

—1975—1976—1977—



BIRD REPORT

**CLWYD ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

THE CLWYD BIRD REPORT 1974-1977

This is the first of two reports by means of which it is hoped to bring up to date, in some measure at least, records of birds in the County of Clwyd. This report covers the period 1974 to 1977 and the second will deal with records received in 1978 and 1979. Thereafter it is hoped that annual reports for the County will be produced.

During the production of the report the editorial committee were very conscious of the fact that many species were under recorded, that often observers failed to give precise dates and in many cases the numbers of birds were not reported.

It is not our intention to be critical of the observers who contributed to this report and several committee members readily admitted to similar omissions when making their own notes. Nevertheless it must be recognized that the information forwarded to the County Recorder is a poor reflection of the bird-life of the County.

It is all too apparent that many species which occur annually were not reported every year between 1974 and 1977 and that the records received in any one year would have made the production of an annual report hardly worth the effort involved.

Fortunately the remedy is in our hands and the variety and numbers of birds observed each year in Clwyd are more than sufficient to make an interesting and stimulating report. All that is required are a few reasonably accurate notes and a letter to the County Recorder at the end of the year.

It is hoped that these few pages will stimulate all of us to make a little extra effort in the future.

where no year is specified records assumed for all years.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED 1974 TO 1977

The nomenclature and systematic arrangement follows that of The 'British Birds' List of Birds of the Western Palearctic.

RED THROATED DIVER

Gavia stellata

Reports mainly of single birds offshore between Point of Ayr and Bay of Colwyn during winter months. A bird in summer plumage present on the River Clwyd on 5th May 1974.

BLACK THROATED DIVER

Gavia arctica

A single bird at Pensarn, Abergelle, on 21st February 1976.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER

Gavia immer

The only records which have been received are as follows:-

Single birds at Rhos on Sea, 12th November 1974, March 1975 and 6th April 1975. One at Llandulas, May 1976.

LITTLE GREEBE

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Known to have bred at suitable locations such as Llyn Helyg, Shotton Pools and Little Acton. Also recorded during summer at Padeswood Pool, Llay and Drury. Maximum winter count of 17 birds at Shotton.

GREAT CRESTED GREEBE

Podiceps cristatus

Regular offshore during winter. Records of breeding at Llyn Helyg in 1975 and 1976. Also bred at Drury in 1974, 1975 and 1976

FULMAR

Fulmarus glacialis

Common from Prestatyn to Bay of Colwyn during the breeding season.

SOOTY SHEARWATER Puffinus griseus

A single report of two birds at Rhyl during a gale on 7th September 1974.

MANX SHEARWATER Puffinus puffinus

Many birds reported from Point of Ayr on 20th September 1975 and 5th May 1976. Two birds at Point of Ayr, 5th September 1976, and large numbers passing offshore at Gronant 5th June 1977.

STORM PETREL Hydrobates pelagicus

One bird reported over the Dee at Connah's Quay 1st October 1977 after north westerly gales.

LEACH'S PETREL Oceanodroma leucorhoa

Two birds seen at Connah's Quay, 2nd October 1977.

GANNET Sula bassana

Small numbers reported offshore in May/June and September/October in all years.

CORMORANT Phalacrocorax carbo

Common offshore and in the upper estuaries of the Dee and Clwyd at all times of the year.

SHAG Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Although this species breeds just outside the county there are very few definite records for Clwyd. A few were reported amongst Cormorants at Gronant during the summer months of 1977. The only other records received were of single birds at Point of Ayr on 12th February 1975 and at Rhos Point on 20th January 1976.

GREY HERON

Ardea cinerea

Feeds regularly in the Dee estuary and at other suitable sites in the county. At present not known to breed in Clwyd.

MUTE SWAN

Cygnus olor

Known to breed in the county but insufficient data to assess the true breeding status. Winters in small flocks on the Clwyd estuary and the Marine Lake, Rhyl.

BEWICK'S SWAN

Cygnus columbianus

Regular winter visitor in small numbers to Llyn Helyg (maximum count 10, 29th November 1974). Records also from Padeswood Pool (single birds 1st January 1975, 31st March 1976) Nant-y Ffrith, Shotton Marsh and Sealand (25 1st February 1976).

WHOOPEE SWAN

Cygnus cygnus

At least 5 recorded each winter at Llyn Helyg. Other records, 6 at Ffynongroew, 2 at Shotton 29th November 1975 and a single bird at Queensferry, 21st March 1976.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

Anser brachyrhynchus

A single bird at Flint Marsh, 18th January 1976.

GREYLAG GOOSE

Anser anser

A single bird at Connah's Quay present during the winter of 1975/1976.

CANADA GOOSE

Branta canadensis

Regularly breeds in the county at suitable localities. Highest recorded count, 90 at Wrexham mid September 1976.

BRENT GOOSE

Branta bernicla

Single birds at Point of Ayr, 7th December 1975
and on 12th January 1976.

SHELDUCK

Tadorna tadorna

Records of breeding at Shotton and Llyn Helyg.
Large numbers reported at Flint in all years with
up to 1,000 birds present at times. Maximum count
for the upper estuary- 180 at Connah's Quay, 13th
November 1977.

WIGEON

Anas penelope

Records suggest that this species is less common in the
county than in former years. Maximum count 150 at
Point of Ayr in January 1974. A late male was present
at Connah's Quay on 29th May 1977.

GADWALL

Anas strepera

Single birds at Shotton Pools on 20th April 1975
and 30th March 1976.

TEAL

Anas crecca

Numerous reports from the Dee and Clwyd Estuaries and
most suitable inland waters. Maximum count- 200 at
Point of Ayr in January 1974. A pair bred at Llyn
Helyg in 1975 where there were 120 birds present on
21st September 1975.

MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos

Amongst largest numbers recorded were :-
500 at Point of Ayr January 1975, 200+ at Point of
Ayr 10th October 1976, and 200 at Rhyl 28th January
1977. Flocks of 200 - 300 at Llyn Helyg in most
winters.

PINTAIL Anas acuta

Small winter flocks reported in Dee and Clwyd Estuaries.
Maximum count- 1,000 birds Connah's Quay 23rd Sept.1977.

GARGANEY Anas querquedula

A pair Padeswood 17th April 1974, 1 at Shotton 25th August 1974, 1 Oakenholt 11th September 1976.

SHOVELER Anas clypeata

Up to 50 wintering at Llyn Helyg 1975 and 1977. At Point of Ayr- 19, January 1974, 200, 1st January 1975, 8, 8th January 1976. Also 1, Gronant 18th May 1976 and 2 at Connah's Quay March 1977.

POCHARD Aythya ferina

Regular winter records from Llyn Helyg with up to 100 birds present in 1976 and Shotton where a maximum of 40 birds were observed on 2nd January 1977.

TUFTED DUCK Aythya fuligula

Winters regularly at Ysceifiog, Hanmer, Shotton and Llyn Helyg where there were 70 birds on 16th Nov. 1975.

SCAUP Aythya marila

Flocks regularly winter offshore at Abergele and 280 were recorded there on 9th January 1974. Also 2 birds at Connah's Quay on 30th October 1977 and a single bird at Llyn Helyg in 1977.

EIDER Somateria mollissima

Occasionally recorded off the coast in winter- 2 at Rhos, 11th November 1974 and 8 there 20th February 1976. At Point of Ayr 1 on 25th November 1976 and a flock of 40 female and immature birds there on 2nd February 1976

LONG-TAILED DUCK

Clangula hyemalis

Three records of single birds as follows:-

Pensarn, 3rd March 1974, Llyn Helyg 9th February 1975,
Shotton bird present for some days in late November
1977.

COMMON SCOTER

Melanitta nigra

The winter flocks usually to be seen offshore were
completely unrecorded during the period but single
birds were reported at Point of Ayr, 12th January
1975 and at Flint, 7th December 1975.

VELVET SCOTER

Melanitta fusca

One off Pensarn, 10th January 1975.

GOLDENEYE

Bucephala clangula

Single birds recorded off Point of Ayr on several
occasions, also small numbers present during winter
at Llyn Helyg and Shotton Pools. Maximum count was
17 at Connah's Quay, 20th November 1977.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER

Mergus serrator

Regular offshore during winter in small numbers. Maximum
count- 5 at Pensarn, 24th November 1975. One inland
record of 3 birds at Llyn Helyg, 7th October 1976. Also
noted at Connah's Quay with up to 4 present in December
1977.

GOOSANDER

Mergus merganser

Regular visitor at Hanmer Mere with a maximum of 23
on 9th March 1976. Single birds also reported from
Shotton 30th January 1974, and Llyn Helyg in December
1977. On the recently constructed Llyn Brenig a maximum
count of 22 in winter 1977.

RUDDY DUCK Oxyura jamaicensis

All records are from Hanmer Mere and are as follows:-
2,7th January 1976; 6,9th March 1976; 3, 8th March 1977.

RED KITE Milvus milvus

Single sighting of what was probably an immature bird
over Moel Arthur, 8th August 1975.

MARSH HARRIER Circus aeruginosus

Rare. A male bird seen at Llyn Helyg 25th April 1976
was the only record of this species.

HEN HARRIER Circus cyaneus

A few pairs breed in the county at suitable localities
and regular reports of wintering birds mainly from
Shotton Marsh but also noted at Llyn Helyg in 1974
and at Connah's Quay in October 1977.

SPARROWHAWK Accipiter nisus

Regular sightings throughout the county with 6 records
in 1974, 6 in 1975, 3 in 1976 and 15 in 1977.

BUZZARD Buteo buteo

Occasional records from several sites in the county
as follows:- 1974- 1 23rd April, Betwys yn Rhos, 2 17th
January, Llanfair T.H., Single birds Abergele, 23rd
February and 3rd March. 1975- single birds Llanfair
T.H., 8th and 27th January and 3 on 5th February,
1 at Padeswood Lake 7th October and 1 at Holywell, 13th
September. 1976- 1 Point of Ayr, 16th May and a pair at
Erddig Estate during spring but no confirmation of
breeding. 1977- 6 birds at Betwys yn Rhos on 22nd March
and 1 there on 12th December, single bird at Pentre
Llyn, 21st July.

OSPREYPandion haliaetus

Two birds were present at Llyn Helyg for a six week period, October-November 1976 and a single immature bird was seen 15th May and in June 1977.

KESTRELFalco tinnunculus

Numerous records from all parts of the county.

MERLINFalco columbarius

All records are of single birds as follows:-

1975- Point of Ayr, 2nd January, Rhyd-y-Foel, 9th January, Bagillt 17th March.

1976- Llandulas, 4th January, Moel Famau, 21st March, Point of Ayr, 16th October, Ruabon 27th May.

1977- Llanfair D.C. 7th October, Connah's Quay 29th August and 30th October.

HOBBYFalco subbuteo

An immature bird at Sealand, 23rd August 1975 and an adult seen there on September 19th the same year.

Several sightings of a single bird at Shotton, 1st-12th October 1976 and a female reported from Abergele, 30th July 1976. An adult bird at Shotton, 28th August 1977.

PEREGRINEFalco peregrinus

During the period covered by the report breeding was confirmed at one locality. Several records of wintering birds from the Dee Estuary.

BLACK GROUSETetrao tetrix

Present in Clocaenog Forest where it is regularly seen with less frequent reports from Moel Famau.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGEAlectoris rufa

One seen Penymynydd, 17th May 1977.

GREY PARTRIDGE

Perdix perdix

Regular in suitable areas with the majority of records coming from the eastern part of the county.

QUAIL

Coturnix coturnix

Breeding confirmed near Rosset in 1976; also heard calling at Borrass for at least two weeks during the spring of that year.

PHEASANT

Phasianus colchicus

Common.

WATER RAIL

Rallus aquaticus

Regular winter visitor to Shotton Pools with less frequent reports from Padeswood Pool. At this latter site 6 birds were present, 27th January 1976.

SPOTTED CRAKE

Porzana porzana

One seen at Shotton, 9th January 1974.

MOORHEN

Gallinula chloropus

Common.

COOT

Fulica atra

Common on most suitable inland waters.

OYSTERCATCHER

Haematopus ostralegus

The Dee Estuary holds large numbers of wintering birds and the species breeds in small numbers at suitable coastal sites.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER Charadrius dubius

Two birds reported at Connah's Quay, 12th July 1976 and a single bird at the same locality, 30th July 1977.

RINGED PLOVER Charadrius hiaticula

Breeds regularly on the coast in small numbers. Maximum counts:- 1,000+ Gronant, May 1974; 1,000 at Point of Ayr, 18th August 1974 and 800 there, 10th August 1975, 250 at Oakenholt, 22nd August 1977.

DOTTEREL Charadrius morinellus

A single bird reported at Shotwick, 9th October 1976.

GOLDEN PLOVER Pluvialis apricaria

Up to 1,000 birds in Sealand area during winter months and occasionally reported on Denbigh Moors and Ruabon Mountain in spring.

GREY PLOVER Pluvialis squatarola

Small flocks, usually less than 50 birds, reported in the Dee Estuary each year with occasional records from the upper estuary.

LAPWING Vanellus vanellus

Common winter visitor with flocks of up to 3,000 birds being recorded in lowlands surrounding the Dee Estuary. Breeds in suitable localities.

KNOT Calidris canutus

Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant. Counts from Point of Ayr include:- 7,000, 17th November 1974, 6,000, 2nd November 1975; 10,000, 11th December 1977.

SANDERLINGCalidris alba

Recorded throughout winter at Point of Ayr and Gronant in moderate numbers but abundant during spring migration. Maximum counts:- 15,000, 23rd May 1974, 3,000, 13th May 1975.

LITTLE STINTCalidris minuta

A single bird was present at Rhyl Cob during September 1974 and again on 1st October 1975. Also 2 birds at Point of Ayr, 29th September 1975.

CURLEW SANDPIPERCalidris ferruginea

Recorded on autumn passage in small numbers. At Point of Ayr, 23 on 4th August 1974, 1 at Flint Marsh, August 1975, 2 at Connah's Quay, 28th August 1976 and 1 on 1st and 21st August 1977.

PURPLE SANDPIPERCalidris maritima

Most frequently recorded at Rhos on Sea, 25 3rd February 1975, 3, 23rd October 1975, 9, 20th January 1976, 7, 3rd February 1976, 53, 24th December 1976.

DUNLINCalidris alpina

Flocks in excess of 1,000 birds recorded in every month of the year except June when only small numbers are present. During migration up to 10,000 birds at Point of Ayr.

RUFFPhilomachus pugnax

During autumn passage small numbers reported from Shotton/Sealand area. At Shotton 35 birds seen in August 1974. Also recorded at Llyn Helyg, 2 on 15th September 1974 and Connah's Quay, 1 3rd to 6th Sept. 1976, 1 to 2 birds 20th August to 3rd September.

JACK SNIPE Lymnocyptes minimus

Recorded in all years in small numbers, most reports from Point of Ayr, Rhyl, Abergel and Shotton.

SNIPE Gallinago gallinago

Regular reports of scattered breeding pairs particularly in moorland areas. Wintering flocks of up to 200 birds at Shotton and smaller numbers at Padeswood, Clwyd Estuary and Llyn Helyg.

WOODCOCK Scolopax rusticola

Several reports of birds roding from Loggerheads, Hawarden, Mold and Mostyn. Frequent records of wintering birds from these and other suitable woodland areas.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT Limosa limosa

Winters on the Dee Estuary the first birds being sighted in July. Notable counts during the period include:- 500 at Point of Ayr, 17th November 1975; and 300 there, 2nd November 1975; up to 700 birds at Connah's Quay during autumn 1977.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT Limosa lapponica

Most records from Point of Ayr and Gronant involve small flocks of less than 100 birds but 3,000 at Point of Ayr in August 1975. Reports from the upper estuary at Connah's Quay include 120, 13th June 1976 and 150, 12 September 1977.

WHIMBREL Numenius phaeopus

Scattered coastal reports of single birds throughout the period with 3 seen at Gronant, 8th July 1976 and 2 seen at Connah's Quay the same day. Inland, single birds at Padeswood, 28th July 1974 and at Cilcain, 4th May 1975.

CURLEWNumenius arquata

Commonly recorded throughout the county and breeds in most of the suitable habitats. Large flocks at Point of Ayr and Gronant during autumn migration and winter with smaller numbers also occurring in the Clwyd Estuary.

SPOTTED REDSHANKTringa erythropus

Single birds reported from Shotton, Rhyl and Point of Ayr in all years. Up to 100 present at Connah's Quay during August/September 1977.

REDSHANKTringa totanus

Numerous in all coastal areas but particularly so at Point of Ayr during autumn passage with counts of up to 2,000 reported. Breeds on coastal marshes and also at several inland sites.

GREENSHANKTringa nebularia

Several records from coast and inland waters 1974-1976 all involving only single birds but 3 seen at Connah's Quay, 24th August 1976 and 7 there, 21st August 1977.

GREEN SANDPIPERTringa ochropus

Most frequently reported during autumn and winter but seen in every month of the year for the period 1974-77.

WOOD SANDPIPERTringa glareola

Scarce. Single birds recorded at Point of Ayr 16th September 1974, and at Shotton, 1st September 1974 and 12th May 1976.

COMMON SANDPIPERActitis hypoleucos

Regular in spring and summer in Dee and Clwyd estuaries. No definite reports of breeding have been received.

TURNSTONE

Arenaria interpres

Regular reports of small flocks from Point of Ayr and Rhos on Sea.

POMARINE SKUA

Stercorarius pomarinus

Single birds at Pensarn, 9th September 1974 and at Gronant, 22nd May 1977.

ARCTIC SKUA

Stercorarius parasiticus

Most records are for August/September and involve small numbers passing offshore.

GREAT SKUA

Stercorarius skua

On 1st September 1977, 3 birds at Point of Ayr.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL

Larus melanocephalus

Scarce. Single bird at Shotton, 22nd August 1975 and one at Point of Ayr, 30th August 1975.

LITTLE GULL

Larus minutus

Single birds reported from Shotton, August 1974, Rhos Point, 26th July 1975, Rhyl, 24th January 1977, Queensferry, 3rd September 1977 and 2 seen at Point of Ayr, 14th November 1977.

BLACK-HEADED GULL

Larus ridibundus

Abundant.

COMMON GULL

Larus canus

Common in estuaries and in surrounding farmland.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Larus fuscus

Common. Several records of wintering birds.

HERRING GULL

Larus argentatus

Abundant.

ICELAND GULL

Larus glaucooides

One at Point of Ayr, 18th September 1976 and a second year bird at Connah's Quay, 21st August 1977.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Larus marinus

Common.

KITTIWAKE

Rissa tridactyla

Regularly recorded offshore in small numbers. Over 100 birds at Rhyl during a gale 7th September 1974.

ROYAL TERN

Sterna maxima

One at Point of Ayr, 22nd September 1974. This was the first record for the county and was subsequently accepted by the Rarities Committee

SANDWICH TERN

Sterna sandvicensis

Reported during spring migration each year at Gronant and Point of Ayr. Up to 200 birds recorded at Point of Ayr in August/September.

ROSEATE TERN

Sterna dougallii

Scarce. One Point of Ayr, July/August 1974; 1 Gronant, July 1975 and up to 5 birds in late May 1977 at Gronant.

COMMON TERN

Sterna hirundo

The colony at Shotton increased to 150 pair during the period where 268 pulli were ringed in 1977.

ARCTIC TERN Sterna paradisaea

Single birds at Point of Ayr, July 1974 and at Connah's Quay, 30th July 1977. Also 10 at Connah's Quay, 29th August 1977 and 2 on 1st September. Two birds at Gronant, May 1977.

LITTLE TERN Sterna albifrons

The colony at Gronant has been more successful since the site has been wardened during the breeding season with a maximum of 24 pulli fledging in 1977. Most years a large influx of birds has been noted in late summer.

WHISKERED TERN Chlidonias hybridus

A single bird at Shotton, 7th July 1976.

BLACK TERN Chlidonias niger

Single birds recorded at Shotton, May 1974; Point of Ayr, 17th October 1976 and Pensarn, 3rd September 1977.

GUILLEMOT Uria aalge

Common in the Bay of Colwyn but infrequently reported from the mouth of the Dee.

RAZORBILL Alca torda

Irregular in the Dee Estuary but frequently observed at Rhos Point.

PUFFIN Fratercula arctica

A single bird at Pensarn 22nd September 1974.

STOCK DOVE Columba oenas

Infrequently recorded but probably overlooked. Breeds in several areas.

WOODPIGEON Columba palumbus

Common.

COLLARED DOVE Streptopelia decaocto

Widespread and common in many urban areas.

TURTLE DOVE Streptopelia turtur

Local. A pair Denbigh Moors, 21st June 1974 and one or two pair breeding in Wepre Woods, Connah's Quay each year. Also reported at Bilberry Wood, Hawarden.

CUCKOO Cuculus canorus

Common.

BARN OWL Tyto alba

Records indicate that the species is still less common than in former years.

LITTLE OWL Athene noctua

Widely distributed and not uncommon.

TAWNY OWL Strix aluco

Common.

LONG-EARED OWL Asio otus

A single bird near Northop during summer 1976.

SHORT-EARED OWL

Asio flammeus

Five birds at Point of Ayr, 2nd January 1975 and a single bird there, 28th April 1976. One Moel Fammau, 2nd May 1976 and 2 at Minera, 23rd June 1977. Several records of breeding.

NIGHTJAR

Caprimulgus europaeus

Two birds at Moel Arthur, 6th August 1975.

SWIFT

Apus apus

Common.

KINGFISHER

Alcedo atthis

Sightings and records of breeding from all major rivers in the county.

HOOPOE

Upupa epops

A single bird seen at Hawarden on 12th May 1975 and one at St. Asaph on 28th May 1975.

GREEN WOODPECKER

Picus viridis

Widespread records from most parts of the county.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Dendrocopos major.

Widespread in suitable woodland areas.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Dendrocopos minor.

Recorded in small numbers each year with isolated reports of breeding pairs.

SKYLARK

Alauda arvensis

Common. Up to 400 birds wintering Oakenholt Marsh in 1976 and 1977.

SAND MARTIN

Riparia riparia

Previously abundant species but most former colonies remain deserted following the recent decline.

SWALLOW

Hirundo rustica

Abundant.

HOUSE MARTIN

Delichon urbica

Common.

TREE PIPIT

Anthus trivialis

Most records refer to breeding pairs in the Clwydian Range and other suitable areas. Also reported as passage migrant especially during autumn.

MEADOW PIPIT

Anthus pratensis

Common breeding species on moors and upland meadows and in smaller numbers on the coastal strip. Abundant passage migrant.

ROCK PIPIT

Anthus spinoletta

A single record of 2 birds at Rhyl in January 1975.

WATER PIPIT

Anthus spinoletta spinoletta

Five birds at Point of Ayr, 5th January 1976 and 2 near Sealand, 22nd February the same year. A single bird at Connah's Quay, 13th November 1977.

YELLOW WAGTAIL

Motacilla flava

Fairly common but locally distributed. Most records from breeding grounds in upper estuary and the Dee valley.

GREY WAGTAIL

Motacilla cinerea

Common breeding species on streams and rivers in Clwydian Range.

PIED WAGTAIL

Motacilla alba

Common.

WAXWING

Bombycilla garrulus

Five birds at Flint, 3rd January 1974. Single birds at Hawarden, 26th December 1975 and 18th January 1976, Oakenholt, 30th November 1977 and 6th December 1977.

DIPPER

Cinclus cinclus

Breeds on most upland streams in the county.

WREN

Troglodytes troglodytes

Common.

DUNNOCK

Prunella modularis

Common.

ROBIN

Erithacus rubecula

Common.

BLACK REDSTART

Phoenicurus ochrurus

A female at Connah's Quay, winter 1976-77. A bird at Rhydymwyn, 2nd to 16th November 1977.

REDSTART

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

The species is still less common than in former years but remains an established breeding bird of the Clwydian Range and is regularly reported from other parts of the county.

WHINCHAT Saxicola rubetra

Widespread breeding species mainly in upland areas but also at Shotton and Connah's Quay.

STONECHAT Saxicola torquata

Thinly distributed throughout the county. During the period breeding reported at Shotton, Cwm, Connah's Quay and Halkyn.

WHEATEAR Oenanthe oenanthe

Well established breeding species in upland areas but also nests at sea level at Shotton. Early and late dates during the period include single birds at Pensarn, 9th March 1974 and at Connah's Quay, 9th October 1977.

RING OUZEL Turdus torquatus

Records from Clwydian Range include 12 at Llangynhafal, 25th July 1975 and 8, Moel Arthur, 14th March 1977.

BLACKBIRD Turdus merula

Abundant.

FIELDFARE Turdus pilaris

Common winter visitor.

SONG THRUSH Turdus philomelos

Common.

REDWING Turdus iliacus

Common winter visitor.

MISTLE THRUSH Turdus viscivorus

Common.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER Locustella naevia

Widespread, reported from most suitable areas.

SEDGE WARBLER Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Common, particularly at Shotton Marsh.

REED WARBLER Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Most frequently reported from Shotton where there is a well established breeding population.

LESSER WHITETHROAT Sylvia curruca

Records from Shotton, Marford, Rhyd-y Foel and Sealand. Ringing data suggests that the species is more common than visual records indicate.

WHITETHROAT Sylvia communis

Reports suggest that the species is increasing but breeding population is still well below the previous level.

GARDEN WARBLER Sylvia borin

Common, particularly in the Clwydian Range.

BLACKCAP Sylvia atricapilla

Several winter records in 1975-1977, mainly from coastal areas.

WOOD WARBLER Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Several records of breeding in suitable woodland areas, particularly from Hawarden, Connah's Quay and Loggerheads.

CHIFFCHAFF

Phylloscopus collybita

Common breeding species. Records of wintering birds include 1, Point of Ayr, 12th December 1975, 1, Connah's Quay, 28th February 1976 and two there, 11th/12th December 1976.

WILLOW WARBLER

Phylloscopus trochilus

Abundant.

GOLDCREST

Regulus regulus

Common.

FIRECREST

Regulus ignicapillus

A single bird at Abergele on 10th February 1975.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

Muscicapa striata

Common.

PIED FLYCATCHER

Ficedula hypoleuca

As a breeding species confined to the wooded valleys of the Clwydian Range.

LONG-TAILED TIT

Aegithalos caudatus

Fairly common and widespread.

MARSH TIT

Parus palustris

Common particularly in upland wooded areas.

WILLOW TIT

Parus montanus

A common resident in several lowland areas.

COAL TIT

Parus ater

Common.

BLUE TIT Parus caeruleus

Abundant.

GREAT TIT Parus major

Abundant.

NUTHATCH Sitta europea

Widespread records from most woodland areas.

TREECREEPER Certhia familiaris

Common in all suitable habitats.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE Lanius excubitor

Single birds at Point of Ayr, 8th April 1974; April 1975,
Bodelwyddan, 19th February 1975 and Connah's Quay, 23rd
January 1977.

JAY Garrulus glandarius

Common.

MAGPIE Pica pica

Common.

CHOUGH Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax

Small numbers known to breed in the county.

JACKDAW Corvus monedula

Common.

ROOK Corvus frugilegus

Abundant.

CARRION CROW Corvus corone

Common.

RAVEN Corvus corax

Recorded regularly in Clwydian Range.

STARLING Sturnus vulgaris

Abundant.

HOUSE SPARROW Passer domesticus

Abundant.

TREE SPARROW Passer montanus

Widespread in the county being reported in small numbers from many areas. Maximum count, 40 at Connah's Quay, 9th October 1977.

CHAFFINCH Fringilla coelebs

Common.

BRAMBLING Fringilla montifringilla

Regular winter visitor. Particularly common during hard winters.

GREENFINCH Carduelis Chloris

Common.

GOLDFINCH Carduelis carduelis

Common and widespread. Winter flocks of up to 60 birds reported from Shotton.

SISKIN Carduelis spinus

Several reports of small flocks during winter and early spring.

LINNET Carduelis cannabina

Abundant.

TWITE Carduelis flavirostris

Scarce. A small flock at Shotton in December 1976; 7 birds at Connah's Quay, 29th August 1977.

REDPOLL Carduelis flammea

Common. Few definite records of breeding mainly from the Clwydian Range in newly planted pines but almost certainly overlooked as a breeding species. A flock of up to 200 birds, Clwyd Forest, 14th May 1977.

CROSSBILL Loxia curvirostra

Regular reports from Clocaenog Forest. Only records from other localities are:- a flock of 20 birds at Gyffiliog, 18th December 1976; 5 birds at Rhydymwyn, 5th April 1977.

BULLFINCH Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Common.

HAWFINCH Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Scarce, only records from Mold area in winter 1977.

LAPLAND BUNTING Calcaeus lapponicus

One at Point of Ayr, 16th January and 1 at Ffynnongroew, 27th February 1975.

SNOW BUNTING

Plectrophenax nivalis

Small numbers at Point of Ayr during winter months.
Also recorded at Shotton in 1974.

YELLOWHAMMER

Emberiza citrinella

Common, well distributed throughout the county.

REED BUNTING

Emberiza schoeniclus

Commonly reported from Shotton and Connah's Quay but
elsewhere more thinly distributed.

CORN BUNTING

Miliaria calandra

Locally common in the upper Dee estuary. Up to 100
birds at Shotton each winter.

The Clwyd Ornithological Society
would like to take this opportunity
to thank its members and members of
other societies who contributed to
this report.

We look forward to their
continued support in the future.