

North-East Wales Bird Report 2023



Clwyd Bird Recording Group
August 2024

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NORTH-EAST WALES BIRD REPORT 2023

Glenn E Morris (text) and Ian Spence (layout and maps, using DMAP by Dr AJ Morton)

The main objectives of this Report are to record unusual sightings, breeding evidence and high counts for each species and to acknowledge the efforts of people submitting data. Special thanks to the small number of people who submitted the majority of valuable records. Incomplete coverage means breeding numbers of all species are greatly-underestimated, as shown by the much larger numbers of nesting Curlew, Lapwing, Black Grouse, Rook and Nightjar found by special 2023 surveys.

The Report is based almost entirely on data provided in spreadsheet form by Cofnod, BTO [especially BirdTrack [inc. Birdguides (Bg)] but also Garden BirdWatch, Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Waterways Breeding Bird Survey (WBBS) and Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)], plus other sources that include Julian Hughes (WOS), RSPB [especially Graham Jones, Neil Friswell and Colin Wells], Merseyside Ringing Group, Deeside Naturalists Society Report 2023, eBird, Dee estuary website (DEW) and direct submissions. Special thanks to Julian Hughes for helping me to do the Report properly.

Unusual records for 2023 include Alpine Swift, Red-rumped Swallow, Pallas's Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Barred Warbler, Lapland Bunting, White-tailed Eagle (again), Little Gull, Roseate Tern, Gull-billed-Tern and Black Tern.

The old vice-counties for biological record-keeping, VC50 (Denbs) and VC51 (Flints) can be found on-line at: <https://www.cucaera.co.uk/grp/?refs=SJ26&map>. This year I have added a virtual tour of these boundaries to give myself a geography lesson: please join me at the end of this Report.

The Magic of Merlin. It's a little dispiriting to find that many years experience of learning birdsong can be replaced by any novice with a mobile phone, but the Merlin app from Cornell (eBird), which records sonograms and compares them with its database on-line, has made it almost a reality. It is very good at detecting Goldcrests, if you are too old to hear them, and if you are lucky enough to find an Icterine Warbler, it will even save the evidence for you. It will often pick up distant birdsong before you do and give an electronic clue to what to look for or listen for "manually", BUT, please don't send lists based on Merlin alone to BirdTrack or eBird.

Ian Spence has produced all the maps from Cofnod data and has assembled the text and figures into its final pdf format. Thanks are also due to those who have kindly provided photographs. I am solely responsible for past errors (see Corrections below) and for future errors that will no doubt continue to creep into this Report.

Glenn E Morris, Bird Recorder. (glennmanc@hotmail.com).

Abbreviations: VC: Vice-county; Flints: Flintshire VC51; Denbs: Denbighshire VC50; **CQNR-OakRSPB:** Connah's Quay Nature Reserve and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh; **POA:** Point of Ayr; **RSPB:** Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; **BTO:** British Trust for Ornithology; **BT:** BTO BirdTrack; **Bg:** Birdguides; **WeBS:** Wetland Bird Survey; **GBW:** BTO Garden BirdWatch; **BBS:** BTO Breeding Bird Survey; **WBBS:** Waterways Breeding Bird Survey; **DEW:** Dee estuary website (www.deeestuary.co.uk), **WOS:** Welsh Ornithological Society; **WBRC:** Welsh Bird Rarities Committee; **NNR:** National Nature Reserve; **LNR:** local nature reserve; **CP:** Country Park; **NWWT:** North Wales Wildlife Trust; **Llanfair TH:** Llanfair Talhaiarn

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE 2021 REPORT

Additional Species:

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

GWYACH GORNIOG

Denbs: 1 off Llanddulas on 26/12.

Grey Phalarope. *Phalaropus fulicarius*

LLYDANDROED LLWYD

Flints: 1 at Flint on 3/01.

Denbs: 1 at Fenn's Moss 15-20/11.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

GWYLAN FECHAN

Denbs: 1 at Llanddulas on 31/03.

Additional Records:

Goshawk: **Denbs:** During 2020-2021, BSG Ecology Ltd studied a pair of Goshawks in one single area near Llyn Brenig, with 6 sightings on 3 visits during Oct-Dec 2020, 19 sightings on 4 visits during Jan-Feb 2021 and only 4 sightings (mainly males) on 3 visits during Apr-Jun 2021. Display was reported on Feb 15th only.

Brent Goose: **Flints:** 102 of the dark-bellied form (*bernicla*) at Bagillt on 27/12.

Osprey: **Denbs:** additional nest in Dee valley.

Lapwing: **Flints:** 49 pairs nested at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints), ca 0.5 fledged per pair.

Ringed Plover: **Flints:** 22 nests at Gronant hatched 45 chicks.

Curlew: **Denbs:** 7-8 nesting pairs on Denbigh moors near Foelasfechan, 12-16 pairs partly in Denbs at Ysbyty Ifan.

Woodcock: **Flints:** a summer record at Rhydymwyn on 20/05 and 4 there on 28/01.

Redshank: **Flints:** 49 pairs nested at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints), ca 0.5 fledged per pair.

Black-headed Gull: **Flints:** 408 nests at Shotton Steelworks fledged 562 chicks and RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) had ca. 240 occupied nests.

Little Tern: **Flints:** 163 occupied nests at Gronant fledged 201 young and 14 occupied nests at POA fledged 10 young.

Common Tern: **Flints:** 382 nests at Shotton Steelworks fledged 288 chicks.

Bittern: **Flints:** 1 seen feeding regularly on the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints).

Cattle Egret: *Flints*: 2 at Flint on 12/06 and up to 7 on the Welsh side of the river.

Great White Egret: *Flints*: max 21 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 22/08.

Little Egret: *Flints*: WeBS on 22/08 recorded a record 202 on the Welsh Dee estuary.

Barn Owl: *Flints*: 16 young were ringed at 6 nests; Denbs: 37 young were ringed at 17 nests.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: *Denbs*: 2 at Wenffrwd Nature Reserve, Llangollen on 19/03.

Chough: *Flints*: 1 at Prestatyn on 19/03.

Pied Flycatcher: *Denbs*: The following nestbox scheme data was supplied by Peter Coffey and MRG.

Location	Nests	Fledged Young	Young per nest
Conwy Valley: Bodnant	17	69	4.06
Glyn Arthur	23	40	1.74
Glyn Ceiriog/Pandy	22	103	5.68
Prion	31	176	3.6

Black Redstart: *Denbs*: 1 at Minera, 28/03 and 1 at Rhos (Denbs) on 10/07.

Hawfinch: *Flints*: 2 in Mold on 16/10, *Denbs* max count at Llanrwst was 16 on 15/12.

Water Pipit: *Denbs*: although the record at Rhos Point is invalid, there was another record at RSPB Conwy on 30/11.

Species Removed:
Three species were recorded only at Rhos Point (**Caernarfon**) with no evidence that they crossed the border into Rhos (Denbs): Eider, Black-throated Diver and Purple Sandpiper.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE 2022 REPORT.

A selection of extra records for Fagl Lane (Flints) from Keith “Kipper” Davies (KhD): Mar-May: Whimbrel (14), Green Sandpiper (3), Mandarin Duck (2), Green Woodpecker (2), Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (1), Reed Warbler (1) and Wood Duck (1). June-Aug: Green Woodpecker (1), Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (1).

Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix* GRUGIAR DDU
Denbs: a survey by SLR Consulting added 6 lekking males in Clocaenog Forest to the map.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix* SOFLIAR
Denbs: extra record south of Holt on 21/07.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* TROELLWR MAWR
Denbs: Tony Cross examined 14 nests in Clocaenog Forest on 5/06; 9 fledged 2y each, 2 fledged 1y each, 1 nest was lost to predation and 2 nests with eggs failed. SLR consultancy located 26 churring males in Clocaenog Forest on 9/06.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* CORNCHWIGLEN
At RSPB Burton Mere (Flints), 54 nesting pairs were present but the outcome is not recorded (GrJ).

Redshank *Tringa totanus* PIBYDD COESGOCH
At RSPB Burton Mere (Flints), 26 nesting pairs were present but the outcome is not recorded (GrJ).

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* CRËYR GLAS
Denbs: extra nesting records from BTO at Valle Crucis (3 nests) and Llyn-y-briw near B4580 (18 nests).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* GWALCH MARTH
Denbs: BSG Ecology reported 6 sightings of goshawks (M & F) near Llyn Brenig (see 2021) between 26/04 and 9/07.

Gyr Falcon *Falco rusticolus* HEBOG Y GOGLEDD
Denbs: one near Llyn Brenig on 11/09 was thought to be an escaped falconer’s bird (BSG Ecology).

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* HEBOG YR EHEDYDD
Denbs: BSG Ecology Ltd observed singles at a study site near Llyn Brenig on 26/04 (the earliest record in NE Wales), 8/05, 9/05, 14/08 and 20/08.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG
Flints: extra record at Shotwick Lake on 6/03.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus* TITW BARFOG
Flints: a pair at POA on 13/05.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH
Flints: extra record at Bodelwyddan on 10/01.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima* SIGLEN FELEN GORLLEWIN
Flints: Breeding was confirmed by a female feeding 2 recently fledged juveniles at Shotwick Lake on 30/06.

The Systematic Species List for 2023

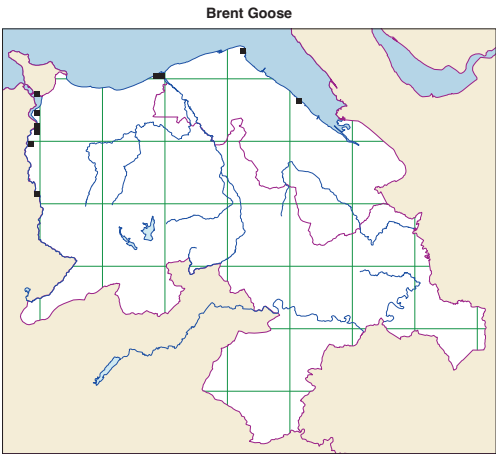
Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

GŴYDD DDU

The light-bellied form, *B.b.hrota*, is a local, but regular, winter visitor.

Flints. The highest count was 207 at Walwen Marsh 17/12 (WeBS) and there were 118 here on 23/02 (later than the WeBS date: GRMP). There were 11 at POA on 15/10 (DEW). Also single-figure records at Ffynon-groyw, Gronant and Talacre. A single dark-bellied form, *B.b. bernicla*, was seen at POA on 22/01 (NoWi).

Denbs. Horton’s Nose had 18-23 birds during 14/02 to 16/02 (eBird) and Rhyl Marine Lake had 12 on 21/11 and 25/11 (MaS). Nearby Kinnel Bay had 10 on 5/03 (SAT) and 9 there on 17/03 (eBird).



Brent Goose: WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Walwen	192	52	107									207
Point of Ayr	65	36	32							11	28	36

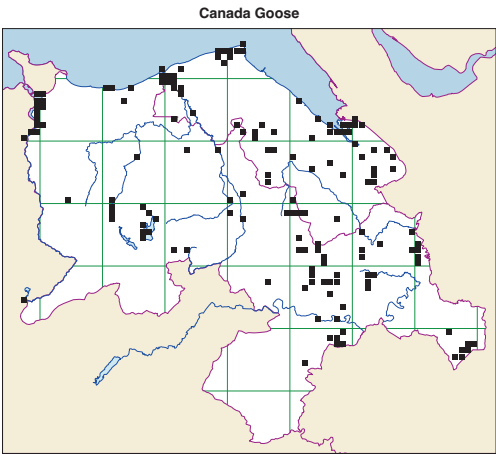
Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

GŴYDD CANADA

A very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 556 BT records in all months (138 of which from Connah’s Quay NR) with breeding confirmed at Rhyl Brickworks (4 nests; JHi), Clwyd Estuary (4 nests; WRM), Gronant, Buckley Common, Llyn Cyfynwy (SD), Cilcain (Anya) and CQNR-OakRSPB. Max 4,500 at Flint Castle on 9/10 (eBird), 1,800 at White Sands on 17/12 (WeBS) and 1,500 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 4/02 (PSH).

Denbs. 615 BT records in all months (281 of which were from RSPB Conwy). Breeding was confirmed at RSPB Conwy (3-4 nests: WRM), Llyn Brenig (2 pairs: WRM), Llyn Aled Isaf (2 pairs: WRM), Lleweni (3 broods of 7, 5 and 3: JHi), Ruthin (4y: GoP), Llanynys (9y: GoP), Pant Glas: PenyCae (5y: NiH), Hanmer (22y; SD), Trefechan-PenyCae (JmHu), Bodnant NT and Betws Lodge (Abergele). Maxima were 387 at Clwyd estuary on 2/02 (JHi) and 314 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 5/03 (MaS).



Canada Goose	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR		100	210	12	6	9	20		10	30		72
RSPB Oakenholt	1100	500	52		7	40	850	226	30	40	23	290
White Sands	250	25	27		22	16	34	1000	95	200	100	1800
Clwyd Est/MarineLak	182	51	2	124	138		88	793	6	12		158
Hanmer Mere	86	63	36	8	16	12		1		123	34	50
Pt of Ayr (inc Fields)	58	142	162							40	130	247

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

GŴYDD WYRAN

Uncommon winter visitor, probably of feral origin.

Flints. One at CQNR/RSPB Oakenholt on 2/01 (LeLa) and 3 at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 5/01 (CW).

Denbs. Two at RSPB Conwy on 27/04 (TGr, JJo) and 1 at Erddig on 31/05 (eBird).

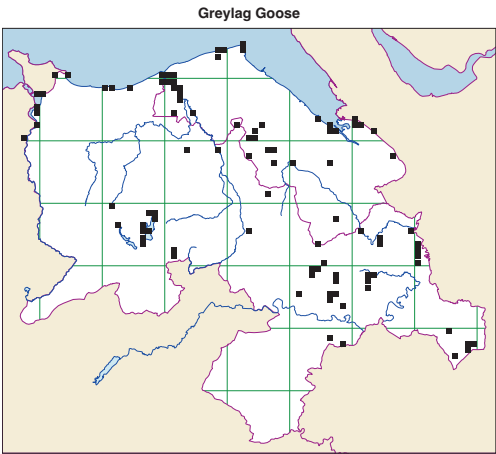
Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

GŴYDD LWYD

A common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 266 BT records in all months, with breeding confirmed at Gronant on 12/05 (3 pairs; WRM), Clwyd estuary on 12/05 (pr + 3y: WRM) and Star Crossing on 21/05 (pair + 3y: GEM). Max 620 at Clwyd estuary on 8/10 and 29/10 (both WRM) and 450 at Rhuddlan on 29/11 (SH).

Denbs. 358 BT records in all months. Breeding was confirmed at Llyn Brenig on 3/05 (pr + 3y: WRM), Hanmer on 20/05 (pr + 4y: SD), Maes Mynan on 5/05 (MV), Lleweni on 20/05 (3y: JHi), Nant-y-Ffrith on 25/06 (SD) and PenyCae on 7/05 (JmHu). Max 400 at Is-y-coed on 7/01 (JmHu), 350 at Llyn Brenig on 4/07 (NiW) and 324 at Lleweni on 16/01 (JHi).



Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

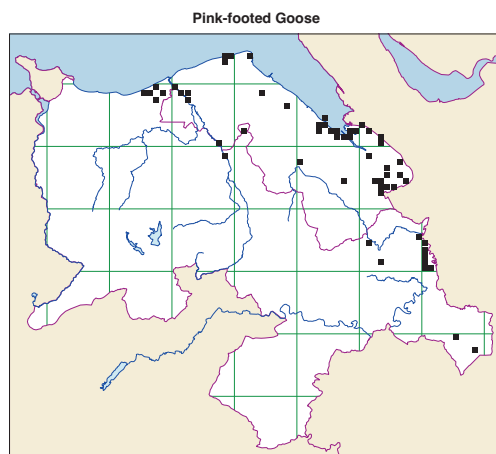
GŴYDD DROETBINC

Abundant, but local, winter visitor in increasing numbers and becoming regular at inland sites.

Flints. 148 BT records (53 from CQNR-OakRSPB), up to 2/05 and then from 8/09 onwards, apart from a stray single on Clwyd estuary on 9/05 (AHJ). A record high count of 15,000 at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 25/03, with counts of 9,000 there on 24/02 and 24/03 (all CW). Also 6000 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 19/02 (PSH). Inland, there were 540 at Hawarden Ind Park on 27/11 (AHJ) and 240+ N. of Caerwys on 1/11 (MV).

Denbs. 24 BT records, up to 5/03 and then from 1/11 onwards. Highest counts in fields behind

Towyn/Pensarn of 1,500+ on 7/01 (MBo), 1,036 on 27/01 (JHi) and 1,500+ on 28/01 (RiE). Modest numbers at Holt/Is-Y-Coed with max 200+ on 7/01 (JmHu), 300 at Alyn Waters CP on 14/01 (eBird) and an inland flock of 55 at Nannerch Fishery on 25/01 (MD). The Denbs side of the Clwyd estuary had 170 on 5/02 (WRM). Flyover of 75 at Fenn's Moss on 25/02 (RHa).



White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*
A scarce winter visitor.

GWYDD DALCENWEN

Flints. One at CQNR-OakRSPB from 5/01-7/01 and again on 28/01 (PSH).

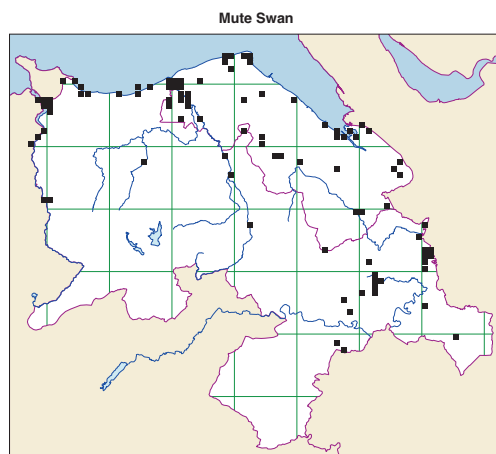
Denbs. A flock of 10 was on flooded fields south of Holt from 12/01 to 16/01 (NF, AHJ, JmHu, RoMo).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*
Common breeding resident.

ALARCH DOF

Flints. 530 BT records with breeding confirmed at Gronant, Rhyl Brickworks Pool, Rhuddlan NR and Ysceifiog. Max 43 on Clwyd estuary on 3/05 (AHJ).

Denbs. 526 BT records with confirmed breeding at Hanmer, Erddig and Johnstown. Max 70 at RSPB Conwy on 13/06 (PhMa).



Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*
Very scarce winter visitor.

ALARCH BEWICK

Flints. Two flying in at dusk to roost at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 19/01 was the only record (GrJ).

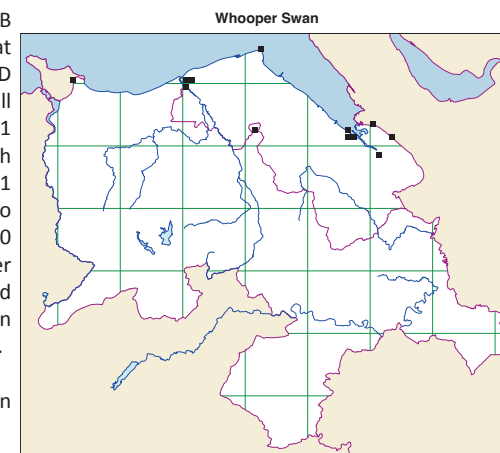
Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon, but regular, winter visitor, mainly to the Dee estuary.

Flints. 38 BT records with a max of 33 at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 13/10 (GrJ) and 19 at White Sands on 23/11 (CW). Burton MOD marshes had 17 on 23/03 and 16 on 22/11 (all CW) and Shotwick Fields had 14 on 13/11 (eBird). CQNR-OakRSPB had 31 records, with 7 on 1/01 (PSH), 3 on 21/11 (SK) and 1 consorting with Mute Swans from 5/03 to 21/04 (many obs). Two at Caerwys on 22/10 (MV), 5 at Talacre on 12/10 (MP), 4 flying over Queensferry on 21/11 (DWin), 4 on the Clwyd estuary on 15/10 (WRM) and 1 at Rhuddlan on 11/11 (SK) and Fagl Lane on 12/04 (KhD).

Denbs. One record only at RSPB Conwy on 20/12 (SaE).



Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

GWYDD YR AIFFT

This species is of feral origin and an occasional visitor to the estuaries.

Flints. Burton Mere Border Pool had 1 on 23/04 and 6 on 17/10, with 3 on nearby Shotwick Fields on 13/11 (all eBird).

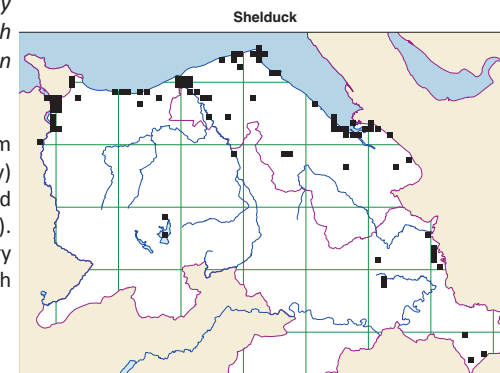
Denbs. One at Moss Valley, Wrexham on 25/06 (eBird).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

A fairly-common breeding resident locally and very common year-round visitor, with peak numbers during the summer moult on the Dee estuary.

Flints. 451 BT records (of which 136 from CQNR-OakRSPB and 151 from Clwyd estuary) with max. 1,250 at POA on 17/09 (WeBS) and 1,200 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 5/06 (GR). Breeding was confirmed on the Clwyd estuary on 25/06: "5 family parties/creches - pr with



2 third-grown young; pr with 2 small ducklings; pr with 14 small ducklings; pr with 8 small ducklings; pr with 6 small ducklings. 32 ducklings in total” (WRM).

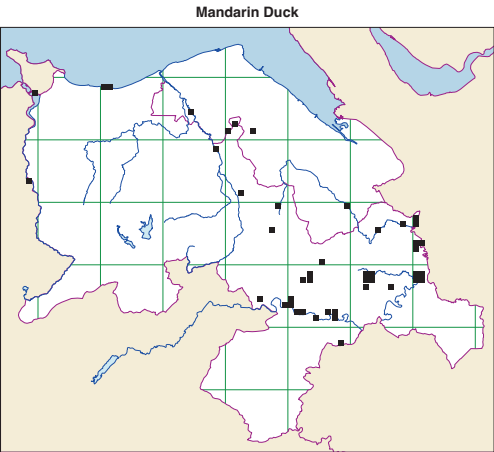
Denbs. 364 BT records, inc 274 at RSPB Conwy. Confirmed breeding on the Conwy estuary on 13/07: “Could only see 3 family parties of Shelduck on the sand/mud of the R Conwy - parties of 5, 2 and 1 ducklings. The 5 were well grown but the 2 and 1 still small” (WRM). Max. at RSPB Conwy were 164 on 19/04 (JHg) and 210 on 20/04 (ToSt). Is-y-coed had 36 on 12/01 (NF).

Shelduck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ffynongroyw	52	129	47	7	12	7	64		227	70	16	4
Flint Marsh	50	100	56	15	48	50	25	82	300	40	1	85
Point of Ayr	63	133	70	34	43	96	210	110	1250	1000	330	222
Clwyd Estuary	81	22	1	118	78		5	12		16		20
Gronant	44	71	59	7			26	22	47	61	67	31
White Sands	37	3	43		33	62	31			2	3	8
Oakenholt	43	44	50	51	121	800	150	80	145	48	56	20

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* HWYADEN MANDARIN
An uncommon, but rapidly increasing, breeding resident.

Flints. Only 4 records: 4 at Fagl Lane on 28/12 (SD) and 1 there on 4/07 (KhD), 1 at Ysceifiog on 27/08 (eBird), 2 at Afonwen on 13/03 and 1 there on 15/09 (MV).

Denbs. 74 BT records in all months. Breeding was confirmed in 7 locations: Lleweni, Maes Mynan, Chirk Castle, Pontcysyllte and Llangollen Golf Course, Marchwiel and Llyn Gweryd. “Probable” breeding at Holt. Two were investigating a Barn Owl box as a possible nest site at Derwen on 16/04 (VP). Max 29 at Froncysyllte on 26/06 (DaHu) and 26 at Sutton Green on 26/02 (eBird).



Garganey *Anas querquedula* HWYADEN ADDFAIN
A rare passage migrant.

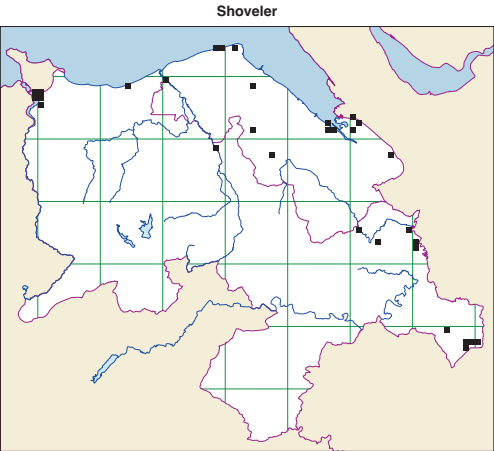
Flints. One at Connah’s Quay NR on 26/10 and 1/11 (both JJo) and 1 at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 3/09 (CW).

Denbs. Single female at RSPB Conwy on 12/03 (Bg) and another from 25/09 to 1/11 (many obs: recorded as male in eclipse on 22/10 by eBird).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata* HWYADEN LYDANBIG
Local breeding resident and fairly common winter visitor to freshwater locations.

Flints. 92 BT records (62 of which at CQNR-OakRSPB) in all months except June. The only nesting site was RSPB Burton Mere (Flints), where 13 pairs were present but no broods were recorded (GrJ). Max 151 on flooded Burton MOD marshes on 7/11 (CW) and 95 on Burton Mere Border Pool (Flints) on 19/08 and 6/11 (CW). Highest counts elsewhere were 73 at Shotwick Lake on 21/01 (eBird) and 42 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 5/04 (PSH).

Denbs. 314 BT records (285 of which at RSPB Conwy) in all months of the year. No confirmed breeding but “probable” at Fenn’s Moss on 2/06 (JHg). Max 80 at RSPB Conwy on 4/02 (NiB) and 43 there on 1/12 (WRM). Inland, 22 at Holt on 22/11 (NF), 16 at Maes Mynan on 1/01 (KBr) and 8 at Gresford Flash on 3/01 (eBird).



Gadwall *Mareca strepera* HWYADEN LWYD
A fairly common and increasing breeding resident and winter visitor.

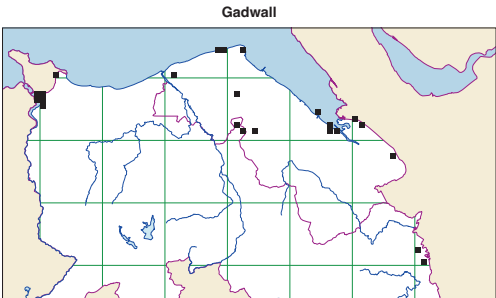
Flints. 121 BT records. The only nesting site was RSPB Burton Mere (Flints), where 11 pairs were present and 2 broods were recorded (GrJ). Shotwick Lake had 172 on 21/01 and 87 on 3/12 (both eBird). The



Gadwall: John Hawkins

highest counts elsewhere were 30 at RSPB Burton Mere Border Pool on 12/09, 15 at CQNR on 13/05 (PSH), 14 at Gronant on 8/03 (JHi) and 13 at Yscefiog.

Denbs. The 358 BT records were ALL from RSPB Conwy, except for 1 at Horton’s Nose on 30/03 (AHJ) and 4 at Is-y-Coed on 7/01 (JmHu). Breeding was confirmed at RSPB Conwy where 3 pairs fledged 17 young (RSPB). The highest count was 46 at RSPB Conwy on 19/06 (Zak).

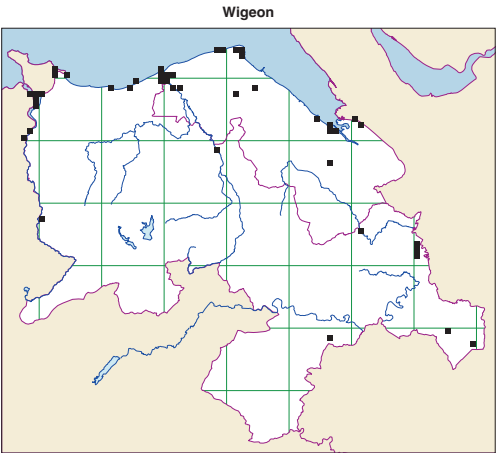


Wigeon *Mareca penelope*
An abundant winter visitor to estuaries and wetlands.

CHWIIWELL

Flints. 266 BT records (137 of them from CQNR-OakRSPB) in all months (only 6 records in June). Max. 3,000 at Flint Castle on 18/11 (eBird), 2,500 at Burton MOD marshes on 9/11 (CW) and 1,480 at POA on 22/01 (WeBS). The highest counts at CQNR-OakRSPB were 500 on 1/01 (PSH) and 441 at Clwyd estuary on 2/02 (JHi). Inland, 35 at Whitford Lodge pool on 13/2 (ShN).

Denbs. 261 BT records (207 from RSPB Conwy) in all months except June. Max 1,800 at Ridleywood on 13/01 (PEM) and 800 at Holt on 20/01 (NF). There were 800 offshore at Abergele on 7/02 (MBo), 454 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 25/11 (MaS), 200 at RSPB Conwy on 18/02 (CLa) and 82 at Hanmer on 17/12 (DaHa).



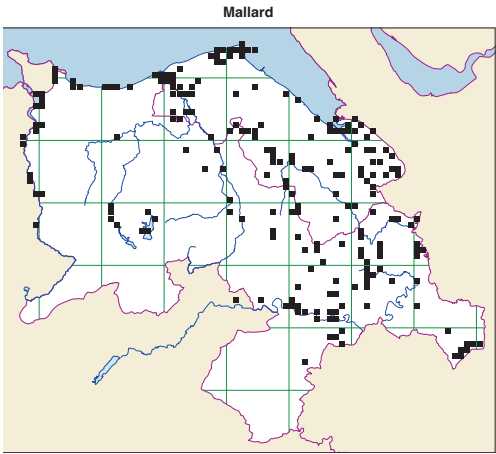
Wigeon: WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	158	178	75	2						40	56	280
RSPB Oakenholt	7	40	160							18	80	130
Burton Mere (Flints)	810	193	75	8					8	8	134	132
Point of Ayr	1480	405	777						70	86	344	870
Clwyd Estuary	772	36		20						35	32	303

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
An abundant breeding resident and winter visitor.

HWYADEN WYLLT

Flints. 927 BT records with breeding confirmed at 10 locations (CQNR, Clwyd estuary, Gronant, Rhyl Brickworks, R. Elwy at St Asaph, Llyn Cyfynwy, Buckley Common, Bretton, Cop Hole Pool and Star Crossing). Max 750 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 5/06 (GR), 750 there on 10/06 (GR), 600 there on 19/08 (GEM) and 151 at Rhyl Brickworks on 19/08 (AHJ).

Denbs. 830 BT records throughout the year. Successful breeding at 16 locations: RSPB Conwy, Bodnant, Tan Lan, Llanddulas, Sontley, Erddig, Llanfair TH, Bettisfield, Hanmer, Llyn Brenig, Llyn Gweryd, Pen-y-Cae, Acrefair, Moss Valley CP, Glan-y-Wern and Maes Mynan. Max. 308 at Hanmer on 22/01 (DaHa) and 78 at RSPB Conwy on 9/07 (Zak).



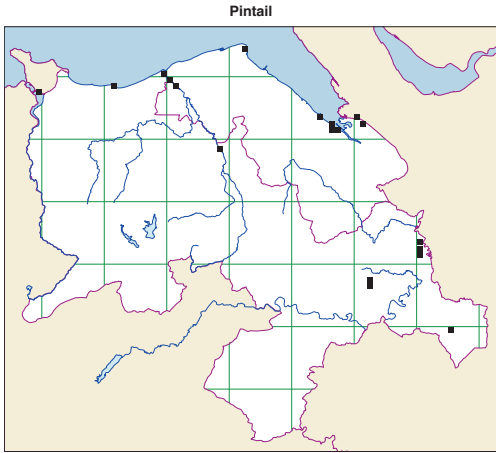
Mallard: WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	15	18	12	6	110	156	380	60	38	6	20	80
Gronant	56	49	74	16			12	44	13	11	68	76
Point of Ayr	68	61	47	12		60	12	72	60	76	165	64
Hanmer Mere	308	24	14	7	24	61		30	17	21	31	18
Rhyl Brickworks	74	57	43	51	45	50	55	151	40	58	60	
Clwyd Estuary	52	15	9	18	19	3	22	162	2	4	1	12

Pintail *Anas acuta*
A very rare breeding resident and an abundant winter visitor to estuaries and wetlands.

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Flints. 57 BT records (19 from CQNR-OakRSPB) up to 29/04 and again from 28/08 onwards. Max 1,100 at Burton MOD marsh on 6/10 (CW), 540 there on 26/02 (CW), 750 at Flint Castle on 10/10 (eBird) and 336 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 21/02 (PSH).

Denbs. 48 BT records (inc 27 from RSPB Conwy), up to 14/03 and again from 4/09 onwards. Max 1,000+ at Holt on 20/01 and 503 on 22/11 (both NF). Inland, 6 at Hanmer on 19/02 (DaHa) and 5 at Llewenni on 23/10 (JHi).



Pintail: WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	360	217	220						100	160	284	350
RSPB Oakenholt		1	12	60					21		21	

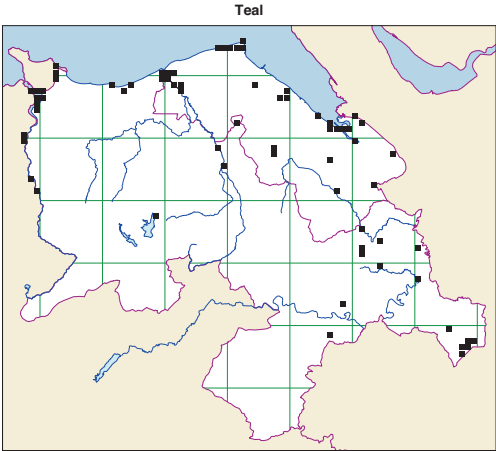
Teal *Anas crecca*

CORHWYADEN

A rare breeding resident and an abundant winter visitor to estuaries and wetlands.

Flints. 431 BT records (224 of which from CQNR-OakRSPB) throughout the year. The only nesting site was RSPB Burton Mere (Flints), where 6 pairs were present and a female had 3 fledged young (GrJ). Max 2,000 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 12/09 (PSH), 287 at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 24/10 (eBird) and 226 on Clwyd estuary on 2/01 (JHi).

Denbs. 427 BT records (inc 323 from RSPB Conwy) throughout the year. No evidence of breeding. Max. 500 at Holt on 25/11 (eBird), 280 at RSPB Conwy on 17/09 (eBird), 45 at Llewenni on 23/10 (JHi) and 85 at Fenn's Moss on 5/01 (RHh).



Teal: WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	175	14	59	32		6	12	111	210	280	68	85
RSPB Oakenholt	200	25	160	47				255	750	300	200	140
Burton Mere (Flints)	368	54	44	31	8		5		28	34	72	182
Point of Ayr	293	133	155	40				3	100	100	176	372
Flint Marsh	600	100	225	15					100	30	40	75
Gronant	53	38	21	18				24	21	13	5	68

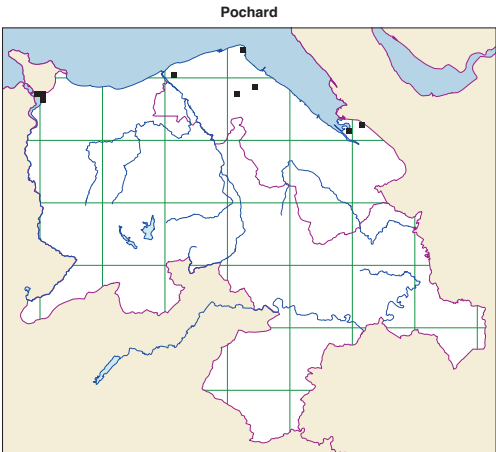
Pochard *Aythya ferina*

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

Uncommon winter visitor, but more records than usual this year.

Flints. 6 BT records from different sites, max. 5 at both Llyn Helyg on 17/09 (ShN) and Shotton Steelworks on 28/01 (RiN). Singles at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 16/09 (CW), POA on 1/11 (ShN) and Rhyl Brickworks on 8/12 (AHJ). Shotwick Lake had 1 on 18/11 and 2 on 3/12 (eBird).

Denbs. 140 BT records (ALL at RSPB Conwy), nearly all up to 24/03 and then from 16/09 onwards, of 1 to 10 birds in both periods (many obs).



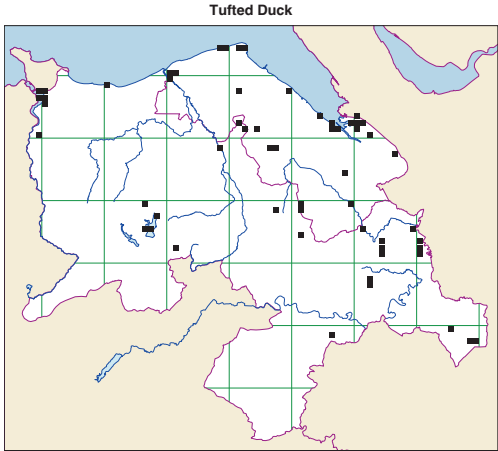
Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

HWYADEN GOPOG

Common freshwater breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 371 BT records (208 from Rhyl Brickworks and 93 from CQNR-OakRSPB) with breeding confirmed at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 1/06 (CW), at Rhyl on 16/07 (WRM) and at Rhyl Brickworks on 19/08 (AHJ). Max 183 at Shotwick Lake on 21/01 (eBird), 59 at Rhyl Brickworks on 8/11 (AHJ) and 25 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 19/04 (PSH).

Denbs. 518 BT records (inc 390 at RSPB Conwy) and breeding was confirmed at RSPB Conwy on 24/06 (AtG), Maes Mynan on 15/06 (MV) and Llewenni on 7/08 (JHi). The highest counts were 97 at Hanmer on 17/12 (DaHa), 50 at Farndon on 14/01 (TBT) and 33 at Maes Mynan on 12/02 (KBr).



Scaup *Aythya marila*

HWYADEN BENDDU

A very scarce winter visitor to coastal areas.

Flints. 5 BT records. Two females at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 6/09-7/09 (CW) and 1 female at Shotwick Lake 2/01-3/01 (SD, JJo).

Denbs. 115 BT records, ALL at RSPB Conwy except for 1 at Llanddulas on 9/02 (JJo). The female at RSPB Conwy was present from 1/01 to 18/04 (many obs) and a single was there on 21/12 (JJo).

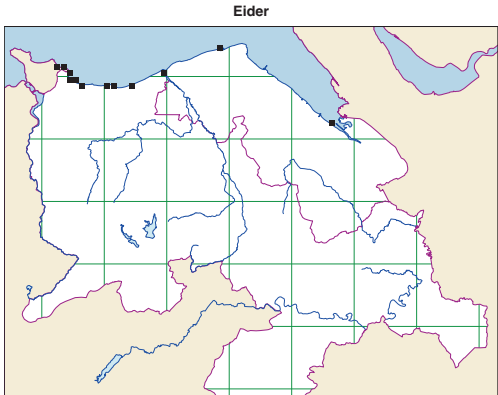
Eider *Somateria mollissima*

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

A scarce winter visitor on the coast.

Flints. Four (3M, 1F) at CQNR-OakRSPB on 23/04 (PSH), 3 at Gronant on 4/06 (ISh, DEW), 1 at POA on 21/06 (GR) and 1 at Talacre on 30/08 (SuMa) are the only records.

Denbs. 16 records in Jan-Mar and Nov/Dec, all of 1-4 birds along the coast from Rhos (Denbs) to Horton's Nose. Max 5 at Llanddulas on 11/11 (JHg).



Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*

MÔR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

A rare, but regular, component of the offshore Scoter flocks.

Denbs. 59 records of 1-3 adult males all at Llanddulas from 16/01 to 21/04 (many obs). One there on 25/10 and a male on 6/12. There were 3 records of 3 birds on 5/03 (eBird), 7/03 and 1/04 (Bg). They often came close in-shore with Velvet Scoter.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

MÔR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

A rare, but regular, component of the offshore Scoter flocks.

Denbs. 56 BT records of 1-10 birds at Llanddulas only. First, a single on 5/01 (PEM), followed by continuous presence from 5/02 to 22/04 (many obs) and a single the following winter on 11/11 (JHg). Max 11 in 2 groups (7 + 4) on 27/03 (eBird).

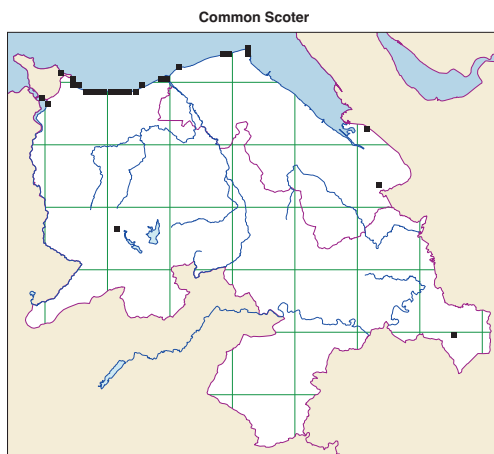
Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

MÔR-HWYADEN DDU

An abundant offshore winter visitor on the north coast.

Flints. 20 BT records in all months except May, offshore from Rhyl to POA (mainly Gronant). Max 58 at Gronant on 21/01 (MHu). Unusual inland records of a male at Shotwick Lake 20/03-23/03 and 2 males there on 18/11 (all eBird). Night passage over Broughton was recorded on 14/10 (AHJ).

Denbs. 152 BT records, with high counts of 8,000 on 21/01 and 12/03 at Llanddulas (eBird), 7,500 at Porth Eirias-Colwyn Bay on 27/01 (TGr) and 3,000 on 16/11 (GEM). Unusual inland records of 1 at Hanmer Mere on 30/06 (JmHu), a male at RSPB Conwy on 21/01 (KBr, AtG) and 2 at Llyn Aled on 3/04 (Bg). One was in the harbour at Horton's Nose on 8/02 (eBird).



Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

HWYADEN GYNFFONHIR

A rare winter visitor to coast and estuary.

Flints. One on the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere on 24/10, 27/10 (eBird) and 30/10 (MB) and on 6/11 and 11/11 (CW). Pair flying up-river at CQNR on 16/11 (JGi). Some of the 6 BT records for Clwyd estuary from 2/01 to 10/02 may have been on the Flints side of the river.

Denbs. Female at Llanddulas on 27/01 (GrJ), 12/02 (JHi), 20/03 (WL) and 21/11 (eBird). One at Horton's Nose on 10/02 and one specifically on the **Denbs** side of the Clwyd estuary on 2/01 and 15/01 (all Bg).

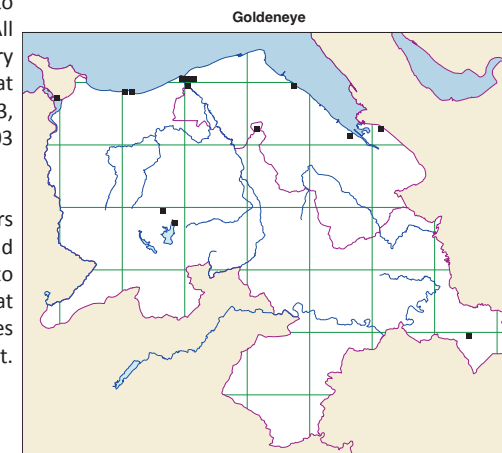
Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR

A rather scarce winter visitor that was once more common.

Flints. 18 BT records of 1-2 birds from 6/01 to 22/03 and again from 12/10 to 3/12. All singles except for 2 birds on the Clwyd estuary from 19/01 to 12/02 (several obs). Singles at Rhyl Brickworks on 24/02 (JHi), CQNR on 5/03, 5/11 and 22/11 (all PSH), Fagl Lane on 15/03 (KhD) and Shotwick Lake on 30/11 (DEW).

Denbs. 30 BT records, with good numbers only at Hanmer, which had 11 on 19/02 and 10 on 14/03 (DaHa). Present from 1/01 to 13/04 and again from 31/10 to 30/12. Two at RSPB Conwy, Llyn Brenig and Llyn Bran, singles at Rhyl Marine Lake, Llanddulas and Bodnant.



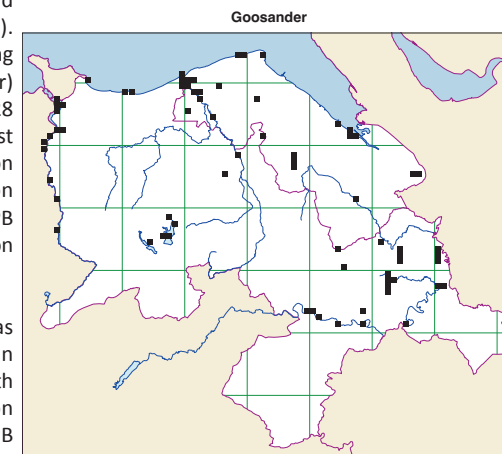
Goosander *Mergus merganser*

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Fairly common winter visitor and breeding resident, often seen inland.

Flints. 310 BT records (inc 143 from Clwyd estuary and 94 from Rhyl Brickworks). Breeding was confirmed by a nest with young on the R. Clwyd near Rhuddlan on 25/04 (KBr) and 2 broods seen here on 8/05 (JHi). Max 28 at Rhyl Brickworks on 1/01 (JHi). The highest counts elsewhere were 23 on the R. Clwyd on 3/09 (JHi) and 10 at Star Crossing Pool on 18/10 (MD). Also recorded at CQNR-OakRSPB (8 in May, 7 in Dec: PSH) and Padeswood (5 on 6/02: GNR).

Denbs. 150 BT records. Breeding was confirmed by a female with 5 young at Tan Lan on the R. Conwy on 21/07 (JHg), a female with 10 young at Cefn Mawr on the R. Dee on 18/06 (DaPh) and fledged young at RSPB Conwy on 8/06 (JHg). "Probable" breeding at Llanrwst, Erddig, Holt and Llyn Brenig. Max 51 at Holt on 20/01 (NF), 28 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 19/08 (AHJ) and 30 at Llyn Brenig on 28/07 (eBird). Also, 4 at Gresford Flash on 4/02 (eBird).



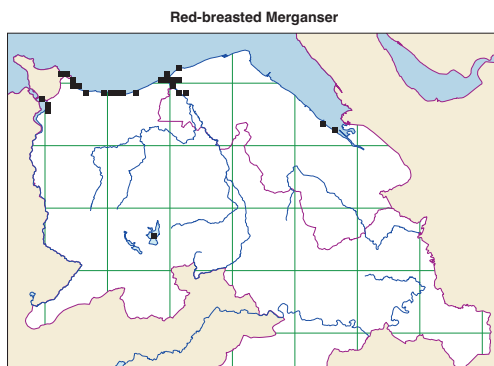
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

A regular winter visitor to coastal areas, often on the sea.

Flints. 14 BT records, mostly up to 22/04 and then again from 29/10 onwards. Max. 7 at Flint Castle on 19/02 (eBird). Two at CQNR-OakRSPB on 4/02 and singles on 4/01 and 7/01 (all PSH) and 1 at Rhyl Brickworks on 5/01 (JmHu).

Denbs. 217 BT records (inc 115 at RSPB Conwy and 82 in the sea from Rhos to Pensarn), Nearly all up to 22/04 and then again from 21/09 onwards. Max 17 at RSPB Conwy on 23/03 (RiE) and 16 at Llanddulas on 13/02 (eBird). Inland, Llyn Brenig had 4 on 14/08 (eBird).



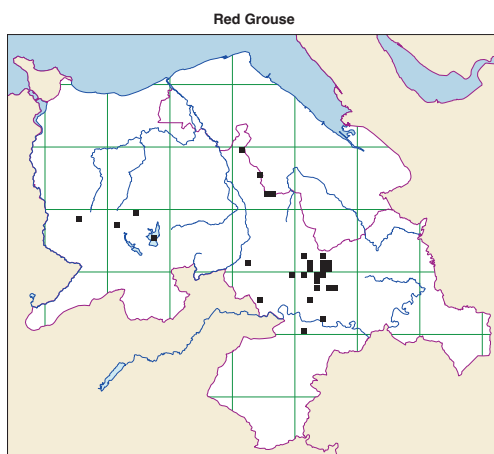
Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

GRUGIAR GOCH

Uncommon resident of upland heather moors.

Flints The only records were in the Fauxdegla/Moel Garegog area adjacent to Ruabon Moors (3 on 3/03, 1 on 14/04: Anya) and at Moel Arthur (2 on 15/10: MP).

Denbs. 100 BT records, 86 of which came from the Esclusham-Worlds End region of the Ruabon Moors. Breeding was confirmed at World's End which had a nest with eggs on 28/02 (JJo) and 4 fledged young on 10/06 (MaRo). Most high counts of 25-35 were also at World's End, but snow on 11/03 appears to have caused a group of 200+ to huddle together on Esclusham Mtn (eBird), the highest count for many years. A survey on 14/04 found 11 on 2 areas of Llantysilio Mtn, 14 in the Wireless Station area of Ruabon moors and 1 on the Horseshoe Pass. In the north Berwyns, there were 20+ above Llangollen on 25/02. In the Clwydians, there were singles at Moel-y-Parc on 15/04 and at Moel Famau on 12/02, with 3 at Penycloddiau on 8/10. On Mynydd Hiraethog, there were singles at Moel Bengam on 4/04 (Anya), at Gors Maen Llwyd on 5/03, 29/04 and 30/04 and 3 separate calling males near Llyn Aled on 4/04 (JHg).



Red Grouse: John Hawkins



Black Grouse *Lyrurus tetrix*

GRUGIAR DDU

Uncommon resident of upland heather moors.

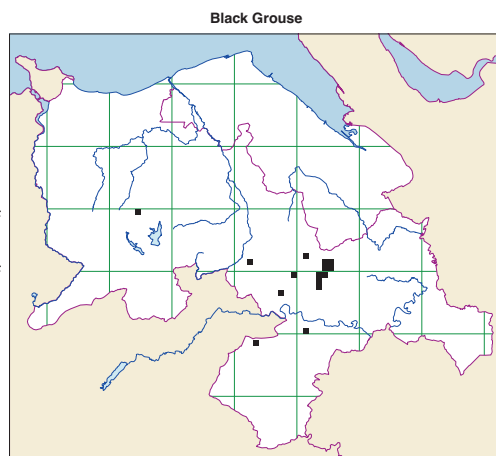
Flints. Survey of central Clwydians on 20/04 found 3 lekking males on Cilcain Moors, plus 2 males at Penycloddiau. 3 males were seen below Moel Famau (Flints) on 8/03 (JaP). Survey of Fauxdegla/Moel Garegog on 14/04 found 6 lekking males. Two more records from Fauxdegla/Moel Garegog with 4 on 3/03 and 1 on 25/10 (Anya). Six males seen near Llyn Cyfynwy on 3/03 (BMH). TOTAL lekking males = 9.



Black Grouse: John Hawkins

Denbs. 62 BT records, with breeding evidence limited to lekking males. Survey data on the eastern Ruabon Moors is not available, but there were 57 BT records from Esclusham Mountain to World's End, where the highest count was 36 on 27/01 (GrJ), including 2 leks of 16 and 17. Two separate leks of 7 and 17 were seen here on 2/04 (DFo) and 3 separate leks of 5, 10+ and 15 on 1/05 (SiD). Survey of western Ruabon moors (Cyrn-y-Brain) on 14/04 found 4 males (2 lekking). Survey of Llantysilio Mtn on 14/04 found 9 males (8 lekking). Survey of moorland around Llyn Brenig on 4/04 found 6 males (3 lekking); this includes Gors Maen Llwyd NR which had 2 males calling in the west of the Reserve, plus 2-4 females in flight (NWWT). Survey of north Berwyns on 2/05 found 3 lekking males.

Survey of central Clwydians on 20/04 found a lekking male on Moel Famau. Elsewhere, presence at Gors Maen Llwyd on 30/04 and 1 displaying at nearby Sportsman's Arms on 14/05 (Any), 1 in flight in the north Berwyns on 10/11 (Any). TOTAL lekking males =50.



Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*
Rare breeding resident.

PETRISEN

Denbs. A likely pair near Plas Nantyr in the Berwyns on 1/05 (TK) and 6-20 on a farm track near Bangor-Is-y-Coed on 3/11 (RiHu). One in a garden near Llanarmon-Yn-Ial on 3/09 (GBW).

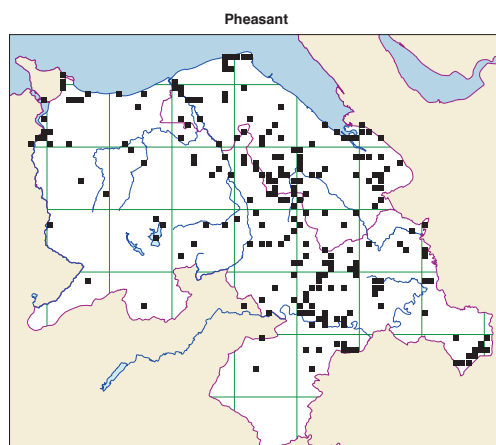
Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Very common because of releases by shooting interests.

FFESANT

Flints. 301 BT records. Breeding in the wild was not confirmed. Max 20 at Broughton on 3/12 (AHJ).

Denbs. 366 BT records. Breeding in the wild at Lleweni with 5 fledged young on 29/08 (JHi) and at Llechrydau with nest found on 22/05 (BSG Ecology). Max 87 at Lleweni on 30/10 (JHi).



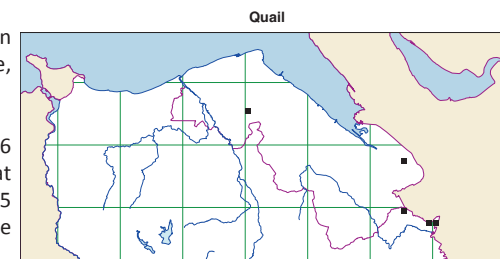
Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Rare migrant.

SOFLIAR

Flints. Singles at Pen-y-Cefn near the A55 on 20/06 and 29/06 (KBr) and Deeside Lane, Sealand on 10/05 (Bg).

Denbs. One at Pulford Brook (Wales) on 8/06 and 18/06 (JonW) and 17/06 (AHJ). One at Gors Doplog (Mynydd Hiraethog) on 25/05 and 26/05 (SuWo). One near Bryn Du in the Berwyns on 2/06 (KO).



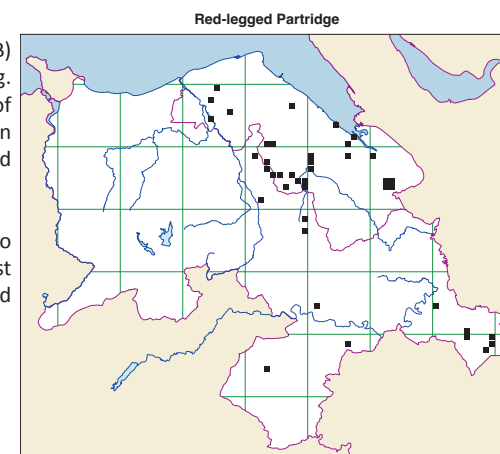
Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Increasingly common.

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Flints. 69 BT records (31 from CQNR-OakRSPB) of a bird widely-released for shooting. Throughout the year but no evidence of breeding in the wild. Max. 18 at Broughton on 3/12 (AHJ). A garden in the Chwiler Valley had 1-4 throughout the year (GBW).

Denbs. 11 BT records this year and no evidence of breeding in the wild. The highest count was of over 500 released birds at Coed Llangwyfan in the Clwydians on 15/10 (MP).



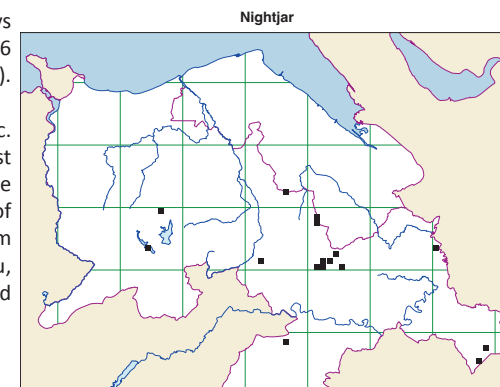
Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Scarce breeding summer visitor, often near conifer plantations.

TROELLWR MAWR

Flints. The only records were from Nercwys Forest with 2 on 31/05 (eBird) and 24/06 (DWin) and 1 on 23/05 (SWe) and 6/07 (JoBa).

Denbs. 14 BT records from 19/05 to 8/08, inc. 7 records from Llandegla Forest with highest count of 7 there on 14/06 (NoWi). One returned to Moel Findeg after an absence of 20+ years (RHJ: 28/05). Other records from Llyn Bran, Mynydd Hiraethog, Moel Famau, Ceiriog Forest, Holt, Fenn's Moss and Bettisfield.



Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*
Vagrant.

GWENNOL DDU'R ALPAU



Alpine Swift: Steve Culley

Flints. One at Talacre 22/03-29/03 (J Willis, N. Ecclestone). WBRC-accepted. At 10am on 22/03, there were 4 birds on the Dee estuary at the same time (DEW: 3 on the English side). One at Gronant on 29/03 (Bg).

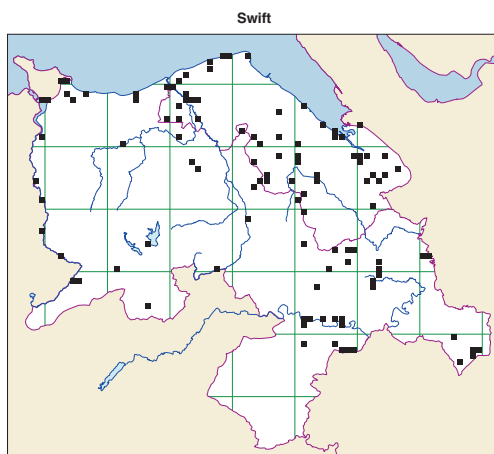
Denbs. 23 BT records, all from RSPB Conwy, 21 records during 28/03-29/03 (many obs: photo Steve Culley) and 2 records during 13/04-14/04 (AS, Bg). WBRC-accepted.

Swift *Apus apus*
Common but decreasing summer visitor.

GWENNOL DDU

Flints. 137 BT records from 5/04 (at Greenfield Dock) to 13/08, but no confirmed breeding. "Probable" breeding in Mold town centre on 22/07 (AB). Max. 200 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 27/06 (eBird) and 150 at Moel Dywyll, Cilcain Moors on 12/06 (Any).

Denbs. 161 BT records (inc 78 from RSPB Conwy) between 20/04 and 29/08, with confirmed breeding at Llanfair TH on 1/05 (SuHe: 3 pairs) and Brynteg on 1/08 (EWi). "Probable" breeding at Llanrwst on 5/07 (WRM) and Llanfair D Clwyd on 11/05-14/06 (CaRo). Max 50 at RSPB Conwy on 1/06 (WRM).



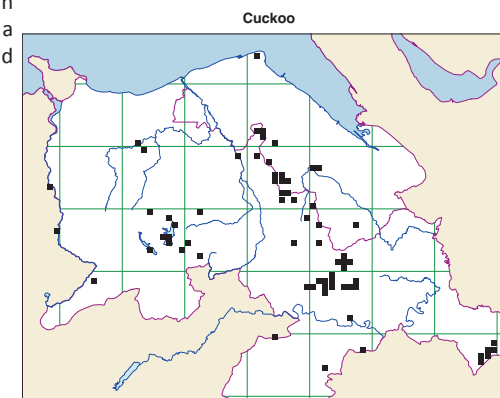
Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*
Fairly common summer visitor, mainly to upland areas.

COG

Flints. 15 records at 12 locations from 17/04 to 30/06, with max 2 at Cilcain, Moel Arthur and Penycloddiau. No confirmed breeding, though a juvenile was seen near the Clwyd estuary on 30/06 (AHJ).

Denbs. 90 BT records between 22/04 and 13/07. Breeding was confirmed on 13/07 at World's End where a juvenile was being fed by a Meadow Pipit (DuE). "Probable" breeding at Mynydd Hiraethog

(WRM). Two together at Nant Rhydwylym in the Berwyns on 2/06 may have been a breeding pair (BB). Max. 6 at both World's End and Esclusham Mtn on 29/04 (NF, JJo).

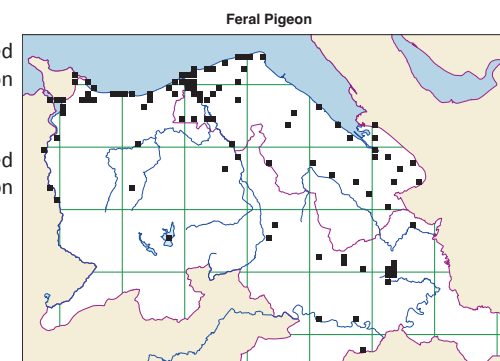


Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*
Locally common breeding resident.

COLOMEN Y GRAIG

Flints. 458 BT records with no confirmed breeding and max. 202 at Rhyl Brickworks on 19/12 (MaS).

Denbs. 280 BT records with no confirmed breeding and max. 150 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 10/11 (MaS).

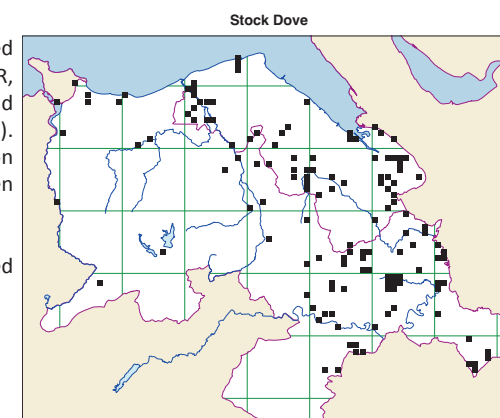


Stock Dove *Columba oenas*
Common breeding resident.

COLOMEN WYLLT

Flints. 72 BT records, but no confirmed breeding. The highest counts were at CQNR, with 60 in Jan and 85 in Dec (both PSH), and 32 on Clwyd estuary on 30/07 (JHi). "Probable" breeding only at Pantymwyn on 9/04 (MB) where they also visited garden feeders "for the first time" on 19/06 (GEM).

Denbs. 140 BT records, but no confirmed breeding. Max 30 at Holt on 1/02 (eBird).



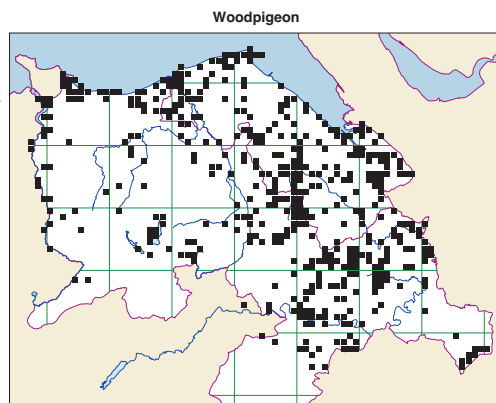
Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

YSGUTHAN

Abundant breeding resident.

Flints. 1058 BT records with breeding confirmed at Rhydymwyn Reserve (MD) and “probable” at 3 other locations. Max 300 near A55, Jcn 29 (KBr) and 139 on Clwyd estuary on 15/08 (JHi).

Denbs. 1021 BT records, with breeding confirmed near Craignant on the Shropshire border (CSB) and “probable” at 6 other locations. Max 500 at Gresford on 12/02 (eBird) and 300 at Fenn’s Moss on 6/11 (RHa).



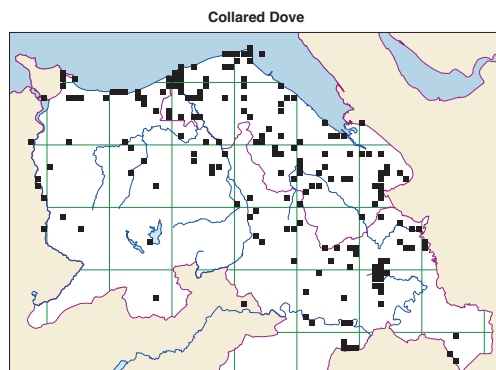
Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

TURTUR DORCHOG

Common breeding resident in towns and villages.

Flints. 537 BT records (inc. 180 from Rhyl Brickworks and 127 from adjacent R. Clwyd), with “probable” breeding only at 5 localities. Max 104 at Rhyl Brickfields on 27/10 and 154 in nearby fields on 20/09 (both AHJ).

Denbs. 171 BT records, with breeding confirmed only at Llanfair TH on 21/05 (WRM). Max 9 at Erddig on 10/02 (JmHu).

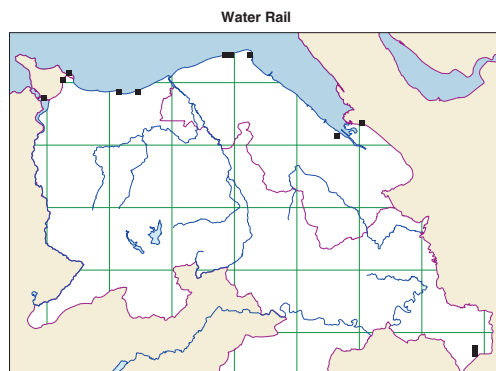


Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

RHEGEN Y DWR

A scarce breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 41 BT records, 34 of which were from Gronant where breeding was confirmed on 9/07 (WRM: “prolonged close views of a juvenile, near to where birds have been most of the year. Adult(s) calling on same visit”). RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) had one pair but no brood recorded (GrJ). Max 11 at Gronant on 12/10 (WRM). Singles outside the breeding season at Talacre on 21/02, 7/03 (RCR) and 7/10 (SD), POA on 30/04 (RiL), CQNR during 1/10 to 26/12 (PSH), Fagl Lane on 9/04 (KhD)



and 2 at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 17/11 (CW).

Denbs. 65 BT records, inc 58 from RSPB Conwy (up to 4 birds) from 2/01 to 5/04 and then again from 26/09 to 26/12 (many obs). No direct evidence of breeding, but there were summer records on 15/08 at Fenn’s Moss (RHa) and on 1/06 (RiE) and 29/06 (JHi) at RSPB Conwy. Surveys in Jan. at RSPB Conwy found 18 calling birds on the Reserve plus 10 calling on adjacent land. Also singles at Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele on 14/01, 6/02 and 29/12 (all MBo). Max 4 at RSPB Conwy on 27/10 (WRM) and Fenn’s Moss on 15/08 (RHa).

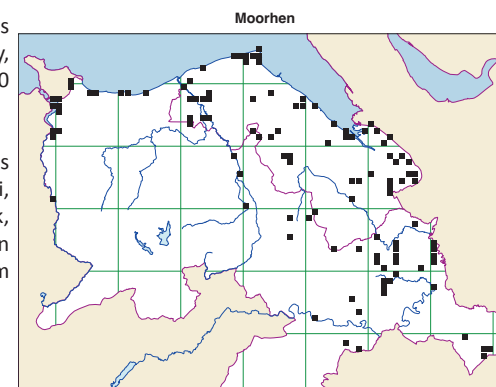
Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

IAR DWR

A common resident in all wetland locations.

Flints. 545 BT records. Breeding was confirmed at Rhyl Brickworks, Clwyd estuary, Gronant and St Asaph Business Park. Max. 20 at Rhyl Brickworks on 25/11 (AHJ).

Denbs. 625 BT records. Breeding was confirmed at RSPB Conwy, Bodnant, Lleweni, Nant-y-Ffrith, Nannerch Fishery, Acton Park, Sontley and Erddig. Max 34 at RSPB Conwy on 6/08 (eBird) and 28 at Acton Park, Wrexham on 17/12 (PaJ).



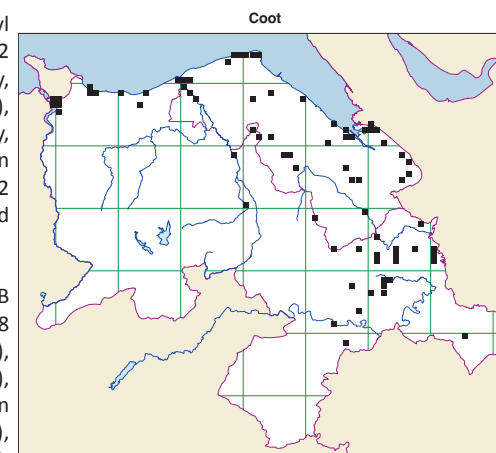
Coot *Fulica atra*

CWTIAR

A common resident in wetland locations with open shallow water.

Flints. 436 BT records (inc 205 from Rhyl Brickfield). Breeding was confirmed at 12 locations: Rhyl Brickworks, Clwyd Estuary, Buckley (3 sites), CQNR (3 prs, 9 chicks), Gronant, Star Crossing, Ysceifiog, Trim Quarry, Maes-y-Grug (Soughton) and Broughton Airbus Pool. Max 84 at Shotwick Lake on 3/12 (eBird) and 65 at Rhyl Brickfields on 1/01 and 23/02 (JHi).

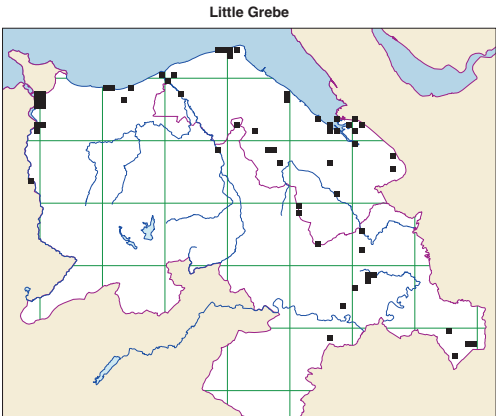
Denbs. 649 BT records (inc 432 from RSPB Conwy). Breeding was confirmed at 8 locations: RSPB Conwy (from 4/05: WRM), Llanddulas Quarry (5 pairs on 31/05: WRM), Nannerch Fishery (on 4/09: GEM), Erddig (on 11/05: JmHu), Brymbo (on 10/04: SD), Acrefair (on 1/05: SD), Pensarn (on 26/05: SD), Moss Valley CP On 19/05 (GoP: 4y) and Johnstown (on 18/08: PaJ). Max 73 at Hanmer on 22/01 (DaHa).



Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* GWYACH FACH
A common breeding resident on freshwater bodies of all sizes.

Flints. 304 BT records inc. 123 (40%) from CQNR. Breeding was confirmed at CQNR (PSH), Clwyd estuary on 30/06 (AHJ) and Star Crossing Pool on 26/08 (GEM). Max 35 at Shotwick Lake on 13/09 (eBird).

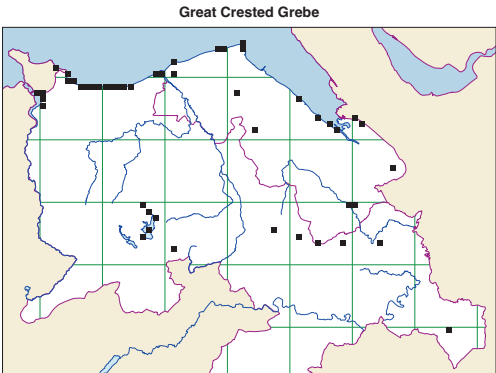
Denbs. 496 BT records, inc. 404 (81%) from RSPB Conwy. Breeding was confirmed at Bodnant on 29/03 (SJe), Llanddulas Quarry on 18/08 (WRM: 2 pairs), Lleweni on 7/08 (JHi), Maes Mynan on 19/07 (MV), Nannerch Fishery on 4/09 (GEM) and Johnstown on 18/08 (PaJ). Max 31 at Conwy RSPB on 18/09 (ToSt) and highest inland count of 8 at Hanmer on 18/11 (DaHa).



Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* GWYACH FAWR GOPOG
An uncommon nesting bird on larger freshwater bodies and common winter visitor to sea and tidal waters.

Flints. 157 BT records (inc. 110 were from Rhyl Brickworks). Breeding was confirmed at Llyn Cyfynwy on 3/06 (SD) and at Fagl Lane (KhD). Max 7 off Flint Castle on 19/02 and 30/03 (eBird), 6 at Gresford Flash on 27/03 (eBird), 5 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 1/05 (PSH) and 4 at Fagl Lane on 28/08 (SD).

Denbs. 331 BT records (inc 187 from RSPB Conwy) with breeding confirmed at RSPB Conwy from 21/05 (4 obs), Llyn Gweryd on 24/06 (SD), Gresford Flash on 18/06 (DoW) and Brymbo Pool on 10/04 (SD). The highest counts were on the sea in winter with max 116 at Llanddulas-Pensarn on 21/01 (JHg) and 120 on 24/02 (eBird).



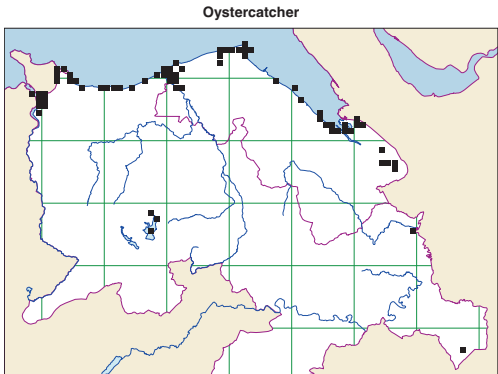
Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* GWYACH GORNIOG
Scarce winter visitor.

Denbs. Singles at Llyn Aled Isaf on 15/01 (Bg) and at Llanddulas on 23/11 and 18/12 (both eBird).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* PIODEN FÔR
A scarce breeding resident and abundant winter visitor.

Flints. 444 BT records, inc 137 (31%) from Clwyd estuary and 116 (26%) from CQNR-OakRSPB. Breeding was confirmed at CQNR on 14/06 (3 chicks: PSH), Gronant on 8/06 and Clwyd estuary on 25/06 (both WRM). At POA, 6 pairs fledged 14 young (GrJ). Max 8,000 at POA on 22/01 (WeBS).

Denbs. 556 BT records, inc 375 (67%) from RSPB Conwy. Breeding confirmed at RSPB Conwy on 9/05 (WRM: 3 nests) and Llyn Brenig on 16/06 (WRM). Max 400 at Clwyd estuary on 17/12 (WeBS).



Oystercatcher	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ffynongroyw	2000	1250	1300	1000	1000	1500	1100	2000	1500	700	600	1500
Flint Marsh	160	70	40	100	255	25	10	50	20	10	5	
Walwen	525	2335	1537	624	575	398	607	3124	2490	3725	4830	4330
Mostyn Dock	200	120	10								10	700
Point of Ayr	8000	3000	1250	1500	500	450	6	2000	3000	7000	7500	4000
Clwyd Estuary	100	49	73	22	71	67	13	132		300	121	400
Gronant	400	2	21	51			45	93	308	660	293	525
Oakenholt	120	30	31	70	80	4	23	800	360	200	600	50

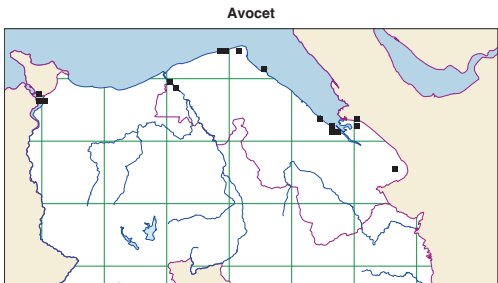
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* HIRGOES ADEINDDU
Vagrant.

Flints. Two were present on the Clwyd estuary near Rhyl on 25/04 (many obs). An adult female was near the Talacre fields pools on 3/05 (MaWi) and 4/05 (AHJ et al). WBRC-accepted.

Denbs. The birds on 25/04 crossed to the Denbs side of the river Clwyd at one point (DWin).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* CAMBIG
A local breeding resident and scarce passage migrant.

Flints. 137 BT records in all months of the year, 120 of which were from CQNR-OakRSPB, with max. 39 there on 3/07 (GEM). At RSPB Burton Mere (Flints), 35 pairs nested without success on the Welsh side of the border, while 35 pairs on the English side fledged only 6 young (GrJ). Max. 90 there on 28/03 (eBird). At CQNR, 4 pairs fledged 7 chicks, one pair fledging 3 chicks which survived into July/Aug (PSH). Two Avocet pairs nested at Gronant Little Tern





Avocet and Redshank: Peter Haslem

colony for the first time and one of them raised a chick on 9/07 (WRM). A bird ringed at Conder Green, Lancs on 7/07/23 arrived at CQNR on 21/10 (AHJ). Two at Talacre field pools 12/05-13/05 (Bg), 8 near railway line at Mostyn Quay on 3/08 and 2 on River Clwyd 3/05-12/05 (JHi).

Denbs. Two at RSPB Conwy on 3/06 was the only record (AJR).

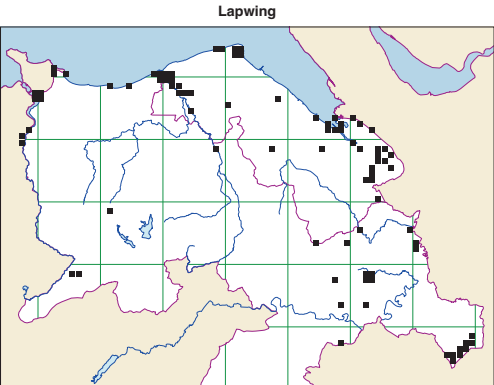
Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

CORNCHWIGLEN

A declining breeding resident and abundant winter visitor.

Flints. 338 BT records. At RSPB Burton Mere, 52 pairs in Wales and 115 young were raised in Eng+Wales (GrJ), plus a high count of 350 at the Border Pool on 17/10 (eBird). Courtship display was seen at Sealand on 1/04 (SD). Max 4000 at Burton MOD marshes on 2/02 (CW): also 2500 there on 12/02 and 2300 on 4/03 (CW). On Clwyd estuary, max. 2133 on 15/01 (JHi) and 2000 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 15/01 (PSH).

Denbs. 468 BT records, with breeding confirmed by a nest with eggs on 25/04 at Ynys Wen (SGD) and near Plas-yn-Yale, Bryneglwys by pair + 1 chick on 27/05 (BB). The LIFE Curlew survey found 5 more occupied nests at Ynys Wen, 6 further pairs in the Ysbyty Ifan area, 7 nests/broods plus 8 further territories in the Pentrefoelas-Nebo area and 2 likely territories on nearby Gors Dopiog (all per JHg) . BSG Ecology located 3 nest sites near Llechrydau. “Probable” breeding by agitated parent behaviour at Brymbo on 7/05 (SD) and Fenn’s Moss on 2/06 (RHa). Courtship display



was recorded at Cinders near Ruabon on 1/04 (JhHu) and Acrefair on 1/05 (SD). Max 1500 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 18/02 (MBo).

Lapwing: WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	110					40	80	30	53	6		
RSPB Oakenholt	300	1000				10	18	31	50	80	116	300
Burton Mere (Flints)	280	18	47	63	39	6	6	4	52	85	24	
Point of Ayr inc Fields	883	315	17							83	191	510
Rhyl Marine Lake	250	600				8	1		87		500	550
Clwyd Estuary	800						46	2		40		300

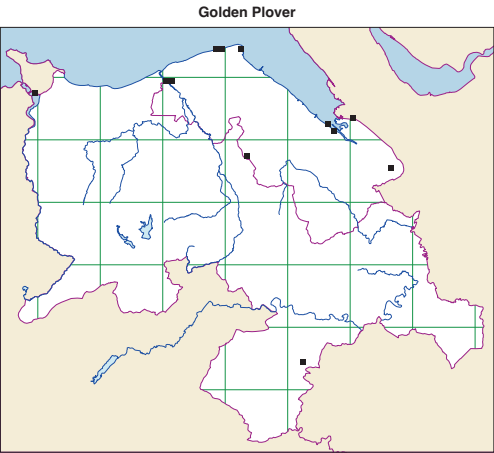
Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

CWTIAD AUR

A rare upland breeder and uncommon winter visitor.

Flints. 14 BT records near the coast up to 14/03 (max 28 on 20/02 at Clwyd estuary: JHi), followed by a late single on 29/06 at POA, and 20 further BT records from 4/08 (CQNR-OakRSPB) to the end of the year (max 32 at Gronant on 27/10: PeJ). There were 8 at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 17/11 (eBird) and 12 there on 18/11 (GrJ), 1 at Penycloddiau on 18/08 and 1 at Saltney Ferry on 21/03 (all eBird).

Denbs. Only 3 BT records from the coast: a single at RSPB Conwy on 25/04 (JoPr) and 2 at Rhyl Marine Lake on both 19/02 and 19/11 (JHi). “Probable” breeding near the Merioneth border on 29/06 “Agitated pair on peat hags west of Carnedd y Filiast summit with positive indications of young close by” (JuD). Otherwise, 20 near Llechrydau in the Berwyns on 13/10 (AIDa): a similar record to one in 2022.



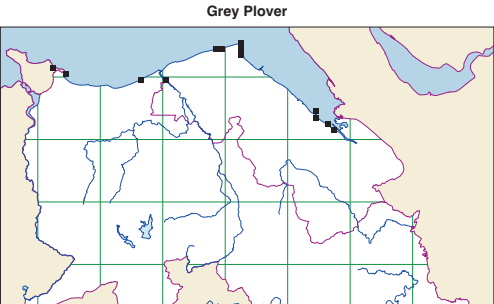
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

CWTIAD LLWYD

An uncommon winter visitor.

Flints. 65 BT records, from 2/01 to 12/05 and then again from 2/07 onwards. Max 50 at POA on 26/11 (eBird), 47 at Gronant on 7/02 (WRM), 10 at Flint Marsh on 12/11 (SK) and 8 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 8/05 (PSH). There were 3 adults in breeding plumage at POA on 10/05 (GrJ).

Denbs. 5 BT records, inc 2 singles at RSPB Conwy on 22/01 (Zak) and 19/04 (WRM) and 1 at Towyn on 17/12 (MBo). Max 2 in flight at Horton’s Nose on 1/11 (AHJ).

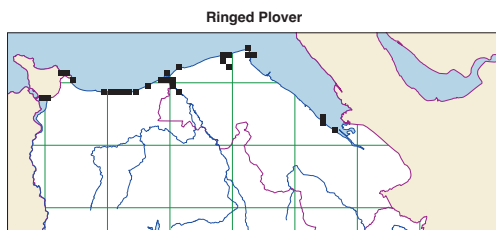


Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

CWTIAD TORCHOG

A rare breeding resident and fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Flints. 169 BT records with breeding confirmed in the Little Tern protected area at Gronant (JmHu, AHJ, GEM) and at POA (GrJ: 6 nests with eggs on 10/05). 4 at Rhuddlan on 21/05 (BBS). Max 400 at POA on 30/08 (DEW), 140 on Clwyd estuary on 30/08 and 114 there on 5/09 (both AHJ). Also 80 at Talacre Beach on 12/10 (MP).



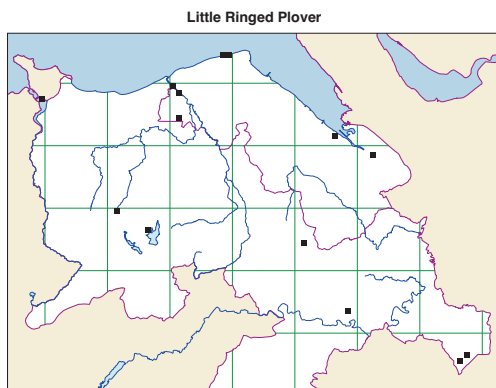
Denbs. 101 BT records throughout the year, all at RSPB Conwy and along the coast. Breeding confirmed at Llanddulas with 3 adults, 1 juv and 1 chick near Beach House on 15/07 (MBo). Max 40 at Pensarn on 20/08 (MBo).

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

A scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

Flints. 31 BT records from 26/03 to 10/09, with breeding confirmed at St Asaph Business Park on 4/06 ("1 adult seen and good views of 1 two-thirds grown chick": WRM). A pair was present at RSPB Burton Mere Border Pool from 5/06-11/06 (CW). CQNR had singles on 28/03, 8/04, 1/07 and 22/07 (JJo, GrJ, PSH). Singles at Llyn Cyfynwy on 3/06 (SD) and Gronant on 13/05 (eBird). Max 3 at Clwyd estuary on 9/04 (AHJ).



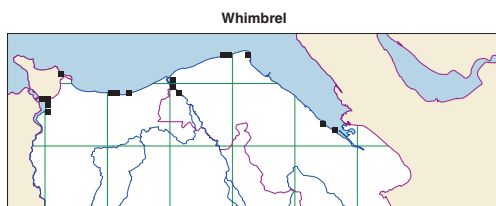
Denbs. 39 BT records from 28/03 to 19/08. Max 3 at RSPB Conwy on 19/06. Two at Fenn's Moss on 11/05 (RHs) and 1 at Bettisfield on 30/06 (JmHu). Singles at Glanllyn Farm, Trefnant on 5/05 (SaK), Llyn Brenig on 19/07 (JHi), Llyn Aled on 9/05 (SK), Llyn Aled Isaf on 16/06 (WRM) and Delph Pool, Acrefair 28/03 and 21/04 (TBT). Max 3 at RSPB Conwy on 19/06 (Zak).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

COEGLFINIR

Uncommon but regular passage migrant.

Flints. BT records between 17/04 and 14/11, inc. 49 from the Clwyd estuary and 19 at CQNR-OakRSPB. Max 25 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 1/05 (PSH) and 24 at Gronant on 26/04 (WRM). Also 6 at POA on 10/05 (GrJ). On autumn passage, CQNR-OakRSPB had 20 in



Aug. (PSH).

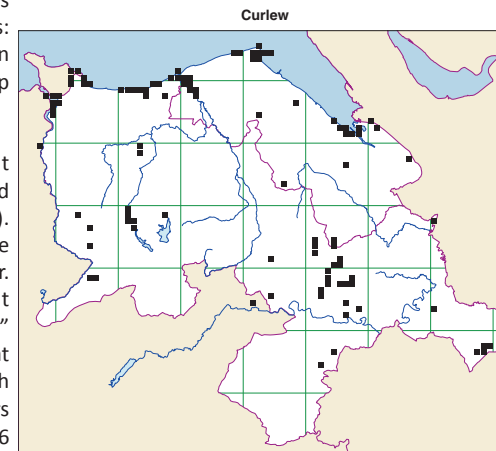
Denbs. 51 BT records, from 10/04 to 6/11, inc 44 from RSPB Conwy. Max 40 at RSPB Conwy on both 19/04 and 14/09 (eBird) and 17 at Llanddulas on 28/04 (MBo).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

GYLFINIR

Uncommon breeding resident and common winter visitor to wetlands.

The extra map of "summer-only" BT records largely reflects the "important curlew areas: ICAs" in the Curlew Wales Recovery Plan (curlew.wales.org/recovery-plan). The map does NOT include survey data.



Flints. 443 BT records, inc 166 records at CQNR-OakRSPB and 138 records at Clwyd estuary (max 323 on 18/01 and 2/02: JHi). Max 1,500 at POA (WeBS on 17/09): this site always has the highest winter numbers by far. Confirmed breeding with 1 chick seen at Trelawnyd on 11/05 (AmO) and "probable" breeding for 2 birds on permanent territory at Fauxdegla moors from 27/03 to 26/05 (JaSh et al). There was a single at Cilcain moors (where they nested many years ago) on 12/06 (Any).

Denbs. 562 BT records, inc. 312 records at RSPB Conwy which had max. 250 on 25/08 (eBird) and 225



Curlew: John Hawkins

on both 20/08 (Zak) and 30/09 (AtG). One bird at RSPB Conwy on 8/07 (WRM) had been ringed at a pre-breeding roost at Betton, Shrops on 17/04/23. The LIFE (curlewlife.org) survey at Mynydd Hiraethog and Ynys Wen found 41 territories, many of them on farmland around the moors. This will include BT records of a pair visiting a likely nest-site at Llyn Aled on 4/04 (JHg) and pair displaying at Moel Seisiog on 22/04 (JHg). It will also include BT records at Yns Wen on 9/05 (RhPi) and distraction display there on 13/07 (JuD). The 20 Denbs nests that were closely monitored in the LIFE study fledged between 10 and 19 young (0.37 to 0.7 per nest). Breeding was confirmed at 3 further BT locations: 1) by chick alarming near Cerrigydrudion on 3/05 (RhPi), 2) by pair guarding chicks near Bryn Du in the Berwyns on 2/06 (RhJ), with the possibility of three further pairs here (BB) and 3) by 2 chicks in the A5104 valley near Bryneglwys on 13/07, a pair having been here since 18/03 (BB). “Probable” breeding by pairs at Ruabon Mtn above Pen-y-Cae on 24/05 (Jonny Lee) and at Llechrydau on 17/05 and 8/06 (BSG Ecology). “Pairs in suitable habitat” at Acrefair (SD) and Nant-y-Ffrith (SD). There were May-June records at 5 locations on both sides of the A5 road near Cerrigydrudion and near Glasfryn, at 3 locations along the A5104 near Bryneglwys plus 1 in the hills to its north, at Moel-y-Plas above Llyn Gweryd, at Cae-Llwyd reservoir in the Ruabon Mtns and at nearby Trefechan. Other habitats with summer records were Fenn’s Moss and Esclusham Mtn.

Curlew	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	65	30	34							1	25	50
RSPB Oakenholt	12	18	18	21	12	9	21	11	58	17	11	35
Pt of Ayr (inc Fields)	721	512	643	100	20	130	850	1200	1500	1258	442	606
Clwyd Estuary	106	3		1	3		2	161		30		80
Greenfield-Bagillt	96	118	42	1		1				8	156	90

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

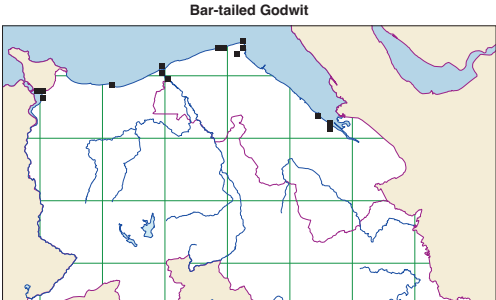
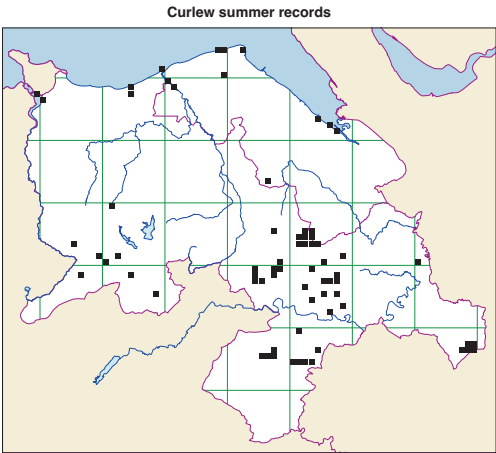
RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRAITH

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Flints. 69 BT records in every month of the year (28 records at CQNR-OakRSPB). Max 400 at POA on 18/06 (WeBS) and 150 there on 19/07 (GR). CQNR-OakRSPB had 21 in Apr and 22 in Sep (PSH).

Denbs. 34 BT records inc. 17 from RSPB Conwy in every month of the year except Jun/Jul. Max 35 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 22/02 (MaS).

Bar-tailed Godwit: WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	2	5	3	4		400	55	45	110	150	350	5



Bar-tailed Godwit: Glenn E Morris

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

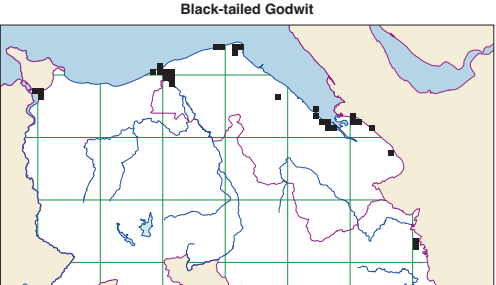
RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor.

Flints. 342 BT records (175 of which were from CQNR-OakRSPB) in all months of the year. Max. 4,000 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 5/10 (PSH).

Denbs. 230 BT records (191 of which were from RSPB Conwy) in all months of the year. Max 1,000 at Holt on 25/11 (eBird); 150 on Rhyl Marine Lake on 15/11 (GEM) was next highest.

Black-tailed Godwit: WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Connah’s Quay NR			6	44	700	900	2800	7	16		
RSPB Oakenholt	200	900	1000	220	24	24	60	1000	3000		80
Pt of Ayr (inc Fields)	428	200	301		24	20	4	3	370	425	75

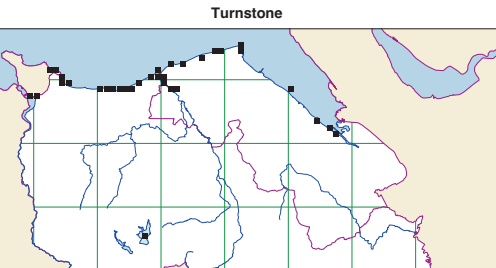


Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

CWTIAD TRAETH

Very common coastal passage migrant and winter visitor.

Flints. 67 BT records, in all months except Jun/Jul. Max. 52 roosting on moored zodiacs at Greenfield Dock on 22/11 (MP), 30 at Prestatyn prom on 19/10 (AHJ) and 17 at Rhyl





Tunstone: John Hawkins

golf course on 22/09 (JHi). The Clwyd estuary had 12 records of 1-7 from 6/01 to 4/04 and 12 records of 1-12 from 24/08 to 31/12 (AHJ, WRM, RiE). CQNR-OakRSPB had 7 on 2/08 (GR), 1 on 21/02, 2-3 from 17/04 to 20/04 and 1-4 on 13 dates during 1/08 to 29/09 (all PSH).

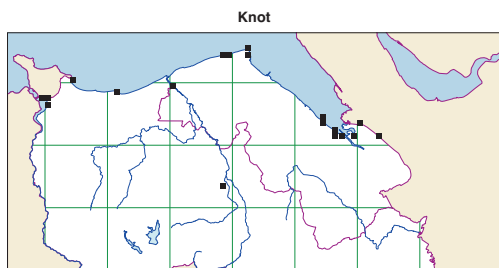
Denbs. 135 BT records, 93 of which at Horton's Nose/Rhyl Marine Lake (69%), all year but only 4 records in Jun/Jul. The highest counts were 530 at Horton's Nose on 28/09 (GEM) and 311 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 26/12 (MaS). Llanddulas-Pensarn had max 22 on 21/01 (JHg). An unusual record of 1 at Llyn Brenig on 1/06 (eBird).

Knot *Calidris canutus*
An abundant winter visitor.

PIBYDD YR ABER YR YNYS LAS

Flints. 137 BT records (89 at CQNR-OakRSPB) throughout the year. Max. 6,200 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 29/10 (PSH) and 2,000 at POA on 15/10 and 19/11 (WeBS).

Denbs. 46 BT records, 45 of which were from RSPB Conwy or Rhyl Marine Lake from 21/01 to 5/05 and then again from 18/08 to 20/12. Also recorded at Llanddulas on 1/12 (JJo). Max. 20 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 10/12 (MaS).

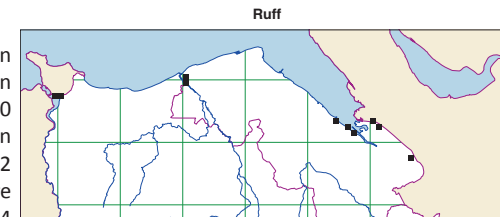


Knot: WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	300	50	150		80	1000	12	9	100	2000	2000	800
Flint Marsh	100		50				50	30		10	50	
RSPB Oakenholt	2	25	18	16				65	190	2850	400	50
CQNR					95	90	150	130				

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*
A scarce, but regular, passage migrant.

PIBYDD TORCHOG

Flints. 35 BT records. There was an extraordinary count of 30 at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 24/10, with 8 there on 17/10 and 18/01, 2 on 20/07 and a spring single on 28/03 (all eBird). Nearby Shotwick Lake had 2 on 17/09 (eBird). On the Clwyd estuary, there were spring singles on 20/04 (AHJ) and 29/04 (RiE) and autumn singles on 11/07-13/07 (AHJ), followed by 19 BT records of 1-5 birds from 7/09 to 26/10 (many obs: max 5 on 13/09, AHJ). CQNR had 7 BT records: a spring single on 20/04 (PSH), 1-2 during 24/08-12/09 (PSH, GEM) and 2 on 27/10 (MP). Three at Flint Castle on 6/04 (eBird). There were 2 with Lapwings on a flooded field near Higher Ferry, Sealand on 23/09 (CoBr) and a winter record nearby on 27/11 (MaP).

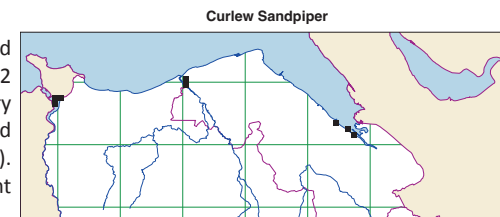


Denbs. 16 BT records of a juvenile at RSPB Conwy from 19/08 to 31/08 and on 18/09 and 27/09 (TGr et al).

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
A scarce, but regular, passage migrant.

PIBYDD CAMBIG

Flints. 15 BT records. CQNR-OakRSPB had singles on 6/08 (GR), 17/08 and 9/09 and 2 birds on 12/09 (all PSH). The Clwyd estuary had singles on 5/09-7/09, 20/09-25/09 and 7/10 (AHJ, WRM et al) and 2 on 21/09 (MBo). One at POA on 15/09 (WeBS). Max 3 at Flint Castle on 17/09 (eBird).

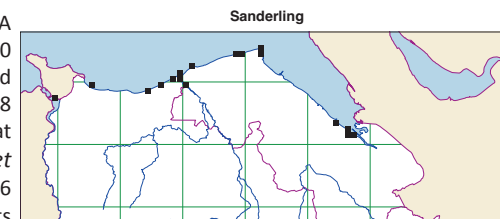


Denbs. 11 BT records, all singles at RSPB Conwy on 17/09-18/09, 25/09, 18/10 and 31/10 (many obs). Some of the Clwyd estuary birds were also on the Denbs side of the river.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*
A fairly common non-breeding visitor to coastal beaches.

PIBYDD Y TYWOD

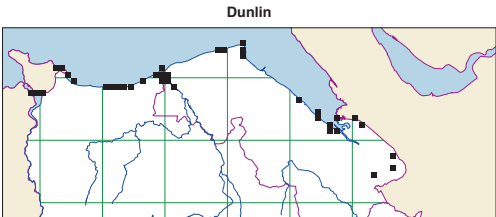
Flints. 61 BT records (42 at Gronant/POA beaches) in all months of the year. Max. 180 at Gronant on 29/11 (WRM), 63 on Clwyd estuary on 6/02 (JHi) and 50 at POA on 30/08 (eBird). There were 6 records of 2-6 birds at CQNR-OakRSPB from 1/08 to 27/08 (PSH et al). Summer record of 26 at Gronant on 10/06 (AHJ) and 50+ there on 4/06 (DEW). Adults were in breeding plumage by 10/05 at POA (GrJ).



Denbs. 37 BT records (Jan-Feb, Sep-Dec) were nearly all from the Horton's Nose, apart from 3 records of 1-5 birds at Towyn and Pensarn. Max. 31 on 22/01 and 22 on 17/12 at Horton's Nose (both JHi).

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* PIBYDD MAWN
An abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

Flints. 283 BT records in all months (only 3 in June), inc 90 records from CQNR-OakRSPB, inc a count of 8,000 in Dec (PSH). Max 5,000 at RSPB Oakenholt on 31/12 (GrJ), 3,900 at POA on 19/12 (WeBS) and 2,000 at Flint Castle on 18/11 (eBird). Inland, 2 flew over Hawarden Ind. Park on 2/12 (AHJ).



Denbs. 183 BT records in all months (only 1 in June), inc 116 records from RSPB Conwy with max 140 there on 1/12 (WRM).

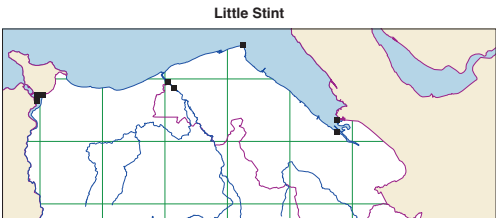
Dunlin: WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	1000	250	1250	1500	100	20	3	350	300	1000	3700	3900
RSPB Oakenholt	2450	1200	600	120				23		600	1100	3000
Flint Marsh	600	300	350	150	7			20		30	40	
Gronant	365	340	290	440			27		113		42	
Rhyl Marine Lake	20	200									600	400

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* PIBYDD DU
A very local, but regular, winter visitor.

Denbs. Although most records from Rhos are in Caernarfonshire, there was a BT record from the West Prom at Rhos on 23/01 (JJo) and 1 at Colwyn Bay on 2/03 (RiL).

Little Stint *Calidris minuta* PIBYDD BACH
A scarce, but regular, passage migrant.

Flints. The Clwyd estuary (Rhyl to Rhuddlan) had 1-2 birds from 18/09 to 3/10 (many obs). Singles at CQNR-OakRSPB on 24/08 (PSH), Gronant on 28/08 (DEW), POA on 15/09 (WeBS), Talacre on 12/10 (MP) and Oakenholt on 6/11 (ElWi).



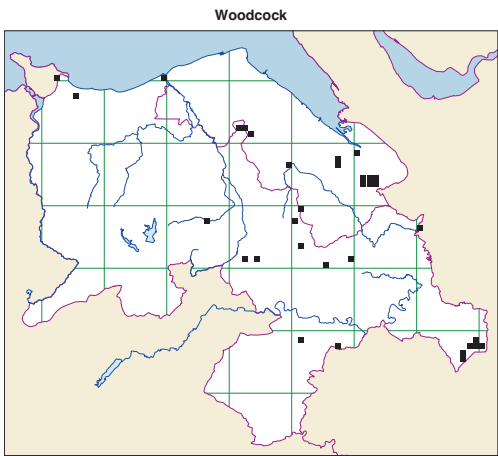
Denbs. One at RSPB Conwy from 19/08 to 20/09 (many obs), with 2 on 29/08 (Bg).

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* GI'ACH GYLFINHIR
Vagrant, but regular.

Flints. Singles at CQNR on 26/02 (StaS) and 22/04 (PSH).

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* CYFFYLOG
Rare and declining breeding resident and frequent winter visitor. No breeding evidence this year.

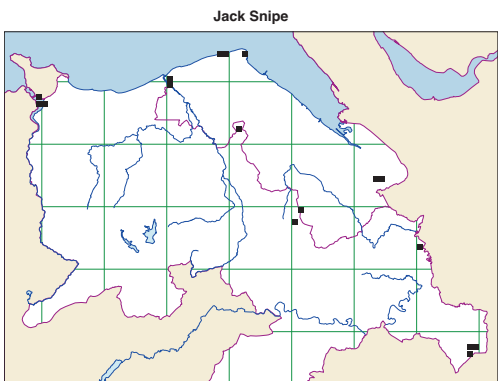
Flints. 14 BT records in winter up to 1/04 and from 3/11 onwards. Max 7 at Old Warren, Broughton on 7/01 and 6 nearby on 22/01 (both AHJ). Also 1-3 birds recorded at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints), Broughton, Hawarden Ind Park, Higher Shotton, Northop, Alltami, Rhydymwyn, Trim Quarry and Nant Alyn near Pantymwyn, Caerwys, Nercwys Forest and Fauxdegla moors.



Denbs. 28 BT records, inc. 18 (64%) at Fenn's Moss, up to 24/03 and from 10/11 onwards. The only summer record was near Glyn Ceiriog on 6/07 (eBird). Max 4 at Fenn's Moss on 18/12. Also 1-3 birds at Maes Mynan, Eryrys, Loggerheads, Ruthin, Nant-y-Garth, Nant-y-Glyn near Colwyn Bay, Horton's Nose, Coedpoeth, Pandy (Ceiriog valley), Chirk Castle, Cyffiliog, Llyn Aled Isaf and Esclusham Mtn.

Jack Snipe *Lymocryptes minimus* GI'ACH FACH
A scarce winter visitor.

Flints. 23 BT records from 5/01 to 28/03 and then again from 17/10 to 31/12. Recorded at Gronant (JHi, SK, MHu, WRM), Clwyd estuary (AHJ, WRM, TK), Talacre (RiB), RSPB Burton Mere (Flints), POA (eBird), Broughton (AHJ) and Nercwys Forest (eBird). Max 7 at Gronant on 21/01 (MHu).



Denbs. 19 BT records from 06/01 to 9/04 and then again from 6/11 to 31/12, at RSPB Conwy (TGr, RS, Zak), Horton's Nose (AHJ), Fenn's Moss (RHa), Maes Mynan (MV) and Holt (NF). Max 5 at Eryrys on 28/12 (eBird) and 2 at RSPB Conwy on 8/01 (RS) and Holt on both 5/02 and 30/11 (NF).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* GI'ACH CYFFREDIN
Scarce breeding resident locally and common winter visitor.

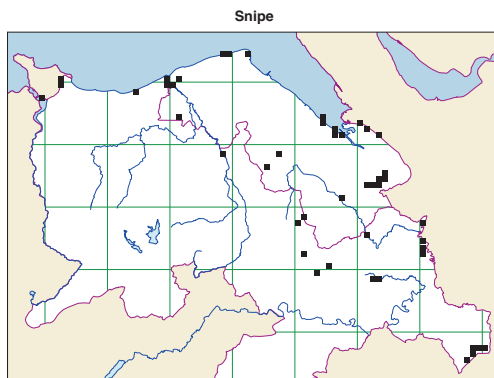
Flints. 158 BT records, inc. 57 records from CQNR-OakRSPB, 37 from Clwyd estuary and 24 from Gronant, up to 26/04 and again from 9/07 onwards. Max 148 in a corn field on the Clwyd estuary on 6/01 (AHJ), 92 at Gronant on 21/01 (MHu), 38 at Flint Castle on 1/01 (eBird), 33 at St Asaph Business



Snipe: John Hawkins

Park on 1/02 (NCP) and 32 at CQNR on 25/01 (PSH). One summer single at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 9/06 (CW).

Denbs. 123 BT records, inc. 58 from RSPB Conwy (47%) and 36 from Fenn's Moss (29%). Probable breeding (courtship displays) at Fenn's Moss on 2/06 (JHg) and singing males at Ynys Wen on 3/05 and 9/05 (SGD). Summer records of 2 at Esclusham Mtn on 27/05 (eBird) and 1 on moorland S of Alwen reservoir on 3/05 (HeJo). Max 59 at Eryrys on 26/12 (eBird) and 55 at Fenn's Moss on 6/11 (RHs).



Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

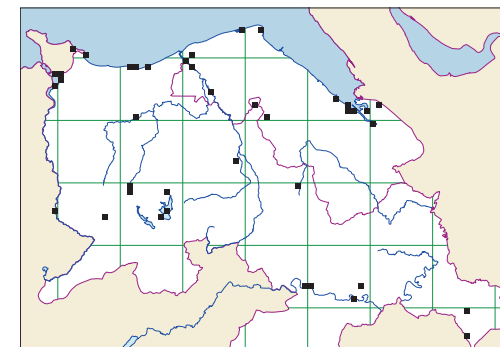
PIBYDD DORLAN

Scarce upland breeding visitor, uncommon passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

Flints. 140 BT records in all months, inc. 69 at CQNR-OakRSPB. Max 18 on the Dee at Connah's Quay on 8/07 (DEW), 10 on the Dee below the new bridge at Connah's Quay (DEW) and 6 at Gronant on 9/07 (WRM).

Denbs. 142 BT records, inc 122 records at RSPB Conwy. Breeding was again confirmed only at Aled Isaf on 16/06 ("Pair with 3 small chicks and another agitated pair at the far N end": WRM). Max 20 at Abergele on 12/07 (MBo).

Common Sandpiper



Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

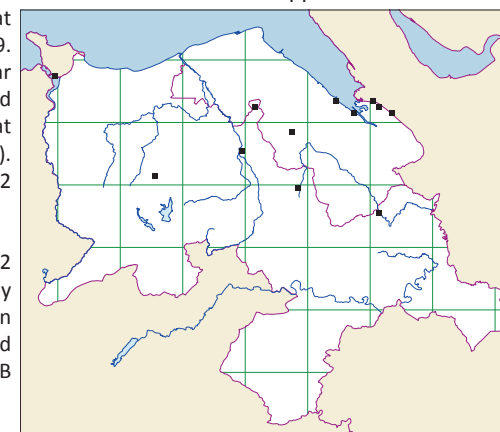
PIBYDD GWYRDD

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor, both inland and coastal.

Flints. 26 BT records from 2/01 to 13/04 and again from 16/06 to 6/10, inc 19 singles at CQNR during 23/03-13/04 and 14/09-21/09. Two at Flint Castle on 6/09 (NeT). One at Star Crossing Pool from 16/07 to 1/08 (GEM and one at Fagl Lane on 9/04 (KhD)). One at Shotwick Fields on 2/01 (SD) and 14/01 (GrJ). Max 4 at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 16/12 (eBird).

Denbs. 19 BT records, 16 of which were 1-2 birds at RSPB Conwy from 17/08-2/09 (many obs). Other records were singles at Llay on 26/03 (JuWi), Llandyrnog on 24/10 (MP) and Maes-Mynan on 8/04 (MV). Max 4 at RSPB Conwy on 18/08 (eBird).

Green Sandpiper



Redshank *Tringa totanus*

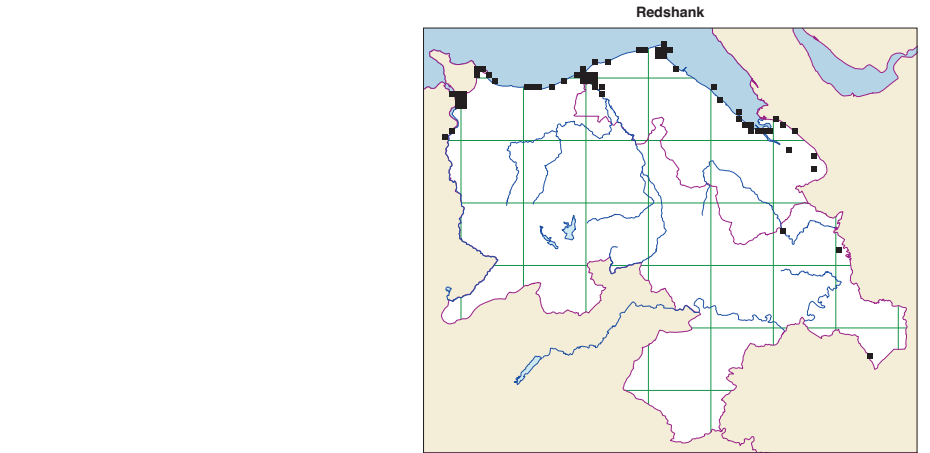
PIBYDD COESGOCH

Very local breeding visitor, abundant passage migrant and fairly common winter visitor.

Flints. 484 BT records throughout the year (214 from CQNR-OakRSPB and 140 from Clwyd estuary). Max 5,000 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 5/08 and 6/08 (GrJ, GR) and 4,500 there on 2/08 (GR). The only confirmed nesting site was RSPB Burton Mere, where, in the whole Reserve (Eng + Wales), 49 pairs raised 71 young (GrJ). Courtship display was seen at White Sands on 4/04 and 18/04 (GrJ).

Denbs. 415 BT records, inc. 318 records at RSPB Conwy (max. 550 on 17/10: TGr). A summer record at Bettisfield on 30/06 but no evidence of breeding (JmHu).

Redshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	10	10	20	66		12	500	1350	500	90	104	20
Flint Marsh	150	350	100	50			30	70	450	600	50	100
Clwyd Est	115	248	43	19				6		47	152	189
Point of Ayr	340	502	326	12				50	600	750	735	441
Walwen	9	50	62	14		3	57	111	280	194	37	71
Oakenholt	35	29	75	260				76	2300	700	70	25



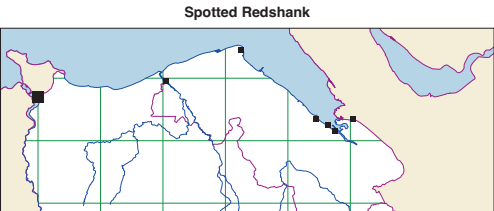
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* PIBYDD GRAEAN
Uncommon passage migrant.

Flints. One on the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) on 20/05 (CW) and 16/06 (IGr).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG
Regular passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor.

Flints. 83 BT records, 78 of which were from CQNR and all except 4 from 28/06 until end of year. Spring passage of 3-8 birds at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) from 15/04-23/04 (eBird). Max 30 at CQNR on 14/10 (PSH) and the highest winter count there was 8 on 1/12 (MP).

Denbs. 127 BT records, 123 of which were of 1-2 birds at RSPB Conwy during 4/01-20/04 and then again 19/08-31/12 (many obs). Max 3 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 10/11 (MaS).

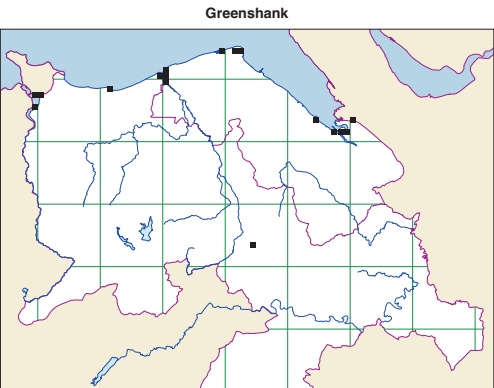


Greenshank (back), Spotted Redshank (left and front, Redshank: Glenn E Morris

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* PIBYDD COESWYRDD
Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

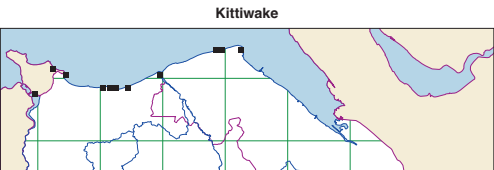
Flints. 205 BT records in all months of the year, inc 143 records from CQNR and 44 records of 1-3 birds from the Clwyd estuary. Max 38 at CQNR on 15/08 and 13/09 (PSH), but Flint Castle had 12 on 29/09 and 15 on 5/10 (NeT). RSPB Oakenholt had 24 on 21/07 (GR). Most of the remaining records were of 1-2 birds at POA.

Denbs. 96 BT records, inc. 84 from RSPB Conwy, in all months except May. Max 12 at RSPB Conwy on 30/09 (AJR). The other 12 records were singles at Rhyl Marine Lake.



Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* GWYLAN GOESDDU
Very scarce, but regular, passage migrant.

Flints. One at Gronant on 19/05 (JOa), 14/06 (BiP) and 1/08 (WRM). One at POA on 28/12 (eBird).



Denbs. Only 10 BT records of 1 to 5 birds. The highest count was 7 at Llanddulas on 4/04 (eBird). The only other records were at Llanddulas on 18/02, 2 at Llanddulas on 8/02 and singles at Horton’s Nose on 6/01, RSPB Conwy on 12/03 and 21/07, Pensarn on 7/02 and Llanddulas on 19/02, 25/02, 2/04 and 28/07.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* GWYLAN FECHAN
Scarce passage migrant.

Denbs. Four on 21/04 at Llanddulas (eBird) and singles at Llanddulas on 23/07 (RTe) and Rhyl Marine Lake on 26/12 (MaS).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* GWYLAN BENDDU
Uncommon breeding resident and abundant winter visitor.

Flints. 807 BT records (inc 147 at Connah’s Quay NR and 166 at Rhyl Brickworks). Max. 6,000 on 3/10 and 4,000 on 2/09 on the MOD marshes at Burton (CW). Breeding was confirmed at Connah’s Quay NR with 18 nests on the lagoon island (PSH) and young seen on 25/06 (AHJ). The nesting colony at Shotton Steelworks was badly affected by HPAI Bird Flu and fledged only 70-100 chicks (compared with average 394 over previous 8 years). There were 1029 nests and 2,878 eggs, but 236 adults and 1,226 chicks died (MRG). Roost of 4,200 on BTO WinGS count at CQNR-OakRSPB in Sep (PSH).

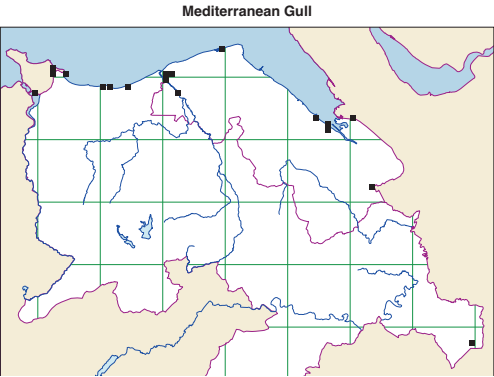
Denbs. 644 BT records (inc 374 from RSPB Conwy). Breeding was confirmed at Fenn’s Moss with 1 fledgling on 17/07 (RHa). Max counts of 1,500 at Holt on 25/11 (eBird) and 1,152 at Lleweni on 23/10 (JHi).

BH Gull: WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Shotton BSC		43		1200	750	540	175	9				
RSPB Oakenholt	11	33	42	49	80	140	161	2000	170	120	150	180
POA (inc Fields etc)	760	1301	190			60	500	200	600	38	274	53
Flint Marsh	40	75	45	20	25	25	175	500	350	50	30	60
Gronant (inc Fields)	441	275	247				128	90	91	314	367	256
Clwyd Estuary	545	2	8		3	1	248	67	3	30	3	292

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* GWYLAN MÔR Y CANOLDIR
Uncommon visitor in all months.

Flints. 33 BT records, with max 3 (“1 1st-winter, 1 2nd-winter, 1 Adult Non-breeding”) at Clwyd estuary on 18/10 (AHJ). Also recorded at Gronant, CQNR-OakRSPB, Flint Castle, RSPB Burton Mere (Flints), Rhyl Brickworks, Rhuddlan and Broughton.

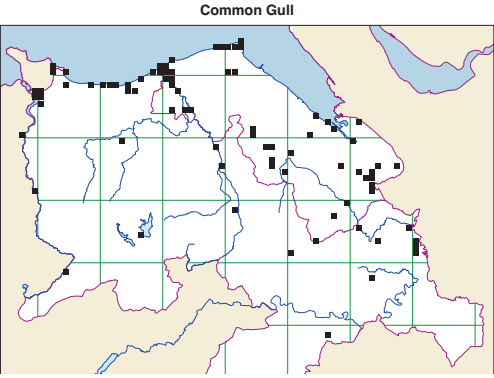
Denbs. 11 BT records, with max. 2 at Fenn’s Moss on 20/04 and 30/05 (both RHa) and RSPB Conwy on 18/07 (TGr). Also recorded at Llanddulas, Pensarn and Rhyl Marine Lake.



Common Gull *Larus canus* GWYLAN GWEUNYDD
Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant.

Flints. 300 BT records in all months. Max. 4,200+ at Gronant on 21/01 (MHu). Max. inland count of ca.500 at Trelogan on 28/11 (MP). 175 on BTO WinGS count at CQNR-OakRSPB in Sep (PSH).

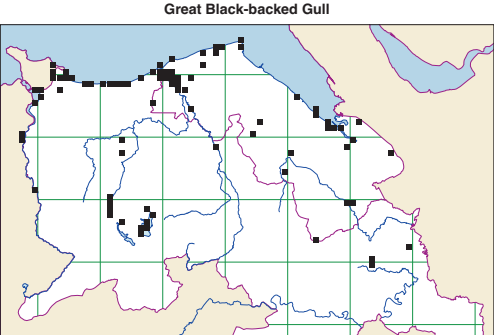
Denbs. 170 BT records. The highest counts were 150 at Is-y-coed on 12/01 (NF), 150 at Holt on 14/01 (eBird), 125 at RSPB Conwy on 03/02 (WRM) and 108 at Lleweni on 23/10 (JHi).



Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* GWYLAN GEFNDDU FAWR
Uncommon breeding resident and common winter visitor.

Flints. 387 BT records. Breeding was confirmed by nest with 1+ chicks “on the roof of NWPS Construction”, Rhyl on 8/05 and nest with 2+ chicks on the roof of B&Q Rhuddlan on 7/05 (both WRM). Max. 52 at Gronant on 21/01 (MHu). 19 on BTO WinGS count at CQNR-OakRSPB in Sep (PSH).

Denbs. 322 BT records. Breeding was confirmed at Llyn Brenig, where 3 pairs had minimum 1, 2 and 3 chicks each on 16/06, at Tir Llwyd Ind. Estate, Kinmel Bay with a nest





Great Black-backed Gull: Glenn E Morris

and 2+ chicks on the Prism Medical roof on 7/05 and at Mochdre with 1 nest on BT Openreach on 14/05 (all WRM). The highest count was 25 on the Clwyd estuary on 30/07 (JHi).

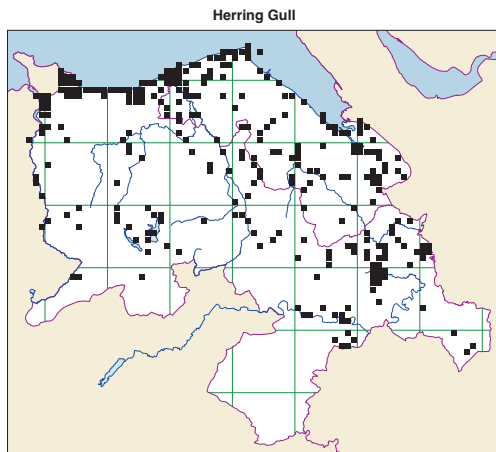
Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Common breeding resident and abundant winter visitor.

GWYLAN PENWAIG

Flints. 884 BT records. Breeding was confirmed at St Asaph on 1/07 (9 nests: JHi) and B&Q Rhuddlan on 7/05 (5 nests: WRM). Avian Flu evidence: 2 dead at Rhyl Brickworks on 7/07 (JHi) and 1 “very ill” on Clwyd estuary on 13/07 (AHJ). Max 1,052 on Clwyd estuary on 14/08 (WeBS) and 997 at Rhyl Golf Course on 17/08 (JHi). 192 on BTO WinGS count at CQNR-OakRSPB in Sep (PSH).

Denbs. 1,042 BT records. Breeding was confirmed at Tir Llwyd Ind Estate on 9/05 (23 nests: WRM), at Llanddulas (7 nests in flooded quarry and 10 nests on nearby council buildings which had 17 nests in 2021: WRM), at BT Openreach, Mochdre on 14/05 (12 nests: WRM), at and nearby Towyn Black Cat



Herring Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clwyd Estuary	131	104	78	247	207	94	403	1052	93	142	102	359
Point of Ayr	637	53	211			200	200	50	200	108	378	658
Gronant	64	144	187	223			352	302	583	387	158	550

cafe on 25/06 (8 nests: WRM), at Llyn Brenig on 3/05 (6 nests: WRM), at Llanrwst on 5/07 (1 nest: WRM) and at RSPB Conwy on 1/06 (2 nests: WRM). Also 7 nests at Mark Water Pumps, Mochdre on 14/05 (WRM). One seen dead at RSPB Conwy on 14/05 (TGr). Max 1,330 at Llanddulas on 4/03 (eBird) and 623 at Horton’s Nose on 5/01 (JHi).

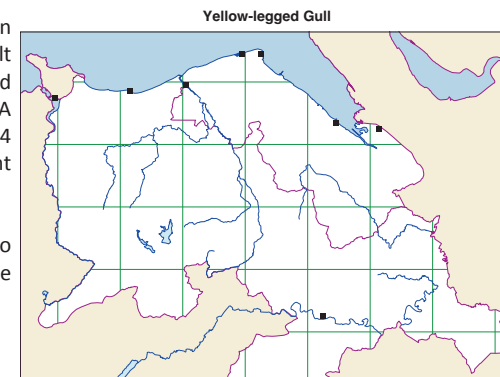
Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Uncommon.

GWYLAN GOESFELEN

Flints. Two at Gronant on 18/02 (Bg) and 1 on 23/02 (TGr, WRM). Clwyd estuary had an adult on 4/03 (AHJ), a juvenile on 3/09 (CRe) and further singles on 5/09 (JHi) and 9/10 (AHJ). A 3rd-year bird at Shotwick Lake on 25/04 (eBird). Singles at POA on 30/09 and Flint Castle on 10/08 (both eBird).

Denbs. Adult at RSPB Conwy from 10/03 to 19/04 (TGr *et al*) and on 17/08 (WRM). One at Llanddulas on 9/09 (eBird).



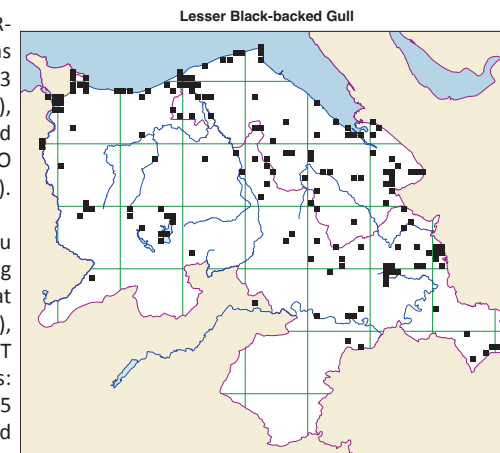
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Common breeding resident and very common winter visitor.

GWYLAN GEFNDDU FACH

Flints. 631 BT records. Max. 125 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 1/10 (PSH). Breeding was confirmed at Connah’s Quay Power Station (3 chicks: PSH), St Asaph on 1/07 (4 nests: JHi), Rhuddlan B&Q on 7/05 (2 nests: WRM) and Rhyl on 7/06 (2 nests: WRM). 120 on BTO WinGS count at CQNR-OakRSPB in Sep (PSH).

Denbs. 313 BT records. Max 200 at Llechrydau on 8/06 (BSG Ecology) and 75 at Llyn Brenig on 3/05 (WRM). Breeding was confirmed at Tir Llwyd Ind Estate on 9/05 (12 nests: WRM), Llyn Brenig on 3/05 (3 nests: WRM), BT Openreach Mochdre on 14/05 (19 nests: WRM), Mark Water Pumps Mochdre on 14/05 (5 nests: WRM), Towyn on 25/06 (WRM) and Hightown, Wrexham on 2/07 (HeCar).



Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica*
Vagrant.

MÔR-WENNOL YLFINBRAFF

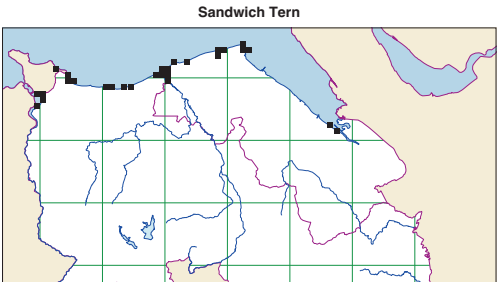
Flints. One at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) crossed between England and Wales on 19/04 (Leon Castell, GrJ, DEW *et al*).

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*
Very common passage migrant along the coast. Most records in Apr-May (45%) and Jul-Aug (39%).

MÔR-WENNOL BIGDDU

Flints. 99 BT records from 9/04 to 28/09 with no evidence of breeding. Max 600-660 in the Clwyd estuary on 16/07 (WRM, AHJ). Max. 300 at POA on 20/08 (DEW), 260 at Gronant on 1/08 (WRM) and 150 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 7/05 (GR).

Denbs. 58 BT records, from 27/03 to 11/10 with no evidence of breeding. Max 300 at Horton's Nose on 12/08 (MBo) and 26/08 (TGr).

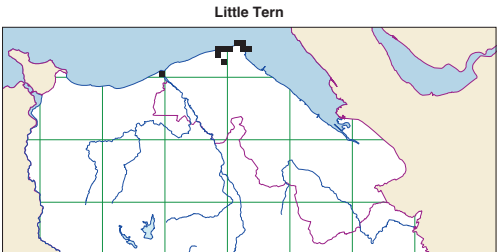


Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*
Common, but very local, breeding summer visitor.

MÔR-WENNOL FACH

Flints. 68 BT records were from 26/04 to 6/09, 57 of which were at, or near, the Gronant nesting colony, and the rest from the Talacre/POA area. At Gronant, 212 nests fledged at least 155 young. On the RSPB Reserve at POA, 12 nests were successful, with 16 young fledged, but 14 nests (30 eggs) were lost to predation by corvids (GrJ). Max BT count of 400 at Gronant on 20/07 (GEM).

Denbs. Seven at Horton's Nose on 20/08 (JHi) is the only record.



Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*
Vagrant.

MÔR-WENNOL WRIDOG

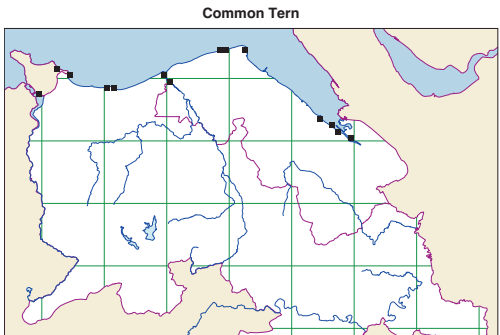
Flints. One at the Gronant Little Tern colony on 10/08 and 16/08 (Bg) and an earlier record at nearby Prestatyn Gutter (Marine Road East) on 11/07 (JDr).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
Common breeding summer visitor on the Dee estuary, but scarce elsewhere.

MÔR-WENNOL GYFFREDIN

Flints. Only 44 BT records (26 of which were from CQNR-OakRSPB - fewer than usual) between 17/04 and 31/08 with max. 40 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 23/07 (GrJ). The nesting colony at Shotton Steelworks was badly affected by HPAI Bird Flu and fledged only 40 chicks (compared with average 407 over previous 8 years). There were ca.170 nests and ca.394 eggs, but 320 adults and 15 chicks died (MRG).

Denbs. 8 BT records from 2/04 to 3/10. Max 58 at Horton's Nose on 20/08 (JHi).

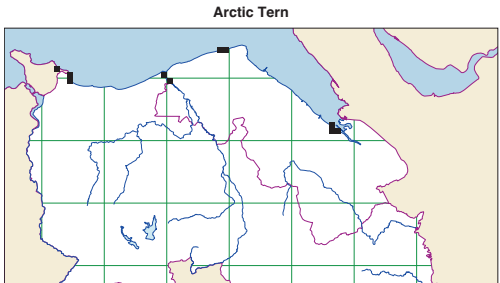


Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*
Uncommon passage migrant.

MÔR-WENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Flints. 11 BT records from 4/05 to 6/09, with a late bird on 27/10 (MP). Adult + juv on 16/07 on Clwyd estuary (AHJ). Singles at CQNR-OakRSPB on 6/05, 1/06 and 5/07 (PSH). Max 26 at Gronant on 4/05 (JHi).

Denbs. 2 BT records. Flock of 15 at Horton's Nose on 20/08 (JHi) and presence at Rhos (Denbs) on 21/08 (JJo).

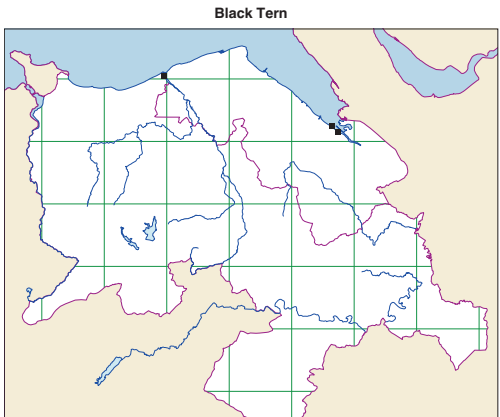


Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*
Scarce migrant.

CORSWENNOL DDU

Flints. CQNR had 1 on 22/04 and 2 on 1/06 (PSH). One at Gronant on 28/08 (DEW).

Denbs. Four at Horton's Nose on 20/08 (JHi).



Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*
Rare passage migrant on the coast.

SGIWEN FAWR

Denbs. One at Horton's Nose on 20/08 (JHi).

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*
Rare passage migrant on the coast.

SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

Flints. One at Rhyl Golf Course on 20/09 (JHi).

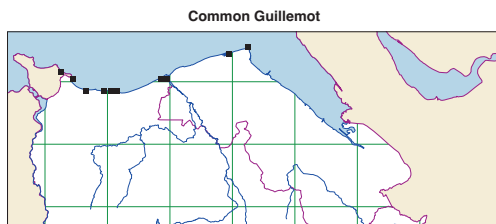
Denbs. One at Horton's Nose on 20/08 (JHi) and 1 at Llanddulas on 28/08 (MBo).

Guillemot *Uria aalge*
Uncommon winter visitor on the sea.

GWYLOG

Flints. A remarkable count of ca.20 at Talacre beach on 12/10 (MP). One at Gronant on 26/09 was the only other record.

Denbs. 27 BT records up to 22/04 and then again from 21/09, mostly from Llanddulas. Max 10 at Llanddulas on 8/02 (JM).



Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle arcticus*
Vagrant.

GWYLOG DDU

Flints. One flew along the shoreline at POA on 28/06 (DEW).

Denbs. Three eBird records at Llanddulas: 2 on 27/03 and singles on 27//02 and 3/08.

Razorbill *Alca torda*
Uncommon winter visitor off-shore.

LLURS

Denbs. 11 BT records from Llanddulas to Horton's Nose. Max 3 at Llanddulas on 3/04 (eBird). Present from 6/01 to 4/04 and then again from 22/09 to 1/11.

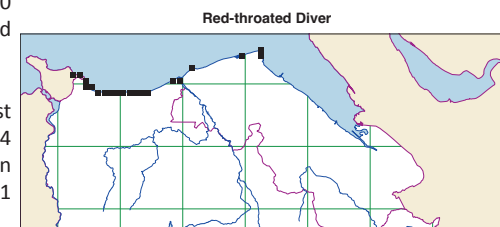
Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*
A fairly-common off-shore winter visitor.

TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

Flints. 6 BT records. Two at Gronant on 21/01 (MHu), Rhyl Marine Drive on 12/04 (MaWa), Rhyl

golfcourse on 22/09 (JHi) and Talacre on 12/10 (MP), plus singles at Rhyl on 17/01 (JHi) and Gronant on 26/09 (WRM).

Denbs. 106 BT records along the north coast between Rhos and Kinmel Bay up to 28/04 and again from 18/09 onwards. Max. an extraordinary 169 at Llanddulas on 11/11 (JHg) and 100+ at Pensarn on 18/03 (MBo).



Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*
A fairly-rare off-shore winter visitor.

TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

Flints. Single flying east at Gronant on 4/05 (DEW).

Denbs. Single at Llanddulas on 28/03 (eBird).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*
A fairly-rare off-shore winter visitor.

TROCHYDD MAWR

Denbs. Only 4 records of singles at Llanddulas on 5/01, 9/02 and 1/03 (PEM, JJo, eBird) and at Pensarn on 1/12 (JJo).

Leach's Petrel *Hydrobates leucorhous*
A very scarce, but regular, passage migrant on the sea.

PEDRYN DRYCIN LEACH

Flints. 1 at Rhyl on 22/09 (JHi).

Denbs. 4 at Pensarn on 22/09 (MBo).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*
Local resident on cliffs near the sea.

ADERYN DRYCIN Y GRAIG

Denbs. 22 BT records, all from the Llanddulas-Colwyn Bay area up to 9/07 and again from 11/12 onwards. Breeding was confirmed on 16/06 at Colwyn Bay Cliffs (1 pair: WRM) but "possible" breeding only at Llanddulas Quarry (WRM). One was seen at Horton's Nose on 6/01 (eBird). Max 11 at Llanddulas on 3/02 (WRM).

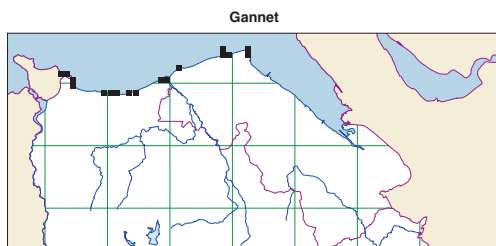
Gannet *Morus bassanus*

HUGAN

A scarce, but regular, passage migrant on the sea.

Flints. 29 BT records, all from the sea between Rhyl and POA, in Jan and Apr-Nov (mainly May). Max 43 near windfarms off Gronant on 11/05 (WRM) and 36 there on 4/05 (JHi).

Denbs. 24 BT records off-shore of 1-20 birds between Rhos (Denbs) and Horton's Nose in all months except Sep and Dec (mainly Apr). Max 20 off Horton's Nose on (AHJ).

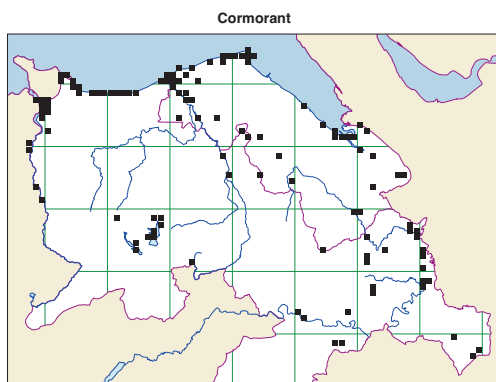
**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

MULFRAN

Common resident on coast and tidal waters; sometimes inland.

Flints. 568 BT records throughout the year, but no breeding records. Max 450 at Gronant on 31/10 (MP) and 440 there on 1/11 (WRM). Away from the north coast, the next highest Birdtrack count was 50 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 28/09 (PSH), although there was an estimate of 500 at Flint Castle on 1/01 on eBird and 90 on a BBS walk near St Asaph on 19/04 and 24/05.

Denbs. 594 BT records (inc 318 from RSPB Conwy) throughout the year but no breeding records. The highest count was 60 at Llanddulas on 10/10 (GEM).

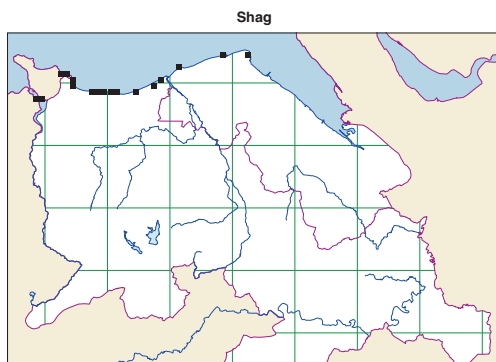
**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

MULFRAN WERDD

An uncommon winter visitor along the coast.

Flints. Singles at Rhyl on 17/01 (JHi) and POA on 13/08 (eBird).

Denbs. 38 records between Rhos and Kinmel Bay, from 6/01 to 14/04 and again from 20/07 to 20/12, inc 33 records from Llanddulas [max 3 there on 5/03 (DWin) and 25/10 (MP)]. Singles at RSPB Conwy, Colwyn Bay and Kinmel Bay. eBird record of 7 at Llanddulas on 4/04.

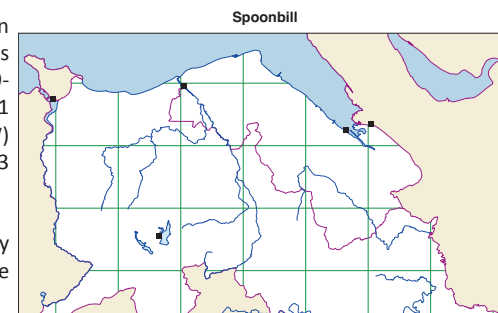
**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

LLWYBIG

A regular, but scarce, visitor to the Dee estuary.

Flints. Singles on the Clwyd estuary (Flints) on 11/09-12/09 (AHJ, JHi) and at Connahs Quay/RSPB Oakenholt on 12/09 and 16/09-18/09 (PSH). RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) had 1 on 23/04 (eBird), a sub-adult on 6/05 (CW) and 9/05 (eBird), 2 on 16/09 (CW) and max. 3 on 18/09 (CW).

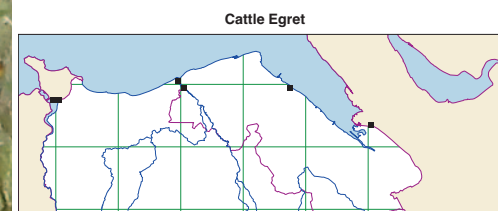
Denbs. One at RSPB Conwy on 6/07 (many obs) and 1 in flight at Llyn Brenig on the same day (AB).

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis*

CRËYR GWARTHEG

Scarce visitor, but increasing after recent breeding at RSPB Burton Mere.

Cattle Egret: Glenn E Morris



Flints. 18 BT records. A remarkable record of 13 birds with sheep on the MOD firing range at Burton (Flints) on 11/09 was preceded by 11 birds on both 6/09 and 7/09, plus a single on 4/09 (all CW). There were 5 on the Burton Mere (Flints) Border Pool on 12/10 (GrJ) and singles there on 27/03 (CW) and 12/09 (eBird) and another at Llannerch-y-mor on the Dee estuary on 23/12 (Bg). The Clwyd estuary near Rhyl had 2 on 7/11 (MaS) and 1 on 23/10 (AHJ).

Denbs. There were 2 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 25/11, followed by a single there on 10/12 (both MaS). Singles at RSPB Conwy on 26/09 (WRM) and 19/10 (Bg).

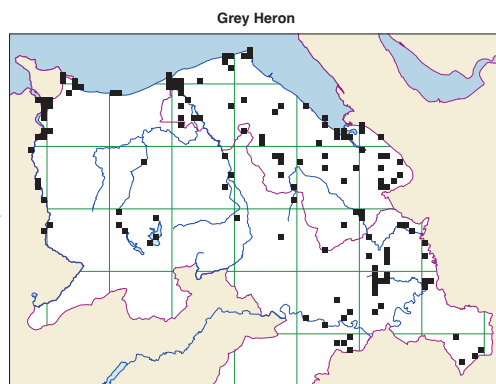
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

CRËYR GLAS

Fairly-common resident, breeding at a few sites.

Flints. 344 BT records (121 from CQNR-OakRSPB) but no breeding evidence reported. Max. 15 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 14/09 (PSH) and 11 on Burton MOD Ranges on 4/09 (CW).

Denbs. 476 BT records (169 from RSPB Conwy). Breeding was confirmed by an extraordinary 11 occupied nests at Lleweni on 3/04, at least 4 of which had visible young on 3/07 (JHi). Nest with 2 young on 29/07 at Erddig (JmHu) and Tal-y-cafn had 1 occupied nest on 13/05 (WRM). There were 8 birds with at least 1 occupied nest at Bryn Rhyd yr Arian (possibly Coed Mawr, as in 2022) near Llansannan on 1/04 (MAO). Max 14 at Lleweni on 20/02 and 2/03 (JHi) [20 at RSPB Conwy on 4/07 (SK) but this may include the heronry in Caernarfonshire].



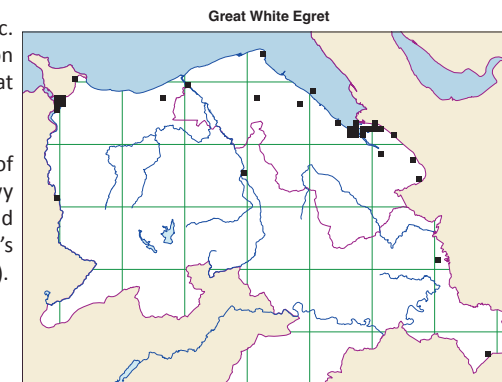
Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

CRËYR MAWR GWYN

Common on the Dee estuary, especially in autumn.

Flints. 82 BT records throughout the year (inc. 53 from CQNR-OakRSPB). Max 18 at Burton MOD Ranges on 4/09 (CW). One wintered at Llyn Helyg from Aug-Dec (ShN).

Denbs. 100 BT records of 1-3 birds, 96 of which were at or near RSPB Conwy throughout the year (many obs). Inland records at Llandyrnog, Is-y-coed and Fenn's Moss. Max 3 at RSPB Conwy on 17/10 (TGr).



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

CRËYR BACH

Common breeding resident and passage migrant near the coast but frequently seen inland.

Flints. 511 BT records, inc. 171 from Clwyd estuary. "Probable" nesting at POA (SD, RiE). Max 160 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 12/09 (PSH) and 70 at Burton MOD marsh on 4/09 (CW).

Denbs. 470 BT records, inc 390 from RSPB Conwy. Breeding was confirmed with 4 nests at Tal-y-cafn near Conwy on 13/05 (WRM). Max. 60 at RSPB Conwy on 3/09 (TGr).

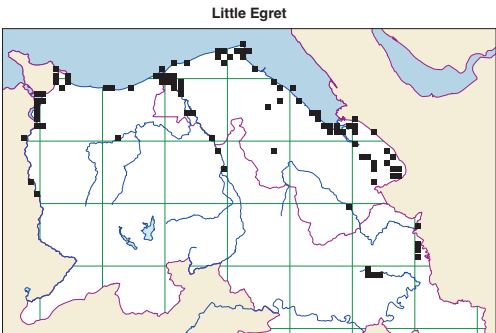


Grey Heron: Peter Haslem



Little Egret: John Hawkins

Little Egret: WeBS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bagillt	4	4	2	5	1	5	15	85	88	34	16	3
Walwen		1	1	1	1	3	4	20	53	17	26	2
Point of Ayr	9	7	10	12	14	15	30	3	6	11	13	5
CQNR	2		1		1	13	12	18	2	6	2	
RSPB Oakenholt	1	2			3	3	2	14	18	42	7	



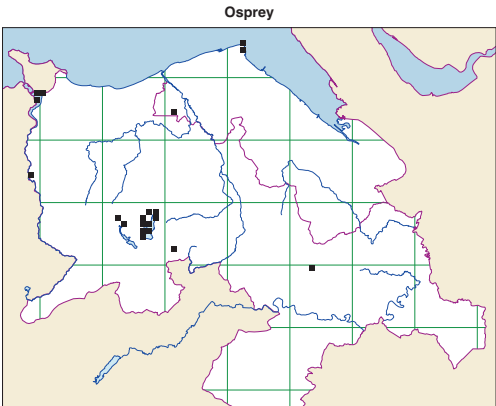
Osprey
Pandion haliaetus

GWALCH PYSGOD

A very scarce breeding resident and passage migrant.

Flints. Singles at CQNR-OakRSPB on 27/03 (DEW), St Asaph on 18/04 (SHu) and at Talacre on both 9/05 (JaD) and 15/08 (eBird). One at Waun-y-Llyn CP near Caergwrle at 18.45 on 16/08 (JHa).

Denbs. 49 BT records from 2/04 to 19/08, inc 38 at Llyn Brenig where a pair, LJ2 and LM6, fledged 2 young on 23/07 (named Blue 7B5 Dilys and Blue 7B6 Mari). One was seen flying towards the old platform at Alwen Reservoir, which was occupied by a Canada Goose on 4/04 (HeJo). Spring singles at RSPB Conwy on 9/04, 25/04, 5/05, 14/05 and 16/05 (TGr et al) and World’s End on 1/05 (SiD).



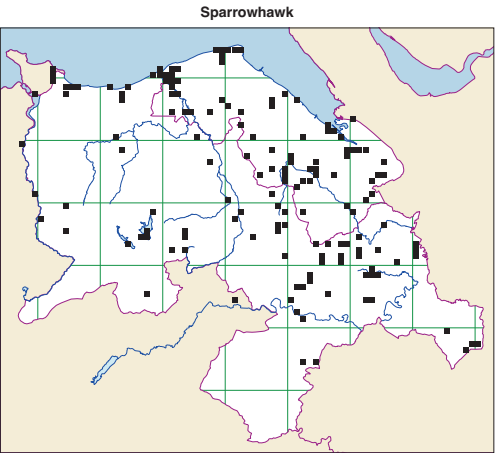
Sparrowhawk
Accipiter nisus

GWALCH GLAS

A fairly common breeding resident that often takes advantage of garden bird feeders (there were 145 Garden Birdwatch (GBW) records across all months, but with fewest in June and most in July), but no records of successful attacks this year.

Flints. 187 BT records, with confirmed breeding at Caerwys on 9/08 (MV). One garden in the Chwiler valley had 2 together on 13/08 (GBW). Also max. 2 at Rhuddlan NR on 14/01 (JHi), Rhyl Brickworks on 21/03, 5/09 and 28/11 (AHJ, JHi), Wepre Park on 7/04 (eBird) and Pantymwyn on 11/09 (GEM).

Denbs. 115 BT records with breeding confirmed by 2 chicks calling in Johnstown Ind Estate on 8/08 (GeH). At Llanfair TH on 14/02, one was “flushed from the side of the road whilst driving. It was carrying prey” (WRM). Max. count 3, soaring together at Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele on 4/09 (MBo), at Moel Famau on 6/05 (eBird) and at RSPB Conwy on 24/01 (TGr).



Goshawk
Accipiter gentilis

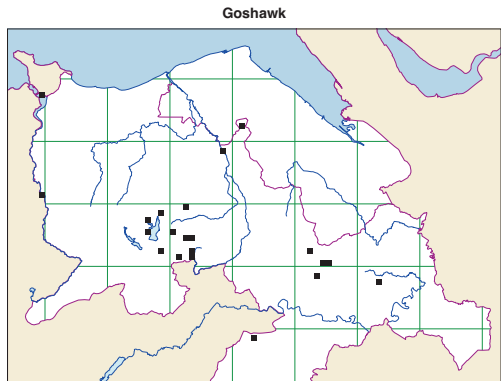
GWALCH MARTH

A scarce breeding resident, possibly increasing.

Flints. Only 6 records, all from the Chwiler Valley from 1/01 to 9/04, all singles except display from a pair on 8/03 (all MV, KBr).

Denbs. 27 records, inc. 16 from 29/01 to 9/04 at the well-known Clocaenog Forest site, where there was a record of courtship display on 4/03 (“probable” breeding: GrJ) and max. 6 on 5/02 (NF). There were 5 records of singles in the World’s End/Esclusham Mtn area, where a male tried to take a lekking Black Grouse on 27/01 (GrJ). Two records of a single near Pwll-Glas on 18/04 and 3/10 (ABar). Other

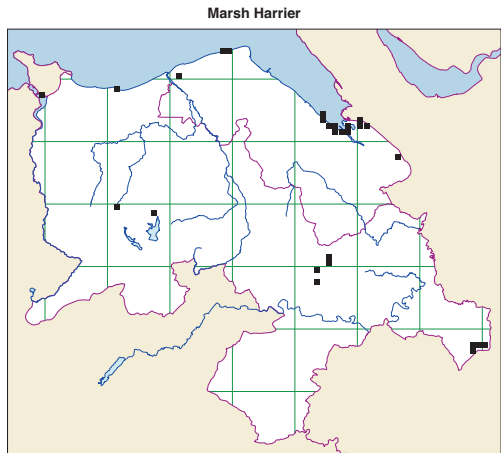
singles at at Craigfechan on 14/02 (Malcolm Ingram: trail cam videos), Conwy on 23/04 (AJo), Ceiriog Forest on 1/05 (TK), Ynys Wen on 10/05 (SGD), Lleweni on 20/06 (JHi), Llechrydau on 26/06 (BSG Ecology) and Sontley on 5/11 (HeCar).



Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
Resident on the Dee estuary and migrant.

BODA'R GWERNI

Flints. 65 BT records (33 at CQNR-OakRSPB and 13 at Gronant: winter only) with no breeding evidence submitted, apart from a juvenile at Gronant on 30/08 (DEW). Max 5 at Flint Castle on 18/11 (eBird), 3 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 10/12 (JJo), Flint Marsh on 17/12 (SK) and Burton MOD marsh on 27/11 (CW). Singles at Rhyl Brickworks on 23/08 (JHi), Sealand on 17/11 (MaP), Shotwick Lake on 1/01 and 19/08 (eBird) and White Sands on 18/04 (GrJ). 12 eBird records from RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) and 7 from Flint Castle.



Denbs. 16 BT records with no breeding evidence submitted. Two at Fenn's Moss on 7/04, 29/04 and 3/05 and 7 records of singles including summer records on 18/05 and 25/07 (all RHa). Singles at World's End on 1/05 (SiD), Minera on 29/04 (DaFr) and 3/05 (HeCar), Esclusham Mtn on 22/04 and 27/05 (eBird), Gors Maen Llwyd on 12/05 (eBird) and Llyn Aled Isaf on 24/01 (PDS). One flying off-shore at Llanddulas on 3/04 (eBird).

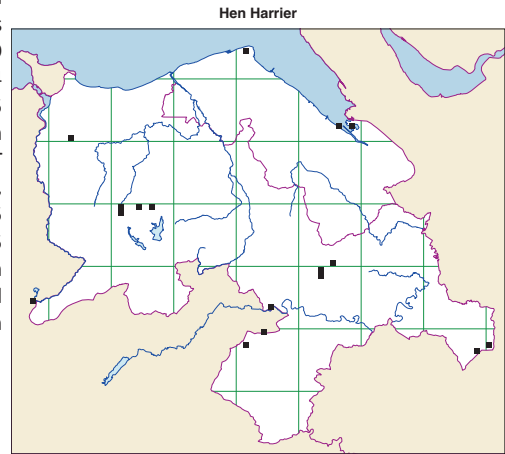
Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
A very scarce breeding resident in upland areas, a scarce passage migrant and an uncommon winter visitor to the estuaries.

BODA TINWYN

Flints. One the Dee estuary, 1 at CQNR-OakRSPB 12/01 (PSH), a ringtail across the river at White Sands on 31/08 (AHJ) and a male at Burton MOD marshes on 17/11 (CW). One at Talacre Fields on 28/01 (JHi).

Denbs. 21 BT records, while nesting surveys found that two nests in the Migneint (Denbs) each fledged 3y and, out of 3 nests on Mynydd Hiraethog, one nest raised 3y and the other two nests failed. Courtship

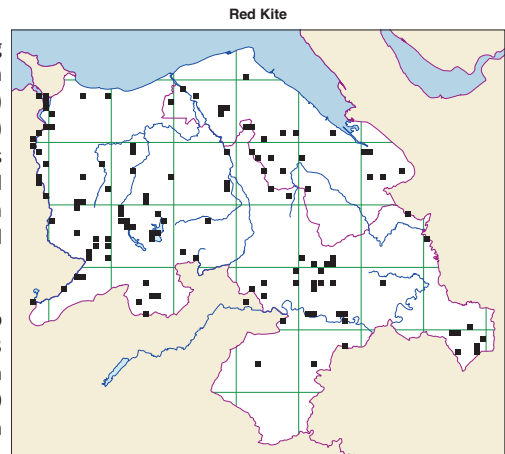
display by a 4th pair at Mynydd Hiraethog on 29/04 (GrJ). A survey of the north Berwyns (Denbs) recorded 6 nests with 20y fledged (KO per JHg): the highest BT count in Denbs of 4 (2 pairs) was also in north Berwyns on 1/05 (TK). "Probable" breeding near Bryneglwys on 2/07 (MCR). There were 9 other May/June BT records from Mynydd Hiraethog (9/05, 13/05, 19/05 and 7/06 [pair]), Pentrefoelas (17/05 and 23/05) and Ruabon Moors (1/05-14/05 [pair on 6/05]). Other records at Llyn Bran on 25/08 (MGW), Fenn's Moss on 15/10 and 23/10 (RHa) and south of Moel Fferna on 10/11 (Any).



Red Kite *Milvus milvus*
Visitor and breeding resident, now more common and widespread, although numbers are still small in the north.

BARCUD COCH

Flints. 26 BT records, but no breeding evidence. Max 5 soaring together at Shotton on 26/05 (MFr), 4 over Flint on 27/05 (StW) and 3 over Connah's Quay on 27/05 (DEW) appear to be the same group. Also 3 at Plas Gwyn in the Chwiler Valley on 4/06 (SK). eBird records from Holywell on 26/05 and from Saltney Ferry on 19/05. Four out of 49 Cofnod record were in Flints.



Denbs. 147 BT records from all months but no breeding evidence was submitted. All of 1-3 birds except max. 19 south of Llanellidan on 23/12 (ABar) and 10 near Llangwm on 6/09 (MA). 45 out of 49 Cofnod records were in Denbs.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*
Vagrant.

ERYR MÔR

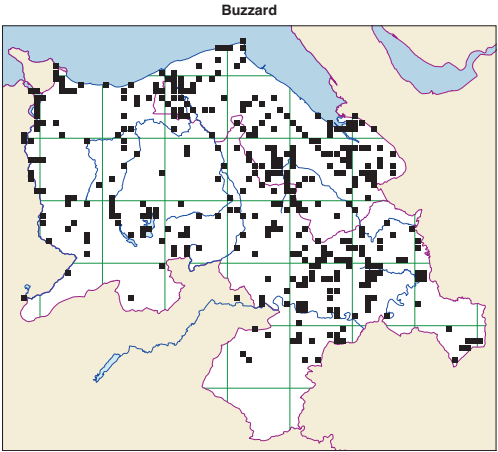
Flints. Although there were no sightings by birdwatchers, a third-year female, G542, released on the Isle of Wight in 2021 was radio-tracked (by Roy Dennis Wildlife Fdn) crossing the Dee estuary from West Kirby and following the A55 towards St Asaph on 23/06. It continued to Anglesey. This was a different bird from that seen at Fenn's Moss in 2022.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
Common breeding resident.

BWNCATH

Flints. 422 BT records with “probable” breeding only at 6 locations. Max 11 at Connah’s Quay NR on 13/09 (PSH) and 8 in a “kettle” at Rhyl Brickfields on 13/08 (AHJ), suggestive of an autumn movement, as was 5 single birds moving south at Star Crossing on 7/10 (GEM). One attacked a Magpie on a Pantymwyn garden lawn on 21/05 (GEM), probably protecting a local nest.

Denbs. 571 BT records with breeding confirmed near Llanrwst on 5/07 (WRM). “Probable” nesting at 9 further locations. Max 7 at Sontley on 5/11 (HeCar). One was mobbed by a Kestrel at Pontcysyllte Aqueduct on 2/07 (eBird).



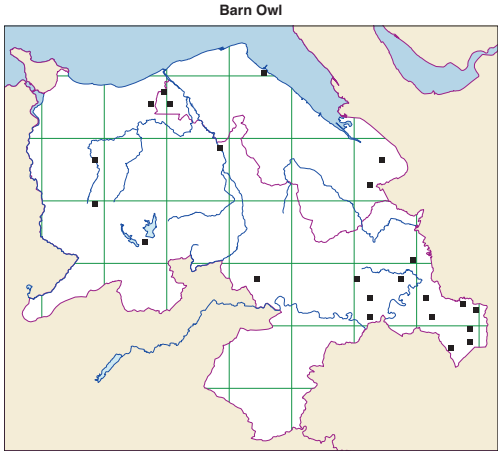
Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
Scarce breeding resident.

TYLLUAN WEN REVISED

Flints. Breeding was confirmed by ringing reports at Bodelwyddan on 26/06 (IMS: 3y) and Mostyn on 20/06 (IMS: 2y). Singles on the A5104 between Broughton and Penymynydd on 5/02 (DMH), at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 28/04 (BBS), on the A55 near Bodelwyddan on 08/10 (eBird), at nearby St George

on 23/01 (eBird), near the A55 at Pantasaph on 15/03 (MaCa) and near the A55 at St Asaph on 2/03 (JiJa). One flew across CQNR and the Dee from the Power Station on 9/04 (SCA).

Denbs. 12 BT records with breeding confirmed at Lleweni by a nest with 2+ chicks (JHi). Breeding was confirmed by ringing reports at 13 locations: on 7/07 (all IMS) at Gwytherin (5y), Llangernyw (3y), Cerrigydrudion (3y) and Llyn Brenig (5y), on 26/06 (all EB) at Pentre Bychan, Wrexham (6y), near Erbstock (2y) and Ruabon (2y), on 23/06 (EB) at Bronington (3y), on 26/06 (all EB) at Bangor-Is-y-Coed (3y), near Wych Brook (7y) and near Painter’s Green (1y) and on 3/07 (both EB) at Cross Lanes (2y) and Ridleywood (2y). Singles recorded at Lleweni on 30/01, 7/04 and 12/07, and one found drowned on 21/02 (all JHi). Five records from the A525 Llandegla-NantYGarth road on 6/01, 22/02, 5/03 and 5/09, this last a dead bird on the roadside. Three records at Fenn’s Moss on 15/06, 19/06 and 26/12 (RHa) one at Tal-y-Cafn on 20/02 (CMac) and one at Bryneglwys on 21/10 (JaSh). Two perched by the road south of Llyn Brenig on 15/08 (DWin) and 2 near Llangernyw on 15/12 (KHJ). Singles on the A544 south of Llanfair TH on 11/12 and 28/12 (JoW), in the Clwyd valley east of Ruthin on 31/01 (DSm) and near Minera Lead Mines CP on 3/03 (MiT).

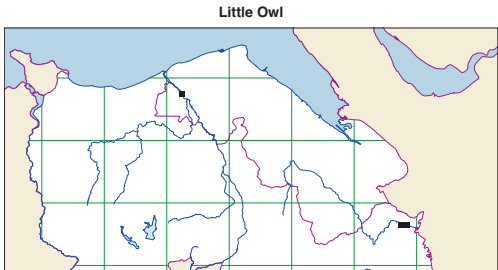


Little Owl *Athene noctua*
Very scarce breeding resident.

TYLLUAN FACH

Flints. Singles at Rhuddlan NR on 29/07 (JHi) and Holywell Common on 30/09 (SJo).

Denbs. One at Trevalyn/Rossett on 14/01 (TBT, JuWi, eBird) and 1/05 (eBird), also seen in 2022, suggests “probable” breeding. One at Glanllyn Farm, Trefnant on 5/05 and 22/08 (SaK).



Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*
Rare breeding resident.

TYLLUAN GORNIOG

Denbs. Breeding was confirmed by recently-fledged young at Ceiriog Forest on 3/07 (JaSh). An excellent record of a rare breeding confirmation.

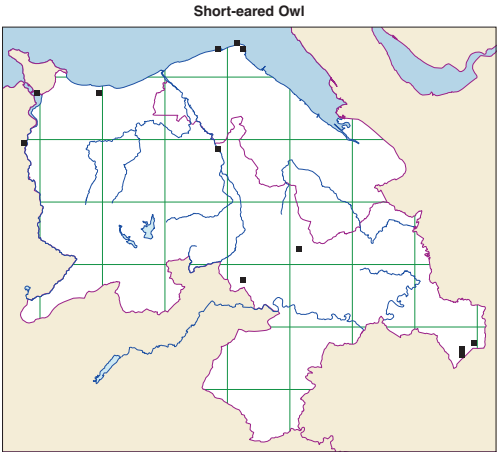
Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

Very scarce upland breeding resident and scarce winter visitor to wetlands.

Flints. There was a summer record at Gronant and POA on 4/05 (AHJ, Bg). Max 2 hunting over Burton MOD marshes on 7/10, with singles there on 16/10 and 17/11 (all CW). Singles at Gronant on 20/03 (SFe), POA on 15/10 (DEW) and Moel Garegog/Fauxdegla on 3/03 (Anya).

Denbs. Summer records in the north Berwyns on 5/05 and 17/05 (KO per JHg). Fenn's Moss had 1-3 birds from 10/01-15/01 and a single during 4/12-6/12 (RHu). Singles at Bettisfield on 4/09 (Bg), Lleweni on 30/10 (JHi), at Bryneglwys on 5/12 (Anya), flying over RSPB Conwy on 29/03 (GrJ, TBT, JaSh) and flying over Llandulas quarries on 28/11 (TGr).



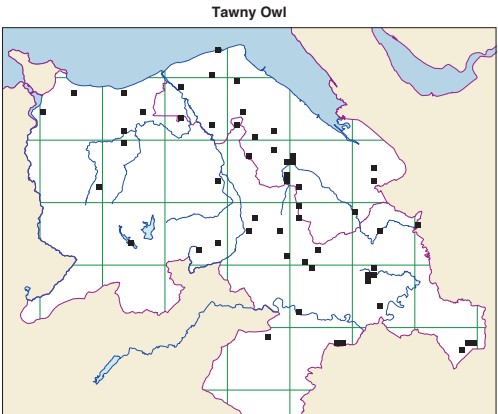
Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

TYLLUAN FRECH

Fairly common breeding resident.

Flints. 36 BT records at 12 locations, with confirmed breeding at Caerwys on 14/07 (MV) and Penycloddiau on 21/05 (nest with 2 chicks: eBird). There were summer (May-July) BT records in 6 locations. Max. 3 at Rhydymwyn Reserve on 8/10 (MD).

Denbs. 31 BT records at 15 locations. Breeding was confirmed at Fenn's Moss on 14/06 (3 fledged: RHu) and at Froncysyllte where a nest-box fledged 1 young on 23/05 and 2 chicks still being fed on 23/07 (TK). There were summer (May-July) BT records in 10 locations. Max. 4 at Fenn's Moss on 14/06 (RHu).



Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

GLAS Y DORLAN

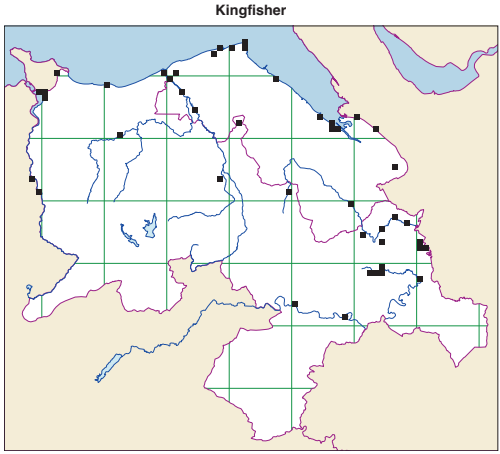
Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 74 BT records, including 37 winter records from CQNR (absent between 4/03 and 25/07), but no evidence of breeding. There were summer singles (late April to June) at Rhydymwyn Reserve, Rhuddlan NR, both R. Elwy and R. Clwyd at St Asaph, Rhyl Brickworks, Gronant and Big Pool Wood. Max 2 at Prestatyn on 23/02 (ShN) and CQNR on several dates (PSH).

Denbs. 66 BT records, including 39 winter records from RSPB Conwy (absent between 11/03 and 18/07),



Kingfisher: Glenn E Morris



but no evidence of breeding. There were summer records (late April to June) of singles at Kings Mills (Wrexham), Erddig, BrynGrog, Sutton Green, Erbistock, Ty Mawr CP, Holt and Trevalyn. Max 4 at RSPB Conwy on 29/10 (TGr).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*

CNOCELL FRAITH FACH

Rare resident.

Denbs. The only record was a single bird at Pwllglas (Ruthin) on 23/04 (RKn).

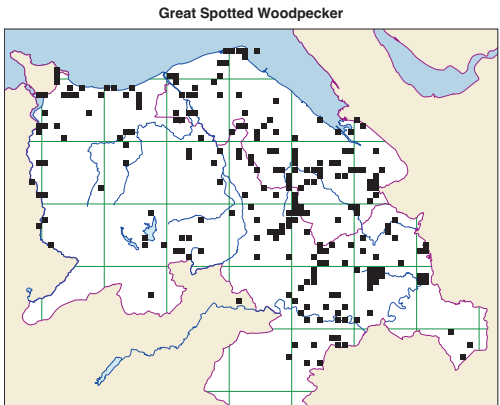
Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

CNOCELL FRAITH FAWR

Common breeding resident.

Flints. 191 BT records with confirmed breeding in Pantymwyn on 17/06 (GEM) and St Asaph Business Park on 22/05 (ShHu). "Probable" breeding at 2 further locations. Max count of 3 at Buckley Heritage Trail.

Denbs. 334 BT records. Breeding was confirmed at 6 locations: Erddig and Sontley (both HeCar), Llangollen Golf Course (JoR), Gors Maen Llwyd (WRM), Chirk Castle (CTw) and Tir Llwyd Ind. Park (WRM). "Probable" breeding at 5 further locations. Max 5 at Chirk Castle.





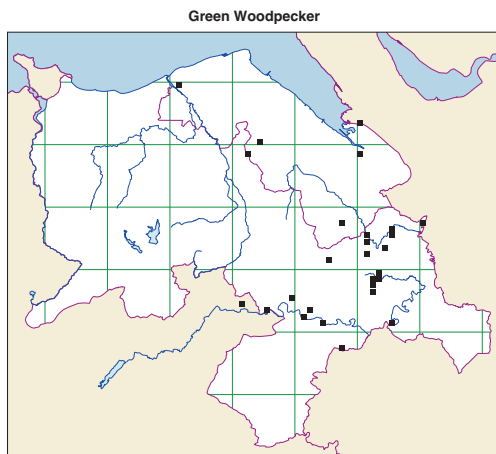
Great Spotted Woodpecker: John Hawkins

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*
Uncommon breeding resident.

CNOCELL WERDD

Flints. Only 3 BT records at localities near Higher Shotton on 26/08 (MFr), near Caerwys on 1/04 (SK) and along the old Coed Talon to Llanfynydd railway line on 9/08 (RbL). eBird records from RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) and 1 in a garden near Rhyl on 6/08 (GBW). Also at Fagl Lane on 6/03 and 12/03 (KhD).

Denbs. 25 BT records. Breeding was confirmed at Erddig on 27/07 (HeCar) and a juvenile was seen at Froncysyllte on 11/08 (TK). Singles at Alyn Waters CP, Llay, Gresford Flash, Sontley, Chirk Castle, Wrexham centre, Erbistock, Llangollen, Carrog, Glyndyfrdwy, Tanat valley and max. 2 at World's End-Eglwyseg-Panorama and Minera NR.

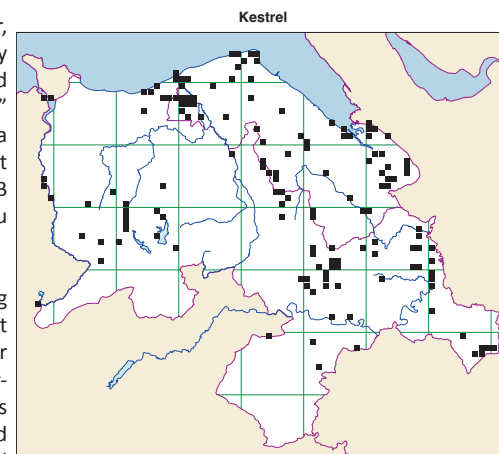


Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
A familiar, but still uncommon, breeding resident.

CUDYLL COCH

Flints. 179 BT records throughout the year, with confirmed breeding at Cilcain Moors by "3 birds hunting and resting on the ground together" on 26/07 (GEM). "Probable" breeding at Broughton with a visit to a probable nest site on 1/07 (AHJ). Pair at Halkyn Mtn on 12/06 (MGW) and at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints). Max 4 at Penycloddiau on 9/04 (eBird).

Denbs. 117 BT records, with breeding confirmed by a family party of 3 hunting at Llechrydau on 17/07 (BSG Ecology). Summer pairs seen at Llyn Aled on 24/06 and Rhes-y-Cae on 12/06 (both GEM). There were records of pairs at Llangollen on 17/08 (Nfo) and Fenn's Moss on 22/02 (RHa). One was found dead at Lleweni on 16/08 (JHi).

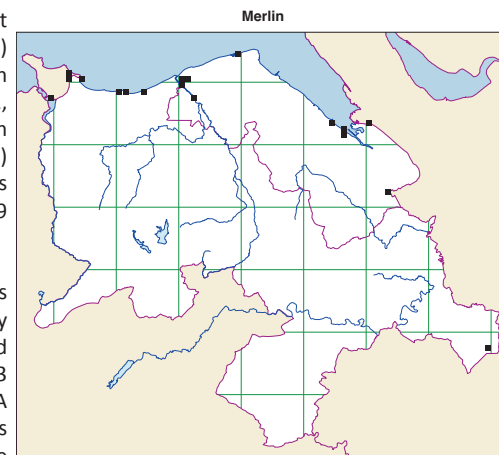


Merlin *Falco columbarius*
A rare breeding resident in uplands and scarce winter visitor to wetlands.

CUDYLL BACH

Flints. 11 BT records of winter singles at CQNR-OakRSPB on 28/01 (PSH), 10/02 (JJo) and 27/11 (RoMo), Burton MOD marsh on 24/09 (CW), Clwyd estuary on 31/01, 2/02, 4/02 and 25/10 (TK, JHi, AHJ), Gronant on 29/10 and 26/11 (PeJ), Talacre on 12/10 (MP) and Moel Arthur on 23/11 (DMH). One was chasing starlings at Shotwick Lake on 17/09 (eBird).

Denbs. 6 BT records of singles at Fenn's Moss on 1/03, 12/03, 7/04 and 20/12 (RHa), Conwy estuary (Denbs) on 10/04 (MaS), World's End on 15/04 (NTr), Esclusham Mtn on 5/03 (eBird) and RSPB Conwy on 18/12 (eBird). A male at Bylchau on 3/04 and a female at Dinas Bran, Llangollen on 8/10 (both Dfo). There was a female on 18/05 in a traditional nesting area on Mynydd Hiraethog (eBird) and breeding was confirmed nearby with a juv. seen on 17/08 (per JHg).



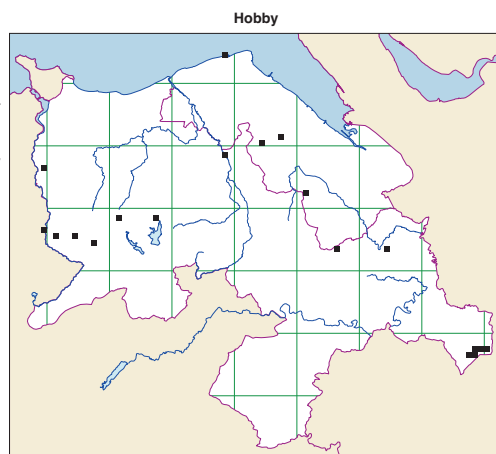
Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

A rare breeding visitor and scarce passage migrant.

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

Flints. 9 records (all singles) from 6/05 to 24/09, at CQNR-OakRSPB on 8/07 (PSH), Gronant on 17/05 (eBird), 28/05 (TWO) and 16/07 (JmHu), at Plas Gwyn in the Chwiler valley on 6/05, 26/06, 11/08 and 25/08 (SK: not far from nest site at Lleweni), at nearby Caerwys golf course on 16/07 (KBr) and perched on a post at Burton MOD marsh on 24/09 (CW). Singles at Lixwm on 26/05 and Gwernymynydd, Mold on 13/07 (both eBird).

Denbs. 32 BT records (inc 26 from Fenn's Moss) from 21/04 to 10/09. Max 5 on migration at Fenn's Moss on 3/05 (RHa), but no breeding evidence submitted. Breeding was confirmed at Lleweni with 1 fledged on 29/08 (JHi). Several May records from the Denbigh Moors, starting with 3 birds at Gors Maen Llwyd on 12/05 (eBird), followed on 13/05 by singles at Capel Garmon (TGr), nearby Nant-y-Foel (eBird) and Llyn Aled (TiL). Singles at Froncysyllte on 30/04, 14/05, 4/07 and 18/07, and at Bonc-yr-Hafod CP, Wrexham on 15/08 (all TK). September records at Bwlchgwyn on 3/09 (SD), Gresford Flash on 10/09 (eBird), Llyn Gweryd on 13/09 (TK) and 2 on the B5113 near Capel Garmon on 2/09 (eBird).



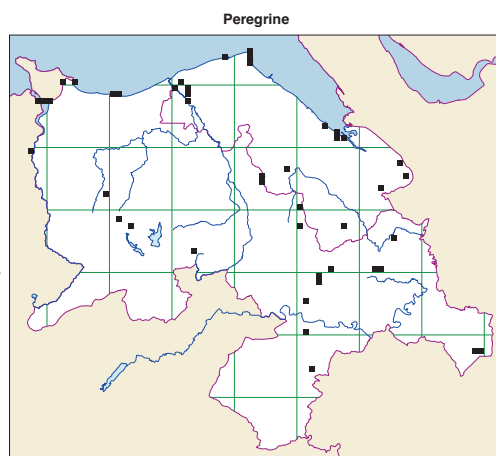
Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

An uncommon breeding resident.

HEBOG TRAMOR

Flints. 71 BT records of 1-2 birds, 23 of which came from CQNR-OakRSPB, with confirmed breeding in a quarry near the coast on 31/05 (StW). Max 2 together at Llanfynydd on 9/08 (RLa), Clwyd estuary on 3/09 (JHi) and Talacre on 17/12 (AJR). May/June singles from 6 locations. In the Alyn valley, one was filmed after killing a gull and two adults and a juvenile were reported by the landowner (per MD).

Denbs. 44 BT records in all months of the year, with confirmed breeding in north Berwyns (3y: per JHg) and in the east Berwyns on 22/05 (BSG Ecology). Max. 2 at Llanddulas on 8/01 (MBo) and 21/01 (eBird), Wrexham Town Centre on 24/08 (LBD), RSPB Conwy on 18/09 (ToSt) and 18/12 (AtG) and Eryrys on 24/12 (eBird). May/June singles from 7 locations.

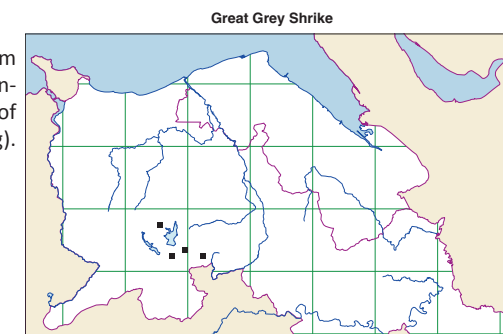


Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Very scarce winter visitor.

CIGYDD MAWR

Denbs. Only 5 BT records of singles from 21/11 to 29/12, 2 records from Pentre-llyn-cwmmer and 3 from different parts of Clocaenog Forest/Llyn Brenig (ShN and Bg). None from the traditional Bron Banog site.



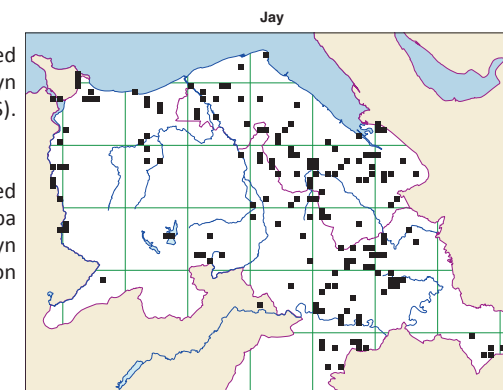
Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Common breeding resident.

SGRECH Y COED

Flints. 128 BT records with no confirmed breeding, though one caught at Rhydymwyn Reserve had a brood patch on 2/05 (IMS). Max. 7 at Moel Arthur on 27/10 (GEM).

Denbs. 238 BT records with no confirmed breeding, but nest-building seen at Gopa Wood, Abergele on 7/04 (MBo) and Alyn Waters CP on 24/04 (AB). Max. 8 at Erddig on 16/10 (eBird).



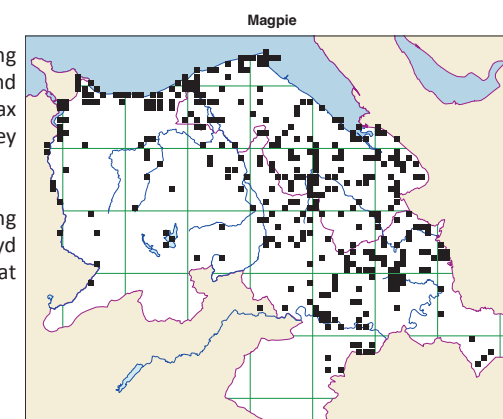
Magpie *Pica pica*

Very common breeding resident.

PIODEN

Flints. 870 BT records with breeding confirmed at Clwyd estuary on 7/06 (AHJ) and "probable" at Rhyl Brickworks (JHi, RiE). Max 36 at CQNR on 30/01 (MD) and 31 at Buckley Heritage Trail on 21/02 (SG).

Denbs. 844 BT records with breeding confirmed at RSPB Conwy, Llanrwst, Tir Llwyd Ind. Estate and Alyn Waters CP. Max 13 at RSPB Conwy on 21/01 (KBr).

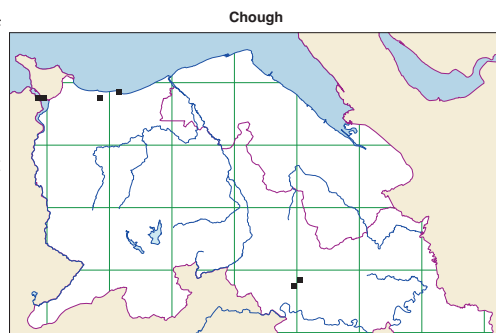


Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

Rare breeding resident and very scarce winter visitor.

BRÂN GOESGOCH

Denbs. 6 BT records without evidence of breeding. The only summer record was one flying south from behind Llanddulas on 31/05 (MDu). Two at Horseshoe Pass on 27/01 (Anyu) and flying over RSPB Conwy on 10/10, 31/10 and 17/12 (WRM and EvT). Singles at RSPB Conwy 16/09 and 8/10 (eBird), Pentredwr (Horseshoe Pass) on 25/08 (MFr) and Llanddulas on 1/12 (JJo). Max 3 at RSPB Conwy on 31/08 (eBird).



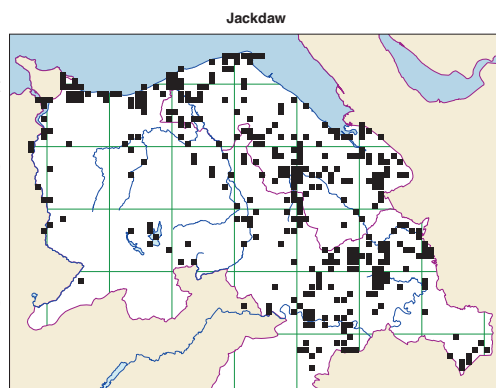
Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

Very common breeding resident.

JAC-Y-DO

Flints. 798 BT records (185 of which from Rhyl Brickworks). Breeding was confirmed only at Pantymwyn on 21/05 (GEM) and Rhydymwyn on 16/06 (MD). Max 400 at Rhyl on 21/12 (RiE), 350 at Rhuddlan on 1/11 (SHu) and 300 at Cilcain on 18/07 (GEM).

Denbs. 780 BT records. Breeding was confirmed only at Chirk Castle on 26/05 (DaHa) and Llanrwst on 5/07 (WRM). Max 200 at Erddig on 16/10 (eBird) and 87 at Llewenni on 14/03 (JHi).



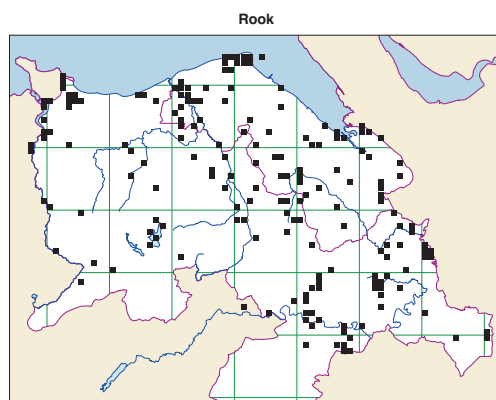
Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Common breeding resident.

See Article by Anne Brenchley on 2022-23 Survey results in this Report.

Flints. There were 318 BT records with breeding confirmed at 3 localities. Max 137 on Clwyd estuary on 27/08 (JHi).

Denbs. There were 186 BT records with breeding confirmed at 6 localities. Max. 150 at Llanfair TH on 9/08 (AIC) and 133 at RSPB Conwy on 25/08 (Zak).



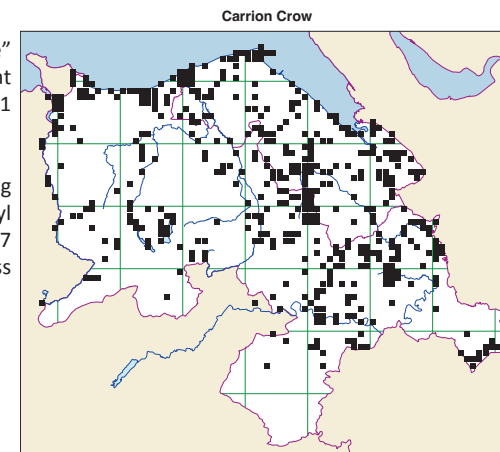
Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Very common breeding resident.

BRÂN DYDDYN

Flints. 1022 BT records with “probable” breeding only at 4 locations. Max 100 at Llanfynydd old railway on 9/08 (RbL) and 61 at Connah’s Quay NR on 2/02 (PSH).

Denbs. 1295 BT records with breeding confirmed at Llyn Brenig (WRM) and Rhyl Marine Lake (JHi). “Probable” breeding at 7 further locations. Max 80 at Fenn’s Moss (RHa: regular winter flock).



Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Vagrant.

BRÂN LWYD

Flints. One was present again on the Clwyd estuary from 3/05 to 14/09 (many obs), with 2 seen on 14/06 only (AHJ).

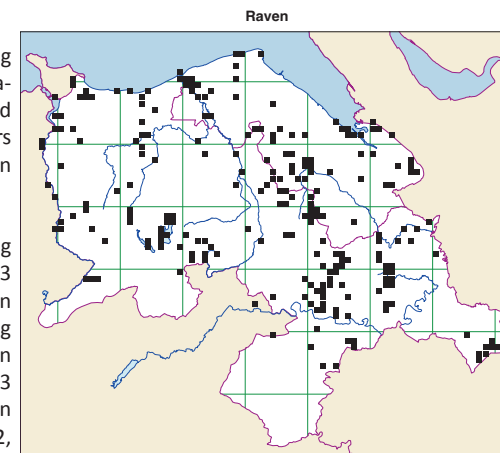
Raven *Corvus corax*

Common breeding resident.

CIGFRAN

Flints. 254 BT records with breeding confirmed at Bagillt (GRMP). Max 30 at sea-level on Burton MOD marshes on 22/11 and 15 there on 16/08 (CW), 12 at Cilcain moors on 26/11 (MP) and 10 at Moel Arthur on 27/10 (GEM).

Denbs. 345 BT records with breeding confirmed at Cefn Cliffs on the R. Elwy with 3 young on 13/05 (JHi), at Llanddulas Quarry on 6/03 (WRM) and at Chirk Castle with 2 young on 8/06 (CTw). “Probable” breeding Erddig on 13/05 (JmHu). Max 25 at Moel Famau (TQ), 13 on the Denbigh Moors at Nant-y-Foel on 13/05 (eBird) and 12 at Llechrydau on 5/02, 17/03 and 2/05 (AIDa).





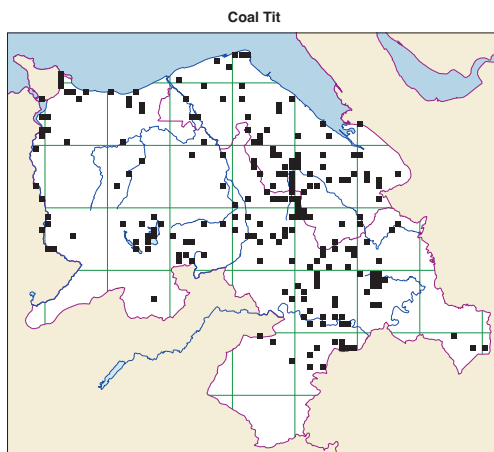
Raven: John Hawkins

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*
Very common breeding resident.

TITW PENDDU

Flints. 137 BT records (half of them from Pantymwyn and Rhydymwyn) but no breeding confirmed. "Probable" breeding at Talacre and Bagillt (GRMP). Max. 16 at Nercwys Forest on 31/12 (DWin).

Denbs. 287 BT records with breeding confirmed at Tanyfron-Brymbo on 27/05 (SD), Craignant Wood on 09/06 (CSB) and Pontfadog on 10/06 (SD). Max. 11 at Moel Famau Forest on 26/11 (eBird), 8 at Bodnant NT on 23/02 (PEM) and 8 at Chirk Castle on 9/07 (CTw).

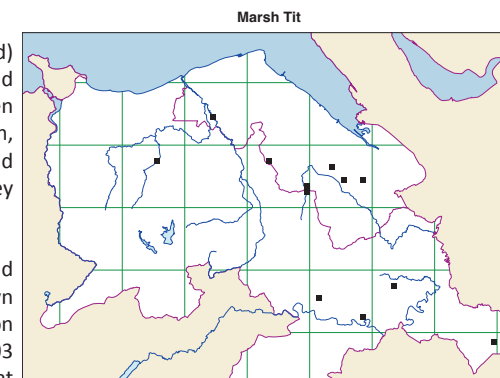


Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*
Scarce breeding resident.

TITW'R WERN

Flints. Two at Penycloddiau on 17/04 (eBird) and singles at Gwysaney on 30/04 (DaFr) and St Asaph on 1/07 (JHi). One visited a garden south of Pantymwyn at least 6 times in Jan, Mar and Dec (GBW). Other singles visited gardens in Mynydd Isa on 2/04 and Buckley on 23/07 (both GBW).

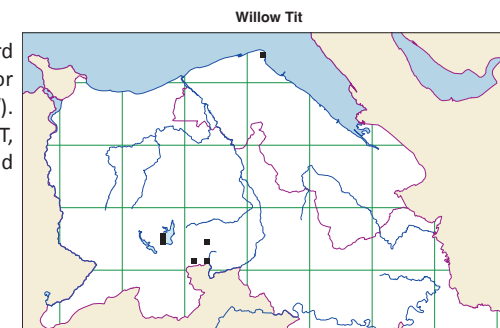
Denbs. Two at Sontley on 9/04 (HeCar) and singles at RSPB Conwy on 23/02 (PEM), Bryn Rhyd yr Arian on 1/04 (MAO), Loggerheads on 21/06 (eBird), Cefn Mawr (Acrefair) on 3/03 (eBird) and Eglwyseg on 9/04 (LB). Feeders at Froncysyllte had 2 on 19/03 and 5 records of singles from 8/06 to 16/10 (TK).



Willow Tit *Poecile montanus*
Very scarce breeding resident.

TITW'R HELYG

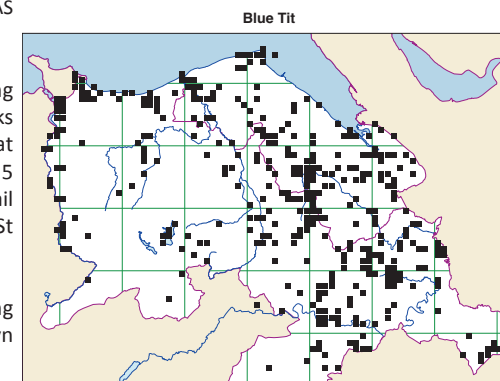
Denbs. 8 BT winter records only, inc 5 of a bird visiting feeders at the Llyn Brenig Visitor Centre from 17/11 to 25/12 (SK, JHi *et al*). Singles at Clocaenog Forest-Nilig on 8/02 (TBT, JmHu), Bron-Banog on 25/02 (MFr) and Clocaenog-Pennant on 5/03 (eBird).



Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*
TITW TOMOS LAS
Very common breeding resident.

Flints. 722 BT records with breeding confirmed at 13 locations. At Bagillt, 31 chicks fledged from 3 nest-boxes (GRMP) and at Coed Cilygroeslwyd, 33 chicks fledged from 5 nest-boxes. Max 20 on Buckley Heritage Trail on 19/01 (SG) and 26 on a BBS walk at St Asaph on 19/04.

Denbs. 993 BT records with breeding confirmed at 13 localities. Max 26 at Colwyn Bay Rugby Club on 23/01 (Zak).



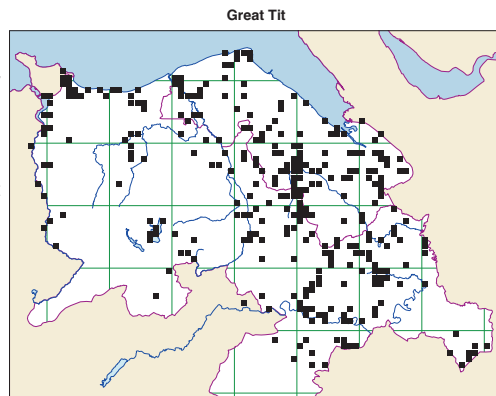
Great Tit *Parus major*

Very common breeding resident.

TITW MAWR

Flints. 487 BT records with breeding confirmed at 7 locations. Max 14 on Buckley Heritage Trail on 24/01 (SG).

Denbs. 789 BT records with breeding confirmed in 10 localities. Max 20 in Llanrwst on 19/02 (eBird).



Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Very scarce visitor.

TITW BARFOG

Flints. One (or more?) at Gronant on 12/10 (WRM: "Male seen briefly but well. I'm pretty sure other unseen bird(s) were calling as they quickly moved through"). They are regular at RSPB Burton Mere, where they first nested in 2019.

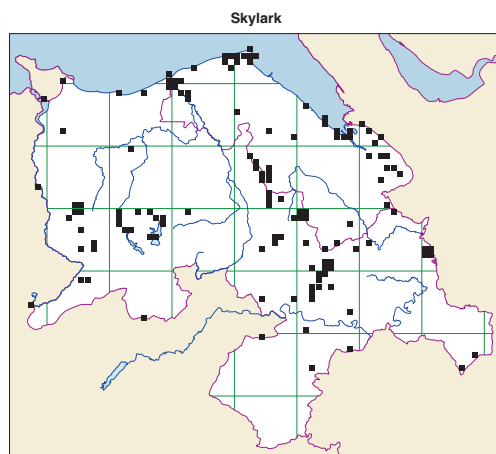
Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Common breeding resident and winter visitor.

EHEDYDD

Flints. 308 BT records (102 of which were at Gronant and 86 at Clwyd estuary) with no confirmed breeding. "Probable" breeding at Gronant, POA and Pulford Brook. Max 150 at Flint Castle on 1/01 (eBird), 100 on Gronant on 29/11 (WRM), 100 at POA on 22/01 (GR), 97 at POA on 17/10 (eBird) and 70 at Clwyd estuary on 17/01 (AHJ).

Denbs. 168 BT records, with breeding confirmed at Moel Y Plas above Llyn Gweryd on 19/06 (TK). "Probable" breeding at Ruabon Moors, Gwytherin Moors and Bryn Alyn. Max 15 at Llechrydau in the Berwyns on 17/03 (AIDa). BSG Ecology Ltd located 89 singing males at a study site around Llechrydau in the lower Berwyns during 17/04 to 12/07.



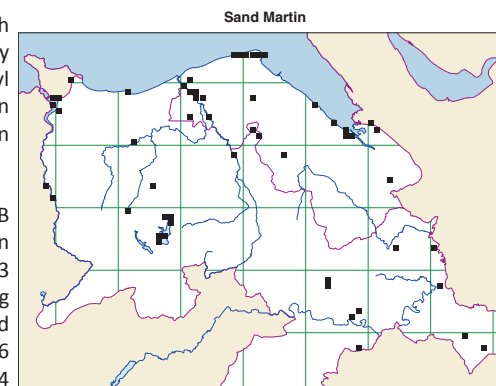
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common passage migrant and local breeding summer visitor.

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Flints. 87 BT records from 15/03 to 30/09 with breeding confirmed at the Flint Point colony (ca. 100 pairs: GRMP). Max 153 at Rhyl Brickworks on 12/04 (JHi) and 100 at CQNR on 21/04 (PSH). Last record was 5 at POA on 30/09 (eBird).

Denbs. 186 BT records (inc. 130 from RSPB Conwy, which had a very early record of 2 on 28/02: PLeg). Otherwise, present from 15/03 to 23/09. Breeding confirmed at Llyn Brenig (Archaeological Trail) on 16/06 (WRM) and 1/07 (SD) and at Llyn Aled Isaf on 16/06 (WRM). Max 500 at RSPB Conwy on 21/04 (TGr).



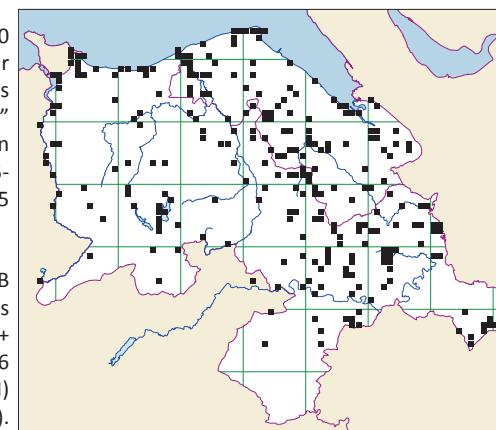
Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common breeding summer visitor.

GWENNOL

Flints. 353 BT records from 25/03 to 17/10 with confirmed breeding at Gelli Bach near Hendre on 7/08 (GEM) and near Nercwys Forest on 24/05 (SWe: 3y). "Probable" breeding at St Asaph. Max 200 at Cilcain on "Steady passage southwards in groups of 5-20" on 2/10 (MP) and 124 at Gronant on 4/05 (JHi).

Denbs. 421 BT records (inc. 162 from RSPB Conwy) from 22/03 to 8/10. Breeding was confirmed near Derwen on 10/05 (4+ occupied nests: JaT), RSPB Conwy on 9/06 (TGr), Tir Llwyd Ind Estate on 27/06 (WRM) and Cross Lanes, Wrexham on 30/06 (NMe). Also at Llangollen and Glyn Ceiriog. "Probable" breeding at 2 further locations. Max. 100 at RSPB Conwy on 31/03 (eBird), 93 at Lleweni on 16/08 (JHi) and 70 at Fenn's Moss on 17/09 (RHa).



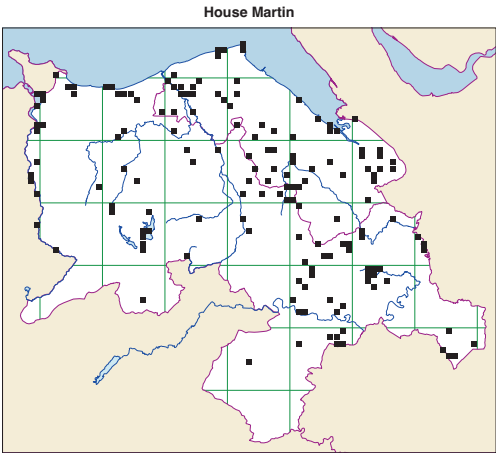
House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common breeding summer visitor.

GWENNOL Y BONDO

Flints. 146 BT records from 5/04 to 2/10, with breeding confirmed at Rhydymwyn on 16/06 and Pantymwyn on 17/06. Max. in migrating flocks was 100 at Cilcain on 2/10 (MP).

Denbs. 291 BT records from 24/03 to 29/09. Breeding was confirmed at Hanmer on 18/06, Llangollen on 29/08, Llyn Aled Isaf on 16/06 and a site near Wrexham on 30/06. A nest on a house near Gresford Flash had 5 young on 15/06 (LeWi). Max 70 at RSPB Conwy on 21/04 (TGr).



Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica rufula*
Vagrant.

GWENNOL DINGOCH

Denbs. One at RSPB Conwy on 11/04 and 12/04 (TGr *et al*). “Picked this up at 8am on the Ganol Trail - brilliant views and an anxious half hour wait until other birders arrived. Disappeared shortly after 9am, but fortunately refound after midday and enjoyed by many more birders”. eBird comment on 11/04: “Adult showing well in rain with hirundines over the deep lagoon.” WBRC-accepted.



Red-rumped Swallow: Alex Humphreys-Jones

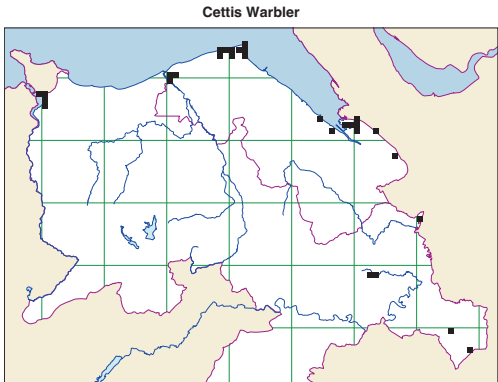
Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*
Increasing breeding resident.

TELOR CETTI

Flints. 124 BT records throughout the year, including 76 at Gronant. Breeding “probable” at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) and at Gronant (WRM). Max 7 calling males at Gronant on 12/10 (WRM). Also recorded at Big Pool Wood, Talacre-POA, Shotton Papermill, Rhyl Brickworks and Clwyd estuary. Two records from Connah's Quay NR on 9/09 and 28/09 (PSH).

Denbs. All except 7 of the 164 BT records were at RSPB Conwy throughout the year, where breeding

was confirmed by 2 young on 8/07 (WRM). Probable breeding at Tir Llwyd Ind Park at Towyn (WRM). Other records from Trevalyn on 29/04 and 11/05 (JonW), Hanmer Mere on 30/06 (JmHu), Whixall Moss-Wales on 14/06 (eBird) and at Erddig on 24/02-4/03 (JmHu). Max 5 at RSPB Conwy on 2/09 (JHg).

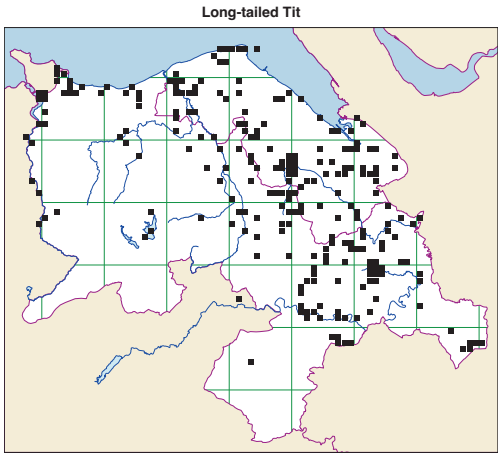


Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*
Very common breeding resident.

TITW GYNFFONHIR

Flints. 335 BT records with breeding confirmed at Bagillt (GRMP), Afonwen on 10/05 (MV), Buckley Heritage Trail on 23/05 (SG) and Clwyd estuary on 24/05 (AHJ). Max 33 at St Asaph on 18/11 (JHi).

Denbs. 479 BT records with breeding confirmed at Froncysyllte on 17/04 (TK: nest in *Clematis montana*), RSPB Conwy on 9/05, Llanfair TH on 3/05, Tir Llwyd Ind Estate on 23/05 and Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 24/04 (all WRM). Max 23 at Fenn's Moss on 5/01 (RHa).

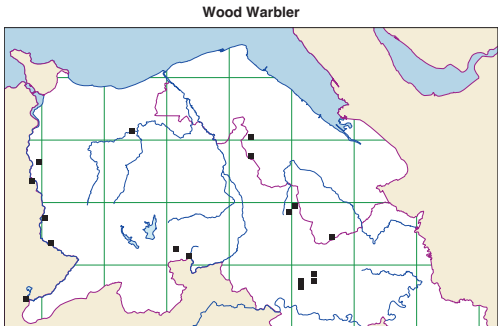


Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
Scarce breeding summer visitor.

TELOR COED

Flints. Two singing males were again in a mature Scots Pine plantation at Penycloddiau on 28/05 (EdW). Two at Bryn-yr-Eithin near Afonwen on 8/05 (eBird).

Denbs. 10 BT records and 9 records from at least 3 sites in the Eglwyseg Valley from 29/04 to 29/05 (NiSu, JmHu, TBT, eBird) plus 3 further records from nearby World's End on 29/04, 12/05 and 14/05. Singles on the R.



Elwy near Llanfair TH on 18/05 (JHi), above Berwyn in the Dee valley on 20/05 (RuCa), at Llanrhaeadrym-Mochnant in the Berwyns on 13/05 (BBS) and at Ceiriog Forest on 11/06 (PaWo), 3 singing males at Nercwys Pant Du on 13/05 (GEM: also 7/05 and 20/05) and max 4 at Bryn Alyn (possibly the same site) on 7/05 (eBird). Present from 27/04 to 11/06.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*
Rare vagrant.

TELOR AELFELYN

Flints. 13 BT records of 1 at the Warren, Talacre Beach from 25/10 to 27/10 (MP, AHJ) and again at Rhyl Brickworks on 9/11 and 10/11 (AW, AHJ, JHi).

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*
Very rare vagrant.

TELOR PALLAS

Flints. 7 BT records of 1 at the Warren on Talacre Dunes on 31/10 (AHJ and 5 other BT records). WBRC-accepted.



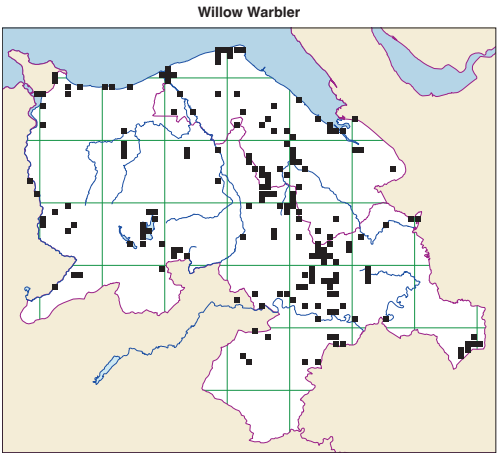
Pallas's Warbler: both Alex Humphreys-Jones

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Very common breeding summer visitor.

TELOR HELYG

Flints. 117 BT records from 29/03 to 27/08, with breeding confirmed at Rhydymwyn Reserve (GRMP). Max 25 at Penycloddiau on 8/05 and 14/05 (eBird).

Denbs. 304 BT records from 28/03 to 9/09, with breeding confirmed at Tan-y-fryn near CoedPoeth on 27/05 (SK) and at Coed Llangwyfan, PenYCloddiau on 14/06 (GEM). "Probable" breeding near Gors Maen Llwyd on 16/06 (WRM). Max. 31 at Ceiriog Forest on 1/05 (PaWo).

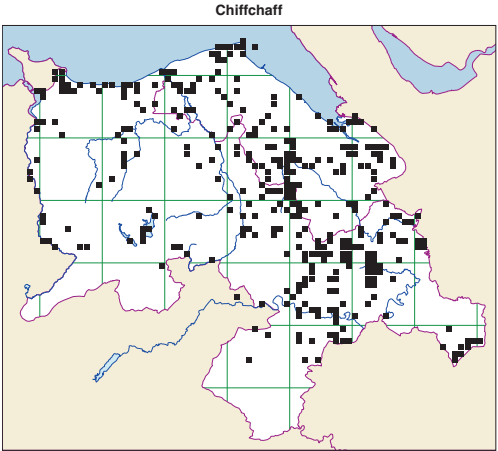


Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Very common breeding summer visitor and scarce winter visitor.

SIFF-SIAFF

Flints. 516 BT records throughout the year. Breeding confirmed at Rhydymwyn on 18/05 and Walwen Marsh on 27/05 (both GRMP), Hawarden Ind. Park on 3/05 (AHJ), Moel Arthur on 21/05 (GEM), Graianrhyd on 3/06 (SD). Max 25 at Moel Findeg (Flints) on 1/05 (eBird) and 22 at CQNR on 25/03 (PSH).

Denbs. 712 BT records with breeding confirmed at Llanfair TH on 22/07 (AIC), Wrexham on 3/08 (JmHu) and RSPB Conwy on 3/08 (WRM). Max 21 at Sontley on 31/03 (eBird). One of the Siberian race was recorded at RSPB Conwy on 26/12 (RoH, Bg).



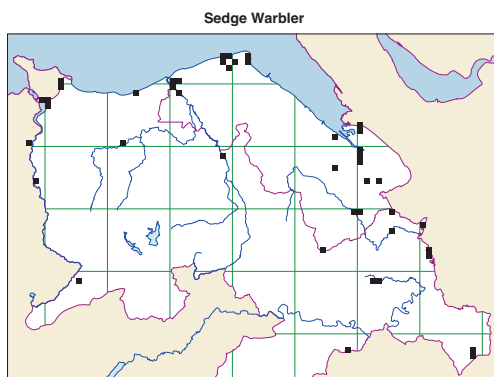
Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Locally common breeding summer visitor.

TELOR HESG

Flints. 77 BT records (39 of which from Gronant) from 16/04 to 6/09 with breeding confirmed at CQNR on 20/06 (PSH), Gronant on 7/07 (WRM) and Clwyd estuary on 15/06 (AHJ). "Probable" breeding at Hawarden Ind. Estate (AHJ) and one was singing by the pools within the A550/A494 interchange on Deeside on 11/04 and 26/06 (TK). Two at Maes-y-Grug, Sychdyn on 18/06 (MGW). Max 17 singing males at Gronant on 17/05 during partial survey coverage of the reed-bed (WRM). Recorded (on passage?) elsewhere at Queensferry, Rhyl Brickworks, POA, Shotton, Wepre Gutter, RSPB Burton Mere (Flints),

Sychdyn and Fagl Lane.

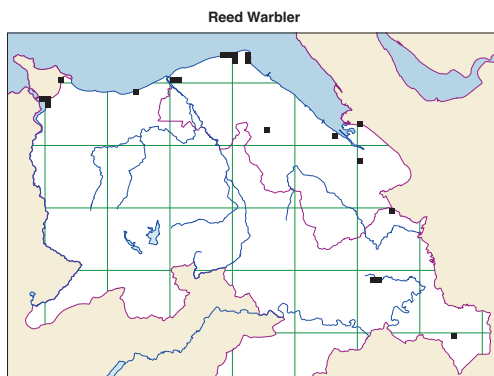
Denbs. 110 BT records (inc. 84 from RSPB Conwy) from 15/04 to 2/09, with confirmed breeding at RSPB Conwy on 13/07 (WRM) and Pulford Brook on 17/06 (AHJ). “Probable Breeding” at Erddig. Max 14 at RSPB Conwy on 9/05, inc 12 singing males (TGr). One was singing in village garden in Llanfair TH on 3/05 (WRM). Recorded (on passage?) elsewhere at Marford, Fenn’s Moss, Ridleywood, Ynys Wen, Lleweni and Nant-y-Ffrith.



Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*
Locally common breeding summer visitor.

TELOR CYRS

Flints. 69 BT records from 26/04 to 28/07, with breeding confirmed at Gronant on 9/07 (WRM: “Family parties in 2 locations and a fledged barely able to fly: bird fast asleep, with head under wing, in the centre of a footpath!”) and at Fagl Lane (KhD). One at CQNR on 13/05 (PSH). A migrant juvenile was ringed at Rhydymwyn Reserve on 28/07 (IMS, GRMP). Max 26 in an annual survey at Gronant on 11/05 (WRM).



Denbs. 91 BT records, inc 79 (87%) from RSPB Conwy, from 15/04 to 2/09. Breeding was confirmed at 3 locations at RSPB Conwy on 8/07 (WRM) and at Pulford Brook on 17/06 (AHJ). “Probable” breeding by nest-building at Tir Llwyd Ind Estate on 23/05 (WRM). Max 11 at RSPB Conwy on 9/05 (TGr).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*
Very rare vagrant.

TELOR AUR

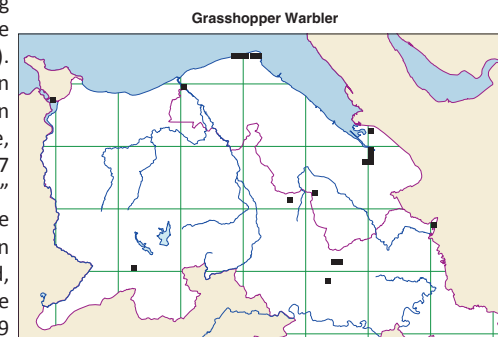
Denbs. One at RSPB Conwy on 7/06 (TGr, RS, RTe, Bg). WBRC-accepted.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*
Local breeding summer visitor and uncommon passage migrant (April/May and Sep).

TROELLWR BACH

Flints. 33 BT records (23 of which from Gronant/POA) from 17/04 to 9/09, with “probable” breeding at Gronant from 8/05 onwards (WRM, AHJ) and at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints). Max 6 reeling birds at Gronant on 26/04 (WRM). There were 2 at Big Pool Wood on 28/04 (RiE), 1 below Gwespyr on 28/04

and 2 at nearby Dee Road, Talacre during 4/05-9/05 (both EIB). Also recorded at Talacre village on 19/04, 28/04 and 30/04 (3 obs). Passage also at Flint Marsh on 23/04, Rhyl on 25/04 and POA on 30/04. An unusual location was 4 records from Killins Lane/Shotton Lane, Higher Shotton on 22/04 (DWin), 9/06, 3/07 and 4/07 (all MFr: consistent with “probable” breeding) and another lower down at Wepre Gutter on 27/06 (DWin). Singles at Burton MOD Range on 17/04 and at Gwernymynydd, Mold on 2/05 (both eBird). A migrant juvenile was ringed at Rhydymwyn Reserve on 9/09 (IMS, GRMP).



Denbs. 11 BT records of singles only from 9/04 to 7/07, but no confirmed breeding. The 6 localities were RSPB Conwy on 9/04, 22/04 and 25/04, Gors Maen Llwyd on 30/04, Llandegla Forest/Esclusham Mtn on 28/04 and 21/06, World’s End on 29/04 (NF), Pentrefoelas on 17/05 and 30/05 and Rossett on 29/04. One at Moel Famau Forest Car Park on 6/05 (eBird). The Esclusham Mtn and Pentrefoelas records are consistent with “probable” breeding.

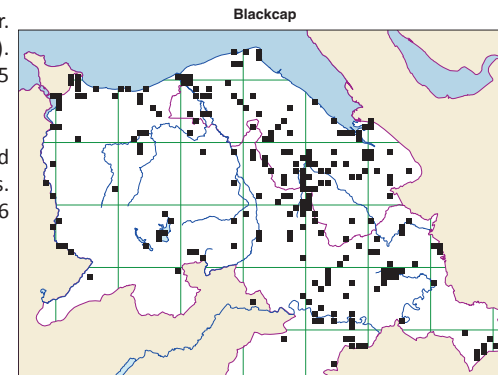
Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

TELOR PENDDU

Very common breeding summer visitor and uncommon winter visitor.

Flints. 240 BT records throughout the year. Breeding confirmed at Bagillt (GRMP). “Probable” breeding at 10 locations. Max. 15 at Penycloddiau on 14/05 (eBird).

Denbs. 357 BT records with no confirmed breeding. “Probable” breeding at 8 locations. Present in every month of the year. Max. 16 at Loggerheads on 8/05 (eBird).



Blackcap: John Hawkins

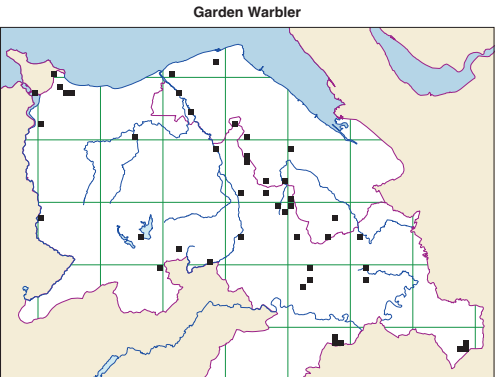
Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Uncommon (possibly under-recorded) breeding summer visitor.

TELOR YR ARDD

Flints. 12 BT records from 3/05 to 30/06, but no evidence of breeding submitted. Max. 9 at Penycloddiau on 14/05 and 8 near Afonwen on 8/06 (both eBird).

Denbs. 60 BT records from 26/04 to 25/07. "Probable" breeding at Derwen where nest-building was seen on 10/05 (JaT). Max 4 at Nant-y-Groes, Colwyn Bay on 12/05 (Zak).



Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria*

Vagrant.

TELOR RHESOG

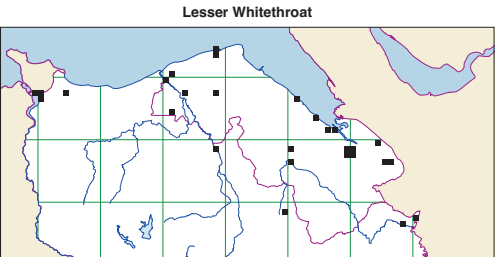
Flints. One at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) crossed between England and Wales during 10/11 to 12/11 (Paul Hill, GrJ et al).

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*

Uncommon breeding summer visitor.

LLWYDFRON FACH

Flints. 31 BT records from 27/04 to 28/09 with breeding confirmed at Rhydymwyn Reserve (GRMP) and "probable" breeding on Clwyd Estuary on 14/06 (AHJ). Other records from St Asaph Business Park, Rhyl Brickworks, Gronant, Rhuddlan, Prestatyn, Rhosesmor, Ewloe, Walwen, Flint Castle, CQNR, Shotton, Queensferry and Sealand.



Denbs. 38 BT records (inc 31 at RSPB Conwy) from 18/04 to 29/08 with breeding confirmed at RSPB Conwy on 7/06 (TGr) and 14/06 (eBird: 3y) and "probable breeding" at Tir Llwyd Ind Estate on 27/06 (WRM). Other records from Nant-y-Glyn (Colwyn Bay), Lleweni, Rossett and Trevalyn.



Lesser Whitethroat: John Hawkins

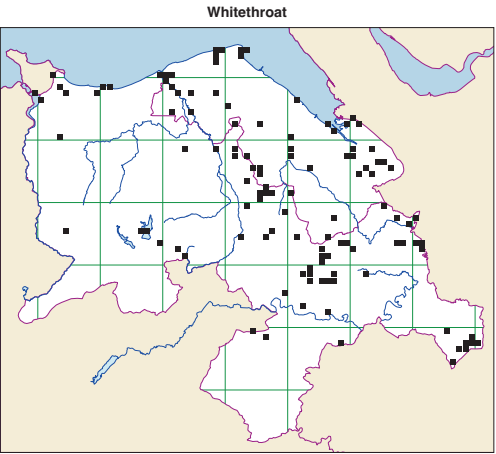
Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

Common breeding summer visitor.

LLWYDFRON

Flints. 165 BT records from 19/04 to 15/09 with breeding confirmed at Rhydymwyn Reserve (GRMP), Clwyd estuary on 7/06 (AHJ), Rhyl Brickworks on 16/05 (JHi) and Hawarden Ind. Estate on 16/06 (AHJ). "Probable" breeding at Gronant, Buckley Heritage Trail (SG) and St Asaph Business Park (WRM). Max 12 at Penycloddiau on 14/05 (eBird).

Denbs. 136 BT records from 15/04 to 6/09 with breeding confirmed at Moel Famau on 2/07 (EdW) and Tir Llwyd Ind. Estate on 27/06 (2 pairs: WRM). "Probable breeding" at Ceiriog Forest (PaWo), Fenn's Moss (RHa) and RSPB Conwy (WRM). Max. 8 at Tir Llwyd Ind. Estate on 23/05 (WRM).



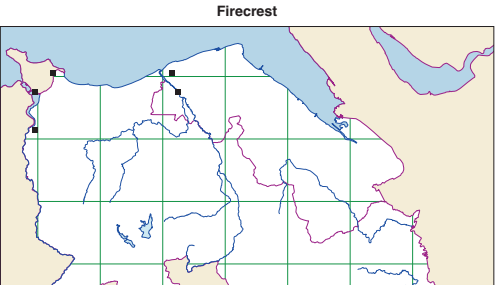
Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Very scarce winter visitor and very rare breeding resident.

DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

Flints. One at Rhuddlan NR on 30/09 and 28/10 and 1 at Rhyl Brickworks on 7/11 (all JHi).

Denbs. Singles at RSPB Conwy on 2/01 (Suzanne Bentley) and 7/01 (Bg), Bodnant on 7/02 (Bg) and Dinas Bran, Llangollen on 8/10 (DFo). A male appeared to be holding territory in Ceiriog Forest for over an hour on 1/05 (Tom Knight: photo), with a possible female heard, but not seen, nearby. Historically, a pair last nested in Nercwys Forest (Flints) in 1987 and again during 1998-99.

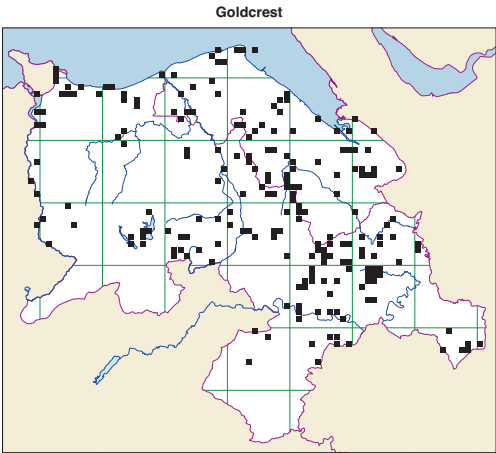


Firecrest: Tom Knight

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*
Very common breeding resident.

Flints. 117 BT records with breeding confirmed at Bagillt (GRMP) and “probable” at Pantymwyn only (GEM). Max. 10 at Penycloddiau on 28/05 (EdW).

Denbs. 318 BT records, with confirmed breeding at Sontley on 29/06 (HeCar). Max. 17 at Ceiriog Forest on 11/06 (PaWo).



DRYW EURBEN

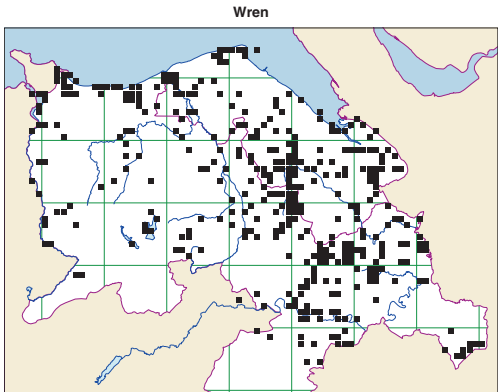


Goldcrest: John Hawkins

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Very common breeding resident.

Flints. 665 BT records with breeding confirmed at Gronant (WRM) and Clwyd estuary (AHJ) and “probable” at 2 additional localities. Max 50 at POA on 25/12 (eBird), 14 at St Asaph on 27/05 (JHi) and Babel on 9/06 (SK).

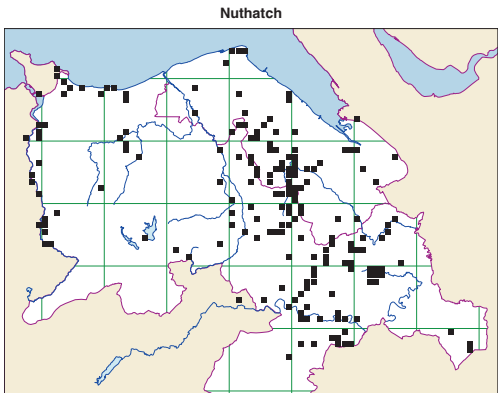
Denbs. 780 BT records. Breeding was confirmed at RSPB Conwy (WRM), Tir Llwyd Ind Estate (WRM), Llanfair TH (AIC) and Llyn Brenig (WRM) and “probable” at 7 further localities. Max 45 at Ceiriog Forest on 1/05 (PaWo).



Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*
Common breeding resident.

Flints. 109 BT records with confirmed breeding at Buckley Heritage Trail on 5/06 (SG). Max. 4 at Pantymwyn on 12/10 (GEM).

Denbs. 260 BT records (63 of which at Erddig) with confirmed breeding at Llanddulas on 31/05 (WRM), Llanfair TH on 21/05 (WRM) and Erddig on 31/05 (HeCar). Max. 7 at Chirk Castle on 3/09 (CTw) and 5 at Bodnant on 23/02 (PEM).



DELOR CNAU



Nuthatch: John Hawkins

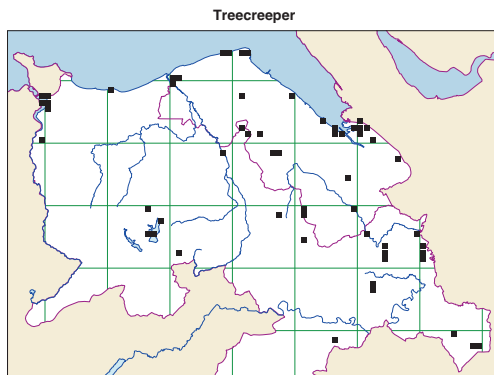
Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Fairly common breeding resident.

DRINGWR BACH

Flints. 40 BT records. "Probable" breeding only at St Asaph Business Park on 26/03 (WRM): "Pair nest building in a crack in bark in oak beside busy road"). Max 3 at Cilcain-Cae Newydd on 20/05 (GEM: "possible family party") and at Penycloddiau on 28/05 (eBird).

Denbs. 114 BT records with breeding confirmed only at Llanrwst on 5/07 (WRM) and "probable" (nest-building) near Llyn Gweryd on 18/04 (TK). Max. 5 at Bodnant on 19/07 (eBird) and 4 at Chirk Castle on 25/07 (CTw).



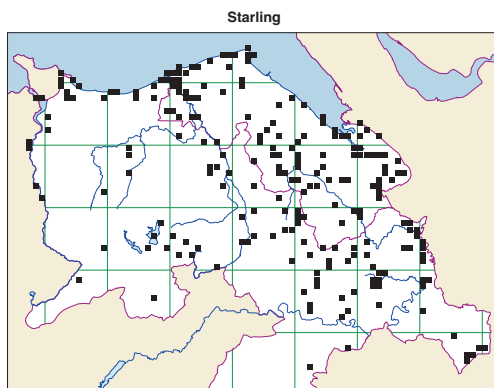
Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

DRUDWEN

Flints. 555 BT records with breeding confirmed at Rhydymwyn Reserve on 7/06 (MD), Rhyl Brickworks on 23/04 (WRM) and Walwen on 25/05 (GRMP). "Probable" breeding at Clwyd estuary, Pantymwyn and Trelogan. Max 4,000 leaving Gronant reedbed roost at 8am on 24/01 (WRM). Also 2,000 at Shotton on 3/01 (AHJ), 2,000 near Trelawnyd on 22/02 (KBr) and 1,500 at CQNR-OakRSPB on 14/01 (GrJ).

Denbs. 298 BT records with breeding confirmed at Rhosllanerchrugog on 29/04 (KiD), Derwen on 10/05 (JaT), Lleweni on 20/06 (JHi) and Tir Llwyd Ind Estate on 23/05 (WRM). Max 950 at Llechrydau in the Berwyns on 5/02 (AlDa), much lower numbers than in 2022.



Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

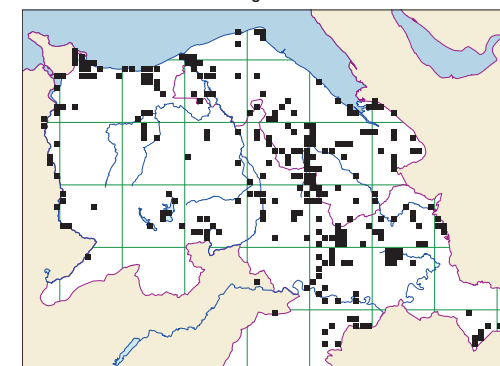
Common breeding resident and winter visitor.

BRONFRAITH

Flints. 244 BT records with confirmed breeding at Bagillt (GRMP), Pantymwyn on 17/04 (GEM), Clwyd estuary on 22/04 (AHJ) and Rhuddlan on 9/06 (SHu). "Probable" breeding at 4 further locations. Max. 8 at Shotwick Lake on 2/01 (eBird) and Babel on 9/06 (SK).

Denbs. 476 BT records with breeding confirmed at Llanrwst on 17/04 (WRM), Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 24/04 (WRM) and RSPB Conwy on 8/06 (JHg). "Probable" breeding at 4 further locations. Max 20+ at Colwyn Bay on 8/01 (Zak).

Song Thrush



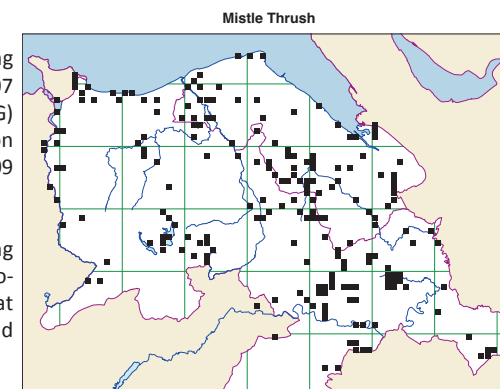
Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common breeding resident.

BRYCH COED

Flints. 136 BT records with breeding confirmed at Hawarden Ind Park on 15/07 (AHJ) and Buckley Heritage Trail on 23/05 (SG) and "probable" at St Asaph Business Park on 16/04 (WRM). Max 21 at Hawarden on 8/09 (DWin) and 15 at Cilcain on 1/10 (MP).

Denbs. 282 BT records with breeding confirmed at Llanfair TH, Yns Wen, Llandrillo-yn-Rhos and Ceiriog Forest. Max 15 at Nant-y-Glyn (Colwyn Bay) on 13/03 (Zak) and 10 at Aldi car park, Ruthin on 26/12 (eBird).



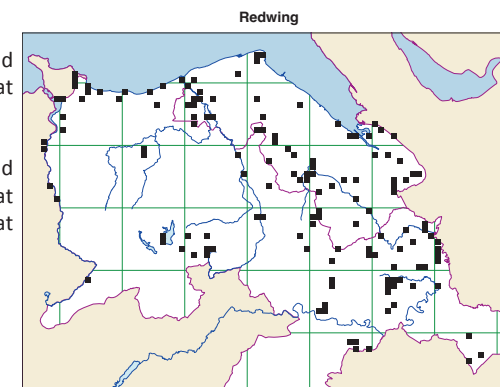
Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Common winter visitor.

COCH DAN ADAIN

Flints. 150 winter BT records up to 5/04 and again from 16/09 onwards. Max 120 at Caerwys on 15/02 (MV).

Denbs. 188 winter BT records, up to 9/05 and again from 10/10 onwards. Max 400 at Bettisfield on 17/01 (DaHa) and 160 at Lleweni on 6/03 (JHi).



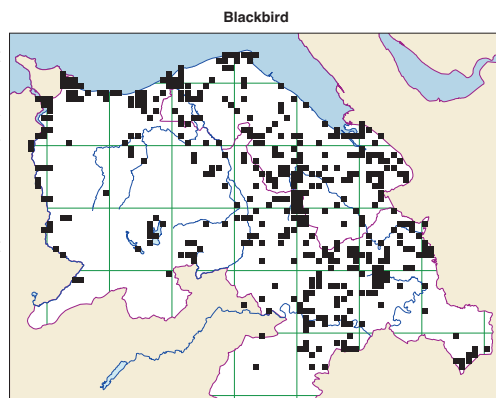
Blackbird *Turdus merula*

MWYALCHEN

Very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 1334 BT records with breeding confirmed at 13 localities. Max 37 at Hawarden Ind. Park on 2/12 (AHJ) and 33 on R. Clwyd on 18/01 (JHi). Also, 37 on a BBS walk south of Gellifor in the Clwyd valley on 22/04 (Trevor Payne).

Denbs. 704 BT records with breeding confirmed at 8 localities. Max count of 23 at Colwyn Bay Rugby Club on 5/03 (Zak).



Redwing and Fieldfare: John Hawkins

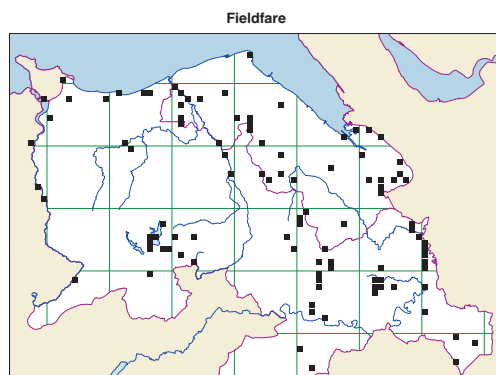
Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

SOCAN EIRA

Fairly common winter visitor.

Flints. 55 BT records up to 4/04 and again from 8/10 onwards. The largest flock of 230 was being chased by a Peregrine at Moel Arthur car park on 8/10 (MP).

Denbs. 87 winter BT records. Present until 1/04 (at Erddig) and again from 23/10 (at Llewenni) onwards. The highest count was 200 at Llyn Brenig on 20/12 (RiE).



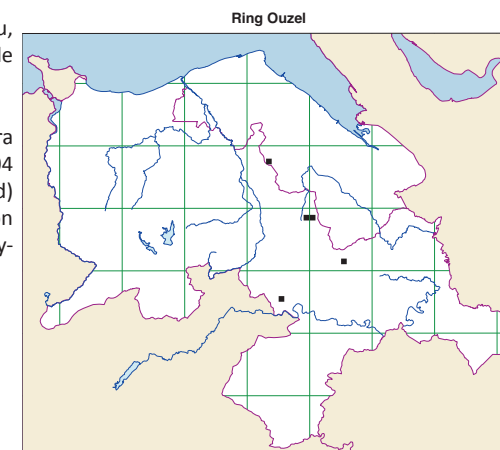
Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

Scarce passage migrant (previously bred). Very scarce this year.

Flints. Only 3 spring records at Penycloddiau, 1 on 2/04 (SK), 2 on 9/04 (GrJ) and a female on 14/05 (eBird).

Denbs. Only 5 spring records. One at Minera on 10/04 (Bg), 2 at Llantysilio Mtn on 14/04 (RhJ) and singles at Bryn Alyn on 7/04 (eBird) and 25/04 (GEM) and at Esclusham Mtn on 2/04 (DFo). One autumn record at Bryn-y-Maen, Colwyn Bay (MHu per JHg).



Ring Ouzel: John Hawkins

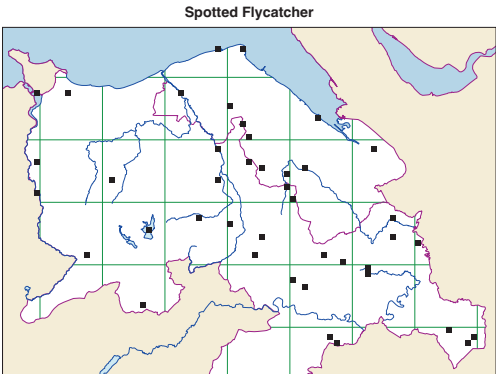
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

Uncommon breeding summer visitor.

Flints. 6 BT records from 30/05 to 10/08, but no confirmed breeding. Max 2 at Caerwys on 9/08 (MV) and Pantymwyn on 3/08 (GEM).

Denbs. 16 BT records from 5/05 to 9/09, with breeding confirmed at Llanrwst on 5/07 (“collecting & carrying food and then alarm calling. Nest appeared to be in an ash tree, heavily covered with ivy” WRM), at Chirk Castle on 1/06 (AB), at Lleweni on 3/07 (JHi) and at Fenn’s Moss on 7/07 (RHa). Max. 5 at Cox Lane, Gresford on 12/05 (eBird): also 4 at Fenn’s Moss and Lleweni.



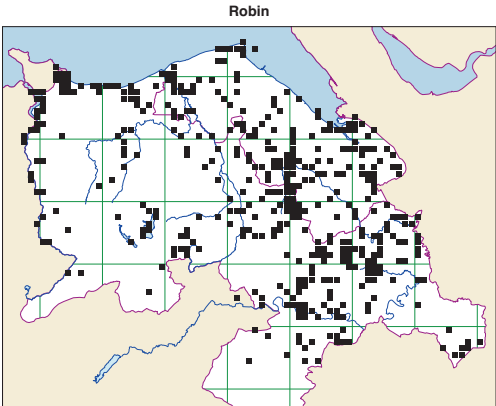
Spotted Flycatcher: Alex Humphreys-Jones

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*
Very common breeding resident.

ROBIN GOCH

Flints. 795 BT records with confirmed breeding at 5 localities and “probable” at 4 more. Max 28 at Moel Findeg (Flints) on 1/05 (eBird) and 16 at Buckley Heritage Trail on 24/01 (SG).

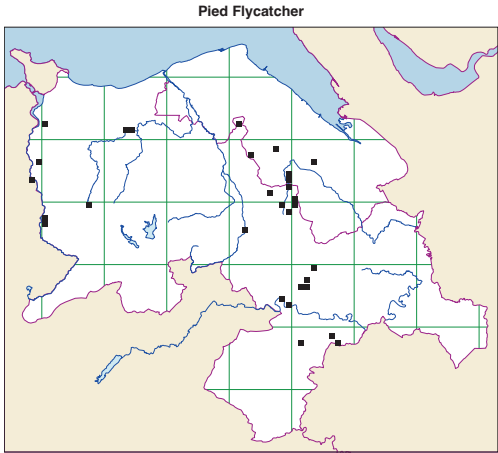
Denbs. 1067 BT records with confirmed breeding at 12 localities. “Probable” breeding at 5 further locations. BSG Ecology Ltd located 46 singing males at a study site around Llechrydau in the lower Berwyns during 17/04 to 12/07. Max 30 at Chirk Castle on 9/04 (eBird) and 16 at RSPB Conwy on 22/10 (SAH).



Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* GWYBEDOG BRITH
Uncommon breeding summer visitor. Almost invariably using garden nestboxes and woodland nestbox schemes.

Flints. 7 BT records at 6 localities from 26/04 to 9/06, including Pantymwyn, Mold, Sychdyn, Afonwen, Gelli and Penycloddiau, with breeding confirmed at Rhydymwyn Reserve (GRMP). At Coed Cilygroeslwyd, “30 chicks fledged from 5 nest boxes” (Cofnod). Max 3 at 4 localities.

Denbs. 22 BT records from 7/04 to 18/06, with breeding confirmed at Eglwyseg on 29/05 (NiSu), Chirk Castle on 1/06 (AB), World’s End on 10/06 (MaRo), Ceiriog Valley on 10/06 (SD) and a garden nestbox at Nercwys Pant Du on 17/05 (GEM). Four nest-boxes at Loggerheads CP had 3 pairs and a lone male on 8/06 (ImH). 3 males at Coed Uchaf in the Dulas valley on 17/05 (RS) and at Zipworld (Denbs) on 14/05 (PhO). Max 30 at Eglwyseg on 29/05 (NiSu).



The following nestbox scheme data was supplied by Peter Coffey and MRG.

Location	Nests	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Fledged Young	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	19	132	114	109	5.7
Glyn Ceiriog/Pandy	27	189	169	119	4.4
Prion	32	212	194	140	4.4



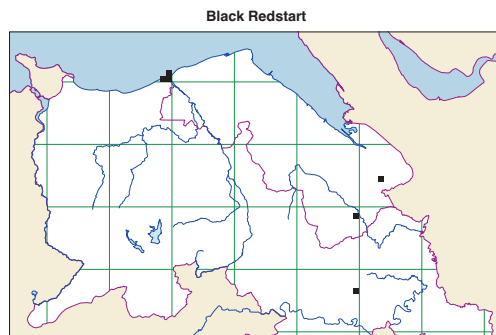
Pied Flycatcher: John Hawkins

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Rare winter visitor and passage migrant.

TINGOCH DU

Flints. One at Hawarden/Broughton on 2/01 (Anon) and 29/01 (KS).

Denbs. A female at Horton's Nose from 2/01 to 21/02 (25 BT records). One at Caergwrle (Fagl Lane) on 8/11 (Anon). A singing male at Rhosllanerchrugog on 29/04 (KiD).

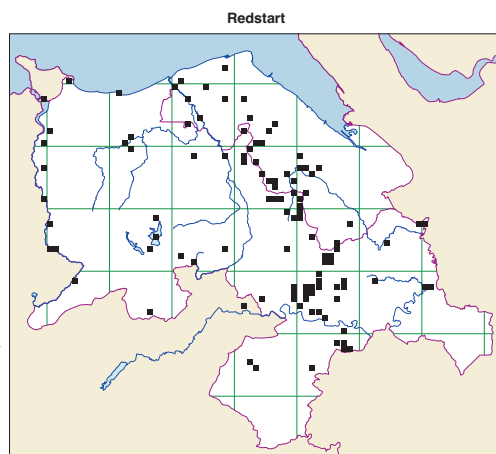


Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Fairly common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

TINGOCH

Flints. 52 BT records from 9/04 to 29/08 with breeding confirmed at 4 locations: Rhydymwyn Reserve on 18/05 (GRMP), Cilcain Moors on 26/07 (GEM) St Asaph on 1/07 (JHi) and Rhuddlan NR on 1/07 (JHi), and "probable" at 2 more. Max 17 singing males at Penycloddiau on 14/05 (eBird) and 5 at Rhydymwyn Reserve on 18/05 (GRMP). Two juveniles were ringed at Rhydymwyn Reserve on 29/08 (IMS, GRMP).

Denbs. 104 BT records with confirmed breeding at 7 localities (Plas Ashpool/Llangwyfan, Lleweni, Gors Maen Llwyd, Eglwyseg, Moel Famau, Chirk Castle and Ysbyty Ifan) and "probable" at 2 more. Present from 6/04 to 3/09. BSG Ecology Ltd located 16 singing males at a study site around Llechrydau in the lower Berwyns during 17/04 to 12/07. Max. 15 at Eglwyseg on 29/05 (NiSu).



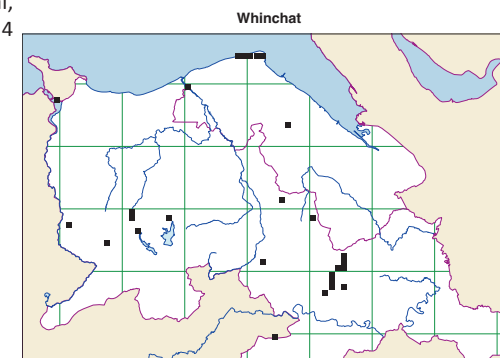
Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*
Scarce and local breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

CREC YR EITHIN

Flints. 12 BT records from 2 localities from 23/04 to 31/05. Two at Clwyd estuary on 4/05 and 9/05 (AHJ) and singles at Gronant 23/04-31/05 (AHJ, RiE, JHi, WRM) and Gwespyr near Holywell 28/04-3/05 (EiB). No confirmed breeding.

Denbs. 39 BT records (inc 19 from the Ruabon Moors stronghold) from 19/04 to 19/08. Breeding was confirmed at Minera Quarry NR on 25/07 (HeCar) and Moel Famau/Moel-y-Gaer on 2/07 (EdW: 2 nesting pairs). "Probable" breeding at Eryrys on 29/06 (WAO). Other spring records at RSPB Conwy,

Gors Maen Llwyd, Llyn Aled, Llyn Aled Isaf, Pentrefoelas, Moel Fferna (Denbs) and max 4 at Ceiriog Forest on 11/06 (BBS).

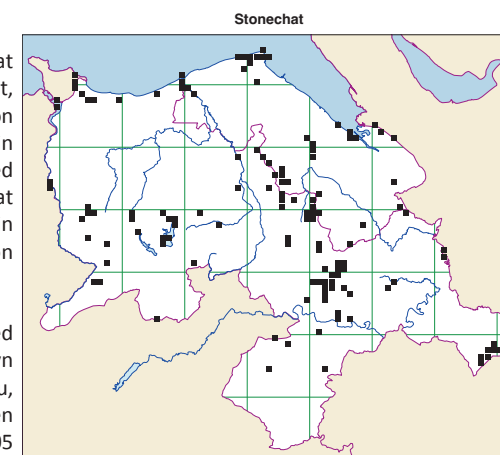


Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*
Fairly common breeding resident.

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

Flints. 218 BT records (inc. 75 records at Gronant) with confirmed breeding at Gronant, Rhuddlan, Burton MOD marshes, RSPB Burton Mere (Flints) (2 pairs), Halkyn Mtn, Cilcain Moors (4 family parties), Moel Llys-y-Coed and Moel Arthur (3 pairs). Max 20 at Penycloddiau on 13/05 (eBird), 17 at Cilcain Moors on 26/07 and 14 at Moel Arthur on 3/09 (both GEM).

Denbs. 240 BT records with confirmed breeding at RSPB Conwy, Llyn Brenig, Llyn Aled Isaf, Lleweni, Ceiriog Forest, Moel Famau, Tan Lan, Gwytherin, Ruabon Mtn, Llangollen and Eryrys. Max. 13 at Fenn's Moss on 11/05 (RHs).



Stonechat: John Hawkins

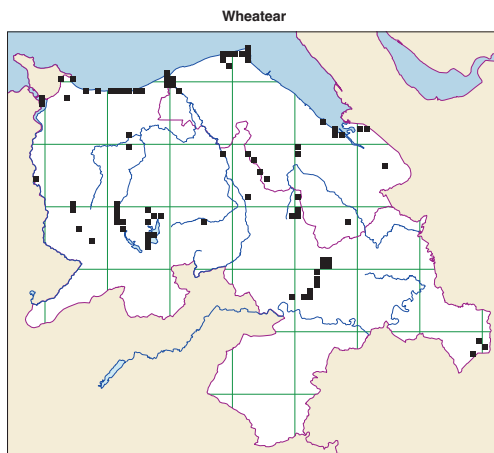
Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

TINWEN Y GARN

Scarce and declining breeding summer visitor and fairly common passage migrant.

Flints. 104 BT records from 17/03 to 29/10, with breeding confirmed at Eryrys on 27/07 (WAO). Max. 20 at Prestatyn on 14/09 (MV), 15 at Abergele on 22/04 (MBo), 14 at Gronant on 4/05 (JHi) and 12 at Shotwick Lake on 15/04 (eBird). The Greenland form (*leucorhoa*) was identified near J31 of the A55, with 8 on 20/04 (KBr) and at Walwen Marsh with 1 on 25/05 (GRMP).

Denbs. 132 BT records from 17/03 to 12/10, with confirmed breeding at Llyn Aled Isaf on 7/06 (DJS) and Tan-Lan near Llanrwst on 21/07 (JHg). There were 3 June records on the Ruabon Moors without breeding evidence. Pairs at 2 sites near Llechrydau on 17/04. Max. 16 at Moel Seisiog above Nebo on 22/04 (JHg).



Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

CYNFFON SIDAN

Sporadic winter visitor, but a widespread influx this year, preferring supermarket car parks.

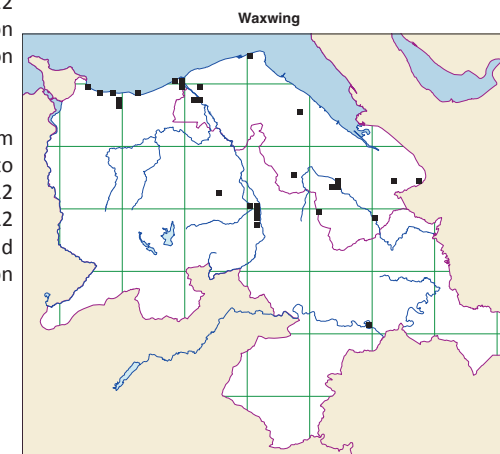
Flints. 47 BT records from 26/11 to 30/12. Max 32 at BOTH Rhuddlan Retail Park and Rhuddlan A525 roundabout on 23/12 (AHJ). Up to 17 at B&M Mold from 22/12 to 29/12 (AB, AHJ, NF, MD) and 17 at Cilcain on 26/11 (MP). 10 at Hope on 3/12 and 12 at Holywell on 12/12 (Bg). Two at Hawarden Ind.



Waxwing:
Malcolm Down

Park on 26/11 (AHJ), 8 at CQNR on 26/12 (PSH), 4 at Morrison's car park, Saltney on 30/12 (AHJ, DWin) and 2 at Nercwys Forest on 27/12 (eBird).

Denbs. 106 BT records, inc. 71 records from Llysfaen above Llanddulas from 27/11 to 28/12 (many obs) with max 55 there on 3/12 (Bg). Max 65 at Aldi car park, Ruthin on 28/12 (StuR). Other "hotspots" in Colwyn Bay and Kinmel Bay. 27 eating rowan berries at Prion near Denbigh on 4/12 (eBird).



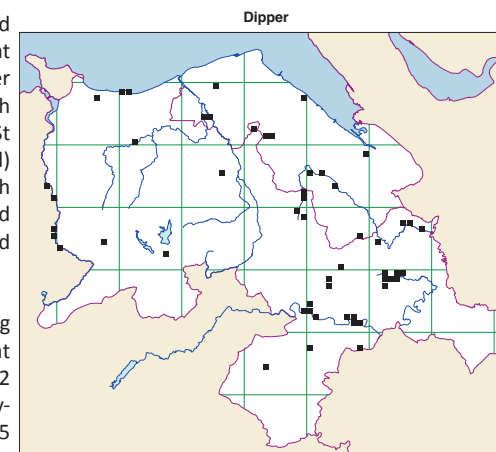
Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

BRONWEN Y DWR

Fairly common breeding resident on suitable rivers and streams.

Flints. 16 BT records, with confirmed breeding by nest-building on the R. Alyn at Mold by-pass on 10/04 (GEM). Other breeding season records from Dyserth Waterfall, Greenfield Valley, R. Clwyd at St Asaph, Wepre Brook, Rhyd-y-goleu (Mold) and Afonwen. "Winter" records from Ffrith near Caergwrle, Caerwys, Rhydymwyn and Ddol. Max 2 at St Asaph on 28/01 (JHi) and Afonwen on 13/03 (MV).

Denbs. 82 BT records with breeding confirmed by recently-fledged young at Llanddulas on 31/05 (WRM), pair feeding 2 fledged young at Waterloo Bridge, Betws-y-Coed on the Gwynedd border on 13/05 (ToSt) and nest building at both Loggerheads on 1/03 (WRM) and the Corn Mill pub, Llangollen on 15/04 (eBird). "Probable" breeding at Erddig, Llanfair TH and Alyn Waters CP. Other breeding season records from Nant-y-foel stream (Denbigh Moors), Esclusham Mtn, the ford at World's End, Pontcysyllte, Erbistock, along the R. Alyn near Llanferres, R. Clwyd at Ruthin, R. Clywedog at Rhewl, Chirk Castle, Kings Mill (Wrexham), Rossett, Bodnant NT, Llanarmon D. Ceiriog and Valle Crucis. Two winter records at Wrexham Maelor Hospital stream. Max 4 at Waterloo Bridge.



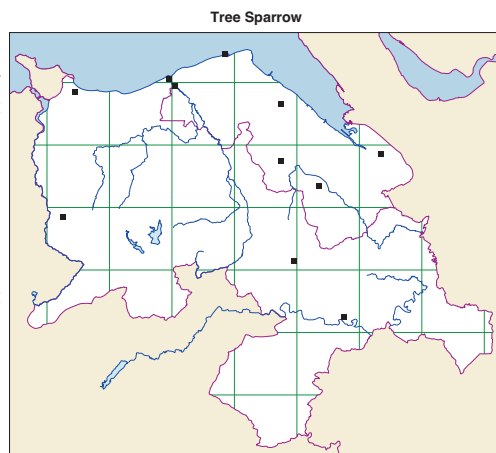
Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

GOLFAN MYNYDD

Uncommon breeding resident and winter visitor, sometimes detected by BTO's Garden Birdwatch scheme (GBW).

Flints. 3 BT records of 3 at Holway Road-Holywell on 25/04 (MHe), 2 at Tardd-y-dwr near Star Crossing on 9/08 (MGW), 1 at Sealand on 4/04 (BBS), 1 at Gronant on 16/07 (eBird), 1 at Rhuddlan on 7/02 (JoW), 2 at Clwyd estuary on 15/08 (JHi) and the highest count of 5 there on 15/04 (eBird). GBW record from Mold town centre on 28/05.

Denbs. There were eBird records of singles at Pen-y-Bryn Road Colwyn Bay on 24/05, Nant-y-Rhiw, near Llanrwst on 13/04 and Pontcysyllte Aqueduct on 2/07. GBW record at Pen-y-Stryt, Llandegla on 17/12.



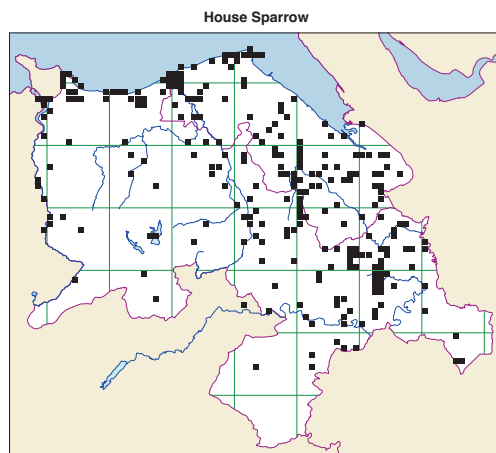
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

ADERYN Y TŌ

Very common breeding resident.

Flints. 600 BT records with breeding confirmed at Pantymwyn on 21/06 (GEM) and Rhydymwyn on 7/06 (MD). Highest counts were on the Clwyd estuary with 227 on 1/08 and 259 on 18/08 (JHi); also 200+ on both 19/08 and 22/08 (AHJ).

Denbs. 620 BT records with breeding confirmed at RSPB Conwy, Llanddulas, Llanfair TH, Tir Llwyd Ind. Park and Tan Lan, Maenan. "Probable" breeding at 5 further locations. Max. 50 in a field near Abergele on 14/04 (MBo).



Dunnoch *Prunella modularis*

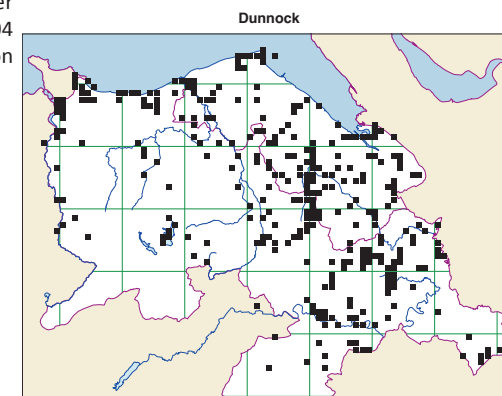
LLWYD Y GWYRCH

Very common breeding resident.

Flints. 581 BT records with confirmed breeding at Rhydymwyn, Pantymwyn, Bagillt and Gronant. "Probable" breeding at 5 additional localities. Max 9 at Rhydymwyn on 8/10 (MD) and 7 at Nercwys Forest on 27/12 (eBird).

Denbs. 697 BT records with confirmed breeding only at RSPB Conwy on 8/06 (JHg) and 8/07

(WRM). "Probable" breeding at 8 further locations. Max 20 at Chirk Castle on 9/04 (eBird) and 14 at Colwyn Bay Rugby Club on 7/02 (Zak).



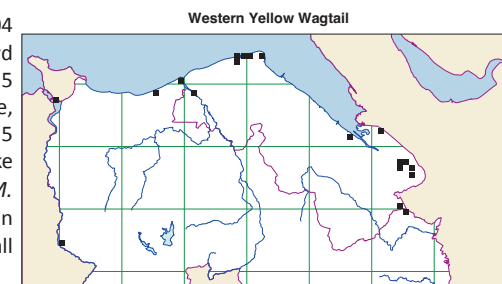
Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

SIGLEN FELEN GORLLEWIN

Scarce passage migrant and rare breeding summer visitor.

Flints. 18 BT records of 1-2 birds from 19/04 to 3/09 with breeding confirmed at Clwyd estuary (Flints) on 16/06 (AHJ) and with 5 pairs at RSPB Burton Mere (Flints). Elsewhere, max. 7 (3M) at Sealand on 6/06 (eBird), 5 there on 10/06 (AHJ) and 4 at Shotwick Lake on 14/08 (eBird). The blue-headed form (*M. flava flava*) was recorded at Gronant on 23/04 and 30/04 and at Sealand on 7/06 (all Bg).

Denbs. 4 BT records from 23/04 to 16/09, with "probable" breeding at Pulford Brook (Wales) on 17/06 (AHJ). The other 3 BT records at Llanddulas, Abergele and Horton's Nose. Max 3 at RSPB Conwy on 12/08 (eBird).



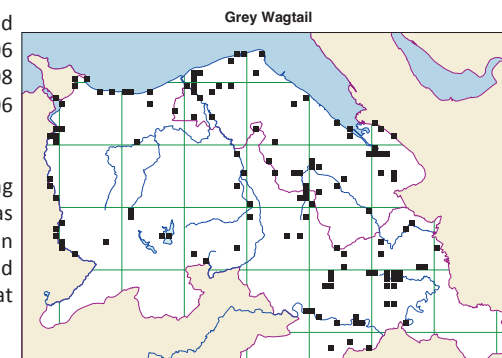
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

SIGLEN LWYD

Fairly common breeding resident on waterways.

Flints. 87 BT records with breeding confirmed at St Asaph on 1/07 (JHi), Afonwen on 18/06 (MV), R. Alyn at Trial Hill, Pantymwyn on 9/08 (GEM) and Rhydymwyn Reserve on 20/06 (IMo). Max 3 at Afonwen on 18/06 (MV).

Denbs. 192 BT records, with breeding confirmed at Llanddulas on 31/05, Llanddulas Quarry on 7/05 (both WRM), Bodnant on 19/05 (StHa), Loggerheads on 19/05 (SD) and Alyn Waters CP on 24/04 (AB). Max 6 at Erbistock on 24/04 (DaPa).



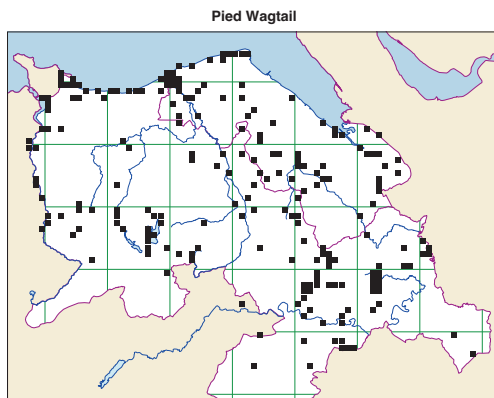
Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

SIGLEN FRAITH

Common breeding resident.

Flints. 308 BT records with confirmed breeding at Star Crossing Pool on 14/06 (GEM), Clwyd estuary on 16/07 (AHJ) and Mold Town Centre on 4/08 (GEM). Max. 100 at Bodelwyddan on 15/03 (SHu) and 100 Pied/White at CQNR on 1/01 (PSH).

Denbs. 573 BT records with confirmed breeding at Tir Llwyd Ind. Estate on 9/05 (WRM) and RSPB Conwy on 8/06 (JHg). "Probable" breeding at Hanmer on 18/06 (DaHa). Max 50 at RSPB Conwy on 15/08 (TGr).



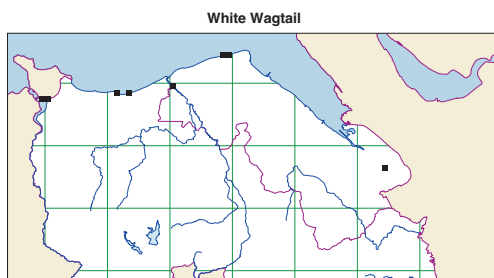
White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

SIGLEN WEN

Uncommon passage migrant.

Flints. 9 BT records from 26/04 to 12/05, with max at Gronant of 24 on 26/04 (WRM) and 40 on 1/05 (RIE).

Denbs. 23 BT records, from 1/04 to 4/05, inc. 21 from RSPB Conwy with a max of 24 on 12/04 (JHg). Singles at Llanddulas on 17/04 and Pensarn on 18/04. There were 2 later records at RSPB Conwy on 11/06 and 26/08.



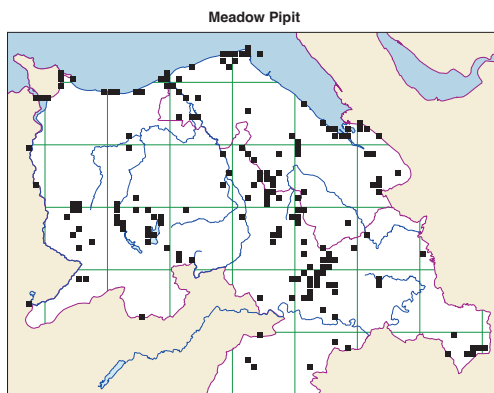
Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

CORHEDYDD Y WAUN

Common breeding upland resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Flints. 271 BT records with confirmed breeding at Gronant on 16/07 (JHi) and Cilcain-Cae Newydd on 20/05 (GEM), plus "probable" breeding at Moel Arthur on 12/06 and Cilcain Moors on 26/07 (both GEM). Max 120 at CQNR on 12/09 (PSH), 116 at Clwyd estuary on 17/03 (JHi) and 100 at Shotwick Lake on 1/01 (eBird).

Denbs. 381 BT records with breeding confirmed at Llyn Brenig on 4/07 (NiW), Gwytherin Moors on 4/07 (GEM), Ceiriog Forest on 11/06 (PaWo), Ruabon Mtn on 25/06 (JHg) and Fenn's Moss on 7/07 (RHu).



"Probable" breeding at 3 further locations. BSG Ecology Ltd located them at 93 locations at a study site around Llechrydau in the lower Berwyns during 17/04 to 12/07. Max 200 at World's End on 23/09 (Anya).

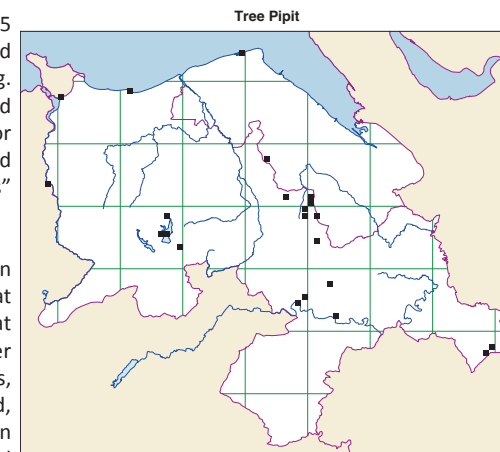
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

CORHEDYDD Y COED

Scarce breeding summer visitor, mainly in uplands.

Flints. 5 BT records of 1-2 birds between 4/05 and 24/06, at Gronant, Penycloddiau and Nercwys Forest, but no confirmed breeding. Of 4 eBird records at Penycloddiau, one noted "likely migrants. no breeding records here for 8 years or so" on 8/05, but another followed with "on territory. possibly 2 singing males" on 21/05.

Denbs. 19 BT records of 1-2 birds between 16/04 and 5/07, with confirmed breeding at Eryrys on 11/06 (TP) and display flight at Clocaenog Forest on 12/05 (eBird). Other records at RSPB Conwy, Fenn's Moss, Llanddulas, Llantysilio Mtn, World's End, Panorama-Llangollen, Ceiriog Forest, Lyn Brenig, Gors Maen Llwyd, Ynys Wen, Moel Findeg, Llanarmon-yn-Ial, Pentrefoelas and Moel Famau.



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

Rare winter visitor.

Flints. One at Gronant on 28/03 (SK) and 1 at Clwyd estuary on 12/12 (JHi).

Denbs. At RSPB Conwy, Birdguides reported singles on 22/02, 12/03 and 28/12, with max. 2 on 23/12. Also 1 on 8/01 at RSPB Conwy (eBird).

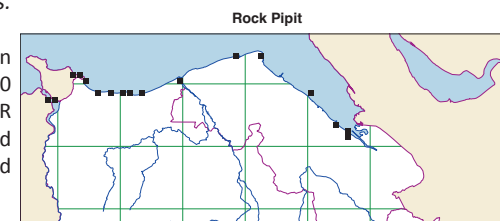
Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

Scarce winter visitor to coast and estuaries.

Flints. 10 BT records (up to 8/04 and again from 29/10 onwards). Max 5 at POA on 17/10 (eBird), 4 there on 22/01 (GR) and 3 at CQNR on 24/01 (PSH). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds at Clwyd estuary, Gronant, Talacre, Flint Castle and Greenfield Dock during Oct-Dec.

Denbs. 42 BT records (up to 19/03 and again from 18/08 onwards), inc. 27 records at RSPB Conwy,



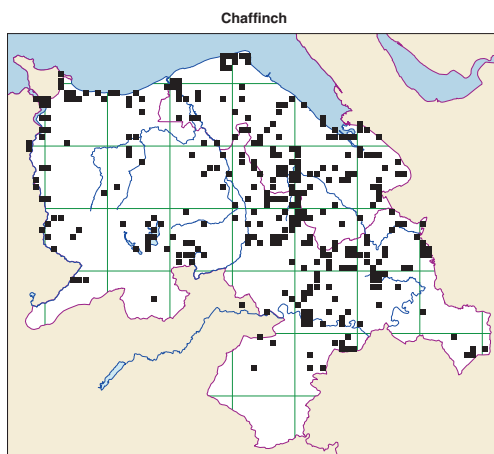
where one was moulting into summer plumage on 12/03 (eBird). Elsewhere, 1-2 birds along the coast from Llanddulas to Pensarn. Max 4 at RSPB Conwy on 17/12 (EvT).

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 382 BT records with confirmed breeding at Bagillt (GRMP) and Pantymwyn on 8/06 (GEM). Max. count of 834 at POA on 17/10: "Constant overhead passage of finches, Skylarks and pipits throughout the morning into the early afternoon. Chaffinches moving in the largest numbers but also significant numbers of Siskins. All birds were flying east into the wind" (eBird). More visible migration (in mixed flocks) of 82 at Gronant on 17/10 and 97 south of Rhyl on 22/10 (both WRM). Also 200 at CQNR on 31/01 and 12/03 and 300 there in Nov. (PSH).

Denbs. 620 BT records with no confirmed breeding. "Probable" breeding at 9 locations. Max 600 at Coed Newydd, south of Llanrwst on 22/01 (RS).



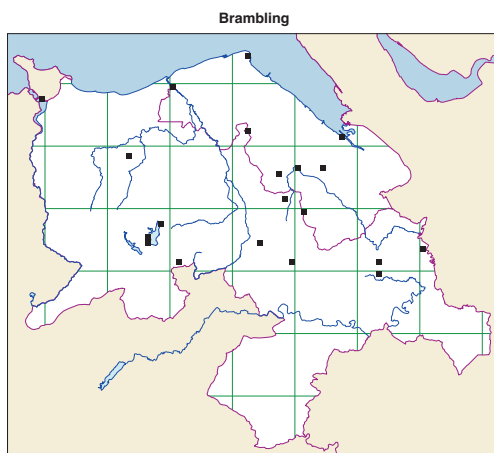
JI-BINC

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon winter visitor.

Flints. 14 BT records, up to 1/04 and again from 22/10, of which 11 were from Connah's Quay NR, which also had the highest count of 5 on 11/03 (PSH). Also, 3 with chaffinches at Talacre on 17/10 (eBird), 2 at Nercwys Forest on 24/10 (eBird), 2 at Caerwys on 13/01 and 14/01 (MV), 2 ringed at Bagillt on 1/04 (GRMP) and singles at Rhyl on 22/10 (WRM) and Cilcain on 29/10 (MP). There were winter records of 1-2 birds at 2 GBW sites.

Denbs. 15 BT records, up to 3/04 and again from 29/10, with the highest count of 4 at Llyn Brenig on 20/12 (RIE). Widely-distributed, with 2 near Llanfair TH on 18/03 (AIC) and singles at Wrexham (9/03-11/03, SuHa, JmHu), Clocaenog on 4/03 (GrJ), Bryn Eithin on 25/03 (JaH), RSPB Conwy on 12/03 (eBird) and Holt on 3/12 (NF). There were winter records of 1-2 birds at 1 GBW site.



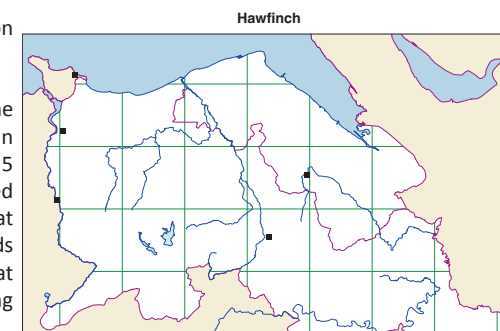
PINC Y MYNYDD

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Very scarce breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. One in a garden near Pantymwyn on 22/01 (GBW).

Denbs. 38 BT records, 33 (87%) of which came from Llanrwst bridge and church between 1/01 and 30/03 (many obs.), with max. 5 there on 1/01 and 27/01 (Bg), and 2 returned there on 5/11 (ReS). There were 4 records at Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Churchyard of 1-3 birds on 28/03-29/03 (JmHu, TBT and Bg) and 1 at Bodnant on 14/05 (ToB) but no breeding evidence.



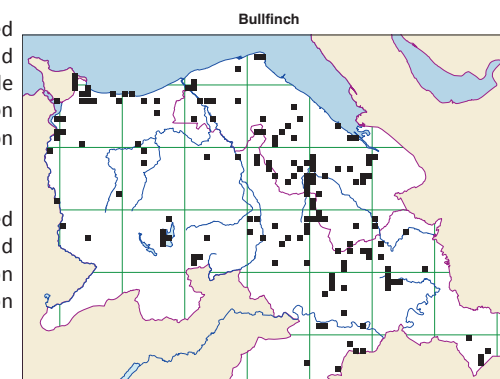
GYLFINBRAFF

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 214 BT records with confirmed breeding at Rhydymwyn Reserve (GRMP) and Pantymwyn on 11/07 (GEM) and a possible second brood there on 3/09 (GEM). Max 6 on Buckley Heritage Trail on 19/01 (SG) and 9 on 1/01 in a Buckley GBW.

Denbs. 207 BT records with confirmed breeding at Llanfair TH on 21/05 (WRM) and at RSPB Conwy (JJo). Max 8 at Sontley on 24/02 (HeCar) and at Clocaenog Forest on 3/03 (eBird).



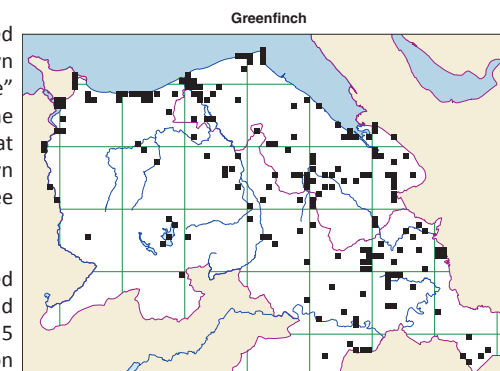
COCH Y BERLLAN

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 430 BT records with confirmed breeding at Pantymwyn (GEM), Rhydymwyn (MD) and Walwen Marsh (GRMP). "Probable" breeding at 4 further locations. Max 40 in the reeds at Gronant on 19/12 (WRM) and 28 at both CQNR on 18/09 (PSH) and Rhydymwyn on 8/10 (MD). 10 were feeding in a yew tree in Cilcain cemetery on 6/11 (MP).

Denbs. 485 BT records with confirmed breeding at RSPB Conwy (WRM) and Llanddulas (WRM). "Probable" breeding at 5 further locations. Max 26 at both Pensarn on



LLINOS WERDD

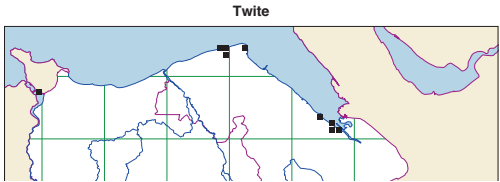
16/11 (MBo) and Colwyn Bay Rugby Club on 5/03 (Zak).

Twite *Linaria flavirostris*

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.

Flints. 44 BT records. CQNR had 21 records from 4/01 to 30/03, with max 43 on 14/01 (GrJ) and 40 on 20/01 (PSH). Gronant had 11 records from 21/01 to 25/03 with max 21 on 18/03 and 25/03 (Bg). Flint Castle had 20 on 23/03 (Bg) and 30 on 30/03 (eBird).



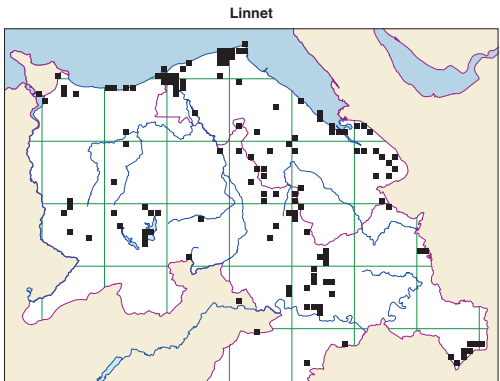
Denbs. Flock of 6 on 18/04 on the edge of Ruabon Mtn near Pen-Y-Cae (JoR). No breeding evidence submitted.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

LLINOS

Common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 343 BT records with breeding confirmed at CQNR (2 prs: PSH), Gronant on 1/08 (WRM), Clwyd estuary on 28/05 (JHi) and Cilcain Moors on 26/07 (GEM). Max 220 at Walwen on 28/02 (GRMP) and 218 at Gronant on 21/08 (JHi). In the Clwydians, max. 25 at Penycloddiau on 28/05 and at Moel Famau on 2/07 (both EdW).



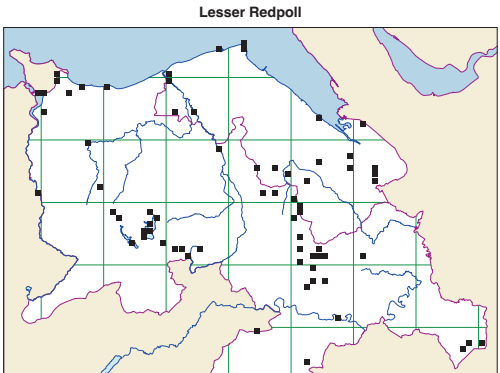
Denbs. 227 BT records with no evidence of breeding submitted. Max 40 at RSPB Conwy on 9/11 (JHg) and 28 at Pulford Brook on 17/06 (AHJ).

Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*

LLINOS BENGOC H FECHAN

Uncommon breeding resident and winter visitor. (All species became "Redpoll Acanthis flammea" in 2024, including Common, Arctic and Mealy).

Flints. 43 BT records, but no evidence of breeding submitted. June records at Rhyl, Llyn Cyfynwy and Nercwys Forest. Regular visits of 1-3 to a Sychdyn garden during Jan-Mar (GBW). Max 8 at Flint Marsh on 17/12 (SK).



Denbs. 76 BT records with "probable" breeding at Llyn Brenig on 11/04 (PEM) and

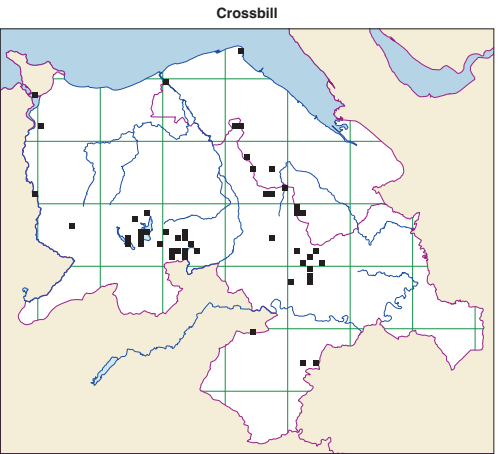
June records from Llandegla Forest, Ceiriog Forest and World's End/Eglwysseg. Max 20 at Pendinas on 5/11 (AHJ) and 17 at RSPB Conwy on 14/01 (PLeg).

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

GYLFINGROES

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 18 BT records, but no breeding evidence. Max 40 at Moel Arthur on 14/10 (MP). Nercwys Forest, a reliable location, had 30 on 29/10 (MP) and 25/11 (WAO). Unusual locations were 16 at POA on 17/10 (eBird: "A single flock flew high over the dunes heading east"), 2 at Flint Castle on 26/03 (GrJ), 4 flying west at Rhyl on 8/10 (WRM) and 3 at Caerwys on 14/01 (MV).



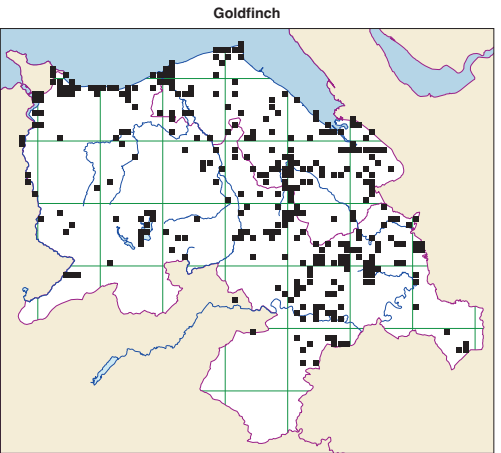
Denbs. 53 BT records. Breeding was confirmed at Llandegla Forest on 2/02, when a fledgling was found on the ground near 5 adults (Any). Max 40+ at Clocaenog on 4/03, "the majority of them family parties" (GrJ) and another flock of 40 there on 12/05 (eBird). There were 24 at Coed Moel Famau on 26/11 (eBird) and 8 there on 26/12 (GoP), 10 at Loggerheads on 22/04 (eBird), 4 near Llechrydau on 6/07 (BSG Ecology) and 3 in the Llyn Gweryd area on 24/06 (SD).

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

NICO

Very common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 667 BT records with breeding confirmed at Hawarden on 1/07 (AHJ), Gronant on 9/07, (WRM), Rhydymwyn on 7/06 (MD) and Pantymwyn on 13/06 (GEM). "Probable" breeding at Walwen, Star Crossing and St Asaph. Max. 300 at CQNR on 17/09 (GEM): several high counts of flocks feeding on the marsh here from 8/09 to 26/09.



Denbs. 688 BT records with breeding confirmed at RSPB Conwy on 8/06 (JHg), Llanrwst on 5/07 (WRM) and Llanddulas on 18/08 (WRM). "Probable" breeding at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos and Llanfair TH. Max. 50 at Bodnant on 26/08 (PEM).



Goldfinch: John Hawkins

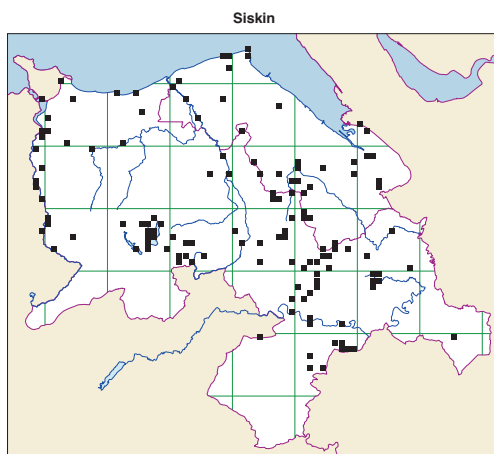
Siskin *Spinus spinus*

PILA GWYRDD

Fairly common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Flints. 81 BT records with breeding confirmed at Pantymwyn on 9/06 (GEM) and “probable” at Moel Arthur. Max 70 at Moel Arthur on 8/10 (MP). 1-20 birds were in a Sychdyn garden throughout the year (GBW).

Denbs. 273 BT records, inc 67 (25%) at Llyn Brenig, with breeding confirmed at Llanfair TH on 21/05 (WRM). “Probable” breeding at Llanrwst, Llyn Brenig and Ceiriog Forest. Max. 80+ on 11/02 at Llyn Brenig (PEM) and 24 at Erddig on 19/01 (eBird).



Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

BRAS Y GOGLEDD

Rare winter visitor.

Flints. One at POA on 17/10 (eBird).

Denbs. One at RSPB Conwy from 17/10 to 22/10 (many obs). “Extremely confiding bird feeding on edge of footpath on south side of the reserve; not fazed at all by people walking along the path less than two metres from where it fed” (ToSt).

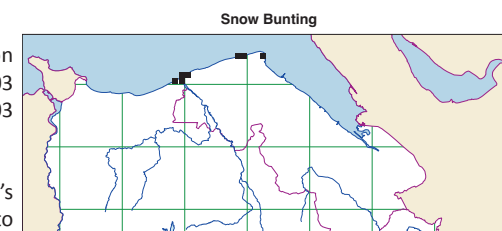
Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

BRAS YR EIRA

Very scarce and local winter visitor.

Flints. 5 BT records: 2 birds at Gronant on 26/11 (PeJ) plus singles at Gronant on 18/03 (Bg) and 18/12 (DaHi), and at POA on 20/03 and 23/03 (Bg).

Denbs. 62 BT records of a male at Horton’s Nose from 2/01 to 17/03 (many obs). Photo below.



Snow Bunting: Alex Humphreys-Jones



Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

BRAS YR YD

Rare and very local summer visitor.

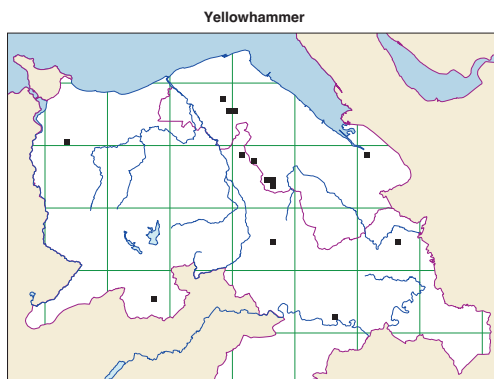
Denbs. Only one eBird record from the Bettisfield site on the Shropshire border this year: 2 birds on 29/07.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*
Uncommon and declining breeding resident.

BRAS MELYN

Flints. 22 BT records with no confirmed breeding. Welcome back to spring flocks of 12 on 5/04 and 18 on 17/04, discovered on a hedge or overhead wires near Jcn 29 of the A55 (KBr); they returned during 9/11 to 1/12 (all KBr). Nearby, Pen-y-Cefn had 3 summer records of 1-2 during 14/06-29/06 (KBr). Summer records of singing males in 3 areas of Cilcain Moors: two sites near Cae Newydd on 20/05 (GEM) and on 1/05 and 20/06 (DaFr, Anya) and above Garth across the valley on 26/07 (GEM). There were 2 singing males at Penycloddiau on 28/05 (EdW), with 4 there earlier on 18/03 (eBird) and 3 at Marian Cwm on 29/04 (BBS).

Denbs. 3 BT records with no confirmed breeding, at Moel-y-Gelli near Llyn Gweryd on 24/06 (SD), near Marian Cwm on 5/05 (ShN) and a flock of 8 near Llangwm on 1/03 (RiE). In the hills above Glyn Ceiriog, 2-5 birds on 24/03 (1 still present 19/07) and 1 at Pandy in the Ceiriog valley on 11/04 (both RuCa). Singles above Llyn Gweryd on 18/04 (TK), below Foel Fenlli on 26/04 (ToH) and above Panorama/Llangollen on 24/05.

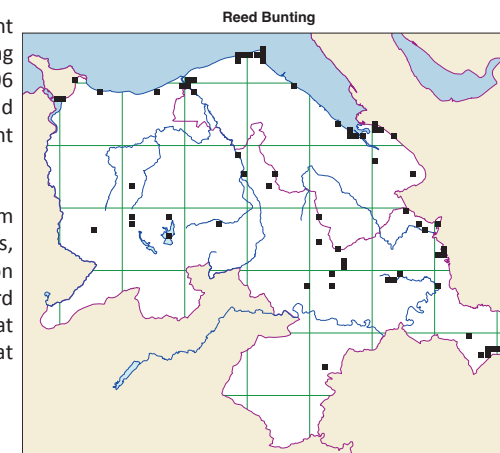


Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Fairly common, but local, breeding resident.

BRAS CYRS

Flints. 189 BT records inc 81 (43%) at Gronant and 25 (13%) at Clwyd estuary, with breeding confirmed at 3 Gronant locations on 8/06 (WRM), at Clwyd estuary on 12/05 (AHJ) and at CQNR on 23/07 (GrJ). Max 19 at Gronant on 11/05 (WRM).

Denbs. 267 BT records, inc 123 (46%) from RSPB Conwy and 82 (31%) from Fenn's Moss, with breeding confirmed at Fenn's Moss on 15/06 (female on 4 eggs: RHa) and at Pulford Brook on 17/06 (AHJ). "Probable" breeding at RSPB Conwy and Llechrydau. Max. 15 at Fenn's Moss on 29/12 (RHa).



Yellowhammer: John Hawkins

Category D and E Species (Escapes and likely Escapes)

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* GŴYDD DALCENWEN FECHAN

Flints. One at CQNR-OakRSPB on 18/02 (PSH).

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Flints. Two at CQNR-OakRSPB on 31/12 (GrJ).

Emperor Goose *Anser canagicus*

Flints. One at CQNR-OakRSPB on 28/02 (PSH).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHEN

Flints. The 5 birds at CQNR-OakRSPB in 2022 were present there again on 2/02 (PSH), but moved to the Clwyd estuary from 5/02 to 16/03 (many obs). From 29/03 to 5/05, 1-4 birds were seen regularly on the Clwyd. One returned to CQNR-OakRSPB on 6/05 (PSH). The only other records were singles at Shotwick Lake on 2/01 (SD) and at Gronant on 7/04 and 24/04 (Bg).

Denbs. The same birds sometimes crossed the river Clwyd into Denbs during this time.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

Flints. One at Fagl Lane on 1/07 (KHD).

Denbs. One was present at Llay Pool on 19/03 and 30/12 (SD).

Hottentot Teal *Spatula hottentota*

One on the Clwyd estuary 16/10-18/10 (AHJ).

Indian Peafowl

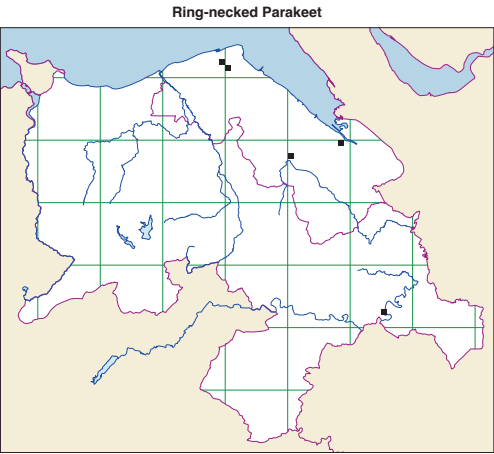
Denbs. One at Clocaenog phone box on 15/08 (DWin).

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

PARACIT TORCHOG MAP

Flints. 3 BT records: 3 at Llanasa on 14/01 (AB), and singles at Connah’s Quay on 16/04 (KWo) and Rhydymwyn on 20/04 (MD). A garden in Gronant had visits (by up to max. 9 on 9/07) on at least 29 occasions in nearly every month of the year (GBW).

Denbs. One at Overton Bridge on 28/02 (JJo).



Domestic birds are not included.

STATEMENTS

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

Walking the Bounds (G. E. Morris)

Reading through the 2021 Report, and even the 2022 Report, you will find many instances of where I’ve located a record in the wrong vice-county. I’ve tried harder to avoid this in the present Report, but the boundaries of traditional vice-counties VC50 and VC51 (established in 1852 for biological recording) are far from intuitive and differ from current administrative boundaries (often in dramatic ways).

1) *Flints/Denbs*

Take a walk with me, first along the Flintshire/Denbighshire boundary. It begins in the middle of the Clwyd estuary between Rhyl (Flints) and Horton’s Nose (Denbs), skirts the Marine Lake to leave it in Denbs, and then returns to mid-river until the point at which the diminutive river Gele empties into the Clwyd. It follows the Gele down to the roundabout on the A547 near the Tir Llwyd Ind Estate/Garden Centres of Kinnel Bay (Denbs). It then heads for the A55, bisecting Kinnel Park and leaving Bodelwyddan/Glan Clwyd in Flints. It then follows the “Roman Road” (B5381) to St Asaph (with a slight detour to capture Coed Escob for Flints) where it turns south to capture over 1km of the R. Elwy before

it crosses over to the R. Clwyd and follows it as far as Lleweni (Denbs) near the A541/A543 junction. The border then turns up the Chwiler (Wheeler) valley and swallows the Maes-Mynan pools and surrounding woodland for Denbs but leaves Caerwys and Afonwen in Flints. The border then climbs to Moel y Parc (Denbs), leaving the road and TV station in Flints, and over to Penycloddiau where it leaves the hill-fort in Flints and the western slopes (inc Coed Llangwyfan) in Denbs. Carrying on towards Moel Arthur, it makes another massive diversion as far as the A541 to keep the Penbedw Estate and Moel Plas Yw in Denbs, so that Nannerch Fishery on the estate is in Denbs while Nannerch village is in Flints. The border returns to Moel Arthur to capture the most birdwatched part for Flints, but leave the nestbox scheme in Glyn Arthur for Denbs. It then follows Offa's Dyke Path above the Cilcain Moors to Moel Famau where it turns east downhill to Loggerheads CP (Denbs) and the R. Alyn. Although a large part of Moel Famau is in Flints, the most walked and watched area, including Bwlch Pen Baras and Clwyd Forest parking is firmly in Denbs. Loggerheads CP is the HQ of the Clwydian Hills and Dee Valley AONB and its boundary along the R. Alyn is clearly marked where the path continues into Flints with the Dog Kennels, Devil's Gorge and Pantymwyn. From this boundary, the path climbs and heads for Cadole (bisecting the woodland here) where the boundary follows the A494 towards Mold, turning off towards Maeshafn and Aberduna NR (Denbs). It crosses Moel Findeg where the heathland/woodland nature reserve is entirely in Denbs with adjacent peaks and farmed areas in Flints. The boundary then heads to Nercwys Forest (all Flints), leaving Eryrys and Bryn Alyn in Denbs, and follows the R. Terrig to Rhydtalog (Flints), where it cuts out most of the Llandegla Moors (Moel Garegog, Llyn Cyfynwy and Fauxdegla) for Flints leaving Llandegla village and Nant-Y-Ffrith reservoir in Denbs. The boundary then follows the Ffrith stream to Cefn-y-Bedd railway station on the A541 and continues to the Cheshire border at Pulford Brook, leaving Hope, Caergwrle and Higher Kinnerton in Flints, but Llay and Alyn Waters CP in Denbs.

2. Flints-Cheshire

Starting in the Dee estuary, about one-third of the marshes visible across the river from Flint or CQNR are within Wales and so is nearly everything beyond the revetment inc. White Sands, the model aeroplane area and Cop Hole pool. Burton Point is in Cheshire as far as the railway line, but the MOD firing range marshes inc. the footpath along the railway are in Flints. Across the railway at RSPB Burton Mere, the pool and land to the right of the Border Hide is in Wales, inc. Shotwick Boating Lake and the low-lying fields along the A548 as far as (but not including) Blaenau and the Ind Estates. Across the Dee, Saltney west of the railway bridge, is in Wales and the border crosses the A55 south of Broughton to exclude Lower Kinnerton and then follow Pulford Brook as far as Rossett and the Dee, which once again becomes the border splitting Farndon (Ches) from Holt (Denbs). It leaves the Dee north of Worthenbury (Denbs), skirts Threapwood (Ches) and follows the wooded gorge of Wych Brook almost as far as Whitchurch before turning south to Fenn's Moss. The boundary between Fenn's (Wales) and Hixall (Eng) Mosses crosses the Llangollen Canal near the Observation Tower and heads down almost to Northwood to include Bettisfield in Denbs. The boundary heads back towards the Dee at Erbistock (Denbs) including Hanmer and Penley on the Welsh side. It follows the Dee as far as the junction with the R. Ceiriog, which it then follows as far as Offa's Dyke just south of Chirk (Denbs). It follows Offa's Dyke to Craignant (Eng.) and then meanders south to the R. Tanat at Pen-y-Bont, capturing Llechrydau, Llansilin and Sycarth into Denbs.

3. Denbs/Montgomery

From Pen-y-Bont, the border captures some of the hills south of the R. Tanat before returning to the river at Aber Rhaeadr. It then follows the river Rhaeadr all the way to Pistyll Rhaeadr waterfall with the car park and land north of the stream in Denbs. Above the waterfall, the border follows the Disgynfa stream curving right up the valley to Moel Sych and the Meirionnydd border.

4. Denbs/Meirionnydd

From Moel Sych, the border follows the Berwyn ridge through Cadair Berwyn and Cadair Bronwen, and continues N and NW to follow the highest points towards Moel Fferna (mostly Meirionnydd), where it heads west towards Vivod Mtn capturing for Denbs all of the Ceiriog Forest and the important moorlands of Cerrig-duon. It continues along the ridge NW then NE until it drops to the A5 and river Dee just east of Deeside Halt railway station - all the woodlands above Llangollen and towards Glyn Ceiriog are in Denbs. The border is then the river Dee until just past Glyndwfrdwy where it goes N into Llantysilio Mtn following the tiny stream, Nant-Coed-dwrg: the "Dee Valley" long-distance footpath on the left is in Meirionnydd while Ty-Canol on the right is in Denbs. It then heads NW towards Blaen Ial (Denbs) and turns left along the R. Morwynion as far as the jcn of A5104 with B5436 to Carrog (Merioneth), where it goes north to meet the R. Clwyd at Pandy'r Capel (this puts Llanelidan in Denbs and Gwyddelwern in Meirionnydd). It follows the R. Clwyd to bisect Melin-y-Wig and heads north to Bod Petryal (the most birded area of Bod Petryal is firmly in Meirionnydd), where it turns due W towards the R. Alwen with Bron-Bannog in the north in Denbs, while the B5105 and the Derwydds are in Meirionnydd. The border then follows the R. Alwen S through Llanfihangel and through Betws-Gwerfil-Goch (Meirionnydd) before crossing the A5 south of Maerdy (Denbs). It follows Nant Heulog SW for 2km before turning W and climbing to the moors above Llangwm (Denbs) at Foel Goch. At Garnedd Fawr, it turns north to cross the B4501 and reach the R. Ceirw which it follows briefly before climbing again to Carnedd Y Filiast. At this point the old VC50 Denbs steals a massive 20km section from current Meirionnydd so that a large part of the Migneint moors are in Denbs including Ysbyty Ifan and the National Trust land at Ynys Wen. The border skirts Arenig Fach (Meirionnydd) before turning north towards Llyn Cottage, the only building on the B4407 Ysbyty Ifan-Festiniog road, by which the boundary makes a border with Caernarfonshire (Caern), rather than Meirionnydd.

5. Denbs/Caernarfon

The B4407 and associated woodlands are entirely in Caern since the R. Conwy alongside the road is the actual border. Past Ysbyty Ifan, it continues to follow the R. Conwy after crossing the A5 west of Pentrefoelas (Denbs). As it approaches Betws-y-Coed (Caern), the car park and approach to Conwy Falls are in Denbs, while the car park area of Fairy Glen is in Caern. Llanrwst is a tricky area for a recorder since, although all of the town is in Denbs, the tea-rooms and car park across the bridge are in Caernarf. I will mention all records from Llanrwst even when the tea-rooms in Caern. are specified. Just north of Tan-Lan near Llanrwst, Caern takes a chunk of land east of the river, so that important bird areas like Maenan and Cadair Ifan Goch are in Caern until the border returns to the R. Conwy at Tal-y-Bont (Caern). For recording purposes, this part of Caern has been ceded to Denbs and is the border used by Cofnod. As we approach the sea, Tal-y-Cafn and Bodnant Gardens are clearly in Denbs, as are most of the low-tide sandbanks as we approach RSPB Conwy (Denbs). All the accessible area of RSPB Conwy is in Denbs but the heronries across the river at Coed Benarth (Caern) must be excluded where possible, and everything north of the Conwy Bridge and the A55 (inc Coed Hafod, NT Bodysgallen) are firmly in Caern. NB there is a small section of RSPB Conwy in the north-east corner that is in Caern. The border follows the A55 until the Gannol stream near Mochdre (Denbs) which forms the border with Cystennin road in Caern but the Rugby Club and industrial area in Denbs. Rhos-on-Sea is another tricky area for recording: the border keeps Llandrillo-yn-Rhos in Denbs, inc. Dinarth Hall and the College, and roughly follows Penrhyn Avenue to the sea close to the Information Kiosk on the prom. Consequently, the rocks that form the wader roost at Rhos Point are in Caern, but everything seen from the prom south of the Information Kiosk is in Denbs.

Breeding Rooks (*Corvus frugilegus*) in Denbighshire and Flintshire 2022/23

Anne Brenchley

Introduction

The Rook is a well recognised species of farmed habitats and until fairly recently was numerous enough to be considered one of small suite of pest species. However, in recent years the UK population has been on the decline, thought to be due to changes in farming practices, pesticide usage and persecution. Surveys showed a 60% decline in Wales between 1944/46 and 1975, despite incomplete coverage in those years; this was a greater reduction than elsewhere in Britain. In 1975, the Welsh population was estimated to be 38,916 nests in 1,546 rookeries. A sample survey in 1980 suggested that numbers increased after 1975, and a survey in 1996 recorded a 36% increase in Wales during the previous decade. However, there has been no dedicated survey since 1996 and the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) index for Wales fell by 63% during 1995-2020, accelerating after 2010; the rate of decline in Wales was greater than in any other UK nation. The Welsh breeding population in 2018 was estimated to be 35,500 (28,500-37,500) pairs, around 9% lower than in 1975. Densities are low in Wales compared to much of the rest of the UK, averaging 1.9 nests/km² in 1975 and abundance remained relatively low in the Britain and Ireland Atlas 2007-11. Within Wales, the highest densities were in the English border counties, in Anglesey and Pembrokeshire.

In 2022, the Rook moved from the Green category in the Birds of Conservation Concern Wales list (BoCC4, Johnstone *et al.* 2022) to Red as the population was estimated to have declined by over 50% in the past 25 years, based mainly on BBS data, which was considered to be the best information available at the time. However, it should be noted that the BBS has some limitations for monitoring colonial species and it was considered that a dedicated survey for this species was long overdue.

In the years 2022 and 2023, the Welsh Ornithological Society organised a breeding Rook survey across Wales. This involved finding breeding colonies in a selection of random tetrads (2km x 2km squares) and counting the nests at the peak of the breeding season. The results for Denbighshire and Flintshire are given below.

Survey Coverage

The Priority tetrads were those randomly selected for the purposes of calculating a population estimate. This information will be published in the WOS publication *Milvus*. In addition to the Priority tetrads, volunteers were encouraged to survey additional complete tetrads as well as recording any other rookeries casually encountered. These additional records were used in calculations of average rookery size and noting the main tree species chosen as breeding sites. The number of tetrads and the additional rookery counts recorded in Denbigh and Flint are shown in Table 1.

Number of tetrads surveyed in 2022/23							
	Priority, with rookeries	Priority, with no rookeries	Number of priority tetrads	Extra, non-priority, with rookeries	Extra, non-priority, with no rookeries	Number of extra tetrads	Totals of all tetrads
Denbigh	35	56	91	8	5	13	104
Flint	14	22	36	17	14	31	67
TOTALS	49	78	127	25	19	44	171

Table 1. The number of priority and extra tetrads surveyed in Denbigh and Flint. Those with rookeries and those without.

Rookeries were found at low elevations, mostly below 250m and very rarely above 400m. Of the priority tetrads, approximately one third (38.6%) were occupied. The number of rookeries and nests counted

in Denbigh and Flint 2022/23 are shown in Table 2.

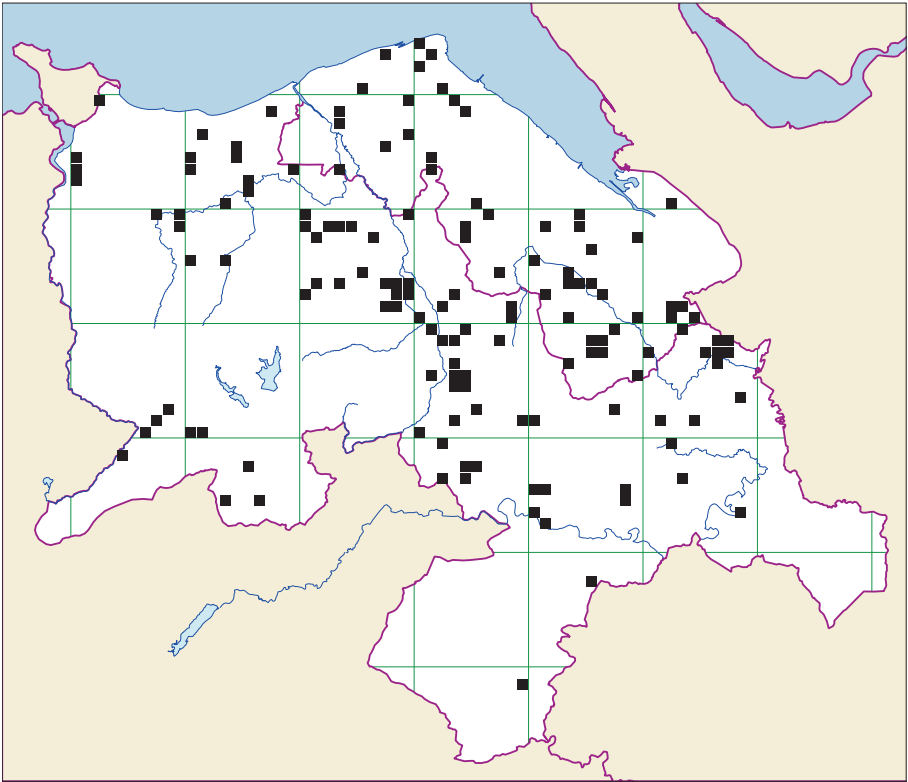


Figure 1. Map showing the distribution of 1km squares (within surveyed Priority tetrads) where occupied rookeries were found in 2022/23.

	PRIORITY TETRADS		EXTRA TETRADS		CASUAL RECORDS	
	No. of rookeries	No. of nests	No. of rookeries	No. of nests	No. of rookeries	No. of nests
Denbigh	72	1511	8	123	51	942
Flint	22	601	26	445	16	207
TOTALS	94	2112	34	568	67	1149

Table 2. The numbers of rookeries and nests found during the 2022/23 survey.

Rookery size

Pritchard *et al.* (2021) reported that there had been no rookery count exceeding 200 nests published since 1996. Whilst three rookeries, all located in Pembrokeshire, exceeding 200 nests were found in 2022/23, the largest rookery in Denbigh was 116 nests near Llysfas College, Pentre Celyn, Ruthin and in Flint the largest rookery was 63 nests at Tre-mostyn, near Holywell (Table 3).

Since 1996, rookery size appears to have decreased across Wales from 25.4 to 23.1 but in Denbigh and Flint, rookeries were on average even smaller (19.6). This reflected the fact that the majority of rookeries right across Wales were small, less than 20 nests.

	Numbers of nests	Numbers of rookeries	Average rookery size (nests)	Largest rookery (nests)
Denbigh	2576	131	19.7	116
Flint	1253	64	19.6	
TOTAL	3829	195	19.6	

Table 3. The average rookery size and the largest rookery count in Denbigh and Flint using records from all Priority tetrads, Extra tetrads and Casual records.

Tree species in which rookeries were constructed

Surveyors were asked to record rookery tree species but identifying trees can be challenging, particularly before leaf-burst and so it was difficult to be totally confident about the results. However, differentiating between broadleaves and conifers is easy and clearly the majority of rookeries were located in broadleaved trees with occasional conifer trees used (Table 4).

	Priority Tetrads			Additional Tetrads			Casual Records		
	B/L	MXD	CON	B/L	MXD	CON	B/L	MXD	CON
Denbigh	61	8	1	8	0	0	45	5	1
Flint	19	2	0	24	1	1	12	1	0
TOTAL	80	10	1	32	1	1	57	6	1

Table 4. The number of rookeries identified as being in Broadleaved trees (B/L), a mixture of broadleaves and conifers (MXD) and conifers only (CON).

The information gathered on tree species did, however, indicate that a few, mainly common tree species were chosen for nesting with little noticeable preference. The broadleaved species chosen were Oak, Ash, Beech and Sycamore. A wide range of other species were also occasionally recorded such as Alder, Birch spp., Elm spp., Hazel, Holly, Horse Chestnut, Lime, Poplar spp. and Willow spp. The conifers identified were predominantly Scots Pine.

Discussion

This survey was the most comprehensive structured survey of breeding Rooks ever undertaken in Wales. WOS is now fairly confident that Rook populations have declined since 1996 but maybe not quite as much as originally feared. Breeding Rooks are still a relatively common sight across lowland Denbigh and Flint albeit in small colonies. Rookery size is decreasing and these colonies are becoming more dispersed, often linear in structure (e.g. nests occupying lines of roadsides trees). However, that a common bird of farmland is declining is of concern and more research will be needed to examine reasons for this decline.

Acknowledgements

This survey was a unique collaboration of organisations (WOS, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), BTO Cymru, RSPB Cymru and Cofnod). It has been deemed a success and further Wales-wide surveys are being considered. However, none of this could have been achieved without the input of the many volunteer surveyors, sadly too numerous to name individually. Thanks to Ian Spence for the map (using DMAP by Dr AJ Morton).

Reference

Pritchard, R., Hughes, J., Spence, I.M., Haycock, B. and Brenchley, A. 2021. The Birds of Wales/Adar Cymru. Liverpool University Press/Welsh Ornithological Society.

Locations

Acrefair (Denbs): village with a pool at the north end of the Pontcysyllte aqueduct

Aled Isaf (Denbs): A reservoir on the Denbigh Moors, visible from the road

Bagillt (Flints): a village overlooking the Dee estuary

Berwyns (Denbs): Large range of upland moors between Corwen and Lake Vyrnwy

Big Pool Wood (Flints): a NWWT Reserve near Gronant (open access)

Bodnant (Denbs): National Trust Gardens (fee for non-members)

Brymbo (Denbs): ex-mining village near Wrexham with a pool

Broughton (Flints): the first Welsh village on the A55 from Chester

Bryn Alyn (Denbs): limestone uplands above the R. Alyn between Eryrys and Llanferres.

Buckley: Lane End and Heritage Trail (Flints): LNR, wetland in construction mitigation area, visible from the Heritage Trail

Burton Mere, RSPB (Flints): mostly England, but Border Pool and adjacent areas are in Wales.

Bwlchgwyn (Denbs): village with quarry and pool on the N. edge of moors west of Wrexham

Cae Llwyd (Denbs): a reservoir on the edge of the Ruabon moors near Wrexham

Ceiriog Forest (Denbs): forestry plantation in the north Berwyns with public access

Chwiler (Wheeler) Valley (Flints/Denbs): a pass through the Clwydians from Rhydymwyn to Bodfari

Cilcain Moors (Flints): moorland west of Cilcain, below Moel Llys-y-Coed and Moel Famau

Clocaenog Forest (Denbs): extensive FC conifer plantations on the eastern Denbigh Moors

Clwyd Estuary (Denbs/Flints): where the R. Clwyd reaches the sea at Rhyl and Kinnel Bay

Cop Hole Pool (Flints): reed-fringed pool adjacent to Sealand Rifle Range (no public access).

CQNR (Flints): Connah's Quay Nature Reserve (on Power Station land: members only) with hides overlooking Oakenholt Marsh (RSPB)

Denbigh Moors (Denbs): aka Mynydd Hiraethog, uplands between Llyn Brenig and Llanrwst.

Eglwyseg (Denbs): a small village nestling below the Ruabon moors below World's End

Erddig (Denbs): National Trust property (entry fee) near Wrexham, surrounded by Country Park (open access)

Esclusham Mountain (Denbs): northern part of heather moorlands west of Wrexham

Fagl Lane (Flints): an ex-quarry with large lake (entry fee, or views from public footpaths)

Fauxdegla (Flints): area around Moel Garegog, adjacent to the Llandegla Moors of Denbs.

Fenn's Moss (Denbs): NNR spanning the England-Wales border (with Whixall Moss [Eng.])

Ffynnon Fish Ponds (Denbs): fishing ponds on the A494 Mold-Ruthin road (public footpath)

Garreg Ddu (Denbs): a peak in the southern Berwyns

Glyn Arthur (Denbs): Wooded farmland below Moel Arthur on west side of Clwydian Range.

Gors Maen Llwyd (Denbs): NWWT Reserve adjacent to Llyn Brenig

Gronant (Flints): LNR with dunes, wetlands and nesting Little Tern colony

Gresford Flash (Denbs): a well-watched roadside pool between Gresford and Wrexham

Hanmer Mere (Denbs): Lake in the centre of Hanmer village in the Maelor.

Holt (Denbs): village with meadows on the English border east of Wrexham

Horseshoe Falls (Denbs): tourist site upstream along the canal from Llangollen

Horton's Nose (Denbs): LNR with beach/shingle at the mouth of the R. Clwyd (Kinnel Bay)

Is-y-Coed (Denbs): village on the Dee valley plain east of Wrexham

Llanddulas (Denbs): a car park at Wern Road on the beach good for sea-watching at high tide.

Llanddulas Quarry (Denbs): on the other side of the A55 from the beach area

Llandrillo-yn-Rhos (Denbs): small town above Rhos-on -Sea

Llanfyllin (Denbs): village in a river valley south of the Berwyns

Llantysilio Mtn (Denbs):

Llay (Denbs): a large pool adjacent to Alyn Waters CP near Wrexham

Lleweni (Denbs): Lleweni Hall between Denbigh and Bodfari (public footpaths and access to R. Clwyd)

Llyn Brenig (Denbs): a large reservoir in the Denbigh Moors, with an Osprey viewing site.

Llyn Cyfynyw (Flints): an isolated lake near the Llandegla moors

Llyn Gweryd (Denbs): a private commercial fishing lake in the Clwydians near Llanarmon-Yn-Ial that can be viewed from a public footpath

Llyn Helyg (Flints): a private fishing lake in the north Clwydians with limited access by public footpath

Loggerheads CP (Denbs) and Leete Path (Flints): riverside walks

Maes Mynan (Denbs): sand-extraction pools on the Mold-Denbigh road (limited views)

Migneint (Denbs): moorland north of the Arenigs in Snowdonia

Minera (Denbs): village near Wrexham with adjacent NWWT Reserve (ex-quarry)

Moel Arthur (Flints/Denbs): Hill-fort in the Clwydian Range; marshy area near the car park.

Moel Famau (Denbs): Highest point on Offa's Dyke Path in the Clwydian Range (South flanks in Flints)

Moel Findeg (Flints/Denbs): LNR with varied habitats accessible by footpaths from Maeshafn.

Moel Fferna (Denbs): one of the peaks in the north Berwyns, partly in Denbs

Moel Garegog (Flints): moorland near Llandegla village (Denbs)

Moel Llys-y-coed (Flints): Clwydian Range, near Moel Arthur.

Nannerch Fishery (Denbs): Walgoch fish ponds on the Penbedw estate (visible from the road).

Nant-y-Ffrith (Denbs): a reservoir on the Llandegla, surrounded by woodland

Nercwys Forest (Flints): a forestry commission, largely-coniferous woodland with paths for cyclists and dog-walkers. A traditional site for nightjar and (formerly) woodcock.

Nercwys Mtn Pond (Denbs): on the W. edge of Nercwys Forest, visible from public footpaths.

Padeswood Pool (Flints): pool east of Buckley with limited access

Pantymwyn (Flints): a village on the limestone above the R. Alyn

Pensarn (Denbs): a beach near Abergele

PenYcae (Denbs): village with two reservoirs on the SE edge of Ruabon moors

Penycloddiau (Flints). Hill-fort on Offa's Dyke Path in the Clwydian Range

Point of Ayr, POA (Flints): the RSPB Reserve at Point of Ayr at the mouth of the Dee Estuary, A footpath from the village of Talacre leads to a hide for high tide birdwatching

Pontcysyllte (Denbs): the canal viaduct area around the R. Dee at Froncysyllte

Rhos Town (Denbs): the prom south of the Information kiosk, excluding Rhos Point (Caernarfon)

Rhuddlan (Flints): town on the R. Clwyd with a LNR by the river

Rhydymwyn (Flints): village in the Chwiler valley near Mold with a LNR

Rhyl Brickworks Pool (Flints): accessible pool near Rhyl

Rhyl Marine Lake (Denbs): large pool by the A548, above the river at Rhyl

Rhyl Splash Point (Flints): a bend in Marine Drive in the east of Rhyl

RSPB Conwy (Denbs): RSPB Reserve with access from the A55 near Conwy

Ruabon Moors (Denbs): large area of heather moorland west of Wrexham.

Shotton Papermill (Flints): pools within factory (no public access)

Shotton Steelworks (Flints): pools with a nesting tern colony

Shotwick Lake (Flints): boating lake on the English border near RSPB Burton Mere

Sontley (Denbs): area near Erddig

Star Crossing (Flints): pools near the A541 road west of Hendre (visible from the road)

Sycarth (Denbs): castle ruins in the Tanat valley SW of Oswestry

Tal-y-cafn (Denbs): wooded area by the R. Conwy near Bodnant

Tanat Valley (Denbs): in S. Berwyns close to Montgomeryshire border.

Trevalyn (Denbs): wet meadows near Rossett, NE of Wrexham

Ty Mawr (Denbs): another reservoir on the edge of the Ruabon moors near Wrexham

Vivod (Denbs): peak in the Berwyns north of Ceiriog Forest

Walwen Marsh (Flints): Dee estuary between Bagillt and Greenfield

White Sands (Flints): tidal marshes across the river Dee from CQNR

World's End (Denbs): scenic area with cliffs at the south end of Ruabon moors near Wrexham

Ysceifiog (Flints): a large private wooded lake with a public footpath on one side

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