

Alnwick Wildlife Group

Promoting awareness of the countryside and its flora and fauna



www.alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk

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NEWSLETTER 164 May 2015

Review of April 2015

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 30TH 2015 – “LADYBIRD SPOTTING IN NORTHUMBERLAND” SPEAKER: CATHLEEN THOMAS

Cathleen is the recently appointed Community and Events Officer for Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

She completed her PhD in the evolution and ecology of ladybirds at Hull University and since then has worked for a number of years in conservation posts. One of the more exotic of these was as Education Officer at the Welsh Mountain Zoo!

A RINGER'S YEAR

April 2015: The Spring weather has proved to be a bit uncertain and this has probably caused some disruption to the early nesting of birds. Monitoring nesting Tawny Owls is a feature of this month and has proved a little disappointing, with only six definite breeders (compared with 10 in 2014). However, re trapping the adult females is proving interesting. One near Powburn is in excess of 12 years old; another at Cragside is at least 7; while I have an 8 year old near Longhorsley. Only two have had their young owlets ringed to date but one of these near Craster is at least 5. All these birds are continuing to use the same breeding site successfully over many years.

Dippers also breed early and I conduct a survey every year in Hulne Park. This year there are four active nests and we have ringed one so far with four young. One pair always nest under a bridge – above very deep water – and they will as usual not be ringed!

Two interesting returns from the BTO have just arrived. One is about a Barn Owl which is currently residing at Fallodon – but was originally ringed as a pulli in its nest at Burdhope (on the Otterburn Ranges) in 2013. Another was of a Redpoll which I controlled near Lemmington Hall in February but was originally ringed at Wolvercote in Oxfordshire in January 2013 (may be it came for the Niger seed).

Finally, a morning's ringing near home captured only 25 birds on the 19th but these included (along with the expected Tree Sparrows, Tits and Blackbirds) two Chiffchaff warblers just returned from south of the Sahara in Africa; along with a Blackcap which had probably not travelled quite so far.

PHH 28/4//15

Phil Hanmer

A Ringer & Trainer

Natural History Society of Northumbria Ringing Group (Hancock Museum)

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

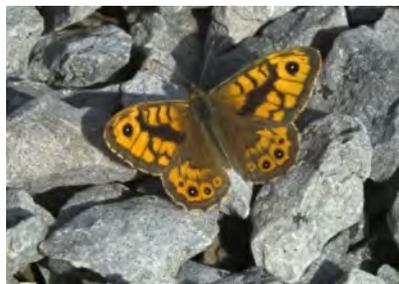
WHAT WILDLIFE TO LOOK FOR IN JUNE

As I write this article, the weather is a mixed bag with some bright days followed by periods of rain. One of the features of the weather is the cold nights and even frosts. This has had a knock on effect with moths especially – at the moment the moth trap is very quiet. On the bird front, all of our common summer visitors have arrived, although the Swifts in Glanton have been visiting intermittently. Many species are now sitting on eggs and some may have chicks. The House Martins at 5 Front Street, Glanton continue to do battle with the House Sparrows. The martins currently have the upper-hand and have reconstructed the front of their nest to eliminate the chances of the sparrows getting in. The sparrows continue to visit the nest much to the martin's disgust.



June is the month when grasslands of all types come into flower. These flowery meads attract a wide range of insects especially butterflies. The 'brown'

butterflies can be some of the commonest. The main protagonist is the **Meadow brown**. This can be one of the commonest butterflies on the wing in the summer. Its dark brown colouration with a single eye-spot on each wing. The eye-spot centre is white. The female can show orange on the upper wing. Interestingly, their caterpillars feed on many of the common grasses e.g. Cock's foot, fescue's, meadow-grasses etc.



Another common species and one that seems to be spreading in Northumberland is the **Wall Brown**. The Wall is aptly named after its habit of basking on walls, rocks, and stony places. The delicately patterned light brown undersides provide good camouflage against a stony or sandy surface. In hot weather, males patrol fast and low over the ground, seeking out females. In cooler weather, they will bask in sunny spots and fly up to intercept females, or to drive off other males.



When newly emerged, the **Ringlet** has a velvety appearance and is almost black, with a white fringe to the wings. The small circles on the underwings, which give the butterfly its name, vary in number and size and may be enlarged and elongated or reduced to small white spots; occasionally they lack the black ring. They are a dark brown butterfly and similar to male Meadow Brown.

Other confusable species are the Dark green Fritillary (bracken loving species) and possibly the Gatekeeper (very rare in Northumberland) and the Grayling (predominately coastal distribution.) More about the Dark green Fritillary and Grayling in future editions.

Hopefully the sun will shine and there will be an abundance of butterflies this summer.

Good hunting!

Jack Daw.

INVERTEBRATE CORNER

TARDIGRADES:

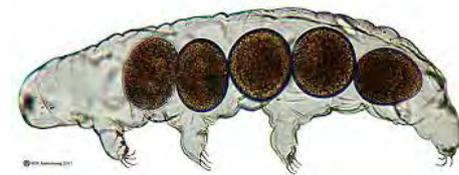
The phylum *Tardigrada* comprises very small animals, typically less than 1 mm long. There are more than 900 species which are found in terrestrial, freshwater, and marine habitats, with around 75 of these occurring in the U.K. Many tardigrades live in damp soil and leaf litter, and among lichens, mosses, and liverworts where they live unassuming lives. The tardigrade body consists of only four segments, each having a pair of short legs ending in claws. These together with their chubby appearance and lumbering gait have led to their common name of “waterbears” (see photograph). The body is covered by a cuticle which is shed periodically allowing the animal to grow. This cuticle can be either smooth, sculptured, and/or armoured (see photograph). Although the cuticle contains chitin, it has not developed into the rigid exoskeleton seen in their distant relatives the arthropods (insects and crustaceans). The reason for this flexibility is thought to be so as to allow shrinkage of the body to take place during hibernation (see below).

Tardigrades do not appear to be of any commercial importance. However, in a rare study of the population dynamics of two species living in damp roof moss in Wales, up to 823 individuals per gram of moss were recorded. At such densities, their role in the processing and recycling of organic matter, as they feed, is thought to be very significant. An important characteristic of tardigrades lies in their unusual physiological abilities which are linked to their liking for habitats that frequently

alternate between wet and dry and cold and hot. For example, many terrestrial and freshwater species are



parthenogenetic – that is, the females have the ability to produce young without having been fertilised by a male. Indeed, in some species there appear to be no males. The eggs of terrestrial species are protected by a thick, ornamented shell (see photograph), whereas the eggs of aquatic tardigrades are either attached singly to suitable substrates or are laid inside the female’s recently shed cuticle (see photograph). There is no larval stage and a small version of the adult animal emerges from the egg after from 5 to 40 days,



depending on species and environmental conditions.

Most famously, is their ability to undergo cryptobiosis, a form of hibernation.

When in this state, growth, reproduction, aging and other life processes are reduced or suspended, while

resistance to environmental extremes, such as drought, heat, cold, chemicals and radiation increases. For example, tardigrades can tolerate immersion in liquid helium (-272 °C), temperatures as high as +340 °C, and can also survive exposure to 570,000 roentgens of radiation (1,140 times the lethal dose for humans). Cryptobiosis involves withdrawing up to 97% of the water from the animal’s body tissues which results in a reduction of body size and shortening of the legs to form a barrel shape, known as a “tun” (see photographs). Both adults and eggs can undergo cryptobiosis, which can last for well over 100 years, extending their normal life-span (typically less than 1 year) considerably. In this state, tardigrades are often picked up and carried by the wind, which accounts for the widespread global occurrence of some species.

*Dudley Williams
Newton on the Moor*





Figure 1: Swallow at Howick.

If anyone read last month's piece, you would be forgiven for thinking I had taken a brain storm as some of the sentences were in a language that looked like serbo-croat or something. Fear not, it was just a computer glitch during processing! Hopefully this month will be free of linguistic confusion.

During April, most of my wildlife time was spent between home at Howick, and weekly visits to the Coquet estuary at Warkworth. As is expected at this time, lots of our summer bird visitors began arriving in increasing numbers.

At Howick, the first **Wheatears** arrived on the 10th with a male and two females down from Seahouses Farm towards the burn mouth. These were the only ones here all month. The first **Swallows** arrived punctually on 15th, an average first date here for them, with three birds steaming north over the garden.

A walk along to Craster on the 18th had 4 **House Martins**, 3 **Willow Warblers** and 6 **Sandwich Terns**.

More unusually, an early **Manx Shearwater** flew north at Craster the next day. The first **Whitethroat** arrived at Rumbling Kern on 25th and 2 **Whimbrels** flew over the garden on 26th.

Four weekend visits to Warkworth / Coquet Estuary area was even more productive for birding. On 5th the small reed bed below the beach car park had 1 **Water Rail**, 1 **Jack Snipe** and a hunting **Barn Owl**, while further down the dunes a **Short eared Owl** was still around and an immature **Peregrine** chased waders on the mud. On 26th **Grasshopper Warbler**, 2 **Little Egrets**, 89 **Dunlin** and a **Common Sandpiper** enlivened a good morning.

A nice warm spell over Easter encouraged the first butterflies of the year on to the wing at home with **Peacock** and **Small Tortoiseshell** noted. It's a shame the moth trapping wasn't as good as the bird watching this month. Cool winds and clear nights ensured very low catches at home. Best of a low list were **Pale Pinion** and **Pine Beauty**.



Figure 2: Jack Snipe

Stewart Sexton, Howick.

NATIONAL TRUST BIOBLITZ AT LOW NEWTON

On the 22nd of August, the National Trust are hosting a Bioblitz at Low Newton by the Sea. A 24 hour event, it is a race against time to record as many species as possible while involving as many people as we can. We will be exploring the wealth of habitats in the area, hoping to create an accurate record of the rich biodiversity that surrounds Low Newton. With hands in rock pools, binoculars round necks and microscopes at hand, we want to involve as many people as possible no matter what your interests or survey experience. Drop in at anytime throughout the day to help with surveys, tell us what you have spotted or join one of the free interactive activities that will be running throughout the day.

The event will run from 11pm on Friday 21st August to 11pm on Saturday 22nd August. Bioblitz Base camp will be at the National Trust office in The Square at Low Newton by the Sea; open for most of the 24-hour period, it will be your first point of call for registration, information and logging your species records.

It would be great to have local experts and wildlife enthusiasts there on the day. So whether you want to come along and share your expertise, help us add to our records or bring along your family for a day out we would love to see you there. If anyone has any queries or is interested in getting more involved and volunteering at the event don't hesitate to get in touch: kate.bradshaw@nationaltrust.org.uk or ring the National Trust office: 01665 576 874.

DIARY DATE REMINDERS

Saturday 23rd May Ford Moss Moths

Meet at the roadside parking at Ford Moss at 9.30pm. Suitable clothing and midge repellent. Finish whenever.

Saturday 30th May Thomas Percy Local Wildlife Site

This is a very small Alnwick Town Council site. We shall try to record everything we can find. Maximum time probably about 90 minutes. Meet at 10.30am on Blakelaw Road in Alnwick below the old Thomas Percy School site that is now a house building site.

Sunday 7th June Ford Moss Plants & Lichens

Meet at the roadside parking at Ford Moss at 10.30am. Bring food & drink, wellies and field identification guide if you have one. Anyone with an interest in plants is welcome. Lichen expertise will be particularly welcomed.

For Guidance notes on Ford Moss visits, please read pages 8 and 9 in the April Newsletter No 163

MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH



The mystery photo from the April newsletter was of a pair of cones from Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*). The clue was the small sharp spines on the outside of each cone scale. In older cones these can be

almost worn off.

For this month you need to decide what this triffid-like structure is in wet woodland near Longframlington.



MOTH OF THE MONTH - JUNE

Probably the commonest Hawk-moth in the United Kingdom is the Poplar Hawk-moth (*Laothoe populi*), which is on the wing mainly in June and July. A large (about 70 mm across) and distinctive species, it has an unusual resting posture with the hindwings projecting ahead of the leading edge of the forewing. When disturbed, it moves the forewings forward to reveal a reddish patch on the hind-wing, as shown in the second image. This is supposed to scare off predators, although from personal observation, it does not seem to work on Blackbirds.



The larvae feed on poplar or willow in late summer and autumn before pupating underground. The larvae vary from a fairly plain green to specimens with red spots and yellow stripes. Like most Hawk-moths, they have a horn-like structure on the last segment.

Alan Fairclough.



PLANT CORNER

Spring woodlands are always a good place to start the botany season. Trying to identify plants when many are not yet in flower gets the brain back in gear and boosts the botanical enthusiasm for the new growing year.

In late April I was in the wooded dene at Hareshaw Linn, just outside Bellingham. There were many plants that are reliable indicators of ancient woodland and the sloping sides of the dene were covered in carpets of Wood Anemone in the best flowering state I've seen for several years. In some ways it was good to go to a wood like this before the Bluebells are out because they do rather tend to overwhelm everything else, as well as being spectacular. Having said that, the wild garlic or ransoms was pretty overwhelming when we went.

Amongst the yet-to-flower species were quite a few plants of **Goldilocks Buttercup** (*Ranunculus auricomus*). A few days later when a small group of AWG members started to look at the plants in the Cawledge Burn woodland south of Alnwick, we found Goldilocks Buttercups there as well.



They are quite distinct, even without their flowers, because the leaves are generally reminiscent of buttercup leaves, although the upper leaves are much thinner than most other buttercups. When the flowers open they have the characteristic five yellow petals, but many of the flowers look lopsided because often one or two of the petals don't develop properly, as you can see in the photo.



Another genus of interest in spring woodland is **Golden Saxifrage**. It comes in two species – **Opposite-leaved** (*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*) and **Alternate-leaved** (*C. alternifolium*) – and the challenge is to try to find both species in a wood. The

opposite-leaved one is by far the most common (left hand photo) and below the flower clusters the first leaves down the stem are always opposite each other. The alternate-leaved species (right hand photo) has rather more robust flower clusters, is often slightly taller and when you look down the stem you find a single leaf and then, about 2cm further down, a second leaf on the other side of the stem. The golden saxifrages always occur on the wetter soils and can often form extensive patches. We found both species at Cawledge Burn, although only a few of the less-common one.

There is a range of species that are parasitic on other plants. Some are semi or partial parasites that attach themselves to



their host roots and take nutrients from them, while at the same time having their own photosynthetic green leaves. Good examples of this are Yellow Rattle in grassland and Lousewort on wet moorland.

Some are total parasites, often called obligate parasites because they cannot grow at all without their hosts. The woodland examples of these can be very difficult to find because they often don't flower every year and equally, because they have no chlorophyll and so don't need light, tend to appear in deep shade under other plants. When they do flower they often remain visible only for a few days.



At Cawledge Burn I was hoping we might find some **Toothwort** (*Lathraea squamaria*) which most commonly parasitises Hazel, Elm, and Ash, but we didn't see any. However at Hareshaw Linn a few days earlier there had been an excellent patch of five or six spikes right beside the path which gave us a good chance to see the rather anaemic-looking flowers. The photograph was taken by Rosi Bowyer who has kindly allowed me to use it in this article.

There are other obligate parasites in the same family, the Broomrapes, but none has been seen in North Northumberland for many years. There is also an orchid – Bird's-nest Orchid – which I saw in Castle Eden Dene in Co. Durham a couple of years ago, but is very rarely found in our area.

Richard Poppleton

BUTTERFLIES AT FORD MOSS

There are two rare butterflies in Northumberland for which there have been records in the past at Ford Moss. These are the Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and the Large Heath. There has, however, been a lack of records for the last few years and I would like to ask all members during their visits and surveying this summer to especially look out for them as fresh records would be most valuable for the local Branch of Butterfly Conservation to help assess their status.

The Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary flies between mid-June and late July and the Large Heath flies in July. As with many butterflies, (and observers!), warm dry sunny days are best.

Two related species which may be present are Dark Green Fritillary and Small Heath. I myself have seen Dark Green Fritillary on the path on the north-western edge of the Moss.

I would be very grateful if members could send me all their butterfly records for all species for Ford Moss, either by email: roger@norman784.plus.com or by phone: 0191 285 8314.

*Thank you,
Roger Norman.*



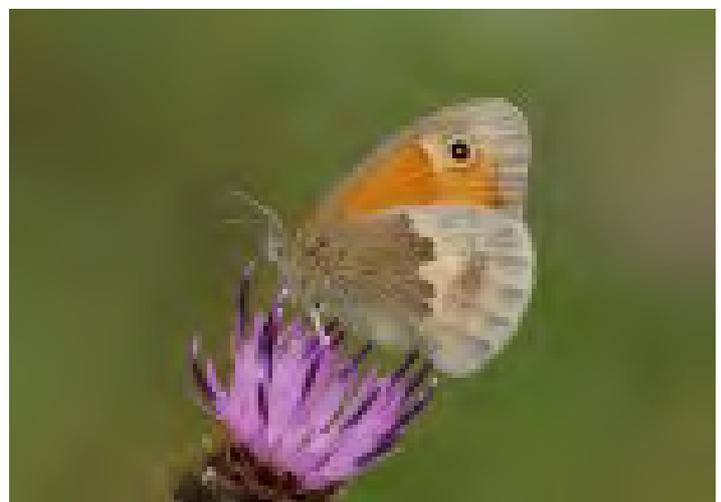
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary



Dark Green Fritillary



Large Heath



Small Heath

MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL

41 members and visitors were present, including two new members, Tom and Muriel Cadwallender. George produced examples of the excellent series of Field Studies Council laminated identification guides that cost only £3 each. Then there was a grey seal scapula which has a very broad blade for the major pectoral muscle attachments and a lower jaw bone from a porpoise.

The speaker was Bill Burlton, talking about *The Border Mires – Wasteland or Wonderland?*

In our part of the UK the term wasteland has a very specific meaning, referring to the bogs and mires of the border region which were no use for agriculture. Of course the 'moss troopers', another name for some of the Border Reivers, made very good use of these wastelands because they were often the only people who knew the safe paths through them.

Because of their unsuitability for agriculture, the mires are one of the very few types of near-natural habitat that remain in Britain, although even with these areas sheep were often allowed to spend part of the summer on the moss, which will have affected the vegetation.

In the southern part of Kielder Forest there are 55 mire sites covering about 2250 hectares. 29 of them are now SSSIs; two are National Nature Reserves and eight are RAMSAR sites, so there is now wide recognition of their national and international ecological importance.

200m years ago, in the seas surrounding the current Cheviots, sandstones and coal measures were laid down. Then pressure from the south caused ridges of folded rock to form and the steep northern edges of these ridges are known as cuestas, most effectively seen immediately to the north of the Roman Wall. Then ice movements from the west gouged out land at the base of the dip slopes and created a series of shallow mires which gradually filled in with vegetation. When cooler temperatures came again the lush vegetation died off and peat began to form and over eight or nine thousand years left a peat depth of up to 11m in some places.

The vegetation is dominated by Sphagnum mosses. One particularly notable species is *S. magellanicum* which, as the name suggests, is also found in Patagonia near the Straits of Magellan. There are Cotton Grasses, Cranberry, Heathers and Bog



Rosemary and Bog Asphodel. Few birds are specific to the mires, but one can expect to see Red and Black Grouse, Meadow Pipit, Curlew and Dunlin. Large Heath butterflies are another specialist, as is a rather diminutive but important beetle called *Trechus rivularis* (pictured).

The current state of the mires has been affected by drainage on sheep farms before the Forest was planted; then by the afforestation when trees were planted on all parts of the mires except for the very wettest parts where the machines couldn't reach; and finally by peat extraction, although mercifully the peat was of poor quality for horticultural use, so little was taken. The trees planted on mire ground usually grew poorly.

Dr Angus Lunn from Newcastle University 'discovered' and mapped the mires and pushed very hard to achieve some early legal protection. Then 8 sites were adopted by Northumberland and Durham Wildlife Trust and in 1986 there was a major change in forestry policy under which the Forestry Commission was required to give conservation consideration to habitats other than forest. In the last 10 to 15 years there has been drain blocking to encourage re-wetting and wholesale tree removal. The treacherous nature of the wetter parts of the mires is shown by the fact that 2 big machines got stuck fast in the bog and have slowly sunk out of sight. The state of the mires is now improving and their future looks more promising than for many years.

MOTHS!

Most years I organise a moth event here at Howick Village where visitors can attend an evening and a morning session to view both moths and the catching methods.

This year I thought I would try something different.

On Saturday mornings during late June - July I will have an 'open trap' session at **Howick Village Hall**, starting at **9am**, until the catch has been processed.

To begin with the dates are -

20th and 27th June.

I will confirm July dates in the next newsletter!

I trap every Friday night for the Garden Moth Scheme, so the catch on Saturday mornings will be included in this survey.

These are informal 'drop-in' sessions where you can feel free to pick and choose when you attend.

If we get a warm, overcast, calm night catches will be much better than cold clear windy ones. If the weather has been very windy, cold or with heavy rain, there may not be much to see!

The count doesn't usually take more than an hour or maybe two.

Hopefully there will be some interesting moths to view and photograph if you wish...

Stewart Sexton, Howick



SIGHTINGS APRIL 2015

BIRDS

Great-crested Grebe	3 at Branton Ponds on 3 rd and 4 on 22 nd (paired up)
Little Grebe	4 at Hedgeley Ponds on 18 th
Little Egret	2 at Warkworth on 26 th
Brent Goose	2(pale bellied) at Fenham Flats on 20 th
Mallard	Female with 13 ducklings at Branton Ponds on 27 th
Mandarin Duck	2 (males) at Warkworth Lane on 24 th
Goldeneye	12 at Branton Ponds on 25 th
Pintail	1 at Fenham Flats on 20 th
Red-breasted Merganser	5 at Guile Point on 19 th
Red Kite	2 at Derwent Valley C.P. on 16 th 1 at Brizlee Wood on 25 th
Marsh Harrier	1 near Warkworth on 12 th
Merlin	1 in College Valley on 10 th
Peregrine	1 at Warkworth on 6 th 1 at Alnwick Moor on 25 th
Sparrowhawk	1 at Branton Ponds on 27 th
Black Grouse	54 in Langdon Beck area on 16 th 1 near Blanchland on 21 st
Water Rail	1 at Branton Ponds on 7 th 1 at Warkworth on 6 th
Woodcock	1 at Smeafield on 3 rd
Jack Snipe	1 at Warkworth on 6 th
Common Sandpiper	1 at Branton Ponds on 17 th 2 pairs on River Breamish on 23 rd 2 on Wooler Water on 27 th
Little Ringed Plover	1 at Hedgeley on 18 th
Ringed Plover	29 at Fenham Flats on 19 th 11 at Warkworth on 26 th
Golden Plover	325 at Fenham Flats on 19 th
Grey Plover	1 at Boulmer on 11 th 218 at Fenham Flats on 19 th
Sanderling	35 at Boulmer on 11 th 3 at Fenham Flats on 19 th
Knot	90 at Fenham Flats on 19 th 19 at Warkworth on 26 th
Dunlin	151 at Fenham Flats on 19 th 89 at Warkworth on 26 th
Whimbrel	1 at Fenham Flats on 20 th 2 at Howick on 26 th
Curlew	196 at Fenham Flats on 19 th
Greenshank	1 at Branton Ponds on 21 st
Bar-tailed Godwit	6 at Boulmer on 11 th 150 at Fenham Flats on 19 th
Lesser Black-backed Gull	27 at Branton Ponds on 10 th
Sandwich Tern	At Warkworth on 12 th 14 at Guile Point on 19 th
Cuckoo	1 at Brizlee Wood on 25 th 1 at Titlington Mount on 26 th 1 near Longframlington Common on 26 th
Short-eared Owl	1 at Warkworth on 6 th and 12 th 1 near Langdon Beck on 16 th 1 near Blanchland on 21 st
Barn Owl	1 at Warkworth on 6 th 1 at Branton on 27 th
Swallow	6 at Branton Ponds on 11 th 3 at Howick on 15 th 3 at Craster on 18 th 5 at Elwick on 9 th
Sand Martin	22 at Wooler Water on 9 th 100+ at Branton Ponds on 11 th and 400+ at Branton Ponds on 27 th
House Martin	In Glanton on 13 th 4 at Craster on 18 th 1 at Branton Ponds on 24 th 1 at Smeafield on 9 th
Grey Wagtail	2 at Langleeford on 21 st
Dipper	1 at Wooler Water on 9 th
Nightingale	1 at Holy Island on 18 th
Wheatear	2 at Smeafield on 14 th
Redstart	1 at Ford Moss on 18 th
Song Thrush	1 fledged bird at Smeafield on 30 th
Fieldfare	15 at Branton on 7 th

Redwing	1 at Branton Ponds on 15 th
Ring Ouzel	5 at Hawsen Burn on 21 st 1 near Blanchland on 21 st
Reed Warbler	1 at Warkworth on 26 th
Grasshopper Warbler	1 at Warkworth on 26 th
Common Whitethroat	1 at Branton Ponds on 27 th 1 at Warkworth on 26 th
Sedge Warbler	1 at Branton Ponds on 21 st and several by the 25 th
Garden Warbler	1 at Branton Ponds on 28 th
Blackcap	1 at Branton Ponds on 10 th 1 at Howick on 11 th 7+ at Craster on 18 th
Chiffchaff	1 at Warkworth on 6 th 9 at Ford Moss on 18 th 14 at Ford Moss on 18 th 12+ at Craster on 18 th
Willow Warbler	Several at Branton Ponds on 11 th 1 at Thrunton Woods on 11 th 3 at Craster on 18 th
Wood Warbler	1 at Branton Ponds on 27 th
Willow Tit	2 at Craster on 18 th
Jay	3 over Brandon Ford on 23 rd
Greenfinch	2 at Smeafield on 26 th
Common Crossbill	3 in College Valley on 10 th
Lesser Redpoll	3 at Wooler Water on 9 th
Reed Bunting	8 at Ford Moss on 18 th
Yellowhammer	6 at Ford Moss on 18 th
REPTILES	
Adder	9 at Branton Ponds on 7 th
Slow Worm	1 at Branton Ponds on 7 th
Common Lizard	2 in College Valley on 10 th
PLANTS	
Wood Anemone	In flower at Weldon Bridge on 1 st
Stags horn club-moss	At College Valley on 10 th
Meadow Saxifrage	Near Wooler Water on 27 th
INSECTS	
Peacock Butterfly	1 at West Hill (Fawdon) on 5 th 1 at Branton Ponds on 5 th and many by 21 st
Orange Tip	1 near Hedgeley on 21 st
Small White	1 at Branton Ponds on 27 th
Green-veined White	1 near Riding Mill on 21 st
Pine Beauty	1 at Howick on 15 th
Shoulder Stripe	1 at Branton on 24 th
Twenty-plume moth	1 at Branton on 23 rd
Tawny-mining Bee	1 at Branton on 16 th
Garden Bumblebee	1 at Branton on 16 th
Red-tailed Bumblebee	1 at Branton on 22 nd
Bee Fly	1 at Branton on 10 th
Oieceptoma thoracicum	2 at Branton Ponds on 21 st
MAMMALS	
Red Squirrel	1 at Branton on 7 th 2 at Thrunton Woods on 11 th 1 at Branton on 13 th
	1 at Branton Ponds on 17 th and 29 th
Bat(spp)	Several probably Pipistrelle at Branton Ponds on 17 th
Otter	1 at Hedgeley on 18 th
Water Shrew	1 at Langleeford on 21 st
Grey Seal	1000+ at Guile Point on 5 th
RAINFALL	33mm
OBSERVERS	I&K Davison, T Dean, G Dodds, P Jobson, R&J Poppleton, S Reay, J Rutter, S Sexton.