

For information on **NATIONAL GROUPS** in Flintshire and Denbighshire, please contact the following:

BTO Regional Representatives:

Clwyd East: Anne Brenchley, Ty'r Fawnog, 43 Blackbrook, Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6LT. Telephone: 01352 750118. E-mail: ian&anne@imsab.idps.co.uk

Clwyd West: Mel ab Owain, 31 Coed Bedw, Abergele, Conwy. LL22 7EU. E-mail: melabowain@cix.compulink.co.uk

North Wales Wildlife Trust: Adrian Lloyd-Jones, Loggerheads Country Park, Llanferres, near Mold. Telephone: 01352 - 810469

RSPB: for local **Members' Groups** please contact

(**North Wales**) Paul Braid 01492 516260

(**Chester**) Bernard Wright 01829 782243

'Snow Buntings' by Ron Plummer

CLWYD BIRD REPORT

1999

CLWYD BIRD RECORDING
GROUP

LOCAL SOCIETIES

Clwyd Ornithological Society

The 'Clwyd', as it is known, is an informal birdwatching group - we meet in a pub near St. Asaph. In the winter months we have talks on birds and other related topics; throughout the year we visit a variety of places hoping to find birds etc. of interest.

Please join us - annual fee £5

Contact the treasurer: Elvet Jones, Sandiway, Llanasa, Holywell CH8 9NE Phone: 01745 852984

Deeside Naturalists Society

A local natural history society, founded in 1973 to conserve flora and fauna on Deeside and in the surrounding area. The Society has 500 members and holds monthly meetings and slide shows. The Nature Reserve at Connah's Quay, alongside the River Dee, has several hides and a Field Studies Centre. (Permit required).

Current fees: Adult/Family £9; Pensioners: £5 Single, £7 Couple, Juniors (under-18) and Students £1.50

Membership enquiries: please contact

The Membership Secretary, Mrs Hazel Jones,
51 Upper Aston Hall Lane, Hawarden, Flintshire CH5 3EN.
Telephone: 01244 533406

Wrexham Birdwatchers styles itself as 'the small friendly group' and members are aged from 8 to 80! We meet the first Friday and the (alternating) third Saturday/Sunday of every month. The winter Friday (indoor) programme runs from September to April and consists of a series of lectures/slide shows, currently held in the Memorial Hall, Gresford. The outdoor programme runs through the year. Social Evenings and Weekends away are also held. A Bulletin is produced regularly along with an Annual report. The current programme and further details may be obtained from:

The Hon. Secretary, Marian Williams, 10 Lake View, Gresford, nr Wrexham LL12 8PU. Telephone: 01978-854633

Current fees: adult £7, family £12, juniors £3, OAP & students £4.

GAZETTEER (continued)

	Llanddulas	SH 910785	PMPA	Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele	SH 943785
	Llandegla	SJ 196525	POA	Point of Ayr	SJ 130850
	Llawndy Farm	SJ 118840		Pontybodkin	SJ 272593
	Llay	SJ 332557	RGC	Rhyl Golf Course	SJ 028824
	Llyn Bran	SH 962592		Rhydymwyn	SJ 213663
	Llyn Brenig	SH 9755	RM	Rossett	SJ 368572
	Llyn Helyg	SJ 1177		Shotton Lagoons	SJ 3071
	Loggerheads	SJ 205627	SLJ	Stryt Las, Johnstown	SJ 305449
LPJ	Large Pool, Johnstown	SJ 2943	SPJ	Small Pool near Johnstown	SJ 2743
MLR	Marine Lake, Rhyl	SJ 000805		Tainant	SJ 270465
	Moss Valley	SJ 312523		Talacre	SJ 124847
	Nant Mill	SJ 288504	TFR	Tatham Farm, Ruabon	SJ 2944
	Nercwys Mountain	SJ 2258	TMR	Ty Mawr Reservoir	SJ 275480
NEWI	NE Wales Institute, Wrexham	SJ 328513		Walwen	SJ 207766
OMR	Oakenholt Marsh Reserve	SJ 265722		Warren Farm, Talacre	SJ 115843
	Pendinas Reservoir	SJ 236518	WE	World's End	SJ 238478
	Pensarn	SH 950785	WIE	Wrexham	SJ 3749
	Penycae	SJ 281452	YL	Ysceifiog Lake	SJ 145715
PCR	Penycae Reservoir	SJ 2645			

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CLWYD BIRD RECORDING GROUP

was founded over ten years ago. It comprises representatives from a variety of interested organisations. The current membership, elected at the Annual General Meeting held on 24 January 2000, is as follows:

Chairman and County Recorder: Norman Hallas
(also representing Wrexham Birdwatchers)

Hon. Secretary: Anne Brenchley (BTO East Clwyd Representative)

Hon. Treasurer: Elvet Jones (Clwyd Ornithological Society)
and

Andrew Dale (CCW)

Louise Jones (COS)

Ron Plummer (DNS)

Peter Rathbone (ex-officio)

Gareth Stamp (RSPB)

AREA COVERED:

The inserted maps give some indication of the geographical and political entity covered in this Report. Another change in local boundaries meant that, in 1997, Clwyd ceased to exist as a county and Flintshire, Denbighshire, Aberconwy and Wrexham Unitary Authorities came into being to further complicate our task. To foster continuity, we have emulated the Welsh Ornithological Society in the adoption of the old Watsonian Vice-County system. Though the title of 'Clwyd Bird Report' has been retained, our area should be seen as consisting of vice counties 50 Denbigh (Dinbych) and 51 Flint (Fflint). This decision has become inevitable because, unfortunately, the boundaries of the newly-created districts bear little resemblance to the original county boundaries. For anyone unsure of the boundaries, the advice given is to continue to submit records for those areas formerly regarded as being in Clwyd. Any which are not relevant to the new recording area will be passed on to the appropriate county recorder. To this end, it is imperative that an appropriate place name and O.S. grid reference number is included with any records sent in.

GAZETTEER					
Where appropriate (for sensitive sites and larger areas) only four-figure grid references are used					
Abbreviation (if used)	Place name	Grid Reference		Erddig Park Erddig Flash	SJ 327482 SJ 336487
			Abbreviation (if used)	Place name	Grid Reference
	Acton Park	SJ 345520			
AWCP	Alyn Waters Country Park, Llay	SJ 332553 and SJ 320546		Fenn's Moss	SJ 490370
BB	Bagillt Bank	SJ 235767	FC	Flint Castle	SJ 248732
BHP Pool	POA	SJ 124844	FLQ	Fagl Lane Quarry, Hope	SJ 304583
	Bod Petruel	SJ 037510		Greenfield Dock	SJ 200780
	Brickfields Pools/Reserve	SJ 013803	GHP	Greenfield Heritage Park	SJ 1977
	Bronbannog	SJ 0352	GF	Gresford Flash	SJ 345536
	Burton, near Rossett	SJ 357573	GL	Gresford Lake	SJ 348548
CLR	Cae Llwyd Reservoir	SJ 269478		Gronant Dunes	SJ 090845
	Clocaenog Forest	SJ 0353		Gyfelia	SJ 328453
	Coedpoeth	SJ 2951	HM	Hanmer Mere	SJ 455397
CQR	Connahs Quay Reserve	SJ 270720	HP	Horseshoe Pass, near Llangollen	SJ 185470
CR	Conwy RSPB Reserve	SH 795775	IMF	Inner Marsh Farm	SJ 305735
	Ddol Uchaf Reserve	SJ 141714	LLR	Lindisfarne Lake, Ruabon	SJ 308427
	Dolwen Reservoir	SH 973704		Llanasa	SJ 106815
	Dyserth	SJ 056791	<i>continued on next page</i>		

Contributors

Ted Abraham*, Roger and Megan Bagguley, John Beaumont, John Birch, M. Bird-Jones, Anne Brenchley, Mike Clark, E. G. Coleman, Alan Davies*, Stephen Dixon, Ian Evans, Robin Fisher, Bryan Formstone, Andrew Gouldstone*, Brian Grey*, Norman & Pauline Hallas, Dave Healey, J. Henson, I.W. Hughes, M. Hughes*, Simon Hughes, Vernon Hughes, J. A. Jackson, Elvet and Louise Jones, Gareth Jones, Helen Parry Jones, S. Jones, Paul Kenyon, M. Kinnear, The Revd Hugh Linn, Iolo Lloyd*, Edward Lyons, John Marchant, Emily Meilleur, John Moorcroft, G. E. Morris, Ralph Morris*, Geoff Neal*, Ron Plummer, Brian and Wyn Prince, David Pugh*, D.F. and C.M. Richardson, John Lawton Roberts, Keith Roffey, Barry Rogers, C. Rowley*, Bob Scott, Ian Spence, Andrew Gareth Stamp, John and Kevin Smith, John Stokes, J. and E. Walker, David R. Willett, Graham Williams*, Marian Williams

(refers to contributors from whom records were received indirectly)*

plus

BHP Petroleum Limited (Helen McSpadden)
Deeside Naturalists' Society, Connah's Quay Reserve
(Brian Grey, Secretary)

Merseyside Ringing Group

Welsh Development Agency Breeding Bird Surveys

Welsh Raptor Study Group Annual Report

Wrexham Birdwatchers Annual Report

and the systematic lists for the following RSPB Reserves:

Bagillt Bank, Oakenholt Marsh and Point of Ayr

(Gareth Stamp, Assistant Warden, Dee Estuary)

with acknowledgements to those recorders, including DNS members, who provided reserve log records and to Brian Grey and David Pugh for the WeBS counts and to Chester Rowley and the BHP Monitoring Programme.)

Inner Marsh Farm*

(Colin Wells, RSPB Site Manager, Dee Estuary Reserve)

with acknowledgements to those who contributed to the IMF log book and E.J. Abrahams, B.S. Barnacle, Steve Dixon, Andrew Gouldstone, and Gareth Stamp)

Conwy RSPB Nature Reserve*

(Ian Higginson, Warden)

**Note: only parts of the IMF and Conwy Reserves relate to Clwyd as outlined on pages 14-15.*

EDITORIAL

Norman Hallas

Welcome to the 1999 Clwyd Bird Report. My first task is to thank those past and current members of the Clwyd Bird Recording Group, especially Geoff Neal and Andrew Gouldstone (previous Recorder and Secretary respectively), for their efforts. A number of changes have occurred in the membership of the Clwyd Bird Recording Group in the last few years. We have a new and vigorous committee as outlined on the previous page. I would like to thank all of the participants for the time and effort which they have devoted to the work of the group during their period of membership. Secondly, I must thank all those who contributed to this report in any way. A list of Contributors is to be found at the end of the Report and a note of acknowledgement is appended to this editorial.

Our paramount aim - the 'bottom line', as it were - is to produce a report for 1999 and to catch up on the 'missing' years. It is seven years since the last full Report appeared. A supplementary report for 1993-5 has now been produced and we hope to publish one shortly for 1996-8.

It may be that the concept of a Bird Report has now outlived its usefulness. Alternatives exist in the form of web-sites, Birdline reports and the like. It would be constructive, therefore, if I set out my aims in endeavouring to produce such a document. There are two main reasons for producing a report. One is recreational - to make a collective record of bird sightings to remind participant Birdwatchers of what they and their colleagues have seen in our area. The second is that of conservation: to give some indication of the 'health' or otherwise of an area. Trends may be identified as signposts and parameters for action indicated. There is much more which can be done in both of these directions.

Boundary changes continue to cause confusion among those who send in records as well as among those who receive them. Please continue to send in records as outlined in this report. Any which are not appropriate

to this area will be sent on to the relevant Recorder. Our area is as set out on Page 4. I have not found it possible to distinguish in every instance between Flint (vc 51) and Denbigh (vc 50) records in this report. However, familiarity with sites and a list of O.S. numbers (key at the back of the report) should enable those who wish to disentangle them to do so. More productive, in my view, is the distinction between coastal and inland records. (In fact, in essence, this consists to a large extent of the distinction between Flintshire and Denbighshire respectively.)

Particular problems occur on the north-eastern and north-western extremities of our area. In the former, the boundary cuts across the Dee estuary and runs through the RSPB Inner Marsh Farm Reserve to the exclusion of most of the Reserve which is in Cheshire. I have thus only included records which are relevant to our area (the Border or Welsh Pool and some of the surrounding fields are in Flintshire). A similar prescription applies to the north-western boundary. The WOS position on this, is that vc 49, Caernarfon, "corresponds to the pre-1974 administrative county of Caernarfonshire. However, the new County Borough of Conwy straddles the old county boundary between Caernarfon and Denbighshire along the River Conwy. Here records from west of the R. Conwy should be sent to the Caernarfon Recorder and from the east of the river to the Denbigh recorder." However, the position may not be so straightforward: the county boundary cuts through the RSPB Conwy Reserve so that only one-third is in Denbighshire. It then runs north to Rhos-on-Sea and puts the Ormes and Llandudno into Caernarfon. I have thus included those records from RSPB Conwy which I regard as pertinent and in the belief that this is what our readers would wish. Records for Caernarfon should be sent to

*John Barnes, Caernarfon Recorder, Fach Goch, Waunfawr,
Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 4YS*

and/or to

*Rhion Pritchard, Editor, Cambrian Bird Report, Pant Afonig,
Hafod Lane, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 4BU*

with over 110 young fledging successfully. This outstanding result is due in part to the favourable weather conditions but also to the sterling efforts of both wardens and volunteers working at the colony. As in previous years, three dedicated wardens along with volunteers, operated an efficient and effective 24 hour protection scheme. This year we welcomed several new volunteers to the wardening team and hope to encourage more volunteers in the future.

The colony infrastructure was set up similar to other years. The perimeter fence was erected around the whole colony to dissuade people from walking over the shingle area. An internal electric fence was also erected but, due to the nature of the beach, it had to be sited on an area which proved less attractive to the terns. A hide was located on a dune ridge overlooking the colony.

Despite having dissuaded the birds from nesting on the most unsuitable areas, by using bunting stretched across these areas, the majority of the colony nested on low-lying shingle, which was susceptible to tidal inundation. This required a lot of effort on the part of the staff and volunteers to move nests and care for clutches whilst the water was high. As in previous years, this proved highly successful with young fledging from nests which had required this level of intervention. Some nests were, however, inevitably lost despite our efforts. Disruption from people was low this year

as was the problem of predation. Predators included the usual fox and crows and, towards the end of the season, we suffered the unwanted attentions of an individual Kestrel. It will probably mean more chick shelters will be in use next year.

[The RSPB is grateful to the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) for their continued support and generous funding of the Little Tern project.]

Gareth Stamp has recently replaced Andrew Gouldstone as RSPB Warden on the Dee Estuary and monitors the RSPB reserve holdings on the Welsh shore of the estuary, from Point of Air to Oakenholt Marsh. Gareth is one of the younger generation of ardent and skilful birdwatchers in the North-West of England and North Wales. Whatever the weather, as a fanatical seawatcher he is likely to be found scanning the waves from the dunes at Point of Air. Otherwise, if not too tired, he enjoys moth-trapping in his garden.

grounds. At these areas there is no inter-mixing. If for any reason a male intrudes on the female's patch, the hens will class the site as a lek and will move away. Hens, for the duration of this study period, have not been known to encroach upon a male-oriented feeding area. Within the forest, two such wintering grounds have been discovered and regularly watched. The females prefer a sheltered spot, rich in heather, cotton grass and bilberry, protected on three sides by Sitka spruce in which they roost. The males, on the other hand, can be found feeding two miles away in a deep, boggy ravine, open directly to the moor. There is little heather here but plenty of bilberry and again Sitka spruce for roosting in.

In the forest at Llandegla, the owners, UPM-Shotton Paper and Tillhill Economic Forestry have also been monitoring the Black Grouse. The tree line along the moorland edge has been brashed to a height of two metres, and in some places scalloped, to allow more light into the forest. Two rides exist, one at each end of the forest, and the heather down their length is harvested in rotation every four years. This keeps the older, woody growth of the heather to a minimum.

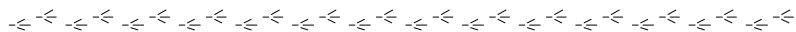
The forest is open to the public and there is a good network of tracks including part of the Offa's Dyke Path that can be walked or cycled at any time. This is a working forest and with machinery always on the move, care is needed if accidents are to be avoided. Please take heed of any warning signs.

Remember that if the grouse go, they are gone for good. Enjoy the splendour of the area but allow the grouse their privacy so that their numbers may once again increase and future generations of birdwatchers can marvel at the sight and sound of the blackcock at lek.

Ron Plummer spent 16 years in the Merchant Navy before settling down as an electrical technician with the Shotton Paper Company in Deeside. He is a Committee member of Deeside Naturalists' Society and assists with monthly WeBs counts. Currently, Ron is heavily involved with Black Grouse conservation on land owned by his employers in Llandegla. Ron lives with his wife and family in Holywell and enjoys walking, sketching and painting.

Gronant Little Tern Colony 1999

by Gareth Stamp



Overall, 1999 was an excellent season at Gronant. A record 86 pairs returned to breed

Finally, a word on methodologies. I have made use of all kinds of record in this report, from the casual reporting, whether on an individual or a group basis, to systematic and objective study. All are welcome and more of both are to be encouraged.

This report is a summary of information submitted and from which the Recorder and others can make assessments as to status, distribution and so on. It is neither desirable nor possible for all records to be published. It is one of our functions, however, for all records to be archived by the CBRG. This may be in written format or electronic. The Group, therefore, is endeavouring to update its current system of recording and archiving.

I hope that people will welcome this report and find it of interest. We have a diversity of habitats and the 220 species or so which are found in this report are partly a reflection of that. They are also an indicator of observer activity and I hope that readers will respond favourably in that direction.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In addition to all those who have sent in records (listed towards the end of this report) I would like to thank Anne Brenchley and the British Trust for Ornithology for the BBS figures; Helen McSpadden and BHP Petroleum Limited for their POA systematic list for January - June 1999; Alan Morton for the production of maps using DMAP; Ron Plummer and UPM-Kymmene for the 1999 UPM Avian Report; Ron Plummer for the illustrations; Mair Evans and Elvet Jones for checking the Welsh spellings; and the CBRG Committee for its thorough proof-reading - though, of course, any errors or omissions are mine.

Norman Hallas
63 Park Avenue
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LL12 7AW
Telephone: 01978 290522

NOTES ON THE SUBMISSION OF RECORDS

Standard recording forms are available from the CBRG Secretary and it would be most useful if these could be used for the submission of all records. Under the present recording system, it would be helpful if records are submitted in Voous species order and on either a monthly or quarterly basis. However, for records to be included in the Report, they must be submitted in good time.

In submitting records please ensure that you include the following information:-

- a) Date
- b) Location (with either O.S. Map reference or nearest town, village or landmark named on an O.S. map). For sensitive sites a four-figure reference would suffice.
- c) Species (with details of sex and age where possible)
- d) Number of birds seen
- e) Any other relevant information, particularly with reference to breeding status

The local significance of some records may not be immediately apparent to the observer, particularly with reference to common or garden birds. Please submit reports of any unusual numbers, behaviour or occurrence outside normal habitat, as well as any interesting anecdotes which may be of use in preparing a readable report.

As mentioned above, please submit all records to the County Recorder promptly at the end of each year, preferably by the end of March. Also acceptable are submissions on a monthly or quarterly basis.

SUBMISSION OF RARITY RECORDS

There are three categories of rarity: National, Welsh and County rarities. All of these require supporting evidence from the observer before they can be accepted for publication. For all National and

by Ron Plummer

The black grouse, *Tetrao tetrix*, is now classed as one of Wales' most endangered birds. Back in 1986, their plight was noted but still the population has declined by up to 60%. The reasons for this dramatic drop in numbers is not fully understood and survey work is continuing in the hope that at least a partial solution can be found before this species becomes extinct.

Ruabon Moor is 450 metres above sea level and can be a bleak, inhospitable place, open to gusting winds and driving rain but it can also be a beautiful, peaceful plateau when the gold of the early morning sun dances on the purples and greens of the land and the bubbling "rookooing" of black cock at lek drifts eerily on the pre-dawn air. Ground cover is mainly heather (*Erica tetralix*, *Erica cinerea* and *Calluna vulgaris*), with cotton grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) and some self-seeded birch (*Betula pendula*). The forest at Llandegla and the adjacent Ruabon Moor hold one third of the Welsh population of these wild and mysterious creatures and many long hours have been spent here watching the grouse from a safe distance. It is information gained from these observations that will hopefully provide the answers we need to sustain future generations of this magnificent bird.

Black Grouse have been known to display throughout the year but the main lekking season is from March until mid-May. The male is the noise-maker at these leks as he tries to attract a mate whilst at the same time ward off any competition, be it from adult birds or young pretenders. Courtship display usually begins an hour before sunrise and will continue in earnest for about three hours. By mid-morning the show is over, and although some calling still takes place, most birds have gone off to feed. During the display, the male will face an adversary, droop his head and wings, then raise his tail to reveal a fan of pure white feathers whilst all the time issuing a series of throaty calls. These encounters can be vicious but very rarely end in death. Young males are recognisable by the dull brown rather than the glossy black of their wings and also the less prominent bright red bushy eyebrows. At communal leks, dominant males usually take centre stage, with the first-year males staying at the edges or even lekking alone up to 100 metres away. Females are rarely seen on the lek but congregate in the tall grass at the edges to watch and wait, the mottled grey and fawn of their plumage giving them good camouflage when sitting on eggs. Being similar in appearance to the female red grouse, the grey hen can be distinguished by the lyre-shaped end to her tail.

At a co-ordinated count in April 1999, the area covering Llandegla forest and moor, and Ruabon Moor, was watched with a total of 49 blackcock being recorded.

As the year wears on and the chicks are fledged, both sexes return to their feeding

professional specialists organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, the RSPB, CCW, Forest Enterprise and local bird clubs.

The plans are intended to be both a product and a process. Ideally the LBAP will be working document to be continually worked on and updated. Real targeted action will be identified and it will be the responsibility of local working groups to push the Action Plan along, revise it and monitor progress. Hopefully, the reasons why certain species are declining rapidly and others are on the verge of extinction in NE Wales can be identified and action taken to reverse the decline.

Action in NE Wales

There are many bird species, identified for action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, that are particularly relevant to Clwyd. In addition to this list the voluntary conservation organisations produced a list of high (Red list species) conservation concern. The following list is a compilation of species relevant to Clwyd.

Birds of Conservation Concern in NE Wales:

Common Scoter, Merlin, Black Grouse, Grey Partridge, Nightjar, Skylark, Song Thrush, Spotted Flycatcher, Tree Sparrow, Linnet, Bullfinch, Reed Bunting, Corn Bunting

In the years to come, specific action will be identified for these species and many of us will be able to contribute information that informs these actions or will help with practical conservation work. In the meantime, the Clwyd Bird Recording Group would appreciate receiving all records for the above species until more details of local action plans are available.

Anne Brenchley has been a keen ornithologist since joining YOC at the age of nine. She became a full YOC leader in her twenties and led two holidays to the Cota Donana. Anne followed her B.Sc. in Zoology with a Doctorate in the breeding distribution of rooks. As a professional ornithologist, Anne has worked across the British Isles and abroad. She is now Assistant Team Manager in NW England for English Nature as well as BTO Regional Representative for Clwyd East. Anne also possesses a full 'A' ringing licence and operates as part of a North Wales ringing partnership.

BIRD of the YEAR
BLACK GROUSE *Tetrao tetrix*

Welsh rarities a full description must be submitted, together with an account of the relevant circumstances of the observation. A form for such submission is available from the County Recorder (SAE appreciated) or the basic format may be copied from the transcript below. This form may also be used for the submission of County rarities.

All rarity descriptions should be submitted via the County Recorder who will forward them to the appropriate body for ratification.

National Rarities

Records of National rarities are considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) and a list of these is published periodically in British Birds magazine.

Welsh Rarities

Records of Welsh Rarities are considered by the Welsh Records Panel. Welsh Rarities are defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year on average. The following list, which is reviewed annually, constitutes the species currently considered:

Cory's Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Purple Heron, White Stork, Bean Goose, Green-winged Teal, Red-crested Pochard, Ring-necked Duck, Ferruginous Duck, Surf Scoter, Montagu's Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard, White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagle, Corncrake, Spotted Crake, Crane, Stone Curlew, Kentish Plover, Temminck's Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Iceland Gull (of the race *L.g. kumlieni*), Bee-eater, Short-toed Lark, Woodlark, Shore Lark, Richard's Pipit, Tawny Pipit, races of Yellow Wagtail (not *flava* or *flavissima*), Nightingale, Bluethroat, Aquatic Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Barred Warbler, Pallas's Leaf Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Red-backed Shrike, Woodchat Shrike, Serin, Common Rosefinch, Cirl Bunting, Ortolan Bunting, Little Bunting.

Descriptions of WRP species should be submitted as soon as possible

after the sighting, preferably via the County Recorder or alternatively direct to the WRP Secretary, Jon Green, Crud yr Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan, Ceredigion SA43 2AR, and from whom WRP description forms are available.

County Rarities

With the increase in occurrence of certain species, the county rarity list needs to be reviewed regularly. To try to ensure complete accuracy in the report, records of these species should not be published without supporting evidence. The only possible exceptions to this rule (at the discretion of the Group) are long-staying birds seen by a number of observers.

With apologies to the less experienced observers, it is recognised that a record from an experienced observer, having previous experience of the species concerned, may require less detail than a record from an observer unfamiliar with the species, but a basic description of at least the principal identification features should be supplied by even the most experienced of observers.

The following list constitutes the species considered as Flintshire and Denbighshire rarities. This list will be reviewed periodically:

Red-necked Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Sooty Shearwater, Storm Petrel, Bittern, Spoonbill, Barnacle Goose, Garganey, Honey Buzzard, Red Kite, Dotterel, Wood Sandpiper, Grey Phalarope, Pomarine Skua, Long-tailed Skua, Sabine's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Iceland Gull, Roseate Tern, Black Guillemot, Hoopoe, Wryneck, Water Pipit, Nightingale, Cetti's Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Firecrest, Bearded Reedling, Golden Oriole.

In addition the Group may request supporting descriptions for otherwise common species outside their normal habitat range, e.g. inland records of seabirds; outside the normal season, e.g. summer migrants in winter or vice versa; and for records of distinctive subspecies, e.g. Grey-headed Wagtail *M.f.thunbergi*.

Birds and Biodiversity

by Anne Brenchley
BTO Representative for Clwyd East

Does it matter and why should we care?

Biodiversity is so important because without the wide range of plants and animals around us we would not be able to survive on this planet. No life form, however big or small, lives in isolation from other living things. Each contributes to the balance of nature and the survival of the planet. We as human beings are also part of this balance but the impact of our activities can change things far more dramatically than any other creature on earth. We have a responsibility for our actions and we can easily lose forever many plants and animals, which have evolved through thousands of years, by not understanding or ignoring the implications of our actions. The destruction of species and the habitats in which they live could put our very existence in danger.

Our quality of life is greatly enriched by the variety of species and habitats around us. Many species are already known to benefit us through medicine, food production, health care etc., but there are other species whose potential is yet unknown. Since our knowledge is so limited, it makes sense to conserve as many species as possible. We owe it to future generations not to destroy the heritage that can enrich their lives. Our culture is closely linked to landscapes and wildlife and the Welsh countryside has inspired many great poets, painters, writers and composers in the past and hopefully will continue to do so.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan

In 1994, as a direct result of the Convention on Biological Diversity (the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro in 1992), the UK Government published "Biodiversity: the UK Action Plan". Since then more documents have been produced, detailing how action might be undertaken at national and local levels, and for the first time costed habitat and species action plans have been published.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

The most effective means of achieving biodiversity action at a local level is through the preparation of Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs). Throughout Wales, LBAPs are being produced and in NE Wales, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and local authorities are taking the lead on action for habitats and species known to be special or under threat within the area. Birds are species of particular concern. Many species that were once common are no longer regularly sighted. This is known from the results of specific surveys undertaken by volunteers and

Table 10(d): Llyn Helyg (SJ1177)

	Jan 3rd	Feb 21st	Mar 20th	Apr 17th	June 19th	July 16th	Aug 14th	Sept 12th	Oct 10th	Nov 13th	Dec 26th
Little Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Gt Crested Grebe	-	2	4	4	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
Cormorant	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grey Heron	-	1	3	1	1	-	-	4	1	-	-
Mute Swan	-	1	-	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	-
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	1	2+6j	2+5j	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	-	6	2	1	-	2+4j	-	4	-	-	-
Shelduck	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wigeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teal	-	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mallard	-	7	9	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Pochard	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tufted Duck	-	25	34	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	17
Goldeneye	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Goosander	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moorhen	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	4	-	-	-
Coot	104	87	30	8	16	38	13	47	61	78	86
Bk-headed Gull	-	80	-	34	8	-	-	40	-	-	-
Common Gull	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser B-b Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lapwing	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Buzzard	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

Any sightings submissions which are under consideration in this report are indicated by the abbreviation 'tbc' ('to be considered') with the name of the appropriate authority appended.

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF RARITY DESCRIPTIONS

SPECIES

Number of birds Sex Age

PLACE

County (New)
(Old)

DATE(S) of your observations

Times Total Duration

Earlier/later dates by others if known

First & last dates if known

OBSERVER (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Address

Telephone

OTHER OBSERVERS (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Who found it? Who first identified it?

Who else is reporting it, if known?

Was it trapped for ringing? Date, if known
Ringer, if known

If dead, is it preserved? Where?

Was it photographed? Photographer and address, if known

Optical aids used Distance from bird

Previous experience of species

Experience of similar species

Weather conditions

Details of trapped bird to be completed by ringer

Date trapped Ring number

DESCRIPTION: Include an account of the relevant circumstances of the observation and a detailed description of the bird(s), preferably based on notes taken at the time of the observation before reference to

books. Attach original field notes where available. Attach extra sheets if necessary.

And finally, is this record 100% certain? Are there any who disagree?

The following extra guidelines may be of assistance.

Do not be too brief in your description of the bird. The fullest possible detail is required, plus a sketch if possible. Do not worry if you are no great artist. A simple annotated drawing(s) with salient features noted at the time will suffice. Insufficient detail usually guarantees rejection, but please do not put in details of features which you think should have been there if you did not see them. Notes should be written at the time of the sighting and not after you have returned home and consulted the literature. Take a notebook with you wherever you go.

If you discover a British or a Welsh rarity always try to get at least one other independent observer to see the bird and submit a description also. Please feel free to contact the County Recorder or other member of the CBRG if you wish. They may not always be able to get to see the bird themselves but may be able to arrange for someone to do so.

Some rarities seen by many observers are not always submitted, everyone leaves it to everyone else. This applies in particular to those who submit their findings to a Birdline. Please submit the record even if you were only one of several observers to see the bird. The more supporting evidence received the better, and yours may be the only record received.

Table 10(c): **Flint Industrial Site**
Private Site (SJ 238737)

	Jan 3rd	Feb 21st	Mar 21st	Apr 18	June 11th	July 18th	Aug 15th	Sept 12	Oct 9th	Nov 27th	Dec 26th
Little Grebe	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	1	3
Cormorant	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grey Heron	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	2	1
Mute Swan	3	2	2	2	2+8j	2+8j	2+8j	7	10	-	-
Mallard	4	35	8	16	16	4	10	25	16	19	10
Shoveler	18	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	5
Pochard	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	6
Tufted Duck	7	5	16	13	4	3+2j	18+3j	14	6	5	3
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	3	3	4+4j	1	4	5	4	1
Moorhen	33	28	14	8	4	5	9	13	18	19	23
Coot	106	52	47	27	26	40	66	47	62	49	82
Oystercatcher	5	20	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snipe	12	12	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
Bk-headed Gull	15	36	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	10	12
Common Gull	18	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	-
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kestrel	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 10 (b): Llyn Brenig (SH 9755)

	Jan 2nd	Feb 20th	Mar 20th	Apr 19th	June 11th	July 16th	Aug 14th	Sept 11th	Oct 10th	Nov 25th
Little Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gt Crested Grebe	1	-	2	2	1	4+1j	2+1j	2	-	-
Cormorant	6	5	18	9	-	-	2	6	10	12
Grey Heron	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	2
Greylag Goose	-	1	-	-	2+4j	1+4j	-	-	-	-
Shelduck	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wigeon	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	-	-
Mallard	27	4	2	1	2	-	31	70	9	60
Tufted Duck	-	-	-	-	4	-	3	1	11	7
Goldeneye	2	4	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	5
Goosander	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Coot	2	2	-	-	3	6	13+j	11	10	7
Oystercatcher	-	-	-	1	1	2+2j	-	-	-	-
Curlew	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redshank	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cmn. Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	4	3+1j	-	-	-	-
Bk-headed Gull	-	-	12	14	50	12+j	4	-	-	-
Common Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser B-b Gull	-	-	2	2	2	2	1	6	-	-
Herring Gull	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1
Buzzard	1	2	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	-
Merlin	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1999

The common English species names and their Welsh equivalent (plus the Latin scientific name) have been used throughout. Where modifiers are used from the British Ornithologists Union British List 2000, these are placed in italics below the familiar name.

Birds of Conservation Concern

In 1995, the RSPB published the list entitled *Birds of Conservation Concern in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man*. 280 regularly occurring species were split into three sections, as follows:

Red list species, of high conservation concern, numbered 36 and consisted of those whose population or range is rapidly declining, recently or historically, and those of global conservation concern.

Amber list species (110), medium conservation concern, are those whose population is in moderate decline, rare breeders, internationally important and localised species, and those of an unfavourable European conservation status.

Green list species are the remaining species (134) of lower conservation concern.

The (simplified) criteria are listed in the table below and indicated in the status description in the systematic list. In addition, those Red List species identified for action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and which are likely to be of particular relevance to Clwyd are indicated as "Birds of Conservation Concern in Clwyd" and indicated thus: **BCCC**. (See article on Local Biodiversity by Dr Anne Brenchley.)

The Dee Estuary

Red List Criteria

BD at least 50% decline in UK breeding population or range over previous 25 years

HD historical population decline in UK between 1800 - 1995

Amber List Criteria

BDM Moderate decline (25 - 49%) in UK breeding population or range over previous 25 years

BR Indicates 5 year mean of 0.2 - 300 breeding pairs in UK

BI indicates at least 20% of European breeding population in UK

WI indicates at least 20% of non-breeding populations in UK

BL at least half of the UK breeding population can be found in 10 or fewer sites in UK, but not BR

WL at least half of the UK non-breeding population can be found in 10 or fewer sites

SPEC species of European conservation concern

The Dee Estuary is the most important area for birds in Clwyd. It covers a large number of sites and organisations. An attempt has been made to abstract information from these sources but there is some overlap. The main components are as follows:

(a) The RSPB Dee Estuary Reserves:

Point of Ayr (SJ 140 840) [RSPB Management Agreement with the Environment Agency and BHP Petroleum] - designated POA in this report - is part of the Dee Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Grade 1, Ramsar and Special Protection Area. The reserve is 845 ha and consists of 814 ha of intertidal mudflats, 16 ha saltmarsh, 8 ha shingle and 7 ha sand dunes. A public car-park is located at Talacre village and access to the public hide is gained via a public footpath along the top of the seawall adjacent to the reserve. The hide overlooks the saltmarsh and adjacent mudflats.

Bagillt Bank (SJ 235 767) [RSPB Management Agreement with the Environment Agency] - designated BB in this Report - is part of the Dee Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), grade 1, Ramsar and Special Protection Area. The area spans 1680 ha and consists of 1579 ha mudflats and 80 ha saltmarsh. Public footpaths and car parks overlook the reserve at Flint, Bagillt and Greenfield.

Oakenholt Marsh RSPB Reserve (SJ 265 722) - designated OMR in this Report - is part of the Dee Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Grade 1, Ramsar and Special Protection Area. The reserve is 113.30 ha consisting of 67.20 ha saltmarsh and 46.10 ha of intertidal mud. Access is along a public footpath from Flint, overlooking the reserve. Members of Deeside Naturalists Society can view from their hide which overlooks Oakenholt Marshes from the eastern edge.

(b) RSPB Inner Marsh Farm (SSSI). (SJ 305735)

Please note: for Inner Marsh Farm (designated IMF), only parts of this Reserve relate to Clwyd viz.: the Border Pool and some surrounding fields in Flintshire. Where possible, species counts are given for these areas only. Where birds are to be found moving between the Welsh area and the main reserve, the total reserve count is given.

(c) Deeside Naturalists Society: Connahs Quay Reserve - designated CQR in this Report, includes Bunded Pools alongside the River Dee (SJ 270720).

(d) BHP Point of Ayr survey area (SJ 1284) - designated BHP‡. The main study area consists of Llawndy Farm & terminal; Warren Farm; The Warren; the RSPB

Appendix 10: Selected WeBs Counts for Inland Clwyd, 1999

Co-ordinators: Elvet and Louise Jones

Table 10 (a): Dolwen (SH 973703)

	Jan 2nd	Feb 20th	Mar 20th	Apr 19th	June 11th	July 16th	Aug 14th	Sept 11th	Oct 10th	Nov 25th	Dec 29th
Little Grebe	8	6	3	-	-	1	4	8	13	8	5
G Crested Grebe	-	1	2	2	2	2	1+2j	4	1	-	-
Cormorant	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Grey Heron	1	2	-	-	1	5	3	1	-	-	-
Greylag Goose	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Mallard	7	9	5	4	17	4	-	-	-	23	13
Shoveler	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pochard	5	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Tufted Duck	11	20	7	10	8	18	28	15	11	10	14
Goldeneye	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moorhen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Coot	62	47	21	14	23	48	87	100	30	25	32
Snipe	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Kingfisher	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Blk-headed Gull	-	10	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Gull	-	1500	200	-	-	-	-	1	-	30	32
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Buzzard	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Peregrine	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

MONTHLY TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3rd	21st	21st	18th	16th	13th	18th	16th	12th	10th	28th	26th
Purple Sandpiper	30	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Dunlin	30857	8505	4271	169	345	1	162	4775	1409	800	21627	14252
Ruff	4	10	1	12	0	0	1	4	4	0	0	2
Jack Snipe	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Snipe	180	32	16	59	5	0	0	213	30	11	18	58
Black-tailed Godwit	1170	138	188	1159	521	344	5	13	36	911	2543	1631
Bar-tailed Godwit	553	24	49	0	0	0	0	17	215	137	228	232
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	13	3	4	23	1	1	0	0
Curlew	4490	3777	2156	656	287	694	2563	3978	4259	3548	2303	3373
Spotted Redshank	4	3	11	4	0	0	1	6	11	6	0	3
Redshank	3621	3100	4907	689	6	3	1414	5206	6362	7328	3051	3514
Greenshank	4	0	3	0	0	2	13	28	81	17	2	3
Green Sandpiper	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0
Wood Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	2	0	8	7	4	1	0	0
Turnstone	662	14	34	106	0	12	16	117	79	217	289	453
Sandwich Tern	0	0	0	3	0	0	629	374	300	0	0	0
Common Tern	0	0	0	1	33	29	90	350	96	0	0	0
Arctic Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Little Tern	0	0	0	0	100	160	200	187	2	0	0	0
Kingfisher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Red-crested Pochard											1	1
Great Northern Diver											1	
Shag	1											
Green-winged Teal			1									
Kentish Plover					1							
Black Swan											1	

reserve at Point of Ayr. Circuit counts are given for the fields between Prestatyn and Ffynnongroyw (including Llawndy and Warren Farms).

(e) *Shotton Lagoons* is a private industrial site at SJ 3071. Viewing can be undertaken from Weighbridge Road.

Please note also that for **Conwy RSPB Reserve** (designated CR) only part (approximately one-quarter) of the Reserve is in the vice-county of Denbigh. The rest is in Caernarfonshire. Therefore, only the species which may be pertinent to this report are included. Where the distribution was general, total numbers for the reserve are given. Where the particular distribution suggested that the species were definitely in Caernarfonshire (for example, the submitted sightings of marsh warbler and broad-billed sandpiper), these have been excluded.

Other abbreviations used in the Systematic List

BBS	British Trust for Ornithology Breeding Bird Survey
BCCC	Birds identified as of Conservation Concern in Clwyd
CP	Country Park
HT	High Tide
LT	Low Tide
<i>MSW</i>	refers to monthly sea watching counts outlined in Appendix 4
ndg	no details given
tbc	to be confirmed (a description has not been received by the relevant records panel - <i>see Notes on the Submission of Records above</i>)
VC	Visitor Centre
<i>WE*</i>	see World's End survey outlined in Appendix 2
WRP	Welsh Records Panel
†	Reported sightings from a secondary source in the public domain (such as Birdlines and magazines) but which have not been submitted to the Recorder or the Welsh Rarity Panel (and therefore not confirmed by them). WRP and CBRG would welcome supporting evidence.
‡	sightings reported in the BHP systematic list (January - June only)

FOR SITE NAMES AND THEIR ABBREVIATIONS AND OS NUMBERS, PLEASE SEE GAZETTEER AT THE END.

RED-THROATED DIVER (*Gavia stellata*) *TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH*
Passage migrant and winter visitor to offshore waters. Amber List [SPEC] [MSW]

At least ten reported (†) off-shore at Gronant in January. Seen offshore from POA (‡ *et al*) where numbers rose from 10 on 4/01 to 80 on 20/03 with 8 on 17/04. 28 were reported *ibidem* for 30/09 with up to 7 in first week in October. Seven sightings at Rhos Point between 31/01 and 8/04 with a maximum of three on 4/04 (all in winter plumage except one on 8/04); 3 off Rhyl Splash Point on 3/03 and 2 recorded off Rhyl in November and December; 2 off POA, 2/10.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER (*Gavia arctica*) *TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU*
Occasional winter visitor. Amber List [BR, SPEC]

Three records: 1 off Towyn, 21/01(†); 1+ off Rhos Point, 6/02; 1 there, 24/02 and one seen close-in in breeding plumage, *ibidem*, 29/03; one offshore at Gronant, 9/03 (‡).

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (*Gavia immer*) *TROCHYDD MAWR*
Occasional winter visitor. Amber List [WI]

†1 off Llandulas with 5 Velvet Scoters, 2/01. Up to 3† seen with Red-throated and Black-throated divers at Rhos Point, on 6/02 and 29/03 and 1 at POA, 4/12

LITTLE GREBE (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) *GWYACH FACH*
Breeding resident and winter visitor

Successfully occupies most of our limited freshwater areas: reported on nine areas inland and eight coastal areas. Max. counts: bred at LPJ, 5 eggs hatched after 1st laying failed; 8 at Dolwen (02/01 and 11/09); 8 on March circuit count, BHP (‡); 6 on R. Clwyd, 13/11 and 5 at CQR, 26/12.

Dee Estuary : Only 1-2 seen on occasion at POA and OMR. 3 breeding territories at BHP (0-3 during 1992-8) where two pairs bred successfully at Llawndy Farm, raising 2 and 3 young respectively (‡); CQR: a pair raised 1 *juv* from a nest on the Ash Pool. A maximum of 5 birds were recorded at any one time. Shotton Lagoons: 2 for 3 weeks, Jan - Feb.

RSPB Conwy: successful breed in large numbers. 6 pairs bred producing 15 young.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*) *GWYACH FAWR GOPOG*
Breeding resident and winter visitor to coastal waters

LG	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	6	7	10	8	12	15	27	27	20	15	12	12

MONTHLY TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3rd	21st	21st	18th	16th	13th	18th	16th	12th	10th	28th	26th
Pintail	5659	110	120	20	0	0	0	1	950	1581	2356	1485
Shoveler	54	59	58	10	10	3	4	55	77	45	64	69
Pochard	28	16	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	12
Tufted Duck	22	43	42	52	38	71	11	12	22	60	19	73
Scaup	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Common Scoter	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0
Goldeneye	31	19	13	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	15
Smew	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red-breasted Merganser	30	9	68	28	0	0	1	0	4	14	8	12
Goosander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	3	2	2	7	8	8	3	5	2	4	1	0
Water Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	1	7
Moorhen	98	93	22	40	35	45	49	43	37	70	120	103
Coot	168	200	121	68	46	53	83	65	39	81	55	315
Oystercatcher	17390	7329	3700	3087	3348	2057	2477	9737	14889	12090	6389	8850
Little Ringed Plover	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ringed Plover	75	50	11	85	48	16	53	328	293	192	222	133
Golden Plover	85	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	42	74	126
Grey Plover	1037	115	653	0	0	0	0	8	2	78	742	351
Lapwing	8828	2786	153	121	70	161	262	778	1211	1809	4752	8278
Knot	2130	2355	520	11	0	0	0	3	593	2460	8683	2026
Sanderling	457	131	290	60	5	0	0	10	24	55	159	246
Little Stint	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	2	0	0

Appendix 9: TOTAL WeBS COUNTS FOR THE DEE ESTUARY 1999
(Wales & England)

MONTHLY TOTALS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3rd	21st	21st	18th	16th	13th	18th	16th	12th	10th	28th	26th
Red-throated Diver	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Grebe	8	5	9	12	2	3	8	27	13	23	5	24
Great Crested Grebe	14	1	7	8	4	16	0	6	1	16	8	14
Cormorant	208	111	100	141	136	178	158	193	381	541	138	216
Little Egret	3	3	1	1	0	1	0	1	5	2	2	3
Grey Heron	31	27	18	39	41	38	41	35	80	76	23	57
Spoonbill	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Mute Swan	74	90	96	39	48	6	17	12	18	73	72	83
Bewick's Swan	42	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	54
Whooper Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Pink-footed Goose	4	136	2	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	16
Greylag Goose	7	8	12	7	3	0	0	15	30	43	0	31
Canada Goose	1027	365	169	36	52	18	27	468	1170	1347	1012	1002
Barnacle Goose	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pale-bellied Brent	21	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Ruddy Shelduck	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Shelduck	3167	1173	1297	545	497	2286	993	257	7243	8814	1222	1923
Wigeon	2310	1008	293	18	4	4	1	3	673	481	558	2751
Gadwall	32	9	21	5	5	12	0	2	0	3	2	14
Garganey	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0
Teal	4544	1449	220	55	6	17	35	458	1559	1863	5185	5096
Mallard	1734	587	526	214	288	774	572	587	847	618	743	868

Present at six inland sites. Breeding confirmed at Dolwen (1 + 2j in August), Gresford Flash, Llyn Bran (where 2 ad + 3j in July and August), Llyn Brenig (max. 4 + 2j in July - August).

Maximum counts: a remarkable 250 offshore POA, 10/01; and 147 on 3/10 at BB.

Dee Estuary: POA: singles occasionally; max 3 on 27/12. BB: monthly maxima are given in the table. [BB: all counts at LT covering river stretch upstream and downstream from Greenfield Dock.] OMR: individuals regularly present. Maximum count was of 5 on 23/11. CQR: a maximum of 6 sighted on 3/01. Recorded most months.

RSPB Conwy: 1 pair bred producing 2 young. **This was a new breeding species for the Reserve.** Total figures for the Reserve are tabulated.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*) *GWYACH GYDDFDDU*
Scarce winter visitor. Amber List [BR]

GG	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	-	35	-	-	-	3	-	6	23	147	30	15
CR	-	-	1	2	3	3	6	5	3	3	1	1

POA: 2 birds present at HT on 31/08 (*tbc*) and †1 on 2/10.

RSPB Conwy: a single *juv* was present on the lower lagoon 23 September - 6 November. **A first record for the Reserve.**

FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialis*) *ADERYN-DRYCIN Y GRAIG*
now **NORTHERN FULMAR**
Breeding resident, summer visitor, and passage migrant. [MSW]

Main records: a pair at nesting site, S of Llanddulas (SH 906766); 9 seen at Colwyn Bay, 31/01; several off Rhyl in August (max. count = 7); 4 pairs at Prestatyn Quarry, 26/03; 12 passing POA, 22/05; several sightings of birds flying W past Gronant and POA in June and July (maximum 46 on 21/07) ; 6 off Llanddulas, 8/12.

RSPB Conwy**: singles were seen on five dates, 23 June - 1 September.

CORY'S SHEARWATER (*Calonectris diomedea*) *ADERYN-DRYCIN CORY*
A rare vagrant

A single bird observed on 21 June, Gronant sea-watch (A.G. Stamp; accepted by WRP.)

MANX SHEARWATER (*Puffinus puffinus*) *ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW*
Regular offshore during summer and autumn. Amber List [BI, BL, SPEC]

A steady, mainly westward, summer passage was observed at POA and Gronant

with 87 passing POA on 22/05; 95 on 19/06; a peak of 500 on 21/07, a single on 30/09, 10 on 3/10, and, off Gronant, 1400 on 20 June, 102 on 21/06 and 261 on 21/07.

MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER (*Puffinus yelkouan*) *ADERYN-DRYCIN MÔR*
Y CANOLDIR
Scarce passage migrant

1 flying west past POA, 30/09

STORM PETREL (*Hydrobates pelagicus*) *PEDRYN DRYCIN*
now **EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL**
Occasional summer passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC]

Two off POA, Flints (†ndg), 20/06 and 2 *ibidem*, 21/07 and 22/07; 2 past Gronant on 21/07 and 7 on 22/07 (tbc).

LEACH'S PETREL (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) *PEDRYN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG*
now **LEACH'S STORM-PETREL**
Autumn passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC]

†A total of 46, inc. a maximum count of 20, off POA, 3/10.

GANNET (*Sula bassana*) *HUGAN*
now **NORTHERN GANNET**
Passage migrant. Amber List [BI, BL, SPEC]

Present off Rhyl [MSW]: April and August (max. count = 9); noted offshore POA rising from 1 on 4/02 to 34 on 10/04 (‡); 2 seen off Kinmel Bay Beach, 1/06; 29 flying W past Gronant on 21/07; 1 off Pensarn Beach, 22/09. 7 offshore in winter at POA on 2/10.

CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) *MULFRAN*
now **GREAT CORMORANT**
Common non-breeding visitor

Despite complaints from anglers of large numbers depleting inland fish stocks (e.g. “over 50 birds at any one time” at Gresford Flash), our records do not reflect this, though one was seen “to catch a 3/4 lb carp” there on 4/10!

Inland: reported in small numbers from only six sites (max.: 18 in March at Llyn Brenig).

Coastal: present in much larger numbers: c150, R. Clwyd, S of Rhyl, 28/05; a max. of 100, Rhyl - Kinmel Bay, 11/10 [MSW]; 172 at Rhyl Beach roost site on 6/10. High tide WeBs counts for Gronant are given in the table (designated G).

COMMON TERN XS20657

1 08.08.1982 Shotton Steel Works

VV 09.06.1991 Seaforth, Liverpool

28km 2°

VV 14.05.1992 Seaforth; VV 30.05.1992 Seaforth

VV 30.05.1994 Seaforth; VV 16.05.1995 Seaforth

VV 20.05.1996 Seaforth; VV 16.05.1997 Seaforth

VV 10.05.1998 Seaforth

VV (Also seen four times to 14.07.1998. 5754 days)

**Appendix 8(b): Selected controls/recoveries for Clwyd, 1999
(Merseyside Ringing Group)**

GREY HERON 1287060 1(3/4) 03.04.1997 Oakmere, Delamere, Cheshire XL 18.02.1999 Penycae Reservoir, Clwyd (Leg bone and ring only found)	37km 233°
MUTE SWAN Z54181 8F 07.11.1989 Rhyl R 25.08.1990 The Mere, Shropshire S 24.12.1998 Four Crosses, Powys (Hit wires. Fate unknown) X 12.05.1999 Much Wenlock, near Telford, Shropshire	101km 142°
SPARROWHAWK DK54978 1M (5/5) 21.07.1997 Moreton, Wirral XF 28.02.1999 Shotton, Clwyd (Found freshly dead inside Steelworks store)	21km 165°
SPARROWHAWK DK54085 3M 12.09.1998 Thurstaston, Wirral XF 17.02.1999 Rhyl, Clwyd	24km 257°
OYSTERCATCHER FV08813 4 23.09.1979 Point of Ayr X 21.09.1999 West Kirby, Wirral (Found dead on beach)	9km 78°
CURLEW FS40887 2 17.11.1974 Point of Ayr, Clwyd R (6) 17.05.1996 Near Alte Piccardie, Weser-Ems, Germany (7852 days. Delayed reporting through re-ringing: 4094464)	701km 97°
PIED FLYCATCHER J863818 1 10.06.1995 Garthewin, Clwyd RB(4F) 16.04.1999 Nant, Gwynedd (Colour-ringed bird. Caught with male. Controller J. Wright)	24km 274°
BLACK-HEADED GULL EH42356 1 11.06.1978 Shotton R(8) 19.03.1998 Pennington Flash, Leigh (7221 days. Leigh Ringing Group)	45km 46°
COMMON TERN SX64664 1 16.06.1996 Shotton Steel Works V 26.12.1999 Off Mauretania, SENEGAL (16°14'N, 16°52'W) (Caught at sea and released)	4285km 197°

Dee Estuary: OMR and POA monthly maxima are tabulated. (For OMR the peak count was 23/11 and counts largely refer to birds roosting at high tide.) CQR: max of 41 recorded on mud-flats. BB: up to 14 at Walwen on 3/01; peak of 47 at BB on 29/09; birds regularly recorded on Flint marsh at HT April-June with peak of 8 on 18/04. Only an infrequent visitor to Shotton Lagoons.

Conwy Reserve: 1-2 recorded throughout the year with 5 on 17/09.

SHAG (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) MULFRAN WERDD
now **EUROPEAN SHAG**

Scarce, non-breeding visitor on the periphery of our area. Amber List [BI]

Four past POA, 2/10. RSPB Conwy: singles on R. Conwy adjacent to Reserve on 23/11 and 20/12 with two present on 22/12.

(CA)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
G	5	-	-	7	79	95	21	69	102	160	-	21
OMR	53	52	39	32	-	5	-	8	54	81	116	80
POA	6	3	-	1	-	-	2	12	10	-	-	6

BITTERN (*Botaurus stellaris*) ADERYN Y BWN
now **GREAT BITTERN**

Rare visitor to the periphery of our area. Red List [BD, HD, BR, SPEC]

RSPB Conwy: one on 7/03 with another on 25/10 and 28/10.

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*) CREYR BACH
Scarce localised winter and passage visitor

1 at POA on 31/07 and 1 on the Welsh Pool next to IMF, Sept. 15 with a bar-headed goose and several greylag.

Dee Estuary Reserves: POA: an *imm* with unusually yellow legs present 29-31 August favouring the colliery lagoons. BB: a single on Flint sandbanks on rising tide, 29/09. OMR: [†1 reported, 15/02]; two birds first noted on 11 August. Presumably same two birds seen 12/09 and 26/09.

GREY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*) CREYR GLAS
Widespread resident. [MSW] Heronry along R. Clwyd with at least 5 nests in 1999

Observed in both inland and coastal localities.

Inland: seen at at least 12 sites. Maximum count: 7 at Llyn Brenig and at Chirk Fisheries, both August (nearby heronries for latter at Ellesmere, Shropshire and on the Dee near Chester).

Dee Estuary Reserves: POA: regularly recorded. Max.: 6 in July. BB: no high counts recorded but regular sites included Walwen and Flint foreshore. OMR: present most months with peak count of 6 in September. *Birds either roost on marsh or feed in low water areas.* CQR: present through year with max of 10 on 13/11. RSPB Conwy: 1-3 recorded throughout the year. [Nearby heronry, though not in Clwyd, with 30 occupied nests in Benarth Wood SSSI, 30/04].

SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*) LLWYBIG
 now **EURASIAN SPOONBILL**
 Scarce winter visitor

Dee Estuary Reserves: BB: a single at LT off Flint Point on 12/10. OMR: two immature birds present at high tide roost on 26 September. Single bird present at HT roost on 9 October (same as BB?). IMF: up to four at varying dates between 14/3 and 3/10 but mainly on Cheshire part of the reserve.

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*) ALARCH DÔF
 Breeding resident. [MSW]

Breeding success in a number of areas: Acton Park, Brickfields Pond, Rhyl, CQR, Erddig Park, Gresford Flash, SLJ, LPJ, LLR.

Highest count: 14 (inc. 1 j), Marine Lake, Rhyl, 20/11; 14 (inc. 5 juvs) *ibidem*, 12/12. RSPB Conwy: 2 pairs bred, producing 7 young. Present throughout but small numbers than usual.

Dee Estuary Reserves: POA: 8 on April 28, 5 on 31/01, 2 on 18/07 and singles on 27/08 and 24/09. BB: only one record - a single at Flint Marsh, 13/06. OMR: two birds regularly present in February feeding on marsh at low tide. Two birds present April 1; one at HT on 16 May. Peak count of 8 on 9/10. CQR: a pr successfully raised 7 cygnets. IMF: much inter-change between reserve, Shotwick Lake and Burton Marsh. Birds flew in at dusk to roost. *Tabulated figures are for the whole reserve:*

BEWICK'S SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*) ALARCH BEWICK
 now **TUNDRA SWAN**
 Uncommon winter visitor seen in small numbers, usually on the north-eastern edge of our area. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

c30 Whooper/Bewick swans over Llandegla Forest, giving "short double whoo", 11/01. CQR: 3 present on 3/01. Shotwick Fields: 25+ on 24/11; 23 on 6/12; 12 on 13/12.

**Appendix 8(a): Selected list of birds ringed in Clwyd in 1999
 Merseyside Ringing Group**

	<u>ADULTS</u>	<u>PULLI</u>
Lapwing		6
Oystercatcher		3
Curllew (bred Cilcain Moor)		1
Common Tern		552
Meadow Pipit		4
Wren	28	
Duncock	13	
Robin	12	
Whinchat		50
Wheatear		50
Blackbird	28	
Song Thrush	9	
Sedge Warbler	24	
Reed Warbler	144	
Whitethroat	9	
Garden Warbler	11	
Blackcap	26	
Chiffchaff	13	
Willow Warbler	28	
Goldcrest	3	
Pied Flycatcher	2	18
Long-tailed tit	25	
Willow Tit	2	
Coal Tit	2	
Blue Tit	60	
Great Tit	11	
Treecreeper	1	
Chaffinch	42	
Greenfinch	127	
Bullfinch	3	
Reed Bunting	42	

Appendix 7(b): SELECTED BBS SPECIES COUNTS for 1 km squares

Buzzard	SH 8453	SH 8574	SH 9173	SH 9176	SH 9569	SH 9644	SJ 0165	SJ 0478	SJ 0882	SJ 1144	SJ 1673	SJ 1851	SJ 3749
Black Grouse	SJ 1345												
Grey Partridge	SJ 0165												
Lapwing	SH 8453	SJ 1851											
Snipe	SJ 1673												
Curlew	SH 8453	SH 9364	SJ 0165	SJ 1144	SJ 1345	SJ 1572	SJ 1851	SJ 2464	SJ 2547				
Stock Dove	SJ 0882	SJ 1572	SJ 1963	SJ 2464	SJ 2547	SJ 3348	SJ 3749						
Cuckoo	SH 9173	SJ 0165	SJ 0882	SJ 1345	SJ 1673	SJ 1865	SJ 2547						
Lesser Spotted	SJ 1673												
Skylark	SH 8453	SH 8574	SJ 0882	SJ 1284	SJ 1345	SJ 2547	SJ 3749						
Tree Pipit	SH 8574	SJ 1144											
Whinchat	SH 8453	SJ 1345	SJ 2547										
Grasshopper Warbler	SJ 2547												
Spotted Flycatcher	SH 8453	SH 9364	SH 9569	SH 9644	SJ 1144	SJ 1963							
Willow Tit	SJ 2863												
Bullfinch	SH 9364	SJ 0882	SJ 1865	SJ 1963	SJ 2464								
Hawfinch	SJ 0478												
Yellow-hammer	SJ 0882	SJ 1144	SJ 2365										
Reed Bunting	SH 8453	SH 8574	SJ 1284	SJ 1345	SJ 2574								

MS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
IMF	14	6	1	7	5	51	-	-	9	1	11	12

WHOOPE SWAN (*Cygnus cygnus*)

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

Uncommon winter visitor seen in small numbers. Amber List [BR, WI, WL]

1 at Shotton Lagoons in January; 1 at LT off Flint Point, 30/11, and 1 seen with a variety of other swans and geese at Shotwick Fields, 6/12.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

GWYDD DROED-BINC

Winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [WI, WL]

64 (†) at Shotwick on 24/01; 4 flew over Warren Farm on 1/02 (‡); 4 at R. Clwyd, near Denbigh, 28/03 and 2 at Clwyd estuary, 4/04 and 1 *ibidem* 29/05. BB: 112 birds 'loafing' off Bettisfield colliery at LT then moving upstream towards Panton Cop (SJ 235745). Two grey geese probably of this species, off Flint Point at mid-tide with Canada Geese, 3/02.

GREYLAG GOOSE (*Anser anser*)

GWYDD WYLLT

Uncommon breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL]

Present at Dolwen, Hanmer, PMPA, Llyn Brenig (max. 4 + 4j, May-July), Llyn Helyg (pr with 6 juvs on 19/06); R. Clwyd estuary, Shotwick Fields (max. 29 in 24/11). Max. number: c100 on stretch of R. Clwyd, nr Denbigh, 23/01.

Dee Estuary: 2-3 present, BHP May-June (‡); BB: 8 seen with Canada Geese on two dates, off Flint Marsh at LT on 25/01 and off Bagillt Marsh at mid tide, 3/02. OMR: recorded twice at HT in October - 18 on 12/10 and 26 on 17/10. CQR: 1 on 9/10. RSPB Conwy: pair bred producing three young, a **new breeding record**. One other record: 25 on 24/06.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE (*Anser indicus*)

An introduced species, occasionally seen in our area. Not yet fully naturalised in Britain and not on the British List

2 flew W over The Warren, BHP, June 15 (‡).

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

GWYDD CANADA

Breeding resident and winter visitor

Reported from twelve sites. Largest numbers were at Shotwick Fields, with >1000 on 13/12; 900 at OMR, 850 at BB, 133 at Hanmer Mere on 20/08; 61 at SPJ on 7/11; 47 R. Clwyd, Rhyl on 27/02; and 37 at Llyn Helyg on 7/02 where 5 juvs reported on 11/07.

Dee Estuary: Three breeding territories in BHP survey area (0-2 in 1992-98) where 1 pair hatched 3 young at Llawndy Farm (1 survived to fledging). POA: only a single on 8/11. BB: inner estuary flock off Flint, usually 'loafing' at LT near Lamp Rock (SJ 2673). Peak counts of 850 on 25/01 and 820 on 3/02. OMR/CQR: large numbers recorded in January (740 off FC, 23/01) and October (peak count of 900 at dusk on 21/10).

RSPB Conwy: the total reserve figures are tabulated. 2 pairs produced 8 young.

A **Lesser Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis parvipes / moffitti* was again recorded at the Welsh Pool, IMF on 9 August (*ibidem* one last year).

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*) GWYDD WYRAN
Rare vagrant. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

BB: Recorded at LT with Canada goose flock: singles off Flint Marsh on 25/01 and off Bagillt marsh on 3/02. 1 at Shotwick Fields, 9 August, 24 November and 6 December. RSPB Conwy: one on 22/06.

BRENT GOOSE (*Branta bernicla*) GWYDD DDU
Regular winter visitor in very small numbers, principally to the Dee estuary. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

CG	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR		12	12	6	15	34	34		12		15	

DARK-BELLIED: a single at POA on 3/01. One at RSPB Conwy on 20-21 October with 3 flying west on 7/11 (race unknown).

PALE-BELLIED: 6-11 regular at POA in January with 12 on 17/02 and early March. 10 on 10/12.

RUDDY SHELDUCK (*Tadorna ferruginea*) HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN
Rare vagrant. All British records currently treated as escapes

Dee Estuary: POA: 5-6 regular August 11-28 and 6 on 1/09. A single Ruddy Shelduck x Shelduck hybrid present on 7/10. OMR: single birds recorded at HT on October 12 and 21. 5 at Border Pool, IMF, 7/08 (1 f, 4 imm); 1 m *ibidem* 22/11 and at Shotwick Fields, Deeside, 25/09, 24/11, 6/12 and 25/12 (same bird?).

RSPB Conwy: one on 20/01.

SHELDUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*) HWYADEN YR EITHIN
now **COMMON SHELDUCK**

Occasional breeding resident and very common estuarine winter visitor. Amber List [BI, WI, WL]

SPECIES	N	PROP	MEAN	MAX	TOTAL
GOLDFINCH	16	62	6.3125	21	101
LINNET	9	35	6.5556	15	59
LESSER REDPOLL	4	15	3.0000	3	9
BULLFINCH	5	19	1.8000	3	9
HAWFINCH	1	4	1.0000	1	1
YELLOWHAMMER	3	12	1.6667	2	5
REED BUNTING	5	19	2.8000	4	14
TOTAL SPECIES = 90					

SPECIES	N	PROP	MEAN	MAX	TOTAL
MISTLE THRUSH	17	65	2.7647	11	47
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER	1	4	1.0000	1	1
SEDGE WARBLER	1	4	3.0000	3	3
LESSER WHITETHROAT	1	4	1.0000	1	1
WHITETHROAT	11	42	2.0909	5	23
GARDEN WARBLER	7	27	1.8571	3	13
BLACKCAP	16	62	2.1875	4	35
WOOD WARBLER	1	4	1.0000	1	1
CHIFFCHAFF	15	58	4.2000	10	63
WILLOW WARBLER	22	85	5.1364	10	113
GOLDCREST	10	38	2.8000	8	28
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER	6	23	1.6667	3	10
PIED FLYCATCHER	5	19	1.8000	3	9
LONG-TAILED TIT	10	38	2.5000	7	25
WILLOW TIT	1	4	1.0000	1	1
COAL TIT	6	23	3.0000	8	18
BLUE TIT	23	88	8.1304	37	187
GREAT TIT	21	81	3.6190	10	76
NUTHATCH	8	31	1.5000	3	12
TREECREEPER	8	31	1.6250	4	13
JAY	8	31	1.2500	3	10
MAGPIE	24	92	6.9167	27	166
JACKDAW	20	77	14.1000	82	282
ROOK	15	58	12.6000	70	189
CARRION CROW	26	100	13.2692	41	345
RAVEN	5	19	2.4000	3	12
STARLING	15	58	20.6000	70	309
HOUSE SPARROW	16	62	12.0000	62	192
CHAFFINCH	26	100	9.1923	23	239
GREENFINCH	17	65	2.9412	6	50

Largest numbers recorded: Dee estuary - 2850 at POA, 25/09; R. Clwyd estuary - 40+ on 24/04.

Dee Estuary Reserves: monthly maxima are given in the table. POA: peak counts on 25/09 and 7/08. BB: most counts refer to the Flint foreshore area. Peak count on 27/09 and involved birds off Flint Point. OMR: thought to be generally under-recorded. Peak count on June 13. No broods reported on or near the reserve. CQR: a max of 152 birds recorded in the Flint & CQ area on 5/06. BHP: 1 breeding territory at Llawndy Farm but thought to be unsuccessful (0-1 in 1992-98) (‡).

Inland: 5 noted at Pendinas Reservoir, Llandegla in November.

MANDARIN (*Aix galericulata*)

HWYADEN FANDARIN

An uncommon exotic species: probably escapes. Admitted to the British list in 1971, long after its introduction to Britain from the Far East in the mid-18th century.

Several sightings of single birds: 1 at Greenfield Heritage Park, 11/01 (†); *f* at small pool at Clocaenog, 2/04; 1 *m* at Acton Park, 18/11, and at Gresford Flash, October - December and Gresford Lake, November 20-22 [*all latter presumably same bird?*]

WIGEON (*Anas penelope*)

CHWIWELL

now **EURASIAN WIGEON**

Fairly common winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL]

Found inland in small numbers and on the Dee estuary and offshore in larger numbers.

(SU)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	14	47	24	13	11	2	-	-	434	-	-	18
OMR	-	-	47	34	71	86	12	1	9	-	6	-
POA	190	130	105	108	8	119	92	2200	2850	1500	705	237
CR	23	18	50	111	135	128	5	2	2	10	5	5

Inland: Present for only three (winter) months at Llyn Brenig (max = 24 in November); 6 at 'Tommy's Wood Pool', Borrass, (SJ 354530), 22/10.

Coastal: largest numbers - 200 off Rhyl in January [MSW]; 350 at R. Clwyd, Rhyl, 27/02; 400 at OMR in November; 1150 at BB on 24/02.

Dee Estuary Reserves: BB: counts were of flocks 'loafing' at low water near Lamp Rock (SJ 2673) and off Flint Point. Peak counts: 1150, 24/02; 1050, 18/12; 930, 15/02. OMR and POA monthly maxima are tabulated: *OMR Peak count on 17 November as birds 'loafed' on or in the main gutter. POA peak count: October 25. CQR:* recorded in most winter months in small numbers with a maximum of 321 on

mud on 5/02.

RSPB Conwy: total figures for the reserve are tabulated. Pair observed copulating on 16/04. 3 m + 1 f present on 18/04 with a pair on 1/05. A f was then seen 14-23 June but breeding not confirmed.

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*) CHWIIWELL AMERICA
Scarce vagrant

IMF: a drake was present on the Border Pool (Flintshire) on 22/11 and 23/11.

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*) HWYADEN LWYD
Uncommon winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

Recorded in six areas this year: 1 pair at Ysceifiog Lake, 25/04; a pair at Pentre Mawr Park Abergele, 7/10; Llyn Helyg: 1 on 7/02; 24 on 10/12.

Dee Estuary: CQR: present on Ash Pool throughout winter months with a maximum of 15 on 13/11. IMF: wintering birds moved between the reserve (in Cheshire) and Shotwick Lake in Flintshire, depending on disturbance. A m on Border Pool, IMF, 24/11. Shotton Lagoons: present Jan - May with a maximum of 21 in January.

RSPB Conwy: a pair was present during spring with a m remaining for the summer but no evidence of breeding. (*The monthly maxima for the whole of IMF and Conwy*

WN	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	-	200	355	110	-	-	-	-	10	200	400	-
POA	70	45	-	-	-	-	1	3	17	94	25	35
CR	60	45	20	4	2	1	2	13	149	150	200	60

reserves are tabulated.)

TEAL (*Anas crecca*) CORHWYADEN
now **COMMON TEAL**
Rare breeder but locally abundant and widespread winter visitor. Amber List [WI]

Found inland in smaller numbers: at Llyn Brenig and Llyn Helyg (30 on 7/02) and on pools in the Ruabon area (max. 18 on 10/10)

and in larger numbers along the coast and the Dee estuary: max. counts: 210 in January at BHP/Warren Fm.; 250, R. Clwyd, Rhyl, 27/02; 100+ for the Border Pool, IMF; 433 at OMR (28/11); 208 at POA and 1319 Flint-CQR, 24/02.

Dee Estuary Reserves: CQR: absent from area only May - July. **A maximum of 1319 birds present from Flint-Connah's Quay on 24/02.** Other (monthly) maxima are tabulated. OMR: Peak count of 433 on 28/11. Counts made at high tides: tides need to be very high for ideal counting conditions when the marsh is completely flooded, lifting the teal out of the gutters and vegetation. Otherwise under-recording may result. POA peak count dates: 19/01, 29/11 and 24/12.

SPECIES	N	PROP	MEAN	MAX	TOTAL
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL	6	23	87.5	500	525
HERRING GULL	8	31	2.7500	6	22
FERAL PIGEON	3	12	6.6667	15	20
STOCK DOVE	7	27	1.5714	3	11
WOODPIGEON	23	88	11.5652	28	266
COLLARED DOVE	15	58	4.9333	18	74
CUCKOO	7	27	1.7143	4	12
SWIFT	11	42	3.9091	10	43
KINGFISHER	1	4	1.0000	1	1
GREEN WOODPECKER	1	4	1.0000	1	1
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER	8	31	1.3750	3	11
LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER	1	4	1.0000	1	1
SKYLARK	7	27	2.8571	7	20
SWALLOW	26	100	7.5385	24	196
HOUSE MARTIN	16	62	6.4375	26	103
TREE PIPIT	2	8	1.0000	1	2
MEADOW PIPIT	7	27	19.1429	62	134
GREY WAGTAIL	2	8	1.0000	1	2
PIED WAGTAIL	11	42	1.4545	3	16
DIPPER	1	4	3.0000	3	3
WREN	25	96	9.0800	33	227
DUNNOCK	22	85	3.1818	14	70
ROBIN	24	92	6.4167	26	154
REDSTART	9	35	2.2222	6	20
WHINCHAT	3	12	4.0000	5	12
STONECHAT	1	4	5.0000	5	5
WHEATEAR	5	19	2.2000	5	11
BLACKBIRD	25	96	10.5600	20	264
SONG THRUSH	19	73	2.8421	9	54

Appendix 7(a): BBS (BTO) Species Summary for Clwyd, 1999

N = number of squares occupied
 PROP = proportion of squares occupied
 MEAN = mean of the highest counts from early or late visits across squares
 MAX = maximum number counted on a site visit
 TOTAL = total of highest counts

SPECIES	N	PROP	MEAN	MAX	TOTAL
GREY HERON	5	19	1.2000	2	6
MUTE SWAN	1	4	2.0000	2	2
CANADA GOOSE	5	19	4.0000	10	20
SHELDUCK	1	4	2.0000	2	2
MANDARIN	1	4	5.0000	5	5
MALLARD	10	38	4.8000	14	48
TUFTED DUCK	1	4	6.0000	6	6
RUDDY DUCK	1	4	9.0000	9	9
SPARROWHAWK	3	12	1.0000	1	3
BUZZARD	13	50	1.5385	3	20
KESTREL	5	19	1.2000	2	6
RED GROUSE	1	4	1.0000	1	1
BLACK GROUSE	1	4	1.0000	1	1
RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE	1	4	1.0000	1	1
GREY PARTRIDGE	1	4	1.0000	1	1
PHEASANT	14	54	2.7857	15	39
MOORHEN	3	12	4.0000	6	12
COOT	2	8	5.5000	7	11
OYSTERCATCHER	1	4	4.0000	4	4
RINGED PLOVER	1	4	2.0000	2	2
LAPWING	2	8	2.5000	3	5
SNIPE	1	4	1.0000	1	1
CURLEW	9	35	2.7778	7	25
BLACK-HEADED GULL	3	12	2.0000	2	6

RSPB Conwy**: a *f* was observed with 3 newly hatched ducklings on 14/07 - a **new breeding species for the reserve**. Totals for the reserve are tabulated.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
IMF	10	8	4	11	12	17	10	8	6	11	2	9
CR	4	5	1	4	2	1	-	1	2	2	2	3

GREEN-WINGED TEAL (*Anas crecca carolinensis*) CORHWYADEN ASGELL

WERDD

Scarce vagrant

[RSPB Conwy: a *m* arrived with a flock of 100 common teal and was present all day on 8/02. This constitutes the second reserve record - accepted for Caernarfon by WRP.]

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

HWYADEN WYLLT

Common and widespread breeding resident and winter visitor

Recorded inland from twelve areas: max. 75, September, Llyn Brenig; 102 on Brickfields Pools, Rhyl, 3/01 and c100 on Denbigh stretch of R. Clwyd, 23/01. Coastal: 81 at PMPA, 22/09; 80+ at Rhyl Marine Lake, 2/12.

Dee Estuary: 17 pairs est. to have bred at Llawndy and Warren Farms (0-15 in 1992-98). BB: recorded on only three dates - 10 on 18/04, 3 on 16/05, and 2 on 13/06. CQR: at least 2 pairs bred with 10 *juvs* seen. Monthly maxima for OMR and POA are tabulated. (OMR peak counts were on 29 July and 3 September. POA: 12/08, 24/09, 9/10.) Shotton lagoons: peak count was 256 in January. Seven pairs

T.	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	-	-	-	6	-	-	19	-	180	300	433	250
POA	208	101	54	8	-	-	21	55	191	119	200	174
CR	75	100	25	11	1	7	12	112	160	200	200	100

nested and successfully raised 26 young.

RSPB Conwy: c20 pairs bred.

PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

now **NORTHERN PINTAIL**

The Dee estuary is an internationally important site for this winter visitor. Amber List [BR, WI, WL, SPEC]

Maximum counts: 5100 at BB, 3/11; 339 at POA, 24/11; 2000 off FC, 23/01.

Dee Estuary Reserves: BB: Counts were made off Flint Point throughout the winter period mainly at LT. Peak counts: 28/10 and 3/11. POA: 24/11. Monthly maxima are given in the table. OMR/CQR: few records this year. Flocks roost off FC. A max count of c2000 on 23/01; 80 birds present at HT on January 7 (OMR) and in the second winter period 30 present at low tide on September 3.

RSPB Conwy: one on 6/09, 3 on 12/09, 7 on 14/09, 1 on 15/09, 6 on 17/10, 1 on 20/10 and one on 10/12.

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*) HWYADEN ADDFAIN
Uncommon passage migrant. Amber List [BR, SPEC]

Few records for 1999: POA - singles on 16/08 (probably from Warren Farm) and 26/08. RSPB Conwy: 1 *juv* on 24/08 and 26/08 and 2 *juvs* on 21/09.

(MA)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	-	-	-	3	80	1	589	-	350	-	20	18
POA	274	164	18	22	2	267	183	562	358	474	235	197
CR	39	35	40	16	33	93	120	130	129	100	30	40

SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*) HWYADEN LYDANBIG
now NORTHERN SHOVELER
Winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [WI]

Found *inland* at Acton Park and Hanmer Mere and *coastal* at Industrial Site, Flint, 3/01; BHP (a pair, Jan-March); POA where 2 on 16/08 and 26/08, 7 on 9/11 and 8 on 24/12; BB, off Flint Point where 6 birds at LT on 12/10; CQR with max of 2 present through Jan-March; Shotton Lagoons, Jan, Feb., Oct. (maximum 45 in January); Border Pool, IMF (max. 20+ on 6/12) and RSPB Conwy (*total numbers tabulated; present in spring but no evidence of breeding*).

RED-CRESTED POCHARD (*Netta rufina*) HWYADEN GRIBGOCH
Rare: possible escapes

†3 at POA, 6/10. A single *ibidem* on 10/10 and throughout December†; also [presumably same bird] at nearby Warren Farm on 17/10. 1 *f* at BHP Pool, POA, (SJ

(PT)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	700	600	350	-	-	-	-	-	150	5000	5100	1860
POA	192	109	1	-	-	-	-	21	150	220	339	237

Appendix 6: Welsh Raptor Study Group Report Totals for 1999
(Vice-counties Flintshire and Denbighshire only)
(n = occupied nests only)

Species		Eggs (minimum)	Young hatched (minimum)	Young fledged (minimum)
Barn Owl	Totals	3	3	3
	(n = 1) Average	3.00	3.00	3.00
Buzzard	Totals	33	24	21
	(n = 16) Average	2.06	1.50	1.31
Goshawk	Totals	3	3	3
	(n = 1) Average	3.00	3.00	3.00
Hen Harrier	Totals	15	12	10
	(n = 3) Average	5.00	4.00	3.33
Kestrel	Totals	41	36	34
	(n = 9) Average	4.56	4.00	3.78
Long-eared Owl	Totals	7	7	4
	(n = 2) Average	3.50	3.50	2.00
Merlin	Totals	19	18	18
	(n = 4) Average	4.75	4.50	4.50
Peregrine	Totals	24	17	13
	(n = 9) Average	2.67	1.89	1.44
Sparrowhawk	Totals	8	8	8
	(n = 2) Average	4.00	4.00	4.00
Tawny Owl	Totals	21	17	12
	(n = 10) Average	2.10	1.70	1.20
<i>plus</i> Raven	Totals	58	40	33
	(n = 13) Average	4.46	3.08	2.54

Ringing totals continued

Species	1997			1998			1999		
	T	NB	R	T	NB	R	T	NB	R
Goldcrest	119	117	2	116	111	5	177	170	7
Pied Flycatcher				1	1				
Long-tailed Tit	17	14	3	29	21	8	46	16	30
Marsh Tit	1	1					1	1	
Willow Tit	12	8	4	19	12	7	21	13	8
Coal Tit	6	6		7	7		11	10	1
Blue Tit	55	44	11	25	20	5	90	81	9
Great Tit	9	7	2	7	7		8	7	1
Treecreeper	1	1					1	1	
Jay	1	1		1		1	1	1	
Chaffinch				8	5	3	8	7	1
Goldfinch				6	6				
Siskin	1	1		18	18		8	7	1
Redpoll	13	13		42	40	2	22	16	6
Bullfinch	14	13	1	18	16	2	13	13	
Reed Bunting	6	6		6	6		2	2	
TOTALS: 39 SPECIES	414	383	31	874	743	131	958	805	153
Key:									
T = Totals									
NB = New Birds									
R = Re-traps									

124844), 4/12.

POCHARD (*Aythya ferina*)
now **COMMON POCHARD**

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

A freshwater winter visitor seen in small numbers. Amber List [WI, WL]

Recorded at: BHP (Warren Farm), CQR; Greenfield Heritage Pool, Holywell, Gresford Flash, Llyn Helyg, PMPA, POA, Rhyl Brickfields Pools where 37 on 3/01; Shotton Lagoons (regular; peak of 24 in January); Stryt Las, Johnstown where max. count was 34 on 9/12 and RSPB Conwy (see table).

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*)

HWYADEN GOPOG

Uncommon breeding resident and regular freshwater winter visitor

Fairly well established in small numbers on our lake areas: Small numbers recorded on twelve freshwater sites. Maximum counts: 94 in May at Shotton Lagoons and 93 in October plus 37 in June and November; 35 at Stryt Las, Johnstown, 13/11; 35 at

SV	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	11	12	3	2	3	3	3	10	6	5	3	4

Brickfields Pools, Rhyl on 10/01 and 24 at Ysceifiog Lake, 8/03. Proven breeding success at PCR, July-August. Present at BHP (up to 10), CQR Jan - July (up to four birds) and at RSPB Conwy but no evidence of breeding.

SCAUP (*Aythya marila*)
now **GREATER SCAUP**

HWYADEN BENDDU

Regular marine winter visitor. Amber List [BR, SPEC]

Present off Rhyl [MSW]: December, January (max. count = 20); 3m + 1f off Rhos-on-Sea, 24/02.

A single present at POA on 30/09 and 1 at Shotton Lagoons in October. †4 off Llanddulas, Sept. (ndg).

EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*)

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

now **COMMON EIDER**

Uncommon marine winter visitor. Amber List [WL]

Strangely, a winter presence reported at Llyn Brenig (Nov. - April); max. seven (tbc).

(PO)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	52	56	20	-	-	-	12	17	8	20	37	18

Also a pair on Conwy estuary adjacent to RSPB Conwy on 25/05.

LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*) HWYADEN GYNNFON HIR
Uncommon marine winter visitor

†1 at POA, 6/12.

RSPB Conwy: one on the river off Glan Conwy on 20-21 October. Visible from the reserve at low water feeding in the main tidal creek - **first record for the reserve.**

COMMON SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*) MOR-HWYADEN DDU

(TU)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	6	8	-	8	7	2	2	5	4	5	3	6

now **BLACK SCOTER**

Marine winter visitor. Red list [BD, BR, WL] BCCC

Often in very large numbers off-shore between Colwyn Bay and Rhyl

Max. counts: at Pensarn Beach, 1200 on 31/01; 100+ reported off Llandulas, 8/12; 40 off Rhyl Splash Point on 3/03. Present near Rhyl [MSW]: Jan - February and Aug - Dec. (maximum monthly count = 200).

Smaller numbers off-shore at Gronant and POA through the year. Maximum counts were: 18 at POA on 17/04 and 22/05; 21 flew W past Gronant, 21/07; 40 at POA on 3/10. OMR: a single female, presumably ill, in main gutter, HT, February 17.

VELVET SCOTER (*Melanitta fusca*) MOR HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD
Uncommon marine winter visitor. Amber List [WL, SPEC]

5 off Llandulas, 2/01; 6 *ibidem*, 21/01 and 5 on 6/12 (all †).

GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*) HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR
now **COMMON GOLDENEYE**
Widespread winter visitor. Amber List [BR, WL]

Inland: sightings at about ten sites this year.

Coastal: several sightings (max.: 10 at Kinmel Bay Beach, 31/01; 12 at the Marine Lake, Rhyl on 5/12). Dee Estuary: CQR: max of 3 recorded on 24/12 and 2 in Jan, Feb., March and October. BB: 2 birds at LT on 1/11. Shotton lagoons: 6 were recorded in February and 3 in November.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*) HWYADEN FRONGOCH
Rare breeding resident and marine winter visitor in small numbers

Regular at Marine Lake, Rhyl in November and December where max. count 20 (7m,

Appendix 5: Ringing Totals
Clocaenog Forest (Bronbannog SJ 0352)
Author: Ian Spence

Species	1997			1998			1999		
	T	NB	R	T	NB	R	T	NB	R
Sparrowhawk							2	2	
Tawny Owl							2	1	1
G. S. Woodpecker							1	1	
Swallow							5	5	
Tree Pipit	1	1		1	1				
Meadow Pipit	2	2		2	2		5	5	
Wren	30	28	2	49	43	6	63	49	14
Dunnock	8	8		14	14		15	10	5
Robin	36	34	2	70	67	3	67	60	7
Redstart				4	4		17	17	
Blackbird	1	1		17	13	4	15	13	2
Song Thrush	6	6		1		1	7	7	
Redwing	9	9					8	8	
Grasshopper Warbler	3	3		5	3	2	3	3	
Sedge Warbler	3	2	1	1	1				
Reed Warbler							1	1	
Lesser Whitethroat	2	2							
Whitethroat				13	13		1	1	
Garden Warbler	1	1		23	18	5	15	11	4
Blackcap	18	18		35	32	3	46	45	1
Yellow-browed Warbler	1	1							
Chiffchaff	15	14	1	30	28	2	34	30	4
Willow Warbler	23	21	2	306	234	72	242	191	51

continued overleaf

Appendix 4: Extracts from monthly sea watching records, 1999

Rhyl Promenade - The Grand, Prestatyn

Author: Roger Bagguley

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Red-throated Diver											2	2
Great Crested Grebe	13	3										10
Fulmar								7				
Gannet				4				9				
Grey Heron							3					
Mute Swan						6						6
Wigeon	200											
Scaup	12											20
Common Scoter	60	15						5	200	10	10	
Merganser		7										
Merlin								1				
Oystercatcher						150						
Turnstone	7									10		
Sandwich Tern							30	19				
Little Tern							50					
Razorbill				1								
Skylark					4							
Swallow				20	50					1		
House Martin					30							
Wheatear			1		2							

Notes:

- 1 Good numbers of Cormorant, Herring Gull and Black-headed Gull seen throughout the year
 - 2 Maximum counts only are shown
- Total species = 25

13f) on 21/11 and 5m+15f on 2/12. Present off-shore at Rhyl [MSW] where max count 7 in February; Towyn Beach where reached max. of 6 on 31/01 and Pensarn Beach where up to two pairs on 14/03).

Dee Estuary: 3 passing W, Gronant, 22/07. BB: few in second winter period with a peak of 8 on 12/10 but up to 31 at Walwen in February. CQR/OMR: poorly recorded this year with only one record, October 9. POA as in table. Peak count for POA: 25/10.

GOOSANDER (*Mergus merganser*)

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Breeding resident and winter visitor

Reported at Llyn Brenig, Llyn Helyg, Erddig, Sutton Green (SJ 405485), Hanmer and Pwllglas, Ruthin (SJ 120550) with successful breeding on the Dee in the Llangollen-Berwyn area and along the Rivers Clwyd and Elwy (SJ 031761-026776).

Dee Estuary Reserves: BB: singles recorded on 29/09 and 30/11 off Flint Point at low tide.

RSPB Conwy: only one record - an unusually long-staying bird, 11/02 - 19/04.

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

HWYADEN GOCH

Rare breeding resident and freshwater visitor.

Relatively few records received: seen at LPJ, Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele, 'Tommy's Wood Pool', Borrass (SJ 354530), Hanmer and Shotton Lagoons. Bred at Erddig. 6

(GN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	3	4	5	7	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	2

pairs bred at RSPB Conwy.

RED KITE (*Milvus milvus*)

BARCUD

Occasional visitor. Red list [HD, BR]

Five reports of single birds: nr Glyndyfrdwy (SJ 150425), June; nr Acrefair (SJ 274432), July; Llanfair Talhaiarn (SH 928703), 24/07; at Aled Isaf Reservoir (SH 913595), 11/09; nr WE, 26/09.

A wing-tagged bird released in S. Scotland from Germany in 1998, spent much of winter until Whit Bank holiday, in Ruthin area (per A.V.Cross, project officer, Welsh Kite Trust via Ian Evans)

(RM)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	5	3	9	2	1	-	1	1	1	24	8	6
CR	13	12	-	30	4	10	-	-	10	34	15	12

MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*)
now EURASIAN MARSH HARRIER
Very scarce passage migrant. Red list [HD, BR,]

BOD Y GWERNI

Unusual records for our area: f or imm at CQR, 7/08. RSPB Conwy: the only record involved a f on 18/05.

HEN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

BOD TINWEN

Scarce breeding species and winter visitor. Red list [HD, SPEC]

1st “grey” *m* of spring on RM, 17 March and “ring-tails” present there in autumn and at least up to Dec., probably hunting Red-legged Partridges put out for shooting.

Other records: a ring-tail seen NW edge of Betws-yn-Rhos (SH 9073), 6/07; a *juv* seen at Llyn Brenig in August and September; a *m* seen at Aled Isaf Reservoir (SH 913595), 11/09; a *f* flushed by scramblers, towards Blaen-cwm-llawenog, above Glyn Ceiriog (SJ 205385), 12/09; 1 *f* at Alwen Reservoir, 25/11. One record at RSPB Conwy: a *m* on 3/01.

(RY)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	2	5	7	6	6	6	10	8	5	5	5	4

Breeding result: pair laid 6 eggs and fledged 6 young; possibly highest number of young fledged in Wales? (Location withheld)

GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*)

GWALCH MARTH

now NORTHERN GOSHAWK

Rare breeding resident

2 singles and a pr at total of 3 sites round RM but no signs of breeding there.

Other sightings (all singles): 1 at Pont y Ddôl (SH985725) disturbing flock of Fieldfare, 20/02; a probable at Nantyr Forest, Glyn Ceiriog (SJ 205385), 10/04; 1 at Nercwys, 22/07; 1 nr Llyn Brenig, 20/11; a *m* on 1/07 at RSPB Conwy.

SPARROWHAWK (*Accipiter nisus*)

GWALCH GLAS

now EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK

Common and widespread breeding resident with many reports. Increasingly seen in urban areas and suburban gardens.

Some of the most notable records include: *m* killed a *f* blackbird, 8-30 am in a Pantymwyn back garden and spent 45 minutes plucking and eating it, 22/2; a nest with chicks at Pant Quarry, Gresford, 25 June; a cock seen starting to eat a still alive Feral Pigeon, PCR, 8/05; a hen beside A5, 17/08, on W outskirts of Llangollen, holding a *juv* jackdaw, which it released as observer walked past 4 metres away! A bird perched on one leg for several hours on a bird-bath in a Wrexham garden before

Appendix 3: B.T.O. Farmland Common Birds Census:
estimates of breeding numbers from territory mapping, March - July, 1999. Locality: Llanasa, Clwyd [Flintshire] Authors: E. & L. Jones
Habitat: mixed farmland, mainly grazing; small field and copses.
(Ten morning visits in good weather)

Area = 87.7 ha

Average altitude = 170.0m

Map Reference: SJ 100817

✓	Mallard	5	Whitethroat
1	Buzzard	✓	Garden Warbler
✓	Kestrel	1	Blackcap
✓	Red-legged partridge	2	Chiffchaff
3	Pheasant	2	Willow Warbler
✓	Lapwing	2	Goldcrest
✓	Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	Long-tailed tit
✓	Herring Gull	1	Coal Tit
2	Stock Dove	9	Blue Tit
5N	Woodpigeon	5	Great Tit
1	Collared Dove	1	Nuthatch
✓	Tawny Owl	1	Treecreeper
✓	Swift	✓	Jay
✓	Great Spotted Woodpecker	4N	Magpie
4	Skylark	3N	Jackdaw
✓	Swallow	49N	Rook
✓	House Martin	3N	Carrion Crow
4	Meadow Pipit	1	Raven
2	Pied Wagtail	✓	Starling
12	Wren	✓	House Sparrow
15	Duncock	✓	Tree Sparrow
11	Robin	21	Chaffinch
✓	Redstart	✓	Brambling
✓	Wheatear	2	Greenfinch
12	Blackbird	1	Goldfinch
✓	Fieldfare	✓	Siskin
3	Song Thrush	6	Linnet
1	Mistle Thrush	13	Yellowhammer
Species = 56			
Key:	✓ = present, no clusters		N = nest count

Appendix 2: Table of count totals for common birds in map surveys on World's End Estate, Llangollen, 1998 and 1999 (WE*) [John Lawton Roberts]

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
Wood Pigeon	41	45
Cuckoo	2	2
Swallow	3	3
House Martin	0	3
Tree Pipit	17	25
Grey Wagtail	3	5
Pied Wagtail	2	2-3
Wren	78	122
Dunnock	11	17
Robin	81	129
Redstart	25	25
Blackbird	28	47
Song Thrush	17	31
Mistle Thrush	12	11
Garden Warbler	10	14
Blackcap	11	16
Wood Warbler	4	2
Chiffchaff	9	4
Willow Warbler	55	60
Goldcrest	91	89
Spotted Flycatcher		3
Pied Flycatcher	21	27
Long-tailed Tit	4	2
Coal Tit	40	27
Blue Tit	28	14
Great Tit	9	9
Nuthatch	3	4
Treecreeper	4	7
Jay	9	6
Magpie	5	6
Carrion Crow	13	13
Chaffinch	103	115
Goldfinch	2	4
Bullfinch	5	7

Figures are for presumed breeding pairs, derived from singing male, sighting of pair, alarm call, bird carrying nest material or food, locating of nest etc. Methodology: walk all ground except field centres barren of birds, May 1-June 15 and record all birds with specified criteria. Map location of each pair. Always done on still mornings, preferably dry, between dawn chorus and 11.30h. Location: SJ 2148-2347. Habitat: upland organic farm with streamside pasture plus conifer and broad-leaved woodland.

jumping off and then hunting on foot in a hedge.

BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*) BWN CATH

now **COMMON BUZZARD**

Common and widespread breeding resident. Usually associated in upland areas but it appears to be extending its range. There are many sightings from urban and suburban areas with well over **100 sightings by Wrexham Birdwatchers from their area and an additional c30 sightings from Mold through the year.**

Sightings of five or more: 5 over Denbigh stretch of R. Clwyd, 23/01; 8 together over Dolwen Reservoir, 20/02; 6 over Cefn-yr-Ogof, SE of Llanddulas; 5 over Wrexham, 12/03; six birds soaring over Pantymwyn, 4/04.

In 16 territories on RM/HP study area, only 1 pr possibly not breeding. Of 12 nests inspected at egg stage, only 5 c3s, with mean clutch of 2.42; mean fledged brood size = 1.4 (n = 15, inc. 4 complete failures).

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD (*Buteo lagopus*) BOD BACSI OG

Very rare winter visitor

Only one (unconfirmed) sighting of this rare bird: †1 reported near Abergele, 22/11.

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) GWALCH Y PYSGOD

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant. Red list [HD, BR, SPEC]

1 at TMR, 5 March; 1 at PCR, 14-19 April, seen taking fish.

RSPB Conwy: singles recorded migrating north on 17/04, 24/04 and 25/05.

KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus*) CUDYLL COCH

now **COMMON KESTREL**

Locally common breeding resident. Amber List [BDM, SPEC]

Especially noticeable on our few "motorway" verges.

Recorded at over a dozen sites. Maximum numbers: 6 in the air together at Cilcain Moors (SJ 1664) on 1/08 and six in August at Llyn Brenig. A pair probably bred in CQR switching station.

Variable success at the RM/HP study area: 5 upland nests inspected at egg stage - mean clutch size 4.8, lower than 1998 and in 6 upland nests, mean fledged brood was 4.3.

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*) CUDYLL BACH

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. [MSW] Red List [HD] **BCCC**

Records from a dozen areas included the following unusual sightings: 1 chasing starling over Gresford, 8/10; 1 over Burton (Rossett) harassed by Jackdaws, 24/11; 1 failed to take Pied Wagtail on ice-puddle in middle of field, nr R. Clwyd near Denbigh stretch, 28/12.

2 “tree-nesting” Merlins produced 4 + 5 fledged young respectively (location withheld). A pair nested successfully at Llandegla, raising 3 *m* and 1 *f* (all ring tagged). A pair bred and raised one young in Clwydian Hills (location withheld).

Dee Estuary: POA: singles seen fairly frequently during both winter periods, with two birds on 3/01 and 9/11. BB: a single at Flint foreshore, 27/11. OMR: only one record this year - a single on February 2. (Both reserves probably under-recorded.)

RSPB Conwy: singles on 17/04; a *juv* perched on entrance gate on 27/07; 13/12.

HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*)

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

now **EURASIAN HOBBY**

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional scarce breeding species

1 over Prestatyn, 2/05; 1 at Gwaenysgor (SJ 075812), 7/05; 1 on 6/06 at Fenn’s Moss, 3 on 24/07; 8 sightings on ground E of RM, early June to early August but no evidence of breeding; 1 passing over Burton, Rossett, mobbed by hirundines, 29/08.

PEREGRINE (*Falco peregrinus*)

HEBOG TRAMOR

now **PEREGRINE FALCON**

Relatively successful resident breeding species but subject to human predation so as with other raptor records discretionary recording/reporting is undertaken. Amber List [SPEC]

Inland: reports from eleven areas. Unusual sightings: a tufted duck evaded capture by diving under water, Dolwen Reservoir, 2/01; a pair soaring together at NEWI, Wxm, 17/02; excellent sighting of a family group (2 *ad* + 4 *young*) in June (15-18th) in Coedpoeth area where food delivered to *f* and then passed to fully fledged young.

RM: another poor breeding season, with one of 8 sites unoccupied, mean clutch size 3.3, mean fledged brood 1.3 (inc. 4 complete failures).

Coastal: single birds seen at Gronant, Mostyn, POA, Pentre Mawr, R. Clwyd nr Rhyl, Rhos Point through the year and one mobbing a Buzzard at Rhyd-y-Foel, nr Llanddulas, 12/06.

Dee Estuary Reserves: POA: 1-2 regular all months except May and June. 11 records involving at least 3 individuals, January to May (‡). Three birds (*ad* + 2 *imms*) seen on 11/09. BB: singles at Flint marsh, 12/02 and off Flint Point, 17/11. Probably under-recorded. OMR: singles present on 4/03, 27/04, 27/09 and 26/11. CQR: a pair raised two young from nest in pylon.

RSPB Conwy: 1-2 recorded through year. *F* seen taking moorhen nr VC on 10/12.

RED GROUSE (*Lagopus lagopus*)

GRUGIAR

now **WILLOW PTARMIGAN**

Breeding resident on heather moors. Probably declining

Ruabon Moors: first “broody droppings” of season, indicating start of incubation,

(continued from page 75)

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Oystercatcher	-	-	2	1	2	2 + 2 j	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
Ringed Plover	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snipe	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	4	-	-	-
Woodcock	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curlew	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redshank	-	-	-	1	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Greenshank	-	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Sandpiper	-	-	-	✓	3	✓	1 + 2 j	✓	✓	-	-	-
Cuckoo	-	-	-	✓	2 prs	-	j	✓	-	-	-	-
Whinchat	-	-	-	✓	-	-	j	✓	-	-	-	-
Stonechat	-	-	✓	✓	-	-	j	j	✓	-	-	-
Wheatear	-	-	✓	-	-	-	2 j	✓	-	-	-	-
Raven	-	2	1	2	-	-	✓	8	2	2	-	1
Linnet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	-	-	-

KEY: ✓ = present but numbers not available; a dash indicates not present

Source : collated by Louise Jones

Appendix 1: Sample records from Llyn Brenig log-book , 1999

SPECIES	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Little Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Great Crested Grebe	1	-	2	4	5	3	4+ 2j	2+ 2j	2	✓	1	1
Cormorant	8	8	18	10	-	1	2	5	6	11	12	5
Grey Heron	1	-	1	2	-	1	2	7	3	-	2	-
Greylag Goose	-	1	1	3	4+ 4j	2+ 4j	2+ 4j	6	-	-	-	-
Canada Geese	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	-
Wigeon	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	24	-
Teal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	-	-	-
Mallard	27	6	2	6	1+ 4j	✓	24	69	75	9	60	65
Tufted Duck	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	3	4	11	8	-
Goldeneye	2	3	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	7
Goosander	2	1	1	2	-	3	-	1	2	2	-	1
Hen Harrier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	j	j	-	-	-
Buzzard	-	2	2	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Kestrel	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	3	-	-	1
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Peregrine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Red Grouse	-	-	3	1	1	1	-	6	✓	5	2	-
Coot	2	2	2	1	3	3	10 +2j	14	14	11	11	1

continued on next page

surprisingly late, May 1. **Annual max autumn transect count on 22-year old route was higher than 1998 or 1997, and combined total for 3 transect routes was higher than for 1998, but third lowest since 1994 when first counted.**

Llyn Brenig: seen in small numbers from March to November; max. 6 in August.

BLACK GROUSE (*Tetrao tetrix*) GRUGIAR DDU

Scarce breeding resident. Red List [BD, HD, SPEC] BCCC

Very few numbers with some evidence of long-term decline.

Ruabon Moors: good total of lekking *m* in spring but a second poor breeding season in succession, with numbers of *m* apparently down in autumn.

John Lawton Roberts appends this warning to his studies of the Ruabon Moor area: **Lek sites of this sensitive and endangered species should not be visited. One over-publicised lek is receiving much disturbance from bird-watchers, who walk out into the moor and flush the birds, rather than watching from the road through telescopes!**

On a wider front, a Black Grouse Project is currently underway (June 1999 - March 2002) for Llandegla Forest and Moor as well as the adjacent Ruabon Moor which together hold one-third of the Welsh population of Black Grouse. The figures in the table reveal a rising trend but should be treated with cautious optimism: they may simply reflect increased observer effort as well as habitat alteration [*see also article by Ron Plummer*].

Other sightings: 1 from Nilig Bridge, Clocaenog, 12/11.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE (*Alectoris rufa*) PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Rare breeding resident though large numbers bred and released in moorland areas for shooting

Several sightings, mainly in Ruabon Moors area. Largest number: c160 nr Tainant, 16/09.

GREY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*) PETRISEN

Scarce breeding resident. Red List [BD, SPEC] BCCC

4 breeding territories were located on Shotwick fields and 5 breeding territories were located at Sealand/Sandycroft (Welsh Development Area Surveys). Only a few other records received: a pair at Rhosberse Road, Coedpoeth, 28/04; 1 flew across road, nr Kinnel Bay, 1/05; 2 at Bryn Arddyn, nr Glyn Ceiriog (SJ 205385), June 11; 1 or more in fields, N of Cilcain, 28/11 and reported via BBS species count in square SJ 0165. A covey of 13 was flushed from a potato field on the Flintshire/Cheshire boundary, adjacent to IMF, 11/10.

QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*) SOFLIAR
 now **COMMON QUAIL**
Passage migrant and possibly scarce breeding summer visitor. Red List [HD, SPEC]

Only two sites: †heard, Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire (SJ 004755), 17/05, 24/06 and 14/07. 1 on Denbigh Moors (unusual habitat?), 4/07.

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*) FFESANT
 now **COMMON PHEASANT**
Locally common breeding resident, especially near wooded and hilly areas where breeding pens are used by shooting interests

Reported from across the county.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT (<i>Chrysolophus amherstiae</i>)	<i>FFESANT Y</i>		
(BK)	1997	1998	1999
Lekking <i>m</i> in Llandegla & RM	21	38	54
Lekking <i>m</i> in Wales	108	143	151

FONESIG AMHERST
Introduced breeding resident: a feral population was established at Halkyn, near Holywell, but no records were received for 1999.

WATER RAIL (*Rallus aquaticus*) RHEGEN Y DWR
Scarce winter visitor and possible breeding resident. Amber List [BDM]

Observed at only a few sites: 1 at Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele, 2/02; 1 briefly at LPJ, 17/03, not observed subsequently; 1-2 at BHP (1 at Llawndy Fm, 16/02; 2 in coast fields, 30/04) (‡); 1 heard at Glyn Lws near old reservoir (SH 885721), 8/06; 2 at Gronant beach marsh, 31/03 and 10/11. *Also at RSPB Conwy: small numbers present during both winter periods, with up to 6 recorded.*

CORNCRAKE (*Crex crex*) RHEGEN YR YD
Rare summer visitor or passage migrant. Red List [BD, HD, BL, SPEC]

A single bird near A525, 4 miles south of Ruthin, Denbighshire, 10/05 (tbc).

MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*) IAR DDWR
 now **COMMON MOORHEN**
Locally common breeding resident

Reported from only nine main areas.

Dee Estuary: BHP‡: 11 breeding territories (0-8 in 1992-8); OMR: the only record involved 3 birds at high tide on 23/11. CQR: present through year. A pair nested in the Ash Pool and raised 1 juvenile. FIS: peak count 33 in January; Shotton Lagoons: peak count 34 in November; 3 nests each with 9 eggs in May; all hatched.

RSPB Conwy: 5 pairs bred. The figures for the total reserve are given in the table

COOT (*Fulica atra*) CWTIAR

now **COMMON COOT**

Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor

Recorded through the year from eleven main sites.

Maximum numbers: 106 at FIS, 03/01; 104 at Llyn Helyg on 03/01; 100 at Dolwen, 11/09; 90 recorded at 'Tommy's Wood Pool' (SJ 354530) on 22/10 when nearby Gresford Flash "deserted"; 51 at PMPA, 22/09 and 169 at RSPB Conwy in July. Present through year at CQR where max. of 30 adults on 21/02; at least 4 pairs bred on the Ash Pool. 12 breeding territories at BHP‡ (0-11 during 1992-98). RSPB Conwy: c40 pairs bred. The table gives figures for the total reserve.

OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ostralegus*) PIODEN Y MOR

now **EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER**

Scarce breeding resident and abundant winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL] [MSW]

Large numbers on coast: (maxima of 8340 at POA; 6000 at OMR; 3609 at BB) and *smaller numbers inland:* present for six months (March - August) at Llyn Brenig (max. 2 + 2 juvs in June); 1 nr SPJ, 30/04; 2 at PCR, 1 June; 2 at Pendinas Reservoir.

Confirmed breeding at Rhyl Marine Lake (pair nesting on island, 27/05), Llyn Brenig, OMR, POA. Attempted breeding at BHP‡ where 2 territories (0-4 in 1992-8) plus 2 additional territories on colliery spoil area (1 failed; other unknown) plus 1 territory on shingle at Gronant (outcome unknown).

Unusual sighting: an all-white bird with a few grey feathers (presumably partial albino), POA, seen frequently in the main flock.

Dee Estuary: POA: two pairs nested and raised two young. RSPB monthly maxima are given in the table. Peak counts for BB (at low tide) were 1820 'loafing' off Greenfield Dock on 28/10, 3609 on 1/11 and 1590 on 18/12. Peak count of birds feeding across Flint sands was 280 on 24/05. OMR/CQR: three pairs nested on the main marsh and a pair attempted to nest on the near-by fly-ash lagoon island. Outcomes unknown. *OMR Peak count dates were on May 16, September 12 and October 9. POA: 27/08, 30/09 and 24/11.* Shotton lagoons: a pair has nested for the last three years; 1 young raised this year. RSPB Conwy: 3 pairs bred.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius dubius*) CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

now **LITTLE PLOVER**

Rare summer visitor and passage migrant. Scarce scattered breeding.

Confirmed breeding at Fagl Lane Quarry, Hope: 2 chicks with adult, 12 June. 2 prs

(MH)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	9	16	15	7	11	5	15	18	15	13	5	8

at Borrás Quarry (SJ 365535), 10 June; a single bird at CQR, 13/06 and one at Cefn Mawr Quarry, above Loggerheads, on 16 June. A pair “*acting as if with*” chicks, nr Old Firestone Factory, WIE, 2 July (pr with chicks seen nr here last year). Pair present near Border Pool, IMF, but no evidence of successful nesting. BHP‡: 1 flew over, 30/03; 1 present 24/04; 1 on colliery spoil area, 6/06.

RSPB Conwy: no confirmed breeding but one pair present in breeding season. *M* returned on 13/04 (2 weeks late). Last spring sighting, 5/06. 3 juvs recorded on 28-31/07, 3/08, 12/08 (suspected breeding on Llandudno Junction Industrial Park).

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*) CWTIAD TORCHOG
Resident breeder in small numbers and passage migrant. Amber List [WI]

(CO)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	52	77	80	30	25	41	169	150	118	80	50	46

Coastal: Good numbers reported from POA (*see table*) where max. of 415 reached on 26/08. *Other areas*: 45 at Gronant Beach on 5/01 and 20 *ibidem* on 20/07; 36 at Kinnel Bay Beach, 14/10; 26 at HT at OMR, 12/10; 20+ at Horton’s Nose, off Rhyl Beach, 9/11; a peak of 20 on 26/09 at BB (Flint Point) and 2 at Walwen saltmarsh, 16/05; 8 at Pensarn Beach, 31/01 (1 only on 6/10); singles only at CQR (3/01 and 13/06), Rhyl-Prestatyn Prom, 7/05 and Rhyl Harbour, 2/12. Three pairs nested at POA with two well grown chicks seen. A further three pairs (and one pair of oystercatchers) present on adjacent colliery site. 2 breeding territories at BHP‡ (0-4 during 1992-98). RSPB Conwy: no breeding records.

Inland: 2 at Llyn Brenig, 7 August.

KENTISH PLOVER (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) CWTIAD CAINT
Scarce vagrant

‡One record: a single was seen from the hide at POA on May 15-17 (*tbc*)

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis apricaria*) CWTIAD AUR
now **EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER**
Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [WI]

Sadly, few sightings, small numbers and no confirmed breeding: 3 at Rhyl Marine

1 reported from field in Alyn Valley, Gresford and at least one other near A55 towards Northop. Escaped from Chester Zoo in December!

EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo*

1 in the Border Pool area, IMF for several days in June.

(TW)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	70	87	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	40	20

Also recorded at POA (32 on 19/01; 30 on 10/02); Kinmel Bay (20 on 9/02); RML with 6 (4m + 2f) at 3/03; Pensarn Beach (a pair there from 11/03); and at RSPB Conwy with singles on 5/01 and 17/01.

Second period: first of winter, 5 at Pensarn Beach, 28/10; 6 on 31/10. Regular at Gronant Beach throughout autumn and winter (1st on 2/11; max = 34.) Up to 43 seen at POA († 12/12).

Unusual sighting: one reported at Clocaenog on 2/11(tbc)!

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*) *MELYN YR EITHIN*
Formerly common breeding resident

Reported from about twenty locations. Largest count: 50 at Llanasa (Common Bird Census), 18/02. Recorded in small numbers at BHP‡, Coedpoeth (4 m + 2 f on 5/04); Cefn Castell (SH 904757); Cymau; Dyserth (where reported as ‘common’ at SJ047776 and visiting garden feeders); Greenfield Dock; Gresford; Gwespyr Scarp, Llandegla (11 in November); Llanefydd (SH 979734); Mynydd Glyn Lws; Pentrebychan; Old Railway Course, Rhuddlan (7 on 9/01); Ruabon; Sutton Green (SJ 405485); Bryn Arddyn; Hafod; Rhosymedre; Rhosymadoc; Tremeirchion (SJ 094732); Wrexham Golf Club; Pwllglas (SJ 120550); Shotton Lagoons; RSPB Conwy but **not seen or heard again at AWCP and the only record for the RM area was a m singing nr Britannia Inn, 17 April.**

REED BUNTING (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) *BRAS Y CYRS*
Breeding resident. Red List [BD] BCCC

Recorded in only a few areas:

Inland: 5 or 6 birds feeding in rapeseed pheasant cover, Wynnstay, Ruabon, 10/01; 1 at Dolwen Reservoir, 10/10.

Coastal: 2 m at Gronant reed-bed on 7/01; 1 at Rhyl Golf Course, 14/03 and 8/04; 1 m, Rhyl-Prestatyn Prom, 7/05; 4 breeding territories at BHP‡ (5-8 during 1992-98); 2 birds singing on territory at POA, 12/05; 5 pairs nested at Shotton lagoons with 4 young fed in June; 4 at Gronant Beach, 13/10 and 4 pairs bred at RSPB Conwy.

CORN BUNTING (*Miliaria calandra*) *BRAS YR YD*
Scarce localised breeding species. Red List [BD] BCCC

Maintaining a very precarious presence: 2 singing males at Shotwick fields and 2 territorial males at Sealand/Sandycroft fields (WDA surveys). †2, briefly, at Bodelwydden, Denbighshire, 22/04.

ESCAPES

BALD IBIS *Geronticus eremita*

(OC)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	-	141	-	240	1200	783	24	-	6000	3600	156	535
POA	3240	2290	1800	975	1125	685	2500	6795	8340	3755	6030	3216
CR	35	100	100	423	800	830	412	250	185	100	700	100

Lake on 3/01; 16 present at BHP‡ on 12/02; unusual sightings for RM: 1 on 14/ March, a pair possibly breeding and 3 autumn sightings in Oct.; 1 at Aled Isaf on 10/10; 4 on R. Clwyd, nr Rhuddlan, 28/10; 1 only at OMR on 9/10 and only 1 among large numbers of other estuarine birds, POA, 11/10. One at RSPB Conwy on 10/07, 3 on 27/09 and 1 on 30/09.

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominica*) *CORGWTIAD AUR*
now AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER
A scarce occasional vagrant

A possible sighting of one flying west with 5 grey plover, POA, 2/10 (tbc; not specifically identified).

GREY PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*) *CWTIAD LLWYD*
Coastal winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List [WI, WL]

Maximum numbers: peak count of 102 at POA on 17/02 and 99 on 10/12; c100, Gronant, 22/12.

Dee Estuary Reserves: only one record at BB - 4 on rising tide at Flint foreshore, 13/12. OMR: two records - 4 on 7/01 and 5 on 23/11. POA: *see table. Peak count:* 10/12.

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*) *CORNCHWIGLEN*
now NORTHERN LAPWING
Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [WI]

Reported from many areas across the vice-counties.

Inland: Maximum number seen, 70 at Ruabon. Around SPJ, 17+ on 18/02 inc. several birds “scraping”, 23 on 3/03, 10+ incubating/brooding on 30/04 and 9 sitting on 14/05. Three pairs on the last breeding site on RM. Other confirmed breeding areas: along R. Clwyd, near Denbigh where 33 inc. c16 young; near Bwlchgwyn (SJ

(RP)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	20	28	29	46	6	110	46	415	13	48	121	27
CR	-	1	-	4	5	6	1	10	11	-	-	1

256542), Mold (SJ 235626), Nercwys (SJ 236617), Northop Hall (SJ 278681) where 3 pairs and along the Dee flood-plain (see below). Present in likely breeding areas in May at Plas Teg and R. Alyn nr Mold (ndg) and possible breeding in cereal fields nr Sontley nr Erddig where several pairs displaying and up to 30 displaying at Delph, Cefn (22/04, 13/05) where “usually breeds”.

Coastal: Maximum numbers: at Clwyd estuary, 1500 on 13/11; Rhyl Marine Lake: 1000+ on 9/12 and 26/12; 1000 at CQR, 13/11; 540 at OMR on 24/12; 367 at Greenfield Fields, 10/12.

Dee Estuary: BB: regular presence at Flint. Peak counts: 175 on 15/02 and 154 on 23/11. 367 at Greenfield on 10/12. CQR: large flocks present through winter months with a maximum of 1000 on 13/11. IMF: the figures tabulated are monthly maxima for the whole reserve and arable fields. There was a continued increase in nesting, with 55 pairs nesting in Flintshire: 18 pairs on the adjacent arable fields, 15 pairs on Shotwick Fields and 22 pairs Sealand MOD Ranges. **A further 193+ breeding pairs were located at 22 sites on the Dee flood-plain, from Shotton south to Bangor-on-Dee (RSPB survey).** [RSPB Reserves monthly maxima are tabulated. *Peak count*

(GP)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	1

dates: OMR on September 12 and December 24; POA: 25/10.] Shotton lagoons: only one pair remained to nest, raising four young.

RSPB Conwy: a further decline to 9 breeding pairs fledging 7 chicks.

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)

PIBYDD YR ABER

now **RED KNOT**

Passage migrant and coastal winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

Dee Estuary Reserves: POA: good numbers recorded (see table) with highest totals present and passing through occurring on 17/02 and 4/03. BB: recorded on four dates in the second winter period only - 5 on 27/09, 20 on 12/10, 200 on 23/11 and 202 on 13/12. All records from Flint. OMR: maximum number recorded was 300 on 24/11. In addition, 400+ recorded at Gronant beach on 31/01.

RSPB Conwy: one on 5-8th May and one on 4/06. Autumn passage began with 1 on 9/08 and 1-2 through autumn until 2 on 2/10. Last one on 3/11.

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*)

PIBYDD Y TYWOD

(GV)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	49	49	20	-	-	-	-	2	3	94	36	99

Passage migrant and winter visitor

POA: recorded on four dates - 5 on 18/01 and 20/01; 2 on 10/02; 4 on 18/09. Fed beside shorelarks in beach car-park. OMR: 8 feeding with rock pipit and water pipit on 24/11 and 15-20 feeding with pipits on 26/11.

RSPB Conwy: 2 wintering birds remained until 1/03 and 4/03 respectively.

REDPOLL (*Carduelis flammea*)

LLINOS BENGGOCH

now **COMMON REDPOLL**

A fairly common breeding resident. Probably under-recorded.

Observed at BHP‡, Gresford, Llandegla, Nantyr Forest, Ruabon Moors, Llyn Brenig, Llyn Helyg, R. Clwyd nr Denbigh. Only scattered records and no signs of breeding in local conifer upland plantations on RM area. Max. number: 8 in June and up to 20 in winter at Llandegla; 12 feeding on birch seeds at Pant Quarry, Gresford, 20/12. 22 ringed at Clocaenog in 1999 (42 in 1998).

CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*)

GYLFIN GROES

now **COMMON CROSSBILL**

Scarce breeding resident

Observed in small numbers at: RM-HP-WE plantations; Nercwys Mtn and Clocaenog.

Very few records from HP plantation, in another very poor Sitka cone year: 3 pink males, 1 March and 2 on 23/04; 1 over WE forest, 24/04; 1 in plantation on edge of RM, 3/07; 1+ WE forest. 9/07. (Only about 8 sightings in total from March to July in RM/HP plantations with a maximum count of 3.) 7 at Llandegla in October.

BULLFINCH (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

COCH Y BERLLAN

now **COMMON BULLFINCH**

Breeding resident: few records received. Red List [BD] BCCC [WE]

Recorded in small numbers from over ten areas, including gardens. Max. numbers: 6 at TFR, 29/11 (3m, 3f). 13 ringed at Clocaenog. Reported from 5 BBS-squares (=19%; see Appendix 7).

HAWFINCH (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)

GYLFINBRAFF

Very scarce, localised (probable) breeding resident

The only report is via a BBS species count for SJ 0478.

SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

BRAS YR EIRA

Regular coastal winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [BR]

First part of year: Peak of 46 (†) at Gronant on 10/01; last sightings ibidem 20/03.

Sparrows, Mold, 8 March.

SISKIN (*Carduelis spinus*)

PILA GWYRDD

now **EURASIAN SISKIN**

Winter visitor and resident breeder

Found across the region: recorded from over ten areas. Max. counts: 60 at R. Clwyd near Denbigh, 28/12; 40-50 nr Llangollen; 15 at Llyn Helyg, 20/02 and at RSPB Conwy on 15/10.

Ruabon Moors area: 1st feeding on nuts in garden, Berwyn, 10/02. Far fewer records from plantations during breeding season than in 1998 and only 2 in May-June, inc. a hen gathering nest material from a gamekeeper's yard. Very few autumn records. First good flock (40-50) at Pentrefelin, Llangollen, was on 24/12.

A garden visitor at Berwyn, Burton, Coedpoeth, Gresford, Llanddulas, Ruabon.

LINNET (*Carduelis cannabina*)

LLINOS

now **COMMON LINNET**

Widespread breeding resident. Red List [BD] **BCCC**

Found in varying numbers through the year, both inland and on the coast. Largest flocks: a post-breeding flock of 200 at Llyn Brenig in August and c300 at POA on 4/03, 9/09 and 11/10.

Dee Estuary: POA: flocks present on saltmarsh throughout winter with peaks of 300 reached but for the first time none breeding (‡). BB: probably under-recorded this year. 30 at Flint marshes on 3/02 and 30 along seawall at Greenfield on 7/08. CQR: seen regularly through year. 4 ad + 4 juvs in June. 3 pairs produced a total of 9 young at Shotton Lagoons.

RSPB Conwy: up to 4 in spring with 20 on 31/08, 5 on 20/09, 11 on 23/09 and 10 on 27/09.

TWITE (*Carduelis flavirostris*)

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

A scarce winter visitor to coastal areas. Red List [HD]

Usually present in small numbers in autumn along the Dee Estuary. Recorded at Flint Castle, Mostyn Dock, Gronant Beach, Llawndy Farm (‡), POA, CQR and OMR. Maximum counts: large flocks at Flint Castle, reaching 87 on 17/02; 17 at Mostyn Dock on 22/01; c20 at Gronant Marsh, 20/03 and 15-20 at OMR on 26/11.

BB (Flint) monthly maxima are given in the table. Peak counts were on 17/02 and 18/02 and then 27/11. Last record for first winter period was 4/03 with first returning birds then noted on 12/10. More abundant in first period than second. As in previous years, any of the saltmarsh areas along the Flint foreshore were used, as were adjacent patches of rough ground. Birds often perched on overhead wires and fencelines.

Seen in variable flocks along the coast in spring and autumn/winter, sometimes with other waders. Largest flock sizes: 300 at Gronant beach on 10/11 and 159 at POA on 24/12 (exceptional - see table). BB: one at low tide on 25/01. RSPB Conwy: 1 on 3/05, 3 on 14/05, 1 on 28/05.

RED-NECKED STINT (*Calidris ruficollis*)

PIBYDD YDDFGOCH

Rare vagrant

1 feeding with Dunlin near POA hide, 16/05 (submitted to BBRC; Chester Rowley).

LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minuta*)

PIBYDD BACH

Very scarce passage migrant; usually found in small numbers on autumn passage

Only three records: a single at POA on 27/08; 2 at Gronant Beach, 26/09; 1 at Pentre Mawr, Abergele, next day plus RSPB Conwy: a poor autumn. 2 on 23-26/08, 1 on 11/09, 4 on 12/09, 1 on 14-28/09.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*)

PIBYDD CAIN

Scarce vagrant

†Juv by R. Clwyd, Denbighshire, 3/10.

RSPB Conwy: a juv in front of the Benarth hide, 8-15/09. A second juv over HT in front of VC, 2/10. Both arrived in strong SW gales. (These are the third and fourth reserve records following an adult on 9-12/08/96 and a juv on 11/09/98.)

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*)

PIBYDD CAMBIG

Scarce autumn passage migrant

Dee Estuary Reserves: POA: recorded on four dates in August - singles on 3rd, 16th; 24 on 26/08 and 27 on 27/08 - and 10+ on 1/09 and 7/09. 3 birds in HT roost at OMR, 26/09.

(L.)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	220	280	-	-	-	3	-	200	450	295	319	540
POA	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	65	65	280	82	-
IMF	2000	1300	47	60	52	98	270	600	120	51	1300	2500
CR	210	130	40	11	19	85	27	30	50	50	60	113

RSPB Conwy: up to four juvs recorded during autumn. 2 on 23/08 then nearly daily records until 1 on 3/10. 4 present on 3-4/09 with other sightings of 1-3 birds.

PURPLE SANDPIPER (*Calidris maritima*)

PIBYDD DU

Coastal winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [BR, WI]

Only three records: 1 at Towyn Breakwater, 30/01; 2 at Rhos-on-Sea, 5/03 and another there on 14/11, flying with Turnstone.

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*)

PIBYDD Y MAWN

Passage migrant and common winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site for wintering dunlin though

(KN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	720	1685	590	1	20	-	1	80	300	90	90	305

birds are found throughout the year.

Almost entirely coastal: (except for an unconfirmed report of 1 in May at Llyn Brenig) maximum counts were 3500 at Gronant Beach on 5/01; 2550 at POA, 17/02; 2270 at OMR, 23/11 and 1000 at BB on 17/02 and at Gronant Beach, 10/11.

Dee Estuary: BB: all records from Flint foreshore. Regular through winter. First winter period: peak of 1000 on 17/02 at HT. Second period: peak of 500 on 18/12 at LT. OMR and POA monthly maxima are given in the table. Peak count dates:

(SS)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	67	1	5	-	8	19	3	17	20	26	33	159

OMR, 3/01 and 23/11. Highest "throughput" count at POA (flocks passing through) was on 17/02 (BHP‡).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Tryngites subruficollis*) PIBYDD BRONLLWYD

Rare vagrant

IMF: a single bird found feeding on a strip of dried mud at the back of the Hide Pool (Cheshire) at 15.35 hours on 4/08 and commuted between here and the Border Pool, Flintshire (tbc).

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*)

PIBYDD TORCHOG

Scarce passage migrant. Amber List [BR, WL]

Single birds at POA on 31/07 (a f) and 15th, 24th, 27th, 30th September and 1/10. Also present at RSPB Conwy: 1 adult on 12/07, a juv on 22/08, 3 juvs on 23/08, 1 juv on 24-25/08.

JACK SNIBE (*Lymnocyptes minimus*)

GIACH FACH

Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [SPEC]

2 on 7/01 at Gronant reed-bed and 1 at OMR on 26/11. An exceptional record of 30 at Gronant, in marshy pool, 5/12. Singles at RSPB Conwy on 11/02 and 23/02.

hedge adjacent to stubble field, increased from c9 on 10/01 to c12 on 22/11, Horseman's Green nr Hanmer (but not seen subsequently!). Spring, 1999: at least 3 pairs successfully fledged young at local barn nr Dyserth (SJ 047776) - regularly attended garden feeders. Other main counts: 4 on Old Railway Course, Rhuddlan, 9/01; 5 along R. Clwyd (Rhyl to Rhuddlan), 11/02; 10 at Llyn Helyg, 10/12; up to 10 present in Hawthorns in late autumn at CQR. In addition, the following pulli were ringed in nest boxes near Bodelwyddan (SH 9977): 3 on 9/06, 3 on 11/07 and 4 on 14/08.

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*)

JI-BINC

Common breeding resident with autumnal movement away from breeding areas.

[WE]

Successful bird found in a variety of habitats across the region. Maximum numbers: Large mxd flock of c1000 Chaffinches and Greenfinches, Llanasa, 2/12. Large winter flocks of c300 finches, Coedpoeth, 26-30/12. Flock of 48 at Old Railway Course, Rhuddlan, 9/01; flock of 57 in POA colliery spoil area in February and c40 at farmyard nr Erddig, 14/11. 1st full song of spring, Berwyn, 2/02. 1st autumn passage at Berwyn, due W, small parties, 13-14 Sept. Large numbers on WE survey (103 in 1998, 115 in 1999).

BRAMBLING (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

PINC Y MYNYDD

Localised winter visitor in variable numbers. Amber List [BR]

Observed in small numbers (including garden visits) at BHP (The Warren), Coedpoeth, Burton, Mold, Ruabon, Llangollen, Llyn Helyg and Pwllglas, (SJ 120550). Maximum count: 100+ with 1 or 2 chaffinches, farmland nr Loggerheads, 28/02. 1st autumn record: 1 at PCR, 18 Oct.

GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*)

LLINOS WERDD

now **EUROPEAN GREENFINCH**

Common breeding resident

Successful across the region, including gardens. Largest flocks reported on or near coastal areas: 40 at PMPA, 31/10; 40 at Gronant dunes, 10/11; 25 at Greenfield with Linnets and Goldfinch, 7/08; large mxd flock of c1000 with Chaffinch, Llanasa, 2/12. Winter flocks of 20+ seen regularly at CQR and on garden feeders at Burton (Rossett) and Coedpoeth.

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*)

NICO

now **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH**

Common breeding resident. Amber List [BDM] [WE]

Widespread across the region. Also a garden visitor: maxima - 20 on garden feeders, Burton, Rossett in winter; 25 along seawall at Greenfield with Linnet and Greenfinch, 7/08. A ringed bird feeding on garden lawn with Chaffinches and

on S-facing slope nr Llanarmon D.C. + 1 heard across valley, 12/09; 6 at Pensarn, Treceiriog, 12/09; found in small numbers in most months at Llyn Brenig, max 8 in August; 11 at Pentre Llyn Cymer, 11/11.

In RM/HP study area, 10 pairs bred, one only failing to rear young (nest blown out in gale). Of 7 nests inspected at egg stage, 5 held 6 eggs and mean clutch size was 5.6; the ten prs reared an average of 3.4 young.

Unusual sighting: a nest in a Hawthorn, 3m off ground on farmland on edge of Denbigh Moors, had 6 eggs and fledged 4 young.

Dee Estuary Reserves: BB: seen regularly through year (nest nearby); max. of 4 on 12/02. OMR: single present on 2/02; 2 on 4/05 feeding on sheep carcass. CQR: pair bred on pylon and raised 4 young. Conwy: 1-2 regular; 6 on 12/03.

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

DRUDWEN

now **COMMON STARLING**

Common and widespread breeding resident. Often in huge autumnal/spring movements with continental visitors. Some indication of an increase in numbers in winter months. Amber List [BDM]

A successful bird found in a variety of habitats in varying numbers. Maximum numbers: 10,000 roosting at RSPB Conwy in January and November-December; 5000 at Foryd Bridge, Kinmel Bay, 20/11; 3100 in BHP‡ coastal fields, 20/01; 1600 on RM, 7/11; 700 at Warren Farm, 12/01(‡); 600 at Dyserth, 16/01; reedbed roosts of up to 500 at Shotton lagoons; 400+ at Llawndy Farm (‡), 21/01 and POA, 28/08. Other flocks >50 recorded at AWCP, CQR (where 100+ juveniles in July), Halkyn, Prestatyn Golf Course, Rhyl Golf Course, Ruabon, River Clwyd estuary, Talacre Warren, POA. As last year, larger flocks seen in the Ruabon Moors area than since the mid-1980s: 400+ nr Llandegla, 13/02. Autumn movement began in 2nd week of October, but largest flocks in Nov., with 750 moving W at Berwyn on 6/11 then 1600 and 190 crossing RM due SW on 7th.

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

ADERYN Y TO

Common breeding resident

Some evidence of demise of some local populations though many houses still support small numbers. Perhaps latter could be monitored?

Maximum count: a most unusual count of a flock of 100+ at Llanasa, 19/08. 22-24 breeding territories at BHP‡ (10-24 during 1992-98).

TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*)

GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

now **EURASIAN TREE SPARROW**

A localised breeding resident. Red List [BD] BCCC

Reported from only ten locations. Maximum count: a small active flock in farmyard

SNIBE (*Gallinago gallinago*)

GIACH GYFFREDIN

now **COMMON SNIPE**

Rare breeding passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BDM]

Inland: reported in small numbers near Alltami (SJ 266661), at Llyn Brenig, Burton nr Rossett, R. Clwyd nr Rhuddlan (with a maximum of 11 on 28/10), near Nercwys Mountain (SJ 224572), Ruabon (max. 7+ at SLJ on 21/12).

Coastal: Regular at Gronant Marsh in autumn and winter, often in large numbers: last of first winter period, 132 on 31/03; first of second period on 25/09; max = 150. Also at POA, max. 56 on 4/01 (*see table*). 2 sightings of single birds only at CQR, 24/12 and 1 at Shotton Lagoons in April. Highest BHP‡ count was at night at Warren Farm with 69 on 31/01.

WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*)

CYFFYLOG

now **EURASIAN WOODCOCK**

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BDM, SPEC]

Small numbers reported from eight main areas. Main counts: 6-8 roding at Nercwys, 20 May; 4 nr Penymynydd, Dobshell, 4/07.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*)

RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Passage migrant. Principally a winter visitor but increasingly found through the year. Red List [HD, BR, WL, SPEC]

The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site for this species.

Recorded at R. Clwyd estuary (1 on 1/08), PMPA, (2 on 27/09); 20 at Border Pool, IMF, 24/11; BB (maximum 1110 on 17/11) and Oakenholt Marshes (max. 1300 on 28/11) plus RSPB Conwy (max. 27 for the whole reserve).

(DN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	2500	1100	-	-	-	-	-	-	800+	114	2270	1280
POA	2745	4540	1550	45	1100	515	152	1268	28	690	1810	2050
CR	1	300	10	6	64	6	13	19	10	10	30	20

Dee Estuary monthly maxima are given in the table. OMR/CQR: regularly recorded at levels of international importance. IMF: the tabulated figures are for the whole reserve. Here there was a spring passage peak of 1360 on 24/04 (at least three different colour-ringed birds were recorded - ringed on the Wash). For the twelfth successive year there was a summering flock - during late evening the summering birds flight out to the estuary (Connah's Quay/Flint) to feed/roost and return early morning. Passage noted during September with a max. of 515 on 27/09. *Peak count*

dates were: (BB) 17/11 off Flint Point at low tide before estuarine dispersal in December and January; (OMR) October 9 and November 28; (POA) November 29.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*) RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRITH
 Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL, SPEC]

An infrequent winter visitor recorded in only a few areas but with some unusual figures emerging from POA (see table). A remarkable heavy movement at POA on 4/01 with a total of 680 passing through during the day, including a peak count of 335. (POA peak counts were on 4/01 and 30/09.) Only a few other records received: 300 moved W offshore, 4/01 and 1-3 on land in Feb and March at BHP‡; 2 only at HT, RSPB OMR, 7/01; 2 on Gronant beach, 31/01; a single at Flint sands, LT, 10/03; and RSPB Conwy (max. 7 in September).

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*) COEGLFINIR
 Passage migrant and summer visitor. Red List [BL]

All records bar one [2 seen flying N at Rhyl Promenade, 6/05] come from the Dee Estuary marshes (between POA and CQR), plus RSPB Conwy.

Dee Estuary Reserves: POA: first record, 5 on 28/04; 1-3 birds recorded regularly May-September, with 16 on 17/05, 6 on 31/07 and 13 on 27/08. Peak count 44 on 3/05. Last record: a single on 9/11. BB: the first returning bird of the year was a single on the marsh at Bagillt on 30/04. An overwintering bird was recorded at Flint Castle on 3/01 and on Flint foreshore on 12/02. OMR: 19 at low tide resting near hide, April 27; 1-3 present in May; a single at HT roost, 26 September. CQR: present on migration in May and on return in autumn. Maximum: 6 on 16/05.

(SN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	56	26	16	5	-	-	-	2	12	30	24	36
CR	8	6	6	2	2	1	9	8	13	-	6	10

RSPB Conwy: 1 on 20/04 then small numbers recorded on spring passage with max. of 10 on 10/05, last on 6/05. Autumn passage: 1 on 9/07 with small numbers recorded until 1 on 26/09 (max. 6 on 4/08). An unusually late record of 1 on 8/11.

CURLEW (*Numenius arquata*) GYLFINIR
 now **EURASIAN CURLEW**
 Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BI, WI, SPEC]
 The Dee estuary is an internationally important site

Found inland (in breeding areas) in only small numbers (maximum, 2 at Llyn Brenig). Found in large numbers in coastal localities with a maximum of 2500+ at POA.

periodic culling by the agricultural community. Found across the region in a variety of habitats.

Collects in numbers during winter months: 10 birds in ash tree, 10/02, Gwaenysgor (SJ 075812). Nest-building at Marford Hill on 22 December! 21-23 breeding territories, BHP‡ 9-25 during 1992-98). Total of 15 + several young in June BBS survey at Erddig (only 5 in April). Appears to be extending its range in suburban Wrexham (in areas where infrequently seen before) with nest-building and egg predation of collared doves and blackbirds.

JACKDAW (*Corvus monedula*) JAC-Y-DO
 now **EURASIAN JACKDAW**
 Common and widespread breeding resident

A colonial breeder which also gathers away from breeding sites. Max. numbers: c200 roosting in trees at Nant Mill, Coedpoeth, 3/01; 50 at PMPA, 4/11; 30 at RSPB Conwy, 1-4/05; small flocks regularly at Erddig.

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*) YDFRAN
 Common and widespread colonial breeding resident

Rookeries recorded at AWCP, Coedpoeth (17+ nests), Gresford, Llanasa (49 nests) and Ruabon. Llangollen area: combined total of nests at Tan Lon and Pentredwr (SJ 198468) rookeries, with 'branch' colonies at Eglwyseg added, was 77 but a new colony opposite the Britannia Inn with 23 nests, makes up the number to pre-1998 levels. Small colony at Shotton Paper nested on tower and platforms. Up to 100 birds present mid-June, BHP‡ (breeds S of Station Road).

CARRION CROW (*Corvus corone corone*) BRAN DYDDYN
 A common breeding resident. [WE]

Widespread across the county. Maximum numbers: 80 on RM, landing on deep ling, 29/10; 160 *ibidem* on 3/11; 56 POA colliery area, 17/06 (BHP‡); 55 at R. Clwyd, Rhyl, 27/02; 39 at RSPB Conwy on 4/01. Extending their range in the Wrexham suburbs, nesting and visiting. A pair bred on a pylon at CQR and raised 2 young. 10 breeding territories at BHP‡ (5-10 during 1992-98).

RAVEN (*Corvus corax*) CIGFRAN
 now **COMMON RAVEN**
 Fairly common breeding resident. Mainly in upland areas but may be spreading to lowlands.

One of the successful birds of the area: reports received from about twenty main areas. Maximum numbers: a peak count of 25 at Llandegla in November; 7 together

wasps; new box not inhabited. 3+ prs bred on CQR; 10 young successfully raised in nest-boxes at Shotton lagoons. 1 pr bred and max. 20 seen (12/10) at RSPB Conwy. Fewer recorded on WE survey (14 pairs in 1999 compared to 28 in 1998) but good numbers ringed at Clocaenog (90 in 1999).

GREAT TIT (*Parus major*) TITW MAWR
Common and widespread breeding resident. [WE]

1st song of spring, 10 Jan., Berwyn and half-sing already on 24 Dec., 1998. At Llangollen study block of c60 boxes, occupation was 11%, well up on 1998 (5%) and, for main laying period, mean clutch was 8.2 and mean fledged brood per pair 4.7, both disappointing.

Nestbox at Cae'r Gog, Pantymwyn: first time for great tits - 4 fledged out of 6, 3/06.

NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*) DELOR Y CNAU
now WOOD NUTHATCH
Common woodland resident. Often visits garden feeders.

Recorded in small numbers from about ten areas.

TREECREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*) DRINGWR BACH
now EURASIAN TREECREEPER
Widespread resident

Recorded in small numbers in woodland areas. Also seen in November and December in gardens in Coedpoeth, Gresford and Llanasa (latter only second sighting in 12 years!).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*) CIGYDD MAWR
An occasional winter passage migrant

One this year, in a 'favoured' location at Clocaenog Forest, 21/10 and 1/11.

JAY (*Garrulus glandarius*) YSGRECH Y COED
now EURASIAN JAY
Fairly common breeding resident

Small but regular numbers from the usual wooded areas. Maximum numbers: 8 sightings (3 pairs + 2 singles) at Plas Power Woods, Coedpoeth, 30/12.

MAGPIE (*Pica pica*) PIODEN
now BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE
Common and widespread breeding resident.

Ubiquitous and conspicuous. A very successful bird of the area, it is subject to

(BW)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	400	400	255	-	-	-	-	-	56	890	1110	605
OMR	140	8	-	-	-	-	-	3	102	900	1300	400
POA	40	-	-	-	1	-	2	7	18	-	87	-
IMF	235	100	280	1360	700	344	70	45	515	150	350	600
CR	1	-	-	3	27	1	5	10	9	2	1	1

Dee Estuary: BB: notable counts included 468 off the Panton Cop (SJ 235746) at LT on 10/03. Peak counts on BB included 248 on 29/09 and 140 on 1/11. Recorded through the year at CQR where a maximum of 138 was recorded between Flint and CQ on 13/11. RSPB Dee Estuary (OMR & POA) and RSPB Conwy monthly maxima are given in the table. *Peak count dates: February 12 (OMR) and 28/08 (POA).*

SPOTTED REDSHANK (*Tringa erythropus*) PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG
Passage migrant and scarce overwintering visitor
The Dee Estuary is of national importance for this species but the Welsh figures appear to be rather low.

Dee Estuary: POA: singles on 19/01, 3/02, 18-19 July and two on 11 August. 2 juvs there on 13/08. BB: the only records were a single at Flint sandbanks on 10/09 and two on 27/09. Singles recorded regularly at BHP‡, January-March. OMR monthly maxima are given in the table. CQR: observed in January & February and August to December on the bunded pools. A maximum of 16 recorded on 18/09.

RSPB Conwy: 2 birds present January-February with 1 remaining until 3/03. Juv on 17/08, 2 juvs on 21/08 until 10/09 then 3 juvs 17-19/09, 2 remaining until 2/10 and one staying to winter.

REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*) PIBYDD COESGOCH
now COMMON REDSHANK
Possible breeding resident and common winter visitor. Amber List [WI, SPEC]
The Dee Estuary is of international importance for this species

Found along the coast in varying numbers (maximum counts: 200 at MLR, 2/01; 200 on R. Clwyd, 25/11; 150 on Llandulas Beach, 28/12); along the Dee (1550, OMR on

(BA)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	335	3	2	3	-	-	2	89	440	200	2	10
CR	-	1	-	-	3	-	1	1	7	6	-	-

26/09) and occasionally inland (Llyn Brenig in summer).

Dee Estuary Reserves: No breeding occurred on the Welsh side of the Dee estuary.

BB: peak count during first winter period was 192 roosting at HT at Flint on 19/02. 761 present on 10/09 flighting from OMR onto Flint sandbanks on ebbing tide. 630 present, 12/10, on Flint foreshore. Numbers dropped in December to a peak of 275 on 18/12. CQR: absent only May and June. Maximum numbers recorded in the autumn when 2000 birds were recorded on the mud near the Field Studies Centre on 18/09 and 800 visited the banded pools on 9/10.

Dee Estuary monthly maxima and RSPB Conwy totals are given in the table. *Peak count dates: September 26 (OMR) and November 24 (POA).* At Conwy, 2 prs bred.

GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*) PIBYDD COESWERDD

now **COMMON GREENSHANK**

Passage migrant. Amber List [BL]

Inland: single birds at Llyn Brenig, 2/04; R. Clwyd, 13/11.

Coastal: 3 at PMPA, 19/09; 2 at POA on 18/07 with 2-7 regular during August with a peak of ten on 27/08 and 1-2 in September; a single at BB (Flint foreshore) on 1/03; a single at OMR on 7/01 and 6 on 12/09 (both HT) and 2 on 26/11; CQR: present January-March and August-December. **A maximum of 22 (16 on the Banded Pools) on 12/09.** Also at RSPB Conwy in small numbers (see table).

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*) PIBYDD GWYRDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers

Several records (all singles) from a few regular sites : 1 in ditch alongside R. Clwyd nr Rhuddlan, 4/04; 1 on R. Clwyd, near Denbigh, 10/06, 19/06 and 1/09; 1 at POA on 30/07 and Colliery Lagoons on 11/08; 1 at Shotton Lagoons on 16/10; *and at RSPB Conwy where singles seen on 27/04, 11/06, 23-24/08, 2 on 25/08, 1 on 26/08 and 10-11/09.*

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*) PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

Scarce passage migrant. Amber List [BR, SPEC]

(CU)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	-	74	66	1	1	-	-	14	12	4	10	-
POA	474	731	890	698	86	218	1695	2500	1297	760	1070	139
CR	101	120	50	61	15	180	450	674	518	150	100	113

One on 18-19 May at RSPB Conwy.

TEREK SANDPIPER (*Xenus cinereus*) PIBYDD TEREK

Rare vagrant

Also recorded in twelve other areas: BHP‡, Cefn Bychan, Cilygroesclwyd, Coed Hafod, Glyn Lws, Loggerheads, Coedpoeth (where 1 pair bred at Nant Mill), Pantymwyn, Pwllglas (SJ 120550), Ruthin, Tanat Valley, Ysceifiog Lake.

LONG-TAILED TIT (*Aegithalos caudatus*) TITW GYNFFON-HIR

Common breeding resident

Seen across the county in flocks of up to twenty. Increasingly a visitor to garden feeders.

MARSH TIT (*Parus palustris*) TITW'R WERN

Uncommon breeding resident. Amber List [BDM]

Seen in small numbers across the county in wooded areas. 1 at Gwespyr Scarp, 11/01, first for some time. A first for a Wrexham garden: one feeding from peanut-feeder, 12/08. Only one ringed at Clocaenog compared to 21 Willow Tits.

WILLOW TIT (*Parus montanus*) TITW'R HELYG

Uncommon breeding resident. Amber List [BDM]

Seen in small numbers in mainly forest areas: Bonwm Forest, Cynwyd Forest (SJ 055412), RM plantation, WE forest, Clocaenog, Erddig, Froncysllte, Llandegla and Rhuddlan. A report of birds at a garden nut feeder in Bwlchgwyn. 21 ringed at Clocaenog in 1999.

COAL TIT (*Parus ater*) TITW PENDDU

Common resident.

Takes readily to garden feeders: up to 5 at bird-table near Nant Valley; up to 6 (inc. juvs) daily visitors to Wrexham garden in summer and autumn ~ *out-numbering blue tits!* Good numbers though fewer recorded on WE survey (40 pairs in 1998, 27 in 1999); 11 ringed at Clocaenog.

BLUE TIT (*Parus caeruleus*) TITW TOMOS LAS

Common and widespread breeding resident. [WE]

1st song of 'spring', 17/12/98 and then 13 Jan., Berwyn. Llangollen study block of c60 boxes had 30% occupation, as against 34% in 1998. Mean clutch size, for main laying period, was 10.5 and fledged brood per pair (main laying period) was 6.8 comparing well with 8.6 and 5.6 in 1998.

Nestboxful fledged (1 dead) at Pantymwyn garden, June 1; one pair abandoned bird-box in Wrexham garden (successfully fledged 6 last year) which was taken over by

Common breeding spring/summer visitor and passage migrant. [WE]
First sightings: several on 3 April.

First sighting at AWCP on 3/04 where 10 singing on 21 May; first of year at BHP‡, 3/04, where 18 breeding territories (27-39 during 1992-98); 2 singing at Llyn Helyg, 3/04; 1st of spring, moor-edge above Penycae, 4 April; 1st definite full song at Ruabon, 7/04. Reports from seven main areas, including 15+ at Cefn Bank, WIE! WE survey: 55 in 1998, 60 in 1999. Clocaenog Ringing: 242
 2 probably over-wintering birds at Ruthin Sewerage Works, 21/12.

GOLDCREST (*Regulus regulus*) DRYW EURBEN
Common breeding resident and passage migrant

Seen across the county. Max. numbers: up to 12 at BHP‡ (The Warren, 16/03); pair seen plus 4+ singing, Coedpoeth, 5 April; *ibidem* 8+ heard in singles/doubles, 30/12; family group of c5 at Glyn Lws, 29/07. Large numbers in WE survey (91 pairs in 1998 and 89 in 1999) and in Clocaenog Ringing (177 in 1999).

FIRECREST (*Regulus ignicapillus*) DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH
Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BR]

Several sightings on one day: Two birds seen at Nercwys; 1 at Marford CP (†), and 1 at POA (†), all 9/01. A male seen *next day*, 10/01, at POA dunes (tbc). 1 at The Warren (‡) on 28/01. *Plus* RSPB Conwy: one on 17-28 January - **first record for reserve.**

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa striata*) GWYBEDOG MANNOG
Summer breeding visitor. Red List [BD, SPEC] BCCC [WE]

More pairs seen in Llangollen area than last year with perhaps 12 pairs breeding. 6 birds along R Clwyd, Denbigh, 29/05. Also seen at (singles/doubles): BHP‡; SW of Denbigh (SJ 034655); N of Llanefydd (SH 979734); Llyn Helyg, Mold Churchyard, Moel Famau, near Llanelidan, Loggerheads, Ruabon and Wrexham.

PIED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) GWYBEDOG BRITH
Common summer breeding visitor. [WE]

An interesting record from Coedpoeth: a male in a garden, guarding a nest-box, April 29 - May 27, but unable to attract a partner.
 1st record of spring, Dinbren Isa, Llangollen on 9/04. Llangollen study block of c60 boxes had 39% occupation as against 38% in 1998 and 47% in 1997. Mean 1st egg date was 11 May, clutch size 7.3 but fledged brood size only 3.5 despite no prolonged wet or cool spells. Of 23 boxes WE, 11 were occupied, with mean clutch for 1st layings of 7.0 and mean fledged brood of 4.9 (1998 total = 9; means = 7.6 and 6.1).

RSPB Conwy: adult flew on to reserve with single dunlin, 29/04. Eventually settled on river to south of reserve and seen on lagoons at HT until 3/05. **A first record for Wales as well as the reserve.** (Submitted to BBRC).

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*) PIBYDD Y DORLAN
Passage migrant and breeding visitor

Several records with some coincidence of dates!

(DR)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	8	8	-

Inland: Present at Llyn Brenig from April to September; max. 3; adult with 2 *juvs* in July! (1st on 24/04); two pairs at Rhuddlan (Elwy-Clwyd confluence), 24/04; 1st spring record at PCR: 1 on 24/04. Also seen near AWCP (a pair there on 3 May) and a late single bird at Rhuddlan on 4/08.

Coastal: 1-2 present at BHP‡ in Spring and at POA from 17/04 to mid-August; a single at BB (Bagillt Marsh) on 30/04 and two on 26/09 at Flint Point. A single at CQR on 15/08 on the Bunded Pools and 1 at Shotton Lagoons on 19/07. 1 at RSPB Conwy by 17/04, then up to four in spring with 2 on 23/08 the last record.

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*) CWTIAD Y TRAETH
now RUDDY TURNSTONE
Coastal winter visitor. Amber List [WI] [MSW]

Present in variable numbers through the year. Maximum counts: c100 at Rhos-on-Sea, 5/03; 51 at Llanddulas Beach, 7/11.
 Smaller numbers (usually 1-3) recorded on the Dee Estuary sites: BB, BHP, OMR and POA (*peak count on 31/08*).
 RSPB Conwy: one on 25-26/08 and 2 on 31/08.

(RK)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	-	-	-	75	-	-	110	-	1550	145	350	20
POA	20	40	195	238	-	2	112	146	180	30	569	117
CR	100	150	100	7	6	15	156	234	501	250	300	200

POMARINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) SGIWEN FRECH
Uncommon passage migrant

†1, offshore, POA, Flintshire, 22/05 and 9 in December (ndg). An adult/3rd winter plumaged bird *ibidem*, 3/10 (tbc).

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD
Passage migrant in small numbers

Several reports, all offshore at POA: †1 on 4/06 and †3 on 20/06. Two dark-phase

(GK)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	5	5	2	-	-

birds on August 9th & 16th, 11 flying west on 30/09, 10 on 3/10 and 7 *ibidem*, 4/12. †14 in December (ndg).

LONG-TAILED SKUA (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) SGIWEN LOSTFAIN
Scarce passage migrant

A pale-phase juvenile past POA on 2/10 and 1 adult plus 1 pale-phase juvenile *ibidem*, 3/10 (tbc).

GREAT SKUA (*Stercorarius skua*) SGIWEN FAWR
Uncommon passage migrant. Amber List [BI, BL]

Only two records: 1 off Prestatyn Beach, 18/07 and 1 off POA, 3/10.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL (*Larus melanocephalus*) GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR
Scarce visitor. Amber List [BR]

Increasingly seen: several records this year

†2 at Gronant, 31/01, including a second-winter bird. Singles seen at Rhos Point, 4/04; Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele, 2/02, 20/10 and 4/11; Llyn Helyg, 19/03; Rhyl Beach area, 30/07 and 1/08 (first summer). Singles recorded on seven dates at POA: 19/01, a second-winter bird on 3/02, a first-summer bird on 1/04, 18/07, 31/07, 2/08, and an adult winter bird on 13/08. The penultimate bird had a white ring on the right leg.

RSPB Conwy: 2nd winter on 2/02; 2nd winter + adult on 3rd, 5th and 6th February; 2 *ads* + 2nd winter on 21/02; *ad* on 22/02; 1st summer on 20/04.

FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Larus pipixcan*) GWYLAN FRANKLIN
Rare vagrant

†1 adult winter bird alleged at Gronant, 30/01 - stayed for only half-hour.

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*) GWYLAN FECHAN
Scarce passage migrant. Amber List [BR, SPEC]

Good numbers on WE survey: 10 in 1998, 14 in 1999 and 15 ringed at Clocaenog but few other records: 1 heard, Elwy-Clwyd rivers (SJ 031761), 24/04; 1 at Prion nr Denbigh, 29/04; 1 at Tan Llan nr Coedpoeth, 10/05 and 12/05; up to 3 at BHP‡ (15/05); heard singing at AWCP, Llay site, 21 May; at least two singing 'at each other' in scrub, Nercwys Mtn., 9 June; 1 singing 1km SW of Denbigh, 10/06; 1 singing nr R. Dulas, S of Llandulas, 17/06; and 1 at RSPB Conwy on 21/05.

BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*) TELOR PENDDU
Common breeding summer visitor with small numbers wintering

Spring birds: 1 singing, 3/04, Llyn Helyg; 1st of year at Pantymwyn, 10/04. Good numbers on WE survey in May-June (11 in 1998, 16 in 1999) and in Clocaenog Ringing (46). 8 breeding territories noted at BHP‡ compared to 2-5 during 1992-98. Wintering birds: a *m* on garden bird-table, 21/01, Llandulas; 1 *f* on 12/11 at Maelor Hospital, Wrexham; *m* at Pwllglas garden, (SJ 120550), 20/11; *m* at POA, 21/11; 1 *m* in garden, feeding on apples and guarding them from tits, seen regularly from 21/11 until snow on 14/12, Llanasa.

WOOD WARBLER (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) TELOR Y COED
Breeding summer visitor. [WE]

Uncommon visitor with relatively few records, from only five areas:

1st of spring at Dinbren Isa, 26/04; after apparently rather poor arrival, birds located at 6 sites in Y Foel forest, Pentredwr (SJ 198468), on 26 May. WE survey: 4 in 1998, 2 in 1999. 1st at Loggerheads, 2/05.

CHIFFCHAFF (*Phylloscopus collybita*) SIFF-SAFF
now **COMMON CHIFFCHAFF**

Common breeding summer visitor. Small numbers may winter towards the coast. [WE]

First sighting: 21 February (last year: 24 February)

Wintering birds present at Flint Industrial Site on 3/01, 3 at POA dunes on 10/01 and 1 on 21/11; and 1 at OMR, 10/12.

First at BHP‡ on 21/02 where 3 breeding territories (0-3 during 1992-98); first at AWCP on 15/03; 2 singing, R. Clwyd near Denbigh on 17/03; 1st of spring at Sun Bank, Llangollen, 17/03; 1st TFR, 24/03; 1st of year at Pantymwyn, 3/04. Reports from over eleven areas, including Cefn Bank, WIE where 15+ counted on 22/04! Only small numbers counted on WE survey (4 in 1999) compared to much larger numbers of Willow Warbler (60 in 1999)! 34 ringed at Clocaenog.

WILLOW WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) TELOR YR HELYG

area. RSPB Conwy: 3 singing *m* along the Ganol Trail on 24/04 with 1 on 25/04, 2 on 27/04.

SEDGE WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) TELOR YR HESG
Summer breeding visitor

1st at LPJ on 4 May and a nest found in June, with another pair almost certainly breeding. 3 pairs bred at Shotton Lagoons. 21 breeding territories at BHP‡ (6-17 during 1992-98). Up to 5 singing at POA colliery pool area, 2 at Terfyn Covert and 18 singing at Gronant beach marsh area. RSPB Conwy: 2 on 24/04. 14 pairs bred. Last on 26/09. Other records: 1 at Southsea Bog, 12/05 and 19/05; 1 at RGC on 9/05 and 1/06; 1 at Pwllglas, Rhuthun (SJ 120550), 18/05; 3 at Glan Morfa old refuse tip, Rhyl, 28/05.

REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) TELOR Y CYRS
now **EURASIAN REED WARBLER**
Rare summer breeding visitor

Only a few records: 1 breeding territory at BHP‡ (0-1 during 1992-98); 2 territories in Gronant Beach marsh area; 1 territory at POA colliery pool; pair with young in May at Shotton Lagoons; one ringed in Clocaenog and 10 prs bred at RSPB Conwy.

LESSER WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia curruca*) LLWYDFRON FACH
Scarce breeding summer visitor

Only a few records: 1 singing *m* on passage, Pantymwyn, 9/05; 1 at Ruthin Sewerage Works, 19/08. 5-6 breeding territories at BHP‡ (1-6 during 1992-98). RSPB Conwy: 1 on 4/05, 2 on 5/05.

WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia communis*) LLWYDFRON
now **COMMON WHITETHROAT**
Common breeding summer visitor

Records from only eight main areas: first at R. Clwyd, 23/04; first at Gwaenysgor (SJ 075812), a *m* on 24/04; first at AWCP, four *m* on 27/04 where highest count of singing *m* was 6 on 28/04 (Llay site) and 9 on 3 May (Bradley site). 1st heard at LPJ on 4 May and 2 prs bred there. A pair nested TFR for second year - carrying food, June 11-14. 36 breeding territories at BHP‡ (26-49 during 1992-98). 2+ pairs raised young on CQR and at Shotton Lagoons. Highest counts given for coastal sites: 5 at Glan Morfa old refuse tip, Rhyl, 1/05; 4 (1*m*, 1*f*, 2*j*) on 18/06 at Green Ave., Kinmel Bay and 3 pairs bred at RSPB Conwy.

GARDEN WARBLER (*Sylvia borin*) TELOR YR ARDD
Breeding summer visitor

1 at Llandulas, 5/07; 1 flew west past Gronant on 21/07; †6 at POA, Flints on 22/07; 7 on four dates in December.
RSPB Conwy: a first-winter bird, 25/10 - **first reserve record**.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*) GWYLAN BENDDU
Common breeding resident and winter visitor

Inland sightings: sightings over 150 at Gresford Flash, Llyn Helyg and SLJ
Coastal: largest counts: 2100 at POA, 12/08; 1350 in BHP‡ coastal fields, early March; 800 at Dyserth, 16/01; 300 at Rhyl-Kinmel Bay Prom., 11/10.
Dee Estuary: POA: peak counts included 2100 on 12/08, 835 on 30/07 and 503 on 24/09. Shotton Pools: resident flock of up to 40; 12 pairs nested, fledging 16 young.

(TT)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	5	5	3	1	-	1	2	10	1	-	-	2

IMF: for the first time, eight pairs nested on the Border Pool. Also at RSPB Conwy (see table).

Unusual sighting: a ringed headless corpse found at Bryn-y-Grog Reservoir (SJ 348485), Marchwiel on 27/03 came from Denmark.

RING-BILLED GULL (*Larus delawarensis*) GWYLAN FODRWYBIG
Rare American vagrant

RSPB Conwy: adult present in afternoon gull roost off Southern end of reserve, 31/01 - 6/02 - **a first for the reserve**.

COMMON GULL (*Larus canus*) GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD
now **MEW GULL**

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [SPEC]
Inland: found at various sites; often in small numbers with black-headed gull flocks.
Inland maxima: regular in late winter along Dee valley between Corwen and Llangollen in flocks of up to 100; c80 feeding with BH gulls among sheep just E of Llangollen, 9/02; 50 at Llyn Helyg, 19/03.
Coastal maxima: a count of 1522 at Warren Farm on 19/03 and up to 4000 on coastal fields (mostly Gronant to Big Pool), (BHP‡); 3400 at Gronant beach on 31/01; an exceptional flock of 1200 in cold weather movement at Dyserth village, 16/01; c625 at POA on 12/08; 400 at Llandulas Beach, east, 27/02; 100 at Kinmel Bay and Splash Point, Rhyl, same day. Peak counts at POA inc. 625 on 12/08, 454 on 3/02 and 323 on 17/02. Also at RSPB Conwy (see table).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*) GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF
Breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber List [BI, BL]

Inland reports : seen at AWCP, RM and GF where 110 on 23/12.

Coastal: POA peak counts inc. 104 on 16/06 and 158 on 30/09.

HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*) GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

Breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber List [BDM]

Found on the coast in large numbers (max.: 5000 at Kinmel Bay and Splash Point, Rhyl, 27/02; 927 at POA on 20/03) and in smaller groups inland (max.: 60 at GF on 23/12). BHP(‡): 7 breeding territories at Llawndy Farm (0-3 during 1992-98) where four nests were on roofs and one on the flare stack pipeline; at least 4 reached chick stage. The table gives the figures for RSPB Conwy where two pairs bred.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL (*Larus cachinnans*) GWYLAN GOES FELEN

Scarce winter visitor

Singles were recorded at Gronant, 31/01(†) and POA on 31 July, 13th & 26 August and 10 December. A large, pale-yellow legged bird on 4/03 was assumed to belong to the north European race *omissus*. An adult was present 25/01 - 16/06 at RSPB Conwy. This was joined by a smaller ad on 15/06, this bird remaining until 17/09. Both were of the western form *michahellis*.

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*) GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

Scarce winter visitor

RSPB Conwy: a first-winter was present on 24th and 26th March with a second-winter on 30/03 and 7/04.

GLAUCOUS GULL (*Larus hyperboreus*) GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

Scarce winter visitor

A first or second-winter bird at POA, 19/01 and an adult on 31/01 at Gronant (‡).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*) GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF

Passage migrant and winter visitor

Mainly a coastal visitor. Maximum counts: 200 at Rhyl-Kinmel Bay Prom., 11/10 and 103 at POA on 9/10. Also at RSPB Conwy in small numbers: see table.

KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*) GWYLAN GOES DDU

(BH)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	250	800	100	55	15	66	420	461	6	50	30	50

nr Ruabon, 21 July; several excited, probably migrating birds, in oak tops at Berwyn, with Song and Mistle thrushes, 29/09.

FIELDFARE (*Turdus pilaris*) SOCAN EIRA

A very common passage and winter migrant. Often in huge numbers with other winter thrushes. Amber List [BR]

Last winter visitor: 20 February. First autumn bird: October 16

Seen throughout the county. At Pont y Ddôl (SH 985725), about 75 disturbed by a Goshawk, 20/02. Sizeable flocks (>100) at PCR, RM, Llyn Brenig, R. Clwyd (Denbigh stretch), Dee Floods near Holt.

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*) BRONFRAITH

Widespread breeding species and winter visitor. Red List [BD] BCCC [WE]

Reports from about ten areas. Largest number: several apparent migrants (>10) with Blackbirds and Mistle Thrushes, in oak tops, Berwyn, 29/09. 6 breeding territories at BHP‡ (1-6 during 1992-98).

REDWING (*Turdus iliacus*) COCH DAN-ADEN

Common passage migrant and winter visitor throughout the area. Often in large numbers with Fieldfares, Starlings and other thrushes. Amber List [BR]

Last winter bird: 27 March. First autumn bird: 6 October.

Reported from over ten areas. Flocks of 100+ noted at PCR, WE, and R. Clwyd stretch near Denbigh.

MISTLE THRUSH (*Turdus viscivorus*) BRYCH Y COED

Widespread, low density breeding resident. [WE]

Reported from eight main areas. Main counts: 31 along R. Clwyd near Denbigh, 11/07; c14 at Pen-y-Corrdyn Mawr, S of Llandulas, 24/08; 12 on 20/08 at Hanmer; More nests than usual found in Llangollen area, possibly signifying larger numbers; 20-30 moved S nr PCR on date between 11-14 Sept. 2 breeding territories at BHP‡ (0-2 during 1992-98).

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (*Locustella naevia*) TROELLWR BACH

now **COMMON GRASSHOPPER WARBLER**

Localised summer breeding visitor. Amber List [BDM]

Singles at Gwespyr, 23/04; Llandegla, 24/04; R. Clwyd estuary, 25/04; Brenig, 15/05; nr Denbigh Cross Roads, Clocaenog (SJ 005546), 26/06. 1st of spring on RM: 24 April; song heard at ten sites. 5 breeding territories at BHP‡ (3-9 during 1992-98) but little evidence of breeding success; first on 4/04. 2 territories in Gronant Beach

OMR: a single bird on the adjacent fly-ash fields, May 18. POA: a single *m* on 17/05 and 29/05. RSPB Conwy: 1 on 27-28/04, 2 on 1/05 and 10/05, 3 on 11/05 with singles on 13th, 15th, 19th May.

STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata*) CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG
Breeding resident in small numbers. Amber List [SPEC]

Seen in small numbers in both inland and coastal areas. Maximum counts: 13+ pairs on HP/RM area; 9 (3*m*, 2*f*, 4*j*) at Mynydd Glyn Lws (SH 8872), 3/07. Pair bred in Gronant dunes.

WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) TINWEN Y GARN
now **NORTHERN WHEATEAR**

Breeding summer visitor; mainly upland areas though largest number was 30 passing through Llanasa, 18 April. Earliest: 13 March at Llyn Brenig; 14 March on RM; 18 March at Warren Farm.

Inland: seen at Llyn Brenig, RM, Cilcain, RGC, Llanasa, Bersham
Coastal: small numbers seen on passage at offshore Rhyl and Prestatyn and at CQR, Gronant (where at least one pair bred), Pensarn Beach, Pentre Mawr Park, OMR, BB, POA, RGC, Rhos Point. 3 pairs at Shotton Lagoons where 4 young seen in July. 2 pairs bred at colliery spoil area adjacent POA. RSPB Conwy: 1 on 14/03 then small numbers on spring passage with 7 on 18/04 inc. 4 Greenland race. 2 on 30/07, 1 on 28/09.

RING OUZEL (*Turdus torquatus*) MWYALCHEN Y MYNYDD
Breeding summer visitor in small numbers to upland areas. Amber List [BDM]

1st of spring, a hen above Dinbren Uchaf, Llangollen, 29/03, feeding on Cotoneaster berries; a *m* singing from a tall relict ash in a young broad-leafed plantation nr WE, 7/04 but not seen subsequently; only one proved breeding in HP/RM area, though 1 or 2 seen in four other sites on at least one occasion.
A *m* nr Aled reservoir, Denbigh Moors (SH 913595), 5/04; pair at Llandegla, 24/04 but did not stay to breed.

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*) MWYALCHEN
now **COMMON BLACKBIRD**

Common breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BDM] [WE]

A very successful bird across the county. Largest numbers: 17 at Marsh Lane, Rhuddlan, 9/01; 18 counted in total on BBS survey, Erddig, 22 April; 28 and 47 presumed pairs in 1998 and 1999 respectively in WE survey, May-June; 14 feeding on cotoneaster berries, Ruabon, December 28 and 30.

Already, by 29 April, many birds carrying food in Llangollen area; 2+ in ripe oilseed

now **BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE**
Passage migrant

Seen offshore. A single *imm* was seen 'loafing' with Common Gulls off Flint at HT on 20/02; 70 recorded passing POA on 22/05 and 100 on 3/10. Several seen passing west off Gronant in June and July (maximum 7 on 20/06) and 2 seen with movement of 102 Manx Shearwaters, 2 Fulmar, 8 Common Scoter and 5 Auk spp., early morning seawatch at Gronant, 21 June. Singles at POA on 18/02, 12/07, 30/09 and 10/12 and up to 7 offshore BHP‡, Feb - April. RSPB Conwy: a first winter on 27/10 and an adult on 31/10, brought in by late autumn gales.

SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna sandvicencis*) MORWENNOL BIGDDU
Passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC] [MSW]

4 Rhyl-Prestatyn Prom, 7/05; 2 Rhyl Prom - Marine Lake, 12/05; off Rhyl in July and September (max. count = 280+); R. Clwyd estuary (10 on 1/08). Seen at Rhos Point from 28/03 to 8/04 with a maximum of 15 on latter date. 350 at Gronant at HT on 15/08 and 225 on 12/09. Late summer peak counts at POA involved 450 on 18/07, 210 on 29/07 and 100 on 30/09. RSPB Conwy: a poor year with only one record: 2 on 25/04.

(CM)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	281	800	30	1	-	-	6	10	20	50	10	50

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) MORWENNOL GYFFREDIN
Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor

The Shotton colony had a successful year with 433 pairs and 552 fledged young were ringed. Bad weather in early to mid June led to a high mortality rate with an additional c500 young dead.

(LB)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	1	12	14	2	9	20	20	15	6	5	1	1

Dee Estuary: POA: late summer peak counts of 289 on 30/07 and 200 on 11/08. 90 offshore BHP‡, 16/06 and 28 off POA on 1/10. BB: 10 at Flint at HT on 16/05 and 4 on 13/06. OMR: a steady movement of birds along the river on May 10. As in previous years, birds from nearby Shotton colony fished the river and rested on the marsh through summer. Occasional presence at Shotton Lagoons but no nesting despite presence of breeding platforms.

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*) MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

(HG)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	230	300	80	45	85	4	170	100	50	100	70	50

Uncommon passage migrant. Amber List [BDM]

An erratic presence recorded: singles only at POA on 12/07, 11/08, 13/08 (a first summer bird) but 180+ recorded on 17/08, 6 (3 *ads*, 3 *juvs*) on 1/10 and 8 *ibidem* on 2/10. RSPB Conwy: one on 21/04 then 2 on river on 19-20/09 with one remaining until 21/09. *Juv* nr VC on 2/10.

LITTLE TERN (*Sterna albifrons*) MORWENNOL FECHAN
Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Amber List [SPEC] [MSW]

The nesting colony at Gronant had a successful breeding season: 86 pairs fledged 111 young (see table). This resulted from a generally dry and warm season with low predation rates. The poor season for 1995 was due to losses sustained from predation and tidal inundation; that of 1997 was a consequence of prolonged poor weather and heavy fox predation.

Also recorded off Rhyl-Prestatyn Prom, with 29 on 7/05; off Rhyl in June (max. count = 50); 1 at POA, 31/07; and peak count of 18 *ibidem* on 16/08.

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*) CORSWENNOL DDU
Uncommon passage migrant

Only one record - BB: two birds flew east off Greenfield Dock, 7/08.

GUILLEMOT (*Uria aalge*) GWYLOG
Regular visit to coastal waters. Amber List [BI, BL]

Only one record: 4 off Rhyl Splash Point, 3/03.

(GB)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
CR	2	6	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-

RAZORBILL (*Alca torda*) LLURS
Small numbers occasionally recorded offshore. Amber List [BL]

Two records: 4 off Rhyl Splash Point, 3/03 and 1 off Rhyl [MSW] in April. [Up to 12 Guillemot/Razorbill recorded offshore BHP‡ and Gronant, Jan - March.]

STOCK DOVE (*Columba oenas*) COLOMEN WYLLT
now **STOCK PIGEON**
Breeding resident. Amber List [BI]

DUNNOCK (*Prunella modularis*) LLWYD Y GWRYCH
now **HEDGE ACCENTOR**
Common breeding resident. Amber list [BDM] [WE]

Successful and widespread across the county. The first song of 'spring' at Berwyn was on 22/12, 1998, the next on 10/01!

ROBIN (*Erithacus rubecula*) ROBIN GOCH
now **EUROPEAN ROBIN**
Common and widespread breeding resident and partial migrant

Another successful breeder in a variety of habitats. Maximum total of BBS survey at Erddig: 12 in April. In Mold, one nested in traditional plant-pot in garden shed, March 4; in Wrexham, a pair successfully bred in old Blackbird nest in Wisteria despite being disturbed in April (still there end-June; feeding *juv* on 15 July). The most common bird on WE transect with 81 presumed pairs in 1998 and a huge increase to 129 in 1999! A max. of 10 at RSPB Conwy, 18-26/10.

BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) TINGOCH DU
A scarce migrant and winter visitor. Has bred. Amber List [BR]

A *m* seen very clearly, at c4 metres, in garden on HP, Llangollen in April (*tbc*) and one by Llawndy terminal on 2/04‡.

REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) TINGOCH
now **COMMON REDSTART**
Fairly common summer breeding visitor; mainly upland areas. Amber List [SPEC] [WE]

Several records: 1st of spring, nr Rock Farm, Llangollen, 9/04; 8 on R. Clwyd near Denbigh, 23/04; a pair probably nesting at Bryn Arddyn, Glyn Ceiriog (SJ 205385) from April 30; up to 3 (2*m*,1*f*) at Glyn Lws (SH 886718), 2/05 and 8/06; 2 *m* at Llyn Brenig, 15/05, scarce at this altitude; 4 pairs at Llandegla in June; party of 4 passing through Burton, Rossett, 14/08; a *m* in Pwllglas garden, Rhuthun (SJ 120550), 1/08; 3 spring sightings at BHP‡; 1-3 recorded at RSPB Conwy (latter on 18/08). Good numbers recorded on WE survey: 25 pairs in 1998 and 1999.

WHINCHAT (*Saxicola rubetra*) CREC YR EITHIN
Fairly common breeding summer visitor; mainly in upland areas

Several records: a *f* at R. Clwyd, Rhyl, 27/02; seen at Llyn Brenig on 24 April; pair and *juv ibidem* in July (16th); first of spring, surprisingly late, 1 on RM, 1 May; at Glan Morfa, Rhyl, 1/05; family party of 6+, Cilcain Moors (SJ 1664), 1/08. Several sightings at BHP‡ with a maximum of 5 on 12/05 plus four by Colliery Pool, 6/05.

Denbigh stretch of R. Clwyd, 23/01; 1 on 28/12; 2 on river, S of Rhuddlan, 18/06. 1-2 on R. Dulas, S edge of Llandulas. *Ad + Juv* on Afon Ystrad, nr Denbigh (SJ 031649), 10/06. Five presumed pairs recorded in WE survey. 1 at OMR on 3/09, 2 on 24/11, 4 on 10/12; two at BB, Flint, on 22/09; five in Finger Post Gutter (edge of IMF arable land in Flintshire) on 14/10. Pair possibly bred in ditch at Ffynnongroyw (‡).

PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba* ssp. *yarellii*) SIGLEN FRAITH
Widespread breeding species. Winter dispersals in large roosts and gatherings, often in urban areas. [WE]

Found in varying numbers throughout the year. Largest counts: c60 moving NW nr Nant-y-Ffrith Reservoir, Llandegla (SJ 245532), 11/09-14/09; counts of 40-110 (latter on 15/02) at OMR. 6 breeding territories at BHP‡ (0-6 during 1992-98) and 3+ pairs bred at CQR; 27 young at Shotton lagoons in July; max. count of 46 at RSPB Conwy** on 3/03; 27 at R. Clwyd estuary, 4/04.

White Wagtail (ssp. *alba*): a maximum count of 17 reached at POA, 19/04; a max of 7 at BHP‡, 24/04; two present at BB on Bagillt saltmarsh, HT, 30/04. 2 at Llyn Brenig, 21/09. *Also at RSPB Conwy: 2 on 7/04 then good numbers on spring passage with 12 on 17/04 rising to 25 on 20/04, 40 on 22/04 and 50 on 25-27/04. Numbers then dropping off to 15 on 5-9/05 with last one on 17/05.*

DIPPER (*Cinclus cinclus*) BRONWEN Y DWR
now WHITE-THROATED DIPPER
Widespread localised breeding resident

4 on R. Clwyd (Denbigh stretch), 23/01; 1 at nest *ibidem*, 17/03; fledged young on 22/05; 3 + 1 *juv* at Erddig, 25/04. 2 highest territories on WE stream unoccupied, for second time in 1990s. Mink detected in area.

Also seen in ten other areas: Afon Ystrad, nr Denbigh (SJ 031649); Ddol Uchaf reserve; AWCP (max.: 3 on 31 May); Ceiriog Valley; the Dingle, Colwyn Bay; R. Dulas, S edge of Llandulas; Loggerheads; Moss Valley; Llangollen; Nant Mill; RSPB Conwy.

WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) DRYW
now WINTER WREN
Common and widespread breeding resident. [WE]
Widespread and successful. Reported from several areas. On winter transect counts on RM, autumn max of 44 compared with 22 in 1998 and 13 in 1997. 14 counted on BBS survey at Erddig, 24/04. Second largest 'score' on WE survey: 78 pairs in 1998 and 122 in 1999!

Occasional sightings, usually single birds. Maximum: 10, 11/03, BHP‡; 5 in grassy field with gulls and Woodpigeons, Coedpoeth, 26/12. Three nests found at Shotton Lagoons.

WOODPIGEON (*Columba palumbus*) YSGUTHAN
now COMMON WOOD PIGEON
Abundant breeding resident. Often culled by local agricultural interests. [WE]

Widespread and successful in a variety of habitats. Reports received from many areas. Maximum: c400 flying SW past PCR at 08.30h, 27/10.

FERAL PIGEON (*Columbia livia*): largest number reported - 140, R. Clwyd, Rhyl, 27/02; 213 on railway bridge roost over R. Clwyd, 1/06. 6 breeding territories at BHP‡ (0-10 during 1992-98).

COLLARED DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*) TURTUR DORCHOG
now EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE
Common and widespread breeding resident

Breeds readily in suburban areas. Maximum: c12 feeding on road nr farm at Horseman's Green, 22/11 and 12 at Llyn Helyg, 10/12.

TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*) TURTUR
now EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE
Scarce summer breeding visitor. Red List [BD, SPEC]

Three records: one at Llawndy Farm, 24/05 (‡); one at a favoured site: Borrás Quarry (SJ 365535), 10 June; 1 flying S over Burton, Rossett with domestic pigeons, suddenly changed direction and disappeared to N, 28/09.

CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*) COG
now COMMON CUCKOO
Breeding summer visitor [WE]

Indications of being less common than before: 50 records in 1989 but only c20 in 1999!

*One breeding territory noted from 30/04 at BHP‡ (0-2 during 1992-8). Also recorded at Llangollen/Ruabon area (at Clywedog Valley, Coedpoeth, Gyfelia, HP, Llangollen, RM, TFR); Gwaenysgor (SJ 075812), Llandegla, Llyn Brenig, Moel Famau, Pantymwyn, POA (*juv*), R. Clwyd estuary (*f*), RSPB Conwy and one record of a bird heard on one day only from AWCP (first for several years). Two pairs in WE survey (1998 and 1999). Reported for 7 BBS squares (=27%); see Appendix 7.*

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)

TYLLUAN WEN

Scarce breeding resident. Amber List [BDM, SPEC]

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
pairs	45	77	65	78	80+	35-40	86
fledged young	45	120 -140	36	120+	9 - 11	20	111

Sparse and probably declining with few records: 2 prs reared 4 young each in Dee valley between Cynwyd (SJ 055412) and Llangollen. Five other records of single birds (one dead) from similar area. 1 over Gronant dunes, 18/06. Possibly a pair at nearby BHP‡ and one sighting at Shotton lagoons, 25/01. 2 heard calling, Denbigh Cross Roads, nr Clocaenog (SJ 005546), 26/06. RSPB Conwy had one roosting in nest-box, 20/01-8/03.

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*)

TYLLUAN FACH

Breeding resident

Observed in twelve areas (all singles) plus one breeding territory (unsuccessful) at Warren Farm (0-1 during 1992-8)‡ and a pair near Rhual Hill, Mold, 18/06, may have bred but unconfirmed.

TAWNY OWL (*Strix aluco*)

TYLLUAN FRECH

Under-recorded breeding resident

Records from ten areas; all heard except for a young dead bird found in Dyserth with hole in back of head, probably from natural causes, Spring 1999 and 1 at BHP‡, 7/05.

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*)

TYLLUAN GORNIOG

Rare breeding resident

Records from two areas: One bird, at least, in usual territory on edge of RM until early March. A nest found in April on a different edge of the moor (5 eggs leading to 2 fledged young.) One bird seen again at usual site, 17/11. 1 at Gronant Dunes, 29/10.

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)

TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

Scarce winter visitor, passage migrant and possible breeder. Amber List [SPEC]

Sadly, few records: 1 on RM on 10/03; probable calls heard on 9/04. **No subsequent**

on 4/01, 8 on 16/02, four records of 1-3 during 19/01-21/02 (‡) and a single bird noted on 22/10. BB: two noted along Flint foreshore seawall at HT, 19/02 and then only one next day. Singles reported at Oakenholt Marsh, 9/11 and 24/11 when with a flock of 20+ Meadow Pipits, a Water Pipit and a (nearby) Richard's Pipit and 6 there on 26/11.

1-3 wintering birds at Conwy RSPB Reserve.

WATER PIPIT (*Anthus spinoletta*)

CORHEDDYD Y DWR

Uncommon passage and winter visitor to the Dee Estuary

1 reported at Gronant (†) on 2/01. 2 winter-plumaged birds reported at Oakenholt Marsh, 24/11, along with a flock of 20+ Meadow Pipits, a Rock Pipit and a (nearby) Richard's Pipit (tbc).

RICHARD'S PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

CORHEDYDD RICHARD

A scarce visitor

1 at Oakenholt Marsh RSPB Reserve, Flintshire from 23 November - 28 November (various reports and dates from 23/11 until 29/12). Possibly same bird relocated at Greenfield Dock on 10/12 until 31/12 (Oakenholt - S. Dixon, Greenfield - A.G. Stamp; accepted by WRP).

YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*)

SIGLEN FELEN

Passage visitor and (possible) localised breeder in small numbers

3 territorial pairs on Flintshire arable fields adjacent to IMF but no pairs bred and 12 breeding pairs on Shotwick fields (WDA surveys). A single present on Bagillt saltmarsh, 30/04, HT. Several sightings at BHP‡ with a maximum of 3 at Warren Farm on 4 May.

RSPB Conwy: one on 22/04, 3 on 25/04, 4 on 26/04. 1-2 present in May. *Juv* on 8-10/07 and 20/09.

Blue-headed wagtail (*M.f.flava*): *m* on 13-14 May at RSPB Conwy.

[**Grey-headed wagtail** (*M.f.thunbergi*): *m* on 20/05 - first record for Conwy Reserve (accepted by WRP for Caernarfon).]

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla cinerea*)

SIGLEN LWYD

Fairly common breeding resident. [WE]

Recorded in fifteen areas. Unusual sightings included a pair in a Coedpoeth garden, 27 May and two seen at Mold Hospital goldfish pond in an unusually confined area, 2/11. As last year, good numbers on River Dee and other streams and in Llangollen area; and 2 *m*, apparently breeding, in two slate quarries, one of which was dry. 3 on

Common summer breeding and passage visitor. [WE] [MSW]

First of spring: April 6. Last: October 7.

Fairly widespread with variable numbers from about ten main areas. Largest inland counts: c50-100 inspecting eaves in Coedpoeth, very late, Sept. 6-8; 30-40 very excited, PCR, dusk, 12/09; c20 over Dee at Berwyn, 7/10. 57 nests counted at Llanasa (largest in ten year survey). Largest coastal counts: Present off Rhyl [MSW] in May (max. = 30); spring peak of 300 on 17/05 at RSPB Conwy; 30+ at POA, 1/09. *Unusual records:* A pair returned to a house in Dyserth after a 20 year break and successfully fledged a single brood! c12 picked mud from a temporary scrape made by a bulldozer on Brickfield playing fields, Wrexham, 29 June.

TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*)

CORHEDDYD Y COED

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. [WE]

Very few records probably accurately reflect its relative scarcity: but surprisingly good numbers on WE survey: 17 pairs in 1998, 25 in 1999!

1st of spring at WE, 1 on 28/03†; 3 on 19/04; two pairs bred at Nercwys for last two years. Up to 9 noted at BHP‡ (27/04). Singles at RSPB Conwy: 1 May and 24 August.

MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*)

CORHEDDYD Y WAEN

Common breeding, passage and wintering species

*Inland: various sightings, including mixed flock of skylarks and meadow pipits, along R. Rhyl, 11/02; 50 (on migration?), Llanasa, 3/04; 15+ at Llyn Brenig Reservoir, 4/07. Spring arrival, inc. display-fighting birds, on RM, March 14; c60 in field off moors S of Glyndyfrdwy (SJ 150425), 8/04; but a 3 hr walk on RM, early-mid morning on 24/04, revealed few birds and almost no display (possible cause - considerable damage to *Calluna* shoots); considerably fewer nests found on RM than last year - a return to 1994-7 situation. S or SW passage, 5-29 Oct.*

Also recorded along/near the coast: 12 at Pensarn Beach on 14/03; up to 30 on spring passage, 14/04 - 1/05, Conwy RSPB reserve; 4 at RGC on 9/05; 1 Kinnel Bay Beach, 1/06; 10 at Mynydd Glyn Lws (SH 8872), 3/07; 7 at Towyn Beach, 9/11 and a flock of 30 at Shotton Lagoons in November. 12 breeding territories at BHP‡: fewer than 1992-98 (14-21) and 4 pairs on colliery spoil heap adjoining POA reserve.

Unusual sighting: a flock of 20+ Meadow Pipits with a Rock Pipit, a Water Pipit and a (nearby) Richard's Pipit (Oakenholt Marsh, 24/11).

ROCK PIPIT (*Anthus petrosus*)

CORHEDDYD Y GRAIG

Winter visitor to Dee estuary in small numbers

Several counts at BHP‡ with a maximum of 12 at Llawndy Farm on 21/02. POA: 6

records, so once again, probably no breeding here. 1 nr Brenig Reservoir, 24/04. BHP‡: **none breeding** (0-1 during 1992-98) but up to 2 present on The Warren, March to April.

NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

TROELLWR MAWR

now **EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR**

*Scarce breeding summer visitor. Red List [BD, SPEC] **BCCC***

*Records from four sites: 1 nr PCR on 4 May; 1 at Clocaenog, 10/06; 2 churring at Denbigh Cross Road, Clocaenog (SJ 005546), 26/06 and 3 recorded *ibidem* on 12/07. Nercwys Mountain is a regular site for this species as the table shows (*source: Paul Kenyon*).*

SWIFT (*Apus apus*)

GWENNOL DDU

now **COMMON SWIFT**

Fairly common breeding summer visitor

First record: 26 April (Llantysilio, Llangollen). Last: 29/08 (Ruabon).

Reported from across the county. Maximum: 63 at The Warren (‡), 15/06; c40 mxd with House Martins, Coedpoeth, 11/06 and c300 at RSPB Conwy on 17/05.

ALPINE SWIFT (*Apus melba*)

GWENNOL DDU'R ALPAU

A rare summer vagrant

A single bird, sex and age unknown seen flying and feeding with other hirundines at Rhuddlan, Denbighshire, 20 July (and similar *ibidem* at 19/4/98) [*S. Hughes*; accepted by WRP. **This is only the second record for Denbighshire.**]

KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*)

GLAS Y DORLAN

now **COMMON KINGFISHER**

Local breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC]

About 20 sightings from twelve areas (cf c80 records in 1989).

HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*)

COPOG

Rare passage visitor

RSPB Conwy: one on 4/05 nr Benarth Hide before flying out over estuary - **first record for reserve.**

GREEN WOODPECKER (*Picus viridis*)

CNOCELL WERDD

Breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC]

Observed at about a dozen locations over the county (including several garden visits) and heard at 11 sites between Glyndyfrdwy (SJ 150425) and Penycae, N and W of R. Dee. First heard at Berwyn 5/01.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopus major*) CNOCELL FRAITH

FWYAF

Breeding resident

Widespread: reported from over a dozen localities, including garden feeders. 1st drumming of 'spring', 13/01, at Berwyn.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopus minor*) CNOCELL FRAITH

LEIAF

Uncommon breeding resident

Records from only three sites: 1 at Bodryddan Estate, Rhuddlan on 16/01; 1 drumming in Big Pool Wood (SJ 102840), 2/02 (‡); a total of four seen along R. Clwyd (near Denbigh) (pair + 2 f), 6/03 and 17/03; 2 on 28/03; 2 on 23/04; pair on 22/05. Plus one seen via BBS survey in square SJ 1673.

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*)

EHEDYDD

Widespread breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List [BD, SPEC] BCCC [MSW] There has probably been a reduction in the breeding habitat of this once common bird the presence of which counts towards the Government's new Quality of Life Index.

Inland: reported from seven main areas. First song of spring at SPJ on 18/02. Largest flock: 30 at LPJ on 22/11. Breeds in small numbers at AWCP (8 m singing there by 30 January); Bryn Arddyn, Ceiriog Valley (3+ pairs there, June 19); several at Broughton airfield; 8 counted with at least four singing at Firestone site, WIE (22/04).

Coastal: small flocks in spring and autumn (largest: 10 at Gronant Beach, 15/12). By SPJ, 18/02; then on RM, 1/03; 5 moving N and 3 W over RM, 12/10 where 1 moving SW half-singing, 29/10; and 3 flying SW on 2/11; 30 on field on LPJ, 22/11.

Dee Estuary: BHP‡: fewer breeding territories (20-21 compared to 23-31 during 1992-98). POA: peak count of 15 on 22/10. Four birds on territory on May 12.

OMR: a peak count of 50 recorded at HT, 9/11. Presumed breeding (no breeding survey) but at least 7 pairs bred on fields on the nearby CQR. Seven young seen at Shotton Lagoons though no nests found.

RSPB Conwy: 8 pairs bred. Small numbers present throughout year.

SHORELARK (*Eremophila alpestris*)

EHEDYDD Y TRAETH

now **HORNED LARK**

(NJ)	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
pairs	3	3	4	3	4	3
young	8	8	14	5	8	6

Occasional winter visitor

Several reports, principally from the Gronant area: a peak of 35 (†) was reached at Gronant Beach in early January, down to 16 on 5/01 and only 1 *ibidem* on 8/01; 17 at POA on 24/01 and Gronant, 31/01 (same?); 15 on 20/02 and 13 at Gronant, 26/02; 12 at Gronant (W-end) on 20/03.

POA: 17 birds frequented beach car-park area from 18/01 to 10/02. Three late birds still present on April 16!

SAND MARTIN (*Riparia riparia*)

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

Summer breeding and passage visitor. Amber List [SPEC]

Few reports, particularly of breeding, perhaps reflecting the loss of habitat. Reported from only five areas: c4 flying at GF (17/04) and 50 nest-holes at Borrass Quarry (SJ 365535), 10 June; 1st sighting at R. Clwyd, near Denbigh (where 19 nest sites) on 28/03; steady passage recorded at OMR on May 12 (ndg); seen at Sutton Green (SJ 405485), May 23 (ndg). 20-30 nests in sand quarry near Afonwen on 11/07. Also at RSPB Conwy: one on 13/03 then common on spring migration with 100 on 25/04. Small breeding colony on lower lagoon with 13 nesting burrows failed due to bank erosion - **a new breeding species.**

SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

GWENNOL

now **BARN SWALLOW**

Common summer breeding and passage visitor. Amber List [BDM, SPEC] [WE] [MSW]

First arrival: 1 April (last year = 30 March).

Last: 12 September inland (18 October in 1998) with 80 at RSPB Conwy on 25/09.

Still a common visitor though with variable numbers.

Inland: recorded from about ten main areas. A very early bird feeding at Pen Bryn Llan Farm for one day, Llanrhaedr, 3/04. Other arrivals: 2 by PCR, 5/04; c200 at PCR on 7/05. 1st of year at Holt, 10/04; 1 over Cilcain Moors (SJ 1664), 11/04. At Dinbren Isa, Llangollen study farm, 9 pairs as last year; laying earlier this year, probably due to warm weather in early May, with 5 prs already on full clutches (inc. 2 cl.6s) by May 19. Breeding success poor with only 5.11 young reared on average per pair, as against 7 in 1998. **This was the second poorest average in 7 yrs of study.**

Coastal: Present off Rhyl [MSW]: April, May and October (max. count = 50); 50 Rhyl-Prestatyn Prom, 7/05; steady passage at RSPB OMR on 12/05 (ndg); 200 feeding over pools, 9-17th May, Conwy RSPB Reserve; possibly 100+ in Gronant reed beds and 40+ at POA, both 1/09.

HOUSE MARTIN (*Delichon urbica*)

GWENNOL Y BONDO