

SIGHTINGS FEBRUARY 2015

BIRDS

Red-throated Diver	11 off Cheswick Beach on 11 th 3 off Craster on 14 th 4 at Holy Island on 21 st 2 off Cheswick Beach on 21 st
Slavonian Grebe	2 at Holy Island on 21 st 1 off Cheswick Sands on 21 st 1 at Holy Island on 21 st
Black-necked Grebe	1 at East Chevington on 5 th
Great Crested Grebe	1 off Cheswick Beach on 21 st
Gannet	12 off Craster on 14 th
Whooper Swan	7 north of Warkworth on 15 th
Brent Goose	Mixed flock of Dark and Pale Bellied numbering 240 birds on Holy Island on 21 st 2 at Seaton Point on 19 th
Pink-footed Goose	560 at Fenham Flats on 8 th 600 at Smeafield on 19 th
Shoveler	6 on Holy Island on 21 st
Pochard	2 at Maidens Hall Lake on 15 th
Common Scoter	100+ off Cheswick Beach on 11 th
Black Scoter	1 off Cheswick Beach on 11 th and 21 st
Goosander	11 at Branton Ponds on 15 th
Red-breasted Merganser	3 off Cheswick Beach on 11 th
Shelduck	300 at Fenham Flats on 8 th 128 at Smeafield on 19 th
Long-tailed Duck	1 at East Chevington on 5 th
Hen Harrier	1 in North Northumberland on 10 th
Common Buzzard	3 at Ford Moss on 19 th
Sparrowhawk	1 at Ford Moss on 19 th
Kestrel	4 at Smeafields on 12 th
Peregrine	1 near Titlington on 28 th
Grey Partridge	16 at Townfoot on 25 th 4 pairs between Smeafield and Elwick on 9 th
Purple Sandpiper	5 at Craster Harbour on 9 th
Green Sandpiper	1 at Branton on 3 rd
Knot	450 at Fenham Flats on 8 th
Ruff	1 at Cresswell Ponds on 15 th
Oystercatcher	20 at Branton Ponds on 14 th 60+ at Brandon on 20 th
Woodcock	1 at Ford Moss on 19 th
Common Snipe	10 at Alnwick Moor on 10 th
Curlew	23 at Brandon on 20 th 45 at Townfoot on 25 th 160 at Smeafield on 19 th
Black-tailed Godwit	13 on Holy Island on 21 st
Herring Gull	86 at Branton Ponds on 27 th
Iceland Gull	1 at Warkworth Weir on 15 th
Stock Dove	1 at Yearle on 10 th
Tawny Owl	1 at Beadnell on 13 th
Barn Owl	1 near Doxford on 13 th 1 at South Charlton on 13 th 1 at Lesbury on 26 th 1 at Ratcheugh on 27 th 1 at Warkworth dunes on 28 th
Short-eared Owl	2 at Alnwick Moor on 10 th 3 at Warkworth dunes on 28 th
Kingfisher	2 at Branton Ponds on 1 st
Skylark	13 at Townfoot on 25 th
Grey Wagtail	1 near Hedgeley on 3 rd
Pied Wagtail	3 at Smeafield on 24 th
Waxwing	1 at Morpeth on 25 th
Dipper	1 at Lesbury on 14 th
Fieldfare	100+ at Branton on 2 nd 8 at Ford Moss on 19 th 21 at Townfoot on 25 th
Redwing	20 at Branton on 2 nd 6 at Townfoot on 25 th
Mistle Thrush	9 at Townfoot on 25 th
Goldcrest	4 at Ford Moss on 19 th 2 at Howick Gardens on 20 th
Blue Tit	30 at Kettleburn on 10 th
Willow Tit	1 at Branton Ponds on 6 th 2 at Craster on 14 th 1 near Hedgeley on 27 th
Treecreeper	1 at Ford Moss on 19 th 1 at Hedgeley on 20 th 1 at Branton Ponds on 27 th 2 at Lesbury on 20 th
Starling	350 at Branton on 2 nd
Rose-coloured Starling	1 at Prudhoe on 5 th
Raven	2 at Ford Moss on 19 th
Jay	3 at Ford Moss on 19 th 4 at Hedgeley on 20 th
Tree Sparrow	14 at Elwick on 19 th 15 at Branton on 23 rd
Linnet	24 at Elwick on 19 th
Crossbill	Several at Harwood Forest on 14 th 8 at Thrunton Woods on 28 th

Bullfinch	15+ at Howick Gardens on 14 th 8 at Beanley Woods on 27 th
Yellowhammer	19 at Branton Ponds on 5 th 31+ at Craster on 20 th 18 at Townfoot on 25 th 4 at Smeafield on 12 th
Snow Bunting	11 at Guile Point on 8 th
Reed Bunting	6 at Townfoot on 25 th
MAMMALS	
Red Squirrel	1 at Yearle on 10 th and 16 th 1 at Branton on 19 th 1 at Howick Gardens on 20 th
Roe Deer	2 at Beanley Woods on 27 th
Fallow Deer	2 at Hulne Moor on 9 th
Porpoise	1 off Cheswick Sands on 11 th
Badger	1 near Hedgeley Ponds on 13 th
Otter	1 at Branton Ponds on 14 th 3 at Hauxley on 5 th
Stoat	1 in full ermine at West Stobswood on 15 th 1 at Branton in full ermine on 15 th 1 at Lesbury on 27 th in full ermine
Brown Hare	1 at Ford Moss on 19 th 3 at Cullernose Point on 20 th 19 at Townfoot on 25 th
AMPHIBIANS	
Common Toad	1 at Branton Ponds on 18 th
REPTILES	
Adder	2 at Branton Ponds on 20 th and 3 on 24 th with 5 by 26 th
PLANTS	
Common Polypody	Holy Island on 21 st
RAINFALL	
26mm	
OBSERVERS	
G&R Bell, I&K Davison, G Dodds, A Gibson, M McMahon, E Pantou, R&J Poppleton, S Reay, J Rutter, S Sexton.	

BTO House Martin Survey 2015

We know surprisingly little about House Martins despite the fact that they breed alongside us, using our houses on which to build a nest made of hundreds of beakfuls of mud.

Critically, we do not know why this species is in rapid decline in the UK. Currently, it is 'Amber listed' in the Birds of Conservation Concern listings, compiled by the UK's leading conservation agencies.

How can you help in Northumberland?

In this first year of the survey we need help to visit 81 'random' (i.e. pre-selected) 1-km squares, across the whole county, for breeding House Martins.

We need volunteers who are willing to carry out two or three visits to a 1-km square between late May and mid-July, to look for House Martins and their nests.

How long will each visit take?

The survey visits will involve walking around the square looking for House Martins and their nests and mapping and recording a few details about any nests that you find. In most squares each visit will normally take around one to two hours - however, the visit length depends on the habitats within the square: visits to urban squares may take longer, whereas visits to squares with only a small number of buildings may take less than half an hour.

To sign up

To select a 1km square please visit <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/house-martin-survey>
If you are new to BTO online surveys you will need to register to obtain a 'user name'. This is easily done on the website.

Thanks

Tom Cadwallender

BTO Regional Representative - Northumberland