumn high in Aug indicated a reduced level, with 115+ near Rhyl on 3/09 (WRM), after which counts were 1 to 28 for the remainder of the year. There were records of confirmed breeding from two locations adjacent to each other.



Ringed Plover (Tony Pope)



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Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

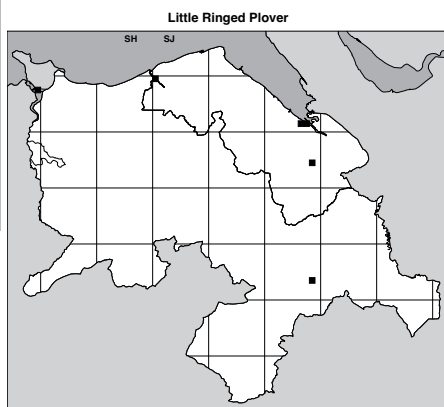
Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. RBBP.

(LP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	4
Maximum count	4	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	4
Number of records	14	45
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	0.5
Density	0.00	0.02
Max breeding evidence	FL	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

Denbs. The first record was a single at Acrefair on 15/04 (KS). There were nine other records of singles during Apr from just two locations – Acrefair and RSPB Conwy. Presence was recorded at RSPB Conwy on 10/06. In Jul the last record was of presence, again at RSPB Conwy, on 27/07. There was one record of confirmed breeding, when 4 were seen on 3/07 – 2 adults and 2 juveniles on the estuary at RSPB Conwy with an incoming tide (WRM).



Flints. The first record was near Buckley on 14/03 (KaW). Up to 3 were recorded there (on 15/05, 29/05 and 6/06 – all KaW) and the last record, there, was a single on 19/06. The only known juvenile in the county was ringed near Buckley on 6/06 (IMS). The other site at which species was recorded was Connah's Quay NR. The first record was 2 on 5/04 (PeHa) and the last was 2 on 16/07 (PeHa). There were no records of confirmed breeding at Connah's Quay NR.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

COEGLFINIR

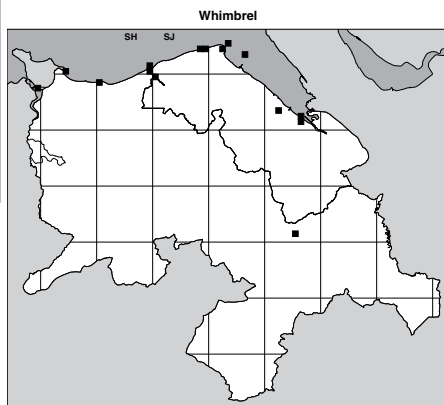
Passage migrant and summer visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

(WM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	6	9
Maximum count	15	30
Av max count prev 10 yrs	29	28
Number of records	37	46
% of BirdTrack lists	3.1	2.0
Density	0.05	0.46

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. Interestingly, the first record was inland, with 2 recorded at Esclusham Mountain, Ruabon Moor, on 22/04 (JBW), though all subsequent records were near the coast, mainly at RSPB Conwy. During Apr, records were counts of 1 to 8, with a high of 15 on 25/04 at RSPB Conwy (KeK, SvK). About half the remaining records were of presence, but in May there were counts of 1 and 6, with a high of 12 on 1/05 (LoM). Presence or a single were recorded through Jun and Jul, then 4 at Llanddulas on 4/08 (JFJ), after which only 1 or 2 were counted, until the last, a single, at RSPB Conwy on 2/11 (EJB).



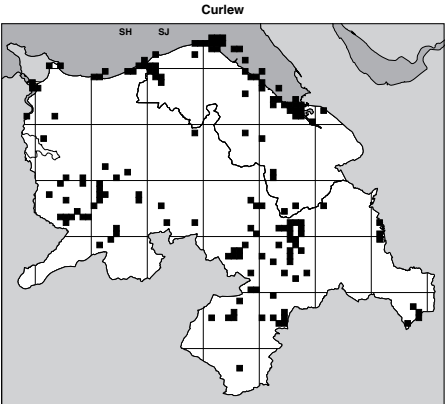
Flints. All records were from the coast, or close to it, or along the Dee estuary. The first record was a WeBS count of 3 at Point of Ayr on 15/04. Other counts during Apr were 1 to 9, with a high count of 11 at Connah's Quay NR on 27/04 (PeHa). May started with a relative bang, with 30, the year's maximum, at Connah's Quay NR on 1/05, though there were only 15 there on 2/05 (PeHa). Counts for the remaining months were 1 to 4, with the exception of a WeBS count of 28 on 15/07 at Ffynnonogyw. The last record was a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22/10 (DWN).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

GYLFINIR

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

(CU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	106	52
Maximum count	180	1800
Av max count prev 10 yrs	427	1440
Recorded in BBS squares	6/31	3/21
Number of records	398	646
% of BirdTrack lists	27.3	27.9
Density	9.66	158.91
Max breeding evidence	FL	



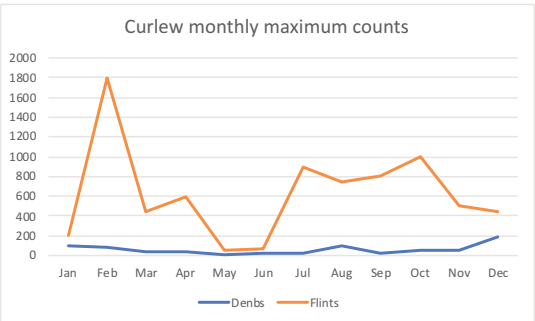
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Just over half of the records were of presence only. As can be seen in the table of monthly maximum counts, not many Curlew were recorded this year, with the two highest counts at either end of the year and a distinct lack of birds during May and Jun, when there should have been breeding attempts – but where exactly? There were several records of possible or probable breeding but only two of confirmed breeding – young birds seen near Llyn Aled Isaf on Mynydd Hiraethog on 10/06 (GEM) and one young seen near Bryneglwys on 8/06. During the breeding season, Apr to Jun, Curlew were seen at a wide range of locations inland, but at other months most records were from RSPB Conwy, with a few at Kinnel Bay.

Maximum monthly counts for each county:

(CU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	100	78	39	36	5	21	15	100	20	50	50	180
Flints	200	1800	450	600	50	70	900	750	800	1000	500	450

Flints. The highest count in Jan was surprisingly low at 200, with other counts of 1 to 154 from sites across the N coast and in the Dee estuary. During Feb there was a large increase to a high count of 1,800 near Rhuddlan on 7/02 (DCR), the year's maximum, with other counts of 1 to 800. A large number of birds had moved away by Mar, with counts of 1 to 420 and a high of 450 at Talacre on 20/03 (WRM). There was a slight increase in Apr, with a high WeBS count of 600 at Point of Ayr on 15/04. As in Denbs, there were low counts during May and Jun, as birds dispersed to breeding grounds at places other than in Flints (there were no records with any breeding codes this year). During Jul there was



an increase in the numbers present with counts of 1 to 200 but a WeBS count of 900 at Point of Ayr on 15/07. The high counts stayed at that sort of level until after another WeBS count there on 7/10, of 1,000, after which the monthly high counts were considerably lower, at 500 in Nov and 450 in Dec (both of which were WeBS counts at Point of Ayr).

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(CU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	1	125	12	20		30	293	293	151	85	29	16
Point of Ayr	200	800	420	600	41	70	900	750	800	1000	500	450
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	30	24	51	20	15	12	20	40	60	44	12	30

Bar-tailed Godwit
Limosa lapponica

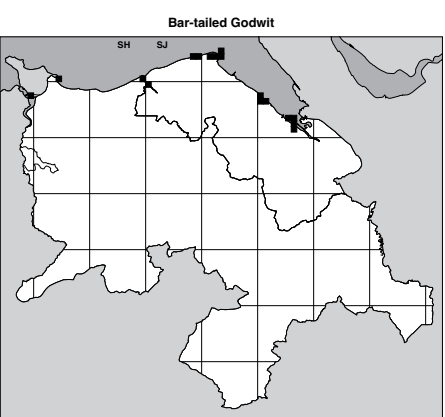
RHOSTOG GYNFFRONFRITH

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

(BA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Common
Number of 1km squares	3	14
Maximum count	12	38
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	97
Number of records	9	65
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	2.6
Density	0.02	0.90

Seen in these months

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



Denbs. All but two records were from RSPB Conwy. The exceptions were late in the year. There were four records of a single between 1/01 and 9/01, then none until 12 on 14/04 (JIC). There was another gap until 9 on 26/07 (JHg) and another gap until a single at Rhos-on-Sea on 6/10 and possibly the same bird at RSPB Conwy on 8/10 (WRM). The last record was presence at Kinmel Bay on 2/11.

Flints. During the first half of the year counts were 1 to 17, with a high of 38 at Greenfield docks on 18/01 (DWn). After 10+ at Talacre on 18/02 (NHu), numbers were low until 11 at Point of Ayr on 7/10 (GR). During the latter half of the year most counts were 1 to 25, with a high count of 26 at Point of Ayr on 11/11 (GR). This was a poor showing compared with previous years.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

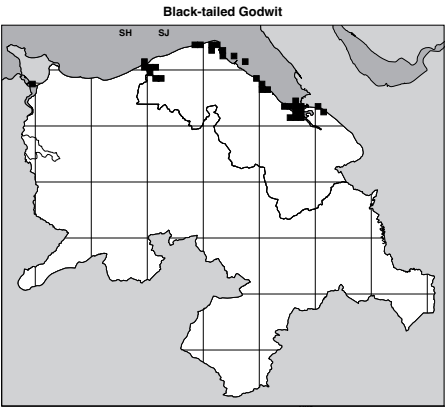
RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

(BW)	Denbs		Flints
	Common	Abundant	
Occurrence			
Number of 1km squares	3	31	
Maximum count	29	3000	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	46	4350	
Number of records	103	353	
% of BirdTrack lists	10.3	14.4	
Density	0.04	157.89	

Recorded in each month in both counties.

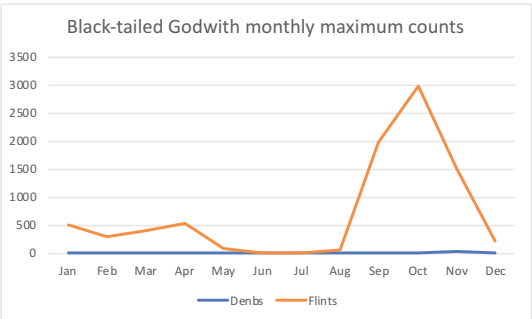
Denbs. Only eight of the records were from locations other than RSPB Conwy and many were of presence. The year's maximum count of 29 was at RSPB Conwy on 20/11 (WRM). All other counts were 1 to 21.



WeBS counts from selected sites:

(BW)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr			7					34	1000	2200	25	
Flint, estuary										800	1080	18
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	300	30	31	150			4	4	250	400	1500	

Flints. As has been the pattern in the last few years, there were relatively low counts, except during the last four months. During Jan, most counts were 1 to 350, with high counts of 500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7/01 (DWn), at Talacre on 13/01 (GrJ) and at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 19/01 (DWn). During Feb counts were 1 to 200, with a high of 300 near Bagillt on 4/02 (DWn). During Mar, most counts were 1 to 300 and 400 at Connah's Quay NR on 5/03 (PeHa). The last of the early months' high counts was 550 at Shotwick Fields on 15/04 (GrJ), with other counts of 6 to 400. In May, numbers dropped, with a high of 85 at Point of Ayr on 20/05 (JLg) and counts were mainly 1 to 24, until 47 were at Connah's Quay NR on 6/08 (PeHa). Counts remained low during Aug, with 54 near Rhyl on 12/08 (WRM) and 50 at Connah's Quay NR on 25/08 (PeHa). There was a large increase in Sep, with 2,000 recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 25/09 and 26/09 (DWn). Most other counts were 1 to 1,000. During Oct, there was a surge in numbers with eleven counts of 1,000+ and a high count of 3,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 11/10 (PeHa). There seemed to have been a movement away from the Dee in Nov, with only four counts more than 1,000 and a high count of 1,500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 9/11 (PeHa). Numbers declined further in Dec, with counts of 1 to 195 and a high of 230 at Talacre on 10/12 (WRM).



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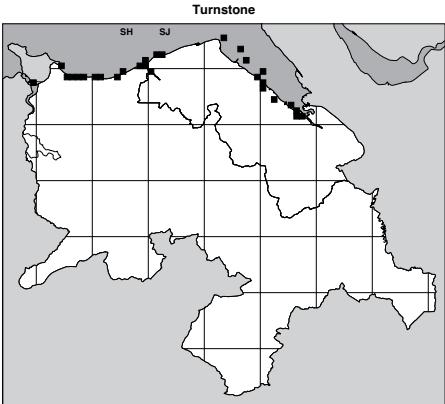
Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

CWTIAD Y TRAETH

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

(TT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	13	15
Maximum count	220	45
Av max count prev 10 yrs	212	83
Number of records	103	53
% of BirdTrack lists	6.9	3.7
Density	1.45	1.15

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

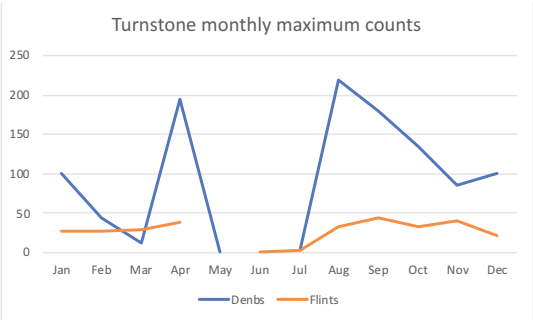


Denbs. Jan opened with a high count of 100+ at Kinmel Bay on 4/01 (SM). Other counts for Jan to Mar were 1 to 55. During Apr there was presumably some passage to the N, with four records of 100+ and a high of 195+ at Kinmel Bay on 28/04 (WRM). The last 'spring' record was a single there on 8/05. After a break of nearly three months, the first 'autumn' record was 2 at Old Colwyn on 28/07, the only record in Jul. By 14/08 there were 220 at Kinmel Bay (WRM) and three counts of 100+ in Sep, with a high of 180 at Kinmel Bay on 27/09 (SM). Other counts were 6 to 30. During the last three months there were four records of 100+ and other counts of 1 to 85. The three highest counts were 103 at Rhos-on-Sea on 6/10 (WRM), 134 at Kinmel Bay on 14/10 (JPH) and 100 at Llanddulas on 24/12 (JDa).

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(TT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rhos-on-Sea		4	28	31						17		
Llanddulas		61	39						48	48	104	51
Greenfield, offshore		28										

Flints. During Jan to Apr most records were 1 to 20 with four higher counts of 28 at Greenfield Docks on 3/01 (DWn), 28 there on 18/02 (WeBS), 29 near Rhyl on 20/03 (JoBn) and 38 near Mostyn on 15/04 (WeBS), the last 'spring' record. A single was at Connah's Quay NR on 24/06, then 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 24/07 (PeHa). For the rest of the year most counts were 1 to 33 with 45 near Mostyn on 9/09 and 40 there on 11/11 (WeBS).



Knot *Calidris canutus*

PIBYDD YR ABER

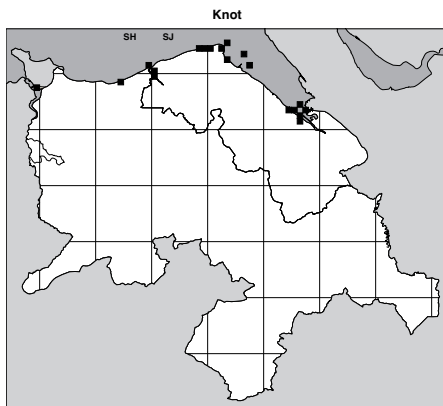
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

(KN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	3	17
Maximum count	2	1000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	7	5445
Number of records	7	57
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	1.9
Density	0.00	28.86

Seen in these months

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

Denbs. All records were of presence, 1 or 2. The last record of the early months was a single at RSPB Conwy on 3/03 and the first in the late months was a single there on 20/09 (both WRM).



Flints. There were a few more records and considerably higher counts this year than in 2017. During Jan to Apr most counts were 1 to 20, with two higher counts: 600 at Point of Ayr on 21/01 (WeBS) and 110 at Connah's Quay NR on 25/02 (PeHa). The last record of this period was 2 at Point of Ayr on 15/04. There was a gap of four months then the first 'autumn' record was a single at Point of Ayr on 12/08. During the last months most counts were 1 to 230, with two other considerably larger WeBS counts: 1,000 at Point of Ayr on 7/10 and 800 at Ffynnongroyw on 11/11.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

PIBYDD TORCHOG

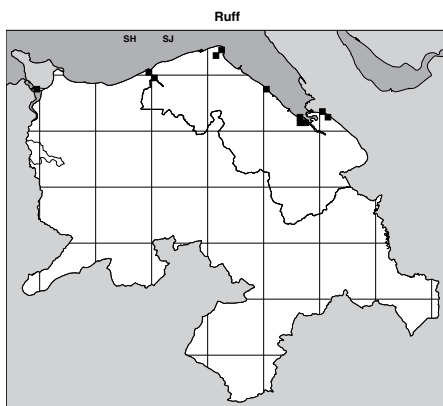
Passage migrant. Amber List.

(RU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	10
Maximum count	1	8
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	6
Number of records	2	35
% of BirdTrack lists	1.1	2.4
Density	0.00	0.14

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. Presence was recorded at Kinmel Bay on 18/04 and a single was at RSPB Conwy on 20/07.



Flints. During the first four months, counts were mainly 1 to 7, with a high count of 8 near Rhyl on 18/04 (WRM). The last spring record was 4 there on 22/04 (WRM). There was then a gap of three months until the first 'autumn' record of a single, also near Rhyl, on 30/07 (WRM). During the rest of the year numbers were low, with counts of 1 and 2, with a high count of 4 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 26/09 (DWN).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

PIBYDD CAMBIG

Passage migrant. Amber List.

(CV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	3
Maximum count	2	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	4
Number of records	1	13
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0	0.4
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

Denbs. The only record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 7/08, a month earlier than the 2017 record.

Flints. There were considerably fewer records than in 2017, with the first count of 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 8/07 (PeHa). Only 1 to 2 were seen, apart from records of 3 on two dates: RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 12/08 (WeBS) and at Connah's Quay NR on 8/10 (PeHa).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

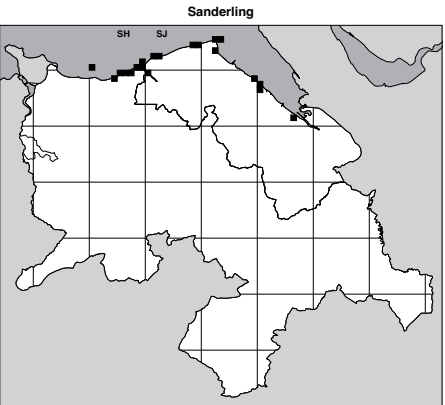
PIBYDD Y TYWOD

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

(SS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	8	12
Maximum count	200	140
Av max count prev 10 yrs	225	226
Number of records	32	42
% of BirdTrack lists	1.5	2.5
Density	0.81	2.85

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. Numbers were considerably lower than in 2017, such that during the first three months most counts were 1 to 40, with the year's maximum of 200+ at Horton's Nose on 11/01 (DCR). The last 'spring' record was a single at Pensarn on 14/03 (TBT). The first 'autumn' record was a single at Kinmel Bay on 14/08 (WRM). The other seven records for Oct to Dec were counts of 1 to 31 and 63 at Kinmel Bay on 14/10 (JPH).

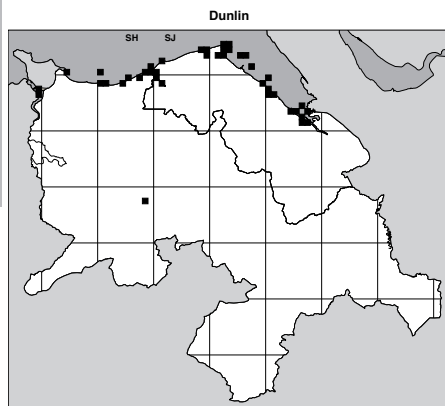
Flints. During Jan to Mar there were ten records of counts up to 25 and five of 50+, with a high of 80+ at Gronant dunes on 7/03 (WRM). In Apr there were two counts in single figures and six of 40+, with the year's maximum of 140+, again at Gronant dunes on 28/04 (WRM) which suggests a small amount of passage through the area. There were just three records in May, with counts of 1 to 27. The count of 27 was the last spring record at Connah's Quay NR on 27/05 (PeHa). The first 'autumn' record was a single near Rhyl on 7/08 (WRM) with 20 at Point of Ayr on 12/08 (WeBS). Numbers remained low (4 to 16), until there were 80+ at Point of Ayr on 23/10 (DWn). They remained low (2 to 25) until there were 115+ near Gronant on 10/12 (WRM).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

PIBYDD Y MAWN

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

(DN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	14	29
Maximum count	600	5000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	495	4600
Number of records	116	338
% of BirdTrack lists	11.1	15.9
Density	4.25	246.18



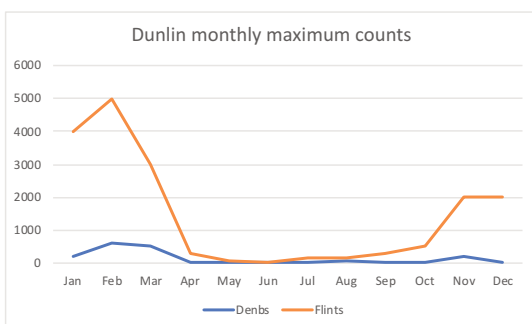
Recorded in each month in both counties. The overall pattern of counts was similar to those in 2017 with the year's maximum count during Feb.

Denbs. As in Flints, the first two months had the highest counts of 200+ in Jan, at Horton's Nose on 10/01 (NHu) and Kinmel Bay on 24/01 (DCR) and 600+ at Pensarn on 3/02 (DWn). Other counts were 1 to 550. During Mar there was movement away from our area, shown by high counts of 500+ at RSPB Conwy on 3/03 (WRM), feeding on mud exposed in the Afon Conwy as the tide retreated, and on 5/03 (WRM). After that date counts were lower with 100 at RSPB Conwy on 11/03 (RDJ) then counts dropped further to 1 to 61. During Apr to Oct counts were 1 to 22, with a high of 60+ at Kinmel Bay on 14/08 (WRM). Numbers remained low into Nov, with counts of 2 to 21, until 20/11 when there were 96 at RSPB Conwy (WRM), followed by 200+ there on 25/11 (TyC). During Dec there were low counts again, 1 to 30.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(DN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant	330	250	38	80	60		20	144	90	160	380	180
Point of Ayr	4000	1500		9	7	15	4	25	300	500	2000	450
Flint estuary		75	20							42	1010	582
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	600	5000	100					80	100	26	2000	500

Flints. The maximum count for the year was 5,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 18/02 (WeBS) with other counts during Jan and Feb of 1 to 4,000, with thirteen counts of 1,000+. There were three counts of over 1,000 in Mar, the biggest of which was 3,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 2/03 (PeHa). The latest was 1,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 4/03 (DWn). Numbers continued to drop during the first half of Mar such that in the second half counts were just 4 to 175, with a high WeBS count of 650 near Flint on 19/03. During Apr to Sep most counts were 1 to 144, with a single higher count of 290+ near Gronant on 28/04 (WRM). There was an increase during Oct, with most counts of 1 to 160 and four counts of 500: WeBS counts at White Sands and Point of Ayr on 7/10, at Point of Ayr on 23/10 (DWn) and at Connah's Quay NR on 24/10 (PeHa). The last two months showed evidence of a considerable influx of birds from elsewhere, with most counts of 1 to 900 and fourteen counts of 1,000+, with the eight highest counts of 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 9/11, 22/11 and 26/11 (DWn), at Point of Ayr on 11/11 and at Connah's Quay NR on 23/11, 25/11 and 8/12 (PeHa).



During Apr to Sep most counts were 1 to 144, with a single higher count of 290+ near Gronant on 28/04 (WRM). There was an increase during Oct, with most counts of 1 to 160 and four counts of 500: WeBS counts at White Sands and Point of Ayr on 7/10, at Point of Ayr on 23/10 (DWn) and at Connah's Quay NR on 24/10 (PeHa). The last two months showed evidence of a considerable influx of birds from elsewhere, with most counts of 1 to 900 and fourteen counts of 1,000+, with the eight highest counts of 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 9/11, 22/11 and 26/11 (DWn), at Point of Ayr on 11/11 and at Connah's Quay NR on 23/11, 25/11 and 8/12 (PeHa).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

PIBYDD DU

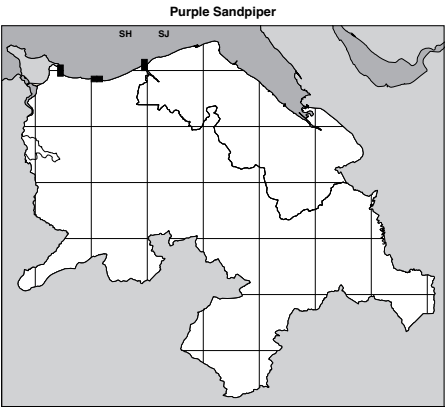
Winter visitor. Amber List.

(PS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	
Number of 1km squares	6	
Maximum count	8	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	
Number of records	9	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	
Density	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

Denbs. During the first four months most counts were 1 to 4, with 8 at Rhos-on-Sea on 18/02 (TBT). The last record of that period was 2 there on 9/04 (KeK, SvK). The only record in Dec was 4 at Llandulas on 24/12 (JDa).



Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

PIBYDD BACH

Passage migrant.

(LX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0	
Density	0.00	

Denbs. The only record this year was a single at RSPB Conwy on 25/09 (WRM).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

CYFFYLOG

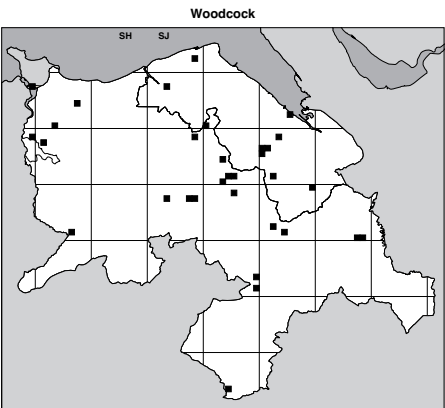
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

(WK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	23	9
Maximum count	18	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	7	5
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	
Number of records	28	13
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	0.3
Density	0.22	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

Denbs. All but six records were during the early months of the year, with all but two counts of singles. The exceptions were 2 at Coed Pant-glas, NW of Llangernyw, on 20/01 (LyS) and 7 near



Pentrefoelas on 10/03. The last record early in the year was a single at Rhos-y-brithdir, near Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, on 14/04 (DWs). The first autumn record was a single near Llangollen on 27/10 (JoG). The remaining records were singles, apart from 3 near Llangollen on 3/11 (JoG) and 2 at Moel y Gaer on 18/11 (GPI).

Flints. In contrast to Denbs, only three records were from the first three months – one record during each, all of singles. The last was at Flints saltmarsh on 2/03 (DWn). The first autumn record was a single at Rhydymwyn on 12/10 (MGW). All but one remaining record were singles, apart from 2 at Rhydymwyn on 9/11 (MGW).

Jack Snipe *Limnocryptes minimus*

GĪACH FACH

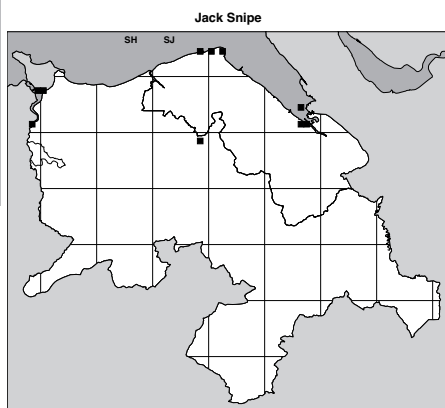
Winter visitor. Amber List.

(JS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	4	6
Maximum count	5	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	3
Number of records	8	36
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	0.8
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

Denbs. The records were of presence or singles except for 2 at Tal-y-cafn on 6/03 (HC). The last record of the winter was at RSPB Conwy on 17/03 and the first of autumn was also at RSPB Conwy on 8/10.



Flints. The majority of records was from Connah's Quay NR and most were singles with counts of 1 to 3. The highest count was 5 there on 3/01 (PeHa). Only seven records were during the early months. The last early winter record was a single near Gronant on 7/03 and the first 'autumn' record was a single at Talacre on 5/11.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

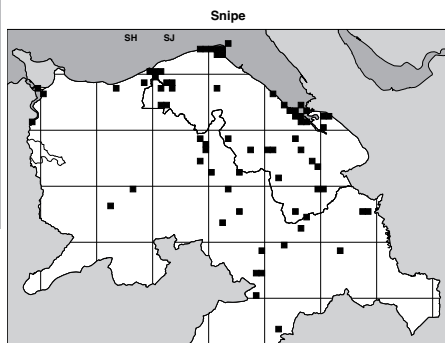
GĪACH GYFFREDIN

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

(SN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	31	42
Maximum count	65	83
Av max count prev 10 yrs	61	71
Number of records	233	293
% of BirdTrack lists	15.0	10.9
Density	1.05	5.92
Max breeding evidence	D	

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

Denbs. Most of the records were from RSPB

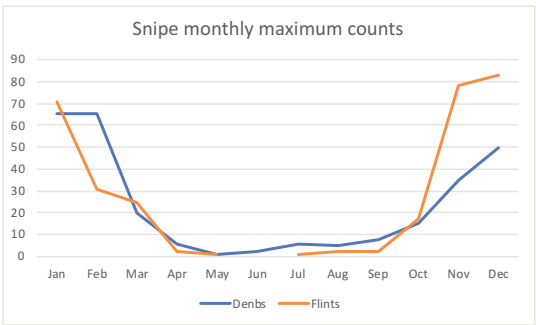


Conwy and during Jan counts were 1 to 43 with a high count of 65 on 4/01 (PJW), which was also the high count of Feb, too, on 7/02 (KeK, SvK). Other counts were 1 to 6. During Mar birds moved away and the high count was down to 20 at Erddig pool, Wrexham, on 10/03 (N Hu). During Apr to ,Oct most counts were 1 to 8 with a high of 15 at RSPB Conwy on 11/10 (WRM). During Nov and Dec, it was clear that Snipe had returned from breeding areas, with counts of 1 to 26 and highs of 35+ on 25/11 (GrJ) and 50+ on 4/12 (KeK, SvK), both at RSPB Conwy. There were just two records of breeding activity – one of possible and one of probable breeding.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(SN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	106	87	45	5			2	4	13	3	37	35
Flint, estuary		8									29	4
Connah's Quay NR	71	20	3						2	3	52	3

Flints. There was a welcome increase in the number of records. During Jan, most counts were of 1 to 64, with a high WeBS count of 71 at Connah's Quay NR on 21/01. Numbers dropped in Feb with most counts 1 to 26 and a high of 31 near Rhuddlan on 20/02 (SH). During Mar there were still good numbers of records with counts of 1 to 16, with a high of 25 at Connah's Quay NR on 6/03 (PeHa). There were four records in Apr of 1 or 2 and a single record in May of presence at Rhydymwyn on 6/05. The next record was a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 4/07 (PeHa) and from then to the end of Oct most counts were 1 to 10, with a high of 17 at Connah's Quay NR on 30/10 (PeHa). Numbers of records and birds increased markedly during Nov and Dec, with counts in Nov of 1 to 52 and a high of 78 at Connah's Quay NR on 29/11 (PeHa). In Dec counts were 1 to 80, with a high of 83 at Connah's Quay NR on 2/12 (PeHa).



Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

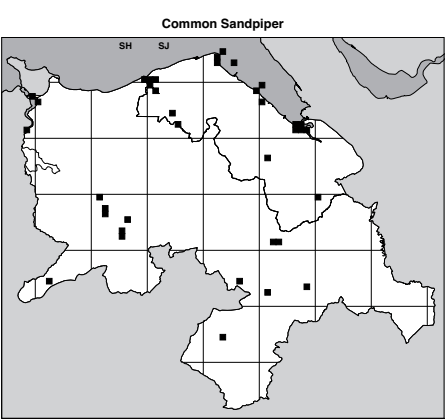
PIBYDD Y DORLAN

Passage migrant and breeding visitor. Red List.

(CS)	Denbs	Flints
	Uncommon	Uncommon
Occurrence		
Number of 1km squares	18	19
Maximum count	15	10
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	23
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	1/21
Number of records	78	162
% of BirdTrack lists	5.8	4.1
Density	0.14	0.32
Max breeding evidence	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

Denbs. The only Feb record was presence at Tal-y-cafn on 15/02. The next was a single at RSPB Conwy on 4/04 (RLE). Most records in Apr were



counts of 1 to 7, with a high of 15 near Kinmel Bay on the W shore of the Afon Clwyd, just S of the railway bridge on 18/04 (WRM). During May records were of presence, 1 or 2 and during Jun most counts were 1 or 2 with 7 seen dive-bombing a Carrion Crow by the Afon Serw, near Moelfryn-Serw in the Migneint, on 20/06. There was also a total of 8 (2 pairs and 4 chicks) at Llyn Aled Isaf on 12/06 (WRM), the only location for confirmed breeding. During Jul most counts were 1 to 3, with 4 at or near Llyn Aled Isaf on 8/07 (WRM). There were only five records during Aug and Sep, of 1 or 2, and the last record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 6/09 (JPH).

Flints. During Jan and Feb, all but one record were of single birds, the exception being 5 at Connah's Quay NR on 4/01 (ETh). During Mar and Apr counts were 1 to 6, except for 7 at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR on 18/04 (JPH, HC). During May to Aug counts were 1 to 4 and during Sep to Dec were 1 to 5, except for a WeBS count of 10 near Rhuddlan on 10/09.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

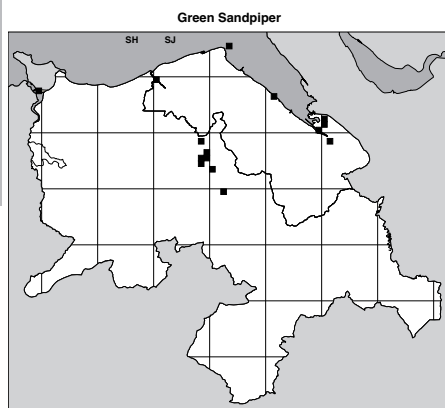
PIBYDD GWYRDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP

(GE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	8	7
Maximum count	2	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	4
Number of records	13	11
% of BirdTrack lists	0.5	0.7
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



Denbs. During Jan to Mar there were five records of singles and one of 2 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 26/03 (JPH). The first 'autumn' record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 19/07 (WRM). The remaining records were singles, apart from 2 at RSPB Conwy on 2/08 (WRM). The last record was a single near Rhuthun on 30/12 (GPI).

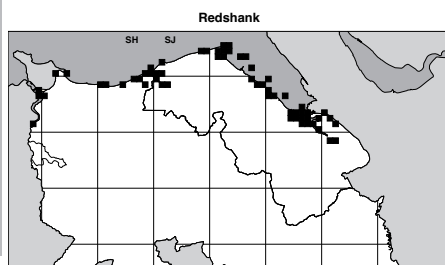
Flints. During Jan and Feb records were of singles, the last at Queensferry on 23/02 (DWn). The first 'autumn' record was a single near Rhyl on 26/07 (WRM). Records for the rest of the year were of 1 or 2 apart from 4 at Shotton Paper Mill on 11/09 (IMS).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

PIBYDD COESGOCH

Possible breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

(RK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	16	46
Maximum count	500	6000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	491	3306
Recorded in BBS squares		2/21
Number of records	295	672
% of BirdTrack lists	24.8	28.9
Density	4.05	468.59
Max breeding evidence	T	



Recorded in each month in both counties. The pattern of maximum counts is unlike that of other waders that occur in this area. It is strongly suggestive of short-term presence of birds, in Flints, on autumn passage, presumably towards the S.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(RK)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	171	643	145	307		5	220	751	665	316	421	408
Point of Ayr	150	150	17	40	6		34	70	200	500	300	300
Mostyn				250			240	980	1345	334	51	57
Flint, estuary	75	170	60							945	218	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	300	100	2000	400			120	1200	1000	500	670	299

Denbs. During Jan about half of the records were of presence. Most counts were 2 to 150, with two notably higher counts: 380+ on 2/01 and 260+ on 23/01, both at RSPB Conwy (WRM). During Feb nearly three-quarters of records were of presence. The few counts were mainly of 4 to 40, again with two higher counts: 205 at Kinnel Bay on 18/02 (WRM) and 212 at RSPB Conwy on 21/02 (JPH). During Mar there was also a high proportion of records of presence. Counts were 3 to 250, with a high of 380+ at RSPB Conwy on 28/03 (WRM). During Apr to Jun, apart from the records of presence, counts were mainly 2 to 93, with six counts of 100+ and the highest was 200 at RSPB Conwy on 25/04 (KeK, SvK). During Jul and Aug most of the relatively few counts were 2 to 220,

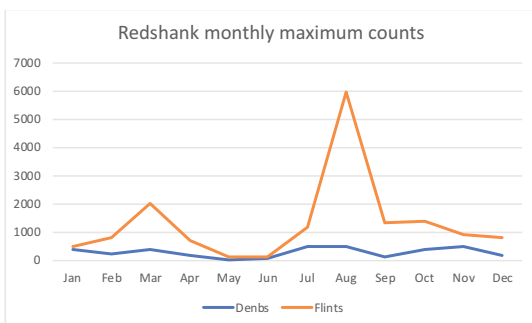
with high counts of 475+ at RSPB Conwy and 415+ there on 8/08 (WRM). There were only nine records during Sep with a high, WeBS, count of 127 pm 8/09 at Horton's Nose. During Oct and Nov most counts were 1 to 370, with 500+ at RSPB Conwy on 9/11 (WRM). Numbers dropped during Dec, with most counts of 1 to 174 and a high of 180+ at RSPB Conwy on 20/12 (WRM).

Flints. During Jan there were many records, mainly from locations in the Dee estuary. Counts were mainly 1 to 80, with twenty-four records of 100+. The highest counts of 500 were both from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 25/01 and 31/01 (DWn). There were many records during Feb, with counts of 1 to 80 and sixteen records of 100+. The highest count was 800 at Connah's Quay NR on 13/02 (PeHa). There was evidence of spring passage during Mar. Most counts were 1 to 1,000 with a higher, WeBS, count of 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 18/03. Numbers dropped during Apr with a high of 700 at White Sands on 11/04 (PeHa), then during May and Jun



Redshank (Malcolm Down)

there were relatively small numbers of Redshank in the area, with few records and a high count of 150 at Connah's Quay NR on 30/05 (PeHa). Birds returned during Jul with a WeBS count of 630 at Connah's Quay NR as early as 15/07. During the latter half of Jul there were nineteen records or 100+ and the high count was 1,200 at Connah's Quay NR on 30/07 (PeHa). There were more records in Aug with sixteen records of 1,000+ and the year's maximum of 6,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 26/08 (PeHa). The majority of those birds had moved through quickly, as counts were down to a high of 1,345 at Mostyn on 9/09 (WeBS). During Oct there were two counts of 1,000+, with a high of 1,400 at Connah's Quay NR on 10/10 (PeHa). There was a further reduction during Nov and Dec, with a high of 900 at Connah's Quay NR on 9/11 (PeHa), with other counts of 1 to 810.



Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

Vagrant. RBBP.

(OD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	
Number of 1km squares	2	
Maximum count	1	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	0	
Number of records	14	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	
Density	0.00	

Denbs. All the records were of presence or a single at RSPB Conwy between 8/08 and 22/08.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

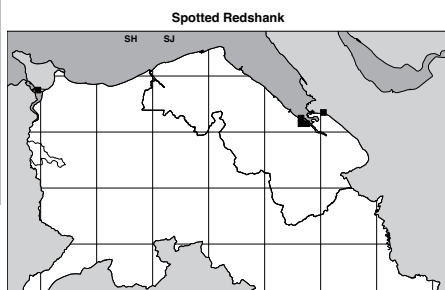
PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

(DR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	1	5
Maximum count	1	24
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	16
Number of records	1	143
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	2.9
Density	0.00	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



Denbs. The only record was a single flying over RSPB Conwy on 17/09 (WRM).

Flints. All records were from Connah's Quay NR. During Jan to Mar counts were 1 to 6. There was one record in May of 2 on 30/05. During Jun counts were 1 to 3. In Jul there were a few more, with a high of 12 on 31/07 (PeHa). Numbers dropped during the first half of Aug (1 to 11) and in the latter there were a few more with several counts of 10+ and a high of 16 on 29/08 (PeHa). There were only five records during Sep of 2 to 11 but rather more records in Oct, with six counts of 20+ and a

high of 24 on 7/10 (WeBS) and on 8/10 (PeHa). During the last two months there were fewer present, with counts of 1 to 14.

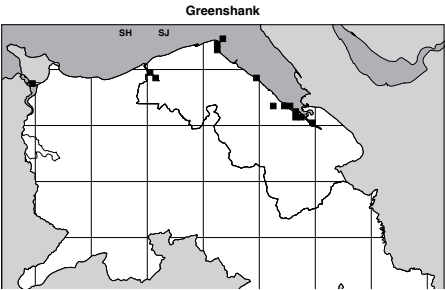
Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

PIBYDD COESWERDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP.

(GK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	1	14
Maximum count	10	27
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	21
Number of records	21	298
% of BirdTrack lists	2.5	6.9
Density	0.01	0.64

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



Denbs. All the records were from RSPB Conwy. During Mar and Apr, the high count was 9 on 15/04 (LG). The only record in Jul was a single, heard on 3/07 (WRM). The first autumn record was 3 on 18/09 (WRM). During Oct to Dec counts were mainly 1 to 9 with a high of 10 on 24/11 (DWn).

Greenshank (Malcolm Down)



Flints. The majority of records were from Connah's Quay NR. During Jan to Mar counts were mainly 1 to 10, with a high of 20 on 3/01 (PeHa). During Apr to Jun counts were mainly 1 to 3. Then during Jul to Sep counts were mainly 1 to 24, with twelve counts of 20+ and high counts of 27 on 16/09 and 19/09 (PeHa). During Oct to Dec the highest counts were all in the first half of Oct (a high of 23 on 5/10), after which counts were mainly 1 to 12, with 14 on 9/11 (WeBS) and 7/12 (PeHa).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

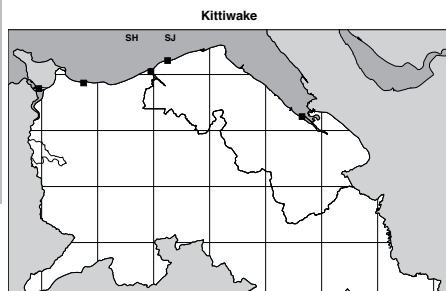
GWYLAN GOES DDU

Passage migrant. Red List.

(KI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	2
Maximum count	6	9
Av max count prev 10 yrs	22	9
Number of records	3	2
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.1
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



There were rather fewer records this year than in 2017. All records were coastal.

Denbs. There were two spring records: 2 at Colwyn Bay on 24/03 (GrJ) and a single at RSPB Conwy on 15/05. There was also a late record of 6 at Kinnel Bay on 19/12 (PEM).

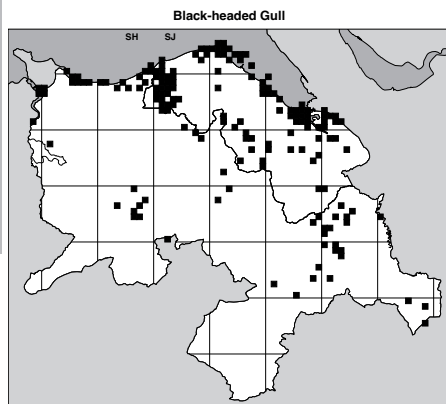
Flints. There were only two records this year: a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 19/01 and 8 at Rhyl on 25/08 (RLE).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

GWYLAN BENDDU

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

(BH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	68	100
Maximum count	1650	5500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1512	2307
Recorded in BBS squares		4/21
Number of records	567	860
% of BirdTrack lists	37.9	49.7
Density	56.78	933.79
Max breeding evidence	FL	ON



Recorded in each month in both counties. Similar numbers were seen to previous years but of note was a high maximum count in Flints, which was over double the 10-year average.

Denbs. The majority of records showed presence only. The highest numbers were seen over the winter months at Llanddulas and near Bodfari. The maximum count of 1,650 was at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 5/02 (JPH). Counts of 1,000 were both recorded at Llanddulas on 17/02 (JFJ) and 25/02 (PEM). During the summer months, four records

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(BH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	22	59	189	3		34	961	538	149	56	191	7
Point of Ayr E	20	2					1100	400	300	200		
White Sands	2	88	12	119	28	170	130	350	12	15		110
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	54	300	700	21	100	150	230	1200	240	300		60

Black-headed Gull (Hugh Linn)



showed good numbers of 400 or more at RSPB Conwy with the peak count of 450 on 8/08 (WRM). Only four records had breeding codes; probable breeding at RSPB Conwy from a count of 30 adults on 7/08 (GfT) and possible breeding with 4 adults present at Llyn Bran on 13/06 (GG). There were two records of confirmed breeding at two locations in the Towyn / Kinmel Bay area, but it is doubtful



Black-headed Gull (Malcolm Down)

of the fledged young were reared in that vicinity. A juvenile (colour ring Yellow on right leg, TW7E), seen at Gresford Flash on 28/07, had been ringed as a nestling near Mazowieckie, Poland on 17/06, 1,640 km away (HL).

Flints. Many records showed presence only. The Afon Clwyd between Rhyl and Rhuddlan had 15% of the total records (129/860), where numbers peaked at 2,000 on 13/02 (SH). Good numbers of records also came from Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR, especially the first and last three months of the year, and Connah's Quay NR, mainly of summer sightings. Highest counts of 5,500 were seen on two consecutive days at adjacent sites; Connah's Quay NR on 26/01 (PeHa) and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 27/01 (DWn). Nestlings at the Shotton Steelworks breeding site were ringed on two dates; 131 on 15/07 and 4 on 5/08 (both pBH).

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*
Passage migrant. Amber List.

GWYLAN FECHAN

(LU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence		Rare
Number of 1km squares		3
Maximum count		1
Av max count prev 10 yrs		2
Number of records	0	3
% of BirdTrack lists		0.1
Density		0.01

Flints. All records were of singles. As in 2017, the first was seen in the Welsh section of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 18/05 (DWn) and the second at Connah's Quay NR on 2/08 (PeHa). What was probably the same bird was seen close by at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on the same day (PeHa).

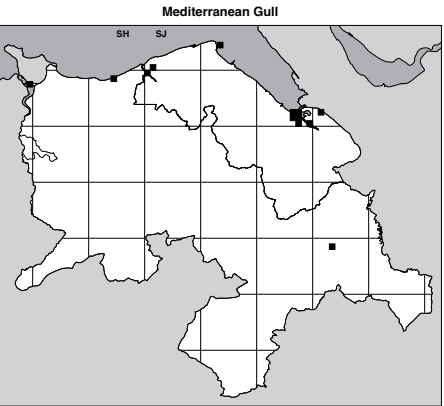
Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyæetus melanocephalus*
Visitor. RBBP.

GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

(MU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	10
Maximum count	2	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	3
Number of records	4	35
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	1.5
Density	0.00	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

A species continuing to see fluctuation across the region. For the second year running there was a decrease in records seen in Denbs and a slight increase of records in Flints. There has been no known attempt at breeding in this area as yet.



Denbs. The first record was a single at Pensarn on 6/02. At RSPB Conwy there were two sightings; 2 seen on 11/03 (RDJ) was also the maximum count and presence was recorded on 15/07. A single was at Erddig on 24/10.

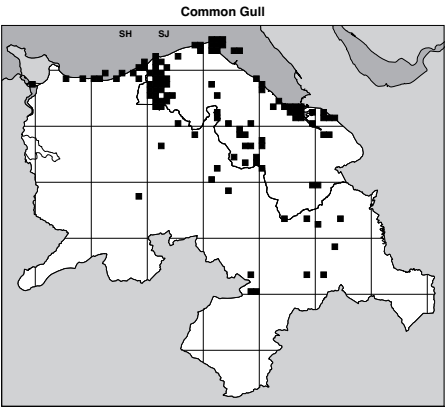
Flints. Sightings were generally of individuals. The maximum count of 2 were seen at eight locations, including a record from a high-tide count at Shotton (WeBs). Most records, almost three-quarters of the total (26/35), came from Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

GWYLAN GWEUNYDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

(CM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	37	77
Maximum count	300	1500
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1670	1910
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	
Number of records	159	472
% of BirdTrack lists	13.4	29.9
Density	5.62	196.10



Recorded in every month in Flints and every month except Jun in Denbs. Although the maximum counts were lower than in the last few years, numbers of records increased substantially, especially in Flints and the number of three-figure counts increased almost threefold in Flints.

Denbs. During Jan to Mar there were eight three-figure counts, half of which were at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, with a maximum of 198 on 26/03 (JPH). A further three 100+ counts were also inland on pasture: at Crebena, with 200 on 22/01, Pendre with 100 on 7/02 and Llanbedr with 225 on 18/02 (all GPI). The only coastal three-figure count was of 100+ at Llanddulas on 25/02 (PEM). There were only two reports in May and Jul, one in Aug and three in Sep, before numbers started returning in the autumn, with a further three 100+ counts in Nov and Dec, of which 300 at Gellifor on 10/12 was the highest of the year (TP).

Flints. Between the start of Jan and early Apr there were fifty-nine counts of 100+, as against only fourteen in the first four months of 2017. These were largely concentrated in three areas, with twenty-six such counts in the Rhuddlan area, seventeen in the Flint/Connah's Quay/ Shotwick coastal area and nine in the inland Cilcain area. The highest counts in each of these areas were 1,500 near Rhuddlan on 9/02 (SH), 1,500 on Shotwick Fields on 19/02 (WeBS) and 900 at Penbedw, near Cilcain on 18/02 (GEM). The largest count elsewhere was of 700 at Point of Ayr on 18/03 (WeBS). After the middle of Apr there were only two reports in May and five in Jun but returning birds started arriving in large numbers in Jul, with 900 at Ffynnongroyw Bay on 15/07, rising to an autumn maximum of 1,300 on 12/08, but then dropping to 700 on 9/09, 160 on 7/10, 20 on 11/11 and 31 on 9/12 (all WeBS). Elsewhere there were a further six counts of 100+ between Jul and Dec but numbers were generally lower at key sites than during the spring.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

(GB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	29	42
Maximum count	51	80
Av max count prev 10 yrs	26	86
Recorded in BBS squares		2/21
Number of records	264	410
% of BirdTrack lists	21.9	22.6
Density	0.75	5.70
Max breeding evidence	NY	

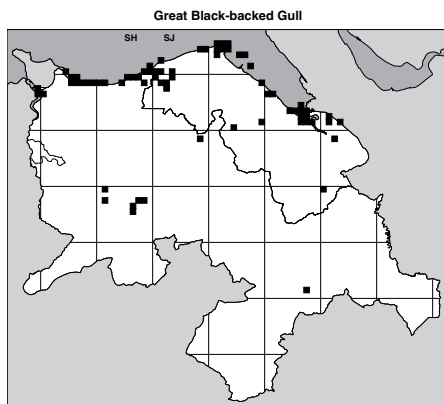
Recorded in each month in both counties: a 13.5% decrease in Denbs reports, but a 30% increase in Flints. 95.5% of records were from coastal locations.

Denbs. The majority of records were of presence in coastal locations, with only twenty-nine reports from four inland sites at Bodfari, Mynydd Hiraethog, Froncysyllte and Llyn Brenig. During Jan to Mar the highest count was 51 at Llanddulas on 11/01 (JPH), which turned

out to be the highest Denbs count of the year. There were eight other two-figure counts of 10-30. The spring and summer months of Apr to Jul generated more records than in 2017, with successful breeding proved at Llyn Brenig and probable at Mynydd Hiraethog. Numbers stayed low until Sep, with seven counts of 10-30 in the last four months of the year, the highest being at least 30 at RSPB Conwy on 25/11 (TyC).

Flints. There was only one inland record throughout the entire year. In the first three months there were twenty-four two-figure counts of 10 to 30 and three counts of 60 at Hope on 11/01, 15/01 and 17/01 (per WeBS). During Apr to Jun there were only seven two-figure counts of 10 to 25 and there were no reports of breeding this year.

Numbers increased during Jul to Sep with eighteen two-figure counts of 10 to 41 and 71 at Gronant on 9/09 (per WeBS). The maximum was near Rhyl on 12/09 (JPH). During Oct to Dec numbers increased, with twenty-eight two-figure counts of 10 to 48 and two counts of over 50: 75 at Burton Point on 11/11 (WeBS) and 80+ at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22/11 (DWn).



WeBS counts from selected sites:

(GB)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant		7	12	14	13		10	22	71	37	41	48
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh / Flint estuary	7	20	16	6	3	7	3	14	15	7	11	3

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Winter visitor.

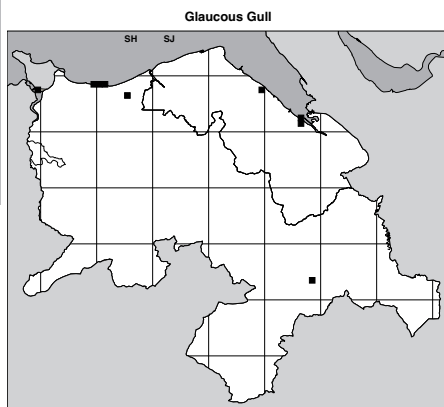
GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

(GZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	6	3
Maximum count	1	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	0
Number of records	35	11
% of BirdTrack lists	1.5	0.5
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

Denbs. It is presumed that most of the sightings were of one individual around the Llanddulas and Abergele area. A single was present on 1/01 at Llanddulas (JcS) and sightings were made throughout Jan. Records were infrequent during the rest of the year, with the final record on 8/08 (JFJ), a full two months later than the penultimate sighting. There were only two records from elsewhere; singles at Acrefair Pool on 14/01 (SD) and RSPB Conwy on 11/03 (RDJ).



Flints. All records were of singles, with both the RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR sites sharing all but one of the records; Greenfield provided a single on 27/01 (DWn). The first record

came from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 12/01 (DWn). The last sighting of the year, and the only record not from Jan, was at Connah's Quay NR on 28/04 (PeHa).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

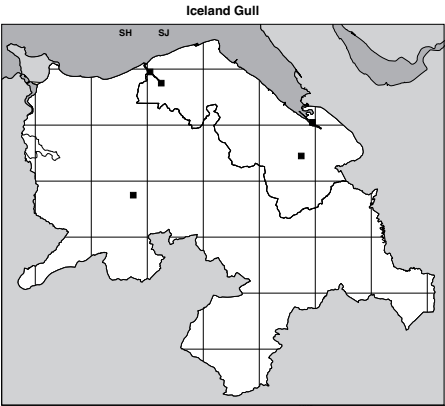
Winter visitor.

(IG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	4
Maximum count	1	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	0
Number of records	1	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.2
Density	0.00	0.01

Unusually, three of the five records were inland and only two strictly coastal.

Denbs. A single was at Llyn Brenig on 5/04 (PDS).

Flints. Three reports were in Mar and one in early May: 2 were at Rhuddlan on 26/03 (SH) and the others were singles. A single was at Rhyl on 6/05 (JPH).



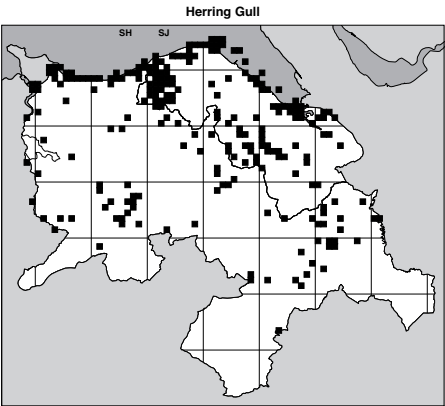
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

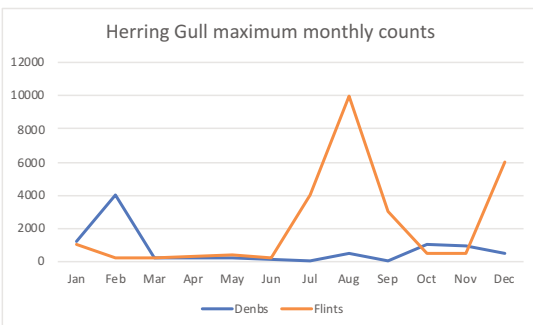
(HG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	119	115
Maximum count	4000	10000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1894	2442
Recorded in BBS squares	11/31	15/21
Number of records	906	907
% of BirdTrack lists	56.1	58.6
Density	240.89	1952.46
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a slight decrease (10.9%) in Denbs records, but a 20.6% increase in Flints and maximum counts were higher in both counties than in 2017. However, the number of three- and four-figure counts was much reduced in Denbs.



Denbs. Over half of the records were of singles or presence only. In Jan to Mar the maximum count was 4,000+ at Pensarn on 3/02 (DWn), with one other four-figure count in this period of 1,257 at Llanddulas on 11/01 (JPH). There were twenty-three-figure counts of 100 to 300, almost all coastal with the highest inland count of 267 at Gresford Flash on 1/01 (IMS). During Apr to Jul there were seven three-figure counts of 100 to 250, with 250+ at Llyn Brenig on 19/05 (SD) the largest. Numbers did not pick up significantly in Aug and Sep with only three three-figure counts, the highest of which

was 500+ at Rhos-on-Sea on 13/08 (KeK; SvK). During the last three months the highest count was 1,000+ at Kinmel Bay on 1/10 (KeK; SvK) and there were nine three-figure counts of 100 to 900, with the highest of 900+ at Llanddulas on 2/11 (PEM). Breeding was confirmed in eight 1km squares, mainly on the coast but also in two 1km squares at Llyn Brenig.



Flints. Here a third of the records were singles or presence only and throughout each quarter the highest numbers came from WeBS counts at Point of Ayr. During Jan to Mar the highest count was 1,000 at Point of Ayr on 15/01 (WeBS) with twenty-six three-figure counts of 100 to 500+, with the best count at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 14/01 (DWn). Between Apr and Jul there was one four-figure count of 4,000 at Point of Ayr on 15/07 (WeBS), and sixteen three-figure counts of 100 to 392, with the best count at Rhuddlan on 20/05 WeBS). Numbers built up rapidly in Aug and Sep, with a massive 10,000 at Point of Ayr on 12/08 and two four-figure counts in the first half of Sep: 3,000 at Point of Ayr on 9/09 (WeBS) and 2,500+ at Talacre on 14/09 (DCR). There were thirteen three-figure counts of 100 to 633 during these two months, with the largest report of 633 at Gronant on 9/09 (WeBS). High counts were maintained during Oct to Dec, with four four-figure counts, the highest of which was 6,000 at Point of Ayr on 9/12 (WeBS) and a further thirty-four three-figure counts of 100-724, the best being at Rhyl on 27/12 (JPH). Breeding was only confirmed at one site near the coast.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(HG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	106	155	158	180	237	277	217	88	689	34	138	66
near Rhuddlan	45	79		128	392		25		480	283	340	1000
Gronant	125	150	142	302	380		380		633	515	134	1600
Point of Ayr	1000		47		65	250	4000	10000	3010	300	17	6000
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	3	12	24	8	12			36	23	20		12

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

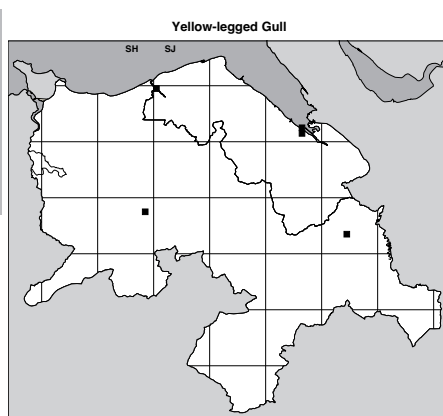
GWYLAN GOES FELEN

Visitor. RBBP.

(YG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	3
Maximum count	1	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	1
Number of records	2	6
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	0.2
Density	0.00	0.01

Denbs. Records of both singles were in Nov, at Llyn Brenig on 15/11 (WRM) and Gresford Flash on 25/11 (HL).

Flints. The two sightings at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh were the first and last of the year; singles seen on 9/03 (DWn) and 9/09 (WeBs). There were two records of singles present between Rhyl and



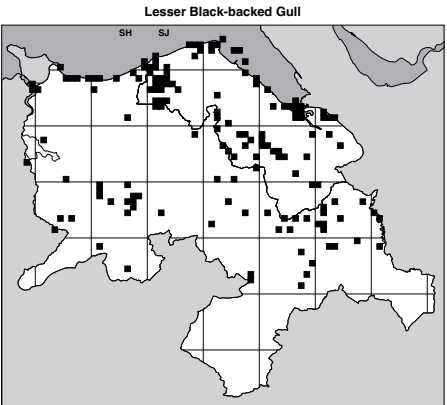
Rhuddlan; on 19/07 and 10/08 (JPH). There was a single at Connah's Quay NR; on 30/07 (PeHa).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF

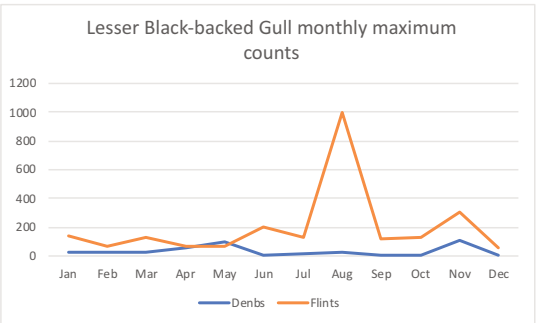
Passage migrant and breeding resident. Amber List.

(LB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	80	73
Maximum count	100	1000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	639	208
Recorded in BBS squares	5/31	9/21
Number of records	334	549
% of BirdTrack lists	27.1	29.5
Density	4.05	123.94
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a reduction of 12.3% in Denbs records, but an increase of 15.6% in Flints.

Denbs. Over half of the records (57.2%) were of singles or presence only. In the first three months there were only four counts of 20: at Gresford Flash on 1/01 (KS), Llanddulas on 21/02 and 25/02 (PEM) and Acrefair on 22/03 (NH). There were no higher counts during this quarter. During Apr to Jun numbers increased, with three counts of 20 to 34, two of 52 to 80, the higher being at Glasfryn on 5/05 (JDu), and one count of 100+ at Llyn Brenig on 19/05 (SD). Numbers decreased in the third quarter, with only one count of over 20: 21 at RSPB Conwy on 9/08 (JPH) and decreased still further in the final quarter of the year, with only twenty-three reports, all of 1 to 2. Breeding was again confirmed at two coastal sites and Llyn Brenig.



Flints. Only a third of the records were merely of singles or presence and numbers were significantly higher throughout the year than in Denbs, with most of the high counts coming from the Dee estuary at Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. In the first quarter there were fifteen counts of 20 to 47, four of 50 to 68 and two three-figure counts, the highest being 130 at Connah's Quay NR on a WeBS count on 18/03. High counts increased during Apr-Jun, with sixteen reports of 20 to 43, eight of 50 to 67 and two three-figure counts at Connah's Quay NR, with 100 on 2/06 and 200 on 10/06 (PeHa). The third quarter was still more productive, with fourteen counts of 20 to 49, twelve of 50 to 87, two of 130 to 500 and one of 1,000 on 2/08. Apart from a count of 87 at Rhyl on 19/07 (JPH) all the counts of 50+ came from Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. Numbers

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(LB)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	2		18	6	9	5	4			1		
near Rhuddlan		3		32	28		2		10	5		10
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	23	30		7	60	56	70	500	120	130	80	45

declined in the final three months of the year, with only ninety-five reports, though these still included five of 20 to 49, two of 50 to 93 and four three figure counts, with the highest at Connah's Quay NR on 8/11 (PeHa). Breeding was confirmed at one coastal site at Rhyl.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*

MÔRWENNOL BIGDDU

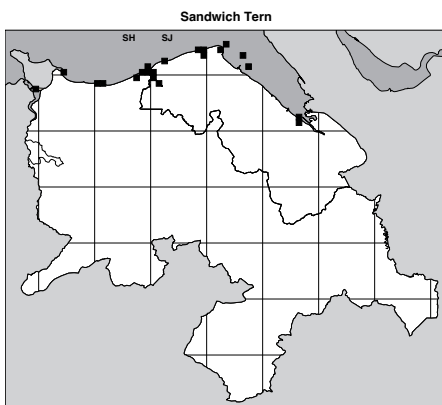
Summer migrant. Amber List.

(TE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	8	13
Maximum count	100	620
Av max count prev 10 yrs	320	754
Number of records	27	52
% of BirdTrack lists	2.8	3.6
Density	0.40	13.68

Seen in these months

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

Denbs. The first sighting was on 9/04, with 2 at Rhos-on-Sea (KeK, SvK). A minimum of 15 were seen at Rhyl Harbour on 26/04 (SM) but generally small numbers were recorded until the period around autumn passage. The maximum count of 100 came on 13/08 at Rhos-on-Sea (KeK, SvK). A good number was also seen at Kinmel Bay with 55 on 14/08 (WRM) and this was also the location of the last sighting; a single on 1/10 (KeK, SvK).



Flints. At least one individual was present near Rhyl on 18/04 (WRM). Most records were entered during Jul and Aug, when numbers were at their greatest. Near Rhuddlan, 230 were recorded on 15/07 (WeBs), then on 19/07 to the N of Rhuddlan along the Afon Clwyd came a higher count of 287 (JPH). The peak count on the Afon Clwyd was 620 on 30/07 (WRM) and this was also the highest recorded for the year. There were regular sightings along the Dee estuary between Connah's Quay NR and Gronant dunes, with the last record of 8 at the latter site on 20/09 (DO).

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

MÔRWENNOL FECHAN

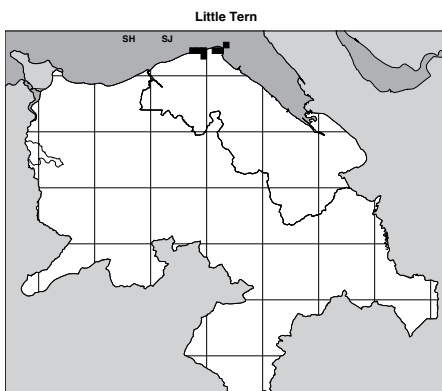
Passage migrant and summer breeding visitor. Red List. RBBP.

(AF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence		Common
Number of 1km squares		7
Maximum count		172
Av max count prev 10 yrs		372
Number of records	0	56
% of BirdTrack lists		3.1
Density		2.04
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

Flints. The first arrival was on 28/04 at Gronant (WRM). Records were almost exclusively from the



breeding sites of Gronant and Point of Ayr / Talacre. The exception was 2 seen at Barkby Beach, Prestatyn on 3/06. This was notable as sightings this distance from the breeding colony are uncommon (pAOH). The number of breeding pairs at the Gronant colony increased to a new high of 171 and had a productive season with 192 fledglings (HC et al, Little Tern Report 2018). Sadly, the one pair at Point of Ayr failed to fledge young (pAGr). Merseyside Ringing Group had eleven days ringing at Gronant between 4/06 and 25/07, adding rings to a total of 302 nestlings and 53 adults (pBH). The last sighting was on 15/08 with 150 at Talacre (GRMP).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

MÔRWENNOL GYFFREDIN

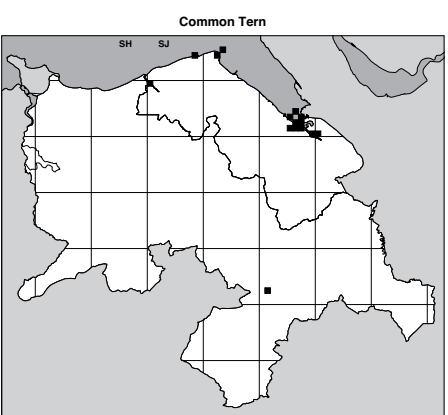
Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Red List.

(CN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very common
Number of 1km squares	1	15
Maximum count	1	400
Av max count prev 10 yrs	11	371
Number of records	1	100
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	1.3
Density	0.00	10.19

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. Absent other than an unusual record of a single at Llangollen on 23/06 (DaHu).

Flints. The first sighting was at Connah's Quay NR, a minimum of 3 present on 22/04 (NHu). Most sightings were connected to the breeding colony at Shotton Steelworks with almost three-quarters of all records from nearby Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (74/100). The first record from Shotton was 250 on 20/05 and numbers rose to the maximum count of 400 on 15/07 (WeBs). Three ringing sessions led to a total of 370 nestlings, a slight reduction from 2017, at the Shotton breeding colony; 240 on 24/06, 65 on 15/07 and 65 on 5/08 (pBH). The last sighting was a single on 9/09 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR (PeHa).



Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

MÔRWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Passage migrant. Red List.

(AE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence		Very scarce
Number of 1km squares		3
Maximum count		7
Av max count prev 10 yrs		6
Number of records	0	5
% of BirdTrack lists		0.1
Density		0.04

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

Flints. The first record was a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 23/04 (DWn). A single was seen at Connah's Quay NR on 7/05 and this was followed by 7 there on 13/05 (PeHa), the maximum count for the year. Two records showed presence at Gronant later in the season; on 8/06 (RoMy) and finally on 19/07 (JfJ).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

CORSWENNOL DDU

Passage migrant.

(BJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence		Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Av max count prev 10 yrs		3
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		0.0
Density		0.00

Flints. The only record was a single at Shotwick Fields on 29/05 (MGW).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

SGIWEN FAWR

Passage migrant.

(NX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence		Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Av max count prev 10 yrs		1
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		0.0
Density		0.00

Flints. A single was seen close inshore at Gronant dunes on 15/08 (GRMP).

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

GWYLOG

Winter and autumn visitor. Amber List.

(GU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	8	3
Maximum count	500	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	8
Number of records	17	6
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	0.0
Density	2.02	0.01

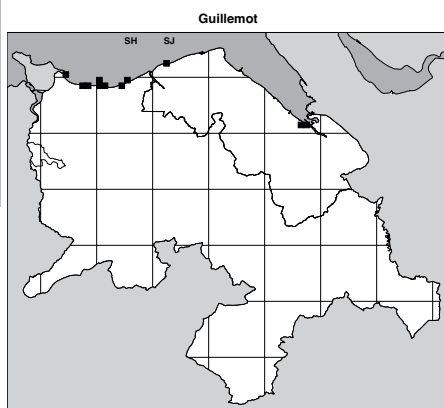
Seen in these months

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

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

Denbs. There were more reports than in 2017, with ten in Jan and Feb and then a gap through the main breeding season, with further single records from Aug to Dec. All records were of 1 to 4, except for 12+ at Llanddulas on 21/02 (PEM) and an unprecedented 500+ off Llanddulas on 21/10 (JFJ). This figure of 500 has been verified and a similar number of Razorbills was observed at the same time and place.

Flints. All records were of singles off Connah's Quay NR between 27/08 and 27/09 (PeHa), except for 2 off Rhyl on 18/09 (RLE).



Razorbill *Alca torda*

LLURS

Winter visitor

(RA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	
Number of 1km squares	3	
Maximum count	500	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	
Number of records	7	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.5	
Density	0.76	

These auks breed on the Ormes which are just outside the reporting area. All 2018 sightings were on the Llanddulas to Rhos-on-Sea coast during the winter; there were only seven records in 2018 at three locations, which is around average, but none of these were in Flints.

Denbs. The highest count was an unprecedented 500 at Llanddulas on 20/10

(JfJ), compared to last year's typical highest count of 6. This figure of 500 has been verified and a similar number of Guillemots was observed at the same time and place. Five other records came from Rhos-on-Sea, with 1 on 8/02, 1 on 9/03, 1 on 21/09 and 2 on 6/11. There were also 5 on 24/03 at Colwyn Bay (GrJ) and 2 on 22/04 at Llanddulas.

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

GWYLOG DDU

Visitor.

(TY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	0	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0	
Density	0.00	

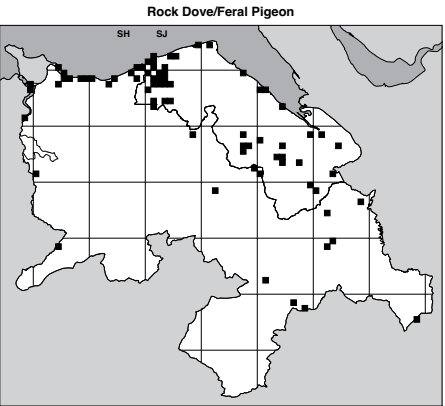
Denbs. One record of a single on 13/11 Rhos-on-sea (KeK, SvK). This was the first record since 2015.

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

COLOMEN Y GRAIG

Breeding resident.

(FP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	35	40
Maximum count	170	116
Av max count prev 10 yrs	116	54
Recorded in BBS squares		3/21
Number of records	325	391
% of records from GBW	0.00	30.43
% of BirdTrack lists	26.3	22.8
Density	3.01	7.88
Max breeding evidence	NY	ON



Recorded in each month in both counties. Although there are many truly feral birds nesting at quarries, bridges and other man-made structures, with Rhyl, Kinnel Bay and Towyn recording the highest numbers, some flocks of homing and racing pigeons may be included here. Although there were plenty of records of singles or merely presence in both counties, Feral Pigeons are commonly seen in flocks, with 37% of Denbs records and 30% of Flints records in double-figures. It is unlikely that the variations in numbers of reports and maximum counts point towards any long-term trends.

Denbs. Most of the reports came from the Towyn area. Across the county there were fifty-five reports of 10 to 29, thirty-six reports of 30 to 49 and six reports of 50 to 70, with the largest counts of 70 coming from Kinmel Bay on 18/04 (WRM) and Towyn on 23/09 (SM). Colwyn Bay also produced the only three-figure count of the year, with 170 reported on 8/06 at Colwyn Bay on the site of the former Victorian pier. Breeding was confirmed at Towyn.

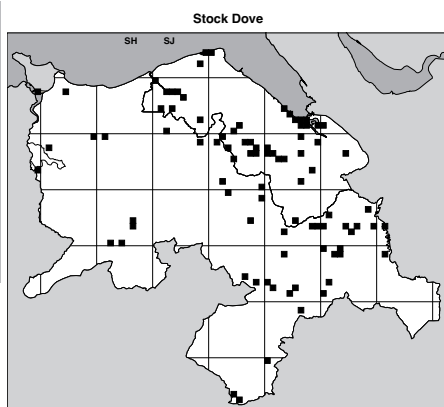
Flints. The largest number of reports came from the Rhyl / Rhuddlan area. Across the county there were one hundred and thirty-four reports of 10 to 29, fifteen reports of 30 to 49 and five reports of 50 to 92. The largest counts came from Rhyl: 92 on 3/03 and 21/10 and 89 on 7/08 (JPH). Rhyl also produced the only three-figure count of the year, with 116 on 18/11 (JPH). Breeding was confirmed at two locations.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

COLOMEN WYLLT

Breeding resident.

(SD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	51	38
Maximum count	20	70
Av max count prev 10 yrs	74	40
Recorded in BBS squares	9/31	8/21
Number of records	86	163
% of records from GBW	0.00	1.84
% of BirdTrack lists	5.0	7.8
Density	0.52	4.52
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



Recorded in each month in both counties, largely inland except for flocks on coastal fields at Connah's Quay NR. There was a similar number of Denbs reports to 2017, but a dramatic increase of 83% in Flints. Whilst the Flints records were evenly spread in both halves of the year, seventy (81.4%) of the Denbs records were between Jan and Jun.

Denbs. All records were of 1 to 5, except for 20 at Gresford Flash on 1/01 (KS), 8 at Borras Head, Wrexham on 28/04 (SD), 7 at Castell on 12/06 (LyE) and 10 near Llangollen on 5/09 (DCR). Breeding was confirmed at three locations.

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 7. In the first half of the year there was a flock of 12 at Connah's Quay NR on 1/01 and a flock of 70+ at Sandycroft on 7/02 (DWn), which was the highest count of the year. During the main breeding season, the only double figure count was of 12 on a BBS walk at Sandycroft on 5/06 and there was a winter flock there of 44 on 19/12 (IMS). The other fifteen double figure counts came from an autumn and winter flock at Connah's Quay NR, with 28 on 28/08, 11 on 6/11, 20 on 2/12, a high of 62 on 7/12 and then eleven more double figure counts to 31/12 (PeHa, DWn). Breeding was confirmed at three locations.

Breeding (IMS):

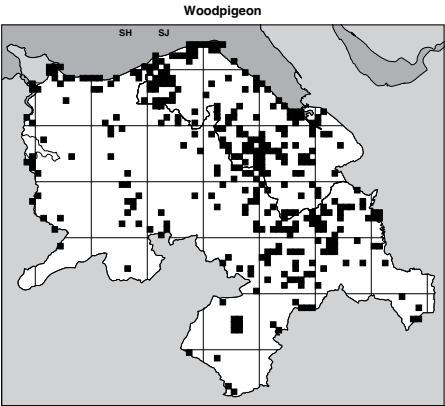
(SD)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Denbs	3	6	6	6	2.00
Flints	5	7	7	7	1.40

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

YSGUTHAN

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

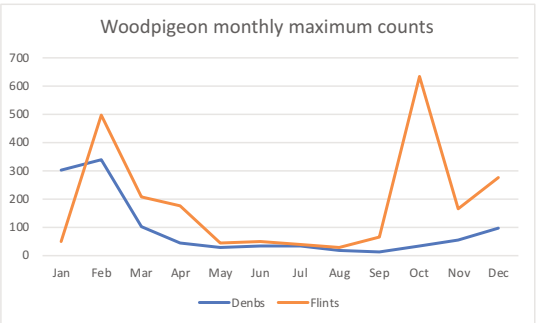
(WP)	Denbs	Flints
	Abundant	Abundant
Occurrence		
Number of 1km squares	211	134
Maximum count	340	637
Av max count prev 10 yrs	919	497
Recorded in BBS squares	29/31	21/21
Number of records	982	1529
% of records from GBW	9.57	37.87
% of BirdTrack lists	60.4	68.4
Density	36.31	144.92
Max breeding evidence	NY	NE



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. During Jan, one hundred and twenty-five records were counts of 1 to 68, with two larger counts at Gresford Flash: 300 on 1/01 (IMS) and 200 on 7/01 (KS). During Feb, most counts were 1 to 50, mainly singles, with one high count of 340 at Erddig pool on 1/03 (NHu). During Mar, most counts were 1 to 40, with a high of 100 near Acrefair on 24/03 (DaHu). During Apr to Oct there were no large counts (1 to 44), presumably because birds were spread through the countryside, breeding. During Nov and Dec there was slightly more evidence of flocks, though most counts were 1 to 54. The two highest counts were 65 at Lleweli Hall, Bodfari, on 4/12 (JPH), which was many fewer than the maximum count last year, and 99 at Gellifor on 10/12 (TP) during a winter farmland survey. There were ten records of probable breeding and six of confirmed breeding from three locations.

Flints. During Jan, counts were relatively low at 1 to 40, with a high count of 50 at Oakenholt on 17/01 (DWn). During Feb most counts were low, 1 to 10, with sixteen records of 12 to 100 and a high count of 500 at Sychdyn on 27/02 (AB). The GBW counts were less than 10, but out in the country it seems there were large flocks. During Mar most counts were 1 to 89, with four counts of 100+, including the highest for the month, 210 at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR on 31/03 (JPH). In Apr most counts were 1 to 95, with five of 100+. The highest was 175, again at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR, on 3/04 (JPH). During May to Sep counts were 1 to 64, with most of 1 to 10. During Oct, most counts were 1 to 10, with twenty-three counts of 11 to 85 and three of 100+, including the high of 637 near Bagillt on 18/10 (DWn) during a count of visual migration. In Nov and Dec there were many counts of 1 to 10, with sixty-four of 11 to 94 and thirteen of 100+, including the high of 274 at Connah's Quay NR on 2/12 (PeHa). There were thirteen records of probable breeding and eight of confirmed breeding from six locations (including four records of 2 nestlings ringed (pBH)).

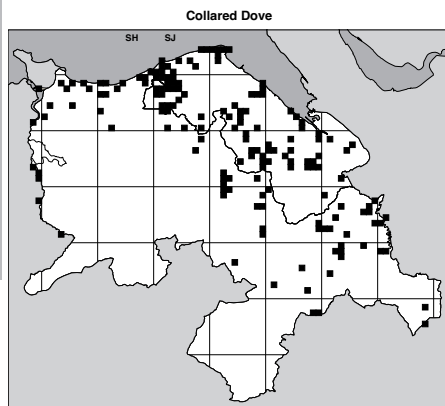


Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

TURTUR DORCHOG

Breeding resident.

(CD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very copmmon	Very common
Number of 1km squares	81	83
Maximum count	32	69
Av max count prev 10 yrs	25	46
Recorded in BBS squares	7/31	11/21
Number of records	484	775
% of records from GBW	37.40	41.42
% of BirdTrack lists	16.8	33.4
Density	1.31	9.72
Max breeding evidence	FL	D



Recorded in all months in both counties. The numbers of reports in Flints were similar to 2017, but there was a 49.3% decrease in Denbs, which may be related to a reduction of almost 45% in reports from GBW.

Denbs. There were widespread reports of 1 to 8, but only seven double-figure counts: three from Towyn, with 12+ on 12/02, 10 on 27/11 and again on 8/12 (SM). The other double-figure counts were of 10 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 9/09 and 16/09 (IW), 10 at Rhuthun on 9/11 (GPI). The highest count of the year of 32 at Rhewl perching on wires around farm buildings on 16/08 (GPI). Breeding was only confirmed at Towyn.

Flints. There were widespread reports of 1 to 9, but no confirmed breeding records this year. There were twelve double figure counts of 10 to 14 from Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR between 22/06 and 30/12, with the highest counts of 69 on 20/11 and 24 on 30/12 (JPH, RLE, AHJ). Two other double-figure counts came from Cilcain, with 12 on 5/10 and 14 on 11/11 (GEM) and there were also 10 at Sandycroft on 19/12, when a winter flock of Stock Doves was also recorded there (IMS).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

COG

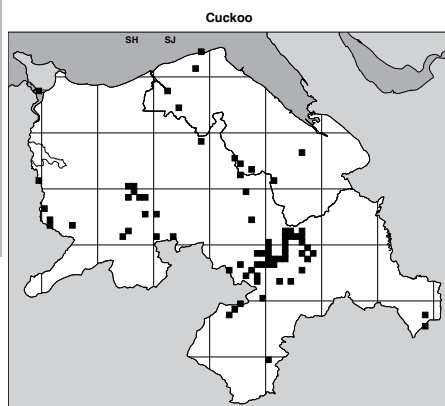
Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

(CK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	67	8
Maximum count	7	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	7
Recorded in BBS squares	8/31	
Number of records	95	10
% of BirdTrack lists	2.2	0.8
Density	0.24	0.03
Max breeding evidence	FL	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

Most records came from the upland areas in Denbs, Mynydd Hiraethog, and Ruabon Mountain/Berwyns, with the number of records from Flints remaining consistent with previous years.



Denbs. The first arrival was on 19/04 at Ruabon mountain (JLR) and the latest date was of a juvenile on 21/07 at Bryn Goleu, Penrycae (JAJ). Breeding was confirmed (FL) on 30/06 at Conwy (JHg). The highest counts were of 7 on 4/06 Bryneglwys (PDj) and 4 on 29/04 at Fenn's Moss (AnCa).

Flints. The first arrival was on 16/04 at Gwaenysgor (MJDH) and the latest date was the only record of confirmed breeding (FL) on 5/08 at Cilcaïn (GEM). The highest counts were of 3 on 15/05 at Gwynfryn (NHu) and on 12/06 at Gors-maen-llwyd, Mynydd Hiraethog, where 3 males were heard calling (WRM).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
Breeding resident.

TYLLUAN WEN

(BO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	27	13
Maximum count	4	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	4
Number of records	32	15
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.2
Density	0.05	0.07
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY

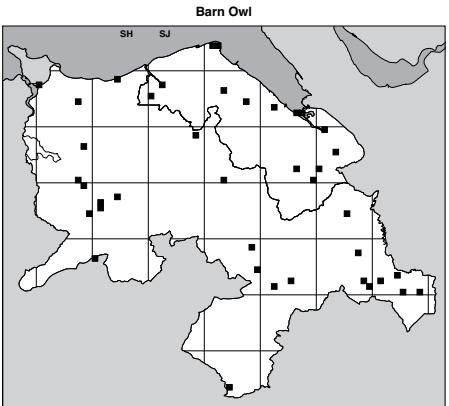
Seen in these months											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 2 and eight records were of adults or nestlings ringed including broods of 1, 2, 3 and 4 between 11/06 and 11/07 (IMS), so none of the nests was very productive. Breeding was confirmed from six locations. A juvenile was reported injured at Gresford on 18/01 (pJLR) and an adult was found dead in a water trough on 31/07 (EB).

Flints. All but one of the records were or singles and the exception was 3 nestlings ringed on 11/07 (IMS).

Breeding (JLR, IMS):

(BO)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Denbs (JLR)	13	42	37	32	2.46
Denbs (IMS)	4	16	13	10	2.50
Flints (IMS)	1	3	3	3	3.00
TOTALS	18	61	53	45	2.50

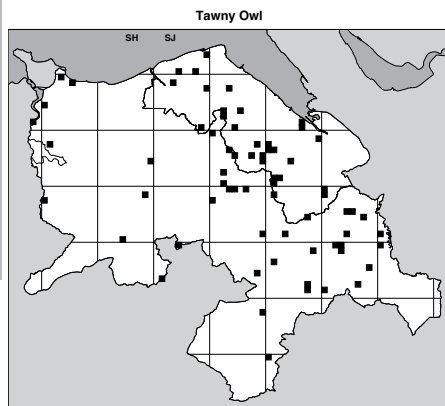


Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

TYLLUAN FRECH

Breeding resident.

(TO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	43	27
Maximum count	3	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	4
Recorded in BBS squares		2/31
Number of records	60	87
% of records from GBW	5.00	49.43
% of BirdTrack lists	1.1	1.6
Density	0.07	0.18
Max breeding evidence	FL	S



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The majority of records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. Breeding was confirmed near Llansilin on 21/06 (JO) and at Erddig Pool, Wrexham on 30/07 (HCw). The highest counts of 3 were at Froncysyllte on 13/08 and 7/09 (DaHu) and at Pendre on 26/12 (JoG).

Flints. Most records were of presence, 1 or 2. There was no confirmed breeding. The highest count was 3 at Rhydymwyn on 21/12 (IMS). Thirty of the records were from a GBW site at Cilcain.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

TYLLUAN FACH

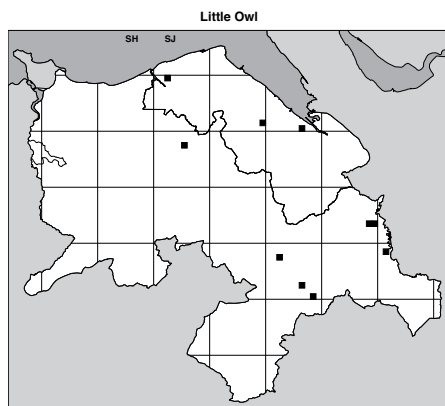
Breeding resident.

(LO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	7	3
Maximum count	2	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	1
Number of records	9	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	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

There were twelve records this year, compared to the two records in 2017.



Denbs. The earliest record came on 25/02 (NHu) at Sutton Green. There were three reports from the Holt area 15/03, 20/03 (two birds seen) and 6/07, all by TBT. Further records, all of singles, came from Denbigh on 27/02, Commonwood on 3/04, Trevor on 7/04, Eglwyseg on 2/07 and Pentre, Chirk, on 31/08.

Flints. The earliest record came from Oakenholt on 6/01 (DWn). There were records of singles at Rhuddlan on 11/05 and a late record on 22/12 on Halkyn Mountain.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*
Breeding resident. Amber List. RBBP.

TYLLUAN GORNIOG

(LE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	2	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	0
Number of records	1	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.0
Density	0.00	0.00
Max breeding evidence	FL	

Denbs. One record on 11/07 was a 'squeaky gate' call heard from at least 2 chicks at Llandegla Forest (GrJ).

Flints. One was recorded near Rhualt on 14/10.



Long-eared Owl (John Hawkins)

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*
Winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. Red List. RBBP.

TYLLUAN GLYSTIOG

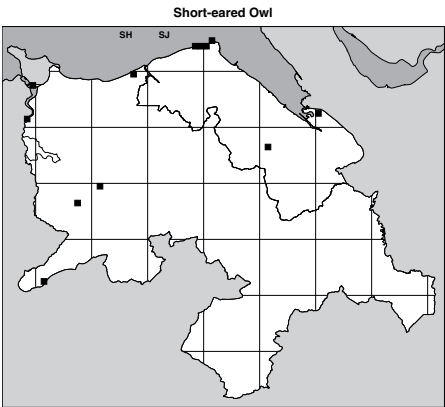
(SE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	6	6
Maximum count	2	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	3
Number of records	7	15
% of BirdTrack lists	0.9	0.8
Density	0.01	0.02
Max breeding evidence	N	T

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

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

Denbs. The highest count of 2 was on 21/07 at Cefn Coch, Migneint (DSt). Probable breeding was recorded at Llyn Aled Isaf, Mynydd Hiraethog, on 26/06 and 8/07 (WRM). Other records were of singles.

Flints. The first record was a single at Gronant dunes on 10/01 (WRM) and the last of spring was a single near Gronant on 27/05. The first autumn record was a single at Shotwick rifle range on 6/10 (MGW). Most reports came from Gronant ,with the highest count of 2 recorded on 13/03 and 10/12 (WRM).



Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

TROELLWR MAWR

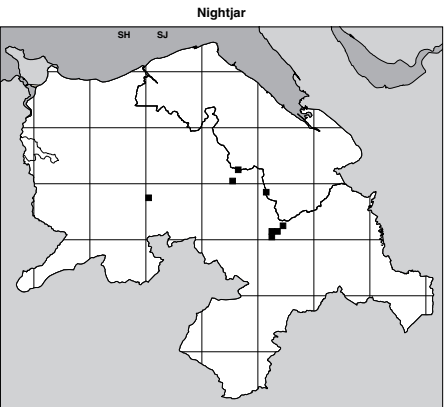
Breeding summer visitor. Amber List. S7.

(NJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	7	1
Maximum count	10	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	1
Number of records	11	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	0.4
Density	0.04	0.00
Max breeding evidence	P	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

Denbs. The first record was on 8/06 at Pendinas Reservoir, with a count of 6+ (TBT), followed by records of 5 on 14/06 (TBT). Most other records were of presence, 1 or 2. There were 8 around Rhyd Galed, Clocaenog Forest on 7/07 (DWn) and there was a count of 5 at Gwynfryn on 8/06 (KS). The highest count was 10 at Llandegla Forest on 11/07 (NHu) and the last record was a single at Pendinas on 15/07 (SD). There were no records of confirmed breeding but several of probable breeding from five locations.

Flints. The only records



Nightjar (John Hawkins)

came from Nercwys Mountain, the earliest on 23/05 (AB) and the last was a single on 5/07 which was seen displaying (GEM).

Swift *Apus apus*

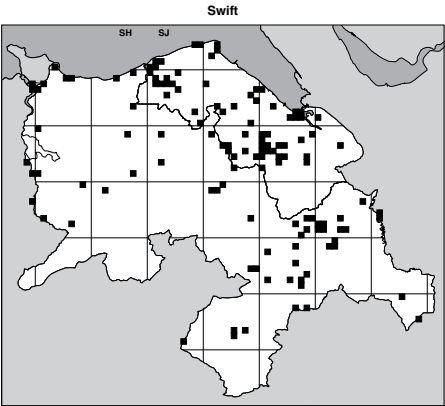
GWENNOL DDU

Summer visitor. Amber List.

(SI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	68	61
Maximum count	200	81
Av max count prev 10 yrs	131	165
Recorded in BBS squares	3/31	7/21
Number of records	205	138
% of records from GBW		1.45
% of BirdTrack lists	9.6	5.4
Density	6.88	8.39
Max breeding evidence	FL	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 records were earlier than the previous two years by several days. The number of records are down from the previous year.



Denbs. Both the first record on 11/04 (DvMo) and last record on 27/08 (NvD) were from RSPB Conwy. The highest count of 200 was recorded also at RSPB Conwy on 1/05 (LoM). Confirmed breeding (FL) was recorded on 4/06 at Pendre and Hendy, Llangollen (JoG).

Flints. The first record was at Connah's Quay NR on 20/04 (PeHa) and the last record was at Rhydymwyn on 26/08 (MD). The highest count was 81 at Rhosesmor on 5/6 (GRMP). Breeding was confirmed (ON) on 4/8 at Rhyl (JPH).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

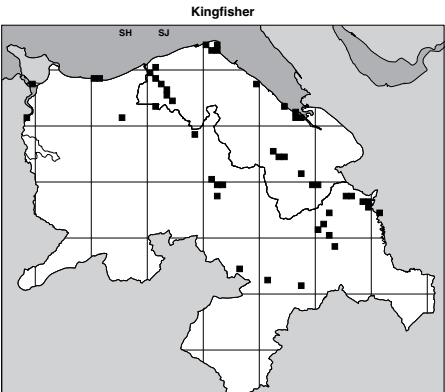
GLAS Y DORLAN

Breeding resident. Amber List.

(KF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	25	22
Maximum count	2	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	2
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	3/21
Number of records	58	103
% of BirdTrack lists	2.5	3.1
Density	0.03	0.11
Max breeding evidence	FF	D

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. All records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. There was one record of confirmed breeding



(FF) in Holt on 24/05 (AB). A pair were seen in breeding habitat at Bont-y-Gwyddel on 18/04 (Pki).

Flints. The highest record count of 3 was observed on 5/08 at Rhyl (JPH). A pair was seen displaying at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR on 6/04 (HC), 4 days later than recorded last year. The wintering birds at Connah's Quay NR were first seen on 30/08 (PeHa) and were last seen on 29/12 (SD). Forty-eight of the records in Flints were from Connah's Quay NR and twenty-one were from Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*

CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF

Breeding resident. Red List. RBBP. S7.

(LS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	2
Maximum count	1	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	1
Number of records	4	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.0
Density	0.00	0.00

Denbs. There were reports from Marford Quarry of singles on 7/01 (JBW), 9/01 (TBT) and presence on 5/02. There was a single Penycae on 2/04 (JAJ).

Flints. A single was recorded near Rhyl on 20/07 and a female reported at Rhydymwyn on 11/11 (MGW).

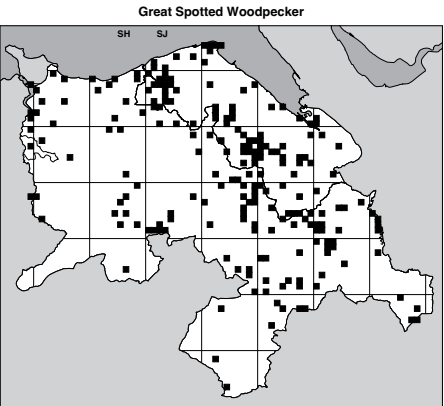
Seen in these months											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF

Breeding resident.

(GS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	137	79
Maximum count	5	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	6
Recorded in BBS squares	20/31	16/21
Number of records	423	507
% of records from GBW	33.10	48.32
% of BirdTrack lists	15.1	13.4
Density	0.35	0.80
Max breeding evidence	ON	NY



Recorded in each month in both counties

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1-3. The highest count of 5 was recorded at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 28/06 (TP). A count of 4 at Erddig, Wrexham on 7/01 and 17/01 indicated probable breeding (P) (Nhu). Breeding was confirmed (ON) at Holt dykes on 23/05 and 24/05 (AB).

Flints. The highest counts of 6 were recorded at Wepre Park on a BBS walk on 9/06 (JSy) and at Mold on 10/06 (AB, IMS). Breeding was confirmed (FL) on 8/06 at Rhydymwyn (MD) and at Pantymwyn on 24/06 (GEM).

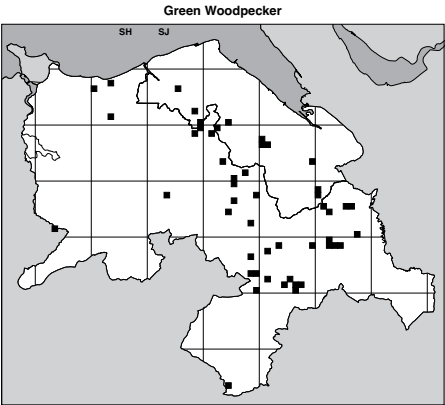
Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

CNOCELL WERDD

Breeding resident. Amber List.

(G)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	39	11
Maximum count	2	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	2
Recorded in BBS squares	5/31	1/21
Number of records	56	19
% of BirdTrack lists	1.1	1.1
Density	0.04	0.04
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



Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. No confirmed breeding was recorded. Possible breeding (S) was reported on 14/04 at Rhos-y-brithdir (DWs). Thirteen records out of the fifty-six were from Erddig.

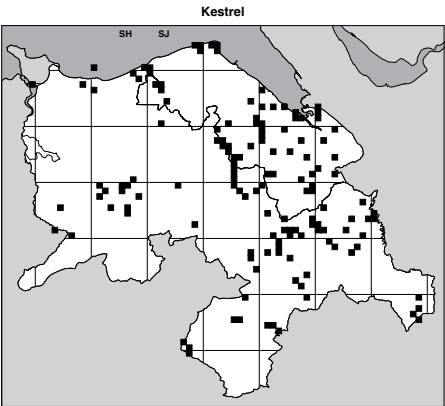
Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. No confirmed breeding was recorded. The highest count of 2 was recorded on 26/05 at Nant Coed-y-mynydd (GEM). Nine out of the nineteen records were from Rhydymwyn.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

CUDYLL COCH

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

(K)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	83	56
Maximum count	2	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	6
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	3/21
Number of records	121	189
% of BirdTrack lists	5.9	8.1
Density	0.08	0.48
Max breeding evidence	T	NY



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. During the first four months all but two records were of presence or singles. The exceptions were 2 at Llyn Aled Isaf on 16/02 (RLE) and 2 at World's End on 21/03 (TBT). During May to Aug, again, most records were of presence or singles with eight records of 2. One of these was nestlings ringed near Wrexham on 12/06 (IMS), the only record of confirmed breeding. There were many fewer records during the last four months and they were all of singles.

Flints. During the first four months most records were of presence or singles, with three records of 2 and one of 3 near Cilcain on 8/04 (GEM). During May to Aug most records were of singles with five records of 2, two records of 3 and one of 5 nestlings ringed at Shotton Paper Mill on 10/06

(IMS). During Sep to Dec all but two records were of singles and the others were of 2.

Breeding (IMS):

(K)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Denbs	1	2	2	2	2.00
Flints	1	5	5	5	5.00

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

CUDYLL BACH

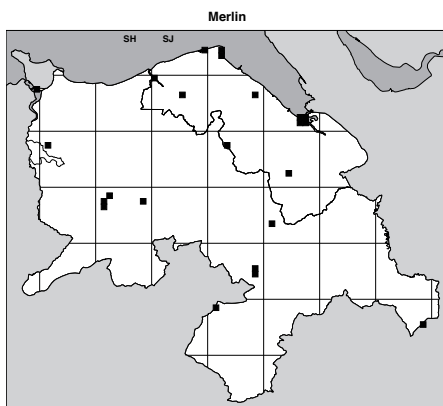
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. RBBP.

(ML)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	11	12
Maximum count	2	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	2
Number of records	12	45
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	1.5
Density	0.01	0.02
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

Denbs. All but one, record, were of single birds, the other of 2. There was a second-hand report of two pairs nesting on Mynydd Hiraethog – the only records of confirmed breeding.



Flints. All records were of singles and this last spring record was near Mold on 13/04 (JmS) and the first 'autumn' record was at Talacre on 23/07 (KeK, SvK).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

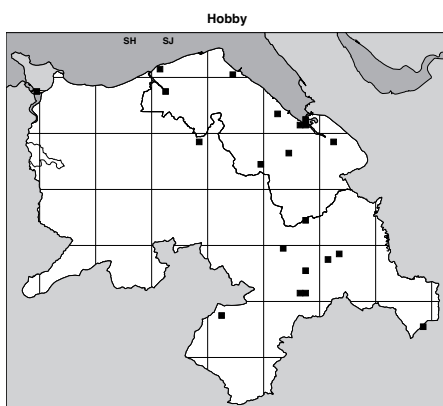
Passage migrant and summer breeder. RBBP.

(HY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	11	10
Maximum count	2	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	2
Number of records	14	14
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	0.3
Density	0.01	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

Denbs. The first record was near Froncysyllte on 29/04 (TK) and all but one were of presence or singles. The exception was a record of 2 at Llewenni Hall, Bodfari, on 17/09, an adult and a juvenile, so was likely to be the only record of confirmed



breeding in the county. The last record was from Penrycae, also on 17/09 (JAJ).

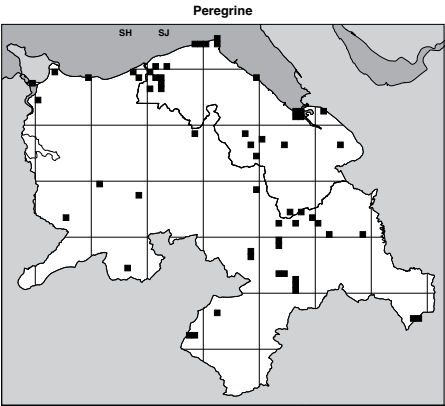
Flints. All records were of singles apart from one of presence. The first record was at Queensferry on 17/05 (DWn). The last record was at Pantymwyn on 13/09 (GEM). There were no records of confirmed breeding.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

HEBOG TREMOR

Breeding resident. RBBP.

(PE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	35	24
Maximum count	2	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	3
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	1/21
Number of records	55	115
% of BirdTrack lists	2.8	3.9
Density	0.04	0.08
Max breeding evidence	FL	T



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. All but five records were of presence or singles. The other records were of 2 but there was only one breeding code with these records. There was one record of confirmed breeding, with 2 young (code FL) near Llangollen on 12/06 (JoG). There was also one record of probable breeding.

Flints. All records were of counts! All the counts were of 1 or 2, with twelve records of 2. There were two records of probable breeding at the same location.



Peregrine (John Hawkins)

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

PARACIT TORCHOG

Occasional visitor from a growing UK feral population.

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

Flints. There was a single at Connah's Quay NR on 13/11 (DWn).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

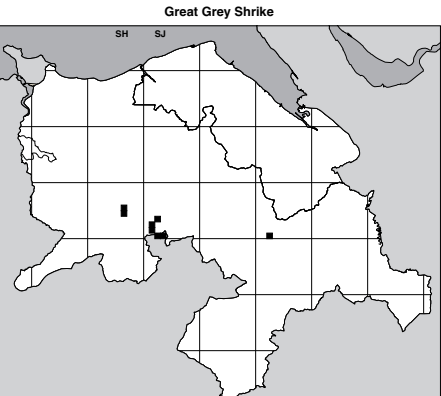
CIGYDD MAWR

Winter visitor.

(SR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	
Number of 1km squares	8	
Maximum count	1	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1	
Number of records	12	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	
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

Denbs. At the beginning of the calendar year there were nine records from different locations within the Clocaenog Forest area; the first birds of the year were seen on 17/02 (RoMo, NF). Then



Great Grey Shrike (David Winnard)



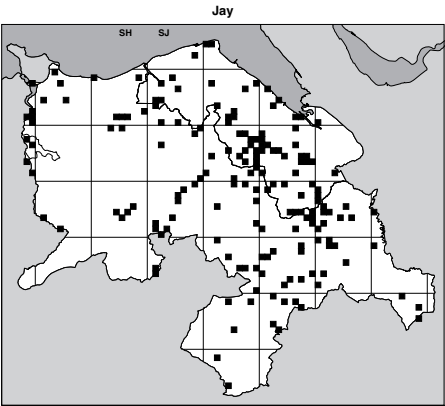
there were five records on 25/03 at four nearby locations, which were probably of the same individual. Another sighting of the same individual came on 29/03 and again at the same location on 9/04, which was the last sighting of the first winter period. In the following winter, one was seen around Llyn Brenig on 23/11 and the last record of the year was in Llandegla Forest on 9/12.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

YSGRECH Y COED

Breeding resident.

(J)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	115	57
Maximum count	6	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	8
Recorded in BBS squares	9/31	13/21
Number of records	209	218
% of records from GBW	3.83	27.52
% of BirdTrack lists	10.7	10.4
Density	0.35	0.39
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL



Recorded in each month in both counties, with the distribution similar to previous three years. The number of records was very similar in Flints but almost 50% down in Denbs, which is reflected in decreased reporting from BBS squares, garden records and BirdTrack lists. Breeding was confirmed in both counties.

Denbs. The vast majority of records were counts of 1 to 2, with only twenty records of more than 2. The maximum number recorded was of 6 on four separate occasions: 25/03 in Clocaenog Forest (MGW), 29/03 at Trefriw (RhPc), 15/04 at RSPB Conwy (JHg) and 10/10 at Nant-y-Glyn (HC).

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 2, with only fourteen records of more than 2. The maximum of 4 were seen at the following locations: Llanfynydd, Mold, Bwlchgwyn, Afonwen, Rhydymwyn and Alltami.

Magpie *Pica pica*

PIODEN

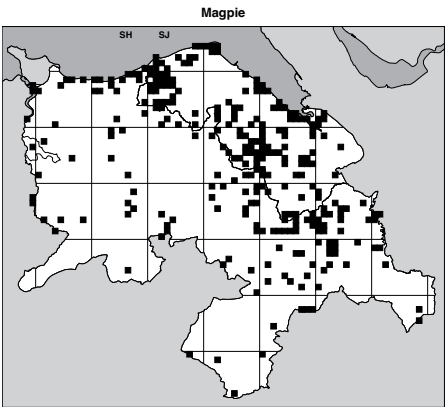
Breeding resident.

(MG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	157	126
Maximum count	31	64
Av max count prev 10 yrs	23	38
Recorded in BBS squares	20/31	21/21
Number of records	910	1232
%of records from GBW	19.78	32.06
% of BirdTrack lists	50.3	60.3
Density	2.46	13.69
Max breeding evidence	ON	FL

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties.

Denbs. There was a significant decrease in the number of records, with an almost 50% drop in records from gardens. The majority of records were of 1 to 9 but there were ten larger counts. The largest counts were of a flock of 20 on the ground in the middle of a field at Pendre, near Rhewl on 21/01 (JoG), 25 all in a tree together at Towyn on 7/01 (IMS) and the maximum was 31 (27 in one tree on the industrial estate) at Towyn on 27/01 (JPH).

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 9 with forty-four records of 10 to 35. Many of these larger counts were accumulative counts from BirdTrack lists or BBS surveys, with between 10 and 16 birds regularly encountered on BirdTrack lists from Rhuddlan (SH). The maximum count was of 64 at Connah's Quay NR on 12/01 (DWN).



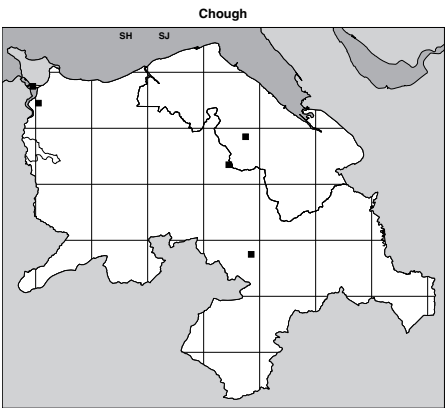
Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

BRAN GOESGOCH

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

(CF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	4	1
Maximum count	7	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	0
Number of records	12	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	0.1
Density	0.01	0.00
Max breeding evidence	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



Denbs. There were fewer records than in 2017. Outside the breeding season most records were from RSPB Conwy and Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley, where 2 were seen on several occasions. The maximum of 7 was seen on 8/10 at RSPB Conwy (KeK, SvK). Breeding was probable at two locations and later confirmed at one of them.

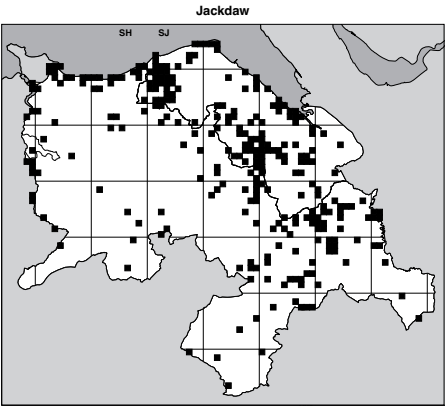
Flints. Two were seen at Hendre, Mold on 15/04 (GEM).

Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

JAC-Y-DO

Breeding resident.

(JD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	169	113
Maximum count	220	450
Av max count prev 10 yrs	384	292
Recorded in BBS squares	17/31	17/21
Number of records	814	1097
% of records from GBW	9.95	27.99
% of BirdTrack lists	47.3	54.1
Density	18.82	86.33
Max breeding evidence	NE	FF



Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. The distribution of records was very similar to the previous three years.

Denbs. The number of records was down 33% on 2017. Whilst the majority of records were of counts less than 20, there were eighty records of 20 to 84. Only three larger flocks were recorded; 136 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 29/01 (JPH), 200 at Gresford Flash, Wrexham on 15/01 (JoG) and the maximum of 220+ at Tal-y-cafn, Conwy Valley on 6/03 (HC).

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 20 but there were two hundred and three 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 forty-five of over 100, with notable numbers coming from the Rhyl / Rhuddlan area, where a pre-roost gathering of 156 was observed at Rhuddlan Castle on 31/07 (JPH) and the maximum of 450 seen near Rhuddlan on 20/02 (SH). Other sites with large flocks were at Bagillt, Beeches Farm at Sandycroft, Caerwys, Cilcain, Connah's Quay NR, Hendre, the coastal fields W of Point of Ayr and Rhydymwyn.

Breeding (IMS):

(JD)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Denbs	2	8	8	8	4.00

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

YDFRAN

Colonial breeding resident.

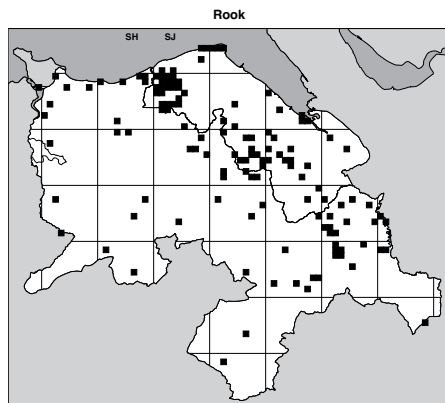
(RO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	75	59
Maximum count	100	150
Av max count prev 10 yrs	384	151
Recorded in BBS squares	8/31	9/21
Number of records	229	396
% of records from GBW	2.62	19.95
% of BirdTrack lists	14.9	23.1
Density	3.80	15.03
Max breeding evidence	NY	FF

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a 25% increase in records for Flints, but records from Denbs continued to fall slightly. Although breeding was confirmed in both counties, as in previous years 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.

Denbs. Most records were in single figures with forty-three records of 11 to 49 and four records of

50 to 100: a very similar pattern to the previous three years. The largest counts were both of 100+ at Burton on 8/10 (HL) and Sutton Green on 31/12 (NHu).

Flints. Most records were in single figures with eighty-four records of 11 to 49. There were sixteen counts of 50 or more. The maximum count was of 150 at Cilcain on 12/09 (GEM).

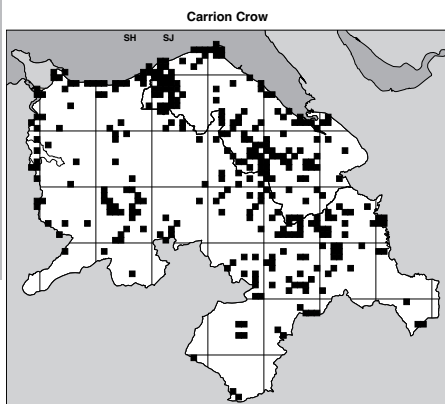


Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

BRAN DYDDYN

Breeding resident.

(C)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	217	122
Maximum count	46	95
Av max count prev 10 yrs	92	85
Recorded in BBS squares	25/31	21/21
Number of records	942	1057
% of records from GBW	3.72	13.81
% of BirdTrack lists	69.3	67.9
Density	5.05	19.68
Max breeding evidence	NE	NE



Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. The number of records was down 25% in Denbs but was very similar to 2017 in Flints. The distribution was also very similar to 2017. This is the most common and widespread member of the corvid family, found in the majority of BirdTrack lists and almost all BBS surveys.

Denbs. Although the number of records had decreased this year the pattern of recording remained very similar, with the majority of records in single figures, with forty-nine records of 10 to 30. There were four larger counts, the largest of which was of 46 seen at Moel Grugoer, Mynydd Hiraethog on 7/07 (JqT).

Flints. The majority of the records was in single figures. However, many small flocks were recorded, with one hundred and twenty-five records of 10 to 30. There were twenty-four records of 31 to 95. The maximum of 95 was recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 23/05 (PeHa).

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

BRAN LWYD

Vagrant. Amber List.

(HC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence		Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Av max count prev 10 yrs		0
Number of records	0	3
% of BirdTrack lists		0.1
Density		0.00

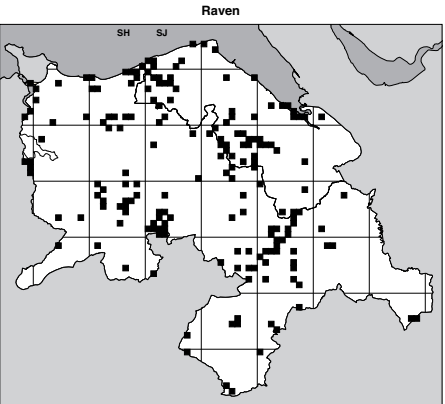
Flints. A single was seen on three occasions (1, 9 and 15/07) at Rhyl (WRM). The recorder reported that the bird “had all the appropriate colours in the 'right places' although showing rather matt tones and muted contrast between grey and black. Not sure if juvenile Hooded Crow or perhaps more likely a hybrid?”

Raven *Corvus corax*

CIGFRAN

Breeding resident.

(RN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	131	52
Maximum count	17	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	49	14
Recorded in BBS squares	11/31	9/21
Number of records	320	251
% of BirdTrack lists	21.1	16.4
Density	1.13	0.53
Max breeding evidence	ON	NY



Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. The number of records and their distribution were very similar to 2017.

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1 to 4, with fourteen records of 5 to 9 and four records of 10+.

No large roost at Llechrydau was reported this year, so the maximum count at this site was only 17 on 7/01 (AIDa). A pair was regularly seen on and around a church steeple at Towyn on various dates throughout the year but in Apr birds were seen, with large sticks indicating probable nesting (SM).

Flints. All records were in single figures with five of 6, the maximum count. These maxima of 6 were recorded at Rhyl on 3/06 and 17/10 (JPH), Rhydymwyn on 17/07 (IMS), Penbedw on 28/10 (GEM) and Halkyn Mountain on 22/12 (GEM).

Breeding (JLR):

(RN)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Near Llangollen	6	16	16	16	2.67

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

CYNFFON SEDAN

Winter Visitor. RBBP.

(WX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	
Number of 1km squares	3	
Maximum count	1	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	73	
Number of records	3	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.00	

This was not a Waxwing year.

Denbs. There were two records from the middle of the 2017-18 winter. A single was seen feeding on windfall apples on the ground at Towyn on 9/01 and another was seen at Nant-y-Glyn on 21/01. In the following autumn another single was sighted at RSPB Conwy on 30/10.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

TIT PENDDU

Breeding resident.

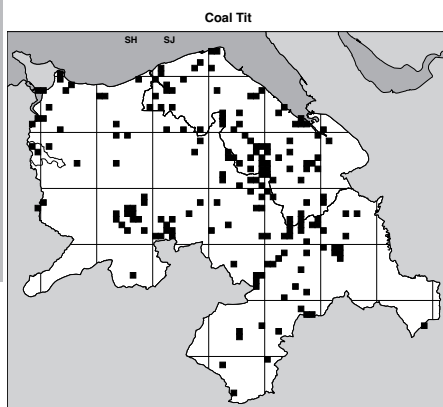
Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. Recording effort was down

(CT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	123	65
Maximum count	19	9
Av max count prev 10 yrs	35	8
Recorded in BBS squares	14/31	5/21
Number of records	482	619
% records from GBW	40.04	61.55
% of BirdTrack lists	14.7	14.2
Density	1.18	0.99
Max breeding evidence	FF	ON

by more than 50% in Denbs but was very similar in Flints compared to 2017.

Denbs. All records were in single figures, with the exception of five records of 10 or more. A total of 19 nestlings was ringed at Glyn Arthur, Llangwfanr on 31/05 (pBH): this was the maximum count. There were 10 adults ringed on two separate dates in spring and 23 full-grown birds the following autumn/winter at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy (pBH).

Flints. All counts were in single figures (the majority were of 1 to 2), with the maximum count of 9 seen at Pantymwyn on a BirdTrack list on 12/04 by GEM. During the autumn and winter months GRMP ringed 29 full grown birds at Bagillt and IMS ringed 15 full-grown birds in a garden at Sychdyn.



Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

TITWR WERN

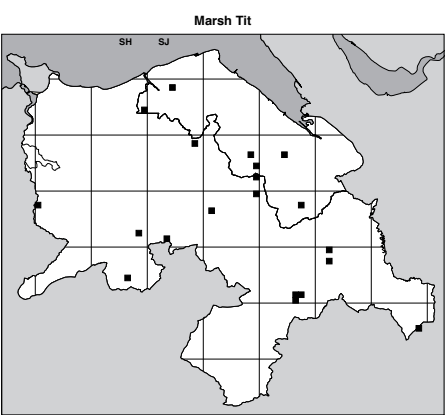
Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

(MT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	15	5
Maximum count	3	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	2
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	1/21
Number of records	19	5
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	0.4
Density	0.02	0.01
Max breeding evidence	FL	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

Denbs. All but one record was of singles. The maximum of 3 was at Erddig, Wrexham on 15/07, where the sighting of recently fledged young meant that breeding was confirmed (HCw).

Flints. The five records were all of singles.



Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

TITWR HELYG

Breeding resident. Red List. RBBP. S7.

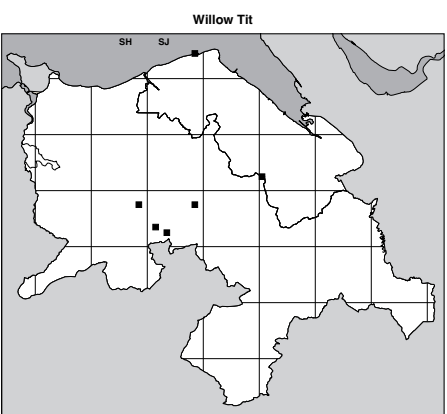
(WT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	4	2
Maximum count	2	1
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	2
Number of records	4	2
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	0.0
Density	0.00	0.00
Max breeding evidence	H	S

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

The total number of records decreased again this year. Records came from six locations, but not the same six as in 2017. A bird singing in Apr was the only indication of breeding. Field identification can be difficult but photographs can help so observers are encouraged to send in records, with good descriptions or photographs.

Denbs. There were three records of singles at two separate sites in Clocaenog Forest and Llyn Brenig and one record of 2 at Bontuchel on 16/02 (GPI).

Flints. The two records were of singles. One sighting was in the breeding season at Gronant and the other of a bird coming to a birdfeeder in a garden at Cadole, Mold in July.

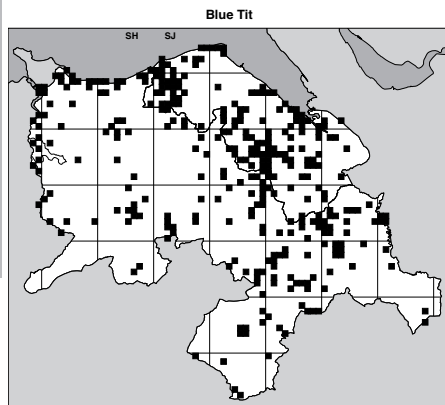


Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

TITW TOMOS LAS

Breeding resident.

(BT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	207	128
Maximum count	53	111
Av max count prev 10 yrs	48	80
Recorded in BBS squares	25/31	21/21
Number of records	1297	1536
% records from GBW	22.13	39.58
% of BirdTrack lists	54.2	52.5
Density	5.55	24.12
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



Recorded in each month in both counties. Recording effort was significantly reduced in Denbs. No large flock counts were recorded and observers are encouraged to submit more counts of this very common species. Overall breeding success was much worse than the average for recent years.

Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 10, with sixty-eight counts of 11 to 50+. The largest count was 50+ at Abergele golf course on 6/02 (SM). Breeding was confirmed at several locations. The maximum daily ringing effort was of 53 nestlings ringed at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 2/06 (pBH).

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 10, with forty-six records of higher counts of 11 to 31. The count of 31 was on a BBS survey at Cilcain on 29/04 (JaH, InH). There were twenty-one ringing records of between 11 and 111, the most notable being that of the maximum number on 31/05 at Coed-y-Felin NWWT reserve when IMS ringed 111 nestlings.

Breeding (JLR, IMS, GRMP, GaBu):

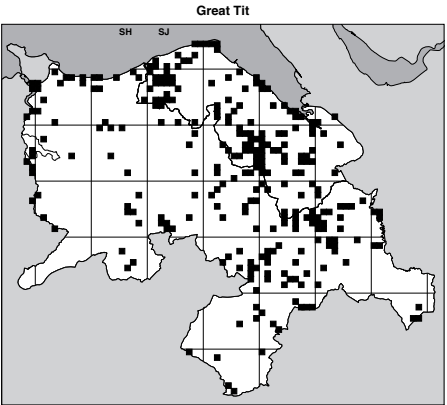
(BT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Dinbren Isaf	21	177	118	102	4.86
near Llangollen	9	71	42	37	4.11
Eglwyseg	6	49	38	30	5.00
near Wrexham	2	14	13	9	4.50
Coed Nantddu	6	51	25	25	4.17
Coed y Felin	18	152	124	102	5.67
Rhydymwyn	21	156	137	119	5.67
Bagillt	2	21	20	19	9.50
TOTALS	85	691	517	443	5.21
				Mean yng/nest for 2004-20017	6.39

Great Tit *Parus major*

TITW MAWR

Breeding resident.

(GT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	173	108
Maximum count	42	34
Av max count prev 10 yrs	47	35
Recorded in BBS squares	22/31	21/21
Number of records	853	1168
% records from GBW	29.19	43.84
% of BirdTrack lists	33.9	36.4
Density	3.68	6.23
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY



Recorded in each month in both counties and breeding was confirmed at several locations. Recording effort decreased by 50% in Denbs. No winter flocks were recorded. Overall breeding success was slightly lower than the average for recent years.

Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 10, with only fifteen larger counts, nine of which related to ringing effort. The largest sighting was of 33 in a garden at Llanarmon-yn-Ial in week beginning 30/09 (MAJo). The maximum number recorded related to ringing activities was when 42 nestlings were ringed at Pandy on 26/05 (pBH).

Flints. The majority of records were of 1 to 10, with only ten records of between 11 and 34. The maximum sighting was of 18 on a BBS survey at Pantymwyn on 1/05 (NRT). The other larger records related to ringing activity, when the most birds ringed on one day was 34 nestlings at Rhydymwyn (GRMP).

Breeding (JLR, IMS, GRMP, GaBu):

(GT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Dinbren Isaf	9	61	41	37	4.11
Near Llangollen	7	50	30	30	4.29
Eglwyseg	7	58	40	24	3.43
Rhydymwyn	34	191	157	136	4.00
Coed Nantddu	4	34	27	23	5.75
Coed y Felin	8	47	47	46	5.75
Ewloe	1	7	7	6	6.00
TOTALS	70	448	349	302	4.31
Mean yng/nest for 2004-20017					4.76

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

EHEDYDD

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List. S7.

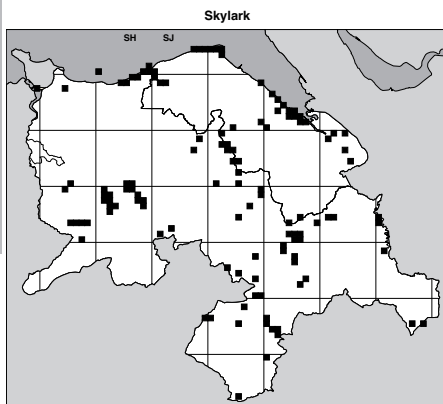
Seen in these months											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Regular in most months but harder to find in late summer, as birds moult and stop singing. It was a good year for both the number of records and sizes of the counts.

Denbs. There were thirteen double-figure counts this year. Kinmel Bay hosted small numbers in the early winter, with a high of 21 on 18/03 (JPH). The other large winter counts were at RSPB

(S)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	83	38
Maximum count	70	312
Av max count prev 10 yrs	63	358
Recorded in BBS squares	9/31	6/21
Number of records	167	210
% of BirdTrack lists	14.1	15.6
Density	2.94	20.13
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF

Conwy, which likely involved birds flying over the site during cold-weather movements: 40 on 27/02 (JHg) and the highest count of the year with 70 on 18/03 (RS). Records increased as birds started singing. The first song-flight was noted in the lowlands at Towyn on 6/02 (SM) and at Ruabon Moor on 21/02 (JLR) in the uplands. Breeding was confirmed at: Kinmel Bay on 24/05, with an occupied nest (JPH), Llyn Brenig on 7/06 (WRM) and Llyn Aled on 12/06 (WRM). More double-figure counts were made in the late winter period and peaked with: 28 at Bodfari, Lleweni Hall on 12/11 (JPH), 40 at Pendre on 24/11 (GPI) and 20 at Kinmel Bay on 9/12 (JFBy).



Flints. There was a single treble-figure count this year, of 312 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 3/01 (DWn), the highest count since 2010. This was caused by a spring tide forcing birds off the saltmarsh. Other congregations in the early winter were: 30 at Connah's Quarry NR on 4/01 (DWn), with 40 there on 1/02 (PeHa), 20 at Gronant dunes on 10/01 (WRM), 20 at Talacre on 5/02 (SvK, KyK) and 43 near Rhyl on 2/03 (JPH). Singing was first noted at Gronant on 7/03 (WRM), from where the most breeding records were received. Song-flight was also noted from Sealand in arable cropland on 21/04 (GPI). Breeding was confirmed from Gronant on 22/05, taking food to young and again on 18/06 with fledged young (WRM). Records fell away post breeding but increased in autumn and late winter, with double-figure counts including: 10 at Talacre on 8/10 (SD) rising to 20 on 5/11 (SvK, KyK), 25 at Rhyl, S on 14/10 (WRM), rising to 64 by 1/12 (JPH) and 50 at Flint on 11/11 (DWn).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

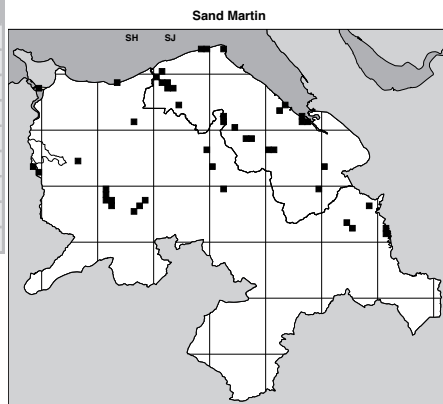
GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

(SM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	24	23
Maximum count	30	300
Av max count prev 10 yrs	146	142
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	3/21
Number of records	73	68
% of BirdTrack lists	4.0	3.6
Density	0.35	11.71
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

A very poor year across both vice-counties, with reports 43% down on 2017 in Denbs and 37.6% down in Flints. There were very few Mar records



and none at all in Sep.

Denbs. As usual, the earliest report came from RSPB Conwy, with 6 on 11/03 (JPH). Almost 60% of 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 27/08 (NvD).

Flints. The first record was of 2 at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR 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 Brickfields Pond LNR on 7/04 (AHJ). Passage records continued well into May, largely from coastal sites. Probable breeding (P, N) was reported from two sites and post-breeding dispersal was noted from 20/06 (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 500 on 19/07 (HC). After 50 there on 2/08 (HC), records tailed off, with only two further reports in Aug. The last record of the autumn was 12 at Connah's Quay NR on 29/08 (PeHa).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

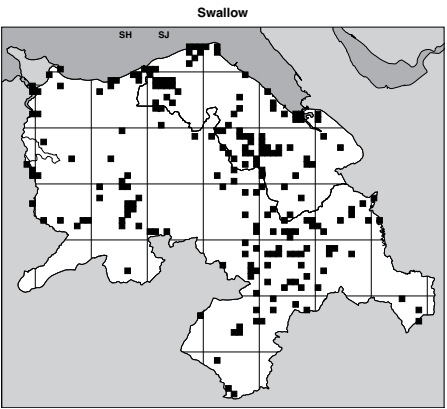
GWENNOL

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

(SL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	137	72
Maximum count	80+	250
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1518	805
Recorded in BBS squares	23/31	18/21
Number of records	383	353
% records from GBW	0.51	2.27
% of BirdTrack lists	25.6	20.1
Density	5.55	30.56
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

There were fewer reports in both vice-counties than in 2017 and there were no records during Mar in either. First arrivals were very similar to Sand Martins and autumn departures were largely completed by the end of Sep, with only a handful of early Oct records.



Denbs. The earliest arrival was a single at RSPB Conwy on 3/04 (JFJ). The first double figure spring counts were of 30+ at RSPB Conwy on 11/04 (WRW), increasing to 50 on 12/04 and in the E of the county, 20 at Gresford Flash on 15/04 (KS). There was a further pulse of 31 at RSPB Conwy on 22/04 (JPH), but otherwise arrivals and passage were recorded in small numbers. The breeding span was clearly charted at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, with the first arrival on 23/04, numbers building through 19 on 11/05, to 39 on 13/06 and peaking at 59 on 11/08, with the last two of the year on 17/09 (all JPH). The highest post-breeding numbers were fairly low, except for 80+ at Mynydd Hiraethog on 6/08 (WRM), 30+ at Froncysyllte on 14/08 and 25+ there on 2/09 (DaHu). The last Oct straggler was a single at Wrexham on 6/10 (GMT).

Flints. The first was a single at Rhuddlan on 3/04 (SH). Spring passage was most prominent around Connah's Quay NR from 7/04, with 50 on 7/04, 60 on 11/04, 40+ on 17/04, 50 on 27/04 and still 25 on 16/05 and 20 on 2/06 and 10/06 (all PeHa). Post-breeding dispersal and autumn passage was also well charted there, with 45 on 30/06, 50 on 4/07, 40 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh the same day and continuing passage through Aug and early Sep (all PeHa). In a year without any very high counts, other significant numbers on dispersal and passage were noted at Gronant, with 250+ on 11/07 (DCR), Bagillt with 67 on 22/08 (GRMP), Rhydymwyn with 50+ on 26/08 (MD), Talacre with 50+ on 28/08 (KeK) and Rhyl with 84 on 1/09 and 87 on 4/09 (JPH). The final Oct records were of 20+ at Shotwick on 6/10 (MGW) and 5 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/10 (MGW).

Breeding (JLR, IMS, GRMP):

(SL)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Near Llangollen	19	80	65	65	3.42
Eglwyseg	11	53	33	31	2.82
Rhydymwyn	4	14	12	11	2.75
Bagillt	1	6	6	6	6.00
TOTALS	35	153	116	113	3.23
Mean yng/nest for 2004-20017					3.23

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

GWENNOL Y BONDOL

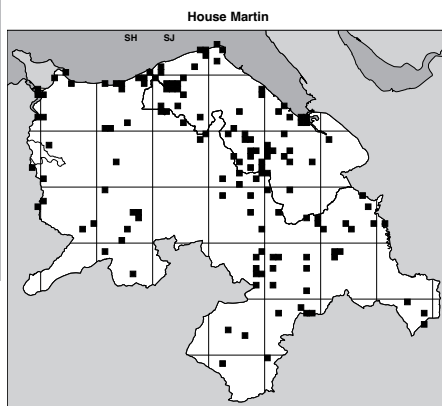
Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

(HM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	90	54
Maximum count	200	150
Av max count prev 10 yrs	107	170
Recorded in BBS squares	5/31	8/21
Number of records	246	221
% records from GBW	0.00	6.33
% of BirdTrack lists	13.7	10.5
Density	9.11	13.75
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

There was a similar number of reports to 2015 and 2016 in Flints, but rather fewer in Denbs. There were no Mar records in either county. Departures were fairly sudden towards the end of Sep, with only one Oct record in each county.



Denbs. The first record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 4/04 (RLE). The main spring arrival and passage period started from 15/04, but there were only three Apr counts of 10+. May generated four double figure counts, with 20+ at the Bodfari colony on 9/05 the highest (PKi). Jun produced three similar counts and the best BBS total of 7 at Gellifor on 20/06 (TP). Counts increased from Jul through to Sep, as juveniles fledged and autumn passage took place. There were three counts of 10 to 35 in Jul, plus 75+ at Penycae on 13/07 (JAJ) and 50+ at Erddig on 30/07 (HCw). Aug produced seven widely scattered double-figure counts and the highest count of the year with a flock of over 200 at RSPB Conwy on 8/08 (WRM). There were three counts of 20 to 35 in Sep and two reports of larger numbers: 80+ at Colwyn Bay on 1/09 (WRM) and 70 at Horseshoe Pass on 17/09 (JoG). The last – and only Oct – record was a single at Llewenni Hall, Bodfari on 1/10 (JPH).

Flints. The first record was a single at Rhuddlan on 6/04 (SH). Arrivals and spring passage started from this date - rather earlier than in Denbs, though apart from a high count of 70 at Connah's Quay NR on 27/04 (PeHa), there was only one other double-figure count. From May through towards the end of Sep there were sixty-nine more double-figure counts of 10 to 92 and three three-figure counts: 150+ at Gronant on 5/09 (WRM), 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 9/09 (PeHa) and 100+ at Point of Ayr on 20/09 (KNm). The highest BBS score was 37, near Afonwen on 26/06 (GRMP). Almost all the larger counts came from six locations, as shown in the table below, with the last report – and only Oct record – of 5 near Bagillt on 12/10 (DWN).

Numbers of 10+ counts from six locations, by month, with the highest count in each month in brackets:

Location / month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Connah's Quay NR	1 (70)	2 (30)	8 (30)	3 (19)	5 (50)	6 (100)
Bagillt		1 (20)		2 (82)		1 (92)
Buckley		4 (40)	4 (40)	3 (16)	2 (35)	
Gronant / Point of Ayr			2 (57)	1 (10)		3 (150+)
Rhyl	1 (12)	2 (12)		1 (41)		
Rhydymwyn				2 (25)	4 (60)	2 (17)

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

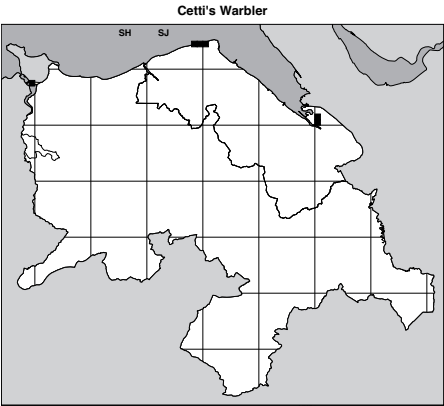
TELOR CETTI

Rare visitor and potential breeding resident. RBBP.

(CW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	5
Maximum count	1	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	0	0
Number of records	6	50
% of BirdTrack lists	0.5	4.2
Density	0.00	0.03
Max breeding evidence		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

A substantial increase in Flints reports, but still limited to two areas only in each county. It is strange that no range expansion appears to be taking place, despite the presence of apparently suitable habitat and rapid expansion to the E in Cheshire (per Peter Coffey).



Denbs. All six reports were of singles or presence from RSPB Conwy on 1/01, 25/01, 18/02, 9/04 (two reports) and 8/11.

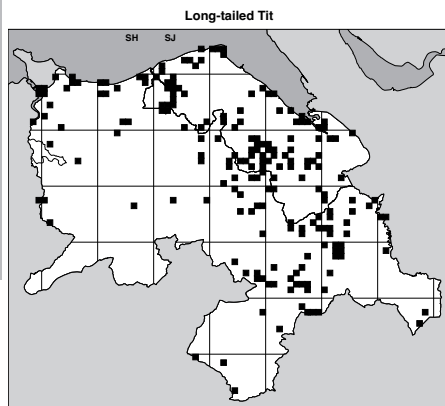
Flints. All records came from the same two areas as previous years: the established sites at the Shotton Steelworks / Shotwick (thirteen reports) and at Gronant / Point of Ayr (thirty-seven reports). Some 82% of reports were of singles, with five of 2 – ringing records from Shotton on 22/04 and 14/10 (pBH) and observations at Gronant on 22/11, 1/12 and 10/12 (WRM). Three reports of three came from observations at Gronant on 10/11 and 31/12 (WRM) and ringing records from Shotton on 18/11 (pBH); and 4 were observed at Gronant on 16/10 (WRM).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

TITW GYNFFON HIR

Breeding resident. Amber List.

(LT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	117	80
Maximum count	21	32
Av max count prev 10 yrs	37	29
Recorded in BBS squares	9/31	8/21
Number of records	378	487
% records from GBW	15.57	16.84
% of BirdTrack lists	17.4	18.2
Density	1.25	4.35
Max breeding evidence	FF	FL



Recorded in each month in both counties, with similar numbers of records to 2015-2017 in Flints, but a dramatic decrease of 46.8% in reports in Denbs, with the maximum count much lower and a 64% reduction in GBW records. With numbers clearly maintained in Flints, this is not necessarily a cause for concern.

Denbs. Only nine counts were of 10 to 19 birds (2.4% of all records and a decline from thirty-four in 2017), with three flocks of 20 or more and the highest count of 21 at RSPB Conwy on 11/11 (RLE). None of the double figure counts came between 24/02 and 8/09 ,with the lowest numbers in Aug. Breeding started early, with a pair nest building at Burton on 19/02 (HL) and was confirmed at several locations.

Flints. Twenty-three counts were of 10 to 19 birds (4.7% of all records - a similar percentage to 2017) and a further eight of at least 20 birds, with the highest count of 32 at Connah's Quay NR on 23/11 (PeHa). There was only one double figure count between 3/03 and 22/09 when 12 were ringed at Rhydymwyn (IMS) and the lowest numbers were recorded in Aug, as in Denbs. Breeding was confirmed at several locations.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

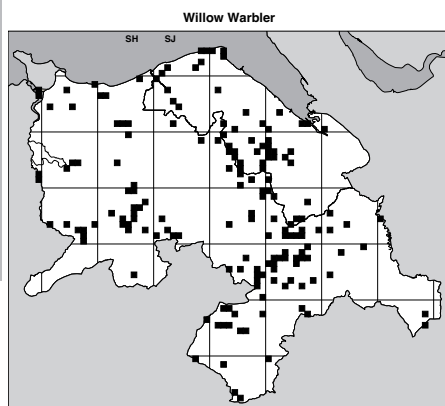
TELOR YR HELYG

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

(WW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	127	45
Maximum count	14	11
Av max count prev 10 yrs	37	27
Recorded in BBS squares	25/31	10/21
Number of records	263	137
% records from GBW	0.00	0.73
% of BirdTrack lists	15.0	7.2
Density	0.90	0.84
Max breeding evidence	NE	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



There were no Mar records in either county this year and although the total number of reports was

similar to 2017, counts were generally lower in both counties.

Denbs. The first report was a single at Sydalft on 8/04 (KS) and thereafter records came in almost daily throughout spring migration and the main breeding season. Most reports were of 1 to 5, with nineteen counts of 6 to 9, the first of which was of 7 at Rhos-y-brithdir on 18/04 (DWS). There were far fewer double-figure counts, with only four of 10 to 14. The highest was a BBS count of 14 at Blaen Bache on 8/05 (JoG). Late summer counts were low and the last record was a single ringed at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy on 2/09 (pBH).

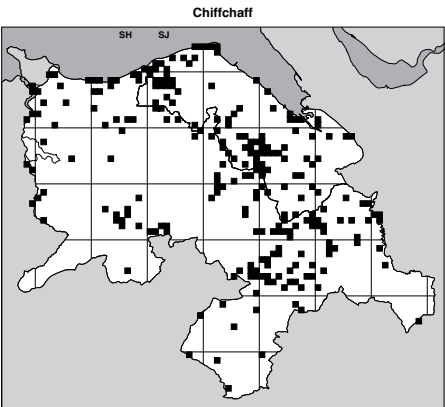
Flints. The first was a single at Point of Ayr on 5/04 (MJDH). Thereafter, records followed a similar pattern to Denbs, though numbers were lower and there were only five counts of 6 to 9 and only one count in double figures: 11 on a BBS walk at Bwlchgwyn on 24/06 (GaBu). There were, however, eight Sep records, with the last report of a single at Sychdyn in the week beginning 23/09 (IMS).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

SIFF-SAFF

Breeding summer visitor and winter visitor.

(CC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	163	86
Maximum count	12	20
Av max count prev 10 yrs	17	18
Recorded in BBS squares	25/31	19/21
Number of records	441	403
% records from GBW	2.01	3.23
% of BirdTrack lists	23.6	21.0
Density	0.98	2.92
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL



Recorded in each month in both counties, but in significantly lower numbers than in 2016 and 2017. There was a 32% reduction in reports in Denbs and an 11.4% reduction in Flints and only twelve double-figure counts, all from BBS visits or ringing sessions. There were no reports of the tristis subspecies this year.

Denbs. There were only three reports in Jan and one in Feb. The spring influx started in early Mar, after which there were reports almost daily until the end of Jul, but records tailed off in Aug and Sep, with only two reports in Oct, three in Nov and one in Dec, a single at Rhuthun on 30/12 (GPI) being the last of the year. There were only six double-figure counts (as against twenty-two in 2017), with the best being 12 on a BBS walk at Rhyd-y-Foel on 3/05 (GBH) and 12 from a ringing session at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy on 1/07 (pBH). Breeding was confirmed at three locations.

Flints. The first of the six Jan reports was a single at Bagillt on 1/01 (GRMP). There were three Feb reports. Spring arrivals started at the same time as Denbs and followed a similar pattern. There were four reports of 10 to 12: three from ringing sessions at Rhydymwyn on 17/07, 7/08 and 29/09 (IMS) and 12 on a BBS walk at Gronant on 3/05 (GRMP), with two Rhydymwyn ringing sessions producing 20 on 10/07 and 4/09 (IMS). Breeding was confirmed at four sites. There were seven reports in Oct, five in Nov and seven in Dec, with the last ringing record 1 at Bagillt on 16/12 (GRMP) and the last sight record 2 at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR on 24/12 (RLE).

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

TELOR Y COED

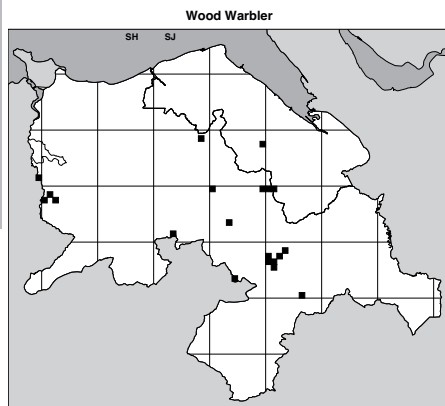
Summer visitor. Red List. S7.

(WO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	17	3
Maximum count	5	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	1
Number of records	38	5
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	0.4
Density	0.04	0.02
Max breeding evidence	NY	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

The number of records bounced back in Denbs with a 52% increase and there were five records from Flints, up from three in 2017.



Denbs. The first arrival dates were similar to 2017, with 1 at Froncysyllte on 21/04 (TK) and 1 to 2 in three locations near Eglwyseg the following day (KS, NF, JBW). Reports came from eighteen different locations, with nesting possible or probable in fourteen and breeding confirmed at two. Most records were of 1 to 2, but there were eight reports of 3 to 5, particularly from near Foel, Eglwyseg, through late Apr, May and Jun (JoG). The last recorded was a single at Coed Hafod on 8/07 (AnP).

Flints. The five records came from three locations: there were 1 to 2 singing males at Coed y Felin, Hendre between 24/04 and 30/04 (GEM, AB), 3 singing in the same stretch of woodland at Nercwys Mountain on 17/05 (GEM) and 1 in a different area of Nercwys Mountain on 26/05 (TK).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

TELOR AELFELYN

Winter visitor.

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

The autumn influx to the UK brought at least four separate birds, and possibly more, to Denbs and Flints in the second half of Oct. All records were of singles.

Denbs. The first was near Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 16/10 and 24/10 (SzC) and later at Towyn from 17/10 to 22/10 – seen by many observers and probably just one bird.

Flints. The first was at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR on 22/10 (AHJ, RLE) and then at Connah's Quay NR on 29/10 and 30/10 (DWn).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

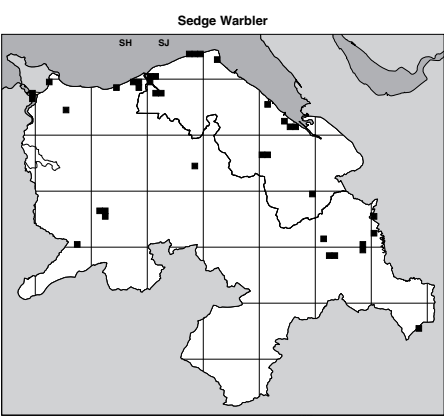
TELOR HESG

Breeding summer visitor.

(SW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	21	16
Maximum count	15	11
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	6
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	
Number of records	84	47
% of BirdTrack lists	4.7	3.8
Density	0.16	0.30
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

There were similar numbers to 2017 in Denbs, but a 40% reduction in Flints. As usual, their distribution was strongly coastal and concentrated in two main locations, with 76% of Denbs records around the Conwy estuary and 57.5% of Flints records in the Gronant area. Arrivals and departure dates were relatively normal in both counties.



Denbs. As usual RSPB Conwy produced the bulk of the records, with sixty reports. There were eight reports in the Wrexham area and three at Mynydd Hiraethog, where two pairs were recorded feeding young at an altitude of over 350 m. The first of the year was 1 singing at RSPB Conwy on 12/04. All counts were of 1 to 3, except for 15 at RSPB Conwy on 22/04 and 9 on 29/04 (P JW). The last record was 2 at Erddig pool on 9/08 (NHu).

Flints. The first record was quite late, with 2 at Gronant on 21/04 (SD) and the Gronant area subsequently produced twenty-seven reports. All records were of 1 to 2, except for four counts in the Gronant dunes area, with the highest count of 10 on 22/05 (WRM). Breeding was confirmed at two locations in the Gronant area. Away from the coast the only records were of 1 at Fagl Lane GP, Hope on 21/07 (SD) and 2 – an adult and a juvenile – ringed at Rhydymwyn on 25/07 (GRMP). The last record was a single at Gronant on 5/09 (WRM).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

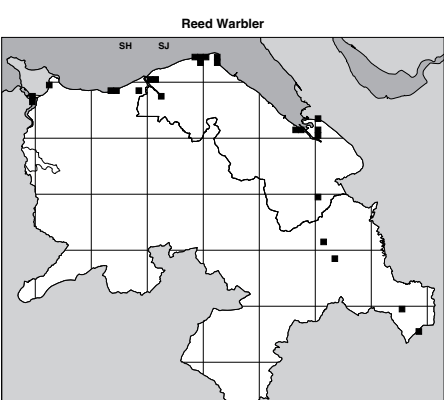
TELOR Y CYRS

Breeding summer visitor.

(RW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	10	15
Maximum count	11	16
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	15
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	2/21
Number of records	76	80
% of BirdTrack lists	4.8	3.3
Density	0.06	0.41
Max breeding evidence	FF	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

Given the species' specialised habitat



requirements it is unsurprising that the small number of locations was similar to previous years. Arrivals were within the normal date ranges for both counties.

Denbs. The predominance of records from the RSPB Conwy was similar to 2017, with fifty-eight reports. Elsewhere eight reports came from the Wrexham area, with only ten from an additional six locations. The first report of the year was presence at RSPB Conwy on 14/04 (JHg). All counts were of 1 to 3, except for two high counts of 9 on 22/04 and 11 on 29/04 (the same dates when PJW also recorded high numbers of Sedge Warblers there). There were also 4 there on 21/05 (PeK) and 4 near Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 23/06 (WRM). The last Aug record was presence at RSPB Conwy on 17/08. Finally, an unusually late record was 3 at Erddig Pool, Wrexham on 29/10 (NH).

Flints. The first of the year was 1 ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 22/04 (pBH). All except two of the records came from the coastal strip from Rhyl to Gronant and into the upper Dee estuary, including Shotton Steelworks. All records were of 1-3, except for two exceptional counts at Gronant: 16 on 9/05 and 15 on 22/05 (WRM). There were 5 recorded on a BBS walk at nearby Talacre on 9/05 (GrJ). A total of 47 were ringed at Shotton Steelworks, with nine sessions producing 4 or more – the best totals were 9 on 15/07 and 10 on 19/08 (pBH). Shotton also produced the last record of the year, a single ringed there on 9/09, an unusually early final date (pBH).



Reed Warbler (Henry Cook)

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

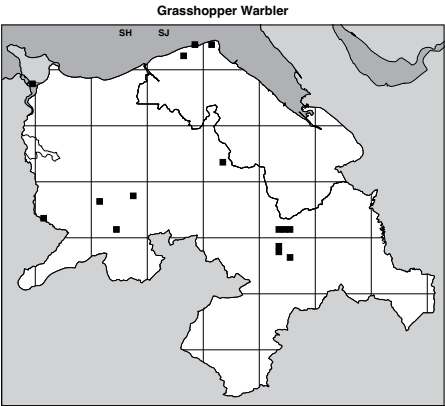
TROELLWR BACH

Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

(GH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	12	3
Maximum count	2	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	2
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	
Number of records	15	7
% of BirdTrack lists	0.5	0.9
Density	0.01	0.02
Max breeding evidence	S	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

There was a substantial reduction in reports in both counties: a 33% reduction in Denbs and a 72% reduction in Flints. With records highly dependent on hearing singing males, it is not clear whether there were fewer around, or simply fewer heard. Arrivals were rather later than usual. There was probable breeding at one location and one record of confirmed breeding in Flints.



Denbs. The first record was 1 at Llyn Brenig on 21/04 (MJDH). All records were of presence or 1 to 2, with no Jul records. The last record for the year was presence at Pendinas Reservoir on 29/06 (HC).

Flints. The first report was of 1 at Talacre on 20/04 (RLE). Five out of only seven reports came from Gronant, with the other two from neighbouring Talacre and Prestatyn. All were of 1 to 2, except for the last record of the year, of 3 at Gronant on 19/07 (TBT).

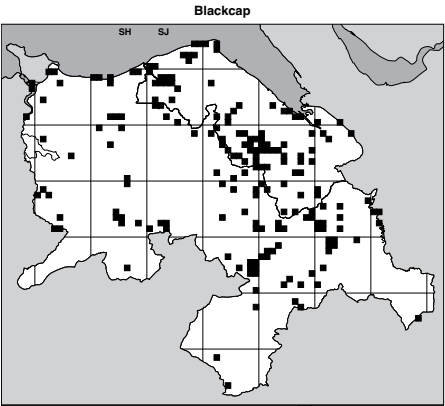
Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

TELOR PENDDU

Breeding summer visitor and winter visitor.

(BC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	114	77
Maximum count	15	20
Av max count prev 10 yrs	13	10
Recorded in BBS squares	21/31	18/21
Number of records	282	311
% of records from GBW	1.41	14.47
% of BirdTrack lists	12.9	12.9
Density	0.87	2.61
Max breeding evidence	NY	FF

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a 24% decrease in Denbs reports, but an 8.7% increase in Flints. In neither county were there obvious gaps between the arrivals and departures of wintering and summering birds, though unsurprisingly there were fewer records in Jan – Mar and Oct – Dec than in the other months.



Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 5 throughout the year. In the autumn there was only one record in Oct and Nov and two in Dec. The highest BBS count was of 7 at Erddig pool on 12/04 (NHu). Breeding was confirmed at several locations. There were four double-figure counts: two in the Eglwyseg area with 13 on 24/05 and 12 on 7/06 (JoG) and two from ringing sessions at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy with 15 on 6/07 and 13 on 10/07 (pBH).

Flints. There was a slight gap in autumn reports between 4/09 and 22/09, but otherwise records were well spread throughout the year. Most records were of 1 to 6. The best BBS counts were 10 at Upper Gronant on 3/05 (GRMP) and 10 at Bwlchgwyn on 24/06 (GaBu). There were three other double-figure counts, all from Rhydymwyn ringing sessions between Jul and Sep, with 20 on 10/07 the highest (IMS). Interestingly, whilst only 7.4% of the two hundred and forty-four reports in Jan – Jun came from ringing, 46% of the sixty-seven Jul – Dec reports did.



Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Breeding summer visitor.

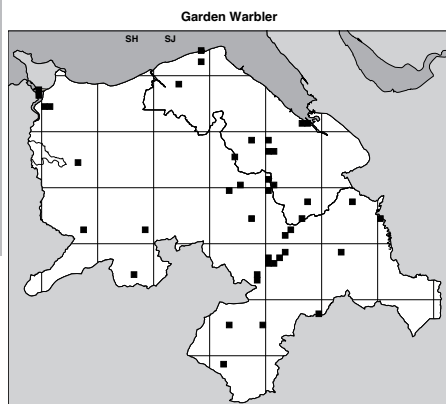
TELOR YR ARDD

(GW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	29	13
Maximum count	4	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	6
Recorded in BBS squares	7/31	4/21
Number of records	53	24
% of BirdTrack lists	2.3	1.0
Density	0.06	0.07
Max breeding evidence	NY	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

There was an overall decrease of 23% in reports, with arrivals notably late in both counties.



Denbs. The first record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 25/04 (JHg). All records were of 1 to 2 except for 4 on a BBS walk at Pandy Tudur on 6/05 (HC), 4 in the Eglwyseg area on 24/05 and 7/06

and 3 in a different area, Glan Conwy, with the last being 2 ringed on 2/09 (pBH). Breeding was confirmed at Pandy.

Flints. The first record was of 3 at Llanfynydd on 1/05 (GNR). All subsequent reports were of 1 to 2, with the latest record 2 at Gronant on 5/09 (WRM). Breeding was confirmed at Rhydymwyn.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

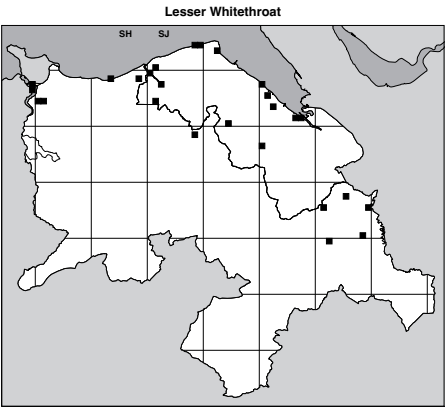
LLWYDFRON FACH

Breeding summer visitor.

(LW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	13	13
Maximum count	3	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	3
Recorded in BBS squares		1/21
Number of records	37	30
% of BirdTrack lists	1.9	1.8
Density	0.02	0.07
Max breeding evidence	P	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

There was a 40% decrease in the number of records in Denbs (but 2017 had been unusually high) and the usual numbers in Flints. Arrivals and departure dates were within the usual range.



Denbs. The first was presence at RSPB Conwy on 19/04. There was then a steady trickle of reports, all of 1 to 2, through to early Jul, but only two later reports: 1 at Towyn on 21/07 (JPH) and the last of the year was presence at RSPB Conwy on 9/08. Breeding was probable, but not definitely confirmed at any location.

Flints. The first was a single at Greenfield Dock on 18/04 (DWn), with a steady trickle of reports from then through to the end of Jun. All records were of 1 to 2, except for 3 at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR on 23/04 (HC) and 28/04 (AHJ). The last three records were of singles at Rhydymwyn, ringed on 17/07 (IMS), 24/08 at Connah's Quay NR (PeHa) and near Bagillt on 14/09 (ETh). Breeding was confirmed in the Rhydymwyn area.

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

LLWYDFRON

Breeding summer visitor. Red List.

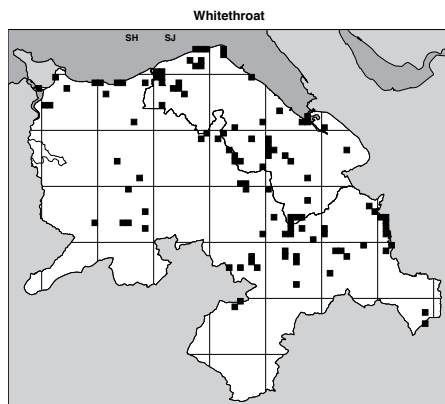
(WH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	71	41
Maximum count	8	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	10	14
Recorded in BBS squares	12/31	10/21
Number of records	130	109
% of records from GBW	2.31	0.00
% of BirdTrack lists	5.9	6.6
Density	0.29	0.42
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF

There was a similar pattern of records to 2016 and 2017, though a slight decrease in both, particularly in the percentages of records coming from GBW. Departure dates were normal in both counties.

Denbs. The first record was presence at a GBW site in Llandegla in week beginning 8/04 (JRo) and a single near Ridleywood the same day (SD). There was then a gap to 19/04 when

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

presence was recorded at RSPB Conwy. Thereafter records of 1 to 3 were widely spread through to 9/08, followed by a gap of almost a month to the last of the year at RSPB Conwy on 5/09 (NvD). There were no double-figure counts, with the maxima only 8 on Ruabon Mountain on 7/05 (GrJ) and a family party of 8 at Moel Arthur on 13/07 (GEM), whilst 4 were ringed at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy on 8/08 (pBH). Breeding was proved at three locations, but there was a significant reduction at Pensarn, where site clearance has removed habitat that has been excellent for Sedge Warblers and Whitethroats in past years.



Flints. The first was a single at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR on 18/04 (JPH). There followed widely spread reports of 1 to 3 through to 17/08, with 5 at Prestatyn on 28/04 (WRM), 4 at Talcre on 9/05 (GrJ), 6 at Connah's Quay NR on 13/05 and 8/06 (PSH) and 5 at Nercwys Mountain on 29/06 (GEM). The final reports of the year were singles at Connah's Quay NR on 26/08 and 29/08 (PeHa) and Rhyl on 2/09 and 3/09. Breeding was confirmed at four locations.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

DRYW PENFFLAMMGGOCH

Migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

(FC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	
Number of 1km squares	4	
Maximum count	4	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	
Number of records	20	0
% of BirdTrack lists	1.1	
Density	0.01	

An uncommon winter visitor and rare breeder in the region. After last year's breeding in Denbs there was the hint this occurred once again.

Denbs. All but one records were from RSPB Conwy where 1 to 2 were seen sporadically during the early winter period. The first record was on 1/01 (JL) and then recorded ten times

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

subsequently, until the last on 25/03 (SMH) though numbers increased on 16/03 to 4 (JB) and 1 was singing on the same day (WRM). There was a singing male in suitable habitat in Clocaenog Forest on 3/06 (WJR) but breeding was not confirmed. There were no late winter records this year.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

DRYW EURBEN

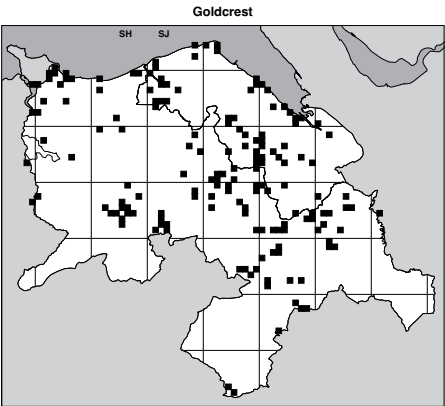
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties. This small, insectivorous species is vulnerable to cold winters. Both the numbers of records and the maximum counts fell, more drastically in Denbs than in Flints.

Denbs. There were no double-figure counts (ten last year). The peak count was of 8 at RSPB Conwy on 10/01 (NHu) and Tal-y-cafn on 25/02 (PEM). Almost all the other counts were of singles. Singing was first reported on 10/03 from Pennant (DO). Breeding was confirmed at two sites: on 7/07 at Coed Hafod with a used nest found and on 8/08 at Erddig Park, Wrexham with fledged young (HCw).

(GC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	112	52
Maximum count	8	13
Av max count prev 10 yrs	48	9
Recorded in BBS squares	12/31	7/21
Number of records	205	179
% of records from GBW	0.49	16.20
% of BirdTrack lists	9.6	9.3
Density	0.45	1.15
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL

Flints. Numbers in the early winter period peaked at 3, on 3/01 at Greenfield dock (DWn). All other records were of 1 to 2 from widely scattered sites. The first singing was reported on 10/03 at Rhuddlan (SH). Breeding was confirmed at one site: Rhydymwyn on 4/09 (IMS). During the summer there was a larger count during a BBS with 8 at Bwlchgwyn, 8 on 24/06 (GaBu). The highest count of the year was on 20/10 at Rhydymwyn, where 13 were caught and ringed (IMS). Records were few in the late winter period and consisted of 1 to 2 in all cases.

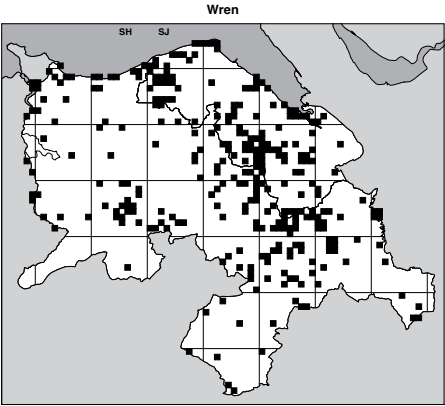


Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Breeding resident.

DRYW

(WR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	200	107
Maximum count	27	21
Av max count prev 10 yrs	22	18
Recorded in BBS squares	30/31	21/21
Number of records	703	735
% of records from GBW	3.98	26.94
% of BirdTrack lists	43.7	36.6
Density	2.73	3.81
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. This is one of our most widespread and frequently encountered species. It is a regular garden resident throughout the year. Most counts were of 1 to 2. The number of records was down in Denbs. but remained broadly similar in Flints. Our counts show no evidence of any influx of winter visitors.



Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 2 but during the breeding season higher counts were recorded. During the BBS surveys, there were several counts of between 10 and 21. The highest BBS count was 27 at Pandu Tudur on 6/05 (HC) and this was also the maximum count for the year. Between Apr and Dec, 31 fullgrown birds were ringed at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy (pBH).

Flints. Although most records were of 1 to 2, higher counts of between 5 to 21 were not unusual during the breeding season. The highest BBS count was 21 at Wepre Country Park, Connah's Quay on 6/05 (JSy). There were 22 ringed at Shotton Steelworks between Apr and Dec (pBH); 24 fullgrown birds ringed at Rhydymwyn between May and Oct (GRMP, IMS) and 25 fullgrown birds ringed at

Bagillt between Feb and Dec (GRMP).

Breeding (IMS):

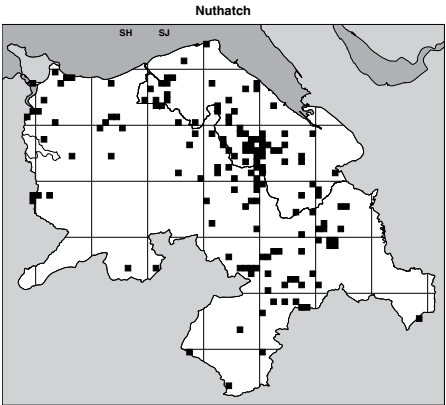
(WR)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Rhydymwyn	1	6	0	0	0.00

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

DELOR Y CNAU

Breeding resident.

(NH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	99	56
Maximum count	7	5
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	7
Recorded in BBS squares	12/31	10/21
Number of records	339	348
% of records from GBW	48.08	53.16
% of BirdTrack lists	9.4	11.3
Density	0.35	0.48
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY



Seen in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. The recording effort in Denbs. halved this year.

Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 2. The highest count in the breeding season was 7 encountered on a BBS survey at Erddig pool, Wrexham on 12/04 (NHu). Evidence of possible or probable breeding was recorded at several sites but breeding was only confirmed at Rhos-y-brithdir on 28/04 (DWs), where a nest with eggs was observed. Fourteen fullgrown birds were ringed during the year at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy (pBH).

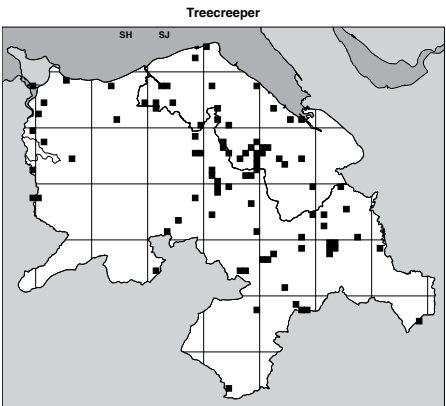
Flints. Most counts were of 1 to 2. There was only one record of confirmed breeding, when GEM observed a nest with young at Pantymwyn on 30/05. The maximum count was recorded in the winter months when GEM saw 5 at Pantymwyn on 4/10 and 5 at Cilcain on 25/11.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

DRINGWR BACH

Breeding resident.

(TC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	63	28
Maximum count	4	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	3
Recorded in BBS squares	4/31	4/21
Number of records	110	83
% of records from GBW	1.82	26.51
% of BirdTrack lists	4.4	3.5
Density	0.13	0.14
Max breeding evidence	P	FL



Recorded in each month in both counties. Breeding was only confirmed in Flints. The number

of records was down in both counties and the distribution was less widespread than reported in 2017.

Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 2. The maximum of 4 was recorded at Eglwyseg on 17/06 (KS) and at Wern-ddu on a WBBS walk on 26/06 (NDg). Both of these records were likely to be of family parties. Only probable breeding was reported this year. Eight were ringed at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy, between Jan and Jul (pBH).

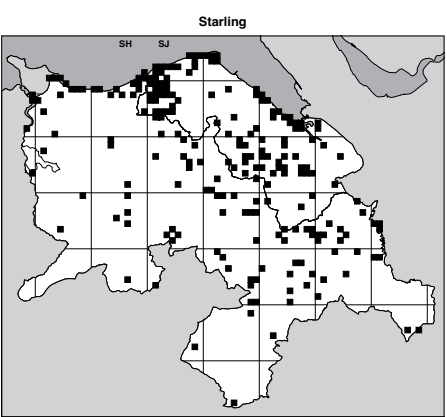
Flints. Records were of 1 to 2 during the whole of the year with only one record of 3. These 3 birds were recorded at Point of Ayr on 4/08 (MJDH). There was only one record of confirmed breeding when IMS saw recently fledged young at Rhydymwyn on 1/07. During the year 7 were ringed on different dates at Bagillt by GRMP and 4 at Rhydymwyn by IMS.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

DRUDWEN

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

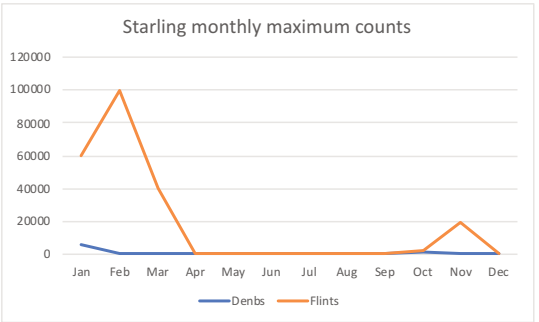
(SG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	122	98
Maximum count	5500	100000
Av max count prev 10 yrs	18400	3900
Recorded in BBS squares	8/31	7/21
Number of records	580	810
% records from GBW	15.52	21.85
% of BirdTrack lists	32.0	44.4
Density	339.57	16638.37
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF



Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. There was a 33% reduction in the number of records from Denbs. More breeding records for this widespread and very common species would be appreciated. The majority of records were of 1 to 10 but a few large roosts and feeding flocks were noted. An extremely significant roost of 100,000 birds developed at Gronant dunes in Flints this year.

Denbs. In the first winter period four large flocks were recorded: 600+ were feeding in a field at Towyn on 4/01 (SM), 750 were seen at Bodelwyddan on 26/02 (SH), 1,000 were seen at Rhewl near Rhuthun on 17/01 (JoG). The

largest count was of a roost of 5,500 birds on Colwyn Bay pier o 29/01. WRM observed birds beginning to collect around the pier at 16:15 hrs and the roost appeared to have settled by 17:00 hrs but several hundred birds left soon after. The pier was due to be demolished soon after and maybe the roosting capacity of the pier structure had been exceeded. The first confirmation of breeding was of recently fledged young seen at Kinmel Bay on 8/05 (WRM). There were twenty-six records of flocks between 100 and 400, most of which were seen in the winter months but one of these was of 150+ in the post-breeding period on 6/07 at Trevalyn Meadows (TBT). There were no large flocks noted in the early winter leading up to the end of the year, with the exception of 1,000+



at Pant-y-fotty, Gwytherin on 19/10 (IMS). The highest garden count was of 50 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial in week beginning 4/11 (IW).

Flints. Most counts were between 1 and 99. There were ninety-two counts of between 100 and 999 and twenty-eight counts of 1,000+. The maximum counts for the year were in the first winter period, when the coastal area around Point of Ayr and Gronant dunes had 60,000 at Gronant on 10/01 building up to a massive 100,000 at Point of Ayr coastal fields on 4/02 and 18/02 (WRM). This roosting area still held 40,000 on 7/03 (WRM). The highest count on a BBS walk was 267 at Talacre on 20/06 (GrJ). Records of confirmed breeding came from eight, mostly coastal, sites with two inland sites at Cilcain and Rhydymwyn. Recently fledged young were first noted at Rhyl Brickfields Pond LNR on 2/06 (JPH). The largest post-breeding flocks were of 150 on 19/08 at Connah's Quay NR (PeHa, GEM) and 180+ at Talacre on 14/09 (DCR). In the second winter period a roost developed at Connah's Quay NR when 500 were counted on 12/10 (PeHa). Numbers built up to 19,321 on 5/11 and 8,044 were still present on 13/11 (DWn). The highest garden count was of 42 in Buckley, during the week beginning 17/06 (DaSh).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

WYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

Passage migrant. Red list. S7.

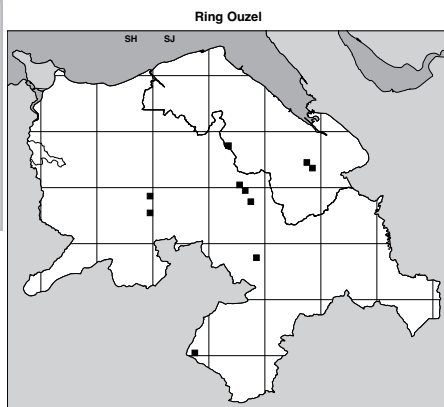
(RZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	7	3
Maximum count	5	31
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	7
Recorded in BBS squares		1/21
Number of records	7	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.1
Density	0.02	0.16

Seen in these months

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

Denbs. The first record was from Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd with 2 on 25/03 (GPI). The maximum count of 5 was from Moel Eithinen on 18/04 and there were 3 at Moel y Gwlltin on 8/04 (GPI). The last spring record was a single near Gors Maen-llwyd on 21/04 (KaW). The only autumn record was a single near Pistyll Rhaeadr on 29/10 (CSB).

Flints. The first, and maximum, count came from Penycloddiau, with 31 on 8/04 (EdW). There were 5 at the same site on 14/04 (DWn). The Buckley area had the other two, last, records both singles on 16/04 and one of those counts was during a BBS walk (GNR).

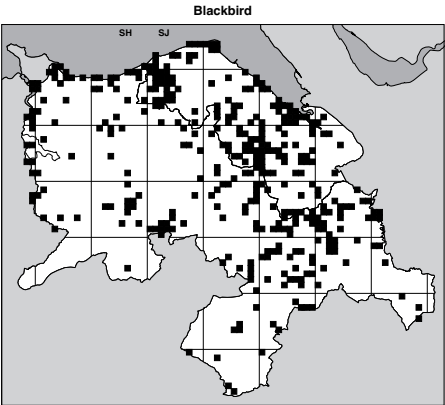


Blackbird *Turdus merula*

MWYALCHEN

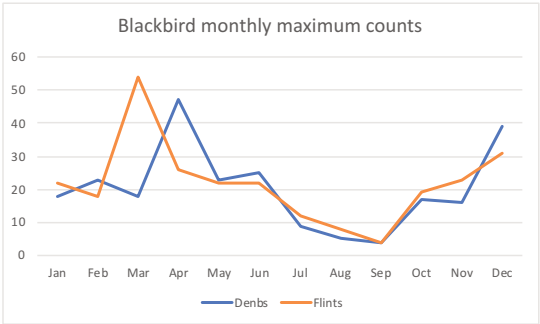
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

(B)	Denbs		Flints	
	Very common		Very common	
Occurrence				
Number of 1km squares	232		139	
Maximum count	47		54	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	38		42	
Recorded in BBS squares	28/31		21/21	
Number of records	1272		1535	
% of records from GBW	18.40		36.81	
% of BirdTrack lists	65.3		66.1	
Density	5.52		12.74	
Max breeding evidence	NE		FF	



Recorded in each month in both counties. The graph, below, gives some indication of the presence of probable migrants in each of the winter periods. Migrant Blackbirds seem to disperse rather than stay in large flocks.

Denbs. About 33% of records were of presence only. Of the remainder, most records were counts of 1 to 9, with forty double figure records, of which most were during BBS walks. The maximum count of 47 was a BBS count at Gellifor on 24/04. Also, the same area had the highest late period count of 39 on 10/12 (TP). The highest GBW count of 7 came from Trevor Hall, Garth on 4/02 (JuBa). For WBBS there were 7 at Llanhaeadr-ym-Mochnant on 14/05 (WR). A total of 49 fullgrown birds were ringed near Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy, between 7/01 and 26/12 (pBH). There were thirty-three records of confirmed breeding at fourteen locations.



Flints. Nearly 12% of records were of presence only. Of the rest, most records were counts of 1 to 19, with twenty-five or 20 to 54. The maximum count came from near Rhyl on 2/03 (JPH). The highest BBS count was 25 near Buckley on 16/04 (GNR) and the highest GBW count, 17, was also from Buckley in week beginning 21/01 (DaSh). A total of 23 were ringed between 5/01 and 1612 near Bagillt (GRMP) and 29 were ringed at Rhydymwyn between 2/06 and 20/10 (IMS). There were twenty-five records of confirmed breeding from twelve locations.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

SOCAN EIRA

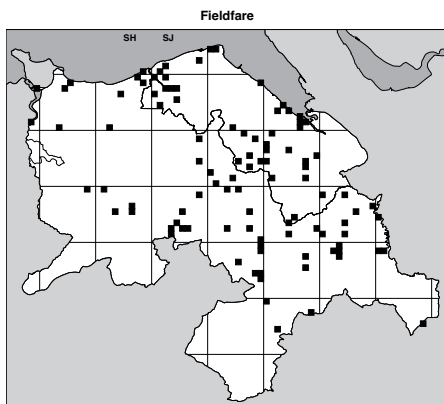
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber list.

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

Denbs. During the first four months most counts were 1 to 80, with two counts of 100 at two locations on 13/02 (JoG), 245 at Penrycae on 10/02 (JAJ) and a maximum of 300+ near Sutton Green on 28/03 (NHu). The last spring record was from a BBS count near Gwynfryn with 3 on 5/04 (NHu) and first autumn report was from Moel yr Accre, with 6 on 17/10 (JoG). During the second winter period most counts were 1 to 150, with the year's maximum of 1,000 near Bryneglwys on 30/10.

(FF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	66	36
Maximum count	1000	56
Av max count prev 10 yrs	703	456
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	
Number of records	90	95
% of records from GBW	0.00	18.95
% of BirdTrack lists	3.1	4.5
Density	33.40	3.42

Flints. During Jan to Apr most counts were 1 to 24 with modest high counts of 25 at Gwernaffield on 3/03 (TP) and 29 near Rhuddlan on 7/01 (SH). The last record for early period was from Hope with 1 on 29/04 (ECMH). The first record of the autumn was a single at Bagillt on 12/10 (DWN). Most counts in the second winter period were 1 to 34, with 36 near Bagillt on 19/10 (DWN). The year's maximum of 56 was near Rhyl on 21/11 (JPH). GBW records were all of presence only from two locations.



Redwing *Turdus illacus*

COCH DAN ADEN

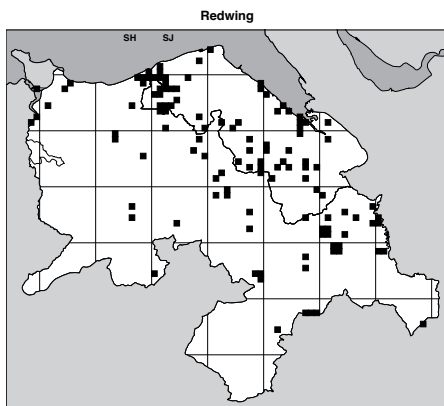
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber list. RBBP.

(RE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	67	52
Maximum count	1000	400
Av max count prev 10 yrs	1107	352
Number of records	149	182
% of records from GBW	0.00	10.99
% of BirdTrack lists	6.6	10.2
Density	33.91	35.31

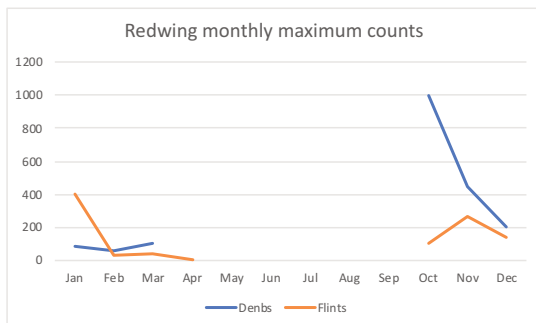
Seen in these months

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 graph, below, clearly shows that there were large flocks of birds in both the early and late winter periods. These counts clearly indicate that large numbers of migrants are present.



Denbs. During the first three months most counts were 1 to 80+, with 87 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, on 22/01 (JPH) and 100+ at Nant-y-Glyn on 3/03 (HC). The last record in the first period and the first record in the late period were both from the Penycae area, with 4 on 30/03 (SD) and 20+ on 5/10 (JAJ) respectively. During the later winter period most counts were 1 to 200+ with 450 at Horseshoe Falls, Llangollen, on 5/11 and 1,000, the year's maximum, near



Maerdy on 28/10 (JoG).

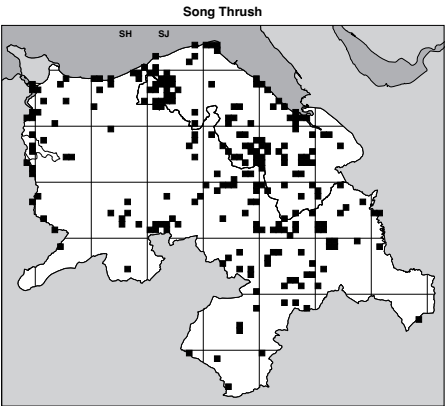
Flints. During the first winter period most counts were 1 to 65 with 250+ near Dyserth on 6/01 (MGW) and 400+ at Oakenholt, Flint on 17/01 (DWn). The last record for this period was 1 at Pantymwyn on 12/04 (GEM). The second period started with 20 near Bagilt on 11/10 (DWn). Most counts were 1 to 141 and the largest count of 270 was at Gwernymynydd on 5/11 (GEM). GBW produced three counts of 4 at Rhydymwyn in week beginning 28/01 (DMW), St. Asaph in week beginning 25/02 (DDo) and from Sychdyn in week beginning 4/03 (IMS).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

BRONFRAITH

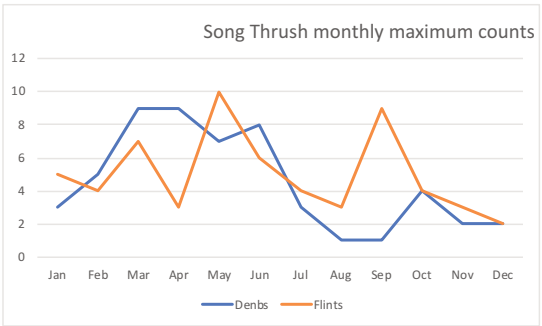
Breeding resident and possible winter visitor. Amber list. S7.

(ST)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	145	91
Maximum count	9	10
Av max count prev 10 yrs	16	14
Recorded in BBS squares	23/31	16/21
Number of records	394	416
% of records from GBW	1.27	17.07
% of BirdTrack lists	21.0	23.4
Density	0.66	1.54
Max breeding evidence	NE	FF



Recorded in each month in both counties. The graph shows no evidence of there being winter visitors arriving or departing from our area. Such evidence would be larger counts (eg like Redwing or Blackbird) during both winter periods, which are noticeably absent.

Denbs. The majority of records were of presence, 1 or 2, with twenty-two records of 3 to 7. The highest counts were 8 at Gellifor during a BBS walk on 20/06 and 9 there on 24/04 (TP) and 9+ at RSPB Conwy on 3/03 (WRM). Two of these three counts were during the breeding season, not during the winter periods. There were eleven records of confirmed breeding from ten locations.

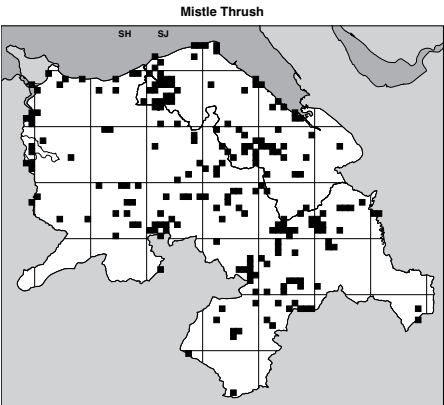


Flints. Again, the majority of records were of presence, 1 or 2 with thirty-six counts of 3 to 7. The highest count was 10 during a BBS walk near Bwlchwyn on 4/05 (GaBu). The only other high count was 9 ringed the same morning at Rhydymwyn on 29/09 (IMS), when a sound lure was used, where usually no more than 4 were ringed during any ringing session. The lure may have attracted some migrants, but with the small number captured, they may well have been birds that bred, or were bred, locally.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*
Breeding resident. Amber list.

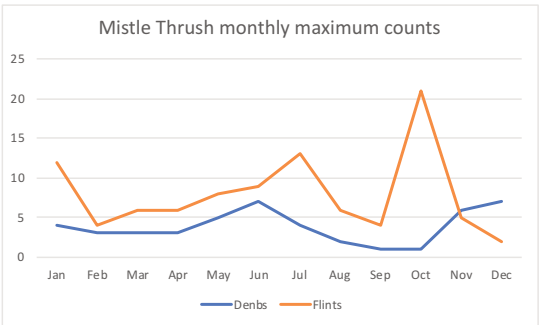
BRYCH Y COED

(M)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	156	64
Maximum count	7	21
Av max count prev 10 yrs	39	15
Recorded in BBS squares	16/31	10/21
Number of records	303	291
% of records from GBW	1.32	10.31
% of BirdTrack lists	14.2	17.5
Density	0.55	2.28
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF



Recorded in each month in both counties. The graph, below, shows scant evidence of migration into NE Wales and the small peak in Oct in Flints could well have been a flock of local birds. Compare with the graph for Redwing.

Denbs. During the first six months most records were of presence, 1 or 2, with sixteen records of 3 to 5 and a high count of 7 near Moel Arthur on 5/06 (GEM). During the latter six months most records were of presence, 1 or 2, with seven records of 3 to 6 and a high count of 7 near Llechrydau on 24/12 (AlDa). The highest count during a BBS walk was 5 on 15/05 near Gwynfryn (NHu). There were two records of confirmed breeding from two locations.



Flints. During Jan to Jun most records were of presence, 1 or 2, with thirty-five counts of 3 to 9. The three largest counts were all at Connah's Quay NR, with 10 on 1/01, 10 on 28/01 and 12 on 12/01 (PeHa). During the second half of the year records were of presence, 1 or 2, with eleven counts of 3 to 6. The two largest counts were 13 at Rhydymwyn on 17/07 (IMS) and 21 near Bagillt on 15/10 (DWn). This last count is the only indication of any winter visitors, during a watch for migrants. The largest count from BBS was 9 at Talacre on 20/06 (GrJ). There were three records of confirmed breeding from two locations.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*
Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

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

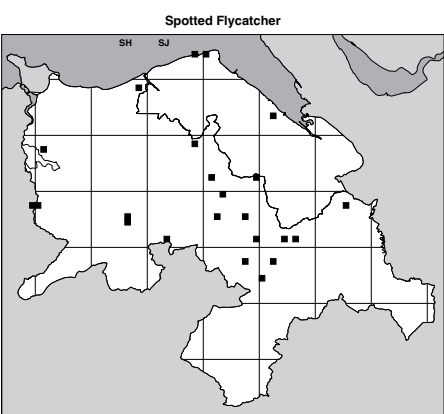
This breeding visitor is one of the last returning migrants to appear each year. Numbers continue to decline in the region.

Denbs. The first of the year was on 15/05 near Gwynfryn (NHu), a week later than last year. Almost all records were of singles, one of which was recorded on a BBS near Rhuthun on 9/06 (MB). Breeding was confirmed at three sites: Eglwyseg with a pair feeding chicks in the nest on 23/06 (JLR), near Bryneglwys with a pair also feeding chicks in a cliff-face nest on 1/07 (JLR) and at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari, where fledged young were observed on 2/07 (JPH). A single in a garden near

(SF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	20	3
Maximum count	4	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	7	3
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	
Number of records	29	3
% of records from GBW	3.45	0.00
% of BirdTrack lists	1.4	0.3
Density	0.04	0.01
Max breeding evidence	NY	

Llangollen on 24/07 was thought to be on passage (JLR). The last record of the year was 1 at Burton on 14/08 (HL).

Flints. A poor year for the species. All records were likely to have been of passage birds. The first was on 7/06 at Gronant (RhPc), three weeks later than last year. The other records were of 2 at Point of Ayr on 4/08 (MJDH) and a late bird at Bagillt on 21/09 (GRMP).

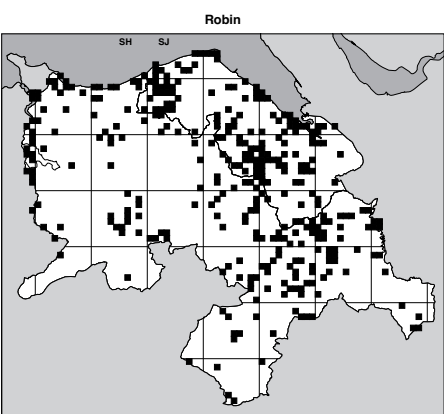


Robin *Erithacus rubecula*
Breeding resident.

ROBIN GOCH

(R)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	219	128
Maximum count	21	14
Av max count prev 10 yrs	25	16
Recorded in BBS squares	29/31	21/21
Number of records	1204	1387
% of records from GBW	21.59	39.37
% of BirdTrack lists	55.7	54.1
Density	2.33	3.04
Max breeding evidence	NE	FF

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. Most records were in single figures, usually only 1 to 2. Recording effort was down significantly in Denbs.



Denbs. There were only sixteen counts of 10 or more during the year. The highest counts came from BBS surveys. The maximum counts of 17 and 21 were at Llangwm on 2/06 and Craig Bron Bannog, Clocaenog Forest on 14/04 respectively (HKd, MaO). The highest garden count was of 11 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 8/04 (MAJo), implying that recently fledged young were seen as otherwise this would be a remarkable number seen at any one time. Seventeen confirmed breeding records were received from twelve locations, with nests with eggs or adults carrying food for young occurring in Apr. The first fledged young were recorded in May. Recently fledged young were seen as late as 4/08 at Coedpoeth (SD). Through the year 110 fullgrown birds were ringed at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy (pBH).

Flints. There were ten double-figure counts this year, with the maximum count of 14 coming from a BBS survey at Afonwen on 8/05 (GRMP). The highest garden count was of 4 in Caergwle on 15/07 (JKee). There were seventeen confirmed breeding records from six locations. The first record

of recently fledged young was on 16/05 at Pantymwyn (GEM). Ringing activity at Rhydymwyn resulted in 39 fullgrown birds being ringed. Most of these were caught during Constant Effort Site project work between May and Aug (IMS). A further 29 were ringed at Bagillt (GRMP).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

GWYBEDOG BRITH

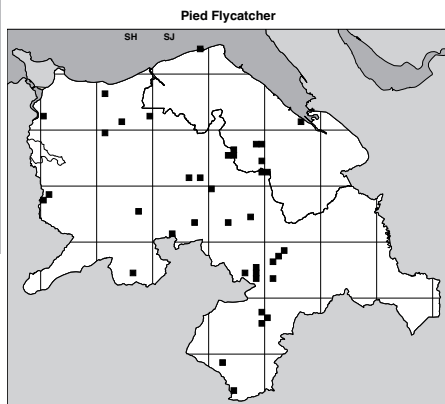
Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

(PF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	33	7
Maximum count	60	22
Av max count prev 10 yrs	75	15
Recorded in BBS squares	6/31	
Number of records	106	15
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	0.7
Density	1.00	0.26
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

This classic breeding visitor of Welsh woodlands returns in mid-April and generally completes one brood before migrating back S.



Denbs. The first arrived and was singing on 14/04 at Dinbren Hall, Llangollen (JLR), ten days later than last year. Another sighting on 14/04 related to 2 fighting males at Rhos-y-brithdir (DWs). In the

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following fortnight birds returned to ten sites. Six BBS sites recorded the species. The first eggs were on 6/05 and the first nestlings reported on 30/05 (JoG). After fledging, this species becomes very hard to see and there were only three records after June: 2 on 11/07 at Llyn Brenig (JaT), 1 on 27/07 at Tal-y-bont (pBH) and 1 adult ringed on 27/08 near Llanfair Talhaiarn (pBH).

Flints. The number of records grew to a level not seen since 2009. The first back was on 19/04 at Connah's Quay NR (DWn), where it was on passage. The first singing was a record of 4 at Hendre on 24/04 (GEM), followed by a singing male at Pantymwyn on 26/04 (GEM). Three sites had confirmed breeding: Coed y Felin, Cadole and Gronant. The last record was of 1 on 30/06 at Moel Arthur (JPH).

Breeding (JLR, IMS, MRG):

(PF)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Dinbren Isaf	16	113	85	68	4.25
Eglwyseg	11	74	64	62	5.64
Near Llangollen	5	35	24	22	4.40
Coed Nantddu	7	61	41	38	5.43
Coed y Felin	6	44	36	27	4.50
near Pandy	3	22	22	22	7.33
Glyn Arthur	25	151	123	94	3.76
near Glyn Ceiriog	15	106	81	74	4.93
Prion	45	314	245	177	3.93
TOTALS	45	327	250	217	4.82
Mean yng/nest for 2004-20017					4.76

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochrurus*

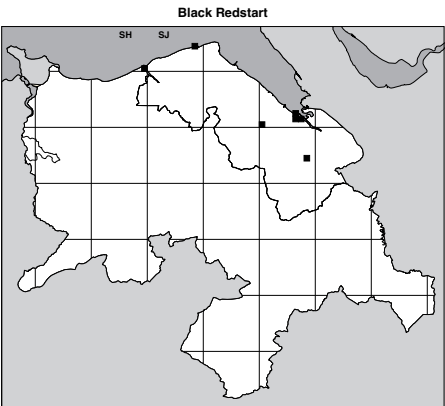
TINGOCH DU

Winter and passage visitor and casual breeder. Amber list. RBBP.

(BX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	6
Maximum count	2	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	1
Number of records	4	12
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.2
Density	0.00	0.03

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

A minimum of nine individuals from five locations were involved in the 2018 records, but with no evidence of breeding.



Denbs. Four records from Kinmel Bay in Dec: 2 on 3/12 (SD), then 1 on 4/12 (SM), 12/12 (JPH) and 19/12 (PEM).

Flints. A single was at Connah's Quay NR on 1/01 (PeHa) and again on 1/02 (DWn). Three females were seen at Buckley on 22/01, with 2 present on 30/01 and 1 on 13/02 (KaW). A single was at Gronant on 11/04 (GNR) and 12/04 (RLE, WRM). In the second half of the year 1 was at Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 2/08 – an early date for a returning bird – and finally 1 at Halkyn on 21/11 and 24/11 (MGW).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

TINGOCH

Breeding summer visitor.

(RT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	80	27
Maximum count	7	9
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	10
Recorded in BBS squares	11/31	8/21
Number of records	114	57
% of BirdTrack lists	5.2	2.6
Density	0.29	0.41
Max breeding evidence	FF	NY

Seen in these months

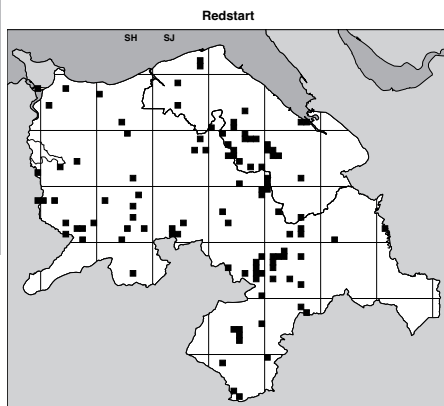
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Reports from Denbs were 21% lower than in 2017, but records came from an increased number of locations. Numbers in Flints were similar to 2017.

Arrivals were a week later than in 2017, with the first reports on 14/04 in both counties.

Denbs. The first record was 1 at Llanddulas on 14/04 (CRJo). Most records were of 1 to 3, with 4 at Llanferres on 19/04, 6 at Mynydd y Glyn on 4/05 (MkH) and the highest BBS count of 7 at Berwyn on 9/05 (JoG). Four separate males were singing within 500m on Moel Arthur on 28/05 (GEM). Three broods of nestlings were ringed in Jun: 6 at Pandy on 3/06, another brood of 5 there on 14/06 and a brood of 5 at Llangwyfan on 8/06 (pBH). In total, breeding was confirmed at seven locations. The last record for the year was 1 at Maes-Tyddyn on 22/08 (GPI), with no Sep records, which is unusual.

Flints. The first record of the year was 2 at Penycloddiau on 14/04 (DWn). Most records were of 1 to 3, with 4 on a WBBS walk at St Asaph on 17/04, rising to the best count of 9 on 23/05. The best BBS count was of 5 at Upper Gronant on 3/05 (GRMP) and 4 were on Ffrith Mountain on 14/06 (GPI). This year breeding was only fully confirmed at Rhydymwyn (IMS, GRMP). The last of the year was a single at Hendre on 12/09 (GEM), ten days later than the last date in 2017 and nineteen days later than the final record in 2016.



Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

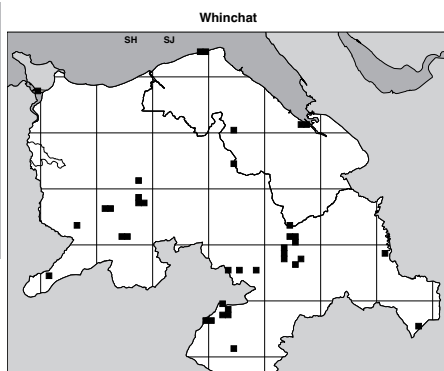
CREC YR EITHIN

Breeding summer visitor. Red List.

(WC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	33	5
Maximum count	5	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	11	4
Recorded in BBS squares	3/31	1/21
Number of records	46	10
% of BirdTrack lists	1.7	0.4
Density	0.08	0.03
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



There was an increase in reports in Denbs from twenty-seven to forty-six, but in fewer locations and with lower maximum counts. Flints records were very thin on the ground and down from nineteen to ten on 2017. Arrival and departure dates were similar to previous years.

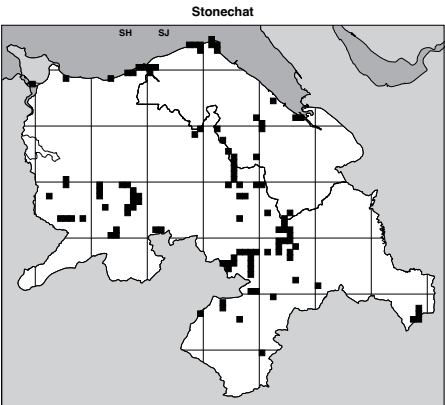
Denbs. The first record of the year was 1 at Rhewl on 21/04 (JoG). Thereafter, records came regularly from the usual inland sites until mid-Aug, with a gap before the final record of 2 on 2/09 at Nant-y-Ffrith Reservoir (SD). All records were of 1 to 2, except for 5 on Ruabon Mountain on 17/06 (KS) and 4 in a different location on Ruabon Mountain on 25/06 (WK), with 4 at Penycae on 24/07 (TBT) and 3 on Ruabon Mountain on 4/08 (SD) and 15/08 (JmS). Breeding was confirmed at three locations. The last record on 2/09 was almost two months later than in 2017 and three weeks later than 2016.

Flints. A very poor year, with only ten records, all but two of presence or singles. The first of the year was 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 24/04 (PeHa), 2 were seen on a BBS walk at Afonwen on 26/06 (GRMP) and 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/04, where the last single was recorded on 17/08 (PeHa), substantially earlier than final reports in the previous two years.

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*
Resident breeder.

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

(SC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	90	23
Maximum count	10	7
Av max count prev 10 yrs	9	6
Recorded in BBS squares	9/31	
Number of records	201	93
% of BirdTrack lists	13.2	6.9
Density	0.45	0.27
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF



Recorded in each month in both counties, with similar numbers of reports to 2017. Records were well spread through the year, but there were very few in Sep: only four in Denbs and two in Flint. Most records were of 1 to 3.

Denbs. In the first winter period up to 20/03, all except one of the forty-nine records were coastal, with RSPB Conwy the predominant location and producing the highest count of 10 on 8/03 (JHg). Between 20/03 and 14/09 only five of the one hundred and thirty-six reports were coastal. There was then a gap of a month until 14/10, followed by a trickle of reports of 1 to 2, until the end of the year. The highest BBS count was only 5 this year, at Gwynfryn on 15/05 (NH). Breeding was confirmed in seventeen 1km squares and probable in another nine, only one of which was coastal. There were sixteen reports of 4 to 7, mostly of family parties at breeding sites.

Flints. In contrast to Denbs records were strongly coastal throughout the year, with sixty reports from the Rhyl / Talacre coastal strip and a further twelve from the Bagillt / Connah's Quay NR area – these two areas generated 63% of total records. Reports came from ten different inland sites, but only from one of these – Halkyn – in the first three months of the year. Whereas the Gronant records were spread throughout the year, all except one of the Connah's Quay NR reports were in Jan-Mar, with a maximum of 7 in three separate parts of the reserve on 8/03. It is not clear if these were the same birds, though they probably were. Breeding was confirmed at six locations, three coastal and three inland.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*
Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

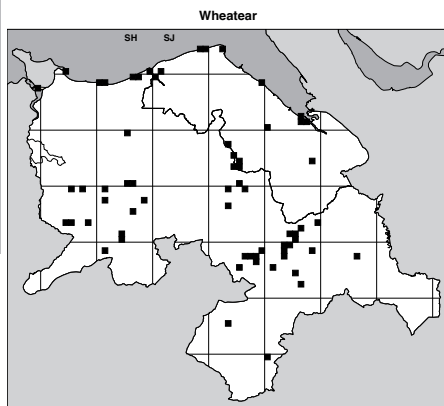
TINWEN Y GARN

(W)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	50	14
Maximum count	12	25
Av max count prev 10 yrs	22	36
Recorded in BBS squares	4/31	
Number of records	77	76
% of BirdTrack lists	4.6	3.3
Density	0.30	0.59
Max breeding evidence	FL	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

The numbers of reports dropped substantially from 2017 – down 45% in Denbs and 37% in Flints. The majority of records were from spring passage, with sixty-three between Mar and May in each county and only seven from Aug to Oct in Denbs and twelve in Flints. Reports in Denbs were largely from inland sites, whereas in Flints they were strongly coastal.



Denbs. The first of the year was presence at RSPB Conwy on 18/03. Atypically, only 22% of the spring passage records came from coastal locations. Most reports were of 1 to 5, with 8 at Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd on 6/05 (GPI) and 12 on Ruabon Mountain on 8/05 (GrJ) the only higher counts. All the small number of autumn passage records were of 1 to 2 only. The last of the year was a single at Llanddulas on 20/10 (JFJ). There were two records of confirmed breeding, with breeding also reported from a third site.

Flints. The first report of the year was 2 at Rhyl on 19/03 (WRM). Some 85.7% of the spring passage records were from coastal sites, as were all the eight autumn passage reports. All reports were of 1 to 5 only, apart from groups on four dates at Connah's Quay NR, with 7 on 18/04, 6 on 27/04 and 8 on 3/05 and 7/05 (PeHa) and an exceptional count of 25 at Penycloddiau on 8/04 (EdW). There was no confirmation of breeding in any location. All autumn passage records after 9/08 were of singles, with the last of the year on 14/10 at Connah's Quay NR (PeHa).

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*
Passage migrant.

TINWEN Y GARN

(W)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	1
Maximum count	3	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	2	3
Number of records	2	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.2
Density	0.00	0.01

There were three reports of spring passage migrants this year, which is par for the course.

Denbs. There were 3 at RSPB Conwy on 27/04 (JHg) and 2 at Cefn-Brith on 7/05 (JDu).

Flints. There were 3 at Rhuddlan on 4/05 (SH).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

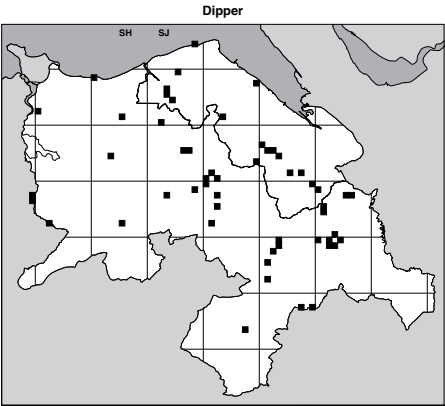
BRONWEN Y DWR

Breeding resident.

(DI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	38	16
Maximum count	4	4
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	2
Recorded in BBS squares	2/31	1/21
Number of records	102	20
% of BirdTrack lists	2.3	0.5
Density	0.08	0.11
Max breeding evidence	N	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

Similar numbers of reports to 2017, with a modest increase in both counties. Almost all the records submitted were of 1 to 2.



Denbs. Surprisingly, there were no records at all in the first half of the year, with reports only starting on 19/07, but then continuing in each month to the end of the year, with Llangollen and the Wrexham area generating the majority of records. The only count above 2 was of 3 adults near Denbigh on 21/11 (HaE).

Flints. The only reports of more than 2 came from two broods of nestlings ringed at Gronant: 3 on 22/04 and 4 on 10/06 (pBH). The small number of records came from fourteen widely scattered locations.

Breeding (JLR):

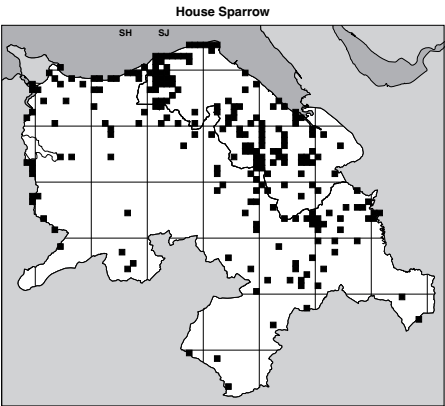
(DI)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
near Llangollen	6	27	17	17	2.83

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

ADERYN Y TO

Breeding resident. Amber List.

(HS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	122	107
Maximum count	250	100
Av max count prev 10 yrs	140	144
Recorded in BBS squares	15/31	15/21
Number of records	959	1089
% of records from GBW	27.74	42.88
% of BirdTrack lists	42.7	41.0
Density	15.44	18.17
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY



Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. There was a 33% decrease in the number of records from Denbs. The largest numbers were seen outside the breeding season with the highest counts recorded

at Towyn in Denbs.

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-two counts of 100 to 120 between 5/01 and 18/03. During the breeding season fewer birds were recorded in Towyn, with between 20 to 50 seen in the months of Apr, May, Jun and Jul. From Aug to Dec the flock sizes increased from 100 to 250. The maximum count of 250+ was on 17/09 in Towyn (all Towyn data from SM). Away from Towyn, the counts followed a similar pattern during the year, with most records being in single figures but slightly larger numbers recorded in the autumn and winter months. The highest count on a BBS survey was 40 at Llangwm on 2/06 (HKd, MaO). There were twenty-three records of confirmed breeding. The first was of a nest with eggs at Rhos-y-brithdir on 26/04 (DWs). The first fledgling of the year was recorded at Towyn on 10/05 and the last confirmed breeding from nine locations. Post- breeding and up to the second winter period, the highest counts were 50+ at RSPB Conwy on 17/09 (WRM) and on 25/11 (TyC). Inland there were 20 and 40 seen in a garden at Llanarmon-yn-Ial for much of the year (IW).

Flints. Most records were in single figures. There were three hundred and five records in double figures but only five of these were 50 and over. The highest counts were of 85 on 16/04 and 94 on 18/05, both on BBS surveys at Buckley (GNR). The maximum count was of 100 seen at Drury on 27/08 (AB). There were eleven records of confirmed breeding at seven locations. The first was an adult carrying a faecal sac or food on 28/04 at Prestatyn (WRM). The first fledgling was noted at Y Graig NR at Tremeirchion on 1/06. The last confirmed breeding record was of recently fledged young at Rhydymwyn on 19/08 (MD).

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

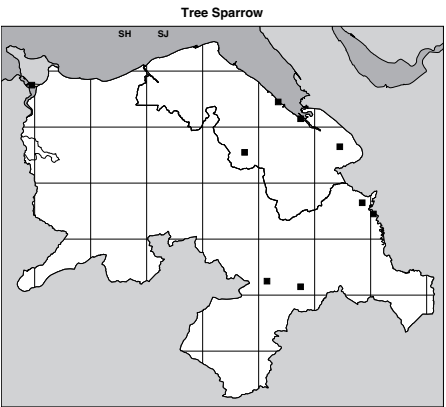
Breeding resident.

(TS) Occurrence	Denbs	Flints
	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	5	4
Maximum count	5	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	14	31
Number of records	5	54
% of records from GBW	0.00	94.44
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. The two records in Apr were of 5 at RSPB Conwy on 15/04 (LG) and at Froncysyllte on 19/04 (DaHu). The May record was a single, the Jul record was presence only and the Nov record was 2 near Holt on 24/12 (NF).



Flints. All but three records were of presence at a GBW site in Cilcain from every month. There were two records of 2 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 7/02 and at Connah's Quay NR on 6/11 (DWn) during a visible migration watch.

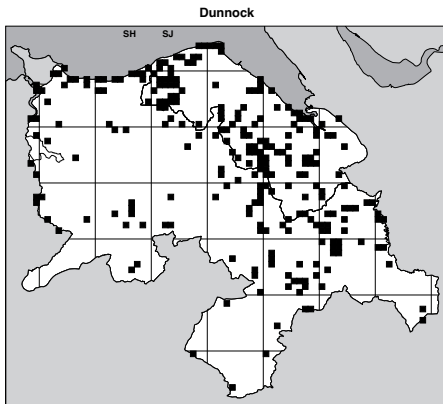
Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

Breeding resident.

LLWYD Y GWYRCH

(D)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	148	108
Maximum count	10	11
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	15
Recorded in BBS squares	19/31	20/21
Number of records	871	1138
% of records from GBW	23.88	43.94
% of BirdTrack lists	41.5	42.3
Density	0.75	2.02
Max breeding evidence	NE	FL

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. There was a 50% decrease in the number of records from Denbs. Records were of mostly of 1 to 2 throughout the year.



Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 2 with all but one record being in single figures. The maximum of 10 was recorded on a BirdTrack list at Nant-y-Glyn on 22/02 (HC). The seven records of confirmed breeding came from four sites. The earliest was of a nest with eggs on 23/04 at Rhos-y-brithdir (DWs) and the latest was on 2/08 where recently fledged young were seen on Moel Findeg (GEM). The highest garden counts were several records of 4 and one record of 5 at Trevor Hall, Garth on 8/07 (JuBa). Ringing effort at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy resulted in 69 captures of fullgrown birds



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(pBH); a few birds in every month of the year.

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 2, with all but one record being in single figures. The maximum of 11 was counted on a BBS walk at Gwysaney near Mold on 22/04 (AB, IMS). There were seven records of confirmed breeding, all recently fledged young seen at Rhydymwyn in Jul and Aug. Fifty-six birds were ringed at four sites: Bagillt (GRMP), Shotton Steelworks (pBH), Rhydymwyn (IMS, GRMP) and Sychdyn (IMS).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

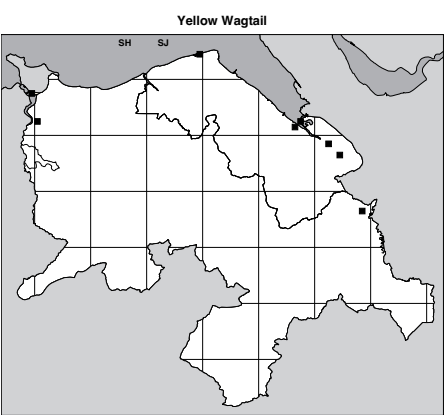
SIGLEN FELEN

Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

(YW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	5
Maximum count	2	20
Av max count prev 10 yrs	3	13
Recorded in BBS squares		1/21
Number of records	3	6
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.6
Density	0.00	0.17
Max breeding evidence		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

Denbs. Three records only, two apparently during spring migration: presence at RSPB Conwy on 20/04 (JHg) and 2 at Bodnant on 26/04 (SnB). A later report of presence came from Trevalyn Meadows on 6/07 (NoWi).



Flints. The numbers of records were down from twenty-six in 2017 to just six in 2018. The first report came from Connah's Quay NR with 3 on 18/04 (PeHa). Two reports came from Gronant dunes with 2 on 9/05 and the last record was a single on 19/09 (DO). Deeside produced the remaining records and a maximum count of 20+ near Queensferry on 17/05 (DWn), a BBS count of 3 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 5/06 (IMS) and 2 at White Sands on 16/07 (PeHa).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

SIGLEN LLWYD

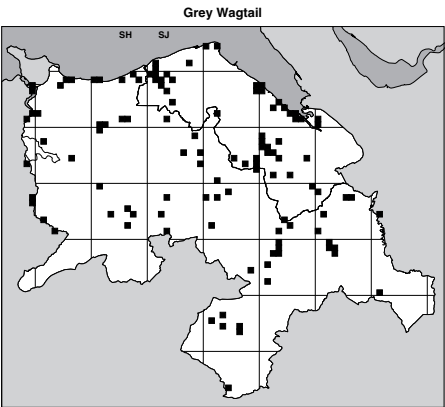
Breeding resident.

(GL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	70	45
Maximum count	4	6
Av max count prev 10 yrs	6	8
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	6/21
Number of records	169	103
% of records from GBW	0.00	0.97
% of BirdTrack lists	7.3	4.6
Density	0.14	0.46
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 3. There were four maximum counts: a BBS count of 4 at Pandy Tudur on 6/05 (HC), 4 near Tal-y-cafn on 14/05 (PEM), 4 at Betws-y-Coed on 1/09 (ArHu) and 4 at RSPB Conwy on 17/09 (WRM). There were five records of confirmed breeding from five locations. The first was at Rhos-y-brithdir on 19/04 (DWs) and the last was at Rock Farm, Eglwyseg on 1/07 (HCw).

Flints. The majority of records were of presence or counts of 1 to 3 with three larger counts. The maximum came from Rhydyddauddwr Farm, near Rhuddlan, with 6 juveniles on 10/06 (DCR). The other large counts were 4 at Gwaenysgor on 7/05 and 4 full-grown ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 30/12 (pBH). There were two WBBS counts, both from St. Asaph: 2 recorded on 17/04 and 3 on 23/05 (ShG).

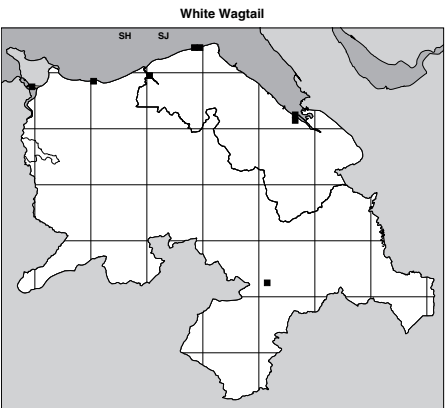


White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*
 Passage migrant.

SIGLEN WEN

(WB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	3	5
Maximum count	70	30
Av max count prev 10 yrs	29	46
Number of records	23	11
% of BirdTrack lists	0.9	1.0
Density	0.11	0.25

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



Denbs. All but two of the records came from RSPB Conwy with seventeen reports in the spring passage period starting on 4/04, with presence there on 4/04 (RLE) and with the maximum count of 70 on 20/04 (JHg). The last spring report came from Llangollen with presence on 29/04. The first autumn record came from Llanddulas, with presence on 8/08 and the last from RSPB Conwy, with presence on 1/11.

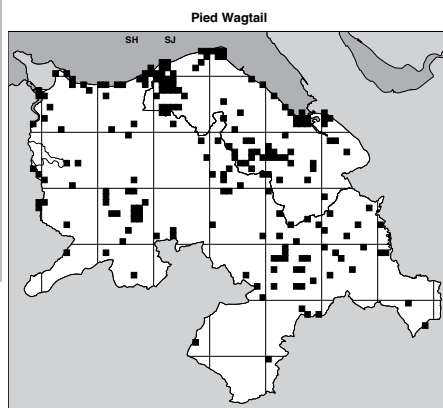
Flints. All the records were from the spring passage period, the first from Gronant with 3 on 12/04 and the last and the maximum count of 30+ on 28/04 both (WRM). The other records were of presence or counts of 1 to 8+. There were four reports from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, while Connah's Quay NR and Rhyl had a single record each.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

SIGLEN FRAITH

Breeding resident.

(PW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	125	81
Maximum count	70	120
Av max count prev 10 yrs	92	51
Recorded in BBS squares	14/31	11/21
Number of records	397	456
% of records from GBW	2.27	7.02
% of BirdTrack lists	24.4	24.3
Density	4.43	16.50
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 9. There were fifteen records of 10 to 70. The maximum count was 70, seen on wires around the sewage works, Rhuthun on 14/02. The same site had 60 on 2/12 (GPI). RSPB Conwy produced 30% of reports and the third highest count of 54 on 6/09 (JPH). There were nine records of confirmed breeding; the first at Eglwyseg on 28/05 (NiSu) and the last was at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 23/07 (WRM). All nine GBW records were of singles and came from Llandegla between weeks beginning 7/01 and 10/06 (JRo). The highest count on one of the twelve BBS counts was 3 at Blaen Bache on 16/06 (JoG). The single WBBS report came from Wern-Ddu, with 1 on 28/04 (NDg). The only ringing record came from Llansanffraid, with 1 full-grown on 18/03 (pBH).

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 40. The three highest counts were all at Flints sewage works: 80+ on 3/03, 115+ on 7/01 and the maximum was 120+ on 8/01 (DWn). There were two records of confirmed breeding, both from Rhydymwyn. A single WBBS count came from St. Asaph with 1 on 17/04 (ShG). There were thirty-two records from six GBW locations. The largest such count was 2 at Hope in week beginning 16/06 (ECMH). Two ringing reports came from Rhydymwyn, with 5 nestlings on 21/05 and 2 nestlings on 10/07 (IMS).

Breeding (JLR, IMS):

(PW)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
near Llangollen	8	39	28	28	3.50
Rhydymwyn	2	7	7	7	3.50
TOTALS	10	46	35	35	3.50

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

Breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber list.

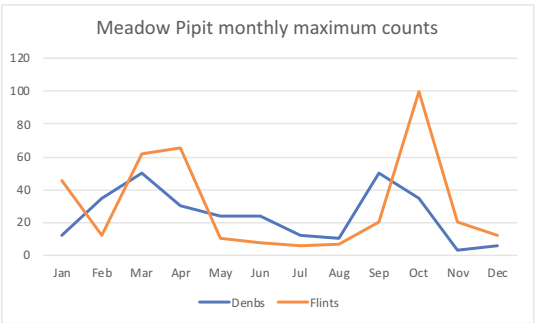
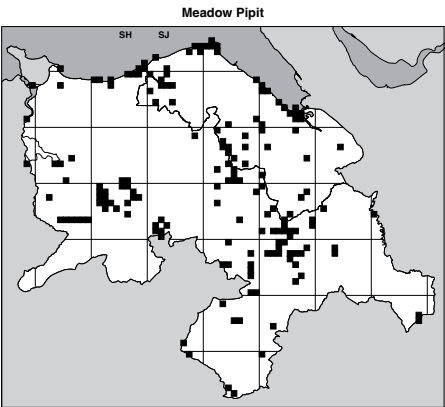
(MP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	121	48
Maximum count	50	100
Av max count prev 10 yrs	118	106
Recorded in BBS squares	12/31	3/21
Number of records	306	267
% of BirdTrack lists	22.0	18.0
Density	3.06	8.15
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. During the first half of the year, most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 9, with thirty-five counts of 10 to 50. The peak count in the first half of the year was a flock in a pasture field just S of Rhuthun on 26/03 (GPI). The other two largest counts in this period were 40 at Esclusham Mountain, Ruabon Mountain (NGo) and 40 near Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd

(GPI), both on 25/03. From that date on counts dropped to a high of 24 near Cerrig-duon on 24/06 (DeS). In the second half of the year most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 9. There were seven counts of 10 to 50. The autumn peak of 50+ was on 4/09 at Llyn Aled Isaf, when adults were still seen feeding young (WRM). There were thirteen records of confirmed breeding from twelve locations.

Flints. Here, most records were also mainly of presence or counts of 1 to 9, with twenty counts of 10 to 65. During Jan the high count was 46 near Rhuddlan on 7/01 (SH) then a drop to a 'high' count of 12 on 4/02 at Greenfield marsh (DWN). Then there were more birds counted as the high count in Mar increased to 62 near Rhyl on 3/03 (JPH) and then 65 near Rhuddlan on 4/04 (SH). After this, there were few birds recorded during May to Sep, with records in the second half of the year being mostly of presence or counts of 1 to 9. There were sixteen counts of 10 to 100. The year's maximum count was 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/10 (PeHa) which suggested that some passage was underway. In Dec numbers dropped dramatically to a high of 12+ at Talacre on 10/12 (WRM). There were three records of confirmed breeding at three locations.



Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

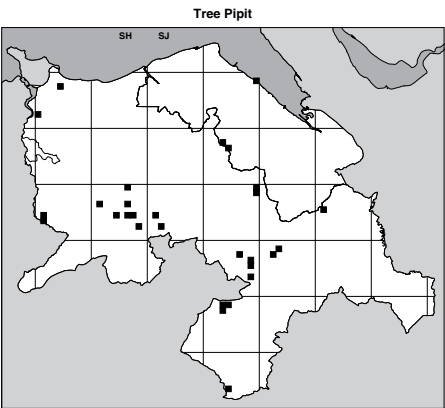
CORHEDYDD Y COED

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

(TP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	26	3
Maximum count	7	2
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	4
Recorded in BBS squares	5/31	
Number of records	36	3
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	0.2
Density	0.09	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

Denbs. The first record was a single, singing, at Rhos-y-brithdir on 31/03 (the only record in Mar) (DWs). Most records were counts of 1 to 4, with two others. There were 6 near Bryneglwys on 20/04 (JoG) and 5 near Berwyn on 13/06 (JoG). During May, JLR checked 10+ regular sites and found they were all without Tree Pipits. There were



three records of confirmed breeding from three locations.

Flints. The first record was 2 near Penycloddiau on 8/04 (EdW), a single was recorded at Greenfield marsh on 18/04 and the last record was 2 near Moel Arthur on 30/06 (JPH).



Tree Pipit (John Hawkins)

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

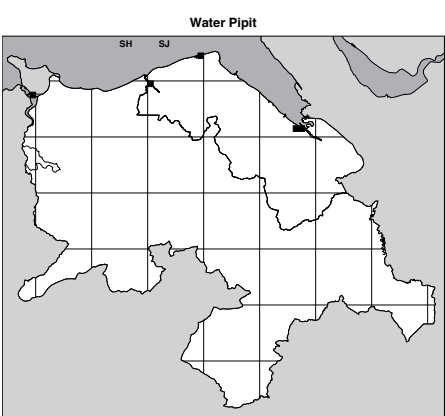
Winter visitor.

(WI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	4
Maximum count	1	2
Number of records	7	7
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	0.3
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. All records were at RSPB Conwy and the last was on 3/04.

Flints. All five of the early year records were at Connah's Quay NR and the last of the first winter period was 2 on 6/03 (PeHa). The two Nov records were singles near Rhyl on 18/11 and at Gronant dunes on 22/11.



Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

Winter visitor.

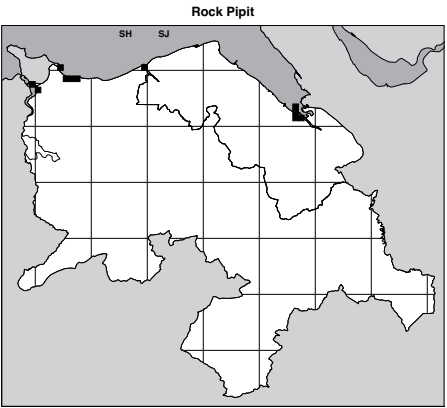
(RC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	4
Maximum count	2	8
Av max count prev 10 yrs	4	3
Number of records	20	46
% of BirdTrack lists	1.6	2.0
Density	0.01	0.05

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

Denbs.

During the early months the records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. The last of these was 2 near Old Colwyn on 15/04 (NHu). Three of the autumn records were singles at RSPB Conwy. The first of the autumn was a single at Rhos-on-Sea on 6/10 (WRM). The last two records were of a single at RSPB Conwy on 25/11.



Flints. All of the records were from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh or Connah's Quay NR. During Jan to Feb records were mainly counts of 1 to 3, with 4 at Connah's Quay NR on 1/02 (PeHa) and 8 nearby on the same day (PeHa). It is possible that the latter record included the 4 already mentioned. The last record of the early winter period was 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 6/03 (PeHa). The first record of autumn was 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 9/10 (PeHa). There were 5 recorded twice at Connah's Quay NR / RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 11/10 (PeHa). For the rest of the year records were counts of 1 to 2.

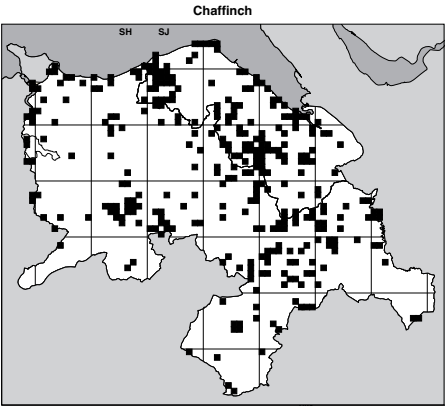
Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

JI-BINC

Breeding resident.

(CH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	216	117
Maximum count	280+	1051
Av max count prev 10 yrs	118	241
Recorded in BBS squares	30/31	19/21
Number of records	939	1125
% of records from GBW	29.18	40.36
% of BirdTrack lists	42.3	41.3
Density	7.65	208.77
Max breeding evidence	FF	FL

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. The reporting rate was down significantly in Denbs but the distribution was much the same as in 2017. The maximum counts in Flints were the highest for many years.



Denbs. Most records were in single figures, with just sixty-nine records in double figures, of which only twenty records were of 20 or more birds. In the first winter period 280+ were seen in a mixed flock with Brambling at Nantclwyd Uchaf on 5/02 (GPI). The next largest flock of 70 was recorded at Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd on 20/02 (GPI). These birds were feeding on the ground in a sheep-grazed

field adjacent to Plas Newydd Hall. BBS survey counts ranged from 1 to 33, when this larger number was recorded at Pandy Tudur on 6/05 (HC). There were only three records of confirmed breeding, the first at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 29/05. The other two breeding records were of recently fledged young seen at Llyn Brenig on 7/06 and 6/08 (WRM). In the second winter period another maximum of 70+ birds was recorded at Coed Tai-isaf, Mynydd Hiraethog on 16/11 (WRM). This large flock was seen on a walk to Alwen Reservoir in a freshly disturbed field but these birds had moved on when WRM returned. The highest GBW count was 15 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial in week beginning 25/02 (IW). Thirty-six fullgrown birds were ringed at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy (pBH).

Flints. As in Denbs most of the counts were in single figures, with fifty-one counts of over 20, nineteen of which were 100 and above. These larger flocks were all seen in the second winter period. The largest breeding survey count of 14 was along a stretch of river at St Asaph on a WBBS transect on 23/05 (ShG). For such a common and widespread species, it was surprising to only receive two records of confirmed breeding. Both these records were of recently fledged young seen at Rhydymwyn late in the season on 3/07 and 19/08 (MD). An influx of finches appeared as the autumn turned into winter. Flocks of over 100 birds were regularly recorded at Bagillt and Connah's Quay NR, from late autumn into the winter period (DWn, PeHa). The highest count at Connah's Quay NR was 909 on 6/11 and the maximum count for the year was 1,051 on 11/10 at Bagillt (DWn), both during visible migration watches. The highest GBW count was 21 at Gwernaffield during week beginning 9/12 (TP). Ringing activity at Bagillt resulted in 197 individuals being caught over the year, 188 of which were new birds and 9 were retraps from previous years (GRMP). This was a 300% increase in captures for this species from 2017.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

PINC Y MYNYDD

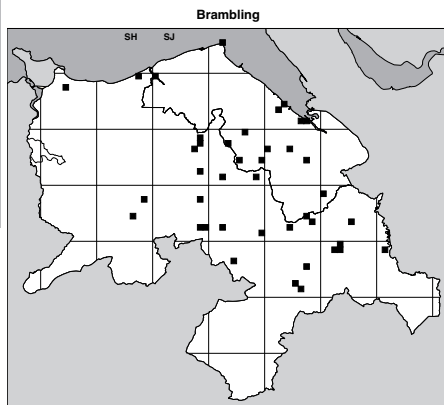
Winter visitor. Amber List.

(BL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	27	14
Maximum count	40	102
Av max count prev 10 yrs	96	27
Number of records	69	94
% of records from GBW	26.09	14.89
% of BirdTrack lists	1.7	2.6
Density	0.55	2.42

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 slight increase in the number of records this year. There were three very unusual summer records, all from gardens.



Denbs. The majority of records were in single figures, with seven records of 11 to 40. The maximum count for the year was of 40+ at garden feeders at Penycae on 7/04 (JAJ). The last, early winter record was at the same site on 27/04, when 2 were seen (JAJ). This species is often seen in the company of other finches and 20+ were seen with a large flock of Chaffinches (numbering up to 300) at Nantclwyd Uchaf on 5/02 (GPI). Bramblings are not usually seen again until early winter but this year two unusual summer sightings came from gardens. One was seen in week beginning 10/06 at Bryneglwys (LAF) and another at Trevor Hall, Garth, in week beginning 8/07 (JuBa). The earliest autumn record, of a single, came from Nant-y-Glyn on 10/10 (HC). More arrived in Nov and Dec and numbers peaked in mid-Dec when a small flock of between 12 and 25 was counted at Erddig pool near Wrexham (AB, NHu).



Flints. Most records were in single figures. There were seven records of 11 or more birds with the most notable and maximum number being 102 at Connah's Quay NR on 6/11 (DWn). The highest count in one morning during some visible migration watches. The last record of the 2017/18 winter was of a single seen on 28/04 at Pantymwyn (GEM) and the first of the following winter was of 5 sighted on 19/10 at Cilcain (GEM) and 5 again near Bagillt on the same day (DWn). Ten individuals were ringed: 7 at Bagillt (GRMP) and 3 in a garden at Sychdyn (IMS). Nine of these birds were caught in late winter and spring and one was in the following winter.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

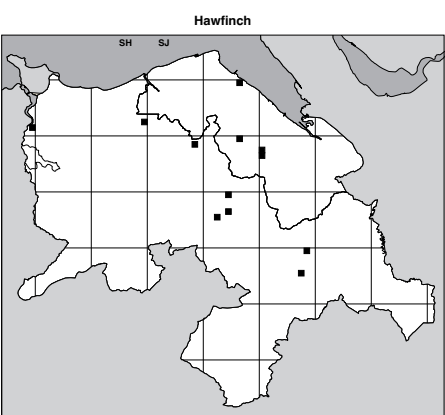
GYLFINBRAFF

Winter visitor and possible breeding resident. Amber List. RBBP. S7.

(HF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	8	4
Maximum count	23	3
Av max count prev 10 yrs	5	0
Number of records	25	5
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.3
Density	0.09	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

There were more records this year from double the number of sites compared to 2017.



Denbs. The number of records increased, with most records in the first half of the year, suggesting that these were birds from the big influx to the

UK in late 2017. Sightings came from seven locations, all very scattered around the county. A flock, with the average size of 10 was regularly seen near Rhuthun in the months of Jan – Apr (JoH). The maximum of 23 was seen on 9/01. A pair was regularly seen at Ddol, near Llanefydd, in Jun and Jul, indicating that they were probably breeding nearby. The male had a colour ring on its left leg (Yellow N71). This was a bird originating from the Dolgellau area.

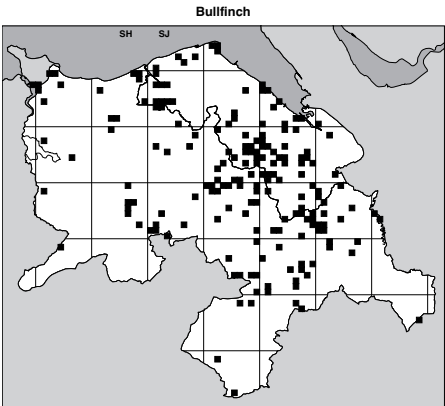
Flints. This year there were five records from three sites. Three records on 7/02 came from three sites. Two were seen at Maes Pennant and Nannerch and 3 were sighted at Rhydymwyn (DWn). Later in the summer, a single was seen in a garden at Rhydymwyn on 12/06 and 18/06 (MD).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

COCH Y BERLLAN

(BF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	113	71
Maximum count	10	9
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	11
Recorded in BBS squares	12/31	10/21
Number of records	284	457
% of records from GBW	5.28	48.80
% of BirdTrack lists	14.3	14.2
Density	0.57	1.08
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. There was a 50% decrease in records from Denbs.



Bullfinch (Henry Cook)

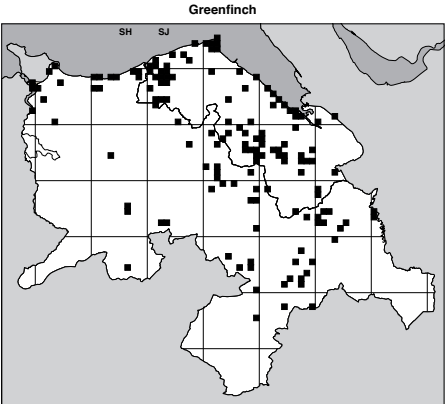
Denbs. All records, with one exception, were in single figures, mostly 1 to 2. As pairs tend to stay together throughout the year, records of more than two are not common. However, there were thirty-six records of between 3 and 10. The maximum was a record of 10 at RSPB Conwy on 1/01 (JHg). The two records of confirmed breeding were of recently fledged young seen at RSPB Conwy on 16/07 (JHg) and Moel Findeg on 2/08 (GEM). Nine birds were ringed at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy (pBH).

Flints. All records were in single figures, with most between 1 and 2. There were one hundred and nineteen records of between 3 and 9. The maximum of 9 came from Rhydymwyn on 1/01 (MD) and on 2/04 at Pantymwyn (GEM). Half of the records came from gardens. There were five records of confirmed breeding, all of recently fledged young. These records came from three sites: Flint Mountain, Pantymwyn and Rhydymwyn. The earliest such record was at Flint Mountain on 30/05 (RPJ) and the last on 19/08 at Rhydymwyn (MD). In total, 28 were ringed at Bagillt, Rhydymwyn, Shotton Steelworks and Sychdyn (GRMP, IMS, pBH).

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*
Breeding resident. Amber List.

LLINOS WERDD

(GR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	71	75
Maximum count	18	23
Av max count prev 10 yrs	56	47
Recorded in BBS squares	9/31	11/21
Number of records	440	721
% of records from GBW	16.14	39.25
% of BirdTrack lists	21.4	22.9
Density	0.65	2.93
Max breeding evidence	NY	FL



Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties, with the total number of records dropping again this year but mainly in Denbs with an increase in Flints. There were four records of sick birds from a garden in the Towyn area this year.

Denbs. All records were of 9 or fewer, with just two exceptions. Ten were seen in Wrexham on 1/01 (KS). The maximum of 18 were seen at Nant-y-Glyn on 11/01 (HC). There were no records of flocks this year. During the year ringing sessions at Llansanffraid, Glan Conwy captured 60 full-grown birds, mainly during the winter months (pBH). Ringing produced the only record of confirmed breeding, when 7 nestlings were ringed at Pandy on 20/05 (pBH).

Flints. Most records were of 9 or fewer, with thirty-one counts of 10 to 23. The maximum count of 23 was recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 9/12 (PeHa). Breeding season numbers were low with the highest count of 4 recorded on a BBS transect at the gas terminal, Talacre on 9/05 (GrJ). There were four records of confirmed breeding from three locations. All were of sightings of recently fledged young. The earliest such record was on 2/06 at Rhuddlan (JPH). Ringing sessions at Bagillt captured 97 full-grown birds, 88 of which were new, on various dates throughout the year (GRMP). These figures were quite encouraging as numbers were similar to that of 2015-16 after a drop in 2017.

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*
Winter visitor. Amber List. S7.

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

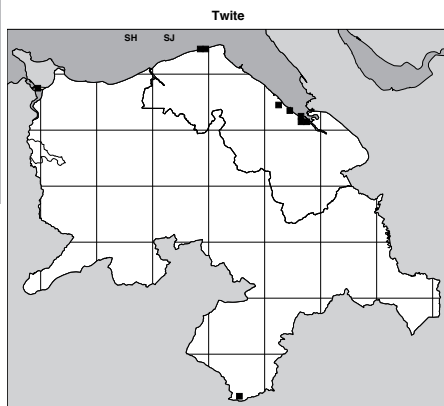
(TW)	Denbs		Flints	
	Scarce		Common	
Occurrence				
Number of 1km squares	2		7	
Maximum count	9		98	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	22		100	
Number of records	2		97	
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0		1.4	
Density	0.01		1.16	

Seen in these months

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

The number of records and their distribution was very similar to 2017.

Denbs. There were two records this year. The first was of 3 at RSPB Conwy on 11/04 (DvMo) and the second was of 9+ at an inland site, Mynydd y Glyn near Rhos-y-brithdir on 21/07 (HMB).



Flints. The flock sizes regularly reported at Connah's Quay NR throughout the winter months were much the same as in 2017. During Jan, Feb and Mar numbers varied with flocks of between 11 and 98 recorded. A few birds remained into Apr, when the last sighting of the winter was on 20/04, when 9 were seen (PeHa). The maximum of 98 was seen on 5/02 (PeHa). Thirty-three were newly ringed and individually colour-ringed in Feb and Mar. Two of these birds were later controlled in Nant Ffrancon in Apr, so were presumably likely to breed in that area of Snowdonia. Again, this year only one bird from other ringing sites was found, that being a regular site visitor first ringed at Machrihanish on the Mull of Kintyre in October 2014 and resighted at Connah's Quay NR on 1/02. It seems that many of the Twite that breed in NW Scotland may now be passing the winter on Oa, Islay, at a RSPB reserve. The first returning birds of the autumn/winter period were at the beginning of Nov, when 25+ were seen on RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 6/11 (DWn). Unlike previous years, numbers remained low for the remainder of the winter. Away from the Connah's Quay NR / Flint area, the only sightings were at Gronant on three occasions. These records were of presence on 7/03, 3+ on 22/11 and 2 on 10/12 (WRM).

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*
Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

LLINOS

(LI)	Denbs		Flints	
	Very common		Very common	
Occurrence				
Number of 1km squares	79		51	
Maximum count	160		150	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	207		226	
Recorded in BBS squares	9/31		6/21	
Number of records	165		341	
% of BirdTrack lists	14.5		20.1	
Density	6.40		12.99	
Max breeding evidence	DD		FL	

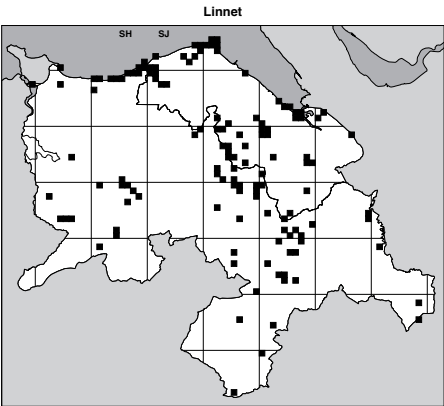
Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. There was a slight decrease in records in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were in single figures with twenty-four records of between 10 and 40 and six records of 60 and higher. The largest counts were all outside the breeding season but 60 on a BBS survey at Gellifor on 24/04 (TP) was an exception. Of the remaining high counts three were at Kinmel Bay; 63 on 14/10 (JPH) and 75+ on 25/02 (WRM), when a single large flock was feeding on weedy areas of the new retail park land on the W side of Rhyl, and the maximum of 160 on 7/02 (JoG). The other two high counts were 80 at Afonwen on 28/10 (GEM) and 100 at Llechrydau on 8/10 (AIda). The only record of confirmed

on 25/02 (WRM), when a single large flock was feeding on weedy areas of the new retail park land on the W side of Rhyl, and the maximum of 160 on 7/02 (JoG). The other two high counts were 80 at Afonwen on 28/10 (GEM) and 100 at Llechrydau on 8/10 (AIda). The only record of confirmed

breeding was of a distraction display seen at Panorama, Llangollen on 12/06 (JoG). Surprisingly, no recently fledged young were noted this year.

Flints. The majority of records were in single figures. There were one hundred and ten counts of 10 to 50 and a further twenty-one of more than 50. The maximum count of 150 was recorded on 3/01 at Connah's Quay NR (PeHa). Records exceeding 80 came from coastal sites. Flocks at Gronant dunes were highest in the late autumn and winter, when between 80 and 120+ were seen on several occasions between 16/10 and 31/12 (WRM). Between 80 and 100+ were seen on the Dee estuary at Flint during the second winter period between 11/11 and 27/12 (DWn). Recently fledged young were seen at Gronant dunes during Jun and Jul ,which confirmed breeding at this site.



Maximum monthly counts in each county:

(LI)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	10	160	2	60	20	10	20	45	16	100	20	12
Flints	150	44	23	40	8	35	50	30	46	120	120	110

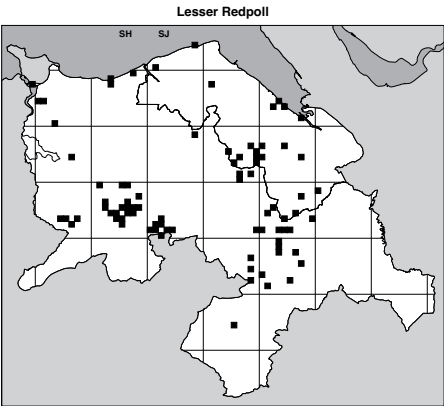
Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

LLINOS BENGGOCH LEIAF

Breeding resident. Amber List. S7.

(LR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	65	20
Maximum count	50	49
Av max count prev 10 yrs	45	22
Recorded in BBS squares	5/31	1/21
Number of records	109	51
% of records from GBW	6.42	25.49
% of BirdTrack lists	5.8	2.7
Density	1.64	1.66
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



The number of records in Denbs halved this year and records from both counties were either very limited or absent from the summer months. Breeding was confirmed this year in Denbs but only possible breeding was recorded in Flints.

Denbs. There were only six counts that reached double figures: these were 12 on 21/01 and 14 on 9/02 at Penycae (JAJ) 14 at Llyn Brenig on 14/01 (JPH), 20 and 21, probably the same flock, on 22/04 at World's End, Ruabon Mountain (KS, NF), with the maximum count of 50+ from Ruabon Mountain on 22/04 (JBW). Late winter and early spring records came from gardens at Trevor Hall (JuBa) and Llandegla (JRo). Breeding was confirmed at Llyn Brenig and both the Alwen area and Llyn Bran, Mynydd Hiraethog in Jun and Jul, where recently fledged young were seen on all three

occasions (WRM).

Flints. Only four records were in double figures: there were 12, 18 and 49 (which was the maximum count) at Pantymwyn in late Mar and early to mid-Apr (GEM). The remaining double count was of 15+ at Llanfynydd on 10/01 (GNR). Garden records came from several sites between Jan and Mar.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

GYLFIN GROES

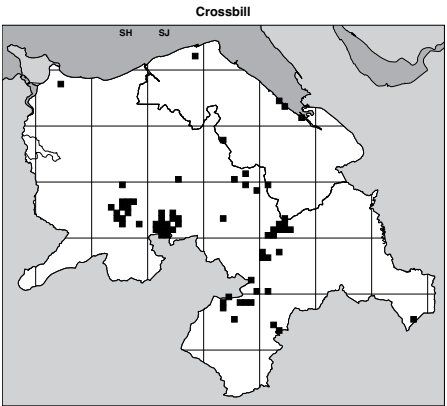
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

(CR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	61	6
Maximum count	47	16
Av max count prev 10 yrs	86	14
Recorded in BBS squares	5/31	
Number of records	93	8
% of BirdTrack lists	4.0	1.0
Density	1.45	0.16
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 number of records and their pattern of distribution was very similar to 2017.



Denbs. The majority of records were in single figures with seventeen records of 10 or more. Thirteen of these were between 10 and 25. Larger counts came from four locations; 25+, probably more, on 16/11 at Mynydd Hiraethog (WRM), 30 on 18/11 in Llandegla Forest (ThM), 30+ in a flock flying overhead calling at Maes-tyddyn, Clocaenog Forest on 21/02 (GPI) and the maximum count of 47 at Nant-y-Glyn on 10/10 (HC). Breeding was confirmed in Clocaenog Forest when a female was seen feeding a juvenile on 25/03 (GrJ). A small party including begging juveniles were observed in plantations to the E of Alwen Reservoir, Mynydd Hiraethog on 12/06 (WRM) and recently fledged young were noted at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 22/06 and 24/06 (GEM).

Flints. Of the eight records received two were in the first part of the year at Nercwys Mountain and Penycloddiau. Later in the year there were two records in double figures with 11 near Gronant on 13/11 (GRMP). The maximum count of 16 was near Bagillt on 22/10 (DWn) during a visible migration watch.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

NICO

Breeding resident.

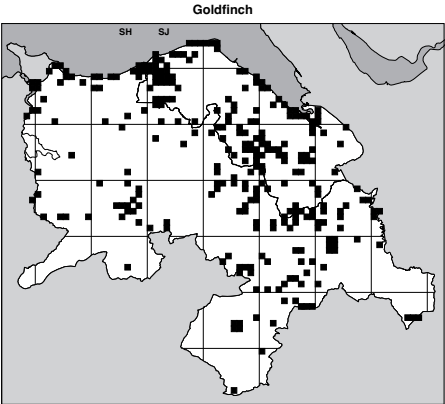
Recorded in each month in both counties, with numbers of records and the total number of birds down on 2017, particularly in Denbs. The pattern of monthly maxima is broadly similar in both counties, with the largest charms recorded after the main breeding season from autumn to the end of the year. This is a common bird at garden feeders. Breeding was confirmed in both counties.

Denbs. Most of the counts were of 1 to 10+. The number of counts between 11 and 50+ was forty-eight, a big drop from 2017. There was one count of 80+ at Ffrith on 5/09 (MGW), which was the maximum for the year. Ringing at Glan Conwy caught 290 full-grown individuals throughout the year

(GO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	170	114
Maximum count	80	150
Av max count prev 10 yrs	85	177
Recorded in BBS squares	20/31	20/21
Number of records	910	1329
% of records from GBW	17.80	33.26
% of BirdTrack lists	45.0	51.1
Density	6.88	29.03
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL

with 27 on 19/10 alone. Four nestlings were ringed at Pandy on 11/06 (pBH).

Flints. Most of the counts were of 1 to 10+. There were one hundred and sixty-nine counts of 11 to 50+, a big increase from 2017 and twelve counts of 51+. The largest counts of 100 or more came in the late summer and autumn: 100 on 29/09 and 14/10 at Connah’s Quay NR (PeHa), 100+ on 9/08 and 12/08 at Rhyl (WRM). The maximum of 150+ was at Talacre on 11/09 (DCR). This was an extraordinary year for ringing. A phenomenal 602 captures of new full-grown birds came from Bagillt, with 47 on one day alone; 4/10 (GRMP). At this site there were also 41 retraps of birds from previous years and 3 controls (birds caught and ringed at other sites). Similarly, increased numbers were caught at Shotton Steelworks where, in total, 261 were ringed (pBH). A mere 94 were ringed in a garden at Sychdyn (IMS) and only 10 at Rhydymwyn (IMS, GRMP). Whilst birds were caught at these sites throughout the year, the larger catches were in the late summer, autumn and winter months, maybe indicating that birds were on the move.



Maximum monthly counts in each county:

(GO)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	40	15	12	15	16	12	10	15	80	27	25	50
Flints	30	28	50	20	21	20	20	100	150	100	40	30

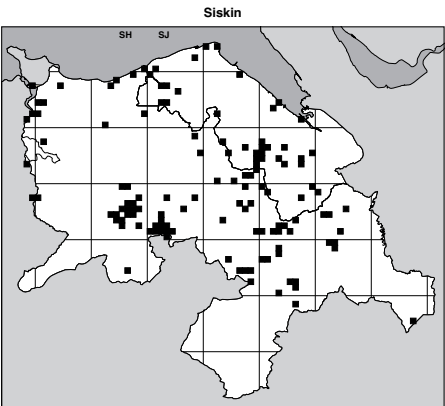
Siskin *Spinus spinus*

PILA GWYRDD

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

(SK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	93	35
Maximum count	50	76
Av max count prev 10 yrs	147	63
Recorded in BBS squares	5/31	1/21
Number of records	283	153
% of records from GBW	32.16	35.29
% of BirdTrack lists	9.9	5.2
Density	2.35	4.52
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. In Denbs, the number of records halved from that in 2017. The distribution of records was much the same as in previous years although no records came from the Berwyn Mountains area, S of Llangollen.



Denbs. The majority of records were in single figures but larger counts were usually noted in late winter and early spring and thirty-seven counts of 10 or more came from a wide range of sites. The largest flocks of 40 to 50 were seen in the winter months of Jan and Feb, with one exception when DWn saw 40 at Llyn Brenig on 16/04. Notable numbers came from one garden S of Rhewl in the Dee valley where there were 43 on 14/01 and 50 on 26/01 (JoG). These birds were on feeders filled with sunflower hearts and niger seeds. Another maximum of 50 was observed at Llandyrnog on 9/01 (GPI). Ringing at Glan Conwy recorded 52 captures of full-grown birds in the first four months of the year (MiB), 4 captures between May and Aug and a further 2 the following Dec (pBH). The only record of confirmed breeding came from Llyn Brenig when WRM observed recently fledged young on 17/07.

Flints. The majority of records came from the E half of the county with fewer garden records than in 2017, maybe as a result of milder winters. Fourteen records were in double figures mostly between 10 and 30. Two larger counts were of 41 at Bagillt on 19/10 during a visible migration watch (DWn) and the maximum of 76 at Pantymwyn on 18/03 (GEM). Seventy birds were ringed: 28 at Bagillt (GRMP) and 42 at Sychdyn (IMS). A notable 22 full-grown birds were caught on a single day at Sychdyn (23/03). Breeding was confirmed at Pantymwyn.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

MELYN YR EITHIN

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

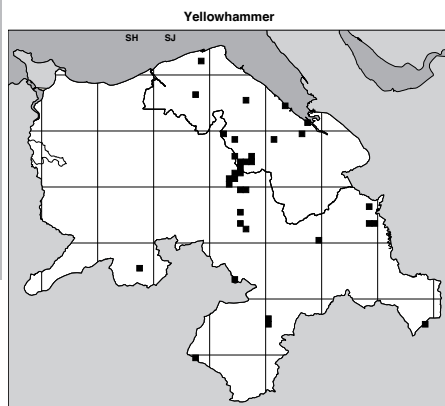
(Y)	Denbs	Flints
	Uncommon	Uncommon
Occurrence		
Number of 1km squares	21	14
Maximum count	14	7
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	13
Recorded in BBS squares	1/31	1/21
Number of records	30	26
% of records from GBW	-	34.62
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	1.1
Density	0.15	0.17
Max breeding evidence	T	P

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

The total

number of records was down slightly this year but increased in Flints, where the distribution of records was more scattered than in 2017 but highlighted hotspots along the Clwydian Range. Another year passed without confirmation of breeding.



Denbs. Most of the records were of 1 to 2, with five records of 3 to 14. The four records of between 3 to 5 came in the months of Mar to May from four different sites. The maximum count of 14 was when a small flying flock plus four birds perched in a tree in a garden on 31/01 at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd (GPI). Probable breeding was recorded in only one location, Moel Arthur, although singing males were reported from several locations.

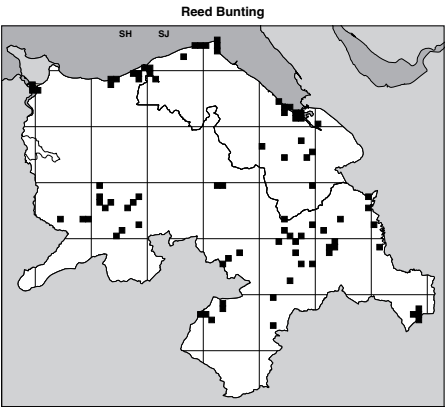
Flints. There were only three records of 3 to 7. The maximum count of 7 was recorded with a flock of Chaffinches at Coed Cwm at the N end of the Clwydian Range on 7/02 (LaC). A single frequented a garden in Cilcain throughout Mar to Jul (RWes) and a pair was seen during the breeding season, indicating that probable breeding may have taken place nearby (GEM). This was the only record of probable breeding this year.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

BRAS Y CYRS

Breeding Resident. Amber List. S7.

(RB)	Denbs		Flints
	Common	Uncommon	
Occurrence			
Number of 1km squares	62	26	
Maximum count	8	21	
Av max count prev 10 yrs	12	12	
Recorded in BBS squares	7/31	3/21	
Number of records	220	194	
% of records from GBW	1.36	0.52	
% of BirdTrack lists	13.4	10.2	
Density	0.25	0.93	
Max breeding evidence	FF	NE	



Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties.

Denbs. All the records were in single figures, with the maximum of 8 (at least 6 males and 2 females)

seen at Erddig pool, Wrexham on 5/05 (NHu). A single came to a garden in Penycae in the company of Siskins on 14/03 (JAJ) and another single came to a garden at Trevor Hall, Garth in the weeks beginning 22/04 and 29/04 (JuBa). The only record of confirmed breeding came from Mynydd Hiraethog, when WRM saw a male carrying food near the footbridge at the N end of Alwen Reservoir.

Flints. Most records were in single figures, with only five records of larger numbers, all of which came from coastal sites around the Dee Estuary. The maximum count of 21 was on 22/05 from Gronant dunes (WRM). This is a regular site for records and this is where there were two observations of confirmed breeding: an adult carrying food/faecal sac and recently fledged young.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

Winter visitor.

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

Flints. The first record in Flints since 2013. This was recorded near Bagillt on 18/10 (DWn).

Category E species

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

GŴYDD FRONGOCH

Vagrant.

Denbs. A bird reported with a large flock of greylags at Llyn Brenig on 7/06 and again on 12/06 (WRM) was a most unusual occurrence for Wales and has been considered by the BBRC to be of captive origin.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

ALARCH DDU

Feral.

Flints. Two birds of this Australasian species were recorded at White Sands in the Dee estuary during WeBS counts on 20/05 and again later in the year at Shotwick Fields on 9/12 (WeBS), but must have been of captive origin.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

Feral.

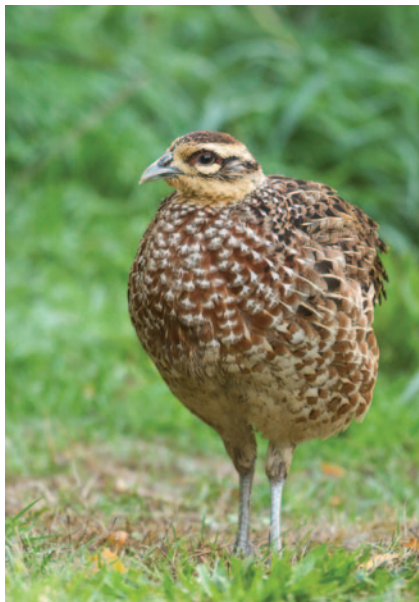
Flints. A single was at Connah's Quay NR on 4/01 (PeHa), then at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 4/02 (DWn). Probably the same bird returned to Connah's Quay NR on 20 to 21/08, then was seen on the Clwyd Estuary on 21/08, before returning to Connah's Quay NR on 24/08 and remained on the lower Clwyd estuary from 28/08 until 17/10.

Reeves's Pheasant *Syrnaticus reevesii*

FFESANT REEVES

Escape.

Flints. A female was seen and photographed near the entrance to Connah's Quay NR on 9/12 (DWn).



Reeves's Pheasant (David Winnard)

First and last dates of selected migrants 2018

Summer migrants	2018		2018
	First dates		Last dates
Little Tern	28/04		15/08
Sandwich Tern	9/04		20/09
Common Tern	22/04		9/09
Arctic Tern	23/04		19/07
Cuckoo	16/04		5/08
Nightjar	23/05		15/07
Swift	11/04		27/08
Hobby	29/04		17/09
Sand Martin	11/03		28/08
Swallow	3/04		14/10
House Martin	4/04		12/10
Willow Warbler	5/04		23/09
Wood Warbler	21/04		8/07
Sedge Warbler	12/04		5/09
Reed Warbler	14/04		29/10
Grasshopper Warbler	20/04		19/07
Garden Warbler	25/04		5/09
Lesser Whitethroat	18/04		14/09
Whitethroat	14/04		5/09
Ring Ouzel	25/03		29/10
Spotted Flycatcher	15/05		21/09
Pied Flycatcher	14/04		27/08
Redstart	14/04		12/09
Whinchat	21/04		2/09
Wheatear	18/03		20/10
Yellow Wagtail	18/04		16/07
Tree Pipit	13/03		8/07
Winter migrants	Last dates		First dates
Fieldfare	29/04		12/10
Redwing	12/04		11/10

This table shows the recorded first and last dates for most of the species regarded as migrants in NE Wales.

Spring migration in 2018, for many passerines, appeared to be fairly unremarkable in terms of the first appearances of many species. However, there were a few extremes as the first Tree Pipit was seen on 31/03 and the first Swift on 11/04, the earliest dates since formal recording began in 2004. On the other extreme, the first Swallow appeared on 3/04, the latest date since recording began in 2004. In general, though, the bulk of movement was influenced by the 'Beast from the East' in mid to late March, when cold weather hung over much of Europe holding up the arrival of the majority of migrants. Notable late arrivals were those of Grasshopper Warbler and Garden Warbler, both of which arrived about one week later than the average for the past fifteen years. Winter visitors seemed reluctant to make the journey north and a Fieldfare record on 29/04 was the latest spring date since 2004.

Most tern arrival and leaving dates were fairly average this year but the first Arctic Tern seen was about one week later than usual and there were no sightings after 19/07, indicating an early departure.

The last Yellow Wagtail was sighted on the Dee Estuary on 16/07, almost two months earlier than usual. Late leavers included a Reed Warbler seen at Erddig pool, Wrexham on 29/10; a Spotted Flycatcher stayed until 21/09; a Pied Flycatcher record on 27/08 was the latest sighting since 2007 and the last Ring Ouzel of the year was seen at Pistyll Rhaeadr on 29/10. The Swifts left in mid August and many hirundines stayed into September and October, which is quite usual.

Winter thrushes didn't arrive until the second week of October, which is a fairly average arrival time.

Anne Brenchley

The Wrexham Industrial Estate Living Landscape project.

The Wrexham Industrial Estate is situated to the east of Wrexham town in North Wales. At around 550 ha in size it is the largest industrial estate in Wales and one of the largest in Europe. It is home to approximately 360 businesses and provides employment for around 11,000 people. The Wrexham Industrial Estate has its origins as a Royal Ordnance Factory established soon after the start of World War II in 1939 to produce cordite, an explosive propellant for shells. The factory complex was deliberately spread out to minimise damage from any aerial attacks. After the war, the demand for cordite decreased significantly and the facility was closed in 1945.

Today, the Wrexham Industrial Estate still contains an important network of habitats, including several County Wildlife Sites, which support a diverse range of wildlife, including many protected species and / or Welsh Priority Species (Section 7: Environment (Wales) Act 2016). Examples of species that have been recorded within the Wrexham Industrial Estate include Water Vole, Otter, bats, Grizzled Skipper and Dingy Skipper butterflies, Great Crested Newt, Barn Owl and Kingfisher. Some of these important species, especially those that require very specific habitat conditions, are threatened on the Wrexham Industrial Estate due to habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of development, and deteriorating habitat suitability. As populations decline and become more isolated the chances of local extinction increase and so good habitat connectivity should prevent local populations becoming extinct and natural re-colonisations to occur.

The North Wales Wildlife Trust secured funding from the Welsh Government's Resilient Ecosystem Fund (REF) to begin to develop a Living Landscape project for the Wrexham Industrial Estate. The long-term aim of this project is to successfully integrate the needs of the economy, environment and society in a genuinely mutually beneficial way, making the area attractive to businesses as well as providing benefits to wildlife and people. The North Wales Wildlife Trust works with a number of partners on this project: Buglife, Butterfly Conservation Wales and Wrexham Borough Council.

Birds

The following species have been recorded within the Wrexham Industrial Estate, and are conservation priorities in Wales:

Lapwing	Hobby	Tree Sparrow
Curlew	Skylark	Duncock
Black-headed Gull	Grasshopper Warbler	Yellow Wagtail
Herring Gull	Starling	Bullfinch
Cuckoo	Song Thrush	Linnet
Barn Owl	Spotted Flycatcher	Yellowhammer
Kestrel	House Sparrow	Reed Bunting

When I am working in and around the industrial estate I am constantly amazed by the abundance and diversity of birdlife that I hear and see. When in an area of scrub or woodland I often simply forget that I am in the middle of a massive industrial estate, when I hear the sound of Blackcaps or even the occasional Garden Warbler. The birdlife is more diverse than on many nature reserves I have visited.

We know about the Barn Owls because I often talk to many business employees, some of them shift-workers, and they tell me of the Barn Owls they see, hunting along the wide grass verges of the approach roads to the estate, when arriving to work for an early shift. The trust is working hard to protect and enhance the birdlife by supplying nest boxes to firms on the estate and also erecting Barn Owl boxes on areas surrounding the estate such as golf courses and on nearby farmland. These boxes are then monitored by the local Barn Owl group volunteers. The project is also helping out with Swift boxes in the local area.

The Wrexham Industrial Estate Living Landscape project is a great example of how, with some specific conservation input, some of our special wildlife can co-exist with human activities and in many cases thrive.

Mark Greenhough (Project Officer for the North Wales Wildlife Trust)

Twenty-one summers and a winter in SJ0882

Introduction

This short note describes twenty-one summers of BBS (BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey) recording in the 1km square SJ0882 and includes some brief mentions of WiBS (BTO Winter Bird Survey) data for the 2018/19 winter.

Survey methods and time span

The survey methods for BBS are described in <https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/research-conservation/methodology> and they have been replicated for the Winter Bird Survey. BBS was initiated in 1994, replacing the CBC (Common Bird Census) which had been running since the 1960s. SJ0882 was first surveyed for BBS in 1996, and then every summer up to 2009, except for 2001, which was the year of the foot and mouth outbreak. There was then a gap in 2010 and 2011, when the previous observer retired and I took the square over in 2012, using the same transects as before. Thus, there are 21 years of BBS records up to 2019 and these have been supplemented by the launch of a parallel survey (WiBS) during the winter months for the 2018/19 winter.

SJ0882 - the survey square

The 1km square is located above the village of Upper Gronant. Figure 1, below, shows a satellite view, with the transects marked on the photo.

The built-up area in the top right of the picture is part of the village of Gronant and the built-up area in the top left is the south-eastern fringe of Prestatyn. Almost all the square is taken up with improved grazing; there is a damp copse of silver birch and alder between transects 1 and 10 along the bottom of the picture, a strip of woodland with some scrub and a small pond to the left of transects 3 and 4, deciduous woodland at the top left hand corner by the end of transect 5, and a similarly wooded area contained within transect 6, with gorse scrub between the two, two barns beside transect 7, a small number of mature oaks with multiple nesting holes beside transect 8 and a band of largely coniferous woodland alongside transects 9 and 10. The land slopes fairly steeply down through transects 1-5 and the return from transect 7 is steeply uphill. The pictures below show the variety of habitats:



Figure 1. (top left). Satellite view of SJ0882 with transects.

Figure 2 (top right). The copse at the start of transect 1.

Figure 3. (lower left). Looking downhill through transects 2-3.

Figure 4. (lower right). The wooded area in transect 6.

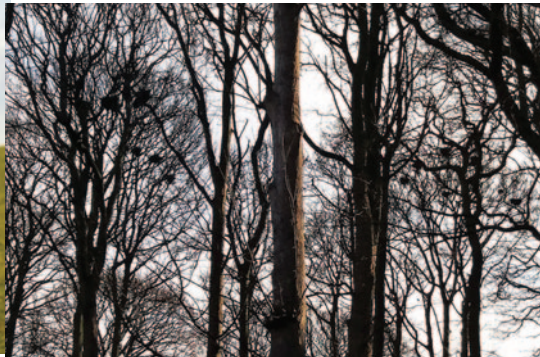


Figure 5. (above left). Looking SW uphill from transects 6/7.

Figure 6. (above right). The (former?) rookery in transect 7.



Figure 7. (left). Mature oaks beside transect 8 – full of dead wood and colonised by Redstarts.

The habitat and its usage have changed very little since recording started in 1996. The main areas of improved grazing pasture, gorse scrub and maturing woodland have remained untouched; sheep are the predominant grazers, with cows introduced for some weeks in late spring / early

summer. The birch and alder copse between transects 1 and 10 has grown but is partly coppiced and there has been little change in vegetation at least since 2012.

The breeding season birds

A total of 79 species has been recorded on the BBS walks between 1996 and 2019, with 19 recorded in all 21 years (highlighted in blue below), 12 recorded in 15-20 years (green), 16 recorded in 5-14 years (yellow) and 32 recorded in less than 5 years (red):

Black-headed Gull	Blackbird	Blackcap	Blue Tit	Bullfinch
Buzzard	Canada Goose	Carrion Crow	Chaffinch	Chiffchaff
Coal Tit	Collared Dove	Crossbill	Common Gull	Cuckoo
Curlew	Dunnoek	Feral Pigeon	Garden Warbler	Goldcrest
Goldfinch	Grasshopper Warbler	Gt Black-backed Gull	GS Woodpecker	Great Tit
Green Woodpecker	Greenfinch	Grey Heron	Herring Gull	House Martin
House Sparrow	Jackdaw	Jay	Kestrel	Lapwing
Lesser B-b Gull	Lesser Redpoll	Lesser Whitethroat	Linnet	Long-tailed Tit
Magpie	Mallard	Meadow Pipit	Mistle Thrush	Nuthatch
Oystercatcher	Peregrine	Pheasant	Pied Flycatcher	Pied Wagtail
Raven	Red-legged Partridge	Redstart	Robin	Rook
Shelduck	Siskin	Skylark	Song Thrush	Sparrowhawk
Spot Flycatcher	Starling	Stock Dove	Stonechat	Swallow
Swift	Tawny Owl	Tree Sparrow	Treecreeper	Wheatear
Whitethroat	Willow Tit	Willow Warbler	Wood Warbler	Woodcock
Woodpigeon	Wren	Yellow Wagtail	Yellowhammer	

Figure 8. Species recorded during BBS walks.

The mean total is just over 40 species each year, with a highest total of 50 in 2015 and lows of 33 in 2007, 2008 and 2009. An additional two species (Fieldfare and Redwing) were recorded during the WiBS visits in 2018/19. If the BBS years are split into five time periods of 4-5 years, the annual averages vary slightly, with a poor period between 2006 and 2009:

Time period	1996-2000	2002-2005	2006-2009	2012-2015	2016-2019		All years
Av. Number of species	38.4	43.75	33.5	43.0	43.0		40.29

Figure 9. Average numbers of BBS species by 4/5-year time periods.

The three poorest years (2007-09) do not show any particular pattern which might be weather-

related or related to winter survival. Three of the regular species were not recorded in these three years: Garden Warbler, Whitethroat and Pied Wagtail and Lesser Redpoll disappeared as a breeding bird.

Of the 79 recorded BBS species, 31 could be classed as 'core' species, with records in 15 or more years. All except one of these are either proven or likely regular breeders, the exception being Herring Gull, which is most commonly recorded flying over or feeding on pasture – the Gronant coast is only a kilometre away. In addition to these 31, likely breeders which may quite often escape detection during BBS walks include Sparrowhawk, Woodcock, Tawny Owl, Jay, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Treecreeper and Garden Warbler. If these are added in, the total is 39 regular breeding species, which coincidentally is very close to the average number recorded each year.

When the records are divided into two time periods of 1996-2007 and 2008-2019, eleven species show distinct declines over the past twelve years, compared with the previous twelve, and eight show distinct increases:

Decreasing species	Av. Count 1996-2007	Av. Count 2008-19	Increasing species	Av. Count 1996-2007	Av. Count 2008-19
Blue Tit	18.3	13.3	Blackcap	3.8	6.4
Carrion Crow	19.6	9.6	Blackbird	8.9	12.2
Greenfinch	2.4	1.1	Buzzard	1.0	2.6
Linnet	10.2	4.4	Chiffchaff	7.3	11.3
Lesser Redpoll	3.7	0.1	Coal Tit	0.2	2.5
Magpie	10.2	7.2	Gt Spotted Woodpecker	1.4	2.6
Rook	33.5	24.8	Jackdaw	15.8	20.9
Stock Dove	3.4	1.4	Redstart	2.4	3.6
Whitethroat	2.4	1.2			
Wren	18.0	12.7			
Yellowhammer	1.1	0.7			

Figure 10. Decreasing species (left hand table) and increasing species (right hand table)

Whilst it would be dangerous to read too much into the data from a single 1km square when compared with national trends (data from <https://www.bto.org/about-birds/birdtrends/2018>), the two tables show some interesting features, particularly when the lack of change in the habitat is borne in mind.

Some comments on apparently declining and increasing 'core' species

Stock Doves, Magpies and Carrion Crows appear to have declined in SJ0882 over the past twelve years, but the national trends for Stock Dove and Carrion Crow show long term increases which appear to be continuing and the index for Magpie has remained stable. None of these species are of conservation concern. Of the other corvids, Jay and Raven numbers appear to be small but stable. However, Rook is now a red-listed species in Wales and the declining counts reflect this. There has been a rookery with around 25 nests in the square throughout the survey period, but although 11 Rooks were seen during a WiBS count in mid-March 2019, the rookery showed no signs of occupation, or nests being repaired in March and was completely deserted during the 2019 breeding season, with no birds at all recorded on the late visit.

Neither Blue Tit nor Great Tit is of current conservation concern. Whilst there is an apparent decline in Blue Tit numbers in SJ0882 in recent years, these are currently steady nationally and the decline may be apparent, rather than real. There has certainly been no decrease in suitable nest sites for tits and Great Tit numbers have remained largely constant throughout, whilst Coal Tit, which is red-listed in Wales as a breeding bird, has clearly increased: none were recorded before 2002. There were then single birds in 2002, 2004 and 2007, but three or four adults have been recorded in each year from 2012 onwards. A recently fledged brood of at least six Coal Tits was seen in 2017, although BBS methodology only counts adult birds, so these are not included in the breeding bird totals, and an adult carrying food was seen in 2019.

The four most common species of warbler show contrasting trends. Figure 8 above shows distinct recent increases for Blackcap and Chiffchaff, which mirror the national trends and a single Chiffchaff was recorded during the January and February WiBS walks in 2019. Whilst Willow Warbler breeding numbers in England declined by more than 30% between 1995 and 2016, numbers in Wales showed no clear trend. This is mirrored by relatively constant numbers recorded in SJ0882 throughout the whole period. Whitethroat numbers in SJ0882 have declined however: the numbers are not large in any year, but the figures suggest a decline from 2-3 breeding pairs up to 2004 to probably a single pair thereafter. The amount of suitable breeding habitat has remained relatively constant all through the study.

Numbers of breeding Wrens appear to have declined, but the average total for 2008-19 is probably depressed by the very low figure of 5 in 2013, following heavy and prolonged snowfall in mid-March. However, totals of 20 or more were only recorded in six years up to 2007 and in none since then, so it is possible that in contrast to the national indices there has been a slight decline. Amongst the finches and buntings there are some clear trends and some tantalising suggestions. Greenfinch numbers have dropped, mirroring the rapid national declines of the past five years, but with relatively few records in any year from SJ0882, it is probably unwise to draw any local conclusions. Chaffinch, Bullfinch and Goldfinch numbers have remained relatively steady and Siskins appear to be only occasional visitors, in spite of the presence of suitable breeding habitat alongside transects 9 and 10. Crossbills, too, are sporadic visitors and it is possible that the only sizeable party of 9, recorded in 2009, may have contained juveniles, given their very early breeding season. Interestingly, a flock of 11 was recorded, away from the coniferous area, in November 2018. Two red-listed species - Linnets and Lesser Redpoll - have both shown substantial declines during the recording period: less than half as many Linnets have been recorded in the second time period as against the first, although a flock of 23 was recorded feeding around a farmyard in March 2019 and the species has been recorded in each of the twenty-one years. No Lesser Redpolls have been recorded since 2009. Tantalisingly, Yellowhammers reappeared between 2013 and 2018, following a complete absence between 2005 and 2012, but none were recorded in 2019.

Redstarts appear to be prospering in transects 8 and 9, which contain mature trees with plenty of nest holes (see figure 7 above). There have probably been three breeding pairs in transect 8 for the past seven years. Buzzards and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, too, seem to be doing well, with increases in the past decade, in parallel with national patterns.

The remaining species

The diversity of bird life using the square is indicated by the 32 species which have been recorded in fewer than five of the twenty-one-year recording span. One of these (Green Woodpecker) may breed currently and several may have bred formerly, but do not, apparently, breed there now – e.g. Red-legged Partridge, Lapwing, Cuckoo, Kestrel, Wood Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Starling, Spotted Flycatcher and Tree Sparrow. There has always been suitable nesting habitat for Pied Flycatcher and in 2019 two males were heard and seen with one female on the early visit and an adult was seen on the late visit – hopefully this may become a regular breeding species. With all the 'lost' species, except for Grasshopper Warbler, there is still apparently suitable habitat available. Other occasional species are likely either to have been on passage or visiting from the coast or local built-up areas: Canada Goose, Shelduck, Grey Heron, Oystercatcher, Curlew, Common Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Peregrine, Wheatear, Stonechat and Collared Dove.

Unsurprisingly the habitat is better populated in summer than in winter. During five WiBS visits from November 2018 to March 2019, only 37 species were recorded, with a 'best' month of 29 in November but only 19 in January and February. The tit populations were particularly low, but it is possible that many had simply moved down towards the village of Gronant, where there are several gardens with bird feeders.

What next?

It would be interesting to compare the range of summer species and changes in abundance with similar BBS squares, especially in Wales, which have been surveyed for a similar length of time and I would encourage BBS recorders to analyse comparable data. In the meantime, what might the future hold for SJ0882 in terms of lost or potentially lost breeding species, possible returning species and possible 'new' breeders?

- **Lost or potentially lost breeding species:** of the 79 species recorded in the breeding season since 1996, five species have either been lost as breeders or are likely to be lost in the next few years – Red-legged Partridge, Cuckoo, Rook, Willow Tit and Yellowhammer. All of these are declining across Wales, significantly in most cases. A sixth species – Grasshopper Warbler – is unlikely to occur again; a single was recorded in 2002 and although it may have bred in 2003, there was no obviously suitable habitat then and there is no suitable habitat now.
- **Potential returning breeders:** Siskins probably bred up to 2006 but were not recorded again until 2015. Single calling birds have been recorded in four of the most recent five years and there is suitable breeding habitat available. House Sparrow has only been recorded in two years – 2014 and 2019 – but the species breeds lower down the valley in Gronant village and the 2019 bird (a female or juvenile) was seen in a suitable breeding location.
- **Possible 'new' breeders:** both Lesser Whitethroat and Pied Flycatcher were recorded in suitable habitat for the first time in 2019: a singing male Lesser Whitethroat on the late visit and Pied Flycatchers on both early and late visits. In both cases, suitable habitat is available, but more years will be required to establish whether these are one-year wonders or the start of regular breeding.

Giles RM Pepler

Living Landscapes in the Alun and Chwiler valleys

In North-East Wales, near the town of Mold, flow two rivers. They are in separate catchments, but they are connected through habitats, land use, wildlife and the communities. The River Alun (Allyn in English) rises by Llandegla, sourced from water which flows off the moorland here. It takes a journey through farmland, woodland, villages, a country park, underground in caves and a disused chemical weapons plant before it has even reached the halfway point of its length which ends in the River Dee near Wrexham. The River Chwiler (Wheeler) has a much less dramatic route, it rises by Nannerch from water drained off the hills and accompanies the main road from there to the edge of Denbigh, taking in fisheries, water mills, woodland and farmland before joining the River Clwyd.

The area encompassing the Chwiler and upper Alun has been recognized for many years as a biodiversity hotspot. The area supports important habitats such as ancient woodland, unimproved grassland, heathland and wetland habitats as well as many important and/or rare species including Hazel Dormouse, Great Crested Newt, Water Vole, Otter, Pied Flycatcher, Barn Owl, Herb Paris, Deptford Pink, European Eel and Black Poplar.

Historically there have been focused projects taking place in both catchments; targeting species or defined areas for the benefit of wildlife. It is these projects which spurred on action to work towards creating a large scale 'Living Landscape' here, as many of the species that had been targeted require good habitat connectivity to thrive. After a scoping study and funding application, a project ran from November 2014-2017 funded by Wren (Landfill Tax) with aims to improve and create habitats and connectivity for wildlife of all kinds. The projects involved 29 landowners and resulted in 460m of new hedgerow, 1368m of fencing installed to create riverside and ditch wildlife corridors / buffer strips, 4 ponds created, 600 trees planted to create 2 small woodlands, 254m hedgerow laid, 2500m of fencing erected in order to create wildlife corridors / protect designated sites / protect new tree plantings, bird and bat boxes installed and a handful of Black Poplar saplings which were

grown from cuttings were planted.

April of 2018 heralded the start of the next project operating within the area and contributing to the overall aims and objectives. Funded by the National Lottery's Community Fund, 'Wild About Mold' was an 18-month project focused around the town of Mold, the main area of population in the living landscape area. We have been working with the communities in Mold and surrounding areas to offer workshops and volunteering opportunities which develop skills, increase wellbeing and improve local greenspaces. Workshops have been varied and covered different species groups such as amphibians and reptiles, butterflies, Hedgehogs, bats, topics like foraging and bushcraft, traditional skills of hedgelaying, scything and dry stone walling. Volunteer tasks have also provided people with the skills required to lay wildflower turf, plant trees and bulbs. The local community were consulted about where they would like trees to be planted and based on this we have started the task of planting trees around the town, working with Mold Town Council and Flintshire County Council. The impact has been instant and gained much praise.

Looking forward, we will be progressing the Living Landscape Scheme with the help of Welsh Government funding. The next project will focus primarily on strategic tree and hedgerow planting and working with landowners to improve nutrient management across the landscape to reconnect habitats, contribute toward better water management and improve water quality within the area for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Amy Green, North Wales Wildlife Trust

Ringing Report

The ringing totals for North-East Wales remained high in 2018, even though this is the third year that the totals of fully grown (FG) and pulli (pull) have declined slightly.

Lesser Redpoll and Siskin ringing totals decreased between 2017 and 2018 by 372 and 300 birds respectively but this may be due to the milder winters, giving these two species more opportunity to winter closer to the breeding areas further north. Fewer Pied Flycatchers were ringed, with a decrease of 289 birds ringed, and this might be due to unfavourable breeding conditions. Numbers of two of our smallest species, the Goldcrest and Chiffchaff can vary substantially, and fewer of these species were caught in 2018 (-150 and -193 respectively). This could be due to the weather during migration but this may also be due to variation in productivity.

Swallow (633) and Goldfinch (1409) totals were particularly good in 2018, with the latter doing really well in recent years, even with the threat of *Trichomonosis*. More Great Tit (166) and Blue Tit (102)

Total number of birds ringed per year in the last ten years			
Year	Full grown	Pulli	Total
2018	7508	3457	10965
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

were ringed in 2018, the result of an increase in the number of pulli ringed for Great Tit and fully grown for Blue Tit. It is good to see that 119 more Little Terns were ringed than the previous year and we hope this continues in the future.

North-East Wales did quite well with foreign reports during 2018. There were seven birds originally ringed abroad and 10 Welsh ringed birds found abroad. SCAN Ringing Group must have been very pleased when they heard that one of their Dunlin had been caught by a ringer in Poland. Another foreign report that should be mentioned is a juvenile Chiffchaff ringed at Tal Goed Nursery, Conwy being caught by a ringer in Portugal the year after.

Two reports in particular were quite exceptional and were both confirmed correct by the ringers. The first is a Great Tit which was ringed in Hampshire and caught by the Spence and Brenchley Partnership at Sychdyn, Mold. This bird had travelled 258 miles in 10 months. The other recovery was a Barn Owl ringed in Northumberland and controlled by John Lawton Roberts four years later near Llangollen, Denbighshire (approximately 265km).

Siskin recoveries normally feature heavily in these reports, however due to the lower number of Siskins caught during 2018 there is also a lack of reports. There is however one report that stands out. One bird ringed in 2017 at Llwynmawr, Wrexham by Alan Robinson, was caught one year and two days later in Thetford, Norfolk, the very same town where the ring was sent from and where the data of all the birds are stored.

Ringing provides a wealth of information to inform conservation. Standardised ringing activities can improve on this and two such schemes are commonly in operation for the BTO: Constant Effort Site (CES) Scheme and Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) Scheme. In 2018, the Spence and Brenchley Partnership ran the only CES in the area and two RAS studies operated, one each on Pied Flycatcher and Siskin.

I am grateful to the ringers in the area who have given up their time to study and catch these birds (in order of number of birds ringed): Merseyside Ringing Group, Spence and Brenchley Partnership, Mike Haigh, Alan Robinson, John Lawton Roberts, Lee and Rachael Barber, Steve Dodd, Kelvin Jones, Mid Wales Ringing Group, Bache Shearwood & McShane, RSPCA, Shropshire Ringing Group, Derek Cotgrave, Phil Woollen, UEA Ringing Group, Phil Belman, Steve Binney, SCAN Ringing Group.

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. Reporting colour ringed birds is also very useful and the colour ringer can be found on this website <http://cr-birding.org/>

Number of birds ringed per species

Ringing totals Species	2017			2018			Year total difference
	FG	Pull.	Total	FG	Pull.	Total	
Mute Swan	6	0	6	7	0	7	1
Greylag Goose	0	2	2	1	0	1	-1
Shelduck (A)	0	0	0	24	0	24	24
Mallard (A)	3	0	3	1	0	1	-2
Teal (A)	3	0	3	0	0	0	-3
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Common Scoter (A)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Hen Harrier (R) (S)	0	6	6	0	0	0	-6

Ringing totals Species	2017			2018			Year total difference
	FG	Pull.	Total	FG	Pull.	Total	
Osprey (A)	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Sparrowhawk	2	0	2	4	0	4	2
Water Rail	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Oystercatcher (A)	0	4	4	3	2	5	1
Ringed Plover (R)	7	3	10	0	6	6	-4
Little Ringed Plover (S)	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Lapwing (R)	3	0	3	1	0	1	-2
Curlew (R)	0	0	0	4	0	4	4
Turnstone (A)	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Sanderling (A)	196	0	196	0	0	0	-196
Dunlin (R)	247	0	247	0	0	0	-247
Redshank (R)	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Woodcock (R)	6	0	6	18	0	18	12
Snipe (A)	4	0	4	6	0	6	2
Black-headed Gull (R)	3	309	312	1	135	136	-176
Great Black-backed Gull (R)	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Little Tern (R) (S)	2	130	132	39	212	251	119
Common Tern (A)	0	399	399	0	370	370	-29
Stock Dove	2	4	6	0	12	12	6
Woodpigeon	1	5	6	3	11	14	8
Collared Dove	1	0	1	2	0	2	1
Cuckoo (R)	2	0	2	3	0	3	1
Barn Owl (S)	7	43	50	7	54	61	11
Tawny Owl	3	4	7	0	2	2	-5
Nightjar (A)	5	3	8	16	29	45	37
Kingfisher (A) (S)	4	0	4	2	0	2	-2
Green Woodpecker	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	42	0	42	38	0	38	-4
Kestrel (R)	0	12	12	0	28	28	16
Hobby (S)	0	0	0	0	5	5	5
Peregrine (S)	0	6	6	0	7	7	1
Chough (A) (S)	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
Magpie	9	0	9	3	0	3	-6
Jay	4	0	4	11	0	11	7
Jackdaw	0	13	13	0	44	44	31
Rook	2	0	2	2	0	2	0
Goldcrest	229	0	229	79	0	79	-150
Firecrest (A) (S)	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2
Blue Tit	1350	808	2158	1417	843	2260	102
Great Tit	417	329	746	411	501	912	166
Coal Tit	143	49	192	103	73	176	-16
Willow Tit (R)	3	0	3	0	0	0	-3
Marsh Tit (R)	5	0	5	0	0	0	-5
Sand Martin	0	0	0	4	0	4	4
Swallow	10	162	172	527	106	633	461

Ringing totals Species	2017			2018			Year total difference
	FG	Pull.	Total	FG	Pull.	Total	
House Martin	13	0	13	1	0	1	-12
Cetti's Warbler (S)	5	0	5	9	0	9	4
Long-tailed Tit	201	0	201	182	0	182	-19
Wood Warbler (R)	0	0	0	0	10	10	10
Chiffchaff	491	6	497	304	0	304	-193
Willow Warbler (R)	53	4	57	132	0	132	75
Blackcap	269	0	269	316	8	324	55
Garden Warbler	25	0	25	60	1	61	36
Lesser Whitethroat	3	0	3	9	0	9	6
Whitethroat (R)	26	0	26	30	0	30	4
Grasshopper Warbler (R)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Sedge Warbler	8	0	8	45	0	45	37
Reed Warbler	50	0	50	100	0	100	50
Nuthatch	20	30	50	19	20	39	-11
Treecreeper	22	0	22	20	0	20	-2
Wren	148	5	153	133	0	133	-20
Starling (R)	5	0	5	10	0	10	5
Dipper (A)	0	26	26	0	28	28	2
Blackbird	254	19	273	169	8	177	-96
Fieldfare (A) (S)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Song Thrush (A)	46	0	46	46	4	50	4
Redwing (A) (S)	40	0	40	27	0	27	-13
Mistle Thrush (A)	0	3	3	2	0	2	-1
Spotted Flycatcher (R)	1	5	6	0	4	4	-2
Robin	204	20	224	172	0	172	-52
Pied Flycatcher (R)	144	1099	1243	104	850	954	-289
Redstart	14	44	58	32	46	78	20
Stonechat	1	0	1	17	0	17	16
Duncock	150	1	151	129	4	133	-18
House Sparrow (A)	32	33	65	65	8	73	8
Tree Sparrow (R)	0	2	2	0	0	0	-2
Grey Wagtail (A)	5	17	22	6	2	8	-14
Pied Wagtail	0	0	0	2	5	7	7
Meadow Pipit (A)	125	1	126	174	0	174	48
Brambling (A) (S)	2	0	2	31	0	31	29
Chaffinch	276	0	276	342	3	345	69
Bullfinch (R)	73	4	77	62	0	62	-15
Greenfinch	273	0	273	193	7	200	-73
Linnet (R)	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Twite (A)	12	0	12	33	0	33	21
Lesser Redpoll (A)	421	0	421	49	0	49	-372
Goldfinch	943	5	948	1405	4	1409	461
Siskin	600	0	600	300	0	300	-300
Reed Bunting (A)	19	0	19	33	0	33	14
Totals	7704	3615	11319	7508	3457	10965	-354

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 Johnstone, I. & Bladwell, S. 2016. Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3: the population status of birds in Wales. *Birds in Wales* 13(1): 3-31). 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 Report: www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports.

Lee Barber

Codes used in the recoveries:

M	Male
F	Female
Pull.	Ringed as a pullus (nestling)
2	Fully Grown, year of hatching unknown
3 (3J)	Hatched during the current calendar year (in juvenile plumage)
4	Hatched before the current calendar year, exact year unknown
5	Hatched during the previous calendar year
6	Hatched before the previous calendar year, exact year unknown
7	Hatched two years ago
8	At least three years, exact year unknown

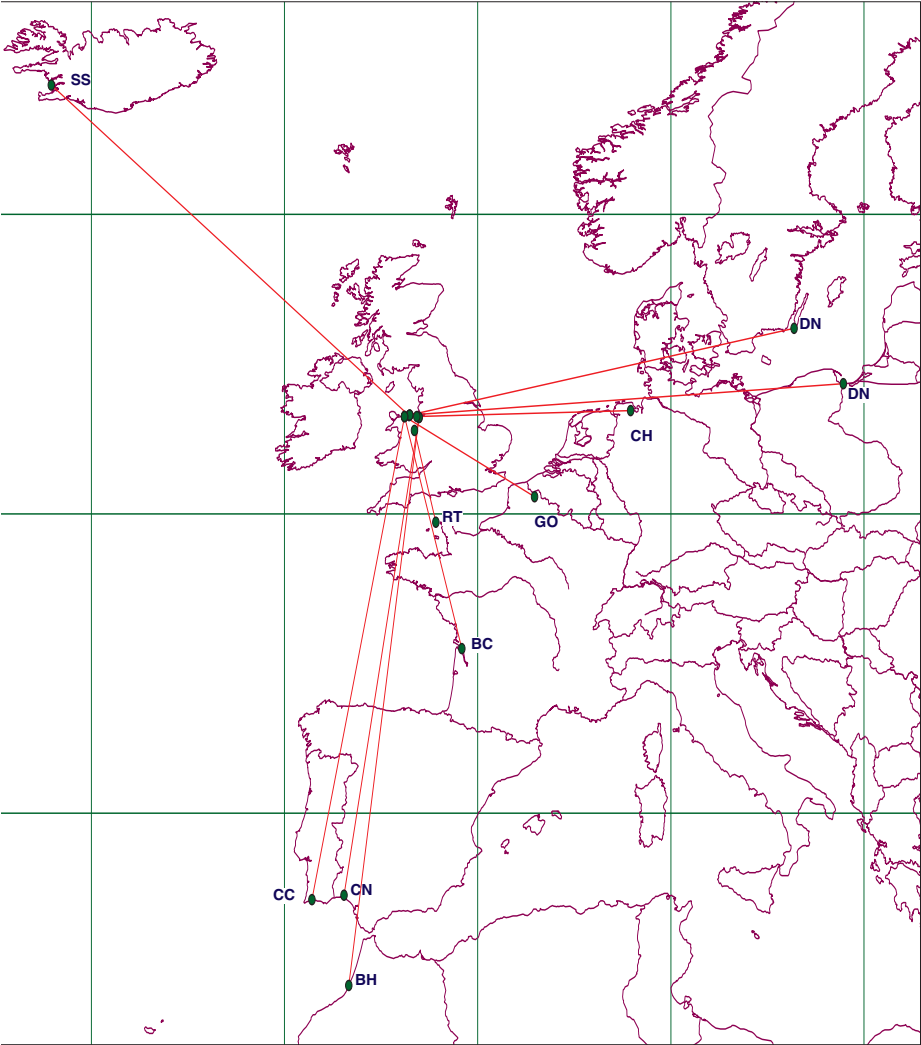
2018 Selected recoveries

BT44082	16022014	Sanderling 5 Belgrano, Abergele, Conwy	
	11032017	Kinnel Bay, Conwy	
	18052018	Akranes, Borgarfjarðarsýsla, Iceland , 64°19'N 22°4'W 1616km NW 4y 3m 2d	Found fresh dead
BT80216		Dunlin 5 Kinnel Bay, Conwy	
	11032017	Ujście Wisły, Swibno, Pomorskie, Poland , 54°21'N 18°56'E	
	08072018	1479km. E. 1y 3m 27d	Caught by ringer
NR86761		Dunlin 6 Kinnel Bay, Conwy	
	25012015	Ottenby, Sweden , 56°12'N 16°23'E	
	28052018	1318km. ENE. 3y 4m 3d	Caught by ringer
EZ90514		Black-headed Gull Pull. Shotton, Flintshire	
	18062017	Mehdia, Kenitra, Morocco , 34°15'N 6°40'W	
	04032018	2127km. S. 0y 8m 14d	Found fresh dead
FS04341		Black-headed Gull 6 Lodz-Teofilow, Lodzkie, Poland , 51°46'N 19°22'E	
	12042013	Greenfield Dock, Flintshire	
	07012018	1528km W. 4y 8m 26d	Colour ring sighting
1585510		Sandwich Tern Pull. Haringvliet, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands , 51°46'N 4°7'E	
	19062014	Rhos Point, Conwy	
	26082018	560km. WNW. 4y 2m 7d	Colour ring sighting
1585770		Sandwich Tern Pull. Stellendam, Zuid-Holland, The Netherlands , 51°47'N 4°2'E	
	23062016	Rhos Point, Conwy	
	20082018	554km. WNW. 2y 1m 28d	Colour ring sighting
NV38220		Little Tern. Pull. near Gronant, Denbighshire	
	08071993	Gronant, Flintshire	
	16072018	0km 25y 0m 8d	Colour ring sighting

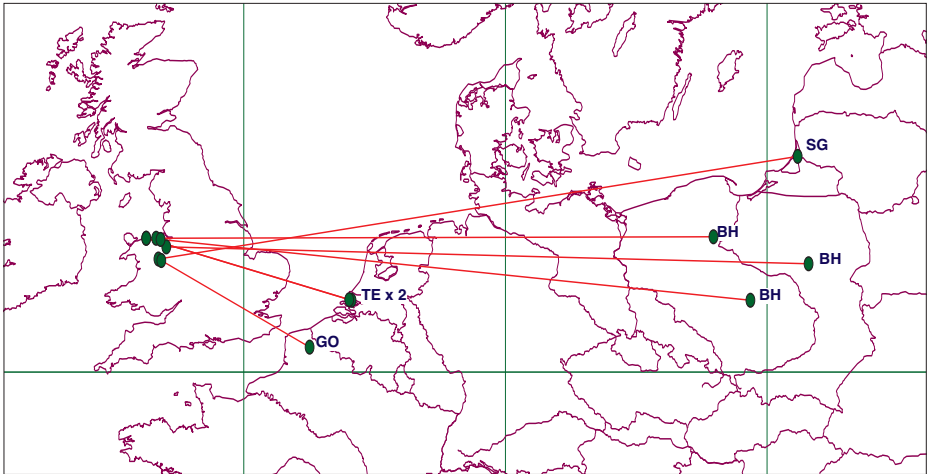
ST73107	Common Tern. Pull. Shotton, Flintshire 24062018 08092018	Marismas del Odiel, Huelva, Spain , 37°16'N 6°55'W 1798km. S. 0y 2m 15d	Caught by ringer
FH92017	Barn Owl Pull. Snitter, Northumberland 12072018 31122018	Site Confidential, near Llangollen, Denbighshire Site Confidential, near Llangollen, Denbighshire c265km. S. 4y 6m 24d	Caught by ringer
S712689	Great Tit 3J Martin Down, Hampshire 20062017 23042018	Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire 258m NNW. 0y 10m 3d	Caught by ringer
HDJ413	Chiffchaff 3J Tal Goed Nursery, Conwy 10072018 27102018	Cruzinha, Faro, Portugal , 7°7'N 8°35'W 1830km. SSW. 0y 3m 17d	Caught by ringer
D971093	Reed Warbler. 3 Litlington, East Sussex 17092014 06052018	Shotton, Flintshire 348km. NW. 3y 7m 19d	Caught by ringer
AXC5078	Blackcap. 3J Tal Goed Nursery, Conwy 11082018 18102018	Le Roc, Charente-Maritime, France , 45°30'N 0°49'W 888km. SSE 0y 2m 7d	Caught by ringer
S461798	Blackcap. 3M Slapton Ley, Devon 02092017 04052018	Golden Grove, Gwaenysgor, Flintshire 338km N. 0y 8m 2d	Found long dead
Z874494	Pied Flycatcher. Pull. Dye House, Hexham, Northumberland 04062017 31052018	Glyn Arthur, Denbighshire 210km. SSW. 0y 11m 27d	Caught by ringer in box
D270818	Pied Flycatcher. Pull. Strid, Bolton Abbey, North Yorkshire 16062014 24052018	Penbedw, Flintshire 128km. SW. 3y 11m 8d	Caught by ringer
L586170	Twite 4M Machrihanish, Argyll and Bute 08102014 01022018	Connah's Quay NR, Flintshire 298km SE. 3y 3m 24d	Colour ring sighting
L709684	Chaffinch. 3M Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire 11122017 11042018	Schutting 6, Weser-Ems, Germany , 53°27'N 7°55'E 737km. E. 0y 4m 0d	Dead, hit glass
S609041	Goldfinch. 5M Fernhill Heath, Worcestershire 01042017 14102018 25102018	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire 131km. NNW. 1y 6m 24d	Caught by ringer
7091559	Goldfinchm. 2M Maison, St. Venant, Pas-de-Calais, France , 50°37'N 2°31'E 03021013 20042014 17042017 10062018	Llwynmawr, Wrexham Llwynmawr, Wrexham Llwynmawr, Wrexham 468km. NW. 5y 4m 7d	Caught by ringer

S027945		Goldfinch. 5M
04042017	Garden, Penrhiw, Conwy	
21022018	La Gite, Santes, Nord, France , 50°34'N 2°57'E	
	549km. ESE. 0y 10m 17d	Caught by ringer
S301358		Siskin 5M
15022017	Llwynmawr, Wrexham	
17022018	Mackenzie Rd, Thetford, Norfolk	
	269km. ESE. 1y 0m 2d	Caught by ringer
S049327		Redstart. Pull.
30 05 2016	Rhos-y-Brithdir, Denbighshire	
29 04 2018	Essex Farm, Alderney, Channel Islands , 49°43'N 2°10'W	
	350km. SSE. 1y 10m 30d	Caught by ringer

Birds ringed in North-East Wales and found abroad



Birds ringed abroad found in North-East Wales



The codes used in these maps are: BC - Blackcap, BH - Black-headed Gull, CC - Chiffchaff, CH - Chaffinch, CN - Common Tern, DN - Dunlin, RT - Redstart, GO - Goldfinch, SG - Starling, SS - Sanderling, TE - Sandwich Tern.

Nest records from ‘Clwyd’

The BTO received 842 nest records for the Clwyd area in 2018, dropping by 257 records from the 2017 total of 1099. The drop in Little Tern nest records covered this decrease (-313). The change in the numbers of nest records submitted includes a drop of Ringed Plover (-18) and Swallow (-16) but records for four species increased; Great Tit (47), Blue Tit (41), Stock Dove (20) and Nightjar (19). The other species were very similar in the number of records to 2017.

There are some key species which the area contributes a good proportion of the national total, particularly Pied Flycatcher (148), Dipper (10), Redstart (8) and traditionally Little Tern (23) but Mid Wales Ringing Group must be very happy with a nest record total of 19 for Nightjar compared to the national of 83.

A nest record consists of recording what is in a birds nest and following it through its development until the it succeeds or fails. With enough data, this information gives an insight into any issues a species might have while it is breeding e.g. reduced chick survival. For declining species, this information could be an important tool for conservation. For more information and the code of conduct, see www.bto.org/projects/nrs.

The table below shows the number of nest records found in the current year compared to the previous year and the national total for comparison.

Species	2017 Clwyd	2018 Clwyd	Change	2018 Britain and Ireland
Mute Swan	1	0	-1	126
Canada Goose	2	0	-2	63
Mallard	0	1	1	70
Little Grebe	1	0	-1	22
Osprey	0	2	2	22

Species	2017 Clwyd	2018 Clwyd	Change	2018 Britain and Ireland
Goshawk	0	1	1	220
Buzzard	2	1	-1	221
Moorhen	3	0	-3	164
Coot	2	0	-2	257
Oystercatcher	8	0	-8	385
Ringed Plover	22	4	-18	97
Little Ringed Plover	0	1	1	71
Little Tern	336	23	-313	117
Stock Dove	6	26	20	1057
Woodpigeon	9	11	2	413
Collared Dove	1	0	-1	70
Barn Owl	22	20	-2	2402
Tawny Owl	2	1	-1	419
Nightjar	0	19	19	83
Kestrel	2	6	4	533
Peregrine	4	2	-2	288
Chough	1	1	0	7
Jackdaw	9	12	3	464
Carrion Crow	1	0	-1	22
Raven	10	6	-4	126
Blue Tit	181	222	41	6831
Great Tit	109	156	47	4404
Coal Tit	7	10	3	146
Skylark	0	1	1	51
Swallow	72	56	-16	1612
Long-tailed Tit	3	2	-1	181
Chiffchaff	1	0	-1	87
Wood Warbler	0	3	3	73
Blackcap	0	4	4	190
Garden Warbler	1	0	-1	48
Dartford Warbler	1	0	-1	13
Nuthatch	6	2	-4	285
Treecreeper	4	0	-4	33
Wren	7	3	-4	205
Dipper	12	10	-2	503
Ring Ouzel	0	1	1	31
Blackbird	10	9	-1	1292
Song Thrush	9	3	-6	560
Mistle Thrush	2	1	-1	41
Spotted Flycatcher	4	1	-3	120
Robin	15	9	-6	432
Pied Flycatcher	152	148	-4	1236
Redstart	7	8	1	174
Stonechat	1	6	5	167
Duncock	3	7	4	275
House Sparrow	17	16	-1	511
Tree Sparrow	1	4	3	2565

Species	2017 Clwyd	2018 Clwyd	Change	2018 Britain and Ireland
Grey Wagtail	9	6	-3	118
Pied Wagtail	11	10	-1	105
Tree Pipit	1	0	-1	86
Meadow Pipit	1	1	0	112
Chaffinch	0	2	2	157
Linnet	1	1	0	257
Lesser Redpoll	1	0	-1	7
Goldfinch	5	2	-3	117
Reed Bunting	1	1	0	113

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Bob Harris	RbHa	Wilfred King	WK
Roger Brown	RBN	Warwick Redway	WR
Becky Clews-Roberts	RCR	Bill R Myerscough	WRM
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Local groups

Clwyd Ornithological Society

Secretary: Angela Ross. Telephone: 01745-338493.

Deeside Naturalists' Society

The DNS is a local natural history society that was founded in 1973 to conserve flora and fauna on Deeside and in the surrounding area. The society has about 450 members and holds monthly meetings and slide shows through the winter months. The Nature Reserve at Connah's Quay, alongside the River Dee, has five hides and a Field Studies Centre. Access is by permit only, available to all members.

Membership Secretary: Bob Lane. Telephone 01352-770633

Wrexham Birdwatchers

Wrexham Birdwatchers meet on the first Friday each month and on Saturday or Sunday every other month. The winter indoor programme (on Fridays) runs from September to April and is a series of lectures and slide shows, currently held in the Memorial Hall, Gresford. The outdoor programme runs through the year. Social evenings and weekends are also held. An Annual Report is produced.

Honorary Secretary: Marian Williams. Telephone: 01978-854633.

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.
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North Wales Wildlife Trust

Head Office: Lllys Garth, Garth Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2RT Telephone: 01248-351541. info@northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk

North East Office: Aberduna Nature Reserve, Ffordd Maeshafn, near Gwernymynydd, Mold, CH7 5LD.

Contact: Adrian Lloyd Jones, Conservation Officer (East). 07764-897412

North Wales Wildlife Trust local groups:

Clwydian: Mark JD 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, Lllys 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@birdsins.wales

<https://birdsins.wales>

Honorary Secretary: Ian M Spence



The Clwyd Bird Recording Group is affiliated to the Welsh Ornithological Society. Together we intend to work for the conservation of birds in Wales and we need your records and support to achieve this.

Subscription (covers two people over 26 years of age)

£20.00

To join, visit the membership page of the WOS website

https://birdsin.wales/support_wos/

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