

Clwyd Bird Report

2003

The Bird Report for North East Wales
Published November 2005

Clwyd Bird Recording Group



CLWYD BIRD REPORT 2003 - CONTENTS

Map of Clwyd	<i>see Centre Pages</i>
Clwyd Bird Recording Group	3
Area Covered	3
Editorial	4
Boundary Changes	6
Acknowledgements	8
Weather Report for 2003 by Len Walls	9
Notes on Submission of Records	13
The Systematic List for 2003	18
Dates for Migrants	93
Appendices to the Systematic List	95
CBRG Target Species:	104
<i>Tables:</i>	
<i>WRSB North Wales Annual Report, 2002</i>	39
<i>Table 1: World's End Survey, John Lawton Roberts</i>	107
<i>Table 2: Clwyd BBS County Summary 2002, BTO</i>	109
<i>Table 3: BTO Farmland Common Birds Census, L & E Jones</i>	113
2002 Ringing Report by Ian Spence	115
<i>Articles:</i>	
Contributors	134
Gazetteer	135
Societies	138

NATIONAL GROUPS

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

Conservation Officer (East): 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

Welsh Ornithological Society: for information on the WOS, please contact the Hon. Secretary, Paul Kenyon, 196 Chester Road, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 1LG. Telephone: 01606 77960



Wales Raptor Study Group – North East Wales

The Wales Raptor Study Group – North East Wales is a small number of fieldworkers who are dedicated to protecting raptors, owls, Chough and Raven. Currently, in the area that used to be Clwyd there are about ten people who contribute records to the Group. We are not able to record the nests of all the species we are interested in every year but most of the nests of Schedule 1 species are checked. Most of the fieldworkers are volunteers and do fieldwork in their spare time.

One of the key problems for the species we record is that of disturbance. Several of the species we check are protected by Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, so their nests cannot be wilfully disturbed without a licence to do so. All of the fieldworkers in our Group have the appropriate licence each year from the Countryside Council for Wales, with which we have a close working relationship. Each fieldworker covers an area and this ensures that only one or two people visit each nest, but those visits are co-ordinated to prevent undue disturbance. We also have good working relations with the local Police Wildlife Liaison Officers.

Each year a report shows how each nest has fared, but each nest is only referred to by its code – we never discuss openly where the nests are located.

Ian M. Spence, Coordinator

CLWYD BIRD RECORDING GROUP

was founded over ten years ago. It comprises representatives from a variety of interested organisations. The membership for 2003 is:

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)

Paul Kenyon (WOS)

Mel ab Owain (BTO West Clwyd Regional Organiser)

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, in line with the Welsh Ornithological Society, we have used 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.

EDITORIAL

Norman Hallas

Welcome to the 2003 Clwyd Bird Report. As usual, my first task is to thank those members of the Clwyd Bird Recording Group for the time and effort which they have devoted to the work of the group during their period of membership. Secondly, I must thank anyone else 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.

CBRG continues to be innovative. This year we add two changes:

- We have divided the editing of records among sub-editors (see below) and
- For the first time we have been able to insert a Reserve Report. We hope that this is the first of many.

Editorial Team:

Anne Brenchley—Warblers to Buntings

Peter Coffey—Waders

Andrew Dale—Larks to Thrushes

Norman Hallas—Gulls, Game Birds, Miscellaneous

Melvyn ab Owen—Divers to Ducks

Ian Spence—Owls and Raptors

In addition, it may be necessary to remind our readers that:

- CBRG may be unique among bird groups. We represent different interested parties, not one group or club, and our county no longer exists as a single administrative unit. Our primary aims are to produce an annual report, catch-up on missing years, and develop and encourage ornithological data collection in our area and we continue to make great strides in those directions (see below).
- To encourage members of the public to send in records and to acknowledge such contributions, where possible we identify particular records by inserting the name or initial of the observer.

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 £8.00 (single), £12.00 (joint)
Contact the Treasurer: George Courtenay (01745 339266) or
the Secretary: Lynn Davies (01352 781106)

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, Mr Keith Shannon,
6 Ffordd Pentre, Mold, Flintshire CH7 1UY.

Wrexham Birdwatchers 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)					
Abbreviation (where used)	Site	Grid Reference	Abbreviation (where used)	Site	Grid Reference
MHCW	Maes Hafod Community Woodland	SJ 310468	SF	Shotwick Fields	SJ 320720
MQ	Marford Quarry	SJ 358564	SL	Shotton Lagoons	SJ 3071
MLR	Marine Lake, Rhyl	SJ 000805	SSW	Shotton Steelworks	SJ 3070
	Minera Quarry	SJ 2552			
	Moss Valley	SJ 312523	SBL	Shotwick Boating Lake	SJ 315725
MGL	Mynydd Glyn Lws	SH 885725	SLJ	Stryt Las, Johnstown	SJ 305449
	Nant Mill	SJ 288504			
NFR	Nant-y-Ffrith Resr	SJ 243530	SPA	Shallow Pool, Acrefair	SJ 281436
	Nercwys Mountain	SJ 2258			
NEWI	NE Wales Institute, Wrexham	SJ 328513		Sutton Green	SJ 416488
OMR	Oakenholt Marsh Reserve	SJ 265722		Tainant Talacre	SJ 270465 SJ 124847
PBC	Pentrebychan Cemetery, Wrexham	SJ 300480	TFR	Tatham Farm, Ruabon	SJ 2944
PDR	Pendinas Reservoir	SJ 236518		Trevalyn Meadows	SJ 395565
	Pensarn	SH 950785			
	Penycae	SJ 281452			
PCR	Penycae Reservoir	SJ 2645	TMR	Ty Mawr Reservoir	SJ 275480
PMPA	Pentre Mawr Park, Abergele	SH943785		Walwen	SJ 207766
PUR	Plas Uchaf Res'r	SH 969714		Warren Farm, Talacre	SJ 115843
POA	Point of Ayr	SJ 130850			
POA WF	POA Warren Farm	SJ 1284			
	Pontybodkin	SJ 272593		White Sands	SJ 280725
	Poulton	SJ 405580		Worthenbury	SJ 425570
			WE	World's End	SJ 238478
			WIE	Wrexham Industrial Estate	SJ 3749
RBP	Rhos Point	SH 842808			
	Rhyl Brickfield	SJ 013803			
	Pond LNR	SH000800			
RRCR	River Clwyd, Rhyl	SJ 028824	YL	Ysceifiog Lake	SJ 145715
RGC	Rhyl Golf Course	SH 999805			
RML	Rhyl Marine Lake	SJ 213663			
	Rhydymwyn	SJ 245465			
RM	Ruabon Moors	SJ 368572			

- We use the new Welsh listings for the current population status assessments as explained in last year's report (see below).

This report is a summary of information submitted and from which assessments can be made 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, to attempt to archive all our records, whether in written format or electronic. The Group, therefore, continues to update its system of recording and archiving. The move towards centralisation of record collection continues. We hold several years of valuable bird records, mainly in paper form and the inputting of data on to the Recorder database has commenced and these records will eventually find their way to the new North Wales Local Records Centre.

The advent of such Record Centres and the existence of alternative sources of current information in the form of web-sites, Birdline reports and the like, may seem to suggest that the concept of a Bird Report has outlived its usefulness. However, I feel that there will be still a demand for a publication such as ours. My aims in producing such a document remain as before. 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, and, where possible, to inform interested parties from outside our area of what is going on. The second is that of conservation: to give some indication of the 'health' or otherwise of an area. Trends may be identified and signposts and parameters for action indicated. Of course, more can be done in both of these directions.

*Norman Hallas
Report Editor*

Please note: from 2005, the new Bird Recorder for Clwyd will be Ian Spence from whom a recording form can be obtained.

Address: 43, Ty'r Fawnog, Blackbrook, Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire CH7 6LT

Tel: 01352 750118

E-mail: ianspence.cr@imsab.idps.co.uk

Boundary Changes

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, or tried, 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, the north-western and the south-eastern extremities of our area. In the first of these areas, 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 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 although I have specifically

GAZETTEER					
Where appropriate (for sensitive sites and larger areas) only four-figure grid references are used					
Abbreviation (if used)	Place name	Grid Reference	Abbreviation (if used)	Place name	Grid Reference
AP	Acton Park	SJ 345520		Gatewen Moss	SJ 315515
AWCP	Alltami	SJ 2665	GV	Greenfield Dock	SJ 200780
	Alyn Waters	SJ 332553		Greenfield Valley	SJ 346538
BB	Country Park, Llay	<i>and</i> SJ 320546	GF	Gresford Flash	SJ 348548
	Bettisfield	SJ 4635	GL	Gresford Lake	SJ 090845
	Bagillt Bank	SJ 235767		Gronant Dunes	SJ 075810
	BHP Pool, POA	SJ 124844		Gwaenysgor	SJ 328453
BQ	Bodelwyddan	SJ 0075	HMCP	Hanmer Mere	SJ 455397
	Bod Petrual	SJ 037510			Hope Mountain
BPR	Borras/Borras Quarry	SJ 356526	HP	(Waun y Llyn)	
	Brickfields Pools/Reserve, Rhyl	SJ 013803		Country Park	
	Bronbannog	SJ 0352		Hawarden Airfield	
	Burton, near Rossett	SJ 357573		Horseshoe Pass, near	SJ 185470
CLR	Cae Llwyd Reservoir	SJ 269478	IMF	Inner Marsh Farm	SJ 305735
CQNR	Coed Cilygroeslwyd	SJ 121554	KB	Kinmel Bay (LNR)	SH 987808
	Clocaenog Forest	SJ 0353			
	Coedpoeth	SJ 2951	LLR	Lindisfarn Lake,	
CR	Connahs Quay Nature Reserve	SJ 270720		Ruabon	SJ 308427
	Conwy RSPB Reserve	SH795775		Llanasa	SJ 106815
	Crewe Hill	SJ 420520		Llanddulas	SH 910785
EF	Ddol Uchaf Reserve	SJ 141714		Llandegla	SJ 196525
	Dolwen Reservoir	SH973704		Llanferres	SJ 185614
	Dyserth	SJ 056791		Llanfwrog	SJ 113579
FC	Erddig Park	SJ 327482	LPR	Llawndy Farm (BHP)	SJ 118840
	Erddig Flash	SJ 336487		Llay	SJ 332557
FLQ	Fenn's Moss	SJ 490370		Llyn Aled	SH 916579
	Flint Castle	SJ 248732		Llyn Bran	SH 962592
	Fagl Lane Quarry, Hope	SJ 301588		Llyn Brenig	SH 9755
				Llyn Helyg	SJ 1177
				Loggerheads	SJ 205627
				Large Pool, Ruabon	SJ 297433

continued on next page

(John Birch and Paul Triggs); Ruabon Moors Gamekeeper—via JLR (designated GK); Wrexham Birdwatchers Annual Report; and the Welsh Raptor Study Group Annual Report (WRSG)

and the systematic lists for the following Reserves:

- **RSPB:** Bagillt Bank, Mostyn Dock, Oakenholt Marsh, Point of Ayr and POA Colliery Lagoons (John Harrison, 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 Rob Palmer 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, Neil Friswell and Gareth Stamp); Conwy RSPB Nature Reserve** (Alan Davies, Warden)
- **English Nature/CCW:** Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses NNR
** systematic list (Dr Joan Daniels, Warden).

**Note: only parts of the IMF and Conwy Reserves and Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses relate to Clwyd as outlined on pages 14-15.

CBRG Target Species

*Each year, CBRG features a target species for which we would like records, both breeding and non-breeding, for a particular year. These may include, but are not limited to, those species outlined in our reports as Birds of Conservation Concern in Clwyd (BCCC). Recent target birds have included Yellowhammer (for 2001), Bullfinch (2002) and Lapwing (2003). **The intended target for 2004 will be Barn Owl.** To this end, CBRG would welcome any sightings of this species, particularly breeding records.*

excluded those rarities which have been attributed to Caernarfonshire. 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

The third area mentioned is that of the meres and mosses along the border area with England. There is a dearth of records for these areas. The probability is that they are covered by other groups. Hanmer Mere, our only mere in the Lakeland area, and Fenn's and Bettisfield Mosses, are probably covered by Shropshire recorders as well as English Nature at Whixall Moss. Notwithstanding this, we would still welcome records from such areas.

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 submitted information from which the Recorder and others can make assessments as to status, distribution and so on. As explained above, not all records can be published but CBRG will attempt to archive every record in either written or electronic format. The updating of our system will allow the direct inputting of records from a spreadsheet format and a form to that effect can be obtained from either Anne Brenchley or Ian Spence at anne.brenchley@cbrg1.idps.co.uk or ianspence.cr@imsab.idps.co.uk respectively and returned thence. Similarly, CBRG may also be able in future to make use of digital photographs and we would welcome such contributions.

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), we would especially like to thank Robin Spencer MRPS and Lynn Davies for the production of our cover, and Gary Bellingham for his photographs; and to Ron Plummer and Thelma Sykes for other illustrations, Len Walls for the weather report, Laura Whyte and Adrian Lloyd-Jones for their articles; Anne Brenchley and the British Trust for Ornithology for the BBS figures; the BTO for Migrant Report records; Sam Dyer and BHP Billiton for their POA systematic list; Alan Morton for the production of maps using DMAP; Deeside Naturalist Society for supplying their Connah's Quay Nature Reserve bird counts; Mair Evans, Elvet Jones and Paul Kenyon for checking the Welsh spellings; Richard Smith and the Dee Estuary Web Site and The Birdguides Web Site for their records; the Welsh Raptor Study Group for monitoring the raptor records; Alan Davies and the CBRG Rarities Panel for monitoring the rarity submissions and the CBRG Committee for its proof-reading.

Photographs: thanks to Gary Bellingham for providing the photograph of the Rosy Starling, seen at Rhos-on-Sea throughout July and probably the rarest bird seen in Clwyd in 2003.

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Contributors

CBRG has adopted the policy of identifying particular records, where appropriate, with the name of the observer. Where several records are inserted in the Systematic List, initials have been used as indicated below.

Peter Alderson (PA), E.M. Bell (EMB), Roger & Megan Bagguley (RMB), G.W. Blythe (GWB), Anne Brenchley (AB), Mick K. Brummage (MKB), Mike Cahill (MC), John & Maureen Calder (JMC), D.E. Camp, Julie Chicken* (JC), Tony Child, Mike Clark (MC), Alan Davies (AD), Keith Davies (KD), Lynn E. Davies (LED), Steven Davies (SD), Gill Dobson (GD), John Dyda* (JD), Kevin Dyer, Ian Evans (IE), Mair Evans* (ME), John Bryan Formstone* (JBF), Jane Freeman (JF), Nick French (NiF), Neil Friswell (NF), L. Gibbons* (LG), Colin Greenhalgh (CG), Mike Griffiths (MG), Richard Groves* (RG), Norman & Pauline Hallas (NPH), Jim Haycock, Jane Hemming (JaH), G.E. Holmes (GEH), Alan Hughes (AH), Neil Hughes* (JNBH), Simon Hughes (SH), JA Jackson* (JAJ), A&E Jones, David Owen Jones (DOJ), Elvet & Louise Jones (ELJ), Eryl Jones (EJ), Paul Kenyon (PK), the Rev. Hugh Linn (HL), Edward Lyons (EL), Emily Meilleur (EM), Susan Morris (SM), Jason Newton* (JN), Geoff Odgers* (GO), William Owens (WAO), Rob Palmer (RoP), Norman Patterson (NP), H.M. Prince* (HMP), Rhion Pritchard (RP), Peter & Marie Rathbone (PMR), David & Carol Richardson (DCR), Derek Richardson (DR), John Lawton Roberts (JLR), Paul Roberts (PR), Glyn N. Roberts (GNR), Raymond Roberts, Simon Gwyn Roberts (SGR), William John Roberts* (WJR), Barry & Iris Rogers* (BIR), Chester Rowley (CR), John Rushton* (JR), John & Kevin Smith (JKS), Dave Sparkes (DS), Ian Spence (IS), Martin Thompson (MT), Paul Triggs (PT), Dr S.K. Thomas (SKT), Chris Tynan (CT), Graham Williams (GW), Marian Williams* (MW), Chris Wilkinson (CW), Les Wood (LW).

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

plus

BHP Billiton SL (*Rob Palmer*); BirdGuides Ltd Web Site—*designated BG* (dave.dunford@birdguides.com); Connah's Quay Nature Reserve monthly monitoring (Raymond Roberts)—*designated CQS*; Dee Estuary Web Site—*designated DEWS* (*Richard Smith: 0151 625 2320 or richard@deestuary.co.uk*); Shotton Steelworks Records—*designated SSW*

ment to and ownership of the plan process, and subsequent implementation of the plan.

The Flintshire BAP technical forum is composed of local species and habitat experts, most of whom are also members of one or more of six regional biodiversity network groups, these are: Birds, Invertebrates, Mammals, Amphibian & Reptiles, Fish and Marine species, and Plants. These wider groups form the basis for co-ordination of species data collation across North East Wales, and also serve as fora for co-ordination of the delivery of focussed biodiversity action.

The local biodiversity planning process needs to be owned by all those involved in its evolution and implementation. Flintshire County Council has a role in catalysing the process and engaging the involvement of the local community.

Ultimately, conservation of our special places, plants and animals will only happen with the support and input of those who live and work in the County.

Laura Whyte

THE WEATHER IN 2003

Len Walls

CBRG has attempted to give an overview of the general weather situation in Clwyd for 2003. Clearly, the weather has an enormous impact on the breeding and movement of birds, and we have tried to indicate important movements in that direction. The weather data quoted below refer to Moel y Crio weather station, Halkyn, Flintshire, and averages referred to are based on information gathered there since 1981.

We are indebted to Mr Len Walls for making this data available.

The year 2003 was the warmest year in a record back to 1981 (but equal to 1990 & 1999). The **average temperature** for the year was 9.4°C which is 0.8° above the average. August 9th was the warmest day when the temperature reached 30.0°C (31.3° in 1990 being the record). The lowest temperature was on February 17th when the thermometer went down to - 5.0°C. All 4 seasons, winter, spring, Summer & Autumn were above average temp varying from +1.2 c in summer to just 0.2°C in winter and in autumn. Only February, July, and October were below average temperature. The remaining months were above.

The average **Rainfall** for the year amounted to 754 mm (29.7 in); it rained for a total of 658 hours giving a rate of fall of 1.15 mm/hour. Although parts of East Anglia were reporting the driest year since 1927 In the record for Halkyn Mountain area back to 1931 we have had 13 drier years than in 2003. The record low was in 1933 when only 558mm (22.0 in) was recorded at Cilcain Hall by the Yates family. In a record for the A O Walker Lead Works there is a report of 51.1mm (20.0 in) in 1873, this being the lowest value I know of in this area.

The **wettest** month was October with 122mm (4.8in) while the driest month was February with only 28mm (1.1in) The wettest day was on July 17th with 38.5mm (1.51 in). In fact this day was the only very wet day in the year (i.e. > than 25mm in the day). Compare this with 8 days in the Year 2000! Snowfall was limited to 16 days only (51 days in 1985)

The **Sunshine** was much in evidence in the year finishing with a total of 1626 hrs (= 111 % of average) the highest since 1995 (with 1717 hrs) and the second highest in the record back to 1981. April with 201.8 hrs and June with 201.9 hrs were the sunniest, but March with 175.3 hrs (186% of average) was the most amazing. The sunniest day was on 14th of July with 14.7 hrs, with only May and July having below average values for the year. With so much Sunshine it is no surprise that we enjoyed the least amount of cloud cover recorded. Fogs/low cloud were also the lowest number recorded since records began here in 1981.

Wind speeds were slightly up this year, after a declining trend over the last few years. The average value was 9.6 mph, and the windiest year was in 1986 with an average of 11.4 mph. The days of Gales have also been declining, reaching an all time low this year with only 6 recorded in 2003 (compare this with 1986 = 36 gales) Wind directions have shown a marked increase in South Easterly and Southerly directions while showing a corresponding decline in winds from the West and

South West.

Number of days with significant weather events (anomalies from average shown in parenthesis): 6 Days with Gale (-9); 170 wet days (-17); 43 air frosts (-5); 115 ground frosts (+8); 17 with snow lying at 0900 (-3); 11 Thunder storms (+1) and 15 Fogs (-12).

Abridged details by months

January After a warm start to the month, the temperature declined to a very cold spell from the 3rd to 11th. We had a fall of snow on the 3rd, to a depth of 12 cms (4.7in), which remained on the ground until the 12th after which warmer weather soon melted the lying snow. The weather warmed up nicely with a maximum temperature on the 27th of 13.7°C. The minimum temperature was -4.8°C on the 8th. The month ended with a scattering of snow on the 30th.

Sunshine was in plentiful supply with a total of 80.1 hrs (139%), which is the second sunniest January on my record; only 2001 beat this with 84.0hrs. Rainfall was well below average value with a total of 60.9 mm (2.4in), this being 77% of average. The maximum was 7.9 hrs on the 23rd. Winds were below average with an average speed of 12 mph (-0.3) and mainly from the North (8 days). The maximum gust was 62 mph on the 17th.

February Warm to start with, but another cold spell from the 14th to the 20th, after which it warmed up for the rest of the month, The maximum temperature was 10.9°C on the 23rd, and a minimum of -5.0°C on the 17th. The month ended with an average of 2.7°C (+0.4°C) below average. We had snow lying from the 4th to the 6th. (7 cms Max on the 5th). Rainfall was well below average with only 28.4 mm (1.1in). This is only 48% of average value with only 11 days of rain.

Sunshine was once again well above average with 81.6 hrs (116%) with a maximum of 9.4 hrs on the 15th. Winds were mainly from the South East with an average speed of 12.0 mph (-0.4) the maximum was 47 mph on the 4th. This was the first February without a Gale since 1986. The wind directions were persistent and from the South-East (14 days).

March was a very interesting month as it broke many records. The temperature was very variable throughout the month, rapidly changing from warm to cold and back again. The average at the end of the month was 6.5°C (+0.7) with a maximum of 14.7°C on the 26th. The minimum was -1.4°C on the 16th. The Rainfall total for the month was 21.8mm (34%), the lowest recorded since 1993. We had the only official drought for the year from 11th to the 39th (>15 days with no days with > 0.1 mm of rain). Sunshine amounts broke all records with 32.2 hrs, more than any other March on record (1981-2003), ending the month with a total of 175.3 hrs (186%) The winds were below average once again with an average of 11.0 mph (-1.4mph) with a maximum gust of 69mph on the 9th. The main directions were from the South East to the South West - persistent for 23 days.

livery of biodiversity objectives in Flintshire. There are many active and effective environmental groups in Flintshire such as the Deeside Urban Wildlife Group, the Dee Estuary Conservation Group etc and the BAP process aims to allow existing local partnerships to be further developed, new partnerships to be formed, and priorities for local conservation action to be identified.

The key objectives of the Flintshire Biodiversity Action Plan are:

- to maintain and enhance the populations and distribution of native species, both common and scarce, within Flintshire (this is to include those which are of local significance as well as those of national and international importance).
- to maintain and enhance the quality and extent of semi-natural habitats and ecosystems within Flintshire.
- to maintain genetic variation within species and hence habitats and ecosystems.
- to ensure that current policies and practices which affect the environment of Flintshire do not damage local biodiversity, but instead contribute towards conserving and enhancing it.

To raise awareness of the County's biodiversity amongst the citizens of Flintshire.

National legislation, government guidance and species recovery programmes all contribute to maintaining biodiversity in the UK. As well as this strategic action, action on the ground is necessary for delivery of biodiversity objectives. Local conservation and environment groups play a vital role in this. Such voluntary action contributes significantly to the overall knowledge of species within the County, in addition to the undertaking of practical tasks, which protect and enhance species and their habitats.

The successful implementation of Biodiversity Action Planning within Flintshire requires involvement from various sectors and the establishment of partnerships between all those who have an interest, or who have an impact on, land use within the County. Having a partnership approach means that work-loads can be shared and a wide range of resources and skills used. It also ensures that there is a shared commit-

ARTICLE

Working Together For Biodiversity - the Flintshire Action Plan Laura Whyte – Flintshire Biodiversity Officer

The purpose of biodiversity action planning is to focus resources to conserve and enhance biodiversity by means of local partnerships, taking account of both national and local priorities.

The roots of our Local Biodiversity Action Plan can be traced back to the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. As part of its response to signing up to the Rio Biodiversity Convention, in 1994 the UK Government produced *Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan*. This committed the UK Government to the strategic objective of conserving, and where possible, enhancing biodiversity within the UK (subsequently enshrined within S74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000). Since then, various reports and guidance have been produced which identify key habitats and species throughout the UK as well as approaches which may be taken in order to drive biodiversity conservation forward.

Because “biodiversity is ultimately lost or conserved at the local level”, Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) provide an appropriate mechanism for identifying habitats and species which are not only important in a national context, but valued by the local community as well. The LBAP “is both a product and a process” - it provides a medium for creating and sustaining partnerships to achieve biodiversity objectives.

The Flintshire Biodiversity Action Plan acts as a starting point for de-

April After a warm start, a blast of cold air came in from the 5th with a minimum temp on the 10th of -3.4°C after which it warmed up considerably to reach its maximum temperature on the 16th of 22.7°C , ending the month with an average of 8.8°C ($+1.4^{\circ}\text{C}$) Rainfall was well below average with 41.5 mm (1.6in). This is 58% of average value. Most of this rain fell in a wet spell between 25th and 31st, the wettest day being the 27th when 10.6mm (0.4in) fell. Sunshine was in plentiful supply, spread fairly evenly over the month, ending with a total of 201.8 (=140%). This was the sunniest April since 1984 when we enjoyed 210 hrs and there were no days without the sun making an appearance. Winds were once again below average with an average speed of 10.2 mph (-0.3mph). The maximum gust was 49 mph on the 28th. Winds were persistent and from the S E direction (13 days).

May Started fairly cool, gradually warming up during the month The maximum temperature was 22.6°C on the 30th while the minimum was 2.1°C on the 10th, the month ended with an average value of 10.8°C ($+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) Rainfall was much in evidence with a maximum fall of 18.7mm (0.7 in) on the 2nd a further wet spell developed from the 9th to the 26th giving a final total of 97.0mm (3.8in) this is 161% of average for the month. Sunshine total of 179.6 hrs (=94%) was below average but it was fairly evenly spread throughout the month Winds were well above average with a speed of 10.3 mph (+1.8mph) and was in fact the windiest May since 1986 The maximum gust of 48 mph was on the 20th The winds were mainly from a South-westerly direction (11 days).

June was another very warm month with a maximum of 23.8°C on the 16th and a minimum of 7.7°C also on the 16th the month closed with an average value of 14.3°C ($+1.9^{\circ}\text{C}$) this makes it the warmest June on record (1981-2003) Rainfall was below average with a total of 57.6mm (2.2in) the wettest day was 12.8mm (0.5in) on the 30th Sunshine total for the month was 201.9 hrs (110%) with the 15th enjoying 13.1 hrs of bright sunshine Wind speed was below average with a value of 8 mph (-0.2 mph) The maximum gust was 36 mph on the 6th the winds were persistent and mainly from the South-Easterly direction (11 days)

July was another warm month with a maximum of 28.5°C on the 16th. The average for the month was 16.0°C ($+1.0^{\circ}\text{C}$) Rainfall fell entirely after the 16th of the month with the wettest day of the year on the 17th with a fall of 38.4mm (1.5 in). Sunshine was below average with the final total equal to 157 hrs (84%) The sunniest day was on the 14th with 14.7 hrs which was also the sunniest day in the year The average wind speed was above average with a value of 8.4 mph (+1.0mph) The maximum gust was 35mph on the 20th August Wind directions were evenly spread from the N W through SW to SE (6 days each)

August Another warm month with the thermometer soaring to 30.0°C on the 9th, only the second time that we have had a temperature $\Rightarrow 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ (The maximum re-

corded in Moel Y Crio was 31.7⁰c in Aug 1990) after which it cooled down with a minimum temperature on the 30th 5.9⁰c, the average for the month was 15.9⁰c (+1.4⁰c). Rainfall was quite sparse throughout the month with only one major fall on the 9th with 19.4mm (0.8in) with a final total for the month of 28.7mm (40%). Sunshine was just on average with a total of 171.2 hrs (99%), the sunniest day was 13.0 hrs on the 14th. Winds speed was below average at 5.9 mph (-1.1mph) and was mainly from the South-easterly direction (8 days) with a maximum gust of 38mph on the 21st.

September was a warm month but with a cold start, with a warm spell developing after the 11th with a maximum of 24.5⁰c on the 16th, the temperature fell rapidly from that date to a minimum of 4.6⁰c on the 24th. The month ended with an average of 13.1⁰c (+0.8⁰c) Rainfall was below average with a total of 67.1 mm (2.5 in) with the wettest day with a fall of 15.2mm (0.6 in) was on the 10th. Sunshine was just above average value with a total of 133.7 hrs (102%) with a maximum of 11.0 hrs on the 13th. The average wind speed was 6.3 mph (-1.4mph) with a maximum gust of 40 mph on the 22nd. The directions were mainly from the South (8 days).

October although it was warm at the start of the month with a maximum of 16.4⁰c on the 11th with a steady decline after reaching a minimum of -0.1⁰c on the 21st (this was the first air frost of the Autumn) The month ended with an average of 8.0⁰c (-1.2⁰c) This turned out the coldest Oct since 1993 Rainfall was well above average, wet spells at the beginning and the end of the month, the maximum fall was on the 30th with 25.0mm (1.0 in). The total fall for the month was 122 mm (4.8in) that is 131% of average. Sunshine was well above average with a total of 119.0 hrs (121 %), the maximum was 9.9 hrs on the 18th. Wind speed was 8.8 mph (-0.2 mph) while the maximum gust was 40 mph on the 6th; the directions were mainly from the Southeast (10days). October also enjoyed the lowest number of calm days, 1981-2003.

November was another warm month with a maximum temperature of 13.7⁰c on the 4th while the minimum of 0.4⁰c occurred on the 23rd The average for the month as a whole was 7.5⁰c which is 1.6⁰c above average and the warmest November since 1994, Rainfall was again below average with a total fall of 60.9mm (2.4 in) The maximum fall was 20.2 mm (0.8 in) on the 2nd. This was the driest Nov since 1988. Sunshine was above average with a total of 71.3 hrs (113 %) with a maximum of 7.4 hrs on the 12th. It was the sunniest Nov since 1996. Average wind speed was up this month with an average of 10.7 mph (+1.2 mph) with a maximum gust of 64 mph on the 14th. The directions were mainly from the Southeast (8 days).

December was a very changeable month with a wide variation in temperature with two cold spells around the 8th and again on the 30th, after a maximum temperature of 12.2⁰c on the 12th the temperature quickly decline to reach a minimum of -3.6 on

looks especially beautiful as the ground is transformed into a carpet of Bluebells.

Other flowers within the woodland include Yellow Archangel, Greater Stitchwort, Wood Anemone, and the uncommon Goldilocks Buttercup. A small patch of Herb Paris exists in one part of the site – this plant is found only in ancient woodlands on limestone soils. Bird's-nest Orchid, a rare chlorophyll-free saproxylic plant, can also sometimes be seen around decaying Beech stumps.

Coed y Felin is a great place to see a variety of woodland birds. Pied Flycatcher are a particular feature of the reserve during the summer months, and they are happy to breed in the nest-boxes provided, which are monitored by volunteers every year. Their chicks are fed on invertebrates, especially on the 'leaf-roll' caterpillars that occur in great numbers in the Oaks.

Other birds nesting within the reserve include Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Wood Warbler and Goldcrest. Greater Spotted Woodpecker are heard as often as seen, as are Buzzards which are a common sight and sound gliding above the reserve. Peregrine Falcons are also a regular sight flying overhead. At night the hoots of the Tawny Owl echo through the reserve, especially in the autumn, as they court and feed on the numerous small mammals within the reserve.

There are paths through the reserve forming a figure of eight so longer and shorter circular walks are possible. Also, 170 metres of the disused Mold-Denbigh railway line has been converted into a wheelchair accessible route through the reserve.

Coed y Felin is situated at Hendre, 4 miles from Mold on the A541 Mold-Denbigh Road at SJ 192 677. There is a small car park at the western end with disabled access, and a larger car park at the eastern end (turn up the small lane where you see the reserve sign at the side of the road). Come visit and enjoy!

Adrian Lloyd Jones

Reserve Report

CBRG hopes to incorporate reports of Nature Reserves in our area. The first such outline is presented here by Adrian Lloyd Jones of the North Wales Wildlife Trust. The Trust was formed in 1963 to protect the future of wildlife in North Wales. It now manages 34 Reserves across North Wales, including Y Graig, Marford Quarry, Coed Cilygroeshwyd and Three Cornered Meadow. There are 6 Trusts in Wales and 46 in the UK, together forming the largest voluntary organisation in the UK promoting all aspects of wildlife conservation. More information can be obtained from www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/northwales.

COED Y FELIN NATURE RESERVE

Coed y Felin, near Mold, is a North Wales Wildlife Trust nature reserve. It is 10.76 ha in size, extending half a mile along a south facing slope. Mostly ancient broadleaved 'bluebell' woodland, the reserve also exhibits calcareous grassland, wet woodland and swamp, and a small paddock.

The calcareous grassland supports a rich array of wildflowers including Bird's-foot Trefoil, Common Spotted Orchid, and Hairy St. John's Wort, as well as the occasional Bee Orchid and North Wales' only colony of Deptford Pink. Within the wet woodland and swamp, Marsh Marigold and Lesser Pond-sedge thrive as well as an interesting hybrid of Water Avens and Wood Avens.

The woodland, however, is the main feature of the reserve and is dominated by Oak with frequent Silver Birch and Sycamore. Sweet Chestnut is particularly common towards the western half of the reserve, and occasional Ash, Beech and Wild Cherry are also to be found. Many of the trees are multi-stemmed specimens, indicating that the site was felled around 1950 and subsequently allowed to re-grow. The woodland understorey is rich and diverse including shrubs such as hazel, holly, hawthorn and honeysuckle and in spring the woodland

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.

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 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. No action will be taken by the County Recorder unless and until such a submission is made.

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 Journal.

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. Descriptions 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 and the current list of Welsh Rarities are available.

County Rarities

County Rarities are considered by the Clwyd Rarities Committee. Clwyd Rarities are defined as those occurring five times or fewer per year on average. 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 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

SV82479	Common Tern	Pull.	
23 06 2002	Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd		
07 11 2002	at sea, off Mbour, SENEGAL , 14°22'N 16°54'W		
	4488 km	196°	137 days Fate unknown, probably alive
SV92048	Common Tern	Pull.	
22 06 2003	Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd		
24 09 2003	Parc Nacional Marismas del Odiel, Huelva, SPAIN , 37°16'N 06°55'W		
	1798 km	190°	94 days Controlled
NV81235	Little Tern	Pull.	
19 07 1995	near Gronant, Clwyd		
21 04 2003	Zeebrugge, West-Vlanderen, BELGIUM , 51°20'N 03°11'E		
	499 km	117°	2833 days Controlled
P723310	Cetti's Warbler	3J F	
23 06 2002	Chew Valley Lake, Avon		
03 11 2002	Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd		
15 12 2002	Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd		
05 01 2003	Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd		
	213 km	352°	196 days Controlled
N581284	Pied Flycatcher	6 M	
12 06 2001	Pandy, near Glyn Ceiriog, Clwyd		
12 12 2002	Ouarzazate, MOROCCO , 30°57'N 06°50'W		
	2456 km	187°	548 days Finding conditions unknown
VT77261	Nuthatch	Pull.	
17 05 2003	Pandy, near Glyn Ceiriog, Clwyd		
28 09 2003	Whitchurch, Shropshire		
	34 km	81°	134 days Controlled (= F)
VT95625	Tree Sparrow	Pull. (3/3)	
19 05 2002	near Bodelwyddan, Clwyd		
04 01 2003	West Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside (SJ2288)		
	26 km	64°	230 days Controlled
E429535	Goldfinch	4 F	
03 04 2002	Coney Island Bay, Ardglass, Co Down		
23 02 2003	Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd		
	205 km	124°	326 days Controlled
P719140	Siskin	6 F	
16 03 2002	Handforth, Wilmslow, Cheshire		
11 08 2003	Llynmawr, Clwyd		
	80 km	233°	513 days Controlled

Codes used in the recoveries:

- M Male
- F Female
- Pull. Ringed as pullus (nestling)
- 2 Fully Grown, year of hatching quite unknown
- 3 Hatched during the calendar year of ringing
- 3J Hatched during calendar year of ringing and in juvenile plumage
- 4 Hatched before calendar year of ringing, but exact year unknown
- 5 Hatched during previous calendar year
- 6 Hatched before the previous calendar year - exact year unknown
- 7 Definitely hatched two calendar years before ringing
- 8 Hatched more than two calendar years before ringing

Selected recoveries:

- U6611 Mute Swan 5 M
30 07 1995 Aber Ogwen, near Bangor, Gwynedd
09 04 2002 near James's Farm, Ruabon, Clwyd (SJ2943)
74 km 111° 2445 days Controlled (J.A.L. Roberts)
- GF42121 Lesser Black-backed Gull Pull. (Red 61B)
30 06 1996 Llyn Trawsfynydd, Gwynedd
09 07 2003 Llangollen, Clwyd (SJ1737)
49 km 88° 2565 days Freshly dead, flew into silage tractor
- XR88006 Common Tern Pull.
23 06 1991 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
21 11 1991 near Grand-Lahou, **IVORY COAST**, 05°09'N 05°31'W
29 05 1995 Seaforth Nature Reserve, Liverpool, Merseyside
(and on four other dates to 25 06 1995)
22 01 2003 Near Free Town, **SIERRA LEONE**, 08°30'N 13°15'W
5053 km 191° 4231 days 'Reported'
- SV41369 Common Tern Pull.
02 07 2000 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
20 07 2002 Seal Sands, Teesmouth, Cleveland
197 km 38° 748 days Controlled
- SV82283 Common Tern Pull.
22 07 2001 Shotton Steel Works, Clwyd
27 08 2003 Parc Nacional Marismas del Odiel, Huelva, **SPAIN**,
37°16'N 06°55'W
1798 km 190° 766 days Controlled

the principal identification features should be supplied by even the most experienced of observers.

The following list of 47 species constitutes the species considered as Clwyd rarities for 2003. This list is reviewed periodically:

Slavonian Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Balearic Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Bittern, Spoonbill, White-fronted Goose (both races), Barnacle Goose, Garganey, Eider, Long-tailed Duck, Smew, Marsh Harrier, Honey Buzzard, Quail, Avocet, Dotterel, Wood Sandpiper, Grey Phalarope, Pomarine Skua, Long-tailed Skua, Yellow-legged Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Glaucous Gull, Iceland Gull, Roseate Tern, Puffin, Black Guillemot, Turtle Dove, Hoopoe, Wryneck, Water Pipit, Blue-headed Wagtail (*flava*), Wax-wing, Cetti's Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Firecrest, Bearded Reedling, Great Grey Shrike, Chough, Golden Oriole, Hooded Crow, Redpoll (of the race *flammea*), Hawfinch and Lapland Bunting.

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*).

Any sightings which are under consideration in this report are indicated by the abbreviation 'tbc' ('to be considered') with the name of the appropriate authority appended. These are placed in the main body of the report if a description has been received or in an appendix pending the submission of a description. Verifications will be acknowledged in subsequent reports.

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF RARITY DESCRIPTIONS

(a form to this effect is available from the County Recorder)

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.

Species	Full Grown	Pullii	Totals
Garden Warbler	12	8	20
Blackcap	93	0	93
Chiffchaff	127	0	127
Willow Warbler	109	8	117
Goldcrest	206	0	206
Spotted Flycatcher	3	23	26
Pied Flycatcher	101	718	819
Long-tailed Tit	32	0	32
Marsh Tit	4	0	4
Willow Tit	7	0	7
Coal Tit	159	1	160
Blue Tit	633	942	1575
Great Tit	270	467	737
Nuthatch	22	31	53
Treecreeper	4	0	4
Jay	2	0	2
Chough	0	3	3
Jackdaw	0	11	11
Starling	12	0	12
House Sparrow	32	49	81
Tree Sparrow	4	186	190
Chaffinch	226	15	241
Greenfinch	316	0	316
Goldfinch	11	0	11
Siskin	33	0	33
Lesser Redpoll	26	0	26
Bullfinch	16	0	26
Reed Bunting	46	0	46
TOTALS	3202	3756	6958

Species	Full Grown	Pull	Totals
Sand Martin	11	0	11
Swallow	11	78	89
House Martin	19	0	19
Tree Pipit	2	0	2
Meadow Pipit	0	4	4
Grey Wagtail	18	8	26
Pied Wagtail	0	12	12
Dipper	1	38	39
Wren	76	5	81
Dunnock	39	12	51
Robin	83	27	110
Redstart	10	21	31
Whinchat	0	25	25
Stonechat	0	10	10
Wheatear	0	17	17
Blackbird	88	27	115
Fieldfare	3	0	3
Song Thrush	7	10	17
Redwing	8	0	8
Grasshopper Warbler	11	0	11
Sedge Warbler	51	0	51
Reed Warbler	216	20	236
Lesser Whitethroat	2	0	2
Whitethroat	16	0	16

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 not a 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.

Records should be sent to:

*Ian M. Spence
County Bird Recorder
43 Blackbrook
Sychdyn
Mold
Flintshire
CH7 6LT
Telephone: 01352 750118
Email: ianspence.cr@imsab.sdps.co.uk*

THE SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 2003

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*, these are placed in italics below the familiar name.

Birds of Conservation Concern

The first assessment of the population status of birds in Wales was published recently (see references below). CBRG has taken the opportunity to utilise this list as more pertinent to our needs and it thus replaces the more general RSPB UK lists.

The population status for 221 regularly occurring species in Wales was assessed and the species were divided into three sections, as follows:

Red list species, of high conservation concern, numbered 27 and consisted of those whose population or range is rapidly declining, recently or historically, and those of global conservation concern.

Amber list species (69), 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 (125) of lower conservation concern.

The (simplified) criteria are listed in the table overleaf 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 the article in the 2000 Report on Local Biodiversity by Dr Anne Brenchley.*)

References:

The Population Status of the UK's Birds — the Red List updated, Dr Anne Brenchley, BTO Clwyd East Regional Representative (*Clwyd Bird Report 2001*)

The Population Status of Birds in Wales: an Analysis of Conservation Concern 2002-2007, R.I. Thorpe and A. Young, RSPB Cymru (*Welsh Birds: Vol 3 (4)* pp 289-302)

The Population status of birds in the UK: an analysis of conservation concern 2002-2007 (*British Birds*, 95:410-448)

English Channel to Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France. Crossing the Dee is not of the same order but is, nonetheless, an interesting movement.

Ringers thoroughly enjoy ringing their birds. Our retraps can provide interesting surprises, but we are all very grateful to other ringers and members of the public who report ringed birds that they have caught or found. If you find a dead bird, do please check the legs for a ring. If you find one, write to the address on the ring to explain where, when and how you found the bird. Eventually you will receive a sheet explaining where the bird had been ringed, with details of the length and direction of the movement.

Ian M. Spence

Species	Full grown	Pulli	Totals
Hen Harrier	0	5	5
Sparrowhawk	3	0	3
Buzzard	0	31	31
Kestrel	0	27	27
Merlin	0	1	1
Peregrine	0	13	13
Oystercatcher	0	2	2
Ringed Plover	0	2	2
Curlew	0	2	2
Black-headed Gull	0	1	1
Common Tern	0	815	815
Little Tern	0	46	46
Stock Dove	1	25	26
Woodpigeon	5	0	5
Barn Owl	0	3	3
Tawny Owl	0	7	7
Great Spotted Woodpecker	15	0	15

RINGING REPORT FOR 2003

Ian M. Spence

Once again there has been a large increase (c 1500) in the ringing totals for 2003. The totals have come from the same contributors: Merseyside Ringing Group (Pete Coffey and Bob Harris); John Lawton Roberts; the Spence, Stratford and Brenchley partnership (Ian M. Spence) and Stuart K. Thomas. A considerable effort has been made to ring all these birds, and a significant contribution came from the Ceiriog Valley where a MRG member has been busy in recent years. Just before writing this I was very sad to hear that Andy Madden, the contributor, had died aged only 49, following a brief illness. I send my sympathies to his family and members of MRG for their loss.

The numbers of Common Terns ringed has increased by 198, so they had a fairly good breeding season. However the numbers of Little Terns ringed has decreased. Rather more effort was put into ringing Swallow and Dipper pulli, and I was able to ring good numbers of Robin at Bronbannog in the late summer. This site did well for Grasshopper Warbler (11 instead of the usual 3 a year), so there must have been a good breeding season up there and there may have been some birds on passage. Reed Warblers were caught in larger numbers than last year at Shotton and there were increases in the numbers of Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler ringed. Coal Tit and Blue Tit numbers increased dramatically, the former were all fully grown, but for the latter there were increases in the numbers of fully grown birds and pulli ringed. The increases in the numbers of House Sparrow and Tree Sparrow were mainly from the colonies that I check. In late June I was informed of a third colony, near Cefn Meiriadog, so I was only able to ring a few birds from late broods – there should be further increases in the numbers ringed next year. The majority of the Chaffinch were ringed by MRG.

Of the recoveries, Common Tern XR88006 is very interesting with its known return journey to west Africa. The Little Tern had presumably moved to a new breeding area – I wonder if Dutch Little Terns come to breed at Gronant? It is interesting how Cetti's Warblers are spreading through southern Britain. MRG were very lucky to catch one at Shotton that had been ringed, so they were able to find out where it came from. I suspect they are now keen for Cetti's Warbler to breed there so they can ring some of their own.

The other recoveries that I have included are mainly movements of over 40 km. The Nuthatch and Tree Sparrow are two exceptions – both are species that tend to be sedentary in their habits so do not move far from their natal sites. This may be the longest known movement of a Nuthatch ringed as a pullus in Britain. Just over a quarter of a million Tree Sparrows have been ringed and of them only four have crossed the

Qualifying Criteria for Status Assessment	
Red List Criteria:	
IUCN	Globally threatened species that have occurred in Wales in each of the last 25 years
HD	historical population decline in UK between 1800 - 1994
BDp	Rapid decline (at least 50%) in Welsh breeding population over previous 25 years
BDr	Rapid contraction (at least 50%) of Welsh breeding range over previous 25 years
WDp	Rapid decline (at least 50%) in Welsh non-breeding population over previous 25 years
Amber List Criteria:	
HDrec	Historical population decline, 1800-1995, but recovering; population has more than doubled over previous 25 years
BDMp	Moderate decline (25 - 49%) in Welsh breeding population over previous 25 years
BDMr	Moderate contraction (25 - 49%) in Welsh breeding range over previous 25 years
WDMp	Moderate decline (25 - 49%) in Welsh non-breeding population over previous 25 years
SPEC's 2 & 3	species with unfavourable conservation status, concentrated in Europe (2) or not (3). W = wintering population only.
BR	Indicates 5 year mean population size of 1-30 breeding pairs in Wales
BL	at least half of the Welsh breeding population can be found in 1 site, but not rare breeders
WL	at least half of the Welsh non-breeding population can be found in 1 site
BI	indicates at least 2% of NW European (wildfowl), East Atlantic Flyway (waders), or European (other) non-breeding population in Wales
WI	Internationally important during the non-breeding season

The Dee Estuary

The Dee Estuary is the most important area for birds in Clwyd. It covers a large number of sites and many organisations have an interest in its conservation. 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 Billiton] - 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. These records may be subsumed under the BHP records [see (d) below].

The Point of Ayr Colliery Lagoons - designated POA CL in this report - are owned by the Environment Agency but leased to RJB Mining UK Ltd up to 2005. The site comprises six lagoons - two saline and four freshwater/brackish. The main vegetation habitats surrounding the lagoons are grassland and ruderal vegetation communities with occasional small pockets of saltmarsh vegetation. At High Tide, some wildfowl flight on to the estuary to feed on partly submerged saltmarsh vegetation and return to the safety of the lagoons when the tide recedes. Separate figures designated FL refer solely to the POA Colliery Flushing lagoon.

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. There are 1579 ha mudflats and 80 ha saltmarsh. Public footpaths and car parks overlook the reserve at Flint, Bagillt and Greenfield.

Mostyn Dock Reserve consists of 700ha of intertidal mud. There are two reserve compartments - Fynnongroyw South Bay (north-west of Mostyn Dock) and Salisbury Middle (south-east of Mostyn Dock) - but in this Report

Table 5 (World's End Survey) continued ..

<u>Species</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003**</u>
Long-tailed Tit*	4	2	17	4	-
Coal Tit*	40	27	46	29	28 (26)
Blue Tit	28	14	21	27	25 (22)
Great Tit	9	9	19	20	20 (14)
Nuthatch	3	4	7	5	7 (5)
Treecreeper	4	7	5	4	2 (4)
Jay*	9	6	9	6	5 (5)
Magpie	5	6	8	4	6 (4)
Carrion Crow	13	13	17	13	12 (9)
Chaffinch*	113	115	105	97	67 (67)
Goldfinch	2	4	6	4	4 (3)
Bullfinch*	5	7	3	4	11 (4)

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; 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.

**Possibly affected by felling of a large area of conifer forest between autumn 1999 and early 2001.*

***partial survey only. The totals for the equivalent area in 2002 are given in brackets.*

Table 5 : Count totals for common birds in map surveys on World's End Estate, Llangollen, 1998 - 2003 (WES) by John Lawton Roberts

Species	1998	1999	2000	2002	2003**
Woodpigeon*	41	45	51	46	27 (35)
Cuckoo	2	2	1-2	1	1 (1)
Swallow	3	3	8	4	3 (4)
House Martin	0	3	5	17	14 (17)
Tree Pipit*	17	25	26	20	9 (11)
Grey Wagtail	3	5	7	8	5 (8)
Pied Wagtail	2	2-3	2	2	3 (2)
Wren*	78	122	142	103	77 (77)
Duncock*	11	17	20	32	20 (20)
Robin*	81	129	134	91	83 (66)
Redstart	25	25	21	37	15 (23)
Blackbird*	28	47	26	41	25 (31)
Song Thrush*	17	31	30	17	12 (15)
Mistle Thrush	12	11	15	11	11 (11)
Garden Warbler	10	14	17	23	17 (17)
Blackcap	11	16	5	15	8 (11)
Wood Warbler	4	2	0	1	3 (1)
Chiffchaff	9	4	3	10	31 (13)
Willow Warbler*	55	60	66	61	45 (35)
Goldcrest*	91	89	110	74	74 (50)
Spotted Fly-catcher	0	3	1	2-3	6 (2)
Pied Flycatcher	21	27	24	30	23 (29)

reference is made only to the combined systematic list, denoted by MDR.

Oakenholt Marsh RSPB Reserve (SJ 265722) - 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 Nature Reserve (SJ 270720). Designated CQNR in this Report. It includes Bunded Pools alongside the River Dee.

(d) BHP Point of Ayr survey area (SJ 1284) - designated BHP. The main study area consists of Llawndy Farm & the gas terminal; Warren Farm; the Warren dunes and the RSPB 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. Designated as SL in this Report. Viewing can be undertaken from Weighbridge Road.

Please note also that for **Conwy RSPB Reserve** SH 795775 (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 these have been excluded.

Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses NNR

The National Nature Reserve straddles the England-Wales border, approximately five miles south-west of Whitchurch, Shropshire. There are various access points, though the reserve base is at Manor House, Whixall at SJ 505366.

Access is possible without a permit along Public Rights of Way, which skirt the Mosses' edges, and along three inter-linking circular routes (the Mosses' Trails) but **access off these, primarily for safety reasons, is by free long-term permit only**. These can be obtained from the Site Manager at the contact address below. Along with the permit, a Site Safety Map will be sent showing access points, tracks and the location of each compartment for recording sightings.

The site is the third largest raised mire SSSI in Britain, covering 948 ha, representing 13% of the UK's remaining lowland raised mire. After many years of commercial peat extracting and extensive drainage, active management of the site was taken over by English Nature and CCW in 1991. Large-scale peat extraction then ceased though some small-scale, family-run hand-cutting remained. NNR status was granted in 1996.

Contact numbers:

**Dr Joan Daniels, Fenn's, Whixall & Bettisfield Mosses NNR,
Manor House, Moss Lane, Whixall, Shropshire SY7 0JG**

Tel.: 01948 880362 Fax.: 01948 880422. Mobile: 07974 784799

Email: joan.daniels@english-nature.org.uk

www.english-nature.org.uk

Site records for the full site can be sent to the above address but records for the Welsh part of the reserve, primarily Fenn's and Bettisfield Mosses, can be sent to CBRG.

Table 4: Flint-Connah's Quay Survey, 2003 (continued)

	J	F	M	A	M	J	Jy	A	S	O	N	D
Coot	39	45	36	23	15	15	18	28	36	30	43	40
Oyster-catcher	80	25	22	671	705	477	129	560	2800	1000	50	92
Lap-wing	1070	281	1	2	2	88	236	102	139	296	1082	2200
Knot				290	9				9		32	
Little Stint		1										
Dunlin	1700	220	27							30		64
Snipe	1											
Black' Godwit	300	353	1300	1500	550	460	294	760	3000	3300	63	301
Bart' d Godwit	20			50								
Whimbrel							1		1			
Curlew	87	77	65	35	7	63	76	68	97	20	38	107
Spotted Rshank	6	7	2	1			2	6	8	7	4	
Red-shank	227	157	45	126		2	71	1364	710	589	211	178
Greenshank		3						7	8	4	1	
Kingfisher									1			
Common Tern						13	58	11	3			

Table 4: Flint-Connah's Quay Survey, 2003
High and Low Water Count Totals (Monthly Peak Counts)
Source: CQNR

	J	F	M	A	M	J	Jy	A	S	O	N	D
Little Grebe	5	3	3	5	4	3	11	9	4	1	1	
Gt C Grebe	2	8		1	4			1		3		3
Cormorant	97	72	65	11	23	22	17	48	78	74	55	57
Little Egret				1			1		2	1	1	
Grey Heron	5	1		1	4	5	15	11	9	6	4	4
Mute Swan	8	12	5	9	15	7	2	2	2	4	10	3
Greylag					1				1			
Canada Goose		14	47	44	73	18	69	135	439	12	13	
Shelduck	49	33	87	96	170	550	567	39	110	23	16	17
Ruddy Duck					2		1					
Wigeon	41	552	91						40			161
Gadwall	18	19	12	5					3	2	3	11
Teal	764	305	96	11			23	58	756	110	1019	712
									6			
Mallard	125	118	64	48	49	50	293	276	900	137	100	107
Pintail	1		52	17						4	2	
Shoveler		1	1	2						1	1	4
Pochard	3	3										2
Tufted Duck		3	4	6	4	3	3	4	4		2	4
Goldeneye		3	1								1	1
Moorhen	6	8	4	6	2	1	2	4	4	1	3	4

Other abbreviations and symbols used in the Systematic List

BBS	British Trust for Ornithology Breeding Bird Survey
BCCC	Birds identified by CBRG as of Conservation Concern in Clwyd
BTO MR	Unattributed records received from the BTO Migrant Record Web Site
CP	Country Park
GC	Golf Club
HT	High Tide
LT	Low Tide
ndg	no details given
RSPB WF	RSPB Warren Farm (see BHP on opposite page)
SL	sightings reported in the various systematic lists e.g. BHP SL, RSPB SL (see The Dee Estuary, section (d))
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
WES	World's End Survey (see Appendices)
WRP	Welsh Records Panel
‡	Reported sightings from a secondary source in the public domain (such as Birdlines and magazines), frequently by an unidentified observer, and which have not been submitted to the Recorder or the Welsh Rarity Panel (and therefore not confirmed by them). CBRG would welcome reports and supporting evidence (<i>see Appendices</i>). <i>CBRG is grateful to the Dee Estuary Web Site (DEWS) and BirdGuides (BG) for the provision of some of these records.</i>

PLEASE NOTE: FOR EASE OF USAGE, TABLES CARRY THE BTO SPECIES CODES IN EACH TOP LEFT CORNER

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

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

First winter/spring period: regular off Llanddulas and Pensarn. Recorded there 13/01-25/03 with a peak of 11 on 13/01 (NPH, JKS, WeBS). Also seen at Rhos Point (3 on 23/01, SD) and Point of Ayr (1 on 3/05).

Second period: seen at Pensarn/Llanddulas 15/09-22/12 (NPH). 2 at Towyn on 22/09 (SM). c4 at POA HT on 27/09 (NPH).

BLACK-THROATED DIVER (*Gavia arctica*) *TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU*
Occasional winter visitor.

Only two records this year: 2 at Pensarn on 15/02 and 1 at POA on 3/03. [No records were received in 2002 and only three records in 2001].

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (*Gavia immer*) *TROCHYDD MAWR*
Occasional winter visitor.

Only one record this year: 1 off Pensarn on 9/12 (EL). [2 records in 2002]

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

Successfully occupied 24 suitable freshwater sites with records for Acrefair, Bodfari, Borrás, Brookhill Ponds (Buckley), Bwlchgwyn, CQNR, Dolwen Reservoir, Erddig Flash, FLQ, Greenfield Valley, Gresford Flash, NFR, Ruabon, Llay Pool, Moss Valley, RM, Saltney Ferry, Celyn College Pond (Northop), IMF, Prestatyn GC, Pulford Brook, RCR, RBP, Shotwick Boating Lake and Ysceifiog.

Confirmed breeding at LPR, Ruabon Moors, CQNR (where 6 adults and 4 juvs on 24/07, ELJ) and Bwlchgwyn quarry (SJ 258530) (where 2 chicks on 12/07, SD).

Maximum Counts: the main site was Ysceifiog with a peak of 17 in September (WeBS). IMF had 12 (1/04), OMR 10 on 15/08 and CQNR 11 on 11/07.

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

Present at several *inland* sites: Acton Park, CLR, Gresford Flash, Llyn Brenig, Hammer Mere, Llyn Helyg, Nant-y-Ffrith Reservoir and Ysceifiog.

Breeding confirmed or probable at 8 sites—AP, Gresford Flash (pair seen displaying on 9/03 and the first young (2 birds) were seen on 2/07, JKS), Llyn Bran, Llyn

Table 3 continued....										
Name	2003	2002	01	2000	99	98	97	96	95	94
Blue Tit	275	285		181	187	159	91	84	67	76
Great Tit	124	102		78	76	54	24	10	26	22
Nuthatch	23	24		13	12	14	9	4	4	6
Treecreeper	8	15		11	13	11	4	1	2	2
Jay	13	24		14	10	4	6	5	1	2
Magpie	169	141		122	166	136	53	30	57	52
Jackdaw	298	339		233	282	384	84	102	74	92
Rook	379	177		111	189	140	52	90	5	75
Carrion Crow	427	506		307	345	296	121	121	92	127
Raven	30	33		6	12	9	3	1	-	4
Starling	217	316		291	309	153	16	43	44	97
House Sparrow	240	231		226	192	159	50	43	50	100
Chaffinch	276	302		234	239	205	105	61	91	122
Greenfinch	86	74		48	50	42	17	4	16	32
Goldfinch	113	123		71	101	59	34	16	33	31
Linnet	61	72		47	59	48	17	38	12	22
Lesser Redpoll	7	20		10	12	3	-	2	6	5
Bullfinch	17	16		17	9	10	-	1	3	3
Yellowhammer	9	15		7	5	2	2	-	2	1
Reed Bunting	12	21		7	14	7	-	2	1	7
Species recorded	100	99		99	90	92	63	69	69	76
Squares surveyed	29	34		23	26	20	7	7	7	11

Table 3 continued....

<i>Name</i>	2003	2002	01	2000	1999	98	97	96	95	94
Robin	194	203		159	154	121	49	45	58	70
Redstart	10	29		30	20	6	8	3	4	9
Whinchat	5	9		13	12	17	-	16	5	12
Stonechat	11	11		7	5	4	-	1	-	2
Wheatear	8	41		5	11	6	-	5	1	3
Blackbird	320	347		229	264	230	63	41	65	73
Song Thrush	69	66		57	54	55	16	11	12	17
Mistle Thrush	32	24		16	47	19	8	7	6	9
Grasshopper Warbler	9	2		2	1	4	-	1	-	-
Sedge Warbler	5	12		5	3	1	-	-	-	1
Lesser Whitethroat	-	2		3	1	4	-	-	-	-
Whitethroat	20	24		13	23	18	8	8	4	15
Garden Warbler	8	6		5	13	6	3	5	1	9
Blackcap	35	48		33	35	40	16	11	10	10
Wood Warbler	3	5		2	1	3	3	1	1	4
Chiffchaff	90	80		46	63	76	23	12	16	12
Willow Warbler	73	85		103	113	103	45	33	56	66
Goldcrest	18	25		28	28	19	7	4	5	3
Spotted Flycatcher	5	5		3	10	4	7	2	4	4
Pied Flycatcher	3	7		7	9	11	8	4	3	5
Long-tailed Tit	15	30		17	25	9	5	4	6	2
Coal Tit	27	28		8	18	10	4	2	4	8

Brenig (where 3 pairs on 17/08, inc. 1 with 2 young, NPH), Llyn Helyg (2 pairs, ELJ), Nant-y-Ffrith (a pair with 3 chicks on 4/07, JLR), Ty Mawr Reservoir (nest with 3 eggs on 9/05, JAJ) and Ysceifiog (a pair with 4 young on 21/07, ELJ).

Coastal: recorded along whole of coast. Particular concentrations were seen at Llanddulas, Pensarn and Kinmel Bay, with a peak count in the first winter period of 18 at Pensarn on 20/02. In the second Winter period there was a peak of 60 at Pensarn on 3/09 (SM). Along the *Dee Estuary*, birds were present throughout the year but with much larger numbers in winter. Peak Counts were: 27 at MDR on 15/09 and 80 at BB on 30/08.

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*) GWYACH YDDFGOCH
Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County Rarity—see Appendix 3.

SLAVONIAN GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*) GWYACH GORNIOG
Scarce winter visitor.

Only 4 records were received. In the first winter period, 1 was seen off Llanddulas on 17/03 (NPH). In the second, there was 1 on 15/09 (NPH), POA had 2 on 1/11 and there was a first winter bird off Towyn on 5/12 (SM).

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

Seen inland at Llanddulas, 17/02-15/09 where 3+ pairs bred on Llanddulas Cliffs. (NPH/JKS). 18 birds on Prestatyn Quarry ledges on 25/03 (ELJ). A peak of 20 was noted at Splash Point (Rhyl) on 27/07.

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*) ADERYN-DRYCIN MAWR
Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

Only one record: 2 at POA on 6/10. [No records in 2002].

MANX SHEARWATER (*Puffinus puffinus*) ADERYN-DRYCIN MANAW
Regular offshore during summer and autumn. Amber List [BI, BL, SPEC2]

Relatively few records this year. 20 were seen passing offshore at Gronant on 12/06, 2 at POA on 6/10 and 5 on 7/10 (RSPB SL). 1 over Llanddulas Beach on 15/09 (NPH).

STORM PETREL (*Hydrobates pelagicus*) PEDRYN DRYCIN
now **EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL**
Occasional summer passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC2] No records for 2003.

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

Singles on 22/09 (IE) and 6/10 at POA and 25 on 7/10 at same site.

GANNET (*Morus bassanus*) HUGAN
 now **NORTHERN GANNET**
 Passage migrant. Amber List [BI, BL, SPEC2]

Noted offshore, especially at POA/Gronant, on various dates. Peak counts: 100 were off POA on 28/04 (JKS) and 20 there on 9/09 (NPH/JKS). 30+ off Rhos Point on 27/07 (AH).

CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) MULFRAN
 now **GREAT CORMORANT**
 Common non-breeding visitor. Amber List [BDMr, BI]
 The Dee and Clwyd estuaries are sites of national importance in Great Britain

Inland: reported in small numbers from about 6 sites. [10 in 2002] The highest count was 19 at GF on 23/02 (NPH/JKS).

Coastal: present along all the coast. No breeding reported except for the Ormes, just to the west of our area. Peak counts included 91 at Gronant on 27/04.

In a River Clwyd, Rhuddlan ongoing survey by *Simon Hughes*, birds were present each month (see table). A bird of the *sinensis* race was present on 1/04, as last year.

Dee Estuary: (see table, RSPB SL); birds were present along the Dee valley as far as Glyndyfrdwy.

(CA)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	0	3	1	9	55	21	24	5	5	21	3	0
BB	76	41	22	16	1	1	2	94	0	20	25	16
OMR	77	50	65	9	11	12	21	31	82	161	178	96
RCR	36	67	97	120	127	66	16	28	33	79	103	86

SHAG (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) MULFRAN WERDD
 now **EUROPEAN SHAG**
 Scarce, non-breeding visitor on the periphery of our area. Birds were recorded last year but not this.

Name	2003	2002	01	2000	1999	1998	97	96	95	94
Common Gull	51	18		1	-	11	60	10	-	-
Lesser B-b Gull	11	10		54	525	17	8	8	8	1
Herring Gull	41	118		49	22	30	9	3	7	28
Great B-b Gull	-	5		-	-	-	1	-	-	3
Feral Pigeon	20	29		51	20	29	-	1	-	6
Stock Dove	30	8		1	11	11	6	7	1	5
Woodpigeon	381	313		271	266	225	73	65	69	83
Collared Dove	57	60		63	74	44	7	5	2	10
Cuckoo	3	14		4	12	6	2	4	1	8
Swift	89	67		41	43	72	9	12	19	14
Green Woodpecker	2	4		4	1	6	-	-	4	-
G. S. Woodpecker	18	19		10	11	11	7	1	4	4
L. S. Woodpecker	2	-		1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Skylark	24	22		20	20	26	3	13	14	30
Sand Martin	2	2		10	-	2	-	-	2	5
Swallow	257	213		128	196	165	65	58	79	104
House Martin	151	187		119	103	105	22	7	45	38
Meadow Pipit	131	157		98	134	111	-	70	21	71
Grey Wagtail	4	12		3	2	7	-	-	1	3
Pied Wagtail	32	45		15	16	20	14	6	10	18
Wren	222	269		215	227	149	54	37	64	71
Dunnock	106	95		72	70	47	19	14	16	35

Table 3
Clwyd BBS County Summary: main species numbers, 1994-2003
Source: BTO

<i>Year</i>	2003	2002	01	2000	1999	98	97	96	95	94
Little Grebe	5	2		4	-	4	2	-	-	-
Grey Heron	13	7		7	6	5	2	-	-	-
Mute Swan	4	8		6	2	4	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	23	6		24	20	11	5	12	6	-
Shelduck	1	4		11	2	-	2	3	-	203
Mandarin	-	-		6	5	6	-	-	-	-
Mallard	77	63		47	48	43	13	18	12	20
Tufted Duck	11	6		4	6	6	9	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	8	3		3	9	9	-	-	-	-
Sparrowhawk	5	6		6	3	3	-	2	1	1
Buzzard	38	55		29	20	12	6	3	6	9
Kestrel	6	7		2	6	2	-	1	-	2
Red Grouse	3	4		-	1	1	-	2	-	3
Black Grouse	-	27		4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pheasant	165	68		67	39	52	40	22	36	38
Moorhen	9	1		7	12	9	1	-	1	2
Coot	10	10		8	11	9	7	-	1	-
Oystercatcher	-	4		2	4	-	-	-	-	251
Lapwing	22	29		16	5	3	8	18	6	9
Snipe	5	3		2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Curlew	12	41		25	25	8	6	13	12	182
Black-headed Gull	34	36		15	6	8	-	8	8	5

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)

CREYR BACH

Scarce localised winter and passage visitor. Amber List [BR]

Increasingly common. Singles and small groups were seen throughout the area at suitable coastal and estuary sites. These include Deeside CQNR (a peak of 11 on 26/8), OMR, (a peak of 11 on 27/8), POA, IMF (peak of 62 on 27/9) and the River Clwyd at Rhyl (WJR *et al*).

GREY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*)

CREYR GLAS

Widespread resident. 2 Heronries were recorded in the Vale Of Clwyd (1 held 7 nests) and 2 in the South of the County (1 near Corwen held 10 nests). The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain.

Observed in both inland and coastal localities.

Inland: seen across the county at most freshwater sites. A peak count of 11 birds at Llangollen on 18/02.

Coastal: present throughout the year at a number of coastal and estuary sites, including POA (a maximum count of 18 on 31/08) and RCR (maximum 6 on 29/08). Widely distributed on the Dee Estuary with peaks of 19 at IMF on 31/08, 16 at White Sands in January, 13 at Ffynnongroyw in September and 10 at CQNR on 2/09 (JKS, RSPB, WeBS).

WHITE STORK (*Ciconia ciconia*)

CICONIA GWYN

Rare vagrant. Welsh rarity—see Appendix 3.

SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*)

LLWYBIG

now **EURASIAN SPOONBILL**

Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*)

ALARCH DÔF

Breeding resident.

Breeding/nesting reported for only 8 sites: Acton Park, Erddig Park (where 2 cygnets were shot), GV (where a pair with 5 cygnets on 26/07, ELJ), Gresford Flash, LPR, Llyn Helyg, Whitford and Ysceifiog. 2 ads and 4 cygnets were also record at Gronant Gutter on 27/07 (ELJ).

Inland. The highest counts were at Trevalyn Meadows (35 on 23/02), Plas Devon (36 on 18/02) and Holt (9 on 7/01).

Coastal and Estuary Sites: regular at many sites along the coast (Gronant, Abergele Ponds, Tir Prince Towyn), in the Rhyl area (along the River Clwyd, RML) and on the Dee (CQNR, OMR, Flint Sands, IMF). Peak counts include 80 at RCR and 14 at RML on 19/01 and 20/02 (ELJ), 64 at White Sands in November (WeBS), 15 at CQNR on 18/05 and 51 at IMF on 30/04.

BEWICK'S SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*) ALARCH BEWICK
 now **TUNDRA SWAN**
 Uncommon winter visitor. Amber List [SPEC3w]
 Seen in increasing numbers. The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain.

Dee Estuary: the peak count was 80 in December in Shotwick Fields (WeBS).

WHOOPEE SWAN (*Cygnus cygnus*) ALARCH Y GOGLEDD
 Uncommon winter visitor seen in small numbers. Amber List [BR, WI, WL]

The peak count was 25+ in a mixed flock with 39+ Bewick's and 5+ Mute Swans at SF on 22/11 (DCR). 10 were recorded at IMF on 17/09, 1 at RML on 17/09 and 2 on LB on 15/11.

BEAN GOOSE (*Anser fabalis*) GWYDD Y LLAFUR
 Rare and irregular winter visitor. Welsh rarity—see Appendix 3.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) GWYDD DROED-BINC
 Winter visitor in small numbers.

Inland: 100+ were seen flying north over Nant -y-Ffridd Reservoir on 9/01 (SD). 12 at Holt on 7/02.
 Coastal: 50 at RCR, 15/03 (WJR). IMF BP had 30+ on 16/01 (AH) and 20/01 (JKS). A single at Llanddulas Beach on 22/02. There was only one late record for 6 at Shotwick fields on 20/10.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*) GWYDD DALCEN-WEN
 now **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**
 Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity. [RED LIST: WDP]

Birds were seen at a few sites only, in small numbers and probably of feral origin.

One record for IMF on 1/1 ,20/1 and 23/2.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser erythropus*) GWYDD DALCEN-WEN LEIAF
 Vagrant. BBRC.

The only record this year was of one at IMF WF on 13/12 (BHP).

Table 2: Coastal Sites (<i>continued</i>)											
Peak counts for Clwyd WeBS sites, 2003											
Species	Coastal Sites (see key)										
	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
Spotted Redshank			1	6					5	1	
Redshank	241	33	105	898	1405	5	4	81	466	540	
Greenshank			4	15					2	9	
Common Sandpiper		2	12	6					7	5	
Turnstone	99		31		55						1
BH Gull		20			500	420	45	62			497
Common Gull				24	2150		190	164			102
LBB Gull			30		22	305		52			39
Herring Gull		2		20	200	250					200
Y-L Gull											1
GBB Gull			30		7			22			112
Sandwich Tern								450			28
Common Tern					11			8	5	2	
Little Tern								256			
<i>Other species:</i>											
Bewick's Swan											80
Whooper Swan											7
White-fronted Goose										1	
Long-tailed Duck											1
Smew											1
Water Rail								1			
American Wigeon				1							

Table 2: Coastal Sites (continued) Peak counts for Clwyd WeBS sites, 2003											
Species	Coastal Sites (see key)										
	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
RBM	18		9	6	3						11
Goosander			5								
Moorhen	13	1	14	4		6		3	6	12	
Coot	64		41	45				14	1	40	
Oystercatcher	580	960	560	50	4832	1	2	2500	2800	4500	
Ringed Plover	6	26	9		51			61	26	277	
Golden Plover		17	1					6		5	
Grey Plover				1				144		116	
Lapwing		161	680	800		150	344	529	2200	594	
Knot	66				1			15	290	350	
Sanderling	14							200		3	
Dunlin		11	48	600	70			2500	1700	970	
Jack Snipe										1	
Snipe			11	1		1		5	1	9	
Black-tailed Godwit				400	640				3300	132	
Bar-tailed Godwit			6					3	50	15	
Whimbrel		2						2		5	
Curlew	17	21	150	70	775	100	36	198	38	1545	

GREYLAG GOOSE (*Anser anser*)

GWYDD WYLLT

Uncommon breeding resident and winter visitor.

Principally found at *inland sites*. Confirmed *breeding* at FLH (6 adult and 2 young 19/05, NPH/JKS) and Cae Coch Lake Dolwen which had 2 adults and 6 juveniles on 6/06. A mobile flock breeds in the Gresford-Borras-Holt area and may have bred for the first time at Gresford Flash where a pair plus 1 young on 13/06 (JKS).

The main sites were FLQ (where the peak count was 119 on 7/07, KD *et al*) and Llyn Helyg (112 on 13/03, ELJ). Also recorded at Holt, Hope, LB, Llyn Alwen and NFR.

Coastal: RCR had 80 on 1/01 and IMF had 40 on 20/01. Also recorded along the Dee Estuary.

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

GWYDD CANADA

Breeding resident and winter visitor

Reported from 22 Sites with *breeding records* at 7 territories: PCR (3 pairs), RM (2 pairs), Cae Clwyd Reserve (1 pair), Llyn Helyg (1pair), GF (2 pairs), Cae Coch (at least 1 pair) and Hanmer Mere (at least 1 pair).

Peak counts: *Inland*: 200 at GF on 31/08, 105 at PCR on 14/02, 135 at Acrefair on 8/12. *Coastal*: IMF had 600 on 1/01 and 2000+ on 30/11, CQNR had 150 on 4/08 and 435 on 4/09, 144 at OMR on 31/08 and 82 at RCR on 31/08.

Lesser Canada Goose *Branta canadensis parvipes / moffitti*

1 'cackling' Canada Goose at IMF BP on 20/01 (JKS).

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*)

GWYDD WYRAN

Rare vagrant. Amber List [SPEC2w] Clwyd County rarity.

A few, probably feral in origin: Gresford Flash had an adult with 2 hybrids on 8/04 (HL, JKS) and 4 on 29/08 - 4/09 (JKS). 1 hybrid/Canada at IMF BP on 1/01 (JKS). 1 at R. Clwyd, Denbigh on 13/03 (ELJ).

BRENT GOOSE (*Branta bernicla*)

GWYDD DDU

Regular winter visitor in small numbers, principally to the Dee estuary. Amber List [SPEC3w]

Very few records this year: 1 Dark Bellied record for OMR on 15/04 and a single bird on Belgrano Beach, Towyn on 31/12 (SM).

RUDDY SHELDUCK (*Tadorna ferruginea*)

HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

Rare Vagrant. Likely to be of feral origin.

One recorded at Flint Castle on 30/06.

SHELDUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*)

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

now **COMMON SHELDUCK**

Occasional breeding resident and very common estuarine winter visitor. Amber List [BI, WI, WL] The Dee estuary is a site of international importance.

Inland: the only records were for a pair at GF on 8/04 and a pair at nearby Borrás on 5/05, possibly the same birds; a pair at Llyn Aled on 6/05; 1 at Bettisfield pond (12/05) (all NPH, JKS).

Widespread along the coast and the Dee Estuary (see table: source RSPB).

(SU)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	18	28	34	2	2			278	9	125	135	105
OMR	68	94	85	100	140	520	700	120	194	90	30	60
MDR		59	12		11	27	185		151	3223	271	254
POA	50	83	54	20	31	48	345	50	2230	1910	596	260

MANDARIN (*Aix galericulata*)

HWYADEN FANDARIN

Scarce breeding resident

The highest count was for 12 near Holt on 23/03. 2 pairs were seen nearby on the R. Dee, Sutton Green, 22/03-18/04 and a drake at Trevalyn Meadows on 20/04 (JNBH). Pairs were also seen at Cynwyd on 16/02, on the Clwyd near Denbigh on 23/04 (ELJ) and a pair briefly at EF on 25-27/03 and 3 (2m, 1f) on 20/04 (JNBH). Single drakes were on the Dee at Llangollen (23/02) and at Gresford Flash on 29/02 and 8/04-12/08 (NPH, JKS, JN). A single eclipse drake was at Borrás pools on 19/04 (probably the same bird as GF) (JN).

WIGEON (*Anas penelope*)

CHWIWELL

now **EURASIAN WIGEON**

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

The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

Found inland in small numbers and in larger numbers on the coast and Dee Estuary.

Inland. The only records in 2003 were from Llyn Brenig (a f on 27/01), Ty Mawr Reservoir (5 on 9/12), Gresford Flash (1 f on 4/09), Acrefair (3 on 10/11) and Pen-y-Cae Reserve (7 on 8/12).

Coastal: Dee Estuary Reserves: there was an exceptional count of 2500 at Oakenholt Marsh in November (WeBS). Found in varying numbers along the coast with maximum counts of 60 on the River Clwyd near Rhyl on 2/02 and 200 on the sea at Pen-sarn on 17/03. Also recorded at IMF, CQNR, Mostyn Docks and SBL.

Table 2: Coastal WeBS Sites											
Peak counts for Clwyd WeBS sites, 2003 (continued)											
Source: BTO											
	Coastal Sites (see key)										
Species	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
RT Diver	8										
L. Grebe			5	4				1	3	18	6
G C Grebe	22	2		6	2				4	3	1
Cormorant	33	4	93	49	3			400	65	55	
L Egret		1		1		1		1		1	
G Heron	1	4	5	16	13	6		12	7	8	
M Swan	8		28	64				2	11	6	14
Greylag			57							1	
Canada			425	439					67	16	900
Shelduck		8	61	160	685			38	520	1910	
Wigeon			500	260				32	2500	361	
Gadwall			1	19						4	11
Teal	2		57	600				16	870	320	
Mallard	64	2	183	136	22			25	175	314	
Pintail		12		17	483				2	290	
Shoveler	2		2	4						23	
Ruddy Duck				2						6	
Pochard			5	2						14	
Tufted Duck	3		25	6						13	56
Scaup	10										
C Scoter	1737	1	1							26	
Goldeneye			9	3						1	11

Table 1: Inland WeBS Sites (continued) <i>Clwyd Inland WeBS Counts for 2003 (continued)</i>										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Coot	21	54	17	24	73	-	3	20		
Snipe	-	9	14	-	-	-	-	1	3	
Black-headed Gull	120	15	100	23	50	34	12	70		
Common Gull	2	200	18				1	90		
Lesser Bb Gull	-	3	-	-	145	2	4	5		
Herring Gull	-	1	-	-	50	-	34			
Greater Bb Gull	-	1	-	-	5		2			
<i>Other:</i>										
Lapwing								2		
Kingfisher	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1
Barnacle Goose	-	-	-	-	4	-	-			
Ringed Teal					1	-	-			
Mandarin	-	-	-	-	1	-	-			
Common Sandpiper						1	-	1		
Oystercatcher								1		
Smew								1		

(WN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB		11	8						190		100	1719
OMR	30	1500	206	150					4	615	2500	2400

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*)
Scarce vagrant. Welsh rarity—see Appendix 3.

CHWIWELL AMERICA

GADWALL (*Anas strepera*)
Uncommon winter visitor and scarce breeding resident. Amber List [WL, SPEC3]

HWYADEN LWYD

Breeding: no records received this year.

Inland: the main inland site is Llyn Helyg where 18 were recorded on 29/01 (ELJ) and 5 on 21/12.

Coastal and Dee Estuary: recorded in small numbers at CQNR, IMF BP, RBL, POA, SSW and SBL (a peak of 13 on 09/01, JKS). Small numbers winter at IMF and move between the reserve and SBL, depending on disturbance.

TEAL (*Anas crecca*)
now EURASIAN TEAL
Rare breeder but locally abundant and widespread winter visitor. Amber List [BDMr, WI]. The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK.

CORHWYADEN

Inland: found in small numbers at several sites. The largest counts were at Sutton Green (50 on R. Dee on 4/01, JNBH), Trevalyn Meadows (29+ on 11/01, JNBH) and Hope (18 on 28/09). Also seen at Acrefair, Erddig, Ewloe Green, FLQ and Llyn Helyg.

Coastal: large numbers in suitable locations especially in the Dee Estuary. Monthly maxima for OMR, POA, IMF, CQNR are listed in the table. Also recorded from Abergele, Mostyn Dock, BB and Gronant.

(T.)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	870	26	0	0	0	0	0	230	22	388	250	270
OMR	450	476	125	20	0	0	30	55	1528	1000	800	1000
POA	45	10	31	30	0	0	0	0	195	320	79	265
CQNR	449	155	60	11	0	0	13	58	756	1106	1109	712

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*)
Uncommon visitor. Clwyd Rarity—see Appendix 3.

HWYADEN ADDFAIN

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
Common and widespread breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BDMp]

HWYADEN WYLLT

Inland: Common throughout the area on any suitable wetland habitat. Breeding also reported at numerous sites from Hiraethog Moors down to sea level.
Coastal: present throughout year at various sites along the coast. Numbers considerably inflated by winter visitors. Peak monthly counts for River Clwyd, Rhuddlan are given in the table (*source: Simon Hughes*). 4 pairs bred, the largest brood being 12 (16/04).
Dee Estuary: See table for BB, OMR, and MDR monthly maxima.

(MA)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
RCR	90	70	30	28	24	50	55	115	160	130	65	70
BB	0	45	6	0	0	0	0	210	0	22	84	2
MDR	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	40	101	90	18	18
OMR	30	0	11	10	0	0	325	857	148	60	120	43

PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)
now NORTHERN PINTAIL
The Dee estuary is an internationally important site for this winter visitor. Amber List [BR, WI, SPEC3]

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Few inland records: 11 at Llyn Helyg on 8/02 (ELJ).
Coastal records: BB and POA maxima listed in the table (Source: RSPB). There was a peak count of 483 at Ffynnongroyw in November (WeBS).

(PT)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	24	1920	230	0	0	0	0	260	0	0	0	4280
POA	195	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	329	290	57	450

SHOVELER (*Anas clypeata*)
now NORTHERN SHOVELER
Winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [WI]
The Dee estuary (for England & Wales) is a site of national importance in GB.

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Table 1: Inland WeBS counts Peak counts for Clwyd WeBS sites, 2003 Source: BTO										
Species	Inland Sites (see key)									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Little Grebe	-	6	2	5	-	-	-	1	-	17
Great Crested Grebe	3	2	-	-	3	3	7	4	2	-
Cormorant	-	2	-	2	14	-	20	2	-	1
Grey Heron	-	2	1	1	1	-	1	2	1	1
Mute Swan	3	-	2	11	5	-	-	5	-	11
Greylag Goose	-	-	-	-	62	-	14	-	-	-
Canada Goose	4	10	-	-	137	-	15	32	-	7
Shelduck										
Wigeon							1			
Gadwall								21		
Teal	-	22	5					30		18
Mallard	41	73	20	49	34	1	13	14	14	58
Pintail								9		
Shoveler	1	-	-	-	25					9
Ruddy Duck	-	-	10	-	-			4		
Pochard	1	1	1	27						
Tufted Duck	-	25	13	73	2	24	11	17	2	43
Goldeneye	-	2	1	-	-	6	12	-		
Goosander	-	2	5	-	-	-	5	7		
Moorhen	8	-	4	18	2	-	-	2	1	11

TABLES

Tables 1 & 2: Peak counts for Clwyd WeBS sites, 2003 (BTO)

Key	Site	Central GR
A	Acton Park Lake	SJ345520
B	Dolwen Reservoir	SH975705
C	Erddig Park Lake	SJ330487
D	Greenfield Valley Holywell	SJ189767
E	Gresford Flash	SJ347537
F	Llyn Bran	SH965595
G	Llyn Brenig	SH975555
H	Llyn Helyg	SJ115775
I	Nant-y-ffrith Reservoir	SJ245535
J	Ysceifiog Reservoir	SJ145715
K	Abergele to Llanddulas & Shore	SH925785 & SH943787
L	Bagillt Fields & Saltmarsh Walwen Fields and Saltmarsh	SJ232751 & SJ232746 SJ214768
M	Clwyd Estuary - Sectors 1 & 2	SJ010790 & SH995805
N	Dee Estuary (Sector W6) / White Sands	SJ285709 & SJ280725
O	Ffynnongroyw Bay North & South; Mostyn Dock Shore	SJ137830 & SJ149815; SJ152820
P	Glan-y-don Fields	SJ171799
Q	Greenfield Fields	SJ197785
R	Gronant & Gronant Fields	SJ095845 & SJ090837
S	Oakenholt Marsh & Flint Saltmarsh	SJ265723 & SJ253732
T	Point of Ayr (inc. Fields, Flushing & Colliery Lagoons)	SJ130850 & SJ117838; SJ127836; SJ132833
U	Shotwick Fields & SBL and Reservoirs	SJ322720 & SJ315726

Inland: found in small numbers at a few sites. Peak count: 33 at GF on 14/12.
Coastal: records from POA (Max 14 on 26/10), IMF (5 on 1/1), RCR (6 on 2/2) and CQNR (4 on 10/3) and Abergele. There was an unusual record of 30 on the sea at Kinmel Bay on 24/01 (EL).

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

1m at RBP on 8/02 (JKS) and 8/02 (WJR) and 1 on RCR on 15-18/05 (SH) and 2 drakes there on 30/5.

POCHARD (*Aythya ferina*) *HWYADEN BENGGOCH*
now **COMMON POCHARD**
Winter visitor seen in small numbers.

Recorded from 13 sites: Shotwick Boating Lake (a peak of 40 on 11/01, DOJ), SLJ, FLQ, GV (28 on 4/02, ELJ), Hope (a peak of 20 on 22/12), Rhyl Brickworks Pool (also 20 on 22/12) with very small numbers (<5) at Abergele, Dolwen Reservoir, GF, IMF BP, Llyn Helyg, POA and RRP Shotton.

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*) *HWYADEN GOPOG*
Uncommon breeding resident and regular winter visitor

Fairly well established in small numbers on lake areas: small numbers recorded on 21 freshwater sites and on RCR, POA and the Dee Estuary.
Confirmed breeding at CQNR (1 ad and 6 juvs on 24/07, ELJ), NFR where 1 f with 9 young on 12/07 and EF where a pair with 3 young on 19/08 (NPH).
Maximum counts: 72 at Greenfield Valley on 4/02 (ELJ), 60+ at SBL on 1/01 (JKS), 56 in January at SF (WeBS), 23 at Llyn Helyg on 11/03 (ELJ).

SCAUP (*Aythya marila*) *HWYADEN BENDDU*
now **GREATER SCAUP**
Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List [SPEC3w]

Unusually, only one record for 2003: a female at Shotton Rifle Range Pool on 2/1.

EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*) *HWYADEN FWYTHBLU*
now **COMMON EIDER**
Uncommon marine winter visitor. Amber List [BR] Clwyd County Rarity.

Recorded in 2002 but not in 2003.

LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*) HWYADEN GYNNFON HIR
Uncommon winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

An immature bird at SBL on 10/01 (JKS) and 2/02 (IE) and in SF in Jan-Feb (WeBS). (Present at IMF until 17/04).

COMMON SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*) MOR-HWYADEN DDU
Winter visitor. Amber list [WL] **BCCC**

Often seen in very large numbers off-shore between Colwyn Bay and Rhyl with smaller numbers off-shore at Gronant and POA through the year and occasional at BB. Liverpool Bay is a site of international importance and nationally important numbers winter off the North Wales coast.

The maximum counts were 13,500 along the coast, Rhyl-Pensarn on 3/09 and 5000+ off Towyn on 4/11 (SM). Other records included 3500 at Pensarn on 2/01 and 600 at Llanddulas on 12/02. Other winter records included 30 at Splash Point on 4/03, 100 at POA on 31/10 and 1 at BB on 13/04.

Summer records include 20 at POA on 4/08 and 30 at Gronant on 17/06 and 75 on 3/07.

VELVET SCOTER (*Melanitta fusca*) MOR HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD
Uncommon winter visitor.

2 recorded off Towyn with a flock of 1200 Common Scoter on 2/11 and a pair there on 5/12 (SM).

GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*) HWYADEN LYGAD-AUR
now **COMMON GOLDENEYE**
Widespread winter visitor.

Inland: Seen at seven sites viz Llyn Brenig, a peak of 11 on 17/03 (JKS), with single birds at Hope 26/1, Nant y Ffrith Reservoir (8/02, 12/04, 21/12, SD), Cynwyd 7/2, Dolwen Reservoir 11/1, Cae Llwyd Reservoir and Llangollen 2/2.

Coastal: Peaks counts: 10 at RML on 19/01 (ELJ), 5 at Shotwick Boating Lake 5 (1m, 4f) on 9-11/01 (DOJ). Also reported from BB, Llanddulas, Pensarn and RCR.

SMEW (*Mergellus albellus*) LLEIAN WEN
Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

A *m* at IMF BP on 16/01 (AH) and 20/01 (JKS). Several sightings of a single *f* at LB 21/03-19/04 (IE, ELJ) and 15/12 (ELJ). 1 reported at POA WF (23/01) and 1 in SF in Jan-Feb (BTO WeBS).

1. Do you have suitable feeding habitat nearby?
2. Do you have Barn Owls nesting on your land?
3. Would you like advice on suitable habitat and nest sites for Barn Owls?
4. Would you like a nest box erected on your property?
5. Would you be willing to have your nest site monitored by one of our licensed fieldworkers?

These leaflets have been distributed through county agricultural, and other, shows and handed out in various other ways. Early in the project, Jason Ball who runs the Barn Owl Conservation Network for the Hawk and Owl Trust arranged a press release that included some information about our project. This led to a considerable number of requests for Barn Owls, as the article suggested that we would supply Barn Owls on request. If only we could! Sadly, we have had to refuse to place nest-boxes at some sites as in our view they are unsuitable for Barn Owls, and unlikely to be taken up by them.

We gratefully accepted funding from the Conservation and Research fund from Chester Zoo for the first year. This paid for the leaflet and for materials to make some nest boxes. The zoo also prepared a press release that was taken up by just about every paper that covers north east Wales and led to many enquiries coming to me by phone. Some of these have been very fruitful. Of the 130 plus requests that we have received, we have been able to do site visits to only about one third to one half of those requests. Of these, relatively few have been from places where Barn Owls have been present but without nest sites. We have erected nest boxes in those sites where birds used buildings or trees and we hope that they will adopt the comfortable homes that we have made for them. At one farm in Flintshire, we just helped a farmer to erect two boxes that he had made himself.

As part of the project, we now have a total of 23 nest boxes erected in the first year. We hope to visit the sites related to all the other requests that we have received and we anticipate that we will need to make, erect and monitor many more nest boxes. As yet, our group of fieldworkers is small and we would welcome the assistance of people who are willing to visit Barn Owl sites under the appropriate government licence and after some training. Please contact me if you are interested.

Also, Barn Owl is the species that has been chosen by the Clwyd Bird Recording Group to be its special bird for 2004 and the County Recorder would welcome all records of Barn Owl sightings or breeding records for the next year. Please send your records to me, **Ian M. Spence**, as

Clwyd County Recorder at ianspence.cr@imsab.idps.co.uk
or to me as **WRSG-NEW Co-ordinator** at imsacc1@imsab.idps.co.uk

Barn Owl 2004

The Barn Owl was chosen by CBRG as its target species for 2004.
Ian Spence reports below on a new Barn Owl Project.

The status and distribution of Barn Owls in north east Wales

A new partnership project between the Wales Raptor Study Group – North East Wales and the four Unitary Authorities in that area.

The Wales Raptor Study Group (WRSO) has been collecting the results of breeding attempts by raptors, owls, Chough and Raven since 1992. Barn Owl is one species that has been under-recorded, with no clear idea of the real status or distribution of the species across north-east Wales. By this, we mean that we did not know how many breeding pairs of Barn Owls lived in north east Wales, or where they bred. In this area there is a considerable range of altitude and habitat, so it was very unclear if Barn Owls were present mainly in lowland areas or near rougher habitats that are more often available at higher altitudes in ffridd or moorland.

The WRSO originally considered starting a project to investigate the status and distribution within Flintshire. However, the North East Wales Birds Biodiversity Group persuaded me that the project should be extended to cover the whole area of what was 'Clwyd'. Actually, we are including a little more than that, using that Afon Conwy as our western boundary. The main partners in the project have been the four biodiversity officers for the unitary authorities of Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. Within the first year of the project there have been two changes of personnel with new officers in Denbighshire and Wrexham which has affected the pattern of our progress.

At the outset of the project, we understood that there were Barn Owl sites in the area, but with landowners who were reluctant to let people know that the owls were breeding successfully. We understood this to be in the best interests of the birds, but it made monitoring by the WRSO difficult, as it could only get breeding data from a small sample of sites. Our first task was to generate interest in the project with the farming and landowning fraternity so that our knowledge might increase dramatically. To do this, we decided to produce a bi-lingual leaflet providing basic information about the needs of Barn Owls, with a detachable questionnaire with five questions:

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

All records were from the coast. Regular at Rhyl Marine Lake (a peak of 5 on 22/2) and Pensarn Beach (21 on 25/3) Other records were from Rhos Point, Gronant, Rhyl, Llanddulas and the Dee Estuary where POA peaked at 14 on 26/11 and BB had 11 on 30/11.

GOOSANDER (*Mergus merganser*) HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG
Breeding resident and winter visitor
A successful bird of the Dee Valley but few in the estuary.

Confirmed breeding at 3 sites: Llangernyw where an adult with 2 juvs on 23/06, the River Dee near Chain Bridge, Llangollen (a duck with 11 ducklings on 13/05) and River Clwyd, Rhyl-Rhuddlan where four broods were seen of 6 young by 12/05, 8 on 17/05, 10 on 7/06 and 11 on 18/06 (SH, JN).

Other reports: found along the River Dee from Holt to Cynwyd and at Aled Reservoir, Erddig, Hope, Llyn Helyg, NFR, Ruthin, St.Asaph, Bronwyf Reservoir and Bod Petruel in Clocaenog. The largest numbers were at Rhuddlan (11 on 8/07) and Holt (7 on 15/08). A few were found at POA (6 on 21/08) and IMF (1 on 23/11).

RUDDY DUCK (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) HWYADEN GOCH
Scarce breeding resident

Recorded at 4 sites. Maximum count: 13 at EF on 3/03 (NPH). Bred at Erddig (where a *f* with 6 tiny chicks on 19/08) and Llyn Helyg (2 pairs). Also present in small numbers at GF and Shotton Pools.

HONEY BUZZARD (*Pernis apivorus*) BOD Y MEL
now **EUROPEAN HONEY-BUZZARD**
Occasional visitor. Clwyd Rarity.

There were 5 records in Apr and May, with 3 from Point of Air, one from Morfa Conwy and one over Fenn's Moss. Records from BTO MW, PMR.

RED KITE (*Milvus milvus*) BARCUD
Occasional visitor. Amber list [Hdrec].

There were 15 records across all months except May and Dec. There was one breeding record and one young is known to have fledged. Records were received from LD, Kevin Dyer, EJ, ELJ, JLR, RSPB, DS, WRSO, †.

MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*)

BOD Y GWERNI

now **EURASIAN MARSH HARRIER**

Very scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

A *f* was reported from Fenn's Moss on 19/04 (HMP) and there were 7 records between Jun and Oct, most in the Shotwick – IMF – CQNR area with one at Llyn Aled (25/8). Records from IE, SGR, RSPB, NPH/JKS.

HEN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

BOD TINWEN

Scarce breeding species and winter visitor. Red list [HD, SPEC3, UK, BR]

There were reports from 6 areas:

Ruabon moors. 2 ringtails on 6/02 were the first birds seen; 3 (a *m* with 2 ringtails) on 7/03 and 2 on 9/04 (all via JLR). On 14/06 a *m* was seen hunting and 2 ringtails were seen on 30/08 until the end of the year (JLR). 1 was seen at WE on 30/03 (DOJ). 1 ringtail was flying over heath on Eglwyseg Mountain on 15/10 (MKB).

Clocaenog: 1 *f* was at Llyn Brenig on 09/02 and 1 *f* at Llyn Alwen on 27/09 (ELJ). 1 *f* was at Clocaenog on 24/12 (IE).

Shotwick area: sightings at IMF were in Apr, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov and Dec (RSPB), with 1 seen at Oakenholt in Dec (RSPB).

POA: Just one record in Oct (RSPB).

Glyn Ceiriog: one record in July (DS).

Fenn's Moss: a ringtail on 19/10 (LG).

On moorland areas there were 7 recorded breeding attempts. From a minimum of 30 eggs, 20 young fledged – 2.86 young per brood (WRSG).

GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*)

GWALCH MARTH

now **NORTHERN GOSHAWK**

Rare breeding resident.

There were just 7 records – 5 from the edges of RM. A pair was circling near Llangollen on 5/03 (JLR) and another record of a *f* near Llangollen on 22/03 (DR). A *f* was near WE on 24/03 (KS), 1 near Trevor on 1/09 and 1 near Pen y Cae on 3/09 (JAJ). One record was from Clocaenog on 23/02 (LD) and 1 at Rhyl on 20/08 (BG).

No breeding was recorded though without doubt it occurred (WRSG).

SPARROWHAWK (*Accipiter nisus*)

GWALCH GLAS

now **EURASIAN SPARROWHAWK**

Common and widespread breeding resident with many reports. Seen in every month.

formation.

These delightful and colourful birds are found in a variety of habitats—mainly in dense woodland and scrub, thick hedgerows and scrubby parks and gardens. This is reflected in the distribution map. Resident birds, they move around locally in response to the availability of food supplies and are frequent visitors in spring to gardens and orchards.

In the breeding season, they are seen mostly as singletons or pairs which is what your sightings reflected. In winter, they may form larger parties. The largest numbers logged this year was typically 5-6 but in some years they have far exceeded this. On occasion, numbers may be boosted by the influx of more colourful Northern Bullfinches. This was not the case in 2003 but has occurred in more recent years.

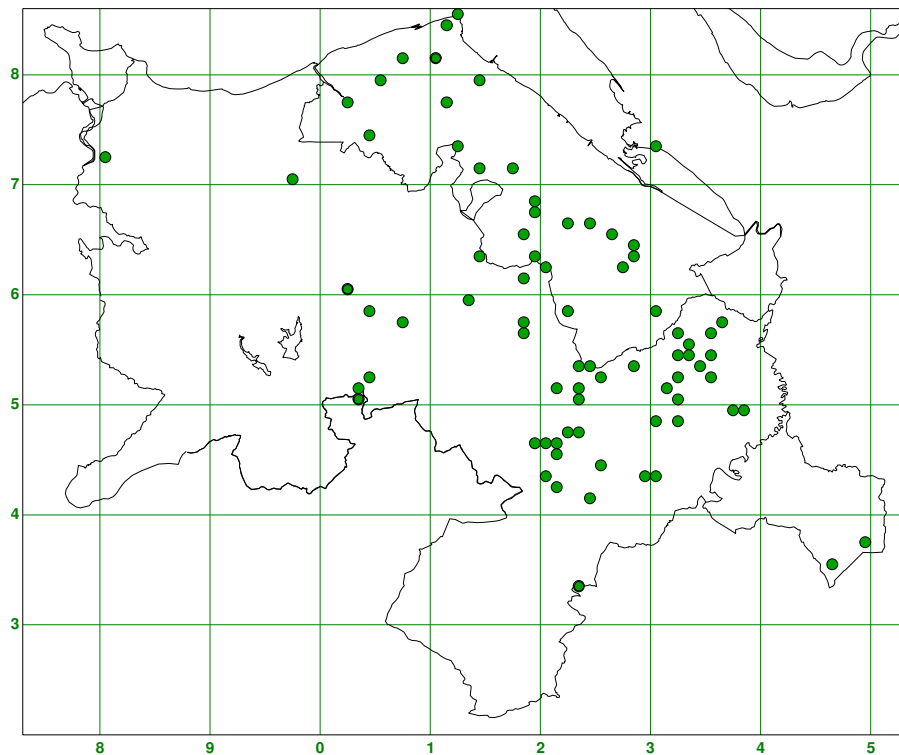
‘Our’ Bullfinches are sedentary (non-migratory) - there are no significant shifts in distribution through the year or, indeed on a long-term basis. The breeding season is long and they may raise 2-3 broods, from May to September. It is towards the end of this period when family parties are seen and then, as winter approaches, even larger gatherings.

There has probably been a decline on a national basis, possibly related to a fall in farmland weed availability as a result of changes in agricultural practices. However, the diverse habitat in our area does allow us to see them at regular sites, though in small numbers. Favoured sites include Clocaenog, World's End and the scrubland near Fenn's and Bettisfield Mosses but the main site was—your garden. Again, this may indicate a bias towards observer presence and ease of visibility. In their natural habitat of scrub and hedgerow, feeding birds are difficult to see, often remaining under cover or flying off to hide when disturbed. All we ask is that you continue to send in records so that they can continue to be monitored.

Norman Hallas

Bullfinches in Clwyd, 2003

Norman Hallas



The Clwyd Bird Report for 2001 chose the Bullfinch as the BCCC species on which to focus. Since the re-introduction of this Report in 1999, the number of sightings in our area has been on the increase, bucking the national trend, and for 2003 we received more sightings than ever before—some 160. These sightings are indicated on the map above, where each record we received is represented by a dot. Some caution must be exercised here, in interpreting the results, as this increase in sightings in Clwyd over recent years may be due to increased observation participation rather than to an increase in bird numbers and CBRG is extremely grateful to our contributors for providing this valuable in-

Most of the 67 records came from 37 places in the more populated parts of the area. They were of single birds, with 2 birds seen at IMF on 01/02 (DR), POA on 22/04 (BTO MW), Pant yr Ochain Wood in 'autumn' (MG), Rhuddlan on 12/08 (SH) and Wrexham on 28/12 (MG). 3 birds were seen together at Rhyd-y-Foel on 30/03 (DR) and in Wrexham on 30/12 (MG). There were virtually no records from the south-western parts of Denbighshire.

There were no recorded breeding attempts though without doubt it occurred.

BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*)
now **COMMON BUZZARD**

BWNCATH

Common and widespread breeding resident.

There were 149 records from 77 locations spread over the whole area.

Sightings of five or more at a verified location on a given date: 6 at Llanasa on 31/01 (ELJ), 5 at RSPB Conwy on 22/03 (BTO MW), 5 at Bodfari on 24/03 (JKS), 5 at Gwysaney on 15/05 (ELJ), 5 at Rhuddlan on 9/08 (SH), 5 at Gresford Flash on 19/08 (NPH), 7 at NFR on 13/09 (SD), 8 at LB on 27/09 and 7 at Rhuddlan on 11/10 (SH).

There were *breeding records* from 24 nests with 56 eggs leading to 37 fledged young, a mean of 1.54 per brood (WRSG).

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant

There were 8 records from 4 locations: the first record was of 1 at Tainant on 2/04 (via JLR) then 1 on a roadside telegraph pole next to a fishery at Llandegla Moor on 12/04 - 15/04 (PK *et al*). 1 was seen in a tree beside the Afon Clwyd 4 miles NNW of Ruthin on 14/06. Singles were seen at IMF in Jun and Sep (RSPB).

KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus*)

CUDYLL COCH

now **COMMON KESTREL**

Common breeding resident. Amber list [SPEC3]

There were 65 records from 27 locations indicating that this species is under-recorded. Most records were of 1 or 2 birds.

Breeding: one pair nested in a tree at WIE (DOJ) and another pair was assumed to breed on Rhuddlan Castle with birds coming and going through May (SH). 8 pairs bred in the RM/HP area. 11 nests were checked and from a minimum of 48 eggs, 31 young fledged, a mean of 2.8 young per brood (WRSG).

Other records were: 1 *m* was causing concern at the Little Tern colony at Gronant on 19/07 (DR); 8 in the Llyn Alwen/Llyn Brenig area on 27/09 (ELJ); 3 at POA on 28/10 (RMB) and 5 at Llyn Brenig on 1/11 (ELJ). At IMF there were records of 4 in Jul, 8 in Aug, 5 in Sep and 4 in Oct (RSPB).

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*) CUDYLL BACH
Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber list [Hdrec] **BCCC**

There were 33 records from 13 locations.

Breeding: recorded at 7 nests with a minimum of 31 eggs leading to 19 fledged young, a mean of 2.71 young per brood (WRSG).

Inland: 1 m at Llyn Brenig on 17/03 (NPH/KS), 1 at WE on 24/03 (NPH/JKS) and/or 1 with a kill (SM), 1 f at Llanasa on 21/08 (ELJ), 1 f at Rhuddlan on 5/10 (SH), 1 at RM on 3/10 and 1 there chasing a Redwing off the moor on 15/10 (JLR) and 1 at Llyn Alwen on 11/10 (ELJ).

Coastal: At Towyn beach fields – 1 on 7/11 and on 28/11 (SM). At Rhyl – 1 on 4/08 (BG). 1 at Prestatyn on 8/04 (RMB), 1 at Gronant on 8/11 and a f on 9/11 (BG) with 1 at Gronant beach on 1/02 (ELJ). At POA – singles on 6/01 (BG), 22/01 (ELJ), 2/02 (IE), 5/04 (RSPB), 13/08 (ELJ), 24/10 (BHP), Nov (RSPB), 11/12 (RSPB) and 24/12 (BG). At OMR – 2 in Oct, 1 in Nov and 1 in Dec (RSPB). At IMF – 2 in Apr and singles in Sep, Oct, Nov and Dec (RSPB).

HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*) HEBOG YR EHDYDD
now **EURASIAN HOBBY**

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional scarce breeding species. Amber list [BR]

There were 37 records from 10 locations.

Breeding: none recorded but records suggest that breeding is happening in our area.

Inland: the first record was 1 flying N at Llanrhaeadr on 3/05 (BG), then 5 flying over Fenn's Moss on 5/05 (PMR), 1 m at Llanrhaeadr on 1/06 (IE), 1 at Fenn's Moss on 15/06 (IE) and 2 there on 2/08 (BG) with 3 at the Whixall/Bettisfield Moss area on 12/05 (NPH/JKS). A pair was seen near Pontblyddyn in the summer (MG). There were 20 records of singles E of RM between 24/06 and 2/09 (JLR). Between Rhyl and Rhuddlan on the Afon Clwyd singles were seen on 7/07, 13/07, 5/08 and 6/08 (BG) and at Rhuddlan on 22/06 (SH).

Coastal: Singles at Gronant on 18/06 (UKBS), at CQNR in 'the autumn' (MG) and at IMF – 1 in May, 1 in Jun, 1 in Jul and 2 in Aug (RSPB).

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) HEBOG TREMOR
Breeding resident. Amber list [SPEC3, B1]

Inland: there were 32 records from 16 locations.

Coastal: there were 37 records from 13 locations.

Breeding: 11 pairs held territory in the RM area and a pair bred in a nestbox on the roof of Wrexham Police Station (JLR). Overall, 22 nests were examined and from a

RICHARDS PIPIT (*Anthus richardi*) CORHEDYDD RICHARD
Rare but regular autumn vagrant. Welsh Rarity.

1 at the shingle ridge at Gronant 14-16/10 (‡).

BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) TINGOCH DU
Scarce migrant and winter visitor.

1 at Talacre 31/12 (‡).

TWITE (*Carduelis flavirostris*) LLINOS Y MYNYDD
Winter visitor to coastal areas. Amber List [BR]

Unusually, 20 were reported on a wire near Wrexham on 28/09 (‡).

CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*) GYLFIN GROES
now **COMMON CROSSBILL**
Scarce breeding resident

In Clocaenog, numbers of 1000+ on 02/01, 600+ on 21/01 and 400+ on 22/03 (all ‡).

LAPLAND BUNTING (*Calciarius lapponicus*) BRAS Y GOGLEDD
now **LAPLAND LONGSPUR**
Irregular winter passage migrant in small numbers. Clwyd Rarity.

There were a few autumn records: 4 at Gronant on 13-14/10 and 3 on 25/11 (CR). Single birds were seen at POA on 22/10 (RSPB).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*)
Rare vagrant. Welsh rarity.

PIBYDD CAIN

A juvenile was seen on the east bank of R Clwyd near Rhuddlan on 12/09, and a second juvenile was observed from 27/09 – 29/09 approx.400m north of the caravan site at Rhuddlan (IE). POA had 2 on 26/09 (‡) and a single on 10/10 (BHP), viewed from the RSPB hide.

JACK SNIBE (*Lymnocyptes minimus*)
Scarce migrant and winter visitor.

GIACH FACH

One at POA on 6/01 and 1 on R Clwyd between Rhyl and Rhuddlan on 4/10 (‡).

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*)
Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers

PIBYDD GWYRDD

Coastal: along the Dee Estuary, the peak coastal count was 4 at Sealand Range Pools on 19/07. Singles were seen at RCR-Rhuddlan on 15/08, 20/08 and 4/10 (‡).

POMARINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)
Uncommon passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

SGIWEN FRECH

A single bird was seen off POA on 11/09 (BHP).

FIRECREST (*Regulus ignicapillus*)
Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BR] Clwyd County rarity.

DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH

Unconfirmed garden records in Gresford (MW), Llanddulas 23/01 (via EL) and Nercwys Mountain on 22/12 (PK).

GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*)
An occasional winter passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

CIGYDD MAWR

An individual was seen west Llyn Alwen, Clocaenog (SJ938536) on 04/01 (‡) and at Craig Bronbanog, Clocaenog on 21/01 (‡).

SHORE LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*)
Now **HORNED LARK**
Welsh Rarity. An irregular winter visitor to coastal sites in small numbers.

EHEDYDD Y TRAETH

10 on beach at Gronant on 6/11, two still on the shingle ridge on 9/11(‡).

minimum of 56 eggs a total of 29 fledged, a mean of 1.3 per brood (WRSG). Three young fledged from a nest on a pylon at Connah's Quay power station but an injured *m* was taken into care.

Other sightings: 2 were at Erddig on 6/01 (SD), 2 were displaying at WE on 30/03 (DOJ), 2 at Rhyl on 24/07 (BG), 2 were mobbing a Marsh Harrier at CQNR on 21/09 (SGR), 2 at Oakenholt in Nov (RSPB) and a pair was seen near Pontblyddyn 'all year' (MG).

RED GROUSE (*Lagopus lagopus*)
now **WILLOW PTARMIGAN**

GRUGIAR

Breeding resident on heather moors. Continued decline probable. Red list (HD, BDMr)

Very few records, low numbers and in few areas. Up to 5 recorded at LB, 17/03-19/04 (NPH/JKS, ELJ) and 6/09-1/11 (IE, ELJ) and 1 *m* at Aled Reservoir on 19/04 (IE). 1 at WE on 24/03 (NPH/JKS), 3 (1*m*, 2*f*) at WE on 30/03 (DOJ), and 2 on 14/04 (JMC). On RM, the first broody droppings, indicating the start of incubation, was very late, on 09/05 (last year on 21/04/02). Probably a very good breeding season here as indicated by the annual transect count on a 25-year old route (JLR).

BLACK GROUSE (*Tetrao tetrix*)

GRUGIAR DDU

Scarce breeding resident. Red List [BD, HD, SPEC3, UK] BCCC

Llandegla Forest and Moor and Ruabon Moor together hold one-third of the Welsh population of Black Grouse.

Very few records received: 3 (2*m*, 1*f*) at WE on 24/03 (NPH/JKS), 4*m* at WE on 5/04 (WJR). A *f* at LB on 18/01 (IE). 3*f* at Clocaenog on 24/12 (IE).

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE (*Alectoris rufa*)

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Now a locally common breeding resident where large numbers are bred and released in moorland areas for shooting

Several sightings, mainly around HP/Ruabon Moors. [Small numbers also seen over a wide area—at Llanasa, POA WF, Rhosesmor, Rhydymwyn and River Clwyd at Rhuddlan.] Halkyn

GREY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*)

PETRISEN

Scarce localised breeding resident. Red List [HD, BDr, BDp, SPEC3] BCCC

The only records received were of 2 in fields near Shotton on 1/02 and 29/03 (PT).

QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*) SOFLIAR
now **COMMON QUAIL**
Passage migrant and possibly scarce breeding summer visitor. Amber List [SPEC3, BR] Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

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

Widespread across the county.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT (*Chrysolophus amherstiae*) FFESANT Y FONESIG AMHERST

The feral breeding population at Halkyn is now believed to be extinct. A single bird was seen on a WFBS at Llanrhaedr-ym-Mochnant (SJ 135266) on 3/05 (RG).

WATER RAIL (*Rallus aquaticus*) RHEGEN Y DWR
Scarce winter visitor. Amber List [BDMr]

The main site was again at SSW. In the first winter period, again up to 3 present there, 5/01-16/03 (PT). In the second winter period, up to 2 birds were present, 17/08-31/12 (PT).

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

Reported from >20 main areas.

COOT (*Fulica atra*) CWTIAR
now **COMMON COOT**
Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor

Recorded through the year from >30 main sites. Highest count: 120 at GF on 13/01 (JKS).

OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ostralegus*) PIODEN Y MOR
now **EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER**
Scarce breeding resident and abundant winter visitor. Amber List [WI]
The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK
Inland: No confirmed breeding. Single birds were observed at Llyn Brenig on 14/04(JKS), Whixall / Bettisfield Moss, calling on 5/05 (PR) and 12/05 (NPH/JKS),

LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*) HWYADEN GYNNFON HIR
Uncommon winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.

1 reported in SF in Jan-Feb (WeBS).

SMEW (*Mergellus albellus*) LLEIAN WEN
Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.

Single birds reported at POA WF (23/01) and 1 in SF in Jan-Feb (BTO WeBS).

AMERICAN WIGEON (*Anas americana*) CHWIWELL AMERICA
Scarce vagrant. Welsh rarity.

1 at White Sands, Dee Estuary in December (WeBS).

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*) HWYADEN ADDFAIN
Uncommon visitor. Clwyd Rarity.

A pair was recorded at Padeswood Pool on 22/3 to 6/4 (GNR) and at Gresford Flash on 15/4 (‡). Probably the same birds.

REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*) PIBYDD COESGOCH

Inland: One breeding pair by R. Dee at Corwen.

WHITE STORK (*Ciconia ciconia*)
Rare vagrant. Welsh rarity.

1 circled fields between Llay and Gresford, 2/04 (‡).

WATER PIPIT (*Anthus spinoletta*) CORHEDYDD Y DWR
Scarce winter visitor

1 at Oakenholt in Dec. (RSPB).

LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minuta*) PIBYDD BACH
Very scarce autumn passage migrant

2 seen at R Clwyd between Rhyl and Rhuddlan on 4/10 (‡) and one was recorded at POA, on 26/09 (RSPB).

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 Journal.

Welsh Rarities

Records of Welsh Rarities are considered by the Welsh Records Panel. Welsh Rarities are defined as those occurring in Wales five times or fewer per year on average. The list is reviewed annually. Records may be sent to the County Recorder or directly 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. A basic description of at least the principal identification features should be supplied by even the most experienced of observers. The species list considered as Flintshire and Denbighshire rarities by the CBRG Rarities Sub-committee is on page 9. Rarity Submission Forms are obtainable from the County recorder.

CBRG would like more information on the sightings listed below. These are not necessarily rarities. For the latter, the Rarities Panel would like full descriptions and further details, especially with regard to location and age.

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*) GWYACH YDDFGOCH
Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County Rarity.

1 reported as off Abergele-Llanddulas, Feb (WeBS).

SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*) LLWYBIG
now **EURASIAN SPOONBILL**
Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County rarity.
1 record of an individual at FC, 22/08.

and PCR on 2/06 (JAJ).

Coastal: Non-breeding birds were reported along the whole length of the coast with the largest concentrations in the Dee Estuary. Peak counts were POA –10,000 in Dec; OMR – 5000 in Sept; MDR – 6062 in Nov and BB – 2633 in Aug. The POA peak is significantly below the 12,503 recorded in Sept 2002. Smaller numbers were recorded elsewhere along the coast, including 300+ at Rhos Point on 24/01, c.100 on 25/01 at RML; 200+ at Gronant on 5/02; c.100 on 10/02 at Pensarn; c.200 on 5/05 at CQNR. In autumn / winter, 250 were at Llanfairfechan on 13/09; 300+ at the R Clwyd / R Gele confluence on 14/09; 2500 at Gronant on 1/10; a max. of 200 + at RCR on 12/10 and 200+ at Horton's Nose, Rhyl on 31/12 (DCR, JKS, BG).

OMR, POA, MDR and BB (Greenfield to Flint Sands) monthly maxima are shown in the table (*Source: RSPB, ‡*):

(OC)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	524	2629	1145	260		45	94	2633	120	75	900	554
OMR	500	200	125	670	700	475	156	560	5000	3521	500	300
POA	2920	2800	505	1080	1020	715	911	4500	3093	4500	3800	10000
MDR	470	2379	523			59	72	1632	2573	5208	6062	4251

AVOCET (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) CAMBIG
Scarce visitor. Clwyd County Rarity.

Sightings of a male in OMR / CQNR area between 25/10 and 1/11 (IE, MG, ELJ, WJR).

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius dubius*) CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH
now **LITTLE PLOVER**
Rare summer visitor and passage migrant. Scarce breeding.

Inland: birds were recorded in five localities and breeding was confirmed at Pandy coal waste tip near Gresford where a pair with at least 2 small chicks on 18/06 (JN). A pair of adult birds was recorded at GF first on 5/04, then occasionally through to 5/06 (JBF/NPH/JN/JKS/RS) but breeding was not confirmed. A single bird was observed at nearby Borrás on 1/05 and 3 were seen there on 5/05 (NPH/JKS). Fagl Lane Quarry had a single on 7/07 (NPH/JKS). Another pair was seen at the Old Brickworks, Buckley on 20/04 and 21/04 (GNR).

Coastal: A single bird was recorded at CQNR on 3/04(DOJ).

RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*) CWTIAD TORCHOG
Breeding resident in small numbers and passage migrant. Red List [WDp, WI]

Along the coast, small groups were recorded at various locations, with peaks of 130 at Kinnel Bay on 5/01 (EL), 31 at Gronant on 27/04 (DOJ) and c.50 between Gronant / Prestatyn on 16/09 (RMB). Along the *Dee Estuary*, peak numbers were recorded in autumn, with 277 in Aug and 120 in Sept at POA. BB had 23 in Nov and 38 in Dec., and OMR had a peak of 31 in Nov.

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

Inland sightings include 16 with Lapwings on 13/03 in fields above Rhosllanerchrugog (JAJ) and 35 seen on 27/09 in fields at Pentrellyncymmer (SJ003552) (IE). *Coastal sightings* generally involved small numbers, although 80 were observed at Shotwick Lake on 6/04 (DOJ). Records from POA include a single bird on 9/04; 5 in Aug; and a single in Oct. BB had a peak count of 17 in Feb (WeBS) and a single bird in Aug and 2 in Sept. Several were observed near R Clwyd at Rhuddlan, including 3 on 20/09 (IE) and 1 on 28/10 (ELJ).

GREY PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*) CWTIAD LLWYD
Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List [WI, WL]
The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK but on the Welsh side they are found only in small numbers.

At POA, very few birds were present through the summer but 150+ were seen on 16/10 (DCR) and 116 in Dec. Gronant had 146 on 21/10 (ELJ). A single bird was seen at OMR in Oct and 2 in Dec. One was recorded between Rhyl / Prestatyn on 21/01 (RMB) and 3 at Rhuddlan on 18/10 (ELJ).

LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*) CORNCHWIGLEN
now **NORTHERN LAPWING**
Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List [BDp]
The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

Probable breeding: up to 4 pairs were on territory at Borrass Quarry, March-28/05 (NPH, JKS) and 1 pair at Borrass Hall Lane, 07/04 (NPH). At least 2 prs displaying on or near Old Firestone site, WIE and 3 birds f/o, 11/04 (NPH); 2 also seen on 24/04 and 25/05 (JNBH). Up to 6 birds in the Dee Meadows-Trevalyn area, 20/04-2/05 (JNBH, GO, WB) and at Sutton Green, 22/03-5/05 (NH). 3 birds seen on field south of NFR on 15/04 (IE) and 1/05 (JLR). A pair was seen on Denbigh Moors on 9/04 (SM) and a second pair was seen at GF between 15/04 and 17/04 (JKS). A displaying

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: ESCAPES and RELEASES

Records of species placed in Categories D or E by the BOU or species which are regarded as escapes.

RINGED TEAL

Af at GF, early June - end November (NPH, JN, JKS).

ZEBRA FINCH

Af was seen at Rhuddlan on 13/08 (SH).

COMMON MYNAH

A single bird was seen at Rhuddlan on 13/09 (SH).

Appendix 2: DECISIONS

To save space, all accepted submissions have been incorporated into the Systematic List. Decisions are made as follows (see below for clarification):

- (i) CRP decisions are made by *The Clwyd Rarities Panel, an independent panel led by Alan Davies;*
- (ii) WRP decisions;
- (iii) BBRC Decisions.

Appendix 3: RECORDS REQUIRING DESCRIPTIONS

CBRG has decided that records which require substantiation should be placed in an Appendix to the Systematic List. In the main, this will apply to the three levels of rarity outlined above, viz.: National, Welsh and County. All require supporting evidence from the observer before insertion into the main list. All rarity descriptions should be submitted via the County Recorder who will forward them to the appropriate body for ratification. Many of these are from Bird-lines and other such sources and frequently without an observer name attached. We are grateful for the Dee Estuary and the BirdGuide Web sites for supplying us with their lists and we ask any participative observer to send in information in the appropriate fashion.

Dates for selected migrants (continued)

Species	16/03, Moel y Parc and Prestatyn	17/03, Llangollen	27/09, Shotton	10/09, POA
Ring Ouzel	22/03, WE	8/03, HP	23/08, LB	7/10, POA
Grasshopper Warbler	18/04, Mold	16/04, RM	6/09, Clocaenog	13/07, Gronant
Sedge Warbler	18/04, Rhuddlan and SSW	10/04, RSPB Conwy	19/09, NFR	22/08, Dolwen
Reed Warbler	20/04, SSW	14/04, SSW	6/09, Clocaenog	20/10, SSW
Lesser Whitethroat	3 at POA on 23/04	24/04, MQ	Rhuddlan, 1/09	7/09, RCR
Whitethroat	18/04, Mold	10/04, RSPB Conwy	6/09, Clocaenog	8/07, SBL
Garden Warbler	20/04, Rhuddlan	16/04, Abergele & Dulas Valley	9/08, Clocaenog	17/11, Rhos-on-Sea
Wood Warbler	6/04, Llangollen	22/04, AP	24/06, WE	24/06, Vivod
Willow Warbler	25/03, Rhyd-y-Creuau	31/02, Rhy1	Rhuddlan, 18/09	RCR, 4/09
Chiffchaff	12/03, Rhuddlan	16/03, RCR	5/10, Rhuddlan	6/12, POA
Spotted Flycatcher	6/05, AP	25/05, Llanferres	24/08, Clocaenog	13/08, Wrexham
Pied Flycatcher	13/04, Llangollen	3/04, Coedpoeth	13/06, CLR	18/07, Bod Petrual
Tree Pipit	2/03, WE	7/04, Clocaenog	13/06, Rhes-y-cae	4/08, Fenn's Moss

pair was at Gwynfryn-Llandegla on 19/05 (NPH). Single birds were seen at Rhostyllen on 8/04, HP on 14/04 and Llandegla on 15/04 (JKS).

4 birds were in fields near Hope on 12/04 (NiF), 7 in fields nr Llyn Helyg on 15/04 (ELJ) and 4 by R Clwyd near Denbigh on 23/04. 8 (4 pairs) at BQ in Apr / May (up to 28/05) (JKS) and 8+ seen on set-aside by large pool near Ruabon on 30/05 (JLR). 6+ pairs seen in fields next to old Dyserth Road out of Rhyl on 12/06(DCR). Suspected breeding also recorded at Pentre Maelor and Maes y Grug (DOJ). 33 birds, including juveniles, were beside NFR on 4/07 (JLR) and up to 190 were at FLQ in July-August.

Large counts are found in winter, at both coastal and inland locations.

Inland: recorded in good numbers at GF with peak counts of 200+, August-December (ME, JBF, JNBH, NPH, JKS); FLQ where 35 on 14/02 (KD); 48 at Holt on 19/02 (NiF); 40 at NFR on 9/03 (SD) and c.60 at Rhosllanerchrugog on 13/03 (JAJ). In the subsequent winter, FLQ had large flocks from July – Oct, (ME/NPH/JKS/MG) with a maximum of 190 on 29/09 (KD); 85 were at Holt on 6/12 (NiF) and 166 at SPA on 21/12 (JLR).

Coastal: 1000+ congregated by RCR and at RML in Jan (NPH, ELJ, RMB, DCR, JKS). Also seen Rhyl-Rhuddlan where a peak of 250 on 12/10 (DCR, RMB) and 145 at BHP Pool, POA on 16/10 (DCR). In the Dee estuary, 600+ over SSW on 19/01(PT) and 500+ were at POA on 27/02 (RMB) but the peak number of 2200 was recorded at OMR in Dec. (WeBS). Figures for BB and OMR are shown in the table (source: RSPB/WeBS).

(L.)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	405	209						95	156	336	430	63
OMR	700	710		2	1	88	199	360	102	400	970	2200

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)

PIBYDD YR ABER

now **RED KNOT**

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List [WDp, SPEC3w, WI, WL]

The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK

The main sites, POA and OMR, had peak counts considerably lower than in 2002 (1190 compared to 2400 at POA and 600 compared to 2190 at OMR). (See table below – source RSPB et al).

(KN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR		600	250	290	54				100	500	300	150
POA	125	1190	500					20	19	30	150	130

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*)

PIBYDD Y TYWOD

Passage migrant and winter visitor. The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

Seen in small flocks along the coast in spring and autumn / winter, often in the vicinity of other waders. The largest spring counts include between 30 and 50 birds at Kinmel Bay in Jan / Feb (EL, NPH, JKS), with smaller groups between Rhyl and Prestatyn (12 on 31/01; 22 on 8/03 (RMB, DCR)), 10 at POA on 15/02 (SGR) and 6 at Llanddulas on 6/02 (EMB). 2 recorded at Gronant on 5/05 (JKS).

In autumn, a peak of 200+ was counted at Gronant on 21/10 (ELJ); POA had 40 in Oct, rising to 100 in Dec (‡); 32 on Rhyl beach on 15/11 (DCR)

LITTLE STINT (*Calidris minuta*)

PIBYDD BACH

Very scarce autumn passage migrant. See Appendix 3.

1 at CQNR on 22/02 (CQS). One was recorded at POA on 26/09 (RSPB). R Clwyd between Rhyl and Rhuddlan had three sightings of singles from 18/09-27/09 (IE) and 2 there on 4/10 (‡).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*)

PIBYDD CAIN

Rare vagrant. Welsh rarity—see Appendix 3.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*)

PIBYDD CAMBIG

Scarce autumn passage migrant

3 juveniles were seen by RCR on 8/09; various sightings on R Clwyd between Rhyl and Rhuddlan from 11/09 – 27/09, max of 2 at one time (IE, DCR, WJR). On the Dee estuary, at OMR 2 juveniles were recorded in Sept, and at POA 8 were seen on 26/09 and 2 more in Oct. (BG).

PURPLE SANDPIPER (*Calidris maritima*)

PIBYDD DU

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

Birds were recorded at their favoured area, Rhos Point. 3 were seen on 25/01 (DCR); a single was seen on 20/11 (SM) and 3 were seen on 25/11 (ELJ)

DUNLIN (*Calidris alpina*)

PIBYDD Y MAWN

Passage migrant and common winter visitor. Amber List [WDMp, BL, WI, WL, SPEC3w]

The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site for wintering Dunlin though birds are found throughout the year.

As usual, almost entirely coastal: a single bird was reported for GF on 28/04 (JBF). Large numbers were observed at Gronant, with c.3000 on 1/02 (ELJ). RML had a

Dates for selected migrants				
Species	First date, 2003	Last year	Last date, 2003	Last year
Whimbrel	POA: 2 in March	19/04, Towyn	POA: 4, September	POA, December
Sandwich Tern	27/04, Gronant	26/03, Rhos Point	C100 at Pensarn on 1/10	4/10, Rhyl Splash Point
Common Tern	13/04, SSW	21/04, SSW	21/09, Llyn Brenig	27/10, POA
Little Tern	5 off Gronant, 21/04	27/04, Gronant	September, POA	23/08, Gronant
Cuckoo	16/04, Llangollen	5/04, Holt	7/07, SBL	21/08, POA
Swift	19/04, Rhuddlan	20/04, RSPB Conwy	1 at Wrexham, 21/09	30/08, RCR
Sand Martin	20/03, Rhuddlan Castle	16/03, PCR	25/09, Rhuddlan	4/09, NFR
Swallow	23/03, Rhuddlan Castle	20/03, RSPB Conwy	9/10, Rhuddlan	7/11 at RCR
House Martin	13/04, Rhuddlan Castle	14/04, RCR	5/10, RCR	19/10, RCR
Redstart	14/04, Llangollen	17/03, R. Clwyd, Denbigh	22/07, Cilcain	12/09, (juv), Wern
Whinchat	23/04, RM	23/04, RM & R. Alyn	August, IMF	14/09, POA

Inland sites: Records of no more than 6 birds at any one site came from Holt, Hawarden, WIE, GF, Erddig, Borrass, Trevalyn (6 *juvs* on meadows on 21/06 (JNBH)), Bettisfield Moss, Fagl Lane, Sutton Green and Llyn Brenig. 38 pairs on territory recorded on RM (JLR) – more than in previous years. 4 were ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog, August-October (IS).

CORN BUNTING (*Miliaria calandra*) BRAS YR YD
Scarce localised breeding species. Red List [HD, BDp, BR] BCCC Welsh Rarity

Only one sighting this year from the usual site at Bettisfield on 05/05 (PMR).

roost of 250 on 6/02 (DCR) and 150 on 21/02 (JKS) and RCR had a flock of 300 on 2/02. A smaller flock of c.100 was seen in Kinmel Bay on the same day. In early autumn, a flock of 100+ was seen at Gronant on 19/07(DCR) and 51 were seen on R Clwyd between Rhyl – Rhuddlan on 21/08 (BG)

All peak counts in the Dee estuary were in the first winter period, the largest count being 4500 at OMR in February (*see table*).

(DN)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
MDR		1400	55				5		1	168	1	
OMR	4000	4500	1500	200	2		6	3		500	600	1200
POA	30	2015		35	93	1	21	629	552	603	850	970

RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*) PIBYDD TORCHOG
Scarce passage migrant.
The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain though few birds are recorded on the Welsh side.

All sightings this year were at coastal locations. Border Pool IMF had a single on 31/03 (JKS). Up to 3 were reported for River Clwyd at Rhyl, 16/08—8/09 (WJR, BG), and up to a max. of 6 at Rhuddlan meadows from 14/09 – 20/09 (DCR, IE). 8 were seen at POA on 10/10 from RSPB hide (BHP). OMR had singles recorded in April, Sept (12/09 – SGR), and Dec.

JACK SNIPE (*Lymnocyptes minimus*) GIACH FACH
Scarce migrant and winter visitor. See Appendix 3.

Only a few sightings: 1 recorded near Holywell (site confidential) on 18/01 (DOJ). 2 seen at Gronant reed bed on 5/02 (DCR); CR had a sighting on 22/03. 2 reported for RCR in Aug and 1 in Oct (WeBS).

SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*) GIACH GYFFREDIN
now COMMON SNIPE
Rare breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BDMr]

Inland: in lowland areas, birds were recorded on several sites in both winter periods: An exceptional count of 40+ was recorded at Llay Industrial Estate on 3/01 (PR). Trevalyn meadows had 2 on 11/01 and 1 on 29/11 (JNBH). A maximum count of 3 was recorded at several sites on WIE, 3/01-24/04 (JBF, JNBH, NPH) and 2 on 11/11 (NH). Singles were recorded at Erddig on 23/03 (JNBH) and 20/04 (JKS), 9 on 16/02 (PR) and up to 17 there on 21/12 (NPH). FLQ had 10 on 3/02 and 3 on 15/02

(DOJ, KD) and 2 on 2/11 and 10 on 8/11(KD). Nearby Padeswood Pool had 1 on 24/03. In upland areas, small numbers were at NFR on 4/01 and Bwlchgwyn on 9/01 (SD) and SLJ had 2 on 5/02(JLR) and 3 on 25/10 (JNBH). 6+ were on breeding territories on a partial survey of RM during May – July but no confirmed breeding (JLR). Up to 40 birds were seen on a damp field at large pool near Ruabon on 8/12 (JLR). *Coastal:* The largest count was 26 at Gronant on 1/02 (ELJ). 10 were seen at RML on 10/02 and a peak count of 20+ at RCR on 20/03 (JKS). BHP peak counts were 11 on 27/08 and 18/09 (both RSPB WF). Small numbers (<5) were also seen at CR, Rhuddlan, Towyn, POA and along the Dee Estuary at OMR and SSW (SH, SM, PT).

WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*) *CYFFYLOG*
now EURASIAN WOODCOCK
Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BDMr, SPEC3w]

Records during the breeding season were 5 roding at Nercwys on 14/06 (JNBH) and 1 flying over the road at Bettisfield on 12/06 (NPH/JKS). The remaining records were mainly singles seen during both winter periods: at Clocaenog Forest on 4/01 (IE) and on 15/11 and 25/12(JD, IE); WE on 9/01, 10/01 and 29/03 and on 26/10 and 21/11 (JLR); 1 at SSW on 26/01 and 22/02 (PT); 1 was at POA on 23/02 (IE) and 1 at Llandegla Forest on 23/03; Wern had 2 on 21/01 and 1 on 18/02 (PR); Rhuddlan on 26/10, 23/11 and 31/12 (SH); AWCP had 1 on 29/01 and Marford-Gresford had singles on 22/09 (killed by a Sparrowhawk), 5/11 and 6/11 (JBF);

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*) *RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU*
Passage migrant. Principally a winter visitor but increasingly found through the year. Amber List [SPEC2, WI, WL]
The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site for this species.

Peak counts: 6000 at OMR in Oct; 4000 at BB in Nov; (sources: RSPB, WeBS, BG – see table). Also 2200 at Flint shore on 1/02 and 500 on 28/06 (NPH/JKS/RS). CQNR had c1000 on 10/03 and 5/05, c400 on 4/08 (NPH, JKS) and 500+ on 1/11 (MG). Ffynnongroyw had a peak of 640 in November (WeBS) and RSPB WF had a peak count of 52 on 8/01 (BHP). Also seen in small numbers at RCR, SSW and SRRP (WJR, JKS, PT).

(BW)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	485	2500	500				700	2600	2500	570	4000	55
MDR		110	19							220	643	
OMR	300	3000	2000	2000	750	47	240	900	3870	6000	3000	1200
POA	2	74		1				28	24	33	590	600

LAPLAND BUNTING (*Calcarius lapponicus*) *BRAS Y GOGLEDD*
now LAPLAND LONGSPUR
Irregular winter passage migrant in small numbers. Clwyd Rarity—see Appendix 3.

There were a few autumn records: 4 at Gronant on 13-14/10 and 3 on 25/11 (CR). Single birds were seen at POA on 22/10 (RSPB).

SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) *BRAS YR EIRA*
Regular coastal winter visitor in small numbers.

There were nine records in the late winter, all on the coast. Maximum numbers occurred at Kinnel Bay with 15 on 05/01 (EL) with 14 at Pensarn same day (DCR). 10 birds (4f & 6m) were still present in March (NPH). 13 birds were seen at Gronant on 06/01 (‡).

In the autumn and mid winter, small numbers were seen again with the maximum number of 21 at Pensarn on 16/12 (SM) and 18 on 31/12 between Towyn Beach and Pensarn (DCR). Gronant had a few sightings in November with no more than 3 birds recorded. POA had 8 birds on 22/11 (‡).

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*) *MELYN YR EITHIN*
Formerly common breeding resident. Red List [BDp]

More than 25 sightings were recorded from a wide range of locations. The maximum number seen was 8 at Axton, near Trelogan on 12/02 (ELJ).

Coastal sites: birds were seen at POA (4), Dyserth, Mostyn, Trelogan, Llanasa, Gwaenysor and Kinnel Bay (coastal path).

Inland sites: records came from sites as far apart as Bettisfield (along railway track), R. Dee at Cynwyd, Tre Mostyn (SJ137799), Cilcain, Moel Famau, Pen-y-Cae, Wrexham and Bangor-is-y-Coed.

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

Another widespread species with small numbers recorded throughout the year.

Coastal sites: Records came from POA, Gronant, Gwaenysgor, Oakenholt, Flint Marsh, R. Clwyd (Rhyl), Rhyl Golf Course, SSW, Towyn and SBL. Most records were of single birds but at SSW numbers built up in the winter months; 2-3 pairs bred and 43 birds were ringed through the year (PT). 14 were seen at Gronant dunes on 16/02 and birds were observed feeding young at Gronant reed-bed on 17/07 (ELJ).

Asaph Business Park, POA, IMF and MQ. Garden records came from Wrexham, Ruthin and Hawarden. 20 were ringed at Bronbannog (Clocaenog), August-September (IS).

Maximum numbers were 20+ at SSW on 5/01 (PT), 15 at IMF in November (RSPB) and 10 at Bodelwyddan on 19/01 (ELJ).

In the breeding season birds were seen feeding on young oak flowers at Gwaenysgor on 07/05 (ELJ) and JLR saw small numbers at RM in May and June.

COMMON REDPOLL (*Carduelis flammea*)
now **MEALY REDPOLL**

LLINOS BENGGOCH

Occasional winter migrant. Clwyd Rarity.

Several seen at MQ on 03/03-07/03 in a mixed flock of Lesser Redpoll c.40 (AD, NPH) and one still present on 03/04 (NF) and an unseasonable record of a pair at WE on 03/06 (CW).

CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*)
now **COMMON CROSSBILL**

GYLFIN GROES

Scarce breeding resident

Breeding was reported from suitable habitat in Clocaenog, RM and Llandegla. Records of 100+ were common in Clocaenog in January and February and were regularly visible at the Bod Petruel picnic site (IE *et al*).

Away from the usual forest sites, sightings were of 40 at WE on 08/02 (JLR); 54 at NFR in February/March (JLR); 21 at Moel Famau above lower car park on 03/01 (‡); 10-15 in the conifers at Wern, Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 30/04 (PMR); 10 at Hawarden park on 29/04 (DOJ) and 5 at Bwlchgwyn Quarry on 12/04 (SD).

BULLFINCH (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)
now **COMMON BULLFINCH**

COCH Y BERLLAN

Breeding resident. Red List [BDp] **BCCC** [WES]

This is a widespread but increasingly scarce bird of woods and large, old, hedgerows. (See Report article).

HAWFINCH (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)
Scarce breeding resident. Clwyd County Rarity.

GYLFINBRAFF

Only one record this year: 3 birds at Pantymwyn (SJ195650) by MKB on 07/03.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*) *RHOSTOG GYNFFONFRITH*
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List [WDp, SPEC3w, WI, WL]
The Dee estuary is a site of international importance in the UK

Small numbers are recorded at sites in the Dee estuary. Two sites, OMR and POA (inc. WF) had the most sightings with peak counts of 50 in April at Oakenholt (see tables; sources: RSPB, BHP, WeBS). In addition, 50 were seen at BB in Feb (RSPB) and 3 at CR on 13/07 (DCR).

(BA)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	20	30	13	50	11				2	3	3	
POA/WF	19	9		3	1		3	15	9	2	5	4

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

COEGYLFINIR

Passage migrant and localised summer visitor in small numbers. Amber List [WL]

Inland: One record of a bird flying over RM on 30/04; it was not suspected of breeding (JLR).

Coastal: the main site was at POA and the table shows the peak counts for POA including WF and surrounding fields. (Source: ELJ, IE, NPH, DCR, JKS, BG, RSPB SL). OMR had 2 in Apr and 3 in May, 7 in July and 1 in Aug. Nearby CQNR had 4 on 5/05 (NPH/JKS) and BB had 2 in July. A single was observed calling in flight towards Rhos on 21/06 (SKT). Reported for RCR with a peak of 4 on 15/08 (WJR).

(WM)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA			2	10	3		3	7	4			

CURLEW (*Numenius arquata*)

GYLFINIR

now **EURASIAN CURLEW**

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List [BDp, SPEC3w, WI]
The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site.

Found inland in probable breeding areas in only small numbers, as follows:

1. Ruabon Moors area – 23 near TMR on 13/03 (JAJ); first for spring on RM on 15/03 (GK); 15 were seen at NFR on 9/03 (SD); and up to 5 birds were seen, often displaying, 13/03–5/06 (ME, JLR). 10+ near HP on 17/03 (JKS). 4 by PDR on 15/04 and 1 at Tainant on 5/05 (JKS); a pair displaying in a field at Gwynfryn on 19/05 (NPH).
2. Denbigh Moors: 17 seen in field at Llyn Helyg on 13/03 (ELJ); 8 at Llyn Brenig on 17/03 (JKS); 1 at Llyn Aled on 6/05 (JKS). 21 were also seen on an old maize field by R Clwyd, near Denbigh on 13/03 (ELJ).

3. *Ceiriog Valley*: 2 at Glyn Ceiriog and 1 at Llanarmon DC on 29/06 (JKS).
4. *Bettisfield / Fenn's Moss*: 6 on 12/05 and 1 displaying on 1/06 (NPH/JKS);
5. *Dee Valley*: 1 calling at Sutton Green and 2 at Bangor-is-y-Coed on 7/04 (NPH/JKS); small numbers observed in the Lower Dee valley (Trevalyn-Holt), 16/03-21/06 (ME, NF, JNBH, GO).

Coastal: Large numbers of non-breeding birds were found in coastal localities throughout the year, most occurring in the Dee estuary and on the coast round to Rhyl. Peak counts for POA (2200), OMR (163) and MDR (483) all occurred in Aug; BB had a peak of 495 in June. (See table: source DCR, RSPB, WeBS).

CR had 35 on 22/03; 38 were seen flying past Llanddulas Point on 21/01 (EL) and c100 on 1/10 (NPH). RCR had a max of 162 on 12/01 and 50 on 20/03 (DCR, RMB, NPH, JKS). Kimmel Bay had c50 on 3/01 (NPH) and 25 were on the coast between Rhyl and Prestatyn on 31/01 and 100+ at Gronant on 5/02 (RMB, DCR). RBP had 85 on 6/02 (DCR). In autumn 20 were at RCR on 29/08 (JKS)

(CU)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	48	305	221			495	2	325	47	17	12	16
MDR	45	610	5				205	483	347	375	198	81
OMR		96	125	24			110	163	96	70	63	70
POA	458	700	751	480	69	167	825	2200	1240	1350	400	655

SPOTTED REDSHANK (*Tringa erythropus*) PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG
Passage migrant and scarce over-wintering visitor
The Dee Estuary is of national importance for this species but with low figures from the Welsh side.

The main area is OMR/CQNR. (See table for peak counts. Source RSPB, IE, ELJ, MG, NPH, JKS). 1-2 were also seen at POA in Sept – Dec. (NPH, DCR, ELJ).

(DR)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR/ CQNR		1	2	1			1	6	13	5	3	8

REDSHANK (*Tringa totanus*) PIBYDD COESGOCH
now COMMON REDSHANK
Possible breeding resident and common winter visitor. Amber List [BDMp, WI, WI, SPEC2]
The Dee Estuary is of international importance for this species.

Inland: see Appendix 3.

SISKIN (*Carduelis spinus*) PILA GWYRDD
now EURASIAN SISKIN
Winter visitor and breeding resident.

Reported widely in forest habitat and in January and February on garden nut feeders

Main flocks: 56 at Pendinas on 09/03 (DOJ) and 50-100 at the same site on 07/04 (KS). 50+ max at POA on 09/09 (KS) and 60 at The Foel, Pentredwr on 20/02 (JLR). 40 were seen at Nilig, Clocaenog on 04/11 (‡); 30 at Fagl Lane on 21/12 (KD) and 30 in December at IMF (RSPB).

Other autumn and winter sightings came from POA WF (BHP); St Asaph Business Park (DCR); LB (ELJ); Abergele (EL); PBC and Bangor-is-y-Coed (DOJ).

LINNET (*Carduelis cannabina*) LLINOS
now COMMON LINNET
Widespread breeding resident. Amber List [BD] BCCC

Most records this year came from *coastal sites* or the coastal belt in the autumn and winter months. The maximum count was of 240 birds at POA in October (RSPB) and flocks of 100 recorded at Gronant on 16/09 (RMB); Llanasa on 13/02 (ELJ) and POA on 10/10 (BHP). 50 were noted at Gwaenysgor on 15/02 feeding in a root field (ELJ). Flocks of between 10 and 42 were seen at Rhyl Golf Course (DCR); Bagillt Bank, Mostyn Dock and Oakenholt (RSPB); Trelogan; Splash Point, Rhyl; R. Clwyd, Rhuddlan and Prestatyn.

Inland: in spring there were 22 pairs on territory at RM (JLR) and 40 were seen feeding in a field at NFR on 28/07 (JLR). 10+ were feeding in a mixed flock with Greenfinch, House Sparrows and Starlings at New Brighton on 01/08 (AB).

TWITE (*Carduelis flavirostris*) LLINOS Y MYNYDD
Winter visitor to coastal areas. Amber List [BR]

In the winter months, small flocks were seen widely from Flint to Gronant with a single bird at Towyn Beach fields (SM). There were 18 sightings of flocks up to 40 birds and the maximum counts were of 44 at Flint Castle on 04/01 (‡); 52 at Bagillt Bank in October (RSPB) and 75 again at Flint Marsh on 01/02 (‡). There were still two birds present at POA on 02/05 (BTO MW).

REDPOLL (*Carduelis cabaret*) LLINOS BENGOCH
now LESSER REDPOLL
Breeding resident. Possibly under-recorded though more records this year

Regular sightings in small numbers at Clocaenog and Llandegla Forests, Carrog, St

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*)

JI-BINC

*Common breeding resident with autumnal movement away from breeding areas.**Widespread across the region and a garden bird in small numbers. [WES]**Highest numbers:* Small scale movements of 10-20 birds were noted at Llangollen between 13/10 and 10/11 (JLR). 50 going west at Rhuddlan on 19/10 (SH) and a large flock of 350 at IMF in October (RSPB). 15 in a garden in Wrexham on 10/02 (KS) and 20 (16f and 4m) in another Wrexham garden on 03/02 (JBF).The first song of the year (rather unpolished) was heard on 27/01 at Llangollen (JLR) with widespread song by 07/02. Birds were singing at Llanasa on 12/02 (ELJ). *Notable sighting:* A male bird with pinkish (not bluish) crown was seen at Cynwyd along R. Dee on 17/02 (CT).**BRAMBLING** (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

PINC Y MYNYDD

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

20-30 noted in Wrexham on 20/02 and 09/03 (‡); 20+ in a garden at Bwlchgwyn (with Chaffinches) on 10/02 (JC, NPH/JKS); 20 at Bryn Coed on 15/03 (BTO MW) and 15 at Cyffyllog on 15/02 (IE). Singles or small numbers were at PCR, WE, Llandegla Forest, NTF, Erddig, Ruthin, Lixwm, Corwen Woods and a Wrexham garden in February and March. Single birds were still present at Bwlchgwyn on 12/04 and at Bryn Coed on 19/04 (BTO MW). In the second winter period, up to 8 were seen briefly at Towyn on 28/10 (SM).

GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*)

LLINOS WERDD

now **EUROPEAN GREENFINCH***Common breeding resident**Successful across the region, including gardens.* Small flocks (10-25) were noted on the coast in the autumn at Conwy RSPB, Splash Point, Rhyl, POA and Rhyl Beach. 40 were seen at Rhuddlan on 05/08 and 50 on 14/08 (SH).**GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis carduelis*)

NICO

now **EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH***Common breeding resident. Amber List [BDM] [WE]**Widespread across the region. Also a garden visitor.**Small flocks were noted throughout the year:* 16 at Fagl Lane on 07/09 (KD); 30+ at POA on 02/10 (DCR); 30 at Splash Point, Rhyl on 23/04 (RMB); 45 in August at IMF; 50 at Pendinas on 07/04 (KS) and 50 at WIE by pool on 09/10 (JBF).*Larger flocks:* 100+ at WIE in September (EM); 135 at POA in September (RSPB) and 200+ at POA on 16/10 (DCR).*Coastal:* Seen all along the coast in winter. 40+ seen at Rhos on 24/01 (DCR); Llandulas shore 155 on 21/01 (ELJ); 300+ at RML on 6/02; a flock of 50 at RCR 2/02 and 23/02 increased to 120 by 13/04 (JKS, RMB); 87 were at Gronant reed bed on 5/02 (DCR). c100 were at RCR on 29/08.*Dee Estuary* peak numbers were 1720 at OMR in Oct, 927 at BB and 820 at POA, both in Nov. (See table: source RSPB / RMG)

Other counts: CQNR had up to 500 on 10/03 (JKS), 700 on 14/05 (DOJ) and 150 on 1/11 (MG). There were no breeding records for the estuary.

(RK)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
BB	134	229	98			32	25	555	412	190	927	360
OMR	200	280	200	430			75	466	1000	1720	500	134
POA	187	130	84	60				300	71	300	820	126
MDR	119	270	190	143			224	7	92	1244	319	8

GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)

PIBYDD COESWERDD

now **COMMON GREENSHANK***Passage migrant.**Most records are along the Flintshire coast and Dee estuary, mainly late autumn and winter.* The only *inland* sighting was at Llyn Aled on 25/08 (IE).*Along the coast, birds were seen in three main areas:*

1. POA had a peak of 9 in Sept, including 5 on 9/09 (NPH/JKS), with 2 on 28/07 (ELJ), 3 in Aug and singles in May, Oct. and Dec. (DCR, RSPB).
2. RCR had 2 spring migrants on 7/05; others included 2 on 18/09 and singles on 8/07, 3/08, 29/08, 27/09, 1/11 and 11/12. (RMB, NPH, DCR, WJR, JKS).
3. Along *the Dee Estuary*, the largest single count was 15 at White Sands in September (WeBS). OMR had 18 sightings, 3 in Apl and 15 in autumn -1 July-4 Dec. (RSPB, SGR, ELJ). CQNR had 2 on 10/10 (ELJ) and 1 was seen at Queensferry on 27/08 (DOJ). 1 at SSW on 3/08 and 2 on 7/09 (PT).

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*)

PIBYDD GWYRDD

*Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers**Inland:* single birds were seen at GF (20/03), WIE (23/01 and 1/12) (all JBF), R. Clwyd nr Denbigh on 13/03 (ELJ) and Padeswood from 22/03-14/04 (GMR).*Coastal:* Singles seen at Rhuddlan on 31/07-4/10 (SH, IE). Along the Dee Estuary, the peak coastal count was 4 at Sealand Range Pools on 19/07 (*see Appendix 3*). Singles were seen at SSW 16/03—7/12 (PT). 1 was at CQNR on 14/08 (ELJ) and OMR had 2 in Aug. POA had 1 in Sept. and late records on 24/11 and 11/12 (KD, DCR).

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*) *PIBYDD Y GRAEAN*
Scarce passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity. Recorded in 2002 but not in 2003.

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

Inland: Ruabon Moor area: the first bird of spring seen here was at Berwyn nr Llangollen on 11/04 (JLR); breeding pairs seen at Pant-y-Ochair and Llangollen; NFR had singles on 12/07 and 26/07 (SD).

Denbigh Moors: 1 at LB on 13/04 (IE), 3 on 6/05 (NPH/JKS) and 1 on 26/07 (ELJ); Llyn Helyg had 1 on 11/04, 3 on 20/04, 3 on 29/04, 6 on 22/07 (ELJ).

Gresford: 1 at GF from 14/04–29/04 (JKS) and 2 on 6/05; 2 at Borrass on 15/09 (JN).

Others: the River Dee had 3 at Sutton Green on 22/03 and 1 on 6/07 (JNBH); 5 were at Bodelwyddan estate on 18/04 (EL).

Coastal: 1st of year seen at Rhuddlan from 1/04-11/04, rising to 3 on 20/04 (SH). R Clwyd between Splash point and Rhuddlan had 4 on 16/04 and RCR had 5 on 7/05 (BG). In autumn, RCR had 2 on 18/07, 10 on 24/07, 8 on 4/08 with the last one on 10/09 (BG, RMB, JKS, DCR). Rhuddlan had 6 on 22/07, 11 on 2/08, with the last seen on 12/09 (SH, ELJ); and R Clwyd between Splash point and Rhuddlan had 5 on 8/07(RMB).

The Dee Estuary had a peak of 16 at OMR in July, followed by 10 in Aug. BHP had 16 total sightings, 06/08-14/09 with peaks of 3 on 4/09 and 12/09. POA had 2 on 23/04-25/04, 2 on 2/05, 2 in July, 3 in Aug and 1-2 in Sept. (BG, NPH, JN). BB had 3 in June; CQNR had 1 on 5/05 and 5 on 4/08; and Border Pool at IMF had 1 on 1/09 (RSPB, NPH, JKS) and SSW had 1 on 21/09 and 2 on 10/08 (PT).

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*) *CWTIAD Y TRAETH*
now RUDDY TURNSTONE
Winter visitor. Amber List [WI, WL]
The Dee estuary is a site of international importance.

Regularly along the coast in small flocks. Peak counts: 100 at Llanddulas on 21/01 (EL); 40+ at Rhos on 24/01 (DCR); 20 between Rhyl / Prestatyn on 31/01 and 15/09 (RMB, DCR). Dee Estuary peak counts: 55 at MDR (Nov), 52 at BB in Oct. (RSPB).

POMARINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) *SGIWEN FRECH*
Uncommon passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity-see Appendix 3.

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

Only a few reports: a light-phase adult seen chasing Sandwich Terns off POA bird-hide on 9/09 (NPH/JKS) and 2 on 17/09 (‡). 4 in Sept and 1 in Oct (RSPB SL).

Bridge' at Rhyl Harbour on 31/12 (DCR).

Other counts: POA around 500 in July; IMF 220 in November and 200 at LB feeding with a few Redwing and several hundred Fieldfare on 27/01 (JKS). At least three flocks of 40+ were observed moving NW in the valley N of Llandegla Forest on 13/03 (JLR). An albino bird was seen in a garden at Towyn on 20/07 (SM).

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING (*Sturnus roseus*) *DRUDWEN WRIDOG*
now ROSY STARLING. Welsh rarity.
Rare visitor

An adult bird was at Abbey Road, Rhos-on-Sea mixed with a Starling flock through July (IE, NPH/JKS, AH).

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) *ADERYN Y TO*
Common breeding resident. Amber List

Some evidence of demise of some local populations. Many houses still support small, but often decreasing, numbers but it is still a widespread breeding species.

Small flocks (over 25+) seen at the following locations: 30 at Splash Point, Rhyl on 21/02 (RMB); 30+ Rhyl Golf Course on 17/05 (DCR); 37 at garden feeders at Lixwm on 22/02 (LD); 25+ including 20+ juveniles feeding on weed seeds in horse paddock at New Brighton (SJ255656) on 01/08 (AB). The maximum counts were of 50 at Rhuddlan on 12/08 (SH) and 50 at GF on 12/08 (KS).

TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*) *GOLFAN Y MYNYDD*
now EURASIAN TREE SPARROW
A scarce localised breeding resident. Red List [BDp, BDMr] BCCC

A few wintering birds were reported from Bangor-is-y-Coed, Dyserth, Llanasa, Holt, Llyn Helyg and Towyn.

Breeding records: 33 nest-boxes were monitored by IS at Sandycroft (6), near Bodelwyddan (16) and Cefn Meiriadog (11). 58 nesting attempts were recorded of which 50 were successful. 192 young were fledged. The Sandycroft boxes were newly used and at Cefn Meiriadog some nesting attempts were missed but this should prove a good site for the future. At Bodelwyddan, 8 boxes were used three times in the season but the adults were not all ringed or colour marked so it was not possible to say whether these were triple broods of the same pair.

Other records: birds were also seen in the breeding season at Arclwyd (Henllan) where a pair were occupying a nest-box (GW), 8 along R. Clwyd at Rhyl on 07/05 (‡), 5 at Burton Green on 10/4 and several at Trevalyn on 10/05 (DOJ) and 2 at Llanbedr DC on 7/06 (PT). 1 was on a nut feeder in Llanasa on 05/06 (ELJ).

single gantry at the National Power Station (PT).

Notable counts: 160+ on Prestatyn Golf Course on 01/10 (DCR); 130 on coastal fields at POA on 06/08 with 97 on 23/07 (BHP); 70 at Rhuddlan on 2/11 with 60 on 06/02 & 27/07 (SH). 30+ birds were seen on Prestatyn beach on 17/05 (DCR).

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

Widespread across the county although few records received.. The highest count was 25+ at Conwy RSPB on 04/01 (DCR) and other flocks of 20 at Rhuddlan on 21/11 and 18 on 16/09 (SH) and 15 at Mostyn Dock in August (RSPB).

HOODED CROW (*Sub-species Corvus corone cornix*) MAE'R FRÂN LWYD
Occasional species. Clwyd County Rarity.

One reported on 18/02 and seen on 02/08 in the Llangollen area (JLR).

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

A very widespread *breeding* bird. JLR found 16 pairs at the RM/HP study area, of which 13 pairs bred raising 2.7 young per pair.

Widely reported from a range of *inland* sites. Records include: 5 at WE on 22/02 (DCR); 5 at Llyn Aled on 06/05 (NH); *Other notable sightings:* 16 at Llyn Brenig on 21/08 and 35 *ibidem* at dead sheep on 01/11(ELJ); 22 also around a dead sheep at Dolwen Reservoir on 09/02 (ELJ); 24 Dinbren on 22/03 and 20 at Pant Glas Res on 13/10 (JLR); 20 at HP on 5/04 (WJR); 10 at Pontblyddyn in the summer (MJG) and at Rhuddlan there were 35 on 20/10 and 25 on 21/10 on cut maize fields (SH). *Coastal* records were received from POA, IMF, Rhyl, Oakenholt and Prestatyn.

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*) DRUDWEN
now COMMON STARLING
Common and widespread breeding resident. Often in huge autumnal/spring movements with continental over-wintering visitors. Some indication of an increase in numbers in winter months. Red List [BDp]

Maximum numbers: large roosting flocks seen at Rhuddlan of 10,000 on 20/11 and 5000 on 17/01 (SH). 5000 or more with many Redwing feeding on very wet stubble field near Esless, WIE area, with Fieldfare, Chaffinches and Wood Pigeons on 03/03 (NPH); these probably included the 3000+ winter migrants seen in trees around Wrexham Police Station until mid-March (NPH/JKS) but sadly the trees were cut down to avoid the mess on the police cars. 2000+ seen roosting at Conwy RSPB on 23/11 (DCR) and the same number at Rhyl on 06/12 (DCR). 2500 were on the 'Blue

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

1 record of a single bird seen off POA in October (RSPB SL).

MEDITERRANEAN GULL (*Larus melanocephalus*) GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR
Scarce visitor.

20 sightings this year [15 in 2002].

Inland: an adult bird reported for GF on 20/02 (‡).

Coastal: 1-2 summer-plumaged *ads* at RCR on 27-28/03 (JKS) and 12/04 (MigWatch) and 1 reported for 21/08, 25/08 (‡) and 28/08 (DCR). 2 adult birds at SSW, 4-5/05 and a first-summer bird on 25/05 (PT). There was an adult bird at POA on 5/07, 16/07, 27/07 (AH) and 29/07, and 1 in Oct (RSPB SL, ‡). OMR had 1 in Aug and 2 in Oct. A second-winter bird at Prestatyn beach on 11/09 (JN).

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*) GWYLAN FECHAN
Scarce passage migrant.

5+ seen at Kinmel Bay, flying W during heavy winds, 2/02 (NPH/JKS) and 4 at Llanddulas, same day (IE). A *juv* seen hawking back and forth inland at HM on 30/08 (JNBH). 2 off POA on 12/08 (‡) and 8 on 07/10 (CR).

SABINE'S GULL (*Larus sabini*) GWYLAN SABINE
Scarce vagrant. Clwyd County rarity.

2 adults off POA on 06/10 (CR).

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*) GWYLAN BENDDU
Common breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BDMr]

Successful (and possible) breeding sites at Llyn Bran (where seen nesting on low trees as well as on the ground, ELJ), Llyn Brenig, Llyn Helyg (5 nests on 9/06, NPH/JKS and 2 young seen on 11/06, ELJ), Whixall/Bettisfield Moss and Shotton Pools. 1 in breeding plumage at Llandegla Moors Duck Pool and 3 displaying over NFR, 5/04; 4 noisy over PDR on 1/05 and 31/05 (JLR).

Inland sightings: the largest count was 500 at GF on 2/02 (JKS).

Coastal/Dee Estuary: (see table) RCR had 500+ on 20/03 and 23/12 at RCR (SH).

BH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR		6		160	80		1560	625	210	160	160	
POA	2	72				11	538	707	325	61		25

COMMON GULL (*Larus canus*)
now **MEW GULL**

GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

The largest counts were along the coast but sizeable flocks were found inland at a number of sites.

Inland: the peak counts were 700+ near St Asaph on 9/02 (DCR) and 200 at GF and Borrás on 3/03 (JKS).

Coastal sites: the largest counts were 2820 at POA in September (RSPB; see table) and 2150 at Ffynnongroyw in July (WeBS). RCR had 250 on 20/03 and 200 on 23/12 (SH) and Pensarn had 200 on 20/03 (JKS).

CM	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	15	4	18	9	1		385	1130	2820	125		155

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

There are no breeding records.

Inland reports: **the Gresford area now appears to hold the main roosting sites in the county** where the birds are now seen through the year and in increasing numbers.

The peak count at GF was c400 on 24/03 (JKS). Also recorded at FLQ, LB and NFR.

Coastal: regular but in smaller numbers (see table, RSPB). The peak count at R. Clwyd, Rhuddlan was 65 on 11/07 (SH).

LB	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
MDR		18				2	4	110	50	22		
OMR			14	4			155	86	258	110		

HERRING GULL (*Larus argentatus*)

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

Breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber List [BDMr]

Breeding: present all summer at The Groves School, Wrexham where possibly nested on the flat roofs (JKS). 2 birds seen on Prestatyn Quarry ledges on 25/03 but no confirmed breeding (ELJ).

Inland: regular at GF where peaks of c400 on 19/01 (JKS).

Coastal: the largest numbers are along the coast where POA peaked at 2730 in October (see table. Source: BHP/RSPB SL, DCR, JKS, WeBS). Kinnel Bay had c500 on 10/02 (JKS), Mostyn Docks Shore had 250 in August (WeBS) and Rhuddlan 150 on 24/05 (SH).

(HG	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
POA	190	895	109	310	1400	2270	1140	1575	850	2730	1140	375

GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*)

CIGYDD MAWR

An occasional winter passage migrant. Clwyd County rarity.

An individual was seen west of Alwen Reservoir, Clocaenog (SJ938536) on 04/01 (‡) and at Craig Bronbannog, Clocaenog on 21/01 (‡). The following winter, two birds (1m & 1f) were seen regularly in Clocaenog around Craig Bronbannog from 05/11 to 13/12 by several observers. (Full submission by Paul Kenyon).

JAY (*Garrulus glandarius*)

YSGRECH Y COED

now **EURASIAN JAY**

Fairly common breeding resident. [WE]

Widespread reports from both woodland and gardens. The most notable count was of 12 together at Clocaenog (SH936533) on 25/08 (IE).

MAGPIE (*Pica pica*)

PIODEN

now **BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE**

Common and widespread breeding resident. [WE]

A common bird of parks, gardens and farm and woodland edge.

Highest counts: 34 at Rhuddlan on 10/01 & 26/12 (SH); 19 at GF on 12/03 (KS); 13 at POA on 23/03 (BTO MW) and 9 at Wrexham on 26/01 (KS).

CHOUGH (*Pyrhacorax pyrrhacorax*)

BRAN GOESGOCH

now **RED-BILLED CHOUGH**

Scarce breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC3]Clwyd County rarity.

Again bred at two sites within the County.

JACKDAW (*Corvus monedula*)

JAC-Y-DO

now **EURASIAN JACKDAW**

Common and widespread breeding resident

Recorded as numerous and regular at GF (100+ seen on most days from 09/01 – 12/03, KS); 83 seen on the coastal fields at POA on 23/07 (BHP); 120 at Halkyn Quarry on 01/01 (DOJ); 150 at Rhes-y-Cae Quarry on 24/09 (DOJ); 215 in August at Mostyn Dock (RSPB) and a maximum count of 250 at Rhuddlan on 05/02 (SH).

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*)

YDFRAN

Common and widespread colonial breeding resident

A colonial breeder with rookeries scattered around the county. Breeding was confirmed at Rhuddlan with 24 nests counted on 20/04 (DCR) and 85 nests in Pentredwr-Eglwyseg (JLR). At Shotton Steelworks a small colony of 10 pairs again bred on a

BLUE TIT (*Parus caeruleus*) TITW TOMOS LAS
Common and widespread breeding resident. [WES]
Largest reported counts: 33 at Rhuddlan on 10/09 (SH).

Breeding records: 19 boxes occupied at the WE study area and in total 25 territories were recorded, an increase on 2002 (JLR). Elsewhere 55 nest boxes were monitored at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft, Coed Cilygroeslwyd, Coed Nant-Ddu, Coed y Felin (Hendre), Nantclwyd Hall, Pentre Halkyn and Llanarmon-yn-Ial. 41 nests were successful with 302 young fledged (IS).

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

Found throughout the area and through the year. Also a garden feeder and nester. Spring records from POA from 08/04 to 03/05. 20 pairs were breeding at WE study area (JLR) an increase on 2002. Elsewhere 29 nest-boxes monitored at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft, Coed Cilygroeslwyd, Coed Nant-Ddu, Coed y Felin (Hendre), Nantclwyd Hall, Sychdyn and Llanarmon-yn-Ial fledged 125 young. 6 nests failed.

Highest number seen: 16 at Rhuddlan on 10/09 (SH).

NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*) DELOR Y CNAU
now WOOD NUTHATCH
Common breeding resident. Often visits garden feeders. [WE]

Territorial/breeding sightings: at Pen-y-Bryn, Pen-y-Cae a bird was observed on 14/02 clearing out leaves from a nest-box used the previous season and this activity continued until 09/03 when the bird was observed ‘hacking’ at the entrance and on 16/03 some ‘plaster’ was visible under the lid. The breeding outcome was not recorded (via JLR). 3 seen together several times at Erddig, including around a nest-hole on 23/02 (JNBH, NPH, JKS). A family group of 4 was seen at Rhuddlan on 15/06 (SH).

TREECREEPER (*Certhia familiaris*) DRINGWR BACH
now EURASIAN TREECREEPER
Widespread breeding resident. [WES]

Recorded in small numbers in woodland areas and gardens. Birds are being increasingly reported coming to garden feeders in winter. Jim Haycock videoed 2 birds at peanut feeders on 11/02 (Wrexham area). 1 regular at suet feeders at PCR in early February (JAJ) and another bird was seen at a garden feeder in Llanasa (ELJ) on 24/01.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL (*L. a. michahellis*) GWYLAN GOES FELEN
Regular but scarce late summer passage migrant. Added to the Clwyd Rarities list in 2003.

Inland: again a single bird present in a gull flock at GF on 26/01 and 24/03 (JKS).
Coastal: 1 at CQNR on 10/10 (ELJ). 1 reported at POA in August (RSPB SL).

ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucooides*) GWYLAN YR ARCTIG
Scarce winter visitor. Clwyd County Rarity.

A third-winter bird was seen at Kinmel Bay ((SH 985806) on 1/02 (SM, IE).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*) GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BDMr]

Inland: seen in very small numbers at 2 sites: GF and Llyn Brenig (NPH/JKS).
Coastal: seen in good numbers in autumn/winter. The peak counts were 290 in Nov at OMR and 205 in Oct at POA (*see tables. Sources:* RSPB SL, JKS). Other high counts included 50 at MDR in Sept (RSPB SL).

GB	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
OMR	100	50		4	1		20	10	20	190	290	100
POA	2	47	5	3	14	4	9	48	46	205	37	67

KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*) GWYLAN GOES DDU
now BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE
Passage migrant. Amber List [BDMp]

Seen in very small numbers along the coast.

There were only two records this year: 1 at POA on 28/04 (JKS) and 1 off Towyn on 22/09 (SM).

SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna sandvicencis*) MORWENNOL BIGDDU
Passage migrant. Amber List [BL, SPEC2]
The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

Seen along the coast, as follows:

- (a) In the Rhyl area, the main site was at the Foryd estuary where there were 20 on 27/05 and 9/07 and 60 on 25/08 (WJR). Also seen at Rhyl Splash Point—20-30 on 10/07 (JKS) and at Rhos Point (35, including 10 juvs on 27/07, AH).
- (b) Pensarn: good numbers at were seen at Pensarn E, including 60+ on 01/10

- seen offshore diving plus a tight flock of 37 resting on the beach (NPH).
- (c) POA & Gronant: POA: Seen April-September (5 on 28/04 and c20 on 09/09, JKS). 275 were seen resting on Gronant beach on 27/04 (DOJ); the peak count of 450 was in August (NPH, JKS, EL, RSPB SL, WeBS).
- (d) Dee estuary: 2 at SSW on 6/07 (PT); 35 at BB in August (RSPB SL).

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) MORWENNOL GYFFREDIN
Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Amber List [BL]
The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain

Dee Estuary: The Shotton colony increased by 71 pairs to 626 pairs. 815 young were ringed of which 600 fledged. (see table, courtesy of John Birch and Paul Triggs). The reasonable weather in June led to low mortality among young during the first few days after hatching but later predation in July curtailed breeding and c200 chicks and some adults were killed. The first returning bird was on 13/04; the last sighting was of 14 on 10/08.

Other records: c20 off POA on 28/04 (JKS), and single birds there, July-Sept (RSPB SL).

There were only two *inland* records: a single bird was seen flying towards GF on 7/07 (JBF) and 6 at LB on 21/09 (IE).

Shotton Common Tern colony, recent results

(CN)	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
pairs	350	393	471	433	491	545	555	626
young ringed	567	386	521	552	632	810	617	815

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*) MORWENNOL Y GOGLEDD
Uncommon passage migrant. Amber List [Hdd, BL]

2 adults and a juvenile bird were reported for Rhos Point on 27/07 (AH).

LITTLE TERN (*Sterna albifrons*) MORWENNOL FECHAN
Passage migrant and regular breeding summer visitor. Red List [HD, SPEC3, BL]
The Dee estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain.

The breeding colony at Gronant Dunes LNR SSSI in Denbighshire is the only regular breeding site in Wales for this species (*see table. Source: RSPB*). 2003 was characterised by excellent weather conditions and low fox and crow predation. The breeding season started on 24/05 and ended around 23/08. Birds were also reported as follows: 5 off Gronant on 21/04 (IE) and 10 on 5/05 (JKS) and at least 20 on nests by 9/06 (JKS).

LONG-TAILED TIT (*Aegithalos caudatus*) TITW GYNFFON-HIR
Common breeding resident. [WE]

Widespread across the county, usually in small flocks. Increasingly a visitor to garden feeders.

Highest counts: a peak count of 25 at IMF in November with 22 in December. 22 birds were also recorded at Rhuddlan on 10/09 and 18/10 (SH).

MARSH TIT (*Parus palustris*) TITW'R WERN
Uncommon breeding resident. Red List [BDp]

Seen in small numbers across the county.

Confirmed breeding at Cefn-y-Bedd on 8/06 (JBF), Erddig on 4/06 (JBNH) and Llyn Helyg on 11/06 (ELJ).

Records of individuals in all months from the following locations: Abergele, Clocaenog (SJ083570 and SJ082569), Gwysaney, Llanasa, Llanfair TH, Llyn Helyg, Pantymwyn (where breeding suspected in the Alyn Valley woodlands), Nercwys Mountain, Rhuddlan, Sychdyn, and Wych Brook (Wrexham BC); with several winter garden records of individuals at feeders.

WILLOW TIT (*Parus montanus*) TITW'R HELYG
Scarce breeding resident. Red List [BDp]
Seen in small numbers in mainly forest areas.

Probable breeding records: a pair were seen digging out a nest-hole in a rotten alder at Lewis Wood, Marford on 23/04 (JBF) and 3 seen there on 10/08 (JBNH); a probable breeding pair at Felin Puleston, Erddig, 2/02-3/06 (JBNH).

Other records: 1 in Clocaenog (SH998511) on 02/01 (IE) and two later records of a bird in Clocaenog (SJ 035525) (PMR); Llanasa on 24/01 (ELJ). Seen on garden feeders in Lixwm in March (LD) and Wern, Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 04/09 (PMR). In addition, seven birds were ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog, 03/08-24/08 (IS).

COAL TIT (*Parus ater*) TITW PENDDU
Widespread breeding resident. [WE].

Recorded through the year in many areas. Takes readily to garden feeders.

There were regular spring records at POA from 08/04 to 01/05 (BTO MW). Birds were recorded from a range of sites in the breeding season. 28 territories were noted at WE study area (JLR), an increase over 2002.

Highest number: 16 birds at POA on 29/07 (BHP).

Notably 194 birds, mostly juveniles, were caught at Bronbannog, Clocaenog (IS) with 81 individuals ringed on 24/08.

FIRECREST (*Regulus ignicapillus*) *DRYW PENFFLAMGOCH*
Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Amber List [BR] Clwyd County rarity—see Appendix 3.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa striata*) *GWYBEDOG MANNOG*
Summer breeding visitor. Amber List [SPEC3] BCCC [WE]

The first record of the season was at AP on 6/05 (JN) with other May records along the Dee Valley (JLR); at Rhuddlan on 23/05 (SH); IMF (RSPB); Gwysaney on BBS survey on 26/05 (AB/IS) and Coedpoeth on 28/05 (JNBH).

Probable and confirmed breeding – fewer records than in previous year underlines the concern for this species: Llyn Helyg, 4+ birds on 9/06 (NPH/JKS) and a family party seen on 24/07 (ELJ); Coed Du, Cilcain on 12/06 (ELJ); Minera Quarry (SJ258517) on 28/06 (SD); family party SW of Glyndyfrdwy on 29/06 (JLR); Rug Chapel (nested under eaves of reception centre - Cadw via AB); on 01/06 at Afon Irwch (SJ1228) on WFBS (RG) and Soughton House (SJ252670) where an adult was seen and others heard calling on 01/08 (AB); and 3 together at Erddig on 16/08 (JNBH). One bird was ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog (IS) on 24/08.

PIED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) *GWYBEDOG BRITH*
Summer breeding visitor. [WES]

First records: male singing at Dinbren, Llangollen on 13/04 (JLR).

Principal breeding records:

(i) Llangollen study block . Earliest recorded laying in area since this study began in late 1960s; first eggs on 28 and 29 April at 230-240m. Of the 60 nestboxes, 18 were occupied by this species (30%). At World's End, 27 boxes held 12 pairs (44%) and average clutch size was 6.9 (for 9 nests) and average fledged brood size 4.8 was much higher than the 2.9 recorded in 2002 (JLR).

(ii) Coed Cilygroeslwyd, Coed Nant-Dhu, Hendre (Coed-y-Felin), Nantclwyd Hall and Wern: 31 nest records (7 failed). 216 eggs laid and the 24 successful nests fledged 131 young (IS).

Also recorded at IMF (April); Rhyd-y-Creuau on 15/04 (BTO MW); Corwen on 21/04 (BTO MW); TMR on 11/05 (JBNH); Tyddyn Uchaf on 30/05 (BTO MW); 3 birds (2m) Bod Petruel (Clocaenog) on 06/05 (NPH/KS); 1m at Glyn Arthur (SJ136659) on 06/05 (WAO) and CLR on 13/06 (JN).

<i>The Little Tern nesting colony at Gronant (selected figures)</i>											
(AF)	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
pairs	45	77	65	78	80+	35-	86	75	85	58	110
fledged young	45	120 - 140	36	120+	9 - 11	20	111	57	1	63	190-200

GUILLEMOT (*Uria aalge*) *GWYLOG*
now COMMON GUILLEMOT
Occasional visitor in small numbers to coastal waters.

2 off Pensarn on 25/03 (JKS). 1-2 off Llanddulas with Common Scoter on 15/09 (NPH).

RAZORBILL (*Alca torda*) *LLURS*
Small numbers occasionally recorded offshore.

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

Recent records suggest that this is widespread through the county in small numbers. Peak counts reported: 60 on an old maize field nr R. Clwyd, Denbigh on 13/03 (ELJ); 30+ at Is-y-Coed on 20/04 (JNBH), 24 at Llanasa on 10/02 (ELJ), 20+ at Borrass on 1/05 (JKS) and 20+ at IMF BP on 8/11 (JNBH).

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. Peak count: 110 at Rhuddlan on 19/10 (SH).

FERAL PIGEON (*Columbia livia*): found in large numbers in Town Centres; smaller numbers elsewhere, including gardens.
Largest reported count: 147 roosting at Foryd Bridge, Rhyl on 28/03 (DCR).

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

Breeds readily in suburban areas. Maximum numbers: 50 at Rhuddlan on 5/08 (SH), 16 on a wire at WIE on 31/12 (NPH). 1 on eggs in a Llanasa garden by 20/03 (ELJ).

TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*) TURTUR
now **EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE**
Scarce summer breeding visitor. Red List [BDr, BDp, SPEC3, BR] Clwyd County
rarity

The only record came from a regular site: 2m, 1f in Bwlchgwyn garden, seen 5 times
01/05-12/07. No record of breeding (LW).

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

Still increasingly fewer records (20+) than 1989 when 50.

First record of spring: 1 above Dinbren near Llangollen on 16/04 (JLR); [Last year: 1
at Holt on 5/04 (NiF).

Recorded (mainly singles) in main areas:

- (a) Denbigh Moors: 1 at LB on 23/04 (GWB), 7/05 and 28/05 (ELJ). 1 at Clocaenog on 29/04 (JMC).
- (b) Fenn's Moss: 1 on a wire 12/05, only singing when flushed away (NPH/JKS). Seen/heard in good numbers there on 1/06, inc 3 together on a wire (NPH).
- (c) RM/HP/WE: 1 above Dinbren near Llangollen on 16/04 (JLR); 1 heard distantly near CLR on 13/06 (JN); a *juv* seen being fed by a pipit at WE on 24/06 (JN).
- (d) Dee Estuary: 1 at POA on 6/05 and 9/06 (AH); 1 on a wire fence at SBL next to an agitated Whitethroat, 7/07 (NPH/JKS).
- (e) Other areas: a single bird was seen at Rhuddlan on 21/04—the first since May 1997 (SH); 1 calling at Maesgwyn, Wrexham on 23/04 (JN); 1 at Holt on 26/04; 1 calling at Burton on 29/04 (HL); 1 flew across Erddig, 30/04 (JNBH); 1 heard at Almere on 2/05 (JNBH); 1 heard Clywedog Valley on 10/05 (BIR); 1 heard Trevalyn on 10/05 (DOJ); 1 at Glyn Arthur on 12/05.

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*) TYLLUAN WEN
Scarce breeding resident. Amber List [BDMr, SPEC3]

There were 16 records from 11 locations. Although considered to be a scarce breeder, this species is considerably under-recorded and the records, this year, do not represent its distribution.

1 at Bangor-is-y-Coed on 29/01 and 1 at Is-y-Coed on 17/02. 'Spring' records were 1 at Glyndyfrdwy, 2 at PCR, 2 at Trevor (a deserted nest), 1 at WE and 2 W of Llangollen (JLR). Pairs were seen in summer at Bettisfield, Sutton Green (JNBH, NPH, JKS) and Worthenbury (MG), 1 at Shotwick on 11/06 and again on 27/07 (DR) and 1 at Sutton Green on 9/07 (KS). Records late in the year were from WIE (1 on 6/12, GO)

two more males were reported elsewhere in Clocaenog on 05/05 (IE). 1 at Nercwys Mountain on 9/05 (JMC) and 1 singing at WE on 24/06 (JN).

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

Common breeding summer visitor. Small numbers overwinter.

First spring sightings: the first record came from Rhuddlan on 12/03 (SH).

Notable and probable breeding records (>4): a notable record was of over 50+ singing males around Llyn Helyg on 29/04 (ELJ). An excellent year at SSW where 46 birds were netted (PT). 31 pairs were counted at WE (JLR). 76 birds were ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog in August and September (IS) with the maximum catch of 27 birds on 09/08.

Late sightings: one bird was still singing at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 05/09 (PMR) and single birds were seen at GF on 25/09 (JN) and Rhuddlan on 05/10 (SH).

Wintering records: the last records were all singles and included an individual thought to be of the Siberian race at POA by the path to the beach on 12/11 (‡). Other records were singles at SSW on 23/11 (PT), POA on 24/12 (SGR) and at IMF in December (RSPB).

WILLOW WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) TELOR YR HELYG
Common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. [WES]

Spring records: The first record was from Rhyd-y-Creuau (Field Studies Council) on 25/03 (BTO MW). 1 at Nercwys Mountain on 5/04 (JMC) and birds started coming in at POA from 08/04 with 3 records that day and 10 records by 01-02/05 (BTO MW). 15 birds were reported from Cefn Coch on 15/04 (BTO MW) and other records came in from across the county. Breeding numbers were notable at WE with 45 pairs recorded (JLR). 94 birds were caught on migration at Bronbannog, Clocaenog in August and September. Notably 49 birds were ringed on 03/08.

Late records: A bird was still singing at Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 05/09 (PMR) and a bird was present at Rhuddlan on 18/09 (SH).

GOLDCREST (*Regulus regulus*) DRYW EURBEN
Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. [WES]

Widespread across the county. A much under-recorded species but appears to be widespread in suitable habitat.

Garden records were received from Llanddulas (EL), Towyn (SM) and the Wrexham area (ME, JNBH, NPH, GO, BIR, JKS). Good numbers at Erddig where a mobile tit flock on 12/12 had at least 6 GC in it (NPH) and 6 birds were seen at Talacre Warren on 05/10 (DOJ).

GARDEN WARBLER (*Sylvia borin*)
Breeding summer visitor. [WE]

TELOR YR ARDD

First reported on 20/04 at Rhuddlan (DCR); 21/04 at Ysceifiog (ELJ) and then 2 birds at POA on 23/04 (BTO MW). Reported elsewhere from Etna Park, Buckley on 25/04 (DOJ); Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 01/05 (PMR); POA on 01 & 02/05 (BTO MW); IMF in May; Erddig on 05/05 and 18/05 (NPH/KS) and Erddig E on 8/06 (NPH); 2 birds at Gwysaney on 15/05 (ELJ), 1 seen carrying food at AWCP, Bradley on 26/05 (JN) and 3 at Llyn Helyg on 29/06 (ELJ). 17 pairs were found breeding at the study area on WE (JLR) and ten birds were ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog (six on 03/08 and four on 09/08) (IS).

GREENISH WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochiloides*)
Vagrant

TELOR GWYRDD

A bird was reported at POA on 28/08 (RoP) and record sent to BBRC (tbc).

BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*)
Common breeding summer visitor with small numbers wintering. [WE]

TELOR PENDDU

Spring birds: at Erddig from 5/04 (JBNH), by River Dee, Llangollen on 11/04 (JLR); Towyn on 13/04 (SM); Rhos-on-Sea on 17/04 (SKT); 3 birds at Llanwrst on 18/04 (BTO MW); 8 birds at Ysceifiog on 21/04 (ELJ); 2 at POA on 23/04 (BTO MW) and 2 at Greenfield on 24/04 (BTO MW).

Other breeding season records came from across the county. Migratory movement was recorded at Bronbannog, Clocaenog in August and September as 64 birds were ringed (IS). The maximum catch occurred on 14/09 when 27 birds were ringed. The *last autumn record* of the year came from Rhuddlan on 20/09 (SH) but regular *wintering records* are now received from gardens in Wrexham (up to 6 birds and a maximum of 4 seen together, 11/12/02-16/04/03 – NPH), Llanddulas, Towyn and Dyserth. 10 birds (7f and 3m) were ringed in a Rhos-on-Sea garden between October and December (SKT).

WOOD WARBLER (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)
Uncommon breeding summer visitor. [WES]

TELOR Y COED

This continues to be a more widely reported species. The first record was a singing male heard at Llangollen on 06/04 (MT) with later records coming from IMF in April (RSPB); 4 birds at Bod Petruel, Clocaenog on 24/04 (BTO MW); Castell Dinas Bran on 26/04 (JLR); Loggerheads on 27/04 (BTO MW); 6 separate males singing at Y Foel Pentredwr on 28/04 (JLR); NFR on 29/04 (SD) and POA on 03/05 (BTO MW). Three territories were reported from Pant Du, Eryrys on 11/05 (DOJ) and 2 males were singing at Bod Petruel (Clocaenog) on 06/05(KS) and 10/05 (BTO MW) and

and IMF – 1 in Oct, 1 in Nov and 2 in Dec.

There were 7 records of breeding – from a minimum of 22 eggs, 17 young fledged, a mean of 2.43 per brood (WRSG).

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*)
Breeding resident

TYLLUAN FACH

33 records from 19 locations. There were records of 1 at Rhuddlan throughout the year (SH), 1 at Trelawnyd on 13/02 and 26/03 (ELJ), 1 at Dyserth on 7/02 and 21/03 (DR), singles at Gresford and the flash on 12/04, 27/06 and 29/06, 1 at POA on 22/07 and 2 on 28/10 (BHP).

Other records were: 2 at a regular site at Bangor-is-y-Coed on 11/03 (KS), 1 at Ruthin on 17/03 (IE), 1 at Llanasa on 19/03 (ELJ), 1 at Shotton on 28/03 (DOJ), 1 between Borrás and Holt on 21/05 (DOJ), 1 near Flint Mountain on 11/06 (DR), 1 at Bettisfield Moss on 12/06 (NPH), 1 at Buckley on 25/06 (DOJ), 1 at Moelfre on 28/06 (DR), 1 near Denbigh on 4/07 (DR), 1 near Leeswood on 8/07 (AB), 2 at County Hall, Mold on 8/07 (via AB) and 2 at Holt on 13/09 (NiF).

There were no detailed records of breeding but a pair reported as bred at Pant yr Ochain Wood in spring (MG).

TAWNY OWL (*Strix aluco*)
Widespread breeding resident.

TYLLUAN FRECH

There were 24 records from 12 locations spread over the whole area, with singles recorded in every month except Feb and Aug. This species is considerably under-recorded. The only record of 2, calling, was at Ysceifiog on 21/04 (ELJ).

There were only two breeding records – from a minimum of 5 eggs 4 young fledged – 2 from each brood (WRSG).

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*)
Rare breeding resident. Amber List [BR]

TYLLUAN GORNIOG

There were 3 records from 3 locations: there were 2 records of *breeding*— 2 young were heard calling at Nercwys on 3/07 (NPH/JKS) and at RM a minimum of 4 young fledged from 1 nest (JLR). 1 was at Erddig in the summer (MG).

SHORT-EARED OWL (*Asio flammeus*)
Scarce winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. Amber List [BDMr, SPEC3, BR]

TYLLUAN GLUSTIOG

Up to 10 birds were recorded in 8 locations. 1 was at IMF in Apr (RSPB), up to 5 were seen at Whixall/Fenn's Mosses, 22/02-21/04 (via GEH), 1 at RM on 26/05 (JLR), 1 at Llyn Aled on 14/09 (IE), 1 at Gronant on 9/11 (ELJ) and 1 between Rhyl and Rhuddlan on 12/11 (‡).

There were 2 *breeding* records – minima of 1 young fledged from each of 2 nests, 1 on Mynydd Hiraethog and 1 on the Berwyns (WRSG).

NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) TROELLWR MAWR
 now **EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR**
 Scarce breeding summer visitor. Red List [HDd, BDMr, SPEC2] **BCCC**

Records from only a few sites: Nercwys Mountain, Flintshire (SJ 218585) is the principal regular site for this species (see table, source: P. Kenyon). 2 pairs raised 6 young in 2003.

Other records: one heard near Llangollen on 24/07 (JLR).

Nightjars at Nercwys Mountain										
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
pairs	3	3	4	3	4	3	2	2	3	2
young	8	8	14	5	8	6	6	8	6	6

SWIFT (*Apus apus*) GWENNOL DDU
 now **COMMON SWIFT**
 Fairly common and widespread breeding summer visitor
 First record: 1 at Rhuddlan on 19/04 (SH). [Last year: 1 at RSPB Conwy on 20/04 (SL)].
 Last record: 1 over Wrexham on 21/09 (ME). [Last year: 1 at RCR on 30/08 (SH)].
 Reported from across the county. Maximum reported counts: the largest spring count at River Clwyd, Rhuddlan was 45 on 19/05; c100 on 15/07 and 4/08 (SH).

KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*) GLAS Y DORLAN
 now **COMMON KINGFISHER**
 Local breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC3]

Fewer records this year.

Coastal: 2 sightings in January then 52 June-December at R. Clwyd, Rhuddlan, including 2 birds on 12/08, 15/08 and 23/09 (SH plus ELJ). Several sightings of a single bird, 2/02-31/08 at SSW (PT). 1 at POA on 9/09-26/10 (ELJ, JN, JKS).

Inland: singles at at Bangor on Dee on 31/01, Ffroncyllte on 30/03 (JKS), Llyn Helyg on 5/08 (their first at this site by ELJ in 20 year's birdwatching here), Holt on 30/08, Ysceifiog on 26/10, Saltney Ferry on 30/12 (DOJ), several sightings at Erddig, 2/01-19/06 (JN, JNBH), Moss Valley on 21/11 (JN).

DARTFORD WARBLER (*Sylvia undata*) TELOR DARTFORD
 Rare visitor

One record of a male bird on a moorland area in NE Wales on 23/04 (accepted by BBRC).

BARRED WARBLER (*Sylvia nisoria*) TELOR RHESOG
 Rare autumn passage migrant. Welsh Rarity—see Appendix 2.

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

The first record was of 3 at POA on 23/04 (BTO MW).

Coastal Areas:

(a) the POA area: single birds recorded on 25/04 and 01/05 with 4 birds seen on 01/05 (BTO MW). A late summer bird was seen at Warren Farm on 27/08 (BHP).

(a) Rhyl to Rhuddlan: 08/05 and 2 birds on 15/06 and 21/06. The last bird was seen on 01/09 (SH).

(b) Shotwick Boating Lake: 2 birds on 25/07 (DCR).

Inland: Only seven records this year. 1 singing in scrub at WIE on 28/04 (JBF) and 1 in early May (NPH); 1 singing at GF on 9/05 (JN); 2 singing around Buckley (down from 10 the previous year, GNR); 1 at Pantymwyn Pastures (SJ193651) on 05/06 (MKB); 2 singing in Minera Quarry and a garden sighting in Bwlchgwyn on 08/08 (SD).

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

First: 1 on BBS survey along R. Alyn, Mold on 18/04 (AB/IS). Last: 2 ringed at Clocaenog on 06/09 (IS).

Many single records from 19/04 to mid June from around the county. Many pairs on RM this year – 13 pairs from WE study area (more than in the 1980s) plus other records from RM outside the study area and 4 pairs on Llandegla Moor (JLR). Small numbers were recorded in the Borrás area, 19/04-28/05 (NPH, JN, JKS); Almere (6 on 1/05, GO); Marchwiel Old railway line (6+ on 24/05, JBNH); AWCP and HMCP (BIR/JNBH); Erddig, 15/05-4/06 (JBNH, JN), FM, 12/05 (NPH/JKS) and 2 pairs at HP on 5/05 (NPH/JKS); Sutton Green where 3+ 3/07-9/07 (JBNH, NPH, JKS); and WIE where 1-2, 28/04-01/07 (JBF, NPH, JKS). Two at Knowl Hill on 22/04 (BTO MW). 4 ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog (IS) on 03/08 and 2 on of 24/08 and 06/09.

Maximum numbers: 13 on 03/05 at POA (BTO MW).

(KS) and WIE on 25/07 (EM). JLR reported an increase in RM area with 6 pairs in the study area, birds in 5 locations outside RM and 4 pairs on Llandegla Moors.

Coastal sites: First birds reported at Gronant Dunes on 21/04 (IE); 27/04 (DOJ); and at POA 25/04 (BTO MW); 28/04 (KS) and 01/05 (BTO MW). Another bird seen at IMF in May (RSPB) and at Prestatyn Golf Course on 26/05 (DCR). 3 birds were recorded at Gronant on 26/05 (DCR) and 2 birds reeling at Gronant on 09/06 (KS). Late summer and autumn birds were recorded at POA (BHP) on 29/07, 14/08 (4 birds), 01/09 with 2 on 05/09.

Eleven birds were ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog (IS) in late summer and autumn. This included the last record of the year on 06/09.

SEDGE WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) TELOR YR HESG

Breeding summer visitor

The *first records* were of single birds at Rhuddlan Castle (SH) and SSW (PT) both on 18/04 (SH).

Inland records: birds were recorded at several sites over the season including: a single bird at NFR 27/04 (SD) with 5 birds on 31/05 (JLR); GF on 30/04 (JKS); a single at Shotton 05/05 (JKS): 3 at Erddig on 23/06 (KS) and one at WIE on 25/07 (EM). An interesting record was of 3 birds singing from a flower bed, in the town centre at Rhyl on 07/05 (KS). Five birds were ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog (IS) in the late summer and autumn. The latest inland record was at NFR on 19/09 (SD).

Coastal: Shotton Steelworks recorded birds from 18/04 to 7/09 with a total of 46 birds netted in the year (PT). The earliest birds recorded at POA were of 2 on 23/04 with a maximum number of 9 at POA on 02/05 (BTO MW). One bird at Conwy RSPB on 10/05 and 13/07 (DCR). Birds were seen at Gronant, Rhyl, Prestatyn Golf Course and Talacre Warren in May, June and July by several recorders.

REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) TELOR Y CYRS

now **EURASIAN REED WARBLER**

Rare breeding summer visitor

Again, only a few records from a few areas, mostly coastal.

Breeding: the main breeding area was at Shotton Steelworks where a record total of 215 birds were netted during the year; birds were present 20/04 - 12/10 (PT).

The first record was 1 at SSW on 20/04 (PT). POA had 1 on 23/04 then 2 on 01/05 and a single on 02/05 (all BTO MW). A single bird was recorded briefly at Erddig, 11/05-25/05 (JNBH). There were 4 singing males at Gronant in the reed bed on 13/06 (ELJ). IMF recorded two birds in April and September. One bird was recorded at Conwy RSPB on 13/07 (DCR). One bird was ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog (IS) on 06/09.

GREEN WOODPECKER (*Picus viridis*)

CNOCELL WERDD

Breeding resident. Amber List [SPEC2]

More sightings this year: 68 at 22 localities [2002: 22 sightings at 19 localities, including gardens.]

Regular sightings at Erddig (24+) including 2 heard at on several dates 2/01-18/04 and 3 on 21/07 (JNBH). Singles heard, 8/03-16/06 (NPH, JKS). In the RM—Llandegla area, apparently different birds were recorded at 8 different sites, March–April (JLR) and on BBS on 9/07 (JR). Several sightings at MQ, 8/03-22/06 with 2 on 10/03 (JKS) (IE, ELJ, DOJ) and 1 in trees near GF on 5/12 (JNBH); heard at WIE, 24/04-10/10 (JNBH).

Occasional sightings from Alltami Quarry where 3 sightings, June-July (DOJ); AWCP vicinity—1 heard at Llay Pool on 24/03 (JKS) and 1+ heard several times at Bradley Wilderness (JN); 1+ at Wormswood NR on 4/05 (JN); Bettisfield Moss where 1 along Old Railway Track on 16/07 (NPH); Bodfari had 1 at on 24/03 (JKS); a *juv* at Clocaenog on 26/08 (IE); singles at Wern, Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 23/01 and 30/04 (PMR) and 10/05 (AB); 1 in a Llanddulas garden, 26/07 (EL); 1 near Moel Famau on 12/01 (JMC); Mynydd isa on 21/08 (AB); New Brighton on 1/08 (AB); Pwllglas GC on 5/05 (AB); 1 at Rhuddlan on 25/07 (SH) and 1 at Rhyn-y-foel on 31/03 (EL).

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER(*Dendrocopos major*)CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF
Widespread breeding resident

Reported from over 30 localities, including garden feeders.

Notable records: 2 birds fledged on 5/06 at Rhuddlan; 3 seen, 1 drumming on 24/12 (SH). Very early drumming also at Erddig on 26/12 (JNBH) and Tremerechion on 11/01 (ELJ).

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER(*Dendrocopos minor*) CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF
Scarce breeding resident. Red List [BDp],

Again, records from only a few sites: a m was heard calling in alders, near Rhewl, 17 and 21/03 (JLR); 1 heard in GV on 22/03 (ELJ); several sightings at Lixwm (LD); a nest-hole seen high up in a sycamore tree at Pant wood, Marford (JBF); a *f* at Penymaen (SH 823754) on 6/04 (IE); 1 heard singing nr Valle Crucis abbey, Llangollen on 5/05 but not subsequently (JLR); 2 at Worthenbury in August (MG).

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*)

EHEDYDD

Widespread breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber list [SPEC3] BCCC

There has probably been a reduction in the breeding habitat and population of this once common bird.

Inland Breeding Territories: Migration was underway at RM by 23/02, the first song of spring at Pentredwr on 28/02, with pairs widely established on the moor by 16/03. A re-survey of 11 sq km of RM found 33 pairs as against an average of 42 in the same area in the early 1980 (JLR). Singing birds were also reported: 12 singing at RCR from 07/02 (ELJ); L. Brenig on 14/04, 6/05 (JKS), and 28/05(ELJ); Borrás in Feb and March (JN); 3+ singing at the Firestone site WIE on 11/04 (NPH); several at AWCP on 26/05 (JN); 1+ at Esclusham Mtn on 24/06 (JN) and at Etna (DOJ).
Other inland: small numbers passing over AP on 1/10 and GF on 13/10 (JN); 20 in a root-field at Gwernaffield on 15/02 (ELJ); 47 feeding on stubble at Llanasa, 30/10(ELJ); recorded throughout the year at Holt (NiF). Birds also at Halkyn Mt, Rhes y Cae, and Moel y Crio15/03 (IAS); 1 at R.Clwyd on 08/07(RMB).

Coastal Breeding territories: 26 singing at Gronant dunes on 16/02 (ELJ).
Other coastal records: 4 at Green Ave, Prestatyn on 04/03, and 2 on 08/04 (RMB), 2 at Splash Pt on 30/03, 20 at Gronant Beach on 11/04; 1 on 14/04 , 10 on 28/05, 2 on 16/09, 1 on 28/10 (RMB); 7 at POA on 2/05 (BTOM). A flock of 50+ at POA on 16/10 were constantly on the move with meadow pipits, linnets, and goldfinches (DCR). Also recorded at various coastal sites including Ffridd beach and Prestatyn Golf Course.

SHORE LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*) *EHEDYDD Y TRAETH*
 Now **HORNED LARK**
An irregular winter visitor to coastal sites in small numbers. Welsh Rarity — see Appendix 3.

SAND MARTIN (*Riparia riparia*) *GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD*
Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber list [SPEC3]

Earliest records: 4 at Rhuddlan Castle on 20/03(SH)[last year 16/03]; 3 at POA on 25/03(BTOM); first at Gresford Flash were 10 on 29/03, prior to a max of C100 on 1/04(JKS), but several other recorders did not have sightings until into mid April.
Last records for the year: 1 at POA on 11/10(LG); 1 on 25/09 at Rhuddlan Castle (SH) [last year 4/09].

Breeding (no records submitted for some regular sites): 90+ nests recorded at Fagl Lane Quarry on 24/06 (KD); c20 nests at Llanfair TH on 4/06 (ELJ); 49 nests in banks of the R. Dee at Holt 18/05(NiF), and nesting in river bank at Sutton Green on 9/07(KS); 50+ at Bangor-on-Dee during June (MG).

Notable records: 2-3 birds regularly in a garden during Feb at Lixwm, Holywell “for the first time in 4 years”(LED); 5 at Llanasa on 5/02, and 6 all singing on 12/02, 8 on 17/02(ELJ).Largest count: 10 at RCR on 23/11 (SH).

REDWING (*Turdus iliacus*) *COCH DAN ARDEN*
Common passage migrant and winter visitor throughout the area. Often in large numbers with Fieldfares, Starlings and other thrushes. Amber List [BR]

Reported from numerous sites across the county.
Last winter/spring bird: A few with fieldfares on HP on 22/04 (JAJ).
First autumn bird: 3/10 at Glyndyfrdwy (EJ).

Notable records: 150 at Lixwm on 15/01 (LED); 300 at Rhuddlan Castle on 12/10 (SH); a major movement of southward flying birds noted on edge of RM at Pant Glas on 13/10; and a huge flock of 1400+ moving west over RM on 6/11(JLR). A large mixed nervous flock of c200+ Redwing, Fieldfares, Starlings in fields (and then in trees) nr Ridley Wood on 31/12 (NPH).

MISTLE THRUSH (*Turdus miscivorous*) *BRYCH Y COED*
Widespread, low density breeding resident [WE]

Reported from 24 locations throughout the county in small numbers.
 Breeding records: Populations at WE/RM stable with 11 prs breeding this year, the same as last year (JLR). A pair with 3 juv at RCR on 22/05(SH)
Largest numbers: 12 at Llanasa on 23/07 (ELJ) and 9 at Holt on 7/01(NiF).

CETTI'S WARBLER (*Cettia cetti*) *TELOR CETTI*
Scarce vagrant. Clwyd County Rarity.

A single bird (a 3 year old *f*) netted at Shotton Steelworks by Paul Triggs *et al* on 3/11/02 was present until 5/01/03 and relocated on 7/12/03. The bird was ringed on 23/06/02 at Chew Valley Lake, Avon and is the second record for Flintshire. Full details submitted by Paul Triggs.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (*Locustella naevia*) *TROELLWR BACH*
 now **COMMON GRASSHOPPER WARBLER**
Localised summer breeding visitor. Red List [BDp, BDMr]

The first record was a single bird heard reeling along R. Alyn at Mold on 18/04 (AB/IS).
Inland sites: RM on 22/04 (JLR); Rhosesmor on 23/04 (Greg Carson); Etna Park, Buckley on 01/05 (DOJ); Gwaenysgor on 07/05 (ELJ) ; Llyn Helyg, 2 heard on 09/06

SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*)

GWENNOL

now **BARN SWALLOW***Common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber list [SPEC3] [WES]*

There was one *extraordinary record* of a bird on 30th January, found by Susan Morris, flying at British Aerospace, Hawarden (SJ 351646). (*Full details submitted*).

First arrival: on 23/03, 1 at Rhuddlan Castle (SH), [*last year:* 20/03 at RSPB Conwy]; at Flint Mountain on 05/04 (DOJ); 2 at Sutton Green on 7/04 (JKS); at Berwyn hamlet on the R. Dee on 14/04 (JLR); Llangollen 1 on 15/04 (MT).

Last record: was 1 on 9/10 at Rhuddlan castle (SH), [*last year:* 07/11 at RCR]; Clay's farm, Flint Mtn on 7/10 (DOJ), and New Brighton, Mold on the same day (SGR).

Still a widely recorded visitor, but with reducing numbers mirroring national population trends. The long term study at Dinbren Isaf Farm, Llangollen again recorded declining numbers of nests with only 7 nests (8 last year), representing the smallest number since recording began in 1992. Clutch size was 4.5, against 4.86 last year and 4.29 2000; and total young fledged per pair was 7.9, compared to 7.1 last year.

As usual the majority of large counts were of pre-migration congregations. These included a "very big passage" south down the RM valley into WE reported by Stafford birdwatchers on 31/08; large numbers at PCR on 2/09 and smaller numbers on 15/09 (JAJ). The largest count at RCR of 1500 was on 18/09 (SH).

HOUSE MARTIN (*Delichon urbica*)

GWENNOL Y BONDO

Common summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. [WES]

First of spring: 1 on 13/04 at Rhuddlan Castle (SH); 1 at Carrog, 18/04 (JAJ); 1 at Llyn Brenig on 19/04 (ELJ); 10+ at Erddig on 20/04 (KS); and 4 at Y Graig on 24/04 (RMB). [*Last year:* 14/04 at RCR].

Last: 5 on 5/10 at RCR (SH). [*Last year:* 19/10 at RCR].

Breeding: 14 pairs breeding at WE, down on 2002 numbers (JLR).

A notable observation was an estimated 1000+ hirundines, of which the majority were House Martins, moving NW at Pen-y-Cae Reservoir on 20 May, the observer "had never seen a flock like it at this time of year" (JAJ).

The autumn pre-migration gatherings began about 10/8 with a large gathering with swallows over PCR (JAJ); c50 at Llyn Helyg on 22/8 (ELJ); a "good" gathering over Ty Mawr Res on 28/8, and large numbers with swallows at PCR on 2/9 (JAJ); 250 were at RCR on 18/09 (SH).

RICHARD'S PIPIT (*Anthus richardi*)

CORHEDYDD RICHARD

Rare but regular autumn vagrant. Welsh Rarity—see Appendix 3.

TAWNY PIPIT (*Anthus campestris*)
Rare vagrant. Welsh Rarity.

CORHEDYDD MELYN

1 at POA by the RSPB hide from 9-11 June (IE, AH, JKS, RSPB SL *et al*).

TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivialis*)

CORHEDDYD Y COED

Scarce summer breeding visitor and passage migrant [WES]

First of the year: a very early bird at WE on 2/03 (DCR). [Last year: 7/04, Clocaenog].

Inland: reported from only four areas this year (compared to eight last year) as follows: 1 singing at World's End on 13/4. A survey of 11sq km of RM revealed 17 pairs as against 11 pairs on the same area in the 1980s. 9 recorded during CBS at World's End (JLR). 1 at Clocaenog on 18/04 (IE). 2 at Fenn's Moss on 12/05 (JKS/NH) and several at Bettisfield on 12/06 (UKBS). 2 at Rhes-y-cae on 13/06 (DOJ).

Coastal reports: 1 at Talacre Warren on 26/03 (DCR); up to 3 at POA on from 22/04-3/05.

MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*)

CORHEDDYD Y WAEN

Common breeding resident, and passage and winter visitor.

Inland: reported from at least 12 mainly upland locations including RM where first song of spring recorded on 14 /03, followed by good numbers on 16 /03.

Highest inland counts: 306 counted flying over RM in about an hour on 3/10, mainly in flocks of c10(JLR); 9 flocks on farmland below RM between March and May max no c 100 (JAJ).

Other records include: 25 in field at Hawarden on 12/01 (JBF); 20+ at Sutton Green on 25/01 (NH); 20+ on R Clwyd at Denbigh on 13/03 (ELJ); passage of 25+ on Moel y Parc on 16/03 (ELJ); 30 on R. Clwyd St Asaph on 16/04 (RMB); also recorded at Bronbannog, Borrass, Llyn Brenig, WE, HP, Trefnant, Holt and Ewloe.

Highest coastal counts: 47 at Towyn Beach fields 22/10 (SM), 18 at Llanddulas on 25/02 (EL). Smaller numbers along the coast from Rhyl to CQNR (RMB, RSPB).

ROCK PIPIT (*Anthus petrosus*)

CORHEDDYD Y GRAIG

Winter visitor in small numbers.

1 on Rhos Point on 23/01 (SD); 1 on Colwyn Bay promenade 24/01 (DCR); 1 at Llandudno Promenade on 23/03 (DCR); 2 at POA 25/03 (BTOM); 1 at Little Orme on 6/04 (D&CR); 3 on the sea wall at Greenfield Docks on 27/09 (NPH); up to 2 at Towyn Beach 13/11 to at least 5/12 (SM); and 1 at Oakenholt in Dec (RSPB).

WATER PIPIT (*Anthus spinoletta*) CORHEDYDD Y DWR
An annual winter visitor in small numbers. Clwyd County Rarity—see Appendix 3.

YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*) SIGLEN FELEN
Passage migrant and local breeder in small numbers. Amber list [BDMr]

Probable *breeding* at the usual site at Shotwick Boating Lake where 3 on 3/05, 5 on 5/05, 1 on 3/06, 2 on 7/07 and 2 on 4/08 (JKS/NH); and 2m and 1f on 16/04 (DOJ)

Inland: Male singing on set aside near Ruabon, 18 & 30 May, showing anxiety on the latter day as though *f* might be sitting (JLR). 1 at Bettisfield on 5/05 (PMR).

Other coastal sightings: 2 at IMF April, and 1 in Sept; 1 at Oakenholt in Sept; 2 at POA in June (RSPB).

GREY WAGTAIL (*Motacilla cinerea*) SIGLEN LWYD
Fairly common breeding resident. [WES]

Highest counts: a winter roost at SSW reed-beds, 15/12/02 to Feb 03 with a peak count of 42 on 9/02/03 (PT). There were two counts of 12 at Rhuddlan Castle on 19/09 and 1/10(SH).

Breeding records: Markedly fewer pairs were recorded breeding on the upper World's End stream than during 2002 (JLR). Confirmed or probable breeding at the following sites: Erddig, breeding also here (BTO BBS) singles on 20/04, 5/05, 16/06 and 2 on 23/06 (KS); 2 + 3juv on 24/05, and 1+2 juv on 26/08 (NPH); R Clwyd below St Asaph 3 pairs on 23/03 (E&LJ), and 2 on 3/04 (RMB); near Ysceifiog where a pair were recorded feeding four young on 5/05 (ELJ); Greenfield Valley where 3 pairs on 22/03 (ELJ); the R. Dulas where frequent, including 2 on 18/04 (EL); Heartsheath Estate, Pontblyddyn all year (MJG); and on the Afon Clywedog between Bontuchel and Rhewl (BTO BBS).

Other records include: Chain Bridge, Llangollen 1 on 23/02 and 1 on 5/05 (KS); 1 at Cilcain on 15/05 and on 16/06 (Hazel Jones); Holt 2 on 23/02 (NiF); 2 visiting garden pond in Rhos on Sea 6/11 (SKT); POA 2 in Sept, 1 in Oct, 1 in Dec. (RSPB).

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

Recorded in more than 20 areas.
Largest counts: 94 counted in the grounds of Glan Clwyd Hospital on 26 /01, fol-

lowed by a subsequent sighting of a flock estimated at 300+ seen flying, apparently going to roost at the same site(DCR). 50+ on R.Clwyd at Rhuddlan 2/08 (E&LJ); 50+ at Gresford Ind Estate on 11/09 (JNBH); 31 at Gresford cricket pitch on 29/08 and 14 on 21/09 (ME); a few flocks of 10-20 moving south along edge of RM on 13/10 (JAJ). Oakenholt had 21 in and 22 in August; with 30 at IMF, same month.

White Wagtail (*ssp. alba*):

3 at POA 12/3 (DCR), and at least 1 on 9/09 (NH); 1 at WE 22/3 (DCR); 8 on Rhyl Bowling Green 13/04 (DCR); 8 at Shotwick Lake 16/04, and 12 on Gronant Beach 27/04(DOJ); 2 at IMF April, 2 at Oakenholt in May (RSPB); 1 on Rhosnesni Lane 17/12 and 1 PA Wrexham 19/12 (NPH).

WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulous*)

CYNFFON SEDAN

now **BOHEMIAN WAXWING**

Scarce and irregular winter visitor. Clwyd county rarity.

A good year for this species, with a number of reported sightings throughout the area. 1-3 at Glan Conwy 3/01 (EMB) and 2 in trees nearby on 12/01(JD); 6 at Bodelwyddan 15-18 Jan (PA, DCR); 1 with 3 Blackbirds at Sychdyn 24/1 (IS/AB); 1 at Heulfre Junior School, Denbigh 3/2 (‡). Later in the year, 1 on edge of RM on 28/10 (Mr Williams); and two close to the scout hut at Gresford on 28/12 (MW).

DIPPER (*Cinclus cinclus*)

BRONWEN Y DWR

now **WHITE-THROATED DIPPER**

Widespread, but localised breeding resident.

Confirmed or probable breeding at usual sites: R Dulas, Llandulas 2 of which one carrying food 11/06 (Edward Lyons);R.Alyn where a f and 3 juv was seen at Pontblyddyn (MG); 2prs bred at WE as against 3 last year (JLR); at least 2 regular at Erdig from 5/03-23/06 (NPH) and a pair at the Greenfield Valley on 21/04 (NPH).

Reported to have had a good year on the rivers Dee and Alyn where it is suggested low water during the summer may have facilitated feeding within the streams (MG). *Regular at:* R. Dee, at Cynwyd Bridge, 17/2 (Chris Tynan), 2 at Chain Bridge on 23/02, and 2 at Llangollen on 16/06 (JKS); River Clwyd where reported throughout the river including St Asaph 3/04 (RM B), Ruthin (17/03,IE) and Denbigh (23/4, ELJ)

Also recorded at Erddig weir, 1 on 9/04, 2 on 5/03, and 1 on 20/07(NPH).

Other sightings include: Afon Clywedog above Cyffylliog 18/1(WAO);1 singing on stream at Wern, Llanarmon yn Ial (22/01, PR); a pair on the R.Aled on 19/04(IE); 1 on the Alltami Brook, Northop Hall 14/03 (DOJ); and 1 on Eglwys stream on 14/03(NPH). 1 on a small stream at Wrexham Industrial Estate on 1/12 was an unusual sighting (JBF).

RING OUSEL (*Turdus torquatus*) **WYALCHEN Y MYNYDD**
Breeding summer visitor in small numbers . Red list [BDp,BDMr]

Recorded from the following areas:

1. Worlds End/HP/RM area: First record of the year was 1f at WE on 22/03 (DCR). [This compares to the first record on the same site last year on 8/03]. First record at HP, a male in a quarry, very late on 3 April (JLR); 2-3 on roadside at HP 5-6/4 (WJR, BG), 7 there on 12/04, and 1 singing in rockless area to east edge of RM 23/04, 1 breeding pair and a singing *m* on HP on 3/05 (JLR).
2. 3m 2f at Aled Reservoir gorge on 19/04 and 1f at Llyn Brenig on 23/08 (IE).
3. 6 on Berwyn crags in April (DS)
4. 1m at Moel Arthur 27/3 (WAO) and 2 on heathland above Cilcain near Moel Famau on 5/04 (GD).
5. A *m* at Rhuddlan Castle on 14/04 (SH).

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*) **MWYALCHEN**
now COMMON BLACKBIRD
Common breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List [BDM][WE]

A widespread and familiar species found in a range of habitats across the county including gardens and urban areas. Significantly under-recorded.

The Breeding Bird census at WE recorded only 25 pairs in 11 sq km against 31 last year (JLR). Largest counts: 25 at RCR on 31/01, and 35 on 27/12 (SH). 9 together at St David's Park, Ewloe on 27/12 (DOJ).

FIELDFARE (*Turdus pilaris*) **SOCAN EIRA**
A very common passage and winter migrant. Often in huge numbers with other winter thrushes and starlings. Amber List [BR]

Last winter/spring visitor: 6 near Cae Clwyd reservoir on 23/04 (JAJ). [Last year 20/04 at Llanarmon yn Ial]
First autumn birds: 100+ at Fron Dyffryn nr Moel Arthur (SJ135663) on 14/10 (WAO), and 6 flying east at Berwyn on 15/10 (JLR). [Last year 13/10 at RM]

Sizeable flocks (>200): c400 at LB on 27/01 (JKS & NH) and 220 there on 21/03 (ELJ); 260 at Holt on 23/02 and 200 again on 23/03 (NiF);

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*) **BRONFAITH**
Widespread breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber list [BD] BCCC [WES]

Reports from across the county in 40 locations.

WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) **DRYW**
Now WINTER WREN
Common and widespread breeding resident. [WES]

On winter transect counts on RM, autumn maximum of 46, as against 36 in 2002, and 33 in 2001. A survey of 11 sq. km of RM in spring found 118 pairs, as against an average of 3 pairs in the same area during the 1980s (JLR) – a major increase.

DUNNOCK (*Prunella modularis*) **LLWYD Y GWRYCH**
Now HEDGE ACCENTOR
Common breeding resident and garden visitor. [WES]

Notable record: one pair found breeding in open moorland during spring survey of RM (JLR).

Largest count was of 12 resident in a garden in Wrexham throughout the year (MJG).
Earliest song: Singing throughout the year, one noted on 30/12 (WES).

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

Notable records: 22 April 2 singing in the valley at RM 430m and 1.3 km into open moorland; 23 April 1 singing 1km+ into moorland in another valley (WES). A fall of 36 at Warren Farm, Talacre on 1/09 (BHP)

BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) **TINGOCH DU**
Scarce migrant and winter visitor. See Appendix 3.

Very few sightings: 1m at HP on 8/06 (PT) and 2 at Towyn Beach 13-15/11 (SM).

REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) **TINGOCH**
Now COMMON REDSTART
Summer breeding visitor; mainly in wooded upland areas. Amber list [SPEC2] [WES] Recorded in small numbers from throughout the county.

First of spring: 1 at Dinbren, Llangollen on 14/04 (JLR). [Last year: 17/03, RCR].
Markedly fewer pairs recorded during breeding bird survey at WE estate this year (15 as compared to 23 in equivalent area last year). This was probably due to forestry felling and scrub clearance in the area (JLR).

The first of spring at R. Clwyd, Denbigh was on 23/04 (E&LJ); pairs were at Glyn Arthur (SJ138659) on 6/05; Clocaenog on 8/05 (IE); Cilcain Reservoirs on 12/05(DOJ); 5 at Carrog on 30/05 (GNR), and a pair at Rhesycae on 13/06 (DOJ);

two pairs at Rhug Estate at Corwen during June (MJG), a pair at Valle Crucis Abbey on 16/06, a family group at Blaenau (SJ251555) on 11/07 (SD) and a pair above Cilcain (SJ162653) on 22/07 (WAO).

A notable record was a juvenile in a garden at Towyn on 4/07 (SM).

WHINCHAT (*Saxicola rubetra*)

CREC YR EITHIN

Breeding summer visitor in small numbers; mainly in upland areas.

Reports from main upland breeding areas: First of spring at RM a *m* singing 23/04 (JLR); a re-survey of 11 sq km of RM in spring found 60 pairs compared with an average of 74 pairs in the same area in the early 1980s (JLR).

1*m* & 2*f* at Llyn Aled on 6/05 (KS/NPH); a pair at Llyn Brenig 28/05 (ELJ) and a family group here on 17/06 (ELJ); several at Minera and WE on 24/06 (JN).

In the Clwydian Range, there was 1*m* at Moel Arthur on 06/05 (WAO), 1 on 15/05 and 14/06 at Moel Famau (EJS) and on 23/06 at the same site (MB).

Other inland reports: 1 at Firestone site at WIE on 5/05 and 24/05 (NH).

Coastal records: First of year at POA were 2 on 22/04; up to 4 at POA on 6/05; and 5 at Gronant on 5/05 (KS), 3 near the Cheshire/Flints border south of Burton Marsh on 1/05 (SGR); 6 in April, and 1 in Aug at IMF (RSPB).

STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata*)

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

Breeding resident in small numbers. Amber list [SPEC3]

Seen in small numbers in both inland and coastal localities.

Inland

(i) *Upland areas around RM:* A re-survey of 11sq km of RM in spring found 47 pairs compared to an average of 3 prs on the same area in the early 1980s; WE had a pr on 22/03 (DCR), and 3 on 24/03 (NPH/JKS); HP had 1 on 24/03, 4 on 7/04, 2 on 5/05 (NPH/JKS). 3 prs at Llandegla Moor fishery 14/03 (JNBH); a partial survey on 5/05 identified 6 prs; 2prs above Maes-yr-Ychen, NW of Llangollen on 6/05 (JLR);

(ii) *Denbigh Moors area:* 3 at Llyn Brenig on 17/03, 5 on 14/04, 4 on 6/05 (NPH/JKS), a family party on 17/06 (ELJ), and several on 18/08 (JNBH).

(iii) *Clwydian Hills:* Moel y Parc had a pair and 1*f* on 16/03 (ELJ);

(iv) *Vale of Clwyd:* 1 by R. Clwyd, Rhuddlan on 06/01(EL); 1*m* at Dyserth Cross-roads on 25/3 (MC). Birds were present throughout the year at Nant y Garth;

(v) Pair at the Calypso factory on WIE, 3/03 (DOJ); 1 at Cefn Coch on 15/04.

Coastal records were received for:

(i) *IMF RSPB:* 1*m* on 1/02 (DCR); up to 3 Sept-Dec.

(ii) *POA:* recorded throughout with a max of 5 on 21/02 (RMB), Gronant Beach 1 on 07/11 (ELJ)

(iii) *Prestatyn:* 4 at Splash Pt on 31/01(RMB) 6 on 30/03; 1*m* on Prestatyn GC on 12/03, and again on 26/04 (DCR) and 4 on 4/03 (RMB);

(iv) *Rhyl Golf Course:* 1pr +1*m* on 17/05, and a *m* on 8/11

(v) *Kinnel Bay:* 1 on Coastal Path 5/01 (EL); a pair at Towyn Beach fields on 7/11, and again on 13/11, and 28/11 on Town Beach Wall (SM);

(vi) *Llanddulas Beach:* a pair to the rear of the beach on 28/02 (EL);

(vii) *RSPB Conwy:* a pair on 4/01, and 1*f* on 2/03 (DCR).

WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

TINWEN Y GARN

Now **NORTHERN WHEATEAR**

Summer breeding visitor.

Earliest dates:

Coastal: First records: 1 at Splash Pt, Ffrith, Prestatyn on 16/03 (RMB), 1 *m* at Pen-sarn on 17/03 (NPH/KS) and a pair at Rhyl Golf course on 18/03 (DCR).

Inland: 4 at Moel y Parc also on 16/03(ELJ).

[*Last year:* first sightings both coastal and inland were on 17/03, and 23/03 in 2001.]

The last record was 1 at RRP, Shotton on 27/09 (DOC). [*Last year:* 10/09, POA].

Coastal sightings. Birds were found in the usual sites, abbreviated as follows:

1. POA/ Gronant: Records of probable Greenland race 10-15 at Gronant on 5/05 (JKS); also a pair with a juvenile at POA RSPB hide on 1/08 of which the male was notably large and appeared to show characteristics of this race (DCR). Up to 4 present at POA, April-June, up to 3 in August-September (NPH, JN, JKS, RSPB, UKBS). A *f* at POA Warren on 28/04 (JKS) and 13 on 2/05 (BTOM); c10 at Connah's Quay NR on 5/05 (JKS); 1 at Gronant 16/09 (RMB)
2. Rhyl area: Splash Pt, further sightings on 14/04, and 23/04(RMB); Rhyl Golf Course a *m* on 17/05(DCR); 2 at Clwyd Estuary on 22/05 (DCR); 1 at RCR on 7/08 (WJR).
3. Dee estuary: IMF 1 July, Oakenholt 1 in April, 14 in May (RSPB).

Inland records were mostly from upland breeding areas, as follows:

1. HP/Ruabon Moors: A re-survey of 11sq km of RM in spring identified 13 prs compared to an average of 4 prs in the same area during the early 1980s. 5 pairs bred at HP (PT) where the first of spring by top quarries was on 21/03 (JLR); 1*f* at HP on 7/04 (JKS), an 1 on 8/05 (PR); 3*m* +2*f* at WE on 22/03 (DCR) and 5 there on 14/04 (JMC);
2. Denbigh Moors: 1 at Llanfihangel Glyn Myrfyr (SJ001478) on 13/04 (AB/IS); 8+ at Llyn Aled on 6/05(NPH/JKS); 25 at LB on 7/05 (WJR);
3. Clwydian Hills: A pr at Moel Famau appeared to be prospecting for a nesting site on 8/04 (MB), and 1 on 14/06 (EJS); 7 at Gwaenysgor on 7/05 (ELJ); 1 nr Sandycroft on 11/05 (AB/IS);
4. Other areas: 2 at Borrás 1/05, 1 again on 5/05, and 1*f* on 28/05 (KS) and 1 at Bettisfield 5/05 (PR). 1 at Nercwys Mountain on 9/05 (JMC).

