

North-East Wales Bird Report 2019-20



Clwyd Bird Recording Group

August 2022

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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
(also representing the Welsh Ornithological Society)

Ian M Spence Treasurer and County Recorder

Andrew Dale

Adrian O Hibbert

Neil Hughes (Wrexham Birdwatchers)

Giles Pepler Secretary

Lee Barber Ringing Report Editor

Henry Cook (Photo Editor - 2019 only)

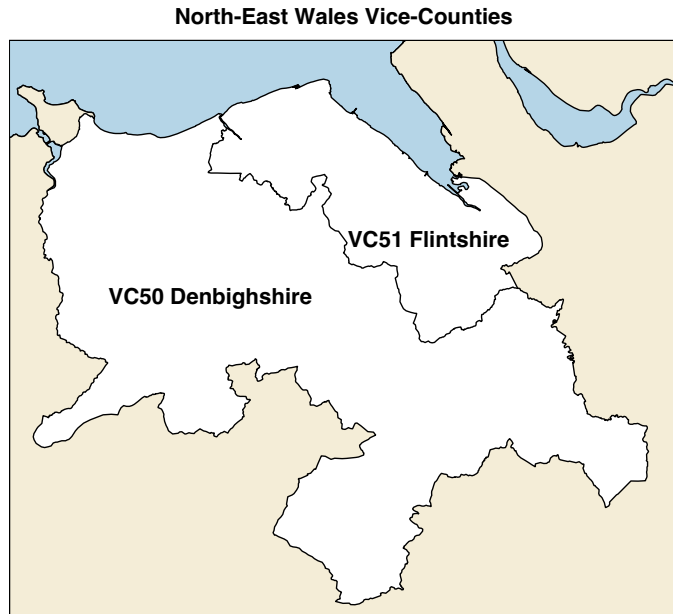
Alex Humphreys-Jones

Corinne Williams

David Winnard Webmaster

www.brnw.cymru

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



Introduction

Editorial

The purposes of the bird report

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

Renewal

The CBRG is going through a period of crisis. Our attempts to attract new members, ideally younger (than retirement age), has been largely unsuccessful. Several people have announced that they do not wish to contribute to future bird reports: Andrew Dale (our longest serving member), Neil Hughes, Anne Brenchley and me. With the publication of this joint report for 2019-20 I will have produced reports for 17 years (2004-20) during the last 15 years. I have not been able to find someone who is willing to take over as Editor of the bird report. I am still considering if I wish to stand down as Recorder as well. Henry Cook has moved to Suffolk and personal changes for others limit their opportunities to take on more responsibilities.

Without a Report Editor, the key role of the CBRG is impossible. That would call into question the ongoing survival of the Group. The current Chair, Anne Brenchley, is keen to hear from anyone who may be interested in taking over as Report Editor and/or Recorder and in maintaining the existence of the Group.

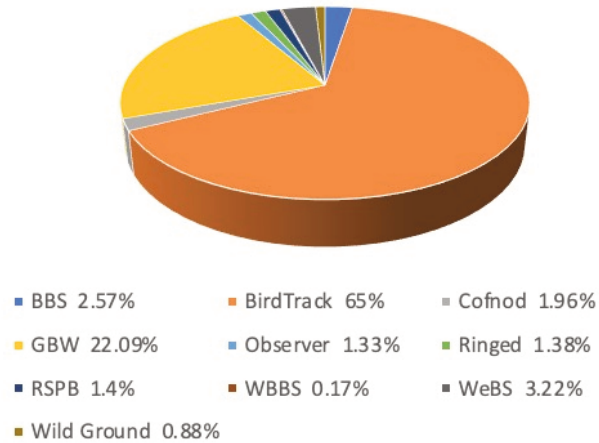
Sources of records

For 2019-20 the Clwyd Bird Recording Group received records from the following sources, from many locations in North-East Wales, as shown in the map below. The sources were:

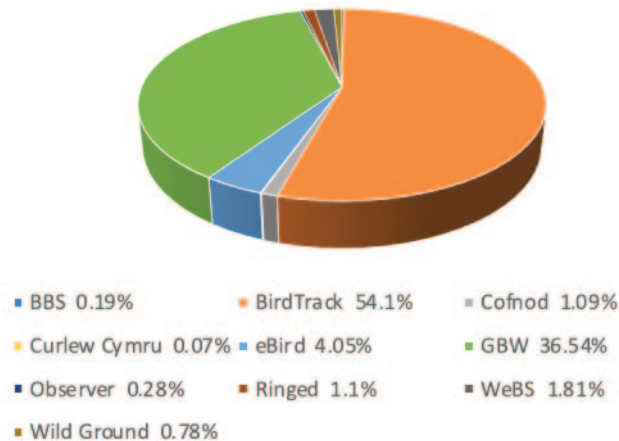
- Volunteer observers, mainly via BirdTrack
- RSPB Conwy and Burton Mere Wetlands (reserve staff and volunteers)
- Garden BirdWatch data
- Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data
- Deeside Naturalists' Society (via BirdTrack)
- Cofnod
- Records of ringed birds
- WeBS data from the BTO website.

(see charts on next page)

Sources of records 2019



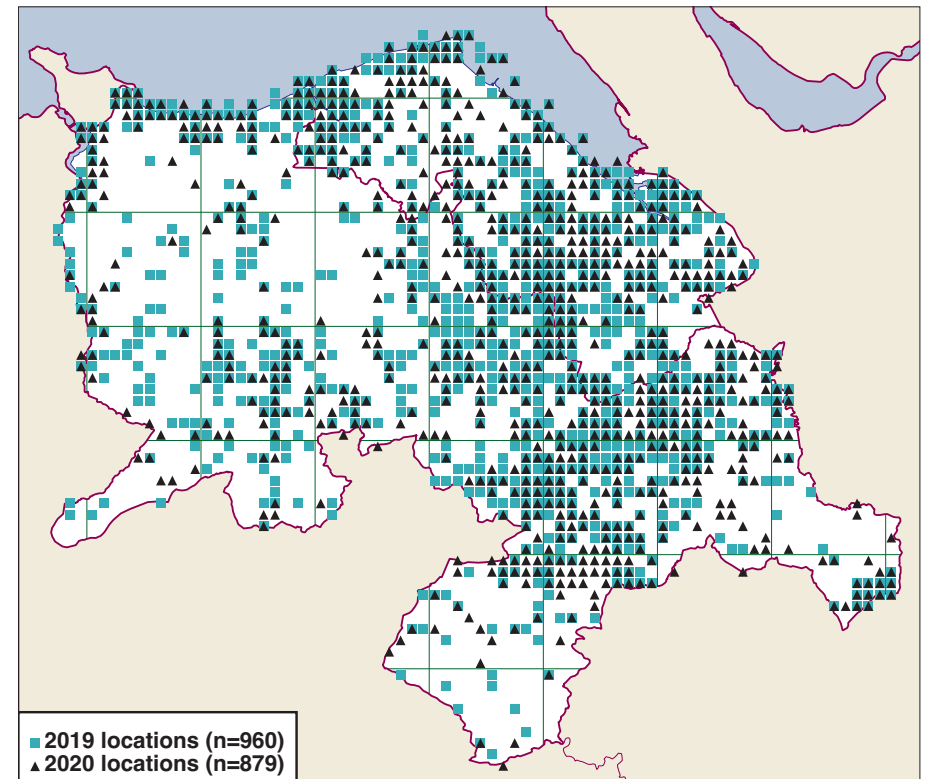
Sources of records 2020



Numbers of records

For 2019 and 2020 the records were processed in a new way. Aisling May, Cofnod, proposed that Cofnod prepare the records for the preparation of the report. I willingly accepted this offer and considering the numbers of records, the process went well. The numbers of records were 87,866 for 2019 and 102,519 for 2020. The map on page 7 shows the locations from which records came.

1km squares with at least one record in 2019 and 2020



Species names

We have continued to use the English vernacular names.

The order of species

The names of species and their order come from the Welsh List, itself derived from the IOC World List (v 10.2) (see Thorpe, R.I and Stratford, A. 2020. The Welsh List: A Checklist of Birds of Wales (4th edition) *Birds in Wales* 17(3): 222-225).

BRNW website

The move to **brnw.cymru** offered new opportunities for both the Cambrian Ornithological Society and the Clwyd Bird Recording Group. I suspect that neither group made full use of the site as David Winnard, the webmaster was often asking for contributions. The website enabled the ordering of bird reports online and I posted out several such orders. I am very grateful to David for all his work on the website. Soon after this report will have been published I expect to make available pdf versions of all the reports I have edited.

While the website is running and available, it will be possible to check the distribution of records held by Cofnod at the following webpage: <https://www.brnw.cymru/cbrg-records>

BirdTrack

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

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

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

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

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

Computerisation of records

There are very few contributors who are not able to submit computerised records from their home. The few remaining will have to find some way of getting their records submitted, preferably to BirdTrack, or to Cofnod. I am very grateful to the many contributors who have changed from hand-written records to using electronic means of data submission. It has made the job of Recorder much easier, in one sense, though the large numbers of records now available raise other issues.

Cofnod now holds the database of CBRG records, so they will be safely archived and available for future users.

Submission of records

For nest sites, it would be very helpful if observers used an accurate grid reference. 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 and introduced or feral species as well as rarities, but of particular concern now, are those species that are:

- either Amber or Red listed,
- species on the Welsh Biodiversity Action Plan (WBAP) list or
- of interest to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.

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

The crucial aspects of each record are:

- Species code (this will show the species name used in Recorder 6);
- Date of the observation;
- The 1 km square grid reference (this is crucial and will show the location name and the VC number);
- The age and/or sex of the bird;
- The breeding activity code, where relevant (see the BTO Atlas codes)
- The number of birds seen (please do not enter pairs as one record – please enter the number of males then on the next line, the number of females);
- In the comments column please enter any other aspects of the observation that are pertinent.

Rarity records

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

Welsh Birds Rarities Committee: <https://birds.wales/recording-rare-birds/>

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

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful for the assistance provided by Cofnod, particularly Aisling May and Jen Vidal, with the processing of records and preparing them for our use.

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, Neil Hughes, Alex Humphreys-Jones, Giles Pepler, Corinne Williams and David Winnard. I am also grateful to Lee Barber for the Ringing Report and to Bob Harris for the article he has written.

All but the four maps in the Ringing Report have been produced using DMAP by Dr Alan J Morton. The four exceptions were produced by Lee Barber.

I am very grateful to Andy Davis, Malcolm Down, David Eisner, John Hawkins, Tony Pope, Alan Saunders and Alan Smethurst for their photographs. I am also very grateful to Dermot Smith for his drawings. These add significantly to the interest and attractiveness of the report.

I am very grateful to the members of the CBRG for their ongoing support and assistance with all that is needed to coordinate a report such as this. I also thank Trevor Payne and Hilary Richards for their proof-reading of the draft text. I particularly thank Giles Pepler for his help with a range of issues and jobs that became apparent during the preparation of the report and for proof-reading the typeset version of the report.

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

the Wetland Bird Survey and Garden BirdWatch.

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

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

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The Systematic List for 2019-20

The names of species and their order come from the Welsh List, itself derived from the IOC World List (v 10.2) (see Thorpe, R.I and Stratford, A. 2020. The Welsh List: A Checklist of Birds of Wales (4th edition) Birds in Wales 17(3): 222-225). The Welsh names have been taken from the Welsh List.

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.

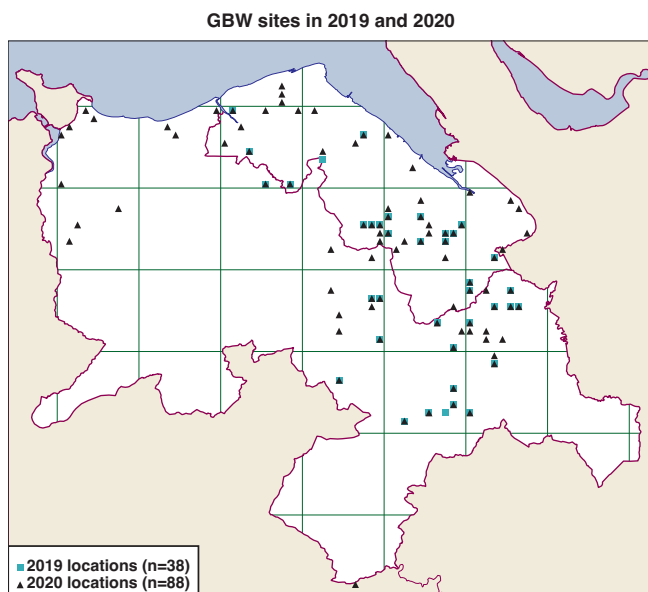
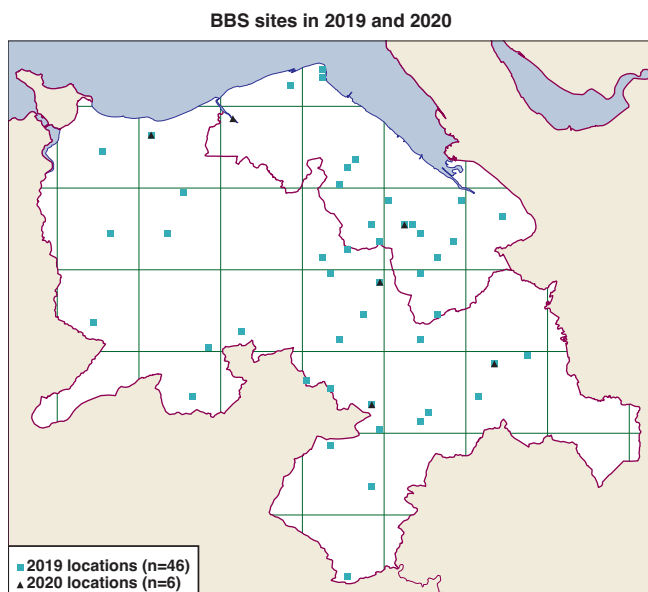
Abbreviations that appear in the report include, in tables, the BTO two letter code for the species to which the table refers, if there is one, and:

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
WBRC	Welsh Birds Rarities Committeel (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 on page 12, 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.



Each species account starts with a statement about status and then a table. This is an attempt to summarise the information available 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 used to describe the species is taken from the table, above.

Number of 1 km squares. This is the number of 1km squares in which a species was recorded during the year. The numbers of 1km 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 28 BBS squares in Denbs in 2019 and 18 in Flints but with Covid restrictions there were 4 squares in Denbs in 2020 and 2 in Flints.

Number of records. As in previous reports, this shows the number of accepted records 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. Sadly, the boundary used for Flintshire includes much of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands that is in England, so the summary statistics for Flintshire are corrupted. Consequently, in this report they are not shown.

Max breeding evidence. This is the 'highest' breeding code submitted 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: <https://www.brnw.cymru/atlasses>

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

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

Category A and C species

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

GŴYDD DDU

	2019		2020	
(BG no subsp)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	2		6
Maximum count	8	22		59
Av max count prev 10 years	4	22		22
Number of records	1	5	0	10
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0	-		-

	2019		2020	
(BG hrota)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	2	1	8
Maximum count	8	22	5	180
Av max count prev 10 years	4	22	0	14
Number of records	1	5	1	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0	-	0.2	-

	2019		2020	
(BG bernicla)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1		1
Maximum count		2		*27
Av max count prev 10 years		2		2
Number of records	0	2	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		-		

* Maximum *bernicla* count for the year was 102.

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.

2019

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 sighting was 8 (not identified to race) at Llanddulas on 2/12 (SuHa).

Flints. Small numbers (1-8) of both races were present in various parts of the Dee estuary during Jan to Mar and Oct to Dec, Connah's Quay NR and Point of Ayr/Gronant dunes being the most favoured locations. The only sightings of more substantial numbers were 22 of unidentified race at Connah's Quay NR on 10/02 (PeHa), and 38 of the light-breasted race *hrota*, feeding on the beach near the Prestatyn Gutter at Gronant dunes on 26/12 (WRM). The

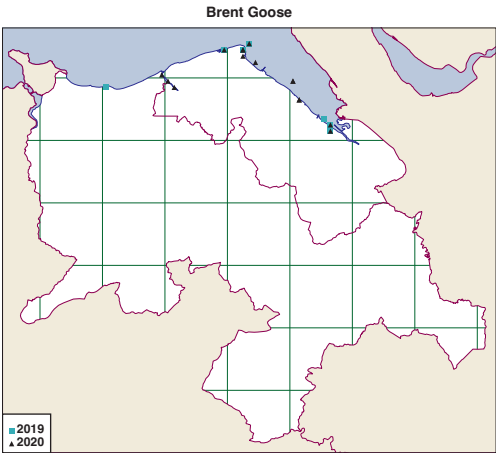
last record of the spring was 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 21/03 and the first of the autumn 7 on 26/10 (PeHa).

2020

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

Denbs. The only record for the year was 5 of the pale bellied hrota race at Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay on 7/02 (JPH).

Flints. Numbers on the Dee estuary were somewhat greater than in 2019, the annual maximum count being almost five times that of last year. All records, with the exception below, that specified the race concerned were of the pale-bellied hrota race. It is reasonable to assume that records not specifying race also relate to this race. Counts of up to 56 were recorded throughout Jan-Mar, the majority of which were from the outer estuary at Point of Ayr/Gronant; this location being favoured for most of the year. The largest record of the early months, and the annual maximum, was 180 on Walwen Marsh, Bagillt on 18/02. The last record of the spring months was 10 at Point of Ayr on 14/03. There was an unusual summer record of a lone bird at Point of Ayr on 11/07 (PJon). The first returning birds of the autumn were 59 at RSPB Point of Ayr on 14/09. However, these were presumably on passage, as subsequent counts in Sep and Oct remained in single figures, until mid-Nov when up to 30 were recorded on 17/11, again at Point of Ayr (SvK). Numbers increased during Dec, with up to 66 at Point of Ayr on 19/12. The only record of birds of the dark-bellied *bernicla* race were 102 at Walwen Marsh, Bagillt on 27/12 (GRMP).



Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Breeding resident.

GŴYDD CANADA

A ubiquitous species, certainly our commonest goose, found in both coastal and freshwater habitats on estuaries and most lakes, ponds and other water bodies. It was

recorded from both counties in all months of the year in 2019 but not in 2020. Post-breeding concentrations can occur in autumn/early winter at a number of locations including the Dee estuary, Gresford Flash, RSPB Conwy and Llyn Brenig, many birds remaining to winter.

(CG)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	72	60	65	59
Maximum count	393	3000	250	3000
Av max count prev 10 years	348	2912	348	2912
Recorded in BBS squares	5/28	7/18	1/5	1/2
Number of records	351	573	254	434
% of records from GBW	1.42	0	6.93	1.48
% of BirdTrack lists	30.3	-	25.0	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY	NY	FL

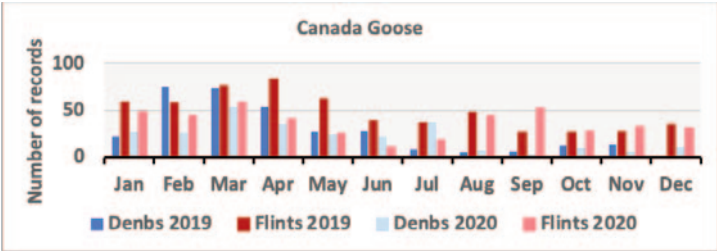
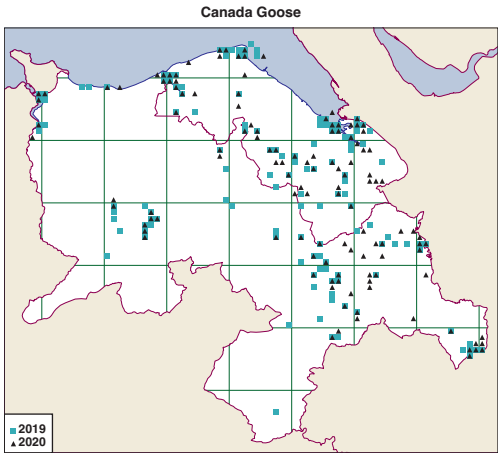
2019

Denbs. Numbers and distribution of this species appear broadly stable, with the annual maximum count similar to the ten-year average. However, distribution appears to have been extended somewhat over the last five years. Sightings were recorded from almost 50% more 1km squares than during the previous five; 89% of occupied squares were inland locations with the vast majority of coastal records being from RSPB Conwy. This increase in distribution appears to have stabilised, perhaps indicating that most suitable habitat is now occupied. The 2019 maximum of 393 was recorded at RSPB Conwy on 1/07 (JPH).

The peak count during the early months of the year was at Cae-llwyd Reservoir, Pen y Cae with 210 on 6/04 (SD). In view of the relatively late date, it may well be that the

concentration of birds in this area is primarily of non-breeders. Breeding was recorded at nine locations, the first nesting birds being recorded on 28/03 at RSPB Conwy (JHg) and the first goslings at Bodnant and RSPB Conwy on 17/05 (PEM, TP). Post-breeding congregations on the Conwy estuary were a significant increase on 2018 with 392 on the upper estuary on 16/06 (WeBS) and the annual maximum of 393 at RSPB Conwy on 1/07 (JPH). Other notable post-breeding counts included 66 at Llewenni watermeadows, Bodfari on 29/07 (JPH), c.150 at Holt on 21/10 (NF), 80 at Fenn's Moss on 8/11 (RbHa) and 102 at Hanmer Mere on 16/12 (WeBS).

Flints. The species was recorded from twenty-seven inland squares, the remainder were from coastal locations. As usual, the vast majority of records outside the breeding season were from the Dee and Clwyd estuaries; the saltmarshes at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR on the middle Dee estuary attracted the largest feeding congregations. White Sands was a favoured roosting site. After last year's somewhat anomalous record count of 7,000, numbers returned to more normal levels with peak counts during both the early and late months of the year of 2,900 to 3,000. During Jan and Feb the most substantial numbers were recorded from Connah's Quay NR/ RSPB Oakenholt Marsh area, with several counts of 1,000+ and the early season maximum of 2,900 at Connah's Quay NR, Ash Pool, on 15/01 (PHa). The last substantial counts of the early months were 1500 on White Sands and 334 at Llawndy Farm, Talacre on 24/02 (WeBS). Breeding was recorded at Rhyl Brickworks Pond, the Clwyd estuary, Cae Newydd, Nannerch, Talacre, Gronant and Connah's Quay NR. The first nest with eggs was recorded at Brickfields pond on 9/04 (JPH) and the first young reported were a creche of 20 with a flock of 75 adults on the Clwyd estuary on 9/05 (WRM).



The usual flocks of non-breeders and later moulting birds were noted at several locations throughout the late spring and summer, particularly on the Clwyd estuary and adjoining saltmarsh. They were also seen on the Dee at Llawndy and Warren Farms at Talacre, where up to 100 were recorded on several dates. During Jul 500+ were at Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, numbers peaked at 630 on 20/07 (PeHa). These mid-estuary sites also recorded substantial numbers during 24-28/08 when 1,200-2,000 were recorded on



Canada Goose: Alan Saunders

several days (PeHa, DWn et al). Numbers subsequently reverted to more modest levels until later in the year when 1,000+ were, again, present on several dates from mid-Nov onwards. The annual peak of 3,000 was recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7/12 (PeHa).

Monthly maxima from 2019 WeBS counts at selected sites:

(CG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	2	47	38	41	12	392	290	4				7
Rhuddlan, Clwyd Estuary		127	54	49	93			402	40	7	100	63
Point of Ayr Fields	122	334	93							160		200
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	600			12	21	45	2	23	350	6	300	
Connah's Quay NR	400	74	50	20	6	15	11	6	3			
White Sands		1500		10	14	4	3	245		200	40	1500

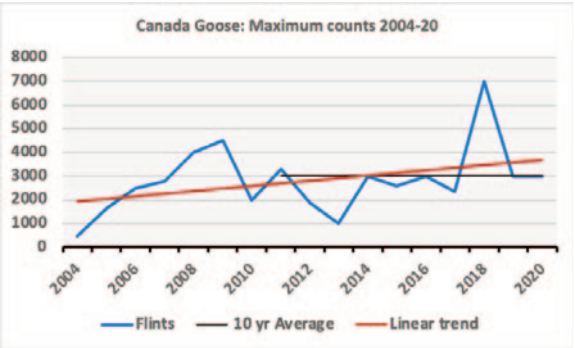
2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. Counts appear to have been well down across the county. The maximum count of 250 recorded on floods near Holt on 11/02 was within the normal range, though 28% below the previous ten-year average. However, the usual post-breeding flocks during Jul were significantly lower than last year. Cae-llwyd Reservoir, Penycae had the largest counts of this

period with 105 on 5/07 (SD), but the annual maximum at RSPB Conwy was below last year's with 79 on 9/07 as was Llyn Brenig's with 41 on 14/07 (WRM). The largest record during the later months of the year was 70+ at Kinnel Bay on 5/10 (SD).

Flints. Numbers appear broadly stable, the maximum count being the same as during 2019, very close to the previous ten-year average. As usual the Dee and Clwyd estuaries held the largest numbers, particularly the former where Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh attracted considerable flocks of up to 1,000-3,000 throughout the winter months. The year started with substantial numbers on RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, where there were counts of 1,000-1,800 throughout the first week of Jan. Throughout Jan-Mar flocks on Oakenholt and Connahs Quay numbered several hundred and there were notable counts at Oakenholt of 1,800 on 1/01 and 1,500 on 5/02, Connah's Quay NR 2,000 on 22/03 (PeHa, MD). These flocks were last recorded in late Mar, after which access to Connah's Quay NR was unavailable due to Covid restrictions, which applied throughout late Mar until the end of Jul. When restrictions were lifted from early Aug, counts at the two main favoured reserves were in the range 200-350 but increased from early Sep, with 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Flint Sands on 6/09 and several of 1,000-3,000 during Oct and to the end of the year. While the largest numbers were concentrated at these reserves and almost all substantial counts were at these locations, geese were well distributed around the Dee, as shown in the table of WeBS counts below. Significant numbers were also in the Point of Ayr/Gronant area during Sep and later in Nov/Dec. Notable counts included 425 at Gronant dunes on 1/09, 200 at Talacre on 15/09 (WRM, SvK) and 170+ on Point of Ayr fields during Nov/Dec (see below).



2020 WeBS counts at selected Dee estuary locations.

(CG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rhuddlan, Clwyd Est	147		73									
Gronant									165			
Point of Ayr fields			116							83	177	173
Flint	4		14					31				
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh			180					16		2	550	600
Connah's Quay NR	2		200					20	200	20		
White Sands	110		50					270	400	61	800	41

On the Clwyd estuary counts were in the range 40-116 during Jan-Mar, peaking at 147 on 12/01 (WeBS). Numbers increased from early Jun as the flocks of non-breeders and later post-breeding moulting birds formed. There were several counts of 200+ during Aug, peaking at 320 on 4/08 (WRM). Counts declined from early Sep, after which numbers remained modest to the end of the year, the only record of significant numbers being 101 on 29/12 (AHJ). The only recorded breeding was at Maes y Grug, Sychdyn, where two broods of 4 and 5 were seen on 26/05 (JR).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*
Vagrant, or birds of escaped/feral origin. Amber List.

GŴYDD WYRAN

2019

Denbs. The only record was 1 at Kinmel Bay on 10/02 (EJB).

Flints. The long-staying birds present since at least 2018 remained in the RSPB Oakenholt Marsh / Connah's Quay NR area of the Dee estuary throughout the early months of the year, with 2 recorded during a WeBS count on 20/01, subsequently joined by a third during counts on 24/03 and 21/04 (WeBS). The only autumn/winter record was a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 17/11 (WeBS).

2020

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 long staying group of 1-5 presumed feral birds was again recorded at Connah's Quay NR on several dates from 1/01-15/03 (PeHa et al); 6 were at Decca Pools, Flint on 8/06 (NF) and a single was again at Connah's Quay NR from 15/11-18/12.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber list.

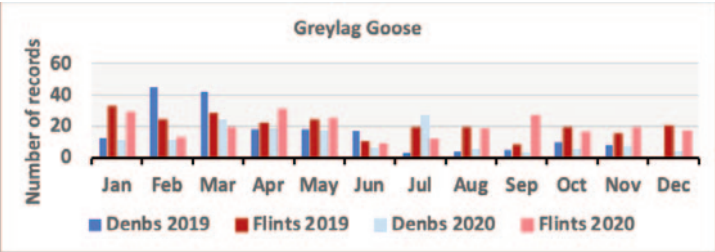
GŴYDD LWYD

(GJ)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	52	39	47	39
Maximum count	500	480	400	566
Av max count prev 10 years	438	454	438	454
Recorded in BBS squares	2/28	1/18	1/5	-
Number of records	195	241	138	235
% of records from GBW	0.51	0	-	2.34
% of BirdTrack lists	17.0	-	16.6	-
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL	NY	NY

This species comprises a resident feral breeding population that is relatively widespread on suitable inland water bodies. This population may be supplemented by numbers of passage, and over-wintering birds during the winter months. Recorded in both counties in all months of the year. The majority of records during the spring and summer months are of small numbers 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 can attract significant numbers on an almost annual basis.

2019

Denbs. RSPB Conwy, the most regularly recorded location, provided over 50% of all records. However, numbers at this site were modest, if somewhat greater than in 2018, the largest counts were the maximum of 110 on 2/02 (pTW) and two records of 50 during late Jun and early Jul. Substantial numbers were again regularly recorded at Lleweni watermeadows at Bodfari with up to 221 present throughout Jan to early Mar, with smaller numbers during the breeding period and from 200-321 during Oct to Dec (JPH). Breeding was recorded from Hanmer, Llandyrnog, Llyn Brenig, Llyn Aled and Nant-y-Fridd Reservoir. The first goslings were seven young with a pair of adults, at Glan y Wern, Llandyrnog on 24/04 (PKi). Llyn Brenig as usual attracted good numbers during the post-breeding period with counts of 175 including juveniles on 15/06 and 212 on 29/07 (WRM). Other notable records included 400 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 17/01 (DvMn) and 140 at Aberwheeler on 25/01 (GPI). The maximum for the year was 500 at Gresford Flash on 11/10 (HL) and there were 200 at Crewe-by-Farndon on 21/10 (NF).



Flints. During 2019 the largest concentrations of this species were to be found on saltmarsh adjacent to the middle Clwyd estuary where 300-400 were recorded on several dates during Jan to early Feb. Numbers on the Dee estuary were much more modest though there were records from all the usual locations, including RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and Shotwick Fields, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, Connah's Quay NR and Warren and Llawndy Farms at Point of Ayr. There were fewer records from inland locations, a notable exception was 140+ at Fagl Lane Gravel Pit on 9/01 (GNR). From mid Feb onwards the wintering concentrations began to disperse to inland breeding territories. Breeding was recorded at Burton Mere Wetlands, Nannerch Fish Pond, the Clwyd estuary and Fagl Lane GP. The first record of juveniles was eight broods at Shotwick on 14/05 (CW). Numbers at coastal locations increased from mid-Jul. The first 100+ count of the latter half of the year was 165 on the Clwyd saltmarshes on 25/07 (JPH), quickly increasing with 310 at Rhuddlan and 440 on the lower estuary both on 4/08 (WeBS). Counts of 200-300 were still recorded into early Dec. Numbers on the Dee were again modest during the latter months of the year, the exception was a count of 232 at Warren Farm, Talacre on 18/09 (RCR).

Monthly counts on the Clwyd estuary.

(GJ)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Upper Clwyd Est (WeBS)		20	1		6			310		224		1
Lower Clwyd Est (Mthly max)	375	400	8	9	8	68	165	440	12	365	480	80

2020

Denbs. Perhaps due to an inevitable reduction of recording due to the pandemic, the number of records of this species were a 30% reduction on last year. However, numbers appear to have been broadly maintained, with the annual maximum count of 400 only 9% below the ten-year average. Lleweni watermeadows, as usual, recorded the majority of the largest counts, with several of 300+ during Jan and Feb and 384 on 12/02, the county maximum for the spring months. The most significant counts at this location from later in the year were 229 on 13/10 and 289 on 9/11 (JPH). The Holt area recorded substantial numbers on several occasions with 150 south of Holt on 11/02 (NHu), 200 on 6/10 and the county annual maximum of 400 at Holt dykes on 12/11 (NF). Llyn Brenig held significant congregations, particularly during the post-breeding period with 190 recorded at the adjacent Gors Maen-llwyd on 11/07 and 103 at Llyn Brenig on 14/07 (WRM). There was only a single recorded instance of breeding, at Lleweni where 19 goslings were among a count of 49 on 11/05 (JPH).

Flints. As in previous years, the majority of the county's population of this species, was recorded from the Clwyd estuary and surrounding areas. The pattern of movements was similar to previous years. During the early months of the year numbers were generally modest, with most records of 1-50, and only three counts of 100+ between Jan and mid-Jul. All the largest counts during this period were in late Jan, with a maximum of 124 on the lower estuary near Rhyl on 30/01 (JPH). Numbers remained low until mid-Jul while pairs were on breeding territories. There were only two records of breeding. Goslings were seen at Coed Du Quarry, Cilcain on 15/04 and juveniles including a newly hatched brood with adults on the Clwyd saltmarshes on 3/05 (GEM, JPH). Numbers on the Clwyd increased from July onwards, peaking from Oct to early Dec when regular counts of 114-566 were reported. There were also records from locations around the Dee, but numbers were generally low with the exception of the Talacre/ Point of Ayr, where up to 500 were recorded from mid-Sep and early Oct. In addition to records from coastal locations, there were also sightings from fourteen inland squares, the most notable of which was 110 at Fagl Lane Gravel Pit, Hope on 20/01 (GNR).

Maximum monthly counts on the Clwyd estuary.

(GJ)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clwyd Estuary	124	89	9	33	50	39	106	440	90	520	385	384

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

GŴYDD DROETBINC

Passage migrant, and winter visitor. Amber list.

(PG)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Abundant	Fairly common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	6	16	4	17
Maximum count	3	6500	41	10000
Av max count prev 10 years	453	4705	453	4705
Number of records	12	66	6	54
% of BirdTrack lists	1.1	-	0.3	-

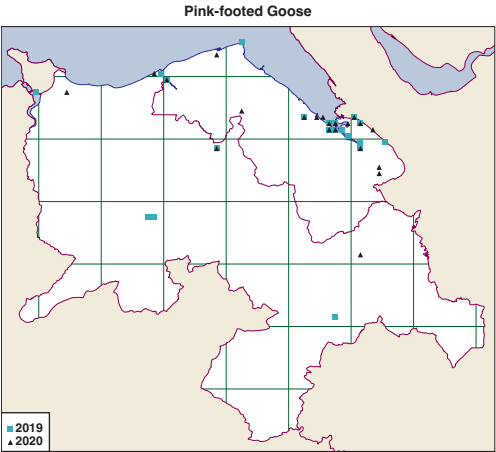
This species has steadily increased in numbers on the Dee estuary since 2010, in line with increases in the national wintering population. As well as birds remaining to winter on the estuary, numbers are increased by migrating flocks stopping for a short time in transit. Population peaks are often associated with these occurrences. 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.

2019

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 2019 numbers of this species were much lower than normal, with a maximum count for the year of only 3. Most records during the early months of the year were from Lleweni watermeadows, where 1-3 were present between 11/01 and 11/03 (JPH). RSPB Conwy had only two records of singles on 20/04 and another later in the year on 16/11 and 1 was with the Greylag flock at Llyn Brenig from 10/06 to 29/06 (WRM). Other autumn/winter records were of 3 flying over Froncysyllte on 5/09 (DaHu) and small numbers at Lleweni watermeadows, where 1-3 were recorded on dates in Oct and Nov (JPH).



Flints. As usual virtually all records were from the Dee estuary. After the exceptional counts recorded during 2018, numbers in 2019 were much closer to the ten year average, with peak numbers 35% lower than in 2018. There were records from most locations on the estuary, though as usual the greatest concentrations were recorded at Connah's Quay NR, White Sands and adjacent areas.

Good numbers were present on the upper Dee estuary throughout the Jan to mid-Apr period. The majority of sightings were from

Connah's Quay NR, where 2,000-4,000 were feeding on the saltmarsh throughout the early months of the year. There were also several records of substantial flocks at the usual loafing and roosting location on White Sands, including the year's maximum count of 6,500 on 8/03 (CW). The last birds of the spring departed on migration significantly earlier than last year, the last record from the early months was 1,500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 19/04 (DWn), some two weeks earlier than in 2018. There were no subsequent records until mid-Sep, with the exception of a single (the same?) recorded on several occasions between 8/07 and 13/08 at Connahs Quay NR and on the Clwyd estuary (PeHa, DWn, WRM). Probably the same bird was also recorded with a flock of Greylags on the Clwyd later in the year. The first record of the autumn was 10 at Inner Marsh Farm on 14/09 (SD), followed by the first substantial numbers of 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 23/09 and 1,000 on 16/10 (PeHa). During the remainder of the autumn/winter period numbers were relatively modest, with counts in the range of 80-200 predominating. There were a few records of more substantial numbers feeding on Shotwick Fields during Oct, including an uncorroborated anonymous report of 4,000 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 29/10. Otherwise, two records of 1,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 16/10 (PeHa) and at Hawarden Bridge on 30/10 (JoG) were the next largest counts before the end of the year.

2020

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 only four records during the early months of the year, 2 at Lleweni watermeadows on 20/01 and a single on 12/02 (JPH), 4 at Kinmel Bay on 25/01 and 35 at Gatewen, Wrexham on 30/01. The two autumn records were 23 over Colwyn Heights on 23/09 (HC) and 41 at Lleweni on 16/11 (JPH).

Flints. With the exception of a handful of “flyover” sightings, virtually all records of this species were from locations around the Dee estuary. The majority of records were from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR. During the early months of the year numbers were relatively modest, with counts of 1-45 during Jan and early Feb and 100-400 during late Feb to early Mar. There was an influx later in Mar with 5,000 reported on White Sands on 8/03 (WeBS) and again at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 14/03. These were the maximum counts of the spring period. Sightings of 1,000 at Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 22/03 were the last of the spring months. The first returning birds of the autumn were recorded on 19-20/09 when 1,100 were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on the latter date (SD, PeHa). The largest counts of the autumn/winter period were during mid-Oct when the annual maximum of 10,000 was reported from Oakenholt on 9/10 (PeHa) and there were regular counts of 2,000 until 18/10, after which numbers declined somewhat though there were notable records of 1,600 at Oakenholt on 22/11 and 1,000 at White Sands on 6/12 (WeBS).

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

GWYDD DALCENWEN

(WG)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares				1
Maximum count				1
Av max count prev 10 years				10
Number of records	0	0	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists				-

The overwhelming majority of records in the report area relate to birds of the “European” *albifrons* race, which occurs most frequently, but irregularly. The threatened ‘Greenland’ *flavirostris* race is considerably rarer and more noteworthy in our area.

2020

Flints. A single of unrecorded race was at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7/03 (PeHa).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*
Breeding resident. Amber list.

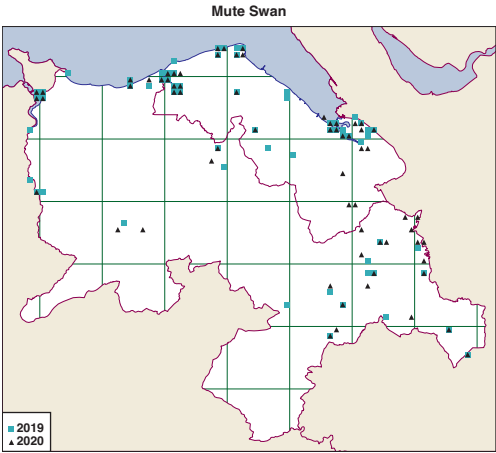
ALARCH DOF

(MS)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	30	34	33	32
Maximum count	35	79	48	76
Av max count prev 10 years	52	74	52	74
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	1/18	1/5	1/2
Number of records	309	524	290	477
% of BirdTrack lists	26.5	-	23.4	-
Max breeding evidence	ON	NY	ON	-

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

2019

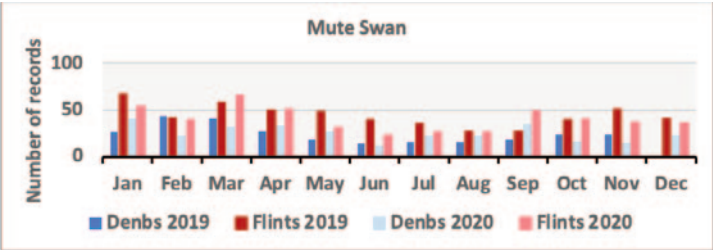
Denbs. Records were received from twelve coastal locations and eighteen inland and as usual, RSPB Conwy provided the majority of records (59%). Numbers were broadly similar to 2018, though the peak count of 35 recorded during WeBS counts on the upper Conwy estuary on 16/06 was significantly greater than last year's. Breeding was reported from seven locations, with nest building recorded from early Mar and the first small cygnets seen on 14/05. The Lleweni watermeadows are also a significant location for this species, particularly in winter. Small numbers were present throughout the early months of the year, increasing to a herd of 17-26 between Oct and mid-Dec.



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy esuary	18	18	14	16	15	35	22	11	18	22	12	13
White Sands		20	12	28	8	4	10					35
Shotwick Fields	79		25									
Clwyd estuary		4	6	40	58			7	20			

Flints. While this remains a widespread species, it was recorded from 17% fewer squares than in 2018. The vast majority of records were from locations in or around the Dee and Clwyd estuaries, with over 94% of records from the regular coastal reserves at Connah's Quay NR, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Shotwick Fields, the Point of Ayr/Talacre reserves and the Clwyd estuary. Only 33 sightings were recorded from elsewhere, though this is perhaps not surprising, given the systematic recording undertaken at the above sites. During Jan there were several records 30-60 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and in the Shotwick Fields area with a maximum of 79 at Shotwick on 20/01 (WeBS). These herds dispersed from the end of Jan, after which most sightings were in single figures, while pairs established breeding territories. The first nesting activity of the year was noted at Rhuddlan on 23/03 and the first eggs were recorded at Brickworks Pond, Rhyl on 27/03, though the first cygnets of the year were not recorded until 10/05 (JPH). In addition to Brickworks Pond, breeding was observed at Rhuddlan, Connah's Quay NR and Gronant. From Jun to Sep the largest concentrations were on the Clwyd estuary and adjoining saltmarshes, with a maximum count of 63 recorded on 2/06 (WRM) and several other counts of 20-30 during this period (WRM, JPH, WeBS et al). From autumn onwards the Dee estuary appears to have returned to favour, the largest counts of the last quarter were recorded from White Sands, with a maximum of 35 there on 14/12 (WeBS).



2020

Denbs. Mute Swans were recorded from seven coastal squares and 26 inland locations. As usual most records were from RSPB Conwy, with 44% of all sightings. The increase in numbers on the Conwy noted in 2019, above, appears to have continued. During the early months of the year numbers remained fairly consistent in the mid-teens, numbers increasing after the breeding season, with counts of 30 on 2/08 and 41 on 15/08 before an annual maximum of 48 on 18/10 (SvK, JHg, WeBS). Though widely recorded from inland locations, few sites held more than a territorial pair. The only records of significant numbers were at inland locations were outside the breeding season with 22 (18 adults and 4 juveniles) grazing in a field at Brookhouse, Denbigh on 6/02 (HaE), 11 at Hanmer Mere on 20/09 (WeBS) and 10-15 at several locations in the Holt area during Mar, Oct and Nov (NF).

Flints. As usual most records were from locations around the Dee and Clwyd estuaries. Recording appears to have been somewhat more irregular than usual, presumably due to Covid restrictions. Numbers appear broadly stable, the annual maximum being similar to that of last year and remaining approximately 20% above the ten-year average. While the Clwyd estuary remained the location holding the largest numbers throughout the year, during the early months numbers on the upper Dee estuary were the county's highest, with 36 on White Sands on 12/01, 25 on 11/02 and 17 on 8/03 (SuHa). A herd of 23 was recorded at Connah's Quay NR on several dates from 9-20/03 (PSH). From Apr until early Jun the largest numbers were on the Clwyd estuary, with 40-60 recorded on several dates from mid-Apr to early Jun and the annual maximum of 76 on the lower Clwyd saltmarshes on 27/05 (AHJ). Numbers declined subsequently, so presumably this concentration includes both non-breeders and pairs yet to

settle on territory. There was evidence of breeding at three locations: a nest with three eggs was recorded at Rhyl Brickworks Pond on 23/03, at the start of a clutch of at least eight. Two young were seen there on 8/05 (JPH). A further pair nested at Rhuddlan NR and a pair with 7 juveniles, and a single adult with 6 juveniles, were recorded at Prestatyn Gutter and lagoon, Gronant on 21/09 (WRM). Away from the coast, birds were reported from only a handful of inland locations, including Lane End, Buckley; Fagl Lane gravel pit, Hope; Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog and Llyn Helyg.

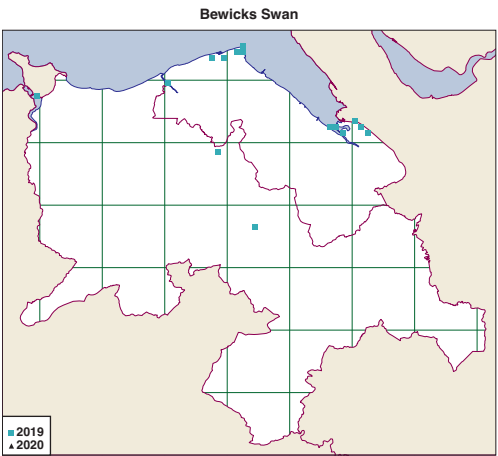
Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

ALARCH BEWICK

Winter visitor. Amber List.

(BS)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Uncommo		
Number of 1km squares		3		
Maximum count		6		
Number of records	0	4	0	0

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 where the majority of records came from the lower Dee Valley during periods of winter flooding.



2019

Flints. In line with the major decline in the European and UK wintering populations, on the Dee estuary numbers were again at low levels, with no records into double figures. Small numbers were recorded on the upper Dee estuary during Jan and Feb, frequenting Shotwick Fields and White Sands. Six were on White Sands on 8/01 (GrJ), 3 at Shotwick on 20/01. Thereafter, 2 were present until 24/02, which was the last record of the year (WeBS). Interestingly these numbers and dates are remarkably similar to the 2018 records, possibly indicating a returning family group.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Winter visitor. Amber list.

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

(WS)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Uncommon	Scarce	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	3	12	3	11
Maximum count	2	36	5	25
Av max count prev 10 years	7	56	7	56
Number of records	16	35	3	30
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	-	0.1	-

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

2019

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. Continuing the trend of the last three years, numbers were well below the long-term average. Two were at Lleweni watermeadows, Bodfari from 7/01 to 18/02, after which a single remained until 26/02 (JPH). A single, presumably one of the Leweni pair, was at Llanfair DC on 17/02 (GPI) and again at Lleweni on 29/04 and 20/05 (JPH). Later in the year 2 made a brief stop at RSPB Conwy, where they were present from 20/10 to 2/11 (pTim Wallis).

Flints. Numbers on the Dee estuary were similar to 2018 and the previous three years. As in most years, the majority of sightings were from Shotwick Fields and the boating lake or White Sands. Sightings during the early weeks of the year were all in single figures, increasing later in Jan and Feb to a peak count of 36 on White Sands on 21/02 (GrJ). Numbers declined during Mar, and the last sighting of significant numbers was 15, again on White Sands on 24/03 (WeBS). Lingering individuals were reported from White Sands on 21/04 and the Clwyd saltmarshes on 23/06 (WeBS, JPH). During the autumn months small numbers were reported, mostly from the Point of Ayr area during Oct, the first of which were 2 at Big Pool Wood on 3/10 (MJDH). Most records were of passing birds, with 9 flying SE over Shotwick boating lake on 31/10, the largest count of this period (GrJ). There were two records from White Sands during Dec, when c.20 were present on 3/12 and 13 on 14/12 (GrJ, WeBS).

2020

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

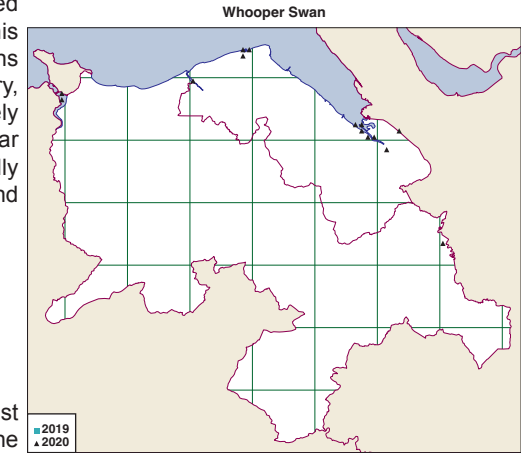
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S

O

N

D



Denbs. There were very few records of this species in the county during 2020. The only record during the early months of the year was 5 at Holt on 8/03 (NF). Later in the year 1 was at RSPB Conwy on 27/09

(SvK) and 2 on the upper Conwy estuary on 18/10 (WeBS).

Flints. There were sightings of up to 25 at various locations in the upper Dee estuary, including Connah's Quay NR, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and White Sands from 12/01 to 20/03 (PSH). A single long staying individual was reported as seen in the Gronant area, possibly from April, but certainly from 13/05 until it was found dead on 29/06, possibly predated by a fox (JPH, JoW et al). The first returning birds of autumn were 3 on White Sands on 18/10 (WeBS); after which there were several records of 2-14 from 15/11-27/11. The 24 at White Sands on 6/12 were the last of the year (WeBS).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Feral.

GŴYDD YR AIFFT

(EG)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce		Rare
Number of 1km squares	5	7		1
Maximum count	2	3		1
Av max count prev 10 years	1	2		
Number of records	5	54	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	-		-

2019

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. One or both of the birds which were present in Flints for much of the year (see under) wandered into Denbs on a number of occasions, recorded at Dongray Hall on 12/02, RSPB Conwy on 23/03, Lleweni on 8/04 and Kinmel Bay on 27/07 and 6/11 (GNR, pTW, JPH, NF).

Flints. At least two were present on the upper Dee estuary for much of the year, from 26/01 to 31/10 and were joined by a third from 17/02 to 3/05. They were regularly recorded both on Connah's Quay NR and on the Clwyd estuary and also less frequently from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh reserve, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and the Shotwick area (PeHa, JPH, WRM).

2020

Flints. A single was reported from S of Shotwick boating lake on 5/09.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

(SU)	2019	2020		
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	17	49	20	47
Maximum count	200	1500	53	1000
Av max count prev 10 years	155	1340	155	1340
Recorded in BBS squares	0/28	4/18	-	1/2
Number of records	177	531	114	449
% of BirdTrack lists	19.6	-	14.8	-
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL	-	NY

This coastal duck is found on most estuaries. The Dee estuary is a site of international importance for this species.

2019

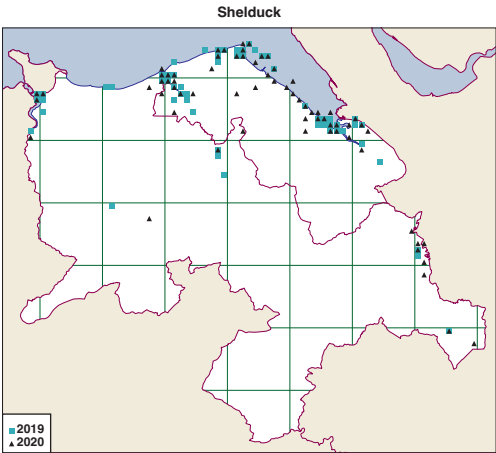
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Approximately 80% of the year's records of this largely marine species came from coastal locations, with 72% from RSPB Conwy and the adjoining Conwy estuary and a further 8% from Kinmel Bay and Llanddulas. Of the inland locations, 14% were from Lleweni watermeadows and the remainder were scattered sightings from various sites in the lower Dee Valley and the east of the county. Numbers were broadly similar to last year and the maximum count of 200 was some 29% above the ten-year average. During the first half of the year numbers on the Conwy estuary followed a very similar pattern to last year. During Jan numbers were modest with most counts 1-30, numbers increasing from mid-Feb with WeBS counts of 90 to 114 in most months until the end of May (see table below). The two largest counts of the year were both in mid-Apr, when the annual maximum of 200 was recorded on a field by the Afon Conwy, close to RSPB Conwy on 16/04 (LG) and a count of the whole upper estuary on 25/04 recorded 167 (WRM). The only records of breeding were from Lleweni watermeadows where a brood of 4 was with adults on 17/06 and juveniles were among 6 on 1/07 (JPH). After the breeding season numbers remained relatively low, as the majority of adults appeared to move to the Dee estuary to moult and there were only three records during Aug to Oct. The only record during Aug was 22 on the Conwy estuary on 4/08 (WeBS) which was also the largest count of the second half of the year on the Conwy. During Sep, 1 was at Kinmel Bay on 24/09 and 1 on the Conwy on 27/09 (EJB). There were no records during Oct. All further records from the Conwy were of 1-2 or unspecified numbers. As previously indicated most inland records were from Lleweni watermeadows, with records from Jan to Jul and Nov to Dec and a first half peak of 33 on 25/03 and of 16 on 23/12 in the second half (JPH).

RSPB Conwy monthly WeBS counts:

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy	14	103	90	113	114	35	4	22			2	1

Flints. All sightings were from coastal locations, the vast majority of which were from the Dee and Clwyd estuaries. Numbers remained broadly stable, though the annual maximum count of 1,200 was a 20% reduction on that of 2018 and some 10% down on the ten-year average. On the Dee, the outer estuary attracted the greatest numbers during Jan and Feb, with counts of up to 145 at Point of Ayr. From Mar onwards, inner estuary locations held greater numbers with White Sands, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR producing counts of over 100. The last site had 200 on 25/04. By mid-May, the first ducklings were reported on the Clwyd but for the second year no evidence of breeding was recorded from the Dee. It is assumed that a large proportion of the birds on this site were non-breeders. The largest counts of the year were recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh during Jul and Aug, with 1,010 on 8/07, 1,200 on 26/08 and 100 on 2/09 (DWN). After this numbers declined and the largest counts were



recorded from the outer estuary with counts of 300-350 from Point of Ayr, Fynnongroyw and Talacre during Oct. Most Nov and Dec records were generally in the range of 1 to 120.

Monthly WeBS counts at selected Dee estuary sites:

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	51	31	33	42	13	245	158	82	400	305	180	67
Fynnongroyw Bay N	25		17			20	50	8	750	350	144	6
Flint foreshore	25	10	21	23	12	1	30	232	242	102	12	7
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	32	53	27	66	70	120	290	32	11	20	33	40
White Sands	11	85	118	54	38	123	468	33	34	7	4	69

On the Clwyd estuary the highest monthly counts in Feb, Mar and Apr were all in the range 168 to 172, the greater of which, recorded on 25/03 (WRM), was the maximum site count of the year. The first ducklings were later than usual, recorded on 19/05, when three pairs of adults were seen with only two chicks, perhaps due to poor weather at the start of the breeding season (WRM). However, by mid-Jun numbers of young had increased and on 16/06 there were four pairs all with young and another with a creche of 38 young (WRM). On 23/06 a count of 148 included 56 flightless young, with 41 in a single creche (JPH). On 30/06 the only adults seen had young in attendance and it is suggested that adults without young may have left for moulting areas (WRM). The last record of young was on 14/07, when one adult was with 5 ducklings. A pair had a creche of 31 and another pair had two flying juveniles (WRM). As usual numbers were low from mid-Jul, with no records over 21 during Aug and only two records during Sep, with a maximum of 39 on the upper estuary on 10/09. Numbers built again from Oct, with monthly maxima of 74 in Oct, 117 in Nov and 124 on 22/12 (WRM, JPH).

Monthly WeBS counts on the Clwyd estuary.

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clwyd Estuary		25	148	169	78			16	39	91	42	91

2020

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. After last year's above average numbers, counts appeared much lower this year, with a maximum count of 53, less than a third of the ten-year average. It remains to be seen whether this is part of a trend or a quirk of recording in this strange year. Almost half of all records were from RSPB Conwy and these in turn were the largest component of the 72% of records from coastal locations. The largest numbers of the year were recorded during Jan to Mar at two main coastal locations. RSPB Conwy and the upper Conwy estuary had notable counts of 45 on 21/01 (RLE); 45 on the upper estuary on 8/02 and 53 on 8/03 (WeBS). At the other side of the county, the Kinmel Bay area had 34 at Horton's Nose on 9/01 (EJB); 34 on 18/02 (MaO) and 30 on 13/03 (PWWh). There were sightings from ten inland locations, the majority of which were from Lleweni watermeadows, Bodfari. Notable counts at this site included 28 on 20/01 and 21 on 25/03. While there were very few records of significant numbers from any sites in the later months of the year, a notable exception was a count of 36 at Lleweni on 14/12 (JPH). Other inland locations included Hanmer Mere, Fenn's Moss, and the middle river Dee floodplain around Holt. There were no records of breeding this year.

Flints. The annual maximum count of 1,000 was significantly below the ten-year average of 1,532. However, this degree of fluctuation is within the usual range of the data. The table of WeBS counts below shows the monthly fluctuations of distribution of birds within the various

sectors of the estuary. Comparison with previous years shows significant consistency of the pattern, presumably in relation to availability of food species.

Dee estuary monthly WeBS counts at selected sites:

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant	22		34				25	2	12		14	18
Point of Ayr	44		66				233	286	500	1000	600	300
Fynnongroyw Bay N			6				30	45	700	116	1	14
Fynnongroyw Bay S	2						30					7
Mostyn Shore	2		5						75	25		1
Flint foreshore	9		47					314	308		18	61
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	81		40					23	50	35	20	80
White Sands	83		25					280	7	18	24	2

These data appear to underline the importance for this species of the Point of Ayr foreshore, and to a somewhat lesser extent Fynnongroyw Bay, particularly in the autumn and winter months. Other notable records which perhaps add to this picture include 285 on Mostyn Bank and 150 on Point of Ayr foreshore on 24/01 (GrJ, GNR); several counts of 150 to 200 at Connah's Quay NR/ RSPB Oakenholt Marsh during late Jan to mid-Feb and again later in the year, with 170 on RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Flint foreshore on 9/10 (PeHa).

On the Clwyd estuary, numbers and patterns of distribution throughout the year appeared relatively stable and comparable with previous years, see the table of monthly maximum counts below. There were only two records of breeding. The first recorded ducklings were 2 on 7/07, on 21/07 three pairs were observed, one with five young, another with two and the third with no offspring. This, perhaps, indicated a poor breeding season. There were no records from inland locations.

Clwyd estuary monthly peak counts.

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clwyd Estuary	82	84	148	164	98	105	64	9	16	96	118	108

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*
Feral or escape.

HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHEN

(UD)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	4	1	5
Maximum count	2	2	1	1
Number of records	2	19	1	26
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	-	1.1	-

2019

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. Two were recorded at Kinmel Bay on 24/09 and again on 6/11 (JFJ).

Flints. Singles, or probably the same individual, were at Connah's Quay NR and at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 24/08 (PSH). Two, presumably the

same as the Denbs birds above, were then regularly present on the Clwyd estuary and adjoining saltmarsh on dates from 23/09 to 29/12 (JPH, WRM).

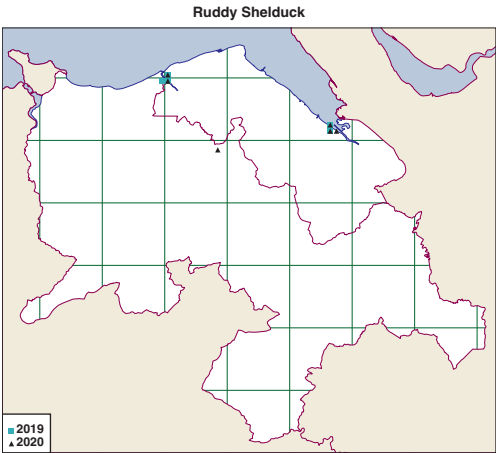
2020

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 Lleweni watermeadows on 10/03 (JPH).

Flints. A single, presumably the same individual as above, was recorded on the lower Clwyd estuary saltmarshes on dates from 4/01 to 9/04 (JPH, WRM et al). Later in the year a single individual, possibly the same as above, was present at Connah's Quay NR from 21/08 to 1/10 (PeHa, GEM, et al).



Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*
Breeding resident.

HWYADEN MANDARIN

(MN)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Rare	Uncommon	Rare
Number of 1km squares	29	5	27	4
Maximum count	48	4	37	7
Av max count prev 10 years	17	2	17	2
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	0/18	1/5	-
Number of records	105	8	99	9
% of records from GBW	15.24	0	8.82	44.44
% of BirdTrack lists	3.3	-	4.2	-
Max breeding evidence	FL	H	NY	-

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 provides suitable tree-hole nesting sites.

2019

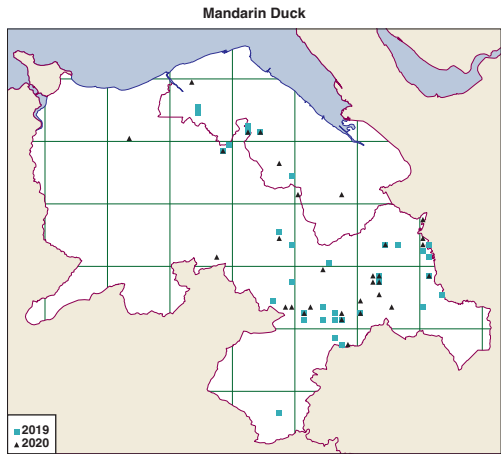
Seen in these months:

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. While the number of sightings of this species remains relatively stable, it appears there may be something of a contraction in distribution, with sightings from 30% fewer squares. The middle Dee

Valley continues to be the core area, primarily between Llangollen and Chirk/Ruabon, with regular records from Froncysyllte. As in previous years, most records were of individuals, small groups or family parties of females with ducklings, though at certain times of year significant congregations do occur often on quiet lakes. Notable among these were reports from Wynnstay Park Lake at Ruabon, where a maximum of 48 was recorded on 26/06, though it was not

recorded whether this included one or more broods of ducklings. Further down the Dee Valley the species continues to be recorded from Holt, Sutton Green and Erddig. Breeding was recorded from Trevor, where a female with two ducklings was the first of the breeding season (TK). Broods, or other evidence of breeding, were also recorded from Froncysyllte, Borras Head, Ridleywood and Threapwood. The Clwyd valley population also continues to thrive, with regular records from Lleweni watermeadows/ Bodfari area during all months of the year. Notable counts here included 11 on 11/01, 16 on 9/09 and 14 on 28/10. Breeding was confirmed with a brood of 8 seen on 17/06 (JPH).



Flints. The Flints population appeared to be centred primarily around St Asaph/Ysceifiog with several records of up to 4 from 17/02 to 22/05. Also there was 1 at Afonwen sandpit, Caerwys on 30/03 (JW) and 1 at Devil's Gorge, Pantymwyn on 15/05 (GEM).

2020

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. While the number of records for this species was broadly similar to 2019, sightings were reported from slightly fewer squares. The broad pattern of distribution appeared similar to previous years, based

around the core areas of the middle Dee valley around Llangollen and Chirk and further down the valley in the Holt area. Key locations were Wynnstey Park Lake and Lindisfarne Fields, Ruabon where numbers up to 37 were again recorded from 3/05 to 19/07. There were also regular sightings from the area of Erddig Park and pool though numbers here were more modest. In the Clwyd valley Lleweni watermeadows continues to be a reliable location for the species, with sightings in all months of the year except April with a peak of 31 on 18/08 (JPH).

Flints. Early in the year a single male was at ponds near Rhuddlan on 29/03 and 12/04 (MaBa). At Padeswood, up to six were reported from 17/05-7/06. Later in the year 7 were at Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog on 21/10 and 2 on 24/10 (WeBS, GEM) and 2 were at Cilcain on 19/12 (GEM).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

HWYADEN ADDFAIN

Summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

(GY)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		2	1	
Maximum count		1	1	
Av max count prev 10 years		2	1	
Number of records	0	3	1	0

2019

Flints. A single was seen at Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 14/10 (PeHa, GEM, DWn).

2020

Denbs. One was at RSPB Conwy from 10/09 to 20/09 (JPH, JHg).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

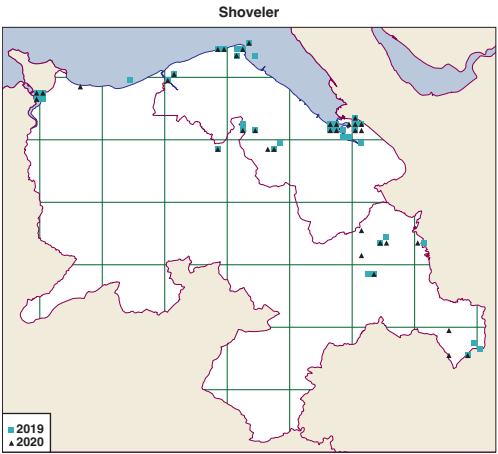
(SV)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	15	25	15	20
Maximum count	20	82	38	33
Av max count prev 10 years	42	69	42	69
Number of records	144	176	125	161
% of BirdTrack lists	12.7	-	11.0	-
Max breeding evidence	T	-	-	-

Predominantly a species of freshwater habitats, it is also found less frequently in coastal locations where brackish water bodies provide suitable feeding.

2019

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. Shoveler were recorded from both coastal and inland locations throughout the county. RSPB Conwy produced the vast majority of sightings with 84% of the total. Fenn's Moss NR, Erddig Pool and Gresford Flash were the only other sites recording more than single sightings. Counts of this species appear to fluctuate markedly from year to year and in 2019 numbers continued the previous year's trend of relatively low numbers. At RSPB Conwy numbers were low during the early weeks of the year and it was not until 24/01 that the first double figure count of 12 was recorded. Numbers remained at about this level until early Apr, with several counts in the 10-18 range and a peak of 20 on 16/03, which was also the annual maximum. A count of 18 on 9/04 (JHg) was the last of significant numbers in spring. From mid-Apr onwards there were only a handful of birds recorded with only nine sightings during May to Aug. Numbers increased somewhat from early Sep, when 6 on 8/09 and 10 on 10/09 (SvK, JPH) were the first and only arrivals of the autumn. Numbers remained low for the remainder of the year. A count of 6 on 12/11 (JEd) was the largest count of the last quarter. At inland locations, Erddig Pool returned most records with 1-



8 recorded on several dates during Jan to early Feb and notable counts of 20 on 18/01 and 18 the following day (NHu, HCw). Other notable counts were 10 at Lleweni watermeadows on 28/01 (JPH) and 16 at Afonwen on 28/12 (MGW).

Monthly WeBS counts for RSPB Conwy:

(SV)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	8	16	19	3				3	6	4	2	3

Flints. Over 87% of sightings were from locations around the Dee estuary. The sites attracting the largest numbers of birds were Shotton Paper Mill pools (see table below), the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and Gronant dunes. The number of records was again up on last year and 56% above the ten-year average. While marginally down on last year the number of 1km squares maintained last year's increase in distribution. The maximum count was also approximately 30% up on 2018. Numbers on the Dee were relatively low during Jan, with counts of 10-12 at Shotwick boating lake, the Border Pool and Connah's Quay NR, the largest of the early weeks. There was something of an influx at the end of the month, with 15 at Connah's Quay NR and 36 on the Border Pool at Burton Mere wetlands, both on 31/01, 15 during 4/01 to 12/01, the largest of the early weeks of the year. Numbers at most locations remained in single figures for the remainder of the late winter to early spring, the exceptions were the Border Pool, with notable counts of 50 on 15/02 (PCh) and 15 on 3/04 (NHu) and Shotton Paper Mill pools, with 12 on 17/02 and 11 on 24/03. The last record of spring was a single at Connah's Quay NR on 28/05 (DWn). There were no records from 29/05 to 26/08. The first returning bird of the autumn was a single on 27/08, again at Connah's Quay NR (DWn). The first significant numbers of autumn migrants were on 16/09, when 24 were recorded at Shotton Paper Mill lagoons. This site continued to hold significant numbers for the remaining months of the year with 82 on 20/11 and 42 on 8/12. Gronant dunes also attracted good numbers during Dec, with 21 in the Prestatyn Gutter on 2/12, a notable record (WRM). With these exceptions, sightings from the rest of the estuary remained in single figures. Away from the coast the most regularly frequented inland site was Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog, where birds were recorded during Jan to Feb, with a maximum of 17 on 13/01 (MD), and later in the year from Oct to Dec, with a maximum of 13 on 22/11 (GEM). There were also records from Afonwen sandpit, Caerwys, Rhyl Brickworks Pond and Moel y Crio.

Monthly WeBS counts for selected Dee estuary sites:

(SV)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Connah's Quay NR	6			3					2	3	2	3
Shotton Paper Mill		12	11	1	7				24		82	42

2020

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. As usual, RSPB Conwy and the adjoining upper Conwy estuary were the most reliable locations to see this species and provided over 70% of all records, though not always in the greatest numbers.

During Jan, the two outstanding counts of the month were from Maesmaenan gravel pit, Afonwen, with 22 on 4/01 (SvK) and Gresford Flash, Wrexham with 38 on 26/01 (DuH). The latter was also the county's annual maximum count. RSPB Conwy and the estuary did produce reasonable numbers throughout the early months of the year, with 20 on the upper estuary on 12/01 and 24 on 8/02 (WeBS) and counts on the reserve of up to 17 throughout Jan, Feb and early Mar. After this, numbers appear to have tailed off, though presence of birds on the reserve was noted into late Apr, with the last record of the spring on 21/04. The first returning birds of the summer were 2 on 11/07 (JPH), but there were no further records until mid-Aug, counts

remaining no greater than 11 into mid-Dec. The largest count of the second half of the year was 15 on 14/12.

Webs counts for upper Clwyd estuary.

(SV)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Upper Clwyd Estuary	20	24	17							11	9	13

Flints. The majority of records were from locations around the Dee estuary, of which Connah's Quay NR provided the greatest proportion, with over 50% of all records and the Gronant/Point of Ayr area a further 20% with 12% from inland locations. While the number and pattern of records was broadly similar to previous years, numbers appear to be significantly down, the maximum annual count was under half the ten-year average. It is unclear whether this is in part due to reduced counting at key sites due to the lockdown. Notable counts on the Dee during the early months of the year included several from Shotton Papermill lagoons, which remains a key site with 31 on 13/01, 23 on 10/02 and 31 on 8/03 (WeBS). There were 20 at Point of Ayr on 23/01, 31 at Gronant on 5/02 (SvK, WRM) and 24 on the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 25/02 (DWn). At Connah's Quay NR, Shoveler were regularly recorded, but most counts were in single figures and the maximum during these months was 13 on 1/02 (MD). The last spring sighting was at Gronant on 4/05 (JFJ) and there were no further records until Aug, when 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 10/08 were the first returning birds of the autumn (JuR). Numbers were modest throughout most of the autumn and winter months, with few counts reaching double figures. The highest counts of this period were during Oct and early Nov, when 18 were recorded at Connah's Quay NR on several occasions and 13 were on White Sands on 18/10 (WeBS). There were only three sightings of 1 to 2 from the Clwyd estuary. The largest inland record of the year was 22 at Maesmaenan GP, Afonwen on 4/01 (SvK). However, the majority of inland records were from two locations - Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog and Hendy ponds, Hendre. There, Shoveler were recorded during Mar to Apr and Oct to Dec. Most counts were of 3-4, with a maximum of 12 on 8/12; at Hendy Ponds, Hendre, where 2-7 were recorded during Mar to Apr and Dec (GEM).

Gadwall *Mareca strepera*

HWYADEN LWYD

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

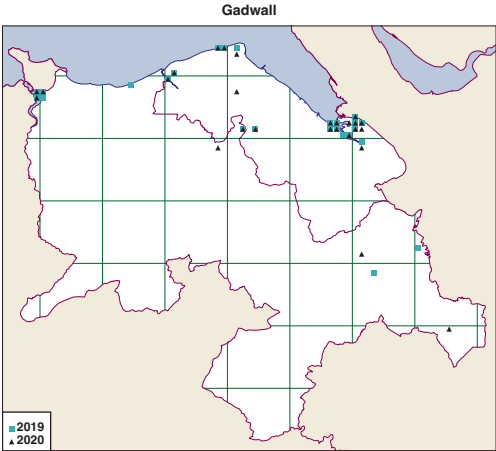
(GA)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	8	17	7	19
Maximum count	79	93	57	51
Av max count prev 10 years	58	58	58	58
Number of records	190	139	135	137
% of BirdTrack lists	18.2	-	12.5	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	T	-	-

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties. This species occurs in modest numbers throughout the year, appearing to favour freshwater or brackish ponds and lakes, with relatively few records from intertidal areas.

Denbs. 2019 was a good year for Gadwall in Denbs. The trend for gradually increasing numbers has continued. The year's maximum was the second highest on record, and was almost twice the ten-year average. As usual, the principal location was RSPB Conwy, which

provided 95% of all records and where the species was recorded in all months of the year. The only other coastal record was a single sighting at Pensarn beach. There were inland records from Afonwen, Holt and Erddig Pool. At RSPB Conwy the annual maximum count of 79 was recorded on 12/01 (JHg). These numbers were substantially maintained into Feb, with 67 on 26/01 and 66 on 23/02, both of which comfortably exceeded last year's maximum of 42. Numbers declined somewhat into Mar, with 42 on 14/03, and into Apr, when there were several counts of 20 to 33. During May, Jun and Jul there was the usual decline in counts during the breeding period, though good numbers were still recorded on occasion, with notable counts of 33 on 16/06 and 41 on 23/06 (JPH). The only evidence of breeding was a sighting of 16 juveniles on 17/07 (JHu). Counts increased into the autumn, among which were 48 on 20/08 (JPH), 40 on 30/10 and several of 50 to 55 during Nov and Dec. Away from Conwy the only other coastal record was a single at Pensarn on 26/01 (WRM) with a handful of inland sightings of 1 to 2 at Afonwen, Holt and Erddig Pool.



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	46	45	33	29	11	33		9	16	32	36	55
Shotton Paper Mill		15	23	22	11	10	73		6		14	53
Shotton Steelworks	4	9	9		4	26	21	67	93	37	71	8
White Sands		26	4	8						28		

Flints. The pools at Shotton Paper Mill and Shotton Steelworks remain the core locations of the Deeside population of this species. Together with several from Shotwick boating lake and two records from White Sands, these sites produced all twenty of the largest counts in the year (from 20 to 93). While the maximum count of 93 was 23% down on last year's record numbers, it remains almost twice the 10-year average and maintains the overall trend of steadily increasing numbers. Shotwick boating lake attracted the largest counts during Jan, with 83 on 1/01 (GrJ) and several subsequent records of 10 to 30. Most Feb to Jun records were in single figures, the majority of outstanding records being shown in the table above including: 15 at Shotton Paper Mill pools on 17/02, 26 at White Sands on 24/02, 23 at Shotton Paper Mill on 23/04 and 22 on 21/04. The first big counts of the post breeding period were at Shotton Paper Mill, with 73 on 7/07 and 67 at Shotton Steelworks on 4/08 . The remaining significant records of the year are all in the table above, with the exception of Shotwick boating lake, which again attracted significant numbers during Nov to mid-Dec, when there were several counts of 18 to 47 (GrJ). The only other coastal location was the Clwyd estuary, where 1 to 3 were recorded on various dates during Feb to Jun and Oct. The only inland sightings were two of singles at Rhyl Brickworks Pond on 30/10 and 1/11 (JPH) and Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog, where there were several records of modest numbers during Jan to Mar and Oct to Dec, with a maximum of 7 on 26/03 (GRMP, MD, GEM, SD).

2020

Denbs. RSPB Conwy and the adjoining upper Conwy estuary remained the key sites for this species in Denbs, producing 95% of the year's records. After the higher numbers during 2019, counts returned to more normal levels, broadly in line with the ten-year average. Maximum counts during the early months of the year were 57 on 5/01 and 54 on 9/03 (JHg). A count of 20 on 12/03 was the last record of any numbers during the spring. However, there were records of presence throughout Apr and single records, again of presence, during May and Jun, after which counts in Jul were in single figures. Twenty-two on 8/08 was the first record of significant numbers in the second half and 46 on 12/12 was the maximum count of the autumn/winter period.

Monthly maximum counts at RSPB Conwy.

(GA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	57	30	54	1+	1+	1+	7	22	29	10	44	46

The only records from locations away from Conwy were c.20 at Maesmaenan gravel pit, Afonwen, on 4/01 (SvK) and 2 there on 21/11 (SD), 8 at Gatewen, Wrexham on 30/01, 4 at Lleweni on 10/03 (JPH) and 3 at Hanmer Mere on 20/09 (DIHd).

Flints. The lagoons at Shotton Steelworks and Shotton Paper Mill remained the most important sites for this species in Flints. Both attracted a large proportion of the county's Gadwall, particularly in the winter period. WeBS counts at these sites were somewhat patchy this year, but there was a maximum count of 44 at the Shotton Steelworks lagoons in Jan and 33 to 37 in Jul to Sep. There were also counts of up to 51 at Shotton Paper Mill during Jan to Mar. Other counts at several locations were 28 on the Shotton sailing lake during Jan to Mar and 22 on the Border Pool on 2/02 (DWn). Connah's Quay NR attracted modest numbers from Jan to Mar and Sep to Dec with a maximum count of 24 on 8/12 (JuR). The only inland sightings were from Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog, with records of 2 to 6 in Jan/Feb and up to 15 in Oct to Dec (WeBS) and Llyn Helyg with 2 on 29/03.

WeBS counts for upper Clwyd estuary.

(GA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Upper Clwyd Estuary	52	50	34						22	25	23	41

Monthly WeBS counts for selected Dee estuary sites.

(GA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Shotton Paper Mill	23	51	29									
Shotton Steelworks	44		2				37	36	33			
Connahs Quay NR	5									4	6	9
White Sands		2							1			

Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

CHWIIWELL

(WN)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	12	26	16	19
Maximum count	245	4000	303	3000
Av max count prev 10 years	414	3343	414	3343
Number of records	110	393	127	337
% of BirdTrack lists	12.9	-	14.2	-
Max breeding evidence	T	-	-	-

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.

2019

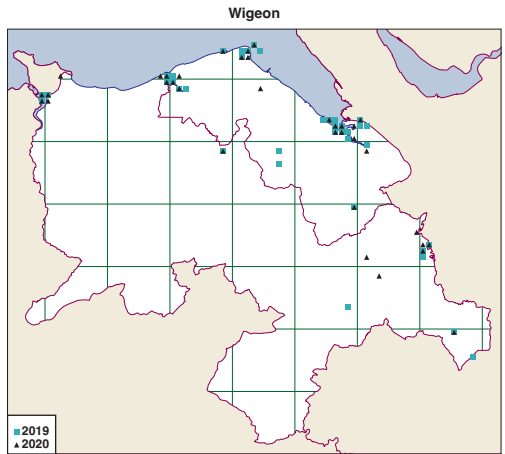
Seen in these months:

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. This primarily coastal species was overwhelmingly recorded at the two coastal locations of Conwy estuary with the RSPB Conwy reserve and Kinmel Bay, which together provided 84% of all records. The only regularly recorded inland sites were Hanmer Mere, Llewenni watermeadows and locations in the middle River Dee floodplain.

Numbers across the county continued the slow decline noted in recent years, the annual maximum count of 245 was only 45% of the ten-year average. During the first half of the year numbers at RSPB Conwy were in the range 1 to 200, though there were only three 100+ counts of 117 on 10/01 (JPH), a peak of 205 on 3/02 (pTW) and 129 on 17/02. Subsequently numbers declined steadily, with most counts less than 30, the last of spring was 2 with Mallards on 27/04 (ABa). The peak count of the year was recorded at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay, where there were 245 on 19/02 (JPH). The first returning migrants of the autumn were 4 at RSPB Conwy on 15/09 (RMk), though the first significant numbers did not arrive until Sep, when 30 were recorded on the adjoining estuary on 15/09 (WeBS). While most counts during the last quarter of the year were less than 100, notable records of greater numbers included 226 at Conwy on 17/11 (WeBS) and 227 on 14/12 (JPH). At inland locations there were few records during the first half of the year and the only sightings were 22 at Hanmer Mere on 20/01 (WeBS) and 25 at Holt on 17/03 (NHu). During the second half numbers increased during Nov and Dec, with peaks of 88 at Llewenni watermeadows on 18/11 (JPH) and 48 at Hanmer Mere 16/12 (WeBS).

Flints. As usual, most records were from coastal locations on the Dee and Clwyd estuaries, with only three records from inland locations. The majority of sightings were from Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh reserves and from the Point of Ayr and Talacre area, though it is likely that these were due to these locations being recorded systematically. During



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(WN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy Est		16								50	118	226
Point of Ayr foreshore		750									507	500
Point of Ayr fields	235	321	85							20	199	34
Connah's Quay NR	390	249	39	1	2		1	1		75	200	216
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	240	120	150	14						5	50	600
White Sands	26	127	85	38								9
Clwyd estuary												
Rhuddlan	18	10	4	18			1		2	19		164

the early months of 2019 numbers on the Dee estuary were significantly lower than in 2018, with a maximum count during the first half of the year of 750 recorded on the Point of Ayr foreshore on 24/02 (WeBS). This was exceptional and there were no other counts of more than 500 during this period. Most records during the early months were of 1 to 300. Numbers peaked in late-Feb to early-Mar, when there were several counts of 400 to 500 at Connah's Quay NR and at Point of Ayr with 750 on 24/02 and 300 on 19/03. After this numbers declined, the last count of significant numbers was 120 at Connah's Quay NR on 7/04 and the last of spring 6 at the same location on 25/04 (PeHa). The only record during the summer months was a single which remained at Connah's Quay NR throughout and was occasionally joined by a second. However, 6 on Flint foreshore on 16/06 (WeBS) were unusual for this time of year. The first returning migrants of the autumn months were 2 on the Clwyd estuary on 30/07 (JPH), though the first on the Dee did not arrive until 27/08, when 17 were on the RSPB Oakenholt Marsh reserve (DWn). There was an exceptional record of 700 at Connah's Quay NR on 27/09. With that exception, there were no further records of more than 135 until 5/11, when 2,000 were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa) and 1,000 on Shotwick Fields the following day (CW). These must have been short-staying migrating birds as subsequently counts returned to the more normal range of 1 to 300, until mid-Dec, when there were several records of 400 to 700 and notable counts of 4,000 at Connah's Quay on 16/12 (DWn) and 1,000 on RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 29/12 (PeHa). The Clwyd estuary attracted reasonable numbers during both early and late months of the year. During the early months counts were in the range up to 250 with a maximum of 287 on 17/01 (JPH). Numbers declined from mid-Mar. The last record of significant numbers was 143 on 18/03, and the last birds of the spring period were 2 on 5/04 (WRM). It was much the same picture later in the year. The first birds of the autumn were 2 on 30/07 (JPH), but no significant numbers were recorded until 8/10, when 42 were on the lower estuary near Rhyl (JPH). During Oct to Dec numbers remained in a similar range to the spring period, with counts of 1 to 250 and a maximum count for the year of 340 near Rhyl on 27/12 (WRM). Away from the coast the only inland records were 5 at Fagl Lane Gravel Pit on 2/01 (NHu), 2 at Hendre on 24/02 (MGW) and 1 at Cilcain on 21/10 (GEM).

2020

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 maximum count for the year was a slight increase on 2019. However, numbers remained 25% below the previous ten-year average. As usual RSPB Conwy produced the majority of recorded sightings, with 72 % of the total. However, the largest numbers were recorded at Kinmel Bay which started the year with a count of 300 on 2/01, at Horton's Nose, at the mouth of the Clwyd estuary (DWn). This was the county maximum for the first half of the year and was followed by 150 on 5/01 and 9/01 (EJB). The Afon Conwy also recorded some reasonable numbers, with 168 on the upper estuary on 12/01 and 70 on 8/02. Later in the year, the annual maximum of 303 on 18/10, was followed by 173 on 13/12 (see table of WeBS counts below). On the RSPB reserve

98 on 4/01 (JPH) and 80 on 28/01 (AMa) were the highest counts of the first half. The majority of sightings were of between 14 and 30, though up to 60 were seen nearby at Dinarth Hall, Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 14/01 (RS). After the end of Jan there were very few records detailing more than presence, the exceptions were 16 on 19/02 and two sightings of 40+ on 7 and 9/03 (JPH, JHg). The last record of the spring was presence on 17/04. The first returning migrant of the autumn was one on 9/07. There were a handful of sightings of 1-2, until the first flocks of any size were 29 on 12/09 (JHg). Numbers at Conwy remained modest for the remainder of the year, with few counts of more than 40, with the exceptions of c.120 on 15/10, 70 on 20/11 (WRM) and 100 on 1/12 (SvK). The Clwyd estuary produced one notable late record of 178 at Horton's Nose on 20/12 (JPH).

Monthly WeBS counts on the Conwy estuary Upper Sector.

(WN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy Estuary	168	70	18						70	303	173	8

There were records from several inland locations, including Hanmer Mere, Lleweni watermeadows, the Holt area and various Wrexham sites. Most of these had sightings during both early and late in the year. Hanmer had most records and a notable maximum count of 46 on 12/01 (DIHd). The largest inland count was 120 at Holt on 8/03 (NF).

Flints. Numbers of Wigeon on the Dee estuary were reasonably healthy in 2020. The maximum count of 3,000 was at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 8/12 (PeHa). This was a 25% reduction on that of 2019, but only 10% below the average of the previous ten years. However, it was 40% below the high numbers of 2015-18. Forty-one percent of all records were of 100+, of which 58% were at Connah's Quay NR, 32% at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, 9% at Point of Ayr/Talacre and the remainder from White Sands and the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands. The Connah's Quay and Oakenholt reserves are clearly key sites. The pattern of movements between sites on the estuary is shown in the table of recorded WeBS counts below and remains broadly similar to that of previous years. There were good numbers of birds on the estuary from the start of the year, with 800 on RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Flint Sands on 1/01 (PeHa, DWn) and 429 on Point of Ayr fields on 9/01. Counts declined somewhat during Feb and Mar, with up to 400 at Connah's Quay NR on 6/03, 319 at Point of Ayr on 8/03 and 367 at Connah's Quay NR, among the last counts of substantial numbers during the early months of the year. The last records of the spring on the Dee were c.80 at Connah's Quay NR on 22/03 (MD) and 6 at Queensferry on 2/04 (DWn), nearly a month earlier than in 2019. The first returning migrants of autumn arrived on the Dee in early Sep, when 2 were at Connah's Quay NR on 5/09 (SD), but numbers remained low until early Oct. The largest count of Nov was 900 on White Sands on 15/11 and there were several counts of 400 to 800 recorded during Nov and Dec, most of which were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh or to a lesser degree Connah's Quay NR. The largest counts of the year were also at Oakenholt, with 2,000 on 5 to 6/12 and 3,000 on 8/12 (PeHa).

The Clwyd estuary also attracted good numbers, with counts of 100 to 330 during Jan and Feb. The maximum of 330 was on the middle estuary on 15/01 (WRM). Numbers tailed off somewhat during Mar and the last record of spring was 2 on 9/04 (JPH). The first returners of autumn were 2 on 27/08 (JPH), but numbers remained low until early Oct, when 154 on 4/10 (JPH) were the first substantial numbers of the winter. Counts of 250 to 400 were reported throughout the remainder of the year, the maximum count of the period was 430 on 16/11 (WRM). The only two records of Wigeon at locations away from the coast were c.45 at Whitford on 8/02 (SD) and 8 at Fagl Lane gravel pit, Hope on 14/12 (NHu).

Monthly WeBS Counts at selected locations on the Dee and Clwyd estuaries.

(WN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flint	1		76									
Point of Ayr foreshore	130								54	200	120	330
Point of Ayr fields	429		319							23	80	42
Connah's Quay NR	206		70						20	70	60	220
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	70	170								12	80	2000
White Sands	26		52						12	62	900	36
Clwyd estuary												
Rhuddlan	293		156									

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

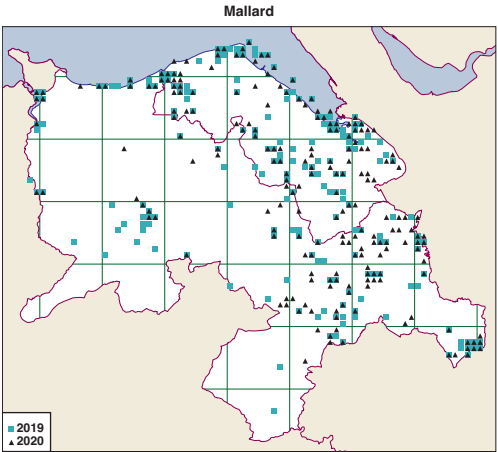
HWYADEN WYLLT

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

(MA)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	106	94	114	95
Maximum count	165	600	113	465
Av max count prev 10 years	138	711	138	711
Recorded in BBS squares	7/28	11/18	2/5	1/2
Number of records	655	1097	567	1022
% of records from GBW	3.66	0.55	7.19	3.51
% of BirdTrack lists	44.8	-	42.4	-
Max breeding evidence	FL	NY	NY	FL

2019

Our commonest duck species, found on most coastal and inland water bodies and often extremely tame due to regular feeding. Wintering and passage migrants can 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 during both 2019 and 2020.



Denbs. Mallard were widely distributed throughout Denbs, and were recorded from 106 1km squares, a slight increase on 2018. While over 82 of these were located inland, RSPB Conwy and the Conwy estuary provided 27% of all records, including over half of the year's counts of 50 and over and all of those over 100, most of which are included in the table of WeBS counts from the Conwy estuary shown in the table below. The annual maximum count of 165 was 20% greater than last year's maximum and 20% above the ten-year average. It was recorded on the estuary on 16/06, and was probably a

concentration of non-breeding and/or post-breeding moulting birds.

Numbers were generally modest throughout the early months of the year, with no records of 100+. The majority of substantial counts are shown below, in the table of WeBS counts from the Conwy estuary and Hanmer Mere. Other reports of more substantial numbers included 40 at Llanrwst on 3/2 (AtG), 72 at Tir Prince Park, Towyn on 2/02 (SM) and 40 at Glan y Wern, Llandrynog on 20/03 (PKi), though some of these may have been due to feeding. Breeding was reported from nine squares, including Southsea, Wrexham, Conwy RSPB, Pentrefoelas, Llanddulas, Kinmel Bay, Erddig Pool, Towyn, Llandrynog and Lleweni watermeadows, Bodfari. The first recently hatched ducklings were recorded at Southsea, Wrexham on 12/04. As previously mentioned, the largest concentrations of the year were during the post-breeding moult on the upper estuary at Conwy, where the annual maximum of 165 was recorded on 16/06 (WeBS). Other counts of significant numbers, not in the table of WeBS counts, included 150 at RSPB Conwy on 6/07 (RMk), 59 at Lleweni watermeadows on 11/11 (JPH), 80 at Gresford Flash on 24/11 (HL), 45 at Afonwen on 28/12 (MGW) and 50 at Stryd Las, Johnstown on 30/12 (SD). There was no evidence of any major influx of migrant birds.

Monthly maxima from selected Denbs WeBS counts

(MA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy upper estuary	96	22	27	34	41	165	39	65	126	41	58	62
Hanmer Mere	65	22	20			20			31	7	46	47

Flints. On the Dee, fluctuations in numbers followed a similar pattern to the equivalent period in 2018. The upper estuary reserves and Shotton Paper Mill pools attracted modest numbers during Jan to Apr, and most counts during these months were less than 30. The two main exceptions to this were at Connah's Quay NR which had counts of 95 to 136 between 20/01 and 22/01, and 60 on 17/02 and at Gronant with a count of 64 on 6/01. Numbers at Connah's Quay NR began to increase from mid-May as non-breeders began to form mid-summer moulting flocks, to be joined by failed breeders and post-breeders as the summer progressed. The first 100+ summer count was on 20/05 and a peak of 337 was recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 30/05. Counts of 150 to 280 continued until early-Aug, and the last three figure record of the year at Connah's Quay NR was 100 on 12/10. Notable counts from other locations during this period included 100 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30/05 and 200 on 28/08, 88 at Shotton Paper Mill pools on 7/07 and 112 at Point of Ayr on 4/08. The peak count of the year was 600 on White Sands on 16/08 (PeHa). During Sep to Dec numbers declined throughout the estuary, most records were in the range 10 to 60. The mitigation fields at Point of Ayr attracted significant numbers towards the year end, particularly during Nov, with 60 at Warren Farm on 5/11 and 71 on the Llawndy fields on 17/11.

The Clwyd estuary numbers were relatively modest during the first half of the year as most counts were from 1 to 20. A count of 62 near Rhuddlan on 4/02 (SH) was the maximum recorded during this period. The lower estuary came into its own during the summer months, when most counts were of 20 to 60 and a peak of 102 was recorded on 9/08 (JPH). The year's maximum was a WeBS count of 105 on the upper estuary near Rhuddlan on 14/09. Rhyl Brickworks Pools attracted significant numbers throughout the year, with counts of 60+ in most months and a peak of 119 on 11/07 (JPH). There were records from a further 32 inland squares, most notable of which was Ddol Reservoir at Ysceifiog, where 65 were recorded on 31/12 (SD). Breeding was reported from a total of nine squares.

Monthly maxima from 2019 WeBS counts at selected Flintshire locations:

(MA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clwyd estuary/ Rhuddlan		5	15		10			43	105	23		3
Point of Ayr	2	10	6	5	6	7		112	11	10	2	3
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	23			4		100			24	11	23	34
Connah's Quay NR	125	33	8	7	90	40	85	140	18	50	30	50
White Sands	6	15	37	40	8	21	7	49	11	4		2
Shotton Paper Mill		32	10	37	18	64	88		6		42	31

2020

Recorded in all months in both counties.

Denbs. Distribution and numbers of this species appear broadly stable. Although the maximum count of 113 is approximately 8% below the previous ten-year average this is within the normal variance. RSPB Conwy and the upper sector of the adjoining Conwy estuary produced 24% of the years records and all counts of 70 and above. The majority of these are included in the table of WeBS counts shown below. Numbers were lower than normal during the early months of the year. The three largest counts of Jan and Feb were from Lleweni watermeadows with c40 on three dates from 27/01 to 12/02 (JPH). The largest count of the first half was 50 at Llay pool, Sydalit on 7/05 (JWNA). Evidence of breeding was recorded at Erddig Pool, Wrexham, where a female with ducklings on 16/04 (NHu) was the earliest recorded breeding, and at least three broods were reported at this location. The only other record of breeding was at Moss Valley, Wrexham where broods of 3 and 5 were observed on 2/05 and 7/06 (SD). Unfortunately, there were no WeBS counts on the Conwy estuary over the summer period when post-breeding flocks usually produce some of the year's peak counts. However, several sightings of good numbers were recorded during Jul. At RSPB Conwy, there were counts of 104 on 9/07 and 70 on 15/07 (DvHi) and at Hanmer Mere 110 were counted on 18/07 (SD) and 67 on 11/12 (WeBS). The largest counts during the later months of the year were 113 on the upper estuary on 18/10 (WeBS) and 100 on the reserve on 19/12.

Monthly maxima from selected Denbs WeBS counts

(MA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy upper estuary	36	30	34						62	113	17	7
Hanmer Mere	29	9	17						51			67

Flints. Numbers were down on both 2019 and the previous ten-year average. The 2020 maximum count of 465 recorded at Connah's Quay NR was 22% down on last year and 35% less than the previous ten-year average. As usual most sightings were from locations around the Dee and Clwyd estuaries, particularly the main reserves. However, the number of sightings from inland squares confirmed that the species is also widely distributed at inland locations. The pattern of movement throughout the year can be seen from the table of WeBS counts below, though the counting programme was undoubtedly disrupted to some degree by the pandemic lockdowns. As indicated in the table there were few records of big numbers, virtually all of the 100+ counts were recorded at Connah's Quay NR during post-breeding moulting in early to mid-Aug, when counts of 150 to 465 were regularly recorded and again in Sep with 160 on 20/09. From Sep to the end of the year counts were again generally modest, with only a handful of records of 50+. The peak count for the last quarter was 122 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/11 (PeHa). Rhyl Brickworks Pool regularly recorded 40 to 90 throughout the year,

possibly due to regular feeding by the public and numbers peaked at 95 on 7/08 (JPH). Breeding was recorded at Cilcain, Rhyl Brickworks, on the Clwyd estuary and at Penbedw. The first ducklings (two broods totalling ten) were seen at Rhyl Brickworks on 16/04 (RLE).

Monthly maxima from 2020 WeBS counts at selected locations:

(MA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clwyd estuary	22		9									
Gronant	45		26				29	21	33	23	17	24
Point of Ayr	1		1				2	73	13	10	20	4
Point of Ayr fields	50		27							28	25	19
Flint	29		31					23	29		55	24
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	50		12					7	26	20	25	42
Connah's Quay NR	56		4					167	160		42	10
White Sands								48	3	8	8	10
Shotton Paper Mill	29	23	28									
Shotton Steelworks	10		13				42	23	8			

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Winter visitor. Amber List.

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

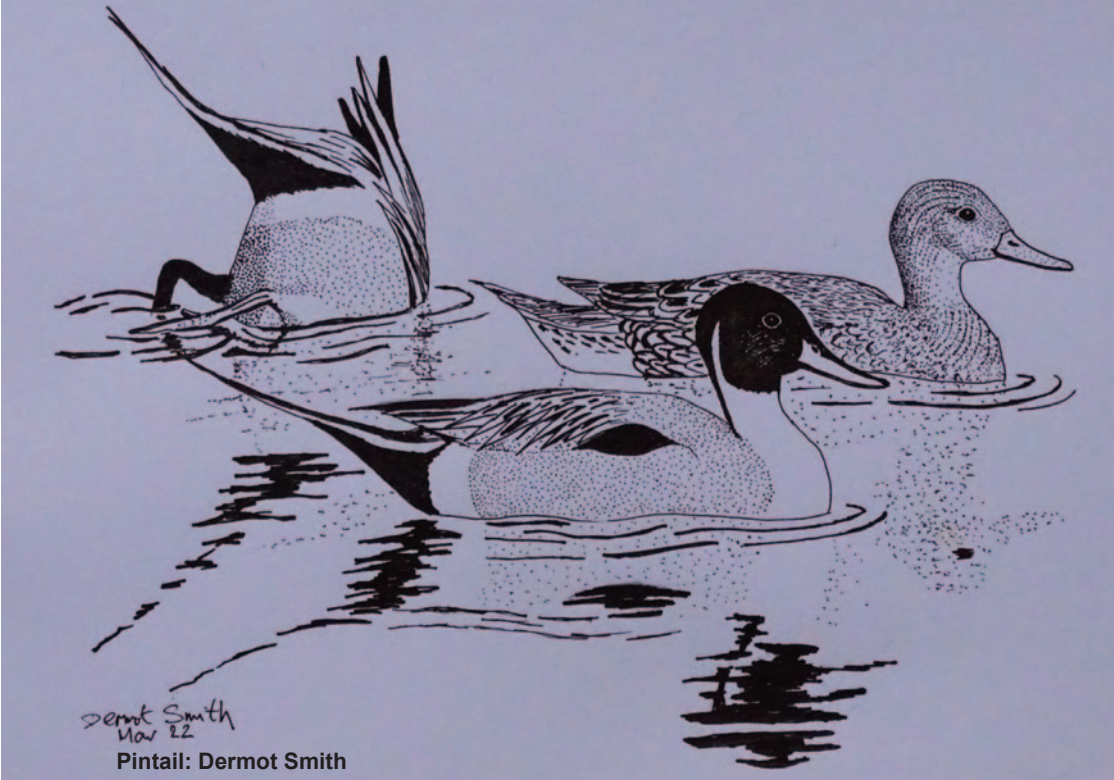
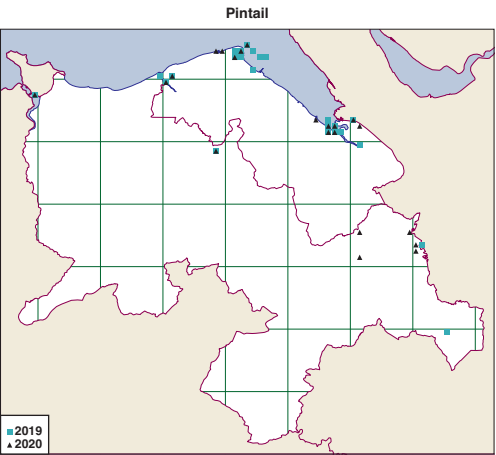
(PT)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	5	19	7	14
Maximum count	38	1000	80	450
Av max count prev 10 years	330	2060	330	2060
Number of records	14	92	14	99
% of BirdTrack lists	0.9	-	1.1	-

The Dee and Mersey estuaries are sites of international importance for this winter visitor. Most records were from places either on, or close to, the Dee estuary, though significant numbers have also been recorded on the middle Dee floodplain, when winter flooding provided suitable conditions. A significant decline in occurrence has been noted in recent years, particularly in the W of the report area and away from the estuary.

2019

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 marked decline in this species across the report area in the last few years has been maintained. This has shown



markedly in Denbs with only fourteen sightings reported during the year, the majority of which were of singles with no evidence of long-staying wintering birds. The reasons for this decline are a matter of conjecture, but it seems likely that climate change has an influence and short-stopping is leading to concentration of this species at its main locations on the Mersey and Dee estuaries, especially during mild winters. The few records of significant numbers this year were from the eastern portion of the county, with Lleweni watermeadows the only location with a count in double figures with 38 on 11/02 (JPH) and Holt dykes at Crewe-by-Farndon, with 9 on 8/11 (NF). In addition to these, there were occasional sightings of 1 to 3 from RSPB Conwy, Horton's Nose, and Hanmer Mere. The last record of the spring period was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 16/03 (TBT, NHu) and the first of the autumn was a single at the same location on 26/09.

Flints. The vast majority of records were from locations around the Dee estuary, the few exceptions were a handful of records of individuals on the neighbouring Clwyd or at Brickworks Pond, Rhyl. Numbers throughout the year were modest. The annual maximum count of 1,000 recorded at White Sands on 9/02 (PeHa) was less than 50% of the ten-year average, continuing the decline noted in recent years. During the first half of the year numbers were modest. With the exception of the record referred to above, all counts were in the range 1 to 250, with most of the 100+ counts recorded during a short window from 20/02 to 24/02. After the end of Feb, numbers declined, with records in the 1 to 60 range. The last sighting of the

Monthly WeBS counts for selected Dee estuary sites:

(PT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	250	100	17						8	90	218	162
White Sands		32	124	19								2
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	2	190	60									1

spring period was 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 29/04 (DWn). The first returning bird of the autumn was a singleton at Connah's Quay NR on 8/08 (DWn) and 15 on the 10/08 (PeHa), though the first substantial numbers did not arrive for almost another month, when 50 were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and 61 at Connah's Quay NR on 2/09 (PeHa, DWn). Numbers were again generally low for the remainder of the year, with very few counts of 100+. Among the few notable records of numbers above this level were 400 at Point of Ayr on 17/09 and 500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 2/11 (GR), 180 at Fynnongroyw and 218 at Point of Ayr, both on 17/11 (WeBS).

2020

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. As in 2019, occurrence was confined to scattered sightings, mostly from the E of the county in the Wrexham area, the Dee floods around Holt and also at Lleweni watermeadows, which again provided most records. A single was at Sydalit, Wrexham, on several occasions from 7/01 to 6/02 (DuH) and 2 were at Gatewen on 30/01. The largest count of the year was c.80 at Holt on 11/02 and 17 were at Holt fields on 8/03 (NHu, NF). Lleweni watermeadows was the most frequented location, with 5 on 3/02, 14 on 12/02, 16 on 17/02 and 2 on 10/03. The last of these was the last record of the spring. The only records during the second half of the year were 1 at RSPB Conwy on 30/08 and 2 at Lleweni on 7/12 (JPH).

Flints. Numbers were very low on the Dee estuary, continuing the decline of recent years, though a mild winter will have been a significant factor. The maximum count of 450 was less than 22% of the previous ten-year average. Point of Ayr attracted the largest numbers and counts here were somewhat larger than last year. Numbers on the reserves in the upper estuary at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR were lower than in previous years, with a maximum of 75 at Oakenholt on 14/01 (PeHa) and 56 on 11/02 was the last count of significant numbers. There were 15 on 22/03, the last sighting of the first half of the year. The first autumn sighting was 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 10/08 (JuR) and 19 at Gronant on 3/09 (DHi) were the first significant numbers. WeBS counts at Point of Ayr recorded 170 on 20/09, which was the first substantial count of autumn/winter, numbers increasing throughout the remainder of the year, with notable counts of 344 on 18/10 and the annual maximum of 450 on 6/12 (see table of WeBS counts below). There were sightings at several other locations: Connah's Quay/Oakenholt, the Clwyd estuary and Rhyl Brickfields pond, but most were in single figures. There were no sightings from inland locations.

(PT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	260	10							170	344	200	450
White Sands											16	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	8											

Teal *Anas crecca*

CORHWYADEN

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

(T)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	32	41	21	32
Maximum count	132	1000	182	1500
Av max count prev 10 years	335	2258	335	2258
Number of records	191	568	160	520
% of BirdTrack lists	19.3	-	18.2	-
Max breeding evidence	P	-	-	-

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

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Sixty-nine percent of records were from coastal locations, of which 65% were from RSPB Conwy and the adjacent Conwy estuary. The trend of decreasing numbers in Denbs appears to have continued, with only a very marginal recovery from the low numbers of the last few years. The 2019 maximum count of 132 was just under 42% of the previous ten-year average. Numbers on the upper Conwy estuary (see table of WeBS counts below) were marginally greater, but still well below the numbers of historic records. Inland locations accounted for 31% of records, of which 9.5% were from Lleweni watermeadows at Bodfari. During the first half of the year, as previously stated, numbers were generally low, most records were of fewer than 50 birds. The only exceptions were 55 at RSPB Conwy on 5/01 (PJW), 52 at Lleweni watermeadows on 11/01 and 74 there on 11/02 (JPH), 50 at Kinmel Bay on 10/02 (EJB) and 92 on the upper Conwy estuary on 17/02 (WeBS). The last double figure count of the spring months was 22 at RSPB Conwy on 24/03, though small numbers up to 8 were reported from a number of locations during Apr and early May. Singles or pairs were seen at RSPB Conwy, Fenn's Moss and Llyn Brenig, during mid to late May and Jun, though no evidence of breeding was observed. The only records during Jul were from RSPB Conwy, where up to 10 were seen on 7/07 (JPH, RMk). Numbers and sightings increased marginally during Aug, but it was not until early Sep when larger numbers of migrants arrived, with 89 at RSPB Conwy on 8/09 (JPH) and 69 on the estuary on 15/09 (WeBS). There were two records of 100+ during WeBS counts on the estuary later in the year, with 122 on 13/10 and 132 on 15/12 (see table below), but most records were of more modest numbers. There were no records of significant numbers from inland locations during the remainder of the year.

Monthly maxima from Conwy estuary WeBS counts:

(T)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Upper Conwy Est	26	92	3	4		1		2	69	122	68	132

Flints. The overwhelming proportion of records was from coastal locations around the Dee and Clwyd estuaries, which contributed 96% of all records from the county (Dee estuary 81%, Clwyd estuary 15%). There were also records from five inland locations, which constituted the remaining 4%. After the exceptional numbers recorded during 2018, in 2019, numbers reverted to close to the long-term trend, with a maximum count of 1,000. This was less the previous ten-year average, but this is due to the influence of exceptional numbers during 2015 and 2018, which both achieved maxima of 6,000.

During Jan and Feb, the greatest concentrations were on the usual locations in the upper Dee estuary at Connah's Quay NR and the adjoining RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, where 100 to 300 were recorded fairly regularly and a notable count of 500 was recorded at Oakenholt on 22/01 (DWn). Later in Feb good numbers were also recorded around Point of Ayr, with 170 on the foreshore and 100 on the flushing lagoon, both on 20/1 (WeBS). A count of 200 was also recorded at White Sands on 21/02 (GrJ). Numbers declined at Connah's Quay NR as Mar progressed, with 240 on 9/03 (PeHa) and 128 on 24/03 (WeBS), which were the last 100+ counts of the spring period. The last spring counts in double figures were 44 at White Sands and 35 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, both on 21/04 (WeBS) and 16 at Oakenholt on 24/04 (DWn). Throughout May to Jul almost all records were from Connah's Quay NR, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Shotton Paper Mill pools and the majority were in low single figures. The only May sightings were 2 at Connah's Quay NR and later a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, which were seen on several occasions during the month (PeHa, DWn, MD). The first few migrants of the autumn began to return in early Aug, the first substantial numbers were recorded late in the month, when 300 were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 28/08 and 520 at Connah's Quay NR on 29/08 (DWn, PeHa). Counts increased throughout Sep and Oct and the annual peak of 1,000 was recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 2/11 (GR). Large numbers remained there throughout the remainder of the year, with a further count of 1,000 on 5/11 and 800 at Oakenholt and Flint Sands on 29/12 (PeHa). The Point of Ayr also recorded significant numbers particularly during Nov/Dec, with up to 250 recorded from both the foreshore and the Warren Farm and Llawndy fields. On the Clwyd estuary good numbers were present throughout Jan and Feb. Most records were less than 100 but notable counts from the lower estuary saltmarshes included 174 on 17/01, 142 on 15/02 and 223 on 22/02 (JPH). Numbers declined subsequently, 12 on 8/04 was the last double figure count and 2 on 18/04 the last record of the spring period (JPH, WRM). The only record during May to Jul was 4 on 13/06 (JPH). The first returning migrants of the early autumn were 7 on 9/08, though the first significant influx did not arrive until later in Aug, with 62 on 26/08 (JPH, WRM). It was not until late Nov that the first substantial numbers were observed, when approximately 250 were counted on 29/11 (WRM). There were several records of this size during Dec, including the year's peak count for this location of 296 on 29/12 (WRM).

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected Dee and Clwyd estuary sites:

(T)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr f'shore	170	25							22	40	90	80
PoA Flds	14	41	16							64	242	171
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	51	60	16	35					400	200	100	400
Connah's Quay NR	40	80	128	4			6	16	26	30	70	95
White Sands	25	76	52	44				8	210	61	1	10
Clwyd Est		22	5					4	6	24	34	87

There were very few records from inland locations. Small numbers were observed at Rhydymwyn, Ddol Reservoir, Ysceiog, Padeswood and Hendy Ponds, Hendre, the last

attracting up to 35 from mid-Feb to mid-Apr (GEM).

2020

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. Teal were recorded from significantly fewer squares than during 2019 and there were no recorded sightings during May. The maximum count of 182 was also 46% below the previous ten-year average. While

reduced recorder activity was likely to have been a factor, the statistics confirm a continuation of the decline in recorded numbers of this species in recent years. RSPB Conwy produced 74% of all records from the county, and taken with the upper sector of the Conwy estuary, these included all 100+ counts during the year. WeBS counts on the upper estuary are shown in the table below. On the RSPB reserve itself, numbers during the early months were low, most counts were in single figures and the only record of substantial numbers was 100 on 28/01 (A Martin). Twenty-six on 12/03 (NiH) was the last double figure sighting of the spring, though presence was recorded into mid-Apr and the last was seen on 17/04. There were no records in May or Jun. The first count of the second half of the year was 2 on 9/07, though it was late Aug before the first double figure count of 14 was recorded on 30/08 (JPH). Sightings of larger numbers during the later months of the year included 150 on 10/10, 80 on 20/11 and 100 on 1/12 (WRM, SvK). Away from Conwy, there were sightings from Pensarn on the coast and slightly further inland at Rhuddlan Marsh, Towyn (see WeBS counts below), Lleweni watermeadows, Erddig, Hanmer Mere and Fenn's and Bettisfield Mosses. Two seen at Fenn's Moss during Jun might possibly be indicative of attempted breeding (RbHa).

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts:

(T)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Upper Conwy estuary	174	91	26						182	103	155	141
Rhuddlan Marsh	26	2	30									85

Flints. Peak counts during 2020 indicated something of a recovery from 2019's low numbers. The maximum count of 1,500 was a 50% increase on last year, but still only 66% of the previous ten-year average and 25% of the peak counts of 2015 and 2018. The greatest proportion of records were from the Dee estuary (62%), a further 34% from the Clwyd estuary and 4% from various inland locations. Connah's Quay NR provided the largest number of records (34%) and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh 9%, though the latter location had the biggest counts of the year. During Jan most of the largest counts were from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Flint Sands, with 750 on 1/01 and 530 on 15/01 of particular note, as well as several others of 2 to 300 (DWn, PSH). Counts began to decline from early Feb. Connah's Quay NR's largest numbers for the month were in the 100 to 200 range during the first half of the month; RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Flint Sands attracting 120 to 150 later in Feb. There were no further 100+ counts after the beginning of Mar, 90 at Connah's Quay NR on 15/03 was the largest of the month and 22 on 23/03 (PeHa) was the last record of the spring on the Dee. The first Teal of the late summer/autumn were recorded inland at Hendre on 2/07 (MGW), but it was 1/08 before 20 at Connah's Quay NR (PeHa) were the first recorded on the Dee estuary reserves. Numbers increased steadily through Aug and early Sep. The first count of 1,000 was recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Flint Sands on 7/09. RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR continued to attract the largest numbers on the estuary throughout the remainder of the year, with counts of 400 to 1,500 throughout the period (PeHa, DWn, GEM). Other locations, particularly Point of Ayr and White Sands, also attracted good numbers on occasions, most of which are included in the table of WeBS counts below.

2020 WeBS counts for Dee estuary sites.

(T)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant	42		8						4	23	29	4
Point of Ayr f'shore	50		4					3	180	100	100	100
PoA Flds	82		48							24	84	68
POA Fl'ing Lagoon	55		40						5	30	25	2
Flint Foreshore	243		150						10		320	620
RSPB Oakenholt	60		43					4	110	400	430	1000
DNS Con Quay.	98		28					50	975	260	145	9
White Sands	30		8					45	130	165	250	20

On the Clwyd estuary numbers were modest during the early months of the year. Most records were in the 1 to 30 range with a peak count for this period of 60 on 15/01 (WRM). The last record of the spring was 6 on 1/04 (JPH). The first returning migrants of the late summer were 2 on 12/07 (WRM), but there were no significant numbers until Oct. From mid-Oct to the end of the year there were regular reports of 130 to 385. The count of 385 on 3/12 (WRM) was the annual maximum for this location. Approximately 4% of records were from seven inland locations, including Rhyl Brickworks pool, Whitford, Dyserth, Ysceifiog, Hendre, Glust and Pontblyddyn. The majority of these sightings were of 1 to 2. The only double figure counts away from the coast were 30 at Whitford on 8/02 (SD) and 37 at Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog on 8/12 (GEM).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

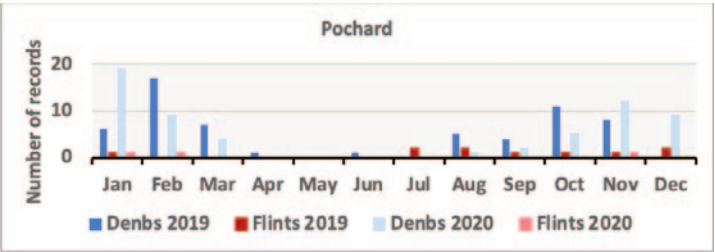
HWYADEN BENGGOCH

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Red List. RBBP.

(PO)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	5	4	3	3
Maximum count	14	2	8	3
Av max count prev 10 years	11	9	11	9
Number of records	81	10	58	3
% of BirdTrack lists	7.9	-	5.9	-

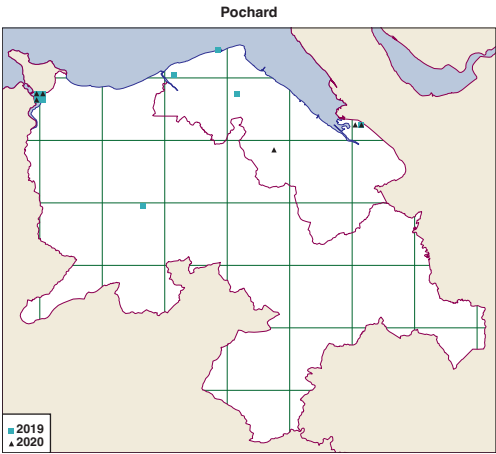
2019

Counts have declined significantly in Flints. No records contained breeding codes.



Denbs. All but one sighting was from RSPB Conwy where Pochard were present for all but two months, in the summer. High counts included 12 on 17/02, peaking at 14 birds on 23/02 (JHg). This figure has only been exceeded in two other years since 2004. Counts of 4-6 birds were more typical from the site. The only other record came from Llyn Bran on 18/04 (EJB).

Flints. Nowadays an uncommon species in the county, there were, however, records from four different sites. The only record in the early winter period was a single at Shotwick boating lake on 21/01 (DWn). From July onwards a series of records came from Brickfields pond, Rhyl. Elsewhere a single on the lagoon at Gronant on 27/11 was a first for the observer here (WRM). Two were at Shotwick boating lake on 15/09 and 30/10 (DWn) and a pair were at Llyn Helyg on 09/12 (WeBS).



2020

This was an even worse year than 2019, with the lowest numbers in Denbs since 2009 and the lowest since before 2004 in Flints. Unsurprisingly, there were no breeding codes reported.

Denbs. All records came from the Conwy estuary, and were of 1-5, apart from 6 on 18/01, 8/02 and 14/11 and 8 on 20/01 and 28/08.

Flints. Only three records represents a new nadir: there were singles at Shotwick on 18/01 and Hendy Ponds on 9/11 and 3 at Shotwick on 5/02.

Ring-necked Duck *Aythya collaris*

HWYADEN DORCHOG

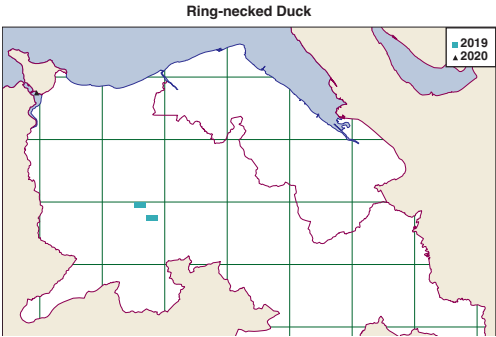
Rare vagrant.

(NG)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	4		1	
Maximum count	1		1	
Number of records	47	0	2	0
% of BirdTrack lists	1.7		0.2	

2019

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

Denbs. A long-staying drake appeared on Llyn Bran, Mynydd Hiraethog, on 06/03 (MOW). It moved between here and Llyn Brenig on a few occasions (23-24/03, 11-20/05 and 19-21/08). Throughout much of its stay it loosely associated with Tufted Ducks.



2020

Denbs. The fourth record for the region came from RSPB Conwy, where 1 was seen on 12/03 and 14/04 (JfJ).

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*
Resident breeder and winter visitor.

HWYADEN GOPOG

(TU)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	28	26	25	31
Maximum count	48	218	56	127
Av max count prev 10 years	44	123	44	123
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	1/18	-	-
Number of records	283	515	185	3873
% of BirdTrack lists	22.7	-	17.4	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	FL	FL	FL

2019

Our commonest diving duck, was recorded in all months in both counties. This species is widely distributed, mainly favouring freshwater lakes and ponds.

Denbs. Roughly two thirds of records came from RSPB Conwy. The peak count there was 34 on 23/02 (JHg). Other early winter counts included: 7 at Llewini watermeadows on 18/03 (JPH), 32 at Hanmer Mere on 24/03 (WeBS), 25 at Llyn Bran, Mynydd Hiraethog, on 9/03 (JfJ) and 5 at Sydalit on 31/03 (JaH). Typically, numbers fall in spring as birds disperse, but counts of 20-46 continued to come from Llyn Bran and Llyn Brenig. Breeding was confirmed at: RSPB Conwy, Llewini watermeadows (a brood of at least 3 young) and Ffynnon-y-berth (2 females had 7 and 2 young). Post-breeding, counts peaked of 48 at Hanmer Mere on 15/11 (DaHa) and 46 at Llyn Brenig on 3/09 (WRM).

Monthly maximum counts, from WeBS, for selected sites:

(TU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	10	27	28	11	7	6	7	17	8	12	9	14
Cop Hole and Marsh	25	14	21	16	6	5	7	14	58	16	4	5
Connah's Quay NR		3	10	8	7	8	4	14	3	2	2	2
Hanmer Mere	7	19	32			1				12	48	43
Shotton Steelworks lagoons	16	33	25	24	9	17	8	39	11	42	25	2
Shotton Paper Mill		100	65	102	41	43	101		92		218	100

Flints. A third of records each came from the Brickfield Pond, Rhyl and the Dee estuary sites, including Connah's Quay NR and Shotton Paper Mill lagoons. Numbers at the former site peaked a little lower than last year at 32 on 23/01 (JPH), but continue to increase at Shotton Paper Mill lagoons, with 218 on 20/11 (WeBS). This is the largest count in the last 15 years for the county. Elsewhere, gatherings included: 9 at Lane End, Buckley on 16/04 (KaW), 16 at Nannerch fish pond on 28/05 (GEM), 26 at Connah's Quay NR on 10/08 (PeHa), 29 at Llawndy Farm, Talacre on 18/10 (RCR), 84 at Shotwick boating lake on 16/11 (GrJ), and 38 at Ysceifiog Reservoir on 15/12 (WeBS).

2020

They were recorded in all months in both counties, with breeding again proved at several sites in each. The Flints total of records was about average for the past decade.

Denbs. This year 68.1% (126) of reports came from the Conwy estuary, 11.9% (22) from Gresford Flash, 8.1% (15) from Hanmer Mere and 7% (13) from the upland lakes at Llyn Bran/Llyn Brenig. In the first three months of the year there were four counts of 20-27: from Llyn Bran on 18/01 and 6/02 and the Conwy estuary on 18/01 and 8/03. The three highest totals of the year came from first-winter WeBS counts at Hanmer Mere, with 56 on 12/01, 53 on 11/02 and 54 on 8/03. Sadly, the Apr count was missing because of Covid restrictions. Post-breeding counts were lower than usual, with 40 at Llyn Brenig on 14/07 the best and only five other reports of 20 or more: 30 at Rhoslanerchrugog on 11/10, 25 at RSPB Conwy on 21/11, with 20 there on 13/12 and 30 at Hanmer Mere on 10/12, with 28 the following day.

Flints. Some 57.4% (214) of reports came from the Rhyl ponds, with 28.4% (106) from the Upper Dee estuary at Connah's Quay NR and the Shotwick sites. The only other areas with double figure numbers of records were Ysceifiog/Nannerch, with 24 (6.4%), Buckley 15 (4.6%) and Talacre/Gronant 11 (2.9%). There were ninety-six counts of 20-38, evenly split between



Tufted Duck: Malcolm Down

the first three months of the year and Aug onwards, with none between 13/03 and 20/08. There were seven counts of 40-48, with 40 at Rhyl Brickworks on 8/01 and 16/12 the highest for the year there, and 35 on 10/02 and 38 on 15/11 the highest from Ysceifiog. The four counts of 50+ all came from WeBS at the Shotwick sites, with 53 on 10/02 and 92 on 8/03 at Shotton Paper Mill and 127 - the only three-figure count of the year – from the Rifle range on 20/09.

Monthly maximum counts from WeBS sites (incomplete counts due to Covid restrictions):

(TU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	1	19	23						7		11	20
Hanmer Mere	1	2	54				2		2			28
Connah's Quay NR			10						1			
Shotton Steelworks	22		9				10	14	7		7	
Shotwick Rifle Range	48		19						127			3
Shotton Paper Mill	26	53	92									
Ysceifiog	33	35						23	14	19	38	

Scaup *Aythya marila*
Winter visitor.

HWYADEN BENDDU

(SP)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares		2	2	3
Maximum count		1	1	2
Av max count prev 10 years		2	6	2
Number of records	0	76	5	50

2019

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

None in Denbs this year was unusual, indeed the first time in the last 15 years.

Flints. Almost all records came from the Brickfields pond, Rhyl, where one was located on 2/01 till 23/02 (JPH). One was also present from 30/10 (JPH) to the year end (KBr). A single at Shotwick boating lake stayed from 30/10 till 25/11 (GrJ).

2020

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. After the complete blank in 2019, there were five reports, but this was the lowest number (apart from 2019) since 2009. It is likely that only two birds were involved: a single at Hanmer Mere on 11/02 and an unseasonal male at RSPB Conwy on 15/07 and 23/08.



Scaup female: Malcolm Down

Flints. As in 2019, a total of fifty reports was above average, but, with one exception, all were records of a single from Rhyl Brickfields ponds: a female from 1/01 to 21/02 and again from 11/09 to 10/10. The sole report of 2 came from a WeBS count at Ffynnongroyw on 18/10.

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

(E)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		2	2	
Maximum count		1	4	
Av max count prev 10 years		1	2	
Number of records	0	2	4	0
% of BirdTrack lists		-	0.2	

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

2019

Flints. Singles were seen at Point of Ayr and Talacre on 5/08 (GNR) and 28/09 (SJe).

2020

Denbs. The only record was 4 off Horton's Nose on 7/06 – an unusual date (JPH).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

MÔR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

Vagrant.

2019

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

Recent years have seen small numbers of this vagrant sea-duck regularly found amongst the scoter flocks in between Colwyn Bay and Abergele, Denbs. Following a peak of 9 birds in 2014, numbers have reduced to a single this year.

Denbs. There were no sightings in the early winter period. From 1/12 to 4/12 records were received from Colwyn Bay (GrJ), Old Colwyn (SuHa, DWn) and Llanddulas (JfJ), which likely involved the same drake.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

MÔR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

Winter visitor. Red List.

2019

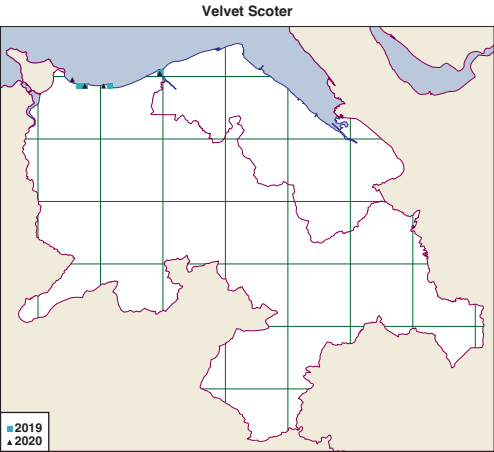
Seen in these months:

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

Typically, small numbers of this sea-duck are recorded annually with the wintering Common Scoter flocks in Liverpool Bay. Following the influx in the cold winters of 2010-2011, numbers have reduced to single figures.

Denbs. Records came from three different sites, with: 3 at Llanddulas on 30/10 (JfJ), 2 at Colwyn Bay on 1/12 (GrJ) and a single off Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay on 26/12 (JPH).

2020



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. At the beginning of the year there were six reports of singles off Colwyn Bay between 9/01 and 18/02 and in the autumn, just one single off Horton's Nose on 13/12 (JPH).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

MÔR-HWYADEN DDU

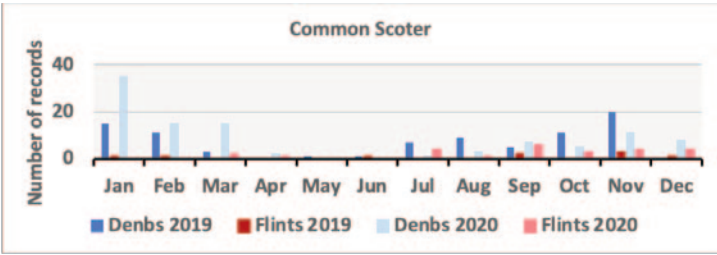
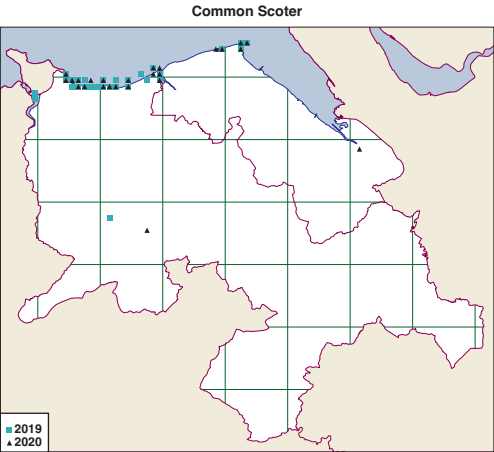
Winter and summer visitor. Amber List. RBBP. S7.

2019

(CX)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common	Abundant	5
Number of 1km squares	25	4	19	6
Maximum count	5000	150	15000	2000
Av max count prev 10 years	12200	3535	12200	3535
Number of records	110	9	102	25
% of BirdTrack lists	4.7	-	4.3	-

Internationally important numbers of this sea-duck winter in Liverpool Bay. The flocks move locally from year to year. Consequently, numbers can vary dramatically. Counts are generally down from a peak of 25,000 in 2012-2013.

Denbs. Flocks in Colwyn Bay peaked at 5,000 in the early winter period (18/02, HC) and 3,000 on 24/03 (HC). Many other counts consisted of smaller flocks of up to 500. By spring, numbers had reduced to 12 off Llanddulas on 9/04 (GEM). Post-breeding, numbers were building up in Aug, when 300 were off Old Colwyn on 3/08 (PhG). In the late winter period 3000 birds were recorded twice, on 1/12 (GrJ) and 30/12 (RS). Flocks off Kinnel Bay peaked at 685 on 26/12 (JPH). Inland records are uncommon, but two sites hosted such records this year:



Monthly WeBS counts for selected sites:

(CX)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Abergele to Llanddulas	200	230	4						240	212	202	
Colwyn Bay	1000	5000	3000							270	340	3000
Point of Ayr		6				100					8	

from Llyn Aled, Mynydd Hiraethog with 12 drakes on 29/06 (WRM) and singles at RSPB Conwy on 16-17/11 (pTW, WeBS) and 26/11 (SvK).

Flints. There were 150 were off Gronant dunes on 15/01 (WRM). The Point of Ayr had a peak of 100 on 16/06 (WeBS), at a time when non-breeding birds are present or failed breeders would be returning.

2020

Denbs. Apart from a rogue single at Llyn Brenig on 17/03 (SuHa), all reports came from the usual sweep of Colwyn Bay, with similar numbers of reports to 2019, but the highest maximum since 2014. In the early winter period, there were twelve counts of 500-2,000 and two counts of 2,001-5,000, together with two very large peak counts of 10,000 on 1/01 and 15,000 on 22/01 (both DWn). The late winter period produced generally smaller numbers, with five counts of between 500 and 2,000, starting with 1,500 on 14/09 (JFJ), and there was a peak WeBS count of 3,060 on 17/10.

Flints. A rather better year than 2019, though numbers were low in the first winter period. Apart from a single heard migrating over Queensferry on the night of 3/04 (DWn), all reports came from the Gronant/Point of Ayr area and the better counts were in autumn, with 150 on 29/09, 100 on 15/11 and the peak count of 2,000 on 20/10.

2020 Monthly WeBS counts for selected sites (severely compromised by Covid restrictions):

(CX)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rhos-on- Sea		200										
Abergele area	108	172	219					105	605	3910	112	260
Point of Ayr			10								100	

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

HWYADEN GYNFFONHIR

(LN)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	5	1	2
Maximum count	1	1	1	1
Av max count prev 10 years	2	2	2	2
Number of records	2	22	2	8
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	-	0.1	-
Density	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00

2019

Seen in these months:

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

Denbs. Singles were off Kinmel Bay on 11/01 (EJB) and 6/02 (MD).

Flints. A wintering female continued from the previous year on the Afon Clwyd, Rhyl and remained till 18/03 (WRM), it stayed almost four months in total. It was zig-zagging between the two counties, but all records are considered here under Flints for consistency. A few days later a female was on the Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands from 22/03 till 9/04. In the late winter period, singles were at Shotwick boating lake, with a female on 25/11 (DWn),

GrJ, JFJ), 3/12 (GrJ) and one at White Sands, Dee estuary on 1/12 (SuHa).

2020

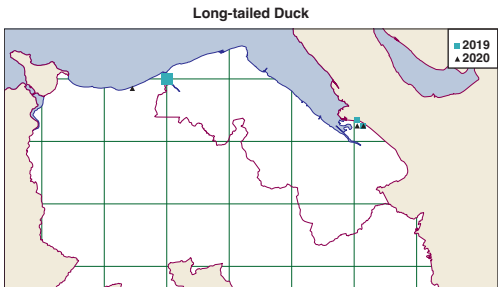
Seen in these months:

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 poor year again, with all reports of singles.

Denbs. A single was off Pensarn on 7/12 and 15/12 (WRM).

Flints. A single, probably the same individual throughout, was logged at Shotwick between 1/01 and 12/01.



Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Winter visitor. RBBP.

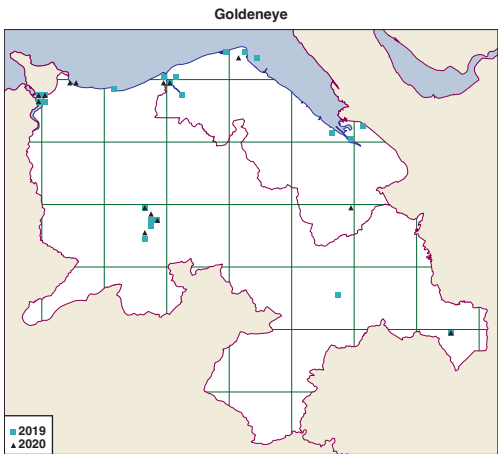
HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

(GN)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	13	9	11	3
Maximum count	8	8	15	2
Av max count prev 10 years	10	8	10	8
Number of records	104	35	59	6
% of BirdTrack lists	8.9	-	5.1	-

2019

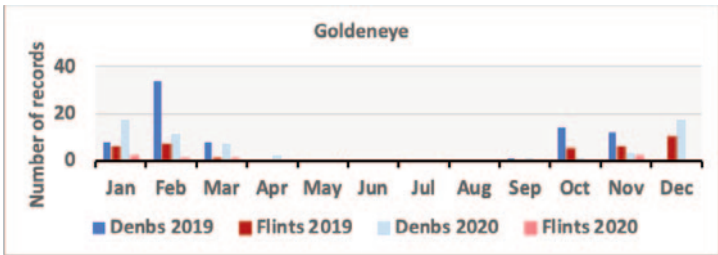
Recorded in small numbers on lakes, reservoirs and occasionally on coastal waters during the winter months.

Denbs. Two thirds of records came from RSPB Conwy this year where there were 1 or 2 for most of the early winter period, peaking at 3 on 16/03 (JH). Mynydd Hiraethog saw an upsurge in numbers, with a maximum of 8 on 9/03 (JFJ). Numbers reduced during the spring with the last sighting on 18/04 at Llyn Bran, Mynydd Hiraethog (EJB) before the summer hiatus. The first returning for the late winter was on 30/10 at RSPB Conwy (MDe), rising to a max of 3 on 12/11 (BE). A series of counts at Hanmer Mere increased to 8 on 23/12 (SD).



Flints. The thirty-five reports came from only three areas: twenty-four (68.6%) from the regular

site of the Afon Clwyd, between Rhyl and Rhuddlan, seven from the inner Dee estuary and four from Talacre/ Gronant. All were of 1-4, apart from WeBS counts at Shotwick on 17/11 (7 individuals) and 15/12 (8 individuals).



2020

Denbs. The fifty-nine reports represented the lowest return since 2012. All except four came from three areas: forty-one from the Conwy estuary (69.5%), ten from Hanmer Mere (16.9%) and five from the upland lakes of Llyn Bran and Llyn Brenig (8.5%), with the other three coastal records from Colwyn Bay. All reports were of 1-6, except for two double-figure counts: 12 at RSPB Conwy on 4/02 and 15 from Hanmer Mere on 8/03.

Flints. The six records represented the first single-figure return since before 2004. Apart from 2 at Rhyl on 5/01, all were of singles: three others from the Rhyl area and one each from Talacre and Fagl Lane, Hope.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

(GD)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	33	23	36	26
Maximum count	21	29	20	27
Av max count prev 10 years	24	24	24	24
Number of records	134	271	109	245
% of BirdTrack lists	10.8	-	11.7	-
Max breeding evidence	P	FL	FL	NY

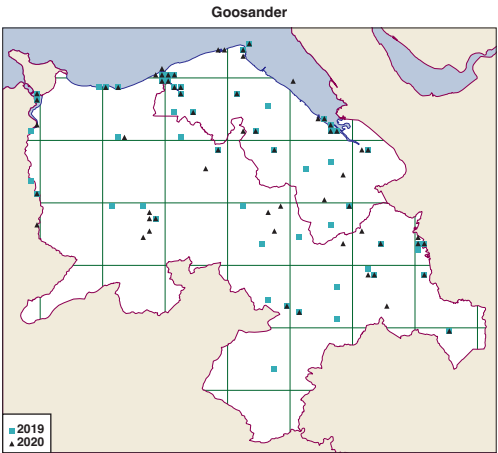
2019

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

Denbs. The number of records equalled that of last year and remained high compared with historical figures. Early winter counts peaked with 10 at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay on 10/02 (TBT). There was no confirmed breeding this year, although four sites had pairs recorded in the breeding season, indicating probable breeding. The late winter period saw the highest counts, with the maximum around the long-term average - 21 at Penycae, Tainant on 24/09 (JAJ). RSPB Conwy had the most records (28% of the total), mostly singles but occasionally more, with a max of 7 on 27/07 (NF). Erddig remains a reliable site in winter and totals peaked

at 11 on 7/12 (JH). There were 11 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 29/11 (WRM).

Flints. Two regular sites gave rise to most of the records this year: Afon Clwyd from Rhyl to Rhuddlan (42% of records) and Brickfields pond, Rhyl (33% of records); however there is interchange. The early winter had flocks as follows: 10 at Tithe Barn, Bryn Common on 14/02 (GNR), 9 at Flint Saltmarsh on 24/03 (WeBS), 7 at Fagl Lane GP, Hope on 2/01 (JH), 11 at Rhuddlan on 22/02 (SH), rising to 14 on 9/04 (JPH), 13 at Brickfield Pond, Rhyl on 13/03 (BE) and 4 on River Elwy at St Asaph on 5/01 (JPH). The only confirmed breeding was at the regular area near Rhuddlan, where females were recorded with 6 young on 24/04 (JPH) and by 30/06 there were three good-sized juveniles with a female (WRM). The year's maximum count was also there, with 29 on 30/06 (WRM). In the late winter totals were higher, dominated by Brickfields pond, Rhyl, which regularly held over 10 individuals, 6 counts of 20+ and a maximum of 26 on 13/12 (JPH). Elsewhere, there were: 12 at the Rhyl Marine Lake on 6/11 (JFJ) and 6 at Hendre ponds on 9/11 (GEM).



2020

As usual, they were recorded in each month in both counties, with breeding proved in both this year. In spite of Covid restrictions, report numbers were only slightly down on 2019, in both Denbs and Flints.

Denbs. Possibly because of Covid, RSPB Conwy only generated eight records this year, with the prime site moving to Erddig, with thirty-four reports (31.7%). The only other area generating more than 10% of reports was, surprisingly, Kinmel Bay with sixteen (14.7%). Most counts were in single figures, and all five counts of 10-19 came in the autumn: 14 at Kinmel Bay on 5/10, 11 at Holt Fields on 12/11, 12 at Gresford Flash on 13/12, 12 at RSPB Conwy on the same day and 13 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 27/12. The maximum count for the year was 20 at Llyn Brenig on 21/07, which included ducklings (SuHa).

Flints. Rhyl/Rhuddlan once again dominated the reports with 73.5% of records, followed by Connah's Quay NR with 13.1%. There were thirty-four counts of 10-19, thirty of which came from Rhyl/Rhuddlan. Six of the seven counts of 20-27 were also in the same area, with the maximum of 27 recorded on 28/07 and 10/09. The only other 20+ count came from Hendre, with 20 on 6/10 (GEM). Once again, at least two broods of ducklings were recorded from Rhyl.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

2019

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 duck favours marine habitats and is usually recorded from coastal locations where it gathers in flocks in the winter months.

Denbs. There was a drop in records this year, partly related to the species having been recorded less often at RSPB Conwy, a traditionally reliable site. This is also mirrored in reduced totals from the WeBS counts below. The peak count here was 15 on 22/01 (pTW). The maximum count in Colwyn Bay for the early winter period was 9 on 4/01 (MHu) and 8 were off Pensarn 27/02 (WRM). There were 22 on the Rhyl Marine Lake on 17/01 (DaM). Smaller numbers were seen at many locations from Colwyn Bay to Kinmel Bay. Flock sizes increased later in the year after the summer lull, and the highest count of the year was 27 offshore in Colwyn Bay on 30/12 (RS). The other double-figure counts came from RSPB Conwy, with 12 on 28/10 (SvK), 12/11 (BE) and 10 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 30/10 (DWn).

Peak monthly counts at main sites (including WeBS):

(RM)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	15	3	8	2		1				12	12	7
Kinmel Bay	22	1								10	8	2

Flints. Most records were of singles and no double-figure counts were received this year. The max count was of 7 at the Afon Clwyd on 10/02 (JPH). 80% of records were from the Afon Clwyd and Brickfields pond, Rhyl, where there are regular movements between the two sites. Elsewhere records were received from: Oakenholt Marsh - 5 on 19/05 (WeBS), RSPB Point of Ayr - 3 on 12/08 (SvK) and Flint Saltmarsh - one on 28/10 (AB).

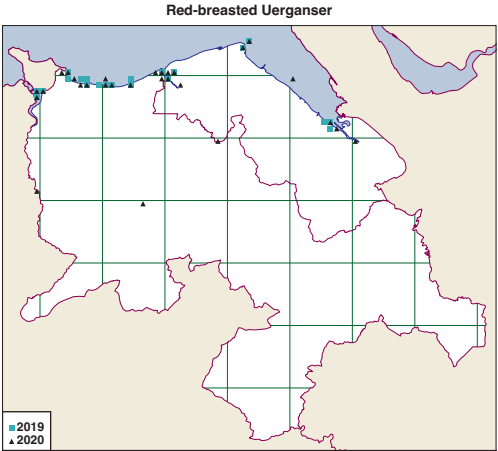
2020

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. Two areas again dominated the reports: the Conwy estuary with fifty-two (61.2%) and the sweep of Colwyn Bay with twenty-nine (34.1%). A single was

HWYADEN FRONGOCH



in the uplands at Llyn Bran on 31/01. There were again four counts of 10-19 this year, three at RSPB Conwy and one off Llanddulas, but there was an exceptional count of 40 in Colwyn Bay on 23/01 (TyC). Only one of these double-figure counts was in the autumn.

2020 Peak monthly counts on the Conwy estuary (including WeBS):

(RM)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	5	15	4	1			7	1	1	10	8	3

Flints. An average year, with all except two of the reports coming from three areas: 60.9% from Rhyl, 17.4% from Connah's Quay and 13% from Rhyl. All counts were of 1-2, except for 9 at Rhuddlan on 19/11 and 12 at Point of Ayr on 19/02.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Breeding resident.

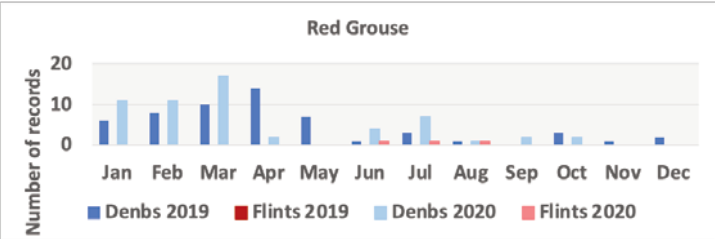
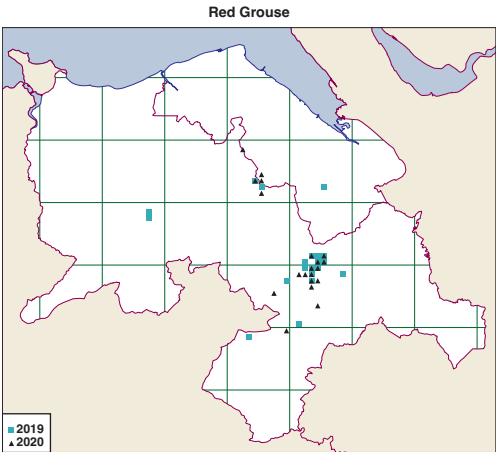
GRUGIAR GOCH

2019

Denbs. The Ruabon Mountain area, again, produced most of the reports, with over 90% along with the peak count of 27 on the first day of the year (JFJ). The highest BBS count of 3 also came from same area on the 23/04. The highest count away from Ruabon Mountain came from Moel Famau area with 7 at Llangynhafal on 24/04 (JoG). Two of the other BBS counts, both singles, also came from the Moel Famau area on 5/05. A single was reported from the Llyn Brenig area on 5/05 (GFM). There was also a BBS count of a single from S of Ceriog Forest on 12/05.

2020

Denbs. Most records came from Ruabon Mountain and in the first three months of the year, with only three





Red Grouse: John Hawkins

double figure counts from there and a peak count of 50 on 6/01 (EJB). Away from Ruabon Mountain, a few were from the Clwydian Range, with 1 at Moel Famau on 30/09 (Alfred Parker) and 2 at Moel y Faen on 11/10 (JoG). There were 2 in the Ceiriog Valley at Y Foel on 5/07 (TK), Llantysilio Mountain had 1 at Moel Garelin on 15/04 (JoG), No confirmed breeding was recorded.

Flints. The records all came from the Clwydian Range: 2 at Penycloddiau on 20/06 (MkV), 4 at Garth, Cilcain moor, on 31/07 (GEM) and 1 on Moel Dywyll on 20/08 (MB).

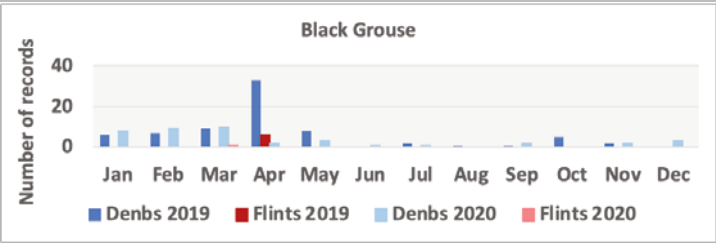
Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*
Breeding resident.

GRUGIAR DDU

(BK)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Rare	Fairly common	Rare
Number of 1km squares	30	2	17	1
Maximum count	45	1	53	3
Av max count prev 10 years	46	2	46	2
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	0/18	-	-
Number of records	74	6	41	1
% of BirdTrack lists	2.5	-	1.3	-
Max breeding evidence	D	S	D	-

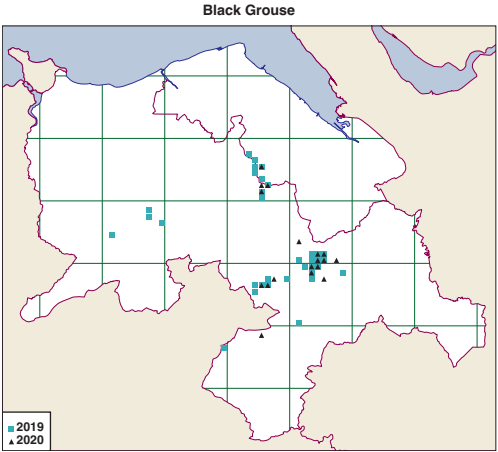
2019

The number of reports increased in Denbs from 53 to 75, which is just above the recent average. Records in Flints were back up to six but five were on the



same day. There were no reports in Jun and Nov. There were no records of confirmed breeding anywhere, although several leks were reported in the Ruabon Mountain area.

Denbs. Ruabon Mountain and surrounding area, as in the last few years, produced the most records, with over 65% of the total. The highest count also came from same area, with 45 at World's End on 18/02 (GrJ). Counts of 10 and 4 were reported during BBS, again in the same area. Reports from the Clwydian range were up, with 16 in total, and the highest count of 4 on Moel Famau on 17/04.



Flints. Five of the six records came on the same date, 17/02, from the Moel Famau area, with a maximum count of 2. A single was seen at Penycloddiau on 28/04 (EdW).

2020

Denbs. The Ruabon Mountain area produced most of the counts, with the maximum of 53 at World's End on 7/03 (NGo). Clwydian Range reports came from the Moel Famau area with maximum count of 11 on 8/04 (MaC), 3 at Moel Llyn-y-Coed on 22/03 (MB), 2 on 30/09 (Alfred Parker), 3 on 28/11 and 1 on 29/11 (AB). Ceiriog Forest held a single on 3/02 (JoG). Llantysilio Mountain area had 1 at Bryneglwys on 30/04, 3 on 18/09, 3 at Cribin Oernant on 3/12 and 3 at Moel Gaer on 3/12 (JoG). Again, there was no confirmed breeding though there were displaying birds and the second highest count of 28 at Ruabon Mountain on 7/03.

Flints. The single record came from Moel Lyn-y-Coed to the W of Moel Famau on 22/03 (MB).

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*
Breeding resident.

PETRISEN

(P)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare		Rare
Number of 1km squares		1		2
Maximum count		2		2
Av max count prev 10 years		1		1
Number of records	0	1	0	4
% of BirdTrack lists		-		-

2019

Flints. Two were seen at Gronant on 15/05 (TmH).

2020

Flints. All reports were from Connah's Quay NR, with 2 seen on 16/11 and 17/11 (GEM, PeHa).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Breeding resident with annual releases in very large numbers.

2019

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

Denbs. The number of records and 1 km squares were up slightly from the last few years. There were treble figure counts from Llanelidan, with a maximum of c.300 on 16/07 (GNR). GBW gave just a quarter of records, with a maximum count of 9 at Ruabon on 15/09. The highest BBS count of 12 came from Gellifor, Rhos on 9/06. One WBBS count with 4 at Wern-ddu on 12/05. No confirmed wild breeding was reported.

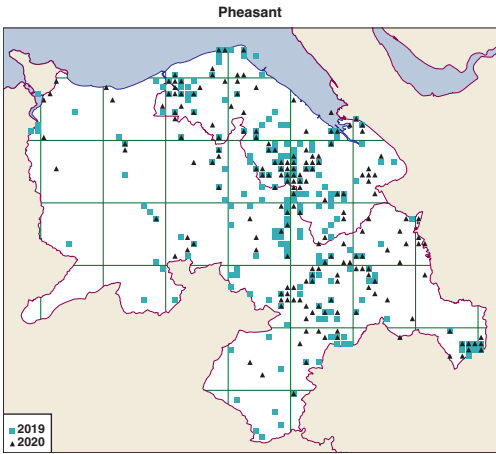
Flints. The number of records and 1 km squares were similar to the last few years. The double figure maximum count of 83 was from Northop on 8/10 (DWn). The highest BBS count of 34 came from N of Mold on 21/04. The



Pheasant female: Alan Saunders

FFESANT

(PH)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	123	88	110	85
Maximum count	300	83	63	123
Av max count prev 10 years	64	56	64	56
Recorded in BBS squares	21/28	15/18	4/5	1/2
Number of records	395	366	377	550
% of records from GBW	22.28	12.68	34.94	26.11
% of BirdTrack lists	16.9	-	21.3	-
Density	18.67	12.40	3.51	17.75
Max breeding evidence	T	FL	N	-



GBW high count came from Cilcain, with 9 on 4/08, but most of the records came from Rhydymwyn which had a high count of 6 on 6/01. There was one wild breeding report from Hendre, with fledged young seen on 9/08 (GEM).

2020

Denbs. There were similar numbers of records and 1 km squares to the last few years. There were no treble figure counts, and a maximum of 63 at Fron Isaf, Froncysyllte, on 17/10. Over a third of the counts came from GBW, with a high count of 15 at Ruabon on 15/11. Three BBS counts with the highest, 5, from Berwyn NW on 11/06 (JoG).

Flints. The number of records and 1km squares were up compared to the last few years. There were a few double figure counts, and the maximum was a treble figure count, 123, at Cilcain moors, Garth, on 13/08 (GEM). GBW produced 30% of records and the high count came from Cilcain, with 14 on 12/07. A single BBS count came from Rhuddlan, with 1 seen on 19/06 (MaO, HL).

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Passage migrant.

SOFLIAR

(Q)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3		1	1
Maximum count	1		1	1
Av max count prev 10 years	1		1	0
Number of records	3	0	1	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3		0.0	-
Max breeding evidence	S		S	-

2019

Denbs. Two records were from Mynydd Hiraethog, 1 on 19/06 (WRM) and 1 a couple of days later on 21/06. A single was reported from a traditional migration site in the S of the area near Holt on 5/08 (NHu).

2020

Denbs. A single was near Holt on 10/05.

Flints. A single was just S of Llyn Helyg on 11/06.

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*
Breeding resident.

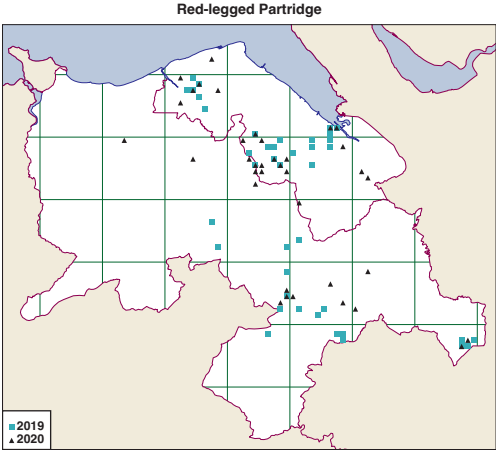
PETRISSEN GOESGOCH

(RL)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	19	22	16	21
Maximum count	5	12	15	16
Av max count prev 10 years	14	10	14	10
Recorded in BBS squares	2/28	1/18	-	-
Number of records	22	39	21	74
% of records from GBW	0	2.56	4.35	22.37
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	-	2.4	-
Density	0.05	0.45	0.12	0.57
Max breeding evidence	T	-	P	-

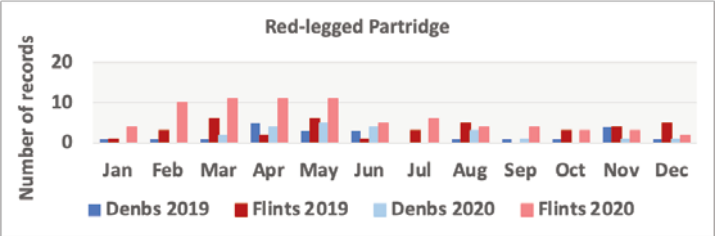
2019

The records showed a wide distribution of sightings in both vice counties and again in most months of the year.

Denbs. Since the captive breeding stopped at a site on Ruabon Mountain a few years ago, records were down but sightings and coverage areas seem to be increasing again. The maximum count came from Fenn's Moss, with 5 on 13/11 (RbHa). Most of the reports were from the southern area, but two reports of singles were from the Moel Arthur area on 12/04 (GEM) and 23/04 (MD). BBS counts were of singles from Garth on 9/04, 12/05 and the highest count of 2 was from Trevor Uchaf on 10/06.



Flints. Reports were up again this year, with nearly half coming from the Connah's Quay NR and in the last four months of the year. The maximum count



of 12 came from Cilcain on 14/11 (GEM) and at the same village, a GBW count of 1 on 4/08. There was a double figure count from Penycloddiau, with 10 on 25/05 (EdW). The same area provided reports of hundreds released in autumn for a shoot. There was one BBS count of 2 in an area N of Mold on 21/04.

2020

Denbs. All records were of 1 or 2 at locations shown in the map during months shown in the chart.

Flints. Most records were of 1 or 2 with eight others of 3 to 8. The largest counts were 12 near Afonwen on 5/03 (SvK), 12 near Broughton on 21/12. and 16 there on 27/12 (AHJ).

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

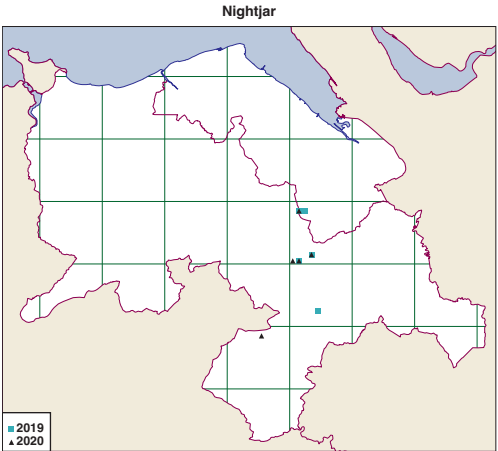
TROELLWR MAWR

Breeding summer visitor. Amber List. S7.

(NJ)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3	2	4	1
Maximum count	9	2	5	5
Av max count prev 10 years	5	1	5	1
Number of records	5	5	5	6
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	-	0.3	-
Max breeding evidence	S	N	P	T

2019

Denbs. The first record of the year was of 1 on the 4/06 at Trevor Uchaf. The rest of the records came from Llandegla and Clocaenog. The first record at Llandegla was on the 19/06 (TBT), where the highest count in the area, of 9, was also noted. The last record from there came on the 15/07, when there were 4 (HCw). The majority of records came from Clocaenog.



Flints. As with 2018, the only records came from Nercwys Mountain and on the same arrival date as the previous year, 23/05 (DWN). A listen for any birds at this site on the 21/05 yielded nothing. One



Nightjar: John Hawkins

was possibly seen flying to a nest on 17/06 (WRM), but breeding was not confirmed. Two were noted at this site on the 28/06, which was also the last record of the year (NHu).

2020

Unsurprisingly due to lockdown, there were fewer records from both counties and no records at all from Clocaenog Forest.

Denbs. The first returned birds were noted at Ceiriog Forest on 20/05 with 2 present. The highest count of the year was 5 at Llandegla on 16/07, with 4 the same night at Ruabon Mountain. The last were recorded on 21/07 at Llandegla.

Flints. All records came from Nercwys, and the first was on 8/06 and the last on 28/07. A count of 5 was the highest, on 25/06 (AB).

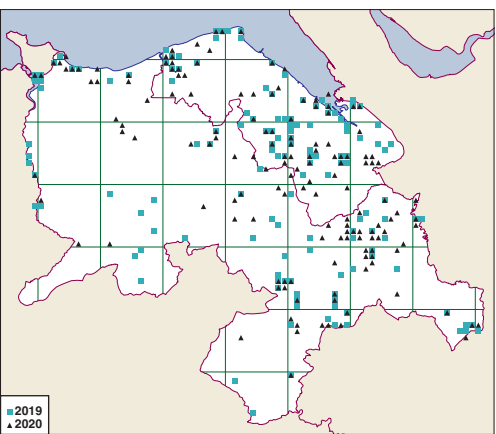
Swift *Apus apus* GWENNOL DDU
Summer visitor. Amber List.

(SI)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	77	64	90	62
Maximum count	75	81	50	73
Av max count prev 10 years	108	151	108	151
Recorded in BBS squares	6/28	9/18	-	1/2
Number of records	185	156	194	160
% of records from GBW	0.54	0.00	7.35	4.42
% of BirdTrack lists	9.7	-	8.0	-
Max breeding evidence	ON	ON	ON	-

2019

A fairly common sight in urban areas in both counties, but breeding records were few in both counties, perhaps reflecting observer effort, rather than actual distribution of breeding. The first arrivals of birds in each county were notably later than in 2018; 17 days later in Denbs and 11 days later in Flints.

Denbs. The first record in the county was a single on 28/04 at RSPB Conwy (ABa). At RSPB Conwy, 75 were seen together on 9/05 (EJB), which was the highest number recorded during the year, although down on the previous year. Probable breeding was noted at Colwyn Bay, Llanwrst and Trefriw with confirmed breeding noted at Llangollen, Pendre, Betws-y-Coed and Rhuthun. The last record for the year was a single on the 25/09 at RSPB Conwy (laHi), which was over a month later than in 2018.



Flints. The first reported birds back were both singles on 1/05 at Rhuddlan (SH) and Connah's Quay (PhG). At Greenfield, 81 birds were together on 30/05 (GRMP), which was the highest count of the year and equals the highest count for 2018. Breeding records were in short supply, with only probable breeding noted at Afonwen and confirmed breeding at Halkyn. A single over the Ash Pool at Connah's Quay NR on 1/09 (PeHa) was the last record of the year.

2020

There appeared to be more records from gardens during 2020, which may be a reflection of birdwatchers doing more recording from their houses during the lockdown.

Denbs. A very early record of 2 at Bron Haul on 6/04 (KBr) was around three weeks earlier than the previous year. There was another fall in the maximum count, and 50 was the highest counts of the year at Arwelfa on 26/06 and at the Pontycysyllte Aqueduct on 14/07. Breeding was confirmed at several locations. The last birds of the year were seen on 27/08 at Aberduna NR and at Wrexham.

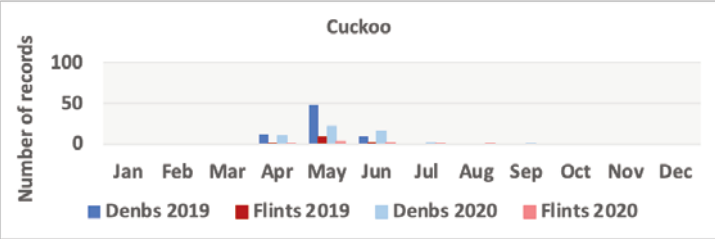
Flints. The first returning birds were seen on 2/05 at St Asaph, a day later than 2019. The highest count of the year was slightly down from the previous year, with 73 seen at Bagillt on 10/06. The other notable high counts included 65 at Flint on 23/05 and 55 at Rhuddlan on 24/07. Breeding was probable at Dyserth, Buckley, Babell and Drury. The last bird of the year was at Rhyl on 11/09.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* COG
Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

(CK)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	55	9	39	6
Maximum count	6	2	4	2
Av max count prev 10 years	4	7	4	7
Recorded in BBS squares	7/28	2/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	70	12	52	8
% of BirdTrack lists	2.2	-	1.7	-
Max breeding evidence	P	S	D	-

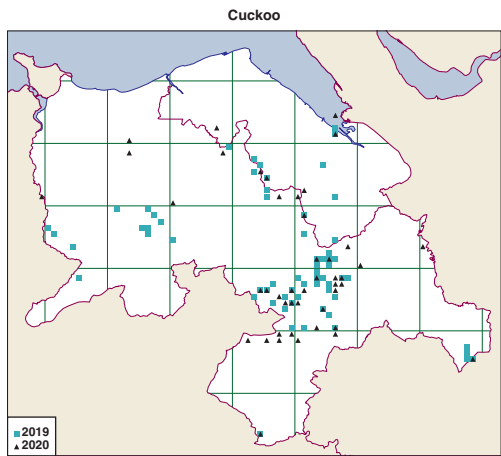
2019

There was a noticeable decline in records from Denbs: seventy records compared with ninety-five the previous year and the lowest since 2015. However, the upland areas of the county remained one of the better areas to connect with this species. Flints received twelve records, the most since 2014 and two more than 2018. There were no confirmed breeding records from either county and no mention of juveniles in any records.



Denbs. The first bird recorded back in the county was at Llyn Brenig on 19/04 (JPH), the same arrival date as the previous year. The majority of records came from Fenn's Moss, Ruabon, Mynydd Hiraethog and Bryneglwys. The highest number seen was 3 together, 1 male and 2 females at Bryneglwys on 5/05 (JLR) whilst the last bird of the year was at Rhewl on 24/06.

Flints. The first record of the year was at Pontblyddyn on 21/04, during a BBS survey, three days later than the previous year. Only three records were of two, recorded three times between 12/05 and 25/05 at Penycloddiau (EdW). The last recorded in the county was passing through Connah's Quay NR on 28/06 (DWN),



2020

There were fewer records from both counties in 2020.



Cuckoo female: Tony Pope

Denbs. A returning bird on 10/04 was the first of the year to be noted at Rhos-y-brithdir. Singles were then reported in many areas, but several birds were recorded at Fenn's Moss, Minera, World's End and Rhos-y-brithdir. There were 4 at World's End on 2/06 (JBW), which was the highest count of the year and the last was seen at Bylchau on 8/09.

Flints. One on 25/04 was the first reported for the year, but there were only seven records in total, including three from Gwernymynydd, where 2 was the highest count on 31/05. The last record of the year came from Connah's Quay NR on 17/08.

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

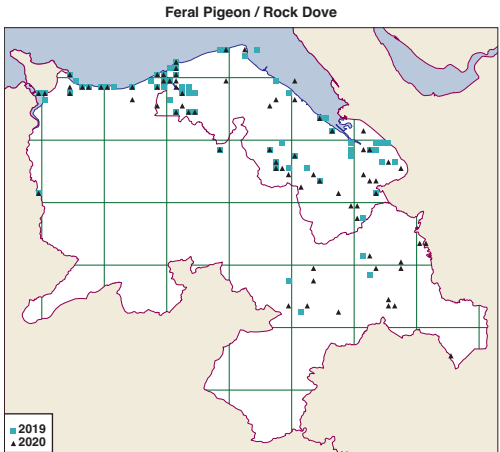
COLOMEN Y GRAIG

Breeding resident.

(FP)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	25	42	33	42
Maximum count	100	145	75	145
Av max count prev 10 years	143	80	143	80
Recorded in BBS squares	0/28	4/18	0/5	1/2
Number of records	173	455	131	528
% of records from GBW	0	21.54	7.10	20.48
% of BirdTrack lists	23.9	-	17.6	-
Max breeding evidence	ON	H	H	-

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties. Although there are many truly feral birds nesting at quarries, bridges and other man-made structures, some flocks of homing and racing pigeons may be included here. The true number of birds and their distribution in the region is probably under-recorded, as many birdwatchers seem not to make notes of this species; reflected in that there was only one record of confirmed breeding in the region. With that in mind, it is difficult to assess any long-term trend of this species or whether any increase or decrease is down to actual bird population or observer changes in where they are visiting.



Denbs. 2019 was a poor year for records from Denbs, with only 173, the lowest number since 2010 and 47% down on the previous year. The only confirmed breeding record was of an active nest under the A55 at Pensarn on 27/02 (WRM). RSPB Conwy had just over 45% of records and the Kinmel Bay area just over 20%. There was only one three-figure flock record, with 100 at Horton's Nose on 10/02 (TBT). Almost 60% of records were of single figure counts. The rest of the records were counts between 10 and 50.

Flints. 2019 produced the most records of this species for a single year, 455, up sixty-four on the previous year, a trend that has continued for eight years. There were six counts exceeding 100, an increase from the previous year. Five of these counts were from Rhyl, where 145 on 4/10 (JPH) formed the largest flock. The other 100+ record came from Queensferry, where 125 were gathered on the 'blue bridge' (DWn) on 30/01. Over 54% of records came from the Rhyl area alone. Another 21% of records came from elsewhere. All were recorded as part of GBW. Just over 63% of records involved less than 10 and only 3% of records were of 50 or more. There were no records confirming breeding.

2020

A mixed bag year, with fewer records from Denbs and more from Flints, but both counties lack any breeding evidence.

Denbs. There were records in every month. The only two records of 50 or more were both from Kinmel Bay, with 50 on 9/01 and 75 on 13/03. There was no confirmed breeding, but birds were recorded during the summer months at Kinmel Bay and Horton's Nose.

Flints. This was the ninth year in succession that the number of records has increased. Of the top twenty highest counts of the year, seventeen came from the Rhyl area, where the only flocks of 100+ were noted, 104 on 11/12 with the highest count of the year of 145 on 2/08. Elsewhere, there were 60 at Queensferry on 12/01, and 50 at Pantymwyn on 24/07. There were no records submitted which mentioned breeding, but birds were recorded in every month of the year. One was predated by a Peregrine at Rhyl, on 11/10.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*
Breeding resident.

COLOMEN WYLLT

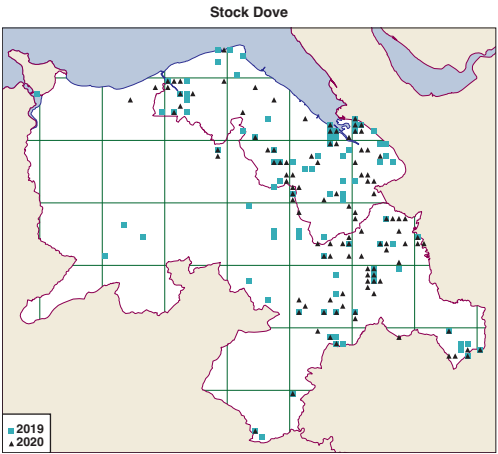
(SD)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	46	45	60	53
Maximum count	7	140	30	110
Av max count prev 10 years	50	48	50	48
Recorded in BBS squares	4/28	10/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	123	194	207	216
% of records from GBW	35.77	1.55	30.88	9.80
% of BirdTrack lists	4.8	-	11.6	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	NE	N	NY

2019

Recorded each month in both counties. There were more records than in any previous year. Flints also set records for the largest flock on record and the highest number of 1km squares this species was documented in during a year, perhaps indicating a genuine increase in the county.

Denbs. The numbers of records were up at an all time high, but the highest flock total was the lowest since 2005. A flock of 7 was at Mynydd y Glyn on 2/06 seen during a BBS survey. Six seen on 6/01 at Penycae (JAJ), 5 at RSPB Conwy on 7/07 (pTW) and 5 at Penycae on 31/03 at Ruabon during a GBW were the other highest counts. Breeding was confirmed at Llansilin and Rhos-y-brithdir and probable breeding at Pont-y-Clogwyn, Llyn Brenig and Holt.

Flints. 51% of records came from Connah's Quay NR to RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands. Two regular observers of Connah's Quay NR in 2019 started using the mobile BTO Birdtrack app, which no doubt helped to boost the number of records for the year. However, the increase in the number of 1km squares this species was recorded in, 45 compared to 38 in 2018, and the largest flock size documented in recent history, shows this species is doing well in the county. There were 140 at the Ash Pool at Connah's Quay NR on 4/02 (PeHa). This appears to be a county record and is double the highest count of 2018 and the first three-figure flock since 2015. Other high counts at this site include 95 on 1/02 with 60 on 13/01 and 27/01 (PeHa). Of the nineteen records of 20 or more, only two were away from Connah's Quay NR, with 42 at Shotwick boating lake on 30/10 (DWn) and 41 at Cheshire Farm, Flint, on 1/05 (DWn). Away from Connah's Quay NR there were fifteen records from Hendre and eleven from Rhydymwyn. Breeding was confirmed at one location and probable at another two. Just over 84% of records were counts of 1 to 10.



2020

The number of records from Denbs increased dramatically during 2020, with higher counts of birds too. Whether this is an actual increase or whether the lockdown played a part in making some birdwatchers go to places they would not normally go, is hard to tell.

Denbs. A much better recording year for this species with 207 records, a big jump from the previous year's total of 123, which was an all-time high. Double figure flocks were recorded again with six counts of 10 or more, four of which were from Holt, where 30 on 12/12 was the highest count of the year, with 13 at Brymbo on 24/10 and 12 at Sontley on 14/02. There was no confirmed breeding, but probable breeding was recorded at several locations.

Flints. Connah's Quay NR again dominated the records. Of the forty-five records of 10+, only four were not from there. There were three counts of 100 or more from Connah's Quay NR: 100 on both 6/02 and 18/02 and the highest count of the year was 110 on 1/02. Away from this hotspot, 40 were at Plas Bellin on 29/01 and 20 were at Hendre on 12/07. A bird was ringed at Bagillt on 10/09. No records of confirmed breeding were submitted, but a record from Pantymwyn of two in a garden on 12/05 was noted as very unusual for this site (GEM).

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*
Breeding resident.

YSGUTHAN

2019

(WP)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	228	159	228	161
Maximum count	200	300	426	200
Av max count prev 10 years	828	524	828	524
Recorded in BBS squares	26/28	18/18	5/5	2/2
Number of records	1397	1205	1954	2320
% of records from GBW	43.38	16.10	59.02	45.52
% of BirdTrack lists	56.8	-	65.8	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	FL	ON	D

Recorded in each month in both counties. Both areas recorded this species in more 1km squares than in any other documented year.

Denbs. Whilst records were up on the previous year and the number of 1km squares this species was noted in was the highest ever at 228, the biggest flock of the year was the smallest since 2014. Some 200 were seen at Foel Plantation on 13/11 (JoG), which was the only record over 100 for the year. The only notable ‘high’ counts were c.90 at Holt on 2/01 (NF), 74 Lleweni watermeadows on 21/01 (JPH) and 70 at Froncysyllte on 17/05 (DaHu). An interesting record of one being recorded by trail camera at RSPB Conwy on 21/05 may be the start of more records coming in from this method as more people use these cameras. Confirmed breeding came from Llandrillo-yn-Rhos, where fledged young were noted on 20/06, Rhos-y-brithdir on 8/06, Foel Plantation on 17/06 and Minera Quarry NR on 30/05.

Flints. This species was recorded in more 1km squares than ever before, 159, up from 134 the previous year. The number of records received dropped to 1205, the lowest since 2014. The biggest flock recorded for the year was also down with just 300 at Connah’s Quay NR on 26/01 (PeHa), which was the smallest since 2014. There appeared to be no records from visual migration, which may be a reason why the highest counts of the year were down on the previous year; a reduction in observer effort rather than any real decline in the species. There were only three other records involving 100+, all from the Rhyl area, where there were 184 on 8/03, 124 on 2/02 and 119 on 6/03 (all JPH). Just over 70% of all records involved counts of 1 to 9, nearly 15% were 10 to 19 and 14% were of 20 to 99. Breeding records seemed fewer than the previous year, with confirmed breeding noted in Sychdyn, Rhyl and Cilcain.

2020

The number of records received made a huge jump in both counties, presumably as a result

of the lockdown, with more people recording the birds in their gardens, but with more records coming in from garden bird surveys, particularly GBW (check the map of contributors at the front of this report).

Denbs. Three sites recorded flocks of over 100, and 426 was the largest at Lleweni watermeadows on 18/08 with flocks of 120 at Pendre on 1/12 and 118 at Holt on 5/05. The number of overall records for the county increased on the previous year to 1,953, up from 1,397. Breeding was confirmed at Llangollen.

Flints. The number of records received was many more than in 2019, but of these records only 336 were of 10+ and only four were of 100+. The highest count of the year was 200 at Sychdyn on 8/12. The other three figure flocks were 190 at Pantymwyn, 107 on the Clwyd saltmarsh at Rhyl on 1/11 and 105 at Hendre on 8/04. There were no records of confirmed breeding. More than half of the records received were from gardens.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
Breeding resident.

TURTUR DORCHOG

(CD)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	81	85	99	73
Maximum count	19	20	14	75
Av max count prev 10 years	22	47	22	47
Recorded in BBS squares	5/28	11/18	1/5	1/2
Number of records	539	623	789	1190
% of records from GBW	70.50	17.34	80.79	46.53
% of BirdTrack lists	11.8	-	14.9	-
Max breeding evidence	ON	D	NE	-

2019

Recorded in all months in both counties. There was a large reduction in the high counts for both counties in 2019 although their distribution in both areas remained high and even record breaking in Flints.

Denbs. There were only five records of 10+. The highest counts came from Kinmel Bay with 19 on 27/05 and 16 at the same site on 7/01 (both JPH). Confirmed breeding was noted in Wrexham, where there was an occupied nest on 9/02 (GPI). The number of 1km squares this species was recorded in remained the same, the total of 81.

Flints. As with 2018 there were no confirmed reports of breeding. Just over 5% of records were of 10+, and the rest were between 1 to 9. Of the thirty-four records of 10+, twenty-eight



came from the Rhyl area, which accounts for 44% of all records. The largest flock of the year was just 20 on 23/11 at Rhyl Brickworks (NHu). This is the lowest high count since at least 2004, down from 69 in 2018. Other notable flocks included 18 at Cilcain on 13/10 (GEM) and 17 on the saltmarsh at the Afon Clwyd near Rhyl on 5/11(JPH). Whilst the high count was low, the number of 1km squares this species was recorded in was up to 85, the most in a single year on record.

2020

Recorded in all months in both counties.

Denbs. Three records of 10+ is a slight decline on the previous year. The largest flock recorded was 14 at Lleweni watermeadows on 30/11, with 11 at Bwlchgwyn on 15/11 and 10 in Wrexham on 26/06. Breeding was confirmed at Lleweni watermeadows. The vast majority of records involved single figure counts from gardens where of the 788 records 633 were from GBW (80%).

Flints. Rhyl dominated the records in terms of the largest flocks recorded. Of the fifty-five records of 10+ only four were not from the Rhyl area. The largest flock was 75 in Rhyl on 10/09 (WRM). Other large flocks away from there were 50 at Broughton on 10/09, 14 at Cilcain on 25/11, 13 at Berthengam on 16/08 and 11 at Rhydymwyn on 8/12. There were no records of confirmed breeding.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

RHEGEN Y DWR

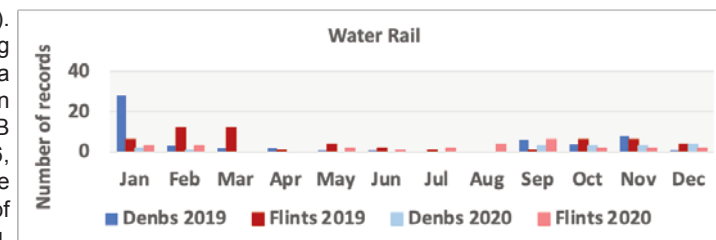
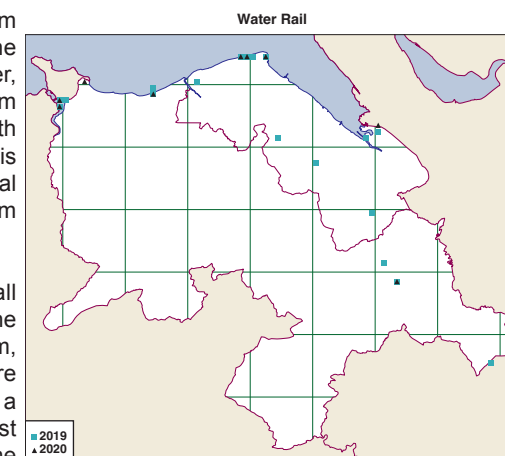
Breeding resident and winter visitor. RBBP.

(WA)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	8	10	5	4
Maximum count	12	5	3	4
Av max count prev 10 years	9	3	9	3
Number of records	56	56	16	27
% of BirdTrack lists	1.6	-	1.1	-
Max breeding evidence	-	A	-	FL

2019

The numbers of records received from Denbs was slightly up on 2018. The highest count of the year was also higher, up seven to 12. Most records came from the first three and last three months, with a handful of summer records. In Flints this bird remains almost exclusively a coastal species, with only a few records from inland sites.

Denbs. As with 2018, almost 86% of all the records came from RSPB Conwy. The only other records were from Wrexham, Fenn's Moss and Pensarn. Twelve were heard on 25/01 at RSPB Conwy during a tape lure survey. This was the highest count of the year, with 5 on the 9/01 at the same site (pTW). The only breeding code entered was a bird singing on territory at RSPB Conwy on 1/06, indicating possible breeding. A count of 4 at Erddig, Wrexham, on 2/04 (NHu) was a notable high count away from RSPB Conwy.



Flints. The area from Gronant to Point of Ayr is the most productive in the county for this species; almost 84% of records came from there. Whilst breeding was not confirmed, there were possibly three territories, with birds showing agitated behaviour recorded at Gronant on 24/06 (WRM). Another 5 were recorded around this site on the same date, the highest count of the year. Away from the coast, the only records were of singles at Ysceifiog, Ddol Reservoir on 26/03 (GRMP) and at Rhydymwyn on 20/02 (MD).

2020

There were fewer records from both counties. As access to sites where most records come

from was restricted due to lockdown, this may account for the decline.

Denbs. Records were down from previous years, with only sixteen records. Presumably lockdown in spring meant reduced coverage of RSPB Conwy, a stronghold for records of this species in the county. The highest count of the year came from this site where 3 were noted on the 20/11. Away from there, singles were recorded at Erddig in Sep, Nov and Dec and a single was at Pensarn on 25/12. No breeding was noted in the records.

Flints. All but two records came from the Gronant area. A single was at Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 3/05 and a single was at Talacre on 17/10. Birds were recorded during the summer months at Gronant, including hearing begging young on 8/07 (WRM), but the highest number recorded came on 10/01, when 4 were recorded (WRM).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

IAR DWR

Breeding resident

(MH)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	56	46	60	54
Maximum count	28	50	30	20
Av max count prev 10 years	27	29	27	29
Recorded in BBS squares	2/28	3/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	399	574	418	576
% of records from GBW	9.77	0	9.75	1.85
% of BirdTrack lists	25.1	-	26.8	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY	NY	FL

2019

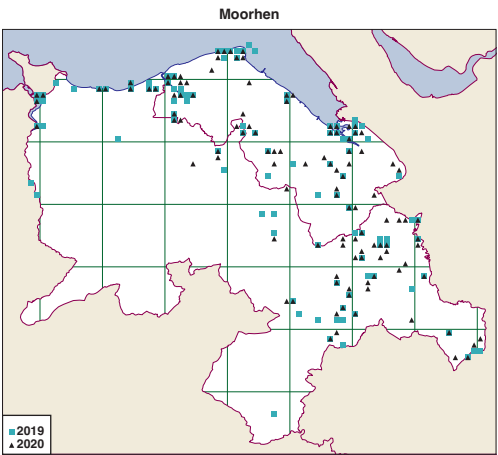
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. There were thirteen counts of 10+, with 28 at RSPB Conwy on 26/10. This was the highest count of the year (JPH). Some 45% of all records came from there. Nearly 49% of records were of singles. Breeding was confirmed at seven sites.

Flints. The numbers of records received for the year was up from the previous and is the highest on record at 574. Just over 94% of records were of 1 to 9. The biggest flock recorded was at Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, where there were 50 on 15/02 (PCh), the highest count in the county since 2014. Confirmed breeding was noted at seven locations.

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties.



Moorhen: Andy Davis

Denbs. Thirty-four of the records received were of 10+, mostly from RSPB Conwy, where 30 were seen on 10/09 (JPH). At Sydalit, 19 were present on 6/02, 17 were at Pensarn on 17/10 and 12 at Acton Park on 2/04. Breeding was confirmed at Holt, Acrefair, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Windy Hill, Sydalit, Hanmer, Wrexham, and Bodfari.

Flints. Despite lockdown there were two extra records compared with 2019. Fifty-two of them involved counts of 10+. Most of the double figure flocks came from Connah's Quay NR, where the largest flock was 20 on 2/10 (JuR). Away from there, other notable counts included 18 at Buckley on 4/11, 14 at Greenfield on 14/07, 14 at Rhyl Brickworks on 30/07 and 14 at Gronant on 21/09. Breeding records were few but it was confirmed at Rhyl on 12/07 where an adult was seen with 2 chicks. There was an interesting record of 4 flying over a Queensferry garden at 01:30 whilst the occupant was checking a moth trap on 6/04. Subsequently, birds were heard from the same garden on another four nights.

Coot *Fulica atra*

CWTIAR

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

(CO)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	41	41	42	39
Maximum count	60	127	80	167
Av max count prev 10 years	43	107	43	107
Recorded in BBS squares	3/28	1/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	324	570	324	583
% of records from GBW	0.31	-	-	-
% of BirdTrack lists	24.7	-	26.8	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY	NY	ON

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties.

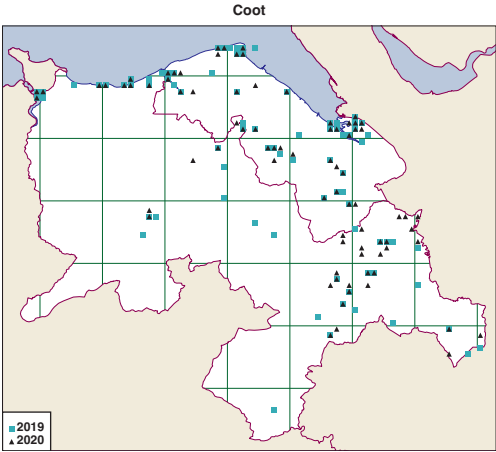
Denbs. A count of 60 at Hanmer on 26/01 (SD) was the highest in the county since 2010. Almost 55% of all records came from RSPB Conwy, where high counts of 50 on 26/11 (SvK) and 46 on 17/11 (WeBS) were noted. Breeding was confirmed at Pensarn, Llanddulas, Erddig, Glan y Wern, Colwyn Bay and RSPB Conwy.

Flints. There was a return to three-figure flocks, with five records of 100+, all from Shotwick boating lake. The highest counts were 127 on 15/09 (WeBS), 126 on 16/11 (GrJ) and 120 on 30/10 (DWn). Other notable high counts came from Rhyl Brickworks, where 83 were present on 1/11 (JPH), 73 at Shotton Steelworks (WeBS) on 4/08 and 65 at Ysceifiog Lake on 31/12 (SD). 58% of records received were counts of 1 to 9. Breeding was confirmed at Connah's Quay NR, Rhyl Brickworks, Gronant, Buckley, Hendre, Fagl Lane GP, Padeswood, Leeswood Farm and Shotton Paper Mill.

2020



Coot: Andy Davis



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. A flock of 80 at Sydalit on 11/02 (DuH) was the highest count of the year, 20 more than the previous year's highest count. Seventy-seven of the records involved 10+. RSPB Conwy produced most of these records, where 42 on 4/01 was the year's peak count. At Hanmer, 44 on 20/09 was another notable high count during the year. Breeding was confirmed in Erddig, Pensarn, Llanddulas, Ffrith, Brymbo, Hanmer and Rhosllanerchrugog.

Flints. There were seven three figure flocks recorded: 167 was the highest count at Connah's Quay NR on 9/11 (JuR), where five other 100+ flocks were recorded during Sep, Oct and Nov. The only other 100+ record came from Shotton Steelworks on 23/08, where 107 were recorded. There were very few records from Shotwick boating lake, normally a stronghold for this species in the county. Of the records from there, the highest count was 60 on 3/01. Rhyl Brickworks had a high count of 92 on 3/01. Breeding was confirmed at Hendre, Nannerch, Rhyl and Gronant.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

GWYACH FACH

Breeding resident.

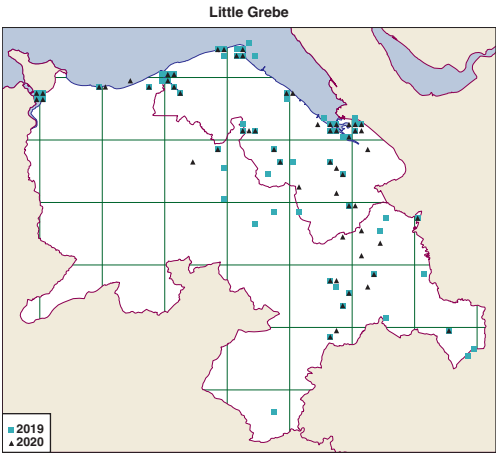
(LG)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Common	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	29	37	25	35
Maximum count	19	87	11	32
Av max count prev 10 years	11	37	11	37
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	0/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	229	482	259	414
% of BirdTrack lists	22.5	-	23.6	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	ON	FL	FL

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Over 66% of all records came from RSPB Conwy, where the only double figure flocks of the year were recorded: 19 on 20/08 was the highest of the year (JPH), with 15 on 20/09 (PN), 15 on 5/11 (EJB), 12 on 14/08 and 11 on both 14/03 and 8/09 (all JPH). The only other notable high count came from Hanmer Mere, where 9 were seen on 15/11 (DIHd). Breeding was confirmed at RSPB Conwy, Llanddulas and Llewenni watermeadows.

Flints. The largest flock of the year, and indeed the largest since at least 2004, was from Shotwick boating lake, where 87 were present on 15/09 (WeBS). There were five more records of 20+ from this site, including 48 on 20/01, 38 on 3/12, 36 on 25/11, 33 on 16/11 and



22 on 11/11 (all GrJ). Away from there, high counts from other sites included 16 at Connah's Quay NR on 18/10 and 31/10 (PeHa), 11 on 15/12 at Ysceifiog Reservoir (WeBS) and 10 on the Afon Clwyd at Rhyl on 25/12 (JPH). Breeding was confirmed at Cilcain, Gronant, Hendre, Connah's Quay NR and Rhyl.

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. RSPB Conwy held the highest flock for the year, 11 on 26/09 (JHg). The only other site with 10+ was Hanmer Mere, where there were 10 on 11/12. Breeding was confirmed at Llanddulas, Frith, Acrefair, Erdding and Rhosllanerchrugog.

Flints. A lack of coverage or records received from Shotwick boating lake may explain the drop in highest flock count from the previous year. Only 32 were recorded there on 3/01 (DWn), down from 87 the previous year. Nineteen of the 415 records involved were of 10+. Connah's Quay NR held 26 on 9/10, with other counts of 12 at Rhyl on 2/02 and 12 at Ysceifiog on 20/09. The only breeding records received were confirmed breeding at Gronant and Rhyl.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

GWYBODAETHYD FAWR GOPOG

(GG)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	40	19	32	21
Maximum count	128	16	100	7
Av max count prev 10 years	114	16	114	16
Number of records	212	185	141	235
% of BirdTrack lists	12.3	-	8.0	-
Density	2.59	0.52	1.62	0.25
Max breeding evidence	ON	FL	ON	-

2019



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. For the first time since 2013 there was a flock of 100+ recorded. There were 128 seen off Pensarn on 27/02, which was by far the highest count of the year (WRM), with the next highest flock, 20 off Colwyn Bay on 20/01 (WeBS). Only another seven records were in double figures, with the bulk of the records, 95%, of 1 to 8. In total this species was recorded in 40 1km squares during the year, the highest on record for the county. Confirmed breeding came from Llyn Bran, Llyn Brenig and Pont-y-Clogwyn.

Flints. There were only two records in double figures,

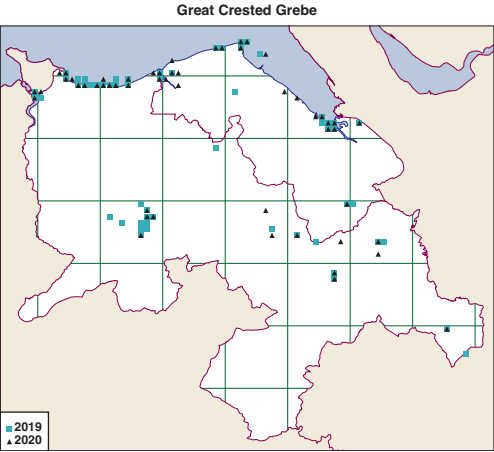
Great Crested Grebe: Alan Smethurst

16 seen from Connah's Quay NR on the Dee estuary on 28/08 (DWn) and 11 from the same site on 2/06 (PeHa). The only other notable counts were 8 at Fagl Lane Gravel Pit on 21/03, with 7 there on 9/01 (both GNR) and 7 at Shotwick boating lake on 30/10 (DWn). The number of records received jumped from 116 in 2018 to 185 for 2019. Breeding was confirmed at Fagl Lane Gravel Pits, where fledged young were seen on 13/08 (GNR).

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. A record of 100 off Llanddulas on 19/12 was the highest count of the year. After that, the next highest count was 30 off Colwyn Bay on 24/02. In total there were fifteen



Great Crested Grebe:
Andy Davis

records of 10+. Breeding was confirmed at Brymbo, Gresford and Llyn Brenig.

Flints. There were no double figure flocks were recorded this year. The highest count was 7 at Connah's Quay NR on 20/09 (WeBS). Fagl Lane held 6 on 13/06 and Rhyl Brickworks had 4 on 17/11. There were no records of confirmed breeding.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* GWYACH GORNIOG
Winter visitor. Red List. RBBP.

(SZ)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares				1
Maximum count				2
Av max count prev 10 years				1
Number of records	0	0	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists				-

2020

Flints. There were 2 seen off Llannerch-y-Mor, feeding in the shallows at low tide on 10/12 (JoG).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* GWYACH YDDFDDU
Occasional visitor.



Black-necked Grebe:
Andy Davis

(BN)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	1		
Maximum count	2	3		
Number of records	4	5	0	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0	-		
Max breeding evidence	-	D		

2019

Denbs. There were 2 present at Gresford Flash on the 1/04 (HL, JBW).

Flints. There were 3 at Shotwick boating lake between 6/05 and 7/05 (GrJ, DWn).

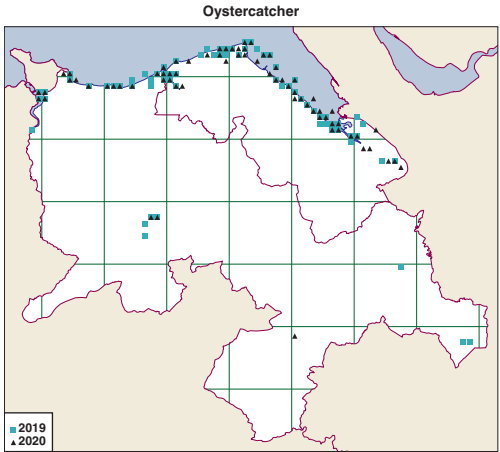
Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* PIODEN FÛR
Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

(OC)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	27	44	20	50
Maximum count	486	6000	415	8000
Av max count prev 10 years	609	7425	609	7425
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	2/18	0/5	1/2
Number of records	263	506	224	453
% of BirdTrack lists	27.8	-	25.0	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY	NY	NY

2019

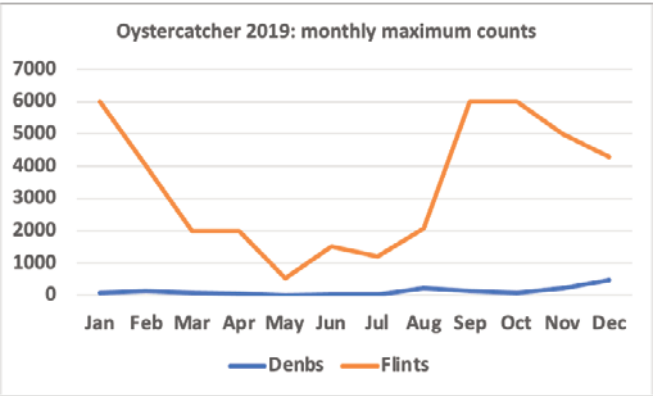
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The chart (page 90) shows that there are many fewer in Denbs than in Flints, regardless of the time of year. The majority of records were of presence only. During the first half of the year, the highest counts were 87 at Llanddulas on 20/01, 146 near Kinmel Bay on 7/02, 67 on 1/03, dropping to a high count of 45 at RSPB Conwy on 20/04 for Apr to Jun. During the second half of the year, Jul was quiet, but numbers increased during Aug, possibly with the arrival of migrants or juveniles. Numbers dropped during Sep and Oct, but increased in Nov when the highest count was 220 near Towyn on 17/11, and Dec with a high count of 486 at Kinmel Bay on 31/12.

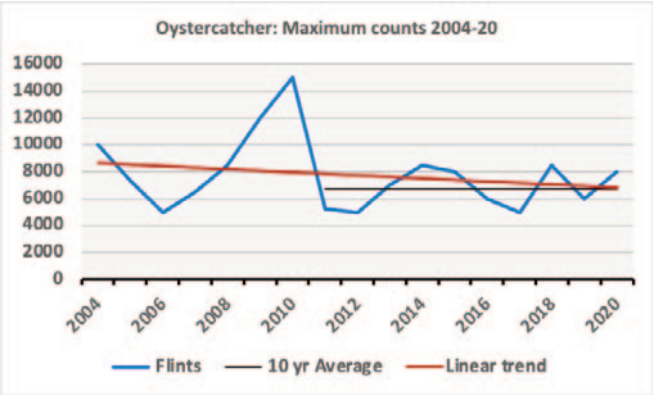


Flints. Only a few records were of presence only. All but one of the highest counts were from WeBS. The year started with a Jan maximum of 6,000 at Point of Ayr on 20/01. A month later,

the Feb maximum, 4,000, was there on 24/02, though most other counts in Feb were many fewer than 1,000. The Mar maximum was 2,000 on 24/03 and all other counts were less than 800. There were still 2,000 at Point of Ayr on 21/04, with 1,000 at Ffynnongroyw the same day. During May, the highest count was 540 at Point of Ayr on 19/05, with a considerable increase to 1,500 at Ffynnongroyw on 16/06, and 1,200 were there on 7/07. The Aug maximum was 2,064 at Ffynnongroyw on 5/08, with several other counts of 1,200 to 1,283. There were more large counts in Sep (1,000 to 2,500), with the highest count of 6,000 at Point of Ayr on 15/09. That maximum was repeated there on 13/10 and at Talacre on 31/10 (GR). The Nov maximum was 5,000 at Point of Ayr on 17/11 and the Dec maximum was 4,300 at Ffynnongroyw on 15/12.



The maximum count was below the ten-year average. The linear trend over the ten years shows a gradual decline. This suggests that there is no major change in the wintering population, but that there are considerable differences from year to year. Breeding was confirmed at two locations.



2020

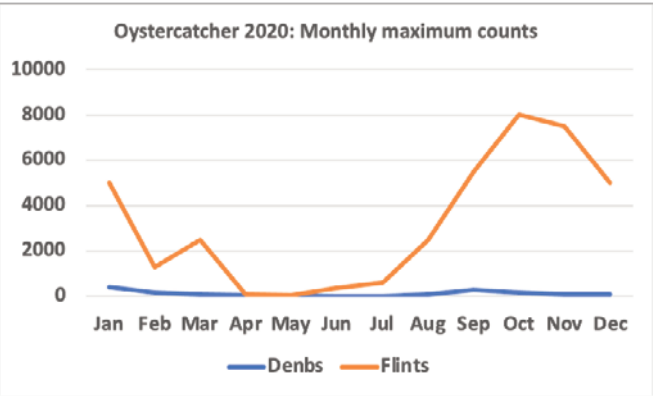
Recorded each month in both counties. The pattern of counts through the year was similar to 2019.

Denbs. Again, the majority of records were of presence only. Although the maximum count for the year was more than in 2019, the gradual trend of reducing maxima continued. The table, below, shows the maximum counts in each month. Numbers dropped after Feb with very few present during Jun and Jul, mainly at RSPB Conwy or near Kinnel Bay. A pair was recorded at Llyn Brenig on 14/07, but the only record of confirmed breeding was near Kinnel Bay on 19/07 and 21/07 (WRM). A few days later 10 were there on 29/07. The maximum counts for the remaining months suggested some passage during Sep and Oct, with only small numbers

(OC)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	415	178	74	35	38	15	10	69	274	140	98	83
Flints	5000	1300	2500	75	52	362	600	2500	5500	8000	7500	5000

present at the end of the year.

Flints. The reduction in numbers, shown for Nov and Dec 2019, continued through to Apr 2020. The relative lack of birds was during Apr to Jun, a shorter period than in Denbs. A WeBS count of 600 near Greenfield on 5/07 was the first evidence of birds returning from breeding areas. During Aug to Oct, large numbers returned, mainly to sites from Gronant to Connah's Quay, but many were on passage, as the maximum reduced by 3,000 by 6/12, a WeBS count of 5,000 at Point of Ayr.



Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Becoming a regular resident. Amber List.

CAMBIG

	2019		2020	
(AV)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares		2		6
Maximum count		13		8
Av max count prev 10 years		16		16
Number of records	0	4	0	26
% of BirdTrack lists		-	-	-

2019

Flints. There were four WeBS records from the inner Dee estuary – 1 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 24/02, 13 at White Sands on 14/06, 3 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 15/09 and one there on 17/11.

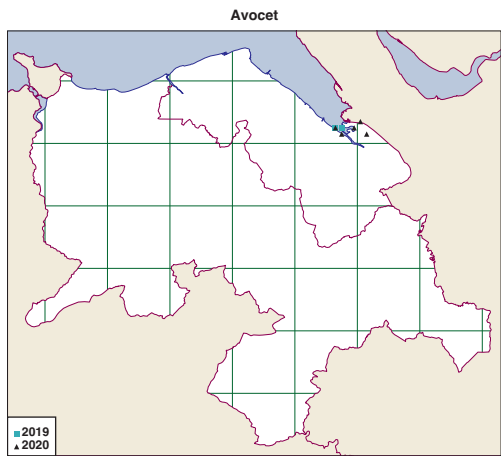
2020

Flints. Twenty of the records were of presumably the same single at RSPB Conwy and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh during Jan. There were two records in Mar, then 8 were at Border Pool, RSPB



Avocet: David Eisner

Burton Mere Wetlands on 3/05 (DWn) and later 6 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 7/09 (PeHa).



Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Breeding resident (just), passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

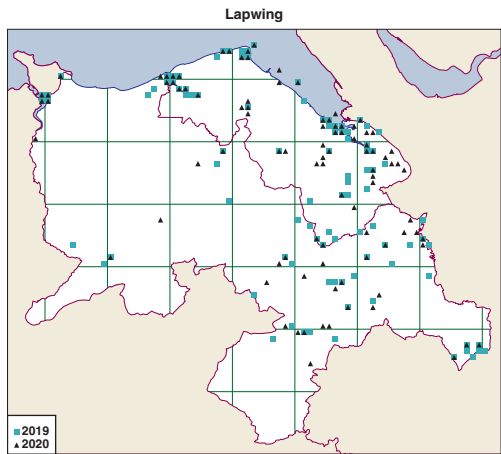
CORNCHWIGLEN

(L)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	50	50	42	52
Maximum count	3000	2488	1500	1684
Av max count prev 10 years	1750	2829	1750	2829
Recorded in BBS squares	3/28	3/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	202	466	174	399
% of BirdTrack lists	21.1	-	20.2	-
Max breeding evidence	FL	D	FL	D

2019

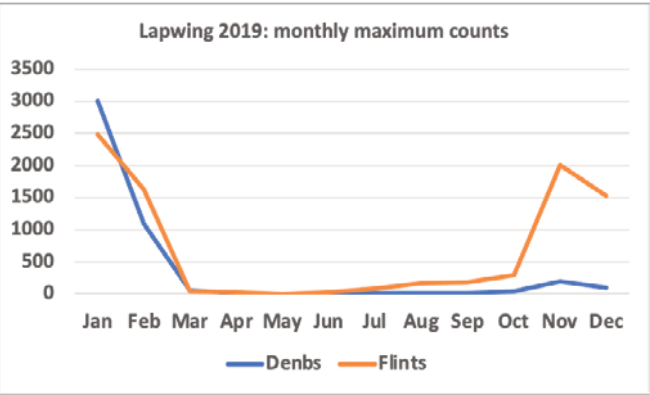
Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. The chart shows just one count higher than in Flints. This was during Jan, when there was a maximum of 3,000 at Kinnel Bay on 17/01, which meant there had been a large influx of birds during the month after 20/12/2018. There were two other large counts, there, during the first quarter: 1,000 on 10/02 and 1,100 on 15/02. All other counts were between 1 and 500. During the second quarter, counts were between 1 and 17. Jul to Oct saw virtually no increases, with counts of 1 to 40. The last quarter saw a slight increase, with most counts of 1 to 80 and three larger: 86 near Bodfari on 11/12, 104 there on 23/12 (JPH) and 200 at Kinnel



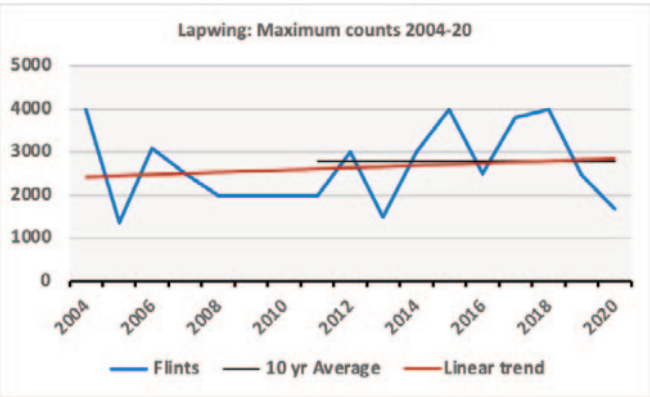
Bay on 27/11. There was one record of confirmed breeding at Fenn's Moss.

Flints. During Jan to Mar there were five counts of 1,000+. In chronological order they were: 1,015 S of Rhyl on 4/01 (JPH), 2,488 there on 17/01 (JPH), 2,000 there on 20/01 (WRM) 1,000 at Point of Ayr on 20/01 and 1,624 S of Rhyl on 6/02 (JPH). Other counts were 1 to 800. There were very few during Apr to Jun with a maximum of 27 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 19/04 and 34 there on 5/06 during BBS counts (IMS). There were modest increases during the third quarter, with maxima of 90 at Connah's Quay NR on 7/07, 160 S of Rhyl on 1/08 (WRM) and 178 there on 3/09 (JPH). During Oct, counts remained relatively low, with a maximum of 300 at Connah's Quay NR on 18/10 (PeHa, DWn). Birds returned from breeding areas for Nov and Dec with most counts in Nov of less than 700 and a maximum of 2,000 at Shotwick Fields on 25/11 (CW). During Dec there were five counts of 1,000 or more: 1,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 5/12, 9/12 and 28/12 (PeHa), 1,000 at Point of Ayr on 15/12 and 1,522 S of Rhyl on 22/12 (JPH). There were no records of confirmed breeding.



Lapwing: Tony Pope

The highest count was just lower than the ten-year





average, though there is a slight trend of increasing numbers despite much variation over the years.

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

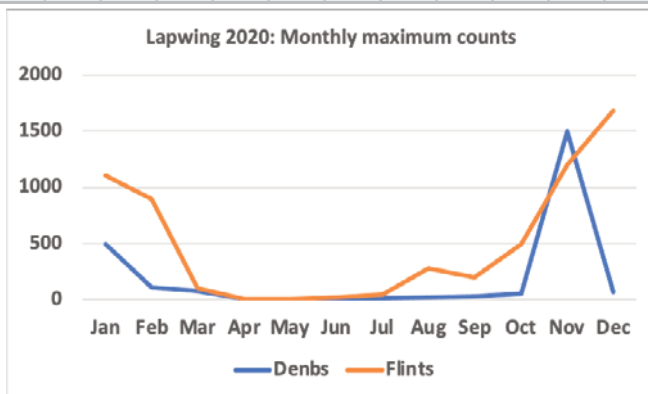
Denbs. There was a fairly large increase between the latter half of Dec 2019 and the count of 500 at Kinmel Bay on 9/01 (EJB). There were then just small numbers recorded until Oct, with most of the records from RSPB Conwy. There were 57 there on 14/10 (JPH) and an unusually large count of 1,500 was near Kinmel Bay on 14/11 (EJB). The highest count in Dec was 75 at RSPB Conwy on 1/12 (SvK). There was one record of confirmed breeding near Llay.

Lapwing: Tony Pope

Maximum counts each month:

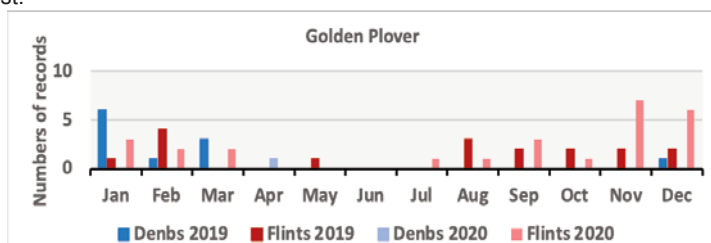
(L)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	500	108	80	10	9	11	17	20	30	57	1500	75
Flints	1108	900	100	8	9	24	45	281	200	500	1200	1684

Flints. A decline in counts, that started in Nov 2019, continued to Mar. There were no records of confirmed breeding and a near total absence during Apr and May, though there were some records from various inland locations. The first larger count in 'autumn' was 200 at Connah's Quay NR on 13/08 (DvHy). After a slight dip during Sep, numbers increased to the maximum of 1,684 S of Rhyl on 29/12 (JPH).



Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*
Winter visitor. Red List.

CWTIAD AUR

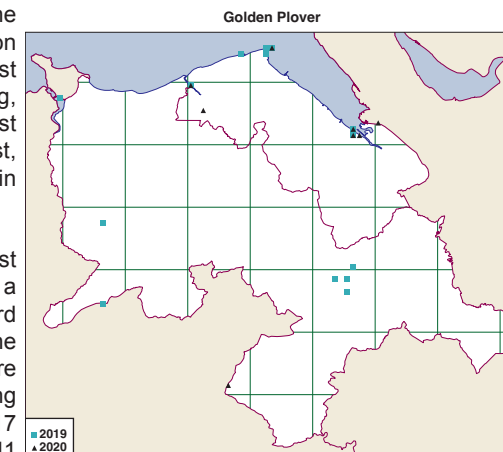


(GP)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Fairly common	Scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	7	7	1	7
Maximum count	20	30	2	235
Av max count prev 10 years	69	123	69	125
Number of records	11	17	1	26
% of BirdTrack lists	0.9	-	0.8	-
Max breeding evidence	P	-	-	-

2019

Denbs. All but one record were during the first quarter, with a maximum of 20 on Ruabon Mountain on 24/03 and the last spring record of 2 at Moel Seisiog, Mynydd Hiraethog, on 26/03. The last record was 20 at Carnedd Filiast, Migneint, on 6/12, on blanket bog in appalling weather (DSt).

Flints. During Jan and Feb, the highest count was 30 at Point of Ayr during a WeBS count on 24/02. The next record was a single near Gronant on 15/05. The first autumn record was a single at Talacre on 4/08, then 2 S of Rhyl on 27/08. During the last quarter, the highest count was 17 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 27/11 (DWN).



2020

Denbs. The only record was a possible pair at Moel Sych on 16/04 (DRR).

Flints. During Jan to Mar, all but two records were of singles, with 5 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 8/01 (PeHa). The highest count was c.235 flying over RSPB Oakenholt Marsh towards RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 14/03 (DWN). That was the last record in the early winter months. The first record of 'autumn' was a single during a WeBS count at Point of Ayr on 5/07. During Aug to Oct counts were 1 to 3 with then the highest count of 34 S of Rhyl on 28/11 (JPH). For the rest of the year counts were just 1 to 4.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
Winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

CWTIAD LLWYD

2019

Denbs. There was a single near Kinmel Bay on 4/12.

Flints. There were nearly twice as many records during the last quarter as during the first three

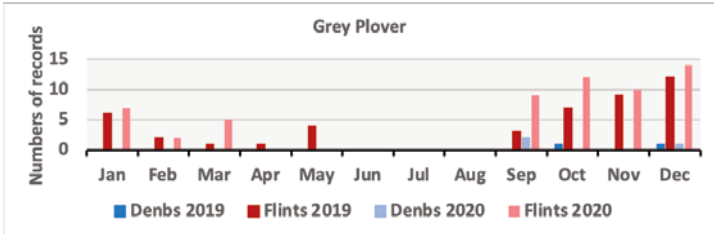
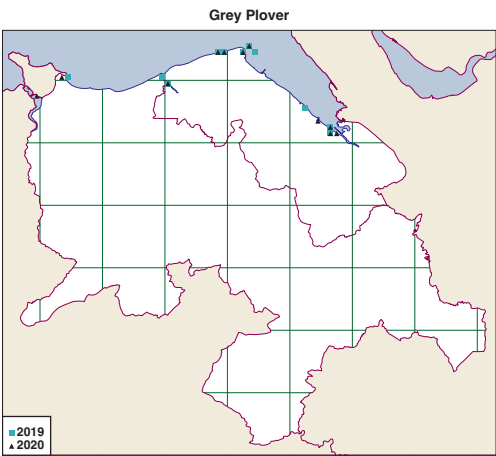
(GV)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Common	Very scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	2	9	2	9
Maximum count	1	64	6	33
Av max count prev 10 years	2	53	2	53
Number of records	1	45	3	59
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	-	0.8	-

quarters. During Jan to Mar the highest count was a WeBS count at Point of Ayr on 20/01, when there were 42. The next highest count was 15 during a WeBS count near Gronant on 22/01. During Apr and May the highest count was 4 at Connah's Quay NR on 9/05, with the last spring record of a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 19/05. The next record was 3 during a WeBS count at Point of Ayr on 13/10. From then to the end of the year, records were mainly from near Gronant or RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, with the highest count of 64 at Gronant dunes on 16/12 (WRM).

2020

Denbs. There were just three records – two singles and 6 on 26/12 at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos.

Flints. During Jan to Mar there were fourteen records, with maxima of 8 on 23/01 at Point of Ayr (SvK), 2 on 11/02 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and 21 at Gronant dunes on 9/03 (RLE). The last early winter record was 11 at Gronant dunes on 14/03 (WRM), followed by absence until a single at Point of Ayr on 14/09. The maxima for the remaining months were: 17 on 1/10 at Gronant dunes (WRM), 33 during a WeBS count at Point of Ayr on 15/11 and 22 at Gronant dunes on 17/12 (WRM).



Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* CWTIAD TORCHOG
Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

2019

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. During Jan to Aug only small numbers were recorded, mainly 1 to 6, with 9 near Kinmel

(RP)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	12	17	7	16
Maximum count	135	88	35	276
Av max count prev 10 years	77	209	77	209
Number of records	46	148	32	137
% of BirdTrack lists	4.2	-	4.0	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY	-	NY

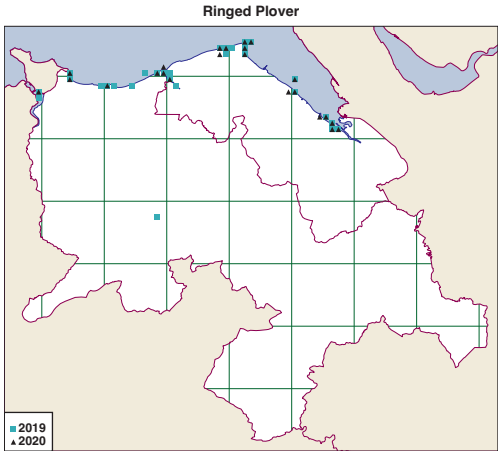
Bay on 20/01 (JPH) as the highest count. The next 'high' count was 135 near Towyn on 17/11 (WeBS). There was one record of confirmed breeding.

Flints. During the first three months, the highest count was early in the period, with 40 by the gas terminal, Talacre, on 8/01 (JoG). There were 39 at Gronant dunes on 6/03 and 34 there on 29/03 (WRM). Other counts were 1 to 22. During Apr to Jun, the highest count was also early, with 30 near Gronant on 21/04 (WeBS). Others were 1 to 20. The third quarter provided most records, with three relatively high counts: 62 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 9/08 (DWn), 65 S of Rhyl on 18/08 (WRM) and 88 at Point of Ayr on 4/09 (DWn). The last quarter was quiet with few records and few birds. The highest count (WeBS) was 40 near Gronant on 17/11. Other counts were 1 to 24. There were three records of confirmed breeding, one of which was possibly up to five pairs.

2020

Recorded each month in both counties except Jul in Denbs.

Denbs. In contrast to some other waders, only two of the records were from RSPB Conwy, with most from near Kinmel Bay. Counts were low through the year, with a hint of autumn migration. There were no records of confirmed breeding.



Maximum counts each month:

(RP)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	15	20	3	2	2	1		20	25	35	10	2
Flints	23	35	40	53	24	14	30	276	175	23	14	16

Flints. Counts were higher than in Denbs, again, with evidence of migration during Aug and Sep. Those two highest counts were 276 from near Gronant on 23/08 and 175 at Point of Ayr on 14/09. Although no records had breeding codes, there were comments that chicks or eggs were seen, so breeding was confirmed at three locations.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(RP)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant			22				13	276	118	23		16
Point of Ayr			1				6	200	12			
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh								25			1	

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

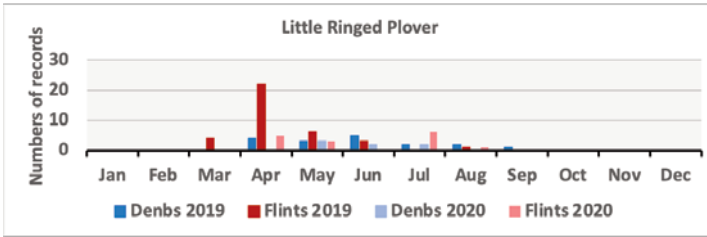
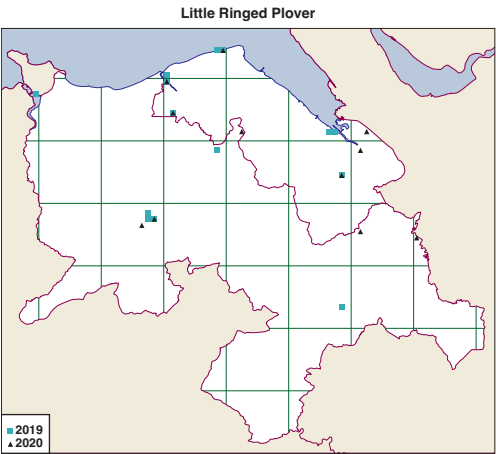
Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

(LP)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	6	8	5	6
Maximum count	3	3	7	4
Av max count prev 10 years	3	4	3	4
Number of records	17	36	7	15
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	-	0.9	-
Max breeding evidence	ON	NY	P	D

2019

Denbs. The first record was 2 near Acrefair on 7/04 and the last was a single at Llyn Brenig on 3/09. There were eight records from Llyn Brenig by WRM. A maximum of 3 was seen on 11/07. On 10/06, one which had been sitting on a nest (presumably with eggs) managed to deter 2 Canada Geese from approaching too closely. A fully grown juvenile was there on 11/07, but no young chicks were seen.

Flints. The first record was a single, S of Rhyl on 23/03. The last was a juvenile in the carpark at Marsh Tracks on 29/08. The highest count was 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 25/03. All other records were 1 or 2. Breeding activity (code NE with 4 eggs) was seen at St Asaph Business Park on 21/04, but the nest was disturbed by a dog-walker and



subsequently found to have failed. There was another nest at the BMX park near Rhyl on 2/06 (codes NE and NY), but only small chicks were ever seen by WRM, so breeding failure was presumed.

2020

Denbs. The first record was 2 at Llay Pool on 7/05, and the last was 2 at Llyn Brenig on 19/07 (JPH). The highest count was 7 at Llyn Brenig on 14/07, which included at least one pair (WRM) which was the highest evidence of breeding.

Flints. The first record was 2 at St Asaph Business Park on 2/04 (SH) and the last was 2 at Gronant dunes on 6/08 (WRM). The highest count was 4 at Shotwick Fields on 3/05 (DWn). The best evidence of breeding was display, seen at one location.



Little Ringed Plover: Tony Pope

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

COEGYLFINIR

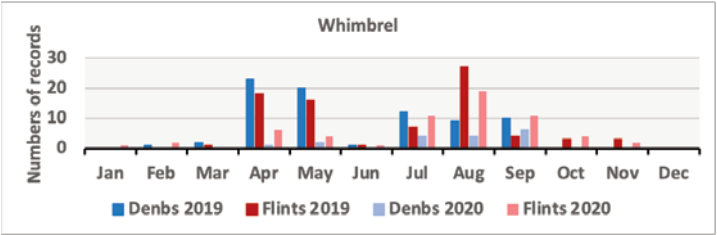
Passage migrant. Amber List.

(WM)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	4	10	4	10
Maximum count	16	24	12	33
Av max count prev 10 years	29	28	29	28
Number of records	78	80	17	61
% of BirdTrack lists	4.4	-	3.8	-

2019

Denbs. The first record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 26/02 and the last was there on 27/09. All records were from RSPB Conwy and only 1 or 2 were seen until 26/04, when there were 11, which were also seen on 28/04 (AnBa). There were 13 on 1/05 and 16 on 17/05 (SH). Thereafter, the highest count was 7 on 20/09.

Flints. The first record was a single S of Rhyl on 28/03 and the last was a single, there, on 16/11. The highest counts were all during Apr as part of the spring migration. At Flint saltmarsh,

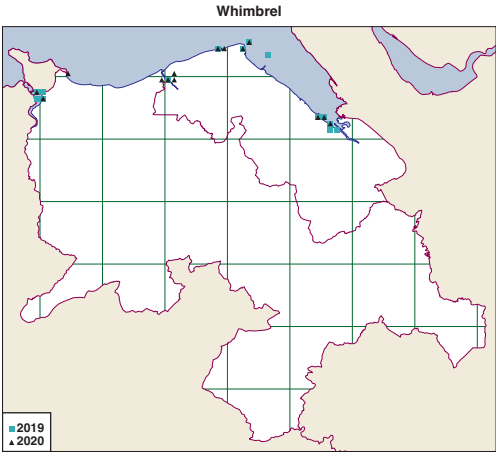


24 were seen on 21/04 (DWn) and 12 were at Point of Ayr on the same day. For the other months most counts were 1 to 4 with 8 at Connah's Quay NR on 7/05 (DWn), 8 S of Rhyl on 9/05 (WRM), 8 at Ffynnongroyw on 5/08 and 9 at Connah's Quay NR on 17/08 (PSH).

2020

Denbs. The majority of records were from RSPB Conwy, where the first was a count of 12 on 24/04 (JFJ) and the last record was a single on 19/09 (JPH). Many records were of presence or singles and the other 'high' count was 3 there on 24/07.

Flints. The first record was very early, a single S of Rhyl on 29/01 (WRM). There were records in every month, except Mar and Dec, though over half were during Aug to Nov. The spring high count was 33 at Talacre on 24/04 (GrJ). There were then counts of 1 to 9 until 18/08. The highest count in autumn was a single record of 10 on 23/08, at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa), which suggests a poor autumn passage. The last record was single S of Rhyl on 11/11 (JPH).



Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Breeding resident (just), passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

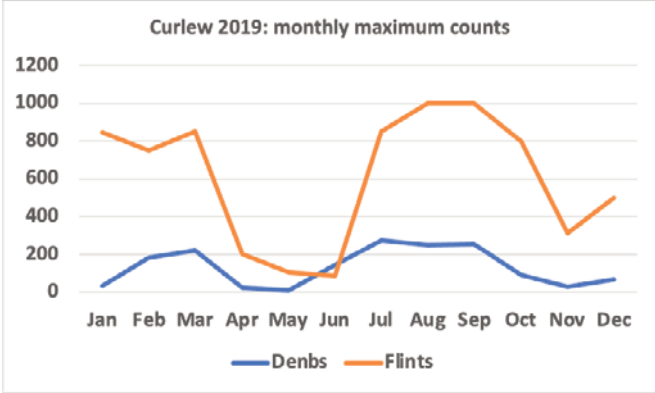
GYLFINIR

(CU)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	97	56	77	49
Maximum count	276	1000	219	1000
Av max count prev 10 years	390	1480	390	1480
Recorded in BBS squares	5/28	1/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	331	577	268	598
% of BirdTrack lists	26.5	-	21.5	-
Max breeding evidence	A	-	D	-

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The chart and table show the pattern and actual maximum counts for each month. The counts were higher than in 2018. There was a similar dip during Apr, May and Jun, when Curlew should be breeding inland. There were no records of

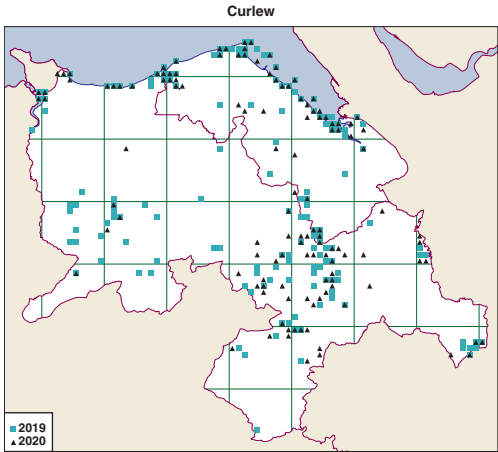


confirmed breeding, only a few of possible breeding. This gives further evidence of the decline of breeding Curlew that is seen across Wales. During Jan to Apr, most records were from coastal locations, particularly Kinmel Bay and RSPB Conwy. During May and Jun, records were widespread inland. From Jul to the end of the year most records were from RSPB Conwy.

Flints. The pattern of maximum counts was broadly similar to 2018. There is a restricted number of locations that could potentially be used for breeding with the majority of records were from places on,

Maximum counts each month:

(CU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	35	183	221	25	9	144	276	250	257	92	30	68
Flints	845	750	850	200	108	87	850	1000	1000	800	313	500



or close to, the coast of the sea or Dee estuary. There were no records with breeding codes. The increase in maximum counts during Jul to Oct related to migrants that stayed for a while, but then moved away to wintering sites elsewhere. The maximum count for the year was a bit lower than the ten-year average, but there is still a trend of gradual increase in numbers.

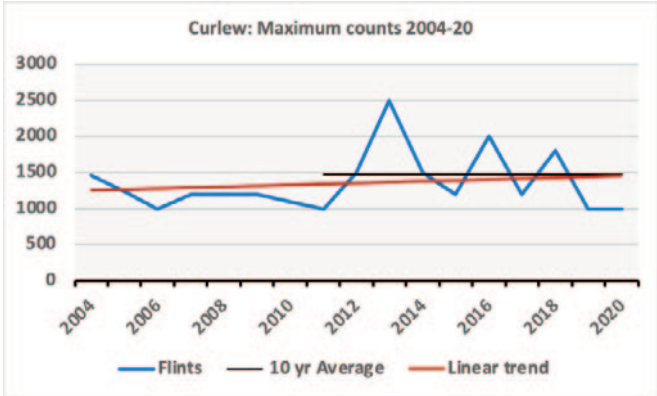
WeBS counts from selected sites:

(CU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	21	183	221	4	2	8	139	145	257	92	5	68
Point of Ayr	450	750	850	200	108	87	850	1000	1000	800		500
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	11	32	25	24	12	5	10	33	60		10	11

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. About one third of records were of presence only. The chart and table show the pattern of maximum counts through the year. They were broadly similar to 2019. There was an almost complete absence of Curlew during Apr to Jun. There were just four breeding codes during that period, with none higher than D (courtship and display). Where have our breeding Curlew gone? Small peaks in Jul and Oct may have indicated some migration.



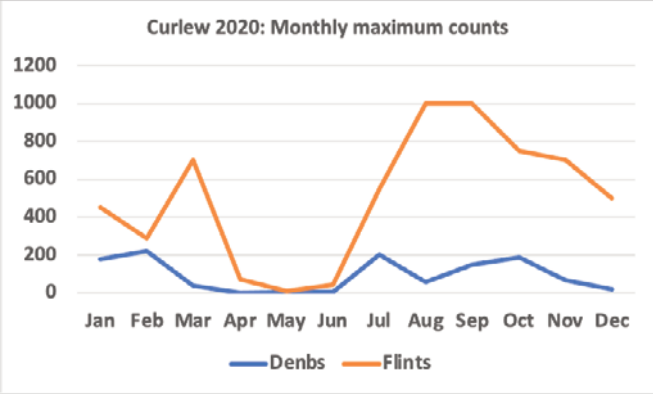
Maximum counts each month:

(CU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	180	219	40	2	3	5	200	58	150	188	67	20
Flints	450	287	700	70	9	45	550	1000	1000	750	700	500

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(CU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	153	60	37						74	188	29	18
Point of Ayr	450		700				550	1000	1000	750	700	500
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	12		52					46	20	7	20	25

Flints. The chart shows that the maximum counts each year show a very slight increase in trend, with variations above and below the ten-year mean. The pattern of maximum counts by month is broadly similar to that in 2019. In both these years, the early maximum was much lower than in 2018. The count of 700 on 14/03 was at Talacre. The counts of 1,000 on 23/08 and 20/09



Curlew: David Eisner

at Point of Ayr were WeBS counts. There were no records with breeding codes.



Curlew: Alan Saunders

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRAITH

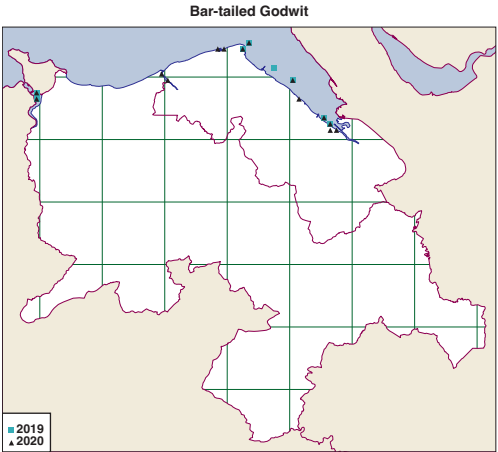
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

(BA)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Common	Uncommon	Common
Number of 1km squares	2	6	3	11
Maximum count	11	70	5	15
Av max count prev 10 years	7	104	7	104
Number of records	32	20	7	76
% of BirdTrack lists	1.9	-	0.9	-

2019

Denbs. All records were from RSPB Conwy. The first was 9 on 21/01. There were only singles until the last spring record of 11 on 1/05. Nearly four months later, the first of autumn was 2 on 31/08. There was one more record of 2 on 10/09 (Svk) and all other records were singles.

Flints. All but three records were from WeBS counts. There were five records during Jan to Apr. The highest count was 20 on 20/01 and the last of that period was 11 on 21/04. There were nearly five months with no records, until 2 were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, 3 at Flint saltmarsh and 28 at Point of Ayr on 15/09. The highest counts for the remaining months were: 70 at Talacre on 31/10, 24 at Point of Ayr on 17/11 and 10 near Greenfield on 16/12.

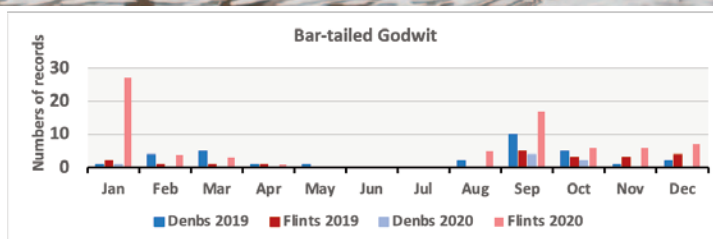




Bar-tailed Godwit: David Eisner

2020

Denbs. The first record, a single on 8/01 was from Horton's Nose. The other records were from RSPB Conwy, with a maximum of 5 on 26/09 (JPH).



Flints. During the first four months the maximum count was 10 on 18/02 at Bagillt Dock. Most records were from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. The last record of that period was a single at Talacre on 24/04. The first 'autumn' record was 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 23/08. The locations of the autumn records were more varied, from the Afon Clwyd, S of Rhyl, round the coast to RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. There were just three two-digit counts: 12 at Point of Ayr on 20/09, 13 there on 18/10 and 15 there on 15/11.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

(BW)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	7	25	7	20
Maximum count	40	4000	100	2800
Av max count prev 10 years	45	4100	45	4100
Number of records	78	370	69	240
% of BirdTrack lists	11.3	-	10.2	-

2019

Recorded each month in both counties.

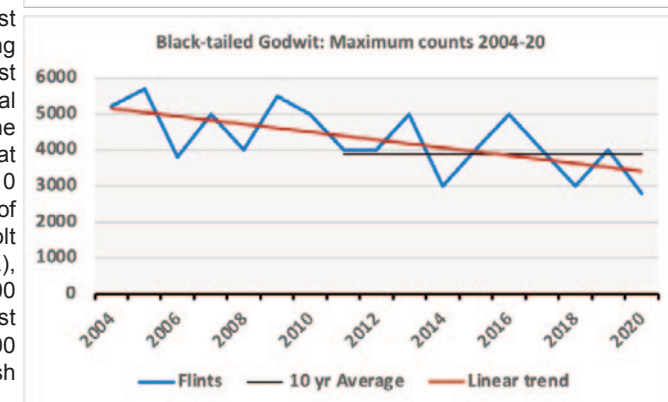
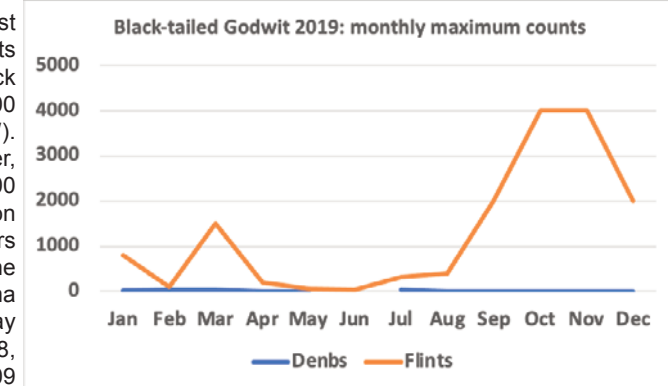
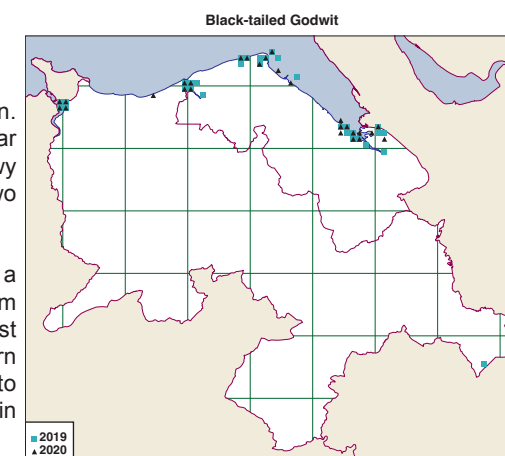
Denbs. Only small numbers were seen. The three highest counts were 35 near Kinnel Bay on 30/02, 40 at RSPB Conwy on 8/03 and 30 there on 31/07. All but two of the other counts were less than 20.

Flints. Since 2004, there has been a general trend of decreasing maximum counts, with this year's maximum just above the ten-year average. The pattern of counts over the year was similar to previous years, with the largest counts in

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(BW)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	800	30	1		18				20	14	1	6
Flint, estuary	26	22					6		1	400	112	34
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	70	18		60	5	1	40	6	32	1000	1200	630

autumn. During the first quarter, the highest counts were 1,200 at Shotwick Fields on 8/03 and 1,500 there on 10/03 (CW). During the second quarter, the highest count was 200 at Connah's Quay NR on 22/04 (PeHa). Numbers increased slowly during the third quarter, with maxima of 320 at Connah's Quay NR on 29/08 and 30/08, then 2,000 there on 27/09 (all PeHa). The highest numbers were seen during the last quarter, with most counts over 1,000, several of 2,000 or more and the Oct maximum of 4,000 at Flint saltmarsh on 28/10 (AB). After another count of 4,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 2/11 (GR), numbers dropped to 1,500 or fewer. The highest counts in Dec were 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh



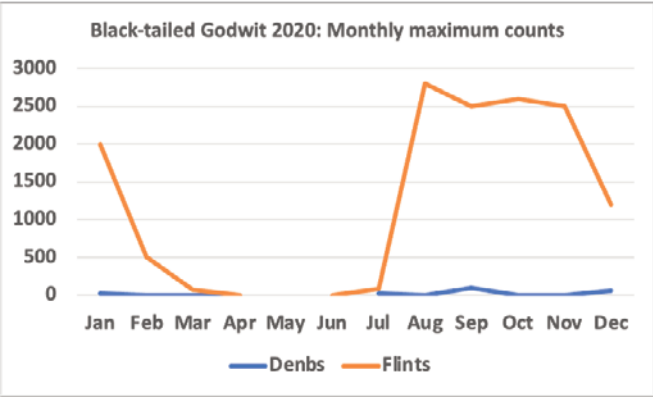
on 1/12, 5/12 and 11/12 (PeHa).

2020

Recorded each month in both counties except May and Jun in Denbs and May in Flints.

Denbs. During the year there were just two counts higher than 25: 100 at RSPB Conwy on 8/09 (DvHy) and c.65 roosting on the W bank of the Afon Clwyd, just S of the railway bridge at Kinnel Bay (WRM).

Flints. Almost all the large counts were from the inner Dee estuary at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh or Connah's Quay NR.



Black-tailed Godwit: David Eisner

Although 2,800 (at Connah's Quay NR on 17/08 (GEM)) is a large count, it is only half of the number present in the early 2000s. The chart shows a trend of declining maximum counts since 2004, though the ten-year average is still just under 4,000. The year started with a

maximum of 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 3/01 (PSH), declining to a maximum of 500 there on 1/02 (PeHa) and 70 on 8/03 at Flint estuary. There were just two records of 4 or less during Apr to Jun. There were c.80 S of Rhyl on 28/07 (WRM), then in Aug there was an influx, with a maximum of 2,800 at Connah's Quay NR and four other counts of 2,000+. High counts continued during Sep, with seven counts of 2,000+. There were considerably fewer records during Oct, with just two counts of 2,500+ and one of 2,500 on 9/11 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa), after which the highest count in Nov was just 300, also at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, on 26/11 (PeHa). During Dec most records were 300 or fewer, with one count of 1,200 at Point of Ayr on 6/12.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(BW)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	3						2	100	1		1	1200
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	2000	500	6					2500	2500	2600	2500	300
Connah's Quay NR	850	60						2800	2000		200	65

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

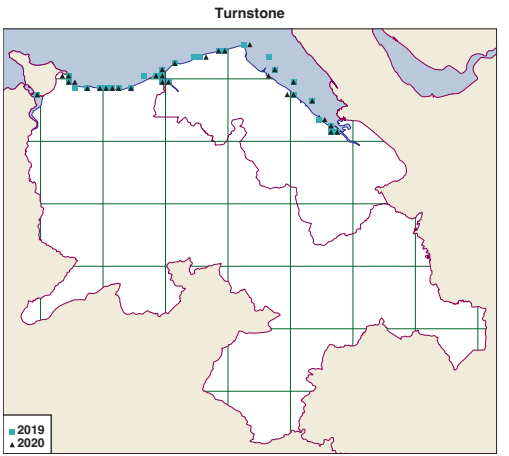
CWTIAD TRAETH

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

(TT)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	15	16	15	16
Maximum count	322	91	307	55
Av max count prev 10 years	248	87	248	87
Number of records	86	56	71	56
% of BirdTrack lists	5.4	-	5.5	-

2019

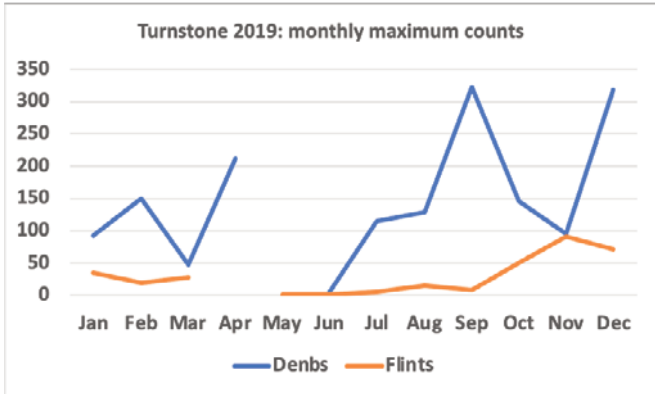
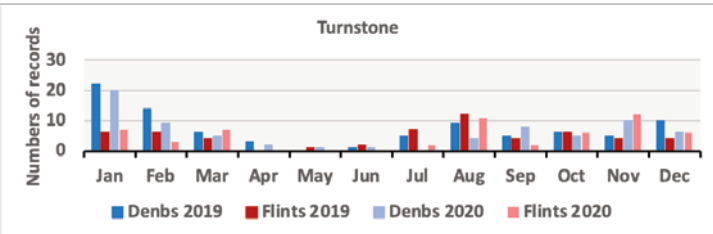
Denbs. While most of the Jan counts were 1 to 40, there were 59 at Horton's Nose on 25/01 (JPH) and 92 near Llanddulas during a WeBS count on 20/01. There were few counts in Feb of 1 to 77 with a maximum of c.150 at Kinnel Bay on 10/02 (JFBy). Numbers dropped in Mar, with a high WeBS count of 48 near Llanddulas on 24/03. There were only two counts in Apr: c.160 near Kinnel Bay on 5/04 (WRM), and 212 at Horton's Nose on 21/04 (JPH), the last of the early months. Following a two-month gap, the first record of 'autumn' was 6 at RSPB Conwy on 18/06 (JoG). The maxima for the remaining months were: 115 near Kinnel Bay on 30/07 (WRM), 129 there on 4/08 (JPH), 322 at Horton's Nose on 5/09 (JPH), 146 there on 13/10 (JPH), 95 off Towyn on 17/11 and 318 at Horton's Nose on 15/12 (JPH).



WeBS counts at selected sites:

(TT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Llanddulas	92	38	48						91	96	4	
Mostyn	35	3				1				50	91	71

Flints. As expected, the counts in Flints were much lower than in Denbs. The monthly maxima are shown in the table. The highest counts were all from Mostyn.

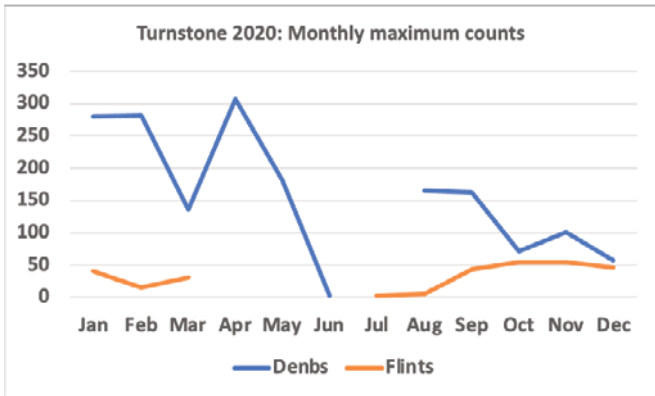


Monthly maxima:

(TT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flints	35	19	28		1	2	5	16	9	50	91	71

2020

Denbs. Counts during the first four months were considerably higher than in 2019. During the first ten days of Jan the highest count was c.50 but then on 12/01 there were 281 at Horton's Nose (JPH). Another 194 were counted at Llanddulas beach the same day (WeBS), though they may have been some of the flock counted at Horton's Nose. In Feb, 282 were at Horton's Nose on 11/02 (JPH) and 139 at



Llanddulas beach on 8/02 (WeBS). The Mar high count was 136, again at Llanddulas beach on 8/03 (WeBS). There were 307 at Horton's Nose on 8/04, dropping to 181 on 6/05 and 3 on

7/06 (all JPH). There were no further records, until an autumn maximum of 166 at Horton's Nose on 23/08 (JPH), 163 there on 20/09 (JPH), 72 at Llanddulas beach on 18/10 (WeBS), 101 there on 16/11 (WeBS) and 58 at Horton's Nose on 20/12 (JPH).

WeBS counts at selected sites:

(TT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Llanddulas	194	139	136						87	72	101	29
Mostyn	41		31							54	55	35
Greenfield, offshore							3		43		1	46

Flints. There were many fewer seen in Flints than in Denbs. The majority of the high counts were from WeBS counts.

Monthly maxima:

(TT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flints	41	15	31				3	6	43	54	55	46

Knot *Calidris canutus*

PIBYDD YR ABER YR YNYS LAS

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

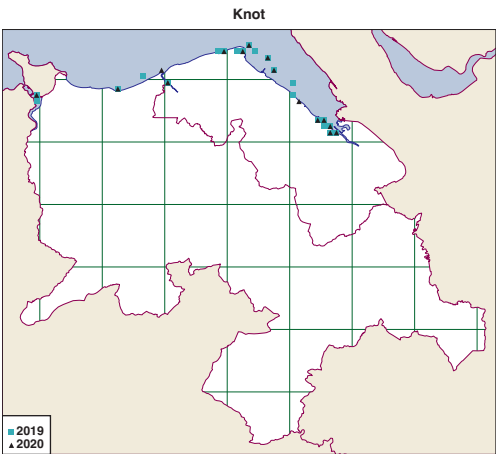
(KN)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Abundant	Scarce	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	4	17	3	12
Maximum count	47	2500	101	3000
Av max count prev 10 years	11	5295	11	5295
Number of records	21	121	11	128
% of BirdTrack lists	2.0	-	1.7	-

2019

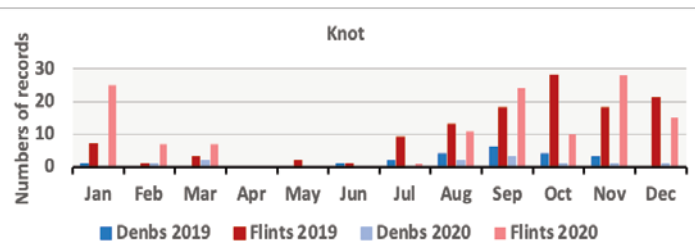
Denbs. All but two records were from RSPB Conwy. The exceptions were the highest WeBS counts: 35 off Towyn on 17/11 and 47 at Llanddulas beach on 20/01.

Flints. There were eleven records during the first quarter, with monthly maxima of 1,200 at Point of Ayr on 20/01, 700 on 24/02 and 100 on 24/03, all WeBS counts. The last spring record was c.40 at Talacre on 25/03 (SvK). There was a short gap in records of about six weeks and the next was 2, briefly, S of Rhyl on 9/05. There were 2 at Point of Ayr on 16/06, then a gap until 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/07. All the remaining records were during Jul to Dec, with only small numbers until 12/08.

The Jul maximum was 3. The counts during Aug were mainly 1 to 12, with a maximum of 22 at Talacre on 12/08 (PDJ). Numbers stayed low (1 to 8) through Sep, with a maximum of 50 at Connah's Quay NR on 1/09 (PeHa). Numbers picked up in Oct, with six records of 500+ and

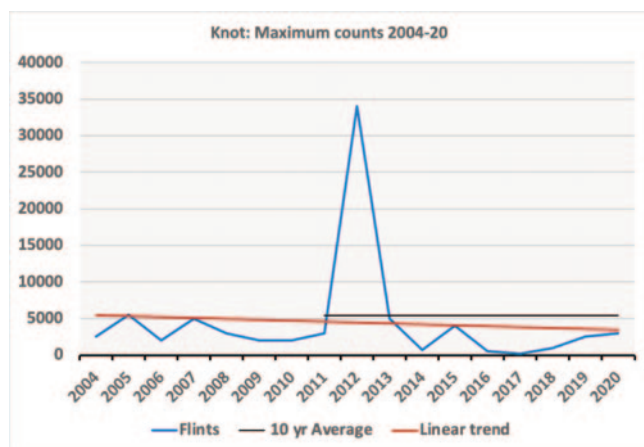


a maximum of 1,700 at Talacre on 31/10 (GR). This was closely followed by the Nov maximum, 1,000, at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 2/11 (GR), with other Nov counts of 1 to 300. There were more large counts during Dec, with four of 300+. The highest count (WeBS) was 2,500 at Point of Ayr on 15/12.



2020

Denbs. The first record was 101 at Llanddulas beach on 8/02 (WeBS), which was the only count that month. There were c.30 at Horton's Nose on 1/03 (MT) and 41 at Llanddulas beach on 8/03 (WeBS). This was the last record until presence at RSPB Conwy on 23/08. Counts were of 1 or 2 to the end of the year, except for 6 at Llanddulas beach on 16/11 (WeBS).



Flints. The table below shows the absence of Knot during the breeding season. The exception was a single at Gronant dunes on 8/07. The chart above shows clearly the exceptional count on 16/12/2012, despite which, overall there is a slightly decreasing trend. The ten-year average is inflated by that huge count and in a couple of years it most likely will drop to a lower level.

Maximum counts at selected sites:

(KN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	800		2					220	2	200	450	1500
Ffynongroyw	800								220	2000	300	
Flint, estuary	80								3		1050	12
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	300	318	2					9	259	80	2500	400

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*
Passage migrant. Amber List.

PIBYDD TORCHOG

(RU)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	4	1	6
Maximum count	2	2	1	2
Av max count prev 10 years	2	7	2	7
Number of records	4	10	2	15
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	-	0.5	-

2019

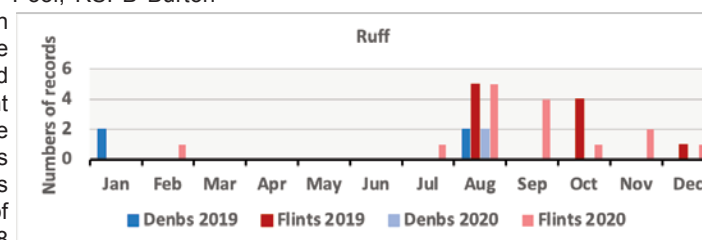
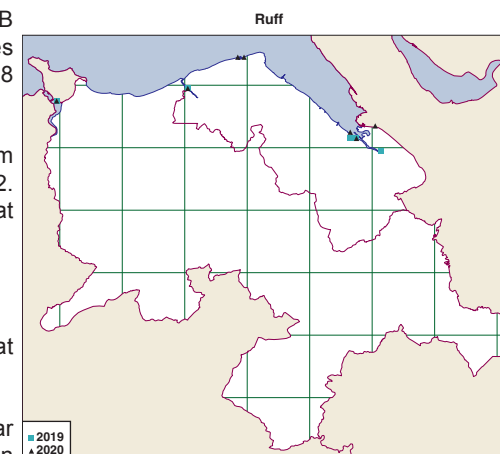
Denbs. All records were from RSPB Conwy, where there were two singles (25/01 and 26/01) and 2 there on 20/08 (recorded twice).

Flints. All but two records were from Connah's Quay NR with counts of 1 or 2. There were 2 S of Rhyl on 13/08 and 2 at the blue bridge, Shotton, on 13/12.

2020

Denbs. A single was recorded twice at RSPB Conwy on 23/08.

Flints. The only record early in the year was of 2 at Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 25/02 (DWn). The first 'autumn' record was 2 near Gronant on 5/07 (WeBS). The next record was about five weeks later, a single S of Rhyl on 13/08 (WRM). All other records were of singles, except for 2 S of Rhyl on 27/09 (WRM).



Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
Passage migrant. Amber List.

PIBYDD CAMBIG

(CV)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	4	2	4
Maximum count	6	14	1	1
Av max count prev 10 years	5	5	5	5
Number of records	2	15	6	11
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-	0.7	-

2019

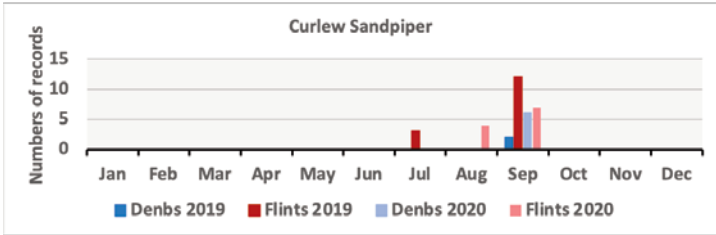
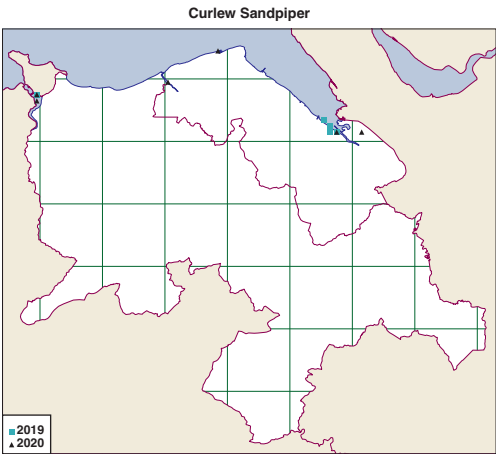
Denbs. Both records were of a single at RSPB Conwy on 1/09.

Flints. The highest count for the year was 3 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30/07 (DWn). The remaining counts were 1 or 2 between 31/07 and 27/09, all at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh or Connah's Quay NR.

2020

Denbs. A single was recorded at RSPB Conwy from 5/09 to 20/09.

Flints. All records were of singles, with probably no more than three birds in total. Locations were: S of Rhyl from 26/08 to 27/08, Connah's Quay NR from 30/08 to 12/09 and near Gronant on 17/09.



Sanderling *Calidris alba*

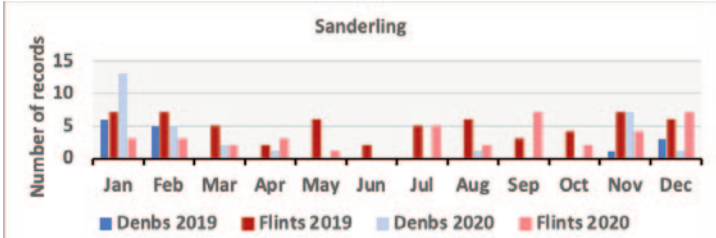
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

PIBYDD Y TYWOD

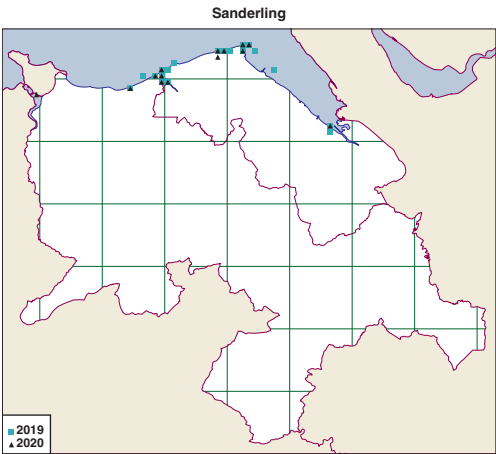
(SS)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	6	13	6	8
Maximum count	195	450	124	160
Av max count prev 10 years	253	255	253	255
Number of records	15	60	30	39
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	-	2.0	-

2019

Denbs. All but four records were from Jan and Feb, with maxima of 36 near Kinmel Bay on 20/01 (JPH) and 75 there on 10/02 (EJB). The last record for the early months was 8 at Pensarn on 27/02. There was then a gap of nine months, until 65 were off Towyn on 17/11. The highest count of the year was 195 at Horton's Nose on 22/12 (JPH).

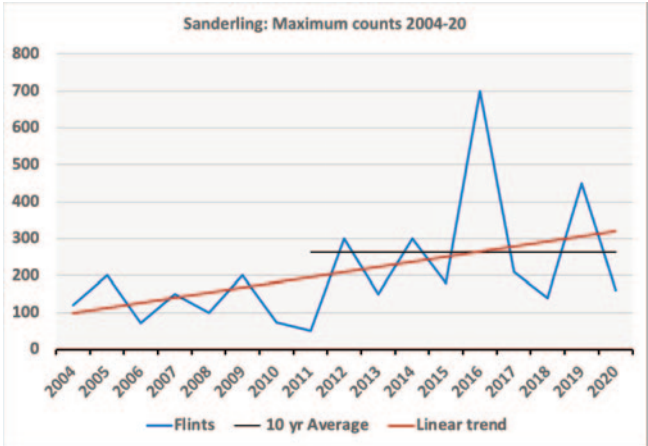


Flints. There were records during each month. During Jan to Mar, most counts were 1 to 55. The monthly maxima were: 45 on 21/01 at Gronant dunes (WRM), 55 at Point of Ayr on 24/02 (WeBS) and 70 at Gronant dunes on 6/03 (WRM). The highest count for the year was 450 at Point of Ayr on 21/04 (WeBS). Maxima for May, Jun and Jul were 150 near Gronant on 20/05 (EJB), a single at Gronant dunes on 24/06 and 22 near Gronant on 17/07 (AtG). There were three relatively high counts during the last five months and the monthly maxima were: 70 at Point of Ayr on 4/08 (WeBS), 3 at Point of Ayr on 4/09, 105 near Gronant on 13/10 (WeBS), 300 at Gronant dunes on 1/11 (WRM) and c.180 there on 28/12 (WRM).



2020

Denbs. All records were from the N coast, mainly near Kinmel Bay, but three records were from Pensarn. The Jan maximum was 20+ on 1/01 (DWn), with an increase to a maximum of 41 on 11/02 (JPH). The highest count in Mar was 23 on 8/03 (JPH), with just 2 on 2/04. There was then a gap of nearly five months, until the first 'autumn' record of 4 on 23/08 (JPH). There was then another gap until 2 were at Pensarn on 11/11 (NHu). The maximum for Nov was 124 on 15/11 (JPH). The only Dec record was a single on 20/12 (JPH).



Flints. The maximum count for the year was c.160 on 17/12 near Gronant (WRM). This was well down on the 2019 maximum, but there is still an increasing trend in the counts, assisted by a high count in 2016. This year's maximum was below the ten-year average. During the first quarter, the highest count was c.50 at Gronant dunes on 14/03 (WRM). The highest count for the next quarter was 130 at Point of Ayr on 24/04 (GrJ). This was one of only four records, the last of which was 6 near Gronant on 9/05 (PDJ). There was a gap of two months, until the first 'autumn' record of 8 at Point of Ayr on 5/07 (WeBS). For the rest of that quarter there were seven records. The highest count was 40, near Gronant on 23/07 (SD) and at Point of Ayr on 21/08 (MGW). The last quarter provided twenty records and the year's maximum was the last record of the year.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

PIBYDD MAWN

2019

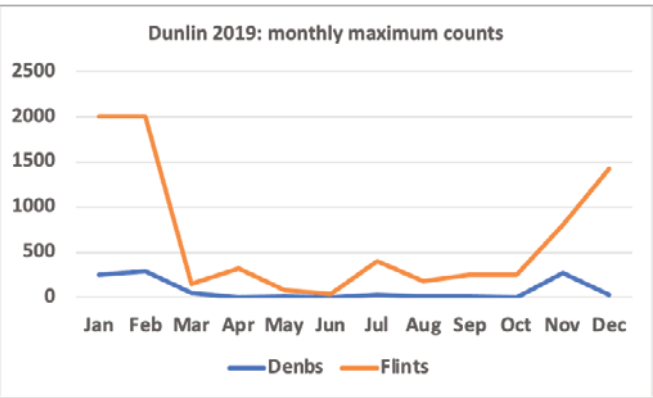
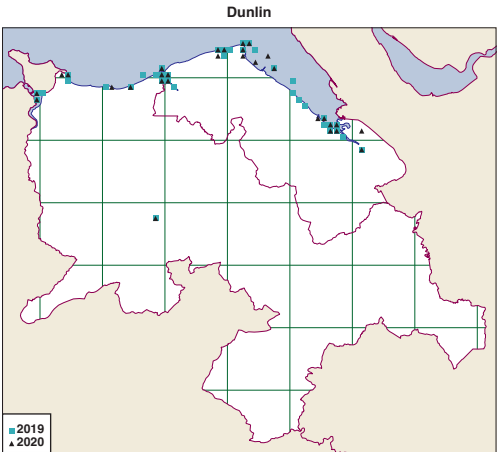
(DN)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	13	24	10	20
Maximum count	290	2000	300	3100
Av max count prev 10 years	498	4700	498	4700
Number of records	77	320	63	273
% of BirdTrack lists	10.4	-	10.0	-

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. During Jan and Feb, Dunlin were recorded at several sites along the N coast. The monthly maxima were 250 near Kinnel Bay on 11/01 (EJB) and 290 at RSPB Conwy on 2/02. During Mar to Oct most records came from RSPB Conwy, with three exceptions: 6 at Llyn Brenig on 11/05 (WRM), though there have been no records of breeding on Mynydd Hiraethog for a long time. The other sites were Kinnel Bay and Towyn. During these months the highest count was 25 near Kinnel Bay on 27/07 (NF). There were just five records during the last two months, with maxima of 275 off Towyn on 17/11 (WeBS) and 32 at Horton's Nose on 27/12 (JPH).

Flints. During Jan there were eleven counts of 700+. The highest counts were 2,000 at Greenfield dock on 23/01 and 24/01 (DWn). There were only four counts of 700+ during Feb. The highest was 2,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 6/02 (PeHa). There were many fewer records and birds during Mar, with

a maximum of 150 at Point of Ayr (WeBS). In Apr the maximum was 320 near Gronant on 21/04 (WeBS). Although there were more records in May, the maximum was only 74, a WeBS count at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 19/05. There were only five records in Jun, with a maximum of 42 at Gronant dunes on 24/06 (WRM). Numbers of birds and records increased during Jul, with four counts of 100+ and a high of 400 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 31/07 (DWn). Numbers dropped during Aug to Oct, with maxima of 181 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 9/08 (DWn), 179 at Point of Ayr on 3/09 (DWn) and 250 at Point of Ayr on 13/10 (WeBS).

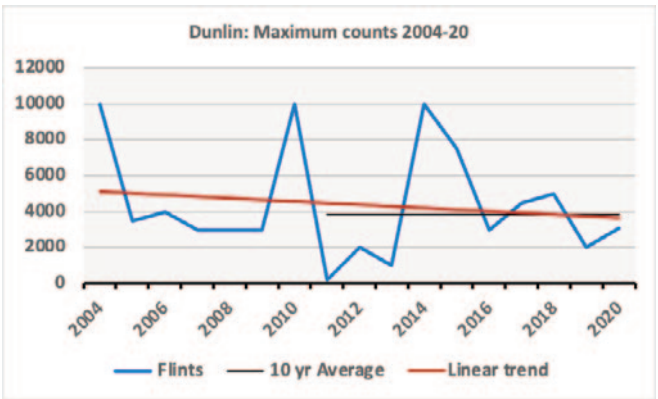


WeBS counts from selected sites:

(DN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant	1700	340		320			6			38	140	1420
Point of Ayr	1125	1000	150	50		10		100	50	250	450	140
Flint	600	3	1		37			38	61	17	5	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	900	20		15	74			80	12	6	20	40

Numbers increased thereafter, with maxima of 700 near Gronant on 27/11 (WRM) and 1,420 there on 15/12 (WeBS).

The highest count during 2019 was considerably lower than the ten-year average and contributed to the trend of lower counts since 2004.

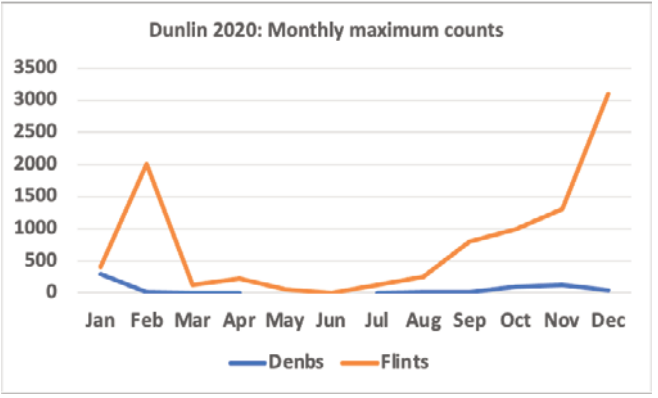


2020

Recorded each month in both counties except May and Jun in Denbs.

Denbs. The maximum count for the year was c.300 at Kinnel Bay on 29/01 (WRM). There was only one record during the second quarter, 2 at Horton's Nose on 2/04 (JPH). There was a gap of three months, then the first 'autumn' record was 2 at RSPB Conwy on 11/07 (JPH). The third quarter produced the most records of the year, with a maximum count of c.20 at RSPB Conwy on 27/09 (SvK). Numbers increased during the last quarter, with a maximum of c.120 at Pensarn on 15/11 (WRM).

Flints. The maximum count for the year was 3,100 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 5/12 (PeHa). The chart of maximum counts by year shows a slightly downward trend. This year's maximum is lower than the ten-year average, although there is much variation between counts (1,000 to 10,000).



During the first quarter there were three counts of 1,000+, with the maximum, 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 10/02 (PeHa). There were only twelve records during the second quarter, the highest of which was 220 near Gronant on 21/04 (PDJ). The third quarter provided many more records, with most counts of less than 100 and the maximum of 800 at Talacre on 14/09. There was a dramatic increase in large counts during the last quarter, with sixteen counts of 1,000+, the largest of which was the year's maximum.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant	270	1512	35					150	573	80	750	275
Point of Ayr	200	500	12					250	10	100	250	800
Flint	35		7					15			40	1100
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	50	938						25	100	600	1300	2300

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

PIBYDD DU

Winter visitor. Amber List.

	2019		2020	
(PS)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares				
Maximum count			4	
Av max count prev 10 years				
Number of records	0	0	2	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-		-	

2020

Denbs. There were 2 at Llanddulas beach on 1/02 and 4 at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 26/12.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

PIBYDD BACH

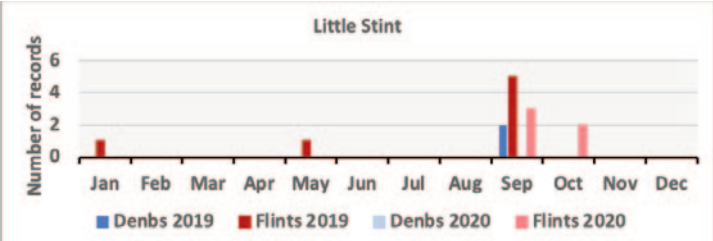
Passage migrant.

	2019		2020	
(LX)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very scarce	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	5		3
Maximum count	1	1		1
Av max count prev 10 years	2	3		3
Number of records	2	8	0	5
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-		-

2019

Denbs. There were singles at RSPB Conwy on 1/09 and 28/09.

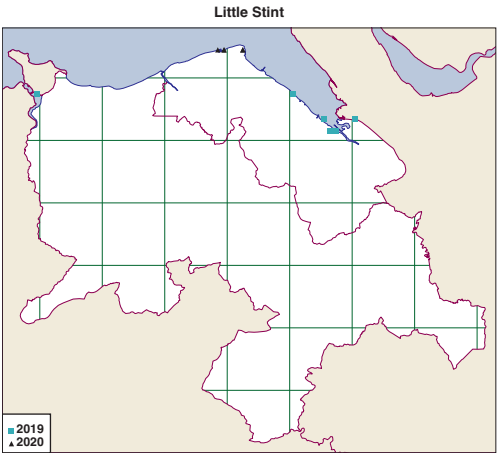
Flints. All records were singles. The first was at Greenfield dock on



24/01 and the next at Flint saltmarsh on 15/09 (DWn). The last was at Connah's Quay NR on 26/09 (PeHa).

2020

Flints. The first (14/09) and last (18/10) records were from Talacre. The other three records were from near Gronant. On 29/09 a Little Stint was associating with 6 Grey Plover (WRM).



Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

CYFFYLOG

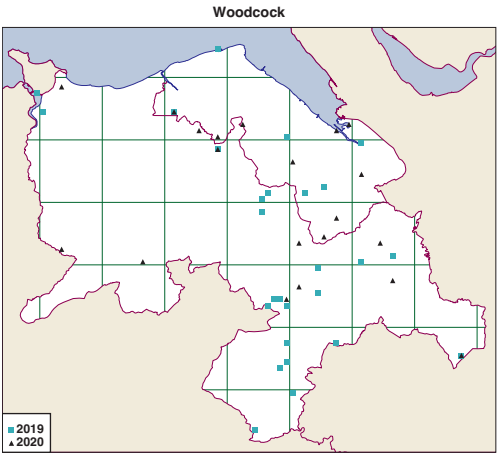
Winter visitor and possible breeding resident.

	2019		2020	
(WK)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	21	6	13	7
Maximum count	10	2	2	4
Av max count prev 10 years	8	4	8	4
Number of records	27	8	16	8
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-	0.1	-

2019

Denbs. The highest count for the year was 10 seen at Pendre, Llangollen, on 23/01 (JoG), all of which were shot. During Feb, singles were seen at ten locations. The last, early winter record was at RSPB Conwy on 26/02. The first record of autumn was 2 at Pentrefelin, near Conwy, on 23/10. Most of the remaining records were singles, with 4 at Rhewl, Llangollen on 7/11 (JoG) and 5 near Bronygarth, Chirk, on 5/12 (ChTw).

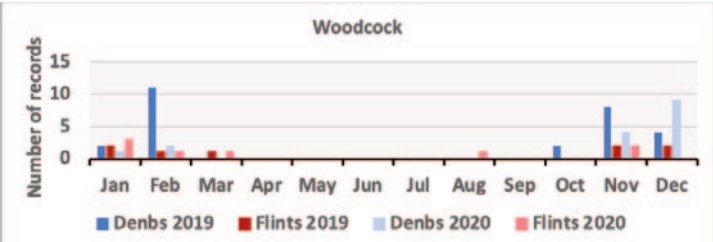
Flints. There were four records during Jan to Mar, three of which were singles. There were 2 at the blue bridge, Shotton, on 17/02, disturbed at dusk (DWn). The last early year record was on 4/03. The next was at St Asaph Business Park on 18/11 (SH), with three other records, two of which were from near Nercwys on 29/12 and 31/12 (AE).



2020

Denbs. There were three records of singles between 20/01 (near Bwlchgwyn) and 21/02 (near Eglwyseg). There were twelve records, all but one of singles between 10/11, near Marchwiell, and 31/12, at Fenn's Moss. The other record was 2 near Cerrigydrudion on 6/12.

Flints. The first record was near Hawarden on 3/01 and the last early year record was at Broken Bank, Shotwick, on 15/03. There were no records from 16/03 until 27/08, when one was at Rhydymwyn. The last record was at Connah's Quay NR on 29/11.



Jack Snipe *Lymnophanes minimus* GŶACH FACH
Winter visitor. Amber List.

2019

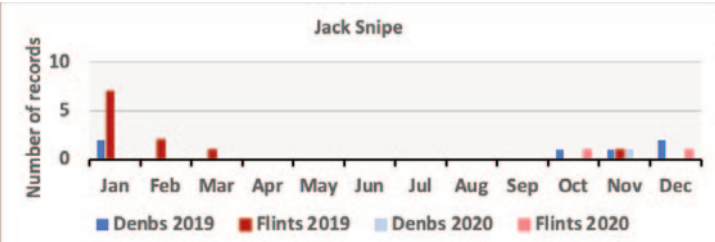
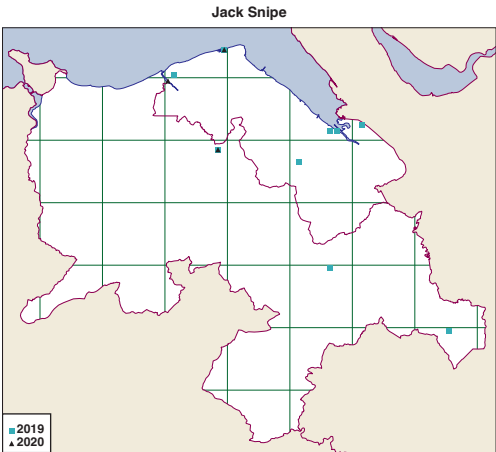
Denbs. A single was seen near Hanmer on 20/01. The next record was 2 near Bodfari on 14/10 (JPH). There were two other records there: 1 on 4/11 and 2 on 2/12 (JPH). The last was a single from Esclusham Mountain on 29/12 (JLR).

Flints. All except one record were from the first quarter and all but one record were of singles. The highest count was 5 at Shotwick Fields on 15/01, during a wet grassland survey (GrJ). The last of these was at Rhydymwyn on 25/03 (GRMP). The only end of year record was a single at Gronant dunes on 27/11 (WRM).

2020

Denbs. A single was at Llewenni Hall, Bodfari, on 30/11.

Flints. Singles were S of Rhyl on 23/10 and at Gronant dunes on 1/12.



Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* GŶACH CYFFREDIN
Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties except Aug in Denbs and Jun in Flints.

Denbs. The maximum count in Jan was from RSPB Conwy on 20/01 (WeBS). The Feb maximum was on Moel Famau, on 13/02, flushed while placing reptile refugia (JoW). The two other large counts were the 75 at RSPB Conwy on 17/11 and 58 there on 15/12.

Flints. The Jan high count was from near Buckley on 8/01 (KaW). The Feb maximum was from Flint saltmarsh on 20/02 (GrJ). The Nov maximum was at Gronant dunes on 2/11 (DWn) and that of Dec was at Connah's Quay NR on 8/12 (PeHa).

Maximum counts in each county (2019):

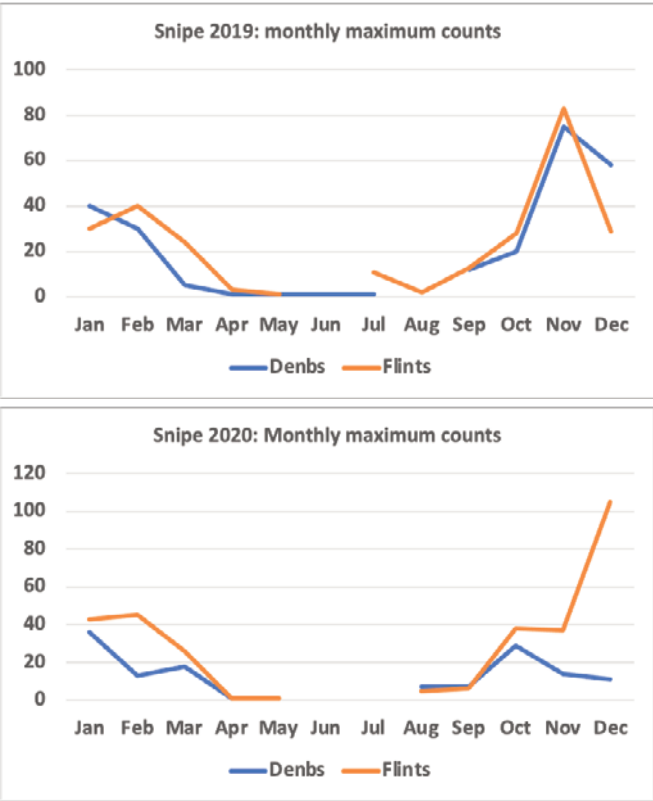
(SN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	40	30	5	1	1	1	1		12	20	75	58
Flints	30	40	24	3	1		11	2	13	28	83	29

2020

Recorded each month in both counties except May and Jul in Denbs and Jun and Jul in Flints.

Denbs. The highest count during the first quarter was 36 at RSPB Conwy on 12/01 (WeBS). All other counts were 1 to 18. There were five records of singles during the second quarter with the last record was on 25/06 at Esclusham Mountain. The first 'autumn' record was 7 at Fenn's Moss on 13/08 (RbHa). This was the highest count during the third quarter. Most records were from RSPB Conwy. Records during the last quarter were from more locations, but mostly in small numbers (1 to 14), with the maximum count of 29 at RSPB Conwy on 10/11 (WeBS).

Flints. During the first quarter most records were from Connah's Quay NR. The highest count was 45, there, on 2/02 (PeHa). There were seven other counts of 34 to 43. There were just three records during the second quarter, all singles, with the last near Gronant on 9/05. The first record of the third quarter was 5 S of Rhyl on 9/08 (WRM). The highest counts of 6 in that period were: at Gronant dunes on 16/09, near Gronant on 21/09 and at Gronant dunes on 29/09 (all WRM). The number of records increased during the last quarter, with most counts of 1 to 60. The largest count was 65 at Connah's Quay NR on 18/12 (PeHa).



Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*
Vagrant.

LLYDANDROED LLWYD

2019

(PL)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1			
Maximum count	1			
Av max count prev 10 years	1			
Number of records	24	0	0	0
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0			

Denbs. A single was at RSPB Conwy from 14/03 to 23/03.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Passage migrant and breeding visitor. Red List.

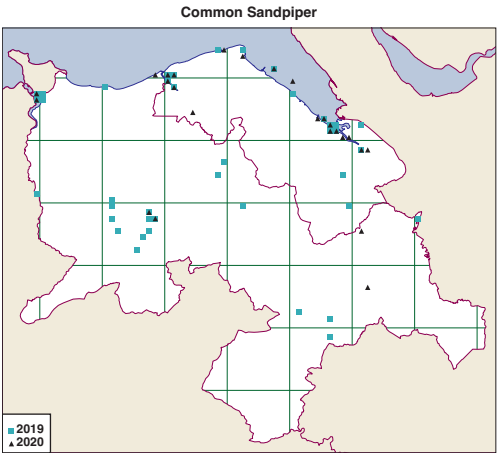
PIBYDD DORLAN

2019

(CS)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Fairly common	Uncommon	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	18	15	7	18
Maximum count	6	14	3	11
Av max count prev 10 years	11	23	11	23
Number of records	73	160	26	106
% of BirdTrack lists	7.7	-	4.8	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	-	P	-

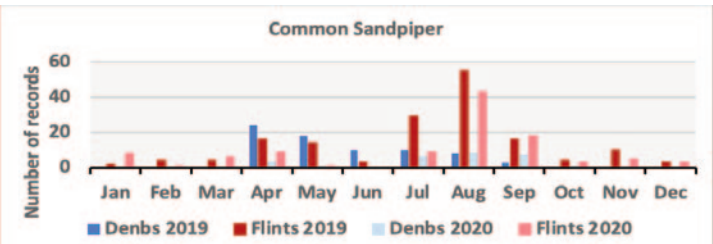
Denbs. The first record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 12/04. The last was of presence at RSPB Conwy on 25/09. The largest numbers, while modest, were during Apr, with 6 at RSPB Conwy on 18/04 (JHg). Records of 5 were also from RSPB Conwy: on 19/04 (EJB), 7/05 (SH) and 19/05 (EJB). Other counts during Jun to Sep were 1 to 4. Breeding was confirmed at the N Alwen and Llyn Aled Isaf.

Flints. Recorded in each month. During Jan to Mar there were ten records of 1 to 2, mainly from the Afon Clwyd, S of Rhyl. During Apr, records were of 1 to 4, except 5 S of Rhyl on 16/04 (JPH) and 6 at Connah's Quay NR on 17/04 (PeHa). During May and Jun, records were of singles, with one of 2. The number of records increased through Jul with a maximum count of 14 S of Rhyl on 24/07 (JPH). There were even more



Common Sandpiper: Alan Saunders

records during Aug, but of fewer birds, mainly 1 to 5, with a maximum of 9 S of Rhyl on 1/08 (WRM). The numbers of records dropped considerably during the last months, with maxima of 2 on four dates.



2020

Denbs. The first record was of presence at RSPB Conwy on 16/04. During the second quarter there were only four records, with a maximum of 2 at Sontley pools (NHu). The last was a single at Llay pool on 7/05. The first of ‘autumn’ was two months later, 2 at RSPB Conwy on 9/07. This was a count reported on six other dates. The maximum was 3 at Llyn Brenig on 14/07 (WRM). The only record during the last quarter was a single at RSPB Conwy on 15/10 (WRM).

Flints. The first record was a single, S of Rhyl on 4/01 (NF). The highest count of the first quarter was 2 near Rhuddlan, on 8/03 (WeBS). There were ten records during the second quarter. The highest count was 3 on 22/04 at Queensferry (DWn). The last record was a single there on 2/05 (DWn). There was then a two-month gap, until a single was seen near Greenfield on 5/07. Most counts during the quarter were 1 to 5 with 6+ S of Rhyl on 18/08 (a minimum count, WRM) and 9 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 17/08 (PeHa). There were eleven records from the last quarter, with counts of 1 or 2. The last of the year was a single at Queensferry on 25/12 (DWn).

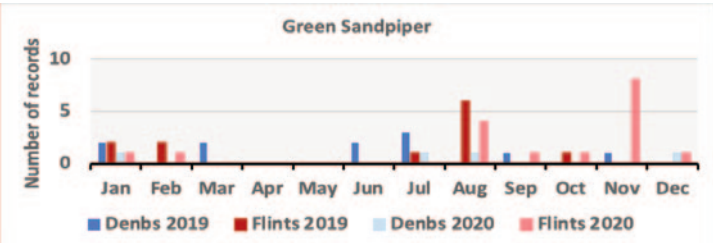
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

PIBYDD GWYRDD

(GE)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	6	10	4	11
Maximum count	4	2	4	2
Av max count prev 10 years	4	3	4	3
Number of records	12	12	4	17
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-	0.4	-

2019

Denbs. The first record was of 3 near Llandrindog on 25/01 (GPI). The last record was 4 at Pulford Brook, Trevalyn, on 30/12 (NHu). All records

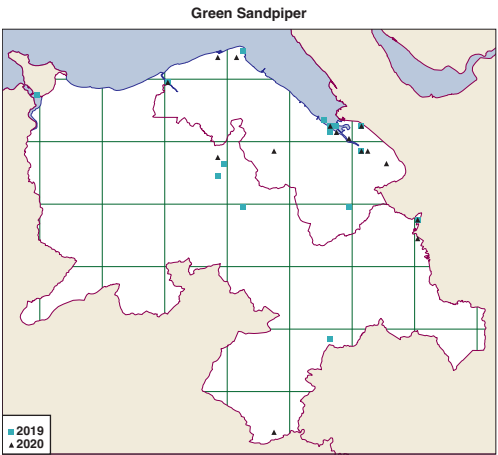


were of singles.

Flints. The first record was a single, heard calling while flying over Shotwick Fields on 6/01. The last record was 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 2/10. All other records were singles.

2020

Denbs. The first record was a single at Pulford Brook, Trevalyn, on 25/01 (NHu). The next was the highest count, 4 near Nant Lewis Alyn, Denbigh, on 28/07 (SvK). There were singles on the Afon Tanat, at Ty-nant, on 6/08 (MkH) and at Holt on 10/12 (NF).



Flints. The two early year records were singles at Llawndy, Gwespyr, on 12/01 and at Queensferry on 6/02 (DWn). The first ‘autumn’ record was a single at Connah's Quay NR, on 16/08 (PeHa). During the rest of the year most records were singles with 2 seen S of Rhyl on 23/08 (WRM), at Shotton Steelworks on 20/09 (WeBS) and, the last of the year, at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft, on 15/12 (JmS).

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

PIBYDD COESGOCH

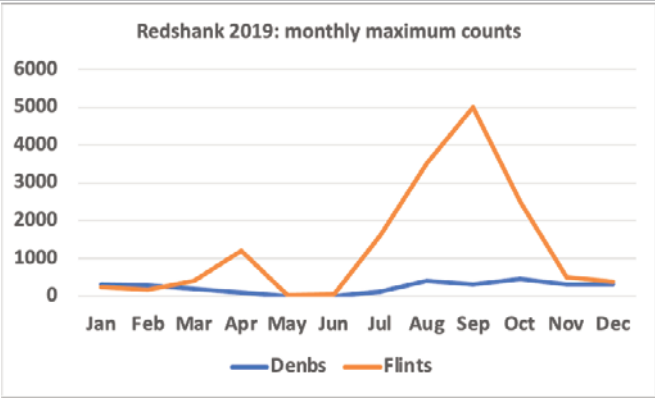
Mainly a passage migrant. Red List.

(RK)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	23	37	18	44
Maximum count	447	5000	611	4600
Av max count prev 10 years	560	3864	560	3864
Recorded in BBS squares	0/28	1/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	202	641	177	524
% of BirdTrack lists	21.5	-	20.8	-
Max breeding evidence	H	-	-	-

2019

Recorded each month in both counties.

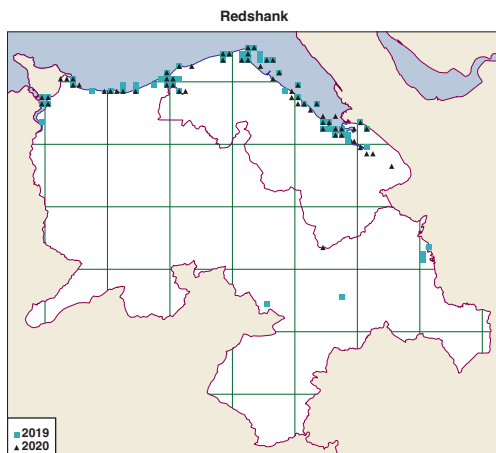
Denbs. The numbers seen were modest in comparison with Flints. The table (page 124) shows the maximum counts for each month.



(RK)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	302	292	200	84	1	8	120	400	315	447	310	305
Flints	250	162	400	1200	12	50	1600	3500	5000	2500	500	380

The high count in Jan was at RSPB Conwy on 20/01. Most of the records were from this site. The small numbers of records and birds during May and Jun were when most were at their breeding locations elsewhere. The two largest counts later in the year were on 31/08 and 13/10.

Flints. The highest count for the year was above the ten-year average but a reduction on the high of 2018. The trend is for increasing numbers. As last year, the majority of records came from within the Dee estuary. The maxima for each month were:



Jan: 250 at Point of Ayr on 20/01,
Feb: 162 S of Rhyl on 22/02 (JPH),
Mar: 400 at Connah's Quay NR on 7/03 (PeHa),
Apr: 1,200 at Connah's Quay NR on 4/04 (PeHa),
May: 12 at Connah's Quay NR on 8/05 (PeHa),
Jun: 50 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/06 (DWn) and 29/06 (PeHa),
Jul: 1,600 at Connah's Quay NR on 29/07 (PeHa),
Aug: 3,500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 3/08 (GR),
Sep: 5,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 17/09 (GR),
Oct: 2,500 at Connah's Quay NR on 1/10 (PeHa),
Nov: 500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 17/11 (WeBS), and
Dec: c.380 S of Rhyl on 15/12 (WRM).

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(RK)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	302	292	55	84		1	36	357	315	447	310	305
Point of Ayr	250	150	70	2				50	200	1000	250	300
Mostyn	15	91	350					290	1000		62	34
Flint estuary	86	119	105	98			106	92	2150	220	43	38
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	138	44	42	53	2			400	1070	140	500	100

2020

Recorded each month in both counties except May and Jun in Denbs.

Denbs. During the first quarter most records were of 1 to 42, with five counts of 100 to 400. The highest count was 417 at RSPB Conwy on 8/02. During the second quarter there were just eight records. The largest count was 64 at Horton's Nose on 2/04 (JPH). The first record of the third quarter was 23 at RSPB Conwy on 9/07. The numbers of records increased this quarter, with most from RSPB Conwy. The largest count was 210 at RSPB Conwy on 10/09.

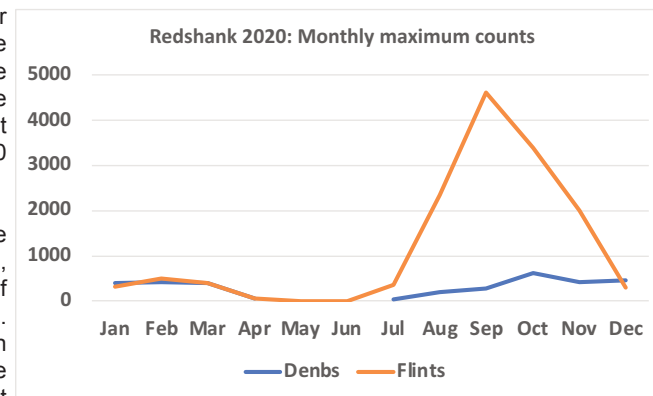
During the last quarter about half the records were of presence. There were six counts of 200+, with the highest count of 611 at RSPB Conwy on 18/10 (WeBS).

Flints. During Jan there were eight counts of 100+, with the highest of 320 S of Rhyl on 15/01 (WRM). During Feb there were ten records of 100+, with the highest count of 500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on

29/02 (PeHa). There were twelve records of 100+ during Mar, with the highest of 400 S of Rhyl on 3/03 (WRM). There were just twelve records during the second quarter with the highest count of 56 S of Rhyl on 7/04 (JPH). The third quarter had a large increase of records, with an increase in the numbers of birds. Jul was fairly quiet with two records of 100+.

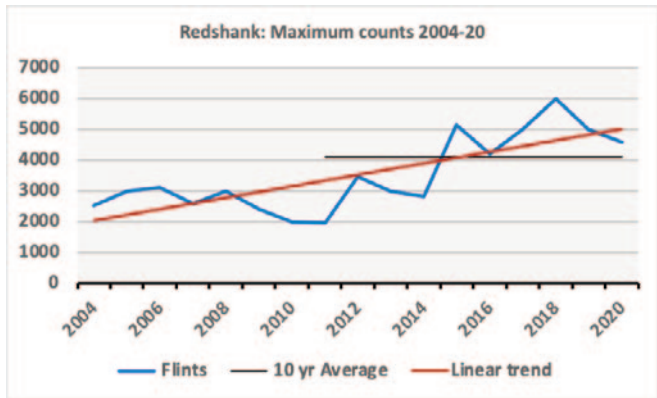
The larger count WeBS counts from selected sites:

(RK)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy estuary	373	417	325						276	611	410	457
Point of Ayr	250		200				35	20	100	800	450	150
Mostyn	20		351						1490	1544	60	
Flint saltmarsh	77		25					640	576		22	112
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	60		90					200	500	100	80	120



Redshank: Andy Davis

was of 350 at Flint on 31/07 (GRMP). During Aug there were thirty-six counts of 100+. The largest count was 2,350 at Connah's Quay NR on 23/08 (WeBS). During the last quarter the number of high counts declined, with a maximum of 2,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 9/10 (PeHa), 2,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 15/11 (GEM) and 300 S of Rhyl on 15/12 (WRM).



Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Vagrant.

PIBYDD GRAEAN

(OD)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2		1	
Maximum count	1		1	
Av max count prev 10 years	1		1	
Number of records	13	0	2	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7		0.2	

2019

Denbs. All records were singles at RSPB Conwy between 27/06 and 28/12.

2020

Denbs. There were two records of a single at RSPB Conwy on 1/08.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

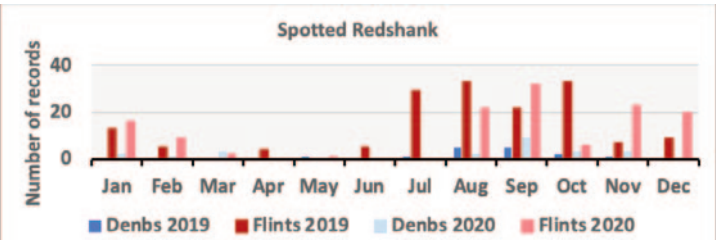
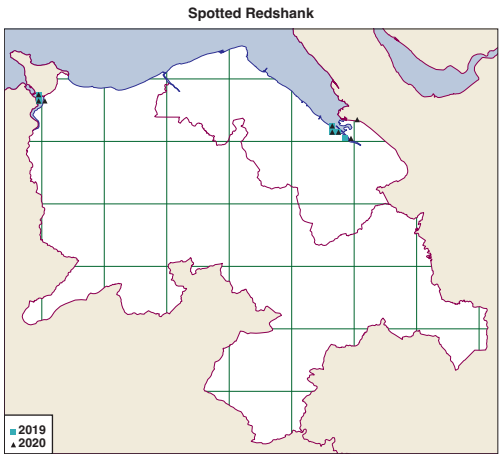
(DR)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Fairly common	Rare	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	2	4	3	5
Maximum count	1	24	3	35
Av max count prev 10 years	1	18	1	18
Number of records	15	160	23	131
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	-	2.7	-

2019

Denbs. All records were singles at RSPB Conwy between 27/06 and 28/12.

Flints. During Jan, the largest count was 12 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 21/01 (DWn). During

Feb, counts were of 1 or 2, with a gap from 19/02 until 10/04. The Apr records were singles. The last was on 21/04, when there was another absence, until a single at Connah's Quay NR on 22/06. There were 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 24/06 and 25/06. During Jul the two highest counts were at Connah's Quay NR: 10 on 20/07 and 25/07 (PeHa). There were slightly larger numbers during Aug, with most counts of 1 to 9, twelve of 10 to 15, with the maximum on 27/08 (DWn, PeHa). Numbers increased during Sep, with ten counts of 10 to 24, with the maximum at Connah's Quay NR on 29/09 (PeHa). There were just five counts of 10 to 14 in Oct, the highest at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 18/10 (DWn). During the last two months, counts were mainly 1 to 5, with 7 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 2/11 (GR) and 6 at Connah's Quay NR on 26/11.



2020

Denbs. There were five records of one or more singles at RSPB Conwy, between 12/01 and 12/03. There were 2 there on 25/01. There were many records of singles from 23/08 to 15/11, with 2 at RSPB Conwy on 26/09 (JHg) and 3 there on 18/10 (WeBS).

Flints. All records were from the inner Dee estuary. During the first quarter there were many counts of 1 to 2, with six of 5, three of 6 and four of 7. These counts of 7 were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh from 13/01 and 14/01 and Connah's Quay NR on 15/01 (PeHa, DWn). The second quarter had just one record of a single at Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 3/05 (DWn). The first 'autumn' record was 12 at Connah's Quay NR on 1/08 (PeHa). The third quarter had many single figure counts, fifteen counts of 10 to 17 with 18 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/09 (PeHa) and 20 there on 16/09 (PeHa). The last quarter had mainly records of single figure counts, with records of 13 at Connah's Quay NR on: 11/10, 18/10, 15/11, 16/11 and 19/11.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Passage migrant and winter visitor.

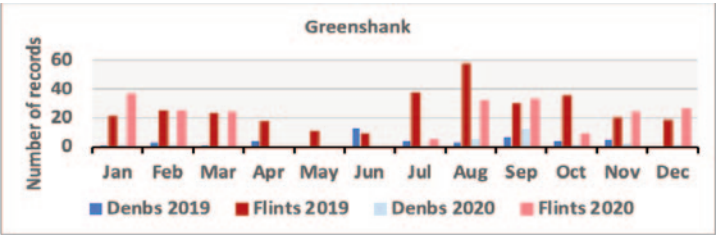
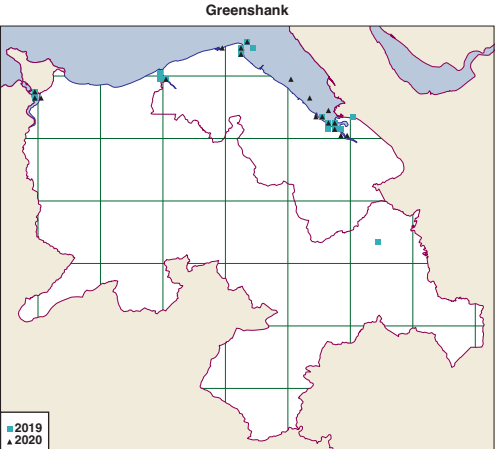
PIBYDD COESWYRDD

(GK)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Common	Scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	5	12	3	15
Maximum count	7	26	6	49
Av max count prev 10 years	6	21	6	21
Number of records	47	303	23	214
% of BirdTrack lists	3.0	-	3.3	-

2019

Denbs. Most records were from RSPB Conwy, with counts of 1 or 2. Others were seen at Kinmel Bay, with a single at Gresford Flash, Wrexham, on 26/10 (HL). The three largest counts were all at RSPB Conwy: 4 on 7/07, 7 on 14/12 and 7 on 24/12. May was the only month with no records.

Flints. Recorded in each month. The vast majority of records were at Connah's Quay NR. The maximum counts each month at the two key sites are shown in the table, below:



(GK)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Connah's Quay NR	10	9	13	6	3	2	14	17	26	20	10	8
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	2							11	20	1	6	7

Apart from Flint estuary having 10 on 19/10 (SuHa), the other sites had just 1 to 3.

2020

Denbs. All records were from RSPB Conwy. The first was a single on 20/01, then another single on 20/02. The first record of 'autumn' was 6 on 8/08 (JPH), the highest count in Aug. Most records were from Sep, mainly of 1 to 2, with the highest counts of 3 on 4/09 (RLE) and 9/09. There was one record in Oct of 5 on 15/10 (WRM) and three records of singles from 15/11 to 1/12.

Flints. The majority of the records came from Connah's Quay NR. During the first quarter all counts were in single figures, with the highest count of 8 on 11/03 at Connah's Quay NR (PeHa). The last record of the quarter was 6 there on 23/03 (PeHa). The next record was a single S of Rhyl on 12/07 (WRM). There were only three other records during the rest of that quarter. Thirty of the counts were in double figures. The highest counts in Aug were 16 at Connah's Quay NR on 17/08 (GEM) and 31/08 (PeHa). During the last quarter, the highest counts were 18 on 18/10 (WeBS), 11 on 17/11 (PeHa) and 7 on 4/12 (PeHa) and 14/12 (DvHy).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*
Passage migrant. Red List.

GWYLAN GOESDDU

(KI)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	2	3	1
Maximum count	1	4	2	1
Av max count prev 10 years	22	10	22	10
Number of records	3	2	2	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	-	0.3	-

2019

Denbs.

There was one Jan record from Kinmel Bay on 11/01. Two summer records came from Aug; 1 at RSPB Conwy on 2/08 (pTW), with presence off Llandulas on 19/08.

Flints. Both records came on the same day (4/09), from Point of Ayr: a single and a count of 4 (DWn).

2020

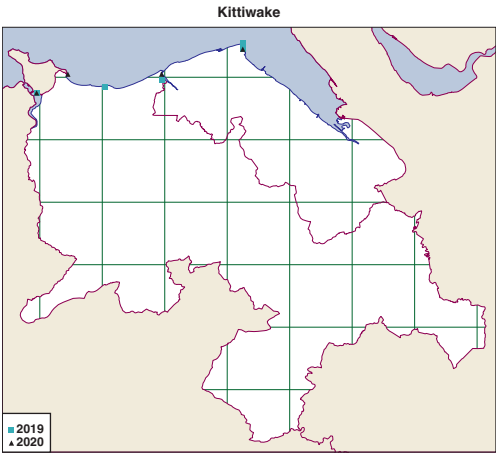
Seen in these months:

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 of the year came during late summer, when a record of presence was reported on 21/08 at RSPB Conwy. The second record was of 2 at Kinmel Bay on 23/08.

Flints. A single was reported from Point of Ayr on 9/06.

The maxima in both counties, in both years, were well below the ten-year averages.



Sabine’s Gull

Xema sabini

GWYLAN SABINE

Passage migrant.

	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
(AB)				
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1		
Maximum count		1		
Number of records	0	2	0	0
% of BirdTrack lists		-		

All records were coastal and were the first noted since 2017.

Flints. Both were singles from Point of Ayr on 4/09 and 5/09, during a sustained blow of NW winds (both DWn).

Black-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

GWYLAN BENDDU

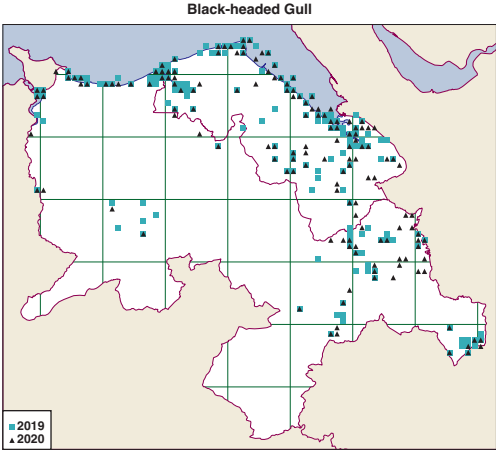
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
(BH)				
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	72	90	68	85
Maximum count	955	16759	2450	2000
Av max count prev 10 years	1442	4263	1442	4263
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	5/18	0/5	1/2
Number of records	434	828	360	747
% of records from GBW	0.00	0.12	1.01	0.24
% of BirdTrack lists	36.6	-	32.3	-
Max breeding evidence	T	ON	A	FL

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs saw the lowest maximum count for five years, whereas Flints recorded its highest maximum count since recording began. Furthermore, this proved to be over three times higher than last year's total. The numbers of records were slightly down from 2018 for both areas.

Denbs. The majority of records showed presence only. Records across the county were fairly consistent within the first three months, with ten three-figure counts including a maximum count of 251 on 7/02 at Horton's Nose (JPH). During the summer months, three records showed numbers of 100 or more, with a peak count of 396 on 7/07 at RSPB Conwy (WeBS). With permanent territory held throughout the breeding season at RSPB Conwy, it is likely that breeding was at least attempted here, although not formally recorded. Numbers increased as



the year came to a close, with high counts of 955 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 16/12 and 633 at Kinmel Bay Industrial Park on 27/12 (both JPH).

Flints. Many records showed presence only. A high count of 16,759 was at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 1/01, along with another high count of 15,000 on 11/02 (both DWn). These were two of five large counts of 1,000+ recorded, with the other three nearby at Connah's Quay NR, between Jan and Mar. Peak numbers were also noted during the first three months, with thirty three-figure counts (100 to 500) between Rhuddlan and Rhyl, mainly along the Afon Clwyd and at Rhyl Brickfields pond LNR. The only exception was a record of 1,000 on the Afon Clwyd at Rhuddlan on 19/03 (SH). Nestlings at the Shotton Steelworks were ringed on four dates: 31 on 23/06, 214 on 26/06, 33 on 14/07 and a further 6 on 29/07 (all pBH). High notable summer counts of 2,100 were from Flint Saltmarsh on 4/08 (DWn), 1,300 at Connah's Quay NR on 31/07 (PeHa) and 1,100 recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 4/08 (WeBS). On the whole, numbers were lower during the last three months (Oct-Dec) with forty-five three-figure counts. The highest count during the last three months of 823, came from Mostyn Dock on 17/11 (WeBS).

2019 WeBS counts from selected sites:

(BH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	98	125	14	39	38	21	396	343	202	70	19	88
Clwyd estuary (Rhuddlan)		435	310	5	98			708	140		471	284
White Sands		250	33	218	214	6	385	500	28	75	2	40
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	40	120	54	120	80	65	125	1100	600	300	170	520

2020

Records were noted in each month in both counties, with a similar coverage of 1km squares to 2019. Although many records were marked as 'present' only, this year saw both counties' maximum counts level off, although Denbs just edged the count for only the third time in the last 10 years. Flints continued to dominate the number of records for the fifth consecutive year.

Denbs. The number of three-figure counts tripled compared with 2019, with thirty-one recorded throughout the year. Fourteen of these counts were recorded in the first two months of the year, ranging between 100 and 600. The two highest counts during this period were 2,450 on 12/02 and 1,180 on 17/02, both at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari (JPH). Once again, RSPB Conwy recorded the highest counts during the summer, with 200 on 15/07 (DvHy) and 150 on 4/08. Records improved and increased well between autumn and winter, with 770 from Pensarn on 8/09 and another high count of 1,274 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 20/10 (JPH).

Flints. Over 16% of the total records (124) were counts of 100+. During the first three months of the year, two sites shared nine of these three-figure counts, with a high count of 800 on 2/02 at Connah's Quay NR (PeHa) and at least 640 on 15/01, at the Afon Clwyd in Rhyl (WRM). It took until an August WeBS count to see any counts reach four-figures, when 1,800 were recorded at Flint saltmarsh and 2,000 at White Sands, Dee estuary on 23/08. A total of 332 nestlings were ringed at Shotton Steelworks between 8/06 and 28/07, which was an increase of 48 on last year's totals (pBH). Breeding reports remained limited elsewhere, with one note of recently fledged individuals near Rhyl on 19/06 (MaO). During the final three months of the year, the Afon Clwyd at Rhyl accumulated the most records, with nine three-figure counts and a maximum count of 1,654 on 15/10 (JPH).

2020 WeBS counts from selected sites:

(BH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	39	176	49						370	225	131	45
White Sands	400		54					2000	600	250	150	
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	90		60					900	200	60	200	300
Gronant	400		31					150	283	514	81	60

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

(LU)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	0	2	0	1
Maximum count		1		
Av max count prev 10 years	1	2	1	2
Number of records	0	1	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		-		-

2019

Flints. The only record came from two sections of Connah's Quay NR on 9/02 (PeHa). This was a drop in records for the second consecutive year.

2020

Flints. There was just one record for the year of a first winter at Gronant dunes on 5/03 that was seen feeding on the sands with the Black-headed Gulls (WRM). This marked the fourth consecutive year that the county recorded a low maximum count of just one individual.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* GWYLAN MÔR Y CANOLDIR
Visitor. RBBP.

(MU)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	6	13	6	8
Maximum count	1	4	1	2
Av max count prev 10 years	4	4	4	4
Number of records	13	45	6	25
% of BirdTrack lists	1.1	-	1.2	-

2019

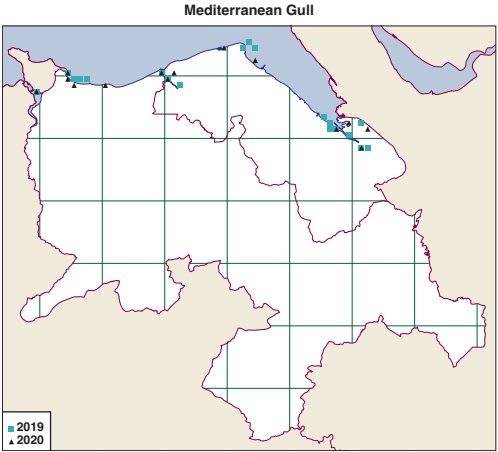
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

There was an increase in records seen in Denbs, after a particularly low total in 2018, whereas in Flints there was a further increase of records for the fourth consecutive year. This was also reflected in the number of 1km squares the species was recorded in. There has still been no known attempt at breeding in this area.

Denbs. The first record was a single offshore at Colwyn Bay on 4/01 (MHu). RSPB Conwy

claimed just over 70% of the records. These were all of singles recorded over the course of the year.

Flints. Most sightings throughout the year consisted of singles. However, the first record of the year was of 4 adults in winter plumage seen flying upstream at Connah's Quay NR on 1/01 (DWn). The Afon Clwyd between Rhuddlan and Rhyl recorded almost half of all records for the area, with the first reported on 3/01 (AHJ) and a maximum count of 4 adults seen on 30/06 (WRM).



2020

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 almost halved in both counties and this had an effect on the maximum counts recorded, which were unsurprisingly both down on 2019. Flints still boasted 75% of the total records, which mirrored the same percentage weighting of 2019. There were no breeding codes noted for any record in both counties across the year.

Denbs. Singles were recorded in four 1km squares, with the first report from Porth Eirias in Colwyn Bay on 3/02 (RS). The final three records of the year related to a single at RSPB Conwy between 14/11 and 20/11.

Flints. The number of 1km squares fell into single digits for the first time since 2016. The Afon Clwyd estuary at Rhyl continued to be an important site, producing fourteen of the twenty-five records, with the first seen on 19/01 (JPH), a top count of 2 on 8/08 (AHJ) and the last report on 22/11 (JPH). An adult showed well at Rhyl Brickfield Ponds, with Black-headed Gulls, for a week between 19/10 and 26/10 (AHJ).

Common Gull *Larus canus* GWYLAN GWEUNYDD
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

(CM)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	29	53	31	50
Maximum count	384	3662	1000	2000
Av max count prev 10 years	1329	2291	1329	2291
Number of records	111	332	90	345
% of records from GBW	0.00	0.30	-	0.90
% of BirdTrack lists	12.2	-	11.6	
Max breeding evidence	T	-	-	-

2019

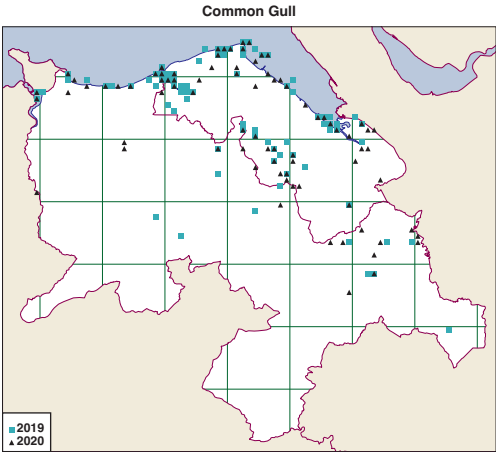
Seen in these months:

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 trend in maximum counts continued for the tenth consecutive year in Flints with a maximum count recorded nearly ten times higher than Denbs this year. The number of reports dropped in both counties on the previous year.

Denbs. During Jan to Mar there were seven three-figure counts, with a maximum number of 384 recorded at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 18/03 (JPH). A further two of the larger counts were also inland on pasture, with 300 at Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd on 11/02 and 350 near Llanrhaedr on 12/02 (both GPI). There were just two mid-summer records during Jun and Jul, before numbers started building up again in the autumn, mainly from Lleweni Hall, Bodfari. This site had good reports with counts of 62 on 28/10, 104 on 11/11 and 174 on 11/12 (all JPH).

Flints. Between the start of Jan and mid Mar there were eight counts of 1,000+, which came from three sites: RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, Gronant dunes and the Afon Clwyd at Rhuddlan. A maximum count for the year of 3,662 was recorded on 1/01 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (DWn). This was followed by three notable counts of 2,100, 2,500 and 3,500 on 12/01 (WRM), 22/01 (WeBS) and 18/02 (WRM) respectively, at Gronant dunes. During this same period, there were eighteen three-figure counts, which were down by two-thirds on 2018's reports. Much smaller numbers were recorded during the summer months. However, a high WeBS count of 1,500 was recorded at Ffynnonogyw Bay, Dee estuary on 5/08, which highlighted the large numbers of returning birds. As the autumn progressed, numbers continued to rise, with fourteen three-figure counts but remained lower than in spring.



2020

Recorded in each month in both counties, with the number of 1km squares similar to 2019. The number of maximum counts changed significantly, with Denbs witnessing a 260% increase. Although the Flints highest count was double that of Denbs, it still suffered a 45% decrease. Collectively, both counties recorded a similar total of records to 2019, with Flints producing the majority of nearly 75%. No breeding was noted or confirmed in either county this year.

Denbs. The largest five maximum counts were recorded in the first three months of the year, with the only four-figure count of 1,000 near Bodelwyddan on 17/01 (AB). This record saw a large congregation of gulls feeding in a field that had been recently muck-spread. Lleweni Hall, Bodfari saw three recorded three-figure counts, with 144 on 12/02, 420 on 17/02 and 284 on 16/03 (all JPH). Records over the summer remained low and restricted to a couple of sites; one in particular reported a handful of 'present only' records in fields near the Afon Conwy at Llanrwst between the dates of 28/06 and 19/08. As expected, numbers increased during the last four months, with two further three-figure counts of 165 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 20/10

(JPH) and 125 on River Alyn, near Llanferres on 5/11.

Flints. There were sixteen records exceeding 100 during Jan-Mar with the top three largest counts above 1,000 all from Gronant dunes. There were 1,750 recorded on 10/01, with 1,500 on 5/02 and 2,000 on 12/02 (all WRM). Gronant dunes continued to be frequented, with a further six three-figure counts during this period. The Clwyd estuary at Rhyl also produced notable counts, ranging between 146 and 340. Numbers fell dramatically to single digits throughout Jun and Jul, with all but one report coming from coastal locations. The only inland record was of a count of 3, from Rhydymwyn near Mold on 25/06 (MD). Numbers soon started to recover by Aug, with eight two-figure counts and two records of 110, shared between 3 coastal sites: Afon Clwyd, Gronant dunes and Flint estuary. The final four months recorded twenty-five three-figure counts, with 40% of these from Gronant dunes. There were two four-figure counts, with a WeBS count revealing 1,000 at Ffynnonogyw Bay, Dee estuary on 20/09. A high count of 1,298 was noted flying over the village of Pantymwym, near Mold (GEM), in a steady stream on 26/12, which perhaps highlights how under-recorded this species could be at inland sites during the winter months.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

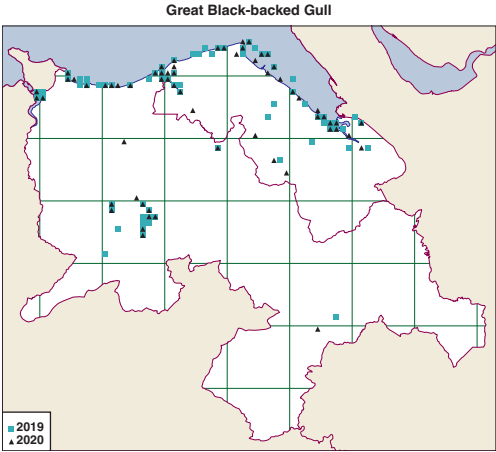
GWYLAN GEFNDDU FAWR

(GB)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	34	38	27	35
Maximum count	32	93	17	47
Av max count prev 10 years	31	75	31	75
Recorded in BBS squares	0/28	3/18	0/5	1/2
Number of records	218	350	189	365
% of BirdTrack lists	23.4	-	21.8	-
Max breeding evidence	ON	-	P	-

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties. The majority of records were of presence only or present in single-digit numbers in coastal locations.

Denbs. There were seventeen double-figure counts throughout the year, and ten of these records came between Jan and Mar. The maximum count of 32 was recorded on 17/01 at Llanddulas (JPH). In total there were twenty-one records from Llyn Brenig, with three in double figures (10 to 12). At least 4 pairs were later confirmed to be occupying nests on 11/05 (WRM). Although there were reports of birds at Mynydd Hiraethog throughout the breeding season, there were no confirmed breeding records. Numbers built up as the year drew to an end, with Horton's Nose having 14 on both 9/12 and 22/12, with the number rising to 16 on 26/12 (all JPH).



Flints. The majority of records were confined to the coast, where the largest numbers were recorded. During the first three months, a maximum count of 54 was seen at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 1/01 (DWn). Throughout the year, forty-one double figure counts were recorded, with 63% of these coming in the final quarter of the year (Sep to Dec). This was where the highest tally was recorded, with 93 at Gronant dunes on 13/11 (WRM). As reflected in the WeBS count information, Gronant dunes was in fact a key site for totals in Flints, with fifty-nine records over the course of the year.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(GB)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant	10	13	25	12	18	7	17	16	29	26	20	9
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	6	5	7	5	5	2	2	2	7	1	11	2

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties. The maximum counts for both counties both represented almost a 50% drop on the previous year. The numbers of 1km squares were only slightly down from 2019. The majority of records referred to single digit counts, or marked as present only.

Denbs. There were six double-figure counts throughout the year, ranging between 10 and 17. Three of these came from two sites within the first six weeks of the year, with the first of 15 on 6/01 at Colwyn Bay (EJB). Further records of 10 on 9/01 (EJB) and 11 on 9/02 (JPH) were both seen at Kinnel Bay. A record of 14 from Mynydd Hiraethog on 11/07, highlighted that breeding was likely to be occurring locally. However, this was not formally confirmed through reports. The final four months witnessed the two highest counts, with 15 recorded on 3/09 at Colwyn Bay and 17 on 5/10 (SD) at Kinnel Bay.

Flints. In total, there were sixty-five records of 10 or above. However, the first three months represented just 15%, with the highest count of 30 at Gronant dunes on 12/02 (WRM). After Mar, numbers declined to single digits until Jul, when they again started to build up at coastal locations. The Afon Clwyd at Rhyl saw the largest gathering of birds in Jul and Aug, with over 60% of the double-figure reports, featuring peak totals of 27 and 33; both on 26/08 (AHJ, WRM). Interestingly, the final four months of the year saw a similar pattern noted in 2019, where 60% of the total double-figure counts were recorded. The maximum count of 47 for the year was recorded on 1/10 (WRM) at Gronant dunes. This was a site that continued to prove popular for this species, sharing equally with the Afon Clwyd nearly three-quarters of all counts over 10 this year.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. S7.

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties, with the majority of records consisting of presence or singles only. Maximum counts were down by 50% in Flints and down nearly 60% in Denbs. This was reflected by a lower reporting rate in both counties.

Denbs. Just over 70% of the total records referred to counts of birds recorded as present only, or single-digit numbers (1-9). Between Jan and Mar, the largest values

recorded were 1,652 on 7/02 (JPH) and 500 on 10/02, both at Horton's Nose. There were thirteen three-figure records, with 46% of these at Horton's Nose during this three-month period. The only notable inland record was a maximum count of 220 near Acrefair on 26/01 (SD). Numbers and records dropped throughout the spring and summer period of Apr to Aug with just six three-figure counts. With 267 noted, this was a maximum count for the area at RSPB Conwy 7/07 (WeBS). Breeding was reported in six 1km squares, largely at coastal sites, with just the one inland at Llyn Brenig. Autumn numbers built up slowly as it was not until 23/10 that a three-figure count (152) was reported at Horton's Nose (JPH). A further nine three-figure counts followed across the area, with a maximum count recorded of 988 at Horton's Nose on 9/12 (JPH).

Flints. Nearly 50% of all records reported presence only or single-digit numbers. The area recorded twenty-seven three-figure counts during the first three months of the year and two above 1,000. There were 2,459 noted on 1/01 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (DWn) and 2,000 at Gronant dunes on 24/03 (KBr). This was followed by a further twenty-five three-figure counts between Apr and Aug. 52% of these counts were during the month of Aug alone, with a high count of 746 on 22/08 at Rhyl seafront (JPH). The final three months of the year saw much larger values, with another thirty-seven three-figure counts recorded (100-712) and two four-figure maximum counts. This included 4,000 at Gronant dunes on 13/11 (WRM) and 5,000 on 17/11 at Point of Ayr (WeBS). Breeding was reported in five 1km squares, all at coastal locations.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(HG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	77	165	209	267	93	87	194	83	21	120	79	159
Rhuddlan	250	38	92	244	83			273	350	515	130	175
Gronant	150	475	602	327	381	374	142	682	551	305	526	404
Point of Ayr	150	300	850	70	264	20	400	450	500	120	5,000	50
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	30	8	8	4	12				7	6	10	



Herring Gull: Malcolm Down

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties. Records increased slightly in Denbs. However, they remained low compared to previous years. The maximum count remained similar to 2019 but proved to be still the second lowest figure in the past six years. Flints saw a good increase in records, but the maximum count was 20% lower than in 2019. Overall, the majority of records referred to single digits or present only.

Denbs. The largest reported figures fell between Jan and Mar, with eleven three-figure counts and an additional two exceeding 1,000. Seven of these reports were noted at Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay, where 1,640 were counted on 7/02 and 1,285 on 9/02 (both JPH). A high summer count of 154 was near Kinnel Bay on 4/06 (JPH). Away from the coast, 184 were observed at Mynydd Hiraethog on 11/07. Nearby, breeding was confirmed at Llyn Brenig. Rhuthun also had a colony closely observed between 27/06 and 25/07, raising up to 20 young (RG). In total, five 1km squares had reported breeding. However, the actual figure is believed to be far higher. The final third of the year saw the number of three-figure counts increase again, with RSPB Conwy taking over 50% of the reports with a high count of 144 on 15/11.

Flints. Three-figure counts increased as the year progressed, with nineteen counts in the first four months, twenty-nine counts between May and Aug and forty-one counts in the final third of the year. The highest six counts were in excess of 1,000. Gronant dunes produced two of these reports: 2,500 on 5/02 and 1,500 on 12/02 (WRM). During the summer months, WeBS counts at Point of Ayr recorded 1,000 on 5/07 and at least 4,000 on 23/08. Numbers remained high into Sep, when another WeBS count of 4,000 was noted at Point of Ayr on 20/09. The Afon Clwyd at Rhyl continued to prove healthy for numbers into the autumn and winter, with a maximum count of 1,423 on 1/11 (JPH).

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

GWYLAN GOESFELEN

Visitor. RBBP.

(YG)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	5	0	2
Maximum count	1	2	0	1
Av max count prev 10 years	1	1	1	1
Number of records	2	47	0	2
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-	-	-

2019

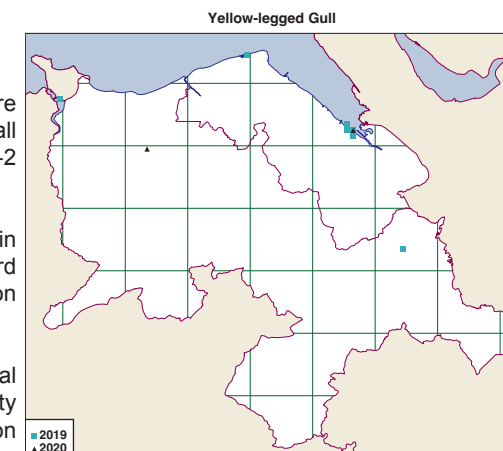
Seen in these months:

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

For the fifth consecutive year, more records came from Flints with 96% of all records. All records were of 1-2 individuals.

Denbs. Records of both singles came in the first half of the year; in Jan at Gresford Flash on 4/01 (IMS) and RSPB Conwy on 15/06 (pTW).

Flints. All records were noted in the final six months of the year with the majority referring to 1-2 adults. First recorded on 9/07 at Flint Saltmarsh (CW), sightings followed from Connah's Quay and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh with a final report in this area on 15/10 (PeHa). The last report of the year was also of an adult at Gronant dunes on 2/11 (DWn).



2020

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

Overall, for both counties, this year proved the poorest year since 2005 for Yellow-legged Gull records with no Denbs records and only two records from Flints.

Flints. The first record of the year was of a single that came from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 18/08 (PeHa). The second and final record was of an adult on the Afon Clwyd at Rhyl on 16/09 (AHJ).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

GWYLAN GEFNDDU FACH

Passage migrant and breeding resident. Amber List.

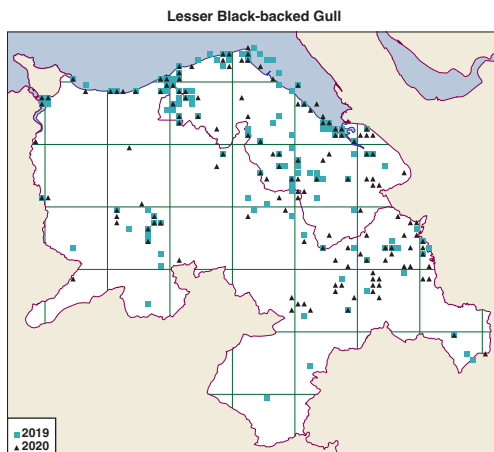
2019

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a reduction of 48.1% in maximum counts in Flints, but an increase of 60% in Denbs. In total, 40.1% of all records referred to singles or

(LB)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common	Abundant	Very Common
Number of 1km squares	62	71	83	64
Maximum count	160	519	188	150
Av max count prev 10 years	400	344	400	344
Recorded in BBS squares	7/28	10/18	1/5	1/2
Number of records	239	510	238	494
% of BirdTrack lists	24.1	-	23.0	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	D	NY	-

presence only.

Denbs. In the first three months there were only four double digit counts of 10-60 and the top count of 60 was recorded near Llechrydau on 14/01 (AIDa). Numbers and records increased during the breeding season with Llyn Brenig recording the highest counts: 85 both on 9/04 and 11/05. This was followed by the largest maximum count for the year of 160 on 19/08 (all WRM). Numbers decreased in the final third of the year, with five counts between 10-45; all of which were at inland sites with three near Hanmer (SD). Breeding was again confirmed at RSPB Conwy, near Kinnel Bay and Llyn Brenig.



Flints. In direct contrast, there were twenty-four double figure counts of 10-43 recorded in the first quarter. During this time, two counts exceeding 100 were also recorded; 519 on 1/01 and 200 on 11/02, both at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (DWn). Between Apr-Jun, there were a further thirty-four two-figure records (10-96) with the majority seen at four main coastal sites of Rhyl, Gronant dunes, Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. It was RSPB Oakenholt Marsh that recorded the top count during the breeding season with 150 on 26/06 (DWn). There was a further increase in the third quarter of the year with another forty-two double-figure counts. Counts of 96 were at two sites: near Rhyl on 25/07 (JPH) and Flint Saltmarsh on 4/08 (WeBS). A maximum count of 100 was recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 17/09 (GR). This trend continued into the autumn with a further record of 100 at this site on 2/11 (GR) and another nearby at Connah's Quay NR on 14/10 (PeHa). There were no confirmed breeding records across the area.

WeBS counts from selected sites:

(LB)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy		4	4	8	5	5	9	5		1		
Flint Saltmarsh	11	16	2	8	18	29	25	96	63	42		1
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	43	15	15	10	32	12	3	19	40	25	20	34
Gronant dunes				1	20	27	37	52	15		3	
Clwyd estuary, Rhuddlan			7	7	2			30	10			

2020

Records were noted in each month in both counties and mainly consisted on single digit counts or presence only. The maximum count in Flints suffered a further reduction of 71% this year, however in contrast the maximum count in Denbs increased for the second year by 17.5%. The number of records in each county remained similar to the previous year.

Denbs. During the first four months of the year, numbers remained low with the top count of 188 at Gresford Flash on 28/01 (DWn). The next highest count was just 24 from Llewenni Hall, near Bodfari on 16/03 (JPH). Between May and Jul, there were four counts ranging between 56 and 86, all at inland locations. During this same period, there were two three-figure counts with 100 recorded at Llyn Brenig on 14/07 (WRM) and 161 at Gors Maen Llwyd NR at Mynydd Hiraethog on 11/07. Breeding was recorded in three 1km squares.

Flints. A similar pattern to Denbs was reflected in the low number of larger counts in the first half of the year with just two records of any counts exceeding 30. A top count of 50 was at Connah's Quay NR on 31/01 (DvHy) and 40 were noted on the River Dee at Saltney on 8/05 (AHJ). From Jun to Aug, numbers recovered well with eleven double-figure counts above 40 with nine of the records recorded on the Afon Clwyd at Rhyl. On 23/08, a WeBS count revealed two three-figure counts: 102 at Flint saltmarsh and 120 at White Sands, Dee estuary. The last four months of the year favoured Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh for over 80% of counts over 40. The highest count of this period was of 150 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 27/09 (WeBS). Once again, there were no records of confirmed breeding this year.

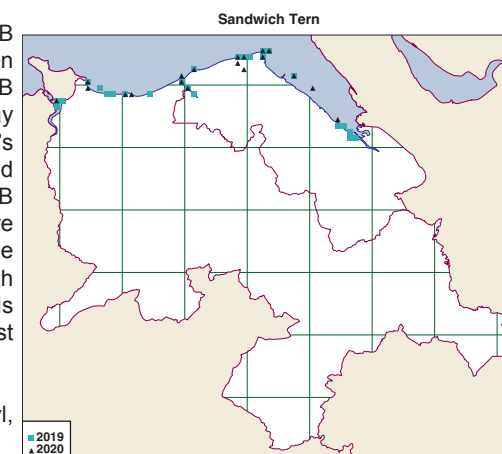
Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*
Summer migrant. Amber List.

MÖR-WENNOL BIGDDU

(TE)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	10	15	7	12
Maximum count	36	525	139	1500
Av max count prev 10 years	194	709	194	709
Number of records	35	77	9	80
% of BirdTrack lists	3.0	-	2.9	-

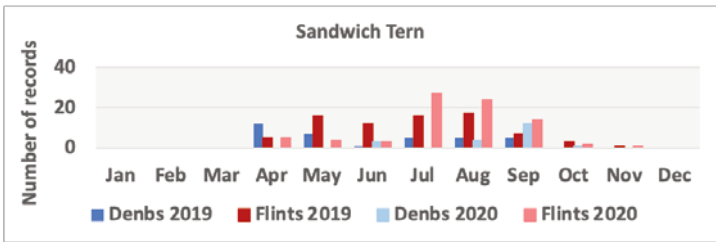
2019

Denbs. The first record was 6 at RSPB Conwy on 15/04 (SvK). There were eleven other records in Apr, all from RSPB Conwy, with counts of 2 to 23. The May records were counts of 2 to 36 (the year's maximum at RSPB Conwy on 15/05) and there was one Jun record of 7 at RSPB Conwy on 29/06. The Jul records were from three locations along the coast. The Aug records were from Llanddulas with counts of 2 (or presence). Sep records were of presence or 2 to 22 and the last was 10 at Colwyn Bay on 28/08.



Flints. The first record was 2 S of Rhyl,

flying silently upriver, on 5/04 (WRM). The highest count in Apr was c.180 S of Rhyl on 28/04 (WRM). The May counts were 1 to 40 with a maximum of 74 far S of Rhyl on 2/05 (WRM). The records in Jun were counts of 2 to 33 with a high count of 42 far S of Rhyl on 30/06 ((WRM). Numbers increased during Jul with counts of 1 to 189 and a maximum of 291 far S of Rhyl on 25/07 (JPH). The Aug counts were 1 to 250 and the year's highest count, c.525, far S of Rhyl was on 13/08 (WRM). There were fewer in Sep with most counts of 1 to c.105 and a maximum of 190 near Gronant on 15/09. A single was seen between Gronant on 13/10 and Point of Ayr on 26/10 and the last record was presence S of Rhyl on 1/12.



2020

Denbs. The first record was presence at Llanddulas on 23/06. The next record was 139 at Horton's Nose on 23/08 (JPH). The Sep counts were lower, with most of 1 to 8 and a high of 26 at Llanddulas on 14/09 (JJo). The last record was 3 at Horton's Nose on 20/09 (JPH).

Flints. The first record was an unusually high count of 220 at Gronant dunes on 21/04 (PDJ). Other counts during Apr were 23 to 70. May was quiet with four counts of 1 to 21 and in Jun there were only three counts of 9 to 74. There were many more records in Jul, with most counts of 1 to 88 and five of 100+. The highest count of the month was 600 far S of Rhyl on 28/07 (WRM). There were fewer records during Aug, with a few counts of less than 100, thirteen counts of 100+ and twelve of 140 to 500. The year's maximum, 1,500, was near Gronant on 17/08 (PDJ). Numbers of records and birds reduced in Sep with most counts of 1 to 64 and a high of c.230, roosting at Gronant dunes on 3/09 (WRM). There were two counts in Oct (2 and 13) and the last record was a single far S of Rhyl on 6/11 (JPH).

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

MÔR-WENNOL FACH

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

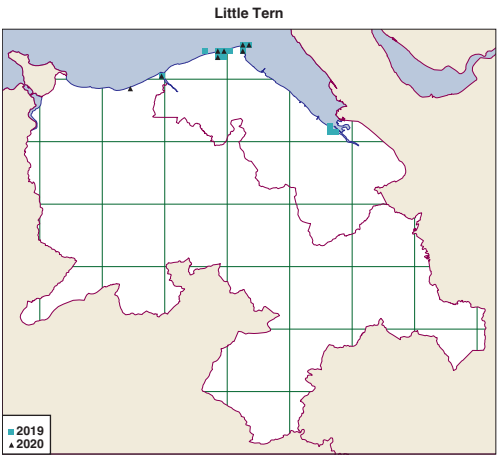
(AF)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Common	Rare	Common
Number of 1km squares	1	12	2	6
Maximum count	1	550	28	300
Av max count prev 10 years	3	372	3	372
Number of records	1	66	2	56
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-	0.1	-
Max breeding evidence	-	NY	-	NY

2019

Denbs. The only record was 3 at Horton's Nose on 7/07 (JPH).

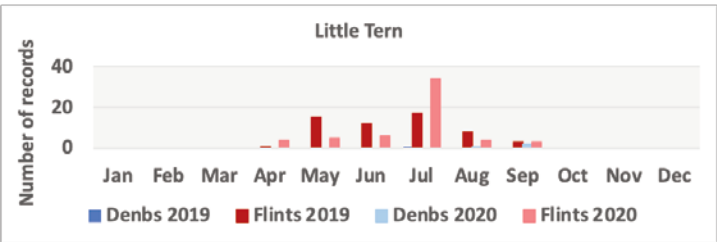
Flints. The first record was 11 near Gronant on 30/04 (WRM). During May there were counts

of 2 to 179, mainly near Gronant with a high count of 200 on 15/05 (KBr). All but one of the Jun records came from near Gronant with counts of 4 to 89 and c.300 on 28/06 (Alex Aylward). Breeding was confirmed during Jun. In Jul there were counts of 1 to 323 and a high count of 420 on 7/07. A single ventured to RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 3/07. Chicks were seen during Jul too. The year's highest count, 550, was from Point of Ayr on 4/08 with other counts in Aug of 8 to 500. The three records in Sep were from Talacre or Point of Ayr with counts of 6 to 36 and the last record was 7 at Point of Ayr on 5/09 (DWn).



2020

Denbs. The two records were 3 at Horton's Nose on 23/08 (JPH) and 28 on 8/09 at Pensarn.



Flints. The first record was 10 near Gronant on 21/04 (PDJ). There were three other counts during Apr of 6, 11 and 14. There were five records during May, four counts of 1 to 164 and a high of 300 at Gronant dunes on 9/05 (PDJ). There were six records during Jun with counts of 1 to 185 and a high of 200 near Gronant on 24/06 (JFJ). Most records were during Jul with counts of 1 to 200 and a maximum of 252 near Gronant on 5/07. A total of 62 nestlings was ringed between 9/07 and 21/07 (pBH). There were four records during Aug with counts of 6 to 25 and three during Sep with counts of 2 to 5. The last record was 2 at Gronant dunes on 17/09 (JPH).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

MÔR-WENNOL GYFFREDIN

Passage migrant and summer breeding visitor. Red List.

(CN)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very common	Scarce	Very common
Number of 1km squares	2	13	3	17
Maximum count	80	400	9	420
Av max count prev 10 years	10	292	10	292
Number of records	1	145	2	51
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-	0.6	-

2019

Denbs. The only record was 80 seen at Horton's Nose on 24/08 (RS).

Flints. The first record was 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 18/04 (PeHa), which was one of just

five records in Apr. While most counts in May were 1 to 76, the highest count was 300 on 19/05 at Shotton Steelworks (WeBS). During Jun most counts were 1 to 50 with 70 at Connah's Quay NR on 27/06 (DWn) and 340 at Shotton Steelworks on 16/06 (WeBS). On 23/06, 248 nestlings were ringed at the Steelworks (pBH). During Jul there were twenty-three counts in single figures, and others of 10 to 130. The highest count was 400 at Shotton Steelworks on 7/07 (WeBS). More nestlings were ringed: 59 on 14/07 and 123 on 29/07 (pBH). Numbers declined during Aug with most counts of 1 to 25 with two higher: 100 at Point of Ayr and 150 at Shotton Steelworks on 4/08 (WeBS). The highest count for Sep was 2 and the last record, a single, was at Bagillt saltmarsh on 16/09 (WeBS).

2020

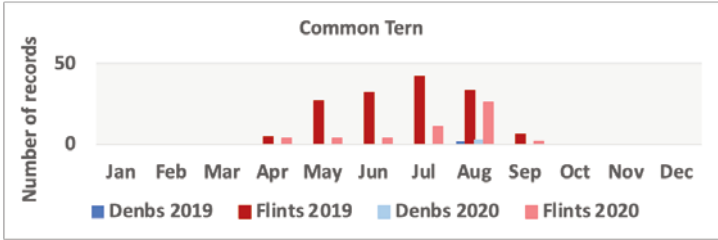
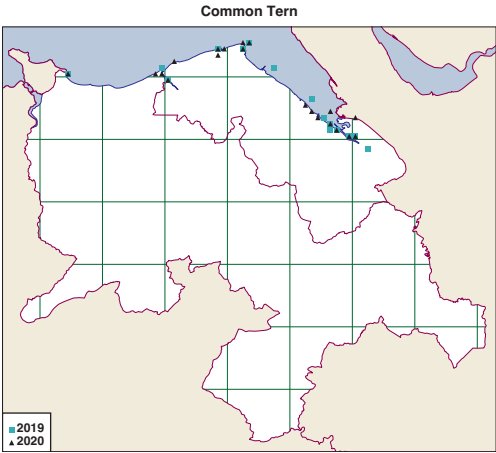
Denbs. The records were presence on 15/08 at Kinmel Bay and a count of 9 at Horton's Nose on 23/08 (JPH).

Flints. The first records were 2 near Bagillt (GRMP) and 4 at Point of Ayr (GrJ) on 24/04. There were two other counts from Apr, and the highest of the month was 115, roosting on a sand bank at Flint, on 30/04 (GRMP). There were four records in May with counts of 1 to 2 and 60 near Bagillt on 5/05 (GRMP). There were two records in Jun: 127 nestlings were ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 22/06 (pBH) and 4 were seen far S of Rhyl on 28/06 (JPH). There were eleven records during Jul with counts of 1 to 140 and two higher counts: 200+ at Talacre on 23/07 (NHu) and 420 at Shotton Steelworks on 5/07 (WeBS). The largest monthly number of records was during Aug with counts of 1 to 10 and two counts of 20: at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 1/08 (PeHa) and at Point of Ayr on 21/08 (MGW). There were two records of singles at Gronant dunes on 3/09 and at Rhyl promenade on 7/09.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*
Passage migrant. Red List.

2019

Denbs. There were two counts of singles, the other records were presence. The first record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 29/04 and the last was presence at RSPB Conwy on 9/05 then at Llanddulas on 19/08.

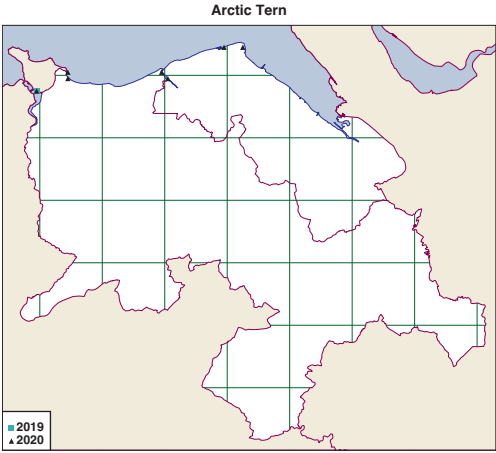


(AE)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	2		4	3
Maximum count	5		12	25
Av max count prev 10 years	2		2	7
Number of records	5	0	3	6
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2		0.3	-

2020

Denbs. The first record was 12 at Horton's Nose on 23/08 (JPH) with two other counts of a single also on 23/08 at RSPB Conwy.

Flints. The first record was 2 at Point of Ayr on 24/04 (GrJ). The other Apr record was 9 at Gronant dunes on 30/04 (JPH). The next record was c.25 at Point of Ayr on 21/07 (SvK). The three other records were counts of 1 or 2 and the last record was 2 far S of Rhyl on 11/08 (JPH).



White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* CORSWENNOL ADEINWEN
Vagrant.

2019

Flints. A single was seen at Shotwick (AnJa), at Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands (DWn) on 24/05 and at Border Pool on 25/05 (SD, CW). Accepted by the WBRC.

(WJ)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		2		
Maximum count		1		
Number of records	0	4	0	0
% of BirdTrack lists		-		

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* CORSWENNOL DDU
Passage migrant.

(BJ)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1		2	
Maximum count	2		1	
Av max count prev 10 years	2		2	
Number of records	6	0	3	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3		0.3	

2019

Denbs. Two were seen at RSPB Conwy on 8/05 (JPH, SvK, pTW) and a single was there on 9/05 (EJB, TyC). These were the first records since a single in 2017.

2020

Denbs. There were three records of a single at RSPB Conwy on 23/08 (SNi, AnRo).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua* SGIWEN FAWR
Passage migrant.

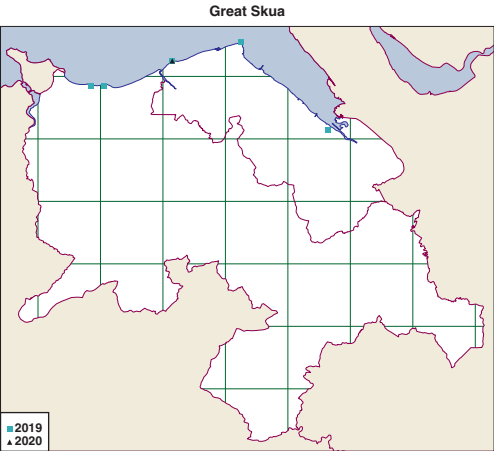
(NX)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	3		1
Maximum count	1	1		1
Av max count prev 10 years	-	1		1
Number of records	2	4	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-		-

Denbs. There were singles off Llanddulas on 19/08 (JFJ) and Old Colwyn on 28/09 (CB).

Flints. There were four singles in the fortnight between the end of Aug and early Sep – off Rhyl Seafront on 22/08 and 5/09 (JPH); at Connah's Quay NR on 25/08 (PSH) and on the same Point of Ayr sea-watch on 4/09 as a Pomarine Skua (see below).

2020

Flints. A single was seen off Rhyl promenade on 7/09 (JPH).



Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* SGIWEN FRECH
Passage migrant.

(PK)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1		
Maximum count		1		
Av max count prev 10 years		1		
Number of records	0	1	0	0
% of BirdTrack lists		-		

2019

Flints. A single was off Point of Ayr during a sea-watch on 4/09 (DWn).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

Passage migrant.

(AC)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares			2	1
Maximum count			1	1
Av max count prev 10 years			2	1
Number of records	0	0	1	1
% of BirdTrack lists			0.1	-

2020

Denbs. There was a single at Kinmel Bay on 20/9 (JPH)

Flints. There was a single off Point of Ayr on 21/08 (MGW)

Guillemot *Uria aalge* GWYLOG
Winter and autumn visitor. Amber List.

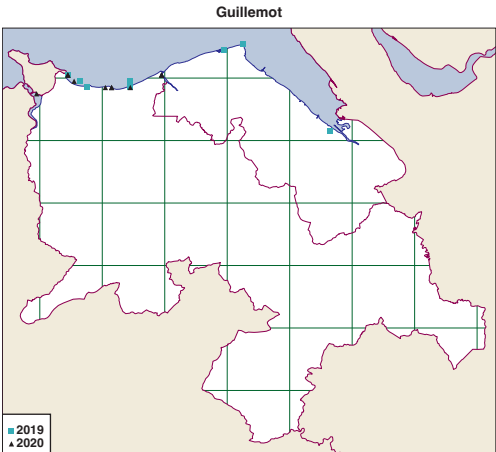
(GU)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	5	3	7	4
Maximum count	2	3	21	1
Av max count prev 10 years	63	8	63	8
Number of records	4	3	12	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	-	0.8	-

2019

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

Denbs. There were fewer reports than in 2018, with four reports from two sites. There were two records from Colwyn Bay on 19/01 and 24/08 and two records from Pensarn on 19/01.

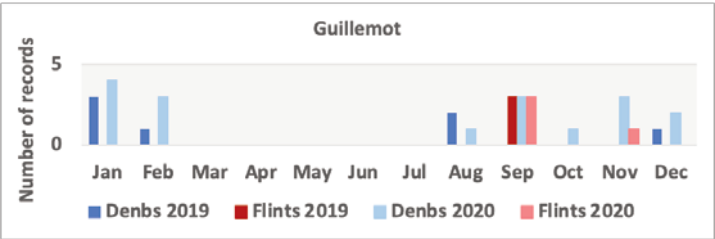
Flints. The highest count of 3 came from Point of Ayr on 4/09 (DWn). The other records were of singles at Connah's Quay NR on 1/09 (PeHa) and at Gronant on 7/09 (WRM).



2020

Denbs. There were more reports than in 2019, with twelve records from five sites. Six reports were during Jan and Feb and seven reports during Sep to Dec. The highest count of 21 came from Llanddulas on 14/09 (J Jones). The next highest count of 9 came from Colwyn Bay on 23/01 (TyC). The remaining counts were of 1 to 3.

Flints. There were four reports from four sites. All records were of singles. There were three records in Sep. These came from Connah's Quay NR on 9/09, Queensferry on 10/09 and Holywell on 26/09. One record came from Gronant on 9/11.



Razorbill *Alca torda* LLURS
Mainly a winter visitor.

(RA)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Rare	Uncommon	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3	1	7	2
Maximum count	6	2	4	4
Av max count prev 10 years	57	1	57	1
Number of records	5	1	9	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-	0.9	-

2019

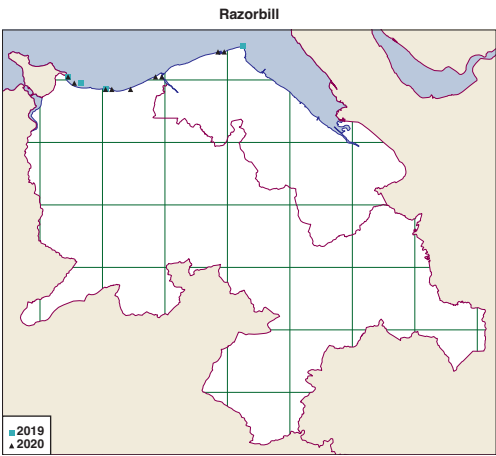
Auks breed on the Ormes which are just outside the reporting area. Most 2019 sightings were on the Llanddulas to Rhos-on-Sea coast; there were only six records in 2019 at four locations which is around average.

Denbs. The highest count was 6 at Old Colwyn on 2/05 (RS). This was far fewer than the maximum count of 500 in 2018. One other record came from Old Colwyn on 19/01 (AnRo). One record of a single came from Llanddulas on 2/01.

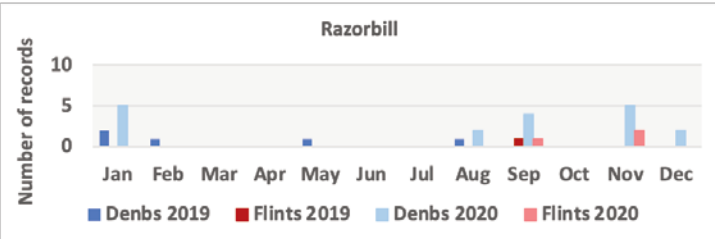
Flints. There was one record of a count of 2 from Point of Ayr on 4/09 (DWn).

2020

Denbs. Five records came from Llanddulas with the highest count of 4 on 11/11 (WRM) and



there were further records of singles on 15/01, 14/09 and 15/09. Two records came from Pensarn both of counts of 4 on 11/11 (NHu, TBT). Two records came from Kinmel Bay, 1 on 19/01 and 4 on 25/01. One record came from Colwyn Bay with a count of 3 on 23/01 (TyC).



Flints. Three records came from Gronant with the highest count of 4 on 12/11 (WRM). The other two records were of 2 on 9/11 and a single on 29/09 both (WRM).

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle* GWYLOG DDU
Visitor.

(TY)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1			
Maximum count	1			
Number of records	1	0	0	0

2019

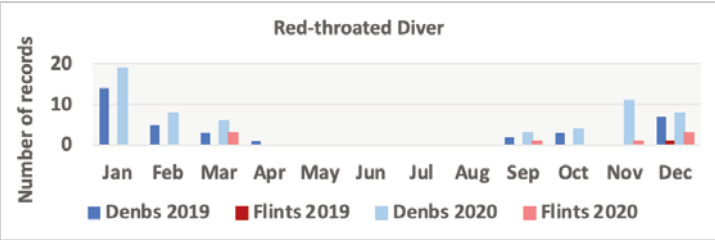
Denbs. The one record was of a single on 2/05 at Old Colwyn (RS).

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

(RH)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Very scarce	Fairly common	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	17	1	15	5
Maximum count	30	1	50	3
Av max count prev 10 years	49	6	49	6
Number of records	26	1	59	8
% of BirdTrack lists	1.4	-	3.0	-

2019

Denbs. One third of the records were from Jan with most counts of 1 to 10 at various locations along the coast. The highest count was c.30 at Llanddulas on 6/01 (GrJ). There were two records during Feb with counts of 2 to 9. There were three records of 1 to 2 during Mar and the last record of the early months was 2 at Llanddulas on 9/04 (GEM). The first



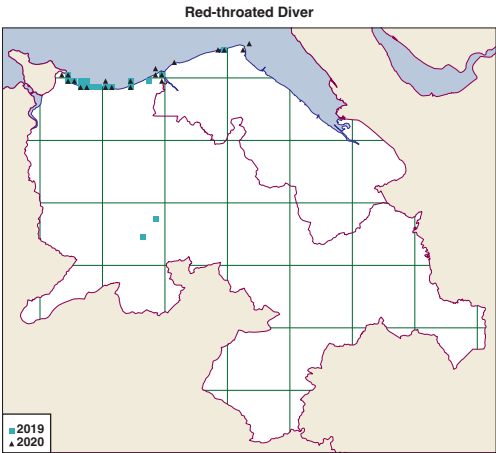
autumn record was 10 at Colwyn Bay on 28/09 (CB). The three records during Oct were counts of 1 to 3. The Dec counts were 1 to 5 with three counts of 6: at Colwyn Bay on 1/12 (GrJ), at Llanddulas on 2/12 (SuHa) and at Colwyn Bay on 30/12 (RS).

Flints. A single was at Gronant dunes on 2/12 (WRM).

2020

Denbs. Again, a third of records were made in Jan. Most of the counts were 1 to 17 with two higher: 32 at Colwyn Bay on 1/01 (DWn) and 50+ there on 23/01 (TyC). The eight records in Feb were counts of 1 to 4 and the six records in Mar were counts of 1 to 3. The last record of the early months was a single at Horton's Nose on 31/03 (JPH). The first autumn record was 10 at Llanddulas (JJo). The four records in Oct were counts of 1 to 5, then 1 to 7 during Nov, and most Dec records were counts of 1 to 3. The highest Dec count was 11 at Pensarn on 7/12 (WRM).

Flints. There were three Mar records with two on the same day, 14/03, a single (presumably the same) at Gronant dunes and Talacre. Another was at Rhyl on 26/03. The first autumn record was a single, flying W, at Gronant dunes on 29/09. Of the four other records, the highest count was 3 at Point of Ayr on 6/12.



Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

Winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP

2019

(BV)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1		1	
Maximum count	1		1	
Av max count prev 10 years	1		1	
Number of records	1	0	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0		-	

Denbs. There was a single at Kinmel Bay on 10/02 (EJB).

2020

Denbs. There was a single at Pensarn on 17/10.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

TROCHYDD MAWR

Winter visitor. Amber List.

2019

(ND)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2		3	
Maximum count	1		2	
Av max count prev 10 years	2		2	
Number of records	3	0	5	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0		-	

Denbs. The three records were singles at Colwyn Bay on 20/01 and 24/03 and presence at Llanddulas on 21/12.

2020

Denbs. Presence was recorded at Colwyn Bay and Llanddulas on 1/01. A single was at Horton's Nose on 19/01. Presence was recorded at Llanddulas on 6/02 and there were 2 there on 7/03 (AdJ).

Leach's Petrel *Hydrobates leucorhous*

PEDRYN DRYCIN LEACH

Passage migrant.

2019

(TL)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		3		
Maximum count		5		
Av max count prev 10 years		14		
Number of records	0	3	0	0

Flints. All three reports were in two days in Sep, first a single off Point of Ayr on 4/09 with 5 there on 5/09 (DWn) and a single off Rhyl seafront on the same day (JPH).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

ADERYN DRYCIN Y GRAIG

Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant.

2019

(F)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	5	3	9	1
Maximum count	30	2	15	1
Av max count prev 10 years	16	1	16	1
Number of records	10	4	17	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	-	0.5	-
Max breeding evidence	ON	-	ON	-

Denbs. All ten reports came from the Colwyn Bay and Llanddulas area and the maximum of 30 at Llanddulas on 9/06. This was the only confirmed breeding report with occupied nests

plus the only summer record (WRM). Six records were in Jan with highest count of 14 on 12/09 (WRM) and three records in Dec with highest count of 10 on 11/12 (TBT).

Flints. All four records were in September. Three were from Point of Ayr, 1 on 1/09 (SvK), 2 on 4/09 and 5/09 plus 1 off Barkby Beach on 5/09 (DWN).

2020

Denbs. The seventeen records came from the Colwyn Bay to Llanddulas area spread out throughout the year in half the months. The maximum was at Llanddulas with 15 on 31/01 (GrJ). There was no other double figure count. A single WeBS count from Pensarn with 1 was recorded on 23/08 and there was one confirmed breeding record from Llanddulas with an occupied nest on 9/07 (WRM).

Flints. There was a single report with 1 seen off Gronant on 30/04 (JPH).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*
Passage migrant.

ADERYN DRYCIN MANAW

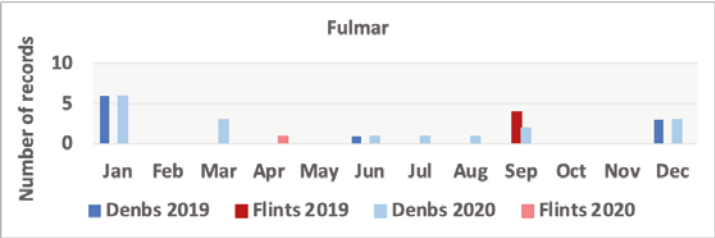
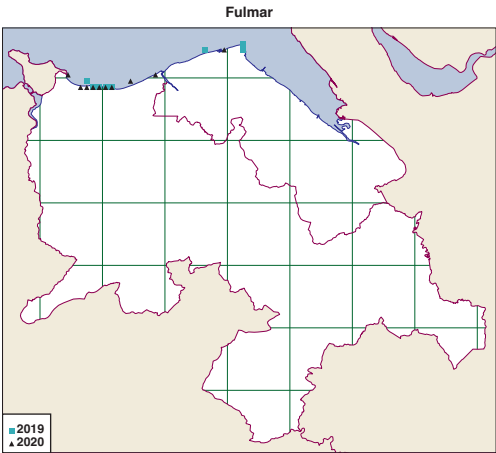
(MX)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Common	Rare	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	1	3		1
Maximum count	2	12		3
Av max count prev 10 years	7	159		159
Number of records	1	3	0	1

Denbs. Two were off Old Colwyn on 2/05 (RS).

Flints. Three reports with the first record and the maximum number seen during a WeBS count of 12 off Point of Ayr on 16/06. A single was off Greenfield Dock on 4/09 and 3 off Point of Ayr on the same date (DWN).

2020

Flints. One report was of 3 seen off Point of Ayr on 28/07 (DWN).



Gannet *Morus bassanus*
Migrant.

HUGAN

(GX)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	5	4	7	7
Maximum count	8	41	120	11
Av max count prev 10 years	38	20	38	20
Number of records	11	6	21	17
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	-	1.1	-

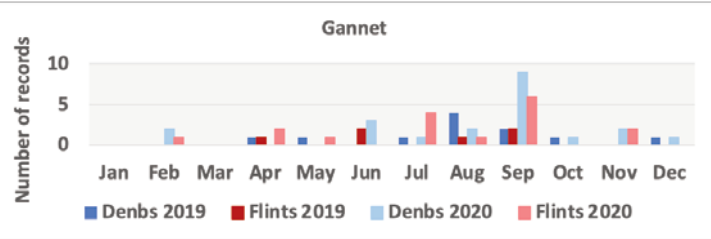
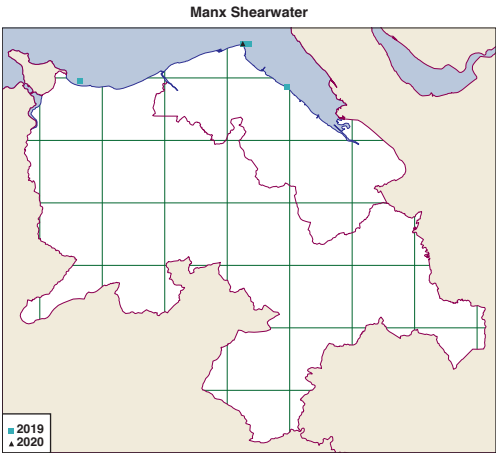
2019

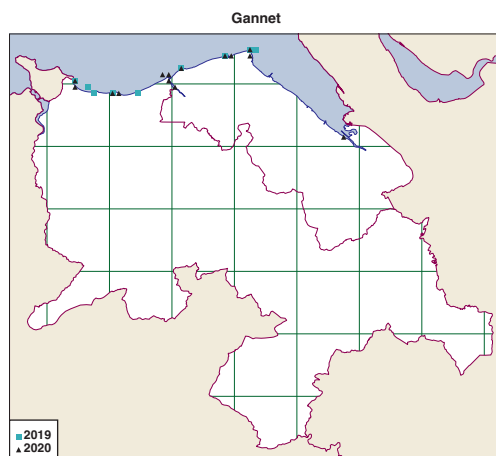
Flints. The first record was 1 off Rhyl on 22/04 and the last 4 were seen at the same location on 5/09 (JPH). Two double figure counts were off Point of Ayr with 20 during a WeBS count on 16/06 and 41 on 4/09 (DWN).

2020

Denbs. Three were seen off Horton's Nose on 18/01 (StSm) and the rest of the sightings were in the last six months of the year. The largest count came from off Horton's Nose with 120 on 13/09 (WRM).

Flints. One was seen off Connah.Quay NR on 26/02 (PeHa) and off Gronant on 17/04. The same site held the maximum of 11 on 30/04 (JPH). Eleven records were from Gronant and the last record was 2 on 12/11 (WRM).





Flints. Most records were in single figures but nearly 9% were three-figure counts. Most of these came from Gronant but also the Clwyd estuary. The highest count of 420 was at Gronant on 14/10 (WRM) and the same site's highest WeBS count was 354 on 13/10. Away from Gronant, Point of Ayr had a high early season count of 148 on 6/01 (JPH). The highest inland count of 14 came from Fagl Lane Quarry on 16/11 (NHu).

2020

Denbs. Most of the records were again 1 to 5 and most of the double figure counts came in the second half of the year. The only three-figure count of 106 came from Horton's Nose on 18/10 (JPH). There were 22 WeBS counts and the highest count of 29 came from Llanddulas on 18/10. The highest inland counts of 20 came from Llyn Brenig on 11/07 and 6/08 (SD).

Flints. Most counts were 1 to 30 but there were forty three-figure counts mostly from Gronant and to the S of Rhyl. The maximum count of 534, and also the highest WeBS count, came from Gronant on 18/10 with the highest S of Rhyl count of 220 on 7/10 (WRM). The highest inland count again came from Fagl Lane quarry with 8 on 27/12 (AHJ).

Cormorant *Palacrocorax carbo*

MULFRAN

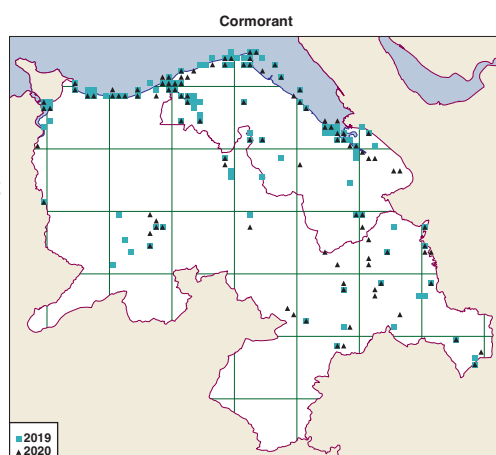
Non-breeding passage and winter visitor.

(CA)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	54	58	57	50
Maximum count	1461	420	106	534
Av max count prev 10 years	252	388	121	388
Recorded in BBS squares	0/28	2/18	0/5	1/2
Number of records	321	545	285	531
% of BirdTrack lists	29.0	-	27.4	-
Max breeding evidence	T	-	-	-

Recorded each month in each county in both years.

2019

Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 5 with most double figure counts seen in the first and last months of the year. The maximum count of 146 came from Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay on 9/12 with second highest 67 seen on 15/12 (JPH). Most other double figure counts came from Kinnel Bay with the early season maximum of 45 there on 9/01 (NHu). The highest WeBS count of 72 came from Llanddulas on 15/10. The highest inland count of 22 came from Llyn Brenig on 4/08 (WRM).



Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

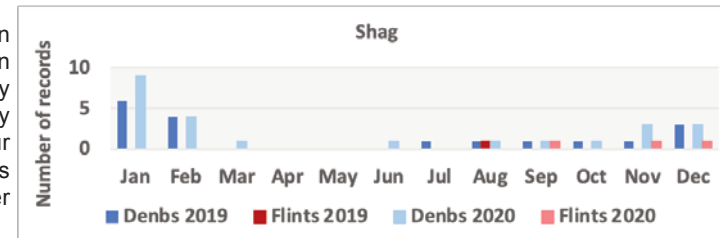
MULFRAN WERDD

Non-breeding visitor.

(SA)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	9	1	13	3
Maximum count	20	1	6	4
Av max count prev 10 years	8	1	8	1
Number of records	18	1	17	3
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	-	1.5	-

2019

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



Denbs. Most of our records were counts of 1 to 4 in the first or last two months of the year with a maximum count of 20 at Kinnel Bay on 10/02 (EJB).

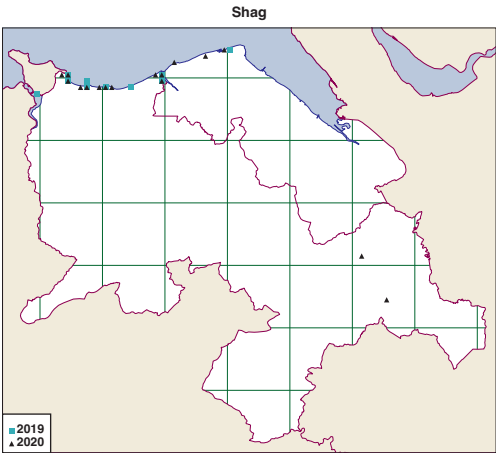
Flints. A single was on the beach at Point of Ayr on 9/08.

2020

Denbs. Most of records were counts of 1 to 6 in winter months from the area between Old Colwyn and Horton's Nose.

Flints. There were three records: 1 at Rhyl on 7/09, 1 at Gronant on 4/11 (JPH) and the

maximum count of 4 at Prestatyn on 15/12.



Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

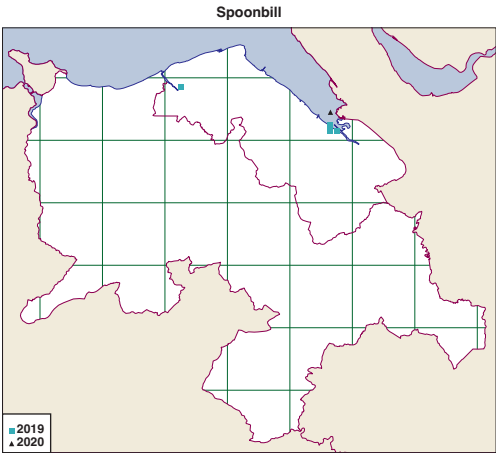
Winter visitor.

LLWYBIG

2019

(NB)	2019	2020	2019	2020
Denbs	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		4		
Maximum count		2		
Av max count prev 10 years		1		
Number of records	0	5	0	0

Flints. There were five records again this year with four from Connah's Quay NR, 1 on 24/04 (DWn), 28/05 (PeHa), 28/05 (NGW) and 2 on 28/09 (PeHa). The other record was 2 seen at Rhuddlan on 5/06 (RLE).



Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Irregular visitor.

ADERYN Y BWN

2020

	2019		2020	
(BI)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares				1
Maximum count				1
Av max count prev 10 years				0
Number of records	0	0	0	1

Flints. A single was at Gronant dunes on 17/08 (PJon) which was the first report since Dec 2013.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Becoming a regular visitor.

CRËYR GWARTHEG

2020

	2019		2020	
(EC)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares				3
Maximum count				10
Av max count prev 10 years				1
Number of records	0	0	0	7

Flints. All seven reports came in the last four months of the year with five of the records, all singles, found S of Rhyl, and two reports came from Shotwick Fields with the maximum count of 10 there on 17/11 (SuHa).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Breeding resident.

CRËYR GLAS

2019

	2019		2020	
(H)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	61	61	61	64
Maximum count	29	18	26	10
Av max count prev 10 years	22	18	22	18
Recorded in BBS squares	5/28	4/18	2/5	1/2
Number of records	326	428	309	395
% of records from GBW	4.60	0.00	4.69	3.53
% of BirdTrack lists	25.2	-	24.3	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	-	NY	-

Recorded in each month in both counties in both years.

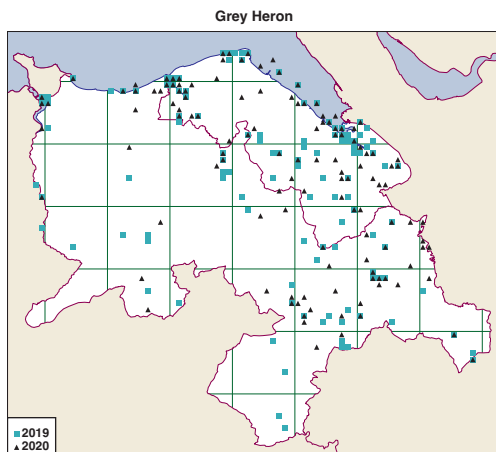
Denbs. Presence or singles made up 69% of all records, but there were twenty-three double figure counts with a maximum of 29 at Mynydd-y-briw on 22/02 (MkH). RSPB Conwy produced 42% of records and the next largest number of records came from Llewenni Hall with 12%. These also had two confirmed breeding records at each site. RSPB Conwy had the highest



Grey Herons: Alan Saunders

WeBS count of 20 on 20/01. There were GBW records from two sites. At Ruabon there were fourteen records of singles between 21/04 and 22/09. The maximum GBW record came from Burton with 2 on 20/10.

Flints. Just over 50% of all records were of presence or singles and there were only four double figure counts. Three of these were from Connah's Quay NR area but the maximum count of 18 came from Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 25/02 (TP). The Connah's Quay NR/RSPB Oakenholt Marsh area had 43% of all records and the maximum WeBS count of 8 on 4/08, 17/11 and 15/12. The highest inland count was 3 from Fagl Lane Quarry on 10/10 (GMR).



2020

Denbs. Presence, 1 or 2 made up most records and only two sites produced double figure counts. Lleweni Hall had a maximum of 26 on 10/03 (JPH) and RSPB Conwy had a maximum WeBS count of 24 on 12/01. One Ruabon GBW site had over a dozen reports of a single between 17/05 and 15/11. Confirmed breeding came from Lleweni Hall with young seen in nest

from 17/05 to 20/07 (JPH).

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 3 and again over 50% of all reports came from Connah's Quay NR. There were two double figure counts, both of 10, with the first at Connah's Quay on 12/01 (PeHa) and the second from White Sands, Dee estuary during a WeBS count on 20/09. There were no reports of confirmed breedings. GBW records came from four sites: 1 at Flint on 28/06, 1 at Buckley on 4/10, 1 at Birchenfield Farm, Sealand, on 23/08 and a dozen sightings at Padeswood between 8/03 and 26/07 with a maximum count of 2 on 28/06.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

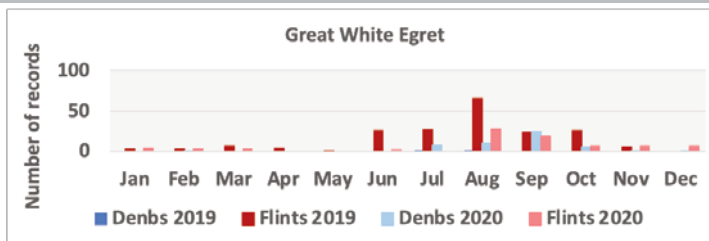
CRËYR MAWR GWYN

Becoming a regular visitor.

(HW)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Uncommon	Scarce	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	2	13	6	13
Maximum count	1	11	6	8
Av max count prev 10 years	2	8	2	8
Number of records	6	192	53	80
% of BirdTrack lists	-	-	4.8	-

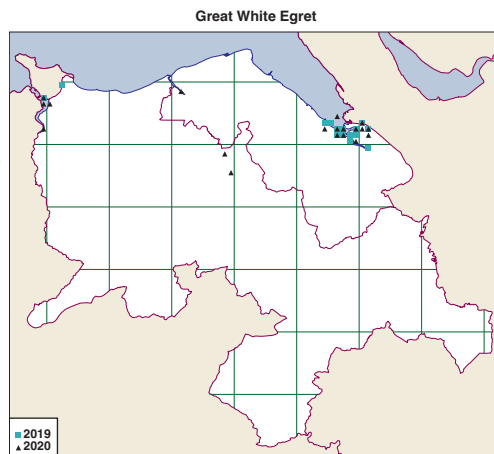
2019

The numbers of records in Denbs have not risen but they have in Flints, year on year, during the last four years.



Denbs. There were six records of singles and five came from RSPB Conwy. The remaining record was a single flying S above Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 25/04 (IMS).

Flints. There were fewer records during the winter months with none in Dec. Peak numbers and all four double figure counts came in Aug. The maximum of 11 came from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 25/08 (SuHa) and Connah's Quay NR on 30/08 (PeHa). Connah's Quay NR produced 84% of all records and the peak WeBS count of 2 on 4/08, together with the White Sands area across the other side of river, with 2 on 24/02.



2020

Denbs. The first record was a single near Bodnant Gardens on 6/02. All other records were during the second half of the year, all but three at RSPB Conwy. The highest counts were 5 on



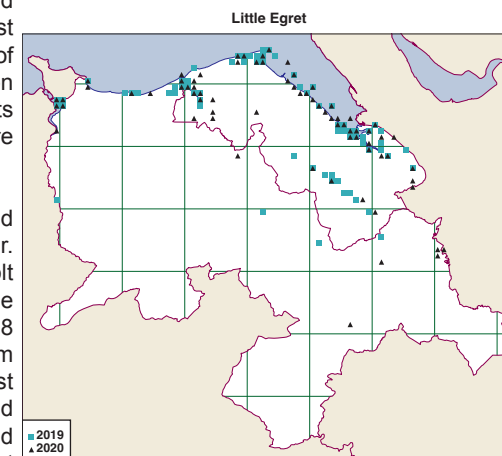
GreatWhite Egret: Alan Saunders

4/08, 9/09, 15/09, 23/09 and 15/10 then 6 on 13/09. The records from other locations were all singles.

Flints. The first record was a single at Shotwick fields on 1/01. The second record was 8 near Shotwick on 5/01 (SuHa). There were only eleven records during the first half of the year. The remainder were from Aug to Dec. The highest counts during the second part of the year were 6 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/08 and at White Sands on 23/08; and 7 at White Sands on 18/10.

Denbs. The number of records and maximum count were down from the last few years. RSPB Conwy produced 85% of all records and a maximum count of 33 on 6/07 (RMk). The maximum WeBS counts of 24 were on 4/08 and 15/09. There were five inland records.

Flints. The number of records and maximum count were up again this year. Connah's Quay NR/RSPB Oakenholt Marsh produced 36% of records and the maximum count of 101 was on 28/08 (DWn). Confirmed breeding came from Point of Ayr with an occupied nest recorded on 15/05 (GrJ), 18/05 (SD) and 8/08 (JPH). The Clwyd estuary produced 20% of records with the highest count coming during a WeBS count of 30 from near Rhuddlan on 14/09. The highest inland count of 4 came from W of Mold on 1/03 (MD).



2020

Denbs. The number of reports was down again but the maximum count of 70 at RSPB Conwy on 10/07 was higher than last year. Three quarters of all records came from that same site, and all but one of the twenty-six double figure counts. There was a count of 10 from Tal-y-cafn on 11/12 (RS). There were four WeBS counts at RSPB Conwy with 2 on 12/01, 1 on 8/02, the maximum of 32 on 20/09 and 23 on 18/10. All but one of the eleven inland records came from near Holt with the maximum of 7 on 12/11 (NF). There were no records of confirmed breeding.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Resident and passage visitor.

CRËYR BACH

(ET)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	17	55	18	54
Maximum count	33	101	70	164
Av max count prev 10 years	90	68	90	68
Recorded in BBS squares	0/28	2/18	0/5	1/2
Number of records	180	564	143	468
% of BirdTrack lists	22.3	-	19.1	-
Max breeding evidence	-	ON	-	-

Recorded in each month of the year in both counties in both years.

2019



Little Egret: Alan Saunders

Flints. Three quarters of all records came from five sites. There were 38 at the Clwyd saltmarsh on 21/07 (WRM), the Gronant maximum of 20 was on 11/08 (DvHy), the Talacre maximum was 25 on 23/07 (SD) and at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh there was a maximum of 40 during a WeBS count on 23/08. There were WeBS counts from around ten sites with the year's maximum recorded of 164 at Bagillt Saltmarsh on 21/09. A single BBS count of 2 at Rhuddlan was on 19/06 (MaO).



Little Egret: Dermot Smith

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Passage migrant and breeding resident.

GWALCH PYSGOD

(OP)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	14		9	3
Maximum count	3		3	1
Av max count prev 10 years	6		6	1
Number of records	40	0	15	3
% of BirdTrack lists	1.6		0.6	-
Max breeding evidence	ON	-	H	-

2019

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

fourteen from 2018.

All records were from Denbs for the second year running and were over 50% higher than last year's total. The number of 1km squares also rose by six to

Denbs. This proved to be Llyn Brenig's second consecutive year for breeding Ospreys. The birds were reported back at the site as early as 23/03 and courtship was observed soon after. The first egg was laid on 19/04 and after 37 days of incubation, a chick was confirmed to have hatched. After many weeks of fishing and feeding, the chick successfully fledged on 14/07. The final sightings at Llyn Brenig came on 7/09 where the remaining adult and the juvenile were believed to have left to start their migration. In total, 72.5% of records were from Llyn Brenig. In addition, there was a further record of a single observed at Alwen Reservoir on 6/04 (SAH), another at Llyn Aled on 29/06 and a record of two on 19/08 (both WRM). These sightings are likely to have referred to the birds breeding at Llyn Brenig. Outside this area, the first record was of a single at Pendinas Reservoir on 28/03. RSPB Conwy recorded 17.5% of

the remaining records with the first report on 20/04 and the last on 20/05 (pTW).

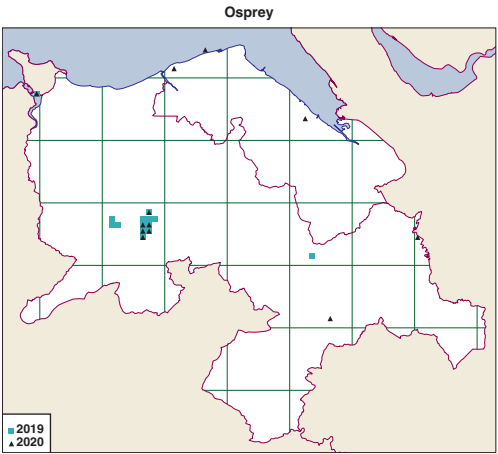
2020

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

Records in Denbs decreased by 62.5% and Flints recorded its first records since 2017 in a year when travel was limited.

Denbs. Remarkably, the first sighting of the year matched the exact day an Osprey was sighted back at Llyn Brenig in 2019 on 23/03. It was nearly two weeks before a confirmed record of a second bird returned on 4/04 for the breeding season.

The first egg was laid on 11/04, which was eight days earlier than 2019. On 7/06, a second calendar year-old female was seen at the Llyn Brenig nest site. Despite the chick fledging in Jul, the devastating news came in weeks later that it had collided with a wind turbine blade. The last confirmed sighting of an Osprey at Llyn Brenig was on 23/08. There were just three reports away from Llyn Brenig, with RSPB Conwy claiming just one this year on 24/04 (JJo).



Osprey: Tony Pope

Flints. There were three records of singles, all recorded on passage. The first was seen flying high over Prestatyn beach on 9/05 (SP), the second was at a location near Bagillt on 17/06 (GRMP) and the final record came from the centre of Rhyl with an individual flying over on 2/09 (JPH).

Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus

GWALCH GLAS

Breeding resident.

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties. With almost a 50/50 split of records between the two areas, the vast majority of reports (95.3%) were of singles or presence only, with maximum counts of 2 across the two recording areas.

Denbs. Records recovered slightly by increasing just over 12% on 2018. Just six records referred to 2 present. Two of these were from RSPB Conwy on 10/01 and 19/01 (pTW). In addition, there was a sighting of 2 near Denbigh on 25/01 (GPI), Pentrefelin on 21/04 (MiB) and Trevalyn Meadows on 30/12 (NHu). Records from GBW were mainly all presence or singles with the exception of one record of 2 on 22/09 near Ruabon. There were no records of confirmed breeding.

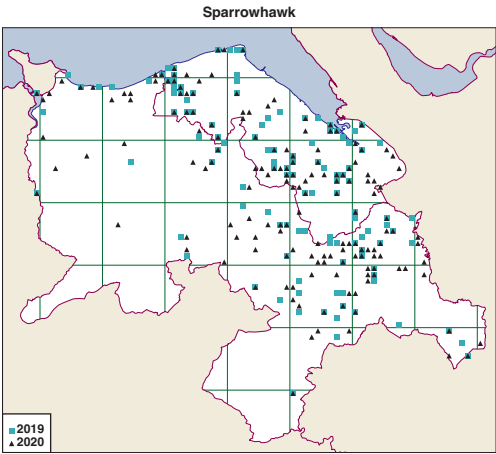
Flints. Records were around 5% lower than in 2018 with twelve records of 2; four times at Connah's Quay NR on 12/03, 18/08, 8/09, 11/12 (all PeHa) and three times near Rhyl on 20/03 (RLE), 23/03, 25/12 (both JPH). There was no breeding evidence reported across the area however a single was ringed at Bagillt on 18/03 (GRMP).

2020

Records increased by 54% in Denbs and over 100% in Flints, recorded each month in both counties. The number of 1km squares also increased to its highest value on record in both counties.

Denbs. The GBW totals equated to 60% of all records carried out throughout the year from a widespread range of gardens across the county. All records referred to singles or presence only apart from just one record of 2 that were recorded near Coedpoeth on 5/04 (SD). There was no confirmed breeding across the region.

Flints. The GBW accounted for half of the annual total with 217 records and unsurprisingly, all were of singles. There were sixteen records of 2 or more with Apr and May producing five



records of 2 present near Rhyl, Rhuddlan, Buckley and Queensferry. Aug saw two records of 4 present at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 5/08 (PeHa) and St. Asaph Business Park on 26/08 (KaW). The final four months of the year recorded a further seven records of at least 2 with Gwernymynydd and Pantymwyn sharing the highest records.

Goshawk

Accipiter gentilis

GWALCH MARTH

Breeding resident. RBBP.

2019

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

Denbs. Some 31% of the records came from Clocaenog Forest with the majority of these reporting 2 birds present. There were three reports of singles seen at Ruabon Mountain, near Llangollen; one of which was seen feeding on a freshly-killed Barn Owl on 27/02. There was a report of two pairs near Eglwyseg, Llangollen on 20/03 with two further reports of at least 1 present at another site near Llangollen in November. The majority of records were reported as singles and breeding was confirmed from two 1km squares with probable breeding from another.

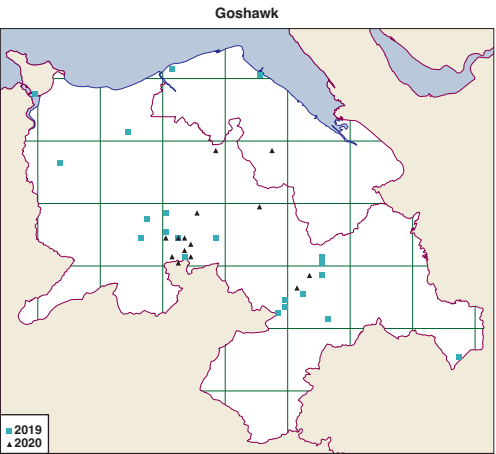
Flints. After no records in 2018, there were two reports of singles with the first near Mostyn on 25/02 (GRMP) along with an unusual record of one over Russell Road, Rhyl on 21/09 (JPH).

2020

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. From the fifteen records, thirteen of these were noted within the first three months of the year. Clocaenog Forest again proved to be the county's hotspot with two-thirds of the records and a maximum count of 3 seen on 12/03 (DWn). Records of 2 were from Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd near Rhuthun on 25/02 (AnJa) and later in the year at Coed Graig-Goch, near Cyffylliog on 24/07 (TK). The last record of the year was at Llewenni Hall, near Bodfari on 16/11 (JPH). There was no record of confirmed breeding.

Flints. There was just the one record of a single flying in an easterly direction at Hendy Ponds,



near Hendre on 21/09 (GEM).

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

BODA'R GWERNI

(MR)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	4	14	4	14
Maximum count	1	4	1	4
Av max count prev 10 years	1	3	1	3
Number of records	12	47	5	69
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	-	0.1	-

2019

Seen in these months:

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

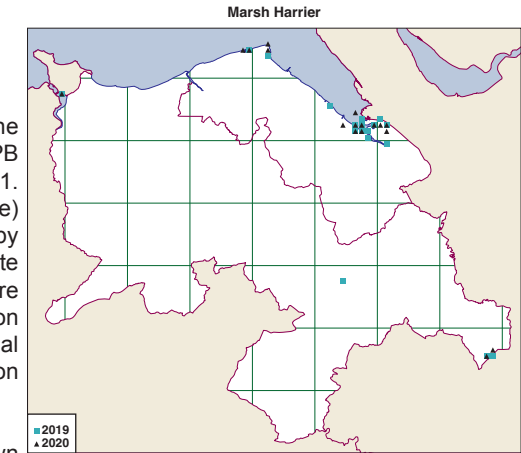
Denbs. Records increased across the area with 75% (9/12) coming from RSPB Conwy, beginning with a single on 1/01. Apr produced the majority of records (five) at RSPB Conwy which was followed by singles on both 3/05 and 27/06, complete with a final sighting on 17/09. There were two reports of singles at Fenn's Moss on 14/05 and 5/10 along with an individual seen at Ruabon Mountain, World's End on 26/08.

Flints. The number of records was down by nearly 35%, as was the maximum count. 80% of the records came from Connah's Quay NR, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and White Sands with a maximum count of 4 on 2/01, 12/03 and 3/11 (all PSH). The Dee estuary continued to prove its importance for this species as the remaining eight out of nine records were located within this area, with the exception of a single record at Gronant dunes on 4/02 (WRM).

2020

Seen in these months:

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



Denbs. Records fell by over half. Singles were seen at Fenn's Moss on 4/03 (RbHa) and RSPB Conwy on 1/08. with two records in five days of a single that was seen at Fen's Moss on 20/09 and 25/09 (JRe).

Flints. The number of records recovered to equal the highest reporting rate as seen in 2018. The majority of reports (78%) came from Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh with sixteen records of up to 2 between Jan and Mar. After four months of absence, a single was seen again at Connah's Quay NR on 8/08, which increased to 2 from 15/09 and a maximum count of 4 seen on 2/12 (all PeHa). Away from the Dee estuary, Gronant dunes produced four records in four different months.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
Breeder and winter visitor. Red List. RBBP. S7.

BODA TINWYN

(HH)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	20	5	7	5
Maximum count	2	2	2	1
Av max count prev 10 years	3	2	2	1
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	0/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	24	19	8	14
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8	-	0.3	-
Max breeding evidence	T	-	-	-

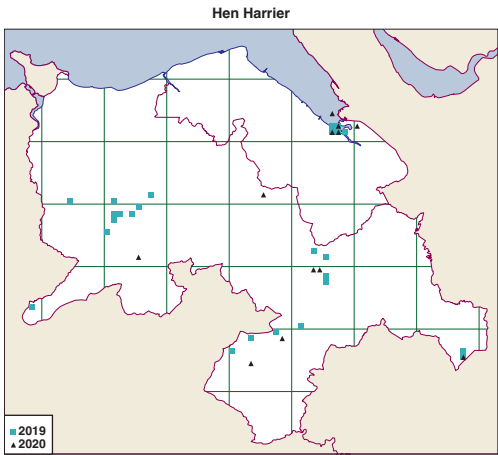
2019

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 had almost as many records as Denbs, even though the species was seen in just five 1km squares as opposed to twenty in Denbs. There was no confirmed breeding recorded in either county.

Denbs. The number of records and presence in 1km squares both increased slightly. Once again, a third of the reports came from Mynydd Hiraethog with a top count of 2 noted on 11/05 (WRM). There were three records of an immature male at Fenn's Moss on 1/02, 10/02 and 11/03 (JRe).



Flints. All records demonstrated the importance of the wintering grounds on the Dee estuary where records were shared almost equally across three close sites: Connah's Quay NR (seven records), White Sands (seven records) and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (six records). The only count of 2 was from White Sands on 2/01 (PeHa). After the last report for the winter at Connah's Quay NR on 21/03, it was over six months before the first sighting back in the area on 28/09, also at Connah's Quay NR (both PeHa).

2020

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 records decreased in Denbs and increased in Flints, Denbs still had the majority for the second year running. In total, the number of 1 km squares dropped by 52% to just twelve for both counties. There was no recorded breeding for either county.

Denbs. Both the number of records and presence in 1km squares dropped by two-thirds on last year. The first record of the year was of 2 at Ruabon Mountain near Minera on 6/01 (EJB) – this proved to be the only site of the year to feature the maximum count. There were a further two records of singles at the same location on 17/03 and 16/07 (both NHu). The last record of the year was seen at Fenn's Moss on 25/10 (JRe).

Flints. There was a 75% increase in records and all came from five 1km squares on the Dee estuary. All records were noted during the 'winter' period between Nov-Feb, which continued to reinforce the importance of suitable habitat for wintering individuals. Twelve of the fourteen records were seen at Connah's Quay NR, with an even split of six in the first and last two months of the year. At Connah's Quay NR, Jan saw five records with the first on 12/01 and the only Feb record on 23/02 (both PeHa). The first 'wintering' individual was recorded back on 13/11, which remained in the area at Connah's Quay NR throughout Nov into Dec, where the last record was on 18/12 (both PeHa). There was a mid-summer report from the Dee estuary, near Flint on 8/08 (AdJ).



Red Kite *Milvus milvus* BARCUD COCH
Visitor and breeding resident. Amber list.

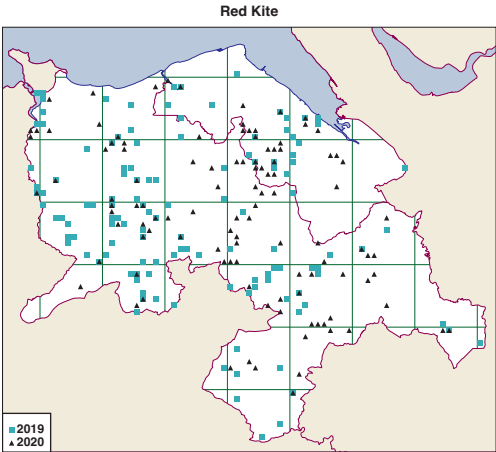
(KT)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Rare	Uncommon	Rare
Number of 1km squares	104	21	87	24
Maximum count	4	1	6	2
Av max count prev 10 years	6	2	6	6
Recorded in BBS squares	9/28	0/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	136	25	124	40
% of BirdTrack lists	3.8	-	3.5	-
Max breeding evidence	D	-	FL	T

2019

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

Red Kites are continuing to spread through NE Wales, particularly Denbs, where the number of records and presence in 1km squares have risen again for the seventh consecutive year.

Denbs. Just under 85% of the records were of singles or presence only. There were eighteen records of 2 with four records coming from near Llanrwst all within the first four months of the year: 3/02, 8/03, 14/03 and 28/04. Another four records of 2 were recorded at Mynydd



Hiraethog between May and Oct (WRM, DWn, MGW, WAO). Two records of 3 were present near Llansilin on 22/02 (JO) and at Mynydd Hiraethog on 19/08 (WRM). The maximum count of 4 for the year was near Llangollen on 17/04 (JoG). There was no record of confirmed breeding in the county.

Flints. All records were of singles and with the date and location, it appears that many were probably passage or wandering birds. The first record was near Rhuddlan on 23/02 (SH), however the most productive month was May with eight records from eight different locations ranging across the county. There were no breeding codes noted during the year, and the last record was at Flint on 30/09 (MGW).

2020

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

This was another positive year with numbers recorded in each month in Denbs and all but Jan in Flints, highlighting the continuing range increase across the two counties. Collectively, this was the highest reporting year to date over the last fifteen years.

Denbs. There was a 10% reduction to three-quarters of records reporting single or presence only since 2019. Although there were only slightly fewer records, the density was greater due to a larger amount of sightings in fewer 1km squares. There were twenty-four records of 2 with seven of these records in Mar and six recorded in Jul. There were four records of 4 present within four months, with the first near Moel Emwnt on 4/04 (SLg) and the second near Llangwyfan on 24/06 (MkV). The third record of 4 was near Llansilin on 12/08 (JO) and another 4 recorded less than two weeks later near Moel Arthur on 24/08 (GEM). The maximum count for the year was 6 that were seen near Llansilin on 29/05 (JO). This record was one of two 1km squares this year that witnessed recently fledged individuals.

Flints. This year saw the number of records increase by 60% along with the highest maximum count and largest total seen in 1km squares over the last fifteen years. The first record was close to J34 of the A55, near Ewloe on 17/02 (KBr). A lingering individual spent much of the spring and summer visiting the Afon Clwyd between Rhyl and Rhuddlan between 1/04 to 10/07 (JPH). An interesting high count of 6 was seen at Cornist Ganol, near Halkyn on 28/05 (RaH). There were six records inside six weeks between 11/07 and 31/08 consisting of 1-2 at Nannerch Fish Ponds, near Penbedw (GEM). This site was also the only one to feature the breeding code of 'permanent territory'.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* BWNCATH
Breeding resident.

(BZ)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	225	133	189	130
Maximum count	10	8	13	17
Av max count prev 10 years	13	9	13	9
Recorded in BBS squares	22/28	13/18	4/5	2/2
Number of records	564	554	576	676
% of records from GBW	2.48	7.94	7.83	9.60
% of BirdTrack lists	34.0	-	39.0	-
Max breeding evidence	B	B	NY	-

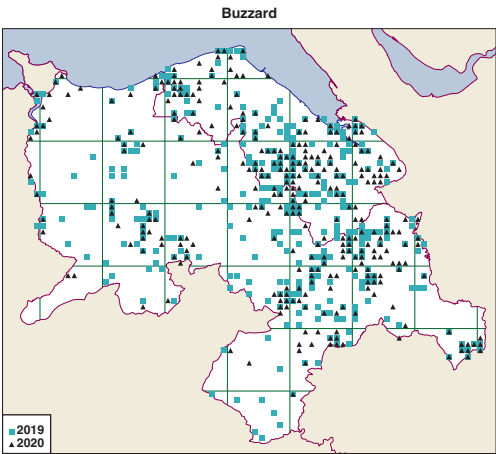


2019

Recorded in each month in both counties. 65.1% of all records referred to singles or presence only. Whereas there was a decrease of 10.35% in 1km squares in Denbs, the number increased by almost 12% in Flints compared to the previous year.

Denbs. There was a slight decrease in records in comparison to 2018 and of these, a huge percentage were of counts of 1 to 4. Only 1% of records were of numbers higher than 4 with three of 5 and one of 6. There was one record of 9 near Llanrwst on 6/04 and just one double figure count of 10 at Trevalyn Meadows, Wrexham on 7/07; all of which were feeding in a field following the spread of slurry. Although, there were no confirmed breeding codes submitted, nest building was observed near Alwen Reservoir on 16/04.

Flints. Just under 97% of records were of counts of 1 to 4 throughout the year. There were twelve records of 5 with two of these recorded at Rhydymwyn and two from near Penycloddiau. Rhydymwyn proved to be an important location for the species as there was also a record of 6 on 1/09 (MD) and a maximum count of 8 on 10/06 (TP). There were forty-two records throughout the year of singles from a GBW site, also from near Rhydymwyn. Two other reports of 6 came from near Rhyl on 2/05 (JPH) and from Rhydyddauddwr Farm, S of Rhuddlan (SH).



Nest building was witnessed near Hendre on 16/04 but no further probable breeding was noted elsewhere across the county.

2020

Each month was represented by multiple records in each county. Remarkably, the number of records consisting of singles or presence only mirrored the exact same figure of 65% in 2019. Both counties saw a slight decline of the number of birds seen in 1km squares.

Denbs. Records ever so slightly increased, however, the number of 1km squares reached its lowest total since 2013. One-third of the records were of 2 or more which included sixteen records of totals of 5 or more. The majority of the largest counts were seen between May and Aug with 8 noted at Aberduna NR on 30/05 and 9 on 30/08. Another 8 were recorded near Berwyn on 11/06 (JoG) and the first double-figure count of 10 came from Moel Arthur on 24/08 (GEM). The highest count of the year was 13 seen at Moel Eithinen, near Rhuthun on 6/11. There were four breeding codes attached to sightings that confirmed breeding nearby, with one particular sighting observing a pair feeding 2 chicks near Rhewl on 18/06 (JoG).

Flints. The number of records increased by 22% on last year's total to its highest county figure recorded. 36.2% of the county's records referred to 2 or more present and only 6% of this figure consisted of numbers of 5+. The first notable count was of 5 from a GBW site at Rhydymwyn on 22/03. An extraordinary count of 17, which proved to be the maximum count for the year was recorded at a GBW site near Trelawnyd on 24/05. Three good records were from near Gwernymynydd with 8 seen on 19/04, 9 on 26/04 and 7 on 31/05. The final notable count of the year was of 5 at Old Warren Fields, near Broughton on 21/12 (AHJ). There were no breeding codes noted this year.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
Breeding resident.

TYLLUAN WEN

(BO)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	18	7	27	5
Maximum count	3	4	4	1
Av max count prev 10 years	4	4	4	4
Number of records	24	7	40	5
% of records from GBW	8.33	-	-	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0	-	0.1	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY	NY	NY

2019

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. Breeding was confirmed by the ringing of 3 pulli near Gwytherin, 3 near Llangernyw and 1 at Clocaenog, all on 15/07 (IMS). Remaining records were of singles.

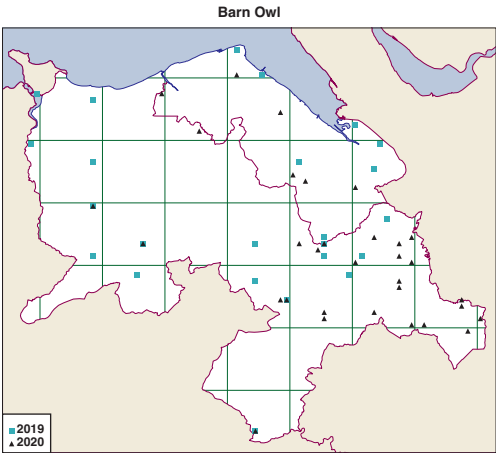
Flints. Breeding was confirmed by ringing 3 pulli at Mostyn, 4 at Hawarden and 3 near Bwlchgwyn on 4/07 and 2 at Sealand on 18/07 (IMS). Remaining records were of single adults with the first at Rhydymwyn on 18/01 (JtH)

2020

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 presence or counts of 1-4. The earliest record came from Rhos-y-Brithdir on 5/01 (DWs), the latest record came from Penley on 22/12 (EB). Breeding was confirmed (NY) at Hendy, Llangollen and Garth Trevor on 12/06 and (FL) at Hendy on 25/07 and 16/09 (JoG) and (NY) at six other locations.

Flints. There were five records. The earliest was at Penymynydd on 17/01 (NHu). Further counts of one were recorded at Bryn Ford on 7/02 (SNI), Berthengam on 21/04 (SNI) and two records from GBW sites at Gwernafeld and Mold on 9/05 and 19/07. Breeding was confirmed at five locations.



Little Owl *Athene noctua*
Breeding resident.

TYLLUAN FACH

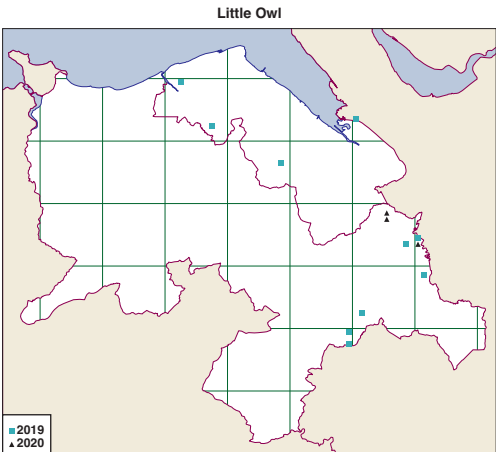
2019

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

There were ten records this year compared to the twelve records in 2018.

Denbs. The earliest record came from Sutton Green on 3/02 (NHu). There were two reports of confirmed breeding status from Chirk and at Rhosymadoc (JLR). Further records, all of singles, came from Commonwood on 21/05 (NHu), Black Park, Chirk on 6/08 (KiB) and Holt on 17/10 (NF)

Flints. The earliest record came from



Coed Du Quay, Cilcain on 17/04 (GM). There were records of singles at Rhuddlan on 11/05 (JPH), Tremeirchion on 15/06 (JPH).and a pair on the Dee estuary at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, on 21/09.

2020

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

Denbs. There were two reports from Holt on 12/06 and 10/09 (NF). There was one report from Rossett on 30/06 (DvHy).

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

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

(SE)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very scarce	Very scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	4	6	1	4
Maximum count	2	1	1	2
Av max count prev 10 years	2	2	2	2
Number of records	5	8	1	8
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-	0.1	-

2019

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 reports came from Ruabon Mountain with the highest counts of 2 recorded on 17/02 and 5/12. There was one record from RSPB Conwy on

30/03.

Flints. The earliest record came from Connah's Quay NR on 2/01 (PeHa). Most reports came from Gronant with the earliest on 9/01 (AtG) and the last on 2/11 (DWn). All reports were of singles.

2020

Denbs. There was one report from Fenn's Moss on 7/06 (EdJ).

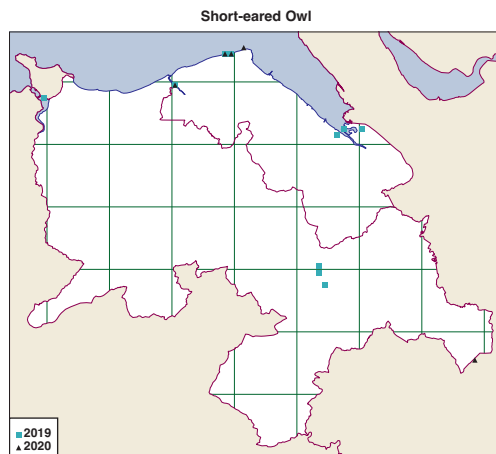
Flints. Most reports came from Gronant. The earliest was recorded at Gronant on 10/01 (WRM). There were two reports from Rhyl with the highest count of 2 recorded on 18/10 (WRM).

Short-eared Owl: Tony Pope



Seen in these months:

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



Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Breeding resident.

TYLLUAN FRECH

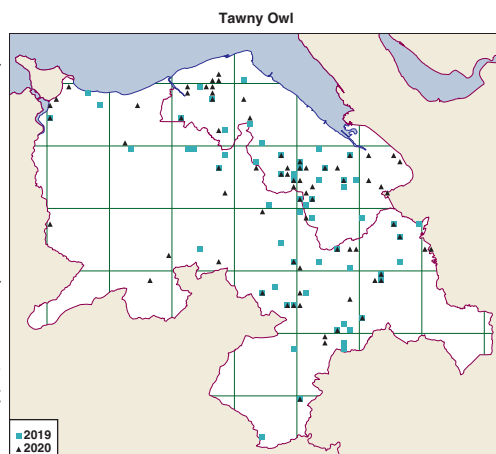
(TO)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	36	26	38	37
Maximum count	3	4	5	3
Av max count prev 10 years	4	4	4	4
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	1/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	83	79	142	126
% of records from GBW	50.60	44.30	64.08	58.14
% of BirdTrack lists	1.7	-	1.3	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	ON	FL	H

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. Breeding was confirmed at Llanerch-yr-Mor, Rhos-y-brithdir, Pendre, Moel Findeg and at Coed Cestyll, Plas-Lleucu on 19/06 where an adult was seen feeding young (SuLo).

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. The highest count was 4 at Rhydymywn on 2/09 (IMS). There were no records of confirmed breeding. Thirty-one records came from a GBW site at Cilcain.



2020

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 3. The highest counts of 5 were recorded at Pendre on 29/01, 23/02 and 24/11 and at Llangollen on 19/10 and 3/11 (records from JoG). Breeding was confirmed (FL) at Hendy, Llangollen on 16/09 (JoG), and at Llansilin on 19/05 and 26/05 (JO).

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. The highest counts of 3 were recorded at Rhydymywn on 20/01 (MD) and at a GBW site in Buckley on 20/09. There were no records of confirmed breeding. Possible breeding (H) was recorded at Nercwys Mountain on 23/06 (AB).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Breeding resident. Amber List.

GLAS Y DORLAN

(KF)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	25	19	28	24
Maximum count	3	2	4	4
Av max count prev 10 years	2	2	2	2
Recorded in BBS squares	0/28	2/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	67	113	55	119
% of BirdTrack lists	1.6	-	2.0	-
Max breeding evidence	P	-	FL	-

2019

Recorded in all months in Flints and all except Nov in Denbs.

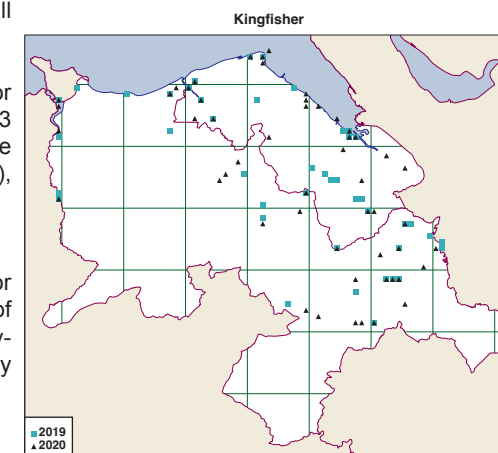
Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. The highest count was 3 at Penycae on 24/09 (JAJ). Probable breeding was observed at Holt (AB), Erddig (NHu) and at Llanrwst (PB).

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. There were no records of confirmed or probable breeding. Sixty-nine records were from Connah's Quay NR (PeHa).

2020

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. The highest count of 4 was recorded at Tal-y-Cafn on 20/07 (ABa). The earliest record came from Erddig on 2/01 (NHu), the latest came from Nant-y-Ffrith on 27/12 (SD). 18 of the records came



Kingfisher: Andy Davis

from Erddig. There was confirmed breeding (FL) recorded at Ruabon Mountain on 26/6 (SNI).

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. The highest count of 4 was recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 2/10 (JuR). The earliest record came from Rhyl Brickworks on 1/01 (JJo). The latest record came from Connah's Quay NR on 19/12 (PeHa). There were no records of confirmed or probable breeding. The majority of records were from Connah's Quay NR.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*

Breeding resident. Red List. RBBP. S7.

CNOCELL FRAITH FACH

(LS)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3			1
Maximum count	1			1
Av max count prev 10 years	1			1
Number of records	4	0	0	2
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0			-

2019

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

No breeding attempts were reported from either county.

Denbs. Reports of singles came from Erddig, Wrexham on 23/02 (NHu) and from Penycae on 29/09 (JAJ).

Flints. A single report was from Moel Findeg on 13/07 (WAO).

2020

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. Two reports recorded at Bagillt on 23/03 and 26/05, on which date there was evidence of probable breeding (N) (GRMP).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Breeding resident.

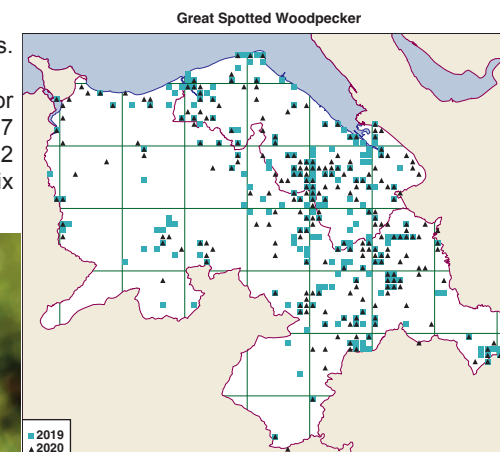
CNOCELL FRAITH FAWR

(GS)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	137	98	157	99
Maximum count	7	6	5	5
Av max count prev 10 years	5	6	5	6
Recorded in BBS squares	14/28	12/18	3/5	0/2
Number of records	606	344	1011	770
% of records from GBW	51.65	29.65	65.19	65.13
% of BirdTrack lists	15.1	-	23.5	-
Density	0.49	1.00	0.	
40	0.84			
Max breeding evidence	NY	FL	FF	FL

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 3. The highest count of 7 was recorded at Llyn Brenig on 28/02 (MH). Breeding was confirmed at six locations.



Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 3. The highest count of 6 was recorded at Mostyn on 25/02 (GRMP). Breeding was confirmed at three locations.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (juvenile): Malcolm Down

177

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 3. The majority of the records came from GBW sites. The highest counts of 4 were recorded at Erddig on 21/04 (NHu) and Berwyn on 11/06 (JoG). There were seven records of confirmed breeding at five locations.

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 3. The highest counts of 5 were recorded at Gwernymyndd on 14/06 and at Caerwys on 31/05. Breeding was confirmed at one location.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

CNOCELL WERDD

Breeding resident. Amber List.

(G)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	45	20	47	11
Maximum count	4	2	3	3
Av max count prev 10 years	3	2	3	2
Recorded in BBS squares	3/28	2/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	85	41	131	16
% of records from GBW	11.76	4.88	5.26	12.50
% of BirdTrack lists	2.0	-	4.3	-
Max breeding evidence	T	S	FF	-

2019

Recorded in all months in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of singles. The highest count of 4 came from Llysfaen, Llandulas on 24/07 (CRJo). Probable breeding was reported at two locations.

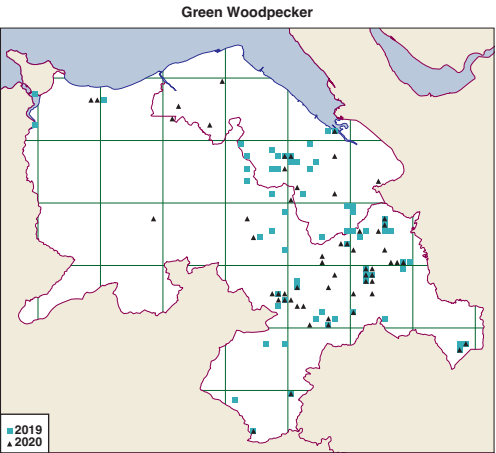
Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1-2. Possible breeding was reported at seven sites.

2020

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 presence or counts of 1-2. The highest counts of 3 were recorded at Erddig on 1/01 (NHu) and Llansilin on 16/07 (JO). The majority of the records came from Erddig, Breeding was confirmed at two locations.

Flints. The records were mostly of presence or counts of 1. The highest count of 3 was recorded on 13/03 at St Asaph. The earliest record was at Hendre on 17/01 (MGW). The latest was at Rhydymwyn on 8/12 (MD). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.



Green Woodpecker: Dermot Smith

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

CUDYLL COCH

Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

(K)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	55	48	74	68
Maximum count	3	4	4	6
Av max count prev 10 years	4	6	4	6
Recorded in BBS squares	4/28	1/18	0/5	1/2
Number of records	82	150	120	194
% of BirdTrack lists	3.7	-	6.8	-
Max breeding evidence	T	NY	T	-

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. During the first four months all but one record were of presence or singles. The exceptions were 2 at Ruabon Mountain on 10/04 (ThH). During May to Aug most records were of 1 to 2, with the exception of 3 pulli ringed at near Glasfryn on 15/07 (IMS), the only record of confirmed breeding. For Sep to Dec most counts were of singles, the exception was 2 at Nant-y-ffrith on 20/10 (SD).

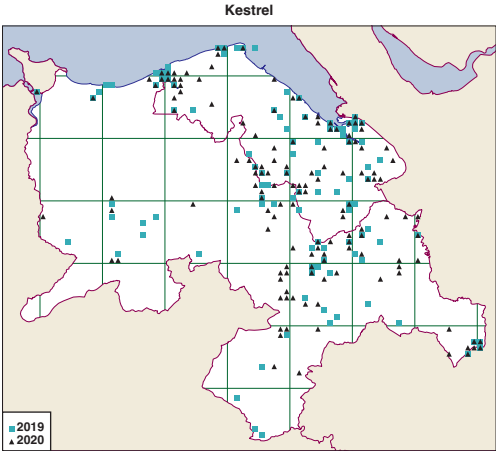
Flints. During the first four months, all but one of the records were of singles. The exception was 2 at Moel Llys-y-coed, Cilcain on 20/04 (MB). During May to Aug most records were of 1 to 3, with thirty of the records from Connah's Quay NR. The only records of confirmed breeding were 4 pulli ringed at Shotton on 16/06 (IMS). For Sep to Dec most records were of 1 to 2, with the exception of 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/11 (PeHa).

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1-2. The highest count of 4 was recorded at Moel Arthur on 27/08 (GEM). The earliest record was at Nant-y-Ffrith on 1/01 (SD). The latest record was at Bwlchgwyn on 26/12 (SD). There were no records of confirmed breeding. Probable breeding recorded at one location.

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1-2. The highest count of 6 was recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 14/05 (PeHa). The earliest record was at Shotwick Fields on 1/01 (SuHa) and the last record was at Rhuddlan on 31/12 (JPH). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.



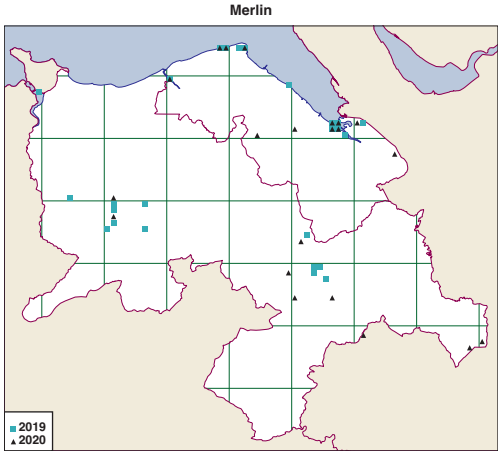
2020

Seen in these months:

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

Denbs. There were ten records of singles. The earliest was at Moel Garegog on 4/01 (JmS). The latest record was from Fenn's Moss on 14/12 (RbHa). Three records were from Fenn's Moss. There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

Flints. There were twenty-two records, all but one of singles. The highest count of 2 was recorded at Gronant on 11/08 (DvHy). The earliest of twelve records came from Connah's Quay NR on 6/01 (PeHa). The latest came from Talacre on 10/11 (SvK). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.



Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. RBBP.

CUDYLL BACH

2019

(ML)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	13	12	9	12
Maximum count	1	2	1	2
Av max count prev 10 years	2	2	2	2
Number of records	14	43	10	22
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-	0.4	-
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

(WRM). The last record came from near Moel Maelogen on 20/12 (JHg).

Flints. All but four records were of singles. Most records were from Connah's Quay NR, with the highest counts of 2 on 28/09, 10/12 (PeHa) and 11/12 (SuHa). A count of 2 was recorded at Warren Farm, Talacre on 17/12 (RCR).

Denbs. All records were of singles. The earliest record was from World's End on 12/01 (LB). There was a sighting of a possible juvenile on 11/07 from Llyn Aled (WRM). The last record came from near Moel Maelogen on 20/12 (JHg).



Merlin: Tony Pope

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

Passage migrant and summer breeder. RBBP.

(HY)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	11	10	16	12
Maximum count	1	2	2	2
Av max count prev 10 years	3	2	3	2
Number of records	11	14	18	13
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-	0.4	-

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 at Llyn Aled, Mynydd Hiraethog on 19/05 (JuW). The last record was at Hanmer Mere on 15/09 (DIHd). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

Flints. The first record was at Penycloddiau on 15/04 (EdW). All but one record were of singles. The exception was a record of 2 at Cwbyr, Rhyl on 11/05 (JPH). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

2020

Denbs. The earliest record was at Moel Garegog on 27/05 (JmS). The latest record came from Aberduna NR on 30/08. Counts of 2 were recorded at Ty-Nant on 1/08 (MkH) and at Fenn's Moss on 2/08 (NHu). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

Flints. The earliest record was at Pen-y-Cefn on 10/05 (MkV). The latest was at Rhuddlan on 19/09 (SH). The highest count of 2 was recorded at Rhyl on 17/09 (JPH). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

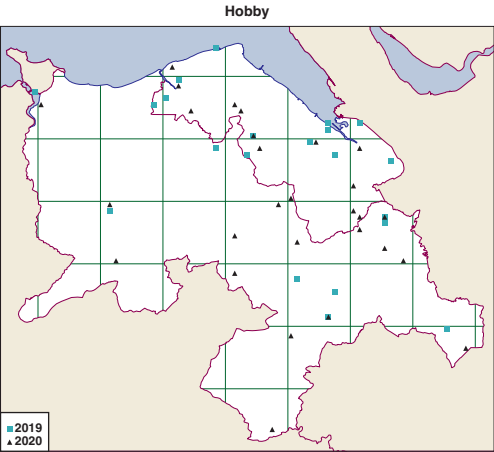
HEBOG TRAMOR

Breeding resident. RBBP.

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of singles. There were three counts of two, one record of an adult with a juvenile at Llyn Brenig on 3/12 (DIHd). There were two counts of 3 at RSPB Conwy on 31/07 and at Berwyn Mountain on 21/09 (TK).



Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. There were three counts of 3: at Connah's Quay NR on 11/08 (PeHa), at Coed Du Quay, Cilcain on 21/07 (GM) and at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 11/08 (SH). Probable breeding was recorded near Cilcain (GEM).

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of singles. The highest count of 4 was recorded at Fron Llwyd on 7/06 (NDg). The earliest record was at Colwyn Bay on 15/01 (MaO), the last record was near Fenn's Moss on 14/12 (RbHa). Breeding was confirmed at two locations.

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. The highest counts of 4 and 5 were seen at Prestatyn Quarry, Gwaenysgor on 1/06 and 26/06 (MJDH). The earliest record was on the Dee estuary on 1/01 (DWn), the last record was at Rhyl on 31/12 (JPH). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

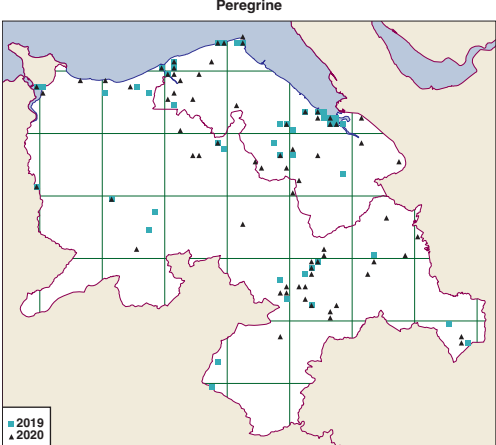
(PE)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	23	24	41	30
Maximum count	3	3	4	5
Av max count prev 10 years	3	3	3	3
Recorded in BBS squares	0/28	1/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	47	124	55	132
% of BirdTrack lists	2.6	-	3.0	-
Max breeding evidence	-	T	NY	-

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of singles. The highest count of 4 was recorded at Fron Llwyd on 7/06 (NDg). The earliest record was at Colwyn Bay on 15/01 (MaO), the last record was near Fenn's Moss on 14/12 (RbHa). Breeding was confirmed at two locations.

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 2. The highest counts of 4 and 5 were seen at Prestatyn Quarry, Gwaenysgor on 1/06 and 26/06 (MJDH). The earliest record was on the Dee estuary on 1/01 (DWn), the last record was at Rhyl on 31/12 (JPH). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.



Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

CIGYDD MAWR

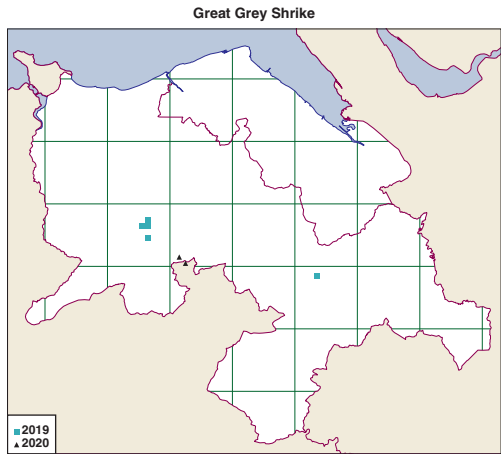
Winter visitor.

(SR)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	5		2	
Maximum count	1		1	
Av max count prev 10 years	1		1	
Number of records	6	0	2	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3		0.1	

Denbs. There were fewer records than usual this year. All six records occurred between 21 and 23 Mar. Three records from the Llyn Brenig area on 21/03 probably referred to the same bird. There were two other records in the following two days, again likely to be the same bird. Another was seen at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 22/03.

2020

Denbs. Even fewer records were received this year. A single, probably the same bird, was seen in Clocaenog Forest on 21/03 and 22/03.



Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*
Vagrant

CIGYDD PENGGOCH

2020

Flints. A single was seen at Hawarden Airport on 23/05 (KEJ). This was the first record of this rare shrike in NE Wales since one at Shotton Steelworks on 2 Aug 1970. Accepted by WBRC.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*
Breeding resident.

SGRECH Y COED

2019

(J)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	108	62	127	61
Maximum count	4	8	8	7
Av max count prev 10 years	6	8	6	8
Recorded in BBS squares	9/28	12/18	2/5	0/2
Number of records	273	208	362	312
% of records from GBW	21.98	24.04	40.27	45.26
% of BirdTrack lists	10.3	-	12.9	-
Max breeding evidence	A	-	B	-

Recorded in each month in both counties with the distribution similar to the previous four years. The number of records was very similar in Flints to previous years and there was some recovery in Denbs records from 2018. No breeding was confirmed in either county.

Denbs. The vast majority of records were counts of 1 to 2 with only seventeen records of more than 2. The maximum number recorded was of 4 on three separate occasions: 18/01 at Erddig, Wrexham (Nhu); 24/02 in a garden near Ruabon and 7/04 at Fenn's Moss (RbHa).

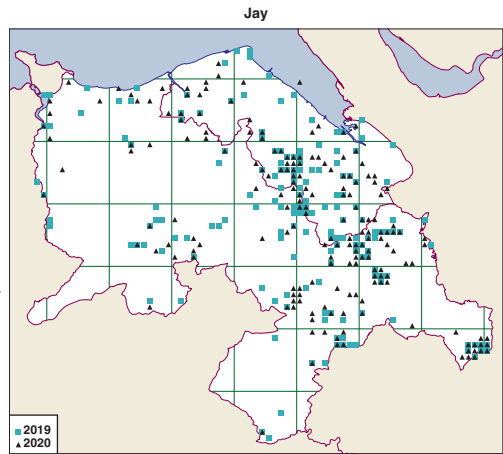
Flints. Most records were of 1 to 2 with twenty records of more than 2. The maximum of 8 was seen at Coed-y-Felin, Hendre on 25/09 (SuHa).

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The vast majority of records were counts of 1 to 2 with twenty-one records of more than 2. The maximum number and notable count recorded was of 8 on 1/09 at Aberduna NR, Moel Findeg.

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 2 with eighteen records of more than 2. The maximum of 7 was seen at Nercwys Mountain on 4/11.



Jay: Alan Saunders

Magpie *Pica pica*
Breeding resident.

PIODEN

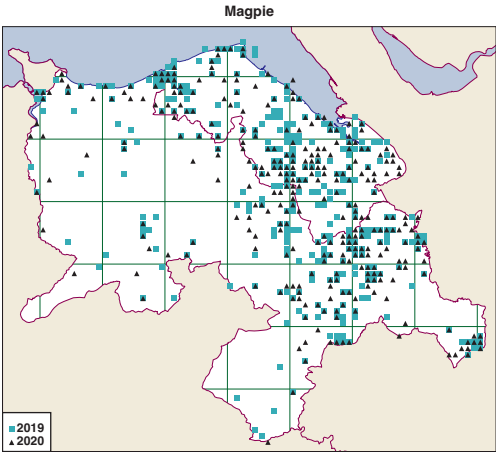
(MG)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	181	147	186	134
Maximum count	28	22	70	31
Av max count prev 10 years	20	43	20	43
Recorded in BBS squares	21/28	17/18	3/5	1/2
Number of records	1045	983	1499	1829
% of records from GBW	42.78	13.53	55.66	42.49
% of BirdTrack lists	46.0	-	57.9	-
Max breeding evidence	ON	FL	NY	-

2019

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. No roosts were reported this year.

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1 to 9 but there were six larger counts. The largest count was of a flock of 28 at Rhuthun on 8/02 (GPI).

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 9 with forty-five records of 10 or over. There were fewer larger counts this year with the maximum count was of 22 at Brickworks Pool, Rhyl on 8/02 (JPH).



2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1 to 9 but there were thirteen larger counts. The largest count was of a flock of 17 at Holt on 27/05 (NF).

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 9 with seventy-one records of 10 or more. Flocks of 10 or more were regularly seen around Rhyl, notably at Rhyl Brickworks pool. The maximum of 31 was seen S of Rhyl on 13/03 including a single flock of 29 (WRM).

Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
Resident and sometimes breeder. Amber List. RBBP. S7.

BRÂN GOESGOCH

2019

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 number of records doubled since 2018 although some records may well have been of the

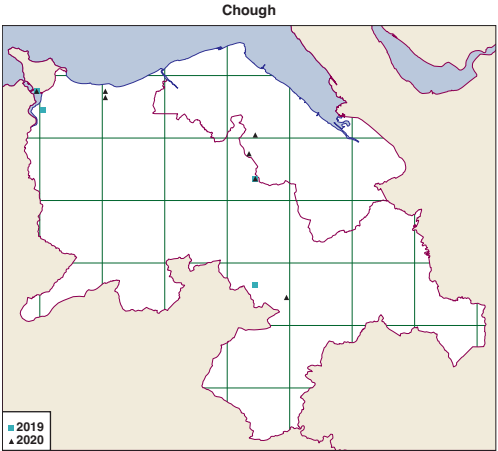
same birds. There were only two breeding season records, one of which reported probable breeding, as a pair were seen in likely breeding habitat. Outside the breeding season most records were from RSPB Conwy and Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley, where 2 were seen on several occasions. The maximum of 13 was seen on 15/10 at Pentrefelin (MiB).

(CF)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	4		5	2
Maximum count	13		8	2
Av max count prev 10 years	6		6	0
Number of records	28	0	11	2
% of BirdTrack lists	0.5		0.6	-
Max breeding evidence	P		-	D

2020

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 far fewer records this year with birds seen at five different locations, all outside the breeding season. The highest count was of 8 at RSPB Conwy on 22/10 (JFJ).



Flints. Two were seen at Penycloddiau on 20/03 (EdW) and two more near Afonwen by SvK on 10/06.

Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*
Breeding resident.

JAC-Y-DO

(JD)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	185	139	184	127
Maximum count	500	500	280	450
Av max count prev 10 years	331	322	331	322
Recorded in BBS squares	21/28	15/18	4/5	2/2
Number of records	1091	1062	1389	1598
% of records from GBW	38.68	18.55	53.69	38.04
% of BirdTrack lists	43.3	-	49.8	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	FF	NY	-

2019

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

Denbs. Whilst the majority of records were of counts less than 20, there were one hundred

and nine records exceeding 20. Of these twenty-four records were 50+ including six records of 100 and above. The three largest counts were: 342 at Faenol Fawr, Bodelwyddan on 13/08 (JPH); a pre-roost gathering of 455 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 24/12, and the maximum of 500+ at Groes, near Denbigh on 8/07 (MD).

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 20 but there were two hundred and sixty-six records of 20+. Of these, twenty- nine records exceeded 100. The three largest counts were: 351 at Devil's Gorge, Pantymwyn on 14/11, which included overflying flocks of 95 and 220 (GEM); a single feeding flock of 380 at Cilcain on 28/11 (GEM) and on 6/12, the maximum of 500 in a single flock flying to roost on the Gwysaney estate, seen from Rhydymwyn (MD). on 6/12.

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

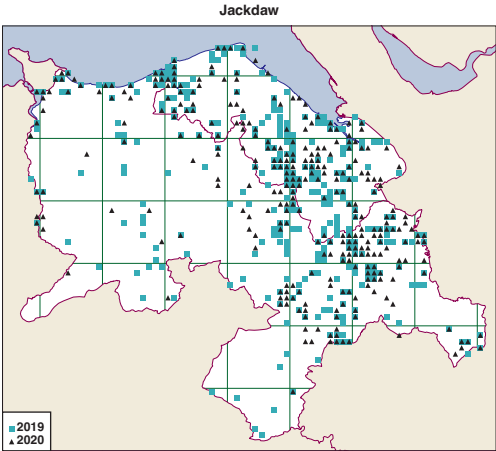
Denbs. Most records were of numbers of 20 or less but eighty-one records were of 21 or more birds. Of these thirty-one records were 50+ including seven records of 100 and above. The four largest counts were: 200 at Erddig, Wrexham on 27/10 (Nhu) of birds gathering for roost, a pre-roost assembly of 200 at Rhuthun Castle on 8/11 (RG), 234 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 18/08 (JPH) and the maximum number of 280 on 10/10 at Conwy (WRM). This maximum flock was seen feeding on the algae-covered mud on the river at low tide along with 60+ Carrion Crows.

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 20 but there were two hundred and eighty-three records of 20+. Of these, one hundred records exceeded 50 and forty-seven were of 100 or more. Flocks of 200+ came from several locations: Bagillt, Cwm, Connah's Quay NR, Hendre, Rhuddlan, Rhydymwyn and Rhyl (R. Clwyd). The three largest counts were: 400 (10/02) and 450 (28/01) at Connah's Quay NR (PeHa) and 450 at Bagillt on 25/09 (GRMP).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* YDFRAN
Colonial breeding resident.

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties. Breeding was confirmed in both counties and thanks to WRM, several detailed counts of rookeries were provided. Efforts to locate and count rookeries would be appreciated particularly as an all-Wales rookery survey is planned for 2022/23. 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



(RO)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	72	74	85	48
Maximum count	315	117	148	160
Av max count prev 10 years	246	144	246	144
Recorded in BBS squares	9/28	10/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	262	388	253	435
% of records from GBW	13.36	15.72	15.63	25.66
% of BirdTrack lists	13.4	-	18.1	-
Max breeding evidence	ON	ON	ON	B

of nests can easily be counted.

Denbs. Most records were in single figures with fifty-seven records of 11 to 49 and thirteen records of 50 to 100. The three largest counts were: 142 on 21/10 at Lleweni watermeadows, Bodfari (JPH); 160 counted at a large rookery at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 27/03 (WRM) and the maximum of 315 at a pre-roost gathering on 26/02 at Faenol Fawr, Bodelwyddan (JPH).

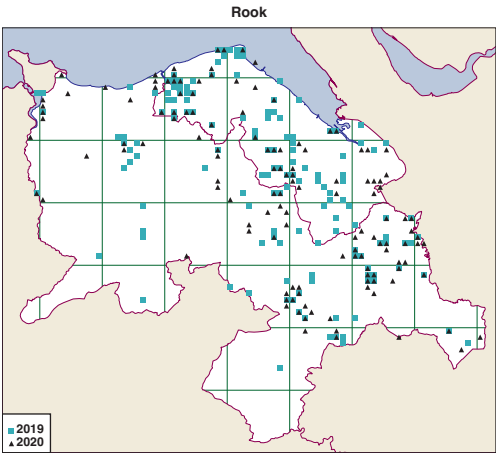
Flints. Most records were in single figures with seventy records of 11 to 49. There were thirteen counts of 50 or more. The maximum count was of 117 near Tremeirchion on 1/08 (JPH).

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were in single figures with fifty-two records of 11 to 49 and thirteen records of 50 or more. The three largest counts were: 114 on 16/04 at Holt (NF), 120 on 10/06 at Llanfair Talhaiarn (AIC) and the maximum count of 148 on 20/10 at Lleweni watermeadows, Bodfari (JPH). Several small rookeries were counted across the county.

Flints. Most records were in single figures with sixty-seven records of 11 to 49. There were ten counts of 50 or more. The largest counts were: 100 on 10/02 at St Asaph (SH), 105 on 1/11 at Rhyl (Afon Clwyd) and the maximum count of 160 on 11/04 south of Gwaenysgor (PDJ).



Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*
Breeding resident.

BRÂN DYDDYN

2019

(C)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	233	153	227	145
Maximum count	63	179	60	130
Av max count prev 10 years	81	97	81	97
Recorded in BBS squares	26/28	18/18	5/5	2/2
Number of records	1002	1056	1171	1511
% of records from GBW	14.47	6.72	24.58	20.56
% of BirdTrack lists	66.3	-	73.2	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	ON	ON	FL

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. The number of records and distribution were broadly similar in both counties to that of 2018. 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. The majority of records were in single figures with forty-nine records of 10 to 63. The maximum count of 63 was that of a pre-roost gathering at Faenol Fawr, Bodelwyddan on 26/02 (JPH).

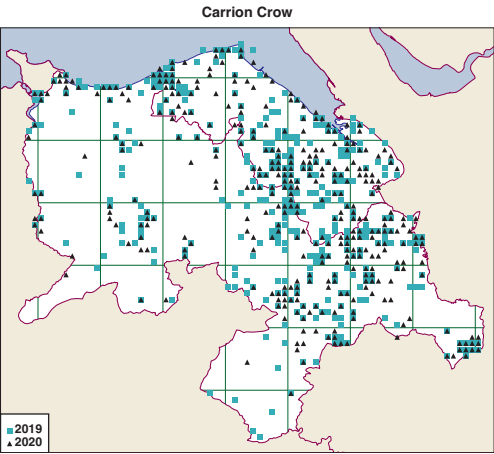
Flints. The majority of the records was in single figures. However, many small flocks were recorded with one hundred and twenty-three records of 10+, of which only ten records exceeded 50 individuals. Two counts of 80 were recorded at Nannerch Fish Pond by GEM on 31/03 and 28/05. The maximum count was of 179 at Llawndy Farm, Talacre on 3/12 (RCR).

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. The majority of records was in single figures with sixty-five records of 10 to 60. The maximum count of 60 was seen at RSPB Conwy on 10/10 (WRM).

Flints. The majority of the records were in single figures. There were one hundred and thirty-four records of 10+ ranging up to 90, with a further three records of over 100. The highest counts were all from Connah's Quay NR: 110 on both 11/12 and 12/12 and 130 on 15/12 (PeHa). A nightly roost was observed at Sychdyn in a copse of mixed mature trees. There were 60 counted on 10/07, but this was thought to be an underestimate (JRe).



Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*
Vagrant. Amber List.

BRÂN LWYD

2019

(HC)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		3		
Maximum count		1		
Number of records	0	3	0	0

Flints. There were three records of singles, at two locations. The first was on 18/01 at Point of Ayr and the second was a single seen by two separate observers at Connah's Quay NR on 7/06.

Raven *Corvus corax*
Breeding resident.

CIGFRAN

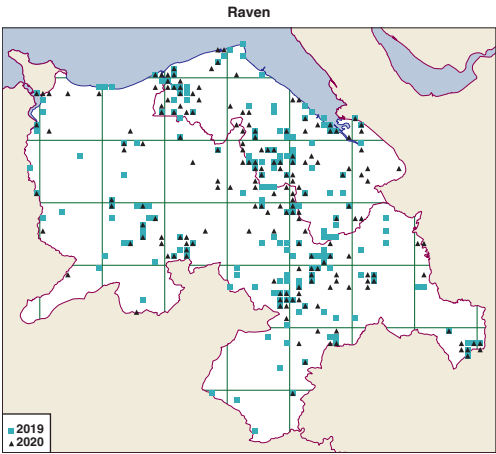
2019

(RN)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	123	67	116	76
Maximum count	32	11	14	9
Av max count prev 10 years	46	14	46	14
Recorded in BBS squares	13/28	6/18	2/5	1/2
Number of records	261	289	287	302
% of records from GBW	0.38	1.04	1.63	2.37
% of BirdTrack lists	18.1	-	21.0	-
Density	1.99	1.25	0.82	1.16
Max breeding evidence	NY	FF	NY	-

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. The number of records and their distribution has remained much the same over the past few years.

Denbs. The majority of records were in single figures with only three counts exceeding this. These were 12 at Nebo on 28/04 (RS); 25 at Minera, Wrexham on 26/01 (EJB) and the maximum of 32 at Moel Gamelin near Llangollen on 22/10 (JoG).

Flints. There were only three records of 10 or more. These were 10 and 11 at Afonwen on 4/05 and 16/06 respectively. Both records from BBS surveys by GRMP.





2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. The majority of records were in single figures with only three counts exceeding this. These were 10 at Ysbyty Ifan on 18/01 (GrJ), 14 at Moel Emwnt (S of Llanfair Talhaiarn on 4/04 (SLg) and 14 at Waen Fechan in the Conwy Valley on 3/09.

Flints. All records were in single figures with the maximum of 9 at Afonwen on 25/03 (SvK).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*
Winter Visitor. RBBP.

CYNFFON SIDAN

(WX)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Uncommon	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1			
Maximum count	2			
Av max count prev 10 years	71			
Number of records	1	0	0	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0			

These were two years without an influx of Waxwings.

2019

Denbs. There were 2 on 2/02 at Trevor, Llangollen (CoRW).

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

TITW PENDDU

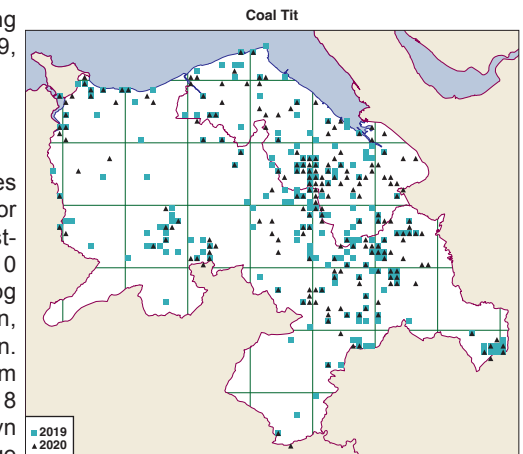
Breeding resident.

(CT)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	145	77	132	88
Maximum count	18	10	30	14
Av max count prev 10 years	35	8	35	8
Recorded in BBS squares	12/28	8/18	2/5	1/2
Number of records	810	287	1102	948
% of records from GBW	65.93	31.36	79.08	70.23
% of BirdTrack lists	15.5	-	15.8	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	FF	FF	-

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties in 2019, but only in Denbs in 2020.

2019

Denbs. All records were in single figures with the exception of four records of 10 or more. The higher numbers came post-breeding or in the winter. These were: 10 on 28/07 at Bod Petruel, Clocaenog Forest; 12 on 13/11 at Foel Plantation, Eglwyseg and 12 on 27/12 at Bwlchgwyn. These three records all came from BirdTrack lists. The maximum count of 18 was on 3/12 at Gwern, near Bwlchgwyn (GNR). These were all feeding on a huge



Coal Tit: Andy Davis

Beech tree laden with mast along with large numbers of Chaffinch and Brambling. Only one was ringed this year, a fullgrown bird at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 26/07 (pBH). This was a significant decrease from previous years.

Flints. All counts bar one were in single figures (the majority were of 1 to 2). The maximum count of 10 were seen on a BirdTrack list at Pantymwyn on 9/09 (GEM). Ringing records were down this year and only 1 was ringed by IMS at Rhydymwyn on 23/09, and 12 were ringed by GRMP at Bagillt outside of the breeding season.

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. All records were in single figures with the exception of nine records of 10 or more. The higher numbers came post-breeding or in the winter. The highest were: 20 at Bod Petruel, Clocaenog Forest on 29/01 (TBT), 21 seen foraging in a big flock along with Chaffinch and Brambling in Clocaenog Forest on 20/01 (DWN) and the maximum count of 30 at Llyn Brenig on 5/12 (Jonathan Bull). Ringing at Pentrefelin (pBH) captured 14 individuals during the year.

Flints. Most counts were in single figures (the majority were of 1 to 2). Five records were of 10 or more. The maximum of 14 was at Gwernymynydd on 22/06 but a notable 8 were recorded on a single bird feeder at Nercwys Mountain on 27/01 (GEM). Ringing records increased this year and 6 were ringed by IMS at Sychdyn and 52 were ringed by GRMP at Bagillt during the year.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*
Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

TITW'R WERN

(MT)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	15	3	16	8
Maximum count	2	1	4	3
Av max count prev 10 years	3	2	3	2
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	0/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	36	4	40	21
% of records from GBW	47.22	-	45.00	66.67
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-	0.8	-
Max breeding evidence	-	S	P	-

There was no confirmation of breeding for this increasingly scarce species although some records came from suitable habitat in the breeding season. The distribution of the records was extremely scattered and similar to that of the previous two years.

2019

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 either 1 or 2 individuals. Seventeen of these records came from a garden near Ruabon.

Flints. The four records were all of singles.

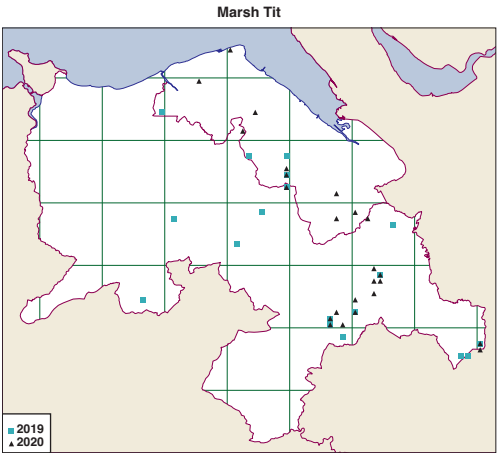
2020

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 bar one record were of either 1 or 2 individuals. A maximum of 4 was seen on 1/03 at Fenn's Moss (RbHa).

Flints. The increase in records primarily came because 1-2 individuals were regularly seen in a garden at Padeswood, Mold. The maximum of 3 also came from the same garden on 19/04.



Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*

TITW'R HELYG

Breeding resident. Red List. RBBP. S7.

(WT)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	2	5	1
Maximum count	2	1	1	1
Av max count prev 10 years	3	2	3	2
Number of records	7	2	7	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-	0.2	-
Max breeding evidence	P	P	S	-

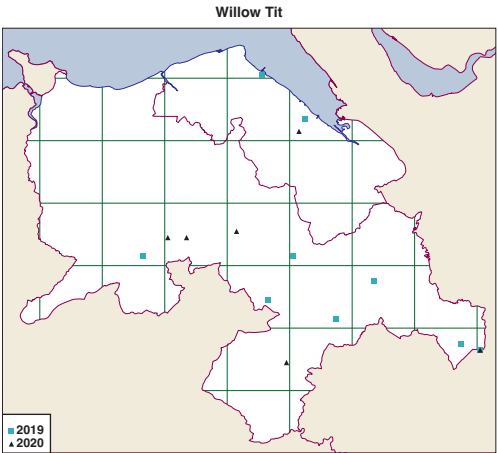
The total number of records increased slightly coming from nine locations. This increase resulted from a more concerted search for the result due to the national Willow Tit survey coordinated by the RSPB. Probable breeding came from two sites.

2019

Seen in these months:

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

Denbs. There were three records of singles at Froncysyllte, W of Rhewl in the Dee Valley and at Llandegla. Four records of 2 included pairs seen in suitable breeding habitat SW Clocaenog Forest and Sontley near Wrexham.



Flints. The record of a single was a fullgrown bird ringed at Bagillt on 26/08 (GRMP). A pair in breeding habitat was recorded at Mostyn on 25/03 (GRMP).

2020

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 singles at quite different sites to that of 2019: Ceiriog Valley, Clocaenog Forest, Fenn's Moss and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd.

Flints. One record of a single was at Halkyn on 25/01.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*
Breeding resident.

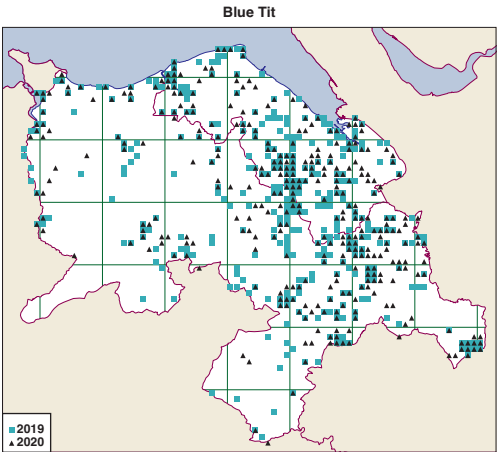
TITW TOMOS LAS

(BT)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	226	151	220	138
Maximum count	92	79	43	59
Av max count prev 10 years	55	81	55	81
Recorded in BBS squares	25/28	18/18	5/5	2/2
Number of records	1651	1137	2322	2191
% of records from GBW	50.88	19.96	61.82	53.37
% of BirdTrack lists	53.5	-	60.9	-
Density	10.52	20.25	4.79	13.82
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY	FF	NY

Recorded in each month in both counties. In 2019, recording effort increased slightly in Denbs from 2018 levels, but this was still down from normal. In Flints, the number of records was down on 2018 by 20%. This situation changed in 2020 when more records came from gardens as recorders were restricted in their travelling due to the pandemic. Very few flocks of 20+ were recorded and observers are encouraged to submit more flock counts of this very common species.

2019

Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 10 with seventy-six counts of 11 to 50+. The second largest count was a notable 88 from a garden at Llandegla on 11/08. Breeding was confirmed at several locations, mainly from nestbox schemes. The maximum daily ringing effort was of 92 individuals (80 nestlings and 12 fullgrown) ringed at Pandy on 20/05 (pBH). In total 141 nestlings were ringed at this site between 11/05 and 6/06. Large numbers of nestlings were also ringed at Bodnant (55 – pBH); Coed Nantddu, Clocaenog (44 – IMS) and Llanarmon-yn-Ial (29 – pBH). Smaller numbers were ringed at other locations.



Blue Tit: Malcolm Down

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 10 with fifty-three records of counts higher than 11. A count of 33 at Connah's Quay NR on 31/01 (DWn) was the largest count outside the breeding season. Breeding was confirmed at several locations, mainly from nestbox schemes. IMS ringed 139 nestlings at Rhydymwyn and 102 nestlings at Coed y Felin, Hendre. The Merseyside Ringing Group ringed nestlings at Nannerch (73); Cilcain (66); Pantymwyn (50) and another 50 at a site near Loggerheads. Over the year GRMP ringed 237 fullgrown birds at Bagillt.

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 10 with sixty-seven counts of 11 to 43. The largest count was of 43 seen at Aberduna NR on 24/04. Breeding records were few this year and only a handful of nestlings were ringed this year due to the pandemic. At Pentrefelin, the Merseyside Ringing Group ringed 53 fullgrown birds, most of which were outside the breeding season (pBH).

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 10 with fifty-nine records of counts higher than 11. A single count of 32 in a garden at Gwernymynydd on 26/04 was notable although the maximum count from a single day was of 59 ringed at Sychdyn on 6/12. Over the year GRMP ringed 207 fullgrown birds at Bagillt and IMS ringed 106 fullgrown birds at Sychdyn.

Great Tit *Parus*
Breeding resident.

TITW MAWR

(GT)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	206	135	195	125
Maximum count	70	31	29	19
Av max count prev 10 years	49	34	49	34
Recorded in BBS squares	23/28	16/18	5/5	1/2
Number of records	1304	807	1879	1725
% of records from GBW	53.99	20.07	65.40	60.64
% of BirdTrack lists	39.1	-	45.5	-
Density	7.30	7.11	2.86	4.03
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY	ON	NY

Recorded in each month in both counties and breeding was confirmed at several locations in 2019. There was a 33% increase in recording in both counties in 2019, compared to 2018, and as more gardens were watched regularly in 2020, records increased by over 50% from 2019. No winter flocks were recorded.

2019

Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 10 with nineteen larger counts, nine of which related to ringing effort. The largest single sighting was of 24 on a BirdTrack list at Gwern, near Bwlchwyn on 17/01 (GNR). Nestbox monitoring took place at several sites with notable numbers of nestlings ringed at Llanarmon-yn-Ial (35); Ddol-hir, near Pandy (40) and the maximum number recorded was 70 at Pandy on 26/05 (pBH).

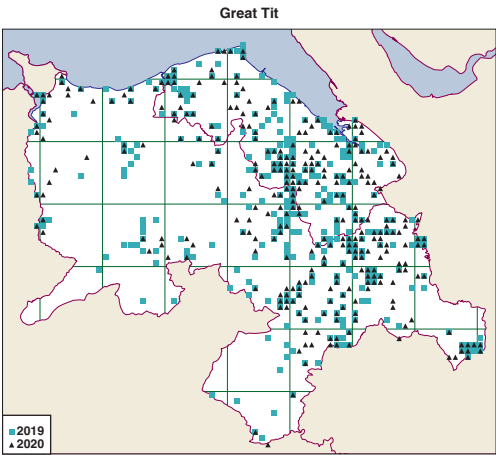
Flints. The majority of records were of 1 to 10 with seventeen larger counts, ten of which related to ringing effort. The largest single sighting was of 22 at Connah's Quay NR on 31/01 (DWn). The other largest counts related to ringing activity, when the most birds ringed on one day was 31 nestlings (out of a season's total of 68) at Rhydymwyn (IMS). Over the whole year, GRMP ringed 113 fullgrown birds at Bagillt.

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 10 with only eleven counts of 11 or more. The largest single sighting was of 29 at Aberduna NR on 30/08. Ringing activity was much reduced this year but 69 fullgrown birds were ringed at Pentrefelin (pBH).

Flints. The majority of records were of 1 to 10 with only five larger counts. The maximum count



was of 19 at Knowle Hill, Buckley on 28/01 (Kate Wilson). Over the year GRMP ringed 128 fullgrown birds at Bagillt.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

EHEDYDD

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List. S7.

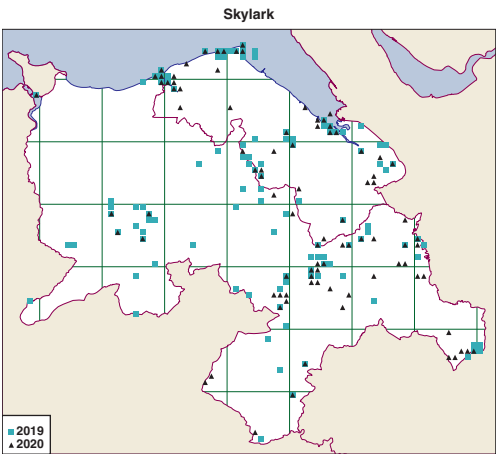
(S)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	71	40	54	37
Maximum count	30	115	21	50
Av max count prev 10 years	48	380	48	380
Recorded in BBS squares	10/28	4/18	2/5	1/2
Number of records	144	233	127	206
% of BirdTrack lists	12.5	-	10.7	-
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF	FL	S

2019

Seen in all months of the year in both counties, with song flights noted from 20/02, but harder to find in late summer as birds moult and stop singing. Numbers of records were similar to 2018 in both counties, but maximum counts were lower and well below the ten-year averages. Breeding was proved in a number of coastal and inland locations.

Denbs. There were only nine double-figure counts this year, with none after early Apr. Most winter records were coastal and Kinmel Bay again hosted small numbers in the early winter, but the highest count of the entire year came from well inland, with 30 near Rhuthun on 8/02 (GPI). The first song-flights were noted on 23 and 24/02. After the first week of Jun almost all records were of 1-2 only, and the only count above 5 was 7 at Kinmel Bay on 15/12 (JPH) and there were no sizeable flocks in the second winter period.

Flints. There was once again a single treble-figure count this year, of 115 at Flint saltmarsh on 15/12 (DWn). In contrast to Denbs, there were double-figure counts in all months of the year except Aug. Eleven of the twelve such counts in the first winter came from coastal sites, with a high of 44 on Flint saltmarsh on 20/01 (DWn) and the only double-figure inland flock was of 12 on Moel Arthur on 23/02 (JoBn). The first song flight was noted on 21/02. There were two double-figure BBS counts, both from the same near-coastal site at Sandycroft, with 12 on 19/04 and on 5/06 (IMS). Migration was clearly noted during Oct, with eleven double-figure counts, including 40 flying E during a visible migration watch at Point of Ayr on 24/10 (DWn) and there were a further seven double-figure counts during Nov and Dec, all of them at coastal sites between Rhyl and Gronant and Flint and Connah's Quay NR.



Seen in all months in both counties, but harder to find in late summer as birds moult and stop singing – there was only one Aug record in Denbs. Numbers were distinctly lower than in 2019. Breeding was proved in Denbs. but not, this year, in Flints.

Denbs. Another poor year for double-figure counts, with only eight: six of 10-15 and only two of 20+, with the maximum count of 21 at Holt on 9/10. Although the number of records was only slightly down on 2019, birds were only recorded from fifty-four 1km squares – the lowest total since 2013. In contrast to Flints, only one out of twenty-one reports between Sep and Dec was on the coast.

Flints. Although there was only a slight reduction in the total number of records from 2019, numbers were much lower. One hundred and ninety-two reports (93% of the total) came from coastal or near-coastal locations and one hundred and sixty-six of these came from three areas: ninety from Gronant/Talacre/Point of Ayr (43.7% of the total), forty-four from the Rhyl area (21.4%) and thirty-two (15.5%) from Connah’s Quay NR and its surrounding area. Whilst the preponderance of coastal reports in autumn and winter is not unusual, it is likely that the figures were distorted by restrictions on movement imposed during the various Covid-19 lockdowns, and only one record came from a BBS visit. The highest count was a mere 50, at Connah’s Quay NR on 10/02, with 30 there the following day. There were five reports of 20-29, all in autumn or winter except for 28 at Gronant on 9/06 and twenty reports of 10-19, all in autumn or winter apart from three counts at Gronant during May. Song was first noted on 5/02.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Vagrant.

EHEDYDD TRAETH

(SX)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1		
Maximum count		2		
Number of records	0	1	0	0

Denbs. A single was at Gronant dunes on 1/11 (WRM) – accepted by the WBRC.

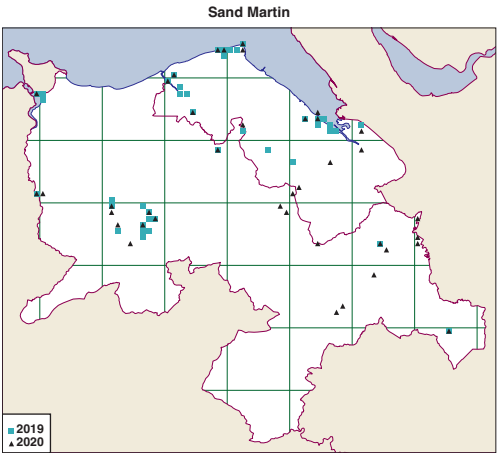
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

(SM)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	19	22	24	15
Maximum count	150	312	40	150
Av max count prev 10 years	150	192	150	192
Number of records	77	87	53	64
% of BirdTrack lists	7.0	-	3.6	-
Max breeding evidence	ON	-	ON	ON

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



Another relatively poor year across both counties, although reports did increase by almost 28% (from 69 to 87) on 2018 in Flints. There were two very early records at the end of Feb and spring passage started in earnest in both counties in the last week of Mar. There was only one Sep record - in Denbs.

Denbs. As usual, the earliest report came from RSPB Conwy, with a single on 28/02 (pTW) and several between 3/03 and 8/03. Spring passage got under way in earnest from 24/03, with the first peak of 60 at RSPB Conwy on 31/03 (pTW). There was a second peak in the third week of Apr, with 150 at Llyn Brenig on 20/04 (MaG) and 100 on 26/04 (JaRo). The third spring pulse came in the first ten days of May, with 49 at RSPB Conwy on 4/05 (JPH), 30 at Llyn Bran on 6/05 (GrJ), 50 at RSPB Conwy on 8/05 (SvK) and 60 there the following day (TyC). After this, reports were in single figures until post-breeding dispersal was recorded at RSPB Conwy, with 28 on 6/07 (JPH), but this proved to be the only further double figure count of the year. After 2 at Llewenni water meadows on 14/08 (JPH), the final straggler of the year was a single at Hanmer Mere on 15/09 (DIHd).

Flints. There was an early report of 1 at Rhyl Brickfields ponds on 28/02 (JPH) – the same day as the early record from RSPB Conwy. Thereafter there was a gap until 23/03, when 4 were seen at Rhyl Brickfield ponds (RLE). This site then provided the bulk of the spring passage records, with four notable pulses: the first started with 23 on 31/03, rising to 123 on 2/04, the highest count of the year of 312 on 3/04 and 150 on 5/04 (JPH, RLE, WRM). The second wave produced 150 at Rhyl on 14/04, 127 on 15/04 and 87 on 16/04 (JPH, RLE) and the third wave came there ten days later, with 106 on 26/04 and 90 on 28/04 (JPH). The final sizeable count of the spring from Rhyl was of 78 on 9/05 (JPH). Elsewhere records were scattered, largely coastal and all in single figures, until the middle to the end of May, when up to 30 were recorded in the Flint/Connah’s Quay NR area (PSH, DWn), but these may well have been feeding birds from a local colony rather than late spring migrants. Double figure numbers of post-breeding dispersal were noted at Connah’s Quay NR, with 35 on 6/07, 15 on 6/08 and 50 on 9/08 (PSH) and there were 15 at Gronant on 17/07 (AtG). Records dwindled from the second week of August, with the last of the autumn passage, a group of 15 over Bagillt on 28/08, came down low during heavy rain in a mixed flock with House Martins.

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

Low numbers of reports again across both counties, with a late arrival and no Mar records in either county. Maximum counts were low as well, with no clear reports of roosts and most of the higher counts coming from a single colony at Flint. Departures were on about normal dates, with only a few lingering into Sep in both Denbs and Flints.

Denbs. Reports were 32% lower than 2019, with the first full Covid lockdown meaning that spring passage went largely unrecorded. The first record of the year was of 10+ at RSPB Conwy on 4/04 and there was only a small scattering of records through Apr and May, with the only other double-figure count of 10 at Borras, Wrexham on 14/04 (DuH). Breeding was proved at a minimum of two sites and probable breeding recorded from two others. Post-breeding dispersal was recorded from the last week in Jun, with 12 at Llyn Brenig on 14/07 and 30 at RSPB Conwy the following day. The maximum count was only 40 – part of a large mixed flock of hirundines over Moel Findeg on 25/07. Thereafter numbers dwindled through Aug, with the last few records coming from Llanwrst and RSPB Conwy and the final single of the year was seen at Llanwrst on 13/09.

Flints. The first were 3 at Queensferry on 5/04 (DWn) and spring passage was better recorded than in Denbs, largely because suitable sites in and around Rhyl were accessible during lockdown. There were several counts of 20-35 at Rhyl sites during Apr and early May, starting with 22 on 5/04 and peaking at 75 on 28/04 (RLE). Numbers recorded around Flint were much higher than in previous years, largely because the colony near Flint Point was accessible during lockdown. It was first visited on 30/04, when 14 were recorded and remained highly active until the last week in Aug, with ten counts of 30+ and the highest of 150+ on 17/07. 188 Sand Martins were newly ringed there in five visits and one Sand Martin with a French ring was controlled: an interesting record since this had been ringed as a juvenile on 21 Jul 2019 on the Gironde estuary, which would mean that either it was a very early autumn migrant or had moved several hundred kilometres to breed (GRMP, IMS). The only other significant counts were near Bagillt, with 60+ on 12/05 and 67 on 23/08 (GRMP), but it is likely that these were feeding birds from the Flint colony. Two were still feeding young at the colony on 6/09 (GRMP) and this was the last record for the year.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

GWENNOL

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

(SL)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	135	103	131	92
Maximum count	245	105	84	117
Av max count prev 10 years	1431	630	1431	630
Recorded in BBS squares	20/28	14/18	1/5	1/2
Number of records	355	383	354	465
% of records from GBW	7.61	1.57	12.77	15.79
% of BirdTrack lists	21.4	-	22.4	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY	ON	D

2019

Seen in these months:

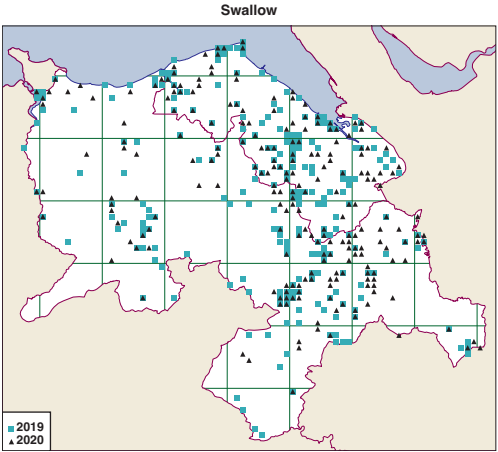
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

There were similar numbers of reports to 2018 in both counties, with a very early Feb single in Flints and several Mar reports in both counties. The dates of main arrivals were very similar to Sand Martins, but

without so many notable peaks, and autumn departures were largely completed by the end of Sep with only a handful of early Oct records and a late straggler in Flints on 2/11.

Denbs. The earliest arrival was a single at RSPB Conwy on 7/03 (JFJ), with 2 on 11/03 (pTW). No more were recorded until 2/04, when spring passage started in earnest, but there were no double-figure counts until 10 at RSPB Conwy on 24/04. On 6/05 20 were counted at Llyn Bran

and 30 at Llyn Brenig (GrJ) and the highest count of the year was of 245 moving through RSPB Conwy on 8/05 (JPH), with 50 still there on 9/05 (TyC). There were 10-15 recorded at a number of inland and coastal locations during the rest of May and Jun, with 10 the highest BBS count on a late visit at Llansannan on 21/06. There were no particularly high counts either inland or on the coast during post-breeding dispersal through Jul and Aug with the largest numbers at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari peaking at 51 on 17/07 (JPH). 88 were ringed at a roost at Tal-y-Bont on 8/09 (per BH) and the last double-figure count was of 15 at Froncysyllte on 26/09 (DaHu). Thereafter reports tailed off to 2/10, and the last record was of 1 near Denbigh on 9/10 (HaE).



Flints. Records covered a longer time span than in Denbs: the first was a very early single at Bagillt on 21/02 (GRMP) and the next report was 35 at Bwlchgwyn on 19/03 (GNR). Thereafter spring passage was recorded from numerous locations, with the first three double-figure counts coming from Talacre, 11 on 11/04 (GEM), Rhyl Brickworks ponds, 16 on 16/04 (JPH) and Connah's Quay NR, 19 on 16/04 (DWn). 12 were recorded on an early BBS walk near Mold on 21/04 and there were 14 at Rhyl Brickworks ponds on 26/04, with 11 there on 1/05. There was evidence of further passage in the first ten days of May, with 48 at Gronant on 1/05 (JPH), the highest count of the year of 105 at Rhyl Brickworks ponds on 8/05 and 32 there on 9/05 (JPH). There were 20 at Connah's Quay NR on 9/05 (PSH) and 22 at Saltney on 10/05 (DWn). The highest late visit BBS count was of 22 near Mold on 19/05 and there were a further twenty-one double-figure counts in Flints during May and Jun, mostly at Connah's Quay NR and Rhyl, with 13 more double-figure counts during Jul. Aug brought counts of 20-50 on thirteen days at Connah's Quay NR (PSH, DWn), six days at Rhyl (JPH) and two at Talacre (NHu). The highest numbers were at Rhyl, with 60 on 27/08 (JPH), Nannerch fishponds at Penbedw with 60 on 9/08 (GEM) and 100 at Connah's Quay NR/RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 28/08 (PSH, DWn). The highest Sep count was 75 at Connah's Quay NR on 2/09 (DWn), but after the first week of Sep reports dwindled to single figures, apart from 14 hawking around cattle in heavy rain at Bagillt on 30/09 (GRMP). There were five Oct records and a final late single at Gronant on 2/11 (DWn).

2020

Seen in these months:

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

In spite of the Covid lockdown, report numbers were almost identical to 2019 in Denbs and 2020 produced the highest ever number of records from Flints.

However, apart from a bizarre early Mar single in Flints, arrivals were both late and slow, with no Mar records from Denbs and no double-figure counts in either county until the last week in Apr. Although the overall number of reports was relatively high, numbers were low throughout the spring, summer and autumn, and departures were early from Denbs, with the last record on 8/10, although a few lingered into Nov in Flints, the last was on 24/11. As usual, successful breeding was recorded in both counties.

Denbs. There were no Mar records at all and only a thin spring passage, which started with arrivals on 4/04: singles at Dolwyd and Trevor Uchaf and 2 at Llanferres. There were no double-figure counts until 27/04, when 10 were at Sontley Pools, increasing to 12 by 29/04, with 10 at Holt on 28/04 and 5/05 and 14 at Crewe-by-Farndon on 30/04. Nest prospecting and building was noted from mid-Apr. There were no three-figure counts and the small number of double-figure counts were concentrated at Lleweni and Moel Arthur: at Lleweni 17 on 5/05 increased to 27 by 11/05 and 32 by 30/06, by which date first brood juveniles were likely to be on the wing, reaching the peak count for the year of 84 on 18/08 (JPH). At Moel Arthur, dispersal and autumn passage produced 60 on 24/08, 50 on 27/08 and 40 on 30/08 and 12/09 (GEM). The only other counts of 30+ came from Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog with around 30 on 19/07, RSPB Conwy with 50 on 8/09 and Holt, with 60 on 10/09. Holt also produced the final record of the year with a single on 8/10 – a very early final departure date.

Flints. The first was an unseasonally early single at Halkyn on 7/03 (GRMP) and there were two further reports of singles later in Mar. Arrivals and spring passage started in earnest towards the end of the first week of Apr (as in Denbs) but the first double-figure count was not recorded until 24/04, when 15+ were passing Point of Ayr (GrJ). Further passage was noted at Gronant, with 14 on 30/04, 22 on 7/05 and 33 on 9/06; 11 were at Saltney on 8/05 (AHJ) and the Rhyl area produced four counts of 10+ during May, followed by 21 on 2/06, 32 on 28/06 and 38 on 12/07 (JPH). Spring passage was recorded at Bagillt, with 35 on 12/05 (GRMP) and post-fledging dispersal at Hendre, with 30 on 12/07 (GEM). Aug produced rather better autumn passage than in Denbs, with eight counts of 20+ at both coastal and inland locations, together with the only three counts of 100+ during the year: 100 passing Gronant on 6/08 (WRM), the highest count of the year of 117 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/08 (PeHa) and 116 at Rhyl on 6/09 (JPH). There was one double-figure count in Oct, with 12+ at Dyserth on 3/10 (REd), a sprinkling of reports through to the end of that month and three Nov records, the last one was a single at Queensferry on 24/11 (AB).

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

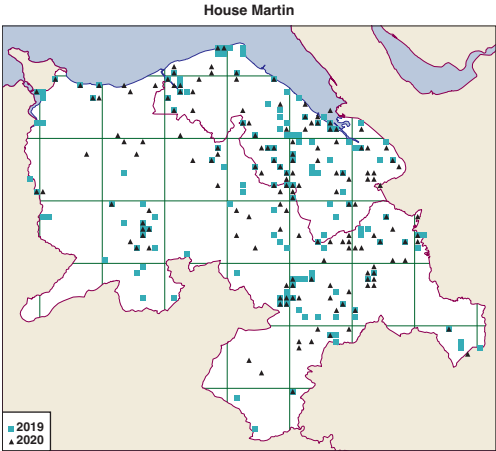
GWENNOL Y BONDO

(HM)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	90	61	99	67
Maximum count	180	60	73	150
Av max count prev 10 years	133	132	133	132
Recorded in BBS squares	6/28	6/18	1/5	1/2
Number of records	220	234	312	315
% of records from GBW	9.55	2.99	23.60	28.15
% of BirdTrack lists	14.5	-	15.4	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	ON	NY	-

2019
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 2018 in Denbs, whilst there were more reports in Flints than any year since before 2007. However, there were fewer large flocks of feeding or migrating House Martins and overall densities declined. There was only one Mar report – in Denbs – and no

late stayers: departures were fairly sudden towards the end of Sep, with only two Oct records in each county.

Denbs. The first record was a single at Trefriw on 28/03 (RhPc). The spring arrival and passage period started from 3/04, but the first double-figure count was not until 24/04 when 10 were seen at Llandyrnog (PKi). There were eleven May counts of 20+, and the highest was 47 at RSPB Conwy on 8/05 (JPH). Jun generated three counts with 20+, including the best BBS total of 22 at Llangwm on 1/06. There were seven counts of 20+ in Jul, five in Aug and 6 in Sep: Aug produced the only two three-figure counts with 142 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 19/08 (JPH) and 180 at Horseshoe Falls, Llangollen on 22/08 (JoG). The highest Sep count was 80 at Eglwysaeg on 14/09 (JoG), after which there were only three further Sep records and two in Oct, with the last report being a single at Burton on 20/10.



Flints. There were no Mar records and the first report was of 8 at Connah's Quay NR on 4/04 (PSH). Thereafter passage followed similar timing to Denbs, with the first double-figure count of 11 at Rhyl Brickworks ponds on 16/04 (JPH). There was one more double figure Apr count, with 14 at Buckley on 30/04 (KaW). May produced seven counts of 20+, including 50 at Connah's Quay NR on 22/05 (PSH) and the highest count of the year of 60 at Saltney on 10/05 (DWN). There were nine counts of 20+ during Jun, most of them at Buckley (KaW) and the best BBS late visit total was 20 at Afonwen on 16/06, though the colony was significantly smaller than in the previous six years. Jul produced two 20+ counts from Buckley and Aug six 20+ counts, with the highest of 50 at Connah's Quay NR on 2/08 (PSH). There were two Sep counts of 20+, with the better, 30, at Afonwen on 20/09 (SvK). After this date there were only two further Sep reports and two Oct records, with 15 at Caerwys on 5/10 (MGW) the latest report.

Numbers of 10+ counts were rather more widespread than in 2018, coming from sixteen locations. The table below replicates the parallel table in the 2018 report, giving numbers of 10+ counts from the same six locations, by month, with the highest count in each month in brackets:

Location / month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Connah's Quay area		4 (50)	1 (20)	3 (18)	6 (50)	2 (10)
Bagillt					2 (36)	
Buckley	1 (14)	5 (45)	5 (40)	3 (35)	3 (16)	
Gronant / Point of Ayr						3 (150+)
Rhyl	1 (11)	3 (39)		1 (17)		
Rhydymwyn					2 (25)	1 (11)

2020
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
Overall report numbers increased substantially on 2019: the Denbs total was 42% up, whilst the Flints

total increased by almost 35% to a record level of 315. It is difficult to say whether this represented an encouraging genuine increase, or simply the strange birding conditions prevailing alongside Covid. There were no Mar reports in Denbs, but an early single on 8/03 in Flints and no really late stayers with the last records in both counties coming towards the end of the second week in Oct.

Denbs. With no Mar records, the earliest were 3 at a GBW site at Burton on 5/04 with a single at Llanferres on the same day (JaH). Passage and arrivals continued steadily throughout Apr and May, but there were no double-figure counts until 10+ were recorded at Sontley Pools on 27/04, and 12 at Erddig on 30/04. There were no counts of 20+ during May and only five of 10+, but Jun produced six 20+ counts, with 40 at Rhewl Swn y Nant on 24/06 the best (JoG). Jul generated three 20+ counts, with 50 at RSPB Conwy on 15/07 the highest and Aug produced seven 20+ counts, with 60 at Chirk on 17/08 and 72 at Moel Arthur on 24/08 the best – the Moel Arthur birds were associating with Swallows on dispersal or passage. In Sep there were four 20+ counts, with 50 near Llangollen on 4/09 and 10/09 (JoG) and 73 (the highest count of the year) at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 14/09 (JPH). After 24/09 there were only two Oct records, with a single at Rhuthun on 11/10 the last of the year.

Flints. The first was a single from a GBW site at Padeswood on 8/03, but this was the only Mar record. Passage and arrivals started on 5/04, which was the same date as in Denbs and followed a similar pattern. There were no double-figure counts during Apr and the first was 25 over Bagillt on 12/05, with 45 nearby at Sylfaen Farm on 17/05 (the highest May count) (GRMP) and 12 at Cilcain also on 17/05. Overall, May produced four counts of 20+ and Jun six, most of them at Buckley, where 27 on 30/06 was the best (KaW). Jul produced only a single 20+ count, with 20 at Buckley on 6/07, but Aug was the most productive month, with twelve 20+ counts, including 150 over Gwennymynydd on 15/08 (the maximum count of the year) and 92 at Rhyl on 27/08 (JPH). There were two Sep counts of 20+, and the best was 24 near Rhuddlan on 19/09 (SH).

Numbers of 10+ counts were slightly more widespread than in 2018 and 2019, coming from twenty-one locations. The table below replicates the parallel tables in the 2018 and 2019

Location / month	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Connah's Quay area		1 (14)		4 (30)		
Bagillt	1 (15)		1 (15)			
Buckley	1 (25)	6 (27)	2 (20)	2 (28)		1 (13)
Gronant / Point of Ayr		1 (15)	1 (45)	1 (27)		
Rhyl				1 (92)		
Rhydymwyn		1 (16)			1 (12)	

reports, giving numbers of 10+ counts from the same six locations, by month, with the highest count in each month in brackets. Note that there were no qualifying counts in Apr, but there was one in Oct:

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

TELOR CETTI

Rare visitor and potential breeding resident. RBBP.

(CW)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	10	2	9
Maximum count	1	4	2	3
Number of records	12	73	21	63
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	-	2.3	-
Density	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.05
Max breeding evidence	-	T	-	-

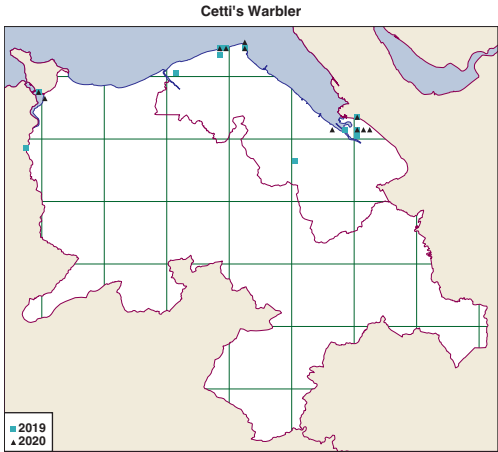
2019

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 continued increase in reports in both counties and although these remained almost entirely in the same three areas as before, there were tantalising indications that there may be some spreading into new locations. Although there were no records in Denbs between Mar and Aug, individuals were recorded in every month of the year except Aug in Flints.

Denbs. One was ringed at Tal-y-Bont on 25/02 (pBH). All the other reports were of singles or presence at RSPB Conwy in the autumn between 10/09 and 2/12.



Flints. All except two of the records came from the same two areas as previous years: the established sites at the Shotton Steelworks / Shotwick (eighteen reports) and at Gronant / Point of Ayr (fifty-two reports). There were signs in both areas that some spreading out was taking place, with records from White Sands and the Welsh section of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on the upper Dee estuary and a single at Talacre on 9/12 (RCR) just along the coast from Gronant. Most reports were of 1-3, but 4 were singing at Gronant on 26/02 and 4 were again recorded there on 6/11 and 27/11 (all WRM) and on the Nov dates at least one other was recorded in a different part of the dunes complex. There were two records in new locations: a single singing at Rhyl Brickworks ponds on 12/04 (JPH) and an adult ringed at Rhydymwyn on 19/09 (IMS, GRMP) which represents the first inland record in the county.

2020

Seen in these months:

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

A similar pattern to 2019, but although breeding was highly likely in two Flints localities, there are no signs that the species is spreading in our area, with sightings in even more limited locations than 2019, and no inland records this year.

Denbs. All records were of 1-2 at RSPB Conwy.

Flints. All records were of 1-3 and only from two areas: Gronant/Point of Ayr/Talacre and around Shotton/Shotwick/Connah's Quay. It is likely that pairs bred at both sites, but there was no recorded evidence for this.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*
Breeding resident. Amber List.

TITW GYNFFONHIR

(LT)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	130	102	143	110
Maximum count	24	32	52	35
Av max count prev 10 years	30	27	30	27
Recorded in BBS squares	9/28	9/18	2/5	0/2
Number of records	518	451	783	691
% of records from GBW	47.10	24.83	59.78	47.41
% of BirdTrack lists	17.7	-	22.2	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	FL	NE	-

2019

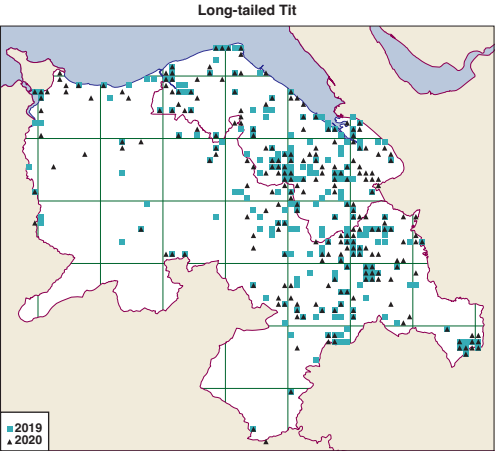
Recorded in each month in both counties, with similar numbers of records to 2015-2018 in Flints and a bounce back to normal levels in Denbs, largely fuelled by a return to previous numbers of GBW records. Breeding was confirmed at several locations in both counties.

Denbs. Maximum count numbers were again relatively low. Twenty-three counts were of 10 to 19, with a gap between 17/02 and 16/06 and six of these counts were in Dec. There were three flocks of 20 or more, with 21 at Lleweni watermeadows on 1/07 (JPH), 21 at Chirk on 24/10 (ChTw) and the highest count of 24 at Froncysyllte on 26/07 (DaHu). Most of the 10-19 counts came from these sites as well.

Flints. Thirty-seven counts were of 10 to 19, with only five of these between Jan and Jul and twenty-six between Sep and Nov. A further four counts were of at least 20 birds (all in the second half of the year), with the highest count of 32 at Rhuddlan on 19/10 (JPH).

2020

As usual, recorded in each month in both counties. Compared with 2019 there were large increases in the number of records: up 51.2% in Denbs and 52.9% to a new record in Flints. This was considerably fuelled by substantial rises in the percentage of records coming through GBW, which more than doubled in Flints. Whether this was partly caused by the BTO's decision to make GBW free, or enforced staying at home through lockdowns, is uncertain.



Denbs. Thirty-four counts were of 10-19, four were of 20-49 and the highest count of 52 came from a GBW site at Wrexham on 23/08. Two thirds of the double-figure counts were recorded between Jun and Dec, suggesting a successful breeding season. However, only 41% of the double figure counts came from GBW sites, although GBW records represented almost 61% of the total. In only one month (Jan) did the percentage of GBW records fall below 50% of the monthly total, and in every month from Jun to Dec GBW reports made up over 70% of the total monthly records, with the sole exception of Oct.

Flints. Forty-six counts were of 10-19 and six of 20+. The maximum count was 35 at Gwernymynydd on 29/11. Over 80% of the double figure counts came between Jun and Dec, suggesting, as in Denbs, a fruitful breeding season. However, only nine of the double figure counts (17%) came from GBW sites, even though they made up over 50% of the total for the county.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
Summer visitor. Red List. S7.

TELOR COED

(WO)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	12	3	10	3
Maximum count	8	5	10	3
Av max count prev 10 years	5	2	5	2
Number of records	29	8	14	8
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	-	0.4	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY	P	S

2019

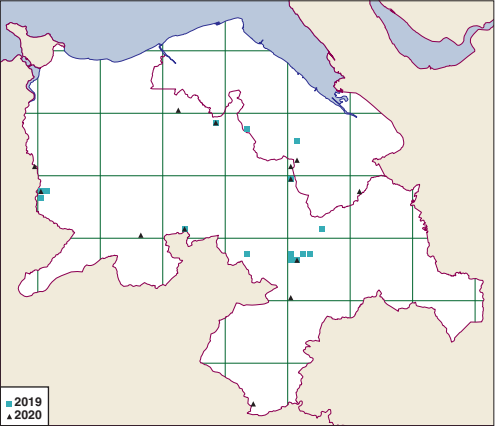
Seen in these months:

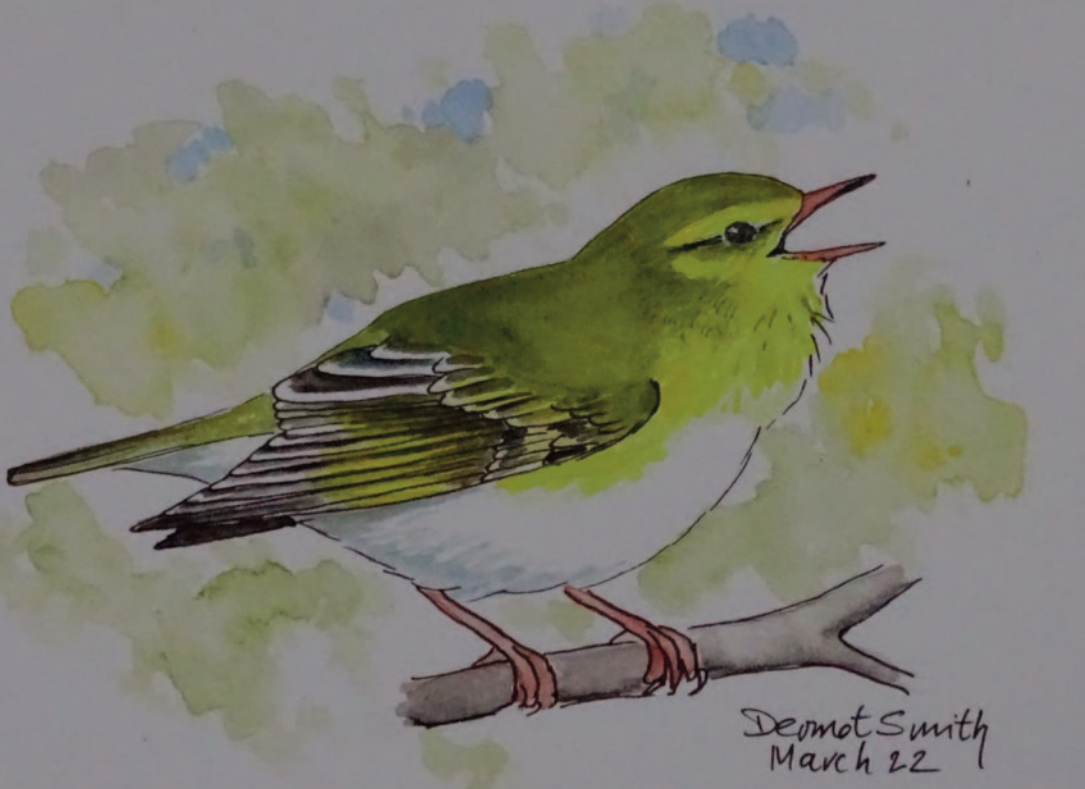
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

There was a slight decline in reports from Denbs but there were eight records from Flints, up from three in 2017 and five in 2018. The numbers of reports may reflect the activities of observers rather than any great change in populations. As usual, Wood Warblers are rarely seen or heard beyond the end of Jun, with only two reports from Jul.

Denbs. The first arrival date was on the late side: 8 (the highest count of the year) were found at Coed Hafod on 29/04 (JD). Subsequently, reports of 1-4 came from eleven areas, with breeding confirmed in at least four locations; this represents a decline in both locations and confirmed breeding areas from 2018. There were 6 at Foel Plantation on 14/06 (JoG) and the last of the two Jul reports was of 4, including fledged young, in Clocaenog Forest on 17/07 (AB).

Flints. The eight reports came from three locations, but six of these reports were from the





Penycloddiau area. The earliest was a single at Rhydymwyn on 18/04 (MGW) and there were 5 in the Nercwys Mountain area on 3/05 (GEM). The remaining reports were of 1-2 from Penycloddiau between 5/05 and 23/06 (EdW), with breeding there confirmed.

2020

Seen in these months:

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

There was a decline in reports from Denbs but this may have been affected by the first Covid lockdown. There was a similar number of records in Flints to 2019, but these came from only two sites. First and

last dates were fairly typical for this species, which is extremely elusive when not singing. Breeding was not definitely confirmed this year.

Denbs. The first recorded arrivals were on 22/04, with 4 near Llanwrst (MRa). Thereafter, there was a trickle of records up to the end of the first week in Jun, all of singles, except for 2 at Bont-newydd on 25/04, 2 at Eglwyseg on 11/05, 3 on Nercwys mountain on 25/05 and the highest count of 10 near Llanwrst on 3/05. After the first few days of Jun, there were only three more reports of singles, all towards the end of Jul, with the latest a single at Cerrigydrudion on 28/07.

Flints. There were seven reports of singles, but these all came from only two sites and the main breeding area was not able to be covered this year. The first was at Caergwrlle on 1/05 and the last at Gwernymynydd on 14/06.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

TELOR AELFELYN

Winter visitor.

2019

(YB)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1		
Maximum count		1		
Number of records	0	12	0	0

Flints. A disappointing year. Initially generating excitement from visual observations which suggested Hume's Warbler, the sonogram recorded unfortunately placed it as a Yellow-browed. There were twelve records, almost certainly all of the same individual, at Rhyll Brickworks between 11/11 and 14/11.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

TELOR HELYG

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

2019

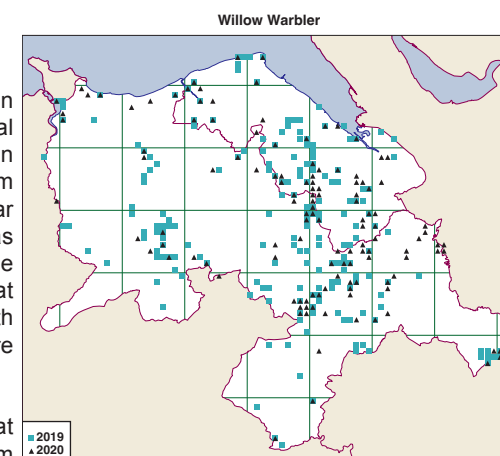
(WW)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	130	67	82	45
Maximum count	17	20	19	25
Av max count prev 10 years	34	25	34	25
Recorded in BBS squares	22/28	13/18	4/5	0/2
Number of records	295	178	209	159
% of records from GBW	1.02	1.69	7.96	12.05
% of BirdTrack lists	16.2	-	11.6	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	ON	NE	FL

Seen in these months:

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

There was one Mar record this year in Denbs, but none in Flints. The total numbers of reports increased by 12.2% in Denbs and 29.9% in Flints, but maximum counts remained well below the ten-year averages: the Denbs average was relatively high in the first half of the decade when there was substantial ringing at Bronbannog. Breeding was proved in both counties and departure dates were relatively normal with few Sep records.

Denbs. The first report was a single at RSPB Conwy on 29/03 (pTW) and from 7/04 records came in almost daily throughout spring migration and the main breeding season. Most reports were of 1 to 5, with twenty-one counts of 6-9 and sixteen of 10 or more, the first of which was of 12 at Fenn's Moss on 7/04 (BH). There were seven BBS counts of 10+, and the highest early visit count was 15



at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 17/04 and the highest late visit count was 17 on 3/06 from the same location. Reports were continuous until 9/09 after which the only records were the last reports of the year on 22/09, with 2 at Llewenni Hall, Bodfari (JPH) and 1 at Old Colwyn (MJ).

Flints. The first was a single at Rhyl Brickworks on 2/04 (REd). Thereafter, from 6/04, records followed a similar pattern to Denbs, though numbers were lower and there were only two counts of 6-9 and five counts in double figures. There were double figure counts on BBS visits at Gronant with 11 on 29/04 (GRMP) and 12 at Bwlchgwyn on 16/06 (GaBu). The hot spot was in the Penycloddiau area, where 20 were counted on three dates – 23/04, 12/05 and 25/05 (EdW). After 1/09 there was only one further report: a single at St Asaph on 21/09 (JPH), which was the last of the year.

2020

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 reduction in reports in both counties, following increases in 2019. There were Mar records in both counties and the main arrival commenced on 5/04 in both. Maximum counts were similar to recent years and there were several Sep records, with departure dates about normal. There was a striking increase in GBW records, possibly caused by the first Covid lockdown, but the pandemic meant that virtually no BBS visits were possible and these usually account for a significant number of records. Breeding was proved in both counties.

Denbs. The first report was a single at a Colwyn Bay GBW site on 22/03. There were two further Mar records and the main arrival was recorded from 5/04. Throughout the season most reports were of 1-6, with seven double-figure counts, four of which were from Moel Findeg, where 15 were recorded on 3/05, 19 on 9/05 (the highest count of the year), 11 on 16/05 and 12 on 30/05, whilst 8 were still there on 30/08. The other two double figure counts were 12 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 7/06 (the only BBS count of the year) and 10 at Alwen Reservoir on 20/07. There were seven Sep records, with the last a single at RSPB Conwy on 15/09.

Flints. The first, and only Mar record, was a single at Rhydymwyn on 24/03 (MD). Arrivals were recorded from 5/04 onwards, as in Denbs. Most reports were of 1-6 but there were eight double-figure counts, six of which came from the same area near Gwernymynydd, with 18 on 26/04, 10 on 31/05, 15 on 14/06, 25 on 15/06 (the highest count of the year), 12 on 22/06 and 10 still there on 31/08. The other two double-figure counts came from Nercwys mountain, with 11 on 27/04 and Top-yn-Rhos Farm with 12 on 2/05. Thirteen of the nineteen GBW reports came from the same site at Gwernymynydd. There were six Sep records, with the final single from the Gwernymynydd GBW site on 20/09.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Breeding summer visitor and winter visitor.

SIFF-SIAFF

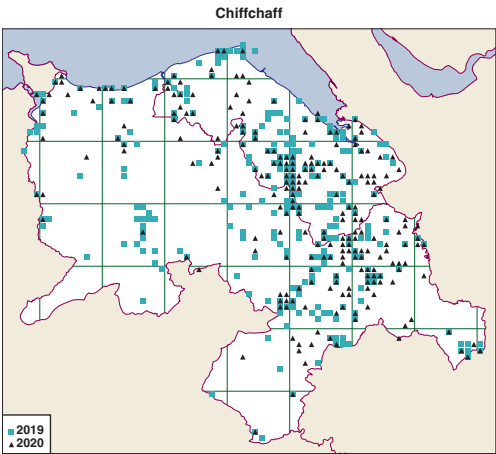
2019

Recorded in each month in both counties, bouncing back by 13.8% in Denbs and 26.1% in Flints on 2018 figures. The maximum counts in both counties were on the ten-year averages and spring passage started early at the end of Feb and beginning of Mar. There were no reports of the tristis subspecies this year. Breeding was confirmed at several locations in both counties.

Denbs. There were seven reports in Jan (all except one from RSPB Conwy) and then a gap until 27/02, after which the spring influx appeared to start quite early,

with reports almost daily until the end of the first week in Oct. There were ten reports in Nov and seven in Dec. A single at RSPB Conwy on 31/12 (GPI) was the last of the year. There were twenty-five counts of 6-9: three in Mar with the first of 6 near Llangollen on 25/03 (JoG), followed by eleven counts of 6-9 in Apr, four each in May and Jun, two in Jul and one in Aug. Three of the five 10+ counts were on BBS walks, with 10 at Trevor Hall, Garth on 9/04, 10 at Gellifor, Rhos on 20/04 and 10 in Clocaenog Forest on 9/06. The other two double-figure counts came from Chirk Castle, with 16 on 6/05 (the best of the year) and Chirk Castle again with 12 on 8/09 (ChTw).

(CC)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	167	116	143	102
Maximum count	16	20	200	33
Av max count prev 10 years	17	18	17	18
Recorded in BBS squares	24/28	16/18	5/5	1/2
Number of records	502	508	646	662
% of records from GBW	8.57	2.95	20.15	16.78
% of BirdTrack lists	27.7	-	32.8	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY	FF	FL



Chiffchaff: John Hawkins

Flints. The first of the four Jan reports was a single at Gwernaffield-y-Waun on 6/01 (TP). There were five Feb reports and spring arrivals started in earnest from the beginning of Mar at almost exactly the same time as Denbs, following a similar pattern. There were twenty-five reports of 6-9: none in Mar, three in Apr, eight in May, ten in Jun, none in Jul, three in Aug and one in Sep. There were fourteen reports of 10-20, three from BBS visits, with the largest count of 13 at Gronant on 29/04 (GRMP) and the other eleven counts from Rhydymwyn, eight of which were from ringing sessions, which peaked at 20 on 25/08 and 19/09 (IMS, GRMP). Regular reports from across the county continued until 18/11, but then tailed off with five in Dec, the last of which was a single at Connah's Quay NR on 17/12 (DWn).

2020

Recorded in each month in Flints, but unusually there were no Feb or Nov records in Denbs. The overall numbers of reports increased substantially from 2019: +28.7% in Denbs and +30.3% to a new record total in Flints. The maximum counts reached new records in both counties, with the stand-out figure at least 200 at RSPB Conwy on 15/08, following an overnight fall. As with Willow Warbler, there was a striking increase in GBW records from both counties. Spring passage and arrivals were noted from the first week in Mar and most summer visitors had departed by the end of Sep. Breeding was confirmed in both counties.

Denbs. There was one Jan record: a single at a Bodfari GBW site on 26/01. There were no Feb records, but recording started in earnest at the beginning of Mar, with the main arrival and passage noted from 5/03 onwards. All reports until the last few days of the month were of 1-4, except for 6 ringed at Pentrefelin on 18/03 (pBH). Double-figure counts commenced on 27/03, with 11 at Erddig pool and this site and Holt produced most of the 10+ counts through the spring, with a total of eight double-figure counts at Erddig. The highest was 17 on 15/04 (NHu) and five double-figure counts at Holt, the first (and highest) of 16 on 15/04. There were no double-figure counts between the end of May and the end of Jul, but late summer ringing produced 14 at Melin-y-Wig on 1/08 followed by 18 at Pentrefelin on 30/08 and 10/09, 12 on 15/09 and 10 on 21/09 (all pBH). The event of the year occurred at RSPB Conwy in mid-Aug: after only 1 was recorded on 14/08, a large overnight fall resulted in at least 200 there on 15/08, with some trees hosting more than 10 (JHg). After 16/10, there were no Nov records and only one further report – a single at RSPB Conwy on 1/12, which was the only Dec record and last of the year.

Flints. The first two Jan records both came from GBW sites, with singles at Holywell on 12/01 and Buckley on 26/01. There was a sprinkling of records through February, with the main arrival of summer visitors starting on 13/03. The first double-figure count was of 10 at Gwernymynydd on 19/04 and there were five further double-figure counts there, with 24 on 26/04, 10 on 14/06, 14 on 15/06 and the highest count of the year of 33 on 22/06. Caergwle hosted 10 on 4/05 and at Nercwys mountain 27 were recorded on 27/04 and 14 on 20/05. With no ringing at Rhydymwyn this year because of Covid restrictions, there were no more double-figure counts after the third week of Jun and most summer visitors appeared to have left by the end of Sep. There were four Oct reports, six in Nov and three in Dec, with a single at Rhyl Brickworks on 28/12 (JPH) the last of the year.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Breeding summer visitor.

TELOR HESG

(SW)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	15	17	15	10
Maximum count	8	15	9	8
Av max count prev 10 years	7	8	7	8
Recorded in BBS squares	2/28	1/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	84	63	73	44
% of BirdTrack lists	6.1	-	4.5	-
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL	A	H

2019

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

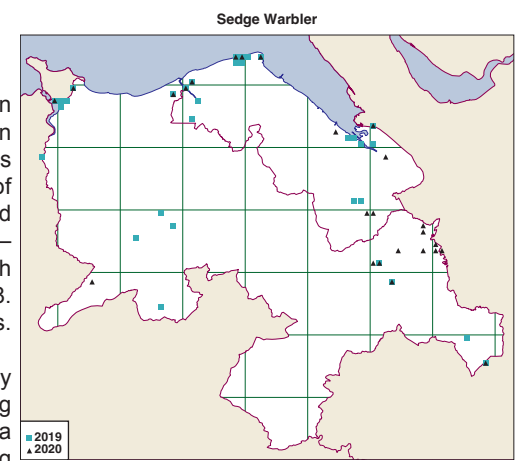
There were similar numbers to 2018 in Denbs, but a continuing reduction in Flints. As usual, their distribution was strongly coastal with only a handful of reports from inland sites. Arrivals and departure dates were relatively normal – similar to 2018 – in both counties, though the last Flints report was as early as 6/08. Breeding was confirmed in both counties.

Denbs. As usual the Conwy estuary dominated the records, with 88% coming from this area. The only other area generating regular records was Erddig Pool, near Wrexham. The first of the year was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 10/04 (pTW). Thereafter reports came in almost daily through to the third week of Jul, almost all of 1-5, but RSPB Conwy records included 8 on 20/04 (RiG) and 6-7 on 9/05 (EJB, TyC). There were 7 at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 20/06 (WRM) and 6 ringed at Tal-y-Bont on both 7/07 and 21/07 (pBH). There were four reports in Aug and two in Sep, with the last record of a single at RSPB Conwy on 25/09 (laHi).

Flints. The first record was again quite late, with 1 at Rhuddlan on 20/04 (JPH) and thereafter records followed the Denbs pattern until the third week in Jul. Over 90% of reports came from three areas: thirty-three from Gronant, fourteen from Rhuddlan/Rhyl and ten from Connah's Quay/Shotton. All records were of 1 to 5, except for three counts in the Gronant dunes area, with the highest counts of 13 on 30/04, 15 on 23/05 and 9 on 24/06 (WRM). The highest BBS count was 4 at Talacre on 15/05. After 17/07 there were only three further reports: 1 at Gronant on 31/07, 3 ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 4/08 (pBH) and the last of the year a single at Gronant on 6/08.

2020

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



Whilst Denbs numbers were similar to the previous two years, numbers of records in Flints dropped back to the ten-year average. As usual, reports came from a very limited number of sites, largely on or near the

coast. Arrival and departure dates followed the normal pattern, but there were no Sep records. Breeding was probable in both counties, but not confirmed.

Denbs. The first was a single at RSPB Conwy on 14/04. Thereafter reports came in steadily until the third week in Jul, but there were only three Aug records and the latest was 3 at RSPB Conwy on 24/08. 83.5% of the reports came from three areas: fifteen from RSPB Conwy, thirty-four from Erddig pools, Wrexham and twelve from the Holt area. Most reports were of 1-4, but 5-9 were recorded at Holt on 28/04, and four dates in May, with 9 on 5/05 the maximum. This count was equalled at Pulford Brook on 8/05 (all NF) and there were 5 at RSPB Conwy on 9/07.

Flints. As in 2019, the first record was quite late, with a single at Gronant on 21/04. Thereafter records again followed the Denbs pattern, with reports tailing off after the third week in Jul and three Aug records, the last at Gronant on 24/08. It was an unremarkable year, with records from only five areas. 88.6% of the records came from Gronant/Talacre (twenty-three reports) and there were sixteen reports from the Rhyl area. Most reports were of 1-3, with 5 at Gronant on 26/05 (JPH) and 8 at Border Pool, the Welsh section of RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, on 3/05 (DWn).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
Breeding summer visitor.

TELOR CYRS

(RW)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	8	13	5	13
Maximum count	15	27	3	8
Av max count prev 10 years	10	15	10	15
Recorded in BBS squares	0/28	2/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	60	72	20	32
% of BirdTrack lists	4.8	-	2.1	-
Max breeding evidence	FF	FL	FF	-

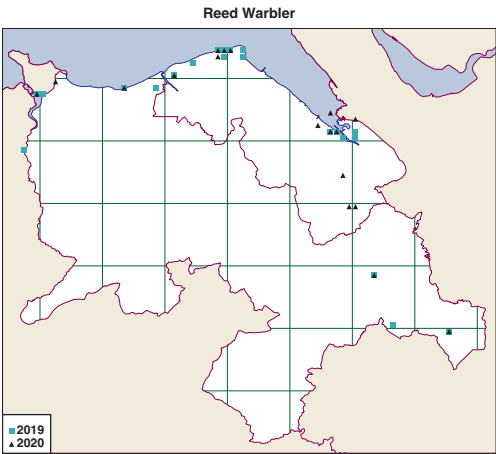
2019

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

Numbers of reports were similar to 2018, though careful counting in the Gronant area produced the highest maximum for many years. Given the species' specialised habitat requirements it is unsurprising that the small number of locations remained similar to previous years. Arrivals and departures were within the normal date ranges for both counties and successful breeding was confirmed in both.

Denbs. The predominance of records from the Conwy estuary was even more



marked than in the past two years, with over 95% of reports from this area. The first report of the year was presence at RSPB Conwy on 16/04 (pTW) and reports followed almost daily until 4/08. All counts were of 1 to 5 except for the only double-figure count of 15 at RSPB Conwy on 19/04 (TyC) and 6 there on 22/04. 6 were also ringed at Tal-y-Bont on 26/08 (pBH). After 4/08 there were only four further reports, with 2 ringed at Tal-y-Bont on 17/09, the latest record (pBH).

Flints. The first of the year was 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 19/04 (DWn) and reporting then followed the same pattern as Denbs through to 5/08. Over 90% of the records came from the coastal strip from Talacre to Gronant (thirty-three reports) and the inner Dee estuary, including Shotton Steelworks (thirty-two reports). All records were of 1-5, except for careful counting at Gronant where 11 were recorded on 30/04. An exceptional 27 were recorded on 23/05 and 15 on 24/06 (WRM), from the same visits as the high Sedge Warbler counts. Also, at Shotton Steelworks, 83 were ringed between 23/06 and 22/09, with five double-figure totals and a peak of 20 on 25/08 (pBH). After 5/08 there were four more Aug reports and one in Sep – the last of the year was a single ringed at Shotton on 22/09 (pBH).

2020

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 low numbers in both counties, with recording possibly impacted by the Covid lockdown. Arrivals and departures were within the normal date range and successful breeding was confirmed in Denbs only. As usual, only a limited number of locations was involved.

Denbs. Only 60% of the small number of records, the lowest since 2011, came from RSPB Conwy. The site provided both the first report of the year (presence on 24/04) and the last, a single on 13/09. All records were of 1-2, except for 3 at RSPB Conwy on 9/07.

Flints. The number of reports was the lowest since 2014 and with no ringing at Shotton Pools. Both distribution and high counts were different from a normal year's birding. The Rhyl and Gronant/Talacre/Point of Ayr areas provided 71.9% of the reports and the first and last birds: the earliest were 3 at Rhyl Brickworks on 21/04 (RLE) and the last were 2+ at Gronant on 1/09. All records were of 1-3, except for 5 at Big Pool Wood, Gronant on 26/05, 8 at Gronant on 8/07, including family parties (WRM), and 4 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/08 (PeHa).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*
Breeding summer visitor. Red List. S7.

TROELLWR BACH

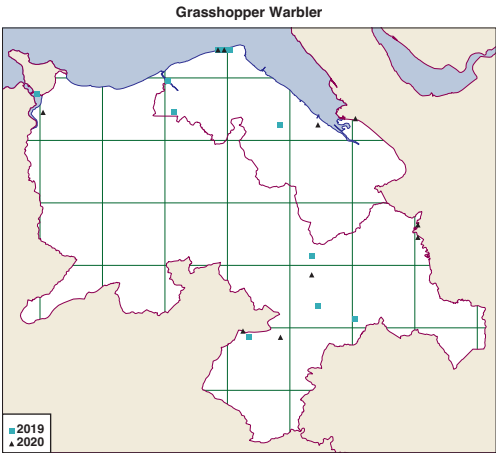
(GH)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	5	6	6	4
Maximum count	2	2	1	3
Av max count prev 10 years	3	3	3	3
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	0/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	11	15	8	8
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	-	0.3	-
Max breeding evidence	S	NY	T	-

2019

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 reports increased slightly, with a continued reduction in Denbs counterbalanced by an increase in Flints. As usual, with records highly dependent on hearing singing males, it is not clear whether there were changes in overall numbers. Arrivals followed the usual dates, as did departures in Denbs, but there was a sprinkling of unusually late reports from Flints. There was possible breeding in Denbs and one record of confirmed breeding in Flints.



Denbs. The first record was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 18/04 (JHg). Seven out of the eleven reports came from there, with the other four from widely scattered locations inland. After 12/05 there were no reports until the last two in the third week of Jul. All reports were of singles, including the only BBS record of 1 near Cerrigydrudion on 12/05, apart from 2 at Black Wood, Garth on 7/05 (JoR). The last of the year was a single at Nantybelan on 16/07 (JoR).

Flints. The first report was of 1 singing by St Asaph Business Park on 14/04 (JPH) – this was one of only two inland records. The other was a single calling at Halkyn Mountain on 10/06. There were totals of four reports in Apr, five in May, one in Jun, two in Jul and three in Aug, all of 1-2 - unless you count the five chicks being fed by both parents in a nest at Gronant on 13/08 (AIRu)). The last of the year was a single near Rhyl on 31/08 (JPH).

2020

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

Numbers of records were low in both counties, with reporting possibly impacted by the Covid lockdown. There was no definite confirmation of breeding in either. Arrival was normal in Denbs and late in Flints; last records were normal in Flints, but there was a very late record in Denbs.



Grasshopper Warbler: Tony Pope

Denbs. The first was a single at Altmere on 14/04 (NF). After a trickle of records at six separate sites up to the end of the first week in Jul, there was one late record, when a single strayed into a mistnet at Pentrefelin on 21/09 (pBH). All records were of singles, or presence.

Flints. The first report was later than usual: a single singing at Gronant on 30/04. Of the eight reports, six came from the Gronant area, including the last of the year on 16/07, and the other two from Burton Marsh. All the Gronant reports were of singles, whilst the Burton Marsh reports comprised 3 on 3/05 (DWn) and 2 on 8/06 (NF).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

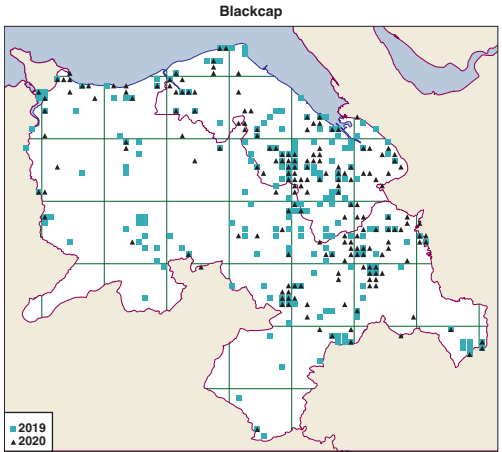
TELOR PENDDU

Breeding summer visitor and winter visitor.

(BC)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	128	86	107	88
Maximum count	11	14	23	10
Av max count prev 10 years	15	11	15	11
Recorded in BBS squares	24/28	17/18	3/5	1/2
Number of records	337	341	443	456
% of records from GBW	17.80	8.80	31.90	20.82
% of BirdTrack lists	16.0	-	20.1	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	FL	FF	A

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties. Reports from Flints reached a new high and there was a 19.5% increase in Denbs, largely driven by a jump in GBW reports in the first three months of the year. 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. Breeding was confirmed in both counties.



Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 5 throughout the year and reports came in daily from 1/04 to the end of Jun. In Jan - Mar twenty-six of the thirty-three records came from GBW (just under 80%), but in Apr only 13% did so – twelve out of ninety-one. The first singing male was heard on 25/03 near Llangollen (JoG) and an early nest with eggs was found at Rhos-y-brithdir on 28/04 (DWs). There were seven counts of 6-11: 6 at Bronygarth on 11/04 (ChTw); 8 at RSPB Conwy on 22/04 (GrJ); 11 at Erddig pool on 28/04 (the highest BBS early visit count); 7 on Ruabon Mountain on 2/05 (JFJ); 7 at Berwyn on an early BBS visit on 14/05, with 8 there on the late BBS visit on 7/06; and 11 in Clocenog Forest on 9/06, the highest late BBS visit count of the year. The first juveniles were seen at RSPB Conwy on 26/05. Reports dwindled in Aug and from Sep to Dec there were only eighteen records, with the first GBW birds of the winter on 10/11.

Flints. The early year GBW influence showed up in Flints as well as in Denbs: eighteen of the

thirty Jan – Mar reports (60%) were from gardens and GBW sites, but only five of the eighty-four Apr reports (6%) were from GBW records. During Apr, 23 were ringed at Bagillt, with a peak of 7 new individuals on 16/04 (GRMP) and Apr also produced two more of the twelve counts of 6+, with 6 at Brynford on 22/04 and 6 at Gronant on 29/04 (GRMP) the highest BBS early visit counts. May produced a further three 6+ counts, with 9 at Dobshill on 13/05 (GNR), 8 at Pontblyddyn on 19/05 (a late BBS visit), and 8 at Penycloddiau on 25/05 (EdW). The first juveniles were ringed at Rhydymwyn on 7/06 (IMS) and the equal highest late visit BBS count was of 8 at Bwlchwyn on 16/06. From 29/06 until 23/09 all remaining 6+ counts came from ringing sessions, with 9 at Bagillt on 29/06 (GRMP); 13 at Rhydymwyn on 9/07 (IMS); 7 at the same site on 16/07; 14 at Shotton on 25/08 (pBH); 14 at Rhydymwyn on 19/09 and a further 6 on 23/09 (IMS). As in 2018 ringing sessions influenced reporting numbers in the second half of the year: of two hundred and fifty-two Jan to Jun reports only thirty-two came from ringing sessions (12.7%), but from Jul to Dec thirty-three of the eighty-nine reports came from ringing (37.1%). There were only nine reports in Oct to Dec, with the first GBW record of the autumn coming on 27/10.

2020

Reported in each month in both counties and in record numbers in both as well. Whilst reporting locations may have been influenced by Covid lockdowns from Mar to Jun and again in Oct and Dec, the table below illustrates the importance of gardens for wintering Blackcaps, and provides a commentary on the recent paper in *Birds in Wales* 18:1 (Blackcaps wintering in Wales, 1999-2020/21, Hughes J. and Carter T.). Months when more than 40% of total records were from gardens have been shaded: the Hughes and Carter paper concludes that between 54% and 70% of wintering Blackcaps are found in gardens.

Denbs	Total records	GBW records	GBW%	Flints	Total records	GBW records	GBW%
Jan	8	5	62.5	Jan	2	2	100.0
Feb	7	6	85.7	Feb	3	3	100.0
Mar	20	10	50.0	Mar	12	6	50.0
Apr	124	28	22.6	Apr	119	25	21.1
May	117	23	19.7	May	130	25	19.2
Jun	54	13	24.1	Jun	83	18	21.7
Jul	28	10	35.7	Jul	35	10	28.6
Aug	23	9	39.1	Aug	33	5	15.2
Sep	14	2	14.3	Sep	11	1	9.1
Oct	6	5	8.3	Oct	7	1	14.3
Nov	21	19	90.5	Nov	12	6	50.0
Dec	21	16	76.2	Dec	9	4	44.4
Totals	443	135	30.5	Totals	456	106	23.2

The table also demonstrates that over half the reports in both counties came during Apr and May, when Blackcaps are most likely to be singing and pairing up, and that late Sep and Oct are the months when summer breeders depart before wintering birds arrive. Breeding was confirmed in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of 1-4, with the earliest from two GBW sites on 5/01. There were seventeen counts of 5-9: five from ringing at Pentrefelin between 13/04 and 15/09, four from Holt between 15/04 and 27/05, four from the Erddig area between 15/04 and 20/05, two from

Moel Findeg on 24/04 and 6/05, and there were also 7 at Pulford Brook on 8/05, 5 at Burton on 6/12 and 7 at Burton Stonewalls on 24/12, which was also the last report of the year. There were seven counts of 10-19: 11 at Crewe-by-Farndon on 30/04 (NF), 15 at Moel Findeg on 9/05, 11 at Brynnygrog on 13/05, 14 at Llewenni Hall, Bodfari on 31/05, 10 at Knolton on 13/06 (including a family party of 6 juveniles) and Pentrefelin produced 13 on 30/08 and 10 on 21/09, both from ringing sessions. Pentrefelin ringing also accounted for the two 20+ counts: 23 on 26/06 (the highest count of the year) and 21 on 9/08 (pBH).

Flints. The first was on 12/01 from a GBW site in Ewloe. As in Denbs. most reports were of 1-4, with seventeen counts of 5-9: five of these were from the Gwernymynydd area between 2/05 and 22/06, three from St Asaph between 9/05 and 14/06, and two from Caergwrle on 2/05 and 4/05. There were also 5 at Rhuddlan on 14/04, 5 at Flint on 16/04, 8 at Nercwys mountain on 20/05, 5 at Cilcain on 26/05, 5 at Hope on 3/08 and 5 at Berthengam on 10/08. The only two counts of 10 came from lockdown walks: at Flint on 30/04 and near Halkyn on 17/05 (GRMP). There was no ringing at Rhydymwyn this year, which meant no high counts between Jun and Sep but Rhydymwyn produced the last of the year, a single on 29/12 (MD).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*
Breeding summer visitor.

TELOR YR ARDD

(GW)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	41	22	22	23
Maximum count	4	8	3	4
Av max count prev 10 years	4	6	4	6
Recorded in BBS squares	6/28	6/18	2/5	0/2
Number of records	73	39	39	37
% of records from GBW	0.00	2.56	10.00	13.16
% of BirdTrack lists	3.7	-	2.0	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	FL	T	-

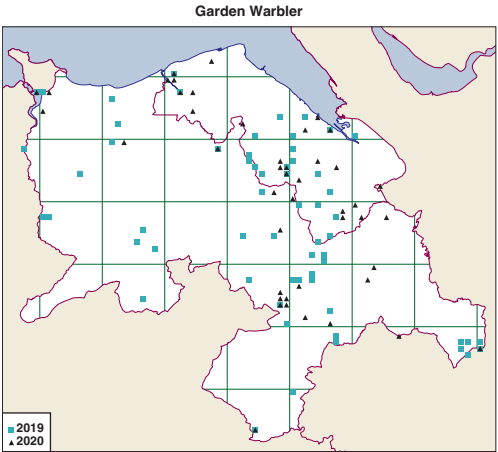
2019

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

Numbers of reports bounced back, with a new high of thirty-nine in Flints. Arrivals and departures were within normal dates in both counties and breeding was confirmed in two locations in Denbs and one in Flints.

Denbs. The first record was 1 singing at Llangwm during an early BBS visit on 22/04. All records were of 1 to 3 except for 4 at Fenn's Moss on 2/05 (BH). The best BBS counts were at Bwlchwyn, with 3 on both the early and late visits (14/05 and 7/06). The final record of the year was a single at Fenn's Moss on 5/09 (BH) – the



only Sep record in either county.

Flints. The first record was of 1 at Pantymwyn on 17/04: “an absolute torrent of song” (GEM). Thereafter, reports came in regularly until the end of Jun, but dwindled to two in Jul and a single in Aug, when 1 ringed at Shotton (pBH) was the last of the year. All reports were of 1-3, except for 4 on Nercwys Mountain on 16/05 (DWn) and a hot spot at Penycloddiau, with five reports of 6-8 between 12/05 and 9/06 (EdW).

2020

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

Numbers of reports remained similar in Flints, but reverted to a lower level in Denbs, with arrivals and departures within the normal range. Breeding was not definitely confirmed in either county, but it is likely that

a small number of pairs bred successfully.

Denbs. The first was a single from a GBW site at Dolwyd and further arrivals were recorded from 16/04. All records were of 1-2, except for 3 at Foel Plantation on 4/05 (JoG). After 16/08, the only other record was a single ringed at Pentrefelin on 30/08 (pBH).

Flints. There was an early record of 1 singing in a Sychdyn garden on 8/04 (JR) and main arrivals were noted from 16/04, as in Denbs. All reports were of 1-2, except for 4 at Rhuddlan on 2/05 (JPH), 3 at StAsaph on 9/05 (JPH) and 3 at a GBW site at Cilcaïn on 16/08 and 13/09. There were only three reports after mid-Aug and the last record of the year also came from a GBW site, at Lower Kinnerton on 27/09.

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*
Breeding summer visitor.

LLWYDFRON FACH

(LW)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	10	23	11	20
Maximum count	4	4	8	3
Av max count prev 10 years	4	3	4	3
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	4/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	40	54	23	47
% of BirdTrack lists	3.1	-	2.0	-
Max breeding evidence	S	FF	FL	-

2019

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

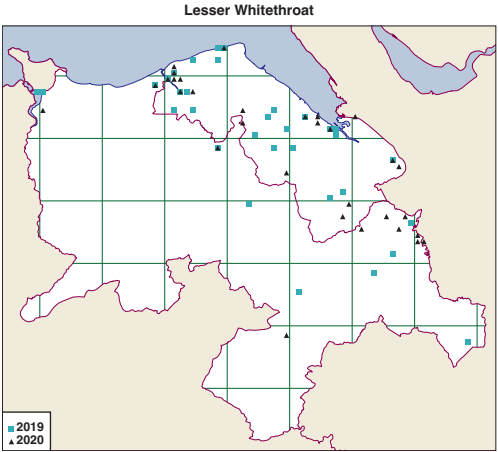
Numbers of reports in Denbs were similar to 2018 but increased from thirty to fifty-four in Flints. Arrival dates were within the usual range in both counties as were departure dates in Denbs but none were recorded in Flints after the third week in Jul. Breeding was probable in Denbs and confirmed at two locations in Flints.

Denbs. The first was presence at RSPB Conwy on 20/04 (pTW). There was then a steady trickle of reports through to early Jul, but none in Aug and three in Sep, with the latest a single at RSPB Conwy on 16/09 (pTW). Thirty-three of the forty reports (82.5%) came from RSPB Conwy, and all were of 1-2, except for 3 there on 22/04 (GrJ) and 16/05 (pTW). Whereas breeding was likely in several locations, it was not definitely confirmed at any of them.

Flints. The first was a single at Brynford on 22/04 (MG), with a steady trickle of reports from then through to the second week of Jul. All records were of 1 to 2, except for 3 at Connah’s Quay NR on 10/06 – parent feeding fledged young (DWn) and 4 on a late BBS walk at Rhosesmor on 16/06. Thirty-seven of the fifty-four reports came from coastal locations, and none were recorded after 20/07, the last was a single at Connah’s Quay NR (PSH). Breeding was confirmed in two locations.

2020

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 Denbs records was the lowest since 2012, but several counts were higher than usual. The number of Flints records was similar to 2019. Arrivals and departures were within the normal timeframes and successful breeding was recorded in Denbs.

Denbs. The first was a single at Cefn Canol on 20/04. Numbers of reports were low and there were no reports between 21/06 and 6/08, but some counts were higher than usual. Most reports were of 1-2, but 4 were recorded at Holt on 22/04, 23/04 and 6 on 5/05, whilst 4 were at Crewe-by-Fardon on 30/04 (all NF). There were 5 at Towyn on 8/05, 25/05 and 4 on 21/06 (all JPH), the highest count of the year of 8 was reported from Pulford Brook on 8/05 (NF) and 4 were ringed at Pentrefelin on 6/08, the last report of the year.

Flints. The first was 1 at Flint on 16/04. Thereafter records of 1-2 were thinly but widely spread through to mid-Jul, with four Aug reports and three in Sep, the last was a single at Rhyl Brickworks on 16/09. The only count of 3 came from the same site on 17/05 (JPH).

Whitethroat *Curruca communis*
Breeding summer visitor. Red List.

LLWYDFRON

(WH)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	63	62	48	48
Maximum count	12	10	13	6
Av max count prev 10 years	10	14	10	14
Recorded in BBS squares	9/28	9/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	142	182	108	149
% of BirdTrack lists	9.2	-	9.1	-
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF	FF	FL

2019

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

There was a similar number of reports to 2018 in Denbs, but a substantial increase in Flints, though this

may be more of a reflection of observer activity rather than an increase in population. Arrival and departure dates were normal in both counties and breeding was confirmed at several locations in both.

Denbs. The first record was 1 near Wrexham on 12/04 (GMT). Thereafter, reports were regular and widespread up to the third week in Aug and the last of the year was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 8/09 (JPH). Most records were of 1 - 5, but there were 7 at RSPB Conwy on 22/04 (GrJ), 6 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 30/04 (GNR) and 6-7 at RSPB Conwy on 9/05 (EJB, TyC). Fenn's Moss showed the highest concentration of individuals, with a total of 24 in five different areas on 7/05 (BH), 6 in a further area on 13/05 (GeHo) and 28 in three different areas on 2/07 (RbHa). There were still 10 recorded there on 5/08 (RbHa). None were reported from Pensarn, which used to host a healthy breeding population before habitat clearance in 2017/18. The best BBS count was of 3 near Cerrigydrudion on 12/05. There were only two reports in Sep, with the final single at RSPB Conwy on 8/09 (JPH).

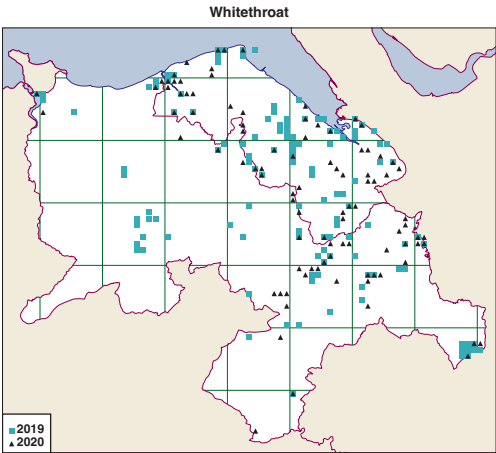
Flints. The first report was a count of 6 on an early BBS visit at Sandycroft on 19/04 (IMS), which constituted the best BBS count of the year. Thereafter reports of 1-5 came from a wide variety of locations to the end of Aug. There were 6 near Sealand on 15/05 (DWn) and two notable hotspots: Penycloddiau produced 10 on 12/05 (EdW) and Halkyn Mountain produced a total of 18 in six different areas on 10/06 (GNR et al). The last was a single at Talacre on 1/09 (SvK).

Seen in these months: 2020
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 reasonable year in both counties with successful breeding confirmed in both. Arrivals and departures were within the normal ranges, but there were no Sep reports from Denbs.

Denbs. The first was at Towyn on 14/04, which signalled the start of the main arrivals. Although the majority of reports were of 1-2, there were four reports of 3 and twelve of 4-8, half of which came from Holt between 22/04 and 23/06, with 8 on 5/05 the highest there (NF). There were 4 at Rhewl on 20/06 and 7 at World's End on 1/06 and Moel Arthur on 30/05, with 5 there on 20/06 and 4 on 12/07 (GEM). The highest count of the year was 13 at Pulford Brook on 8/05 (NF). The last 2 were at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 18/08 and there were no Sep records.

Flints. The earliest report was a single at Bagillt on 10/04 and the main arrivals started at the same time as Denbs. 82.5% of reports were of 1-2, but there were thirteen reports of 3, from ten widely scattered locations between 17/04 and 16/08, including 3 at Alltami on 24/07 feeding young (AB). There were also thirteen reports of 4-6, five of which were from Rhyl Brickworks between 17/05 and 2/06 (JPH) and a single report of 6, the maximum count of the year, at Rhyl on 12/06. There were three Sep records, with the final one a single at Connah's Quay NR on 20/09.



Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH
Migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

(FC)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1		2	
Maximum count	2		2	
Av max count prev 10 years	3		3	
Number of records	10	0	10	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8		0.7	
Density	0.00		0.00	

2019
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
No suggestion of breeding activity this year and reports limited to the last two months of the year.

Denbs. All ten reports came from RSPB Conwy with nine different observers and all during the second half of Nov and through Dec. The first record was on 16/11 (pTW) and the final one on 30/12 (HCw); all were of singles apart from 2 recorded by two different observers on 29/11.

2020
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
No proof of breeding in Denbs this year and no records again in Flints.

Denbs. All records were of 1-2 and all except one were in Jan and early Feb at RSPB Conwy. The sole exception was 2 at Cerrigydrudion on 28/07 (SNi).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* DRYW EURBEN
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

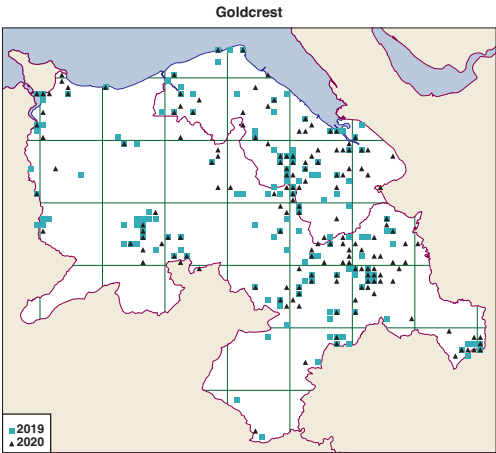
(GC)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	103	50	111	56
Maximum count	10	12	7	13
Av max count prev 10 years	29	10	29	10
Recorded in BBS squares	10/28	7/18	1/5	1/2
Number of records	208	142	274	270
% of records from GBW	14.42	13.38	20.00	32.73
% of BirdTrack lists	10.7	-	15.3	-
Density	0.52	1.02	0.39	1.24
Max breeding evidence	FF	FL	FL	FL

2019
Recorded in each month in both counties. Although the 2018/19 winter was not particularly cold, numbers remained on the low side with similar numbers of reports to 2018 in both counties. Once again, there were no large flocks recorded, but breeding was confirmed in both counties.

Denbs. There was one double-figure count, with 10 at Tal-y-Cafn on 17/05 (PEM). 5-6 were recorded from Clocaenog Forest on several dates during the year: the reduction in maximum

counts in the second half of the decade is likely to be largely due to the cessation of ringing in the Bronbannog area. Apart from Clocaenog, most counts were of 1-3, with only 6 on Mynydd Hiraethog on 28/05 (WRM), 8 at Craignant on 16/06 (DIHd) and 6 in the Chirk area on 30/08 (ChTw) exceeding this. The highest BBS count was 4, from Mynydd-y-gyrt on 6/05.

Flints. Most counts were of 1-3 throughout the year, with 4 at Wepre Park on 30/04 the best BBS count. There was one double-figure count, with 12 in the car park area at Talacre on 21/10 (DWn) and five counts of 5-9: 5 at Gwernymynydd on 8/01 (TP), 6 at Nercwys Mountain on 18/02 (DWn) and 6 at Hendre on 25/09 (SH) were visual records, whilst 9 on 19/09 and 8 on 23/09 at Rhydymwyn (IMS) came from ringing data.



2020

Both counties generated the highest number of reports on record, swollen by striking increases in the number of GBW reports. Recorded, as usual, in each month in both counties, there were no large flocks logged, with only one double-figure count. Successful breeding was confirmed in both counties.

Denbs. 93.9% of reports were of 1-2. There were ten reports of 3 and seven of 4: at Tal-y-Cafn on 6/02, Wrexham on 2/04, Moel Findeg on 29/04, 3/05, 9/05 and 17/05 and 4 were ringed at Melin-y-Wig on 1/08. Counts of 5 came from RSPB Conwy on 5/01, Bronygarth on 1/02 and Tal-y-Cafn on 20/07, and the highest count of 7 were ringed at Pentrefelin on 29/11 (pBH).

Flints. 91.9% of reports were of 1-2, with a further nine reports of 3. There were eight reports of 4: at Hawarden on 17/01, Pantymwyn on 15/03, Gwernymynydd on 26/04, 2/05 and 14/06, Nercwys Mountain on 20/05 and Bagillt on 9/07 and 11/10. There were 5 recorded at Bagillt on 1/10 and 21/10 – ringing records (GRMP). Finally, 7 were at Nercwys mountain on 27/04 and the highest count of the year was 13 in the same location on 4/11.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Breeding resident

DRYW

2019

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both areas. A widespread resident species more often heard than seen, and a regular garden visitor.

Denbs. Most records outside the breeding season were of 1 or 2. The highest counts came

from the BBS surveys with the overall maximum of 13 on 2/04 at Gellifor, Rhos, and at two sites on 13/06 at Erddig and Llanarmon-yn-Ial. Confirmed breeding was recorded from several sites. The GBW maximum counts of 2 came from gardens in Burton, Llandegla and Ruabon, all in the last two months of the year. Between Feb and Sep, 12 full grown birds were ringed at Tal-y-Bont and 11 nestlings at Pandy on 10/07 (pBH).

Flints. Most records were of 1 or 2. Higher counts all came from BBS and most of them were in double figures. A high of 29 was at Connah's Quay NR on 23/06. Most GBW records were of singles but one record of 2 was at Sychdyn on 1/12. There were 17 ringed at Bagillt between Feb and Dec (GRMP). At Rhydymwyn 29 fullgrown were ringed and 4 pulli between Jun and Sep (IMS) and at Shotton 12 ringed between Jul and Dec (pBH).

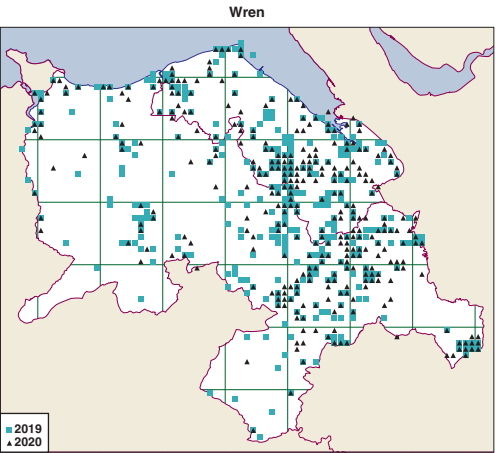
2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of singles and the maximum count of 48 was at Aberduna Nature Reserve on 9/05. The maximum BBS count of 17 came from Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 7/06 (TP). Confirmed breeding was reported with recently fledged young at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 10/06 (AIC), Gatewen, Wrexham on 7/06 (SD), occupied nest at Valle Crucis on 21/05 (IaCa), an adult carrying food for young at Erddig Park on 30/06 (NHu) and Alwen reservoir on 20/07 (Dave Hardgrave). GBW records counted for around 50% of all reports and had a maximum count of 7 at Brynteg, Wrexham on 22/03. Between 21/03 and 18/10 13 full grown were ringed at Pentrefelin and 2 ringed at Melin-y-Wig on 1/08 (pBH).

Flints. Most records were of 1 or 2 and most double figure counts came from Gwernymynydd which also had the maximum count of 41 on 26/04. Over 40% of records came from GBW with the maximum of 6 from Marian, Trelawnyd on 24/05. A single breeding record was from the S of Rhyl with recently fledged young seen on 7/07 (WRM). There were 17 ringed at Bagillt between 19/02 and 27/11 (GRMP).

(WR)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	222	133	202	134
Maximum count	16	29	48	41
Av max count prev 10 years	23	19	23	19
Recorded in BBS squares	27/28	18/18	4/5	2/2
Number of records	794	633	1188	1217
% of records from GBW	22.04	8.21	45.73	38.98
% of BirdTrack lists	42.5	-	48.0	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	ON	FF	FL



Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*
Breeding resident.

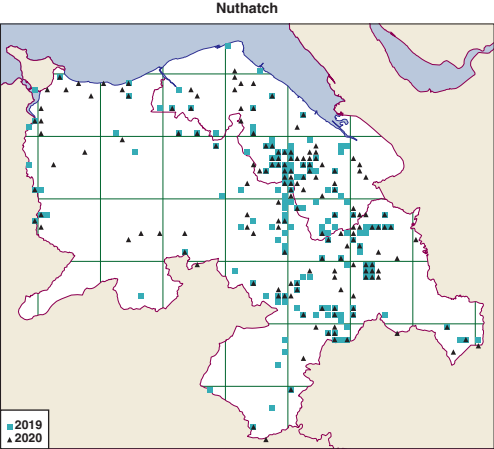
DELOR CNAU

2019

(NH)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	103	61	105	62
Maximum count	8	6	12	11
Av max count prev 10 years	8	7	8	7
Recorded in BBS squares	7/28	10/18	2/5	1/2
Number of records	614	247	791	625
% of records from GBW	60.26	27.53	69.84	60.31
% of BirdTrack lists	12.8	-	15.0	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	NE	FF	-

Seen in each month and breeding confirmed in both counties. The number of records in Denbs was up this year and over double the number in Flints.

Denbs. Most records were of 1 or 2. The maximum count of 8 came from Chirk Castle on 8/09 and 6/10 (ChTw). The highest number recorded from the eleven BBS counts came from Llanarmon-yn-Ial with 6 on 17/04. Over half of the records came from GBW with a maximum count of 3 coming from Burton on 16/06 and Ruabon on 14/07. Confirmed breeding came from several sites: nest with eggs at Rhos-y-brithdir on 22/04 (DWs), adults regularly carrying food at Maenan Abbey



Nuthatch: Tony Pope

Hotel on 8/05 (WRM), fledged young seen at Pwllglas on 23/05 (PEM) and at Coed Hafod on 4/06 (WRM). Four full grown and one nestling were ringed at Pandy in May (pBH).

Flints. Most records were of 1 or 2. The maximum BBS count from twelve records came from N of Mold with 5 on 21/04. The GBW maximum count came from Rhydymwyn with 3 on 23/06. Confirmed breeding, a nest with eggs, was recorded at Rhydymwyn on 19/04 (IMS). A pair was visiting a nest hole with food at Point of Ayr on 20/05 (MJDH, DHu) and fledged young were seen at Bryn Common on 10/06 (GMR). Ringing reports from Bagillt were 8 full grown between Jan and Jun (GRMP), 8 nestlings at Hendre in May (IMS) and 6 full grown near Loggerheads on 15/05 (pBH).

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of singles with the maximum of 12 coming from Aberduna Nature Reserve on 30/08. The highest count from BBS came from Erddig Park with 8 on 15/04 (NHu). 70% of records came from GBW with a maximum count of 5 from Penycae on 7/06. Breeding was confirmed at three sites: occupied nest on 21/05 then fledged young at Valle Crucis on 26/05 (IaCa) and at Pentre on 1/06 (JoG), and an adult carrying food for young at Holt on 2/06 (NF). Two ringing reports were 1 at Pentrefelin on 24/06 and 1 at Melin-y-Wig on 1/08 (pBH).

Flints. Most records were of 1 or 2 with a maximum count of 11 at Gwernymynydd on 20/09. The same area had a number of counts and also had a GBW maximum count of 3 between 7/06 and 16/08. Two other gardens had counts of 3 at Northop between 7/06 and 1/11, also at Pantymwyn between 7/06 and 6/09.. Two adults were ringed: 1 at Bagillt on 15/06 (GRMP) and 1 at Sychdyn on 22/12 (IMS).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*
Breeding resident.

DRINGWR BACH

2019

(TC)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	73	38	73	39
Maximum count	5	4	3	5
Av max count prev 10 years	5	3	5	3
Recorded in BBS squares	6/28	6/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	139	71	158	112
% of records from GBW	5.04	15.49	22.36	39.29
% of BirdTrack lists	4.6	-	6.3	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	NY	FF	-

Seen in each month and breeding confirmed in both counties. There were similar numbers of records as in previous years.

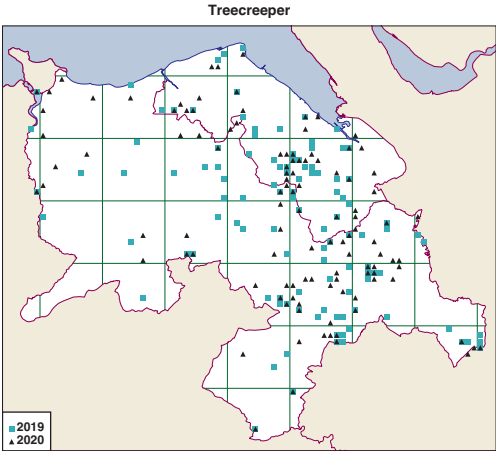
Denbs. Most records were of 1 or 2 with the maximum of 3 seen at Erddig on 11/02 (NHu) and at Coed Hafod on 7/04 (IMS). All 6 BBS records were of singles. Breeding confirmed at a Rhos-y-brithdir nest with eggs observed on 7/04 and chicks seen on 28/04 (DWs). Also fledged young were seen at Pwllglas on 23/05 (PEM). There was a ringing record of 5 nestlings at Pandy on

18/05 (pBH).

Flints. Most records were of 1 or 2 with a maximum count of 4 at St. Asaph on 5/01 (JPH). All but one of the BBS records were of singles but there were 3 at Gronant on 3/06. Breeding was confirmed at three sites: occupied nest at Penyclldiau on 9/06 (EdW), a nest with young near Mold on 10/06 (TP) and recently fledged young at Rhydymwyn on 18/06 (IMS). Ringing reports were 4 fullgrown at Bagillt between Jun and Oct (GRMP) and 2 at Rhydymwyn between Jun and Sep (IMS).

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.



Treecreeper: Alan Smethurst

Denbs. By far the most records were of singles with a maximum of 3 from several sites: Acton Park on 2/04 (SuHa), Brymbo on 30/05 (SD), Plas y Fron on 20/06 (NHu) and at Llanferres on 13/06 and 5/11. Nearly a quarter of reports came from GBW with a maximum of 2 from Gwernbwys on 5/04. A single BBS record was from Erddig Park with 1 on 20/05 (NHu). Breeding was confirmed at three sites: 2 were at a Pentre occupied nest on 3/05 and nearby an adult was carrying food for young on 8/05 (JoG). Food for young was also seen at Erddig Park on 15/06 (NHu). At Pentrefelin 2 were ringed on 27/09 (pBH).

Flints. The number of records was well up on recent years, but most were of singles with a maximum count of 5 at Gwernymynydd on 22/06. There were no BBS counts or confirmed breeding reports because of Covid restrictions. GBW records counted for 50% of the overall number, and a maximum count of 2 from gardens at Caerwys, Caergwrle and Sychdyn. At Bagillt 4 adults were ringed between 20/07 and 28/10 (GRMP) and a single was ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 2/02 (pBH).

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

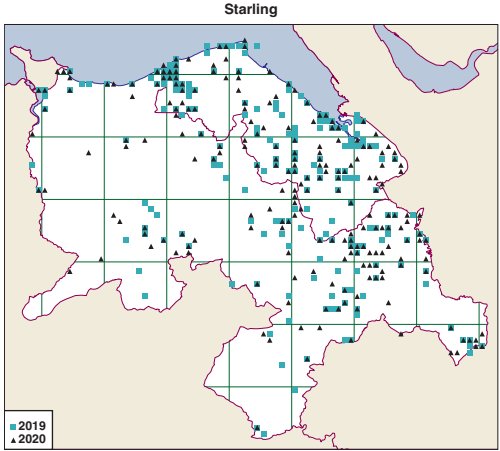
DRUDWEN

(SG)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	105	96	127	91
Maximum count	17500	5200	3000	3010
Av max count prev 10 years	17200	13920	17200	13920
Recorded in BBS squares	8/28	7/18	0/5	1/2
Number of records	495	696	696	1050
% of records from GBW	48.48	17.24	50.68	36.02
% of BirdTrack lists	26.1	-	35.1	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	FF	NY	FF

2019

Recorded in each month and breeding confirmed in both counties. Most records were in single figures but a few large roosts and feeding flocks were recorded.

Denbs. In the first winter period two large flocks were at RSPB Conwy: 5,000 on 10/01 and the maximum count of 17,500 on 19/01 (pTW). Two inland three figure counts were recorded: 3,000 at Alwen reservoir on 1/03 (JHg) and 2,000 at Llyn Brenig on 9/03 (SNi). The late winter season had a maximum count at RSPB Conwy of 15,000 on 31/10 (pTW). No large counts were from Colwyn Bay once the pier had been demolished. BBS counts had a maximum of 20 at Tregeiriog on 18/06. GBW held 40% of all records and had a maximum count of 100 at Burton on 1/09. Confirmed breeding came from a Kinmel Bay nest with young seen on 27/05 (JPH) and recently fledged young seen at Cerrigydrudion on 30/05 (WRM).



Flints. The second winter season produced the highest counts with the maximum of 5,200 at Gronant on 7/12 (WRM). Other high four figure counts in the same season were 5,000 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/12 (DWn), 4,080 S of Rhyl on 30/10 (WRM), 3,000 at same site on next day (AB) and 4,000 at Prestatyn on 27/11 (KBr). The highest first winter count of 1,254 came from S of Rhyl on 6/02 (JPH). The highest BBS count of 206 came from Talacre on 18/06. GBW had a peak count of 70 at Buckley on 3/11. Confirmed breeding came from three sites with fledged young seen at Rhydymwyn on 7/06, 10/06, and 21/06 (MD), Holywell 10/06 (SNi) and at Rhuddlan on 28/06 (AtG).

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. The maximum count of 3,000 came in both winter seasons at Rhydlydan on 26/01 (JoG) and at Bettisfield in the second period on 2/12 (GeTh). The only other three figure count

of 1,000 was at Glyn Ceiriog on 25/10 (TK). GBW produced over 50% of records with a maximum count of 40 at Ruabon on 22/11. Breeding was confirmed at several sites: occupied nest at Rhos-y-brithdir on 10/04 (DWs), adult with food for young at Holt on 28/04, 5/05 and 21/05 (NF), nest with young at Trefnant on 31/05 (JPH) and fledged young at Burton on 4/07 (PEM).

Flints. The second winter season had the highest count of 3,010 at Gronant dunes on 22/11 (WRM). Other high counts in the first winter season were 2,000 at Rhuddlan on 3/02 (JoG) and in the same area, S of Rhyl, 1,800 on 25/02 (WRM). A single BBS count from Rhuddlan was 15 on 19/06 (HKd, MaO). GBW had around 40% of all reports with a maximum count of 110 on 24/05 at Saltney on 31/05. Confirmed breeding came from two sites: recently fledged young to the S of Rhyl on 19/06 (MaO) and in the same area, adult carrying food for young on 12/07 (WRM).

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*
Breeding resident and possible winter visitor.

BRONFRAITH

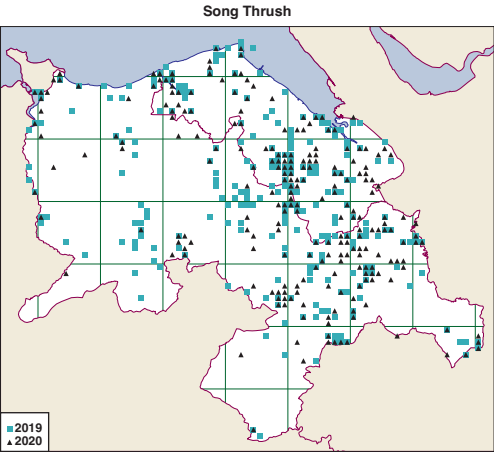
(ST)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	157	105	140	96
Maximum count	13	8	8	14
Av max count prev 10 years	16	12	16	12
Recorded in BBS squares	21/28	16/18	4/5	2/2
Number of records	391	363	592	527
% of records from GBW	13.81	10.47	36.04	29.69
% of BirdTrack lists	20.6	-	26.7	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	FF	FF	T

2019

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were 1 to 4 with the only double figure count coming from a BBS walk with 13 at Gellifor on 9/06. The figures did not show an influx of winter visitors. GBW had a maximum count of 2 from a Ruabon Garden between 21/04 and 23/06. There were nine confirmed breeding records from eight sites between 23/04 and 18/06. At Pandy, 5 nestlings were ringed on 10/06 (pBH).

Flints. Most records were 1 to 3 with no double figure counts. The maximum of 8 came from Nercwys Mountain on 28/06 (NHu) and there were 7 at Rhydymwyn on 10/06 (TP). During a BBS walks 6 were recorded at two sites N of Mold on 21/04 and Bwlchgwyn on 1/05. The maximum of 2 was seen during GBW counts from three sites: Caergwrle on 3/03, Buckley on 22/09 and



Rhydymwyn on 17/11. There were seven confirmed breeding records from 4 sites between 21/04 and 8/08. There were 6 fullgrown ringed at Bagillt between 14/02 and 10/11 (GRMP). At Rhydymwyn 11 fullgrown were ringed between 7/05 and 8/08 (IMS).

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were counts of 1-4. The larger counts were: 5 from a GBW site at Dolwyd on 19/04; 5 at Pentredwr on 15/05; 6 at several sites (Clocaenog Forest on 7/03, near Moel Findeg on 3/05 and 17/05, Llay Pool on 7/05 and near Eryrys on 7/06); 7 near Moel Findeg on 6/05 and 8 there on 16/05. Breeding was confirmed at six locations.

Flints. Most records were of 1-2 with two double figure counts 10 at Gwenymynydd on 22/06, and the maximum, 14 near Rhuddlan on 21/03 (JPH). There were no confirmed breeding records. A third of all records came from GBW. There were 9 ringed at Bagillt between 2/06 and 5/12 (GRMP).

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*
Breeding resident.

BRYCH COED

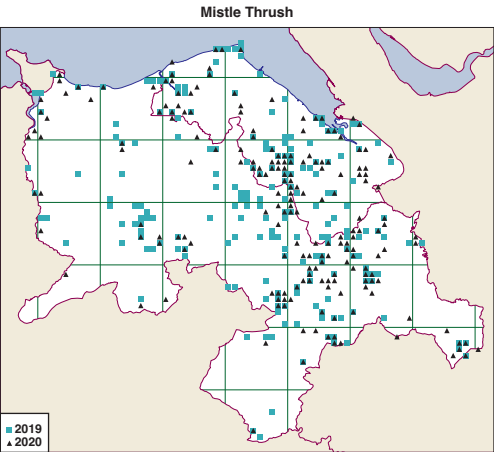
(M)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	139	70	121	75
Maximum count	21	9	20	20
Av max count prev 10 years	19	14	19	14
Recorded in BBS squares	16/28	10/18	3/5	0/2
Number of records	306	214	372	315
% of records from GBW	13.40	11.21	15.13	31.33
% of BirdTrack lists	13.7	-	18.7	-
Max breeding evidence	FF	FL	FF	S

2019

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of 1 to 4 with the maximum of 21 coming from Pentrefelin on 24/09 (MiB). During BBS walks the maximum count of 5 came from Gwynfryn on 25/05. The maximum on WBBS came from Wern-ddu with 4 on 12/05. The most seen on a GBW was 4 at Ruabon on 25/08. There were four confirmed breeding records from four sites between 22/04 and 15/06.

Flints. Most records were 1 to 5 with maximum of 9 coming from Pantymwyn on 22/10 (GEM) and at Rhydymwyn on 16/11 (MD). During BBS walks the



maximum count came from Gronant with 4 on 3/06. The maximum GBW count of 7 on 30/06 came from Rhydymwyn. There were five confirmed breeding records from different sites between 1/05 and 16/06.

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were counts of 1-4 with the highest count of 20 from Llanfair Talhaiarn on 23/08 (AIC). There were three BBS records with the maximum count of 4 at Erddig on 20/05 (NHu). 16% of records came from GBW with a maximum of 5 at Ruabon on 11/10. There were eight confirmed breeding reports, the first with an occupied nest near Llangollen on 17/04 (laCa) the last from Knolton with recently fledged young on 13/06 (DIHd). A single ringing record came from Pentrefelin with 3 full-grown on 10/09 (pBH).

Flints. Most reports were 1-3 with only four double figure counts and the maximum of 20 came from Cilcain on 8/08 (SD). There were also 19 at Pantymwyn on 15/08 (GEM). Most GBW records were of singles with a maximum count of 5 at Rhydymwyn on 13/12. There were no BBS counts, no confirmed breeding records nor ringing reports.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

COCH DAN ADAIN

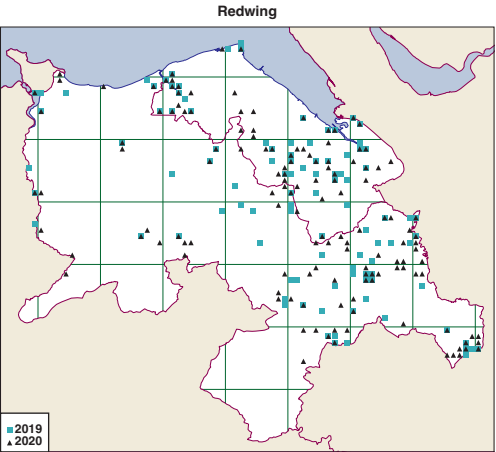
Passage migrant and winter visitor.

(RE)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	62	41	87	53
Maximum count	400	2934	228	4000
Av max count prev 10 years	875	578	875	578
Number of records	144	143	176	201
% of records from GBW	15.28	11.89	8.70	12.04
% of BirdTrack lists	6.4	-	10.2	-

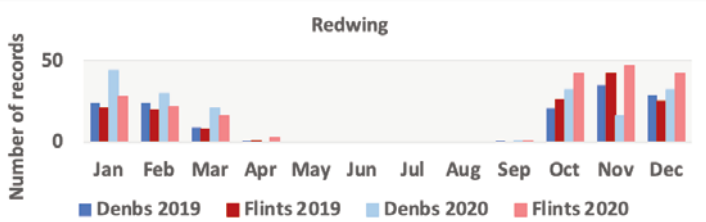
2019

Denbs. During the spring period most counts were 1 to 80 and the maxima came from Lleweni Hall: 164 on 28/01 and 163 on 4/02 (JPH). The only other 3 figure count in this period came from Erddig Hall with 100 on 27/01 (HCw). The first autumn record and maximum count both came from Penycæ with 4 on 29/09 and c.400 flying due S on 4/10 (JAJ). GBW counts came from two sites and a Burton Garden had the last spring record with 1 on 10/03. The other site near Ruabon held the largest GBW count of 40 on 27/10.

Flints. During the first spring period counts were 1 to 50 and the spring maximum count came from Rhuddlan with 50 on



1/01 and the last spring record was from the same site with 2 on 12/04 (SH). The first record in autumn was 25 at Pantymwyn on 11/10 (GEM) and the maximum count of 2,934 came from Queensferry on 30/10 (DWn). GBW had a maximum count of 6 at Sychdyn on 24/11.



2020

Denbs. During the first spring period most records were 1-60 with half a dozen three figure counts and the maximum of 228 came from Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 5/02 (JPH). The last report from this period came from Rhewl with 8 on 31/03 (JoG). The first autumn report came from Fenn's Moss with 3 on 29/09 (GeTh). Most GBW records were of singles but in Ruabon there were higher counts of 31 on 16/02 and 45 on 11/10.

Flints. During the first spring period most records were 1-70 and the maximum came from Oakenholt with 300 on 29/01 (PJ) and last report was from Queensferry with 1 on 6/04 (DWa). The first autumn report came from Bagillt with a single on 30/09 (GRMP). The very large maximum count of 4,000 was at Gwernymynydd on 17/10. GBW had a maximum count of 10 at Rhydymwyn on 5/01 and there were 18 ringed at Bagillt between 12/02 and 10/12 (GRMP).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

MWYALCHEN

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

(B)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	230	76	254	156
Maximum count	50	34	38	64
Av max count prev 10 years	40	43	40	43
Recorded in BBS squares	26/28	18/18	5/5	2/2
Number of records	1580	808	2313	2360
% of records from GBW	46.53	46.25	59.43	46.06
% of BirdTrack lists	60.2	-	70.8	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	NY	NE	FF

2019

Recorded each month in both counties and had breeding confirmed. Larger double figure counts recorded during BBS and both winter months indicated a migrant influx during the first and last period.

Denbs. The maximum count of 50 was recorded at Gellifor, Rhos during a BBS walk on 9/06 and for WBBS, 6 at Wern-ddu on 12/05. Outside of BBS the highest count of 28 came from Lleweni Hall on 2/12 (JPH). GBW had a maximum count of 12 at Ruabon on 1/12. Fourteen

records of confirmed breeding were mostly of adults carrying faecal sacs or food for young. The first record of confirmed breeding came from Llanfair, Talhaiarn on 28/04 (AIC) and last on 20/06 from Llandrillio-yr-Rhos (WRM). Four nestlings were ringed at Pandy on 18/05 (pBH).

Flints. The maximum count of 34 was recorded at Buckley during a BBS walk on 18/05 and for WBBS, 23 at St. Asaph on 22/05. Outside of BBS the highest count of 20 came from Rhydymwyn on 8/12 (MGW). GBW had a maximum of 16 at Buckley on 22/12. There were twenty-six records of confirmed breeding, the first of which was on 30/04 S of Rhyl (JPH) and last on 8/09 at Pantymwyn (GEM). A total of 39 fullgrown were ringed at Bagillt (GRMP), 18 at Rhydymwyn (IMS) and 1 at Shotton Steelworks (pBH).

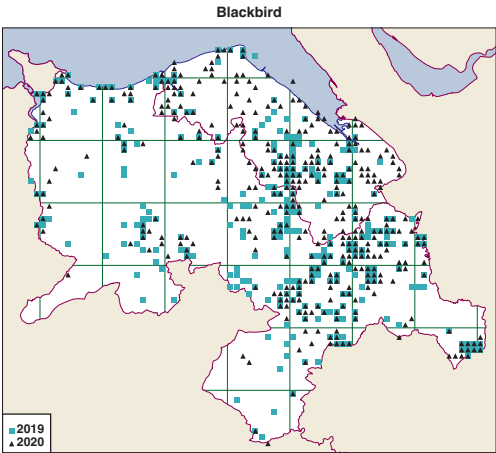
2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. The maximum count of 38 was recorded at Aberduna NR, near Moel Findeg, on 3/05. The largest BBS count of 20 came from Erddig Park on 15/04 (NHu). GBW held nearly 60% of all reports with the maximum count of 19 at a Wrexham garden on 11/10. There were over twenty confirmed breeding reports, the first an early nest with eggs at Rhos-y-brithdir on 26/03 (DWs). The last was at Abergele on 6/08 with recently fledged young (MoO). At Pentrefelin, Conwy, 26 adults were ringed between 29/01 and 28/12 (pBH).



Blackbird: Malcolm Down



Flints. The number of records was double the recent average, and the maximum count of 64 came from Connah's Quay NR on 11/12 (PeHa). The highest BBS count of 10 came from Rhuddlan on 19/06 (MaO, HKd). GBW counted for over 50% of all reports. There were only two confirmed breeding records, both on 12/07 with food being carried for young at Penbedw (GEM) and to the S of Rhyl (JPH). A total of 58 was ringed at Bagillt between 8/01 and 22/12 (GRMP), 8 ringed at Sychdyn between 8/01 and 22/12 (IMS) and one was ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 15/03 (pBH).

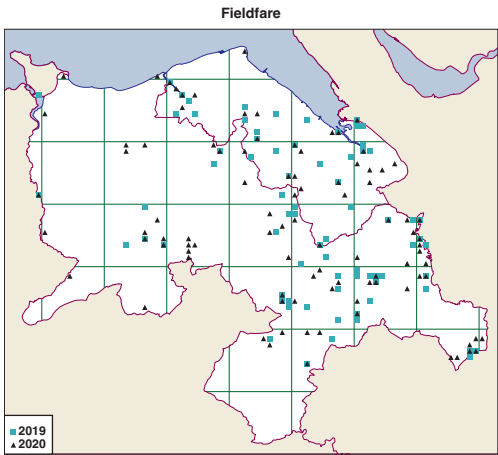
Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*
Passage migrant and winter visitor.

SOCAN EIRA

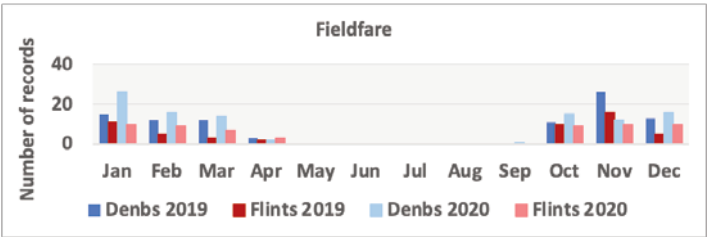
(FF)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	47	27	67	27
Maximum count	200	500	500	2000
Av max count prev 10 years	553	224	553	224
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	0/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	92	52	102	58
% of records from GBW	19.57	9.62	6.73	10.00
% of BirdTrack lists	3.4	-	5.1	-

2019

Denbs. During the spring period most counts were 1 to 80 with a maximum of 200 at Clocaenog Forest on 21/03 (TBT). The last spring record of 14 was on 17/04 during a BBS count near Llanarmon-yn-Ial. GBW records in first period all had single-figure counts, at Burton between 6/01 and 1/03. During the second period the maximum count of 20 was at Ruabon on 27/10. The first autumn report came from Llanferres with 2 on 2/10 (JaH). The maximum autumn counts of 200 came from the Llangollen area on 17/11 (JoG) and 20/11 (PEM).



Flints. During the spring period most counts were 1 to 40 with the maximum of 100 which was also the last report on 16/04 at Hendre (GEM). GBW records came from



two sites with singles at Buckley and maximum count of 2 at Sychdyn on 27/01. The first autumn record came from Bagillt with 4 on 12/10 (GRMP) and the year's maximum count of

500 at Afonwen on 29/10 (SvK). There was also a similar count of 495 seen to the S of Rhyl on 30/10 (WRM).

2020

Denbs. During the spring period there were eight three-figure counts and the year’s maximum count of 500 at Bonc, Berwyn Mountains on 3/02 (JoG). The last record for this period came from Penycæ with 11 on 22/04 (JR). In the second winter period, a maximum count of 200 was at Pentre on 1/12 (JoG) with the first record of 11 at Pentrefelin on 10/09 (MT). GBW records had a maximum count of 12 at a Ruabon garden on 5/11 and several records of singles at Burton on 22/03, 18/10, 25/10 and 27/11.

Flints. During the spring period most counts were only of singles. There were six double figure counts only, and the maximum came from Babell with 78 on 1/04 (MkV). The last spring report came from a Caerwys garden with a single on 5/04. There were several GBW reports from a Buckley garden, with singles seen in Jan. In the autumn period, the first record came from Caerwys with 7 on 12/10 (MkV). The maximum count of 2,000 came from Gwernymynydd on 17/10. The only other three-figure count came from the S of Rhyl with 419 on 28/11 (JPH). This late period had two GBW records both of 3 at Gwernaffield on 18/10 and at Caerwys on 22/11.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*
Passage migrant.

MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

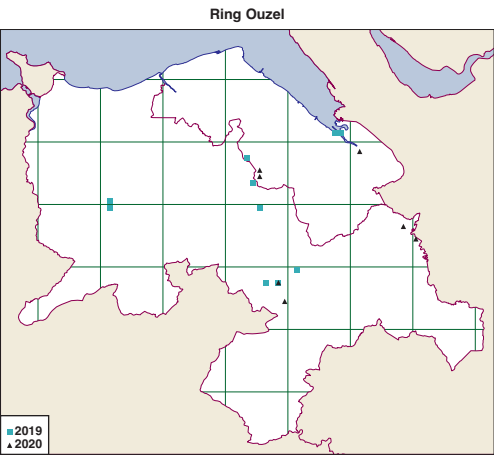
(RZ)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	3	4	3
Maximum count	4	6	5	1
Av max count prev 10 years	4	10	4	10
Number of records	8	11	5	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	-	0.1	-

Denbs. The first record came from near Bryneglwys with 2 on 10/04 (RhJ). The maximum count of 4 was at Aled Isaf Reservoir on 19/04 (JPH). The last spring record came from Moel Fenlli near Llanbedr DC with 2 males on 5/05 (GPI) and there were no autumn reports.

Flints. The first on 26/03 and all spring records came from the Penycloddiau area. The maximum of 6 was recorded there on 26/03 and 15/04 (EdW). There were two winter records of a single in the Connah’s Quay area on 16/12.

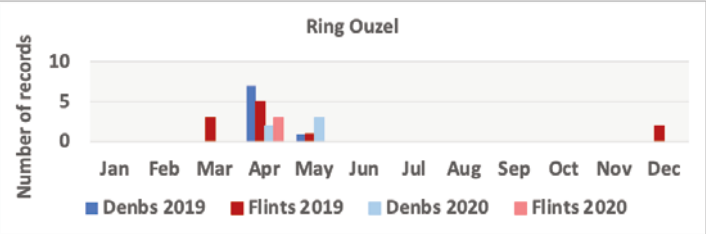
2020

Denbs. The first record came from Hendy,



Llangollen with 1 on 10/04. There were 5 at Horseshoe Pass on 15/04 (JoG), 1 at Holt on 5/05 and 8/05 (NF).

Flints. All reports came in April: 1 at Queensferry on 2/04 (DWn), 1 at Moel Llys-y-Coed on 22/04 (MB) and a single at Cilcain on 25/04 (JtH).



Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*
Breeding summer visitor.

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

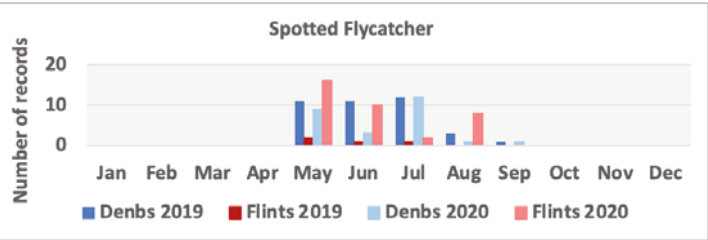
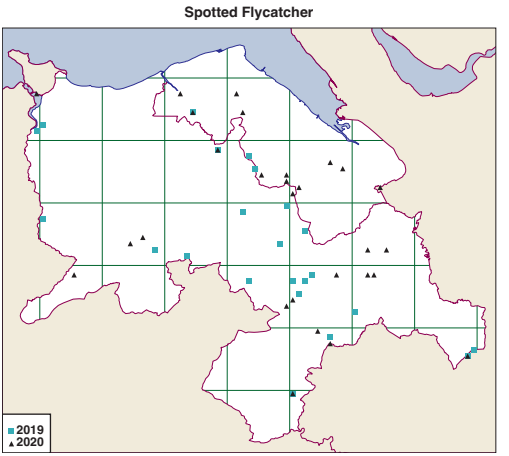
(SF)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	21	2	17	11
Maximum count	6	4	3	3
Av max count prev 10 years	7	3	7	3
Number of records	38	4	26	36
% of records from GBW	23.68	0.00	3.85	44.44
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	-	1.0	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	S	FF	-

2019

Denbs. The first of the year was on 13/05 at Fenn’s Moss (GeHo), a similar date to last year. The last report came from the same site on 1/09 (RbHa) two weeks later than last year. Most records were of singles and the maximum count of 6 was on 23/06 and all the GBW reports came from Ruabon. There were three confirmed breeding records: fledged young at Lleweni Hall on 29/07 (JPH), at Grainrhyd on 2/08 (SD) and a nest with young at Eglwyseg on 5/07 (JLR).

Flints. The first of the year and three of the four records came from Penycloddiau with 2 on 19/05, 3 on 25/05 and the maximum count of 4 on 9/06 (EdW). The remaining report and last record came from St. Asaph with 1 on 13/07 (JPH).

2020



Denbs. The first of the year was at the same site as last year, Fenn's Moss, but a week earlier on 7/05 (RbHa). Most records were singles with the maximum count of 3 with recently fledged young at Erddig Hall on 30/07 (HCw). The only GBW record was also the last report which was at Rhosrobin, Wrexham with 1 on 13/09 (HCw) a little later than last year. The other two confirmed breeding reports were at Alwen Reservoir with adult carrying food for young on 20/07 (DIHd) and an occupied nest at Llyn Brenig on 30/07 (PEM).

Flints. The first record came from Caerwys with 1 on 9/05 (MkV). Most of this year's records were singles with a maximum count of 3 at Alltarni on 24/07 (AB). There were no reports of confirmed breeding. GBW had nearly 50% of reports from 3 gardens: at Caerwys, Lower Kinnerton and Pantymwyn which was the garden for the last sighting on 23/08.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*
Breeding resident.

ROBIN GOCH

(R)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	238	155	230	146
Maximum count	19	32	34	40
Av max count prev 10 years	23	17	23	17
Recorded in BBS squares	27/28	18/18	5/5	1/2
Number of records	1547	949	2174	2129
% of records from GBW	47.51	9.91	60.83	48.99
% of BirdTrack lists	55.9	-	65.8	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	FF	FF	FF

2019

Recorded in each month and breeding confirmed in both counties. Most records were of 1-3 and the number of reports was down in Flints.

Denbs. Most of the double figure counts came during BBS walks with the highest count of 16 from Gellifor on 20/04. The overall maximum count of 19 came from Fenn's Moss on 20/03 (GeTh). The number of GBW records was up again with nearly half of all reports and the maximum garden count of 11 at Marford on 14/04. Confirmed breeding was first reported at Chirk with fledged young on 6/05 (DIHd). The last of the eleven breeding reports came from Lleweni Hall with fledged young seen on 17/07 (JPH).

Flints. The majority of the double figure counts came in the spring with half coming from BBS walks and the maximum survey count of 14 came from Gronant on 3/06. The overall maximum of 32 came from Blaenau on 29/03 (GNR). The largest GBW count of 3 came from several

gardens: at Buckley, Caergwrle, Pantymwyn and Sychdyn. Confirmed breeding was first reported at Maes y Grug with an adult carrying food on 17/04 and the last of the seventeen breeding records came from Rhydymwyn with fledged young on 8/08 (IMS). Ringing reports included 48 fullgrown at Bagillt between 21/01 and 4/12 (GRMP), 9 fullgrown at Shotton Steelworks between 3/02 and 22/10 (pBH) and 39 fullgrown at Rhydymwyn between 9/04 and 23/09 (IMS).

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most of the double figure counts were in the first five months of the year and the maximum count came from Aberduna NR, with 34 on 3/05. The highest BBS count came from Erddig Park, with 17 on 15/04 (NHu). GBW reports held 60% of all counts with a maximum of 7 at Burton on 24/05 and at Marford on 23/08.

Flints. Most of the records were 1-3 and the majority of double figure counts came from Gwernymynydd. The highest count of 40 was on 25/05. A single BBS count came from a site near Mold with 4 seen on 14/06 (GEM). GBW produced over 50% of all reports with the maximum of 10 at Trelawnyd on 24/05. A single confirmed breeding record of food being carried for young was at Mold on 6/05 (TP). Ringing records were from Bagillt and Sychdyn, with 48 adults at Bagillt between 19/02 and end of year (GRMP). At Sychdyn, 4 nestlings were ringed on 14/06 plus single adults on 17/05 and 3/08 (IMS).

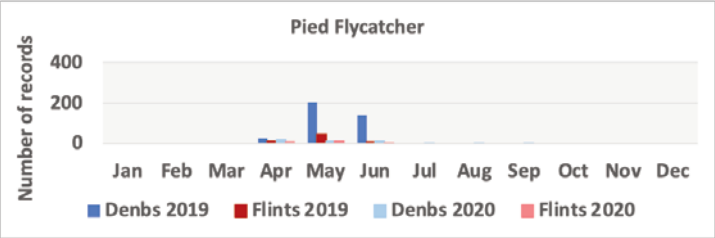
Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*
Breeding summer visitor. Red List.

GWYBEDOG BRITH

(PF)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Scarce	Common	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	40	11	24	11
Maximum count	63	8	13	9
Av max count prev 10 years	73	14	73	14
Recorded in BBS squares	5/28	2/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	70	25	49	26
% of records from GBW	-	-	3.23	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.9	-	1.5	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	ON	NE	-

2019

Denbs. The first arrivals were 2 singing males in the Llangollen area at Dinbrán Isaf and Hendre on 12/04 (JLR), a similar date to last year. The first of ten confirmed breeding reports came with an occupied nest above Pwllglas on 24/04 (JoG) and last breeding

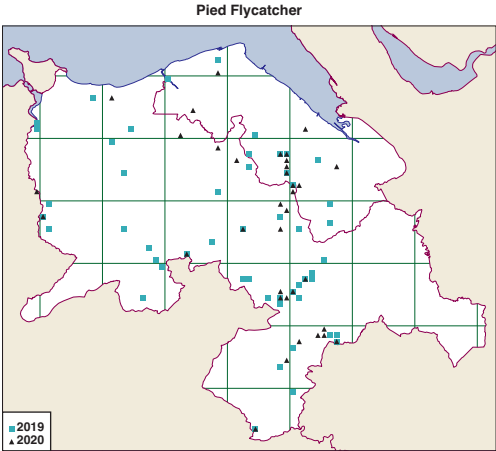


record, a nest with eggs at Rhos-y-brithdir on 8/06 (DWs). The maximum BBS count of 2 came from Tregeiriog on 6/05 and NW Berwyn on 14/05. The maximum count came from ringing records with 63 at Glyn Arthur on 29/05 (pBH). The total ringing records from all 7 sites were 58 fullgrown and 156 nestlings, between 11/05 and 10/0 (IMS, pBH). The last and only August report came with 2 near Llysfaen on 3/08 (MnM), just over two weeks earlier than last year.

Flints. The number of records was up again this year with an upward trend since 2011. The first record was a singing male at Coed y Felin on 19/04 (GEM) a similar date to last year. One site had confirmed breeding with occupied nests at Penycloddiau in Jul (EdW). Ringing records came from Coed-y-felin with 1 fullgrown on 10/05, 7 nestlings on 28/05 and 8 nestlings on 30/05 (IMS). The last record was also on a similar date as last year, 1 at Pontybodkin on 27/06 (GNR).

2020

Denbs. A poor year with all data down from last few years. The first arrival was 1 on 5/04 a few days earlier than last year, which came from a GBW count at Llanarnon-y-lal. A second GBW report with 2 on 19/06 was at the same garden. A single BBS count came from Rhyd-y-



Pied Flycatcher: Alan Smethurst

Foel with 2 on 20/06.

Flints. The first report came from Coed-y-felin with 1 on 8/04 (MB), two weeks earlier than last year. There were no confirmed breeding records because of Covid restrictions. The maximum count of 9 came from Gwernymynydd on 25/05, and the same site held the last record with 2 on 15/06.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochrous* TINGOCH DU
Winter and passage visitor and occasional breeder.

(BX)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3			1
Maximum count	1			1
Av max count prev 10 years	2			1
Number of records	7	0	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8			-

2019

A maximum of 2 was observed in only one area, in two winter months.

Denbs. All seven records came from seven different observers in the Kinmel Bay area between 5/01 and 17/02. Most were of a single, with presence on 20/01.

2020

Flints. A single record of 1 male at Pentre Halkyn on 1/05 (PSt).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* TINGOCH
Breeding summer visitor.

(RT)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	79	27	44	26
Maximum count	10	16	7	4
Av max count prev 10 years	12	11	12	11
Recorded in BBS squares	10/28	5/18	2/5	0/2
Number of records	121	60	76	60
% of records from GBW	1.65	1.67	6.41	4.23
% of BirdTrack lists	5.0	-	4.3	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	FF	FF	FL

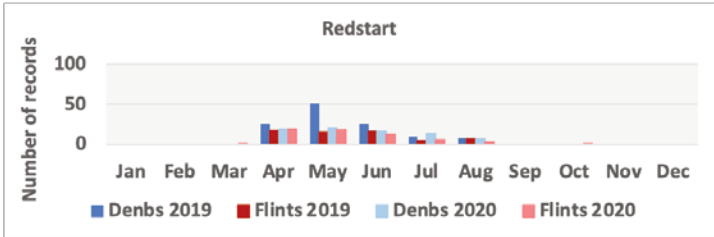
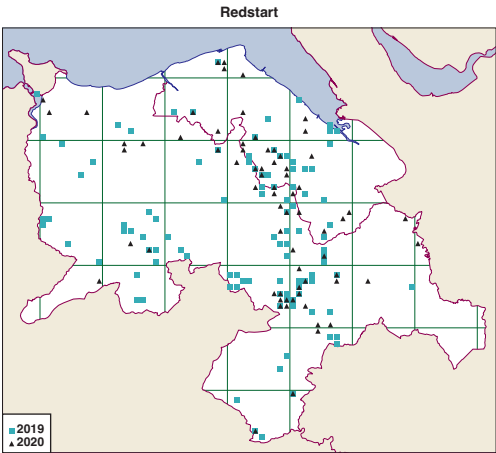
2019

The number of reports and locations were similar to last year for both Denbs and Flints. The first report was three days later in Denbs than last year but a week earlier in Flints.

Denbs. The first record came from near Trevor Uchaf on 16/04 (JLR). Most records were 1 to 4 with higher counts coming from BBS surveys and the only double figure count of 10 coming from an early survey on Mynydd y Glyn on 4/05 and 9 on late visit on 2/06. Breeding was

confirmed at eight sites, the first was a nest with eggs at Rhos y brithdir on 6/05, the last was also the last report of year with fledged young at Moel Arthur on 16/08 (GEM). The two GBW records came from Llandegla with 2 on 21/04 and 28/04. A single ringing report came from Pandy with 4 nestlings on 29/06 (pBH).

Flints. The first report of the year came from Connah's Quay NR with 1 on 7/04 (GEM) a week earlier than last year. Most records were of 1 to 3 with four double figure counts coming from Penycloddiau and the maximum count of 16 on 19/05 and 26/05 (EdW). This site also had the first of nine confirmed breeding records with an occupied nest on 19/05. Three other sites had confirmed breeding: Cilcain, Gronant and Rhydymwyn (EdW, GRMP, IMS). The last breeding record came with fledged young at Rhydymwyn on 8/08 (IMS) and same area had the only GBW record of 1 on 14/04. A BBS maximum of 4 at Gronant was on 29/04 and from St Asaph a maximum of 6 for WBBS on 22/05. Records came from Rhydymwyn of 9 fullgrown ringed from 29/05 to 8/08 (IMS). The last report came from the same site as the first, Connah's Quay NR, with a single on 9/08 (PaHa).



2020

Denbs. The first record came from Rhos-y-brithdir with 1 on 8/04 (DWs) just over a week earlier than last year. Most records were of 1-4 with the maximum count of 7 at Aberduna NR on 17/05. There were five confirmed breeding records, the first was an occupied nest at Valle Crucis on 21/05 (laCa) and the last record came from Lleweni hall with recently fledged young on 22/06 (JPH). Two BBS counts were 1 near Eryrys on 7/06 (TP) and 1 at NW Berwyn on 11/06 (JoG). GBW produced 1 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 7/06 and 2 on 28/06. The last report was also a GBW record which came from RSPB Conwy with 1 on 30/08.

Flints. The first record came from Fagl Lane, Hope on 27/03 over ten days earlier than last year (StW). Most reports were 1-3 with the maximum count of 4, which was also the last report, from Hendre on 19/10 (GEM), a number of weeks later than last year. Breeding was confirmed twice with recently fledged young in same area of Penycloddiau on 20/06 (MkV) and on 19/07 (GEM). A single was ringed at Bagillt on 29/07 (GRMP). GBW records from Caerwys had 1 on 19/04, 26/04 and 3/05.

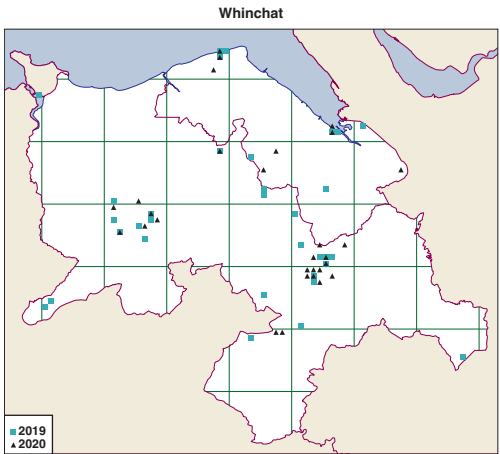
Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*
Breeding summer visitor.

CREC YR EITHIN

2019

(WC)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	25	8	21	8
Maximum count	8	2	6	2
Av max count prev 10 years	10	4	10	4
Recorded in BBS squares	3/28	0/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	40	18	30	10
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	-	1.2	-
Max breeding evidence	FF	S	FF	-

Denbs. The first record was 1 at Fenn's Moss on 21/04 (RbHa) on the same date as last year. Most records were of 1 to 3 and the maximum count of 8 came from two sites: Pen-lan, Llangollen on 25/05 (KDo) and 8 on Moel Famau on 9/07 (EdW). Two confirmed breeding records were an adult carrying food at Llyn Aled Isaf on 22/06 (WRM) and fledged young at Moel Famau on 9/07 (EdW). The maximum number for a BBS count was 2, recorded above Gwynfryn on 22/05. The last report and only Sep record came from RSPB Conwy with presence on 13/09, eleven days later than last year.

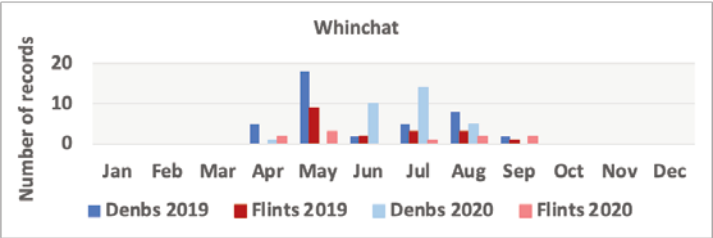


Flints. The first record was 1 at Connah's



Whinchat: Tony Pope

Quay NR on 3/05 (PeHa, DWn) two weeks later than last year. No confirmed breeding was recorded and there were no BBS counts. The last report was 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 3/09 (PeHa), two weeks later than last year.



2020

Denbs. The first record came from Brymbo pool on 26/04 (SD) a few days later than last year. Most records were counts of 1-3 with the maximum of 6, after a gap of a month, from World's End on 1/06 (IaCa). Two confirmed breeding records were an adult with food being carried for young on Ruabon Mountain 25/06 (NHu) and fledged young at Lleweli Hall on 20/07 (JPH). The last report came from Nant-y-Ffrith reservoir on 30/08 (SD), two weeks later than last year.

Flints. The first report came from Saltney with 1 on 21/04 (AHJ), couple of weeks earlier than last year. The maximum count of 2 came from Gronant on 24/07. The last record came from Gronant on 17/09 (WRM), two weeks later than last year.

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*
Resident breeder.

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

(SC)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	78	35	71	25
Maximum count	10	7	16	10
Av max count prev 10 years	8	6	8	6
Recorded in BBS squares	8/28	2/18	2/5	0/2
Number of records	192	127	180	143
% of BirdTrack lists	11.1	-	11.4	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	FF	FF	FF

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties with most numbers similar to those of the last few years. The only real change was the increase in locations in Flints. Confirmed breeding records came from both counties with fewer in Flints. Most coastal records in Denbs were in the winter months but most reports in Flints came from coastal sites.

Denbs. Most counts were 1 to 4 with the maximum of 10 seen at Minera Quarry on 26/08 (SD). The maximum BBS count of 5 came from the Berwyn on 14/05. There were sixteen confirmed breeding records: the first, a nest with eggs at Rhos-y-brithdir on 7/04 (DWs) and the last, fledged young at Fenn's Moss on 5/09 (RbHa).

Flints. Most counts were 1 to 3 with fewer numbers during winter months and the maximum of 7 seen at Gronant on 18/02 (WRM). Two BBS counts had singles: at Gronant on 29/04 and

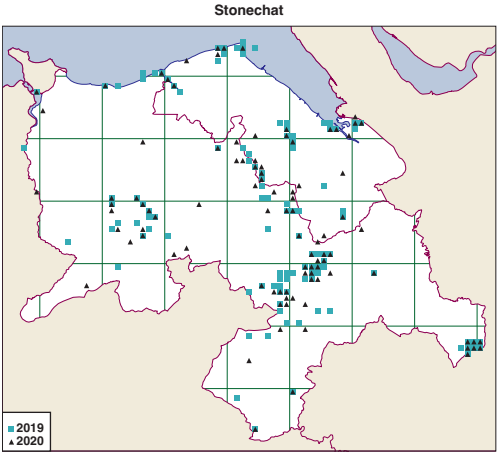
Rhosesmor on 16/06. Four confirmed breeding records were all in May and three came from Halkyn Mountain (RcJ) and one from Gronant (WRM).

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. The first of the year was 1 at Minera Mountain on 20/03 (HCw), a similar date to last year. Most counts were 1 to 6 with a maximum of 16 at Moel Arthur on 12/08 (GEM). There were sixteen confirmed breeding reports, the first was fledged young at Rhewl on 16/06 (JoG) and the last was an occupied nest on Moel Arthur on 27/08 (GEM). The only BBS count came from the Berwyn with 5 seen on 11/6 (JoG).

Flints. Most records were counts of 1-3 with three counts of 4, five of 5 and six of 6. The two largest counts were 8 at Garth, Cilcain on 12/08 (GEM) and 10+ at Waun-y-Llyn CP, near Coed Talon on 16/08 (TBT). The first record of confirmed breeding was an adult carrying food or a faecal sac on 22/04, far S of Rhyl (JPH). The only other such record was fledged young in the same area on 14/05 (JPH).



Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*

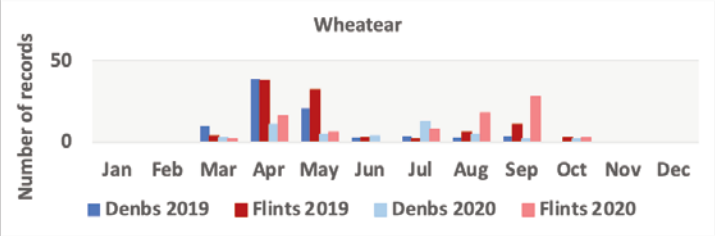
TINWEN Y GARN

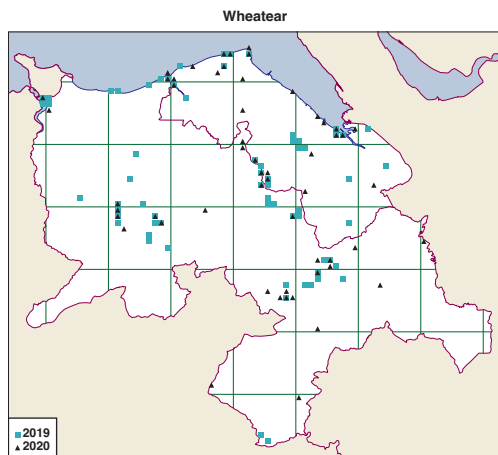
Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

(W)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common	Uncommon	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	42	24	30	25
Maximum count	14	13	10	11
Av max count prev 10 years	22	34	22	34
Recorded in BBS squares	4/28	2/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	84	99	45	81
% of BirdTrack lists	5.0	-	3.5	-
Max breeding evidence	P	P	P	-

2019

The numbers recorded in 2019 recovered from a dip in the previous year. There were no confirmed breeding records from either county.





Denbs. The first two reports were from Kinnel Bay on 19/03 (Mhu, JPH) a day later than last year. Most records were 1 to 2 and apart from RSPB Conwy most records were inland. The maximum count of 14 came from Llyn Aled Isaf on 19/04 (JPH) and the BBS maximum of 9 came from an area above Gwynfryn on 23/04. Most late season records were of singles but 6 were recorded at Eryrys on 25/09 (WAO). The last report of presence came from RSPB Conwy on 26/09, three weeks later than last year.

Flints. The first of the year was 1 at Cilcain on 21/03 (GEM), two days later than last year. Nearly 50% of records and the maximum count came from Connah's

Quay NR with 13 on 19/04 (DWn). Both BBS counts were of 2 from Sandycroft on 19/04 and Gronant on 29/04. Most late season records came from coastal sites with the last record of 1 from the S of Rhyl on 8/10 (JPH), four days earlier than last year.

2020

Denbs. The first of the year was 1 at Minera Mountain on 20/03 (HCw), a similar date to last year. Most reports were of 1 or 2 with a maximum count of 10 at Ty'n Celyn on 2/05 (TK). A single BBS count came from near Eryrys with one seen on 7/06 (TP). The last record came from Esclusham Mountain on 11/10 (NF) a couple of weeks later than last year.

Flints. The first of the year came from Broken Bank, Shotwick, with 1 on 17/03 (WAO). Over 50% of records came from three main sites: Connah's Quay NR, Talacre and Gronant which had 25% of reports. There were no BBS or confirmed breeding records. The last reports came from two sites on 9/10 with 1 at Gwernymynydd and with 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh, a similar date to last year.

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorhoa* TINWEN Y GARN YR YNYS LAS
Passage migrant.

	2019		2020	
(Greenland Wheatear)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	2		2
Maximum count	5	6		1
Av max count prev 10 years	2	4		4
Number of records	4	5	0	2
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-		-

2019

Denbs. Three records came from RSPB Conwy but the maximum count of 5 came from Llyn Aled Isaf on 11/05 (WRM).

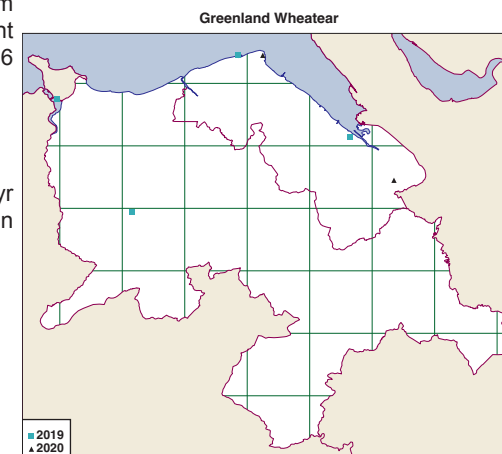


Greenland Wheatear: Alan Smethurst

Flints. Three records came from Connah's Quay NR and two from Gronant which also had the maximum count of 6 on 30/04 (AtG).

2020

Flints. One record was 1 at Point of Ayr on 24/04 (GrJ) and then 1 at Hawarden Industrial Estate on 26/05 (AHJ).



Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*
Breeding resident.

BRONWEN Y DWR

	2019		2020	
(DI)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	35	12	41	10
Maximum count	6	4	4	3
Av max count prev 10 years	4	2	4	2
Recorded in BBS squares	1/28	1/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	85	24	114	25
% of BirdTrack lists	2.6	-	3.5	-
Max breeding evidence	FF	FL	FF	-

2019

Recorded in all months of the year except Aug and Nov in Flints but there were fewer records during the last four months in both counties. Breeding was confirmed in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of 1 or 2 and the maximum count of 6 at Esclusham Mountain was on 3/05 (JfJ). There were five confirmed breeding records: three came from Bodnant Gardens, the first an adult with food on 30/04 (AnBa) and the last was fledged young on 25/06 (FrBu). The other confirmed breeding records came from Erddig and Rhos-y-brithdir (NHu, DWs).

Flints. Most records were odd singles with a maximum count of 4 on the River Elwy, St Asaph on 12/01. The same site had the only confirmed breeding record with fledged young on 22/06 (JPH). There were only four other areas which had records, Dyserth, Hope, Mold and Rhydymwyn.

2020

Recorded each month in both counties except Sep in Flints.

Denbs. The number of records was up again but were mostly of 1 or 2 and the maximum count of 4 came from two sites, Felin Puleston, Erddig on 4/01 (NHu) and at Esclusham Mountain on 22/01 (JJo). Confirmed breeding came from two sites with an adult carrying food for young at Llanfwrog on 20/04 (RG). The second site was Erddig with recently fledged young on 12/05 (HCw).

Flints. Most records were of 1 or 2 and the maximum of 3 came from St Asaph on 4/04 (JPH).

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Breeding resident. Red List.

GOLFAN MYNYDD

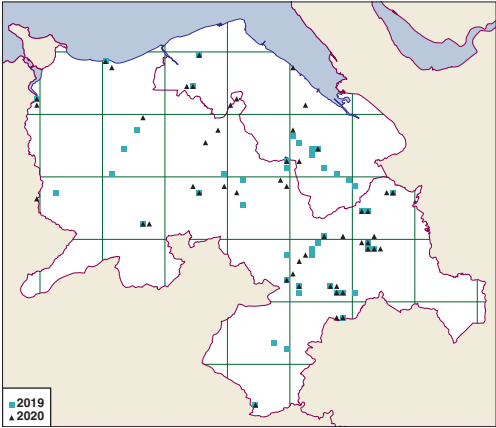
2019

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. All but four records were from Cilcain from every month, with fifty-two of these records from a GBW site. Possible breeding was observed at Cilcain (GEM). There were two records from the Stables, Babell on 16/02 and 2/03 with counts of 5 and 8 (GeFe) and there were 4 near Northop on 25/05 (CaP). There was one record of 2 from St Asaph on 14/06.

Dipper



2020

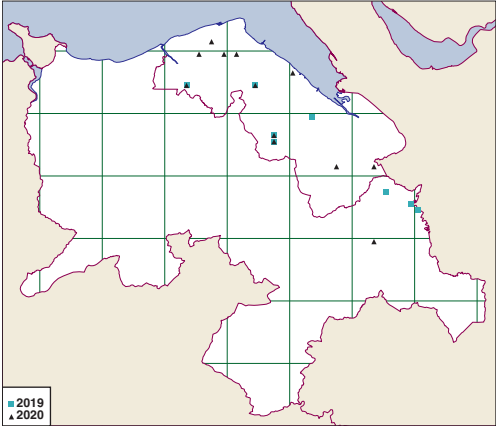
Seen in these months:

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

Denbs. There was one record from a GBW site in Wrexham on 22/08.

Flints. Fifty-three records came from a GBW site in Cilcain with the first record on 5/01. The highest count of 23 came from a GBW site at Berthengam on 6/09. A count of 15 was recorded at Trelawynd on 24/05. There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

Tree Sparrow



House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Breeding resident. Amber List.

ADERYN Y TŌ

2019

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties

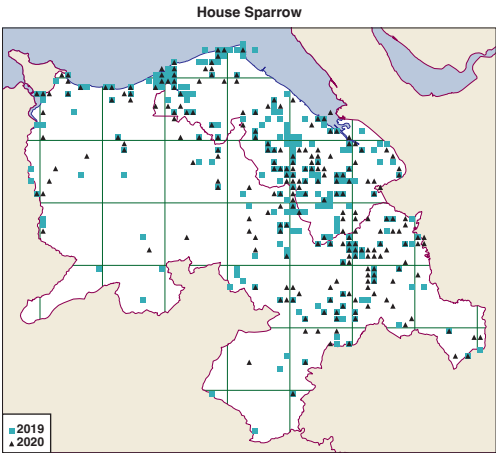
Denbs. The records for this species divide into two groups, with relatively high counts from Towyn and smaller counts from the rest of the county. At Towyn there were seven records of 100-130 between 8/01 and 30/01 with the highest of 130 on 22/01 (all SM). Away from Towyn counts were in single or double figures throughout the year. The highest count of 50 came from a GBW site at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 11/08. There were six records of confirmed breeding.

Flints. Most records were in single figures. There were two hundred and fifty-two records in double figures. The highest count of 85 came from a BBS site at Buckley on 18/05.

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 20. The highest count of 50 came from a GBW site at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 2/08. Over one thousand records were from GBW entries. Breeding was confirmed at six locations, the earliest (ON) on 20/05 at Llansillin (JO), the last (ON) on 12/07 at Wrexham (NHu).



Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 40. The highest count of 70 came from a GBW site at Lower Kinnerton on 19/07. A record of 60+ came from Broughton Old Warren on 10/09 (AHJ). Over nine hundred records came from GBW entries. There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

House Sparrow: Tony Pope

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*
Breeding resident.

LLWYD Y GWYRCH

(D)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	160	120	163	114
Maximum count	16	16	15	21
Av max count prev 10 years	12	14	12	14
Recorded in BBS squares	18/28	15/18	2/5	2/2
Number of records	1133	816	1742	1748
% of records from GBW	59.58	18.26	69.82	53.66
% of BirdTrack lists	36.1	-	42.3	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	FF	FF	FL

2019

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

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 10. The highest counts came from BBS squares with 14 recorded at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 17/04 and 16 at Gellifor on 20/04. There were five records of confirmed breeding at three locations. The first (NE) was at Rhos-y-brithdir on 28/04 (DWn) and the last of fledged young from Llangollen on 19/06 (laCa).

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 10. A count of 14 was recorded at Devil's Gorge, Pantymwyn on 10/04 (GEM) and a count of 16 was recorded at Pantymwyn on 17/04 (GEM). There were eleven records of confirmed breeding at four locations. The first was at Gronant on 1/05 (JPH) and the last at Rhydymwyn on 8/08 (IMS). There were seventy ringing records at three sites.

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 10. The highest count came from a GBW in Marford of 15 on 11/10. Counts of 12 were recorded at Nant-y-Glyn on 19/01 (HC) and RSPB Conwy on 15/10 (WRM). There were five records of confirmed breeding at four

locations. The first (FF) was at Abergele on 20/04 (MaO), the last (FL) from Nant-y-Glyn on 16/07 (HC).

Flints. Most records were of 1 to 10. The highest count of 21 was recorded at Gwernymynydd on 26/04 (GEM). A count of 17 was recorded at Pantymwyn on 14/04 (GEM). There were 41 ringing records at Bagillt (GRMP) including recently fledged young.



Dunnock: Malcolm Down

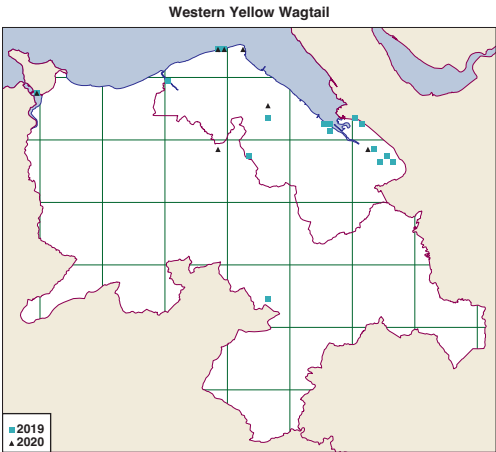
Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima* SIGLEN FELEN GORLLEWIN
Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

2019

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

Denbs. There was one record from RSPB Conwy of a single on 22/04 (GrJ).

Flints. The first record came from Connah's Quay NR on 17/04 (PeHa) with a count of 2. A BBS count at Sandycroft produced the highest count of 8 on 5/06 (IMS). There were twelve records for Apr, with the highest count of 4 at Sealand on 29/04 (DWn) and ten records for May. The last record come on 20/09 at Flint Saltmarsh with a count of 2 (AB).



2020

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

Denbs. There were three reports from RSPB Conwy on 4/09, and one record from Bodfari 18/08 (JPH). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

Flints. There were seven records for Flints. The earliest was at Gronant on 17/04 (JPH). The highest count of 3 was recorded at Gronant on 23/04 (PJon). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* SIGLEN LWYD
Breeding resident.

2019

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 3. A count of 8 came from Ruabon Mountain on 2/05 (JFJ) and a large count of 22 came from Penrycae on 12/09 (JAJ). There were six records of confirmed breeding from five locations.

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 3. There were seven records of larger counts: the maximum count of 34 came from Rhydymwyn on 2/09 (IMS) with birds exiting a roost site. There were six records of confirmed breeding at five locations. The first was at Rhydymwyn on 7/05 (IMS) and the last was at Abergele on 16/07 (MaO). There were two ringing records of ringing: five full grown on 17/12 at Shotton (pBH) and 5 nestlings at Rhydymwyn on 3/05 (IMS).

2020

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 4. The highest counts of 6 were



Grey Wagtail: John Hawkins

recorded at Penycae on 25/03 and at Garth on 30/09 (both records JoR). There were twelve records of confirmed breeding at seven locations with the earliest (FF) at Erddig on 11/05 (NHu). The latest (FF) was at Felin Puleston on 22/06 (NHu).

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 3. The earliest record was at Dee estuary on 1/01 (DWn). The latest was at Rhyl on 30/12 (RLE). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding, possibly because of Covid restrictions.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*
Passage migrant.

SIGLEN WEN

	2019		2020	
(WB)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	4	5	1	4
Maximum count	13	8	2	9
Av max count prev 10 years	29	34	29	34
Number of records	17	8	1	5
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0		0.5	-

Seen in these months:

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

24/03 and 7/05, with the highest count of 13 on 11/04 (JHg). There were three records during the autumn passage between 15/07 and 9/09 with the highest count of 4 from RSPB Conwy on 31/08. A single record came from Ruabon Moor on 15/07 (TBT).

Flints. There were seven records from the spring passage, the earliest was 2 from Clwyd Saltmarsh, Rhyl on 18/04 (JPH). The highest count of 8 came from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 19/04 (DWn). The latest autumn record came from Clwyd Saltmarsh on 10/09 (JPH).

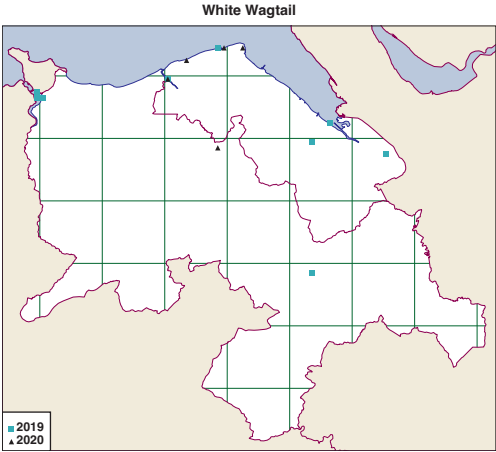
2020

Seen in these months:

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

Denbs. There was one record of a count of 2 from Bodfari on 18/08 (JPH).

Flints. The earliest record was 3 from Rhyl golf course on 5/04 (REd). The highest count of 9 was recorded at Gronant dunes on 29/09 (WRM). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.



Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*
Breeding resident.

SIGLEN FRAITH

	2019		2020	
(PW)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common	Very common	Very
Number of 1km squares	123	80	121	81
Maximum count	45	106	300	150
Av max count prev 10 years	82	64	82	64
Recorded in BBS squares	14/28	12/18	1/5	0/2
Number of records	365	366	403	479
% of records from GBW	16.44	6.56	22.01	22.32
% of BirdTrack lists	23.8	-	25.8	-
Max breeding evidence	FF	FF	FF	-

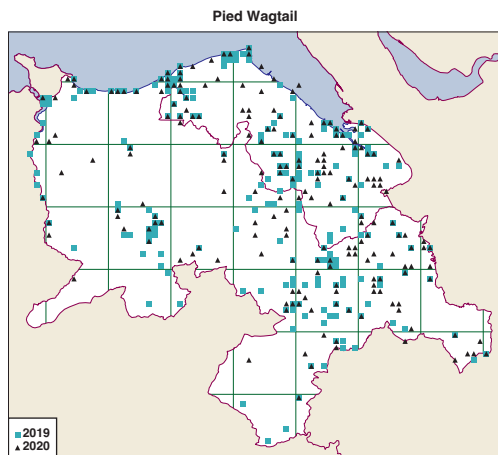
2019

Recorded in each month in both counties. The Flints 2019 and both maximum counts in 2020 were considerably higher than the ten-year averages.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 8, with six records of 10 to 45. The maximum count was 45 around a filter bed at Llanrwst on 25/01 (WRM). A count of 33 was recorded at Sontley Road, Wrexham on 20/01 (Hct). There were nine records of confirmed breeding and one ringing record of 3 full grown at Morfa Uchaf on 17/09 (pBH).

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 60. The three highest counts were all from Connah's Quay NR with 95 on 3/02, 90 on 29/12 and the maximum of 106 on 20/12 (PeHa). There were seven records of confirmed breeding and twenty-two GBW records.

2020



Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 10. There were 13 counts of 10+. The highest counts of 300 and 75 were recorded at Bodelwyddan on 5/02 and 4/10 (SH). There were four records of confirmed breeding at three locations. The earliest (FF) was recorded at Bodfari on 21/05 (JPH), the latest (FL) was recorded at Wrexham Industrial Estate on 17/07 (HC)

Flints. Most records were of presence or counts of 1 to 10. There were seven counts of 30-150. The highest counts of 150 and 100 came from Connah's Quay NR on 23/01 and 20/03 (PeHa). A count of

95 was recorded at Gronant on 23/04 (PJon). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

CORHEDYDD RICHARD

Passage migrant.

	2019		2020	
(PR)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1		
Maximum count		1		
Number of records	0	1	0	0

2019

Flints. One was found on a visible migration watch at RSPB Point of Ayr on 18/10 (DWn). 'Bird was calling, picked up early and watched it fly with Meadow Pipits and Skylark, made for interesting size comparison. A large bird, call was attempted to be recorded on phone but too faint on recording to really pick up. Heading south'. The previous record was back in 2008.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

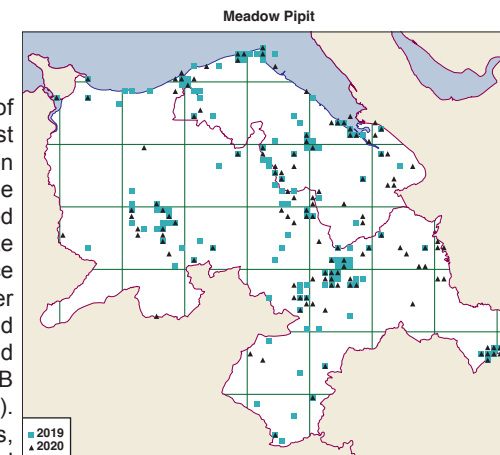
Breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber list.

	2019		2020	
(MP)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	93	47	87	44
Maximum count	55	202	100	120
Av max count prev 10 years	102	114	102	114
Recorded in BBS squares	12/28	3/18	3/5	0/2
Number of records	262	266	223	238
% of BirdTrack lists	18.2	-	15.3	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	FF	FF	-

2019

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. There were thirty-five counts of over 10 during the year. The largest numbers came from Ruabon Mountain on 30/03 with 50 (MWk) and Penycae, Cae Llwyd Reservoir on 6/04 with 55 estimated (SD). Peak counts fluctuated quite notably, and it has been four years since a record of 200+ birds. Many of the other large flocks also came from moorland locations at World's End and Mynydd Hiraethog. As for lowland locations, RSPB Conwy had a count of 20 on 11/10 (pTW). Breeding was confirmed from five sites, mostly around Llyn Brenig and Mynydd Hiraethog with counts of up to 30 reported throughout the summer. The late winter period saw very much reduced totals, the largest was 20 at Eryrys, N on 5/11 (WAO).



Maximum counts each month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	12	4	50	55	30	28	32	7	16	20	20	5
Flints	10	16	50	202	45	4	10	15	38	136	12	20

Flints. There were forty-two counts of over 10 birds. Three quarters of these were from sites along the Dee estuary. The largest counts were during spring and autumn passage with a peak of 202 at Connah's Quay NR on 18/04 (PeHa) and 176 of these were in a single field near the power station (DWn). You have to go back to 2011 for another 200+ count in Flints. The peak autumn numbers were from Point of Ayr with 136 flying S during a visible migration watch on 18/10 (DWn). Breeding was confirmed at two sites: Halkyn Mountain and near Penycloddiau. Following the autumn passage, numbers reduced with Connah's Quay NR and the Afon Clwyd saltmarsh holding flocks of 20 (PeHa) and 18 (JPH) respectively.

2020

Recorded each month in both counties.

Denbs. The table, below, shows the maximum count in each month, and for Denbs, Jul and Aug stand out with much higher numbers than other months. The first count of 100 was on 16/07 at Esclusham Mountain and the second was 100+ on 3/08 at the same place (JJo). These counts would have included young, almost certainly bred on the moors. There is no evidence here, of large numbers migrating, either in spring or autumn. Most of the records were from upland locations.

Maximum counts each month:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	24	30	13	40	5	20	100	100	50	12	49	4
Flints	20	12	44	120	5	13	10	20	27	20	12	8

Flints. Most of the records were from lowland locations, so less likely to have been birds on breeding grounds. There were two large counts in Apr: c.120 at Rhyl golf course on 11/04 (RLE) and 107 at Gronant dunes on 17/04 (JPH). It is likely that these were migrants on their way to upland breeding areas, not necessarily locally.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* CORHEDYDD Y COED
Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

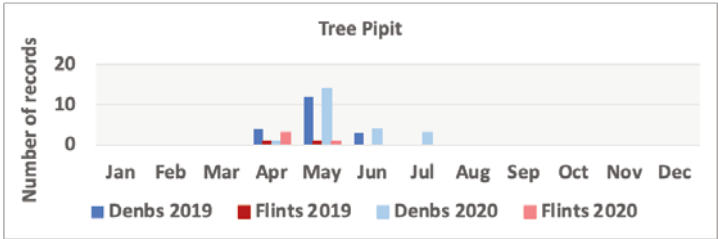
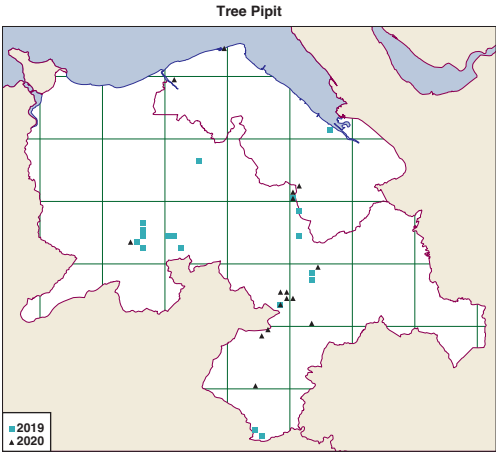
(TP)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	16	2	13	3
Maximum count	6	1	5	2
Av max count prev 10 years	5	2	5	2
Recorded in BBS squares	3/28	0/18	2/5	0/2
Number of records	19	2	22	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.9	-	0.5	-
Max breeding evidence	D	-	FF	-

2019

An average year for the species in most respects however there were no autumn passage records.

Denbs. The first was around the typical arrival date of 19/04 with one at Llyn Brenig N (JPH). Before the end of the month a small flurry of records came from Moel y Parc, Llanerch and Llyn Cyfynwy, all of singing or displaying birds. Breeding bird surveys detected further sites at: Mynydd y Glyn, Ruabon Mountain, Clocaenog Forest, Berwyn NW with 6 on 7/06 (BBS) and Moel Findeg with 4 (2 pairs) on 1/06 (SD). Breeding was not confirmed this year.

Flints. Two records this year came from Connah's Quay NR with a single flying over calling on 30/04 (DWn) and one at Nercwys Mountain on 23/05 (DWn).



2020

Denbs. The first record was 2 near Llangollen on 15/04 (TK). Most records were gathered during May, with most counts of 1 to 3, and 4 at Moel Findeg on 8/05. There were four records during Jun of 2 or 3, with one count of 5 at the Ceiriog Forest on 14/06 (TK). The three records

in Jul included confirmed breeding in the Moel Findeg area on 12/07 (SD) and the last record was 2 at the Alwen Reservoir on 20/07 (DIHd).

Flints. The first record was 2 at Gronant dunes on 17/04 and the last was a single there on 7/05 (both JPH).

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* CORHEDYDD Y DWR
Winter visitor

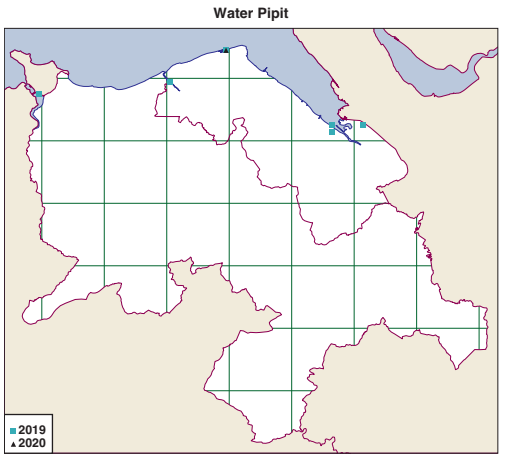
(WI)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	5		1
Maximum count	1	9		1
Av max count prev 10 years	1	2		2
Number of records	2	9	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.0	-		-

2019

Difficulties in separating this species from the Scandinavian race of Rock Pipit in winter likely masks a number of records.

Denbs. Singles were reported on two occasions at RSPB Conwy - 10/11 and 14/12 (pTW). After a number of years of regular wintering individuals on the reserve and estuary it was back to a more fallow year with few sightings.

Flints. Recorded from five sites this year, the best showing in modern times. Gronant had the most records with singles in the early and late winter periods but potentially up to 3 on 6/11 (WRM). These moved between the beach and dune

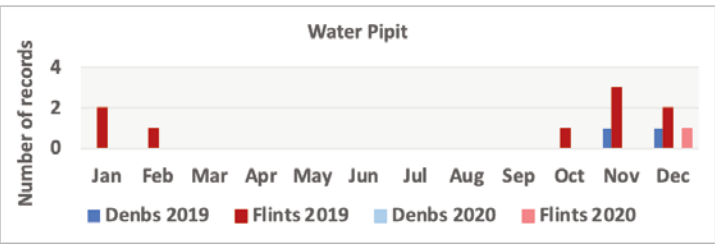


lagoons, tide depending. The peak of 9 was recorded at Shotwick Fields on 15/01 (GrJ), a record count in modern times (previous confirmed high of 2 in Flints). The Afon Clwyd

saltmarsh hosted a single on 5/12 (JPH) and the last record for the year was at Connah's Quay NR with a single on 9/12 (PeHa).

2020

Flints. There was a single at Gronant dunes on 2/12 (JPH).



Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*
Mainly winter visitor.

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

(RC)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	5	3	6	3
Maximum count	3	4	2	5
Av max count prev 10 years	4	4	4	4
Number of records	14	20	18	16
% of BirdTrack lists	1.1	-	1.0	-

2019

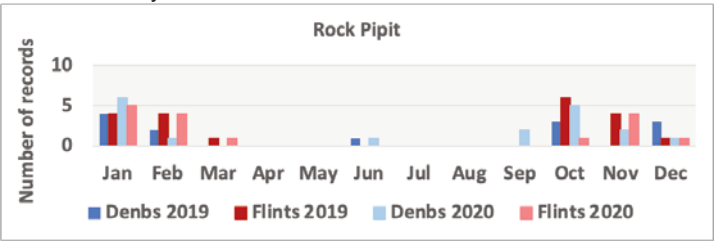
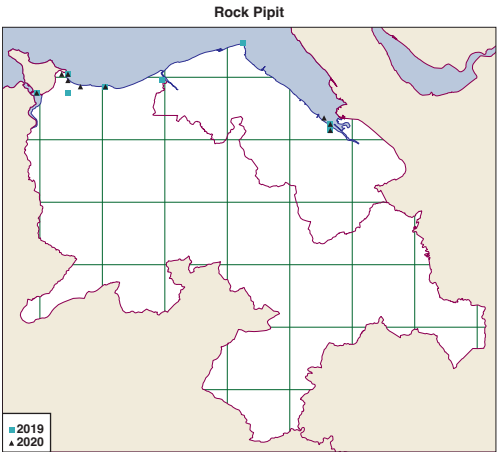
Denbs. Records in the early winter period were largely scattered along the coastline. Sites included RSPB Conwy on 8/01 (WRM), Llanddulas on 12/01 (WRM) and 2 at Kinmel Bay on 10/02 (EJB). A summer record from RSPB Conwy on 13/06 (pTW) was unseasonal and likely involved a breeding bird from outside the county dispersing. An interesting record came inland from Colwyn Heights where one was heard migrating over on 22/10 (HC). RSPB Conwy hosted singles on a number of dates in the late winter period.

Flints. After last year's influx into the county it was a more average year. All but two records were from Connah's Quay NR where singles in Jan rose to a couple seen in Feb, peaking at 4 from 21/03 to 23/03 (PeHa). Of the other sites, Point of Ayr had 2 flying over on a visible migration watch on 18/10 (DWN) and the late winter period saw a peak of 4 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh.

2020

Denbs. All records were of 1 or 2. The Jan records were all singles at coastal sites in the NW of our area. The first autumn record was 2 at RSPB Conwy on 13/09 (SvK). The other records of 1 or 2 were from RSPB Conwy between 30/09 and 3/11 (WRM) and the last record was a single at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 26/12.

Flints. The early year records were mainly 1 or 2 at Connah's Quay NR from 13/01 to 10/03 (DWN, PeHa) and there were 3 there on 15/01 (DWN). The autumn records were mainly singles, again at Connah's Quay NR (though one was at Flint on 14/11), between 18/10 and 15/12. There were 5 at Connah's Quay NR on 18/10 (PeHa).



Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*
Breeding resident.

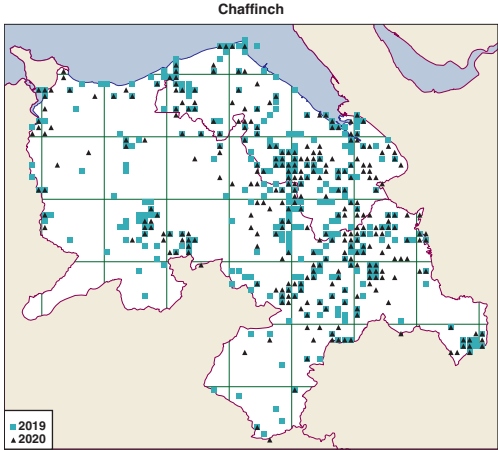
JI-BINC

(CH)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	211	133	203	120
Maximum count	100	811	100	130
Av max count prev 10 years	95	410	95	410
Recorded in BBS squares	26/28	17/18	3/5	2/2
Number of records	1149	819	1480	1543
% of records from GBW	52.31	22.47	63.13	52.72
% of BirdTrack lists	36.6	-	40.1	-
Max breeding evidence	NY	FL	FF	S

Recorded in each month in both counties in both years, but for one of our commonest species, there were only a few confirmed breeding records. The reporting rate for 2019 was very similar to that of 2018 but increased in 2020 due to the increase in garden birdwatching. The maximum counts in both counties were down slightly from 2018.

2019

Denbs. Most records were in single figures with eighty-six records in double figures of which only twenty records were of 20 or more birds. The largest BBS survey count was of 38 at Llangwm on



Chaffinch: Malcolm Down

1/06. The largest numbers in the first winter period were of 40 on 27/01; 50 on 20/01, both at Sontley, Wrexham (HCw) with the maximum count of 100 at Coedpoeth on 5/01 (GMT). In the second winter period the highest numbers were: 55 at Foel Plantation, Eglwyseg on 13/11 (JoG); 63 at Lleweni, Bodfari on 28/10 (JPH) and 80 at Llanrwst on 22/12 (NF). The highest GBW count was 19 at Ruabon in week beginning 18/08.

Flints. As in Denbs most of the counts were in single figures with one hundred and one records in double figures, of which over half were counts of over 20. There were thirty-one flocks of 50+ including fourteen which were 100 and above. All bar three of the counts over 50 came from Connah's Quay NR in both winter periods. In the first winter period the largest flock was of 200 on 22/01 (DWn). In the second winter period the highest counts were of 370 at Connah's Quay NR on 20/12 (PeHa) and the maximum of 811 (made up of flocks in the tens and twenties) was a visible migration count at Point of Ayr on 21/10 (DWn). The largest breeding survey count of 20 was along a stretch of river at St Asaph on a WBBS transect on 22/05. The highest GBW count was 14 in Buckley during the weeks beginning 27/01 and 17/11. Ringing activity at Bagillt resulted in 225 individuals that were caught over the year (GRMP) and 95 were ringed at Shotton (pBH).

2020

Denbs. Most records were in single figures with ninety-one records in double figures of which sixty were of 20 or more. There were fewer large flocks than in 2019 and the maximum count of 100 at Bettisfield on 14/02 (DIHd), was an exception. The highest GBW count was 22 at Bwlchgwyn in the week beginning 13/12.

Flints. As in Denbs most of the counts were in single figures with only fifty-two in double figures. There was only one count over 50, which was 130 at Connah's Quay NR on 22/01 (PeHa). The highest GBW counts were of 12 at Higher Kinnerton during the week beginning 16/02 and at Gwernymynydd in weeks beginning 15/11 and 20/12. Ringing activity at Bagillt resulted in 228 individuals having been caught over the year (GRMP) but only 10 were ringed at Shotton (pBH) and 9 in Sychdyn (IMS).

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Winter visitor. Amber List.

PINC Y MYNYDD

(BL)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	28	16	17	9
Maximum count	22	22	3	3
Av max count prev 10 years	96	37	96	37
Recorded in BBS squares	0/28	1/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	98	42	26	12
% of records from GBW	51.02	16.67	34.62	33.33
% of BirdTrack lists	1.7	-	0.7	-

In general numbers were down in 2019 and 2020 was a very poor year for records.

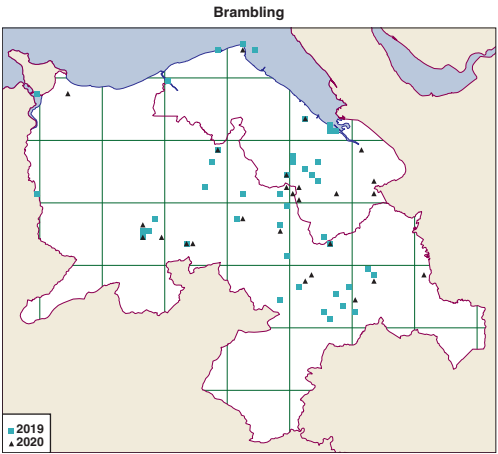
2019

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 majority of records were in single figures with fourteen records of 11 to 22. Most records came

from seven individual gardens at Bwlchgwyn, Llandegla, Trevor Hall (Llangollen), Acrefair (Ruabon), Erddig (Wrexham) and Llanarmon-yn-Ial. In the first winter period, this species was seen in the Bwlchgwyn garden almost weekly from Jan to the week beginning 28/04. The maximum yearly total of 22 was seen in this garden in week beginning 17/02. The latest sighting was of 2 in the garden at Trevor Hall in week beginning 5/05. In the autumn the first was seen at Trevor Hal on 15/09. Records were then very sporadic up to the end of the year.



Flints. Most records were in single figures. There were six records of 10 or more, all of which came from Devil's Gorge, Pantymwyn between 6/03 and 17/04. These records included the maximum of 22 on 12/04 (a single flock of 19 noisy birds plus 3 individuals) and the last record for the first winter period on 25/04 (GEM). Garden records came from the following locations: Mold, Rhydymwyn and Sychdyn. There were only four autumn and late winter period records. The first autumn record was on 21/10 at Point of Ayr (DWn). Four singles were ringed at Bagillt between 18/03 and 16/04 (GRMP).

2020

Seen in these months:

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

Denbs. There were no records above 3. Most garden records came from Bwlchgwyn including the maximum of 3, whilst there was an unusual summer record of a single in a garden at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 19/07.



Brambling: Tony Pope

Flints. All records were in single figures and the maxima were 2 flying over Queensferry on 16/10 and 3 at Maeshafn on 10/01 (WAO). There were garden records from Higher Kinnerton, Padeswood (these were both May records) and Gwernymynydd.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* GYLFINBRAFF
Winter visitor and possible breeding resident. Amber List. RBBP. S7.

	2019		2020	
(HF)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	5		3	
Maximum count	8		3	
Av max count prev 10 years	8		8	
Number of records	34	0	10	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	-	0.4	

There were a few more 2019 records in Denbs from only five sites but only ten records in 2020 from three sites. Breeding was thought probable at one site. There were no records from Flints.

2019

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

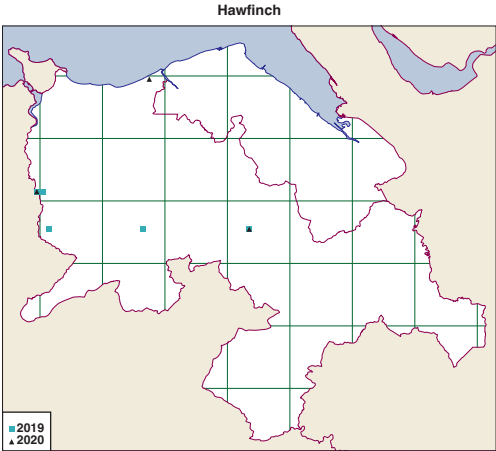
Denbs. Most records came in the first three months of the year. The majority of these were from Llanrwst. Of the twenty records of 2 or more, all bar two came from Llanrwst between 11/01 and 9/03. The maximum count was of 8 on 16/01. Other sightings came from only three locations: Capel Garmon, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Bron Y Clwyd. Breeding was indicated at Capel Garmon on 11/06 when a female was thought to be feeding a chick in a churchyard yew tree. In the second winter period there were only three sightings of a single at Llanrwst between 22/12 and 30/12.

2020

Seen in these months:

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

was seen on 8/02 (TBT) and then 2 on 12/02 (Nhu). An unusual record of a single was in Towyn town centre on 20/04 and 21/04 (SM).



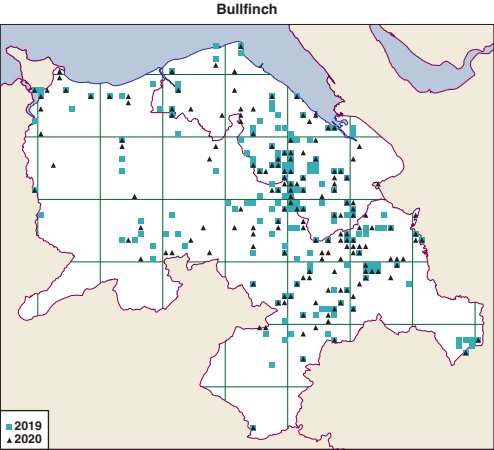
Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* COCH Y BERLLAN
Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

	2019		2020	
(BF)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Common	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	112	71	111	60
Maximum count	7	12	8	9
Av max count prev 10 years	11	10	11	10
Recorded in BBS squares	11/28	10/18	3/5	0/2
Number of records	273	380	410	564
% of records from GBW	35.16	32.89	42.06	49.57
% of BirdTrack lists	12.5	-	15.7	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	FL	FL	-

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties in 2019 but only Denbs in 2020. There was a large increase in records from gardens in both years. The overall number of records and their distribution in 2019 was very similar to 2018 but increased significantly in 2020.

2019

Denbs. All records were in single figures, mostly 1 to 2. However, there were thirty-one records of 3 or more. The maximum was a record of 7 at RSPB Conwy on 26/05 (PhG). About one third of the records came from ten gardens on dates



Bullfinch: John Hawkins

throughout the year: Acrefair (Ruabon), Bryneglwys (Ruabon), Burton, Bwlchgwyn, Llanarmon-yn-lal, Marford, Moss (Wrexham), Plas Newydd (Llangollen), Ruabon and Trevor Hall (Llangollen). There was only one record of confirmed breeding which was near Rhos-y-brithdir on 25/05.

Flints. Most records were in single figures with the majority between 1 and 2. There were one hundred and thirty-six records of between 3 and 9. Five records were in double figures with the maximum of 12 seen at Devil's Gorge, Pantymwyn on 20/10 (GEM). A third of records came from gardens. There were only two sites where confirmed breeding was recorded: Rhydymwyn and Devil's Gorge, Pantymwyn. In total, 34 were ringed: at Bagillt (18 by GRMP), Rhydymwyn (15 by IMS) and Shotton Steelworks (1 by pBH).

2020

Denbs. All records were in single figures, mostly 1 to 2. However, there were forty-nine records of 3 or more. The maximum was of two records of 8, one at RSPB Conwy on 1/02 (SD) and the other at Aberduna NR on 1/09. Just under a half of the records came from twenty-one gardens on dates throughout the year: Abergele, Acrefair (Ruabon), Bryneglwys (Ruabon), Bwlchgwyn, Dolwyd, Eglwysbach, Graigfechan, Gwern-bwys (nr Llangernyw), Llanarmon-yn-lal, Llandrillo-yn-Rhos, Marford, Moss (Wrexham), Pentrecelyn (Rhuthun), Pentre Maelor (Wrexham), Penycae (Ruabon), Plas Newydd (Llangollen), Rhosrobin (Wrexham), RSPB Conwy, Ruabon and Tanyfron (nr Brymbo). There were several records of confirmed breeding.

Flints. Most records were in single figures with the majority between 1 and 2. There were one hundred and thirteen records of between 3 and 9. The maximum of 9 was recorded at Gwernymynydd on 20/09 and on 9/12 at Pantymwyn (GEM). Exactly half of the records came from fifteen gardens: Buckley (three gardens), Caergwrle, Caerwys, Cilcain, Flint, Gwernymynydd, Holywell, Hope, Lower Klnnerton, Mold, Padeswood, Pantymwyn, Rhydymwyn and Sychdyn. Fewer birds were ringed this year but 25 were ringed over the year at Pentrefelin (pBH).

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*
Breeding resident. Amber List.

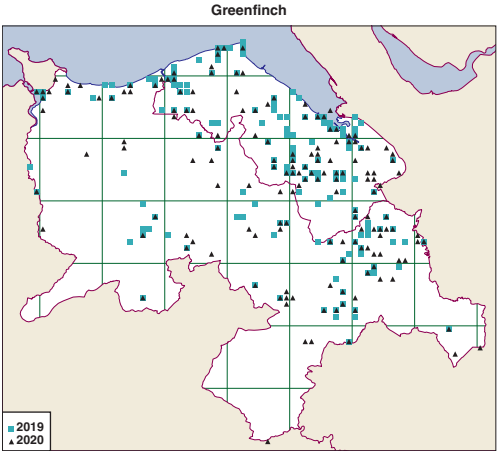
LLINOS WERDD

(GR)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	67	85	88	73
Maximum count	15	60	13	80
Av max count prev 10 years	44	47	44	47
Recorded in BBS squares	6/28	10/18	1/5	1/2
Number of records	463	536	702	1068
% of records from GBW	61.34	25.00	72.01	47.58
% of BirdTrack lists	17.5	-	14.5	-
Max breeding evidence	T	FL	FL	FL

Recorded in each month with the total number of records dropping slightly in 2019 but mainly in Flints. This situation was reversed in 2020 mainly due to more garden bird recording.

2019

Denbs. The majority of records were in single figures with just five records of 10 or more. These larger counts included 12 in Towyn town centre on 11/01 (SM) and the maximum of 15 was seen in Llanrwst on 26/01 (TyC) and again at the same location on 22/12 (NF). No large flocks were recorded. Only 20% of BBS surveys recorded Greenfinch compared to 33% in 2018. Almost one third of the records came from fourteen garden locations at Acrefair (Ruabon), Bryneglwys, Burton, Coedpoeth, Erddig (Wrexham), Llanarmon-yn-lal, Llanarmon-yn-lal W, Marford, Moss (Wrexham), Penycae (Wrexham), Ruabon, Trefnant, Trevor and Trevor Hall (Llangollen). None were ringed this year.



Flints. Most records were of 9 or fewer, with twenty-three counts of 10 or more. Most of these higher counts came from coastal areas between Aug and Dec. The maximum count of 60 was recorded on a visible migration visit at the Point of Ayr on 21/10 (DWn). There were very few breeding season records other than the BBS surveys, with the highest count of 8 recorded at the gas terminal, Talacre on 18/06. There were four records of confirmed breeding from four locations (Flint, Rhydymwyn, Rhyl and Tremeirchion, all were of sightings of recently fledged young). Ringing sessions at Bagillt captured 252 full-grown birds, a significant increase from



Greenfinch: Andy Davis

2018, 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. A further 17 were ringed at Shotton Steelworks (pBH).

2020

Denbs. The majority of records were in single figures with just two records of 10 or more. These counts were of 10 at Llanrwst on 8/01 (JFJ) and 13 at Nant y Glyn on 23/03 (HC). Almost three quarters of the records came from twenty-seven gardens spread across the county. At Pentrefelin (Conwy Valley), 34 were ringed on dates throughout the year (pBH).

Flints. Most records were in single figures, with forty-nine counts of 10 or more. Sixteen flocks of between 20 and 50 were seen at Connah's Quay NR and at Pantymwyn. WRM saw a large flock of 65 in the reedbed system at Gronant dunes on 22/01 and the maximum count of 80 at the same location on 10/01. These were the largest flocks seen for several years. Almost half of the records came from twenty-six gardens spread across the county. Ringing sessions at Bagillt captured 321 full-grown birds on various dates throughout the year, an increase again on previous years (GRMP). In Sychdyn, IMS caught 31 fullgrown individuals over the year.

Twite *Linaria flavirostr*
Winter visitor. Amber List. S7.

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

(TW)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Common	Scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares		10	1	8
Maximum count		63	3	80
Av max count prev 10 years		106	21	106
Number of records	0	93	1	79

In Flints the number of records and their distribution was very similar to the previous few years.

2019

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. Most sightings were in Jan to Apr with numbers peaking in Feb and Mar. Half of the records were in single figures and the rest were between 10 and 63. Birds were most regularly reported from Connah's Quay NR. All the remainder of records, with the exception of 3 seen at Rhuddlan on 15/02 (SNI), were also at coastal locations along the Dee estuary to Gronant and Talacre. The larger flocks of over 20 were recorded at Connah's Quay NR between 24/01 and 31/03. Numbers tailed off in Apr and the last sighting was of 12 on 21/04



Twite: Andy Davis

(PeHa). The maximum of 63 was seen on 19/02 (PeHa). Only 11 were ringed this year between 22/02 and 23/03. The first returning birds of the autumn/winter period were of 3 seen in the Point of Ayr car park on 21/10 (DWn), and birds were not recorded at Connah's Quay NR until a week later.

2020

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 record of 3 seen at Llety Ifan (Clwydian Range) on 17/10.

Flints. Most sightings were in Jan to Mar with numbers peaking in Feb and Mar. Nineteen records were in single figures but most counts were mainly between 10 and 30 at Connah's Quay NR where this species was regularly monitored. A few other sightings came from Point of Ayr, Flint saltmarsh and Gronant dunes but the maximum counts were of 75 and 80 at Bagillt (Dee estuary) on 27/12 and 11/12 respectively (GRMP). The last record of the 19/20 winter was on 23/03. No birds were ringed this year because of Covid restrictions. In the summer/autumn two early records were of 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 26/08 and 18 at Point of Ayr on 14/09 but regular sightings did not occur until mid-Oct.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*
Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

LLINOS

Recorded in each month and breeding was confirmed in both counties. Again, there was a slight decrease in the number of records in both counties and sightings came from fewer sites in Denbs, where there were no flocks of over 100 seen this year.

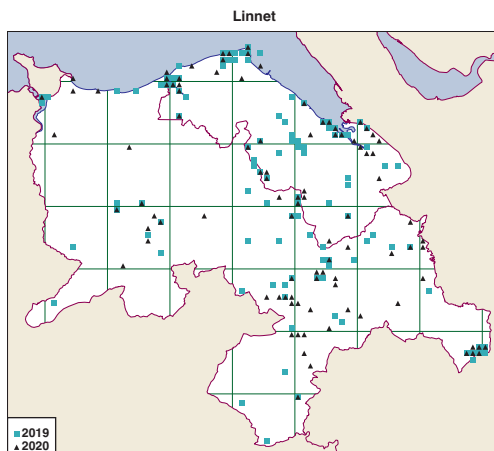
2019

Denbs. Most records were in single figures with only fourteen records in double figures. The

	2019		2020	
(LI)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	58	50	60	37
Maximum count	80	161	90	200
Av max count prev 10 years	199	217	199	217
Recorded in BBS squares	7/28	5/18	0/5	1/2
Number of records	150	336	147	259
% of BirdTrack lists	13.9	-	14.2	-
Max breeding evidence	FL	FL	FL	FL

larger sized flocks were between 16 and 80, which included a single flock of 50 seen on Moel Arthur on 26/08 (GEM) with the maximum recorded on a BirdTrack walk at Graianrhyd on 24/08 (SD). There were four records of confirmed breeding: a distraction display was seen near Llansylin on 28/05 (JO) and three sightings of recently fledged young were at seen Mynydd Hiraethog on 19/06 (WRM), Alyn Waters CP on 27/06 (AB) and Llyn Brenig on 29/06 (WRM).

Flints. The majority of records were in single figures. There were one hundred and twenty-nine counts in double figures and five of these were 100 or more. These were 100 at Gronant dunes on 3/01



Linnet: Tony Pope

(WRM), 100-120 seen on three dates at Connah's Quay NR in early Dec (PeHa and DWn). The maximum count of 161 was recorded on Afon Clwyd saltmarsh near Rhyl on 2/10 (JPH). Confirmed breeding came from three sites. Adults feeding young in the nest were seen on Halkyn Mountain on 10/06. Then, recently fledged young were seen at Rhyl on both 16/06 and 14/07 (WRM) and at Gronant on 24/06 and 11/07 (WRM).

2020

Denbs. Most records were in single figures with only twenty records in double figures. The largest flocks were of 54 at Glyn Ceiriog on 5/04 (TK) and 90 at Moel Mynydd on 3/04 (JoG). There were four records of confirmed breeding: a distraction display was seen near Rhewl on 16/06 (JoG) and three sightings of recently fledged young were at seen Llanfair Talhaiarn on 24/06 (Alison Craig), Llansilin on 16/07 (JO) and Moel Arthur on 12/07 (GEM).

Flints. The majority of records were in single figures. There were one hundred and nine counts in double figures and four of these were 100 or more. These were 100 at Point of Ayr on 10/11 (SK), 118 seen near Rhyl on 27/08 and 132 at the same location on 12/07 (JPH) and the maximum of 200 on the Deeside Industrial Estate on 27/10 (WAO). Confirmed breeding only came from one site: recently fledged young were seen near Rhyl on 18/08 (WRM).

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*
Breeding resident. Amber List. S7.

LLINOS BENGGOCH FECHAN

	2019		2020	
(LR)	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	55	17	42	9
Maximum count	30	12	42	15
Av max count prev 10 years	42	24	42	24
Recorded in BBS squares	5/28	2/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	110	49	95	22
% of records from GBW	24.55	24.49	35.00	37.50
% of BirdTrack lists	5.7	-	2.6	-
Max breeding evidence	FL	P	FL	-

Recorded in all months in both counties. Although the number of records was very similar to that in 2018, the overall number of birds and the number of sites from which the records came were down on 2018. Breeding was confirmed in Denbs in both years.

2019

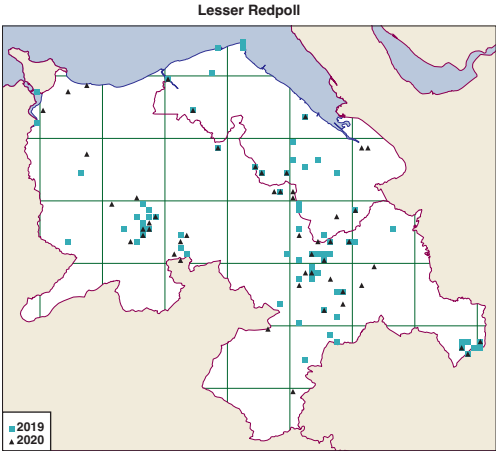
Denbs. There were only ten counts of 10 or more. The largest numbers, all occurring in winter, were of 20 at Froncysyllte on 8/01, 20 at Fenn's Moss on 4/12 (RbHa), 20 at Chirk Castle on 24/11 and a feeding flock of 30 in silver birch coppice at the same site on 4/11 (ChTw). The maximum number was 30 and another flock that size was seen at Bwlchgwyn on 1/01 (SD). Records from gardens were few this year. There were several sightings of singles and pairs in the breeding season, but breeding was only confirmed at Llyn Brenig on 24/05 when a flock of 5, including recently fledged young, was seen. This species seemed to be present in the Llyn Brenig area all year round.

Flints. All records were in single figures with the exception of 12 seen at Rhydymwyn on 4/02 (AB). Records were scattered from a number of inland sites including several records of 1 to 2 from gardens in late spring and summer. Regular sightings occurred at Devil's Gorge, Pantymwyn throughout the year (GEM). The few coastal records were from Point of Ayr, Rhyl and Bagillt where 5 were ringed (GRMP).

2020

Denbs. There were only eight counts of 10 or more. The largest numbers all occurred outside the breeding season. In central Wrexham, 40 were seen on 30/12 (HCw) and 42 seen at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 13/10 (JPH). Records from gardens were few again this year. Breeding was confirmed (recently fledged young) at Llyn Brenig on 14/07 (WRM) and Llyn Bran, Mynydd Hiraethog on 17/07 (MaO). A total of 47 fullgrown was caught at Pentrefelin in the autumn and winter months.

Flints. All records were in single figures with the exception of 11 seen at St Asaph on 24/10 and 15 at Llanfynydd on 12/11 (GNR). Sightings only came from eight locations with several records of an individual coming from a garden at Hope during spring and early summer. At Bagillt, 5 were ringed during the late autumn (GRMP).



Lesser Redpoll: Tony Pope

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

GYLFINGROES

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

(CR)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Scarce	Common	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	36	3	33	6
Maximum count	40	10	30	60
Av max count prev 10 years	77	12	77	12
Recorded in BBS squares	2/28	0/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	63	5	59	13
% of BirdTrack lists	2.9	-	3.3	-
Max breeding evidence	FL	-	FL	-

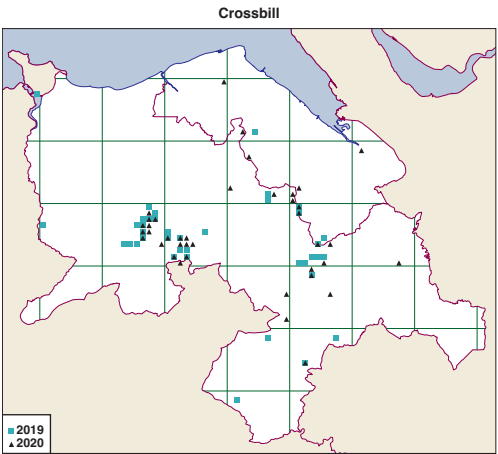
The number of records and the number of sites from which the records came almost halved in these two years compared to 2018.

2019

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 majority of records were in single figures with twelve records of 10 or more, only five of which were 20 or more. The highest three counts were 30 at Craig Bron Bannog, Clocaenog Forest on 26/01 (TyC), 37 at Llyn Brenig on 22/02 (PEM) and the maximum of 40, again in



Crossbill: John Hawkins

Clocaenog Forest at Nilig, on 18/02 (GrJ). Breeding was confirmed at Coed Hafod when WRM saw a male with a juvenile begging for food on 4/06.

Flints. Of the five records received, four were from Nercwys Forest, which is still the site where sightings are the most predictable. The maximum number of 10 was from Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog on 26/03 (GRMP).

2020

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 majority of records were in single figures with fourteen records of 10 or more, only three of which exceeded 20. The highest count was of 30 at Llyn Brenig on 27/02 (Paul Miller) with 25 at Nilig,

Clocaenog Forest on 8/02 (GrJ) and 27 at Bwlch Penbarras, Moel Famau on 12/01. Breeding was confirmed at Craig Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest and in forest above the Britannia Inn, Llangollen. Both records were of recently fledged young.

Flints. Most of the thirteen records received came from Gwernymynydd and Nercwys Forest. Only three were in double figures with the maximum recorded of 60 at Gwernymynydd on 22/06.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Breeding resident.

NICO

(GO)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	181	133	175	135
Maximum count	50	120	130	200
Av max count prev 10 years	72	154	72	154
Recorded in BBS squares	25/28	17/18	3/5	2/2
Number of records	976	1226	1451	1896
% of records from GBW	53.28	20.55	62.46	43.73
% of BirdTrack lists	36.8	-	42.1	-
Max breeding evidence	FL	ON	ON	S

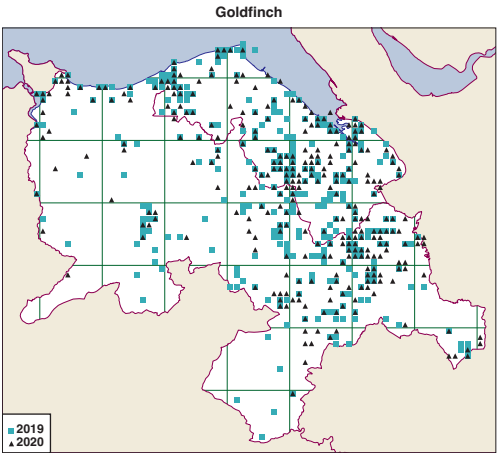
Recorded in each month in both counties, with numbers of records and the total number of birds from 2019 slightly better than 2018 but vastly increased in 2020. There was little pattern in the monthly maxima this year. The post-breeding peak in numbers was noted in Flints but not in Denbs. This is a common bird at garden feeders, most notably in Denbs where over half of the records were from gardens. The largest numbers were mainly seen in the late summer, autumn and early winter.

2019

Denbs. Most of the counts were in single figures. The number of counts between 10 and 20 was sixty-three, with only eight larger counts. There were two counts of 50 on two occasions (2/01 and 26/01) at Towyn (SM), which was the maximum for the year.

Flints. Most of the counts were in single figures. There were one hundred and thirty-four counts of 10 to 20, and forty-six counts of 21+. The majority of the larger counts were seen in the

winter months but the three largest were in the late summer and early autumn. At Talacre, 65 were seen feeding on teasels on 23/09 (AB), 75 were at Rhyl on 13/08 with the maximum of 120 at the same site on 1/08 (WRM). This was yet another extraordinary year for ringing. There were 603 full-grown birds captured at Bagillt with 39 on one day, 3/10 (GRMP). The numbers caught at Shotton Steelworks were down this year, where, in total, 109 were ringed (pBH). At Rhydymwyn 16 full-grown birds were ringed between May and Sep (IMS, GRMP). Whilst birds were caught at these sites throughout the year, the larger catches were in the late summer and autumn months.



2020

Denbs. Most of the counts were in single figures. One hundred and fourteen counts were between 10 and 20 with eighteen larger counts. The three largest counts were of 48 at Llewenni Hall, Bodfari on 18/08 (JPH), 52 on Moel Arthur on 12/08 (GEM) with the maximum of 139 at Pentre Maelor, Wrexham on 25/08 (HC). A total of 324 fullgrown birds was ringed at Pentre Felin, Conwy Valley, mainly between Sep and Dec (pBH).

Flints. Most of the counts were in single figures but two hundred and twenty-eight counts of



Goldfinch: Andy Davis

10 or more, of which fifty-seven counts were of 21+. The majority of the larger counts were seen in the autumn and winter months. The three largest were in autumn: 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 20/09 (PeHa), 100 at Point of Ayr on 2/10 (SvK) and the maximum of 200 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 9/10 (PeHa). For the second year running, extraordinary numbers were caught at Bagillt: 807 full-grown birds, and 693 of those were newly ringed individuals (GRMP). At Sychdyn 33 fullgrown birds were ringed (IMS).

Siskin
Spinus spinus
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

PILA GWYRDD

(SK)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	99	46	82	37
Maximum count	80	911	150	54
Av max count prev 10 years	58	154	58	154
Recorded in BBS squares	6/28	2/18	0/5	0/2
Number of records	364	155	342	159
% of records from GBW	49.73	21.94	53.91	36.90
% of BirdTrack lists	11.3	-	8.8	-
Max breeding evidence	FF	FL	FL	-

Recorded in each month and breeding was likely or confirmed in both counties. In Denbs, the number of records increased slightly from 2018. The distribution of records was much the same as in previous years.

2019

Denbs. The majority of records were in single figures with thirty-nine counts of 10 or more. About half of the records came from forest sites and the rest from gardens at Acrefair (Ruabon), Bryneglwys, Burton, Erddig (Wrexham), Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Llandegla, Marford, Ruabon, Trevor Hall (Llangollen) and Wrexham. Records regularly came from Llyn Brenig and the maximum count of 80 on 28/02 came from this site (MHu). Confirmed breeding records were from near Chirk and at Llyn Brenig.

Flints. The majority of records were in single figures with seventeen records in double figures mostly between 10 and 30. About 20% of records came from gardens, even fewer than in previous years. Visible migration at Point of Ayr in autumn brought the highest numbers: 197 on 18/10 and an amazing 911 on 21/10 (DWn). On 18/10 there were single flocks of 47, 22 and 18, all flocks appeared to fly east and out over the Dee estuary to the Wirral. On 21/10 there was a constant stream of birds moving east all morning including flocks of 48, 46 and 42. At Bagillt, 108 were ringed between 11/02 and 19/04 (GRMP). On a single day, 16/04, 19



Siskin: Tony Pope

fullgrown birds were caught. Breeding was confirmed at Pantymwyn and Rhydymwyn.

2020

Denbs. The majority of records were in single figure with forty counts of 10 or more. About half of the records came from forest sites and the rest from gardens at similar locations to 2019. The three largest counts were of 80 at Llyn Brenig on 17/03 (SuHa) and 100 also at Llyn Brenig on 27/02 and the maximum of 150 in Glyn Ceiriog on 28/02 (NDg), when a large noisy flock flew around the village settling on trees.

Flints. The majority of records were in single figures with only ten records in double figures. The three largest counts were of 40 at Nercwys on 5/02 (DWn), 45 at Gwernymynydd on 31/08 and the maximum number of 54 at Hawarden on 17/01 (DWn). An increase in records from gardens this year were likely to be the result of more garden birdwatching during the pandemic.

Lapland Bunting
Calcarius lapponicus
Winter visitor. Amber List.

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

(LA)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1		1
Maximum count		2		1
Av max count prev 10 years		1		1
Number of records	0	1	0	1

2019

Flints. There was just one record of two birds seen flying low E and calling at Gronant on 2/11 (DWn).

Flints. There was one record of a single at Gronant dunes on 17/09 (WRM).

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*
Winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

BRAS YR EIRA

(SB)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	1	7	1
Maximum count	3	2	3	2
Av max count prev 10 years	8	3	8	3
Number of records	2	2	45	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-	2.0	-

Very few records in 2019 but an increase in Denbs. in 2020. All sightings were in the latter part of the year from the coast.

2019

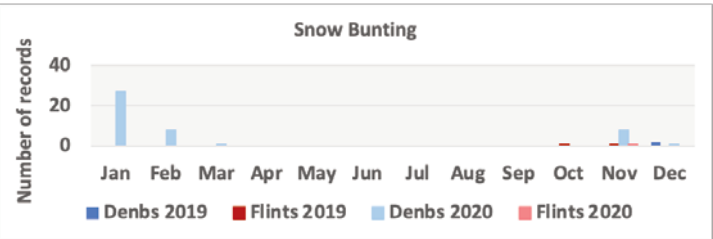
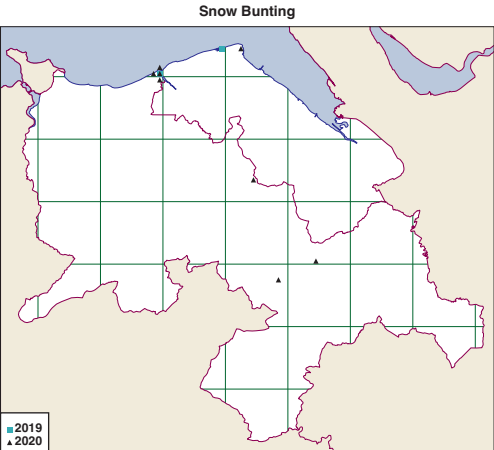
Denbs. There were two records, both at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay. One was seen on 22/12 (JPH) and then 3 on 31/12 (KBr).

Flints. Two were seen at Gronant dunes on 31/10 and again the next day, 1/11 (WRM).

2020

Denbs. Apart from three records of singles at Horseshoe Pass, Eclusham, Ruabon Mountain and Llangynhafal, all the remaining records were from the Kinmel Bay/Horton's Nose area. Sightings were in Jan-early Mar or Nov. No more than two individuals were seen at any one time. The last record of the 2019/20 winter was of 1 at Kinmel Bay on 8/03 (JPH) and the first of the following winter was of 2 at Kinmel Bay on 11/11 and 1 at Horseshoe Pass the same day.

Flints. Two were seen at Point of Ayr on 14/11 (PDJ).



Snow Bunting: Tony Pope

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*
Former resident. Red List.

BRAS YR YD

(CB)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares			2	
Maximum count			19	
Av max count prev 10 years			0	
Number of records	0	0	7	0
% of BirdTrack lists			0.2	

2020

Denbs. These are the first records since 2015. They were all from the same location at Bettisfield between 10 and 12/12. Here an amazing flock of 19 was seen on 11/12 (NF). Accepted by the WBRC.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*
Breeding resident. Red List. S7.

BRAS MELYN

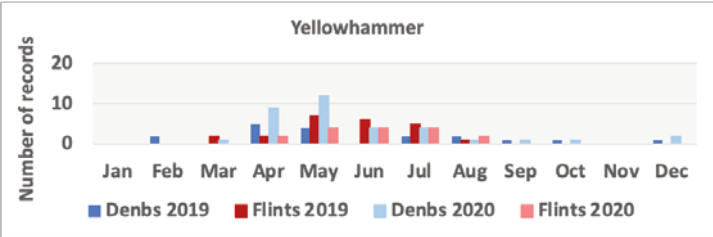
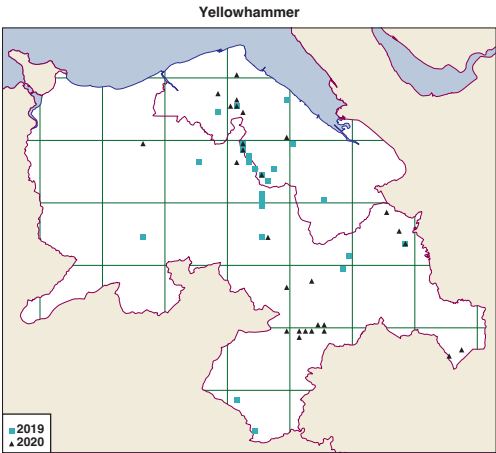
(Y)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	13	11	18	10
Maximum count	2	6	4	2
Av max count prev 10 years	12	14	12	14
Number of records	18	23	35	16
% of records from GBW	0.00	21.74	-	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.9	-	1.2	-
Max breeding evidence	NE	P	P	H

Unfortunately, the total number of Denbs records was down again in 2019 but increased in 2020. In Flints, the number of records continued to decline over both years. This highlighted the scarcity of this once common farmland bird. The Clwydian Range is still the main location for this species. Breeding was only confirmed in Denbs in 2019. The monthly pattern of sightings was extremely similar in both years.

2019

Denbs. No more than 2 were seen at any one time. Most of the records were in the breeding season in suitable habitat but breeding was only confirmed near Rhos-y-brithdir, S of the Tanat valley and in the Berwyns.

Flints. There were only six records of more than 2. The maximum count of 6 was recorded on Penycloddiau on 25/05 (EdW). A single frequented a garden in Cilcain in May



Yellowhammer: Tony Pope

and Jun and a pair was seen during the breeding season not too far away on 31/05, indicating that breeding probably took place there (GEM).

2020

Denbs. Most records were of 1 or 2 but there were four records of 4 seen at four different sites from spring to autumn.

Flints. All records were of 1 or 2 and were in the breeding season although no evidence of breeding was seen.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* Breeding Resident. Amber List. S7.

BRAS CYRS

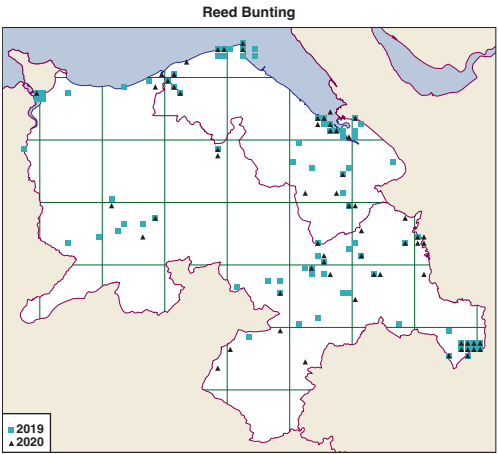
(RB)	2019		2020	
	Denbs	Flints	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Uncommon	Fairly common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	50	34	40	23
Maximum count	26	22	12	12
Av max count prev 10 years	13	14	13	14
Recorded in BBS squares	4/28	2/18	2/5	1/2
Number of records	178	222	141	150
% of records from GBW	2.81	0.45	0.00	1.18
% of BirdTrack lists	13.7	-	8.5	-
Max breeding evidence	FL	NY	FF	T

Recorded in each month in both counties. Numbers of reports in Denbs were down in 2019 and continued to decline on 2020. However, records were more widely distributed in 2019. Breeding was confirmed in both counties in 2019 but only probable in Flints in 2020.

2019

Denbs. Sightings mainly came from three sites: RSPB Conwy, Erddig, Wrexham and the Fenn's Moss area. Most records were in single figures, with four of 10 or more, all seen at Fenn's Moss. An unusual sighting of a flock of 26 feeding on thistles was seen on 4/12 (RbHa). A single came to a garden at Moss, near Wrexham in the weeks beginning 6/01, 3/02 and 10/03. Breeding was confirmed at Fenn's Moss when RbHa saw recently fledged young on 5/09. Four were ringed at Morfa Uchaf SSSI in the Conwy Valley (pBH).

Flints. Sightings were mainly from coastal sites and around the Dee estuary. Inland records were from Fagl Lane (Hope), Lane End Buckley, Rhosesmor and Rhydymwyn. Most records



were in single figures with seven records of 10 or more. Five of these larger counts came from Gronant dunes where the maximum was of 22 on 24/06 when WRM noted adults carrying food at three separate locations, within the site. Three were ringed at Shotton (pBH) and 2 at Rhydymwyn (IMS).

2020

Denbs. Sightings came from relatively few sites: mainly RSPB Conwy, Erddig, Wrexham, Holt and the Fenn's Moss area. Most records were in single figures, with only one in double figures: 12 at Erddig pool, Wrexham on 12/06 (Nhu) where breeding was confirmed.

Flints. Sightings were mainly from coastal sites and around the Dee estuary. There were only seven inland records which were from Fagl Lane (Hope), Lane End Buckley, near Gwernymynydd and Padeswood. Most records were in single figures with four records of 10 or more. At Gronant dunes, 10 were seen on 23/06 (SvK) and 11 on 8/07 (WRM) and at Connah's Quay NR, PeHa saw 10 on 15/12 and the maximum of 12 on 18/10.

Category E species

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* GWYDD YR EIRA
Rare vagrant or escape.

2019
Flints. A lone white morph bird was recorded at Connah's Quay NR on dates from 2-7/06 and again on 20/07 (PeHa, DWn). This may well be the same bird as that recorded during 2018.

2020
Flints. Whilst we have had a genuine Snow Goose turn up on the Dee estuary in 2018, a bird seen at Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere on 5/08 (SvK) is not likely to have been a truly wild bird.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* ALARCH DDU

2020
Denbs. One was at RSPB Conwy on four dates between 2/08-24/08.

Flints. One at Shotwick Fields on the 15/03 was in Wales.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* HWYADEN FWSG

2020
Flints. At Caerwys 11 were noted on 23/07.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* IAR GINI HELMOG

2020
Flints. A single was roaming the fields near Plas Bellin on 26/01.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* PAUN

2020
Denbs. A total of 10 was noted at Bodelwyddan on 11/02 (JPH).

2020

The expansion of this species in the area compared to nearby counties seems slow paced and no one site seems reliable to encounter it, although Llanasa has had records for the last two years.

Flints. A single was noted at Llanasa on 13/03 and 3 were at Gwaenysgor on 2/04.



(C) John Tilt (Butterfly Conservation)

Straddling the Welsh/English border (VC Denbighshire and Shropshire) is an approximately 2,400 acre/1,000 hectare SSSI/NNR locally referred to as 'The Moss'. This term generalizes actually four distinct moss sites: in Wales, Fenn's Moss and part of Bettisfield Moss, 800 acres (c.324 ha), and Cadney Moss (now lost to agriculture/forestry) and, in England, Whixall Moss, c.680 acres (c.275 ha), Wem Moss, 70 acres (c.28 ha), and the remaining half of Bettisfield Moss. Additionally the 'site' is designated as a European Special Area of Conservation and a Wetland of International Importance (Figure 1).

The Mosses are all part of the same geological Moss complex, formed after the last Ice Age, and all are acidic ombrotrophic raised bogs: meaning that any derived water is only from rain. The site supports nearly 2,000 species of invertebrate, including Large Heath butterfly *Coenonympha tullia*, White-faced Darter *Leucorrhinia dubia*, Bog-bush Cricket *Metrioptera brachyptera*, as well as 18 species of sphagnum bogmoss, Sundews *Drosera sp.* and Lesser Bladderworts *Utricularia sp.*. Recently, the rare Money Spider *Carorita limnaea*, the nationally scarce jumping spider *Sitticus caricis*, and the Cotton's Amazon Spider *Glyphesis cottonae*, have been recorded or re-recorded after long absences. Reptiles present include Adder *Vipera berus*, Common Lizard *Zootoca vivipara* and Slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*.

Fenn's and Whixall Mosses are currently half-way through an extensive restoration programme, a multi-million pound package of improvements to re-wet and improve the biological function

of the mosses for increased carbon capture, which is funded through a European LIFE and Heritage Lottery-funded Marches Mosses BogLIFE project².

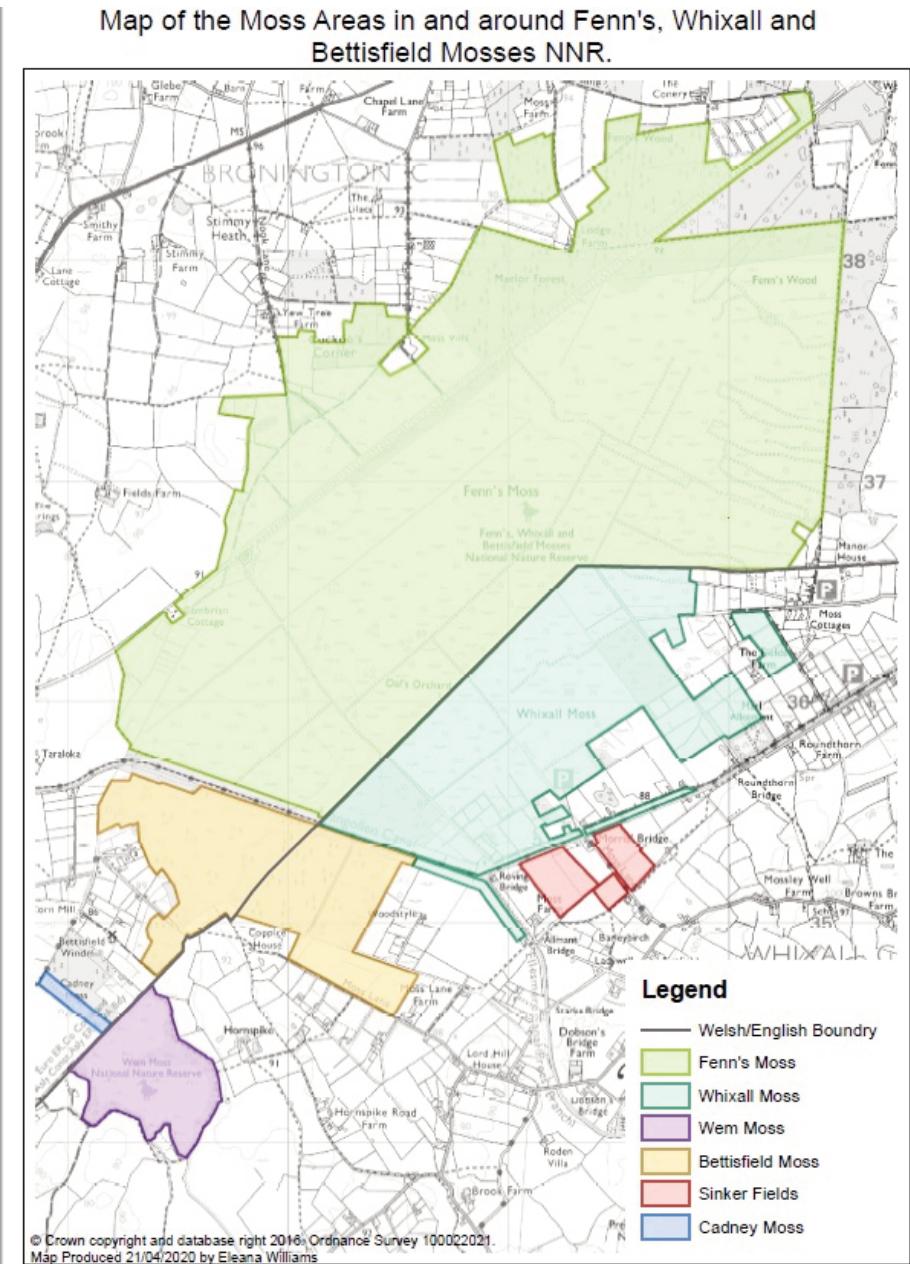


Figure 1. Map of the Fens.

Also, co-incidental with the Moss but not actually part of it, are the Shropshire Wildlife Trust's newly acquired Sinker's Fields² (12 hectares, see Figure 1). These fields previously only flooded in the winter months but now, due to a number of reasons, are wet to some degree, all year. Planned hydrological works are being implemented to control water levels for wildlife and to protect nearby properties. A large number of birds, particularly Curlew, passage waders, and winter wildfowl (Teal, Wigeon, Pintail, Shoveler) use this site as well as the nearby mosses.

Birding the Moss is challenging - one day can be extremely rewarding with the next being exactly the opposite. Generally speaking, the site has two/three different birding habitats. First, there is the 'edge' habitat consisting of older more mature trees and complex scrub, followed by the extensive, open, relatively dry areas of moss - Birch bush *Betula sp.*, Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and Purple-moor Grass *Molinia caerulea*, and then the increasingly large area that is becoming progressively wetter - supporting cotton-sedges *Eriophorum sp.*, cranberries *Vaccinium sp.*, Bog Rosemary *Andromeda polifolia* and Bog Asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*. Nearby Sinker's Fields have good birding potential when the fields are wet, or are draining, providing extended 'scrape-like' areas.

Typically, bird records for the Moss concentrate on the rare or infrequent - the passing harrier, Short-eared Owl, Great Grey Shrike, Merlin and Hobby - and these have every day of their presence recorded, while potentially breeding Stonechat and other commoner /daily species are hardly recorded.

Several bird reports have been produced for Fenn's and Whixall Mosses over the years⁴⁻⁶. These reports have relied upon, predominantly, casual records from any source (which will have missed any nocturnal species). Then there have been specific surveys e.g. complete BBS in 1988, 1995 and 1996 and partial surveys annually thereafter. WeBS surveys have been done from 1995 to date. Detailed Common Bird Censuses (CBC) were undertaken in 1995 and 1996. More specific surveys have been performed, e.g. BTO Breeding Waders of Wet Grassland, 2010, returns from the local Pheasant shoot and, since 2010, via the activities of Shropshire Ringing Group. Other ad-hoc, but more frequent surveys have been performed for Curlew and Nightjar by Natural England staff and volunteers.

In 2019 a new regular site survey was initiated with three transects walked monthly covering much of the site; with results then split into Welsh and English records (and all submitted using BTO BirdTrack to the relevant County Recorders). These surveys, together with miscellaneous observations reported to Natural England staff, and records via Shropshire Bird News (WhatsApp), @sosbirds (Twitter), BirdTrack and WeBS demonstrate that a comprehensive list of birds seen across the site is achievable.

In the early years, 1971-1994, a total of 136 species was recorded and included such rarities as Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* (May 1995), Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* (July 1995) and Richard's Pipit (October 1992 and 1994) with potential nesting Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* (pre-1998). Birds on passage included Golden and Grey Plover, Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit and Whimbrel. All five owls, all resident except Short-eared, were recorded, as were all three woodpeckers. Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and Wood Warbler were infrequent visitors. A comprehensive bird list is being prepared.

For the second report, 1971-2010, the site species list rose to 149. Many of these were short-staying rarities - Arctic Tern (2006), Cattle Egret (2008), Common Crane *Grus grus* 2009 (17 records), Common Gull (2006-09), Gadwall (2006), Garganey (2007, 2010), Great Grey Shrike (a common winter visitor 2005-2010), Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivornus* (2010), Montagu's

Harrier *Circus pygargus* (2006, 2007), and Yellow-billed /Speckled Teal *Anas flavirostris/andium* (2009). Also appearing were: Tufted Duck and Water Rail, both now seen annually, Whooper Swan, Brambling and Sedge Warbler. Ringing activities added three additional species that were missed by other surveys – Arctic Redpoll *Carduelis hornemanni*, Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*, and Yellow-browed Warbler.

For 2019 the species list currently sits at 120. Many of the missing species compared to previous years are the rare/one offs, but also absent now is Corn Bunting (with a couple of isolated reports from Wem Moss two years ago), Golden Plover, Grey Wagtail, Little and Long-eared Owl (which may still be present if targeted surveys can be arranged), Sand Martin, Snow Bunting, Tree Pipit and Tree Sparrow. Some of these may still be present – just missed either by circumstance or the localized distribution of species e.g. Yellowhammer.

Obviously, space determines that every birding eventuality cannot be covered here but, depending on the time of day and season (and the species of interest) a decent day's birding would involve a look over Sinker's Fields for ducks, geese and waders, passing raptors, Mediterranean Gulls among the Black-headed Gulls, the rare, Little Egret, or the exotic, Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*, and Common Crane. In 2019 a winter roost of several hundreds of thousands of Starlings was present in daily murmurations. Then there would be a walk on to the Moss, frequenting the edge habitat, for Green or Great Spotted Woodpecker, Marsh and Willow Tit, as well as Treecreeper and Nuthatch. In season, Redpoll and Siskin occur on the Alders, as well as Woodcock and Snipe in the wetter patches. Then, on to the Moss proper for Skylark, Reed Bunting, Stonechat, Curlew, Lapwing, Snipe, Jack Snipe, Merlin, Hobby, Cuckoo (and less frequently Marsh and Hen Harrier, Short-eared Owl and Great Grey Shrike) and passage scarcities like Whinchat.

It will be interesting to monitor the outcome of the restoration programme. Already the mosses are becoming wetter. This is leading to an increase in duck species (with the potential for breeding) with Tufted Duck, Teal and Shoveler, not to mention Mallard, and Canada and Greylag Goose. Habitat will also be actively managed for Curlew which, with limited breeding on site, is one of its few remaining breeding sites in Wales.

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References:

- 1. Management of The Moss and Sinker's Fields is undertaken in partnership between Natural Resources Wales and Natural England and, for the fields, Shropshire Wildlife Trust.
- 2. www.gov.uk/government/publications/marches-mosses-boglife-project
- 3. Charles Sinker was a founder member of Shropshire Wildlife Trust in 1962. In the same year he published a paper highlighting the ecology of the Meres and Mosses which has become the basis for efforts to conserve them ever since. The fields were also known as: Furber's Fields, Flooded Fields, Canal Flooded Fields, Moss Lane Fields and from Shropshire Ornithological Society site SOS1438.
- 4. The Birds of Fenn's Whixall and Bettsfield Mosses NNR 1971-1999. Natural England internal report. Barthorpe, I.D., Johnson, S., and Woods, P.
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- 6. A collation and analysis of the Wetland Bird survey (WeBS) data from Fenn's Whixall and Bettsfield Mosses NNR from 1995-2015, Hunter,

Ringing Report for 2019 and 2020

Lee Barber

After the all time high of 2016, the numbers of birds ringed in North-East Wales continued to decline slightly in 2019, and due to the COVID pandemic, a halving of the usual number was observed in 2020. There were fewer fully grown birds ringed in 2020, but a national lockdown at a time when most of the Blue and Great Tits and Pied Flycatchers were fledging, reduced the pulli totals dramatically.

Total number of birds ringed per year in the last ten years			
Year	Full grown	Pulli	Total
2020	4750	793	5543
2019	6473	3965	10438
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

In 2019, nearly twice as many Black-headed Gulls were ringed compared to 2018 (+148). There were also increases of more than 100 individuals of Great Tit, Chiffchaff and Greenfinch recorded. However, there were greater overall decreases, including Swallow (-553), Goldfinch (-290), Coal Tit (-108) and Blue Tit (-106).

In 2020, there were very few increases in the numbers of birds ringed. However, Sand Martin totals increased from 4 in 2018 and one in 2019 to 188 in 2020. This was due to the efforts of Ian Spence and Giles Pepler, trialling a new high level netting system. It is likely more Sand Martin will be ringed in future as the team gains more experience with the system. Blue Tit had the greatest decrease in numbers ringed (-1420), with only 17 pulli ringed in the area (a drop of 1025 pulli). Even though productivity had been very low in 2019, this reduction was likely due to a combination of the pandemic, which quarantined most ringers to their homes and the exceptionally warm spring. Warm weather at this time of year moves the peak in caterpillar abundance earlier and the bulk of Blue Tit pulli were unable to benefit from them. Pied Flycatcher (-895) and Great Tit (-731) were similarly affected.

Number of birds ringed per species

Ringing totals	2018			2019			Year total diff.	2020			Year total diff.
	FG	Pul	Tot	FG	Pul	Tot		FG	Pul	Tot	
Species											
Mute Swan	7	0	7	2	9	11	4	2	4	6	- 5
Greylag Goose	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0
Shelduck (A)	24	0	24	0	0	0	- 24	0	0	0	0
Mandarin	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	1	0	1	- 1
Mallard (A)	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	- 2
Tufted Duck	2	0	2	0	0	0	- 2	0	0	0	0
Common Scoter (A,S)	1	0	1	0	0	0	- 1	0	0	0	0
Osprey (A) (S)	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1

Ringling totals	2018			2019			Year total diff.	2020			Year total diff.
Species	FG	Pul	Tot	FG	Pul	Tot		FG	Pul	Tot	
Sparrowhawk	4	0	4	3	0	3	-1	3	0	3	0
Hen Harrier (R) (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
Water Rail	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0
Moorhen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Coot	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Oystercatcher (A)	3	2	5	22	2	24	19	0	2	2	-22
Lapwing (R)	1	0	1	3	0	3	2	1	1	2	-1
Ringed Plover (R)	0	6	6	2	12	14	8	0	4	4	-10
Curlew (R)	4	0	4	12	0	12	8	0	0	0	-12
Turnstone (A)	0	0	0	32	0	32	32	0	0	0	-32
Dunlin (R)	0	0	0	65	0	65	65	0	0	0	-65
Woodcock (R)	18	0	18	18	0	18	0	9	0	9	-9
Snipe (A)	6	0	6	1	0	1	-5	0	0	0	-1
Redshank (R)	0	0	0	18	0	18	18	0	0	0	-18
Black headed Gull (R)	1	135	136	0	284	284	148	0	332	332	48
Great Black backed	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0
Little Tern (R) (S)	39	212	251	45	274	319	68	3	62	65	-254
Common Tern (A)	0	370	370	0	430	430	60	0	146	146	-234
Stock Dove	0	12	12	1	7	8	-4	2	2	4	-4
Woodpigeon	3	11	14	5	7	12	-2	6	0	6	-6
Collared Dove	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	4	0	4	2
Cuckoo (R)	3	0	3	1	0	1	-2	1	0	1	0
Barn Owl (S)	7	54	61	5	38	43	-18	9	38	47	4
Tawny Owl	0	2	2	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	-1
Nightjar (A)	16	29	45	24	14	38	-7	12	19	31	-7
Kingfisher (A) (S)	2	0	2	3	0	3	1	7	0	7	4
Great Spotted	38	0	38	41	0	41	3	20	0	20	-21
Kestrel (R)	0	28	28	0	11	11	-17	1	0	1	-10
Hobby (S)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Peregrine (S)	0	7	7	0	5	5	-2	0	0	0	-5
Jay	11	0	11	7	0	7	-4	5	0	5	-2
Magpie	3	0	3	4	0	4	1	1	0	1	-3
Chough (A) (S)	0	3	3	0	4	4	1	0	0	0	4
Jackdaw	0	44	44	1	28	29	-15	1	3	4	-25
Rook	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0
Coal Tit	103	73	176	61	7	68	-108	81	0	81	13
Willow Tit (R)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	-1
Marsh Tit (R)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blue Tit	1417	843	2260	1112	1042	2154	-106	717	17	734	-1420
Great Tit	411	501	912	393	630	1023	111	282	10	292	-731
Sand Martin	4	0	4	1	0	1	-3	188	0	188	187
Swallow	527	106	633	19	61	80	-553	0	0	0	-30
House Martin	1	0	1	7	0	7	6	0	0	0	-7
Cetti's Warbler (S)	9	0	9	13	0	13	4	0	0	0	-13
Long tailed Tit	182	0	182	155	0	155	-27	65	0	65	-90
Willow Warbler (R)	132	0	132	85	0	85	-47	76	0	76	-9
Chiffchaff	304	0	304	412	3	415	111	275	0	275	140
Wood Warbler (R)	0	10	10	1	27	28	18	0	0	0	-28
Sedge Warbler	45	0	45	6	0	6	-39	1	0	1	-5

Ringling totals	2018			2019			Year total diff.	2020			Year total diff.
Species	FG	Pul	Tot	FG	Pul	Tot		FG	Pul	Tot	
Reed Warbler	100	0	100	89	0	89	-11	0	0	0	-89
Grasshopper Warbler	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Blackcap	316	8	324	381	3	384	60	186	1	187	-197
Garden Warbler	60	1	61	30	4	34	-27	23	0	23	-11
Lesser Whitethroat	9	0	9	3	0	3	-6	9	0	9	6
Whitethroat (R)	30	0	30	29	0	29	-1	8	0	8	-21
Goldcrest	79	0	79	121	0	121	42	103	0	103	-18
Wren	133	0	133	110	19	129	-4	53	0	53	-76
Nuthatch	19	20	39	17	14	31	-8	9	0	9	-22
Treecreeper	20	0	20	11	5	16	-4	26	0	26	10
Starling (R)	10	0	10	44	0	44	34	15	0	15	-29
Blackbird	169	8	177	126	6	132	-45	116	0	116	-16
Fieldfare (A) (S)	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0
Redwing (A) (S)	27	0	27	59	0	59	32	21	0	21	-38
Song Thrush (A)	46	4	50	38	9	47	-3	27	1	28	-19
Mistle Thrush (A)	2	0	2	0	0	0	-2	3	0	3	3
Spotted Flycatcher	0	4	4	0	0	0	-4	0	0	0	0
Robin	172	0	172	201	0	201	29	123	4	127	-74
Pied Flycatcher (R)	104	850	954	135	886	1021	67	7	119	126	-895
Redstart	32	46	78	20	55	75	-3	6	22	28	-47
Stonechat	17	0	17	2	0	2	-15	2	0	2	0
Dipper (A)	0	28	28	0	19	19	-9	0	0	0	-19
House Sparrow (A)	65	8	73	40	17	57	-16	9	0	9	-48
Duncock	129	4	133	175	3	178	45	96	0	96	-82
Grey Wagtail (A)	6	2	8	6	22	28	20	5	0	5	-23
Pied Wagtail	2	5	7	0	0	0	-7	0	0	0	0
Meadow Pipit (A)	174	0	174	86	0	86	-88	163	0	163	77
Tree Pipit (A)	0	0	0	1	3	4	4	0	0	0	-4
Chaffinch	342	3	345	377	4	381	36	269	0	269	-112
Brambling (A) (S)	31	0	31	8	0	8	-23	2	0	2	-6
Bullfinch (R)	62	0	62	72	0	72	10	31	0	31	-41
Greenfinch(A)	193	7	200	302	0	302	102	371	0	371	69
Linnet (R)	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0
Twite (A)	33	0	33	11	0	11	-22	14	0	14	3
Lesser Redpoll (A)	49	0	49	22	0	22	-27	53	0	53	31
Goldfinch	1405	4	1409	1119	0	1119	-290	1163	0	1163	44
Siskin	300	0	300	241	0	241	-59	60	0	60	-181
Reed Bunting (A)	33	0	33	6	0	6	-27	0	0	0	-6
Total	7508	3457	10965	6473	3965	10438	527	4750	793	5543	-4895

In the table, on the previous pages, R indicates the species is on the Red List of Conservation Concern and A indicates it is on the Amber List (see the reference to Johnstone and Bladwell, 2016). Species for which a Schedule 1 licence is required during the breeding season, are indicated with S. The ringling totals are derived from the BTO database and similar numbers can be seen on the online Ringling Report: www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports.

Being able to individually identify a bird without catching has opened a window into the movements of birds. Some species travel large distances on a regular basis, while others rarely

move further than 10km. For example, a Siskin ringed in Scotland and subsequently caught in Wales the following winter, is a regular occurrence. Here, I have tried to highlight more unusual movements and life histories for 2019 and 2020, below.

Woodcock are known to be site faithful on the wintering grounds between years, and the report of one being ringed in 2017 at Llwydfaen, Conwy and caught at the same location in 2018 and 2020 highlights this. It would be fascinating to know exactly where this bird goes during the summer, but is likely to be Scandinavia or even Russia. Other birds are less faithful to the areas which they visit. An adult Sandwich Tern ringed by Mid Wales Ringing Group in 2012 at Ynyslas, Borth, has been caught or had its colour ring read in East England, Scotland, Ireland and then back in Wales, in the 8 years since.

Following the tern theme, the Merseyside Ringing Group has broken its own longevity record for Little Tern. With their great work on the species near Gronant, Denbighshire, they were able to identify one of their previously ringed individuals and increased the age from 25 years 8 days to 27 years 7 days.

Ian Spence and Giles Pepler of the Spence and Brenchley Partnership must have been thrilled to catch the first Russian ringed Chaffinch for North-East Wales and only the 9th for the British and Irish Ringing Scheme. Travelling 1,561km in one month and two days is quite a journey for a bird which was only a few months old.

Ringing provides a wealth of information for the benefit of conservation. Standardised ringing can improve on this, by providing information on adult survival, annual productivity and adult abundance. The two schemes which are able to provide this information are the Constant Effort Site (CES) Scheme and the Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) Scheme. Ian Spence and Giles Pepler ran the only CES in the area in 2019, which was in its sixth year of operation (the fourth since an extra ride was incorporated), however, it was not possible to run the site in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. Three RAS studies were active in 2019 and 2020, two Pied Flycatcher (run by Bob Harris and Peter Coffey since 1986) and one Siskin (run by Alan Robinson since 2002), and these have provided good quality data for the annual survival rates of those species. More projects are encouraged, particularly for CES, as this may provide enough data for the BTO to produce population trends specific for Wales.

I am grateful to the ringers in the area and those who visit, who give up their time to study birds in North East Wales.

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 histories. To report a ringed bird, go to www.ring.ac, and you will be sent the details of the bird including where and when it was ringed. Reporting colour ringed birds is also very useful, and the colour ring can be found on this website <http://cr.birding.org/>

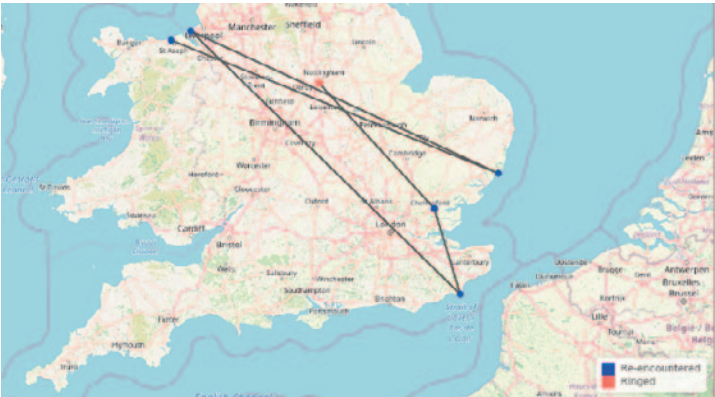
Codes used in the recoveries:

- 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

Selected recoveries for 2019 and 2020

5272561	02 07 2013 28 06 2014 29 06 2014 25 01 2019	Canada Goose 4M Bowness on Windermere, Cumbria Bowness on Windermere, Cumbria Bowness on Windermere, Cumbria River Clywyd, near Rhuddlan, Denbighshire 125km SSW 5y 6m 23d	Found fresh dead shot
ZY7812	05 02 2014 30 03 2015 07 12 2018 29 06 2019	Mute Swan 3M Widnes, Halton Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele, Conwy Abergele, Conwy Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele, Conwy 57km W 5y 4m 24d	Colour ring sighting
W46262	07 12 2018 05 11 2020	Mute Swan 3M Abergele, Conwy Pentre, Shropshire 74km SE 1y10m 29d	Sick – hit wires
GC58870	16 05 2009 02 07 2009 25 07 2009 31 07 2019	Little Egret Pull. Graveney, Faversham, Kent Cliffe Pools RSPB Reserve, Medway Amerden Scrapes, Taplow, Buckinghamshire Connah's Quay Nature Reserve, Flintshire 347km NW 10y 2m 15d	Colour ring sighting
92A26482	10 06 2018 10 03 2019	Cormorant Pull. Korholmen, Oxelosund, Södermanland, Sweden 58°40'N 17°7'E Llanerch Hall, Llanelwy, Denbighshire 1,412km WSW 0y 9m 0d	Found long dead
5268887	18 08 2016 04 12 2016 05 01 2019 31 07 2019 21 02 2020 26 08 2020	Cormorant. Pull. Attenborough Nature Reserve, Nottinghamshire Little Baddow Bridge Pit, Essex Dungeness RSPB Reserve, Kent Hoylelake Shore, Wirral, Merseyside Havergate Island Nature Reserve, Suffolk Between Rhyl and Rhuddlan, Conwy 158km WNW 4y 0m 8d	Colour ring sighting



The recorded movements of the above Cormorant (5268887)

FH14088		Oystercatcher. 8	
	08 12 2007	Rhos on Sea, Conwy	
	06 07 2012	Geiranger, More og Romsdal, Norway 62°6'N 7°12'E	
	09 08 2020	Geiranger, Stranda, More og Romsdal, Norway 62°6'N 7°12'E 1,171km NNE 12y 8m 1d Colour ring sighting	
NV69280		Ringed Plover 3F	
	25 01 2015	Kinnel Bay, Conwy	
	19 06 2020	Beltringharder Koog, Schleswig Holstein, Germany 54°31'N 8°54'E	
	30 07 2020	Long Bank Marsh, near Kilnsea, East Riding of Yorkshire, 244km E 5y 6m 5d Caught by ringer	
BT24905		Sanderling 6	
	24022013	Kinnel Bay, Conwy	
	24012016	Kinnel Bay, Conwy	
	18052017	Sandgerdi, Gullbringusýsla, Iceland 64°1'N 22°42'W 1,616km NW 4y 2m 24d Caught by ringer	
	15052019	Aird An Runair, Western Isles 540km NNW 6y 2m 21d Colour ring sighting	
NR86812		Dunlin 6	
	25 01 2015	Kinnel Bay, Conwy	
	22 07 2020	Ottenby, Öland, Sweden 56°12'N 16°24'E 1,314km ENE 5y 5m 27d Caught by ringer (Map)	
EP39201		Woodcock 3	
	13 01 2017	Llwydfaen, Conwy	
	15 12 2018	Llwydfaen, Conwy	
	08 12 2020	Llwydfaen, Conwy 0km 3y 10m 25d Caught by ringer	
EZ90582		Black headed Gull. Pull.	
	23 07 2017	Shotton, Flintshire	
	15 08 2018	Tymon Park, Dublin, Eire	
	22 11 2018	Tymon Park, Dublin, Eire	
	24 11 2019	Tymon Park, Dublin, Eire 218km W 2y 4m 1d Metal ring sighting	
FS06182		Black headed Gull 6F	
	12 06 2015	Zbiornik Przykona, Turek, Wielkopolskie, Poland 52°0'N 18°39'E	
	16 07 2019	Queensferry, Flintshire 1,465km. WNW 4y 1m 4d Colour ring sighting	
EZ28113		Black headed Gull. Pull.	
	21 06 2015	Shotton, Flintshire)	
	12 07 2020	Holaisgeir, North Uist, Western Isles 562km NNW 5y 0m 21d Long dead	
EA79853		Black headed Gull. Pull.	
	20 06 2020	Marlingford Hall, Norfolk	
	22 08 2020	Bae Colwyn/Colwyn Bay, Conwy	
	17 12 2020	Lesteven, Ploudalmezeau, Finistere, France 48°34'N 4°39'W 609km SW 0y 5m 27d Colour ring sighting	
IA170774		Black headed Gull 6M	
	23 05 2016	Inseln Bohmke Und Werder, Mecklenburg – Vorpommern, Germany 53°57'N 14°1'E	
	15 07 2019	Kinnel Bay, Conwy	
	04 08 2020	Kinnel Bay, Denbighshire	
	22 08 2020	Bae Cinnel/Kinnel Bay, Conwy 1,156km W 4y 2m 30d Colour ring sighting	
FS27360		Black headed Gull Pull.	
	12 06 2019	Rz. Wisa, Bydgoszcz, Kujawsko Pomorskie, Poland 52°36'N 19°22'E	
	29 01 2020	Old Colwyn, Conwy	
	21 10 2020	Colwyn Bay, Conwy 1,543km WNW 1y 4m 9d Colour ring sighting	
FS06143		Mediterranean Gull Pull.	
	10 06 2015	Zbiornik Przykona, Przykona, Wielkopolskie, Poland 52°0'N 18°39'E	
	07 03 2016	Cardiff Bay, Cardiff	
	03 03 2017	Burton Mere, Wirral, Cheshire & Wirral	
	24 02 2019	Connahs Quay Nature Reserve, Flintshire 1,468km WNW 3y 8m 14d Colour ring sighting	

MA20687		Great Black backed Gull Pull.	
	27 06 2009	Ireland's Eye, Dublin, Eire	
	26 08 2020	Afon Clwyd, Rhyl, Conwy 171km E 11y 1m 30d Colour ring sighting	
7154951		Sandwich Tern. Pull.	
	14 06 2019	Sio, Rudkobing, Langeland, Fyn, Denmark 54°57'N 10°40'E	
	25 07 2019	Rhos Point, Conwy 956km W 0y 1m 11d Colour ring sighting	
DE29877		Sandwich Tern. 4	
	23 07 2012	Ynyslas, Borth, Ceredigion	
	30 05 2018	Scolt Head Island, Norfolk	Caught by ringer
	16 08 2019	Port Seton, East Lothian	
	22 09 2019	Kinnegar, Belfast	
	28 07 2020	Bryn Euryn, Conwy 92km NNE 8y 0m 5d Colour ring sighting	
	16 08 2020	Gronant, Denbighshire	
	01 09 2020	Bryn Euryn, Conwy 92km NNE 8y 1m 9d Colour ring sighting	



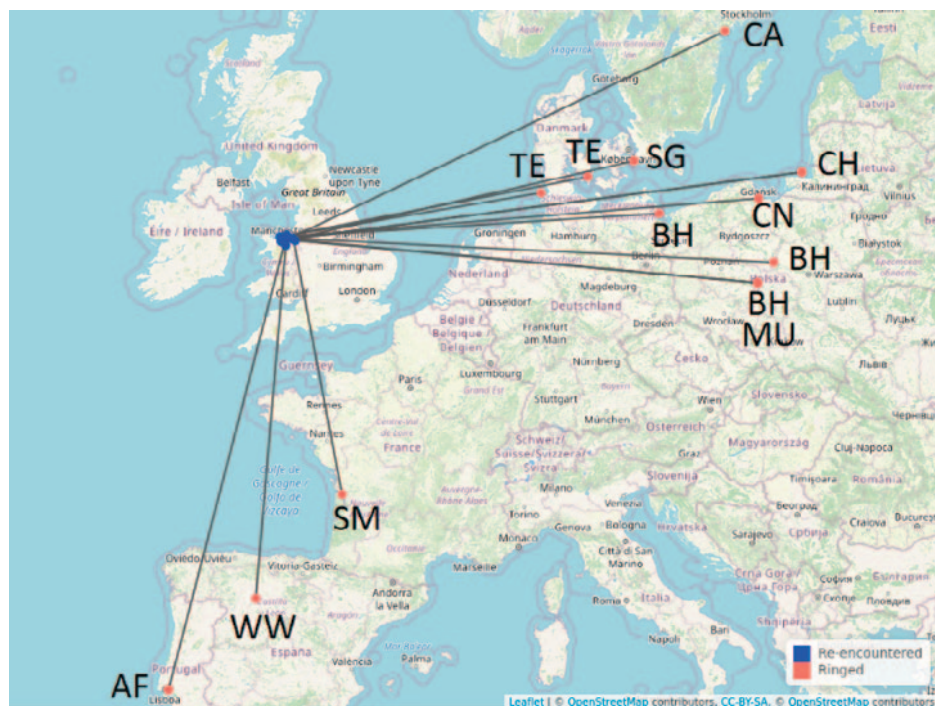
The recorded movements of the above Sandwich Tern (DE29877)

NW51955		Little Tern Pull.	
	13 07 2013	North Dunes, Winterton, Norfolk	
	03 06 2019	near Gronant, Denbighshire 345km WNW 5y 10m 21d Caught by ringer	
NV38220		Little Tern Pull.	
	08 07 1993	near Gronant, Denbighshire	
	21 06 2018	near Gronant, Denbighshire	Caught by ringer
	14 07 2020	near Gronant, Denbighshire	
	15 07 2020	near Gronant, Denbighshire 0km 27y 0m 7d Colour ring sighting. Longevity record	
NW89271		Little Tern. Pull.	
	25 07 2018	near Gronant, Denbighshire	
	02 06 2020	Romo, Sønderjyllands, Denmark 55°10'N 8°28'E 795km ENE 1y 10m 8d Colour ring sighting	

E34281	12 09 2018	Little Tern. 3	
	16 07 2020	Salinas Do Samouco, Setúbal, Portugal 38°43'N 8°58'W near Gronant, (Denbighshire) 1,680km NNE 1y 10m 4d Colour ring sighting	
HN55738		Common Tern. Pull.	
	22 06 2018	Gdansk Port Polnocny, Pomorskie, Poland 54°22'N 18°42'E	
	26 07 2019	Rhyl, Denbighshire	
	04 08 2019	Seaforth Nature Reserve, Merseyside 1,420km W 1y 1m 13d Colour ring sighting	
GV34701		Barn Owl. Pull. M	
	02 07 2018	Hook's Rough, Cheshire & Wirral	
	27 01 2019	Towyn, Conwy 58km WNW 0y 6m 25d Fresh dead extremely high winds	
LH76559		Nightjar. 6M	
	18 07 2014	Cerrig Caws, Llyn Brenig, Clocaenog Forest, Conwy	
	23 08 2018	Cefn Hafod Lom, Clocaenog Forest, Conwy	
	20 07 2019	Cefn Hafod Lom, Clocaenog Forest, Conwy 2km 5y 0m 2d Caught by ringer	
LJ75298		Nightjar. Pull.	
	04 08 2018	Rhyd Galed, clocaenog Forest, Denbighshire	
	13 06 2019	Thorne Moors, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire 182km ENE 0y 10m 9d Caught by ringer	
LH76550		Nightjar 6F	
	13 07 2014	Boncyn Foel Bach, Clocaenog Forest, Denbighshire	
	16 06 2017	Boncyn Foel Bach, Clocaenog Forest, Denbighshire Caught by ringer	
	17 07 2020	Craig Bron Banog, Clocaenog Forest, Denbighshire Caught by ringer	
	24 07 2020	Boncyn Foel Bach, Clocaenog Forest, Denbighshire) 1km 6y 0m 11d Identified by radio tag	
GC74008		Peregrine Pull.	
	31 05 2008	Site Confidential, near Ruthin, Denbighshire	
	04 08 2020	Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire 122km SE 12y 2m 4d Freshly dead (hit by train)	
EX11026		Hobby Pull.	
	30 07 2018	Parkside, Rossett, Wrexham	
	13 06 2019	Mynydd Isa, near Mold, Flintshire 16km NW 0y 10m 14d Freshly dead, broken wing	
ADE4594		Blue Tit 3M	
	27 03 2019	Pitsford Reservoir, Northampton, Northamptonshire	
	14 02 2020	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire	
	13 03 2020	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire 186km NW 0y 11m 15d Caught by ringer	
8737793		Sand Martin. 3	
	28 07 2019	Chenal, Chenac Saint Seurin D'uzet, Charente Maritime, France , 45°30'N 0°49'W	
	21 07 2020	Flint, Flintshire 876km N 0y 11m 23d Caught by ringer (Map)	
2Z95698		Willow Warbler 3	
	12 09 2018	Boada de Campos, Palencia, Spain 41°58'N 4°52'W	
	26 07 2019	Carnedd Ci, Clocaenog Forest, Denbighshire 1,238km N 0y 10m 14d Caught by ringer	
LCR057		Chiffchaff. 3	
	30 08 2018	River Tanat, Llangedwyn, Powys	
	20 03 2019	Risbury, Leominster, Herefordshire 79km SSE 0y 6m 18d Killed by cat	
ERP578		Chiffchaff 3J	
	14 07 2019	Tal Goed Nursery, Conwy	
	09 04 2020	Pentrefelin, Conwy 1km 0y 8m 26d Freshly dead (hit glass)	

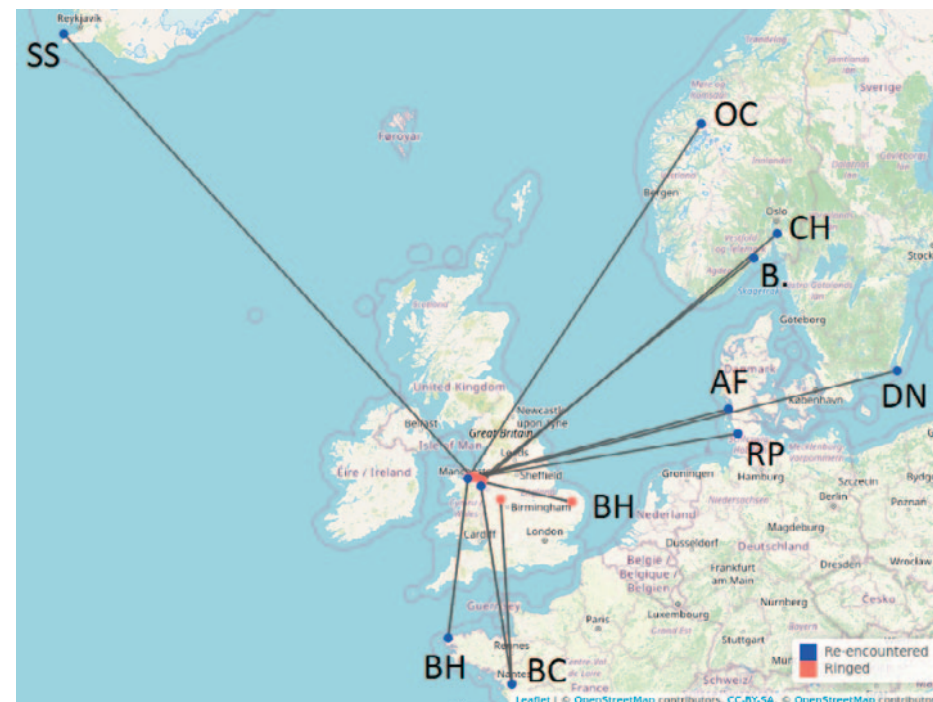
ARF1688		Blackcap. 3F	
	26 07 2019	Carnedd Ci, Clocaenog Forest, Denbighshire	
	01 09 2019	Littleton Brick Pits, South Gloucestershire 173km SSE 0y 1m 6d Caught by ringer	
S940570		Blackcap 3M	
	08 09 2019	Chilling, Warsash, Hampshire	
	11 04 2020	Cross Lanes, Wrexham 268km NNW 0y 7m 3d Freshly dead (hit glass)	
AKA6657		Blackcap 3M	
	23 08 2017	Belvide, near Brewood, Staffordshire	
	02 09 2017	Mars Ouest, Sant Philbert De Grand Lieu, Loire Atlantique, France 47°7'N 1°40'W	
	09 07 2020	621km S 0y 0m 10d Caught by ringer near Bwlchgwyn, Flintshire 75km NW 2y 10m 16d Freshly dead (cat)	
4702434		Starling. Pull.	
	23 05 2019	Fyren, Falsterbo, Skane, Sweden 55°22'N 12°49'E	
	12 11 2019	Llangernyw, Conwy 1,096km W 0y 5m 20d Colour ring sighting	
LJ07160		Blackbird. 3F	
	27 10 2018	Kilnsea, East Riding of Yorkshire	
	09 11 2020	Peny Stryd, Llandegla, Denbighshire 230km WSW 2y 0m 13d Found dead	
LA35066		Blackbird 3M	
	03 01 2019	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire	
	18 01 2019	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire Caught by ringer	
	03 11 2020	Stathelle, Bamble, Telemark, Norway 59°1'N 9°40'E 1,020km NE 1y 10m 0d Freshly dead (hit by car) (Map)	
X062920		Pied Flycatcher Pull. M	
	12 06 2010	near Llanarmon Yn Ial, Denbighshire	
	11 06 2019	Glyn Arthur, Denbighshire 10km NNW 8y 11m 30d Caught by ringer six times over the years	
Longevity record currently is: 9 years 7 days.			
S959424		Pied Flycatcher Pull.	
	27 05 2019	Llwynmawr, Wrexham	
	05 06 2020	Moor Piece, Lancashire 118km NNE 1y 0m 9d Caught by ringer	
Z637137		Redstart Pull.	
	08 06 2018	Glyn Arthur, Denbighshire	
	21 07 2019	Battlesbury Bowl, Imber, Wiltshire 234km SSE 1y 1m 13d Caught by ringer	
VZ55881		Dunnock 6	
	26 01 2018	Blue House Farm, North Fambridge, Essex	
	07 04 2019	Tal Goed Nursery, Conwy 352km WNW 1y 2m 12d Caught by ringer	
KA68568		Chaffinch 3F	
	01 10 2019	"Fringilla", Rybachiy, Kaliningrad Oblast, Russian Federation 55°4'N 20°43'E	
	03 11 2019	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire 1,561km W 0y 1m 2d Caught by ringer	
ATD3837		Chaffinch. 6F	
	10 02 2019	Shotton, Flintshire	
	06 04 2020	Krom Gard, Akershus, Norway 59°36'N 10°45'E 1,102km NE 1y 1m 27d Caught by ringer	
Z156799		Twite 2M	
	18 02 2015	Connah's Quay near, Flintshire	
	27 02 2015	Connah's Quay near, Flintshire	
	01 11 2015	Connah's Quay near, Flintshire	
	12 02 2016	Connah's Quay near, Flintshire	
	26 01 2017	Connah's Quay near, Flintshire	
	04 02 2018	Connah's Quay near, Flintshire	
	20 01 2019	Connah's Quay near, Flintshire	
	03 02 2020	Connah's Quay near, Flintshire	

	03 03 2020	Connah's Quay near, Flintshire 0km 5y 0m 14d	Caught by ringer	Good age
ALH0638	15 09 2019	Goldfinch. 3J		
	03 10 2019	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire	Caught by ringer	
	12 01 2020	Chippenham, Wiltshire 212km SSE 0y 3m 28d	Found fresh dead	
V955836	08 05 2016	Lesser Redpoll 5M		
	26 03 2019	Llwynmawr, Wrexham High Lodge, near Brandon, Suffolk 263km E 2y 10m 18d	Caught by ringer	
ALH0003	16 04 2019	Siskin. 3M		
	18 04 2019	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire Peebles, Scottish Borders 266km N 0y 0m 2d	Caught by ringer	
ALH0036	17 04 2019	Siskin. 4M		
	18 04 2019	Rosedan, Bagillt, Flintshire Peebles, Scottish Borders 266km N 0y 0m 1d	Caught by ringer	
S959051	09 04 2018	Siskin 6M		
	19 07 2020	Llwynmawr, Wrexham Woodside of Tollie, Maryburgh, Highland 524km N 2y 3m 10d	Caught by ringer	



Birds ringed or found in NE Wales involving movements abroad in 2019 and 2020.

The codes used in this map relate to birds that were ringed abroad and found in in NE Wales. These are: AF Little Tern, BH Black headed Gull, CH Chaffinch, CN Common Tern, MU Mediterranean Gull, SG Starling, SM Sand Martin, TE Sandwich Tern, WW Willow Warbler.



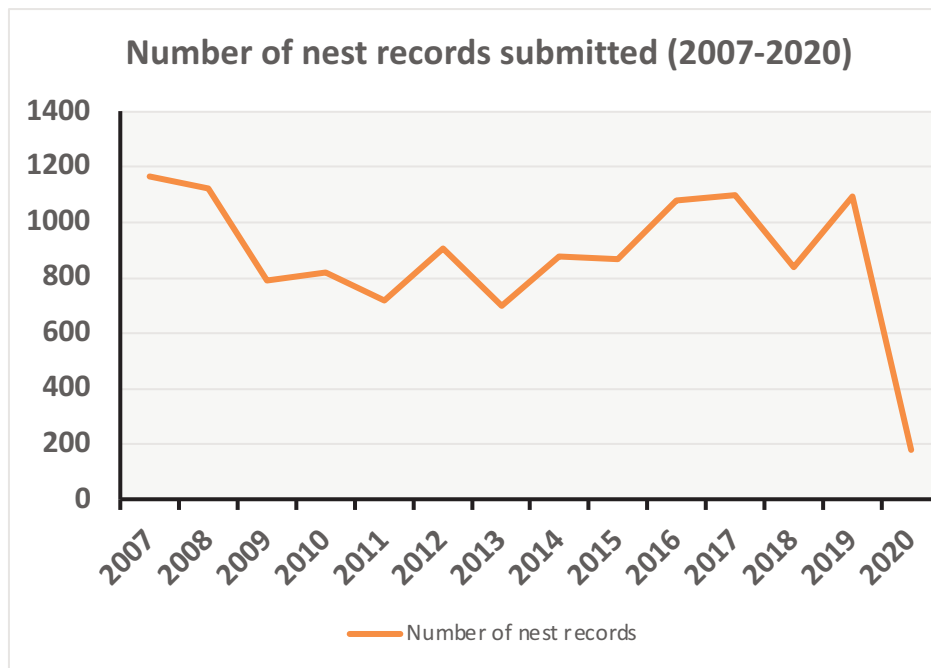
Birds ringed or found in NE Wales involving movements abroad in 2019 and 2020

The codes used in this map are: AF Little Tern, BC Blackcap, BH Black-headed Gull, B. Blackbird, CH Chaffinch, OC Oystercatcher, RP Ringed Plover and SS Sanderling.

Nest records from 'Clwyd'

The number of nest records submitted have now surpassed a thousand apart from 2018 and 2020. During the COVID pandemic in 2020, the ability to carry out nest recording was severely affected, which also lasted longer in Wales than in England. The graph below illustrates just how much of an impact this had on the number of nest records submitted. It's worth noting that this shows a decline in effort and not productivity.

There was an improvement in the number of nest records submitted to the BTO in 2019 compared with 2018 by 255 records. After a decrease of nest records of Little Terns in 2018, numbers returned to a more usual number (+192 records). Pied Flycatcher (+34), Blue Tit (+24) and Great Tit (+15) had more nesting attempts recorded. House Sparrow (11) and Nightjar (18) recorded the largest drop in the number of nest records.



In 2019, Blue Tit (246) was the most nest recorded species in the area, followed by Little Tern (215), Pied Flycatcher (182) and Great Tit (171). Stock Dove (21) and Barn Owl (20) were recorded in quite good numbers and it is likely that the Barn Owl nest recorders record Stock Doves nests while they are inspecting boxes for owls, which is a highly recommended thing to do. The number of Little Tern records constituted 93% of the National total, while Chough contributed 31%, Ringed Plover 25% and Wood Warbler 33% even though this latter species comprised 10 nest records.

A nest record consists of recording the contents of a birds nest and following it through its development until 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 or a reduction in the number of eggs laid. 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 numbers of nest records found in the current year compared to the previous year and the national totals for comparison.

Species	Clwyd					Britain and Ireland	
	2018	2019	Change	2020	Change	2019	2020
Mallard	1	1	0	0	1	73	63
Hen Harrier	0	1	1	1	0	36	30
Goshawk	1	0	1	0	0	185	147
Sparrowhawk	0	0	0	1	1	33	23
Buzzard	1	1	0	3	2	191	112
Osprey	2	1	1	0	1	29	17
Kestrel	6	5	1	1	4	554	384
Hobby	0	0	0	1	1	97	74
Peregrine	2	2	0	3	1	190	165
Oystercatcher	0	7	7	0	7	287	93
Little Ringed Plover	1	0	1	0	0	60	53
Ringed Plover	4	17	13	0	17	68	17
Lapwing	0	1	1	0	1	387	75
Little Tern	23	215	192	5	210	232	27
Stock Dove	26	21	5	8	13	1009	759
Woodpigeon	11	12	1	1	11	484	465
Barn Owl	20	20	0	20	0	3274	1848
Tawny Owl	1	0	1	0	0	531	140
Nightjar	18	0	18	15	15	111	139
Chough	1	9	8	5	4	29	32
Jackdaw	12	8	4	0	8	489	251
Carrion Crow	1	1	0	1	0	74	38
Raven	6	7	1	2	5	120	42
Blue Tit	222	246	24	27	219	6851	3421
Great Tit	156	171	15	14	157	4508	2148
Coal Tit	10	5	5	0	5	79	33
Marsh Tit	0	1	1	0	1	61	25
Skylark	1	0	1	0	0	52	59
Swallow	56	48	8	27	21	1648	918
House Martin	0	1	1	0	1	286	176
Long tailed Tit	1	1	0	0	1	239	69
Wood Warbler	3	10	7	0	10	62	33
Chiffchaff	0	2	2	0	2	179	99
Blackcap	4	2	2	0	2	381	151
Garden Warbler	0	1	1	0	1	65	38
Grasshopper Warbler	0	1	1	0	1	38	38
Nuthatch	2	4	2	0	4	282	135
Treecreeper	0	3	3	0	3	56	23
Wren	3	6	3	0	6	320	180
Dipper	10	12	2	1	11	457	108
Ring Ouzel	1	0	1	0	0	56	14
Blackbird	9	12	3	5	7	1247	608
Song Thrush	3	3	0	0	3	608	264
Mistle Thrush	1	1	0	0	1	49	22
Spotted Flycatcher	1	2	1	0	2	156	92
Robin	9	7	2	8	1	393	260
Pied Flycatcher	148	182	34	25	157	1646	881
Redstart	8	16	8	3	13	206	114
Whinchat	0	1	1	0	1	70	18

	Clwyd					Britain and Ireland	
Species	2018	2019	Change	2020	Change	2019	2020
Stonechat	6	0	6	0	0	158	71
Dunnock	7	0	7	2	2	275	179
House Sparrow	16	5	11	0	5	510	408
Tree Sparrow	4	1	3	0	1	2332	1276
Grey Wagtail	6	10	4	1	9	155	67
Pied Wagtail	10	8	2	2	6	126	77
Tree Pipit	0	1	1	0	1	101	74
Meadow Pipit	1	0	1	0	0	132	97
Chaffinch	2	1	1	0	1	190	56
Goldfinch	2	3	1	0	3	127	63
Siskin	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Linnet	1	0	1	0	0	211	142
Lesser Redpoll	0	0	0	0	0	5	7
Reed Bunting	1	0	1	0	0	111	108
Total	841	1096	225	182	914	32973	17548

I am grateful to the nest recorders in the area who have given up their time to follow the progress of these nests (in order of number of nests recorded during 2019 and 2020): Merseyside Ringing Group, John Lawton Roberts, Spence and Brenchley, North Wales Wildlife Trust, Claire Backshall, Mid Wales Ringing Group, Richard Castell, Janet Robinson, Dafydd Roberts, Cross & Stratford Welsh Chough Project, Shropshire Ringing Group, Patrick Woods, David Winnard, East Dales Ringing Group, Steve Binney, Craig Emms, Kelvin Jones, John Mycock and Allan Rustell. Maps were prepared using: <https://stephenvickers.shinyapps.io/conrecplotter/>

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GeTh	Gerry Thomas	MG	Martin George
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GNR	Glyn Neville Roberts	MHu	Marc Hughes
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IaHi	Ian Hillbeck	NHu	Neil Hughes
JaH	Jane Hemming	NiH	Nick Hull
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PKi	Paul King	SH	Simon T Hughes
PM	Paul Miller	SLg	Sue Loughran
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RMk	Robert Markham	WeBS	Anon WeBS
RS	Robin Sandham	WRM	Bill Myerscough

Index

Avocet	91	Goldeneye	61
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Brambling	264	Goose, Brent	15
Bullfinch	267	Goose, Canada	16
Bunting, Corn	281	Goose, Egyptian	29
Bunting, Lapland	279	Goose, Greylag	20
Bunting, Reed	283	Goose, Pink-footed	23
Bunting, Snow	280	Goose, Snow	285
Buzzard	169	Goose, White-fronted	24
Chaffinch	263	Goshawk	165
Chiffchaff	212	Grebe, Black-necked	88
Chough	186	Grebe, Great Crested	86
Coot	83	Grebe, Little	85
Cormorant	154	Grebe, Slavonian	88
Crossbill	275	Greenfinch	268
Crow, Carrion	190	Greenshank	128
Crow, Hooded	191	Grouse, Black	66
Cuckoo	73	Grouse, Red	65
Curlew	100	Guillemot	147
Dipper	249	Guillemot, Black	149
Diver, Black-throated	150	Guineafowl, Helmeted	285
Diver, Great Northern	151	Gull, Black-headed	130
Diver, Red-throated	149	Gull, Common	133
Dove, Collared	79	Gull, Great Black-backed	135
Dove, Rock	75	Gull, Herring	136
Dove, Stock	76	Gull, Lesser Black-backed	139
Duck, Long-tailed	60	Gull, Little	132
Duck, Mandarin	33	Gull, Mediterranean	132
Duck, Muscovy	285	Gull, Sabine's	130
Duck, Ring-necked	53	Gull, Yellow-legged	139
Duck, Tufted	54	Harrier, Hen	167
Dunlin	114	Harrier, Marsh	166
Duncock	252	Hawfinch	266
Egret, Cattle	157	Heron, Grey	157
Egret, Great White	159	Hobby	182
Egret, Little	160	Jackdaw	187
Eider	57	Jay	184
Fieldfare	237	Kestrel	179
Firecrest	225	Kingfisher	175
Flycatcher, Pied	241	Kite, Red	168
Flycatcher, Spotted	239	Kittiwake	129
Fulmar	151	Knot	109
Gadwall	37	Lapwing	92
Gannet	153	Lark, Shore	200
Garganey	34	Linnet	271
Godwit, Bar-tailed	103	Magpie	186
Godwit, Black-tailed	104	Mallard	43
Goldcrest	225	Martin, House	204

Martin, Sand	200	Sandpiper, Wood	126
Merganser, Red-breasted	64	Scaup	56
Merlin	180	Scoter, Common	59
Moorhen	82	Scoter, Surf	58
Nightjar	71	Scoter, Velvet	58
Nuthatch	228	Shag	155
Osprey	162	Shearwater, Manx	152
Ouzel, Ring	238	Shelduck	29
Owl, Barn	171	Shelduck, Ruddy	32
Owl, Little	172	Shoveler	35
Owl, Short-eared	173	Shrike, Great Grey	183
Owl, Tawny	174	Shrike, Woodchat	184
Oystercatcher	89	Siskin	278
Parakeet, Ring-necked	286	Skua, Arctic	147
Partridge, Grey	67	Skua, Great	146
Partridge, Red-legged	70	Skua, Pomarine	146
Peafowl, Indian	285	Skylark	199
Peregrine	182	Snipe	119
Petrel, Leach's	151	Snipe, Jack	118
Phalarope, Grey	120	Sparrow, House	251
Pheasant	68	Sparrow, Tree	250
Pigeon, Feral	75	Sparrowhawk	164
Pintail	46	Spoonbill	156
Pipit, Meadow	258	Starling	231
Pipit, Richard's	258	Stint, Little	116
Pipit, Rock	262	Stonechat	246
Pipit, Tree	260	Swallow	202
Pipit, Water	261	Swan, Bewick's	27
Plover, Golden	94	Swan, Black	285
Plover, Grey	95	Swan, Mute	25
Plover, Little Ringed	98	Swan, Whooper	28
Plover, Ringed	96	Swift	72
Pochard	52	Teal	49
Quail	69	Tern, Arctic	144
Rail, Water	81	Tern, Black	145
Raven	191	Tern, Common	143
Razorbill	148	Tern, Little	142
Redpoll, Lesser	273	Tern, Sandwich	141
Redshank	123	Tern, white-winged Black	145
Redshank, Spotted	126	Thrush, Mistle	233
Redstart	243	Thrush, Song	232
Redstart, Black	243	Tit, Blue	196
Redwing	234	Tit, Coal	193
Robin	240	Tit, Great	198
Rook	188	Tit, Long-tailed	208
Ruff	111	Tit, Marsh	194
Sanderling	112	Tit, Willow	195
Sandpiper, Common	121	Treecreeper	229
Sandpiper, Curlew	111	Turnstone	107
Sandpiper, Green	122	Twite	270
Sandpiper, Purple	116	Wagtail, Grey	255

Wagtail, Pied	257
Wagtail, Western Yellow	254
Wagtail, White	256
Warbler, Cetti's	207
Warbler, Garden	221
Warbler, Grasshopper	217
Warbler, Reed	217
Warbler, Sedge	215
Warbler, Willow	211
Warbler, Wood	209
Warbler, Yellow-browed	211
Waxwing	192
Wheatear	247
Wheatear, Greenland	248
Whimbrel	99
Whinchat	245
Whitethroat	223
Whitethroat, Lesser	222
Wigeon	40
Woodcock	117
Woodpecker, Great Spotted	177
Woodpecker, Green	178
Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted	176
Woodpigeon	78
Wren	226
Yellowhammer	281