

## SIGHTINGS FEBRUARY 2013

BIRDS	
Red-throated Diver	3 off Stag Rock (24 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 off Cullernose Point (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Great Crested Grebe	2 at East Chevington (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Slavonian Grebe	2 off Guile Point (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 25 at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 4 off Stag Rock (24 <sup>th</sup> )
Fulmar	8 near Howick (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Bittern	1 at Cresswell Pond (18 <sup>th</sup> )
Little Egret	1 near Fenham Hill (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 at Budle Bay (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Cormorant	3 at Branton Ponds (6 <sup>th</sup> ) [including one looking very much like the form sinensis]
Whooper Swan	22 over Branton (18 <sup>th</sup> )
Pink-footed Goose	340 Between Fenham and Ross (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 450 near Elwick (15 <sup>th</sup> ), 40 at Ross (19 <sup>th</sup> ), 140 at Budle Bay (28 <sup>th</sup> )
White-fronted Goose	4 at Woodhorn (20 <sup>th</sup> )
Bean Goose(Taiga)	At least 1 near Budle Bay (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Brent Goose	1000 near Elwick (15 <sup>th</sup> ), 28 at Boulmer (16 <sup>th</sup> ), 120+ at Ross (19 <sup>th</sup> ), 1000 at Smeafield (19 <sup>th</sup> ), 300+ from Harpers Heugh (24 <sup>th</sup> ), 480 at Budle Bay (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Barnacle Goose	40 near Elwick (15 <sup>th</sup> ), 250+ at Ross (19 <sup>th</sup> ), 250+ from Harpers Heugh (24 <sup>th</sup> ), 14 at Budle Bay (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Greylag Goose	250 at Lilburn (15 <sup>th</sup> ), 130+ at Ross (19 <sup>th</sup> ), 300 at Budle Bay (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Goldeneye	5 including 3 displaying ♂'s at Branton Ponds (6 <sup>th</sup> ), 37 at East Chevington (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Red-breasted Merganser	1 in the Long Nanny Burn (13 <sup>th</sup> ), 2 at Warkworth (17 <sup>th</sup> ), 10 at Budle Bay (24 <sup>th</sup> )
Smew	1 Redhead at East Chevington (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Goosander	12 (6 <sup>th</sup> ) and 8 (16 <sup>th</sup> ) at Branton Ponds
Shelduck	1 on Branton Ponds (6 <sup>th</sup> ), 250 at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 12 at Branton Ponds (18 <sup>th</sup> )
Eider	221 at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> )
Long-tailed Duck	12 at Guile Point (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 4 at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 6 off Stag Rock (24 <sup>th</sup> +28 <sup>th</sup> )
Goldeneye	12 at Branton Ponds (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Wigeon	16 (16 <sup>th</sup> ) and 56 (19 <sup>th</sup> ) at Branton Ponds
Teal	45 at Branton Ponds (19 <sup>th</sup> ), 40 at Ross (19 <sup>th</sup> ), 120+ at Budle Bay (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Gadwall	2 at Branton Ponds (23 <sup>rd</sup> ), pair at Whinney Hill (26 <sup>th</sup> )
Shoveler	27 at Druridge Pools (18 <sup>th</sup> )
Pintail	9 at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 2 at Druridge Pools (18 <sup>th</sup> )
Common Scoter	1 at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 15 (10 <sup>th</sup> ) and 100+ (24 <sup>th</sup> ) off Stag Rock
Tufted Duck	37 at Branton Ponds (19 <sup>th</sup> )
Scaup	1 at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 at Cresswell Pond (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Pochard	1 at Branton Ponds (15 <sup>th</sup> )
Hen Harrier	1 near Ross (19 <sup>th</sup> )
Sparrowhawk	1 large female at Branton Ponds (6 <sup>th</sup> )
Merlin	1 at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> )
Peregrine	1 near Fenham Hill (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 near Beal (15 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 at Branton Ponds (17 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 south of

	Holy Island causeway (19 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 off Stag Rock (24 <sup>th</sup> ) 1 at Monks House Pool on (14 <sup>th</sup> +28 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 at Budle Bay (14 <sup>th</sup> )
Grey Partridge	2 pairs at Whinney Hill (26 <sup>th</sup> ), 2 near Budle Bay (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Coot	19 at Branton Ponds (19 <sup>th</sup> )
Snipe	3 at Branton Ponds (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Woodcock	1 near the Black Lough (4 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 near Elwick hide (9 <sup>th</sup> )
Curlew	23 at Branton Ponds (7 <sup>th</sup> ), 290 at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 650 near Elwick 915 <sup>th</sup> ), 90 at Budle Bay (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Bar-tailed Godwit	230 at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> ), several at Beadnell Bay (13 <sup>th</sup> ), 12 at Boulmer (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Oystercatcher	204 at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 14 at Branton Ponds (15 <sup>th</sup> )
Grey Plover	28 at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> )
Ringed Plover	Several near Fenham le Moor hide (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 at Beadnell Bay (13 <sup>th</sup> )
Golden Plover	35 at Newton (13 <sup>th</sup> )
Lapwing	31 (16 <sup>th</sup> ) and 85 (21 <sup>st</sup> ) at Branton Ponds
Dunlin	24 at Boulmer (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Sanderling	23 at Boulmer (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Purple Sandpiper	1 at Boulmer (16 <sup>th</sup> ), 40 at Stag Rock (24 <sup>th</sup> )
Greenshank	2 at Budle Bay (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Kittiwake	20 at Cullernose Point (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Glaucous Gull	1 juvenile at North Shields Fish Quay (26 <sup>th</sup> )
Stock Dove	1 at Old Swarland (1 <sup>st</sup> )
Tawny Owl	Several birds calling around Branton (15 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 at Elwick (1 <sup>st</sup> ), 1 at Smeafield (15 <sup>th</sup> )
Short-eared Owl	2 at Goswick (15 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 at East Chevington (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Barn Owl	1 near Chatton (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 near Roseden (9 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 at Christon Bank (21 <sup>st</sup> )
Kingfisher	2 at Branton Ponds all month
Skylark	4 at Whinney Hill (26 <sup>th</sup> )
Rock Pipit	7 at Boulmer (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Redwing	6 at Branton Ponds (19 <sup>th</sup> ), 5 at Swarland (4 <sup>th</sup> )
Fieldfare	12 at Branton (3 <sup>rd</sup> ), 25 at Eglington (14 <sup>th</sup> ), 30 at Swarland (4 <sup>th</sup> )
Willow Tit	1 at Branton Ponds (23 <sup>rd</sup> )
Marsh Tit	1 at Weldon Bridge (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Treecreeper	Several at Beanley Woods (23 <sup>rd</sup> )
Nuthatch	1 at Eglington (14 <sup>th</sup> )
Raven	1 at Eglington (14 <sup>th</sup> )
Jay	Several in Hepburn Woods (17 <sup>th</sup> )
Tree Sparrow	Up to 15 all month in Branton
Bullfinch	4 at Branton Ponds (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Lesser Redpoll	2 at Branton Ponds (16 <sup>th</sup> ), 6 in an Alnwick garden from the 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Brambling	1 (6 <sup>th</sup> ) and 1 (13 <sup>th</sup> ) in Branton

Twite	60 near Cresswell Pond (16 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>MAMMALS</b>	
Roe Deer	3 on Alnwick Moor (3 <sup>rd</sup> ), 8 at Ross (28 <sup>th</sup> ), 3 at Charlton Mires (26 <sup>th</sup> ), 2 at Monks House Pool (28 <sup>th</sup> )
Water Vole	1 at Branton Ponds (19 <sup>th</sup> )
Red Squirrel	1 at Spindlestone (24 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 at Thrunton Woods (19 <sup>th</sup> )
Brown Hare	4 at Branton Ponds (14 <sup>th</sup> ), 3 at Whinney Hill (26 <sup>th</sup> )
Otter	Tracks in Fawdon Burn near Branton (4 <sup>th</sup> )
Stoat	1 in full ermine at Branton Ponds (19 <sup>th</sup> ), 1 in ermine at Beanley Woods (23 <sup>rd</sup> ), 1 in ermine near Longframlington (19 <sup>th</sup> )
Badger	Tracks at Fenham Flats (9 <sup>th</sup> )
Harbour Porpoise	2 off Stag Rock (3 <sup>rd</sup> )
<b>PLANTS</b>	
Winter Aconite	Several clumps around Branton (5 <sup>th</sup> )
Winter Heliotrope	A small patch at Beadnell (13 <sup>th</sup> )
Ramson	At Whinney Hill (26 <sup>th</sup> )
Primrose	At Whinney Hill (26 <sup>th</sup> )
Larch	The first green shoots showing at Titlington Mount (15 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>	
Pale Brindled Beauty	5 at Howick (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Spring Usher	1 at Howick (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Chestnut	1 at Howick (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Dark Chestnut	2 at Howick (16 <sup>th</sup> )
Bumblebee(spp)	1 at Smeafield (27 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>REPTILES</b>	
Adder	1 (26 <sup>th</sup> ) and 2 (27 <sup>th</sup> ) at Branton Ponds
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>	
Common Frog	Frogspawn at Whinney Hill (26 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>RAINFALL</b>	16.2mm
<b>OBSERVERS</b>	G Bell, I&K Davison, G Dodds, B Egdell, M Hall, A Keeble, M McMahon, R&J Poppleton, S Reay, M Rolley, J Rutter, S Sexton, NNBC.

Please send sightings reports for March, no later than 6th April 2013 to: Ian & Keith Davison, The Bungalow, Branton, Powburn, NE66 4LW or Tel: 01665 578 357 or email to [redsquirrel@alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk](mailto: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.