

Alnwick Wildlife Group

Promoting awareness of the countryside and its flora and fauna



REVIEW OF APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER 128

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JUNE WILDLIFE NOTES

Nature is full of life at this time of year. Everywhere there are signs of young animals. This is probably the best times of year to go looking for interesting plants such as orchids, Bloody Cranesbill etc. Hay meadows and herb-rich fields are coming into full flower.

On the coast the chicks of seabirds are starting to fledge. For **Guillemot** and **Razorbill** chicks, this means literally a leap of faith. Male guillemots and razorbills call to their young, high on the cliffs, from the water. The female often goads their chicks on the ledges, until finally the chick jumps. Once the chick hits the water, the male quickly escorts the chick out to sea and away from the preying eyes of gulls and other predators. Adult with their chicks can often be seen and heard floating together off Stag Rocks, Bamburgh. Once the chicks become practised at feeding these birds make their way out to better feeding grounds in the North Sea. The **Puffin** and its chick have a different strategy. Once the chicks have put on enough weight, the parents abandon the burrow, leaving the chicks to fend for themselves. The chick stays in the burrow for a number of days before leaving. At this stage in their life, the young puffins cannot fly and therefore to avoid predators, they leave at night often in large numbers, scrambling across the rocks before reaching the water. Once they find the water they quickly make their way further out to sea.

June and July are the best times of year to look for moths. Day flying moths such as the **Chimney Sweeper** and **Burnet** species can be found relatively easily. It is the moth trap that can attract large numbers. In Glanton, my little actinic moth trap has attracted up to seventy moths of thirty species in one suitable night. The best trapping nights are those that are overcast but warm. Species such as **Poplar Hawkmoth**, **Garden Tiger**, **Dark Arches** as well as the less obvious **Pugs** and **micro-moths** can grace a night's catch. There are other ways that moths can be attracted; a flower bed rich in suitable composite plants can attract species such as **Silver-Y's** and **Common Rustic**. Flowering **Honeysuckle** can entice **Elephant Hawkmoth** and others with a long proboscis, or sweet substances can be brewed using brown sugar, banana and alcohol to attract these night pollinators. One of the more unusual ways of attracting moths is the use of pheromones which can be bought to attract the **Clearwing** moths. These species look very much like colourful wasps or large flies rather than moths. It is well worth going along to an evening's moth trapping just to see the diversity of species even though the hours can be very unsociable.

Hopefully the weather will improve and the temperature will increase to allow us to enjoy the wildlife of early summer in Northumberland.

Jack Daw.

This year's programme has been superb with a good variety of excellent speakers. It is hoped that the programme commencing in autumn will be equally as good. Subjects vary from Red Kites, Butterfly Migration to Wildlife of the Borders to name a few. Further details will be provided closer to September.

Please send sightings reports for May, no later than 6th June 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.

SWARLAND SNAPSHOTS APRIL 2012

With frequent showers, a predominantly cold north wind and a burst of heavy rain during the latter days of the month producing copious standing water on saturated ground, this was more of a late February fill-dike than the hoped-for spring to follow on from a pleasantly mild March.

Whilst there has been little sign of spring migrants arriving here, apart from a sprinkling of **Chiffchaffs** in all the usual locations around the village and two **Swallows** briefly mid-afternoon on the 27th, activity around the feeding points has been brisk with seven finch species being the most prominent users. At the ringing site and other locations around the village up to a dozen of both **Greenfinch** and **Chaffinch** were noted daily. Up to half a dozen **Goldfinches** have also been present daily with as many as twenty reported from one garden. **Siskins** have been coming to feeders in pairs with most of the females caught having well developed brood patches clearly some are nesting locally; this was confirmed by capture of a newly fledged juvenile on the 30th; there has been no significant visible passage movement, as frequently seen during April in past years, but birds are passing through as confirmed by one carrying a Belgian ring caught today (30th). **Lesser Redpolls**, which had disappeared from the feeders early in March, returned during the last few days of this month; the birds here earlier in the year were probably migrants as one of those caught in January had been ringed in February 2011 at Thetford in Norfolk, whilst those appearing now may well be from our small local breeding population. At least three pairs of **Bullfinch** continue to be regular visitors to the feeding points here. A single male **Brambling** was reported from a nearby garden on the 17th, then an unfamiliar “trilling” song was heard on three mornings 23rd to 25th which, from a CD of European birdsongs, was identified as of this species and a male bird was seen here with the **Chaffinches** on 26th and 27th.

The first fledgling **Blackbird** was seen, being looked after by the female, on 21st and has managed to survive until the end of the month. An interesting example of co-operative behaviour in **Robins** was observed this morning; a pair approached the bird table but only one (probably the male) went on to collect a substantial beakful of food which it then passed on to its partner waiting a yard away, before returning for a further beakful upon which both flew off together, presumably to feed their brood.

A small flock of **Jackdaws** gathered on one grass field, 42 on the 8th and 58 on the 10th. **Black-headed Gulls** began assembling on the same field with 142 early evening on the 8th, 200+ on the 9th then between 60 and 100 during the day from 11th to 23rd. A **Barn Owl** was seen in the evenings during the first ten days of the month and three **Cranes** were seen flying over from the northwest towards the coast in the evening of the 17th.

There has been little to comment on in respect of insect activity; small numbers of all four of the common bumblebees, **White-tailed**, **Buff-tailed**, **Red-tailed** and **Carder**, a few **7-Spot Ladybirds** and one **2-Spot Ladybird** on the 13th with a solitary **Small Tortoiseshell** butterfly on the 27th. *Dave Makepeace.*



7-Spot Ladybird



Goldfinch

Meeting of Wednesday 25th April 2012

George produced a varied range of specimens: a Grey Heron nestling and egg from a tree-nesting bird in the Tyne Valley; a Hedgehog skull; a male Siskin; an excellent Morel mushroom from Branton; a mystery item collected from the edge of Rannoch Moor which was clearly the lower jaw of a large fish with vicious needle teeth, deduced to be that of a Ferox Trout – a variety of Brown Trout that hunts Arctic Char. n.b. it is NOT George holding the Ferox Trout!



Wildlife: Green Alkanet and both species of Golden Saxifrage are flowering. Green-veined White, Orange Tip, Peacock and Speckled Wood were the butterflies mentioned. Moth catches have been poor. A Red Squirrel fell out of a tree into the Eglington Burn – but did struggle out. There is a very big haul-out of Grey Seals on Fenham Flats. Two Otters were mentioned – one a road kill on the A1. A Roe Deer was seen swimming across Branton Ponds.

Bird migrants are late – many are waiting in southern France for the weather conditions to improve. 800 Fieldfare were still at Chillingham on 25th. 3 Short-eared Owls were at Alnmouth and Long-tailed Tits have been using garden feeders at Titlington Mount. A Tawny Owl has taken over a Barn Owl nest at Mindrum.

Speaker: Kevin Redgrave is National Trust Warden for coastal properties – which strangely include Ros Castles and St Cuthbert's Cave. His topic was *Terns and the National Trust*.

He began by taking us briefly through the topography and geology of our coastal sites, with mentions of key plant species, before moving on to the main Tern breeding area at the Long Nanny and Newton Links. The NT currently employs three Tern Wardens and the breeding area is protected by an electrified fence. This winter has seen lots of erosion in the nesting site and it remains to be seen what effect this will have. Other things being equal there should be about 40 Little Tern nests, but the protection has also encouraged up to 1700 Arctic Tern nesting pairs. There is not too much direct competition between the species because Little Terns choose exposed sites in the shingly sand while Arctics nest higher into the marram grass on the dunes. But the Arctics will sometimes steal food as the Little is transferring it to the chick.

Main hazards are wind and tides. An ingenious technique is used by the wardens to stop nests being washed away. They lift vulnerable nests on to wooden platforms, complete with sand and shells. The birds accept this and a nest at risk from the tide can be carefully moved to safer ground. Other hazards are crows, large gulls, foxes, weasels, stoats, badgers, hedgehogs, barn owls and herons. In 2011 28 Little Terns fledged and more than 2000 Arctics, but the list of threats makes you wonder how any youngsters survive at all.

Kevin had many of his own photographs and a particularly effective sequence of Little Terns and their chicks had been taken, under licence, by a professional photographer.

BEYOND THE BORDER

Number 6: APRIL 2012

Mycologists have talents which are something akin to good Wine Tasters in that by sniffing fungi they are able to confirm their visual identification of a species. I do try – but fail miserably – although the mealy smell of **St. George's Mushroom** (*Calocybe gambosa*) is one of the few I can detect. It is also said to taste mealy but one of my reference books provides a warning to beware the young stages of *Inocybe patouillardii* which although very similar “is one of our most deadly species!” St. George's Day is April 23rd – said to be the date of arrival for *C.gambosa*. The caps are creamy-white of approx. 2-5 inches (5-13cms) diameter and, I find, generally somewhat misshapen. My first discovery (22nd) was a day early with a small troop on the former Berwick to Kelso railway-line and subsequent finds included fruiting bodies on a roadside verge at Nottylees (nr. Kelso/29th).

Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*) has a particularly patchy distribution through the British Isles. Noted by the Romans, growing in cracks amongst rocks it was mistakenly thought to possess stone-breaking qualities and subsequently used to treat gall-stone complaints! Plants are generally short with kidney-shaped basal leaves, five white unspotted petals and a cluster of reproductive bulbils at its base. The first flowering specimens appeared amongst short turf at Girrick (nr. Nenthorn/April 14th) and there was more beside the Wallace Statue at Bemersyde nr. St. Boswells.

Sweet Woodruff (*Galium odoratum*) is one of our Bedstraws which is closely associated with deciduous and mixed woodland. It has snow-white flowers and a most pleasing smell when dried – often likened to that of newly mown hay. It is because of this that the plant has been used to flavour soft drinks and, more commonly, to be tucked amongst freshly-laundered linen. I noted it coming into bloom within woods near Mellerstain House on April 14. Our native **Toothwort** (*Lathraea squamaria*) is a parasite of **Wych Elm** (*Ulmus glabra*) and other trees. It attaches itself to the roots of the host plant from which it draws the required nutrients. Completely devoid of green leaves the Toothwort consists of numerous overlapping pale pink (or cream) oval scales and, as such, has been associated with ghost-like and macabre tales. A good-sized colony was examined within the grounds of Paxton House. I was also fortunate enough to discover a clump of its relative **Purple Toothwort** (*Lathraea purpurea*) beneath **Willows** (*Salix sp.*) at Kelso. It hails from SW Europe and has altogether larger flowers that are a rich purple colour. I'd never seen this species before but was kindly supplied with a most interesting history of its origins. Plants were apparently taken from Inverewe Gardens (Wester Ross) and introduced to Bowhill (Selkirkshire) during the 1980's. Examples have subsequently appeared at well-spaced intervals along the occasional stretch of the River Tweed.

April was a cool wet month – hardly suited to insect life – yet good numbers of Bumblebees were active on the milder days. Amongst these were the queens of **Buff-tailed Bumblebees** (*Bombus terrestris*) who were searching for abandoned nests of **Mice** where they could establish themselves and create a new colony. Butterfly sightings were understandably somewhat limited but **Green-veined Whites** took to the wing and included 8 near Skaithmuir Toll (Coldstream/April 27). Small numbers of **Small Tortoiseshells** and **Peacocks** could be noted throughout the Borders during the course of the month and one of my neighbours (obviously more observant than myself!) advised me of an **Orange Tip** close to the River Tweed (Apr 27). Another friend told of a **Speckled Wood** that he'd seen near Eyemouth on the 24th. A ditch on the Lennel Estate nr. Coldstream was home to 3 **Three-spined Sticklebacks** (April 13).

The Berwickshire coast can only be described as “essential viewing” from the end of April onwards. A myriad of wildflowers stud the cliffs and seabirds pass by in all directions so that you know not which direction to gaze. **Fulmars** with their tube-nosed bills (designed for filtering out salt) had taken up nesting sites along many of the ledges and beyond the noisy throng of **Kittiwakes** were long lines of **Gannets** heading back to Bass Rock. Meanwhile **Shags** were sitting on bulky mounds of seaweed where they incubated (typically 3) chalky-white eggs.

My last sighting of a **Wigeon** was made on April 7 with a single bird occupying the River Tweed nr. Sprouston. They will have returned to their breeding grounds in Scandinavia or possibly Russia. **Tufted Duck** reappeared along some stretches of the River Tweed but breeding success has apparently been declining in recent years. **Goosanders** continued to be a familiar sight with my biggest April count consisting of 19 which were tucked beneath the riverbank of Pinnacle Hill Park, Kelso on April 18. I'd obviously no wish to cause any disturbance but watched a Tweed Valley **Osprey** (through my binoculars) from a distance as she re-arranged sticks in her nest (April 19). West Printonan nr. Swinton was just one of several locations where **Red-legged Partridge** could be seen whilst the greater use of conservation headlands has been of enormous benefit to **Grey Partridge** which had just begun to breed.

Oystercatchers are one of our most easily distinguished birds to identify and although present on the shingle banks of our river systems they can also be spotted well-inland amongst the farmlands. I've been monitoring one

stony field in particular which consists of former moorland that's now in cultivation. April 8 has been the most memorable visit where (on approx. 20 acres) I studied 3 Oystercatchers, approx. 10 **Lapwings** and a flock of 83 resting **Golden Plovers**. What a wonderful sight! Other Lapwings were newly returned to the Lammermuir Hills (April 1) with flocks of 20's and 30's not yet dispersed. A **Snipe** was disturbed near Tod West Toll (Coldstream/3rd) and 2 more near Hangingshaw Hill (Hownam/17th). Meanwhile I'd searched and searched, without success, for **Common Sandpipers** and then (26th) returned to the same stretches of riverbank and discovered 5 pairs ! Their plump form, bobbing behaviour and rapid song of high notes are all instantly recognisable.

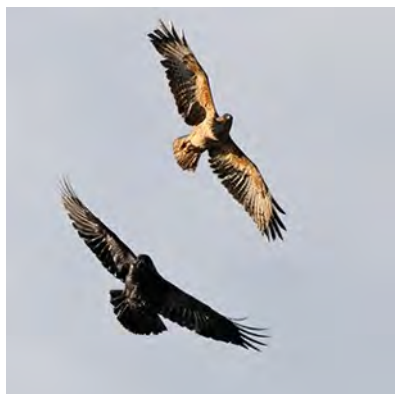
Razorbills had returned to the towering cliffs (24th) and chose sites below overhangs of rock for their nesting sites. Although seen both north and south of the England/Scotland border the biggest single group consisted of 40+ at the Needles Eye. **Feral Pigeons** (descendants of Rock Doves) are a most familiar sight in urban areas but although **Wood Pigeons** are also becoming increasingly commonplace I thought it somewhat unusual to find 80+ of the latter at Bridge Street, Kelso – feeding together on the road just after dawn.



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Sand Martins had already arrived but by April 17 (a later than usual date) the first **Swallow** was seen. Many more quickly followed and (from the 24th onwards) **House Martins** also appeared. **Dippers** had begun to nest (within most attractive domed structures of moss) with sites beneath bridges proving particularly popular. A group of 7 **Wheatears** lingered atop Berwickshire cliffs (April 24). I failed to make it to the hills to greet the first **Ring Ouzels** but then, unexpectedly, had superb views of a ♂ near Sprouston (21st) and another just over the border nr. West Learmouth (April 27th). They were obviously birds which had paused after an exhausting migration. Most species of Warblers had reached these parts by the

end of the month and amongst my records was a **Grasshopper Warbler** – heard reeling near Coldstream on the 27th. I also heard the unmistakable song of a **Wood Warbler** at the ridiculously early date of April 11. It was amongst Oak woodland above a bubbling river between Jedburgh and Carter Bar.



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A pair of **Ravens** were nesting in a lofty Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) near Morebattle (and another pair aggressively drove off a **Buzzard** from their Border plantation (23rd). **Rooks** regularly sought human habitation – most typically farms and villages – where the loud commotion left you in no doubt that a busy rookery was close by. I was also provided with information concerning a **Hooded Crow** at Kelso (Apr 22) and of “an influx of **Great Grey Shrikes** in the Coldingham/St Abb's area” (Apr 24).

I spent much of April 27 on a large farm between Coldstream and Duns and during that time spotted upwards of 20 **Brown Hares** which, nowadays, is a most impressive population. Whilst driving home that same evening I passed another group of 7 near Redden. A **Minke Whale** beached at North Berwick (April 3) and all efforts to revive the poor creature sadly failed. I froze in my tracks as a **Stoat** popped its head out of a tiny burrow on a former railway embankment. The animal spent some time gazing around before finally retreating inside but I was unable to be sure whether it might be breeding there or merely hunting small prey.

I was fortunate to have another **Otter** sighting with this one again at an entirely new (River Tweed) site. Watched for roughly quarter of an hour during which time it remained within the same pool – diving time and time again. It was obvious, when surfacing that it was making regular catches but these must have been very small fish as nothing ever protruded from the mouth and two or three chews and it returned for more. (i.e. Snacking rather than full-feeding). The presence of a fisherman intrigued me in that although I was within 25 yards of the Otter he was (on the opposite bank) about 80 yards away and so pre-occupied with his casting that he remained completely oblivious of the creature at all times. The Otter only disappeared when he decided to walk upstream and seek a new position. Yet another neighbourly tip led to the presence of a dead juvenile **North American Mink** (7th) – lying snagged in the River Tweed. I came upon a **Red Fox** out hunting near Leitholm on the night of April 12; she would have had hungry cubs to feed.

ROGER MANNING.

Howick April 2012 Highlights.

I spoke too soon on last months round up saying that winter was a thing of the past. As I write this in May, winter is still here! April was a very cold month where winds from the northerly half predominated.

On 7th a local rarity appeared on Howick Pond – a **Coot!** This is the first here since spring 2009 and by the months end had been joined by a second individual. Hopefully they will stay to breed. A female **Goldeneye** was also present.

The moth trap provided the highlight of the month with VC68's fourth record of **Chamomile Shark**, a tricky moth to identify from its similar cousin, the Shark.



Chamomile Shark.

On the 8th a moth trapping session in Lord Howick's arboretum was slow but produced 40 moths of 11 species. A **Least Black Arches** was the earliest county record by two days.

A pair of **Shelduck** on 12th were an addition to the patch list for 2012. At this time breeding was well under way amongst garden birds. A **Robin** built a nest in our outhouse and laid 2 eggs before deserting, possibly due to the continued cool weather. A **Blackbird** reared two chicks in our Ivy and a **Wren** built a 'cock nest' about 4 feet from the Robins in the outhouse. Unfortunately the female didn't take the offer of accommodation.

A **Field Vole** was feeding on bird seed on our wall.

The week from the 15th was spent in even more wintry conditions on Speyside, Scotland where **Crested Tit**, **Osprey** and a couple of scarce moths – **Red Sword Grass**, **Brindled Beauty** and **Early Tooth-striped** were the highlights. **Bearberry** in flower on moorland was a new plant for me.



Bearberry.

Back home, the **22nd** had an arrival of summer visitors in Howick Village. **2 Swallows**, **1 male Wheatear** and several **Blackcaps** were new in. More unusually a **Red legged Partridge** was seen and heard calling to another distant individual near the Heugh.



Red legged Partridge.

Several **Tree Sparrow** were prospecting our garden nest boxes and coming to the bird table.

On **28th** **Willow Warblers** were late arrivals in the village wood. **1 White Wagtail** was with **7 Pies** near the Old Rectory. **2 male Orange Tip butterflies** were at the Lane End. **Cuckoo Flower**, **Cowslip** and **Greater Stichwort** were in bloom.

The month ended on **30th** with **6 Wheatears** in a sheep field on the Heugh, **2 adult Brown Hares** with **3 leverets** were near by along with a **Roe Doe**.

Let's hope the weather improves soon...

Stewart Sexton, Howick.

Plant Corner

I'm writing this in early May and you won't get the newsletter until the end of the month, but in view of the dreadful weather in April and this month so far I thought I'd confine myself to the wild species that have so far struggled into flower in our garden at Titlington Mount. There are the usual daisies, dandelions and red deadnettles. Meadow foxtail, sweet vernal grass and annual meadow grass (which flowers almost non-stop through the year) are flowering. But there are a few more interesting plants as well.

Slender Speedwell (*Veronica filiformis*) grows in our lawn as well as in the edges of some of the grazing fields and it has been flowering well since early April. Because it comes into flower so early it usually has time to provide attractive blue patches before the first mowing. Introduced to Britain in the 1800s it officially became naturalized outside gardens in 1927. The two main identification features are the rounded leaves and the single flowers on long slender stalks.



Less easily spotted at the edges of flower beds and in path gravels is **Wall Speedwell** (*V. arvensis*). It grows in tough little patches on bare soil or on paths and it seems to need full sun to get the flowers to open fully. Unlike most Speedwells the flowers are small and inconspicuous and you don't often see a specimen like the one in the inset photo.

If you get close enough to the leaves you can see they are broadly oval and roughly-hairy. The Latin name, *arvensis*, is translated as 'field' and in the USA this species is more usually called Field Speedwell or Corn Speedwell.

When I gave a short talk on weeds to AWG as part of the last Christmas meeting I moaned about New Zealand Bittercress (*Cardamine corymbosa*) as one of my pet weed hates. But there's another Bittercress in flower at the moment in some of the flower beds. It's not as invasive as the New Zealand species because it lacks the ability to regenerate from taproots, but it's rare that there isn't some in our garden. Plants that you buy in from garden centres and nurseries often have **Wavy Bittercress** (*C. flexuosa*) growing on the surface of the compost in the pots. Fortunately it is quite easy to pull out of the soil, but if you've allowed it to go to seed it spreads vast amounts of seed very easily just when you think you are removing it because the long thin ripe fruit end to spring open when you grip the plant.



There's another very closely related species, Hairy Bittercress (*C. hirsuta*), that is very hard to tell apart from our plant. The only really reliable way is to count the stamens. The photograph on the left shows fairly clearly the six stamens that you'd normally expect to find in *C. flexuosa*, while *C. hirsuta* has only four.



Sadly you do come across specimens of both species where individual flowers have five stamens – in which cases you are stuck for a definite identification, even though the Wavy species has slightly zigzag stems, from which it gets its name. Both these species are common outside gardens and both are British natives, so you're highly likely to come across them when out and about on your walks.

SIGHTINGS APRIL 2012

BIRDS	
Red-throated Diver	1 off Guile Point on the 8 th , 2 off Holy Island on the 22 nd
Great Crested Grebe	2 at Branton Ponds on the 11 th , 2 at Branton ponds on the 21 st exchanging fish
Whooper Swan	52 at Brandon on the 7 th
Brent Goose	9 at Fenham Flats on the 8 th
Shelduck	2 pairs near Mindrum on the 19 th
Mandarin	2 drakes near Ridley Stokoe on the 15 th
Garganey	2 drakes on Holy Island on the 30 th
Gadwall	2 at Branton Ponds on the 11 th
Shoveller	2 at Branton Ponds on the 27 th
Goosander	5 at Cornhill on Tweed on the 5 th
Red-breasted Merganser	18 off Guile Point on the 8 th
Merlin	1 near Guile Point on the 8 th , 1 on Holy Island on the 28 th
Sparrowhawk	1 seen at Holy Island on the 22 nd was carrying a Starling; when mobbed by Crows it dropped the Starling which flew away.
Peregrine	1 at Branton Ponds on the 17 th , 1 at Harehope Hill on the 5 th
Kestrel	Pair at Swarland on the 30 th
Osprey	2 at Kielder on the 15 th , 1 at Branton Ponds on the 27 th
Red Grouse	3 at the Black Clough on the 19 th
Grey Partridge	A pair near Mindrum on the 23 rd
Common Crane	3 flying S.E. over Swarland on the 17 th
Curlew	161 at Fenham Flats on the 8 th , 1 at Swarland on the 15 th
Avocet	2 at Cresswell Pond on the 6 th
Common Sandpiper	1 at Branton Ponds on the 11 th , 1 at Brandon Ford on the 19 th
Greenshank	1 at Branton Ponds on the 16 th
Lesser Black-backed Gull	18 at Branton Ponds on the 9 th
Black-headed Gull	Up to 200 all month at Swarland
Sandwich Tern	21 at Fenham Flats on the 8 th , 8 off Emmanuel Head on the 11 th
Razorbill	30+ at Needles Eye near Berwick on the 24 th
Cuckoo	1 at Harehope Hill on the 28 th
Tawny Owl	1 at Belford Mains Farm on the 12 th
Barn Owl	1 at Swarland on the 17 th , 1 at Lilburn Towers on the 1 st
Short-eared Owl	1 on Holy Island on the 11 th and 4 on the 30 th , 1 at Low Newton on the 28 th
Kingfisher	1 at Branton Ponds on 26 th and 29 th
Green Woodpecker	1 near Ridley Stokoe on the 15 th , 1 at Dipton Wood on the 17 th
Wryneck	1 on Holy Island on the 30 th
Sand Martin	3 at Branton Ponds on the 6 th
Swallow	1 at Branton Ponds on the 6 th , 1 at Warkworth Lane on the 12 th , 2 at Swarland on the 27 th , 1 at Elwick on the 11 th
Grey Wagtail	1 at Brandon Ford on the 4 th
Black Redstart	1 on Holy Island on the 22 nd
Wheatear	1 on Holy Island on the 11 th , 50+ on Holy Island on the 30 th , 1 at Newton Point on the 12 th , 3 at the Black Clough on the 19 th

Whinchat	1 on Holy Island on the 30 th
Stonechat	2 at the Black Clough on the 19 th
Siberian Stonechat	1 on Holy Island on the 28 th
Fieldfare	1 on Holy Island on the 22 nd , 800 at Chillingham Newtown on the 25 th , 80+ at Dipton Wood on the 17 th
Ring Ouzel	6 on Holy Island on the 28 th and 10 on the 30 th
Willow Warbler	2 at Branton Ponds on the 6 th ; many at Hannahs Hill on the 13 th
Chiffchaff	2 at Swarland on the 2 nd
Blackcap	Many around Branton Ponds from the 14 th , 1 at Swarland on the 9 th
Common Whitethroat	1 on Holy Island on the 30 th
Lesser Whitethroat	1 on Holy Island on the 30 th
Pied Flycatcher	1 at Dipton Wood on the 17 th
Long-tailed Tit	6 at Elwick on the 7 th , 3 at Dipton Wood on the 17 th
Treecreeper	1 at Swarland on the 7 th
Nuthatch	5+ at Dipton Wood on the 17 th
Starling	120 at Swarland on the 10 th
Jackdaw	52 at Swarland on the 10 th
Jay	3 at Dipton Wood on the 17 th
Hooded Crow	1 on Holy Island on the 11 th
Raven	1 at Harehope Hill on the 28 th , 2 near Mindrum on the 23 rd
Tree Sparrow	20 at Smeafield on the 3 rd
Brambling	1 at Swarland from the 17 th
Linnet	25+ at Letham Shank(Berwick) on the 1 st , 60+ at the Black Lough on the 19 th , 30+ near Mindrum on the 23 rd
Goldfinch	25-30 at Smeafield on the 3 rd
Siskin	2 or 3 pairs all month at Swarland, 2 at Smeafield on the 7 th , 6 at Smeafield on the 24 th , 3 pairs all month at Harehope Hillend, 10+ at Dipton Wood on the 17 th
Lesser Redpoll	3 at Branton Ponds on the 12 th and 8 on the 21 st up to 3 at Swarland from the 26 th
MAMMALS	
Brown Hare	1 at Branton Ponds on the 9 th , 1 at Swarland on the 7 th
Roe Deer	1 swimming across Branton Ponds on the 21 st , 1 near Byrness on the 17 th
Feral Goats	11 at Old Yeaving and 6 on Yeavinging Bell on the 19 th (Yeavinging is the old English for Hill of the Goat)
Red Squirrel	1 at Branton on the 29 th , 2 at Belford(1 dead) on the 1 st and 2 at Belford on the 18 th , 1 at Hannahs Hill on the 13 th
Grey Squirrel	1 at Dipton Wood on the 17 th
INVERTEBRATES	
Speckled Wood	1 at Cresswell Ponds on the 12 th
Small Tortoiseshell	1 at Swarland on the 27 th
2-Spot Ladybird	1 at Swarland on the 13 th
7-Spot Ladybird	1 at Swarland on the 15 th and 16 th
OBSERVERS	W.Banks, J&E Clark, I&K Davison, A.Keeble, D.Makepeace, R.Manning, Richard & Jane Poppleton. S.Reay, M.Rolley