



North-East Wales Bird Report 2015

Clwyd Bird Recording Group

October 2016

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www.cbrg.org.uk



Published October 2016

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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:

Anne Brenchley: Chair and BTO East Clwyd representative

Ian M Spence: Treasurer and County Recorder

(also representing the Welsh Ornithological Society)

Andrew Dale

Richard Groves

Adrian O Hibbert

Neil Hughes (Wrexham Birdwatchers)

Adrian Lloyd Jones (North Wales Wildlife Trust)

Glenn Morris (Deeside Naturalists' Society)

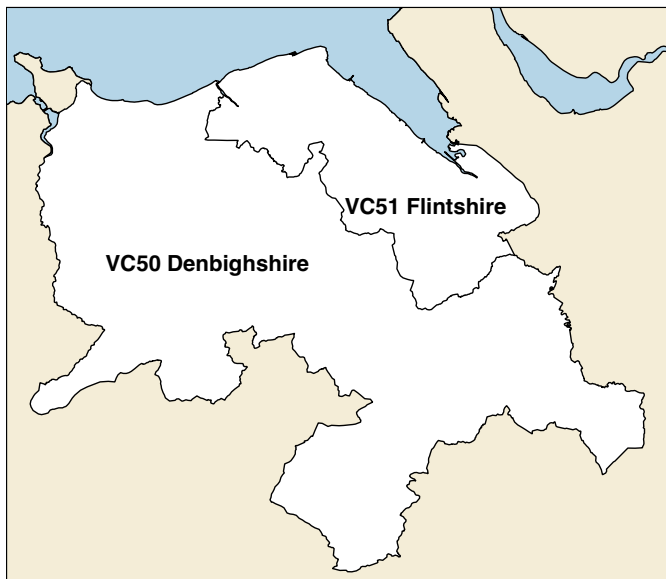
Giles Pepler: Secretary

Lee Barber

www.cbrg.org.uk

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

North-East Wales Vice-Counties



Introduction

Editorial

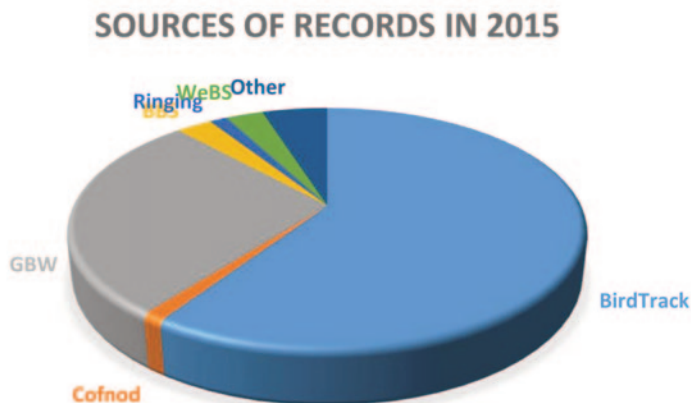
The purpose of the bird report

- 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.
- To record as accurately as possible the rare and scarce birds that have occurred in the recording area.

Sources of records

For 2015 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 (increasingly via BirdTrack)
- RSPB Conwy and Burton Mere Wetlands (reserve staff and volunteers)
- Uniper (per Julie Rogers)
- Garden BirdWatch data
- Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data
- Birdtrack records (only those with sites defined at 1 km square level)
- Deeside Naturalists' Society (per Glenn Morris)
- Cofnod
- Records of ringed birds
- Nest record summaries
- WeBS data from the BTO website.



Numbers of records

For 2015 I received just over 88,150 records the majority of which have been imported to Recorder 6. The only records that are not imported are the WeBS data and those of some feral or escaped (Category E) species or records of rarities that have not been accepted by the appropriate committee. The sources of the data are listed, above.

Species names

We have continued to use the English vernacular names.

The order of species

This report follows the naming and ordering of species in: Harrop, A.H.J., Collinson, J.M., Dudley, S.P., Kehoe, C. & The British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. 2013. *The British List: A checklist of the Birds of Britain (8th edition)*. Ibis 155, 635-676 and subsequent changes of the List in BOURC reports.

Information about species

Under the species names we provide a short description of the status of the species in North-East Wales, with information about whether it is on the Red or Amber Lists of conservation concern (Johnstone, I. & Bladwell, S. 2016. Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3: the population status of birds in Wales. *Birds in Wales* **13(1)**: 3-31.), whether it is a Welsh Biodiversity Action Plan species and an indication of the interest in the species by the Rare Breeding Bird Panel. See other information in the introduction to the systematic list.

CBRG Website

During the year the website has had occasional updates. I hope to be able to continue developing it in ways that may be helpful and informative and comments to help improve it will be very welcome. The website now includes a page developed by Cofnod which shows the distribution of all records from the CBRG that are stored with Cofnod.

BirdTrack

BirdTrack is the method which I would now recommend that all observers (Individuals or organisations) use for the storage and submission of their records. This has many advantages over sending me the records in a spreadsheet. Each observer would have their own database of records that can be examined by the observer in different ways. The database is regularly backed up so records will be kept safely. It would help if observers still used the 1 km squares as recording units. The gazetteer is still available (and updated from time to time) from the Downloads page of the CBRG website.

Anyone who stores records in BirdTrack and is happy for the Recorder to be able to access their records does not have to do anything else. At the end of the year, or when I think most people will have added their records for the previous calendar year, I can download all the records in one go.

I would recommend that all observers create a BirdTrack account, at no charge, by visiting the website **www.birdtrack.net** or by visiting the BTO website **www.bto.org**

The revised version of the BirdTrack App is now available in iPhone and Android versions. It allows the observer to record birds in the field anywhere in the world. The lists are uploaded to the master database and are viewable at home via the Global portal. 2017 will be the last year of the European Atlas project. All records are welcome. This records breeding birds at a 50 km x 50 km level – rather bigger than tetrads! There is not the same level of functionality in the global portal as yet, but the BTO are working so that the global and UK parts of BirdTrack will be combined with the same functions for all places, hopefully in the relatively near future.

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 any one or more of the sources listed at the start of the Editorial. Currently, there are 626,912 records in the database.

Submission of records

Records of bird sightings may be made available by:

- by using BirdTrack (**www.birdtrack.net**);
- using a spreadsheet available on the CBRG website;
- by using the Cofnod record submission facility (**www.cofnod.org.uk**).
- by using the Dee Estuary website (**www.deeestuary.co.uk**)

For nest sites, it would be very helpful if observers stored a more accurate grid reference in the Comments. This could be either a 6, 8 or 10 figure reference, depending on whether, or not, a GPS was used.

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,
- species on the Welsh Biodiversity Action Plan (WBAP) list or
- of interest to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.

Included in this report are maps showing the distribution of the records we have received for all species apart from those with just a couple of records.

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.

If you do use the data recording spreadsheet it has the names of every 1 km square in the Vice-counties of Denbighshire and Flintshire and some for Meirionnydd (particularly the area of the Berwyn Mountains that was in Clwyd). For data entry the species name is entered by using the BTO two-letter code (in the systematic list, the table with the number of records has each species' code in the top-left corner). The place is entered by using 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. When complete please send me the spreadsheet. 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 code (this will show the species name used in Recorder 6);
- Date of the observation;
- The 1 km square grid reference (this is crucial and will show the location name and the VC number);
- The age and/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);
- 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.

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

Rarity records

Observers need to be mindful of the Welsh and national (ie UK) lists of rarities.

For the list of Welsh rarities see:

[www.birdsinwales.org.uk/downloads/WRP scarce species.pdf](http://www.birdsinwales.org.uk/downloads/WRP_scarce_species.pdf)

For the list of UK rarities see: **www.bbrc.org.uk/currentrarespecies.htm**

Contents

Due to constraints on time, I regret that we have no weather summary or birding highlights in this report. For the weather report we very much miss Len Walls and the monthly summaries that he used to send, from which an annual report was fairly easy to put together.

Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to all the observers and organisations (listed at the start of the Editorial) who contributed to surveys or otherwise submitted records for the report – the list of individual

contributors is at the back of the report.

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, Richard Groves, Adrian Hibbert, Glenn Morris and Giles Pepler. I am also grateful to Lee Barber for the Ringing Report and to Richard Groves for the article he has written.

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

Glenn Morris prepared the records from Connah's Quay Nature Reserve. I thank him for his help.

Jim Hulse has continued to be my 'Assistant Recorder' and has typed up other people's records and submitted his own. I am very grateful to him for the great amount of help he gave.

I am very grateful to Barry Barnacal, Henry Cook, Andy Davis, John Hawkins, Hugh Linn and Robin Sandham for their photographs that add significantly to the interest and attractiveness of the report.

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

I thank Anne Brenchley, Andrew Dale, Richard Groves, Glenn Morris and Giles Pepler for proof-reading a draft of this report. I thank Giles Pepler and Trevor Payne for proof-reading a finished copy. Any remaining errors are my responsibility. I trust that the observers and organisations think that we have made good use of the data they have provided.

I am grateful to Giles Pepler for his help with editing parts of the report.

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The Systematic List for 2015

The names of species and their order come from Harrop, A.H.J., Collinson, J.M., Dudley, S.P., Kehoe, C. & The BOURC. 2013. The British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain (8th edition). *Ibis* **155**: 635-676. The Welsh names have been taken from previous reports or where necessary, from the website www.avionary.info or with the help of Rhion Pritchard.

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 Lists (from Johnstone, IG, & Bladwell, S. 2016. Birds of Conservation Concern in Wales 3: the population status of birds in Wales. *Birds in Wales* **13(1)**: 3-31.

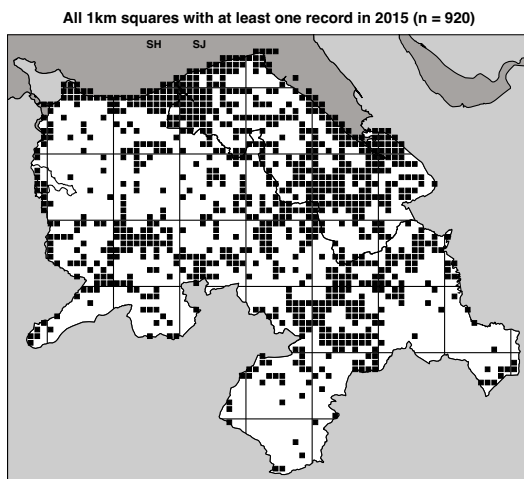
Abbreviations that appear in the report include, in tables, the BTO two letter code for the species to which the table refers, if there is one, and:

BBS	Breeding Bird Survey organised by the British Trust for Ornithology
CP	Country Park
GBW	Garden Bird Watch organised by the British Trust for Ornithology
GP	Gravel pit
NR	Nature Reserve
WRP	Welsh Records Panel (see www.birdsinwales.org.uk)
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee (see www.bbrc.org.uk)
WBAP	Welsh Biodiversity Action Plan species
RBBP	Breeding records of this species are of interest to the Rare Breeding Bird Panel (see www.rbbp.org.uk)
TBBNW	The Breeding Birds of North Wales

We have abbreviated the names of months to just three letters (eg Jan, Feb, etc).

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 add to what is shown in '*The Breeding Birds of North Wales*'.

The maps, below, show the sources of records used in this report. Firstly, there is the distribution of sites in our area from which at least one record has been received during 2015. Secondly, there is the map of all the BBS sites. Thirdly, there is the map showing all the GBW sites and lastly



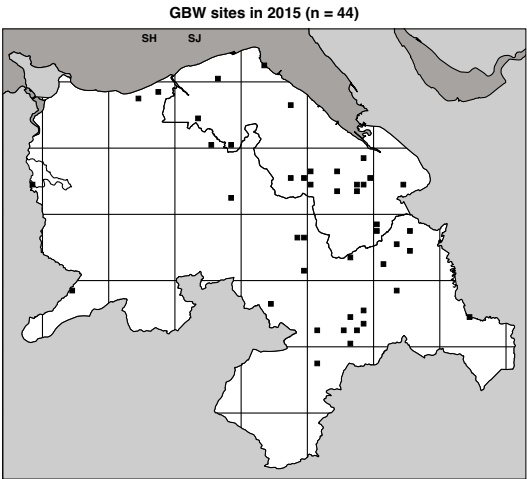
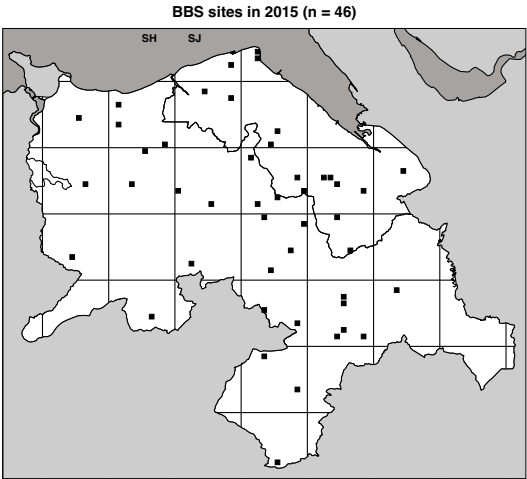
a map showing the locations of all sites from where complete lists were recorded in BirdTrack.

At the start of each species account there is a statement about status and then a table. This is an attempt to summarise the information available and to use the basic data to provide further information about how easy it is likely to be to see any particular species in this region of Wales, but especially in the 1 km squares in which the species has been observed. To explain each of the headings:

Status. This is a statement about each species based mainly on the results of the Atlas project that led to ‘The Breeding Birds of North Wales’.

- Resident
- Summer visitor
- Winter visitor
- Passage migrant
- Visitor
- Vagrant
- Escape

Occurrence. We do not have good population estimates for the majority of species in North-East Wales. Some bird reports have used words such as ‘abundant’ without any criteria for determining the use of the words. Here, we are using a formula to calculate a figure that is then used to determine the word to describe how abundant a species is. The formula is: **(Average max count)/3 * (Average no of records)**. These average figures are taken from a database of these figures that have been published in



Descriptor	Occurrence as calculated
Abundant	25,000+
Very common	>5,000 – 25,000
Common	>1,000 – 5,000
Fairly common	>500 – 1,000
Uncommon	>100 – 500
Scarce	>10 – 100
Very scarce	>5 – 10
Rare	<=5

recent bird reports.

The word chosen to describe the species is taken from the table, above.

Number of 1 km squares. This is the number of 1 km squares in which a species was recorded during the year. The numbers of 1 km squares in each county are taken from the Gazetteer which is available from the CBRG website: Denbs = 1976, Flints = 589, total = 2565.

Maximum count. This is the maximum count for each species in each county during the year. Records come from several sources that do not, necessarily, conform to the requirements of our database. So, there may be records e.g. from WeBS sectors that span more than one 1km square, so may be higher than the maximum count shown in the table.

Recorded in BBS squares. When a species has been recorded during a BBS survey this is the number of squares in which the species was recorded out of the number in the county. There were 30 BBS squares in Denbs in 2015 and 16 in Flints.

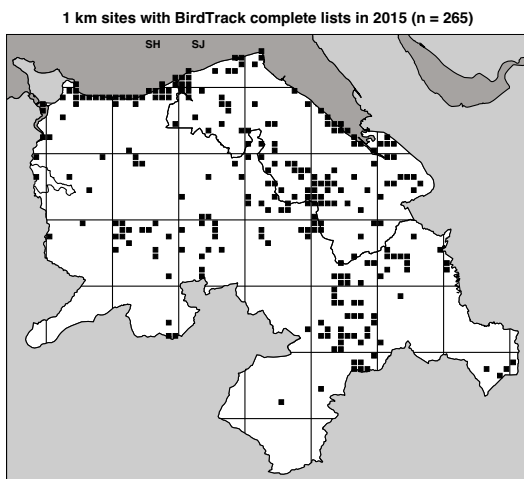
Number of records. As in previous reports, this shows the number of accepted records received for each county during the year.

% of records from GBW. Rather than mentioning this in the text for some, obvious, garden species this is included for all species that occurred in the GardenBirdWatch lists.

% of BirdTrack lists. This is a figure calculated using all the complete lists that have been submitted on BirdTrack during the year and provided by the BTO within the download of records for County Recorders. A species is more likely to be encountered if the percentage shown is higher than for another species. For some species this figure is much higher for relatively scarce species in Denbs because of the numbers of lists submitted for RSPB Conwy.

Density. This is an attempt to show how likely it is that a species will be encountered somewhere in North-East Wales. The figure is from a formula: **(Max count) * (No of locations where recorded) / (Total no of squares in that county)**. The numbers of 1km squares in each county are: 1976 in Denbs and 589 in Flints.

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 have been 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).



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 so that you know when you last saw them, when they have migrated away. This information shows up very well in the BirdTrack graphs created from complete lists of bird records. We are very keen to know these last dates as well as when they arrive.

The systematic list is presented in two sections, firstly the Category A and C species then those that are in Category E.

Category Explanation

A	Species recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950.
C1	Naturalised introduced species – species that have occurred only as a result of introduction.
C2	Naturalized introduced species – species with established populations resulting from introduction by Man, but which also occur in an apparently natural state.
C3	Naturalized re-established species – species with populations successfully re-established by Man in areas of former occurrence.
C4	Naturalized feral species – domesticated species with populations established in the wild.
E	Species recorded as introductions, human-assisted transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining.

Category A and C species

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Breeding resident.

One of our most regularly occurring waterbirds, this semi-domesticated “royal bird” is widely distributed throughout the report area being found on most inland water bodies and many estuaries. Recorded in each month in both counties.

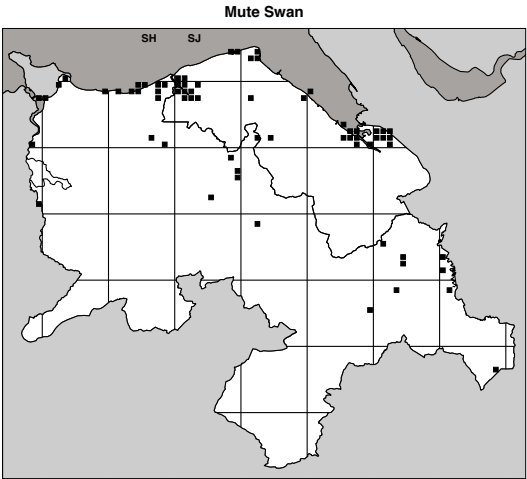
ALARCH DOF

(MS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	33	35
Maximum count	19	79
Av max count 2004-15	48	57
Number of records	312	473
Recorded in BBS squares	2/30	1/16
% of BirdTrack lists	20.1	34.4
Density	0.32	4.69

Denbs. As usual the majority (66%) of records were from RSPB Conwy, the most regularly recorded site within the region. As last year, numbers were relatively low thus continuing the short term trend with the year's maximum count of 19 only 50% of the medium term average. There were only two counts in double figures, 19 near Llanddulas on 21/06 (TG) and 10 near Towyn on 8/03 (PtB). There were no records of significant numbers from the usual wintering locations in the lower Dee Valley floodplains. Breeding attempts were recorded at four locations with a sitting bird at Pentre Mawr, Pensarn on 5/04 (BM) and another at Towyn on 9/04 (SM), though both of these ultimately failed, probably due to human disturbance. Successful breeding was reported from Rhuthun where a pair and 6 cygnets were seen at Cae Ddol lake on 28/04 (RG) and RSPB Conwy where a pair and 3 were recorded on 19/05 (WRM).

WeBS counts from the Conwy Estuary and Gresford Flash, Wrexham also reflected the general picture of relatively low numbers (see table below).

Flints. As usual most records were from coastal locations in or around the Dee and Clwyd Estuaries. On the Dee Estuary the largest concentrations were on White Sands and Shotwick Fields; up to 60 were present at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands during the early part of the year with a peak of 66 on 1/03 (AHJ). On White Sands up to 60 were recorded during Jan and early Feb



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(MS)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy Estuary	8	2	2	6	4	3	2	5	4	4	2	2
Gresford Flash				2	1	2	2	2	2	7	7	6
White Sands	56	52	6	28	30					21	79	63
Clwyd Estuary	10	12		30	19			7		14	8	13

with a peak of 61 on 18/01 (CW), then similar numbers were present during Nov and Dec with a peak of 79 on 15/11 (DaK). The Clwyd Estuary held modest numbers throughout the year with the largest numbers during May when up to 30 were regularly recorded and peaks of 68 on 6/05 (SH) and 53 on 17/05 (AHJ).

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

ALARCH BEWICK

Winter visitor. Red List. WBAP.

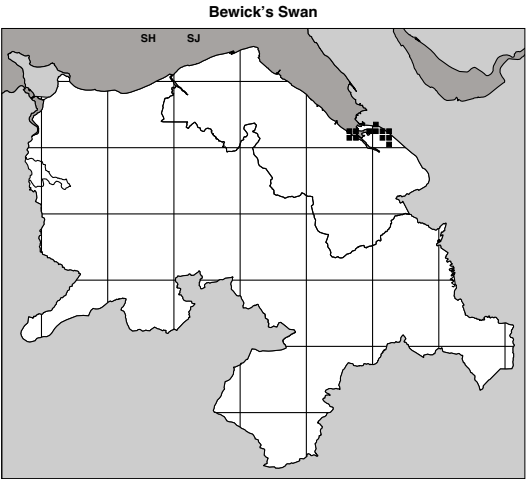
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

This species is an annual visitor to the Dee Estuary and surrounding areas usually in relatively small numbers, but is much more rarely recorded from Denbs, the majority of records being from the lower Dee Valley during periods of winter flooding.

(BS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares		12
Maximum count		46
Av max count 2004-15		61
Number of records	0	53
% of BirdTrack lists		1.1
Density		0.94

Flints. Larger numbers than usual were present throughout Jan-Feb on the upper Dee Estuary chiefly at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands/Shotwick Fields, with a peak of 46 on 18/01 (CW). The last substantial numbers of spring were 30+ on 1/03 (AHJ), the final record being presence at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 15/03 (JFJ). Numbers in the autumn/winter were much more modest, the first of the autumn were 3 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 25/10 (GR) which

remained in the Connah's Quay/Oakenholt Marsh area through much of Nov. The largest autumn count was 7 at Shotwick, Broken Bank on 27/11 (DvJ), and the only Dec record was 1 at White Sands on 4/12 (DKn).



Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Winter visitor.

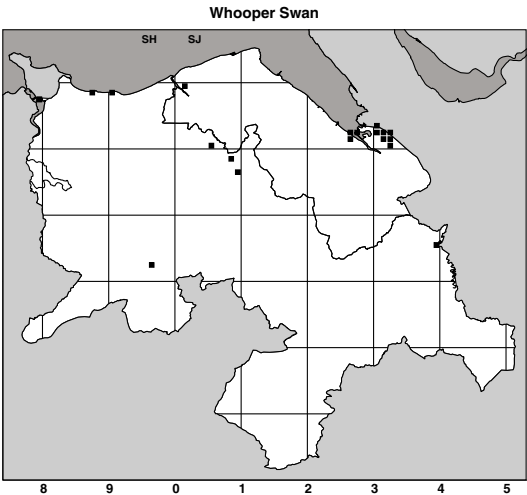
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. During the early part of the year 5 were recorded in the Bodfari, Trefnant, Llandyrnog area on various dates between 11/02 and 18/03 (JPH, ANB, CgR, JDa), and 14 were in the Clocaenog Forest area on 26/03 (JNW). The first of the autumn/winter was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 16/11 (WRM, JHg); then 11 at Trevalyn Meadows on 21/11 (SD) was the largest autumn record. Three at RSPB Conwy on 3/12 and 1 at Llanddulas on 29/12 (JHg, JNW) were the only other sightings for the remainder of the year.

Flints. There were good numbers in the Shotwick Fields / RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands area throughout Jan to early Mar, counts peaking on 24/01 when 50+ were recorded at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands (ACm), numbers remaining high with 30+ regularly recorded throughout the remainder of Feb; the last

ALARCH Y GOGLEDD

(WS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	8	11
Maximum count	14	50
Av max count 2004-15	8	51
Number of records	14	50
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	1.5
Density	0.06	0.93



substantial numbers of the spring were 20 on 9/03 (RyE). The only spring record away from the Dee and the last of spring was 1 at Rhyl on 6/04 (AHJ). The first of autumn were 3 at White Sands on 18/10 (GEM) with scattered records of small numbers for the remainder of the year the largest of which was 10 on 4/12, again at White Sands (DKn).

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Vagrant.

Denbs. Two flew over RSPB Conwy on 17/01 (HC). Accepted by the WRP.

GŴYDD Y LLAFFUR

(BE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	2	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Passage migrant, and winter visitor.

GŴYDD DROED-BINC

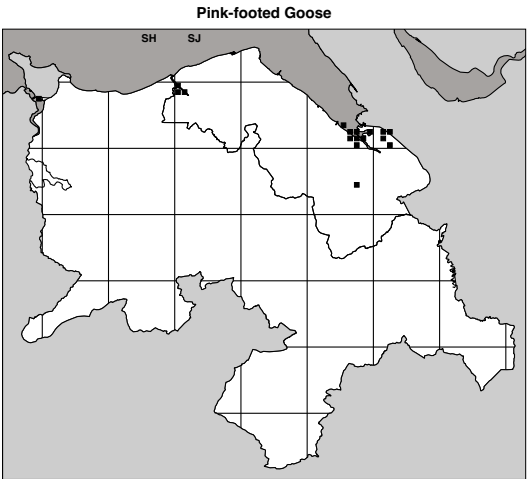
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

This species has steadily increased in numbers on the Dee Estuary since 2010. In Denbs it occurs in smaller numbers and with less regularity largely dependent on the severity of weather in its usual wintering grounds further N and E in the UK and in continental Europe.

Denbs. The only record this year was of 20 at RSPB Conwy on 7/02 (JHg).

Flints. In contrast to Denbs, substantial numbers were present on the upper Dee Estuary from the turn of the year where the Shotwick Fields area was the most favoured location. The year started with 1,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh Reserve on 7/01 (PSH), and numbers remained substantial throughout Jan and Feb with 2000+ regularly counted at Shotwick during this period and a peak count of 4000 at Shotwick Fields on 19/02 (CW). Numbers declined after the end of Mar and the last significant numbers were 400 on White Sands on 8/04 (GEM). There were also scattered records of small numbers on the Clwyd Estuary during this period but in general the flocks remained faithful to the upper Dee Estuary. The first returning autumn bird was a single on the Clwyd Estuary at Rhyl on 29/09 (WRM), followed by the main influx in mid Oct when 2500 were recorded at Shotwick

(PG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very common
Number of 1km squares	1	16
Maximum count	20	4000
Av max count 2004-15	27	1651
Number of records	2	60
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	4.1
Density	0.01	108.66



Fields on 12/10 (CW). The peak autumn count was on 16/10 when 3000 were at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and similar numbers remained present in the area until early Nov when 2500 remained at Shotwick Fields on 2/11 (CW). After this numbers declined somewhat with only two counts of 1000+ during the remainder of the year: 1350 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 29/11 (CW) and 1000 on White Sands on 3/12 (pGEM).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Irregular winter visitor. Red List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

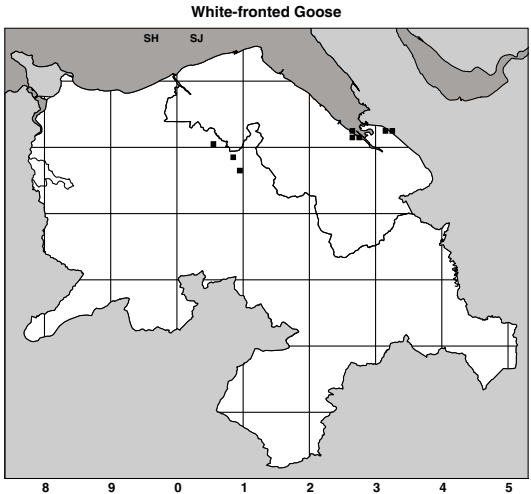
The overwhelming majority of records in the report area are of the ‘European’ *albifrons* race which occurs most often, but irregularly, and any record not specifically attributed to any race should be taken as referring to this one. The ‘Greenland’ *flavirostris* race is considerably rarer and more noteworthy in our area.

Denbs. Two birds of the ‘Greenland’ race were at Trefnant on 11/02 and on the same date 5 were recorded nearby at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari (JPH). These 5 were recorded in the Trefnant/ Bodfari/ Llandyrnog area on several dates until 18/03 (JPH, JDa).

Flints. A single of the ‘European’ race was at Shotwick Fields on 29/01 (CW), and an adult with an attendant juvenile was at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 27/02 (pRS). A singleton ‘Greenland’ race bird was recorded on several dates from 12/02-5/03 at sites including RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah’s Quay reserves (CW, KS, PSH).

GŴYDD DALCEN-WEN

(WG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	4
Maximum count	5	5
Av max count 2004-15	3	13
Number of records	7	10
% of BirdTrack lists	-	-
Density	0.01	0.03



Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

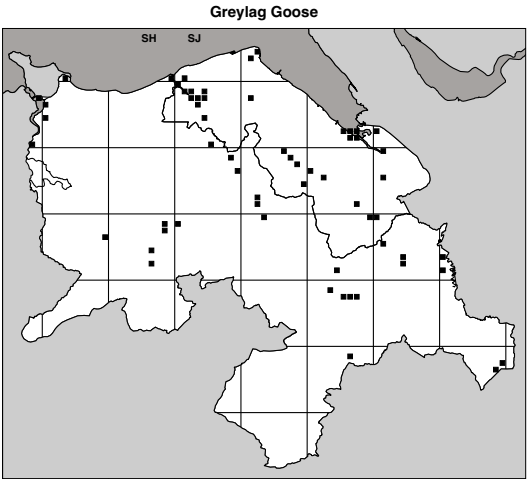
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

This species comprises a resident feral breeding population relatively widespread on suitable inland water bodies. The

GŴYDD WYLLT

(GJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	32	29
Maximum count	400	450
Av max count 2004-15	308	373
Number of records	101	142
Recorded in BBS squares	3/30	1/16
% of BirdTrack lists	6.0	11.4
Density	6.48	22.16

majority of records during the spring and summer months are of small numbers on inland sites, probably indicating resident territorial breeding pairs, though records of actual breeding are uncommon. These resident birds concentrate into post-breeding moulting flocks on a number of sites notably the Dee Estuary and Gresford Flash. This population is supplemented by numbers of passage, and over-wintering birds during the winter months. When the River Dee is in flood the Trevalyn Meadows, Ridleywood and Worthenbury areas of the lower valley attract significant numbers on an almost annual basis.



Denbs. This species was widely distributed throughout the county, though RSPB Conwy, our most regularly recorded location, provided almost 50% of all records. There were only two Jan records both of single birds. During Feb and Mar significant flocks were recorded at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari where a maximum of 136 was recorded on 11/02 (JPH) and at Llandymog where 400+ were present on 14/02 and 160 on 8/03 (JDa). After this records were from a wider range of locations but in smaller numbers, presumably as pairs become more territorial. However, there were very few records of breeding, the only report of small hatchlings being from Llyn Brenig on 21/06 (SM); the same location hosting its usual post-breeding flocks with 232 recorded on 30/06 (GEM) and 150+ on 18/07 (SD), both of which included a number of juveniles. Between 21/07 and 2/10 the only record was of 2 at Llyn Brenig on 7/08 (JVHu), though during this period large flocks congregated on the Clwyd Estuary (see below). During the autumn there were only two records of significant numbers, all in Oct when 100+ were at Fenn's Moss on 2/10 (SAH) and 43 at RSPB Conwy on 14/10 (JOHn). There were very few records during the winter months the only Nov record being of 20 flying over Penycae on 2/11 (SD), then a single at RSPB Conwy on 27/12 (JHg) and the only record of significant numbers in the Dee Valley was on 31/12 when 100+ were at Ridleywood (NHu).

Flints. The Clwyd Estuary was the favoured location in the county, with substantial numbers present particularly in the Rhuddlan area both early in the year and particularly in autumn when up to 450 were on the estuary. Notable counts from nearby locations included 60+ at Rhydyddaudwr Farm S of Rhuddlan on 25/09 (DCR), 100 at Rhyl brickworks pond on 1/10 and 100+ S of Rhyl on 8/10 (AcG). On the Dee Estuary numbers were comparatively small with only two records in double figures, 50 were on Flint saltmarsh on 2/01 (NaW) and on 11/10 when 50+ were at Shotwick rifle range (MGW). As usual the Hope area was the most favoured inland location with good numbers recorded at Fagl Lane GP during Jan-Mar with a maximum of 75+ on 14/01 (GNR) numbers declining into Apr as breeding pairs dispersed, then increasing

Monthly maxima at locations in Flints.

(GJ)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Clwyd Estuary	250	46	14	2	25			400	450	360	300	
Hope area	75		43	15			40+			26		

later in the year with counts of 40+ on 13/07 and 26 on 7/10 (MGW).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

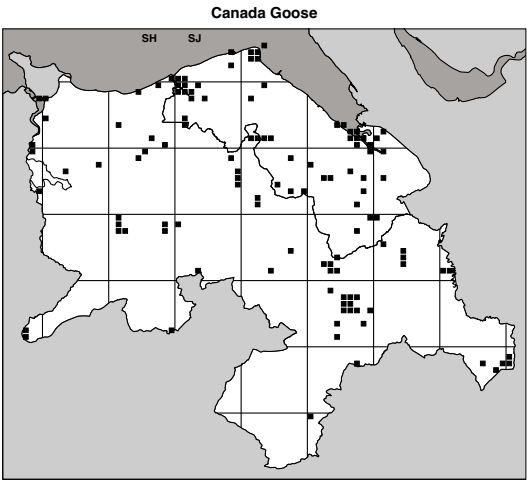
Breeding resident.

GŴYDD CANADA

An ubiquitous species, certainly our commonest goose, found on most lakes, ponds and other water bodies and recorded from both counties in all months of the year. Post-breeding concentrations can occur in autumn/early winter on a number of sites including the Dee Estuary, Gresford Flash and RSPB Conwy, many birds remaining to winter.

(CG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	71	48
Maximum count	450	2600
Av max count 2004-15	389	2472
Number of records	276	323
Recorded in BBS squares	9/30	6/16
% of BirdTrack lists	16.8	24.5
Density	16.17	211.88

Denbs. This species was recorded from sixty five inland squares and six coastal ones, 58% of records being from RSPB Conwy. Numbers were relatively low in comparison to recent years with very few counts of more than 100. During Jan to Mar the largest counts were at RSPB Conwy where the 18/01 WeBS count was 73 and another of 150+ was recorded on 13/02 (SAH). Other locations with significant flocks during this period were Gresford Flash with 18 on 31/01 and 12/02 (SD, AHJ); Lleweni Hall, Bodfari with 53 on 23/02 and 54 on 2/03 (JDa) and Cae Llwyd Reservoir, Penycae with 58 on 14/03 (SD). The only records of breeding were a pair with four goslings at RSPB Conwy on 19/05 (WRM), and a family party of a pair with 3 juveniles at Llyn Aled, Mynydd Hiraethog on 21/06 (SM). RSPB Conwy had 334 in a WeBS count on 14/06 (JHg) and there were 126 in the usual post-breeding congregation at Llyn Brenig on 30/06 (GEM). The maximum count of the year was 450+ at Fenn's Moss on 2/10 (SAH) which was the only record of substantial numbers during the autumn period. Ridleywood in the middle Dee Valley only produced one record of notable numbers with 132 on 31/12 (NHu).



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(CG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	73	11	12	42	27	334	101	6	1			4
Rhuddlan, Clwyd	35	100		30	26		69	493		65	2	16
Llawndy, Gwespwr.	160	63	32							8		28
RSPB Oakenholt	700	5	40	20	21	10	200	330	50	200	100	
Connah's Quay NR	6	2		28	20	20	90	30	3	40		
White Sands	1	300		1	4	3	245	200		600		72

Flints. Numbers appear to have recovered from past declines and the annual peak count was slightly above the medium term average. As usual the middle Dee Estuary was the most favoured location, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh Reserve, Connah's Quay NR and White Sands all holding considerable numbers at various times of the year. During Jan to Mar numbers were comparatively modest, a count of 700 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 25/01 (PeHa) being exceptional. Other notable records during this period included 300 on White Sands on 8/02 (DaK); 250 at Warren Farm, Talacre on 21/02 (DCR); 301 at Connah's Quay on 13/02 (JRJ); 162 at Connah's Quay on 13/04 (JRJ) was the last major congregation noted during the spring period. Post-breeding congregations of up to 300 were noted at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR during Jun, numbers increasing as the year progressed, notable counts being 1,500 on 2/10 and a year's maximum of 2,600 on 22/11 both at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (GEM). Rather more modest numbers were also recorded on the Clwyd Estuary with an early year maximum of 160+ near Rhyl on 14/02 (DCR); notable counts later in the year included 225+ on 2/08 and 170 on 29/09 (WRM), the annual maximum for the site was 493 near Rhuddlan on 15/08 (JHB) a similar location to last year's maximum for this site. Breeding was noted at several locations with the first and only reported nest at Rhyl brickworks on 26/04 (WRM); however, goslings of various ages were reported from Connah's Quay NR, Hawarden Golf Course and the Clwyd Estuary at Rhyl all during May (CRJ, JoH, SD). This species was also recorded from 17 inland locations though mostly in small numbers, the most notable record was of 200+ flying W over Rhydymwyn on 12/03 (MD).

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Vagrant, or birds of escaped / feral origin.

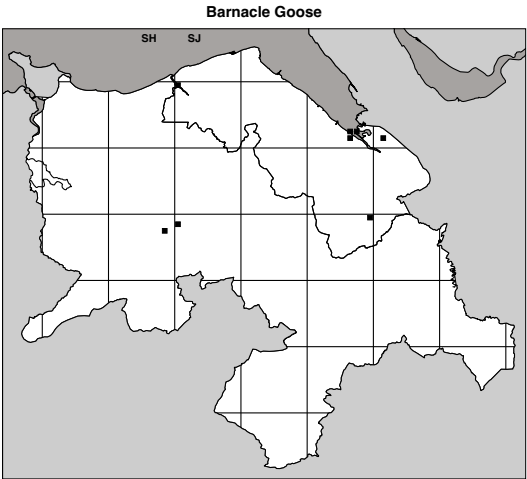
GŴYDD WYRAN

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Two were at Llyn Brenig on 30/06 (GEM) and 18/07 (SD).

Flints: One was at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh Reserve on 12/01 and 11/02, Deeside Industrial Estate on 16/02 and inland at Fagl Lane GP on 19/03 (PSH, PDS, DSu, GNR). Later in the year the first record was one at Connah's Quay NR on 7/08 (PSH), this bird joined later by others remained in the Connah's Quay NR /RSPB Oakenholt Marsh area for the remainder of the year; a total of 7 were at Connah's Quay on 6/11, 8 from 1/12 to 5/12 and 7 on 19/12 (PSH, GEM, NHu). Away from the Dee 2 were on the Clwyd Estuary at Rhyl on 29/09, 4/10 (WRM), 8/10 (AcG) and 11/10 (CRJ) and 1 on various dates from 31/10 to 7/11 (AHJ).

(BY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	2	6
Maximum count	2	8
Av max count 2004-15	8	7
Number of records	2	28
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	0.8
Density	0.00	0.08



Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

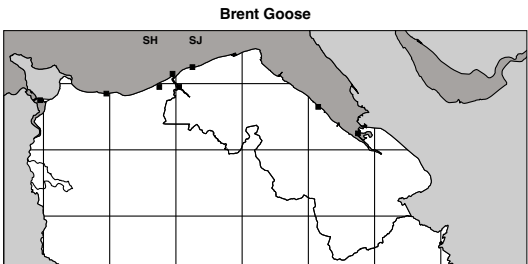
GŴYDD

Winter migrant.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

The majority of Denbs records are likely to be of the pale-bellied *hrota* race of which the majority winter in Ireland though some are present on the Menai Strait and Y Foryd in Gwynedd. Records from Denbs can be assumed to relate to this race unless otherwise specified. However Flintshire records are more likely to be of the dark-bellied *bernicla* race, the majority of which winter in the S and E of the UK and continental Europe.

(BG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	4	4
Maximum count	20	3
Number of records	4	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.3
Density	0.09	0.10



Denbs. The only early season record was 20 at RSPB Conwy on 20/01. In the autumn, 4 flew W past Towyn on 13/10 (SM); 1 of the pale-breasted race was at Llanddulas on 12/11 (RoH), and another, possibly the same bird was at Kinnel Bay on 4/12 (AHJ).

Flints. On the Dee Estuary 1 was on Walwen Marsh, Bagillt on 22/10 (EITh) and another at White Sands on 29/12 (PSH). There were also singles reported from the Clwyd Estuary at Rhyl on 27/11 (DCR), and another identified as of the pale-bellied race on 21/12 (AHJ).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

GWYDD YR AIFFT

Feral.

Flints. Two were at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 12/04 (pCW), then at Connah's Quay NR the following day (pGEM).

(EG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		2
Maximum count		2
Number of records	0	2
% of BirdTrack lists		0.1
Density		0.01

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

HWYADEN YR EITHIN

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

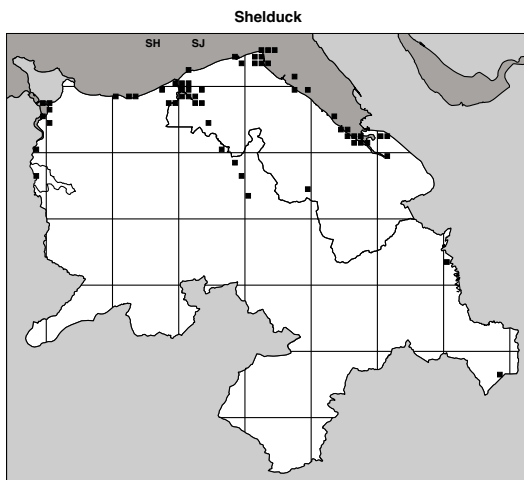
This coastal duck is found on most estuaries and was recorded from both counties during all months of the year. The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this species.

Denbs. As usual RSPB Conwy and the adjoining estuary were the locations with

(SU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	20	39
Maximum count	180	1860
Av max count 2004-15	107	1569
Number of records	194	342
Recorded in BBS squares	-	2/16
% of BirdTrack lists	13.8	18.9
Density	1.82	123.16

the majority of records, 85% being from this location. Numbers were relatively modest for much of the year, starting relatively low in Jan and Feb though a count of 43 on 17/02 (JHg) was notable, after which numbers increased through Mar and Apr to a year's peak count of 180 on 2/05 (SPk). After this numbers decreased through Jun and Jul when 20+ on 24/07 (JOHn) was the last count of significant numbers at RSPB Conwy for the remainder of the year. There were very few instances of significant numbers away from the coast all of which were from the Bodfari/Llandyrnog area where 23 were recorded near Llandyrnog on 8/02 and 20 on 14/02 (JDa), then 14 were at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 23/02 (JPH).

The only record of breeding was from the River Clwyd near Kinmel Bay where a pair were seen accompanied by seven small ducklings on 24/05 (WRM).



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected Dee Estuary sites:

(SU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	10	12	37	118	91	37	6	3		1		1
Point of Ayr	53	77	52	48	75	130	115	130	1200	600	750	320
Flint Estuary	12	27	60			72	85	35	250	185	70	86
RSPB Oakenholt	200	50	30	200	100	1000	1000	120	200	120	86	100
White Sands	235	8	160	197	89	132		19	40		13	39

Flints. There was a significant recovery in numbers present on the Dee Estuary after last year's disappointing counts with peak numbers well above the medium term average. The most favoured locations were White Sands and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh during the first half of the year, with monthly maxima mostly from sites within the upper estuary in the 160-240 range, a notable exception being 250+ at Talacre gas terminal on 21/02 (DCR). Significant numbers were in the RSPB Oakenholt Marsh/ Connah's Quay NR area during Jun and Jul with 1,860 at Connah's Quay NR on 21/06 (GEM) and regular counts of 1,000+ in this area throughout the second half of Jun and again on 19/07 when 1,200 were on RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PeHa). As the autumn progressed the outer estuary was the preferred feeding area with the largest numbers at Point of Ayr from Sep onwards; notable counts were, 1,200 at Point of Ayr on 13/09 (DaPa) and again at Talacre on 17/10 (WRM), numbers tailing off somewhat to the end of the year with 750 at Point of Ayr on 15/11 (DvKg) and 320 on 13/12 (NFr). The Clwyd Estuary held smaller numbers with records in the early and late seasons regularly in the 50-80 range and a maximum of 157 recorded near Rhuddlan in the upper estuary on 9/04 (JHB). The only breeding records were of an adult and five well grown juveniles on 5/07 and another with six smaller ducklings on 23/07 (WRM).

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

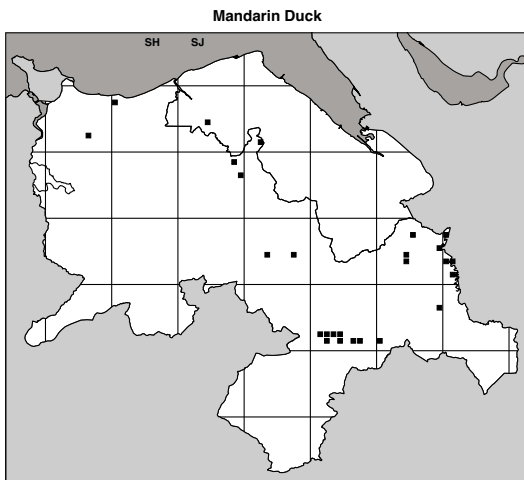
Breeding resident.

HWYADEN FANDARIN

The population of this showy plumaged but secretive species, introduced to the UK from its native China, appears well established in a few localities where there are quiet stretches of river close to deciduous woodland which provides suitable tree hole nesting sites.

(MN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	25	1
Maximum count	8	2
Av max count 2004-15	6	1
Number of records	65	1
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	-
Density	0.10	0.00

Denbs. The number of records has again increased, perhaps indicative of a continuing increase in the population of this species in the report area. As usual the majority of sightings were from the middle Dee Valley primarily between Llangollen and Chirk. Within this area most records are of singles though family parties of females with ducklings were reported from Trevor Uchaf on 23/05, Froncysyllte on 10/06 and Llangollen on 17/06 (DaHu). Other locations with regular sightings included the lower Dee floodplain with a count of 6 on the Pulford Brook at Trevalyn on 23/03; several records from the Holt area between Apr and Sep including two females with thirteen young on 10/06 (NFr), and 8 at Ridleywood on 3/12 (NHu). There were also quite a number of Feb and Mar records from the middle Clwyd Valley around the Bodfari/ Llandrymog area and one of the highest counts of the year was 8 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 1/12 (JPH).



Flints. The only record this year was 2 at St Asaph on 13/05 (PKi).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Winter visitor. Amber List.

CHWIWELL

Recorded in each month in both counties. One of our commonest wintering duck, usually seen in coastal habitats, it is present in numbers on most estuaries during the winter months, often grazing on coastal fields or inland on flooded farmland. Numbers decline in the spring as birds migrate to breeding grounds in northern Europe.

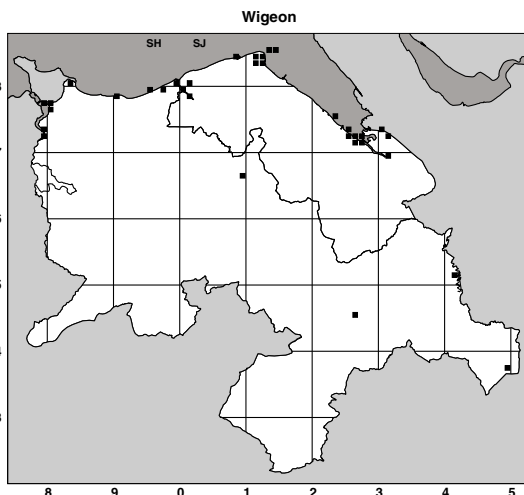
(WN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	14	20
Maximum count	300	5000
Av max count 2004-15	630	1901
Number of records	186	240
% of BirdTrack lists	13.3	9.1
Density	2.13	169.78

Denbs. The majority, 91%, of records were from RSPB Conwy. Numbers were generally very

low in comparison to historic records.

The maximum count of 300 was less than 50% of the medium term average and this record was itself more than twice the next largest with only a handful of counts of over 100 birds. This is presumably due to relatively mild weather in northern continental Europe resulting in fewer winter migrants reaching the west coast of UK. The vast majority of records were from coastal locations. The only records of significant numbers were 140 near the golf course at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 10/01 (MiB); 106 at RSPB Conwy on 8/02 (JHg), and 130 again at RSPB Conwy on 14/10 (JOHn). There were few sightings at inland locations, 10 at Llandyrnog on 14/02 and 2 on 18/03

(JDa); 10+ at Fenn's Moss on 2/10 (SAH) and the only substantial count from the Dee Valley was the maximum count for the year of 300 at Ridleywood on the Dee on 31/12 (NHu).



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(WN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	87	106	36	3	1		1	2	53	110	69	77
Point of Ayr									10	54	120	25
Point of Ayr Fields	616	511	411							32		200
Connah's Quay NR	70	340	34	1	1		1			17	3	52
RSPB Oakenholt	300	200	100	8						50		200
White Sands		23	25	2					12	65		18

Flints. All records were from coastal locations in or close to the Dee and Clwyd Estuaries. On the Dee although there were records in each month, a single bird at Connah's Quay NR provided all records between 20/04 and 9/08 (pGEM, JRU et al). During Jan there were counts of several hundred from various locations throughout the estuary, notable among which were 500 on the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 18/01 (CW); 616 at Llawndy, Point of Ayr on 25/01 (JuR), and 328 at Connah's Quay NR and 397 there, both on 29/01 (JRU). There were counts in the hundreds from many locations during Feb with a peak count for the early part of the year of 750 from the Point of Ayr foreshore on 4/02 (GR). However there were further substantial counts throughout the month including 511 at Llawndy, Gwespyr on 8/02 (JuR); 645 at Connah's Quay NR on 13/02 (JRU) and 640 at the same location on 24/02 (GEM). After this, as Mar progressed numbers declined, the last records of substantial numbers being 411 at Llawndy on 8/03 (DaPa) and 588 at Connah's Quay NR on 15/03 (JRU). The last significant flock of spring was 80 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 8/04 (GEM) and the very last were 8 at Oakenholt on 19/04 (RyE) apart from the single bird mentioned above. The first returning autumn birds were 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 9/08, though the first substantial flock was not recorded until 3/10 when 54 were at the same location (JRU). Numbers increased throughout Oct to the first 100+ count of 150 again at Connah's Quay NR on 18/10 (GEM).

The peak count was on 4/11 when 5,000 were near Flint and 1,500 nearby at Bagillt (GR). This area appears to have been a favoured location for large flocks with 1,000 at Flint on 2/12 (PeHa) and 1,700 at Bagillt on 19/12 (GR). However, such large counts were the exception, possibly comprising short-staying passage birds, and the vast majority of counts during Nov and Dec were less than 200. On the Clwyd numbers were more modest; birds were present from the turn of the year until early Apr, the early year peak count being 250 S of Rhyl on 14/02 (SH). The first returners of autumn were 3 on 20/08 and the peak winter count 148 at Rhyl on 21/11 (AHJ).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

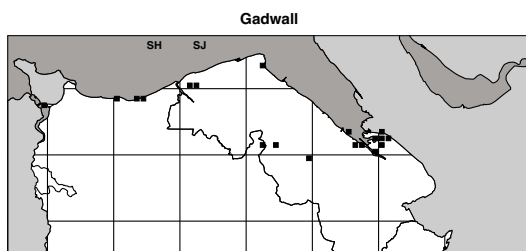
Winter visitor and breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. This species occurred in modest numbers intermittently throughout the year, appearing to favour freshwater or brackish ponds and lakes, with relatively few records from intertidal areas.

Denbs. The primary location was RSPB Conwy which provided 89% of all records. The peak count was 8 at RSPB Conwy on 4/04 (ACm).

The monthly WeBS counts for selected sites are shown in the table below.

HWYADEN LWYD		
(GA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	5	14
Maximum count	8	70
Av max count 2004-15	10	33
Number of records	135	101
% of BirdTrack lists	9.6	6.5
Density	0.04	1.66



(GA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	7	5	4	8	4	1	1	2	1	3	1	4
Shotton Paper Mill	70	41	33	44	47	34	26		10	5	41	62

Flints. Numbers were much reduced from Aug to Oct. The most favoured locations for this species are Shotton Paper Mill pools, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, and Connah's Quay NR, the first of which is of primary importance. Shotton Paper Mill held good numbers throughout most of the year except the early autumn Aug to Oct period when numbers declined (see table above). Numbers peaked during Jan and Dec when the early and late season maxima were 70 on 18/01 and 62 on 15/12 respectively (IMS). Connah's Quay NR held smaller numbers fairly consistently throughout the first half of the year, numbers peaking in Apr when the two largest counts were 20 on 3/04 and 19 on 13/04 (JRU). After the end of Jun numbers declined and there were only three records of 2 on three dates during Jul and Sept and none during Aug and Oct; 7 on 18/12 was the late season peak count (JRU, PSH, ALo). RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands also hosted modest numbers during Jan to Mar with 20 at Shotwick Fields on 25/01, 18 on 8/02 (RSm), and 25 on the Border Pool later in the year on 30/05 (CW). There were very few records from locations away from the Dee. The sole record from the Clwyd was of 13 on 3/12 (AcG); Rhyl brickworks pond had 2 on 23/01 (AcG), and singles from 21/11 to 25/12, joined by a second on 25/11 (AHJ, DCR). The only inland location was Ddol Reservoir,

Ysceifiog where there were 1-5 on various dates between 18/01 and 7/03 (MD, AB) and 6 on 29/12 (SD).

Teal *Anas crecca*

Winter visitor, and breeding resident. Amber List.

The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this species. It is widely distributed at both coastal and inland locations throughout both counties and may be encountered on wetland habitats of any size with suitable cover, but is probably significantly under-recorded. Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. RSPB Conwy was the location that provided 81% of records and all the counts of significant numbers. At RSPB Conwy numbers were remarkably similar to last year with an early season maximum of 142 recorded during a WeBS count on 18/01. Numbers declined somewhat as the year progressed, but were higher than last year throughout Feb and Mar and 23 still counted on 19/04 (JHg) seems to indicate a significantly later date of departure for the majority of birds than in 2014. The only record during May was 5 on 2/05 (SPk) and counts remained in single figures until 15/08 when 15 was the first double figure record of the autumn (AHJ). Elsewhere on the coast the largest count was 30 at Pensarn on 22/03 (WRM). Numbers were generally low at inland locations too, notable counts being 22 at Holt on 13/01 (NF); 25 at Llandyrnog on 14/02 (JDa) and 20+ at Fenn's Moss on 2/10 (SAH).

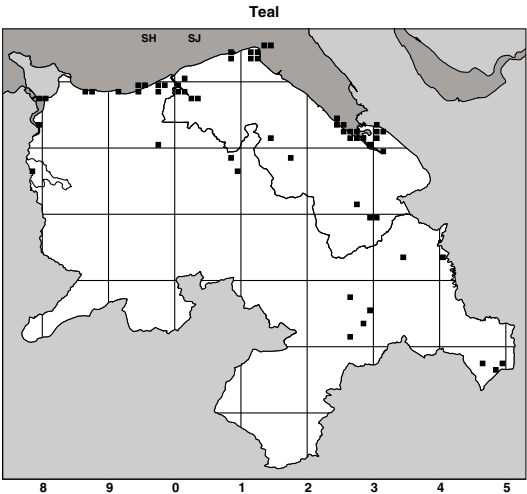
Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(T)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	142	80	45	23			8	16	314	346	110	73
Point of Ayr	50	30	20	30				10	110	150	100	100
RSPB Oakenholt	100	60	20	40				30	600	500	130	200
Connah's Quay NR	69	52	40	9			3	6	50	156	100	63
White Sands	32	3	4	9		2		11	45	63	18	16

Flints. The year began with fairly modest numbers on the Dee Estuary, well spread along the coast, though as usual the middle estuary reserves at Connah's Quay and RSPB Oakenholt

CORHWYADEN

(T)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	25	34
Maximum count	170	6000
Av max count 2004-15	335	1723
Number of records	247	350
% of BirdTrack lists	17.6	17.1
Density	2.15	346.35



Marsh recorded the largest counts. The largest records in Jan to Mar were somewhat smaller than last year with 200 at White Sands on 2/01 (JoG) and an early year maximum of 284 at Connah's Quay NR on 25/01 (JRU); the Talacre area was also busy with 200 at Warren Farm and 250 on the gas terminal pools on 21/02 (DCR). Numbers declined after this, the only other notable counts being 100 at Shotwick Fields on 15/03 (NGo) and 127 at Connah's Quay NR on 15/03 (JRU); the last flock of spring was 10 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/04 (GEM). There were various records of singles or occasionally 2 during May and Jun from RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Shotton Paper Mill, Connah's Quay NR and Gronant. The first flock of returning autumn migrants was 12 at Connah's Quay NR on 2/08, closely followed by 51 on 9/08 (JRU). Numbers remained modest until early Sep when 1,076 at Connah's Quay NR on 6/09 (JRU) was the start of a major fall of migrants. Notable counts as the autumn progressed included 2,321 on 3/10 and 2,004 on 4/10, both at Connah's Quay NR (JRU). Numbers remained substantial during the last weeks of Oct and first of Nov when there were several counts of 1,000-4,000 on the mid-estuary reserves particularly on 27/10 when 6,000 were reported from both RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and Connah's Quay NR (PDS, GR) though it seems probable that the same birds were involved in both reports. From 4/11 onwards numbers dropped to more usual levels, counts being in the hundreds rather than thousands. Significant counts continued at Connah's Quay NR during Nov and Dec including 800 on 6/11(JRU), 470 on 25/11 (GEM) and 448 on 18/11 (JRU). Notable records from other locations during this period included 400 at Hawarden Bridge, Shotton on 15/11 (JoG) and 600 at Flint on 2/12 (PeHa). Away from the Dee numbers were considerably more modest, the early season peak on the Clwyd Estuary was 60 at Rhyl on 6/01 (DCR), and the late year maximum 65 near Rhuddlan on 16/11 (JHB). There were very few records from inland locations. The only location that had significant numbers was Padeswood with 25+ on 14/01 and 42 on 19/03 (GNR).

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

Our commonest duck species, found on most coastal and inland water bodies. Wintering and passage migrants increase the population during the winter months especially in periods of cold weather. Recorded in each month in both counties.

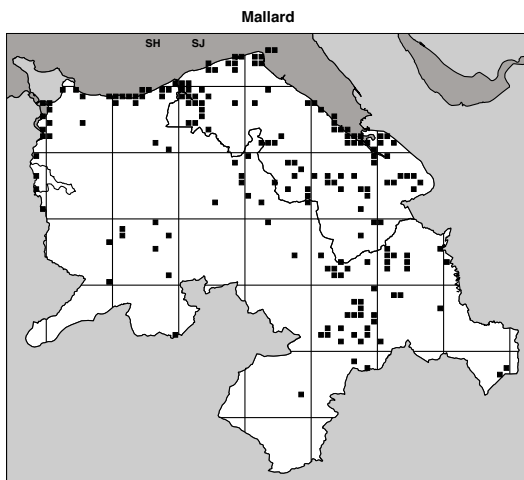
Denbs. This species is widely distributed throughout the county both on the coast and inland. Numbers appear to be somewhat lower after last year's modest recovery, possibly due to mild winters reducing migration of continental birds. RSPB Conwy provided 38% of all records and the species was recorded there in all months of the year. The peak counts for the site are all detailed in the WeBS data table below, the only record of significant numbers not in the table being 44 on 3/01 (RoH). Of the coastal locations, Towyn recorded the largest numbers with early year counts of 50+ on 4/01, and 70 on 7/02 and later in the year 50+ on 10/09 (SM), though again these peaks were significantly lower than last year. Inland, Acton Park Lake, Wrexham held good numbers throughout the year with a Jan maximum of 57 on 18/01 and 64 on 13/09 (GiP WeBS); the only other notable record from an inland location was 43 At Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 1/12 (JPH). Breeding was recorded at Chirk Castle, RSPB Conwy, Alyn Waters Country Park, Llandulas, Llangollen, Llyn Brenig, Moel Arthur, Loggerheads CP, Pensarn, Towyn, Gresford Flash and Moss Valley,

HWYADEN WYLLT

(MA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	100	87
Maximum count	70	2115
Av max count 2004-15	120	648
Number of records	596	761
Recorded in BBS squares	7/30	11/16
% records from GBW	-	1.2
% of BirdTrack lists	34.9	55.5
Density	3.54	312.40

Wrexham.

Flints. The Dee Estuary experienced a considerable influx this year with maximum counts triple both last year's peak and the medium term average. As usual the reserves in the upper estuary were the most favoured locations. Numbers were generally very modest throughout the first half of the year with only one count in Jan that reached three figures with 105 at Connah's Quay NR on 23/01 (JRU). Numbers remained low until mid-Jun when an influx on 21/06 brought 530 to RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and 320 to Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:



(MA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	41	18	10	8	20	30	77	36	58	33	17	26
Point of Ayr	20	12	9		2	1	7	40	65	100	11	20
RSPB Oakenholt		49		5	7	100	100	200	30	150	45	40
Connah's Quay NR	23	35	14	20	18	30	90	56	30	30	7	37
White Sands	10	5	18	49	59	101	78	38	25	26		2

Connah's Quay NR (GEM). Remarkably all the largest counts of the year were from Connah's Quay NR which held significant numbers during late Jun, Jul and early Aug. The largest counts included 1,289 on 3/07; 1,200 on 9/07; 1,621 on 2/08 and 2,115 on 9/08 (JRU). By comparison the adjoining RSPB Oakenholt Marsh's maximum was 450 on 24/07 (GR). These large flocks moved on after the first week in Aug after which numbers throughout the estuary reverted to more normal levels, with only a handful of counts reaching three figures, the most notable of which was 350 at Flint on 4/11 (GR). The Clwyd Estuary also held rather more than last year at peak times with 151 during a WeBS count on 6/02 and 207 on 17/10, both at Rhuddlan (JHB). There were records from 33 inland locations the most notable of which were 68 at Rhyl brickworks pond on 19/01 (AOH); 75 at Fagl Lane GP, Hope on 31/01 (SD) and 80 at Rhyl brickworks on 1/08 (WRM). Breeding was reported from Shotton Paper Mill, Rhyl Brickworks, Rhydymwyn, Rhuddlan, Prestatyn, Padeswod, Mold, Llyn Helyg, Gronant and Greenfield Valley, juveniles of various ages being recorded between 18/04 and 3/08.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Winter visitor. Amber List.

HWYADEN LOSTFAIN

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

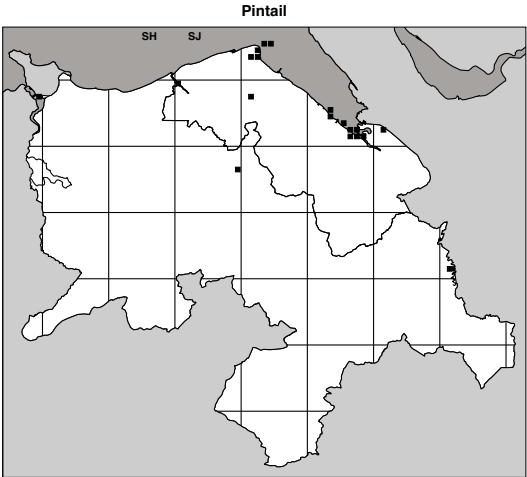
The Dee Estuary is a site of international importance for this winter visitor. Most records are from places either on or close to the estuary, though significant numbers are also recorded on the middle Dee floodplain when winter flooding provides suitable conditions.

Denbs. Numbers remained low. In the early part of the year RSPB Conwy had singles on 22/03 and 21/05 (GaMo), then later in the year 1-4 on several dates between 5/10 and 27/11 (JHg, IMS, JOHn). The only record of significant numbers was from the middle Dee where Ridleywood had 100+ on 31/13 (NHu), though this is still less than 25% of average historic peak counts.

Monthly maxima of WeBS counts for selected Dee Estuary sites:

(PT)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	120	130	2						20	12	170	162
White Sands				43								
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh		60		140					4	150		

(PT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	3	16
Maximum count	100	5000
Av max count 2004-15	447	2104
Number of records	24	64
% of BirdTrack lists	1.6	2.7
Density	0.15	135.82



Flints. Numbers were low during the early part of the year, the majority of records being in single figures. More significant counts included 120 offshore at Point of Ayr on 25/01 and 130 on 8/02 (JuR); RSPB Oakenholt Marsh held 180 on 8/04 (GEM) and 140 on 19/04 (RyE) and the last spring record was 40 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 25/04 (PSH). The first returner of autumn was one at Connah's Quay NR on 2/08 (JRU). Numbers remained modest until 20/09 when there was a substantial influx with 1,750 recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (PDS). The upper estuary remained the favoured location, numbers continuing high with counts of 1,000-5,000 from several locations in this area including 5,000 at White Sands on 19/10 (GR); 5,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and 5,000 at Connah's Quay NR, both on 27/10 (PDS) and 4,000 at Bagillt on 4/11 (GR). For some reason WeBS counts (see table above) appear to have missed this influx. From mid-Nov to the turn of the year numbers were more modest, the largest Dec count being 800 at Bagillt on 19/12 (GR). The only records from locations away from the Dee were at Llyn Helyg where there was a single on 9/02 and 4 on 8/03 (AB) and a single was on the Clwyd Estuary on 11/10 (CRJ).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

HWYADEN ADDRAIN

Summer visitor and passage migrant.
Amber List.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Flints. There were several records from the Border Pool at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands from mid-Apr to the end of May with 1 on 17/04, 4 on 10/05, and 1 on 30/05 (GR, CW). At least one was in the Shotton area on 17/05 with records from both Shotton and a male at the Paper Mill pools (IMS).

(GY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		3
Maximum count		4
Av max count 2004-15		2
Number of records	0	6
% of BirdTrack lists		0.1
Density		0.02

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

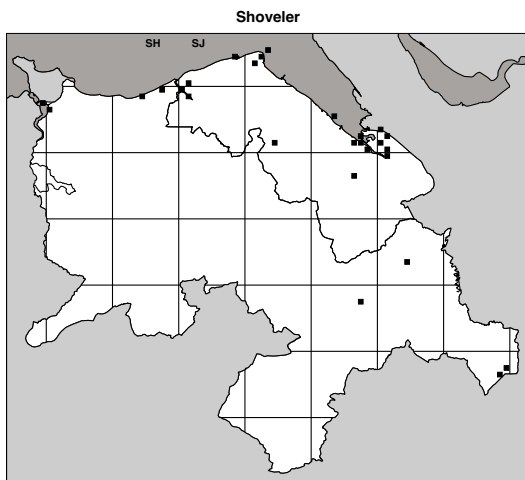
HWYADEN LYDANBIG

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. As usual RSPB Conwy was the only location where this species was regularly reported, returning 86% of records, and this year even here occurrence was somewhat intermittent particularly during the summer months. Numbers were generally low, most records throughout the year being of 1-4 until the autumn when 6 on 22/10 (JHg), 8 on 9/12 (SD) and an annual maximum of 23 on 13/12 (WeBS) were exceptional. Away from Conwy there were records from Gresford Flash, Pensarn, Penycae, Towyn, and Fenn's Moss. Numbers increased somewhat during the spring and autumn migration periods with 15 at Fenn's Moss on 1/04 (JoAr) and later in the year 10 on 2/10 (SAH); 8 were also recorded at Gresford Flash on 14/12 (ID).

(SV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	8	19
Maximum count	15	100
Av max count 2004-15	49	57
Number of records	66	99
% of BirdTrack lists	4.7	6.8
Density	0.06	3.23



Monthly WeBS counts for selected sites:

(SV)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	2									2	2	23
Connah's Quay NR	12	2	7	4					3		12	6
Shotton Paper Mill	27	35	42	7	1		2		6	16	12	60

Flints. Reasonable numbers were recorded at sites on the inner Dee Estuary during Jan and Feb, Connah's Quay NR, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and Shotton Paper Mill pools being the favoured locations. Peak counts during the early part of the year included 35 at Shotton Paper Mill on 9/02 (IMS); 31 at Connah's Quay NR on 13/02 (JRU); 39 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands, Border Pool on 16/02 (CW); 42 at Shotton Paper Mill on 8/03 (IMS) and 32 on the Border Pool on 17/04 which were the last substantial numbers of spring. The first significant influx of autumn came in early Oct with 32 at Connah's Quay NR on 3/10 (JRU) and 100 at Shotton Steelworks pool on 5/10 (DeNi). These may well have been passage birds as numbers levelled out subsequently. Notable records later in the year including 40 at Hawarden Bridge, Shotton on 15/11 (JoG); 82 at Connah's Quay NR on 11/12 (JRU) and 60 at Shotton Paper Mill on 15/12 (IMS). There were few records from locations away from the Dee Estuary, 1 was at Alltami on 17/01 (MGW); 2-3 on the Clwyd Estuary on dates in Feb (JHB, AHJ, CRJ); 1 at Rhyl Brickworks Pool on 15/07 and 29/09 (AHJ, WRM), and 5 at Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog on 18/01 and 29/12 (MD, SD).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Winter visitor and breeding resident. Red List.

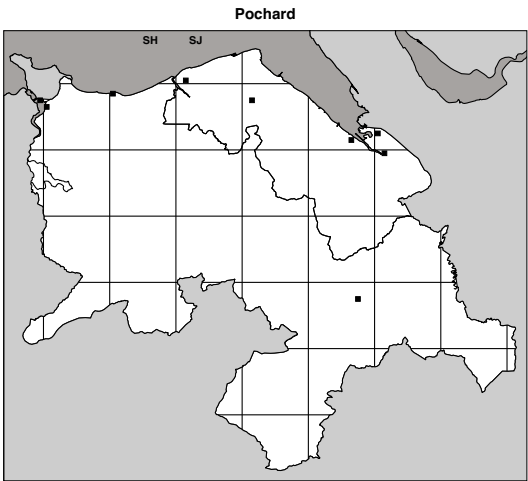
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The overwhelming majority of records (98%) were from RSPB Conwy, the only sightings away from this location being 7 at Llanddulas on 4/11 ((RoH), and 1 at Bryn Goleu, Penrycae on 15/11 (CrW). At RSPB Conwy small numbers were present throughout Jan and Feb with a maximum of 12 on 22/01 (WRM). There were no Mar records but at least one was present from 22/04 until 10/06, joined by a second on 6/06 (AK) and again from 20/08. Numbers increased later in the year with 4 on 30/10 and an autumn/winter maximum of 7 on 19/11 (JHg).

Flints. Numbers were very small, particularly in the first half of the year when the only record was of a single at Llyn Helyg on 9/02 (AB). Later in the year there were more records but again virtually all were of singles. One was at Rhyl brickworks pond on several dates including 5/07, 29/09, 5-7/10, 4-11/11 (WRM, AHJ, AcG); one was at Connah's Quay NR on 4/11 (GEM, PSH) and Shotwick rifle range had 3 on 4/11, 1 on 10/11 and on 13/13 (DvJ, DeNi, GRR).

HWYADEN BENGGOCH

(PO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	4	5
Maximum count	12	3
Av max count 2004-15	11	18
Number of records	88	16
% of BirdTrack lists	5.8	1.6
Density	0.02	0.03



Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Resident breeder and winter visitor.

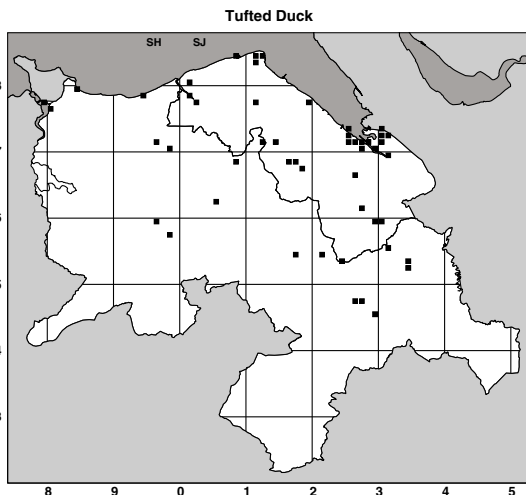
HWYADEN GOPOG

Our commonest diving duck, this species is widely distributed mainly favouring freshwater lakes and ponds, but also occasionally found on sheltered coastal waters. Recorded in each month in both counties.

(TU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	20	30
Maximum count	55	180
Av max count 2004-15	36	74
Recorded in BBS squares	2/30	1/16
Number of records	258	297
% of BirdTrack lists	17.5	25.4
Density	0.56	9.17

Denbs. RSPB Conwy provided 82% of records. Numbers at Conwy were marginally higher than in 2014 particularly in late Mar/early Apr when 29 were recorded on 6/04 (TP), and during the late spring and summer period from mid-Jun to early Aug when there were also counts of about 20 (JoHn). In contrast later in the year numbers were significantly lower than last year, the only count to reach double figures in Sep-Dec was 10 on 28/12 (SD). Notable counts included 22 at Afonwen on 10/02 (JMJ); 40+ at Stryd Las, Wrexham on 9-10/02 (PLa); 20 at Gresford Flash on 19/04 (ID); 20+ at Llyn Brenig on 21/06 (SM) and the year's maximum count of 55 at Rhos-on-Sea on 16/08 (HC). Breeding was recorded at RSPB

Conwy where juveniles were recorded on 29/06 (WRM), and at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari where a pair hatched 8 ducklings, but by 23/07 had only four well grown juveniles remaining (JPH).



Monthly maximum counts, including from WeBS, for selected sites:

(TU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	13	13	10	5	13	11	25	11	6	1	1	4
Shotwick Rifle Range.	17	81	4	41	4	4	8	42	57	5	33	4
Shotton Paper Mill	180	109	102	72	62	60	83		33	69	32	62
Ddol Reservoir	42	33	29									

Flints. Recorded from various sites around the Dee Estuary where freshwater lakes and pools provide suitable habitat, and thirteen inland locations. The most favoured sites were Shotton Paper Mill and the Cop Hole pools at Shotwick rifle range. The former site consistently held significant numbers particularly during the first quarter of the year when there were counts of 100+ in each month and a maximum of 180 on 18/01 (IMS), a 60% increase on last year's maximum. Numbers remained relatively high throughout much of the rest of the year with counts of 60 + in all months except Aug and Nov. RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands also recorded significant counts particularly at the end of Jan/early Feb when 66 were recorded on 25/01 and 58 on 8/02 (RSm). Later in the year the rifle range pools had a number of counts of 30-50

during Aug-Nov with a maximum of 150 on 4/11 (DvJ). Connah's Quay NR held more modest numbers throughout the year peaking in early Apr with 33 on 3/04 (JRU). Numbers were small at Rhyl brickworks pond for the majority of the year with counts of up to 25 during Jan and Feb after which the majority of records were in single figures until Sep when counts increased with a maximum of 34 on 12/09 rising to a winter peak of 47 on 11/11 (AHJ), numbers remaining in the 20-35 range for the remainder of the year. Away from the coast, Ddol Reservoir, Ysceifiog recorded counts of about 30 during Jan-early Mar with a maximum of 42 on 18/01 (MD). Breeding was recorded from Connah's Quay NR with juveniles recorded on 18/07 and 2/08 (PSH, GEM) and Alltarni with young on 1/09 (GNR).

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Winter visitor. Amber List. WBAP

HWYADEN BENDDU

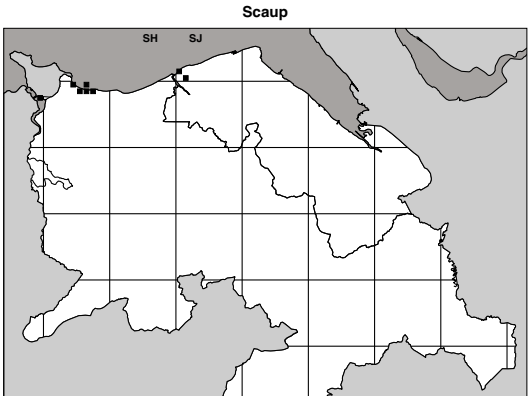
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Usually seen in small numbers on coastal waters wintering on estuaries, it also occasionally frequents inland pools and lakes.

(SP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	6	2
Maximum count	1	1
Av max count 2004-15	6	2
Number of records	56	3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.9	0.1
Density	0.00	0.00

Denbs. The only record in the first half of the year was a single at Old Colwyn on 24/01. One was at RSPB Conwy on 8/08 (JHg) then one was regularly recorded off Colwyn Bay from Rhos-on-Sea to Old Colwyn from 16/10 to 24/12 (RS, SM).

Flints. One was at Rhyl brickworks pond and nearby at Rhyl on 2/04 (AH, AHJ).



Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Winter visitor. Amber List.

HWYADEN FWYTHBLU

Denbs. One was reported off Colwyn Bay cliffs on 7/02 (MJW).

(E)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Av max count 2004-15	1	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.00	

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

HWYADEN GYNFFON-HIR

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

Flints. A female was at Fagl Lane GP and the surrounding Hope area on several dates during Jan (AHJ, SD, NF, JoSm).

(LN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		3
Maximum count		1
Av max count 2004-15		1
Number of records	0	10
% of BirdTrack lists		0.3
Density		0.01

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

MOR HWYADEN DDU

Winter and summer visitor. Amber List. WBAP.

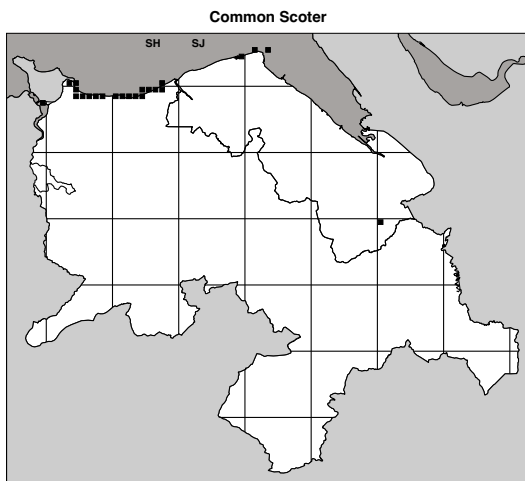
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Large numbers of this sea-duck winter in Liverpool Bay and substantial flocks are present off the North Wales coast throughout the winter months. Locations are dependent on weather conditions but the most favoured locations are from Old Colwyn to Pensarn with occasional records as far E as Point of Ayr. Birds seen during late spring and summer are likely to be non-breeders remaining after the main population has migrated to breeding grounds in northern Europe.

Denbs. During Dec 2014 counts of up to 20,000 were present off the coast, but these declined after the New Year and the majority of records in the first quarter of 2015 were from 1,000-3,000, though counts of 10,000 off Old Colwyn on 11/01 (NFr); 5,000 off Pensarn on 22/01 (DCR); 7,300 off Llanddulas on 6/02 (JHg); 4,000 at Rhos-on Sea (HC) and 3,300 on 25/03 indicate numbers remained substantial throughout the period. The last records of the early months were 50 off Colwyn Bay cliffs on 26/04 (SM) after which the only summer records were 4 at Llanddulas on 17/05 (GBH) and 3 off Rhos-on-Sea 14/06 (MaO). The first significant numbers of autumn were 2,100 at Rhos-on-Sea on 19/07 (HC) closely followed by 8,000 on 31/07. Winter maxima were 10,000 at Towyn on 3/11 (SM) and again at Colwyn Bay on 17/12 (ABG).

Flints. The major flocks were concentrated further W and only scattered sightings were reported from Point of Ayr with 10 on 25/01 (JuR); 50 on 8/03 (DaPa) and 20 on 19/04 (RyE). Later in

(CX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	19	4
Maximum count	10000	180
Av max count 2004-15	11083	2075
Number of records	115	7
% of BirdTrack lists	4.5	0.1
Density	96.15	1.22



the year 180 off Gronant dunes on 1/07 (RSm) was the earliest and only autumn record of significant numbers off the Flints coast, the only other sightings during the period being 3 on 12/09 (SD) and 5 on 15/11 (DvKg). An unusual inland record was 1 at Hope on 7/10 (MGW).

Surf Scoter *Melanitta perspicillata*
Vagrant.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first record was 3 to the E of Old Colwyn on 4/01 (PMi) and last record in the early winter period was 3 in the same area on 4/04 (ACm). The first record in the late winter period was 3 at Llandulas on 2/11 increasing to 5 near Old Colwyn on 15/12 (RoH) and the last record was 3 there on 17/12.

MOR-HWYADEN YR EWYN

(FS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	
Maximum count	5	
Av max count 2004-15	4	
Number of records	18	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	
Density	0.01	

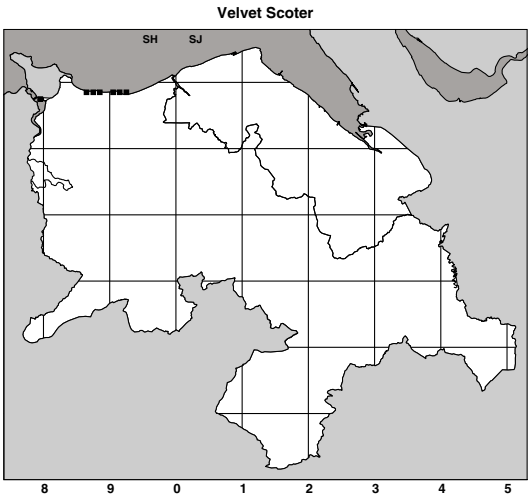
Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*
Winter visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Small numbers were recorded associating with the Common Scoter flocks off Colwyn Bay, Old Colwyn and Llanddulas from the turn of the year and the last spring record was on 21/04. The majority of counts were between 1 -7, records of 18 + on 7/02 (MJB) and 11 on 27/02 were exceptional. The first record of the late summer/autumn was 1 at Llanddulas on 31/07 and singles were reported thereafter on 19/08, 2/11 and 7/11 (RoH, GrJ).

MOR-HWYADEN Y GOGLEDD

(VS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	7	
Maximum count	18	
Av max count 2004-15	13	
Number of records	36	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	
Density	0.06	



Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Winter visitor.

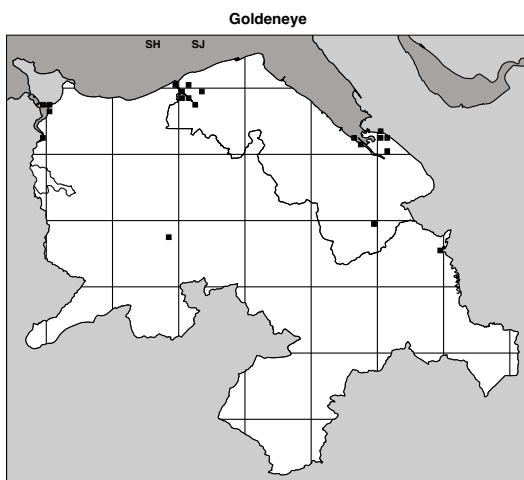
HWYADEN LYGAD AUR

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

During the winter months recorded in small numbers on lakes, reservoirs and occasionally on coastal waters.

(GN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	7	13
Maximum count	7	6
Av max count 2004-15	13	16
Number of records	79	23
% of BirdTrack lists	5.0	1.4
Density	0.02	0.13

Denbs. RSPB Conwy provided 95% of records with small numbers recorded throughout the winter months. The year's maximum count was 7 on 1/01, significantly less than the annual average and continuing last year's trend. The only other records were 1 at Kinnel Bay on 18/01 (AHJ); 2 at Llyn Brenig on 28/02 (SD); 1 at Tal y Cafn on 14/02 (StPe) and 4 at Trevalyn Meadows on 21/11 (SD).



Monthly WeBS counts for selected sites:

(GN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	2	4	1								2	1
RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands	1	2										

Flints. On the Dee Estuary RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands had small numbers during Jan to Mar with singles at Shotwick Fields on 6/01 (AGJ) and 25/01 (RSm), 2 on 8/02 (RSm) and 3 on 28/02 (KS) and 3 on the Border Pool on 7/03 (pCW). Three were at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 8/02 (PeHa) and again at Connah's Quay NR on 22/02 (PSH). Later in the year 2 were at Shotton Steelworks pools on 4/11 and 2 were on the rifle range pools at Shotwick Fields on 10/11 (DeNi). There were sightings of lone birds from locations on the Clwyd Estuary on various dates from 1/02 to 6/05 and 25/09-4/12 with 6 on 6/02 and 2 on 14/02 (SH, AnRe, JDa). Away from the coast 1 was at Fagl Lane GP on 7/04 (GNR) and Rhyl brickworks had another on 21/11 (AHJ).

Smew *Mergellus albellus*

LLEIAN WEN

Winter visitor. Amber List.

Flints. There were sightings of singles at Sealand and Shotwick rifle range on 4/11 (DvJ). Due to the proximity of these records it seems probable that they relate to the same individual.

(SY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		2
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	2
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.00

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

HWYADEN FRONGOCH

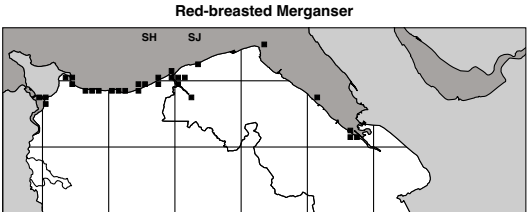
Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

This saw-billed duck favours more marine habitats and is usually recorded from coastal locations.

(RM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	19	11
Maximum count	28	28
Av max count 2004-15	25	15
Number of records	154	25
% of BirdTrack lists	8.3	1.4
Density	0.27	0.52

Denbs. Small numbers were recorded at RSPB Conwy in most months of the year except Aug and 64% of records were from this location. Numbers here were greatest in the early months of the year when 15 on 3/01 (RH), 14 on 21/02 and 7/03 and 20 on 8/03 (JHg) were the



only double figure counts. Nine on 4/04 (AC) was the last significant flock of the spring, counts for most of the remainder of the year being 1-3 until Nov when 11 on 16/11 and 6 on 13/12 were the only larger records in the latter half of the year (see table below). Somewhat greater numbers were recorded on the coast during the winter months Jan- Apr and Nov-Dec and at locations from Rhos-on Sea to Towyn. There were higher numbers near Kinmel Bay during late Nov and Dec when up to 28 (on 29/11) were recorded (AHJ). There were also significant counts at Rhos-on-Sea at both ends of the year with 21 on 19/01 and on 13/12 (HC).

Monthly WeBS counts at RSPB Conwy:

(RM)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	6	4	20	3	2	3			2		11	6

Flints. The Clwyd Estuary area was the most favoured location for this species. During January 12 were on Rhyl Marine Lake on 6/01 (DCR) which was the largest count during the early months of the year. Small numbers were present on the adjoining estuary with 1-4 on several occasions between Jan – early April, the only larger counts were 9 south of Rhyl on 31/01 (AHJ) and 8 on 9/03 (SD). The outstanding record of the year was 28 on the lower estuary near Rhyl on 28/11 (AHJ). On the Dee Estuary 1-2 were recorded at Point of Ayr and Connah's Quay NR from 20/02 to 22/02 and again at Point of Ayr on 8/03 (PDS, PSH, DaPa). Later in the year 5 were at Bagillt on 4/11 (GR) and 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 19/12 (NHu).

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

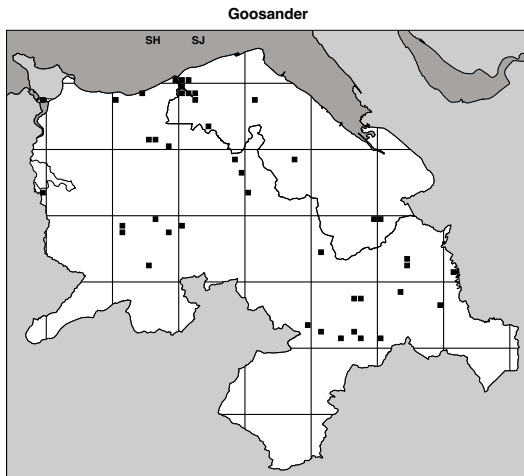
HWYADEN DDANHEDDOG

Our other regularly occurring saw-billed duck, in contrast to the preceding species Goosander favour freshwater habitats and are usually found breeding on fast flowing rivers where there is plentiful fish prey and trees with suitable holes for nesting sites. In winter birds tend to congregate on lakes and meres. Recorded in each month in both counties.

(GD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	31	12
Maximum count	20	21
Av max count 2004-15	20	21
Number of records	64	142
Recorded in BBS squares	2/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	2.3	10.2
Density	0.31	0.43

Denbs. The majority of records (66%) were from freshwater lakes and reservoirs, though the proportion of sightings from rivers increases during the breeding season when there were sightings on both the Dyfrdwy and Conwy systems. Gresford Flash is a favoured location with a maximum of 20 on 16/01 (HL). After the end of Jan there were no records of numbers greater than 6 until Jun when 14 at Llyn Brenig and 10 on Llyn Aled, Mynydd Hiraethog both on 18/07 (SD) could well have been family parties, though there were no definitive records of breeding. Other notable records later in the year were

10 at Plas Uchaf Reservoir Llanefydd on 10/11 (SD) and the year's maximum of 20 at Ridleywood on 31/12 (NHu).



Flints. As usual the Clwyd Estuary was the most favoured location producing 68% of all records. Numbers were generally modest particularly in the first half of the year when the vast majority of records were of 1-5, the only counts to reach double figures were 11 on 2/01, 20 on 20/02, 15 on 27/02, 12 on 8/05 and 15 on 29/06 (SHu, AHJ). The first two figure count of the autumn was 13 on 2/08 and there were a number of such counts during Aug including 20 on 27/08 (AHJ) after which numbers reverted to the more normal low single figures for the remainder of the year. Hendre had 6 on 31/01 and several records of 1-4 between 27/10 and the end of the year (MGW, GEM). Fagl Lane GP had records of small numbers during Jan, Mar and Nov, among which 21 on 19/03 was the maximum for the year (GNR). Rhyl brickworks pond produced records of up to 4 from 1/01- 27/02 and again later in the year from 28/11 to 21/12 (AHJ, WRM).

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

SOFLIAR

Passage migrant. Amber List

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

All records this year were from fields in the lower Dee valley during late Jun to early Aug and numbers are typical of recent years.

(Q)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	2
Maximum count	3	1
Number of records	18	2
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	-
Density	0.00	0.00

Denbs. There were eighteen records of up to 3 birds from the same site near Holt between 10/07 and 6/08 (NF, GrJ), but no evidence of breeding.

Flints. One record was a single near Broughton on 22/06 and the other a single at Shotwick Fields on 21/07 (GR).

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

PETRISEN GOESGOCH

Breeding resident.

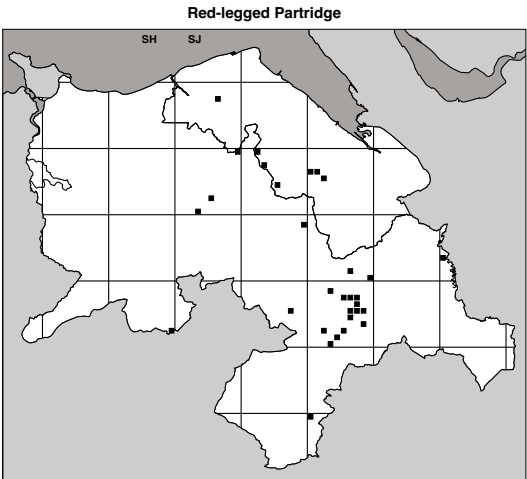
Most records were from upland areas, like the Clwydian Hills and Ruabon Mountain.

Denbs. There was only one record of confirmed breeding when an adult was seen with 2 chicks crossing a road near Saron on 16/06 (GEM). The highest count of 11 was at Trevor Hall on 4/01 (LB).

(RL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	24	7
Maximum count	11	10
Av max count 2004-15	36	9
Number of records	36	12
Recorded in BBS squares	3/30	1/16
% records from GBW	13.9	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	0.7
Density	0.13	0.12

Flints. Apart from a count of 10 near Dyserth on 7/12 (AB), the remaining eleven records were of 1-2 only.

Maximum recorded each month in each county:



(RL)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	11	2	7	2	5	3	2			4	4	1
Flints				2	2	1						10

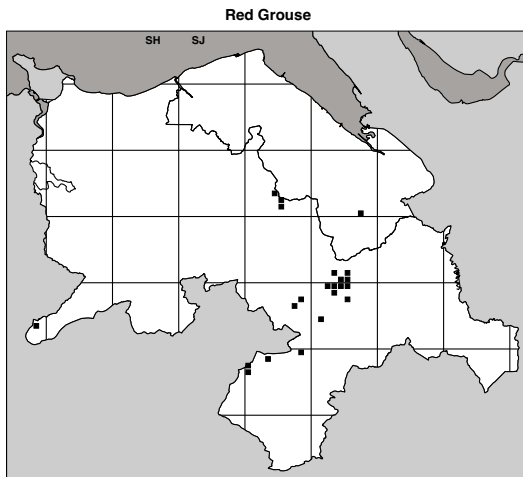
Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

GRUGIAR

Breeding resident. Red List.

Denbs. As usual, nearly all records were from Ruabon Mountain/Horseshoe Pass, where numbers were much higher than in recent years (maximum count 3x higher than in 2014). There were very good counts from Ruabon Mountain of 17 on 19/04 (GrU) and 30 on 8/10, with 11 at the Horseshoe Pass on 24/04 (JoG). The highest count from the Berwyns was of 4 near Moel Fferna on 7/05 (DeS). There were three records from the Denbs side of the Clwydians this year, including two records of 3 near Moel Famau on 22/04 (AOH) and 30/07 (JtH).

(RG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	21	
Maximum count	30	
Av max count 2004-15	8	
Number of records	36	0
Recorded in BBS squares	3/30	
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	
Density	0.32	



Maximum recorded each month:

(RG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	3	12	6	17	4	1	3		2	30		6

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

GRUGIAR DDU

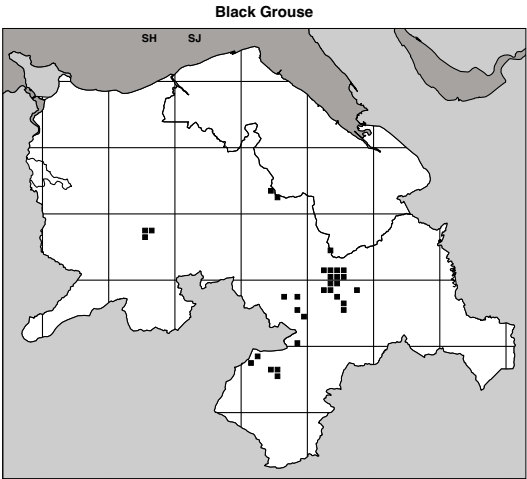
Breeding resident. Red List.

There were no records of confirmed breeding anywhere but an evident increase in Denbs numbers and several reports of lekking males suggest that the species is doing well at its traditional sites.

Denbs. A survey of ten 1km squares on Ruabon Mountain on 25/04 produced a remarkable total of 174, with 87 at World's End alone (NGO). There were further high counts there of 80 on 10/04, 70 on 15/03 (PIW) and 55 on 17/05 (HC). There were only four records from the Berwyns with a maximum of 6 males on 13/05 (pCd) and three records from Mynydd Hiraethog with a maximum of 4 males on 17/02 (MB). From Moel Famau, there were two records of 8 on 22/04 (AOH) and 3 on 12/06 (IW). Most records from the Ruabon Mountain

(BK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Rare
Number of 1km squares	31	
Maximum count	87	
Av max count 2004-15	29	
Number of records	75	0
Recorded in BBS squares	2/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.5	
Density	1.36	

leks were of males, but there was one record of a female with 22 lekking males to choose from (BaD) and another of 3 females with 9 lekking males (GrU).



Maximum recorded each month:

(BL)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	2	27	70	87	55	25				35	1	2

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Breeding resident. Red List.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Flints. A pair present near Penycloddiau on 13/04 (MGW) is a remarkable upland record for a species more commonly associated with lowland fields. There were also records of singles at Gwespyr on 21/06 (PSt) and Gronant on 4/12 (DCR).

PETRISEN

(P)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		3
Maximum count		2
Av max count 2004-15		4
Number of records	0	3
% of BirdTrack lists		0.3
Density		0.01

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Breeding resident with annual releases in very large numbers for shooting.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

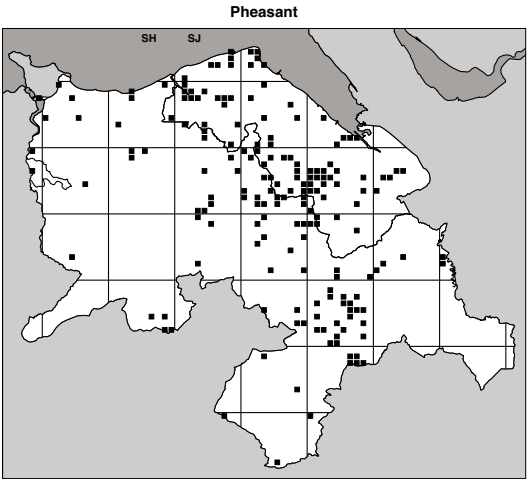
Denbs. The highest count of 37 came from the Clwyd valley at Lleweni Hall on 1/12 (JPH). Breeding in the wild was confirmed by 6 newly-hatched chicks at RSPB Conwy (JHg).

FFESANT

(PH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	105	76
Maximum count	37	30
Av max count 2004-15	30	42
Number of records	275	279
Recorded in BBS squares	24/30	13/16
% from GBW records	23.6	24.5
% of BirdTrack lists	10.4	21.0
Density	1.97	3.87

Flints. The highest count of 30 came from the Chwiler valley near Hendre on 30/10 (GEM). A

male was seen 8m up a tree at Coed Y Morfa near Prestatyn on 18/04 (WRM).



Maximum recorded each month in each county:

(PH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	3	3	6	22	18	7	2	8	6	10	8	37
Flints	14	17	13	22	9	15	2	2	17	30	7	16

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

FFESANT EURAID

Escaped collection bird.

Denbs. The only record, during a Garden BirdWatch at Tallarn Green near the Cheshire border on 11/01 (MA), was presumably an escaped bird. This species is not known to breed in the wild in Wales, although there is a feral population in Norfolk.

(GF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

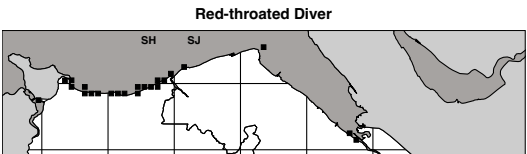
TROCHYDD GYDDFGOCH

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

Denbs. The last spring record came from Colwyn Bay with a single on 20/04 (PEM) and the first autumn record was 11 at Llanddulas on 7/11 (GrJ). The highest winter count was 58 at Rhos-on-Sea on 13/12 (HC).

(RH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	19	4
Maximum count	58	1
Av max count 2004-15	53	6
Number of records	47	5
% of BirdTrack lists	1.5	-
Density	0.56	0.01

Flints. The only spring record was a single at Rhyl on 24/04 (JPH) and the first autumn record was a single at



Point of Ayr on 15/11 (DvKg). The only other bird was a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 13/12 recorded three times.

Maximum recorded each month in each county:

(RH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	31	8	20	6							11	58
Flints				1							1	1

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

TROCHYDD GYDDFDDU

Winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. The first record was at Llanddulas on 7/02 (JNW) and the other at Colwyn Bay on 16/12 (JFJ).

(BV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	2	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.00	

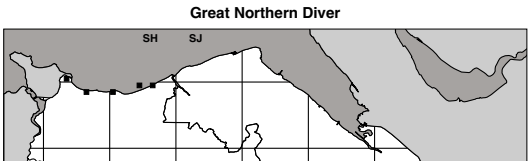
Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

TROCHYDD MAWR

Winter visitor. Amber list.

Denbs. Most records were singles with the last of the early months at Pensarn on 9/02 (MAO). The year's high count of 5 was also at Pensarn on 13/12 (MaO), which was also the first record of the late winter period.

(ND)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	5	
Maximum count	5	
Number of records	6	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.01	



Maximum recorded each month:

(ND)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	1	1										5

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

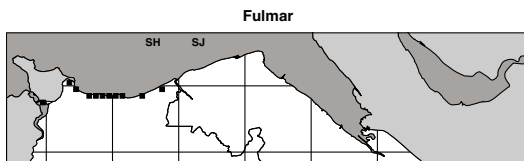
ADERYN-DRYCYN Y GRAIG

Breeding resident, summer visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

Denbs. Breeding was confirmed at traditional cliff sites at Colwyn Bay and Llanddulas. Of 3 nesting pairs at Llanddulas quarry, one pair was using an old Raven's nest (WRM). The highest counts of 12 were

(F)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	11	
Maximum count	12	
Av max count 2004-15	10	
Number of records	31	0
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	
Density	0.07	

from this site on 22/03 (WRM) and from Colwyn Bay on 4/01 (MHu). A more unusual record was of 6+ at RSPB Conwy on 7/02 (RPC).



Maximum recorded each month:

(F)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	12	8	12	1	3	6	2					10

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Passage migrant. Amber List.

Flints. Two were seen at Talacre beach on 3/09 (GNR). A poor year for a species that is often seen in large numbers on migration.

ADERYN-DRYGIN MANAW

(MX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		2
Av max count 2004-15		1168
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.00

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Passage migrant. Amber List.

Another poor year for this species.

Flints. The only record was of a single flying within 30m of the Point of Ayr lighthouse on 26/11 (MGW).

PEDRYN DRYCIN

(TM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Av max count 2004-15	1	3
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.00

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Passage migrant. Amber List.

A very poor year for this species.

Denbs. The only record was of a single seen at Pensarn on 21/11.

PEDRYN GYNFFON-FFORCHOG

(TL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Av max count 2004-15	8	16
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

HUGAN

Migrant. Amber List.

Gannets may be seen off-shore at almost any time of year, though mostly in summer and often far out to sea around the wind farms.

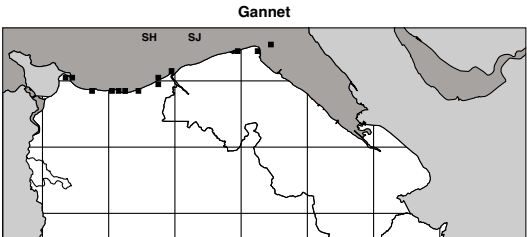
Denbs. The highest counts were 12 off Towyn on 23/05 and 10 off Pensarn on 28/08 (both SM).

Flints. All four records came from the Point of Ayr / Gronant area, with the maximum of 20 at Gronant on 1/07 (RSm).

Maximum recorded each month in each county:

(GX)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs				3	12	8	1	10	2		1	1
Flints						5	20		1			

(GX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	10	3
Maximum count	12	20
Av max count 2004-15	57	75
Number of records	15	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8	0.3
Density	0.06	0.10



Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

MULFRAN

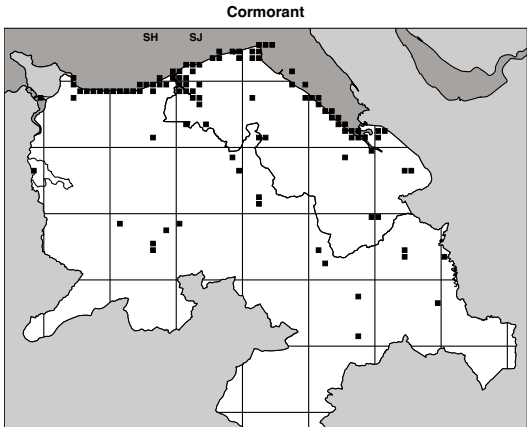
Non-breeding passage and winter visitor. Amber List.

Numbers, which are highest in autumn and early winter, appear to be holding up in Denbs and possibly increasing in Flints.

Denbs. The highest coastal count of 150+ was at Horton's Nose (Kinmel Bay) on 19/11 (NHu) and the highest inland count was 11 at Llyn Brenig on 28/02 (SD)

Flints. The highest counts were of 470 at Gronant on 15/11 (DvKg) and 300 at Rhuddlan on 16/11 (JHB). The highest count on the Dee estuary was 140 on the N bank at White Sands on 10/01 (PSH), an average count for recent years.

(CA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	44	61
Maximum count	150	470
Av max count 2004-15	126	318
Number of records	366	460
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	3/16
% of BirdTrack lists	22.0	32.1
Density	3.34	48.68



Monthly maximum counts for selected sites in Flints:

(CA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant	17	26	118	105	97	208	160	251	221	265	470	174
Near Rhuddlan	9	18	28	114	170	122	128	244	154	126	300	70
CQNR/Oakenholt Marsh	140	24	46	21	12	14	35	27	60	71	24	25

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Non-breeding visitor. Amber List

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

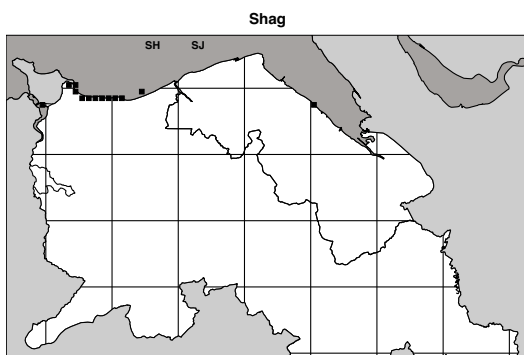
This species nests on cliffs of the Ormes, but visits our region during the winter months.

Denbs. All records were from the coast between Pensarn and Rhos-on-Sea in winter and the last record of the early winter period was a single at Colwyn Bay cliffs on 22/03 (AHJ). The first in the late winter period was 2 at RSPB Conwy on 18/10 (JHg) with a maximum count of 14 at Llanddulas on 7/11 (GrJ).

Flints. The only record was a single at Greenfield Dock on the Dee estuary on 20/11 (EITH).

MULFRAN WERDD

(SA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	12	1
Maximum count	14	1
Av max count 2004-15	5	2
Number of records	23	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	-
Density	0.09	0.00



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Resident and passage visitor. RBBP.

Large numbers occur on the Dee, the Clwyd and, increasingly, the Conwy estuaries.

Denbs. Once again this year, there was evidence of occupied nests in a heronry near Bodnant Gardens (WRM), although no fledged young were reported. The highest counts were of 98 nearby on the Conwy river at Llansanffraid on 16/08 (MiB) and 88 further downstream at RSPB Conwy on 20/08 (JPH). Outside the breeding season and away from the Afon Conwy, up to 10 were seen along the coast at Kinnel Bay and there were several inland records, mostly of singles, at Erddig, Bodelwyddan and Alyn Waters CP (Gwersyllt). Maxima in Denbs have been increasing

CREYR BACH

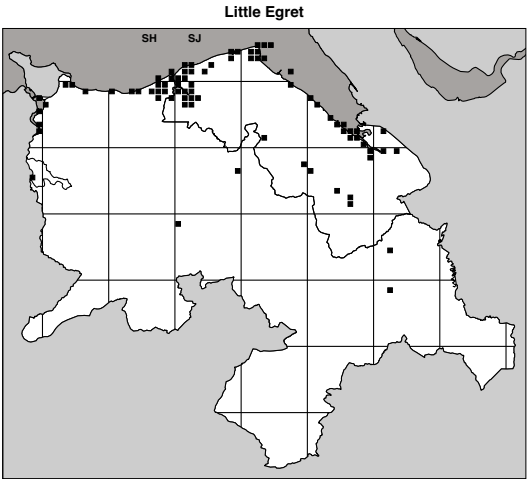
(ET)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	26	53
Maximum count	98	50
Av max count 2004-15	48	41
Number of records	267	375
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/16
% of BirdTrack lists	17.9	19.6
Density	1.29	4.50

gradually since 2006, but have consistently exceeded Flints numbers since 2013.

Flints. The highest count of 50 at Connah’s Quay NR on 13/09 (JRU) was close to the record count of 56 at this site in 2013 and there were inland records of singles at Ddol Uchaf NR, Hendre, Padeswood, Pontblyddyn and Mold. Maxima in Flints increased to present levels in 2006 and have remained at about this level since then.

Maximum recorded each month in each county:

(ET)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	6	2	3	10	6	55	58	98	68	45	17	4
Flints	16	3	6	6	7	30	44	25	50	11	17	10



Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Vagrant.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Flints. This species occurs regularly on the Dee estuary in winter, usually on the English side, but it does occasionally cross the border into Wales and can be seen with a telescope from the Connah’s Quay NR. The records were of 1-2 at the reserve or across the river at White Sands were between 4/01 and 19/02 and then eleven records of 1-3 birds between 30/08 and 29/12, the high count of 3 being on 29/09 (PSH). In the same area, singles were seen in flight over Shotwick Fields on 28/02 (pRS) and at Deeside Power Station on 1/03 (MGW).

CREYR MAWR GWYN

(HW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		3
Maximum count		3
Number of records	0	19
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.01

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Breeding resident. Amber List.

The highest counts were from sites with known heronries nearby, but smaller numbers (usually singles) were recorded from wetland sites throughout the region all year.

CREYR GLAS

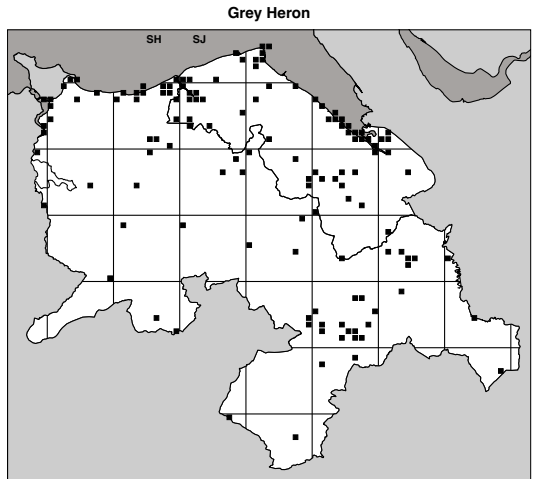
(H)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	76	57
Maximum count	23	39
Av max count 2004-15	18	17
Number of records	367	295
Recorded in BBS squares	8/30	4/16
% records from GBW	1.1	1.4
% of BirdTrack lists	21.2	19.0
Density	0.88	3.77

Maximum recorded each month in each county:

(H)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	13	23	20	5	8	8	6	18	4	4	9	6
Flints	3	5	8	2	2	7	6	20	39	10	20	6

Denbs. Breeding was confirmed at three heronies; at Llyn-y-Briw (23 nests; Mkh), at Efenechtyd near Rhuthun (6 nests; RG) and near Bodnant Gardens (5+ nests; WRM). Adults visiting probable nests sites were reported at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari (18/03; JPH) and the highest count of 23 came from Grove Hall, Aberwheeler on 4/02 (SGD).

Flints. The highest count of 39 was from Connah's Quay NR on 13/09 (JRU), an unusually high count for this location and close to the record count of 40 in 1993. Post-breeding dispersal from heronries on the other side of the Dee is likely to be responsible for the high autumn counts at this site.



Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

LLWYBIG

Rare winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. Three were present at RSPB Conwy on 11/09 (MiB) and then daily between 11/10 and 15/10 (JHg and many obs.). One of them was colour-ringed and had been ringed at the Zeeland Delta, The Netherlands.

(NB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	3	
Number of records	12	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	
Density	0.00	

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

GWYFACH FACH

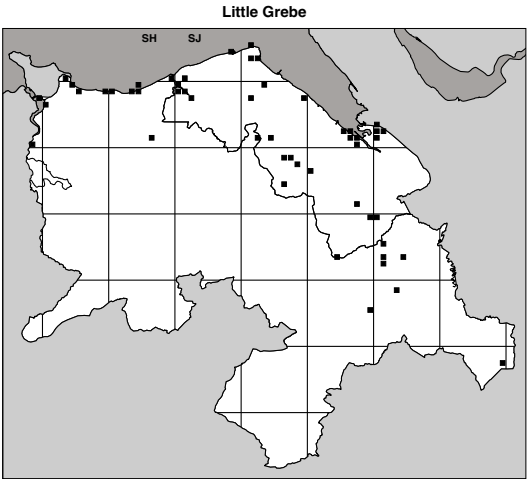
Breeding resident.

Denbs. Breeding was confirmed at RSPB Conwy (4 chicks; AKg) and at Llanddulas Quarry (2 pairs with 4 chicks and 2+ chicks; WRM) and these sites also had the highest counts.

Flints. Breeding was confirmed at Connah's Quay NR (pair with 2 broods of 2 chicks

(LG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommo	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	22	30
Maximum count	10	35
Av max count 2004-15	8	17
Number of records	250	293
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	16.3	11.3
Density	0.11	1.78

each; PSH) and at Rhydymwyn (IMS). Pairs or singing males were also recorded at Fagl Lane GP (GNR), Ysceifiog Lake (AB) and pools near Hendre (GEM). The unusually high count of 35 was from Shotwick Lake on 25/01, with 30 still there on 8/02 (RSm), but all the Mar-Dec maximum counts were from Connah's Quay NR (JRU).



Maximum recorded each month in each county:

(LG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	5	9	4	5	1	3	2	9	4	7	2	2
Flints	35	30	17	18	10	15	12	12	8	18	30	24

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

GWYACH FAWR GOPOG

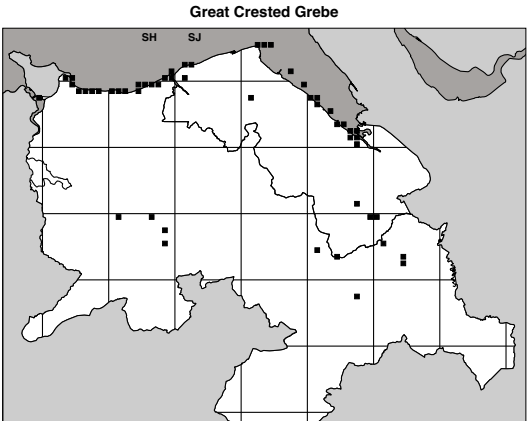
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

This species nests in suitably deep lakes and reservoirs, but large numbers are also seen on the sea or outer estuaries in winter, as the distribution map shows.

(GG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	29	23
Maximum count	35	21
Av max count 2004-15	89	20
Number of records	242	111
% of BirdTrack lists	12.9	6.7
Density	0.51	0.82

Denbs. Breeding was proven at RSPB Conwy with an adult and juvenile seen on 29/06 (WRM). A pair was displaying at Llyn Brenig on 19/03 (MGW). Pairs were also seen during the breeding season at Llyn Bran (SD), Llyn Aled Isaf (MGW) and Nant-y-Ffrith (SD) Reservoirs, with possible pairs also at Gresford Flash (ID) and Llyn Cyfynwy (DeD). The highest count of 35+ was of birds in the sea off Llanddulas on 7/11 (GrJ).

Flints. Although the maximum count in any 1km square was 21 on 4/11, the total count between Bagillt and Greenfield on the Dee estuary on



4/11 was 45 (GR). There was no proof of breeding, but a pair was displaying at Fagl Lane GP on 7/04 (GNR), 3 pairs were present on 26/04 and 2 pairs on 13/07 (both MGW). A pair was also displaying at Padeswood Pool on 8/04 (GNR).

Maximum recorded each month in each county:

(GG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	15	12	5	11	4	3	2	4	4	4	35	5
Flints	2	1	2	6	4	7	4		5	10	21	7

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

GWYACH GORNI OG

Winter visitor. Red List.

Flints. A single was seen on the river at Connah's Quay NR on 22/02 (MFr).

(SZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		2
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	2
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.00

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

GWYFACH YDDFDDU

Vagrant. Amber List.

Some of these birds were present at the end of 2014.

Denbs. A single was seen at a flooded quarry near Afonwen between 25/01 and 1/04.

(BN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	1	3
Number of records	10	42
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.7
Density	0.00	0.03

Flints. There were many records of up to 3 present on Shotwick Lake between 1/01 and 28/02.

Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

BOD Y MEL

Scarce summer visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. One was seen near Llyn Brenig on 13/07. IMS noticed a wasp nest excavated from a slope in a wood near Clocaenog on 5/07 that was probably dug out by this species.

(HZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

BARCUD

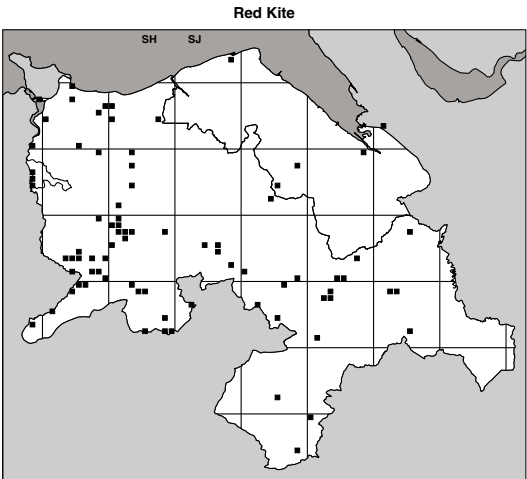
Visitor and breeding resident. Amber List. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. There were a few more records from more 1 km squares than in 2014 and a larger maximum count. However, there have still been no records of successful confirmed breeding reported. The majority of records were of singles or presence with nine records of 2-5 and the largest counts were 6 near Tal-y-cafn on 16/01 (MiB), 6 near Capel Siloam on 17/01 and 7 nearby at Bryniau Bugeiliad, Mynydd Hiraethog on 17/01 (RBe).

Flints. There were fewer records this year and they were all of singles.

(KT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	76	6
Maximum count	7	1
Av max count 2004-15	4	1
Number of records	111	6
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	-
% records from GBW	2.7	-
% of BirdTrack lists	2.0	0.1
Density	0.27	0.01



Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

WAOD Y GWERNI

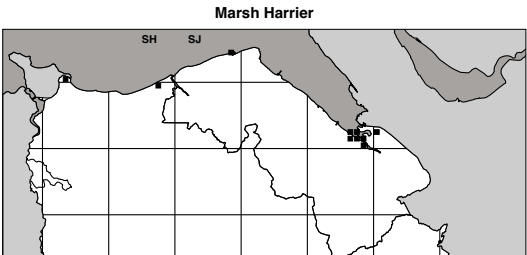
Passage migrant. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first record was of presence at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 1/05 and the last was a single at Towyn on 19/08 (SM).

(MR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	8
Maximum count	1	3
Number of records	2	28
% of BirdTrack lists	-	1.5
Density	0.00	0.04

Flints. The first and the only spring record was a single at Shotwick rifle range on 26/05 (LWe) and the first of autumn was another single at Connah's Quay NR on 14/08 (PSH). There followed another five records in Aug, eleven in Sep, five in Oct, four in Nov and the last was a single over



White Sands on 29/12 (PSH). All but three records were of singles with 2 over White Sands on 13/09 and 3 there on 1/09 (DeNi) and 3/09 (PSH).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Breeder and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

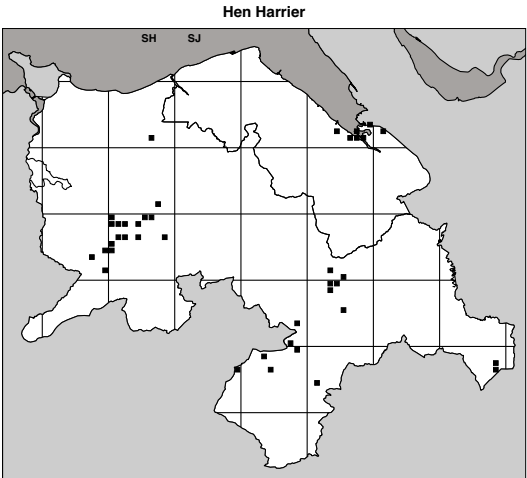
Denbs. There were twice as many records as in 2014. All but eight were of singles with seven records of 2, three of which were a male and female together. The largest count was 3 near Cerrig-duon, Berwyn Mountains on 5/06 (DeS).

Flints. There was an increase of nearly 50% in the number of records with most being singles or presence. The two largest counts were 2; a male and female over White Sands on 2/01 (JoG) and 2 at Shotwick Fields on 14/02 (NDu). The last record in the first part of the year was a single at Connah's Quay NR on 22/03 (PSH) and the first of the autumn was a single over White Sands on 12/09 (PSH).

The occurrence of males, females and ringtails:

WAOD TINWEN

(HH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	33	7
Maximum count	3	2
Av max count 2004-15	2	1
Number of records	54	23
Recorded in BBS squares	2/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.9	1.8
Density	0.05	0.02



(HH)		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	Male	1		1	3	7	1		1	1			
	Female				2	5	1	2					
Flints.	Male	1											
	Female	1	2										
	Ringtail		1							1		1	3

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Breeding resident. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

ERRATUM

2014

Denbs. There were 2 juveniles seen at Esclusham Mountain on 10/09 (PaMa).

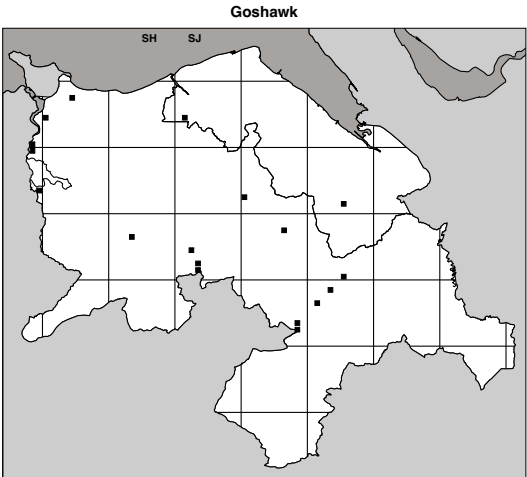
2015

Denbs. The records were of a similar number but rather more geographically widespread than in 2014. Fourteen records were of singles, three were of 2 and the largest counts were 3 at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 18/04 (AHJ) and 3 at Esclusham Mountain on 3/04 (JFJ). Strangely there were no records in the second half of the year.

Flints. The only record was a single over Leeswood on 29/06 (JtH).

GWALCH MARTH

(GI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	17	1
Maximum count	3	1
Number of records	19	1
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	-
Density	0.03	0.00



Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

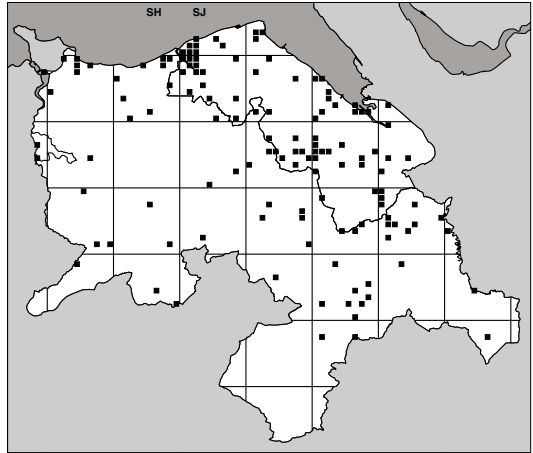
Denbs. There was an 18% decrease in the number of records and most were of singles or presence with seventeen records of 2. There were a fair number of reports of Sparrowhawks visiting gardens and flushing the other birds away with few records of actual captures of prey. MiB had a close encounter as one brushed past his hand at Pentrefelin in the Conwy Valley. The distribution of records was similar to that in 2014.

Flints. There was a slight increase in the number of records and, again, the majority were of singles or presence only. Here, there were just four records of 2. On 8/01 and 9/01 IMS had close encounters with a Sparrowhawk flying c 30cm above the road in Sychdyn. The second time a female flipped over the hedge just before flying into the oncoming car.

GWALCH GLAS

(SH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	68	67
Maximum count	2	2
Av max count 2004-15	3	3
Number of records	383	261
Recorded in BBS squares	3/30	1/16
% records from GBW	59.0	27.1
% of BirdTrack lists	6.4	9.1
Density	0.07	0.57

Sparrowhawk



Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

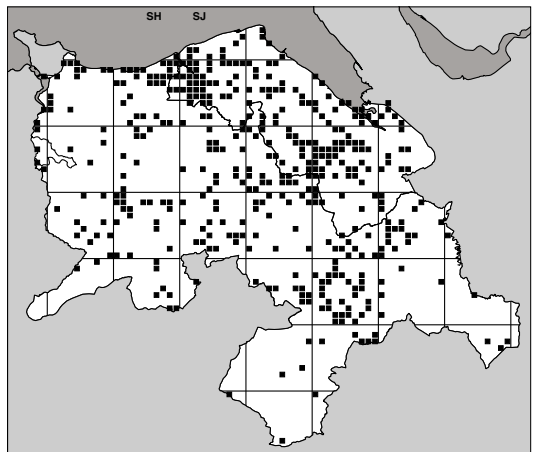
Denbs. There was a 10% increase in the number of records and an increase of 23% in the number of squares producing records. Two thirds of the records were of presence or singles and the other third was counts of 2-6. The largest count, by far, was 16+ over Mynydd Hiraethog near Llyn Aled on 21/06 (SM). There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

Flints. Here too, two thirds of records were of presence or singles and the other third was counts of 2-6 and the largest counts were 7 near Rhuddlan on 9/08 and 8 there on 6/04 (SH). There were a few records of probable breeding but none of confirmed breeding.

BWNCATH

(BZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	266	157
Maximum count	16+	8
Av max count 2004-15	13	10
Number of records	662	583
Recorded in BBS squares	25/30	14/16
% records from GBW	10.9	7.8
% of BirdTrack lists	24.0	32.8
Density	2.69	2.13

Buzzard



Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Spring and autumn migrant. Amber List. RBBP.

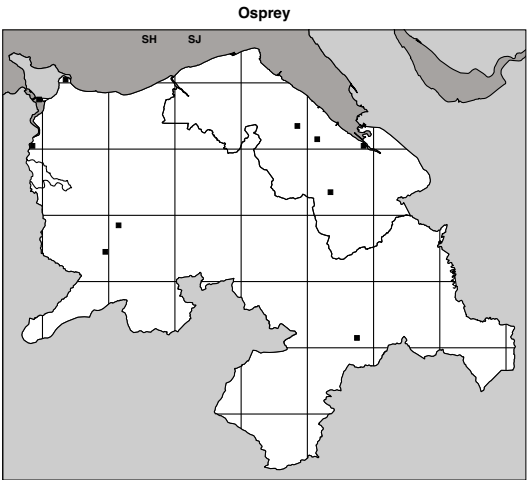
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first record was a single at Froncysyllte on 5/04 (DaHu) and th last spring record was a single seen catching a fish while over Mynydd Hiraethog on 30/06 (GEM). The largest count, 2, was seen at Froncysyllte on 6/04 (DaHu). There was a single autumn record with one, again over Froncysyllte on 30/09 (DaHu).

Flints. The first record was a single in the Halkyn/Brynford area on 6/04 and the last was another single at Connah's Quay on 30/05.

GWALCH Y PYSGOD

(OP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	6	4
Maximum count	2	1
Number of records	12	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-
Density	0.01	0.01



Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

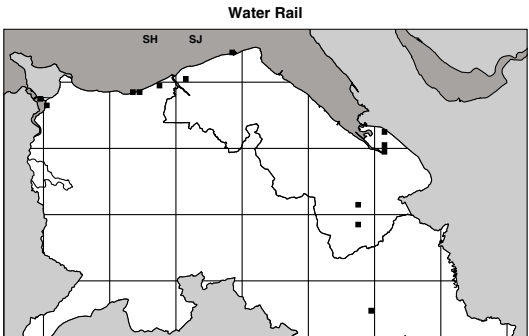
Breeding resident and winter visitor. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. There were about 30% fewer records compared with 2014 and most were of presence or singles with just two records of 2: to the W of Pensarn on 31/10 (WRM) and near Rhosllanerchrugog on 25/10 (SD). About 75% of the records were during Jan to Apr with the last record of that period, a single at the smaller pond at the N Wales Business Park, Abergele on 5/04. In the latter part of the year there was one record in Aug and the rest were singles or presence with the first being presence at RSPB Conwy on 1/10.

RHEGEN Y DWR

(WA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	6	7
Maximum count	2	4
Av max count 2004-15	6	2
Number of records	68	20
% of BirdTrack lists	3.0	2.4
Density	0.01	0.05



Flints. Just under half of the records were during the period Jan to Apr with a maximum of 2 near Coed-talon on 27/03 (MB). The last 'winter' record was a single near Gronant on 28/04. There were three records in Aug with a maximum of 4 near Gronant on 8/08 (NF). During the last three months, the first was a record of 3, also the largest count, at Shotton Steelworks on 5/10 (DeNi). The remaining records were of singles with 2 at Rhyl brickworks on 31/12.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

IAR DWR

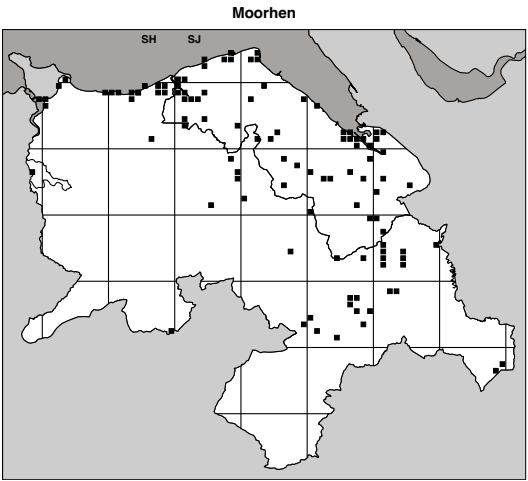
Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. During Jan to Apr most records were of 1-10 with fourteen records of 11-35+ and the two largest counts were 37+ at Pensarn on 14/01 (DCR) and 41 there on 9/02 (MAO). During May to the end of Aug counts were mainly 1-10+ with two larger counts: 12+ at Towyn on 23/06 (SM) and 31 at Pensarn on 20/08 (AHJ). During Sep to Dec most counts were of 1-17+ with five counts of 20-40+ and the largest was 42 at Pensarn on 13/12 (MAO).

Flints. In Jan to Apr most counts were 1-20 with four larger counts: 23 near Rhuddlan on 16/01 (SH), 27 at Connah's Quay NR on 15/03 and 13/04 and 30 there on 3/04 (JRU). During May to Aug most counts were 1-14 with 16 near Hawarden aerodrome on 4/08 (CBro). The last months of the year produced counts of 1-14 with th largest count of 20 at Connah's Quay NR on 13/09 (JRU).

(MH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	54	53
Maximum count	42	30
Av max count 2004-15	22	21
Number of records	470	439
Recorded in BBS squares	3/30	5/16
% of BirdTrack lists	28.5	38.4
Density	1.15	2.70



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites from W to E:

(MH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy RSPB	7	7	9	8	3	6	6	15	12	15	6	14
Pensarn	37+	41	22	13	1+	2	10+	31	1	30+	22+	42
Gronant	3	2	3	6	4	2	3	2	7	9	3	3
Connah's Quay NR	3	2	8	8	6	2	10	6	10	10	5	4

Coot *Fulica atra*

CWTIAR

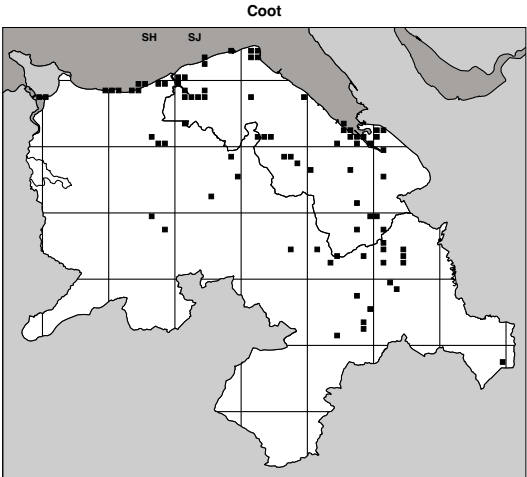
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Nearly 63% of records were of singles (just a few) or presence (the remainder) with one hundred and seventy records of counts of 2-30. The largest counts were lower than in 2014: 32 at Gresford Flash, Wrexham on 18/10 (ID), 33 at Pensarn on 20/08 (AHJ) and 35 at Gresford Flash on 14/12 (ID). There were just two records of confirmed breeding.

Flints. There were many more records and the maximum count was higher than in 2014 and the latter was higher than the average for 2004-15. One hundred and sixty records were of presence or singles and two hundred and fifty nine were counts of 2-100. The highest counts were 130 at Connah's Quay NR on 5/02 and 141 there on 13/02 (JRU) and 180 at Shotwick Fields on 25/01 (RSm). There were thirteen records of probable breeding and thirty one of confirmed breeding.

(CO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	41	43
Maximum count	35	180
Av max count 2004-15	56	146
Number of records	419	432
Recorded in BBS squares	4/30	2/16
% of BirdTrack lists	24.4	39.0
Density	0.73	13.14



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(CO)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	9	3	5	3	6	14	13	10	2	3	3	2
Connah's Quay NR	16	10	40	14	12	25	45	25	36	40	32	20

Avocet *Recuvirostra avosetta*

CAMBIG

Visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Flints. The first record was a single at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 18/02 (MBu) and the third (last) of the early months was 3 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 11/03 (PSH). The first of the next period was again 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 28/06 (PSH) and the last was 6 there on 28/09 (HH). Most records were of 2-3

(AV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares		4
Maximum count		21
Number of records	0	13
% of BirdTrack lists		1.5
Density		0.14

and the largest counts were 6 at Connah's Quay NR and 21 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 6/03 (NGo).

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

PIODEN Y MOR

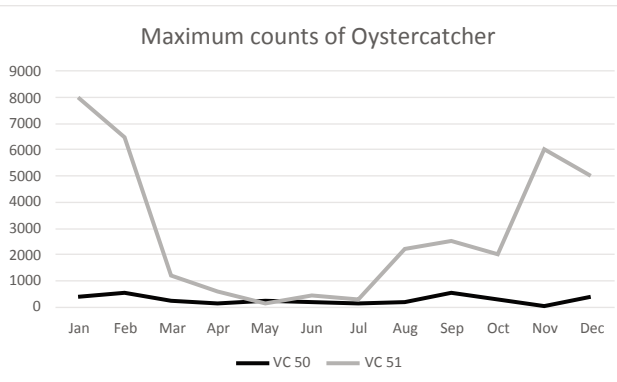
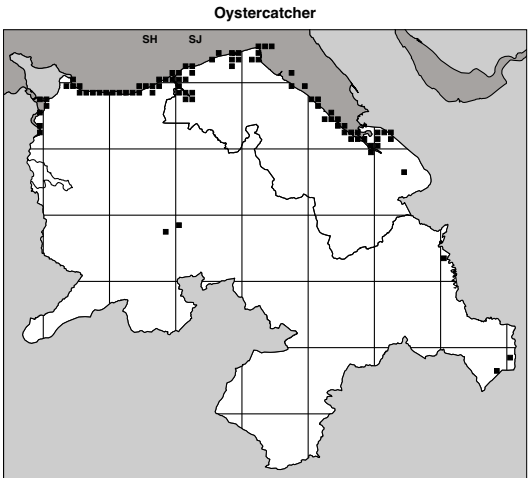
Winter visitor and breeding resident. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Nearly 60% of records were of a few singles and many of presence and one hundred and sixty three records of 2-450+. The two largest counts were 535 at Rhos-on-Sea on 8/02 (HC) and 540 there on 22/09 (GEM). During Jan to Jun the maximum count was 383 in Jan, 535 in Feb then a maximum of 218+ for Mar to Jun. Between 21/06 and 15/08 the largest count was 120+ at RSPB Conwy on 24/07 (JOHn). There were 166 at Rhos-on-Sea on 16/08 and 202 there on 13/09 followed just over a week later with the maximum count for the year. During Oct to Dec the largest count was 381 at Rhos-on-Sea on 13/12 (HC). There were three records of probable breeding and one of confirmed breeding.

Flints. Nearly 21% of records were of presence or singles and three hundred and twenty three records were counts of 2-5,000. The highest counts were 6,000 at Mostyn on 4/11 (GR), 6,500+ at Talacre gas terminal on 21/02 and 8,000+ there on 8/01 (DCR). During Mar the highest count was 1,200 at Point of Ayr on 8/03 (DaPa) then during Apr to Jul the highest count was 600. There were 350+ S of Rhyl on 9/08 (WRM) then 2,200 at Point of Ayr on 16/08 (RyE) with 2,500, the maximum for Sep to Oct with the next large count being 6,000 at Mostyn on 4/11 (GR) which was the highest count until the end of the year. There were three records of

(OC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	34	53
Maximum count	540	8000
Av max count 2004-15	569	8175
Number of records	419	403
Recorded in BBS squares	-	3/16
% of BirdTrack lists	26.4	17.3
Density	9.29	719.86



probable breeding and thirteen of confirmed breeding.

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites from W to E:

(OC)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy RSPB	44	59	95	45	238	326	191	249	259	161	172	77
Gronant	290	403	228	400	38	29	29	1	3	37	8	410
Point of Ayr	4500	2000	1200	600	52	450	250	2200	2500	1500	1500	5000
Mostyn Dock		265	1120	100	95	170	250	42	450	122	1120	310
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	200	200	40	100	70	200	50	200	300	400	500	400

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

CWTIAD AUR

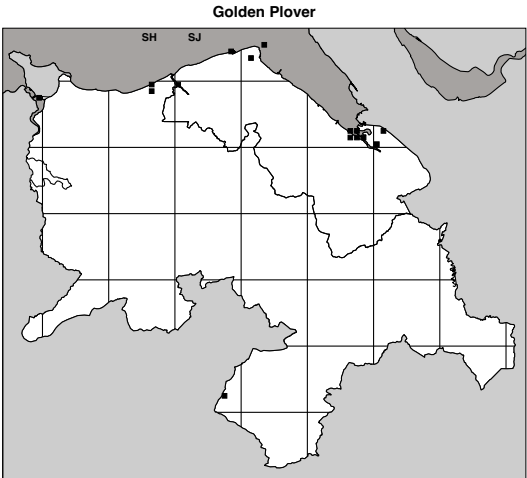
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

(GP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	4	11
Maximum count	40	150
Av max count 2004-15	26	148
Number of records	7	20
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	1.5
Density	0.10	2.80

Denbs. The first record was 40+ feeding as a loose flock in a couple of fields near Towyn on 20/01 (SM). There was then a single at RSPB Conwy on 7 and 8/02. The next record was of a pair near Cadair Berwyn, Berwyn Mountains, on 20/06 so would probably have been attempting to breed there. The last record was 2 at RSPB Conwy on 30/10.

Flints. The highest count was recorded in two adjacent 1 km squares on 6/01 with 150 at Connah's Quay NR (DJRo) and at Shotton Steelworks (AGJ). Other records during the early months were counts of 1-36 and the last was 4 near Gronant on 21/03 (AcG). The first autumn record was a single at White Sands on 1/09 (DeNi) and most counts in the last months were 1-50 with a maximum of 74 at White Sands on 15/11 (DaK).



Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

CWTIAD LLWYD

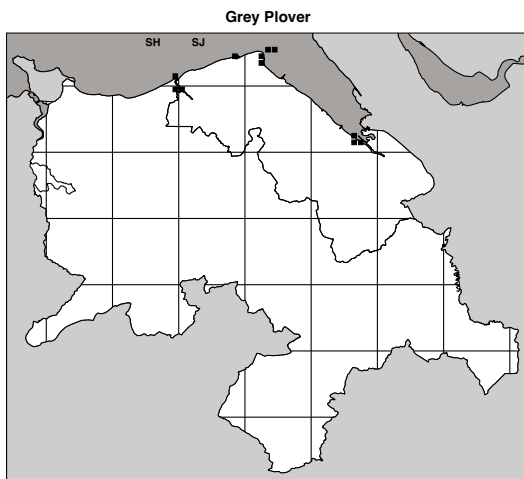
Winter visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first record was 3 at Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay on 26/09 and the last was 2 near Kinnel Bay on 11/10.

(GV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	2	9
Maximum count	3	93
Av max count 2004-15	4	156
Number of records	2	54
% of BirdTrack lists	-	1.2
Density	0.01	1.42

Flints. During the first four months most records were 1-45 with two high counts: 82 at Talacre on 19/01 (GNR) and 93 at Point of Ayr on 4/02 (GR). The last records of that period were a single at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and 3 at Point of Ayr on 19/04. There was a record of a single at Point of Ayr on 4/06 and again on 14/06. The first 'autumn' record was 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 14/08 and from then until the end of the year most records were counts of 1-45 with a maximum of 62 at Point of Ayr on 13/12 (NFr).



Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

CORNCHWIGLEN

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

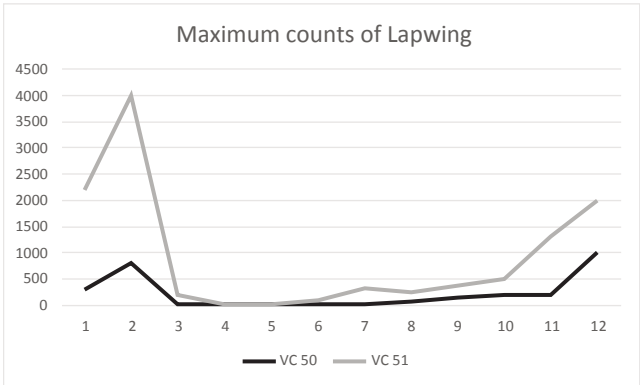
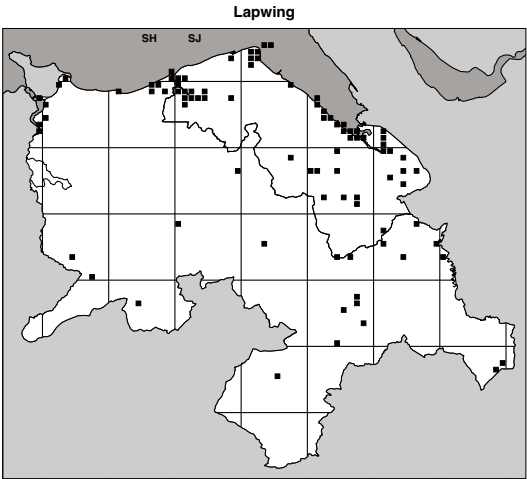
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Almost 72% of the records were of presence or singles and eighty two were counts of 1-300+. The largest counts were 800+ near Towyn on 5/02 (SM) and 1,000 near Kinnel Bay on 6/12 (CRJ). During Jan to May, apart from the 800+ near Towyn, counts were of 1-300+ then during Jun to Aug they were 1-70+. During Sep to Dec counts were mainly 1-300+. There were two records of probable breeding.

(L)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	36	55
Maximum count	1000	4000
Av max count 2004-15	1711	2540
Number of records	307	310
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	3/16
% of BirdTrack lists	19.6	17.0
Density	18.22	373.51

Flints. Only about 15% of records were of presence or singles and the remainder were mainly counts of 2-3,000 with the largest count of 4,000 on barley stubble at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 12/02 (CW). The largest counts were during Jan and Feb with 1-3,000. After the maximum count by CW numbers dropped considerably so that during Mar to May they were 1-200 then during Jun to Aug counts were generally 1-90 with two peaks. There was a high

count of 316 on 3/07 at Connah's Quay NR with four other counts in Jul of 100-231, then in Aug the high count was 250+ S of Rhyl with five other counts of 100-230. During Sep and Oct most counts were 1-371 with two higher counts: 378 at Connah's Quay NR on 6/09 (JRU) and 500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 27/10 (GR). During Nov and Dec numbers increased still further with maxima of 1,300+ at Talacre dunes on 27/11 (DCR) and 2,000 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 14/12 (CW). There were four records of probable breeding and two of confirmed breeding.



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites from W to E:

(L)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Conwy RSPB	38	189	10	5	3	5	13	23		30	83	89
Gronant		93										29
Point of Ayr									1	70		
White Sands	350	3						2		98	1000	250
Oakenholt	300	20						37		50	300	1000

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

CWTIAD TORCHOG BACH

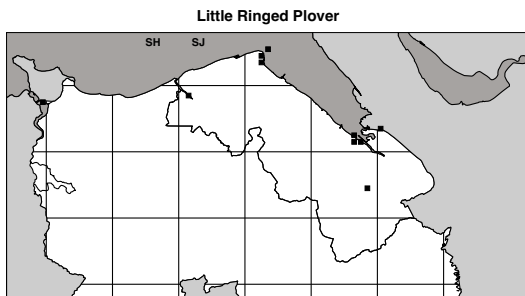
Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first record was single at RSPB Conwy on 31/03 and the last was of presence there on 10/08.

(LP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	9
Maximum count	1	5
Av max count 2004-15	3	4
Number of records	5	37
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	1.5
Density	0.00	0.09

Flints. The first record was a single at Connah's Quay NR on 29/03 and the last record was 2 there on 16/07. Most other records were of 1-2 with 4 at Connah's Quay NR on 13/04 (JRU) and 5 near Buckley on 16/06 and 25/06 with 2 adults and 3 chicks (the latter were ringed, IMS). There was one record of probable breeding and two of confirmed breeding.



Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

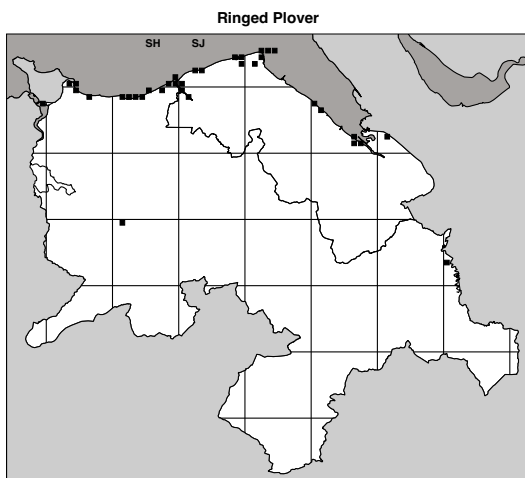
CWTIAD TORCHOG

Breeding resident and passage migrant. Red List. WBAP.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The majority of records was during Jan to May with a maximum count of 35+ at Rhos-on-Sea on 5/01 (WRM) and the latest 'large' count was 25+ near Kinnel Bay on 4/04 (WRM). Most other records in that period were of 1-10 with nine records of 11-30. Between 2/05 and 17/08 the largest counts were four records of 2 and one of 3. In the autumn the first large count was 60+ at Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay on 18/08 (SM) and 70+ at Kinnel Bay on 25/10 (WRM), with 75 at Horton's Nose on 28/12 (AHJ). Other counts in autumn were 1-8. There were four records of probable breeding.

(RP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	16	19
Maximum count	75	100
Av max count 2004-15	53	191
Number of records	70	85
% of BirdTrack lists	2.7	4.6
Density	0.61	3.23



Flints. Here, during Jan to May the highest counts were just 28 near Gronant on 21/04 (GNR), 20+ at

Talacre on 11/04 (SD) and near Gronant on 21/05 (WRM) and 30 at Point of Ayr on 29/07 (GR). Other counts during that period were 2-14+ with one count of 32 at Point of Ayr on 29/07 (GR). In autumn there was a gradual build up from 12 on 14/08 at Connah's Quay NR to 100 S of Rhyl on 20/08 (MAO) which was the maximum for the year. Other counts were of 1-40+ with 90+ S of Rhyl on 6/09 (WRM). There were two records of probable breeding and five records of confirmed breeding all from the Gronant/Talacre coast, including 6 nestlings ringed in Jul (pBH).

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites:

(RP)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gronant				6	5	4	7		18		1	
Point of Ayr		1	6		2	4		35	75	30		18

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

COEGYLFINIR

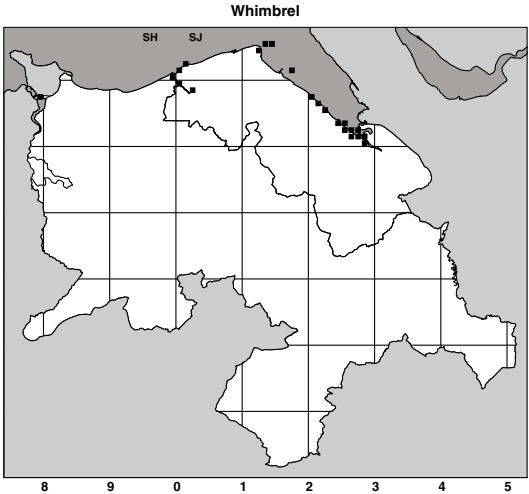
Passage migrant and summer visitor.
Amber List. RBBP.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

(WM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	2	20
Maximum count	5	32
Av max count 2004-15	21	25
Number of records	38	59
% of BirdTrack lists	2.6	1.0
Density	0.01	1.09

Denbs. The first record was a single at RSPB Conwy on 23/03 with most records of presence or 1-2. The largest counts were 4 at RSPB Conwy on 12/05 and 22/05 and 5 there on 18/05 (JHg). The last record was presence near Kinmel Bay on 29/10 (JoG). Clearly, numbers were considerably lower than had been seen in recent years although Whimbrel were included in a slightly increased percentage of BirdTrack lists.

Flints. The first record was of a single S of Rhyl on 30/03 (AHJ) and most records were of 1-7. The largest counts were all within a three-week period with 16 S of Rhyl on 19/04, 17 on the saltmarsh at Flint on 27/04, 11 at Rhyl on 4/05 and 32 S of Rhyl on the same day. These counts were more in line with those of previous years. The last record was 2 at White Sands on 1/09 (DeNi).



Curlew *Numenius arquata*

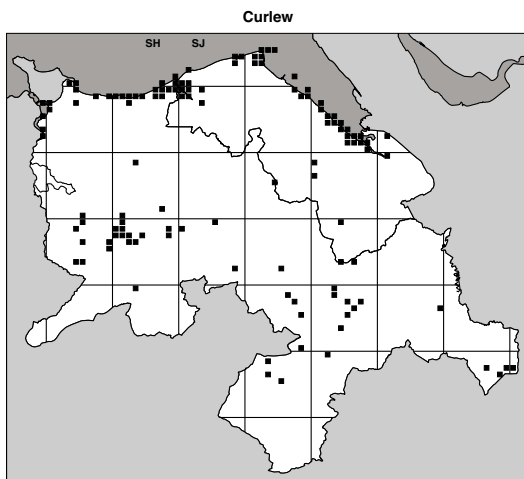
GYLFINIR

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

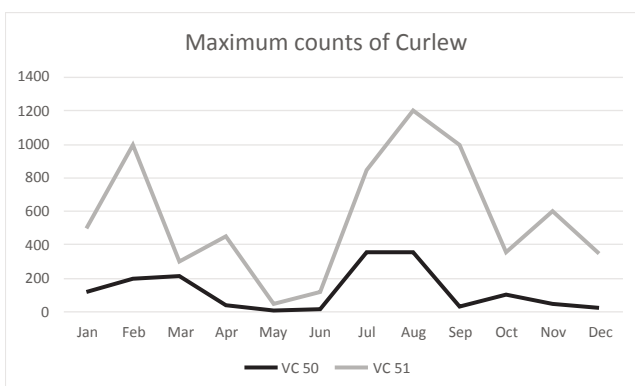
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. There was a slight reduction in the number of records and a small decrease in the percentage of BirdTrack lists which included Curlew. The graph, below, shows how maximum counts varied through the year. The spring peak was 214+ at RSPB Conwy on 19/03 followed by a drop during the early summer months. Most records, there, at that time were of presence only so presumably not in particularly large numbers. That changed on 15/07 when there were 356 (JHg), followed by a maximum of 360+ on 5/08 (JOHn) after which numbers quickly dropped off and 104 were in the estuary by the reserve on 12/10 (IMS). The largest count after that was 50+ at RSPB Conwy on 1/11 (SM). There were fourteen records of possible breeding and six of probable breeding.

(CU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	77	46
Maximum count	360	1200
Av max count 2004-15	386	1341
Number of records	353	382
Recorded in BBS squares	3/30	2/16
% of BirdTrack lists	20.4	19.0
Density	14.03	93.72



Flints. The overall shape of the graph is similar to that for Denbs. but the numbers are considerably greater. The peak early in the year was 1,000+ at the gas terminal at Talacre on 21/02 (DCR) with a drop to a maximum of 450 at Point of Ayr on 19/04 (RyE). The lowest maxima were in May (50 on 8/05) and Jun (120 on 14/06) following which numbers rose to 850 on 19/07 at Point of Ayr (PMi)



and 1,200 there on 16/08 (RyE) with a Sep maximum of 1,000 there on 13/09 (DaPa). During

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites from W to E:

(CU)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	40	160	22	89	6	26	329	367	313	125	67	34
Point of Ayr	500	350	300	450	32	120	850	1200	1000	350	600	350
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	36	50	30	30	20	20		60	50	30	56	50

the early months of winter the peak count was 600 at Point of Ayr on 15/11 (DvKg). There was one record of probable breeding.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

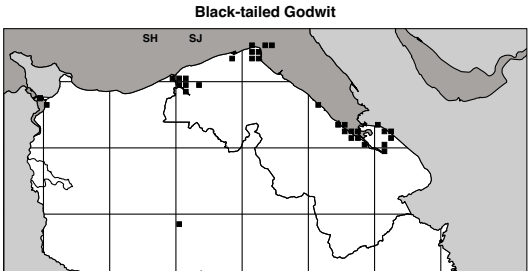
RHOSTOG GYNFFONDDU

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

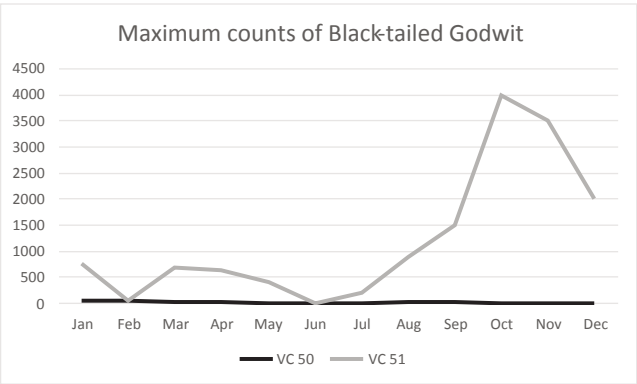
(BW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	4	29
Maximum count	45	4000
Av max count 2004-15	44	4519
Number of records	168	256
% of BirdTrack lists	11.0	11.4
Density	0.09	196.94

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. As can be seen in the graph, below, the maximum counts in Denbs. are insignificant compared with those in Flints. (NB the slight deflections on the horizontal axis). During Jan to Apr the mamimum was 45 at RSPB Conwy on 8/02 and about 20-40 were there throughout Jan and Feb. Numbers dropped slightly in Mar until a count of 30+ there on 6/04 (TP). From then there was a maximum of 14 until the last week in Aug when there were 19-23 and 33 on 26/08 (JHg). During Sep there were 6-25 after which there were just 1-11 until the end of the year.



Flints. During the first half of the year the maximum count was 770 at Connah's Quay NR on 6/01 (PDS) then 680 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 19/03, 640 there on 2/04 (GEM) and 400 at Border Pool, RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 10/05 (CW). There was just one count of 3 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh in Jun then an increase to a maximum of 200 at Shotton Steelworks pool (DeNi) after which numbers increased considerably to a peak of 4,000 at Point of Ayr on 31/10 (GR). In Nov and Dec the maxima reduced to 3,500 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 26/11 (PDS) and 2,000 at Flint on 2/12 (PeHa).



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites from W to E:

(BW)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	13	45	51	8			9	21	22	4		4
Point of Ayr	1								4	25		
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	120		60	170		3	2	150	200	200		300

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP.

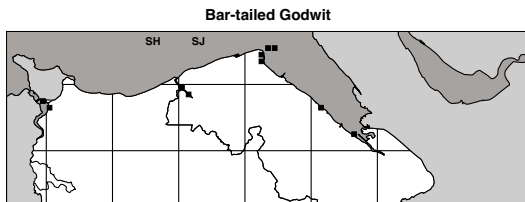
RHOSTOG GYNFFFRONFRITH

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. There were many fewer records during fewer months than in 2014 and all were from RSPB Conwy. The first was 3 on 20/08 with records of presence in Sep and 2 on 17/09 with presence on 27/09 the last of the year.

Flints. During Jan there were five records of 1-2, one of 7 and a maximum of 10+ on 8/01 at the gas terminal, Talacre (DCR). The first in Mar was 1 S of Rhyl and 4 at Point of Ayr on 8/03. There followed records of 1-7 until 17 at Point of Ayr on 13/09 (DaPa). The remaining few records were of 1-20+ with 62 at Point of Ayr on 18/10 (PMi).

(BA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Common
Number of 1km squares	2	8
Maximum count	3	62
Av max count 2004-15	25	85
Number of records	6	28
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	1.5
Density	0.00	0.84



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites from W to E:

(BA)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy								3	2			
Point of Ayr	7		4			7	9	2	17	62	12	13

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

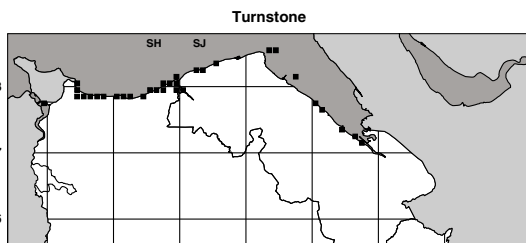
Winter visitor and passage migrant. Amber List.

CWTIAD Y TRAETH

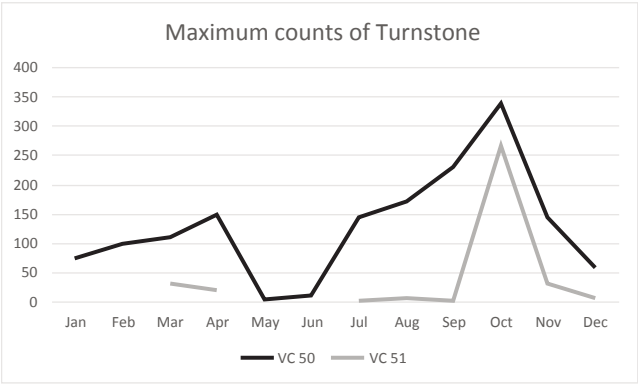
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. There were about 59% more records compared with 2014 and the percentage of BirdTrack lists including Turnstone also increased. During the first half of the year the maximum count was 150+ near Kinmel Bay on 4/04 (WRM) with the other monthly high counts at Llanddulas beach, Pensarn or Kinmel Bay. After the quiet period during May and Jun there were 145+ near Kinmel Bay on 29/07 (WRM) increasing to a late year maximum of 338 near Kinmel Bay.

(TT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	20	12
Maximum count	338	266
Av max count 2004-15	163	79
Number of records	124	35
% of BirdTrack lists	5.2	1.2
Density	3.42	5.42



Flints. In Jan the maximum was 5 NE of Rhyl on 11/01 then in Mar the maximum was 32 at Mostyn on 8/03 then 20 there on 19/04 which was the last record before the breeding season. The first 'autumn' record was 2 at Point of Ayr on 19/07. Numbers stayed low (1-9) until a maximum of 266 at Rhyl harbour on 4/10 (CRJ) after which most counts were 1-22 with 32 NE of Rhyl on 6/11 (DCR).



Knot *Calidris canutus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

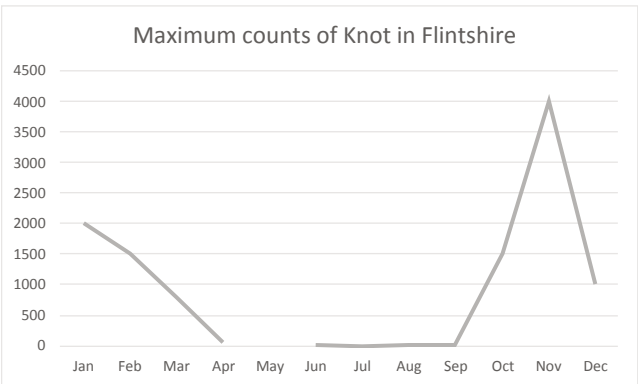
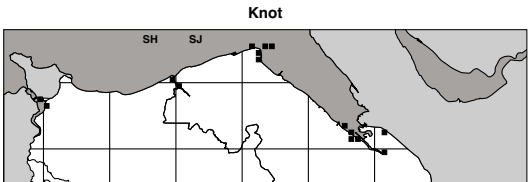
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The Apr record was a single near Kinnel Bay on 4/04 and the other records were of a single or presence.

(KN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	3	12
Maximum count	1	4000
Av max count 2004-15	9	5725
Number of records	8	60
% of BirdTrack lists	0.5	1.8
Density	0.00	81.49

PIBYDD YR ABER

Flints. During Jan the maximum count was 2,000 at Point of Ayr on 25/01 (JuR) with numbers dropping: maxima of 1,500 on 8/02 also at Point of Ayr (JuR) then 800 there on 8/03 (DaPa) and 65 at Connah's Quay NR on 5/04 (PDS). The last record for the early months was 60 at Connah's Quay NR on 6/04(PSH). The record in Jun was 4 at Point of Ayr on 14/06 with a single in Jul at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 24/07, 8 there on 28/08 and 6 at Connah's Quay NR on 29/09. Large numbers returned in Oct with 1,500 at Point of Ayr on 31/10, 4,000 there on 4/11 and 1,00 there on 17/12 (all GR).



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at a selected site:

(KN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Point of Ayr	2000	1500	900			4					200	400

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Passage migrant. Amber List. RBBP.

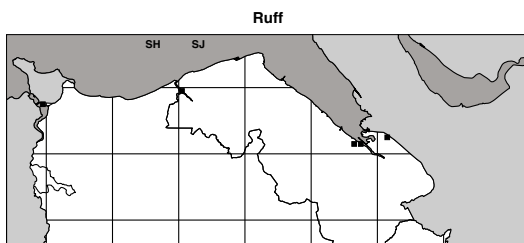
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. There were just two records of presence at RSPB Conwy on 15/09 and 18/09.

Flints. In Feb there was one record of 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 21/02 and there was a single record of 10 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands on 24/01 (CW) which was the maximum count for the year. During Aug and Sep twelve records were of singles or presence with a maximum of 3 S of Rhyl on 6/09 (WRM).

PIBYDD TORCHOG

(RU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	4
Maximum count	1	10
Av max count 2004-15	2	5
Number of records	2	16
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	2.2
Density	0.00	0.07



Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Passage migrant. Amber List. WBAP.

Flints. All the records were of a single or presence between 3/09 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh and 19/09 at Rhyl.

PIBYDD CAMBIG

(CV)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares		4
Maximum count		1
Av max count 2004-15		4
Number of records	0	8
% of BirdTrack lists		1.0
Density		0.01

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Passage migrant.

Denbs. A single was recorded on 7/09 and 8/09 at RSPB Conwy (RS, JHg). Accepted by the WRP.

PIBYDD TEMMINCK

(TK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

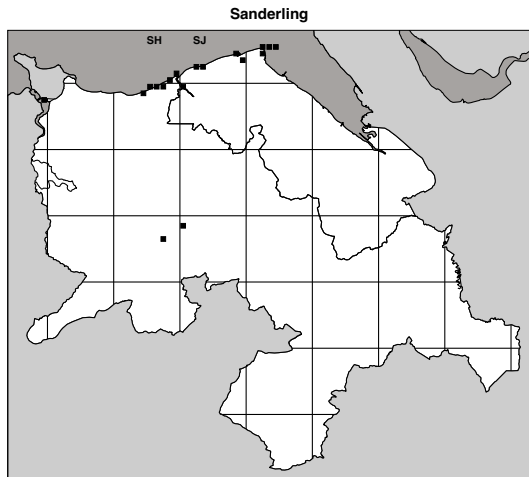
Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. The maximum count for the year was one of four in Jan with 200+ at Kinmel Bay on 25/01 (EQA). Numbers dropped during Feb to Apr with counts of 30+ at Pensarn and Towyn and two larger counts of 80+ at Kinmel Bay on 1/03 (WRM) and 19/03 (SM). The last spring record was 5+ at Towyn on 23/05 (SM). There were 1 and 2 recorded in Aug with the main return in Oct with 115+ at Kinmel Bay on 25/10 (WRM) in a mixed high tide roost with Ringed Plover, Dunlin and Turnstone. The last high count of the year was 120 at Horton's Nose on 7/12 and the last record was 65 there on 28/12 (AHJ).

Flints. Again, the highest count for the year was in Jan with 180+ at Talacre on 19/01 (GNR) with another high count of 125 at Point of Ayr on 4/02 (GR). Other counts were of presence or 1-50 during Jan to Mar. In the summer months counts were 1-20 and during Oct to Dec counts were not much higher with 4-50, the 50 being at Point of Ayr on 11/10 (GEM).



PIBYDD Y TYWOD

(SS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	9	9
Maximum count	200	180
Av max count 2004-15	161	158
Number of records	24	25
% of BirdTrack lists	1.1	0.7
Density	0.91	2.75

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

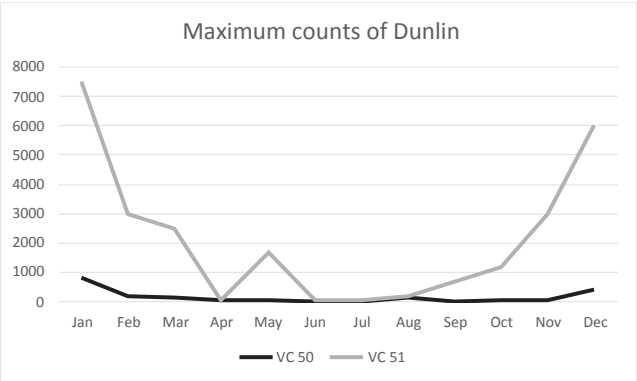
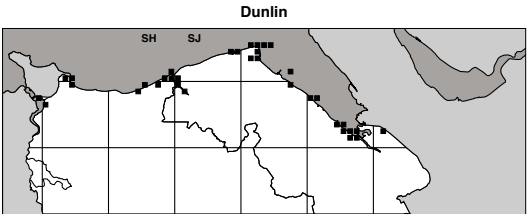
Denbs. The peak count for the year was 800 at Kinmel Bay on 25/01 (DMo) after which all counts were 1-200+ with 400+ at Pensarn on 27/12 (WRM). On 25/01 there was a cannon-net catch of 818 birds at Kinmel Bay including 762 Dunlin of which 745 were newly ringed, 10 were retraps and 7 were birds ringed elsewhere (SRG).

Flints. The largest counts were during the mid-winter months at each end of the year. During Jan there were ten counts of 1-320 with another eight of 1,000-7,500 with the maximum seen at Connah's Quay NR on 23/01 (PDS). During Feb there were eleven counts of 2-120 and nine

PIBYDD Y MAWN

(DN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	11	24
Maximum count	800	7500
Av max count 2004-15	373	4917
Number of records	107	191
% of BirdTrack lists	6.4	7.3
Density	4.45	305.60

of 750-3,000 with the highest counts at Point of Ayr. In Mar there were twelve counts of 1-200+ and one large count of 2,500 at Point of Ayr. Numbers dropped to 1-42 during Apr with a peak of 1,665 at Point of Ayr on 17/05 (RyE), which were presumably passage birds, after which numbers dropped to 1-45 in Jun and 1-26 in Jul. The number of birds started to increase during Aug with a maximum of 200, then 700 in Sep and 1,200 in Oct. There were increased numbers of large counts during the last two months with maxima of 3,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 30/11 (PSH) and 6,000 at Point of Ayr on 17/12 (GR).



Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites from W to E:

(DN)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy			2	2			5	10	10	10	4	
Gronant	238		110	22	1				80	35		680
Point of Ayr	4000	3000	2500		1665	5	26	12	300	100	400	800
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	3000	2500	20	12	5		4	120	60	40	1000	600

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Winter visitor. Amber List.

PIBYDD DU

Denbs. The only record was of 3 at Rhos-on-Sea on 18/01.

(PS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	3	
Av max count 2004-15	13	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Passage migrant.

Denbs. A single was at RSPB Conwy on 20/09 (AHJ).

Flints. Singles were recorded at Rhyl on 8/09, RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 12/09 (PDS) and Connah's Quay NR on 13/09 (JDAc).

PIBYDD BACH

(LX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	3
Maximum count	1	1
Av max count 2004-15	3	2
Number of records	2	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.4
Density	0.00	0.01

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Passage migrant and breeding visitor. Red List.

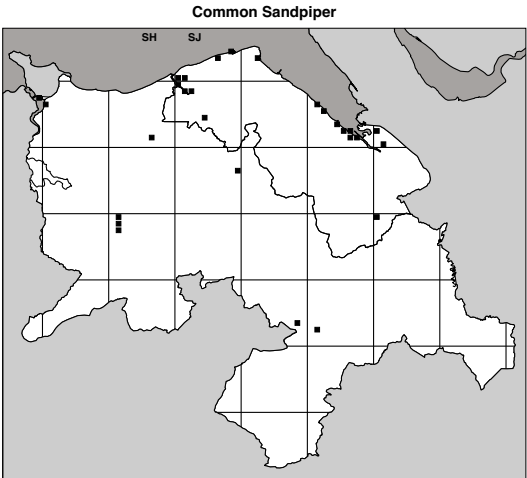
PIBYDD Y DORLAN

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first record was a single at Plas Uchaf reservoir, Llanefydd on 9/04 (JVH) and the last was presence at RSPB Conwy on 12/09 (JHg). Most records were of presence or counts of 1-3 with the two maximum counts being 4 at RSPB Conwy on 7/07 (JHg) and 6 at Llyn Aled Isaf on 4/07 (RS).

Flints. The first records were of a single at Connah's Quay NR (GEM) and 6+ near Rhuddlan (AHJ) on 16/04. The last record was a single S of Rhyl on 25/10 (AHJ). Most counts were of 1-6 and the three maximum counts were 10 at Flint saltmarsh on 27/04 (PDS), 10 S of Rhyl on 5/07 (CRJ) and a remarkable 32 at Shotton Steelworks pool on 16/07 (DeNi).

(CS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	9	19
Maximum count	6	32
Av max count 2004-15	9	12
Number of records	80	73
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	5.2	2.3
Density	0.03	1.03



Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

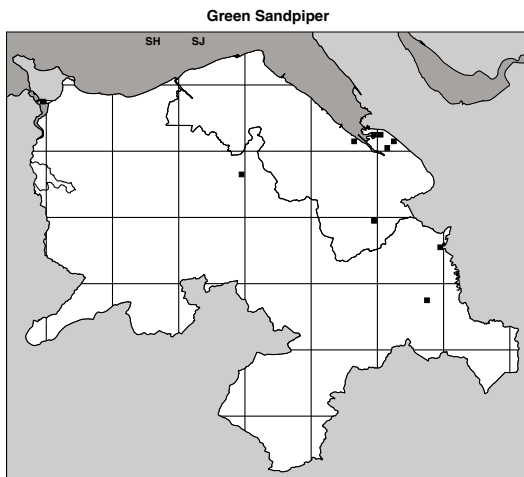
PIBYDD GWYRDD

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first records were of 2 on the Afon Clwyd near Llandyrnog on 18/01 and 8/02 (JDa). The next record was of presence at RSPB Conwy on 13/06 and the last 'summer' record was presence there on 23/09. During the 'summer' months all records were of presence, 1 or 2. The last record was a single at Trevalyn Meadows on 21/11 (SD).

Flints. The first record was a single at Fagl Lane GP on 11/01 (RS) then another single at Shotwick Fields on 25/01 (NFr). The first 'autumn' record was a single at Shotwick rifle range on 14/07 (DvJ) and the last was 3 at Shotton Steelworks pool on 4/11 (DeNi). The maximum count was at this same place with 8 on 1/09 (DeNi).

(GE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	4	6
Maximum count	2	8
Av max count 2004-15	4	4
Number of records	35	14
% of BirdTrack lists	2.5	0.4
Density	0.00	0.08



Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

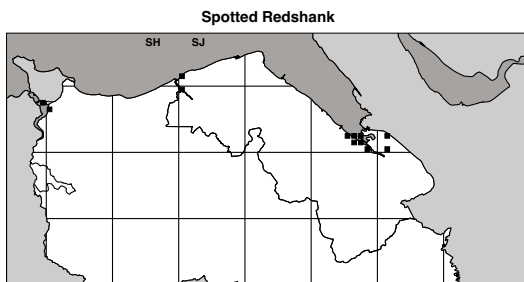
PIBYDD COESGOCH MANNOG

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

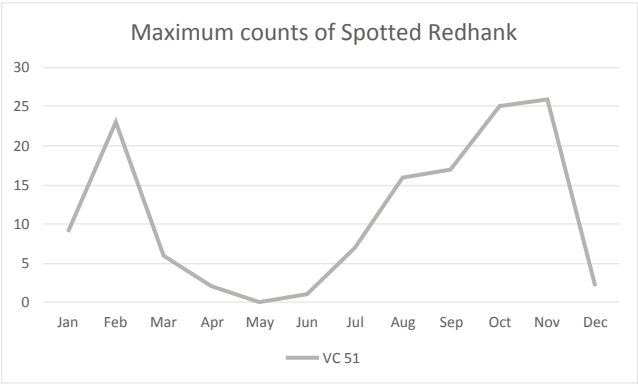
Denbs. There were many fewer records than in 2014. All were of singles or presence at RSPB Conwy. The first was on 2/09 and the last was on 12/10.

Flints. In contrast there was a modest increase in the number of records here. All but five of the records were from Connah's Quay NR / RSPB Oakenholt Marsh. The graph shows the pattern of monthly maximum counts with the early peak of 23 at

(DR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	2	10
Maximum count	1	26
Av max count 2004-15	1	15
Number of records	15	185
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	1.2
Density	0.00	0.44



Connah's Quay NR on 5/02 during a high water count (JRU). Numbers dropped to maxima of 7 during Mar to Jul with none during May after which numbers increased to an autumn peak of 25 at the same place on 18/10 (GEM) and 26 there on 1/11 during another high water count (JRU).



Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. RBBP.

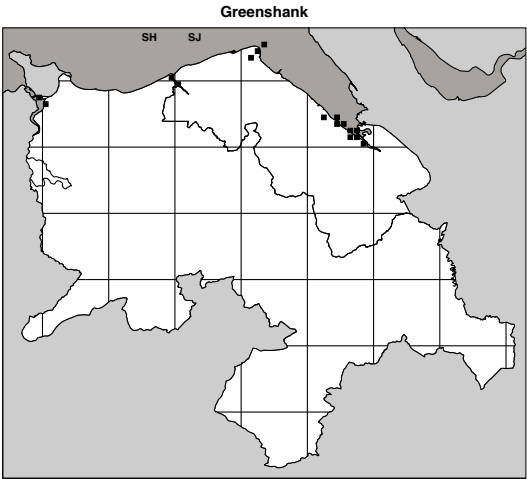
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. There was a large drop in the number of records compared with 2014 and all but one were from RSPB Conwy. During Jan to Jul the maximum count was 2 on 12/07 and in Sep the maximum was 12 on 26/09 with other counts of 2-8 and a single near Kinmel Bay on 5/09.

Flints. The majority of records were counts of 1-9 with 10 being the maximum on 23/01 and 5/02 at Connah's Quay NR during the early months. In Aug there were two counts of 17 on 2/08 and 28/08 at Connah's Quay NR. The peak count in Sep was 17 on 25/09 with a lower peak of 11 in Oct, then on 1/11 there were 23 during a high water count at Connah's Quay NR (JRU) which was the maximum for the year. In Dec the peak count was down to 11 on 11/12.

PIBYDD COESWERDD

(GK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	3	13
Maximum count	12	23
Av max count 2004-15	5	24
Number of records	13	192
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	2.2
Density	0.02	0.51



Redshank *Tringa totanus*

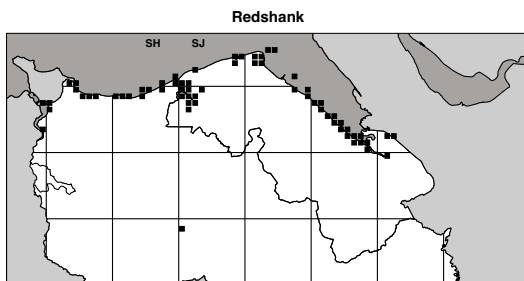
PIBYDD COESGOCH

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

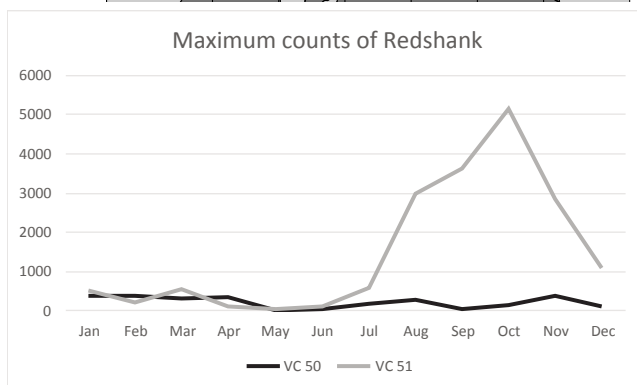
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. There were almost the same number of records as in 2014 and the graph shows that Denbs is not a major wintering or passage area for Redshank. The maximum count for the year, 390+, was at RSPB Conwy on 3/01. The other high counts were all at RSPB Conwy in the early months and were 359+ on 21/02, 300+ on 21/03 (WRM) and 350+ on 16/04 (WRM). From May to Jul the highest count was 180+ then 270+ on 5/08 (JOHn) and the highest count for the remaining months was 47 on 13/09 (JHg) then 370+ on 1/11 (JOHn).

(RK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	21	45
Maximum count	390	5150
Av max count 2004-15	363	2924
Number of records	282	388
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/16
% of BirdTrack lists	18.1	17.6
Density	4.14	393.46



Flints. The graph shows clearly that there is a large autumn passage. The birds do not stay here through the year so presumably the Dee Estuary is either not suitable for large numbers to stay or there are better feeding opportunities elsewhere. During the first six months the maximum counts were similar to those in Denbs. with a peak of 550 at Connah's Quay NR on 31/03 (GEM).



During Apr to Jun the maximum was 100 then in Jul the numbers present rose with a peak of 578 at Connah's Quay NR on 9/07 during a low water count (JRU). In Aug the maximum was 3,000 on 20/08 at Connah's Quay NR (RWE), in Sep it was 3,644 there on 13/09 during a high water count (JRU) with the year's maximum of 5,150 there on 3/10 during a high water count (JRU). In Nov the peak had dropped to 2,837 on 1/11 at high water (JRU) and 1,100 at Point of Ayr on 13/12 (NFr). There was one record of probable breeding.

Monthly maxima from WeBS counts at selected sites from W to E:

(RK)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	482	281	439	287		4	275	480	710	347	634	342
Point of Ayr	200	100	100	12			70	50	100	400	2200	1100
Mostyn Dock		34	155					1100		25	69	6
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	60	100	400	40	2		40	200	400	1000	2000	500
Connah's Quay NR	24	85	30	31		4	350	1500	1200	50	800	2

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtes minimus*

GIACH FACH

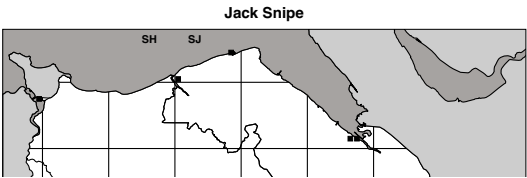
Winter visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All records were of presence or singles at RSPB Conwy with two records in Jan.

(JS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	4
Maximum count	1	3
Av max count 2004-15	2	2
Number of records	4	5
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.4
Density	0.00	0.02

Flints. The highest count was 3 at Connah's Quay NR on 21/02 (PDS).



Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

CYFFYLOG

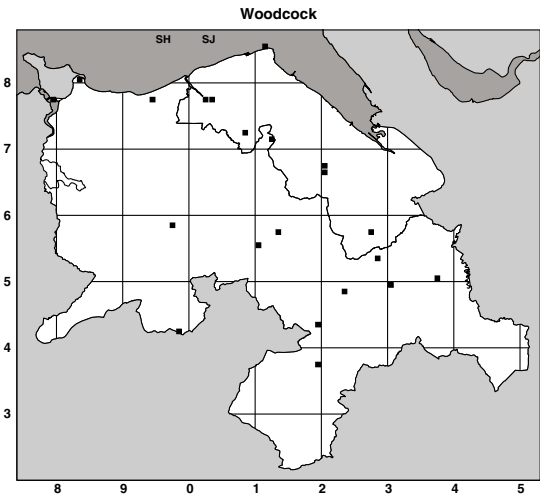
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All but two records were of presence or singles. There were 2 seen at Wenallt near Bethel on 16/01 and at Abergele on 4/02, flying over the A55 at dawn (MiB). The last record of winter was presence at Wenallt on 17/03 and the first of the later winter period was 1 at Brymbo, Wrexham on 7/11.

(WK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	14	7
Maximum count	2	2
Av max count 2004-15	6	3
Number of records	20	7
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	0.1
Density	0.04	0.02

Flints. All but one record were of singles with 2 near Rhydymwyn on 31/01. The last record of the early winter period was near Llanfynydd on 19/03 and the only late winter record was near Rhuddlan on 22/11.



Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

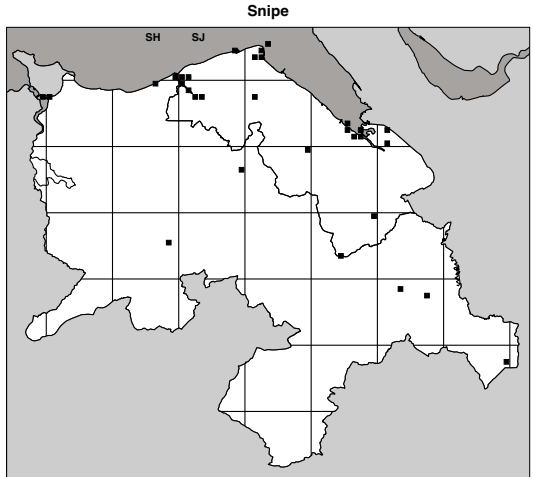
GŪACH GYFFREDIN

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. During Jan to Apr most records were of 1-10 with 14 at RSPB Conwy on 3/01 and 18 there on 8/02 (JHg). The last record of this period was presence there on 22/04. A single was seen there on 30/06 and 3 were there on 8/08. The next record was presence, again at RSPB Conwy, on 16/09 with 4 at Nant-y-Ffrith reservoir on 27/09 (SD). During the last few months the maximum count was 47 at RSPB Conwy on 13/12 during a WeBS count (JHg).

Flints. During Jan to Apr there were only a few records of singles and the highest count in Jan was 31 at Connah's Quay NR (AN), with 60 there on 13/02 during a low water count (JRU), dropping to 19 at Flint on 8/03 during a WeBS count (DaPa) and 9 S of Rhyl on 2/04 (AHJ). The last record of those early months was 1 near Gronant on 28/04. The first autumn records were 1 at Connah's Quay NR and 1 S of Rhyl on 6/09. During the last three months the peak counts were 10 at Connah's Quay NR on 21/10 and 22/10, 16 there on 13/09 and 19/09 and 24 there on 8/12 (all PSH).

(SN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	10	21
Maximum count	47	60
Av max count 2004-15	51	61
Number of records	77	142
% of BirdTrack lists	4.8	6.0
Density	0.24	2.14



Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Passage migrant. Amber List.

SGIWEN Y GOGLEDD

2014

Flints. A single was seen at Point of Ayr on 28/08 (MGW).

2015

Flints. There were 2 seen at Talacre on 3/09 (GNR).

(AC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Scarce
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		2
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.00

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

PAL

Passage migrant. Red List.

Denbs. A single, the first since 2002, was recorded at Llanddulas on 26/10 (RoH).

(PU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Black Guillemot *Cephus grille*

GWYLOG DDU

Winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. A single was seen during a WeBS count at Rhos-on Sea on 19/04 (HC).

(TY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Razorbill *Alca torda*

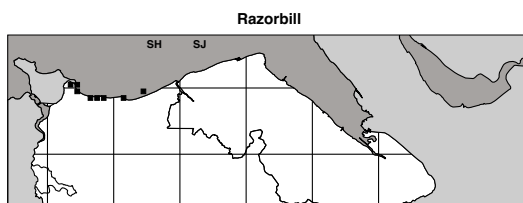
LLURS

Winter visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Most of the records were counts of 1-3. Sightings were along the coast from Pensarn to Llandrillo-yn-Rhos which had four reports and highest counts of 13 on 4/01 and 34 on 10/04 (MiB) which was the last record of that early winter period. The first autumn record was a single at Rhos-on-Sea on 22/09 (GEM). Later in the year more than 12 were seen at Llanddulas on 7/11 (GrJ).

(RA)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	8	
Maximum count	34	
Av max count 2004-15	15	
Number of records	12	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.14	

**Little Auk** *Alle alle*

CARFIL BACH

Vagrant.

Denbs. A single was at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 1/02.

(LK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Guillemot *Uria alge*

Winter visitor. Amber List.

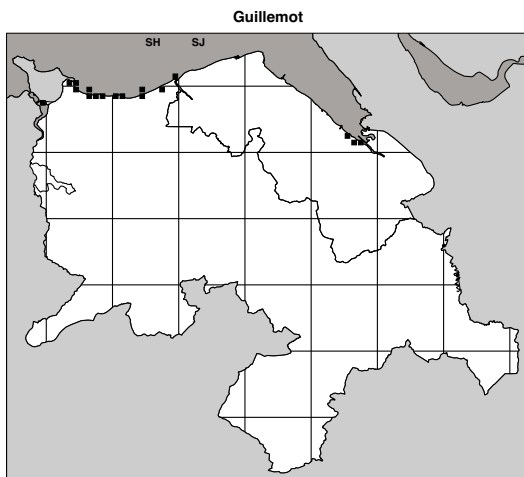
GWYLOG

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Most reports were in Nov with six of 1-2 but the highest of 28 came with the WeBS count at Rhos-on-Sea on 19/04 (HC) which was also the last record of the first winter period. The same site had 20 recorded on 22/09 (GEM) which was the first record of the autumn. Other records at the end of the year were counts of 1-7+.

Flints. There was one record of a single at Connah's Quay NR on 1/02 and the first record in autumn was a single in the channel at Flint, swimming upstream, on 30/09. There were three records of a single at Connah's Quay NR on 26/10.

(GU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	14	3
Maximum count	28	1
Av max count 2004-15	33	19
Number of records	24	5
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	-
Density	0.20	0.01



LittleTern *Sternula albifrons*

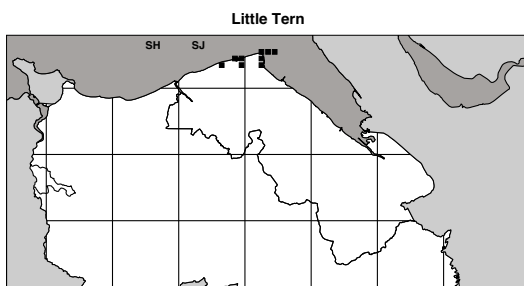
Passage migrant and summer breeding visitor. Red List. RBBP.

MÔRWENNOL FECHAN

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Flints. The first record was at Gronant with 15 seen on 21/04 (ACh). Most records came from the areas around the two breeding sites near Gronant and, for the first time since 2009, Point of Ayr. The highest count of 350 was at Gronant on 19/07 (PMi) and at Point of Ayr, 250 were recorded on 29/07 (GR). Encouragingly in terms of Little Tern conservation was the breeding success at Point of Ayr with 2 fledglings from one pair (pers comm GR). The Gronant colony had 135

(AF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Common
Number of 1km squares		9
Maximum count		350
Av max count 2004-15		289
Number of records	0	46
% of BirdTrack lists		2.0
Density		5.35



breeding pairs that successfully reared 99 fledglings, despite high predation by Kestrel of 3 adults, 33 chicks and 8 fledglings (Gronant Little Tern Report 2015, AOH). The annual ringing effort at Gronant led to 62 chicks in total: 26 on 4/07, 19 on 11/07, 16 on 16/07 and a single on 30/07 (pBH). Colour ringing was also undertaken for the first time this year with 2 adults ringed on 25/06 (pBH). A late record came at Talacre on 3/09 with 9 seen (GNR).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Passage migrant.

Denbs. All five records occurred on 21/04 and at the same location of Gresford Flash with up to 3 seen in total (HL).

Flints. A single was seen at Gronant on 23/08.

CORSWENNOL DDU

(BJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	3	1
Number of records	5	1
% of BirdTrack lists	-	-
Density	0.00	0.00

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Summer migrant. Amber List

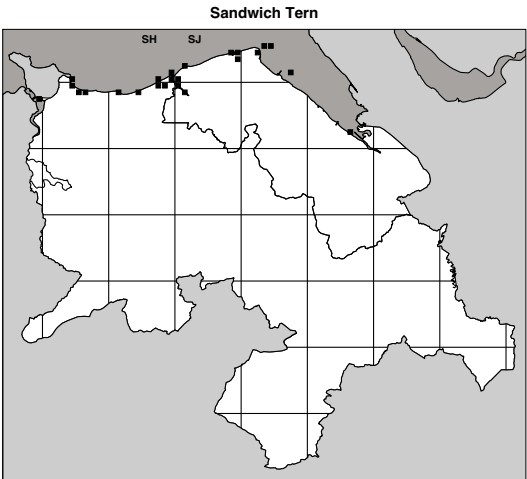
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All records came from coastal locations and the first was 7 at Towyn on 16/04 (SM). A group of 80 at Towyn on 17/09 (SM) was the maximum count, a much lower than average count than in recent years. The last sighting was 3 at Rhos-on-Sea on 22/09 (GEM).

Flints. The first record was on 8/04 with 6 at the River Clwyd (DCR). Most records came from three areas: Point of Ayr, Gronant and the River Clwyd near Rhyl. The maximum count was 804 along the River Clwyd on 30/07 (AHJ). The last record was at the River Clwyd, where 3 were seen on 4/10 (CRJ).

MÔRWENNOL BIGDDU

(TE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	12	12
Maximum count	80	804
Av max count 2004-15	233	620
Number of records	33	57
% of BirdTrack lists	1.7	2.6
Density	0.49	16.38



Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

MÔRWENNOL GYFFREDIN

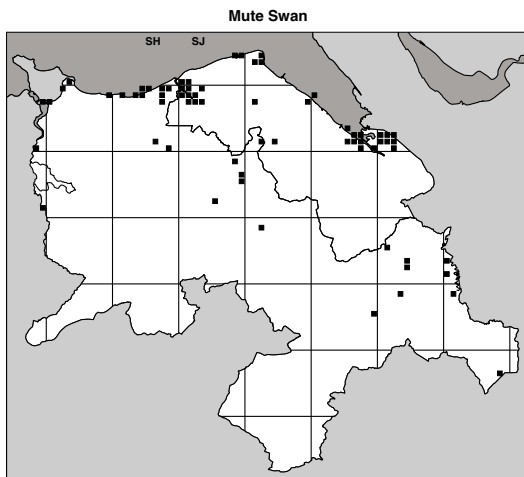
Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Both the first sighting and maximum count were at Colwyn Bay with 10 seen on 23/04 (PJW). There were 3 seen at Kinnel Bay on 7/06 (MaO).

Flints. The first record came a fortnight later than in 2014, with 2 seen at White Sands on 28/04 (GEM). The colony at Shotton Steelworks had some success with good numbers of nestlings ringed: 454 on 21/06, 140 on 11/07 and 32 on 2/08 (pBH). Most sightings came from Connah's Quay NR with 47% of all records, a high count of 80 on 9/07 were presumed to be those departing the Shotton colony (DWR). The last record was at Talacre with a minimum of 10 seen on 3/09 (GNR).

(CN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very common
Number of 1km squares	3	17
Maximum count	10	454
Av max count 2004-15	12	519
Number of records	3	73
% of BirdTrack lists	-	1.8
Density	0.02	13.10



Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

MÔRWENNOL Y GOGLEDD

Passage migrant. Red List.

ERRATUM

2014

Flints. The single reported at Point of Ayr on 28/08 was actually an Arctic Skua.

2015

Flints. Recorded as present at Flint on 15/05 (KAWa). A second record was at Talacre with 3 on 3/09 (GNR).

(AE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		2
Maximum count		3
Number of records	0	2
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.01

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Passage migrant. Red List.

GWYLAN GOES DDU

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All records came from the same area – six from Rhos-on-Sea and one from Colwyn Bay – and all were in the first half of the year. The earliest was 7 followed by presence in Colwyn Bay on 7/02 (MJB) and a further five reports from Rhos-on-Sea, with the highest count of 46 on 1/04. There were 24 on 1/05, 2 on the 18/05 WeBS count (HC) and the latest record of 30 on 1/06.

(KI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	3	
Maximum count	46	
Av max count 2004-15	24	
Number of records	7	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.07	

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

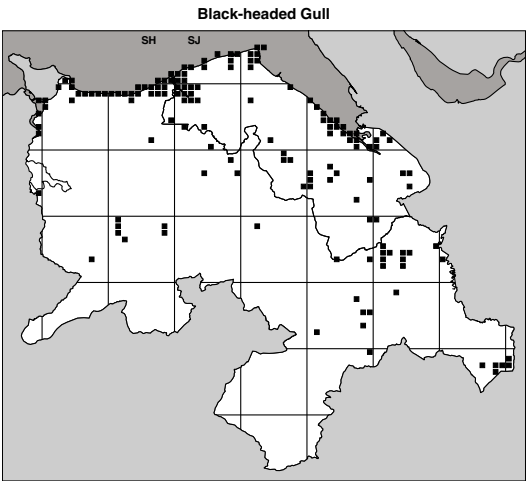
GWYLAN BENDDU

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP.

Recorded in all months in both counties. The maximum counts in both counties were well down on the 2014 figures; whilst the number of records in Denbs was similar, there was an increase of just under 28% in Flints.

(BH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	76	73
Maximum count	1214	1000
Av max count 2004-15	1582	2093
Number of records	538	504
Recorded in BBS squares	-	2/16
% records from GBW	0.7	1.0
% of BirdTrack lists	32.9	45.3
Density	46.69	123.94

Denbs. Counts from RSPB Conwy were lower than in 2014. There were fifteen three-figure counts from the beginning of Jan to the first week in Mar, with the highest at Pensarn, with 500 on 17/02 and 243 on 2/03 (HC), Towyn with 300 on 3/02 (SM) and Colwyn Bay with 255 on 4/02 (PJW). Inland there were six three-figure counts in the Wrexham area during Feb, with maxima of 200 at Rhosllanerchrugog on 9/02 and 10/02 (PLa). After the first week in Mar there were no three-figure counts until 170 at RSPB Conwy on 3/09, no further three-figure counts until mid-Nov and only six in the last four months of the year. Inland in the Wrexham area there were 110 at Gresford Flash on 15/11 (DuH) and 200 at Erddig Pool on 27/11 (NHu) and the highest count of the year was of 1,214 at Bodfari on 1/12 (JPH).



Flints. In contrast with the relatively low numbers in Denbs, there were twenty three-figure counts in Jan and Feb, with the highest numbers at Rhuddlan where there were three counts

of 500 or more, with the maximum of 597 on the WeBS count on 6/02 (JHB). Inland there were 110 at Padeswood on 12/03 (MGW), but this was the only three-figure count in Mar; there was only one in Apr and none in May. Between Jun and Aug there were twenty-four three figure counts (in striking contrast to Denbs), many of which were associated with the large breeding colony at Shotton Steelworks, where a total of 430 nestlings was ringed (RbHa). The highest count of the year was of 1,000 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 16/08 (RyE). From Sep to Dec there were a further twenty-two three-figure counts, with five of 500+ at Rhuddlan, peaking at 750 on 29/12 (SH) and a maximum of 800 on the Dee estuary at Flint on 3/11 (PeHa).

Monthly maxima from selected locations:

(BH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Conwy	20	20	6	1	40	30	75	60	170	53	8	1
Near Rhuddlan	200	597	100	12	2		427	286	1	347	500	750
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	50	40	40		50	200	200	1000	60	50	600	200
Connah's Quay NR	128	41	17	6	41	28	200	100	20	30	100	2

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*
 Passage migrant. Amber List.

GWYLAN FECHAN

Denbs. There were two records of presence at RSPB Conwy in Aug (on 10/08 and 17/08), possibly involving the same bird.

(LU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	2	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*
 Visitor. RBBP.

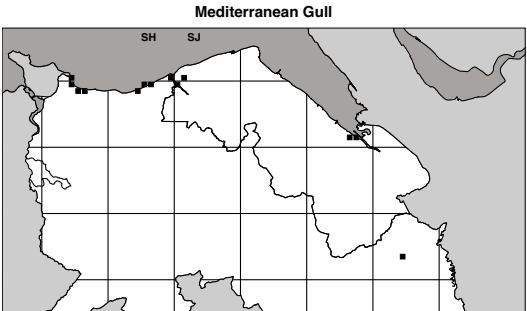
GWYLAN MOR Y CANOLDIR

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

A similar number of records to 2014 in each county, but an interesting variation in pattern.

(MU)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	9	4
Maximum count	2	2
Av max count 2004-15	5	3
Number of records	17	6
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	0.4
Density	0.01	0.01

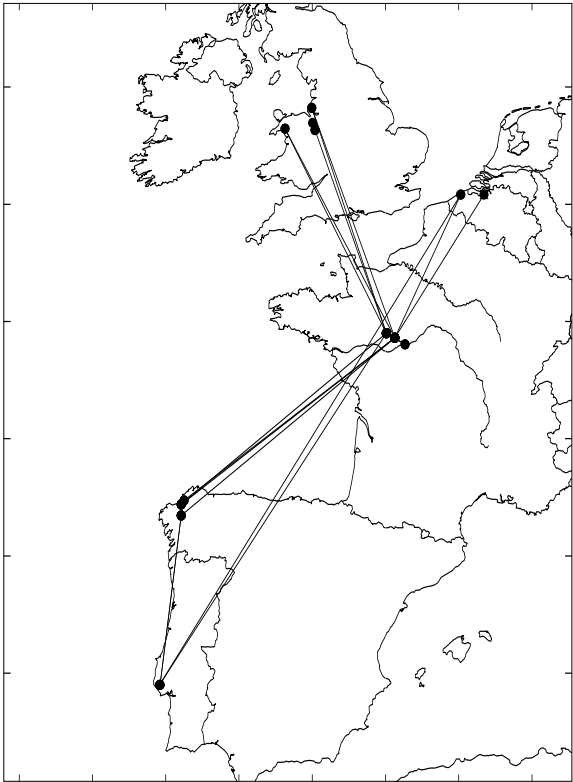
Denbs. All records were of singles, except for 2 at Pensarn on 17/02 (HC). There was a run of records from Jan to the beginning of Mar when the last of the first winter period was a single at Rhos-on-Sea, then no more until a second run from 16/08 (a single at Rhos-on-Sea) to Dec. After the 2014 record from Gresford Flash, there were a further four this year: 27/01, 1/02, 14/11 and 5/12 (HL). The



individual on the last date was colour-ringed (White 32J9) and the history of its travels were revealed in the detail of the 92 sightings that have been gathered. The map, right, shows the movements of this one gull which was ringed near Antwerp, Belgium. It has since made many movements to and from the Loire Valley, France. The other records came from coastal sites, largely from Rhos-on-Sea.

Flints. Four records were from near Rhyl, including a count of 2, and two were from Connah's Quay NR, though these almost certainly refer to the same bird seen in different parts of the reserve on the same day.

Mediterranean Gull White 32J9



Common Gull *Larus canus*

GWYLAN GWEUNYDD

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Red List.

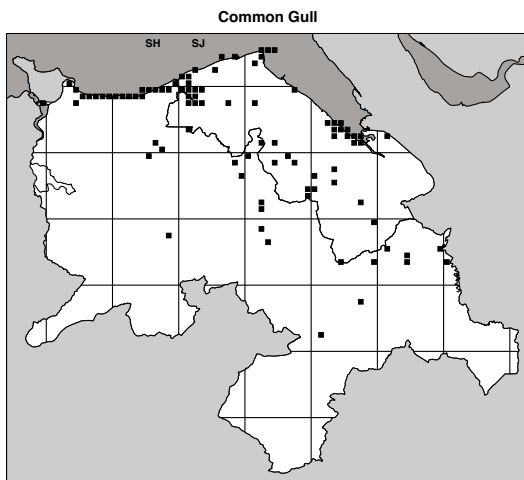
Apart from an enormous gathering of at least 3,000 at Pensarn on 17/02 (HC), numbers were generally lower in Denbs than Flints, with very few recorded between mid-Mar and Oct and none at all in Jul. Although there was only one May record in Flints, at least double figures were recorded in all other months. As well as the expected coastal and estuarine reports, there were sizeable numbers inland at a number of locations in both counties.

(CM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	42	49
Maximum count	3000	1000
Av max count 2004-15	2188	2075
Number of records	134	224
Recorded in BBS squares	2/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	7.4	23.0
Density	63.77	83.19

Denbs. Numbers were generally low during Jan and Feb, apart from the large gathering at Pensarn mentioned above, 180 at Nant-y-Glyn on 30/01 (HC) and 500 at Llyn Brenig on 28/02

(SD). After 110 at Rhos-on-Sea on 2/03 (HC) the next three-figure count was not until 31/10, with 170 at Dolwen Reservoir (SD) and 260 at Afonwen on 12/12 (MGW) was the only further three-figure count.

Flints. There was a 25% increase in reports on the 2014 figure, but numbers were again low and the maximum count well below the ten-year average. There were ten three-figure counts during Jan and Feb, all at Rhuddlan and Gronant, apart from 250 inland at Pantymwyn on 28/02 (GEM). In contrast with Denbs, there were three three-figure counts during Mar, with inland totals of 335 at Padeswood on 12/03 (MGW) and 275 at Hope on 25/03 (GNR). Numbers were then low until another three-figure inland count of 200 at Rhydymwyn on 28/09 (MGW) and there were a further eleven three-figure counts before the highest of the year of 1,000 at Rhuddlan on 29/12 (SH).



Monthly maxima recorded:

(CM)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	180	3000	110	3	1	2		1	1	170	18	260
Flints	480	500	335	10	1	50	12	20	200	134	400	1000

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

GWYLAN GEFNDDU LEIAF

Passage migrant and breeding resident.
Amber List.

Recorded in all months in both counties, but only one Dec record in Denbs. The ten-year average maximum count continues to decrease in Denbs, but has increased slightly again in Flints.

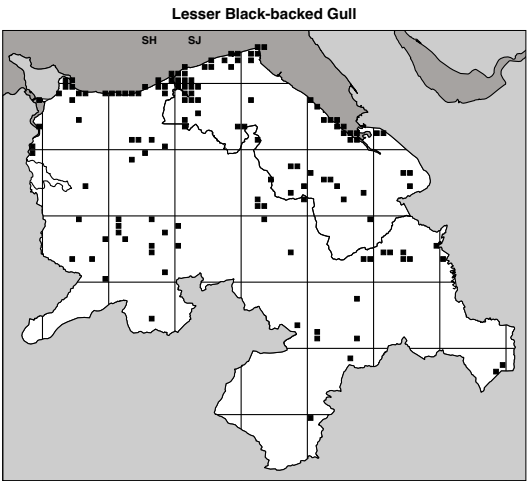
(LB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Common
Number of 1km squares	78	60
Maximum count	350	200
Av max count 2004-15	866	126
Number of records	367	356
% of BirdTrack lists	23.0	33.9
Density	13.82	20.37

Denbs. Overall, a 16% drop in reports, although they were still higher than in 2013. Monthly maximum counts did not exceed 17 in Mar, Apr and Dec and the only three-figure counts were at Gresford Flash, Wrexham with at least 100 on 6/01 and the highest count from either county of at least 350 at Llandulas on 7/11 (GrJ). Breeding was proved at four coastal sites and inland at Llyn Brenig.

Maximum monthly counts:

(LB)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	60	45	(2)	20	40	20	40	60	40	20	40	60

Flints. Whereas the trend in Denbs showed worrying declines, in Flints reports increased by 45% on 2014 – an overall rise of just short of 100% on the 2013 figures. None at all were recorded there in Mar; the bracketed total refers to 2 at neighbouring Connah’s Quay NR on 18/03 (PeHa). There were only three three-figure counts: 110 at Rhuddlan on 6/05 (SH), 100 at Flint on 16/10 (GEM) and 200 on the Dee estuary at Flint on 3/11 (PeHa). One notable count slightly inland was of 93 during a BBS visit at Sandycroft on 14/04 (IMS; TP). Breeding was confirmed at Rhuddlan.



Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP.

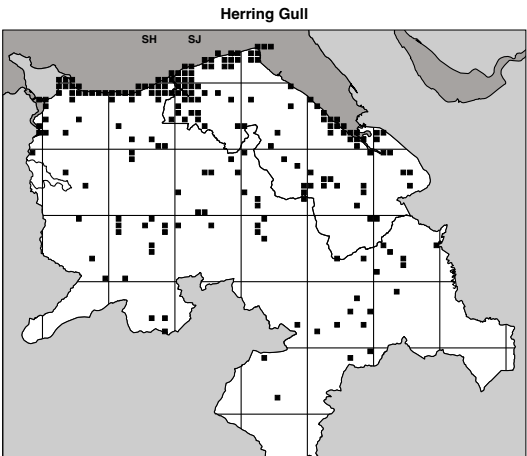
Recorded in each month in both counties. The number of reports remained relatively constant in Denbs but increased by 42% in Flints. The enormous flock of at least 8,000 at Pensarn on 8/02 (WRM) had the effect of pushing the ten-year average maximum up for Denbs, whereas the Flints average dropped slightly with no counts as high as in 2014.

Denbs. Aside from the large winter gatherings at Llanddulas and Pensarn, there were three-figure reports inland from Gresford Flash with 500 on 27/01 (MTB), Llandyrnog with 200 on 8/02 (JDa), Rhosllanerchrugog with 250 on 10/02 (PLa), Llanefydd with 400 on 22/03 (JVHu) and Acrefair with 152 on 8/06 (PLa). Breeding was confirmed at at least eight coastal sites and inland at Nant-y-Glyn, Bodelwyddan, Llyn Brenig and Denbigh.

Flints. The highest count was of at

GWYLAN Y PENWAIG

(HG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	113	93
Maximum count	8000	1000
Av max count 2004-15	2244	1690
Number of records	1099	537
Recorded in BBS squares	10/30	6/16
% records from GBW	0.2	0.6
% of BirdTrack lists	70.4	56.3
Density	457.49	157.89



least 1,000 feeding on stubble at Bagillt on 18/01 before flying down to the Dee estuary to roost (GRMP). There were no other counts of higher than 50 more than a mile inland. Breeding was confirmed at three coastal sites and inland at St Asaph and Mold.

Monthly maximum counts for selected coastal locations:

(HG)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Colwyn Bay / Rhos-on-Sea	230	180	200	23	97	80	45	20	90	300	35	40
Llanddulas	800	2000	6	1	8	2	1	250	6	2500	500	1
Towyn / Pensarn	400	8000	250	500	50	45	20	40	10	500	1000	3000
Rhuddlan area	250	50	1000	217	350	40	87	25	1	179	80	104
Point of Ayr / Talacre	172	150	120	265	518	162	350	354	467	104	605	273

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

GWYLAN GOES FELEN

Visitor. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All three records were from RSPB Conwy, of singles on 25/02, 21/03 and 5/05.

(YG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	1	1
Number of records	3	4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-
Density	0.00	0.00

Flints. All four records were from Connah’s Quay NR, of singles on 8/03 (PeHa), 29/03 (DPe), 25/06 (AN) and 15/09 (JDAc).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

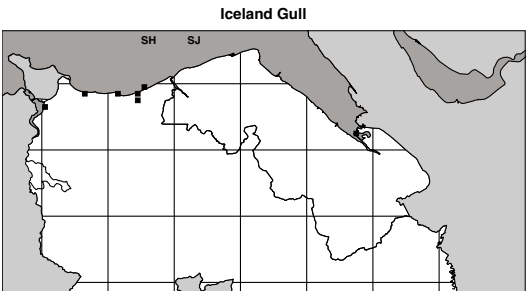
GWYLAN YR ARCTIG

Winter visitor.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Although there was an apparently enormous increase in records, it is likely that all except three of these referred to the same single seen at a number of sites in the Pensarn area on many dates between 16/02 and 5/04. On three occasions the individual was described as a juvenile or first winter. The other three records of singles came from Llanddulas on 23/02 (RTe), Colwyn Bay on 4/03 (PeKi) and RSPB Conwy on 3/04 (PeKi); it is likely that different birds were

(IG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	6	1
Maximum count	1	1
Number of records	72	1
% of BirdTrack lists	1.0	-
Density	0.00	0.00



involved, as the Pensarn individual was also seen there on each of these days.

Flints. A single was seen at White Sands on the Dee estuary on 21/11.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

GWYLAN GEFNDDU FWYAF

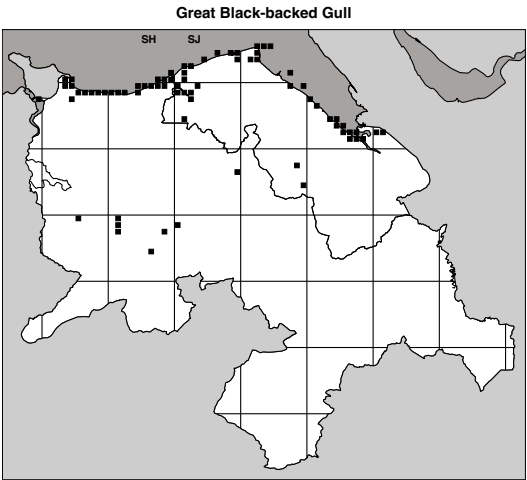
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List.

(GB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	33	40
Maximum count	97	50
Av max count 2004-15	21	98
Number of records	227	171
% of BirdTrack lists	14.1	13.9
Density	1.62	3.40

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Apart from a gathering of 97 at Llanddulas beach on 4/01 (MHu), there were only five other counts in double figures: at Llanddulas with 23 on 26/02 (DSu), 22 on 8/03 (WRM) and at least 30 on 7/11 (GrJ), at Kinmel Bay with 10 on 11/10 (IMS) and RSPB Conwy with 12 on 22/10 (JHg). Although a pair prospected the same site at BT Openreach at Mochdre, it was thought that breeding did not take place this year.

Flints. The larger counts were again in the last four months of the year and apart from the RSPB Oakenholt Marsh counts on WeBS days, all except one of the Flints monthly maxima came from the Gronant / Point of Ayr area. There were three records more than a few hundred metres inland: singles at Pantymwyn on 1/04 and 17/04 and Coed y Felin, Hendre on 14/04 (all GEM).



Maximum counts recorded:

(GB)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flints.	30	13	13	13	6	21	15	17	45	40	50	46
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	30	7					6	12	20	23	50	46

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

COLOMEN Y GRAIG

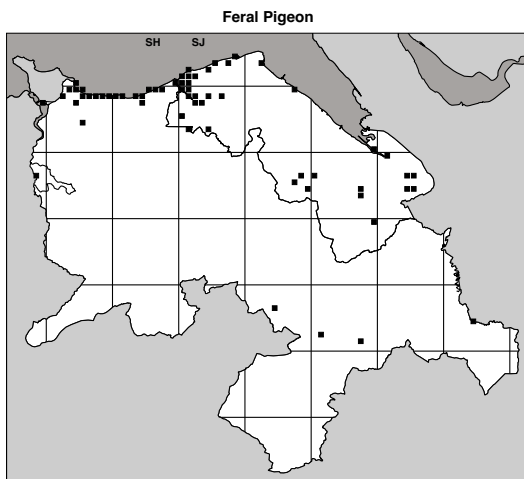
Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. The map illustrates the concentration of records along the coast for both counties with the high count coming on the border area along the River Clwyd estuary.

Denbs. The highest count came from a roost of 180 at the railway bridge which crosses the river at Kinmel Bay on 6/01 (DCR). The only BBS count was from Coed Bryndansi with 2 on 19/04 (HTD). There were three GBW sites with a maximum count of 2 on several dates throughout the year at Sarn, Tallarn Green (MA).

Flints. The highest count did come away from the coast with 70 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 6/12 (TP). The same site also held highest BBS count of 4 on 14/04 (IMS) the other BBS count came from Bodrhyddan Hall with 1 on 28/04 (PtB). Hawarden area had the highest GBW count of 4 on 2/08 (CWT)

(FP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	29	34
Maximum count	180	70
Av max count 2004-15	120	44
Number of records	522	237
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	2/16
% records from GBW	6.7	15.2
% of BirdTrack lists	32.7	26.3
Density	2.64	4.04



Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

COLOMEN WYLLT

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was no peak time but the map seems to show some concentration in the more arable farming areas.

Denbs. The highest count from eighty-six records was 50 plus at Trevalyn Meadows on 21/11 (SD). The maximum count from the four BBS sites came from near

(SD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	48	34
Maximum count	50	102
Av max count 2004-15	72	41
Number of records	86	93
Recorded in BBS squares	5/30	6/16
% records from GBW	19.8	4.3
% of BirdTrack lists	3.4	9.0
Density	1.21	5.89

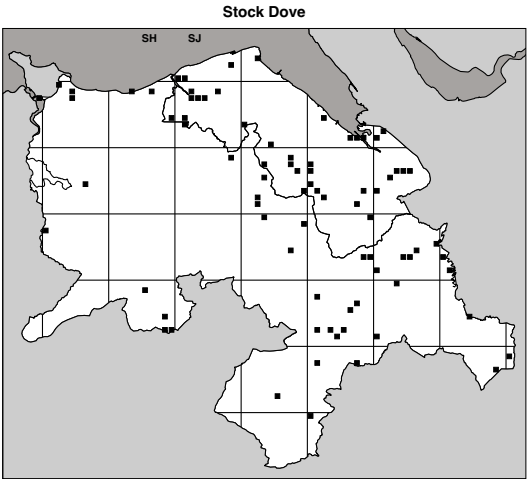
Breeding (IMS):

Llanarmon-yn-Ial with 6 on 11/06 (RDB) and the maximum

(SD)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glasfryn	1	2	2	2	2.00
Shotton Paper Mill	3	6	2	2	0.67
TOTALS	4	8	4	4	1.00

count from four GBW sites came from a garden at Talgarth with 4 on 9/08 (DCg). The only confirmed breeding report was the ringing of 2 nestlings near Cerrigyddudion on 17/05 (IMS)

Flints. The Deeside area held the highest counts with the maximum of 102 coming from Connah's Quay NR on 15/02 (PDS) and there were 100 at Shotwick Fields on 12/09 (CW). The same area held the highest BBS count with 13 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 21/06 (IMS) and the only GBW site was at Rhydymwyn with presence in the week beginning 24/05 (DMH).



Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*
Breeding resident.

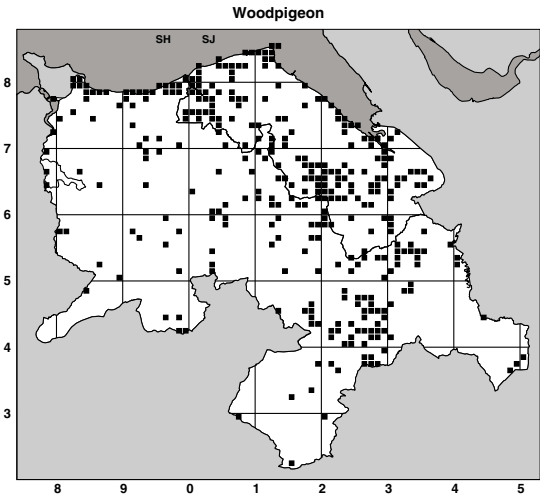
YSGUTHAN

Records from each month in both counties and the range fits in with the general coverage map. The number of records has increased from the previous year but counts are not showing any increase. This may be a function of better recording rather than an increase in overall numbers. The highest counts all came during the winter months with increasing numbers likely reflecting arrivals from continental Europe.

(WP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	193	146
Maximum count	1000	400
Av max count 2004-15	986	305
Number of records	1475	1326
Recorded in BBS squares	27/30	16/16
% records from GBW	46.0	46.9
% of BirdTrack lists	47.1	79.5
Density	97.67	99.15

Denbs. The highest count was at Nant-y-Glyn with at least 1,000 on 23/11 (HC). Confirmed breeding came with 2 nestlings ringed at Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog on 27/06 (pBH).

Flints. The maximum count of 400+ was at Rhuddlan on 19/01 (WRM), with 130 there on 13/02 (SH) and 150 at Pontblyddyn on 23/12 (IMS). Again there were very few breeding reports.



Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Breeding resident.

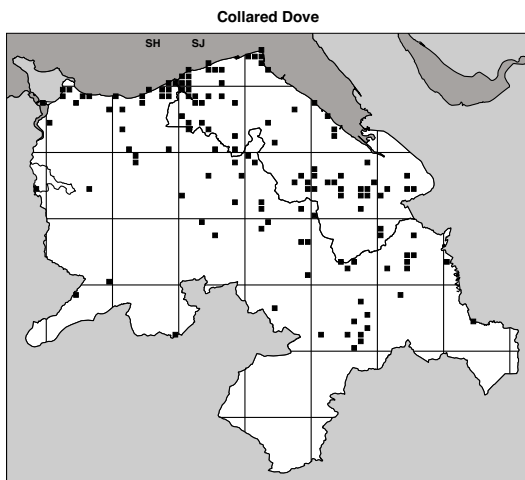
TURTUR DORCHOG

Recorded in each month in both counties and the distribution map shows a concentration in urbanised areas. The number of records remained very similar to the last couple of years and again with a high percentage from GBW.

Denbs. The highest count came from Kinnel Bay with at least 20 roosting in a garden tree on 19/11 (NHu) and the highest GBW count was at Bwlchgwyn with 16 in week beginning 15/11 (NSB).

Flints. The highest count came from Ynys, Rhyl with at least 50 on 3/12 (SM) and the highest GBW count of 41 came from St. Asaph in week beginning 20/09 (DDo). Breeding was confirmed at Rhuddlan with a juvenile on 20/05 (WRM).

(CD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	75	61
Maximum count	20	50
Av max count 2004-15	24	58
Number of records	1000	644
Recorded in BBS squares	9/30	9/16
% records from GBW	61.1	58.4
% of BirdTrack lists	23.4	33.7
Density	0.76	5.18



Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Summer visitor. Red List.

TURTUR

Denbs. The only record this year was a single near Eglwyseg on 24/05 (NiSu).

(TD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

COG

Breeding summer visitor. Red List. WBAP.

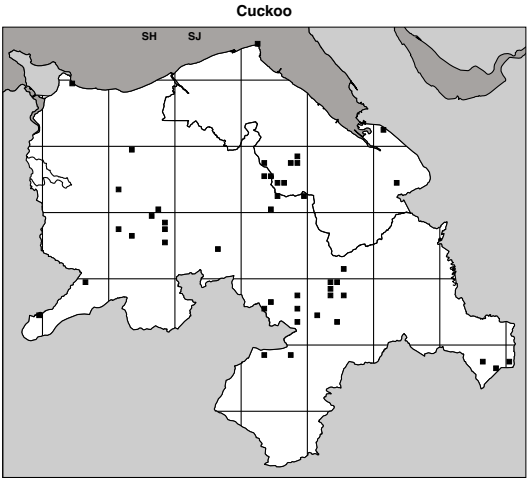
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

There was no proof of breeding this year and the number of reports was worryingly down in both counties. The distribution map shows three main upland areas, plus the Fenn's Moss area, where the birds were recorded.

Denbs. The first record came from Blaen-y-weirgloedd with a single feeding on caterpillars on 15/04 (BSm) and the last report came from Llyn Brenig on 28/06 (JVHu). The highest number recorded came from a BBS count at Moel Famau with 5 on 27/04 (IW) and there were 4 at Fenn's Moss on 21/05 (JoAr).

Flints. The first record came from Garth, Cilcain with a single on 22/04 (GEM). The last report was presence at Point of Ayr on 16/08. All other counts in the county were of singles.

(CK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	36	9
Maximum count	5	1
Number of records	50	9
Recorded in BBS squares	5/30	-
% records from GBW		
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	0.5
Density	0.09	0.09



Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

TYLLUAN WEN

Breeding resident.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

This year was not such a good breeding season across NE Wales.

(BO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	21	5
Maximum count	6	4
Number of records	24	8
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	0.1
Density	0.06	0.03

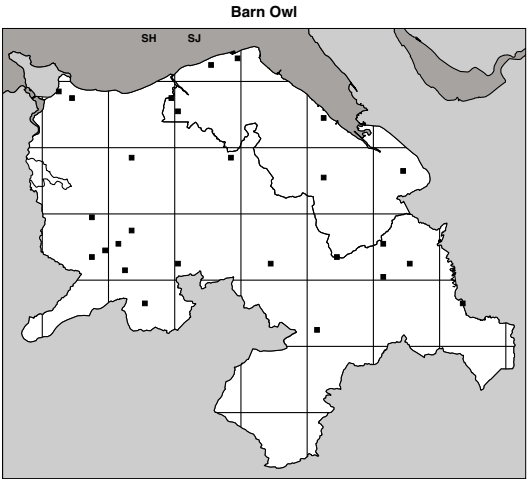
Denbs. Most records were of singles with the maximum counts being broods of nestlings that were ringed: 3 near Glasfryn on 3/06, 3 near Bodelwyddan on 24/06 and 4 near Gwytherin on 30/06 (IMS). One owl was found freshly dead at Pentrecelyn on 4/03 which is not close to any known breeding site. There were four records of singles from different parts of Mynydd Hiraethog on 13/05, 2,12, 8/12 and 13/12 (KaW) which suggests that there are feeding

Breeding (JLR, IMS)

(BO)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Denbs	11	38	28	25	2.27
Flints	2	10	6	6	3.00

opportunities on higher ground, even during the winter.

Flints. Three records were of singles and four of 2 – 2 adults were ringed near Sandycroft on 13/05 and 2 near Mold on 18/05, then 2 nestlings were ringed at each place on 13/05 and 16/06 respectively. The largest count was 4 nestlings ringed near Sandycroft on 16/07 (IMS). Of the singles, 1 was seen hunting in car headlights near Bagillt on 11/12 (GRMP) and 1 was hunting near Prestatyn on 28/12 (PKe).



Little Owl *Athene noctua*
Breeding resident.

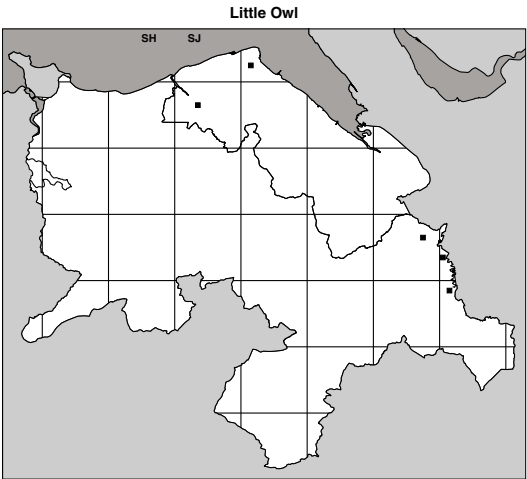
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. There were twice as many records as in 2014 but from one fewer squares. Little Owl seems to be continuing its steady decline. The three records during Jan and Feb were all from near Rossett with 2 seen on 1/01 and 14/02 (StP). The next records were all singles with the first on 18/05 near Holt and the last on 30/08 also near Holt (NF).

Flints. Presence was recorded near Gwespyr on 21/06 and a single was S of St Asaph on 8/08.

TYLLUAN FACH

(LO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3	2
Maximum count	2	1
Number of records	9	2
% records from GBW		
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.3
Density	0.00	0.00



Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Again, there was a high percentage of records from GBW and it was a slightly better breeding season (from a very small sample).

Denbs. The majority of records were of presence, singles or 2. The records with higher counts were: 3 nestlings ringed at each of two boxes in Clocaenog Forest on 12/05 (IMS), 4 heard calling simultaneously from different places at Pentrefelin in the Conwy Valley on 4/06 (MiB) and 6 at Pendre, near Llangollen on 12/12 (JoG).

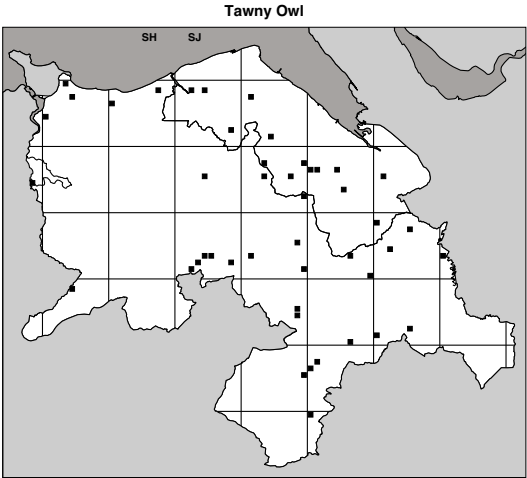
Flints. Here, all but one record were of presence, singles or 2 with the largest count being 4 at Rhydymwyn on 27/11 (JVHu).

Breeding (IMS):

(BO)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Denbs	3	11	8	8	2.67

TYLLUAN FRECH

(TO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	32	14
Maximum count	6	4
Number of records	133	76
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/16
% records from GBW	61.7	55.3
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	0.4
Density	0.10	0.10



Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Breeding resident. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
D	F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
D	F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O

Flints. The three records were from Shotwick Fields on 14/02, 18/02 and 6/03 so were likely to have been of the same bird.

TYLLUAN GORNOG

(LE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	3
% of BirdTrack lists		0.7
Density		0.00

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

TYLLUAN GLYSTIOG

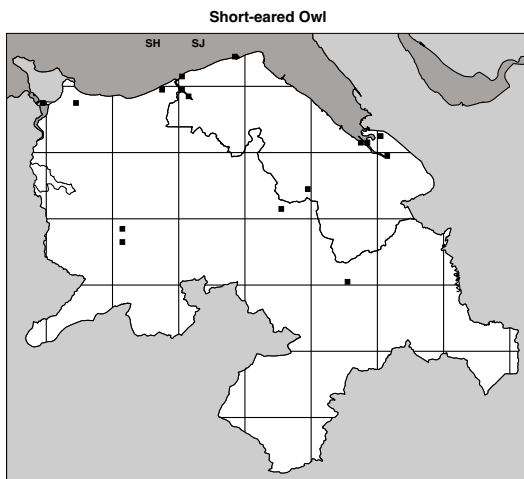
Winter visitor, passage migrant and occasional breeder. Red List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first record was presence at RSPB Conwy on 11/04 then a single at Esclusham Mountain on 20/06. There were four records in Jul, the last of which was 2 near Moel Famau on 30/07 (JtH). There were five records in Nov including a single (probably the same bird) on 3/11, 4/11 and 6/11 at Towyn. It was seen perching on a fence post, hunting over a field and on the last day it was being watched and photographed by other people (SM).

Flints. The first record was a brief sighting of a single near the dunes near Gronant on 27/06. There were two records from that same area in Jul with 2 seen on 26/07 (ACh). The other records were all of singles from the last months of the year: near Gronant on 29/10 and the last was over White Sands on 29/12.

(SE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	9
Maximum count	2	2
Number of records	11	16
% of BirdTrack lists	0.5	1.5
Density	0.01	0.03



Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

TROELLWR MAWR

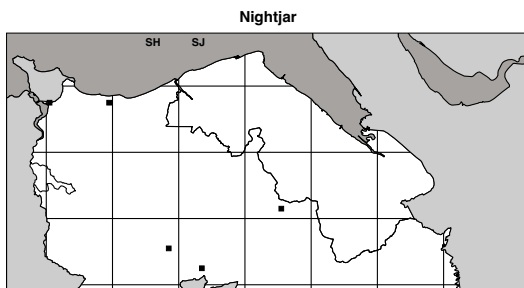
Breeding summer visitor. Amber List. WBAP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

A total of five records was received but only three from traditional sites in conifer plantation clearfell. A couple of regular sites had no records giving the impression that the low count was due to lack of late night visits rather than fewer numbers.

Denbs. Moel Famau produced the highest count with 2 on 30/07 (JtH), 1 at Llyn Brenig on 27/08 (RS) and 1 at Bronbannog on 28/08 (WyJ). A

(NJ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	5	
Maximum count	2	
Number of records	5	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.01	



probable passage single was seen S of Llanddulas on 30/08 and a juvenile at RSPB Conwy on 4/09 (RS).

Swift *Apus apus*

GWENNOL DDU

Summer visitor. Amber List.

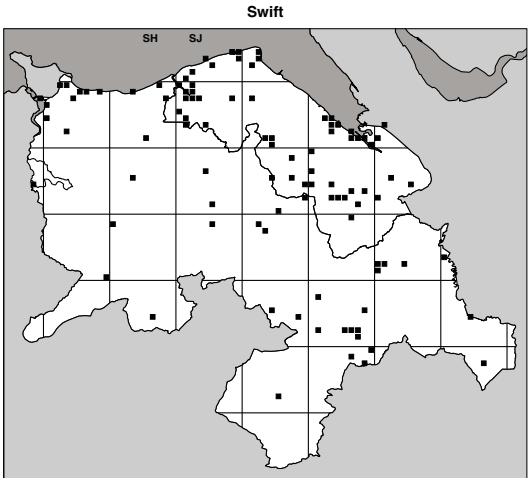
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

A fairly common sight around towns and tall buildings containing suitable nesting sites but there were only two records of nesting.

Denbs. The first record came from Denbigh with presence reported on 18/04 (JNW), the same date as last year. The last record was at Rhuthun with 18 flying over at dusk on 3/09 (RG). Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley held the highest count with 120 flying N on the evening of 11/05 (MiB). A similar high count with over 100 was seen near Towyn passing and feeding low along the Rhuddlan road on 2/08 (WRM).

Flint. The first record came from Rhuddlan with one on 15/04 (SH) and the next report came from the same site but two weeks later on 29/04 (SH). The last report came with a single flying high up Dee estuary at Bagillt on 15/09 (GRMP). The only report of nesting activity was at Rhydymwyn.

(SI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	50	52
Maximum count	120	200
Av max count 2004-15	121	119
Number of records	178	183
Recorded in BBS squares	3/30	5/16
% records from GBW	7.3	2.2
% of BirdTrack lists	7.6	11.2
Density	3.04	17.66



Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

COPOG

Summer migrant.

A rare visitor with just one record in 2015 but previous reports in 2009, 2012 and 2013.

Denbs. A single was photographed on a back lawn at Eglwys Cross, near Whitchurch on 26/04 (Sue Stevenson).

(HP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	1	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.00	



Hoopoe. Photo: Sue Stevenson

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Summer migrant.

Flints. One was seen flying over Shotton Steelworks, calling, on 20/08 (DeNi). Accepted by the WRP.

GWYBEDOG Y GWENYN

(MZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.00

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Breeding resident. Amber List.

GLAS Y DORLAN

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

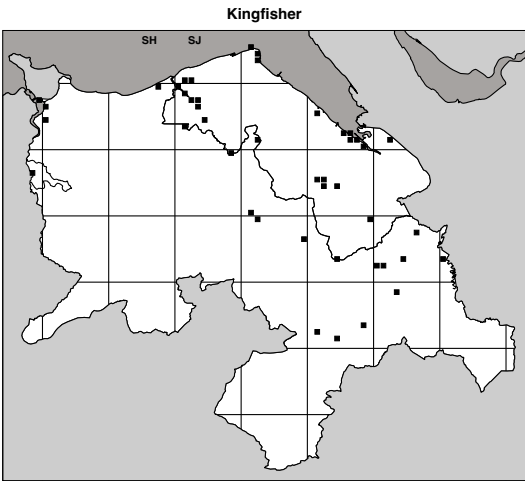
Although no direct evidence of breeding was submitted, there were numerous records of singles especially in Denbs in the breeding season.

(KF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	20	24
Maximum count	2	3
Number of records	53	103
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	1/16
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	3.0
Density	0.02	0.12

Denbs. Less than half the records compared to last year mainly due to RSPB Conwy reports

reducing from 85 to 20. The maximum count was 2 at Rhuthun on 10/06 (MB). Two WeBS counts recorded singles at Gresford Flash on 19/07 and 16/11 (ID).

Flints. Connah's Quay NR produced nearly 60% of submitted reports and the area had all the records of more than 1 with a maximum count of 3 on 13/02 (JRJ). Five WeBS counts produced records of 2 from RSPB Oakenholt Marsh (EcB, PeHa) and one each from Connah's Quay NR (PeHa), Rhuddlan (JHB) and Shotwick Fields (NFr).



Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Breeding resident. Amber List.

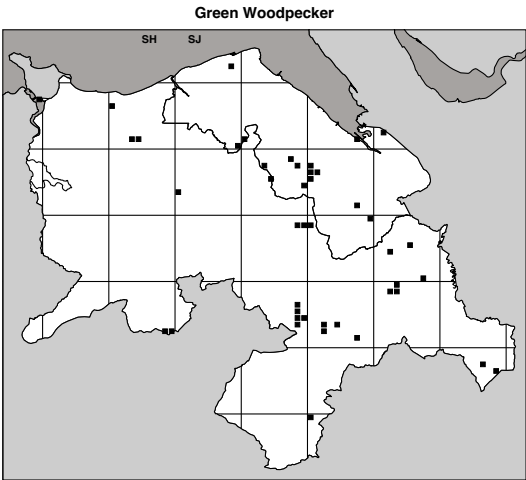
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

The map shows this is a species with stronghold areas and most reports are during the breeding season when the species is very vocal. The number of records for Denbs is similar to the last few years but there are more records for Flints.

Denbs. The highest count of 3 came from Llanarmon-yn-Iâl on 10/04 during a BBS count (TP). Other BBS counts were: 1 Erddig 26/04 (NHu), 2 at Berwyn (JoG) and 1 at Nantglyn on 26/06 (JDa). The only breeding report was a fledged youngster seen at Llanddulas on 6/09 (CRJ).

Flints. More than half the reports came from Rhydymwyn. The only BBS count came from Gronant with 1 on 22/04 (GRMP). There were three counts of 2: at Bodfari on 3/03 (SuLo), Hope on 20/04 (GNR) and Rhydymwyn on 31/07 (IMS).

CNOCELL WERDD		
(G)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	29	15
Maximum count	3	2
Number of records	42	40
Recorded in BBS squares	4/30	1/16
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	3.8
Density	0.04	0.05



Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

CNOCE FRAITH FWYAF

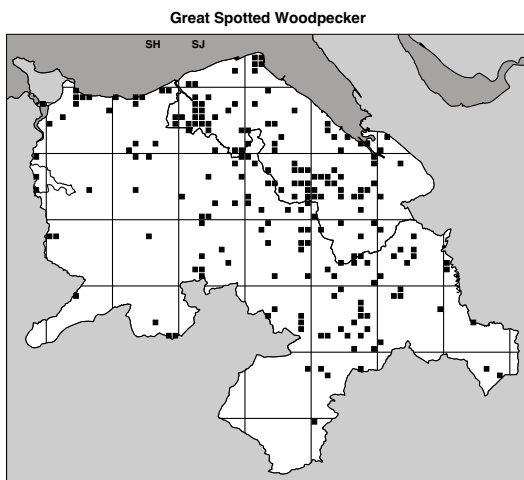
Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties with again a high GBW percentage. The map shows fairly wide distribution which covers any area which contains a wooded area with mature trees.

Denbs. The highest count of 4 was recorded at three sites, two of which were BBS: at Nantglyn on 27/06 (JDa) and Gellifor, Rhos on 30/06 (TP). The third record of 4 was from a GBW at Trefriw in the week beginning 27/09 (EMN). Two confirmed breeding records both came from the Colwyn Bay area: a nest with young at Pwllcrochan Woods on 21/05 (HC) and in Colwyn Bay itself another occupied nest on 4/06 (PJW).

Flints. The highest count of 8 was a BBS record from Bwlchgwyn on 10/06 (GaBu). The only confirmed breeding record came from Pantymwyn with a nest containing young on 2/06 (GEM).

GS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	126	83
Maximum count	4	8
Number of records	802	517
Recorded in BBS squares	15/30	13/16
% records from GBW	65.5	52.0
% of BirdTrack lists	13.6	22.6
Density	0.26	1.13



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

CNOCELL FRAITH LEIAF

Breeding resident. Red List. WBAP. RBBP.

Flints. The 100% increase in records over 2014 is not cause for jubilation! One was recorded near Dobshell on 14/02 and presence was recorded near Gwernaffield on 4/05.

(LS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		2
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	2
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.00

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Breeding resident. Red List. WBAP.

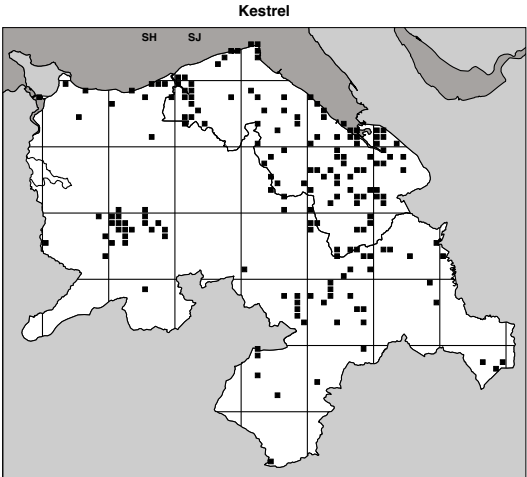
CUDYLL COCH

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. There was an encouraging increase in the number of records with all but five being of presence, singles or 2. The five other records were of 3 from different localities and times of year. There were three records of probable breeding and none of confirmed breeding.

Flints. There was an increase in the number of records in Flintshire too. All except one were of presence, singles or 2. The highest count was 6 nestlings ringed at Shotton Paper Mill on 7/06 (IMS). That was the only record of confirmed breeding and there was one of probable breeding.

(K)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	88	92
Maximum count	3	6
Number of records	182	167
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	4/16
% of BirdTrack lists	5.5	9.9
% records from GBW	-	0.6
Density	0.13	0.94



Merlin *Falco columbarius*
Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. RBBP.

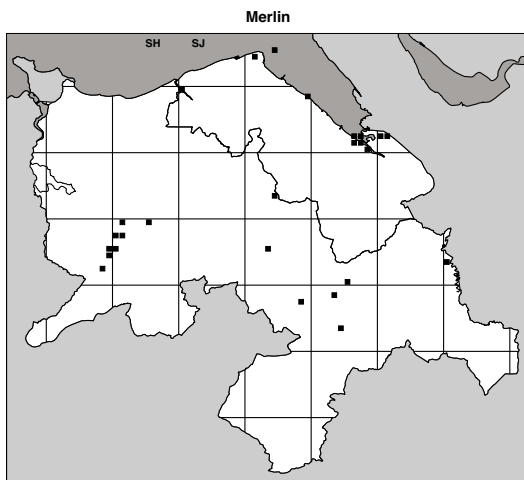
CUDYLL BACH

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All records were of presence or singles. The first two records were on 3/02 at Bwlch Gwyn, Mynydd Hiraethog and near Pentrefoelas (both KaW). The last spring record was at Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd on 25/05 (JoH). It was followed by two records in Aug and two in Dec. There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding.

(ML)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	15	11
Maximum count	2	2
Number of records	19	34
% of BirdTrack lists	0.3	1.0
Density	0.02	0.04

Flints. All but two records were of presence or singles. The two other records were 2 at Shotwick Fields on 12/01 (AGJ) and 2 over White Sands on 8/10 (PSH). The last record early in the year was a male at the dunes at Talacre on 18/03 and the first of autumn was at Connah's Quay NR on 30/08.



Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Passage migrant and summer breeder.
RBBP.

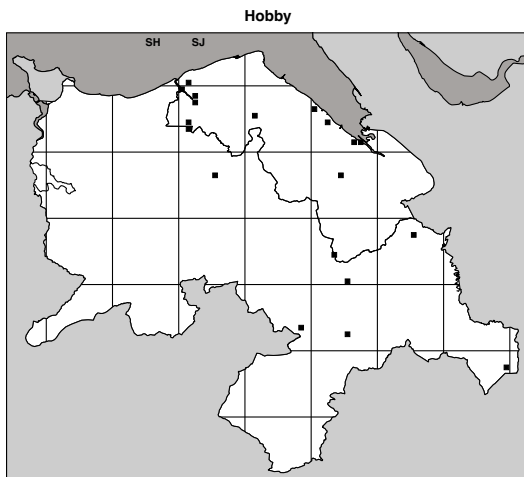
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All records were of presence or singles. The first was a male over Esclusham Mountain on 1/04 and the last was presence at Denbigh on 9/09. There were no records of breeding.

Flints. All but one of the records were of singles. The first was at Rhuddlan on 22/05 and the last was 2 at Rhyl brickworks on 19/09 (AHJ). There were no records of breeding.

HEBOG YR EHEDYDD

(HY)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	10	9
Maximum count	1	2
Number of records	14	15
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	-
% records from GBW	7.1	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.3
Density	0.01	0.03



Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Breeding resident. RBBP.

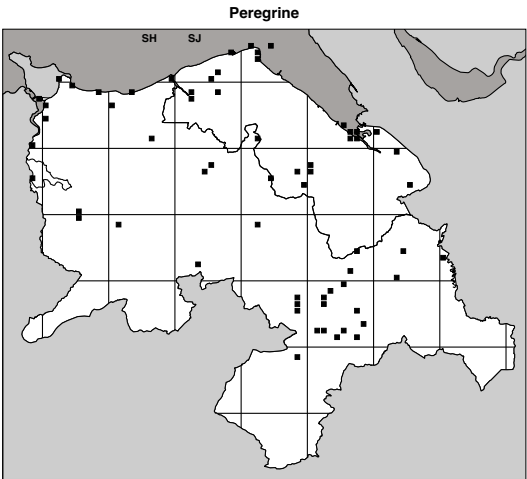
HEBOG TREMOR

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Most records were of presence or singles with eight records of 2. One was seen a few times flying over a garden at Pentrefelin in the Conwy Valley and was seen being mobbed by Swallows and House Martins on 6/09 (MiB). Apart from the nest records by JLR there was one record of probable breeding.

Flints. Most records were of singles with ten records of 2 and one of 3. The last was of 3 juveniles near Prestatyn on 22/06 which was one of two records of confirmed breeding apart from the nest record by JLR.

(PE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	41	22
Maximum count	6	3
Number of records	60	85
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	1.9
Density	0.12	0.15



Breeding (JLR):

(PE)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Denbs	5	14	7	7	1.40
Flints	1	4	4	4	4.00

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Winter visitor.

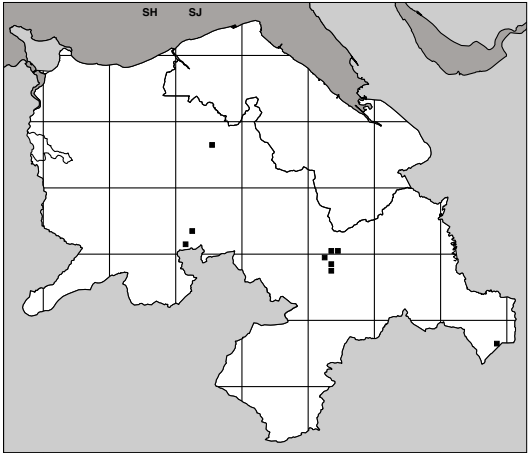
CIGYDD MAWR

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first sighting of the year was of a single at Eclusham Mountain, Ruabon Mountain on 5/02 (TrB). A maximum of 2 were seen at World's End on 10/03 and 22/03. Single sightings in the same vicinity were on eleven occasions from 17/02 to the last spring sighting on 9/04 (RTe). In the autumn a single was sighted at Fenn's Moss on most days between 17/10 and 25/10. The last record of the year was at the traditional Craig Bron Bannog site in Clocaenog Forest on 19/11 (WAO).

(SR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	9	
Maximum count	2	
Number of records	29	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.01	

Great Grey Shrike



Chough *Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax* Breeding resident. Amber List.

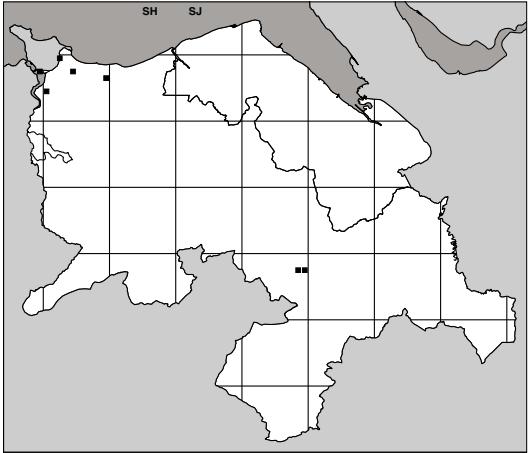
BRAN GOESGOCH

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

(CF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	7	
Maximum count	13	
Number of records	47	0
% of BirdTrack lists	1.6	
Density	0.05	

Denbs. All of the records were from outside the breeding season. RSPB Conwy proved to be the best place to see this species, where 2 or more were seen on fourteen occasions in the early part of the year between 2/01 and 28/02 with the maximum of 13 on 9/02. As the breeding season approached, three sightings came from inland locations including Nant-y-Glyn and Llysfaen. Breeding was possible at one inland site. In autumn the majority of autumn and winter records came from RSPB Conwy or nearby with numbers varying from 1-6 seen on thirteen dates between 23/09 and 23/12 (JHg).

Chough



Magpie *Pica pica*

Breeding resident.

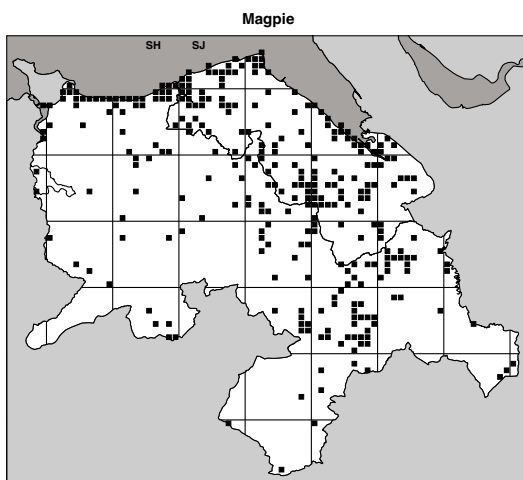
PIODEN

Recorded in each month in both counties. This is a widespread species of all lowland habitats.

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1-9 but there were seven larger counts with the most notable being 15+ at Towyn on 25/01 (SM).

(MG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	170	132
Maximum count	15	72
Av max count 2004-15	27	28
Number of records	1504	1094
Recorded in BBS squares	22/30	15/16
% records from GBW	43.4	44.0
% of BirdTrack lists	53.7	70.6
Density	1.29	16.14

Flints. Most records were of 1-9 with forty three records of 10 or more. Many of the larger counts were accumulative counts from BirdTrack lists or BBS surveys with the largest counts of 22 recorded near Mold by DMH on 8/02. Winter roosts are not an uncommon phenomenon but this report rarely records large roosts in NE Wales. However, 22+ were counted going to an evening roost at Talacre on 11/10 (DCR) and a phenomenal 72 were counted behind Rhyl college on 1/02 (AHJ). This is apparently a regular roost between Dec and Feb and numbers may have been even higher. Further details should be forthcoming next year. Records of any other winter roosts would be welcome.



Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Breeding resident.

YSGRECH Y COED

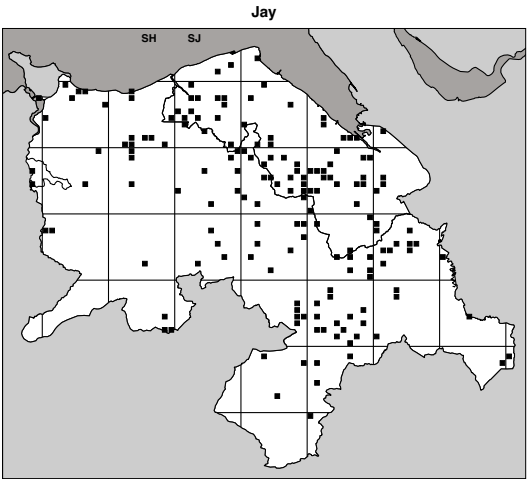
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The vast majority of records were counts of 1-3 with no records of more than 6 at any one time. Despite the fact that Jays are woodland birds it is notable that records came from fourteen different gardens as noted from GBW. It also appears that Jays are being increasingly reported from BBS surveys (50% compared to 25-33% in the previous four years) and this mirrors the national trend for an increase in the Jay population in Wales.

(J)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	108	60
Maximum count	6	8
Av max count 2004-15	6	7
Number of records	384	226
Recorded in BBS squares	15/30	6/16
% records from GBW	45.3	30.4
% of BirdTrack lists	9.3	15.9
Density	0.33	0.81

Flints. Most records were of 1-3 with only seventeen records of 4-8. No notable flocks or

interesting activity were recorded this year.



Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

JAC-Y-DO

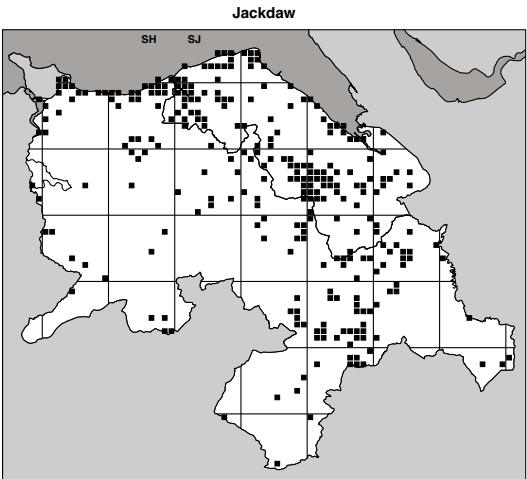
Breeding resident

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The majority of records were of counts less than 20. There were fifty records of 20-100 but sightings of larger flocks were less common this year. The maximum counts were of 200+ at Pensarn beach on 17/02 (HC) and 220+ at Nant-y-Glyn on 14/10 (HC).

(JD)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	160	123
Maximum count	220	200
Av max count 2004-15	438	252
Number of records	1251	955
Recorded in BBS squares	20/30	15/16
% records from GBW	33.8	41.2
% of BirdTrack lists	50.4	65.6
Density	17.81	41.77

Flints. Most records were of 1-20 but there were one hundred and thirty two records of flock sizes between 20 and 100. Larger flocks of 100-200 were regularly seen in the Rhuddlan area outside the breeding season (SH) with the maximum count of 200 recorded at this site on 10/03.



Breeding (MRG):

(JD)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Various	2	7	7	7	3.50
Pandy	13	32	31	28	2.15

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

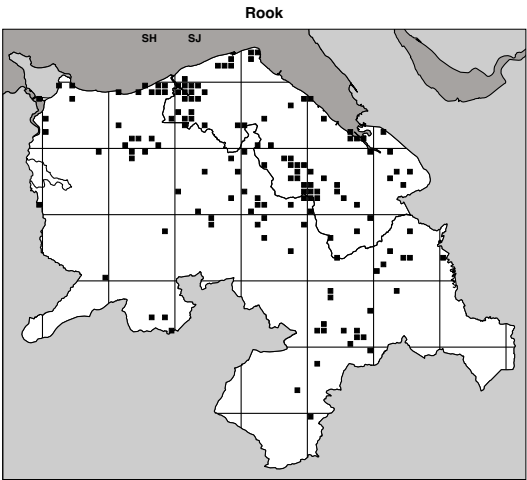
Colonial breeding resident.

YDFRAN

Recorded in each month in both counties. This year, observers recorded many new breeding locations which will contribute to the local study of rookeries which is ongoing. We would encourage more records like these. Observers are encouraged to make annual counts of their local rookeries, particularly during the months of Mar and early Apr when the rookeries are highly visible and the number of nests can be easily counted.

(RO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	81	66
Maximum count	200	120
Av max count 2004-15	345	141
Number of records	292	251
Recorded in BBS squares	11/30	6/16
% records from GBW	41.8	41.0
% of BirdTrack lists	9.7	20.7
Density	8.20	13.45

Denbs. Most records were in single figures with twenty three records of 11-49 and six records of 50-100. Rural gardens provided regular sightings as reported by GBW. The largest count was of 200+ at Nant-y-Glyn on 27/09 (HC). Interesting breeding information in the form of nest counts came from the parish of Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd where JoH counted nests in the four to six rookeries at five year intervals from 1961 to 2014. Nest counts slowly built up from 255 in 1965 to a maximum of 503 in 1995. Since then numbers have decreased to 288 nests in 2014. Longer term data like these are rarely encountered but if other recorders have any similar counts then we would like to hear about them.



Flints. Most records were in single figures with fifteen records of 11-49. There were eleven counts of 50 or more. The maximum counts were of 100+ at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 6/12 (TP) and 120 at Caerwys on 1/07 (GEM).

Carriion Crow *Corvus corone*

Breeding resident.

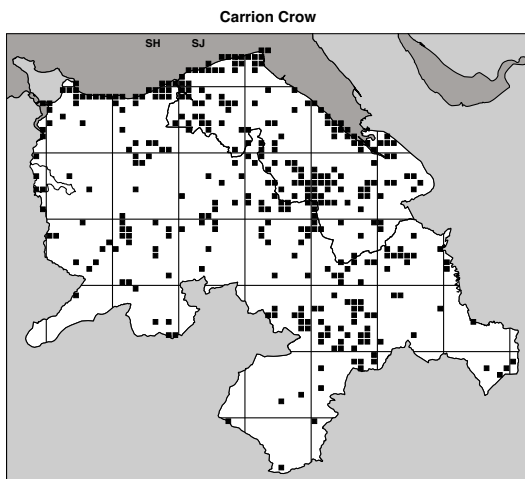
BRAN DYDDYN

Recorded in each month in both counties. This is an exceedingly common bird found in the majority of BirdTrack lists and from most habitats.

Denbs. The majority of records were in single figures with thirty nine records of 10-30. Two records exceeded 30. There were 100+ seen at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 30/04 (WRM) and at Holt on 18/08 NF noted 170 birds. Several observers recorded aggressive behaviour, in particular attacking other corvids such as a foraging Jackdaw and a Magpie at Colwyn Bay on 7/05 (WRM).

Flints. All records were either in single figures (the majority) with sixty eight records of 10-30 and nine records of 31-100. The maximum count was of 200 recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 7/06 (PSH).

(C)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	219	139
Maximum count	170	200
Av max count 2004-15	144	91
Number of records	1195	800
Recorded in BBS squares	27/30	15/16
% records from GBW	19.6	16.9
% of BirdTrack lists	60.8	79.5
Density	18.84	47.20



Raven *Corvus corax*

Breeding resident.

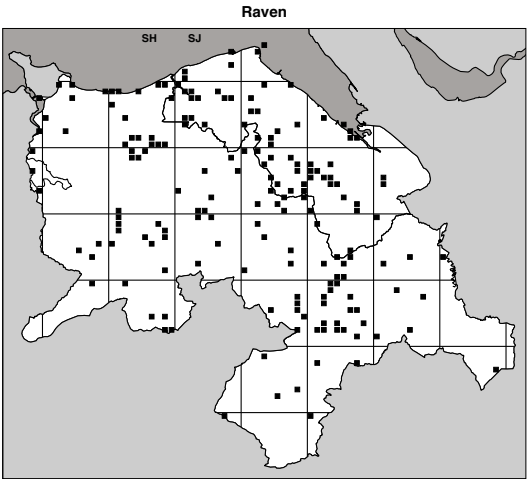
CIGFRAN

Recorded in each month in both counties in a wide scattering of locations at all elevations from the mountains to the coast. This is now becoming a very commonly sighted bird.

Denbs. The majority of records were of 1-4 with seventeen records of 5-9 and seven records of 10+. Two records came from gardens: one at Talygarth in week beginning 27/09 (DCg) and one at Bwlchgwyn in week beginning 22/03 (MaT). A sitting bird was observed at a coastal quarry at Llanddulas on 22/03 (WRM). Notable flocks of 17 were seen circling in the sky at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 11/08 (AIC) and on 16/08 at Moel Arthur (GEM). The maximum count was of 20 at Mynydd Hiraethog on 16/10 (WyJ).

(RN)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	123	56
Maximum count	20	30
Av max count 2004-15	40	13
Number of records	308	238
Recorded in BBS squares	9/30	8/16
% records from GBW	1.0	0.4
% of BirdTrack lists	14.3	18.1
Density	1.24	2.85

Flints. Most records were in single figures with eight records of 5-9. The only record of a larger maximum count came from the marshes at Flint where a flock of 30 was seen gathered around a dead sheep on 16/10 (GEM). Breeding was confirmed at several locations.



Breeding (JLR):

(RN)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Denbs	15	60	42	40	2.67

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

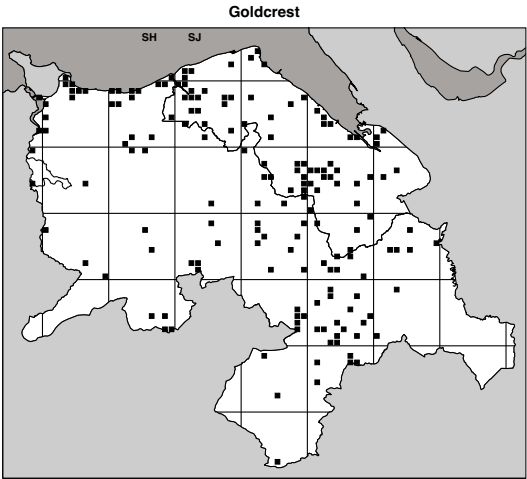
DRYW EURBEN

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties. This, our smallest bird, is often overlooked maybe due to its size, propensity for remaining hidden within conifer trees or dense ivy and its highly pitched calls and song. However, the number of records increased again this year.

(GC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	105	63
Maximum count	77	5
Av max count 2004-15	43	8
Number of records	316	205
Recorded in BBS squares	14/30	7/16
% records from GBW	12.0	14.1
% of BirdTrack lists	14.6	15.6
Density	4.09	0.53

Denbs. Most records were of 1-4 with thirteen records of 5-10. A large number were ringed during the late summer and autumn migration. IMS ringed 198 birds at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest between 2/08 and 1/10 almost doubling the numbers from 2014. The maximum count was of an amazing 77 individuals newly ringed on 1/10 (and there were 4 retraps). Breeding was noted at several sites.



Flints. All records were of 1-4 with the one exception of 5 seen at Connah's

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

DRYW PENFFLAMMGGOCH

Migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

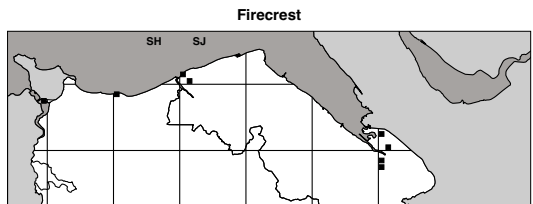
Unlike previous years, records came from a range of coastal sites this year stretching from RSPB Conwy in the W to the Dee Estuary in the E.

Denbs. One to three were seen for much of Jan from 1/01 until mid-Feb (14/02) at RSPB Conwy. The next sightings were on 5/03 with a single and this appeared to stay until 27/03.

There were no more records until the autumn when 2 were seen on 19/10 and 1-3 individuals were regularly seen at this site until the end of the year. Autumn sightings also came from Llandulas when a single was recorded on 23/10 and 3 seen on 30/10. The maximum number was 5 seen at RSPB Conwy on 31/10 and 9/12.

Flints. An autumn bird was seen on 15/10 at Shotton (MBu) singles seen on 10/11 at Shotwick and Shotton (DeNi). In the Rhyl area another single was seen on 18/12 (AHJ).

(FC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	6
Maximum count	5	1
Number of records	70	6
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	0.1
Density	0.01	0.01



Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

TITW TOMOS LAS

Breeding resident.

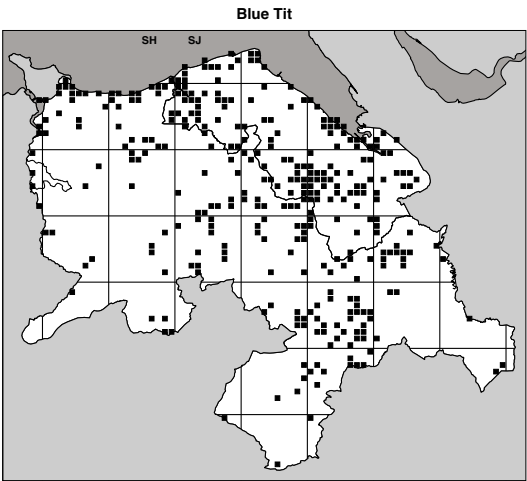
Recorded in each month in both counties. The recording effort was similar to that of 2014. Winter flocks are still under-recorded and observers are encouraged to submit more winter flock counts. This did not seem to be a good breeding season, with the number of young produced per active nest being considerably lower than in 2014 (which was actually the best year in the series for which we have data). The mean number of young produced per nest was close to the average for the preceding eleven year period.

(BT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	197	136
Maximum count	65	61
Av max count 2004-15	54	77
Number of records	2091	1324
Recorded in BBS squares	25/30	16/16
% records from GBW	48.6	47.2
% of BirdTrack lists	61.9	71.2
Density	6.48	14.08

Denbs. Most records were of 1-10 with only forty nine sighting records of 11-35. The largest counts were of 33 seen on a BBS survey at Nantglyn on 27/06 (JDa) and 35+ seen around Rhuthun on 22/11 (CBro). Breeding was recorded at several locations, most of which were gardens. The usual ringing efforts by IMS, pBH and MiB covered 10 different locations. The maximum daily ringing effort was of 65 nestlings ringed at Coed Nantddu, Clocaenog on 3/06

(IMS).

Flints. Most records were of 1-10 with seventy nine records of higher counts of 11-30 The largest count recorded was of 30 in a garden at Sychdyn on 29/03 (AB, IMS). Ringing took place at 10 locations by GRMP, IMS and pBH. The most notable ringing records were from IMS who ringed 61 nestlings at Coed y Felin, Hendre on 29/05.



Breeding (MRG, IMS, JLR):

(BT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	42	320	231	206	4.90
Pandy	21	147	122	80	3.81
Llewesog Hall	37	337	171	150	4.05
Llangollen area	34	274	193	118	3.47
Coed Nantddu	10	111	69	68	6.80
Gellifor	7	62	35	22	3.14
Beeches Farm	3	28	27	19	6.33
Coed y Felin	17	139	92	79	4.65
Rhydymwyn	18	93	73	57	3.17
TOTALS	189	1511	1013	799	4.23
Mean young/nest for 2004 to 2014 (n = 1400)					4.92

Great Tit *Parus major*

Breeding resident.

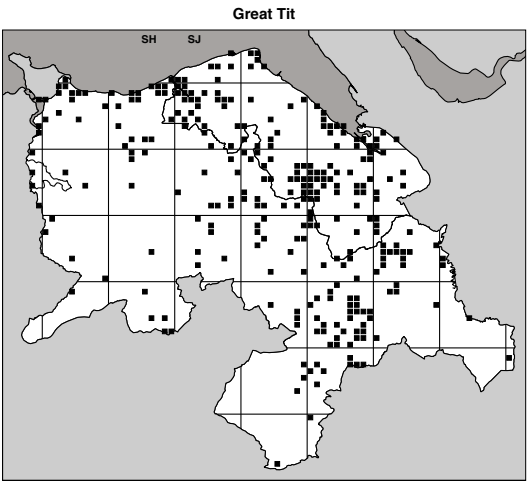
Recorded in each month in both counties and breeding was confirmed at several locations. There was a slight increase in recording effort this year compared to 2014 but no winter flocks were recorded. For this species, too, it was a poorer breeding season than in 2014 (which was also the best in the series of years for which we have data). The mean of young per nest was the second lowest in this series of years, the worst was 2012 (3.25).

TITW MAWR

(GT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	175	114
Maximum count	40	25
Av max count 2004-15	55	36
Number of records	1525	1004
Recorded in BBS squares	23/30	15/16
% records from GBW	61.6	52.8
% of BirdTrack lists	32.9	51.6
Density	3.54	4.84

Denbs. Most records were of 1-10 with only ten larger counts, the three largest of which all related to ringing activities. These three records were of nestlings ringed: 27 at Prion on 2/06 and then at Pandy: 26 on 24/05 and the maximum of 40 on 17/05 (pBH).

Flints. The majority of records were of 1-10 with only twelve records of between 11 and 25. The maximum came from ringing: 25 nestlings were ringed at Rhydymwyn on 28/05 (IMS).



Breeding (MRG, IMS, JLR):

(GT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	15	101	63	55	3.67
Pandy	29	188	146	71	2.45
Llewesog Hall	22	157	130	108	4.91
Coed Nantddu	2	14	11	11	5.50
Gellifor	1	5	5	4	4.00
Glasfryn	4	34	27	16	4.00
Coed y Felin	14	67	45	26	1.86
Rhydymwyn	30	171	120	93	3.10
Near Llangollen	17	117	98	71	4.18
TOTALS	134	854	645	455	3.40
Mean young/nest for 2004 to 2014 (n = 1147)					4.19

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a slight increase in recording effort from 2014.

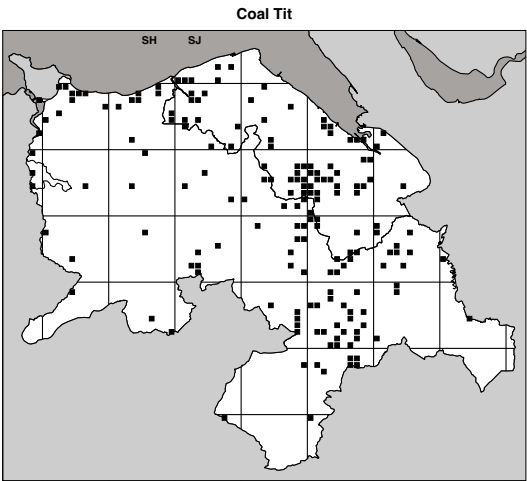
Denbs. All records were in single figures with the exception of the maximum of 13 seen during a walk at Ty'n Celyn, near Llangollen on 13/04 (IMS).

TIT PENDDU

(CT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	111	65
Maximum count	13	7
Av max count 2004-15	15	7
Number of records	963	570
Recorded in BBS squares	13/30	7/16
% records from GBW	70.1	66.3
% of BirdTrack lists	15.2	17.3
Density	0.73	0.77

Flints. All counts were in single figures (the majority were of 1-2) with the maximum count of 7 seen on two occasions at two different locations: Nercwys Mountain on 27/11 and Pantymwyn

on 17/11 (GEM). Thirteen birds were ringed at Bagillt on four dates in autumn (GRMP).



Willow Tit *Poecile montana*

Breeding resident. Red List. WBAP. RBBP.

TITWR HELYG

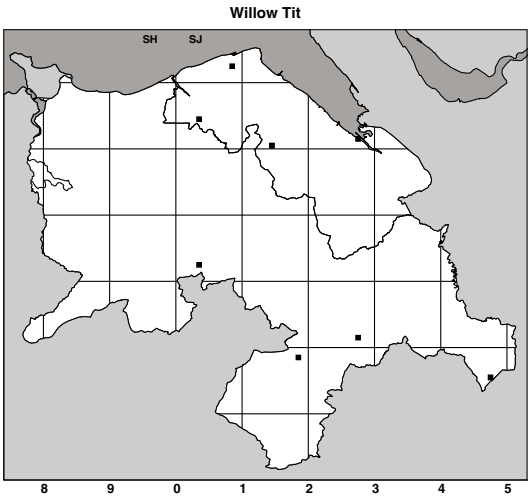
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

The total numbers of records have dramatically decreased this year, particularly in Denbs. Sightings came from eight locations this year. Although some were seen in the breeding season no indications of breeding were provided. Field identification can be difficult and this, maybe, prevents observers from making a definitive record although this species is declining right across its UK range.

Denbs. All counts were of singles. Two separate fullgrown birds were ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 31/08 and 1/10 (IMS).

Flints. Breeding season records came from two BBS squares at Afonwen on 10/05 and 12/06 (possibly the same bird) and a maximum of 3 at Gronant on 22/04 (GRMP). The remaining two records were from Connah's Quay NR on 20/09 and St Asaph on 8/11.

(WT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	4	4
Maximum count	1	3
Av max count 2004-15	4	3
Number of records	7	5
Recorded in BBS squares	-	2/16
% records from GBW	-	20.0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.1
Density	0.00	0.02



Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Breeding resident. Red List. WBAP.

TITW'R WERN

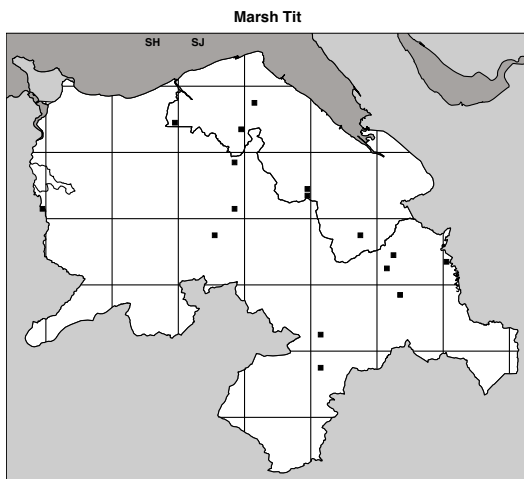
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

The number of records for this species decreased slightly this year.

Denbs. There were sixteen records of singles and five records of 2-4. Records of 2 came from Alyn Waters CP, Gwersyllt, Talygarth, and Bodelwyddan Castle. The maximum count of 4 came from Cyffylliog on 19/02 (MKi). Although breeding was not recorded, one record came from a BBS survey at Erddig and six other records were during the breeding season.

Flints. Two records of singles came in the breeding season from Llanfynydd on 8/04 (GNR) and Rhydymwyn on 9/05 (MGW). Two singles were in the Pantymwyn area on 19/01 (PEM) and on 15/07 (StN). Further records were of 2 at Tremeirchion on 8/02 (MGW) and a maximum of 3 at Llyn Helyg on 14/12 (JVHu).

(MT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	11	6
Maximum count	4	3
Av max count 2004-15	3	3
Number of records	21	6
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	-
% records from GBW	28.6	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.6	0.5
Density	0.02	0.03



Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List.

EHEDYDD

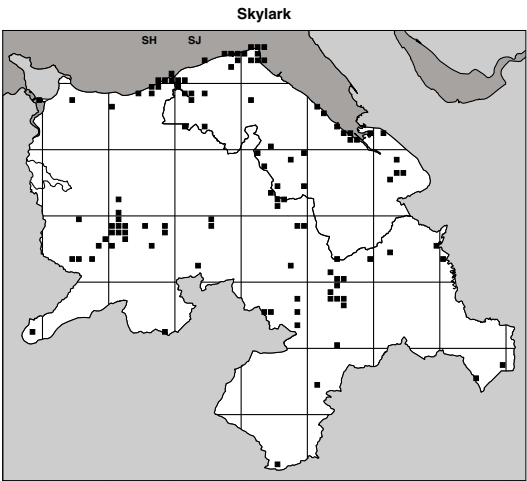
Recorded in each month in both counties, except for Aug in Flints. There was only one Denbs record in both Aug and Sep, but it is not clear whether this reflects genuine absence or lack of coverage. Once again there were no three figure counts in either county, but there was an overall increase in records in both, including BBS visits, continuing the 2014 trend.

(S)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	69	43
Maximum count	12	20
Av max count 2004-15	55	330
Number of records	171	137
Recorded in BBS squares	8/30	6/16
% of BirdTrack lists	7.8	15.0
Density	0.42	1.46

Denbs. Records were mainly of 1-5 and the only counts in double figures were of 10 at Ruabon Mountain on 4/04 (StLe), Mynydd Hiraethog on 30/06 (GEM) and Kinnel Bay on 24/12 (AHJ), whilst at least 12 were recorded at Mynydd Hiraethog on 21/06 (SM) and Holt on 10/07 (NF).

Flints. As in 2014, most reports were in single figures. Two counts of 20 came from Rhyl on

11/01 (WRM) and on Flint saltmarsh on 27/12 (EITh) whilst other double figure counts were of 16 at Point of Ayr on 11/10 (GEM), 12 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 14/04 (IMS) on a BBS visit, at least 12 at Gronant on 21/03 (AcG) and 21/04 (GNR), Rhuddlan on 16/04 (SH) and 16/09 (WRM). There were at least 10 at Gronant on 3/02 (DCR) and 21/05 (WRM), Talacre on 17/02 (DCR) and 1/11 (SAH) and Point of Ayr on 26/11 (MGW).



Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

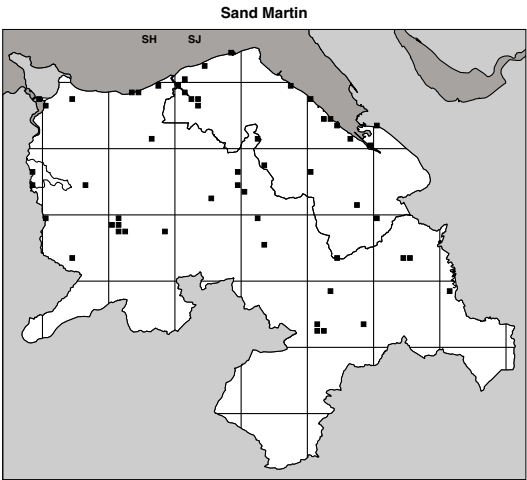
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Although there were thirteen Mar records from Denbs, with most, as usual, from RSPB Conwy, there were no Mar records from Flints. Last records were again in early Sep, with three from Denbs and two from Flints.

Denbs. Fewer records than in 2014, with the earliest at Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd on 11/03, followed by a run of eleven Mar records from RSPB Conwy, all of singles until 12 were recorded on 29/03. There was substantial passage through RSPB Conwy during the second half of Apr and early May, with at least 50 on 16/04 (WRM), 20 on 26/04 (PJW), 30 on 2/05 (SPk) and at least 70 on 14/05 (JOHn). At least 20 were at the Afonwen colony by 18/04 (SD). Autumn gatherings started towards the end of Jul, with at least 12 at Llanfeydd on 19/07 (JVHu) and the

GWENNOL Y GLENNYDD

(SM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	34	20
Maximum count	70	70
Av max count 2004-15	156	70
Number of records	112	72
Recorded in BBS squares	2/30	-
% records from GBW	-	1.4
% of BirdTrack lists	5.5	6.4
Density	1.20	2.38



peak count was at least 50 at Wrexham on 5/09 (MGW) after which a single bird at Trefriw on 9/09 (DCR) was the last of the year.

Flints. The earliest record was not until 3/04, with 4 at Rhyl Brickworks (AHJ) and good passage numbers were recorded during Apr at Rhuddlan, with 25 on 7/04, 45 on 14/04 and peaking at 70 on 15/04 (all SH), the highest count of the year. At least 50 were at the same site on 16/04 (AHJ) and further counts of more than 40 came from Burton Mere on 12/04 (SH), Hope on 26/05 (MGW) and Connah's Quay NR on 18/05 (PeHa) and 21/06 (GEM). There were only two reports in Aug, of 3 at Rhuddlan on 3/08 (SH) and 11 at Rhydymwyn on 13/08 (IMS), with the final records for the year coming from Bagillt on 6/09 (GRMP) and two birds at Connah's Quay NR on 10/09 (PSH).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

GWENNOL

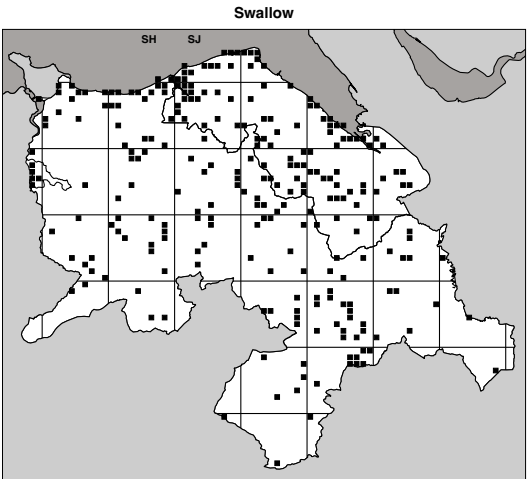
Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

As with Sand Martin, whilst there were Mar records in Denbs, there were none in Flints. The earliest arrival was at RSPB Conwy on 14/03 and all the six Mar records were from this site. None were recorded in Flints until a single at Connah's Quay NR on 5/04. Autumn departures were largely completed by the end of Sep and there were only six Oct records. Spring passage from both Denbs and Flints continued well into May, suggesting a late arrival for many birds. The numbers of young per nest averaged about the same as for all the years 2004-2014.

Denbs. Only small numbers were recorded on spring passage until the middle of Apr, with the first double figure count of 15 at Llangollen on 17/04 (DaHu) followed by at least 10 at Pensarn on 19/04 (WRM). The only significant movement involved 350 flying over RSPB Conwy in the late evening of 26/04 (MiB) – the highest Denbs count of the year. A further movement of at least 60 was noted at Towyn on 11/05 (SM) and there were at least 85 at RSPB Conwy on 15/05 (JOHn) and 38 on telephone wires at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 17/05 (MiB). Almost all other records were in single figures throughout the spring, summer and early autumn, with only eight counts of 20 or more. There were only two counts of at least 50 on migration: at Nant-y-Glyn on 19/08 (HC) and near Cerrigydrudion on 15/09 (GRMP). The last record was a

(SL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	160	96
Maximum count	350	500
Av max count 2004-15	457	595
Number of records	466	348
Recorded in BBS squares	24/30	15/16
% records from GBW	12.9	5.7
% of BirdTrack lists	18.9	31.4
Density	28.34	81.49



single at Pendre on 18/10 (JoG).

Flints. The earliest bird was at Connah's Quay NR on 5/04 (PDS) with small numbers at many sites in the county throughout the rest of Apr and well into May. Most reports were in single figures, but movement was noted at Rhuddlan, with 20 on 7/04 and 30 on 15/04 (SH) and Connah's Quay NR, with 45 on 12/04, 100 on 16/04 (RBe), 20 on 25/04 and 6/05 and 18/05 and a maximum of 50 on 1/05 (PSH). A total of 23 was recorded on a BBS visit at Talacre on 7/06 (PMi). Early autumn passage was noted at Connah's Quay NR with 20 on 26/07 and 40 on 7/08 (PSH), at Rhuddlan with 30 on 3/08 (SH) and 25 on 8/08 and Bagillt with 25 on 6/08 and 85 on 14/08 (GRMP). The highest count of the year came from Shotton Steelworks with 500 on 19/09 (DeNi) and the last straggler was seen at Talacre on 23/10 (RCR).

Breeding (MRG, JLR, IMS):

(SL)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	19	78	66	66	3.47
Tregeiriog	1	5	5	5	5.00
Llangollen area	46	183	146	138	3.00
Rhydymwyn	1	6	6	6	6.00
TOTALS	67	272	23	215	3.21
Mean young/nest for 2004 to 2014 (n = 561)					3.30

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

There was a further 10% increase in reports from 2014, possibly influenced by the BTO House Martin survey. Although there were two Mar records from RSPB Conwy with the first on 28/03, the first in Flints was not recorded until 2 were seen at Connah's Quay NR on 6/04 (PeHa). Numbers were in single figures until mid-Apr, with the first double figure count in Flints on 13/04 with 15 at Rhuddlan (SH) and in Denbs on 24/04 with 16 recorded at an active colony at Llansilin (JO). Most had departed before the end of Sep, with only four Oct records in Denbs and three in Flints.

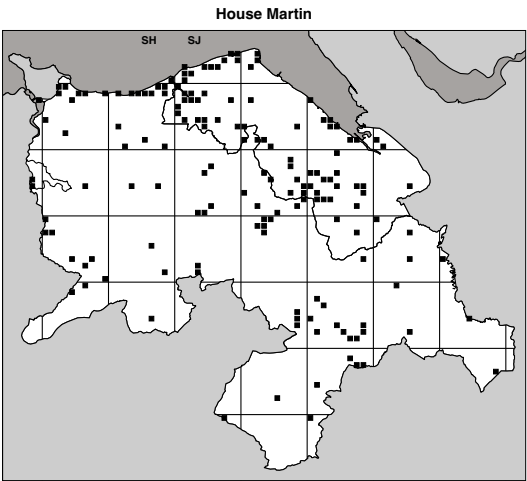
Denbs. There were eight counts of 40 or more, five of which came from RSPB Conwy or at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley, with the largest count of 75 drifting over Pentrefelin on 11/05 (MiB). Sizeable colony counts were from St Asaph (at least 30) and Bodelwyddan (at least 50) on 15/06 (WRM) and there were three good autumn counts, from Pentrefelin with 65 on 13/08 and 60 on 12/09 (MiB) and Froncysyllte with 65 on 20/09 (DaHu). The last record was a single at Denbigh on 10/10 (JNW).

Flints. There were seven counts of 40 or more: from Rhuddlan, with 50 on 8/05, 40 on 11/05, 55 on 22/05 and 40 on 13/08 (SH), 40 at Bodfari, presumably associated with the healthy

GWENNOL Y BONDO

(HM)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	91	68
Maximum count	75	55
Av max count 2004-15	120	143
Number of records	352	215
Recorded in BBS squares	10/30	11/16
% records from GBW	19.3	10.2
% of BirdTrack lists	14.1	20.0
Density	3.45	6.35

colony there, on 1/09 (MeSh), 50 at Connah's Quay NR on 7/08 (PeHa) and 50 at Shotton Steelworks on 19/09 (DeNi). The last record was of 2 at Hope on 5/10 (NHu).



Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

TELOR CETTI

Rare visitor and potential breeding resident.

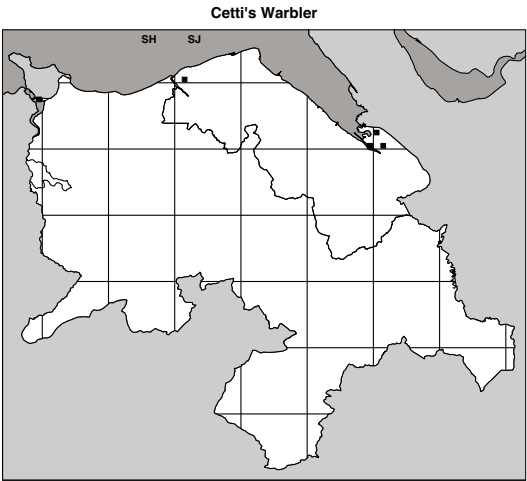
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

(CW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	4
Maximum count	1	6
Number of records	4	8
% of BirdTrack lists	-	1.2
Density	0.00	0.04

All except two records were from the same locations as in 2014: at RSPB Conwy in Denbs and Shotton Steelworks in Flints.

Denbs. All four records were of singles in Jan at RSPB Conwy (JHg), possibly the same bird or birds that were recorded there during Sep to Dec 2014. There were no spring, summer or autumn records – hence the dramatic decrease in reports.

Flints. A similar pattern to 2014 at Shotton Steelworks (RyE and DeNi) with the highest count being 6 on 16/07 (DeNi). Singles were also reported from Rhyl brickworks on 31/01 (AHJ) and Shotwick rifle range on 10/11 (DeNi).



Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

TITW GYNFFON HIR

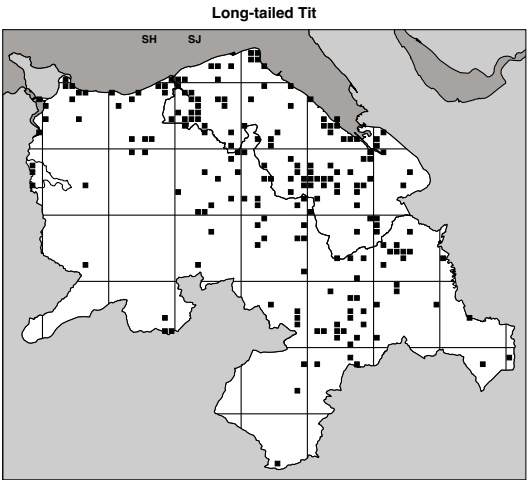
Breeding resident. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties. There was a 21% increase in reports from Denbs and a 39% increase from Flints. Almost exactly the same proportion came from GBW sites in Denbs as in 2014 (52.6%), but there was a decrease of 6.2% to 40.5% of GBW records in Flints. Records came from more than twice as many BBS counts in Denbs as in 2014, but there was no parallel increase in Flints.

Denbs. Twenty eight counts were of 10-19 birds (just under 5% of all records) and a further four of 20-33 (0.69% of all records), with the largest flock of 33 at Talygarth on 20/12 (DCg). Three of these double figure flocks were recorded in Jan, but only two more before the end of May.

Flints. Twenty five counts were of 10-19 birds (5.4% of all records) and a further four of 22-50 birds (0.86% of all records), with the largest flocks comprising at least 30 at Connah's Quay NR on 26/11 (SM), 36 at Bagillt on 8/06 of which 29 were ringed (GRMP), and a splendid flock of at least 50 at Hope on 13/07 (MGW). As in Denbs most of these flocks were recorded from Jun through the second half of the year.

(LT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	116	84
Maximum count	33	36
Av max count 2004-15	30	26
Number of records	576	463
Recorded in BBS squares	15/30	7/16
% records from GBW	52.6	40.5
% of BirdTrack lists	13.0	27.6
Density	1.94	5.13



Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

TELOR Y COED

Summer visitor. Red List.

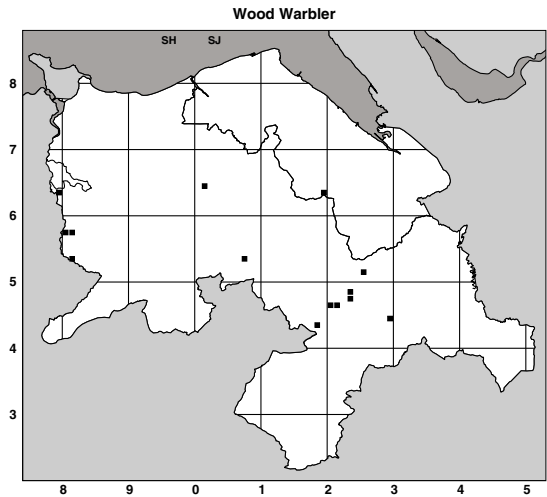
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

There was a similar number of records in Denbs as in 2014, but only a single record from Flints. None were recorded on BBS visits this year.

(WO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	13	1
Maximum count	6	1
Number of records	13	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.4	0.1
Density	0.04	0.00

Denbs. The first record was 1 at Ruabon on 24/04 (GrU) and all records were of 1-2, except for 3 at Groes on 28/04 (LaC) and 6 at Llanrwst on 4/05 (SzC). None were recorded after a single from Dinas on 7/06 (JPM).

Flints. The only record was of a single at Pantymwyn on 15/07 (StN).



Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

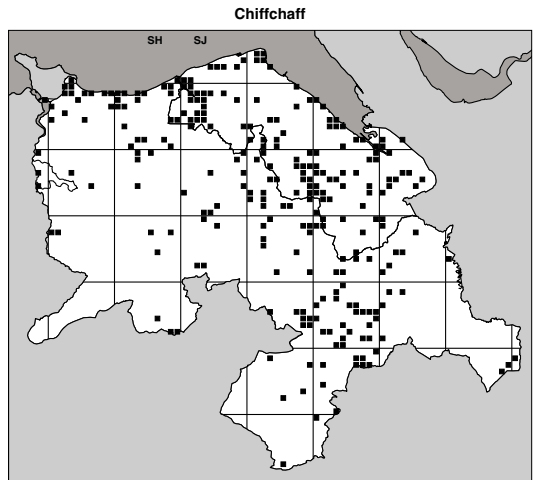
SIFF-SAFF

Breeding summer visitor and winter visitor.

(CC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	157	105
Maximum count	20	20
Number of records	541	493
Recorded in BBS squares	27/30	15/16
% records from GBW	8.9	7.9
% of BirdTrack lists	25.8	41.8
Density	1.59	3.57

Recorded in each month in both counties, with little change in the number of records from Denbs but a substantial increase of 47% in reports from Flints.

Denbs. The earliest was a single at Denbigh on 18/01 (JNW); after further singles in Jan and Feb there were 5 at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 11/03 (SzC). 12 were at RSPB Conwy on 4/04 (ACm) and double figure counts were recorded on early BBS visits at Garth with 11 on 9/04 (MaEv), Llanarmon-yn-Iâl with 17 on 10/04 (TP) and 13 on 4/05 (RDB) and Gellifor with 12 on 13/04 (TP). Double figure counts later in the summer included 15 ringed at Bronbannog on 18/08 (IMS), at least 20 at Pen y Gwely on 30/08 (TSm) and 10 in Tal Goed orchard at Pentrefelin on 13/09 (MiB). From 2/10 to the end of the year all records were of singles, with 1 at Towyn on 23/12 (SM) the last.



Flints. The first of the year was a

single at Hope on 11/01 (RS) and the next record did not arrive until 1 at Rhuddlan on 27/02 (SH). From mid-Mar records came almost daily, but in single figures until 12 were seen on Nercwys Mountain on 10/04 (GEM) and at least 10 at Rhyl brickworks on 14/04 (AHJ). The highest count of the year was 20 on a BBS visit at Gronant on 22/04 (GRMP) and other double figure BBS counts came from Bwlchgwyn, with 12 on 7/05 (GaBu), Gronant with 10 on 1/06 (GRMP), Pantymwyn with 14 on 4/06 (NRT) and Pentre with 10 on 29/06 (DeD). The only double figure record after this was of 10 ringed at Rhydymwyn on 31/07 (IMS) and thereafter all counts were of less than 5, except for 7 at St Asaph on 15/12 (JOHN), with the last a single at Rhyl brickworks on 20/12 (AHJ).

Breeding (IMS, GRMP):

(CC)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Rhydymwyn	3	15	15	14	4.67

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Red List.

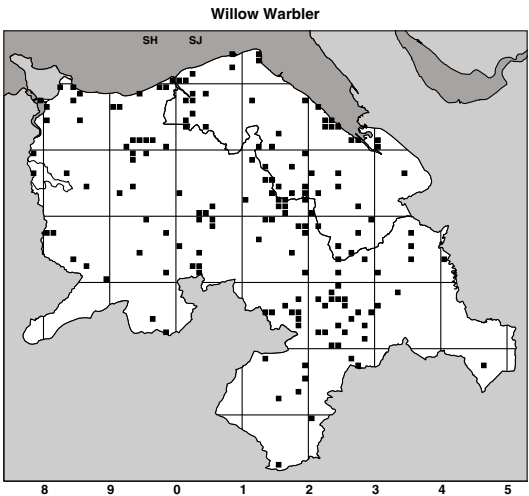
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

There were no Mar records in either county this year and only one Sep record in Flintshire – on the first day of the month. Overall numbers of reports were comparable with 2014.

Denbs. The earliest bird was at RSPB Conwy on 6/04 (JHg) and the first male in song at Ty'n Celyn, near Llangollen on 13/04 (IMS). Double figure BBS counts came from early visits to Bryneglwys with 12 on 5/05 (PDJ), Clocaenog Forest with 10 on 14/05 and Capel Siloam with 10 on 15/05 (HeK) and late visits to Clocaenog Forest with 10 on 11/06 (HeK), Llanarmon-yn-Ial with 13 on the same day (TP) and Berwyn with 13 on 12/06 (JoG). At least 15 were at Moel Arthur on 11/06 (JVHu). Numbers ringed at Bronbannog were lower than in 2014, probably because of habitat deterioration, with 35 on 2/08 the only sizeable catch (IMS). There were three Oct records, with a single at Mynydd Hiraethog on 10/10 the last (MaO).

TELOR YR HELYG

(WW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	121	46
Maximum count	35	25
Number of records	240	100
Recorded in BBS squares	24/30	9/16
% records from GBW	2.1	2.8
% of BirdTrack lists	10.8	9.1
Density	2.14	1.95



Flints. The first record was a single at Nercwys Mountain on 10/04 (GEM) and reports came

almost daily until mid-Jun after which they became less frequent. Double figure BBS counts came from Gronant with 13 on 22/04 (GRMP), Bwlchgwyn with 19 on 7/05 and 10 on 10/06 (GaBu). The only other double figure counts were at Penycloddiau with 15 on 16/04 and 25 – the highest count of the year – on 26/04 (EdW), and there were 14 at Cilcain on 22/04 (GEM). There were only four Aug records and the final bird of the year was at Sychdyn on 1/09 (IMS).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Breeding summer visitor and winter visitor.

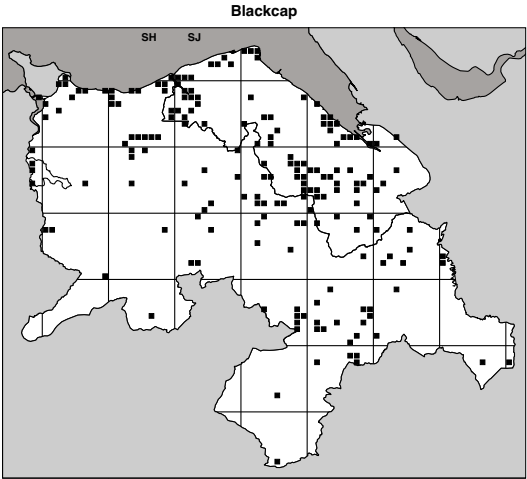
Recorded in each month in both counties except Nov in Flints. After good runs of wintering birds in Jan and up to the end of the first week in Mar in both counties there were only five records in the rest of the month – four in Denbs and one in Flint – before regular reports resumed in Apr, suggesting something of a gap between wintering birds leaving and summer breeders arriving, though there was one report from Prestatyn of 4 on 4/04 apparently involving the same birds both wintering and starting to breed (HMo). Overall reports showed increases in both counties from 2014: up by 17% in Denbs and 32.5% in Flints, but there were fewer reports from BBS squares and GBW stations.

Denbs. Wintering and spring arrival records were all of 1-3 birds until 9 were recorded at Chirk Castle on 24/04 (DCA). Two counts reached double figures: 10 were at Loggerheads CP on 7/06 (TG) and 11 feeding in a field near Pentrefelin on 16/08 (MiB). The highest BBS count was 9 at Prion on 29/06 (AIWe).

Flints. A count of 11 at Afonwen on 12/06 (GRMP) was both the highest BBS count and the only double figure count of the year; 9 were ringed at Rhydymwyn on 6/07 (IMS) and there was a gap in records from 16/10 to early Dec, with the last record of at least 1 at Buckley on 13/12 (DFD).

TELOR PENDDU

(BC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	108	78
Maximum count	11	11
Number of records	377	273
Recorded in BBS squares	15/30	11/16
% records from GBW	19.3	12.5
% of BirdTrack lists	16.5	20.4
Density	0.60	1.46



Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Breeding summer visitor.

TELOR YR ARDD

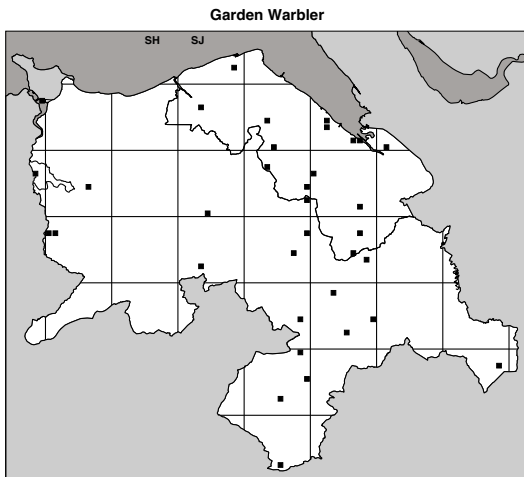
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Reports from Denbs were down by more than 50% on 2014, to the same levels as in 2013 but Flints records increased slightly. Arrivals were recorded in both counties from the fourth week in Apr.

(GW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	20	15
Maximum count	5	6
Number of records	29	30
Recorded in BBS squares	3/30	3/16
% of BirdTrack lists	1.6	2.4
Density	0.05	0.15

Denbs. The first record was of 3 at Ruabon on 24/04 (GrU). All records were of 1-3, except for 4 at Llanarmon-yn-Ial during a BBS count on 4/05 (RDB) and a brood of 5 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 20/06 (RbHa). After 27/06 there were only two further reports: 3 ringed at Bronbannog on 2/08 (IMS) and presence at RSPB Conwy on 2/09 (JHg), which was the last record for the county.

Flints. The first record was of 2 singing males on a BBS visit to Gronant on 22/04 (GRMP). All records were of 1-3 birds, except for 5 at Penycloddiau on 15/05 (EdW) and 6 at Llanfynydd on 25/05 (GNR). After the first week in Jul, there were no further records until Sep, with a juvenile ringed at Bagillt on 16/09 (GRMP) the final bird for the year.



Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Breeding summer visitor.

LLWYDFRON FACH

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

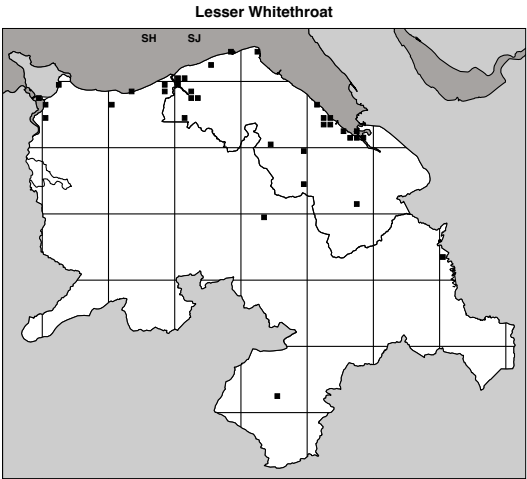
There was a decrease of 35.5% in Denbs records (down from 45 in 2014), but an increase of 183.3% in Flints (up from 24). There do not appear to be any obvious reasons for these changes, but there was a substantial increase in post-breeding records in Flints.

(LW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	12	23
Maximum count	2	4
Number of records	29	68
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	1/16
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	6.4
Density	0.01	0.16

Denbs. The first (and only Apr record) was at RSPB Conwy on 20/04 (JHg). From early May there was a continuing trickle of records, largely from the Conwy and Holt areas, through to late June. After a single Jul record from Holt, there were eight reports of presence in the Conwy

area, with the last at RSPB Conwy on 16/09 (JHg). All reports were of 1-2 birds only.

Flints. The first was at Rhuddlan on 24/04 (SH) and there were a further eleven Apr reports, including 4 at Flint saltmarsh on 27/04 (PDS). There were two further records of 4: at Connah's Quay NR on 26/07 (PeHa) and Rhyl brickworks on 27/07 (AHJ). All other reports were of 1-2, with no clear gap in Jul and the last of the four Sep records was a single by the Dee estuary at Bagillt on 19/09 (SD).



Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Breeding summer visitor. Red List.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

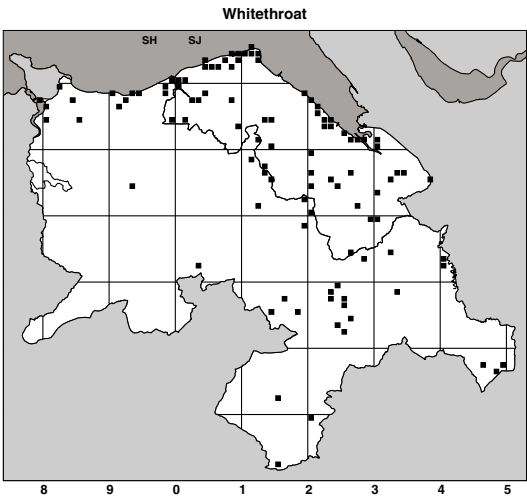
The overall increases of the previous two years were maintained, with a slight decline in Denbs records and a further 20.5% increase in Flints. From initial arrivals in both counties in mid-Apr, there was a consistent run of records until the end of Aug, with the last few in Sep, but no very late reports.

Denbs. The first was at RSPB Conwy on 16/04 (WRM) and thereafter records of 1-5 were widely spread, although 42% came from RSPB Conwy. The three Sep records came from Wrexham on 5/09 (MGW), Kinmel Bay on 6/09 (WRM) and the last of the year from RSPB Conwy on 13/09 (JHg).

Flints. The first three records were of 2 each at Prestatyn (WRM), Greenfield Dock (SD) and the Dee estuary at Bagillt (SD) on 18/04. Almost all records were of 1-5, but

LLWYDFRON

(WH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	48	55
Maximum count	5	20
Number of records	140	129
Recorded in BBS squares	10/30	10/16
% records from GBW	0.7	0.7
% of BirdTrack lists	7.9	11.6
Density	0.12	1.87



there were 6 at Penycloddiau on 15/05 (EdW), 8 at Hawarden Castle on 22/05 (AB), 6 at Saltney on 25/05 (MaO), 7 in the coastal fields at Point of Ayr on 5/06 (DCR), 6 at Connah's Quay NR on 21/06 (GEM), 7 at Sandycroft on the same day (TP), 6 at Rhyl on 21/07 and the highest count of the year came from Flint saltmarsh on the Dee estuary with 20 on 27/04 (PDS). There were four Sep records, with the last a juvenile ringed at Bagillt on 13/09 (GRMP).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

TROELLWR BACH

Breeding summer visitor. Red List.

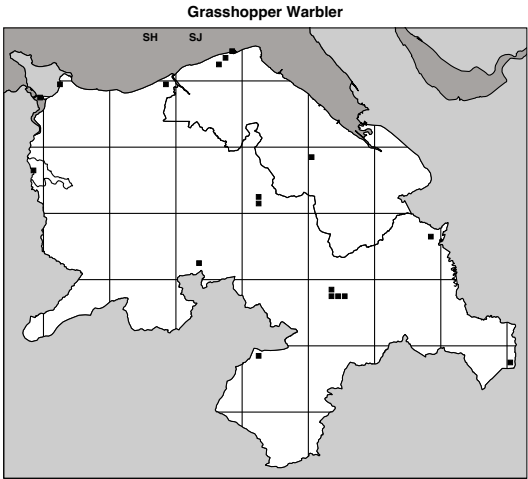
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

A similar pattern of records to 2014, still with low numbers. Spring arrival dates are highly dependent on hearing singing males and the first two were heard in Denbs at Gellifor during a BBS survey on 13/04 (TP) and in Flints at Prestatyn on 18/04 (WRM) and Gronant (Ach) on the same day. The only reports after the second week of July were ringing records in the second half of Aug.

Denbs. After the Gellifor arrival on 13/04 (singing from a hedge in the middle of pasture fields!), there was a run of 1-2 singing males up to the first week of Jul. Thereafter the only two records were of 3 ringed at Bronbannog on both 18/08 and 31/08, the latter report being the last of the year (IMS).

Flints. All records were of singles, except for 3 at Rhosesmor on 28/04 (JtH). After the end of Jun there was only one further record – a single at Gronant on 11/07 (SzC).

(GH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	14	4
Maximum count	3	3
Number of records	22	10
Recorded in BBS squares	2/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.1	0.7
Density	0.02	0.02



Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

TELOR HESG

Breeding summer visitor.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

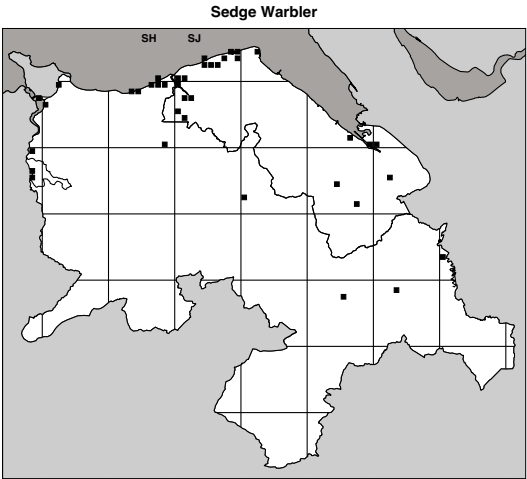
A similar pattern of records to 2014 and similar numbers. Arrivals commenced from mid-Apr as usual, though departures were

(SW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	19	20
Maximum count	6	6
Number of records	108	73
Recorded in BBS squares	3/30	2/16
% of BirdTrack lists	7.4	7.6
Density	0.06	0.20

relatively early, with none recorded in Flints after the end of Jul and only one after mid-Aug in Denbs.

Denbs. As usual RSPB Conwy produced two thirds of the records, with the first of the year there on 14/04 (JHg). Almost all records were of 1-2, with 6 at RSPB Conwy on 11/06 (JOHn) and 6 at Llandrillo-yn-Rhos on 6/07 (WRM) being the highest counts. The only record after 13/08 was of 1 at RSPB Conwy on 15/09 (JHg).

Flints. The first record was of a singing male at Rhuddlan on 15/04 (WRM). All except five of the records were concentrated in three coastal and estuarine areas: thirty-two in the Rhyl area; twenty-four between Prestatyn and Talacre and twelve at Connah's Quay NR and Shotton Steelworks. All were of 1-4, except for the highest count of at least 6 at Gronant on 27/06 (WRM). No records were received after 29/07 – a single at Gronant (WRM).



Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

TELOR Y CYRS

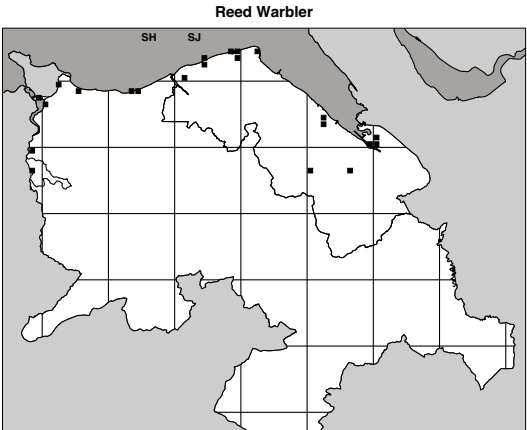
Breeding summer visitor.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

The number of Denbs records was maintained at 2014 levels and the number of Flints reports increased by almost 75%, but given the species' specialised habitat requirements it is unsurprising that the small number of locations was very similar to previous years. Arrivals and departures were within the normal date ranges.

Denbs. Once again around three quarters (72.3%) of records came from RSPB Conwy, with the first of the year there on 14/04 (JHg) and the last one on 16/09 (JHg). Breeding was proved at Pensarn, Plas Maenan and Llandrillo-yn-Rhos (WRM) and presumably occurred at RSPB Conwy as well. The highest count

(RW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	8	14
Maximum count	6	19
Number of records	83	54
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/16
% of BirdTrack lists	5.9	6.8
Density	0.02	0.45



was of 6 at RSPB Conwy on 2/05 (SPk and the last of the year was at RSPB Conwy on 16/09 (JHg).

Flints. The first of the year was ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 26/04 and ringing there largely accounted for the increase in records and numbers: 40 were caught there, with a maximum of 19 on 19/07 (pBH). Rhyl brickworks with twenty-seven reports (AHJ) and Shotton (Steelworks and Paper Mill) with thirteen (pBH, IMS) accounted for three quarters of the records; there was also a sprinkling from the Gronant/Talacre area and Rhydymwyn. The last birds of the year were 8 ringed at Shotton Steelworks on 6/09 (pBH).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

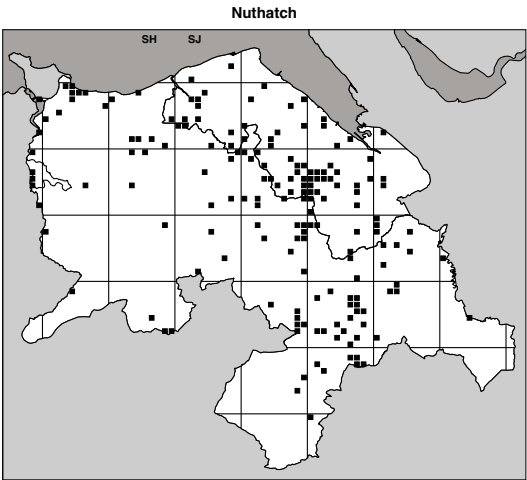
DELOR Y CNAU

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Records during the first winter period were mostly of 1-2. The highest counts in this period were: 4 at Talygarth in week beginning 15/02 (DCg) and 3 at Penynant on 10/02 (JoR). The highest counts on BBS walks were of 4 at Llangwm on 20/04 (HeK; MaO) and at Erddig, Wrexham on 26/04 (NHu). There was a report of a Great Spotted Woodpecker being chased away by one of a nest-building pair at Pensarn on 22/03 (WRM). There were six records of confirmed breeding: 7 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 24/05 (pBH); 7 nestlings ringed at Coed Nantddu, Clocaenog on 25/05 (IMS); 8 nestlings ringed at Glyn Arthur, Llangwyfan on 6/06 (pBH); fledged young being fed by adults at Maenan Abbey hotel on 11/06 (WRM) and a fledgling at Hafodty on 15/06 (HC). Post-breeding, the numbers were mostly of 1-3 and this was also the case through the second winter period up to the end of the calendar year.

(NH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	111	63
Maximum count	8	8
Number of records	728	388
Recorded in BBS squares	15/30	8/16
% records from GBW	72.9	50.9
% of BirdTrack lists	8.1	18.9
Density	0.45	0.86



Flints. The counts in the first winter period were mostly of 1-2, the two main exceptions being 8 at Pantymwyn on 19/01 (PEM) and 4 at Gwysaney, Sychdyn on 10/02 (AB). The highest count on a BBS walk was 3 at Mold on 12/04 (AB, IMS). There were 8 records of confirmed breeding: an occupied nest at Rhydymwyn on 18/04 (JVHu); a nest with eggs at Rhydymwyn on 24/04 (JVHu); 1 nestling ringed at Coed y Felin on 11/05 (IMS); 7 nestlings ringed at Rhydymwyn on 16/05 (IMS); 8 nestlings ringed at Coed y Felin on 20/05 (IMS); 5 nestlings ringed near Rhydymwyn on 22/05 (IMS); a fledgling at Pantymwyn on 4/06 (TP) and a nest

with young at Hawarden on 11/06 (MGW). In the second half of the year there were more records of 3 or more birds but the majority were still of only 1-2. Post-breeding the highest count was of 7 at Pantymwyn on 13/08 and again on 6/09 (both GEM). In the second winter period the highest count was of 5 at Pantymwyn on 17/11 (GEM).

Breeding (IMS):

(NH)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Coed Nantddu	1	7	7	7	7.00
Coed y Felin	2	14	14	8	4.00

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Breeding resident.

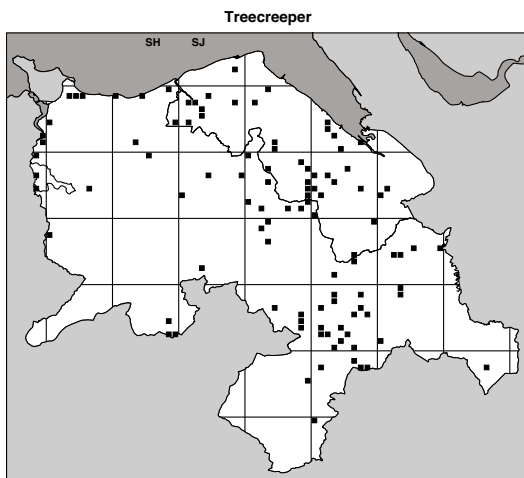
Recorded in each month in both counties except Oct in Flints. Most records were of singles.

Denbs. All of the records in the first winter period were of 1-2. The highest count on a BBS walk (and, excluding nestlings) was 3 at Nantglyn on 27/06 (JDa). There were two records of confirmed breeding: 4 nestlings were ringed at Pandy on 20/06 (pBH), and at least one fledgling was recorded at Bronygarth, Chirk on 23/06 (IMS). After 2 were recorded at Plas Maenan on 3/07 (WRM) there were only singles recorded up to the end of the calendar year.

Flints. The maximum count in the first winter period was 2 at Gwysaney, Sychdyn on 10/02 (AB). The highest counts on a BBS walk were 2 at Gronant on 1/06 (GRMP) and 2 at Bodrhyddan Hall, Dyserth on 16/06 (PtB). There were no records of confirmed breeding. All of the records in the remainder of the year were of singles except for those of 2 at Rhydymwyn on 1/11 (DMH) and 2 at Glust, Hendre on 10/12 (MGW).

DRINGWR BACH

(TC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	71	33
Maximum count	4	2
Number of records	107	56
Recorded in BBS squares	9/30	5/16
% records from GBW	10.3	24.1
% of BirdTrack lists	4.0	3.4
Density	0.14	0.11



Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

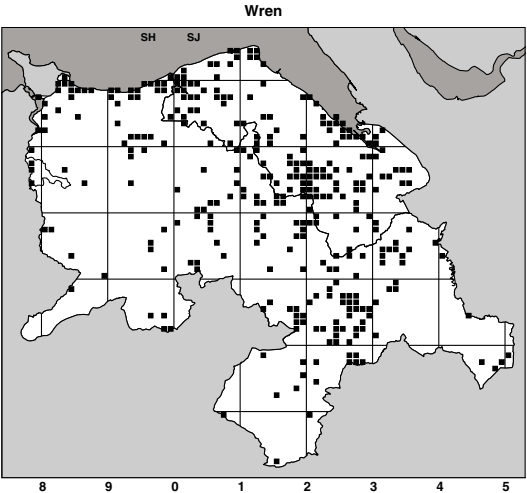
DRYW

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

Recorded in each month in both counties.
Most counts were of 1-2 birds.

Denbs. The maximum count in the first winter period was 6 at Talygarth in week beginning 15/02 (DCg). There was 1 feeding on the breakwater rocks at Towyn on 27/01 (SM). There were eighteen BBS counts in double figures the three highest being: 22 at Llanarmon-yn-Iâl on 10/04 (TP); 20 at Craig Bron Bannog, Clocaenog Forest on 11/06 (HeK; MaO), and 20 at Berwyn on 12/06 (JoG). There were nineteen records of confirmed breeding. The first was an occupied nest at Colwyn Bay on 7/05 (WRM) and the last was of 2 late fledglings at Llandrillo yn Rhos on 16/08 (HC) almost certainly the result of a second brood. In the remainder of the calendar year most records were of singles. Post-breeding, the highest count was of 7 at Talygarth on 27/09 (DCg). In the second winter period the maximum count was 4 and this was recorded from three locations: Moel Arthur, RSPB Conwy and Talygarth.

(WR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	201	128
Maximum count	22	20
Number of records	1050	762
Recorded in BBS squares	29/30	16/16
% records from GBW	35.0	26.7
% of BirdTrack lists	40.8	60.5
Density	2.24	4.35



Flints. The maximum count in the first winter period was 4 at three Rhuddlan sites on 2/01, 13/02 and 27/02 (SH), and at Gwysaney, Sychdyn on 10/02 (AB). There were fifteen BBS counts in double figures. The highest were: 20 at Bwlchgwyn on 10/06 (GaBu); 19 at Talacre on 4/06 (GR); 18 at Mold on 12/04 (AB, IMS); 18 at Bwlchgwyn on 7/05 (GaBu) and 18 at Pantymwyn on 11/05 (NRT). There were eight records of confirmed breeding. The first was of a nest with young at Rhyl brickworks on 17/05 (AHJ) and the last was of a fledgling at Rhydymwyn on 6/07 (IMS). Post-breeding, most counts were of singles but there was a count of 8 at Llyn Helyg on 19/10 (AB). The maximum count in the second winter period was of 4 at Flint on 16/11 (JyHY).

Breeding (IMS):

(WR)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Rhydymwyn	2	12	12	11	5.50

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

DRUDWEN

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Red List. WBAP.

Recorded in each month in both counties. The majority of records were of 1-10. The maximum counts were up to 40% lower than the averages for 2004-15.

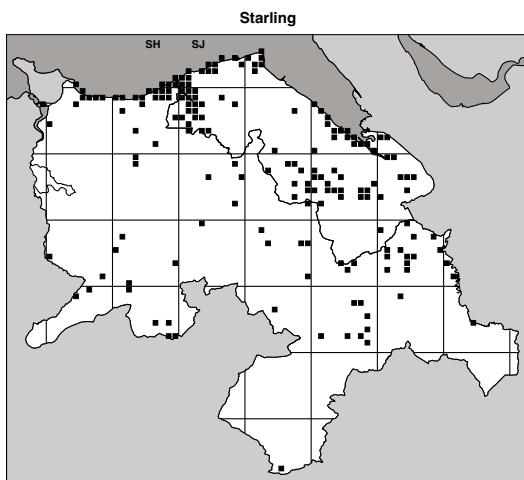
Denbs. In the first winter period the largest count was 8,000 at RSPB Conwy on 4/02.

At the same site there were 5,000 recorded on 28/01, 3/02, 14/02 and 16/02 with 6,000 there on 25/02. A total of 5,820, in 29 separate flocks, were observed in the late afternoon of 14/02 flying towards the Conwy roost over Ffordd Las, Pentrefelin (MiB). Since this number closely matches the maxima recorded at Conwy during this period it would seem that most of the roost were using this particular flight line from their daytime feeding grounds. The last record from Conwy for this period was 5,000 on 12/03. Away from RSPB Conwy the older roost on Colwyn Bay pier had 1,500 on 5/01 rising to 2,500 on 20/01 (both WRM). Inland, daytime feeding records were mostly of less than 100. There was a maximum of 1,000 at

Cefn Meiriadog on 11/02 (SH). The highest count on a BBS walk was 13 at Mynydd y Glyn on 8/06 (MkH). There were nine records of confirmed breeding. The first was of adults carrying away mealworms from a feeding station at Towyn on 15/04, and then with increasing regularity by 8/05, with the first fledglings recorded on 21/05 (SM). The last record of confirmed breeding was of fledglings at Kinnel Bay on 24/05 (WRM). Post-breeding, numbers were mostly of less than 10 but flocks increased in size during the autumn with minima of 200 at Pensarn on 13/08 (WRM), 300 at Darland on 6/09 (HL), 500 at Pentrefoelas on 17/10 (SGb) and 700 near Burton Green also on 17/10 (HL). Inland, the daytime numbers levelled out during Nov with a maximum of 600 at Glasfryn on 16/11 (JoG). Meanwhile, on the coast, the Colwyn Bay pier roost had been re-occupied with a minimum of 1,300 (arrivals from 1530hrs to 1600hrs after which 400 left and flew W) on 23/11 (WRM), but there were no records from RSPB Conwy. Numbers fell away during Dec with the majority of records being of less than 10. The highest coastal record in this period was of 130 at Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay on 4/12 (GEM), and the highest inland record was of 250 at Hafotty Newydd, Clocaenog Forest on 22/12 (JoG).

Flints. The maximum count in the first winter period was 1,500 at Rhuddlan on 13/02 (SH). There were a number of records in the hundreds from that area but overall most were of less than ten. The last of the larger flocks was 100 at Rhuddlan on 14/03 (SH). The highest count on a BBS walk was 92 at Buckley on 15/05 (GNR). There were twelve records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an occupied nest at Rhydymwyn on 19/04 and the last was of another

(SG)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	87	88
Maximum count	8000	1500
Av max count 2004-15	12458	3600
Number of records	917	609
Recorded in BBS squares	5/30	6/16
% records from GBW	36.6	39.5
% of BirdTrack lists	35.4	43.0
Density	352.23	224.11



occupied nest at the same site on 4/06 (both JVHu). The largest post-breeding flock was 650 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 3/07 (PDS). Post-breeding, there were sixteen records of flocks over 100 with numbers peaking at 800 at Prestatyn on 28/12 (PKe). Most records during this period were, however, of less than 20.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Breeding resident.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Was the lack of Flints records due to fewer Dippers or fewer observers? In Denbs, the number of records submitted fell 28% from 2014 and 56% in Flints.

BRONWEN Y DWR

(DI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	41	10
Maximum count	5	2
Number of records	85	14
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	3.1	0.4
Density	0.10	0.03

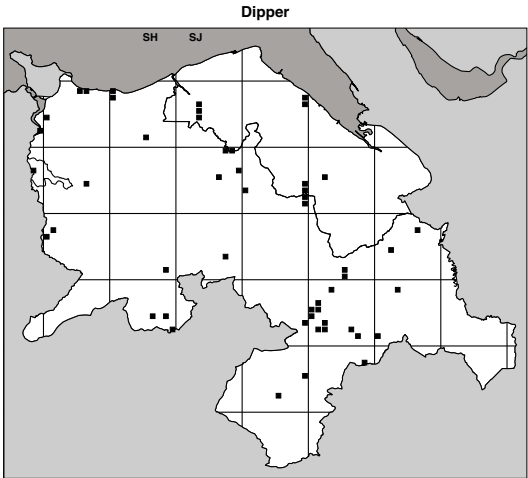
Denbs. The maximum count in the first winter period was 2 on 15/01 at Colwyn Bay (WRM) with three other counts of 2 in this period from Llangollen, Llanferres and Loggerheads CP. This was also the highest count in Mar with four records of 2 at: Llanddulas, Pentrefelin, Ddulas Valley and Alyn Waters CP, Gwersyllt. The only record from a BBS was of 2 at Pandy Tudur on 1/05 (HC). There were nine confirmed breeding records: an adult carrying a faecal sac or food for young, near a nest site used last year, at Llanddulas on 25/04 (WRM); an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at nearby Ddulas Valley, Llanddulas on 28/04 (HC); 3

nestlings ringed at Llanfair Dyffryn Ceiriog on 1/05 (pBH); a nest with young (a regularly used site in a drainage pipe under a bridge) at Colwyn Bay on 7/05 (WRM); 3 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 10/05 (pBH); an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 17/05 (HC); an adult carrying a faecal sac or food for young at Loggerheads CP on 21/05 (RyE); 2 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 8/06 (pBH) and 3 nestlings ringed at Llanfair Dyffryn Ceiriog on 20/06 (pBH). All of the records to the end of the year were of 1-2 with the exception of one of 5 at Alyn Waters CP, Gwersyllt on 10/10 which included song (IMS).

Flints. Numbers throughout the year were of 1-2. None were recorded on BBS walks and there was only one confirmed breeding record: a nest with young at Greenfield Valley on 4/05 (RPJ).

Breeding (JLR, MRG all Denbs):

(DI)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
JLR	5	23	14	14	2.80
MRG	5	19	15	11	2.20



Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

WYALCHEN Y MYNYDD

Passage migrant and probable breeder.
Red List. WBAP.

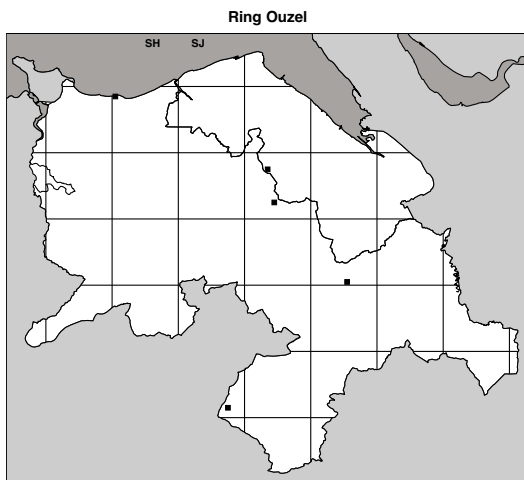
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

There were no records of confirmed breeding. There has been a reduction in the number of records submitted between 2014 and 2015 from eleven to six for Denbs and from six to two for Flints which may have been the result of less observer coverage but, given the history of the species, could equally have been due to the species' continuing decline in the recording area.

Denbs. The first of the year was a male and female at Tyddyn Norbury on 8/04 which flew off towards Moel Famau. Elsewhere there was a single at Esclusham Mountain on 10/04 and then a male and female (possibly two pairs) at Llyn Lluncaws, Berwyn Mountains on 4/05. The latter was thought to have been a breeding site in 2014. Autumn records are scarce in the recording area. The record of 1 at Llanddulas on 31/10 was interesting because local autumn passage records are usually from Deeside.

Flints. There were 3 at Penycloddiau on 16/04 and 2 there on 26/04 (both EdW).

(RZ)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	4	1
Maximum count	2	3
Number of records	6	2
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-
Density	0.00	0.01



Blackbird *Turdus merula*

MWYALCHEN

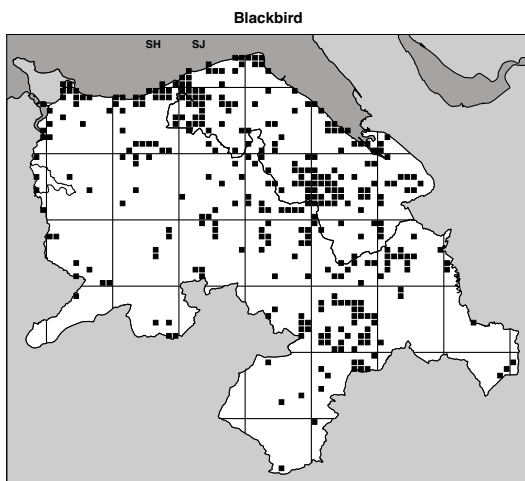
Breeding resident and winter visitor.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Most records were of less than 10. The maxima for 2015 were similar to the average maxima for 2004 to 2015.

Denbs. The highest counts in the first winter period were 40 at Towyn on 25/01 (SM) and 28 at RSPB Conwy on 3/01 (RoHI). There was no obvious passage in late winter/early spring. The highest BBS counts were: 34 at Rhos, Gellifor on 13/04 with 30 there on 30/06 (both TP) and 25 at Pandy Tudur on 1/05 (HC). There were at least fourteen records of confirmed breeding, considerably less than last year's total of forty. The first was of a fledgling food-begging from an adult at Rhuthun on 17/05 (RG). Blackbirds regularly feed their young

(B)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	213	140
Maximum count	40	35
Av max count 2004-15	36	43
Number of records	2110	1238
Recorded in BBS squares	28/30	16/16
% records from GBW	45.1	47.2
% of BirdTrack lists	70.1	75.5
Density	4.31	8.32

on fruit and several adults at a site in Rhuthun fed their young and themselves on a kilogram of sultanas in the seven days from 17/05 (RG). The last record of confirmed breeding was of an adult carrying mealworms to its young at Towyn on 18/08 (SM). There was evidence of a late breeding attempt with a freshly broken egg found at Towyn on 2/09 and another broken egg at the same site on 9/09 both with their contents intact (SM). Counts fell away after breeding as the birds went into moult and become more skulking. Numbers at that time were of 1-2 but, exceptionally, there were 10 recorded at Pentrefelin, near Conwy on 16/08 (MiB). Double figures were not achieved again until 29/10 when there was a record of 14 at Kinmel Bay (SM). This was during the main migration period as was the record of 22 at Towyn on 23/11 (SM) but both numbers could just as likely have been local birds. The only other record in the second winter period to achieve double figures was one of 14 at Towyn on 23/12 (SM).



Flints. The highest count in the first winter period was 20 at Rhyl brickworks on 31/01 (AHJ). There was 1 singing subdued song, sometimes incorporating alarm calls, for half an hour in Mold town centre on the early date of 3/02 (RG). In Mar the highest count was 20 at Pantymwyn on 15/03 (GEM). The highest BBS count was 35 at Buckley on 15/05 (GNR). This was also the highest count from Apr to Jun inclusive. There were fifteen records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Pantymwyn on 17/04 (GEM) and the last was of a fledgling at Rhyl on 5/07 (WRM). Post-breeding, numbers were mostly of 1-4 but there was a cluster of larger counts at the time of peak autumn migration (end of Oct/ beginning of Nov) with the largest being 25 at Pantymwyn on 3/11 (GEM). Reflecting the mild second winter period there was subdued song (about half the loudness of full song) from a Lime in the grounds of Mold police station on 10/12 (RG).

Breeding (MRG, JLR):

(B)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Llangollen area	12	43	26	17	1.42
Penycae	1	5	4	4	4.00
Glyn Ceiriog	4	11	4	4	1.00
TOTALS	17	59	34	25	1.47

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

SOCAN EIRA

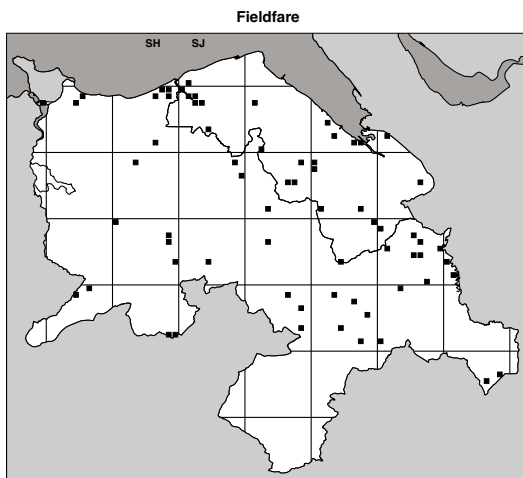
Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

The number of records submitted was similar to last year but the maximum counts were somewhat below the comparable average figures for 2004-15. The majority of records were of less than 10.

Denbs. The largest count in the first winter period was of 200 at Gresford on 6/01 (TrB) followed by 150 at Holt on 25/01 (NF). The largest early spring count was of 120 at Hirwaun, Gellifor on 23/03 (TP). The last of the spring was 25 at Fenn's Moss on 1/04 (JoAr). During the peak migration period of late Oct/early November there were 100 at Llys Dymper, Mynydd Hiraethog on 15/10 and 300 at Hafoty Sion Llwyd, Llyn Brenig on 20/10 (DMH). The largest count in the second winter period was 57 at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari on 1/12 (JPH).

(FF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	44	24
Maximum count	300	150
Av max count 2004-15	802	445
Number of records	64	47
% records from GBW	14.1	17.8
% of BirdTrack lists	2.3	3.1
Density	6.68	6.11



Flints. The largest counts in the first winter period were of 150 at Llyn Helyg on 4/01 (AHJ) and 100 at Connah's Quay NR on 7/01 (PSH). The last of the spring records was 1 at Rhyl brickworks on 16/04 (AcG). The first autumn record was 1 at Cilcain on 11/10 (RWes). There was no obvious influx in Oct/Nov and the highest count to the end of the year was 45 at Rhuddlan on 6/12 (SH). All other counts during the second half of the year were of 1-7.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

BRONFRAITH

Breeding resident and winter visitor. Amber List. WBAP.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Most records were of 1-2. The highest counts in each county were very similar to the average maxima for 2004-15.

Denbs. In the first three months of the year the highest counts were of 5 at Old Colwyn on 15/01 (WRM) and also at Colwyn Bay on 2/02 (PJW). The first song of the year was from 1 at Towyn on 27/01 (SM). The highest BBS

(ST)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	128	84
Maximum count	10	11
Av max count 2004-15	11	13
Number of records	478	367
Recorded in BBS squares	21/30	14/16
% records from GBW	16.5	20.8
% of BirdTrack lists	23.0	29.5
Density	0.65	1.57

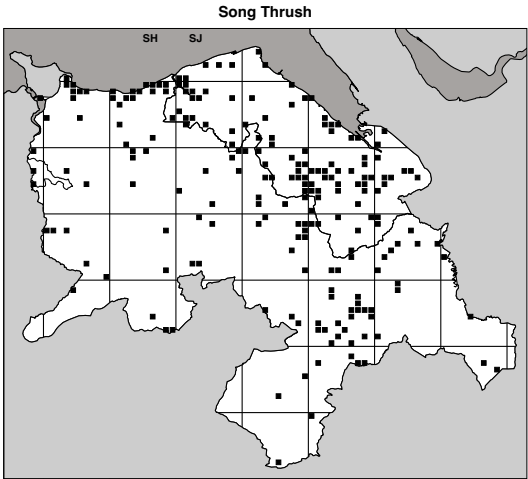
counts were: 10 at Llanarmon yn Iâl on 11/06 (RDB), and 8 at Rhuthun on 7/06 (MB). There were six records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Ddulas Valley, Llanddulas on 28/04 (HC), and the last was also of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Llandrillo yn Rhos on 12/07 (WRM). The highest autumn count was 5 at RSPB Conwy on 12/10 (IMS) which might represent a small autumn passage. Between then and the end of the year all records were of 1-2.

Flints. The highest count in the first winter period was of 5 at Connah's Quay NR on 18/01 (SS). The highest BBS count was 11 at Bwlchgwyn on 7/05 with 10 there on 10/06 (GaBu).

There were three records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Rhydymwyn on 17/05 (JVHu) and the last was of a fledgling at Rhyl brickworks on 5/07 (WRM). Numbers in the autumn were mostly of 1-2 with the highest count of 4 recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 4/11 and 22/11 (GEM) and Rhyl brickworks on 25/12 (AHJ).

Breeding (MRG):

(ST)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Ceiriog	2	6	5	5	2.50



Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

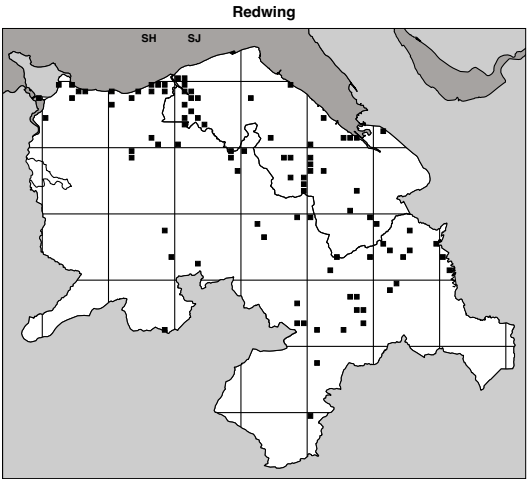
The majority of records were of less than 10. The maxima for both counties were significantly below the average maximum counts for 2004-15.

COCH DAN ADEN		
(RE)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Very common
Number of 1km squares	58	36
Maximum count	200	152
Av max count 2004-15	977	660
Number of records	141	137
% records from GBW	9.2	14.0
% of BirdTrack lists	5.9	10.9
Density	5.87	9.29

Denbs. The highest count in the first winter period was 200 at Cefn Meiriadog on 26/02 (NF). In the same period there were: 175 at St Asaph Business Park on 27/01 (SH); 100 at Cefn Meiriadog on 8/01 (SH), and 100 at Llanferres on 13/02 (NB). During Mar numbers were mostly in single figures but there were 20 at Berwyn on 29/03 (JoG). The last record in the spring was of 1 at Nant y Glyn on 2/04 (HC). The first of the autumn were 2 at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 1/10, one of which was caught and ringed (IMS). There was a peak in numbers, with migrants arriving in the second half of Oct, with 20 at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 15/10 (AIC); 30 at

Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 18/10 (MiB); 35 at Brymbo, Wrexham on 18/10 (SD) and 70 at Nant y Glyn on 20/10 (HC). In the second winter period numbers were mostly in single figures but there was one record which stood out: 200 at Tyddyn Bartley on 16/12 (MTB).

Flints. The largest count in the Jan to Apr period was of 90 at St Asaph on 17/01 (JOHN). There was a cluster of ten records of flocks numbering between 25 and 90 from 13/01 to 24/01 at sites across the county: Rhydymwyn, Fagl Lane Gravel Pit, Hope, Rhuddlan, St Asaph and Leeswood. This included a period of cold frosty weather and the records probably represent weather movements. The last of the spring records was 1 at Connah's Quay on 19/04 (pGEM). The first autumn record was 1 at Rhuddlan on 10/10 (SH). The main wave of autumn migrants arrived in the second half of Oct with 62 at Pantymwyn on 15/10, 143 there on 20/10, 100 there on 22/10, and 53 there on 6/11 (all GEM); included in these movements were 152 at Hendre on 30/10 (GEM). Numbers then fell away and most of the counts up to the end of the year were in single figures.



Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*
Breeding resident. Amber List.

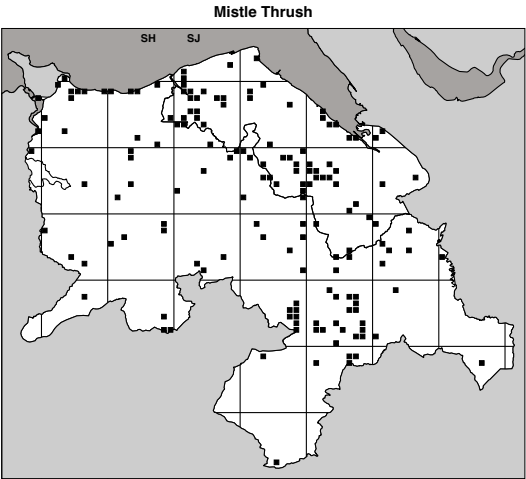
Recorded in each month in both counties. Most records were of 1-2. The maxima were a little less than the respective average maximum counts for 2004 to 2015. The higher counts are usually of post-breeding flocks which have been smaller this year.

Denbs. Numbers remained at 1-2 throughout the first winter period and into Mar with the highest count being 9 at Nany-y-Glyn on 9/01 (HC). The highest BBS counts were: 8 at Berwyn on 14/05 (JoG) and 7 at Pandy Tudur on 11/06 (HC). There were four records of confirmed breeding: an adult carrying food at Bryn Euryn, Llandrillo-yn-Rhos; an adult feeding 2 fledged young, possibly on ivy berries, at Bodelwyddan Castle on 7/05, and an agitated pair, with one of the pair carrying a worm, at Pensarn on 22/06 (all three records WRM). The last record of confirmed breeding was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Llyn Aled, Mynydd Hiraethog on 30/06 (GEM). There was only one record of a post-breeding flock in double figures and that was of 10 at Llyn Brenig on 7/08 (JVHu). Thereafter, most of the records up to the end of the year were of 1-2.

BRYCH Y COED

(M)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	100	57
Maximum count	10	8
Av max count 2004-15	38	21
Number of records	215	200
Recorded in BBS squares	13/30	8/16
% records from GBW	7.0	12.1
% of BirdTrack lists	9.1	18.4
Density	0.51	0.77

Flints. In the first winter period and up to the end of Mar the highest counts were of 5 at Berthengam on 4/01 (AHJ) and at Pantymwyn on 25/02, when song was also noted (GEM). The highest BBS counts were of 4 at Gronant on 1/06 with a similar number at Afonwen on 12/06 (both GRMP). There were five records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Rhuddlan on 15/04 (SH) and the last was of a fledgling at Padeswood on 9/06 (GNR). From the post-breeding period up to the end of the year the highest counts were of 8 at Whitford on 28/09 (JVHu) with a similar number at Ynys, Rhyl on 28/12 (AHJ). Most of the records during this period were of 1-2.



Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Breeding summer visitor. Red List. WBAP.

GWYBEDOG MANNOG

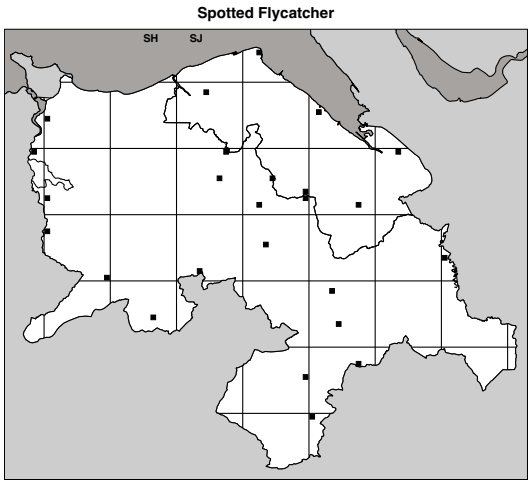
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Most records were of 1-2.

(SF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	18	7
Maximum count	5	2
Number of records	22	7
Recorded in BBS squares	2/30	1/16
% of BirdTrack lists	0.8	0.4
Density	0.05	0.02

Denbs. The first of the year was 1 at Denbigh on 16/05 (JDa). Recorded at only two BBS sites: 1 at Llangwm on 21/05 (HeK; MaO), and 1 at Rhos, Gellifor on 30/06 (TP). There were only two records of confirmed breeding: an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Hafodty on 15/06 and 5 nestlings ringed at Pandy on 21/06 (pBH). Pairs were noted at World's End, Ruabon Mountain, Llansilin, and Holt. The last of the year were 2 that were trapped and ringed at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 13/09 (MiB).

Flints. The first of the year was 1 at Padeswood on 21/05 (GNR). Recorded at only one BBS site: 1 at Bodrhyddan Hall, Dyserth on 16/06



(PtB). There was only one record of confirmed breeding: a clutch of eggs found at Bodfari on 17/06 (OPJ). The last of the year were 2 at the A494 Junction, Garden City on 13/09.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

ROBIN GOCH

Breeding resident.

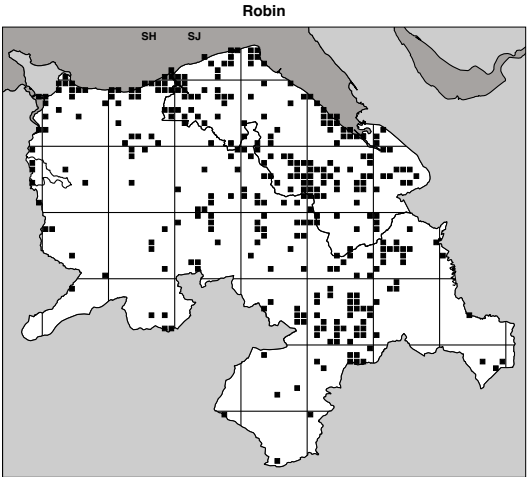
Recorded in each month in both counties.
Most records were of 1-2.

Denbs. In the first winter period the highest count, and the only one in double figures, was of 11 at RSPB Conwy on 3/01 (RoHl). Numbers remained low into the spring but 14 were counted singing in the grounds of Plas Newydd, Llangollen during a thirty minute walk on 20/03 (RG), and there were 11 singing at Llanarmon-yn-Iâl on 24/03 (TP). The highest counts on BBS walks were of 19 at Pandy Tudur on 1/05 (HC), and 15 at Llanarmon-yn-Iâl on 10/04 (TP). In the breeding period there was apparent mate-guarding of a female visiting a feeder containing Sunflower hearts at Rhuthun on 13/03 (RG). There were 25 records of confirmed breeding. The first was of an adult carrying mealworms to a nest in Ivy at Towyn on 15/04 (SM), and the last was of a fledgling at Moel Arthur on 16/08 (GEM). Courtship feeding was recorded at Towyn on 20/04 (SM). Post-breeding, numbers were mostly

of 1-2 but there were 9 ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 18/08 with 3 ringed there on 31/08, 6 on 8/09, 4 on 19/09 and 5 on 1/10 (all IMS). There was a slight increase in numbers towards the end of September but no counts were in double figures. The one figure to stand out was a count of 23 at RSPB Conwy on 12/10 (IMS) which may have included birds on passage. Numbers up to the end of the year were mostly of 1-2.

Flints. The highest count in the first winter period was 25 at Hope in week beginning 1/02 (ECMH). In late winter/early spring there were 14 at Pantymwyn on 25/03 (GEM) but most of the counts in these periods were of 1-2. The highest spring counts were from BBS walks: 26 at Mold on 12/04 (AB, IMS); 17 at Afonwen on 10/05 (GRMP) and 15 at the same site on 12/06 (GRMP). There were twelve records of confirmed breeding. The first was of 5 nestlings ringed at Sychdyn on 12/04 (IMS) and the last was of a fledgling at Pantymwyn on 15/07 (GEM). The earliest record of fledging was of 2 young leaving a nest at Pantymwyn on 15/04 (GEM). Post breeding and through the moult, numbers were mostly of 1-2. The highest count in the second winter period was of 10 at Pantymwyn on 3/11 (GEM), the only double-figure count in the last five months of the year.

(R)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	205	131
Maximum count	23	26
Number of records	1942	1183
Recorded in BBS squares	26/30	16/16
% records from GBW	48.2	46.6
% of BirdTrack lists	61.8	67.5
Density	2.39	5.78



Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Breeding summer visitor. Red List. WBAP.

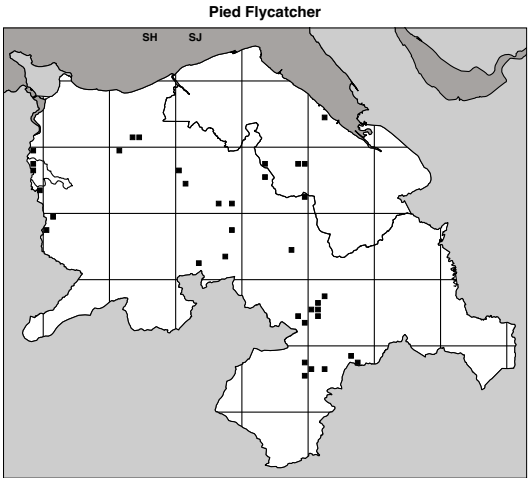
GWYBEDOG BRITH

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Most records were of 1-2 apart from ringing records. The breeding season was about average with the mean number of young per nest being very close to the mean for 2004-2014.

(PF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	32	4
Maximum count	120	7
Number of records	111	9
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.2	0.3
Density	1.94	0.05

Denbs. The first of the year was 2 at Glyn Arthur, Llangwyfan on 11/04 (RHa) the same date as the first record of the year in 2014. Recorded on only one BBS walk when there were 3 at Llanarmon-yn-lâl on 4/05 (RDB). The highest counts of the year that were not ringing records were 16 at Glyn Arthur on 25/04 (RHa) and 16 at Bryn Derwen on 17/06 (RS). Apart from ringing records there were four records of confirmed breeding: a nest with eggs at Bontuchel on 17/05 (TP); an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Loggerheads CP on 20/05 (LWe); a nest with young at Coed Hafod on 24/05 (EdDJ) and an adult carrying food at Llanfair Talhaiarn on 6/06 (SM). Ringing records revealed earlier and later breeding records for this species: two nestlings were ringed at Coed Nantddu, Clocaenog on 17/05 (IMS) and 7 nestlings were ringed at Coed Nantddu on 5/07 (IMS) – a month after the record of 6/06 when an adult was seen carrying food at Llanfair Talhaiarn (SM). The largest counts came from nestlings ringed: 56 near Llanfair Talhaiarn on 7/06, 68 at Glyn Arthur on 6/06 and 120 at Prion on 4/06 (all pBH). The last record of the year was of a bird of the year ringed at Bronbannog, Clocaenog Forest on 2/08 (IMS).



Breeding (MRG, JLR, IMS):

(PF)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Glyn Arthur	21	135	100	86	4.10
Llwynmawr	17	128	103	91	5.35
Pandy	16	107	81	59	3.69
Llewesog Hall	38	268	243	206	5.42
Dinbren Isaf	25	164	111	50	2.00
Llangollen area	17	104	86	72	4.24
Coed Nantddu	10	61	56	51	5.10
Coed y Felin	2	14	13	13	6.50
TOTALS	146	981	793	628	4.30
Mean young/nest for 2004 to 2014 (n = 963)					4.34

Flints. The first of the year was 1 at Penycloddiau on 26/04 (EdW), thirteen days later than the first Denbs record. The species was not recorded on a BBS walk. Apart from ringing records, there was only one record of confirmed breeding and that was of a fledgling, the feathers of which were not fully grown, found freshly dead in a garden at Bagillt on 15/07 (GRMP). This was also the last record of the year. The last 'live' record was of 7 nestlings ringed at Coed y Felin on 14/06 (IMS).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

TINGOCH DU

Migrant and breeding visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

On average, 1-2 of this species have been seen in the recording area in every year since 2009.

(BX)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	3	
Maximum count	1	
Number of records	6	0
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	
Density	0.00	

Denbs. In the early spring there was 1 at Llanddulas on 15/03, a date which might suggest an early spring migrant. This was followed by 1 at RSPB Conwy on 5/05 (MEB). Passage in May is recognised at Bardsey bird observatory as a second phase of spring migration, presumably a different population from the mid-Mar to late-Apr one. In the second winter period there were records of 1 at Llandrillo yn Rhos on 21/23/25 and 26/12, almost certainly of the same bird. There was one breeding record at the same site as in 2014. On 2/07 a brood (possibly a second brood – the first was not found) of 5 nestlings from 5 eggs was ringed and they had all fledged by 9/07.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

TINGOCH

Summer breeding visitor.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Most records were of 1-2.

(RT)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	75	28
Maximum count	11	12
Number of records	109	69
Recorded in BBS squares	14/30	6/16
% of BirdTrack lists	3.1	4.1
Density	0.42	0.57

Denbs. The first of the year was 1 at Penycae on 15/04 (JoR), five days later than in 2014. The highest count on a BBS walk, and also the only count in double figures overall, was 11 at Tregelriog on 14/06 (JO). Apart from the ringing/nest records there were ten records of confirmed breeding, seven more than last year. The first was of a nest with young at Valle Crucis, Llangollen on 3/06 (NB) and the last was of a fledgling at Llangollen on 12/07

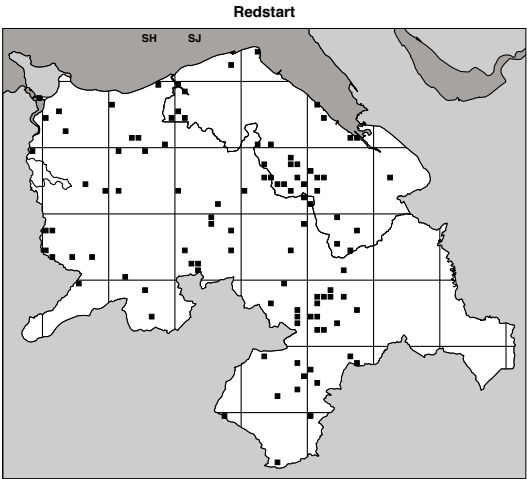
Breeding (MRG, JLR, IMS):

(RT)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Near Llangollen	5	30	30	26	5.20
Glyn Arthur	3	15	14	10	3.33
Pandy	4	16	15	14	3.50
Llewesog Hall	1	7	7	7	7.00
Rhydymwyn	1	6	6	6	6.00

(TGi). A pair was reported on 28/06 as having nested under a tractor bonnet at Rhoslydan and raised eight chicks all of which fledged. On 6/06 10 nestlings were ringed at Glyn Arthur (pBH) and on 18/08 a total of 8 birds were caught and ringed at Bronbannog (IMS). The last record of the year was presence at RSPB Conwy on 8/09 which is likely to have been a bird on passage.

Flints. The first report of the year was 2 at Coed y Felin, Hendre on 14/04 (GEM) though this species has not been known to breed there, two days earlier than last year. The highest count on a BBS walk was 5 at Gronant on 22/04 (GRMP). The highest count was 12 at Penycloddiau

on 15/05 (EdW) and this was the only record in double figures. Apart from the ringing records there were six records of confirmed breeding. The first was of a fledgling at Bagillt on 12/06 (GRMP), and the last was of at least 1 young bird at Rhydymwyn on 6/07 (IMS). Just one brood of 6 was ringed at Rhydymwyn on 3/06 (IMS). Post-breeding, all of the records were of 1-2 and the majority came from Deeside and Connah's Quay NR. The last record of the year was 1 at Talacre on 12/09, in the middle of the main passage period for this species.



Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Summer breeding visitor. Red List.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Most records were of 1-2.

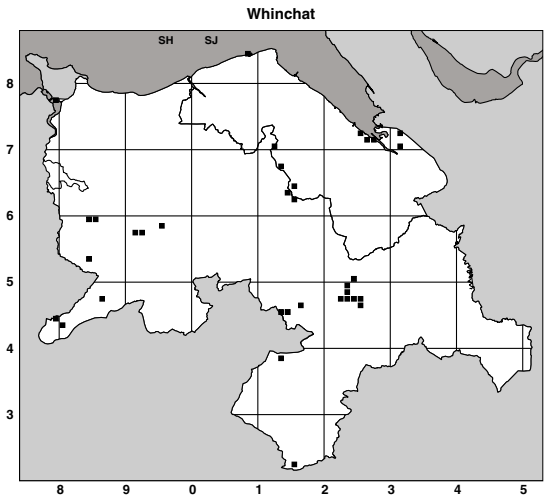
Denbs. The first of the year was 1 at Esclusham Mountain on 25/04, one day later than 2014. The highest count on a BBS walk was 6 at Mountain Lodge, Ruabon Mountain on 17/05 (WkR). Away from the BBS there were 4 at RSPB Conwy on 2/05 and 4 at Cerrigduon on 7/05 (DJS). Early May is the peak period for spring passage of this species so some of these records would be of birds passing through. There was one record of confirmed breeding: a fledgling at Llyn Bran, Clocaenog Forest on 4/07 (HC). Four juveniles at Cerrigellgwm on 18/07 could have been raised locally. There were no records from 18/07 to 6/09 the core of the species' moult period. The last of the year were 2 at Trawsnant, Migneint on 6/09 (WAO) which may well have been on passage; this date is five days later than last year's final record.

Flints. The first of the year was 1 at Gronant on 2/04 (LWe). The highest count of the year was 2 at Flint saltmarsh on 27/04 (PDS), and 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 30/04 (KJ). This species

CREC YR EITHIN

(WC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	25	9
Maximum count	6	2
Number of records	33	17
Recorded in BBS squares	7/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	0.1
Density	0.08	0.03

now provides more records of birds on passage than of breeding birds. Out of seventeen records received this year only three were received from possible breeding areas: Penycloddiau, Garth, Cilcain and Afonwen. The remaining fourteen records were all from the coast, mostly from Deeside, with their dates clustering around the spring and autumn passage periods. The last record was of 1 at Connah's Quay NR on 13/09 which would have been a bird on passage.



Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

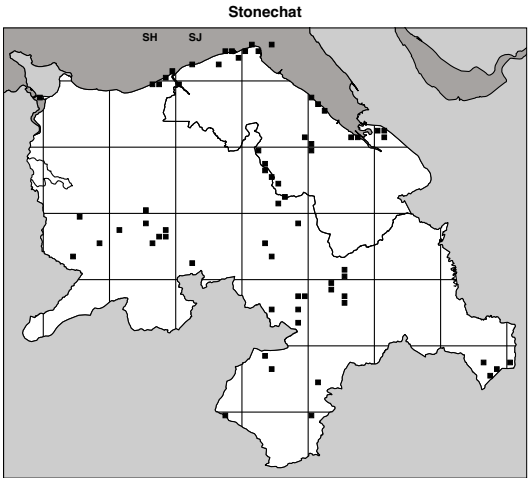
Resident breeder and winter visitor.

Recorded in each month in both counties. Most records were of 1-2. Denbs had 35% fewer records than in 2014 whilst Flints had 43% more.

Denbs. In the first winter period there was 1 at Towyn on 4/01 (SM). Inland, the first counts were of 1 at Fenn's Moss on 1/02 (NaW) and 1 at World's End, Ruabon Mountain on 28/02. In the early spring there were 4 at RSPB Conwy on 9/03 and 4 at Towyn on 10/03 (SM). The highest counts on a BBS walk were 4 at Ruabon Mountain on 12/05 (WkR) and 4 at Capel Siloam on 15/05 (HeK; MaO). Away from the BBS walks there was a larger count, of 5, at Moel Arthur on 1/05 (GEM). There were 6 records of confirmed breeding with the first of an adult carrying a faecal sac or food at Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd on 20/05 (JoG) and the last of a fledgling at Llyn Brenig on 14/07 (HC). Breeding was also confirmed at Moel Famau (two sites) and Moel Maelogen. Post-breeding and up to the end of the year the highest counts came from Moel Arthur with 7 on

CLOCHDAR Y CERRIG

(SC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	43	24
Maximum count	11	10
Number of records	98	77
Recorded in BBS squares	5/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	4.2	5.4
Density	0.24	0.41



28/08, 11 on 8/09, 6 on 26/09 and 5 on 9/10 (GEM). From Sep to the end of the year there were 12 records, half from inland sites and half from the coast. The last inland record came from Llyn Aled, Mynydd Hiraethog where there was 1 on 12/11 (GEM). The last from the coast and the last of the year was 2 at Horton's Nose, Kinnel Bay on 4/12.

Flints. The first record in the first winter period was of 2 at Shotwick Fields on 4/01 (DKC). The first record away from Deeside and the coast was of 1 male at Halkyn on 4/04 (MGW). There were four records of confirmed breeding: a pair with 3 fledged young at Coed y Morfa, Prestatyn on 10/05 (WRM); a fledgling at Barkby Beach, Prestatyn on 21/05 (LWw); a female carrying food at Gronant on 29/07 (WRM) and a male with 2 fledged young at Halkyn on 15/08 (RPJ). Post-breeding there were fourteen records to the end of the year all of which were from the coast or Deeside, a similar picture to last year. The last record of the year was of a male at Talacre on 4/12 (DCR).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*

TINWEN Y GARN

Breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

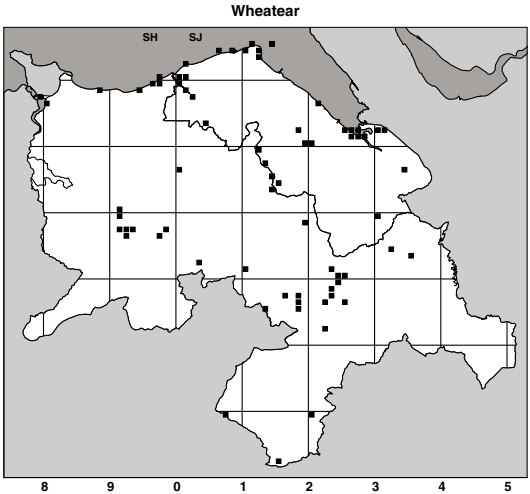
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Most records were of less than 6. No Greenland Wheatears were identified although their presence might have been expected given the late spring and autumn passage dates of some records. Compared with 2014, there were 56 (41%) fewer records for Denbs and 9 (11%) more records for Flints.

Denbs. The first of the year was 1 at RSPB Conwy on 18/03, a day later than the first in 2014. The first inland record was of a female at Esclusham Mountain on 26/03 (PaMa). Numbers increased slowly and peaked at 14 at Llanelidan on 17/05 (JoG). The highest BBS counts were 5 at Mynydd y Glyn on 4/05 (MkH) and 4 at Llanarmon-yn-Iâl on 10/04 (TP). There was one record of confirmed breeding: a fledgling at Oernant, Horseshoe Pass on 19/07 (JoG). Post-breeding there were six records to the end of the year all from either Towyn or RSPB Conwy. The last of the year was 1 at Towyn on 8/10 (SM).

Flints. The first was of 1 on coastal fields at Point of Ayr on 19/03 (KM), four days later than the first in 2014. There were several counts in double figures and numbers peaked at 20 at Rhuddlan on 6/05 (SH). The last of the larger passage counts was 16 at Penycloddiau on 15/05

(W)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	40	31
Maximum count	14	20
Number of records	80	84
Recorded in BBS squares	4/30	2/16
% of BirdTrack lists	2.8	2.4
Density	0.28	1.05



(EdW). Recorded on only two BBS walks: 2 at Beeches Farm, Sandycroft on 14/04 (IMS) and 2 at Talacre on 17/04 (GR). There were no records of confirmed breeding but a male was thought to be carrying nesting material at White Sands, Dee Estuary on 28/04 (GEM). Post-breeding records were all from the coast or Deeside, the only exception being 1 at Halkyn on 18/10 (MGW). The last of the year was 1 at Walwen Marsh, Bagillt on 21/10 (EITH).

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Breeding resident. WBAP.

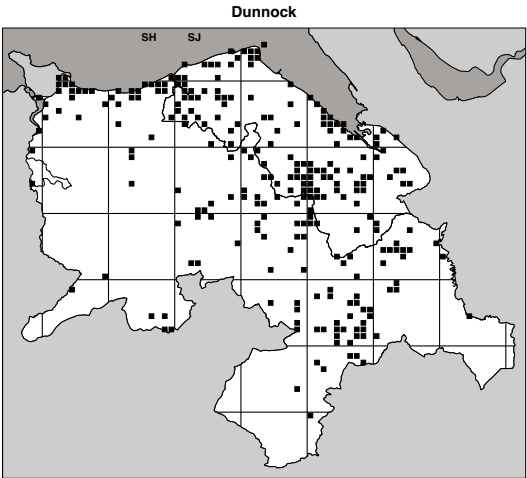
LLWYD Y GWYRCH

Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. The number of records has steadily increased over the last few years and well above the number during the Atlas recording period. The highest count came from two locations with 11 at Gellifor on 13/04 (TP) and a BBS walk at Betws-yn-Rhos on 26/04 (AnWi).

Flint. The number of records submitted is nearly back at levels seen during the Atlas recording period. The maximum count of 20 was during a BBS walk at Marian Cwm on 6/04 (MrJ).

(D)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Common
Number of 1km squares	144	115
Maximum count	11	20
Number of records	1622	989
Recorded in BBS squares	20/30	14/16
% records from GBW	51.4	53.2
% of BirdTrack lists	50.0	51.6
Density	0.80	3.90



House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP.

ADERYN Y TO

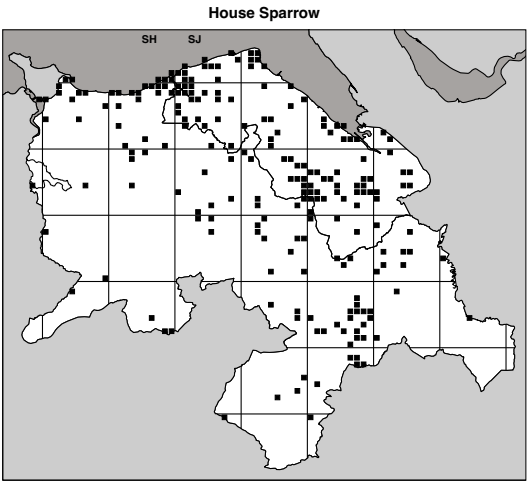
Recorded in each month in both counties.

Denbs. Towyn produced nearly 20% of all reports including the highest GBW count of 40 in week beginning 13/12 (JPe). There were many other large counts ranging from 50+ on 16/01 to the maximum of 150+ on 5/07 (SM). Cefn Mawr had the highest BBS

(HS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	120	96
Maximum count	150	300
Av max count 2004-15	103	139
Number of records	1643	926
Recorded in BBS squares	18/30	12/16
% records from GBW	50.8	53.9
% of BirdTrack lists	52.0	50.1
Density	9.11	48.90

count with 69 on 6/04 (DAW). There were eighteen records of confirmed breeding including 14 nestlings ringed at Pandy between 10/06 and 19/07 (pBH).

Flints. Most reports come from near the coast from BirdTrack with GBW and BBS accounting for the majority of inland records. Peak counts came from near Rhuddlan with a maximum of 300+ on 2/08 (WRM). A maximum BBS count of 94 was at Buckley on 15/05 (GNR) and a maximum GBW count of 25 was at Rhydymwyn in week beginning 22/02 (DMH).



Breeding (MRG):

(HS)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	5	21	17	15	3.00
Tregeiriog	2	9	9	9	4.50

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Breeding resident. Red List. WBAP.

GOLFAN Y MYNYDD

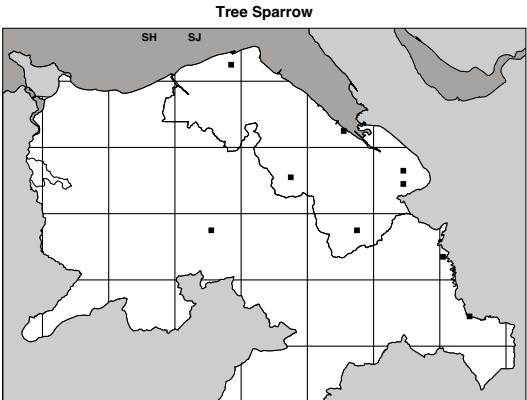
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Most records were from just two GBW sites.

Denbs. A large drop in the number of records to half of last year's total and the fewest for over ten years. Twelve of the records came from one GBW site at Tallarn Green with a maximum count of 4 in week beginning 11/01 (MA). Other records came from BirdTrack with two from south of Holt and a maximum count of 6 from Cyffylliog on 19/02 (MKi).

Flints. All but nine of the records came from one GBW site at Cilcain (RWes). One other GBW site at Hawarden had 6 in week beginning 25/01 (CWt). The maximum count and only ringing record came from

(TS)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Fairly common
Number of 1km squares	3	6
Maximum count	6	7
Number of records	15	59
Recorded in BBS squares	-	2/16
% records from GBW	80.0	86.7
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.5
Density	0.01	0.07



Sandycroft with 7 nestlings ringed on 30/05 (IMS), but habitat changes by Network Rail and the local farmer seem to have caused the colony that was there largely to move elsewhere.

Breeding (JLR, IMS):

(TS)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Beeches Farm	1	7	7	7	7.00
Hem House Farm	9	44	24	23	2.56

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

SIGLEN FELEN

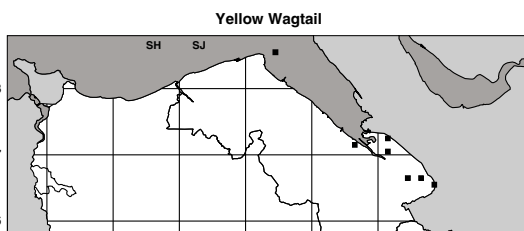
Passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Red List. WBAP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. A single was seen near Holt on 6/08 (NF).

(YW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	1	7
Maximum count	1	5
Number of records	1	17
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/16
% of BirdTrack lists	-	0.1
Density	0.00	0.06

Flints. The first record was a single at Point of Ayr on 23/04 (GR). Most records were of 1-2 with four records of 4 at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and 5 there on 6/05 (DvJ). The last record was a single at Connah's Quay NR on 25/09 (GEM).



Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

SIGLEN LLWYD

Breeding resident. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties.

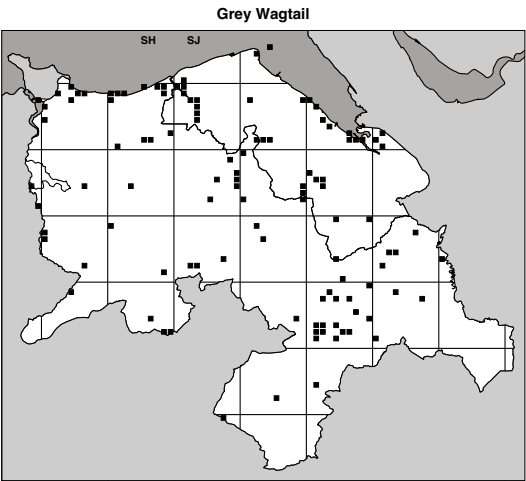
Denbs. Most records were of presence or 1-3 with two records of 4. The three highest counts were 5 nestlings ringed at Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog on 10/05 (pBH), 5 near Coed Hafod, near Llanrwst on 11/06 and 9 near Llansannan on 30/06 during a BBS walk (GBH). Apart from the nestlings ringed there were four other records of confirmed breeding at two locations.

(GL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	78	34
Maximum count	9	5
Number of records	228	118
Recorded in BBS squares	6/30	2/16
% records from GBW	2.6	3.4
% of BirdTrack lists	10.5	8.6
Density	0.36	0.29

Breeding (MRG, IMS):

(GL)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Llanarmon Dyffryn	1	5	5	5	5.00
Rhydymwyn	1	5	4	4	4.00

Flints. Almost all the records were of presence or 1-3. There were three records of 4 and the three highest counts were 5 at Shotton Steelworks pool on 19/09 (DeNi) and at Rhydymwyn with 5 on 13/08 and 5+ on 24/08 (IMS). Nestlings were ringed in two nests at Rhydymwyn – 4 on 20/05 and 2 on 24/08 (IMS). There were three other records of confirmed breeding at three locations.



White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*
Passage migrant. RBBP.

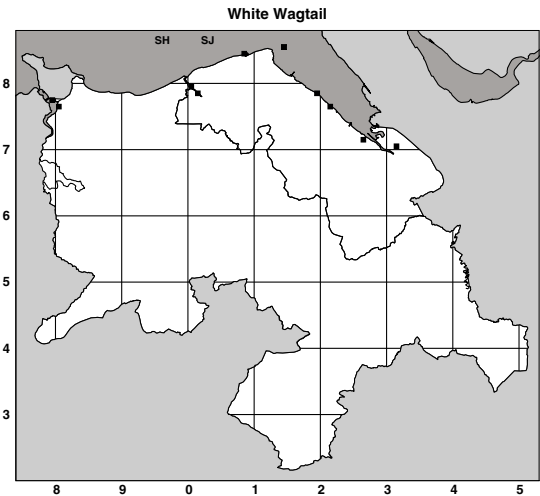
SIGLEN WEN

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. All records were at RSPB Conwy the first of which was 2 on 6/04 with 6 on 9/04 (JHg). The highest count of 10 was on 16/04 (JHg) and then records were of presence or 1 until the last record of presence on 16/09.

Flints. The first record was a single far S of Rhyl on 11/04 (SH). Most records were 1-7 but there was one record of 26 near Gronant on 28/04 (GNR). The last record was 2 at Connah's Quay NR on 11/09 (PSH).

(WB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	2	8
Maximum count	10	26
Number of records	17	12
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	0.3
Density	0.01	0.35



Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

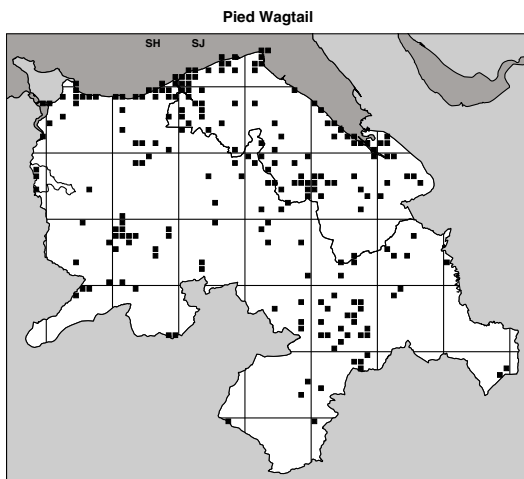
SIGLEN FRAITH

Breeding resident.

Denbs. The majority of records were of presence or 1-2 with fifty three of 3-5 and eleven of 8-60. The table, below, shows the monthly maxima with a slight suggestion that more were recorded during the winter months when they are not dispersed at breeding locations. There were thirteen records of confirmed breeding from twelve locations. There were several reports of feeding in gardens and on roofs in Towyn (SM).

Flints. Again, the majority of records were of presence or 1-2. There were sixty five records of 3-5 and twenty eight of 6-30. There were nine records of confirmed breeding from nine locations.

(PW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	135	83
Maximum count	60	30
Av max count 2004-15	129	41
Number of records	578	351
Recorded in BBS squares	12/30	11/16
% records from GBW	9.4	6.1
% of BirdTrack lists	27.7	27.5
Density	4.10	4.23



Maximum monthly counts in each county:

(PW)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	30	5	60	19	5	5	5	5	23	15	4	3
Flints	30	9	16	20	3	6	26	10	8	16	24	17

Breeding (MRG, JLR, IMS):

(PW)	Nesting attempts	Eggs	Eggs hatched	Young fledged	Young per nest
Pandy	1	5	5	5	5.00
Near Llangollen	9	40	29	27	3.00
Rhydymwyn	1	5	5	5	5.00

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Summer breeding visitor and passage migrant. Amber List. WBAP.

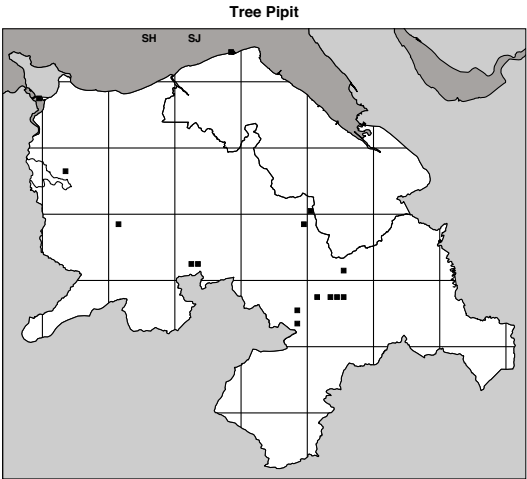
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. The first record was presence at RSPB Conwy on 20/04 and most records were of 1-3. There were 4 near Craig Bron Bannog (HeK, MAO) and 6 NW of Berwyn (JoG) on 14/05. There was another sighting of 6 at Mountain Lodge, Ruabon Mountain on 30/06 (WkR) and the last record was presence at Bronbannog on 2/08.

Flints. A single was recorded near Gronant on 21/04 (GNR).

CORHEDYDD Y COED

(TP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	14	1
Maximum count	6	1
Number of records	17	1
Recorded in BBS squares	4/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	0.7	0.1
Density	0.04	0.00



Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Breeding resident and both passage and winter visitor. Amber List.

Denbs. The table, below, shows that maximum counts in the winter months were low and, surprisingly, the highest count was during the spring migration period – presumably there was little or no ringing in the S of the county in autumn. There were nine records of confirmed breeding from six locations. Many records were of presence or 1-2 with thirty nine of 3-5, eighty three of 6-30 and seven records of 36-200+. Clearly Meadow Pipits are most often seen in groups. The maximum count, 200+, was at World’s End on 4/04 (StLe).

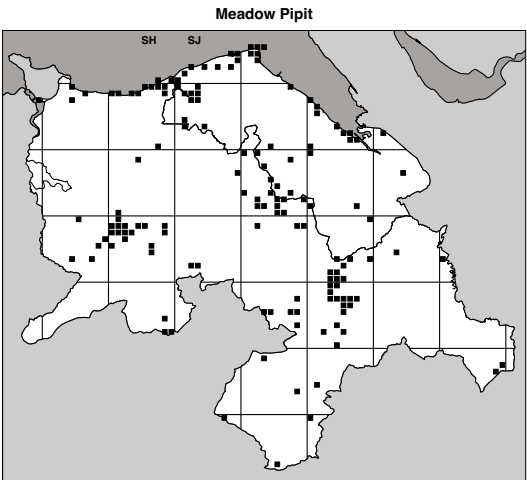
Flints. The table, below, shows a similar pattern to that in Denbs but with more birds seen in Maximum monthly counts in each county:

(MP)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	3	19	36	200	47	41	20	12	17	30	3	1
Flints	20	18	9	100	2	7	1	20	40	14	20	20

CORHEDYDD Y WAEN

(MP)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	104	44
Maximum count	200	100
Av max count 2004-15	114	95
Number of records	331	155
Recorded in BBS squares	12/30	5/16
% of BirdTrack lists	18.3	15.5
Density	10.53	7.47

winter months and a lower spring peak. Again, a good number of records were of presence or 1-2 with twenty eight of 3-5, thirty eight of 6-30 and three records of 34-100. The maximum was near Rhuddlan on 6/04 (SH). There were two records of confirmed breeding from the same location, near Halkyn.



Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Winter and passage visitor.

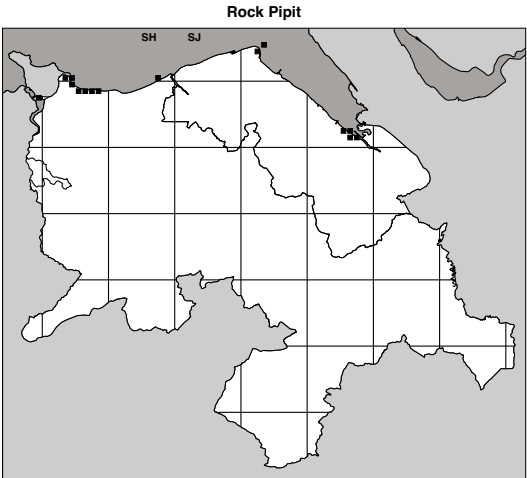
CORHEDYDD Y GRAIG

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. During the first three months most records were counts of 1-4 with the maximum, 7, at RSPB Conwy on 19/01. The first autumn record was 2 near Rhos-on-Sea on 18/10 during a WeBS count (HC). The other four records were singles or presence at coastal locations.

Flints. During the early months there were records of 1-4 with the maximum, 6, at Connah's Quay NR on 22/02 (PSH). A single was recorded at Talacre during a BBS walk on 17/04 (GR). The first autumn record was 2 at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 27/10 (GR) after which records were of 1-3 with 4 at Connah's Quay NR on 27/10 and 28/10 (CMo, PDS).

(RC)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Very scarce
Number of 1km squares	10	6
Maximum count	7	6
Number of records	33	23
Recorded in BBS squares	-	1/16
% of BirdTrack lists	0.9	0.3
Density	0.04	0.06



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Winter visitor.

Denbs. There were records of presence, 1 or 2 between 10/12 and 29/12 at RSPB Conwy (JFJ, SzC).

Flints. A single was recorded at Connah's Quay NR on 29/11 (PSH).

CORHEDYDD Y DWR

(WI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares	1	1
Maximum count	2	1
Number of records	8	1
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	0.1
Density	0.00	0.00

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Winter visitor. Amber List. RBBP.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

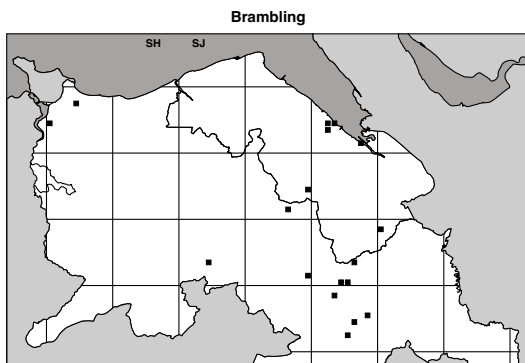
Numbers of reports were low in both counties, both at the beginning and end of the year. Maximum counts were far below the ten-year average.

Denbs. All reports were of 1-2, apart from 8 at Ruabon Mountain on 17/03 (HC) and 15 flying out of a roost at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 24/10 (MiB). The last spring record was 2 at Esclusham Mountain on 3/04 (JFJ) and the first autumn record was 1 at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 24/10 (MiB).

Flints. A very poor year, with most reports of 1-2, except for 3 at Hope in week beginning 4/01 (ECMH), 5 at Pantymwyn on 19/01 (PEM) and 10 at Bagillt on 3/11 (GRMP). Two were ringed at Bagillt in late autumn (GRMP). The last 'spring' record was 1 at Pantymwyn on 2/03 (JAF) and the first 'autumn' record was a single at Pantymwyn on 3/11 (GEM).

PINC Y MYNYDD

(BL)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	12	6
Maximum count	15	10
Av max count 2004-15	99	24
Number of records	20	14
% records from GBW	35.0	21.4
% of BirdTrack lists	0.2	0.7
Density	0.09	0.10



Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Breeding resident.

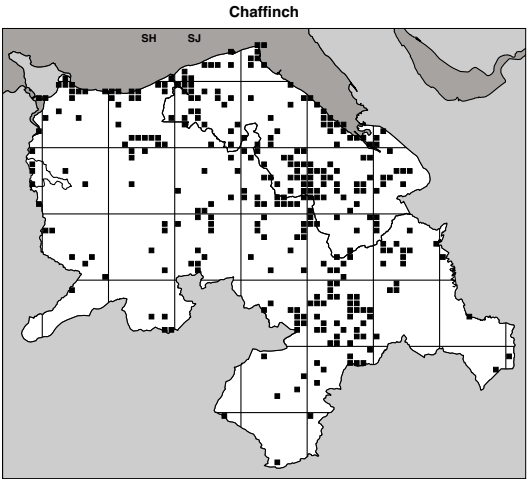
Recorded in each month in both counties. The overall numbers of records increased slightly on 2014 in Denbs and were almost exactly the same as 2014 in Flints. Maximum counts were better than 2014, but still well below the ten-year average in both counties. Whilst numbers were low in

JI-BINC

(CH)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Abundant	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	198	125
Maximum count	140	70
Av max count 2004-15	275	233
Number of records	1782	941
Recorded in BBS squares	28/30	16/16
% records from GBW	50.0	49.3
% of BirdTrack lists	51.2	50.6
Density	14.03	14.86

both counties, there is some suggestion from the table above that there were more in Denbs in the first winter period than Flints and that this pattern was reversed in the second winter period.

Denbs. Some 92.9% of records were of 1-9, a similar percentage to the previous year. One hundred and twenty were counts of 10-30, with seven counts above this, the highest being 80+ at Pensarn on 1/01 (SM) and 80+ on Ruabon Mountain on 15/03 (PIW), rising to 140+ on 17/03 (HC). The largest BBS count was of 37 at Pandy Tudur on 1/05 (HC) and the highest GBW count was 30 at Ysbyty Ifan in week beginning 30/08 (SGn). A brood of 4 was ringed at Gellifor on 26/05 (IMS).



Flints. As in Denbs most of the counts were of 1-9 (92.5%), with seventy counts of 10-30 and eleven counts above this, the highest being 70+ on 24/01 at Leeswood (GNR) and 70 at Sandycroft on 6/12 (TP). The largest BBS count was of 19 at Pentre on 23/05 (DeD) and the highest GBW count was 30 at Holywell in week beginning 25/01 (LMo). The highest daily ringing total recorded was 15 at Shotton Steelworks on 15/03 (pBH), the same day as a high count in Denbs. At least 3 at Bagillt had severely diseased legs (GRMP) but were otherwise of normal weight and health.

Maximum monthly counts in each county:

(CH)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	80	40	140	24	37	32	15	30	20	15	15	14
Flints	70	25	30	15	15	15	15	24	31	50	35	70

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

GYLFINBRAFF

Winter visitor and possible breeding resident. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

Denbs. Between 5 and 11 were recorded at a site in the Vale of Clwyd on many dates between 1/01 and 8/04, often feeding with a flock of up to 25 Greenfinches and 10 Chaffinches. The only other record was a single at Bodnant on 10/03.

(HF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very scarce	Rare
Number of 1km squares	2	
Maximum count	11	
Number of records	10	0
% of BirdTrack lists	-	
Density	0.01	

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Breeding resident. Red List. WBAP.

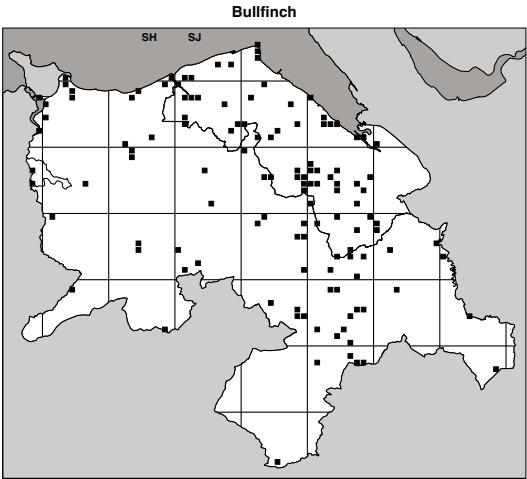
COCH Y BERLLAN

Recorded in each month in both counties, with similar numbers of records as in 2014.

Denbs. A similar pattern to 2014, with 98.7% of records of no more than 5. There were 10 recorded by WAO in Clocaenog Forest on 10/10, which he noted was the largest group he had seen there.

(BF)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Fairly common	Common
Number of 1km squares	71	54
Maximum count	10	15
Number of records	387	432
Recorded in BBS squares	6/30	8/16
% records from GBW	34.4	42.2
% of BirdTrack lists	13.9	16.3
Density	0.36	1.38

Flints. A slightly different pattern of records to Denbs: although a similar percentage (96%) of reports were of 1-5, there were more reports of 5 at a number of locations. There were two double-figure counts: 14 at Llanfynydd on 14/01 (GNR) and 15 at Rhydymwyn on 22/03 (MD), the latter count preceding a successful ringing season at the CES site there.



Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Breeding resident. Amber List.

LLINOS WERDD

Recorded in each month in both counties, with similar numbers of records to 2014, dropping largely to single figures during the breeding season. The lack of any large flocks in Denbs caused the ten-year average maximum to drop. There were no records of unhealthy birds in either county.

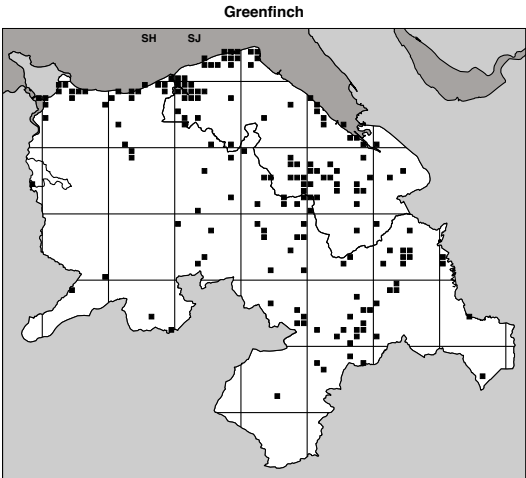
(GR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	103	72
Maximum count	40	50
Av max count 2004-15	90	56
Number of records	1117	689
Recorded in BBS squares	8/30	11/16
% records from GBW	46.8	40.8
% of BirdTrack lists	38.1	40.1
Density	2.09	6.11

Denbs. As in 2014, almost all records were of 10 or fewer – 98.2% of all reports, with just twenty counts of 11-40. Only two locations recorded sizeable flocks: garden feeders at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley attracted 22 on 24/08, 40 on 15/09 and 31 on 7/11 (MiB) and at Pensarn WRM recorded 35+ on 31/10 and 40+ on

Maximum monthly counts in each county:

(GR)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	18	20	12	10	5	11	24	22	40	35	31	40
Flints	50	7	20	18	6	8	50	19	26	13	22	8

Flints. Some 97.2% of records were of 10 or fewer, with nineteen counts of 11-50, though all five of the Sep double figure counts came from the same site at Pantymwyn (GEM). Apart from two counts of 50 from Rhuddlan on 19/01 (WRM) and Connah's Quay NR on 12/07 (PeHa), numbers recorded were low throughout the breeding season and into the second winter period, though the almost complete absence of retraps at the Bagillt ringing site (GRMP) suggested that more were present than the records might have indicated.



Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

LLINOS

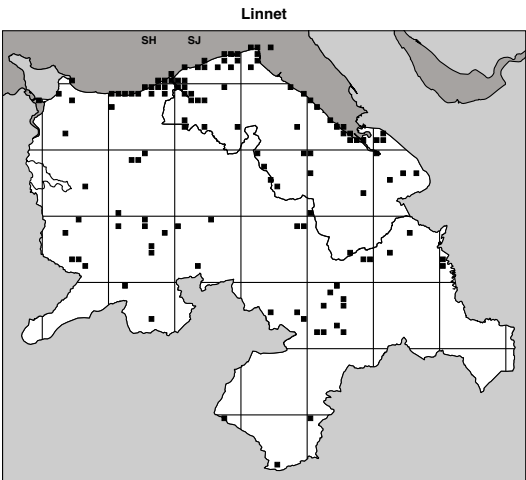
Breeding resident. Red List. WBAP.

Recorded in each month in both counties. The number of records stayed virtually constant in Denbs but dropped by 30.6% in Flints although the larger flocks continued to be reported there, hence the increase in the density score. Maximum counts dropped during the early breeding season and there were only three Dec reports from Denbs and six from Flints.

(LI)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Very common
Number of 1km squares	70	56
Maximum count	45	200
Av max count 2004-15	172	299
Number of records	179	215
Recorded in BBS squares	8/30	6/16
% records from GBW	0.6	-
% of BirdTrack lists	10.7	23.0
Density	1.59	19.02

Denbs. Some 88.2% of reports were of 10 or fewer. There were only four counts of 40 or more: 40+ at Glasfryn on 15/09 (GRMP), Rhos-on-Sea on 20/10 and Kinnel Bay on 25/10 and the highest count of 45+ came from Towyn on 25/07 (all WRM).

Flints. Although there was a substantial decrease in overall reports and the ten-year maximum count average continued to drop, there were larger flocks from the Talacre / Point of Ayr and Oakenholt / Connah's Quay areas than anywhere in Denbs. Here, 81.7% of counts were of 10 or fewer – a similar percentage



to 2014. There were twenty-six counts of 11-50 and a further thirteen of more than 50, with three figure counts coming from Point of Ayr, with 150 on 25/01 (GR), Connah's Quay NR with 100 on 9/09 (GEM), RSPB Oakenholt Marsh with 100 on 27/10 (GR) and the highest count of the year: 200 at Talacre on 4/11 (GR).

Maximum monthly counts in each county:

(LI)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	2	2	6	28	11	6	45	32	40	40	25	30
Flints	150	6	40	86	10	6	60	50	100	100	200	30

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Winter visitor. Amber List. WBAP.

Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Denbs. There was an inland flock of 40 at Rhewl, near Llangollen on 28/03 (JoG) – this is a tantalising record. Is there still a small breeding population somewhere in the Berwyns?. Elsewhere in the county, there were small numbers recorded at Kinnel Bay in the autumn: a maximum of 20 on 13/10, 6 on 16/10 12 on 20/10 and a winter record of 1 on 14/12 (all JoG).

Flints. The Connah's Quay NR wintering flock peaked at 200 on 21/02 (RBe) and the last early winter period three-figure count was 100 on 18/03 (GEM). Up to 80 were still present at the end of the first week in Apr and numbers only dropped into single figures after 21/04, with the final 4 of the spring seen on 26/04. A total of 68 were newly ringed and individually colour-ringed in Feb and Mar (IMS), and several controls started to reveal the encouraging mix of wintering birds on the

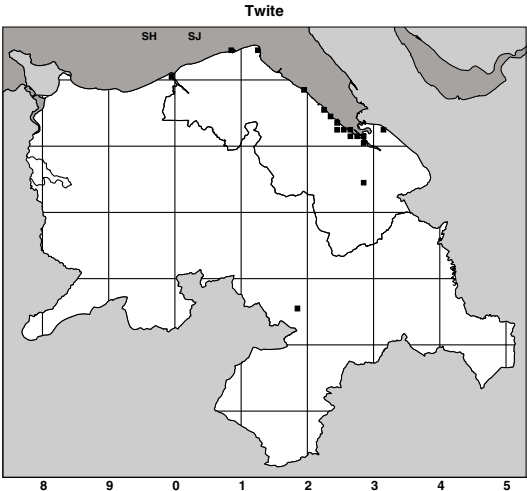
Monthly maxima at Connah's Quay NR and RSPB Oakenholt Marsh:

*80 were recorded at Shotwick Fields on 10/03 (GR), but this figure has been excluded from the table, as they almost certainly refer to the same flock as the Connah's Quay birds.

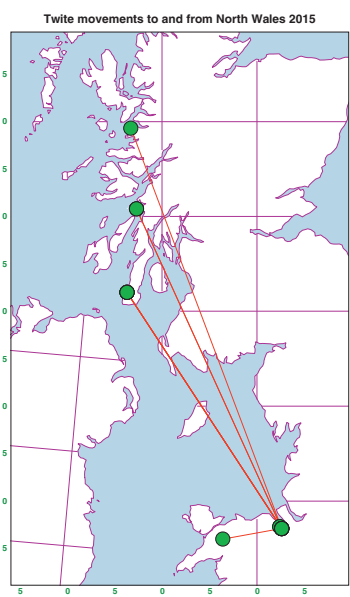
(TW)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Connah's Quay NR	200	150	136	80					3	170	80	132
RSPB Oakenholt Marsh	170	77	60							6	30	120
Elsewhere	60	20	40*							20	20	1

LLINOS Y MYNYDD

(TW)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Common
Number of 1km squares	2	15
Maximum count	40	200
Av max count 2004-15	18	86
Number of records	5	165
% of BirdTrack lists	-	1.1
Density	0.04	5.09



Dee estuary. The map shows the movements of Twite until the end of 2015 of birds either ringed or controlled at Connah's Quay NR. The two northern most places are where colour-ringed birds were seen and several birds from Machrihanish on the Mull of Kintyre have been trapped at Connah's Quay NR. The wintering flock there comes from the small Welsh breeding population around Nant Ffrancon, Gwynedd and from the W coast of Scotland. The first returning birds of the autumn were in mid-Sep, with 1 at Talacre on 13/09 (CR) and 1 at Connah's Quay NR the following day (GEM). The Dee flock then built rapidly over the next few days, to a maximum of 170 on 27/10 (PDS), which was the highest autumn count. Numbers seen in the Connah's Quay NR area then fluctuated between 50 and 132 for the rest of the year. Away from the Connah's Quay NR area in the autumn 20 were at Flint on 29/10 and 20 slightly further down the Dee estuary at Greenfield Marsh on 7/11 (MGW).



Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Breeding resident. Amber List. WBAP.

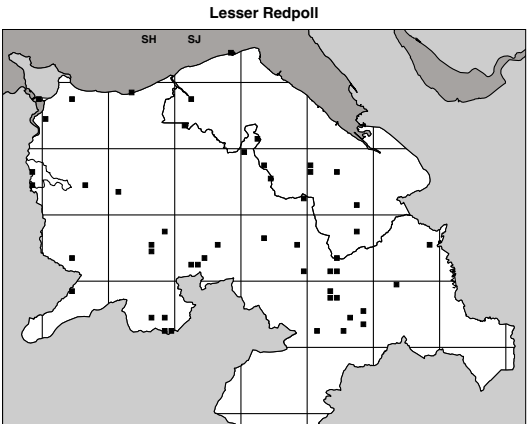
Seen in these months:												
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

The numbers of records and maximum counts dropped considerably in both counties in 2015.

Denbs. An 18.9% reduction in reports and lower maximum counts than in 2014, which have the effect of reducing the ten-year running average. The distribution of records followed a similar pattern to previous years. Almost all records were in single figures and all the double figure counts except one were in the first four months of the year: there were 11 at Garth, Trevor Hall on 25/01 (JuBa), 20 at Cefn Meiriadog on 11/02 (SH), 10 at Pendinas on 4/04 (SD) and at World's End there were 10 on 15/03 (PIW) and at least 20 on 17/03 (HC), 4/04 (StLe) and 25/04 (NGo). The only autumn double figure report was

LLINOS BENGGOCH LEIAF

(LR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	42	8
Maximum count	20	4
Av max count 2004-15	44	18
Number of records	157	26
Recorded in BBS squares	4/30	-
% records from GBW	52.2	8.0
% of BirdTrack lists	2.6	1.1
Density	0.43	0.12



of 10+ at RSPB Conwy on 20/10 (SM). There were six records with breeding codes and fledged young were ringed at Bronbannog (IMS).

Flints. A reduction of more than 50% in records on 2014 and more than half of the twenty three reports concerned 1-2 at Rhydymwyn during Jan and Feb. There were only two counts of 4: at Rhydymwyn on 30/01 (IMS) and at Penycloddiau on 26/04 (EdW). After the third week in Mar there were only four further records during the year.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

GYLFIN GROES

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

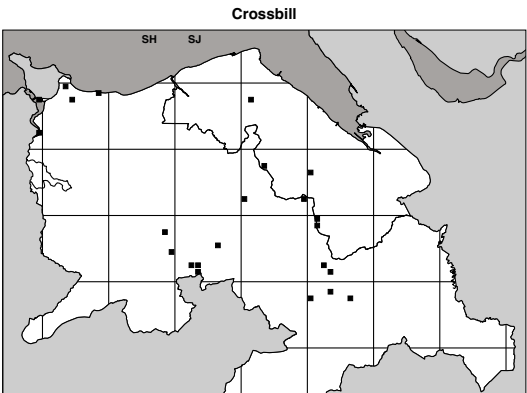
Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

The numbers of reports were higher than 2014 in Denbs, but lower in Flints.

Denbs. More records this year, but lower numbers, with only two double figure counts – of 11 at World’s End on 4/04 (StLe) and 14 in Clocaenog Forest on 14/05 (HeK). There were 2 juveniles seen in Clocaenog Forest on 18/03 (WAO) which was the only positive evidence of breeding, although it is likely that this occurred in several other locations.

Flints. Only six reports in 2015, with 11 at Llyn Helyg on 19/10 (AB) the only double figure count. Away from upland coniferous woodland, there was a slightly surprising record of 2 at Rhydymwyn on 16/07 (IMS).

(CR)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Common	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	18	5
Maximum count	14	11
Av max count 2004-15	159	11
Number of records	30	6
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	-
% of BirdTrack lists	1.3	0.7
Density	0.13	0.09



Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

NICO

Breeding resident.

Recorded in each month in both counties, with very similar numbers of records to 2014. The pattern of monthly maxima is similar in both counties, with the largest charms recorded after the main breeding season from Aug to the end of the year.

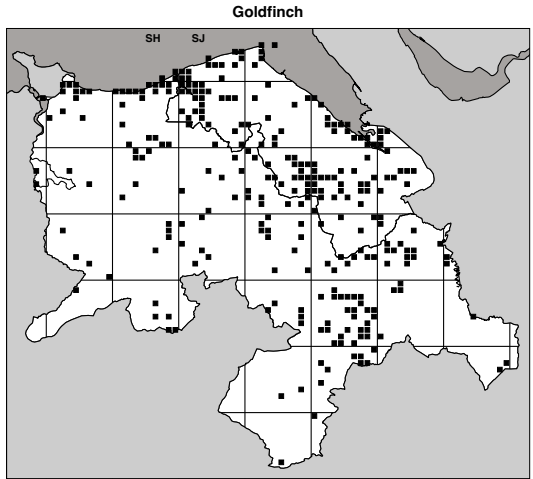
Denbs. Most, 89%, of counts were of 1-10+ but this year the number of counts between

(GO)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Abundant
Number of 1km squares	170	119
Maximum count	130	150
Av max count 2004-15	73	168
Number of records	1485	955
Recorded in BBS squares	24/30	15/16
% records from GBW	43.2	38.9
% of BirdTrack lists	51.2	61.9
Density	11.18	30.31

11 and 50 increased from thirty-two to one hundred and fifty five, with seven counts of 51+. The highest counts were 60+ at Pensarn on 13/08 (WRM), 62 at Nant-y-Glyn on 21/09 and 66 there on 10/12 (HC), at least 50 at Ffrith on 23/09 (MGW), Towyn on 29/09 and 30/09 (SM), and the largest count of 130 around garden feeders at Pentrefelin, Conwy Valley on 22/11 (MiB).

Flints. Although the largest charms were recorded in Flints, the percentage of counts of 1-10+ was higher than Denbs at 93.2%. There were fifty-four counts of 11-50 and a further ten of 51+. The highest counts in Apr, May and Jun all came from BBS walks. The largest charms all

came in Aug, Sep and Oct, with 80+ at Rhyl on 9/08, 90+ on 23/08 and 70+ on 29/09 (WRM), 50+ at Pantymwyn on 20/09 (GEM), 50+ at Point of Ayr on 11/10 (GEM) and 70 there on 12/10 (GR), with 110+ at nearby Talacre on 17/10 (WRM). The highest count of the year came from Connah's Quay NR, with 150 on 29/09 (PeHa) and there were 70 recorded there on 2/10 (GEM). Ringing at Bagillt showed that quite a number of adults were still completing their full wing moult in mid-Oct.



Maximum monthly counts in each county:

(GO)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Denbs	35	25	20	23	18	15	19	60	62	30	130	66
Flints	30	20	25	20	11	14	30	90	150	110	25	30

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Breeding resident and winter visitor.

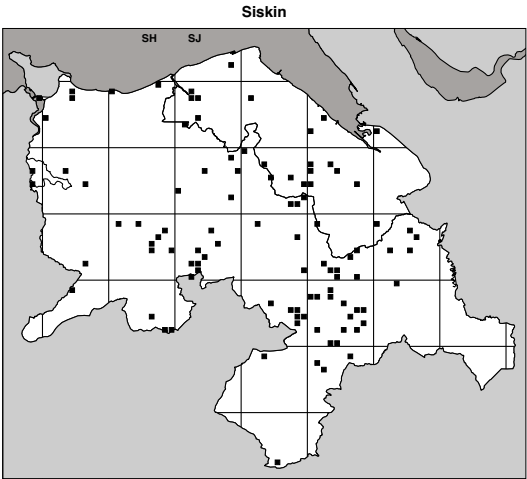
Recorded in each month of the year in Denbs and in all except Oct and Dec in Flints, though there was only one Sep record. Siskin numbers can fluctuate widely from year to year and 2015 was a year of low numbers in both counties, especially Flints. There is no cause for alarm, however – the 2016 figures are likely to show a bounce back to former levels.

PILA GWYRDD

(SK)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Very common	Common
Number of 1km squares	81	20
Maximum count	40	8
Av max count 2004-15	219	42
Number of records	356	83
Recorded in BBS squares	8/30	1/16
% records from GBW	57.7	16.7
% of BirdTrack lists	8.6	3.0
Density	1.64	0.27

Denbs. Reports were down by 21% and double figure counts were down from twenty-six to seven. The only count above 25 was of 40+ at Plas Maenan on 20/08 (WRM), though 16 were recorded on a BBS walk in Clocaenog Forest on 14/05 (HeK).

Flints. Total records were down by 87%, with the only count above 5 which was 8 at Pantymwyn on 2/07 (GEM). Sixty one of the reports (73.5%) came from either Pantymwyn or Rhydymwyn, with 1-2 at Rhydymwyn on many dates being the main contribution (JVHu).



Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

BRAS YR EIRA

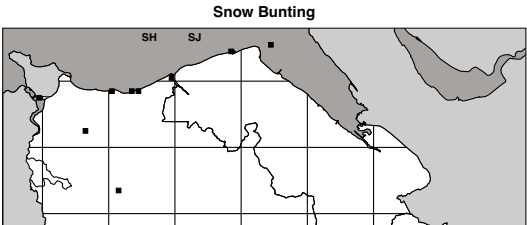
Winter visitor. Amber List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

(SB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Scarce	Scarce
Number of 1km squares	7	2
Maximum count	2	6
Number of records	7	2
% of BirdTrack lists	0.1	-
Density	0.01	0.02

Denbs. All records were of 1-2, with 2 in different locations at Pensarn on 7/11 (GrJ). There were sightings at two unexpected inland locations.

Flints. One record in each winter: a single at Point of Ayr on 8/03 (GR) and 6 at nearby Gronant on 23/12 (LaC).



Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

MELYN YR EITHIN

Breeding resident. Red List.

Seen in these months:											
D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
F	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N

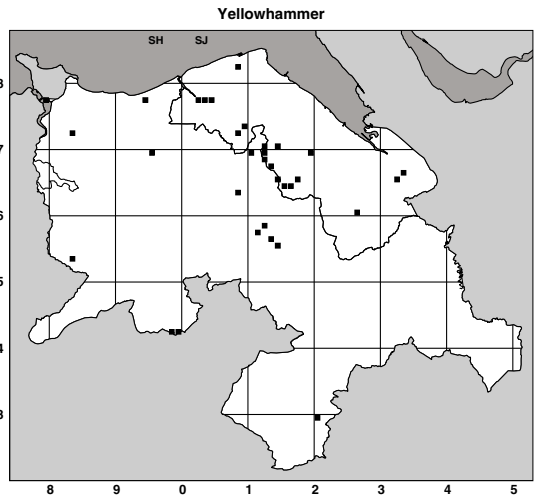
(Y)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	16	17
Maximum count	11	7
Av max count 2004-15	16	13
Number of records	24	43
Recorded in BBS squares	1/30	2/16
% records from GBW	4.2	42.2
% of BirdTrack lists	1.5	1.4
Density	0.09	0.20

The long-term numbers of reports continue to fall in both counties. Breeding codes were only recorded in three locations in Denbs and ten in Flint: no fledged young were reported, nor were any adults seen

carrying food or faecal sacs

Denbs. Reports were 25% down on 2014. Almost all records were of 1-2: the only counts above 5 were at Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd, with 8 on 14/01 (SGD) and 11 on 26/04 (JoH).

Flints. Although the number of records actually increased very slightly from 2014, from 41 to 43, only one was recorded after the first week in Jul and only six of the counts were of more than 1-2. There were 3 at Leeswood on 24/01 (GNR) and Penycloddiau on 15/05 (LaC), and the Penycloddiau area also produced 4 on 26/04 and 6 on 15/05 (EdW). The highest count was of 7 near Hawarden Castle on 22/05 (AB).



Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

BRAS Y CYRS

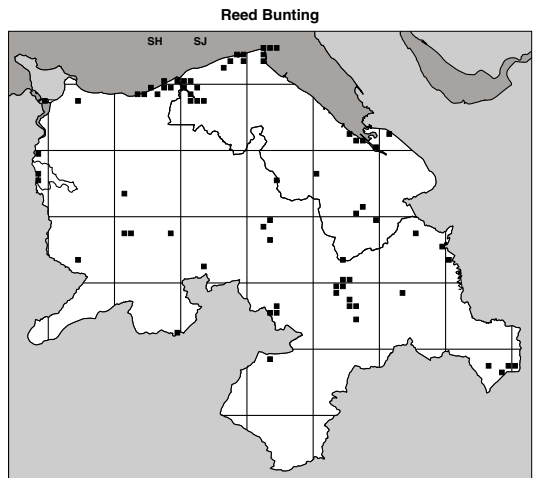
Breeding Resident. Amber List.

Recorded in each month in both counties, except for Sep in Denbs. Overall numbers of records were similar to 2014.

Denbs. Present at RSPB Conwy virtually throughout the year. Most records were from coastal sites; there were none in double figures and only two exceeded 4: 6 at World's End on 4/04 (StLe) and 8 at Towyn on 15/02 (SM). Breeding activity was recorded in fourteen locations and confirmed with adults carrying food in two: Pensarn and Fenn's Moss.

Flints. Almost all records were of 1-4, with six counts of 5-9 and two in double figures: 10+ at Talacre on 21/02 (DCR) and 12+ on Flint saltmarsh at the end of the year on 27/12 (EITh). Breeding activity was recorded at thirteen locations, but not definitely proved at any of them: in at least one case (at Rhydymwyn) a singing male only appeared briefly on

(RB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Uncommon	Uncommon
Number of 1km squares	46	27
Maximum count	8	12
Number of records	184	91
Recorded in BBS squares	7/30	1/16
% records from GBW	1.6	-
% of BirdTrack lists	11.0	9.7
Density	0.19	0.55



one visit.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Former resident. Red List.

BRAS YR YD

Flints. There was a single record, the first since 2011, of 1 at Shotwick Fields on 6/07 (CW) which is the same place as the 2011 record.

(CB)	Denbs	Flints
Occurrence	Rare	Rare
Number of 1km squares		1
Maximum count		1
Number of records	0	1
% of BirdTrack lists		-
Density		0.00



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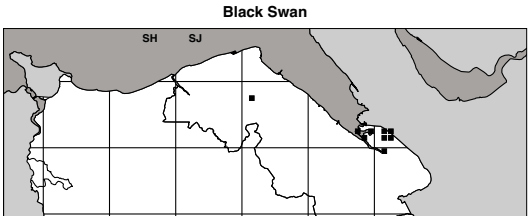
Category E species

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

ALARCH DU

Flints. Most records were of 1-2 with 3 seen at White Sands on 15/11 during a WeBS count.

	Denbs.	Flints.
Number of records	0	21
Number of 1km squares		9
Maximum count		3



Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

HWYADEN GOCH YR EITHIN

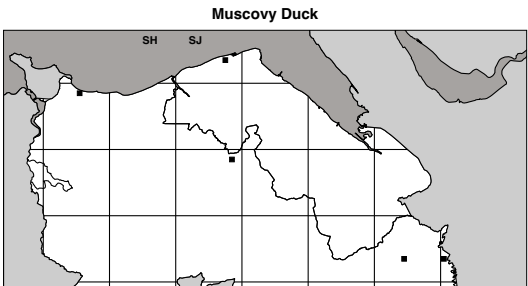
Flnts. A single was recorded at RSPB Oakenholt Marsh on 29/08.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

HWYADEN FWSG

Denbs. Singles or presence were recorded in Jan, Mar, Apr and May. On 28/05 there were 2 near Holt.

Flints. A single was seen near Prestatyn on 21/05.



Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

IÂR GINI HELMOG

Denbs. On 2/03 2 were seen at Lleweni Hall, Bodfari.

Flints. During a BBS walk 4 were recorded near Buckley on 15/05.

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

PAUN

Denbs. A total of 8 was recorded at Rhuthun on 13/05.

Flints. A single was recorded near Cilcain on 30/05.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

HEBOG HARRIS

Flints. One, with jesses, was seen at Connah's Quay NR on 13/11.

First and last dates of selected migrants 2015

	First dates		Last dates
Summer migrants	2015		2015
Hobby	1/04		19/09
Little Tern	21/04		03/09
Sandwich Tern	8/04		4/10
Common Tern	23/04		3/09
Arctic Tern	15/05		3/09
Cuckoo	15/04		16/08
Nightjar	30/07		4/09
Swift	15/04		15/09
Sand Martin	13/03		10/09
Swallow	14/03		23/10
House Martin	28/03		10/10
Tree Pipit	20/04		2/08
Yellow Wagtail	23/04		25/09
Redstart	14/04		12/09
Whinchat	2/04		13/09
Wheatear	18/03		21/10
Ring Ouzel	8/04		31/10
Grasshopper Warbler	13/04		31/08
Sedge Warbler	14/04		15/09
Reed Warbler	14/04		16/09
Garden Warbler	22/04		16/09
Lesser Whitethroat	20/04		19/09
Whitethroat	16/04		13/09
Wood Warbler	24/04		15/07
Willow Warbler	6/04		10/10
Spotted Flycatcher	16/05		13/09
Pied Flycatcher	11/04		2/08
Winter migrants	Last dates		First dates
Fieldfare	16/04		8/09
Redwing	19/04		10/10

This table shows the recorded first and last dates for most of the species regarded as migrants in North-East Wales.

Spring migration arrival times were fairly unremarkable this year although the first Swallow on 14/03 and the first House Martin on 28/03 were a week earlier than the average date since 2004. A Hobby, which arrived on 1/04 was the earliest arrival date since 2004.

It would appear that observers have been more diligent in recording departure dates this year.

This may account for the apparently notable late departures for Yellow Wagtail on 25/09, Ring Ouzel on 31/10, Sedge Warbler on 15/09, Willow Warbler on 10/10 and Pied Flycatcher on 2/08.

The late departure of Redwing on 19/04 was later than average.

Anne Brenchley

The Birds of Llanarmon-yn-lâl and District, 1951 to 2007-14

Introduction

A check-list of the birds of Llanarmon-yn-lâl and district in Denbighshire was published by the Chester Society of Natural Science, Literature and Art in 1951. It was compiled by RE Vaughan-Roberts, a member of the Society and a local schoolmaster. A copy of Roberts' check-list is at Appendix 1. A comparison of Roberts' check-list with one drawn up for the period of 2007-14 (Appendix 2) reveals that there have been some significant changes to the district's avifauna since 1951. This article identifies the species that have been lost or gained, or which have experienced a change of status, and examines what the reasons for these changes were. This is set in the context of agricultural change in the district since 1951 and of the most recent data concerning the status of the district's birds and wildlife in general.

The boundary of the district

In the preface to his check-list, Roberts describes the boundary of his recording area as a circle, with a radius of five miles, centred upon Llanarmon-yn-lâl. It contains a diverse landscape in a small area and includes many of the inland habitats found in the Clwyd Bird Recording Group's (CBRG) recording area of north-east Wales. Maps of Roberts' check-list area are at Figures 1 and 2.

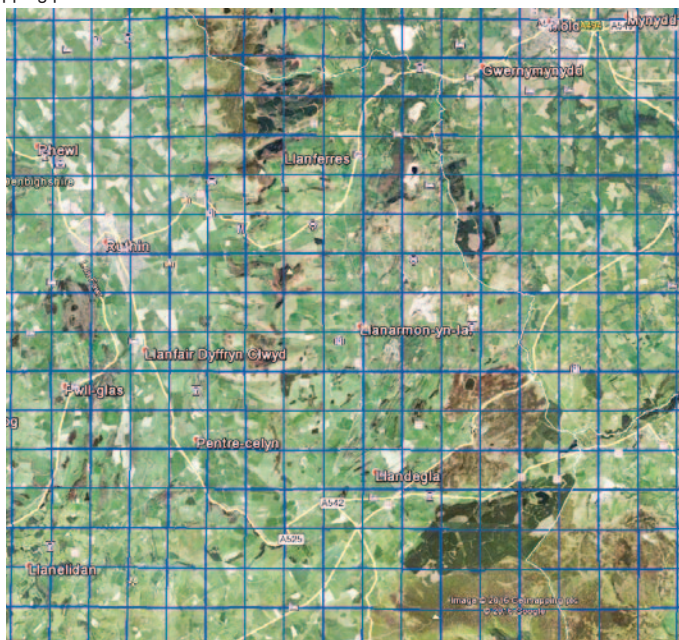
The district divides readily into six areas based to a large extent on its local geology. Five of these areas run approximately north-south and cover about three-quarters of the district. From west to east these are: the Vale of Clwyd including Rhuthun; the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (referred to hereafter as the Clwydian Range) including Moel Famau (554m); the Alyn valley and limestone hills (wherein lies Llanarmon-yn-lâl); the Millstone Grit uplands, and the Coal Measures between Treuddyn and Mold. The sixth area forms a southern boundary of hills which stretch from Mynydd Cricor (329m) in the west to Cynr-y-Brain (565m) and Esclusham Mountain (457m) in the east. Those parts of the latter two hills which are in the district are referred to hereafter as the north Ruabon moors.

Most of the land in the district is above 250m and is used primarily for sheep production. The greater part of the land below 250m is found in the Vale of Clwyd and here the fertile soils and mild climate offer more options for farming including dairy and arable. On the poorer soils in the district the land has not infrequently been used for non-agricultural purposes e.g. the reservoirs at Nant-y-Ffrith and Pendinas and the conifer plantations at Moel Famau, Nercwys and Llandegla. The afforested areas had not been planted when Roberts compiled his list in 1951 and would have been mostly heather moorland.



Figure 1. A map of Llanarmon-yn-Iâl and district with the recording area circled. Map Copyright © HarperCollins Publishers Ltd 2015.

Figure 2. An aerial view of Llanarmon-yn-Iâl and district and the surrounding area with a 1km grid. Google, Image © 2016 Getmapping.plc



Roberts' 1951 check-list and a check-list for 2007-14 compiled for comparison purposes

Roberts' 1951 list contained 132 species. However, for the purposes of this article, his records of Bean Goose and Crossbill have been excluded as he did not have a positive identification of the former species, and the latter was seen outside his recording area. The remaining 130 species provide a basis for comparison with the check-list for 2007-14 mentioned above. The latter has used data from Brenchley et al (2013), Balmer et al (2013) and the North-East Wales Bird Reports for 2007-14.

The 1951 and 2007-14 check-lists compared

Table 1 compares the species' totals in Roberts' check-list with those in the new check-list. The table is based upon data drawn from Appendix 2. "Decreases" and "increases" in a species' status refer to those situations where, after 1951, the status of a species has changed from a higher to a lower status or vice-versa.

Species' status	No. of species 1951	Losses after 1951	Net species' status changes after 1951	Gains after 1951	Number of species 2007- 14
Breeding Resident	71	-3	+4	10	82
Non-breeding Resident	1		+1		2
Breeding Summer Visitor	28	-3	-2	2	25
Winter Visitor	5	-1	-1	1	4
Passage Migrant			+2	1	3
Occasional Visitor	11	-5	+1	6	13
Vagrant	14	-7	-5	8	10
TOTALS	130	-19	-	28	139

Table 1. Species' status totals showing the losses and gains to the district from 1951 to 2007-14. For details see Appendix 2.

Species' losses and gains to the district from 1951 to 2007-14

The analysis of losses and gains below concentrates solely on breeding residents, breeding summer visitors and winter visitors and excludes those species which only pass through the district, namely passage migrants, occasional visitors and vagrants. Roberts' records of breeding species would have been collected and compiled using much simpler criteria than those used today where species are now given a Possible, Probable or Confirmed breeding status according to the level of evidence noted by the observer. The data from which the 2007-

Species' lost	The reasons for the loss of species to the district from 1951 to 2007-14
Breeding Resident	
Grey Partridge	Agricultural change: Loss of field margins, hedgerows and winter stubble and the use of insecticides and herbicides. Still present in the district but no breeding records have been found post 1951.
Water Rail	Agricultural change: Drainage of wetlands and the loss of wetland vegetation. Not recorded since 1951.
Black-headed Gull	Agricultural change: Drainage of wetlands, and predation and disturbance at colonies. Bred at Llyn Cyfynwy but the colony was destroyed in 1914 by gamekeepers who thought they were depleting fish stocks. More recently, and post Roberts' check-list, small numbers bred at Llyn Gweryd prior to it becoming a fishery. It is a regular visitor to the district outside the breeding season.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Lack of woodland management: The subject of a 30 year decline due, in part, to the reducing amount of deadwood in woods and hedgerows. The general decline of wildlife, including invertebrates, from the 1970s would also have impacted on the species. No evidence of breeding in the district in 2007-14.
Breeding Summer Visitor	
Quail	Several Causes (including agricultural change and climate change): Hunting on migration and drought in its winter quarters. Last definite breeding record was from a site in the district in 1989. It may have bred in the same season at Llanarmon. Now mainly a passage migrant.
Corncrake	Agricultural change: Drainage of wetlands. Breeding success decreased when grass cutting was mechanised and the time of cutting was changed resulting in the destruction of breeding adults and young. The last breeding record in the district was probably in the 1950s.
Golden Plover	Agricultural change: Deterioration of moorland habitat through drainage, lack of habitat management and the planting of forestry. Has bred just outside the district on Ruabon moors since 2014 following habitat improvement work.
Redshank	Agricultural change: Loss of habitat due to drainage of wetlands and overgrazing. Last breeding record found was at Ruabon moors in 1991 but this may not have been within the district.
Turtle Dove	Several Causes (including agricultural change and climate change): A shorter breeding season allows only one brood; hunting on migration; drought in its winter quarters caused by climate change, and trichomonosis may all have contributed to its decline. The last breeding record in the district was of 1 at Bwlchgwyn in 2001.
Yellow Wagtail	Agricultural change (and in part, climate change?): Loss of mixed farming; land drainage; loss of pasture to arable and increased stocking densities. Climate change may be affecting its winter habitat in Africa. Roberts' cryptic note "Near Ruthin" is unclear about the species local status in 1951 but breeding records exist for Ruthin and for Nant-y-Ffrith from before 1968 (Lovegrove, 1994). Not recorded since.
Totals (Breeding species)	Agricultural change = 7/10 (70%) Several causes (including agricultural change and climate change) = 2 /10 (20%) Lack of woodland management = 1/10 (10%)
Winter Visitor	
Jack Snipe	Agricultural change: Drainage of wetlands. Recorded by Roberts as "frequent in winter" but the district probably now lacks the wetland habitat to attract it.
Totals (Winter Visitor)	Agricultural change = 1/1 (100%)

Table 2. The reasons for the loss of species to the district from 1951 to 2007-14.

14 check-list was drawn up was collected in this way but it is not possible to apply this approach to Roberts' records as his notes are generally too brief to say whether a species had a Possible, Probable or Confirmed breeding status. In order to adopt a similar approach towards both sets of records, all of Roberts' breeding records, and all of the 2007-14 records of Possible/Probable/Confirmed breeding have been treated as breeding records.

Table 2 lists the species that have been lost to the district and Table 3 lists those species that have been gained. The reasons given for the loss or gain of each species are taken mostly from Holden and Cleeves (2014).

Species' losses

Table 2 shows that out of a total of ten breeding species lost to the district between 1951 and 2007-14, a majority of seven (70%), were lost mainly as a result of agricultural change. A further two species (20 %) had several causes of decline (including agricultural change and climate change), and the decline of one species (10%) was thought to be due to a lack of management of deciduous woodland. Climate change was implicated, at least in part, in the loss of three of the six breeding summer visitors all of which have met with problems in their winter quarters.

Species' gains

Tables 3 shows that 18 breeding species were gained from 1951 to 2007-14. The majority of these: 14/18 or 78% were the result of "expansions of breeding range". The precise reasons in some cases are difficult to identify.

The losses and gains of species to the district and the decreases and increases in North Wales compared

Brenchley et al (2013) recorded 28 breeding species which had declined in North Wales by 20% or more at the 10km level between the 1968-72 and 2008-12 national Atlases. In addition, a total of 34 breeding species were recorded that had increased in North Wales by 20% or more at the 10km level during the same period. Above the 20% threshold, more species had increased than decreased, mirroring the situation in the district in respect of gains and losses. Seven of the ten breeding species which were lost to the district after 1951 were also on the North Wales list of species that had declined by 20% or more between 1968-72 and 2008-12. A total of 14 of the 18 breeding species which were gained to the district after 1951 were on the North Wales list of species that had increased by 20% or more during the same period. This commonality between the two sets of data (district and North Wales) suggests that the main reasons for the losses and gains to the district namely "agricultural change" and "expansions of range" respectively, were also likely to have been responsible for the decreases and increases in North Wales.

Agricultural change and the loss of species from 1951 to 2007-14

Early pressures on the local avifauna are likely to have developed during and after the Second World War when much additional land was brought into production. However, there appears to be little evidence for this in Roberts' check-list. A total of eight species were mentioned in the check-list as declining or increasing. The relevant extracts from the check-list are

Species gained	The reasons for the gain of species to the district from 1951 to 2007-14
Breeding Resident	
Mute Swan	Expansion of breeding range into the district. Has bred successfully at Cae Ddol, Rhuthun for several years and stays all year round, the first year birds leaving when the new breeding season starts. Currently on the Wales Green List
Greylag Goose	Expansion of breeding range into the district following its introduction on Anglesey in the 1960s. Has benefitted subsequently from the move to pastoral farming. Increasing, and within the district favours the Llandegla moors/Nant-y-Ffrith areas.
Canada Goose	Expansion of breeding range into the district following, in part, introductions on Anglesey in the 1950s. Has benefited subsequently from the move to pastoral farming. Increasing, and has bred at Eryrys, Nercwys and Llandegla.
Mandarin Duck	Expansion of breeding range into the district. Has bred at Llanfwrog near Rhuthun.
Tufted Duck	Expansion of breeding range into the district. Recorded breeding by Brenchley et al (2013) at several sites. Currently on the Wales Green List.
Goosander	Expansion of breeding range into the district as part of its spread south from Scotland. Currently on the Wales Green List.
Red-legged Partridge	Regularly released for shooting but breeding was recorded in Brenchley et al (2013).
Great Crested Grebe	Expansion of breeding range into the district and, in recent years, has bred regularly at Llyn Gweryd and Nant-y-Ffrith reservoir. Currently on the Wales Green List.
Grey Heron	Expansion of breeding range into the district. Recorded nesting in Brenchley et al (2013) at Pant Du south of Maeshafn. Currently on the Wales Amber List
Red Kite	Expansion of breeding range into the district: Recorded nesting in Brenchley et al (2013). Increasing in range and numbers from the south. Currently on the Wales Amber List.
Goshawk	Land use change - Afforestation. The initial population was made up of birds that had escaped or were released. Recorded regularly from Llandegla Forest and the surrounding area and breeding has been recorded there. Currently on the Wales Green List.
Peregrine	Expansion of breeding range into the district after pesticide poisoning and persecution had reduced their numbers. Has bred on Rhuthun church spire. Currently on the Wales Green List.
Herring Gull	Expansion of breeding range into the district perhaps supported in part by the increase in pasture which provide feeding and "loafing" grounds. Nests annually in Rhuthun where it can be seen all year round. In its wider range its breeding and wintering populations are in decline and the species is on the Wales Red List.
Collared Dove	Expansion of breeding range into the district, filling a habitat niche which enabled it to spread from Asia Minor across most of Europe since the 1930s. First recorded in Denbighshire in 1962 and Flintshire in 1963 and now a common species in the district. Currently on the Wales Green List.
Tree Sparrow	Better observer coverage? Has probably never been common in the district but may have been present, unnoticed, when Roberts compiled his list. Brenchley et al (2013) recorded breeding from Rhuthun, Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and near Maeshafn. Currently on the Wales Red List due to an overall decline in numbers.
Crossbill	Land use change - Afforestation. Has colonised the new conifer plantations as they have matured. Frequently recorded, and has bred at Clwyd Forest, Nercwys Forest and Llandegla Forest. Numbers are supplemented by invasions from time to time. Currently on the Wales Green List.

Species'	The reasons for the gain of species to the district from 1951 to 2007-14
Breeding Summer Visitor	
Oystercatcher	Expansion of breeding range into the district and may have benefited in part from the move to pastoral farming. Has moved into inland sites in the UK over the past 50 years, where it includes grassland invertebrates in its diet. Recorded as breeding at Llyn Cyfynwy on Llandegla moors. Currently on the Wales Amber List.
Hobby	Expansion of breeding range into the district may have been encouraged by climate change and the increase in insect prey, especially dragonflies. Now frequently seen in the Llandegla moors/Nant-y-Ffrith/north Ruabon moors area and has been recorded breeding there. Currently on the Wales Green List.
Totals (Breeding species)	Expansion of breeding range into the district = 14/18 (78%) Land use change - Afforestation = 2/18 (11%) Regularly released for shoots = 1/18 (6%) Better observer coverage? = 1/18 (6%)
Winter Visitor	
Common Gull	Expansion of wintering range. Not recorded by Roberts, the Common Gull began wintering on inland fields sometime after 1951 probably encouraged by the increase in pastoral farming. Currently on the Wales Red List because of its decreasing breeding and wintering populations.
Totals (Winter Visitor)	Expansion of wintering change = 1/1 (100%)

Table 3. The reasons for the gain of species to the district from 1951 to 2007-14.

paraphrased below. The changes recorded by Roberts appear to be little more than relatively short-term fluctuations in numbers and, other than Corncrake, show little evidence of agricultural change affecting any of the species listed.

Species recorded as decreasing in 1951:

Starling - "Appears to be decreasing";

Song Thrush - "Almost wiped out in Llanarmon by the 1947 winter; numbers still far below normal; possibly prevalence of Magpies helps to prevent complete recovery";

House Martin - "In some parts...reduced to a tithe of its former numbers.... Sparrows are... largely...responsible";

Lapwing - "Almost exterminated as a breeder in Llanarmon by Carrion Crows", and

Corncrake - "Formerly general, then decreasing almost to extinction, but picking up since 1949"

Species recorded as increasing in 1951:

Magpie - "Population has more than doubled during the last 25 years in Llanarmon";

Redstart - "Spreading rapidly in the Llanarmon area", and

Little Owl - "Not uncommon. Spreading".

The Corncrake – an early indicator of change

The Corncrake's decline had begun as early as the 1850s in England with the introduction of

horse-drawn mowing machines, the use of which destroyed nests and young. It is not known which period Roberts was referring to when he mentioned an initial decline of the Corncrake, "almost to extinction," but it may have been when mowing machines were first introduced locally, possibly in the early decades of the 1900s. The Corncrake's numbers in some parts of Denbighshire and Flintshire (generally the unimproved hills) remained reasonably stable up to about 1950 and this may explain, in part, why Roberts was able to report a local improvement after 1949. However, from thereon, numbers in the two counties decreased rapidly. Denbighshire's last breeding record was in 1961 (from outside the district) and Flintshire's was from an unrecorded location in 1959 (Lovegrove, 1994).

The agricultural changes up to the 1970s

Agricultural change took a leap forward during the 1950s with the replacement of the working horse by the tractor. At the same time there was a shift towards sheep production and, inevitably, the improvement of traditional pastures to support this change. This was probably the move which led to the demise of the Corncrake locally. Overgrazing and uncontrolled burning at this time resulted in the loss of heather moor leading to Purple Moor-grass and bracken grassland. In the lowlands, the concentration on sheep production resulted in the loss of mixed farms, and the diverse habitat they provided. In addition, and in order to provide more grazing, there was a switch from arable to grassland, and hedgerows were grubbed out to increase the area down to grass. This was also the period when further specialisation resulted in dairy farming becoming concentrated locally in the Vale of Clwyd where the larger farms offered economies of scale. Here, the fertile soils and mild climate led to it becoming, over the next 20 years, the most intensively farmed area in the district.

The increase in the pace of change in the 1970s and 1980s

Agricultural change intensified in the 1970s and 1980s: open moorland was actively converted into improved ryegrass pastures, and by the end of this period 44% of upland heath in Wales had been lost to agricultural change and afforestation, and 90% of lowland grassland in Wales had been improved. Monochrome green fields and uplands continue to dominate the district visually, from the lowlands to the flanks and summits of the highest hills providing a reminder of the amount of traditional land that has been lost to improved grassland. Afforestation was carried out on a large scale in the 1980s with major plantations being established near Moel Famau (Clwyd Forest) and at Nercwys and Llandegla. Llandegla Forest took a substantial area of land from the north Ruabon moors, and cut off that area from the Llandegla moors, losing the continuous run of heather moor that had existed until then. Combined, the coniferous woodland planted in the district at this time was the equivalent of twice the area of the Llandegla moors. The drainage that was necessary for the plantations lowered the water table both within and around the forests adversely affecting Black Grouse and Golden Plover which require wet moorland in their breeding habitats. This was also a period of widespread land drainage on lowland farms, particularly on the floodplain of the River Clwyd, and this affected species like Lapwing, Curlew and Yellow Wagtail, none of which now nest in that part of the district. The problems that arose from agricultural change during these decades were compounded by the introduction of EEC headage payments in the 1970s. This scheme paid farmers subsidy based upon the number of animals they farmed and led to a major increase in stocking rates and serious problems of over-grazing. The pressure on the environment, in terms of the effects of agricultural change on species numbers and distribution, during this period was probably without parallel in historic times.

From the 1990s to the present day agricultural change slowed and the emphasis moved away from increasing production. Various government schemes have been introduced in Wales and the rest of the UK to try and ameliorate what has been lost but these are now generally considered to have been on too small a scale to be effective, a criticism which appears to have been borne out by the continuing decline of birds and wildlife in general.

The areas of species richness in the district

Brenchley et al (2013) identifies the areas of species' richness in North Wales in a series of maps which help to identify some of the key areas of conservation value in the district, post agricultural change. The highest category of species-rich tetrad plotted represents counts of 61 to 80 species. Out of a total of approximately 45 tetrads which are wholly in the district's area, there are five examples of this highest category of tetrad, identified here by the main place-name or feature in the tetrad: Moel Findeg; Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd; Llandegla Forest (Pendinas); Moel Garegog (the eastern side of the hill and part of Llandegla moors) and Nant-y-Frith reservoir. The second highest category of tetrad plotted represents counts of 46-60 species. There are 25 of these wholly in the district. Many of these are clustered around two areas, one centred on the north Ruabon moors/Llandegla Forest/south Llandegla moors, and another centred on the Moel Famau country park. Several of this category of tetrad run in a north-south line along the boundary of the limestone hills and the Millstone Grit, and connect the two areas above. The merits and conservation value of this area would be worth exploring further.

The impact of agricultural change on the main areas of avian importance within the district

These data confirm the conservation importance within the district of the north Ruabon moors/Llandegla Forest/south Llandegla moors, and also of the area around the Moel Famau country park, areas which were protected to a great extent by the difficulties they would present to farming. The former is probably the most important area of heather moorland in the district. The whole of the Ruabon moors was designated as the Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains Special Area of Conservation in the 1990s, and in 2011 it was included in an extension of the Clwydian Range AONB which took in the Dee Valley. These uplands, including the north Ruabon moors, support a number of rare species including: Black Grouse, Merlin, Hen Harrier, Golden Plover, Curlew and Short-eared Owl. Their importance is emphasised by their being more species from the uplands and upland margins on the Wales Red List than from any other habitat. Habitat management has been undertaken since the 1990s to help the Black Grouse populations at north Ruabon moors/Llandegla Forest and at Clwyd Forest, and has successfully brought about an increase in numbers at both of these sites. More recently, habitat management work just outside the district, on the Ruabon moors, has led to breeding Golden Plover being present since 2014. Both schemes have included, amongst other things, the "wetting-up" of habitat to increase the availability of invertebrate food during the breeding season. In the case of the Black Grouse the drying out of their habitat may have been due in part to the lowering of the water table around their two forest sites. The history of Llandegla Forest has been mentioned earlier. It is now a species-rich environment in its own right and apart from attracting breeding Goshawk and Crossbill its forest edge is one of the main sites for Black Grouse in north-east Wales.

Heather moorland forms a significant part of the ground cover in the Moel Famau country park, and its ongoing management has been important in helping to conserve the small number of Black Grouse in Clwyd Forest. On the Clwydian Range to the south of the park, most of the

hills retain some heather but the areas are generally too small and too insular to attract the specialist upland species. Elsewhere on the Clwydian Range, e.g. Moel Gyw, there are signs that controlled grazing is producing a greater diversity of vegetation and with it a wider range of breeding species, but this is on a small scale when compared with the habitat that has been lost.

The ongoing decline of wildlife generally

Hayhow et al (2016) have shown that 56% of the UK's wildlife has declined since 1970 with the biggest drivers being agricultural change (which has had an overwhelmingly negative impact) and climate change (which has had a mix of both positive and negative impacts).

The ongoing decline of bird species in the district

The decline in the district's avifauna is ongoing. Focussing specifically on bird species in Wales, the latest Wales Red and Amber lists (Johnstone and Bladwell, 2016) show that out of a total of 105 breeding and wintering species on the district's 2007-14 check-list, 28 (27%) are on the Wales Red List, a further 28 (27%) are on the Wales Amber List, and 49 (47%) are on the Wales Green List. More than half, 56/105 or 54%, of the combined breeding and wintering species on the district's 2007-14 check-list are on the Wales Red and Amber Lists.

Summary

Roberts' 1951 check-list would appear to represent a watershed between the old and the new ways of farming in the district. The district's avifauna at that time appeared relatively stable and apart from Corncrake, Roberts' text gave no hint of species in decline or of any concerns for the future. The Corncrake was lost to the district in the 1950s, the first species on Roberts' list to disappear from the area.

Agricultural change increased inexorably from that time, peaking in the 1970s and 1980s. A total of 10 breeding species was lost to the district by 2007-14, seven due to agricultural change. Agricultural change appears to have provided opportunities for other species to expand their range and a total of 18 breeding species were added to the list during the same period. It is clear from Table 2 that climate change is beginning to have an increasing effect on species numbers and distribution with the breeding summer visitors in their winter quarters being particularly affected. It seems likely that climate change will become the main driver of change in the years to come.

The decline of the local avifauna since the 1950s has been the result mainly of agricultural change. The new 2016 Wales Red and Amber lists confirm this ongoing decline of local species, with the majority of breeding residents, breeding summer visitors and winter visitors in the 2007-14 check-list being on the Red and Amber lists. This situation seems unlikely to change without the balance that has been lost between agriculture and the environment being addressed.

Richard Groves

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Appendix 1

A check-list of the birds of Llanarmon-yn-Iâl, 1951 (pp173-179)

A LIST OF THE BIRDS

found in the

Country within a radius of five miles from
Llanarmon yn lâl, North Wales

by

R. E. VAUGHAN-ROBERTS, B.Sc.

Llanarmon yn lâl is a rural parish in the Upper Alun Valley, on the Denbighshire-Flintshire border. The limits of a "crow's flight" of five miles from its centre in various directions would mark out a circular area which, on the east and west, lies less than 300 feet above sea-level, but rises to over 1,800 feet to the north and south. Just within its perimeter are included part of the Vale of Clwyd around Ruthin, Moel Fama, the south-western outskirts of Mold, Coed Talon, Nant y Ffrith, Bwlch Gwyn, Esclusham Mountain, Cyn y Brain, and Cricor Mountain.

When we remember that this small area of just over 30 square miles has rock foundations belonging to the Coal Measures, Millstone Grit, Carboniferous Limestone, Ludlow Shales and Red Sandstone, together with some Glacial Drift, it is not surprising that it supports a rich and varied fauna and flora.

The wealth of Lepidoptera contained therein has already been considered in this and previous Publications of the Society.

The List of Birds which follows has been primarily compiled, from published records and personal observation, for comparison with that of Mr. T. S. Williams, given above, for the Chester area. It records 132 species.

Order PASSERIFORMES

Family CORVIDÆ

Corvus corax corax L. Raven. Passes over regularly. A complete skeleton was found on Moel Fenlli. Formerly bred in Nant y Ffrith.

Corvus corone corone L. Carrion Crow. Resident and far too common.

Corvus frugilegus frugilegus L. Rook. Several small rookeries in the district.

Corvus monedula spermologus Vieill. Jackdaw. Breeds in disused lead-mine buildings in Llanarmon.

Pica pica pica L. Magpie. Very common in most places. Population has more than doubled during the last 25 years in Llanarmon.

Garrulus glandarius rufitergum Hartert Jay. Not uncommon in the more wooded areas.

Family STURNIDÆ

Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris L. Starling. Appears to be decreasing.

Family ORIOLIDÆ

Oriolus oriolus oriolus L. Golden Oriole. Recorded April 1870.

Family FRINGILLIDÆ

Chloris chloris chloris L. Greenfinch. General in suitable localities.

Coccothraustes coccothraustes L. Hawfinch. Rare except in Vale of Clwyd, and less commonly near Coed Talon.

Carduelis carduelis britannicus Hartert Goldfinch. Frequent.
Spinus spinus L. Siskin. Frequent winter visitor; have seen it at 1,300 feet.

Passer domesticus domesticus L. House Sparrow.

Passer montanus montanus L. Tree Sparrow. Seen near Coed Talon 1934.

Fringilla cœlebs cœlebs L. Chaffinch. Very common.

Fringilla montifringilla L. Brambling. Regular autumn and winter visitor to stubbles.

Acanthis cannabina cannabina L. Linnet. General.

Acanthis linaria cabaret Müller Lesser Redpoll. Occasional on Moel Fama, and in Pwll Glas, Llanarmon, and Nant y Ffrith.

Acanthis flavirostris flavirostris L. Twite. Rare winter straggler above Nant y Ffrith.

Pyrhula pyrrhula nesa Mathews Bullfinch. Common resident.

Loxia curvirostra curvirostra L. Crossbill. Nantclwyd (just outside five-mile radius) 1917—18.

Emberiza calandra calandra L. Corn Bunting. On lowlands.

Emberiza citrinella citrinella L. Yellowhammer. Common.

Emberiza cirrus L. Cirl Bunting. Rare spring visitor. Coed Talon, Pentre Dwr (just outside area), Llanferres.

Emberiza schœniclus schœniclus L. Reed Bunting. Scarce.

Family ALAUDIDÆ

Alauda arvensis arvensis L. Skylark. Common.

Lullula arborea arborea L. Woodlark. Rare. Nant y Ffrith.

Family MOTACILLIDÆ

Motacilla alba yarrellii Gould Pied Wagtail. General.

Motacilla cinerea cinerea Tunst. Grey Wagtail. Several pairs.

Motacilla flava rayi Bonap. Yellow Wagtail. Near Ruthin.

Anthus trivialis trivialis L. Tree-pipit. General.

Anthus pratensis L. Meadow-pipit. Common. Usual foster-parent of Cuckoo in the district.

Family CERCITIDÆ

Certhia familiaris britannica Ridg. Tree-creeper. Uncommon nomad.

Family SITTIDÆ

Sitta europæa affinis Blyth. Nuthatch. A few nest regularly. Ruthin, Graig-Fechan, Nant y Ffrith.

Family REGULIDÆ

Regulus regulus anglorum Hartert Goldcrest Not uncommon in coniferous plantations

Family PARIDÆ

Parus major newtoni Prazak Great Tit. Common.

Parus ater britannicus Sharpe Coal Tit. General.

Parus palustris dresseri Stej. Marsh Tit. Commoner than the last in Llanarmon.

Parus atricapillus kleinschmidtii Hellm. Willow Tit. Loggerheads, Ruthin.

Parus cæruleus obscurus Prazak Blue Tit. Easily the Bully of the bird-table in our garden.

Ægithalos caudatus roseus Blyth Long-tailed Tit. General.

Family LANIDÆ

Lanius excubitor excubitor L. Great Grey Shrike. Llanarmon, December, 1914.

Lanius collurio collurio L. Red-backed Shrike. Irregular visitor. Ruthin, Llanferres, Llanarmon, Nant y Ffrith.

Family BOMBYCILLIDÆ

Bombycilla garrulus L. Waxwing. Recorded in Spring 1932.

Family MUSCICAPIDÆ

Muscicapa striata striata Pallas Spotted Flycatcher, Generally distributed.

Ficedula hypoleuca hypoleuca Pallas Pied Flycatcher. Uncommon. Ruthin, Eyarth, Llanarmon 1951.

Family SYLVIDÆ

Sylvia communis communis Latham Whitethroat. Common.

Sylvia curruca curruca L. Lesser Whitethroat. Infrequently seen.

Sylvia borin Boddaërt Garden Warbler. Uncommon. Loggerheads, Vale of Clwyd, Nant y Ffrith.

Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla L. Blackcap. General but not common. Vale of Clwyd, Leete, Coed Talon, Nant y Ffrith.

Locustella nævia nævia Boddaërt Grasshopper Warbler. Occasionally heard. Nant y Ffrith, Nant y Garth, Llanarmon, Ruthin.

Acrocephalus schœnobæus L. Sedge Warbler. Uncommon. Ruthin.

Phylloscopus trochilus trochilus L. Willow Warbler. Very common.

Phylloscopus sibilatrix sibilatrix Bechstein Wood Warbler. Fairly common in woodland areas. Seldom heard in Llanarmon.

Phylloscopus collybita collybita Vieill. Chiffchaff. Common, but not as common as the Willow Warbler.

Family TURDIDÆ

- Turdus viscivorus viscivorus L.** Mistle Thrush. General.
Turdus philomelus clarkei Hartert Song Thrush. Almost wiped out in Llanarmon by the 1947 winter; numbers still far below normal; possibly prevalence of Magpies helps to prevent complete recovery.
Turdus musicus L. Redwing. Regular winter visitor in small numbers.
Turdus pilaris L. Fieldfare. Plentiful.
Turdus merula merula L. Blackbird. Common generally.
Turdus torquatus torquatus L. Ring Ouzel. Not uncommon in suitable places.
Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus L. Redstart. Spreading rapidly in the Llanarmon area.
Erithacus rubecula melophilus Hartert Redbreast.
Luscinia megarhynca megarhynca Brehm Nightingale. Reported from Nant y Ffrith (above the valley there is a dwelling-house called Nant Eos, the "Glen of the Nightingale," after the reputed occurrence; also reported from Mold in 1882.
Saxicola torquata hibernans Hartert Stonechat. Common.
Saxicola rubetra rubetra L. Whinchat. Scarce.
Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe L. Wheatear. Common in all suitable localities. One flew against a telephone wire and was killed, March 19, 1951, in Llanarmon.

Family PRUNELLIDÆ

- Prunella modularis occidentalis Hartert** Hedge-sparrow. Common.

Family CINCLIDÆ

- Cinclus cinclus gularis Latham** Dipper. Common on all streams.

Family TROGLODYTIDÆ

- Troglodytes troglodytes L.** Wren. Common. Its old nests frequently occupied in Llanarmon by the Humble Bee **Bombus pratorum L.**, and also used as storehouses by voles.

Family HIRUNDINIDÆ

- Hirundo rustica rustica L.** Swallow.
Delichon urbica urbica L. Martin. In some parts this species has been reduced to a tithe of its former numbers, and in a few exterminated altogether. Sparrows are largely if not exclusively responsible for the decline. One instance of which I have personal knowledge. Up to 25 years ago there were about a dozen nesting pairs in the gables of a dwelling house. For the next ten years the Martins fought a losing battle against an increasing number of Sparrows belonging as I believe to the thieving progeny of one pair that over-spilled from a neighbouring farm. Fewer and fewer succeeded in raising even one brood, and since 1935 no Martin has attempted to build a nest against the house.
Riparia riparia riparia L. Sand Martin. General and common.

ORDER PICIFORMES

Family PICIDÆ

Dryobates major anglicus Hartert Great Spotted Woodpecker.
Frequent

Dryobates minor comminutus Hartert Lesser Spotted Wood-
pecker. Uncommon. Leete, Coed Talon, Ruthin, Llan-
ferres, Nant y Ffrith.

Picus viridis virescens Brehm Green Woodpecker. General and
common.

ORDER COCCYGES

Family CUCULIDÆ

Cuculus canorus canorus L. Cuckoo.

ORDER CORACIIFORMES

Family MICROPODIDÆ

Micropus apus apus L. Swift. General.

Family CAPRIMULGIDÆ

Caprimulgus europæus europæus L. Nightjar. Regular breeder,
scarce.

Family UPUPIDÆ

Upupa epops epops L. Hoopoe. One recorded from Mold, 1901.

Family ALCEDINIDÆ

Alcedo atthis ispida L. Kingfisher. Resident in the area
Occasionally seen in winter by the river Alun and near
Gelli Gynan in Llanarmon, but as far as I know it does
not breed here.

ORDER STRIGIFORMES

Family TYTONIDÆ

Tyto alba Scopoli Barn Owl. General and frequent.

Family STRIGIDÆ

Asio otus otus L. Long-eared Owl. In most coniferous
plantations.

Asio flammeus flammeus Pontop. Short-eared Owl. Scarce.
Mynydd Du, Nant y Ffrith.

Strix aluco sylvatica Shaw Tawny Owl. Common throughout.

Carine noctua mira With. Little Owl. Not uncommon;
spreading.

ORDER ACCIPITRIFORMES

Family FALCONIDÆ

Circus cyaneus cyaneus L. Hen Harrier. Rare.

Buteo buteo buteo L. Buzzard. Frequent on moors; not common
elsewhere.

Buteo lagopus lagopus Brünnich Rough-legged Buzzard. Rare.
Nant y Ffrith; Llandegla 1891.

Accipiter nisus nisus L. Sparrow Hawk. General.

Milvus milvus milvus L. Kite. Ruthin 1827; Moel Fenlli 1870.

Falco peregrinus peregrinus Tunst. Peregrine Falcon. Occasional vagrant. Moel Fenlli 1948.

Falco rusticolus candicans Gmelin Greenland Falcon. Llanbedr 1886.

Falco columbarius æsalon Tunstall Merlin. Scarce on moors.
Very doubtful if it breeds here.

Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus L. Kestrel. Common. In
Llanarmon nests almost exclusively in ivied trees.

Pandion haliaëtus haliaëtus L. Osprey. Only record, Moel Fama
1878.

ORDER PELECANIFORMES

Family PHALACROCORACIDÆ

Phalacrocorax carbo carbo L. Cormorant. Llyn Gweryd 1935.

ORDER ANSERIFORMES

Family ANATIDÆ

Anser sp., possibly **A. fabalis Latham** Bean Goose. Occasional
skeins passing overhead in winter; species unidentified.

Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos L. Mallard. General.

Querquedula crecca crecca L. Teal. Frequent winter visitor.

Mareca penelope L. Wigeon. Occasional winter visitor.

Spatula clypeata L. Shoveler. Occasional winter visitor.

Nyroca fuligula L. Tufted Duck. Winter visitor.

Glaucionetta clangula clangula L. Golden Eye. Winter visitor;
Llandegla Moors 1927.

ORDER ARDEIFORMES

Family ARDEIDÆ

Ardea cinerea cinerea L. Heron. General nomad.

ORDER CHARADRIIFORMES

Family CHARADRIIDÆ

Phalaropus fulicarius L. Grey Phalarope. Occasional near
Ruthin in autumn.

Scolopax rusticola rusticola L. Woodcock. General.

Capella gallinago gallinago L. Snipe. Common in suitable
localities.

Limnocryptes minimus Brünnich Jack Snipe. Frequent in
winter; Ruthin, Llanarmon, Maes Maelor.

Erolia alpina alpina L. Dunlin. Occasional winter visitor.

Tringa totanus totanus L. Redshank. Regular breeder.

Tringa hypoleucos L. Common Sandpiper. Not common.

Numenius arquata arquata L. Curlew. Common.

Pluvialis apricarius apricarius L. Golden Plover. Nesting on
high moors; Nant y Ffrith, Llandegla, Mynydd Du, Moel
Llanfair.

Vanellus vanellus L. Peewit. Almost exterminated as a breeder in Llanarmon by Carrion Crows. At the close of the century the Graig had dozens of pairs; during the past few years there are none.

ORDER LARIFORMES

Family LARIDÆ

Larus argentatus argentatus Pont. Herring Gull. Not uncommon wanderer especially in spring.

Larus ridibundus ridibundus L. Black-headed Gull. Several small gulleries in the area.

ORDER PODICIPIFORMES

Family PODICIPIDÆ

Podiceps ruficollis ruficollis Pallas Dabchick. Widely distributed.

ORDER RALLIFORMES

Family RALLIDÆ

Porzana porzana L. Spotted Crake. Nant y Ffrith.

Rallus aquaticus aquaticus L. Water Rail. Mild winters; possibly a breeder. Vale of Clwyd, Nant y Ffrith.

Crex crex L. Corncrake. Formerly general, then decreasing almost to extinction, but picking up since 1949.

Gallinula chloropus chloropus L. Moorhen. Common.

Fulica atra atra L. Coot. Uncommon.

ORDER COLUMBIFORMES

Family COLUMBIDÆ

Columba ænas L. Stock Dove. Not common. Rock nester.

Columba palumbus palumbus L. Ring Dove.

Columba livia livia Gmelin Rock Dove. Reported as breeding in Nant y Ffrith.

Streptopelia turtur turtur L. Turtle Dove. Well distributed.

ORDER GALLIFORMES

Family PHASIANIDÆ

Phasianus colchicus L. Pheasant.

Perdix perdix perdix L. Partridge.

Coturnix coturnix coturnix L. Quail. Breeds annually in small numbers. One recorded from Nant y Ffrith on New Year's Day 1872.

Family TETRAONIDÆ

Lyrurus tetrix britannicus Witherby Black Grouse. Occasional. Llandegla 1893; Nant y Ffrith 1873.

Lagopus scoticus scoticus Latham Red Grouse. On all heather moors.

Appendix 2

Species comparison of the 1951 and 2007-14 lists

N.B. In those sections where the species are in the 2007-14 check-list they are grouped according to their entry in the 2016 Wales Red/Amber/Green lists (see Johnstone & Bladwell 2016).

Species which appear on the 1951 and the 2007-14 check-lists (98)

Breeding Resident (66)

Red List (15): Red Grouse, Black Grouse, Hen Harrier, Merlin, Lapwing, Curlew, Woodcock, Short-eared Owl, Kestrel, Willow Tit, Marsh Tit, Starling, Bullfinch, Linnet, Yellowhammer.

Amber List (19): Mallard, Coot, Snipe, Long-eared Owl, Kingfisher, Green Woodpecker, Goldcrest, Skylark, Long-tailed Tit, Dipper, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, House Sparrow, Grey Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Hawfinch, Greenfinch, Lesser Redpoll, Reed Bunting.

Green List/Not Assessed (32): Pheasant, Little Grebe, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Moorhen, Rock Dove, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Barn Owl, Little Owl, Tawny Owl, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Magpie, Jay, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Raven, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Wren, Blackbird, Robin, Stonechat, Dunnock, Pied Wagtail, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Siskin

Breeding Summer Visitor (23)

Red List (10): Common Sandpiper, Cuckoo, Wood Warbler, Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Grasshopper Warbler, Ring Ouzel, Spotted Flycatcher, Pied Flycatcher, Whinchat.

Amber List (3): Nightjar, Swift, Tree Pipit.

Green List/Not Assessed (10): Sand Martin, Swallow, House Martin, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Redstart, Garden Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Wheatear.

Winter Visitor (3)

Amber List (3): Fieldfare, Redwing, Brambling.

Occasional Visitor (4)

Amber List (2): Wigeon, Teal.

Green List/Not Assessed (2): Goldeneye, Waxwing.

Vagrant (2)

Amber List (1): Twite.

Green List/Not Assessed (1): Hoopoe.

Species that appeared on the 1951 list but which were lost by 2007-14 (19)

Breeding Resident (3): Water Rail, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Yellow Wagtail .

Breeding Summer Visitor (3): Corncrake, Redshank, Turtle Dove.

Winter Visitor (1): Jack Snipe.

Occasional Visitor (5): Shoveler, Red-backed Shrike, Woodlark, Cirl Bunting, Corn Bunting.

Vagrant (7): Rough-legged Buzzard, Spotted Crake, Dunlin, Grey Phalarope, Gyr Falcon, Golden Oriole, Nightingale.

Species whose status decreased between 1951 and 2007-14 (4)

Breeding Resident to Non-breeding Resident (2)

Red List (2): Grey Partridge, Black-headed Gull.

Breeding Summer Visitor to Passage Migrant (1)

Amber List (1): Quail.

Breeding Summer Visitor to Occasional Visitor (1)

Red List (1): Golden Plover.

Species whose status increased between 1951 and 2007-14 (9)

Non-breeding Resident to Breeding Resident (1)

Amber List (1): Grey Heron.

Winter Visitor to Breeding Resident (1)

Green List (1): Tufted Duck.

Occasional Visitor to Breeding Resident (2)

Red List (2): Herring Gull, Tree Sparrow.

Vagrant to Breeding Resident (2)

Amber List (1): Red Kite.

Green List/Not Assessed (1): Peregrine.

Vagrant to Passage Migrant (1)

Amber List (1): Osprey.

Vagrant to Occasional Visitor (2)

Amber List (1): Cormorant.

Green List/Not Assessed (1): Great Grey Shrike.

Species gained after 1951 (28)

Breeding Resident (10)

Green List/Not Assessed (10): Mute Swan, Greylag Goose, Canada Goose, Mandarin Duck, Goosander, Red-legged Partridge, Great Crested Grebe, Goshawk, Collared Dove, Crossbill.

Breeding Summer Visitor (2)

Amber List (1): Oystercatcher.

Green List/Not Assessed (1): Hobby.

Winter Visitor (1)

Red List (1): Common Gull.

Passage Migrant (1)

Amber List (1): Green Sandpiper.

Occasional Visitor (6)

Red List (1): Great Black-backed Gull.

Amber List (2): Shelduck, Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Green List/Not Assessed (3): Barnacle Goose, Ruddy Duck, Little Egret.

Vagrant (8)

Amber List (3): Smew, Firecrest, Snow Bunting.

Green List/Not Assessed (5): Black Stork, Rose-coloured Starling, Mealy Redpoll, Two-barred Crossbill, Black-headed Bunting.

Gronant Little Tern season summary, 2015

The 2015 season was fairly successful for Little Terns nesting in North-east Wales. At the Gronant Little Tern colony, a minimum of 99 chicks fledged from 135 breeding pairs. This produced a breeding success of 0.73 fledglings per breeding pair meeting the 0.7 target set by Cook and Robinson to stabilize the population of Little Terns in Britain and Ireland. A pair of Little Terns also successfully fledged 2 chicks at Point of Ayr for the first time in 25 years.

Kestrel predation was most damaging to Little Tern breeding success in 2015. They successfully caught 3 adults, 33 chicks and 8 fledglings. It is possible more Little Terns were predated as successful attacks were not always confirmed. Fox predation was substantially reduced as shingle had developed high enough to construct electric fencing used by 20 pairs at the east end of the Little Tern colony. Even so, 12 nests outside electric fencing were predated by a Fox on 26 June. Other predators were observed including Carrion Crow, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Stoat, Weasel, Polecat and Hedgehog, but they had a minimal impact on Little Tern breeding success.

During May, there was heavy rainfall (25-50% more than 1981-2010 average), low temperatures (2.5-1.5oC lower than 1981-2010 average) and high winds at Gronant. This delayed nesting until 7 June almost two weeks later than usual. At the end of May, Little Terns were found breeding at Point of Ayr instead. Before a fenced-off area was created, the original nests were sadly predated by a Fox. However, a pair of Little Terns started nesting after electric fencing was constructed and 2 birds successfully fledged at Point of Ayr for the first time in 25 years. In June and July, weather was favourable for Little Terns nesting in North-east Wales. Fortunately, no nests were inundated by high tides.

For the 33rd year in succession, Professor David Norman from the Merseyside Ringing Group returned to ring Little Terns at Gronant. Over 5 visits, 2 adults and 52 chicks were metal-ringed. In addition, 2 adults and 20 chicks were colour-ringed for the EU LIFE+ Nature Little Tern Recovery Project.

Figure 1 (see next page) shows the number of breeding pairs at Gronant has gradually increased since 1975. There is a positive correlation between the number of fledglings and the number of breeding pairs as you would predict. Occasionally, the number of Little Terns recorded has fallen due to adverse weather conditions and predation by Foxes, Carrion Crow and Kestrels. Although it appears food is always abundant. There is no doubt breeding success at Gronant has benefited from extensive management by the RSPB between 1975-2005 and Denbighshire Countryside Service from 2006 until present.

Denbighshire Countryside Service is a partner in the EU LIFE+ Little Tern Recovery Project led by the RSPB. This project is a five-year partnership between 11 organisations working together to help secure the long-term future of Little Terns in Britain. Since 2013, EU LIFE+ funding has increased public awareness, provided new equipment, employed extra wardens and introduced a colour-ringing programme to help understand movements between Little Tern colonies. Please report your colour-ring sightings to Professor David Norman (MRG), Adrian Hibbert (DCS) and the BTO.

Little Terns breeding in Britain and Ireland rely heavily on support from volunteers to construct protective fencing, minimise human disturbance through public engagement, scare away predators and constantly monitor the state of breeding birds. In 2015, volunteers showed huge dedication by donating 896 hours to help protect nesting Little Terns at Gronant. Without volunteer presence on-site, it is almost certain Kestrel predation would have been much higher.

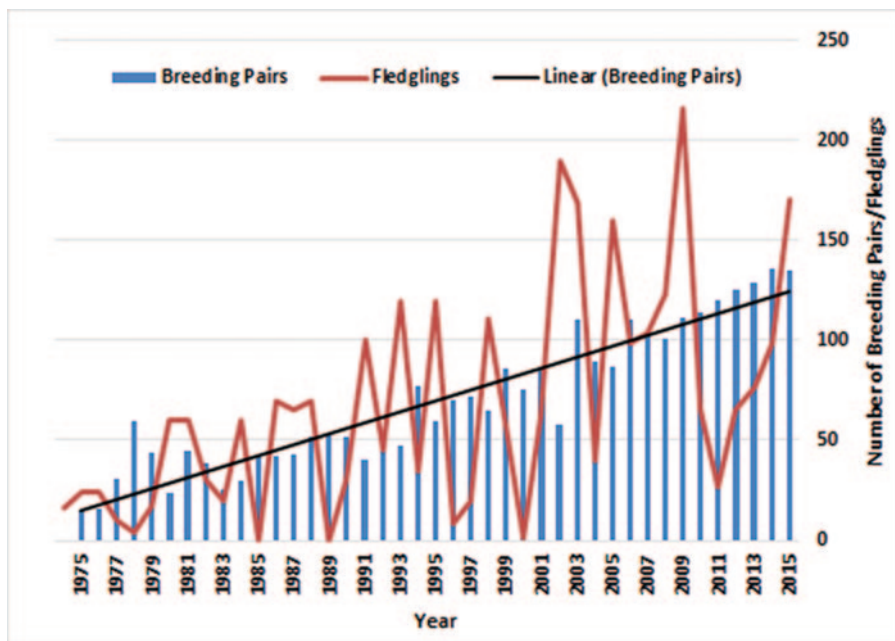


Figure 1. Number of Little Tern breeding pairs/fledglings at Gronant between 1975 and 2015.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email littleterns@denbighshire.gov.uk or phone 01745 356197.

If you cannot volunteer, you can show your support by becoming a member of the North Wales Little Tern Group. This community group was established to help protect Little Terns in north Wales. For a £5 membership, you will receive a welcome pack, a regular newsletter and an invitation to their end of season event. If you would like to become a member, please email nwlittletern@gmail.com.

Jack Slattery

2015 full report available at: <http://www.cbrg.org.uk/Downloads.html>

Ringling Report

After the increase in 2014, the numbers of birds ringed in North-East Wales increased further to an amazingly high level of over 10,000. Pulli were slightly up on the previous calendar year however it was the full grown birds that really made the difference. This was partly due to the mild winter and a good breeding season in 2014 for many species, but it may also be due to an increase in catching effort by ringers. The largest increases consisted of Blue Tit (+946), Dunlin (+723), Chiffchaff (+417) and Black-headed Gull (+307). Decreases were seen in very few species and the only significant decrease was in the number of Siskin (-264). This was potentially due to this species staying nearer their breeding grounds in the north during the mild winter.

The total numbers of birds ringed each year are in the table below.

Year	Full grown	Pulli	Total
2015	7093	3796	10889
2014	3082	3500	6582
2013	2562	2240	4802
2012	3449	1881	5330
2011	4448	2137	6585
2010	3908	2776	6684
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

Only 11 species showed a decrease in the recapture rate (see table below) and most of these were only slight. Recaptures of Siskin on the other hand decreased significantly but this was due to reduced overall numbers caught. Garden birds featured as usual but recaptures of Chiffchaff increased from four to 100 due to birds being ringed and then recaptured in the local area. Sightings/captures of Twite from the Spence & Brenchley Partnership and a specific project on Nightjar by Tony Cross made a large difference to the totals for those species.

There are several excellent Pied Flycatcher studies in North-East Wales and these have produced some really detailed histories, particularly by J L Roberts and Merseyside RG. One of these was Pied Flycatcher X932382 which was ringed as a chick, has been recorded every year since 2010 (bar 2011) at Glyn Arthur, near Llangwyfan.

Number of recaptures per year:

Species	2014	2015
Sparrowhawk	0	1
Oystercatcher	1	0
Ringed Plover	2	5

Species	2014	2015
Little Ringed Plover	0	1
Sanderling	8	12
Dunlin	5	10
Common Sandpiper	0	1
Redshank	2	0
Turnstone	9	0
Little Tern	0	11
Stock Dove	1	0
Woodpigeon	0	1
Barn Owl	3	2
Nightjar	2	23
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	9
Maggie	1	1
Jay	0	1
Jackdaw	1	0
Goldcrest	2	26
Blue Tit	94	631
Great Tit	44	187
Coal Tit	10	70
Willow Tit	1	3
Marsh Tit	1	1
Swallow	0	1
Cetti's Warbler	5	0
Long-tailed Tit	4	32
Chiffchaff	4	100
Willow Warbler	4	16
Blackcap	3	41
Garden Warbler	1	7
Whitethroat	4	15
Sedge Warbler	0	1
Reed Warbler	2	7
Nuthatch	9	23
Treecreeper	0	1
Wren	6	46
Blackbird	8	38
Song Thrush	0	5
Robin	11	86
Pied Flycatcher	84	87
Redstart	3	2
Dunnock	13	103
House Sparrow	4	7
Grey Wagtail	4	0
Chaffinch	7	28
Bullfinch	1	30
Greenfinch	8	32
Twite	6	70

Species	2014	2015
Lesser Redpoll	3	1
Goldfinch	8	60
Siskin	39	4
Total	430	1839

There was a large decrease in the number of Great Tit pulli ringed but the increase in the number of full grown birds ringed made up for this in the overall totals. Common Tern and Black-headed Gull had a good breeding season this year at Shotton Steelworks. Merseyside Ringing Group recorded a 27% increase in the number of fledged Common Tern chicks compared to 2014, although productivity (number of chicks fledged per pair) was lower. This was still high compared to the national level. Black-headed Gull increased by 353% in the same period.

There are several notable recovery reports that came to light in 2015. A Lapwing pullus ringed at Sealand Manor, Flintshire had its ring read at Venus Pool, Shropshire which is an excellent report. SCAN Ringing Group provided some interesting recoveries of Dunlin this year including birds from Poland, Norway and Sweden. Another 'relatively' long distance recovery was a Raven, ending up in Cornwall six years after being ringed at Tan-y-Graig, Llangollen by J L Roberts and Mike Jones. The Belgian ringed Mediterranean Gull at Greshford Flash is also worth noting.

I am grateful to the ringers in the area who have given up their time to study and catch these birds: Merseyside Ringing Group, the Spence and Brenchley Partnership, Lee and Rachael Barber, Mike Baron, SCAN Ringing Group, Stuart Thomas, John Lawton Roberts, DG Cotgrave, Tony Cross, Kelvin Jones and Steve Dodd.

Ringers are reliant on members of the public reporting ringed birds that they find. Rings can also be read on live birds by members of the public, helping to 'fill in the gap' of the birds life history. To report a ringed bird go to www.ring.ac, and you will be sent the details of the bird including where and when the bird was ringed.

Number of birds ringed per species

Ringing totals	2014			2015			Year total difference
Species	FG	Pull.	Total	FG	Pull.	Total	
Mute Swan	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Red Kite (A, S)	0	2	2	0	0	0	-2
Sparrowhawk	4	0	4	6	0	6	2
Kestrel (R)	0	10	10	0	12	12	2
Peregrine (S)	0	2	2	0	0	0	-2
Oystercatcher (A)	7	1	8	0	1	1	-7
Ringed Plover (R)	1	1	2	19	6	25	23
Little Ringed Plover (S)	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
Sanderling (A)	55	0	55	20	0	20	-35
Dunlin (R)	22	0	22	745	0	745	723
Common Sandpiper (R)	5	0	5	1	4	5	0
Redshank (R)	5	0	5	0	0	0	-5
Turnstone (A)	30	0	30	0	0	0	-30
Black-headed Gull (R)	0	123	123	0	430	430	307

Ringling totals	2014			2015			Year total difference
Species	FG	Pull.	Total	FG	Pull.	Total	
Little Tern (R, S)	0	14	14	1	52	53	39
Common Tern (A)	0	494	494	0	626	626	132
Stock Dove	0	12	12	3	2	5	-7
Woodpigeon	4	2	6	5	2	7	1
Cuckoo (R)	2	0	2	1	0	1	-1
Barn Owl (S)	1	34	35	6	17	23	-12
Tawny Owl	4	7	11	0	11	11	0
Long-eared Owl			0	1	0	1	+1
Nightjar (A)	26	8	34	18	12	30	-4
Kingfisher (A, S)	2	0	2	3	0	3	1
Green Woodpecker (A)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	13	0	13	34	0	34	21
Chough (A, S)	0	3	0	0	0	0	-3
Magpie	4	0	4	8	0	8	4
Jay	5	0	5	10	0	10	5
Jackdaw	4	25	29	4	43	47	18
Rook	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Yellow-browed Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	0	-1
Goldcrest	112	0	112	327	2	329	217
Blue Tit	528	820	1348	1479	815	2294	946
Great Tit	208	578	786	386	378	764	-22
Coal Tit	34	16	50	184	0	184	134
Willow Tit (R)	4	0	4	4	0	4	0
Marsh Tit (R)	0	0	0	3	0	3	3
Swallow	34	235	269	64	174	238	-31
Cetti's Warbler (S)	7	0	7	0	0	0	-7
Long-tailed Tit (A)	58	0	58	180	0	180	122
Chiffchaff	119	0	119	524	12	536	417
Willow Warbler (R)	104	5	109	156	7	163	54
Blackcap	126	0	126	320	0	320	194
Garden Warbler	11	0	11	48	5	53	42
Lesser Whitethroat	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Whitethroat (R)	17	0	17	25	0	25	8
Grasshopper Warbler (R)	10	0	10	6	0	6	-4
Sedge Warbler	4	0	4	16	0	16	12
Reed Warbler	36	0	36	49	0	49	13
Nuthatch	13	30	43	20	54	74	31
Treecreeper	2	0	2	15	4	19	17
Wren	72	31	103	154	26	180	77
Starling (R)	5	4	9	13	2	15	6
Dipper (A)	2	23	24	0	25	25	1
Blackbird	151	42	193	186	18	204	11
Song Thrush (A)	9	16	25	41	10	51	26
Redwing (A, S)	2	0	2	3	0	3	1
Mistle Thrush (A)	1	0	1	2	0	2	1

Ringing totals	2014			2015			Year total difference
Species	FG	Pull.	Total	FG	Pull.	Total	
Spotted Flycatcher (R)	1	20	21	2	9	11	-10
Robin	98	16	114	224	9	233	119
Pied Flycatcher (R)	99	714	813	115	837	952	139
Redstart	19	63	82	37	83	120	38
Dunnock	51	5	56	130	0	130	74
House Sparrow (A)	13	40	53	16	38	54	1
Tree Sparrow (R)	2	51	53	0	26	26	-27
Grey Wagtail (A)	1	30	31	7	9	16	-15
Pied Wagtail	0	12	12	0	14	14	2
Tree Pipit (A)	0	0	0	8	0	8	8
Meadow Pipit (A)	326	4	5	200	4	204	199
Chaffinch	132	6	138	266	11	277	139
Brambling (A, S)	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Greenfinch (A)	151	0	151	380	3	383	232
Goldfinch	230	1	231	437	0	437	206
Siskin	305	0	305	41	0	41	-264
Linnet (R)	2	0	2	1	0	1	-1
Twite (A)	14	0	14	68	0	68	54
Lesser Redpoll (A)	57	0	57	66	0	66	9
Bullfinch (R)	41	0	41	0	0	0	-41
Reed Bunting (A)	5	0	5	0	0	0	-5
Totals	3439	3508	6618	7093	3796	10889	4268

In the table, on the previous page, 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 & Bladwell 2016). Species where a Schedule 1 licence is required during the breeding season, are indicated with S. The ringing totals are derived from the online Ringing Report: www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports.

Lee Barber

Codes used in the recoveries:

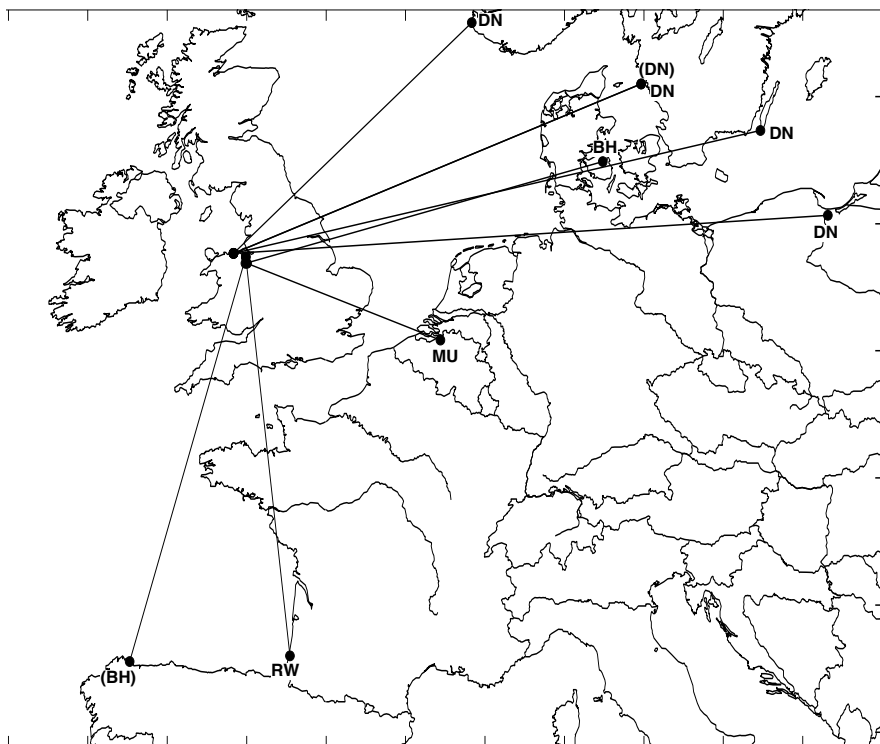
- M Male
- F Female
- Pull. Ringed as a pullus (nestling)
- 2 Fully Grown, year of hatching unknown
- 3 (3J) Hatched during the current calendar year (in juvenile plumage)
- 4 Hatched before the current calendar year, exact year unknown
- 5 Hatched during the previous calendar year
- 6 Hatched before the previous calendar year, exact year unknown
- 7 Hatched two years ago
- 8 At least three years, exact year unknown

2015 Selected recoveries

ZY6806		Mute Swan 3 M	
	09 03 2013	Chasewater Reservoir, Staffordshire	
	21 12 2015	Brickfield Ponds, Rhyl 126km NW 2y 9m 12d	Metal ring reading
ZY6988		Mute Swan 5 F	
	09 08 2013	Widnes, Halton	
	13 01 2014	Middlewich, Cheshire	
	21 12 2015	Rhyl, Denbighshire 51km W 2y 4m 12d	Metal ring reading
1396456		Shag Pull.	
	28 06 2015	Puffin Island, Isle of Anglesey	
	08 03 2015	Prestatyn, Denbighshire 69km ENE 0y 8m 8d	Freshly dead
GR47563		Little Egret Pull.	
	19 06 2013	Penrhyn Castle, Bangor	
	25 08 2015	Glan Conwy, Conwy	
	20 09 2015	RSPB Reserve, Conwy 20km ENE 2y 3m 1d	Colour ring sighting
GR72851		Peregrine Pull. F	
	19 05 2015	near Northwich, Cheshire	
	30 07 2015	Nannerch, Flintshire 52km W 0y 2m 11d	Sick and now released
FH29796		Oystercatcher 3	
	04 12 2010	Rhos-on-Sea, Conwy	
	08 04 2015	Wardhill, Orkney 650km N 4y 4m 4d	Freshly dead (vehicle collision)
FH67558		Oystercatcher 8	
	30 11 2013	Rhos-on-Sea, Conwy	
	24 03 2015	Bjornholmen, Sandsoya, Sande, NORWAY , 62°10'N 5°24'E	
	02 04 2015	Bjornholmen, Sandsoya, Sande, Norway 1,131km NNE 1y 4m 3d	Metal ring reading
DD28759		Lapwing Pull.	
	01 05 2003	Sealand Manor, Flintshire	
	30 08 2015	Venus Pool, near Shrewsbury, Shropshire 65km SSE 12y 3m 29d	Metal ring reading
NT72598		Dunlin 6	
	29 01 2005	Tre-Castell, Beaumaris, Isle of Anglesey	
	25 01 2015	Kinmel Bay, Conwy 37km E 9y 11m 27d	Controlled
3534219		Dunlin 6	
	31 07 2007	Ottenby, SWEDEN , 56°12'N 16°24'E	
	25 01 2015	Kinmel Bay, Conwy 1,318km WSW 7y 5m 25d	Controlled

NR86284	Dunlin 6		
	25 01 2015	Kinmel Bay, Conwy	
	12 07 2015	Nidingen, SWEDEN , 57°18'N 11°54'E	
		1,072km ENE 0y 5m 17d	Controlled
8L27738	Dublin 3		
	03 09 2008	Revtangen, Klepp, NORWAY , 58°45'N 5°30'E	
	25 01 2015	Kinmel Bay, Conwy	
		825km SW 6y 4m 22d	Controlled
JT44476	Dunlin 3		
	07 09 2013	Ujscie Wisly, Swibno, POLAND , 54°21'N 18°57'E	
	11 10 2013	North Killingholme Haven Pits, Lincs Colour ring sighting	
	25 01 2015	Kinmel Bay, Conwy	
		1,479km W 1y 4m 18d	Freshly dead
3572662	Dunlin 3		
	29 08 2010	Nidingen, SWEDEN , 57°18'N 11°54'E	
	25 01 2015	Kinmel Bay, Conwy	
		1,072km WSW 4y 4m 27d	Controlled
NW11087	Little Tern Pull. M		
	05 07 2009	near Gronant, Denbighshire	
	25 06 2015	near Gronant, Denbighshire	
		0km 5y 11m 20d	Controlled
SV40872	Common Tern Pull.		
	01 08 1999	Shotton Steelworks	
	29 06 2013	Preston Dock, Lancashire	
	30 05 2015	Preston Marina, Lancashire	
		63km NNE 15y 9m 29d	Metal ring reading
6257512	Black-headed Gull Pull.		
	03 06 1995	Skalo, Otterup, DENMARK , 55°28'N 10°27'E	
	26 01 2015	Mount Sion, Wrexham	
		917km WSW 19y 7m 23d	Freshly dead (vehicle collision)
EZ03979	Black-headed Gull Pull.		
	21 06 2015	Shotton Steelworks, Flintshire	
	11 11 2015	San Ciprian Beach, SPAIN , 43°40'N 7°25'W	
		1,107km SSW 0y 4m 21d	Metal ring reading
E907674	Mediterranean Gull 7		
	13 05 2007	Zwijndrecht, BELGIUM , 51°15'N 4°19'E	
	05 12 2015	Gresford Flash, Wrexham	
		538km WNW 8y 6m 22d	Colour ring sighting
HT82356	Great Black-backed Gull Pull.		
	19 06 2004	Puffin Island, Isle of Anglesey	
	14 08 2015	Towyn, near Rhyl, Conwy	
		33km E 11y 1m 26d	Trapped in security fence - died

GR16656	Barn Owl 4 F		
	06 07 2010	Site Confidential, Wrexham	
	08 08 2012	Site Confidential, Wrexham - Controlled	
	14 10 2015	Lodge Farm, Commonwood, Wrexham 15km NW 5y 3m 8d	Freshly dead (vehicle collision)
LH76601	Nightjar Pull. M		
	25 07 2014	Boncyn Foel Bach, Clocaenog Forest, Denbighshire	
	12 06 2015	Cefn Hafod Lom, Clocaenog Forest, Denbighshire	
	23 07 2015	Cefn Hafod Lom, Clocaenog Forest, Denbighshire 8km WNW 0y 11m 28d	Controlled
HT83401	Raven Pull.		
	18 04 2009	Tan-y-Graig, Llangollen	
	05 06 2015	Penryn, Cornwall 342km SSW 6y 1m 18d	Colour ring sighting
L845192	Great Tit 3		
	11 06 2011	Garth, Llangollen	
	24 12 2015	Garth, Llangollen 0km 4y 6m 13d	Controlled
HRD951	Chiffchaff 3		
	06 09 2015	near Bwlch-y-ddar, Denbighshire	
	26 11 2015	Porth Hellick, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly 382km SW 0y 2m 20d	Controlled
BHK830	Chiffchaff 4		
	23 05 2010	Shotton Steelworks, Flintshire	
	05 04 2015	Shotton Steelworks, Flintshire 0km 4y 10m 13d	Controlled
Y924386	Blackcap 3 F		
	05 10 2012	Pett Level, East Sussex	
	22 10 2012	Pett Level, East Sussex	
	31 01 2015	Prestatyn, Denbighshire 388km NW 2y 3m 26d	Controlled Freshly dead (bird of prey)
6944842	Reed Warbler 3 F		
	29 08 2013	Etang-De-Moisan, Messanges, FRANCE , 43°48'N 1°22'W	
	03 08 2014	Shotton Steelworks, Flintshire	
	19 07 2015	Shotton Steelworks, Flintshire 1,054km N 1y 10m 20d	Controlled
LC11031	Blackbird 3 M		
	14 10 2010	Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire	
	21 12 2015	Hope, Flintshire 225km W 5y 2m 7d	Freshly dead (vehicle collision)



Birds ringed or found in NE Wales involving movements abroad in 2015. The codes used in this map relate to birds that were ringed in NE Wales (in brackets) and birds that were originally ringed abroad (without brackets). These are: DN – Dunlin, BH – Black-headed Gull, MU – Mediterranean Gull and RW – Reed Warbler. The codes in brackets were originally ringed in NE Wales.

X932238 Pied Flycatcher Pull. M
 31 05 2010 Llewesog Hall, Prion,
 09 06 2012 Glyn Arthur, near Llangwyfan, Denbighshire
 15 06 20 13 Glyn Arthur, near Llangwyfan, Denbighshire
 08 06 2014 Glyn Arthur, near Llangwyfan, Denbighshire
 06 06 2015 Glyn Arthur, near Llangwyfan, Denbighshire
 8km ENE 5y 0m 6d Controlled at nest box

X555733 Dunnock 4
 21 12 2009 Garth, Llangollen, Denbighshire
 21 11 2010 Garth, Llangollen, Denbighshire
 27 05 2012 Garth, Llangollen, Denbighshire
 24 12 2015 Garth, Llangollen, Denbighshire
 0km 6y 0m 3d Controlled

Z156826 Twite 3 F
 14 03 2015 Connah's Quay, Flintshire
 05 05 2015 Morar, Highland
 450km NNW 0y 1m 21d Colour ring sighting

Z156856 Twite 3 F
 18 03 2015 Connah's Quay, Flintshire
 20 03 2015 Connah's Quay, Flintshire
 20 06 2015 Black Mill Bay, Isle of Luing, Argyll and Bute
 369km NNW 0y 3m 2d Colour ring sighting

Nest records submitted during 2015 (this year, unfortunately, from the area of 'Clwyd')

Species	Number of nest records	Species	Number of nest records
Greylag Goose	1	Mistle Thrush	1
Canada Goose	1	Spotted Flycatcher	2
Pheasant	2	Robin	10
Buzzard	3	Pied Flycatcher	162
Oystercatcher	1	Black Redstart	1
Ringed Plover	1	Redstart	14
Little Ringed Plover	1	Dunnock	4
Little Tern	16	House Sparrow	17
Stock Dove	13	Tree Sparrow	10
Woodpigeon	5	Grey Wagtail	13
Barn Owl	13	Pied Wagtail	11
Tawny Owl	6	Meadow Pipit	1
Nightjar	11	Chaffinch	4
Great Spotted	1	Bullfinch	1
Kestrel	3	Greenfinch	1
Peregrine	5	TOTAL	873
Chough	1		
Jackdaw	19		
Raven	15		
Blue Tit	214		
Great Tit	143		
Swallow	71		
House Martin	1		
Chiffchaff	3		
Willow Warbler	2		
Garden Warbler	1		
Nuthatch	10		
Treecreeper	2		
Wren	13		
Starling	1		
Dipper	10		
Blackbird	23		
Song Thrush	9		

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Supplier of Pet & Bird Food



Rob Fryer

Proprietor

25 Queen's Road, Colwyn Bay, LL29 9EE

Telephone: 01492 514373 Mobile: 07876 751992

*Wild bird food from £7.50 for 20kg
Also stocking Peanuts, Niger and other items*

Contributors to the bird report for 2015

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H Hall	HH	JV Thomson	JVTh
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Heather Kidd	HeK	KA Walker	KAWa
Henry RA Cook	HC	Karl Martin	KM
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John H Briggs	JHB	Mel Sheard	MeSh
John Harrop	JoH	Michael E Bird	MEB
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MJ Wheeler	MJW	PR Jepson	PRJ
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N Godden	NGo	R Bowden	RBo
N Howard	NHo	R Lane	RLa
Natalie Webb	NaW	R Morgan	RMg
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Neil Hughes	NHu	R Riley	RRi
Neville Wright	NW	R Weston	RWes
Nicholas Barton	NB	RA Rowlandson	RAR
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Nick R Thomas	NRT	RE Jackson	REJ
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Nigel Troup	NT	Rhion Pritchard	RhPc
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P Chambers	PCh	Richard Smith	RSm
Pat Clarke	PCI	RM Daw	RMDa
P Kerrison	PKe	Robert D Hughes	RoH
P Killip	PeKi	Robert Edwards	RoE
P Squire	PSq	Robin Sandham	RS
P Stenton	PSt	Roger Delves-Broughton	RDB
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Paul E Miller	PEM	Ron Rees Davies	RRD
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Paul M Carter	PMC	Rosie Palmer	RoP
Paul Martin	PaMa	Roy Smith	RoS
Paul Wren	PIW	Roy Tapping	RoTa
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per Bob Harris MRG	pBH	S Gibson	SGn
per Cofnod	pCd	S Holding	SHo
per Colin Wells	pCW	S Hughes	SHg
per Glenn E Morris DNS	pGEM	Sam Deane	SDe
per Recorder	perR	Sheila Ryde	ShRy
per Richard Smith Dee Estuary website	pRS	Shelagh A Halsey	SAH
per RSPB Conwy	pRCO	Sheryl Buckingham	ShB
Peter Brownsword	PtB	Simon T Hughes	SH
Peter D Jones	PDJ	SP Coney	SPC
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Peter J Haveland	PJH	Steve G Dodd	SGD
Peter J Wood	PJW	Steve Harcombe	SvH
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Peter Lawton	PLa	Steve Skelton	SS
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Tim Smith	TSm	Warwick Redway	WkR
TM Towey	TMT	Wyn Jones	WyJ
Tom Green	ToG		
Tony G Jackson	AGJ		

Local groups

Clwyd Ornithological Society

Secretary: Angela Ross. Telephone: 01745-338493.

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 450 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: Bob Lane. Telephone 01352-770633

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.

National groups

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)

BTO Cymru - Development Officer, Kelvin Jones; Senior Ecologist, Rachel Taylor

BTO Cymru, Thoday Building, Deiniol Road, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2UW

Tel: 01248-383285

BTO regional representatives:

Clwyd East: Anne Brenchley, Tŷ'r Fawnog, 43 Blackbrook, Sychdyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6LT. Telephone: 01352-750118.
Email: anne.brenchley@imsab.myzen.co.uk

Clwyd West: Mel ab Owain, 31 Coed Bedw, Abergele, Conwy, LL22 7EU.
Telephone: 01745-826528. Email: melabowain@gmail.com

North Wales Wildlife Trust

Head Office: 376 High Street, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1YE. Telephone: 01248-351541.

North East Office: c/o 376 High Street, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 1YE. Telephone: 01248-351541.

Contact: Adrian Lloyd Jones, Conservation Officer (East). 07764-897412

North Wales Wildlife Trust local groups:

Clwydian: Sue Loose. Telephone: 07791-195963

Wrexham: Steve Palin. Telephone: 01244-577987 or 07876-501014

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

North Wales Office: RSPB Cymru, Uned 14, Llys Castan, Ffordd y Parc, Parc Menai, Bangor Gwynedd, LL57 4FD. Telephone: 01248-672850.

RSPB Members' groups:

Chester: Norman Sadler. Telephone: 01244-335670.

North Wales: Norman Marshall. Telephone: 01492-592247.

Welsh Ornithological Society (WOS)

Membership Secretary: Alan Williams, 30 Fairfield, Penperlleni, Pontypool, Gwent, NP4 0AQ. Email: mochdreboy@waitrose.com

www.birdsinwales.org.uk

Honorary Secretary: Ian M Spence

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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 and support to achieve this.

Individual subscription	£15.00
Family subscription	£18.00
(Subject to revision at the AGM on 5 November 2016)	

Send your cheque (made out to the 'Welsh Ornithological Society') to:

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