

CLWYD ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

**CLWYD  
BIRD  
REPORT**

**1982**

# THE CLWYD BIRD REPORT

The 1980/1981 report brought the production of the Clwyd Bird Report up to date and it is hoped that annual reports will now be produced. For the first time we have been able to go to press before the end of the year albeit with only a couple of months to spare. Obviously the Editorial Committee would like to be able to improve upon this and have the report available by about April. To achieve this we would need to have all records submitted by mid-February at the very latest. Could we take this opportunity to ask all interested observers to send in their records as soon as possible after the end of the year. Clearly, reports produced soon after the year end are the more interesting and additionally are much easier to sell. With production costs rising every year it is essential to sell as many copies as possible to keep the cost to the Society to a minimum. Consequently, apart from the obvious satisfaction of going to press early, there is also likely to be a financial advantage which in the long term may be the best way of ensuring that future reports are published. Pleading no excuse for repetition could we once again ask you to send in your records with the minimum delay. Records should be submitted to The County Recorder, Mr. R. R. Birch, 8 Thornberry Close, Saughall, Chester CH1 6AW.

Again we are happy to report an increase in the numbers of records submitted. The County was reasonably well covered although coverage could be improved particularly in the south.

Whilst on the subject of records it should be pointed out that although many observations submitted do not appear in the report they were all considered when preparing the text. Please do not be discouraged if your particular records are not recognisable as such. All records are equally important and help to build up the overall picture of the distribution of birds in the County.

Finally the Editorial Committee would like to thank all those observers who have contributed to this report by kindly submitting their records.

# SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED

## 1982

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

### RED-THROATED DIVER

*Gavia stellata*

Reported regularly offshore between September and February with a maximum count of 10 birds at Rhos Point on 26th January. A less usual record was of 2 birds seen at Shotton on 3rd January. The species was recorded on 10 occasions involving 35 individuals.

### BLACK-THROATED DIVER

*Gavia arctica*

A single bird reported at Rhos Point on 3rd January and two birds there on the following day.

### LITTLE GREBE

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Reported from most suitable localities in the County with a maximum count of 8 at Oakenholt on the 15th September.

### GREAT CRESTED GREBE

*Podiceps cristatus*

Breeding confirmed at two sites within the County. Reported in small numbers offshore and from several inland waters but 12 present at Gresford Flash between 24th March and 7th April.

### SLAVONIAN GREBE

*Podiceps auritus*

Only two records of this species were received both from Rhos Point where 2 birds were present on 1st January and 1 on 26th January.

### FULMAR

*Fulmarus glacialis*

Infrequently reported offshore in small numbers between April and November with a maximum count of 9 birds at Point of Air on 21st April.

### MANX SHEARWATER

*Puffinus puffinus*

A species infrequently recorded in the County with only two records received; 10 at Gronant on 23rd June and 5 there on 19th September.

### LEACH'S PETREL

*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

A single bird was seen at Prestatyn on the 14th September.

**GANNET***Sula bassana*

All records relate to the period June to October during which time the species was recorded on eleven occasions. Maximum counts were 8 at Point of Air on 22nd August and 6 at Gronant on 6th October.

**CORMORANT***Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common in the Dee estuary and offshore at all times of the year. Maximum count was 150 birds at Flint on 8th August.

**SHAG***Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Single birds reported from Rhos Point on 24th January and Sealand Reservoir on the 4th October.

**BITTERN***Botaurus stellaris*

A bird flushed from a small reed bed at Point of Air on 19th January was the only record received.

**GREY HERON***Ardea cinerea*

Common in the Dee estuary with frequent but fewer records from other suitable localities.

**WHITE STORK***Ciconia ciconia*

A single bird was present on 6th and 7th April at Sandycroft. This record was subsequently accepted by the Rarities Committee.

**MUTE SWAN***Cygnus olor*

The species bred in the Gresford area where four pairs were recorded. Birds were reported from several other localities with a flock of up to 39 individuals including 9 immature birds at Rhyl Marine Lake during December.

**BEWICK'S SWAN***Cygnus columbianus*

The only records received were; 1 at Rhyl Marine Lake 31st January, 4 at Point of Air 7th November, 5 at Sealand from 21st November to 19th December and 4 at Connah's Quay on 5th December.

**WHOOPER SWAN***Cygnus cygnus*

Only recorded on one occasion when 4 birds were observed near Mold on 8th January.

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE***Anser brachyrhynchus*

Previously an infrequently recorded species in the County, sightings have increased noticeably since 1979. The records received for this year suggest that a flock of some 400 birds was present on the coastal strip

during January and February. Notable counts included 400 at Connah's Quay on 9th January, 180 at Rhuddlan on 6th January, 160 at Shotton on 5th January and 104 at Kinmel Bay on 26th February. Smaller numbers were reported during the latter part of the year with a maximum of 38 birds at Prestatyn on 22nd December.

### CANADA GOOSE

*Branta canadensis*

Breeding confirmed at one site near Mold. Otherwise widespread in small numbers on suitable lakes and reservoirs. Maximum counts 19 birds at Hawarden on 9th June and 16 at Sealand on 19th September.

### BARNACLE GOOSE

*Branta leucopsis*

A single bird was seen at Sealand on the 7th December.

### BRENT GOOSE

*Branta bernicla*

At Point of Air a single bird was observed on 19th January and two birds were seen at Oakenholt on 12th November. Both records refer to birds of the dark-bellied form.

### SHELDUCK

*Tadorna tadorna*

Common in the Dee estuary with maximum counts of 450 at Point of Air on 24th January and 650 at the same locality on 2nd December.

### WIGEON

*Anas penelope*

Small flocks occasionally reported offshore and 30 birds were present at Hanmer Mere on 21st December; larger numbers were reported in the upper Dee estuary and surrounding farmland with 600 birds at Sealand on 5th February and 400 there on 4th October.

### GADWALL

*Anas strepera*

Recorded on six occasions from three localities: 2 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 30th January, 3 there on 6th February and 4 present on 7th November, 5 seen at Sealand Reservoir on the 17th November and 2 on 24th November, 3 at Brickwork's Pool, Rhyl on 18th December.

### TEAL

*Anas crecca*

Good numbers observed in coastal areas and in upper reaches of the Dee estuary; 600 at Shotton 3rd January, 180 at Point of Air 8th February, 160 at Sealand 1st September, 360 at Point of Air 2nd December and 150 at Connah's Quay on 15th December. Up to 22 birds at Padeswood during late March - early April.

### MALLARD

*Anas platyrhynchos*

Common with frequent records from coast, estuaries and inland waters. Maximum counts: 400 at Hanmer Mere on 24th January and a similar

number there on 26th December, 534 at Rhyl on 18th December and 300 at Connah's Quay 16th October.

### **PINTAIL**

*Anas acuta*

Most records refer to birds seen in the vicinity of the Dee estuary but 4 were present at Llyn Brenig on 14th February and 3 at Padeswood on 5th June. Maximum counts: 400 at Sealand 3rd - 5th January and 320 there 4th October and 1700 at Flint on 15th December.

### **GARGANEY**

*Anas querquedula*

Not reported this year.

### **SHOVELER**

*Anas clypeata*

Observed on several inland waters and infrequently offshore in small numbers; 7 at Sealand Reservoir on 10th February and reported regularly at Sealand from 9th November to the end of the year with a maximum count of 28 birds on 23rd December, 40 birds observed at Hanmer Mere on 10th October, 3 Point of Air on 30th January and 2 there on 5th December.

### **POCHARD**

*Aythya ferina*

The new reservoir at Sealand provided a profusion of records both in the early part of the year and the following autumn; up to 11 birds were present at Sealand from January to February and thereafter were reported regularly from the area from 26th August (10 birds) to the end of the year with a maximum count of 42 on 9th November. Other records include 5 at Llyn Brenig on 8th November, 6 at Drury 10th February and 40 at Brickwork's Pool, Rhyl, on 24th December.

### **TUFTED DUCK**

*Aythya fuligula*

Breeding was confirmed at one site in the Wrexham area and a pair were present at Drury during April. Reported during the winter months from several inland lakes and reservoirs with a maximum count of 28 birds at Sealand on 13th December.

### **SCAUP**

*Aythya marila*

Only reported on five occasions:- a pair at Rhos Point 11th February, a pair at Holt 17th March, males present at Gresford from 7th - 18th April and at Sealand 8th July, a single bird at Connah's Quay 4th - 12th December.

### **EIDER**

*Somateria mollissima*

A female at Rhos Point on the 26th January and 11th February and single birds at Rhos Point on 3rd February and at Pensarn on 18th October were the only reports received.

## **LONG-TAILED DUCK**

*Clangula hyemalis*

Only records were: 1 at Sealand Reservoir from 17th November to 31st December, 1 Rhyl Marine Lake 6th November with 2 there on the 29th and 2 Kinnel Bay 20th November.

## **COMMON SCOTER**

*Melanitta nigra*

Regularly reported offshore between Point of Air and Rhos Point. Maximum counts: 150 at Abergele 16th January, 41 at Gronant 29th September and 500 at Towyn on 7th November.

## **VELVET SCOTER**

*Melanitta fusca*

A single bird was seen at Pensarn on 18th October.

## **GOLDENEYE**

*Bucephala clangula*

All reports were from small pools or reservoirs close to the coast. Maximum counts were 18 at Sealand between 9th and 18th November, 15 at Connah's Quay on 17th November and 22 on Rhyl Marine Lake on 29th November.

## **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**

*Mergus serrator*

Apart from 3 birds at Connah's Quay on 17th November and up to 12 birds on Rhyl Marine Lake between 18th and 29th November all other records were of birds seen offshore with maximum counts of: 14 at Colwyn Bay 1st January, 10 Kinnel Bay 20th November and 9 at Pensarn 14th November.

## **GOOSANDER**

*Mergus merganser*

Hanmer Mere and Llyn Brenig were the only lakes where the species was observed with 30 at Hanmer on 31st January and 4 at Llyn Brenig on 11th December being the maximum numbers involved.

## **RUDDY DUCK**

*Oxyura jamaicensis*

A male was seen at Padeswood on 28th June and single birds were reported from Hanmer Mere on 31st January and at Connah's Quay on 4th August.

## **MARSH HARRIER**

*Circus aeruginosus*

A bird was observed at Point of Air on 14th May.

## **HEN HARRIER**

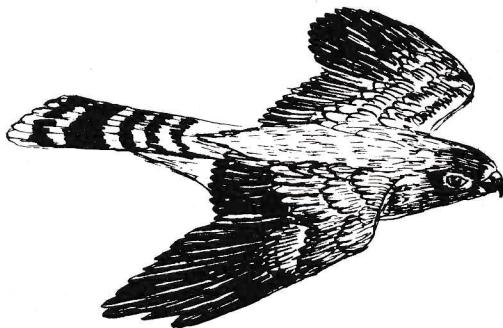
*Circus cyaneus*

Breeding confirmed at one site in the County and pairs were observed in two other areas during the breeding season. There were also 8 reports of single birds along the coastal strip during the winter months and 2 females at Connah's Quay on 6th January.

## GOSHAWK

*Accipiter gentilis*

The species was reported from four localities with one record involving a pair of birds present in a suitable breeding area in early spring.



## SPARROWHAWK

*Accipiter nisus*

For the second year in succession over fifty records were received and the species is now seen so frequently in some areas that several observers simply recorded the bird as 'regular' where previously all sightings were documented.

## BUZZARD

*Buteo buteo*

Reported regularly from the Clwyddian Range with a maximum of 5 birds at Llangernyw on 23rd January. On three occasions single birds were seen during the winter months on the coast.

## KESTREL

*Falco tinnunculus*

Commonly reported from most parts of the County.

## MERLIN

*Falco columbarius*

All seventeen records were of birds wintering on the coastal strip.

## HOBBY

*Falco subbuteo*

A single bird was reported at Connah's Quay on the 22nd August.

## PEREGRINE

*Falco peregrinus*

Reported on thirty occasions, all but three coming from the coastal strip during autumn and winter.

## RED GROUSE

*Lagopus lagopus*

Surprisingly few records were received but breeding was confirmed on Denbigh moors.

## **BLACK GROUSE**

*Tetrao tetrix*

Regularly reported in Clwyddian Range, at Pendinas and Clocaenog and less frequently at several other sites. Up to 7 birds observed at a lek at Pendinas during April, 5 at Cilcain on 29th April, 8 on Eglwyseg Mountain on 2nd February and 5 at Pendinas on 28th December were the maximum numbers recorded.

## **RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE**

*Alectoris rufa*

Believed to have bred at Llandegla and a pair were seen at Borrás on 15th June. Only other records were of a single bird at Wrexham on 24th April and 3 birds at Gresford on 26th March.

## **GREY PARTRIDGE**

*Perdix perdix*

The presence of young birds indicated breeding in several areas. Maximum counts were 33 at Sealand on 3rd January and 20 at Connah's Quay on 30th November.

## **QUAIL**

*Coturnix coturnix*

At Maengwynedd 2 birds were heard on 12th June and 3 birds on 14th June. A single bird was heard at Sealand on 12th, 13th and 16th August.

## **PHEASANT**

*Phasianus colchicus*

Common.

## **WATER RAIL**

*Rallus aquaticus*

Reported at Glyn Dyfrdwy and Shotton during the breeding season and at Gronant, Point of Air, Padeswood and Afon Ganol during winter months most records being of single birds.

## **MOORHEN**

*Gallinula chloropus*

Common.

## **COOT**

*Fulica atra*

Maximum counts: up to 115 birds on Sealand Reservoir during September - November, 115 at Brickwork's Pool, Rhyl on 31st January and 93 at Ysceifiog Lake on 1st September.

## **OYSTERCATCHER**

*Haematopus ostralegus*

Bred at Shotton and at Overton. The latter site is some twenty eight miles from the coast. Abundant on the coast during winter with maximum counts of 20,000 at Point of Air on 23rd February and 10,000 there on 6th October and 2nd December.

## **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER**

*Charadrius dubius*

Breeding confirmed in Llandegla area and was also believed to have bred

at Pendinas since an adult and 2 immature birds were seen in the area on 18th July. An immature bird was also reported at Connah's Quay on 23rd July and remained until 14th August. At Shotton 2 birds were present on 19th April and 1 there on 29th July. A single bird was seen at Gronant on 16th May.

### **RINGED PLOVER**

*Charadrius hiaticula*

Bred at Gronant. Maximum counts: 50 at Rhyl 6th February, 40 at Kinnel Bay 22nd May, 80 at Connah's Quay 13th August and 125 at Point of Air on 2nd September.

### **GOLDEN PLOVER**

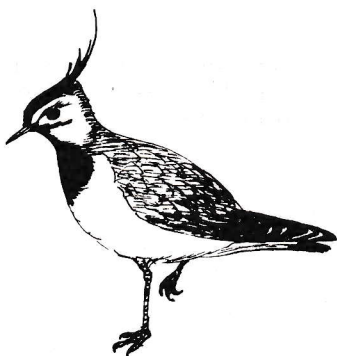
*Pluvialis apricaria*

Birds were observed displaying at one moorland site on 7th May but breeding was not confirmed. In all months of the year with the exception of May, June and July large flocks were regularly reported on arable land bordering the Dee. High counts included 450 at Sealand on 23rd January, 1,000 at Sandycroft on 10th April and 1,020 at Sealand on 22nd November.

### **GREY PLOVER**

*Pluvialis squatarola*

Apart from a single bird at Connah's Quay on 30th November, all records refer to birds wintering at Point of Air, Gronant and Prestatyn. Notable counts included 28 at Gronant on 1st January and 67 at Prestatyn on 12th December.



### **LAPWING**

*Vanellus vanellus*

Large flocks of wintering birds reported from many areas with the most significant counts being:- 2,000 at Sealand on 3rd January and 2,500 there on 7th October, 3,000 at Queensferry on 10th November and 2,000 at Kinnel on 26th December.

### **KNOT**

*Calidris canutus*

Numbers remain much reduced compared with former years. Highest counts were 100 Rhyl Marine Lake 17th January, 500 Clwyd estuary 31st January and 1,400 at Point of Air on 2nd December.

## **SANDERLING**

*Calidris alba*

Records indicate small flocks wintering on coast. Interesting counts included 120 at Point of Air 23rd February, 100 at Rhyl 10th January and a similar number there on 14th February and 37 at Point of Air 29th November.

## **LITTLE STINT**

*Calidris minuta*

Observed in the County on five occasions:- 1 Connah's Quay 25th July and 14th August, 1 Shotton 3rd September, 1 Gronant 21st September and 4 there on 22nd.

## **TEMMINCK'S STINT**

*Calidris temminckii*

Only record was of a bird seen at Connah's Quay on 20th July.

## **CURLEW SANDPIPER**

*Calidris ferruginea*

At Gronant 2 present on 7th August and up to 9 present at Connah's Quay between 31st August and 8th September.

## **PURPLE SANDPIPER**

*Calidris maritima*

Up to 33 birds observed at Rhos Point between 26th January and 3rd May when 15 birds were still present. Only other records were 10 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 14th February and 2 Rhyl beach on 24th October.

## **DUNLIN**

*Calidris alpina*

Wintering flocks included 450 at Rhyl Marine Lake 1st January and 500 there on 31st December; 750 Point of Air 31st January and 1,000 on 17th December. Maximum count during spring passage was 3,000 birds at Connah's Quay on 22nd May.

## **RUFF**

*Philomachus pugnax*

Small numbers reported at Connah's Quay August - September. A single bird was seen at Sealand on 3rd January with 14 there on 12th August and 4 on 26th; 7 present at Shotton 15th July and 10 on 15th August.

## **JACK SNIBE**

*Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Very scarce this year with 2 birds at Shotton on 24th October and 12th December being the only records.

## **SNIBE**

*Gallinago gallinago*

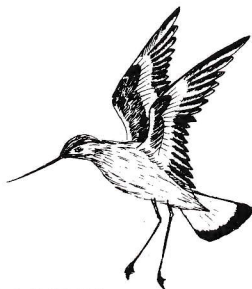
No reports of breeding were received but common in several areas during winter. Maximum counts were 14 at Padeswood 2nd October, 23 Shotton 24th October, 38 there 21st November and 52 at Gresford 20th March.

## **WOODCOCK**

*Scolopax rusticola*

Birds reported during the breeding season at Gwysaney, Loggerheads

and Cwm. Otherwise only single birds during winter months but 3 present at Point of Air on 10th January.



### **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT**

*Limosa limosa*

Regularly reported from Point of Air and Connah's Quay with highest counts of 800 at Point of Air on 10th January and 400 at Connah's Quay on 12th December.

### **BAR-TAILED GODWIT**

*Limosa lapponica*

Regular on the coast in small numbers but 600 birds were present at Point of Air on 10th February and up to 100 birds were present at Connah's Quay between 21st and 27th May.

### **WHIMBREL**

*Numenius phaeopus*

Only records received were:- birds present at Connah's Quay throughout August with a maximum of 15 on 7th, 1 Point of Air on 8th August and 3 there on 2nd September, 9 at Gronant 22nd April, 2 Shotton 2nd August and 1 Rhyl 15th August.

### **CURLEW**

*Numenius arquata*

All significant counts of wintering birds confined to coast between Point of Air and Kinnel with maximum numbers of 650 at Point of Air on 8th February and 1,000 there on 20th November, 550 at Kinnel on 1st January and a similar number at Rhyl on 25th December.

### **SPOTTED REDSHANK**

*Tringa erythropus*

At Connah's Quay 2 birds were present on 14th August and numbers rose to a maximum of 18 during September. The only other report was a single bird at Padeswood Pool on 5th September.

### **REDSHANK**

*Tringa totanus*

High counts of birds wintering on coastal strip included 1,000 at Connah's Quay 10th February, 500 at Rhyl Marine Lake 31st January and 780 at Point of Air on 2nd September.

### GREENSHANK

*Tringa nebularia*

Almost all records refer to birds seen during autumn passage from July to September but 3 birds were seen at Point of Air on 16th January and 1 at Gronant on 26th June. During autumn migration the species was widespread along the coast in small numbers with 5 at Point of Air on 2nd September and 7 inland at Llyn Helyg on 24th August. Unusually high counts from Connah's Quay exceeded 10 birds on 9 occasions during August and 20 were present on 24th September.

### GREEN SANDPIPER

*Tringa ochropus*

A single bird was seen at Flint on 19th September otherwise all other records are confined to Shotton, Connah's Quay and Padeswood Pool where the species was reported regularly. The species was recorded in most months of the year with maximum counts of 10 at Shotton on 7th August and 14 on the 10th and 6 at Padeswood on 7th August.

### WOOD SANDPIPER

*Tringa glareola*

Single birds at Shotton on 7th and 10th August and at Connah's Quay in July and September were the only reports received.

### COMMON SANDPIPER

*Actitis hypoleucos*

Frequent reports of small numbers along coastal strip particularly during autumn passage with occasional records of single birds at Connah's Quay and Shotton during winter. Maximum count was of 31 birds at Connah's Quay on 18th July.

### TURNSTONE

*Arenaria interpres*

Maximum counts were 150 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 14th February and 100 there on 18th November, and 200 - 250 birds at Rhos Point in January.

### WILSON'S PHALAROPE

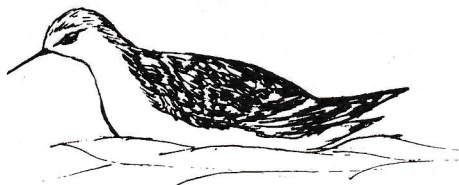
*Phalaropus tricolor*

A single bird was present at Connah's Quay from the 31st August to 6th September.

### GREY PHALAROPE

*Phalaropus fulicarius*

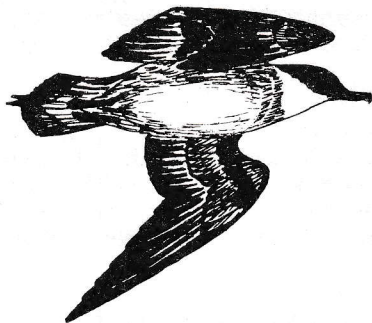
At Sealand Reservoirs 2 birds were present from the 4th - 13th October.



## ARCTIC SKUA

*Stercorarius parasiticus*

Infrequent reports of 1 - 2 birds Point of Air / Gronant usually during autumn but a bird was also reported on 27th December at Connah's Quay.



## GREAT SKUA

*Stercorarius skua*

A single bird seen off Rhyl on 5th August was the only record for the year.

## MEDITERRANEAN GULL

*Larus melanocephalus*

A bird was reported at Gronant on 15th December.

## LITTLE GULL

*Larus minutus*

Only reported on one occasion when a bird was seen at Sealand on 26th August.

## BLACK-HEADED GULL

*Larus ridibundus*

Common along coast and inland at all times of the year with a maximum count of 3,000 at Sealand on 4th October.

## COMMON GULL

*Larus canus*

Outside the breeding season the species occurs in considerable numbers in many areas. Maximum counts include; 4,200 at Gronant 15th October, 2,000 at Point of Air 25th July and 1,750 at Sealand 10th February.

## LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

*Larus fuscus*

Numbers of wintering birds this year were worthy of note with 45 at Sealand on 17th January and 210 there on 10th February. The following autumn 370 birds were seen at Sealand on 4th October and 260 were present on 30th November but dropped to 53 birds by 13th December.

## HERRING GULL

*Larus argentatus*

Abundant at all times of the year.

## **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL**

*Larus marinus*

Only notable counts were 245 at Gronant on 15th October and 200 at Rhyl on 5th December.

## **KITTIWAKE**

*Rissa tridactyla*

Most records were of small numbers of birds offshore and occasional reports from the Dee estuary but 112 birds were seen at Rhyl on 10th October and 60 at Kinmel on the 11th.

## **SANDWICH TERN**

*Sterna sandvicensis*

Only small numbers reported from coast during spring but over 200 birds present at Point of Air July - September with the highest count of 800 occurring on 30th July.

## **ROSEATE TERN**

*Sterna dougallii*

The only record was of a bird at Shotton on 23rd July.

## **COMMON TERN**

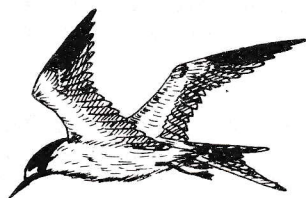
*Sterna hirundo*

The colony at Shotton of some 150 - 200 pairs was again successful with 270 birds fledging. The maximum count at Shotton was 350 birds on 12th June. At Point of Air 120 birds were present on 19th July.

## **ARCTIC TERN**

*Sterna paradisaea*

On 13th August 2 birds were observed at Connah's Quay.



## **LITTLE TERN**

*Sterna albifrons*

The colony at Gronant continues to flourish with an estimated 39 pairs breeding and between 60 - 70 young birds being fledged this year. The maximum count occurred on 27th July when 410 Little Terns were present although the majority of these birds were believed to have come from other colonies.

## **BLACK TERN**

*Chlidonias niger*

A single bird seen at Connah's Quay on 21st September was the only record submitted.

## **GUILLEMOT**

*Uria aalge*

Scarce. Only occasional records from Point of Air and Rhos Point.

**RAZORBILL***Alca torda*

Single birds at Rhos Point on 6th June and at Gronant on 23rd June were the only records.

**STOCK DOVE***Columba oenas*

Apparently very local with only a few reports from the Mold area.

**WOODPIGEON***Columba palumbus*

Common in all areas. Maximum count was 500 at Sealand on 3rd January.

**COLLARED DOVE***Streptopelia decaocto*

Frequently reported in many suburban areas with a maximum count of 31 at Rhyl on 10th October.

**TURTLE DOVE***Streptopelia turtur*

Scarce. Only records were 1 at Rhuddlan 19th May, 4 Point of Air 23rd May, 1 Marford 27th June and 2 at Erryrys on 10th July.

**GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO***Clamator glandarius*

On 27th May a bird was identified on the outskirts of Denbigh by an observer who is familiar with this species. The cuckoo remained in a small field for some two hours and was observed dropping from its perch on telegraph wires and feeding in the grass and along the hedge bottoms. It is believed to be the first record for the County.

**CUCKOO***Cuculus canorus*

Fairly common particularly in upland areas. Nest found with Cuckoo egg confirmed Meadow Pipit as host species on Cilcain Mountain. Earliest date was 19th April when a bird was seen at Prestatyn.

**BARN OWL***Tyto alba*

Scarce. The species was only recorded on seven occasions although the reports did cover a large part of the County and were a considerable improvement on 1981 when only two records were submitted.

**LITTLE OWL***Athene noctua*

Widely distributed throughout the County. Breeding confirmed at Padeswood.

**TAWNY OWL***Strix aluco*

Reports received suggest that the species is fairly common and widely distributed.



### **SHORT-EARED OWL**

*Asio flammeus*

Species believed to have bred in one area of the County and birds were present at two other sites during the breeding season. There were numerous reports from coastal areas during winter months with 4 at Gronant on 17th January, 3 at Point of Air on 10th January and 4 there on 24th.

### **NIGHTJAR**

*Caprimulgus europaeus*

Single birds were reported from Maeshafn on 16th July, Eglwyseg on 21st August and at Colwyn Bay on 1st September.

### **SWIFT**

*Apus apus*

Common.

*Kingfisher & Green wood pecker*

### **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER**

*Dendropocus major*

Common.

### **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER**

*Dendropocus minor*

Scarce. Only reports submitted were:- Single birds at Hawarden on 20th February and 25th April. 2 at Llay on 11th March and 2 at Rhuddlan on 19th June, 1 Prestatyn on 21st February and 1 at Llanrhydd on 11th January. The species bred at Gresford.

### **WOODLARK**

*Lullula arborea*

A bird was seen flying north east at Point of Air on 8th November.

### **SKYLARK**

*Alauda arvensis*

Frequently observed but probably less common than in former years. North easterly movements recorded at Point of Air - 39 birds on 15th October and 23 on 8th November when a further 30 birds were observed feeding in the dunes.

**SHORE LARK***Eremphila alpestris*

Single birds were seen at Point of Air on 4th January and on 5th and 31st December.

**SAND MARTIN***Riparia riparia*

Many former colonies remain deserted. Earliest dates were 3 at Point of Air on 6th April and 2 at Shotton on 7th April.

**SWALLOW***Hirundo rustica*

Abundant. Earliest and latest dates were 7th April and 17th October respectively.

**HOUSE MARTIN***Delichon urbica*

Common. First recorded on 9th April and last seen on 17th October.

**TREE PIPIT***Anthus trivialis*

Local. Only reported from Clwyddian Range during breeding season.

**MEADOW PIPIT***Anthus pratensis*

Very common breeding species on moorland and locally at sea-level. A flock of 40 birds at Point of Air on 16th October was the only notable count.

**ROCK PIPIT***Anthus spinoletta*

Uncommon. The only records submitted were:- 4 at Rhyl Marine Lake on 17th January, 1 Connah's Quay 9th March, 1 Sealand 4th October, 2 Point of Air on the 6th, 5 at Shotton on the 12th and 1 at Gronant on 15th; 1 Point of Air on 2nd December.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL***Motacilla flava*

Local. Largest concentrations were at Sealand with 17 present on 16th April and 50 there on 27th. At Point of Air 6 birds were seen on 27th April.

**GREY WAGTAIL***Motacilla cinerea*

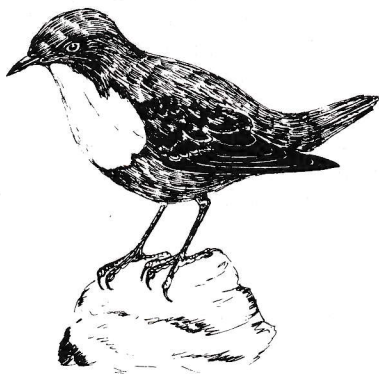
Breeds Clwyddian Range and infrequent reports of birds on coast during winter were submitted.

**WHITE WAGTAIL***Motacilla alba alba*

Regular on spring passage in varying numbers. Maximum counts were 160 at Sealand on 16th April and 220 there on 27th April.

**PIED WAGTAIL***Motacilla alba*

Common and widespread.

**DIPPER***Cinclus cinclus*

Regular on most suitable rivers and streams in upland areas of the County.

**WREN***Troglodytes troglodytes*

Common.

**DUNNOCK***Prunella modularis*

Common.

**ROBIN***Erithacus rubecula*

Common.

**BLACK REDSTART***Phoenicurus ochruros*

A pair were observed at Connah's Quay on 1st December.

**REDSTART***Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

The slow recovery of this species following the reduction in numbers in the early 70's appears to be continuing.

**WHINCHAT***Saxicola rubetra*

Very common breeding species in many upland areas and also breeds on coast but in smaller numbers.

**STONECHAT***Saxicola torquata*

Scattered distribution is indicated with a few pairs breeding on coastal strip and more substantial numbers in upland areas.

## **WHEATEAR**

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

Breeds regularly at sea-level at Shotton but main concentration on Clwyddian Hills and Denbigh Moors where in some areas the species could almost be described as abundant. The timing of the record at Connah's Quay where 14 birds were present between 3rd and 6th May suggests that the birds may have been the Greenland sub-species *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*.

## **RING OUSEL**

*Turdus torquatus*

Only recorded on four occasions this year; 4 Horseshoe Pass 28th March and 6 males there on 9th April, 1 Cilcain on 27th March and 7 there on 18th April.

## **BLACKBIRD**

*Turdus merula*

Abundant at all times of the year.

## **FIELDFARE**

*Turdus pilaris*

The species was last observed on 14th April and was first seen on 23rd October. Notable counts included 350 at Sandycroft on 9th April, 200 at Holt on 9th April and 250 at Rhualt on 1st December. The number of thrushes roosting at Hawarden during November and December almost defies description and may have involved as many as 25,000 birds including 10,000 Fieldfare.

## **SONG THRUSH**

*Turdus philomelos*

Common. Considerable numbers in mixed thrush roost at Hawarden November / December

## **REDWING**

*Turdus iliacus*

All counts worthy of note refer to the latter half of the year - 200 at Connah's Quay 19th December, 200 at Prestatyn 24th December and 300 at Meliden on the same day. During November/December up to 12,000 birds were estimated to be using the roost at Hawarden (See also Fieldfare).

## **MISTLE THRUSH**

*Turdus viscivorus*

Common in many areas. High counts included 23 at Prestatyn 11th August and 70 at Mancot on 28th August.

## **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER**

*Locustella naevia*

Breeding not confirmed this year but birds singing in several suitable areas.

## **SEDGE WARBLER**

*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Breeding confirmed only at Shotton.

**REED WARBLER***Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Bred at Shotton. There were no reports from other areas.

**LESSER WHITETHROAT***Sylvia curruca*

Records suggest that the species is scarce but almost certainly overlooked. Although rarely seen in the area, ringing activities at Marford showed the bird to be present in moderate numbers

**WHITETHROAT***Sylvia communis*

Now fairly common but population still well below 1971 level.

**GARDEN WARBLER***Sylvia borin*

Local but fairly common in some areas particularly in the Clwyddian Range.

**BLACKCAP***Sylvia atricapilla*

Common. Many more records of wintering birds were received this year from many areas of the County.

**WOOD WARBLER***Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Fairly common but locally distributed. At Loggerheads 6 singing males reported on 29th April.

**CHIFFCHAFF***Phylloscopus collybita*

Common.

**WILLOW WARBLER***Phylloscopus trochilus*

Abundant.

**GOLDCREST***Regulus regulus*

Common.

**FIRECREST***Regulus ignicapillus*

At Point of Air 3 birds were seen on 27th November and single birds were present on 28th November and on 2nd and 31st December. The species was also reported at Mostyn Hall on 14th November and at Downing on 31st December.

**SPOTTED FLYCATCHER***Muscicapa striata*

Fairly common and widespread but no reports of breeding birds were submitted.

**PIED FLYCATCHER***Ficedula hypoleuca*

Breeding reported in many areas in most cases as a result of nesting boxes being sited to attract the species.

**LONG-TAILED TIT***Aegithalos caudatus*

Fairly common.

**MARSH TIT***Parus palustris*

Common in Clwyddian Range and other upland areas.

**WILLOW TIT***Parus montanus*

Local.

**COAL TIT***Parus ater*

Fairly common.

**BLUE TIT***Parus caeruleus*

Abundant.

**GREAT TIT***Parus major*

Abundant.

**NUTHATCH***Sitta europaea*

Regularly reported in several areas.

**TREECREEPER***Certhia familiaris*

Common.

**GREAT GREY SHRIKE***Lanius excubitor*

Single birds at Llyn Brenig on 14th February and at Connah's Quay on 18th April and 15th October.

**JAY***Garrulus glandarius*

Common.

**MAGPIE***Pica pica*

Abundant. Some very high counts were reported this year:- 25 at Padeswood 28th February, 30 at Penymynydd 11th October, 43 at Point of Air 21st November, 23 at Prestatyn 29th September and 49 at Llansannan 28th December.

**CHOUGH***Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

On 9th and 14th February and 3rd April 2 birds were present at the Horseshoe Pass.

**JACKDAW***Corvus monedula*

Common but rather local.

**ROOK**

Common.

*Corvus frugilegus***CARRION CROW**

Abundant.

*Corvus corone***RAVEN***Corvus corax*

Ravens were reported from eight sites in the County which could be considered suitable nesting areas but breeding was not confirmed. Outside the breeding season birds were reported from the coast with 4 at Sealand on 11th September, 1 at Connah's Quay on 17th November and 2 at Point of Air on 10th and 30th January. On 14th November 30 birds were seen feeding together at Llyn Brenig.

**STARLING**

Abundant.

*Sturnus vulgaris***HOUSE SPARROW**

Abundant.

*Passer domesticus***TREE SPARROW***Passer montanus*

The species is infrequently reported although fairly common in some areas. At Rhyl a small flock of 30 birds was seen on 5th December.

**CHAFFINCH***Fringilla coelebs*

Common. Largest winter flock reported was 256 moving north east at Point of Air on 8th November. Substantial numbers were observed roosting at Hawarden during the winter months.

**BRAMBLING***Fringilla montifringilla*

Very few records this year and numbers were low in all cases. Highest counts were 61 at Ruthin on 1st January, 35 at Point of Air on 10th January, 23 at Gronant 12th January and 20 at Cilcain 19th March. All other observations involved less than 10 birds.

**GREENFINCH***Carduelis chloris*

Common. Maximum count was 240 at Point of Air on 2nd December.

**GOLDFINCH***Carduelis carduelis*

Common. Charms of up to 40 birds reported from several areas.

**SISKIN***Carduelis spinus*

Only reported on eight occasions. Highest counts were:- 20 at Hope on 11th January, 50 at Bradley on 17th and 20 at Wrexham on 20th and 10 at Halkyn on 27th February.

**LINNET***Carduelis cannabina*

Abundant.

**TWITE***Carduelis flavirostris*

A single bird was seen at Hawarden on 30th January.

**REDPOLL***Carduelis flammea*

Common.

**CROSSBILL***Loxia curvirostra*

Frequent reports from Clocaenog Forest but scarce elsewhere. Only other records were 1 at Glyn Ceiriog 19th August and 1 at Llyn Alwen 22nd October.

**BULLFINCH***Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common.

**HAWFINCH***Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Birds were seen displaying at Prion on 19th May and a pair with fledged young were observed at Cefn-y-Bedd on 6th July. Up to 5 birds were reported at Halkyn between 1st January and 27th February and 6 present at Clawddnewydd on 28th December.

**SNOW BUNTING***Plectrophenax nivalis*

From 1st January to 27th February a small flock was present on the foreshore Point of Air / Gronant with a maximum count of 18 birds at Point of Air on 10th January. Birds were again reported in the area on 15th October and remained until the end of the year, 23 seen at Gronant on 16th December being the highest count. Elsewhere a single bird was seen at Pensarn on 26th January and 6 there on 28th December. There were also 3 birds at Connah's Quay on 10th January and 16 at Prestatyn on 12th December.

**YELLOWHAMMER***Emberiza citrinella*

Fairly common.

**REED BUNTING***Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common. Breeding confirmed at Shotton.

**CORN BUNTING***Miliaria calandra*

Regularly reported at Sealand during the breeding season but apparently scarce elsewhere.

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Every effort has been made to ensure that the above list contains the name of each contributor to this report. The Editorial Committee would like to apologise to any observer whose name has been omitted.