

North-East Wales Bird Report

2009

Clwyd Bird Recording Group

www.cbrg.org.uk

Published November 2010

North-East Wales Bird Report 2009	
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Clwyd Bird Recording Group

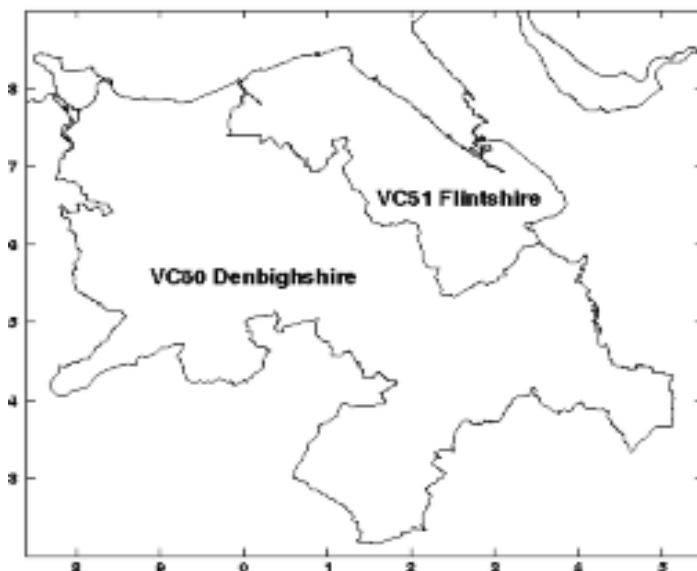
The group was founded in 1989 with the main aims to collect bird records for what was then Clwyd, but is now the area of the Vice Counties of Denbighshire and Flintshire, and to publish an annual bird report. The group, at the time of publication, comprises:

Chairman, Treasurer and County Recorder: Ian M Spence
(also representing the Welsh Ornithological Society)
Honorary Secretary: Julie Rogers

Anne Brenchley (BTO East Clwyd representative and N Wales Atlas organiser)
Andrew Dale
Neil Hughes (Wrexham Birdwatchers)
Adrian Lloyd Jones (North Wales Wildlife Trust)
Rhian Pierce (RSPB)
Andrew Wallbank (Deeside Naturalists' Society)
Ian Evans (Wales Raptor Study Group – North-East Wales)
Hilary Nash

www.cbrg.org.uk

The recording area for this report is shown in the map below.



Introduction

Elvet Jones, 27.07.1923 – 19.09.2010, 87 years

It is with great sadness that I heard Elvet died recently, peacefully in hospital after a couple of years of decreasing mobility. Elvet had been the Treasurer of the CBRG for a few years until 2004 and with his wife, Louise, had been a regular contributor of bird records until about two years ago when he was no longer able to go birdwatching. The thoughts and sympathies of the members of the Clwyd Bird Recording Group are sent to Louise at this sad time.

Editorial

The purpose of the bird report

To present a detailed list of species seen and counted during the year, and for this to be as complete as possible, particularly to assist the conservation of bird populations within the area.

To present the data from the records in a way that, hopefully, is readable for the general public and especially for birders who provide the data.

To present the data in a way that is useful to anyone, from any agency, who may wish to check on the local status of any species.

Sources of records

For the year 2009 the Clwyd Bird Recording Group received records from the following sources, from many locations in North-East Wales, as shown in the map below. The sources were:

Volunteer observers

RSPB Conwy and Inner Marsh Farm

Clwyd Monitoring (contracted by e-on to monitor birds at CQNR, now done by the RSPB)

BHP Billiton (per Julie Rogers)

All Garden BirdWatch data for the year

Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data

Birdtrack records (only those with sites defined at 1 km square level)

Deeside Naturalists' Society (per Andrew Wallbank)

Dee Estuary website (per Richard Smith)

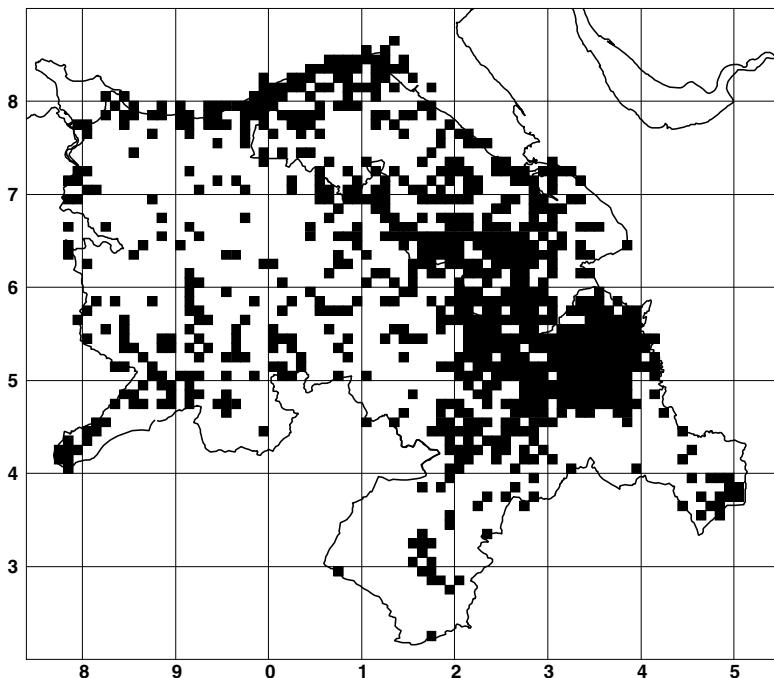
Birdguides (sadly with many records still omitted as they were of rarities, with no descriptions and by anonymous observers)

Cofnod

Records of ringed birds

Nest record summaries.

All 823 1 km squares with at least one record in 2009



This year has had the most comprehensive sources of records to date. I particularly welcome the inclusion of data from Cofnod. This has happened because, at last, on behalf of the CBRG I signed a Data Exchange Agreement so that many of the records in the CBRG database will be backed up and available under conditions set by the CBRG and we receive records from Cofnod.

Species names

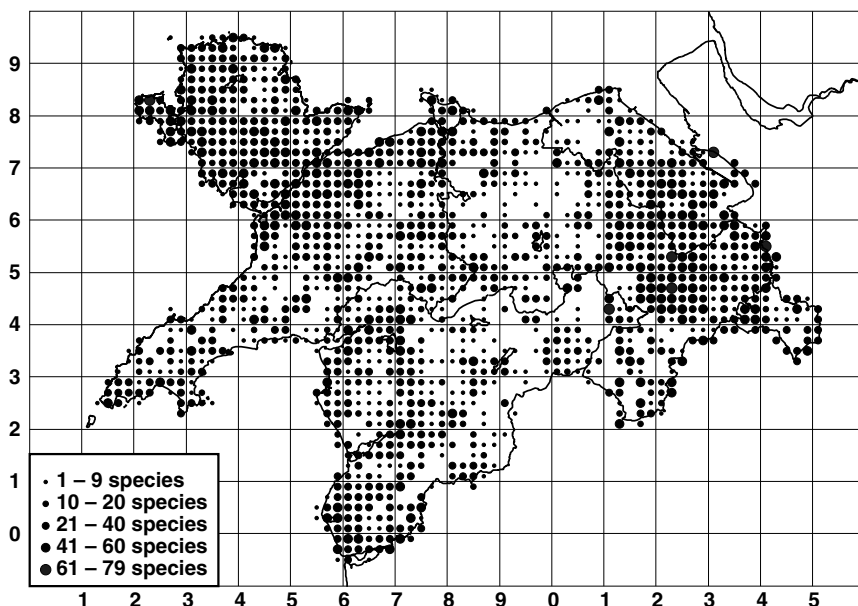
Regular readers will notice a change in this report – a return to English vernacular names. In previous North-East Wales Bird Reports, the naming was taken from Dudley, SP et al (2006), *The British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain* (7th edition), Ibis 148, 526-563. My understanding, from this publication was that the BOU recommended use of the internationally agreed English names. During 2009 I found out that this was not the case – those names had been used in the checklist because it was published in *Ibis*, an international journal. The new checklist, available only from the BOU website has the species listed using the commonly known, vernacular English names. The CBRG agreed to revert to using these names (that have stood virtually unchanged for many years). However, the database uses a species dictionary that is based on the 2006 checklist, so the species names in the data recording spreadsheet remain as the international English names.

The order of species

Another clear difference with this report is that the order of the passerines is vastly different from last year's. Scientific knowledge of avian taxonomy is increasing all the time with various new techniques involving study of DNA (too technical for me to explain). The 2009 checklist is now in the order that has been agreed according to the latest information available. The CBRG agreed to present this report in the species order that the BOU uses. If you cannot find a particular species, please remember there is an index at the back of the report – the new order will take some effort to become familiar!

The North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas project

Numbers of species records with a breeding code, 2008-2009



At the time of reporting the third summer of fieldwork has finished and it is too early for the BTO to be able to send us the data that have been gathered during the third year. The map, above, shows the overall coverage of North Wales with the end of year two data only.

We know that the situation is considerably better than this map shows as some people and agencies have now entered data, with breeding codes, for the first two years and many people have been working hard to provide data to improve the situation with many tetrads that either had no, or only very few, records. The summer of 2011 is the last year that we will be seeking volunteers to do fieldwork to support both the BTO national atlas and our local atlas. I would encourage everyone who reads this report to contribute as best you can.

There are two ways to find out where you should direct your effort. For those who have internet access, any tetrad can be investigated to check the status of the records for that tetrad using

the 'Any Square summary' option on the Atlas home page (at www.birdatlas.net). When a tetrad is selected and 'Breeding' chosen the list shows the number of species that have been recorded in that tetrad and it shows if the species has been confirmed breeding. For those who do not have internet access, please contact the atlas coordinator for your area:

Geoff Gibbs, west of the Afon Conwy: geoffkate.gibbs@care4free.net (01248-681936)

Anne Brenchley, east of the Afon Conwy: anne.brenchley@btinternet.com (01352-750118).

The records entry spreadsheet has a column for 'Breeding code' which I encourage observers to use, even after the end of Atlas fieldwork.

Discussions have started with publishers and we expect that the results of the project will be published, probably as a book. Please support the project as much as you can.

CBRG Website

The website continues to serve a basic service providing information about the CBRG and the latest copies of files to download, eg the records submission spreadsheets.

Computerisation of records

I continue to use Recorder 6 as the database for holding the records from all the different sources within separate 'surveys', which means that I may search for records supplied by one or more of the sources listed at the start of the Editorial. This has raised some issues about duplicate records. It has taken me some time to develop a method for deleting them, but it now seems to work well. Using Pivot tables in Excel enables me to find the number of records and the maximum count for each species easily and I shall use this system each year. In 2009, after deletion of duplicates, the total number of records used for the report was 61,964. I have now 'cleaned' the data for 2008 and with some late records, the total for that year is now 66,114 records. Having deleted all the remaining duplicate records, the database now holds 203,839 records. The duplicate records arise from data input errors and with some observers entering the same data in more than one of the sources used for this report.

Submission of records

For volunteer observers (and others if they wish) the data recording spreadsheet has now been modified such that it has the names of every 1 km square in the Vice-counties of Denbighshire and Flintshire and some of Meirionnydd (particularly the area of the Berwyn Mountains that were in Clwyd). So, for data entry the species name is entered by using the BTO two-letter code (in the report the table with the number of records has each species' code in the top-left corner) and the place by the 1 km grid reference (NB in the format SJ2466 with no spaces or other characters). The grid reference also pulls in the correct VC number. The other details cannot be known in advance so they must be entered by the observer: date, observer name(s), sex/stage, breeding code, abundance and comments.

This standard record form is available on the CBRG website or from me (in Excel or Open Office formats) and it would be most helpful if these forms were used and submitted to me, as Recorder, by email. The records do not have to be in any particular order – it is probably easiest (though not necessary) to use the forms chronologically, just entering the latest observations

that you have recorded. The crucial aspects of each record are:

- Species name (as in the new BOU checklist);
- Date of the observation;
- Location name (preferably from the gazetteer, but if not then a name for the 1 km square that looks sensible);
- The 1 km square grid reference (this is crucial);
- The age or sex of the bird;
- The breeding activity code, where relevant (see the BTO Atlas codes)
- The number of birds seen (please do not enter pairs as one record – please enter the number of males then on the next line, the number of females);
- The Vice County number, if known (eg 50 or 51); and
- In the comments column please enter any other aspects of the observation that are pertinent.

All of these details are stored. As the records are handled electronically, it does not matter how frequently you record the observations. However, please enter each record on a separate row. Please keep records of common species as well as rarities, but of particular concern now are those species that are either Amber or Red listed, or are species on the Welsh Biodiversity Action Plan (WBAP) list. Included in this report are maps showing the distribution of the records we have received for some species either of high conservation concern and of some other species that may be of interest.

Records can be made available to the CBRG in a variety of ways, some of which are better than others. They would all be equally good, if they all had the same requirements, but that is expecting a lot. Records of bird sightings may be made available by:

- using a spreadsheet available on the CBRG website;
- by using Birdtrack (www.birdtrack.net);
- by using the Cofnod record submission facility (www.cofnod.org.uk);
- by using the Birdguides record submission facility (www.birdguides.com but please give your name and address – see the rarity section, below); and
- by using the website run by Richard Smith (www.deeestuary.co.uk) emailing your records to him.

Please submit your records regularly, preferably no less frequently than every quarter. For your records to be considered for a bird report, please submit the records before the end of March of the following year. After that date they may be too late to include.

I look forward to receiving records from existing and new observers.

Rarity records

If you see a bird that is considered to be a rarity (please refer to the copy of the BOU 2009 checklist of species that I prepared that show if each species is a national, Welsh or local rarity – it is available from the Downloads page on the website – or the list, below). The rarity form that should be completed is also available from the Downloads page of the website. If you take any digital photos, please label them with date, species, place and your name. Please submit records of rarities to me as soon after the observation as is possible.

Again, many records of rarities came from the Birdguides website, but were anonymous, so I was unable to follow them up with enquiries about descriptions or photographs, so they have not been used as they could not go through any verification process. If you see a rarity and use the Birdguides, or other, website, please give contact details as well as details of the observation.

The local rarities list has been reviewed and amended. The criteria for being on the list are:

Five of fewer records annually over five most recent consecutive years

This enables us to maintain an annual check of the species that should be on the list. As some species become more common (as has the Little Egret in recent years) so it will be removed from the list. If a species is not seen regularly enough to be in the list, it will require a rarity form to be submitted.

Local rarity species list

The list of local rarities that will apply from 1 January 2010 is as follows:

Brent Goose – dark-bellied	Spoonbill	Little Auk
Garganey	Honey-buzzard	Puffin
Eider	Avocet	Ring-necked Parakeet
Long-tailed Duck	Purple Sandpiper	Long-eared Owl
Velvet Scoter	Wood Sandpiper	Hoopoe
Smew	Pomarine Skua	Wryneck
Quail	Long-tailed Skua	Richard's Pipit
Lady Amherst's Pheasant	Great Skua	Yellow Wagtail – blue-headed
Great Northern Diver	Little Gull	Black Redstart
Black-throated Diver	Sabine's Gull	Cetti's Warbler
Red-necked Grebe	Ring-billed Gull	Dartford Warbler
Slavonian Grebe	Yellow-legged Gull	Yellow-browed Warbler
Black-necked Grebe	Iceland Gull	Firecrest
Sooty Shearwater	Glaucous Gull	Chough
Balearic Shearwater	Black Tern	Hooded Crow
Storm Petrel	Roseate Tern	Hawfinch
Shag	Black Guillemot	Lapland Bunting
Bittern	Razorbill	

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to those members of the CBRG who contributed by writing a suite of species accounts. The contributors who helped me with this report were: Anne Brenchley, Andrew Dale, Neil Hughes, Geoff Robinson and Andrew Wallbank. I am very grateful to the members of the CBRG for their ongoing support and assistance with all that is needed to coordinate a report

such as this. I also thank Andrew Dale and Anne Brenchley for their proof-reading of the draft text and to Hilary Nash for his checking of the typeset report.

I thank Julian Hughes, Ian Evans and Marc Hughes – the panel who helped me make decisions about local rarities – for their assistance.

Many thanks to the authors who contributed articles that have added interest to this report.

I thank Amanda Bunnell for her assistance with some technical aspects of preparing the photographs for the report.

The maps have been produced using DMAP by Dr Alan J Morton.

Andrew Wallbank has prepared the records from Connah's Quay Nature. I thank him for his help. Jim Hulse has continued to be my 'Assistant Recorder' and has typed up other people's records and is submitting his own. I am very grateful to him for great amount of help he gives.

Len Walls has been very helpful in providing weather data from his Moel y Crio weather station at Halkyn, Flintshire.

I am very grateful to Barry Barnacal, Brian Burnett, Adrian Foster, Hugh Linn, Andrew Wallbank, David Williams and Niklaus Zbinden for their photographs that add significantly to the attractiveness of the report.

I thank the British Trust for Ornithology for its support and assistance in making available bird records submitted to: Birdtrack, the Breeding Bird Survey and Garden BirdWatch.

I remain most grateful to all the observers and organisations (listed at the start of the Editorial) who submitted records for the report – the list of individual contributors is at the back of the report.

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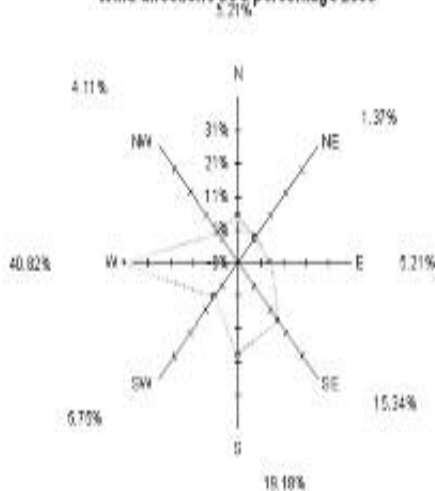
Weather summary 2009. Data kindly supplied by Len Walls

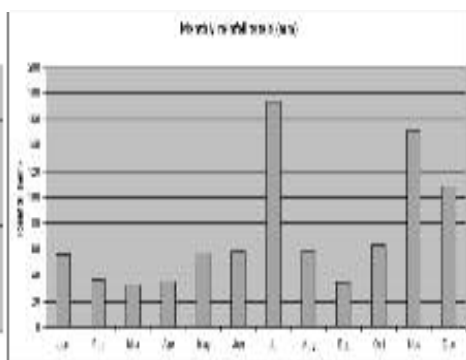
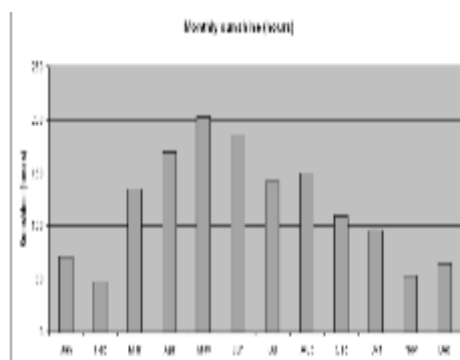
2009	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Max temp °C / date	9.7 / 12	8.8 / 25	13.8 / 11	17.4 / 23	23.0 / 31	24.6 / 29	26.6 / 1	22.4 / 4	21.0 / 8	16.9 / 6	13.2 / 1	10.7 / 9
Mean temp °C	2.8	3.5	6.2	9.1	10.7	13.7	14.7	15.1	12.6	10.4	7.4	2.6
Min temp °C / date	-6.0 / 6	-3.6 / 2	-2.7 / 5	1.3 / 12	2.3 / 12	4.2 / 5	8.2 / 10	7.7 / 22	6.7 / 16	2.8 / 9	8.9 / 29	-4.6 / 19
Rain mm	56.3	36.4	32.5	35.1	56.9	58.7	173.2	59.5	34.6	63.1	151.8	108.6
Sun hours	71.6	47.6	134.1	170.2	203.1	186.3	142.0	149.9	109.4	96.3	53.3	64.4

2009 started cold with a low of -6.0°C on 6/01, but after this the month was slightly warmer though the mean temperature was 0.6°C below the long term mean. There was less rain and more sun than average with snow lying on 4/01 and 20/01. Early February was very cold (with a minimum temperature of -10.5°C on grass) and had 10 days of lying snow – the most since 1996. After 11/02 it warmed up and though there was not much rain it was cloudy and dull. March was warmish, dry and had lots of sunshine; and April was also warm (the mean temperature was 1.7°C above the long term average) and sunshine was above average. May was warm and sunny with below average rainfall. June, a crucial month for many breeding birds, was warm and sunny with less than average rainfall, which probably suited most birds (apart from thrushes). July started warm but became cooler with much more rain than average (it was the wettest July since 1932!). The wettest day was 24/07 when 46.4 mm of rain fell. Sunshine was below average. August was a dull month and it had about 80% of average rainfall and below average sunshine.

September was quite warm with well below average rainfall but also only near average sunshine. October was also relatively warm and dry but with less than average sunshine. November was relatively warm and very wet with 140% of average rainfall with rain on 29 days. The year ended with a cold second half to December. Rainfall was above average and sunshine was also above average but there were 10 days with snow lying (the most since 1995).

Wind directions as a percentage 2009





Peregrine, male, Shotwick, Barry Barnacal

The systematic list for 2009

The names of species and their order come from Anon (2009), The British List: The official list of bird species recorded in Great Britain, published on the BOU website. The Welsh names have been taken from previous reports and where necessary, from the website www.avionary.info

We have continued to use conventions from previous reports – dates are presented as day/month (in digits) and we have stated where birds are on the Red or Amber List (from Johnstone, IG, Thorpe, RI and Noble, DG (2010), The state of birds in Wales 6: RSPB Cymru, Cardiff (Also see Johnstone, I, Young, A and Thorpe, RI (2010) The revised populations status of birds in Wales. Birds in Wales, 7(1), 39-91.

Within the text we have used abbreviations (see table below) for some locations that appear frequently or in tables.

Code	Common name, or gazetteer name, for location	1 km square
BB	Bagillt Bank, Dee Estuary	SJ2275
CON	Conwy RSPB Nature Reserve	SH7977
KBRH	Kinmel Bay, Rhyl Harbour	SH9980
CQNR	Connah's Quay Nature Reserve, Dee Estuary	SJ2672
FLQ	Fagl Lane Quarry, Hope	SJ3058
GF	Gresford Flash, Wrexham	SJ3453
IMF	Inner Marsh Farm RSPB reserve, Dee Estuary	SJ3073
OMR	Oakenholt Marsh Reserve, Dee Estuary	SJ2671
POA	Point of Ayr, Dee Estuary	SJ1284
RM	Ruabon Mountain	(SJ24)
RML	Rhyl Marine Lake	SH9980
SS	Shotton, Steelworks	SJ3070
WS	White Sands, Dee Estuary	SJ2772

Other abbreviations that appear in the report include, in tables, the BTO two letter code for the species to which the table refers and:

BBS	Breeding Bird Suvey organised by the British Trust for Ornithology
GBW	Garden Bird Watch organised by the British Trust for Ornithology
TTV	Timed Tetrad Visit (during national Atlas fieldwork)

We have abbreviated the names of months to just three letters (eg Jan, Feb, etc) and directons to N, north; S, south; E, east and W, west.

We have included maps to show the distribution of the records received for some species where we considered that maps would assist the summarising of those records. If you are aware of areas of the country where those species are present, but there are no symbols to show their presence, please send in records to the Recorder. Please also use the maps to spur you into action if you know that a species breeds near you but is not shown. This will help the North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas project.

Each account has a table showing the number of records received during the year and the maximum number of birds counted. Some species have a table of breeding success data – these are the results from those nests that have been found and recorded and are not, necessarily, the actual number of nests that occurred in the area.

As in previous reports, it is apparent that we receive very few records of proven breeding by species that are not subject to specialist study. We would welcome knowing where any of these species are found to breed using the codes for evidence that are generally used for bird atlas purposes (we expect that many of you are now well-acquainted with these codes that are used both for the BTO Atlas and the North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas project – they are listed on the Atlas page of the CBRG website). Please note: Details of sightings of raptor species during the nesting season are not specified in order to safeguard potential breeding sites.

At the end of this section Anne Brenchley has written about the first and last dates for migrants. Please continue to send records of the first dates you see migrant species and keep records of the last dates you saw them. We are very keen to know these last dates as well as when they arrive.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

ALARCH DÔF

Breeding resident. Amber List.

Denbs. Records from sixteen sites with nesting birds seen at Acton Park, Erddig, Llandyrnog and Rhuthun). Maximum at Kinmel Bay was 30+ on 19/05 (DCR), 30 at Worthenbury on River Dee floods 12/12 (NFr), 15 at Hanmer on 30/05 (SD) and 18 at CON on 20/08 (AdT).

(MS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	94	30+
Flints.	194	53

Flints. The area had records from twenty one sites with a nesting record from Ddol Reservoir on 7/04 (MD). Cygnets reported at CQNR, Greenfield Valley, Llyn Helyg and Oakenholt. Maximum counts were 53 at WS on 12/04 (PDS), 49 at Rhuddlan on 25/04 and 35 at Shotwick Fields on 4/01 (KS).

Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)

ALARCH BEWICK

Annual, but uncommon winter visitor. Amber list. WBAP

Flints. The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance for this species. Counts of up to 30 were recorded at Shotwick Fields, and WS from 2/01-8/02, with a maximum of 40 on 8/02 (PDS); up to 10 remained in the Connah's Quay area until later in Feb, the last record of the spring being 5 at IMF on 21/02 (pCW). The first winter birds were 5 at WS on 22/11; and 19 also at this site on 20/12 was the maximum winter count (PDS).

(BS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	17	40

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

Annual, but irregular winter visitor in small numbers.

Denbs. There were 5-6 reported from the Conwy Estuary between 8-11/11 and 7 adults and 2 juveniles were on the Dee floods at Ridleywood on 22/11 (NH).

(WS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	7
Flints.	25	53

Flints. Birds were recorded from the turn of the year, until 30/03 when 14 at WS were the latest spring record (GR). The maximum spring count was 53 at WS on 8/02 (PDS). The first record of returning birds in the autumn was of 3 birds at WS on 18/10 (PDS); numbers remained low throughout the remainder of the year with a maximum of 6 at Rhuddlan on 28/11 (AnCu). These and 5 in flooded fields by the A55 at St Asaph on 7/11 were the only records away from the Dee.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

GWYDD DROED-BINC

Passage migrant, and winter visitor in small numbers.

Denbs. There was a count of 35 at Kinmel Bay on 4/01 (KS). Other records relate to singles in the area of CON on 8/01 and 20/01, and again on 23/05.

(PG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	35
Flints.	20	100

Flints. About 50 were recorded at various locations on the upper Dee Estuary and grazing on fields S of Rhyl, from the turn of the year until 14/01. The maximum number seen was 100 at Shotwick Fields on 12/01; and the last spring birds were 40 at the same location on 14/01 (pCW). A single unseasonal bird was recorded near Rhyl on 22/05 (SH). The first of the autumn were 49 at CQNR and WS on 25/10 (PDS, DNS) but for the remainder of the year numbers were low with 1-5 recorded from various estuary locations. A record of 40 at POA on 23/12 (GR) was the only instance of substantial numbers in autumn.

White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN

Scarce winter visitor. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. A single bird was recorded flying E at Rhos-on-Sea on 17/01 (RS, MHu).

(WG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	1
Flints.	1	1

Flints. A lone bird was at Shotwick Fields on 5/11 (pCW).

Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*)

GWYDD DALCEN-WEN LEIAF

Vagrant, or feral escape.

Denbs. Single birds recorded at CON on 21/06 (SCh) and 14/07 (JiC) presumably relate to a bird of feral origin.

(LC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	1
Flints.	5	1

Flints. A single bird was at Talacre dunes or POA between 5/02 and 11/02.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

GWYDD WYLLT

Winter visitor and uncommon breeding resident.

Denbs. Recorded from coastal and inland sites throughout the vice-county, including GF, CON, Llyn Brenig, and KBRH. The only records of substantial numbers early in the year were from KBRH where 100 were present on 4/01 (KS); and 162 on 25/01 (DCR). Small numbers were recorded throughout the year though there were no records of breeding. Numbers at GF increased during Oct with a maximum of 153 on 12/10 (HL). Kinnel Bay also held a flock of 120 on 8/10 (RMB). Lower Dee valley floods attracted substantial numbers to regular locations with 160 at Darland on 27/11; 150 at Ridleywood, and 120 at Worthenbury on 5/12 and 12/12 (NFr).

(GJ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	52	162
Flints.	45	300

Flints. The Rhyl area, and FLQ both had counts of 130 during Jan (SD, SH). The last substantial flock of the spring was 50 at CQNR on 22/02 (NJ). Small numbers were recorded from a wide range of sites during the spring and summer months, but as in previous years no records of breeding were received. Post-breeding flocks began to form in late Jul, with 30 at FLQ on 23/07 (SD), and 30 at CQNR on 20/08 (TPa). During the remainder of the winter good numbers were in the Rhyl/Rhuddlan area with a maximum of 300 recorded flying over Rhuddlan on 25/09. On the Dee Estuary, a maximum count of 250 was recorded at Shotwick Fields on 10/11 (CW).

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

GWYDD CANADA

Breeding resident.

Denbs. Recorded from various sites in relatively small numbers throughout the year. More significant numbers were recorded at GF and CON throughout much of the year, a table of the monthly maxima for these sites is shown below.

(CG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	120	398
Flints.	202	4500

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
CON	99	60+	2	20	50	398	306	1	7	34		12
GF	10	100	25		3	85		260		141		

Other notable spring and summer counts included 50 at Hanmer on 18/01 (KS, JR), and 45 at the same site on 30/05 (SD); at least 65 adults and 10 juveniles at Cae Llwyd Reservoir, Penycae on 4/07 (JN); 65 near Borrass on 20/07, and 80 on 1/11 (JN); and 60+ at Towyn on 8/08 (SM). As usual the Dee floods held the most substantial winter concentrations with 170 at Ridleywood NE, and 150 at Darland on 27/11, and 260 at Worthenbury on 5/12, and 240 on 12/12 (NFr).

Flints. Present throughout the year on Dee Estuary reserves. The maximum recorded monthly counts at main locations are shown in the table below (p17).

The maximum recorded count was 4,500 at CQNR on 22/09 (PDS). Away from the Dee the only substantial numbers were in the Rhyl / Rhuddlan area where counts included 120 on 2/01 near Rhuddlan, and 550 at the same site on 23/08 (SH). Breeding was reported from CQNR where there were four goslings with adults on 18/05 (JH); and Rhuddlan golf course where 6 juveniles were noted on 26/05 (SH).

Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
BB	700					10						
CQNR	500	43	11	29	28	153	3	500	4500	2000	20	500
OMR		39	43	43	82	150	200	150				
POA	230	160		10							39	32
WS	154						67	73	38	53	11	
Talacre	257	240	50	2	2	20		1	111	114	54	
Shotwick				29				1500				

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

GWYDD WYRAN

Rare vagrant, or birds of escaped/feral origin. Amber List.

Flints. FLQ held 2 on 8/01 (SD); and 11 were at CQNR on 18/09 (AW, JBi).

(BY)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	4	11

Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla*)

GWYDD DDU

Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List. WBAP (Bb bernicla)

Recorded particularly in the Dee Estuary.

The majority of records are birds of the pale-bellied "hrota" race and records can be assumed to relate to this form unless otherwise specified.

(BG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	15	7

Denbs. The only record was a single bird at CON from 3-5/01 (MDu).

Flints. A single bird was at Rhyl on 1/01 and 3 were at POA on 11/01. A single unseasonal bird (or birds) was at CQNR on 9/05 and 24/05. During the winter period small numbers from 1-7 were recorded in the Talacre/ POA area from 19/11-23/12 (GR, JuR et al).

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)

GWYDD YR AIFFT

Rare vagrant. Likely to be of feral origin.

Flints. Singles were seen at CQNR on 15/04 and 21/05.

(EG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	2	1

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginaea*)

HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

Rare vagrant. Likely to be of feral origin.

Flints. Two at CQNR on 11/07 and a single bird was seen at the same site ten times between 23/02 and 19/09.

(UD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	11	2

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

Occasional breeding resident and very common estuarine winter visitor. Amber List.

The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this species.

Denbs. Recorded throughout the year from a number of coastal sites including KBRH and CON, which again appear to be the most consistently used locations in the vice – county, though numbers were well down on previous years particularly at CON. The maximum count at CON was 97 on 12/04 (MDu), while KBRH held 100 on 13/03 (RMB). Maximum monthly records for these two sites are given in the table below.

(SU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	39	100
Flints.	275	1400

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
CON	6	6	4	97		39		10	4	10		11
KBRH	80+	3	100		40+							50

Another notable record was of 3 adults with 36 juveniles at CON on 24/06 (MDu). Away from the coast small numbers of birds were recorded from Worthenbury, Ridleywood, Commonwood, Bettisfield and Gresford Flash; 2 at Bettisfield on 6/05 (NHu) being the only inland summer record.

Flints. The vast majority of records are from the Dee Estuary, where the upper estuary reserves at OMR and CQNR, with WS, and POA are favoured in the early part of the year. As the year progressed numbers increased at POA and Mostyn between Sep and Dec. Maximum monthly records for the key Dee Estuary compartments are given in the table below. Numbers of this species on the Dee appear to have continued to decline with a peak count of 1,400 at POA on 7/10 (GR) as against peaks of 1,600 in 2008, and 2,000 in 2007. Away from the Dee birds were recorded at Rhyl, where a maximum of 100 were recorded on 19/03 (RMB); and Rhuddlan where on the upper Clwyd Estuary four broods totalling 14 juveniles were noted on 4/06 (SH). Breeding was also recorded inland at Rhosesmor where a pair was using a rabbit burrow during 2-11/05 (MD).

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	13	45	73	70+	385	250	100	100	820	105	200	174
OMR		2		42	60	500	20	3				
POA	95	230	110	120	120	213	16	214	1250	1400	600	400
WS	71	77	129	76	47	259	80	12	9	9	71	65
Mostyn	15	22	12		16	50		25	60	9	3	31

Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*)

HWYADEN FANDARIN

Scarce breeding resident

Denbs. Recorded from a small number of sites, to which it shows significant loyalty. The maximum counted were 10 on the River Dee at Ridleywood on 13/02 (NFr). Pairs were recorded in the breeding season at Sutton Green on 5/04 (NHu); Holt on 20/05 (SBo) and Erddig Pool, Wrexham on 2/05 (NHu). Single males also recorded in the autumn/winter from Hafodty, CON and Llangollen; and 5 (2 males, 3 females) were on the Dee at Iscoed on 22/11 (NHu).

(MN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	13	10
Flints.	1	1

Flints. There was 1 at FLQ on 6/04 (GNR).

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

CHWIWELL

Common winter visitor. Amber List.

The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance in the UK for this species.

Denbs. Reports from ten sites, two coastal and eight inland. Highest coastal counts 260+ at Kinmel Bay on 4/01 (DCR) and 164 on the estuary at CON on 28/12 (MDu). The larger counts inland were along River Dee when in flood with highest count at Worthenbury 1100 on 5/12 and 810 at Trevalyn Meadows on same day (NFr). The only summer records were of a single bird at CON on various dates.

(WN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	42	1100
Flints.	154	1500

The table below shows maximum counts at selected sites:

(WN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	1200	1500	120	10				1		15		620
OMR	111	150	50	2	1	4	1	1	1		27	
POA	450	450	120						23	46	220	230

Flints. Records from ten sites, three around the Clwyd Estuary, and seven around the Dee Estuary. All the larger counts were in winter months but at least one bird was recorded in every month. Highest counts Rhyl / Rhuddlan area, 150 in both on 22/12 (SH). On Deeside, CQNR had 1,500 on 12/02 (GR), Talacre 450 on 22/01 and 12/02 (pJR), POA 450 on 31/01 (GR) and WS held 415 on 11/01 (PDS). No inland reports in 2009.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

HWYADEN LWYD

Uncommon winter visitor and scarce breeding resident. Amber List.

Denbs. Present at CON in small numbers throughout the year, a maximum of 6 was counted on 14/02 (DCR). Also recorded from Pensarn, with males on 19/02 (SD), and 10/12 (SM); and in the Wrexham area where a male(s) was recorded on several occasions at Borrass and Acton Park

(GA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	23	6
Flints.	37	10

(JN).

Flints. Recorded from the Dee Estuary reserves throughout the year, though numbers appear reduced in comparison to previous years. OMR was favoured during the early part of the year until the end of May, with a maximum of 7 on 3/03 (CL). Later in the year the majority of records were from IMF, with a maximum of 10 on 27/10 (CW). Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog was the only site away from the Dee, where there were 4 on 19/02, and 7 on 11/11 (MD).

Teal (*Anas crecca*)

CORHWYADEN

Widespread and locally abundant winter visitor and rare breeder. Amber List.

The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this species.

Denbs. Recorded throughout the year. The majority of records were from CON (see table below). In general numbers again seem to have been significantly lower than in previous years. Also recorded at Pensarn and Towyn on the coast, and inland at Acrefair, Bettisfield, Fenns Moss, GF, Lane Farm, Moelfre, Acton Park, Wrexham, and Borrass. Away from CON, the only site where substantial numbers were recorded was GF, where early in the year 170 were counted on 3/01 and 100+ on 24/01(JN).

(T.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	40	170
Flints.	261	1000

Teal: CON 2009 monthly maximum counts:

(T.)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
CON	125	10	1	4		4		1+	24	100		15

Flints. Inland: Records confined to Rhuddlan, where a maximum count of 18 was recorded on 21/11; Ddol Resv, Ysceifiog, 5+ on 1/01; and Rhydymwyn, 2 on 4/04. Coastal: Dee Estuary numbers lower than last year, and few coastal records away from the Dee. Maximum count was 1,000 at CQNR on 19/10 (GR). Summer records were confined to OMR. See table below for monthly maximum counts for main Dee Estuary locations. Away from the Dee, the Clwyd Estuary was the only site where significant numbers were reported, with a maximum of 55 near Rhuddlan on 16/10 (SH). Inland, 3 were recorded at FLQ on 8/01 (SD); and 8 at Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog on 19/02 (MD), though the species is clearly significantly under-recorded.

The table below shows maximum counts at selected sites:

(T.)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	400	500	55	8					850	1000	800	350
OMR	137	24		12		2	2	3			400	270
POA	300	108	25						150	217	150	500
WS	99	114	1					59	105	29	15	120

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

HWYADEN WYLLT

Common breeding resident. Amber list.

Denbs. Recorded from inland and coastal water bodies throughout the vice-county. Numbers reverted to more normal levels after last year's high counts. The maximum count was from CON where 112 were recorded on 7/07 (JHg), and other substantial records included 60 at Gresford on 21/01 (JN), and 84 at Lavister on 17/12 (HL).

(MA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	195	112
Flints.	442	212

Flints. Widely recorded from locations throughout the vice-county, the majority of records are from various sections of the Dee Estuary. Numbers were again significantly lower than the long term average, with a maximum count of only 212 from CQNR on 7/06 (AW). Maximum monthly counts from main Dee Estuary locations are given in the table below. Other notable records included 72 on the Dee Estuary at Flint on 5/01 (GR); 72 at FLQ on 8/01 (SD); 27 at Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog on 11/11; and 48+ at Prestatyn on 21/11 (MD).

Table below shows maximum counts at selected sites:

(MA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	100	105	35	9	15	212	156	60	40	80	100	40
OMR	16	23	13	8	23	3	80	60				4
POA	30	15	24	35	22	24	24	146	200	130	30	50
WS	40	14	8	18	64	43	23	27	9	19	14	6

Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Winter visitor. Amber List.

As with many other migratory waterfowl species numbers appear to be significantly lower than normal this year.

(PT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	12	190
Flints.	66	2000

Denbs. As usual the River Dee winter floods attracted the only major concentrations of the year, though numbers generally low. Major counts included 190 at Ridleywood on 21/01; 150 at Trevalyn Meadow, and 40 at Worthenbury, both on 12/12 (NFr). Individuals were present at CON on various dates throughout the year, including a juvenile present from 6/09-29/10 (MDu); and a female which stayed from 15/11 to at least 8/12 (JHg).

Flints. Coastal: As usual all records are from the Dee Estuary, CQNR and POA being the most favoured locations this year. While there was some recovery from the exceptionally low numbers in 2008, counts were still significantly lower than the historic peaks. Numbers were relatively high in the early part of the year with maximum count of 2,000 at CQNR on 14/01, and the latest spring record was of 13 at WS on 12/04 (PDS). The first returning autumn bird was a single individual at Talacre on 4/09 (JuR), more substantial numbers following with 100 at POA on 20/09 (GR), building to an autumn peak of 1,000 at CQNR on 19/10 (GR). See table below for maximum monthly counts from main locations.

(PT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	2000	500								1000		
POA	350	170	7	2					100	172	250	250
WS	4		13									
Talacre	300	80							2	2	11	3

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

HWYADEN ADDRAIN

Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. The only records were single males at GF on 29/04 (JN); and at CON on 13/05 (RS) and 7/06 (JHg, MHu).

(GY)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	1
Flints.	0	

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List.

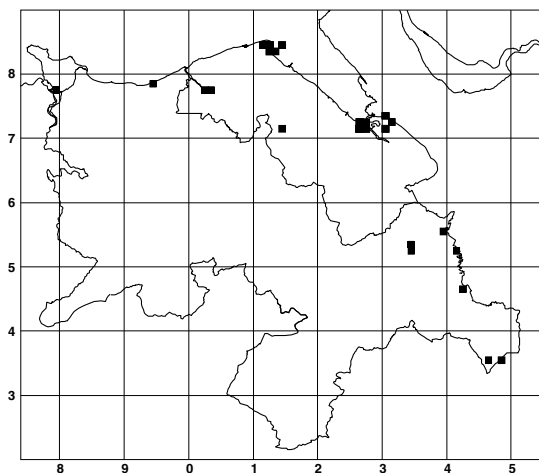
The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance for this species.

Denbs. The primary site for this species was GF with most records and also the site of the highest count with 76 recorded on 31/01 (KS). Other notable sightings away from GF were 18 at Worthenbury on 5/12 and 12/12 (NFr) and 26 seen at Trevalyn Meadows on 5/12 (NFr).

(SV)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	44	76
Flints.	90	60

Flints. As with previous years there were more records for Flints than Denbs. Breeding was recorded at Shotton Paper Mill, with a female and 5 juveniles seen on 16/06 (LJ). High counts were 60 birds at Shotwick Fields on 28/12 (JoSm, KS), and 4 counts of 20+ birds from Talacre during Jan and Feb (pJR). Most records were of 2-17 birds with only eight records of singles. Talacre is the primary site with over half of the records for the year.

Shoveler 2009



Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

Winter visitor. Red List

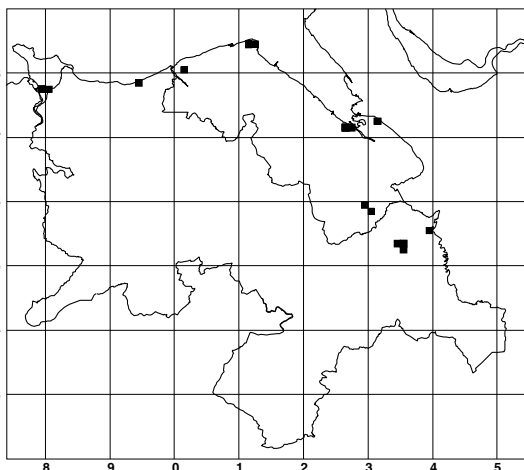
The distribution of records is rather limited, with just three areas for inland sightings.

(PO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	15	9
Flints.	20	20

Denbs. Recorded in Jan, Feb, May, Aug to Oct and Dec. The peak count in the first part of the year was 2 males at Borras, Wrexham on 31/01 (JN). The last in spring was a single bird seen at CON on 14/05 (JHg). The first returning bird was seen at CON on the early date of 20/08 (AdT). Peak counts in the latter part of the year were 7 at CON on 13/09 (JRi) and 9 at Trevalyn Meadows on the Dee floods on 5/12 (NFr).

Flints. Recorded Jan to Mar, May and Oct to Dec. The peak count in the first part of the year was 20 at Shotwick lake on 2/01 (MGi). Up to 2 birds were regular at Talacre with the last record there on 19/03 (pJR). The last spring record was 2 at OMR on 26/05 (FrW, MWri). The first returning birds were 4 at OMR on 15/10 (BH). The peak count in the latter part of the year was 8 at Shotwick Lake on 28/12 (KS).

Pochard 2009



Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

HWYADEN GOPOG

Resident breeder in small numbers and locally common winter visitor. Amber List.

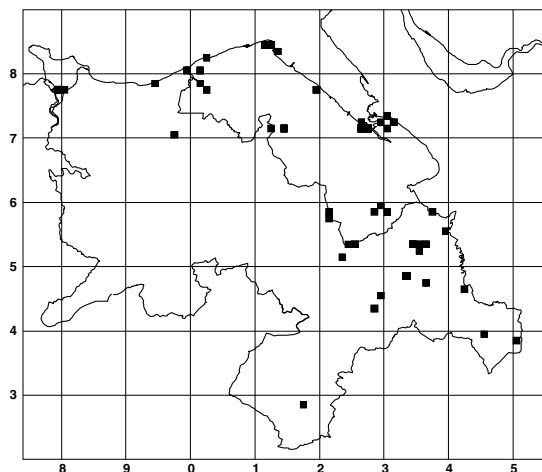
There were records from more locations (but actually fewer records) than in 2007 (see p24). Recorded in every month in both counties.

(TU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	76	40
Flints.	144	135

Denbs. All but three records were of just 1-15 birds. The larger counts were 19 near Borras on 26/02 (JN), 21 at CON on 6/04 (JHg) and 40 near Rhosllanerchrugog on 2/12 (SD). There was one record of confirmed breeding – 7 young seen at Borras Head on 7/08 (JN).

Flints. Most of the records were of 1-45 and the larger counts were: 63 at Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog on 19/02 (MD), 67+ at Shotton Paper Mill on 25/09 (IMS), 70 at Shotwick Fields on 4/01 (KS) and 135 there on 2/01 (MGi). There were three records of confirmed breeding, all of young birds, at FLQ on 23/07 (SD), at Top-yn-rhos Farm on 30/06 (SD) and at Shotwick on 13/08 (KS).

Tufted Duck 2009



Scaup (*Aythya marila*)

HWYADEN BENDDU

Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List. WBAP

Denbs. Singles were seen near Borras, possibly the same bird, on 31/01, 1/04 and 23/10 (JN) and at Llanddulas on 21/12 (MHu).

(SP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	1
Flints.	7	2

Flints. Two individuals, probably juvenile or first winter were at Shotwick boating lake from 19-29/12 (ANB, JoSm, KS, pCW).

Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)

MOR HWYADEN DDU

Winter visitor. Amber list. WBAP

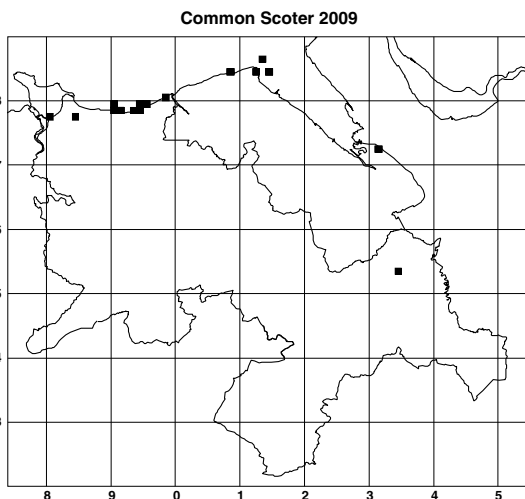
The distribution of records indicates the main concentration along the coast.

(CX)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	31	8000
Flints.	19	6500

Denbs. Recorded in Jan to Mar, Jul and Sep to Dec, so mainly absent during the breeding season (apart from 40 off Llanddulas on 18/07 (RTe)). Seen in large numbers between Colwyn Bay and Rhyl and the peak early year count was 8,000+ off Llanddulas on 19/02 (MHu). This is many more than were recorded towards the end of 2008, so there must have been considerable immigration from another area in the first weeks of 2009. The first autumn record was 200 off Pensarn on 27/09 (HC). The other large counts were 3,000+ at Llanddulas on 28/11 (RS), 3,000 at Pensarn on 14/12 (HC) and 3,000 at Llanddulas on 19/12 (KS).

Flints. Not as common on this part of the coast as further W and recorded in all months except Feb and Oct, but with 1-166 present during the breeding season (these would be non-breeders). The peak count in the first part of the year was 6,500 at POA on 27/03 (PDS). All

the large counts were in the early part of the year at POA: 2,500 on 14/03 (PDS), 3,000 on 15/03 (GR), 2,000 on 26/03 (PDS) and 2,500 on 30/03 (GR). The peak count later in the year was only 100 at POA on 4/09 (GR).



Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)

MOR HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List.

Denbs. Eight were seen with many Common Scoter off Llandulas on 19/12 (KS).

(VS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	8
Flints.	0	

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

HWYADEN LYGAD AUR

Widespread winter visitor.

Denbs. Recorded Jan to Mar, May, Oct and Dec. The peak count for the year was in Jan – 6 at Hanmer Mere on 18/01 (KS). The two other 'large' counts were 4 at KBRH on 4/01 (KS) and 4 at Llyn Brenig on 23/03 (KS). The last spring record was a female at CON on 14/05 (DCR) and the first bird seen in the autumn was a male at CON on 6/10 (JHg).

(GN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	16	6
Flints.	29	7

Flints. Recorded Jan to Mar, May and Oct to Dec with the peak early year counts of 5 at Shotwick on 2/01 (MGi) and 7 near Rhuddlan on 11/01 (SH). A female on the Afon Clwyd near Rhuddlan from 6/05 to 22/05 (SH) was the last spring record. The first returning bird of the autumn was at Talacre on 15/10 (pJR) and the peak late winter count was 5 near Rhyl on the Afon Clwyd on 22/12 (SH).

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

Winter visitor. Amber List.

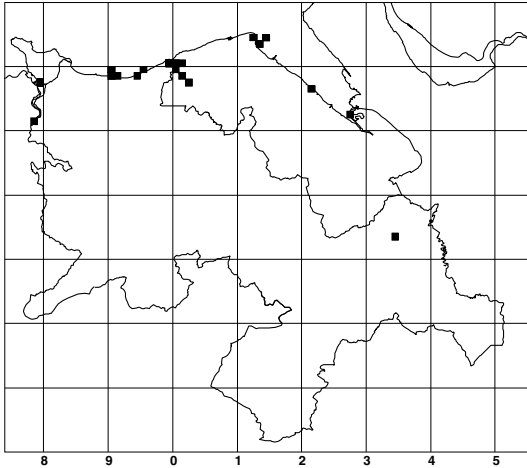
The distribution of records is mainly confined to the coast and large rivers.

(RM)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	27	24
Flints.	33	13

Denbs. Recorded in every month except May and Jul and mainly from the coast between Llanddulas and Towyn where the peak count in the early part of the year was 13 seen off Llanddulas on 17/03 (HN). In the latter part of the year the peak count was 24 seen at KBRH on 17/08 (DCR). The maximum count at CON was 12 seen on 9/10 (CK). The only birds seen away from the coast and rivers were a male and a female seen at GF on 19/01 (JN).

Flints. Recorded during Jan to Mar, Aug and Oct to Dec, mainly from the Dee Estuary where the peak count was 8 off POA in the early part of the year on 22/03 (PDS). The peak count in the latter part of the year was again 8 seen off POA on 7/10 (GR). Away from the estuary the year's highest count was at RML with 13 present on 29/12 (RS).

Red-breasted Merganser 2009

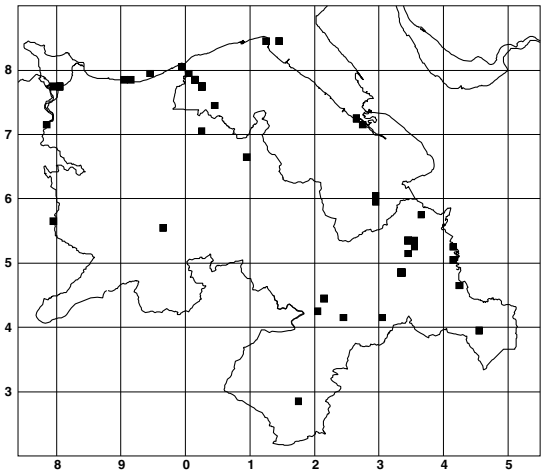


Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

Goosander 2009



(GD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	56	50
Flints.	43	25

There are many more inland records than for Red-breasted Merganser.

Denbs. Records were from every month except Jun and from many parts of the county. Most records were of 1-8 and the peak count in the early part of the year was 8 at Hanmwer on 18/01 (KS). The two largest counts were in Dec during the River Dee floods, at Worthenbury, with 40 on 5/12 and 50 on 12/12 (NFr).

Flints. Recorded in every month except Apr and Sep and mainly from near Rhuddlan. The peak count in the early part of the year was 19 (8 males, 11 females) near Rhuddlan on 1/01 (SH). Most records were of 1-10 and the largest counts were: 12 near Rhuddlan on 25/01 (HeS) and 25 females/juveniles in the same area on 27/06 and 9/07 (SH). Three broods of young were seen near Rhuddlan: 2 on 9/05, 8 on 21/05 and 12 on 23/05 (SH).

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

HWYADEN GOCH

Uncommon breeding resident.

Flints. All records were from around the Dee Estuary with 2 regularly seen from OMR between 12/04 and 3/06. A male was seen at a Shotton Paper Mill lagoon on 16/06 (LJ) and 2 males and a female were there on 25/09 (IMS).

(RY)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	17	3

Red Grouse (*Lagopus lagopus*)

GRUGIAR

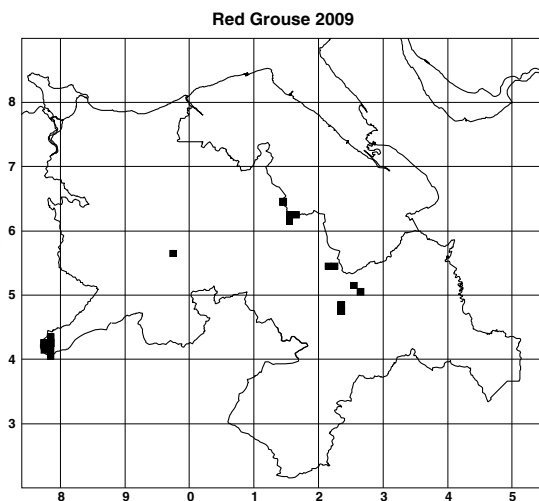
Declining breeding resident on heather moors. Red List. WBAP

The distribution of records is similar to those of previous years with the exception of the cluster of records in the far SW near the Migneint.

(RG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	29	5
Flints.	1	1

Denbs. Most records were of singles during Jan to Jul and Dec. There were 2 near Moel Famau on 11/01 (JIR), 2 near Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 20/04 (SD), 2 males at World's End on 2/06 (KS), 3 near Moel Famau on 22/03 and 5 in two places near Moel Famau on 11/01 and 14/12 (EdW).

Flints. The only bird seen was near Cilcain on 16/04 (TR).



Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*)

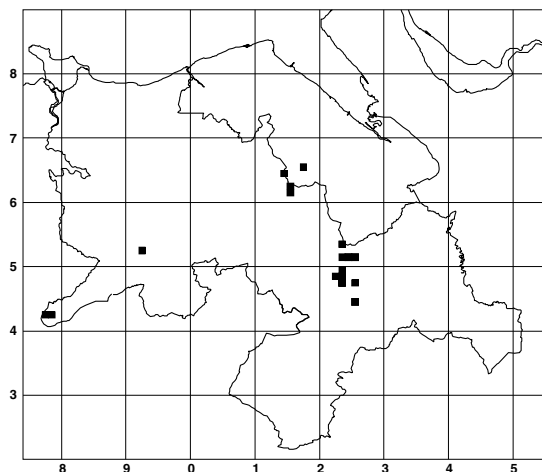
GRUGIAR DDU

Scare breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

There were fewer records this year but the map shows that

(BK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	30	23
Flints.	1	1

Black Grouse 2009



in comparison with previous years, birds were seen in one more area and the records are more scattered than in 2008 and much more than in 2007.

Denbs. Most of the sightings were in the first half of the year and the majority were of 3 or more birds. The biggest lek counts were of 12 males on 1/02 near Llandegla (DeS), 23 males on 10/04 at World's End (KS) and 18 males on 4/05 near World's End (HN). The largest number of females seen was 5 near Llandegla on 1/02 (DeS).

Flints. A male was calling near Cilcain on 13/08 (WiRi).

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*)

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Common residents, breeding in small numbers the wild population being supplemented by annual releases by shooting interests.

Denbs. Forty three of the records came from GBW, all from the same garden at Rhosllanerchrugog with a max count of 7 on 4/01 (GAM). There was only one double figure count of 10 at Tal-y-Cafn on 8/10 (RTe).

(RL)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	75	10
Flints.	27	7

Flints. The records were from thirteen sites spread across the area, four GBW records from two sites in the Rhydymwyn area (PAC, DMH). Confirmed breeding reported from W of Hendre and Rhosesmor which also had the largest count of 7 on 18/09 (MD).

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)

PETRISEN

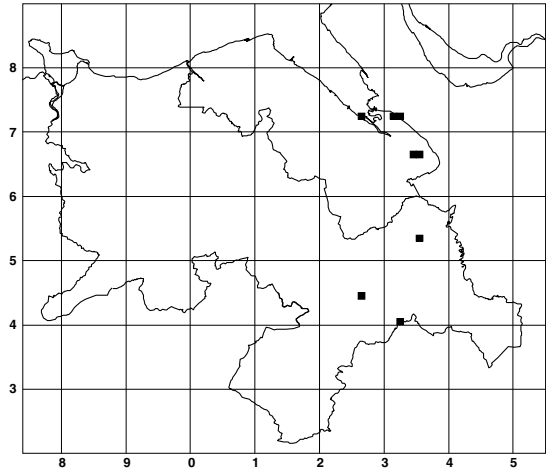
Scarce localised breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. Four birds were seen at Penycae on 25/01 (IES), a single bird was seen at Borrass on 1/04 (JN) and 2 were seen at Gronwen on 9/05 (JIR).

(P.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	4
Flints.	5	12

Flints. The total of five records for 2009 was the same as in 2008, although the maximum count was slightly lower. Records were again from the same main sites, with 12 seen at Shotwick Fields which were six pairs of birds (BB), 8 were seen at Sandycroft on 10/09 (IMS). A single was at CQNR on 12/03 (GR) and 2 were seen at Shotwick on 11/05 (CW).

Grey Partridge 2009



Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*)

SOFLIAR

Passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. A single was heard near Dyserth on eight occasions between 10/07 and 26/07 (SH) and there were 2 heard singing near Ridleywood on 13/07 and 27/07 (NFr). One was seen and heard near Holt on 12/07 (KS, JuR, HL).

(Q.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	6	2
Flints.	1	1

Flints. One was heard N of Caerwys on 5/08 (GEM).

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

FFESANT

Common residents, breeding in small numbers, the wild populations being supplemented by annual releases by shooting interests.

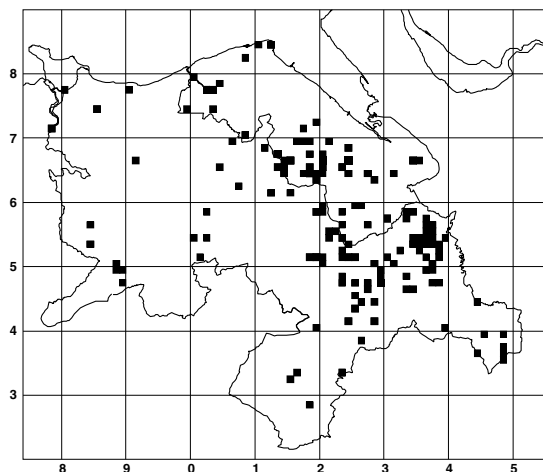
The birds released for shooting are widespread and there are more records from the more built up areas (see p30). They were seen in every month in each county.

(PH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	217	60
Flints.	469	37

Denbs. There was an increase in the number of records this year and 29.5% were from GBW sites. The majority of records were of 1-3 birds with sixteen records of 4-6 and the largest counts were 7 near Pentre Llanrhaeadr on 13/05 (GKJ), 8 at Blaen Bache on 28/11 (HN) and 60 near Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog on 12/02 (SD).

Flints. There was a large increase in the number of records here, too, and 15.1% were from GBW sites (with many records from JVHu). Most of the records were of 1-10 birds and the largest counts all came from the area including the Gwysaney Estate, near Mold: 20 on 14/06 and 32 on 12/04 (AB, IMS) during BBS walks and 37 on 6/04 (MD).

Pheasant 2009



Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

Passage migrant and winter visitor to offshore waters. Amber List.

Denbs. Recorded during Jan to Mar and Sep to Dec. Most records were from the coast at Pensarn or Llanddulas. The peak count was an incredible 189 seen off Llanddulas on 19/02 (MHu). Away from the coast there were records of single birds at CON on 20/03 (JHg) and possibly the same bird on the Afon Conwy, quite far inland, at Tal-y-Cafn on 22/03 (RS) which was the last bird of the winter. The first returning birds were 3 seen at Pensarn on 22/09 (HC) and the maximum for the end of the year was 9 at Llanddulas on 27/11 (RS).

(RH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	14	189
Flints.	5	4

Flints. Recorded in Mar, Sep, Oct and Nov. All the records were from POA or Gronant. In the first part of the year 4 were seen off POA on both 14/03 and 27/03 (PDS). Later in the year singles were seen off POA on 5/09 (GR) and 10/10 (AD) with another seen off Gronant on 19/11 (STh).

Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*)

TROCHYDD MAWR

Irregular winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. One was seen off Pensarn on 15/01 (DCR) while at the other end of the year 3 were seen off Llanddulas on 17/10 (DCR).

(ND)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	3
Flints.	0	

Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

ADERYN DRYCIN Y GRAIG

Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant.

Denbs. Llanddulas had 1+ birds on 16/01 (HeS). Three reports from the cliff area of Colwyn Bay with 8 on 19/02 (SD), 2 on 30/03 and 3 on 4/05, the last two records were of nesting birds (DCR).

(F.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	8
Flints.	4	5

Flints. There were two nesting records from a quarry at Prestatyn with 2 birds on 28/04 and 5 on 5/06 (LJ). Two records from POA: 1 seen on 28/08 (GNR) and 5 on 3/09 (PDS).

Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*)

ADERYN DRYCIN MANAW

Regular offshore during summer and autumn. Amber List.

Flints. All records were from POA and Gronant areas, with the first record being 16 at Gronant on 17/06 (RSm). A remarkable 11,000 birds were recorded passing POA on 28/08 (ANB). The last record of the year was of 8 past POA on 3/10 (NFr).

(MX)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	10	11000

Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)

PEDRYN GYNFFON FFORCHOG

Autumn passage migrant. Amber List.

Flints. All records were at POA in Sep: 1 recorded by three people on 4/09, another on 5/09, and 2 were seen flying past on 23/09.

(TL)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	5	2

Gannet (*Morus bassana*)

HUGAN

Regular long distance visitor to coastal waters in small numbers. Amber List.

Denbs. The first record was 4 near Llanddulas on 9/05 (RTe), then there were 6 near Pensarn on 27/09 (HC), 4 near Llanddulas on 29/09 (RTe) and 1 offshore at Colwyn Bay on 13/12 (HC).

(GX)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	6
Flints.	15	250

Flints. All records were from the Gronant / POA area in Mar, Jun, Jul, Sep, Oct and Nov. Most counts were of 1-30 and the largest counts were 50 on 7/07 (PDS), 78 on 15/07 (RSm) and 250 on 5/09 (STh).

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

MULFRAN

Common resident throughout the year, with no known breeding sites. Amber List.

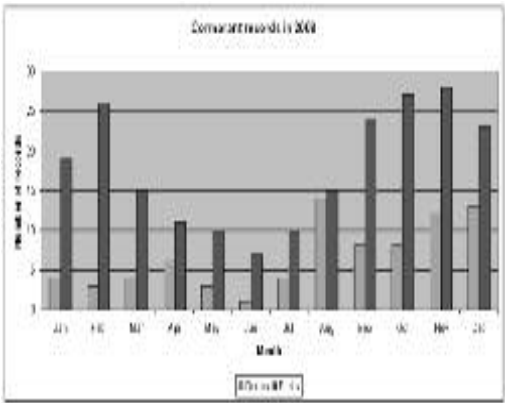
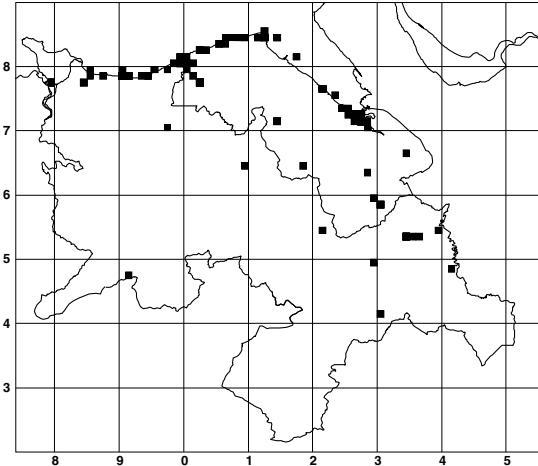
The distribution of records is similar to 2008 with some variation in the location of inland records. Birds were recorded in every month of the year and the pattern of records is different in each county. In Flints there was a peak of records in Feb and a decline until another rise from Sep to Dec. In Denbs there were a few more records in the later months than the start of the year.

Denbs. In the first half of the year most of the records were of 1-3 birds, the two exceptions being 53 at KBRH on 13/05 and 15 there on 19/05 (DCR). In the second half of the year most records were of 1-20 birds with the largest counts being 30 at KBRH on 4/12 (DCR), 31 at Horton's Nose on 9/12 and 130 there on 11/12 (RMB).

Flints. The numbers of birds counted were considerably higher than in Denbs. The maximum counts each month were: 70 at CQNR on 12/01 (GR), 100 near Gronant on 27/02 (pJR), 67 near Rhuddlan on 18/03 (SH), 79 there on 4/04 (SH), 100 near Gronant on 26/05 (RMB), 100 there on 16/06 (RMB), 40 there on 7/07 (RMB), 120+ S of Rhyl on 28/08 (DCR), 116 near Rhuddlan on 25/09 (SH), 158 there on 1/10 (SH), 73 there on 20/11 (SH) and 50 near Gronant on 29/12 (RMB). The maximum counts by SH near Rhuddlan were close to the five year means in the first half of the year with fairly large changes in Sep (up), Nov (down) and Dec (down).

(CA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	77	130
Flints.	216	158

Cormorant 2009



Monthly maximum counts near Rhuddlan (SH):

(CA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2009	31	25	67	79	53	32	6	61	116	158	73	27
5 yr Mean	56	31.6	65.8	80.2	62	35.2	26.3	40.6	95	141.8	117.8	104.8

Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

MULFRAN WERDD

Scarce non-breeding visitor.

Denbs. One was seen resting on a jetty at GF with Cormorants on 17/11 (JN) and another was at CON on 31/12 (HC).

(SA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	1
Flints.	0	

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

CREYR BACH

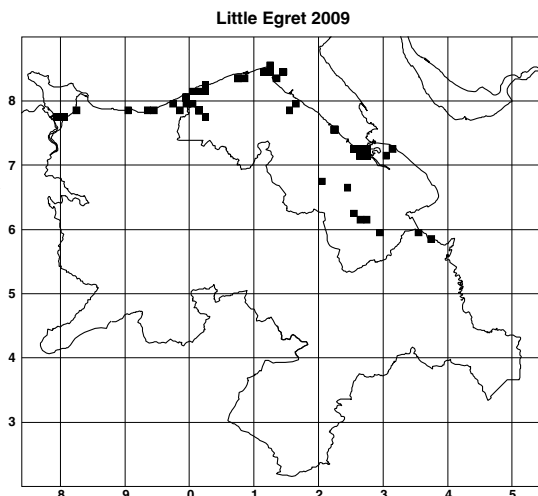
Uncommon resident with breeding on the periphery of our area. Amber List.

Most records are from the coast and the Dee Estuary, with few records from inland Denbs. There were similar numbers of records to 2008 and the maximum counts were lower.

(ET)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	39	28
Flints.	319	27

Denbs. Recorded during every month and all but three were of 1-9 birds. The largest counts were all at CON: 23 on 18/07 and 9/08 (JHg) and 28 on 2/09 (MDu).

Flints. Records were again from every month but counts were generally larger than in Denbs. The table shows the maxima for each month at three sites. Most records were of 1-20 birds and the largest counts were all from the Dee Estuary: 21 at WS on 23/08 (PDS), 21 at Bagillt marsh on 20/09 (MaBr), 23 at POA on 23/08 (GR) and 27 at WS on 12/04 (PDS).



Monthly maximum counts from selected sites:

(ET)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	1	1	5	9	5	14	10	18	14	8	12	3
WS		1	3	27	2	7	12	21	20	6	8	3
POA	3	6	4	7	4	1	20	23	15	11	3	2

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

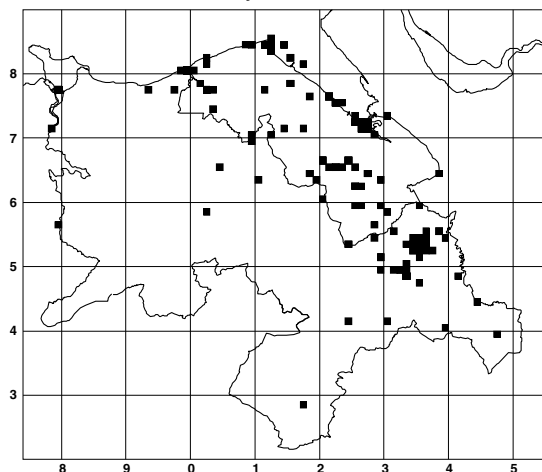
GREYR GLAS

Widespread resident. The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance in the UK. Despite this being a common species, few heronries are known and counted regularly.

There were fewer records from the rural W of Denbs with more in Flints and from the area around Wrexham. We have

(H.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	98	14
Flints.	328	32

Grey Heron 2009



no reason to think that there has been a shift in the population from these data alone. There were records in every month in both counties.

Denbs. This is generally a solitary species in our area – 77.6% of the records were of 1 bird. There were twelve records of 2, five records of 3 and two of 4 birds. The largest counts were all at CON: 6 on 13/09 (JRI), 12 on 21/06 (SCh) and 14 on 7/03 (DCR). Two GBW sites had occasional visitors at Sarn (Tallarn Green) and near Coedpoeth.

Flints. This species appears to be more numerous in Flints, though 58.8% of records were still of singles. There were

130 records of 2-9 birds and the largest counts were 11 at WS on 23/08 (PDS), 12 at CQNR on 12/06 and 12/08 (ADw, JHo), 15 at Bagillt marsh on 26/07 (GR) and 32 at WS on 20/09 (PDS). There were occasional visitors to GBW sites at Sychdyn, Buckley and near Saltney.

Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

LLWYBIG

Scarce winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. The only accepted records were of a single was at CON from 17/05 to 19/05 (MHu, JHg, RAP).

(NB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	1
Flints.	1	2

Flints. Two juveniles were at IMF on 25/06 (GR).

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

GWYFACH FACH

Breeding resident in small numbers.

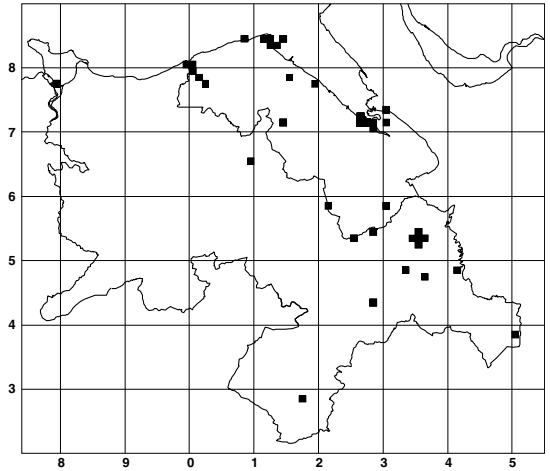
Records are from similar places to those in 2007. Recorded in each month in both counties.

(LG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	46	6
Flints.	176	11

Denbs. Most records were of singles from the SE corner of the county, particularly around Wrexham, with breeding proven at Gresford (2 juveniles on 26/04, JN), Frith (SD) and Borrass Head (2 juveniles seen on 25/07, JN). The peak counts were at CON: 6 on 18/09 (JRI) and 6 on 9/10 (CK).

Flints. The majority of records were of 1-6 and from around the Dee Estuary. The maximum counts were all away from the Dee: 7 were near Rhuddlan on 21/01 (SH), the remainder of records were at Ddol Reservoir, Ysceiog – 8 on 11/03, 10 on 19/02 and 11 on 11/11 (MD). There was no proof of breeding this year.

Little Grebe 2009



Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

GWYFACH FAWR GOPOG

Breeding resident in small numbers

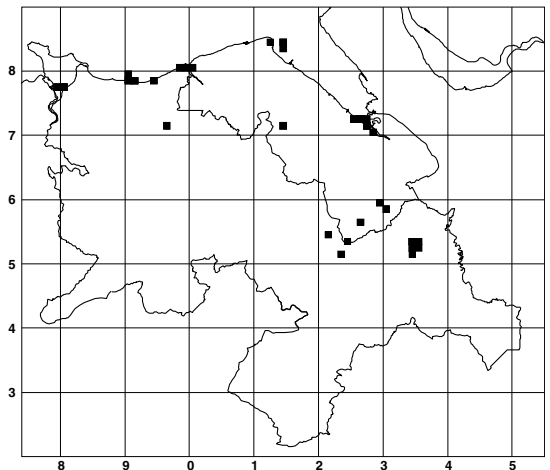
The distribution is similar to that of 2007 but without the cluster of records from Llyn Brenig.

(GG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	33	124
Flints.	38	8

Denbs. Recorded in Jan to Jun and Oct to Dec. Mainly coastal in the winter months with a winter peak in the first half of the year of 124 off Llanddulas on 19/02 (MHu). Spring and early summer records were mainly at inland waters, with a maximum of 5 at GF on 10/06 (JN). They started appearing offshore again by Oct with a late winter peak of only 4 off Llanddulas on 11/12 (RTe).

Flints. The majority of records received were from locations along the Dee Estuary with sightings in every month except Aug. The peak count in the early part of the year was 8 seen at CQNR on 12/02 (CM). The peak count in the latter part of the year was 8 again at CQNR on 18/11 (GR). Away from the Dee Estuary pairs were seen at FLQ and at Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog although there was no proof of breeding.

Great Crested Grebe 2009



Honey-buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)
Scarce migrant. Amber List.

WAOD Y MEL

Denbs. One was seen over Moel Famau on 9/09 (KS).

(HZ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)
Occasional visitor, has bred. Amber List.

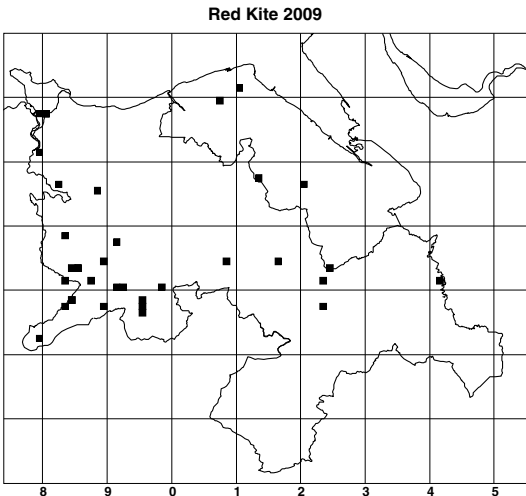
BARCUD

The distribution of records is broadly similar to 2008, though fewer were submitted.

(KT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	36	5
Flints.	4	1

Denbs. There were records in all months except Aug and Dec. Most sightings were of singles, with six records of 2 birds. The larger counts were: 3 in Cwm Pennaner on 20/02 (GG), 3 to NW of Pentrefoelas on 26/04 (RAP), 4 near Melin-y-coed on 21/02 (RTe) and 5 NW of Pentrefoelas on 5/09 (RAP).

Flints. The records of singles occurred in Jan, May, Jun and Sep.



Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)
Very scarce passage migrant. Amber List.

WAOD Y GWERNI

Flints. Two records were from the CQNR/IMF area. The first was seen at IMF on 13/08 (KS) and the other at CQNR on 25/10 (PDS). The other was a single near Moel Arthur on 5/08 (GEM).

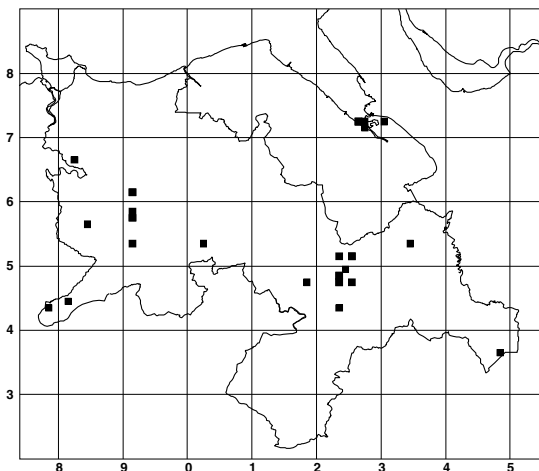
(MR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	3	1

WAOD TINWEN

The records were from broadly similar places to 2008 with three hot-spots – Mynydd Hiraethog, RM and CQNR/IMF.

(HH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	24	2
Flints.	5	1

Hen Harrier 2009



The table shows the records of males and ringtails (female/juvenile) during the year:

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(HH)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	9	39	37	33	3.67

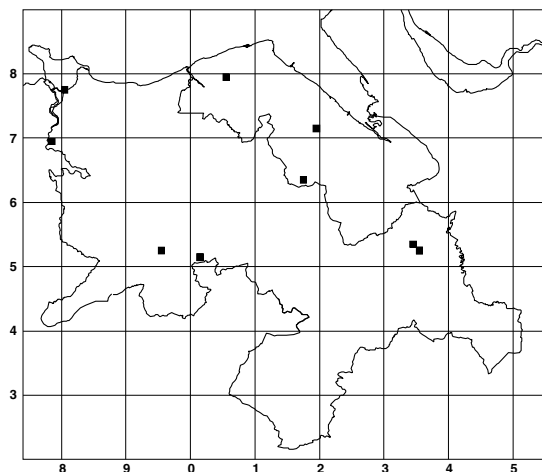
GWALCH MARTH

Denbs. Recorded in Jan, Feb, Mar, Aug and Dec, with all but one record being singles. There were 2 seen at Craig Bron Bannog on 4/03 (DG). There were three records from the outskirts of Wrexham.

(GI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	9	2
Flints.	3	1

37

Goshawk 2009



Breeding (WRSB):

(GI)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	1	2	2	2	2.00

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

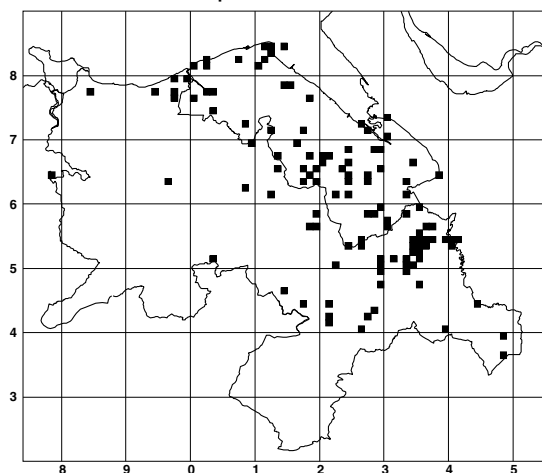
GWALCH GLAS

Common and widespread breeding resident

The distribution of the much reduced number of records is very similar to that of 2008. The plea for more records from the wider countryside remains.

(SH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	253	2
Flints.	161	3

Sparrowhawk 2009



Denbs. Just 60.5% of records were from GBW sites (down by 6.3% from 2008) so maybe we did receive more records from sites away from gardens. All but two records were of singles, the exceptions being 2 at Tallarn Green on 1/11 (MA) and 2 at Towyn on 23/02 (SM).

Flints. There appears to have been a dramatic change in the recording of Sparrowhawk – this year only 45.1% of records were from GBW sites (66.0% in 2008). All but five records were of singles, the exceptions being: 2 at Penycloddiau on 23/08 and 17/10 (EdW), 2 at Buckley in the week

beginning 22/11 (DSh), 2 near Rhuddlan on 15/04 and 3 there on 21/01 (SH).

Breeding (WRSG):

(SH)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	2	2	2	2	1.00

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

BWNCATH

Common and widespread breeding resident.

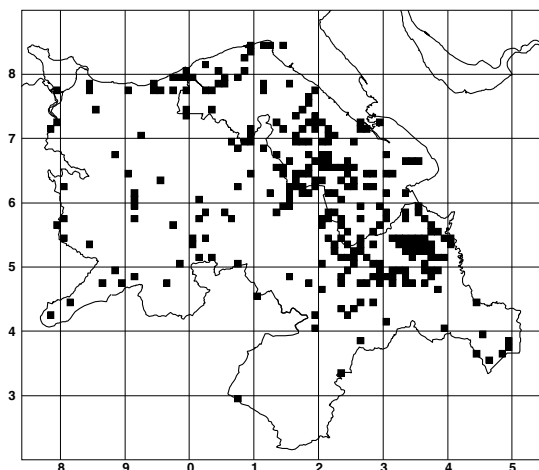
The distribution of records is broadly similar to 2008 but with fewer records in the W and more in the E. The southernmost part of Denbs remains an area of few records. Buzzards seem to be maintaining a stable presence in the area.

(BZ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	316	8
Flints.	436	8

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1-3 birds, with eight records of 4, three of 5 and seven of 6 individuals. The largest counts were of 7 over Wrexham on 27/08 (NH), 8 at Cwm Pennaner on 20.02 (GG), 8 at Craig Bron Bannog on 4/03 (DG), 8 over World's End on 8/04 (DG) and 8 over Burton Meadows on 27/11 (HL).

Flints. Most records were of 1-3 birds, nineteen were of 4, eight of 5 and three of 6 birds. The largest counts were 8 over Penycloddiau on 1/08 (EdW) and 8 over Cilcain on 1/09 (GEM).

Buzzard 2009



Maximum counts each month at a single location:

(BZ)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	5	8	8	8	6	3	3	7	4	3	8	2
Flints	4	6	6	5	6	6	4	5	8	8	5	4

Breeding (WRSG):

(BZ)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	49	108	84	78	1.59

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

Rare spring and autumn migrant. Amber List.

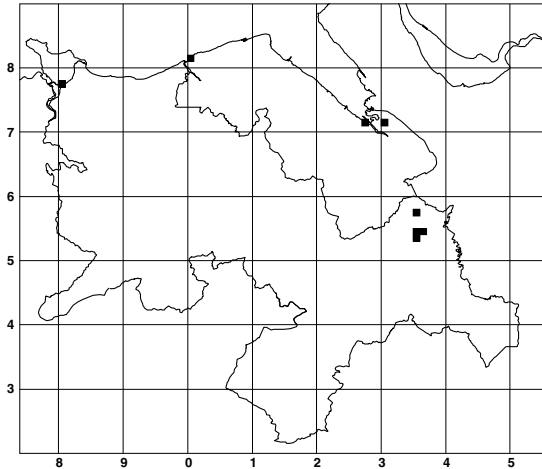
Osprey continues to be seen mainly as a spring migrant.

Denbs. Recorded in Mar, Apr, May and Oct. Two were seen flying high overhead near Gresford on 12/04 (JN).

Flints. Recorded once each in Apr, Jun and Sep.

(OP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	8	2
Flints.	3	1

Osprey 2009



Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

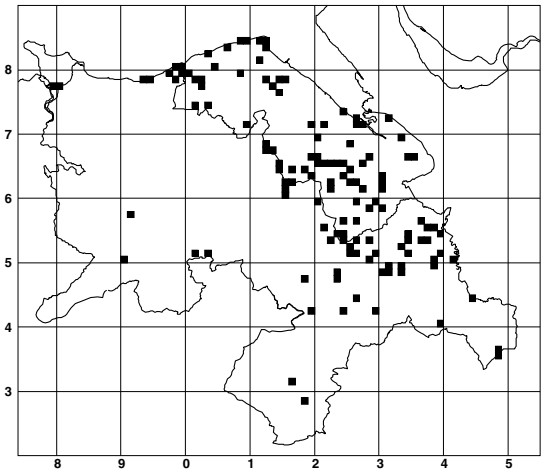
CUDYLL COCH

Common breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

The map suggests a distribution that is more biased towards

(K.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	107	3
Flints.	168	4

Kestrel 2009



the E than in 2008. It is not clear if this indicates a genuine lack of birds or simply a lack of records from the W. However the hard winter weather during Feb may have resulted in Kestrels (and Barn Owls) inhabiting upland areas finding it difficult to find adequate prey, and as a consequence birds may have died or moved away from these areas.

Denbs. Most records were of 1-2 birds with counts of 3 from: near World's End on 8/04 (DG), near Holt on 20/04

(SBo), at Ridleywood on 12/07 (JuR), at Nant-y-Ffrith Reservoir also on 12/07 (SD) and near Isycoed on 22/11 (NHu).

Flints. The majority of records were of 1-2 birds with 3 counted near Cilcain on 29/06 (TR) and at Rhydymwyn on 22/07 (JVHu). The largest counts were of 4 at Shotwick Fields on 5/08 (CW) and 4 nestlings ringed at Rhydymwyn on 13/06 (AmB).

Breeding (WRSG):

(K.)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	15	49	45	44	2.93

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

CUDYLL BACH

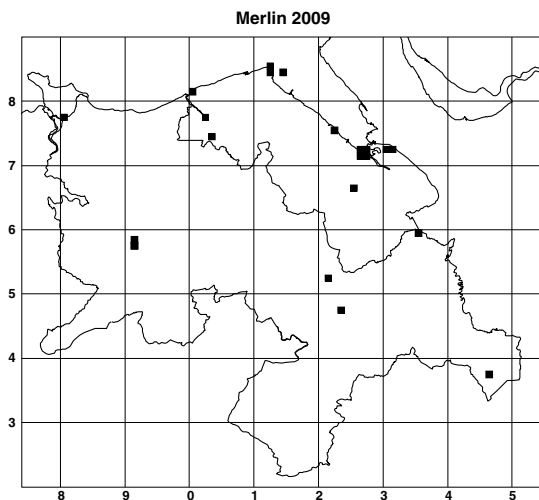
Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

The distribution of records is similar to that of 2007.

Denbs. Recorded in Jan, Mar, Apr, Jun, Jul, Aug and Dec mainly as singles with 2 seen at World's End on 2/08 (NH).

(ML)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	9	2
Flints.	46	1

Flints. Recorded in all months except May and Jun (when this species would be breeding).



Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)

HEBOG YR EHDYDD

Uncommon passage migrant and scarce breeding species. Amber List.

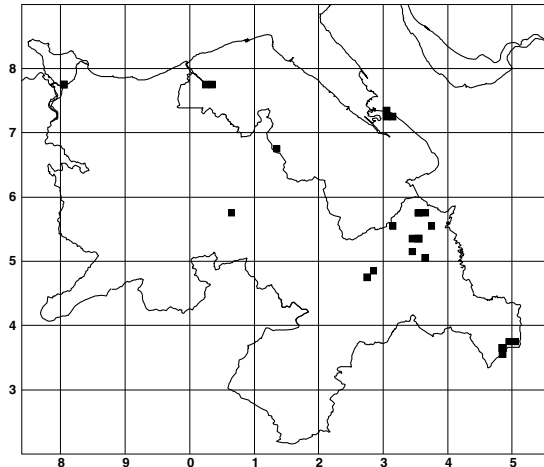
There were slightly fewer records than in 2008 but birds were seen at widely scattered locations, a notable cluster of records being from the Fenn's Moss area (where breeding in Wales has still not been recorded as proven).

(HY)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	23	2
Flints.	6	1

Denbs. Birds were recorded mainly from May to Aug as singles. The first record was at Burton on 4/05 (HL). The only record of 2 was at Fenn's Moss on 4/07 (KS) and the last was at Borras, Wrexham on 11/09 (JN).

Flints. The first was seen near Rhuddlan Castle on 8/06 (SH) and the last was at Shotwick Fields on 29/08 (CW).

Hobby 2009

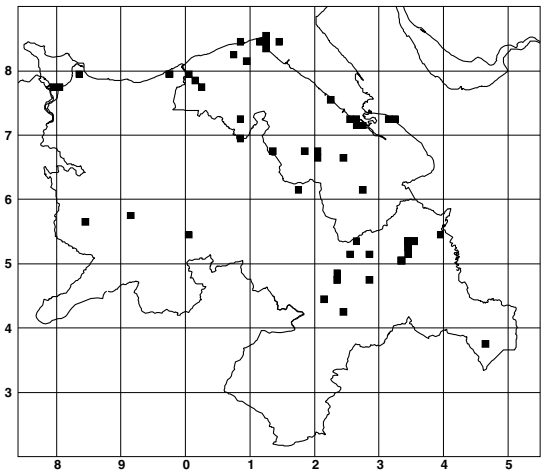


Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*)

HEBOG TREMOR

Breeding resident. Amber List.

Peregrine 2009



(PE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	33	4
Flints.	81	3

The distribution of sighting records includes the main birding hot-spots (CON, POA, CQNR, IMF), and the Wrexham Police Station for good measure! There were records in every month of the year.

Denbs. The majority of records were of singles but 2 were seen at CON on 9/02 (JP), in the centre of Wrexham on 19/02 (PLa), over World's End on 8/04 (DG), over Mynydd Hiraethog on 15/04 (SBo) and over Coedpoeth on 9/08 (KS). NH saw 3 over Wrexham on

25/06 (including at least one fledged young, probably from the nest on the Police Station tower) and 4 were seen at Trevor Uchaf on 19/06 (PLa).

Flints. Similarly, most of the records were of singles, though sixteen records were of 2 birds, several from CQNR where birds successfully bred in a nest box on one of the Power Station chimney stacks – one nestling hatched, was ringed and fledged. A record of 3 at Oakenholt on 30/08 (DNS) may have been the pair and its fledgling while another sighting of 3 at CQNR on 31/10 (GEM) was of a pair chasing off a second female trespassing on their territory.

Breeding (WRSG):

(PE)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	14	37	25	25	1.79

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)

RHEGEN Y DWR

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. All records received were from CON with singles seen on 11/01, 23/01 and 8/02 (KS, AWh, DCR). Five were heard calling on 2/12 and 8/12 (MDu, pJH), 7 were recorded on 8/01 (RBM) and 8 responded to a tape response survey on 6/04 (JHg).

(WA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	7	8
Flints.	1	1

Flints. a single record received, of a bird at Gronant dunes on 29/12 (RMB).

Spotted Crane (*Porzana porzana*)

REGEN FRAITH

Scarce migrant. Red List.

Denbs. One was found skulking at CON and photographed on 25/08 (RS, JHg).

(AK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	1
Flints.	0	

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

IAR DWR

Locally common breeding resident.

Denbs. Reported in every month of the year. There were again 4 sites with double figure counts: CON with maximum of 26 on 15/09 (JRI), 12 at GF on 2/01 (KS), 12 at Pensarn on 15/01 (DCR) and 11 at Acton Park on 27/11 (JN).

(MH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	98	26
Flints.	124	20

Breeding recorded at ten sites, Acton Park, Borrás, Bronington, CON, Erddig, GF, Gwersyllt, Llandyrnog, Moelfre and Nant-y-Ffrith.

Flints. Similar report to Denbs but records were mostly from coastal sites. Two locations have double figure counts, 20 at OMR on 10/03 (DNS) and two maximum counts of 16 at Talacre on

2/01 and 20/12 (pJR). Breeding was recorded at Ewloe and Ddol Reservoir (MD) and juveniles were reported from POA (DCR) and Rhuddlan (SH).

Coot (*Fulica atra*)

CWTIAR

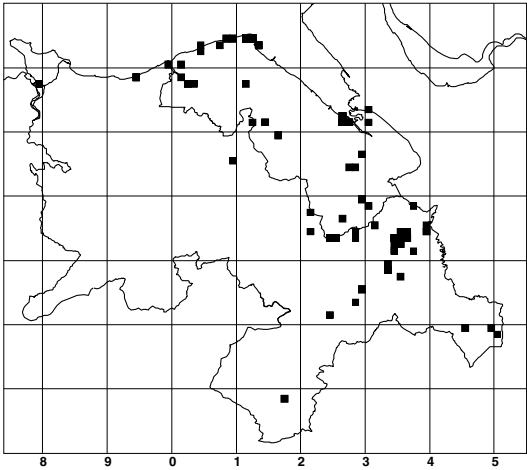
Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor.
Found on many inland lakes and other still waters.

Denbs. Populations appear to have been stable over the last few years with the number of records received up slightly on 2008 but down from the 120 records received in 2007. The highest count of 105+ birds during the first winter period was significantly higher than the 37 recorded in 2007 and 77 from 2008 both from the first winter period of each year. Records were received for every month of the year. Breeding was successfully recorded at four sites, with juveniles seen at GF on 9/06 (JN), Borras, Wrexham on 20/07 (JN), CON on 15/08 (DCR) and Erddig pool, Wrexham on 5/09 (NH).

Flints. 2009 saw an increase in numbers over 2008, but the population appears to be relatively stable with records over the previous 5 years averaging 143, slightly fewer than the records received for 2009. Breeding was only recorded at CQNR with young seen on 25/04 (JHo) and 12/08 (DNS). Records were received from every month of the year. The highest count of the year was 60+ birds seen at FLQ on 5/12 (NHu).

(CO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	102	105+
Flints.	175	60+

Coot 2009



Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

PIODEN Y MOR

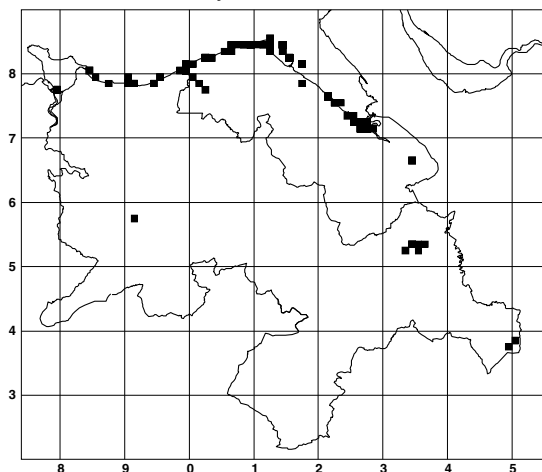
Abundant winter visitor around coast but scarce breeding resident. Amber List.

The map shows the expected coastal distribution where the largest flocks are found (they are all at Flints sites), with small numbers found inland, particularly during the breeding season. The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site for Oystercatcher though it is now on high alert as there has been a 51% decline in numbers since 1981/82.

(OC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	95	550+
Flints.	274	12000

Denbs. The coast had some relatively small flocks (compared with Flints), the maximum counts being 341 at Rhos-on-Sea on 14/02 (RS), 400 at Horton's Nose, Kinmel Bay on 4/12 (RMB), 420 at Rhos-on-Sea on 24/12 (RS) and 550+ at KBRH on 17/08 (DCR). The inland records include: 1 at Llyn Aled on 9/06 (KS), 2 near Fenn's Bank on 30/05 (SD), 1 near Fenn's Moss

Oystercatcher 2009



on 4/07 (KS) which may have been breeding birds and a cluster of records near Wrexham involving 1-3 birds in Feb, Apr and May (JN, HL) which were probably on passage to breeding locations.

Flints. The largest count, 12,000 at Mostyn on 6/01 (GR) was the largest flock in the county since 2002. Other maximum counts are shown in the table. The inland counts during BBS walks at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft where birds appeared to be breeding, were 4 on 14/04 and 9 on 28/06 (IMS). There was a record of an albino at POA on 23/08 (DCR).

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

(OC)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
POA	4000	3000	1500	1271	500	6	1000	4500	4500	4500	4500	4000
Mostyn	12000	3000	1410	300	1760	750	2000	3000	3800	4000	3284	3855
OMR*	700	350	250	150	2	8	550	1000	3500	3000	3000	1700

*Represents maxima for OMR and CQNR

Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

CAMBIG

Scarce visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. Four were at CON on 20/03 and 21/03 and they reappeared on 2/04 (RS, JHg). A single was there on 18/04 (JHg).

(AV)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	4
Flints.	1	1

Flints. A single bird was at IMF on 25/06 (GR).

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

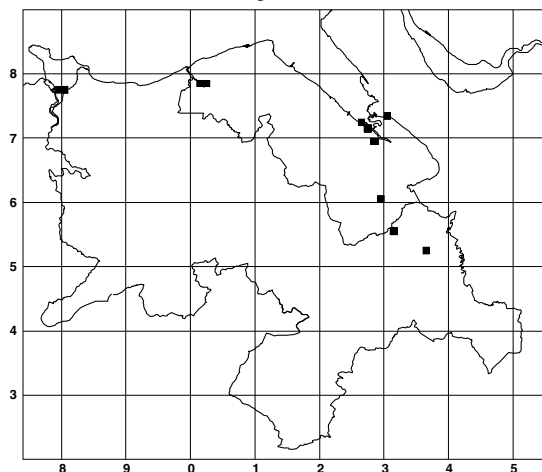
Rare summer visitor and passage migrant. Scarce breeder.

Denbs. There were records in Apr, May and Jul. The largest count, 3, were seen at Llay pool (Sydallt) on 8/04 (HL) and 2 were seen there on 7/04 (JuR), 9/04 (KS) and 16/05 (JN). Other sightings were of singles.

(LP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	9	3
Flints.	22	4

Flints. Records were gathered during Mar to Aug, with several records of the birds that bred at Connah's Quay Power Station, where there were 4 juveniles on 17/06 and a second brood of

Little Ringed Plover 2009



4 on 3/08 (CL). There were five records of 2 from near Rhuddlan, FLQ and IMF and 3 were seen at CQNR on 13/07 (BH) and 19/08 (JHo).

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

CWTIAD TORCHOG

Breeding resident in small numbers, passage migrant. Amber List. WBAP

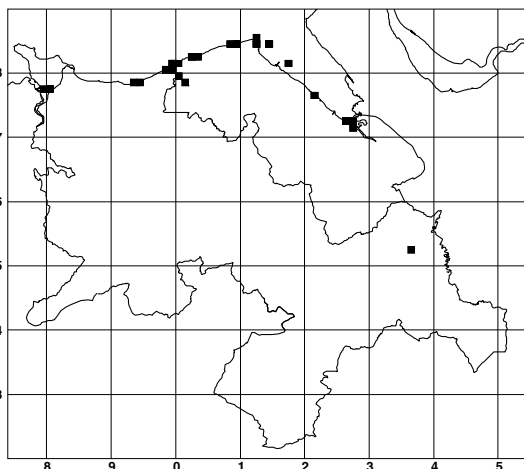
The distribution of records is much as in 2008.

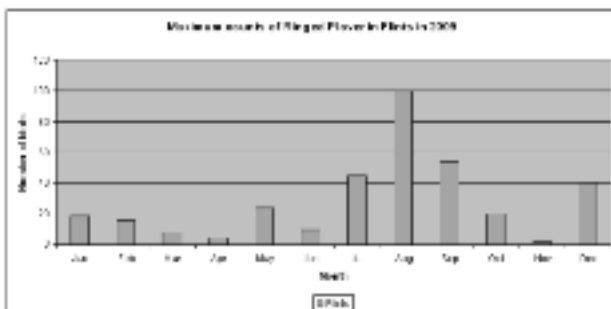
Denbs. Recorded in every month except Feb, Mar and Jul. Ten records were of <10 birds and CON had most records (see table) though the maximum count of 30 was at Horton's Nose on 10/12 (RMB).

(RP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	24	30
Flints.	73	100

Flints. Recorded in every month in small numbers with a marked, small peak in autumn, probably of birds on passage. Sixty one of the records were of 1-16 and the maximum counts at POA are shown in the table. The largest counts were: 60 at CQNR on 16/08 (GEM), 80 at POA on 12/08 (GNR), 90 at CQNR on 23/08 (AW) and 100 there on 12/08 (JHo) which seems to indicate some passage through the area as the Aug totals are higher than any other month (see histogram). The only records of breeding were 1+ fledged young near Gronant on 8/07 (DG) and 6 young ringed there on 5/07 (pBH), possibly the same birds.

Ringed Plover 2009





Monthly maxima at CON and POA:

(RP)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CON	16				6	25		18		10	1	12
POA	16	16	8	4	24	1	5	80	54	20		2

Dotterel (*Charadrius morinellus*)

HUTAN Y MYNYDD

Rare migrant

Denbs. Four were seen on Moel Famau on 6/05 (JR).

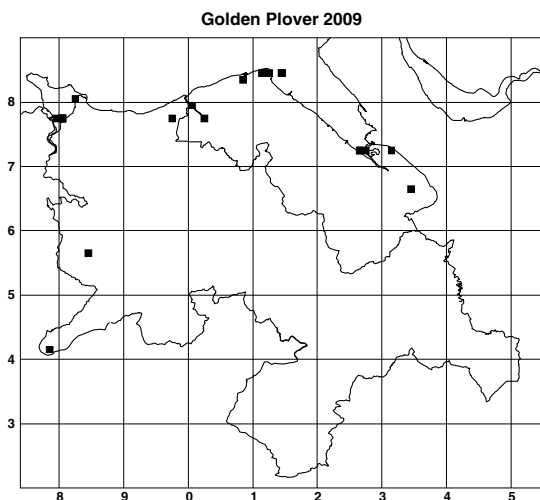
(DO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	4
Flints.	0	

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)

CWTIAD AUR

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. There were records during Apr, Sep, Oct and Dec only. The Apr records were a party



(GP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	10	35
Flints.	18	200

of 34 on Mynydd Hiraethog, near Nebo, on 15/04 (SBo), a single heard over the Migneint on 21/04 (GTh) and a single at CON on 8/04 (JHg). The two Sep records were singles at CON; 3 were there on 6/10 (JHg) and the Dec records were mainly from the coast with 35 inland from Towyn on 21/12 (SM).

Flints. The records occurred in Jan, Feb, Apr and Sep to Dec – more clearly a pattern of wintering or passage birds. In the early months of the year the largest count was just 4 near Talacre on

12/02 (pJR). In the autumn/early winter the highest counts were 110 S of Rhyl on 22/12 (SH) and 200 at POA on 19/11 (CMo).

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

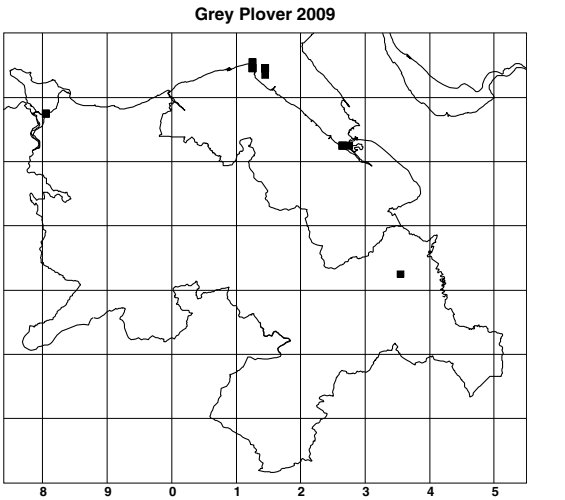
CWTIAD LLWYD

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

Denbs. Four records were of singles at CON on 1/04, 14/05, 15/05 and 1/11 (JHg). The other record was of a single flying N over Borras calling on 19/04 (JN).

(GV)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	5	1
Flints.	27	80

Flints. Recorded in Jan, Feb, Apr, Jun and Sep to Dec. The largest count was 80 at POA on 11/01 (PDS) with 52 there on 28/01 and 9/02 (GR). From Apr to Sep the maximum count was 5 at POA on 7/06 (GR) and numbers increased in the latter part of the year with a maximum of 45 at POA on 19/11 (CMo).



Monthly maxima at POA:

(GV)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
POA	80	52				5			2	4	45	25

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

CORNCHWIGLEN

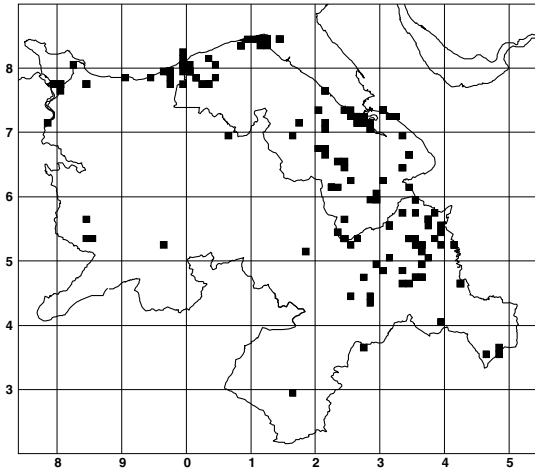
Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP

This species is recorded in moderate numbers at coastal and inland locations throughout the area during the winter months. There is a similar distribution of records as in 2008 but the extra records include some new locations. Lapwing are present in the area all through the year, though numbers are markedly increased over the winter period; undoubtedly, a proportion are birds on passage.

(L.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	132	1677
Flints.	326	2000

Denbs. Most of the records were of 1-500 birds and the largest counts were: 620 at CON on 27/12 (RS), 700 at Horton's Nose on 4/12 (RMB), 800+ at KBRH on 15/11 (DCR), 1,400 near Ridleywood on 5/12 and 12/12 (NFr), 1,600 near Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 28/12 (RS) but the largest flock was 1,677 there on 27/12 (RS), after a large influx. There was evidence of breeding

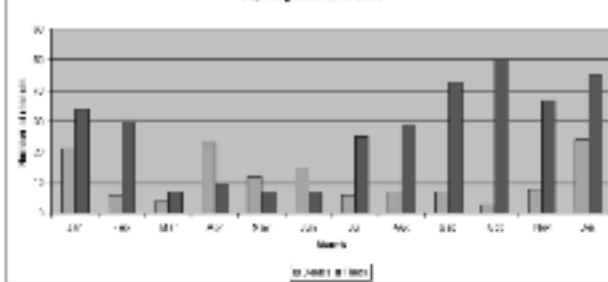
Lapwing 2009



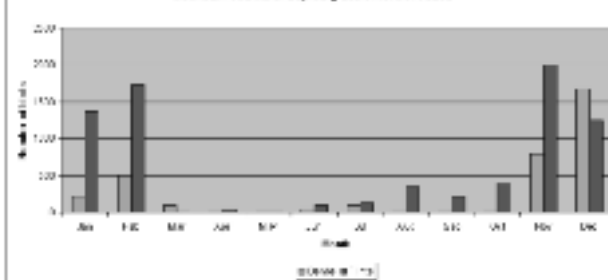
from several sites but was confirmed at just two: near Denbigh Green and at Burton Meadows.

Flints. The majority of records were of 1-640 birds. The largest flocks were: 653 at WS on 19/01(CM), 900 at CQNR on 12/01 (GR), 1,200 there on 22/11 (AW), 1,250 there on 4/12 (DNS), 1,378 at Oakenholt on 19/01 (CM), 1,736 there on 9/02 (CM) and 2,000 at CQNR on 20/11 (AW). There were a few breeding records and breeding was confirmed near Rhosesmor and at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft.

Lapwing records in 2009



Maximum counts of Lapwing records in 2009



In the table below Rhyl* includes maxima recorded at River Clwyd Rhyl, RML and S of Rhyl:

(L.)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rhyl*		500					25	11		150	800+	
POA	600	500	8						2	137	580	640
OMR	1378	1736		1			120	12	30			34
CQNR	900	600		2		100	25	200	60	400	2000	1250
WS	653	91					138	355	212	4	370	60

Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

PIBYDD YR ABER

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

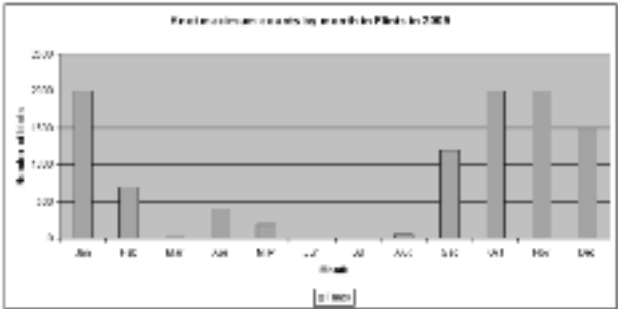
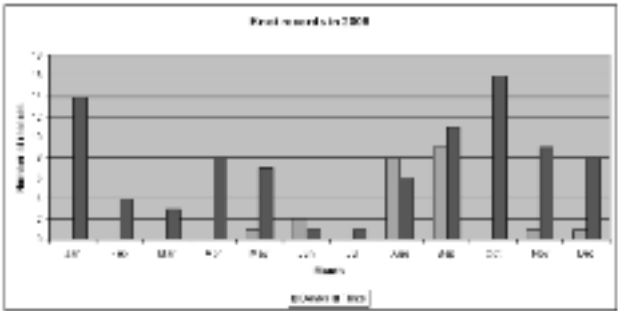
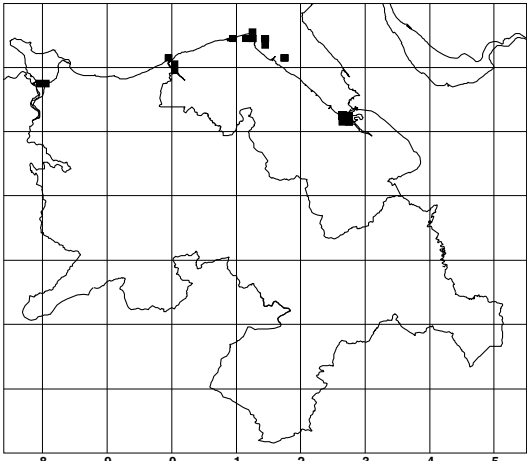
The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this species, the main sites are POA and OMR / CQNR. This species is uncommon along the Denbs coast. Knot occur at coastal and estuarine sites, mainly as passage migrants and over-wintering birds.

(KN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	22	3
Flints.	82	2000

Knot 2009

Denbs. Recorded in May, Jun, Aug, Sep, Nov and Dec, mainly as singles at CON. The exceptions were: 1 at Horton's Nose on 10/12 (RMB), 2 juveniles on 27/08 (JHg), 2 on 13/09 (MDu), 3 on 8/06 (MDu) and 3 on 5/09 (JHg), all at CON.

Flints. Half of the records were of 1-50 birds and the remainder were of flocks of 60-2,000. The table shows the main maximum counts at the two key sites – POA and CQNR. The histograms shows how the birds are virtually absent during the breeding season and that the maximum counts are in the autumn and winter months. The maximum count of 2,000 occurred three times: at Mostyn on 6/01, at CQNR on 10/10 and 18/11 (all GR). All the larger flocks were within the Dee Estuary.



Monthly maxima at POA:

(KN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
POA	1500	700	10	400	1			1	50	500	1500	1500
CQNR	250	3	43	300	200	2	1	50	1200	2000	2000	15

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)

PIBYDD Y TYWOD

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

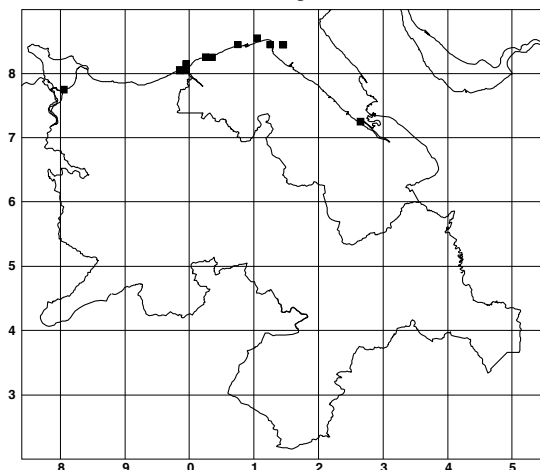
The distribution of records is entirely coastal, as would be expected. There were considerably fewer records than in the previous two years.

(SS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	9	12
Flints.	18	200

Denbs. Recorded in Jan, Feb, Apr, Sep, Oct and Dec, usually in small numbers (1-8) and mainly in the Kinmel Bay area. A juvenile was at CON on 29/08 (MDu) and the largest counts were 12 at Kinmel Bay or Horton's Nose on 8/10 (RMB), on 5/12 and 24/12 (DCR).

Flints. Recorded in Jan, Feb and Sep to Dec. Most records were of 1-20 birds and the largest counts were all in winter: 40 at POA on 17/12 and 20/12 (GR), 70 there on 11/01 (PDS) and 200 there on 21/11 (RMB).

Sanderling 2009



Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)

PIBYDD BACH

Very scarce passage migrant, usually found on autumn passage.

Denbs. One was at CON on 13/09 (DCR) and a juvenile was at KBRH on 14/09 (MHu).

(LX)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	1
Flints.	7	2

Flints. All records were in Sep and at KBRH or on the Afon Clwyd, S of Rhyl. There were 2 at Rhyl on 15/09 (AnCu) and on 16/09 (ANB) – possibly the same birds.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

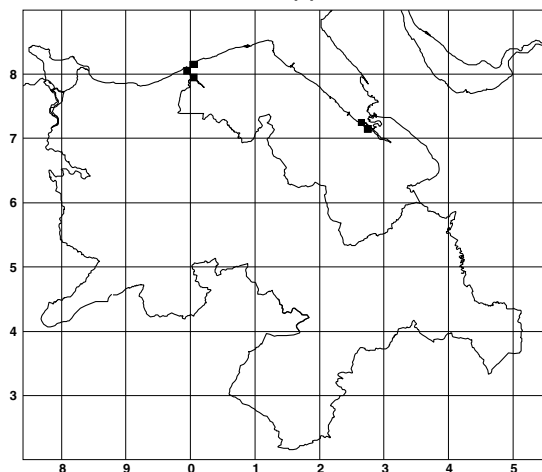
PIBYDD CAMBIG

Scarce autumn passage migrant. WBAP

As usual, the records are from the estuary of the Afon Clwyd

(CV)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	2
Flints.	14	5

Curlew Sandpiper 2009



and on the Dee at CQNR. Surprisingly there were no records from CON this year.

Denbs. On 14/09 2 juveniles were seen at Kinmel Bay (MHu).

Flints. Half of the records were singles and all the records were in Sep or Oct. The first was a single at CQNR pm 9/09 (DeNi), the largest count was 5 at Rhyl on 13/09 (ANB) and the last record was 1 at CQNR on 20/10 (PDS).

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

PIBYDD Y MAWN

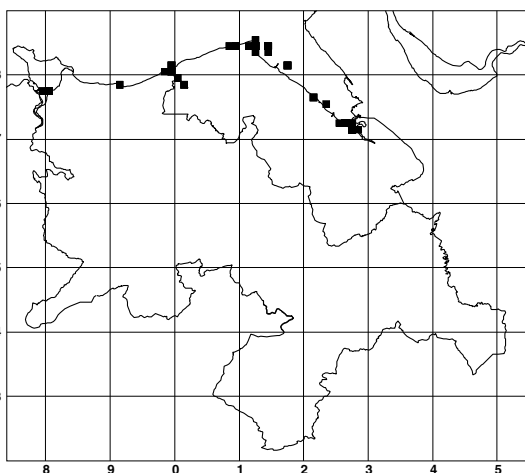
Passage migrant and common winter visitor. Red List.

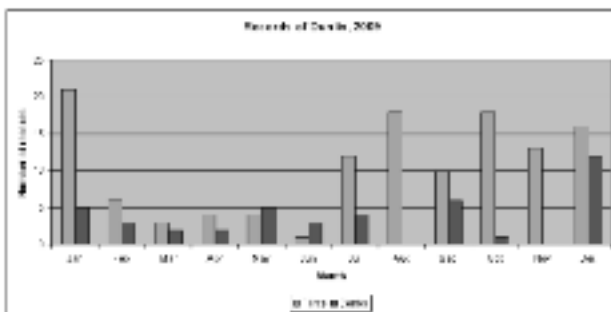
The map shows the usual distribution of records along the coast (in small numbers) and on the estuaries of the Afon Clwyd and the Dee, where relatively large numbers can be seen. The histograms show the pattern of records received, which are markedly different in each county. The numbers of records do not show the same pattern as the maximum counts of birds. The latter shows clearly that the majority of Dunlin winter in Flints, with no marked peaks of passage birds in spring or autumn. The Dee Estuary, of which the Flints shore forms a part, is internationally important for Dunlin though there has been a longterm decline of 11% since 1981/82.

(DN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	39	460
Flints.	117	3000

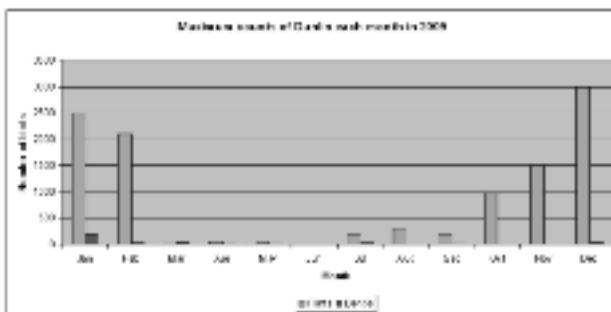
Denbs. Recorded in all months except Aug and Nov. Some large counts were early in the year: 460+ at the mouth of the Afon Clwyd on 4/01 and 300+ there on 1/03 (DCR) and there were 93 at CON on 2/01 (MDu). In the autumn the largest counts were 40 at Horton's Nose on 10/12 (RMB) and 35 at CON on 28/07 (MDu).

Dunlin 2009





Flints. Recorded in every month with the main counts at CQNR and POA shown in the table. In the Dee Estuary there were just 14 at maximum between Apr and Jul, but in Aug the autumn arrival started. Large wintering flocks were present from Oct to Dec.



Monthly maxima at POA and CQNR:

(DN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
POA	1000	500	10	40	40	2	200	60	200	30	300	450
CQNR	2500	2100	20	6	3		20	300	150	1000	1500	3000

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

PIBYDD TORCHOG

Scarce passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. Recorded only at CON in Jun to Sep, mainly as singles. The largest count of 3 was on 9/08 (JHg).

(RU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	10	3
Flints.	4	2

Flints. There was 1 on the Afon Clwyd, S of Rhyl on 2/01 (SH), 1 at CQNR on 16/08 (GEM), 1 there on 4/10 and 2 at Shotwick Fields on 18/11 (CW).

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocryptes minimus*)

GIACH FACH

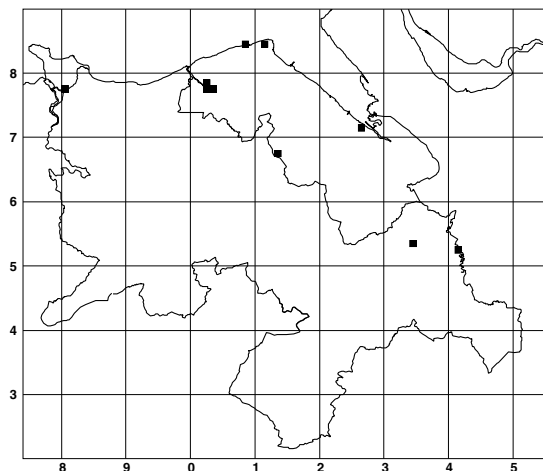
Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Probably under-recorded. Amber List.

Denbs. Twelve of the records were in Jan and Mar, and there were seven records of singles at CON in Nov and Dec. There were records of 2 at CON on 4/03 and 9/03 and 3 there on 14/03 (all MDu).

(JS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	19	3
Flints.	13	3

Flints. There were singles near Gronant on 19/01 (DCR) and on Penycloddiau on 11/02 (EdW).

Jack Snipe 2009



All other records were in Oct to Dec with 2 near Rhuddlan three times in Nov and 3 in different 1 km squares at, or near, Rhuddlan on 27/11 (SH, ANB).

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

GŪACH GYFFREDIN

Rare breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor in moderate numbers. Amber List.

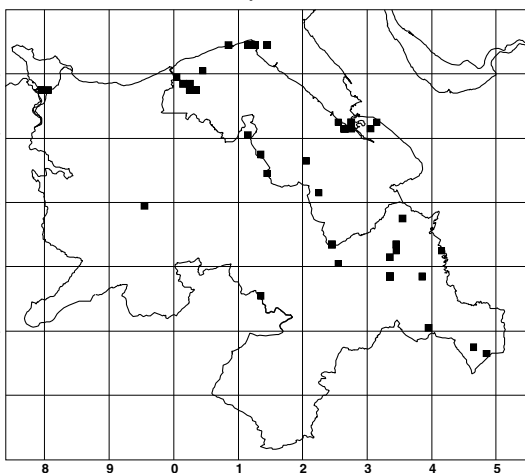
The records are distributed in a broadly similar way as in 2008.

(SN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	37	60
Flints.	101	62

Denbs. Over half the records were of singles with a quarter of records being groups of 10+. The largest counts were at just two sites: 48 near Ridleywood on 28/01 (NFr), 32 at CON on 28/12 and 38 on 13/02 (MDu) and 60 on 28/11 (JHg). There were records in every month except May and Aug.

Flints. There were no records during the breeding season (May to Aug) suggesting that snipe reside in Flints only during the non-breeding season. The last spring record was a single near Rhuddlan on 25/04 (SH) and the first record of the autumn was 2 at Oakenholt on 8/09 (DeNi). Most of the records were of 1-32 birds with the larger counts being: 37 at Rhuddlan on 21/11 (ANB, SH), 50 at POA on 4/12 (GR), 53 on 5/03 near Rhuddlan and 62 in three different 1 km squares near Rhuddlan on the same day, 27/11, suggesting that the same group was counted each time (SH, ANB).

Snipe 2009



Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

CYFFYLOG

Scarce breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. All the records were between Jan and Apr. Pentrellyncymmer held 20+ birds that were flushed from an area of forest on 1/01 (MHu). Three birds were flushed from woodland at Abergele Hospital and a single was seen at Abergele Golf course on 5/01 (RS). All other records were of singles, including a dead bird found at Eglwysbach on 8/02 (MaRa).

(WK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	10	20
Flints.	11	3

Flints. Only a single summer record was received, with a single seen at Nercwys Mountain on 28/05 (PeRu). Three birds were seen at Penycloddiau on 11/02 (EdW) and at Tremeirchion on 10/11 (PKi). There were 2 at Garth on 23/02 (JoR) and all other records were of singles.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Passage migrant. Principally a winter visitor but increasingly found through the year. Amber List.

Denbs. Recorded every month except May and Nov and nearly all the records were from CON (see the table for the monthly maxima there). Away from CON there were 14 at KBRH on 17/08 (DCR) and 3 at Llanddulas on 25/09 (JBM).

(BW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	37	44
Flints.	249	5500

CON monthly maxima:

(BW)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	14	15	15	12		19	22	44	8	15		24

Flints. Recorded in every month of the year and nearly all the records were from the Dee Estuary where the peak early year count was 2,000 at POA on 11/01 (PDS). See the table for the monthly maxima at CQNR / Oakenholt and POA. The largest count was 5,500 at CQNR / Oakenholt on 19/10 (GR). The peak summer count, of non-breeding birds, was 710 at Oakenholt on 24/07 (PDS). These birds commuted between CQNR and IMF over the border in Cheshire. Numbers seem to have dropped in late winter as birds dispersed around the estuary. Of the few records away from the Dee Estuary, the most seen were 11 at Rhyl on 18/07 (ANB).

Dee Estuary monthly maxima:

(BW)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
CQNR	163	550	850	1270	1000	500	710	2500	4500	5500	1500	500
POA	2000	500	97	11				27	250	1500	1500	800

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

RHOSTOG GYNFFFRONFRITH

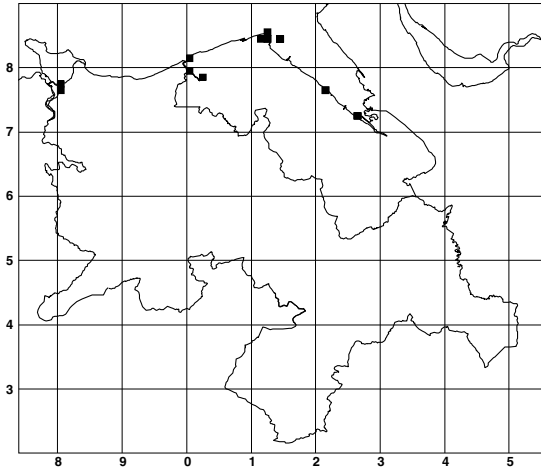
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. All the records were from CON. There was a slight increase on 2008 although the maximum count was again of 3 birds. Singles were seen on eleven occasions, with 2 recorded on 21/09 and 22/09 (PC, JHg) and 3 on 8/04 (RBM). There were 8 spring records and 6 autumn records, the first bird of the year was seen on 19/03 and the last on 8/10.

Flints. All but three of the records were received from the Dee Estuary, following a similar pattern to 2008. Records for 2009 were down compared to 2008, but there appears to be no significant change over the last 5 years. The highest counts were from POA with 12 on 7/10, 17 on 22/11, 19 on 4/12 and 20 on 20/12 (all GR). Singles were also recorded at Walwen Marsh, CQNR, Rhuddlan and Rhyl. Records for Flints were more widespread through the year than from Denbs with Feb and May being the only blank months.

(BA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	14	3
Flints.	26	20

Bar-tailed Godwit 2009

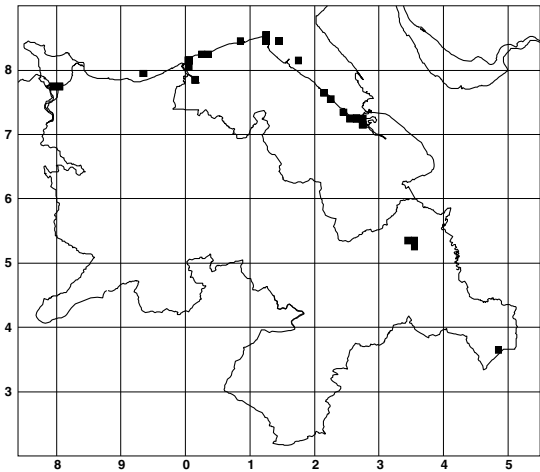


Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

COEGYLFINIR

Passage migrant and localised summer visitor in small numbers. Amber List.

Whimbrel 2009



(WM)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	10	3
Flints.	45	17

Denbs. There were significantly fewer records than in 2008. The first record of the year was a single at CON on 13/04 followed by 3 on 16/04 (MDu, RS). A single at Fenn's Moss on 2/05 and another single at CON the following day were the last records for spring. The first 'autumn' record was a single at CON on 27/07 (MDu). Two records from Pensarn on 20/08 and 24/08 (STh) were followed by two records from the Wrexham area in Sep, the last being a single at Borrass on

16/09 (JN).

Flints. The 45 records for 2009 were, in contrast to Denbs, an increase on 2008. The first bird of the year was a single seen at Rhyl on 14/04 (ANB) and records were then received every month until Sep. The primary site for records was POA with 10+ birds on three occasions. Other records of note were 17 at Rhuddlan on 30/04 (SH) and 10 at Bagillt on 10/04 (GaBl).

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

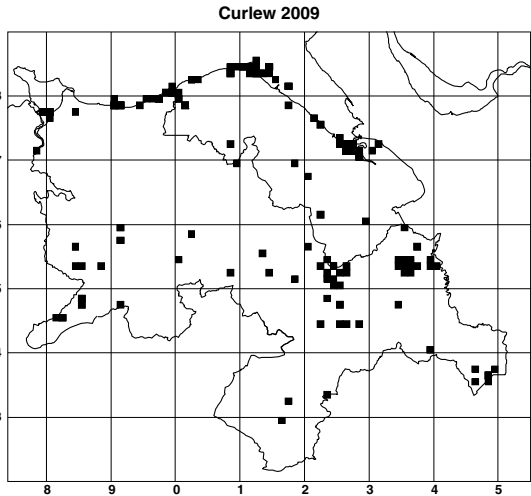
GYLFINIR

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP
The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site.

Denbs. Breeding appears to have occurred in the region with a record of 2 adults and a juvenile from the area around Ysbyty Ifan on 6/07 (JuLa). Records at upland locations were mainly of 2 birds together. High counts for the year were all from CON with 318 recorded on 10/07 (MDu), 282 on 1/07 (MDu) and 208 on 19/03 (RBM).

(CU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	145	318
Flints.	336	1200

Flints. A nesting pair was recorded in the Halkyn Mountain area and there were also summer records from within the Clwydian range. The primary site for records was CQNR with records from every month of the year. High counts were 76 seen on 4/03, 70 on 18/11 and 64 on 12/11 (all GR). The highest counts for the area were from POA with 1,200 on 23/08, 1,200 on 18/10 and 1,100 on 20/09 (all GR). There were 17 records of 400+ birds from POA. Other notable records were received from Rhyl, Talacre, Oakenholt Marsh and Bagillt.



Maximum numbers at selected sites:

(CU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
POA	450	600	500	570	70	106	1000	1200	1100	1200	450	800
CQNR	37	21	76	7	50	1	50	41	50	57	70	42
WS	14	40	25	76	7	2	60	22	28	13	12	6

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

PIBYDD Y DORLAN

Double passage migrant and breeding visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. Recorded Jan, Apr to Aug, Oct and Dec. A bird over-wintered at Tal-y-Cafn and was seen on 28/01 (RTe). The

(CS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	20	7
Flints.	42	11

first spring migrant was at CON on 6/04 (JHg). Breeding possibly occurred at CON with a juvenile seen with 2 adults on 16/06 (MDu) and a maximum of 7 was seen there on 28/07 (MDu). A single seen at GF on 9/10 and 12/10 may have been a last migrant or the over-wintering bird seen on 31/12 (JN).

Flints. Recorded Apr to Sep with the first bird of spring seen at CQNR on 8/04 (LC). In the spring a maximum of 3 was seen near Rhuddlan on 6/05 (SH). During the summer there was no proof of breeding but 11 were near Connah's Quay on 22/07 (CL) and 8 were near the new bridge at CQNR on 4/08 (LC). The last record was a single at CQNR on 3/09 (GR).

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

PIBYDD GWYRDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers.

Denbs. A single bird appears to have been present at CON from 22/07 to 10/09 with nine records. Other records were received for singles from Rosset and Burton. Eight were seen at Denbigh on 27/11 (ANB).

(GE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	13	8
Flints.	19	6

Flints. Six were at SS on 9/08 (DCro) and a single was seen between 13/11 and 27/11 at Rhuddlan (SH), with 4 there on 28/11 (AnCu, SH). Records were also received of birds at Rhyl, St Asaph, Hope, Queensferry and Talacre.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

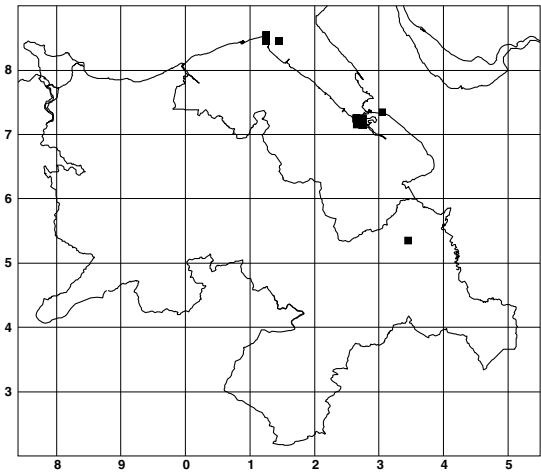
PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

Passage migrant and scarce over wintering visitor. Amber List.

This highlights the limited distribution of this species in our area with the key sites in the Dee Estuary.

(DR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	96	17

Spotted Redshank 2009



Denbs. The only record this year was of a single at GF on 16/02 (JN).

Flints. Several months had smaller peak counts than in 2008. All records were from the Dee Estuary with a peak early year count of 17 at CQNR on 12/01 (CM). The last bird to leave in spring was a single at CQNR on 28/04 (PDS) and the first bird in the autumn was a single at CQNR on 19/07 (TGP) building up to 12 by 25/09 (SS). The peak autumn count was 14 also at CQNR on 19/10 (GR) and a maximum of 5 was there in winter, on 4/12 (DNS).

Dee Estuary monthly maxima

(DR)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	17	4	6	1			1	1	12	14	1	5

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

PIBYDD COESWERDD

Passage migrant.

Denbs. Twenty of the records were from CON, with three records from Gresford Flash and a single record from Kinnel Bay. The number of records for 2009 shows no significant change over the last 5 years and that Greenshank is a species which is seen at a few traditional sites. High counts for the year were 7 at CON on 4/09 and 11/09 (JHg), 6 on 5/09 and 5 on 29/08 and 31/08 (JHg, MHu).

(GK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	24	7
Flints.	166	23

Flints. CQNR was again the best site for this species but with slightly fewer records than the previous two years. The highest count of the year was 23 seen on 3/09 (GR) at CQNR. There were four counts of 20+ at CQNR all in Sep. There were records of birds for every month of the year apart from Jun, possibly suggesting that the area is used for overwintering and as a last stop on spring migration and first stop on autumn migration. Away from CQNR birds were recorded at Flint Marsh with 2 on 12/04 (GR), POA with 15 records and Rhuddlan where a single bird was seen on 10/09 (SH) and 2 on 6/09 (AnCu).

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

PIBYDD Y GRAEAN

Scarce passage migrant.

Denbs. A single was at Borrass, Wrexham on 13/05 (JN). Two records of long staying birds were received from CON with a single seen between 14/07 and 18/07 (JHg) and a juvenile between 6/08 and 15/08 (MDu).

(OD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	1
Flints.	1	1

Flints. A single was recorded on the Border Pool at IMF on 16/08 (pCW).

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

PIBYDD COESGOCH

Possible breeding resident and common winter visitor. Amber List.
The Dee Estuary is of international importance for this species.

Denbs. Of the records received, six were from inland sites. A single was seen at Tal-y-Cafn on 6/01 and 28/01 (RTe), 2 at Rossett on 6/01 (HL), 2 were at Fenn's Moss on 2/05 (JPA), a single was at GF on 9/09 (JN) and 6 were seen at Worthenbury on 12/12 (NFr). The highest count from a coastal site was 80 at CON on 18/09 (JRI) and other records of note were 60 at Llanddulas on 6/12 (RTe) and at Kinnel Bay on 1/03 (DCR) and 17/10 (NHu). Records from coastal sites were

(RK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	66	80
Flints.	368	2423

received from Llandrillo-yn-Rhos, Kinmel Bay, CON, Towyn, Pensarn and Llanddulas.

Flints. Only two records were received from inland locations - single birds were seen at FLQ on 6/04 (GNR) and at Llyn Helyg on 6/08 (DCR). Coastal records were from 3 main areas, the inner Dee Estuary around CQNR, Flint and WS / IMF, Mostyn, POA and from the Rhuddlan / Rhyl area. Birds are probably found all along the Welsh coast of the Dee Estuary but these sites are the most accessible. The highest count of 2,423 was recorded at Mostyn on 20/09 (MaBr). There were a total of 15 records of 1,000+, all between Aug and Oct. Thirteen of the highest counts were from CQNR, which is the primary site for this species.

POA and CQNR monthly maxima

(RK)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
POA	250	100	570	74			400	400	300	850	450	400
CQNR	30	93	400	243		2	700	2000	2000	1000	400	300

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

CWTIAD Y TRAETH

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. The records were along the coast from CON to Kinmel Bay. Not recorded in the months of Apr, May and Jun. Maximum counts of 120 at Llanddulas on 5/12 (RTE), 85 at Rhos-on-Sea on 24/12 (RS) and 64 at Kinmel Bay on 17/08 (DCR).

(TT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	34	120
Flints.	30	40

Flints. Records were along the coast from Rhyl to CQNR with no reports in Feb, Apr, May, Jun and Jul. Maximum count from Mostyn with 40 on 20/12 (MaBr).

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

Passage migrant in small numbers. Amber List. WBAP

Flints. All records were in Aug and Sep from POA. The largest count in Aug was 18 on 28/08 (ANB) and there were 20 on 1/09 (ANB).

(AC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	11	20

Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*)

SGIWEN FAWR

Uncommon migrant.

Flints. A single was recorded twice at POA on 3/09 (NFR) during a three-hour seawatch at the lighthouse, PDS).

(NX)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	2	1

Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

Passage migrant. Amber List.

GWYLAN GOES DDU

Denbs. A first winter dropped onto GF from a stormy sky on 3/12 (JN).

(KI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	2	2

Flints. A single was seen at POA on 27/03 (PDS) and surprisingly 2 were at CQNR on 30/06 (NH).

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

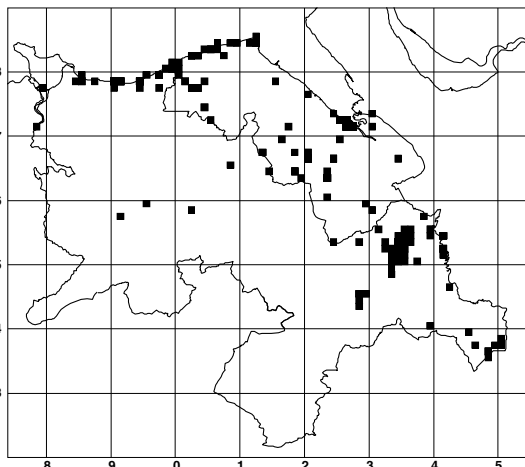
GWYLAN BENDDU

Common resident and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP

The distribution of records is similar to that of 2008 and the records were from every month in both counties. The histogram HISTO shows that the largest numbers of birds were in winter with the exception of the peak in Flints in Jul.

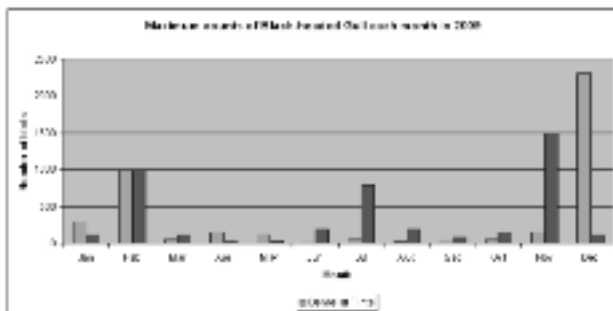
(BH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	226	2300
Flints.	270	1500

Black-headed Gull 2009



Denbs. Most records were of 1-100 with others of 101-300. The largest counts were from different places: 500 at Worthenbury on 5/12 (NFr), 500 near Ridleywood on 12/12 (NFr), 500+ at GF on 23/09 (JN) and 600 there on 7/02 (KS), 700 at Trevalyn Meadows on 5/12 (NFr), 800 near Ridleywood on 5/12 and 800 at Trevalyn Meadows on 12/12 (NFr), 1,000 at GF on 8/02 (KS) and 2,300 at Worthenbury on 12/12 (NFr). The records from Trevalyn, Ridleywood and Worthenbury were all associated with River Dee floods. There were two records of confirmed breeding – both from the Fenn's Moss area on 30/05 and 4/07 (KS).

Flints. Again, most records were of 1-100 with several more of 101-200. The largest counts were 380 near Cilcain on 22/11 (GEM), 800 at CQNR on 26/07 (AW), 1,000 near Rhuddlan on 10/02 and 1,500 there on 20/11 (SH). There were no records of breeding.



Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)
Scarce passage migrant. Amber List.

GWYLAN FECHAN

Denbs. All records were from CON in Mar and Apr. The first record was on 31/03 (KS, CaCo, RoCo).

(LU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	1
Flints.	0	

Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*)
Scarce but increasing visitor. Amber List.

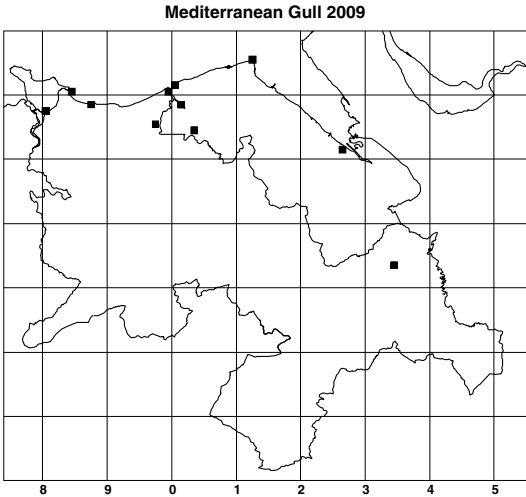
GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

Most records are on, or close to, the coast with GF the clear exception.

(MU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	22	1
Flints.	17	1

Denbs. Recorded every month except Apr, Aug, Nov and Dec mainly at CON and GF. Some records were of the same bird from different sources and most records were of singles. On 7/02 at GF there were 2 or possibly 3 birds – an adult and first winter and / or second winter (ANB, KS). On 24/09 a first winter and a second winter were present at GF (JN).

Flints. Recorded Feb to Apr and Sep to Nov, with the first report at Oakenholt on 22/02 (NJ). An adult was seen near Rhuddlan on 13/03 and 18/03 (SH). Up to 4 different birds were at Rhyl during Mar-Apr: on 20/03 an adult and 2 second winters (AnCu) and soon after, on 2/04 to 7/04 there was a first winter bird. An adult was seen on flooded fields near St Asaph on 14/11 and 15/11 (AnCu).



Common Gull (*Larus canus*)
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

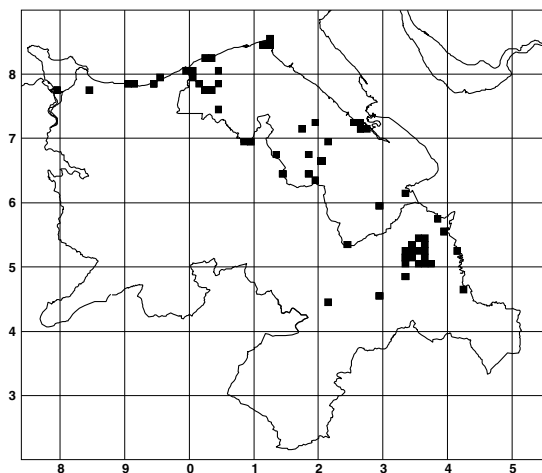
GWYLAN Y GWEUNYDD

Most records were along the N and E edge of the area with some from the Clwydian Hills but not from other upland areas.

(CM)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	58	1800
Flints.	90	750

Denbs. Recorded in Jan to Mar and Aug to Dec. The largest count in the early part of the year was 1,800+ at GF on 10/02 (JN). The Jan maximum was

Common Gull 2009



counts were 100 or less. The last spring record was 1+ at POA on 12/04 (RSw). The first birds of autumn were quite early – 5 at POA on 8/07 (DG). The maximum count in autumn was 750, again near Rhuddlan, on 20/11 (SH). Other counts were 300 or less.

600+, also at GF, on 3/01 (JN) and in Mar the maximum had dwindled to 60 at Llanddulas on 1/03 (RTe) as birds moved N to breed. The last birds of spring were 20 seen near Moel Famau on 22/03 (EdW). The first record in autumn was 4 at Llanddulas on 13/08 (DCR). The autumn numbers were lower than earlier in the year with 500+ at GF on 30/11 as the highest count, though the River Dee floods attracted 200 at Trevalyn Meadows on 12/12 (NFr).

Flints. Recorded Jan to Apr and Jul to Dec. The highest counts in the early part of the year were 700 near Rhuddlan on 10/02 (SH), then 600+ at Higher Kinnerton on 7/02 (HL). Other

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

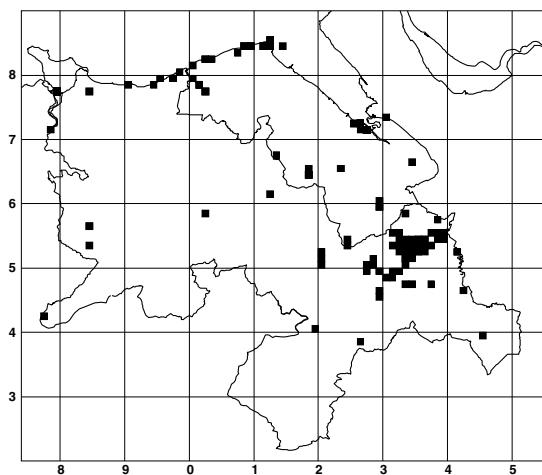
GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF

Uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant. Amber List.

The distribution of records is similar to 2008 but from more locations. Recorded in every month of the year in each county with no known breeding locations.

(LB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	117	1750+
Flints.	71	75

Lesser Black-backed Gull 2009



Denbs. About 18% of the records were of 200+ birds, with 12.8% of 201-999. The largest counts were: 1,000 at Trevalyn Meadows (River Dee floods) on 12/12 (NFr), the others being at GF with 1,500+ on 6/10 (HL), 1700+ on 8/10 and 1750+ on 12/10 (JN).

Flints. As in 2007 and 2008, the Flints counts were much smaller than in Denbs. Most of the records were of 1-35 birds and the largest counts were: 42 at CQNR on 20/09 (AW), 44 near Rhuddlan on 4/05 (SH) and 75 at FLQ on 22/10 (GNR).

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

Common resident, breeding on the coast, mainly on roofs. Red List. WBAP

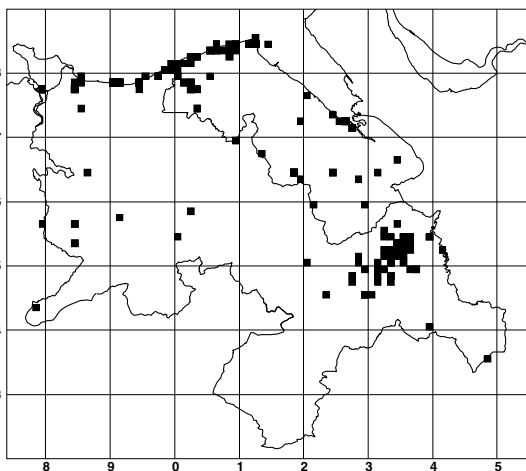
The records are distributed in a similar way to in 2008 and birds were recorded every month in each county. The maximum counts were smaller than in recent years.

(HG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	272	430
Flints.	125	325

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1-100 with the largest counts: 150 on 31/01, 300 on 1/01, 300 on 27/12 (KS) and 430 on 28/12 (JN) all at GF, 300+ at KBRH on 1/03 (DCR), 300+ at Llanddulas on 17/10 (NHu) and 400 at Pensarn on 8/01 (RMB). There was confirmed breeding at a nest on a roof in Towyn where 2 chicks were raised (SM).

Flints. Again, most records were of 1-100. The largest counts were: 125 near Rhuddlan on 19/02 (SH), 200 near Talacre on 12/03 (pJR), 200 at POA on 21/11 (RMB), 225+ at POA on 23/08 (DCR) and 325 there on 12/04 (GR). Breeding was confirmed at Rhuddlan from roof nests (SH).

Herring Gull 2009



Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*)

GWYLAN GOES FELEN

Regular but scarce vagrant.

Denbs. One, an adult, was at GF on 1/01 and 31/01 (KS) and on 1/03 (CJ). The other records were in the latter part of the year: a third winter and adult at GF on 15/09 (KS), and single adults seen on 10/10 near Rhuddlan (MHu), at GF on 12/10, 27/10, 23/11 and 27/12 (KS) and on 26/12 (MHu).

(YG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	10	1
Flints.	1	1

Flints. An adult was near Rhuddlan on 10/10 (MHu).

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*)

GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

Irregular and scarce winter visitor.

Denbs. There was a first winter at Llanddulas on 17/01 (MHu) and at CON on 21/04 (JHg).

(IG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	1
Flints.	0	

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)GWYLAN Y GOGLEDD

Irregular and scarce winter visitor.

Denbs. An adult was seen at Llanddulas on 10/08 (JBM).

(GZ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF

Non breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

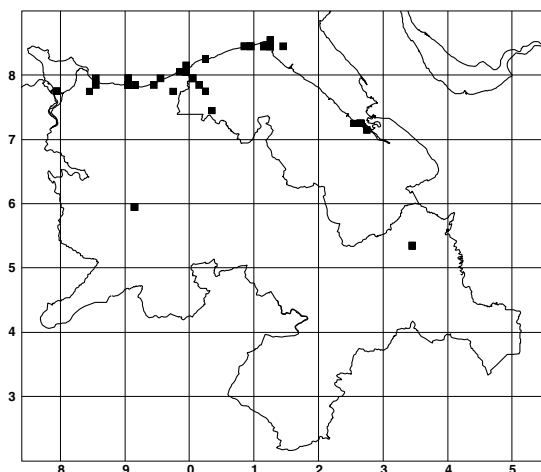
The map shows that this species occurs mainly on the coast or on tidal rivers apart from two inland locations. Recorded in every month of the year in both counties.

(GB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	50	16
Flints.	43	200

Denbs. All but four records were of 1-6 birds. The largest counts were: 10 at CON on 16/12 (DBI), 10 at Llanddulas on 19/12 (KS), 15 offshore at Llanddulas on 15/01 (KS) and 16 there on 5/12 (JVHu). The inland records were from Llyn Aled Isaf with 1 on 21/03 and 2 on 31/03 (KS) and singles at GF on 8/01 (PLa), an adult on 17/11, a first winter on 30/11 and a second winter on 28/12 (JN).

Flints. Most records were of 1-17, with the largest counts all at CQNR: 35 on 22/11 (AW), 100 on 12/01 and 18/11 (GR) and 200 on 7/06 (AW).

Great Black-backed Gull 2009



Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*)

MORWENNOL FECHAN

Passage migrant and regular summer breeding visitor. Red List.

Denbs. There was a single at KBRH on 13/05 (DCR).

(AF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	26	224

Flints. The first record, of 5, was near Gronant on 21/04 (LC). The majority of records were from the breeding colony at the dunes near Gronant and the peak count was 224 on 7/07 (RMB) and a total of 123 nestlings were counted on 30/07 (Denbs CC report), but just 20 nestlings were ringed on 5/07 (pBH) because later visits to ring nestlings were cancelled because of poor weather. The last record was 4 at POA on 11/09 (pJR).

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*)
Summer migrant. Amber List.

MORWENNOL BIGDDU

The Dee Estuary is a site of national importance in Great Britain for summer/autumn passage. Adults bring newly fledged chicks to feed in the mouth of the Estuary.

(TE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	22	1000
Flints.	40	1000

Denbs. Recorded from Mar to Sep with the first bird of spring seen at the unlikely site of Borras, Wrexham where a single was seen on 6/03 (JN). All other records were from the coast with a spring peak of 32 birds at CON on 25/04 (JHg). The peak summer count was 1000+ at KBRH on 22/07 (DCR). The last birds of the year were 23 at Llandulas on 29/09 (RTe).

Flints. Also recorded Mar to Sep and the first birds of the year were 2 at POA on 26/03 (ANB, PDS). The spring peak was 50 at POA on 25/04 (GR) with the summer peak being 1000+ at POA on 23/08 (GR). The last birds of the year were 200+ at POA on the 11/09 (pJR). The only records away from the coastal strip were from Rhuddlan on the Afon Clwyd where 35 birds were present on 26/07 (SH).

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

MÔRWENNOL GYFFREDIN

Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Red List.

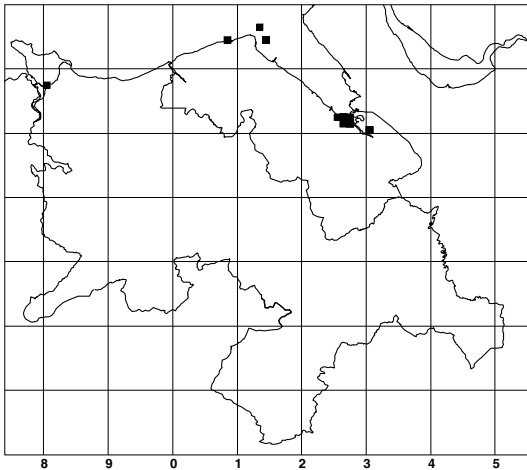
The map shows the records by the coast and by CQNR, near to the breeding rafts at SS.

(CN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	2
Flints.	24	350

Denbs. Two were at CON on 21/07 then rested on driftwood on the estuary (MDu).

Common Tern 2009

Flints. Recorded in Apr to Sep in small groups of 1-85. The first record was at SS on 13/04 (LC). The largest counts were all at CQNR: 100 on 28/04 (PDS), 100 on 18/05 (JHo), 200 on 11/05 (GR) and 350 on 17/05 (PDS). On the last two dates, birds were feeding over the mudflats which is very unusual behaviour, possibly indicating that there were very few fish in the river. Sadly, soon after this the breeding rafts at SS were deserted and no breeding occurred there, though 2 full grown birds were ringed, and the birds disappeared from the estuary. The last birds of the year were 2 seen at POA on 4/09 (GR).



Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

MÔRWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Passage migrant. Red List.

Denbs. Four were seen E of Llanddulas on 17/05 (JBM).

(AE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	4
Flints.	2	2

Flints. A single was seen at Rhyl on 18/07 (ANB) and 2 were at POA on 3/09 (PDS).

Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)

GWYLOG

Regular visitor in small numbers to coastal waters. Amber List.

Denbs. Records from four sites with 2 at Pensarn on 3/01 (HeS) and 2 at Llanddulas on 15/01 (KS). Single bird also recorded at Pensarn on 15/01 (DCR), 1 at CON estuary on 31/03 (CaCo, RoCo) and 1 on 4/10 (pJH). Single bird recorded at Kinmel Bay on 8/10 (RMB).

(GU)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	6	2
Flints.	3	11

Flints. All records from Talacre, 11 birds recorded on 11/03, 3 on 26/03 and 2 on 7/07 (PDS).

Razorbill (*Alca torda*)

LLURS

Small numbers occasionally recorded offshore

Flints. Only one record of 6 seen offshore at POA on 4/09 (GR).

(RA)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	1	6

Little Auk (*Alle alle*)

CARFIL BACH

Rare migrant

Denbs. One was seen flying by off Llanddulas on 20/12 (MHu).

(LK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

COLOMEN Y GRAIG

Common feral species, especially in towns

Recorded in each month in both counties.

(FP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	75	110+
Flints.	83	80+

Denbs. Recorded regularly at GBW sites at Rhewl, Towryn and Sarn, Tallarn Green. The railway bridge roost at KBRH

had the highest counts: 85 on 4/01 and 1/03, 90+ on 25/01, 94 on 17/08 and 110+ on 22/07 (DCR).

Flints. Recorded regularly at GBW sites at Buckley, Rhuddlan and Prestatyn. The highest counts were lower than in Denbs: 40 near Rhuddlan on 10/09 and 52 there on 26/12 (SH).

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*)

COLOMEN WYLLT

Breeding resident. Amber list

Denbs. More records this year but again most from southern area. There were no reports in Sep or Oct. Largest counts were from GF with 70 on 11/02 and 130 on 14/12 (JN). One ringing report of a fully-grown bird ringed on 7/06 at Pandy (pBH).

(SD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	90	130
Flints.	36	10

Flints. More records this year compared to twenty seven last year. Over a dozen sites but only one double figure count of 10 at FLQ on 9/11 (SD). Nestlings were ringed again at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft and one adult bird was ringed at the same site (IMS).

Breeding (JLR, IMS):

(SD)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	34	64		41	1.21

Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

YSGUTHAN

Abundant breeding resident often culled by local agricultural interests.

Denbs. The records came from a wide area, 60.7% came from GBW sites, with the largest garden count again at Rhosllanerchrugog with 6 on 4/10 (GAM). Largest count was at Ridleywood with 1,000 recorded on 7/12 (NH). Three sites in Wrexham area had three figure counts, Bryn Alyn 100 on 21/01, Borras maximum of 300+ on 28/02 and GF maximum of 140 on 2/04 (JN).

(WP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1019	1000
Flints.	1297	370+

Flints. Just over half records came from GBW with 51.3% with highest count again from Buckley garden 13 on 29/11 (DSH). Largest overall count came from Rhyd-wen, Rhyl with 370+ on 5/01 (DCR). Two other sites had three figure counts Beeches Farm, Sandycroft had 109 birds during a BBS walk on 28/06 (IMS) and Rhuddlan with a maximum of 250 on 26/07 (SH).

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

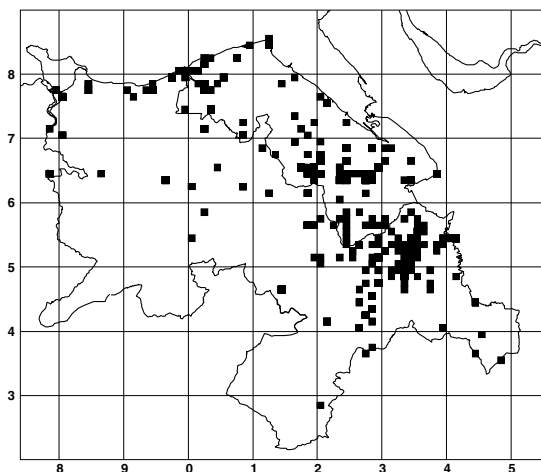
TURTUR DORCHOG

Common and widespread breeding resident, chiefly of suburban areas.

The vast increase in the numbers of records in 2008 and this year (mainly due to GBW records) have contributed to this species being recorded at many more locations than in

(CD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1086	30
Flints.	1079	35

Collared Dove 2009



2007, but with its distribution apparently biased towards Flintshire and the Wrexham area. Recorded in every month in both counties.

Denbs. From the above it is not surprising that 80.1% of records were from GBW sites with several having 5+ birds in many weeks (Towyn, Abergele, Pentre Llanrhaeadr and near Moel Grugoe, Mynydd Hiraethog). Most of the records were of 1-10 and the larger counts were 11 at Acton Park on 28/07 (PAR), 12 at a GBW site at Bwlchgwyn in weeks beginning 29/11 and 6/12 (JC), 13 at Towyn on 21/09 (SM) and 30+ near Sutton Green on 20/09 (NHu).

Flints. Just 57.1% of records were from GBW sites because of the large number of records by JVHu at Rhydymwyn. There were several GBW sites regularly recording 5+ birds (Bagillt, Cilcain and Buckley) and St Asaph had up to 15 in several weeks. There were nine records of 16-20 and the larger counts were 22 at Rhydymwyn on 12/01 and 24 there on 31/10 (JVHu), 24 near Rhuddlan on 9/01 and 35 there on 14/09 (SH).

Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)

TURTUR

Very scarce summer visitor and possibly breeding. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. A pair made at least two breeding attempts and raised at least one young to fledging.

(TD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	2
Flints.	1	1

Flints. The only record was of a single bird at POA on 28/08 (ANB).

Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

COG

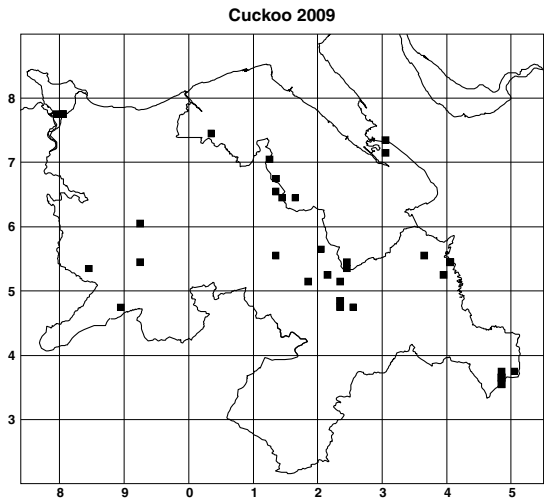
Increasingly uncommon breeding summer visitor. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. The first record a week earlier than last year with 1 at Cwm Pennaner on 18/04 (GG). The number of records was up from twenty eight in 2008 to thirty seven in 2009. Three birds recorded at Fenn's Moss on 30/05 (JoAr), 2 at Moel Garegog on 1/05 (TR), 2 at Pendinas Reservoir on 2/05 (JC), 2 at Moel Famau on 20/05 (EdW) and 2 on RM on 20/05 (JLR). The last record is of juvenile bird at CON on 27/07 (MDu).

(CK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	36	3
Flints.	10	2

Flints. A bird singing at Cilcain on 16/04 was a particularly early record (TR). Most records were of singles but 2 were recorded at Penycloddiau on 23/05 (EdW). The last report of the year

was from St. Asaph on 14/08 (RMB).



Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

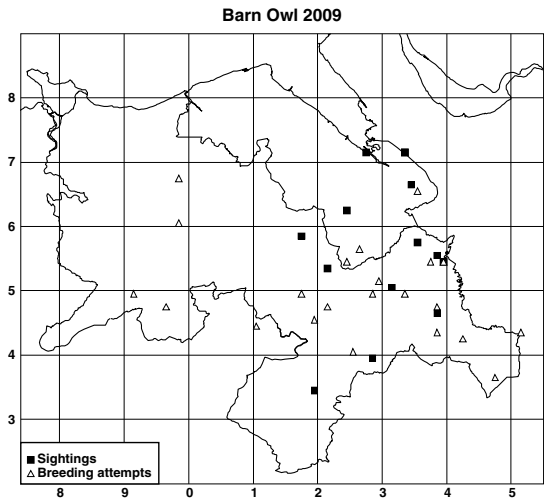
TYLLUAN WEN

Scarce breeding resident. Amber List.

The relatively small number of records does not include the breeding records gathered by the WRSG. Only a very small number of sighting records were submitted and they are mainly in the E of the recording area. This may have been due to the severe weather in Feb when the upland areas near Cerrigydrudion had about 60 cm of glazed snow for a fortnight. If similar conditions occurred on all the land above about 200m, birds in much of the W of the area would have been unable to feed. Did the birds that were there move away or die? Adults caught in the W of the area were new and several previously occupied nest boxes were not used. The map shows the general locations of the breeding attempts (not all of which were successful) and each indicator has been displaced by at least 1 km.

Denbs. The sightings were all of singles in Jan, Feb, Apr, Jun, Nov and Dec. The largest brood was 4 nestlings (JLR).

(BO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	9	1
Flints.	5	4



Flints. The sightings were of singles in May, Jun, Jul and Oct. The largest brood was 4 nestlings

ringed in the E of the county (IMS).

Breeding (WRSG):

(BO)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	22	75	48	45	2.05

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)

TYLLUAN FACH

Uncommon breeding resident.

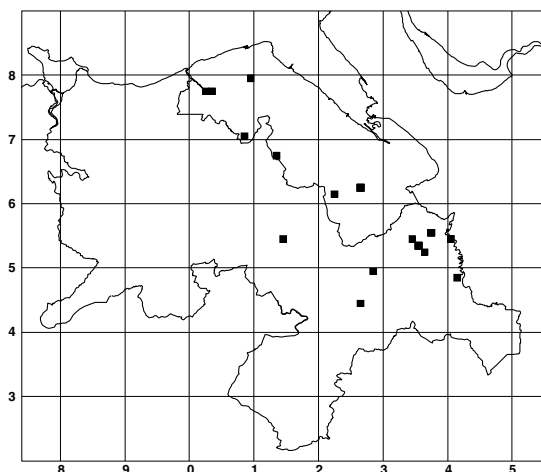
Recorded from more locations than in 2008 but still far from widespread.

(LO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	23	4
Flints.	13	1

Denbs. Nineteen of the records were of 1 or 1+ birds with 2 seen near Marford on 1/03 and 17/03, 3 there on 20/07, of which 1 was a juvenile and 4 there (2 adults, 2 juveniles) on 5/07 (all JuR). Recorded in every month except Sep and Nov.

Flints. Recorded Jan-Jul and in Nov. There was no evidence of breeding.

Little Owl 2009



Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

TYLLUAN FRECH

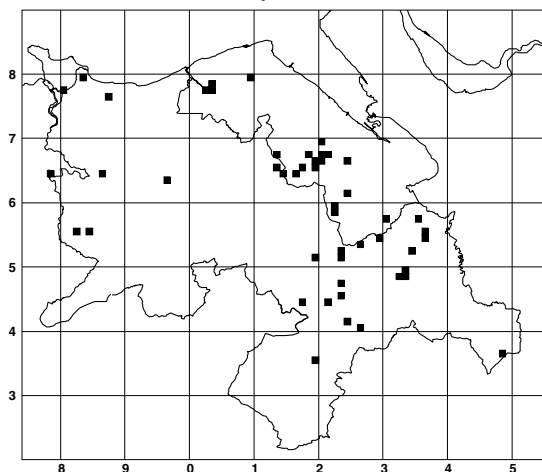
Widespread breeding resident.

The records are not from all wooded parts of our area, so it seems safe to say that it is under-recorded. Its crepuscular habits probably make it less likely to be heard or seen in the wider countryside. There records from every month of the year – assisted by the inclusion of GBW records in the dataset this year.

(TO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	127	3
Flints.	123	2

Denbs. Some people seem to be lucky – 72.9% of the records were from GBW sites, so Tawny Owls do occur regularly at some homes! Most of the records were of singles, with nine records of 2 birds. The largest count was 3 near Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 25/12 (SNe).

Tawny Owl 2009



Flints. There were many fewer GBW records (37.1%) than in Denbs and there were many records from JVHu at Rhydymwyn. All but seventeen records were of singles – the others were of 2 birds.

Breeding (WRSG):

(TO)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	5	8	5	4	0.80

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*)

TYLLUAN GORNOG

Rare breeding resident. Amber List.

Denbs. One was recorded near Wrexham on 8/02 (JN) and another heard near World's End on 12/04 (HN).

Flints. One was heard near Nercwys on 2/06 (KS).

(LE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	1
Flints.	1	1

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

TYLLUAN GLYSTIOG

Scarce winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. Red List.



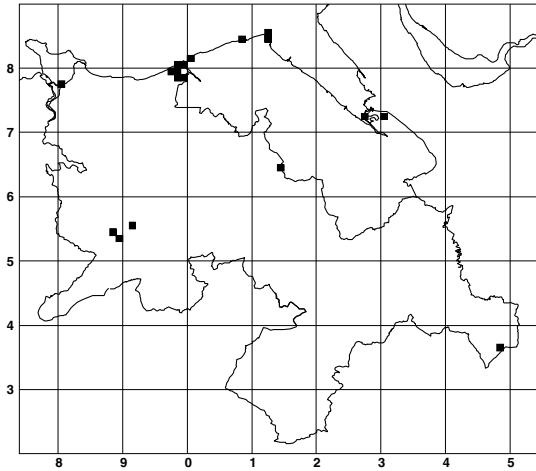
(SE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	14	4
Flints.	8	8

The distribution of records (see p73) shows that this species occurs at the hot-spots (CON, POA, CQNR, IMF), the special area at Kinmel Bay for wintering birds and breeding season records on Mynydd Hiraethog.

Denbs. Seven records were from Towyn/Kinmel Bay during Jan and Feb though the maximum seen was only 2 birds on 8/02 (RS) and 17/02 (MHu). A record of 4 involved 2 adults and 2 juveniles on

Short-eared Owl, Kinmel Bay, David Williams

Short-eared Owl 2009



Mynydd Hiraethog on 1/07 (IMS).

Flints. Recorded in Jan, Apr, Nov and Dec, mainly as singles and 8 were seen over White Sands on 8/11 from the embankment behind the Shotwick rifle range pools (ANB).

Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

TROELLWR MAWR

Scarce breeding summer visitor. Amber List. WBAP.

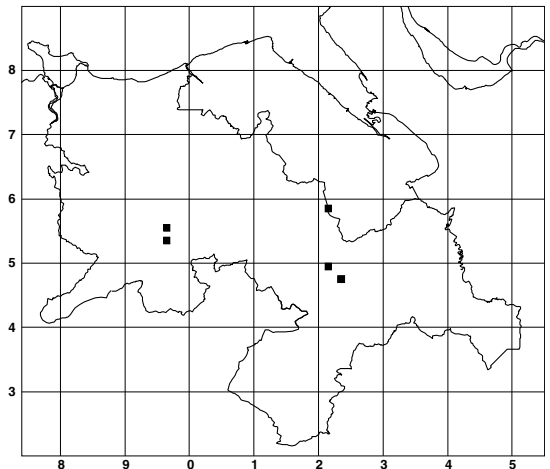
There were even fewer records than in 2008. It is unclear if we have fewer Nightjars or that observers are not willing to venture out late, tolerate midges, and investigate areas of clear-fell in forests and other suitable habitats.

(NJ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	5	2
Flints.	1	1

Denbs. Four of the records were of singles – males heard churring near Pentrellyncymmer and Llyn Brenig on 16/06 (LJ), a bird at World's End on 2/08 (NH) and Cynr-y-Brain, RM on 26/06 (RPI). The record of 2 was a pair at World's End on 14/06 (KS).

Flints. One bird was recorded at Nercwys Mountain on 28/05 (PeRu).

Nightjar 2009



Swift (*Apus apus*)

GWENNOL DDU

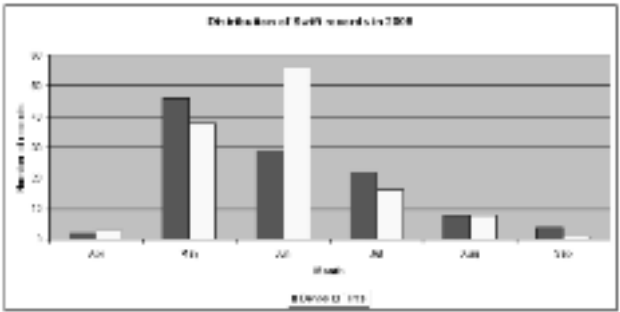
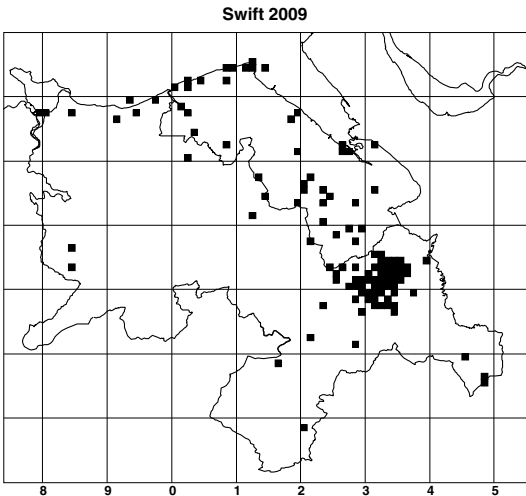
Fairly common and widespread summer visitor. Amber List.

There was a concentration of records from the area around Wrexham and as can be seen in the histogram, Swifts were present in the area mainly during May to Aug. There were no records of any breeding sites in either county.

(SI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	110	300+
Flints.	118	150

Denbs. Records were mainly 1-30 birds, the larger counts were: 49 near Cefn Mawr on 21/06 (GWo), 50+ at Garden Village, Wrexham on 4/08 (NHu) and 300+ feeding over the lagoons at CON on 8/05 (RS). The first record of the year was of 2+ at CON on 25/04 (JHg) and the last record was of 2 offshore at Pensarn on 21/09 (STh).

Flints. Similarly, most records were of 1-30 birds with 70 near Gronant on 10/06 (RSm) and 150 near Rhuddlan on 27/06 (SH). The first records were of 2 at POA (GR) and 3 near Rhuddlan (SH) on 25/04. The last record was also from near Rhuddlan on 7/09 (SH).



Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

GLAS Y DORLAN

Local breeding resident. Amber List.

Denbs. Records for Denbs were slightly down from 2008. Recorded at 13 sites, mainly from the Wrexham area and CON. Three birds were seen at CON on 18/11, all other records were of singles and eight records of 2 birds from Ridleywood on 27/02 (NF), Bont-Newydd on 17/05 (PK), CON on 13/09 (DCR, JRi) and Rossett on 13/11 (HL).

(KF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	26	3
Flints.	89	2

Flints. The records were received from fourteen sites. All winter records were from coastal sites. The first inland record of the year was a single seen near Mold on 10/05 (GEM) and 2 were seen on seven occasions at different sites. There appears to have been a slight increase in sightings over the last 3 years.

Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

COPOG

Rare migrant

Denbs. One was seen near Pentrellyncymmer on 10/04 (PTy).

(HP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

CNOCELL WERDD

Breeding resident. Amber List.

Denbs. Two thirds of records were from Denbs, with the Wrexham area and most notably Erddig the primary site. Two were seen at Erddig pool on 13/03 (NHu) with all other records being of singles. Records were received for every month of the year although there were no confirmed records of breeding activity.

(G.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	40	2
Flints.	21	2

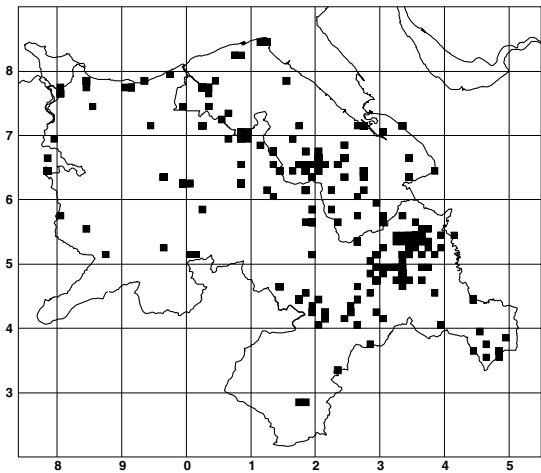
Flints. Over half of the records were from Penycloddiau, with 2 seen on four occasions, 12/04, 19/04, 3/05, 8/11 (all EdW). There was also a sighting of 2 at Ddol Reservoir, Ysceiog on 19/02 (MD).

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)

CNOCELL FRAITH FWYAF

Widespread breeding resident

Great Spotted Woodpecker 2009



(GS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	566	5
Flints.	431	4

Similar in distribution to 2008 but with records from more locations and during each month of the year.

Denbs. The majority of the records were of 1-3 birds with seven records of 4. 66.5% of records were from GBW sites. Six records of 4, presumably a pair with two juveniles were at one GBW site near Rhosllanerchrugog between late Jun and early Aug (GAM), with another record of 4 near Llangollen on 1/06 which included fledged young (HN) confirming

breeding in that area. During a BBS walk on 23/06 near Trevor Uchaf, JoR recorded 5 birds. Other records of confirmed breeding were from Llangollen, Wrexham and Bwchgwyn.

Flints. Most of the records were of 1-2 and 50.1% of records were from GBW sites. The largest counts were birds ringed at Deeside Industrial Park: 3 on 22/06 and 4 on 14/01 (pBH). The only record of confirmed breeding was an occupied nest at Rhydymwyn with 2+ juveniles on 23/05 (JVHu).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*)
Scarce breeding resident . Red List. WBAP

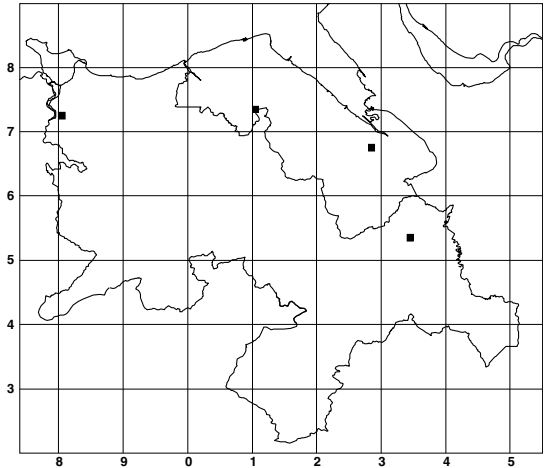
CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF

Denbs. One was heard at Bodnant on 2/04 (LJ) and 1 was seen being chased by a Great Spotted Woodpecker at GF on 10/12 (JN).

(LS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	2	1
Flints.	2	1

Flints. Another single was heard calling at Wepre on 15/03 and 1 recorded near Tremeirchion on 4/04 (LJ).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker 2009



Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)
Scarce winter visitor.

CIGYDD MAWR

Denbs. A single bird was at Fenn's Moss on 10/01, 29/03 (ANB), and at Lane Farm on 30/03 (JA); this or another bird then returned to the moss later in the year being present from 30/10-31/12 (pANB). A single bird was also present at the regular site at Waen Uchaf / Craig Bronbannog in Clocaenog Forest from 25/01-31/03 and was reported to have been joined by a second bird on 7/03 (ANB).

(SR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	30	2
Flints.	0	

Chough (*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*)
Rare breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP

BRAN GOESGOCH

Denbs. Three records received this year from two sites on 8/01, 28/05 and 12/07.

(CF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	3	2
Flints.	0	

Breeding (WRSG):

(CF)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	3	11	4	3	1.00

Magpie (*Pica pica*)

PIODEN

A common and widespread breeding resident.

Denbs. Recorded in every month of the year but very few breeding records. Maximum count as last year with 40 at GF on 2/11 (JN). Most records from GBW with the usual count being 1-2 birds but a maximum garden count of 7 from Coedpoeth on 12/07 (GWO).

(MG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1016	40
Flints.	1045	18

Flints. Recorded in every month of year but again very few breeding records. The maximum counts were 18 from Talacre 25/09 (JuR) and Rhuddlan during Nov and Dec (SH). GBW make up a large percentage of records with max count of 5 from Buckley (DSh), St Asaph (DDo) and Rhydymwyn (DMH).

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

YSGRECH Y COED

Fairly common breeding resident.

Denbs. Recorded throughout the year from suitable habitat in 81 locations across the vice-county; 64.2% of records were from GBW sites. All but eight records (96.8%) were of 1-2 birds; the maximum counts being 4 at Erddig Pool on 21/03 (PDM), and on 10/05 (NH); and 4 at Rossett on 16/09 (JVHu).

(J.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	249	4
Flints.	220	6

Flints. Recorded throughout the year from suitable habitat in 47 locations across the vice-county; 36.2% of observations were from GBW sites. Again 92.3% of records were of 1-2 birds. The largest counts were 6 at Pant ymwyn on 18/10 (GEM) and 6 at Rhuddlan on 27/11 (SH). Other notable observations were 5 at Wepre Park, Connah's Quay on 27/01 (KS), 5 at Penycloddiau on 11/02 (EdW) and 5 at Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog on 19/02 (MD).

Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

JAC Y DO

Common breeding resident.

Recorded in all months with individuals and small flocks, rarely exceeding 20, seen from a wide range of localities. Larger flocks exceeding 20 were common in the non-breeding season with 101 occurrences. Similar number of records received to 2008 and this seems to be an increasingly common species. Birds were seen in 17/23 BBS squares.

(JD)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	842	350+
Flints.	875	400+

Denbs. Maximum of 350+ seen at Borrás, Wrexham on 17/08 (JN).

Flints. Maximum of 400+ seen at Higher Kinnerton on 31/01 (HL).

Breeding (IMS, AmB):

(JD)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	5	14	14	13	2.60

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

YDFRAN

Common and widespread colonial breeding resident.

There were slightly fewer records than in 2008 but Atlas survey activity has certainly helped to increase the reporting rate for this common species. Birds were seen on 9/23 BBS squares and outside the breeding season in all other months.

(RO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	196	800+
Flints.	195	120+

Denbs. . Flocks of 30-100 were seen on twenty one occasions throughout the year but flocks exceeding this number were infrequent. The largest congregation (800+) was seen at Borrás, Wrexham on 18/06 (JN).

Flints. Flocks of 120+ were seen on two occasions: 7/02 at Gwernaffield by TP and 29/11 at Pen-ffordd-lan by MD.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone corone*)

BRAN DYDDYN

Common breeding resident.

This widespread species was reported across the recording area with no large flocks seen in 2009. Birds were observed in the breeding season in 21/23 BBS squares.

(C.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	558	20
Flints.	621	36

Denbs. The records came from 189 sites. Birds were seen in all months of the year, usually in small numbers indicating pairs or small family parties. Surprisingly no large flocks were recorded and the maximum number of birds seen was of 20 at Kinnel Bay on 10/12 (RMB).

Flints. The records were from 111 sites. Birds were seen in all months of the year. Flocks of over 10 birds were seen on thirty occasions, in many different locations. The maximum count of 36 on 17/10 was at CQNR (GEM).

Hooded Crow (*Corvus corone cornix*)

BRÂN LWYD

Occasional visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. One individual was seen regularly from Eglwyseg from 21/07 until Nov (SNi).

(HC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Raven (*Corvus corax*)

CIGFRAN

Fairly common and widespread breeding resident.

Yet another increase in records was noted this year. Birds were seen in all months of the year from even more locations, although coastal sightings were down from 2008. Birds were reported from 6/23 BBS squares.

(RN)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	133	15
Flints.	133	6

Denbs. Sightings of individuals and/or small groups were recorded in all months of the year and in 83 locations. The largest flock was noted in Clocaenog Forest on 29/10 (IMS).

Flints. Small numbers, never exceeding 6, were seen in all months scattered across the county from 46 locations. The two flocks of 6 birds (Moel y Parc on 05/07 by MD and Cyffredin on 30/05 by SH) were probably family parties.

Breeding (WRSG):

(RN)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	19	93	61	56	2.95

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)

DRYW EURBEN

Common and widespread breeding resident. Amber List.

Recorded in all months (except Sep in Denbs).

Denbs. Recorded mainly as singles, with 3 near Trevor Uchaf on 23/06 (JoR), 3 at Acton Park, Wrexham on 27/08 (NH) and 3 near Llanferres on 16/08 (JaH). There were 36.7% of records from GBW sites.

(GC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	79	3
Flints.	69	10

Flints. Most records were of 1-3 birds, with 36.2% of records from GBW sites. The larger counts were: 4 at Penycloddiau on 16/05 (EdW), 4 at Rhydymwyn on 16/05 (JVHu), 4 at Llyn Helyg on 25/07 (DCR), 6 at Penycloddiau on 26/04 and 10 there on 17/10 (EdW).

Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapilla*)

Scarce migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. There was 1 in the wildlife garden at CON on 30/12 (JHg).

(FC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)

Common breeding resident.

TITW TOMOS LAS

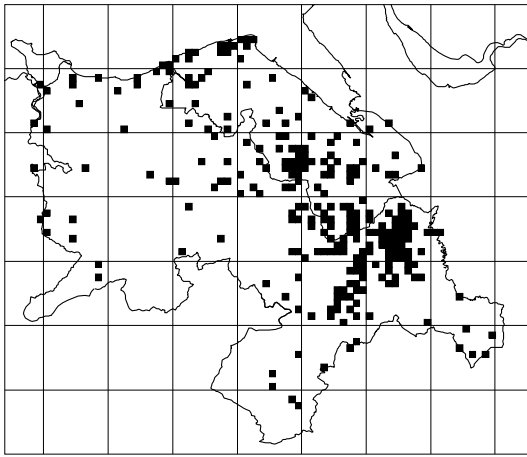
Most of the records were of 1-3 birds from all months of the year. The map shows that most records came from the more built up areas, with the areas of upland, especially, showing no records (as would be expected). However, many areas of woodland have no records.

(BT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1496	31
Flints.	1283	107

Denbs. Most (76.6%) of the records were from GBW sites. The larger counts included 22 at Castell during a BBS visit on 13/06 (MD). The rest were numbers of nestlings ringed: 22 at Pandy and 27 near Prion on 24/05 and 31 at Rhewl on 22/05 (all pBH).

Flints. Most (58.2%) of records were from GBW sites, with large numbers of records by JVHu at Rhydymwyn. The larger counts were: 25 during a BBS walk near Brynford on 26/04 (CMi), 25 full grown birds ringed at Deeside Industrial Estate on 16/10 (pBH), 30 and 32 in weeks beginning 2/08 and 13/09 respectively from GBW at Sychdyn (AB, IMS). Others were totals of nestlings ringed: 27 at Rhydymwyn on 31/05 and 30 there on 23/05 (AmB), 58 at Coed y Felin, Hendre on 24/05 (IMS) and 107 near Pantymwyn on 23/05 (pBH).

Blue Tit 2009



Breeding (IMS, MRG, AmB):

(BT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	6	41	37	37	6.17
Pandy	15	81	68	53	3.53
Prion	24	250	241	197	8.21
Coed y Felin	11	102	96	82	7.45
Rhydymwyn	32	268	191	122	3.81
Others	6	37	33	29	4.83
TOTALS	94	779	666	520	5.53

The results, above, indicate that 2009 was a better season for Blue Tit than 2008 (overall young per nest = 3.66). This may have been due to more favourable weather during May and Jun than was the case in 2008 or that the cold spell in February led to trees leafing later so that there may have been more caterpillars available when the adults were feeding young. This may not be the whole answer as there were considerable losses both from eggs to eggs hatched and from eggs hatched to young fledged.

Great Tit (*Parus major*)

TITW MAWR

Common and widespread breeding resident.

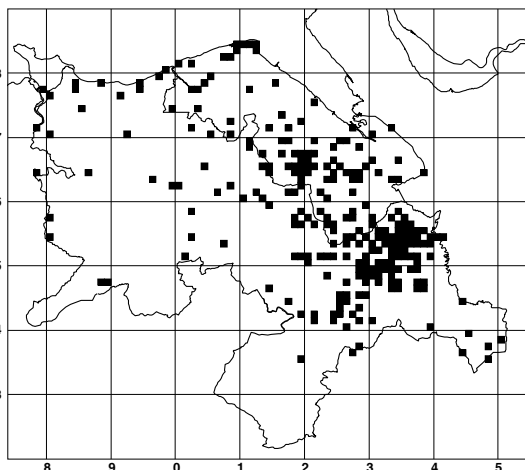
The distribution of records is similar to that of 2007 but with many more records from the area around Wrexham. The rural areas to the SW and S still have few records – the uplands are unlikely to have Great Tits but they ought to be present in the valleys.

(GT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1303	49
Flints.	1235	38

Denbs. A large proportion (76.8%) of the records were from GBW sites throughout the year. Most of the records were of 1-10 birds with the larger parties seen in the winter/spring period: 12 near Lightwood Green on 21/12 and 30/12 (MEIs), 14 near Cefn Mawr on 26/04 during a BBS visit (GWO) and 15 at Acton Park, Wrexham on 2/11 (JN). The largest counts were of nestlings ringed: 24 at Pandy on 24/05, 35 near Prion on 24/05, 35 at Pandy on 17/05 and 49 near Llangwyfan on 23/05 (all pBH).

Flints. There were 57.5% of records from GBW sites and a large number from Rhydymwyn (JVHu). Most of the records were of 1-12 birds with the larger counts being: 14 near Mold on 12/04 during a BBS walk (AB, IMS), 14 near Rhuddlan on 13/12 and 28/12 (SH) and 15 near Cilcain on 12/04 (GEM). As above, the largest counts were of nestlings ringed: 27 near Pantymwyn on 23/05 (pBH), 28 at Rhydymwyn on 18/05 (AmB), 31 at Deeside Industrial Park on 16/05 (pBH) and at Coed y Felin, Hendre, 36 on 18/05 and 38 on 24/05 (IMS).

Great Tit 2009



Breeding (IMS, MRG, AmB):

(GT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	16	101	73	65	4.06
Pandy	20	118	96	75	3.75
Prion	12	95	84	74	6.17
Coed y Felin	12	77	77	64	5.33
Rhydymwyn	33	202	156	79	2.39
Others	6	39	29	23	3.83

The results, above, show that whatever it was that helped Blue Tits did not help Great Tits as the overall productivity is similar to that of 2008 (overall young per nest = 3.67). A factor that may have contributed to this difference is that Great Tit nest slightly earlier than Blue Tit. This puts Great Tits at greater pressure if the leaves do not come out early enough for there to be sufficient caterpillar growth.

Coal Tit (*Periparus ater*)

TITW PENDDU

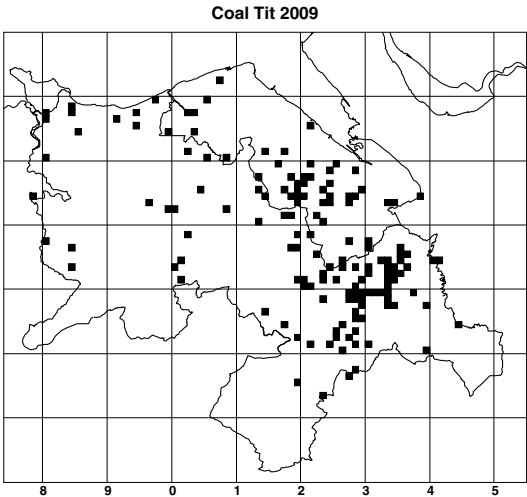
Widespread breeding resident, found in woodland and gardens. Amber List.

Most records were of 1-6 birds from all months of the year. The distribution of records is similar to that of Blue Tit but from slightly fewer places.

(CT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1049	10
Flints.	759	6

Denbs. Some 80.7% of records were from GBW sites (slightly less than in 2008) and the larger counts were of nestlings ringed: 8 near Llangwyfan on 15/06 and 10 at Pandy on 9/05 (pBH) – each record is probably of a single brood.

Flints. Most of the records here were of 1-4 birds, with 67.6% of records from GBW sites (less than in 2008) and there were many records from Rhydymwyn (JVHu). The modest ‘large’ counts were just 5 on Penycloddiau on 5/04 (EdW) and 6 at Sychdyn in the week beginning 2/08 as a GBW count (AB, IMS).



Breeding (MRG):

(CT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	1	10	10	10	10.00

Willow Tit (*Poecile montana*)

TITW'R HELYG

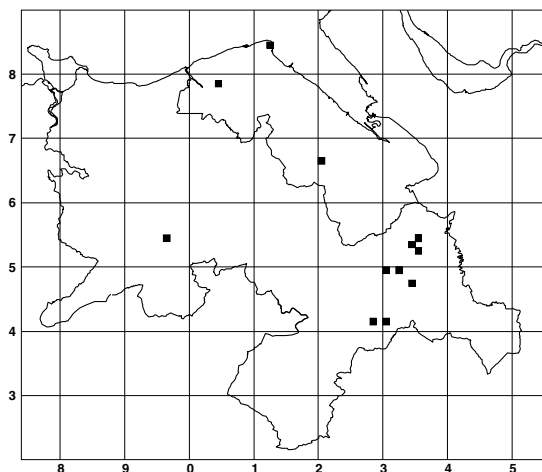
Scarce breeding resident in damp, wooded areas with some young trees, especially birch. Red List. WBAP

The records were a little more scattered than in 2008. All records of this species are very welcome.

(WT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	13	2+
Flints.	56	2

Denbs. Recorded in Mar, Apr, Jun, Jul, Oct, Nov and Dec. There were seven records of singles, six of 2 birds and 2+ were recorded near Marchwiel on 27/06 in wet scrubland (JN).

Willow Tit 2009



Flints. Recorded in Jan, Apr and Aug to Dec. Most of the records, of singles, came from Rhydymwyn – seen at the feeders of JVHu. There were six records of 2 birds – all at Rhydymwyn.

Marsh Tit (*Poecile palustris*)

TITW'R WERN

Uncommon breeding resident frequenting well wooded habitats. Red List. WBAP

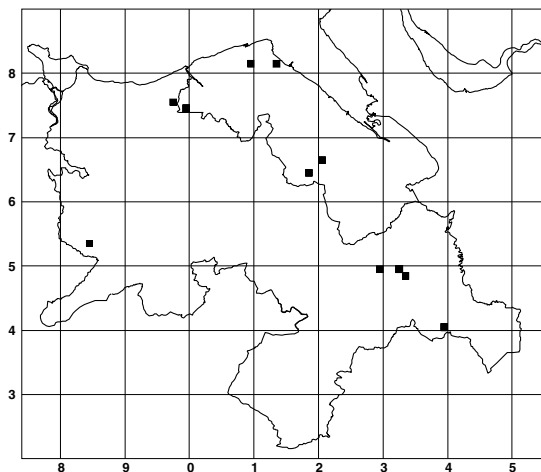
The map shows that the records are not all from the same locations as in 2008. Perhaps this species is more widespread than we may have thought, but is under-recorded because it occurs in small numbers. All records of this species are welcome.

(WT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	20	3
Flints.	13	2

Denbs. Recorded in Jan to May, Jul and Dec only, mainly as singles, with 2 seen at Bodelwyddan Castle on 3/01 (MHu), 16/01 (JuR), 7/02 (RS) and 17/12 (RS). During a BBS walk near Capel Siloam there were 3 on 29/05 (MaO).

Flints. Recorded in Apr and Aug to Dec with 1 only seen on most occasions. There were 2 near Ciclain on 8/04, 26/04 and 20/10 (GEM) and at Rhydymwyn on 25/10 (DMH).

Marsh Tit 2009



Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)

EHEDYDD

Widespread though localised breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List. WBAP.

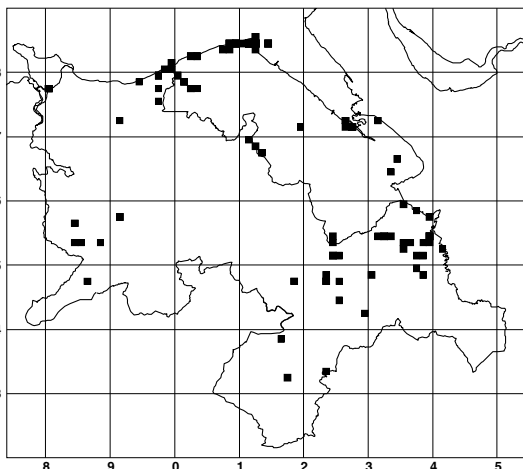
The distribution of records shows more locations but is otherwise similar to 2007 and 2008.

(S.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	76	200+
Flints.	95	100

Denbs. Recorded every month except Aug. All but three records were of 1-7 birds, the exceptions being 10 near Llyn Aled on 9/06 (KS), 100 near Betws-yn-Rhos on 28/10 (GeO) and 200+ feeding in stubble at St George on 10/01 (MHu). Birds were recorded singing, hence possibly breeding, at several sites.

Flints. Recorded every month, most records being of 1-24 birds. The largest counts were 30 at POA on 28/01 (GR), 30 at Shotwick Fields on 25/02 (pCW), 50 at POA on 4/12, 70 there on 17/12 and 100 there on 4/11 (all GR). Birds were recorded in song from several locations but an occupied nest was found on Halkyn Mountain on 24/05 (MD) – the only confirmed breeding attempt.

Skylark 2009



Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)

EHEDYDD LLWYD

Scarce migrant.

Flints. A single was at Shotwick 12/05 to 16/05 and photographed (BaB). Accepted by the Welsh Records Panel.

(VL)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	1	1

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

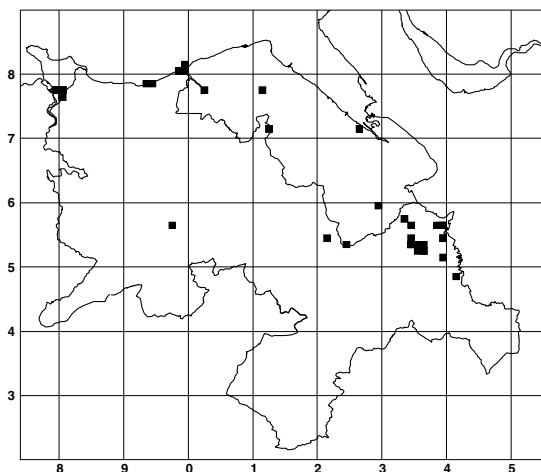
Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

The distribution of records is broadly similar to that of 2007.

(SM)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	35	55
Flints.	31	70

Denbs. Recorded in Mar to Sep with the first record of 1 at CON on 12/03 (RS) and the last record was 10 at GF on 12/09 (KS). Most records were of 1-20 birds, the largest counts being 25 at GF on 31/03 and 6/04 (KS), 50 at CON on 8/04 (RS) and 55 at GF on 6/04 (JN). Occupied nests were recorded near Afonwen: 7 on 6/05 and 12 on 21/05 (MD).

Sand Martin 2009



Flints. As in Denbs, recorded Mar to Sep. The first record was 4 at POA on 18/03 (GR) and the last was 2 near Rhuddlan on 18/09 (SH). Most records were of 1-20, the largest counts being 22 near Rhosesmor on 4/05 with 14 occupied nests, which was the only record of breeding (MD), 24 near Rhuddlan on 21/03 (SH), 40 at CQNR on 7/06 (AW), 50 at Oakenholt on 17/08 (JHo) and 70 near Rhuddlan on 10/04 (SH).

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

GWENNOL

Common and widespread summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

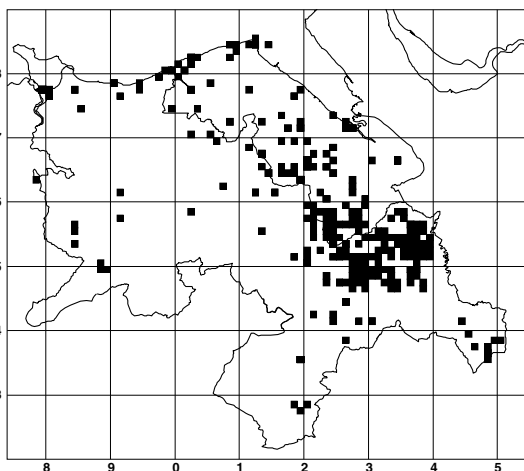
The distribution reflects that of overall coverage (see p5) lending support to the notion of the species being 'widespread'. The histogram shows that most records are from Mar to Oct. There were no records of autumn roosts.

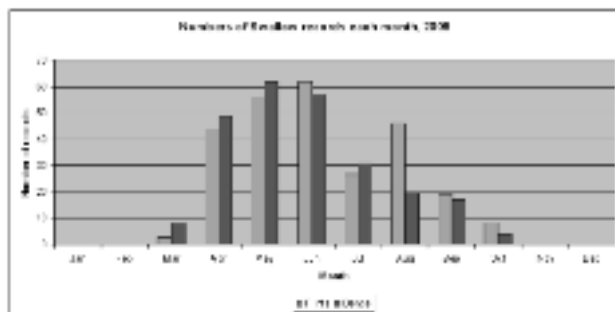
(SL)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	243	700+
Flints.	262	2000

Denbs. The first record was at CON on 20/03 (MDu). Most records were of 1-24 birds and the larger counts were: 25+ at CON on 17/07 (DCR), 30 at Trefriw on 19/04 (RAP), 33 at Castell on 13/06 (MD), 41 near Holt on 30/06 (SBo), 60+ at Towyn on 25/07 (SM), 80 near Rhosllanerchrugog on 11/07 (JN) and 700+ on the estuary track at CON on 17/07 (RS). Nestlings were ringed on several days the most being 15 at Pandy on 12/07 (pBH). The last record of the year was 1 at CON on 24/10 (MDu).

Flints. The first records were on 28/03: a single at Oakenholt (BH, KLJ) and 2 at FLQ (KS). Most records were of 1-22 birds, the larger counts being: 35 near Rhuddlan on 27/06 (SH), 50 at Rhyl on 28/08 (RMB), 60+ at Sychdyn on 6/09 (JIR), 75 near Rhuddlan on 2/08 (SH), 120 at CQNR on 23/08 (GEM, AW), 200 at Oakenholt on 31/07

Swallow 2009





(JHo) and 2000 on the road by the helipad at CQNR on 11/08 (DNS). Nestlings were ringed at two sites, the most being 15 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 13/06 (IMS). The last record was a single at Rhyl on 14/10 (RMB).

Breeding (IMS, MRG, AmB, JLR):

(SL)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	15	74	61	56	3.73
Beeches Farm	20	90	80	74	3.70
Others	24	112		83	3.46
TOTALS	59	276		213	3.61

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)

GWENNOL Y BONDO

Common and widespread summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. First bird of spring a week earlier than last year with 8 at GF on 28/03 (PLa). The first sighting has usually been at CON but 1 recorded there was on a similar date to last year, 4/04 (JHg). Nesting reports were received from Chirk Castle, Garth, Llandegla, Llansilin and Sontley (AdT, JN, JoR, SD) also a late record of juvenile birds at a nest site at Burton on 18/09 (HL). Largest counts around the end of Aug included 200+ at Bontuchel (LS), 80+ at Gresford on 25/08 (JN) and 50 at LLangollen on 8/09 (HN). The last record was from Towyn, 1 on 13/10 (SM).

(HM)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	114	200+
Flints.	230	300

Flints. First record of spring came a few days later than last year and this time from St. Asaph with 2 on 8/04 (RMB). The largest count came from the E end of CQNR, 300 on 25/08 (GEM). Nesting records came from Ewloe, Halkyn, Holywell, Rhosesmor, Rhydymwyn and a late brood seen at Lixwm on 16/09 (MD, JVHu). The last reports came from Oct: 65+ at Northop on 5/10 (MD) and the last record was from Rhuddlan with 3 on 8/10 (SH).

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*)

TELOR CETTI

Scarce potential breeder

Flints. Four birds were ringed at SS – 1 on 11/10, 2 on 15/11 and 1 on 13/12 (pBH).

(CW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	0	
Flints.	3	2

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)
Common breeding resident. Amber List.

TITW GYNFFON HIR

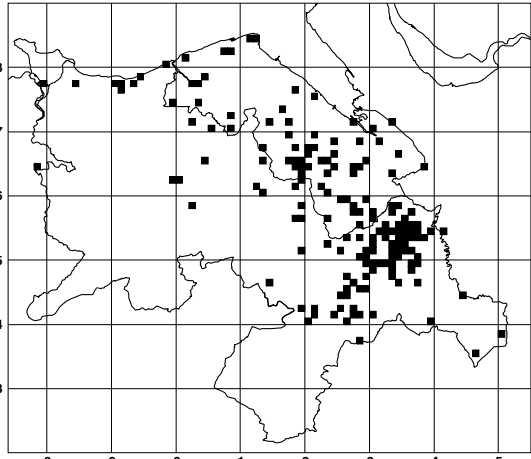
The distribution of records is similar to 2008 but with many more locations in the area around Wrexham.

(LT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	439	70+
Flints.	374	39

Denbs. Some 63.4% of records were from GBW sites, with most records of 1-13 birds. The largest counts were: 15 in Wrexham on 22/11 (NH), 15 near Llandegla in the week beginning 8/11 (JRo), 25 during a BBS walk near Wrexham on 8/05 (NH), 25 at Acton Park, Wrexham on 11/11 (JN), 30 at Erddig on 1/01 (NHu), 35+ at Gresford on 9/09 (JN) 50+ at Rossett on 13/06 (HL) and a very large party of 70+ at Garden Village, Wrexham on 25/01 (JN).

Flints. A large proportion of records (74.4%) were from GBW sites with most parties being of 1-13 birds. The largest counts were smaller than in Denbs: 14 at CQNR on 17/10 (GEM), 15 during a BBS walk at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 28/06 (IMS) 17 at Rhydymwyn on 24/09 (JVHu), 18 near Rhuddlan on 21/08 (SH), 20 near Llanfynydd on 30/06 (SD) and 39 near Cilcain on 30/10 (GEM).

Long-tailed Tit 2009

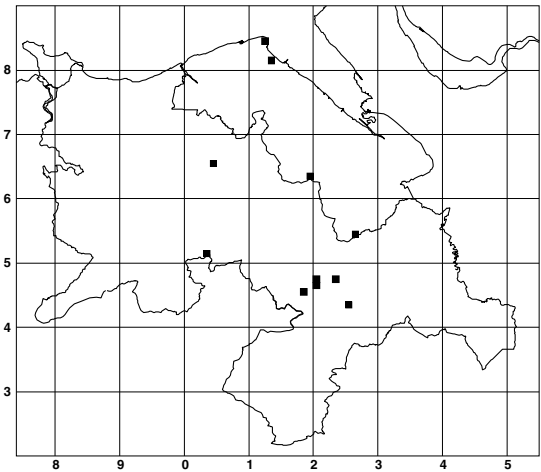


Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)

TELOR Y COED

Scarce, localised breeding summer visitor. Red List. WBAP

Wood Warbler 2009



(WO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	8	3
Flints.	4	1

Denbs. The first bird of spring was seen at Denbigh on the 17/04 (AOH). Birds were then heard singing at Eglwyseg on 4/05 and 9/05 (HN, BBu), 2 in Clocaenog Forest on 19/05 and 3 on 9/06 (KS) and at Rhewl, near Llangollen on 28/05 (HN). The last record was 1 at World's End on 13/06 (NH).

Flints. The first bird of spring was seen at Penryffordd on 23/04 (PDS). Birds were then heard singing at Pantymwyn

on the 26/04 (EdW) and at Bwlchgwyn on 24/05 (SD). A single was seen on migration at Talacre Warren on 1/05 (ANB).

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

SIFF SAFF

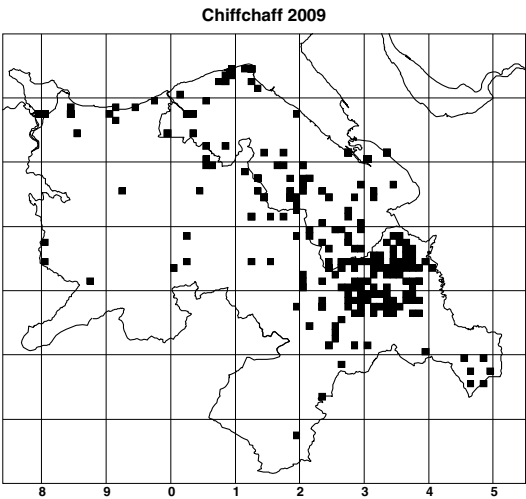
Common and widespread summer breeding visitor with some birds overwintering.

The distribution is slightly different from 2004-2006 in that there are many more records in the wider Wrexham area and slightly fewer from the W of the recording area.

(CC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	194	15
Flints.	146	20

Denbs. Wintering birds were seen at CON on 1/01 (MDu) and at Pensarn on 11/01 (MH). The first spring migrant was seen at CON on 16/03 (JHg) and after this date birds become widespread with 5 singing at World's End on 10/04 (KS) and as many as 14 at Marchwiel on 12/04 (NHu). Most of the records were of 1-9 and the other large counts were both during BBS walks at Castell – 10 on 25/04 and 15 on 13/06 (MD). The last bird of autumn was seen at CON on 23/10 (MDu) with 2 overwintering birds at CON on 10/12 (MD).

Flints. A probable overwintering bird was seen at Rhuddlan on 8/02 (SH) while the first spring record was a bird seen at CQNR on 15/03 (SS). After the latter date the species became widespread throughout the county with 1-7 birds and 8 at Penycloddiau on 5/04, 12/04, 19/04, 26/04 and 3/05 (EdW). Ten were at Penyffordd on 23/04 (PDS) and the largest count was 11, again at Penycloddiau on 20/09 (EdW). The last bird of the autumn occurred at Rhosesmor on 30/09 (MD) with singles seen at two locations near Rhuddlan on 5/12 and 12/12 (SH) and the last bird of the year a single ringed at Deeside Industrial Park on 16/12 (pBH).



Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

TELOR YR HELYG

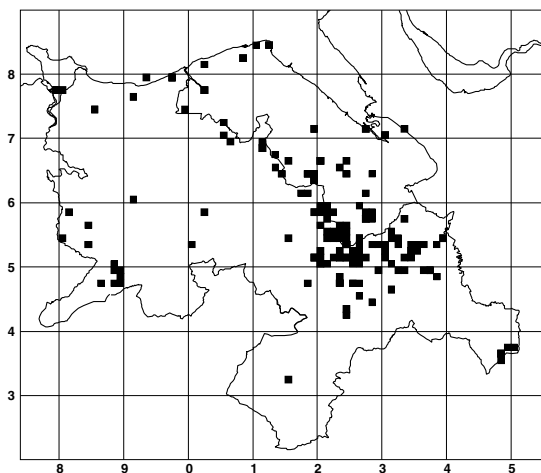
Common and widespread summer breeding visitor. Red List.

The distribution is somewhat different from 2004-2006 with many records from the RM area, near Wrexham and near Pentrefoelas. All records were Apr to Sep with a noticeable drop in the number of records when the males have stopped singing and with the departure on migration of most birds during Aug.

(WW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	136	40+
Flints.	73	30

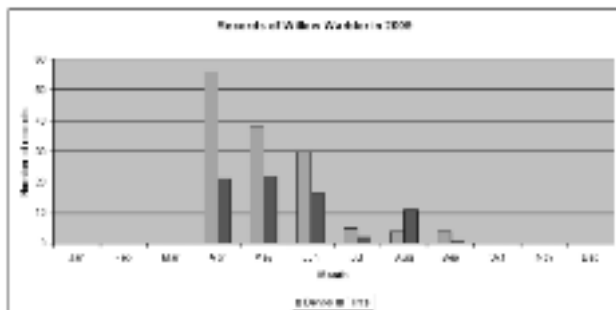
Denbs. All but four records were of 1-10 birds and the larger counts were 10-15 at CON on

Willow Warbler 2009



10/04 after a “small ‘fall’ probably brought down by murky weather” (JHg), 15 near Moel Famau on 10/05 (EdW), 17 during a BBS walk near Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 14/04 (GaBu) and 40+ at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 10/04, of which 18 were ringed (SKT). The first record was single at CON on 1/04 (JHg) and the last was a single near Llandegla at a GBW site in the week beginning 20/09 (JRo).

Flints. All but five records were of 1-7 birds. The larger counts were all at Penycloddiau: 20 on 17/05, 25 on 12/04, 25 on 26/04, 25 on 3/05 and 30 on 19/04 (all EdW). The first record was 2 at Penycloddiau on 5/04 (EdW) and the last, a single, at CQNR on 4/09 (GEM).



Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

TELOR PENDDU

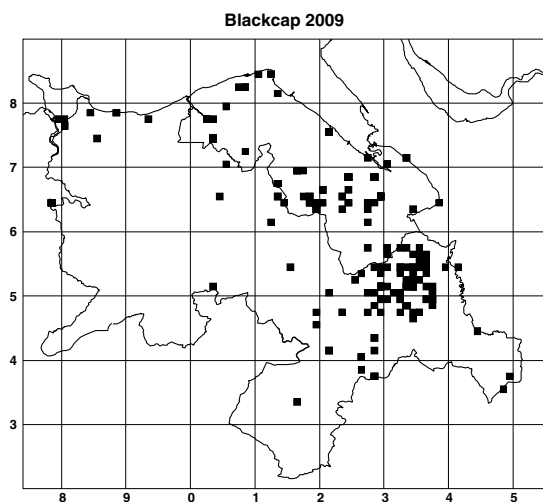
Common breeding summer visitor with small numbers wintering.

The distribution of records is similar to that of 2007 but there are many more locations. The histogram of records shows



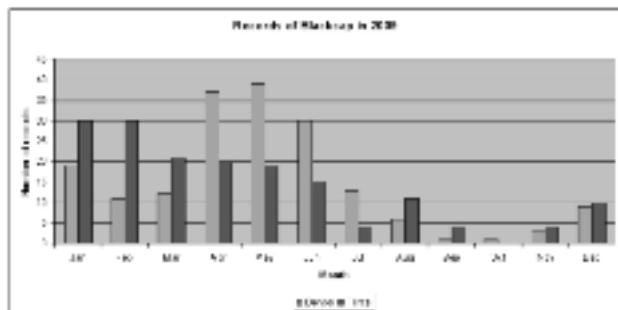
(BC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	178	5
Flints.	168	10

that Blackcaps were recorded all year (except Oct in Flints) and that most records occur in the late winter and then in the spring when migrants seem to be located in Apr. The last few months of the year had a surprisingly small number of records.



Denbs. Some 37.4% of records were from GBW sites, which is very different from the percentage in Flints with no obvious, simple explanation. All but one of the records were of 1-4 and the largest count was 5 in HL's garden at Burton on 5/02.

Flints. Here, 62.5% of records were from GBW sites and most records were also of 1-4 birds. The largest counts were: 5 at Penycloddiau on 17/05 (EdW), 5 at St Asaph on 11/01 (DDo), 6 at Penycloddiau on 26/04 and 3/05 (EdW), 7 ringed at SS on 1/08 (pBH) and 10 seen at Penyffordd on 23/04 (PDS).



Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*)

TELOR YR ARDD

Breeding summer visitor mainly recorded in spring. Amber List.

It appears that this species is widespread across our area but there are few records, suggesting that it is not common. In all probability, suitable habitat occurs across the area but may not be capable of supporting many birds at each location.

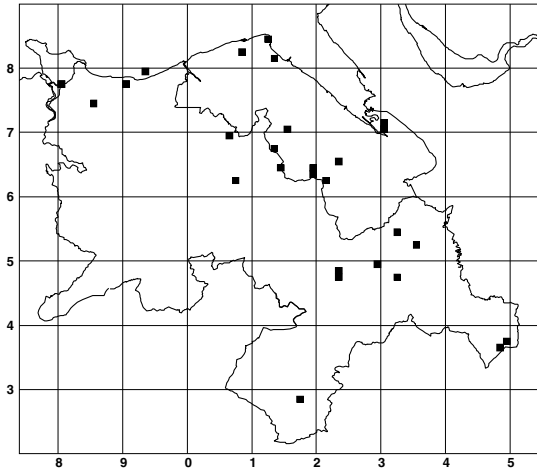
(GW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	18	3
Flints.	18	9

Denbs. Recorded in Apr, May, Jun and Jul with the first record on 12/04 – a single at Llanddulas (EL). Most records were of singles with 2 near Moel Famau on 10/05 (EdW), 2 singing near Moelfre on 23/05 (SD) and 3 singing at Fenn's Moss on 4/07 (KS). The last record was a single, ringed at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 25/07 (SKT).

Flints. Recorded in Apr, May, Jun and Aug. The first record was on 21/04 near Gronant (LJ). Again, most records were of singles but here were some larger counts than in Denbs: 7 at Penycloddiau on 17/05 and 23/05 and 9 there on 3/05 (EdW). The last record was a single

Garden Warbler 2009

ringed at SS on 30/08 (pBH).



Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*)

LLWYDFRON FACH

Scarce breeding summer visitor.

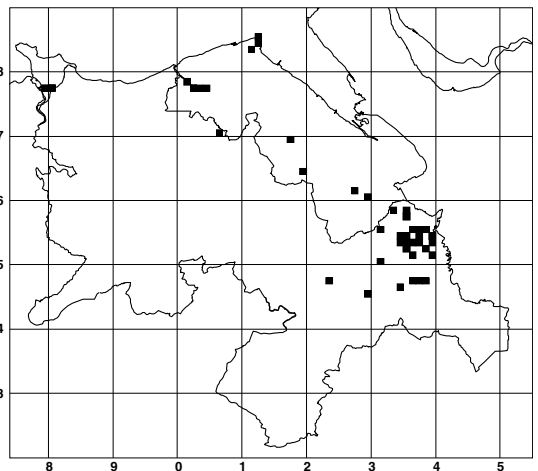
The map shows many more locations than in 2007, especially in the Wrexham area. It seems likely that this species is under-recorded, though far from 'common'.

(LW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	40	6
Flints.	13	7

Denbs. Recorded Apr to Sep, with the first record on 16/04, a single at CON (MDu). The last record was a single at Borras on 18/09 (JN). Most records were of singles but 2 were recorded three times and the largest counts of 5 on 20/04 and 6 on 30/06 were both near Holt (SBo). JN recorded an occupied nest near Ridleywood on 30/05, the only record of confirmed breeding.

Flints. Recorded in Apr, May and Sep, and the first record was on 14/04 at FLQ (GNR). The last record was a single near Rhuddlan on 7/09 (SH). Most records were singles with 2 at Pantymwyn on 26/04 (MB), 3 near Rhuddlan on 8/05 (SH) and 7 at POA on 20/04 (ANB).

Lesser Whitethroat 2009



Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)
Common breeding summer visitor. Amber List.

LLWYDFRON

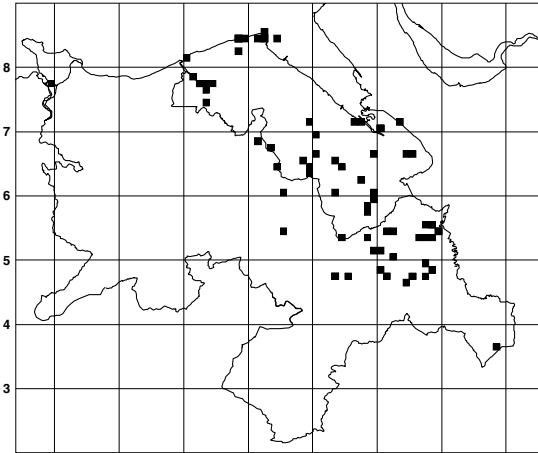
The distribution of records seems to be heavily skewed towards the Clwydian Hills, Flintshire and around Wrexham. Are the W and S really lacking Whitethroat? Surely there must be scrubby, brambly areas where they can be found?

(WH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	39	15
Flints.	49	7

Denbs. Most of the records were of 1-6 and the larger counts were: 7 at Castell on 25/04 (MD), 9 near Holt on 20/04 (the first record of the year) and 11 there on 30/06 (SBo), 10+ at Parkey on 7/05 (NHu) and 15 near Moel Famau on 10/05 (EdW). There were records from Apr to Jul. The last record was a single at Pentre Maelor, Wrexham, during a BBS walk on 12/07 (NH).

Flints. Recorded in Apr to Sep with the first record of 1 at Rhyl on 14/04 (ANB) and the last was 1 ringed at SS on 13/09 (pBH). Most records were of 1-4 and the larger counts were 5 at Penycloddiau on 3/05, 28/06 and 1/08 (EdW), 5 at Halkyn Mountain on 24/05 (MD) and 7 during a BBS walk at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 28/06 (IMS).

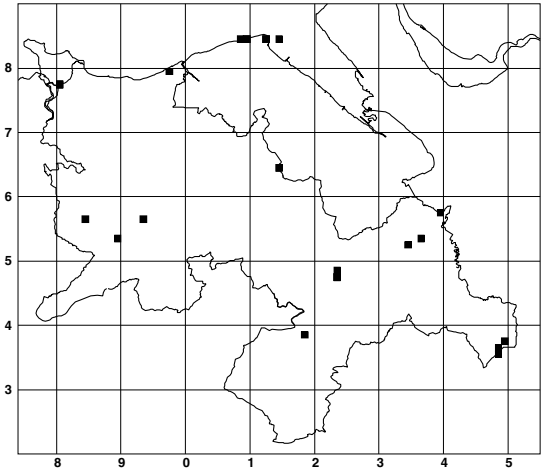
Whitethroat 2009



Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)
Localised summer breeding visitor. Red List. WBAP

TROELLWR BACH

Grasshopper Warbler 2009



(GH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	22	3
Flints.	5	2

The distribution of records is rather different from that of 2008.

Denbs. The first record was 1 singing at Acton Park on 10/04, assumed to be a migrant (JN). All records were from Apr to Jul and the largest count was 3 at World's End on 14/06, all singing (KS). The last record was of a singing bird at Towyn on 20/07 (DCR).

Flints. The first record was of 2 during a BBS walk at POA on 23/04 (JuR).

Other records were all of singles in Apr, May, and Jul and the last record was near Gronant on 15/07 (RSm).

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

TELOR YR HESG

Breeding summer visitor.

Denbs. Fewer reports this year from nine sites. First record with an early date: 2 at CON on 11/04 (MDu) and the last record was also at CON, a single on 15/08 (DCR).

(SW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	17	5
Flints.	29	4

Flints. Records were from ten sites with the first spring report from Rhuddlan, a single on 19/04 (SH). Seventeen full-grown birds ringed at SS between 24/05 and 6/09 the last bird was also the last record for the area (pBH).

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

TELOR Y CYRS

Localised breeding summer visitor.

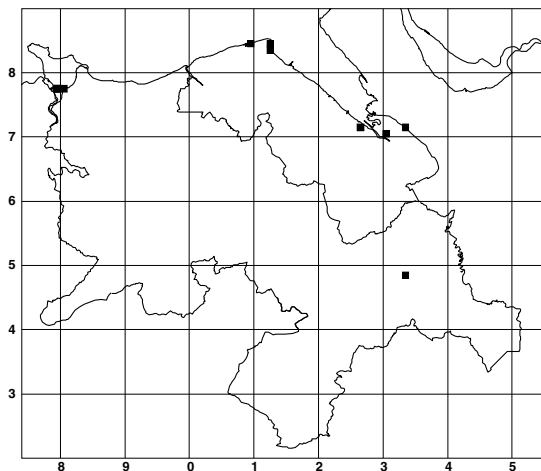
The records show that, as in 2007, this species has a very restricted distribution because of its habitat requirements.

(RW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	5	18
Flints.	26	24

Denbs. The first record was at CON on 11/04 (MDu). Birds were recorded in Apr, May, Jun, Aug and Sep with all but one record at CON. The other record was at the pool in Erddig Park on 10/05 (NH). The largest count was of 18 ringed at CON on 8/08 (IMS) and the last record there was of 1 on 18/09 (JRI).

Flints. The first record was a single ringed at SS on 19/04 (pBH). The majority of records were from ringing at SS in Apr to Sep, with a total of 168 and the most ringed in a day was 24 on 2/08. The last record was a single ringed there on 27/09 (pBH).

Reed Warbler 2009



Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*)

CYNFFON SEDAN

Scarce and irregular winter visitor.

Denbs. Singles were seen at Pentre Isaf (9/01), GF (30/11) and Cym-y-Brain, RM (7/12). There were 2 near Wrexham on 20/03 and 3 there on 10/11 (JN).

(WX)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	5	3+
Flints.	13	13

Flints. Twelve of the records were of a flock of 13 at Wepre CP between 19/01 and 29/01 then 12 at Cilcain on 4/03 (BrWo).

Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*)

DELOR Y CNAU

Common and widespread breeding resident.

Recorded throughout the year from suitable habitat across both vice-counties. A commonly recorded garden bird, 79.2% of Denbs records were either from GBW sites, or noted to be using feeders. In Flints the proportion was lower at 55.3%. A highly territorial species, only 2.7 % of records were of more than two birds

(NH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	583	7
Flints.	384	7

Denbs. Recorded at seventy seven locations. Several substantial counts included 7 at Erddig Pool on 2/06 (NHu), and 5 at Castell on 13/06 (MD).

Flints. . Recorded from 38 locations; the largest counts included 7 at Cilcain SE on 9/08, 6 at Pant y Mwyn on 7/06, 6 at Cilcain SE on 31/07 (GEM) and 6 nestlings were ringed at Coed y Felin on 18/05 (IMS).

Breeding (IMS):

(NH)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	2	10	10	10	5.00

Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

DRINGWR BACH

Widespread breeding resident.

Denbs. Recorded throughout the year from suitable habitat in 66 locations across the vice-county. Only 3 records were of more than 2, the largest count being 5 at Abergele Hospital on 26/12 (RS).

(TC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	98	5
Flints.	46	4

Flints. Recorded from 19 locations of which the following produced the majority of records - Abermorddu, Caergwle, Cilcain, Northop, Pantymwyn, Penycloddiau, Rhuddlan, Rhydymwyn and Sychdyn. Only five records were of more than 2, and in most cases these involved adults with juveniles. The largest count was 4 at Cilcain on 12/04 (GEM).

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

DRYW

A common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Reported widely from across the recording area in all months of the year. Recorded on 21/23 BBS surveys and regularly from gardens.

(WR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	613	14
Flints.	430	15

Denbs. Maximum count during a BBS walk near Gellifor on 27/04 (RaCo).

Flints. Maximum count during a BBS walk near Cilcain on 9/06 (HJ).

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

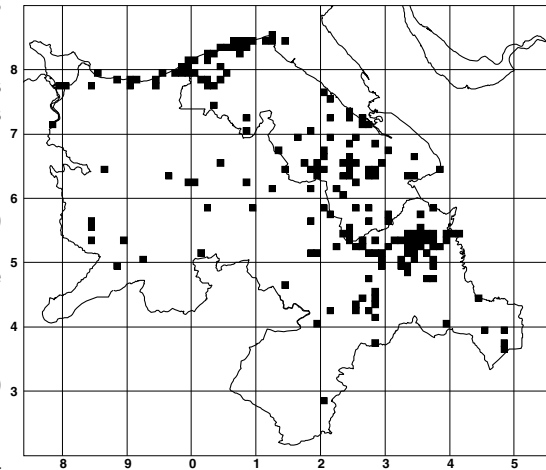
DRUDWEN

Common and widespread breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

GBW and Birdtrack records contributed the majority of sightings for this common bird. The Starling was seen in all months from a range of locations and elevations but sightings were mainly confined to the lowland parts of the area in the breeding season, where breeding was possible in 11/23 BBS squares.

(SG)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	675	15000+
Flints.	793	1000+

Starling 2009



Denbs. Winter flocks of 100-2,000 birds were noted from the following sites from early in the year until mid Mar: Borras, Colwyn Bay, Fenn's Moss, Gresford Flash, Lightwood Green and Wrexham with a maximum of 3,000 birds seen at Kinmel Bay on 25/01 (DCR). Small numbers were widespread during the breeding season and breeding was confirmed in many localities. Numbers built up again from mid Aug and flocks of over 100 birds were seen from Blaen Bache, Borras, Colwyn Bay, CON, Glasfryn, Gresford, Kinmel Bay, Lavister, Nant-y-Glyn, Rhydtalog, Towyn and Wrexham. Winter roost numbers at CON rose from 10,000 on 2/12 to 15,000 on 14/12 (MDu). A large count of 10,000 birds was also seen, feeding, NE of Pentrefoelas on 25/10 (AD, IMS).



Flints. Winter flocks of 100-300 birds were seen at Buckley, Meliden, Mold, Oakenholt, POA, Prestatyn, Rhyl, Talacre and large winter flocks were regularly seen at Rhuddlan but numbers were down on previous years with the maximum seen being 500 birds on 3/03 (SH). Numbers began to build up early in the season with flocks of 100-200 seen at Oakenholt and CQNR in late May and early Jun. Maximum numbers were 1,000+ at Nant Farm, W of Flint on 19/11(LeW) and at Prestatyn on 21/11(DCR).

Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*)

BRONWEN Y DWR

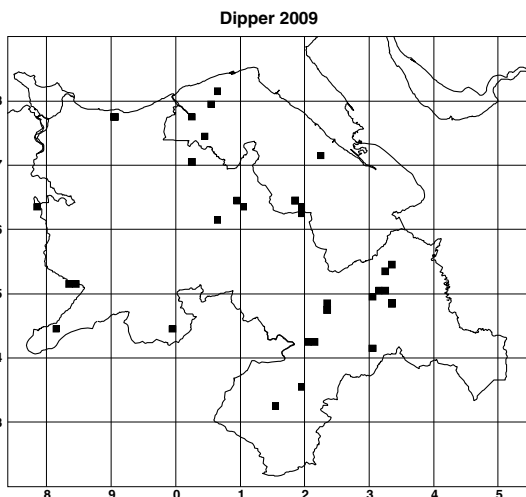
Widespread localised breeding resident. Amber List.

The dipper records are fairly widespread but are mainly absent from low altitude, flat land, as would be expected.

(DI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	39	5
Flints.	13	2

Denbs. All but three records were of 1-2 birds, recorded in all months except Jun. The largest counts were all broods of nestlings ringed: 5 at Pandy on 21/04 and 26/04 and 5 at Prion on 24/05 (all pBH).

Flints. All the records were of 1-2 birds in all months of the year except Jan, Sep and Oct. SH was especially pleased to see 2 near Rhuddlan on 13/11 as he had only ever seen 1 there previously.



Breeding (MRG):

(DI)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	7	33	30	27	3.86

Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*)

WYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

Summer visitor breeding in small numbers on upland areas. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. The first record of the year was a single on Moel Famau on 15/03 (EdW). A male was seen at Llyn Aled Isaf, Mynydd Hiraethog on 30/03 (JuR) and another male close to the Sportsman's Arms, Mynydd Hiraethog on 18/04 (GG). The last birds of the year were 3 on migration at Borrás, Wrexham on 17/09 (JN).

(RZ)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	5	3
Flints.	1	1

Flints. The only record was a single seen at Penycloddiau on 19/04 (EdW).

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)

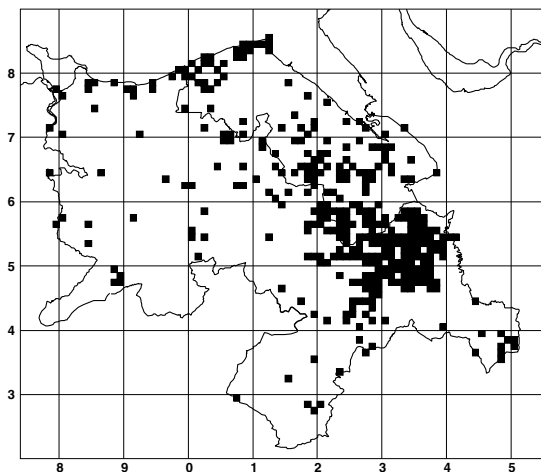
MWYALCHEN

Common and widespread breeding resident.

Blackbird seems to be recorded in most locations where there are people and gardens with other records from well-

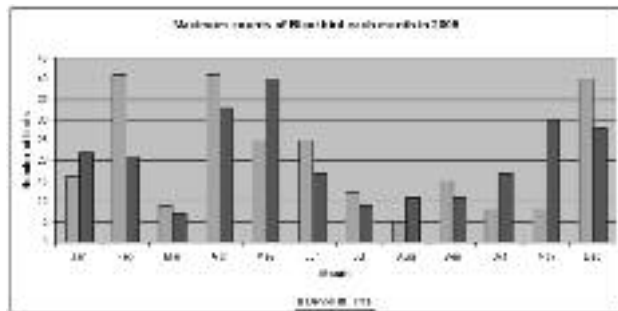
(B.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1592	41
Flints.	1495	40

Blackbird 2009



watched rural sites. The histogram shows the maximum counts each month and there appear to be peaks in late winter and early spring that may relate to movements into and out of the area. In spring there are other peaks that may relate to the ease with which singing Blackbirds can be recorded.

Denbs. Here, 69.5% of records were from GBW sites and most records were of 1-20 birds. The larger counts included several from BBS walks: 23 near Trevor Uchaf on 23/06 (JoR), 25 near Gellifor on 27/04 (RaCo), 25 near Cefn Mawr on 21/06 (RaCo), 41 there on 26/04 (GWO). Other large counts were: 25 at Bryngrog, Wrexham on 3/05 (JN), 27 at CON on 27/12 (RS), 41 at Bwylchwyn in week beginning 22/02, and at Towyn, 30+ on 23/12, 35+ on 19/12, 36+ on 20/12 and 40+ feeding on apples on 22/12 (SM). Breeding was confirmed at Pandy with two broods of 4 nestlings ringed on 17/05 and 19/05 (pBH).



Flints. Only 53.2% of records were from GBW sites because of the many records at Rhydymwyn from JVHu. Most records were of 1-24 birds and some larger counts were made during BBS walks: 33 near Buckley on 12/04 and 40 there on 19/05 (GNR) and 34 near Mold on 10/05 (GEM). Other large counts were: 25 at Penycloddiau on 26/11 and 30 there on 8/11 (EdW), 28 near Rhuddlan on 5/12 and 28/12 (SH). Breeding was confirmed at Rhydymwyn and near Treuddyn.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

SOCAN EIRA

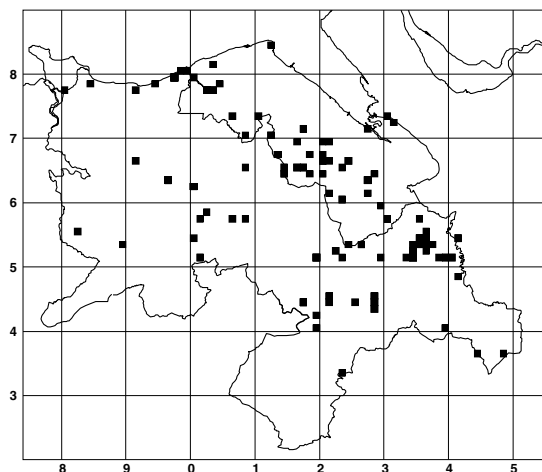
A very common passage and winter migrant. Amber List.

The records are from locations throughout most of the area. The histogram shows that the records mainly occur Jan to Apr and Oct to Dec.

(FF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	135	700
Flints.	72	2600

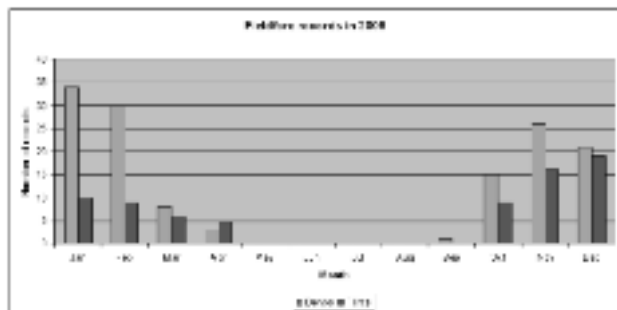
Denbs. The last record of spring was 1+ at Bryn Ocyn, Clocaenog Forest on 16/04 (SBo) and the first in autumn was 5 in a garden near Llandegla in the week beginning 20/09 (JRo). Most records were of 1-100 (37.5% of all records were from GBW sites) and the largest counts were: 150+ at Burton on 13/11 (HL), 250+ near Borras on

Fieldfare 2009



24/02 and 350+ there on 14/02 (JN), 600+ in small flocks near Ridleywood on 22/11 (NHu) and 700 near Denbigh Crossroads, Clocaenog Forest on 30/10 (RMB).

Flints. 18.9% of records were from GBW sites. The last bird of spring was a single at Penycloddiau on 12/04 (EdW) and the first record of autumn was 10 at RML on 8/10 (RMB). The majority of the records were of 1-110 and the larger counts were: 150 near Padeswood on 6/04 (GNR), 200 near Rhuddlan on 25/02 (SH), 204+ near Rhyl on 5/01 (DCR) and 2,600 at Penycloddiau on 8/11 (EdW).



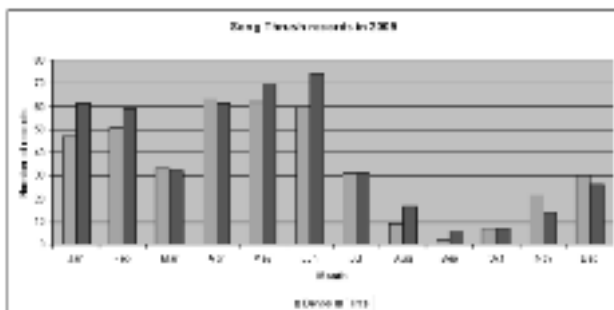
Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

BRONFRAITH

Widespread breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List. WBAP

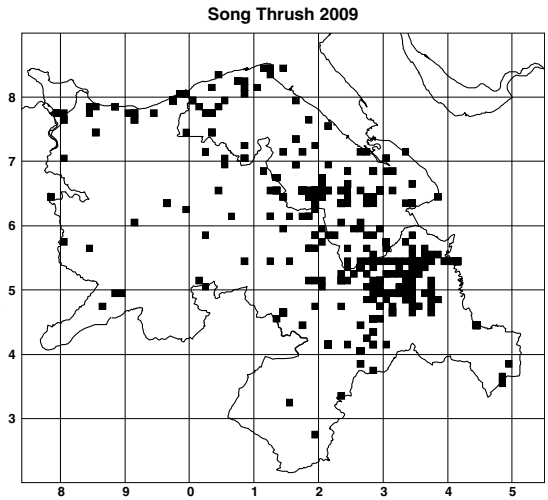
There are many more locations than in 2007. It continues to be well described as a 'widespread' species. There were records in every month in each county. However, there is no clear indication why the relatively large number of records should drop to a much lower level in the latter half of the year when there should actually be more birds (ie adults and their fledged young). Not all the early records show they are linked with song.

(ST)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	410	11
Flints.	444	18



Denbs. Most of the records were of 1-5 with 50.7% of records from GBW sites. The larger counts were 10+ at Towyn on 1/11 (SM) and the others from BBS walks: 6 at Coed Bryndansi on 13/04 (HTD), 6 near Cefn Mawr on 26/04 (GWo) and 11 near Gellifor on 27/04 (RaCo).

Flints. Here, most of the records were of 1-9 birds and 40.8% of all records were from GBW sites. The larger counts were 10 near Rhuddlan on 10/01 (HeS) and on Penycloddiau on two dates – 8/11 and 15/11 (EdW) and 18 near Rhuddlan on 28/12 (SH).



Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

COCH DAN ADEN

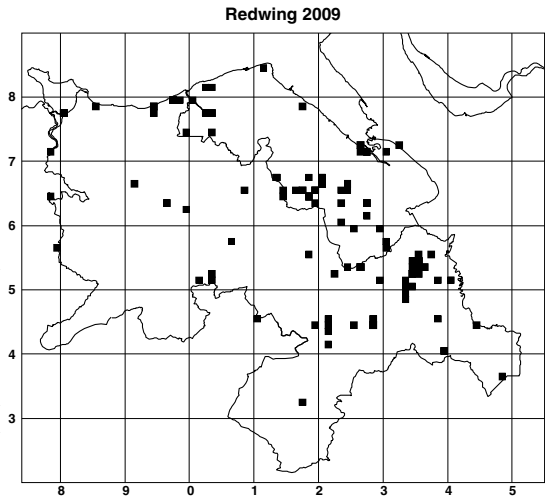
Common passage migrant and winter visitor throughout the area. Amber list.

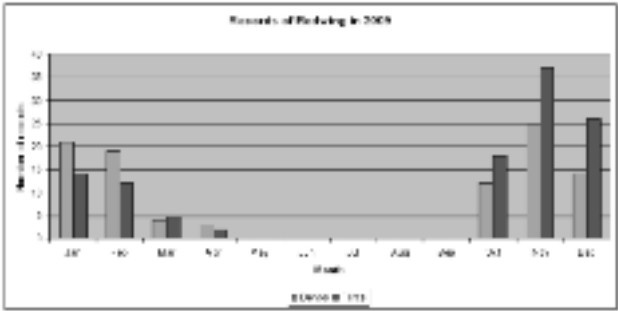
The map shows that records, this year, were more widespread than in 2007. Records occurred in the same months in both counties (see p100).

(RE)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	96	300+
Flints.	111	250

Denbs. Most records were of 1-80 and 20.4% of all records were from GBW sites. The largest counts were all in autumn: 100+ near Cyffylliog on 14/10 (DDi), 100+ near Carrog on 16/10 (IMS), 200 near Llanarmon-yn-Ial on 15/10 (BR) and 300+ in smaller flocks at Ridleywood on 22/11 (NHu). The last spring record was 2 at Francis Lane, Wrexham on 5/04 (KS) and the first autumn record was 1 that flew over calling at CON on 4/10 (MDu).

Flints. Most records were of 1-100 and 31.6% of records were from GBW sites. The largest counts were: 118 near Cilcain on 11/11 (GEM), 150 near Rhuddlan on 8/02 and 200 there on 4/12 (SH) and 250 at Penycloddiau on 8/11 and near Rhuddlan on 27/10 (SH). The last spring record was 9 near Rhuddlan on 9/04 (SH) and the first records of autumn were 1 at CQNR on 4/10 (PhHo) and 4 at Rhydymwyn in the week beginning 4/10 (DMH).





Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)
 Fairly common breeding resident.

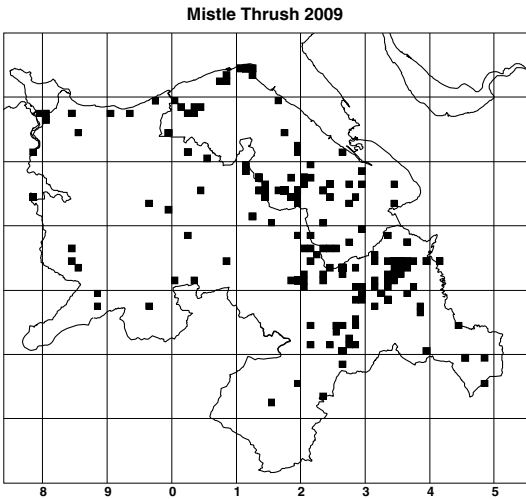
BRYCH Y COED

The map shows more locations than in 2007 and indicates that this species can be found widely across the area. Recorded in every month in both counties.

(M.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	195	28
Flints.	209	30

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1-4, with 4 nestlings ringed at Pandry on 1/05 (pBH). The larger counts were: 5 at Castell on 13/06 (MD), 5 near Gresford on 14/02 (JN), 6 near Moel Famau on 15/03 (EdW), 6 by Bodelwyddan Castle on 7/02 (RS) and 28 near Gresford on 22/07 (SBo). 30.3% of records were from GBW sites.

Flints. Most of the records (with 42.7% from GBW sites) were of 1-7 and the larger counts were: 11 at Talacre dunes on 10/06 (pJR), 12 near Cilcain on 29/08 (GEM), 12 near POA on 10/07 (pJR) and 30 near Rhuddlan on 24/07 (SH).



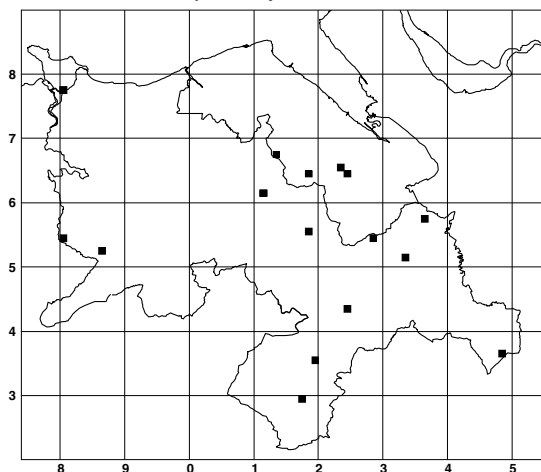
Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)
 Uncommon breeding summer visitor. Red List. WBAP

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

There is national concern about the population of Spotted Flycatcher, so a 42% reduction in records here, in one year, is a matter of concern. The map reflects this change. Have the birds disappeared or have records not been submitted? All records of this species are particularly welcome.

(SF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	15	5
Flints.	7	7

Spotted Flycatcher 2009



Denbs. Recorded in May to Sep with the first record a single at CON on 19/05 (AlaD) and the last another single also at CON on 16/09 (MDu). Other records were of 1-2, the larger counts being: 3 near Rhewl on 25/05 (LJ), 3 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 21/06 (pBH), 4 near Rhewl on 16/06 (LJ) and 5 near Betws-y-Coed on 12/09 (RAP).

Flints. Recorded in May, Jun and Aug. The first record was a single on 17/05 at Penycloddiau and the last was 7 there, including fledged young, on 1/08 (EdW). Other records were of singles apart from 5, again at Penycloddiau, on 28/06 (EdW).

Breeding (MRG):

(SF)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	1	3	3	3	3.00

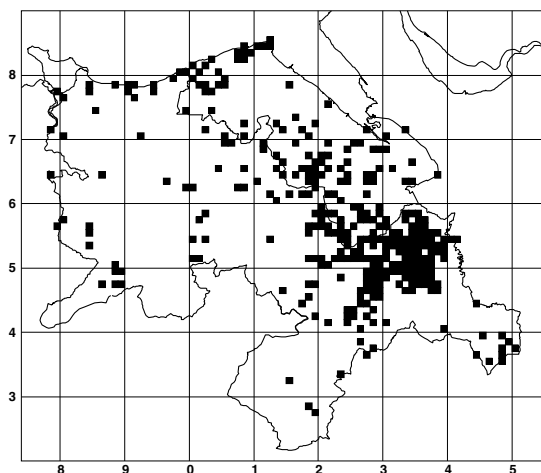
Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)

ROBIN GOCH

Common and widespread breeding resident.

The map indicates that Robin is recorded more in places with people and probably with gardens. Recorded in every

Robin 2009



(R.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1518	40
Flints.	1133	19

month of the year in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of 1-15 birds and 71.3% of records were from GBW sites. It is a widespread breeder throughout the county with many birds arriving during the autumn from the continent to winter. The largest late winter count was 30+ at Borras Head on 14/02 (JN) and the largest spring counts were: 20 near Llay on 26/04 and 40 at another location near Llay also on 26/04 (JN), 20 at Gellifor, Rhos during a BBS walk on 27/04 (RaCo) and 20 birds in song at Bersham Woods,

Wrexham on 23/05 (JN). The highest autumn count was 10 at Acton Park, Wrexham on 2/11 (JN).

Flints. Again most of the records were of 1-12 birds and 65.4% of records were from GBW sites with many others from JVHu at Rhydymwyn. The largest counts were from BBS walks: 13 near Brynford on 26/04 (CMI), 13 near Mold on 10/05 (GEM), 13 on 14/06 and 19 on 12/04 N of Mold (AB, IMS). Breeding was confirmed in Sychdyn with broods of nestlings ringed: 4 on 11/04 and 5 on 20/06 (IMS).

Breeding (IMS, AMB):

(R.)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	3	13	9	9	3.00

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochrurus*)

TINGOCH DU

Scarce migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. A male was seen at Fenn's Moss on 30/05 (JoAr).

(BX)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

TINGOCH

Summer breeding visitor mainly in wooded upland areas. Amber List.

Denbs. The first bird of the year was near Padog on 11/04 (GG). Three were near Llangwyfan on the same date. From mid-Apr they were widespread in suitable habitat with counts of 1-4. Five birds were at Moel Famau on 10/05 (EdW). Breeding was confirmed at Pandy with 6 nestlings ringed on 19/05 (pBH) and near Llangwyfan broods of 6 were ringed on 31/05 and 8 on 7/06 (pBH). Up to 4 were seen migrating through at CON on 17/08 (RS). The last bird of the year was seen there on 22/08 (MDu).

(RT)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	60	8
Flints.	20	6

Flints. The first bird of the year was a single at Penycloddiau on 12/04 (EdW) with 4 there on 19/04 (EdW). Four birds were seen on migration through Gronant on 21/04 (LJ). Birds were in song near Pantymwyn on 26/04 (EdW) and at Nercwys Mountain on 31/05 (SD) but there was no evidence of breeding confirmed. The last bird of the year was a single at Penycloddiau on 11/08 (EdW).

Breeding (MRG):

(RT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	4	26	20	20	5.00

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)

CREC YR EITHIN

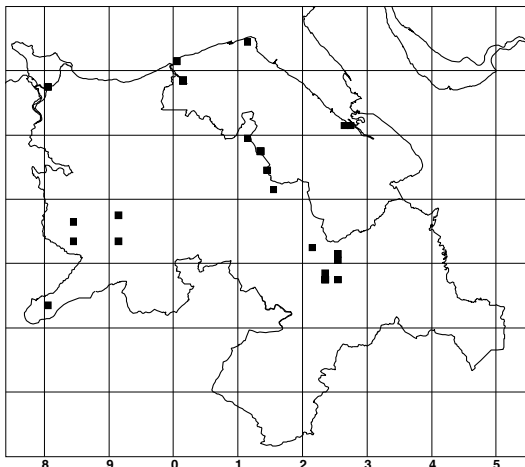
Breeding summer visitor in small numbers, mainly in upland areas.

There seem to be fewer whinchats seen and those seen early in the year can occur at lowland locations while during the breeding season they are mainly in the upland areas. Do they migrate away early, or do they disperse 'invisibly' much like Pied Flycatchers?

(WC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	24	5
Flints.	16	4

Whinchat 2009

Denbs. Only recorded in Apr to Jun with the first spring record a single near Moel Famau on 19/04 (EdW). The highest count of the year was 5 on RM near Mountain Lodge on 20/05 during a BBS walk (JLR). Up to 4 were near Moel Famau on 10/05 (EdW). The last bird of the year was a single on 29/06 at Mynydd Hiraethog (SBo). There were no records of confirmed breeding this year.



Flints. Recorded Apr to Sep with the first record a male at Rhyl on 24/04 (seen with 15+ Wheatear in scrub by the railway bridge) (AnCu). There were three other records from different locations in the next two days. Birds were recorded on territory on Penycloddiau on 17/05 (EdW) and 4, including fledged young, were seen near Moel y Parc on 5/07 (MD) confirming breeding in the county. The last record was a single seen at Rhyl on 19/09 (ANB).

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

Breeding resident in small numbers. Amber List.

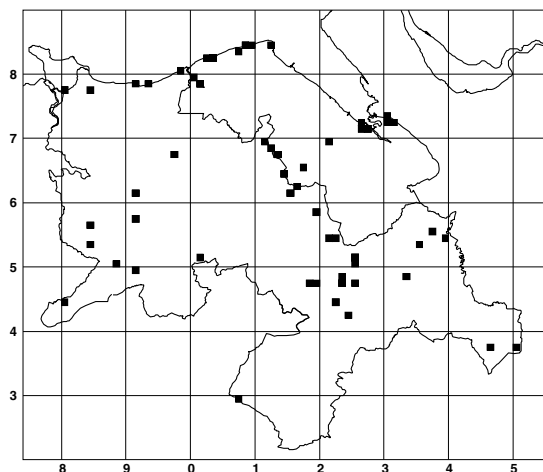
The records are widespread but are not exactly the same as in 2007 (see p104).

(SC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	62	8
Flints.	49	5

Denbs. Recorded in every month of the year except Nov from across the county mainly as 1-5 birds. Highest counts were 8 near Moel Famau on 10/05 (EdW), 6 at World's End on 12/07 (KS) and 6 were also in Clocaenog Forest at Craig Bron Bannog on 4/03 (DG). Breeding was confirmed at World's End with fledged young being seen on 31/05 (KS) and possible at CON with a juvenile being seen on 8/07 (JHg).

Flints. Recorded in every month of the year from coastal locations and the Clwydian Hills. Most records were of 1-3 and the highest counts were 5 at Shotwick rifle range on 28/01 (CW), 4 near Rhuddlan on 14/03 (SH), 4 on Penycloddiau on 29/03 and 3/05 (EdW) and 4 near Moel y Parc on 5/07, including fledged young – so confirmation of breeding (MD).

Stonechat 2009



Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

TINWEN Y GARN

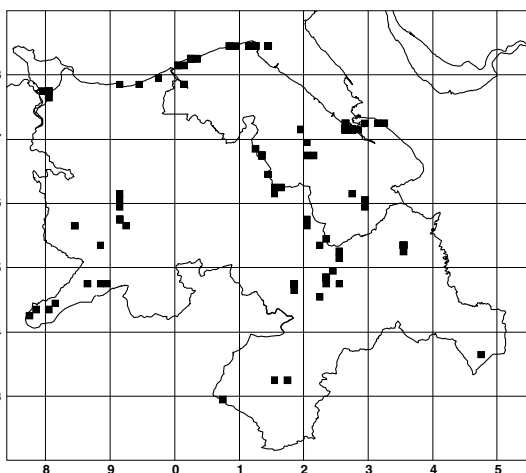
Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

The locations of records seem to be either in the uplands or around the coastal fringes with breeding probably occurring in both areas.

(W.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	73	14
Flints.	82	20

Denbs. Recorded in Mar to Oct mainly as 1-6 birds. The first record was a single near Moel Famau on 15/03 (EdW). The largest counts were 7 at CON on 9/05 (JHg), 7 at Pensarn on 27/08 (RMB), 7 near Moel Famau on 6/09 (EdJ), 11 at CON on 26/04 and 12 there on 25/04 (JHg) and 14 near Moel Famau on 10/05 (EdW). Breeding was confirmed by records of fledged young at the Horseshoe Pass on 1/06 (HN), at World's End on 12/07 (KS), on Mynydd Hiraethog on 29/06 (SBo) and near Pentrefoelas on 15/06 (IMS). The last bird of the year was a male at Borrás on 7/10 (JN). Greenland Wheatear were recorded on four dates near Borrás: 29/04, 10/09, 11/09 and 18/09 (JN).

Wheatear 2009



Flints. Recorded Mar to May and Jul to Sep mainly as 1-9 birds. There were more records during Mar than in Denbs, but as in Denbs most records were in Apr and May. The largest

counts were 10+ at POA on 20/03 (ANB), 12 at Shotwick Fields on 21/04 (CW), 13 at Talacre dunes on 8/05 (pJR), 15+ at Rhyl on 24/04 (AnCu), 18 at Penycloddiau on 26/04 (EdW) and 20+ at Rhyl on 25/04 (AnCu). The first record of the year was a single at POA on 18/03 (GR) and the last record was 2 at Penycloddiau on 20/09 (EdW). There were no records of confirmed breeding.

Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

GWYBEDOG BRITH

Breeding summer visitor. Red List. WBAP

The majority of the records were of birds ringed, so the map is nearly a map of where ringers have nest boxes used by Pied Flycatchers. Surely this species is more widespread, living in other woods, though juveniles remain almost invisible after leaving the nest.

(PF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	71	35
Flints.	17	21

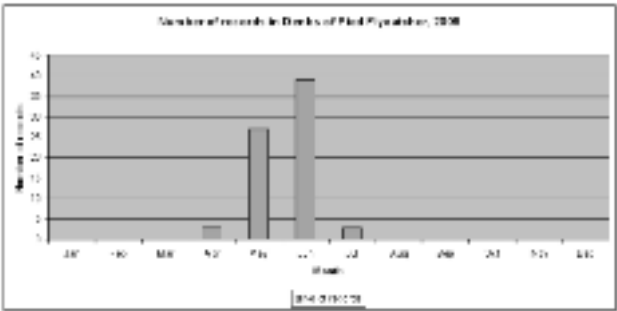
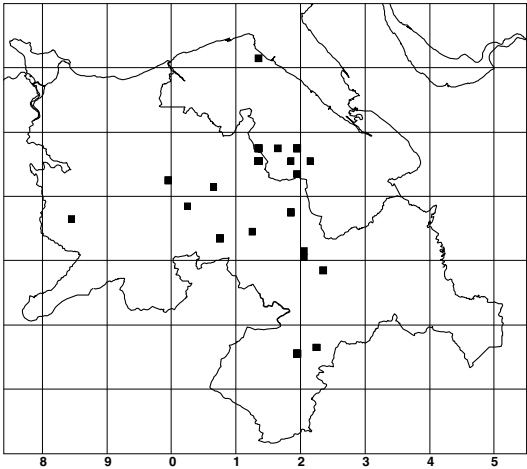
Denbs. Just eleven of the records were of birds seen – the other sixty-one records were of birds ringed. The three records in Apr were all sightings, the first being on 9/04 near Prion (PCo). The largest numbers of birds in a day were - 21 nestlings ringed near Clocaenog on 30/05 (IMS), 22 near Prion on 11/06 and at Pandy on 13/06, 32 near Llangwyfan on 31/05 and 35 near Prion on 2/06 (all pBH). The last record was 7 nestlings ringed near Llangwyfan on 15/07 (pBH).

Flints. Eight of the records were sightings of 1 or 2 birds and the first was a single on Penycloddiau on 19/04 (EdW). The ringing records were all smaller numbers than in Denbs, with the largest count being 21 nestlings ringed at Coed y Felin, Hendre on 7/06 (IMS). The last record was of 2 on Penycloddiau on 28/06 (EdW).

The breeding results, in the table below, indicate that 2009 was a poor breeding season

compared with 2008 (overall young per nest = 4.27) but clearly there are large differences between the sites that are studied. Almost certainly there are habitat differences, but there could be other factors affecting the breeding success of these birds.

Pied Flycatcher 2009



Breeding (MRG, IMS, AmB, JLR):

(PF)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Ddol-hir	7	47	41	4	0.57
Glyn Arthur	17	104	79	60	3.53
Llwynmawr	8	50	47	13	1.63
Pandy	21	141	117	74	3.52
Pontfadog	2	13	13	11	5.50
Prion	27	174	145	87	3.22
Coed Nantddu	7	50	40	36	5.14
Coed y Felin	5	35	32	31	6.20
Others	11	71		32	2.91
TOTALS	105	685	(526)	348	3.31

Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*)

LLWYD Y GWRYCH

Common breeding resident and garden visitor. WBAP

The large number of records was maintained in 2009 mainly due to the GBW data. Records were received from 17/23 BBS squares. All records other than those, below, were in single figures.

(D.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1251	15
Flints.	1174	24

Denbs. An unusually high count of 15 birds was recorded from Garden Village, Wrexham on 21/01 by JN.

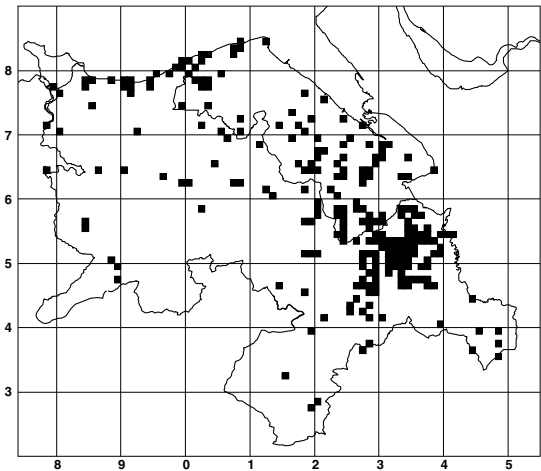
Flints. During a BBS survey near Mold on 12/04, 24 individuals were seen or heard (AB, IMS) indicating the density of this common bird in many suburban areas.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

ADERYN Y TO

Common breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP

House Sparrow 2009



(HS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1299	200+
Flints.	1068	91

This widespread breeding species was reported across the recording area throughout the year with many records coming from GBW participants. Birds were recorded in 14/23 BBS squares.

Denbs. Few flocks exceeding 30 birds were recorded this year with the main exception of 200+ seen foraging in fields at Burton by HL on 15/08.

Flints. This species was widely

reported from gardens and village locations across the area with number fairly stable throughout the year. Flocks of 20-40 birds were seen in Rhydymwyn throughout the year (JVHu) but flocks exceeding 30 birds were rarely recorded elsewhere. The exceptions to this were 91 (12/04) and 75 (19/05) recorded on BBS surveys in Buckley (GNR).

Breeding (IMS, JLR):

(HS)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	8	36		22	2.75

Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

A scarce localised breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

The map shows that there were some extra sites with records compared with 2008. Of the records, 51.2% in Denbs were from GBW sites – a dramatic decline from the 84.5% in 2008. As there were more records in Denbs this year, perhaps Tree Sparrows have spread further than was previously known. Every record is important – please submit all records of this species!

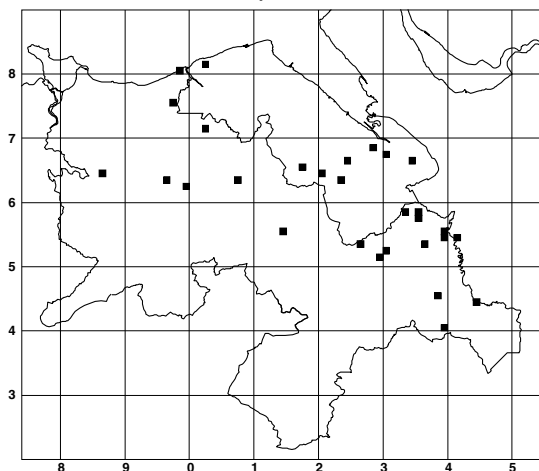
Denbs. Most records were of 1-12 birds with one record being the first bird seen near Llanrhaeadr by an observer in 20 years (StJ). The larger counts were: 14 on 6/02, 15 on 2/02, 16 on 29/12 and 30/12 near Lightwood Green (MEIs) and an exceptional 54 near Holt on 30/06 (SBo).

Flints. The GBW proportion of records (79.2%) is very close to that of 2008 and the number of records is similar.

Many records were from one GBW site at Cilcain (RWes), as in 2008. The other large counts came from Beeches Farm, Sandycroft with 9 and 27 during BBS walks on 14/04 and 28/06 respectively, and three large counts of nestlings ringed being the peaks of the three broods – 56 on 18/05, 47 on 21/06 and 57 on 25/07 (all IMS). In total, 200 nestlings were ringed at this colony of 20 nest boxes.

(TS)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	116	54
Flints.	72	57

Tree Sparrow 2009



Breeding (IMS):

(TS)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Beeches Farm	46	263	210	200	4.35

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

SIGLEN FELEN

Passage migrant and localised breeder in small numbers. Red List. WBAP

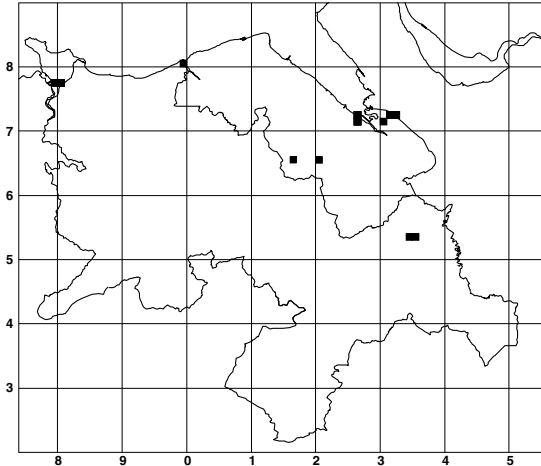
The map shows some extra locations compared with 2008 but it seems that the key area with breeding activity is likely to be in the Shotwick / IMF corner of Flints.

(YW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	11	1
Flints.	20	20



Yellow Wagtail female, Shotwick, Barry Barnacal

Yellow Wagtail 2009



Denbs. There were records in Apr, May, Aug, Sep and Oct, all of singles. The first was on saltmarsh at CON on 20/04 (RS) and the last was near Borrass on 7/10 (JN).

Flints. Records were gathered in Apr to Sep with the first record of a single at CQNR on 9/04 (JHo) and the last, a juvenile, at Oakenholt on 8/09 (DeNi). Most records were of 1-8 with 14 at Shotwick Fields on 18/05 (GR), 14 on 21/05 (JoC), 15 on 15/06 (CW) and 20 also there on 14/05 (BaB).

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

SIGLEN LWYD

Fairly common breeding resident.

Denbs. Recorded at over thirty five sites, mostly single birds eight of which came from GBW sites. Only three records of more than 2 birds: Padog held 4 on 19/03 (PKi), 3 on Mynydd Hiraethog on 29/06 (SBo) and 3 also at Pentre on 11/08 (JoR).

(GL)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	100	4
Flints.	85	6

Flints. Recorded at over twenty sites with mostly single birds, three of which came from GBW sites. Two records only of 2+ birds recorded, 2 adults plus 4 juveniles at Rhydymwyn on 31/07 (JVHu) and 3 at Treuddyn on 23/06. This was also a breeding record with at least one newly fledged chick (SD).

Breeding (AmB, MRG):

(GL)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	2	10	9	9	4.50

White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba alba*)

SIGLEN WEN

Passage migrant.

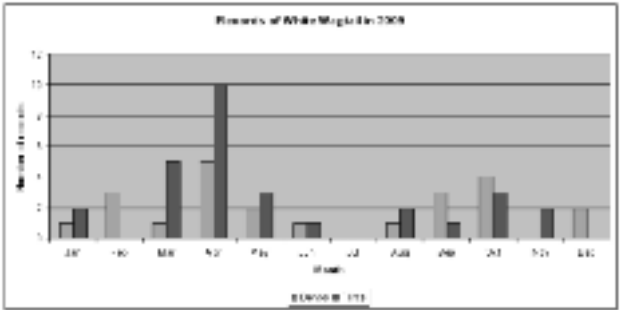
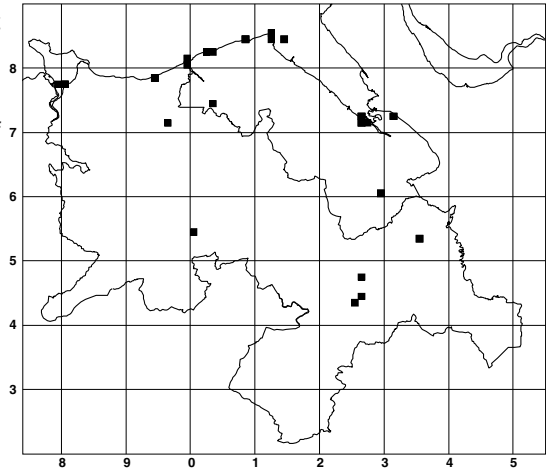
There is a much restricted distribution of records compared with Pied Wagtail, below. The histogram shows a spring peak of records with a slight rise in the number of autumn records.

(WB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	23	45
Flints.	29	150

Denbs. Records were mostly from coastal sites, with the maximum count from CON with 45 on 14/04 (MDu).

Flints. Again, records were mostly from coastal sites, with maximum counts of 150 at Gronant on 20/04 (GNR) and 100+ there next day (LC).

White Wagtail 2009



Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*)
Common breeding resident.

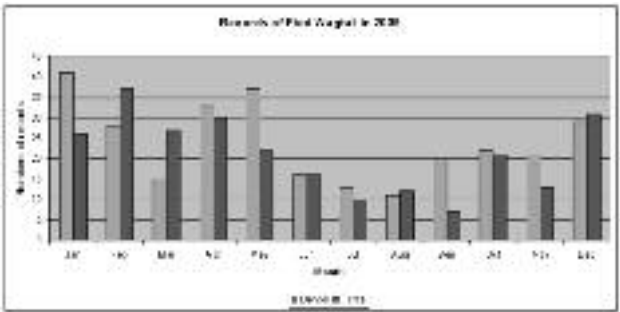
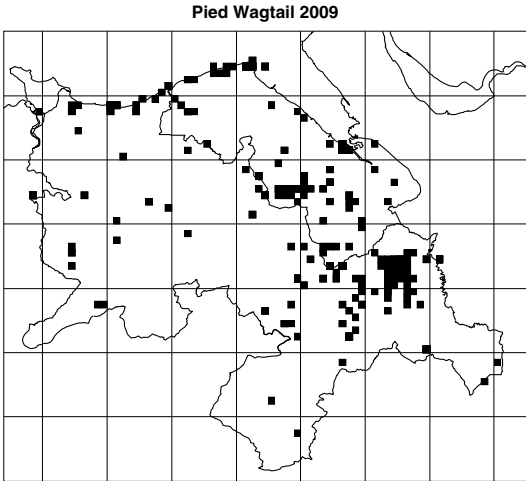
SIGLEN FRAITH

Compared with the overall coverage map (see p5) this species is widespread in our area. The histogram shows that records occur throughout the year with no marked spring or autumn peaks in the numbers of records.

(PW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	282	100+
Flints.	248	6

Denbs. There were fewer records than last year with 35% coming from GBW. Again highest counts from same sites - 100+ at a winter roost at Gresford Industrial Estate on 9/12 (NHu), 50 at nearby GF on 18/02 and 40 on 12/12 (JN). Two other double figure counts were 20+ at Acrefair on 5/09 and 10 at CON on 18/09 (JRi). Confirmed breeding records from Borrás, Bron Wylfa, Cae Llwyn Reservoir, Chirk Castle, Hafod-yr-Esgob, Llyn Aled, Llan-y-Pwll, Rhewl and Tainant.

Flints. Again records slightly down from last year with 16.2% from GBW sites but double that percentage if counting birds seen in the Rhydymwyn area. Double figure counts were from CQNR, 50 on 26/07 (AW), 23 at Oakenholt on 13/03 (DNS), 14 at Talacre dunes on 27/05 (pJR) and 10 at Rhuddlan on 16/10 (SH) and the maximum of 60 at CQNR on 12/03 (GR). Only two confirmed breeding records from FLQ and Lixwm .



Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)

CORHEDDYD Y COED

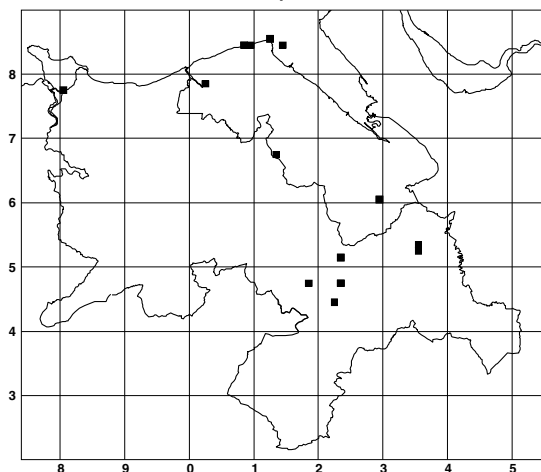
Scarce summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List. WBAP

Another year with few records, not all from the same locations as in 2008.

(TP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	10	1
Flints.	17	20

Denbs. Recorded in Apr, May, Jun, Aug and Sep, all as singles. The first bird was at World's End on 19/04 (KS) and the last was at Borrás on 21/09 (JN).

Tree Pipit 2009



Flints. Recorded in Apr, May, Jun and Aug with most records of more than one bird. The first record, a single, was on 6/04 at FLQ (GNR) and the last was 3 at Penycloddiau on 23/08 (EdW). Of the larger counts, 13 were seen at POA on 24/04 (ANB) and 20 near Gronant on 20/04 (GNR).

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)

CORHEDYDD Y WAEN

Common breeding resident and both passage and winter visitor. Amber List.

The map shows a similar distribution to 2007 with more sites on the Clwydian Hills and around Wrexham. Recorded in every month in both counties.

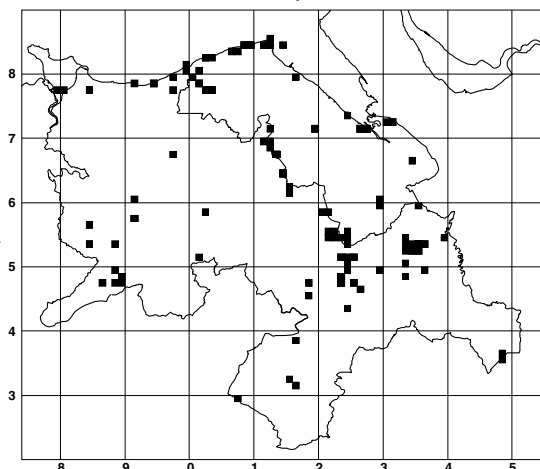
(MP)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	102	60
Flints.	108	70

Denbs. Records showed a peak during spring migration as birds moved into the area from further S, especially during Apr. In the early months of the year the highest count was 30 near Moel Famau on 15/03, with 20 seen there on 22/03 (EdW), 20 at Llyn Aled and at World's End on 31/03 (KS). During a BBS walk at Mountain Lodge, RM, on 20/05 JLR counted 32 and 30 on 15/06. There was some evidence of autumn migration with the largest counts of 60 on 16/09 and 40 on 5/10 at GF (JN). Although most records were of less than 20, there was a wintering flock of 30+ at CON on 23/12 (pJH).

Flints. Again, there were definite spring and autumn peaks as birds migrate through. In spring the peak count was 70 at Penycloddiau on 22/03 (EdW) with 40 at Shotwick rifle range on 24/03 (CW).

The highest autumn counts were from the same places – 50 at Shotwick Fields on 29/08 (CW) and 60 at Penycloddiau on 20/09 (EdW). These were birds

Meadow Pipit 2009



moving from their moorland breeding areas probably further N in UK. The highest count at the end of the year was 23 near Rhuddlan on 20/12 (SH).

Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*)

CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

Scarce, mainly winter, visitor on the coast.

Denbs. Recorded in Jan, Apr, May with most records Sep to Dec mainly as 1-2 birds. All but three records were at CON where there were 3+ on 8/11 and 4+ on 26/09 (MDu). The other sightings were 2 at Colwyn Bay on 1/01 (HeS), 2 at Llanddulas on 17/05 (JBM) and 1 there on 19/12 (KS).

(RC)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	21	2
Flints.	4	2

Flints. Recorded in Jan, Oct and Nov with three records at POA where there were 2 at low tide on 22/01, and 2 on 4/11 (GR). The other record was a single at Oakenholt on 21/10 (RWE).

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*)

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

Scarce winter visitor.

Denbs. There was a single at CON on 8/03 (MHu).

(WI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

JI-BINC

Common and widespread breeding resident.

This is probably the most widespread and common species found in the recording area, reported from a wide variety of habitats and elevations. The majority of records came from GBW sites, where it is seen in all months of the year. Birds were observed in the breeding season in 21/23 BBS squares.

(CH)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1444	200
Flints.	1383	70

Denbs. Most sightings were of individuals or small groups until the winter months when larger flocks were recorded. The maximum count, of 200, was at Borrás on 7/12 (NH) and a mixed flock of finches including Chaffinch (30) and Brambling was seen at Erddig pool, Wrexham on 19/12 (NHu). Young birds were first observed on 11/06 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial.

Flints. Birds were reported in much smaller groupings in 2009 with few flocks exceeding 10 birds. The maximum of 70 was recorded on 28/12 at CQNR (KS).

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

PINC Y MYNYDD

Localised winter visitor in variable numbers.

Birds were widespread from a range of inland sites but in even smaller numbers than in 2008. In spring birds stayed

(BL)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	67	20+
Flints.	30	15

until late April. Autumn birds were seen from mid-October onwards but mainly in single numbers.

Denbs. The records were from 23 sites. Most sightings were of birds in single figures until 17 were seen at Penycae on 15/01 (JoR) and 17 at Bwlchgwyn on 22/03 (MTh). Spring numbers reached a maximum of 20+ at Llay when a flock was seen flying N on 26/04 (JN). The first autumn bird arrived on 18/10 in Clocaenog Forest (ANB) and small numbers not exceeding 10 were reported from sites across the county until the end of the year.

Flints. The records were from 14 locations. These were mainly spring sightings of single birds from gardens though a maximum of 15 seen at Penycloddiau on 26/01 (EdW). Birds were first recorded in the autumn from 17/10, with 3 at Penycloddiau (EdW).

Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)

LLINOS WERDD

Common breeding resident.

Denbs. Most records, 77.5%, were from GBW sites with most reports in single figures. A very large count of 110+ at Borrás on 10/08 (JN). The GBW highest count was at Bwlchgwyn with a maximum of 42 on 18/01 (JC). Eleven birds in total ringed at Llanbedr (pBH), and 5 at Garth (LB).

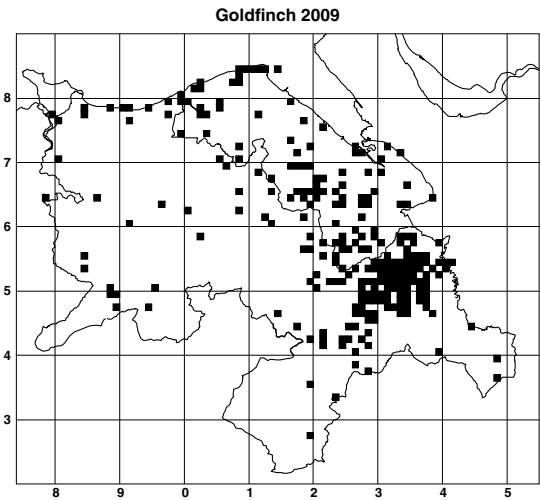
(GR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	928	110+
Flints.	929	40

Flints. Recorded from all parts of area with 45% from GBW sites. Largest count with 40 birds from CQNR seen around feeders on 11/08 (DMW, JMW). Highest bird count from a garden was at Caergwile with 21 in the week beginning 30/08 (ECMH). Totals of 63 birds ringed at SS and 30 at Deeside Industrial Park (pBH) during the year. At the end of summer there were again reports of diseased birds at Rhydymwyn (JVHu).

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

NICO

Common breeding resident



(GO)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	872	60+
Flints.	1138	200+

The distribution of records is much as in 2008 but with many more records in the area around Wrexham. This year 70.0% of records were from GBW sites in Denbs and 46.2% in Flints. Birds were seen in all months of the year.

Denbs. This is a species that likes company – there were only a few records of singles and many records of 2-24 together. The largest flocks were 40 at Acton Park, Wrexham on 11/11 (JN), 50+ near Kinnel Bay on 25/01 (DCR) and 60+ near Borrás, Wrexham

on 21/08 (JN).

Flints. There were many records from Rhydymwyn by JVHu, hence the lower percentage of GBW records in this county. Again, goldfinches were seen mainly in charms of 3-30 birds and the largest groups recorded were: 40 near Rhuddlan on 2/01 (SH), 50 at Oakenholt on 14/08 (JHo), 70 at CQNR on 10/10 (GR), 60+ in the DEFRA site at Rhydymwyn on 28/08 (JVHu), 80 at Oakenholt on 19/09 (JHo), 150 at Shotwick Fields on 28/08 (CW) and 200+ at Rhydymwyn on 3/09 (JVHu).

Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*)

PILA GWYRDD

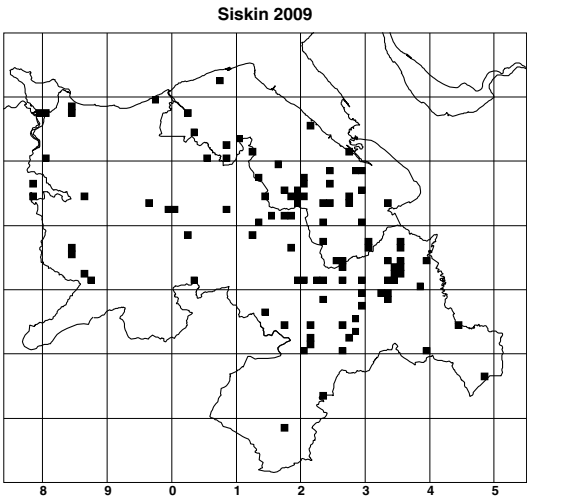
Breeding resident in forests.

The distribution of records is similar to 2008 and though the number of records is similar the proportions in each county are the reverse of 2008.

(SK)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	342	32
Flints.	497	40

Denbs. Most records were from GBW sites (71.2%) and were of 1-10 birds. There were no very large flocks seen this year and the largest counts were: 11 at Bwlchgwyn on 15/03 (MTh), 15 at CON on 14/05 (DCR), 17 near Plas Maenan on 27/12 (RS) and 32 near Llangollen on 11/02 (HN).

Flints. The GBW contribution to the records was just 24.8% largely because of the large number of records from their feeding station in their small front garden at Rhydymwyn by JVHu, ranging from 1 to 25+ birds. Most records were of 1-15 with the largest counts being: 17 at Northop on 22/02 (LA), 18 at FLQ on 22/10 (GNR), 20 at Penycloddiau on 12/04 (EdW) and 20 and 40 at Sychdyn in weeks beginning 29/03 and 5/04 respectively (AB, IMS).



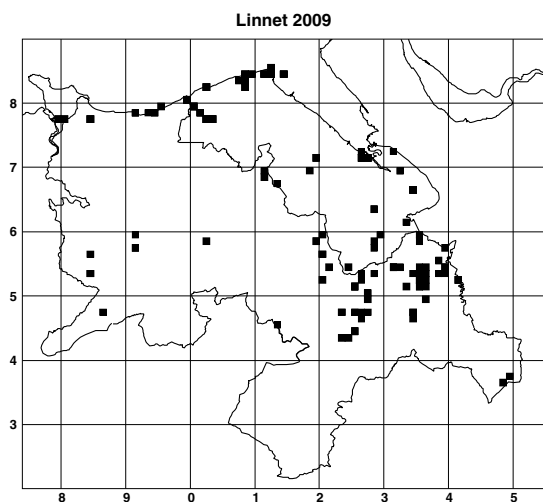
Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*)

LLINOS

Widespread breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

Despite similar numbers of records to 2008, this species was reported more widely, maybe reflecting the travels of local birdwatchers taking part in the national and local atlases. Potential breeding, as recorded in BBS squares, increased to 8/23.

(LI)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	94	180
Flints.	97	200



Denbs. Coastal flocks were scarce in 2009 with the largest flock recorded on Christmas Day on Pensarn beach by RS. The largest flocks were seen at Ridleywood, on the Cheshire border with 170 seen on 13/02 and 180 on 27/02 by NFr. Smaller flocks of between 10-50 birds were seen up to mid-Apr at sites such as CON, Gresford, Borrass and Marchwiel. Breeding was confirmed at several inland sites.

Flints. Large coastal flocks were fairly common in Jan with POA having 200 on 11/01, 150 on 22/01 and 150 again on 28/01 (GR). Breeding was confirmed at several coastal and inland localities and numbers began to build

up from early Jun onwards as flocks were seen including many juveniles, mainly in coastal locations such as CQNR, Flint, Talacre, POA, Rhuddlan and Rhyl.

Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*)

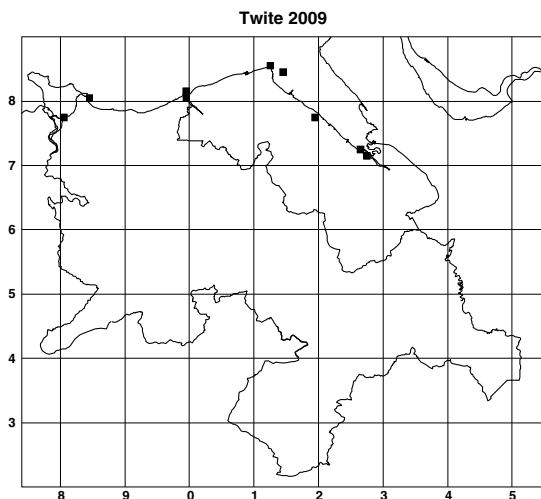
LLINOS Y MYNYDD

Winter visitor to coastal areas. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. There were four records from coastal sites. A single was seen at Rhos-on-Sea as late as 31/03 (MHu) and others were late in the year with 10 at Horton's Nose on 10/12 (RMB).

(TW)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	10
Flints.	8	60

Flints. All records came from coastal sites in Jan, Feb, Jul, Oct and Nov. The maximum count was of 60 seen on 14/02 at CQNR (ANB).



Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*)

LLINOS BENGGOCH

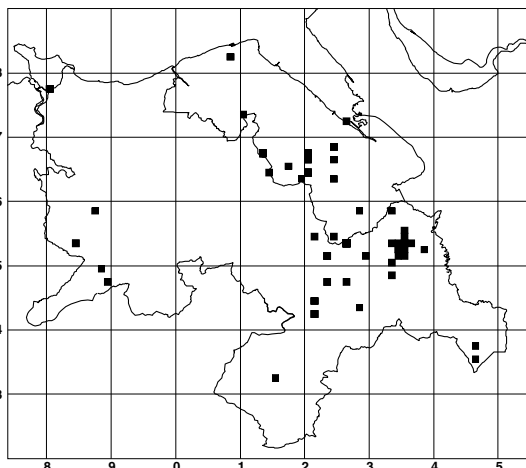
Breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

There was an increase in records for this species in 2009, with reports coming from a wider range of sites from to coast and inland. This species was recorded on 2/23 BBS surveys this year.

(LR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	76	42
Flints.	79	28

Denbs. Birds were seen from thirty two locations and six flocks exceeded 10 in number. The largest flock of 42 was seen at CON on 9/05 by MHu. However, despite the increase in records no confirmed breeding was reported.

Flints. Mainly seen in single figures from thirteen locations, six flocks exceeding 10 birds were reported. The largest flock was on Penycloddiau on 3/05 (EdW). In the winter months birds were seen on almost a daily basis at Rhydymwyn by JVHu.

Lesser Redpoll 2009**Common Crossbill** (*Loxia curvirostra*)

GYLFIN GROES

Scarce breeding resident.

Denbs. Fewer records than in the previous two years but several large flocks seen in Clocaenog Forest in Sep and Oct with the maximum seen on 18/10 at Foel Frech by DDi.

(CR)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	21	150
Flints.	12	35

Flints. More records than in 2008. Birds were mainly seen in the spring months from Penycloddiau, with the maximum number of birds (35) seen on 5/04 (EdW).

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

COCH Y BERLLAN

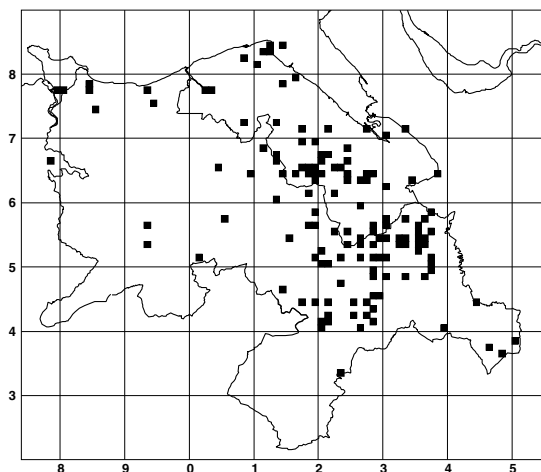
Breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

Mainly recorded in single figures throughout the year with a widespread distribution. Birds were seen in the breeding season in 8/25 BBS squares.

(BF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	222	10
Flints.	382	12

Denbs. Recorded in all months in small numbers from 86

Bullfinch 2009



locations. Juveniles were first seen on Ruabon Mountain by NWD on 21/6. A maximum count of 10 at Bwlchgwyn on 11/01 (JC).

Flints. Recorded in all months in small numbers from 49 sites. Maximum count of 12 was at Penycloddiau on 26/11 (EdW). Breeding confirmed at Rhosesmor on 31/05 by MD.

Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)

GYLFINBRAFF

Scarce breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP

Denbs. This species was seen on four separate occasions from three localities, all in winter months by JoH and NSB.

(HF)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	4	2
Flints.	0	

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

BRAS YR EIRA

Regular coastal winter visitor in small numbers. Amber List.

The number of records provided in 2009 was more typical of recent years.

(SB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	8	7
Flints.	20	8

Denbs. All records came from Kinnel Bay with the exception of a single seen at Borras, Wrexham on 26/02 (JN). A maximum of 7 seen at Horton's Nose on 10/12 (RMB) and on 11/12 (DCR).

Flints. All records came from the coastal area at or close to POA. Eight birds were seen on three occasions at POA in Jan.

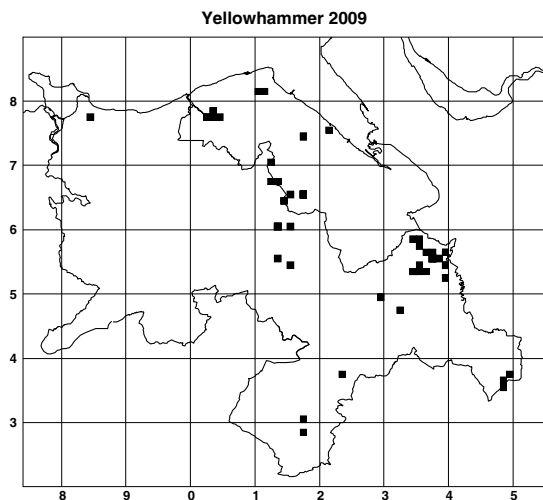
Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citronella*)

MELYN YR EITHIN

Formerly common breeding resident. Red List. WBAP

Far fewer records were submitted in 2009. Birds were most frequently seen from mid-winter through to the end of the breeding season. There was only a single confirmed record

(Y.)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	49	14
Flints.	47	6



of breeding which was at Cornish Hall, between Wrexham and Farndon (Denbs) and there were no records from BBS surveys.

Denbs. The records were from thirty locations, usually in single figures but a maximum of 14 birds were seen on 15/03 at Moel Famau (EdW).

Flints. All the records, of single figures, were from nine locations. A single was regularly seen in a garden at Cilcain from Jan through to early Jun (RWes) and there were 6 near Rhuddlan on 12/07 (SH).

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

BRAS Y CYRS

Breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP

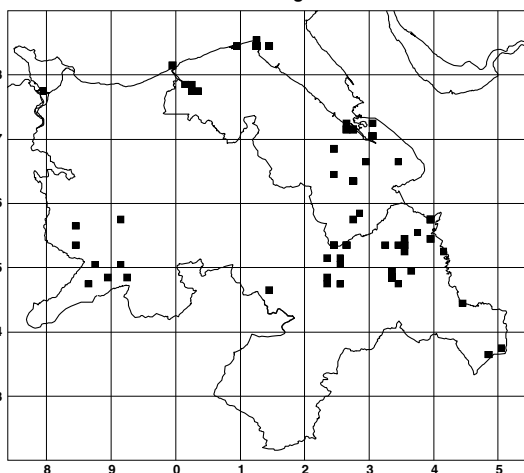
There was a slight increase in reporting for this species in 2009 but the distribution remained much the same. (MAP). This species still remains under-recorded as a breeding species but was seen on 6/23 BBS squares and presumed to be breeding.

(RB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	84	23
Flints.	61	12

Denbs. Records came from thirty six sites. A remarkable 23 birds were recorded at Holt on both 20/04 and 30/06 by SBo, the latter record included recently fledged young. A total of 14 nestlings were ringed at Trevalyn Meadows, 4 on 27/05 and 10 on 30/05 (IMS).

Flints. Seen at twenty sites in all months of the year. The maximum number of 12 was seen with a large flock of finches in a field of kale at Rhuddlan on 28/12 (SH).

Reed Bunting 2009



Breeding (IMS, RC)

(RB)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
	4	20	14	14	3.50

Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra*)

BRAS YR YD

Scarce localised breeding species. Red List. WBAP

Denbs. This was a surprise after no records in 2008 but one was seen at a farm E of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant on 19/12 (MkHU). However, it was not a breeding record, so it still looks as if this species is extinct as a breeding species in our area.

(CB)	No of records	Max count
Denbs.	1	1
Flints.	0	

Feral species and presumed escapes**Black Swan** (*Cygnus atratus*)

ALARCH DU

Denbs. Two records of 2 at CON on 25/04 and 31/05.

Flints. Two records of 1at CQNR / Oakenholt on 28/12.

Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*)

GŴYDD BENRHESOG

Denbs. Near GF 2 were seen on 26/06.

Flints. Twelve records, mainly from the Talacre to Rhuddlan area. Most records were of singles and 2 were seen S of Rhyl on 28/08.

Ross's Goose (*Anser rossii*)

GŴYDD ROSS

Denbs. Three records of a single at GF between 11/09 and 23/10.

Flints. One record of a single at CQNR on 15/10.

Swan Goose (*Anser cygnoides*)

ALARCHWYDD

Flints. One was seen near Rhuddlan on 12/04, 16/04 and 17/04.

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*)

HWYADEN GRIBGOCH

Denbs. There were 5 at CON on 20/08 (AdT).

Flints. Two records near Cilcain of 1 on 12/05 and 9/06 and one record of 2 at Tremeirchion on 11/02.

Records submitted to the Welsh Rarities Panel too late for acceptance prior to this report:



Common Crane, 30 May 2009, Fenn's Moss

Shore Lark, 19 November 2009, Point of Ayr

Common Redpoll, 28-29 January 2006, Wrexham, Borrass Pool (WRP awaiting further information)

Common Redpoll, 8 April 2008, Bwlchgwyn

If accepted, these will be incorporated into the report for 2010.



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House Martin by M S Wood

Swallow by N Adott

First and last dates of selected migrants in 2009

	First dates		Last dates
Hobby	4/05		11/09
Little Tern	21/04		11/09
Sandwich Tern	6/03		29/09
Common Tern	13/04		4/09
Cuckoo	16/04		14/08
Nightjar	28/05		2/08
Swift	25/04		21/09
Sand Martin	12/03		18/09
Swallow	20/03		24/10
House Martin	28/03		13/10
Tree Pipit	6/04		21/09
Wood Warbler	17/04		13/06
Willow Warbler	1/04		20/09
Garden Warbler	12/04		30/08
Lesser Whitethroat	14/04		18/09
Whitethroat	14/04		13/09
Grasshopper Warbler	10/04		20/07
Sedge Warbler	11/04		6/09
Reed Warbler	11/04		27/09
Ring Ouzel	15/03		17/09
Fieldfare	20/09		16/04
Redwing	4/10		9/04
Spotted Flycatcher	17/05		16/09
Redstart	11/04		22/08
Whinchat	19/04		19/09
Wheatear	15/03		7/10
Pied Flycatcher	9/04		15/07
Yellow Wagtail	9/04		7/10

This table shows the recorded first and last dates for most of the species regarded as migrants in north-east Wales.

In 2009, almost without exception (Hobby and Spotted Flycatcher), all the summer migrants arrived at least one week earlier than in 2008. Hobby arrived in early May, which is more usual for this species and Spotted Flycatcher also arrived in mid-May, which is two weeks later than in 2008. The hirundines stayed one to two weeks later than in 2008, making this a long breeding season for these multi-brooded species. Migration ringing at Shotton provided some of the latest records for several warbler species.

Anne Brenchley

Articles

RSPB Conwy nature reserve: 2009 a review in numbers



RSPB Conwy, Brian Van Rhin

The RSPB's Conwy nature reserve is 47 hectares of freshwater lagoon, reedbed, grassland and scrub tucked in the most northwestern corner of Denbighshire. Created in the early 1990s using 3 million cubic metres of mud from the estuary moved during the construction of the A55 road tunnel, it is now one of the most popular places for birdwatchers in North Wales.

We collect numbers on a grand scale, of course, but the stories behind these numbers provide a brief insight into the reserve.

1: A new breeding species was common sandpiper, which we suspect nested along the Afon Ganol, the tributary that forms our eastern boundary. Behaviour suggested nesting in 2008, but this year's chick was confirmation. Other firsts for the reserve were red-throated diver and guillemot in March, red-crested pochard (female with four fledged juveniles) in August and red-backed shrike in September (though that was only seen in the tiny portion of the reserve in the north-east corner that is in Caernarfon!). A Cetti's warbler heard regularly from October prompted a report of a single record in March.

4: A flock of avocets during March stayed for just a few days, with further records into April, but perhaps provide a glimpse of future colonisation?

9: Pairs of lapwings that nested on the reserve, making 22 nesting attempts, but fledging rates have been historically poor. In December, with help from Environment Agency Wales, we

removed the scrub and reed edge from one corner of the deep lagoon to reinstate the connectivity between the islands where the lapwings nest and the grazed grass where they can feed.

36: Singing sedge warblers recorded during breeding surveys, much higher than the four-year mean of 17 territories, and a far cry from the early days of the reserve when there were none!

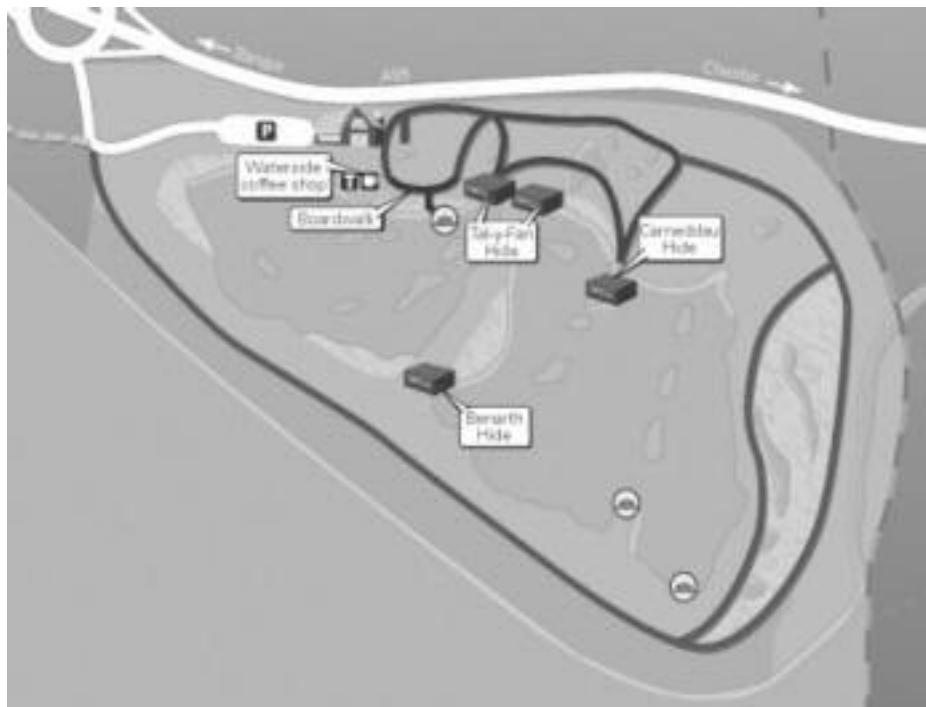
152: The number of bird species seen during the year. It's inconsequential in conservation terms, but an interesting benchmark. By the year-end, the reserve list stood at 229 species.

362: The peak count of oystercatchers during WeBS counts in the reserve sector of the estuary. Analysis shows that wildfowl numbers have remained stable since the 1960s, but waders have shown a long-term decline.

650: The record count of lapwings that moved to the reserve in response to cold weather in December.

660: The number of planks in the boardwalk that was constructed in early spring. This replaced the walkway built when the reserve was created, and thanks to fundraising efforts by volunteers, it has enabled us to extend it to a new viewpoint overlooking the shallow lagoon. It has proved to be one of the most popular stopping points for visitors to the reserve.

1,238: The number of days donated by volunteers to help manage the reserve, meet visitors and raise funds.



2,526: A record number of schoolchildren taking part in Conwy's Quality-rated Outdoor Classroom programme.

96,128: The number of visitors to RSPB Conwy in 2009.

More details about visiting the reserve, including events and latest sightings, at

www.rspb.org.uk/conwy.

Sightings are also posted regularly to **www.twitter.com/rspbconwy**.

Julian Hughes

Site Manager

North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas 2008-2011 – Progress so far, 2



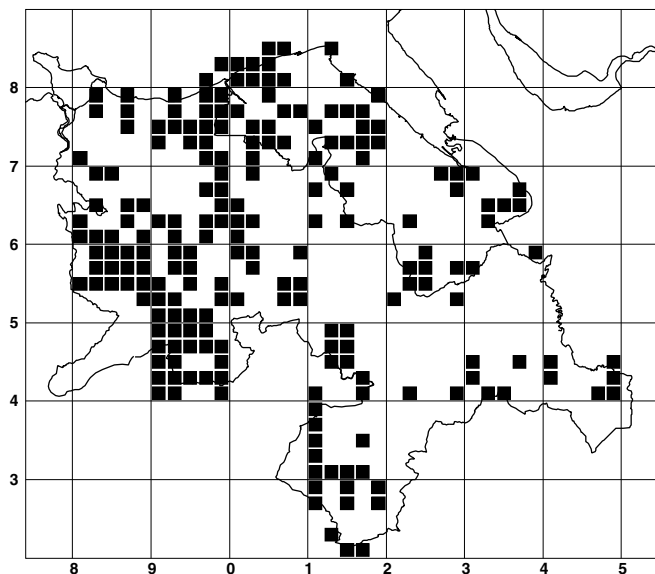
The North Wales Breeding Bird Atlas project is probably the largest volunteer led conservation project that has ever taken place in Wales. Thousands of hours of effort have gone into mapping all the breeding bird species in North Wales, around 170 species, at the tetrad (2x2 km square) level. A tremendous job of gathering breeding bird records has been done over the past three years and now the final survey year is about to begin (2011). Most of the records received so far have been contributed by a dedicated band of 200-300 volunteers supported by BirdTrack / GardenBirdWatch and ringing records as well as records from the many visitors that come to North

Wales in the spring and summer. Despite this effort, there are still some significant gaps in coverage and this is where effort is to be concentrated in 2011. In north-east Wales the main gaps are shown in the map below (data input up to mid-September 2010) and highlighted tetrads indicate where there are either no records at all or where we have received fewer than 20 species records for the tetrad or where there are less than 10 records of confirmed breeding. This amounts to about 25% of the area.

More detailed maps showing the coverage from 2008-2010 (based on all the data entered up to and including October 2010) will be on the website **www.northwalesbirdatlas.co.uk** in early 2011 and will feature in the Spring edition of the local atlas newsletter. Some species maps will also be on the website.

There are still many local birdwatchers who have yet to contribute to our local Atlas and it is not too late to get involved. The Countryside Council for Wales, RSPB and all the local authorities are keen to see the final results of this Atlas as they will inform future bird conservation priorities. A bird survey on this scale has never been done in North Wales before and the maps will form the essential baseline for further more detailed and targeted conservation programmes for many of the species whose population distributions are causing greatest conservation concern. Initial results indicate that there are many species whose

Tetrads with very few records, Sep 2010



distribution has reduced significantly in the past 20 years and these include Curlew, Snipe, Cuckoo, Spotted Flycatcher, Wood Warbler, Marsh and Willow Tit, Yellowhammer etc.

The breeding season for most resident species starts in March and this is when many birds are easiest to spot because there are few leaves on the trees and there are no summer migrants around that could cause identification confusion. Rookery spotting is a good March activity. Resident birds will be singing or showing other signs of pairing up and holding

territory. Singing or just being seen in suitable breeding habitat in spring indicates possible breeding. Probable breeding comes when birds are noted holding territory in the same area for longer than a week. Nest building or visiting probable nest sites such as Swallows going into barns or Jackdaws going down chimneys becomes noticeable. Confirming breeding takes more effort and patience but this is where help is most needed. Observing recently fledged young is the most obvious sign of breeding but also seeing adults carrying food for young also counts.

There is a mass of useful information and guidance on how to identify tetrads, gathering breeding evidence and provisional results etc can be found on the BTO national Atlas website and it is well worth spending some time exploring this wealth of information, www.birdatlas.net before offering to help. For those with computers, the best way to check the latest information for a tetrad is to:

- Log into the birdatlas home page
- Choose 'Any square summary'
- Select the tetrad by entering, eg 'SJ' then '2' then '6' then 'G' and lastly choose 'Breeding' and click 'Go'.
- Examine the page to see the list of species already recorded and the number with confirmed breeding (they have a green dot in the column 'Max recorded breeding status').

For those of you without computers and internet access, please contact Geoff Gibbs or myself.

Records can be submitted via the national Atlas website but paper forms are perfectly acceptable and these can be obtained from Anne Brenchley and returned no later than 31 August 2011.

The final results of this project will appear in the form of a book to be published in 2013. The project is currently raising publication funds and individual support in the form of species

sponsorship is one other way in which you can help this project. If you have a favourite species and would like to see your name in print as a species sponsor then do get in touch.

Anyone wishing to help out in 2011 or who has breeding records from the years 2008-2010 should get in touch with Anne Brenchley in NE Wales and for Anglesey / Gwynedd / Snowdonia area contact Geoff Gibbs at geoffkate.gibbs@care4free.net or 01248-681936.

Anne Brenchley

North Wales Atlas Coordinator for North-East Wales
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Y Ddôl Uchaf

Y Ddôl Uchaf nature reserve is a small site (4 hectares) that was at one time a tufa and marl quarry within the Afon Chwiler (Wheeler) Valley, half-way between Mold and Denbigh. Tufa is a soft porous limestone that is formed when calcium carbonate precipitates out of flowing water and that underneath Y Ddôl Uchaf forms part of the largest deposit in Britain. The tufa and marl were quarried for agricultural use during WW2, but operations ceased shortly afterwards. In 1965 the NWWT began managing the site, creating the first official nature reserve in Flintshire.

The reserve was designated SSSI in 1989 on account of its geology, but the irregular terrain of pits and spoil heaps created by the quarrying has resulted in a variety of habitats that support many different plants and animals.

A layer of marl clay underneath the tufa is impermeable and so traps water creating several pools. These contain many rare plants including mare's tail and stonewort. Stonewort has a gritty feel to it due to the crystallisation of limestone on the plant surface, which is tufa formation in action. The ponds also support Great Crested Newts, Palmate Newts, Common Frogs and Toads.

Grassland has developed on the old marl workings that supports a variety of calcareous loving species. Depending when one visits plants that can be seen include Kidney Vetch, Cowslip, Perforate St. John's Wort, Meadowsweet, Common Spotted, Southern Marsh, Pyramidal and Fragrant Orchid. In late summer it is sometimes possible to see Grass of Parnassus, a rare herb with a delicate white flower, in the damper areas.

Y Ddôl Uchaf is also a good site for fungi, especially in the autumn when one may see bright red Elf Cup Fungus, the rubbery Ear Fungus on willows and multitudes of Sulphur Tuft mushrooms on old tree stumps.

Woodland and scrub covers most of the reserve and is dominated by Ash, Sycamore and Goat Willow, with an understory of Hazel, Hawthorn and Elder. The woodland is managed to let light in and encourage native plants species such as Primrose and Dog Violet, and this in turn

benefits the animal species within the reserve.

The calcium rich soil and lush vegetation throughout the reserve provides excellent conditions for slugs and snails. Around 40 mollusc species have been recorded including rarities such as the Hairy Snail and Silky Snail.

The reserve is part of a network of small woodlands and hedgerows that support dormice and nest boxes have been placed throughout the woodland to provide summer nesting sites for them. Bats also benefit from nest boxes and Pipistrelle and Noctule bats have been recorded within the reserve. Otters also frequent the reserve, hunting along the Afon Pant Gwyn which flows through the site, and a holt constructed for them within the reserve has been occupied.

The woodland and scrub habitats provide good breeding areas for many bird species including Blackcap, Hawfinch, Nuthatch, Bullfinch and Linnet. Dipper and Grey Wagtail may be seen on the stream (see photo below) and Herons are a common sight hunting along the edges of the ponds. The largest pond is often home to Moorhen, Mallard and Water Rail and this year it was home to a couple of Mandarin Ducks.

Y Ddôl Uchaf is situated just north of the the A541 Mold-Denbigh Road around 7 miles west of Mold. There is a car park with space for four cars opposite the old mill (now a residential house) at SJ143714. A circular footpath leads around the site and the route can be walked in 20 minutes, although if you stop, look and listen as you go it can take a whole lot longer!

Adrian Lloyd Jones

Conservation Officer

North Wales Wildlife Trust



Ringling report

This year had another low total of birds ringed, 4,614, the lowest since 2001. The main decrease has been in the number of nestlings ringed. A large part of this decrease is

Year	Full grown	Pull	Totals
2009	2385	2229	4614
2008	2127	3703	5830
2007	2740	4745	7485
2006	3179	4575	7754
2005	2967	4793	7760
2004	3769	4430	8199
2003	3202	3756	6958
2002	2202	3216	5418
2001	1313	2410	3723
2000	1130	1066	2196

The ringling totals for the last 10 years

because no Common Tern pull (nestlings) were ringed at Shotton as the adults had deserted the breeding rafts. Another 300 or so is the difference with the totals of Blue and Great Tit nestlings ringed. In contrast there was a substantial increase in the number of full grown Reed Warblers though this was countered by a large drop in the numbers of Blackbirds ringed.

This year I have used a new facility from the BTO website – the ringling totals and recoveries can be downloaded for use in reports such as this. Unfortunately, there are two drawbacks: firstly, the data are available for the pre-1996 counties (= Clwyd for this area) and secondly, there is no list of contributors. I know that the following were active in the area: Merseyside Ringling Group (per Bob Harris), Lee Barber, John Lawton Roberts, the Spence and Brenchley partnership (which includes Amanda Bunnell) and Stuart K Thomas. I thank them all for their hard work.

Most nestlings will have been ringed by people who contribute nest records to the British Trust for Ornithology (previously these would have been Nest Record Cards, but now most submissions are electronic using the program Integrated Population Monitoring Reporter by Mark Cubitt). There was nest finding course run by the BTO and Richard Castell, just across the border, in May 2009. The host farm has some fields in Wales, which led to the important contribution towards the national Reed Bunting nestling total of 14 (about 8% of the 2007 national total – the last total published). The contributions to nest records as part of ringling activities came from Merseyside Ringling Group (per David Norman), John Lawton Roberts, Amanda Bunnell, Ian Spence and the Wales Raptor Study Group – North-East Wales.

On the raptor front, most totals were similar to last year except for Hen Harrier. On Mynydd Hiraethog there were only five nests but from them 22 young fledged (all of which were ringed). This was the best productivity for many years. John Lawton Roberts has maintained his study of Buzzards and been a key contributor to the Barn Owl project. It continued but the target species suffered setbacks with the very cold weather in February. The setback is not reflected in the ringling totals – while some established pairs of Barn Owls had died or deserted nest sites, other new sites were located, so the ringling totals were eventually nearly the same as in 2008.

Again, I was unable to do any mist-netting at Bronbannog so the totals for several passerines are lower than they might have been. The large reductions in totals of nestling Blue Tit, Great Tit and Pied Flycatcher must have been because at least one site was not checked in 2009. Apart from the increase in Reed Warblers there were also increases in Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Siskin totals – probably they were caught at sites baited with seed in winter months. The Tree Sparrow total is down, but all the birds were ringed at one site, Beeches Farm. I was unable to check the two other sites that had previously had these birds nesting.

I have selected what I considered to be the most interesting recoveries from an extensive list, downloaded from the BTO website. Again, Stuart K Thomas was fortunate by catching in his garden at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos two birds ringed overseas (Blackbird and Blackcap). It seems that it is not just the promontory of the Great Orme, outside our area, that is a good migration point. Also, apart from more information about Common Terns, Merseyside Ringing Group had two very good controls in that they caught two Spanish ringed Pied Flycatchers at the nest boxes they check. I trust that you will find other recoveries of interest to you.

All of us ringers are dependent for much of the information about ringed birds on members of the public who find dead birds or sometimes read rings through telescopes. If you locate a ring please take the basic information: species (if you can identify it), ring number and address (to indentify the country of origin), the place of finding and the date. You may write to the address on the ring, or use a website to log the information – see www.ring.ac.uk If you do submit the information, you will eventually receive a sheet of paper telling you where and when the bird was ringed. I thank the members of the public who have sent in the details of ringed birds.

Ian M Spence

2009			
Species	FG	Pull.	Totals
Mute Swan (A)	5		5
Hen Harrier (R)		29	29
Goshawk		2	2
Sparrowhawk	2		2
Buzzard		56	56
Kestrel (R)		33	33
Merlin (A)		4	4
Peregrine (A)		13	13
Ringed Plover (A)		6	6
Black-headed Gull (R)	1		1
Little Tern (R)		20	20
Stock Dove (A)	2	6	8
Woodpigeon	5		5
Barn Owl (A)	10	39	49
Tawny Owl		2	2
Kingfisher (A)	1		1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	30		30

Species	FG	Pull.	Totals
Chough (A)		3	3
Jay	15		15
Jackdaw		22	22
Carrion Crow		2	2
Raven		39	39
Blue Tit	416	562	978
Great Tit	187	480	667
Coal Tit	52	18	70
Swallow (A)	3	143	146
Cetti's Warbler	4		4
Long-tailed Tit	40		40
Chiffchaff	64		64
Willow Warbler (R)	11		11
Blackcap	28		28
Garden Warbler (A)	2		2
Whitethroat (A)	8		8
Sedge Warbler	17		17
Reed Warbler	156	6	162
Nuthatch	11	16	27
Treecreeper	1		1
Wren	21	6	27
Starling (R)	4		4
Dipper (A)	2	27	29
Blackbird	46	8	54
Song Thrush (A)	7	3	10
Mistle Thrush		4	4
Spotted Flycatcher (R)		7	7
Robin	53	10	63
Redstart (A)	1	20	21
Stonechat		4	4
Pied Flycatcher (R)	76	390	466
Dunnock	52	2	54
House Sparrow (A)	40	18	58
Tree Sparrow (R)		200	200
Grey Wagtail	2	5	7
Chaffinch	295	5	300
Brambling	57		57
Greenfinch	262		262
Goldfinch (A)	87	5	92
Siskin	252		252

Species	FG	Pull.	Totals
Lesser Redpoll (R)	9		9
Bullfinch (R)	14		14
Yellowhammer (R)	27		27
Reed Bunting (A)	7	14	21
TOTALS	2385	2229	4614

In the table, above, R indicates the species is on the Red list of conservation concern and A indicates it is on the Amber list (see the reference to Johnstone, Thorpe and Noble, 2010 at the start of the systematic list). The ringing totals and the recoveries, below, are derived from Robinson, RA & Clark, JA (2009) Bird ringing in Britain and Ireland: a web supplement. BTO: Thetford.

Codes used in the recoveries:

M	Male
F	Female
Pull.	Ringed as pullus (nestling)
2	Fully grown, year of hatching unknown
3	Hatched during the calendar year of ringing
3J	Hatched during the calendar year of ringing and in juvenile plumage
4	Hatched before the calendar year of ringing, but exact year unknown
5	Hatched during the calendar year prior to the year of ringing
6	Hatched before the previous calendar year, exact year unknown

2009 Selected recoveries

Z70473	Mute Swan	3 M	
	14 11 1993	Abergele, Clwyd	
	06 09 2009	Pentre Mawr Park pools, Abergele, Clwyd	
	0 km	0°	5775 days
			Freshly dead
W20571	Mute Swan	Pull. M	
	04 11 2005	Bodidris Hall Hotel, Llandegla, Clwyd	
	08 02 2008	Alaw Estuary, near Llanfachraeth, Anglesey	
	94 km	287°	826 days
			Freshly dead
5210274	Cormorant	Pull.	
	25 06 2000	Puffin Island, Anglesey	
	12 03 2009	near Saltney, Clwyd	
	75 km	90°	3182 days
			Freshly dead (disease)
1426715	Shag	Pull.	
	13 07 2008	Puffin Island, Anglesey	
	22 04 2009	Talacre Beach, Point of Ayr, Clwyd	
	48 km	85°	283 days
			Unknown circumstances

SS14393 Oystercatcher 4
 15 11 1963 Gronant, Clwyd
 23 09 2009 Bua, Froya, Sor-Trondelag, **NORWAY**
 1334 km 26° 16749 days Long dead (bird of prey)

ER99517 Black-headed Gull 4
 19 02 1994 Throckmorton Landfill Site, Hereford & Worcester
 04 12 2009 Connah's Quay, Clwyd
 138 km 331° 5767 days Dead

GG70179 Lesser Black-backed Gull Pull.
 01 07 1989 South Walney, Cumbria
 10 07 2009 Welsh Mountain Zoo, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd
 93 km 203° 7314 days Alive (natural causes)

NV84732 Little Tern Pull.
 24 06 2003 near Gronant, Clwyd
 15 05 2009 Hodbarrow, Mollom, Cumbria
 93 km 5° 2152 days Freshly dead

SR50597 Common Tern Pull.
 24 06 2007 Shotton Steelworks, Clwyd
 03 04 2008 La Somone, **SENEGAL**
 23 07 2009 Seaforth, Merseyside
 28 km 5° 760 days Field sighting

SV82283 Common Tern Pull.
 22 07 2001 Shotton Steelworks, Clwyd
 27 08 2003 Parque Nacional Marismas del Odiel, Huelva, **SPAIN**
 06 06 2009 Seaforth, Merseyside
 28 km 5° 2876 days Field sighting

SX63855 Common Tern Pull.
 02 07 1998 Kingsbury Water Park, Warwickshire
 10 05 2009 Shotton Steelworks, Clwyd
 116 km 309° 3965 days Freshly dead

X065340 Swallow Pull.
 12 07 2009 Pandy, near Glyn Ceiriog, Clwyd
 07 09 2009 Cors Ddyga, Llangefti, Anglesey
 83 km 296° 57 days Controlled by ringer

CF91293 Blackbird 3 M
 14 12 2007 Llandrillo-yn-Rhos, Clwyd
 14 03 2009 Helgoland, **GERMANY**
 772 km 78° 341 days Controlled by ringer

7494280 Blackbird 3 M
04 04 2008 Jomfruland O-Runda, Kragero, Telemark, **NORWAY**
11 03 2009 near Hiirwaen, Clwyd
1023 km 237° 341 days Controlled by ringer

X571632 Sedge Warbler 3
23 08 2009 Shotton, Clwyd
10 09 2009 Icklesham, Sussex
363 km 134° 18 days Controlled by ringer

10951277 Blackcap 4 M
18 09 2008 Hodister, Luxembourg, **BELGIUM**
11 03 2009 Llandrillo-yn-Rhos, Clwyd
723 km 302° 174 days Controlled by ringer

Y50863 Chiffchaff 4 F
06 04 2009 Petten/Callantsoog, Noord-Holland, **THE NETHERLANDS**
26 04 2009 Shotton Steelworks, Clwyd
520 km 278° 20 days Controlled by ringer

BZ5553 Pied Flycatcher 3 F
24 08 2005 Tioira, Maceda, Orense, **SPAIN**
14 05 2009 Llwynmawr, Clwyd
1230 km 14° 1359 days Controlled by ringer

JE5054 Pied Flycatcher 5 F
14 04 2008 Rio Jarama, Barajas, Madrid, **SPAIN**
19 05 2009 Llwesog Hall, Prion, Clwyd
1414 km 1° 400 days Controlled at nest box

V878109 Chaffinch 5 M
07 03 2008 The Rea, Upton Magna, Shrewsbury, Shropshire
01 02 2009 Pentre Halkyn, Holywell, Clwyd
71 km 328° 331 days Freshly dead

X357139 Chaffinch 4 M
16 11 2008 Sutton, Shrewsbury, Shropshire
19 01 2009 Llwynmawr, Clwyd
39 km 312° 64 days Controlled by ringer

TC15848 Greenfinch 3 F
09 11 2008 Shotton Steelworks, Clwyd
03 07 2009 near Seamer, Stokesley, North Yorkshire
184 km 39° 236 days Freshly dead

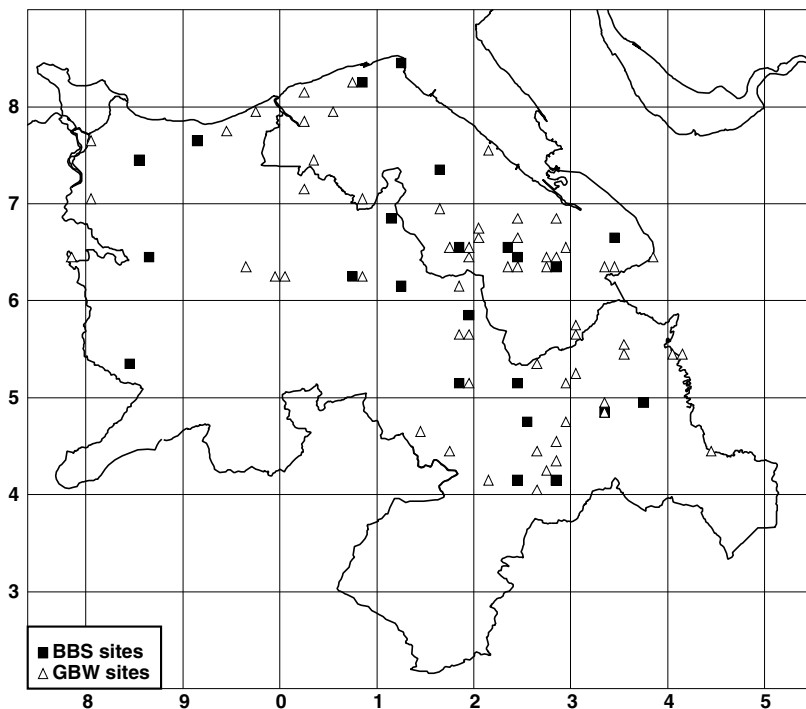
TC15875 Greenfinch 3 F
30 11 2008 Shotton Steelworks, Clwyd
03 07 2009 Gosforth, Cumbria
136 km 349° 275 days Dead

VF41855 Greenfinch 3 F
 12 12 2004 Lemmington Hall, Alnwick, Northumberland
 21 07 2009 Bwlchgwyn, Wrexham, Clwyd
 271 km 198° 1682 days Freshly dead

V212021 Siskin 4 M
 04 07 2006 Llwynmawr, Clwyd
 26 03 2009 Usk Reservoir, Llandovery, Powys
 114 km 199° 996 days Field sighting

X206392 Siskin 5 M
 13 02 2009 Colwell, Honiton, Devon
 18 04 2009 Llwynmawr, Clwyd
 239 km 360° 64 days Controlled by ringer

BBS and GBW sites 2009





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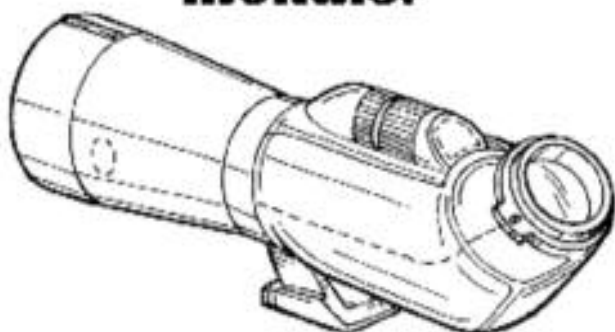
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Richard Arnold	RIa Mike Clark	MC
John Arrowsmith	JoAr P Clarke	PCl
Roger and Megan Bagguley	RMB Steve Clethro	SCl
Jean Baker	JBa D Coan	DCoa
David Balance	DB Carol Cockbain	CaCo
Mike Ball	MBa Rob Cockbain	RoCo
Lee Barber	LB Steve Collins	StC
Barry Barnacal	BaB Anne Cook	AnC
N Barton	NB Arthur Cook	AC
Bethan Beech	BB Henry Cook	HC
John Berry	JoB Robert Cook	RC
Andy Best	AnBe Claude Cooksey	CC
John Best	JBe Rachel Coombes	RaCo
Marion Best	MBe John Coupe	JoC
J Birch	JBi Alison Craig	AIC
per Anon Birdguides	ANB Duncan Crockett	DCro
Gareth Blockley	GaBl Tony Cumberlidge	AnCu
David Blyth	DBl Simon Custance	SCu
J Bonner	JBon Jean Dale	JeD
Janet Bord	JBo Keith Davies	KhD
Simon Boswell	SBo Steven Davies	SD
Susan Brealey	SBr RM Daw	RMD
Anne Brenchley	AB Allan Dawes	AlDa
Alan Brewster	AlBr Paul Day	PaD
JH Briggs	JHB Sam Deane	SDe
Anthony Britner	ABr Harvey T Dearden	HTD
Emma Broad	EB DF Dennis	DFD
Mark Brockley	MaBr Deeside Naturalists' Society	DNS
AG Brown	AGB D Dillon	DDil
FAM Brown	FAMB David Dixon	DDi
GEH Brown	GEHB D Dowell	DDo
Mick Brummage	MB M Dowell	MDo
Jean Bulmer	JeB Malcolm Down	MD
Amanda Bunnell	AmB A Dowling	ADw
Brian Burnett	BBu Peter Dryburgh	PeD
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Pete Burton	PBu Mike Duckham	MDu
John Calder	JoCa Sam Dyer	SDy

Jim Dyson	JiDy	Dave Howey	DHw
Lyn Dyson	LyDy	B Hughes	BHu
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M Edwards	ME	Julian Hughes	JHg
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Keith Griffith	KGr	F Jones	FJ
John Griffiths	JGr	Gareth Jones	GaJ
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Norman Hallas	NH	Janice Jones	JJ
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per Bob Harris MRG	pBH	Keith Jones	KJ
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Clwyd Monitoring	CM	Brian Roberts	BrR
Christopher Moore	CMo	D Roberts	DRo
PD Moore	PDM	Gareth Roberts	GRO
P Morley	PMo	Glyn Neville Roberts	GNR
Glenn E Morris	GEM	John Lawton Roberts	JLR
Susan Morris	SM	John Roberts	JR
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Alan Nevitt	AN	J Robinson	JRo
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S Nicholas	SNi	Julie Rogers per BHP	pJR
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Paul David Shenton	PDS	Andrew Wallbank	AW
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D Shone	DSh	Mike Ward	MW
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Fiona Shortis	FSh	Bridie Watson	BW
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Ian M Spence	IMS	G White	GWh
Tony Stachnicki	ToS	Elizabeth Whitehead	EIW
M Stachowski	MSt	Adrian Williams	AWi
Les Starling	LS	Carl Williams	CaW
IE Stein	IES	Eddie Williams	EdW
Helen Stone	HeS	Geoff Williams	GeWi
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Ray Teesdale	RTe	Lawrence W Willis	LWW
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M Thomas	MTh	Jim Wood	JiW
Marina Thomas	MaT	Les Wood	LW
Nick Thomas	NRT	Alan Woods	AIW
Stuart Thomas	STh	H Woodward	HW
Stuart K Thomas	SKT	Geoff Wookey	GWo
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Trefor Thompson	TT	Fred Wright	FrW
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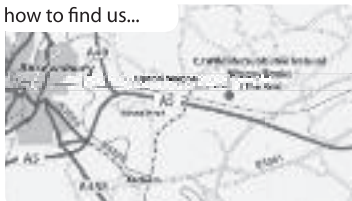


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Local groups

Clwyd Ornithological Society

Secretary: Jacquie Irving. Telephone: 01745-854132.

Deeside Naturalists' Society

The DNS is a local natural history society that was founded in 1973 to conserve flora and fauna on Deeside and in the surrounding area. The society has about 700 members and holds monthly meetings and slide shows through the winter months. The Nature Reserve at Connah's Quay, alongside the River Dee, has five hides and a Field Studies Centre. Access is by permit only, available to all members.

Membership Secretary: Walter Griffiths. Telephone: 01244-813287.

Wrexham Birdwatchers

Wrexham Birdwatchers meet on the first Friday each month and on Saturday or Sunday every other month. The winter indoor programme (on Fridays) runs from September to April and is a series of lectures and slide shows, currently held in the Memorial Hall, Gresford. The outdoor programme runs through the year. Social evenings and weekends are also held. An Annual Report is produced.

Honorary Secretary: Marian Williams. Telephone: 01978-854633.

Wales Raptor Study Group – North-East Wales

The Wales Raptor Study Group – North-East Wales is a small number of fieldworkers who are dedicated to protecting raptors, owls, Chough and Raven. Currently, in the Vice Counties of Denbighshire and Flintshire there are about ten people who contribute records to the Group. We are not able to record the nests of all the species we are interested in every year but most of the nests of Schedule 1 species are checked. Most of the fieldworkers are volunteers and do fieldwork in their spare time.

One of the key problems for the species we record is that of disturbance. Several of the species we check are protected by Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, so their nests cannot be wilfully disturbed without a licence to do so. All of the fieldworkers in our Group have the appropriate licence each year from the Countryside Council for Wales, with which we have a close working relationship. Each fieldworker covers an area and this ensures that only one or two people visit each nest, but those visits are co-ordinated to prevent undue disturbance. We also have good working relations with the local Police Wildlife Liaison Officers.

Each year a report shows how each nest has fared, but each nest is only referred to by its code – we never discuss openly where the nests are located.

Ian M Spence, Coordinator

National groups

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)

BTO regional representatives:

Clwyd East: Anne Brenchley, Tŷ'r Fawnog, 43 Blackbrook, Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6LT. Telephone: 01352-750118. Email: anne.brenchley@btinternet.com

Clwyd West: Mel ab Owain, 31 Coed Bedw, Abergele, Conwy, LL22 7EU. Telephone: 01745-826528. Email: melabowain@btinternet.com

North Wales Wildlife Trust

Head Office: 376 High Street, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1YE. Telephone: 01248-351541.

North East Office: Loggerheads Country Park, Mold, Denbighshire, CH7 5LH. Telephone: 01352-810469.

Contact: Adrian Lloyd Jones, Conservation Officer (East).

North Wales Wildlife Trust local groups:

Denbigh: Brian Burnett. Telephone: 01978-790442

Wrexham: John and Jill Smith. Telephone: 01978-854030

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

North Wales Office: RSPB Cymru, Maes y Ffynnon, Penrhosgarnedd, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DW. Telephone: 01248-363800.

RSPB Members' groups:

Chester: Liz McClure. Telephone: 01244-409414.


North Wales: John Beagan. Telephone: 01492-530683

Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS)


Membership Secretary: Alan Williams, 30 Fairfield, Penperlleni, Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 0AQ. Email: mochdreboy@waitrose.com

www.welshos.org.uk

Honorary Secretary: Ian M Spence



Welsh Ornithological Society
Cymdeithas Adaregol Cymru
www.welshos.org.uk



CLWYD BIRD RECORDING GROUP
CBRG

The Clwyd Bird Recording Group is affiliated to the Welsh Ornithological Society. Together we intend to work for the conservation of birds in Wales and we need your records to achieve this.

A benefit of this affiliation is that anyone who contributes bird records to the CBRG will be eligible to a discount of £2.00 on a subscription to the Welsh Ornithological Society.

Individual subscription (before discount):	£15.00
Family subscription (before discount):	£18.00

Send your cheque (made out to the 'Welsh Ornithological Society') to:

Alan Williams
30 Fairfield
Penperlleni
Pontypool
NP4 0AQ

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Barn Owls, near Pentrefoelas, Ian M Spence



Dunnock, CQNR, Andrew Wallbank

