

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES 2012

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Common breeder, c.100-150 territories. River sites often less successful than still-water sites. Many moulting non-breeders on lower Tweed at Berwick (804 records)

Monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tweed, Kelso-Coldstream	176	194	133	-	7	52	114	92
Yetholm Loch	35	35	11	118	94	185	158	138
Hirsel Lake	20	1	2	23	24	11	2	2
Folly Loch	2	3	2	-	12	4	-	-
Teviot Haughs (not one site)	8	17	3	-	5	30	2	34
Gunknowe Loch(monthly max)	28	21	18	25	21	25	18	22

Winter/Spring: There were few large counts away from the main sites, the best being 30 Wooden Loch 15th Jan and 20 Falahill 5th Feb. During Jan-Feb, 85 of 560 birds that had their ages reported were juveniles, some 15.2%. This compares with 21.5% at start of the winter.

Summer flocks: 33 Gunknowe Loch on 12th Apr; 68 Fireburnmill 24th Apr; 30 on the lower Whiteadder around Paxton 29th Apr; 15 Whiteadder at Edrington Castle 6th Jun. The Yetholm Loch moult flock peaked early with 118 on 3rd Aug when 25 were also at Gunknowe Loch on the same day. 23 Hirsel Lake on 21st Aug were probably also moulting.

Breeding:

Ponds & Lochs

Singles and parties of juveniles and failed or non-breeding adults were seen at: Akermoor Loch, Ashkirk Loch, Glenrath Pond and Heatherhope Reservoir.

24 pairs were seen at the following 23 sites, with no additional evidence of breeding (often because there was no return visit to note progress) : Addinston Pond, Alemoor Wester Loch, Alterstones Ponds, Bowden Pond, Branxholme Easter Loch, Buckstruther Moss, Cherytrees Pond, Clarilaw Pond, Clarilawburn Pond, Cruxfield Pond, Eildon Pond, Ettrickshaws Farm Pond, Ettrickshaws Loch, Folly Loch (2), Glen Pond, Green Diamonds, Greenlawdean Pond, Hirsel Lake, Hoselaw Loch, Howpasley Pond, Pickmaw Moss, Rink Pond and Williestruther Loch.

5 other pairs at Mordington Holdings Pond, Pot Loch, Shaws Under Loch, Singie Farm Pond and Whitton Loch all nested, but the fate of these nests is not known.

4 other pairs other built nests but failed, presumably at the egg stage: at Gunknowe Loch, Hare Moss, Shielswood Loch, Synton Mossend and Whitrig Bog

So at least 34 pairs held territory at 33 sites with 10 pairs building nests that either failed or whose fate is not known.

26 other pairs held territory at another 24 sites, hatching a minimum of 107 young and fledging 105 young.

Lochs and Ponds	pairs	hatched	fledged
Bemersyde Moss	1	3	3
Borthwickshiels Loch	1	?	4
Bowhill Upper Loch	1	?	2
Cauldshiels Loch	1	6	6
Faldonside Loch	1	?	6
Gunknowe Loch	2	3	2
Helmburn Hill Pond	1	?	4
Hen Poo	1	9	9
Hollybush Pond	1	1	5
Lindean Reservoir	1	5	4
Mellerstain Lake	1	?	5
Millar's Moss	1	?	3
Minto Kames North Loch	1	?	7
Mire Loch	1	7	7
Newhall Loch	1	?	5
Spottiswoode Loch	1	?	5
Stantling Craig Reservoir	1	4	4
Whitmuirhall Loch	1	?	3
Whitrig Pond	1	1	failed
Whitslade Pond	1	6	6
Wiltonburn Pond	1	?	4
Woodburn Pond	1	?	1
Yetholm Loch	2	?	9
Yetholm Marsh	1	?	5

Rivers

Nests with no known result were noted on the Teviot at Roxburgh Mill and Tweed at Makerstoun and Floors Castle

Broods were seen on the Tweed at Rutherford Lodge with br4 and on the Tweed, Junction Pool with br3

	Sites with territorial birds	Pairs reached nest stage	Pairs that hatched young	Pairs that fledged young	No of young fledged
Lochs	59	35	26	25	105
Rivers	9+	5	3	3	7
Total	68+	41	29	28	111

The first incubated nest was reported was at Lindean Reservoir on 15th Apr and Gunknowe Loch on 18th Apr, with the first cygnets at seen at Mellerstain Lake on 14th May and Lindean Reservoir on 21st May.

Summary of Mute Swan Breeding Success: 1997-2012

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Pairs	149	39	41	67	52	89	86	75	56	45	42	63	74	47	60	68
Broods	42	17	27	29	24	16	32	21	30	25	23	34	35	25	29	29
Young	157	72	136	103	109	71	167	119	117	122	111	134	161	101	137	111
MBS	3.74	4.24	5.03	3.55	4.54	4.44	5.22	5.67	3.90	4.88	4.82	3.94	4.60	4.04	4.72	3.82

Autumn/Winter: The Yetholm moult flock peaked at 118 on 3rd & 28th Aug, dropping to 88 by 17th Sep. There were few other large counts not tabulated above, the 30 at Kirkmains on 25th October and 34 at Eckford on 22nd Dec being shown under Teviot Haughs.

During Sep-Dec, 78 of 505 birds that had their ages reported were juveniles, some 15.4%.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Uncommon winter visitor Oct-Apr. c.150-200 birds present in most winters on Teviot & Tweed Haughs. Occasional birds in summer, probably injured. (129 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Juveniles formed 8.5% of 177 aged birds Jan-Apr 2012 (19.7% in 2011).

Alemoor Loch: 11 on 3rd Jan was the only record.

Teviot Haugh/Folly Loch: 1 Folly Loch 2nd Jan with 8 Crailing on 10th Jan; 30 Kirkmains & 19 Wooden Loch on 14th Jan; but 48 Wooden Loch & 29 Teviot Haughs on 15th Jan (perhaps feeding on the haughs but roosting Wooden, so probably all the same birds) . 11 Shortacres 1st Feb; 27 Wooden Loch 2nd Feb; 25 Folly Loch 10th Feb; 84 Folly Loch 27th Feb with 67 there 11th Mar; just singles at Folly Loch 24th Mar – 15th Apr except for 7 migrants on 1st Apr.

Selkirk/Tweedbank area: 4 Lindean on 2nd Jan; 2 White law Loch on 5th Jan; 3 Faughill Moss on 15th Jan with 4 Cauldshiels Loch on 16th Jan; 2 Cauldshiels 19th & 26th Jan; 4 Cauldshiels on 5 dates 4th -16th Feb; 8 Lindean & 8 White Law Loch on 11th Mar & last 4 Lindean on 25th Mar.

Lower Tweed: 250 Fireburnmill 4th Jan; 71 there with 35 Scotch Acre & 7 Birgham, 113 in all, on 10th Jan; 128 Tweed Haughs 15th Jan; 112 Wark Haughs 9th Feb with 122 Tweed Haughs 12th Feb & 109 over Hirsell Lake 14th Feb; 75 Tweed haughs 11th Mar; with last 2 Fireburnmill 24th Apr.

St Mary's Loch/ Loch of the Lowes: 2 on 3rd Jan with 14 on 5th & 12th Feb.

Elsewhere: 3 Crooked Loch 19th Feb; 23N Newmains 13th Mar; 49 on sea at Dunglass 7th Apr .

Summer: Apparently no injured birds this year.

Autumn/Winter: The first birds of the winter were: 7S Newmains 3rd Oct; 11 Teviot Haughs and 9S Newmains on 5th Oct; 3E Craighur House & 1 Whitrig Bog on 7th Oct; 2 Yetholm Loch 9th Oct. 61 Teviot Haughs on 3th Oct was the first substantial count.

Alemoor Loch: 7 on 21st Nov was the only count submitted.

Bemersyde/Whitrig: 6 Whitrig Bog 14th Oct; 4 Bemersyde Moss 16th Nov with 7 there 24th Nov.

Eye Water/Eyemouth coast: 9N Dunglass 27th & 28th Oct; 7S Newmains 10th Nov with 13S there 11Nov & 5 on 19th Nov.

Folly Loch/Teviot Haughs: 88 Teviot Haughs 13th Oct; 127 Kirkmains 25th Oct; 46 Folly Loch 8th Nov with 54 there 11th Nov; 61 Teviot Haughs 17th Nov; 60 Crailing Tofts 8th Dec with 50 Teviot Haughs 18th Dec; 9 Eckford 30th Dec.

Lower Tweed: 2 Lees haugh 13th Oct; 10W Sprouston 29th Oct; 7 Paxton House 9th Nov; 21 Tweed Haughs 18th Nov; 26 Tweed Haughs & 8 Paxton House 16th Dec; 5 Carham 18th Dec; 21 Scotch Acre 25th Dec & 21 Cornhill 30th Dec.

Greenlaw area: 38 Belmont 28th Oct; 15 Hule Moss 18th Nov; 16 Greenlaw Moor 21st Nov; 28 Angelrow 28th Nov with 41 there 8th Dec, 61 on 15th, 21st & 26th Dec, max 62 there 27th Dec with 26 on 31st Dec.

Selkirk/Tweedbank area: 11E Tweedbank 12th Nov; 23 Pickmaw Moss & 6 Cauldshiels Loch 18th Nov; 5 Lindean Reservoir 2nd Dec; 3 White Law Loch 9th Dec; 30 Pickmaw Moss 16th Dec with 41 there & 3 Faughill Moss 26th Dec.

St Mary's Loch: 18 Loch of the Lowes 4th Dec and 10 Cappercleugh 15th Dec.

Elsewhere: 1 Yetholm Loch 16th Oct; 19 Portmore Loch 11th Nov

Juveniles formed 19.6% of 368 aged birds between Oct-Dec 2011.

Bean Goose *Anser fabilis*

Very rare winter visitor. (3 records in 2012)

5 Spittal, Biggar (Val Wilson & Ray Murray); 1 Newmains 17th Feb (Dave Graham); 1 Thirlestane Castle 12th Mar (Rob Cantalo).

The first two parties were identified at Tundra Bean Geese *A. f. rossicus*. The race of the lauder bird was not established.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Abundant winter visitor & passage migrant, Sep-May, peak Oct- Nov. Two important roosts at West Water (record maximum 56,900) & Hule Moss (record maximum 18,500). (190 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring:

Bemersyde/Whitrig roost: 300 Whitrig 10th Jan; 900 Bemersyde & 27 Whitrig 30th Jan; 2,000 Westfield 4th Feb; 2,000 Whitrig 12th Feb; 1,200 New Smailholm 22nd Feb; 3,000 Whitrig 25th Feb; 2,900 Westfield Hill 29th Feb; , 3,000 Whitrig 11th Mar with 1,000 there 26th Mar; 2,000 Westfield 5th Apr last 1,000 Westfield on 10th Apr.

Dowlaw roost: 43 Newmains 15th Jan with 120 there 27th Jan; 200 Haud Yards & 143 Dowlaw Dam 28th Jan; 30 Newmains 4th Feb; 220 Haud Yards 5th Feb; 970 Boggsbank 26th Feb with 1,200 there 19th Mar; 800 Haud Yards 24th Mar & 1,230 there 31st Mar; 300 Drone Hill 5th Apr; 1,140 Haud Yards 9th Apr & 1,000 there 16th Apr; 100 Harly Darlies 21st Apr.

400 Mire Loch 2nd Jan; 25 Blaikie Heugh 14th Jan; and 160N Coldingham 24th Apr may have been coastal passage birds but may have been associated with the Dowlaw flock.

Contrary to expectations the Coldingham Moor Windfarm does NOT appear to have had any great impact on the roosting/feeding flock – however misty conditions, especially at night, may cause issues and folk should look out for injured or dead birds in the vicinity of the turbines after such conditions.... and report them.

Folly Loch/Teviot Haughs: Just 3,050 Crailing School 10th Jan.

West Water Reservoir roost: 1,150 there on 23rd Jan with a mist-shrouded minimum count of 142 there on 26th Feb. In the feeding fields 3,200 at Spittal on 6th Jan; 500 Sunnyside 25th Jan; 750 Cleugh on 14th Feb; 2,600 Bamflatt 17th Feb; 250 Romannobridge 25th Feb; 930 Newlands & 450 Robinsland 26th Feb; 1,500 Bamflatt 1st Mar; 460 Parkgatestone 10th Mar; 1,250 Robinsland 25th Mar.

Elsewhere: 20 Halliburton 14th Jan; 98 E Tweedbank 23rd Jan; 115 Lees Haugh 28th Jan; 300 Stantling Craig Reservoir 4th Feb with 31 there 28th Feb; 300N Bowden 7th Feb; 1 Caverton Mains 22nd Feb; 30N Lauder Common 28th Mar.

Summer: No sign of the feral bird at Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank.

Autumn/Winter:

The arrival was decidedly early in 2012, possibly after as a poor breeding season but also aided by favourable tail-winds in early September.

First birds heard over Craigurd House on 5th Sep (Dave & Margaret Thorne); then 40 Westfield & 15S over Eddleston 7th Sep; 80 over Hare Moss, 70 over Lauder Common, 60 over Innerleithen, 32SW Peebles, 30 Attonburn, 30 Hog Knowe & 1 over Craigurd House 8th Sep; 120S Newmains and 17 Whitsome Laws 9th Sep. Further overhead passage in the following week included 238S over St Abb's Head on 12th Sep and smaller parties of 50 Elba, 40 Lindean Reservoir, 36 Craigurd, 35 Stobo, 35 Lamberton & 22 Black Barony.

Bemersyde/Whitrig/Smailholm: 450 Westfield 6th Sep; 1,500 Bemersyde Moss 20th Sep; 2,300 Whitrig Bog 22nd Sep; 2,000 Westfield 3rd Oct; max 6,000 Girrick 15th Oct; 4,000 Rachelfield 11th Nov; but few birds later, just 18 Bemersyde on 24th Nov & 90SW there 28th Nov.

Dowlaw roost: While no birds were located on the usual roosting area there were several counts that hint that it or some nearby roost were being employed. Blackhill, Reston was used for a few days with 1,700 on 2nd Oct, 4,700 on 3rd Oct, 4,100 on 4th Oct, 4,500 on 6th Oct. Feeding then switched moved south of A1 with 2,000 Horseley Hill on 29th Oct before moving to Coldingham Moor with 2,200 Bogbank on 1st Nov, 4,000 there on 5th Nov & 2,200 on 20th Nov. Unspecified numbers were also seen regularly over Newmains into late Dec suggesting presence in the area to the end of the year.

Numbers were also seen regularly moving along the coast, presumably commuting birds from Lothian to Lindisfarne from Sep to Dec. Best counts were 1,055 Lamberton 27th Sep with 500 there 12th Nov; also 500 St Abb's Head 28th Sep with 450 on 30th Sep.

Hule Moss roost: 1,350 Hule Moss 16th Sep; 1,450 there 13th Oct & 850 on 18th Nov & 1 on 16th Dec.

James Lough's illness mean that coverage at this roost was curtailed in 2012.

170 Angelrow 28th Nov with 80 on 1st Dec & 124 on 27th Dec were possibly Hule Moss birds.

Teviot Haughs: 600 Crailing Tofts 2nd Oct with 500 there 5th Oct; 650 Teviot Haughs 13th Oct; 198 Kirkmains 25th Oct; 50 Roxburgh Mains 5th Nov; 850 Lilliard's Edge 21st Nov; 160 Muirhouselaw 27th Dec.

It is not clear that the Folly Loch was used as a roost and that these birds may have been associated with the Westfield/Bemersyde flock.

West Water Reservoir roost: First roost count of 8,970 on 13th Sep with 13,250 on 17th Sep, 20,100 on 21st Sep, a maximum of 20,250 on 24th Sep, then dropping to 6,740 on 3rd Oct, before rising again to 9,395 on 7th Oct and 15,800 on 13th Oct, the period when numbers usually peak. Numbers dropped again to 9,650 on 21st Oct and 9,557 on 4th Nov before rising to a final peak of 12,300 on 11th Nov. Numbers were maintained into Dec with the final roost count of 10,240 on 9th Dec, indicating numbers holding up well.

On feeding areas: 1,000 Windy Gowl, Carlops 15th Sep; 530 Robinsland 17th Sep; 1,500 Skirling Mill 8th Dec; 2,400 Skirling Mains 9th Dec; 150 Skirling Mill 22nd Dec.

Elsewhere: 150NW Kelso 4th Oct; 120 Frogden flood 5th Nov; 200 Tweed Haughs 16th Dec; 500 over Hirsell 25th Dec.

The migration in 2012 seemed protracted. It is possible that non-breeders produced the first influx, the later maxima in early October being produced by those that did successfully breed.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Very scarce winter visitor amongst grey geese flocks. Typically the Greenland race *flavirostris*. The nominate Russian *albifrons* is a rare vagrant. Not annual. (38 records in 2012). Race given when specified.

10 *albifrons* Spittal, Biggar 6th Jan (Ray Murray); 1 *flavirostris* Newmains 19th Jan-17th Feb & 28th Feb (Dave Graham); 6 *albifrons* Caverton Mains with 8 different birds nearby at Linton 22nd Feb (Ray Murray); 2 *albifrons* New Smailholm 22nd Feb (Ray Murray); 5 *flavirostris* Romannobridge 25th Feb (Richard Bramhall); 21 Caverton Mains with 5 Kersknowe & 6 Hoselaw Loch 29th Feb, all *albifrons* (Ray Murray); 1 *flavirostris* Westfield Hill 29th Feb (Ray Murray); 2 *albifrons* & 1 *flavirostris* Newmains 3rd-7th Mar with the *flavirostris* bird there until 12th Mar (Dave Graham); 1 1st-w *flavirostris* Haud Yards 24th Mar-16th Apr (Dave Graham).

After an exceptional arrival of European geese in autumn 2011 it is not surprising that many individuals lingered through to the spring. However even the presence of so many Greenland birds was unusual.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Uncommon but quickly increasing breeder (c.75-125prs), birds spreading rapidly from Lothian and other introductions. Icelandic population is becoming an uncommon winter visitor with perhaps less than 500 present each winter, as birds now overwinter in Orkney. (276 records in 2011)

Winter/Spring: Fewer and fewer probable Icelandic birds being recorded.

Bemersyde/Whitrig: 65 Whitrig 30th Jan rose to 200 on 4th & 12th Feb; max 450 New Smailholm 22nd Feb with 230 there & 120 Westfield 29th Feb; 300 Bemersyde & 150 Whitrig Bog 11th Mar; 100 Westfield 5th Apr.

Coastal area: 250 Crossrig 5th Jan; 60 Newmains 7th & 18th Jan with 72 there 24th Jan; 90-95 Newmains 4th-26th Feb; 50 Drone Hill 15th Mar, rising to 300 Bogbank 19th Mar and 240 Haud Yards 24th Mar with 300 Harly Darlies 29th Mar and 300 Haud Yards 7th Apr.

Kelso/Coldstream/Morebattle area: 103 Tweed Haughs 12th Feb; 72 Hoselaw Loch 15th Jan; 52 Tweed at Wark 9th Feb; 448 Caverton Mains & 32 Linton 22nd Feb with 360 Kersknowe 29th Feb; 81 Hoselaw Loch 18th Mar. *It is not known if these diverse records are actually associated with one another and are even different from the Teviot Haugh records.*

Lauder area: 50 Lauder 17th Feb with 21 Thirlestane Castle 1st Mar and 58 there 7th Mar, 63 on 12th Mar & 24 on 21st Mar.

Stantling Craig Reservoir: 280 roosting there 15th Jan with 270 on 26th Jan & 172 on 12th Feb with 48 Windydoors 22nd Feb & 38 Stantling Craig 11th Mar.

Elsewhere: 50 Cadam Law 8th Jan. Movements include: 49NE Tweedbank 13th Mar; 250N Bowden 20th Mar.

Small numbers were present at many sites recently associated with small breeding number Jan-Mar, almost all of probable feral origin.

Breeding: The spread of the breeding population continues unabated.

Around 39 pairs reported as having bred, with a minimum of 72 young known in 2012. A minimum of another 37 pairs were known to have shown breeding behaviour.

Confirmed breeding:

Blythe Water: 5 Wheelburn Law tetrad NT55Q on 26th Feb with 4 birds and a nest 15th Apr.

Cathpair Pond: 7prs with 17 imms (perhaps 4br17) 14th Jun.

Hoselaw Loch: pr with br3 there 1st Jul.

Howpasley Pond, Craik: a bizarre record of a pair that laid eggs only to dispossessed of the nest by what one can only imagine was a very frustrated Mute Swan that went on to incubate their eggs but ultimately failed to hatch them.

Jeaniefield Pond: 9 birds there 15th Apr with a pair incubating.

Kelhope Burn: 5 Tollishill 26th Feb with br3 on Kelhope Burn 9th May and young also reported 20th May & 20th Jun at Dodcleugh – it is not clear from the records if there are different birds/sites within the tetrad NT55D.

Kerchesters Pond: pair reported on 1st Jul, to have raised young earlier in year

Nether Brotherstone Ponds: 3 ads with one incubating 5th Apr and pair, no sign of young, 8th May.

Scarlaw: FL recorded NT65N on 23rd May.

Stantling Craig Reservoir: 38 there 11th Mar had resolved into 12prs with 5br23 by 19th May. This had risen to 7br46 by 14th Jun.

Threeburnford Pond: Ad guarding nest 8th Apr with anxious adults, but no sign of young 8th May.

Watch Water Reservoir: 6 adults and 4 broods (no further details) 24th May.

White Law Loch: 1pr there 5th Mar-8th Apr with 2prs and br3 on 22nd & 31st May.

Birds occupying sites, with no confirmation of breeding this year: single bird, as usual Tweedbank Pond from Jan but 3-4 birds there on 3 occasions in Apr; pr Lithillum Loch 14th Mar; 15 Macbiehill Pond 26th Feb with 7 there 7th Mar; 2prs Bowden Moss 29th Feb; 7prs Wedderlie 6th & 10th May with 5 Cammerlaws Pond 19th Mar possibly the same birds; 4prs Addinston Pond 19th Mar; 4prs Bemersyde Moss from 14th Mar but 1pr on 3 dates in May; 3 Whitslade 8th Apr with pr nearby at Drumelzier 28th May; 2prs Garvald (Moorfoots) 13th Apr; 5 birds Over Langshaw 15th Apr; pr Middlestots Marsh 19th Apr; 4-5prs Darny Rig 20th Apr with 2 there 16th May; 1pr Blakelaw 10th May; 1pr Lugate Bridge 19th May; 3prs Clearburn Loch 20th May; pr New Smailholm 21st May; pr Halliburton & 5 Greenlaw Dean 30th May; and 1pr Hawksnest 21st May & 25th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: With locally-bred birds and the traditional Icelandic birds potentially joined from birds from Europe, the pattern of Greylag Goose movements this autumn is very obscure!

Locally-bred birds seem to have accumulated, possible after the moult, in the Lauder area with 177 on the Harryburn road from Lauder on 10th Aug, rising to 250 there on 12th Sep. Also 43 Hirsell Lake 26th Aug and 40 birds at Westruther at both Howlet's Ha & Broomiebank on 14th Sep; 31 Stantling Craig Reservoir & 7 Hule Moss 16th Sep.

Possible arrival of migrants in mid-Oct with 30 Whitrig 7th Oct, 41 Hirsell Lake 31st Oct; 44 Hoselaw 14th Oct. Other 2-3-figure counts 190 Frogden, 35 Grizelrig & 25 Caverton Mains 5th Nov; 320 Scarlaw & 180 Watch Water Reservoir on 11th Nov; 55 Startling Craig Reservoir & 49 Hirsell Lake 18th Nov; 88 Stantling Craig 16th Dec; 26 Teviot Haughs 18th Dec; and 80 Newmains 20th Dec.

Snow Goose *Branta caerulescens*

Very rare winter vagrant, usually in flocks of Pink-feet. (2 records in 2012)

6N St Abb's Head 23rd Apr (Alan Kerr) were probably feral birds rather than vagrants.

1 blue-phase bird West Water Reservoir 21st Oct (Ray Murray) had been seen earlier, perhaps for a fortnight, by the local keepers.

Greater Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Increasing, but still scarce, breeder, now c.50 pairs, derived from feral populations in England or from local releases. Most breed in Lammermuirs, so perhaps local releases for shooting. Moulting migration passes through in May-June and August-September. (90 records in 2011)

Winter/Summer: Large counts of 45 Hendersyde Mill 4th Jan & 30 Tweed Haughs 12th Feb and then 44 Wedderlie 18th Feb & 19 there on 10th Mar. The timing suggests that the same birds may be involved, the Tweed winterers simply shifting north into the southern Lammermuirs. 6 still on Tweed Haughs on 11th Mar. Otherwise 1-2 birds at Bemersyde Moss 23rd Feb into April and single records Jan-Mar at Stantling Craig Reservoir, Gunknowe Loch, Hunt Law, Whitrig Bog, Yetholm Loch, Hoselaw Loch and the Tweed at Wark.

Breeding: Summer records, with no further evidence of breeding.: 1-2 Lindean Reservoir 6th-15th Apr; 10 Whitrig Bog 8th Apr with 4 there 14th May and 12 Westfield 26th May; 9 Tweedbank 18th Apr; pr Kippitlaw Burn 24th Apr; pr Yetholm Loch 1st May-11th Jun; 1 Cauldshiels Loch 7th May; 2 Kelhope Burn 9th May; 1 Nisbet Bridge 10th May;

Breeding was confirmed with a pair at Gordon Moss where occupied nest seen 12th Apr; 17 West Water Reservoir 1st Apr but pr with btr10 there on 24th May; a single pair at Bemersyde Moss where br2 seen 30th May;

In addition birds thought to be spring (northbound) moult migrants were reported: 60N Newmains 1st Jun; 50over Peebles 5th Jun; 8N Lambertton Beach and 8N St Abb's Head 14th Jun were probably the same party of Beaully-bound birds. 14N St Abb's Head 12th Sep may have been these migrants returning (albeit in the wrong direction!)

Autumn: The size of the post-breeding flock in the Lammermuirs suggest many more birds remained to be found, although birds from the Whiteadder Reservoir (in Lothian) may be involved. 160 Broomiebank, Westruther & 70 Howlet's Ha 14th Sep.

Later records will include a mixture of passage birds and locals, but impossible to disentangle: 20 Hule Moss & 4 Haining Loch 16th Sep; 100 Tweed Haughs & 81 roosting Hirsell Lake (probably the same birds) 14th Oct; 320 Watch Water Reservoir 11th Nov; and 1-6 birds seen West water Reservoir, Hoselaw Loch & Mire Loch Oct-Dec.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

Passage migrant in variable numbers in late September-early October as Svalbard/Solway birds overfly area. Rarer during spring passage in May. Small numbers can winter with Pink-feet. (28 records in 2011)

Winter/Spring: 1 Spittal, Biggar 6th Jan; flock of 100 over Falahill 5th Feb; then singles Windydoors 22nd Feb, Bogbank 26th Feb, Haud Yards/Harly Darlies 24th Mar-16th Apr. 280N Southdean Lodge & 40N St Abb's Head 6th May probably mark the large-scale exodus from the Solway, Svalbard-bound.

Autumn/Winter: First 20S St Abb's Head 2nd Sep were well ahead of next 219S there on 26th Sep with another 60S there on 28th Sep when 26 roosted West Water Reservoir. 40 St Abb's Head 29th Sep with another 62S there 30th Sep. 5 West Water Reservoir 3rd Oct; 15S St Abb's Head & 6 Blackhill, Coldingham Moor 4th Oct; 4 on floods Glenrath, Manor 5th Oct; 2 roosted West Water Reservoir 7th & 211st Oct with 4 there 11th Nov and 3 still lingering on 9th Dec. 1 of these seen Skirling Mill 8th Dec.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Uncommon, but more frequently reported, passage migrant and rare winter visitor, mostly to coast. Most will be the pale-bellied Svalbard birds wintering at Lindsfarne. (1 record in 2012)

Winter: 3 birds, 2 adults and a juvenile, were at Dunglass on 14th Sep (Dave Graham).

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Rare (5-10 pairs) breeder on coast near Dunglass or on inland waters. Scarce along coast, most common on moult migration (47 records in 2011)

Winter/Spring: Just 1 on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan – 1 Pease Bay-Redheugh. 1 Dunglass 18th Feb with 2 there 3rd Mar; 2 Folly Loch 25th & 27th Feb with 6 there 11th Mar, 4 on 18th Mar and falling to just 2 on 3 dates later in Mar. 1 Hule Moss 25th Feb. 2 Whitrig Bog/Bemersyde Moss throughout Mar.

Breeding: 5 Dunglass 21st Apr with 2 Long Moss 8th Apr, 2 Dowlaw 28th Apr and 2 prs Redheugh coast 22nd May Bemersyde/Whitrig: 1 pair Apr-Jun but no evidence of breeding success.

Caverton Mains:

Cowieslinn Sandpits: 2 there 19th May.

Folly Loch: 4 there 1st Apr with 6 records of 1-3 birds through to July but did not breed. Pr Nisbet 4th Jun possibly these birds.

Ladyrig – pr there 2nd Jun.

Lurdenlaws: pr on floods there on 1st Jul.

Also 2 St Abb's Head 6th Apr with 1 there 9th Apr.

Winter: 3 Teviot Haughs 18th Dec was the only record after 1st Jul.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Introduced. Rare and elusive resident breeder along Eye Water & Whiteadder. (6 records in 2011)

Pair Eye Water at Linthill 1th Feb & 24th Feb; and pr Ayton 20th Feb.

A survey of the complete Eye Water drainage on 31st Mar revealed a population of 18 pairs and an additional 7 singles, 5 males and 2 females. Greatest density was 14 birds on Eye between Ayton and the confluence with the Ale Water, halfway between Ayton and Eyemouth.

2prs Linthill 6th Apr with single pairs there 28th Apr & 13th May. 1f Mire Loch 23rd & 28th Jul; 1f Houndwood 23rd Jul; 1 Millar's Moss 11th Aug.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Scarce breeding species in just 2% of tetrads, mostly in the Ettrick Forest (10-20 pairs). Common winter visitor to area and autumn passage migrant to coast. (178 records in 2011)

Winter/Spring: 44 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan.

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	30	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	14	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	0	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	0
Eyemouth-Burroughs	0	Burroughs-English border	0

Some high Jan counts with monthly maxima of 300 Hoselaw Loch 7th Jan; 200 Whitrig Bog 15th Jan; 96 Millar's Moss 14th Jan; and maxima of 48 Stantling Craig, 34 Bemersyde Moss & 31 Dunglass during the month.

150 Westfield 22nd Feb was the only site with a 3-figure count in the month with maxima of 87 Millar's Moss, 64 Stantling Craig Reservoir and 50 Bemersyde Moss in Feb.

Numbers dropped even more into Mar with 70 Hoselaw Loch 18th Mar the highest total. 60 Tweed at Sharpitlaw Anna, 50 Millar's Moss, 45 Dunglass, 42 Stantling Craig Reservoir & 36 Bemersyde Moss in the month. No further double-figure counts after the end of Mar. Last migrants - 5 St Abb's Head 5th Apr.

Breeding: 2 Bemersyde Moss on 3 dates in Apr were last seen on 1st May. Pair and another male Akermoor Loch 28th May was the only probable breeding record.

Autumn/Winter: 17N St Abb's Head 1st Sep. 80 Whitrig Bog & 36 Stantling Craig Reservoir 16th Sep; 72N St Abb's Head 21st Sep with 72N/3S there 23rd Sep and 4S there 26th Sep. Further passage birds in Oct include: 45N/2S St Abb's Head 27th Oct and 138N Eyemouth on 28th Oct. No 3-figure counts from inland waters with 70 Whitrig Bog 13th Oct and maxima of 45 Bemersyde Moss & Stantling Craig Reservoir and 32 Ploughlands Pond.

200 Bemersyde Moss 24th Nov was the sole 3-figure count with 78 Dunglass 24th Nov; 73 Stantling Craig Reservoir 6th Nov; and 60 White Law Loch 18th Nov. 100 Whitrig Bog 15th Dec with 110 there 20th Dec; 70 Hoselaw 29th Dec but just 30 Millar's Moss and 16 Tweed Haughs during the month.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Uncommon passage migrant and very scarce winter visitor, mostly August-September. Very rare, but increasingly more regular.

Rare breeder, in very small numbers on eastern waters. (29 records in 2011)

Winter/Spring: 4 Yetholm Loch 22nd Jan with 2 Millar's Moss 14th Jan and singles Cauldshiels Loch and Yetholm Marsh. 5 Yetholm Loch 12th Feb, 2 Millar's Moss 3rd Feb and single Folly Loch. 7 Yetholm Loch 18th Mar; 2 Hoselaw Loch 18th Mar and singles Bemersyde Moss & Hollybush Loch.

Breeding: Bemersyde Moss: 2 there 4th Jul was the only report.

Yetholm Loch: 5 there 1st Apr but just a single pair thereafter with br1 seen 27th Jun. The rise in numbers later may have been birds that had been missed or migrants arriving with 4 there 11th & 21st Jul and 8 there 28th Aug.

Autumn/Winter: 6 Yetholm Loch 4th Sep; 2 Cowieslinn Pond 8th Sep; 2 Bemersyde Moss 9th Sep, rising to 4 on 13th Oct; 4 Yetholm Loch 14th Oct, rising to 18 there 20th Nov with 7 Bemersyde Moss 22nd Nov; 1 Hen Poo 16th Dec; 11 still Yetholm Loch 18th & 31st Dec.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Uncommon breeder, c.200prs, mostly on fringes of upland areas, reported in 13% of tetrads. Common winter visitor and passage migrant. (324 records in 2011)

Winter/Spring: Once again Newmains had the largest Jan counts with max 270 thereon 27th Jan, a little rise on the 270 there on 2nd Jan. There were no other 3-figure counts, 69 Tweed Haughs & 50 Stantling Craig Reservoir on 15th Jan being the next-best counts. In Feb 170 on the Broughton Brewery floods was the largest count with 103 Folly Loch on 22nd Feb the only other 3-figure total. Also 67 Hollybush Pond 2nd Feb; 66 Glenrath floods 24th Feb & 50 Whitrig Bog 12th Feb.

230 Newmains 5th Mar; 220 Broughton Brewery 15th Mar; 80 Glenrath 17th Mar; 75 Whitrig Bog 11th Mar; with 40 West Water Reservoir, 35 Stantling Craig Reservoir and 28 Folly Loch. In Apr until 84 Broughton-Biggarr area 8th Apr & 28 Whitrig Bog 22nd Apr.

Breeding: Birds were seen at 25 sites where some may have been late migrants. The following 16 sites showed some signs of breeding with potentially 31 pairs with 2 singles reported and 3 broods reported, with 11 young.

Single Pair Brood

Bemersyde Moss	-	6	-
Darny Rig	1	1	-
Easter Deans Pond	-	1	-
Easterhill Pond	-	1	br5
Fruid Reservoir	-	3	-
Glenrath	-	1	br3
Haining Loch	-	1	-
Hen Poo	-	2	-
Jeaniefield	-	1	-
Kelloe	-	1	-
Kilbucho	1	1	-
Middlestots	-	2	-
Over Langshaw	-	2	-
Raeleugh Head	1	-	-
Stantling Craig Reservoir	-	6	-
Tanwell	-	1	-
Whitrig	-	3	br3

Broods were seen at Easterhill on 28th May, Glenrath on 8th Jul & Whitrig on 30th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: Passage parties include: 65 St Abb's Head on 15th Aug; 3S Eyemouth GC on 20th Aug with 65N Eyemouth on 24th Aug; 125N St Abb's Head on 1st Sep; 21N Eyemouth 8th Sep; 55N St Abb's Head 22nd Sep with 35N there 27th Oct; and 250N Eyemouth 28th Oct.

Numbers were generally poor. Away from the sites tabulated, large counts include: 140 Foulshot Law flood 8th Sep; 36 Minto Kames North Loch 6th Nov; 28 Paulswell 11th Nov; 30 Causewaybank 13th Nov; 102 Todrig 18th Nov; and 70 Upper Nisbet 28th Nov.

Max counts	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bemersyde Moss	8	5	200	-
Dowlaw Dam	1	1	15	4
Folly Loch	13	80	112	-
Glenrath	19	71	46	-
Hirsel Lake	10	2	16	23
Millar's Moss	-	4	7	26
Newmains	-	-	170	270
Stantling Craig Reservoir	52	60	88	40
West Water Reservoir	38	2	33	-
Westfield/Whitrig	200	45	30	20

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Abundant (2,000-3,000prs) and widespread breeder, found in 65% of tetrads. Several large moult assemblies in late summer. The large winter counts are thought to include many immigrants. (1355records in 2011)

Winter/Spring: The highest totals was from the Tweed Haughs WEBS count on 15th Jan with 617 birds. The only other 3-figure count not tabulated was 250 Hoselaw Loch 7th Jan

Max counts	Jan	Feb	Mar
Folly Loch	50	79	19
Gunknowe Loch	56	79	8
Hirsel Lake	51	44	27
Tweed - Kelso-Coldstream	617	375	133
Stantling Craig Reservoir	125	102	98
Whitrig Bog	29	14	8
Yetholm Loch	72	84	35

Few other sites held 50-99 birds Jan-Mar: 80 Cairncross 1st Jan; 79 Yetholm Pond, 55 Lindean Reservoir & 50 Faughill Moss on 15th Jan.

Sites with 25-49 birds included Allanton, Bemersyde Moss, Clarilaw, Cove-Pease Bay, Dowlaw Dam, Hillhouse, Horsburgh Castle, Mossburnford, Paxton House, Peebles, Teviot Haughs, Trows, Tweed at Boleside & Wheelburn Law.

Breeding:

Site	Broods
Ark Law	br5
Bemersyde Moss	4br21
Branxholme tetrad site 1	br6
Branxholme tetrad site 1	br5
Cauldshiles Loch	br9
Clarilawburn	2br4
Clockerhall	br6
Crookston	br9
Darnchester	br4
Eastfield	br3
Faldonside Loch	2br8
Glenrath	4br33
Grahamslaw Pond	br3
Hirsel Lake	br3
Lindean Reservoir	br4
Lurdenlaws flood	br8
Mertoun Estate Pond	br1
Middleshot	br3
Millar's Moss	br4
Newton St Boswells Glen	br1
Stantling Craig Reservoir	br1
Stodrig	br8
Synton Mossend	br3
Torsonse	br11

Traquair Brewery Pond	br2
The Cobby	2br7
Tweedbank	2br5
Whitmuirhaugh	3br18
Whitrig Bog	br1
Wiltonburn Loch	br1
Yetholm Loch	br3
Yetholm Pond	br2
44br196	

Eggs or nests were also seen in the Atlas at Fruid Dam, Kerchesters & Roxburgh

Broods of unknown size were also reported in the Atlas from Dryden Greenhill, Fireburnmill, Floors Castle, Halliburton, Hardiesmill Place, Hassendean, Hawick, Kelphope, Ladykirk Shiels, Lees Haugh, Lithillum Loch, Long Moss, Longformacus, Middlefield Pond, Monksford, Mossfennan, Newstead, Oxtou, Peebles, Sprouston, St Boswells & Trows

Despite a minimum of an additional 25 sites reported with broods in the Atlas, details are known of only 44 broods at 31 sites in 2012, with 196 young counted in total.

The mean brood size reported was 4.45, below average. The first brood seen was at Lees Haugh on 24th Apr and Tweedmill on 28th Apr.

Breeding success of Mallard in Borders, based on brood size counts 1999-2012

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sites	52	31	44	53	47	51	46	28	66	55	33	27	46	31
Broods	94	51	75	76	76	91	67	46	108	73	60	45	92	44
Young	331	269	332	326	355	591	347	248	605	374	304	222	453	196
MBS	3.07	5.27	4.43	4.23	4.67	6.49	5.18	5.39	5.60	5.12	5.07	4.93	4.92	4.45

Autumn/Winter: The post-breeding assemblies include: 450 Bemersyde Moss 4th Jul; 210 Yetholm Loch & 120 Gunknowe Loch 3rd Aug; 201 Hirsell Lake & 110 Glenrath 21st Aug; and 143 Hen Poo 23rd Aug. High Sep counts included 108 Stantling Craig Reservoir & 135 Yetholm Loch 16th-17th Sep when also 492 Tweed Haughs.

High counts were gain infrequent between Oct-Dec with just two sites prominent: with 398 Tweed Haughs 14th Oct and 224 there on 11th Nov and 443 on 16th Dec and at Stantling Craig Reservoir where there were 120 on 14th Oct, 140 on 6th Nov & 110 on 16th Dec. The only other 3-gigire counts were: 165 Watch Water Reservoir on 11th Nov, 100 Hollybush Pond on 18th Nov and 124 Hen Poo on 16th Dec.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Rather uncommon, but annual, winter visitor, September to April, peaking October-November. Has bred twice, in 1901 & 2008. (18 records in 2012)

Some persistent birds; 1m Folly Loch 2nd Jan with same bird there 14th Jan, 28th Feb & 11th Mar. 1 Mire Loch 14th & 28th Jan, 11th Feb & 2 there from 9th Mar-30th Mar.

More fleeting birds with: 1 Tweed at Springhall 28th Jan was presumably the same as 1 Tweed at Sprouston 19th & 24th Feb; 1m Deanfoot Hill, West Linton 28th Feb; 1pr Whitrig Bog 1st Apr.

No records later in the year.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Very scarce and decreasing breeder (0-3prs) at low-lying eutrophic water, mostly in the eastern Borders. Autumn passage peaks September-November but few January-March. Return mostly March-April. (Just 15 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 1 Westfield 29th Feb with 1 Bemersyde Moss 14th Mar, rising to 3 Whitrig Bog 17th Mar before dropping again to 1 at Bemersyde on 23rd Mar.

Breeding: Numbers occurring in spring/summer seem to have fallen away in recent years and in 2012 there was just two records : 1 f on the Tweed at Innerleithen on 22nd Apr and 1 Yetholm Loch on 11th Jun.

Autumn: Autumn records too have now become few and far between with 2 Whitrig Bog 8th & 14th Sep; 1 Mire Loch 12th & 27th Oct; 8 Whitrig Bog 25th oct; 3 Bemersyde Moss 28th & 30th Oct. No winter records at all.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Now probably extinct as a breeder, numbers having collapsed since the 2000s. Also increasingly more uncommon winter visitor, arriving October-November. (30 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 3 Millar's Moss 2nd & 14th Jan with birds still there 11th Feb. 5 St Mary's Loch 5th Feb. 1 Yetholm Loch 12th Feb with 6 there 21st Feb – 2nd Mar and 1 there 11th-22nd Mar; 2 Haremoos 9th mar; 4 Bemersyde Moss 14th Mar.

Summer: 2 Hule Moss 11th Jun was the only summer report.

Autumn/Winter: 1 Cowieslenn Ponds 23rd Jul & 5mm Yetholm Loch 24th Jul. 1 Whitrig Bog 5th Aug. 1 Yetholm Loch 21st Aug with 2 there 8th Oct. 1 Millar's Moss 17th Nov; 5 Yetholm Loch 7th & 9th Dec; 2 Hirsell Lake 30th Dec.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Increasingly less common breeder, including the lower reaches of the Tweed. Found breeding in 10% of tetrads. Common winter visitor, peaking November-December. (360records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Low numbers continue with just a single count of 50 or more birds Jan-Apr. Folly Loch provided the best run of high counts with monthly maxima of 58 on 28th Feb, 41 on 11th Mar & 31 on 3rd Apr. Gunknowe Loch also produced reasonable results with 42 on 16th Jan and 36 on 8th Feb. Elsewhere counts of 20 or more included: 22 Millar's Moss 2nd Jan, 30 there 3rd Feb & 20 on 9th Apr; 22 Yetholm Loch 4th Jan; 21 Hoselaw Loch on 7th Jan; 30 Harrietsfield 18th Mar.

10-19 birds were recorded from Faughill Moss, Haining Loch, Hirsell Lake, Mire Loch & st Mary's Loch.

Breeding:

Site	max mm	max ff	broods
Abbotsmoss	1	1	-
Akermoor Loch	3	3	-
Alemoor Wester Loch	3	3	br2
Bemersyde Moss	2	1	-
Bowdenmoor Farm Pond	1	1	-

Bowdenmoor Reservoir	2	1	-
Cauldsheels Loch	2	2	-
Cowieslinn Pond	1	1	-
Dodcleugh Pond	1	1	-
Dowlaw Dam	2	2	-
Folly Loch	10	9	-
Green Diamonds	1	1	br2
Gunknowe Loch	2	1	-
Haining Loch	7	4	-
Haremoos	4	4	-
Hawickshiel Pond	1	1	-
Hen Poo	3	2	-
Hollybush Pond	4	3	br2
Huntly Moss	1	1	-
Hutlerburn Hill Loch	4	4	-
Lindean Reservoir	3	3	2br7
Long Moss	4	3	-
Mellerstain Lake	2	1	-
Millar's Moss	12	10	5br36
Mire Loch	4	2	-
Scarlaw Pond	1	-	-
South Blainslie Pond	2	2	-
Spottiswoode Loch	3	2	-
Stantling Craig Reservoir	4	3	-
Tollishill Pond	1	-	-
Tweed, Hendersyde	18	12	-
White Law Loch	1	1	-
Whitmuirhall Loch	2	2	-
Williestruther Loch	8	7	-
Yetholm Loch	3	3	-

Tufted Duck were found at 35 sites in 2012. 125 males & 97 females were counted, potentially 97 pairs, which produced 10 broods. 49 young were counted, a MBS of 4.90.

The first young were seen at Green Diamonds and Lindean Reservoir on 25th Jul.

While more 'pairs' were counted than in recent years, the success was relatively poor with just the 10 broods.

Breeding success of Tufted Duck in Borders, based on brood size counts 2000-2012

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Min Pairs	104	105	94	116	172	124	128	155	106	83	58	77	97
Broods	12	17	5	15	18	13	16	15	16	12	4	17	10
Young	48	69	11	78	87	52	74	76	74	69	11	77	49
MBS	4.00	4.06	2.20	5.20	4.83	4.00	4.63	5.07	4.63	5.75	3.66	5.13	4.90

Autumn/Winter: The largest Sep count was at Millar's Moss, due to the good breeding success there. Elsewhere no site managed more than 20 birds with Mire Loch (17) and Gunknowe Loch (17) having the best totals. Numbers scarcely rose into Oct with maxima of 30 at Gunknowe Loch on 24th Oct, 23 Hule Moss on 13th Oct and just 13 at Mire Loch and 11 at West Water Reservoir.

Nov-Dec counts remained at these same lowish levels with best Nov counts of 22 at West Water Reservoir on 4th Nov; 22 at Hule Moss on 18th Nov; 17 Gunknowe Loch on 1st Nov; 14 at Stantling Craig Reservoir; 13 at Haining Loch on 18th Nov; with 10 birds Portmore Loch & Watch Water Reservoir. In Dec there was no improvement with maxima of 27 Gunknowe Loch on 17th Dec; 19 Stantling Craig & Mire Loch on 16th Dec; 17 on the Tweed at Hendersyde on 12th Dec; 12 Yetholm Loch on 15th Dec; and 10-11 at Millar's Moss & Haining Loch.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, annual, but usually singles.(16 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 1f Mire Loch 2nd Jan-11th Feb, visiting Millar's Moss on 3rd Feb (Fran Evans). 2 Folly Loch 22nd Feb (Ray Murray); 1f Hollybush Pond 10th Mar, probably the same as 1f Cauldsheels Loch on 12th Mar (Angela Hunter).

Autumn/Winter: 1N St Abb's Head 29th Jul (Dave Graham); 1f Stantling Craig Reservoir 30th Aug (Ray Murray); 1 St Abb's Head 22nd Sep (Dave Graham); 1 juv Mire Loch 23rd Oct & 29th Oct and 9th-23rd Dec (Fran Evans).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Becoming scarcer along whole coast throughout the year, formerly abundant in December. Rare breeder with little proof of success. Very rare inland. (80 records in 2011)

Winter/Spring: 319 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan. (207 in 2011)

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	12	Pease Bay-Redheugh	11
Redheugh-Souter	29	Souter-Petticowick	10
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	11	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	120
Eyemouth-Burmmouth	102	Burmmouth-English border	24

27 Eyemouth Bay 6th Jan; 17 Burmmouth 9th Jan; 65 Eyemouth 7th Feb; 38 Burmmouth 19th Feb; 18 Eyemouth 13th Mar; 10 Dunglass 18th Mar was the last double-figure count of the winter.

Summer: Brood seen off Fast Castle Head 30th Jun may have been locally bred. Juvenile also seen St Abb's Head 3rd Aug.

Autumn/Winter: 10 Dunglass 22nd Aug; 16 Eyemouth Bay 11th Oct with 19 Burmmouth on 15th Oct; 29 Eyemouth Bay 19th Oct; 64 Eyemouth 28th Oct with 50 there 16th Nov & 6th Dec; 25 Burmmouth 23rd Dec with 19 Eyemouth 28th Dec.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce winter visitor and autumn passage migrant to coast. Rare inland. (27 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 8 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan: 3 Dunglass-Pease bay & 5 Pease Bay-Redheugh.

6 Pease Bay 4th Jan with 5 there and 1 Dunglass 29th Jan; 1N St Abb's Head 9th Feb; 6 Dunglass & 5 Pease Bay 12th Feb; 7 Dunglass 3rd Mar with 7 there 18th Mar. (Dave Graham, Fran Evans & John Palfrey).

Autumn/Winter: 1N St Abb's Head 14th Oct with 6N there 27th Oct; 2N Eyemouth 28th Oct; 1 St Abb's Head 29th Oct & 1N there again on 4th Nov. 1 Pease Bay 17th Nov with 2 Dunglass 24th Nov; 1 Pease Bay & 1 Cove 8th Dec; 5 Burnmouth 9th Dec with 2 there 15th Dec. 1 Mire Loch 23rd Dec & on sea at Petticowick 27th Dec; 4 Dunglass & 4 Pease Bay 30th Dec (Fran Evans, Dave Graham & Ron McBeath).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon late summer & autumn passage migrant and scarce winter visitor to coastal areas. Very rare inland. (56 records in 2011)

Winter/Spring: 3 were found on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan: 2 Dunglass-Pease Bay & 1 Pease Bay-Redheugh.

1 Dunglass 4th Feb; 1 N St Abb's Head 9th Feb; 1 Dunglass 18th & 25th Feb with 3 there 18th Mar; 1 Dunglass 7th Apr.

Autumn/Winter: First 14N/11S St Abb's Head 1st Jul with 12N there 7th Jul, 20N there 8th Jul, 72N on 14th Jul & 14N on 21st Jul. 27N Dunglass 22nd Jul. 5N St Abb's Head on 22nd Jul, with 12N on 24th Jul & 52N on 29th Jul. 229 birds in Jul.

6N Eyemouth GC 20th Aug with 1N there 21st Aug; & 4N on 24th Aug. 7N St Abb's Head 23rd Aug.

12N St Abb's Head 1st Sep and 10N Eyemouth GC on 8th Sep. 5N St Abb's Head 21st Sep with 67N there 22nd Sep, 35N there 23rd Sep, 33N on 25th Sep & 16N on 26th Sep.

22 Dunglass 6th Oct with 8N Eyemouth GC on 11th Oct. 70N St Abb's Head 14th Oct with 9S on 20th Oct. 13 Dunglass 21st Sep with 26 there on 27th Oct when 64N/11S St Abb's Head. 48N Eyemouth on 28th Oct with 124N St Abb's Head on 29th Oct.

4 Dunglass 3rd Nov but 112N St Abb's Head 11th Nov. 11 Dunglass 24th Nov. Fewer in Dec with max 3 Dunglass on 30th Dec.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Very scarce autumn (August-December) passage migrant to coast. Very occasional in spring. No inland records. (12 records in 2012)

Autumn/Winter: 4 St Abb's Head 20th Jul. Then long gap until 1N St Abb's Head on 21st Sep with 2N there 22nd & 25th Sep with 4N there 26th Sep. 2 Eyemouth 25th Sep.

12N St Abb's Head 14th Oct with 2N/2S there 27th Oct & 3N on 29th Oct. 6N Eyemouth GC on 28th Oct.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Common winter visitor, October-May, peaking in March. Occasionally summers. Bred near Gordon 1999. (272 reports in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 21 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan, well below typical levels, 52 in 2011, 60 in 2010.

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	2	Pease Bay-Redheugh	7
Redheugh-Souter	11	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	0	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	0
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	0	Burnmouth-English border	2

Away from the main resorts, tabulated, max counts in Jan of 11 Whitmuirhall Loch 13th Jan, 13 How Dean 27th Jan, 12 Haining Loch & 12 Bowhill Upper Loch on 29th Jan. In Feb there were 10 Haining Loch on 24th Feb & 16 Portmore Loch on 26th Feb.

Max counts	Jan	Feb	Mar
Cauldshiels Loch	23 on 16 th	22 on 11 th	8 on 11 th
Folly Loch	4 on 15 th	23 on 28 th	2 on 11 th
Hirsel Lake	10 on 10 th	11 on 12 th	9 on 11 th
Millar's Moss	16 on 14 th	10 on 11 th	12 on 11 th
Tweed Haughs	170 on 15 th	124 on 12 th	115 on 11 th
Yetholm Loch	62 on 1 st	55 on 12 th	37 on 11 th

As usual number fell away in Apr with just single-figure counts almost all 1-2 birds, but 3 Haining Loch on 7th Apr. The latest records were 2 Tweed at Paxton House 16th Apr & singles Mire Loch on 17th Apr, Whiteadder at Edrington Castle on 19th Apr & Dunglass on 21st Apr (Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: 2 West Water Reservoir 28th Sep with 8 there 3rd Oct (Ray Murray). 1 Tweedbank 8th Oct; 1 Hule Moss & 1 West Water on 13th Oct with 3 Yetholm Loch, 1 Tweed Haughs & 1 Hirsel Lake on 14th Oct. A few reports over next week then 22N St Abb's Head 27th Oct with 19N Eyemouth GC on 28th Oct. Numbers built up into Nov with high counts of: 21 Yetholm Loch 7th Nov with 28 there on 11th Nov. 12 Portmore Loch 11th Nov. 25 Yetholm Loch 18 Hirsel Lake & 10 Faldonside Loch on 18th Nov. Number rose to 38 Yetholm Loch by 20th Nov but rose higher into Dec with max 54 there on 7th Dec and remained at high levels to the end of the year. 22 Hirsel Lake on 22nd Dec with 10 Bowdenmoor Loch 26th Dec were the only other sites with double-figure counts.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Now a rather rare winter visitor, previously more frequent.

Winter/Spring: 1m Whitrig Bog 25th Jan (Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: 1fN St Abb's Head 11th Nov (Dave Graham); 1 Bemersyde Moss 18th Nov (Malcolm Ross), remaining to 28th Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Uncommon passage migrant to coast, September-March. Former rare breeder but no recent evidence of even summering birds. (21 records in 2012).

Winter/Spring: 2 Dunglass 4th Jan with 1 on Tweed at Paxton House on 11th Jan. 2 Dunglass 4th & 18th Feb & 3rd Mar with just 1 there 18th Mar & 21st Apr. 1 Ross 16th Feb with 2 Burnmouth on 19th Feb. 2 Tweed at Innerleithen on 25th Mar.

Autumn/Winter: 1N St Abb's Head 1st Jul with 2 Linkim Shore 7th Sep. 3N St Abb's Head 26th Sep with 1N there 27th Oct and 4N Eyemouth GC on 28th Oct. 1N St Abb's Head 11th Nov with 2N there 18th Nov.

3 Dunglass 24th Nov. 2 Whiteadder at Foulden 29th Nov & 1 Tweed at Paxton on 31st Dec.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Abundant winter visitor (650-850 birds) October to May. Large winter roosts of hundreds of birds, but sites vary. Uncommon breeder (c.200 females) recently spreading to northern hills. (423 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: The highest counts, as usual, come from the Tweed Haugh WeBS counts with 77 on 15th Jan, 45 on 12th Feb & 24 on 11th Mar with just 8, 6 & 3 on the Teviot Haughs on the corresponding count days. These numbers are far lower than in previous decades and follow the trend seen in 2011 of declining totals.

Elsewhere double-figure counts include: 40 Yetholm Loch on 4th Jan; 30 Hoselaw Loch 7th Jan; 22 Paxton House 11th Jan; 11 Tweed at Boleside 15th Jan; 11 Hen Poo 21st Jan; 10 Stantling Craig Reservoir 4th Feb; 12 Cauldshiels Loch 16th Feb; 24 Yetholm Loch & 10 Peebles Cauld 26th Feb. There were no double-figure counts in Mar which tied with the low Haugh counts suggest a lack of birds generally

This lack of birds in Mar also meant that there were almost no double-figure counts in Apr and May with no sign of the pre-moult migration assemblies of males and non-breeders. .

Breeding: PPairs were reported widely across the drainage system. Several females were reported acting anxiously, either giving anxiety grunts or persistently flying along sections of river or woodland, suggesting a nearby nest or brood including single females at 2 sites at Hawkshaw on 16th May. An occupied nest was found on the Yarrow at Harehead on 20th Jun.

The first evidence of confirmed breeding this year was br5 Tweed at Tweedbank on 16th May; br9 on Tweed at Mossfennan on 25th May; br3 Tweed at Newstead 30th May; br7 Tweed at Trows 2nd Jun; br2 Yetholm Loch 11th Jun; br2 Newburgh, br5 Single and br6 Newhouse Kip, all on the Yarrow on 18th Jun; br5 Tweed at Innerleithen 23rd Jun; br10 Heriot Water at Ladyside 25th Jun;br12 Tweed at Whitmuirhaugh 1st Jul; br5 Tweed at Mertoun 9th Jul; br5 on Tweed at Dreva on 13th Aug.

br5 Tweed at Peebles on 15th Sep presumably originated higher up the system.

In total there were 14 broods with 81 young, a mean brood size of 5.79, a little lower than average in terms of brood size.

Autumn/Winter: Post-breeding assemblies came to prominence in Mid-Sep with 44 Hule Moss, 39 roosting Stantling Craig Reservoir & 24 on Tweed at Galawaterfoot, all on 16th Sep.

38 Hirsle Lake & 29 Tweed Haughs 14th Oct with 26 Tweedbank 15th Oct & 19 Boleside 19th Oct. 57 roosting Stantling Craig Reservoir & 25 Gunknowe Loch 6th Nov; 18 Portmore Loch 11th Nov; 21 Tweed Haughs, 18 Whitrig Bog & 12 Boleside 18th Nov; 27 Portmore Loch, 18 Cauldshiels Loch & 13 Yetholm Loch 9th Dec; 62 Tweed Haughs 20 Tweed at Upsettlington & 15 Galawaterfoot 16th Dec; 20 Cauldshiels Loch 17th Dec with 22 there 31st Dec; 20 Hoselaw Loch 29th Dec.

Summary of Goosander Breeding: 1999-2012

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Totals
Broods	11	11	6	8	10	11	9	11	15	15	8	14	15	14	150
Young	78	69	51	39	56	53	52	99	87	104	48	101	60	81	978
MBS	7.1	6.3	6.5	4.8	5.6	4.8	5.8	9.0	5.8	6.9	6.0	7.2	4.7	5.8	6.5

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Common breeding resident of heather moorland. Occupies 31% of tetrads, especially in northern hills where moors are actively managed for 'sport'. Hard-weather movements can drive birds into unusual habitats in severe winter conditions. (169 records in 2012)

Non-breeding: Back to a more 'normal' set of winter reports, albeit the number of records inflated by atlas counts.

Atlas work in late Feb produced a series of bumper counts in the early year: with 40 Hunt Law (NT55T), 34 Wedder Law, 29 Peat Law, 24 Nun Rig & 23 Waddelscairn Muir (NT55P) on 25th Feb; 79 Hunt Law (NT55U), 42 Riddel Law & 31 Waddelscairn Muir NT55P) on 26th Feb; and 33 Craig Hope & 29 Whitehope Law on 29th Feb.

Also 11-20 birds recorded at Cadam law, Crib Law, Garvald Punks, Piper's Grave, Riddel Law & Twin Law.

After what may have been a successful breeding season, numbers seem higher, with best hourly counts of 75 Dirington Great Law, 54 Sting Law, 29 Rawburn Cottage & 25 Shining Pool Moss on 11th Nov; 39 Yadlee 18th Nov with 30 there 28th Nov; and 22 Bermuda 3rd Oct. 11-20 birds were recorded from Drumelzier Law and Ewes Castle.

Breeding: Reports came from 42 tetrads between Apr-Aug. Best TTV counts (5 or more) were 11 Wedder Law 15th Apr; 8 Darny Rig 20th Apr, Redpath Farm 22nd May and Caberston Grains 26th May; 7 Windlestraw Law 12th May & Whitehope Law 26th May; 6 Linghope 17th Apr & Caberston Grains 18th Apr .

Confirmed breeding records (Atlas criteria) were not so numerous this year with fewer counts in the heavily-commercialised Lammermuir. Breeding was confirmed at Coomb Hill, Curly Moor, Damhead Rig, Garvald Punks, Glensax, Hundleshope Heights, Kirmie Law, Pennygant Hill, Redpath, Whitehope Law & Wrunk Law.

The first young seen were at Curly Law on 22nd May with 4 broods reported.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

Uncommon & local resident on hill fringes, especially in Ettrick-Moorfoot area. Found in 15% of tetrads at c.200 sites. ALL RECORDS NEEDED.(141 records in 2012)

A continued high number of records due to atlasing and the survey by Chris Land of the Southern Uplands Partnership. Please see the results of the survey by Chris Land elsewhere in the 2011 Borders Bird Report.

Lekking sites underlined.

	mm	ff	sex not known	total
Altrieve	1	-	-	1
Berryfell	1	-	-	1
Birkendale Knowe	1	-	-	1
<u>Black Knowe</u>	1	-	-	1
Blackburn Farm	-	-	1	1
<u>Blackcleugh Rig</u>	1	-	-	1
<u>Blackhopebyre</u>	16	-	-	16
Bleak Law	1	-	-	1
<u>Blawearie</u>	1	-	-	1
Bonny Brae, Tushielaw	1	-	-	1
Broad Law (Moorfoots)	1	-	-	1
<u>Broadgairhill</u>	5	-	-	5
Caddonhead	5	-	-	5
<u>Carcant</u>	3	-	1	3
<u>Carterhope Rig</u>	8	-	-	8
Clearburn Loch	1	-	-	1
Colquar	4	-	-	4
<u>Craig Head(Caddon)</u>	-	-	3	3
<u>Craik</u>	1	-	-	1
Cramalt	1	-	-	1
<u>Crookston</u>	1	-	-	1
<u>Darny Rig</u>	2	-	-	2
Delorainehope	2	1	-	3

Dewar	5	-	-	5
Dirrington Little Law	1	-	-	1
<u>Drumelzier</u>	16	-	-	16
<u>Drumelzier Glen</u>	3	-	-	3
Drumelzier Place	1	-	-	1
Drycleughlea	1	-	-	1
Dryhope Rig	1	-	-	1
<u>Earn Cleugh</u>	2	-	-	2
<u>Easter Alemoor</u>	1	-	-	1
Eldinhope Middle Hill	1	-	-	1
Ettrick Pen	5	-	-	5
<u>Falla Moor</u>	3	-	-	3
Fastheugh Hill	1	-	-	1
<u>Garvald</u>	8	-	-	8
Gilmanscleugh	1	-	-	1
Glenbreck	3	-	-	3
<u>Glegaber</u>	2	-	-	2
<u>Glenlude</u>	2	-	-	2
<u>Glensax</u>	7	-	-	7
<u>Glentress</u>	8	-	-	8
<u>Gowdsmithy Rig</u>	7	-	-	7
Grange Hill, Hawkshaw	1	-	-	1
Greystone Hill	1	-	-	1
<u>Hawkshaw</u>	2	-	-	2
<u>Hawksnest</u>	1	-	-	1
<u>Henderland</u>	2	-	-	2
Home Law	1	-	-	1
Hunt Law	2	-	-	2
<u>Kiln Rig</u>	12	-	-	12
<u>Kingledores</u>	5	-	-	5
Kirkhope	2	-	-	2
Laidlawstiel	1	-	-	1
Lamb Knowe	1	-	-	1
<u>Lamb Law</u>	2	-	-	2
Leithen Lodge	2	-	-	2
Linghope	1	-	-	1
Long Knowe	1	-	-	1
<u>Lousey Shank</u>	8	-	-	8
<u>Milsington</u>	2	-	-	2
Mountbengerhope	1	-	-	1
Nether Phawhope	1	-	-	1
<u>North Hawkshaw Rig</u>	4	-	-	4
Outer Huntly	1	-	-	1
Peat Hill	2	-	-	2
Peat Rig	1	-	-	1
<u>Peebles Rig</u>	5	-	-	5
<u>Penchrise</u>	1	-	-	1
Philhope	1	-	-	1
Piper's Grave	3	2	-	4
<u>Raeshaw Estate</u>	35	-	-	35
Rafinshope Rig	1	-	-	1
<u>Redfordgreen</u>	2	-	-	2
<u>Scabcleugh</u>	5	-	-	5
<u>Scar Hill</u>	6	-	-	6
<u>Scroof</u>	4	-	-	4
Shielhope	3	-	-	3
Sowburnrig	3	-	-	3
<u>Stanhopehope</u>	18	-	-	18
<u>Stanhope Stonegrain</u>	22	-	-	22
<u>Staneyhill Rig</u>	2	-	-	2
<u>Sundhope</u>	6	-	-	6
<u>The Granites</u>	8	-	-	8
<u>The Inch</u>	8	-	-	8
<u>Tweeddaleburn</u>	4	2	-	6
Tweedshaw	1	-	-	1
<u>Wedder Lairs</u>	3	-	-	3
<u>Wester Kershope</u>	4	-	-	4
White Law	1	-	-	1
White Hope	6	-	-	6
<u>Whitslaid</u>	1	-	-	1
Williamhope	5	-	-	5
Williamslee	2	-	-	2
<u>Woolhope Bank</u>	5	1	-	6
Yarrowlea	1	-	-	1
2012 total*	359	6	7	374

*Please note that some of these sites may be duplicated under different names as the data comes from Atlas records, Chris Land's surveys and Bird report records. It is nevertheless indicative.

Once again, the largest leks were located in the Hopecarton-Stanhope area, followed by the Leithen-Dewar-Garvald area. No evidence of eggs of young were found this year. My thanks to Chris Land for his efforts over the period of his survey work, which has now finished.

Black Grouse totals 1996-2012 (note the recording effort has varied very much through the years – intensive survey years underlined)

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sites	47	60	53	67	69	24	52	48	35	24	38	27	42	38	117	118	98
Birds	205	254	188	204	226	111	207	139	89	42	128	65	101	119	344	506	359

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Formerly scarce & erratic but now increasingly more widespread introduced game species. Breeds but needs introductions to be self-sustaining. Reported in 4% of tetrads, mostly in east. (110 records in 2012)

Non-breeding season: 44 Jan-Mar records from 34 tetrads, mostly records of 1-2 birds.

Best counts (all large are 1hr TTVs) were: 66 Cadam Law 26th Feb (2hr count); 26 Halliburton 14th Jan & Longcroft Hill 26th Feb; 21 Longcroft Hill 15th Jan; 14 Cadam Law 14th Feb & Kelpheope 24th Feb; 13 Walkerburn 7th Feb & Swinton House 17th Feb; 11 Eccles Hill 19th Jan; 10Broomdykes 8th Jan, Hexpathdean Bridge 14th Jan, Longcroft Hill 15th Jan & Turtleton 23rd Jan with 5-9 birds at Peat Law

There were only 19 Sep-Dec records from 16 tetrads, many fewer than the equivalent period the previous year – with best counts of: 60 West Water Dam 21st Oct & 10 Glack 22nd Oct; with reports of 6 birds at Dirington Little Law, Roan & Yadlee.

Breeding: Apr-Aug singles and pairs from 36 tetrads with confirmed breeding at just one site with young seen at Mersington on 19th Jun.

Pairs (or two birds) were seen at 14 sites with 3-4 birds at Greenlawdean, Kelhope, Mersington, Turtleton. Single at another 11 sites. The largest counts were 25 Berry Moss 30th Aug; 7 Kelpheope 20th May; 5 Easter Deans 12th May & Halliburton 12th & 30th May.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Widespread but declining resident of arable farmland. Spreads into hill areas in summer. Reported in 36% of tetrads in early 1990s, mostly on lower ground. (113 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Even fewer records than the last early winter period with 3 double-figure counts: 12 Nisbet 14th Jan, 12 Duns 15th Jan & 12 Charterhouse 28th Jan. 3-9 birds were reported at Courthill, Lamberton, Lauder, Middlestots, Paxton and Winfield Farm and 1-2 birds at another 16 sites Jan-Mar.

Breeding: Records from 37 tetrads, mainly in Berwickshire, about a third down on 2011..

8 Prendergust 22nd Aug; 7 Angelrow 29th Aug; 5 Mersington 19th Jun; 4 birds at Mersington Mill 19th Jun, Ravelaw 19th Jun, Eyemouth GC 21st Aug & Mire Loch 30th Aug; but 1-3 birds reported from Berrybank, Blackhaugh Cottages, Caddonfoot, Cauldshiels Loch, Cree Path, Darnchester, Dowlaw Dean, Dryden Greenhill, East Reston, Eccles, Eyemouth, Fancove Head, Haddenrig, Hawksnest, Hilton, Howpark, Lamberton, Lamberton Moor, Lees Haugh, Makerstoun, Middlefield, Mordington Holdings, North Fallaknowe, Peelwalls, Ravelaw Farm, Renton House, Sprouston, St. Abbs, Swinton, Turtleton, Walterstead, Whiterigg, Whitmuirhall, Whitrig Bog & Winfield Farm.

Confirmed breeding: adults with young were noted at Whitmuirhall on 11th Jun & Sprouston on 1st Jul.

Autumn/Winter: Reported just 5 sites Sep-Oct with max 8 Dowlaw 29th Sep.

Found in just 13 tetrads in Nov-Dec: best counts were 14 Abbey park 18th Nov; 12 New Smailholm 3rd Dec; 10 Angelrow 8th Dec; with 3-9 birds at only 8 other sites.

A poor year with much reduced evidence of any breeding success and poor survival to the later winter period.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Very scarce summer visitor, late May to Aug. Proved breeding rare, mostly records of unseen singing males. Heard in 6% of tetrads in cereal areas. (35 records in 2011)

A return to a more typical year after the bumper year in 2011 with birds reported in 19 tetrads still making an excellent year.

First 1 Cockburn 22nd May (Harry Dott) with 1 Allanton 31st May, 2 Sandyknowe 4th Jun; 1 Kedslie 7th Jun; 2 Brotherstone Hill & 2 Smailholm Tower 12th Jun; 1 Angelrow 18th Jun; singles Kelloe Bridge, Hanged Mans Hill & Whitelaw 19th Jun; singles Blackhouse Dean, Auchencrow, & Warlawbank 25th Jun.

1 Eccles Toft 2nd Jul; 1 Angelrow 4th, 6th & 20th Jul; 1 St Abb's Head 7th Jul; 1 Rumbleton Rig & Quixwood Moor 8th Jul; 1 Lintlaw 12th Jul; 1 Blackhouse Dean 13th Jul; and 1 Eccles 25th Jul.

1 Angelrow 3rd & 11th Aug; 1 Brae Dunstan 11th Aug; 1 Cairncross 18th Aug; 2 Greenburn 2nd Sep; 1 Newmains 5th & 8th Sep; 1 Bemersyde Moss 10th Sep.

The latest bird was 1 Newmains 3rd Oct (Dave Graham).

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sites	4	17	3	8	11	4	4	6	10	19	9	13	12	27	11	129	24
Birds	9	21	3	9	20	4	5	9	16	26	12	28	25	33	22	198	28

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Abundant and widespread resident. Many birds are 'managed' by shooting interests, in releases involving tens of thousands of birds. Recorded in 78% of tetrads. (784 records in 2012)

Non-breeding: Found in 120 tetrads Jan-Mar with high counts of 121 Altrieve 5th Feb; 39 Old Kirkhope 3rd Feb; 30 Tollishill 12th Feb; and 20 Langtonlees 17th Feb. Also 10-19 birds at Horndean, Hanged Man's Hill & Gilmanscleugh.

Found in 118 tetrads Sep-Dec, high counts of 131 Altrieve 1st Nov; 120 West Water Reservoir 13th Oct; 37 Eldinhope 1st Nov; 32 Whitton 5th Nov & Folly Loch 8th Nov; 30 Darnhall 15th Oct & Wilyrigg Strips 5th Nov; and 20-29 at Evelaw, Kames South Loch, Leitholm, Ross, Swinnie Plantation & Tod's Dean.

Breeding: Found in 238 tetrads, with breeding proved in 31 of them. The first eggs were seen at Altrieve and Hartleap on 5th May and the first young at Walterstead on 4th Jun and Lithillum Loch on 12th Jun.

Max counts of 70 Hanged man's Hill 19th Apr; 55 Upper Newby 30th May; 48 Langtonlees 19th Apr; 32 Floors castle 6th Apr; 28 Crookston 26th May; 20 Bowhill 8th Apr & Cademuir Hill 3rd Jun and 10-19 birds at Altrieve, Darny Rig, Haggin Hope, Harehead, Kelpheope, Kilbucho Place, Lithillum Loch & Woodheads.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Present offshore August-May. Rare in summer. Heavy passage during September-October while small numbers winter in sheltered bays. Very rare on inland waters. (66 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 10 were found during the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan: 3 Dunglass-Pease bay, 6 Pease Bay-Redgeugh & 1 Eyemouth-Burnmouth.

Usual small numbers along coast with 7 Dunglass 14th Jan, 2 Dunglass & Pease Bay 29th Jan. 2N St Abb's Head 9th Feb; 17 Dunglass, 6 Cove & 2 Pease Bay 12th Feb with 2-4 Dunglass 18th & 25th Feb. 11 Dunglass 18th Mar with 12 there 7th Apr with 6 still there 16th Apr. 1 St Abb's Head 6th Apr & 1 Redheugh 22nd May..

Autumn/Winter: 1 St Abb's Head 1st Jul; 1-2 Eyemouth GC 21st-22nd Aug with 1 there 8th Sep. 4N/1S St Abb's Head 15th Sep with 2N there 20th Sep, 2N/2S there 21st Sep, 5N/2S on 22nd Sep, 1N/5S there 23rd Sep, 2N/1S on 25th Sep, max 4N/14S there on 26th Sep. 1-2 birds Dunglass and Pease Bay mid-Sep. 2N/4S St Abb's Head 14th Oct with 7N/2S there 28th Oct and 7S there 29th Oct.

6 Dunglass 27th Oct with 6 there 28th Oct. 37N/2S Eyemouth GC 28th Oct was the largest movement of the season. Movements were just 1-2 birds afterwards but 5 Dunglass 3rd & 17th Nov with 12 there 24th Nov, 5 on 8th Dec and 14 on 30th Dec. Also 7 Coldingham Bay 16th Dec with 2 on 29th Dec.

1 Hoselaw Loch 9th Dec (Roger Manning) was a rare inland record.

Red-throated Diver - bird-days

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
2012	18	37	13	19	1	0	1	2	51	88	34	37	300

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Present offshore in very small numbers September to March. Rare in summer months and very rare inland. (7 records in 2012)

Winter: 1 Dunglass & 1 Cove 12th Feb with 1 Dunglass 16th Apr. (Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: 2S St Abb's Head 21st Sep; 1N there 14th Oct; 2N Eyemouth GC 28th Oct; 1 Dunglass 30th Dec. (Dave Graham, Ray Murray).

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Present offshore in very small numbers September to March. Rare in summer months and extremely rare inland. (11 records in 2012).

Autumn/Winter: 1S St Abb's Head 1st Sep with 1S there 23rd Sep, 2N there 26th Sep, 3N on 27th Oct and 5N Eyemouth 28th Oct. In St Abb's Head 11th Nov with 1 Dunglass 17th Nov, 2 Coldingham Bay & 1 Linkim Shore 16th Dec. (Dave Graham, Ray Murray).

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

70-90 pairs breed in 5% of tetrads. Autumn assemblies to October. Wintering on rivers is more frequent than previously. Most return to breeding waters from late February. Rare on coast in winter. (344 records in 201w)

Winter/Spring: On the river system birds were recorded on the Tweed at Bellspool, with 2 on 16th Feb; 1 at Barns on 5th Feb; max 5 between Manor Bridge & Peebles 13th Feb; 1 Innerleithen 4th Feb; 1 Leaderfoot 21st Feb; Cobbie on 29th Feb; 2 Fireburnmill & 3 Lees Haugh 28th Jan with 7 Sprouston 5th Feb, and 15 Kelso-Coldstream (including Sprouston. Fireburnmill & Lees Haugh 12th Feb; 7 Paxton House 11th Jan. Elsewhere 1 Whiteadder at Allanton 29th Jan & 1 Teviot Haughs 15th Jan with 2 on 10th Feb.

In Mar 4 Tweed Haughs on 11th Mar and 1 on Lyne at Hamildean 25th Mar were was the last riverine reports.

On the coast 1 Dunglass 4th Jan and 1 Burnmouth 7th Jan-19th Feb were more unusual.

On still-waters 1-2 birds were reported from Lindean Reservoir, Mire Loch, Gunknowe Loch, Whitmuirhall Loch & Wooden Loch with 4 Cauldshiels Loch on 16th Jan. During Feb 1-2 birds Alterstones Ponds, Bemersyde Moss, Clarilaw Pond, Folly Loch, Haremoos, Lindean Reservoir, Loch of the Lowes, Macbiehill Pond, St Mary's Loch, Stantling Craig Reservoir, Stobo Castle Pond, West Water Dam Pond and Yetholm Loch with 5 Cauldshiels Loch 7th Feb & 4 Wooden Loch 2nd Feb. In Mar birds were recorded on 18 waters with 14 Hirsell Lake 12th Mar and 4 birds each at Bemersyde Moss, Faldonside Loch & Lindean Reservoir.

Breeding: Seen at 34 sites. At 4 sites only singles were seen: Cauldshiels Loch, Dalcove Pond, Millfield Pond, Spottiswoode Loch, Wedderburn Castle Pond & Woodburn Pond.

36 pairs occurred at 30 other sites but with single pairs at 8 of these sites breeding was not confirmed, as far as we know.

Nests were seen at 5 sites but with no follow-up to see if young were produced and at another site another nest was being incubated while the young were already present, suggesting further breeding efforts. Young were seen at 17 sites (23 pairs) with 27broods & 60 young, an average brood size of 2.22.

The first nest seen was at Chapelhill Pond on 21st May, the first young were seen at Hirsell Lake on 4th Jun and adults carrying food for young indicates you at Bemersyde Moss on 6th Jun.

Site	single	pairs	broods
Addiston Pond	-	1	-
Bemersyde Moss	-	1	2br6
Borthwickshiels Loch	-	2	2br4
Chapelhill Pond	-	1	ON
Cowieslinn Ponds	-	1	-
Easter Softlaw Pond	-	1	-
Eildon Pond	-	1	ON
Faldonside Loch	-	1	-
Folly Loch	-	1	br2
Gordon Moss Pond	-	1	br2
Gordon Comm. Woodland	-	1	br2
Green Diamonds	-	1	-
Haremoos	-	1	2br3
Hen Poo	-	1	ON
Hen Poo Mill Pond	-	1	ON
Hirsell Lake	-	4	4br14
Hollybush Pond	-	1	2br3
Ladies Seat Moss	-	1	ON
Lindean Mast Pool	-	1	br1
Lindean Reservoir	-	1	2br4
Mellerstain Lake	-	1	-
Millar's Moss	-	1	2br4
Minto Kames North Pond	-	1	br3 +ON
Mire Loch	-	1	-
Stantling Craig Reservoir	-	1	br1
Synton Mossend	-	2	br2

White Law Loch	-	1	-
Williestruther Loch	-	2	2br4
Yetholm Loch	-	1	br2
Yetholm Pond	-	1	br3
	-	36	27br60

At 2.22 young per successful brood, this was the most successful year since 1995. Indeed there have only been three years since 1984 with better success: 1989 with 2.71 (7br19), 1991 with 2.23 (15br32) and 1995 with 2.33 (12br28). Note the relatively small numbers of broods reported then, possibly suggesting that 2012 was an outstanding breeding season. Also only the three years 1996-98 have had more young recorded.

Autumn/Winter: Post-breeding assemblies were few this autumn with maxima of 28 Hirsle Lake 21st Aug and 23 Bemersyde Moss 25th Oct, the only double-figure sites. Elsewhere the monthly maxima were 8 Williestruther & Borthwickshiels Lochs on 30th Aug; 6 Faldonside Loch 17th Sep; and 9 Folly Loch 5th Oct.

During Nov-Dec the largest counts were 8 on the Tweed Haughs on 16th Dec; 5 Tweed at Paxton House 12th Dec & 5 Wooden Loch 18th Dec; with 3-4 birds at Folly & Cauldshiels Lochs.

Birds were seen on the rivers as follows: On the Tweed - 2-3 Peebles 18th, 2nd & 16th Dec; 1 Innerleithen 8th Dec; 2 Tweed Haughs with 8 on 16th Dec; 1 Upsettlington 29th Dec; 5 Paxton House 12th Dec.

On the Teviot: 1 at Nisbet 9th & 18th Dec; 1 Ormiston Mains 5th Nov

On the coast 2 were at Burnmouth on 15th Dec with 1 there on 26th Dec.

Summary of Little Grebe Breeding Success: 1996-2012

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sites	37	30	38	38	24	19	18	25	29	36	29	41	37	42	33	40	34
Singles	9	4	7	11	9	4	5	7	11	11	7	14	12	17	10	13	6
Pairs	40	44	41	46	27	25	21	32	23	39	38	41	34	31	28	42	36
Broods	29	32	31	29	20	12	9	21	15	13	22	20	17	18	13	26	27
Young	63	62	64	54	39	18	19	52	28	24	48	40	23	35	21	47	60
MBS	2.17	1.94	2.06	1.86	1.95	1.80	2.11	2.43	1.87	1.85	2.18	2.00	1.35	1.94	1.91	1.81	2.22

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Very scarce breeder, just 3-8 pairs annually in 2% of tetrads. Usually poor success. Present mid-March to late August. A few passage birds September-October on coast. Rare in winter. (8 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: First report was 2 Haining Loch 11th Mar with 2 Dunglass 18th Mar.

Breeding: Once again there was practically no evidence of breeding, the only records being 2 Alemoor Wester Loch 5th Apr, but no subsequently. The pair at Haining Loch were seen on 7th Apr but after that there was just a single record of 1 there on 8th May.

Autumn: 1 Hoselaw Loch 21st Aug; 1 Fruid Reservoir 26th Aug; 2 Tweed Haughs 18th Nov.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Former breeder, successfully nesting in 2001 after many years of prospecting. Has not bred since. Now mostly a very uncommon passage migrant or winter visitor to the coast.(3 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 1 Dunglass 12th Feb was the sole early-year record (Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: 1N St Abb's Head 26th Aug; 1N Eyemouth 28th Oct (Dave Graham).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly to coast. Has summered.(3 records in 2012)

1 Coldingham Bay 14th & 15th Jan (Tom Allan & Fran Evans).

1Dunglass 21st Oct (Dave Graham).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Extremely rare breeder from 1992 to around 2003.Still prospecting but no recent breeding report. Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. (2 records in 2011)

Spring: 1 Stantling Craig Reservoir 11th Mar; 1 Folly Loch 30th & 31st Mar, 1st & 9th Apr (Jonathon Osborne, Den Morrison, James Towill & David Parkinson).

Autumn: 1 Yetholm Loch 3rd Aug (James Lough).

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Common breeder with 1,146 pairs in 2000, spread along much of coastline. Scarce in winter, few large movements in recent years. Rare inland, c.12 records. (55 reports in 2012)

Non-breeding: Some 216 were reported on the Rocky Shore Count (306 in 2011, 136 in 2010).

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	77	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	40
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	47	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	0
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	1	Burnmouth-English border	51

Counts of birds passing Eyemouth include: 8N/4S Eyemouth GC 20th Aug (1hr); 35N/11S there on 21st Aug (3hrs); 18N/2S there on 22nd Aug (1hr); 68N/2S there on 23rd Aug (2hrs); 39N/28S on 24th Aug (2hrs); 7N/7S on 14th Sep (1hr). Also 120S St Abb's Head 21st Sep (3hrs) with 400S there 26th Sep (2hrs).

Breeding: Birds occupying cliffs sites were noted as follows:

51 birds at 36 sites on the cliffs at Lamberton & Lamberton Beach 15th Jan; 55 Cove 28th Feb; 30 Fast Castle Head 19th May; 4 at Redheugh 22nd May; 6 Burnmouth 26th May; 4 Fancove Head 17th Jul.

A count of apparently occupied sites (AOS i.e. a site with a bird sitting tightly on a reasonably horizontal area judged large enough to hold an egg) was carried out on 7th, 9th, 11th, 12th & 20th June 2012. A boat count was attempted but aborted due to rough seas and so the number of birds in blind spots was estimated by extrapolating from last year's figures

133 AOS were counted, an decrease of 35% compared to the 2011 count of 205 AOS. This is the lowest count since 2007, well below the 10-year mean of 172 AOS and about half of the 28-year mean of 263 AOS.

An assessment of the Fulmar breeding success was carried out using the method described in the 2008 report (the last time the survey was done) and following recommendations in the Seabird Monitoring Handbook. Sites were individually mapped on monitoring plots and 2 visits were made to each of the plots on 18th June and 30th July. As the study plots did not contain sufficient numbers of AOS to meet the minimum survey

recommendation of the Seabird Monitoring Handbook, and no chicks or adults on the second visit, a full cliff survey was carried out on the 28th & 31st August in an attempt to assess (from land), the number of young Fulmars fledged from St Abb's Head NNR as a whole. The location of each chick was marked on a map and nest sites were photographed where possible.

A total of 5 Fulmar chicks reached fledging state on the whole reserve.

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Fulmars at St Abb's Head NNR 1995-2012

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
AOS	391	364	308	261	277	274	212	256	262	153	158	190	112	137	194	175	205	133
MBP	0.24	-	-	0.00	0.10	0.20	0.28	0.32	-	-	0.03	0.02	0.07	0.18	-	-	-	-

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce autumn passage migrant, mostly mid-Aug to mid-Oct. (10 records in 201w)

1N St Abb's Head 20th Jul ; 2N St Abb's Head & 1N Eyemouth GC 21st Aug; 2N St Abb's Head 22nd Aug when with 1N Eyemouth GC. 3N St Abb's Head & 1N Eyemouth 2th Sep; 4N/4S St Abb's Head 26th Sep with last birds of the year – 1N/1S St Abb's Head on 14th Oct.

Another indifferent year.

Sooty Shearwater - coastal passage 1995-2012

Year	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number	22	51	71	22	5	34	623	829	50	51	252	37	282	25	6	295	32	21

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauritanicus*

Rare, but possibly overlooked, autumn passage migrant. (1 record in 2012)

1N St Abb's Head 23rd Sep (Dave Graham).

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Offshore passage migrant in variable numbers. Occurs in variable numbers. Scarce April-May with largest movements July-October. Rare November & December. (24 records in 2012)

First 4N St Abb's Head 10th Jun (Tom Brewis) & 3N Dunglass 17th Jun.

Then 33N St Abb's Head 7th Jul with 43N there 8th Jul, 8N on 14th Jul, 6N on 21st Jul and 28N on 29th Jul.

Just small numbers in Aug with just 41 birds seen at Eyemouth & St Abb's Head on 5 days, max 10N/4S St Abb's Head on 23rd Aug.

Sep was little better with just 48 birds seen 7 days, max 17N/S St Abb's Head 25th Sep & 2N\9S there the next day.

1 Eyemouth 11th Oct (Ron McBeath) was the last record for the year.

Another rather poor year with Jul, once again, being the best month..

May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov	
early	late	early	late	early	late	early	late	early	late	early	late	early	late
0	0	4	3	84	34	3	38	1	39	1	0	0	0

Manx Shearwater coastal passage 1999-2012

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number	149	119	972	712	1549	704	1029	282	490	609	437	582	310	207

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Tape-luring suggests small numbers offshore during Jul & Aug. Rarely ever seen during seawatching. Storm-driven birds rare inland with c.11 reports, all very old reports. (1 records in 2012)

1S St Abb's Head 25th Sep (Dave Graham) was the only report. There was no mist-netting this year.

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Very rare passage migrant. Only rarely caught during mist-netting sessions, last in 2001 & 2004. Just 2 other records of storm-blown vagrants Just 4 recent records (post 1978) but some older vagrants on record. (1 record in 2012)

1S St Abb's Head 26th Sep (Dave Graham & Ray Murray) was the only report.

This appears to be the first-ever recorded during sea-watching sessions.

Gannet *Morus bassanus*

Bass Rock birds abundant offshore. Scarce in winter. Singles have summered very rarely on the St Abb's cliffs. Rare inland, c.11 records, mostly juveniles in autumn. (63 records in 2012)

No birds were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan. 86 past Reed Point on 19th Feb was the only large early-year count. 1 noted Dunglass 4th Jan when birds are usually very scarce but 1,500 passed St Abb's Head in 1hr on 3rd Feb.

No significant counts, other than indicating presence, until Aug when 7 hourly rate counts of 1,420-1,700/hr passed Eyemouth GC culminated in 3,090/hr on 24th Aug. 2,100/hr again there on 14th Sep before 3 hourly-rate counts of 7,100, 7,450 & 5,700 on 21st Sep at St Abb's Head with 2,500/hr there on 26th Sep, falling to 1,600/hr on 14th Oct.

(These are sample counts are based on at least three 5-minute samples per hour extrapolated up to 1 hour).

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Scarce breeder at Fast Castle stacks - 30-50 pairs nest annually. Widespread on coast but less common on rivers and large lochs, mostly September-April. (249 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 22 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan.

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	3	Pease Bay-Redheugh	6
Redheugh-Souter	3	Souter-Petticowick	7
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	2	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	7
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	4	Burnmouth-English border	1

Highest inland counts included: 20 Tweed Haughs 15th Jan with 45 there 12th Feb but just 2 on 11th Mar when 9 on Teviot Haugh. 9 Cauldshiels Loch 25th Jan with 7 there 5th & 26th Jan. 4 Yetholm Loch 4th Jan, 26th Feb & 18th Mar. 4 Tweed at Tweedbank 15th Jan. Otherwise mostly 1-3 birds scattered over the river system.

1 possible *sinensis* Cauldshiels Loch 3rd Mar but impossible to measure gular patch angle from photos (A. Hunter)

A number of inland records, typically 1-2 birds, Apr-Jul from Drumezlier, Ladykirk, Paxton House, Loch of the Lowes, Yetholm Loch, Darnick, Rutherford, Essenside Loch and Nisbet with a max count of 4 Essenside Loch 30th Aug.

Breeding: Unfortunately no visits were made to the Fast Castle Head stacks colonies but 15 birds, some on nests were noted 25th Apr at Mawcarr Stells, west of Petticowick, a new breeding site. Also 16 birds atop Breeches Rock, just N of Burnmouth, on 20th Aug, the site looking as if breeding may have been attempted there also.

Autumn/Winter: 9S Eyemouth GC 24th Aug; 22 roosting Catcairn, Lamberton 5th Sep; 15 Lamberton Beach 19th Sep; 60 St Abb's Head 26th Sep; 7 Dunglass 6th Oct. Inland reports in Sep-Oct included 4 Teviot Haughs 14th Sep; 5 Tweed Haughs 16th Sep with 15 there 14th Oct; 5 Edington Mains 28th Sep & 3 Roxburgh Castle 22nd Oct; 5 Tweedbank 25th Oct with 1-3 birds at Boleside, Chesters, Deanfoot, Denholm Mill, Duns Castle Pond, Elba, Edington Castle, Fatlips Castle, Haining Loch, Hirsell Lake, Innerleithen, Leaderfoot, Lindean Reservoir, Lowood Pond, Newton Farm, Paxton, Wooden Loch & Yetholm Loch.

During Nov-Dec 19 Tweed Haughs 18th Nov with 18 there 16th Dec; 7 Eyemouth Bay 28th Dec; 6 Haining Loch 18th Nov; 6 Lamberton Beach 25th Dec; 4 Portmore Loch 11th Nov & 8th Dec; 4 Hirsell Lake 18th Nov; and there were inland records of 1-3 birds were at Adderston Lee, Alemoor Wester Loch, Allanbank, Birgham Haugh, Bowhill, Cauldshiels Loch, Dodhead Burn Pond, Eckford, Edington Mains, Heiton Mains, Kelso, Kirkmains, Old Howford, Paxton House, Stantling Craig Reservoir, Tofthill, Tweebank & Yetholm Loch.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Common breeder in variable numbers along parts of the coast, max 600 pairs but fewer recently. Autumn movements into Forth September-October. Rare inland. (78 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 135 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan (135 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	7	Pease Bay-Redheugh	19
Redheugh-Souter	21	Souter-Petticowick	69
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	18	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	9
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	88	Burnmouth-English border	2

Few other significant counts but 116 feeding offshore at Fancove Head 5th Apr.

Breeding: A count of apparently occupied nests (AON i.e. a well built nest capable of holding eggs with at least one bird in attendance) was carried out on 24th, 25th, 26th May & 20th June. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 28th May.

171 OANs were counted, and increase of 7% on the 2011 count of 157 AON. This is similar to all counts since 2005 but below below the 28-year mean of 250 AONs.

Breeding Success

An assessment of Shag breeding success was carried out using methods described in the 1990 report and following recommendations in the Seabird Monitoring Handbook. Nests were individually mapped on monitoring plots and 17 visits were made to each of the plots between 8th April and 16th August to record the progress of each nest up to fledging.

A total of 81 active nests were mapped on the plots, i.e. where incubation definitely or probably occurred, and 100 chicks successfully fledged. The breeding success, expressed as the mean of the individual plot figures, was 1.25 young fledged per active nest. This is considerably below the 2011 figure of 1.85, but about the same as the 10-year mean of 1.20 and the 23-year mean of 1.22.

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Nests also seen at Fast Castle Head where 50 birds recorded as nesting. Also nested Fancove Head.

Autumn/Winter: Counts of passing birds include: 38 Eyemouth 29th Aug with 19N/3S there (1hr) on 22nd Aug; 55 Dunglass 22nd Aug; 11N/6S St Abb's Head 23rd Aug; 61 Ulystrand Brae 14th Sep; a massive 450 estimated S in 3 hrs St Abb's Head 26th Sep; 132 Dunglass 6th Oct; 54 (1hr) St Abb's Head 14th Oct.

In Nov-Dec 47 feeding off St Abb's Head 29th Dec was the only double-figure report.

Breeding Numbers & breeding success (MBP) at St Abb's Head NNR 1998-2012

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Nests	196	165	233	300	296	365	369	131	162	132	131	138	157	160	171
MBP	0.97	0.79	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.76	0.30	0.29	0.98	0.98	1.45	1.93	1.19	1.85	1.25

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Widespread and common, seen in 38% of tetrads. 350-380 pairs estimated in about 40 colonies, in 3% of tetrads. Assemblies of >10 birds are unusual. (523 records in 2012)

Breeding: BTO Heronries Census – minimum of 32 nests at 8 colonies

Colony	Site	Nests	Success	Last count	Observer
Addiston	NT5052	0	abandoned	1 in 1990	ET
Blackmill Burn	NT7056	0	abandoned		ET
Blaeberry Wood	NT2339	12	at least 8 nests with vocal young	17 in 2010	GP
Bowden	NT5530	1	br3 seen 29th Jun	new	TC
Calaburn	NT4716	4	active	new	GS
Chapel-on-Leader, Huntshaw	NT5641	8	noisy young	new	HEM
Crosslee, Crow Wood	NT3118	3		new	RDM
Eden Mill East	NT7537	?	possible colony		TC
Fishwick Mains	NT9150	?	active but no further details	34 in 1991	ET
Lowood	NT5134	?	2 agitated adults, no further proof	5 in 2010	ATB
Nenthorn	NT6736	1	1 nest found	1 in 2011	ET
Nisbet Rhodes	NT7851	2	2 young at least	new	AM
Stagehall	NT4544	0	abandoned	5 in 2004	MH
Traquair House	NT3235	1	new site	new	MH

Non-breeding: 12 were found on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan: mostly singles but 3 Dunglass-Pease Bay, 3 Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth & 3 Burnmouth-border.

12 Tweed Haughs on 15th Jan with 14 there 12th Feb & 2 on 11th Mar. Other double-figure counts include: 14 Tweed at Melrose 21st Feb; 12 Yetholm Loch 4th Mar; 7 Mertoun Bridge 13th Mar. Birds were reported from 79 tetrads Jan-Mar.

From Mar to Jul birds were recorded in 116 tetrads with a best counts of 8 Hoselaw Loch 1st Jul.

During Aug-Dec birds were found in 86 tetrads: largest counts were: 13 Tweed Haughs 16th Sep with 9 there 14th Oct & 18 on 18th Nov; 7 St Abb's Head 27th Aug; 5 Gala Sewage Works Pond 16th Sep; 5 Tweedbank 15th Oct & 5 Heiton Mains 26th Dec.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Very uncommon spring and autumn migrant. 12 modern records. (1 record in 2012)
1 photographed Hartwoodburn 6th May (Peter Field).

Honey Buzard *Pernis avipora*

Very uncommon spring and autumn migrant. 12 modern records. (1 record in 2012)
1 N Newmains 31st May (David Graham).

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Annual in small numbers but increasing numbers since the 1990s. Ceased to breed during the mid-19th century due to persecution. The likely origins of recent birds will be the Galloway, Gateshead or Crieff introductions. (11 records in 2012).
1 Cardona 19th Feb (Mark & Alson Cockburn); 1 Greenhill 10th Mar (Francine Hardwick); 1 Swinnier Plantation 24th Mar (Neil Dickson) and 1 Towford 25th Mar (A J Thonson) were possibly the same bird.
Gap until 1 Birgham 23rd Jun (BirdGuides); 1 Drochil 13th Jul (Christine Mackie); 1 Blackhope 26th Jul (D Mcnee); 1 Birkenside 22nd Aug (Rob Cantalano); 1 Haremosh 6th Oct (J Howard); 1 Penvenny 16th Oct (Harry Urquhart); 1 Eddleston 27th Oct (Ray Murray).

11 records in one year, and several others 'unconfirmed' makes this a record year since the re-introductions.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Probably last bred in the mid-19th century. Single record in September 1993 of juv on Coldingham Moor, presumably from the west coast reintroduction. (4 records in 2012)
1 Riddel Law 26th Feb (Jeremy Wilson); 2 (adult and imm) Clints Hill 12th Apr (Ray Murray); 1 juv Dod Hill 15th Apr (Mike Throter); 1 imm Lamberton 18th Jun (Dave Graham).
Predictable and welcome rise in the number of reports.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Increasingly and now annual passage migrant, usually April-May & August-September. May have summered in recent years. (3 records in 2011)
1f Bemersyde Moss 21st Jul (Bird Guides) was followed successfully up the next day by Tim Chamberlain; another f there 2nd Sep (Richard Bramhall).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Very rare breeding species due to persecution, recorded in just 3% of tetrads. Scarce passage migrant in Mar-April & September-October, a few have wintered of late. (25 records submitted in 2012)
Winter-Spring: 1-2 West Linton 23rd Jan & 26th-28th Feb; 1 Broad Law (Moorfoots) 2nd Feb; 1 Newmains 4th-5th Feb; 2 Cloich 9th Mar. Also some other reports in vicinity of known roosts and nest-sites.

Breeding:

2012 appeared to be the most promising for some years, with four pairs of harriers attempting to breed. Sadly, things went steadily downhill from there, with a 5% failure rate and only three young successfully fledging. The weather was far from ideal this year, with cold and west weather at the wrong time, but given the Scotland-wide picture, a 25% breeding success still smacks of human interference.

Pentlands No sightings at all in 2012.

Lammermuirs There was an early sighting of a male, and a handful of reported females and ringtails, but nothing survived the moorland killing fields beyond late May.

Moorfoots One male a female and two ringtails were reported near the end of March, but harriers were conspicuous by their absence after that. This area has the habitat alone to support a thriving population if they were left alone.

Tweedsmuir Hills A new site raided hopes with two adults displaying strongly over a wide area. Nothing was seen on subsequent visits – apart from a keeper!

A second site never got beyond the building stage. The area is heavily kept, but possibly a natural failure.

The major disappointment of the season was the failure of our 'banker' site, with five apparently healthy chicks and two adults simply vanished between visits. There were no obvious signs of predation. There was a new 'stink-pit' within 500m. The next season may shed more light on the situation on this estate.

At the final site, nesting appeared to begin quite early, resulting in some freezing watches in intermittent snowstorms. The nest wasn't visited until the end of May due to weather conditions, when five healthy chicks were found. The nest eventually treated the observers to the heart-warming spectacle of a double food-pass, with both adults and three colourful young flying about.

South-East

A female was seen west of Hawick at the end of April but there were no more sightings. There were no successful breeding on the Borders ide of Langholm.

Roosts

Last year work began to locate and monitor roosts throughout Scotland. Due to the extreme sensitivity (and vulnerability) of roosts, visits have to be carefully coordinated and carried out. Three very small roosts appear to survive within the group area at present but it is hoped that there may be one or two more.

Andrew Sandeman, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2012.

Yea	Sites occupied	Prs/ff with nests	Nests fledging young	Fledged young (min)
2003	10	2	1	5
2004	-	5?	5	14
2005	2	1+	1+	3
2006	4	3?	2	6
2007	3	2	2	10
2008	2	1	1	4
2009	2	2	2	4
2010	2	2	2	6
2011	2	2	2	8
2012	4	3	1	3

Autumn-winter: No autumn records. 1 Commonsidge 11th Nov and 1 Newmains 15th Nov were the only winter reports.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Very scarce and local resident found in 3% of tetrads with probably 40-50prs present. Some dispersal in August-September. Absent in some areas due to persecution. (21 records in 2011)

21 casual reports in 2010 (42 last year), but mostly from the vicinity of known breeding areas. Usual string of sightings of 1-3 birds from Thornylee Car Park in Jan-Feb. 1 Galashiels 7th Feb; 1 Westruther 18th Feb; 1 Charlesfield & 1 Stantling Craig Reservoir 28th Feb. In the later year singles Newmains 6th Aug & Duns Castle 7th Nov.

Breeding:

A total of 61 home ranges were monitored this year, two of these being new site, one near Jedburgh and the other near Hawick. Over the years there has been a slow but steady spread of Goshawks throughout the area and they now appear to be established in East Lothian and West Lothian. It is quite noticeable however, that the new sites in these areas are being found in commercial forestry, or else in private woodland s where there is no game shooting. This gain highlights the amount of persecution taking place, but also the areas where persecution is taking place. Providing these Lothian birds are allowed to nest, then the Goshawk population may spread to surrounding areas. So the future could be promising.

One of the nest sites in East Lothian has had a very poor success rate in recent years. This was in an area where game shooting was taking place. This year when the nest site was checked it was found the tree had already been climbed and the eggs had been taken. So it looks as if the failure of this site could be related to falconry interests or perhaps egg collecting.

At the beginning of the year nesting prospects looked quite promising as the early spring weather was very good. However the wet summer weather took its toll on nesting birds. During June, when we were checking productivity at nest sites, we were regularly finding dead chicks on the nest. Some of these dead chicks were well grown which shows the effect this weather was having on nesting attempts. As a result productivity was poor with brood sizes much lower than in previous years.

The average brood size was 1.42 (2.01 last year) and mean per successful brood was 2.00 (2.68 last year). So the detrimental impact of the 2012 weather on productivity is clear. Around 44 chicks are thought to have fledged this year, and of these some 39 young were ringed.

Coverage of the Forestry Commission sites throughout the year has been particularly good in 2012 and there has been an obvious extra effort in these areas by Tony Lightly and Chuck Cuthbert. My thanks go to them and also to Alan Heavisides and Joris Driessen for proving records.

Malcolm Henderson, Goshawk co-ordinator for Lothian & Borders, 2012 Raptor Study Group Report.

Goshawk Breeding Status

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Home ranges checked	55	56	57	53	57	59	59	50	54	56	61
Occupied territories	55	40	40	41	39	40	36	38	39	41	41
Territories with no pair	11	12	12	13	13	9	11	12	-	-	20
Territory occupied, no nest found	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	11	9
Territory occupied, nest found	29	28	28	28	25	31	25	24	28	32	31
Nests failed before egg stage	0	2	2	4	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Nests failed during egg stage	3	2	3	5	2	3	4	1	4	6	4
Nests failed with chicks	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	11	0	2	5
Successful nests	26	23	22	19	23	27	20	21	23	24	22
Young fledged	-	-	-	-	49	65	50	52	47	64	44
Mean brood size	2.37	2.12	1.78	1.93	2.13	2.07	2.00	2.17	2.04	2.01	1.42
Mean successful brood	2.67	2.62	2.29	2.62	2.33	2.42	2.50	2.47	2.47	2.68	2.00

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Common & abundant, found in 30% of tetrads. Some autumn passage. (254 records in 2012)

Submitted records: Numbers boosted during atlasing months.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
No. of records:	25	38	17	20	29	24	14	12	11	22	19	23
No. of birds:	25	41	20	21	29	24	14	14	11	23	19	23

79 reports from 55 tetrads Jan-Mar, 87 reports from 68 tetrads Apr-Jul & 87 reports from 56 tetrads Aug-Dec.

Anxious adults were seen at Langton Gardens & Raecleugh. Occupied nests were seen at Broomy Law, Duns Law & The Mount. Adults carrying for young were seen at Duns and Easter Dawyck. Fledged young were seen at Milkieston on 29th Jul, Pyatshaw on 21st Jul & Craighur House on 29th Aug. Used nests were found at Branxholme, Cardrona, Linton Hill, Oxnam Pottery, Polmood, Runshaw Rig and Singlie.

No monitoring occurred in Borders in 2012, the RSG activity concentrating on the revival of the Edinburgh Sparrowhawk Monitoring Programme. However as a n indication of trends that may effect Borders populations, productivity in Edinburgh, at 3.6 fledgling per successful nest was the highest recorded since the programme was revived in 2009.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Common breeding species recorded in 23% of tetrads, Minimum 500 pairs, perhaps 1,000 pairs. Most records Feb-Apr & Sep. (1,232 records in 2011)

Submitted records: Numbers boosted during atlasing months.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
No. of records:	112	166	91	99	146	176	76	48	61	64	129	54
No. of birds:	160	283	170	160	178	264	193	80	95	91	191	73
ratio	1.43	1.70	1.86	1.62	1.22	1.50	2.54	1.67	1.56	1.42	1.48	1.35

The best counts were: 7 Leaderfoot 21st Feb; 7 Houndwood 31st Mar; 8 Dowlaw Dam 21st Apr; 9 Blakedean 27th Aug; and 9 Bairnkine 12th Nov.

Breeding:

Occupied nests were reported from 33 tetrads, fledged young and adults carrying food for young in 33 tetrads, and used nests in another 12 tetrads. The first fledged young were seen at Harden Hill Head on 4th Jun and at Singlie & Ark Law on 18th Jun.

Based on data from 54 sites, 2012 data showed a reduction in productivity from 2011. The early nesting season was affected by high winds and heavy and persistent rain which impacted on nest sites. Productivity of 1.43 young per territorial pair was down on 2011 figures of 2.25. All in all a reasonable return considering the prevailing weather conditions, and it is surprising that nests were now blown out of trees.

62 sites were occupied: 61 by pairs, the other had a single bird. Young hatched at a minimum of 48 sites and fledged at 41 of those.

George Smith, Buzzard Coordinator for Lothian & Borders, 2012 Raptor Study Group Report.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sites checked	62	45	51	50	35	54	64
Occupied by pairs	61	43	50	49	35	46	61
Min Sites laid	57	38	48	45	31	41	55
Min young fledged	102+	82+	90+	74+	63+	88+	89+
Production young/territorial pair	1.67	1.90	1.8	1.5	1.80	1.91	1.46
Production young/successful pair	2.08	2.15	2.19	1.85	2.25	2.25	2.17

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Rare breeder (<2 pairs) with a handful of reports of wandering immatures annually. (1+ records in 2012)

Recorded on just one occasion near the old nest site in Feb.

Roxy has a small home range now. The website comments that in 2012 it was limited to around 675 km², the smallest of all the home ranges revealed by Roy's Dennis' satellite-tagging programme and probably due to a lack of adult competition (?). The map of the home range, as revealed by the satellite-tag can be seen on the website address below. The area is centred on the Tweedsmuir Hills, bounded by the county boundary to the south and west, the Tweed to the north but is less easy to define to the east. There were two major wanderings – one south of Moffat and another north-eastwards to the Leithen Water.

See: <http://www.roydennis.org/category/golden-eagle/roxy/page/2/>

Breeding:

Yet another blank year for breeding with South East Scotland still suffering from a lack of mature birds available to occupy vacant territories. There is a single mature male occupying a traditional territory which last fledged a single chick in 2008. There have been sightings of immature birds seen occasionally during the past season, but no signs of a pair or any of the nest sites being built up.

The area is rich in both key nesting and hunting habitats with an abundance of prey items within the vacant territories. I think we all know the answer to the disappearance of these birds over the past few years. It is disappointing to note that the region has lost 3 active breeding pairs of Golden Eagle since 2005 with no record of these birds occupying new territories elsewhere. The nearest mature bird is another mature male some 35km South, which has been a single bird for a number of years now with no confirmed sightings of any mature female being seen.

The 2010 Dumfries and Galloway tagged eagle chick has been a regular visitor within the RSG area during spring and summer and in particular to the only known occupied territory in South East Scotland. There are hopes that this bird is a female, although unconfirmed, and potentially we could have some kind of breeding attempt in 2013. Movements of the bird name 'Roxy' can be viewed on the Highland Foundation for Wildlife website.

Tony Lightley, Golden Eagle Coordinator for Lothian & Borders, 2012 Raptor Study Group Report.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce but increasingly frequent passage migrant April-May & August-September. Has bred since 1989 and is spreading rapidly. (54 records in 2011)

First 2 Hen Poo 28th Mar (Roger Manning) with 2 over Melrose & 1 Stow 29th Mar. 13 reports in Apr, 15 in May, 11 in Jun, before falling to 6 in Jul, 4 in Aug and then 1 in Sep.

Birds known to be not in the vicinity of nests reported from Lindean Reservoir, Winfield, Newmains (in Apr & Aug), St Abb's Head, Dalcove, Carfraemill, Yetholm Loch, Cathpair and Manderston.

Last birds 1 Yetholm Loch 3rd Aug; 1 Tweed at Stobo 18th Aug and last 1 Denholm Mill 22nd Sep (N. Cook).

Breeding:

The female of the Glentress/Kailzie video-monitored nest arrived back on the nest site on 26th Marc, followed by the male on 30th April. This is the ninth consecutive year the pair have occupied the main camera nest site. The male was rung at Aberfoyle in 1999 with a white darvic ring 'SS'. They have now fledged 23 chicks in the nine year period. The first egg was laid on 8^{th/9th} April and the 15th April a clutch of four had been laid. After an incubation period of 37/38 days the first chick hatched on 16th May, and a further two hatched by 21st May. The chicks were rung on 27th June and the first recorded flight by any chick, approximately 57 days after hatching, was on 12th July when all three took to the air at different times on the same day. The chicks were last recorded at the nest site on 23rd August, 42 days after the maiden flight.

Overall productivity of the 16 fledged chicks this year was the lowest recorded since 2007, when only nine fledged. The average number of chicks fledging from the project over the last 5-year period is now 18.8, compared to the period 5-year period when it was only 8.4. The constant wet weather impacted on sites this year, with birds that arrived very early being the most productive and three of the later sites failing at the late incubation/early chick stage.

All nest sites are associated closely with the Tweed and associated main tributaries, as well as nearby major waterbodies holding fish stocks. Two new sites were occupied this year, with one failing at the egg stage and the other, a new platform erected in 2012, holding a single bird.

There is a diverse range of successful nest locations from open farmland with a single row of Scots Pine, to commercial forestry with both large mature conifers with an open aspect and confined windblow areas with broken tops and poor panoramic visibility. Crows and Jays regularly harass the birds on nest sites, stealing nesting material and scraps of food. Marauding young Ospreys also harass nests, looking to take over the site.

13 of the fledged chicks were fitted with blue darvic rings and with alphanumeric letters to aid future identification. A female, blue darvic 'HA' from a brood of three rung in 2010 was photographed and then later in the season unfortunately recovered dead on 7th May at Leighton Moss in north Lancashire.

Both live and recorded footage of the birds on their nest sites can be viewed via the Tweed Valley Osprey Project at Glentress Visitor Centre (Forestry Commission Scotland) and Kailzie Gardens Visitor Centre with the project supported by Forestry Commission Scotland and SNH.

Thanks to all who assisted.

Tony Lightley, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Occupied sites	2	3	3	6	4	5	6	8	8	9	16	13	13
Breeding attempts	2	2	3	2	4	5	6	8	8	9	10	10	11
Successful sites	1	1	1	2	3	5	5	3	8	9	9	8	7
Young fledged	2	1	3	6	8	10	10	7	18	22	18	20	16
Average brood size	2.0	1.0	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.0	2.0	2.33	2.25	2.44	1.80	2.00	1.45
Mean productivity/attempt	1.0	0.5	1.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.15	2.25	2.44	2.00	2.50	2.29

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common and widespread breeder noted in 63% of tetrads, possibly 900-1,000prs. Some large counts August-September with limited passage near coast. (640 records in 2011)

Reported from 134 tetrads during Jan-Mar, 138 between Apr-Aug & 121 tetrads from Sep-Dec

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records:	65	74	46	36	45	59	21	30	35	46	80	43
No. of birds:	69	82	51	44	50	75	24	38	39	51	86	46

Breeding: Confirmed records in Atlas include: nests at Leadburn, Jeaniefield, Newhouse Kip, Rumbleton & Singlie & Tweedmill. Adults with food for young were seen at Helmburn Hill & Linghope. Fledged young were reported from Chew Green, Edington Mill, Gilmanscleugh, Lamb Hill & Lamberton, with the first flying young reported at Edington Mill on 10th June.

	2011	2012
Sites checked	10	-
Occupied sites	6	23
Breeding attempts	6	23
Successful sites	6	19
Young fledged	23	44
Average brood size	3.8	1.91
Mean productivity/attempt	4.6	2.32

As well as a change in coordinator, there has been a complete changeover of members providing Kestrel records this year. As a result our returns are compiled from some of the currently known sites and several new records provided by members this year. So it is not possible to compare the 2012 results with those from previous years.

However it is noticeable from the returns provided that the wet summer weather has had an effect on the number of young fledged. At several sites young chicks were found dead in the nest, some nests had failed completely, and others where there was an obvious depletion in brood numbers. Last winter we erected kestrel nest boxes n the south of the area. So far these boxes have not been taken up by kestrels. It may take a year or two before some of them are occupied. On the whole, these nest boxes have been placed where suitable habitat appears to be ideal and also at places where kestrels have been seen.

There has been some concern shown in the reduction of kestrel numbers throughout the UK, but so far we are not noticing this reduction in our area. It is important therefore to continue to monitor existing sites and also try to establish new sites in an attempt to get a clearer picture of the population of those overlooked and under-recorded species.

My thanks go to Helen Riley, Malcolm Henderson, Tom Dougall, Graham Anderson and Chuck Cuthbert, who provided records and also to our local birds recorders who have also provided records.

Caroline Blackie, Kestrel Coordinator for South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Uncommon breeder, perhaps 40-50prs annually, best known in northern hills. Widespread but scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mostly to coast. (40 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Singles Newmains 1st & 13th Feb; Whitmuir Loch 16th Feb; Wheelburn Law on 26th Feb and Penvala 27th Feb with 3 Whiteburn 24th Feb. In Mar singles Cauldsheils Hill 5th Mar and West Water Reservoir 19th Mar and birds on territory from 17th Mar. 1 New Smailholm 4th Apr.

Breeding: Recorded from 13 tetrads in Atlas from Apr-Aug with confirmed breeding in 6 of them.

An even worse summer for weather than last year which seemed to have some direct impact of the Merlins and many other species in the hills. After a very pleasant march, rain, cold and w2ind predominated for the rest of the breeding season.

Coverage was probably generally down again this year, presumably partly due to the weather. It was patchy across the region but as usual quite comprehensive in the Lammermuirs. Some sites in the southern part of our area were not checked but a few were found and some were successful. Sadly there was only one known successful pair in the Pentlands and again no confirmed breeding in the Moorfoots.

The Merlin decline is perhaps continuing but coverage is not quite as good as it was in the past and so might not be quite as poor as the results we have gathered suggest.

Lammermuirs: Similar to last year 26 known sites were monitored for occupation. The occupation level was similar to 2011 which was a considerable improvement on the worst season we have monitored to date, namely 2010. A total of eight nests were located. In addition another usually-occupied site shoed a small amount of sign and a female was seen several times but it seems likely that there was no male or possibly an early failure. At a sites not used for many years, a female was seen mobbing a Buzzard but no other suggestion of breeding as found.

Summarising the results from the nest locate, with the 2011 results in bracket: of the 8 nests located (8), one contained 3 eggs (0), 3 contained 4 eggs (7) and 4 had 5 eggs (1). A return to a more normal distribution of clutch sizes from last year. Not surprisingly there was no egg laying in late April and some nests were later than usual, including a couple started in mid-May.

Only one nest failed to convert eggs o young. This was the nest of only three eggs which was laid very late and deserted when the eggs were only partly developed. Another late nest of four eggs hatched three. One chick was found dead when the nest was visited to ring the young and unfortunately the other two died only a few days later. The weather was very cold and wet at the time. A third nest hatched off but the young were predated by a fox when about 2/3rds grown. This is very unusual on an intensively-keepereed estate. Hopefully 19 young (31) fledged successfully. In addition to the three deserted eggs found with embryo development confirmed, a further three unhatched eggs were found to be addled, another was damaged and one disappeared.

Considering the awful weather, five successful nests is perhaps better than we might have expected.

Moorfoots: Only five sites were monitored by one observer this year. A female was seen on two occasions at one location which was potentially a forest-edge site but no male was ever seen and no other signs of breeding were found. Coverage of these hills is incomplete but disappointing that no nesting confirmed for the second year in succession in this extensive area of suitable habitat.

It would be useful to have more coverage to confirm if any birds are still breeding in this area which has had a significant number of pairs in the past.

Pentlands: A total of 11 known sites were checked this year from a total of about 24 for which we have some historical records of known or possible nesting. As in recent years most shown no or little sign of occupation but birds were seen at three locations.

One quite regularly used tree-nesting site did succeed in ring four young. An adult pair was present in mid-May at a ground-nesting site not used for many years but they appeared to not be breeding. This could have been a failure but there was also the possibility that this might have been a late nesting attempt such as we encountered at a couple of sites in the Lammermuirs this year. An adult male was seen on three occasions around the general area where a pair did breed last year but it was concluded that it was likely that no breeding occurred this season.

Good to have Graham Anderson pick up on some monitoring previously carried out by Helen and Dave Aiton.

South of the Tweed: Data was received from 9 sites three of which were previously unknown. New sites are occasionally found by group members but not all known sites are checked every year, so it is difficult to get a clear picture of what has occurred in this large area. Numbers of large young expected to have fledged totalled only nine.

Of the nine checked, one was not occupied. Two sites were occupied and birds were present during several visits but no nest was ever located and it was concluded that they had failed or perhaps eggs were not laid at all. One might have been displaced by other raptors. Unusually one clutch of two was found but as is normal with clutches of this size, it failed to hatch and the eggs were found to be addled.

Other sites were successful, including a tree nest which contained two small young when found but with no unhatched eggs. If a genuine two-clutch, this was unusual in our experience.

A site previously not known to us was located in a dense forest edge. Adults were alarming in mid-June when they were likely to have had half-grown young but th nest was not located and the site was not rechecked later.

Two other pairs laid at least 4 eggs converting to three and four large young.

Alan Heavisides, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

Autumn/Winter: Singles Prendergust 2nd Oct; Newmains 4th Oct; Folly Loch 8th Nov; Newmains 30th Nov; Angelrow 8th Dec; and at Windy Slack 10th Dec.

Areas	Territories checked	Territories occupied	Territories with young	Young alive/fledged	Young per successful pair
Lammermuirs	26	8	5	19	3.8
Moorfoots	5	0	-	-	-
South of Tweed	9	8	4	9+ *	3.0+
Pentlands	11	2 (poss 3)	1	4	4.0
TOTAL	50	27	9	32+	3.5+

*nest not found

(a) = includes 1 nest not found (b) = + one nest not found (c) = from 3.

Merlin breeding success in SE Scotland Raptor Study Group area 1996-2011

	96	97	98	99	00	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12
Sites checked	53	56	57	57	54	59	57	46	55	53	53	73	49	48	53	52
Sites occupied	34	27	29	25	26	30	35	28	28	24	24	26	14	18	21	19
Sites hatched	12	25	14	14	16	17	26	14	15	13	11	20	12	9	14	15
No. of young	na	69	36	33	57	54	89	54	59	40	38+	62	45	29	47	34
Young fled/site																1.7
Young/succ. nest	na	3.2	3.6	2.7	3.8	3.1	3.4	3.8	3.9	3.0	2.4+	3.1	3.7	3.2	3.3	3.0

No data on 2001 due to Foot & Mouth restrictions

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Very scarce passage migrant, but odd records now in summer. Note that breeding range moving north in England and a possible candidate as an addition to the breeding avifauna. (2 records in 2012)

Singles Deloraineshiels 6th Jul (Malcolm Henderson); and Hare Moss 19th Jul (Malcolm Lindsay).

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Scarce but local breeder, 50-55 pairs and increasing. Persecuted in some areas. Casual records widespread outwith breeding season, mostly September-March. (99 records in 2011)

Three birds were seen during the Rocky Shore Count on 15th Jan.

Most casual records can't really be presented as they are likely to reveal nest areas which are perhaps best kept secure.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records:	16	12	10	8	3	8	1	7	3	10	22	11

Breeding:

The best way to describe the 2012 season is disappointing. From a great starting point of 61 pairs on site, 53 pairs laying, 43 sites hatching and 39 pairs fledging (all more than 2001), we ended up with less chicks.

The breeding performance was affected by some poor weather with early breeding storms hammering some of the more exposed sites, with subsequent losses of chicks. Though the season was about average with regards to start of eggs-laying, with most pairs on eggs by mid-April, though we had a few late nests which spread the season out a bit, giving us time to get round them all in a reasonable time. We had the usual numbers of early nesters this spring, pretty much limited to lowland riverside nests.

Productivity dropped from 2.18 to 1.59 per territorial pair and dropped from 3.85 to 2.55 young per productive pair.

Persecution this year was the worst that I have personally recorded in Lothian and Borders, even the site which has a voluntary watch in place lost its first clutch when it nested earlier than usual and before the watch was in place. Fortunately this pair went on to fledge two young from a scrape I never want to go to again, abseiling through mature gorse on a very wet day with midges in abundance, not a pleasant experience!

The PIT-tagging went on relentlessly even without the assistance of Mike McGrady. Malcolm Henderson and Tom Reid provided a lot of encouragement and welcome support in the south of the region.

The results of the trapping/PIT-tagging study are complete for this season, and notably we only lost one adult from last year, and no sub-adults were trapped, although a few sub-adult females were on territories which were robbed before trapping was attempted. We had two new birds come in as a new pair to a site which we have strong suspicions is being persecuted.

We are also trying to read the PIT tag of a female which has been filmed whilst using a ledge on high flats in Lanarkshire, though we are having issues because the ledge is metal, which causes the reader to malfunction.

The PIT-tagging study, which is now in its 11th year, is reaping rewards and we are recording more birds through reading the tags than we are by trapping. This is particularly valuable where we have both adults from a pair ringed. The total number of adults handled in 2012 was 37.

Thank you to all who provided data on the new forms, this made compilation so much easier. Thank you also to all of you who provided any data, no matter how small. It all adds up to great coverage of our area, and as such is very valuable.

George Smith, Peregrine Coordinator for South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

Summary of some failures with questionable causes

Sites with a high probability of persecution causing failure – 10 sites – 6 robbed of eggs; one robbed but succeeded on a re-lay; one in a Raven nest which was 'knocked' out, one with eggs broken; another robbed with evidence of climbing gear left.

Sites with a lower probability of persecution causing failure: 6 sites – 2 with pairs that were not seen active later; 2 where eggs disappeared just before hatching; two where hatching occurred, but young disappeared soon after.

	Sites checked	sites with pairs	sites laid	young fledged	young/occupied territory	young/productive pair
2012	151	61	53	98+	1.60	2.51
2011	148	60	47	131+	2.18	3.85
2010	146	64	53	118+	2.03	3.02
2009	147	54	47	101+	1.87	2.52
2008	141	58	45	99+	1.68	2.80
2007	145	54	42	75+	1.38	2.67
2006	107	62	46	98+	1.50	2.80

Sites with a high probability of persecution causing failure – 10 sites – 6 robbed of eggs; one robbed but succeeded on a re-lay; one in a Raven nest which was 'knocked' out, one with eggs broken; another robbed with evidence of climbing gear left.

Sites with a lower probability of persecution causing failure: 6 sites – 2 with pairs that were not seen active later; 2 where eggs disappeared just before hatching; two where hatching occurred, but young disappeared soon after.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce & secretive resident of basin mires. Survey in 1999-2000 suggests around 150 pairs probably present. Scarce passage migrant April & September-November. (53 records in 2012).

Winter/Spring: Just 6 Jan-Mar records: singles Mire Loch 14th Jan; Ettrick Marshes 5th Feb, Mire Loch 11th Feb & 16th Mar and 2-3 Bemersyde Moss 29th-30th Mar. Last 1 Mire Loch 1st Apr.

Breeding: Recorded 17 sites with 38 territories, 27 pairs and 17 singles. Most tape-luring by Ray Murray unless stated otherwise. Water Rails respond readily to tape-lured, pairs will duet in response to recordings.

Alton Moss: 2 pairs tape-lured on 26th Apr.

Bemersyde Moss: just singles from hide on 28th Apr, 30th May & 5th Aug with 2 on 13th May

Borthwickshiels Loch: 6 birds in 4 territories tape-lured 30th Aug.

Chapelhill Moss: 2 singles tape-lured 21st May.

Clarilawburn: 1 single tape-lured 25th May with 4 in 2 territories on 11th Jun.

Dryden Greenhill: 1 territorial bird 25th Jul.

Essenside Loch: 7 birds tape-lured in 4 territories 28th May (Harry Urquhart).

Ettrickshaws Loch: 1 tape-lured there 8th May with 4 in 2 territories 8th Jul (Malcolm Henderson).

Hare Moss: singles heard there 9th May, 9th Aug and 4th Sep with juv seen 23rd Sep (J Howard, Gary Scott & Malcolm Lindsay).

Murder Moss: 2 tape-lured there 11th Jun, but just a small part surveyed.

Nether Whitlaw Moss: 3 pairs and 4 singles tape-lured in 7 territories 5th Jun.

Rumbleton Rig: 1 heard 8th Jul (Malcolm Ross).

Stewarton Pond: pair tape-lured 10th Aug.

Whitmuirhall Loch: 6 pairs tape-lured 12th Jun.

Wiltonburn Loch: 1 pairs tape-lured 30th Aug.

Windylaw Loch: 1 single tape-lured 23rd May.

Yetholm Loch: 1 heard 24th May (James Lough).

Sites where tape-luring was attempted unsuccessfully: Ashkirk Loch, Dreva Marsh, Ladies Seat Moss (Chapelhill), Lindean Reservoir and Minto Kames South Loch.

Autumn/Winter: First migrant at Mire Loch on 14th Oct with a single there 19th Oct & 17th Nov (Fran Evans). Otherwise singles Buckstruther Moss 2nd Nov (Malcolm Henderson).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Common resident of waterside habitats. Recorded in 29% of tetrads with 800-1,000prs. Groups of >10 birds occur in hard weather at favoured sites. (467 records)

Winter/Spring: Recorded from 36 tetrads Jan-Mar. Mostly 1-3 birds but 11 Tweed Haughs 12th Feb; 9 Tweedbank 2nd Jan; 7 Yetholm Loch 7th Jan; 6 Haining Loch 11th Mar; 5 Paxton House 11th Jan, Millar's Moss 14th Jan & Wooden Loch 13th Feb; and 4 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Mire Loch & Yetholm Marsh.

Breeding: Evidence of confirmed breeding from the following 30 sites.

Site	pairs	brood
Bemersyde Moss	2	br2
Birkenside Pond	1	NY
Clarilawhill Pond	1	br1
Drakemire Pond	1	FL
Duns Castle Mill Pond	1	2br3
Fancove Head Pond ???)	1	br2
Foresthill Pond	1	br2
Glenrath Flood	1	br3
Gordon Comm. Wood Pond	1	br1
Green Diamonds	1	br1
Hallmanor Pond	1	br2
Harcus Pond	1	br2
Haremoss	4	3br8
Hollybush Pond	2	2br2
Knowepownhead Pond	1	br2
Lilliesleaf Moss Pond	1	br1
Lindean Mast Pool	1	br1
Lithtillum Loch	1	FL
Millar's Moss	2	2br4
Mire Loch	1	br1
Rink Pond	1	br1
Shielswood Loch	1	br1
Standhill Corner Pond	1	br2
Stantling Craig Reservoir	1	br3
Stewarton Pond	1	br1
Turtleton Pond	1	FL
Whitrig Bog	2	br4
Williestruther Loch	1	br1
Yetholm Loch	3	4br10
Yetholm Marsh	1	br1

Singles were seen in suitable habitat at 27 sites: Addiston Pond, Blackhouse Dean Pond, Cauldshiels Loch, Cherrytrees Pond, Crookston Pond, Eye Water at East Reston, Grahamslaw Pond, Hawickshiel Pond, Heriot Marsh, Horseshoe Plantation Pond, Hume Orchard, Lindean Reservoir, Mellerstain Lake, Mersingtonmill Pond, Middlefield Pond, Minto Kames Pond, Mordington Holdings, Nether Blainslie, Newmains, Over Langshaw, ponds at NT559227 and NT806532, Spottiswoode Loch, The Steele Pond, Tollishill Pond, Whiteadder at Edingston Mains and Wiltonburn Pond,

14 pairs, with no further evidence of breeding, were seen at 11 sites: Ashkirk Loch, Bellitaw Pond, Eildon Pond, Garvald Pond (Moorfoots), Haining Loch (2), Hirsle Lake (2), Kerchesters Pond, Ploughlands Pond, Tweed at Lees Haugh, Tweedbank Pond and Whitmuirhall Loch (2).

Breeding occurred at another 32 sites with 39 pairs.

Only nests were reported at Etrickshaws Pond & at Hexpathdean, and at 4 sites, listed above, the size of the brood(s) is not known (NY & FL Atlas reports) but 34 broods held 62 young, a MBS of 1.84.

The first chick was seen at Fireburnmill on 24th Apr. A pair, already with 2 broods at Glenrath, was still adding to a new nest on 16th Sep.

Autumn/Winter: High counts in Sep-Oct include: 8 Glenrath & Haining Loch 16th Sep & 8 Faldonside Loch 13th Oct; 6 Coldingham Loch, Millar's Moss, Whitrig Bog & Yetholm Loch 14th-18th Sep; 6 Gunknowe Loch, Ploughlands Pond & Yetholm Loch 15th-16th Oct; with 3-4 birds, in addition to the above sites, also reported from Bemersyde Moss, Duns Castle Pond, Gala Sewage Works Pond, & Haremoss.

During Nov-Dec were found in 38 tetrads. Best counts were: 11 Tweed Haughs 16th Dec; 8 Millar's Moss 17th Nov; 5 Harelaw Pond 21st Nov, Ruberslaw Pond 23rd Nov & Tweed at Paxton House 12th Dec; and 3-4 birds Duns Castle Pond, Gala Sewage Works, Gunknowe Loch, Hirsle Lake, Lilliesleaf Pond, Minto Kames Corner Pond, Minto Kames North Loch, Samieston Pond, Whitmuirhall Loch and Yetholm Loch.

Summary of Moorhen Breeding Success 1997-2012

	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	2012
Sites	76	77	93	49	34	65	77	99	64	55	87	104	93	60	73	70
Pairs	128	107	146	74	43	54	52	69	58	38	83	94	71	50	67	43
Broods	63	58	71	40	33	24	44	35	27	26	47	43	42	17	39	34+
Young	144	123	167	86	66	44	75	73	58	56	95	81	93	43	60	62
MBS	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.5	2.1	1.8

Coot *Fulica atra*

Common resident of still waters and recently slow-moving river margins. c.400 pairs found in 13% of tetrads. Some flocking in winter, peak counts December. (364 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Found in 27 tetrads during Jan-Mar. Double-figure counts in Jan of 37 Millar's Moss 14th Jan; 18 Wooden Loch 15th Jan; 17 Hirsell Lake 10th Jan; with 5-9 birds also at Gunknowe Loch, Whitmuirhall Loch & Yetholm Loch.

In Feb 38 Millar's Moss 11th Feb; 14 Wooden Loch 2nd Feb; 12 Hirsell Lake 12th Feb; with 5-9 birds also at Gunknowe Loch, Pickmaw Moss, Tweed Haughs, Whitmuirhall Loch, Yetholm Loch and Yetholm Pond.

In Mar 21 Hirsell Lake 11th Mar; 20 Ploughlands Pond 12th Mar & 11 Millar's Moss 11th Mar; with 5-9 birds also at Dowlaw Dam, Gunknowe Loch Haining Loch, Mire Loch & Yetholm Pond.

Breeding: Found in 38 tetrads Mar-Aug.

Site	pairs	broods
Alemoor Wester Loch	4	2br3
Folly Loch	3	2br4
Gunknowe Loch	3	2br4
Hen Poo	5	3br7
Hirsell Lake	8	2br9
Hollybush Pond	2	2br3
LMillar's Moss	4+	4br12
Mire Loch	2	3br10
Whitmuirhall Loch	1	br2
Whitrig Pond	1	br1
Wiltonburn Pond	2	br1
Yetholm Loch	9	6br22
Yetholm Marsh	3	br2

Only single birds were seen at 5 sites: Bellitaw Pond, Bemersyde Moss, Faldonside Loch, Newmains Pond and Shielswood Loch., 30 pairs, with no further indication of breeding success were seen at 15 sites: Bowdenmoor Reservoir, Clarilawburn Pond (2), Dowlaw Dam, Faughill Moss, Haining Loch, Haremoos, Hawickshiel Pond, Lindean Reservoir, Pickmaw Moss, Ploughlands Pond (5); South Blainslie Pond, Spottiswoode Loch, Wooden Loch. One site, Long Moss, had a nest but it's fate is not known.

Another 13 sites, held a minimum of 46 pairs, produced 30 broods holding 80 young of all ages, an MBS of 2.67.

The first nest was seen at Gunknowe Loch on 20th Apr, the first young were seen at Mire Loch on 29th Apr and at Gunknowe Loch on 30th Apr.

Autumn/Winter: In Sep-Oct the largest counts were: 57 Yetholm Loch 17th Sep with 44 there 1st Oct; 32 Millar's Moss 15th Sep; 23 Folly Loch 13th Sep; 15 Hen Poo 16th Sep; & 10-14 birds at Barnes Loch, Gunknowe Loch & Mire Loch.

Found in just 14 tetrads Nov-Dec with the largest counts being: 122 Yetholm Loch 7th Nov with 60 there 20th Nov but just 38 by 31st Dec. This site seemed to have covered all of the local Coot as there were NO other double-figure counts. 6-9 birds at Gunknowe Loch, Haining Loch, Hen Poo, Hollybush Pond, Mire Loch, Whitmuirhall Loch & Yetholm Marsh.

Summary of Coot Breeding Success in Borders - 1997-2012

	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	2012
Sites	63	62	70	30	26	27	26	44	44	28	48	32	40	24	41	43
Pairs	281	226	257	100	119	70	86	92	82	75	75	58	62	43	74	77
Broods	103	68	84	41	18	16	16	20	20	22	17	19	20	19	39	30
Young	286	191	215	95	44	31	29	50	48	50	39	43	61	36	110	80
MBS	2.78	2.81	2.56	2.32	2.44	1.94	1.81	2.50	2.40	2.27	2.29	2.26	3.05	2.57	2.98	2.67

Maximum autumn/winter counts in Borders - 1997-2012

	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	2012
	163	162	172	266	201	94	80	32	42	27	22	31	31	22	37	122

Crane *Grus grus*

Rare passage migrant, mainly in spring. (nn previous records (1 record in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 217 birds were counted during the Rocky Shore Count on the Berwickshire coast on 15th Jan.

1 Chirside 2nd Jun (Bird Guides)

1 possible Crane high off Fast Castle Head 19th May.

CHECK THESE and omit if necessary

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Common summer visitor found in 58% of tetrads. Possibly 1,300 pairs breed. Arrival mid-Feb, mostly gone by July. A few birds on coast through the year. (582 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 217 birds were counted during the Rocky Shore Count on the Berwickshire coast on 15th Jan.

Other coastal counts include: 12 Burmmonth 7th Jan; 33 Eyemouth GC 22nd Jan; 40 Pease Bay 24th Jan; 33 Lamberton Beach 15th Feb; 33 Fancove Head 13th Feb; 32 Dunglass 18th Mar.

Several inlands records in Jan: 2 Tweed at Paxton House 11th Jan; 2 over Tweedbank 13th Jan; 32 Tweed Haughs 15th Jan; 1 Tweedbank 17th Jan; 1 Stantling Craig Reservoir 26th Jan; 2 Fireburnmill & 2 Hendersyde Mill 28th Jan; 1 Melrose 29th Jan.

More widespread in first half of Feb with 12 Lauder 5th Feb; 35 Tweed Haughs 12th Feb; 11 St Boswells 15th Feb; and 1-5 birds noted Caddonlee, Horsburgh Ford, Jedburgh, Melrose & Whitrig Bog. Further inroads over next fortnight with 10 Innerleithen 18th Feb; 12 Mossfennan 19th Feb; 43 Nisbet & 15 Carfraemill 20th Feb; 14 Stantling Craig Reservoir 22nd Feb; 30 Rawburn 23rd Feb; 38 Hule Moss 25th Feb; 20 West Water Reservoir 26th Feb; 60 Stantling Craig 28th Feb; and 39 Birgham Haugh 29th Feb. By early Mar birds commonplace and pushing into the hills with 46 Innerleithen & 21 Glenrath 3rd Mar; 63 Tweed Haughs 11th Mar; 82 Westruther 12th Mar; 40 Addiston 18th Mar; and 60 West Water Reservoir 19th Mar.

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	42	Pease Bay-Redheugh	51
Redheugh-Souter	17	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	6	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	22
Eyemouth-Burmmonth	14	Burmmonth-English border	43

Breeding: Reported Apr-Jul from 199 tetrads.

10 pairs Mossfennan; 9 pairs Kelphe; 7 pairs Smiddy Hill; 6 pairs Glenrath, Haltree & Thirlstane Castle; 5 pairs Ark Law, Hopecarton, Logan Burn & Stantling Craig Reservoir; 4 pairs Glenholm, Newbigging & Slipperfield; and 3 pairs Blackhaugh, Blackhopebyre, Didburn, Greenlawdean, Harelaw, Howliston, Monksford, Muirburn, Newhouse Kip, Newtown St Boswells Glen, Roxburgh, Rutherford Lodge, Singlie, Upsettlington & Whitslade.

The first apparently incubating birds were at Newbigging Barns on 22nd Apr & Colquhar on 25th Apr. Nests & incubating birds were seen in 17 tetrads. The first young were seen at Mossfennan on 25th May & Whitslade on 26th May. Juvs were seen in a total of 10 tetrads.

Autumn/Winter: Post-breeding flocks of 25 Burncastle, Lauder 29th Jun; 15 Hallmanor 13th Jul; 62 Cowieslinn Ponds 23rd Jul.

Inland reports after late Jul: 2 Lochurd 3rd Aug; 2 Posso 15th Aug; 1 Whitrig Bog 1st Sep. Then a long gap until 1 Tweed Haughs 18th Nov.

On coast: some passage with 4N/32S Eyemouth GC 20th Aug with 8N/25S there 21st Aug & 10S there 22nd Aug.

46 Burnmouth 27th Aug; 41 Pease Bay 9th Sep; 29 Burnmouth 14th Sep; 47 Eyemouth 19th Oct with 59 there 15th Nov & 72 on 9th Dec. 70 Ross, Burnmouth 15th Dec; and 49 Lamberton Beach 25th Dec.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Rare summer visitor and breeder. (8 records in 2011)

No records in 2012.

No reason to believe birds have vanished, simply that no-one bothered to look for them. But please make every effort to locate any breeding plovers.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Scarce and declining breeder, perhaps 10 pairs on river shingles, upland lochs and coast. Uncommon passage migrant to coasts. (7 records in 2012)

Coast: The only coastal sightings in 2011 were 2 Pease Bay on 9th Sep & 2 Coldingham Bay on 16th Dec.

Inland: 1 Deanfoot, West Linton 28th Feb.

2 Blount Island 1st Apr, 2 Earlyvale Sandpit 10th Apr and 2 Hopecarton 25th May were all in likely breeding sites, with some history of breeding. 2 Whitrig Bog 9th Sep was the only other breeding report.

This decline, allied with lack of Little Ringed Plover records in 2012, is worrying.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

An extremely scarce passage migrant and very rare breeder to the high tops of the Tweedsmuir Hill. (1 record in 2012)

1 Blackdean Curr, Yetholm 12th Apr (AndrewMossup).

An early passage bird and an old site.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Scarce visitor to high ground March-July, breeding in 16% of tetrads. Possibly 400-500prs. Uncommon on lower ground January-April & August-December. (102 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: A good set of Jan records after the blank in 2011. 30 Easter Ale Moor 12th Jan; 50 East Cairn Hill & singles Stow & Rumbleton Law 14th Jan; 19 Angelrow 21st Jan with 57 there the next day, 1 Newmains 27th Jan.

9 Peat Law & 9 Sunderland Hope 5th Feb; 2 Hawksnest 7th Feb; 1 West Linton 9th Feb; 70 Lauder Common 12th Feb; 2 Whitrig Bog 15th Feb. Late winter Atlasing on 25th-29th Feb turned up a numbers of birds – 25 West Linton, 5 Waddelscairn Muir, 4 Hunt Law, 2 birds each at Craig Hope, Garvald Pinks, Riddel Law & Waddelscairn Hill; and singles at Nun Rig, Peat Law and Wedder Law. Most of these latter birds appeared to be potentially on breeding habitat.

Some very good passage and reports of birds staging on fringes of breeding habitat- 10 Bedshiel 18th Mar; 1 West Water Reservoir 19th Mar; 70 Lauder Common 24th Mar; 19 Angelrow 27th Mar. 25 Wedder Lairs & 25 Dun Knowe 2nd Apr; 60 White Loch 5th Apr; 160 Angelrow, 83 Sprouston & 18 Lees Haugh 8th Apr; 150 Clerkenville 9th Apr; 120 Charterhall, 80 Delorianshiels & 18 Middlestots 19th Apr; 60 Lauder Common 20th Apr; 30 White Hill 21st Apr; 300 Newbigging Barns 22nd Apr; and 70 Hoggfield Hill 24th Apr.

Breeding: With the good spring weather, both the arrival and potential breeding were relatively early.

The underlined names had anxious birds calling =A, also DD = distraction display, NE = nest+eggs, FL = fledged young). Garvald Punks has 2 pairs early in the season and a party of 10 later on, suggesting family parties.

	Singles	Pairs	Nests/broods
Blackknowe Head	1	6	-
Broad Law	1	-	-
Caberston Grain	-	1	A
Camp Moor	1	-	-
Coppercleugh Knowe	1	-	A
Cultyer Fell	1	-	-
Duddy Bank	1	-	-
Garvald Punks	-	1	FL
Glenrath Heights	-	2	poss.br
Haggin Hope	1	-	A
Mainslaughter Knowe	-	1	-
Pykestone	1	-	-
Roan Fell	-	1	-
Wedder Law	1	2	DD
Wheelburn	-	3	T
White Meldon	-	1	T
Windlestraw Law	-	1	A

Distraction display was seen as early as 15th Apr, the fledged young were seen on 26th May.

Autumn/Winter: 10 Glenrath Heights 15th Jul was a possible family party. Usual gatherings, presumably local post-breeders, on Lauder Common in late summer with 60 on 31st Jul, 180 on 6th Aug, 60 on 8th Sep & 65 on 1st-2nd Oct.

Late birds on potential breeding areas: 4 Pykestone Hill 29th Sep; 14 over Bermuda 3rd Oct; 1 Fifescar Knowe 6th Oct; 12 Glenliviston Dod 10th Oct; 20 White Knowe 11th Oct; and 2 Highlee Hill 23rd Oct.

Passage birds on lower ground and coast include: 1 over Hadden 17th Jul; 6 Dunglass 19th Aug; 1N Eyemouth GC 21st Aug.

Strong passage movement in Oct – including those on high grounds detailed above: 260 Eccles Tofts, 20 Fogo, 18 Springwells and 10 Inkbottle Lodge 3rd Oct; 100 Muircleugh 4th Oct; 20 Clerkenville 7th Oct; 150 Dykeheads & 140 Newmains 11th Oct; 12 Bessie's Burn 18th Oct; 20 Lauder Common 20th Oct; 6 Ancrum Craig 24th Oct & 50 Stauchley Hill 25th Oct.

Some good parties well into winter, before the Dec snows, with 40 Earlside & 30 Newmains 7th Nov; 16 Woodheads & 2 Darrington Little Law 11th Nov; 380 Lauder Common 14th Nov. Then a clear-out with just 1W Windywalls 13th Dec and 2 Hownam Rings 28th Dec.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

A very uncommon autumn passage migrant in coastal areas. (6 records in 2012)

1 Pease Bay 29th Jan, 12th Feb & presumably same bird Cove on 25th Feb (Dave Graham).

1N St Abb's Head 27th Oct with 2N Etyemouth 28th Oct (Dave Graham).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

A common breeding species found in 64% of tetrads, especially in the northern hills. Also a partial migrant, arriving mid February-March, leaving breeding ground in July with most departing by October. Small numbers overwinter. (370 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: A fair number of Jan records, with steady increase in second half of the month. Some, like the injured bird at Cranshaws House on 14th Jan was little option. However 1 Cadam Law 8th Jan with 8 Westruther 13th Jan; 15 Folly Loch 14th Jan; 12 Stantling Craig Reservoir 15th Jan; 28 Newmains 18th & 19th Jan; 255 Sunwick & 5 Lauder 20th Jan; increase to 75 Stantling Craig and 30 Newmains by 26th Jan; and by 31st Jan there were reports of 110 Hattonknowe, 60 Easter Hendersyde & 7 Glenholm with Newmains up to 54 birds.

Not much of a further increase until 12th-17th Feb when 700 Easter Place, 130 Swinton House, 50 Bemersyde-Whitrig, 36 Horsburgh, 20 Edrom, 12 Hundleshope, and 1-5 birds Chrichness, Harscase, Menzion, Middlefield & Tweed Haughs. Numbers then gathered quickly towards the end of Feb with 250 Wheelburn Law & 150 Lauder 26th Feb; 200 Wiselawmill & 40 Robinsland 27th Feb; 220 Hyndsidehill & 80 Lamblairknowe 28th Feb; 120 Westfield 29th Feb; with 10-39 birds at Cadam law, Crib Law, Folly Loch & Greenlawdean. Birds were then widespread as the flock broke up but high Mar counts include: 150 Cleugh 15th Mar; and 30-50 birds seen at Harrietsfield, Kettleshiel, Stantling Craig Reservoir & West Water Reservoir.

Breeding: Pairs and territories (approximate numbers) seen in 139 tetrads (Mar-Jul) at - confirmed breeding sites underlined

<u>Ark Law</u>	5
<u>Bemersyde Field Pool</u>	5
Berrybank	3
Birkenside Hill	3
Blackhope Ponds	7
<u>Blackhopebyre</u>	10
<u>Branxholme Braes</u>	4
<u>Cleugh</u>	4
<u>Crookston, Peebles</u>	6
Darny Rig	3
<u>Fruid Farm</u>	3
Garvald (Moorfoots)	5
<u>Glenholm</u>	9
<u>Greenlaw Dean</u>	4
Halmyre House	4
<u>Hawksnest</u>	3
Hundleshope Farm	3
<u>Hundleshope Cross Ponds</u>	6
Hutlerburn	4
Hyndsidehill	6
Kelhope	3
Kilbucho	3
<u>Kilpallet</u>	5
<u>Ladies Seat, Chapelhill</u>	7
Langtonlees	4
<u>Lugate Bridge</u>	8
Mossfennan	3
<u>Newbigging Barns</u>	4
<u>Newmill, Teviot</u>	4
<u>Over Langshaw</u>	5
Over Roxburgh	9
<u>Redfordgreen</u>	6
Slipperfield	3
Sorbietrees	3
<u>Stantling Craig Reservoir</u>	7
Whitrig Bog	7
<u>Whitslade</u>	4
<u>Winkston</u>	8

There many other sightings of 1-2 pairs in the Atlas.

The first incubating bird was at Newbigging Barns on 22nd Apr and Cleugh on 15th May; the first young seen were at Lyne Farm on 15th May and Lugate Bridge on 19th May. Later broods were still being identified into Jul and distraction display into mid-Jul.

Other broods were seen at: br3 Deloraine on 20th May; Branxholme on 21st May; Ark Law and Redfordgreen on 23rd May; br1 Bemersyde on 24th May; Caddonlee on 25th May; 2br4 Hundleshope Cross Pond on 29th May; Cademuir Hill on 3rd Jun; Lamblairknowe on 4th Jun; br2 Blackhopebyre on 10th Jun; Whitmuirhall on 11th Jun; Kilpallet on 12th Jun; br1 Boggsbank on 14th Jun; br3 Fruid & 3br7 Stantling Craig on 14th Jun; Howliston on 25th Jun; Kerchesters on 1st Jul.

Autumn/Winter: First post-breeding flocks were 15 Milton, Manor on 25th Jun; 45 Lurdenlaw on 1st Jul; 50 Westruther on 17th Jul; 250 & 150 Folly Loch on 31st Jul. In Aug high counts include: 270 Whitrig Bog 5th Aug; 200 Lauder 10th Aug; 256 Hoselaw Loch 21st Aug; 220 Lochurd & 210 Bemersyde Moss 26th Aug. These are low autumn counts compared to a decade ago.

Just a single large flock into early Sep with 300 Lochurd on 4th Sep but increase in reports late Sep with 250 Whitrig & 150 Lochurd 28th Sep; 120 Nether Falla 29th Sep. 200 Clerkenville 7th Oct was the only 3-figure Oct count with 200 Sandyknowe 3rd Nov & 300 Covehouse 15th Nov the only later counts in the same category. Otherwise only and handful 2-figure counts in Nov from Bemersyde, Broadhaugh, Lauder, Leitholm & Nether Falla and a similar total in Dec with 50 Carfraemill 4th Dec; 18 Pyatshaw 11th Dec; 60 Newmains 13th-14th Dec; 42 Eddleston (in snow) 25th Dec & 10 White Law Loch 31st Dec.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very uncommon autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, almost wholly to coastal areas. (2 records in 2012)
10 Dunglass 4th Feb (Dave Graham) with 1 Burnmouth 14th Sep (Ray Murray & Harry Urquhart).

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Extremely uncommon autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, confined to coastal areas. Not annual (1 record in 2012)
2 Pease Bay 9th Sep (Ron McBeath).
Last records were in August 2010, May 2005 & September 2003.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Winter visitor to rocky coast. Present August-May in very small but decreasing numbers. All records needed. (18 records in 2012)
Winter/Spring: 35 birds were found on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan (6 in 2008, 34 in 2009, 37 in 2010, 42 in 2011), 10 between Dunglass and Pease Bay, 4 between Petticowick and St Abbs & 21 between Eyemouth and Burnmouth (Ray Murray, Graham Pyatt & Ron McBeath).
4 Dunglass 4th Jan; 1 Eyemouth 6th Jan; 2 Burnmouth 7th Jan; 25 Blaikie Heugh 3rd Feb; 2 Dunglass 4th Feb with 4 on 18th Feb; 1 Burnmouth 7th & 19th Feb; 2 Dunglass 3rd Mar with 11 there 18th Mar; 5 St Abbs 17th May were the last of the winter (Jack Ibbotson).
Autumn/Winter: 2 Burnmouth 12th Oct (Fran Evans & Ray Murray); with 3 there 9th & 15th Dec, the only late-year records.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Very scarce moorland breeder found in 2% of tetrads, perhaps 20-40 pairs. Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor, mostly to coast. (11 records in 2012)
Winter/Spring: None were seen on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan. 4 Dunglass 4th Jan with 4 there 4th Feb; 2 Eyemouth 11th Feb; 4 Dunglass 3rd Mar.
2 Dunglass 29th Jan with 9 there 22nd May.
Breeding: 1 at usual site at end of Fruid Reservoir 12th May was the sole breeding season report.
Autumn/Winter: 1 St Abb's Head 1st Jul; 1 Burnmouth 21st Aug; 4S Eyemouth GC 23rd Aug; 3 on Tweed at Sprouston 20th Sep; 1N Eyemouth GC 21st Sep. 3 Dunglass 24th Nov.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Very uncommon passage migrant and rare winter visitor. Probably very much overlooked. (15 records in 2012)
Winter/Spring: 1 Newmains on 6th Jan (Dave Graham); 1 Gallowberry Hill 2nd Feb (Dave & Margaret Thorne); 1 Parkfoot 12th Feb (Harry Dott).
Autumn/Winter: 2 Newmains 25th Sep (Dave Graham); 1 Northfield, St Abbs 26th Sep (Alan Kerr); 1 Newmains 10th Oct with 5 there 11th Oct, 1 on 17th Oct and later 1 on 28th & 30th Nov & 1 on 29th Dec (Dave Graham); 1 Barnhills Moor 24th Oct (Malcolm Henderson); 1 Minto Hills 25th Oct (Malcolm Henderson); 1 Eyemouth 11th Nov (Barry & Barbara Prater); 1 North Riccolton 29th Dec (Malcolm Henderson).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Local breeding species found in 36% of tetrads, mostly in hilly areas. Scarce in winter but sometimes an abundant autumn passage migrant. Slight spring passage.(150 records in 2012).
Winter/Spring: Found 11 tetrads during Jan-Feb with 24 Parkfoot, Horsburgh 12th Feb; and 3 birds each at Newmains 23rd Feb & Bogbank 26th Feb. 1-2 birds reported Black Law, Courthill, Edenmouth, Faulds Craigs, Helmburn Hill, Paitshill, Scraesburgh Bog & Yetholm Pond. In early Mar 1-2 birds Angelrow, Drone Hill, Newmains and Redpath but in latter half of month most reported displaying and/ or on breeding habitat.
Breeding: Recorded 57 tetrads mid-Mar-Aug. Atlas activities continued to produce good numbers. 101 presumed territories (from flushed, chipping and drumming birds) at 55 sites:

Bedshiel	2
Bemersyde Moss	2
Blackhopebyre	4
Cairn Burn, Deepsyke	2
Craik	5
Darny Rig	8
Deepsyke	2
Dun Law	2
Easter Alemoor	3
Easter Deans	2
Folly Loch	2
Hangingshaw Hill, Hownam	2
Hudleshope Farm	2
Hutlerburn Hill	8
Langhope	4
Lauder Common	4
Leithen Lodge	2
Lindean Reservoir	2
Outer Huntly	5
Sunderland Hope	2
Windlestraw Law	2
Windside Hill	2

With single territories presumed at 33 sites: Altrieve, Bleak Law, Branxholme Braes, Caberston Grains, Chapelhill, Charterhall, Charterhall Wood, Clearburn, Clearburn Loch, Coldstream (Tod West Toll), Cramalt, Drone Hill Wind Farm, Dryden Greenhill, Easter Hill, Ettrickbridge, Gilmanscleugh, Halliburton, Hanged Man's Hill, Hartsgarth, Helmburn Hill, Langtonlees, Loch Eddy, Lugate, Megget Stone, Moss Law, Over Langshaw, Redfordgreen, Stand Knowe, Stotfield Hill, Watch Water Reservoir, Wedder Law White Meldoun, & Windylaw Loch.

Young were seen at Bedshiel (br2) on 1st Jun, the only confirmed breeding report.

Autumn/Winter: Once again Newmains provided a guide to the dispersal and passage of Snipe through coastal Berwickshire with first 2 there 30th Jul, increasing to 4 on 1st Aug, 6 on 5th Aug, 11 on 10th Aug, 18 on 11th Aug, 38 on 14th Aug, 36 on 16th Aug, 44 on 20th Aug, a peak of 54 on 24th Aug before dropping to just 9 by 31st Aug and 8th Sep. Numbers then rose again to 21 on 10th Sep, 42 on 11th Sep, 31 on 14th Sep, 25 on 23rd Sep, dropping again to 14 by 5th Oct and 8 on 17th Oct and again on 4th Nov. Bemersyde Moss also provided a snapshot (from the hide rather than by flushing) with 27 there on 18th Aug, just 1 on 1st Sep, 15 on 2nd Sep, 22 on 10th Sep, 22 on 10th Sep, 100 on 20th Sep, 5 on 28th Sep and just 1-3 thereafter.

Elsewhere 1-3 birds were more typical with Aug-Oct records from Angelrow Farm, Bessie's Burn, Dunion Hill, Edgarhope Law, Highlee Hill, Tanwell, Stantling Craig Reservoir, Stauchley Hill, White Knowe, Whitrig Bog & Westerhouses; and high counts of 6 Lindean Reservoir 7th Oct; 42 Barnhills Moor 24th Oct; and 42 Minto Hills 25th Oct.

Found in 18 tetrads Nov-Dec, although activities cut short by Dec snows, with 8 Newmains 4th Nov; 3 Sting Law 11th Nov, Lauder 14th Nov, Spittal Tower 26th Dec & Angelrow 29th Dec; and 2 birds at Darrington Little Law, Sunnyside Hill & Tod's Dean; and singles at Adderstonlee, Buckstone Moss, Cakemuir Hill, Dunter Lee, East Cairn Hill, Folly Loch, Leadburn Community Wood, Shielsknowe & Westerhouses.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Under-recorded breeding species found in 12% of tetrads. Roding display March-July. Occasionally strong late autumn passage. A few (probably many more) winter, including immigrants from northern Europe. (104 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Recorded from 28 tetrads Jan-Feb. 2 birds each at Brownrig 25th Jan, Linthill 24th Feb & Roan 29th Feb, otherwise single birds reported from: Ark Law, Ayton, Black Law, Bogbank, Buckholm, Carby Hill, Charterhouse, Folly Loch, Gilboa Wood, Hardiesmill Place, Hobsburn, Hunthall, Lamberton, Leitholm, Longueville, Moorshot Plantation, Newmains, Paitshill, Pinnacle, Raecleugh, Singlie, Thornilee, Ulston Moor, Williamslee Burn & Wilyrigg Strips.

Breeding: More reports than 2011 - with 37 birds at 21 sites (roding sites underlined).

<u>Backlea Plantation</u>	2
<u>Bents Corner</u>	1
<u>Camp Moor</u>	6
Cardrona House	1
<u>Charterhall Wood</u>	2
<u>Clerkenville</u>	3
Dinley Fell	1
<u>Elwartlaw</u>	1
Hartsgarth Burn	1
Kaimend	1
<u>Kyleshill Plantation</u>	5
<u>Lanton Moor</u>	1
Lauder	1
Linthill	2
Pirnie	2
Polwarth	1
<u>Singlie</u>	2
<u>Softlaw</u>	1
<u>Whim Wood</u>	1
Whitmuir Moss	1
Wigg Knowe	1

Autumn/Winter: 1 Lamberton 19th Aug. Then Oct arrival with 2 Mire Loch 12th Oct; 1 Mire Loch & Lamberton Holdings on 13th Oct; 1 Mire Loch 14th Oct; 1 Dunglass 27th-28th Oct. 1 Eastfield, Stichill was the first autumn report away from the coast.

Recorded 41 tetrads Nov-Dec. Best counts were 4 Oak Bank, Portmore 4th Dec; 3 Ewes Castle 18th Dec; 2 each at Dunter Lee, Hatchednize, Paddy Slacks, Portmore Loch, Rennieston, Whitehaugh & Whitrig Bog with singles at 34 other sites. Records cluster in early-Nov as Winter Atlasing started and then late-Nov to mid-Dec occurred after heavy snowfall as birds were forced to snow-free seeps and springs.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Uncommon autumn passage migrant, almost always on the coast. (4 records in 2012)

1N Eyemouth GC 24th Aug (Ray Murray); 1 Tweedbank 11th Sep (Andrew Bramhall); 2 Linkim Shore & 1 Killedraught Bay 18th Sep (Barry Prater).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Very uncommon spring and uncommon autumn passage migrant, mostly to coastal areas. Wintering is exceptional. (16 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 1 Dunglass 7th Apr with 2 there 21st Apr & 8 Newmains 10th May (all Dave Graham); 1 Watch Water Reservoir 19th May (Ian Poxton & Alan Heaviesides); 6 Lamberton Beach 20th May & 1 Redheugh 22nd May both Ron McBeath).

Autumn/Winter: 2N St Abb's Head 8th Jul (David Graham); 1 Fancove Head 27th Jul 9Kevin Ingleby); 1S Eyemouth GC 22nd Aug (Ray Murray); 1 Burnmouth 11th & 20th Sep (Barbara & Barry Prater & Ron McBeath); 2S Dunglass 6th Oct (Dave Graham); 1 Eyemouth Bay 11th Oct (Ron McBeath); 1 Cove 24th Nov (Dave Graham).

A better year after a very poor 2011 when just 4 records.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Abundant breeding species reported from 74% of tetrads. Very scarce in winter. Inland only from early March-June/July. Uncommon passage migrant in coastal areas. (413 records in 2012)

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	33	Pease Bay-Redheugh	16
Redheugh-Souter	3	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	0	Coldingham Bay - Eyemouth	3
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	0	Burnmouth-English border	10

Winter/Spring: Just 65 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan (279 in 2011).

Other coastal counts include: 44 Mire Loch 2nd Jan; 56 Lamberton 9th Jan; 60 Mire Loch 14th Jan; and 80 Lamberton 19th Jan. These seemed to have all been missed during the Rocky Shore Count. 50 Lamberton 30th Jan with 35 there 6th Feb & 50 on 16th Feb. 68 Mire Loch 3rd Feb with 51 there 19th Feb. 33 Mire Loch 9th Mar with max 51 on 16th Mar.

The first inland records were 15 Stantling Craig Reservoir 12th Feb; 2 Glenrath 19th Feb with 4 there 24th Feb; 40 West Linton & 5 Bemersyde Moss 27th Feb & 1 North Riccolton 28th Feb.

Numbers improved into Mar with 111 Glenrath, 30 Sandyknowe & 29 Innerleithen 3rd Mar; 110 Westruther 5th Mar; 72 Hallmanor, 40 Stantling Craig Reservoir & 18 Whitrig Bog 11th Mar; 140 West Water Reservoir 19th Mar; 40 Dowlaw 24th Mar; and 218 Robinsland 25th Mar, the last substantial count of the spring.

Breeding: Found in 151 tetrads Apr-Jul. Presumed pairs were noted on TTVs (and other counts) as follows: 11 pairs Newhouse Kip; 9 pairs Darny Rig; 6 pairs Kelhope; 5 pairs Birkindale Knowe & Haggin Hope & Redfordgreen; 4 pairs Ark Law, Halliburton, Harehead & Wedder Law; 3 pairs Berryfell, Crookston (Peebles), Cuzirton Hill, Glensax, Hawksnest, Hawthornsidehill & Killpallet. There were numerous counts of 1-2 birds.

Distraction display was seen at Drumelzier Law on 3rd Jun & newhouse Kip on 18th Jun; the first nests were at Hawthornsidehill on 15th May & Caberston Grain on 26th May. Young birds were recorded at Dewar on 10th Jun & Killpallet on 12th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: Coastal passage: 2SE Eyemouth 6th Aug; 20 Lamberton Bay 7th Aug; 20 Dunglass 22nd Aug; 15 St Abb's Head 25th Aug; 15 Linkim Shore 7th Sep; 20 Mire Loch 27th Sep; 29 Lamberton 30th Sep.

Last inland birds: 2 Stantling Craig Reservoir 30th Aug; 1 over Craigurd House 5th Sep; 4 Foulshot Law 8th Sep; 1 Tweed Haughs 16th Sep; 2 Whitrig Bog 22nd Sep; 1 Edrington Castle 4th Oct; 1 Nether Falla 14th Oct; 1 Leadburn Community Wood 18th Oct; 8 Josua Plantation 8th Nov; 1 Nether Falla 15th Nov; 1 TARTH Haughs 30th Nov.

Nov-Dec coastal max: 50 Lamberton 12th Nov with 50 still there 1st Dec; 54 Mire Loch 1st Dec with 40 still there 15th Dec; 40 Burmsmouth 15th Dec.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Common breeding species in wet places found in 26% of tetrads. A few winter along the lower Tweed and coast. Some spring and autumn coastal passage. (98 records in 2012)

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	17	Pease Bay-Redheugh	6
Redheugh-Souter	3	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	0	Coldingham Bay - Eyemouth	6
Eyemouth-Burmsmouth	0	Burmsmouth-English border	35

Winter/Spring: 67 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan (78 in 2011).

Other coastal counts include: 65 Burmsmouth 7th Jan; with 40 there 16th Feb and 31 on 19th Feb.

1 Lees Haugh 28th Jan; 1 Coldstream Bridge 3rd Feb; then over a month until the main arrival with 1 Tweed Haugh 11th Mar; 1 Nisbet Bridge 12th Mar; 1 Thirlestane Castle 13th Mar; 2 Whitrig Bog 17th Mar; 4 Cammerlaws Pond & 1 West Water Reservoir 19th Mar; 2 Glenrath 21st Mar. To the end of Mar: 6 Tweed at Sprouston, 4 Folly Loch and singles Innerleithen & Bemersyde Moss.

Breeding: Recorded 27 tetrads with 19 presumed territories/pairs noted in suitable breeding habitat –

Ark Law	1
Cammerlaws Pond	2
Folly Loch	1
Fruid Reservoir	1
Garvald (Moorfoots)	2
Glenrath	1
Hundleshope	1
Nisbet Bridge	1
Rawburn	1
Staunchley Hill	1
Thirlestane Castle North	1
Tushielaw Farm	1
Tweed at Innerleithen	1
Tweed at Sprouston	2
Whitrig Bog	1
Whitslade	1

Also singles at 10 other sites: Bemersyde Moss, Crookston (Peebles), Essenside Loch, Hawthornside Hill, Hopecarton,

Tweed at Fireburnmill, Tweed at Coldstream, Tweed at Upsettlington, West Water Reservoir & Woodheads

No nests or young were reported.

Autumn/Winter: Last in breeding habitat were 3 Whitrig Bog 13th Aug.

As usual Burmsmouth is the most reliable site for wintering Redshank with 36 there 20th Aug; 43 on 27th Aug; 93 on 14th Sep; 103 on 2nd Oct; max 123 on 12th Oct; and 100 on 15th Dec. Elsewhere along coast just single-figure counts, max 6 Linkim Shore on 17th Oct. Away from the coast there was a single on the Tweed Haughs on 16th Dec.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Very scarce spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn migrant. (4 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 1 Folly Loch 24th Mar (John Inglis).

Autumn: 2 Whitrig Bog 5th Aug (Andrew Bramhall); 1 Mire Loch 15th Aug (Fran Evans); 1 Whitrig Bog 1st Sep (Andrew Bramhall).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon, mostly autumn passage migrant and very rare winter visitor. (7 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 1 Edenmouth 12th Jan & 2nd Feb (Roger Manning); 1 Folly Loch 1st Apr (Callum Rankine).

Autumn: 1 Newmains 22nd Jun with 3 there 16th Aug & 1 on 20th Aug (Dave Graham); 1 Kelso 28th Oct (Roger Manning).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Uncommon, mostly autumn, passage migrant. (2 records in 2012)

1 Bell Hill Pool, St Abbs 2nd May (Jack Ibbotson); 1 Mire Loch 25th Aug (Fran Evans).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Common summer visitor along rivers, found 34% of tetrads. Very rare in winter, mostly early April to late August. (119 records in 2012)

Spring: First 1 Folly Loch 1st Apr (James Towill) was relatively early. Nest 1 Garvald Lodge 14th Apr with 2 Le3k Cottage 17th Apr; 4 Old Melrose & 1 Langhaugh Hill 19th Apr; 1 St Mary's Loch 22nd Apr; 10 Tweed at Sprouston 26th Apr.

31 early May records, mostly 1-2 birds with 6 Monksford Glen 13th May. No coastal records.

Breeding: Found in 76 tetrads Apr-Jul.

5 pairs at Talla Reservoir; 4 pairs at Ark Law, Fruid Reservoir, Glensax, Old Melrose & Sprouston ; 3 pairs Cop Law, Kelphe, Linghope, Monksford, Newburgh, Rawburn & Singlie; 2 pairs Gilmanscleugh, Glenrath Haugh, Hopecarton, New Blainslie, Newhouse Kip, Nisbet, Rutherford Lodge & St Boswells; with single birds/territories at 57 other sites. c. 119 presumed territories. A nest was seen at Colterscleugh on 27th May; distraction display was seen at The Howe on 20th Jun; while young were seen at Newburgh on 18th Jun (2br5), Ark Law, Cop Law & Gilmanscleugh on 19th Jun, at Sprouston on 1st Jul and a br2 at Kingsmeadows on 23rd Jul.

Autumn: Last river birds seen at Floors Castle on 29th Jul & Mertoun Bridge on 30th Jul. Just 3 later reports: 1 St Abb's Gead 7th Aug; 3 Dunglass 18th Aug; and last 2 St Abb's Head 27th Aug (Jack Ibbotson).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Uncommon coastal winter visitor, August-May. Rare on passage to inland areas. (40 records in 2012)

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	0	Pease Bay-Redheugh	1
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	14	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	0
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	0	Burnmouth-English border	26

Winter/Spring: 41 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan.

Other counts include: 46 Burnmouth 7th Jan; with 19 there 16th Feb. 24 Dunglass 4th Jan with 17 there 4th Feb and last 14 on 18th Mar. A rare inland report with 1 West Water Reservoir 19th Mar (T J Wells).

Autumn/Winter: First 2 Dunglass 22nd Jul with 1 there 19th Aug. 12 Burnmouth 20th Aug with 14 there 27th Aug, 30 on 14th Sep, 40 on 20th Sep, 29 on 25th Sep, 38 on 2nd Oct, 48 on 12th Oct and max 44 on 9th Dec but just 15 by 23rd Dec. Elsewhere: 10 Eyemouth 12th Oct; 3 Linkim Shore 17th Oct; 11 Eyemouth 15th Nov; 5 Coldingham Bay 16th Dec; 2 Eyemouth 28th Dec; and 4 Dunglass 30th Dec.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Very rare autumn passage migrant, rare inland. (1 record in 2012)

2 off Eyemouth 25th Sep (Dave Graham).

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Uncommon autumn passage migrant between Jul & Nov. No inland records. (5 records in 2012).

1 St Abb's Head 20th Jul (BirdGuides); 1N there 21st Sep (Ray Murray); and 1N there 23rd Sep (Dave Graham). 5N/2S St Abb's Head & 1 N Eyemouth 25th Sep (Dave Graham).

Pomarine Skuas seen in Borders 1999-2012

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
6	19	27	53	30	16	31	27	28	8	16	19	19	11

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Scarce on passage April-June, common July-November. Rare in winter. A few inland records. (20 records in 2012)

Autumn: first 1N St Abb's Head 7th Jul (Fran Evans) with 3S there 8th Jul.

Gap until next 1N there 11th Aug. 2N Eyemouth GC 21st Aug with 2N there 22nd Aug; 2N St Abb's Head on 23rd Aug; 3N/1S Eyemouth GC 24th Aug; 11N/1S St Abb's Head 26th Aug.

2N St Abb's Head 1st Sep with 2N Eyemouth GC on 8th Sep. 23N/2S St Abb's Head & 2N Eyemouth GC 21st Sep with 1N St Abb's Head 22nd & 23rd Sep. 39N St Abb's Head 25th Sep with 6N/3S there 26th Sep.

5N/15S St Abb's Head 14th Oct with last 2 there on 27th Oct (Dave Graham).

The best year for numbers since 2007 – mostly due to rushes of birds on 3 days – on 21st Sep some 21 birds passed St Abb's Head in the space of five minutes

Arctic Skuas seen off the Berwickshire coast 2001-2012

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
251	169	196	217	129	35	152	42	59	61	59	129

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A very scarce passage migrant, mostly August to October. Almost annual. 1 inland record. (2 records in 2012)

4N St Abb's Head 25th Sep with 1N there 26th Sep (Dave Graham).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Passage migrant, scarce April-June, common July-November. Almost annual. Rare in winter and very rare inland. (24 records in 2012)

Spring: 1 Redheugh 22nd May (Ron McBeath).

Autumn: 3N St Abb's Head 7th Jul with 2N there 8th Jul.

1N Eyemouth GC 21stug with 1S there 22nd Aug and 2N there 23rd Aug when 1N St Abb's Head; 4N St Abb's Head 26th Aug.

3N St Abb's Head 15th Sep; 1N Eyemouth GC 21st Sep when 23N St Abb's Head (3hrs); 16N St Abb's Head 22nd Sep with 4N there on 23rd Sep and then a series of massive movements with 61N there on 25th Sep, 325N on 26th Sep (Dave Graham) and 51N/15S on 26th Sep, before returning to the usual 1N on 30th Sep.

The year finished with 9N St Abb's Head on 14th Oct (Ray Murray & Dave Graham).

Even without the massive movement on 26th Sep, 2012 would have been the best year since 2001, but now is the best year ever.

Great Skua totals off the Berwickshire coast 2001-2012

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
340	190	239	179	101	38	136	62	60	74	99	524

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

A rare but increasing passage migrant. (4 records in 2012)

1 coloured-ringed adult (OCT) Dunglass 22nd Aug (Ray Murray); 1 ad Tweed at Mertoun Bridge 19th Sep (Tom Lakwrie); 1 ad Dunglass 21st Oct & 2nd-w there 17th Nov (Dave Graham).

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Very scarce passage migrant to coast, mostly between August and October. A few old inland reports. (5 records in 2012)

Autumn: 25N Eyemouth GC 25th Sep; 3N St Abb's Head 26th Sep; 2ad & 1 juv S there 14th Oct; with 11N there on 20th Oct.

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Rare passage migrant to coast, mostly autumn (3 records in 2012).

Autumn: 3N/1S (ad+3juvs) St Abb's Head 25th Sep (Dave Graham & Ray Murray); another juv S there 14th Oct (Ray Murray).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Common breeder in just 3% of tetrads but summer found in 60% of the area. One huge colony at Bemersyde, formerly with 14,000 pairs has mostly been abandoned. Many smaller sites. Several roosts. (394 records in 2012)

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	8	Pease Bay-Redheugh	10
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	0	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	12
Eyemouth-Burroughs	3	Burroughs-English border	11

Winter/Spring: 44 were counted on the 15th Jan Rocky Shore Count (194 in 2011).

Few other large counts in Jan with just a single 3-figure count – 258 Gunknowe Loch 16th Jan. In Feb there were 240 Gunknowe Loch 9th Feb, 255 West Water Reservoir 27th Feb and 240 Robinsland 27th Feb. In Mar away from the potential breeding sites there were 118 Tweedbank on 5th Mar, 160 Tweed Haughs on 11th Mar and 340 Newmains on 13th Mar,

Breeding: Bred at least 13 sites – but many at White Law Loch, Bemersyde and North Esk Reservoir attempted to various degrees – and failed.

Bemersyde Moss	max 1,500 there 30 th Mar, but numbers fell to 100 on 8 th Apr, 40 on 10 th Apr and no double-figure counts after that
Cleugh Flood	a single nest on a rock sticking up in flood 15 th May.
Fort Moss	15 nests with eggs on 6 th May, a new site.
Goose Loch	40 birds over colony 11 th Jun – c 25 nests.
Henlaw Cottage	10 prs on nests 14 th May.
Hundleshope Cross Pond	3prs on nests 29 th May
Hutlernburn Hill	60 birds and 20 nests 8 th May.
Megget Reservoir	colony occupied but no formal count - juvs seen Cramalt on 3 rd Jul.
Pickmaw Moss	50 birds & c.15 nests (count poor) on 13 th Jun.
Tathieknowe Pond	occupied 28 th Mar but no count made.
Tilery Moss	10 adults at small colony noted 2 nd Aug.
North Esk Reservoir	c.100 birds 16 th Apr and c.600 nests in May but gradually abandoned by mid-Jun
White Law Loch	450 birds and c 220 nests noted 5 th Apr but colony abandoned and nests destroyed.
Whitmuirhall Loch	50 birds and c20 nests 12 th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: Three-figure counts: 260 Dunglass 22nd Aug; 350 West Water Reservoir 13th Sep; 120 Eyemouth 3rd Oct; 200 West Water Reservoir 13th Oct; 110 Tweed Haughs 14th Oct; 250 Linkim Shore & 100 St Abbs 17th Oct; 250 Dunglass 21st Oct; 400 Hule Moss 18th Nov; 160 Yetholm Loch & 400 Burroughs 15th Dec; 110 Tweed Haughs 16th Dec.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Very scarce & local breeder on c.2 hill lochs, c.60-100 pairs annually. Abundant passage migrant using several autumn and spring roosts, sometimes numbering several thousands. Common and widespread in winter. (227 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 350 Blyth Bank 6th Jan; 1,240 Netherurds Main 9th Jan; 220 Black barony 12th Jan; with 100-200 birds counted Burnhead, Candy Mill, Croftlea, Flemington, Manor Bridge, Romanobridge & Stantling Craig Reservoir in Jan.

400 Woodhouse 24th Feb; 4,400 West Water Reservoir & 6,000 Portmore Loch 26th Feb; 600 Easter Dawyck & 250 Robinsland Easter Dawyck 27th Feb; with 100-200 Broughton Brewery, Hallmanor, Hanged Man's Hill & Kilbucho. 300-700 Manor Valley on 5 dates in Mar with 100-200 birds Huntlaw. 150 Manor 6th Apr; 130 Black Barony 13th Apr & 120N/1hr Dunglass 21st Apr were the largest later counts.

Breeding: No actual count made at Megget but juvs seen there on 3rd Jul, so some success; 3-9 birds North Esk Reservoir – probably 4 pairs attempted nesting.

Autumn/Winter: Roost counts - 2,800 West Water Reservoir 13th Sep, with 3,200 on 17th Sep, 2,800 on 21st Sep, 5,100 on 28th Sep, 2,676 on 7th Oct, 9,750 on 13th Oct, 7,550 on 21st Oct, 0,700 on 4th Nov, 14,400 on 11th Nov & 8,400 on 9th Dec. Just a single count from Hule Moss – 3,100 on 18th Nov.

Elsewhere: 300 Minto Kames South Loch 30th Aug; 350 Edrington Castle 4th Sep; 590 Darnhall Haugh 28th Sep; 240 Samieston 4th Nov; 370 Portmore Loch 11th Nov with 990 there 8th Dec; 227 Eddleston 24th Nov; also 100-200 birds counted Baddingsill Reservoir, Commonsides, Eddleston, Groundstone Heights, Preston, Roxburgh Mains, Williestruther Loch & Yetholm Loch.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Extremely scarce coastal breeder, not annual, perhaps just 2-3 pairs. Non-breeders fairly common well inland in summer. Found feeding in 27% of tetrads. Few, but increasing numbers, in winter, mostly March-October. (232 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 1 Candy Mill 6th Jan; 20 Tweed Haughs 15th Jan; 1 Newmains 24th Jan; 1 Westruther 11th Feb; 12 Tweed Haughs 12th Feb; 1 Fairlaw & Newmains 16th Feb; 1 Leaderfoot 21st Feb; 1 Cove 25th Feb; 3 Robinsland 27th Feb; 4 Wilton 28th Feb; 3 Lempitlaw & 1 Hoselaw Loch 29th Feb. More widespread into Mar with 10 West Water Reservoir 19th Mar the first double-figure count. 115 Manor Schoolhouse & 50 Woodhouse 31st Mar.

45 Black Barony 13th Apr; 110 Manor Schoolhouse 17th Apr; 60 St Abb's Head 15th May; 35 Easter Dawyck 24th May; 25 Harelaw 30th May; 200 Tower Burn & 150 Glenrath & 35 Whitslade 3rd Jun; 180 Edgerston Mill & 65 Garden 4th Jun; 83 Whitmuirhall 11th Jun; 180 Howliston 20th Jun; 490 Blyth Bridge 21st Jun.

Breeding: No records.

Autumn/Winter: 145 Whitrig Bog 1st Sep; 110 West Water Reservoir 13th Sep; 1,200 Hule Moss 16th Sep; 143 West Water Reservoir 24th Sep; 100 Whitrig Bog 28th Sep; 800 Hule Moss & 40 West Water Reservoir 13th Oct; 28 Purvis Haugh 1st Nov; 20 Roxburgh Mains 5th Nov; and 14 Brotherstone Moor 21st Nov. Just singles thereafter with: 1 Eddleston 24th Nov; 1 Yetholm Loch 7th Dec; 1 Hule Moss & 1 Tweed Haugh 16th Dec; and 1 Yetholm Loch 31st Dec.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Common breeder on coast. Breeds in <1% of tetrads but found feeding in 20% of area during summer. Recently started roof-nesting in numbers at Eyemouth. Few really large roosts but good numbers attend rubbish dumps. (434 records in 2012)

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	64	Pease Bay-Redheugh	170
Redheugh-Souter	475	Souter-Petticowick	257
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	71	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	95
Eyemouth-Burmmouth	78	Burmmouth-English border	73

Winter/Spring: 1,283 birds were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan (1,781 in 2011).

Few large counts: 1,000 Langlee Mains Dump 26th Jan with 520 at Tweedbank 11th Jan. 4,000 Langlee Dump 2nd Feb, otherwise 200 Hule Moss 25th Feb and in Mar just 100 Tweedbank on 27th Mar.

Later 300 Tweedbank 2nd May, 150 St Abb's Head 16th May; 500 Langlee Dump 28th May.

Breeding:

A whole colony count of apparently occupied nests (AON) was carried out on 25th, 27th, 30th and 31st May. It was not possible to get out in a boat early enough in the season to count the blind spots so the figure of 26 AONs counted in 2009 was added to the total to give a comparable count.

Results

Herring Gulls increased by 21% to 266AON, compared to 220 in 2011. This is similar to counts since 2006, above the 10-year mean of 242 AONs but below the 28-year mean of 3547 AONs.

Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2012.

Breeding was confirmed in the following tetrads: Fast Castle Head, Green Stane & Burmmouth.

Birds also nested on the roofs of the Eyemouth factories, although there is no count of how many.

Autumn/Winter: Again few large counts: 400 St Abb's Head 26th Sep; 350 Haud Yards 14th Oct; 700 Dunglass 21st Oct; 500 Tweedbank 6th Dec with 520 7th Dec & 93 on 11th Dec; 250 Cauldshiels Loch 17th Dec.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Very scarce winter visitor. (17 records in 2012)

1 ad Gunknowe Loch 11th Jan (Andrew Bramhall); 1 ad Eyemouth 25th – 27th Jan (Barbara & Barry Prater & Fran Evans); 1ad Gunknowe Loch 28th Jan (Andrew Bramhall); 1ad Langlee Dump and 1 Tweed at Coldstream 2nd Feb (Anthony Speybey, Ray Murray & Andrew Bramhall); 1 2nd-w Gunknowe Loch 5th Feb with ad & 2nd-w there 6th & 13th Feb (Andrew Bramhall); 1ad Gunknowe Loch 21st Feb (Richard Bramhall); 2 2nd-w Gunknowe Loch 6th Mar (Tim Chamberlain); 1 2nd-w Tweed at Lowood 9th Mar (Andrew Bramhall).

Good run of record: probably 5 birds, 23 ads & 2 second-winters.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Has bred since 1999-2000. 1-2 pairs present along Berwickshire coast. Small numbers of immatures summer. Good numbers present well inland during winter, feeding on spent salmon, roosting at the large reservoirs. (124 records in 2012)

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	4	Pease Bay-Redheugh	13
Redheugh-Souter	14	Souter-Petticowick	7
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	2	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	3
Eyemouth-Burmmouth	8	Burmmouth-English border	22

Winter/Spring: 73 were seen during the Berwickshire Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan (92 in 2011).

Few other double-figure counts: 19 Burmmouth 7th Jan with 17 there 9th Jan; 16 Tweed haughs 15th Jan; & 13 Burmmouth 19th Feb. 26 Redheugh 22nd May.

Breeding: Possible territorial birds noted Lamberton in May.

Autumn/Winter: 35 Dunglass 22nd Aug; 12 Burmmouth 27th Aug; 14 Lamberton Beach 19th Sep; 11 Burmmouth 23rd Sep; 55 Lamberton Beach & 20 St Abb's Head 26th Sep; 14 Burmmouth 2nd Oct with 29 there 12th Oct, 10 on 23rd Oct, 30 on 9th Dec & 20 on 15th Dec. Inland: 20 West Water Reservoir 21st Sep with 30 there 13th Oct and 6 on 21st Oct.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Abundant coastal breeder, 19,000 pairs in 2000 but population probably halved by 2005 and halved again by 2010. Occasional heavy autumn passage. Rare inland, but strays almost annual. (39 records in 2012)

Non-breeding records: First report was from Dunglass on 4th Jan with birds there 18th Feb & 3rd Mar.

Few counts but larger counts include: 10N/1hr Eyemouth GC 20th Aug with 180N/3S (2hrs) and 77N/1S (1hr) on 21st Aug; 315N/1S (1hr) there 22nd Aug 258N/3S (1.5hrs) St Abb's Head 23rd Aug; 141N/(1hr) Eyemouth GC 24th Aug. Estimated 2,300 /hr passing (mostly N) St Abb's Head 21st Sep and 950/hr there on 26th Sep (based on several 5 min counts); 50N/20S (1hr) there 14th Oct.

Breeding:

A count of apparently occupied nests (AONs) was carried out between on 7th, 9th, 11th, 12th and 20th June, with blind spots counted from a boat on 16th June. A boat count was attempted but aborted due to rough seas and so the numbers of birds in blind spots was estimated by extrapolating from last year's figures.

Kittiwakes decreased by 8% to 4,314 AON, compared to 4,688 in 2011. This is similar to the counts since 2009, but below the 10-year mean of 5,653 AONs, and less than half the 28-year mean of 10,631 AON. Although the breeding population has decreased by 78% since the highest count in 1989, the counts for the last few years are about the same as those from the 1950s.

An assessment of breeding success was carried out using methods described in the 1995 Report. The same three plots were monitored as last year. Each of the plots was visited on 22nd May when all nests were marked on transparent overlays placed on photographs, then again on 7 further occasions up to 20th July to check the progress of each nest up to fledging.

Results The productivity, expressed as the mean of individual plot figures, was 0.48 young fledged per AON. This was well down on the 2011 figure, but about the same as the 10-year mean of 0.53, and slightly below the 26-year mean of 0.63.

Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2012

Also: 124 on nests Fast Castle Head mid-May, and birds nesting Green Stane & Fancove Head..

Breeding Numbers & breeding success of Kittiwakes at St Abb's Head NNR 1998-2012

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Nests	8044	9576	11077	8,028	8,890	6,642	6,239	7,239	6,228	6463	5298	4616	4744	4688	4314
MBP	0.27	0.60	0.80	0.40	0.33	0.97	0.27	0.88	0.27	0.11	0.12	0.70	0.48	0.95	0.48

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Uncommon summer visitor, breeding nearby in the Forth and on the Farne Islands. Present April-October with best numbers during autumn passage. Rare inland. (27 records in 2012)

Spring: First 3N Eyemouth 1st Apr (Jim Burns) with 3 Dunglass on 16th Apr; 14N Coldingham Bay 1st May & 5 Cove 5th May.

Summer/Autumn: 22 Dunglass 17th Jun; 25N/5S Eyemouth GC (2hrs) 21st Aug with 1N/3S (1hr) later that day and 31N/2S (1hr) there 23rd Aug. Just 3N & 6N on counts there 23rd -24th Aug (1hr). Small numbers were seen off Burnmouth, Minkim Shore, & Eyemouth GC over next month with 7N/6S St Abb's Head on 26th Sep. Last were heard off Lamberton Beach (but not seen) on 3rd Oct (Ron McBeath).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Summer visitor, uncommon on coast, most frequent August-September during passage. Very scarce inland. (2 records in 2012)

Just 2 reports: 11N & 5N St Abb's Head 26th Sep (Dave Graham & Ray Murray).

"Commic" Tern

1 Pease Bay 2nd Sep; 2 Fancove head 18th Sep; 2 St Abb's Head 26th Sep with 1 there 14th Oct.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Summer coastal visitor, mainly August-September. Under-recorded. 1 inland record. (8 records in 2012)

Summer/Autumn: 1 Dunglass 17th Jun; 2N, 10N & 2NEyemouth GC (3hrs) 21st Aug; 6N/5S there 22nd Aug, 1N there 23rd Aug, 18N St Abb's Head 24th Aug, the last record (Ray Murray).

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Common coastal breeder, 44,5000 birds in 2000. Some movements in autumn. (37 records in 2012)

Non-breeding: 52 birds were seen Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan.

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay 1 Pease Bay-Redheugh 14

Redheugh-Souter 0 Souter-Petticowick 6

Petticowick-Coldingham Bay 32 Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth 0

Eyemouth-Burnmouth 0 Burnmouth-English border 0

Movements: 6N/2S Eyemouth GC 22nd Aug but just 2S there 23rd Aug; with 17N/2S there (1hr) 8th Sep; 60N/10S there on 14th Sep. Hourly rate estimated (from several 5 min counts) at St Abb's Head of 300/hr (c70%S) on 21st Sep rising to 550/hr later in the day; also 800/hr there 26th Sep (2hrs, mostly S). 20N/70S there (1hr) 14th Oct. A couple of singles seen Lamberton & St Abbs respectively on 25th & 30th Dec.

Breeding:

Eight counts of individual birds on ledges were carried out at each of the five plots between 25th May and 14th June (due to another early breeding season counts were started as soon as the first check was spotted and carried out until the first jumplings were spotted).

The sum of plot means has decreased by 11%, compared to 2011 and below both the 10-year mean of 1,564 and the 28-year average of 1,477 individuals. Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2012.

First eggs St Abb's Head 14th Apr. Nesting also noted Fancove Head, Fast Castle Head (310 birds) & Green Stane in Jun.

Counts of Guillemots at monitoring plots and whole colony counts, St Abb's Head NNR 2001-2012

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Plots	1886	1924	1810	1445	1702	1636	1620	1605	1924	1,377	1,568	1,396
Colony	-	-	-	40389	-	-	-	33,181	-	-	-	-

Razorbill *Alca torda*

Common coastal breeding species, 3,533 birds bred in 2000, two-thirds at St Abb's Head. Some autumn passage. (17 records in 2012)

Non-breeding: 4 were seen during the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan: 1 at Pease Bay-Redheugh and 3 at Eyemouth-Burnmouth sections.

Counts: 60 feeding close in during seawatch St Abb's Head 21st Sep.

Breeding:

Eight counts of individual birds were carried out at each of the five plots between 25th May and 14th June.

The sum of plot means has decreased on average by 5% compared to 2011 but the figure of 126 is about the same as the 29-year average of 145 individuals.

Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2012

117 on cliffs at Fast Castle Head coast on 19th May. Also seen Green Stane & Fancove Head.

Counts of Razorbills at monitoring plots, and whole colony counts, St Abb's Head NNR 2001-2012

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Birds	193	160	171	103	126	130	142	113	147	112	133	126
Colony	-	-	-	2218	-	-	-	1,687	-	-	-	-

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Erratic winter visitor, mostly November to March. Numbers very variable. Absent some years. (6 records in 2012)

36N St Abb's Head 27th Oct with 243N there 28th Oct & 8N there 29th Oct. 20N & 18 on sea there 4th Nov, 10N & 3 on sea there 11th Nov and 3N & 1 on sea there 18th Nov (Fran Evans & Dave Graham).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Scarce coastal breeder, mostly seen off the cliffs. Rarely proved to breed as nest sites usually inaccessible. Uncommon offshore in autumn, scarce in winter. Rare autumn movements. (7 records in 2012)

Breeding: *Puffins were even more scarce this year, an evening count on 3rd July found just 4 birds ashore, compared to 7 in 2011.*

Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2012

Non-breeding: 30N St Abb's Head 7th Jul; 1N Eyemouth GC 21st Aug with 2N there 23rd Oct; 1N St Abb's Head 27th Oct. 2 feeding Dunglass 3rd Nov with 13N/11 on sea St Abb's Head 4th Nov. 5 on sea Dunglass 17th Nov.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common resident breeder, reported from 40% of tetrads. Some large flocks in late autumn-winter, often on farms and along the coast. (390 records in 2012)

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay 0 Pease Bay-Redheugh 8

Redheugh-Souter	8	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	66	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	47
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	66	Burnmouth-English border	0

Winter/Spring: 195 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan (177 in 2011).

Found in 68 tetrads during Atlas in Jan-Feb: 150 Eckford 14th Jan & 200 Charlesfield 19th Feb with 50-64 counted Edrom, Galashiels, Little Swinton & Rumbleton.

Breeding: Found in 122 tetrads Apr-Aug, but confirmed breeding in 77 of them. Largest counts: 120 Mersington & Mersingtonmill 19th Apr; 47 Kelloe Bridge 1st Jun; 43 Harelaw 20th Jun; 40 Rumbleton 27th May.

Autumn/Winter: Found in 66 tetrads Nov-Dec, TTV counts produced high counts of: 120 Kersknowe & 90 Frogden 5th Nov; 65 Springwells 5th Nov; 60 Lambden 5th Nov; 50 Black gable. St Abb's Head 9th Dec.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Uncommon and local breeder in 20% of tetrads. Small winter flocks. Very much under-recorded. (89 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Found in just 8 tetrads Jan-Mar (17 in 2011). 7 New Smailholm 12th Jan; 4 Swinton House 17th Feb; with 2 birds at Horsburgh Castle, Kelloe Bridge, & Newmains.

Breeding: Found in 61 tetrads (64 in 2011) with confirmed breeding reports from Wester Muirdean. Pairs were reported at Airhouse (2), Angelrow (2), Bemersyde House (2), Bemersyde Moss, Black Barony, Branxholme Braes (2), Cardrona House, Chesters Haugh, Clarilawburn (2), Dunglass, Edington Mains, Floors Castle (2), Fountainhall, Glenholm (2), Greenriggs, Harehead (2), Horndean, Howburn Park, Howliston, Howpark, Kelphope, Melrose, Monksford Glen (2), Newmains, Newmill (Teviot) (2), Old Melrose, Overton Bush Ravelaw (3), Rumbleton, Sinclair's Hill (3), Sprouston, Wester Happlew, Wester Muirdean & Whitslade

Autumn/Winter: Few late year reports with birds recorded from 11 tetrads in Nov-Dec. A large count of 10 Mount Ulston; 2 birds each at Chesters & Kersknowe; and singles at 6 other sites.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Abundant woodland breeder reported in 85% of tetrads. Some big winter flocks. (1188 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Reported from 148 tetrads Jan-Mars. Large counts: 2,500 Hillend 31st Jan; 1,600 Fairnington 2nd Feb; 1,500 Ploughlands (Maxton) 9th Feb; 1,000 Oxton 15th Jan; 800 Roxburgh Moor 2nd Feb; 600 Stichill 3rd Jan & Galalaw 29th Feb; 500 Auchencrow 26th Jan & Edrom 17th Feb; 400 Blackadder 14th Jan; 300 Cadam Law 8th Jan & Billiemains 30th Jan; and 200-299 at Halliburton, Hyndsidehill, Langtonlees & Rumbletonlaw. 1,000 Carfraemill 5th Mar.

Breeding: Recorded in 312 tetrads, with confirmed breeding in 132 tetrads. 76 UN, 53 ON & 3 FL)

The first occupied nest was seen at Melrose on 19th Apr. The first fledged young were seen at Lamberton on 16th Jun.

Largest counts were 500 Penmanshiel 19th May; 103 North Fallaknowe 12th Jul; 200 Drakemyre 17th Jun; and 96 Hyndsidehill 12th May.

Autumn/Winter: Largest Sep-Oct count was 100 Lauder 15th Oct.

Recorded in 110 tetrads in Nov-Dec. Largest counts were 2,500 Easter Softlaw 15th Dec; 2,000 Swinton Hill 8th Nov & Fans 17th Nov; 1,000 Eccles Tofts 18th Nov; 700 Angelrow 1st Dec; 583 Chesters 21st Nov; 440 Todrighill 8th Nov; 300 Leitholm 4th Nov; 252 Marlefield 8th Nov; 250 Tod's Dean 5th Nov; 249 Morridgehall 21st Nov; 221 South Laws 8th Nov; and 200 Todrig 11th Nov; and 100-199 birds at Bewlie Hill, Chesters Grange, Darnchester, Minto Craigs & Minto Kames in Nov; and in Dec at Crossrig.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Uncommon breeder in urban settings in 21% of tetrads. Some autumn flocks and dispersal. (238 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 40 tetrads Jan-Mar.

14 Graden 29th Feb; 12 Paxton House 11th Jan; 7 Harcase 23rd Jan; 6 Candy Mill 6th Jan, Polwarth 13th Jan, Middlestots 17th Feb, Langshaw 28th Feb & Harcase 29th Feb; 5 Peebles 3rd Mar; with 3-4 birds at Burnmouth, Duns & Horndean.

Breeding: Recorded in 88 tetrads, Apr-Aug, with 5 pairs Langton Mains 1st Jun & Roxburgh 2nd Jun; 4prs Nether Blainslie 12th Apr & St Boswells 13th May; 3 pairs at Middlestots & Gavinton 19th Apr, Heriot 9th May, Newtown St Boswells & Lamberton 13th May, Lanton Hill 1st Jun, Duns 19th Jun, Sprouston 1st Jul & Ayton 29th Jul; and 2 pairs at Spottiswoode, Hexpathdean Bridge, Over Roxburgh & Kelloe Bridge.

The first occupied nest was seen at Melrose on 20th Apr; fledged young were seen at Heriot on 25th Jun, Sprouston on 1st Jul & Ayton on 29th Jul.

Autumn/Winter: In Sep-Oct 7 Cairncross 5th Oct was the largest count. During Nov-Dec were recorded in 33 tetrads with 28 Blackadder Mount 8th Nov; 14 Kaimflat, 11 Ednam & 10 Blinkbonny on 21st Nov; 10 Preston 8th Nov; 8 Selkirk 15th Nov; 7 Burnmouth 9th Dec; otherwise 3-6 birds reported from Bewlie Hill, Dronshiel, Eddleston, Gordon, Kennetsideheads, Minto, Paxton, Thirlestane, Tweedbank & Whitsome.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Now an extremely scarce passage migrant, not annual. Formerly may have bred in the 1960s-1980s. (3+ records in 2012)

Just a single bird was seen at the undisclosed site in eastern Berwickshire, on 3 occasions between 20th Apr -1st May and then regularly there to 28th Aug.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Uncommon summer visitor to hills and coast reported from 30% of tetrads. Mostly late April-July with a few juveniles to late September. 1 winter record. (75 records in 2012)

Spring: First 1 Middletoun 12th Apr (Ray Murray); 1 Girthgate, Lauder 27th Apr. Influx 3rd May with singles Craik, Garvald, Ladyside & Mervinslaw; with further singles 5th-6th May at The Whin, Faughill, Eildon & Lethem. 3 St Abb's Head 10th May.

More widespread from mid-May.

Breeding: 64 territories/birds recorded at 61 sites in 59 tetrads:

Airhouse
Blackhopebyre
Blakedeane
Blakelaw Covert
Bowhill, Duchess's Drive
Camp Shiel
Carfrae Farm
Clearburn Loch
Clints Hill

Clints Plantation
 Craigurd House
 Craik
 Crookston
 Curly Moor
 Damhead, Traquair
 Dawyck Botanic Garden
 Dewar
 Dod Hill, Traquair
 Dowlaw Dean
 Easter Dawyck
 Easterhill Head
 Eildon Hills 2
 Faughill
 Garvald
 Glenrathope
 Glensax 2
 Green Stane
 Harehead
 Hartside
 Hawkshaw
 Hundleshope Farm
 Kelphope
 Kirktonhill
 Ladyside
 Langhaugh
 Lauder Common, Girthgate
 Leithen Lodge
 Leithenwater Forest 2
 Lethem
 Mayshiel
 Mervinslaw
 Middletoun
 Mossfennan
 Nether Dod
 Nether Monynut 2
 Newark Hill
 Rawburn 2
 Roxburgh
 Single 2
 Soutra Hill
 St Abb's Head
 Sunderland Hope
 Taranbrowse
 The Glen
 The Whin
 Totto Hill
 Upper Newby
 Watch Water Reservoir 2
 Whitmuirhall
 Williamslee
 Windylaw Loch

No juveniles seen.

Autumn: The last records were 2 at Rawburn on 1st Jul & 1 at Blakedean on 14th Jul (Andrew Mossup).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Uncommon resident breeder reported from 12% of tetrads. All records needed. Population fluctuates. (154 records in 2012)

74 Barn Owls were reported in just 73 sites in the non-breeding season (Jan-Feb & Oct-Dec) (33 in 2011, 54 in 2010, 107 in 2009, 132 in 2008 & 96 in 2007), so some recovery of numbers after the two hard winters in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Reported from: Ayton Castle, Bellitaw, Bettyfield, Big Wood, Black Meldon, Blackadder Mount, Brockholes, Brotherstone Hill, Butterdean, Cairncross, Catmoss, Charter Plantation, Chirside, Clearburn Loch, Crailing Tofts, Darnhall, Delorainshiel, Duns, East Gordon, Easter Dawyck, Edington Fox Covert, Edrom Mains, Eckford quarry, Eldinhope, Eyemouth High School, Flemington, Gateside, Gavinton, Greenlaw, Haining Loch, Hamildean, Hamildean, Harelaw, Chirside, Harrietsfield, Hartgarth, Hartwoodburn, Hillend, Hopecarton, Houndwood, Kittyfield, Ladyflat, Lambertton Moor, Lauder, Lazybed Plantation, Leadburn Community Wood, Lilliardsedge, Linthill, Lylestane, Marchcleuch, Marygold Farm, Mount Pleasant, Neidpath Castle, New Ladykirk, Newmains, Newstead, Newtown St Boswells, Prendergust, Redmoss, Restonhill, Rumbletonrig Cottages, Rutherford, Smailholm, Soutra, Stonymuir, Synton Mossend, Teviothead, Walkerburn, Wedderburn Castle, West Newton, Wiselawmill, Wooden Mill, Woolhope, Yarrowfeus & Yetholm Loch

Breeding: Recorded (Mar-Sep) from 58 tetrads at 59 sites (41 in 2010, 45 in 2009, 118 in 2008, 79 in 2007).

Breeding was confirmed at 16 of these sites (*). However many sites in the ringing programme are not included in the totals for 2011.

Airhouse
 Allanton
 Altrieve *
 Ashybank
 Ayton
 Berryhill Cottage
 Blackadder Mount
 Bowden *
 Branxholme
 Carcant Lodge
 Chapel Knowe, Leitholm

Chapelhill
 Charterhouse
 Delorainshiel
 Dodcleugh *
 Drycleughlea *
 Dryden Greenhill
 East Deloraine
 Easter Deans *
 Easterhill Head
 Elibank
 Elwartlaw
 Eyemouth
 Fairmile
 Floors Home Farm
 Friars Nose *
 Gillside *
 Gilmanscleugh
 Gordon Moss
 Hadden
 Harehead *
 Helmburn Hill
 Heriot
 Howliston
 Howpark
 Huntershall
 Ladyflat-Gavinton
 Laidlaw Plantation
 Langsidebrae
 Langtonlees *
 Middletoun
 Mount Bog *
 Neidpath Castle
 New Blainslie
 Old Caberston
 Press Mains
 Rawburn *
 Softlaw
 Sprouton
 St Abbs
 St Leonards, Lauder
 Stevenson
 Swinton Mill
 Syntonmill
 Wedder Lairs*
 Wester Deloraine *
 Wester Muirdean *
 Whisgills *
 Whitmuirhall *
 Whitsome

The year saw a small increase in the number of occupied nest sites. However, breeding success was low compared with last year with a number of failures at all stages, and small brood size, although it is far from low compared to many records from previous years. The largest brood was one of six young in Midlothian.

Barn Owls are known to recover fairly quickly from bad winters because of their capability to produce large numbers of young. However, good breeding seasons seem to take place only very occasionally in this part of the country. We will just have to hope for good prey availability in the form of a peak vole year to get them going again.

Alan Leitch, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

Barn Owl Breeding Data	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Sites checked	-	-	-	-	-	140	252	156
Occupied	16	46	45	69	93	54	29	32
Productive nests	15	40	43	46	59	54	24	32
Young fledged	-	-	-	132	201+	154	84	68
Mean no fledging	2.75	2.97	2.83	2.2	3.1	4.05	2.90	1.90
Young per productive nest	2.9	3.41	3.13	2.87	3.50	2.85	3.50	3.00

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Rare and enigmatic resident. Proof of breeding very rare and no consistent pattern to records, other than commoner in the east. Not annual. (3 records in 2012)

1 Swinton Mill 5th Feb (Andrew Mossup); 1 Prendergust 6th Feb (Ron McBeath); 1 Redpath 12th May (David Parkinson).

Three records in one year is now unusual.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Common resident found in 36% of tetrads. Many reports in autumn during the dispersal of juveniles. (199 records in 2011)

82 birds at 69 sites in non-breeding season Jan-Feb & Oct-Dec (53 sites in 2011, 48 sites in 2010, 50 in 2009, 44 in 2008, 80 in 2007): Bogend, Bowden, Burmouthe, Cairncross, Cauldshiels Loch, Cessford Castle, Clappers, Cleugh Cottage, Cockburnspath, Courthill, Cowbog, Craigurd House, Crailing Tofts, Cringletie, Drumelzier, Duns Law, Earliston, Easter Dawyck, Eccles, Eddleston, Edgerston, Galalaw, Gavinton Ford, Glenhighton, Gordon Moss, Groundistone, Groundistone Moss, Hamilton Hall, Hassendean, Hawkshaw, Holefield, Hoscote, How Dean, Jedburgh, Kelloe Bridge, Kilbucho Place, Knowetownhead, Lauder, Linthill, Longformacus, Marchcleuch, Marlefield, Minto Craigs, Nether Phawhope, New Blainslie, Newmains, Nisbet Rhodes, Norton, Old Greenlaw, Oxnam, Peebles, Pirm Dean, Printonan, Quarry Hill, Roxburgh Mains, Manor Schoolhouse Wood, Singlie, South Blainslie, Stirkfield, Stobo Castle, Stobo Castle, Tod's Dean, Wauchope Cottages, Wedderburn Castle, West Water Reservoir, Wester Dawyck, White Rig Plantation & Whitehaugh

Breeding: 101 reported during the breeding season (Mar-Sep) from 79 sites in 77 tetrads (106 in 2011, 82 sites in 2010, 79 in 2009, 99 in 2008, 63 in 2007) (* = evidence of breeding = 12 sites).

Airhouse	
Ayton	2
Backlea Plantation	2
Boleside, A7	
Branxholme	
Burnfoot	
Byehass Fell *	
Calaburn Farm	
CastleCraig Forestry	
Cauldshiels Loch	
Caverhill	
Chapelhill	
Clarilawburn	
Colterscleugh	
Craigurd House	5
Crook Cottage *	
Dalcove Pond	
Denholm Mill	2
Dodhead	
Dronshiel	
Dryden Greenhill	
Duns Law	
Duns Strips, Longformacus	
Easterhill Head	
Eddleston	
Edrington Castle	
Eildon *	
Galalaw	2
Haggin Hope	
Halkburn	2
Halliburton	2
Hamildean	
Harehead *	
Hawick, Burnfoot	
Hawkshaw *	
Heriot	
Hirsel	
Horndean	
Huntlaw	
Hutlerburn	2
Hutlerburn Hill	
Kilbucho Place	2
Knowetownhead	
Kyleshill Plantation	4
Ladyrig *	
Lanton Mains	
Lauder	
Leithen Lodge	
Linthill br4*	
Lithillum Loch	2
Longformacus	2
Melrose, Viewbank	
Menzion Farm *	
Middlestots *	2
Middletoun	
Millfield	
Mire Loch	
Moorshot Plantation	
New Blainslie	2
Newmains	3
Paxton House	
Pease Bay	
Singdean Forest *	
South Blainslie	2
South Greenholm *	
South Park Wood	
Sprouston	
Stouslie	
Sunderland Hope	
Syntonmill	
Turtleton	
Wester Deloraine	
Whim Wood	
Whin Wood	
White Hill	
Whitmuirhall *	
Windy Gowl, Carlops	
Windywalls	
Yarrowlea	

The first young at Crook Cottage on 6th May.

Full coverage of all the boxes was achieved and were checked for signs of occupancy either by Tawny or Barn Owl or by other species on FCS land with additional records submitted by other group members covering private holdings. The majority of the boxes on FCS land are paired boxes, normally situated 50 – 60 metres apart to enable both species to breed successfully if present. This however limits the available nesting opportunities to 58 'sites' within the Tawny owl territories. Competition for boxes is greatly reduced by 'pairing' up the boxes to cater for any

difference in timing of species breeding attempts. This statistic must be born in mind as it reduces the actual territorial nesting opportunities for the Tawny Owl compared to the number of boxes available.

Two of the occupied sites failed probably due to the female being killed as the boxes were well provisioned with one site containing an assortment of 22 mice and voles with three dead checks present which died within approximately 5-10 days of hatching. Two boxes which have been moved to an adjacent location due to felling activities and only 160m apart were both occupied by Tawny Owls this year and unusually both managed to fledge three young between them. There were some early chicks fledging from the boxes at the end of April with the majority fledging at the normal period during the last week of May – first week of June. There was no significant difference in fledged brood sizes between early/late nesting birds. There appeared to be good vole numbers early in the season which reduced nearer to fledging due to the constant wet weather.

Barn Owl numbers have not recovered on FSC land after two bad winters of 2009/10 but more boxes are currently being occupied by Stock Doves and Jackdaws, as well as the occasional squirrel.

Tony Lightly, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of boxes checked	-	-	-	50	74	88
Number of boxes occupied	12	16	21	20	30	47
Boxes with proven breeding	-	-	-	-	24	41
Number of young fledged	24	24	17	21	44	82
Average brood size	2.00	2.15	1.88	1.40	1.47	1.74
Young fledged/successful pair	-	-	-	-	1.83	2.0

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Very scarce and local breeder, only reported from 4% of tetrads but very much under-recorded. Some passage on coast, mostly October-November. ALL RECORDS NEEDED. (16 records in 2012)

1 calling Blackhopebyre 21st Mar (Tom Dougall) was followed up with no result; 1 Creel Path 11th May (Alan Kerr) may have been a migrant; 1 Henlaw Quarry 17th May (Ronnie Richardson); 1 young bird Geordie's Hill 25th May (Malcolm Henderson); 1 St Abb's Head 25th May, probably another migrant (Jack Ibbotson); 1 Newmains 18th, 21st, 26th & 28th Jun (Dave Graham); 2 juvs Dronshiel 4th Jul (Harry Dott & Mark Holling); 1 Cockmuir carrying food for young was on the boundary between Peeblesshire and Midlothian 11th Jul (Den Morrison).

At least 18 sites were checked, but no birds were found at 8 of these. Five sites were occupied by a nesting pair and there was evidence of presence from a further 5 sites. Three pairs fledged at least four young in total; on another site laid eggs but no young fledged. The final two sites had eggs and large young, which may have fledged, but this was not confirmed.

Records of birds came from: Pentlands 91), Moorfoots (2), Lammermuirs (1), West Lothian (2), Liddesdale (4), and the Tweed valley area (1).

As usual most records were based on casual reports, although several sites occupied in the past were re-checked. Poort weather, especially rain in evening, reduced opportunities for cold-searching. An extensive area of West Lothian in an area that held several pairs 10 years ago produced just one sighting of an adult. It is likely that the cold early spring, strong winds in late spring followed by a wet summer reduced success of those pairs which did nest, and this was mentioned by some nest reporters.

Mark Holling, Long-eared Owl co-ordinator for Lothian & Borders.

	Sites occupied	Sites with eggs laid	Sites young fledged	Min young fledged	Young per successful nest
2012	10	-	5	3	0.75
2011	7	7	6	4	-
2010	10	-	6	10	1.33
2009	7	5	5	12	2.75
2008	6	6	4	6	1.50
2007	5	4	4	7	2.33
2006	5	1	1	3	3.00
2005	7	3	3	5	1.66
2004	18	15	15	37	2.46
2003	14	9	7	14	2.00

Winter: No early-year reports. 2 Newcastleton 25th Oct (Malcolm Henderson); 1 North Slipperfield 15th Nov (Harry Dott); 1 Lylestone 2nd Dec (James Towill).

A good year with more reports than usual.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Uncommon in hill areas recorded breeding from 19% of tetrads. Breeding & wintering numbers vary with vole fluctuations. Some autumn passage on coast. (65 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 1 Newmains 23rd Jan; 2 Pease Bay 24th Jan; 1 Lauder 28th Jan; 1 Newmains 4th Feb; 1 Eyemouth 7th Feb - 5 later Feb/Mar records from areas where breeding possible. 1 Harly Darlies 31st Mar was a probably winterer/migrant, as were 4 there on 20th Apr, although breeding used to occur on Coldingham Moor.

Breeding:

Atlas records: single tetrads in Tweedsmuir Hill, Moorfoots Hills, and Lammermuir Hills.

At least 20 sites were checked, and 18 sites recorded the presence of at least one bird – including eight in the Moorfoots. Six sites held nesting pairs: five in the Moorfoots and one in the Lammermuirs. Six broods were recorded, and three sites definitely fledged young (2.2,1+)

Autumn 2011 saw significant numbers of Short-eared owls arrive in the country and many remained at coastal and hill sites through the winter, inviting speculation that some may stay to breed.

Tom Dougall checked the sites in the Moorfoots (NT34/35), all within Borders) and found evidence of activity at eight of these. One nest held seven eggs but none hatched. Two young fledged from another nest while at three other sites no nests could be found, yet food was seen being carried in, and one produced two young. In the Lammermuirs, there were more birds on territory than in recent years although only one brood was found. The low success is thought to have been due to the wet weather at the critical period.

Borders held 6 breeding pairs, plus another 3 probable and 4 more possible sites. The figure for Lothian were 0,2 & 3 respectively.

Mark Holling, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

	Sites occupied	Sites with clutches	Sites fledged	Min young	Production young/nest
2012	18	6	5	5	1.66
2011	16	2	2	8	2.00-2.40
2010	16	7	2-5	4-12	2.00-2.40
2009	10	6	5-6	6-13	1.20-2.17
2008	2	2	2	7-8	3.50
2007	4-5	4	2-4	5-9	2.50

2006	12	4	1	10	2.67
2005	7	1	1	1	1.00
2004	19	5	4	11	3.33
2003	7	5	4	9	2.25

Autumn/Winter: Last record from breeding habitat was at Woodburn on 9th Aug. 1 West Linton 17th Nov; 2 Dowlaw 18th Nov with 1 there 19th Dec.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Very rare summer visitor. Formerly a very uncommon breeder that disappeared in the middle of the 20th century. Just a handful of recent records. (1 record in 2012)

Site was checked with 1 churring on 1st Jul (Dave Graham).

Swift *Apus apus*

Common & widespread summer visitor seen in 34% of tetrads, but probably breeding in just 11% of tetrads, mostly in buildings. Present May-September, rare later. (165 records in 2012)

Spring: First 5 Roxburgh 30th Apr (S Fraser); 5 Tweedbank 2nd May; 20 Tweedbank & 6 Coldstream 3rd May; 2 Kelso 4th May. Some passage with 47N St Abb's Head 10th May with 210N there 11th May

Breeding: Recorded in 103 tetrads Apr-Jul.

Birds soaring over settlements (not late Jul)

Branxholme
Branxholme Braes
Fountainhall
Harden Hill Head
Harden Hill Head
Jedburgh
Newstead
Newtown St Boswells Glen
St Boswells
St Boswells
Whitslade
Hermitage Farm

Counts of screaming parties

Branxholme	2
Branxholme Braes	1
Fountainhall	2
Harden Hill Head	5
Innerleithen	20
Jedburgh	6
Melrose	8
Newstead	6
Newtown St Boswells	9
St Boswells	28
Whitslade	2
Hermitage Farm	10
Duns	22
Millfield	15

Counts of nests [no nest count, but birds associated]

Chirnside west	5+ [20]
Chapelhill	1
Cockburn	1
Peebles	6
St Boswells	3
Turtleton	1

Ringling at The Hirsell nestboxes saw 15 juvs ringed along with 7 new adults and another 15 re-trapped (Alan Kerr).

First seen entering nest site was at Chapelhill on 21st May.

Autumn: 50 feeding Rutherford Lodge 2nd Jun, 30 Yetholm Loch 6th Jun; 21 Kelloe Mains 19th Jun; were largest parties reported before Jul. Then 25 Folly Loch 1st Jun; 10 Junction Pool 2nd Jul; 10 Manderston 10th Jul; were the only double-figure counts for Jul and much of Aug. The a final flurry with 150 passing S in 1hr St Abb's Head 31st Aug with 80 there 1st Sep; 20 Eddleston & 1 Lamberton 3rdSep were the latest records (Ray Murray & Ron McBeath).

A poor summer, the wet weather doubtless the principle reason.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Rather uncommon resident of riverine habitats found in 3% of tetrads. Occasionally seen on coast in winter. (31 records in 2012)

Non-breeding: During Jan-Mar single birds were seen on: White Hill on 28th Jan, Horsburgh Castle on 12th Feb, Eyemouth 14th Feb, Abbey St Bathans 24th Feb & Yetholm Marsh 12th Mar.

During Sep-Dec records of singles came from: Lauder Burn on 20th Sep; Mire Loch on 4th Oct & 15th Dec; Duncanshaugh 14th Oct, possibly same Yetholm Loch 16th Oct; Sprouston 29th Oct; Harcus 1st Nov; Purvishaugh 21st Nov; Lauder 2nd Dec, & Paxton House 12th Dec.

Breeding: Birds were reported in suitable habitat Mar-Sep from: the Tweed at Bellanrig, Old Manor Brig, Rutherford Lodge, Kelso Bridge & Paxton House; the Teviot at Knowetownhead & Denholm Mill; Yetholm Marsh & Hutlerburn. Breeding was confirmed at Hutlerburn with an adult carrying food for young 28th May.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant. Not annual.
1 Chirnside 23rd May (Andrew Davies).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Uncommon breeding resident in 8% of tetrads, mostly in old riverine woods. (65 records in 2011)

Breeding: Birds were reported from the following 26 sites during the breeding season (Mar-Aug); (33 in 2011, 30 in 2010, 33 in 2009, 28 in 2008, 31 in 2007). * = evidence of breeding.

Birkenside
Blackhouse Dean Plantation
Blawearie
Bushelhill-Nether Monynut 2
Cardrona House *
Craigurd House
Edgerston Rig 2
Fairloans
Galla Wood
Gallowberry Wood
Glenternie
Innerleithen
Lauder Barns
Manor Schoolhouse Wood
Neidpath
Neidpath Castle 2
Newtown Glen
Plora Wood
Raeburn Wood
Sunderland Hall Estate
Thirlestane Castle
Traquair
Trows
Turnbankbrae Plantation
Tweed, Bemersyde House
West Mains Wood

Old nest found Cardrona House

Non-breeding: No Jan & Sep records. Feb & Oct-Dec records from: Caddonfoot, Cademuir Forest, Cardrona House, Dowlaw Farm, Easter Dawyck, Edston, Leadburn Community Wood, Manor Schoolhouse, Minto Craigs, Monynut Forest, Neidpath Castle, Tweedbank & Wardlaw

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common breeder in 25% of tetrads. A few on passage. (688 records in 2011)

Breeding: Birds were reported at 201 sites in the breeding season (Mar-Aug) in 198 tetrads (132 in 2009, 190 in 2008, 100 in 2007). Evidence of breeding at 65 sites (74 in 2011, 32 sites in 2010).

Bellitaw FF
Black Barony FL
Blind Haugh UN
Bowhill, Lochs FL
Branxholme UN
Branxholme Braes UN
Broomdykes FL
Cardrona Forest N UN
Charterhall Wood UN
Charterhouse ON
Clarilawburn UN
Dawyck House NY
Dolphinston Moor UN
Dryden Greenhill FL
Easterhill Head UN
Edgerston Rig UN
Eildon UN
Elibank FL
Fancove Head NY
Ferniehirst UN
Floors Castle FF
Fogo Kirk ON
Fountainhall UN
Graden FL
Grantshouse ON
Greatridgehall Wood NY
Hallrulemill ON
Hallyne FL
Harden Hill Head UN
Harehead UN
Hawkshaw ON
Horseshoe Plantation ON
Howliston UN
Innerleithen FL
Kailzie East FL
Ladyrig NY
Langsidebrae FL
Legholmshiels UN
Makerstoun NY
Middlestots FL

Milne Graden west	UN
Muirburn	UN
New Blainslie	UN
Newhouse Kip	UN
North Berryfell	UN
Over Roxburgh	NY
Oxnam Pottery	UN
Pedderie Dod	ON
Penmanshiel	ON
Priesthaugh	ON
Raacleugh Head	UN
Renton House	UN
Rutherford Lodge	UN
Selkirk Common	ON
Sinclair's Hill	FL
Springwells	FL
St Boswells	FL
St Boswells GC	UN
Sunderland Hope	FF
Swinside Hall Plantation	FF
Teviot, Roxburgh Mains	FL
The Glen - lower	UN
Tweed, Rutherford Cauld	UN
Tweedbank	br3
Whitmuirhall	FL
Windside Hill	FL

The largest count, usually here juveniles were concerned, were: 6 at Abbey St Bathans (3prs); 4 at Bellitaw, Marygold & Mersingtonmill; 3 at Craighurd House, Edgerston Rig, Floors Castle, Greatridgehall Wood, Hallrulemill, Makerstoun, Roxburgh Newton, Rutherford Lodge, Spottiswoode Loch, , Springwells, Trows, Rutherford Cauld & Tweedmill

The first confirmed breeding was an occupied nest at Baddingsgill Horseshow Plantation on 7th May. The first nest with young was at Fancove Head on 17th May and the first adult carrying food at Bellitaw on 22nd May. The first fledged young were seen at RFesnton House & Kailzie on 10th Jun.

Non-breeding: Birds were reported outwith the breeding season from 230 sites in 179 tetrads (19 in 2011, 168 tetrads in 2010, 155 tetrads in 2009, 188 in 2008). Most sightings were of 1-2 birds but there were 4 at Georgefield & 3 at Gavinton, Purvishaugh & Tweedbank in Oct-Nov.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Very scarce autumn passage migrant that occasionally winters. Not annual. (33 records in 2012).

Winter 11-12: 1 Hen Poo 19th Jan (James Lough); 1 Lindean Reservoir & Murder Moss (from 2012) on 7 dates from 29th Jan to 22nd Mar (Stuart Scott *et al.*); 1 Deanfoot, West Linton & Whitfield 26th -29th Feb; 1 Creel Path (with some traces of *homeyeri* features) 24th -28th Apr, and 1 Mire Loch 24th Apr (Jack Ibbotson) ; 1 Creel path 11th May have been a different bird (Alan Kerr).

Autumn/Winter: 1 Hundleshope 9th Oct (Kinnaird Cunningham).

After many years with the odd bird, consecutive years with multiple records is encouraging.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Very scarce passage migrant. Not annual. (3 records in 2012)

1m Mire Loch 21st -22nd May; 1f Coldingham Bay 22nd May (Fran Evans & Jack Ellison).

Magpie *Pica pica*

Scarce and local breeder found in 8% of tetrads. Curious distribution along the northern hills, the coast and Cheviot fringes. Increasingly common. Some dispersal into central areas in winter. (333 records in 2012)

Non-breeding season: Recorded from 64 tetrads Jan-Mar & 66 tetrads Sep-Dec (70 & 92 in 2011).

The best early-year counts were: 10 Millar's Moss 3rd Feb; with 4-5 birds at Fleurs, Gilmanscleugh, Longcote Hill, Mire Loch , Nether Stewarton, Wester Fodderlee, Whitfield & Wilyrigg Strips.

The best late-year counts were: 5 Black Barony 7th Dec; and 4 birds Cauldmill, Coldingham Loch, Leaburn Community Woodland & St Abb's Head.

Breeding Season: Reported during Apr-Aug from 76tetrads (97 in 2011, 75 in 2010, 60 in 2009, 89 in 2008).

Breeding was confirmed at with fledged young seen at Abbey Park, Burnmouth, Hog Knowe, Myrtlehall & North Fallaknowe, the first young seen at Hog Knowe on 22nd Jun; and with a used nests at Fountainhall & Leadburn.

The best counts were: 6 Burnmouth 11th Apr; 5 Myrtlehall 18th Jun; 4 North Fallaknowe 12th Jul & 4 St Abb's Head 29th Apr; with 3 Fast Castle Head 19th May.

With the recent spread of Magpie from the 'residual' areas that it had been confined to by persecution during the last atlas, the differentiation of the old 'core' areas has become lost, hence the change from the old regional analysis of these areas within Borders. It is noticeable that more information is available on the coastal birds, possibly due to the greater coverage of the area by observers.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Very scarce but increasing breeder found in only 5% of tetrads. (321 records in 2012).

Non-breeding season: Birds were reported during Jan-Mar from 55 tetrads (61 in 2011, 39 in 2010, 32 in 2009, 52 in 2008). Mainly 1-2 birds but 4birds Abbotsford 25th Jan; and 3 birds Fireburnmill, Folly Loch, Harehope Forest, Littledeanlees and Nether Stewarton.

Seen at an excellent 46 locations in Sep-Oct (29 in 2011, 17 in 2010), typically more visible when foraging to establish winter stores. All 1-2 birds except for 5 Nisbet Hillhead 18th Oct & 5 The Hirsell 19th Oct and 3 at Bemersyde Moss 12th Sep.

Found in 80 tetrads Nov-Dec (81 in 2011, 75 in 2010, 63 in 2009, 64 in 2008). Best counts were 5 South Laws 8th Nov; 4 Folly Loch 8th Nov, Longnewton 21st Nov, Nisbet Hillhead 2^{1st} dec, Swinnie Plantation 21st Nov & Todrighill 8th Nov; with 3 birds reported at Darnchester, Eildon, The Hirsell, Houndridge, Kersknowe, Marlefield, Springwells, Tweedhopefoot & Upper Nisbet Moor.

Breeding season: Birds were reported during Apr-Aug at 67 tetrads (79 in 2011, 68 in 2010, 47 in 2008 & 2009).

Confirmation of breeding, such as a brood on young at Alterstones Hill on 13th Aug is rare, but adults carrying food for young Harehope 1st May and in Bowmont Forest 2nd Jun & distraction display Kerchesters 1st Jul were the next best evidence of confirmed breeding. 7 in two tetrads Cardona Forest 4th Jul was the best count.

2 or more birds were seen at: (* proof of breeding):

Alterstones Hill * 3
 Ashkirk Loch
 Buckholm
 Cardona Forest 7
 Charterhall Wood 3
 Craizie Hill
 Fishwick
 Foulden
 Galashiels
 Gallowberry Wood
 Gilston
 Gordon Moss
 Harehope Hill *
 Howpark
 Kerchesters *
 Menzion
 Paxton House north
 Penmanshiel
 Plora Rig 3
 Raecleugh Head
 Redpath
 Rink Hill
 Shaws Under Loch
 Shielshaugh
 Springwells
 Springwood Estate
 Sunderland Hope
 Todheugh
 Trows
 Tweeddaleburn
 Tweedmill 3
 Woodside

The elevated numbers in the autumn/winter periods suggests a successful breeding season, or perhaps desperate birds foraging more widely for scarce autumn/winter food..

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Widespread and common resident found in 63% of tetrads. Forms mixed flocks. (1030 records in 2011)

Winter/spring: Recorded 149 tetrads Jan-Mar (178 in 2011, 146 in 2010, 180 in 2009, 210 in 2008).

93 found on Rocky Shore Count (170 in 2011, 122 in 2009) on 15th Jan, with 30 Redheugh-Souter & 28 Burnmouth-border.

The largest TTV and other counts were: 800 Langlee Dump 2nd Feb; 400 Auchencrow roost 13th Feb; 260 Folly Loch 25th Feb; 240 Toftihill 17th Feb; 200 Halliburton Bridge 14th Jan; 160 Caverton Mains 22nd Feb; 125 Heavyside 22nd Feb; 120 Lindean Reservoir 2nd Jan, 120 Rumbleton Rig 14th Jan & Cadam Law 19th Feb; 100-119 at Bemersyde Moss, Bowhill, Galashiels, Glenrath & Rumbleton; with 60-99 birds at 6 other locations.

Breeding: Recorded 238 tetrads (258 in 2011, 156 in 2010, 196 in 2009, 255 in 2008), breeding was confirmed in 126 of them.

The first adults on nests were at Sinclair's Hill, Raecleugh Head & Kelloe Bridge on 19th Apr & Todheugh, Pyatshaw & Melrose on 20th Apr; the first adults carrying food for young were at: Middlestots 19th Apr & New Blainslie on 3rd May; the first fledglings reported were at Wester Muirdean on 21st May & Traquair on 22nd May. Large one-hour TTV and other counts: 250 Mersingtonmill 19th Jun; 100 East Gordon 1st Jul; 100 North Fallaknowe 12th Jul; 92 Whitrig Bog 30th Jun; 85 Edgerston Rig 4th Jun; & 78 Fountainhall 19th May; & 50-70 birds at 8 other sites.

Autumn/Winter: 150 Chesterfield (to roost) 23rd Aug, 126 Eddleston 11th Oct and 107 Tweedbank 26th Oct were the only 3-figure counts Aug-Oct.

Reported 107 tetrads (143 in 2011, 152 in 2010, 120 in 2009, 219 in 2008) Nov-Dec. The only 3-figure count was 62 Minto 21st Nov; with 50-99 birds at Chesters, Crosslee Haugh, Dronshiel, Lamberton, Pease Bay, Swinton Hill, The Mount & Whitton

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Abundant resident breeder present in 69% of tetrads but breeding in just 36% of tetrads. (744 records).

Forms large winter flocks for feeding and roosting.

Breeding: Found in 209 tetrads Mar-Jun. Confirmed breeding in 81 tetrads (only NE, NY, ON & UN codings)

Peeblesshire

Blyth Bridge Junction	NT130450	49
Broomlee Camp	NT158506	97
Craigerne Lane/Bonnington Rd	NT252396	45
Crossburn	NT249418	17
Drochil Castle	NT163435	17
Dunwhinny Lodge	NT255397	21
Earlyvale	NT243508	34
Eddleston Kirk	NT244273	23
Flemington	NT167452	107
Gallowhill/Gypsy Glen	NT259394	21
Garvald Farm	NT099492	29
Garvald School- walled garden	NT099489	13
Glen cottages	NT301335	29
Halmyre Hill Strip	NT182497	42
Halmyre main road	NT178496	58
Howford Burn	NT301335	53
Kingledores	NT109823	40
Kirklands E	NT334374	28

Lamancha House	NT199521	28
March Street Mills	NT249409	1
Parkneuk	NT146464	97
Peebles Hydro	NT262404	40
Peebles, Tweed Bridge	NT250402	12
Rosetta	NT244413	78
South Mains	NT080372	125
Victoria Park/Kingsmeadows	NT256401	18
Wester Happrew	NT171418	100
Elsewhere:		
Addinston	NT507524	10
Berryfell Farm	NT50I	10
Braxholme	NT41Q	22
Cleekimin	NT509521	99
Cockburn	NT75U	11
Corsbie	NT64C	9
Crookston North Mains	NT425534	22
Dod BBS	NT4705	32
East Gordon	NT64R	50
Fancove Head	NT96L	10
Floors Castle	NT73C	12
Foulden	NT9254	24
Halkburn	NT44Q	12
Haymount nr Makerstoun	NT675339	28
Huntlaw	NT52F	51
Hyndsidehill	NT64D	25
Jeaniefield	NT54G	111
Kedslie	NT54K	64
Laidlawstiel Brae	NT4136	84
Lauder	NT54J	34
Linthill	NT96G	11
Makerstoun	NT63R	28
Midburn	NT5051	60
Middlefield	NT75V	12
Middlestots	NT85F	28
Nether Blainslie	NT54L	50
New Blainslie	NT54M	67
Over Langshaw	NT54F	2
Over Langshaw	NT54F	13
Over Roxburgh	NT63V	12
Redpath	NT53X	60
Sinclair's Hill	NT85A	87
Springwells	NT74R	20
Threeburnford Farm	NT4652	3
Trows	NT63W	4
Turtleton	NT85B	11
Woodheads Hill	NT54H	61

Non-breeding: Found 114 tetrads Jan-Feb (159 in 2011, 137 in 2010, 168 in 2009) with high one-hour TTV counts of : 1,000 at roost Auchencrow 12th & 14th Jan with 900 there 13th Feb; 1000 Sunwick 20th Jan; 700 Langlee Dump 2nd Feb; and 13 other counts of 100-299 birds.

Three-figure post-breeding flocks (Jun-Jul): 300 Hanged Man's Hill & Mersingtonmill 19th Jun; 200 Howliston 20th Jun; 182 Charlesfield 1st Jun; 150 Greenlaw Dean 20th Jun; 143 Harden Hill Head 4th Jun; 120 Harelaw 20th Jun & East Gordon 1st Jul; and 100 North Fallaknowe 12th Jul. None during Aug-Oct.

Found in 90 tetrads Nov-Dec (123 in 2011) with high counts of: 2,000 Lempitlaw 29th Dec; 370 Caverton Mains & 250 Frogden 5th Nov; 210 Chesters 21st Nov; with 100-199 birds at Easter Fodderlee, Cringletie, Houndridge, Kaimflat, Kersknowe., Leitholm, Lilliardsedge & Paxton.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Abundant and widespread resident found in 90% of tetrads. (1290 records in 2012)

Non-breeding season: 125 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count on 15th Jan (188 in 2011) with 29 Pease Bay-Redheugh and 23 Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth the largest sectional counts.

Reported from 184 tetrads Jan-Mar (300 in 2011, 238 in 2010, 318 in 2009, 301 in 2008) with high one-hour TTV counts of: 73 & 50 Langlee Dump on 2nd & 29th Feb; 35 Hexpathdean bridge 14th Jan; 31 Tweedbank 2nd Jan; 30 Warrdlaw 2nd Feb; with 20-29 birds at Ark Law, Graden, Kaeside Farm, Muirburn & West Water Reservoir.

Reported in 162 tetrads Sep-Dec (224 in 2011, 263 in 2010, 248 in 2009, 361 in 2008) with one-hour TTV high counts of 55 Altrieve 1st Nov; 46 Burnmouth 3rd Sep; 30 West Water Reservoir 4th Nov & Easter Howlands 2nd Nov; and 20-29 birds at Leadburn Community Wood, Walterstead & Whitsomehill

Breeding season: Reported in 316 tetrads (387 in 2011, 368 in 2010, 308 in 2009, 392 in 2008) Apr-Aug.

Breeding was confirmed in 184 tetrads. The first adults carrying food were seen at Monksford Glen on 13th May; the first fledged young were seen at Hawknest on 21st May & Redheugh on 22nd May.

High one-hour TTV counts of 200 Shielswood Loch 29th May with 50 there 15th Jul; 53 Drakemyre 17th Jun; 43 Fast castle Head 19th May; and counts of 20-29 from Blackhouse, Darny Rig, Mire Loch, North Fallaknowe & Tweedbank

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Hybrid genes exist in the Crow population, especially in west. Pure Hoodies are very exceptional in winter and spring.

Hybrids: 1 Woodburn Hill 7th Feb; 1 on nest Horseshoe Plantation 7th May; 1 Meldon Burn 10th Jun..

Pure-bred: Claims of pure-bred corvids: 1 Innerleithen 13th Jan; 1 Crosslee Burn 18th Jun; 1 St Abb's Head 30th Jun; 1 Whitehope Burn 1st Jul; 1 Clearburn Loch 1st Nov.

It is possible that all of these were actually Hoodie-Carrion hybrids.

Observers are asked to look critically that any Hoodie-types. Any divergence at all from the classic Hoodie pattern of black and grey, especially dark feathering in the upper breast and under-tail coverts, points to some sort of hybrid.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Very scarce resident in 4% of tetrads. Very low levels in 1980s but slowly increasing. Mostly found in hilly areas but a few pairs on coast. Winter breeder, few confirmed records. Some winter roosts developing. (258 records in 2012)

Winter: Found in 55 tetrads Jan-Feb (93 in 2011, 56 in 2010, 73, in 2009, 67 in 2008). Just 4 during the Rocky Shore Count on 15th Jan, 2 Burnmouth-border and singles Pease Bay-Redheugh and Redheugh-Souter..

Roost in the Jedburgh yielded a count of 20 on 21st Jan (Malcolm Henderson). Otherwise mainly 1-2 birds but higher counts of: 5 Wedder Law & 4 Oxtou 25th Jan; 4 Newmains 17th Jan; and three birds Cadam Law, Charterhouse, Cliftoncote & Wheelburn Law

Breeding: Recorded in 75 tetrads Mar-Jul (105 in 2011, 97 in 2010, 79 in 2009, 83 in 2008) with confirmed breeding in 8 of them. Occupied nests were seen at Birkindale Knowe, Blakedean, Blakedean Wood, Fancove Head, Morebattle & Scuds Cleuch Wood: while fledged young were seen at: Grantshouse, Langsidebrae & Upper Newby

In the Pentland & Moorfoot Hills birds were seen at Caberston Grain, Colquhar, Haggin Hope, Harehope Hill, Kirmie Law, Upper Moorfoot Valley, West Water Reservoir & Windy Gowl.

In the Tweedsmuir Hills there were reports from Birkindale Knowe, Bitch Craig, Cop Law, Craigurd House, Crookston, Door Hass, Drumelzier Law, Easterhill Head, Garvald, Gathersnow Hill, Glenlud, Hammer Head, Kailzie Hill, Kippit Farm, Loch Eddy, Linghope Wood, Posso, Scawd Law, Scuds Cleuch Wood, Stob Law, The Scrape, Tinnis Castle, Trahenna Hill, Upper Newby, Whitlaw Brae & Yarrowlea.

Towards the Central Borders there were records from Angelrow Farm, Bowhill, Haremoor, Eccles, Fans Loanend Covert, Lauder Common, Makerstoun, Mosshouses, Sunderland Hope, Thornylee & Tweedbank.

Reports from the Cheviots and the southern hills came from Ashkirk Loch, Berryfell Farm, Blakedean, Blakedean Wood East Carter Bar, Earlside, Hirsley Knowe, Langsidebrae, Lanton Hill, Morebattle, North Berryfell, Pennymuir, Philip Law & Skelfhill. In the Lammermuir there were records from Greenlaw Dean, Kelphe, Raecleugh Head, Soutra & Wedder Law.

In Liddesdale: Blackburn; and on the coast from: Berryhill, Burnmouth, Fancove Head, Fast Castle Head, Grantshouse, Green Stane, Houndwood, Howpark, Lamberton Beach, Long Moss, Redheugh, Renton, Siccar Point & St Abb's Head.

There were no outstanding counts in the Mar-Jul period, the best being 4 birds at Ashkirk Loch, Harehope Hill & Grantshouse.

Raven Breeding Status	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Home ranges checked	48	38	55	61	43	32
Occupied home ranges	52	38	43	56	35	27
Site with proven breeding	-	-	-	-	28	27
Young fledged	65	67+	105	61	90	86
Mean successful brood	-	2.6	2.8	2.54	2.57	3.18
Mean success/occupied site	-	-	-	1.08	3.33	3.44

Coverage was particularly low in 2012, with only 27/63 of known sites checked (54%). 27 were occupied by pairs and none by singlebirds. Eggs were laid at all 27 sites and hatched from 25 of them.

Despite the poor weather, productivity was higher than 2011 with at least 86 young fledging from 25 sites, giving 3.18 per occupied site, and 3.33 per successful pair.

It is hope that the return of Francesco will allow increased cover in 2013.

George Smith, Raven Coordinator, Se Scotland Raptor Study Group.

Autumn/Winter: Max count Aug-Oct of 8 Cessford 26th Oct; 4 Sunderland Hope 4th Aug & 3 Fatlips Castle 24th Oct.

Recorded 39 tetrads Nov-Dec (24 in 2011, 71 in 2010, 53 in 2009, 80 in 2008), again mainly 1-2 birds but high one-hour TTV counts of: 12 Philip Law 1st Dec; 5 Westerhouses 1st Nov; 4 Harden Hill 16th Nov; and 3 birds at Evelaw, Selkirk Common & Wanton Walls.

26 S West Linton 20th Dec were thought to be heading for a roost (Richard Bramhall).

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Abundant resident found in 67% of tetrads. Subject to large-scale mortality in hard winters.

Abundant migrant & winter visitor, especially in autumn. (536 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Recorded from 61 tetrads in Jan-Feb, compared to 70 in 2011, 8 in 2010, 29 in 2009. The smaller numbers of tetrads with Goldcrest and the numbers found in those with reports suggest that 2011 was not a great year for Goldcrest with some losses. Just 5 reports of more than 3 birds in Jan-Feb: with 7 Sandholm 10th Feb; 7 Twin Law, Carby Hill & Flass Hill 25th Feb; and 6 Pinnacle 28th Feb. This compared to 19 such counts in 2011, including 3 double-figure counts!

Breeding: Reported from 182 tetrads Mar-Aug (194 in 2011, 147 in 2010 & 87 in 2009, to 147 in 2010, still some way to return to the pre-crash level 309 tetrads in 2008).

There were 8 double-figure counts however, compared to 2 in 2011, with 17 + 10 at Wigg Knowe 26th Jun; 14 Kirmie Law 19th Jul; 12 Harehope Hill 1st May & Stotfield Hill 4th Jun; 11 Drakemyre 17th Jun; and 10 Paxton House 17th Jun with 10 Mire Loch 17th Mar which were almost certainly migrants. In addition there were 51 counts of 5-9 birds from 33 sites, compared to 28 counts at just 22 sites in 2011.

So while numbers did not show much sign of recovery early in 2012, the breeding season numbers appears to be more buoyant.

Breeding was confirmed in 28 tetrads (34 in 2011 & 19 in 2010), the first adults carrying food for their young seen at Glensax on 30th May & Harehope Hill on 12th Jun; the first fledgling were at Easterhill Head on 28th May & Harelaw on 30th May.

Autumn: The only double-figure inland reports Aug-Oct was 18 Black Barony 10th Sep.

On the coast 20 St Abb's Head 21st Sep with 60 there & 30 Dowlaw Farm on 26th Sep before dropping to just 10 St Abb's Head on 27th & 29th Sep & 10th Oct. Rise to 90 there 12th Oct with 15 Burnmouth & 10 Dowlaw Farm. 45 St Abb's Head and 22 Dowlaw Farm 14th Oct. Another influx 23rd-24th Oct with 50 St Abb's Head, 35 Burnmouth and 25 Eyemouth GC.

Birds were recorded in 72 tetrads (68 in 2011, 91 in 2010 & 59 in 2009). The numbers reported suggest a good breeding season as compared to the total lack of double-figure counts in Nov-Dec 2011, there were 6 in 2012 with 25 Craigmoid & 20 Killiecrane Hill 4th Nov; 18 Whitlaw Brae & Tweedhopefoot 4th Nov; 13 Dodhead 1st Nov & 10 Fast Castle Head 10th Nov (which may have been migrants). These were mostly in extensive forestry areas where the species should be common.

Counts of 4-9 birds were also made at Chesters Grange, Commonsides, Edrington Castle, Falnash, Gillside, Hartsgarth, Lilliardsedge, Purvishaugh, Singlie, Slegden, St. Boswells & Whitsome

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Abundant resident breeder found in 60% of tetrads. (1004 records in 2012)

Non-breeding season: Reported 155 tetrads Jan-Mar (150 in 2010, 215 in 2009, 221 tetrads in 2008) with high one-hour counts as follows: Reported 155 tetrads Jan-Mar (190 in 2011, 137 in 2010, 170 in 2009, 214 in 2008) with high one-hour (mostly) TTV counts as follows: 36 Tweedbank 2nd Jan; 28 Galashiels & 20 Buckholm 1st Feb; 19 Lees Haugh 28th Jan & Lauder 27th Feb; 18 Leaderfoot 8th Feb; 17 Kershopefoot 8th Feb; 16 Horndean 13th Jan & Edrington Mains 12th Feb; 14+19 Walkerburn 7th Feb; 14+11 Paxton House 11th Jan; 14 Middlestots 17th Feb; with 10-13 birds at Allanbank, Cavers Mains, Denholm, Easter Housebyres, Fancove Head, Gavinton Ford, Middlefield, Morridgehall, Muirburn, Nenthorn House, Old Belses, Shielshaugh, Sinclair's Hill & Turtleton. 28 sites with double-figure counts compared to 48 in 2011, 29 in 2010, 46 in 2009 & 57 in 2008.

Reported from 121 tetrads Nov-Dec (128 in 2011, 151 in 2010, 99 in 2009 & 173 in 2008) with double-figure TTV counts: 36 Eddleston 24th Nov; 25 Hoselaw Loch 29th Dec; 21 Leitholm 5th Nov; 17 Milkieston 10th Dec; 16 Black Barony 3rd Nov & Eckford 5th Nov; 15 Longnewton 21st Nov; with 10-12 birds at Caverton Mains, Ednam, Frogden, Harcus, Kaimflat, Melrose, Preston, Tweedbank & Whitsome 16 double-figure counts compares to 27 in 2011, 37 in 2010, 12 in 2009 & 36 in 2008.

Breeding season: Birds reported during Mar-Aug from 236 tetrads (310 in 2011, 236 in 2010, 202 in 2009 & 273 in 2008) with high counts of: 17 Nether Blainslie 12th Apr; 14 Mersingtonmill 19th Apr & The Glen 20th May; 13 Floors Castle 6th Apr & 13 Tweedbank 26th Jul; 12 Hamildean 4th May & Branxholme Braes 21st May; 11 Kedslie 12th Apr & Monksford Glen 13th May. 17 double-figure count sites compared to 21 in 2010 & 38 in 2008.

Breeding was confirmed in 112 tetrads. The first occupied nest was at Melrose on 20th Apr and Venlaw on 27th Apr; the first adults carrying food for young were at Fireburnmill on 24th Apr & Darnchester on 2nd May; the first fledged young were seen at Jedburgh on 1st Jun & Millfield on 2nd Jun. The latest fledged young were seen at Chesterfield on 25th Aug.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident breeder found in 45% of tetrads. (813 records in 2012)

Non-breeding season: Reported 248 tetrads Jan-Mar (190 in 2011, 137 in 2010, 170 in 2009, 214 in 2008) with high one-hour (mostly) TTV counts as follows: 26 Tweedbank 2nd Jan; 20 Blackhouse Dean Plantation 3rd Feb; 12 Riccarton Junction 3rd Feb; 11 Galashiels 1st Feb & 11 Old Belses 28th Feb.

So 6 double-figure counts compared to 12 in 2011, 5 in 2010, 3 in 2009 & 18 in 2008.

The largest Sep-Oct counts were 11 Tweedbank on 29th Oct with 9 Black Barony 27th Sep.

Reported from 78 tetrads Nov-Dec (128 in 2011, 151 in 2010, 99 in 2009 & 173 in 2008) with double-figure TTV counts:

11 Ednam 21st Nov & 10 Melrose 10th Dec. So just 2 double-figure counts in 2012 compares to 6 in 2011, 5 in 2010, 2 in 2009 & 4 in 2008.

Breeding season: Birds reported during Apr-Aug from 210 tetrads (250 in 2011, 246 in 2010, 164 in 2009, 232 in 2008).

15 Nether Blainslie 12th Apr; 11 Cardrona House 7th May; 10 Tweedbank 5th Apr & 10 Black Barony 5th Apr were the only double-figure TTV counts. 4 double-figure counts compares to 1 in 2011, 6 in 2010, 1 in 2009 & 15 in 2008.

Breeding was confirmed in 73 tetrads (140 in 2011, 86 in 2010). The first occupied nests were on Lindean Reservoir & Springwood Estate on 27th Apr; the first adult carrying food for young at Lithillum Loch on 3rd May & Whitslade on 11th May; and the first fledged young were recorded at Newstead on 30th May & Floors Castle on 3rd Jun.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Abundant resident breeder found in 68% of tetrads. (890 records in 2012)

Non-breeding season: Reported 155 tetrads Jan-Mar (231 in 2011, 146 in 2010, 170 in 2009, 221 in 2008) with high one-hour TTV counts as follows: 30 Craighope 16th Feb; 19+16 Easterhill Head 16th Feb; 10+10 Penvalle 27th Feb; 19 Buckholm 1st Feb; 18 Softlaw East Mains 29th Feb; 17 Helmburn Mill 3rd Feb; 15 Yair 26th Feb; with 10-14 birds in another 10 TTVs.

Stable 20 double-figure TTV Jan-Feb counts compared to 20 in 2011, 10 in 2010, 35 in 2009 & 57 in 2008.

Ringling showed that 152 different birds used a Peebles garden during Jan.

Best Sep-Oct counts were 18 Black Barony 10th Sep & 10 Barns Avenue 11 Sep & Eddleston 18th Oct. Reported from 120 tetrads Nov-Dec (154 in 2011, 177 in 2010, 123 in 2009, 201 in 2008) with high one-hour counts of: 27 Dodhead 1st Nov; 25 Tweedhopefoot 4th Nov; 14 Redmoss 16th Nov; also counts of 10-12 birds at 3 other TTVs at Black Barony - long loop, Commonsie, Eddleston, Eldinhope Cleugh, Falside, Purvishaugh & Stobs Castle

Stable 10 double-figure counts in 2011, compared to 12 in 2010, 7 in 2009 & 24 in 2008.

Breeding season: Birds reported during Apr-Aug from 261 tetrads (263 in 2011, 278 in 2010, 160 in 2009 & 236 in 2008) with high counts of: 17+10 Kirmie Law 19th Jun; 16 Harehope Hill 1st May; 14+12 Oxnam Pottery 4th Jun & Cardrona Forest 4th Jul; 13 Sunderland Hope 21st Apr; 13 Wigg Knowe 26th Jun; 12 St Boswells 13th May; with 10 birds at Glengonnor Hill, Kedslie & Lithillum Loch. 12 double-figure counts in 2010 compared to 20 in 2011, 12 in 2010, 5 in 2009 & 38 in 2008.

Breeding was confirmed in 122 tetrads (76 in 2010). The first adults carrying food for young were seen at Baddingsgill Reservoir on 2nd May & Eildon Woods on 13th May; the first fledged young were seen at Ayton on 29th May & Georgefield & Bedda Flow on 31st May.

While the early year showed little change from 2011, the breeding and autumn numbers (both tetrads and counts) suggest things did not go too well during the course of the year.

Marsh Tit *Pocile palustris*

Now extremely scarce resident breeder found in 4% of tetrads, mostly in the Merse. Recent decline in northern and western limits of local range. (9 records in 2012)

Breeding season: 1 Gavinton 8th & 18th Mar (Andrew Mitchell & Andrew Mossup; 1 New Mills Wood 27th Mar (Tom Brewis); 2 Todheugh 30th Mar (John Inglis); pr Linn Dean Wood 13th Apr; 2 Tweedmill 28th Apr (Tom Brewis)

Non-breeding season: 1 Gavinton Ford 16th Jan (Andrew Mitchell) & 1 Paxton House 21st Oct (Tom Brewis).

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Abundant breeder in 86% of tetrads. Mostly absent during winter months except in coastal areas. Return from late January-February with departure & passage September-October. (503 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 6 were noted on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan with 4 Eyemouth-Burnmouth & 2 between Burnmouth and the English border. Otherwise Jan records were few and far between with a few Newmains 2nd, 19th & 27th Jan; 5 Rumbletonrig, 3 Rumbleton and 2 Longcroft Hill on 14th Jan during atlasing (suggesting they were present if looked for). 80 Newmains 4th Feb and numbers picked up again during atlasing with 3 Courthill 6th Feb, 24 Lochurd 7th Feb, 3 Muirburn 10th Feb, 1 in song at Third on 14th Feb. Numbers picked up in the latter half of Feb with 25 Dunglass 25th Feb and singers at Leaderfoot, Cadam Law, Crib Law & Riddel Law. Widespread in atlas returns at end of the month.

Breeding: Recorded in 212 tetrads Mar-Aug. Double-figure, mainly TTV counts, were much reduced in both numbers and magnitude on 2010 & 2011 count levels. 11 Darny Rig 16th May with 10 there 25th Jun; 10 Cuzirton Hill 22nd May; 15 Wedder Lairs & 10 Redfordgreen 23rd May; 12 Huntlaw 25th May; 12 Harelaw 30th May; 10 Chesterhouse 2nd Jun; 12 Staunchley Hill 6th Jun with 16 there 28th Jun; 18 Coomb Hill & 10 Gathersnow Hill 10th Jun; 10 Haggin Hope 12th Jun; 12 Halliburton 20th Jun; 14 Whitehope Law & 10 Sunderland Hope 1st Jul. Confirmed breeding in 15 tetrads only. First occupied nest Blackdean Curr on 12th Apr; first adults with food for young at Darny Rig on 16th May; but first fledglings not until 8th Jul at Helmburn Hill.

Autumn/Winter: Passage and autumn flocks: no really large flocks noted with best counts: 28 Kersquarter 13th Sep; 17 Black Barony 18th Sep; 10 Lauder Common 4th & 7th Oct; and 15 Mire Loch 12th Oct.

Widespread in Nov TTVs with records from 18 tetrads: mostly 1-3 birds with just 2 records of larger numbers; 200 Caverton Mains 5th Nov & 7 Tod's Dean 6th Nov.

The snows reduced activity and numbers with records from just 6 tetrads: 80 Angelrow 1st Dec; 70 Newmains 4th Dec; 20 Redden 24th Dec; & 15 Heiton Mains 26th Dec with 2-6 birds at Bemersyde Moss & Craigurd House.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common breeding species along river systems and in sandpits. Found breeding in 10% of tetrads but feeding over another 10%, mostly on rivers. Arrives from late March-mid April, and departs mostly August to mid September. (22 records in 2012)

Spring: First 2 Denholm Mill 20th Mar (N Cook); 2 Innerleithen 25th Mar; 3 Whitehope (Yarrow) & 1 Kershope Burn 7th Mar; 5 Sprouston & 1 Leithen Lodge 29th Mar; 3 Kelloe Bridge & 1 Tweedbank 30th Mar.

Widespread thereafter but influxes 15th-17th Apr and 22nd-23rd Apr: best Apr counts were 60 Lees Haugh 24th Apr; 30 Tweedmill 24th Apr; 25 Cobbie 15th Apr, Edrington Castle 19th Apr & lower Whiteadder 29th Apr. 70 Easter Happlew 3rd May; 30 Howden & St Boswells 13th May; and 40 Chirsidebridge 22nd May.

Breeding: Numbers reduced somewhat – perhaps reflected in half number of records this year.

First record of birds at burrows was at Easter Happlew on 3rd May. The first fledglings were seen at Singlie on 18th Jun

Counts of active burrows – (+ = colony present – no count)

Blackadder drainage at	
Halliburton	6
Borthwick drainage	
Cop Law	2
Ettrick at	
Ark Law	15
Gilmanscleugh	23
Singlie	32
Hyndhope	32
Newburgh	23
Kale Water drainage at	
Plendeleith Burn	4
Hirsley Knowe	4
Oxnamrow	10
Leader drainage at	
Oxton	2
Nether Blainslie	10
Galadean	10

Manor Water	
Wellbush	6
Sware Ponds	10
Slitrig drainage at	
North Berryfell	9
Shankend	3
Teviot at	
Dodburn	2
Colterscleugh	10
Skelfhill	12
Hawick	3
Chesters Haugh	3
Knowesouth	+
Nisbet	150
Roxburgh Viaduct	4
Roxburgh Castle	15
Tweed at	
Easter Happrew	35
Hay Lodge Park	6
Kailzie	20
Leithenwaterfoot	2
Caddonbank	37
Holylee	5
Newstead	10
Sprouston	4
Hendersyde Island	134
Whiteadder at	
East Blanerne	40
Chirsidebridge	40
Allanton Bridge	+
Yarrow drainage at	
Altrieve	2
Artificial site:	
Byreclough Quarry	+

Total: Just c.449 burrows at 28 sites, probably reflects change in atlas activities, rather than change in numbers, although seemed to be fewer around.

3 were nesting in clay drainage pipers at Hawick, by the library 2nd Aug (Gary Scott).

Autumn: No autumn flocks with quick passage away. Max counts near breeding sites of 60 Hendersyde Island 20th Aug; 30 Springwood 5th Sep; 6 Coldingham Loch 14th Sep; 1 Nether Falla 15th Sep; 12 Newmains 24th Sep; with last 5 Nether Falla 29th Sep (Tom Dougall).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common & widespread summer visitor found feeding in 77% of tetrads and breeding in 70%.

Most arrive early April to early May and depart late August to late Sep. Late birds sometimes to November. (703 records in 2012).

Winter/Spring: First 1 Edin's Hall Broch 19th Mar (A D Davies); 1 West Bold 28th Mar; 1 Westfield & 1 St Abb's Head 8th Apr; 3 Manderston 10th Apr; 1 Tweedbank 12th Apr; 2 Melrose 13th Apr; 1 Williamslee 14th Apr. Most 1-5 birds over next week until 20 Coldstream 19th Apr; 10 Bowdenmoor Reservoir 26th Apr; 30 lower Whiteadder 29th Apr. 50 St Abb's Head 1st May but few large counts in May. 500 St Boswells GC on 13th May was a clear mass arrival taking advantage of a hatch of mayflies.

Breeding: Recorded in 316 tetrads Apr-Aug. Occupied nests were reported from 136 tetrads and fledged young from 24 other tetrads. Used nests were reported from 14 other tetrads. The first occupied nest seen at Hamildean on 4th May & Hartleap on 5th May. The first fledged young were seen at Whitmuirhall on 11th Jun & Charterhall on 19th Jun.

The largest numbers seen during TTVs in the breeding season were: 55 Halliburton 30th May; 2 Turtleton 19th Jun; 26 East Reston 29th Jul; 25 Essenside Loch 28th May; with 20-24 birds at Craigswalls, East Gordon, Floors Castle, Hawksnest, Hume, Huntlaw, Hutlerburn, Janiefield, Mire Loch, New Blainslie & Syntonmill.

Autumn/Winter: 60 Burmouthe 20th Aug; 55S Chesterfield 23rd Aug; 30 Mire Loch 24th-25th Aug; 75 Bowden 27th Aug; 44 Yetholm Loch 28th Aug; 200 Angelrow 30th Aug; 30 East Reston 2nd Sep; 26 Rosetta, Peebles 8th Sep; 116 Bemersyde Moss 10th Sep; 1,200 S Newmains 12th Sep; 113 Yetholm Loch, 30 Lamberton & 30 Lauder 17th Sep; 29 Black Barony & 26 Coldingham Loch 18th Sep; 37 Darnhall 19th Sep; 110 Newmains 24th Sep; 27 West Water Reservoir 28th Sep; 33 Yetholm Loch 1st Oct; 33 Howahill 4th Oct; 30 Roxburgh Mains 5th Oct; 12 Newmains 6th Oct; 12 Gavinton 7th Oct; 14 Newmains 10th Oct. 11 Darnhall was the last double-figure count. Later reports were: 5 Nisbet Hillhead 18th Oct; 2 Mire Loch & 2 Tweedbank 24th Oct; 2 Cockburnspath 26th Oct; 3 Tweed at Coldstream 1st Nov; and the last record was 1 Coldstream 12th Nov (Borders SOC).

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common & widespread summer visitor found in 44% of tetrads. Mostly April-October. (342 records in 2012).

Spring: First 1 Chirside 1st Apr (BirdGuides) with 2 Bemersyde Moss 5th Apr (J Howard). 1 Ploughlands 9th Apr; 1 Thornylee 14th Apr; 2 Dunglass 16th Apr; but only daily from 19th Apr. First double-figure counts were 10 Melrose Chain Bridge 26th Apr; 12 Howford & 10 Quairwaterfoot 28th Apr.

Breeding: Found in 180 tetrads Mar-Aug. Occupied nests were found in 76 tetrads and flying young in another 5 tetrads, used nests were noted in another 21 tetrads. The first occupied nest seen at Drumelzier on 16th May & Ferniehirst on 19th May; and the first fledged young seen at Charterhall on 19th Jun.

Largest breeding season counts: 100 Redheugh 22nd May; 90 Dalcove 2nd Jun; 40 St Boswells & Floors Castle 2nd Jun; 31 Halliburton 20th Jun; 20-30 birds noted Bowmont Forest, Faldonside Loch, Kirkhope Cottage, Newtown St Boswells, Redheugh, Renton House, The Howe, Trows, Tweedbank & Yetholm Loch. 32 nests Burnmouth, 14 nets Attonburn.

Autumn: 150 Attonburn 27th Aug; 50 Mire Loch 30th Aug with 150 St Abb's Head 1st Sep; 40 Tweedbank 6th Sep; 60 Burnmouth & 55 Coldingham Loch 14th Sep; 40 Tweedbank & 15 Nether Falla 15th Sep; 18 Darnhall & 12 Lamberton Beach 19th Sep; 100 Burnmouth, 15 Tweedbank & 12 Mire Loch 20th Sep; 27 Newmains 24th Sep; 10 lauder 29th Sep; 30 Burnmouth 30th Sep with 50 there 2nd Oct, the latest double-figure count. 1 Newmains 3rd Oct; 9 Darnick 5th Oct; 4 Newmains 6th Oct; 2 Lauder 12th Oct & the last 1 at Lamberton Holdings 13th Oct (Ron McBeath).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Uncommon resident found in 16% of tetrads. Forms flocks June-March. (267 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring:

Found in 43 tetrads Jan-Feb compared to 55 in 2011, 35 in 2010, 33 in 2009 & 76 in 2008.

The largest TTV (and other) counts were: 15 Gattonside 11th Jan & Gavinton Ford 16th Jan; 13 Sandholm 10th Feb; 11 Lees Laugh 28th Jan & Eyemouth GC 5th Feb; and 10 birds at Blinkbonny Farm, Darnchester, Edrington Mains & Todheugh with another 15 sites with 5-9 birds.

So 20% fewer tetrads with reports compared to 2011, 9 sites with 10 or more birds compared to 18 in 2011, and 15 sites with 5-9, compared to 21 in 2011, all add up to a poor year in 2011 and a consequent drop in overall numbers.

Breeding: Found at 81 sites in 76 tetrads from mid-Mar to end-Aug, compared to 81 in 2011, 79 in 2010, 34 in 2009 & 84 in 2008.

Single birds recorded at 13 sites (24 in 2011): Anton's Hill, Cavers Mains, Chirside, Darnick, Dunglass, Edgerston Rig, Fans Loanend Covert, Hallrule Mill, Hirsell, Kalzie, Pease Bay, Single & Spottiswoode Loch.

Pairs and broods: 78 pairs at 68 sites (68 at 60 in 2011):

Ayton Bridge	
Bellitaw *	
Bemersyde House *	br4
Bemersyde Moss	
Bowhill	
Branxholme Braes	
Cademuir Forest *	
Cardrona	
Cardrona House	2
Cockburn *	2
Cowbog	2
Craigurd House	
Darnchester	2
Deanbrae *	br5
Drygrange	
Eastfield *	br6
Eildon	
Fallsidehill	
Fancove Head *	br8
Fishwick	
Floors Castle	
Folly Loch West *	br13
Gallowberry Wood	2
Gavinton *	br6
Gordon Moss *	br8
Gordon CW	
Grantshouse *	ON
Greenriggs *	br3
Harehead	
Horndean *	br3
Hornshole Bridge *	br5
Houndwood *	2
Kelloe Bridge	
Kelso, Junction Pool *	br11
Knowetownhead *	
Ladykirk Shiels *	br4
Lauder	
Linthill *	
Lithillum Loch *	br8
Makerstoun *	
Mersingtonmill	2
Monksford Glen *	br2
New Blainslie	2
Newhouse Kip *	
Newmill, Teviot	
Newtown Glen *	br8
Over Roxburgh *	
Oxnam Pottery *	
Oxnamrow *	
Paxton House	nest
Polmood	
Polwarth	
Ravelaw Farm	2
Renton House	
Roxburgh *	
Roxburgh Castle	2
Roxburgh Newton *	br2
Sprouston *	
St Boswells *	

St Boswells GC
 Stobs Castle
 Thornylee
 Trows *
 Tweedbank * br1
 Waterheads * br4
 Wester Dawyck *
 Wilton Park
 Yetholm Loch * br9

Confirmed breeding in 38 tetrads (31 in 2011, 30 in 2010, 16 in 2009) with 19br110 reported (15br75 in 2011, 17br127 in 2010). Nest seen Tweedbank on 19th Mar; the first adults carrying food were at Yetholm Loch on 11th May & Wester Dawyck on 3rd Jun; the first fledglings were seen at Deanbrae on 6th May & Newtown Glen on 13th May.

Despite the lower numbers at the start of the year 2012 seems to have been a successful breeding season.

Autumn/Winter: Flocks recorded Sep-Oct: 24 Black Barony 20th Oct; 17 Gavinton 7th Oct; 16 Tweedbank 9th Oct; 14 Yetholm Loch 30th Sep; & 10 birds Lindean Reservoir 7th Oct & 10 Bemersyde Moss 28th Oct.

Reported from 47 tetrads Nov-Dec (63 in 2011, 2 in 2011, 35 in Nov-Dec 2009 & 79 in 2008). The largest counts were: 25 Tower Dean 18th Dec; 20 Melrose 10th Dec; 16 Ruberslaw 23rd Nov; 15 Fancove Head 1st Nov & East Reston 18th Nov; and 10-14 birds at Edrington Castle, Longnewton, Paxton & Tweedbank. Double-figure counts at 11 sites (14 in 2011, 8 in 2010, 9 sites in 2009, 23 sites in 2008).

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Very scarce but annual Siberian autumn passage migrant. (5 records in 2012)

Autumn: 2 St Abb's Head 23rd Sep (Dave Graham) with 1 there 27th Sep (Alan Kerr & Fran Evans); another or same St Abb's Head 29th Sep (Fran Evans) with 1 Dowlaw 29th Sep (Andrew Bramhall).

Probably 4 birds, depending on how thorough the searches of St Abb's Head between records were.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Now a rare summer visitor, formerly found breeding in 16% of tetrads, but now less than a handful of sites. Few records after singing stops in July. Few seen on passage. (10 records in 2012)

A slightly better year with at least one, or perhaps two, males holding territory.

1 Camptown 11th Apr (Roger Manning) was early. 1 Gala Hill 1st May (Keith Robeson); 1 Camptown & 1 Broughton Place 2nd May (Roger Manning & Liz Hanson); 1 Plora Wood 6th, 7th, 20th, 23rd & 27th May (Richard Bramhall, Bruce Kerr, Mark & Alison Cockburn, Harry Dott & Andrew Midgley); 1 Georgefield 22nd May (James Towill).

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Scarce but increasing summer visitor breeding in 16% of tetrads. Uncommon passage migrant in spring, more common in autumn. A few sometimes remain in winter. (630 records in 2012)

Winter: 1 Eyemouth 25th Jan & 4th Feb (Barbara & Barry Prater); 1 Burnmouth 17th Feb (Fran Evans).

Spring: First 1 Tweedbank 14th Mar (Andrew Bramhall); 3 Mire Loch, and singles Newtown Glen, Philiphaugh & Dryburgh on 17th Mar; singles Yetholm Loch, Gavinton, & Linthill on 18th Mar. Pretty widespread over next with reports, mainly singles, from 32 sites, max 3 St Ronan's Wood & Tweedbank, with an arrival on the coast on 25th Mar when 12 St Abb's Head & 7 Newmains. *A total of 80 records in Mar, something unheard of in the past, partly due to the change in the status of Chiffchaff but mostly due to the very fine summer-like weather.*

Breeding: Reported in 246 tetrads (226 in 2011, 201 in 2010 & 146 in 2009). Breeding was confirmed in 25 tetrads (18 in 2011, 6 in 2010); the first adults feeding young were at Grantshouse on 21st May & Bowmont Forest & Trows on 2nd Jun; the first fledglings were seen at Ladyrig on 2nd Jun & Tweedbank on 13th Jun.

c.764 singing mm/territories were noted in suitable habitat at 246 sites during Mar-Aug.

Year	mm	sites
2007	218	127
2008	519	154
2009	367	156
2010	481	198
2011	764	246
2012	736	261

Single birds were recorded at 105 sites with another 631 territories/pairs/singing mm at 156 sites (* = confirmed breeding):

Abbey Park, Akermoor Loch, Allanton, Ancrum, Ayton Castle, Baramill Plantation, Bemersyde Hill, Birkenside Hill, Black Barony, Blackadder Mount, Bowden, Bowdenmoor Farm, Bucklands, Cademuir Forest, Cadonbank Wood, Cairncross, Camieston, Chirnside, Chirnsidebridge, Choicelee, Clovenfords, Craighope, Craigurd House, Dalcove, Divet Ha' Wood, Dowlaw, Drone Hill Wind Farm, Dryburgh, East Reston, Eccles, Edin's Hall, Elibank, Ellwynd Wood, Fallsidehill, Fancove Head, Fast Castle Head, Faughill, Fishwick, Fogo, Gavinton, Glen, Greenriggs, Haddenrig, Haining Loch, Halkburn, Harcarsehill, Harden Hill Head, Harelaw, Haremoos, Hay Lodge Park, Hexpathdean Bridge, Hirsley, Hirsley Knowe, Howden, Hownam, Hyndlee Forest, Inkbottle Lodge, Innerleithen, Kailzie, Lamberton, Langrig, Langsidebrae, Langtonlees, Leithenwater Forest, Long Moss, Lurdenlaw, Manor Sware Ponds, Mertoun Estate Pond, Millar's Moss, Millfield, Moorshot Plantation, Moss Road Plantation, Mosshouses, Muirburn, Myrtlehall, Neidpath, Newby, Newmains, Nisbetmill Cauld, Old Belses, Outer Knowe Head, Paxton, Pease Bay, Pennanshiel, Philip Law, Philiphaugh, Press Castle, Pyatshaw, Rumbleton, South Hill, South Park Wood, Springwood Estate, Stobs Castle, Stow Townhead, Swinton House, Thornylee, Todheugh, Torsonce, Traquair, West Foulden, West Mains Wood, Whitmuir Moss, Whitmuirhill Loch, Woolshears Wood & Yair Boat Pool.

Airhouse	2
Ale Water Bridge	9
Allanbank	6
Anton's Hill	2
Ashkirk Loch	3
Bellitaw	5
Bemersyde Moss	2

Blackhouse	4
Blackhouse Dean Plantation	2
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	2
Bowhill	3
Bowmont Forest *	5
Branxholme	8
Branxholme Braes	4
Burnfoot	3
Caerlee Hill	2
Calaburn Farm	2
Cardrona House	2
Cauldshiels Loch	2
Cavers Mains	2
Charlesfield	3
Charterhall	5
Charterhall Wood	10
Charterhouse	5
Clarilawburn *	2
Cockburn	9
Darnchester *	8
Dawyck Botanic Garden	7
Deanbrae	4
Dingleton	2
Dolphinston Moor *	2
Drakemyre	2
Dryden Greenhill	2
Duns	3
Duns Castle Wood	7
East Newton	3
Edgerston Mill	2
Edgerston Rig	3
Edington	2
Eildon	10
Fireburnmill	14
Floors Castle	4
Folly Loch *	3
Galashiels	3
Glensax	5
Graden *	2
Grantshouse *	3
Greenlaw Dean	7
Hallrule Mill	4
Hanged Man's Hill	5
Hardwoodmoss	8
Harehead *	2
Harehope Hill *	2
Harestanes	8
Hassendean	4
Hawick	2
Hawksnest	2
Horndean	3
Hornshole *	3
Houndwood	10
Howpark	2
Hume	3
Huntlaw	6
Huntshaw	2
Hyndsidehill	2
Jedburgh	3
Kedslie	5
Kelloe Bridge	3
Kelso	3
Kerchesters *	2
Kilbucho Place	2
Knovetownhead *	2
Ladykirk Shiels	8
Ladyrig *	2
Ladyurd forestry	3
Langraw Tops	2
Langton Gardens	5
Lanton Hill	5
Lanton Mains	6
Lauder	9
Lees Haugh	5
Legerwood Hill *	2
Lethem	3
Lindean Reservoir	2
Linthill	2
Lithillum Loch *	11
Lower Whiteadder Water	2
Maisondieu	5
Makerstoun	4
Manderston	5
Marygold	2
Mellerstain	4
Melrose *	2

Mersingtonmill	3
Middlefield	5
Middlestots	4
Monksford Glen	5
Nether Blainslie	5
New Blainslie	4
New Mills Wood	7
Newstead *	4
Newtown Glen	12
North Fallaknowe	3
Old Linthill	4
Over Langshaw	3
Over Roxburgh	6
Overton Bush	4
Oxnam Pottery	2
Paxton House	5
Peebles	3
Plora Rig	3
Plora Wood	5
Polwarth	5
Printonan Hall	3
Raeclough Head	7
Ravelaw Farm	6
Redpath *	3
Renton House	5
Roxburgh	3
Roxburgh Newton	4
Rumbleton Rig	4
Satchells	2
Selkirk *	2
Shielshaugh	3
Sinclair's Hill	6
Singlie	2
Slegden	2
Spottiswoode Loch	7
Springwells	2
Sprouston	2
St Abb's Head	3
St Boswells *	8
St Boswells GC	3
St. Ronan's Wood	3
Stonedge	3
Stotfield Hill	2
Sunderland Hope *	8
Swinside Hall Plantation	2
Swinton	2
Swinton Hill	4
Teviot Bank	3
Troney Hill	3
Trows *	5
Turtleton	3
Tweedbank *	4
Walterstead	3
West Bold	5
Wester Muirdean	4
Whitehaugh	2
Whitsome Hill	2
Wigg Knowe *	12
Wilton Park	4
Winfield Farm	2
Woodheads	2
Woodheads Hill	3
Yetholm Loch	2

Autumn: Widespread on habitat into late Aug and Sep at 18 sites, with usual crop of singing birds in Sep. Whether these are local or passage birds is uncertain.

Away from the coast Oct singles at Craigurd House, Duns Wood, Earlston High School, Edrington Castle, Foulden New Mains, Polwarth Kirk Bridge & Tweedbank with latest record at Polwarth on 21st Oct. This latter bird may have also been seen into Nov with 1 nearby there 11th Nov, but also the latest singles Edrington Castle 12th Nov and Butterdean 18th Nov (Fran Evans).

On the coast passage several arrivals with: 12 St Abb's Head 14th Sep; 8 Coldingham Loch 16th Sep with 12 there 17th Sep, but just 5 on 18th Sep; 15 St Abb's Head & 1 Lambertton 21st Sep; 20 St Abb's Head & 3 Dowlaw 25th Sep; just 10 St Abb's Head \29th Sep but 5 Burnmouth, 5 Dowlaw, 3 Eyemouth & 1 Pease Bay. 2 St Abb's Head 5th & 12th Oct with 4 there 13th Oct and a single there with 1 Eyemouth GC on 23rd Oct.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Abundant summer visitor found breeding in 87% of tetrads. Common passage migrant in coastal areas, especially in the autumn. Passage numbers peak April and September. (695 records in 2012)

Spring: First 1 Lindean Reservoir 2nd Apr (Elizabeth Bickmore); 2 The Ley & 1 Tweedbank 6th Apr. Then gap until arrival 12th Apr with 2 Gordon Moss & Tweedbank with singles Blakedean, Newmains & Kedslie; with 4 Tweedbank & 1 St Ronan's Wood on 14th Apr. Widespread thereafter. No great evidence of coastal passage.

Breeding: Reported 315 tetrads (425 in 2011 & 389 in 2010). Breeding was confirmed in 77 tetrads with the first adults carrying food for young seen at Garvald on 22nd May & Windylaw Loch on 23rd May; the first fledged young were seen at Tweedbank on 13th Jun & Redpath on 14th Jun.

Sites with counts of 10 or more counted during TTVs, mostly singers (additional 1hr count given if <10, if made same day):

Altrieve	14
Bemersyde Moss	11
Blind Haugh	12+3
Branxholme Braes	10+4
Castlecraig Forestry	10
Damhead Rig	10
Darny Rig	12+24
Delorainehope	16
Dodhead	12+5
Drakemyre	20+5
Dryden Greenhill	13+5
Essenside Loch	23
Fireburnmill	10+2
Gilmanscleugh	10
Glengonnor Hill	16+8
Glenholm	17+17
Haggin Hope	19+6
Hamildean	20
Harehope Hill	20+26
Hare Moss	10+6
Hassendean	15+8
Hawksnest	28+3
Hexpathdean Bridge	13
Huntlaw	11+4
Jeaniefield	10+10
Ladyurd forestry	28
Mossfennan	16
Myrtlehall	12
New Blainslie	13+16
Newhouse Kip	12+6
Outer Knowe Head	12+3
Pedderie Dod	11+3
Philip Law	15+4
Plora Rig	15
Renton House	10+2
Satchells	14
Singdean Forest	10
Single	25
Spottiswoode Loch	12+3
Stand Knowe	10
Sunderland Hope	20+12
Whitslade	18
Wigg Knowe	11+8
Woodheads Hill	14+15

These sites alone held 847 territories.

Autumn: Later inland reports during Sep from Bemersyde Moss, Black Barony, Coldingham Loch, Craigurd House, East Reston, Edrington Mains, Hare Moss, Houndwood & Nether Falla, mostly 1-2 birds but 5 ringed Nether Falla 2nd Sep; 3 Black Barony 5th Sep; 4 Hare Moss 23rd Sep. Still birds being ringed Nether Falla in Oct with 1 caught there 6th Oct (Tom Dougall).

Coastal passage: 39 St Abb's Head 18th Aug with 11 Burnmouth 20th-21st Aug; 7 St Abb's Head 24th Aug. Then virtually no counts greater than one bird on coast through much of Sep, max 2 St Abb's Head & 2 Dowlaw 26th Sep with singles Lamberton 27th Sep and Eyemouth GC 29th Sep. After that bjust 1 St Abb's Head 14th Oct (Ray Murray & Fran Evans).

Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

Extremely rare passage migrant. First record 2012.

1 male ringed St Abb's Head 20th May (Alan Kerr).

This was the first record for Borders.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Increasingly common summer visitor, breeds in 27% of tetrads. Scarce on passage April-May, more common in autumn from August to October. Very scarce but annual in winter. (553 records in 2012)

Winter: 1 Eyemouth 11th Jan; 1 Melrose 15th Jan; 1f Eyemouth GC 23rd Jan; 1 Coldingham 28th Feb; m+f Eyemouth GC 5th Feb with 2ff there 7th Feb and 1f still there 3rd Mar.

Spring: First arrival 5 Paxton House & New Mills Wood 27th Mar (Barry & Barbara Prater & Tom Brewis); 1 Newtown Glen 30th Mar; 1 Blakelaw 1st Apr; 1 Tweedbank 2nd Apr. Then a week until next 1 Langlee Woods 7th Apr & Lees Haugh 8th Apr. Only daily records from 11th Apr when 2 birds Burnmouth & Tweedbank. 6-8 St Abb's Head 5th-8th May.

Breeding: Recorded in 222 tetrads (244 in 2011, 181 in 201, 160 in 2009).

Breeding was confirmed at 20 sites (25 in 2011, 5 in 2010): the first adults carrying food for young were recorded at Linthill on 26th May & Lanton Mains on 1st Jun; the fledged young were seen at Bemersyde moss on 9th May & Edrington Mill on 10th Jun. Late broods were still being reported on 23rd Aug.

c.707 singing mm/territories were noted in suitable habitat at 269 sites in Apr-Aug:

Singles were recorded from 63 sites. 450 multiple males/territories or single pairs at another 169 sites:

Abbey Park, Birken side Hill, Blackhouse, Blakelaw, Bowmont Forest, Bucklands, Calaburn Farm, Castlecraig Forestry, Castlecraig Mill, Cauldshiels Loch, Cop Law, Craighope, Croftlea Bend, Cuddyhall, Denholm, Dod BBS, Dryburgh, Duns, East Newton, East Reston, Easter Deans, Easterhill Head, Edgerston Mill, Edgerston Rig, Edrington Castle, Fallsidehill, Fancove Head, Folly Loch, Galashiels, Glenrath Pond, Halliburton, Harehope Hill, Harleyburn, Howden, Hyndsidehill, Kelphope, Kelso, Kippit Farm, Kissing Gate, Lamblairknowe, Langhaugh, Langlee Woods, Langrig, Lempitlaw, Manor Bridge Wood, Neidpath, New Mills Wood, Newmill (Teviot), Nisbet Bridge, Nisbetmill Cauld, North Synton, Outer Knowe Head, Peebles, Plora, Popples, Press Castle, Press Mains, Quarry Hill, Raecleugh Head, Redfordgreen, Rumbleton, Shielshaugh, St. Abbs, Swinside Hall Plantation, Toddeugh, Totto Hill, Traquair Bank, Turnbankbrae Plantation, Turtleton, Whitsome Hill, Williamslee, Wilton Park & Yair Boat Pool.

Territories

Allanbank 5

Ark Law	2
Ashkirk Loch	
Barns Arboretum	2
Bellitaw	3
Bemersyde Moss*	2
Blackadder Mount	2
Bowhill, Duchess's Drive	2
Branxholme	3
Branxholme Braes	2
Burnfoot	3
Burnmouth *	4
Cairncross	2
Camieston	
Cardrona	
Cardrona House	4
Cavers Mains	2
Charlesfield	4
Charterhall	4
Charterhall Wood	2
Charterhouse	4
Chesterfield *	
Chirnside	
Clarilawburn *	3
Cockburn	12
Corsbie	2
Darnchester *	10
Darnick	2
Dawyck Garden	2
Dollar Forest	2
Dolphinston Moor	2
Drakemyre	4
Drumelzier	
Dryden Greenhill	2
Dunglass	2
Duns Hen Poo East	
Easter Happrew	2
Eastfield	5
Edington Mains	3
Edington Mill *	2
Eildon	2
Eildon Glen	3
Elibank *	3
Essenside Loch	2
Ettrick, Ettrick House	2
Fans Loanend Covert	
Fireburnmill	7
Floors Castle	5
Fogo Kirk	2
Fountainhall	4
Garvald East	2
Gilmanscleugh	2
Glen	4
Glenholm	6
Gordon Moss	2
Graden	2
Grantshouse	
Greenlaw Dean	3
Greenriggs	3
Greenwood	4
Haggin Hope	2
Halkburn	2
Hallrule Mill	2
Hallrulemill	3
Hallyne *	
Harden Hill Head	
Hardiesmill Place	
Hardwoodmoss *	2
Harehead	5
Haremoss	
Harestanes	5
Hassendean	8
Hexpathdean Bridge	12
Hilton and Winfield	
Hirsley Knowe	2
Horndean	3
Houndwood	
Howliston	2
Huntlaw	3
Hutlerburn	6
Innerleithen	
Jeaniefield	2
Kailzie	
Kedslie	4
Kelloe Bridge	8
Kerchesters	2
Knowetownhead *	

Ladykirk Shiels	4
Ladyrig	4
Ladyurd forestry	3
Lamberton	
Langton Gardens	2
Lanton Hill	4
Lanton Mains *	4
Lees Haugh	3
Leithenwater Forest	2
Lethem	
Linthill	3
Lithillum Loch	12
Lower Whiteadder Water	2
Lugate	2
Makerstoun	2
Marygold *	2
Mellerstain	4
Melrose	2
Mersingtonmill	2
Middlefield	6
Middlestots	2
Millfield	3
Minto Kames	2
Monksford Glen	4
Mossfennan	4
Nether Blainslie	4
New Blainslie	4
Newhouse Kip *	2
Newstead	3
Newtown Glen	18
Over Langshaw	2
Over Roxburgh	2
Overton Bush	3
Oxnam Pottery	2
Oxnamrow	2
Paxton	
Paxton House	5
Pease Bay	
Philip Law	4
Philiphugh	8
Polwarth	2
Redpath	4
Renton House	4
Roxburgh	3
Roxburgh Castle	2
Roxburgh Newton	3
Rumbleton Rig	4
Rutherford Lodge	2
Shankend	3
Sinclair's Hill	8
Singleie	5
Slegden	2
Spottiswoode Loch	2
Sprouston *	2
St Abb's Head	2
St Boswells	20
St Boswells GC	6
Stobs Castle	2
Stotfield Hill	3
Sunderland Hope	2
Sware Ponds	2
Swinton	2
Swinton Hill	3
Teviot Bank	2
The Glen	4
Toft Burn	2
Torsonce	2
Traquair	2
Trows	6
Tweedbank	5
Tweedmill	9
Walterstead	5
West Foulden	
Wester Dawyck	2
Wester Muirdean	4
Whitmuirhill Loch	2
Wigg Knowe	12
Windside Hill	3
Woodheads	3
Woodheads Hill	6
Woolshears Wood	3
Yetholm Loch	3

Autumn/Winter: Last inland reports; 1 Tweedbank 6th & 21st Sep; 1 Melrose 9th Sep; 1 Neidpath Castle 27th Sep; 1 Manor Sware 27th Sep & 15th Oct.

Coastal migration seemed light with 7 St Abb's Head 23rd Sep & 26th Sep with 5 Burnmouth & 2 Eyemouth GC on 29th Sep

Just 3 winter records: 1m Nethermains Farm 26th Nov; and 1 Melrose 10th & 12th Dec, despite continued winter atlasing.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Common summer visitor, found in 27% of tetrads. Rather scarce on passage in spring during May & June.

Occasionally more common in the autumn, August-October. (89 records in 2012)

Spring: First 3 Cardrona House 7th May (Ray Murray) with 3 Harehead 8th May; 3 Laidlawstiel & 1 Innerleithen 12th May; 1 Gordon Moss 13th May and then daily thereafter. No coastal passage.

Breeding: Reported 62 tetrads (74 in 2011, 84 in 2010, 63 in 2009) with breeding confirmed in just a single tetrad.

98 birds/territories were noted in suitable habitat at 66 sites in Apr-Aug (112 at 68 sites in 2011, 128 at 95 sites in 2010).

Breeding was confirmed at just one site with an adult carrying food for young at Ark law on 18th Jun.

Ark Law *	
Birkenside Hill	
Bowden Curling Pond	2
Bowhill, Duchess's Drive	
Bowmont Forest	
Branxholme Braes	2
Bucklands	2
Cademuir Forest	
Cademuir Hill	
Cardrona	
Cardrona House	3
Cauldshiels Loch	
Clarilawburn	2
Cockburn	2
Craigurd House	2
Darnchester	
Edington Mill	
Eildon Glen	
Elba	
Essenside Loch	
Fogo Kirk	
Fountainhall	2
Glenormiston	
Glensax	
Gordon Moss	
Greenriggs	2
Hallmanor	
Hallmanor House	
Harden Hill Head	2
Hardiesmill Place	3
Harehead	2
Haremoss	
Hassendean	3
Hexpathdean Bridge	2
Horndean	2
Huntshaw	2
Hutlerburn	
Innerleithen	
Ladykirk Shiels	2
Laidlawstiel Wood	3
Langrig	
Lauder, Burn Mill	3
Lithtillum Loch	3
Maisondieu	
Mellerstain Lake	
Neidpath Castle	
Neidpath Viaduct	
Nether Blainslie	
New Blainslie	
Newmill, Teviot	3
North Synton	
Philip Law	
Popples	
Rumbleton Rig	
Single	
Skelfhill	
Slegden	2
Stouslie	
Sunderland Hope	2
Sware Ponds	2
Teviot Bank	
Tweedbank	
Viaduct	
Wester Muirdean	
Whiteadder, Todheugh	
Whitmuir	
Whitslade	3
Woodheads Hill	

The latest bird in possible breeding habitat was a single at Haremoss on 14th Aug.

Autumn: Just three reports after the Haremoss bird: 1 Dowlaw Farm 26th Sep; 1 St Abb's Head 27th Sep with the last there a very late bird on 4 Nov (Dave Graham)

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Found in 6% of tetrads. Mostly on passage late April to May and August to October. (11 records in 2012).

Spring: 3 St Abb's Head 1st May (Jack Ibbotson); 1m Bowden & 1 St Abb's Head 8th May.

Breeding: 1m sang Cruxfield 22nd May (Harry Dott) was the only other spring/summer record.

Autumn: 1 St Abb's Head 21st Sep with 1 there 22nd-23rd Sep, 8 on 26th Sep & the last 1 there 12th Oct (Dave Graham, Ray Murray).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor, mostly breeding on lower ground. Found in 24% of tetrads. Scarce passage migrant on coast April-June and August-September. (207 records in 2012)

Spring: 1 Tweedbank 20th Apr (Andrew Bramhall); 2 Newmains 27th Apr; 1 Tweedbank 30th Apr; 5 Newmains & 1 Lamberton 3rd May; 1 Foulshot Law 6th May; 2 Horseshoe Plantation & 1 Eildon Hills 7th May. Passage at St Abb's Head peaked at 10 on 8th May.

Breeding: Reported 125 tetrads (169 in 2011, 130 in 2010, 102 in 2009). Breeding was confirmed in 17 tetrads (50 in 2011, 9 in 2010). The first nest seen was at Walterstead on 23rd May. The first adult seen carrying food for young was at Roxburgh on 2nd Jun & Edington Mill on 10th Jun; the first fledglings were seen at Lindean Reservoir on 24th Jun & Prendergust on 25th Jun

c.263 singing mm/territories were noted in suitable habitat at 123 sites in Apr-Aug (189 sites in 2011, 210 at 144 sites in 2010, 230 at 100 sites in 2009). Single birds were reported from 31 sites with c.232 territories/pairs at another 92 sites

Single birds only at 31 sites: Bemersyde Moss, Blackadder Mount, Bowdenmoor Reservoir, Bowmont Forest, Bucklands, Catcairn Bushes, Eildon Hills, Faughill, Foulshot Law, Glenormiston, Haremoor, Heriot, Innerleithen, Langlee Tip, Long Moss, Maisondieu, Millar's Moss, Moss Road Plantation, Myrtlehall, Nether Blainslie, Newstead, Over Roxburgh, Overton Bush, Philiphaugh, Roxburgh Newton, Sprouston, Sunderland Hope, Sware Ponds, Swinside Hall Plantation, Thirle Heugh & Whitmuir Moss.

Allanbank *	3
Allanton	
Ark Law	
Bellitaw	4
Berrybank	5
Blackadder Mains	3
Blackhouse	
Burnfoot	
Calaburn Farm	
Charlesfield	2
Charterhall	3
Charterhall Wood	
Charterhouse	
Chirnside	2
Clarilawburn	2
Cockburn	8
Craggs	3
Darnchester	4
Dolphinston Moor	2
Dowlaw Dean	
Drakemyre	2
Dryden Greenhill	2
Duns *	
East Gordon	2
East Newton	4
East Reston	
Easter Deans	
Eastfield	5
Edgerston Mill	
Edington Mains	3
Edington Mill *	
Fallsidehill	3
Fast Castle Head	3
Floors Castle	
Fogo	2
Gordon Moss	2
Grantshouse	2
Greenhead	2
Greenriggs	2
Harden Hill Head	3
Hardiesmill Place	4
Hassendean *	2
Hilton and Winfield *	
Hirsley Knowe	2
Hordean	4
Horseshoe Plantation	
Houndwood	
Hume *	
Huntlaw *	2
Hutton Hall Barns	
Kedslie	2
Kelloe Bridge *	4
Kerchesters	3
Ladykirk Shiels	6
Lamberton *	
Langraw Tops	2
Langrig	
Lauder	3
Lempitlaw	2
Lindean Reservoir *	

Lithillum Loch	3
Marygold	
Mersingtonmill *	2
Middlestots	2
Millfield	3
Minto Kames	2
Mordington Holdings	
Mosshouses	
New Blainslie	3
Newmains *	7
North Fallaknowe	
Over Langshaw	
Oxnamrow	3
Peelwalls Farm	
Polwarth	2
Prenderguest *	
Press Castle	
Ravelaw Farm	6
Redheugh	5
Renton House	3
Roxburgh *	3
Rumbleton Rig	2
Sinclair's Hill	2
Slegden	2
St Abb's Head	6
St. Abbs	2
Stotfield Hill	3
Stouslie	2
Swinton *	4
Swinton Hill	3
Teviot Bank	2
Trows	3
Turtleton	
Tweedbank *	
Walterstead	7
Wester Muirdean *	3
Whitmuirhill Loch	
Whitsome Hill	4
Yellow Craig	2

Reduced numbers, and especially reduced numbers of confirmed breeding hints that 2012 was not a very successful year.

Autumn: Most gone in early Aug with mostly coastal birds after mid-Aug. 1 Burnmouth 21st Aug; 1 St Abb's Head & 1 Angelrow 24th Aug, the last inland bird; 4 St Abb's Head 25th Aug with 3 there 30th Aug. Three week gap until next 2 there 26th Sep with last single there 27th & 29th Sep (Fran Evans).

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Very scarce but not quite annual autumn passage migrant.(3 records for 2011)

1 juv trapped near Selkirk 24th Aug (Douglas Kellett), a remarkable repeat of the 2011 record; 1 1st autumn trapped St Abb's Head 25th Sep, probably the same bird seen again on 30th Sep (Alan Kerr); 1 1st autumn Burnmouth 23rd Oct (Ray Murray).

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Scarce summer visitor & passage migrant April-early September. Found in 5% of tetrads. (19 records in 20112)

Spring: First 1 Coldstream 27th Apr (Roger Manning). 1 Lethem 6th May; 1 Nisbet Bridge 7th May; 1 Coldingham 9th May. Possible influx 27th May when singles Burnmouth, Catcairn & Lamberton Beach.

Breeding: 20mm, mostly singles, reported Apr-Aug at 18 sites:

Bemersyde Moss
 Burnmouth 2
 Catcairn Bushes
 Coldingham
 Dewar
 Earlston High School
 Fans
 Faughill
 Gordon
 Haggin Hope
 Hexpathdean Bridge 2
 Kerchesters
 Lamberton Beach
 Lethem
 Newmains
 Nisbet Bridge
 The Hutches
 Windylaw Loch

Most were one-day records, so most probably passage birds, with only a handful in Jun-Jul.

Autumn: Last report was 1 Gordon on 25th Jul (Roger Manning).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor to wet areas, April-September. Found breeding in 27% of tetrads. (149 records in 2012)

Spring: First 1 singles Bemersyde Moss & Earlston High School 3rd May (Malcolm Lindsay & James Towill); 1 St Abb's Head 5th May; 3 St Abb's Head & 1 Lindean Reservoir 6th May; 3 Newmains, and singles Cardrona & Cardrona House 7th May.

Breeding: Recorded 82 tetrads (127 in 2011, 102 in 2010, 110 in 2009). with confirmed breeding in just 9 tetrads

c. 235 mm sang or were present in suitable breeding habitat at 87 sites in Apr-Aug

45 singles were reported from: Ark Law, Bellanrig Farm, Berrybank, Bowmont Forest, Calaburn Farm, Cardrona Golf Course, Cardrona House, Catcairn Bushes, Colterscleugh, Corsbie, Dalcove Pond, Earlston High School, East Newton, Edrington Castle, Faughill, Fogorig, Folly Loch,

Fruid Reservoir, Gordon Community Woodland, Greenriggs, Harelaw, Hawick, Hawkshaw Burn Waterworks, Hornshole Bridge, Houndwood, Howden, Hume Orchard, Hutton Hall Barns, Innerleithen, Kerchesters, Kippit Farm, Lithillum Loch, Long Moss, Menzion Farm, Millfield, Myrtlehall, Oxnamrow, Paxton, Ravelaw Farm, Scarlaw, Sware Ponds, Turtleton, Whitrig Bog, Winfield & Yetholm Loch.

Bellitaw	7
Bemersyde Moss	11
Chapelhill Moss	3
Clarilawburn	3
Clearburn Loch	2
Darnchester	5
Dryden Greenhill	3
East Gordon	4
Eastfield	5
Eccles Kirk	15
Essenside Loch	5
Fountainhall	2
Glenholm	3
Gordon Moss	3
Halliburton	10
Hardiesmill Place	2
Haremos	4
Hassendean	2
Heriot	3
Hexpathdean Bridge	7
Hirsel	4
Hopecarton	3
Horndean	3
Ladyrig	2
Langrig	2
Lindean Reservoir	3
Mire Loch	6
Mossfennan	3
Nether Whitlaw Moss	3
Newmains	3
Roxburgh	4
Roxburgh Castle	2
Rumbleton	2
Rumbleton Rig	2
Selkirk Common	10
Shaws Lochs	4
Shielswood Loch	2
Swinside Hall Plantation	8
Wester Dawyck	11
Whitmuirhall Loch	3
Whitslade	7
Windylaw Loch	3
42 sites with 190 birds	

Despite many fewer sites in 2012, numbers per site (2.7) were higher than in 2011 (1.99), although the sites visited in each year were mostly different.

The first adults carrying food was seen at Nether Whitlaw Moss on 5th Jun, the first fledged young were seen at the Shaws Lochs on 8th Jul.

Autumn: Numbers thinning out into Aug , with 12 reports at 9 sites, but just two past the middle of the month with 2 Mire Loch 15th Aug and another 2 there on 30th Aug (Fran Evans).

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Very scarce spring & autumn passage migrant, and rare breeder. Last proved breeding 2005. (4 records in 2012)

1 trapped Mire Loch 20th May was developing a brood patch. 2mm sang there 18th Aug; 1 trapped 25th Sep with 2 on 28th Sep (Alan Kerr). *These records once again raise the issue of a cryptic presence at the Mire Loch.*

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Very scarce and erratic winter visitor. Not annual. (44 records in 2012)

Winter 2011/12: After just a single record prior to January, just a single record after: 1 Eyemouth 2nd May (Jim Burns).

Winter 2012/13: First 3 Duns & 1 Newmains 30th Oct (Murray Henderson & Dave Graham); 1 Eyemouth 31st Oct (Lisa Cole).

These and 4 Hutton 3rd Nov were the precursors for a mass arrival from 5th Nov. 12S Blindwells Plantation, 12 Lempitlaw, 6 Peebles and singles Lambertton & Galashiels on 5th Nov with 25 Newmains, 23 Manderston & 1 Clovenfords on 6th Nov. The largest numbers were on 7th Nov with 140 Eyemouth (Jimmie Jamieson), 74 The Hirsel & 1 Newmains.

10 Bowden & 7 Georgefield 8th Nov; 40 Tweedbank & 15 Walkerburn 9th Nov; 70 Galashiels, 10 Bellanrig & 10 Manor Bridge 19th Nov; 1 Polwarth 11th Nov; 19 Paxton 12th Nov; and 20 Manderston 13th Nov. None the next day with just 1 over Earlston on 15th Nov and none until 21 over BGH on 21st Nov when also 1 left at Manderston.

While the initial rush was over birds continued to move through until the end of the year. 13 Cove 24th Nov; 20 Innerleithen 25th Nov; 4 Newmains & 1 Lauder 30th Nov; 10 Allanton 3rd Dec; 30 Woodside & 1 Kelso 8th Dec; 14 Eyemouth 10th Dec; 5 Peebles 13th Dec; 4 Eyemouth 17th Dec; then the final 7 Sprouston & 6 St Boswells on 29th Dec.

721 birds recorded over 22 days.

Bird days - winter 2010-11

late Oct	early Nov	late Nov	early Dec	late Dec	early Jan	late Jan	early Feb	late Feb	early Mar	late Mar	early Apr
186	3086	1579	354	293	2	36	16	65	3	30	10

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Uncommon but rapidly increasing resident. First bred 1989 and spreading rapidly. Perhaps now as many as 500-750 pairs. (554 records in 2012)

Found 220 tetrads in 2012 (240 in 2011, 195 in 2010, 140 in 2009, 188 in 2008 and 128 'locations' in 2007).

While 2012 had the first reduction in the numbers of tetrads with this species reported during the year since the colonisation started in 1989, there is no reason why any actual drop in numbers occurred, merely the novelty factor may have been lost and hence the species is less well reported.

Due to the ever-larger list of sites where Nuthatch have been reported in Borders, as the species expands its range into all possible habitats, the system used for reporting annually with a full list in the bird report has been discontinued. Instead the highlight will switch to those sites where birds have been recorded for the first time, or more precisely, the first time in the *SE Scotland Bird Atlas* (they may have been listed in Bird Reports previously, before winter 2007).

The 40 'new' site listed below are those added to the atlas project in 2012. Most have come about due to atlasing activities.

Arnton Fell	NY59H	1 on 5 th Nov	Malcolm Henderson
Blakelaw	NT73Q	1 singing on 29 th Feb	Ray Murray
Cademuir Hill	NT23N	2 singing on 3 rd Jun	Phil Naylor
Callands House	NT14M	1 on 4 th Dec	Harry Dott
Carcant	NT35R	1 on 1 st Jan	Malcolm Ross
Cop Law	NT31J	1 on 3 rd Feb	Harry Dott
Darnchester	NT84B	1 in habitat on 3 rd May	Tom Brewis
Deanfoot	NT52Q	1 on 18 th Jan	Malcolm Henderson
Dere Street	NT62X	1 on 10 th Jan	Malcolm Henderson
Dryden Greenhill	NT42X	1 in habitat on 25 th Jul	Ray Murray
Easter Happrew	NT13Z	1 with young 22 nd Jun	Ray Murray
Edgerston Rig	NT61Q	1 anxious 4 th Jun	Ray Murray
Ednam	NT73I	1 on 21 st Nov	Neville Crowther
Evelaw	NT665R	1 on 11 th Nov	Harry Dott
Falside	NT61K	2 on 8 th Nov	Malcolm Henderson
Gavinton Ford	NT75R	1 on 16 th Jan & 30 th Mar	Andrew Mitchell & John Inglis
Hallrule Mill	NT51W	2 on 6 th Oct	Malcolm Henderson
Hassendean	NT52K	1 on 6 th Nov	Ray Murray
Hoscote	NT41V	2 on 21 st Nov	Graham Pyatt
Howburn Park	NT86I	1 on 31 st Mar with young there on 3 rd Jul	David Parkinson & Ron Mcbeath
Jeaniefield	NT54G	2 on 15 th Apr	Harry Dott
Kames West Mains	(NT74X)	1 territorially calling on 19 th Apr	Mark Holling
Kimdean	(NY59F)	1 on 27 th Feb	Malcolm Henderson
Langsidebrae	NT50C	3 with young 26 th Jun	Ray Murray
Langton Gardens	NT75R	1 on 19 th Apr	Tom Brewis
Lauder	NT54I	1 on 12 th Jan	Anthony Tucker
Lees Haugh	NT83P	3 on 28 th Jan with 12 there 8 th Apr	James Towill
Longhaugh	NY59B	1 on 16 th Nov	Harry Dott
Newby	NT23T	1 anxious bird 30 th May	Ray Murray
Newmill, Teviot	NT40L	1 on 21 st May	Ray Murray
Old Jethart	NT61S	1 on 12 th Nov	Malcolm Henderson
Over Langshaw	NT54F	1 on 15 th Apr	Harry Dott
Raeleugh Head	NT75L	3 on 19 th Apr	Andrew Barker
Roxburgh	NT73A	1 on 22 nd Feb	Ray Murray
Simprim Mains	NT84T	1 there on 20 th Jul	James Towill
Springwells	NT74R	2, a pair, on 19 th Jun	Mark Holling
Sprouston	NT73M	1 on 1 st Jul	Ray Murray
Sunnyside Hill	NT51G	2 on 2 nd Nov	Malcolm Henderson
Trahenna Hill	NT13I	1 in habitat on 20 th Jun	Harry Urquhart
Walterstead	NT84T	1 in habitat 23 rd May	Tom Brewis
Wester Happrew	NT14Q	1 singing 13 th Apr	Ray Murray
Whitslade	NT13C	2 on 24 th Feb	Harry Urquhart

Found in 119 tetrads in winter (Jan-Feb & Nov-Dec); 140 tetrads in the breeding season (Apr-Jul); and 68 tetrads in Mar & Aug-Oct, the non-atlas months.

Confirmed breeding in 30 tetrads: the first occupied nest was seen at Duns Castle Wood on 15th Apr; the first adults with food for young seen at Cardrona House on 7th May & Ferniehirst on 19th May; the first fledged young were noted at Abbey St Bathans on 11th Jun & Nether Blainslie on 14th Jun.

Abbey St Bathans	NT76L	FL
Black Barony	NT24I	FL
Branxholme	NT41Q	FF
Brieryhill	NT41S	FL
Broomdykes	NT85R	FL
Cardrona House	NT33E	FF
Clarilawburn	NT52N	FF
Dryburgh Farm	NT53V	ON
Duns Hen Poo East	NT75X	ON
Easter Dawyck	NT13Y	FF

Easter Haprew	NT13Z	FL
Eccles	NT74Q	FL
Eildon Hills	NT53L	ON
Faldonside Loch	NT53B	FF
Ferniehirst	NT44K	FF
Floors Castle	NT73C	ON
Glen - cottages	NT33B	FF
Glen – gates	NT33B	FF
Harden Hill Head	NT71E	FF
Howpark	NT86I	FL
Hutton Hall Barns	NT85X	FF
Jedburgh Abbey	NT62K	FL
Kailzie East	NT23Z	FF
Knowetownhead	NT51P	FL
Langsidebrae	NT50C	FL
Nether Blainslie	NT54L	FL
Newhouse Kip	NT32R	FF
Overton Bush	NT61W	FF
Sinclair's Hill	NT85A	FL
St Boswells	NT53V	ON
St Boswells GC	NT53V	ON
Trows	NT63W	FF
Woodheads	NT74J	FL

The largest counts were: 12 Floors Castle 6th Apr and 11The Hirsle 4th Oct; with 7 birds Kailzie, Dawyck, & Wilton park and 6 birds Haining Loch, Sinclair's Hill, Harehead, Ayton Bridge, Black Barony & Fancove Head.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Scarce breeding resident found in 21% of tetrads. (213 records in 2012)

Winter: Recorded in 51 tetrads Jan-Mar (52 in 2011, 27 in 2010, 33 in 2009, 55 in 2008), maintaining winter levels. Mostly singles but 4 Houndwood 31st Mar with 2 birds at 17 other sites.

Breeding: Reported from just 71 tetrads Apr-Aug (90 in 2011, 75 in 2010, 29 in 2009, 89 in 2008), mostly single birds or single pairs, 3 or more birds and confirmed breeding (*) were reported from:

Black Barony	3
Bowhill *	
Bowmont Forest *	4
Darny Rig *	
Edgerston Rig *	
Faldonside Loch *	
Fogo Kirk *	
Graden *	3
Hawkshaw *	
Kirmie Law *	
Knowetownhead	
Kirkhouse *	
Overton Bush *	
The Glen *	
Trows	4
Woodheads Hill *	

Breeding confirmed in 12 tetrads, with adults feeding young at Hawkshaw on 16th May & The Glen on 20th May; and the first fledged young at Bowmont Forest on 16th May & Woodheads Hill on 13th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: 1-2 birds seen 9 sites in Sep-Oct (12 in 2011) but reports from 30 tetrads in Nov-Dec (46 in 2011, 45 in 2010, 20 in 2009, 75 in 2008). Again mostly single birds but 3 Ednam 21st Nov and 2 seen Black Barony, Chesters Grange, Darnick, Easter Howlands, Fancove Head, Purvishaugh & Upper Nisbet

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Abundant & widespread resident in 95% of tetrads. Some passage in autumn. (1156 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 30 recorded on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan (13 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	0	Pease Bay-Redheugh	5
Redheugh-Souter	2	Souter-Petticowick	5
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	0	Coldingham Bay - Eyemouth	3
Eyemouth-Burroughmouth	3	Burroughmouth-English border	12

Reported in 137 tetrads Jan-Mar (94 in 2011, 72 in 2010 & 210 in 2009). This suggests a strong recovery from the hard winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11. Still just a single double-figure count with 14 along the Eye Water at Houndwood on 31st Mar but also 5-9 birds Blackhouse Dean Plantation, Glen Douglas, Grantshouse, Leaderfoot, Mire Loch, Old Belses, Pinnacle, Renton, Tweedbank & Upper Nisbet Moor

Breeding: Reported from 305 tetrads Apr-Aug (310 in 2011 & 323 in 2010). Confirmed breeding was reported in 46 tetrads (51 in 2011, 36 in 2010).

The first adults with food for young were at Lithtillum Loch on 3rd May; the first fledglings were seen at Glenholm on 22nd May & Ladykirk Shiels on 23rd May. Later broods were seen up 29th Jul.

23 territories Ladyurd Forestry transect on 1st May - 19 in 2011 (D&MT). 14 territories Eye Water at Houndwood. 12 territories Castlecraig Forestry.

Largest TTV hourly and other counts were: 16+11 Halkburn 3rd Jul, 15+12 Haggin Hope 12th Jun, 14+11 Wigg Knowe 26th Jun, 13+3 Outer Knowe Head 26th Jun, 10+6 Woodheads Hill 13th Jun with single counts of 14 Sunderland Hope, 13 Duchess's Drive, 11 Eildon Glen, 10 Dodhead, Harehead & St Boswells; with 5-9 birds at 81 other sites

Autumn/Winter: Birds reported from 64 locations in Sep-Oct mostly 1-2 birds with 15 Gavinton 7th Oct, 14 Tweedbank 29th Oct & 8 Mire Loch 19th Oct the best counts.

Found in 132 tetrads Nov-Dec (133 in 2011, 159 in 2010 & 193 in 2009). Max counts were: 20 Fast Castle Head 11th Nov; 8 Tweedbank 5th Nov; 7 Gillside 16th Nov & Purvishaugh 21st Nov; 6 birds Eddleston, Houndridge, Lilliardsedge, Longnewton, Ross & Walterstead and counts of 5 birds from Slegden, Flake Hill & St Abb's Head.

All of numbers strongly suggest that Wren numbers are soaring upwards after the poor season due to the dual hard winters.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Abundant and widespread summer visitor found breeding in 66% of tetrads. Flocks form from late May.

A common winter visitor September-March. Occasional large roosts. (562 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Found in 72 tetrads Jan-Feb (70 in 2011, 61 in 2010, 96 in 2009). Much better numbers this Jan-Feb period with 18 counts of 100 or more birds: 850 Hexpathdean bridge 14th Jan; 500 Easter Place 17th Feb; 400 Wheelburn law 26th Feb; 350 Burnhead 28th Jan & Newmains 6th Feb; 250 Cairncross 14th Feb; 242 Rumbleton Law 14th Jan; 240 Westfield 22nd Feb; and 220 Galashiels 1st Feb; with 100-200 birds at Buckholm, Charterhouse, Craighur House, Groundstone, Halliburton, Halliburton Bridge, Lamberton & Sunwick. Best, by far, Mar count was 250 Drinkstone Hill 21st Mar.

Breeding: Birds reported Apr-Aug in 167 tetrads (173 in 2011, 181 in 2010, 171 in 2009, 203 in 2008) with breeding confirmed in 97 of them.

The first occupied nest were at Gavinton & Raecleugh Head on 19th Apr; the first adults with food for young were at Fans & Traquair on 7th May; the first fledglings were seen at Lauder and Hawksnest on 21st May. Later broods were seen up 25th Jul.

The largest one-hour TTV counts, mostly post-breeding flocks, were reduced this year, with 4 three-figure counts (11 in 2011), suggesting a less good breeding season: 220 Bemersyde 12th Aug; 200 Hare Moss 9th Jun; 100 Lamberton 16th Jun & Halliburton 20th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: Sep-Oct counts were also down on 2011 with best counts of 400 Horsley Hill 29th Oct; 200 Mire Loch 12th Oct; 159 Whitrig Bog 22nd Sep & 140 Eddleston 25th Oct; with just 4 other counts of 50-99 birds.

Records from 78 tetrads Nov-Dec (81 in 2011, 83 in 2010, 72 in 2009). Predictably large counts were well down with best totals of: 300 Newmains 20th Dec; 280 barns 16th Dec; and 200 birds at Brotherstone Moor 15th Nov, Sorbietrees 16th Nov, Eyemouth Bay 28th Dec and Mossburnford & Scraesburgh 30th Dec; with 8 other 3-figure counts (100-199).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Common resident along river system, breeding in 40% of tetrads. (327 records in 2011)

Non-breeding season: Birds seen 106 tetrads during Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec (128 in 2011, 133 in 2010).

Almost all records were of singles but 7 Jed Water at Jedburgh 1st Feb; 6 Colquhar 10th Jan; 4 birds Hawick 25th Jan, Leaderfoot 2st Feb & Linthill on 24th Feb; with 3 at Benrig, Tweedbank & Wilton and 2 birds at 15 other sites.

In the autumn/winter, the largest counts were: 6 Tweedbank 29th Oct; with 3 birds Earlston, Eyemouth, Innerleithen & Preston and 2 birds at 13 other sites.

Breeding: Found in 125 tetrads with confirmed breeding in 55 tetrads (140 in 2011, 123 & 49 in 2010). 5 territories Eye Water at Houndwood; 3 Leithen Water at Innerleithen; with 2 prs Hawick, Linthill, Leaderfoot, Grantshouse & Neidpath.

The first occupied nest was seen at Reston on 31st Mar & Hownam on 5th Apr; the first adults carrying food for young were seen at Dryburgh on 24th Apr and Cop Law on 5th May; the first young were ringed at Fruid Dam, Broughton & Netherurd on 24th Apr; with the first fledged young were seen at Galashiels on 8th May and Branxholme on 16th May.

The latest fledged young were seen at Easterhill Hill on 8th Jul.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Scarce summer visitor to hill cleughs in 13% of tetrads. Numbers declining. Passage birds late Mar-May & Sep-Nov. Rare in winter. (79 records in 2012) **All records needed.**

Spring: First 1 Ladyside 22nd Mar (Tom Dougall); 1 Loch Eddy 26th Mar; 1 Hownam & 1 Burnhead (Cheviots) 5th Apr; 1 Dun Rig 6th Apr; 1 Drumelzier 9th Apr.

Relatively heavy coastal passage, compared with the usual 1-2 records, with 1 St Abb's Head 25th Apr and 5 there 26th Apr. 5 still St Abb's Head 27th Apr but also 1 Eyemouth GC; 6 St Abb's Head 28th Apr with 2 there 30th Apr. 1 Newmains 4th & 6th May, 1 St Abb's Head 10th May. Also 1 Sprouston 21st Apr & 2 Warlawbank 4th May..

Breeding: Birds in suitable breeding habitat Mar-Jul at 35 sites (36 in 2011, 26 in 2010) c.43 territories.

Back Burn Woods	1m
Bleakhope	FL
Burnhead	1
Byreclough Cottage	1m
Cademuir Farm	1m
Clinty Cleuch	1m
Crookston Burn	1m
Crookston Cleuch	A
Drumelzier	pr
Drumelzier Place	pr
Dun Rig	1m
Glenrathope	1m
Glensax	2pr FF
Green Cleugh	2prs
Hownam	1m
Hundles Hope	pr FL
Hundleshope Heights	FF
Juniper Burn	T
Juniper Craig	2mm
Ladyside	1m

Langhaugh Hill	2prs
Linghope	2prs
Linghope Burn	pr+1m
Little Law, Dye Water	2prs
Loch Eddy	1m
Mill Burn	prFL
Newholm Cairns	2mm
Posso Craig	pr+1m
Posso Hope	pr FL
Pykestone	1pr
Scrape Burn	pr FL
Tower Burn Cleuch	1m
Tower Burn Wood	pr FL
Upper Glensax	pr FL
Williamslee	pr FL

The first bird carrying food for young was at Williamslee on 19th May & Glensax on 30th May. The first fledglings were seen at Scrape Burn on 5th Jun & Mill Burn on 10th Jun .Adults still carrying food for young on 8th Jul at Tower Burn Wood suggests a second brood.

Autumn: 4 Humblemoor Hill 26th Aug. 4 Juniper Craig 2nd Sep was the last from breeding habitat. First of the coastal passage was 1 St Abb's Head 25th Sep with 7 St Abb's Head, 2 Burnmouth & 1 Newmains 12th Oct with 1 St Abb's Head 13th Oct and the latest 1 there on 24th Oct (Fran Evans).

Coastal passage exceptionally strong in both spring and autumn.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Abundant breeding resident found in 79% of tetrads. Common passage migrant. Probable winter visitor.

Very light passage March-April & strong passage in October. (1239 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 133 tetrads in Jan-Feb (176 in 2011, 158 in 2010, 212 in 2009). 28 Tweedbank 2nd Jan with 25 there 6th Jan; 24 Newmains on 2nd Jan; 13 Galashiels on 1st Feb; 27 Tweedbank 22nd Mar .

Largest 1-hour TTV counts were: 18+5 Eccles Hill 12th Jan; 10++ Single 3rd Feb; 12 Gavinton Ford 16th Jan; 11 Horndean 13th Jan; 10 Middlefield 17th Feb. A few migrants St Abb's Head with 5 there 9th & 11th Mar

Breeding: Found in 326 tetrads Mar-Aug with confirmed breeding in 149 tetrads (336 in 2011 & 309 in 2010).

The first adults with food for their young were seen at Tweedbank on 12th Apr & Whitsome & Middlestots on 19th Apr; the first fledglings were seen at Angelrow on 3rd May & Earliston on 6th May. There were still recently fledged young being seen at Chesterfield on 23rd Aug.

The largest hourly TTV and other counts were: 37 Tweedbank 20th Apr; 30 St Boswells & 25 St Boswells Glen 13th May; 15+14 New Blainslie 13th Jun; 18+4 Nether Blainslie 12th Apr; 13+9 Kedslie 7th Jun; 15+5 Greenlaw Dean 30th May; 20 Eastfield 27th May; 14+5 Duns 19th Jun with 15 there 19th Apr; 12+5 Floors Castle 2nd Jun; 15 Hexpathdean Bridge 30th May; 10+5 Ravelaw 19th Apr; 14 Lanton Mains 1st Jun; 13 The Glen 20th May; 12 Black Barony 5th Apr, Fountainhall 19th May & Hume 14th Jun; with 10-11 birds at Burnfoot, Cockburn, Harehead, Hassendean, Makerstoun, Mersingtonmill, Minto Kames, Monksford Glen, Polwarth & Pyatshaw.

Autumn/Winter: Few double-figure counts in Sep other than a minor coastal movement 26th-30th when 20 St Abb's Head 26th Sep & 12 Burnmouth 30th Sep. Very strong coastal passage in Oct with max 2,500 St Abb's Head 12th Oct, with 310 Burnmouth, 250 Eyemouth GC and 180 Dowlaw Farm the same day. Most had moved on by 13th Oct when just 25 St Abb's Head & 13 Millar's Moss. 70 St Abb's Head 14th Oct with rise to 50 Tweedbank 15th Oct.

Continued movement produced 650 St Abb's Head & 250 Eyemouth GC on 23rd Oct, with only 50 St Abb's Head 24th Oct. Higher numbers inland perhaps reflect the raised numbers with 33 Tweedbank 26th Oct, rising to 68 on 29th Oct. Also 30 Whitrig Bog 30th Oct. No later obvious passage.

Found in 133 tetrads (183 in 2011, but snows probably curtailed fieldwork in 2012) with high 1-hour TTV and other counts of : 60 Redden 14th Dec; 40 Tweedbank 5th Nov; 33 Newmains 4th Dec; 30 Whitton 5th Nov; 20 Whitsome 24th Nov; 19 Longnewton 21st Nov; 16 Innerleithen 9th Nov; 15 Lambden 5th Nov, Huntlaw & Kennetsideheads 22nd Nov and Heiton Mains 26th Dec; and 10-14 birds at 13 other sites.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant from late September to mid-May. Rare May-September but 1-2 birds almost annually in suspicious circumstances. Has been proved breeding one three occasions.(282 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Reported 64 tetrads Jan-Feb (77 in 2011, 68 in 2010, 121 in 2009).

Widespread in moderate numbers during Jan: max counts were 100 Coltcrooks & Raecleugh 21st Jan; 100 lauder 27th Jan; 150 Lucky Shiel & 100 Whitsome 29th Jan; & 170 Newmains on 31st Jan; with 50-99 birds at Paxton House, Groundstone & Longmoss Knowe.

Numbers maintain into Feb with maxima of 100 Buckholm & Galashiels 1st Feb; 400 Lauder 2nd Feb; 150 Angelrow & 100 Stantling Craig & Cheeklaw 4th Feb; 100 Tollishill 12th Feb; 110 Hutton Mains & 105 Kelloe Bridge 22nd Feb; 140 Upper Whitfield 27th Feb; 110 Hadden 29th Feb; and counts of 50-99 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Holefield, Kersknowe, Single & Westfield.

Spring passage was moderate with no four-figure counts but 22 counts of 100 or more birds. In early Mar just 3 flocks of 100 birds at Black Barony, Gordon Moss & Wedderlie and no large flocks in the latter half of the month. Early Apr saw 500 Black Barony 5th Apr , 300 Bluecairn 12th Apr & 230 Jeaniefield on 15th Apr ; 300 Darny Rig & 250 Horsley Hill 20th Apr; 600 Deepsyke 26th & 29th Apr; 500 Cairn Burn 29th Apr. Things settled down into May with 110 Moorshot Plantation the last 3-figure total. 80 Craik 7th May and 80 Easter Softlaw Pond 9th May, when 3 Kelphope Burn & 2 Newmains, the last records of the winter (Roger Manning & Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: First 1 Sprouston 11th Sep (Tony Reed) & 3 Windy Gow 15th Sep. Then a month until next birds - 20 Old Cambus & 3 St Abb's Head 12th Oct; 1 Craigurd House 14th Oct; 1 Lambertton 18th Oct; 3 Cherrytrees 19th Oct. However it was only from 22nd Oct that birds occurred on a daily basis when 150 Manderston & 17 Burnmouth. Then 1,300 St Abbs Head, Duns Castle & 20 Tweedbank 23rd Oct; 70 Craigurd 24th Oct; 300 Stichill, 200 Marchcleugh, 200 Middle Softlaw & 150 Bowmont Forest 26th Oct; 1,000 Kennetsideheads 28th Oct; 450 Whitrig Bog & 120 Whittrighill 30th Oct. Passage continued into Nov. Recorded in only 89 tetrads Nov-Dec (123 in 2011 & 126 in 2010). Numbers were only moderate

with largest counts of 500 Purvis Haugh 1st Nov; 480 Newmains 4th Dec; 425 Kershope Bridge 16th Nov; 350 Teviothead 10th Nov; 200 Sunnyside Hill 2nd Nov with 200 Kershopefoot & Sorbietrees 16th Nov. Parties of 100-190 Buck Cleugh, Frogden, Grey Hill, Hawick, Heathpool, Kelloe Mains, Kerchesters, Old Castleton, Old Greenlaw, Raegill Bogs, Synton Mossend, Whitsome & Whitton

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common, breeding in 81% of tetrads. Largely abandons the area after September. Occasionally strong autumn passage. A few November-January, mostly near coast. (663 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 24 Jan records from 16 sites is better than usual with 21 Newmains 2nd Jan gradually dropping, although still 15 birds there on 31st Jan; otherwise all singles except 3 Horndean 13th Jan.

71 records in Feb, but reports only daily from 17th Feb. In first half of Feb 5 St Abb's Head 3rd Feb but otherwise reports of 1-2 birds from 11, mainly coastal, sites. In latter half, reported from 49 sites spread across the whole area, with max counts of 8 Crib Law 26th Feb & 6 Pirnie House 28th Feb. No significant passage noted. Max Mar counts of 6 Tweedbank & 5 West Water Reservoir 19th Mar

Breeding: Found in 266 tetrads Mar-Aug, with breeding confirmed in 58 tetrads (245 in 2011 & 274 in 2010).

The first nest was found at Hamildean on 4th May; adults carrying food for their young were at Gavinton on 19th Apr and Lethem on 6th May; the first fledged young were at Tweedbank on 30th Apr & Cardrona on 7th May. Nesting activity reported for the atlas was at Knowtownhead on 29th Jul.

12 Ladyurd Forestry 2nd May (8 in 2011, 10 in 2010, 12 in 2009) with 6+7 Floors Castle 2nd Jun; 7 birds Charterhall Wood, 19th Apr, Lethem & Steele Knowe 6th May & Greenlaw Dean on 20th Jun; and 6 birds at Tweedbank 19th Mar, 20th Apr & 2nd May and Clarilawburn 11th Jun; with 4 birds at 12 other sites.

Autumn/Winter: Just a few reported in Se, all 1-2 birds except 14 Black Barony 18th Sep. Then significant autumn thrush passage when 70 St Abb's Head, 25 Dowlaw Farm, 6 Fancove Head & 2 Lamberton Beach 26th Sep; 50 St Abb's Head 27th Sep with 18 Black barony & 12 Craigurd the same day. Just 10 St Abb's Head 29th Sep with 5 Dowlaw. Further large-scale passage on 12th Oct when 900 St Abb's Head, 50 Burnmouth & 3 Dowlaw but just 15 St Abb's Head the next day as birds moved straight through. Just reports of 1-3 for the remainder of Oct.

Usual death of birds in Nov-Dec with reports of mostly single birds from 21 sites, with half of the records from the coast, max 4 St Abb's Head 1st Dec.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Uncommon winter visitor but sometimes abundant autumn passage migrant in September-October. Scarce on spring passage March to early April. Rare in summer. (195 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Reported in 22 tetrads Jan-Feb (13 in 2011, 26 in 2010, 67 in 2009), 200 Newmains 2nd Jan being the only three-figure counts.

Also 40 New Smailholm 3rd Jan; 30 Riddell 13th Jan; 37 Rumbleton Rig 14th Jan; 50 Gavinton Ford 20th Jan; 30 Huntlyburn House 26th Jan; 50 Luckie Shiel 29th Jan; and 10-20 birds at Blythe, Eyemouth & Kaeside.

Just 14 later records in Mar-Apr, almost wholly 1-2 birds except 4 Hattonknowe 15th Mar and 3 Mersingtonmill & 3 Kames 19th Apr. The latest reports were 1 Tweedmill 28th Apr, 2 Deepsyke 29th Apr & 1 Newmains 30th Apr (Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: First 1 Sprouston 21st Sep (Roger Manning) and 1 Lamberton 22nd Sep with 40 St Abb's Head & 10 Dowlaw on 26th Sep. A brief hiatus with just 1 Hunthall on 1st Oct before a large-scale influx on 12th Oct when 6,000 St Abb's Head, 170 Burnmouth, 70 Old Cambus & 20 Dowlaw on the coast with 36 Easter Dawyck, 10 Manderston & 4 Black Barony to show they are reported further inland. 150 Stodrig, 57 Tweedbank & 25 Bemersyde Moss 13th Oct. Small parties seen over the next week with max counts of 51 Eddleston & 60 Bemersyde Moss, before another arrival on 23rd-24th Oct with 450 St Abb's Head, 60 Eyemouth GC, 20 Craigurd House, 14 Tweedbank & 12 Burnmouth. Also 40 Marchcleugh 26th Oct.

Found in 89 tetrads Nov-Dec (60 in 2011, 52 in 2010, 63 in 2009), mostly in small parties. In Nov 300 Sorbietrees & 200 Kershopefoot 16th Nov, 100 Brotherstone Moor with 40-50 birds Boonraw, Old Jethart, Preston, Purvis Haugh, Sunnyside Hill, Teviothead & Whitton. Fewer recorded in Dec as snows limited recording effort but 140 Newmains 2nd Dec, 75 Craigurd House 7th Dec, 60 Mossburnford & Scraesburgh 30th Dec and 40-50 birds Lilliardsedge & Bluecaim.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common breeder found in 58% of tetrads. Forms large flocks in late summer, but generally smaller flocks in winter. Few flocks in spring. (417 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Found in 65 tetrads in Jan-Feb (82 in 2011, 53 in 2010, 113 in 2009). 6 Wardlaw 2nd Feb & Windylaw 25th Feb; 5+3 birds Rumbleton Rig 14th Jan, Helmburn Hill 3rd Feb & Penvalla 28th Feb; 4 birds Craigurd House 12th Jan, Pease Bay 15th Jan, Westfield 4th Feb, Shielshaugh 25th Feb, Clarilaw & Crib Law 26th Feb & Trows 29th Feb; with 3 birds Langtonlees & Paitshill. First song reported at Crownhead Bridge 17th Feb.

Breeding: Reported from 161 tetrads Mar-Jul (152 in 2011, 156 in 2010, 163 in 2009), with confirmed breeding in 39 tetrads. The first adults carrying food for young were at Halmyre House on 13th Apr & Harehope on 1st May; the first fledged young were seen at Woodheads Hill on 3rd May & Folly Loch on 5th May

Largest 1-hour TTV counts before flock formation Mar-Apr were; 4 Harelaw 1st Mar & 4 West Water Reservoir 19th Mar.

During May-Jul: 15 Helmburn Hill 8th Jul; 9 Woodheads 19th Jun; 8 birds Shielswood Loch 15th Jul & 8 Calaburn 17th Jul; 6 birds Lauder 29th May; 5 Fairlaw 9th May, Singlie 23rd May, Hartleap 18th Jun & Dollar Forest 23rd Jun; and 4 birds Branhholme 21st May & Rawburn 23rd May;

Autumn/Winter: Few post breeding flocks recorded in Sep-Oct – but 20 Humblemoor Hill 26th Aug, 19 Lindean Reservoir 30th Aug & 27 Craigurd House 5th Sep, the next largest party being 9 at Tweedbank on 8th Oct.

Reported from 59 tetrads Nov-Dec (58 in 2011, 67 in 2010, 84 in 2009). Best counts were 10 Woodside Nursery 8th Dec; 8 Heiton Mains 26th Dec; but no other count exceeded the counts of 3 birds seen at Ednam, Buckstone Moss & The Hirsell.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common summer visitor breeding in 50% of tetrads. Scarce passage migrant, less common in spring than autumn. (215 records in 2012)

Spring: First 1 Cop Law May (Ray Murray). Then singles Oxtou 9th May; St Abb's Head 12th May; Leithen Lodge 12th May; Gavinton & Mellerstain House 14th May; Buckland 15th May; and then daily from then. Nothing but 1-2 birds St Abb's Head later in month.

Breeding: Recorded at 142 sites in 136 tetrads with c.167 territories'.

Year	Tetrads	'Territories'
2008	127	168
2009	100	136
2010	125	127
2011	136	213
2012	136	167

Single birds were recorded at 62 sites: Altrieve, Blackadder Mount, Bowmont Forest, Branxholme Braes, Brieryhill, Bucklands, Clarilawburn, Cockburn, Coldstream, Crookston, Earlston, Easter Dawyck, Eastfield, Elibank, Elwartlaw, Essenside Loch, Faldonside Loch, Fans Loanend Covert, Fountainhall, Garvald (Pentlands), Gilmanscleugh, Glenholm, Glenormiston, Haggin Hope, Hallrulemill, Hilton, Howpark, Huntlaw, Hutton Hall Barns, Jedburgh, Kelfhope, Ladykirk Shiels, Laidlaw Plantation, Lamberton, Lanton Hill, Lauder Common, Leithen Lodge, Lempitlaw, Mabonlaw, Meggethead, Mellerstain House, Menzion, Middlestots, Mosshouses, Mountbenger, Newark Hill, Newmill (Teviot), Overton Bush, Oxtou, Preston Plantation, Roxburgh Castle, Rutherford Lodge, Singdean Forest, Stotfield Hill, Swinton Kirk, Rutherford Cauld, Tweedbank, Upper Glensax, Waterheads, Whitslade, Woodheads Hill & Wooplaw Wood.

105 pairs/territories at 80 sites (* = confirmed breeding)

Black Barony *		
Blackburn Farm		
Blind Haugh		
Bluestane Ford *		
Borthwick		
Bowhill	3	
Branxholme		2
Buck Cleuch		
Burnfoot		
Camptown *		
Canty's Brig *		
Cardrona Forest	2	
Charlesfield		3
Coomb Hill		
Cop Law		
Craigurd House		
Dod BBS	2	
Dowlaw Dean	2	
Dryden Greenhill *	2	
Duns Law *		
Earn Cleuch Copse	2	
Easter Happlew *		
Easterhill Head *		
Eccles *		
Floors Castle	2	
Gallowberry Wood *		
Gavinton *		
Glen House		
Glensax	2	
Glentress *		
Graden		
Greenlaw Dean		
Hammer Head		
Harden Hill Head	3	
Hare Moss *		
Harehead *		
Harehope Hill		
Harelaw		
Hassendean		
Haystoun		
Horndean *		
Hutlerburn	3	
Jeaniefield		
Kedslie	2	
Kersquarter *		
Knowetownhead *	2	
Lamblairknowe	3	
Langsidebrae *	2	
Lanton Mains		
Lauder *		
Lindean Reservoir		
Lithillum Loch *		
Manor Schoolhouse *		
Melrose *		
Mossfennan		
Nether Blainslie *	3	
Newby		
Newhouse Kip *	3	
Over Langshaw	2	
Oxnam Pottery	3	
Oxnamrow	2	
Paxton House		
Philip Law		
Renton House *		
Scrape Burn		
Selkirk Common *		
Shankend	2	
Shielshaugh *		

Single
 Skirling Mill *
 Sprouston *
 Swinside Hall Plantation 2
 The Glen 2
 Traquair House * 3
 Tushielaw Farm *
 West Mains Wood
 Whitmuirhall
 Whitmuirhall Loch
 Windylaw Loch 2
 Yetholm Loch

Breeding confirmed in 29 sites (62 in 2011, 27 in 2010) hinting at probably an average breeding season. Occupied nests were first seen at Renton House & nether Blainslie on 10th Jun; the first adults seen carrying food for young were seen at Lithill Loch on 12th Jun & Tushielaw Farm on 18th Jun; the first fledged young were seen at Canty's Brig on 3rd Jun & Gallowberry Hill on 20th Jun.

Autumn: Regular records in inland areas until mid-Sep with birds still present at nether Stewarton until 16th Sep; Craighur House to 20th Sep & Southdean to 22nd Sep. Only coastal records then. 2 St Abb's Head 14th Sep were first likely passage birds, then 1 Coldingham Loch 17th Sep; 1 St Abb's Head 25th Sep with 3 there 26th Sep and 1 on 27th Sep; 1 Burnmouth 29th Sep. The last bird was 1 Burnmouth 12th Oct (Fran Evans & Ray Murray).

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Abundant resident found in 84% of tetrads. Common winter visitor, with passage birds arriving in September-October and departing in March-April. (1219 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 169 tetrads Jan-Mar (191 in 2011, 236 in 2010) with high hourly TTV and other counts of: 20 Tweedbank 2nd Jan & Gordon Moss 13th Mar; 17 Leaderfoot 21st Feb; 12 Old Belses 28th Feb & Blackhouse Dean Plantation 21st Mar; 11 Bewlie Mains 28th Feb; 10 Morridgehall 28th Feb & Mire Loch 17th Mar; 7-9 birds at Allanbank, Bold Rig, Glen Douglas, Horndean, Muirburn, Muirhouselaw, Newhouse Kip & Walkerburn and 6 birds at 7 other sites.

Despite the drop in tetrads visited, numbers are much more buoyant than in the equivalent period in 2011, suggest recovery.

Breeding: Counted in 302 tetrads Apr-Aug (304 in 2011 & 236 in 2010) with confirmed breeding in 95 tetrads: 34 FF, 62 FL & 1 ON. The first adults seen carrying food for their young were at Todheugh on 20th Apr & Hawick on 6th May with the first fledged young were seen at Melrose, Muirburn & Grieston Hill on 15th May. The latest fledglings reported were br3 Mire Loch on 31st Aug.

High hourly TTV and other counts: 19 Sunderland Hope 21st Apr; 15 Single 23rd May; 8+8 Floors Castle 2nd Jun; 8+7 Hassendean 29th May; 8+7 Wigg Knowe 26th Jun; 14 Harehope Hill 1st May; 8+6 Nether Blainslie 12th Apr; 8+6 Over Langshaw 7th Jun; 12 Black Barony 5th Apr, Kedslie 12th Apr & Dodhead 23rd May; 11 Castlecraig Forestry 21st May; 10 Middlefield 19th Apr, Darny Rig 20th Apr, Ladyurd Forestry 20th May & Cockburn 22nd May; also 8-9 birds at Cardrona Forest S, Dowlaw, Harehead, Harehope Hill, Jeaniefield, Lanton Hill, Lethem, Mire Loch, Muirburn & Whitehope Law.

In contrast with 2011 when there were 9 such sites with high counts, there were 26 sites in 2012, and many more at higher levels.

Autumn/Winter: A good autumn passage with coastal passage peaks: 10 Coldingham Loch 17th Sep; 40 St Abb's Head, 20 Dowlaw & 6 Lamberton Beach 26th Sep; 10 Burnmouth & 8 Eyemouth GC 29th Sep; 33 Burnmouth & 30 St Abb's Head & 12th Oct; 50 St Abb's Head 24th Oct; and 20 Fast Castle Head 10th Nov.

These arrivals are reflected to some extent well inland with local peaks. 11-18 birds Tweedbank generally in Sep-Oct but 43 there 15th Oct & 35 on 29th Oct. Also 16 Cringletie-Eddleston 11th Oct; 15 Eddleston 18th Oct;

Seen 131 tetrads Nov-Dec (1567 in 2011 & 182 in 2010) with large TTV hourly counts of: 22 Tweedbank 1st Nov; 17 Eddleston 4th Nov; 16 Whitsome 24th Nov; 14 Black Barony 3rd Nov; 10 Lambden 5th Nov & Walterstead 19th Dec; and 9 Horndean 19th Dec; and 8 birds at Purvishaugh with 5-6 birds at 10 other sites.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Rather scarce summer visitor formerly found in less than 5% of tetrads, now virtually extinct as a breeder. Scarce passage migrant in spring during May, occasionally more frequent in autumn, September-early October. (6 records in 2012)

Breeding: 1 around old farm buildings in Innerleithen 30th May (Andrew Bramhall).

Autumn: 1 St Abb's Head 15th & 27th Aug (Fran Evans & Jack Ibbotson); 1 Dowlaw & 1 St Abb's Head 26th Sep (Ray Murray & Dave Graham); 1 St Abb's Head 27th Sep (Alan Kerr).

After the surprise total blank of 2011, a welcome return to the Bird Report – but precious few birds even then!

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant mostly March-June & September-October. Very occasionally winters. (4 records in 2012)

Winter: 1m Eyemouth 29th Jan (Barbara & Barry Prater).

Spring: 1f Eyemouth 26th Mar (Jim Burns); 1m Northfield, St Abbs 10th Jun (Tom Brewis); 1m St Abb's Head 12th Jun (Jack Ibbotson).

While there were no autumn birds, a not atypical year with a mix of winter, early and late spring birds).

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Uncommon but widespread summer visitor breeding in 25% of tetrads. Arrival and passage migrants mid April to May, return migration September-October. (125 records in 2012)

Spring: First 3 Allanton & 1 St Abb's Head on 19th Apr (Gary Woodburn & Jack Ibbotson); singles Ladhope & Plora Woods 20th Apr; 2 Aikyside Wood 23rd Apr; but not daily records until 28th Apr when singles Dowlaw and Bemersyde Moss.

Coastal passage with 8 St Abb's Head 10th May with 3 there on 11th May.

Breeding: 97 territories at 77 sites in 77 tetrads with confirmed breeding at 12 sites.

The first adults carrying food for young were at Winfield on 25th May; and the first fledged young were at Clarilawburn on 11th Jun & Darnchester on 12th Jun.

Aikyside Wood	2
Allanton *	2
Arter Brae Wood	
Barns Avenue	
Bellanrig Farm	
Bemersyde Moss	3
Blackadder Mount	
Blind Haugh	2
Bowden	
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	
Bryland	
Cacra Bank	
Caravan Wood	
Cauldshiels Loch	
Charterhouse	
Clarilawburn *	
Cockburn	
Curling Pond Wood	
Darnchester *	
Dod BBS *	
Drone Hill Wind Farm	
Dryden Greenhill *	2
Duns Law	
Easter Dawyck	
Easter Happlew	
Easterhill Head	
Edgerston Rig	
Edington Mains	
Edington Mill	
Eildon Hills	
Elba	
Essenside Loch	
Fallsidehill	
Floors Castle	3
Folly Loch *	
Gallowberry Wood	2
Girmick	
Glenormiston	
Glenrath Farm	
Glenternie	
Graden *	
Hallmanor	
Hallyards Lodge Wood	
Hamilton Hall	
Hanging Cleuch	
Harden Hill Head	
Haremoos*	2
Haswellsykes	2
Hilton and Winfield *	
Hopecarton	
Hundleshope Farm	
Huntlaw	
Kaim Burn, Overton	
Ladhope Wood	
Ladykirk Shiels	
Laidlaw Plantation	
Laidlawstiel Wood	
Leithen Lodge *	
Lindean Reservoir *	
Mabonlaw	
Menzion *	
Middleshot	
Middlestots	2
Minto Kames	2
Mossfennan	
North Synton	
Old Greenlaw	
Over Roxburgh	
Overton Bush	3
Oxnam Pottery	2
Penveny	
Philip Law	
Plora Wood	
Quaw Wood	2
Roxburgh	
Scrape Burn	
Selkirk Common	
Singdean Forest	
Stotfield Hill	
Swinside Hall Plantation	
The Glen	
Upper Newby	
Wester Muirdean	
Whitrig Bog	

Windylaw Loch
Winfield Farm *

Autumn: Last in suitable breeding habitat were at Lindean Reservoir on 8th Aug & Hare Moss on 9th Aug.

Reasonable passage with 1 Burmouthe 21st Aug then a month until next rush where 12 St Abb's Head 25th Sep, then peak of passage with 30 St Abb's Head, 8 Dowlaw & 1 Redheugh on 26th Sep. Just 12 St Abb's Head 27th Sep but 1 Lamberton the same day. 3 Dowlaw 29th Sep before the last straggler at St Abb's Head on 12th Oct (Ray Murray).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Uncommon summer visitor to hill valleys found breeding in 38% of tetrads. Scarce passage migrant on coast, from late April to May and August to October. 1 winter record. (78 records in 2012)

Spring: 3 St Abb's Head 28th Apr (Dave Graham) was the only coastal report. Then singles Mountbengerhope 5th May, Steele Know 6th May & Angelrow 7th May but not daily until 12th May when 1 Juniper Craigs.

Breeding: There were records from c.71 territories at 59 sites in just 51 tetrads (83 in 2011 & 81 in 2010) Apr-Aug (* = confirmed breeding). Breeding was confirmed in only 12 tetrads (30 in 2011 & 35 in 2010); the first birds seen carrying food for young at Craillie Hill on 18th Jun & Posso Craig on 22nd Jun; and the first fledged young at Trahenna Hill on 20th Jun & Redfordgreen, Delorainshiel & Penvalle on 21st Jun. *A large drop from 2011 levels.*

Altrieve

Angelrow Farm

Berryfell Farm

Black Meldon

Blind Haugh *

Bowhill, Duchess's Drive *

Buchtrig 2

Buckstone Moss

Colterscleugh

Coomb Hill * 2

Craillie Hill * 2

Cramalt

Damhead Rig

Darny Rig 3

Delorainshiel *

Dollar Forest 2

Drumelzier Place

Flemington Burn 2

Fruid Reservoir

Glengonnor Hill 3

Glenkirk 3

Glensax

Grieston Hill

Hammer Head

Hare Moss *

Harehope Hill *

Hare Moss *

Hartleap

Helmburn Hill

Juniper Craigs

Kirkhope *

Kirnie Law *

Langhaugh Hill

Lauder Common

Leithenwater Forest *

Mabonlaw

Meggethead

Mill Burn

Mountbengerhope

Nether Falla

Newby

Newhouse Kip

Old Kirkhope, Green Cleuch

Penvalle *

Philip Law

Posso Hope

Pykestone, Drumelzier

Redfordgreen * 2

Shankend

Stand Knowe

Swinside Hall Plantation

Totto Hill *

Tower Burn Cleuch

Tower Burn Rig

Trahenna Hill *

Upper Kirkhope Burn

Waddenshope Burn

White Meldon

Windylaw Loch

Autumn: Last seen on breeding habitat was 1 at Bughtrig on 26th Aug.

Passage birds Newmains with 1 on 16th Aug; 2 Eyemouth GC 21st Aug; 2 Newmains 31st Aug. Next were 2 St Abb's Head and 1 Dowlaw 26th Sep, with the latest bird St Abb's Head on 13th Oct (Fran Evans).

Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

Scarce summer visitor March-November. Bred in 2% of tetrads 1988-94. Subject to high mortality in severe winters. Absent in 1980s but accelerating recolonisation, probably now breeds in 20% of tetrads. (62 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Only 2 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan, singles Pease Bay-Redheugh and Eyemouth-Burnmouth. Other than these birds, the only other Jan-Feb records were: 1 Saughtree Grain 13th & 17th Jan; 1 Under Burnmouth 20th Jan; 1 Lauder 26th Jan; 1 Eyemouth & 1 Lumsdaine 29th Jan; pr Telegraph Hill, Dowlaw 7th Feb; and 1 Piper's Grave 19th Feb. Mar records comprise pairs Saughtree Grain, St Abb's Head & Dowlaw with singles, in late Mar, at the Eildon and Meldon Hills. *Few birds seemed to have survived, and most of those were in coastal areas, but some sign of migrants returning to the hills in the second half of the period.*

Breeding: Records from just 29 sites (with 29mm) in 29 tetrads Mar-Sep (28 tetrads in 2011, 38 in 200, 104 in 2009).

Some stabilisation of numbers may have occurred but just 7 reports of confirmed breeding, probably due to the poor summer.

Berryfell Farm	pr
Blackburn Farm	1
Blackdean Curr	pr
Blakedean Wood	pr
Bowhill, Duchess's Drive	1
Cramalt	1
Darny Rig	pr
Dowlaw Dean	1m
Dowlaw, Telegraph Hill	pr
Drone Hill Wind Farm	pr+1
Dun Rig	pr
Eildon Middle Hill	1
Hammer Head	pr
Hartleap	pr
Hownam	pr
Jocks Burn *	br2
Juniper Craig	1m
Kirmie Law	br1
Lauder Common *	2br4
Leithenwater Forest *	br1
Lumsdaine	1m
Meldons	pr
Piper's Grave	1m
Rawburn	1m
Saughtree Grain	pr
Selkirk Common *	br2
St Abb's Head *	br4
The Bell *	br2
Totto Hill *	br2

No nests or adults with food were seen – just juveniles, the first fledged young were at The Bell on 13th Jun & Jocks Burn on 20th Jun. Late broods were still visible at St Abb's Head to 28th Sep.

Autumn/Winter: Just a single Oct record from St Abb's Head on 12th Oct.

During Nov-Dec records from just 5 tetrads: 1 Fast Castle Head 5th Nov; 1 East Cairn Hill 10th Nov; 2 Sebastopol 24th Nov; 2 Meldons 29th Nov; and 1 Dewar 4th Dec (Tom Dougall).

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Uncommon summer visitor, mostly to hill areas where breeds in 38% of tetrads. Passage migrant, most common in spring, late March-May, but scarcer August-October. (208 records in 2012).

Spring: 1 Ladyside 22nd Mar (Tom Dougall); 2 Glenrath Hope, 1 St Abb's Head, 1 Windy Neese & 1 Blackhopebyre 25th Mar; 4 Loch Eddy 26th Mar; singles Megget Reservoir, Whitehope & Langhaugh on 27th Mar and Bonchester Bridge, Lauder Common, Hawthornside & Leithen Lodge on 28th Mar; with birds pretty widespread after that.

Limited coastal passage with 1-2 St Abb's Head 6th & 8th Apr with 3 there 18th-19th Apr, when 3 Drone Hill Windfarm. 1 St Abb's Head 24th Apr and 2 Eyemouth 1st May before 11 St Abb's Head 7th May with 15 there on 10th-11th May before dropping to 2 on 15th & 19th May.

Migrants away from the coast: 7 Lauder Common 20th Apr, 2 Anglrow 30th Apr, other occurring in May have been placed under 'Greenland Wheatear'.

Breeding: (Apr-Aug) c.173 'territories' including 67 'singles' at 131 sites in 95 tetrads (188 tetrads in 2011). Breeding was confirmed at 53 sites with 8br14 reported and fledged young reported at another 47 sites, without specifying brood sizes.

Singles Bellitaw, Blind Haugh, Blinkbonny Height, Bonchester Bridge, Branxholme Braes, Chester Hill, Cop Law, Crookston, Crookston Cleuch, East Loch, Glensax, Green Stane, Hawthornside, Juniper Burn, Kirkhope Cottage, Ladyside, Lamberton Beach, Langhaugh Haugh, Lauder Common, Lee Pen, Leithen Lodge, Linghope, Logan Burn, Manorhead, Ugly Grain, Megget Reservoir, Newmill (Teviot), North Esk Reservoir, Over Langshaw, Pedderie Dod, Penvalla, Philip Law, Shielswood Loch, Stewarton, Wedder Lairs, Whitehope (Yarrow), Whitlaw Brae, Windlestraw Law, Windylaw Loch & Yarrowlea. 49 sites.

Single pairs were recorded at: Alemoor Craig*, Bitch Cleuch, Blackhopebyre, Blakedean, Broad Law (Moorfoots), Broad Law (Tweedsmuir), Burnhead, Byrecleugh Cottage, Caberston Grain, Cademuir Farm, Cramalt *, Dewar West, Dollar Forest, Drone Hill Wind Farm, Earlside, Easter Alemoor *, Gathersnow Hill, Gilmanscleugh, Glengonnor Hill, Gosland, Haggin Hope, Halkburn, Halliburton *, Hallmanor, Hartleap, Helmburn Hill *, Henlaw Pond, Hillhouse *, Humblemoor Hill, Hundes Hope *, Kershope Bridge, Laidlawstiel Wood *, Lamb Hill, Meldon Cottage, Meldons Car Park, Mountbengerhope, Posso Hope *, Shankend *, Skelfhillhope, St Abb's Head *, Sunderland Hope & Swinchy Cleuch.

42 sites with single pairs, of which 10 bred successfully.

Altrieve	2
Ark Law	3
Back Burn	3
Cademuir Hill *	3
Candy Mill	2
Clearburn Cottage	2
Clinty Cleuch	4
Darny Rig	4
Delorainehope	3
Eildon Hills	2
Fruid Reservoir *	4
Glenrath Burn	4
Glenrathope	2
Grieston Hill	4

Hawkshaw	2
Hownam	2
Hundleshope Burn *	3
Kelphope *	3
Langhaugh Hill	2
Loch Eddy	2
Mill Burn *	4
Polmood	2
Posso Craig *	4
Posso, Black Rig	2
Stand Knowe *	3
Tower Burn	3
Trahenna Hill	3
Williamslee *	2
Windy Neese	2

30 sites with c.82 pairs.

The first nest was found at Hillside on 9th May; the first adults carrying food for their young were at Crumside Hill on 19th May & Dun Law on 26th May; the first fledged young were at Cademuir on 12th Jun, Tower Burn, Kelhope & Mill Burn on 13th Jun.

Autumn: Inland migrants reported: 1 Blakedeane 22nd Jul & 8th Aug; 1 Nether Falla 12th Aug; 1 Springwood 9th Sep; 1 Rumbleton law 14th Sep; 1 Charterhall 19th Sep; 1 Angelrow 25th Sep; and 1 Cademuir Hill 14th Oct (Graham Pyatt).

Limited coastal passage with 3 St Abb's Head 30th Aug, with 3 there & 1 Catcairn 7th Sep; 2 Dowlaw 8th Sep; 2 Lamberton 11th Sep; 5 Telegraph Hill 14th Sep; 1 Lamberton 19th Sep; 2 St Abb's Head 21st Sep with 15 there 25th Sep; 11 St Abb's Head 26th Sep when 5 Dowlaw & 2 Lamberton Beach. 2 St Abb's Head 27th Sep with 3 Dowlaw 29th Sep and the last 1 St Abb's Head 13th Oct (Dave Graham).

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leuhoora*

Uncommon spring and rarer autumn passage migrant, although probably much overlooked.

Spring: 6 Tweeddaleburn 6th May (Ray Murray), 1 Wormiston 11th May and 8 Cauldsheels Loch (Andrew Bramhall), 2 Redpath & 1 Bellitaw on 20th May. *Only larger parties were suspected of being Greenland birds but all May individuals have a great likelihood of heading there.*

Autumn: 1 Wheelburn Law 27th Oct (Harry Dott),

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Abundant resident, breeding in 67% of tetrads. Some autumn passage on coast. (768 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 23 recorded on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan with 19 on the Burnmouth –border section.

Recorded in 101 tetrads Jan-Mar (124 in 2011). Largest counts were 16 Tweedbank 17th Mar; 10 Horndean 13th Mar; 8 Larriston Rig 5th Mar; 6 Nether Dalgliesh 2nd Feb, Middlestots 17th Feb, Bewlie Mains 28th Feb, Windy Gow 9th Mar & Blackhouse Dean on 21st Mar, with 5 birds reported from Sweethope & Walkerburn; and 4 birds at 7 other sites.

Breeding: Seen in 211 tetrads Apr-Aug (226 in 2011 & 231 in 2010). Breeding was confirmed in 41 tetrads (mostly FF).

The first adults carrying food for young were seen at The Glen on 20th May & Branxholme on 21st May; with the first fledged young at Melrose on 10th Apr & Singlie on 23rd May.

The largest hourly TTV counts were 12 St Boswells 13th May; 9 Ravelaw 19th Apr; Tweedbank 2nd May & Over Langshaw 7th Jun; 7 Nether Blainslie 12th Apr, Newtown St Boswells Glen 13th May, Hassendean 29th May, Hawksnest 25th Jun & lauder 26th Jul; with 5-6 birds at Cavers Mains, Chirnside, Fireburnmill, Grieston Hill, Kedslie, Kerchesters, New Blainslie, Turtleton & Tweedmill.

Autumn/Winter: Recorded 33 sites Sep-Oct, max counts of 18 Tweedbank 29th Oct, 10 Mire Loch 26th Sep, & 8 Eyemouth GC 23rd Oct.

Recorded in 107 tetrads Nov-Dec (131 in 2011, 131 in 2010) with largest hourly counts of: 11 Tweedbank 10th Nov; 8 Edgerston Rig 8th Nov; 7 Houndridge 21st Nov & Whitsome 24th Nov; 6 Fast Castle Head 6th Nov, Ednam 21st Nov & Whitsomehill 19th Dec; & 4-5 birds Blackadder Mount, Eddleston, Horndean, Ladyurd, Leitholm, Minto, Nisbet Hillhead, Ross, Springwells, Todhillrig & Walterstead

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common breeding resident found in 8% of tetrads. Forms flocks August-March. (614 records in 2012)

Non-breeding: Found in 90 tetrads Jan-Mar (117 in 2011, 87 in 2010, 104 in 2009, 105 in 2008) & 76 tetrads in Sep-Dec (92 in 2011, 103 in 2010, 69 in 2009, 114 in 2008).

Large TTV (and other) counts of 30 or more birds in the early year include: 100 Windy Gow 9th Mar; 80 Newmains 5th Feb with 60 there 19th Jan; 50 Upsettlington 13th Jan; 48 Burmmonth 17th Feb; 40 Edrington Mains 12th Feb; 37 Horndean 13th Jan; 34 Muirburn 10th Feb; 32 Hawksnest 7th Feb; and 30 Charlesfield 28th Feb; with 20-29 birds at 8 other sites.

The largest post-breeding counts (Sep-Oct) were: 120 Gavinton 7th Oct; 100 Manorhill 13th Oct; 69 Eddleston 27th Oct; 60 Lindean Reservoir 18th Oct; 50 Foulden New Mains 9th Sep & Lamberton 30th Sep.

The largest TTV (and other) counts in the later year were: 100 Edrington Mains 2nd Nov, Whitsome 24th Nov & Lamberton 23rd Dec; 67 Houndridge 21st Nov; 54 Eddleston 24th Nov; & 50 Paxton 7th Nov; with 3-49 at 3 other sites.

Breeding: Found in 171 tetrads Apr-Aug (207 in 2011, 159 in 2010, 158 in 2009, 175 in 2008), with breeding confirmed in 104 of them. The first birds at nests were seen at Duns, Langtonlees, Ravelaw & Middlestots on 19th Apr; adults with food for young were at Rumbleton on 27th May & Lamberton on 2nd Jun; the first fledglings seen were at Cockburn on 22nd May & Walterstead on 23rd May. The largest one-hour TTV (and other) counts were mostly of mid-late season post-breeding flocks: 75 Eddleston 14th Aug; 59 Duns & 54 Middlefield 19th Apr; 40 Swinton 25th Jul; 40 Burmmonth 20th Aug; with 30-39 birds at Berrybank, Charterhouse, Chirnside, Lauder, Lindean Mast Pool & Nether Monynut.

These seem to be low number, hinting at a poor summer.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Scarce breeding resident found in 8% of tetrads, mostly in the east. Seems to have increased in numbers of late. Forms winter flocks. (286 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Found in 43 tetrads Jan-Mar (33 in 2011, 18 in 2010, 16 in 2009, 18 in 2008). 210 around the farm at Newmains 2nd Jan with 245 on 27th Jan, 280 on 4th Feb, max 290 on 7th Feb before dropping to 240 on 23rd Feb, 250 on 5th mar & 220 on 9th Mar, before dispersal to breeding territories.

Much smaller numbers elsewhere but 50 Westfield 4th Feb; 25 Blackhouse Dean 21st Mar; 21 Eccles Hill 12th Jan; 20 Charlesfield 19th Feb & Graden 29th Feb; 18 Printonan 18th Jan; 11 Courthill 6th Feb; 10 Lamberton 22nd Jan & 6th Feb and Cannybank 12th Feb; and 1-9 birds reported from Abbey House, Allanbank, Bemersyde Moss, Benrig, Bowden, Burnmouth, Caverton Mains, Corsbie, Edrington Mains, Eyemouth, Fallsidehill, Gavinton Ford, Harcase, Harelaw, Lauder Burn, Leaderfoot, Little Swinton, Middlestots, Morridgehall, Muirhouselaw, Nenthorn House, Newstead, Polwarth, Selkirk, Stichill Kirk, Turtleton, Whitmuirhall, Whitrig Bog & Windywalls

Still 140 Newmains on 16th Apr with 150 still in flock there on 4th May.

In the far west: 10 Burnfoot, Biggar 17th Feb, =2 Innerleithen 2nd Mar and 2 Windy Gowl, Carlops 9th Mar.

Breeding: Found in 82 tetrads Apr-Aug (80 in 2011, 47 in 2010, 29 in 2009, 32 in 2008) with confirmed breeding (*) in 27 of them (23 in 2011, 12 in 2010). c. 157 pairs and 27' singles' reported Apr-Aug at 83 locations (82 sites in 2011, 50 sites in 2010):

Ashkirkton	pr+1
Ayton Castle	1
Bellitaw	pr
Bemersyde Moss	3prs
Berrybank	5prs
Birkenside	1
Blackadder Mount *	4prs+1
Blackhouse *	1pr
Bowden	3prs
Bowmont Forest *	pr+1
Charlesfield	pr+1
Charterhouse	3prs
Chesterfield *	pr+br1
Chimside *	nest
Corsbie	1pr
Darnchester	pr+1
Dryden Greenhill	pr+1
East Gordon *	2prs
East Reston	1pr
Edrington Mains	1
Eyemouth	1pr
Fallsidehill	2
Fireburnmill	1pr
Fordswell	1
Graden	1pr
Greenlaw Dean	1
Greenwood	3prs
Hadden *	1pr
Haddenrig	3prs
Hallrule Mill	1
Harden Hill Head	3prs+1
Hassendean	2prs
Heriot	1
Hexpathdean Bridge	pr+1
Hilton and Winfield *	1
Hirsley Knowe *	2prs
Horndean	1pr
Howpark	1
Hume	5prs
Hutton Hall Barns	pr+1
Kelloe Bridge	2prs+1
Kerchesters *	3prs
Knowesouth	2prs
Knowetownhead *	1pr
Lamberton	nests
Lanton Mains	2prs
Lauder	2prs
Lempitlaw *	5prs
Lurdenlaw *	3prs
Makerstoun	1
Marygold *	5prs
Midburn	1pr
Middlestots	1pr
Millfield	2prs+1
Minto Kames *	nest
Nether Blainslie *	5prs
New Blainslie *	14prs
Newbigging Barns	1pr
Newstead	1pr
Nisbet Bridge	1
Over Roxburgh	2prs
Polwarth	2prs
Prenderguest*	nest
Redpath	3prs
Renton House *	2prs
Round Knowe	2prs
Roxburgh *	2prs
Roxburgh Viaduct *	6 nests
Rumbleton *	2prs
Rumbleton Rig *	2prs
Sinclair's Hill	1

Slegden	3prs+1
Springwells *	2prs
Swinton Hill	1pr
Syntonmill *	1pr
The Palace *	1 nest
Turtleton *	3prs+1
Walterstead	1
Wester Muirdean	3prs
Whitrig Bog	1pr
Whitsome Hill	6prs
Winfield Farm	1pr
Woodheads Hill	2prs

The first occupied nest was at Lamberton on 13th May & Charterhouse on 2nd Jun; the first adults feeding young were seen at Bowmont Forest & Roxburgh on 2nd Jun & Darnchester on 12th Jun; and the first fledglings were seen at New Blainslie on 13th Jun & Springwells on 19th Jun.

Outwith the main range: In Peeblesshire there were a pair at Mailingsland on 6th Apr, and a single just up the valley at Eddleston on 17th Jun.

The numbers and ease of proving breeding hints at a reasonable, if late, season.

Autumn/Winter: Reported from 52 tetrads Sep-Dec (53 in 2011, 51 in 2010, 24 in 2009 & 27 in 2008).

The Reston-Newmains winter flock soon established itself with 120 there on 4th Nov, 170 on 4th Dec & early winter max of 210 on 20th Dec Also 250 Windywalls on 13th Dec

Otherwise the best 1-hour TTV (and other counts): 53 Angelrow 27th Dec; 40 Whitsome 24th Nov; 27 Lilliardsedge & 24 Kaimflat 21st Nov; 20 Lambden 5th Nov; 19 Caverton Mains 5th Nov; 16 Gavinton 7th Oct; 15 Eyemouth GC 23rd Oct; 12 Roxburgh Barns 22nd Oct; 10 Bastleridge 8th Sep & Darnchester 8th Nov; and 1-9 birds at 39 other sites.

No autumn/winter reports from the Clyde area of the range.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Scarce summer (Apr-Aug) visitor, breeding along the Tweed & Teviot in just 2% of tetrads. Recent estimates of the population suggest a reduction to fewer than 10 pairs. Scarce passage migrant to coast April-May and August-September. (5 records in 2012)

Spring: 1 lower Whiteadder Water 24th & 29th Apr (John Inglis and Tom Brewis).

Breeding: No survey from the Tweed & Teviot Haugh.

1 East Reston & 1 Nisbet Bridge 7th May (Dave Graham & Tim Chamberlain) were the only reports from likely breeding habitat.

Autumn: 1 Newmains 10th Sep (Dave Graham).

A poor year – more effort is needed to keep track of the few birds we have.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Common breeder along water courses, found in 40% of tetrads. Very few present through winter.

Scarce but widespread passage migrant March-May and September-October. (214 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Just 2 Jan records: 1 Cove-Pease Bay on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan and 1 Lees Haugh 28th Jan suggest many birds cleared out of the area in the face of the harsh Nov-Dec weather. Singles Jedburgh 1st Feb, Angelrow 4th Feb, Courthill 6th Feb, Mertoun Bridge 7th Feb & St Boswells 15th Feb suggests a tentative trickle back in the first half of the month, not improved much later in Feb with a few reports of 1-2 birds from Newstead, Abbey St Bathans, Wilton & Pinnacle 21st-29th Feb. Even in early Mar just 2 singles Galashiels 6th Mar & Easter Happrew 9th Mar; and it was not until 10th-14th Mar that numbers of records built up with 6 Neidpath & 3 Millar's Moss 11th Mar & 3 Lithillum Loch 14th Mar and 1-2 birds at Craik, Hirsell, Georgefield & Tweedbank with 5 Coldstream 18th Mar and 1-2 birds Linthill, Yarrowlea, Denholm Mill, Clintmains & Mertoun Bridge over the next week.

Breeding: Reported from 98 tetrads (94 in 2011, 151 in 2010) with confirmed breeding in 24 tetrads (mostly FF & FL).

3 pairs noted on the Eye from both Ayton to East Reston and around Houndwood, from the Tweed at Coldstream and from Manor bridge to Peebles, and on the Ettrick at Shielshaugh; 2 pairs were seen on the Tweed at Traquair House, St Boswells & Rutherford Cauld; the Ettrick at Blind Haugh, the Leader at lauder, the Slitrig at Shankend, the Teviot at Branxholme and around Borthwickbrae, and at Redheugh & Lithillum Loch.

The first nest was seen at Denholm Mill on 14th May; the first adults with food for young were at Branxholme on 21st May & Caberston Grain on 26th May; the first fledged young were at Rutherford Lodge on 2nd Jun & Penveny on 3rd Jun. Late broods were seen at Knowetownhead on 3rd Aug & Black Barony on 6th Aug.

Numbers still down with a small recovery in 2012, the summer weather undoubtedly not helping. Season later than in 2011.

Autumn/Winter: Passage birds at 17 sites, mostly 1-2 birds, with 4 Tweedbank 16th Sep. This included several coastal migrants at Coldingham Loch, Dowlaw, Eyemouth & Fancove Head.

17 Nov-Dec records (6 in 2011), suggesting an improvement in numbers on 2011, despite the weather. All singles but only at 11 sites with birds at Tweedbank 1st & 10th Nov and 4th & 16th Dec and at St Abb's Head on 1st, 23rd, 27th & 30th Dec, otherwise single-day birds at Angelrow, Broadhaugh, Caimcross, Cappuck, Ladyurd, Nether Falla, Netherwells, Preston & Redmoss.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Abundant summer visitor breeding in 78% of tetrads. Scarcer October-March. Variable wintering numbers.

Passage in March & September-October. Some roosts. (580 records in 2012)

Just 4 birds were seen on Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan 3 Coldingham to Eyemouth and 1 Burmsmouth to the border.

Usual dearth of Jan reports with 8 reports of singles Hassendean, Kaeside, Lamberton, Newmains (3 records), Standhill and Turtleton, and 2 Whitehaugh, Peebles 28th Jan. Unusually Feb was not much better with only 11 records, with 5 Tweedbank 2nd Feb and 4 there 8th Feb, 9 Pirnie House 28th Feb & 4 Hawick 29th Feb and singles at Cowbog, Elliston, Galashiels & Newmains (2).

Numbers picked up in early Mar with an arrival of passage birds at along the coast with 28 Newmains on 7th Mar, 6 Millar's Moss & 3 Mire Loch on 11th Mar, 30 Newmains on 13th Mar & 6 Eyemouth 26th Mar. Inland mostly 1-3 birds until the second half of the month when 6 West Water Reservoir 19th Mar and 6 Innerleithen 29th Mar.

Breeding: Birds seemed scarce in the early summer but breeding was reported from 246 tetrads Apr-Aug with confirmed breeding in 93 tetrads (mostly FL & FF). Mostly singles and single pairs but 2-3 pairs seen Altrieve, Ark Law, Blind Haugh, Bowmont Forest, Branxholme, Brieryhill, Cardrona Forest, Charlesfield, Cop Law, Darny Rig, Drakemyre, Easterhill Head, Floors Castle, Gilmanscleugh, Halliburton, Harelaw, Hassendean, Hawksnest, Hexpathdean Bridge, Hopecarton, Hutlerburn,

Langhaugh Bridge, Monksford Glen, Nether Blainslie, New Blainslie, Newby, Overton Bush, Oxnam Pottery, Rumbleton Rig, Shankend, Shielswood Loch, Skelfhillhope & Torsonce

The first adults carrying food for young were at Doorpool on 6th May and Monksford Glen on 13th May; and the first fledged young were seen at Wilton Park on 15th May & Mossfennan on 25th May. The last recently fledged broods were at Burnmouth on 21st Aug.

Autumn/Winter: 9 Whim Wood 19th Jul were heading a pre-roost assembly; 7 Eyemouth Bay 8th Aug with 15-16 Eyemouth GC 20th-25th Aug; 15 Whitrig Bog 9th Sep; 14 Thirlestane Castle 12th Sep; 14 Hay Lodge Park 15th Sep; 30 Sprouston 20th Sep; 21 Mire Loch 21st Sep; 23 Whitrig Bog 23rd Sep; 34 St Boswells 26th Sep; 18 Eyemouth Bay 27th Sep; and 10 Newton Farm 12th Oct, the latest double-figure count Aug-Oct.

Seen in 24 tetrads Nov-Dec (35 in 2011, 14 in 2010 & 22 in 2009) with 21 Nov reports but just 8 during Dec, the snows doubtless driving birds away. Almost all of 1-2 birds with max counts of 10 Nether Falla 15th Nov; and 22 Gala Sewage Works Pond 15th-16th Dec. Other Dec records from Lamberton, Whitsomehill, St Abbs and St Abb's Head.

White Wagtail *M. a. alba*

Scarce passage migrant March-April and September, mostly to coast. Has summered. (4 records in 2012)

Spring: 1 St Abb's Head 5th & 14th Apr; 1 Mordington Holdings 16th May.

Autumn: 2 St Abb's Head 15th Sep.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Scarce and local summer visitor in forest clearings & clearfell. Found in 14% of tetrads.

Rather scarce passage migrant April-May and September. (57 records in 2012)

Spring: 1 St Abb's Head 5th-6th Apr (Bird Guides/John Inglis); 1 Yarrowlea 15th Apr; 1 Lee Pen & 1 Stonededge 20th Apr. Then gap until 2 Harehope Hill 1st May; 3 Cardrona House & 1 Fans Loanhead Covert 7th May; 4 Easter Deans 12th May. Widespread later.

Breeding: 58 singing males/territories at 46 sites in 46 tetrads (10 = confirmed breeding). (c.100 at 54 sites in 2010)

Altrieve

Ashkirk Loch 2

Bold Burn * 3

Bowmont Forest

Cardrona Forest N 2

Cardrona House

Chapelhill

Charterhall Wood

Colterscleugh *

Craigieburn Forest

Crookston, Peebles

Damhead Shiel

Delorainehope

Dryden Greenhill *

Easter Deans 2

Easterhill Head

Edgerston Rig

Eildon Wester Hill

Fanna Hill

Fans Loanend Covert

Glensax

Hardwoodmoss

Harehope Hill

Helmburn Hill *

Kirknie Law * 2

Kyleshill Plantation

Ladyrig

Laidlawstiel Wood

Langsidebrae

Minch Moor

Outer Knowe Head * 3

Pedderie Dod

Plora Rig

Polmood

Shielswood Loch *

Singdean Forest * 2

South Hill, Dolphinton

Stonededge

Stotfield Hill

Sunderland Hope * 3

Swinside Hall Plantation

Toxside Moss *

Fanna Bog

Windylaw Loch

Woodheads

Yarrowlea

Numbers were boosted in 2010 by atlasing in the large southern forestry plantations but number maintained at 2011 levels by further atlasing in such sites. First adults feeding young were at Colterscleugh on 27th May & Shielswood Loch on 29th May while fledgling were seen at Helmburn Hill on 8th Jul & Kirkie Law on 19th Jul.

Single ringed Nether Falla on 12th Aug, one on passage there 15th Sep; with latest 1 Mire Loch on 21st Sep (Ray Murray).

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Abundant summer visitor to hill areas breeding in 79% of tetrads in area.

Common passage migrant March-April and September-October. Very few winter. (499 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 12 were recorded on the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan, 4 Souter-Petticowick, 7 Eyemouth-Burnmouth and 1 Burnmouth- English border. Otherwise just one coastal record in Jan with 1 Mire Loch 2nd Jan. 16 Longcroft Hill 15th Jan with 12

Fireburnmill 28th Jan, were the only other records. Just 8 Feb records: singles Langlee & Wardlaw on 2nd Feb; Helmburn Hill on 3rd Feb; Old Kirkhope on 16th Feb; and Flass Hill on 25th Feb when 3 Twin Law & 2 Nun Rig, 2 Lamberton 26th Feb. Early Mar records were just 2 Newmains 5th Mar, with no numbers until mid-month with 2 Mire Loch 16th Mar, 6 Tower Burn 18th Mar; 25 West Water Reservoir 19th Mar. It was only from 21st Mar that numbers were reported with 29 reports to the end of the month, with high counts of 90 St Abb's Head 25th Mar, 60 Cappercleugh 27th Mar & 100 Blakedeane 31st Mar. Still large-scale passage with 413N passing through St Abb's Head on 5th Apr and it is likely that some of the large counts in breeding habitat into mid-Apr may have been flocks still arriving, rather than settled breeders.

Breeding: Recorded in 209 tetrads mid-Mar-Aug. Confirmed breeding in 85 tetrads: 7 with occupied nests, 15 with fledged young & 69 with adults carrying food for young.

The first nest found was at Curly Moor & Damhead Rig on 22nd May. The first birds seen carrying food for young were at Grieston Hill on 15th May; and the first fledged young at Juniper Craig & Hundleshope Burn on 20th Jun.

The largest counts were from: 32 Darny Rig on 22nd Apr; 32 Curly Moor on 22nd May; 31 Easterhill Head on 28th May; 35 Coomb Hill on 10th Jun; 30 Hanged Man's Hill 19th Jun; 56 Whitehope Law & 34 Garvald Punks on 1st Jul; and 40 Kirnie Law on 19th Jul. Also counts of 25-29 birds at: Birkindale Knowe, Sunderland Hope & West Water Reservoir.

Despite Meadow Pipit being recorded in more tetrads in 2012, numbers seem to be well down on 2011 (8 counts of 30+ in 2012, compared to 13 in 2011, and 3 sites in 25-29 bracket in 2011, compared to 24 in 2011), although it should be stressed that different sites were surveyed in each year. The poor weather is a likely candidate for the difference.

Autumn/Winter: Late summer and autumn flocks seem few and of small size, reiterating the remark about apparent low breeding season numbers: max Aug flocks were 20 Blakedeane & Langhaugh on 15th Aug, 20 Kirkhope 19th Aug & 20 Posso 30th Aug. Sep was little better with 25 Dowlaw 8th Sep, 15 Black Barony 18th Sep & 25 Leadburn Community Woodland 23 Sep and neither was Oct with maxima of 10 Edgarhope Law 3rd Oct; 17 Cauldshields Hill 9th Oct; 30 St Abb's Head 13th Oct with 45 there 14th Oct.

Reported from 24 tetrads in Nov-Dec with 23 Nov records and only three in Dec. Most were of 1-6 birds with just a brace of double-figure counts were 28 Longnewton 21st Nov and 25 Fast Castle 18th Dec

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Rare winter visitor. (5 records in 2012)

1 Dunglass from 2011, seen on 5 dates 4th Jan-18th Mar (Dave Graham).

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Common breeder along coast, found in all 18 coastal tetrads (66 records in 2012).

Wintering birds from British & Scandinavian present October-March in small flocks along the shore. (13 records in 2011)

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2012

Dunglass - Pease Bay	2	Pease Bay-Redheugh	3
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	1
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	0	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	1
Eyemouth-Burmmouth	3	Burmmouth-English border	11

Winter/Spring: 21 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan. 26 counts Jan-Mar with max counts of 9 Dunglass 21st Jan; 2 St Abb's Head 18th Feb; 5 Burmmouth 29th Feb; and just singles at Cove, Eyemouth, Pease Bay & Lamberton Beach.

Breeding: Just 2 reports: 1 Fast Castle Head on 19th May and an adult carrying food at St Abb's Head on 26th Jul.

Autumn/Winter: 38 Aug-Dec records. Monthly site maxima of: 5 Burmmouth 21st Aug; 15 Burmmouth 25th Sep & 4 St Abb's Head 26th Sep; 12 Eyemouth 2nd Oct, 11 Dunglass 6th Oct, 2 St Abb's Head 14th Oct & 9 Linkim Shore 17th Oct; 3 Eyemouth 5th & 15th Nov and 5 Burmmouth 10th Nov; and 3 Eyemouth 16th & 28th Dec, 4 Burmmouth 23rd Dec, 1 Lamberton 25th Dec and 8 Burmmouth 26th Dec, 4 St Abb's Head 27th Dec and 2 St Abbs 30th Dec.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Abundant breeder found in 91% of tetrads. Common autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, occurring in large flocks, sometimes of several hundreds. Spring passage flocks are much scarcer. (1317 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 190 tetrads Jan-Mar (288 in 2011, 197 in 2010, 267 in 2009 & 310 in 2008).

3-figure TTV counts Jan-Mar: 550 Holmsmill 27th Jan; 350 The Mount 27th Jan with 400 Nearby at Lochurd 30th Jan & 7th Feb; 200 Blackhaugh 22nd Feb; 150 Yetholm Loch 4th Jan, Lauder 27th Jan & Softlaw East Mains 29th Feb; 146 Hexpathdean Bridge 14th Jan; 123 Muirburn 10th Feb; 120 Newmains 4th Feb & Hadden 29th Feb; 100 Westfield 4th Feb & Windy Gow 9th Mar.

Parties of 50-99 birds were also seen 14 other sites.

Some substantial late flocks with 180 Hartside 9th May; 150 Polmood 16th May & 100 Hanged Man's Hill 19th Apr

Breeding: Reported from 336 tetrads Apr-Aug (413 in 2011, 421 in 2010, 351 in 2009, 396 in 2008), with confirmed breeding in 103 of them.

The first active nest was seen at Lindean Reservoir on 27th Apr; the first adults carrying food for their young were at Branxholme on 21st May & Ladykirk Shiels on 23rd May; the first fledged young were seen at Cockburn on 22nd May & Dodhead on 23rd May. There were few large 1-hour TTV counts, where the largest counts seem to be in the 40-50 bracket. 44 Singlie 23rd May; 41 Woodheads Hill 13th Jun; 40 Fruid Dam 26th Aug; 40 Harehope Hill 1st May; with 30-39 counted at Akermoor Loch, Harelaw, Ladyurd forestry, Nether Blainslie, Skelfhill, Steele Knowe, Whitrig Bog & Woodheads Hill (12 tetrads, compared to 9 in 2011, 18 in 2010, 8 in 2009 & 22 in 2008).

Autumn/Winter: Found in 158 tetrads Sep-Dec (242 in 2011, 242 in 2010, 181 in 2009, 295 in 2008).

Large counts: 976 Black Barony 3rd Nov was, by far, the largest reported flock. Then 185 Ormiston Mains 5th Nov; 140 Whitton 5th Nov; 120 Lindean Reservoir 18th Oct & Sunnyside Hill 2nd Nov; 110 Standhill 6th Nov & Pinnacle 21st Nov; with parties of 50-99 birds seen at 10 other sites: at Brotherstone Moor, Eddleston, Eyemouth Golf Course, Leitholm, Lindean Reservoir, Middlethird, Milkieston, Netherurd, Paxton & St Abb's Head.

A poor winter for reports and numbers, not aided by fewer Dec records than usual, with just a single big flock. The coincidence of the dates in the largest counts in early Nov is probably not coincidental !

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Some large flocks late September-April. (105 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 29 records from 16 tetrads Jan-Mar, but small numbers generally (32 tetrads in 2011). The one exception was the flock in the Lochurds-The Mount area where there were record of: 90 The Mount 6th Jan with 1,000 Lochurds 7th Jan dropping to 800 there 30th Jan & 7th Feb. Also 24 Muirburn 10th Feb may have been an outlier of this flock.

Otherwise the largest counts were: 30 Nether Stewart 23rd Jan; 6 Innerleithen 4th Mar; 5 Westfield 4th Feb and 5 Tweedbank 28th Feb & 13th Mar & with 1-4 birds recorded: Bowhill, Halliburton, Lauder, Lauder Burn, Melrose, Nether Phawhope, Printonan Farm & Windy Gowl. 3 later records from Tweedbank with 3 on 12th Apr and last 13th Apr. Also Innerleithen on 5th Apr & Melrose on 12th Apr.

Most were one-day records but series of reports from Tweedbank (13) & Innerleithen (4) suggest not all were 'one-day wonders'.

Spring: 1 Nettleton Cemetery 13th Apr; 12 Moorshot Plantation with 2 there 27th Apr. Last single Mire Loch 29th Apr & Paxton House 7th May (Roger Manning).

Autumn/Winter: First 1 St Abb's Head 21st Sep with 4 there 25th Sep (Fran Evans). 3 Lamberton & 3 St Abb's Head 26th Sep; then singles Lamberton 27th & 30th Sep & 2nd Oct. 1 Springwells 3rd Oct. Then gap until 12th Oct when 8 Burnmouth, 4 St Abb's Head, 2 Westfield and singles Burnmouth & Newmains. 25 St Abb's Head, 2 Foresthill Pond, & 1 Millar's Moss 13th Oct. No double-figure counts for the next 6 weeks to the start of Dec with a light sprinkling of birds. The best counts were just 9 Upper Nisbet 28th Nov; 8 Evelaw 11th Nov, 6 Westruther 12th Nov, 4 Tweedbank 4th Nov & 3 Tweedbank; with 1-2 birds Bairnkine, Caverton Mains, Charterhall House, Craighur House, Easter Dawyck, Eildon, Fancove Head, Lamberton, Lindean Reservoir, Melrose, Slegden, St Abb's Head, Standhill, Todrig, Woodheads & Yetholm Mains

40 records in 32 tetrads Nov-Dec (16 tetrads in 2011, 108 in 65 in 2010). The largest counts were: 25 Duns 3rd Dec; 20 Chirnside 25th Dec; 12 Nisbet Hillhead 21st Dec & Innerleithen 22nd Dec; 8 Newmains 4th Dec; 6 Darnick 7th Dec; 5 Lauder 2nd Dec; 4 Nisbet 10th Dec; with counts of 1-3 birds at Craighur House, Crailing, Darnhall, Easter Softlaw, Eddleston, Kirkmains, Knowetownhead, Melrose, South Park West, Tweedbank & Windywalls

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common breeding resident found in 45% of tetrads. Forms flocks July-March. (485 records in 2011)

Winter/Spring: Reported in 61 tetrads Jan-Mar (61 in 2011, 46 in 2010, 70 in 2009, 111 in 2008).

Numbers still poor after the *Trichomonosis* outbreak killed to many.

Double-figure TTV counts: 50 Westfield 4th Feb; 35 Eckford sandpit 22nd Feb; 17 Old Baleses 28th Feb; 15 Hawksnest 7th Feb; 14 Lamberton 8th Jan with 12 there 6th Feb.

6 sites with double-figure counts in 2012, compared with 6 in 2011, 5 in 2010, 7 sites in 2009 & 17 in 2008.

Breeding: Reported 125 tetrads (162 in 2011, 157 in 2010, 129 in 2009, 202 in 2008) Apr-Aug with confirmed breeding in 16 of them (28 in 2011, 14 in 2010). Adults carrying food for young were first seen at Birkenhead & Hallyne on 22nd Jun; the first fledged young were seen at Hawksnest on 21st May & Millfield on 2nd Jun.

Just 2 double-figure TTV counts (3 in 2009-2011, 16 in 2008): 12 Wester Muirdean 21st May & 10 Heriot 25th Jun; with 5-9 birds at 15 other sites.

Autumn/Winter: Reported in just 46 tetrads Sep-Dec (69 in 2011, 50 in 2010, 39 in 2009, 95 in 2008) with double-figure counts of 15 Elba 11th Sep; 14 Tweedbank 11th Nov & 10 Burnmouth 10th Nov; with 5-9 birds at just 2 other sites.

3 sites with 10+ birds, compared to 10 in 2011, 6 on 2010 & 4 in 2009.

With a 20% reduction in the number of reports, and poor breeding and winter numbers, the outlook for Greenfinch seems grim with numbers barely holding on, if that. One hopes that immune birds will eventually appear.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common but local breeder in 39% of tetrads. Forms winter flocks July-March. (636 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Reported in 67 tetrads Jan-Mar (66 in 2011, 59 in 2010, 70 in 2009, 111 in 2008).

Numbers generally low but 70 Eckford Sandpit 22nd Feb; 40 Gavinton Ford 20th Jan & Westfield 4th Feb; 30 Lamberton Beach 27th Feb; 25 Rumbleton 14th Jan & Langtonlees 27th Feb; and 10-19 birds at Bowhill, Foulden New Mains, Printonan, Sprouston, Tweedbank, Walterstead & Windy Gowl; with 5-9 birds at 8 other sites.

So 13 sites with double-figure counts in 2012 compared to 13 in 2011, 7 in 2010, 13 sites in 2009 & 28 in 2008.

While not a great recovery, Goldfinch at least seem to holding their own, unlike some other finches.

Breeding: Birds reported from 209 tetrads Apr-Aug (270 in 2011, 237 in 2010, 196 in 2008, 209 in 2008) with confirmed breeding in 26 of them (55 in 2011). The first adults feeding young were seen at Lanton Mains on 1st Jun & Clarilawburn on 11th Jun; the first fledged young were at Floors Castle on 21st May & Roxburgh Newton on 2nd Jun.

Double-figure one-hour TTV counts: 21 Fountainhall 19th May; 20 Cowbog 3rd Apr; 20 Bemersyde Moss 26th Aug; 14 Berrybank 15th May; 12 Lamberton 16th Apr 7 Essenside Loch 22nd May; 11 New Blainslie 13th Jun with 11 Renton House 30th Jun; and 10 at Duns, Singlie & St Abb's Head. Just 12 sites with double-figure counts, hints at a not very successful breeding season (13 sites in 2011, 16 in 2010, 13 in 2009, 22 in 2008).

Autumn/Winter: Reported 92 tetrads Sep-Dec (102 in 2011, 112 in 2010, 92 in 2009, 116 in 2008) helps fix idea of not very successful breeding season.

Count of 20 or more birds: 60 Linkim Shore & 50 Killidraught Bat 18th Sep; 50 St Abbs 7th Sep; 43 Allanton 19th Sep; 40 Gortdon Law 20th Dec; 38 Lamberton Beach 5th Sep; 35 Mire Loch 26th Sep; 30 Fairington 13th Sep; Black Barony 20th Oct; 23 Craighur House 5th Dec; & 20 Edston Burn 20th Nov. Also 10-19 birds at 12 other sites.

11 sites with flocks of 20 or more birds. This compares to 9 in 2011, 19 in 2010, 10 in 2009 & 16 in 2008.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Common resident & summer visitor in forestry areas. Breeds in 42% of tetrads. Common passage migrants with peaks October & April. Forms winter flocks. (363 records in 2011)

Winter/Spring: Seen in just 45 tetrads Jan-Mar (103 in 2011, 51 in 2010, 16 in 2009 & 140 in 2008). This is probably due to the poor cone crop in winter 2011/12. Numbers generally low but 44 Tweedbank 25th Jan; 40 Jedburgh 3rd Mar; 35 West Water Reservoir 19th Mar; 30 Hare Moss 29th Feb; 24 Melrose 9th Feb; 20 Eildon Wood 29th Jan & Buskin 12th Feb; and 10-19 birds at Blackhouse Dean Plantation, Bowmont Forest, Buckholm, Craighur House, Innerleithen, Mire Loch, Riccarton Junction & Shielshaugh. 228 birds were caught on feeders in Selkirk garden on 21st Apr (Mike Fraser), testament to the sometimes huge passage in the spring that may pass undetected every year. 40 Tweedbank & 18 Fogo on 19th-20th Apr were probably part of this movement.

Breeding: Birds reported from 158 tetrads Apr-Aug (163 in 2011, 203 in 2010, 150 in 2009, 161 in 2008), with confirmed breeding reports from just 14 tetrads.

The first adult feeding young was seen at Mosshouses on 20th Jun & Dollar Forest on 21st Jun; & the first fledglings were seen at Edgerston Mill, Lamblairknowe & Swinside Plantation on 4th Jun

Double-figure counts (not including passage counts above): 15 Brush Wood 23rd Aug; 10 Innerleithen 10th Apr, Altrieve 5th May & Clovenfords 13th May. 15 double-figure counts, compared to 15 in 2011, 22 in 2010, 8 in 2009, 36 in 2008.

Elsewhere there are numerous counts of less than 10 birds, but just a relatively small number appeared to progress to successful breeding. Clearly conditions (cone/crop/food supply ?) were not attractive to passage birds, which clearly moved on.

Autumn/Winter: Found in just 29 tetrads Sep-Dec (48 in 2011, 97 in 2010, 43 in 2009, 21 in 2008).

Passage St Abb's Head 13th Oct-23rd Oct, peaking 40 on 22nd Oct

Double-figure counts: 65 Longnewton & 52 Swinnie Plantation 21st Nov; 50 Neidpath Castle 27th Sep, Roxburgh Moor 5th Oct & Fast Castle Head 10th Nov; 40 St Abb's Head 22nd Oct & Bairnkine 12th Nov; 30 Edston 11th Sep & Manor Bridge 27th Sep; 20 Glenrath Hope 16th Sep & Brotherstone Moor 15th Nov; and 10-19 birds at 6 other sites.

The very small numbers of records, tetrads and flocks paradoxically produced a reasonable 17 double-figure counts (15 in 2010, 24 in 2010, 12 in 2009, 4 in 2008). There seems to have been a clear-out once more however, perhaps in the face of a lack of food in the clear lack of cones on most conifers.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Common breeder found in 42% of tetrads. Can form large winter flocks. (336 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Reported from 25 tetrads Jan-Mar (13 in 2010 & 11, 28 in 2009, 42 in 2008).

600 Lamberton 1st Feb; 260 Old Cambus 15th Jan; 220 Lempitlaw 3rd Feb; 170 Newmains 5th Feb; 121 Windywalls 8th Jan; 90 Angelrow 11th Feb; 60 Blackhouse Dean Plantation 21st Mar; 40 Dunglass 15th Jan; and 25 Greenriggs 17th Feb. Otherwise 1-15 birds at Ashkirk Loch, Caldronbrae, Candy Mill, Charterhouse, East Newton, Eyemouth Bay, Glen Douglas, Haud Yards, Hirsell, Lindean Reservoir, Middlestots, Mire Loch, Pirmie House & Rumbleton

A big recovery from the dire state reported in 2011.

Breeding: Birds reported from 167 tetrads Apr-Aug (194 in 2011, 185 in 2010, 161 in 2009, 168 in 2008), but confirmed breeding in just 11 of them (29 in 2011). The first adults feeding young were seen at Whitmuirhall on 11th Jun; the first fledged young were seen at Charterhall & Sinclair's Hill on 19th Jun.

These were probably all late winter flocks -50 Newbigging Barns 22nd Apr; 29 Stouslie 16th Apr; 25 Plora Wood 18th Apr; 23 St Abb's Head 5th Apr; 20 Greenwood 22nd Apr; 50 Mordington Holdings 16th May. Territorial/breeding counts: 15 Hume 14th Jun; 12+10 Ark Law 16th Jun; 10 Ravelaw 19th Jun; 12 Greenlaw Dean 20th Jun. Early post-breeders perhaps: 30-40 St Abb's Head in Jul.

Summer/Autumn: Fewer reports and smaller numbers than in summer / early autumn 2011: away from St Abb's Head double-figure counts were rare in Jul-Sep: 17 Black Barony & 10 Fancove Head 18th Sep; 15 Yetholm Loch 9th Oct; and 100 Lamberton 15th Oct.

Winter: Recorded in only 16 tetrads (34 in 2011, 19 in 2010, 24 in 2009, 34 in 2008).

Best counts were: 400 Newmains 4th Dec; 150 Lumsdaine 10th Nov; 50 St Boswells 11th Nov & Blackburn, Chirside 21st Nov; 40 Bairnkine 12th Nov, Windywalls 13th Dec & Bowden Moor 31st Dec; 30 Birneyknowes 1st Nov; 22 Hobkirk 21st Nov; 15 Old Jethart 12th Nov & 12 Fast Castle Head 10th Nov. There were smaller counts from just 6 other sites.

11 double-figure counts in 2012, compared to 16 in 2011, 11 in 2010 & 16 in 2009.

The huge imbalance between the numbers of occupied tetrads in winter and summer, with 10 times as many occupied in summer than winter, strongly hints at some sort of mass movement away from the area in winter. Although known to be a partial migrant, the status in the Borders strongly suggests that many birds move away, the numbers in the lowland winter flocks hardly adding up to a fraction of the numbers probably around in summer.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Rare breeder found in just seven possible sites between 1988-94. Very scarce but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant to hills and coast. (2 records in 2012)

1 Kailzie Hill 12th Apr (Anne Edwards). 4 St Abb's Head 18th Nov (Barbara & Barry Prater).

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Common but local breeder found in 45% of tetrads. Autumn passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers, mostly October-November. (298 records in 2011)

Winter/Spring: Reported just 13 tetrads Jan-Mar (37 in 2011, 15 in 2010, 9 in 2009 & 47 in 2008). Best counts were just 10 Melrose 29th Jan; 9 Lindean Reservoir 12th Jan; 5 Megget Reservoir 27th Mar & 2-4 birds at Eildon, Halliburton, Tweedbank & Twin Law and singles at 7 other sites.

Breeding: Birds seen in 102 tetrads Apr-Aug (140 in 2010, 70 in 2009, 80 in 2008), mostly displaying males but recorded totals treated as pairs. Confirmed breeding in only 5 tetrads (25 in 2011 & 9 in 2010). (*= confirmed breeding).

Bellitaw	4
Blackburn Farm	
Bold Burn	
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	5
Bowhill, Duchess's Drive	4
Branxholme Braes	2
Campdown	2
Cardrona Forest	2
Castlecraig Forestry	
Clovenfords	
Coopercleugh Knowe	3
Cop Law *	
Craillie Hill	
Crookston, Peebles	
Darny Rig	3
Dolphinston Moor	
Drakemyre	3
Edgerston Mill	2
Eildon Hills	
Essenside Loch	2

Fanna Hill	2
Fans Loanend Covert	
Garvald Punks	
Gilmanscleugh	2
Gordon Comm. Woodland	
Harehope Hill	3
Harelaw	3
Hareross *	
Hartleap	
Hassendean	3
Huntlaw	2
Hutlerburn	2
Jeaniefield	4
Kedslie	2
Kirmie Law *	4
Ladyrig,	
Ladyurd forestry	5
Lamblairknowe	2
Langsidebrae	
Langtonlees	4
Lauder, Broomy Braes	2
Lethem	3
Lindean Reservoir	
Long Moss	3
Melrose	5
Menzion Farm	
Mosshouses	5
Myrtlehall	
New Blainslie	
Newmains *	
North Berryfell	
North Synton	3
Outer Knowe Head	3
Over Langshaw	2
Oxnam Pottery	2
Oxnamrow	
Oxton	
Philip Law	3
Renton House	2
Satchells	3
Slegden	
Spottiswoode Loch	3
St Abb's Head	2
Steele Knowe	2
Stotfield Hill	
Stouslie	
Sunderland Hope	
Toxside Moss *	
Tweedbank	
Upper Glensax	
Wedder Lairs	2
West Mains Wood	
Whitehope Law	
Whitlaw Brae	2
Whitmuirhill Loch	
Wigg Knowe	6
Woodheads Hill	3
Wooplaw Wood	3

163 presumed territories/singing males at 78 sites; with single birds at a further 27 sites: Altrieve, Archbank Hope, Ark Law, Cademuir Forest, Clerkenville, Corsbie, Cramalt, Dodhead, Fogo, Fruid Reservoir, Glenrath Farm, Gordon Moss, Halliburton, Hallyne, Hanging Cleuch, Hen Poo, Hawkshaw Castle, Leadburn Comm. Wood, Moss Road Plantation, Rubers Law, Shankend, Shaws Lochs, Slipperfield House, Teviot Bank, West Linton GC, Whitmuir Moss & Windylaw Loch.

So c. 190birds, pairs, territories at 105 sites (256 at 133 sites in 2011)

Adults with food for young seen Harehope Hill 12th Jun; the first fledglings were seen at Newmains on 20th Jun & Toxside Moss on 25th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: No significant counts in Jul-Aug but two large counts in Sep-Oct with 150 Lindean Reservoir 7th Sep & 7th Oct; 86 Cringletie 11th Oct with 71 there 22nd Oct. Also 20 Attonburn 21st Sep; 14 Foresthill Pond 13th Oct; and 11 Leadburn Community Woodland 23rd Sep.

Limited numbers continued into Nov-Dec with records from 32 tetrads (18 in 2011, 41 in 2010, 13 in 2009): with double-figure counts of: 39 Eddleston 4th Nov; 35 Yadlee 18th Nov; 15 Earlston High School 7th Nov, Cringletie 10th Nov & Lindean Reservoir 13th Dec; 14 Catslawhill 6th Nov; 10 Bellanrig 17th Nov & Edston Burn 20th Nov. 5-9 birds were reported at: Buck Stone, Commonsie, Dabshead Hill, Darnhall, Folly Loch, Houndridge, Milkieston & Purvishaugh with 1-4 birds at 17 other sites.

Similarities to Siskin in that many birds seemed to have left the area in the later year, presumably due to a seed-crop failure.

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Usually very scarce autumn & winter visitor, typically amongst flocks of Lesser Redpoll. Almost annual. (6 records in 2012)

1 Newhall Hill 25th Jan (Harry Urquhart); 1 Gavinton 8th Mar (Andrew Mitchell); 1 Clovenfords (Hilde Paxton).

1 St Abb's Head 3rd Jul (Dave HRagam); 2 Foresthill Pond 13th Oct (Ray Murray); 1 Newmains 3rd Dec (Dave Graham).

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Resident breeder. Breeds in extremely variable numbers, totally dependent on cone crop. Dispersing May-September when birds from elsewhere sometimes arrive in area. Found in 17% of area 1988-94. (233 records in 2012).

Winter/Summer/Autumn: In Jan-Mar there were records from 76 tetrads (143 in 2011, 46 in 2010 & 8 in 2009) with reports of breeding in 4 tetrads. Young were seen at Singlie on 3rd Feb, Yair on 26th Feb, Ashkirk Loch on 20th Mar & Scuds Cleugh Wood on 31st Mar

Numbers were only moderate compared to this time in 2011, (mostly TTV counts) were: 51 Craillie Hill 10th Jan; 30 Tweedenhead, 27 Harden Hill & 18 Dinmontlair Hill 13th Feb; 16 Ashkirk Loch 8th Jan & 26th Feb; 15 Minch Moor 6th Jan & Riddell 13th Jan; 12 Groundstone 8th Jan, Cademuir Forest 19th Feb & Deepsyke Forest 28th Feb; 11+9 Easterhill Head 3rd Feb; 11 Sandholm 10th Feb; 10 Kingside Loch 19th Feb; and 6+9 Shielshaugh 25th Feb; with 4-9 birds at 30 other sites.

In Apr-Jul birds were found in 65 tetrads (85 in 2011 & 78 in 2010) with breeding recorded in 20 of them (23 in 2011).

Breeding was recorded throughout the period at: (max counts given)

Ashkirk Loch	10
Bowmont Forest	15
Buckholm	3
Cardrona Forest	15
Crookston, Peebles	12
Dowlaw	5
Easter Wood	17
Eildon Glen	6
Graden	7
Lethem	17
Linthill	6
Over Roxburgh	6
Penvalla	3
Penveny	2
Preston Plantation	7
Shielshaugh	8
Shielswood Loch	15
Stonedge	5
Sunderland Hope	4
Swinside Hall Plantation	61
Thornylee Farm	12

The largest counts (other than those listed above) were: 60 Lumsdaine Moor 1st Jul; 50 Soonhope Valley 27th Apr; 50 Venlaw 27th Apr; 46 Dolphinston Moor 4th Jun; 25 Eildon Hill West 8th Apr & Floors Castle 26th May; 20 Tweedbank 1st Jul; 20 Long Moss 20th Jun; 17 Fogo 19th Apr; 13+2 Charterhall Wood 25th May; 11+2 Drakemyre 17th Jun; & 10 Bught Rig 15th Apr & Craigurd House 20th Jun; and 5-9 birds at 8 other sites.

Some of the later flocks in Jun and in the furthest east in Berwickshire may have been incomers, rather than regionally bred.

Recorded from only 9 tetrads Aug-Oct. The largest counts were 40 Kalemouth 26th Aug & 10 Craigurd House 24th Oct.

Winter: Reported in 25 tetrads Nov-Dec (67 in 2011, 99 in 2010, 24 in 2009 & 16 in 2008).

100 Deepsyke Forest 24th Dec; 20 Dirrington Great Law 11th Nov & 11W Newmains 14th Nov; were the only counts other than single figures. 5-8 birds at 7 other sites.

With a widespread and almost total lack of any cones on the trees, the reduced presence is hardly surprising. Indeed it is more surprising that there were as many records as there were.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common but retiring resident found in 25% of tetrads. (416 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Reported from 75 tetrads Jan-Mar (78 in 2011, 74 in 2010, 54 in 2009 & 93 in 2008). Mostly 1-2 birds but: 22 Courthill 6th Feb; 21 Nenthorn House 18th Jan (it is possible that these may have been the same flock as the tetrads are adjacent); 11 Kingside Loch 19th Feb; 9 Tweedbank 2nd Jan & Haggin Hope 11th Jan; 8 Luckie Shiel 29th Jan and 8 Eyemouth GC 7th Feb & 3rd Mar; 7 Newmains 5th Feb; 5-6 birds at Cauldshiels Hill, Choicelee, Denholmhill, Dryburgh, Edrington Mains, Greenriggs, Hallmanor Loch, Hawkshaw, Lauder, Lowood, Makerstoun, Penvalla, The Mount & Tofthill; & 3-4 birds at 14 other sites.

These represent very good numbers of small parties.

Breeding: Found in 96 tetrads Apr-Aug (102 in 2011, 91 in 2010, 72 in 2009, 100 in 2008) but confirmed breeding in 10 tetrads with juveniles seen at

Clarilawburn
Elibank
Hallyne
Hornshole Bridge
Kailzie East
Knowetownhead
Pease Bay
Sprouston
Whitmuirhall
Whitmuirhall Loch

Mostly singles or single pairs but it is likely that some of the parties of 4 seen in Aug at Hawick, Hornshole & Harehead Hill may have included juveniles. The first adults with food for their young were seen at Clarilawburn & Whitmuirhill on 11th Jun & Whitmuirhall Loch on 12th Jun; the first fledged young were seen at Kailzie 10th Jun & Elibank on 25th Jun. A late brood was seen at Pease Bay on 2nd Sep.

Autumn/Winter: High counts of 14 Sware Ponds 23rd Oct; 7 Tweedbank 15th Oct; 6 Popples 25th Oct & 5 Coldingham Loch 17th Sep & Eyemouth GC 23rd Oct with 4 birds seen at Duns Law.

Recorded in 81 tetrads Nov-Dec (102 in 2011, 106 in 2010, 103 in 2009, 118 in 2008).

High one-hour TTV (and other) counts was confined to just a single double-figure count: 12 Megget Dam 15th Dec. Also 5-9 birds at Bald Hill, Eddleston, Glenfield, Hundleshope & Paddy Slacks and 3-4 birds at 21 other sites.

Hawfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Either extremely rare resident, that may breed or a very scarce passage migrant. Precise status is not known (no records in 2011).

In photographed Swinton 25th Jun & 13th Jul (John Vickers & Andrew Mitchell). *Last record in 2009.*

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, October-March. Scarcer January-March. (9 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: 1 Lammer Law 2nd Jan; 1 Fruid Reservoir 15th Jan. On passage 1 Killidraught Bay 12th Mar & 2 St Abb's Head 25th Mar.

Autumn/Winter: First 1 St Abb's Head 27th Oct; 3 Shepherds Cleugh & 1 East Cairn Hill on 10th Nov; 11 St Abb's Head 11th Nov; 2 Dowlaw 13th Nov.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Now a very rare winter visitor. A little more frequent in early 1990s. (1 records in 2012)
3 Newmains 3rd Oct (Dave Geraham).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Abundant but declining breeder found in 52% of tetrads, mainly in the east. Forms winter flocks. (543 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 68 tetrads Jan-Mar (70 in 2011, 58 in 2010, 71 in 2009, 90 in 2008).

The largest flock, by far, was again at Newmains, with much higher numbers than usual due to the conditions and the deliberate feeding that occurs there: from an already excellent 80 on 2nd Jan, and 110 there on 19th Jan, numbers steadily rose to 180 by 31st Jan, 210 on 3rd Feb, 400 on 4th Feb, peaking at 650 on 6th & 7th Feb before dropping a little to 300 by 23rd Feb but still 270 on 5th Mar & 240 on 9th Mar. Still 45 flocking there on 16th Apr & 4th May.

Also 100 Folly Loch 10th Feb; 60 Rumbleton Law 14th Jan & Kersknowe 29th Feb; 41 Windywalls 8th Jan; 31 East Newton 17th Feb; 30 Elliston 19th Feb; 24 Bowden 5th Feb, Roxburgh 22nd Feb & Littledeanlees on 29th Feb; and 20 Leahead Loch 23rd Jan with 20 Blackhouse Dean Plantation 21st Mar. Parties of 10-19 birds were seen at Berrybank, Lindean Reservoir, Patishill, Rumbleton, Rumbleton Rig, Softlaw East Mains, Stouslie, Sweethope & Swinton House

The Stouslie record of 20 on 23rd Jan was unusually high for the western edge of the range around Hawick.

4 records in west: 5 Candy Mill 6th Jan; 2 Muirburn 10th Feb; 1 Glenormiston 28th Mar; 1 Craighurd House 28th & 29th Mar.

Breeding: Found in 174 tetrads Apr-Aug (213 in 2011, 169 in 2010, 141 in 2009, 147 in 2008), with confirmed breeding in 14 of them.

Birkenside Hill
Chirnside
East Reston
Greenlaw Dean
Hilton and Winfield
Newstead
Redpath
Roxburgh
Sinclair's Hill
St Abb's Head
Swinside Hall Plantation
Trows
Whitmuirhall

The first adults carrying food for young were seen at Swinside Hall Plantation on 4th Jun; and at Whitmuirhall on 11th Jun; the first fledgling were seen at Roxburgh & Trows on 2nd Jun

Best one-hour TTV (and other counts, but not the late flocks given above) Apr-Jun: 22 Berrybank 15th May; 14 +2 Harden Hill Head 4th Jun; 10 + 6 Lurdenlaw & 10 Lanton Mains 1st Jul; 8 +2 East Gordon 23rd May & Hume 14th Jun; 7+5 Wester Muirdean 21st May & 7+5 Over Roxburgh 2nd Jun & 7+5 Ravelaw 19th Jun; 7+4 Charlesfield 1st Jun; 6+4 Makerstoun 1st Jun & 6+4 Roxburgh 2nd Jun; 5+5 Drakemyre on 17th Jun; with 6-8 birds at Airhouse, Bellitaw, Blackadder Mount, Blackhouse, Bowmont Forest, Charterhouse, Chirnside, Darnchester, East Gordon, Hume, Huntlaw, Ladyrig, Langrig, Lauder, Lurdenlaw, Millfield, Myrtlehall & Redheugh. More records than usual from the disjunct Peeblesshire populations: 5 Legholmshields 15th May; 2 Glenholm 22nd May; 2 Round Knowe 8th Jul; and singles Broughton Place, Craighurd House, Garvald (Dolphinton), Hawkshaw, Pirm Dean, Slipperfield House & South Slipperfield

Autumn/Winter: 20 Bemersyde Moss 18th Oct & 13 Edrington Mains 28th Sep were the only double-figure counts in Sep-Oct.

Reported in 58 tetrads Nov-Dec (72 in 2011, 68 in 2010, 52 in 2009 & 62 in 2008).

The largest flocks was 50 at Old Greenlaw 11th Nov, beating the usual largest numbers were at Newmains where numbers reached 30 on 4th Nov & 40 by 4th Dec.

Elsewhere high (mostly) TTV counts of: 28 Birgham Haugh 26th Nov; 25 Crossrig 16th Dec; 22 Todrigill 8th Nov; 20 Lambden 5th Nov with 20 New Smailholm 30th Nov. Counts of 10-19 birds from Bairnkine, Caverton Mains, Chesters Grange, Grizelrig, Nisbet Hillhead, Purvishaugh, Windywalls & Woodheads.

In Peeblesshire, 2 Heathpool 23rd Nov and 1 Romannobridge 28th Nov.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Scarce & local breeder in 21% of tetrads. A few passage migrants. Scarce in winter, especially inland. Usually small numbers in mixed finch/bunting flocks. (307 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Found in just 29 tetrads Jan-Mar (22 in 2011, 30 in 2010, 47 in 2009 & 79 in 2008). Newmains, as usual, had the largest counts with 18 on 2nd Jan down a little to 15-16 by the end of the month, however 24 on 3rd Feb suddenly rose to 70 on 4th & 6th Feb then down to 50 on 7th Feb and 30 by 23rd Feb. Still 32 on 9th Mar.

Just one other double-figure count: 42 Rumbleton Law on 14th Jan. Otherwise all other records were of 1-4 birds.

Breeding: Reported from 120 tetrads Apr-Aug (141 in 2011, 170 in 2010, 160 in 2009 & 195 in 2008) with confirmed breeding in 13 of with the first adults carrying food for their young at Nether Whitlaw Moss on 5th Jun & Clarilawburn on 11th Jun; and the first fledged young recorded at Clockmill on 1st May & Kelphope on 9th May.

182mm at 138 sites.

Single birds were recorded in suitable habitat at 65 sites (72 in 2011 & 94 in 2010): Abbey Park, Altrieve, Ashkirk Loch, Blind Haugh, Cademuir Marsh, Calaburn Farm, Cauldshields Loch, Charterhall, Chirnside, Clintmains, Colterscleugh, Creel Path, Darnchester, Dewar, Dowlaw, Dowlaw Dean, Drakemyre, Drone Hill Wind Farm, Earlside, East Reston, Eastfield, Ewes Castle, Fallsidehill, Fireburnmill, Flemington Burn, Floors Castle, Gavinton, Glenormiston, Greenlaw Dean, Groundstone, Hassendean, Hawkshaw Burn, Hilton, Hundleshope Farm, Kelloe Bridge, Lamblairknowe, Langrig, Langsidebrae, Middlestots, Millfield, Minto Kames South Loch, Muirburn, Nether Blainslie, Nettingflat, Nisbet Bridge, North Esk Reservoir, Over Roxburgh, Philip Law, Piper's Grave, Posso, Press Castle, Ravelaw Farm, Redfordgreen, Roxburgh Mains, Rutherford Lodge, Satchells, Shankend, Shielswood Loch, Siccar Point, Steele Knowe, Stouslie, Swinton, Trows, Walterstead & Whitton Loch.

Single pairs & territories were recorded 117 'territories' at 73 sites:

Acreknowe Reservoir	
Addinston Pond	
Ark Law	2
Bellitaw	2
Bemersyde Moss *	3
Berrybank	
Blackdean Curr	2
Blackhouse Dean Plantation	
Blakedean	2
Buckstone Moss	2
Chapelhill Moss	
Clarilawburn *	3
Clockmill *	
Cop Law *	
Corsbie	2
Darny Rig	
Dod BBS	
Dreva Marsh *	2
Dryden Greenhill *	2
Duns *	
East Gordon *	
Essenside Loch	3
Ettrickbridge	
Eyemouth	2
Fancove Head	
Folly Loch	
Fruid Dam	2
Fruid Farm	
Gilmanscleugh *	
Glenholm	
Green Diamonds *	
Halliburton	4
Hallyne,	
Hamildean	2
Harehope Hill	
Harelaw	
Haremoos	
Helmburn Hill	
Heriot	2
Hirsley Knowe	2
Kelphope Burn *	
Lauder *	
Lees Haugh	
Lindean Mast Pool *	
Lindean Reservoir	2
Long Moss	2
Murder Moss	
Nether Whitlaw Moss *	2
Prendergust	2
Redheugh	2
Redpath	2
Rumbleton Rig	
Scarlaw	
Selkirk Common *	4
Singlie	
Sprouston	2
St Abb's Head	5
Swinside Hall Plantation	2
Thirle Heugh	2
Torsoyce *	
Tower Burn Marsh	
Turtleton	2
Tweed, Cobby	
Wedder Lairs	2
Wester Dawyck	2
Whitmuirhall Loch *	2
Windylaw Loch	2
Yetholm Loch	2

Autumn/Winter: 11 Mire Loch 14th Oct & 10 Lindean Reservoir 18th Oct; otherwise 1-3 birds with 3 noted at Leadburn Community Wood 18th Oct.

Recorded in 21 tetrads Nov-Dec (30 in 2011, 27 in 2010 & 30 in 2009). Counts were again dominated by Newmains winter flock where there were 220 on 4th Nov, 21 on 4th Dec but just 14 by 24th Dec.

No double-figure one-hour TTV counts: 7 Callow Hope 29th Nov & Heiton Mains 26th Dec; 6 birds Lambden 5th Nov, Lindean Reservoir 28th Nov & New Smailholm 30th Nov; with 5 birds at Morridgehall and 1-3 birds at 17 other sites.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Rare, almost extinct breeder on the Berwickshire coast. Very scarce in winter. Occasional inland reports.

ALL RECORDS NEEDED. (3 records in 2012)

Breeding: 1m Lamberton in usual area 13th & 30th Jun (Ron McBeath).

Winter: 6 St Abb's Head 1st Oct (Alan Kerr).

The last at St Abb's Head was a long time ago !.

Escapes in 2012

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

1 Folly Loch 11th Nov (Andrew Bramhall)

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

1 Drakemyre 19th Jun (Ronnie Richardson).

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*

1 Little Swinton 17th Feb & 8th Nov (Mark Holling).

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numidia meleagris*

7 Wormiston 15th Mar (Ray Murray); 2 Huntlaw 25th May (Harry Dott).

Indian Peafowl *Pavo polioctor*

1 Wallacenick 1st Feb (Catherine Tees).

Scared Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

2 Putton Mill, Duns 28th Jun (Dave Graham).