# Alnwick Wildlife Group

**Promoting awareness of the countryside and its flora and fauna**

www.alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk Email: redsquirrel@alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk

**Newsletter 169 October 2015**
**Review of September 2015**

**Next Meeting: 7.30p.m. November 25th 2015 'What's that Wader?' Speaker: Graham Bell**
Graham Bell, the Founder and Chairman of the North Northumberland Club, retired after 30 years of service and is now their Honorary President. Graham is an exceptional and experienced presenter.

## Your Ideas for 2016 – WILDLIFE WALKS

At the September meeting Will Anderson asked about wildlife walks, having enjoyed the one Ian and Keith Davison led to Holystone this year.

He's quite right – we don't offer these as often as we should. In 2016 we ought to try to arrange more trips that aren't concerned with surveys but just with having a walk out to see what we see.

What would be very good would be for some of our 112 members to offer ideas for walks, probably in the 3 to 5 mile range, although one or two could be longer. If you put an idea forward, all you would be committing yourself to would be to sort out the meeting place, time and route and to lead us on the day so we don't get lost! You don't need to be any sort of expert in the wildlife we might come across. Ideally timing would be to meet at 10.30 and either aim to be finished by 1.00 or, for a longer walk, to tell people to bring a packed lunch and aim to finish by, say, 3.30.

We will also try to put on one or two more specialist field trips, but probably committee members would be the people to organize those.

We know that walks will most likely not start until next spring, BUT DON'T WAIT to suggest your ideas because we'll want to try to put a bit of a programme together by the end of 2015 so we can see what's planned for 2016 and put dates in diaries.. Either bring a brief note to a meeting and give it to George or Richard or email to redsquirrel@alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk or ring Richard on 01665 578346.

Please send sightings reports for September, no later than 6th November 2015 to: Ian & Keith Davison, The Bungalow, Branton, Powburn, NE66 4LW or Tel: 01665 578 357 or email to redsquirrel@alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk Copies of the monthly Newsletter and sightings will be made available on the web site one month after the paper publication.

## STEWCHAT…

Due to time restrictions my September offering will need to be very brief. Here goes.

Autumn seemed to be put on hold for much of the month, with dry, fine days predominating our local weather.

At this time I usually spend a lot of time seawatching, but this year the conditions weren't conducive to it as we need winds from the northern half. Early on I managed a couple of sessions at Craster, where one of them resulted in a broken down car and being left stranded!

Every cloud has a silver lining and as the chap from the recovery garage fixed the motor, 2 nice Arctic Skuas flew past very close in giving me great views of a bird that has been unusually elusive this year. This session also produced a Sooty Shearwater and 2 Pintail, both new birds for the local patch year list.

A bit of a panic ensued at work when I got word of a male Red footed Falcon at Cresswell on 9th. This is a very scarce bird in the county and there has not been a viewable one since the 1970s, so I downed tools and hot footed it across to the coast where the bird showed very well perched on hay bales near the road.

Figure 1: Red footed Falcon notes.

My last local Swifts came on 12th when 3 birds flew south at Craster.

By mid-month, we were catching some nice moths now that the hordes of Large Yellow Underwings were reducing in number. Many of the catch were migrant Silver Y moths. On 18th at least 18+ were nectaring on lavender in our garden. The mild southerly weather pushing the moths into gardens also gave us a few Painted Lady butterflies.

As the month drew to a close, the now annual arrival of Yellow-browed Warblers from Siberia began to take place. One was calling near our garden on the 29th but stubbornly remained unseen in thick sycamore foliage. No doubt there will be more opportunities in October…


Figure 2: Silver Y moth

*Stewart Sexton, Howick.*

## BARN OWL BREEDING SEASON 2015:

To get a complete picture it would be necessary to have data from every barn owl nest in Northumberland. However, this study (of over 100 nest sites in north Northumberland) indicates that the benign winter was followed by a short period of dry sunny and warm weather in April. This seems to have encouraged some owls to start nesting (including some new breeders hatched themselves in 2014). However, May was cool with above average rain and the Summer was also cool and wet. Consequently while some (particularly inland) sites were occupied for the first time (by new breeders) the total number of breeding owls was low with only 21 successful nests and 52 owlets being ringed; most owlets were ringed in June .

Some adult pairs were found to be occupying nest sites/boxes but not actually, nesting (females were underweight to breed) and it was hoped that these birds would perhaps breed later in the year. However, no late nests were located. Jackdaws did prevent some owls breeding but were less of a problem than normal. Only two pairs of Kestrels took over barn owl boxes.

16 new adult Barn Owls were ringed and 25 were re-trapped (including 4 Controls). Information available to date shows that one of these controlled birds had been hatched near Red Row in 2014 (and was successfully as a breeding female - raising three owlets near Linden Hall this year). Another hatched in Coquetdale in 2014 and spent most of the year with a mate in a box near Longhorsley but did not breed this year. However two barn owls which hatched in Northumberland last year were occupying nets boxes in the Scottish Borders in 2015 and a third was a road casualty over the Border.

Successful nests were near:

Alnwick (4), Netherwitton (2), Linden Hall, Wooler (2), Coltpark (3), Longhorsley (4), Lesbury (2), Allerdean, Doddington, Snitter.

Thanks are due to all those who have helped with this project.

*Philip Hanmer 2015*

**See table over for more information**

## DAVE MAKEPEACE

It is with great regret that we have to tell you that Dave died earlier this month after a long battle with illness. He was one of the founder members of Alnwick Wildlife Group and one of the most knowledgeable birders you could have met. For many years an enthusiastic bird ringer. You had to run the gauntlet of mist nets if ever you visited him at home. We shall all miss him.

AWG was well represented at his funeral on the 15th. And we would all wish to offer our condolences to his daughter, Sarah, her husband and family.

| **Hanmer & Wood Owl Boxes RESULTS 2015** | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 (28 records) | 2010 (29 records) | 2011 (20) | 2012 (33 records) | 2013 (20 records) | 2014 (33 records) | 2015 (22 records) |
| Nesting attempts | 22% | 30% | 22% | 27% | 22% | 16% | 26% | 20% | 33% | 22% |
| Successful nesting | 17% | 24% | 14% | 25% | 18% | 16% | 21% (26) | 16% (16) | 33% (33) | 21% (21) |
| Average eggs per clutch | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 4 | 3 |
| % eggs hatched | 44% | 59% | 53% | 69% | 68% | 96% (69) | 73% (85) | 83% (55) | 93% (127) | 92% (57) |
| Average hatched | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 4 | 3 |
| Average fledged. | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2.0 | 4 | 2 |
| Percentage of eggs 'ringed' | 25% (4) | 42% (33) | 32% (24) | 59% (74) | 55% (59) | 88% (63) | 66% (73) | 61% (40) | 89% (121) | 84% (52) |
| Eggs were mostly laid | Second half of April | First half of April | Second half of May | Second half of May | April, May & June | April to May | April and later. | May but some much later. | March & April | April |
| Weather | Slightly above average temperature in April; which continued. | Exceptionally warm April temperatures but followed by above average rainfall. | Coldest April since 2001 and above average rainfall; the weather deteriorated further in June. | Warmer, dryer and sunnier than average in April & May. June was warmer and dryer than average. | Heavy snow in late winter & early spring. | Heavy snow in early Winter (Nov & AWG 169Dec 2010) | Exceptionally Warm March & April; but followed by above average rainfall; which continued all Summer. | Very cold March, April & May. Below average temp. in June. Prolonged fine weather starting in July which continued. | A mild winter followed by a very early warm spring; with hardly any frosts. Fine summer weather only declining in August. | A benign winter was followed by a short period of dry sunny and warm weather in April. However May was cool with above average rain. Summer was cool and wet. |

## A Ringers Year

Sept 2015: After forwarding this year's Nest Record and ringing data from my nest boxes to the BTO I did some simple analysis which underlines what a poor year this was for most small passerines (Tits, Dipper, Spotted Flycatcher, Robins, Wrens, Tree & House Sparrow, Redstart and Nuthatch). At Ingram there was 30% occupancy in both 2014 and 2015 but the average Brood size was 7 in 2014 and only 4 in 2015. At Whinny Hill the occupancy was 60% in 2014 but only 35% in 2015. At Breamish Caravan Site occupancy was 48% in 2014 and 40% in 2015 but brood size dropped from 7 in 2014 to 3 in 2015. At Doxford the occupancy of boxes at a new site was 33% with an average of 5 per brood. The boxes at this latter site were only put up until the 10th March so it's remarkable so many were used! I am still hoping to find a late nesting Barn Owl so more about owls next month but our very rare nesting Goldeneye ducks (at what is probably there only nesting 'colony' in England) had at least four nests in 2015; at secret nest box sites in the county. They nest in the same type of boxes as Tawny Owls and compete (without it seems any real violence) for the same sites; so to make room for both I have had to put up some extra boxes and need to add a few more this winter.

Ringing with a few trainees and birders has continued at Howick this month with an excellent variety of birds captured including Swallows, Blackcaps, and Chiffchaffs but very few Willow Warblers. All these birds find lots of food at Howick to build up their fat reserves before migrating to Africa. We have also captured the more resident Goldcrests, Long Tailed Tits, Great Spotted Woodpecker, and most recently a Nuthatch.

I was away for one long weekend down on the Isle of Wight to tutor on a Ringing Course. This was an excellent experience with ringers ranging in ages from 18 to the retired achieving Ringing Permits. While away there was a sudden movement of 1,000's of Siskins from the north to the south and on returning home I captured some 12 in one short morning at home; just using a simple feeder trap (it being far too windy to use a net). Interesting only one was a juvenile of the year (all the rest being adults) and half were retraps of mine ringed in 2014; or in the case of two of them 2013. Were they have been in the meantime would be fascinating to know.

Finally I have been joining the Natural History Society of Northumbria Ringing Groups migration ringing sessions at Low Newton on Sunday mornings. We have had some nice Redpoll and Warblers but nothing really unusual yet - but we are hoping for at least a Yellow Browed Warbler in the next month.

I will be continuing to try and ring at least once a week at Howick Arboretum until November. This will generally be on a Saturday morning but may be moved by the weather and circumstances. You're welcome to come along to learn/watch/take pictures; just look for us by the picnic benches in the car park. Get in touch if wanting to check a day and times.

*Phil Hanmer*
*A Ringer & Trainer*
*Natural History Society of Northumbria Ringing Group*
*(Hancock Museum)*
*E-mail: tytoalbas@btinternet.com*

## PLANT CORNER

About 50m in front of our house is a small, rather awkwardly-shaped field, appropriately named on the farm as the Triangle. It is often planted with 'game cover' crops to provide cover and forage for the young pheasants when they are released (or escape) from their holding pens in the adjacent woodland. I do wish the birds would recognize that these crops are supposed to be for them, rather than continually invading our garden in large numbers.

The question of what will grow in the Triangle each year is a regular source of interest, particularly as the farmer doesn't specify to the contractor what he wants other than to ask for a game crop mixture. Sometimes it's mainly brassicas ranging from turnips to fodder radish with its white and mauve flowers. Sometimes all that seems to come up is a mass of the two regular crop weeds, Redshank and Fat Hen. This year it has been more interesting.

Earlier in the summer there were many plants of Buckwheat (Fagopyrum esculentum), pictured left. This is an introduced species from the Knotweed family. In some countries its seeds are used as a wheat substitute and in Brittany sweet and savoury pancakes are made from buckwheat flour. Its main strongholds are the far east and in eastern Europe although France did produce 155,000 tonnes in 2013

In September, however, parts of this field really came into their own. There is plenty of Redshank (Persicaria maculosa) pictured right, a British native annual weed quite closely related to buckwheat, but far more impressive are the Sunflowers (Helianthus annuus) whose heads had many Common Carder Bumblebees in that fantastic sunny week we had at the end of September. There are two bumblebees on the dark central disk in my photo although they aren't east to spot.

Even more insect-friendly was Phacelia (Phacelia tanacetifolia) which I've written about before but which was not only smothered in White-tailed Bumblebees (pictured right) but was also providing an excellent late-season food source for Silver Y moths.

In one corner of the field was a patch of Flax (Linum usitatissimum), pictured left, with its attractive blue flowers and delicate foliage. This is the plant that used to be grown to produce linen fibres (so the 'delicate' foliage must actually be much tougher than it looks) and which can still occasionally be found growing as a commercial linseed oil crop.

Altogether the Triangle has provided a tremendous insect-friendly late-season patch of flowering annuals and if you are thinking of introducing a few annuals into your flower beds to improve their value to insects then Phacelia, Sunflowers and Buckwheat might be good ideas. At least, as annuals, if you don't like them you can pull them out easily.

This is a panoramic view of part of the Triangle taken on 30th September 2015 and you can see what great potential this must have for insects. There are plenty of other species in the dense mass of plants and if the magnification was greater I could set you the task of picking out at least ten of them.

*Richard*

## Invertebrate Corner

### Sea Spiders:

Sea Spiders belong to a sub-group of Arthropods (jointed-legged animals) known as the Chelicerates. This sub-group contains familiar invertebrates, such as mites, ticks, scorpions and true spiders – although the latter are only very distantly related to sea spiders. Formally, sea spiders are placed in the Class Pycnogonida (from the Greek meaning "thick knees"), and there are about 1,000 species worldwide occurring in all oceans from the tropics to the Arctic and Antarctic. Around 70 of these occur in U.K. waters. Most species are carnivorous.

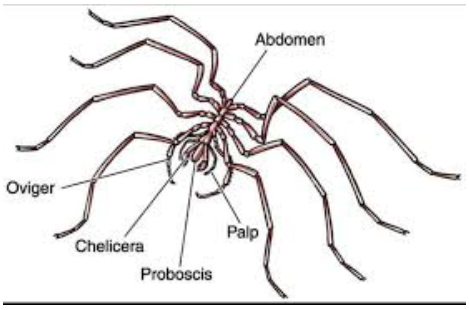
Sea spiders are not commonly encountered as they are cryptic [Photo] and often occur in very deep waters. However, a search through the mat-like growths on warf pilings and rocks in sheltered bays will often reveal specimens – especially where hydroids, anemones and sponges, their prey, are found.

Pycnogonids are typically small, with a body length ranging from 1 to 10 mm, but deep sea species can be as much as 6 cm long with a leg-span of up to 75 cm [Photo].

Most are drab in colour, but some are green or red [Photo].

Structurally, sea spiders are very distinctive, having relatively small bodies from which extend very long legs – typically four pairs, but in some species up to six. The body is so small that many of the internals organs, such as the gut and reproductive organs, are located in the legs. In the males of many species, there is an extra pair of ovigerous legs used to carry bundles of fertilised eggs [Photo].

Movement is typically a slow crawl, but some species are able to swim by flapping their legs vertically. There are no special organs for respiration or excretion, with gases and liquid waste simply diffusing across their large surface area (relative to body volume). This




high surface area to volume ratio is also important in allowing sea spiders to spread their weight widely, preventing them from sinking into the fine mud substrates found on the deep ocean floor [Photo].

*Dudley Williams. Newton on the Moor*

## AWG Money

You may remember that a couple of newsletters ago your committee said that we were seeking ideas for good uses of some of our reserve funds. We have gradually been building up a surplus almost entirely due to the donations we have received in recognition of our survey work. Our regular bird surveys for Northumberland Estates bring in donations and in the last two years we have had donations from Ford & Etal Estates because of the work we have done at Slainsfield Moor and at Ford Moss.

At our committee meeting in September it was decided that we should hold around £2000 in our reserve. This would mean that if our donations were to dry up completely we should still be able to continue as an organisation for several years based solely on our subscription income. However, this leaves us with a sum in excess of £2000 that we can use for purposes that fit with our purposes as Alnwick Wildlife Group. The decisions we made about this money were as follows:

- A **£500 donation to the Northumberland Hedgehog Rescue Centre** in Longframlington to pay for a piece of equipment or to sponsor one of their rescue cages in perpetuity. Stewart Sexton explained at the AGM that our money has gone to pay for a new incubator to enable young, underweight, hypothermic animals to be nursed back to health.

- A **maximum sum of £100 will be used to buy some vacuum flasks** and other small items to make the refreshments at meetings easier to organise.

- A sum of about **£190 will buy two simple-to-use Bat Detectors** which will be made available for loan to members who want to try their hand at identifying the bats in their area or in their gardens.

- A **Trail Camera costing about £120**, which again will be available for loan to members, will enable people to try identifying things like nocturnal mammal visitors to their gardens.

- A **Laser Pointer for speakers to use during talks will cost about £25.**

- When Paul Morrison (Warden of Coquet Island) comes to talk to us next April we will offer **a donation of £500 to support the ringing of Roseate Terns**. This donation will most likely be made to the Northumberland Ringing Group.

- We shall offer the **NWT Otter project** our involvement in collecting Otter spraint from appropriate locations and paying **(to a maximum of £100)** for DNA analysis of the samples.

- We feel that existing members should see some direct reward for their loyalty to AWG, in some cases over many years. A separate communication will be sent out to all members about this.

- It was agreed to investigate the purchase of a **set of sweep nets, collecting trays and pond dipping nets** for use in our surveys and for loan to any member who wants to investigate insects or spiders or aquatic life on their own patch. No details yet.

- We are also investigating the possible purchase of **wildflower seed in bulk** so that we could offer, for example, the Aln Valley Railway the possibility of enhancing the plant diversity of suitable areas. No details yet.

More news will be included in future newsletters about progress with these things, but we hope that all members will feel that our money is being used in ways that support our Group and the wildlife of North Northumberland.

## Meeting of Wednesday 30th September

There were 33 in the audience for the first meeting of the 2015/16 season. The AGM lasted all of about six minutes and we ended up with no change to the committee and 'officers', although there was a plea for other interested members to come forward to join the committee.

George produced a range of specimens – a Brown Long-eared Bat; two Chiffchaff casualties; Branched Bur-reed and Water Plantain from Philip and Vivien's pond at Newton-on-the-Moor; a remarkably complete Sea Urchin and Sea Potato that Alan and Joyce had brought in; a fungal sample that Stewart quickly identified via his smart phone as Orange Peel Fungus.

The speaker was Dr Cathleen Thomas, recently appointed as the Communities and Events Officer for NWT. Her topic was *Ladybird Spotting in Northumberland*.

Of c.4500 species of Coccinellids in the world, only 46 are found in the UK and at least 20 of these are very small and inconspicuous. Only one, the Harlequin, is an invasive alien although even that may not be as harmful to other ladybird species as was feared when it arrived in 2004.

Cathleen went through the main characteristics of ladybirds, but there are few other beetles that can be confused with them, particularly if you remember that ladybirds have short club-shaped antennae. Almost all feed on aphids, scale insects, plant lice or some combination of these prey and so are beneficial to man.

She showed pictures of the ten or so largest commonest species, stressing that several, especially the 2-spot (photo left), have a range of colour variations which usually seem to depend on the environmental temperature

when they are developing as larvae and pupae. It was clear that many in the audience had never come across many of these species and had had no idea that there were so many. The distribution maps showed that most are present to some extent in the North East of England. [Interestingly she said that there are few records of the yellow and black 14-spot ladybird from our area, but a good specimen was seen and photographed in Thomas Percy Woodland this year and was shown in Newsletter 165 in June – photo right].

The lifecycle starts with the female laying c.20 yellow eggs in a cluster on the underside of leaves. At hatching (or eclosion) the first emerging larvae often eat their unhatched siblings as their first meal. This also has the advantage of reducing competition. Many larvae have spiny abdomens and/or warning colouration (Harlequin shown left). They shed their exoskeletons four times in order to grow and then they pupate. The pupae may look inactive, attached to a leaf at their rear ends, but they have a protective mechanism so that if touched they rear up to frighten a predator. When the adults hatch they are often a translucent yellow colour and the true adult colours in the wing cases (elytra) develop over two days.

In the UK the adults usually go into a type of hibernation in the winter although it is not known where they go. Egg laying in late spring; pupation in June/July; Adults present Aug/Sept.

*Harlequin Ladybirds*: This Asian species arrived here in 2004. It has a wide dietary range and a wide colour range. The legs are a diagnostic brown. Initial introductions in US (1916) and Eastern Europe (1964) were as a biological control of aphids. Both were successful. But after a third introduction to Holland and France in 1982 the species began an explosive spread in 1988 which then spread to the Americas and South Africa. Harlequins can have up to 4 generations each year and not only compete for food with native species but also eat their larvae as well as those of lacewings. Larvae also cannibalise their own sibling larvae.

It overwinters in large aggregations, often in buildings, and if threatened produces a chemical colloquially known as 'reflex blood' which has a foul smell and taste and discolours human furnishings and decorations. Each aggregation will contain many colour variants. It has some natural enemies – fungi, parasitic wasps, flies, mites and bacteria. So gradually natural controls are starting to limit populations and spread. It is not a particular problem at present in the North East. The main UK species directly affected is the 2-spot.

You find ladybirds by i) tree beating with sharp taps with a stick and a tray or sheet to catch what is dislodged; ii) sweep netting for grassland species; iii) direct visual sightings.

2015 has been a poor year. Use www.ladybird.survey.org to report sightings.

## Moth of the month - November

There are very few moths that are regularly on the wing as we go into winter, to the point where they start being called after the month. So for November we have the November Moth (*Epirrita dilutata*). As is often the case, there are closely related species around at the same time; the Pale November Moth (*Epirrita christyi*) and the Autumnal Moth (*Epirrita autumnata*). While, with practice, the males can be separated into their species without killing them by the external shape of their genitalia, most entomologists don't bother; recording them all as November Moth agg. (aggregated species).

In all three species the females tend to have brighter markings (as shown above) and a slightly more rounded front edge (*costa*) on the forewing. All these species have glycerol like molecules in their body fluids to allow them to function at temperatures close to freezing. The larvae feed on many deciduous trees and shrubs in spring and summer.

*Alan Fairclough.*

November Moth (male)

November Moth (female)

Pale November Moth (male)

Autumnal Moth (male)

| SIGHTINGS SEPTEMBER 2015 | |
|---|---|
| **BIRDS** | |
| Red-throated Diver | 4 off Craster on 4th and 8 on 5th 2 off Newton Point on 10th 1 at Annstead on 9th |
| Balearic Shearwater | 1 off Newton Point on 10th |
| Manx Shearwater | 5 off Craster on 4th and 2 on 5th |
| Sooty Shearwater | 1 off Craster on 4th and 1 on 5th 2 off Newton Point on 6th |
| Cormorant | 7 at Branton Ponds on 27th |
| Little Egret | 2 at Fenham Flats on 13th 3 at Holy Island causeway on 13th 2 at Warkworth on 27th 1 at Budle Bay on 9th |
| Pink-foot Goose | 300 at Howick on 27th |
| Brent Goose | 5 off Craster on 4th 895 at Fenham Flats on 13th 200 on 7th and 600 on 17th at Fenham Flats |
| Pochard | 2 at Branton Ponds on 9th |
| Shoveler | 1 at Branton Ponds on 14th |
| Pintail | 2 off Craster on 4th and 7 on 5th 3 at Newton Scrape on 10th 4 at Fenham Flats on 13th |
| Wigeon | 696 at Fenham Flats on 13th 1000+ at Fenham Flats on 17th |
| Shelduck | 223 at Fenham Flats on 13th |
| Goosander | 23 at Branton Ponds on 7th |
| Common Scoter | 4 off Craster on 4th and 9 on 5th 17 at Annstead on 9th |
| Merlin | 1 on Cheviot on 10th |
| Peregrine | 1 at Newton Point on 10th |
| Red-footed Falcon | 1 at Hemscott Hill from 9th |
| Red Grouse | 26 on Cheviot on 10th |
| Water Rail | 1 at Branton Ponds on 9th |
| Oystercatcher | 494 at Fenham Flats on 13th |
| Knot | 445 at Fenham Flats on 13th |
| Ruff | 1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 6th 8 at Charlton Mires flash on 6th |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | 370 at Fenham Flats on 13th |
| Black-tailed Godwit | 7 at Newton Scrape on 6th |
| Curlew | 446 at Fenham Flats on 13th |
| Whimbrel | 1 at Fenham Flats on 13th |
| Sanderling | 124 at Fenham Flats on 13th |
| Redshank | 227 at Fenham Flats on 13th |
| Greenshank | 3 at Hedgeley Lakes on 6th |
| Green Sandpiper | 3 at Hedgeley Lakes on 6th |
| Golden Plover | 70 at Howick on 27th |
| Grey Plover | 220 at Fenham Flats on 13th |
| Lapwing | 800+ at Branton Ponds all month 225 at Fenham Flats on 13th 700 at Smeafield on 17th |
| Great Skua | 6 off Craster on 5th 1 off Newton Point on 6th |
| Arctic Skua | 2 off Craster on 4th and 7 on 5th 3 off Newton Point on 10th |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | 53 at Hedgeley Lakes on 6th 112 at Branton Ponds on 16th |
| Sandwich Tern | 26 off Craster on 4th 3 at Guile Point on 13th |
| Common Tern | 22 at Guile Point on 13th |
| Cuckoo | 1 at Yearle on 3rd |
| Barn Owl | 2 at Elwick on 16th |
| Swallow | 3 at Howick on 27th |
| Kingfisher | 1 at Brandon Ford on 4th 1 at Hedgeley on 6th 1 at Branton Ponds all month |
| Skylark | 50+ at Warkworth on 27th |
| Pied Wagtail | 6+ at Warkworth on 27th |
| Redstart | 1 on Holy Island on 13th and 2 on 17th |
| Wheatear | 12 at Newton Point on 1st |
| Reed Warbler | 1 at Warkworth on 27th |
| Blackcap | 2 at Howick on 27th 8+ around Branton Ponds on 30th |
| Chiffchaff | 8-12 at Howick on 27th 1 at Yearle on 29th |

| | |
|---|---|
| Pied Flycatcher | 4 on Holy Island on 13th 1 at Branton on 18th |
| Spotted Flycatcher | 3 on Holy Island on 13th |
| Long-tailed Tit | 10+ at Branton Ponds on 30th |
| Treecreeper | 1 at Smeafield on 7th |
| Raven | 1 in College Valley on 5th 4 over Cheviot on 10th |
| Brambling | 1 on Holy Island on 20th |
| Siskin | 1 at Smeafield on 28th |
| Lesser Redpoll | 9 at Warkworth on 27th |
| Bullfinch | 3 at Branton Ponds on 30th |
| Yellowhammer | 1 at Smeafield on 15th |
| **PLANTS** | |
| Cloudberry | On Cheviot on 10th |
| Cowberry | On Cheviot on 10th |
| Heath Bedstraw | On Cheviot on 10th in flower |
| Tormentil | On Cheviot on 10th in flower |
| Grass of Parnassus | On Holy Island on 20th |
| **MAMMALS** | |
| Red Squirrel | 1 at Glanton Pike on 5th 1 at Branton Middlesteads on 5th 1 at Branton Ponds on 9th and 30th 1 at Kettleburn on 16th |
| Hedgehog | 1 at Howick on 6th 1 at Branton on 11th |
| **INVERTEBRATES** | |
| Southern Hawker | 1 at Branton Ponds on 1st and 1 on 16th |
| Common Hawker | 1 at Low Newton on 10th 1 on Cheviot on 10th 1at Branton Ponds on 16th and 24th |
| Common Darter | 20+ at Hedgeley Lakes on 6th several at Branton Ponds on 24th |
| Red Admiral | In Alnwick on 27th 1 at Smeafield on 28th 30 at Yearle on 26th |
| Comma | In Alnwick on 27th |
| Small Tortoiseshell | In Alnwick on 27th 10 at Yearle on 26th |
| Large White | In Alnwick on 27th |
| Speckled Wood | In Alnwick on 27th 4 at Branton Ponds on 30th 1 at Yearle on 26th |
| Peacock | In Alnwick on 27th 3 at Yearle on 26th |
| Wall | 1 at Smeafield on 28th |
| Canary Shouldered Thorn | 1 at Branton on 6th and 1 on 15th |
| Sallow | 1 at Branton on 6th |
| Brown-spot Pinion | 1 at Branton on 11th |
| Shuttle-shaped Dart | 1 at Branton on 11th |
| Rosy Rustic | 1 at Branton on 11th |
| Frosted Orange | 1 at Branton on 15th |
| Mervielle du Jour | 1 at Branton on 23rd |
| Silver Y | 3 at Yearle on 26th |
| Red-legged Shieldbug | 1 at Branton on 30th |
| 14 Spot Ladybird | 1 on Cheviot on 10th |
| **RAINFALL** | 43mm |
| **OBSERVERS**<br>G&R Bell, I&K Davison, G Dodds, J Dods, P Jobson, S Lee, S Reay, J Rutter, S Sexton. | |