

The Borders Bird Report

No. 30

Editor: Ray Murray

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Raven - Gala Hill, Feb 2014

Photo: Angela Turner

The Borders Bird Report

No. 30

Introduction

While this may be the 30th edition of the Borders Bird Report, a notable anniversary you might think, it is in fact the 36th time that an annual report has been written about birds in the Borders. While the first was published in 1980 about the birds reported in 1979, a 'dry-run' edition was put together for the records available for 1978. Most of these accounts were just single sentences, often to the effect that no records were available, or references to just a single record, or at most a handful of records. The whole 1978 Report was based on less than two hundred records, one of the reasons for the delay until 1979 when we could drum up around 500 records, providing something other to say than '*no comment*'. The absolute opposite prevails today, with several tens of thousands of records submitted, the 2013 Report being based on a spreadsheet with an amazing 46,410 records. I had expected the numbers to fall away a little after most of the Bird Atlas effort was completed in 2012, but this has not really been the case.

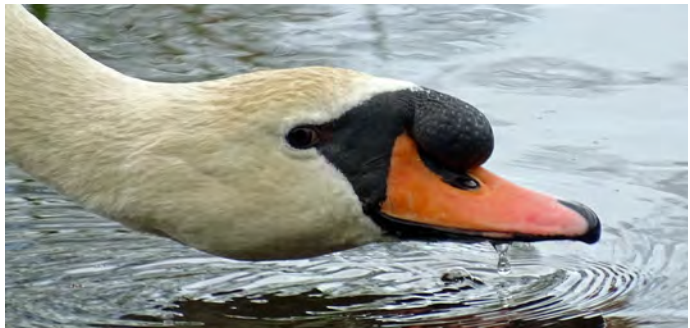
Just having a report generates records, as contributors have a clear vehicle for their records and the development of the Borders SOC branch has also had an impact. Each BTO bird atlas also boosted both records and, more importantly, contributors. Then the development of digital means of record-keeping, initially through spreadsheets and then via newsgroups and now Bird Track, have seen the numbers of records, and the numbers of folk submitting them, soar astronomically. This Report has at least 265 contributors (several anonymous records in hides etc. adds to that), something that could hardly be contemplated a couple of decades ago in the early 1990s when we averaged about 100 folk sending in records each year.

If the mismatch between 30th and 36th versions is worrying you, in addition to the dry-run in 1978, there were five two-year editions for 1992/93, 1997/98, 2001/02, 2003/04 and 2007/08, usually when I was deep into writing or editing something else.

2013 saw three new additions to the list of species seen in the Borders. A fly-over **Spoonbill** at St Abb's Head in May was followed by a **Sardinian Warbler** there in June (and September, October and November!) and at last our first **Little Egret** at Dunglass in August, closely followed by the second, third and fourth before the end of the year! The extended winter weather into March and April caused problems for a diverse group of species, some like Kestrel apparently running out of reserves to sustain themselves, and others like the hirundines arriving and finding little food. However after that the weather was mostly benign allowing many species to make up for the poor start and allow good breeding generally. This mild weather extended virtually to the end of the year, the only problem being the wet end to the year, more for the birders than the birds judging from the numbers of records.

Work is proceeding on the *SE Scotland Bird Atlas* and the results of all that fieldwork will hopefully appear by early 2016. We are looking for volunteers to help with the publication, both with the writing and also the marketing of the book. It is likely that the final product will also have a substantial digital element, such is the volume of material we now possess about our local birds. The delay was inevitable given the vast amount of data and the busy lives that the atlas committee live. I'm sure the wait will be worthwhile but apologies for the delay.

Ray Murray - October 2014.



Mute Swan - Lithill Loch
Feb 2013

2013 in the Borders

Winter 2012/13 was an average winter, indeed perhaps mild, winter until March and early April when a severe cold span, with temperatures on average 4 degrees lower than usual, set in. Up to that point the resident birds seemed to be faring fairly well but the 5-6 week cold spell appeared to have the effect of prolonging the winter past the time when some species had internal resources to help them survive. The impact was patchy but **Kestrel** in particular seemed to suffer the most and were extremely hard to find in the later year. **Goldcrest** and **Long-tailed Tit** also seemed to be thinner on the ground until the end of the breeding season when good breeding success seemed to make up for the numbers lost.

Geese and swans were present in good numbers in the early months with two large flocks of **Whooper Swan** in late January, 148 counted on the Tweed at Wark/Fireburnmill and another of 112 at Hallydown on Coldingham Moor. The Crailing flock of **Pink-footed Goose** also numbered 1,800 around the same time. Winter duck numbers have suffered in recent years, partly as local breeding numbers have been falling drastically but probably more importantly as a result of the Baltic Sea failing to freeze as regularly as it used to. Accordingly 424 **Mallard** on the Tweed Haughs and 240 **Teal** at Newmains in January, as maximum seasonal counts, are much lower when compared to a decade or so ago. Similarly no count of **Tufted Duck** was greater than 30 birds! The milder conditions also don't seem to suit **Eider**, with just 164 counted on the February Rocky Shore Count. The milder winters do help other species, with a maximum count of 18 **Gadwall** on Yetholm Loch in February and no fewer than 12 **Little Grebe** on the Tweed Haughs in January with many others wintering elsewhere on ponds and lochs. There were some highlights for waterfowl with single **Smew** at Portmore Loch in January and March, a **Scaup** that remained on the Mire Loch through to May and on the coast 13 **Long-tailed Duck** at Dunglass and Cove in February with 25 **Red-throated Diver** at Pease Bay and Dunglass the same day. Dunglass also hosted a **Whimbrel** the early year while **Grey Plover** were seen at Siccar Point and Dunglass. There was an **Iceland Gull** at Eyemouth in January while the **Glaucous Gull** that appeared in late 2012 on the Ettrick at Selkirk and stuck around into mid-January. Another inland highlight was a young **White-tailed Eagle** seen near Innerleithen in early March, presumably one of the Fife birds.

Amongst the passerines finch numbers were generally low, some poor breeding seasons and the disease *Trichomonosis* apparently having an impact. There were however reasonable numbers of **Brambling**, the highlight being 1,000 at Newmains in mid-January, attracted to the large-scale feeding that occurs there. The 600+ **Yellowhammer**, and numerous other species, around the same time, is quite some sight. Thrush numbers were reasonable too with two parties of 100 **Redwing** at Coldingham Bay & Prendergust and 300 **Fieldfare** at Manderston in January-February, both indicative of the numbers present. There were also reasonable, if hardly spectacular, numbers of **Waxwing** with parties of 10-20 birds at Dunglass, Third, Jedburgh and Eyemouth and smaller numbers at 16 other sites.

There were **Blackcap** reported from Coldingham, Eyemouth and Duns, while a **Chiffchaff** was seen at Burnmouth in mid-February. One species with hardly any reports however was the **Stonechat**, with just single records, both in January, one on the coast, the other in the hills. The next birds that turned up in mid-March were most likely migrants that had wintered elsewhere. An extraordinary change from the winter of 2008 when in January-February, as when we started doing the atlas in 2008, when we had 110 records numbering over 250 individuals in the atlas!



Brambling - Eddleston, April 2013

Goose numbers rose into March as the birds push northwards with over 3,000 **Pink-footed Geese** with another 2,200 on Coldingham Moor, as well as over 3,000 around West Linton. Icelandic **Greylag** seem to only now appear on passage, the 1,500 **Greylag** at Whitrig in late March most likely being of this origin, as were the 100 at Dowlaw at the same time. **Barnacle Geese** also passed through, albeit much later, with 100 over Harsease and 95 at Newmains in late May, just before the annual movement of **Canada Geese** with parties of 90, 82 and 67 appearing over Eyemouth, St Abb's Head and Fruid Reservoir respectively the following week in early June.



Velvet Scoter - Innerleithen April 2013

The only unexpected spring ducks was a fine drake **Velvet Scoter** that spent a few days on the Tweed just upstream of Innerleithen in early April followed by two pairs of **Garganey** at Williestruther Loch and at the Mire Loch in early May.

Flyovers are always frustrating for those following up but the **Crane** that passed over St Abb's Head in early April was actually seen later over Dunbar less than an hour later. No-one however managed to follow-up the single **Spoonbill** that flew over St Abb's Head in mid-June, a first record for the Borders. Also seen in flight was a **Corncrake** at St Abb's Head in May, as it was flushed along the road.

With the cold March and April, the early migrants suffered, with a frosty reception for early passage species like Chiffchaff and Sand Martin, with definite mortality for the latter species. Rarity-wise, the spring was quiet on the passerine front, the most interesting reports being a **Scandinavian Rock Pipit** at Newmains in late March, the first inland report, single **Black Redstart** at St Abb's Head in early May and early June, with two **Red-backed Shrike** there in mid-May with a single in early July.

The non-passerines were hardly better. There were five records of **Marsh Harrier** between March and June, 2 **Wood Sandpiper** at Whitrig in mid-May with single **Turtle Dove** at Cockburnspath and Newtown in May to accompany the single bird that summered again in east Berwickshire. Offshore single **Pomarine Skua** and **Long-tailed Skua**, as well as a **Black Guillemot** were seen off St Abb's Head in May-June.

As the year progressed through the spring, conditions ameliorated from the very cold start in March/April and just kept on warming up to produce a very warm summer, with temperatures three degrees above normal for much of late June through to early August. It generally meant that for those species that did survive the earlier cold spell, or migrated in afterwards, 2013 was a successful breeding season.

Waterfowl numbers, generally, continue to be somewhat depressed however with no breeding at all reported for our rarest breeders, **Wigeon**, **Pochard**, **Shoveler** and **Great Crested Grebe**. Indeed **Pochard** only had 18 records for the whole of the year, **Great Crested Grebe** only had a temporary pair at Haining Loch for a few days, and the only summer **Wigeon** records were from sites where they have no history of breeding. **Tufted Duck** numbers seem to have stabilised but Mallard only had an average season, as did **Mute Swan**. On the more positive side, **Shelduck** did fairly well, appearing at seven sites and producing five broods and **Gadwall** had at least three broods at Yetholm, although they show little sign of spread from that corner of the Borders. **Greylag** continue to spread with breeding at 15 sites while **Canada Geese** seem also to be spreading, breeding occurring at 5 sites. **Goosander** also appeared to do well with 18 broods recorded while **Little Grebe** were recorded breeding at a record number of sites.

The problems for waders also continue with fewer and fewer breeding records of **Woodcock**, **Redshank**, **Snipe** and **Golden Plover** breeding, and reduced numbers of **Lapwing** and **Curlew** and **Common Sandpiper** in places where they were common 10 years ago. One brighter spot was that **Dunlin** were reported from both Fruid and West Water Reservoirs, both potential breeding sites.

Some of our rare breeders, most on the edge of their breeding ranges in Britain, had mixed fortunes. **Marsh Tit** and **Wood Warbler** were reported from just 6 & 7 sites respectively, with no evidence of success, while **Lesser Whitethroat** were seen at just two sites and **Little Owl** at one. Our **Little Ringed Plover** were seen at just a single site, although here it may be observers effort that is the issue, no-one bothering to search for them. This could also have happened with **Nightjar**, no birds being found in 2013. Our only **Turtle Dove** site had just a single bird summering while others were only a single **Corn Bunting** for 2013 from the usual place at Lamberton. It was a poor year for **Quail** with birds recorded from just 14 sites. Once common, **Stonechat** were found at just 16 sites, although several did report successful breeding.



Lesser Whitethroat - St Abb's Head, Oct 2013

On the other hand we did have a report of **Honey Buzzard** that while it was probably a passage bird, could have been a bird on suitable habitat. A pair of **Reed Warbler** also bred at the Mire Loch, after an absence of a few years. **Nuthatch** continued to spread, the basis of the tetrad atlas now allowing a close measurement of any changes. A **Twite** on suitable habitat in the Pentlands was also interesting.

Finch numbers continue to be depressed, especially the unfortunate **Greenfinch**. Although **Chaffinch** and **Goldfinch** still seem to be reasonable common, and **Bullfinch** as scarce as they usually are, numbers of **Greenfinch**, **Linnet**, **Lesser Redpoll**, **Siskin** and **Crossbill** were low in 2013, the latter species possibly because of the almost total lack of conifer seeds. **Siskin** passage however continues at high levels, the ringing report showing especially large numbers of recoveries.

Few rarities occur in summer so the **Sardinian Warbler** caught and ringed at St Abb's Head in late June would normally have been put down as a bird undergoing post-breeding dispersal from a dry Mediterranean. However when it reappeared there in late September it became evident that the bird must have summered, presumably moulting, passing unrecorded for three months! It appeared to be in no great hurry to depart, last being reported in early November after a 4-5 month stay, much to the delight of the travelling twitchers who used it as a bonus bird when visiting the Head for other rarities in the autumn. This was also the first record for the Borders.



Sardinian Warbler - St Abb's Head, Oct 2013 Photo: Dave Graham



Black Redstart - Meggetstone, Sep 2013

An odd report from early September was an apparent group of 4-5 **Black Redstart** high in the Tweedsmuir Hills at the Meggetstone. Photographs of the single bird seen there the next day, while initially thought to be a juvenile moulting into 1st-winter plumage, proved to be of a moulting adult male. The precise status of this record is puzzling, especially as the habitat above Megget Reservoir closely resembles that where they breed in the Alps and Pyrenees. Was this a party of breeding birds? **Black Redstart** have been found in suspicious circumstances, insofar as breeding is concerned, at several places in eastern Scotland in recent years. Did it breed or could it be a family party dispersing from southern breeding areas that somehow ended up well outside the breeding range? Four more 'normal' **Black Redstart** appeared at St Abb's Head in late September and mid-October.

The autumn typically starts with wader passage in July and August and passage was pretty good this year. **Black-tailed Godwit** were especially frequent with six records from late June to late August. **Dunlin**, **Wood Sandpiper** and **Greenshank** also did better than usual as did **Ruff**. The highlight however were two **Pectoral Sandpiper**, one at St Abb's Head in late August, the other at Folly Loch in mid-September, the fourth and fifth records of this Siberian/American wader for Borders. Although not a wader the long-awaited first record of **Little Egret** occurred in mid-August, with one passing Dunglass, presumably heading for the considerable assembly that occurred that month at Aberlady. That made it the third 'first for the Borders' of the year.

Midsummer is also when seawatching starts to be productive and 2013 produced the best numbers of **Manx Shearwater** for some years, some 2,300+ birds being reported. The two best days were 745N at St Abb's Head in early July and 285 there in late Aug. **Sooty Shearwater** did not fare quite as well but did manage a daily peak of 26 at St Abb's Head in early October. Skuas were only average although 26 **Pomarine Skua** for the year was a reasonable return. It was the less common gulls and terns that fared well with a **Mediterranean Gull** at St Abb's in July, a **Black Tern** in early August, a good daily count of 10 **Little Gull** in late August and a **Sabine's Gull** in early November. We did have one notable day for diver passage with 18 **Red-throated Diver** past St Abb's Head and 13 past Eyemouth on the same date in mid-October.



Great Skua - St Abb's Head, Sep 2007

The passerine passage was pretty good in 2013, with several bouts of passage late on. Although not a passerine, a **Wryneck** at Whitmuirhall, near Selkirk, in late August was unexpected, coastal localities normally having a monopoly of this woodpecker. There was a slight fall in late August with the sole **Pied Flycatcher** of the autumn, changed days! It was really only in the last ten days of September that the fireworks started. The highlight in this period was undoubtedly the influx of **Yellow-browed Warbler**, starting with five birds on the 25th and at least 13 there the next day! Numbers then fluctuated, falling to just a few before rising again to 10 birds at St Abb's Head on 1st October. For once the Head did not monopolise them with birds appearing at a total of 8 sites and a minimum estimate of 37 birds in total, a record for the Borders.



Radde's Warbler - St Abb's Head, Oct 2013
Photo: Gus Guthrie

Additional Siberian warblers included a **Pallas's Warbler**, our 22nd record, at the Head on 5th October and then a **Radde's Warbler**, our third record, on 19th October. To complete the picture there was a **Wood Warbler** on 25th September, a **Firecrest** on 5th October, and a **Red-breasted Flycatcher** on 13th October. In contrast numbers of thrush were poor with no really large counts, other than 500 **Blackbird** at St Abb's Head on the 16th October, the other species rarely exceeding 3-figure counts.

Autumn also marks the arrival of our wintering waterfowl, the geese usually leading the way. The **Pink-footed Geese** managed a peak of 28,200 at West Water Reservoir, 9,830 at Hule Moss 7,000 at Coldingham Moor and 3,000 at Westfield on the count date in mid-October, a total in the region of 48,000 birds!



c. 1500 **Pink-footed Geese** - Hyndfordwell, Sep 2013

Other highlights on the goose-front included three double-figure groups of **Brent Geese** offshore in September, 240 **Barnacle Geese** over Newmains in mid-October, and two small-race **Canada Geese** amongst the Pinks at West Linton. **Greylag** from Iceland in autumn may have become a thing of the past but an assembly at Foulden, probably of what were originally feral birds, rose to over 600 birds by October. There were few surprises amongst the ducks although **Gadwall** rose to 40 at Yetholm Loch in September. **Shoveler** numbers continued to decline, just 10 birds being the autumn maximum. **Goosander** seem to have done only reasonably with a reduced autumn maximum of 211 at Stantling Craig Reservoir with 185 following later at Hirsell Lake and 130 at Cauldshiels Loch in November.

Whooper Swan numbers rose into the winter with 252 at Crailing in late October and parties of 205 on the Tweed Haughs and 111 at Folly Loch on the November count. **Pink-footed Goose** numbers also held up well into December with counts of 3,000 at Whitrig, 2,150 at Hule and 2,100 at West Water. A late **White-fronted Goose** also appeared briefly amongst the geese at Westfield in late November. Again notable duck records were few with 850 **Teal** at Hule Moss and 330 **Common Scoter** at Dungleass, both in December, being the main highlights. Odd waders did well though with November records of **Grey Plover**, **Spotted Redshank**, **Knot** and **Dunlin** passing the seawatching point at Eyemouth Golf Course. That taller wader, the **Little Egret**, did even better with no fewer than three reports at Newmains, Redden and Paxton House in November and December. Like buses, you wait for one and then a whole lot appear!



Little Egret - Redden, Dec 2013

The winter was notable for interesting passerine records, despite the appallingly wet December that definitely depressed birding activity to judge from the numbers of record submitted. A few **Waxwing** records at Eyemouth, Stow and Yarrow in November; a **Great Grey Shrike** at Nisbet on 9th November; a **Lapland Bunting** at Newmains on 13th November followed by 4 on the Linkim Shore in late December; a **Black Redstart** at Dowlaw in late November; 3,420 **Fieldfare** at Whitrig in November must have been some sight; and in December there were odd **Chiffchaff** and **Blackcap** at Tweedbank, with one of the latter at Manderston.



Waxwing
 Woodside,
 Dec 2012
 Photo:
 Bill Meikle

List of Contributors 2013

AB Aldridge	36	Tom Dougall	85	James Lough	1818	C Reid	19
Anon	227	Joris Dreissen	26	CF M	38	Margaret Renstead	40
Chris Badenoch	39	Tom Edwards	64	Pamela Maguire	27	Ronald Richardson	22
Peter Ball	19	Bill Elliot	18	Roger Manning	96	Malcolm Ross	559
John Ballantyne	162	Fran Evans	1485	John Marshall	48	Michael Scott	32
Dave Beamish	15	Allan Finlayson	111	P Martin	19	Gary Scott	365
Mike Beard	26	G Flinn	18	Bill Mason	80	Mike & Cheryl Shepley	11
Heather Beaton	39	Mike Fraser	11	Alison McArthur	17	Reuben Singleton	36
Caroline Blackie	85	Dave Graham	765	Ron McBeath	6245	M Smith	15
R Bond	16	Margaret Greenhow	33	DW McGarvie	93	R Smith	29
C G Bradshaw	38	Robert Greenshields	26	Allan McGee	27	Anthony Speybe	63
Richard Bramhall	54	Mark Grubb	95	D Mcgrath	76	Chris Spray	12
Andrew Bramhall	3945	A Guthrie	13	Bill Meikle	18	Neil Stratton	1762
James Bray	108	Jim H	23	J&S Melrose	48	C Strickland	36
Tom Brewis	317	Mike Hannam	14	Douglas Methven	175	John Strowger	49
P Brooks	31	Natalie Harmsworth	18	Eric Middleton	42	N Taylor	15
A Brown	10	A Hashmi	21	Andrew Mitchell	31	Anthony Taylor Pigott	19
Elspeith Brown	32	Alan Heavisides	81	T Mitchell	37	Catherine Tees	18
JD Bryden	83	Malcolm Henderson	689	S D Morton	32	Andy Tharme	60
Richard Buckland	12	Gerard Henry	82	Andrew Mossup	184	H Thomson	23
Patricia Buckley	24	Andrew Highton	13	Jean Murray	16	Joanna Thomson	73
James Burns	31	Iain Hill	12	Ray Murray	8976	Dave & Margaret Thorne	849
Eleanor Carnell	57	Mark Holling	259	Jacqueline Muscott	16	Neil Thornton	26
Tim Chamberlain	187	Angela Hunter	25	Phil Naylor	34	A Tilmouth	11
Rory Changlang	20	Jack Ibbotson	631	Duncan Orr-Ewing	85	James Towill	256
Graham Checkley	809	Kevin Ingleby	795	Jonathon Osborne	11	Anthony Tucker	79
David Christie	186	John Inglis	10	John Palfrey	887	Harry Urquhart	731
F C Clark	28	Walter Inglis	104	David Parkinson	2275	S D Ward	29
Mark Cockburn	29	John Irving	21	Micael Paton	10	C Watson	1086
Carolyn Cowan	45	C M Jones	75	Hilde Paxton	19	Stephen Welch	59
James Coyle	11	Mike Jones	90	J Peden	12	Graham White	13
A Cross	29	Alan Kerr	38	Dennis Pierpoint	12	Katherine White	16
Neville Crowther	361	Briget Khursheed	13	Barbara & Barry Prater	43	Andy Williams	11
A Cummings	21	T Kirby	12	Graham Pyatt	1765	Jeremy Wilson	230
A V Davidson	12	T Kyle	91	RAB	531	C Wood	13
Andrew Davies	49	S J Lewis	30	Raptor Study Group	79	John Woolliams	24
Liz Doley	15	A Lindsay	22	Tony Reed	160	Gill Young	29
Harry Dott	1329	Malcolm Lindsay	131				

The following contributed between 1-9 records: J Allan, Neil Allan, Rhona Anderson, Andrew Barker, Sarah Bell, Erin Berry, Mike Betts, Stephen Black, A Bowker, Andy Brown, Ashley Butlin, Tom Cadwallender, Neil Campbell, D K Campbell, P Clark, Mark & Ali Cockburn, Lisa Cole, G Collins, Ian Congleton, David Cook, N Cook, D H Cotton, Frank Cowie, Stuart Craig, J N Daisley, Teyl de Bordes, Peter Delaney, Gladys Donald, D Dunlop, John Elliot, Bruce Ferguson, Melanie Findlay, Andy Fitchett, Mike Geen, D Genney, Heinz Giegerich, Mark Gilmour, Peter Givens, C Gordon, J Gordon, M Granger, P Hampson, Liz Hanson, Cairian Haskell, Steven Hauge, George Hills, S Holoran, S Inger, Angela Jameson, Derek Jones, D Johnston, Christine Johnston, Derek Jones, S A Jupp, Douglas Kellett, M S Kirby, Vladimir Krivtsov, P S E Lack, Alan Lauder, John Law, W Little, David Long, F Luther, Peter Macdonald, Stuart Macpherson, R J Mann, D McCormack, Mike McDowall, A J McGowan, John McInnes, Douglas McKean, Harry Mc Kerchar, Vicky McLennan, E McNab, R Middlemass, Dougie Monteith, Den Morrison, Brian Munshall, Jim Nicholson, Mike Nisbet, J C S Noble, SJ Pinder, K T Pipes, Jenny Price, J K Prior, EMG Reynolds, D N Riddell, Keith Robeson, D R Robinson, Elise Ross, Jim Russell, Andrew Sandeman, David Seed, Rory Shaw, M Shaw, Souterman, Dave Stewart, Jacqueline Stewart, P Thomson, Mike Thrower, A L Todd, Peter Tome, Jean Trimmer, Ian Tyrrell, Jeff Waddell, Milly Waddell, Jeff Waddell, Julian Warman, D Whitton, Damion Willcock, Val Wilson, Alan Wood, A Wylie & Stewart Yearle.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to all of those that contributed records to the *Borders Bird Report*, whether directly to me or otherwise. The large number of records from Bird Track, The Wildlife Information Centre and Bird Guides, as well as all of those who filled in log books at the bird hides at Yetholm Loch, Lindean Reservoir, Hule Moss, Bemersyde Moss & Hare Moss (with thanks to Julian Warman for forwarding the SWT/National Trust hide logs).

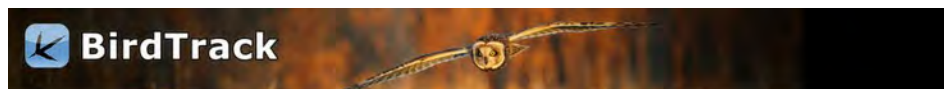
Liza Cole & Jack Ibbotson sent me the 2013 St Abb's Head material, Alan Heavisides sent the 2013 South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report and Mark Holling the results of the 2013 Rocky Shore Count. These are all summarised within the Report. Tom Dougall produced the annual Ringing Report of the Borders Ringing Group and Brian Munshall provided details on Bean Geese. Also thanks for those whose photographs have been used. The photographers are acknowledged beside the photo, except those unacknowledged, which are my own. But I would also like to thank Bill Meikle, Douglas Kellett and Peter Macdonald for their images. Tom Dougall, as usual, did a summary of the ringing activities in Borders in 2013. Harry Urquhart and Graham Pyatt assisted with proof-reading the drafts of the Report.

Borders Bird News

I would like to commend the Yahoo newsgroup as a ready source of current information about birds that occur in the Borders. A Yahoo newsgroup allows participants to post any interesting news of bird occurrences and other areas of interest. Anything posted by the 200-odd members is received either as individual e-mails, or as a daily e-mail summary, or, if you don't want e-mails, can be viewed on-line. It is free. Contact me if you are interested in joining.

Contributing records to the Borders Bird Report

There are now a number of ways that you can send in records to the Report:



Bird Track The preferred route is via the BTO on-line data entry system Bird Track <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/birdtrack/about>. It can be used as your personal bird diary as all of the data you enter can be accessed personally and it keeps count of the numbers of records, sites and species for each year, letting you 'see' your records in a number of formats, including mapping them. As the Borders Local Recorder I also have access to the data for the Bird Report, without having to come to you for the records, or for you having to remember to send them to me. It will ask you for descriptions, if they are needed, and these are automatically forwarded to me and the Rarities Committee. Using Bird Track minimises the amount of manipulation I need to do with the records, thus avoiding errors and this format is also useful for forwarding data to The Wildlife Information Centre, the successor of the Borders Biological Records Centre, and through them to the National Biodiversity Network, the ultimate repository of Britain's wildlife information. Forwarding data to these national bodies assists with planning and conservation and is vitally important on our crowded island.

Could I ask observers to avoid just 'ticking' a species on Bird Track. It requires little extra effort to conjure up a figure of how many Blackbirds or Blue Tits you might have seen at the site, albeit only an approximation. While the tick box might indicate that Blue Tit were present, an actual count is potentially of more value than just a record of presence or absence.

SOC spreadsheet There is a SOC Borders spreadsheet, available under the Borders section of the SOC website. <http://www.the-soc.org.uk/bird-recording/recording-database> This is on an Excel format and comes with a set of instructions. Being Excel, it can be used to sort and arrange your records and can be easily sent off to your Local Recorder via e-mail. There is also a site gazetteer available on the website for Borders.

Borders Bird News The Yahoo newsgroup website is an excellent way of keeping up to date with what birds are being seen. It currently has about 200 members. I routinely go through News Group postings when compiling the data for each Bird Report and ensure that nothing posted is missed. It is not an ideal way of adding data to the dataset, a Bird Track record or a direct e-mailing being preferred, but in many cases it is the only submission route used.

Bird Guides Records also come via the Bird Guides website, the Local Recorder receiving a download every year. However not all records via this route, especially those phoned in or texted in, have a traceable route back to the observer. Such records can then be hard to authenticate when a rarity is concerned. If there is no description, when one is needed, the record then ceases to exist in the 'official' local avifauna

Letters & E-mails You can of course inform me directly: Ray Murray, 4 Bellfield Crescent, Eddleston, Peebles, EH45 8RQ - 01721 730677 & e-mail: ray1murray@btinternet.com



Siskin Eddleston, Apr 2013

Abbreviations

m, mm = male	br6 = size of brood	FF = birds carrying food/faecal sac	BBS = Breeding Bird Survey
f, ff = female	MBS = mean brood size	FL = fledged young	TTV = Timed Tetrad Visit (1 hour)
pr = pair	16N = direction of flight	ON = occupied nest	AON= Apparently occupied nest
imm/juv = young	DD = distraction display	NE/NY = nest with eggs/young	AOT = Apparently occupied territory

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES 2013

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 (726 records)



Mute Swan Tweed at Redden Jan 2013

Winter/Spring: There were few large counts away from the main sites, the best being 50 on the Kale between Morebattle and Kalemouth 16th Feb and then just 12 at Alemoor Wester Loch on 15th Feb; and 10 Jedburgh on 10th Jan.

Summer flocks:

The moult flock on Yetholm Loch peaked at 139 on 29th Jul. While there

were only 40 birds in early May, numbers exceeded 100 birds between 8th Jul - 8th Aug. Next highest numbers were on Tweedbank Pond, peaking at 32 on 8th May. The 14 on the Tweed at Paxton on 6th May could have been associated with the Berwick moult flock.

During Jan-Mar, 45 of 202 birds that had their ages reported were juveniles, some 22.0%.

Breeding:

Ponds & Lochs Singles and parties of juveniles and failed or non-breeding adults were seen at: Barnes Loch, Burnmouth, Graden, Harelaw Pond and on rivers at the Tarth at Newmill; the Teviot at Roxburgh Mains; the Tweed at High Sunderland, Boleside, Leaderfoot, Mertoun, Sprouston, Redden, Upsettlington & Paxton; and the Whiteadder at Allanton.

17 pairs were seen at the following 17 sites, with no additional evidence of breeding (often because there was no return visit to note progress): Bowdenmoor Loch, Branxholme Easter Loch, Cauldshiels Loch, Cherrytrees Pond, Folly Loch, Hollybush North Pond, Hoselaw Loch, Lumsdaine Pond, Nunlands Pond, Pickmaw Moss, Ploughlands Pond, Redpath Pond, Shielswood Loch, Whitrig Pond, Wooden Loch, White Law Loch, Williestruther Loch & Wiltonburn Loch.

6 other pairs nested at 5 sites, but the fate of these nests is not known: Hallmanor Pond, Heatherhope Reservoir, Highchesters Hill Pond, Hirsell Lake (2), The Glen Loch; while 6 other pairs built nests: 4 apparently failed at the egg stage: at Coldingham Loch, Haremooss, Hollybush Farm Pond, Mire Loch; while 2 sites failed at chick stage: Pot Loch & Tweedbank Pond.

So at least 24 pairs held territory at 23 sites with 7 pairs building nests that either failed or whose fate is not known.

26 other pairs held territory at another 22 sites, hatching a minimum 93 young and fledging 87 young.

Monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tweed, Kelso-Coldstream	104	-	97	7	115	115	120	132
Yetholm Loch	101	61	62	107	101	24	16	37
Hirsell Lake	-	-	-	-	10	12	12	8
Folly Loch	1	-	-	3	17	22	22	2
Teviot Haughs (not one site)	37	50	2	-	4	1	1	53
Wooden Loch	6	15	12	-	-	42	95	21
Gunknowe Loch/Tweedbank	28	25	18	18	42	-	21	17

Lochs and Ponds	pair	hatched	fledged	Lochs and Ponds	pair	hatched	fledged
Addison Pond	1	-	br5	Mellerstain Lake	1	-	br9
Bemersyde Moss	2	-	br4	Millar's Moss	1	-	br1
Borthwickshiels Loch	1	-	br5	Minto Kames North Loch	1	-	br2
Doorpool Pond	1	-	br6	Newhall Pond	1	-	br6
Greenlawdean Pond	1	-	br7	Newton Pond	1	-	br3
Hare Moss	1	-	br7	Stantling Craig Reservoir	1	br10	br5
Hen Poo	1	br5	br4	Synton Mossend	1	-	br2
Howpasley Pond	1	-	br5	Whitmuirhall Loch	1	-	br6
Ladyrig Pond	1	-	br2	Whitton Loch	1	-	br3
Lilliesleaf Moss Pond	1	-	br2	Yetholm Loch	4	-	4br16
Lindean Reservoir	1	-	br6	Yetholm Marsh	1	-	br1
Long Moss	1	-	br2				23br109

Rivers; A nest whose fate is not known was noted on the Teviot at Heiton. Broods were seen on the rivers, but not necessarily hatch precisely there at: br2 on the Teviot at Nisbet; br5 on Tweed at Makerstoun, br3 on Tweed at The Cobby, Kelso; br7 on Eye at Eyemouth. So a minimum of one more nest and 4br17 on the river.

	Sites with territorial birds	Pairs reached nest stage	Pairs that hatched young	Pairs that fledged young	No of young fledged
Lochs	52	33	29	23	109
Rivers	5+	5	4	4	17
Total	57+	38	33	27	126

The first incubated nest reported was at Gunknowe Loch on 26th Mar and at The Glen Loch on 8th Apr, with the first cygnets at Long Moss on 4th May and Yetholm Loch on 7th May. The 27 broods of known size totalled 126 young.

Summary of Mute Swan Breeding Success: 1999-2013

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Pairs	41	67	52	89	86	75	56	45	42	63	74	47	60	68	57
Broods	27	29	24	16	32	21	30	25	23	34	35	25	29	29	27
Young	136	103	109	71	167	119	117	122	111	134	161	101	137	110	126
MBS	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	4.58	4.66

Autumn/Winter: The largest counts are tabulated above but others of >10 birds include: 11 Mellerstain 6th Sep and 14 Rutherford Lodge 21st Dec.

During Sep-Dec, 223 of 785 birds that had their ages reported were juveniles, some 28.4%.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Uncommon winter visitor Oct-Apr. c.200-250 birds present in most winters on Teviot & Tweed Haughs. Occasional birds in summer, probably injured. (159 records in 2012)

Winter/Spring: Juveniles formed 25.7% of 354 aged birds Jan-Apr 2013 (8.5% in 2012, 19.7% in 2011).

Ale Moor Loch: 8 there 15th Feb with 10 on 18th Feb.

Teviot Haugh/Folly Loch: 6 Ormiston & 5 Crailing Tofts 3rd Jan; 80 Crailing/Ormiston 28th Jan; 56 Ormiston 24th Feb;

Selkirk/Tweedbank area: 8 Lindean Reservoir 11th Jan; 18 White Law Loch 12th Jan; 27 Pickmaw Moss on 13th Jan; 21 Cauldshiels Loch 19th Jan; 10 Lindean Reservoir 1st Feb; 14 Whitmuirhall Loch, 11 Pickmaw Moss & 5 White Law Loch 10-11 Feb; 36 Whitmuirhall Loch 10th Mar;

Lower Tweed: 11 Lees Haugh 12th Jan; 112 Tweed Haughs 13th Jan; 148 Tweed at Wark & 13 Birgham Haugh 25th Jan; 35 Fireburnmill on 8th Feb; 100 Redden Haugh, 60 Lees Haugh & 50 Tweed at Carham on 16th Feb; 99 Tweed Haughs 10th Mar; 30 Cornhill/Birgham Haugh 30th Mar.

Whiteadder: 45 Broomdykes 3rd Jan; 36 Crossrig 9th Jan; 62 Dykegatehead 10th/11th Feb with 40 there on 16th Feb; 12 Paxton House 15th Feb; 112 Broomdykes 21st Mar; 10 Edrington Castle 23rd Mar.

Elsewhere: 5 Teviot at Fatlips Castle 3rd Jan; 11S St Abb's Head 6th Jan; 17 Hule Moss 8th Jan; 112 Hallydown 13th Jan; 7 North Esk Reservoir 18th Jan- 21st Feb; 10 Loch of the Lowes 20th Jan; 31 Wooden Loch 16th Feb; 12 Barnes Loch 18th Feb; 1 Yetholm Loch 20th Feb.

21NW Newmains 24th Mar; 7 Castlecairn Farm, Hume 3rd Apr; 2 Tweed at Coldstream 11th Apr.

Summer: Summering single(s?) seen Paxton House 6th May, Bemersyde Moss 30th May, Coldstream 20th & 28th Jun and Birgham 8th Aug.

Autumn/Winter: The first birds of the winter were: 22 Greenlaw Farm, Foulden & 6 Hule Moss on 9th Oct, with 18 Hule Moss on 11th Oct; 68 Folly Loch on 12th Oct; 23 Tweed Haughs 13th Oct: and 35 Teviot Haughs on 14th Oct.

Bemersyde/Whitrig: 8 Whitrig Bog 24th Oct was the only report from this area.

Chirnside/Foulden area: 14 Newmains 24th Oct; 197 Winfield, Paxton on 31st Oct; 91 Sunwick on 3rd Nov; 15 Foulden 7th Nov; 13 Newmains 13th Nov; 2 Foulden 2nd Dec.

Folly Loch/Teviot Haughs: 68 Folly Loch 12th Oct; 30 Nisbet on 16th Oct; 252 Crailing School on 29th Oct; 111 Folly Loch 11th Nov; 2 Wooden Loch 11th & 27th Nov; 11 Folly Loch 7th Dec ; 47 Teviot Haugh 31st Dec.

Lower Tweed: 36 Birgham Haugh 29th Oct with 104 there 5th Nov. 205 Tweed Haughs & 10 Hirsell Lake on 10th Nov. 115 Lees Haugh 17th Nov with 162 there 25th Nov & 134 on 1st Dec. 35 Carham Haugh on 8th Dec; 120 Tweed Haughs 15th Dec; 90 Birgham Haugh 21st Dec; 47 Lees Haugh & 17 Birgham Haugh 31st Dec.

Hule Moss/Greenlaw area: 22 Hule Moss 14th Oct, with 24 on 28th Oct, rising to 78 on 4th Nov and peak of 85 on 8th Nov; but 42 Greenlaw Moor 2nd Nov. Still 44 Hule Moss on 15th Nov but just 9 on 18th Nov and last 1 on 22nd Nov.

Selkirk/Tweedbank area: 11 Pickmaw Moss, 2 Synton Mossend & 1 Lindean Reservoir 29th Oct; 2 White Law Loch 4th Nov; 9 Lindean Reservoir 8th Nov; 2 Pickmaw Moss 10th Nov; 19 Faughill Moss & 6 Whitmuirhall Loch 15th Dec.

St Mary's Loch: 6 Loch of the Lowes on 5th & 24th Nov.

Elsewhere: 3 Huntford 24th Oct; 9 Yetholm Loch on 29th Oct with 6 there on 8th Nov; 4S Innerleithen 1st Nov; 9 Portmore Loch 9th Nov; 12 Angelrow 24th Nov.

The autumn peak counts seem to shift around suggesting that the main flock was actually mobile, moving from Crailing to Paxton in late Oct and then dispersing via Hule Moss towards the Tweed Haughs from early Nov into mid-Dec before becoming more evenly spread. The numbers hint at about 250-280 birds in the autumn/winter. Juveniles formed 19.0% of 780 aged birds between Oct-Dec 2013 (19.6% in autumn 2012).



Tundra Bean Goose Slamannan, Central, Jan 2013 Photo: *Bean Goose Action Group*

Bean Goose *Anser fabilis*

Very rare winter visitor. (2 records in 2013)

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabilis fabilis*

10 birds from the central Scotland Slamannan flock were satellite-tracked on 21st-22nd Feb as they moved from there towards Denmark and late to Sweden on their return passage. The satellite fix showed them at the Horn Burn, Ayton, where they were seen by Brian Munshall on 22nd Feb, who had been alerted to their presence.

See note on this occurrence.

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). (225 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring:

Bemersyde/Whitrig roost: 430 Westfield & 70 Bemersyde 11th Jan; 2,000 Whitrig Bog 19th Jan and again on 10th Feb; 3,000 Whitrig Bog 16th Feb with 3,150 there 4th Mar; fewer mid-month with 1,500 Bemersyde on 16th Mar & Westfield 24th Mar but rise again to 3,000 Westfield 31st Mar and then 3,330 Whitrig Bog 3rd Apr. 400 Clintmains 21st Mar. 1,434 Whitrig on 11th Apr was last report.

Coldingham Moor roost: 2,300 Bogbank 5th Jan; with 1,800 there 11th Jan & 1,700 on 14th Jan. 59-60 Haud Yards 3rd & 6th Feb; 2,200 Dowlaw Dean 2nd Mar with 2,000 there 30th Mar; last 1,400 Bogbank 19th Apr & 500 Haud Yards 27th Apr.

Folly Loch/Teviot Haughs: 26 Teviot Haughs 14th Jan; 1,800 Crailing 28th Jan were the only reports.

West Water Reservoir roost: No roost count but field records include: 300S Leadburn & 220 SW Craighurd on 15th Jan; 1650 Bamflatt & 20 Skirling Mill on 15th Feb; 3,400 Macbiehill & 1,700 Hamiltonhall on 30th Mar; and 200 Little King Seat 1st Apr.



Pink-footed Goose - West Water Reservoir, Oct 2013

Elsewhere: 100 NE Lauder 5th Jan; 150NW Lamberton 7th Jan; 85S there 1st Feb with 400NW on 4th Mar, were perhaps birds moving to and from Lindisfarne; 56W at Dunglass on 17th Feb; 9 Wedderlie 4th Mar; and 290N St Abb's Head 29th Mar.

Summer: No apparent injured birds.

Autumn/Winter: First 60 Gavinton 3rd Sep with 30 Manderston 8th Sep. 288S St Abb's Head 14th Sep; 80 over Newmains 15th Sep; 55 Eddleston, 40 Newmains & 2 Yetholm Loch 16th Sep. Roost count at West Water on 17th Sep revealed 6,425 birds and then widespread records on 18th Sep with mass appearance as 519S in 6 parties Black Barony, 400S Craik, 120S Newmains, 120W Melrose, 80W Craigurd, 60S Eyemouth & 45S Lamberton and 550 roosting Hule Moss that evening.

Records from 20th Sep.

Bemersyde/Whitrig/Smailholm: 32 Westfield 20th Sep with 520 there and 600 New Smailholm on 30th Sep; 3,000 Whitrig Bog 12th Oct and 2,250 there on 9th Nov. 1,600 Westfield 20th Nov and 3,000 Whitrig Bog on 22nd Dec. The birds feeding in this area did not appear to use Bemersyde as a roost but rather probably used Hule Moss -see below.

Hule Moss roost: 1,250 roosted 22nd Sep with 2,150 there on 29th Sep and 2,450 on 6th Oct. Then a jump to max of 9,830 there on both 11th & 14th Oct before dropping to 3,100 on 18th Oct. Another influx raised numbers to 8,800 on 21st Oct before dropping again to 4,100 on 28th Oct. 3,100 there on 4th Nov with gradual reduction through month to 2,250 on 15th Nov, 1,550 on 21st Nov but still 2,150 on 13th Dec.

Teviot Haughs: Just a few reports with 250 Folly Loch 12th Oct & 1,535 there on 11th Nov; with 750 Teviot Haughs 31st Dec.

West Water Reservoir roost: 19,230 roosting there 21st Sep with 19,240 there 27th Sep, 20,400 on 3rd Oct, 19,200 on 9th Oct, before peaking at 28,200 on 12th Oct. Then slight drop to 27,480 on 18th Oct before birds move on with 17,540 there on 26th Oct and 13,700 on 26th Oct. No Nov roost counts but still 2,100 roosting on 9th Dec with 1,720 on 11th Dec. Field counts include: 10,200 at Hyndfordwell Pool on 9th Oct but only 3-figure counts otherwise: 260NE Leadburn 24th Sep; 140 Robinsland 9th Oct; 150NE Leadburn 18th Oct; 3,320 Spittal 16th Nov; 190SE Craigurd 17th Nov with 175 SW on 19th Nov; and 93 Broughton 31st Dec.

Dowlaw roost: several parties reported in late Sep-early Oct on the move, the largest being 65S St Abb's Head 5th Oct with 268S there 7th Oct. First sign of roosting were 500 Dowlaw Dam on 7th Oct and 1,800 feeding

Bogbank 12th Oct with 380 Dowlaw the same day. Lots of moving parties continued to be reported but next actually using the area were 1,200 East Reston 23rd Oct with 3,000 Horseley Hill 27th Oct and 3,000 Bogbank 28th Oct with 4,000 there the next day.

The feeding birds at Bogbank rose to 7,000 on 10th Nov with reports of 2,000 Alemill & 900 Blackhill the same day. Still 5,500 Bogbank 14th Nov with 3,000 Dowlaw on the 15th Nov. Numbers start roosting at Greenlaw Farm Pond at Foulden in Nov with a max 150 there on 18th Nov to 25th Nov with a few hanging on into Dec. 1,200 Bogbank 28th Dec was the last 3-figure count with 860 Newmains on 31st Dec.

Elsewhere: 85W Lauder Common 18th Oct; 51NE Linn Dean, Soutra 12th Oct; and 1 Hirsell Lake 14th Dec.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Very scarce winter visitor amongst grey geese flocks. Typically the Greenland race *flavivrostris*. The nominate Russian *albifrons* is a rare vagrant. Not annual. Race given when specified. (1 record in 2013)

6 Westfield on 20th Nov (James Lough) was the only report.

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. (283 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Fewer probable Icelandic birds are being recorded with the Bemersyde area having any presence of likely migrants, as opposed to birds of feral origin. The coastal birds may all be feral in their ultimate origin.

Bemersyde/Whitrig: 130 Westfield 11th Jan; but max of only 16 Whitrig Bog 10th Feb through to early Mar when 55 Bemersyde Moss 3rd Mar, so doubtful if any actually wintered in area. Numbers then increased with 110 at Whitrig on 4th Mar, 500 Bemersyde on 17th Mar, rising to a peak of 1,500 at Whitrig on 28th Mar. Numbers fell rapidly as birds moved on with 100 Westfield on 30th Mar, 59 Whitrig on 3rd Apr and last double-figure count of 47 on 6th Apr.

Coastal Berwickshire: 80 Newmains 16th Jan with 140 there 2nd Feb; 60 Dykegatehead 13th Feb & 81 Joshua Plantation 16th Feb; 24 Haud Yards 3rd Mar with 25 Dowlaw Dam 10th Mar; 100 Dowlaw 31st Mar; 50 NW Lamberton 17th Apr.

Elsewhere: 150 Synton Mossend 13th Jan & 73 Stantling Craig Reservoir 10th Mar.

There were also numerous records of up to 10 birds that were clearly of feral origin (typically not very afraid of observers), most of which were found breeding later in the year.

Breeding: The spread of the breeding population continues unabated.

Non-breeding pairs were seen at: Bemersyde Moss, Cadam Law, Cathpair Pond, Fairliehope, Fruid Reservoir, Gunknowe Loch, Hirsell Lake (3prs), Ingraston, Langtonlees and Little King Seat, 20 Kettleshiel on 3rd Apr were probably local breeders. There were c.15 records of single birds summering elsewhere.

Confirmed breeding records include:

Essenside Loch: br3 on 17th Jul.	North Esk Reservoir: 2prs with br3 on 17th May and new br9 on 7th Jun.
Harcus Pond: nest 8th May, br4 on 19th May.	Scarce Rig Pond: anxious adult, probably with small young, 2nd May.
Headshaw Loch: nest on 21st May, br4 on 24th Jun.	Tollishill Pond: 2prs on nest 21st Apr; pr with br3 there on 21st Jul.
Hexpath: br4 on 25th May.	Tweed, Cobby: pr with br4 on 6th May.
Hillhouse: 20 birds, including juveniles 24th Jun.	Wheelburn: pr on nest 24th Mar.
Hule Moss: 2prs 31st May; pr with br4 on 5th Jul, 9 birds on 17th Jul suggest 2nd brood there.	White Law Loch: pr with br5 on 5th Jun.
Killmade Burn: pr with distraction display 30th May.	
Lylestone Hill: 4 broods with 16 young 4th Jun.	
New Belses BBS: 6-7prs with br2 on 1st Jun.	

15 sites with at least 62 young but several nest and broods of unknown size.

There were also a few moult migrants passing through in late May-early Jun with: 400N Huntford on 25th May; c.25 dropped in at North Esk Reservoir 5th Jun for 2 days when 3N St Abb's Head 5th Jun; 17 Parkhill 7th Jun; 6N St Abb's Head 11th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: The simple pattern of the odd feral bird in late summer and then the arrival of the Icelandic birds in early Oct has totally broken down. Lots of resident breeders, moulting flocks, passage feral birds between England and the Highlands and the huge reduction of Icelandic birds arriving to winter, has made for a much more complex scheme of affairs.

144 Stantling Craig Reservoir 16th Jul may have been a mix of birds that bred there along with families from nearby sites gathering to moult. Also 98 Flass Ponds 22nd Aug may have similar origins. Another moult flock

assembled at Greenlaw Pond, Foulden with 180 there on 27th Jul, rising to 220 on 12th Aug, 350 on 23rd Aug, 400 on 8th Sep, and peaked at 500 by 2nd Oct before falling back into mid-Oct. Also 50 Huntford on 19th Sep; 30 Hule Moss 21st Sep; 25 Stantling Craig 14th Oct; 46 Hirsell Lake, 21 Westfield & 16 Crailing 29th Oct.

Possible arrival of migrants from late Oct with an increase at Foulden to 645 birds with 130 Sunwick possibly associated with these. 380 Hirsell Lake, 260 Folly Loch and 180 Westruther Pools on 11th Nov may have involved Icelandic birds, although there is a Westruther feral flock. Numbers at Foulden were variable into Dec with numbers as low as 108 but later increased to 504 on 12th Dec.

Other significant Nov/Dec counts include: 170 Newmains 23rd Nov; 350 Westruther 25th Nov; 140 Hirsell Lake 14th Dec; 125 Fireburnmill 20th Dec; 281 Birgham 21st Dec; 230 Newmains 27th Dec.

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. (110 records in 2013)

Winter/Summer: Double figure counts were: 25 Tweed Haughs 13th Jan with 11 there 10th Feb; 50 Westruther Pools 12th Mar with 11 Tweed at Edrington Castle 23rd Mar. Elsewhere reports of 1-5 birds from: Bemersyde Moss, North Esk Reservoir, Tweedbank, Whitrig Bog & Yetholm Loch. 7S St Abb's Head 3rd Apr.

Breeding: Summer records, with no further evidence of breeding included 4 Tweedbank 1st Apr; 4 Stanhopehope on 7th May; 10 Graden 11th May; 15 Hoselaw Loch 29th Jul; and 1-5 birds Gordon Community Woodland & Mire Loch. Breeding was confirmed with:

Bemersyde Moss 2prs, one of which nested, without apparent success.

North Esk Reservoir 4prs initially but then just 2prs with br3 from 21st May.

Rumbleton Law pr on nest 17th & 23rd May.

In addition birds thought to be spring moult migrants were reported: 90N Eyemouth GC 2nd Jun; 6E St Abb's Head on 4th Jun with 82 offshore there 5th Jun; 67N over Fruid Reservoir on 6th Jun; 28NE Hutlerburn Hill on 9th Jun; and 8E St Abb's Head 11th Jun with 1S there 12th Jun.

Autumn: 43 Edrington Castle 2nd Sep, then 80 Greenlaw Pool, Foulden 8th Sep with 30-50 there to early Oct. 72 Hirsell Lake 29th Oct; 36 Foulden on 16th Nov; 24 Hirsell Lake 26th Nov; 34 Edrington Castle on 2nd Dec; 40 Redden & 45 Sprouston 15th Dec with 48 Birgham 21st Dec; 27 Hirsell Lake 21st Dec.



2 Hyndfordwell Pond 9th Oct and West Water Reservoir 9th & 12th Oct had some of the features of the small race Canada Goose *B. c. hutchinsii* and may have been 'wild' birds from Baffin Island accompanying the Pink-feet freshly arrived from Iceland.

Canada Geese '*hutchinsii*'-type with Pink-footed Geese Hyndfordwell, October 2013

Note small size (smaller than Pink-foot), squarish head, shortish but not stubby bill, dark breast on R birds with narrow diffuse collar, broader on L bird.

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. (29 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 1 Yetholm Loch from 7th Jan to 3rd Mar; 3 Wedderlie 2nd-17th Mar. Passage of Solway birds saw 100N Harsec & 95N Newmains 25th May with 30N Newmains 26th May.

Autumn/Winter: First 1 West Water Reservoir 21st Sep-9th Oct; 45S Newmains, 4 Hyndfordwell and 1 West Water Reservoir 9th Oct; 7 West Water 12th Oct; 240S Newmains on 14th Oct with 26S there on 18th Oct when 4 West Water Reservoir, with 10 West Water 20th Oct. 2 Hule Moss 21st Oct; 1 East Reston 23rd Oct; 16 West Water Reservoir 26th Oct; 5 St Abb's Head 30th Oct. 2 Greenlaw Pond, Foulden 2nd Nov. 1 Westfield 27th 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 Lindisfarne. (6 records in 2013)

Autumn: 13S St Abb's Head 10th Sep; 23 pale-bellied S Eyemouth 11th Sep; 6N St Abb's Head 24th Sep; 23N/3S Eyemouth GC on 25th Sep; 1S St Abb's Head 28th Sep; 4 pale-bellied S St Abbs 11th Oct (Dave Graham, Ray Murray & Fran Evans)

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Rare (5-10 pairs) breeder on coast near Dunglass or on inland waters. Scarce along coast, most common on moult migration (92 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 2 Whitrig Bog 3rd Jan with 4 there 19th Feb, 2 on 25th Feb & 2 Westfield 28th Feb. 2 Hule Moss 8th Jan. 2 Dunglass 16th Feb with 3 there 23rd Feb when 2 also at Pease Bay.

Breeding: 7 sites, at least 20 young seen.

Bemersyde Moss pr there from early Mar, with br5 seen 16th Jul

Dunglass up to 3prs seen 5th May with br4 there on 8th Jun.

Folly Loch usually single pair but 2prs 31st May with br6 there 9th Jun, reduced to br3 by 21st Jun. Just a single juv by 28th Jul .

Leadburn pr Cowieslinn, Nether Falla, Leadburn Community Wood & Kingside area in Apr-Jul but no apparent success. 4 birds Spurlens Rig 2nd May.

Millar's Moss pr from early May with br4 from 18th Jun into Jul. Presumably same as occasionally at Mire Loch.

Whitrig Bog 3prs there 16th Mar but 1pr with nest 18th May but no visible success.

Yetholm Loch pr there 21st Apr, with perhaps single occasionally at nearby flood at Graden, br4 there 29th Jul.

Non-breeding records include; pr Newmains 12th & 17th Apr; 2 West Learmouth 20th Apr; 2 Rutherford Lodge 20th-22nd Apr; 2 Pease Bay 5th May; pr Biggar Water floods 17th May; pr Eyemouth GC 25th May; 2prs Hule Moss & 1 Long Moss, Coldingham Moor 31st May; 2NW Lambertton 12th Jun; pr Siccar Point 17th Jun;

Autumn/Winter: Usual vanishing act with just two later reports - 7N St Abb's Head 8th Oct and 1 Wooden Loch 29th Oct.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Introduced. Rare and elusive resident breeder along Eye Water & Whiteadder. (11 records in 2013)

2 Alemill on 28th Mar; 2 Abbey Park & 1 Fleurs 10th May; 2 Drakemyre 19th May; 1 Brockholes 23rd May; 1m Millar's Moss 16th Jun with 1f there 23rd Jun; 1 Leaderfoot Viaduct 13th-14th Aug; 1 Fancove Head on 19th Sep; 2 Linthill 20th Nov.

All from the usual 'home' area of the Eye Water, bar the wanderer to Leaderfoot.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Formerly a scarce breeding species in just 2% of tetrads, mostly in the Ettrick Forest (10-20 pairs), but now rare. Common winter visitor to area and autumn passage migrant to coast. (319 records in 2013)

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

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013

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

57 at Bemersyde Moss on 3rd Jan with 100 Whitrig Bog 10th Feb; 33 Bemersyde Moss 15th Feb with 140 there 19th Feb; 81 Bemersyde Moss & 50 Whitrig on 25th Feb; 260 at Bemersyde Moss on 12th Mar; 200 Whitrig on 16th Mar with 300 on 31st Mar & 124 there on 6th Apr; but few thereafter.

Elsewhere numbers were less sustained: 62 Synton Mossend & 26 Whitmuirhall Loch 13th Jan; 56 Stantling Craig Reservoir, 40 Whitmuirhall Loch & 38 Ploughlands Pond on 10th Feb; 38 Whitmuirhall Loch & 27 Stantling Craig Reservoir 10th Mar; with 60 Hoselaw Loch 17th Mar the last count >25 birds of the winter.

Breeding: no reports from former breeding areas but 1-2 birds May-Jul at Bemersyde Moss, Stantling Craig Reservoir, Mire Loch and Millar's Moss.

Autumn/Winter: 1 Whitmuirhall Loch 24th Aug; 103N/3S St Abb's Head, 8 Bemersyde Moss & 9 Folly Loch 7th Sep; 2 Dunglass 13th Sep; 58 Dowlaw Dam & 12 Folly Loch 20th Sep; 40 Hule Moss & 14 Stantling Craig Reservoir 22nd Sep; 20N St Abb's Head 24th Sep with 197N Eyemouth GC 25th Sep; 160 Bemersyde Moss & 43 Dowlaw Dam 30th Sep.

54 Folly Loch 6th Oct; 24N St Abb's Head 11th Oct with 12S there the next day. 22 Tweed Haughs 13th Oct; 50 Whitrig Bog 24th Oct; 154 Whitrig & 58 Synton Mossend 29th Oct; 70 Greenlaw Pond, Foulden 2nd Nov; 250 Whitrig Bog & 55 Faldonside Loch on 9th Nov; 72 Stantling Craig Reservoir & 65 Dunglass on 10th Nov; 70 Greenlaw Pond on 18th Nov with c.40-60 there over next weeks but with 94 on 19th Dec & 220 on 24th Dec; 75 Millar's Moss 15th Dec; 300 Whitrig Bog 22nd Dec.

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. (82 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Evidently now wintering at Yetholm Loch with at least 10 recorded throughout the Jan-mid-Mar period, max 18 on 5th Feb & 19 on 6th Mar. 2 Hen Poo 30th Mar, 1 Bemersyde Moss 31st Mar and 1 Newmains 12th Apr could represent the dispersal of birds away from the Loch after wintering there.

Breeding: min 4 pairs Yetholm Loch through Apr-Jul with 4ff with 3br9 seen 16th Jul, 2br8 on 18th Jul, br5 on 29th Jul & br3 on 8th Aug. Whether brood reduction operating or new broods, is impossible to state but 15 'adults' present 2nd Aug.

Autumn/Winter: Still 12 Yetholm Loch 10th Sep, then 40 there on 16th Sep with 14 there 8th Oct and 10th Nov but max 9 there 19th Dec. Elsewhere 1N St Abb's Head 24th Aug; 5 Bemersyde Moss 7th Sep with 4 there on 16th Sep; 2 Dowlaw Dam & 1 Folly Loch 20th Sep. 2 Bemersyde Moss 6th Oct; 2 Paxton House 7th Oct; 1 Hirsell Lake 29th Oct; 3 Hule Moss 7th Dec; and 2 Yetholm Marsh 15th 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. (449 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: See table for main resorts. Elsewhere counts of >20 include: 21 Tweedbank 1st Jan; 30 Gala Sewage Works 6th Jan; 100 Broughton Brewery floods 5th Jan; 44 Synton Mossend & 25 Whitmuirhall Loch 13th Jan; 40 Stantling Craig Reservoir 10th Feb; 90 Kilbucho floods 15th Feb; 26 Scarce Rig Pond on 17th Feb; 44 Teviot Haughs 24th Feb; 21 Stantling Craig Reservoir 10th Mar; 50 Westfield 30th Mar.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bemersyde Moss	22	20	40	16	15	20	30	10
Folly Loch	26	52	27	12	63	196	40	38
Hirsell Lake	54	16	62	-	2	10	55	41
Hule Moss	121	116	-	29	240	450	520	850
Newmains	240	240	200	-	-	25	240	310
Whitrig Bog	85	80	30	20	-	95	-	10

Breeding: Typical thin scatter of records from mostly hill areas and marshy ponds, once the likely late migrants have been eliminated. Birds recorded from 18 sites with 16 pairs and 5br22 noted.

	Single	Pair	Brood		Single	Pair	Brood
Bald Hill Pool	-	1	br3	Lindean Mast Pool	-	1	-
Bemersyde Moss	1	1	-	Shielswood Loch	-	1	br4
Borthwickbrae	-	1	-	Tollishill	1	1	-
Broadhaugh	1	-	-	Tweed, Fireburnmill	-	1	-
Dyehaugh Pool	-	-	br7	White Law Loch	-	1	-
Faldonside Loch	-	1	-	Whitmuirhall Loch	-	1	br2
Hen Poo	-	1	-	Whitrig Bog	-	1	-
Hule Moss	-	1	br6	Wiltonburn Loch	1	1	-
Leadburn CW	-	1	-	Yetholm Loch	1	2	-

Autumn: Passage birds on the coast: 20S St Abb's Head 23rd Aug with 109N there 24th Aug; 5N/93S St Abb's Head 7th Sep with 4N there 14th Sep & 1N on 24th Sep; 102N Eyemouth GC 25th Sep; 4N St Abb's Head 11th Oct with 2S there 13th Oct.

See table for main resorts but parties of >20 birds Aug-Dec were as follows:

65 Stantling Craig Reservoir 16th Sep; 88 West Water Reservoir 17th Sep; 71 Easter Place floods 18th Oct with 62 there 24th Oct; 64 Stantling Craig Reservoir 10th Nov; 100 Westruther Pools 11th Oct; 125 Broughton Brewery floods 16th Nov; 135 Greenlaw Pool, Foulden on 9th Dec; peak regional count of 850 Hule Moss on 13th Dec; 200 Tweed at Redden 15th Dec; 52 Stantling Craig 15th Dec; 198 Broughton Brewery 31st Dec.

Also counts of 25-49 birds from Ale Moor Wester Loch & Mire Loch in Aug; Faldonside Loch, Folly Loch & Fruid Reservoir in Sep; Ashkirton flood, Dowlaw Dam & Leadburn CW in Oct; Whitmuirhall Loch in Nov; and Crook Burn, Dowlaw Dam, Faldonside Loch and Wooden Loch in Dec.

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. (269 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Away from the main resorts (see table below), the counts >40 include: 50 Siccar Point 2nd Jan; 120 Synton Mossend, 60 Whitmuirhall Loch & 54 Hoselaw Loch 13th Jan; and 40 Spittal-on-Rule on 24th Jan. 47 North Esk Reservoir 2nd Feb; 52 Paxton House 5th Feb; 54 Eddleston 11th Feb; and 40 Wheelburn Law on 17th Feb. 54 Heiton Mains 15th Mar.

Breeding: A minimum of 14 sites were reported with nests/broods in the Atlas. Eggs or nests were seen in the Atlas at Constable Hill (NT55S) & Selkirk Common (NT42Y). Broods of unknown size were also reported in the

Main Resorts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bemersyde Moss	32	23	41	40	14	16	136	22	100	40	30	22
Folly Loch	21	13	10	8	14	13	98	71	85	153	40	27
Hen Poo	87	43	40	-	-	-	150	151	118	85	61	138
Hirsel Lake	31	64	17	-	-	-	-	-	57	16	22	31
Teviot Haughs	48	43	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	16	28
Tweed Haughs	474	221	165	-	-	-	-	-	293	591	386	200
Tweedbank	52	54	52	23	40	52	143	136	72	-	50	46
Whitrig Bog	6	10	20	9	6	10	131	-	-	70	7	60
Yetholm Loch	62	35	36	10	6	119	242	304	105	51	48	110

Atlas from Corsbie (NT64C), Linthill (NT96G), Littledeanlees (NT62W), Midburn (NT55A), Muckle Knowe (NT30M), Raecleugh Head (NT75L), St Mary's Loch (NT22R), Timpendean (NT62G), Tweed at Fireburnmill (NT83P), Tweed at Gosland Hill (NT02R), Whinningtonrig (NT40Z) & Yarrow at Gilmanscleugh (NT32F).

Site	Broods	Site	Broods	Site	Broods
Alemoor Wester Loch	br2	Gala Water, Galashiels	br9	Primrosehill Pond	br3
Bemersyde Moss	br3	Hule Moss	2br13	Synton Mossend	br4
Cadam Law	2br11	Hutlerburn Loch	br5	Teviot, Heiton	4br21
Duns Mill Pond	br3	Ladyside	br3	Teviot, Nisbet	br5
Dyehaugh Pool	br10	Leader, Carfraemill	br3	Tweed, Kingledores	br4
Edrington Mains	br7	Lindean Mast Pool	br3	Tweed, Tweedbank	2br15
Eildon Mid Hill	br5	Lurgiescleugh	br5	Tweed, The Cobby	2br10
Folly Loch	br2	Lumsdaine Farm Pond	br1	Tweed, Sprouston	br9
Gunknowe Loch	br5	Lumsdaine Loch	2br12	Tweed, Milne Graden	br5
Hanged Man's Hill	br4	Lylestone Hill	br5	Tweed, Paxton House	br4
Harcus Pond	br2	Millar's Moss	br5	Whiteadder, Allanton	2br9
Harelaw Pond	br5	Minto Kames N Loch	3br15	Yarrow, Bowerhope	br3
Haremoos	br4	Mire Loch	2br12	Whitehope	br5
Harryburh House	br3	Newton Pond	3br15	Wooden Loch	br4
Hollybush Farm Pond	br10	North Esk Reservoir	3br15	Yetholm Loch	6br30
Hoselaw Loch	br3	Ploughlands Pond	br6	Yetholm Marsh	4br16
Howpasley Pond	br10				

So details are known of 73 broods at 49 sites in 2013, with 365 young counted in total. The mean brood size reported was 5.01, about average. The first brood seen was at Burncastle on 24th Apr & The Cobby on 6th May.

Breeding success of Mallard in Borders, based on brood size counts 2000-2013														
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sites	31	44	53	47	51	46	28	66	55	33	27	46	31	49
Broods	51	75	76	76	91	67	46	108	73	60	45	92	44	72
Young	269	332	326	355	591	347	248	605	374	304	222	453	196	365
MBS	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	5.01

Autumn/Winter: as usual there were post-breeding assemblies at Bemersyde, Hen Poo, Tweedbank, Whitrig Bog & Yetholm, as enumerated in the table. Elsewhere there were high Jul-mid-Sep counts of >50 at Folly Loch (96), Millar's Moss (78), Stantling Craig Reservoir (63), Talla Reservoir (62), Mellerstain Lake (60), Synton Mossend (56) and Wooden Loch (56).

High counts away from the main resorts were again infrequent between mid-Sep-Oct with only 180 Hoselaw Loch 29th Sep being exceptional; counts of 50 or more were reported from the Tweed at Upsetlington (75), Wooden Loch (74), Stantling Craig 63, Lindean Mast Pool (58), The Cobby (55) and Bowdenmoor Reservoir. In Nov-Dec there were no 3-figure counts away from the main resorts, counts of 50 or more coming from Ladyurd Haughs (81), Greenlaw Pond, Foulden (80), Tweed at Homebank (70), Tweed at Boleside (70), North Esk Reservoir (58), Lindean Reservoir (58) and Barnes Loch (52).

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Rather uncommon, but annual, winter visitor, September to April, peaking October-November. Has bred twice, in 1901 & 2008. (3 records in 2013)

4S St Abb's head with 1S there 28th Sep (Mark Holling & HannaMike); 1 Hirsell Lake 29th Oct (Ray Murray).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Rare, mostly spring, passage migrant, often as pairs. (4 records in 2013).

Pr Williestruther Loch 7th-8th May (Ray Murray); pr Mire Loch 8th May with 1m Millar's Moss 19th May (Jack Ibbotson).

It is by no means certain that the Millar's Moss bird was one of the earlier pair.



Garganey - Williestruther Loch, May 2013

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Probably now extinct as a breeder (formerly 0-3prs), mostly in the eastern Borders. Autumn passage peaks September-November but few January-March. Return mostly March-April. (57 records in 2013)

Spring: No winter records with first 2 Whitrig Bog 28th Mar (Andrew Bramhall). Then pair Bemersyde Moss 8th Apr.

Breeding: No suggestion of breeding, although birds summered.

Bemersyde Moss/Whitrig: pr present Apr into early May with 3 there 22nd-27th Apr. Last was 1m on 10th May. Then 2 Bemersyde 14th Aug, but these more likely to be migrants.

Yetholm Loch: pair present 21st Apr with single birds 10th Jun & 8th Jul.

Also 2prs Hule Moss on 15th May & 2prs Folly Loch on 9th Jun, but no follow-up to either of these reports.

Autumn: 2 Bemersyde 14th Aug and 2 Greenlaw Pond, Foulden 18th Aug. 1-2 birds Bemersyde to mid-Sep with 3 there 10th Oct and 10 on 30th Oct. Pair Greenlaw Pond to 26th Sep reducing to 1 on 9th Oct.

1 Hule Moss 11th & 18th Oct, then 5 on 25th Oct, rising to 10 on 4th Nov with last 2 there 8th Nov. 1 Greenlaw Pond 12th Nov but 5 there 16th & 18th Nov with last 4 on 23rd Nov. 1 Bemersyde 4th & 10th Dec.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Now extinct as a breeder, numbers having collapsed since the 2000s. Also increasingly uncommon winter visitor, arriving October-November, leaving Mar-Apr. (18 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 5 Yetholm Loch 3rd Jan with 1 Hule Moss 8th Jan and 3 Hoselaw Loch 13th Jan. 4mm Yetholm Loch 18th Feb & 3rd Mar with 3mm there 13th Mar & 2mm on 29th Mar.

Summer: 2mm Mire Loch 16th Jul & 1m Hule Moss 27th Jul were the only summer reports.

Autumn/Winter: 4 Hule Moss 21st Sep reduced to 2 the next day. 1 Folly Loch on 6th Oct; 1 Yetholm Loch on 15th Oct with 2 there 17th Oct, the last birds of the year.

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. (270 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Low numbers continue with no count of 50 birds, indeed none exceeding 30 birds this winter.

In Jan, the highest counts were 23 Gunknowe Loch 5th Jan; 29 Hule Moss 8th Jan; 26 Haining Loch & 21 Folly Loch 13th Jan with 10-19 birds recorded from Mire Loch, Synton Mossend and Yetholm Loch. Numbers dropped into Feb with 26 Gunknowe Loch 22nd Feb and 10-19 birds at Faughill Moss, Haining Loch, Mire Loch & Wooden Loch.

The low levels continued into Mar with 22 Haining Loch 10th & 18th Mar and 10-19 birds at Faldonside Loch, Millar's Moss, Mire Loch, Stantling Craig Reservoir, White Law Loch, Wooden Loch & Yetholm Loch. Also 18 Teviot Haughs 10th Mar.

Breeding:

Site	max mm	max ff	broods	Site	max mm	max ff	broods
Bernersyde Moss	3	2	-	Lumsdaine Loch	1	1	br1
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	8	4	-	Millar's Moss	20	14	-
Coldingham Loch	3	3	br4	Mire Loch	11	4	-
Doorpool Pond	1	1	-	New Belses Pond	1	1	-
Duns Mill Pond	1	1	br4	North Esk Reservoir	1	1	-
Easter Housebyres Pond	1	1	-	Nunlands Pond	1	1	-
Elliston Pond	1	-	-	Pickmaw Moss	1	1	-
Essenside Loch	1	1	-	Primrosehill Pond	1	1	br6
Folly Loch	8	5	-	Stantling Craig Reservoir	8	6	2br11
Green Diamonds	1	1	br5	White Law Loch	6	5	-
Gunknowe Loch	3	2	-	Whitmuirhall Loch	2	2	2br11
Haining Loch	2	2	-	Whitrig Bog	2	1	-
Hare Moss	1	1	br8	Williestruther loch	6	4	-
Headshaw Loch	1	1	-	Wooden Loch	1	1	-
Hen Poo	4	4	br4	Yetholm Loch	10	5	-
Hillhouse Burn Ponds	1	1	br11	Yetholm Marsh	1	-	-
Hollybush Loch	8	4	-	Tweed, Sprouston	3	2	-
Hollybush Farm Pond	1	1	-	Tweed, Fireburnmill	8	4	-
Hule Moss	15	5	br6	Tweed, Redden	3	-	-
Hutlerburn Pond	3	1	-	Tweed, Homebank	6	4	-
Lindean Reservoir	3	2	-	Tweed, Paxton House	1	1	-
Lumsdaine Farm Pond	1	1	br7				

Tufted Duck were found at 44 sites in 2013. 165 males & 102 females were counted, potentially 102 pairs, which produced 12 broods. 78 young were counted, a MBS of 6.50. This appears to have been the best productivity for some years, in terms of brood size, although in absolute numbers the problems for Tufted Duck continue.

Breeding success of Tufted Duck in Borders, based on brood size counts 2001-2013													
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Min Pairs	105	94	116	172	124	128	155	106	83	58	77	97	102
Broods	17	5	15	18	13	16	15	16	12	4	17	10	12
Young	69	11	78	87	52	74	76	74	69	11	77	49	78
MBS	4.06	2.20	5.20	4.83	4.00	4.63	5.07	4.63	5.75	3.66	5.13	4.90	6.50

Autumn/Winter: The largest Sep/Oct counts were: 70 Hule Moss 16th Oct, numbers being in excess of 46 since mid-Sep; 42 West Water Reservoir 26th Oct, numbers being greater than 25 since early Oct. Counts of 15-24 also noted at Folly Loch & Gunknowe Loch. Nov-Dec counts remained at these same lowish levels with best counts of 40 Hirsle Lake 26th Nov & 14th Dec, but the best elsewhere were 24 Gunknowe Loch on 11th Nov & 21 Hule Moss 4th Nov.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, annual, but usually singles.(35 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 1m wintered Mire Loch reported from early Jan through to 13th May. It was also seen Millar's Moss 30th Apr & 12th May. Also 1m on Tweed at Paxton 21st & 26th Apr (Ron McBeath).

Autumn/Winter: 1N Eyemouth GC 25th Sep; 1 West Water Reservoir 12th Oct (Ray Murray).

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. (121 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Just 164 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb. (319 in 2012, 207 in 2011)

Rocky Shore Count 15th Jan 2013	
Dunglass - Pease Bay	15
Pease Bay-Redheugh	21
Redheugh-Souter	6
Souter-Petticowick	16
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	20
Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	47
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	43
Burnmouth-English border	38

Other counts include in Jan: 15 St Abb's Head 15th Jan; 92 Eyemouth Bay 21st Jan; 25 Burnmouth 22nd Jan. 70 Eyemouth Bay 22nd Feb; 57 Burnmouth & 22 Eyemouth Bay 9th Mar; 64 Burnmouth 22nd Mar, falling to 27 there 31st Mar. 25S St Abb's Head 13th Apr.

Summer: Small numbers along coast but nothing to suggest successful breeding. 51 passing Eyemouth GC (4hrs) 2nd Jun & 24 Dunglass 21st J un.

Autumn/Winter: Even lower numbers reported until late autumn with no double-figure counts other than 16 in 5hrs Eyemouth GC 19th Aug. Then 22N (1hr) St Abb's Head 11th Oct; 31 Eyemouth Bay 26th Oct; 26N (4hrs) Eyemouth GC 9th Nov; and 130S St Abb's Head 22nd Nov. Better counts Dec with 45 Burnmouth on 7th Dec; 47 Eyemouth Bay 11th Dec with 55 there 14th Dec & 50 on 27th Dec.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce winter visitor and autumn passage migrant to coast. Rare inland. (20 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Just 3 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb, 2 at Dunglass and 1 at Coldingham Bay. Otherwise 6 Dunglass 5th Jan with 1 St Abb's Head 6th Jan. 1-2 Dunglass mid-Jan with 3 there on 9th Feb, 9 on 17th Feb with 4 Pease Bay the same day. 1 Eyemouth GC 19th Feb. Last 5 Dunglass 2nd Mar (Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: 1 Coldingham Bay 11th Oct (BirdGuides); 2N St Abb's Head 12th Oct with 1N there 30th Nov. 1 Eyemouth Bay 14th Dec & 9 Dunglass 28th Dec.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon late summer & autumn passage migrant and scarce winter visitor to coastal areas. Very rare inland. (56 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: None were found on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb but 9 Dunglass 4th Jan with 3-5 there to 26th Jan. 5 there 9th Feb-2nd Mar then gap until 1 there 30th Mar/1st Apr before 6 on 13th Apr and last 7N there 5th May. Away from Dunglass just single records of 1 Pease Bay 17th Feb & 7S St Abb's Head 21st Apr.

Summer/Autumn/Winter: First 30N Eyemouth GC 2nd Jun with 110N there 9th Jun; 28N St Abb's Head on 21st Jun.

6N Eyemouth GC 6th Jul with 8N St Abb's Head 23rd Jul and 12S there 26th Jul with another 2S there 28th Jul. In Aug 30N St Abb's Head 9th Aug with 3N there 11th Aug, 1S on 23rd Aug with 22N on 23rd Aug.

Largest passage in Sep with 41N St Abb's Head 7th Sep. After single-figure counts mid-month: 40 Eyemouth GC 23rd Sep with 235N there 25th Sep & 6N St Abb's Head on 28th Sep.

Oct brought 30N St Abb's Head 11th Oct with 108N/6S there on 12th Oct & 24N/4S on 13th Oct followed by 10N on 19th Oct.

After single-figure counts in early Nov, 21N/7S Eyemouth 21st Nov, 38S St Abb's Head 22nd Nov with 1N/6S there 30th Nov.

Unusually substantial numbers were wintering in Dec with a massive 330 Dunglass on 7th Dec with 280 there 15th Dec when 35 also at Pease Bay that day. 147 were still at Dunglass on 29th Dec.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Very scarce autumn (August-December) passage migrant to coast. Very occasional in spring. No inland records. (17 records in 2013)

Spring: 1 Tweed at Traquairwaterfoot 6th-9th Apr (Rhona Anderson) was the first-ever inland report

Autumn/Winter: 1S St Abb's Head 28th Jul was well ahead of the next 1N there on 13th Sep. 8N Eyemouth GC 25th Sep; 3N/2S there and 6N St Abb's Head on 11th Oct with 2N St Abb's Head on 12th Oct and another single N there the next day. 1N St Abb's Head 19th Oct.



Velvet Scoter- Tweed at Traquair, Apr 2013

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Common winter visitor, October-May, peaking in March. Occasionally summers. Bred near Gordon 1999. (292 reports in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 30 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb, still below typical levels (21 in 2012, with 52 in 2011, 60 in 2010).

Away from the main resorts, tabulated below the only other large counts were: 23 Alemoor Wester Loch 15th Feb and 18 Bowdenmoor Reservoir 30th Mar; after the only double-figure count in Apr, 33 at Yetholm Loch on 12th Apr, numbers slowly decreased with just 5 Millar's Moss and 2 on Tweed at Paxton House on 21st Apr, 2 Yetholm Loch 23rd Apr with 1 there 23rd Apr; and last 2 on the Tweed at Paxton House on 26th Apr (Ron Mcbeath).

Autumn/Winter: First 1 St Abb's Head on 20th Aug (Peter Brooks), present to at least 21st Sep, and 1 Shielswood Loch 24th Aug

were well ahead of the next birds. 1 West Water Reservoir 17th Sep; 1 Hule Moss 18th Sep; 3 West Water Reservoir 21st Sep-9th Oct; & 1 Yetholm Loch 24th Sep. More general from mid-Oct with 12 West Water on 18th Oct and 9 Hule Moss 25th Oct the first substantial counts.

Nov numbers were poor with just two double-figure totals: 21 Yetholm Loch on 17th Nov & 20 Tweed at Paxton House on 29th Nov. Dec saw a large influx with 25 Bemersyde Moss 4th Dec and 26 Yetholm Loch 12th Dec being dwarfed by 122 at Hule Moss on 13th Dec; 51 Tweed Haughs 15th Dec; 50 Yetholm Loch 19th Dec; and 25 Hirsell Lake 29th Dec

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013

Dunglass - Pease Bay	4	Pease Bay-Redheugh	2
Redheugh-Souter	3	Souter-Petticowick	8
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	1	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	3
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	4	Burnmouth-English border	5

Max Counts*	11-12 Jan	11-12 Feb	10-11 Mar	14-15 Apr
Faldonside Loch	28	20	21	3
Folly Loch	4	11	23	
Hirsell Lake	10	22	27 (1st)	-
Millar's Moss	6	7	4	5 (21st)
Tweed Haughs	52	77	30	
Yetholm Loch	71 (7th)		49	51

*usually WeBS dates unless specified otherwise

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Now a rather rare winter visitor, previously more frequent. (2 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 1 redhead Portmore Loch 18th Jan & 30th Mar. *It is likely these were different birds.*

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 2013).

Winter/Spring: 1-2 Dunglass on 9 dates 5th Jan-30th Mar; 2 Pease Bay 12th Jan; 1 Tweed at Paxton House 5th-6th Feb with 2 there on 7th Mar; 1 Ross, Burnmouth 22nd Mar; 4 Tweed at Paxton 5th Apr; 1 Dunglass on 28th Apr & 5th May; 2 Eyemouth GC 29th Apr.

1 on Tweed at Tweedbank 7th May was the first recorded there.

Autumn/Winter: 1N St Abb's Head 12th Oct and 3 Dunglass 10th Nov were the only later-year records.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Abundant winter visitor (650-850 birds) October to May. Large winter roosts of hundreds of birds, but sites vary. Uncommon breeder (<200 females) recently spreading to northern hills. (482 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: The highest counts, as usual, come from the Tweed Haugh WeBS counts, although numbers appear to have dropped away of late, with 53 on 13th Jan, 26 on 10th Feb; and 22 on 10th Mar. Elsewhere high Jan counts include: 46 flying into roost Cauldshiels Loch on 12th Jan; 19 Hen Poo on 3rd Jan; 14 Tweedbank 1st Jan; 14 Yetholm Loch 28th Jan; 12 Hule Moss 8th Jan; and 12 Bowdenmoor Reservoir 11th Jan.

42 roosting Cauldshiels Loch 11th Feb; 18 Hen Poo on 17th Feb; 17 Yetholm Loch 14th Feb; 12 Kalemouth on 24th Feb; 12 Loch of the Lowes 18th Feb; 11 Peebles 17th Feb; & 11 Nisbet 24th Feb.

In Mar counts were much lower as birds disperse to breeding area with just 13 Hen Poo 10th Mar; 13 Heiton Mains 15th Mar; 12 Neidpath 9th Mar; & 10 Heatherhope Reservoir 4th Mar.

Pre-moult migration assemblies of 44 Tweed at Birgham 16th May & 51 Hirsell Lake 17th May.

Breeding: Records from 62 tetrads.

The first evidence of confirmed breeding was a very early br12 at Hirsell Lake on 17th May; br9 Tweed at Easter Happrew 2nd Jun; br1 on Teviot at Ancrum West Mains 11th Jun; br4 Teviot at Heiton Mains 11th Jun; br11 Tweed at Mertoun Estate 14th Jun; br2 on coast at Dunglass 21st Jun; br6 Tweed at Innerleithen 25th Jun; br8 Tweed at Tweedbank 2nd Jul; 2br11 Rankle Burn 3rd Jul; br9 Tweed at Neidpath 5th Jul; br2 Kelso 17th Jul; br6 Tweed at Leaderfoot 18th Jul; br10 Teviot at Menslaw 21st Jul; br3 Bowmont at Calroust 29th Jul; br8

Tweedbank 2nd Aug. Later brood: br8 Tweed at Peebles 11th Sep and br5 Eddleston Water at Milkieston on 16th Sep may well have been mobile and moved from natal area.
16br102 + 2br13 is the largest number of young birds reported in recent years.

Summary of Goosander Breeding: 2000-2013

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Totals
Broods	11	6	8	10	11	9	11	15	15	8	14	15	14	18	165
Young	69	51	39	56	53	52	99	87	104	48	101	60	81	115	1005
MBS	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	6.4	6.1

Autumn/Winter: Post-breeding assemblies came to prominence in Sep with the Stantling Craig Reservoir roost dominating counts with max 211 there on 16th Sep but also also maxima of 72 Hule Moss 29th Sep; 32 West Water Reservoir 17th Sep; 29 Teviot at Easter Clump 6th Sep; 27 Teviot at Lanton Mill 30th Sep; 26 Tweed at Lochton 20th Sep; 25 Tweed at Fens 7th Sep and 15-19 birds at Barnhills & Boleside.

Hule Moss took over as the main assembly point with a massive 320 there on 6th Oct with 141 Tweed Haughs 13th Oct; 50 Teviot at Heiton 5th Oct; with 15N St Abb's Head on 6th Oct & 15 on the coast at Burnmouth on 19th Oct. Good likely roost counts continued into Nov with 130 Cauldshiels Loch 9th Nov and 185 Hirsle Lake 10th Nov although birds were more dispersed in smaller numbers on the rivers in Nov. Hirsle Lake continued to attract a roost with 121 there 14th Dec & 81 on the Tweed Haughs 15th Dec.

Other good Dec totals include; 38 Greenlaw Farm Pool, Foulden on 15th Dec; 38 Cauldshiels Loch on 16th Dec; 18 Bowdenmoor Loch 15th Dec; and 12 Portmore Loch 7th Dec.



Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*, September 2004

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. (115 records in 2013)

Non-breeding: Reported from 29 tetrads in Jan-Mar with best counts of: 60+27 Edgarhope Law on 17th Feb; 35 Waddelscairn Moor 31st Mar; 20 Gair Muir 17th Feb; 16 Ewes Castle 1st Jan; 15 Bedshiel Kaims 24th Feb; and 10 birds Wheelburn Law & Dabshead Hill with 5-9 birds reported from 6 other sites.

Reported from just 11 tetrads Sep-Dec with 35 Brownheart Law 15th Nov; 12 Lauder Common 7th & 19th Nov; 12 Hule Moss 15th Nov; with 5-9 birds at just 1 other site.

Breeding: Reports came from 35 tetrads between Apr-Aug. Best counts (5 or more) were: 10+6 Hunt Law on 18th Jun; 10 Hule Moss 5th Jul; 6 Langtonlees 21st May; 5 Mainslaughter Law 29th Apr; and 5+2 Fauldshope Hill 14th May.

Confirmed breeding: nests found Hanged Man's Hill & Tup Knowe 21st May; distraction display Curly Moor 6th Jul; brood (size not known) seen Hunt Law 18th Jun; br8 Watch Water Reservoir 2nd Jun; br3 Wether Law 8th Jul; and br3 Hule Moss 1st Jul with br10 there 5th Jul.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

Uncommon & local resident on hill fringes, especially in Etrick-Moorfoot area. Found in 15% of tetrads at c.200 sites. ALL RECORDS NEEDED. (28 records in 2013)

A return to the more typical low number of reports after the cessation of most atlasing effort and the completion of the Southern Uplands Partnership survey. Just 17 sites reported.

Lekking sites underlined.

	mm	ff	sex?	total		mm	ff	sex?	total
Blackburn, Liddle Water	7	-	-	7	<u>Nether Hill</u>	4	-	-	4
Caddonhead	5	-	-	5	Nether Oliver Dod	2	-	-	2
<u>Dewar/Piper's Grave</u>	12	-	-	12	<u>Raeshaw Estate</u>	35	-	-	35
<u>East Loch</u>	1	-	-	1	Saughtree Fell	-	-	1	1
<u>Eastside Heights</u>	8	-	-	8	<u>Scroof</u>	4	-	-	4
Fauld Craigs	-	-	6	6	<u>Stanhope</u>	10	-	-	10
Fingland Burn	-	-	1	1	The Wiss	1	-	-	1
<u>Flesh Cleugh</u>	3	-	-	3	<u>Tinnis Bridge</u>	3	-	-	3
Kingle Rig	2	-	-	2	2013 total*	97	-	8	105

The largest number reported was from Raeshaw where the keepers reported the above numbers. No evidence of confirmed breeding in 2013.

Black Grouse totals 1999-2013 (the recording effort has varied very much through the years

- intensive survey years underlined)

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sites	67	69	24	52	48	35	24	38	27	42	38	117	118	98	17
Birds	204	226	111	207	139	89	42	128	65	101	119	344	506	359	105

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Formerly scarce & erratic but now increasingly widespread introduced game species. Breeds but needs introductions to be self-sustaining. Reported in 4% of tetrads, mostly in east. (92 records in 2013)

Non-breeding season: 17 Jan-Mar records from 17 tetrads, mostly records of 1-2 birds. Best counts: 15 Whiteadder Dam 26th Jan; 11 White Law 18th Feb; 9 Yarrowfeus on 20th Jan; 9 Prieston 14th Feb; 6 Scableugh 27th Feb; 6 Greenlaw on 14th Mar; and 5 birds at Kirkdean & Littledeanless.

There were only 25 Sep-Dec records from 13 tetrads with all the issues about releases of captive-bred birds for shooting: best counts were 24 West Water 18th Oct with 13 Linton Burnfoot 29th Oct; 8 North Esk Reservoir on 14th Sep; & 6 Hule Moss on 21st Oct; with 5 birds at Redden.

Breeding: Apr-Aug best totals: 10 Dogden Moss 25th May; 9 Hen Poo 1st Apr; 5 Polwarth 21st May and 3 Cadam Law 26th May. Pairs (or at least 2 birds) seen at 18 other sites with singles at another 20 sites. Unusually breeding was confirmed at West Bold with young seen there on 7th Jul.



Red-legged Partridge - Monynut, May 2006

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. (88 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Reports from just 13 tetrad in the early winter period with no double-figure counts, the best counts being 9 Hadden & 9 Trows on 25th Jan; 8 Angelrow Farm Cottages & 8 Malidon Mill 22nd Jan; 6 Cowbog on 20th Jan; and 1-5 birds at Birgham, Fancove Head, Heiton Mains, Lamberton, Newmains & Paxton.

Breeding: Records from 27 tetrads Apr-Aug, mainly in Berwickshire, about a third down on 2012.

Best counts were 15 Swindon 16th Jul and 14 Angelrow Farm 31st Jul, otherwise just 1-4 birds with pairs reported from Blackburn (Chirnside), Brockholes, Burnmouth, Charterhouse, Chirnside, Crumrig, Dogden Moss, Easter Softlaw, Eyemouth Bay, Fleurs, Heiton, Lamberton (2prs), Old Greenlaw, Prendergust, Ross, St Abb's Head (2prs), Swinnie and Whitecross. Singles at 8 other sites. Confirmed breeding: a nest was seen at Woodside on 29th Jul; distraction display witnessed Crumrig 18th Jun; while family parties were at Swindon 16th Jul and Angelrow on 31st Jul, br13 Preston Road, Duns on 3rd Aug; and br12 Abbey St Bathans 12th Aug.

Autumn/Winter: Reported just at 5 sites in Sep-Oct with max 14 Roxburgh village 6th Oct & 14 Angelrow on 19th Nov. Found in just 4 sites in Nov-Dec with 8 Eildon Wester Hill on 9th Nov; 14 Angelrow 19th Nov with 12 there on 22nd Dec; 21 Fireburnmill 12th Dec; and 7 Edrington Mains 13th Dec.

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. (20 records in 2013)

First 1 was picked up injured from a road near Newbigging Walls on 5th May – it was handed into a vet who euthanised it as it was too injured to recover (Harry McKerchar). 1 singing Gavinton 6th May; 1 Westfield on 9th May with 2 New Smailholm 16th May. These marked an early influx.

Next was 1 at Gavinton 18th Jun with 1 Angelrow on 27th Jun. Birds were then present Angelrow until at least 9th Aug, peaking with 3 there 11th Jul. 1 Lambden 6th Jul with 2 there 11th Jul. First at Newmains 1st Aug with 2 there 2nd Aug; 1 Easter Muirdean 7th Aug; 1 Inkbottle Lodge on 12th Aug; 1 Newmains on 29th Aug with last 2 there on 1st Sep (Dave Graham).

Relatively low numbers, the lowest since 2004, despite an early start.

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sites	11	4	4	6	10	19	9	13	12	27	11	129	24	9
Birds	20	4	5	9	16	26	12	28	25	33	22	198	28	14

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. (672 records in 2013)

Non-breeding: Found in 76 tetrads from Jan-Mar with high counts of 33 Castle Law, 32 Wester Muirdean and 26 Haddenrig Wood 25th Jan; 24 Pickie Wood 19th Feb; & 20 Folly Loch 3rd Jan; 10-19 birds at 3 other sites.



Reported in just 40 tetrads Sep-Dec, high counts of 80 West Water Dam 18th Oct; 60 Yetholm Loch 8th Oct; 58 Darnhall-Harcus 24th Oct; and 20-29 at Folly Loch & Sprouston/Redden.

Breeding: Found in 245 tetrads, with breeding proved in 37 of them. The first eggs were seen at Linnburn on 6th May & Darnhall on 8th May; the first young were seen at Morrigehall on 28th May & Ayton on 16th Jun. Max counts of 30 Milne Graden on 24th May; 28 Raecleugh Head on 24th May & 20 Tollishill on 21st Apr; with 10-19 birds at Darnhall, Hanged Man's Hill, Langtonlees, Milne Graden, Polwarth, Press Mains, Sourhope & Tollishill.

Fewer 'routine' records as atlasing completed.

Pheasant -Newcastleton Apr 2007

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. (71 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 13 were found during the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb with 9 birds at Eyemouth-Burnmouth, 2 Dunglass-Pease Bay and a singles between Souter and Coldingham Bay.

Usual small numbers along coast with 2 Coldingham Bay 3rd Jan with 1 there 25th Jan with 2 there on 24th Feb; 9 Cove 17th Feb with 1 there 30th; 1 Eyemouth 1st Jan; 14 Pease Bay 17th Feb.

Reports on 11 days at Dunglass with 5 there 5th Jan, 9 on 9th Feb, max 11 on 17th Feb and 9 again on 2nd Mar. Best day was 17th Feb with 14 Pease Bay and 11 Dunglass. Few later reports: 7 Dunglass on 13th Apr with last 1 there 5th May; 2 Eyemouth GC 29th Apr. 2 Eyemouth GC 2nd Jun with 1 there 9th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: First 1 N St Abb's Head 23rd Aug with 1N/2S there 24th Aug & 1N on 31st Aug.

1N St Abb's Head 7th Sep with 2S there 8th Sep; 1N/5S St Abb's Head, 3 Pease Bay & 1 Dunglass 13th Sep; 6N St Abb's Head 20th Sep; 4N Eyemouth GC 23rd Sep; 8N/21S there 25th Sep; 1N/1S St Abb's Head 26th Sep with 1N/3S there 30th Sep.

4 Cove 4th Oct; 1N St Abb's Head 5th Oct; 5N/6S St Abb's Head 9th Oct; 3N Eyemouth GC, 3N St Abbs & 2N St Abb's Head 11th Oct; 16N/2S St Abbs & 11N/2S St Abb's Head 12th Oct; 6N/1S St Abb's Head, & 1 Pease Bay 13th Oct; 5 Dunglass 27th Oct.

4N St Abb's Head 2nd Nov; 3 Eyemouth GC 9th Nov; 1 Dunglass 10th Nov; 4S Eyemouth GC 21st Nov; 9N/1S St Abb's Head 30th Nov.

15 Dunglass 7th Dec with 17 there 15th Dec down to 8 by 28th-29th Dec. 2 Cove & 2 Pease Bay 15th Dec; 2S Eyemouth GC 21st Dec; 7 Linkin Shore 29th Dec.

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
2013	19	75	12	8	1	3	0	5	58	66	22	61	330

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Present offshore in very small numbers September to March. Rare in summer months and very rare inland. (24 records in 2013)

Winter: 1 Dunglass 4th-5th Jan & 12th-13th Jan; 1 Souter-Petticowick during Rocky Shore Count on 3rd Feb; 1 Dunglass 17th Feb and later singles 1st Apr, 5th May & 25th May. 1 Eyemouth GC 9th Jun (James Lough).

Autumn/Winter: First 1S St Abb's Head 7th & 8th Sep (Dave Graham); 3S there 24th Sep with 1N Eyemouth GC 25th Sep; 2N St Abb's Head 30th Sep. 1N St Abb's Head on 5th Oct; 1N St Abbs & 1N St Abb's Head on 11th Oct; 2N St Abb's Head & 1N Eyemouth GC 13th Oct. 3 Eyemouth GC 9th Nov with 1 Dunglass 7th and 15th Dec. *A very good year.*

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Present offshore in very small numbers September to March. Rare in summer months and extremely rare inland. (9 records in 2013).

Spring: 1N St Abb's Head 21st Apr & 24th May (Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: 1S Eyemouth GC 23rd Sep (James Lough); 1N St Abb's Head 5th Oct with 1N St Abbs on 11th Oct. 2N St Abb's Head 30th Nov. 1N Dunglass 7th Dec with 1 there 28th-29th Dec.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

70-90 pairs bred in 5% of tetrads 1988-96. 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. (315 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: On the river system birds were recorded on the Tweed at Peebles-Neidpath with 2 on 13th Jan, 3 on 22nd Jan, 4 on 10th Feb & last 1 on 17th Feb; the Tweed Haughs held 12 birds on 13th Jan with 8 there on 10th Feb and 2 by 10th Mar; 4 Tweed at Sprouston 6th Mar. On the Teviot Haughs there were 1 on 14th Jan, with 2 on 10th Feb and 1 on 10th Mar; also 2 Heiton 1st Jan & singles Nisbet & Crailing 24th Feb.

On still-waters in Jan there were 3 Cauldshiels Loch 12th Jan & 3 St Mary's Loch 20th Jan with 2 birds were reported at White Law Loch & Yetholm Marsh with singles at Bemersyde Moss, Folly Loch, Gunknowe Loch, Lindean Reservoir, Loch of the Lowes, Ploughlands Pond & Yetholm Loch.

During Feb there were 5 Wooden Loch 16th Feb & 5 Cauldshiels Loch 28th Feb; with 4 Faldonside Loch on 11th Feb; 3 Yetholm Marsh 18th Feb; with 2 birds Bemersyde Moss and singles Loch of the Lowes & White Law Loch. In Mar birds were recorded on 9 waters with 4 Hirsell Lake & 2 Heatherhope Reservoir.

Breeding: Seen at 51 sites Apr-Aug.

At 12 sites only singles were seen: Branxholme Easter Loch, Cauldshiels Loch, Cowieslinn Quarry Pond, Cruxfield Pond, Effledge Cottage Pond, Haining Loch, Hellmoor Loch, Hoselaw Loch, Hule Moss, Hutlerburn Loch, Ladyrig Pond & Lylestone Pond.

11 pairs at another 10 sites had no further evidence of breeding: Faldonside Loch, Hen Poo (2), Hillhouse Pond, Hirsell Lake, Hollybush Loch, Lindean Reservoir, Millar's Moss, North Esk Reservoir, Ploughlands Pond & White Law Loch. A nest was seen at Newhall Loch.

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 27 broods & 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	Site	single	pairs	broods
Addiston Pond	-	1	br3	Mellerstain Loch	-	2	2br4
Bemersyde Moss	-	2	br2	Minto Kames North Loch	-	1	br2
Borthwickshiels Loch	1	1	br2	Mire Loch	1	1	br3
Causewaybank Pond	-	1	br1	Primrosehill Pond	-	1	br1
Coldingham Loch	-	1	br1	Shielswood Loch	-	1	br1
Commonburn Pond	-	1	br1	Synton Mossend	-	4	br2
Folly Loch	-	2	2br4	Thornielaw Pond	-	1	br2
Green Diamonds	-	1	br1	Tollishill Pond	-	1	br2
Hallmanor Pond	-	1	br1	Whim Pond	-	1	br2
Harelaw Pond	-	1	br1	Whitrig Bog	-	1	br3
Leahead Loch	-	1	br3	Williestruther Loch	-	1	br1
Lilliesleaf Moss	-	1	br1	Wooden Loch	-	1	2br6
Long Moss, Cavers	-	1	br2	Yetholm Loch	1	1	br2
Macbiehill Pond	-	1	br2	Yetholm Marsh	-	1	2br4
				28 sites	3	34	32br60

Another outstanding breeding season, despite no apparent extra recording effort. While the mean brood size at 1.88 was not as high as the 2.22 of 2012, the data for 2013 shows the largest number of sites holding Little Grebe in any year and the largest number of broods reported with the numbers of young noted the same as the previous all-time high year of 2012.

Summary of Little Grebe Breeding Success: 1999-2013

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sites	38	24	19	18	25	29	36	29	41	37	42	33	40	34	51
Singles	11	9	4	5	7	11	11	7	14	12	17	10	13	6	12
Pairs only	46	27	25	21	32	23	39	38	41	34	31	28	42	36	44
Broods	29	20	12	9	21	15	13	22	20	17	18	13	26	27	32
Young	54	39	18	19	52	28	24	48	40	23	35	21	47	60	60
MBS	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	1.88

Autumn/Winter: Sep-Oct post-breeding assemblies had maxima of 16 Folly Loch 20th Sep; 25 Hirsle Lake on 22nd Sep; and 10 Synton Mossend 29th Oct; 3 Tweed at Paxton 10th Nov. Elsewhere the monthly maxima were 8 Mellerstain Lake, Ploughlands Pond & Williestruther Loch with 7 Faldonside Loch.

During Nov-Dec the largest counts were 6 Hirsle Lake 14th Dec; 5 White Law Loch 4th Nov; 4 Folly Loch on 4th Nov; with 2-3 birds Faldonside Loch, Hollybush Loch and Wooden Loch in Dec when many waters froze. Birds were seen on the rivers as follows: on the Tweed at Peebles/Neidpath 2 on 10th Nov with 1 there 15th Dec; Tweed Haughs 4 on 10th Nov with 5 Redden & 2 Lochton 15th Dec; 2 Birgham Haugh 31st Dec; 4 Tweed at Paxton House 30th Nov; 1 Teviot Haughs 11th Nov with 1 on 15th Dec but 5 Teviot at Broom on 14th Nov; also 1 Spittal on Rule 25th Nov.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Extremely scarce breeder, just 0-2 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. (10 records in 2013)

Spring: First report was 1 on Tweed at Paxton House 15th Mar (James Lough) with 2 Haining Loch 18th Mar (Gary Scott). 1 Tweed at Hornecliffe 15th Apr (Tom Brewis).

Breeding: Once again there was practically no evidence of breeding, the only records being a pair on Haining Loch 5th Apr & 2 May with 1 there 8th & 19th May (Gary Scott).

Autumn: 1 Hirsle Lake 22nd Sep (S D Morton) with 1 Wooden Loch 22nd Sep, the last report for the year.

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. (2 records in 2013)

Autumn/Winter: 2N St Abb's Head 7th Sep (Dave Graham); 1 Tweed at Paxton House 29th Nov (James Lough).

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly to coast. Has summered. (8 records in 2013)

1 Pease Bay 5th & 12th Jan and 17th Feb (Dave Graham); 1 Eyemouth Bay 14th Feb (Fran Evans) & 1 Coldingham Bay 24th Feb (Dave Graham). 1 Eyemouth Bay 14th Dec (Fran Evans); 1 Cove 15th Dec (Dave Graham).

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. (83 reports in 2013)



Fulmar - Cove, Jun 2013

Non-breeding: Some 163 were reported on the Rocky Shore Count (216 in 2012, 306 in 2011, 136 in 2010).

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013

Dunglass - Pease Bay	41	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	25
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	22	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	2
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	16	Burnmouth-English border	57

Counts of birds passing Eyemouth: 13 (5hrs) on 25th May; 9 (4hrs) on 6th Jun; 13 (4hrs) on 9th Jun; 14 (4hrs) on 6th Jul; 3 (5hrs) on 15th Jul; 15 (6hrs) on 19th Aug; 51 (1.5hrs) on 26th Aug (James Lough).

Also: 22 Lamberton Beach 5th Sep; 58N/2S St Abb's Head 13th Sep; 10N/4S Eyemouth GC 25th Sep; 14N/2S St Abb's Head 30th Sep; 17N/3S on 12th Oct.

Breeding: Birds occupying cliffs sites were noted as follows:

40 Fort Point, Eyemouth 28th Mar; 112 Lamberton cliffs on 29th Mar; 21 Fancove Head on 31st Mar; 3 Dunglass cliffs 1st Apr; 30 Lamberton 17th Apr; 4 Dunglass 5th May; 18 Cove 17th May; 83 birds at 75 sites Lamberton 12th Jun; 5 Dunglass 21st Jun.

'Inland' - 3 over Coldingham Loch 17th May; 1 Redheugh Farm 4th Oct.

Whole colony count St Abb's Head

A count of apparently occupied sites (AOS ie a site with a bird sitting tightly on a reasonably horizontal area judged large enough to hold an egg) was carried out from land on 6th, 24th, & 25th June. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 19th & 26th June. Results: 104 AOS were counted, a decrease of 22% on to the 2012 count of 133 AOS. The lowest count on record, well below the 10-year mean of 156 AOS and only 40% of the 29-year mean of 257 AOS.

Fulmars at St Abb's Head NNR 1995-2012

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
AOS	277	274	212	256	262	153	158	190	112	137	194	175	205	133	104
MBP	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. (17 records in 2013)

2N St Abb's Head 24th Aug (Fran Evans & Dave Graham); 3N there 31st Aug.

6N Eyemouth 6th Sep with 11N there on 7th Sep when also 11N/1S St Abb's Head. 1N St Abb's Head 8th Sep; 13N/1S St Abbs 10th Sep; 6N Eyemouth 11th Sep; 1 St Abb's Head 13th Sep with 6N there 15th Sep, Then 6N Eyemouth GC 25th Sep; 1N St Abb's Head 29th Sep.

26N St Abbs, 3N St Abb's Head & 7N Eyemouth GC 11th Oct; with last 1N St Abb's Head 13th Oct (Ray Murray). *A better, but not great, year.*

Sooty Shearwater - coastal passage 1999-2013

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number	5	34	623	829	50	51	252	37	282	25	6	295	32	21	105

[Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauritanicus*]

Rare, but possibly overlooked, autumn passage migrant. (1 record in 2013)

1 claimed at Eyemouth GC 6th Sep but no description available (Bird Guides)

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 25N St Abb's Head 10th Jun (Jack Ibbotson) with 67N there 24th May.

Gap then until next 5N there 23rd Jul with 5N/2S on 28th Jul.

35 on sea & 3S Eyemouth GC 7th Aug; 6N St Abb's Head 9th Aug; 81 on sea + 194N/39S St Abb's Head and 17S Coldingham Bay 10th Aug; 105 on sea St Abb's Head with 187N/27S there 11th Aug; 158N/4S there 13th Aug; 10N/27S St Abb's Head 24th Aug; 12 Eyemouth GC & 9 on sea Dunglass 26th Aug; 1S St Abb's Head 31st Aug.

745N St Abb's Head 7th Sep with 17N/4S there 8th Sep; 26N/43S St Abbs 10th Sep; 22N/3S St Abb's Head 14th Sep with 60N there 24th Sep; 37N Eyemouth GC 25th Sep; and small numbers to end of month.

7N/6S St Abb's Head 8th Oct; 14N St Abbs, 10N St Abb's Head & 1N Eyemouth GC 11th Oct with small numbers to 13th Oct.

Last 1N Eyemouth 13th Dec was an unusual winter record.

The best year for some time with as many as the last six years combined !

May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov	
early	late	early	late	early	late	early	late	early	late	early	late	early	late
0	92	0	0	0	12	856	308	921	105	47	0	0	0

Manx Shearwater coastal passage 2000-2013

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number	119	972	712	1549	704	1029	282	490	609	437	582	310	207	2342

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. (79 records in 2013)

4 birds were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb at Petticowick-Coldingham Bay, 5S Eyemouth 11th Feb.

Hourly rate counts: 110/hr Dunglass 28th Apr (JP); 320/hr Eyemouth GC 29th Apr (JDL); 180/hr Dunglass & 118/hr Eyemouth GC 25th May; 100/hr Eyemouth GC 9th Jun; 168/hr Dunglass 21st Jun; 85/hr Eyemouth GC 6th Jul; 192/hr Dunglass 12th Jul; 190/hr Eyemouth GC on 15th Jul; 340/hr Dunglass on 18th Aug; 110/hr Eyemouth GC 19th Aug; 600/hr Dunglass on 8th Sep; 6,600/hr St Abb's Head 13th Sep with 5,980/hr there on 20th Sep (RDM); 540/hr Eyemouth GC 23rd Sep; 6,600/hr there 25th Sep; 4,920/hr St Abb's Head 30th Sep; then just 64/hr Eyemouth GC 6th Dec. (Many of these are short sample counts extrapolated up to 1 hour).

800 feeding off Eyemouth 7th Aug.



Gannet

St Abb's Head, May, 2013

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Scarce breeder at Fast Castle stacks - 30-50 pairs nested annually. Widespread on coast but less common on rivers and large lochs, mostly September-April. (212 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 45 birds were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb.

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013

Dunglass - Pease Bay	12	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	6	Souter-Petticowick	7
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	9	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	1
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	6	Burnmouth-English border	4

Highest inland counts included: 8 Tweed Haughs 3rd Jan with 6 there 10th Feb & 10th Mar; 6 Wooden Loch 10th Mar; otherwise mostly 1-3 birds scattered over the river system.

A number of inland records, 1-2 birds, Apr-Jul from East Loch, Greenlaw, Haining Loch, Hen Poo, Innerleithen, Kalemouth, Milne Graden, Paxton, Sprouston, Upsettlington & Yetholm Loch, max 3 Sprouston 16th May.

Breeding: 17 birds at the Fast Castle Head stacks, breeding confirmed there but no nest count. Breeding was also confirmed, but with no details other than 11 birds, at the stacks west of Petticowick at Moorburn Beach 13th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: Up to 10 birds reported on coast Aug- Oct but no counts of significance. Inland reports in Aug-Oct included 4 Tweed Haughs 22nd Sep with 14 there on 13th Oct; with 7 Sprouston on 22nd Oct & 4 Lees Haugh 29th Oct. with 1-3 birds at Allanton, Darnhall, Edrington Castle, Hendersyde, Synton Mossend & Talla Reservoir

During Nov-Dec there were no count of interest from the coast. Inland records include: 14 Tweed Haughs on 10th Nov with 9 there 15th Dec; 7 Portmore Loch 7th Dec; 1-3 birds were at Broom, Cauldshiels Loch, Edrington Mains, Edrington Castle, Homebank, Paxton House and West Water Reservoir.

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. (102 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 140 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb (125 in 2012, 135 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013

Dunglass - Pease Bay	21	Pease Bay-Redheugh	5
Redheugh-Souter	5	Souter-Petticowick	27
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	45	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	14
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	22	Burnmouth-English border	1

Few other significant counts but 122 feeding offshore at St Abb's Head on 6th Jan with 34 there 17th Feb.

Breeding: Whole Colony Count St Abb's Head

A count of apparently occupied nests (AON ie. a well built nest capable of holding eggs with at least one bird in attendance) was carried out on 4th, 5th & 6th June. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 7th June.

Results 94 AON were counted, a decrease of 45% on the 2012 count of 171 AONs. The lowest count on record, only 57% of the 10-year mean of 165 AON, and just 38% of the 29-year mean of 244 AONs. This is not wholly surprising following the wreck of shags which occurred along the North Sea coast in February 2013.

St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2013

Nests also seen at Fast Castle Head and off Coldingham Loch.

Autumn/Winter: Counts of passing birds include: 10/hr off Eyemouth GC 29th Apr; 8/hr there 25th May; 12/hr on 9th Jun; 9/hr there 6th Jul; 30/hr on 26th Aug; 8/hr on 23rd Sep. Also 26N/1S (2hrs) St Abb's Head 30th Sep. A few counts were submitted Sep-Dec: max 95 Dunglass 15th Dec and 55 Eyemouth GC 6th Dec.

Breeding Numbers & breeding success (MBP) at St Abb's Head NNR 1999-2013

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Mean
Nests	165	233	300	296	365	369	131	162	132	131	138	157	160	171	94	200
MBP	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	0.99	1.22

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A rare but increasingly common vagrant to Scotland. Records may peak in late summer as English colonies disperse. (4 records in 2013)

1N Dunglass 13th Aug (Dave Graham); 1 Newmains on 28th Nov (Dave Graham); 1 Tweed at Redden 15th Dec (David Parkinson & Malcolm Henderson); 1 Tweed at Paxton House (Ron McBeath) 27th Dec.

1st-4th records for Borders. A long overdue influx of records. Considering that up to 12 birds habituated the Tweed Estuary and that 5-10 birds occurred up the coast at Tynningame & Aberlady in summer, the number recorded in Borders does not seem to reflect these totals.



Little Egret

- Redden, Dec 2013

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. (406 records in 2013)

Colony	Site	Nests	Observer
Edington Mains	NT8855	7 used nests	RMcB
Plora East	NT3636	3 used nests	RDM
Whitelee	NT6530	1 active nest	TC

Breeding: BTO Heronries Census – minimum of 11 nests at 3 colonies

Non-breeding: 5 found on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb: 4 Dunglass-Pease Bay & 1 Burnmouth-border. 11 Tweed Haughs on 13th Jan with 11 there 10th Feb & 4 on 10th Mar. No other double-figure counts: 9 at Tweedbank on 1st Jan & 7 Heiton Mains 1st & 31st Mar being the best of the rest.

During Aug-Dec the largest counts were: 6 Tweed Haughs 22nd Sep with 6 there 11th Oct & 16 on 10th Nov with 8 on 15th Dec; 7 Lauder 24th Sep; 5 Hirsell Lake on 22nd Sep and 1-4 birds at 54 other sites.

Numbers are evidently depressed still, a legacy of the double hard winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11 and poor breeding seasons thereafter. Many colonies seem to have been abandoned and replacements have not yet been discovered.



Grey Heron - Sprouston, May 2005

Spoonbill *Platalea leucordia*

Rare vagrant. No previous records. (1 record in 2013)

1N St Abb's Head 11th Jun (Jack Ibbotson). *First record for Borders.*

Honey Buzzard *Pernis avipora*

Very uncommon spring and autumn migrant. 13 modern records. (1 record in 2013)

1 Duns-Greenlaw-Westruther area 4th Jun (David Graham).

As there is an outside chance of breeding in the area, the precise location of this record will be withheld.

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. (7 records in 2013).

1N St Abb's Head 15th Apr (Jack Ibbotson); 1 Birgham on 18th Jun; 1 Swinnie 13th Jun; 1 Tushielaw 1st Jul (Gary Scott); 1 Muckle Knock 21st Jul (Harry Dott); 1 Folly Loch 28th Jul (Andrew Bramhall); and 1 Dunglass 18th Aug (John Palfrey).

Not quite as good as 2012 but the expansion of the neighbouring populations probably guarantee the presence of this species annually from now on.



Red Kite Swinnie, June 2013

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 was the first in the modern 're-introduction' era. (1 record in 2013)

1 imm/sub-ad Grieston Hill, Innerleithen 10th Mar (Harry Dott).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Increasingly and now annual passage migrant, usually April-May & August-September. May have summered in recent years. (7 records in 2013)

1m Newmains 25th Mar (Dave Graham); 1m Bemersyde Moss 1st May (Andy Fitchett), presumably same bird as that seen by Tweed at Newtown St Boswells 2nd May (Chris Spray); 1f Newmains 7th May (Dave Graham); 1f Bemersyde Moss 7th-8th Jun (James Lough).

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. (16 records submitted in 2013)

Winter-Spring: At a roost site in the northern hills, that has held up to 3 birds in previous winters, there were 2+ birds on 2nd Feb but otherwise only singles on 5 dates Jan-Mar, out of 15 visits. Otherwise there were no other birds reported until 1 Abbey St Bathans 22nd

Breeding:

Sites/Territories Checked	Sites/Territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	young fledged per successful pair
5 ⁽¹⁾	3	3	6	2.0	3.0

⁽¹⁾ It should be noted that any sightings of harriers were quickly followed up.

Although a cold start made for an unusually late season, the weather this summer was the best for some years, which must have aided breeding birds. The numbers of Harriers around early season were very low, perhaps nine birds at best, with almost nothing from the Moorfoots, Pentlands and Lammermuirs. Three pairs of Harriers attempted to breed in 2013, one at a new site. One clutch of five eggs was predated by a fox, but the other two pairs managed to rear three young each. 17 eggs were laid in total. Unconcealed cameras were placed at one site to gain information about both provisioning rates and possible predation. At this site, a new camera was stolen barely an hour after being set up. Given the remote location of the site, I find it hard to believe that a member of the public was responsible.

Pentland Hills One sighting in May 2013, then nothing.

Lammermuir Hills There were two early sightings; a male, and a female in Berwickshire, then nothing.

Moorfoot Hills A female was reported by an RSG member and followed up the next day, but it had already 'disappeared'.

Many, many Harriers have 'disappeared' on shooting estates in the Moorfoots over the years.

Tweedsmuir Hills One new site and two existing sites and were occupied, one very close to a track. A clutch of seven eggs at one site on the 26th May was the largest this reporter has ever seen. Sadly only three chicks were in the nest by 16th June. This reduction was probably natural. Also of interest were the interactions between one pair of Harriers and a pair of Merlin; the latter succeeded in raising at least two young barely 150 metres from the Harrier nest!

South-East There were no sightings at all in the whole of the SE area; scandalous considering the habitat. Just outside our area, two pairs of Harriers raised four young at Langholm. These are being satellite tracked. Details on the Langholm website.

The desperately low numbers, and various other incidents that occurred during the season suggest that the much needed change of attitude amongst 'sporting' landowners is still some way off. Only when this change occurs will we see numbers of Harriers increase.

Roosts Some monitoring of Harrier roosts was undertaken between Oct 2012 and Mar 2013, revealing 3 roost sites with tiny numbers of Harriers attending. Work will continue over the coming winter to update this picture.

Sincere thanks to Helen Riley in particular, and all those who contributed information, no matter how small.

Andrew Sandeman, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2013.

Year	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
2013	3	3	2	6

Autumn-winter: Singles on 4 dates Hule Moss 27th Jul-4th Sep; 1 W Moorfoots 21st Sep, the last report for the year.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Very scarce and local resident found in 3% of tetrads with probably 40-50 pairs present. Some dispersal in August-September. Absent in some areas due to persecution (49 records in 2013).

13 casual reports in 2013 (21 last year), but mostly from the vicinity of known breeding areas.

Usual string of sightings of 1-3 birds, often displaying, from Thornylee Car Park in Jan-Feb.

Few records in later year that were not away from vicinity of a nest-site.

Breeding:

As usual persecution was evident while monitoring Goshawk nest sites this year. This is not occurring at Forestry Commission or other commercial forestry nest sites. But it is quite evident in privately owned sites, particularly areas which are managed for game shooting. At one such site we recovered the remains of a Goshawk. This was a female bird in her prime; we had rung her as a chick in 2005. The few remains recovered were insufficient to establish a cause of death.

At another site timber felling had to be stopped when the timber harvesting machine was found to be operating within 50 metres of the Goshawk nest. The harvester contractors were very cooperative and moved away from the site. They were not aware of the nest. An environmental assessment had been carried out by the woodland owners before any harvesting work had begun. They claimed that they had not been aware of the nest. Had we not visited the site when we did, then the nest would have been destroyed. The birds went on to fledge 3 chicks.

All chicks this year were rung and fitted with Darvics. This is the second year we have fitted Darvics. At two of this years nest sites we identified the adult females as one year old birds and as such they could have had Darvics. We used 'Stealth' cameras at both these sites only to establish from the photos that neither bird had been rung or had Darvics fitted. These cameras will no doubt allow us to identify nesting birds in the future.

A long cold spring in 2013 resulted in several early nesting attempts failing. This was noticeable during early site visits to confirm occupancy. Follow up visits later showed that several of these sites had been deserted. These desertions appear to have been at the nest building stage or the early stages of egg laying and incubation. Those birds that did go on to incubate and were subsequently successful were found to be about 2 weeks later than in previous years.

Several nest sites were not checked this year, particularly on private woodlands. This was due to lack of time. Any future help would be appreciated. One new nest site was found in a small wood near Jedburgh. This wood had been checked regularly in the past so we are quite confident that this was the first nesting attempt in this wood.

Broods From the 22 nesting attempts we had an average brood size of 2.05 (1.42 last year). From the 18 successful sites we had an average brood size of 2.50 (2.00 last year). This compares with 1.42 and 2.00 last year, but we must remember last year's results were poor due to the adverse weather. This year's results are around average. 45 chicks are thought to have fledged this year, and of these only 2 were not rung. All rung chicks were fitted with Darvics. My thanks go to Joris Driessen, Dave Anderson and Tony Lightley for providing records. Tony has obviously put a lot of hard work into monitoring his nest sites. I must also thank Tim Chamberlain who has helped me with all the climbing at the nest sites I monitored.

Malcolm Henderson, Goshawk co-ordinator for Lothian & Borders, 2013 Raptor Study Group Report.

Goshawk Breeding Status

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Home ranges checked	56	57	53	57	59	59	50	54	56	61	46
Occupied territories	40	40	41	39	40	36	38	39	41	41	35
Territories with no pair	12	12	13	13	9	11	12	-	-	20	11
Territory occupied, no nest found	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	11	9	10	13
Territory occupied, nest found	28	28	28	25	31	25	24	28	32	31	22
Nests failed before egg stage	2	2	4	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2
Nests failed during egg stage	2	3	5	2	3	4	1	4	6	4	2
Nests failed with chicks	1	1	0	0	0	1	11	0	2	5	0
Successful nests	23	22	19	23	27	20	21	23	24	22	18
Young fledged	-	-	-	49	65	50	52	47	64	44	45
Mean brood size	2.12	1.78	1.93	2.13	2.07	2.00	2.17	2.04	2.01	1.42	1.29
Mean successful brood	2.62	2.29	2.62	2.33	2.42	2.50	2.47	2.47	2.68	2.00	2.50

The apparent stagnation of Goshawk numbers over the years may more reflect the ability of a limited number of enthusiasts to cover known sites, rather than a failure of the population to grow (allied with persecution).

New volunteers to help monitor nests would be welcome.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Common & abundant, found in 30% of tetrads. Some autumn passage. (276 records in 2013)

Submitted records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
No. of records:	36	31	13	23	31	26	12	26	19	29	15	15
No. of birds:	37	32	13	24	31	26	12	27	21	30	15	15

80 reports from 55 tetrads Jan-Mar (79 in 45 in 2012), 92 reports from 68 tetrads Apr-Jul (87 in 68 in 2012) & 104 reports from 54 tetrads Aug-Dec (87 in 56 in 2012).

No great change in numbers reported, despite most atlasing activities having ceased.

An occupied nest was seen at Highlee Hill. Adults carrying for young were seen at Baldhill. Juvs were seen at Paxton, Greenlaw Farm. Used nests were found at Cloich, Glentress Forest, Fogo, Neidpath, Nether Tofts and Watch Knowe.

No monitoring occurred in Borders in 2013, the RSG activity concentrating on the revival of the Edinburgh Sparrowhawk Monitoring Programme. However as a n indication of trends that may affect Borders populations, productivity in Edinburgh, at 3.6 fledgling per successful nest (3.6 in 2012) was the highest recorded since the programme was revived in 2009.

Four breeding sites were reported this year, all of which successfully produced young.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Common breeding species recorded in 23% of tetrads, Minimum 1,000 pairs, perhaps twice that. Most records Feb-Apr & Sep. (1,054 records in 2013)

Submitted records: Numbers boosted during atlasing months.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
No. of records:	63	126	74	78	155	170	127	42	65	68	46	39
No. of birds:	94	208	131	114	250	247	195	59	98	109	64	58
ratio	1.49	1.66	1.77	1.46	1.61	1.45	1.54	1.42	1.51	1.60	1.51	1.49



Buzzard *Ettrick, Jun 2013*

The best counts were: 8 Tollishill and 8 Hillhouse 21st Jul; 7 at Darnhall on 2nd Jun; with 6 birds Calaburn, Heiton, Lees Hill & Yetholm Loch; and with 5 birds at 12 other sites.

Breeding:

Occupied nests were reported from 22 tetrads with fledged young from another 22 tetrads. The first fledged young were seen at Note o'the Gate on 11th Jun & at Greenside, Harpertoun & Thorniecleugh 24th Jun.

2013 Data is showing little difference in productivity on the 2012 season, though this is based on a reduced data set with data from 61 sites. For some sites, information was not available on confirmed fledging. This is a reflection of a limited number of fieldworkers who are already working on many other species. The early nesting season was affected by snowfall and cold con-

ditions which impacted on some nest sites. Productivity of 1.48 young per territorial pair is up from 1.43 in 2012 and 2.02 young per productive pair which is down on last year's figures of 2.17. Of 98 known sites, 61 sites were checked and 58 occupied; 56 by pairs and two by single birds. Young hatched at a minimum of 52 sites and fledged at 41 of those.

George Smith, Buzzard Coordinator for Lothian & Borders, 2013 Raptor Study Group Report.

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<i>Sites checked</i>	62	45	51	50	35	54	64	61
<i>Occupied by pairs</i>	61	43	50	49	35	46	61	58
<i>Min Sites laid</i>	57	38	48	45	31	41	55	55
<i>Min young fledged</i>	102+	82+	90+	74+	63+	88+	89+	83+
<i>Production young/territorial pair</i>	1.67	1.90	1.8	1.5	1.80	1.91	1.46	1.48
<i>Production young/successful pair</i>	2.08	2.15	2.19	1.85	2.25	2.25	2.17	2.02

Golden Eagle *Aquila chysaetos*

Rare breeder (<2 pairs) with a handful of reports of wandering immatures annually. (2 records in 2013)

1-2 birds seen on two occasions in the general vicinity of the nest site in Sep & Dec (Reuben Singleton).

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

Breeding: *The signs for 2014 look more promising as 3 year-old Roxy laid 2 eggs this season which were later analysed but found to be infertile. A new nest was built but the old nest sites were used regularly for plucking prey items as well as roosting. Whilst it was good news as far as a breeding attempt is concerned it also shows that there is a lack of competition with more mature birds for this site which is rich in both prey items and nesting habitat.*

Roxy is fitted with a transmitter and from the data given we were able to be within 20m of the nest site from the GPS coordinates alone which shows the value of utilising the transmitter information for both home ranges, habitat usage and nest/roost locations. The roost locations also assist in the finding of moulted feathers for DNA analysis.

An unusual adornment in the nest was a deflated silver coloured hydrogen balloon gathered as part of the nest cup material.

Whilst things are looking up for next season in general there is still a lack of young birds visiting the vacant home ranges.

Roxy has the smallest range of any of the tagged eagles (675 square km) probably due to lack of mature adult competition.

During the breeding season the range is reduced to less than 14 square km.

It is essential that the site remains undisturbed during the breeding season to ensure the best possible chance of a successful outcome in 2014.

Tony Lightley, South-east Scotland 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. (47 records in 2013)

First returned to the Glentress/Kailzie camera nest on 7th Mar; then 1 Hen Poo & Clovenfords 30th Mar; 1 Portmore Loch 5th Apr; 1 Megget Reservoir 12th Apr; 1 Tweed at Melrose 13th Apr; 1N St Abb's Head 15th Apr.

In autumn records from North Esk Reservoir, Fruid Reservoir, Whitrig Bog, with last reports from Bemersyde Moss on 31st Aug & 7th Sep (James Lough).

Breeding: Productivity of 18 fledged chicks this year is the second highest recorded number with 22 chicks fledging in 2009 and again 18 fledging in 2008. The past three seasons represents just under 50% of all chicks fledged from the project area in the past 10 years. The Osprey population in the Scottish Borders has been slowly expanding from the core area of the Tweed Valley to the East, West and South largely due to the erection of artificial platforms with 4 pairs currently nesting on natural nest sites and the others on man-made platforms. All nest sites are associated closely with the river Tweed and associated main tributaries feeding into this water system and nearby major water bodies holding fish stocks.

Camera Main Nest Site: After a long cold spring both birds arrived back at the nest site on March 29th. This is the tenth consecutive year the pair have occupied the main camera nest site. The male is now 14 years old and was rung at Aberfoyle in 1999 with a white darvic ring SS. They have now fledged 26 chicks in the ten year period averaging 2.6 chicks per year. The 1st egg of a clutch of 3 was laid on April 11/12th. After incubation period of 37/38 days the first chick hatched on May 16th and a further two hatched by the 21st. The chicks were rung June 27th and the first recorded flight by the chicks, approximately 57 days after the first chick had hatched, was on July 12th when all three took to the air at different times on the same day. The chicks were last recorded at the nest site on August 23rd 42 days after their maiden flight.

Overall, productivity of 12 fledged chicks this year is the lowest recorded number since 2007 with only 9 fledging that season. The average number of chicks fledging from the project area over the past 5 year period is now 18.8 compared with the previous 5 years when the average was only 8.4.

Three sites were reported to the Police Wildlife Officer this season linked to disturbance although difficult to prove.

Two sites failed at late incubation stage, the first due to canoeists, campers and fisherman using an island designated as a nature reserve on a private fishing loch. The second was a persistent individual coming away from the nest area who has been asked to keep away in the past. The third site failed with small chicks during a wet spell and Enduro motor cyclists were caught riding their machines within 5 metres of the nest tree and kept the birds off the nest site on more than one occasion.

We will be working closely with the fishery manager/locals and the Police next season to prevent further disturbance to these sites.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the nest camera linked to the Tweed Valley Osprey Project a project was funded by Awards 4 All and set up with the local pupils of St Ronan's primary school who are in class P4/5 many of whom are 10 years old who contributed to the book. 10,000 copies of the anniversary book are to be printed and distributed.

The 3 chicks were fitted with Blue darvic rings with white alpha numeric letters to coincide with the class, CL4, CL5 and CL6. Both live and recorded footage of two pairs of birds on their nest sites can be viewed via the Tweed Valley Osprey Project at Glentress visitor centre (Forestry Commission Scotland) and Kailzie Garden visitor centres with the project supported by Forestry Commission Scotland and SNH.

Thanks to all who assisted

Tony Lightley, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13
Occupied sites	3	3	6	4	5	6	8	8	9	16	13	13	14
Breeding attempts	2	3	2	4	5	6	8	8	9	10	10	11	12
Successful sites	1	1	2	3	5	5	3	8	9	9	8	7	9
Young fledged	1	3	6	8	10	10	7	18	22	18	20	16	12
Average brood size	1.0	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.0	2.0	2.33	2.25	2.44	1.80	2.00	1.45	1.00
Mean productivity/attempt	0.5	1.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.15	2.25	2.44	2.00	2.50	2.29	2.00

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce & secretive resident of basin mires. Survey in 1999-2000 suggests around 150 pairs probably present but possibly twice that. Scarce passage migrant April & September-November. (30 records in 2013).

Winter/Spring: Just a single Jan-Mar record: 1 Bemersyde Moss 16th Mar.

Breeding: Reduced effort in 2013, so reduction in number of reports.

Recorded 10 sites with 22 territories, 27 pairs and 8 singles. Most tape-luring by Ray Murray unless stated otherwise.

Water Rails respond readily to tape-lured, pairs will duet in response to recordings.

Adderstonelees Moss: just a single 4th May but site not fully surveyed.

Bemersyde Moss: singles there 7 Jun, 28th & 31st Aug (Malcolm Lindsay, James Lough, Andrew Bramhall).

Buckstruther Moss: 3 there 4th May, another 2 there 11th Jun, 3 territories in total.

Easter Housebyres Moss: 2 there 20th May (Andrew Bramhall).

Essenside Moss: pr and a single there 17th Jul.

Hellmoor Loch: 1 there 8th Jun. *A new site.*

Mire Loch: 1 caught on a camera trap 20th Aug (Jack Ibbotson).

Old Cambus Pond: pr and a single there 22nd Aug.

St Leonard's Moss: 20 birds in 10 territories 4th May.

Tandlaw Moss: 1 there 8th Jun.

No response at Minto Kames North Loch.

Autumn/Winter: First migrant at Mire Loch 6th Oct with a single there 12th Oct with 1-2 there 8 dates into Dec.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Once common summer migrant and breeder but now extremely rare. Disappeared as a breeding birds in 1960s. Now a very rare migrant.

1 St Abb's Head 19th May (Dave Graham).

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. (477 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Recorded from 30 tetrads Jan-Mar. Mostly 1-3 birds but 11 Hen Poo 21st Mar; 8 Paxton House 5th Feb; 7 Tweedbank 1st Jan; 7 Tweed Haughs 10th Feb; 6 gala Sewage Works 15th Feb; 6 Yetholm Loch on 17th Mar; and 4-5 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Crailinghall, Darnhall and Haining Loch.

Breeding: Evidence of confirmed breeding from the following 26 sites.

Site	pairs	brood
Bemersyde Moss	3	br3
Branxholme Easter Loch	1	br1
Coldingham Loch	1	br1
Commonside Pond	1	br1
Dalcove Hall Pond	1	br3
Eyemouth GC Pond	1	2br3
Gunknowe Loch	1	br2
Harcus Pond	1	2br7
Hen Poo	4	3br7
Hirsel Lake	3	br1
Lilliesleaf Moss	1	br1
Lionhead Moss	1	br3
Long Moss	1	br1
Millar's Moss	1	br1
Minto Kames North Loch	1	br3
Ploughlands Pond	2	br1
Pot Loch	2	2br4
Primrosehill Pond	1	br1
Shielswood Loch	1	br1
Stantling Craig Reservoir	1	2br7
Synton Mossend	1	br4
Whitmuirhall Loch	1	br2
Willistruther Loch	1	br2
Wooden Loch	1	br2
Yetholm Loch	2	br2
Yetholm Marsh	1	br2
26 sites	36	33br64



Moorhen - Bemersyde, Apr 2010

Singles were seen in suitable habitat at 27 sites: Adderstonelees Moss, Alemoor Wester Loch, Bowmont Water at Woodside, Carfrae Pond, Cauldshiels Loch, Crumrig Pond, Folly Loch, Foresthill Pond, Harpertoun Pond, Kennetsideheads Pond, Ladyrig Pond, Lindean Mast Pool, Linthill Pond, Lochurd Pond, Newhall Loch, Macbiehill Pond, Roxburgh Moor Pond, Standhill Pond, Teviot at Denholm, Heiton Mill, Ormiston & Roxburgh Mains; Tollishill Pond, Tweed at Fireburnmill, Whitrig Pond, Wiltonburn Pond & Winningtonrig.

22 pairs, with no further evidence of breeding, were seen at 18 sites: Bassendean Pond, Buckstruther Moss, Bowmont Forest Pond (2), Causewaybank Pond (2), Craggs Pond, Easter Housebyres Pond (2), Easter Softlaw Pond, Gala Sewage Works Pond (2), Gordon CW Pond, Haining Loch, Hellmoor Loch, Hillhouse Pond, Lindean Reservoir, Mire Loch, Rink Pond, Rumbletonlaw Pond, Smailholm Tower Pond, St Leonard's Moss (2),

Breeding occurred at another 29 sites with 39 pairs.

Only nests were reported at Bowdenmoor Reservoir, Hollybush Loch (2) & Selkirk GC Moss with the table showing 33 broods with 64 young, a MBS of 1.93. Small young were still evident on Hirsell Lake on 24th Sep.

Autumn/Winter: High counts in Sep-Oct include: 6 Whitmuirhall Loch 13th Oct; 5 Bowdenmoor Reservoir 22nd Sep; Hen Poo, Ploughlands Pond & Wooden Loch 22nd Sep with 3-4 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Cherrytrees Pond, Duns Mill Dam, Hirsell Lake, Millar's Moss, Mire Loch and Redheugh Farm Pond.

During Nov-Dec were found in 24 tetrads. Best counts were: 7 Hen Poo 10th Nov with 5 Mire Loch 15th Dec and 3-4 birds Bemersyde Moss, Cherytrees Pond, Hirsell Lake, Millar's Moss, Ploughlands Pond, Tweed Haughs, Tweed at Paxton House, Tweedbank & Wooden Loch.

Summary of Moorhen Breeding Success 2000-2013

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sites	49	34	65	77	99	64	55	87	104	93	60	73	70	74
Pairs	74	43	54	52	69	58	38	83	94	71	50	67	43	61
Broods	40	33	24	44	35	27	26	47	43	42	17	39	34+	33
Young	86	66	44	75	73	58	56	95	81	93	43	60	62	64
MBS	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	1.9

Coot *Fulica atra*

Common resident of still waters and recently slow-moving river margins. c. 400 pairs found in 13% of tetrads in 1988-94. Some flocking in winter, peak counts December. (399 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Found in 25 tetrads Jan-Mar.

In Jan max 41 Yetholm Loch 28th Jan, the only site with a double-figure count; also 5-9 birds also at Hollybush Loch, Gunknowe Loch, Hen Poo, Millar's Moss, Mire Loch, Whitmuirhall Loch & Yetholm Marsh. In Feb one more Yetholm Loch could only claim double-figures with max 24 on 7th Feb; also 5-9 birds also at Alemoor Wester Loch, Barns Loch, Gunknowe Loch, Hen Poo, Hollybush Loch, Whitmuirhall Loch & Yetholm Marsh. In Mar 20 Whitmuirhall Loch 10th Mar; 19 Yetholm Loch 13th Mar; 12 Hen Poo 21st Mar; with 5-9 birds also at Gunknowe Loch, Hollybush Loch & Millar's Moss.



Coot - Hirsell Lake, Apr 2013

Breeding: Birds at found at 39 sites Mar-Aug.

Site	pairs	broods	Site	pairs	broods
Alemoor Wester Loch	3	2br6	Hollybush Loch	3	br3
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	2	2br12	Millar's Moss	9	4br12
Dalcove Hall Pond	1	br3	Mire Loch	3	2br8
Coldingham Loch	3	br4	Ploughlands Pond	1	br1
Folly Loch	3	2br5	Whitmuirhall Loch	6	br1
Gunknowe Loch	2	3br5	Yetholm Loch	4	br3
Hen Poo	5	2br4			

Only single birds were seen at 11 sites: Broadhaugh Pond, Cauldshiels Loch, Faldonside Loch, Ladyrig Pond, Lumsdaine Loch, Newhall Pond, Pot Loch, Selkirk Race Course Moss, Tollishill Pond, Whitrig Pond & Winningtonrig.

12 pairs, with no further indication of breeding success were seen at 10 sites: Cammerlaws Pond, Dowlaw Dam (2), Easter Housebyres Pond, Gunknowe Loch (3), Haining Loch, Lindean Reservoir, Pickmaw Moss, Primrosehill Pond, Synton Mossend & Yetholm Marsh.

Five sites with 14 pairs at Barnes Loch (2), Bemersyde Moss (3), Hirsell Lake (6), Long Moss (Coldingham) and Wiltonburn Loch (2) had nests whose fate is not known. Another 13 sites, held a minimum of 46 pairs, produced at least 23 broods holding 69 young of all ages, an MBS of 3.00.

The first nest was seen at Gunknowe Loch on 1st Apr, the first young were seen at Gunknowe Loch on 3rd May and Millar's Moss on 29th May.

Autumn/Winter: Found in just 19 tetrads Sep-Dec.

In Sep-Oct the largest counts were: 25 Hirsell Lake 22nd Sep; 20 Millar's Moss 22nd Sep; 13 Hen Poo 20th Sep but no other double-figure counts. 5-9 birds also at Bowdenmoor Reservoir, Gunknowe Loch, Mire Loch, Whitmuirhall Loch & Yetholm Loch.

Found in just 14 tetrads Nov-Dec with the largest counts being: 21 Hirsell Lake 10th Dec with 12 Whitmuirhall Loch 10th Dec, the only sites with double-figure counts. Overwintering totals seem very poor this winter and whereas Yetholm Loch cornered all the Coot in 2012/13, the Hirsell lake seems to have done the same in 2013/14. 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 2000-2013

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sites	30	26	27	26	44	44	28	48	32	40	24	41	43	39
Pairs	100	119	70	86	92	82	75	75	58	62	43	74	77	72
Broods	41	18	16	16	20	20	22	17	19	20	19	39	30	23
Young	95	44	31	29	50	48	50	39	43	61	36	110	80	69
MBS	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	3.00

Maximum autumn/winter counts in Borders - 2000-2013

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
266	201	94	80	32	42	27	22	31	31	22	37	122	25

Crane *Grus grus*

Rare spring and autumn vagrant. (1 record in 2013).

1 over St Abb's Head 13th Apr (Liza Cole) was probably the same birds as seen over Aberlady Bay an hour earlier.

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. (518 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 204 birds were counted during the Rocky Shore Count on the Berwickshire coast on 3rd Feb (217 in 2012).

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013

Dunglass - Pease Bay	56	Pease Bay-Redheugh	47
Redheugh-Souter	17	Souter-Petticowick	1
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	6	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	18
Eymouth-Burnmouth	4	Burnmouth-English border	55

Other coastal counts include: 64 Eyemouth GC 4th Jan; 43 Lamberton Beach 25th Jan; 79 Eyemouth 13th Jan down to 29 on 9th Mar; 30 Lamberton Beach 30th Mar; 43 Eyemouth GC 26th Apr; 33 Dunglass & 20 Pease Bay 5th May.

Just two inland records in Jan: 4 Tweed at Norham 9th Jan & 2 Kelso 29th Jan. Only a trickle in early Feb with first singles Innerleithen & Selkirk 2nd Feb; 1 Melrose 7th Feb; 3 Kelso 8th Feb. 56 Tweed Haughs 10th Feb is first large count but still first Cardrona & Galashiels 15th Feb. 16 Floors 16th Feb; first Leadburn & Kippit on 17th Feb; the more widespread on 18th-19th Feb with 1-3 birds at Addiston, Attonburn, Eddleston, East Reston, Newmains, Manderston, Nisbet and Sunderland. Numbers started to build to the end of the month with 56 Teviot Haugh 20th Feb with 75 Nisbet 24th Feb; 14 Bowerhope, 18 Dryhope & 15 Loch of the Lowes 27th Feb.

By early Mar birds commonplace and pushing into the hills with 102 Stantling Craig Reservoir & 54 Tweed Haughs 10th Mar; but just a few large flocks into Mar as birds dispersed to territories, the largest counts being 26 Edrington Castle 23rd Mar, 40 Millennium Farm 27th Mar & 31 Mendickfoot 30th Mar.

Large Apr counts: 67 Mossfennan Haugh 3rd Apr; 50 Tollishill 21st Apr.

Breeding: Reported Apr-Jul from 195 tetrads (199 in 2012). Breeding season apparently delayed.

10 pairs Watch Water Reservoir; 6 pairs Newbigging Walls & Woodend; 5 pairs Branxholme Bridgend, Hutlerburn Hill & Riccarton Mill; 4 pairs New Belses & Winkston; and 3 pairs Broadhaugh, Cadam Law, Fireburnmill, Hallmanor, Kirkhope, Lochurd, Longcroft Hill, Mossfennan Haughs, New Channelkirk, Tollishill & Williestruther Loch.

The first apparently incubating birds were at Hollybush Loch 30th Apr and on a Tweedbank roof on 3rd May. Nests & incubating birds were seen in 25 tetrads. Distraction display was seen at Headshaw Hill on 21st May & Bermuda on 1st Jun with the first young were seen at Dryburgh on 27th May and Homebank on 2nd Jun. Juvs were seen in a total of 8 tetrads.

Usual roof-nesting pair at Winkston railway shed and on the Tweedbank Industrial Estate.

Autumn/Winter: The only apparent post-breeding flocks was 25 Stantling Craig Reservoir on 16th Jul, which suggests a poor breeding season. Inland reports after late Jul: 4 Stantling Craig Reservoir 8th Aug; 3 Cammerlaws Pond 22nd Aug; 1 Tweedbank 23rd Aug; 2 Stantling Craig 24th Aug; and 1 over Nether Falla 25th Aug. Then singles Stantling Craig Reservoir 22nd Sep; Greenlaw Pond 24th Sep; Easter Place 9th Oct; with 2 Tweedbank 11th Nov and 1 there 12th Dec. when 1 also at Stantling Craig. 3 Birgham Haugh 31st Dec.

On coast: still flocks in Jun with 18 Siccar Point 17th Jun & 38 Dunglass 21st Jun. Then 26 Dunglass 28th Aug; 39 Lamberton Beach 5th Sep; 26 Dunglass 8th Sep; 39 Eyemouth GC & 20 St Abb's Head 6th Oct; 41 Eyemouth 26th Oct; 45 Lamberton Beach & 15 Fancove Head 19th Nov; 51 Burnmouth 29th Nov; 53 Lamberton Beach 3rd Dec; and 36 Burnmouth 28th Dec.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Rare summer visitor and breeder. (no records in 2012)

1 Tweed Haughs 29th Apr (Bill Meikle) was the only report.

Again there is no reason to believe birds have vanished, simply that no-one bothered to look for them. So 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. (13 records in 2013)

Coast: 2 Dunglass 30th Mar (Dave Graham) with 2 there 15th & 21st Jun (John Palfrey). On the latter date the pair were seen displaying and copulating. 4 Eyemouth Bay 4th Sep (Allan Finlayson). 2 Dunglass 10th Nov, with 2 there 7th Dec (John Palfrey & Dave Graham).

Inland: 2 Tweed at Redden Haugh, apparently on a nest (Ray Murray). 2prs Earlyvale Sandpit with br2, including the pale female of previous years (Ray Murray). 2 Hule Moss 27th Jul (James Lough). Single Greenlaw Pond, Foulden 30th Aug & 2nd-3rd Sep (David Christie). 1S Nether Falla 14th Sep (Tom Dougall).



Ringed Plover - Redden Haugh, May 2013



Ringed Plover - pale bird Earlyvale Sandpit, Jun 2013

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

An extremely scarce passage migrant and very rare breeder to the high tops of the Tweedsmuir Hills. (2 record in 2013)

1 Heart Law, Lammermuirs 8th May (Allan Wood) and 1 Greyhound Law, Cheviots 20th May (F Luther).

Passage birds in unexpected locations, one only seen due to windfarm survey work. Unless someone happens to be in a location at the key time of the year there will be few records of this transient passage migrant.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Scarce visitor to high ground March-July, breeding in 16% of tetrads in 1988-94. Formerly possibly 400-500prs. Uncommon on lower ground January-April & August-December. (90 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: No Jan records, repeating situation in Jan 2011.

First 1 Dollar Law 1st Feb (Graham Pyatt); 60 Lauder Common 15th Feb; and then series of records on hill-fringe staging areas: 5 Edgarhope Law 20th Feb; 11 Bedshiel Kaims 24th Feb. Then 30 Bedshiel 2nd Mar; 34 Angelrow 11th Mar; 12 Greenlawdean, 4 Kettlehill, 2 Halliburton & 1 Dogden Moss 14th Mar; 40 Angelrow 18th Mar; 13 Heiton Mains & 4 Waddelscairn Moor 31st Mar.

The paucity of early-mid Apr records suggests a clear-out with just 4 Bemersyde Moss 3rd Apr; 1 Whitrig Bog 6th Apr; 1 Hule Moss 12th Apr; 1 West Linton 22nd Apr. The late season is emphasised by lateness of pre-breeding assemblies; 69 Angelrow 24th Apr with 136 there 25th Apr, 147 on 26th Apr but down to 26 on 30th Apr before a final 120 on 5th May. Also first arrivals on likely breeding grounds from 24th Apr.

Breeding: Relatively fewer reports after a better year in 2012 and little suggestion of much success.

The underlined names had anxious birds calling =A, also DD = distraction display).

	Singles	Pairs	Nests/broods		Singles	Pairs	Nests/broods
Broad Law, Tweedsmuir	1	-	-	Mainslaughter Law	1	-	-
Coomb Hill	-	1	-	Porridge Cairn	1	-	-
Craig Hope	1	-	-	Pykestone Hill	1	-	-
Craigengar	1	-	-	Talla East Side	-	1	-
Cramalt Craig	-	1	-	Tinnis Hill	1	-	-
Fifescar Knowe	1	-	-	Waddelscairn Muir	-	1	A
Hanged Man's Hill	-	1	-	Weddelscairn Hill	-	1	-
Hule Moss	1	1	-	Wheelburn	-	3	DD
Jock's Burn	-	3	-				

Distraction display seen 1st Jun.

Autumn/Winter: 3 over Bemersyde Moss 7th Sep. Usual gatherings, presumably local post-breeders, on Lauder Common in late summer with 60 there 7th Sep, 12 on 13th Sep, 60 on 23rd Sep, 320 there 30th Sep; with last 400 on 7th Oct.

Also 145 Lambden 14th Sep; 300 Heiton 27th Sep with 300 there 4th-5th Oct; 8 Hule Moss 29th Sep; 20 Westfield 10th Oct; 100 West Morriston 11th Oct; 41 Wester Deans & 30 Birneyknowe 12th Oct; 12 Angelrow 23rd Oct; 600 Nisbet 25th Oct; 20 Cummings Hill 28th Oct; & 70 Westfield 29th Oct.

Reasonable numbers Nov but rapid clear-out into Dec. 1 Sunwick 2nd Nov; 75 Westfield 6th Nov; 60 Old Greenlaw 7th Oct; 200 Greenlaw & 200 Yetholm Loch 8th Nov; 240 Westfield on 11th Nov; 45 Angelrow on 18th Nov; 110 Huntlywood & 60 Lauder Common 19th Nov with 50-90 there to 28th Nov.

In hills, 1 Brownheart Law 15th Nov & 8 Saughtree Grain 29th Nov. Just 4 Dec reports: 300 Lauder Common 4th Dec; 20 Oxenrig 11th & 13th Dec had been there for a month or so; 53 Lees Haugh 29th Dec.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

A very uncommon autumn passage migrant in coastal areas. (4 records in 2013)

1 Siccar Point 2nd Jan (Ron McBeath); 1 Dunglass on Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb (Dave Graham); 1 still there 17th Feb (John Palfrey).

In autumn/winter there were 2N Eyemouth on 21st Nov (Dave Graham).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

A common breeding species found in 64% of tetrads in 1988-94, 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. (325 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 50 New Smallholm and singles at Newcastleton & Yethouse on 3rd Jan; 1 Blakelaw on 5th Jan; 80 Angelrow, 53 Tweed Haughs & 19 White Law Loch 12th-13th Jan; 1 Eddleston 14th Jan; 1 Newmains on 21st Jan; 3 Milkieston 22nd Jan; singles Drochil & Tarth Haughs on 26th Jan.. Better numbers in early Jan with 120 Watherston 3rd Feb; and 70 Newmill, 58 Wedderlie, 23 Drochil & 22 Newmains 6th-7th Feb. 45 Tweed Haughs 10th Feb. Further flocks from 15th-20th Feb with 200 Newbigging Walls, 160 Bruntaburn, 81 Scarce Rig, 55 Huntlaw, 50 Hirsely Knowe, 40 Edgarhope Law and 30 Kilbucho and more flocks to end of Feb with 100 Rumbleton, 35 Bedshiel Kaims, 30 Drochil Heights, 18 Winkston & 16 Kalemouth.

No three-figure flocks in early Mar with 70 Brundeanleaws, 60 Stantling Craig Reservoir, 60 Millennium Farm, 60 Tweed Haughs & 40 Belstruther the best flocks. In the latter half of the month 100 Whitrig on 16th Mar & 300 Newmains on 17th Mar were the only 3-figure flocks although there were 60 Earlston, 50 Millennium Farm and 48 Birgham Haughs. The best Apr count was 59 Whitrig Bog on 6th Apr.

Breeding: Pairs and territories (approximate numbers) seen in 109 tetrads (Mar-Jul) at - confirmed breeding sites underlined

<u>Black Barony</u>	6	Headshaw Hill	8	New Belses BBS	4
Cadam Law	7	Holmsmill	3	Newbigging Walls	4
Crib Law	4	Hundleshope	8	Scarce Rig Pond	3
Cringletie	4	<u>Howe Wood</u>	3	Tollishill	5
<u>Crumrig</u>	5	Hundleshope	9	<u>Tup Knowe</u>	9
Dodburn	6	<u>Langtonlees</u>	17	<u>Watch Water Reservoir</u>	10
East Loch BBS	8	Lilliardsedge	7	<u>Whitrig Bog</u>	4
Easter Deans	4	<u>Lochurd</u>	4	<u>Winkston</u>	7
Gordon Moss	3				

Breeding was also confirmed also at Craggs, Craigurd House, Dogden Moss, Fawhope, Folly Loch, Hanged Man's Hill, Milkieston, Millennium Farm, Oatleycleugh, St Mary's Loch, Todrig & Woodheads.

The first incubating bird was at Milkieston on 28th Apr and Holmsmill 2nd May; the first young seen were at Howe Wood 22nd May and Watch Water Reservoir on 25th May. Later broods were still being identified into Jul with chicks seen Dodgen Moss 24th Jul

Autumn/Winter: First post-breeding flocks: 60 Headshaw Hill 24th Jun; 15 Houndslow 26th Jun; 18 Hundleshope 5th Jul; 30 Stantling Craig Reservoir on 16th Jul; 108 Folly Loch on 21st Jul; 300 Whitrig Bog on 30th Jul with 190 Stantling Craig Reservoir 31st Jul.

In Aug high counts include: 134 Stantling Craig on 8th Aug & 100 Oxton 16th Aug; 380 Folly Loch & 140 Flass 22nd Aug; 1,200 Gordon CW 28th Aug. In Sep just two 3-figure totals: 320 Folly Loch 20th Sep & 180 Wester Deans 21st Sep but numbers build again in Oct as migrants arrive with: 460 Wester Deans 9th Oct; 171 Folly Loch 12th Oct; 200 Lamberton 16th Oct; 440 Leadburn 17th Oct; 450 Gilston 18th Oct; 146 West Water Reservoir 26th Oct; and 420 Westruther Pools 29th Oct.

Numbers fall away into Dec with just three 3-figure flocks; 250 Old Greenlaw on 3rd Nov, 120 Sandystone on 11th Nov & 185 Folly Loch 18th Nov with parties of 50-99 at Bemersyde Moss, Greenlaw, Nether Falla, and Westruther. Just 11 Dec records with 95 Hazlieburn 7th Dec; 80 Middlesknowes & 70 Newmains on 7th Dec; 80 Gattonside 26th Dec the only parties >50 birds with smaller parties at Dunglass, East Reston, Lochton, Redden, Stantling Craig Reservoir & Teviot Haughs.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very uncommon autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, almost wholly to coastal areas. (1 record in 2013) 85N Eyemouth on 21st Nov (Dave Graham).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Extremely rare autumn passage migrant from Siberian/America, 2 previous records. (2 records in 2013)

1S St Abb's Head on 24th Aug (Fran Evans & Dave Graham); 1 Folly Loch on 20th Sep (Ray Murray).

The previous records were of singles at West Water Reservoir in Oct 1970, the Tweed at Springhall in Sep 1996, and at Folly Loch in Sep 2003.



Pectoral Sandpiper - Folly Loch - Sep 2013 - note sharply delineated pectoral band, slightly decurved bill and 'braces'

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

Winter visitor to rocky coast. Present August-May in very small and decreasing numbers. All records needed. (15 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Only 2 birds were found on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb on the Dunglass-Pease Bay section (34 in 2009, 37 in 2010, 42 in 2011, 33 in 2012).

1 Siccar Point 2nd Jan; 1 Dunglass 5th Jan; 2 Burnmouth 22nd Jan; 1 Dunglass 9th Feb with 2 there 23rd Feb; 3 Coldingham Bay 24th Feb; 3 Burnmouth 9th Mar & 22nd Mar (Ron McBeath).

Autumn/Winter: 1 Dunglass 13th Aug (Dave Graham) with 1 there 18th Aug. Then long gap until 1 Eyemouth Bay 1st Nov & 11th Dec; with 4 Dunglass 15th Dec and 3 Burnmouth 28th Dec.

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. (31 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Just 2 birds were seen on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb, on the Dunglass-Pease Bay section. (Dave Graham). 2 Dunglass 9th & 17th Feb with 5 there 23rd Feb. 1 Newmains 17th Mar; 4 Tweed at Hornecliffe 15th May; 2 Dunglass 5th May.

Breeding: 1 West Water Reservoir 22nd May & 2 Fruid Reservoir 6th Jun were at known breeding sites.

Autumn/Winter: Best autumn passage for many years – 1 Greenlaw Pond, Foulden 30th Jul and 7th-8th Aug and 18th Aug; 9N St Abb's Head 24th Aug with 3 Northfield, St Abbs 24th Aug and 4 there the next day.

1 Greenlaw Pond 2nd Sep; 3 Eyemouth Bay 4th Sep; 1 Folly Loch on 7th Sep; 1 Greenlaw Pond on 24th Sep; 14S St Abb's Head 26th Sep & 18 Dunglass 30th Sep.

In Oct, 1 Bemersyde Moss 3rd Oct; 2N St Abb's Head 11th Oct with 1 there 12th Oct; & 7E Bemersyde Moss 17th Oct.

Finally 45N Eyemouth GC 21st Nov & 7 Dunglass 15th Dec.

The 31 records in 2013, compared to 11 in 2012 a more 'normal' year, shows the big difference.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Very uncommon passage migrant . (6 records in 2013)

Autumn/Winter: 3 Greenlaw Pond, Foulden 14th-16th Aug with 2 there on 4 dates 18th-30th Aug (David Christie).

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Very uncommon passage migrant and rare winter visitor. Probably very much overlooked. (27 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 2 Newmains on 2nd Jan , 1st & 2nd Feb with single there 18th Feb (Dave Graham); 1 Eddleston Water at Milkleston 25th Mar (Ray Murray); 1 Newmains 17th & 19th Apr (Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: 1 St Abb's Head 28th Sep (Jack Ibbotson); 1 Newmains 1st-2nd Oct (Dave Graham); 1 St Abb's Head 4th Oct (Ray Murray); 3 Newmains 5th Oct with single there 7th Oct; 1 Northfield, St Abbs 9th Oct (Jack Ibbotson); 1 St Abb's Head 13th Oct (Ray Murray); 2 Newmains 18th Oct with 1-2 there 6 dates 30th Nov (Dave Graham); 2 Malcolm's Moss 7th Nov (Malcolm Henderson); 1 Wrunklaw Law, Duns 15th Nov (Andrew Mitchell); 5 Newmains 15th Dec with 4 there 17th Dec and 2 on 27th Dec (Dave Graham).

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. (171 records in 2013).

Winter/Spring: Found 19 tetrads during Jan-Feb with 11 Wester Muirdean 25th Jan ; and 3 birds each at Newmains 4th Jan & Angelrow 13th Feb; with 1-2 birds reported Bedshiel Kaims, Birgham, Colterscleuch Shiel, Eckford, Glack Hope, Holefield, Huntlaw, Kerchesters, Kippit, Loch Hill, Scarce Rigg, St Abb's Head, Stow, Sunnyside, White Knowe, Whitrig Bog, Wooden Loch and Yetholm Loch.

In early Mar: 15 Westfield 27th Mar; 12 Newmains 28th Mar & 5 Bowdenmoor Reservoir 31st Mar with 1-2 birds at 7 other sites.

Breeding: Recorded 69 tetrads mid-Mar-Aug (57 in 2012). Atlas activities continued to produce good numbers. 97 presumed territories (from flushed, chipping and drumming birds) at 56 sites:

Cademuir	2	Hutlerburn Hill	10	Polwarth Moss	8
East Loch BBS	2	Kelphope Hill	2	Redfordgreen	6
Halliburton	2	Lambden	3	Riccarton Junction	2
Hartsgarth	2	Langtonlees	3	Toxside Moss	2
Hule Moss	6	Leap Law	2	Wardmoor Hill	2
Hundleshope Cross Ponds	2	Manor Bridge	2	Whitton Loch	2
Hunt Law	2				

With single territories presumed at 42 sites: Back Loch, Birnie Knowe, Bishop's Bog, Black barony, Blackhopebyre, Bloody Bush, Cadam Law, Damhead Shiel, Deuchar Law, Dogden Moss, Dye Water, Earn Cleugh, Essenside, Fairliehope, Folly Loch, Gawky Hill, Greatmoor Hill, Heiton, Hermitage Castle, Holms Waterhead, Jordonlaw, Lauder Common, Leadburn, Leyburnfoot, Loch Hill, Mainslaughter Law, Megget Stone, Moss Law, Posso Craig, Scarce Rig Pond, Scawd Law, Sourhope, Spurlens Rig, Todrig, Tollishill, Tower Burn, Tup Knowe, Tweeddaleburn, Winningtonrig, Yarrow Feus and Yetholm Marsh.

Nests were found at Tup Knowe and Hanged Man's Hill on 21st May and at Riccarton Junction on 10th Jun, the only confirmed breeding reports.

Autumn/Winter: 8 Hule Moss 31st Jul; 3 Stantling Craig Reservoir 8th Aug; 3 Folly Loch 22nd Aug.

In Sep max counts were 16 over Newmains on 7th Sep with another 16 over on 8th Sep; 12 Bemersyde Moss 12th Sep with 8 there 30th Sep with 1-2 birds noted at Denholm, Fairliehope, Greenlaw Pond & Yetholm Loch. Largest passage in Oct with 14 Newmains 5th Oct; 90 Bemersyde Moss, 13 Leadburn CW & 7 Falla 17th Oct; 27 Newmains 18th Oct with 21 there on 20th & 18 on 23rd Oct; 40 Bemersyde Moss 24th Oct; 12 Cummings Hill 28th Oct; 9 Leadburn CW & 5 Luthstruther 30th Oct. The 33 Malcolm's Moss 7th Nov; 3 White Law Loch 9th Nov; 8 Stantling Craig Reservoir on 15th Dec; 5 Newmains on 30th Nov. Many fewer records into Dec with 38 Craillinghall 17th Dec & 4 Stantling Craig Reservoir on 15th Dec and singles at 6 other sites.

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. (164 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Recorded from 55 tetrads Jan-Feb (28 in 2012). Extensive influx, probably associated with snows. Highest counts were 8 Tweedbank 30th Jan; 4 Brownrig 30th Jan; 2 birds each at Towford and Wilyrigg Strips in Jan and Bedrule, Ormiston, Southfield & Sundhope in Feb; with single birds reported from 50 other sites - Allanton, Anton Fell, Bedrule, Bedshiel, Birkenside, Black Crane Cleugh, Bonchester Bridge, Colterscleuch Shiel, Darn, Harcus, Dunglass, Earnscleugh, East Gordon, Eddleston, Eildon Mid Hill, Eildon Wester Hill, Fancove Head, Fulton, Glenrath Farm, Glenrath Hope, Grizelrig, Harwood Moss, Hawick, Hen Poo, Holefield, Jedburgh, Kerchesters, Lamberton Beach, Lamberton N, Lanton Crag, Linthill, Lurgiecleuch, Lurgies Rig, Minto Crag, Mossburnford, Netherurd, Newmains, Old Kirkhope, Oxnham Pottery, Posso Hope, Rhymers Glen, Saughtree Fell, Skelfhill, Spottiswoode, Springwood, Swinside, Trahenna Hill, Wester Muirdean, Westerhouses, Williescrook & Windburgh Cottage.

Still extensive numbers into Mar as poor weather persisted with 2 birds each at Ayton, Bowdenmoor Reservoir, Cauldshiels Loch, Foulden New Mains, Huntlyburn, Mire Loch & Yair and singles at 18 other sites, 12 of them not included in the Jan-Mar list: Allanton, Bemersyde Moss, Blackerstone, Bowden, Bowmont Forest, Burnmouth, Heiton, Hule Moss, Ploughlands, Preston Haugh, Westfield & Williamhope.

In Apr likely late wintering birds, all singles unless specified, at Pease Bay & Heiton (2) on 3rd Apr; Houndwood 5th Apr; Eddleston 9th Apr; St Abb's Head 12th Apr; with latest 1 St Abbs 3rd May.



Woodcock
Leadburn CW
May 2013

Breeding: 35 birds in 27 sites (37 at 21 in 2012) (roding sites underlined).

<u>Brundenlaws</u>	2	Ladyflat	1	Randy Wood	1
Butterhall	2	<u>Lauder</u>	1	<u>Singdean</u>	1
Fawhope	1	Leadburn CW	1	<u>Spottiswoode Loch</u>	1
Gallowberry Wood	1	<u>Millmoor Rig</u>	1	<u>Swinnie Plantation</u>	2
Harcus	1	Note o'the Gate	1	The Mount	1
Hanged Man's Hill	1	Oak Bank	1	<u>Thirlstane Estate</u>	1
<u>Huntford</u>	2	<u>Old Tinnis</u>	2	<u>Wellcleugh Plantation</u>	1
Jedhead	1	Pease Bay	1	Westloch	1
Kirkton Manor	1	Quaw Wood	1	<u>Wheelrig Head</u>	1
<u>Kyleshill Plantation</u>	4				

First displaying birds Harcus 19th May & Lauder 21st May.

Autumn/Winter: Singles St Abb's Head 13th Oct & 5th & 15th Nov with 1 Lamberton 15th Oct.

Nov-Dec reports from 22 tetrads with max counts of 2 Saughtree 29th Nov; 4 Tod's Dean & 4 Crailinghall on 4th Dec; 2 Samieston 17th Dec; 7 Penmanshiel Woods 29th Dec; & 2 Ruecastle 30th Dec; with singles Ancrum Craig, Catmoss, Crailing Dean, Falside, Gallowberry Wood, Hallmanor Forest, Innerleithen, Newcastleton Forest, Phaup, Potsclose, Ruletownhead & Upper Samieston.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Uncommon autumn passage migrant. (10 records in 2013)

1 Northfield, St Abbs 27th -28th Jun (Jack Ibbotson & Andrew Mossup); 2W Bemersyde Moss 12th Jul (RAB); 1W Newmains on 23rd Jul (Dave Graham); 2 Folly Loch 14th-16th Aug; Anthony Speybey, Anthony Tucker); 2 Eyemouth GC 19th Aug (James Lough); 6 Greenlaw Pond, Foulden 20th Aug (David Christie).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Very uncommon spring and uncommon autumn passage migrant, mostly to coastal areas. Wintering is exceptional. (16 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 1 Dunglass 12th Jan & on 3rd Feb during Rocky Shore Count (Dave Graham). Another there 28th Apr could possibly have been the same individual. *Has this the wintering bird of recent years returned??*
3 Newbigging Walls 30th Apr; 2 Northfield, St Abbs 2nd May with 1 there 3rd May; 1 St Abb's Head 4th May; 2 Pease Bay 5th May; 1N St Abb's Head 7th May (Jack Ibbotson).

Autumn/Winter: 1 Dunglass on 12th Jul (John Palfrey); 1S St Abb's Head 9th Aug with 2S there on 11th Aug; 3 Dunglass 13th Aug with 15N there 18th Aug; 1 Eyemouth GC 19th Aug. Last 1 Dunglass 8th Sep.

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)

Winter/Spring: 74 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb (65 in 2012, 279 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013

Dunglass - Pease Bay	56	Pease Bay-Redheugh	4
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	0	Coldingham Bay - Eyemouth	3
Eyemouth-Burmouth	0	Burmouth-English border	11

53 St Abb's Head 12th Jan with 46 there 23rd Jan; 34-35 Lamberton 28th-31st Jan with small numbers elsewhere in Jan. The St Abb's Head flock remained through the month numbering 46-59 birds, max 59 on 10th Feb; as did the Lamberton birds, with max 45 on 23rd Feb. 27 Dunglass 17th Feb. The St Abb's flock was maintained into Mar with 60 on 24th Mar, their last date there. The Lamberton birds rose to a max of 66 on 28th Mar but this had dropped to just 12 on 1st Apr, their last presence for the summer.

The first inland records were 8 in the Tarth valley on 26th Jan, standing on a snow-free spring runnel, but they soon vanished with the next birds some 4-6 weeks later with singles Glenrath 27th Feb; Heiton Mains 6th Mar, and Tweedbank on 7th Mar.

94 Leadburn CW and a single Teviot Haughs 10th Mar. 42 Tower Burn 14th Mar when 1-2 Dogden Moss, Whitrig Bog & Leahaug; 16 Whitrig on 17th Mar and 3 Hawthornside on 18th Mar with 75 Glenrath on 21st mar. Despite a few other birds at Watch Water Reservoir, Tweedbank & Towford over the next week or so – it was not until mid-Apr that a more general movement took place although there were isolated flocks of 18 Leadburn CW on 26th Mar; 70 Millennium Farm 27th Mar; 35 West Linton 30th Mar; 15 Mossfennan Haugh 3rd Apr. Even then by the end of Apr there had only been records from some 20 inland localities.

Breeding: Found in 151 tetrads Apr-Jul.

Presumed pairs were noted on TTVs (and other counts) as follows: 8 pairs Dewar Burn BBS; 7 pairs Cadam Law, 6 pairs East Loch South BBS; 5 pairs East Loch BBS, Headshaw Hill, Longcroft Hill, Riddel Law, Scawd Law and South Hart Law.; 4 pairs Birneyknowe, Castleweary, Cranshaws Hill BBS, Deuchar Law, Hunt Law, Hutlerburn Hill, Langtonlees and Wester Kershope; 3 pairs at Bermuda, Blackhouse, Cowieslinn, Fauldshope Hill, Graden BBS, Medwynhead, North Esk Reservoir, Redfordgreen, Spurlens Rig, Stantling Craig Reservoir, Watch Water Reservoir, Wheelburn, Yarrow Feus & Yett Burn BBS. There were numerous counts of 1-2 birds. Distraction display was seen at Wheelburn on 1st Jun; a nest at Hanged Man's Hill on 21st May; and young birds were recorded at Dye Water 25th May; Bermuda 1st Jun; Watch Water Reservoir 2nd Jun; Hunt Law & South Hart Law 18th Jun; Fauldshope Hill and Wester Kershope on 27th Jun; and Dogden Moss on 24th Jul.

Autumn/Winter: The latest inland birds were 2 Fawhope 17th Jul; 3 Sourhope & 3 Calroust 29th Jul; 6 Stantling Craig 31st Jul. Then a long gap until 3 Hule Moss 18th Sep with 2 there 22nd Sep; 5 Greenlaw Pond 20th Sep with 6 on 29th Sep. Then 4 Old Greenlaw 12th Nov; final 3 Hule Moss on 22nd Nov.

Coastal passage: 15 St Abb's Head 23rd Jul; with 26 Millar's Moss 24th Jul; 40 Siccar Point 18th Aug; 21 St Abb's Head 29th Aug with 26 there 24th Sep and 33 on 13th Oct. Numbers crept up a little into Dec as snows presumably forced bird onto the shore with 42 Mire Loch 5th Dec; 50 Burnmouth 28th Dec & 17 Lamberton 29th Dec.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Very uncommon passage migrant. (1 record in 2013).

1 Eyemouth 9th Nov (James Lough).

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. (113 records in 2013)

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013

Dunglass - Pease Bay	42	Pease Bay-Redheugh	6
Redheugh-Souter	2	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	2	Coldingham Bay - Eyemouth	2
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	0	Burnmouth-English border	37

Winter/Spring: 91 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb (67 in 2012, 78 in 2011).

Other coastal counts include: 30 Burnmouth 22nd Jan; with 59 there on 9th Mar, 43 on 22nd Mar. Otherwise there were few coastal counts of note: 4 Dunglass on 17th Feb and 1-2 at other sites Jan-Apr.

1 Whitrig Bog 3rd Jan; 2 Tweed Haughs 10th Feb; 1 Nisbet & 1 Crailing 20th-24th Feb; 3 Birgham Haugh on 26th Mar; 2 Westfield on 27th Mar. But even into Apr there were few reports: 1 at Scarce Rig Pond on 7th Apr; 1 Quairwaterfoot 9th Apr; 3 Hule Moss but on 12th Apr; and 2 Hundleshope 27th Apr.

Breeding: Recorded 23 tetrads with 20 presumed territories/pairs noted in suitable breeding habitat –

Hanged Man's Hill	1
Headshaw Hill	2
Hule Moss	2
Hundleshope Cross Ponds	1
Langtonlees	1
Longcroft Hill	1
Newbigging Walls	1
Peat Law	1
Polwarth Moss	4
St Mary's Loch	1
Stantling Craig Reservoir	1
Tollishill	1
Watch Water Reservoir	3

Also singles at 9 other sites: Bowerhope, Nether Falla, New Channelkirk, Nisbet, North Esk Reservoir, Scarce Rig, Tweed at Innerleithen & Cornhill and Tup Knowe.

Anxious birds were reported from Bowerhope, Headshaw Hill, Longcroft Hill and Tollishill. A nest was reported by the



Redshank - Burnmouth, Sep 2012

shepherd at Hanged Man's Hill. Young were noted from Watch Water Reservoir with br1 on 2nd Jun and at Hule Moss with 2br6 on 5th Jul.

Autumn/Winter: Last in breeding habitat were 3 Hule Moss on 1st Aug. Inland migrants at Greenlaw Pond on 2nd & 18th Aug; Bemersyde Moss on 7th Sep. As usual Burnmouth is the most reliable site for wintering Redshank with 30 there on 18th Aug, 44 on 29th Sep, 91 on 4th Oct; 25 on 29th Nov and 45 on 29th Dec. Elsewhere: 22 Dunglass 13th Aug but just 1-5 thereafter on 9 dates to end of year; 17 Eyemouth Bay 19th Aug but just singles there on 7 dates to end of year. Otherwise just 1-2 on singles dates at Siccar Point & St Abb's Head.

A few away from the coast with 1 Tweed at Sprouston 8th Oct; 1 Tweed Haughs 13th Oct & 15th Dec; 1 Tweed at Paxton House 30th Nov & 28th Dec; and 2 Tweed at Edrington Castle 2nd Dec.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Very scarce spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn migrant. (23 records in 2013)

Spring: 1 Tweedbank 18th Mar (Andrew Bramhall); 1 Newmains 22nd Apr.

Autumn: 1 Newmains 23rd Jul; 2 Hule Moss 27th Jul with 1 there 1st Aug; singles Coldingham, Millar's Moss & Stantling Craig Reservoir on 8th Aug; 1 Dunglass on 11th & 13th Aug; 2 Greenlaw Pond 16th & 18th Aug; 4 Northfield, St Abbs & 1 Coldingham 25th Aug; 4 Millar's Moss & 1 Bemersyde 29th Aug.

Just 2 records in Sep with 2 Folly Loch 7th Sep & 1 Tweedbank 12th Sep. Then final flush with 3 Tweed at Sprouston 1st Oct and 2 Sprouston/Hendersyde 2nd & 8th Oct (Ron McBeath & Tony Reed). *An excellent year with a strong and prolonged autumn passage – note coincidence of dates are widely separated localities.*

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon, mostly autumn passage migrant and very rare winter visitor. (27 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 1 wintered Manderston Lake, seen 20th Jan, 6th & 26th Feb, 7th & 27th Mar & 15th Apr (Andrew Mossup); 1 Tweed at Birgham 6th Mar (Roger Manning).

Autumn: 1 St Abb's Head 23rd Jul (Jack Ibbotson); 1 Whitrig Bog 24th Jul (James Lough); 1 Tweed at Birgham 27th Jul (David Alexander); 1 Folly Loch 28th Jul (Andrew Bramhall); 1 Greenlaw Pond & 1 Calroust 29th Jul (David Christie & Ray Murray); 1 Tweed at Caddonfoot 8th & 10th Aug (Richard Bramhall); 1 Greenlaw Pond 18th Aug (David Christie); 3 Nether Falla and singles at Greenlaw Pond and Stantling Craig Reservoir on 18th Aug (Tom Dougall, David Christie & Richard Bramhall); 1 Mire Loch 24th Aug; 1 Stantling Craig Reservoir 24th Aug (Richard Bramhall); 1 Newmains 29th & 30th Aug & 1st Sep (Dave Graham); with 1 Manderston Lake 12th Sep (Andrew Mossup). Then long gap until 1 Teviot at Nisbet 16th Dec (Malcolm Henderson).

Two in winter/spring and 16 in autumn and one again in winter. An extraordinary year.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Uncommon, mostly autumn, passage migrant. (2 records in 2013)

2 Whitrig Bog on 10th May (James Lough). 1 Newmains on 3rd Aug (Dave Graham).



Common Sandpiper - Rankle Burn, May 2012

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Common summer visitor along rivers, found 34% of tetrads. Very rare in winter, mostly early April to late August. (110 records in 2013)

Spring: First 1 Heriot Water 13th Apr (Tom Dougall); 1 Teviot at Monteviot 14th Apr; 10 Tweed at Horncliffe 15th Apr; 1 Tweedbank 19th-20th Apr; 7 Teviot at Roxburgh Mains 21st Apr. However after a week gap next records announced a more widespread arrival with birds at 10 sites between 27th Apr and 1st May.

Breeding: Found in 76 tetrads Apr-Jul.

4 pairs Fruid Reservoir; 3 pairs Cadam Law, Longcroft Hill, Meerlees, Rankle Burn & Roxburgh Mains; 2 pairs Birgham Haugh, Borthwickbrae, Bowerhope, Broadhaugh, Menslaws, Newbigging Walls, Redden

Shingles, Riccarton Mill, South Hart Law, Talla Reservoir, Trottingshaws & Yair; with single birds/territories at 56 other sites. *c.* 97 presumed territories.

Distraction display was seen at Black Cleugh & Merrylaw on 3rd Jul while young were seen at South Hart Law on 18th Jun; St Mary's Loch on 24th Jun; and Barnhills & Menslaw on 21st Jul.

Autumn: Records thin out from breeding habitat by third week of Jul. Then 1 Folly Loch 28th Jul; 2 Dunglass 13th Aug; singles Tweedbank 15th & 23rd Aug; 3 Dunglass 26th Aug (Dave Graham).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Uncommon coastal winter visitor, August-May. Rare on passage to inland areas. (433 records in 2013)

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013

Dunglass - Pease Bay	10	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	18	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	6
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	0	Burnmouth-English border	13

Winter/Spring: 47 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb (41 in 2012)

Burnmouth remains the easiest and most reliable location for Turnstone with max 30 there on 22nd Jan & 31 on 9th Mar; Dunglass had more reports with max of 11 there 5th Jan, 7 on 17th Feb but none during Mar/Apr; also 12 Coldingham Bay 24th Feb;

Last 1 Burnmouth 22nd Mar; last 4 Dunglass 5th May (John Palfrey & Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: First 1 Burnmouth 14th Aug (Fran Evans); with 2 there 18th Aug, then 15 on 29th Sep & 23 on 4th Oct. 4 at Dunglass were the first elsewhere on 27th Oct with 7 there on 10th Nov. Then 21 Burnmouth on 29th Nov; 16 Burnmouth & 15 Dunglass 6th Dec; 12 Eyemouth 9th Dec 3 Dunglass 15th Dec; 30 Burnmouth 28th Dec.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Uncommon autumn passage migrant between Jul & Nov. No inland records. (15 records in 2013).

1S St Abb's Head 24th May (Dave Graham).

1N St Abb's Head 26th Jul; 1 S there 10th Aug & 23rd Aug, with 2N/3S there 24th Aug.

5N St Abb's Head 7th Sep with 2N there 8th Sep, 2S on 10th Sep. 3S Eyemouth GC 25th Sep with 1N St Abb's Head 30th Sep.

3N St Abb's Head 11th Oct with 3N/.1S there 12th Oct. Last 2N Eyemouth GC 21st Nov (Dave Graham).

The best year since 2007.

Pomarine Skuas seen in Borders 2000-2013

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
19	27	53	30	16	31	27	28	8	16	19	19	11	27

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Scarce on passage April-June, common July-November. Rare in winter. A few inland records. (32 records in 2013)

Autumn: First 1N St Abb's Head 23rd Jul (Jack Ibbotson); 2N there 26th Jul.

36 reported on 7 days in Aug with 2N/4S St Abb's Head on 23rd Aug & 2N/22S on 24th Aug. Other daily totals just 1-2 birds.

102 reported on 11 days in Sep with 27N/5S St Abb's Head 7th Sep, 12N/4S there 8th Sep, 1N/10S on 10th Sep, 9N on 14th Sep, 1N/11S Eyemouth GC on 25th Sep with 9N/1S St Abb's Head on 26th Sep. Otherwise 1-4 birds on 5 other Sep days.

18 reported on 6 days in Oct with 4N St Abb's Head 11th Oct & 13th Oct. Latest bird was 1 juv over Newmains on 20th Oct (Dave Graham), a rare inland report. *The best year for numbers since 2004.*

Arctic Skuas seen off the Berwickshire coast 2001-2013

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
251	169	196	217	129	35	152	42	59	61	59	129	159

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A very scarce passage migrant, mostly August to October. Almost annual. 1 inland record. 2 records in 2013)

1N St Abb's Head 27th May (Jack Ibbotson). 1S St Abb's Head 13th Sep (Dave Graham).

There were two other unattributed reports on Bird Guides of 4 St Abb's Head 24th May & 1 Eyemouth 7th Sep but as these had no details of the observers and any means of contacting them, they must remain unconfirmed.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Passage migrant, scarce April-June, common July-November. Almost annual. Rare in winter and very rare inland. (30 records in 2013)

Spring: 1 was found dead on clifftops at Fancove Head 31st Mar (Ron McBeath & Roger Manning).

2 St Abb's Head 24th May with 2N on 28th May and 1 Eyemouth GC on 2nd Jun.

Autumn: 1N St Abb's Head 12th Jul and 1N there 26th Jul were the only records for that month.

11 in Aug: 1S Eyemouth GC 7th Aug; 1N St Abb's Head 9th Aug & 3S there on 10th Aug. 2N/4S St Abb's Head 24th Aug.

33 in Aug: 1 St Abb's Head 3rd Sep with 13N there 7th Sep & 1N on 13th Sep. Gap then until 11N/1S St Abb's Head on 25th Sep with 1S there 28th Sep & 5S on 30th Sep.

162 in Oct with 8S St Abb's Head on 8th Oct with 20N Eyemouth GC, 18N St Abb's Head and 46N St Abbs on 11th Oct. Last 70N St Abb's Head with 12N St Abbs 12th Oct (Jack Ibbotson, Fran Evans, Dave Graham, Ray Murray and Andrew Mossup). *Another large-scale rush on just 2 days boosted the annual totals by a huge factor.*

Great Skua totals off the Berwickshire coast 2001-2013

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
340	190	239	179	101	38	136	62	60	74	99	524	213

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

A rare but increasing passage migrant. (1 record in 2013)

1 ad Milldown 17th Jul (Jack Ibbotson).



Mediterranean Gull & Black-headed Gull Dunglass Oct 2007

Photo: Dave Graham

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Very scarce passage migrant to coast, mostly between August and October. A few old inland reports. (6 records in 2013)

Autumn: 2N St Abb's Head 17th Aug (Mike Thower); 1 Eyemouth GC 19th Aug (James Lough); 10 on sea St Abb's Head 24th Aug with 2 there the next day (Fran Evans); 3 on sea at Dunglass 26th Aug (Dave Graham); 1N St Abb's Head 7th Sep (Dave Graham).

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Rare passage migrant to coast, mostly autumn (1 record in 2013).

Autumn: 1N St Abbs 11th Oct (Dave Graham).

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. (504 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 245 were counted on the 3rd Feb Rocky Shore Count (44 in 2012, 194 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb

Dunglass - Pease Bay	175	Pease Bay-Redheugh	40
Redheugh-Souter	6	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	0	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	10
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	10	Burnmouth-English border	2

Few other large counts in Jan with just a single 3-figure count – 119 Gunknowe Loch 1st Jan with 102 there on 13th Jan. In Feb there were 150 tweed Haughs on 10th Feb & 200 Heiton Mains 19th Feb. In Mar there were 200 Folly Loch on 13th Mar; 112 Gunknowe Loch on 18th Mar with 300 on 23rd Mar; and 120 Heiton Mains on 31st Mar. In Apr 224 Gala Sewage Works 2nd Apr and 120 Tollishill 21st Apr.

Breeding: Bred attempted at 8 sites – but many at Bemersyde and North Esk Reservoir attempted to various degrees – and failed.

Bemersyde Moss	up to 150 through Apr with a max of max 220 there 23rd May but few thereafter. Nests built but not likely any eggs laid.
Folly Loch	13 present 18th Jun with possible nest.
Hollybush Loch	100 there 30th Apr with 2 nests with newly-hatched 2br5 there on 30th May.
Hule Moss East Pool	used nests seen 19th Jul and presence of up to 60 juvs on 5th Jul indicates breeding there.
Megget Reservoir	colony occupied but no counts submitted
North Esk Reservoir	100 occupied site in early Apr, max 300 there and nesting 19th Apr but abandoned and predated egg-shells seen.
Tathieknowe Pond	occupied 28th Mar but no count made.
West Water Reservoir	940 ads and 390 clutches laid on dam face but unable to count island nests 30th May. No record of any success.

Autumn/Winter: Biggest roost was at Hule Moss with 250 there on 11th Oct, rising to max 1,500 on 21st Oct with 630 there 28th Oct, 950 on 8th Nov, 400 on 23rd Nov, 300 on 7th Dec and 150 on 17th Dec. Three-figure counts elsewhere: 210 Dunglass 18th Aug with 120 there 13th Sep & 240 on 30th Sep; 245 Tweed Haughs on 22nd Sep;

283 Tweed Haughs 13th Oct; 20 over Leadburn CW 17th Oct; 120 Dunglass 10th Nov; 200 Hirsell Lake 6th Nov; 150 Burnmouth 6th Dec; 200 Hirsell Lake 14th Dec; and 305 Tweed Haughs 15th Dec.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Very scarce & local breeder on c.2 hill lochs, c.60-100 pairs annually. Abundant passage migrant using several roosts, sometimes numbering several thousands. Common and widespread in winter. (288 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Large counts were extremely few in the hard early-year weather with an almost total clear-out leaving just a few hundred commuting birds in Peeblesshire. 200 Glenrath 5th Jan and 187 Eddleston 14th Jan were the only sites with counts >100 birds in Jan; 450 Lyne Townhead 2nd Feb & 1,820 Eddleston 8th Feb; with 100-200 at Attonburn and Loch Hill. Mar counts were still low with 626 Milkieston 7th Mar; 230 Glenrath on 11th Mar; 600 Manor Schoolhouse 23rd Mar; and 100-200 birds at Darnhall. There were no counts >100 birds in Apr.

Breeding: 3 nests North Esk Reservoir with probably 5 pairs attempted nesting but most abandoned by early Jun. No nesting at West Water Reservoir but no records at all from the Megget-St Mary's Loch colonies.

Autumn/Winter: Roost counts - 3,950 at West Water Reservoir on 17th Sep with 3,520 on 21st Sep, 5,580 on 9th Oct, 7,160 on 12th Oct, 6,700 on 20th Oct, 5,300 on 26th Oct, and max 10,830 on 11th Dec. 450 Hule Moss 24th Oct, 1,600 there on 6th & 9th Oct, max 3,070 on 11th Oct, 1,600 on 21st Oct, 1,600 on 4th and 8th Nov, 2,500 on 15th Nov, 3,300 on 22nd Nov, 700 on 7th Dec and final 2,150 on 13th Dec.

Elsewhere: 500 Ingraston & 300 Millside 20th Aug; 2,600 Hyndfordwell Pond 9th Oct; 281 Eddleston 21st Oct; 294 Cringletie 28th Oct; 340 Portmore Loch 9th Nov; 1,400 Millside 29th Nov; and 200 Lamberton Moor on 5th Dec. also 100-199 birds counted Black Barony, Dunglass & Linn Dean.

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. (225 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 1 Clints Hill 8th Jan (Graham Checkley); 1 Faldonside Loch 12th Jan with 3 Tweed Haughs on 13th Jan. Then 1 North Esk Reservoir 24th Jan; 3 Wormiston Haugh 30th Jan & 1 Newmains 31st Jan.

Just 2 Feb reports of 2 Tweed Haughs 10th Feb & 1 North Esk Reservoir 21st Feb. Some 22 Mar records from 10th Mar including the first double-figure counts with 32 Tweedbank & 20 Manor Schoolhouse 23rd Mar. First three-figure counts was not until after after mid-Apr with 200 Manortoun 19th Apr and then an even longer gap to 102 Darnhall on 21st Jun, although there were ten flocks of >20 birds in between, including 200 on the south side of Dollar Law on 11th Jun. There were no other three-figure counts until the autumn, observers evidently missing the feeding flocks after silage cutting.

Breeding: No records.

Autumn/Winter: Two main roost count sequences: 5 Hule Moss on 4th Sep with 870 there 18th Sep. Then 1,300 on 26th Sep, 950 on 11th Oct, 600 on 16th Oct, 1,900 on 25th Oct with 1,350 there on 28th Oct before 600 on 4th Nov & last 400 on 8th Nov. At West Water Reservoir there were 92 on 17th Sep, with 70 on 3rd Oct, 42 on 12th Oct, and last 20 there on 26th Oct. Other counts of >50: 95 Yetholm Loch on 16th Sep; 140 Whitrig Bog on 29th Oct with 80 there 6th Nov. 7 Dec records include: singles at Greenlaw Pond, West Water Reservoir and Tweedbank with 2 Hule Moss on 13th Dec & 3 Tweed at Redden Haugh 19th Dec (Tony Reed).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Common breeder on coast. Breeds in <1% of tetrads but found feeding in 20% of area during summer. Roof-nests in numbers at Eyemouth, when not controlled. Few really large roosts but good numbers attend rubbish dumps. (538 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 993 birds were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb (1,283 in 2012, 1,781 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013			
Dunglass - Pease Bay	149	Pease Bay-Redheugh	43
Redheugh-Souter	276	Souter-Petticowick	42
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	120	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	27
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	173	Burnmouth-English border	163

Few large counts: No counts at Langlee Mains Dump were submitted, so no 4-figure counts, but 700 Tweedbank on 26th Mar, where the Langlee birds bathe, will be related to their presence. Also 400 there on 24th Jan, 222 on 22nd Feb, 156 on 6th Mar & 212 on 15th Mar. 350 Cauldshiels Loch 11th Feb probably also involved the Langlee birds. Otherwise 200 Hume on 9th Feb and 180 East Gordon on 12th Feb were the only sites with 3-figure counts Jan-Mar. 200 Housebyres on 20th May also involved Langlee birds. Otherwise 110 Spurlens Rig on 26th May; 280 Hule Moss 7th Jun; 140 Dunglass 12th Jul with 110N there 18th Aug were the only other summer 3-figure totals.

Breeding: A whole colony count of apparently occupied nests (AON) was carried out on 4th, 5th & 6th June. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 7th June. Herring Gulls decreased by 10% to 239 AON, compared to 266 in 2012. This is similar to counts since 2006, and about the 10-year mean (236 AON), but only 68% of the 29-year mean of 350 AON.

Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2013.

There was no information from other sections of the coast.

Autumn/Winter: In Sep-Oct there were 3-figure counts as follows: 150 Dunglass on 8th Sep with 650 there on 13th Sep & 280 on 30th Sep; 450 Haud Yards 13th Sep; 350 Dowlaw Dam 20th Sep; 150 Hule Moss 29th Sep; 600 Silverwells 30th Sep; 600 Redheugh & 260 Cove 4th Oct; 260 Eyemouth GC 13th Oct. 2,500 Sunwick on 5th Nov with 170 Dunglass 10th Nov; 550 Tweedbank 25th Nov with 289 there 4th Dec and 547 on 20th Dec.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucooides*

Very scarce winter visitor. (1 record in 2013)

1 ad Eyemouth 15th-24th Jan (Roger Manning).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Very scarce winter visitor. (1 record in 2013)

1 ad Selkirk, first seen 29th Nov 2013 was resented at least to 18th Jan (Doug Methven).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Has bred since 1999-2000. 1-2 pairs present along Berwickshire coast. Small numbers of immatures summer. Small numbers well inland during winter, feeding on spent salmon, roosting at the large reservoirs. (174 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 72 were seen during the Berwickshire Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb (73 in 2013, 92 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013			
Dunglass - Pease Bay	23	Pease Bay-Redheugh	9
Redheugh-Souter	4	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	6	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	2
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	7	Burnmouth-English border	21

Few double-figure count: 11 Lamberton Shore 29th Mar; 14 Dunglass 5th May with 10 there 12th Jun.

Breeding: Possible territorial birds noted St Abb's Head 17th May with 3 Siccar Point 17th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: 34 Dunglass on 18th Aug with 25 on 8th Sep & 18 on 30th Sep; 20 Lamberton Beach 5th Sep; 40 St Abb's Head 13th Sep; 29 Burnmouth on 4th Oct; with counts of 10-19 birds at Allanbank, Eyemouth GC, and Millar's Moss. Birds attending West Water Reservoir gull roost include: 25 on 17th Sep with 31 on 21st Sep, 28 on 3rd Oct, 45 on 12th Oct, 27 on 20th Oct & 18 on 26th 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. (36 records in 2013)

Non-breeding records: First report was 40 from St Abb's Head during the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb. Then no-one sent in anything until -14 birds at 3 sites at Lamberton 29th-31st Mar.

Few counts but 300 washing in freshwater at Coldingham Loch on 17th May. 780 past Eyemouth GC (5hrs) on 25th May; 235 there (4hrs) on 2nd Jun with 235 (5hrs) on 15th Jul. 38N/4S St Abb's Head (1hr) 13th Sep; 27N/4S Eyemouth GC 25th Sep; 12N/125S St Abb's Head 30th Sep with 127N/55S there 13th Oct.

Next count was 1 Eyemouth GC 6th Dec.

Breeding: Whole Colony Count St Abb's Head

A count of apparently occupied nests (AONs) was carried out on 6th, 24th & 25th June. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 19th & 26th June. Kittiwakes decreased by 21% to 3,403 AON, compared to 4,314 in 2012. This is the lowest count on record, only 63% of the 10-year mean of 5,329 AON, and just 32% of 29-year mean of 10,381 AON. The number of breeding kittiwakes has declined by 82% since the highest count in 1989.

Breeding Success An assessment of breeding success was carried out using methods described in the 1995 Report. The same three plots were monitored this year as last. Each of the plots was visited on 28th May when all nests were marked on transparent overlays placed on photographs, then again on 10 further occasions up to 13th August to check the progress of each nest up to fledging. The productivity, expressed as the mean of individual plot figures, was 0.08 young fledged per AON. This is a decrease of 83% on the 2012 figure of 0.48. This is the lowest figure on record and is only 18% of the 10-year mean of 0.44, and just 13% of the 27-year mean of 0.61

Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2013

Kittiwake - St Abb's Head, Jun 2006



Breeding Numbers & breeding success of Kittiwakes at St Abb's Head NNR 1999-2013

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Nests	11077	8,028	8,890	6,642	6,239	7,239	6,228	6463	5298	4616	4744	4688	4314	3403
MBP	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	0.08

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. (46 records in 2013)

Spring: First 2 Dunglass on 13th Apr (Dave Graham) with 1 Eyemouth 14th Apr & 13 there 29th Apr. Few spring records otherwise with largest counts: 40 Dunglass & 33 Eyemouth GC 25th May.

Summer/Autumn: Just 6 single-figure counts in Jun with 18 Milldown 17th Jul. Movements later in summer/autumn from 23rd Jul with 30 Eyemouth Bay 7th Aug; 57 Coldingham Bay 10th Aug; 12N/12S Dunglass 18th Aug; 83 Eyemouth GC 19th Aug with 23 there 26th Aug. 10 Pease Bay & 16 St Abb's Head 13th Sep with 10 St Abb's Head 20th Sep; 48 Eyemouth GC & 6 Fancove Head 23rd Sep. 10 Eyemouth GC 4th Oct was the last double-figure count with 2S St Abb's Head 9th Oct and last 2S there 13th Oct (Ray Murray).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Summer visitor, uncommon on coast, most frequent August-September during passage. Very scarce inland. (2 records in 2013)

Just two reports: 1 St Abbs 3rd Aug (S J Lewis) & 40 Eyemouth Bay 7th Aug (Ray Murray).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Summer coastal visitor, mainly August-September. Under-recorded. 1 inland record. (7 records in 2013)

Summer/Autumn: 4 St Abb's Head 13th Jun (J Wilson); with 1 there on 27th Jul; 2 Eyemouth Bay on 7th Aug; 14 Coldingham Bay 10th Aug; 21S St Abb's Head 24th Aug with 1N there 24th Sep. Last 3S Eyemouth GC on 25th Sep (Ray Murray).

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Summer visitor, uncommon on coast, most frequent August-September during passage. Very scarce inland. (1 record in 2013)

1 reported St Abb's Head 11th Aug (Bird Guides).

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Common coastal breeder, 44,5000 birds in 2000. Some movements in autumn. (49 records in 2013)

Non-breeding: Only 2 birds were seen Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb, singles at St Abb's Head and Eyemouth-Burnmouth.

Dead birds: 3 Dunglass & singles Eyemouth & Lamberton 29th-30th Mar were part of a more widespread seabird mortality.

Local movements: 44 Eyemouth GC (3hrs) on 29th Apr; 228 Eyemouth GC (5hrs) 25th May; 1,950 (4hrs) on 9th Jun but only 62 (4hrs) on 6th Jul. Then 435 (5hrs) there 15th Jul; 3,400 on 26th Aug.

127N/5S Eyemouth GC 13th Oct with 250N & 50 on sea there 21st Dec.

Breeding:

Whole Colony Count St Abb's Head A count of individual birds on ledges was carried out between 4th & 22nd. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 7th & 19th June. The whole colony count is done every 5 years so the last count was in 2008. The count was 32,990 individuals; an increase of 1% on the 2008 count of 33,181. There has been no significant change.

Counts at Monitoring Plots Sight counts of individual birds on ledges were carried out at each of the five plots between 3rd & 20th June. The sum of the plot means is exactly the same as 2013 and the 2013 figure of 1,398 individuals is slightly below both the 10-year mean of 1,523 and the 29-year mean of 1,460 individuals. Interestingly this shows a 3% decrease on the 2008 figure, compared to the whole colony count showing a 1% increase on 2008. This only goes to show the margin of error inherent in monitoring guillemots. **Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2013.**

200 noted on cliffs at Brander with 26 Cove cliffs 17th May

Counts of Guillemots at monitoring plots and whole colony counts, St Abb's Head NNR 2002-2013

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Plots	1924	1810	1445	1702	1636	1620	1605	1924	1,377	1,568	1,396	1,398
Colony	-	-	-	40389	-	-	-	33181	-	-	-	32900

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: None were seen during the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb:

6 St Abb's Head 12th Jan; 1 Eyemouth Bay 28th Mar.

4 dead Dunglass & 1 dead Eyemouth Bay 28th-31st Mar, part of larger mortality. Counts of 20-70 birds seen during multi-hour seawatches at Eyemouth GC Apr-Jun with 115 there 15th Jul. Very few thereafter with just five counts of 1-3 birds through to late Sep.

Breeding:

Whole Colony Count St Abb's Head A count of individual birds on ledges was carried out between 4th & 19th June. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 7th & 19th June. The whole colony count is done every 5 years so the last



Razorbill - St Abb's Head, Jun 2013

count was in 2008. The count was 1,820 individuals, an increase of 7% on the 2008 count of 1,687, like the guillemots, not a significant change.

Counts at Monitoring Plots Eight counts of individual birds were carried out at each of the five plots between 3rd & 20th June (as for the guillemots). The sum of plot means has decreased by 7% compared to 2012, and the 2013 figure of 118 is slightly below the 10-year mean of 126 and 17% down on the 29-year mean of 142 individuals. There is no significant difference between this and the 2008 figure, whereas the whole colony count showed a 7% increase on 2008. Again, this goes to show the margin of error inherent in monitoring razorbills.

Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2013

Counts of Razorbill at monitoring plots, and whole colony counts, St Abb's Head NNR 2002-2013

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Birds	160	171	103	126	130	142	113	147	112	133	126	118
Colony	-	-	2218	-	-	-	-	1687	-	-	-	1820

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Very uncommon visitor to Berwickshire coast, can occur at any time of year. (2 records in 2013)

1 St Abb's Head 2nd Jun, seen again on 7th Jun (Jack Ibbotson).

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. (21 records in 2013)

Breeding: 50 offshore, with 2 on shore St Abb's Head 21st Jun

Puffins were even more scarce this year, an evening count on 26th June found just 2 birds ashore, compared to 4 in 2012. There was a wreck of puffins in April this year, but this did not have the expected adverse effect on puffin counts on the Farn Islands and the Isle of May.

Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2013

10 dead on shore Eyemouth Bay 26th Mar with another 2 there 28th Mar; 21 also dead Dunglass-Reed Point on 30th Mar with another 5 Burnmouth 14th Apr.

1-7 birds seen on 9 dates at St Abb's Head & Eyemouth GC in Jul-mid-Sep. Last 1N/5S Eyemouth GC 30th Sep with last 2N/4S there 13th Oct.

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. (344 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 373 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 15th Jan (195 in 2012, 177 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb

Dunglass - Pease Bay	7	Pease Bay-Redheugh	8
Redheugh-Souter	3	Souter-Petticowick	24
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	247	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	16
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	66	Burnmouth-English border	0

Found in 35 tetrads Jan-Feb: 52 Stagehall was the largest total.

Breeding: Found in 98 tetrads Apr-Aug, with confirmed breeding in 29 of them. Largest counts: 70 Tweedbank 4th Aug; 52 Hillhouse 21st Jul; 50 Harpertoun 24th Jun; 34 Cheeklaw BBS 14th Jun; 34 Branxholme Bridgend 7th May; 31 Herne Hill BBS 24th Jun & 30 birds at Longnewton Mill & White Kip.

Autumn/Winter: Few Sep-Oct records with max count of 45 Redheugh Glen 19th Oct. Not many Nov-Dec with completion of the atlas with 35 Tweedbank 12th Dec the largest count.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Uncommon and local breeder in 20% of tetrads. Small winter flocks. Very much under-recorded. (88 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Found in just 15 tetrads Jan-Mar (8 in 2012, 17 in 2011). 6 Edrington Castle Mains on 25th Jan & 6 Heiton Mains 31st Mar; with 2 birds at Black Barony, Eddleston, Hawick, Kalemouth, Manderston Lake, Melrose, Mosshouses, Nisbet, Stouslie, & Wilton.

Breeding: Found in 49 tetrads (61 in 2012, 64 in 2011) with confirmed breeding reports from Black Barony & Larriston Lime Works. Pairs were reported at Craggs, Cringletie, Edrom Church, Fleurs, Hallrule (2), Lennel (2), Morrhiehall (2), Owl Plantation (2), Rocky Covert, Selkirk Common, Softlaw East Mains, Tom Long Strip, Upper Nisbet Moor & Watch Knowe.

Autumn/Winter: Only a handful of late-year records: singles Stobs Castle, Linn Dean & Darnhall in Sep with 2 Cringletie in Oct.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Abundant woodland breeder reported in 85% of tetrads. Some big winter flocks. (1,290 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Reported from 110 tetrads Jan-Mar. Large counts: 450 Huntlywood 23rd Mar; 290 Milkieston 6th Feb; 280 Pickie Wood 19th Feb; 237 Sunnyside 18th Feb; 220 Wester Muirdean 25th Jan; 200 Whitsome Hill 21st Feb with 100-199 birds at 7 other sites.

Breeding: Recorded in 374 tetrads (312 in 2012), with confirmed breeding in 105 tetrads.

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 308 Midburn 30th Apr; 300 New Mills 26th Apr & 200 Lambden 5th Apr.

Autumn/Winter: Largest Sep-Oct count were counts of local movements at Linn Dean with 326 there (2NE/219NW/99SE/6SW) NE 2,NW 219,SE 99,SW 6 on 12th Oct with 337 there (5 NE/141NW/181SE/10SW) on 20th Oct.

Recorded in just 47 tetrads in Nov-Dec. Largest counts were 450 Nisbet Mill 21st Dec; 300 Paxton House on 28th Dec; and 100-199 birds at Hirsell Lake & Elba.

Woodpigeon - Peebles, Nov 2013



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 32 tetrads Jan-Mar (40 in 2012).

13 Burmouth 3rd Feb; 10 Ormiston 11th Feb; 7 Birgham 25th Jan; 7 Heiton Mains 20th Mar; 6 Newton Farm 7th Jan; 6 Nisbet 24th Feb; 5 Eddleston 30th Mar; with 3-4 birds at Bowden, Cairncross, Kirk Yetholm, Melrose & Tweedbank.

Breeding: Recorded in 83 tetrads Apr-Aug (88 in 2012), with 7prs Preston 16th May; 3prs Lamberton 9th May & 3prs St Abbs 13th Jun; and 2 pairs at Belses, Black Barony, Dunglass, Elliston, Hartsgarth, Maxwelllough, Melrose, Minto, Minto House and West Linton.

The first occupied nest was seen at Tweedbank on 19th Apr; fledged young were seen at Melrose on 6th Jul.

Autumn/Winter: In Sep-Oct 16 West Mains, Lauder 24th Sep was, by far, the largest count. During Nov-Dec were recorded in just 9 tetrads with 30 Preston 17th Dec; 15 Minto on 20th Nov; 4 Lumsdaine & Deanfoot with 1-2 birds elsewhere.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Now an extremely scarce passage migrant, not annual. Formerly may have bred in the 1960s-1980s.

(5+ records in 2013)

Just a single bird was seen at the undisclosed site in eastern Berwickshire between 29th Apr to 8th Aug.

Also 1 Cockburnspath 12th-15th May (Derek Janes); 1 Newmains 28th May (Dave Graham); 1 St Abbs on 1st Aug (Fran Evans).



Turtle Dove - Cockburnspath, May 2013

Photo Derek Janes

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. (110 records in 2013)

Spring: First 1 Newburgh 19th Apr (Douglas Methven); 1 Caddonhead on 23rd Apr; 1 Press Mains on 26th Apr; 1 Melrose GC 28th Apr. Then singles at Darrington Great Law, Glenrath Hope, Scuds Cleugh Wood 30th Apr indicates a more widespread arrival.

Breeding: 93 territories/birds recorded at 88 sites in 75 tetrads (59 territories/birds in 2012):

Abbey St Bathans	Damhead Rig BBS	Innerleithen GC	Plora
Back Burn Woods	Dinmontlair Hill	Kelsocleugh	Polwarth Moss
Bellendean Burn	Darrington Great Law	Kyleshill Plantation	Press Mains
Bermuda	Dun Tae	Ladyside	Raeshaw
Black Andrew	Earn Cleugh Copse	Lauder	Redmoss
Black Barony	East Loch S BBS	Lauder Common	Riccarton Junction
Blackburn, Newcastleton	Easter Dawyck	Little Knock	Riccarton Mill
Blakelaw Covert	Eildon Mid Hill	Loch Hill	Scawd Law
Borthwickhall	Fawhope	Longcroft Hill	Scuds Cleugh Wood
Bowden	Gillside	Lyne Station	Siller Holes
Bowdenmoor	Glenrath Hope	Meigle Hill	Singdean
Brockhill	Glenshiels Banks	Melrose GC	St Abb's Head
Buckholm Hill	Glenternie	Melrose	Swinchy Cleugh
Bushelhill	Goseland Hill	Minchmoor	Swinnie Plantation 2
Caddonhead	Hanged Man's Hill	Needs Law 2	Threepwood
Cademuir Hill	Hardens Plantation	Newburgh	Upper Faldonside
Cappercleugh	Hardlee Flow 2	Note o'the Gate	Wellcleugh Plantation 2
Carcant	Hartsgarth	Nottylees	Wheelrig Head 2
Carter Fell	Haystoun	Old Tinnis	Whitchester Hill
Castleweary	Harmitage Castle	Peat Law	Winningtonrig
Craigurd House	Highlee Hill	Phenzhope Hill	Woodheads
Cranshaws Hill BBS	Huntford	Pinglehole Hill	

No juveniles seen.

Autumn: The last records were singles at Craigurd House on 5th Jul & 1 at Fawhope on 17th Jul (Ray Murray).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Uncommon resident breeder reported from 12% of tetrads. All records needed. Population fluctuates. (124 records in 2013)

Barn Owls were reported in just 45 sites in the non-breeding season (Jan-Feb & Oct-Dec) (73 in 2011, 33 in 2011, 54 in 2010, 107 in 2009, 132 in 2008 & 96 in 2007), so some drop in numbers is hinted at.

Reported in the non-breeding season from: Alemill, Ancrum Craig, Ayton, Raelees Wood, Balnakiel House, Birgham, Broomhouse, Catmoss, Clockmill Clovenfords Moss, Corbet Tower, Morebattle, Cowbog, Craigswalls, Eccles, Eckford, Edston Quarry, Faughhill, Floors, Fulton Tower, Gavinton, Gillside, Glenternie, Harryburn House, Holylee, Hutton, Kerchesters, Ladyurd, Larriston Lime Works, Leadburn, Manor Bridge, Maxton, Morebattle hill, Morebattle West, Mounthooly, Newmill, Ninewells, Old Howpasley, Paxton, Paxton House, Portmore, Primside Mill, Redpath, Renton House, Rutherford Lodge, Shortacres, Sinclair's Hill, St Leonards, Swinton, Trabrown, West Morriston, Wester Muirdean, Westfield, Woodheads, Woodhouse Hill, Wormerlaw, Yarrow Feus & Yetholm Loch.

Breeding: Recorded (Mar-Sep) from 54 tetrads at 54 sites (59 in 2012, 41 in 2010, 45 in 2009, 118 in 2008, 79 in 2007). Breeding was confirmed at 15 of these sites (*). However some sites in the ringing programme are not included in the totals for 2011.

Abbey St Bathans	Crailing, Old School	Hindhope Law *	Peel Burn
Angelrow Farm	Crawlee	Houk's Plantation	Redmoss *
Attonburn *	Denholm	Kilbucho *	Smailholm Mains
Bewlie Steading *	Dodcleugh *	Kyleshill Plantation	Smailholm
Birgham	Drygrange	Langtongate	Swindon
Blackadder Lodge	Dryhope Barn *	Larriston *	Tup Knowe
Broadhaugh	Dun Law Windfarm	Larriston Lime Works *	Walkerburn West
Caddon Shank *	East Reston	Linhope *	West Morriston
Carfraemill Hotel	Elibank	Lugate *	Whinrig
Castlehill	Fawside	New Mills	Whisgill Barn
Clarabad Farm	Florida *	Oxton,	Winningtonrig
Cothill	Gillside	Palace Cottage	Woodside *
Cowbog	Grenknowe	Paxton East	Yair Hope
Craik Farm *	Hanged Man's Hill	Peel	Yarrowfeus

The number of nest sites checked this year was less than 40% of the number checked last year, and not surprisingly the number of occupied sites is also less. Caroline's unavailability reduced available 'manpower', but the remaining survey effort targeted the better sites. This is reflected in the fact that the proportion of occupied sites to those checked was over 42% this year, compared with 23% last year. Unfortunately the breeding success this year was extremely low, and all we can do is hope for some good vole years and mild winters before we get any sort of recovery.

Alan Leitch, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

Barn Owl Breeding Data	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sites checked	-	-	-	-	-	140	252	156	61
Occupied	16	46	45	69	93	54	29	32	26
Productive nests	15	40	43	46	59	54	24	32	16
Young fledged	-	-	-	132	201	154	84	68	36
Mean no fledging	2.75	2.97	2.83	2.2	3.1	4.05	2.90	1.90	1.40
Young per productive nest	2.9	3.41	3.13	2.87	3.50	2.85	3.50	3.00	2.60

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. (1 records in 2013)

1 Whitchester 1st Jul. a typical annual return for this hard-to-find species.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*
 Common resident found in 36% of tetrads. Many reports in autumn during the dispersal of juveniles. (165 records in 2013)

51 birds at 40 sites in non-breeding season Jan-Feb & Oct-Dec: Abbotsrule, Bamflatt, Black Barony, Black Yett, Broomdykes, Buxley, Cauldshiels Loch, Cavers Knowes, Coldingham Cowbog, Craigurd House, Duns Cemetery, Easter Dawyck, Effledge, Foulden, Harwood, Hawick, Huntford, Hutton, Kerchesters, Lyne Kirk, Manor Schoolhouse, Meadshaw, Mervinshaw Farm, Old Howpasley, Portmore Loch, Renton House, Sawmill House, Sentryknowe, Singdean Forest, Sunlaws, Swinton, Teviothead, Thickside, Tod's Dean, Tythehouse, Tuppermoss wood, Westfield,



Little Owl - Prendergust, Dec. 2012 Photo: Dave Graham

Whitslade, Wolfelee, Wolflee Hill, Wormiston & Yetholm Loch

Breeding: 104 reported during the breeding season (Mar-Sep) from 74 sites in 68 tetrads (101 in 2012, 106 in 2011, 82 in 2010, 79 in 2009, 99 in 2008, 63 in 2007) (* = evidence of breeding = 28 sites).

Altreive	Craigurd House 4 *	Hutton	Parkhill
Attonburn	Craillinghall	Kilbucho 2 *	Pease Dean BBS
Bamflatt 2 *	Eddleston	Kingsmuir	Policy wood 2 *
Black Barony 2	Edgerston Tofts	Kirkton	Polwarth
Blackhouse	Effledge 2	Kyleshill Plantation 2	Renton House
Blackloughaugh 2 *	Eildon Hill North	Ladyrig	Riccarton 2 *
Bogend	Elibank South 2 *	Letham *	Roughhope 2 *
Bowden *	Fairliehopewood 2 *	Leysburnfoot *	Rumbletonlaw
Bowland	Falside	Linhope *	Rutherford
Brockielaw 2 *	Fancove Head	Linton Muir 2 *	Scarlaw Farm 2 *
Brundenlaws	Fleurs	Lumsdaine Loch	Singdean
Byhass Fell	Florida 2 *	Meadshaw 2 *	St Abb's Head
Caberston 2 *	Fodderlee 2 *	Melrose, Viewbank	Swinchy Cleuch E Wood
Caberston field 2 *	Glentress 2 *	Middle Hill	Toxside Moss 3
Caddon Shank 2 *	Hallmanor	Milne Graden 2	Upper Tofts
Cademuir 2 *	Hallmanor Forest 2	Minto Kames *	Wanton Walls
Cademuir Farm	Houndwood	Mire Loch	Winningtonrig
Castlecraig Forestry	Huntford	Neidpath Castle	Woodside *
Charterhall Wood *	Huntlaw	Old Tinnis	Yair 2 *
Cothill			

The first young were reported at Scarlaw on 1st May and Cademuir on 4th May.

A long cold spring with reduced vole numbers culminated once again into a poor breeding year for these owls. They have never really bounced back after the two severe winters of 2009/10. Birds that attempted to breed a little later when vole numbers had a slight increase fared a little better than the early attempts. Due to a change in staff, only partial coverage of the owl boxes was achieved. Boxes are placed in pairs on a site and checked for signs of occupancy either by Tawny/ Barn Owl or other species on FCS land. There was very poor coverage on private landholdings this year which resulted in only 4 sites being checked. Competition for boxes is greatly reduced by 'pairing' up the boxes to cater for any difference in timing of species breeding attempts.

Some of the sites had fresh signs of occupancy but no birds were found in the boxes when checked. There were some very early chicks fledging from the boxes during the last week in April with the majority fledging at the normal period during the second and third week of May with a couple of later broods in the first week of June. There was no significant difference in fledged brood sizes between early/late nesting birds. Number of young fledged per successful pair is similar to 2012 of 2.04.

Barn Owl numbers have not recovered on FCS land after the two bad winters of 2009/10 but more boxes are currently being occupied with Stock Doves nesting in both of the paired boxes 50-60m apart. An independent survey was carried out in the Tweed Valley area in the summer months looking for signs of Pine Marten which resulted in two FCS forests shown to be occupied by these mammals. Total numbers are thought to be very low but they may be having an impact on occupied sites and more importantly productivity. Trail camera's will be set up in late winter / early spring on some of the boxes where scats were confirmed to see if the boxes are being visited by the marten's. Thanks to all who contributed Tawny Owl records.

Tony Lightley, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Number of boxes checked	-	-	-	50	74	88	48
Number of boxes occupied	12	16	21	20	30	47	33
Boxes with proven breeding	-	-	-	-	24	41	21
Number of young fledged	24	24	17	21	44	82	42
Average brood size	2.00	2.15	1.88	1.40	1.47	1.74	1.27
Young fledged/successful pair	-	-	-	-	1.83	2.0	2.00

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. (6 records in 2013)

1 Hallydown 15th Feb (Dave Graham); 1 Smailholm 24th Feb (Malcolm Ross); 1 Primsidehill 6th Apr (Caroline Blackie); 1 Black Barony 18th Jul (James Towill) ; 1 Huntford 22nd Nov (C Watson).

The only nest records from an RSG member came from Graham Anderson who reported three sites and two broods in the Pentlands, though it seems that at least some of the young from both broods were predated by Goshawk or Sparrowhawk.

From other sources, I have identified broods of young heard from the Berwickshire coast, Edinburgh City and Midlothian. There were also casual records of birds in habitat during April to July from the Yetholm area, near Eddleston and from a regular site on the western border of West Lothian. Searching in the Moorfoots, coastal East Lothian and some West Lothian plantations found no birds.

The Borders held 3 possible and 3 confirmed pairs; figures for the Lothians were 1 and 2 respectively.

Mark Holling, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

	Sites occupied	Sites with eggs laid	Sites young fledged	Min young fledged	Young per occupied site
2013	?	9	5	7	0.78
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

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. (22 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 2 Dowlaw Dam 20th Jan; 1 Caverton Mains 26th Jan; 3 Mainslaughter Law 2nd Mar; 2 Slipperfield Mount 3rd Mar; and 1 Eyemouth 12th Apr. Singles Haud Yards 27th Apr; Killiedraughts Bay 9th May and Mire Loch 11th May were doubtless late passage birds.

Breeding: Just 12 casual reports in Apr-Jul period.

2013 was a particularly poor year for Short-eared Owls. Despite the usual high level of searching in the Moorfoots, Tom had records on just two dates with no evidence of any nesting attempts – this was thought to have been due to the poor (very cold) weather early in the season and a general lack of prey. These factors may have influenced over-winter survival and the condition of the birds prior to the breeding season.

In the Lammermuirs, where there have been fewer breeding attempts in recent years, the Merlin team had records from three sites, including a pair regular in one area (where they have bred previously), but no signs that any breeding attempts were made.

The only positive sign was a record of an adult with a fledged juvenile in June near St. Mary's Loch, but the nest could not be located. The Borders held 3 possible, 1 probable and 3 confirmed pairs; figures for the Lothians were 1, 0 and 0 respectively.

I would like to thank the following RSG members who have supplied information so far on these two owls in 2013: Graham Anderson, Tom Dougall, Alan Heavisides & Andrew Sandeman.

Mark Holling, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

Autumn/Winter: Very few late-year records: singles Langburnshiels 19th Sep; St Abb's Head 12th Oct; Newmains 15th Oct; and Falla 17th Oct.

	Sites occupied	Sites with clutches laid	Sites fledged young	Min young fledged	Min young/nest
2013	5	1	1	na	na
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



Short-eared Owl - Newmains, Oct 2013 Photos: 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. (171 records in 2013)

Spring: First 1 Hirsle 14th Apr (Anthony Speybe); 1 New Mills 26th Apr; 1 Eyemouth 30th Apr; 5 Tweedbank 3rd May; 8 Kelso & 2 Peebles 6th May; widespread 7th May (7 sites) with 20 Coldstream, the largest total. Some passage with 15N St Abb's Head 14th May was only passage noted directly until 150 Hule Moss 7th Jun.

Breeding: Recorded in 103 tetrads Apr-Jul.

Birds soaring over settlements (not late Jul)	Counts of screaming parties	Counts of nests [no nest count, but birds associated]
Coldstream	Barnhills 4	Cove 1
Earlston	Bowanhill 2	Innerleithen 2
Galashiels	Carfraemill 5	Jedburgh 3
Gavinton	Cessford 2	Saughtree 2
Lennel	Darnick 11	Shielstockbrae 3
Tweedbank	Duns 36	Tweedbank 9
	Hawick 16	Walkerburn W 5
	Heiton 8	
	Oatleycleugh 2	
	Peebles 10	

Ringling at The Hirsle nest-boxes saw 26 birds in boxes (Alan Kerr). Also 2 boxes used at SBC HQ at Newtown St Boswells.

Autumn: 100+ St Abb's Head 19th & 20th Jun with 30 there on 30th Jun. 32 Tweedbank & 30 Manderston on 13th Jul; 40 Leaderfoot 18th Jul; 30 Eccles & 25 Denholm 21st Jul; 120 Old Melrose 24th Jul; 45 Duns 30th Jul; 70 Charterhall 6th Aug; 55 Duns & 30 Eyemouth 7th Aug; 21 Coldstream 8th Aug. Single-figure counts thereafter with 5 Coldstream 11th Aug and 7 there on 19th with last 7 there on 22nd Aug (Anthony Speybe).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Rather uncommon resident of riverine habitats found in 3% of tetrads. Occasionally seen on coast in winter. (29 records in 2013)

Non-breeding: Single birds were seen at the Teviot at Wilton Park, Leithenwaterfoot, Lowood Pond, and the Tarth at Netherurd

In Jan; at the Ettrick at Bridgeheugh, Leithenwaterfoot and the Teviot at Denholm Mill and Nisbet in Feb.

During Oct-Dec records of singles came from: on the Whiteadder at Abbey St Bathans & Bluestane Ford and the Tweed Haughs and Paxton in Oct; Spittal-on –Rule on Nov; and Paxton House in Dec with 2 birds there on 13th Dec.

Breeding: Single birds were reported in suitable habitat Mar-Sep at Tweedbank, the Tweed Haughs and on the Tweed at Abbotsrule, & Paxton House; on the Teviot at Denholm Mill, Monteviot and Roxburgh; at Hirsell Lake; the Whiteadder at Bluestane Ford & Cawderstones; and the Bowmont Water at Attonburn.

Wryneck *Jynx toquilla*

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant. Not annual.

1 ringed Whitmuirhall Loch 25th Aug (Douglas Kellett).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Uncommon breeding resident in 8% of tetrads, mostly in old riverine woods. (21 records in 2013)

Breeding: Birds were reported from the just 18 sites during the breeding season (Mar-Aug); (26 in 2012, 33 in 2011, 30 in 2010, 33 in 2009, 28 in 2008, 31 in 2007). * = evidence of breeding.

Bedrule		Darnick BBS	Linnburn-Jenny's Brae 2	Spittal-on-Rule	2
Blackerstone		Georgefield	Lyne Station	Tan Law BBS	
Cothill	2	Innerleithen	Rink Hill	Torwoodlee	2
Cowdenknowes		Kingsmuir	Soonhope Glen	White Hill	
Craigurd House		Lamberton N			

Non-breeding: No records in Feb, Sep, Nov & Dec but reports from Easter Dawyck, Hallmanor & Leadburn Community Woodland.

The very low number of reports in 2013 is worrying.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common breeder in 25% of tetrads. A few on passage. (524 records in 2013)

Breeding: Birds were reported at 208 sites in the breeding season (Mar-Aug) in 182 tetrads (198 in 2012). Evidence of breeding at 68 sites (65 in 2012, 74 in 2011, 32 sites in 2010).

Attonburn	FL	Dinlaybyre	FF	Howpasley	UN	Sourhope	FL
Barnhills	FL	Dogden Moss	UN	Jedhead	UN	Standhill	UN
Black Barony	FL	Dryburgh	FF	Jordonlaw	FL	Stobs Castle	UN
Black Rig	UN	Dun Knowe	ON	Larriston Lime Works	FL	Swinnie	UN
Bowden	NY	Duns Law	NY	Leadburn CW	UN	The Glen	UN
Broomdykes	FL	Earlypier	UN	Lilliardsedge	UN	Thirlington Burn	NY
Burn House	FL	Eccles Tofts	NY	Linhope	ON	Tinnis	UN
Camp Shiel	UN	Effledge	UN	Longnewton Mill	FL	Todrig	ON
Carlin Tooth	UN	Fawhope	FL	Macbiehill Pond	FL	Tod's Dean	UN
Causewaygrain Head	UN	Fleurs	NY	Medwynhead	UN	Tweedbank	FL
Cavers	UN	Fogo	ON	Minto House	UN	Tweedsmuir Kirk	FF
Caverton Mains	ON	Gala Hill	NY	Minto Kames	UN	Upper Faldonside	NY
Coldingham Loch	UN	Glenwhappen Rig	UN	Phenzhope Rig	UN	Wauchope Common	UN
Cowieslinn	UN	Haggis Side	UN	Polwarth	ON	Whitchester	UN
Craggs	FL	Hanged Man's Hill	UN	Riccarton Mill	FL	Winningtonrig	UN
Craigurd House	FL	Hexpath	UN	Shaws	UN	Woodside	FL
Darnhall-Harcus	ON	Hoselaw Farm	UN	Shiplaws	UN		

The largest count, usually here juveniles were concerned, were: 6 at Abbey St Bathans (3prs); 4 at Bellitaw, Marygold & Mersingtonmill; 3 at Craigurd 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 Renton House & Kailzie on 10th Jun.

Non-breeding: Birds were reported outwith the breeding season from 104 sites in 97 tetrads. Most sightings were of 1-2 birds but there were 5 Black Barony, 4 Leadburn CW and Homebank and 3 at Brieryhill, Craggs, Darnhall-Harcus, Eccles Tofts, Jedburgh, Longnewton Mill, Sinclair's Hill & Tweedbank.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common and widespread breeder noted in 63% of tetrads, possibly 900-1,000 pairs. Some large counts August-September with limited passage near coast. (377 records in 2013)

Reported from 86 tetrads during Jan-Mar, 76 between Apr-Aug & 66 tetrads from Sep-Dec.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records :	52	52	28	26	22	33	27	18	19	28	25	29
No. of birds:	55	58	28	27	24	37	30	27	26	29	25	29

The numbers of records and tetrads with records has fallen by between a third and a half from 2012 values. Although some drop due to the end of full-blown atlasing activities might have been expected, this collapse of Kestrel numbers suggests that the population has suffered an important decline. In contrast, the drop in Buzzard from 2012 levels was just slight, so there appears to have been a differential, and disastrous, impact on Kestrel numbers.

Breeding: There were just three casual records of confirmed breeding: a nest at Quarrydean, Melrose on 23rd May; an adult with food for young at Lindean Mast Pool on 22nd Jul; and fledged young at Fancove Head on 14th Jul. This contrasts with 13 records in 2012.

The number of sites checked was reduced due to Caroline's impending motherhood, so results for 2013 cannot be compared to earlier years. The intention is to resume more extensive checks in 2014. The intention is to resume more extensive checks in 2014.

Anecdotal evidence from members suggests that this has been a hard year for Kestrels.

Numerous Kestrel nest boxes were erected in the south and east of the RSG area, but so far they 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 the habitat appears to be ideal, and also at places where Kestrels have been seen.

There is considerable concern shown in the reduction of Kestrel numbers throughout the UK, and numbers appear to be down in many parts of the Lothians, but so far this reduction appears not to be so evident in the south and east of the Borders area.

It is important therefore to try and provide nesting opportunities to establish new sites, as well as monitoring existing sites. Members are urged to take note of Kestrel sightings within our area in an attempt to get a clearer picture of the population of this overlooked and under-recorded species.

My thanks go to Malcolm Henderson, Tom Dougall and Graham Anderson, who provided records who have provided records.

Caroline Blackie, Kestrel Coordinator for South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2013.



Kestrel - Northhouse, Apr 2011

	2011	2012	2013
Sites checked	10	-	-
Occupied sites	6	23	7
Breeding attempts	6	23	3
Successful sites	6	19	3
Young fledged	23	44	12
Average brood size	3.8	1.91	na
Mean productivity/attempt	4.6	2.32	na

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Uncommon breeder, perhaps 40-50 pairs annually, best known in northern hills. Widespread but scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mostly to coast. (30 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: In Jan there were singles at New Smailholm 7th Jan, Newmains 11th Jan, Heughhead 14th Jan, Hallydown 15th Jan, Coldingham Bay 25th Jan, Burn Mill 27th Jan & Angelrow 29th Jan.

In Feb there were just 3 records, singles at Angelrow on 11th Feb, Dodburn at 26th Feb & Kershope Bridge on 26th Feb. No Mar records but 1 Leadburn 7th Apr; and 1 Piper's Grave 10th Apr.

Breeding: Recorded from 6 tetrads in Atlas from Apr-Aug with confirmed breeding in 3 of them.

A very cold start to the spring with significant snow lying on the moorland breeding areas until late April. This resulted in many upland species, including the most important prey species the Meadow Pipit, to be present in noticeably lower numbers than usual. Fortunately once the temperatures did rise the weather was generally quite good and many upland species probably had

quite a decent if late breeding season. The merlins which did settle to breed were generally also a little later getting started. Coverage was probably similar to last year across the region but as usual quite comprehensive in the Lammermuir. Some known sites in the southern part of our region were not checked but several were monitored and some were successful and others might have been. This year there were at least three successful pairs in the Pentlands but only one confirmed successful breeding pair in the Moorfoots. The merlin decline seems to be continuing but coverage is also not quite as good as it was several years ago and so it might not be quite as poor as the results we have gathered suggest.

Lammermuir Hills Similar to most years with 27 known sites monitored for occupation. In 2012 8 nests were located but this year only 6 were found. Eight other sites did show some signs such as one or two kills, pellets or splash. Probably only 4 of these might be considered to have been briefly occupied but it is not known if more than one bird was ever on site. One of the six nests found was only located after the young had fledged. The scrape contained an unhatched egg and at least two fledged young just eluded the ringers! One nest containing four eggs failed at the small young stage. No sign of any mammalian predator and it seems possible buzzards could be the culprit as the merlin nest was quite open and they regularly hunt over this hillside. Another late nest was found as the eggs were hatching. Return visits showed that all had hatched but the brood contained a very small runt and all were underweight for their age. The next visit the runt had been eaten and the others were even lighter. The final visit found one dead in the nest and no sign of the others. This is unusual and one possible suggestion is that the male had come to grief and the female was unable to supply enough prey. The other three nests were successful with 11 young raised from 14 eggs. The now 30 year study in this hill group continues to produce far fewer nests than in the early years.

Moorfoot Hills Six known sites were monitored by just two observers this year. Five sites showed no sign of occupation. At the sixth site where an immature (brown) male was noted a nest was not located but on the last visit at least 2 probably 3 fledged young were seen. It would be very useful to have more coverage in this area. It seems that merlins have declined as a breeding species in these hills but are we sure that we are not missing some?

Pentland Hills A total of 10 known sites were checked this year from about a total of about 24 for which we have some historical records of known or possible nesting. Two traditional tree nesting sites were successful raising three and five young. An observer from out-with the group passed on two observations from a single day in mid-July of calling and flying birds which strongly suggests at least one other pair were successful raising at least one or two young. This could have been either a tree nest or a ground nesting pair. Another casual observer usefully reported a family party which clearly related to one of the known monitored tree sites. There is still potential for further monitoring in this area although it seems unlikely that the overall population is much bigger than we are recording.

South of the Tweed At least 13 sites were monitored to a greater or lesser extent. Of these probably 11 were occupied at least early in the season. Some sites were only visited once so outcomes are not really known. Two ground nests were found and fledged four and two young. At another ground site the nest was not located but at least two young fledged.

At least 13 sites were monitored to a greater or lesser extent. Of these probably 11 were occupied at least early in the season. Some sites were only visited once, so outcomes are not really known.

Two ground nests were found and fledged four and two young. At another ground site the nest was not located but at least two young fledged. There were at least three tree nests, one of which almost certainly fledged. The other two were found, one probably at the egg stage and the other at the large young stage but it is unknown how many fledged. At least two other sites were showing good sign but not followed through or nests pinned down.

At least three other were occupied early but no sign of occupation was found on later visits. In summary the details for 2013 are rather tentative and incomplete as there are many gaps in the information available, especially on final success.

Alan Heavisides, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

Autumn/Winter: Singles Lauder Common 6th Aug; North Esk Reservoir 23rd Aug; St Abb's Head 12th Sep; Hule Moss 6th Oct, Eddlethorn 7th Oct; Dowla Farm 19th Oct. Then singles Blackpool Moss 1st Nov; Carfraemill & North Riccolton 15th Nov; Causeway Grain Head 18th Nov. No Dec reports.

Areas	Territories checked	Territories occupied	Territories with young	Young alive/fledged	Young per successful pair
Lammermuir	27	10	4	13+	3.2+
Moorfoots	6	1	1	2+	2+
South of Tweed	13	11	4	8+	na
Pentlands	10	3	3	9+	3+
TOTAL	55	24	12	32+	?

Merlin breeding success in SE Scotland Raptor Study Group area 1997-2013

	00	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	2013
Sites checked	54	59	57	46	55	53	53	73	49	48	53	52	55
Sites occupied	26	30	35	28	28	24	24	26	14	18	21	19	24
Sites hatched	16	17	26	14	15	13	11	20	12	9	14	15	12?
No. of young	57	54	89	54	59	40	38+	62	45	29	47	34	32+
Young fled/occ site												1.7	na
Young/succ. nest	3.8	3.1	3.4	3.8	3.9	3.0	2.4+	3.1	3.7	3.2	3.3	3.0	na
<i>No data on 2001 due to Foot & Mouth restrictions</i>													

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 2013)

Single St Abb's Head 30th Jun (Fran Evans & Jack Ibbotson).

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. (107 records in 2013)

Two birds were seen during the Rocky Shore Count on 3rd Feb.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records:	10	8	7	13	7	7	15	7	10	9	9	6

Breeding:

This season was a great improvement of the disaster of 2012. With an increase in occupied sites from 61 to 63, though we only had 51 pairs laying compared to 53 in 2012 the increase in Chicks fledged more than made up for this. 44 sites hatched out young and 42 pairs fledged young.

6 sites were occupied by single birds.

The breeding season had a bit of a delayed start due to very cold weather up to April and the majority of pairs were later in laying by about 2 weeks, though as is usually the case there were exceptions and 3 pairs laid earlier than usual and were sitting in snow for several days

Productivity increased from 1.59 to 1.88 young per territorial pair and from 2.51 to 2.83 young per productive pair. This is still below the best seasons we have encountered.

The PIT tagging went on relentlessly with the assistance of Mike McGrady during the chick ringing period, Malcolm Henderson provided a lot of encouragement and welcome support in the South of the Region and Alan Heavisides was welcome company with his assistance at some Dumfries sites.

The results of the trapping/PIT tagging study are not complete for this season, but in general these was a lot of stability in the adult birds with no movements from sites and no losses, we did capture 3 new females and 1 new male at sites which are normally persecuted and where we have not been able to trap for a few seasons due to lack of birds laying.

Thanks to all who provided data. It all adds up to great coverage of our area.

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

An interesting black-phase Peregrine was seen at St Abb's Head on 11th Oct. See <http://jameshanlonbirder.blogspot.co.uk/2013/10/frustration-on-shetland-and-dark-shadow.html> for great photos.

	Sites checked	sites with pairs	sites laid	young fledged	young/ occupied territory	young/ productive pair
2013	153	63	51	98+	1.88	2.83
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

Great Grey Shrike

Lanius excubitor

Very scarce autumn passage migrant that occasionally winters. Not annual. (1 record in 2013).

After a 'big' year in 2012, just a single records in 2013: 1 Nisbet 9th Nov (BirdGuides).

Red-backed Shrike

Lanius collurio

Very scarce passage migrant. Not annual. (8 records in 2013)

1m St Abb's Head on 18th May (Jack Ibbotson); with 2mm there 19th May and 1 on 20th-21st May.

Then another m there on 1st Jul (BirdGuides).



Peregrine - Galashiels - Feb 2005

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. (295 records in 2013)

Non-breeding season: Recorded from 41 tetrads Jan-Mar & 41 tetrads Sep-Dec (64 & 66 in 2012, 70 & 92 in 2011).

The best early-year counts were: 5 South Mains 30th Mar; 4 Whitelaw Nick & Staerough Hill 18th Feb & Halterburn 26th Feb with 3 birds Alemill, Ayton, Clints Hill, Hawick & St Abb's Head.

The best late-year counts were: 8 Wester Deans 12th Oct; 6 Eyemouth GC 4th Oct; 5 St Abb's Head 4th Oct; and 3 birds at Black Barony, Burnmouth, Drone Hill, Leadburn CW, Millar's Moss, Prendergust & Yetholm Loch

Breeding Season: Reported during Apr-Aug from 78 tetrads (76 in 2012, 97 in 2011 & 75 in 2010).

Breeding was confirmed at Cloich, Fawhope, Harpertoun, Hindhope Law, Jordonlaw, Lamberton, Shiplaws, Whitechester, Williestruther Loch and at Woodside with the first fledged young seen at Williestruther Loch on 20th Jun & Cloich on 23rd Jun.

The best counts were: 6 Hindhope Law 16th Jul; 4 Harpertoun 24th Jun; with 3 birds East Loch South BBS, Jordonlaw, Leadburn CW, Shiplaws, Skirling Craigs & Williestruther Loch.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Very scarce but increasing breeder found in only 5% of tetrads in 1988-94. (218 records in 2013).

Non-breeding season: Birds were reported during Jan-Mar from 46 tetrads (55 in 2012, 61 in 2011 & 39 in 2010).

Mainly 1-2 birds but 8 Hen Poo 2nd Jan; with 4-5 birds Hirsell, Harestanes & Whinkerstones & 2-3 birds at Brownrig, Gallowberry Wood, Hallmanor Forest, Heiton, Linthill, Manderston, Minto Glen, Paxton House, Pease Bay, Wauchope Cottages, Wester Muirdean & Windshiel Farm.

Seen at 32 locations in Sep-Oct (46 in 2012, 29 in 2011, 17 in 2010), typically more visible when foraging to establish winter stores. All 1-2 birds except for 6 Hen Poo 20th Oct..

Found in 29 tetrads Nov-Dec (80 in 2012, 81 in 2011 & 75 in 2010). Best counts were 4 Paxton House 30th Nov with 3 Cothill 3rd Nov with 2 birds reported at Chesters Grange, Dere Street, Fatlips Castle, Fireburnmill, Gallowberry Wood, Hen Poo, Homebank, Hunt Hill, Muirhouselaw, Oliver, Ploughlands, Spittal on Rule, Stobs Castle & The Shoulder

Breeding season: Birds were reported during Apr-Aug at 68 tetrads (67 in 2012, 79 in 2011 & 68 in 2010). There were no cases of confirmed breeding in 2013.

The best counts were: 6 Mellerstain 27th May; 4 Muckle Knowe 7th May; and 3 birds at Barnhills, Blackburn Mill BBS, Hen Poo & Shielstockbrae. (A=anxious coding)

Barnhills	3 A	Fleurs	2	Ladiehope Culvert	pr
Blackburn Mill BBS	3	Gallowberry Wood	2	Mellerstain	6
Carlin Tooth	2pr	Glentress Forest	2	Muckle Knowe	2pr
Castlecraig Forestry	2	Hallmanor Loch	2	Paxton House	2A
Curly Moor	pr	Hardlee Flow	pr	Priesthope Knowe BBS	2
Dun Knowe	pr	Hen Poo	3	Rawflat	2A
Dunglass	2	Hirsell	2	Shielstockbrae	3
Edington Mains	A				

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Widespread and common resident found in 63% of tetrads. Forms mixed flocks. (886 records in 2013)

Winter/spring: Recorded 97 tetrads Jan-Mar (149 in 2012, 178 in 2011 & 146 in 2010).

60 were found on Rocky Shore Count (93 in 2012, 170 in 2011, 122 in 2009) on 3rd Feb, all in the sections south of Eyemouth.

The largest counts were: 220 Haymount 25th Jan; 73 Stagehall 1st Jan; 60 Torsonce 1st Jan Wester Muirdean 25th Jan & Heiton Mains 25th Feb; & 50 Houndwood 6th Mar.

Breeding: Recorded 234 tetrads (238 in 2012, 258 in 2011 & 156 in 2010), breeding was confirmed in 107 of them. The first adults on nests were at Easter Dawyck on 5th Apr & Melrose on 8th Apr; the first adults carrying food for young were at Linnburn on 6th May & Darnhall on 8th May; the first fledglings reported were at Shankend on 24th May & Hartsgarth on 31st May. Large counts: 100 Tollishill & 95 Elliston 21st Jul; 5 Preston 12th May; 70 St Abb's Head 27th Jul; 63 Broadhaugh 14th May; 60 Easter Happrew on 3rd Apr, 60 Cringletie on 8th Apr, 60 Neidpath 19th Jun & 60 Cockburnspath 6th Jul & 50-60 birds at Lamberton Beach, Langtonlees & West Linton.

Autumn/Winter: 400 Linton Burnfoot 29th Oct; 140 Bowdenmoor Reservoir 7th Aug; 100 Brieryhill 7th Aug were the only 3-figure counts Aug-Oct.

Reported in only 30 tetrads Nov-Dec (143 in 2011 & 152 in 2010). The only large counts were 1,000 Craighouse 7th Nov & 300 roosting Auchencrew 22nd Nov with 50-99 birds at Dunglass, Lindean Reservoir & Tweedbank.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Abundant resident breeder present in 69% of tetrads but breeding in just 36% of tetrads. (696 records in 2013). Forms large winter flocks for feeding and roosting.

Breeding: Found in 186 tetrads Mar-Jun (209 in 2012). Confirmed breeding in over half of them, 96 tetrads, due to a request to survey as many rookeries as possible.

Peeblesshire			Innerleithen, Toll Wood	NT334360	30
Bamflatt W	NT069364	73	Juniper Bank	NT376375	31
Blaircochrane Quarry	NT222548	10	Kingledores	NT109283	41
Blyth Bank	NT142461	39	Kitleyknowe	NT169564	19
Blyth Bridge Junction	NT130450	39	Lamancha House	NT199521	21
Broomlee Camp	NT158506	83	Langlawhill*	NT095385	38
Burnetland	NT103370	64	Lyne Kirk	NT190404	89
Burnhead, White Barony	NT261465	75	Mailingsland Farm	NT251432	25
Craigerne Lane/Bonnington Rd	NT252396	57	Manor View	NT204329	154
Crossburn	NT249418	31	Medwyn Mains	NT132485	150
Culzeat	NT112356	0	Meldonfoot	NT207403	36
Darnhall Mains	NT239482	22	Mendickfoot Cottage	NT138516	5
Dreva Craig	NT128356	65	Milkieston North	NT240456	62
Drochil Castle	NT163435	8	Milkieston South	NT240458	47
Dunwhinny Lodge	NT255397	21	Mossfennan Haugh*	NT121313	41
Earlyburn	NT226499	0	Mountain Cross	NT148474	20
Earlyvale	NT243508	93	Nether Horsburgh	NT305397	25
Easter Haprew 1	NT194396	75	Orchard Mains	NT320338	46
Easter Haprew 2	NT194397	16	Parkneuk	NT146464	96
Easter Haprew 3	NT190400	23	Peebles, Dunwhinny Lodge	NT255397	16
Easter Haprew 4	NT188396	26	Peebles, Gallowhill/Gypsy Glen	NT259394	18
Easter Haprew Gp	NT196398	140	Peebles, Hydro	NT262404	40
Eddleston Kirk	NT244473	16	Peebles, Kingsmuir	NT253397	57
Eshiels South	NT284394	13	Peebles, March Street Mills	NT249409	3
Flemington	NT167452	109	Peebles, Rosetta	NT244413	69
Gallowood North	NT213362	131	Peebles, Tweed Bridge	NT250402	3
Gallowood South	NT212359	43	Pisgoh Hill SE (spot height 281)	NT076374	48
Garvald Farm	NT099492	18	Romanoobridge	NT164483	45
Garvald School- walled garden	NT099489	16	Skirling, Gallow Hill	NT075390	53
Glen cottages	NT301335	29	South Mains	NT080372	98
Glenholm	NT101325	11	Stoboburnfoot	NT187385	0
Glenholm*	NT098328	11	The Glen	NT293323	27
Glentress Gates/Eshiels N	NT283396	20	Threepland, Crannie Moss	NT049342	43
Hallmanor Cottage	NT206342	41	Tweedvale House, Walkerburn	NT361371	23
Halmyre Hill Strip	NT182497	26	Victoria Park/Kingsmeadows	NT256401	26
Halmyre, main road	NT178496	45	West Linton East	NT147518	84
Hamiltonhall	NT155478	87	West Linton GC	NT142518	5
Heathpool	NT252447	54	Wester Haprew	NT171418	79
Howford Burn	NT301335	13	Windylaws	NT245448	8
Innerleithen, Kirklands E	NT334374	0	Winkston	NT244432	51
Innerleithen, Kirklands South	NT332372	18			
Innerleithen, Kirklands West	NT333376	3			
Innerleithen, St Ronan's Wells	NT303373	59	# replaced nearby by Easter Haprew colonies		
			*new		

See the article later in this report for an analysis of the status of Rook in Peeblesshire. The overall impression is of little overall change since the last survey in 2011, although there have been minor changes



Rook - Rosetta, Apr 2005

Elsewhere:

Ashkirk	NT476232	30	Hutlerburn	NT407245	8
Bedrule Farm	NT6018	7	Legars Farm	NT716407	11
Branxholme Braes	NT461114	30	Kelso, Abbey Row	NT729338	20
Bridgeheugh	NT4730	10	Kirkton, Cavers	NT5413	14
Burnhouse Mains	NT440493	20	Lauder	NT521483	30
Burnmouth	NT949611	31	Lowood Bridge	NT526348	30
Chirnsidebride Paper Mill	NT849561	56	Manderston House	NT816541	28
Coldingham Loch	NT8968	70	Melrose, St Helens	NT5334	30
Duns	NT787541	6	Midburn	NT521483	70
Easter Housebyres	NT538372	20	Peelwalls	NT921595	27
Effledge	NT5515	22	Pouterlaney	NT771531	7
Fancove Head	NT942628	5	St Leonards	NT553451	5
Galashiels, Darghai Lane	NT483367	25	Selkirk Toll	NT474294	12
Galashiels, Mormon Chapel	NT475372	3	Stichill East	NT713384	5
Gattonside, St Aidan's	NT536348	30	Stichill West	NT711383	15
Halkburn road-end	NT464393	20	Todshawheugh	NT4712	3
Hallrule	NT5913	14	Upper Tofts	NT547140	14
Hollybush Loch	NT483334	20+			

Other rookeries were noted, but no count of nests made, at Caverton Mill, Hellmoor Loch, Hutlerburn Hill, Linthill, Mornington Holdings, Preston, Saughtree & Stow.

Maximum counts in this period were 250 Howlands 18th Jun & 246 Upper Kidston 19th Jun, with 17 counts of 100-199 birds

Non-breeding: Found in only 59 tetrads Jan-Feb (114 in 2012, 159 in 2011 & 137 in 2010) with high counts of 230 Birgham 25th Jan; 160 Pickie Wood 19th Feb & 140 Fancove Head 4th Jan the only 3-figure counts.

Three-figure post-breeding flocks (during Jun-Oct): 250 Howlands on 18th Jun; 246 Upper Kidston on 19th Jun; 210 Cringletie-Milkieston 16th Sep; 161 Fawside 26th Jun, 160 Hyndfordwell 9th Oct; 150 Crumrig 18th Jun & 150 St Abb's Head 29th Oct; with 100-149 at Fleurs, Harpertoun, Huntlaw, Hexpath & Meldonfoot.

Found in just 27 tetrads Nov-Dec (90 in 2012, 123 in 2011) with high counts of: 700 heading to roost Auchencrow 22nd Nov, the only 3-figure count.

Carrión Crow *Corvus corone*

Abundant and widespread resident found in 90% of tetrads. (1371 records in 2013)

Non-breeding season: 118 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count on 3rd Feb (125 in 2012, 188 in 2011) with 28 Dunglass-Pease Bay & 28 Eyemouth-Burnmouth the largest sectional counts.

Reported from 130 tetrads Jan-Mar (184 in 2012, 300 in 2011 & 238 in 2010) with high counts of: 33 Tweedbank 1st Jan with 32 there 16th Feb with 20-29 birds at Eddleston & Yetholm Loch.

Reported in 95 tetrads Sep-Dec (162 in 2012, 224 in 2011 & 263 in 2010) with high counts of 200 Kirklawhill 21st Sep; counts of 189 Linn Burn on 12th Oct, 118 there on 14th Sep & 55 there on 20th Oct; 45 Oliver 9th Dec; 30 Brieryhill 12th Oct; and 20-29 birds at Black Barony, Sprouston/Redden Haugh & St Abb's Head

Breeding season: Reported in 346 tetrads (316 in 2012, 387 in 2011 & 368 in 2010) Apr-Aug.

Breeding was confirmed in 175 tetrads. The first occupied nest was seen at The Glen on 8th Apr & Hordean on 16th Apr; the first adults carrying food were seen at Wether Law on 7th May & Gavinton on 21st May; the first fledged young were seen at Harpertoun on 16th May & Preston on 4th Jun.

High counts of 148 Barnhills Moor BBS 25th Jun; 78 Tan Law BBS 2nd Jun; 77 Hopringle BBS on 27th Jun; 46 Herne Hill BBS 24th Jun; 40 Blackburn Mill BBS 20th Jun; 40 Langtonlees 21st May; 24 Hopringle BBS 13th May; 32 Whitburn BBS 20th Jun; 30 Peebles 5th Apr; with counts of 20-29 from Dunglass, Gavinton E BBS, Graden BBS, Leadburn CW, Scarce Rig Pond & Spurlens Rig.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Hybrid genes exist in the Crow population, especially in west. Pure Hoodies are exceptional in winter and spring. (1 report in 2013)

Just a single report in 2013, a single at Heiton 19th Apr (Neil Stratton).

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. (265 records in 2013)

Winter: Found in 55 tetrads Jan-Feb (55 in 2012, 93 in 2011 & 56 in 2010).

9 birds seen during the Rocky Shore Count on 3rd Feb (4 in 2012): singles Dunglass-Pease Bay & Petticowick-Coldingham Bay with 3 Redheugh-Souter and 4 Souter-Petticowick.

Best counts were: 6 Burnmouth 15th Jan & 6 Broad Law, Tweedsmuir 28th Feb.

Breeding: Recorded in 86 tetrads Mar-Jul (75 in 2012, 105 in 2011 & 97 in 2010) with confirmed breeding in some 12 of them. Occupied nests were seen at Dowlaw, Fatlips Castle & Fans while fledged broods were seen at Fanna Sike, Glenrathope, Killiedraughts Bay, Lamblair Hill, Langsidebrae, Linhope, Shielstockbrae, Sting Rig & Wether Law. The first nest with young was seen at Fatlips Castle 18th Mar and Dowlaw 14th Apr, the first fledged young at Glenrathope on 2nd May.

In the Pentland & Moorfoot Hills birds were seen at Fairliehope, Leadburn CW & North Esk Reservoir.

In the Tweedsmuir Hills there were reports from Berry Burn, Coomb Hill, Dollar Forest, Glengaber, Glenholm, Glenmuck Heights, Glenrath Heights, Glenrath Hope, Hare Law, Hareshaw Hill, Hunt Law, Kingle Rig, Kirkhope, Linhope Wood, Loch Eddy, Manorhead, Piper's Grave, Posso Rig, Priesthope Burn, Southey Hill, Sting Rig, Threeland, Trowgrain Middle, Williamhope & Yair.

Towards the Central Borders there were records from Fans, Gala Hill, Melrose & White Law Loch.

Reports from the Cheviots and the southern hills came from Adderstonelees, Berry Knowe, Blakedean Wood, Carlin Tooth, Cavers Mains, Craighope Burn, Curr Burn, Essenside, Fawhope, Foul Hill, Fanna Sike, Fatlips Castle, Hindhope Law, Hirsley Knowe, Hownam Rings, Huntford, Hutlerburn Hill, Kirkton Hill, Lamblair Hill, Langburnbrae, Langburnshields, Linhope, Muckle Knowe, Samieston, Stockshielbrae, Southfield, Stobs Castle, Synton, The Pike, Thorniecleugh Hill, Tod Rig, Toddle Knowes and Wether Law.

In the Lammermuir and The Merse there were records from Cranshaws Hill, Crib Law, Hardens Plantation, Hillhouse, Hopringale, Hule Moss, Jock's Burn, Longcroft Hill, Manderston, Norham Bridge, Riddell Law, South Hart Law and Tollishill.

In Liddesdale: Riccarton Mill & Sundhope.

On the coast from: Burnmouth, Fancove Head, Killiedraughts Bay, Linthill, Newmains, Ross & St Abb's Head. 11 Glenrath Heights on 19th Jun was an outstanding total for a non-roost counts; also 6 North Esk Reservoir on 11th Apr; & 4-5 birds Craighope Burn, Fans, Glenrath Hope, Hermitage Castle, Hunt Law BBS, Hutlerburn Hill, Kingle Rig, St Abb's Head, Sting Rig & Trowgrain Middle

Increased effort saw 37 out of 66 known sites checked in 2013, 3 more than in 2012. However more observers are still required to improve coverage. 27 sites were occupied by pairs and none by single birds. Eggs were laid at 24 sites and hatched from 21 of these. Perhaps the late cold spring had an impact, as productivity was down on 2012 with only 67 young fledged from 21 sites, giving 2.79 per occupied site (3.18), and 3.19 per successful pair (3.44) – 2012 figures in brackets.

Raven Breeding Status	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Home ranges checked	48	38	55	61	43	32	37
Occupied home ranges	52	38	43	56	35	27	27
Site with proved breeding	-	-	-	-	28	27	24
Young fledged	65	67+	105	61	90	86	67
Mean successful brood	-	2.6	2.8	2.54	2.57	3.18	3.19
Mean success/occupied site	-	-	-	1.08	3.33	3.44	2.79

George Smith, Raven Coordinator, SE Scotland Raptor Study Group.

Autumn/Winter: Max count Aug-Oct of 6 West Water Reservoir 27th Sep; 5 Redfordgreen 18th Sep; and 3 birds at Elba & Pease Bay. Recorded 28 tetrads Nov-Dec (39 in 2012, 24 in 2011 & 71 in 2010), again mainly 1-2 birds but 10 Manortoun Burn 1st Dec; 7 Westruther Pools 25th Nov; 5 Swinnie 20th Dec; and 3 birds at Barnhills.

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. (395 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Recorded from 24 tetrads in Jan-Feb, compared to 61 in 2012, 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 2013 was not a great year for Goldcrest with some losses, although the loss of much of the Winter Atlas effort plays a part. Just 4 reports of more than 3 birds in Jan-Feb: with 4 Hammerhead on 9th Jan; 4 Walkerburn on 17th Jan; 4 Trows 25th Jan; and 4 Sunderland 19th Feb. This compared to 19 such counts in 2011, including 3 double-figure counts! Spring passage at St Abb's Head with 50 there on 20th Apr with 17 on 21st Apr.

Breeding: Reported from 172 tetrads Mar-Aug (182 in 2012, 194 in 2011, 147 in 2010 & 87 in 2009, to 147 in 2010, still some way to return to the pre-crash level, although Atlas-boosted 309 tetrads in 2008.

Apart from the spring passage there was just a single double-figure count: 11 Blaemount Rig 9th Jun. And again, eliminating the passage birds, there were only 25 counts of 5-9 birds at 18 sites, compared to 51 at 33 sites in 2012, & 28 at 22 sites in 2011. *These findings in the early year and breeding season strongly suggest poor overwintering and low survival since 2012.*

Breeding was confirmed in 15 tetrads (28 in 2012, 34 in 2011 & 19 in 2010), the first adults carrying food for their young seen at Tweedenhead on 9th Jun & Scaw'd Law on 11th Jun; the first fledgling were at Blaemount Rig & Tweedbank on 9th Jun.

Autumn: There were no double-figure reports Aug-Oct from inland areas.

On the coast there were 5 St Abb's Head on 13th Sep but then little sign of passage until 15 there on 1st Oct and single-figure counts there until 17 on 8th Oct, 11 on 11th Oct, 10 on 13th & 16th Oct, max 20 on 19th Oct before last 6 on 1st Nov. Counts at other coastal sites did not exceed 2-3 birds, so a very poor autumn. Birds were recorded in just 25 tetrads (72 in 2012, 68 in 2011, 91 in 2010 & 59 in 2009). There were no double-figure counts, the best being 5 at Huntford on 4th Nov & 5 at Springwood on 19th Nov.

The tenor of the year is of low, and lowering numbers, telling a tale of poor survival in winter 2012/13 and a poor breeding season to follow in 2013.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Very scarce passage migrant and very rare wintering species, 41 previous birds. (4 records in 2013)

1 St Abb's Head 5th-7th Oct (A Guthrie) with another single there on 26th Oct (Den Morrison).

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Abundant resident breeder found in 60% of tetrads. (948 records in 2013)

Non-breeding season: Reported 108 tetrads Jan-Mar (155 in 2012, 211 in 2011, 150 in 2010, 215 in 2009) with high counts as follows: 38 Eddleston 20th Jan; 31 Milkie-ston-Eddleston 6th Feb; 23 Darnhall-Harcus 14th Mar; 22 Paxton 22nd Mar; 17 Elba 3rd Mar & 17 Tweedbank 6th Mar; with 10-15 birds at Black Barony, Cringletie-Milkie-ston, Deanbrae, Drumelzier, Dunglass, Easter Dawyck, Easter Haprew, Heiton Mains, Kale Water, Roxburgh Viaduct, South Park Wood, Springwood, Tweedbank & Wester Muirdean. Just 19 sites with double-figure counts compared to 28 in 2012, 48 in 2011, 29 in 2010 & 46 in 2009.



Blue Tit - Cockburnspath, May 2013

Breeding was confirmed in 77 tetrads. The first occupied nest was at Melrose 18th Apr and Hutton on 1st May; the first nest with young at Hollybush on 31st May; the first adults carrying food for young were at Black Barony on 20th May & Fairmington on 26th May; the first fledged young were seen Note o'the Gate on 11th Jun & Upper Kidston on 19th Jun. The latest fledged young were seen at Cringletie on 19th Aug.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident breeder found in 45% of tetrads. (789 records in 2013)

Non-breeding season: Reported in just 96 tetrads Jan-Mar (248 in 2012, 190 in 2011, 137 in 2010 & 170 in 2009) with high one-hour (mostly) TTV counts as follows: 16 Tweedbank 1st Jan; 14 Paxton 12th Mar; 13 Black Barony 19th Feb; 12 Darnhall-Harcus 5th Mar; 11 Eddleston 21st Mar. So despite the much lower number of reports there were 5 double-figure counts compared to 6 in 2012, 12 in 2011, 5 in 2010 & 3 in 2009.

The largest Sep-Oct counts were 17 Darnhall-Harcus 11th Oct and 14 Black Barony 18th Sep.

The great reduction in atlasing activities was doubtless important in this low figure. It should also be added however that just over 24% of the Bird Track records submitted had no count, the 'present' box having been ticked.

Large Sep-Oct counts include 15 Darnhall-Harcus on 24th Oct; 15 St Abb's Head 25th Sep; 11 Tweedbank 14th Sep & 10 birds noted at 3 other sites.

Reported from just 38 tetrads Nov-Dec (121 in 2012, 128 in 2011, 151 in 2010 & 99 in 2009) with 16 Black Barony on 29th Dec; 14 at Tweedbank on 10th Dec; 13 Bemersyde Moss 6th Nov; with 10-12 birds also at Dunglass.

Breeding season: Birds reported during Mar-Aug from 211 tetrads (236 in 2012, 310 in 2011, 236 in 2010, 202 in 2009) with high counts of: 17 Broadhaugh on 14th May; 17 Tweedbank 24th Jun; 16 Eddleston on 27th Apr; 14 Dunglass 1st Apr; 14 Darnhall-Harcus 2nd Apr; 14 Black Barony 30th Apr; 13 Preston on 16th May; 11 Herne Hill BBS 12th May; 11 Darnick BBS 21st May; with 10 also at Hindhope Law, Hoppringle & Milkie-ston. 12 double-figure count sites compared to 17 in 2012, 21 in 2010 & 38 in 2008.

Reported from just 32 tetrads in Nov-Dec (c. f. 78 in 2012, 128 in 2011, 151 in 2010 & 99 in 2009) with only 2 double-figure TTV counts: 16 Black Barony 29th Dec & 11 Tweedbank 11th Nov. 11 Ednam on 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 some 202 tetrads (210 in 2012, 250 in 2011, 246 in 2010, 164 in 2009). 12 Herne Hill BBS 12th May, 12 Hyndsidehill 17th Jul, 10 Dunglass 28th Apr & 10 Black Barony 5th Jun were the only double-figure TTV counts. 4 double-figure counts compares to 4 in 2012, 1 in 2011, 6 in 2010, 1 in 2009 & 15 in 2008.

Breeding was confirmed in 63 tetrads (73 in 2012, 140 in 2011, 86 in 2010). The first occupied nests were at Tweedbank on 3rd May & Melrose on 4th May; the first adult carrying food for young at Muckle Bleak Law on 26th May & Leahaugh on 31st May; and the first fledged young were recorded at Todrig on 18th Jun & Standhill on 18th Jul.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Abundant resident breeder found in 68% of tetrads. (584 records in 2013)

Non-breeding season: Reported 90 tetrads Jan-Mar (155 in 2012, 231 in 2011, 146 in 2010, 170 in 2009) the reduction in winter atlasing taking it's toll on the recording effort of this common species. High one-hour TTV (and other) counts as follows: 19 Hadden 25th Jan; 18 Alderybar 2nd Jan; 16 Riccarton Junction 8th Feb; 15 Old Howpasley 15th Feb; 13 Black Barony 8th Feb; 12 Easter Dawyck 17th Feb; and 10 Ewes Castle 1st Jan; with 10 Paxton 12th Mar. Just 9 double-figure TTV Jan-Feb counts compared to 20 in 2012, 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 7 St Abb's Head on 4th Oct & 7 Darnhall-Harcus on 11th Oct with 6 Black Barony 18th Sep.

Reported from a meager 19 tetrads Nov-Dec (120 in 201, 154 in 2011, 177 in 2010, 123 in 2009) with high count of 23 Black Barony 29th Dec, well in excess of the next nearest total of only 6 at Huntlaw on 6th Dec. So just a single double-figure count in winter 2013/14.

Breeding season: Birds were reported during Apr-Aug from 206 tetrads (261 in 2012, 263 in 2011, 278 in 2010, 160 in 2009). Only two double-figure counts in 2013: 10 Black Barony 30th Apr & 10 Old Cambus BBS 5th Jul (compared to 12 in 2012, 20 in 2011, 12 in 2010, 5 in 2009 & 38 in 2008).

Breeding was confirmed in just 32 tetrads (122 in 2012, 76 in 2010). The first nest was noted on 4th May at Melrose. The first adults carrying food for young were seen at Muirhouseslaw 26th May & Stirkfield 28th May; the first fledged young were seen at Fleurs on 14th Jun & Hornean on 15th Jun.

Just 31 birds were ringed in a Peebles garden at The Meadows by 11th Oct 2013, compared to 266 by the same date in 2012, confirming impressions of a poor breeding season. While the winding down of atlasing has contributed a lot to the drop in comparable totals at different times of the year, every sign is that for both breeding success and winter survival, 2013 was a disaster

Marsh Tit *Pocile palustris*

Now extremely scarce resident breeder formerly found in 4% of tetrads, mostly in the Merse. Recent huge decline in northern and western limits of local range. (6 records in 2013)

Breeding season: 1 Paxton 12th Mar with a possible nest Canty's Brig 4th Apr when 2 also at Paxton.

Also 1 Clarabad Mill 26th May (Tom Brewis)

Non-breeding season: 1 Nisbet 24th Feb (Neil Stratton); 2 Yetholm Loch 17th Nov (James Lough).

Numbers continue to decline and now perilously close to following the Willow Tit into local extinction.

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. (505 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 3 were noted on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb with 2 Eyemouth-Burnmouth & 1 between Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth.

There were just 8 Jan reports, mostly from coastal areas, with 100 Heiton on 1st Jan; 80 Newmains on 17th Jan; 30 Coldingham Bay 25th Jan; with 1-4 birds at Burnmouth, Duns Law, Lamberton Beach and Ross. Despite these, there were just 4 reports in the first half of Feb with 1-2 birds Wester Muirdean and Newmains and 3 on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb: 2 Eyemouth-Burnmouth & 1 between Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth.

Much more widespread in later Feb with widespread records 17th-18th Feb with 34 Burnt Humbleton, 13 Heiton Mains, 10 Bruntaburn and 1-3 birds at Fancove Head, Cairncross, Gair Muir, Gallowberry Hill, Lamberton, Old Haltenburnhead, Scratby Holes, Staerough Hill, Sunnyside Hill and The Curr. Birds thinned out again to the end

of the month and into early Mar with low numbers at Bemersyde, Bowden, Cauldshiels Hill, Elba, Lustruther & Stow. Numbers only picked up from mid-Mar with 75 Heiton Mains 11th Mar; 70 Angelrow 18th Mar. Small numbers moved through St Abb's Head and other coastal sites in early Apr, including 12 Press Mains 26th Apr. **Breeding:** Recorded in 222 tetrads Mar-Aug. Double-figure counts, including a few TTV counts: 31+22 Hutlerburn Hill 9th Jun; 23 Branxholme Bridgend 7th May; 21 Whitesidehill BBS 26th May; 17 Glentannar Burn BBS 24th Jun; 17 Headshaw Hill 21st May; 16+5 Saughtree Fell on 10th Jun; 15+7 Dogden Moss on 24th Jul; 15 Crumrig 18th Jun; 11+13 Rashiegrain Heights 12th Jun: with 10-14 birds at Black Barony, Cauldshiels Hill, Colterscleuch Shiel, East Loch BBS, Hartsgarth, Longcroft Hill, Press Mains, Scarce Rig BBS, Scawd Law, Tinnis Bridge, Toddle Knowes, Waddelscairn Muir, Weddelscairn Hill, Wether Law, Whiteside Hill BBS & Yarrow Fues.

Confirmed breeding in 12 tetrads. Only occupied nest was at Branxholme Bridgend on 7th May; first adults with food for young were at Linhope on 7th May & Middleton Moor on 2nd Jun.

Autumn/Winter: Passage and autumn flocks: no really large flocks were noted with best counts: 12 Hule Moss on 28th Sep; 50 Heiton 5th Oct; 20 Mire Loch 13th Oct with 45 there on 17th Oct; 19 Linn Dean 12th Oct.

Just 7 Nov-Dec reports, so a likely clear-out with poor weather with some large Dec coastal flocks in the snows: 140 Sunwick 2nd Nov; 8 Tweedbank on 11th Nov with 19 there on 12th Dec; 72 Linkim Shore 29th Dec: and 100 Linkim Bay 30th Dec.



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. (236 records in 2013)

Spring: First 1 Tweedbank on 7th Apr (Andrew Bramhall); 10 Innerleithen & 8 Denholm Mill 11th Apr; 6 Melrose & Easter Dawyck 13th Apr; 1 Hirsell 14th Apr; 6 White Law Loch on 15th Apr; 10 Heiton & 8 Tweedbank on 16th Apr; 300 Bemersyde Moss & 100 Cardrona 18th Apr with smaller numbers Hawick, Horsburgh, Mindrum, Allanton and Traquair 19th-20th Apr. Also 100 New Mills 26th Apr.

Breeding: 645 burrows at 30 colonies- numbers again reduced somewhat (723 at 40 sites in 2012)

First record of birds at burrows was at St Helens on 2nd May & Cavers on 4th May. The first adults feeding young were seen at Hoprigshiels on 23rd Jun and Thorniecleugh Hill on 24th Jun

Sand Martin - Darnhall, Jun 2013

Counts of active burrows – (+ = colony present – no count)

Eddleston Water at		Teviot at		Whiteadder at	
Shiplaws	6	Dodburn	3	Allanton	30
Portmore	2	Milsington Mill	3	Bluestane Ford	+
Darnhall	8	Branxholme Park	28		
Eddleston	6	Hawick drainpipes	10	Yarrow drainage at	
		Barnhills	9	Mountbenger Toll	4
Kale Water drainage at				Yarrow Feus	2
Attonburn	5	Tweed at		Whitefield	8
		Kingledores	2		
Liddel drainage at		Neidpath	1	Artificial site:	
Leyburnfoot	3	St Helens	4	Cockburnspath Quarry	78
Riccarton Mill	4	Hendersyde Island	136	Fawside	25
Tweedhead	4	Birgham Haugh	91	Pennymuir Quarry	36
Old Castleton	44	Redden Burn	74		
Riccarton Junction	8				
Keshope Bridge	12				

10 were nesting in clay drainage pipers at Hawick, by the library.

Autumn: 348 Bemersyde Moss 14th Aug; 10 Folly Loch 22nd Aug; 560 Bemersyde Moss 7th Sep. Last birds were 1 Linn Dean 14th Sep; 1 Hendersyde Island 20th Sep; with last 1 Hirsell 22nd Sep (SD Morton).

Then a very late individual at Tweedbank on 11th Nov (Andrew Bramhall).

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. (885 records in 2013).

Winter/Spring: First 2 Newcastleton 3rd Apr (Malcolm Henderson); 1 Bowden 6th Apr; 2 Innerleithen 11th Apr; 1 Thornylee & 1 Leithen Water 13th Apr; 3 Burnmouth & 1 Dowlaw 14th Apr; widespread, with records from 20+ sites over the next 3 days with 10 Heiton 16th Apr; then 20 Hawick 18th Apr; 20/hr N St Abb's Head on 20th Apr with similar numbers of 22nd Apr and 50+ birds on 25th Apr. 39 Cringletie 28th Apr.

Breeding: Recorded in 397 tetrads Apr-Aug (316 in 2012). Occupied nests were reported from 131 tetrads and fledged young from 33 other tetrads. Used nests were reported from 25 other tetrads.

The first occupied nest seen at Linhope and Tweedbank on 7th May. The first fledged young were seen at Crumrig on 18th Jun & Harperton on 23rd Jun. The first adults feeding young were seen at Lauder on 30th May & Burnmouth on 9th Jun.

The largest numbers seen in the breeding season were: 55 Nether Brothershiels 8th May; 37 Eccles Tofts 18th Jun; 30 Attoburn 29th Jul; 29 Crumrig 18th Jun; 27 Polwarth 21st May; 26 Elliston 26th Jul; and 25 Sourhope 29th Jul; with 20-24 birds at Bowdenmoor Reservoir, Broadhaugh, Calroust, Corsbie, Crailinghall Quarry, Dunglass, Edston, Hawick, Heiton, Hoselaw Mains BBS, Hownam Mains, Hyndsiehill, Lilliardsedge, Linhope, Macbiehill Pond, Millside, Muirhouselaw, Oxenrig, Softlaw East Mains, St Mary's Loch, Swindon, Upper Kidston & Whim Pond.

6 Elwartlaw 13th Oct may have been a late brood.

Autumn/Winter: 110 Howford 17th Jul; 50 Corsbie 25th Jul; 50 Angelrow 5th Aug; 178 Yetholm Loch & 50 Mire Loch 8th Aug; 78 Lamberton 15th Aug; 60 Howford 24th Aug; 30 Bemersyde Moss 30th Aug; 33 Linn Dean 1st Sep; 140 Bemersyde & 60 Clintmains 7th Sep; 300 roosted Coldingham Loch & 145 Linn Dean 14th Sep; 181 Milkieston/Eddleston 16th Sep; 170 Black Barony 18th Sep; 250 Drumelzier 21st Sep; 100 Mire Loch 22nd Sep; 166 Yetholm Loch 24th Sep; 50 Sprouston 2nd Oct; 17 Hirsell & 2 Newmains 11th Oct.

Then a long gap until 3 Tweedbank 11th Nov before 50 Benrig 15th Nov. Latest bird was very late- a single at Tweedbank on 12th Dec.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common & widespread summer visitor found in 44% of tetrads. Mostly April-October. (446 records in 2013).

Spring: First singles Springwood & Thornylee 13th Apr (Margaret Greenhow & Andrew Mossup); 3N St Abb's Head 16th Apr; 23 Tweedbank & 1 Georgefield 17th Apr; 1 Ross 18th Apr; 4N St Abb's Head & 1 Lamberton 20th Apr; 2N St Abb's Head and 1 Paxton 22nd Apr; 30 Peebles 25th Apr; then at c.15 sites by end of month. 18 Tweedbank 3rd May; and 20 St Mary's Loch 12th May.

Breeding: Found in 226 tetrads Mar-Aug (180 in 2012). Occupied nests were found in 94 with used nests noted in another 13 tetrads. The first occupied nest seen at Burncastle on 24th Apr and Bowanhill on 7th May

Largest breeding season counts: 36 Tweedbank 1st Jul; 30 Linhope 13th Jun; 30 Jordonlaw & 28 Black Rig on 6th Jul; 20 Nether Tofts 10th Jun, 20 Linton 15th Jun and 20 Fawside 26th Jun; with 15-19 birds noted at Attoburn and Hartsgarth.

Autumn: 106 Yetholm Loch 8th Aug; 230 Howford & 90 Borthwickbrae 24th Aug; 30 Tweedbank 11th Sep; 110 Cove & 40 St Abb's Head 20th Sep; 18 Craigmurd House 24th Sep; then 1 Sprouston 2nd Oct; 2 Yetholm Loch 4th Oct; and 1 Heiton 5th Oct. Then a long gap until 7 Tweedbank 11th Nov.



House Martin
Eddleston
Jul 2012

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*
 Uncommon resident found in 16% of tetrads.
 Forms flocks June-March. (191 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Found in 34 tetrads Jan-Feb compared to 43 in 2012, 55 in 2011 & 35 in 2010.

The largest counts were 25 at Gavinton 8th Jan; 12 at Knowesouth on 7th Jan, 12 Melrose and 12 Tweedbank on 15th Jan; 10 Hutton & Paxton 10th Jan, 10 Fancove Head 17th Jan and 10 at Cowbog on 26th Jan & 13th Feb with 5-9 birds at another 19 sites.

A 20% drop in tetrads compared to the same period in 2012. Some of this may be ascribed to reduced atlasing activities and despite this drop numbers, in terms of flock-sizes seen, numbers seem to have held up.

Breeding: Found at 42 sites in only 39 tetrads from mid-Mar to end-Aug, compared to 76 in 2012, 81 in 2011, 79 in 2010, 34 in 2009 & 84 in 2008.

Single birds recorded at 8 sites (*c.f.* 13 in 2011, 24 in 2011): Allanbank, Kingsmuir, Pease Dean BBS, Samieston, Southfield, St Abbs, Tweedsmuir Kirk & Whitrig Bog.

Pairs and broods: 43 pairs at 34 sites in 2013 (78 at 68 in 2012, 68 at 60 in 2011):



Long-tailed Tit - Jul 2013 Photo: Bill Meikle

Bemersyde Moss	1	Gala Hill*	1	Melrose	1	St Ronan's Wells	1
Black Barony*	2	Gordon CW*	1	Paxton East	3	Todheugh	1
Buckstone Moss*	1	Heiton	1	Polwarth	1	Tweedbank*	2
Cairncross	1	Heiton Mains	1	Press Castle*	1	Wellbush Cottage	1
Cavers	2	Horsburgh Castle*	1	Preston*	1	Whinnyhouse*	1
Cringlie-Milkieston*	2	Huntford	1	Quaw Wood	1	Windy Gowf	2
Edington Mains*	1	Jedburgh	2	Shank Covert*	1	Woodside*	1
Fireburnmill	2	Kelso Anna	1	Softlaw East Mains*	1	Yetholm Loch	1
Foulden New Mains*	1	Linthill	1				

Confirmed breeding in 15 tetrads (38 in 2012, 31 in 2011, 30 in 2010, 16 in 2009) with 3br16 reported (19br110 in 2012, 15br75 in 2011, 17br127 in 2010).

Nest seen Tweedbank on 7th May; the only adults carrying food were at Buckstone Moss on 10th Jun; the first fledglings were seen at Horsburgh Castle & Preston on 4th Jun.

The low numbers, even when considering the reduction in atlasing activities, strongly suggest the early and prolonged snows in winter 2012/13 may have caused widespread mortality.

Autumn/Winter: Flocks recorded Sep-Oct: 11 Darnhall-Harcus 24th Oct with 8-9 birds at Yetholm and Heiton on 6th Oct, Burmsmouth on 19th Oct and no other above 5 birds.

Reported from only 12 tetrads Nov-Dec (47 in 2012, 63 in 2011, 52 in 2011, 35 in Nov-Dec 2009 & 79 in 2008). The largest counts were: 15 Hirsell Lake 14th Dec; 13 Tweedbank 11th Nov; 12 Neidpath Castle 18th Nov; 10 Allanbank 9th Dec & 10 Black Barony 29th Dec. Double-figure counts at just 5 sites (11 sites in 2012, 14 in 2011, 8 in 2010, 9 sites in 2009, 23 sites in 2008).

The extremely low numbers evident in winter 2012/13 are not just a consequence of the reduced atlasing activities. It appears that poor winter survival in the early year was followed by a poor breeding season and then further reductions in the cold weather of the late year. This seems to have produced a greater impact than the double hard winter in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Pallas's Warbler *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Extremely rare autumn vagrant from Siberia. 2 previous records. (7 reports in 2013)

1 St Abb's Head 5th Oct (Andy William); another 16th-22nd Oct (Fran Evans).

The first since 2007. Approximately 21 previous records involving a minimum of c.28 birds.

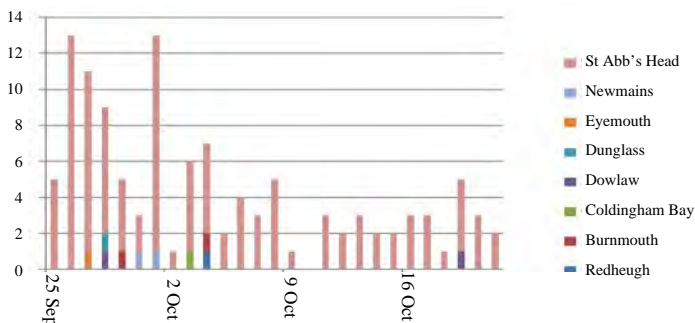
Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Very scarce, but annual, Siberian passage migrant. (56 reports in 2013)

5 St Abb's Head 25th Sep (Fran Evans, Dave Graham & Ray Murray) with a massive 13 birds there 26th Sep (Dave Graham) with 10 there the next day on 27th Sep when 1 also at Eyemouth (BirdGuides). Numbers dropped to 6 at St Abb's Head on 28th Sep but singles were also seen at Dowlaw & Dunglass (Dave Graham). Another single was picked up at Burnmouth on 29th Sep (Fran Evans & Dave Graham) by which time the St Abb's Head total had dropped to just 4 birds, before dropping further to only 2 at St Abb's Head on 30th Sep when a single was found at Newmains, remaining until the next day (Dave Graham).

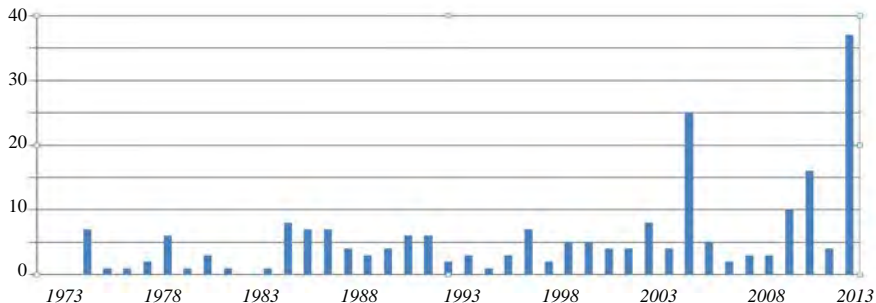
October started with a fresh influx with 12 St Abb's Head on 1st Oct (Jack Ibbotson) but while only one was found on 2nd Oct there were 5 there on 4th Oct and 8 on 5th Oct. Whether these were fresh birds or simply overlooked earlier is impossible to state. New birds were found however with singles at Burnmouth and Redheugh on 4th Oct (Ray Murray).

St Abb's Head dropped to 4 on 6th Oct before rising again to 5 on 8th Oct and then just a single on 9th with none found on 10th Oct. It is possible then that the 3 on 11th Oct represented 'new' birds. Numbers varied between 1-3 over the next few days but 3 birds were still present by 17th Oct although just 1 was found on 18th Oct. Hence the 4 on 19th Oct (A Guthrie), along with a single at Dowlaw on 19th Oct (Ray Murray) may well have been new arrivals. 3 at St Abb's Head on 20th Oct and the last 2 there on 21st Oct completed this remarkable influx.



Easily the best autumn ever with a prolonged passage with records from 8 sites and record numbers at the main site at St Abb's Head. Calculating how many birds were present is awkward as there is uncertainty as to the extent of coverage on the quieter days at St Abb's Head with less thorough coverage missing individuals. The absolute highest total, adding apparent increase from day to day is 46 birds. A total of 37 birds however, seems more likely when making conservative estimates as to how many 'new' birds appeared between days.

The 2013 harvest provided both the largest-day counts and largest year-count for this species. Since the first in the 'recent' series of records in 1975 (the only other was in 1913 in Lauder!) Yellow-browed Warbler has appeared in every year bar 1983. Taking minimum counts the Borders total is now in the order of 221 birds.



Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwartzi*

Extremely rare autumn vagrant. 2 previous records. (4 reports in 2013)

1 St Abb's Head 19th-20th Oct (Cairan Hatsell & Jack Ibbotson).

The third record for Borders, all have been at St Abb's Head in October, the previous birds being in 1988 & 2000.



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.(7 records in 2013)

Spring: 1 Dunglass 20th Apr (Dave Graham); 1 Pease Bay 21st Apr (BirdGuides); 1 St Abb's Head 1st May (Jack Ibbotson); 1 Plora Wood 5th May (Richard Bramhall and Harry McKerchar); with 1 Neidpath 19th Jun (Ray Murray).

Autumn: 1 St Abb's Head on 25th Sep was the only late-year record (BirdGuides).

Wood Warbler - Plora. May 2013

Photo: Bill Meikle

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. (523 records in 2013)

Winter: 1 Burnmouth 17th Feb (Fran Evans).

Spring: First singles Halkburn & Whitelee 3rd Apr (Reuben Singleton); Mire Loch & New Mills 4th Apr; Tweedbank 5th Apr; Innerleithen & Tweedbank 8th Apr; 4 St Abb's Head 9th Apr; then 1-2 birds Bold Rig, Burnmouth, Duns Castle, Eccles, Gala Hill, Gattonside, Harestanes, Hirsle, Ladykirk, Melrose, Neidpath, Norham Bridge, Springwood, Thornilee & Whitrig Bog between 10th-14th Apr and another 18 sites by 19th Apr. Best counts were 3 Hirsle & Kalemouth 14th Apr; 17 St Abb's Head 15th Apr; 6 Newmains & 5 Hen Poo 18th Apr; 5 Tweedbank 19th Apr. Passage continued on coast with 40+ St Abb's Head 21st Apr with 20+ there 23rd Apr; 36 Dunglass 28th Apr; 9 St Abb's Head 1st May with 11 there on 2nd May.

Nothing like the record Mar arrival in 2012 but nevertheless found in 57 tetrads in Apr alone.

Breeding: Reported in 206 tetrads (246 in 2012, 226 in 2011, 201 in 2010 & 146 in 2009). Breeding was confirmed in 16 tetrads (18 in 2011, 6 in 2010): the first adults feeding young seen Clarabad on 26th May & Fireburnmill on 2nd Jun; the first fledglings were at Neidpath on 19th Jun and Yarrowfeus 17th Jul. c.451 singing mm/territories were noted in suitable habitat at 194 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
2013	461	204

Single birds were recorded at 97 sites with another 354 territories/pairs/singing mm at 97 sites (* = confirmed breeding): Adderstonelees Moss, Allanbank*, Allanton, Ayton, Bankhead, Belses, Bemersyde Moss, Berrybank, Birneyknowe, Black Barony, Black Rig, Blackburn Mill BBS, Bow Castle BBS, Bowden, Bowshiel, Branxholme Bridgend, Broomdykes, Camp Shiel, Castlecraig Mill, Clappers, Cleugh Cottage, Clovenfords, Cothill, Cove, Cowbush Hill, Cowieslinn, Craggs, Crailinghall Quarry, Crawlee, Crumrig, Damhead Shiel, Darnhall-Harcus, Doorpool, Dryburgh, East Reston, Eccles, Edington Mains, Elba, Ettrickbridge, Fairmington, Folly Loch, Foulden New Mains, Galashiels, Gattonside, Gordon Moss, Haining Loch, Halkburn, Hanged Man's Hill, Harestanes, Harryburn House, Heiton, Highlee Hill, Houndwood, Hume, Huntlyburn, Hutlerburn Hill, Jedburgh, Ladiehope Culvert, Ladyflat, Ladykirk Home Farm, Ladykirk House, Ladyrig, Ladyurd forestry, Lauder*, Lyne Station, Millmoor Rig, Minto Kames, Mire Loch, Newbigging Walls, Paxton, Paxton House, Phenzhope Hill, Polwarth Moss, Redpath, Samieston, Scawd Law, Scuds Cleuch Wood, Sinclair's Hill, Singdean, Soonhope Burn, Sourhope*, Spittal-on-Rule, Springwood, St Ronan's Wells, Stichill, Thirlestane, Thornilee, Timpendean, Tod Rig, Toddeugh, Tollishill, Wardmoor Hill, Westerside Dean, Whitelee, Whitrig Bog, Winningtonrig and Woolshears Wood.

Abbey Park	4	Clarabad Mill Glen *	10	Effledge	4	Hallmanor	2
Ancrum Craig *	5	Coldingham Loch *	3	Fireburnmill *	5	Hardens Plantation	7
Barnhills Moor BBS	5	Covehouse	2	Fleety Wood	2	Harpertoun	2
Bogend	2	Cringletie-Milkieston	2	Fleurs	2	Hawick, Wilton Park	5
Bold Burn	4	Crosslee Burn BBS	2	Fogo	3	Hen Poo	5
Bowmont Forest	2	Darnick BBS	5	Frogden	2	Hirsle	4
Burnmouth	2	Denholm *	2	Gala Hill	2	Hollybush Farm Pond	6
Cheeklaw BBS	2	Dunglass	6	Gavinton	2	Homebank	11
Chesters	2	Duns Castle	2	Giddenscleugh	6	Hordean	4
Chirnsidebridge	2	Duns Law	7	Hag Wood	2	Hoselaw Mains BBS	2

Housebyres	4	Melrose	2	Pease Dean BBS	10	Swindon	4
Howlands *	9	Milne Graden	4	Philiphaugh BBS	2	Swinnie *	4
Kelso Anna	2	Minto House	2	Plora East	2	Tan Law BBS	3
Kennetsideheads	4	Minto Kames		Polwarth	3	Todrig	4
Kirkton	2	Mire Loch	3	Press Mains	8	Troney Hill	3
Kirkton Hill	2	Moor Plantation	3	Preston	5	Tweedbank *	6
Lambden *	3	Morrighall	6	Preston Plantation	5	Upper Nisbet Moor	3
Lamberton Beach	2	Muirhouselaw	3	Raeclough Head	9	Vertish Hill	3
Lamberton N	3	Neidpath *	3	Shankend	2	Watch Knowe	2
Lennel	3	New Belses BBS	4	Southfield	9	West Linton	2
Leyburnfoot	2	Newmains	6	Sprouston	3	Whinnyhouse Plantation	2
Linkin Shore	2	Norham Bridge	2	Standhill	3	Whitehaugh	2
Linthill	3	Oatleycleuch	8	Stobs Castle	2	Yarrowfeus *	2
Longnewton Mill	3	Old Cambus BBS	3	Sunlaws	2	Yetholm Loch	4
Lumsdaine Farm Pond *	3						

Autumn: Widespread on habitat into Sep at 18 sites, with usual crop of singing birds in Sep. Whether these are local or passage birds is uncertain. While the inland birds were mostly singles there were 5 birds at Tweedbank on 6th Sep with 7 there 19th Sep and 3 Hen Poo 8th Sep. There was also clear passage with 1-5 birds St Abb's Head in early-mid Sep but 25 on 25th Sep with 9 Burnmouth & 5 Lamberton Holdings 29th Sep.

Just a single Oct inland bird at Sprouston on 22nd Oct, otherwise all on coast with 11 St Abb's Head, 7 Redheugh, 5 Cove and 5 Burnmouth on 4th Oct; with 4-5 birds St Abb's Head on 5th-8th Oct. Then 4 St Abb's Head on 12th Oct, 6 on 14th Oct, 3 on 17th Oct before 12 there with 2 Burnmouth & 2 Redheugh on 19th Oct before the final 7 St Abb's Head & 1 Lamberton 26th Oct (Ray Murray & Ron McBeath).

Winter: 1 Tweedbank 11th Nov with presumably the same there 12th Dec (Andrew Bramhall).

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. (862 records in 2013)

Spring: First 1 Leithen valley on 13th Apr (Tom Dougall) with more widespread appearance on 15th Apr with 3 Hen Poo, 2 Coldstream, 2 St Abb's Head and singles Clovenfords, Linthill & Tweedbank; 2 at St Abb's Head, 2 Heiton Mains & 1 Tweedbank on 16th Apr. Then birds at 11 sites 19th Apr, mostly 1-2 birds but 7 Lindean Reservoir. A large fall then followed with 100+ St Abb's Head on 20th Apr, followed by 150+ on 21st Apr with 20+ on 22nd Apr. There was little reflection of such numbers away from the coast. 10-15 birds were reported most days at St Abb's for the remainder of Apr before 28 there on 1st May by which time double-figure counts were coming from inland areas of suitable habitat.

Breeding: Reported 395 tetrads (315 in 2012, 425 in 2011 & 389 in 2010). Breeding was confirmed in 79 tetrads with the first adults carrying food for young seen at Morrighall on 28th May & Lauder on 30th May; the first fledged young were seen at Tweedbank on 13th Jun & Crumrig on 18th Jun. Adults were still being seen carrying food until 24th Jul.

Sites with counts of 10 or more counted during TTVs, mostly singers (additional 1hr count given if <10, if made same day):

Aderstonelees Moss	13	Dykecrofts	35	Hurklewinter Knowe	12	Peden's Stone	10
Blaemount Rig	44+28	Easter Dawyck	16	Hutlerburn Hill	10	Philiphaugh BBS	11
Bleedean Burn	10	Effledge	10	Knowebog Hill	17	Priesthope Knowe BBS	10
Birmie Knowe	10	Fingland Burn	13	Ladiehope Culvert	18	Raeclough Head	13
Black Barony	14	Fleety Wood	10	Ladyurd forestry	42	Ramsaygrain East	11+11
Black Burn Head	13	Foul Hill	15	Leadburn CW	12	Scaw'd Law	13+8
Black Rig	16	Gillside	24	Leyburnfoot	11	Shankend	12
Blackhouse	15	Greatmoor Hill	17	Lindean Reservoir	12	Skirling Craigs	20
Bold Burn	14	Green Knowe	16	Linhope	15	Soonhope Burn BBS	10+13
Bold Rig	10	Greenside	16	Lochurd Fm	15	Stevenson	11
Branxholme Bridgend	12	Grey Hill	13	Medwynhead	12	The Inch Plantation	10
Byehass Fell	15+15	Hardens Plantation	10	Merrylaw	14	Tinnis Bridge	10
Camp Shiel	18	Hardlee Flow	18+8	Middle Hill	28	Tinnis Hill	12
Carlin Tooth	13+7	Hartgarth	12	Muckle Knowe	14+16	Tod Rig	14+7
Castleweary	22	Hellmoor Loch	12	Needs Law	10+17	Tudhope Hill	10
Cloich	10	Hermitage Castle	13	New Belses BBS	10	Tweedhead	19
Dinmontlair Hill	10+9	Herne Hill BBS	17	Old Cambus BBS	14+11	Wauchope Common	13
Dun Knowe	10	Hislop	12	Pedderie Law	10	Wheelrig Head	10

These sites alone held 1173 territories.

Autumn: Later inland reports during Sep from Black Barony, Brieryhill, Craigurd House, Cringletie-Milkieston, Greenlaw Farm Pool, Huntford & Tweedbank, all 1-2 birds. Later inland records include 1 Sprouton on 1st Oct, 2 Bemersyde Moss 2nd Oct; 1 Heiton 6th Oct and 4 Tweedbank 11th Nov.

Coastal passage was almost non-existent with only 2 St Abb's Head 3rd Sep and singles 22nd Sep, 25th Sep, 26th Sep, with 2 on 28th Sep with 1 there 3rd Oct & 2 again on 4th Oct, when 1 Redheugh, with further singles St Abb's Head on 5th Oct, 12th Oct, 14th Oct, 19th Oct and 21st Oct.

Finally 1 Tweedbank 12th Dec (Andrew Bramhall), an extremely late bird.

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. (430 records in 2013)

Winter: 1 Coldingham 7th Feb; 1m Eyemouth 18th Feb; and 1 Duns on 27th Feb.

Spring: First arrival was 1 Blakelaw on 1st Apr but then a gap until next single at Whitrig Bog on 11th Apr. Then 1 Hirsell 14th Apr; 2 St Abb's Head 15th Apr and 2 Tweedbank 17th & 19th Apr. Then 25 sites to end of Apr, max 6 Dunglass 28th Apr and 4 Hirsell, Heiton & Reston. Further passage St Abb's Head gave 11 on 1st May.

Breeding: Recorded in 181 tetrads Apr-Aug (222 in 2012, 244 in 2011, 181 in 201 and 160 in 2009).

Breeding was confirmed at only 6 sites (20 in 2012, 25 in 2011, 5 in 2010): the first adults carrying food for young were recorded at Preston on 6th May & Linthill on 28th May the fledged young were seen at Swinnie on 14th Jul & Longnewton Mill on 21st Jul.

c.398 singing mm/territories were noted in suitable habitat at 296 sites in Apr-Aug (707 in 269 sites in 2012): Singles were recorded from 102 sites with 296 birds at another 92 sites = 194 sites. 450 multiple males/territories or single pairs at another 102 sites: Allanbank, Allanton, Ancrum Craig, Angelrow Farm Cottage, Bankhead, Barnhills Moor BBS, Bassendean, Bowden, Blakelaw, Bluestone Ford Reservoir, Bowden, Bowshiel, Branxholme Bridgend, Cacrabank, Cademuir Farm Wood, Castlecraig Mill, Cauldsheels Loch, Cheeklaw BBS, Clappers, Clinthill, Cothill, Craggs, Craigurd House, Craigurd Walled Garden, Cringletie-Milkieston, Damhead Shiel, Doorpool, Dryburgh, Earliston, Easter Deloraine, Eddleston, Edington Mains, Fancove Head, Folly Loch, Foulden New Mains, Gala Hill, Glentress Forest, Gordon CW, Greatmoor Hill, Haining Loch, Hanged Man's Hill, Hardens Plantation, Harryburn House, Hartree Hotel, Hawick, Heiton, Hexpath, Hilton, Howlands, Hundleshope E, Huntford, Kirkhill, Kirkton, Ladykirk House, Ladyrig, Lamberton Holdings, Lamberton N, Leadburn Community Wood, Leysburnfoot, Linhope, Linkim Shore, Linthill, Littledeanlees, Loch Eddy, Merrylaw, Millmoor Rig, Minto House, Moor Plantation, Mordington Holdings, Nether Hindhope, New Channelkirk, Newmains, Pedderie Law, Philiphaugh BBS, Quaw Wood, Rankle Burn, Rashiegrain, Riccarton Junction, Roxburgh Mains, Rumbletonlaw, St Helens, Samieston, Shielstockbrae, Sinclair's Hill, South Park Wood, Springwood, Stobs Castle, Sundhope, Thirlestane, Tod Rig, Todheugh, Troney Hill, Tweedsmuir School, Upper Hindhope, Upsetlington, Vertish Hill, Wauchope Common, Welldean Hill, Whitchester, Whitrig Bog, Wilton Lodge Park, Woodside Nursery & Woolshears Wood.



Abbey Park	3
Barnhills	5
Belses	2
Bemersyde Moss	4
Black Barony	3
Bold Burn	3
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	2
Bowmont Forest	2
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	2
Bowmont Forest	2
Broadhaugh	2
Buckstone Moss	3
Burnmouth	2
Byehass Fell	3
Camp Shiel	2
Castleweary	3
Cessford Moor	2
Chesters	3
Cockburnspath	2
Cogsmill Wood	4
Coldingham Loch	2
Cowbush Hill	3
Craillinghall Quarry	3
Crosslee Burn BBS	3
Darnhall-Harcus	6
Darnick BBS	5
Dollar	2
Dunglass	5

Blackcap - The Hirsell- Apr 2013

Photo: Bill Meikle

Duns Wood	3	Hermitage Castle	2	Maisondieu	2	Preston*	4
Earlypier	3	Herne Hill BBS	3	Maxwellheugh	2	Preston Plantation	2
Effledge	4	Hindhope Law	2	Melrose *	pr	Raeleugh Head	5
Elliston	2	Hirsel	4	Milne Graden	2	Ramsaycleughburn	2
Essenside	3	Hollybush Farm Pond	2	Minto Kames	2	Reston	4
Fairnington	3	Homebank	10	Mire Loch	5	Riccarton Mill	3
Fawhope	3	Hoselaw Mains BBS	2	Morrighall	2	Shiplaws	3
Fireburnmill	3	Housebyres	2	Muirhouseslaw	2	Southfield	3
Fleurs	2	Hutlerburn Hill	4	Neidpath	7	Spittal-on-Rule	2
Frogden	3	Lambden	7	New Belses BBS	5	Standhill	2
Giddenscleugh	2	Lauder*	pr	Newbigging Walls	8	Swindon	4
Gillside	3	Lennel	2	Oatleycleuch	10	Swinnie*	2
Glen House	2	Linnburn-Jenny's Brae	2	Old Cambus BBS	2	Tweedbank	5
Graden BBS	2	Linthill *	pr	Paxton House	2	Whinnyhouse Plant *	3
Harpertoun	5	Longnewton Mill*	pr	Pease Dean BBS	5	Yair	4
Heiton	3	Lumsdaine Farm Pond*	pr	Polwarth	4	Yetholm Loch	3
Hen Poo	9						

Autumn/Winter: Sept inland singles at Edrington Castle, Huntford, Black Barony with 2 Tweedbank 14th Sep & 2 Harcus 23rd Sep; while in Oct there were single at Popples 8th Oct & Cringletie 21st Oct. Passage on and near the coast was light in Sep a few singles and 2 St Abb's Head 13th Sep with 2 Lamberton Holdings & Burnmouth on 29th Sep. Numbers built into Oct with 5 Srt Abb's Head 3rd Oct; 8 St Abb's Head, 6 Redheugh, 3 Burnmouth & 2 Cove on 4th Oct; then 6 St Abb's Head 8th Oct with 1-4 birds there over the next week or so until 10 on 19th Oct when 2 Redheugh. Last 1 St Abb's Head on 1st Nov; with 5 Tweedbank 11th Nov. Then gap until 1 Manderston Lake 5th Dec with 1 Tweedbank 12th Dec.

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. (84 records in 2013)

Spring: First 1 Tweedbank 26th Apr (Andrew Bramhall); singles St Abb's Head 3rd & 4th May and Paxton House and Pease Dean BB 6th May; 2 Tweedbank & 1 Lauder 7th May; singles Paxton & Hoselaw Mains on 9th May; 2 Dundock & 1 Fleurs 10th May. Although 1-2 birds over next week at Coldingham Loch, Harpertoun, Preston, Rumbletonlaw & Southfield, was not widespread until 19th-20th May.

Breeding: Reported 57 tetrads (62 in 2012, 74 in 2011, 84 in 2010, 63 in 2009) with breeding confirmed in just 2 tetrads, both FF records at Riccarton Mill on 9th Jun and Lauder on 24th Jun. 69 birds/territories were noted in suitable habitat at 64 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.

Singles at 51 sites: Abbey Park, Allanton, Black Barony, Bowdenmoor Farm, Castleweary, Coldingham, Coldingham Loch, Darnick BBS, Duns Law, Earlypier, Foulden New Mains, Giddenscleugh, Gordon Community Woodland, Harden Hill, Hardens Plantation, Harpertoun, Hen Poo, Homebank, Hoselaw Mains BBS, Hundleshope, Kelso Anna, Kingsmuir, Lamberton N, Lauder, Lilliardsedge, Lyne Station, Maxwellheugh, Melrose Curling Pond, Merylaw, Minto, Minto House, Mire Loch, Nether Kidston, New Belses BBS, Paxton East, Paxton House, Pease Dean BBS, Preston, Ross, Rumbletonlaw, St Abb's Head, Shiplaws Swindon, Todrig, Tythehouse, Upper Nisbet Moor, Westerside Dean, Winningtonrig, Woodheads, Yair & Yarrowfeus.

Dundock Wood	2	Milne Graden	2	Raperlaw	2	Southfield	2
Fleurs	2	Minto Kames	2	Riccarton Mill	2	Tweedbank	2
Herne Hill BBS	2	Raeleugh Head	2	Samieston	2	Whitehaugh	6
Laidlawstiel Wood	2						

The latest birds in possible breeding habitat were singles at Bowdenmoor on 7th Aug & Tweedbank on 15th Aug.

Autumn: Just four later reports: singles at St Abb's Head 13th Sep, Lamberton Holdings on 29th Sep and then at St Abb's Head on 4th & 20th Oct (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. (14 records in 2013).

Spring: 1m Newmains 1st May (Dave Graham); 1 Abbey Park 10th May; 1 St Abb's Head 14th & 18th May with 4 there 19th May and 1 on 20th May with 1 there on 1st Jun.

Breeding: 1m sang Catcairn Bushes 8th Jun; 1 Bedshiel Kaims 14th Jul.

Autumn: 2 St Abb's Head 25th Sep with 1 there 4th & 12th Oct (Jack Ibbotson).

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. (260 records in 2013)

Spring: 1 St Abb's Head 21st Apr (Dave Graham); 1 New Mills 24th Apr; 1 Tweedbank 26th Apr; 2 Linkim Shore 27th Apr; 2 Newmains, 1 Wooden Loch and 1 Upsettlington 30th May. General arrival in early May with 4 Dungallass 7th May; 4 Hoselaw Mains 9th May; 11 Abbey Park 11th May; 6 St Abb's Head 16th May with 7 there 18th May.

Breeding: Reported 143 tetrads Apr-Aug (125 in 2012, 169 in 2011, 130 in 2010, 102 in 2009). Breeding was confirmed in 14 tetrads. The first nest seen was at Walterstead on 23rd May. The first adult seen carrying food for young was at Lamberton Beach on 12th Jun & Mire Loch on 14th Jun; the first fledglings were seen at Howlands & Eccles Tofts on 18th Jun

c.302 singing mm/territories were noted in suitable habitat at 145 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 74 sites with c.241 territories/pairs at another 74 sites

Single birds only at 73 sites: Angelow Farm Cottage, Bemersyde Moss, Berrybank, Bishop's Bog, Blackburn, Blaikie's Hill, Blakedian Wood East, Bluestone Ford, Borthwick Quarry, Bowden, Bowdenmoor Reservoir, Brockholes, Burmmouth, Camieston, Carfraemill Hotel, Cessford Moor, Corsbie, Cothill, Cranshaws Hill BBS, Drone Hill, Duns, East Reston, Effledge, Eildon Mid Hill, Essenside, Fancove Head, Fawside, Graden BBS, Hardens Plantation, Harpertoun, Harryburn House, Haud Yauds, Hellmoor Loch, Hen Poo, Hillhouse, Hilton, Hindhope Law, Hislop, Hobkirk, Houndwood, Housebyres, Kennetsideheads, Lamberton Moor, Langton Mill, Lauder, Lennel, Linthill, Lurgiescleuch, Millar's Moss, Milne Graden, Minto, Minto House, Mordington Holdings, Muirhouselaw, Newburgh, Pedderie Law, Peebles, Penmanshiel Wood, Philiphaugh BBS, Ploughlands Pond, Polwarth, Prendergust, Rhymer's Glen, Roxburgh Mains, Rumbletonlaw, Siccar Point, Tandlaw Moss, Tod Rig, Todrig, Tweedbank, Upper Hindhope, Upper Kidston, Upsettlington & Wester Wooden.

Abbey Park	12	Edington Mains*	2	Lambden	2	Pease Bay	2
Allanton	2	Fairnington*	8	Lamberton Beach*	2	Pease Dean BBS	5
Ancrum Craig	5	Fireburnmill	4	Lamberton N	2	Preston	5
Barnhills	2	Fleurs	5	Larriston Lime Works	2	Prieston	2
Bowmont Forest	2	Fogo	2	Lilliardsedge	3	Raecluegh Head	2
Cheeklaw BBS	3	Froden	2	Lindean Reservoir	2	Ross*	4
Chester Craig	2	Goseland Hill	2	Linkim Shore	2	Roxburgh Viaduct	2
Chirnside	2	Harelaw Pond	2	Longnewton Mill*	2	Shielstockbrae	4
Clappers	2	Harpertoun	4	Lumsdaine Loch	2	Softlaw East Mains	2
Cockburnspath	3	Headshaw Hill	2	Maisondieu	2	Sprouston	3
Coldingham Loch	2	Heiton	2	Midburn *	pr	St Boswells	2
Cove	2	Hexpath	2	Minto Kames*	2	Standhill	3
Craggs*	6	Homebank*	pr	Mire Loch*	5	Swindon	4
Crumrig	7	Hopton	8	Morrighel	6	Swinnie*	2
Darnick	2	Horndean	2	New Belsh BBS	4	Upper Nisbet Moor	3
Denholm*	pr	Hoselaw Mains BBS	4	New Channelkirk	4	Watch Knowe	2
Dungallass	7	Howlands*	6	Newbigging Walls	4	Whinnyhouse	2
Eccles Tofts*	6	Huntford*	3	Newmains	9	Wormiston Haugh	2
Eddleston	3	Kelso Anna	2				

Autumn: Singles Angelow & St Abb's Head (2)13th-21st Sep with 5 Lamberton Holdings 29th Sep; 1 Cove on 4th Oct; singles St Abb's Head 6th, 13th 17th, 20th Oct but latest bird was 1 Tweedbank 11th Nov (Andrew Bramhall).

Sardinian Warbler *Sylvia melanocephala*

Very rare passage migrant from Mediterranean (46 records, of one bird, in 2013)

1 ad m trapped St Abb's Head 30th Jun (Alan Kerr).

The first record for Borders.

It was assumed that this was a 'one-day wonder' until a ringed male was seen on 25th Sep. This bird then remained at the Mire Loch until 2nd Nov.

Even the length of stay through late Sep-early Nov would have been remarkable but it is assumed that Alan's bird moulted (and skulked extremely well) until showing itself, through singing, about 3 months later within meters of where it had been ringed. Although it was not recaptured, enough of the ring number was seen to confirm it was the same individual.



Sardinian Warbler - St Abb's; Head, Oct 2013 Photo: Dave Graham

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Scarce summer visitor & passage migrant April-early September. Found in 5% of tetrads. (20 records in 2013)

Spring: First 1 Fleety Wood 14th May (Kevin Ingleby); singles Cragbank BBS, Wardmoor Hill & 1 Peden's Cleugh 20th May.

Breeding: 21mm, all singles, reported Apr-Aug at 21 sites, and almost all single-day records:

Bemersyde Moss	Fogorig	Larriston Lime Works	Redfordgreen
Bellendean Burn	Holm Sikes (E) lower	Oatleycleuch	Wardmoor Hill
Chesters	Lady Moss	Paxton East	Wellcleugh Plantation
Cragbank BBS	Lamberton	Peden's Cleuch	Westerside Dean
Damhead Rig BBS	Larriston Fells	Portmore Res	
Fleety Wood			

Autumn: Last report was 1 Fogorig 6th Aug (James Towill).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor to wet areas, April-September. Found breeding in 27% of tetrads. (186 records in 2013)

Spring: First 2 The Hirsle 14th Apr (Anthony Speybe). Then a 10-day gap until another there & 1 St Abb's Head 25th Apr.

1 Bemersyde Moss 25th & 27th Apr; with 2 St Abb's Head & 2 Upsettlington 30th Apr. Widespread over next 10 days with birds at Adderstonelees Moss, Bluestone Ford Reservoir, Bowanhill, Hallmanor Forest, Hoselaw Mains BBS, Kirkton Hill, Lamberton N, Mount Bog, Pease Dean BBS, St Leonard's Moss & Tweedbank.

Breeding: Recorded 82 tetrads (101 in 2012, 127 in 2011, 102 in 2010, 110 in 2009) with confirmed breeding in just 7 tetrads

c. 221 mm sang or were present in suitable breeding habitat at 103 sites in Apr-Aug

37 singles were reported from: Adderstonelees Moss, Alemoor Wester Loch, Barnes Loch S, Barnhills, Berrybank, Bluestone Ford Reservoir, Bowanhill, Edington Mains, Eyemouth, Fingland Burn, Folly Loch W Gordon Community Woodland, Haining Loch, Halliburton, Hallmanor Forest, Houndwood, Howlands, Kirkton Hill, Lambden, Lamberton Beach, Lamberton N, Langshaw/Mosshouses, Leadburn Community Wood, Linkim Shore, Little King Seat, Long Moss, Lurgiescleuch, Meadshaw BBS, Mire Burn, Mount Bog, Old Cambus Pond, Pease Dean BBS, Phrenzhopehaugh Hill, Ross, Roxburgh, Southfield & Winningtonrig.

56 sites with 184 birds

Abbey Park	2	Earlston High School	2	Housebyres	2	Newmains	7
Allanton	2	Easter Housebyres Pond	2	Hutlerburn Hill	4	Old Cambus Pond	3
Back Loch *	4	Essenside *	7	Kelso Anna	2	Selkirk Common	3
Bellendean Burn	2	Fairnington *	3	Kennetsideheads	4	Shankend	2
Bemersyde Moss	6	Fireburnmill	4	Lindean Reservoir	3	Skirling Craigs	2
Bishop's Bog	3	Frogden	2	Lochurd Farm	3	Sprouston	2
Bowanhill	2	Goseland Hill	2	Longnewton Mill	2	St Leonard's Moss	2
Buckstone Moss	4	Graden BBS	2	Lylestone Hill	3	Stevenson	2
Byreleehaugh	3	Hellmoor Loch	8	Milne Graden	5	Tweedbank	2
Castleweary	3	Hexpath	3	Minto Kames *	3	Upper Nisbet Moor	3
Coldingham Loch	11	Hirsle Lake	3	Mire Loch *	8	Upsettlington	2
Corsbie *	2	Homebank	4	Morningbank	2	Whitehaugh	4
Craggs*	2	Hopton	2	New Belses BBS	5	Whitrig Bog	3
Cringletie-Milkieston	4	Hoselaw Mains BBS	2	Newbigging Walls	2	Yetholm Loch	3

The first adults carrying food was seen at Mire Loch on 29th Jun the first fledged young were seen at Back Loch on 3rd Jul and Essenside Loch on 17th Jul.

Autumn: Numbers thinning out into Aug, with 7 reports at 7 sites, but only 3 later in the month with 3 Old Cambus Pond & 2 Coldingham Loch 22nd Aug with 1 Gordon Community Woodland 28th Aug. No coastal migrants later in autumn.

However 1 Tweedbank 11th Nov (Andrew Bramhall) is exceptionally late.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Very scarce spring & autumn passage migrant, and rare breeder. Last proved breeding 2005. (8 records in 2013)

1m trapped Mire Loch 26th -27th May and a female, with a brood patch, caught 17th Jun (Alan Kerr). Also seen 20th-22nd Jun and then an adult feeding a juvenile 30th Jun (Jack Ibbotson).

First confirmed breeding for a few years, although probably bred in 2012.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Scarce breeding resident found in 21% of tetrads. (136 records in 2013)

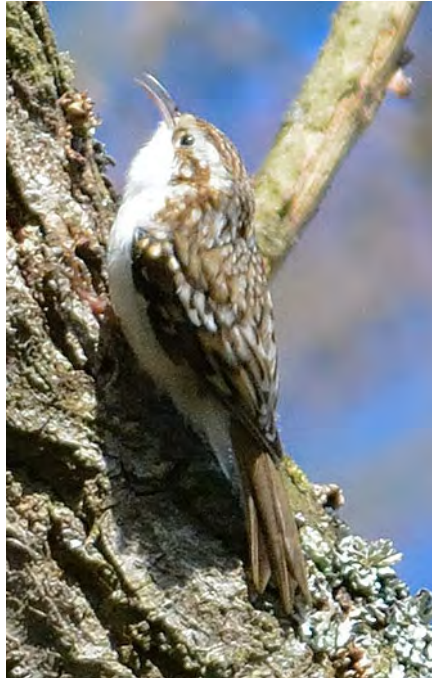
Winter: Recorded in 23 tetrads Jan-Mar (51 in 2012, 52 in 2011 & 27 in 2010). Mostly singles with 2 birds at Anton Fell, Birgham, Lauder, Lauder Common, Paxton House & Yetholm Loch

Breeding: Reported from 55 tetrads Apr-Aug (71 in 2012, 90 in 2011, 75 in 2010), there were mostly single birds but 2 pairs reported Moorshot Plantation 16th Jun and pairs at:

Darnhall-Harcus*	Shank Covert
Gala Hill*	St Abb's Head
Hallmanor	Standhill
Hollybush Loch *	Stobs Castle*
Kelso, Abbey Row*	Tweedbank*
Samieston	

Breeding confirmed at 6 sites (*), with occupied nest Tweedbank 23rd Apr & Gala Hill 9th May; adults were seen carrying food for young at Tweedbank on 3rd May; and the first fledged young at Moorshot Plantation on 16th Jun & Harcus on 21st Jun.

Autumn/Winter: 1-2 birds seen 7 sites in Sep-Oct (9 in 2012) with 6 Dawyck 21st Sep & 3 Kirkton Manor 8th Oct. Reports from 10 tetrads in Nov-Dec (30 in 2012, 46 in 2011). Again mostly single birds but 3 at Faldonside Loch on 12th Dec and 2 seen Black Barony, Crow Wood (Manor) & Tweedbank.



Treecreeper - The Hirsell, Apr 2013 - Photo: Bill Meikle

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Abundant & widespread resident in 95% of tetrads. Some passage in autumn. (1,280 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 22 recorded on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb (30 in 2012, 13 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013

Dunglass - Pease Bay	9	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	1	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	1	Coldingham Bay - Eyemouth	3
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	1	Burnmouth-English border	7

Reported in 93 tetrads Jan-Mar (137 in 2012, 94 in 2011, 72 in 2010 & 210 in 2009). Numbers reported fall to 2011 levels but the reduction of atlasing activities is a likely candidate for this reduction from 2012 levels.

Just 2 double-figure counts with 10 Craik village 1st Jan & 12 Bold Rig 17th Jan; but also 5-9 birds Kalemouth, Shoulder Hill & Tweedbank.

Breeding: Reported from 388 tetrads Apr-Aug (305 in 2012, 310 in 2011 & 323 in 2010). The total is perhaps a better reflection of the Wren's recovery from the harsh winters on 2009/10 and 2010/11. Confirmed breeding was reported in 56 tetrads (45 in 2012, 51 in 2011, 36 in 2010).

The first occupied nest found was at Fogo on 21st May; the first adults with food for young were at Dykecrofts and Harden Hill on 9th Jun; the first fledglings were seen at Larriston Lime Works on 9th Jun & Allanton on 13th Jun. Later broods were seen up 22nd Aug, at Coldingham Loch.

Largest TTV hourly and other counts were: 33 Middle Hill 8th Jul; 26 Tod Rig 14th Jul; 24+18 Pease Dean BBS 18th Jun; 22+17 Blaemount Rig 9th Jun; 19+12 Hurklewinter Knowe on 9th Jun; 16 Stennishope on 24th May; 16 Ladyurd forestry 7th May; 15 Swinnie 14th Jul; 14 Homebank 2nd Jun; 14 Byehass Fell 3rd Jul; 12 Duns Law 10th Jun; 12 Needs Law 10th Jun; 12 Herne Hill BBS 24th Jun; with 10-11 birds Adderston Lee, Adderstoneles Moss, Black Rig, Broadhaugh, Castleweary, Dinmontlair Hill, Dunglass, Hermitage Castle, Leyburnfoot, Neidpath, Ramsaygrain East & Sundhope Height with 5-9 birds at 105 other sites

Autumn/Winter: Birds reported from 69 locations in Sep-Oct mostly 1-2 birds with 10 Dunglass 20th Sep and 10 Mire Loch 13th Oct and 8-9 Leadburn CW.

Found in just 37 tetrads Nov-Dec (132 in 2012, 133 in 2011, 159 in 2010 & 193 in 2009).

Max counts were: 7 Tweedbank 4th Nov & 3rd Dec with 6 birds at St Abb's Head & Lower Burnmouth.

The drop in reports and numbers possibly reflects reduced fieldwork activity and the poor Dec weather.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Very scarce and erratic winter visitor. Not annual. (25 records in 2013)

Winter 2012/13: 1 Hoprig, Cockburnspath 30th Jan (Dave Graham); 15 Dunglass-Pease Bay 3rd Feb on the Rocky Shore Count.

1 Innerleithen 8th Feb. 1 found dead Callow Cairn, Cheviots 27th Feb. 10 Third and singles Maidenhall & Bemersyde Moss on 1st Mar; 10 Jedburgh 4th Mar; 6 Tweedbank on 14th Mar with 7-9 there until 5th Apr with 6-7 on 7th-8th Apr. 16 Eyemouth 27th Mar; 1 Cockburnspath 7th Apr. Last single Tweedbank on 16th-17th Apr with 1 St Abbs 20th Apr (Mike Geen).

Winter 2013/14: First 1 Eyemouth 3rd Nov (Fran Evans); 30 Stow 7th Nov (BirdGuides); 8 Yarrow Primary School 24th Nov (Gary Scott).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Now a common resident. First bred 1989 and spread rapidly. Perhaps now as many as 500-750 pairs. (347 records in 2013)

Found 143 tetrads in 2012 (220 in 2012, 240 in 2011 & 195 in 2010).

A further drop in the numbers of tetrads with Nuthatch reported. The winding down of atlasing activities and the lack of 'novelty' as the birds become more widespread are probably factors in this apparent reduction rather than any actual reduction in birds.

Found in 61 tetrads in winter (Jan-Feb & Sep-Dec) and 103 tetrads in the breeding season (Mar-Aug).

22 'new' tetrads are listed below, all with no previous records. Most have come about due to atlasing activities.

Angelrow Farm Cottage	NT74M	1 juv on 29th Jun	James Towill
Broughton Heights	NT13J	1 on 30th Nov	P Martin
Coldingham Loch	NT86Z	1 on 17th May	Ray Murray
Eyemouth	NT96M	1 on 18th Feb	Mike Geen
Hermitage Castle	NY49Y	3 birds at 2 sites feeding young 10th Jun	R Murray & H Urquhart
Hindhope Law	NT70U	3 birds including juvs 16th Jul	Kevin Ingleby
Hindsidehill	NT64D	1 singing there 31st Jul	Malcolm Ross
Huntford	NT60Z	1 on 7th Jun	C Watson
Huntlaw	NT52F	pr seen 18th Feb	David Parkinson
Kirndeans	NY59F	2 on 3rd Jan	Malcolm Henderson
Linton Muir	NT15M	pr with occupied nest 1st Jul	Harry Dott
Little King Seat	NT15G	1 on 27th Jul	John Palfery
Old Castleton	NY59A	1 on 10th Jun	Ray Murray
Old Greenlaw	NT74C	1 on 31st Mar and 3rd Apr	James Towill
Oliver	NT02X	1 on 9th Dec	AV Davidson
Press Castle	NT86S	2 there 10th Nov	Ron McBeath
Preston	NT75Y	2 on 23rd Aug	Ron McBeath
Preston Plantation	NT75Z	1 on 4th Aug	Fran Evans
Spittal on Rule	NT51Z	1 on 7th Jan	Malcolm Henderson
Tod Rig	NT42F	2mm singing territorially 14th Jul	Ray Murray
Todrigshiel	NT41J	pair on 14th Jul	Harry Urquhart
Whitechester	NT75E	1 singing on 24th Apr	Mike Betts



Confirmed breeding was reported in 26 sites: Angelrow, Barnhills, Black Barony, Bowden, Clovenfords, Craighurd House, Harcus, Duns Castle, Duns Law, Eddleston, Elba, Elliston, Fogo, Hermitage Castle, Hindhope Law, Linhope, Linton Muir, Melrose (Holy Trinity), Minto House, Moorshot Plantation, Netherbyres, Northfield Cottages, South Park Wood, Swinnie, Tweedbank & Yair

The first occupied nest was seen at Netherbyres, Eyemouth on 26th Apr & Tweedbank on 7th May; the first nests holding young were found at Melrose on 20th May & Duns Law on 10th Jun; the first adults with food for young seen at Harcus on 19th May & Black Barony on 20th May; and the first fledged young were noted at Yair on 26th May & Tweedbank on 4th Jun. The largest counts were: 11 Black Barony 18th Sep; 10 Darnhall-Harcus 23rd Sep; 10 Hen Poo 15th Apr; with 4-5 birds at Cringletie-Milkieston, Crosslee Burn BBS, Gala Hill, Linhope, Linnburn-Jenny's Brae, Morrighall, Netherbyres, Northfield, Swinnie, Tweedbank, Wilton Park & Yair

Nuthatch - Peebles, Apr 2013

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. (633 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Found in 55 tetrads Jan-Feb (72 in 2012, 70 in 2011 & 61 in 2010). Much better numbers this Jan-Feb period with 21 counts of 100 or more birds (18 in 2012): 800 Towford 18th Jan; 500 St Abbs 23rd Jan; 350 Haymount 25th Jan; 300 Newmains 1st Feb; 300 Gavinton 13th Feb; with 100-200 birds at Burnmouth, Clints Hill, Eddleston, Heiton, Heiton Mains Huntlaw, Lamberton & Scraesburgh

Good counts persisted into Mar with 500 Lamberton on 17th, 21st & 30th Mar; 200 Westfield 27th & 30th Mar; 102 Eddleston 21st Mar. & 100 Heiton Mains 23rd Mar.

Breeding: Birds reported Apr-Aug in 193 tetrads (167 in 2012, 173 in 2011 & 181 in 2010) with breeding confirmed in 116 of them. The first occupied nests were at Melrose 18th Apr & Lindean Reservoir on 19th Apr; the first adults with food for young were at Branxholme Bridgend & Tweedbank on 7th May; the first fledglings were seen at Eddleston on 25th May & Lamberton on 26th May. Second broods at Eddleston & Melrose from early Jun. Later broods were seen up with last at Old Belses on 21st Jul.

83 nests censused at Eddleston Village in mid-May when adults were feeding first broods. A handful attempted second (or perhaps replacement) broods.

The largest counts, mostly post-breeding flocks, were reduced this year. No three-figure counts (4 in 2012, 11 in 2011), suggesting a very poor breeding season. The best flock counts: 400 Nether Falla on 25th Aug; 300 Dreva 29th Jul (20 ads); 300 roosting Eddleston 24th Aug; 200 Lamberton 16th Jun; 180 Inchkeith Farm on 1st Jul; 150 Cockburnspath 6th Jun; 150 Craigur House 22nd Aug; with 100-149 at Old Cambus BBS & Whitrig Bog.

Autumn/Winter: Sep-Oct counts were also down on 2011 with best counts of 350 roost Eddleston 28th Sep with 320 on 7th Oct; 250 St Boswells Green 6th Oct; 150 The Mount 24th Oct; with 100-149 birds at Darnhall-Harcus, Lyne Station, Meldonfoot, Sprouston & Wester Deans Farm; with 2 other counts of 50-99 birds.

Records from just 14 tetrads Nov-Dec 78 in 2012, (81 in 2011 & 83 in 2010).

Just a few large counts: 350 Bemersyde Moss 6th Nov; 200 Kirkton Manor 23rd Nov; with 100-199 birds at Fairliehope, Lamberton, Roxburgh Moor & Stobs.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Common resident along river system, breeding in 40% of tetrads. (352 records in 2013)

Non-breeding season: Birds seen 80 tetrads during Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec (106 in 2012, 128 in 2011, 133 in 2010). Almost all records were of singles but 5 Galafoot-Lowood 10th Jan & 4 Larriston lime Works on 6th Feb with 3 birds at Manor Bridge & Harcus. In the autumn/winter, the largest counts were: 6 Manor bridge-Peebles on 10th Nov; 5 Tweedbank 11th Nov; and 3 at Allanbank.

Breeding: Found in 114 tetrads with confirmed breeding in 55 tetrads (125 in 2012, 140 in 2011, 123 & 49 in 2010).

2 territories Allanton, Darnhall, Shiplaws, Larriston Lime Works, Longcroft Hill, Meerlees, Pedderie Law, Riddel Law, South Hart Law, Manor Bridge-Peebles & Yarrowfeus.

The first building was on 28th Feb at Manor Bridge; first occupied nests were seen at Easter Dawyck & Dawyck Castle on 23rd Mar; the first adults carrying food for young were seen at Leyburnfoot on 23rd May; the first fledged young were seen at Raeleugh Head on 21st May and Baddingsill Reservoir on 2nd Jun. The latest fledged young were seen at Headshaw Burn on 27th Jul.



Ring Ouzel - St Abb's Head, Oct 2013

Photo: Dave Graham

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. (95 records in 2012) **All records needed.**

Spring: First 1m Flesh Cleugh 30th Mar (Reuben Singleton); 1 Blackhopebyre on 2nd Apr; More widespread on breeding habitat from 16th-20th Apr with further records from Blackhopebyre, Black Rig, Bench Cleugh and Swinchy Cleugh. Away from breeding areas: 1 St Abb's Head on 7th Apr; 3 Dowlaw 14th Apr; 4 St Abb's Head 21st Apr; 2W Lauder Common and 1 Newmains 25th- 26th Apr.

Breeding: c.48 territories in suitable breeding habitat Mar-Jul at 39 sites (35 in 2012, 36 in 2011, 26 in 2010).

Back Burn Woods	1m	Juniper Craigs	pr+1m	Rae Burn, Hundleshope	1f
Bench Cleuch	A	Kilmade Burn	1m	Riddell Law	2mm
Bermuda	pr FF	Langhaugh	pr	Scuds Cleuch	pr+1m
Berryburn, Posso	1	Langhaugh Hill	2pr+br3	Scuds Cleuch Wood	1m
Black Cleuch	pr FL	Linghope	1 FF	South Hart Law	2mm
Black Rig Wood	1m	Meikle Namels Ridge	1m	Stanhope	pr
Blackhopebyre	1m	Mill Burn 1pr		Sting Rig	1m
Byreclough	prA	Ouzel Cleuch	1	Swinchy Cleuch	pr+br1
Clinty Cleuch	1f	Posso Craig	pr B	The Bank	1m
Earn Cleuch	1	Posso Hope	2mm	Tower Burn Cleuch	pr
Flesh Cleuch	1m	Posso Rig	1m	Tower Burn Rig	1m
Glenrath Heights	1	Priesthope Knowe BBS	pr+1m	Ugly Grain	1f
Hundleshope Burn	2prsFF+2mm	Pykestone Hill	1m	Windy Neese	pr+br2

The first birds carrying food for young were at Hundleshope on 25th May. The first fledglings were seen at Langhaugh on 28th Jun & Black Cleuch on 17th Jul.

Autumn: Almost wholly coastal; passage: 1 Newmains 24th Sep; 1 St Abb's Head 28th Sep; 1 Burnmouth on 29th Sep; 1 St Abb's Head 1st-3rd Oct. 1 Millar's Moss 13th Oct. 2 St Abb's Head 16th Oct with 1 there on 17th-18th Oct, 2 on 19th-20th Oct and last 4 there on 22nd Oct.

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. (1,331 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 109 tetrads in Jan-Feb (133 in 2012, 176 in 2011, 158 in 2010, 212 in 2009).

Numbers of reports dropping as Atlas activity diminishes. Largest counts (perhaps elevated by the BTO Winter Thrush survey) were: 34 Newmains 19th Jan; 22 Birgham on 25th Jan; 20 Edrington Castle Mill on 25th Jan; 20 Tweedbank 23rd Jan; 19 Eddleston 27th Jan; 17+14 Wester Muirdean 25th Jan; and 10-14 birds at Darnhall-Harcus, Holefield & Wester Housebyres.

Coastal passage indicated by: 30 Mire Loch 16th Mar; 27 Newmains 27th Mar; with 75 Lamberton & 50 St Abb's Head on 7th Apr with 30+ St Abb's Head 8th Apr

Breeding: Found in 344 tetrads Mar-Aug (326 in 2012, 336 in 2011 & 309 in 2010) with confirmed breeding in 120 tetrads.

The first occupied nest was found in Tweedbank on 16th Apr & Melrose on 18th Apr; the first adults with food for their young were seen at Kirkton & Cavers 4th May; the first fledglings were seen at Tweedbank on 29th Apr & Lauder on 1st May. There were still recently fledged young being seen at Craigurd House on 18th Aug.

The largest hourly TTV and other counts were: 43 Tweedbank 8th Apr (with 16 other counts of >15 birds there); 28 Darnick BBS 21st May; 22 Teviothead 24th Mar; 20 Black Barony 5th Jun; Duns Law 10th Jun; 20 Kennetsides 18th Jun; 19 Eddleston 27th Apr; 17 Darnick BBS 25th Jun; 16 Gavinton BBS 1st Jun; 16 Darnhall-Harcus on 21st Jun; 15 Cockburnspath on 6th Jun; 15 Howlands on 18th Jun; 14 Preston 16th May; 13 New Belses BBS 1st Jun; 13 Effledge 12th Jun; 13 The Inch 14th Jul; with 10-12 birds at Barnhills Moor BBS, Crosslee Burn BBS, Crumrig, Gavinton E BBS, Graden BBS, Homebank, Milkieston, Morriehall, Neidpath, Paxton East, Pease Dean BBS, Peebles, Polwarth & Press Mains

Autumn/Winter: Apart from 26 Tweedbank 14th Sep, well above the average 10-16 birds counted there in Sep; there were few counts to suggest anything in the way of falls of migrants, most coastal sites hardly mustering counts in excess of 3 birds in Sep.

The resumption of the BTO Winter Thrush Survey may result in elevated counts over the winter 2013/14

This contrasted with Oct when numbers seemed elevated from the first day when there were 14 on Redden Haugh on 1st Oct. A coastal fall on 4th Oct managed 15 St Abb's Head, 10 Redheugh and 10 Burnmouth. Then 24 St Abb's Head & 12 West Linton GC 12th Oct; 35 St Abb's Head 13th Oct; 10 St Abb's Head & 11 Black Barony 16th Oct. The main movement was on 19th Oct with 500+ St Abb's Head with 20 Eyemouth GC & Redheugh, 8 Dowlaw, 7 Craigurd House & 6 Redheugh. 45 Cringletie-Milkieston 21st Oct echoed this fall, but had dropped to 13 there by 28th Oct.

Found in only 47 tetrads (133 in 2012, 183 in 2011) with high counts of: 60 Redden Haugh 14th Nov & 50 there 19th Dec; 42 Tweedbank 4th Nov (with 20 other counts of 11-40 birds there in Nov-Dec); 11 Faldonside Loch 12th Dec; 10 Lyne Station 23rd Nov; 10 Foulden 5th Dec; 10 Bemersyde Moss 10th Dec; 10 Black Barony & 10 Burnmouth 29th Dec.

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. (194 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Reported 41 tetrads Jan-Feb (64 in 2012, 77 in 2011, 68 in 2010, 121 in 2009).

Widespread in moderate numbers during Jan: max counts were: 70 Heiton on 1st Jan; 60 Hermitage on 9th Jan; 70 Haltree 14th Jan; 100 St Abb's Head 23rd Jan; 50 Coldingham Bay 25th Jan; & 60 Teviot Haugh 28th Jan.

Numbers held up into Feb with maxima 300 Manderston & 100 Lauder on 1st Feb; 158 Huntlaw on 18th Feb; 150 Newbigging Walls 20th Feb; 100 Prendergust 24th Feb; and 50-99 birds at Bruntaburn & Old Northhouse. Spring passage was poor with no four-figure counts and just 3 counts of 100+ birds (24 in 2012). 100 Abbey Park 24th Mar; 400 Lurdenlaw 29th Mar & 150 Drakemyre on 11th Apr. In Mar, although some 11 counts of 10-40 birds, with no other counts in excess of 40 birds. In Apr, despite 15 double-figure counts there were only 7 were of 50 birds or more: with 80 Harehead Hill 4th Apr, 80 Black barony & 80 Long Philipburn Reservoir 5th Apr; 57 Polwarth Moss 10th Apr; 60 Traquair 16th Apr; 50 Bemersyde Moss 18th Apr; and 50 Whitchester 24th Apr. Just two May records followed: singles Craik 1st May and at Whitrig Bog 4th May (Ray Murray).

Autumn/Winter: First 1 St Abb's Head 4th Oct (Ray Murray). Then a week until 10 Craigurd House 10th Oct; 63 Huntford & 24 West Linton GC 12th Oct; three-figure counts moving west overhead at Craigurd House on 13th & 15th Oct with birds Huntford & St Abb's Head that day too; 15 St Abb's Head, 7 Newmains & 5 Black Barony on 16th Oct. Small numbers more widespread over next week with max 70 St Abb's Head 19th Oct and 40 Tweedswell 23rd Oct. Then 160S Eddleston & 687 Macbiehill Pond 26th Oct; 1,195 Cringletie-Eddleston 28th Oct; 80 Barnhills & 80 Lindean Reservoir 29th Oct; 200 St Abb's Head, 80 Barns House, 74 Black Barony & 30 Edston 30th Oct.

Recorded in only 33 tetrads Nov-Dec (89 in 2012, 123 in 2011 & 126 in 2010). The best count, by far, was 3,420 Whitrig Bog 20th Nov; but only eight 3-figure counts: 100 Crownhead Bridge 13th Nov; 220 Caerlanrig 15th Nov; 270 Yetholm Loch 17th Nov; 150 Edston 23rd Nov; 100 Easter Dawyck 1st Dec; 100 Edston Haugh 4th Dec; 200 Redden Haugh 19th Dec; & 300 Stobs 22nd Dec. Also 50-99 birds at Lindean Reservoir, Georgefield, Bemersyde Moss and Spittal on Rule.

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. (780 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 22 Jan records from 14 sites but mostly singles except 5 St Abb's Head 23rd Jan; 3 Eyemouth Bay 19th Jan and 2 birds each at Lamberton N, Ross, Torsonse and Wester Muirdean. Over half of the records were after 20th Jan.

57 records in Feb, but reports only daily from 15th Feb with clear influx 17th-19th Feb when 25 records with another spate of reports 27th-28th Feb. Best counts were: 5 Tweedbank 16th & 18th Feb; 6 Millfield 18th Feb; 5 Mosshouses 19th Feb; with 3-4 birds at Black Barony, Gair Muir, Huntlaw & Over Dalgleish.

In Mar largest totals were: 16 Polwarth Moss 14th Mar; 9 Heiton Mains 20th Mar; and 7 Eddleston 30th Mar. Later migrants include: 27 Greenfield Knowe, Burnhead 9th Apr.

Breeding: Found in 286 tetrads Mar-Aug, with breeding confirmed in 58 tetrads (266 in 2012, 245 in 2011 & 274 in 2010).

Best counts were: 12 Black Barony 5th Jun; 10 Black Burn Head 3rd Jul; 8 Pease Dean BBS 6th May; 8 Swinnie Plantation 8th Jun; 8 Effledge 12th Jun; 7 Darnhall-Harcus 2nd Apr; 7 Tweedbank 13th Apr; 7 Heiton Mains 16th Apr; 7 Cothill 8th May; 7 Hutlerburn Hill 9th Jun; with 5-6 birds Byehass Fell, Castlecraig Forestry, Duns Law, Easter Dawyck, Hermitage Castle, Houndwood, Kirkton Hill, Leyburnfoot, Philiphaugh BBS, Preston, Priesthope Knowe BBS, Soonhope Burn BBS, Swinnie Plantation & Tollishill; with 4 birds at 17 other sites.

The first nest was found at Melrose on 18th Apr; the first adults carrying food for their young were at Gavinton on 19th Apr and Lethem on 6th May; the first adults feeding young were noted at Eddleston on 27th Apr & Paxton House on 6th May; the first fledged young were seen at Crawlee on 13th May & Morrigehall on 28th May. Recently fledged were still being noted at Hindsiehill on 31st Jul & Lamberton on 1st Aug.

Autumn/Winter: Just a few reported in Sep, all 1-2 birds except for 4 Linn Dean 14th Sep & 9 Black Barony on 18th Sep and some coastal migrants with 10 St Abb's Head on 25th Sep; and 6 Dowlaw & 6 Redheugh 30th Sep. Further migrants when 8 St Abb's Head 1st Oct, followed by 20 there, 5 Burnmouth and 4 Redheugh 4th Oct. Light passage occurred later in the month with maxima of: 11 St Abb's Head 12th Oct; 20 Craigurd House on 17th Oct; 45 St Abb's Head 19th Oct; 15 Cringletie-Eddleston 21st Oct; and 58 Lindean Reservoir 29th Oct. Numbers settled down after that to usual low Nov-Dec levels with best counts of 4 Tweedbank on 11th Nov with 3 there 12th Dec & 3 Mire Loch 15th Nov. Otherwise counts of mostly single birds Tweedbank (7 dates), Edington Mains, Lamberton N (6 dates) and Redden.

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. (172 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Reported in 33 tetrads Jan-Feb (22 in 2012, 13 in 2011, 26 in 2010, 67 in 2009).

100 Coldingham Bay 25th Jan & 100 Prendergust 24th Feb were the only three-figure counts. But 50 Heiton 1st Jan; 20 Eyemouth GC 22nd Jan; 50 Paxton 6th Feb; 20 Gordon Moss 7th Feb; 25 Melrose 8th Feb; 20 Sourhope 18th Feb; 30 Manderston Lake 26th Feb; and 50 Grantshouse 28th Feb. Suggestion of a small influx late Feb.

Further parties into Mar/Apr gives a better spring passage than in most years with 30 Yetholm Loch on 6th Mar; 25 Heiton Mains 11th & 15th Mar; 30 St Abb's Head 16th Mar; 50 Paxton 23rd Mar; 30 Manderston 27th Mar; 12 Lindean Reservoir 4th Apr; 13 Tweedbank 8th Apr; and 50 Traquair 16th Apr. Numbers then dropped with just 4 Polwarth Moss 17th Apr; 1 Bemersyde Moss 18th Apr and final 1 St Abb's Head 3rd May (Andrew Mossup).

Autumn/Winter: First 35 St Abb's Head 25th Sep (Ray Murray & Fran Evans) with 7 there on 26th Sep, 16 on 28th Sep & 20 on 30th Sep. Then 34 St Abb's Head and 3 Georgefield & 2 Attonburn 1st Oct but then just small numbers for next week until 52 Linn Dean, 30 West Linton GC & 18 St Abb's Head 12th Oct; 45 St Abb's Head 14th Oct; 40 Yetholm Loch 15th Oct; 29 Black Barony 16th Oct; 120 St Abb's Head 19th Oct; 80 Cringletie-Milkieston 21st Oct; 70 Redden Haugh 22nd Oct; 186 Cringletie-Eddleston 28th Oct; 80 Hummelknowes on 29th Oct; 32 Bemersyde Moss 30th Oct.

Found in only 11 tetrads Nov-Dec (89 in 2012, 60 in 2011, 52 in 2010, 63 in 2009).

Max counts were only 50 Allanbank 9th Dec, 50 Stobs Castle & 50 Edington Mains 13th Dec; with 30 Redden Haugh 14th Nov & 19th Dec; and 10-29 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Chesters Grange Farm, Faldonside Loch, Lindean Reservoir, Springwood, Tweedbank and Yetholm Loch

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. (403 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Found in 78 tetrads in Jan-Feb (65 in 2012, 82 in 2011, 53 in 2010, 113 in 2009). 9 Bruntaburn 17th Feb; 7 Easter Dawyck 19th Jan; 5 Grantshouse 28th Feb; 4 Sourhope 18th Feb; with 3 birds Black Barony, Buck Cleugh, Darnhall-Harcus, Gair Muir, Mire Loch, The Curr & Yetholm Loch

First song reported at Bellendean Burn & Philiphope 15th Feb.

Breeding: Reported from 146 tetrads Mar-Jul (161 in 2012, 152 in 2011, 156 in 2010, 163 in 2009), with confirmed breeding in 24 tetrads. The first adults carrying food for young were seen at Kirkhope on 4th May and Harcus on 8th May; the first fledged young were seen at Darnhall on 19th May & Lurgiescleugh on 6th Jun.

Largest counts before flock formation in Jun-Jul were; 8 Darnhall-Harcus 14th Mar; 6 Scuds Cleugh 19th Jun; and 5 Hardlee Flow 11th Jun; and 4 birds Black Barony, Henlaw, Huntford, Minto House, Mire Loch, Northfield, Wauchope Common & Whitchester.

Summer/Autumn/Winter:

Early post-breeding assemblies from mid-Jun: 10 Greenside 24th Jun; 8 Standhill and 8 Troney Rig 5th Jul; 20 Scuds Cleugh on 17th Jul; with 10 Glenrath Hope on 20th Jul; 15 Craigurd House 18th Aug; 10 Fogo on 28th Aug. Then 26 Black Barony 18th Sep; 16 Dunslair Heights 20th Sep; 32 Dowlaw 28th Sep; and 5-9 birds at St Abb's Head & Westloch.

Reported from only 21 tetrads Nov-Dec (c.f. 59 in 2012, 58 in 2011, 67 in 2010, 84 in 2009).

Mostly 1-2 birds with best counts of 6 West Linton GC on 26th Dec, 6 Birgham Haugh on 31st Dec with 4 Allanbank on 9th Dec & 3 Manor Sware 27th Nov.



Mistle Thrush - Redden, Dec 2013

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common summer visitor breeding in 50% of tetrads. Scarce passage migrant, less common in spring than autumn. (199 records in 2013)

Spring: First 1 Craik village 25th Apr (Ashley Butlin) was distinctly early. Next 1 Manor Schoolhouse 10th May with 1 at St Abb's Head on 14th May with 3 there on 15th May and 5 there on 18th May. 3 St Abb's Head and 2 Darnhall-Harcus 19th May with 3 Black Barony 20th May. Records then from 21 locations 21st-30th May but no definite mass arrival. Passage continued into Jun with 5 St Abb's Head on 1st Jun with 1 there the next day.

Breeding: Recorded at 132 sites in 126 tetrads with c.174 'territories'.

Single birds were recorded at 44 sites: Back Burn Woods, Backcleugh, Bemersyde Moss, Bold Rig, Brieryhill, Dryburgh, Easter Softlaw, Ednam, Elder Knowes, Fairnington, Frogden, Gillside, Gilmanscleugh, Greenside, Hardens Plantation, Hirsle, Hownam Rings, Howpasley, Jordonlaw, Lauder Common, Linhope, Linthill, Manderston, Medwynhead, Millmoor Rig, Neidpath, Nether Hindhope, Northfield, Polwarth, Raecleugh Head, Rowantree Hill, St Mary's Loch, Stair Law, Stuchill, Swinnie, Troney Hill, Tweedbank, Tweedmuir School, Westloch, Whinnhouse Plantation, Whitehaugh, Wide Hope Shank BBS, Wilton Lodge Park & Woodside

130 pairs/territories at 88 sites (* = confirmed breeding/anxiety)

Year	Tetrads	'Territories'
2008	127	168
2009	100	136
2010	125	127
2011	136	213
2012	136	167
2013	126	174

Alderstonelees Moss	1	Eddleston	1	Langton Mill	1	Riccarton Mill	3
Bellendean Burn*	1	Effledge	2	Larriston Lime Works	1	Rumbletonrig Strip	1
Black Barony	6	Elliston*	1	Lauder*	1	Samieston	1
Blackhouse	1	Essenside*	1	Linton	1	Scaw'd Law	2
Bowmont Forest*	2	Feuars Hill	1	Loch Eddy	1	Shaws	2
Buckstone Moss*	1	Girnwood*	1	Lochurd Farm	1	Shiplaws	2
Cacrabank	1	Glenwhappen Rig	1	Longnewton Mill	2	Standhill	1
Calroust*	1	Goseland Hill	1	Mabonlaw	1	Stevenson	1
Camp Moor	2	Green Law*	1	Manor Schoolhouse*	1	Sundhope Height	2
Castleweary	2	Hartsgarth	2	Megget Water	1	Sunlaws*	1
Caverton Mains	1	Hellmoor Loch*	2	Melrose*	2	Swindon*	1
Chapelhill Burn*	1	Hen Poo*	5	Milne Graden	1	The Inch Plantation*	2
Charlie's Knowe	2	Hermitage Castle	4	Minto	1	Tod's Dean	1
Cogsmill Wood*	2	Hillhouse	2	Minto House	1	Tweedhead	2
Craggs*	1	Huntford	1	Minto Kames*	2	Tweedmuir Kirk	1
Craigurd House*	1	Hutlerburn Hill	2	Mowhaugh*	1	Tythehouse*	2
Craik	2	Hyndsidehill*	1	Muckle Bleak Law*	1	Wauchope Common	1
Craillinghall Quarry*	1	Kelso*	2	Newburgh Wood*	1	Welldean Hill	1
Darnhall-Harcus	3	Kingsmuir	1	Newton Pond	2	Wester Softlaw	1
Dogden Moss*	2	Kirkton	1	Old Howford	2	Whitchester*	1
Dollar Forest	1	Kirkton Hill	1	Press Castle	1	Whitslade*	1
Earlypier	2	Lamberton N	1	Redfordgreen	1	Yarrow Fues	1

Breeding was confirmed in 31 sites (29 in 2012, 62 in 2011, 27 in 2010) hinting at an average breeding season. Occupied nests were first seen at Lauder on 3rd Jul; the first adults seen carrying food for young were seen at Girnwood & Muckle Bleak Law on 7th Jun; the first fledged young were at Kelso Cemetery on 15th Jul & Mowhaugh on 29th Jul.

Autumn: Regular records in inland areas until mid-Sep with birds still present at Black Barony on 18th Sep & The Hirsle on 22nd Sep. Migration was very poor with a few singles at St Abb's Head on 25th & 29th Aug & 12th Sep with 4 there 13th Sep. 1 Lamberton 16th Sep then stragglers St Abb's Head with singles 1st & 5th Oct (Andy Williams & Dave Graham).

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. (1209 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 121 tetrads Jan-Mar (169 in 2012, 191 in 2011, 236 in 2010) with high counts of: 17 Tweedbank 4th Jan & 14 there on 15th & 23rd Jan & 14th Mar; 13 Eddleston 30th Mar; 12 Paxton 12th Mar; 11 Dunglass 17th Feb; 10 Darnhall 23rd Jan; 10 Wester Muirdean on 25th Jan; 10 Kalemouth on 24th Feb; with 7-9 birds at Belford, Birgham, Black Barony, Bold Rig, Holefield, Kerchesters & Leadburn.

Breeding: Counted in 334 tetrads Apr-Aug (302 in 2012, 304 in 2011 & 236 in 2010) with confirmed breeding in 86 tetrads. The first nest with young was found at Hollybush on 30th Apr; the first adults seen carrying food for their young were at Fleety Wood on 14th May & Sprouston on 16th May with the first fledged young were seen at Yair on 26th May & Eddleston on 4th Jun. The latest fledglings reported were seen at Hindsdehill on 31st Jul. Juveniles were still being reported late on with 1 Craigurd House on 16th Aug.

High hourly TTV and other counts: 20+9 Homebank 2nd Jun; 15 +13 Effledge on 12th Jun; 14 Tweedbank on 23rd Aug; 12 Peebles 5th Apr; 11 Stennishope 24th May, Harden Hill 9th Jun & Byehass Fell 3rd Jul; 10 birds at Black barony on 5th Apr, Ladyurd Forestry, Greatmoor Hill & Colterscleuch Shiel on 7th May and Hardens Plantation on 23rd May. Also 8-9 birds at Abbey Park, Black Barony, Charlie's Knowe, Darnick BBS, Deuchar Law, Dinmontlair Hill, Dunglass, Duns Law, Dykecrofts, Earlypier, Fireburnmill, Gala Hill, Harden Hill, Housebyres, Hurklewinter Knowe, Knowebog Hill & Soonhope Burn BBS.

The higher numbers seen in 2012 were maintained or even bettered generally in 2013.

Autumn/Winter: An average autumn passage with coastal passage peaks: 12 Mire Loch 25th Sep; 18 Mire Loch & 16 Redheugh Glen 4th Oct; 25 Mire Loch 13th Oct with 15 there 19th Oct; but no high counts in coastal areas into Nov, the best being 5 Mire Loch on 15th Nov.

High counts away from the coast include: 18 Tweedbank on 11th Sep; 25 Darnhall 23rd Sep with 21 there on 24th Oct; 23 Eddleston 28th Sep; 19 Black Barony on 16th Oct; 13 Hen Poo on 13th Oct..

Seen in just 43 tetrads Nov-Dec (131 in 2012, 156 in 2011 & 182 in 2010) with large counts of 17 Tweedbank 23rd Nov with 3 other double-figure counts there; 8 Black Barony 29th Dec; 6 Lower Burnmouth 29th Dec.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Very uncommon, almost wholly autumn, passage migrant, mainly in Sep-Oct. Not annual. (6 records in 2013)

Autumn: 1 St Abb's Head 26th Sep (BirdGuides) unfortunately has no supporting evidence and will not be added to statistics. 1 St Abb's Head 13th-15th Oct (Fran Evans & Dave Graham).



Red-breasted Flycatcher - St Abb's Head, Oct 2013

Photo: Dave Graham

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Extremely 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. (24 records in 2013)

Breeding: There were NO reports of Pied Flycatcher in 2013, other than in the autumn.

Autumn: All records were from St Abb's Head with 5 there 25th Aug (Fran Evans, Jack Ibbotson & Dave Graham) with 3 on 26th Aug and singles 28th & 29th Aug. Next single on 12th Sep with 3 there on 13th Sep but with only 1 on 14th Sep.

Another gap followed until singles on 25th, 26th, 28th, 29th & 30th Sep and then 1st-3rd Oct with final 2 there 4th Oct (Jack Ibbotson & Ray Murray).

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant mostly March-June & September-October. Very occasionally winters. (11 records in 2013)

Spring: single ff at St Abb's Head 6th-7th May and on 9th Jun (Jack Ibbotson).

Autumn: 3-4 Megget Stone 8th Sep with 1 there 9th Sep (John Law); 1 St Abb's Head 25th Sep with another on 28th Sep, then 2 on 19th Oct and a single on 26th Oct (Jack Ibbotson, Ray Murray).

Winter: 1 Dowlaw 22nd & 27th Nov (Mike Thrower).

The apparent family party at Megget Stone continues the series of records in late summer in Scotland that more probably derived from elsewhere rather than as local breeding 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. (146 records in 2013)

Spring: First 2 St Abb's Head 21st Apr with 1 there 22nd Apr (Dave Graham & Jack Ibbotson); 1 Easter Dawyck 24th Apr; 1 Gallowberry Hill, Hirsle & St Abb's Head 25th Apr; 1 Oak Bank 26th Apr; singles West Mains Wood, Wood Hill, Gallowberry Hill 27th Apr and at over a dozen sites over the next 10 days or so. Later migrants on coast with 2 St Abb's Head 18th May.

Breeding: 89 territories at 77 sites in 76 tetrads with confirmed breeding at 17 sites (97 at 77 sites in 2012).

The first nest was seen at Fogo on 21st May; adults carrying food for young were at Hilton on 9th Jun & Watch Knowe on 10th Jun; and the first fledged young were at Todrig on 18th Jun and Shiplaws on 29th Jun.

Singles at Attonburn, Bemersyde Moss, Black Barony, Bowden, Bridgeheugh, Caverton Mains, Clarabad Farm, Clarabad Mill Glen, Cothill, Dundock Wood, Easter Dawyck, Ern Cleuch, Fleurs, Goseland Hill, Hallrule, Hanged Man's Hill, Hartsgarth, Hermitage Castle, Hirsle, Horsleyhill, Ladyurd forestry, Lindean Reservoir, Littledeanlees, Loch Eddy, Old Greenlaw, Prieston, Shaws, Shielstockbrae, Spittal-on-Rule, St Abbs Northfield, Stevenson, Thornydykes, Tweedenhead, West Mains Wood, Whitefield, Wood Hill & Yair. Further evidence of breeding:

Bedrule Mill	pr	Frogden	A	Nether Falla *	FL
Bold Burn	2 A	Gallowberry Wood	2mm	Peden's Stone	P
Caldra	2	Graden	pr	Rankle Burn Lower *	2pr+f+2br5
Chapelhill Burn	A	Highlee Hill	A	Rankle Burn Upper *	pr+br1
Cogsmill Wood	A	Hilton *	3prFF	Redmoss	2pr
Craigurd House	pr	Hindhope Law *	br1	Samieston	2mm
Crosslee	T	Hindsidehill	A	Shiplaws *	br3
Darnhall-Harcus *	2mm+f	Hownam Rings	A	Softlaw East Mains *	br2
Duns Wood *	ON	Howpasley *	2prs br2	Standhill	pr
Eccles Tofts *		Hyndsidehill *	br2	Swinnie *	br1
Eildon	pr	Kippit Farm	pr	Todrig *	2pr+br
Elliston *	2mm	Lilliardsedge	pr	Watch Knowe *	br
Fairlaw *	ON	Longnewton Mill	T	Winningtonrig	pr
Fogo *	ON	Minto Kames *	FF		

Autumn: Last singles in suitable breeding habitat were at Crookedshaws on 2nd Sep & Hen Poo on 8th Sep & Darnhall 23rd Sep. Few passage birds with single Mire Loch 25th-26th Aug but the next there not until another on 1st Oct, 2 on 5th Oct with the last single on 13th Oct (Dave Graham).

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. (121 records in 2013)

Spring: First 2 Tweedsmuir and singles St Abb's Head & Edrom Mains 30th Apr (Andrew Sandeman, Jack Ibbotson & Andrew Mossup). 1 Craik village 1st May; 1 Dewar & 1 Adderston Lee 4th May, then 9 birds at 6 sites 7th May suggests a widespread arrival.

Breeding: Recovery to earlier levels with c.115 territories at 82 sites in 81 tetrads (51 tetrads in 2012, 83 in 2011 & 81 in 2010) Apr-Aug (*=confirmed breeding). Breeding was confirmed in 12 tetrads; the first birds seen carrying food for young at Linhope on 13th Jun & Toddle Knowes on 25th Jun; and the first fledged young at Glenlude on 24th Jun & Tod Rig on 14th Jul.

Bemersyde Moss	pr	Ern Cleuch	pr+br2	Peden's Cleuch	pr
Black Cleuch	2mm	Glenlude *	br1	Peden's Stone	2mm
Black Rig *	prFF	Glenmuck Height	pr	Priesthope Knowe BBS	pr
Blackhouse	2mm	Glenrathope	2mm	Rankle Burn	pr+2mm
Blakedean	2mm	Glenwhappen Rig	2pr	Scawd Law *	2pr+br2
Broadhaugh	2mm	Green Knowe	pr	Shankend	pr+1m
Cadam Law	pr+m	Greenside	2	Tarras Shank	2prs
Cappercleugh	ad+br3	Haggis Side	pr	Tinnis Hill	2mm
Castleweary	pr+m	Hermitage Castle	3prs	Tod Rig *	2prs+br2
Chapelhill Burn *	prFF	Hindhope Law *	pr+br1	Toddle Knowes *	2prs+br3
Comb Fell	2mm	Hunt Law BBS	pr	Tower Burn Rig	pr
Cowbush Hill	pr	Linhope *	pr+br1	Tweedsmuir	2mm
Cragbank BBS	pr	Loch Eddy	2mm	Twislehope	pr
Craighope Burn	2mm	Longcroft Hill	3mm	Wardmoor Hill	pr
Cranshaws Hill BBS	pr	Merrylaw	2mm	Wether Law	pr
Crosslee Burn	pr	North Esk Reservoir *	3prs+br3	White Kip *	pr+br2
Damhead Rig BBS *	2pr+br3	Old Kirkhope	pr	Yarrow Fues *	pr+br2
Dogden Moss	2mm	Pedderie Law	pr+1m	Yett Burn	3prs

With single birds at Adderston Lee, Ark Law, Birnie Knowe, Byreleehaugh, Colterscleuch Shiel, Craik village, Cramalt Burn, Damhead Shiel, Deuchar Law, Dewar, Dollar Forest, Edrom Mains, Fingland Burn, Gawky Hill, Goseland Hill, Hanged Man's Hill, Hislop, Juniper Craigs, Mill Burn/Tower Burn Rig, Nether Hindhope, Riddel Law, South Hart Law, Stone Grain Rig, Tinnis Bridge, Tower Burn Cleuch, Tudhope Hill, Yarrow Cottage & Yett Burn BBS.



Autumn: Last seen on breeding habitat was 1 a family party at Cappercleugh on 22nd Aug & a late 3 birds on Dere Street at Five Stanes on 7th Sep.

Passage birds: 2 Folly Loch 22nd Aug; singles St Abb's Head 26th, 28th & 31st Aug; 1 Newmains on 30th Aug; 1 St Abb's Head 3rd Sep with 1 there 25th & 26th Sep, 2 on 28th Sep and final single on 6th Oct (Dave Graham).

Whinchat - St Abb's Head, Oct 2010.

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, until bred in 20% of tetrads. More recent population crash. (31 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: The poor winter may well have killed or forced out most birds with just two records in Jan-Feb: 1 Burnmouth 15th Jan; 1 Dundriech 18th Jan. Then none until 1 Town Yetholm 9th Mar; 2 Dowlaw Dam on 10th Mar; 1 Burnmouth 16th Mar, as presumed passage birds arrived. First in hill habitat was 1 Piper's Grave 10th Apr.

Breeding: Records from just 16 sites in only 15 tetrads Mar-Sep (29 tetrads in 2012, 28 tetrads in 2011, 38 in 200, 104 in 2009).

Further decline in numbers from 2012 suggests some losses overwinter.

Annelshope Hill	1 Lauder Common	Pease Bay	prA	Saughtree Fell	pr FF
Barnhills Moor BBS	1 Leithen Doors	pr+ON Piper's Grave		Tinnis Bridge	m FF
Crosslee Burn	1 Manor Bridge	pr Priesthope Knowe BBS	1T	White Kip	f+br1
Dowlaw	pr Mire Loch	Rankle Burn Middle	pr+br3	Wide Hope Shank BBS	pr

A nest with calling chicks was seen at Leithen Doors on 30th May; adults feeding young were seen at Tinnis Bridge on 31st May & at Saughtree Fell on 10th Jun; fledged young were seen at Rankle Burn on 25th Jun & White Kip on 17th Jul.

Autumn/Winter: Records from just 2 sites Oct-Dec. 1 St Abb's Head on 8 dates 6th Oct-15th Nov. Pr Dowlaw 24th Oct.

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. (289 records in 2013).

Spring: First 2 Leadburn CW 7th Apr (Ray Murray) 1 Cademuir Hill 9th Apr; 12 St Abb's Head & 1 Kettlehill 11th Apr; several Leithen Water 13th Apr; 41 St Abb's Head, 8 White Law Loch, 2 Scuds Cleugh, 2 Cauldshiels Loch and 1 Heiton Mains 15th Apr; 3 Bench Cleugh, 3 Newmains & 1 Lamberton Beach 17th Apr; 36 Newmains, 7 Heiton and 2 each at Swinchy Cleugh, Back Burn, Glenrathope Cottage & Windy Neese 19th Apr.

Pretty widespread on breeding habitat after that but poor weather may have been prolonging the passage through lower ground habitat and on the coast to the end of Apr with exceptional counts in mostly arable countryside including 18 at Newmains, 14 Heiton, 13 Hadden, 12 Fairlaw, 12 Edrington Castle, 12 Midburn, 10 Newbigging Walls, 7 Angelrow, 7 Eddleston, 6 Paxton, 5 Northfield & 3 Kimmerghame. Other large counts, on more typical habitat, 20th-30th Apr include: 20 Lauder Common, 5 Byrecleugh and 4 Juniper Craigs

This passage continued into early May with 13 Heiton, 10 Clarabad, 7 Shieldgreen, 7 St Abb's Head, 6 Sandynowe and 6 Westfield on 1st May but was mostly finished after the next few days. It is not unlikely that Greenland Wheatears may have been involved in these later movements. There were no definite records of Greenlanders in 2013.

Breeding: (Apr-Aug) c.175 'territories' at 123 sites in 134 tetrads, but likely late migrants in at least 20 tetrads – so 114 tetrads for 2013 (95 tetrads in 2012, 188 in 2011). Breeding was confirmed at 27 sites.

Singles were reported from some 42 sites: Baddingsgill, Berry Knowe, Black Rig, Blackhopebyre, Cadam Law, Cardon Law, Carfraemill Hotel, Crosslee Rig, Deanburnhaugh, Deuchar Law, Dodburn, Dollar Forest, Easter Deans, Fancove Head, Fifescar Knowe, Fleety Wood, Glenrath Heights, Glenrath Hope, Greenlaw Moor, Hislop, Holm Sikes, Hoscote, Kettleshiel, Lamancha, Lamberton Beach, Langburnsheils, Larriston Fells, Leahead Loch, Mill Burn, Newholm Hope, Peat Law, Pennymuir, Pennymuir Bridge, Posso Bridge, Posso Hope, Riccarton Junction, Seaw'd Law Small Burn, Southfield, Stewarton House Pond, Stewarton Pond & Talla Linnfoots.



Wheatear - Talla Linns, Sep 2013

Single pairs were recorded at 32 sites (11 confirmed breeding): Back Burn, Branxholme Bridgend, Cairn Law, Castleweary*, Crosslee Burn, Dollar Law*, Eddleston Mill Burn, Essenside*, Fairliehope*, Falnash, Gavinton E BBS, Haggis Side, Hundles Hope Old Pinewood*, Kirkhope Bridge, Kirkton, Muckle Chanter, Nether Hindhope*, Penchrise, Priesthope Knowe BBS, Roughley*, Scarce Rig Pond, Scuds Cleuch, Sting Rig, Stobs Castle, Talla Cleuch, Toddle Knowes*, Tollishill*, Ugly Grain, Wester Kershope*, Yarrow Fues* & Yett Burn BBS.

101 pairs at another 41 sites with confirmed breeding at 16 sites.

Adderston Lee	2	Cademuir Hill	2	Kingle Rig	5*	Scuds Cleuch Wood	2*
Altreive	2	Coomb Hill	2*	Langhaugh	2	Shieldgreen	4
Barnes Loch S	2	East Loch South BBS	2	Langhaugh Hill	2*	South Hart Law	3
Bench Cleuch	2	Fruid Reservoir	3	Longcroft Hill	3*	Swinchy Cleuch	2*
Black Barony	2	Glenmuck Height	5*	Manorhead	3*	Talla Reservoir	2
Blackhouse	2	Glenrathope Cottage	2*	Millburn	2*	Welldean Hill	2*
Bow Castle BBS	2	Hopringie BBS	3	Rankle Burn	4*	Wether Law	3
Broad Law	3	Hundleshope	2*	Riddell Law	2	Windy Neese	2
Broadhaugh	2	Hunt Law BBS	3*	Saughtree	2	Winningtonrig	2
Byreclough	3	Juniper Craigs	2	Scuds Cleuch	2*	Yett Burn	3*
Cademuir Farm	2						

30 sites with c.82 pairs. The first nest was found at Roughley on 24th May; the nest with young at Yett Burn on 31st May; the first adults carrying food for their young were at Birnie Knowe on 24th Jun; the first fledged young were at Castleweary on 14th Jun and Welldean Hill on 16th Jun.

Young were still being reported on 31st Jul at Linghope.

Autumn: First coastal passage was at St Abb's Head with 5 on 13th Aug, perhaps locally derived. Then 4 there 28th Aug with 3 on 31st Aug; 2 Long Moss, 2 St Abb's Head & 1 Fast Castle Head 3rd Sep; 3 Eyemouth Bay 7th Sep; 1 Talla Linns 9th Sep. Then singles St Abb's Head 13th, 14th, 24th & 25th Sep with 1 Nether Tofts & 1 Newmains 16th Sep with 1 Press Castle 24th Sep & 1 Fancove Head 25th Sep. 1 St Abb's Head 28th Sep. Last inland bird at Black Law on 5th Oct. Latest singles at St Abb's Head 8th & 11th Oct (Jack Ibbotson).

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Abundant resident, breeding in 67% of tetrads. Some autumn passage on coast. (746 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Just 5 recorded on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb between Eyemouth and the border. Recorded in 85 tetrads Jan-Mar (101 in 2012, 124 in 2011). Largest counts were 14 Eddleston 30th Mar, with 12 there 21st Mar; 13 Tweedbank 14th Mar with 10 there 18th Feb; 8 Birgham 25th Jan; 7 Paxton on 12th Mar; 6 Haddenrig Wood 25th Jan & 6 Nisbet 24th Feb with 4-5 birds reported from Stagehall, Darnhall & Kirndeane.

Breeding: Seen in 233 tetrads Apr-Aug (211 in 2012, 226 in 2011 & 231 in 2010). Breeding was confirmed in 23 tetrads (6FF, 17FL).

The first adults carrying food for young were seen at Watch Knowe on 10th Jun & Lambden on 18th Jun; with the first fledged young at Cockburnspath on 6th Jun & Hermitage Castle on 10th Jun – these dates were several weeks later than in 2012.

The largest counts were 12 Tweedbank 8th Apr; 8 Gavinton BBS 20th Apr; 8 Eddleston 27th Apr; 8 Deanbrae 4th May; with 5-6 birds at Abbey Park, Cavers, Craggs, Crumrig, Darnhall, Effledge, Kirkton, Peebles & Preston Autumn/Winter: Recorded at 33 sites Sep-Oct, max counts of 16 Mire Loch and 10 Redheugh Glen on 4th Oct; 10 Black Barony 18th Sep & 9 Cringletie 21st Oct.
Recorded in just 32 tetrads Nov-Dec (107 in 2012, 131 in 2011, 131 in 2010) with largest hourly counts of: a massive 46 Tweedbank 15th Nov; but no other sites having counts of >3 birds.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common breeding resident found in 8% of tetrads. Forms flocks August-March. (597 records in 2013)

Non-breeding: Found in 69 tetrads Jan-Mar (90 in 2012, 117 in 2011 & 87 in 2010) & 33 tetrads during Sep-Dec (76 in 2012, 92 in 2011 & 103 in 2010).

Large counts of 30 or more birds in the early year include: 100 Lamberton on 9th Jan with 75 there on 10th Mar; 79 Eddleston 27th Jan with 66 on 21st Feb; 50 Stagehall 1st Jan; 45 Newmains on 5th Jan with 40 on 17th Mar; 30 Heiton Mains 26th Feb; with 20-29 birds at Birgham, Coltcrooks, Cowbog, Deanbrae & Haymount.

The largest post-breeding counts (Sep-Oct) were: 100 Chirnside 8th Sep; 100 Edington Mains & 100 Lamberton 20th Sep; with 37 Eddleston 16th Sep. Reported from just 14 tetrads in Nov-Dec with the largest counts of 100 Lamberton on 2nd Dec; 50 Newmains 27th Dec: with 20-29 birds at Glack Cottage, Lindean Reservoir, Lower Burnmouth, Sprouston/Redden Haugh & Tweedbank.

Breeding: Found in 173 tetrads Apr-Aug (171 in 2012, 207 in 2011 & 159 in 2010), with breeding confirmed in 119 of them.

The first birds at nests were seen at Skirling on 3rd Apr & Tweedbank on 24th Apr; the first nests with young were at Tweedbank on 8th May & Abbey Park on 11th May; the first adults with food for young were at New Channelkirk on 21st May & Hartsgarth on 31st May; ; the first fledglings seen were at Lamberton on 26th May & Lauder on 30th May. Late occupied bests were still being reported at Oxenrig on 7th Aug and recently fledged young at Catslawburn on 18th Aug.

The largest counts were mostly of early season post-breeding flocks initially in Jun but of later broods in Aug: 110 Cockburnspath 6th Jun; 100 Abbey Park 14th Jun with 50 there on 10th May; 100 Castlehill on 17th Jul; 100 Lamberton 1st Aug; 90 Eddleston 9th May (nesting birds before fledglings appeared) with 74 there 27th Apr; 56 Effledge 10th Jun; 47 Elliston 21st Jul; 45 Fleurs 14th Jun; with 30-39 birds at Deanbrae, Kennetsideheads, Muirhouselaw, Preston & Shielstockbrae.

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. (287 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Found in 30 tetrads Jan-Mar (43 in 2012, 33 in 2011 & 18 in 2010).

As usual Newmains had the largest wintering flock with 240 there on 5th Jan, peaking at 290 on 17th Jan, then 250 on 19th Jan, 240 on 1st Feb; 180 on 8th Mar & 200 on 17th Mar. The largest flocks reported anywhere else were 30 Heiton on 1st Jan & 30 Westfield on 28th Jan; with 28 Hadden on 25th Jan; 22 Angelrow on 3rd Mar; 16 Smailholm 18th Feb; 15 Stagehall 1st Jan; 13 Heiton Mains 5th Mar; 12 Trows and 12 Makerstoun 25th Jan; 12 Wester Muirdean 9th Feb & 12 Bemersyde Moss 4th Mar; with 1-9 birds reported from Bowden, Broomdykes, Chesters Grange, East Gordon, Grantshouse, Haddenrig Wood, Holefield, Lamberton, Melrose, Nisbet, Nisbet Hillhead, Ormiston, Roxburgh, Sprouston, Upper Nisbet & Wester Housebyres.

In the west: 1 Leadburn 17th Feb & 4 Innerleithen 8th Mar.

Breeding: Found in 80 tetrads Apr-Aug (82 in 2012, 80 in 2011 & 47 in 2010) with confirmed breeding (*) in 31 of them. c. 159 pairs and 22 'singles' (or no number given) reported from: Broomdykes, Burnmouth, Caverton Mill, Cessford, Chesters Craig, Collie Law, Darnick BBS, Deanbrae, Duns Mill, Effledge, Foulden, Heiton, Heiton Mains, Hopton, Maidenhall, Melrose, New Belses BBS, St Abbs, St Abb's Head, Swindon, Union Bridge & Whinnyhouse.

Abbey Park*	13	Cessford Moor *	9	Fancove Head *	1pr	Hindsidehill *	1pr
Ancrum Craig	1pr	Cheeklaw BBS	8	Fireburnmill	1pr	Homebank *	6
Angelrow *	1pr	Chesters Grange	4	Fleurs*	10	Hoprigshiels	1pr
Barnhills *	1pr	Clarabad Mill Glen*	6	Fogo *	9	Houndslow	1pr
Belses *	1pr	Craillinghall	2prs	Foulden*	1pr	Howlands	13
Bemersyde Moss *	11	Crumrig	7	Frogden*	4	Hume *	10
Blainslie	1pr	Easter Softlaw *	3	Gavinton E BBS	5	Hume Castle	5
Bogend	7	Eccles	1pr	Graden BBS	3	Hutton *	1pr
Bowden *	1pr	Eccles Tofts	3	Hardens Plantation	3	Jordonlaw*	10
Caverton Mains*	10	Fairnington*	23	Harpertoun *	1pr	Kennetsideheads*	6

Kirkton Hill	6	Midburn	6	Press Mains	4	St Abbs Northfield *	1pr
Lambden	7	Milne Graden	1pr	Preston*	10	Standhill*	3
Lamberton *	1pr	Mordington Holdings	1pr	Printonan	5	Timpendean	1pr
Lauder	1pr	Morrighall	2pr	Samieston*	8	Todrig	1pr
Lennel*	3	Old Belses	1pr	Shielstockbrae*	5	Whitrig Bog	12
Longnewton Mill	1pr	Peelwalls Farm	8	Softlaw East Mains *	3	Winfield Farm	1pr
Manderston House	1pr						

The first occupied nest was at Hutton on 1st May & Fogo on 21st May; the first adults feeding young were seen at Clarabad & Lamberton on 26th May; and the first fledglings were seen at Angelrow on 1st Jun & Homebank on 2nd Jun. Late broods were still being reported on 4th Aug at Softlaw East Mains & 7th Aug at Lennel.

Outwith the main range: pr Whitslade 7th Apr; 6 Jenny's Brae, Peebles 6th May.

Autumn/Winter: Reported from 21 tetrads Sep-Dec (52 in 2012, 53 in 2011 & 51 in 2010).

The Reston-Newmains winter flock was at 170 on 27th Dec. Otherwise the largest counts were: 40 Edrington Castle 19th Nov; 35 Haigsfield 31st Dec; 30 St Abb's Head 16th Oct; 16 Ploughlands 10th Nov; 16 Chesters Grange 20th Nov; 16 Nisbet Hillhead 26th Nov; 15 Redheugh 4th Oct; 11 The Hutches 6th Sep; 10 Lower Burnmouth 29th Dec; and 1-9 birds at 12 other sites.



Yellow Wagtail
Redden, May 2013

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. (16 records in 2013)

Spring: 1 Tweed at Coldstream 18th Apr (Anthony Speybe). 1 Blount Island 20th Apr; 3 Newmains 22nd Apr; 1 Redden Haugh 23rd Apr; 6 Whiteadder at New Mills 26th Apr; 1 Burnmouth 30th Apr. 1 Newmains 8th May.

Breeding: No survey but casual records: 1 Whiteadder upstream of New Mills 9th May; 2prs Tweed at Redden 17th May; 1 Tweed at Lees Haugh 24th May; 1 Tweed at Mertoun 14th Jun; 1 Pease Bay BBS 18th Jun. 3 juvs Folly Loch 28th Jul & 2 juvs Pease Bay 18th Aug may have been locally bred.

Autumn: 1 Newmains 20th Sep was the last record of the year (Dave Graham).

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. (308 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 8 Jan records: 3 coastal singles at Pease Bay, Siccar Point and St Abbs along with inland singles from Angelrow (2), Lauder, Netherurd and Tweedbank. Just a single on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb at St Abb's Head. 9 other Feb singles, 6 during the last 10 days of the month, with coastal records from Mire Loch and Eyemouth and inland reports from Black Barony, Easter Dawyck, Nisbet, Riccarton Mill, Stobo Castle, Todheugh & Wester Muirdean. Only 13 Mar records as cold persists with singles St Abb's Head on 13th and 28th Mar but 3-4 Tweedbank 15th & 20th Mar and 2 Peebles 9th & 29th Mar. Otherwise singles Cringletie, Newmains and Melrose. In the first week of April birds were only a little more widespread being noted at 9 sites by 7th Apr, including 6 Darnhall-Eddleston on 2nd Apr and 2 birds Linthill, Cringletie & Borthwick Quarry. This trickle seemed to continue for much of April.

Breeding: Reported from 135 tetrads Apr-Aug (98 in 2012, 94 in 2011, 151 in 2010) with confirmed breeding in 49 tetrads (mostly FF & FL). 3 pairs noted Knowe Bog Hill, on the Teviot at Barnhills & Menslaw, on the Eddleston Water at Eddleston with 2 pairs at Bold Burn, Castleweary, Darnick BBS, Elba, Fairliehope, Heiton, Hunt Law BBS, Ladiehope Culvert & Neidpath Gorge.

The first nest was seen at Tweedbank on 27th Apr; the first adults with food for young were at Preston 16th May & Black Barony on 20th May; the first fledged young were seen at Redden Burn on 17th May & Knowebog Hill on 28th May. Late broods were still being seen at Neidpath Gorge on 29th Aug & Primsidemill on 3rd Sep.

Some recovery evident in 2013 number from 2012 levels.

Autumn/Winter: Passage birds at 22 sites, mostly 1-2 birds, but 7 Cringletie 16th Sep and 3 Linn Dean 14th Sep. Coastal migrants at Burnmouth, Dunglass, Lamberton, Pease Bay & St Abb's Head.

30 Nov-Dec records at 22 sites (17 in 2012, 6 in 2011), confirms the improvement in numbers on 2011/12. All singles, except 2 Tweedbank \Gala Sewage Works Pond on 27th & 31st Dec. Only a few coastal records from Dunglass, Eyemouth, Heughhead, Mire Loch and Pease Bay, so relatively widespread away from coast with reports from Allanbank, Barnhills, Faldonside Loch, Heughhead, Mayfield, Neidpath Castle, Nisbet, Redden, Spittal on Rule, Sprouston, Sunlaws Mill & Upper Samieston.

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. (632 records in 2013)

Usual dearth of Jan reports with 8 reports from 5 sites. Singles on 4 dates at Tweedbank and at Wilton and Holefield and 2 birds at Newmains on 17th Jan and 2 at St Abbs on 29th Jan. Just a single bird was seen on Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb, on the Coldingham to Eyemouth section. Feb was hardly better and while there were 8 at Newmains on 12th Feb & 4 at Tweedbank on 16th Feb there were only singles at 5 other sites through the month. The first half of Mar was hardly any better with only 4 records up to mid-month, singles at Tweedbank, Craigrud and Manor Schoolhouse. This contrasted with 35 records in the second half as the weather relaxed and birds flooded into the area, especially during the last week. While 1-2 birds were the norm, there were 10 at Glenrath on 17th Mar; 6 Bowden on 24th, 26th & 29th Mar; and 11 at St Abb's Head on 31st Mar. Numbers followed in the next week or so with 21 Newmains on 2nd Apr with 34 there 3rd Apr and 30 St Abbs on 8th Apr and birds widespread by 10th Apr.

Breeding: Birds were reported from 271 tetrads Apr-Aug (246 tetrads in 2012) with confirmed breeding noted in 99 tetrads (mostly FL & FF). The first adults carrying food for young were at Southfield on 14th May and Harpertoun on 16th May; and the first fledged young were seen at Oatleycleugh on 2nd Jun and Tweedsmuir on 6th Jun. The last recently fledged broods were at Woodside on 29th Jul and Dunglass on 18th Aug.

Autumn/Winter: Not many double-figure counts in Sep-Oct, hinting at a poor breeding season and/or poor passage through area: just 12 Maxton on 7th Sep; 30 Nether Tofts & 13 Cringletie 16th Sep; 12 West Bold on 20th Sep; 36 Darnhall 23rd Sep; 12 Westloch 30th Sep; 12 Sprouston Haugh 1st Oct.

Seen in only 6 tetrads Nov-Dec (24 in 2012, 35 in 2011, 14 in 2010 & 22 in 2009) reflects poor numbers earlier. 1-3 Tweedbank through Nov- Dec with max 7 there 2nd Dec but still 1 there 31st Dec. Elsewhere only singles at Bowdenmoor Reservoir, Chirnsidebridge, Lumsdaine and Redden except 2 Newmains 27th Dec. *A poor end to the year.*

White Wagtail *M. a. alba*

Scarce passage migrant March-April and September, mostly to coast. Has summered. (12 records in 2013)

Spring: 2 St Abb's Head on 31st Mar (Dave Graham); 7 Newmains 2nd Apr with 3 there 3rd Apr, 2 on 5th & 7th Apr; 2 Burnmouth 14th Apr; 3 Newmains 17th Apr with 8 there 22nd Apr. 3 Whitrig Bog 27th Apr; 1 Dunglass 5th May; 1 Angelrow 7th May & last 1 Dunglass 25th May.

No autumn reports.

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. (128 records in 2013)

Spring: 1 Gallowberry Wood 29th Apr (Dave & Margaret Thorne); 4 Wester Wooden 30th Apr; 1 Leadburn CW 2nd May; 2 Causewaygrain Head and singles Ladyurd, Merrylaw & Byehass Fell 7th May; 1 Hoselaw Mains 9th May. A few over next week or so but not widespread until after 20th May.

Breeding: 299 singing males/territories at 100 sites in 97 tetrads (10 = *confirmed breeding). (58 at 46 sites in 2012). Singles seen: Baldhill, Bellendean Burn*, Blacklaw, Buckstone Moss, Coltcrooks, Dogden Moss*, Dun Tae, Dykecrofts, Fleety Wood, Frogden, Gallowberry Wood, Glenwhappen Rig, Hanged Man's Hill, Hardlee Flow*, Hartsgarth, Hoselaw Mains, Kyleshill Plantation, Ladyurd forestry, Laidlawstiel Wood, Lamblair Hill, Langtonlees, Leadburn CW, Menzion,

Merrylaw, Old Castleton, Peniel Heugh, Rangle Burn Middle, Redmoss, Riccarton Junction, Rumbletonlaw, Samieston, St Mary's Loch E*, Stair Law, Tudhope Hill, Twislehope & Wheelrig Head.

Adderston Lee *	2	Gatecleugh Hill	2	Langburnsheils *	8	Ramsaygrain East *	6
Adderstoneles Moss *	2	Gordon CW	2	Larriston Lime Works *	9	Rashiegrain	2
Blaemount Rig *	4	Green Knowe	3	Leap Hill *	2	Riccarton Mill	2
Birkindale Knowe	2	Green Law *	2	Leyburnfoot *	7	Roughley	2
Black Barony	2	Greenside *	6	Lurgiescleugh *	2	Scaw'd Law	3
Black Burn Head*	9	Grey Hill *	2	Meadow Cleuch *	2	Shaws	6
Bold Burn *	2	Hardlee Flow *	5	Meerlees *	4	Soonhope Burn BBS	3
Byehass Fell *	3	Haggis Side *	3	Middle Hill *	3	Stennishope	3
Carlin Tooth *	10	Harden Hill *	15	Millmoor Rig *	7	Stewarton House Pond	2
Causewaygrain Head *	7	Hare Law	2	Muckle Knowe	2	Swinmie	2
Cessford Moor	3	Hartshorn Pike	2	Note o'the Gate *	4	The Pike	2
Charlie's Knowe	2	Harwood Plantations *	2	Owl Plantation *	2	Tod Rig *	2
Cloich	2	Highlee Hill	2	Pedderie Law	2	Wauchope Common	2
Dinmontlair Hill *	12	Hurkleewinter Knowe *	5	Phenzhope Hill	3	Wester Wooden	3
Dun Knowe *	9	Jedhead *	8	Phenzhope Rig	8	Westsheils	2
Ewesdown Fell *	5	Ladiehope Culvert *	8	Ramsaycleughburn *	2	Yarrow Knowe *	4
Fanna Sike	3						

Numbers were hugely boosted in 2013 by atlasing in the large southern forestry plantations. First adults feeding young were at Ladiehope Culvert on 24th May & Meerlees on 28th May while fledgling were seen at Leyburnfoot on 9th Jun & Adderston Lee on 18th Jun.

Just three Jul records from Tod Rig & Birkindale Knowe with 1 Dogden Moss, on 24th Jul.

Latest was a definite single migrant at St Abb's Head on 25th Aug (Jack Ibbotson).

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. 656 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Just 4 early Jan records with 1 Ewes castle 1st Jan; 1 Mire Loch 11th Jan; 2 Hule Moss 12th Jan and 1 Newmains 17th Jan. Hard-weather coastal movement with 100 St Abb's Head 23rd Jan with 30 Coldingham Bay & 7 Ross 25th Jan.

9 were recorded on the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb with 2 Redheugh-Souter, 3 at Eyemouth-Burnmouth and 4 Burnmouth-English border. Next inland report was 1 Hule Moss 13th Feb with 2 Craig Fell & 1 Old Halterburnhead 18th Feb; 2 Edgarhope Law 20th Feb; and 1 Broad Law 28th Feb.

Just 3 early Mar records: 2 Heiton Mains 5th Mar with 12 Mire Loch 13th Mar with 6 on 16th Mar. Next inland were 64 Tweedbank 20th Mar with 6 Glenrath 21st Mar, 1 Coldstream 23rd Mar; 20 Manderston 27th Mar with good numbers of reports only from 30th-31st Mar. There was a definite influx in mid-Apr with 30 Cauldsheels Loch & 36 Glenrath 15th Apr, 60 Newmains 17th Apr with 85 there 19th Apr; and 30 Dollar Forest 22nd Apr.

Breeding: Recorded in 296 tetrads mid-Mar-Aug (209 in 2012. Confirmed breeding in 127 tetrads: 5 with occupied nests, 17 with fledged young & 113 with adults carrying food for young, The first birds seen carrying food for young were at Hanged Man's Hill & n Tup Knowe on 21st May; and the first fledged young at Watch Water Reservoir on 2nd Jun and Highlee Hill on 11th Jun.

The largest counts were from: 58 Hunt Law BBS 13th Jun; 53 Whiteslade Hill BBS 7th Jul; 43 East Loch BBS 3rd Jun; 38 Curley Moor 6th Jul; 38 Weddelscairn Muir & Weddelscairn Hill 4th Jun; 37 Dogden Moss 24th Jul; 33 Whiteslade Hill BBS 26th May; 33 Dewar Burn 19th Jun; and 32 Yarrow Feus 14th May. Also counts of 25-29 birds at: Black Rig, Blackhouse, Cranshaws Hill BBS, Glentannar Burn BBS, Grey Hill, Haggis Side, Larriston Fell, Middle Hill, Scawd Law, Tarras Shank, Tinnis Hill & Wether Law

Numbers seem much more buoyant than in 2012.

Autumn/Winter: Some good late summer and autumn flocks with 115 Tollis Hill 21st Jul; 55 Hule Moss 1st Aug; 100 Nether Falla 10th Aug with 200 there on 25th Aug; 40 Stantling Craig Reservoir & 40 Synton Mossend on 24th Aug; 100 Nether Falla 31st Aug with 150 there 8th Sep; 60 Angelrow 13th Sep; 47 Linn Dean on 14th Sep; 80 Nether Falla 21st Sep; 20 Mire Loch 3rd Oct; 27 Linn Dean & 25 Nether Falla 12th Oct; and 38 Leadburn CW 17th Oct.

Just 8 Nov records and only 5 in Dec. Most were of single figure parties but 10 Hule Moss 22nd Nov; 50 Broughton Heights 30th Nov; 38 Hule Moss 7th Dec. Then just 1 Penvenny 12th Dec, 2 Mire Loch 15th Dec & 1 Newmains 27th Dec.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Common breeder along coast, found in all 18 coastal tetrads (70 records in 2013).

Wintering birds from British & Scandinavian present October-March in small flocks along the shore.

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb 2013

Dunglass - Pease Bay	10	Pease Bay-Redheugh	1
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	7	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	17
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	4	Burnmouth-English border	4

Winter/Spring: 43 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 3rd Feb (21 in Jan 2012). 27 counts Jan-Mar with max counts of 5 Dunglass 5th Jan; 6 St Abbs 29th Jan; 6 St Abb's Head 10th Mar with 11 there 31st Mar; 12 Burnmouth 22nd Mar; 4 Eyemouth 18th Apr.

Breeding: 14 Apr-Jul reports from Lamberton Beach, Eyemouth Bay, Pease Bay, Siccar Point and St Abb's Head: an adult with a juv at St Abb's Head on 9th Jun was the only confirmed breeding report.

Autumn/Winter: 30 Aug-Dec records. 9 St Abb's Head 26th Sep; 10 Burnmouth 29th Sep; 4 Lamberton Beach 19th Nov; 7 Linkim Shore 29th Dec.



Scandinavian Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Wintering birds from British & Scandinavian present October-March in small flocks along the shore.

(1 report in 2013)

1 Newmains 26th Mar (Dave Graham) was the first inland report.

Scandinavian Rock Pipit (above) - Newmains Mar 2013

Photos: Dave Graham

Rock Pipit (below) - Burnmouth, Mar 2003

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. (1,483 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 137 tetrads Jan-Mar (190 in 2012, 288 in 2011 & 197 in 2010).

3-figure counts Jan-Mar: 180 Hawick 3rd Jan; 150 Newmains 17th & 19th Jan; 120 Holefield & 110 Kerchesters 25th Jan; and 101 Eddleston 20th Jan. Parties of 50-99 birds were also seen at Black Barony, Castle Law & Gordon Moss.

There was a very unusual late flock of 300 birds at Holmsmill on 2nd May with 90 Eddleston on 9th May.

Breeding: Reported from 431 tetrads Apr-Aug (336 in 2012, 413 in 2011 & 421 in 2010), with confirmed breeding in 84 of them.

The first active nest was seen at Tweedbank; the first adults carrying food for their young were at Polwarth on 21st May & Meerlees on 28th May; the first fledged young were seen at Tudhope Hill on 19th Jun & Linton on 15th Jun.

There were few large counts, the largest counts of 40 or so mostly being early Apr when still likely late winter birds. Breeding season counts of over 30 birds came from: Blaemount Rig, Black Barony, Broadhaugh, Gillside, Langhaugh, Leahead Loch, Muckle Knowe, Preston, Shaws & Stair Law with 20-29 birds at another 39 sites.

Autumn/Winter: 100 Whitehaugh 24th Aug; then found in 75 tetrads Sep-Dec (158 in 2012, 242 in 2011 & 242 in 2010).

Large counts: 500 Posso 15th Oct; 450 Haigsfield 31st Dec; 300 Ayton 10th Oct; 200 Easter Dawyck 1st Dec; 172 Milkieston 28th Oct; 148 Black Barony 18th Sep; 110 Redheugh 4th Oct; with parties of 50-99 birds seen at Cringletie, Linn Dean & Rink Pond.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Some large flocks late September-April. (171 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 99 records from 34 tetrads Jan-Mar, but small numbers generally (16 tetrads in 2012, 32 in 2011). The outstanding flock was at Newmains with 33 there 5th Jan, rising to 225 on 17th Jan, 858 on 19th Jan, before peaking at 1,058 on 22nd Jan. Then 498 on 23rd Jan, 44 on 30th Jan, 440 on 1st Feb, 658 on 13th Feb, down to 10 on 8th Mar, 28 on 11th Mar, 60 on 19th Mar & 48 on 23rd Mar.

The next largest party was 40 Westfield 28th Jan, which rose to 100 there on 19th Mar. Otherwise 20 Cowbog 13th Feb; 12 Innerleithen 13th Jan, Southdean 18th Jan & Lamberton 21st Mar; 11 Lauder 21st Jan; 10 Whitton Loch 4th Feb; 7 Craighurd House 15th Jan; 6 Tweedbank 4th Jan & 16th Feb; 5 Melrose on 8th Mar; with 1-4 birds recorded: Angelrow Farm Cottage, Bowden, Buxley, Cheeklaw, Crailing, Duns, East Gordon, Eccles, Eddleston, Edrington Castle Mill, Eyemouth, Fans, Grantshouse, Hallmanor, Heiton Mains, Hillcrest, Huntlaw, Innerleithen, Netherurd, Nisbet, Nisbet Hillhead, Pickie Wood, Simprim Mains, South Park, Upper Nisbet & Wilton.

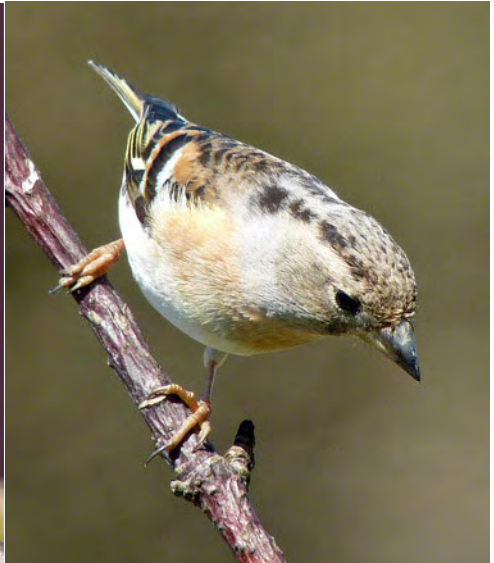
Spring: Still widespread into Apr with 33 records from 14 sites with 32 Newmains 19th-26th Apr; 12-15 Melrose 8th-13th Apr; 8 Innerleithen 11th Apr; 7 Darnick & 6 Tweedbank 1st Apr; and 1-5 birds at Easter Dawyck, Eddleston, Greenlaw, Lamberton, Peebles, St Abbs, St Abb's Head, Traquair & West Linton. Last birds in early May with 2 Newmains & 1 Foulden 1st May; 1 Darnick 2nd May & latest 1 Clovenfords 6th May (Hilde Paxton).

Autumn/Winter: First 1 St Abb's Head 25th Sep (Fran Evans) with singles there 28th & 30th Sep with 1 Melrose 30th Sep-1st Oct.

4 St Abb's Head 1st Oct with 1 there & 1 Redheugh 4th Oct. Then gap to 10 Ayton 10th Oct; 1 Lamberton on 11th Oct; 5 Linn Dean & 2 St Abb's Head on 12th Oct. Small numbers dribbled through St Abb's Head until 20th Oct with max 10 there 18th Oct with 3 Dowlaw on 19th Oct.

The long gap until next singles Gallowberry Hill 18th Nov & Lindean 19th Nov. Another hiatus followed until influx on 10th-12th Dec when 200 Greenlaw & Todrig, 50 Bemersyde Moss & Woodheads, 45 Cauldshiels Loch and a single West Mains Wood. After that just 1-2 birds on 5 single days at Hen Poo, Newmains, Paxton House, Renton & Tweedbank.

A very poor winter period, despite some of the numbers, due to the snows with just 13 records in 13 tetrads Nov-Dec (32 tetrads in 2012, 16 tetrads in 2011 & 65 tetrads in 2010).



Brambling - Eddleston, Apr 2013

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common breeding resident found in 45% of tetrads. Forms flocks July-March. (353 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Reported in 43 tetrads Jan-Mar (61 in 2012, 61 in 2011 & 46 in 2010).

Numbers continue to be very poor after the *Trichomonosis* outbreak killed many around 2009-10.

There were NO double-figure counts at all: compared with 6 in 2012, 6 in 2011, 5 in 2010. The best counts were 9 Burnmouth 15th Jan & 9 St Abb's Head 3rd Feb with 5 Lamberton 1st Jan and 3-4 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Buck Cleugh, Eddleston, Lamancha House, Melrose, Netherurd, Nisbet, Southdean Old Cemetery & Tweedbank.

Breeding: Reported 93 tetrads (125 in 2012, 162 in 2011, 157 in 2010, 129 in 2009, 202 in 2008) Apr-Aug with confirmed breeding in just 5 of them. A nest with young was seen at Southdean on 22nd May; the first fledged young were seen at Leahead Loch on 19th Aug & Williestruther on 24th Aug.

Just 2 double-figure TTV counts (2 in 2012, 3 in 2009-2011, 16 in 2008): 70 Williestruther Loch & 10 Leahead Loch 24th Aug, with 5-9 birds at Abbey Park, Buskinburn House, Cringletie-Milkieston, Hardens Plantation, Hyndsidehill, Minto, Minto House, Peebles, Press Mains, Preston & Tweedbank.

Autumn/Winter: Reported in just 19 tetrads Sep-Dec (46 in 2012, 69 in 2011, 50 in 2010, 39 in 2009, 95 in 2008) with just a single double-figure count of 50 Eyemouth 26th Oct with 5-9 birds at Black Barony, Eyemouth GC & Tweedbank.

1 sites with 10+ birds, compared to 3 in 2012, 10 in 2011, 6 on 2010 & 4 in 2009.

The dire situation continues with the situation, if anything, worse in 2013 than in 2012.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common but local breeder in 39% of tetrads. Forms winter flocks July-March. (636 records in 2013)

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 on 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 Gow; 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 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 on 26th Aug; 14 Berrybank 15th May; 12 Lamberton 16th Apr 7 Essenside Loch 22nd May; 11 New Blainslie on 13th Jun with 11 Renton House 30th Jun; and 10 at Duns, Single & St Abb's Head. Just 12 sites with double-figure counts, hints at a not very successful breeding season (c.f. 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) suggest a not very successful breeding season.

Count of 20 or more birds: 60 Linkim Shore & 50 Killiedraughts Bat 18th Sep; 50 St Abbs 7th Sep; 43 Allanton 19th Sep; 40 Gordon Law 20th Dec; 38 Lamberton Beach 5th Sep; 35 Mire Loch 26th Sep; 30 Fairnington on 13th Sep; Black Barony 20th Oct; 23 Craigmurd 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. (470 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Seen in only 23 tetrads Jan-Mar (45 in 2012, 103 in 2011 & 51 in 2010). Once more the extremely poor cone crop has meant the general absence of this species. Numbers generally low with just 5 sites with double-figure counts: 60 Minto Craigs 7th Jan; 35NW St Abb's Head 6th Jan; 20 Tweedbank with 29 there on 20th Mar; 20 Innerleithen 13th Jan with 13 there 14th Feb; and 10 Bemersyde Moss on 11th Jan; also 5-9 birds at just 2 other sites Castlelaw & Heiton Mains.

Breeding: Birds reported from 192 tetrads Apr-Aug (158 in 2012, 163 in 2011 & 203 in 2010), with confirmed breeding reports from just 11 tetrads.

Passage birds include: 43 ringed in a single day Peebles 14th May (Stuart Craig). Other high Apr, probably passage, counts, mostly from feeders include: 25 Tweedbank & 17 Gavinton 8th Apr; 15 Heiton Mains 15th Apr; 10 St Abb's Head 20th Apr; 63 Melrose 21st Apr; 20 Press Mains 26th Apr; and 11 Eddleston 27th Apr.

In breeding habitats the largest count, by far, was 30 Southdean 22nd May. Otherwise 10 Huntford 17th May; 10 Dinmontlair Hill 9th Jun with 5-9 birds at Black Barony, Bold Burn, Broadhaugh, Buskinburn House, Byehass Fell, Causewaygrain Head, Curly Moor, Darnick BBS, Duns Law, Easter Dawyck, Eddleston, Essenside, Ewesdown Fell, Green Knowe, Harden Hill, Heiton, Hermitage Castle, Hurdlewinter Knowe, Innerleithen, Langburnsheils, Larriston Lime Works, Needs Law, Peebles, Preston, Renniaston, Shaws, Stirkfield, Tod Rig, Tweedbank, Wauchope Common & Wellcleugh Plantation.

Thus although there were large numbers of sites with Siskin most counts were rather low with over 160 sites yielding counts of 4 or fewer birds.

The only adult seen feeding young was seen at Cloich on 24th Jun; & the first fledglings were seen at Fountainhall on 3rd Jun & Plora Wood on 4th Jun. Double-figure counts (not including passage counts above): just a single double-figure count, compared to 15 in 2012, 15 in 2011, 22 in 2010, 8 in 2009, 36 in 2008. *The low number of confirmed breeding reports and the lack of large flocks suggests little success.*

Autumn/Winter: Found in just 20 tetrads Sep-Dec (29 in 2012, 48 in 2011 & 97 in 2010). Double-figure counts: 70 Whitrope 1st Sep; 30 Edston & 15 Edston Haugh 10th Sep; 60 Cringletie-Milkieston 16th Sep; 54 Linn Dean (17NW/37SE) 20th Oct; 20 St Abb's Head 21st Oct; then a long gap to 10-18 Tweedbank in 4 dates in Dec; and 5-9 birds at only 6 other sites.

It is unclear as to whether the flocks in Peeblesshire in Sep were locally-bred birds, or like the Oct flocks clear migrants passing through the area. In the whole autumn-winter period just 21 sites were mentioned as having Siskin with even the garden feeders having absences.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Common breeder found in 42% of tetrads. Can form large winter flocks. (269 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Reported from only 15 tetrads Jan-Mar (25 in 2012, 13 in 2010 & 11, 28 in 2009, 42 in 2008).

The large flock at Newmains held 170 on 5th Jan and peaked at 300 on 17th Jan; also 100 at Heiton Mains on 27th Feb; 80 Pickie Wood 19th Feb & 80 Gattonside 12th Mar; and 50 St Abb's Head 24th Mar; 40 Hardenpool 20th Jan; 30 Burnmouth 15th Jan with 30 Edrington Castle Mill 25th Jan; and 24 Kirk Yetholm 18th Feb. Otherwise 1-15 birds at Burn Mill, Burnt Humbleton, Eyemouth GC, Fancove Head, Gordon Moss, Lamberton Beach & Lamberton.

Poorer numbers than in 2011/12 late winter period with even fewer sites mentioned.

25 St Abb's Head 4th Apr & 50 Lamberton Beach 24th Apr were likely late winter flocks.

Breeding: Birds reported from 124 tetrads Apr-Aug (167 in 2012, 194 in 2011, 185 in 2010), but confirmed breeding in 14 of them (11 in 2012, 29 in 2011). No adults were seen feeding young; the first fledged young were seen at Crumrig on 18th Jun & Linkim Shore on 4th Jul.

Probable breeding counts were 32 Old Cambus BBS 15th May; 50 St Abb's Head 17th Jul;

15 Press Mains 26th Apr; 12 Hanged Man's Hill on 21st May; 11 Swinnie 14th Jul; 10 Renniaston 10th Jun and 10 New Mill 24th Apr; with 8-9 birds at Deanbrae, Lilliardsedge, New Channelkirk, Shielstockbrae & Tollishill

Summer/Autumn: Post-breeding flocks include: 30 Fawhope 17th Jul; 50 St Abb's Head 20th Jul; 70 Deepsyke 23rd Aug; 100+ Northfield, St Abbs 25th Aug; 62 Eyemouth GC 26th Aug; 46 Leadburn CW 24th Sep. 100+Milkieston-Eddleston 28th Oct.

Winter: Only 5 records in 5 tetrads (16 in 2012, 34 in 2011, 19 in 2010, 24 in 2009, 34 in 2008) with 10 Bemersyde Moss 6th mm Shore 29th Dec. Nov; 15 Lamberton Beach 19th Nov; 5 Birgham 21st Dec; 280 Newmains on 27th Dec; & 90 Link 1 triple and 3 double-figure counts in 2012 (11 double-figure counts in 2012, 16 in 2011, 11 in 2010 & 16 in 2009).

The huge imbalance between the number of occupied tetrads in winter and summer continues, with 10 times as many occupied in summer than winter, strongly hints at some mass movement away from the area in winter. The late-year total of just 5 sites in Nov-Dec is worrying despite the reassurance of the Newmains flock. The snows undoubtedly helped drive birds away too, but the change to Linnet becoming a general summer visitor continues to develop.

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. (3 records in 2013)

3 Eyemouth 22nd Jan (Barry & Barbara Prater).

1 Wide Hope Shank BBS 21st Jun is in potential breeding habitat (John Irvine).

12 Galashiels Abattoir 26th Dec (Andrew Bramhall).

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. (281 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Reported 19 tetrads Jan-Mar (13 in 2012, 37 in 2011, 15 in 2010, 9 in 2009 & 47 in 2008). Best counts were 25 Heriot 16th Jan & 16 Lindean Reservoir on 25th Feb; 8 Gordon Moss 7th Feb; 7 Kettleshiel on 13th Mar; 6 Heiton Mains 10th Mar; 5 Crailling 28th Jan; 5 Innerleithen 14th Feb; & 2-4 birds at Lauder, Melrose, Norham West Mains, Scarce Rigg, Tweedbank & Yetholm Loch and singles at 6 other sites.

Breeding: Birds seen in 151 tetrads Apr-Aug (102 in 2012 & 140 in 2010), mostly displaying males but recorded totals treated as pairs. Confirmed breeding in only 9 tetrads (25 in 2011 & 9 in 2010). (* = confirmed breeding).

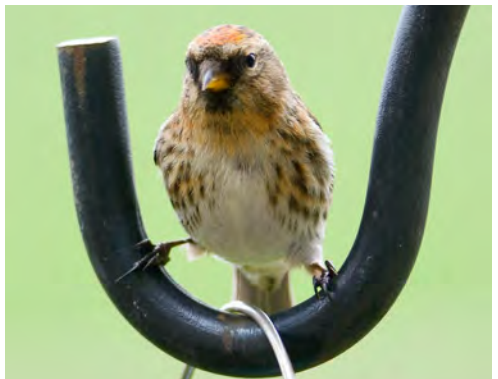
Abbey Park	2	Duns Law	2	Ladiehope Culvert	2	Saughtree Fell	2
Adderstonelees Moss	2	Essenside	2	Ladyurd forestry	8	Scaw'd Law	4
Birmie Knowe	2	Ewesdown Fell	3	Larriston Fells	2	Scuds Cleuch	10
Black Barony	4	Fawhope	2	Larriston Lime Works	3	Shiplaws	3
Black Burn Head	18	Fingland *	8	Lauder *	2	Skirling Craigs	2
Black Rig	4	Fleurs	2	Lindean Reservoir	4	Southdean Old Cemetery	12
Blackhouse	2	Galashiels	3	Linhope	3	Southfield *	5
Bold Rig	3	Gordon CW	3	Longcroft Hill	3	Stennishope	3
Bowmont Forest	2	Green Knowe	3	Lurgiescleugh	5	Sundhope Height	6
Broadhaugh	2	Green Law	5	Lyne Bridge	2	Swinnie	6
Buskinburn House	4	Greenside	2	Melrose	4	Swinnie Plantation	2
Bychass Fell	5	Haggis Side	5	Millmoor Rig	2	The Inch Plantation	2
Camp Moor	3	Harden Hill	2	Minto Kames	2	Tod Rig *	19
Camp Shiel	3	Hardens Plantation	12	Muckle Knowe	2	Tollishill	3
Carlin Tooth	6	Hardlee Flow	8	Muirhouselaw	2	Toxside Moss	2
Castleweary	2	Hare Law	2	Needs Law	7	Tudhope Hill	7
Causewaygrain Head	7	Hartsgarth	2	New Channelkirk	5	Tweedbank	5
Charlie's Knowe	3	Headshaw Hill	2	Old Cambus BBS	3	Wardmoor Hill *	3
Cloch	5	Heiton	2	Oxton	2	Watch Knowe	4
Cowbush Hill	3	Heiton Mains	2	Peden's Stone	4	Wauchope Common	3
Craggs	3	Hermitage Castle	2	Peebles	9	Wellcleugh Plantation	6
Craighope Burn *	2	Hopringie BBS	2	Priesthope Knowe BBS	2	Wheelrig Head	2
Craigurd House	2	Hownam Mains *	5	Ramsaygrain East	7	White Kip *	4
Cringletie	6	Howpasley *	7	Rashiegrain	6	Windy Gowl	4
Darnick	4	Huntford	2	Riccarton Junction	4	Wolfehopelee	2
Deuchar Law	2	Hurklewinter Knowe	8	Riccarton Mill	2	Yair	2
Dinmontlair Hill	10	Innerleithen	8	Rumbletonlaw	2	Yett Burn	2
Dun Knowe	3	Jedhead	8	Samieston	3		

454 birds/c.227 prs at 108 sites. Single birds at 47 sites: Adderstonelees Pond, Ancrum Craig, Baldhill, Bassendean, Birkindale Knowe, Cavers Mains, Colterscleuch Shiel, Cranshaws Hill BBS, Cringletie, Damhead Shiel, Delorainshiel, Dollar, Dunlee Hill BBS, Ern Cleuch, Fairliehope, Fawside, Gala Hill, Gavinton, Gillside, Gordon Moss, Greatmoor Hill, Harwood Plantations, Highlee Hill, Hutlerburn Hill, Kingsmuir, Kirkton, Kirkton Hill, Lee Burn Head, Loch Eddy, Meerlees, Middle Hill, North Riccolton, Note o'the Gate, Pease Dean BBS, Peat Law, Pedderie Law, Phrenzhopehaugh Hill, Preston Plantation, Ramsaycleughburn, Rankle Burn Middle, Stair Law, Thirlestane, Timpendean, Towford, Wolfehopelee, Yarrow Fues, Yarrow Knowe & Yarrowfeus c. 274 'pairs/territories' at 155 sites (190 at 105 sites in 2012, 256 at 133 sites in 2011) Adults with food for young seen Lauder 1st Jul & Craighope Burn 17th Jul; the first fledglings were seen at Southfield 7th Jun & Wardmoor Hill 7th Jul.

Autumn/Winter: 106 Linn Dean 20th Oct (41NW/65SE) with 60 Cringletie-Milkieiston 16th Sep & 45 there 21st Oct; 40 Lindean reservoir 26th Sep; 20 Popples on 8th Oct; and 12 St Abb's Head 21st Oct & 10 Milkieiston-Eddleston 21st Oct.

Just a handful of Nov-Dec records: 3 Lindean Reservoir on 8th Nov; 4 Neidpath 12th Nov; 8 Nether Falla 25th Nov; 1 Abbotsmoss Pond on 12th Dec; and 2 Newmains 7th Dec..

Similarities to Siskin in that almost all birds seemed to have left in the later part of the year, presumably due to a seed-crop failure.



Lesser Redpoll - Birgham, May 2013 Photo: Bill Meikle

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Usually very scarce autumn & winter visitor, typically amongst flocks of Lesser Redpoll. Almost annual. (4 records in 2013)

1 St Abb's Head 15th Oct (A Tilmouth); 2 Linn Dean on 20th Oct (J Wilson); 1 St Abb's Head on 26th Oct with 1 Newmains 30th Oct (Dave Graham). All were Mealy Redpolls where identified into subspecies.

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. (49 records in 2013).

Winter/Spring: In Jan-Mar there were records from only 7 tetrads (76 in 2012, 143 in 2011, 46 in 2010 & 8 in 2009).

1 Angelrow 6th Jan; 1 Manderston 20th Jan; 20 Monymut Forest 23rd Jan; 1 Hallmanor & 1 Cademuir Forests 1st Feb; 3 Dunglass on 9th Feb; 11 Tweedbank 12th Feb with singles there 23rd Feb & 6th Mar, rising to 10 on 12th Mar with singles 14th & 23rd Mar; and last 3 there 24th Apr. 1 Wester Wooden 30th Apr was the only other record for that month.

Spring/Summer:

In Apr-Jul birds were found in 21 tetrads 65 in 2012, (85 in 2011 & 78 in 2010) with breeding recorded in just a single, a family party at Causewaygrain Head on 3rd Jul (20 in 2012 & 23 in 2011). The remaining records appear to be a birds in typical areas and a flush of dispersing birds, all facing the same issue, very little in the way of mature cones. The largest parties were 8 at Swinnie on 14th Jul; 6 Muirhouseslaw 19th Jul; with 5 Dowlaw on 19th May; 4 Stockshielbrae 28th May; 4 Hen Poo 8th Jun; and 2-3 birds at Kingsmuir, Knowebog Hill, Loch Eddy, Manorhead, Newbigging Walls, Priesthope Knowe BBS, Riccarton Junction & Tweedenhead and single at another 6 sites.

Autumn/Winter: Recorded from only 5 tetrads Aug-Oct with 14 Leadburn CW 30th Oct; 2 birds Dowlaw & Preston Plantation, and singles Lithillum Loch & St Abb's Head.

Reports from just a single site Nov-Dec (25 in 2012, 67 in 2011, 99 in 2010, 24 in 2009 & 16 in 2008). 2-9 birds Huntford on 7 dates in Nov. No Dec reports.

With a widespread and almost total lack of any cones on the trees, there was a wholesale disappearance of Crossbills in the latter half of the year.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common but retiring resident found in 25% of tetrads. (362 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Reported from only 52 tetrads Jan-Mar (75 in 2012, 78 in 2011 & 74 in 2010). Mostly 1-2 birds but 13 Earnsclough 6th Jan; 11 Eyemouth GC 4th Jan; 8 Tweedbank 1st Jan, 8 Preston 6th Jan, 8 Hawick on 13th Jan; 7 Eildon Middle Hill 27th Feb; 5-6 birds at Dabshead Hill & Springwood; & 3-4 birds at 14 other sites Birgham, Black Barony, Cessford Castle, Crailing, East Gordon, Heiton, Heiton Mains, Hen Poo, Longnewton Mill, Netherurd, Paxton, Walkerburn, Wester Muirdean & Yetholm Loch.

Breeding: Found in 90 tetrads Apr-Aug (c.f. 96 in 2012, 102 in 2011 & 91 in 2010) but confirmed breeding in 9 tetrads with a nest found at The Wiss on 24th Jun; an adult carrying food at Hardens Plantation 26th May & Camp Sheil on 6th Jul; with juveniles seen at Tweedsmuir 7th Jun, Note o'the Gate 10th Jun, Minto Kames on 18th Jul, Fingland & Hardens Plantation on 10th Aug & at St Abb's Head 11th Aug.

Autumn/Winter: High counts of 14 Linn Dean 12th Oct: 9 Lindean Reservoir 26th Sep; 6 birds at Pease Bay & Dipstick & 5 birds at St Abb's Head with 3-4 at Bemersyde Moss, Cringletie-Milkieston, Edington Mains, Milkieston-Eddleston, Sprouton/Redden Haugh & Tweedbank.

Recorded in only 35 tetrads Nov-Dec (81 in 2012, 102 in 2011 & 106 in 2010).

Just two double-figure count: 14 Riccarton Junction 3rd Nov; 12 Longnewton Mill 23rd Dec; also 5-9 birds at Clovenfords, Galashiels Abattoir, Glenternie, Lindean Reservoir, Swinnie and Tweedbank, also with 3-4 birds at 11 other sites.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, October-March. Scarcer January-March. (5 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: 5 Broad Law, Tweedsmuir 28th Feb (EMG Reynolds).

Autumn/Winter: First 4 Dowlaw 20th Oct (Jack Ibbotson); 3 Warlawbank 15th Nov (Andrew Cavies); 1 Dowlaw 17th Nov (John Inglis); 1 Eyemouth Bay 19th Nov (Ron McBeath).

Lapland Bunting *Calcaeus lapponicus*

Now a very rare winter visitor. A little more frequent in early 1990s. (2 records in 2013)

1 Newmains 13th Nov & 4 Linkim Shore 29th Dec (Dave Graham).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Abundant but declining breeder found in 52% of tetrads, mainly in the east. Forms winter flocks. (487 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 49 tetrads Jan-Mar (68 in 2012, 70 in 2011 & 58 in 2010).

The largest flock, by far, was again at Newmains, with 70 on 5th Jan, rising to a peak of 640 on 17th Jan before falling away to 500 on 19th Jan, 200 on 23rd Jan, 180 on 1st Feb, 60 on 8th Mar & 120 on 17th Mar. 70 Heiton 1st Jan with 50 on 27th Feb & 10th Mar before peaking again at 64 Heiton Mains 14th Mar.

Elsewhere 51 Ormiston 11th Feb; 50 Lauder 6th Feb; 20 Simprim Mains 16th Feb; with parties of 10-19 birds Bettyfield, Birgham, Burnmouth, Burnmouth, Coltcooks, Crailing and Edrington Castle Mill and 5-9 birds at 6 other sites.

In the west: 2 Craighur House 24th-27th Jan with 1 there 1st Feb.

Breeding: Found in 169 tetrads Apr-Aug (174 in 2012, 213 in 2011 & 169 in 2010), with confirmed breeding in 19 of them.

466 birds, mostly pairs, so approximately 233 pairs, reported at 119 sites:

Abbey Park*	12	Duns Law	4	Hownam Rings	2	Paxton	2
Anicum Craig	6	Easter Softlaw*	4	Hume	3	Pease Dean BBS	12
Bankhead	2	Eccles	2	Hyndsidehill	2	Polwarth	7
Barnhills	3	Eccles Tofts*	10	Kelso Anna	2	Press Mains	9
Barnhills Moor BBS	2	Effledge	2	Kennetsideheads	5	Preston	5
Bassendean	2	Elliston	5	Kirkton	3	Printonan	3
Bemersyde Moss	7	Fairmington	5	Kirkton Hill	2	Raeleugh Head	6
Berrybank*	2	Fatlips Castle	2	Ladyrig	2	Raperlaw	2
Bogend	2	Fawside	3	Lambden	7	Samieston	3
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	2	Fleurs*	7	Lamberton Moor *	2	Shielstockbrae	8
Bowmont Forest	2	Fogo	4	Langton Mill	2	Softlaw East Mains*	5
Brockholes *	2	Folly Loch	4	Lauder*	2	Sourhope	3
Broomdykes	2	Frogden	4	Lilliardsedge	4	Sprouston	3
Caverton Mains	3	Gavinton E BBS	16	Lindean Reservoir	3	St Abbs	4
Cessford	2	Graden	4	Linton	3	St Abb's Head	6
Cessford Moor	6	Graden BBS	4	Longnewton Mill	3	Standhill	2
Chapelhill Burn	2	Hardens Plantation	4	Lumsdaie Loch	2	Swinnie	2
Cheeklaw BBS	7	Harpertoun	2	Midburn*	3	Teviot, Denholm	2
Chester Craig	4	Hazelbank	2	Millar's Moss	3	Timpendean	3
Chesters	2	Heiton	12	Minto House	2	Todrig	3
Chirnside	3	Heiton Mains	15	Minto Kames	3	Troney Hill	2
Cockburnspath*	7	Hexpath	5	Morrighall	6	Upper Nisbet Moor	4
Coldingham Loch	2	Hillhouse	2	Muirhouselaw	2	Whinnyhouse	3
Corsbie	6	Hindsidehill*	2	New Channelkirk	4	Whitecross	2
Cothill	2	Holydean Wood BBS	2	Old Belses	2	Whitrig Bog *	4
Craggs*	5	Hoselaw Mains BBS	4	Old Cambus BBS	5	Williestruther Loch*	5
Craillinghall	2	Houndslow*	3	Old Cambus Pond	3	Wiltonburn	8
Crumrig*	10	Housebyres	3	Oxenrig	3	Woodside*	2
Dunglass	2	Howlands	2	Paulswell BBS	6		

Single birds were seen at 60 sites: Allanbank, Attonburn, Ayton, Bedrule Mill, Belses, Blackerstone, Borthwick Quarry, Burnmouth, Carfraemill Hotel, Clappers, Cove, Darnick BBS, Dogden Moss, Drakemire, Dunlee Hill BBS, East Reston, Edington Mains, Elba, Foulden New Mains, Gattonside Moss, Hag Wood, Hardiesmill Place, Harryburn House, Hass Lakes, Hellmoor Loch, Herne Hill BBS, Hollybush Loch, Hopringle BBS, Hopton, Hoselaw Farm, Houndwood, Lamberton Beach, Linkim Shore, Long Moss, Lylestone Hill, Maxton, Melrose, Mordington Holdings, Mosshouses, Mowhaugh, Paxton House, Peelwalls Farm, Pirn Dean, Prendergust, Press Castle, Redpath, Ross, Roxburgh Mains, Selkirk Common, Siccar Point, Southdean Old Cemetery, Spittal-on-Rule, Sunlaws, Swindon, Tan Law BBS, Thirlestane, Tweedbank, Watch Knowe, Westerside Dean & White Law Loch.

So c.289 'territories' at 174 sites, not including Peeblesshire.

A nest was found at Fleurs on 14th Jun; the first adults carrying food for young were seen at Crumrig & Eccles Tofts on 18th Jun; the first fledgling were seen at Abbey park on 6th Jul & Craggs on 18th Jul.

The disjunct Peeblesshire population had: 1 Paulswell BBS 5th May with 6 there 9th Jun; 1 Pirn Dean 9th May; 2 Horsburgh Castle & 2 Lee Burn Head 4th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: More double-figure counts than last year in Sep-Oct: 40 Old Cambus West Mains on 19th Oct; 30 St Abb's Head 15th Oct; 17 Cairncross 3rd Oct; 16 Sprouston/Redden Haugh 8th Oct; 12 Bemersyde Moss 3rd Oct; & 11 Pease Bay 24th Sep; with 5-9 birds at another 3 sites.

Reported in only 16 tetrads Nov-Dec (58 in 2012, 72 in 2011 & 68 in 2010).

The largest flock was 45 Newmains 27th Dec; 45 Fleurs 29th Dec; 35 Linkim Bay 30th Dec; 20 Haigsfield on 31st Dec; 12 Nisbet Hillhead 26th Nov; & 11 Lindean Reservoir 8th Nov. No Peeblesshire reports.

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. (309 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Found in just 20 tetrads Jan-Mar (29 in 2012, (29 in 2012, 22 in 2011 & 30 in 2010). Newmains, as usual, had the largest counts with 16 on 5th Jan, rising to 120 on 17th & 19th Jan dropping to 50 by 23rd Jan, 25 on 1st Feb, 24 on 8th Mar & 30 on 17th Mar.

Several double-figure counts: 25 Birgham 20th Jan; 20 Heiton Mains 24th & 27th Feb and 31st Mar; 12 Angelrow on 24th Mar. Also 7 Skelfhill 26th Feb. Otherwise all other records were of 1-4 birds with 2-4 birds at Castle Law, Eckford, Eyemouth GC, Hadden & Lindean Reservoir. 15 Kennetsideheads & 6 St Abb's Head 3rd Apr.

Breeding: Reported from 113 tetrads Apr-Aug (120 in 2012, 141 in 2011 & 170 in 2010) with confirmed breeding in 12 of with the first adults carrying food for their young at Cockburnspath on 6th Jun & Crumrig on 18th Jun; and the first fledged young recorded at Allanton on 13th Jun & Essenside on 17th Jun.

Single birds were recorded in suitable habitat at 49 sites:

Angelrow Farm Cottage, Belses, Bluestone Ford Reservoir, Bowden, Buckstone Moss, Burnmouth, Castleweary, Comb Fell, Craggs, Dogden Moss, East Loch, Eddleston, Mill Burn, Eyemouth, Gordon CW, Hardens Plantation, Harelaw Pond, Hass Lakes, Hillhouse, Hopton, Horsehope Burn, Hule Moss, Lambertton Beach, Langtonlees, Little King Seat, Millar's Moss, Millmoor Rig, Minto Kames, North Esk Reservoir, Old Cambus BBS, Pease Dean BBS, Peden's Stone, Posso, Press Mains, Prieston, Raeclough Head, Roxburgh Viaduct, Selkirk Common, Spurlens Rig, Tandlaw Moss, Teviothead, Townhead, Tudhope Hill, Tup Knowe, Tweedshaws, Upsettlington, Westerside Dean, Whiteside Hill BBS, Whitrig Bog & Winningtonrig.

Single pairs & territories were recorded 129 'territories' at 74 sites:

Abbey Park	1	Ern Cleuch	2	Leadburn CW	1	Scawd Law	1
Adderstonelees Moss	5	Essenside*	6	Lindean Reservoir	2	Shankend	3
Allanton *	2	Fairliehope	4	Linhope	1	South Hart Law	2
Annelshope Hill	1	Fireburnmill	1	Linkim Shore	1	St Abbs	1
Barnes Loch	1	Folly Loch	1	Lochurd Farm	2	St Leonard's Moss	3
Bemersyde Moss	3	Fruid Farm	2	Long Moss I	1	Standhill	2
Birneyknowe	1	Hartsgarth	1	Longcroft Hill	1	Swindon	1
Blackburn	2	Haud Yauds	1	Longnewton Mill*	2	Swinnie	2
Broadhaugh	1	Headshaw Hill	2	Mire Burn	1	Tinnis Hill	2
Buckstone Moss	3	Heiton	1	Mire Loch*	2	Toddle Knowes	1
Cadam Law	1	Hellmoor Loch	2	Nether Hindhope	2	Tollishill	3
Cockburnspath*	1	Hexpath	1	New Belses BBS	1	Tower Burn marsh	2
Coldingham Loch	1	Hopringale BBS	1	Old Cambus Pond	1	Troney Hill	2
Corsbie	1	Hoselaw Mains BBS	2	Pennymuir Bridge	1	Wether Law	1
Crumrig*	1	Hutlerburn Hill	3	Rankle Burn Middle	2	Williestruther Loch*	3
Damhead Shiel	1	Kelso Anna	1	Riddell Law	2	Yarrow Fues	2
Dodburn	1	Kennetsideheads	2	Roxburgh	2	Yetholm Loch*	3
Easter Housebyres Pond	1	Kirkton	2	Rumbletonlaw	1	Yett Burn	1
Eccles Tofts*	2	Kirkton Hill	3				

c. 178mm at 123 sites (182 at 138 in 2012)

Autumn/Winter: No double-figure counts in Sep-Oct with 6 Lindean Reservoir 26th Sep, 6 Redheugh 4th Oct & 6 St Abb's Head 11th Oct the highest counts.

Recorded in just 12 tetrads Nov-Dec (21 in 2012, 30 in 2011 & 27 in 2010).

No huge count at Newmains this end of the year, 22 there 27th Dec being the highest counts. Also 14 Linkim Shore 29th Dec & 15 Haigsfield 31st Dec with 9 Lindean Reservoir 8th Nov, 4 Folly Loch 26th Nov & 1-2 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Edington Mains & Nether Falla

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Rare, almost extinct breeder on the Berwickshire coast. Very scarce in winter. Occasional inland reports.

ALL RECORDS NEEDED. (1 record in 2013)

Breeding: 1m Lambertton in usual area 25th May (Ron McBeath) was the only report for 2013.

Escapes in 2013

Japanese Quail *Coturnix japonica*

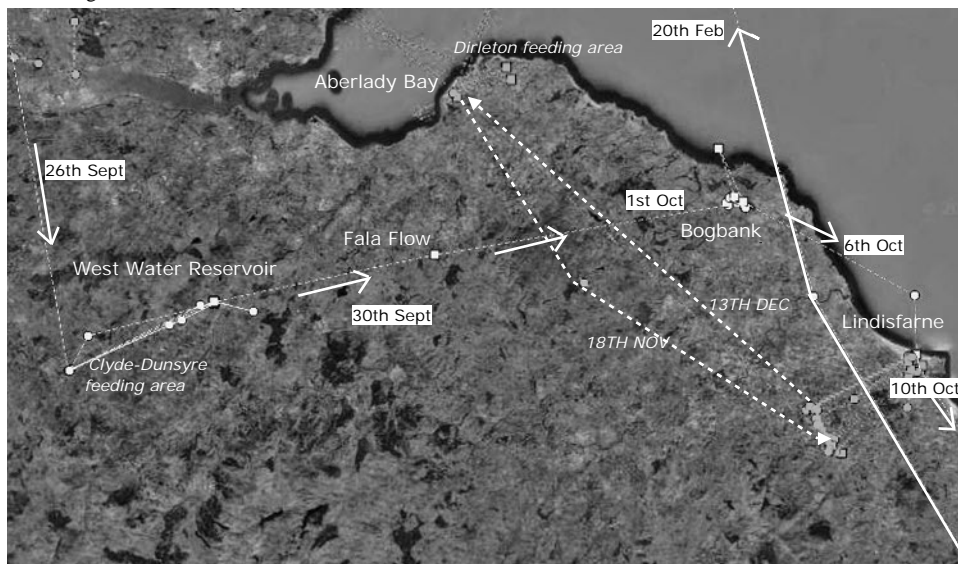
1 Kingsmeadows Road, Peebles 16th Dec (Ruth Robertson).

Satellite-tagged Pink-footed Goose movements over Borders

Ray Murray

In 2013 two Pink-footed Geese were satellite tagged on their breeding grounds in Iceland and then tracked as they went through their migration over the winter of 2013/14.

An adult male named 'Horour' (white arrows on map and black dates with white background) left Iceland on at 06:00 on 22nd September. After a rest on the Atlantic due to adverse winds he arrived in Lewis at 16:00 the following afternoon. He moved on to Carsebeck in Perthshire the following day and then flew to Lanark on 26th Sep, roosting at West Water Reservoir for the next three nights. He then flew east to Fala Flow for a night on 30th September before continuing to Coldingham Moor on 1st October where he roosted at Bogbank, a new roost site, rather than at Dowlaw/Lumsdaine that may have been used in previous years. (It may be that the new windfarm on the Moor has caused this shift). On 6th Oct he then headed south to Lindisfarne where he spend 3 nights before moving on to Norfolk where he wintered around Holkham for the next three months. The northbound journey started on 20th February with a direct flight up the east coast to Forfar, before continuing to Harray on Orkney on 25th February. He staged there until 14th Apr flying off overnight at 19:30 arriving in Iceland the following day at 13:00, a 845 km journey. He did not get to the breeding grounds until another month. It seems that he probably nested but appears to have been unsuccessful, leaving the breeding grounds before young could have fledged.



The other bird 'Ulfar' (white dashed line with block capital dates), another adult male, really only overflow the Borders, heading south from Aberlady Bay on 18th November to spend a few weeks around Lindisfarne before returning north again on 13th December. His electronics were faulty but he left Iceland on 19th September and was in Perthshire on 29th September, He spent early October in the inner Forth and over to Endrick Mouth near Loch Lomond before heading to Loch Leven and Perthshire again. And then to Aberlady for 3 weeks at the end of November. After returning north again in December he spend most of January /February in the Perthshire/Angus area before heading north to Caithness in March. He left Scotland on 6th Apr and was nesting by May.

Full details can be obtained, including current data, at <http://telemetry.wikispaces.com/pinkfeet>. This amazing set of data really provides an incredible insight into the day-to-day movement of individual birds. The ghost of Peter Scott must have the broadest possible smile on it's face !

Ringing in the Scottish Borders, 2013

Tom Dougall

This is the twenty-seventh report on the birds ringed annually in the Scottish Borders, and Northumberland north of the River Tweed. This report, as with its predecessor, is in the new format, as outlined in the 2012 report - the report is now based on the wealth of information available publicly on the BTO website at <http://blx1.bto.org/ring/countyrec/results2013/ringGBBR2013.htm>. This will provide a more realistic picture of ringing activities in the region by all ringers, not just the few who supplied information to me to help compile the report. It will also present a more comprehensive summary of recoveries and controls of ringed birds with a Borders connection, since in previous reports it was comprised mainly from information of Borders Ringing Group – ringed birds. There will be no published cumulative totals (although this will be maintained separately for Borders Ringing Group), but that for BRG is now over 100,000.

Table 1 lists the species and numbers ringed in 2013 in the Borders area.

Table 1 : Birds ringed in the Scottish Borders 2013.

Species	Nestling	Free-flying	Total	Species	Nestling	Free-flying	Total
Red Grouse #	-	15	15	Garden Warbler	2	6	8
Goshawk	22	-	22	Whitethroat	-	22	22
Sparrowhawk	3	2	5	Sardinian Warbler #	-	1	1
Osprey	10	-	10	Sedge Warbler	14	60	74
Kestrel	5	-	5	Reed Warbler	-	2	2
Merlin	6	-	6	Nuthatch	28	11	39
Peregrine	3	-	3	Treecreeper	-	3	3
Oystercatcher	35	-	35	Wren	-	28	28
Lapwing	43	-	43	Starling	-	4	4
Jack Snipe	-	1	1	Dipper	41	13	54
Woodcock	-	1	1	Blackbird	2	135	137
Curlew	18	-	18	Song Thrush	-	18	18
Common Sandpiper	18	11	29	Redwing	-	3	3
Redshank	3	-	3	Robin	-	67	67
Black-headed Gull	404	-	404	Redstart	-	3	3
Common Gull	45	-	45	Whinchat	-	1	1
Woodpigeon	-	12	12	Wheatear	1	3	4
Barn Owl	14	9	23	Duncock	-	95	95
Tawny Owl	-	1	1	House Sparrow	-	71	71
Swift	8	8	16	Tree Sparrow	42	58	100
Great Spotted Woodpecker	-	8	8	Grey Wagtail	10	2	12
Magpie	-	1	1	Pied / White Wagtail	-	14	14
Jackdaw	-	2	2	Meadow Pipit	4	607	611
Rook	1	-	1	Chaffinch	-	766	766
Goldcrest	-	13	13	Brambling	-	11	11
Blue Tit	7	208	215	Greenfinch	-	150	150
Great Tit	10	79	89	Goldfinch	-	75	75
Coal Tit	-	56	56	Siskin	-	1054	1054
Skylark	5	4	9	Linnet	-	7	7
Swallow	35	16	51	Lesser Redpoll	-	80	80
Long-tailed Tit	-	1	1	Redpoll <i>ssp.</i>	-	1	1
Chiffchaff	-	27	27	Bullfinch	-	12	12
Willow Warbler	7	84	91	Yellowhammer	-	22	22
Blackcap	-	13	13	Reed Bunting	-	33	33
				TOTAL (68)	846	4010	4856

The raptors & owls totals are important nationally, particularly for **Goshawk**, **Osprey** and **Merlin**. No **Raven** or **Short-eared Owl** were ringed. **Peregrine** had a poor year. There are, again, some useful totals of wader chicks and warbler chicks – all of these of conservation interest, as is also the long-running **Swift** project at The Hirsell.

Of the full-grown birds ringed, the **Siskin** total is again outstanding and is about 2% of the national total ringed in 2013. The **Nuthatch** totals are each of significance in a Scottish context. Tit species and **Goldcrest** had a difficult years in 2012 and 2013, and this is reflected in the low numbers ringed.

There were two additions to the list of species ringed in the Borders – **Red Grouse**, and a **Sardinian Warbler** at St. Abbs Head.

Borders Ringing Group’s contributions to the BTO’s monitoring projects continued (Constant Effort Site at St. Abbs Head; and adult survival estimates for Common Sandpiper, Dipper, Chaffinch and Siskin).



**House Martin & juv
Tree Sparrow,**
Westfield
Tweedbank Pond
Photos: *Malcolm Ross*



Table 2 : Recoveries and controls 2013.

Species	Ring number	Age & sex	Date	Location	Distance (km)	Orientation
Mute Swan						
Z93292		N, F	28.08.97	Headshaw Loch, Selkirk		
several sightings found dead		Ad F	1998 - 2012 03.01.13	Lauder	25	NNE
Z82919		N F	29.08.98	Kelso		
colour-ring read		Ad F	28.11.13	Kelso	0	
Z96674		N F	24.08.02	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank		
freshly dead		Ad F	17.03.13	Gunknowe loch, Tweedbank	0	
ZZ2970		Imm M	17.07.04	Berwick-upon-Tweed		
freshly dead		Ad M	05.02.13	River Tweed, Paxton House	7	WSW
ZZ4428		Ad M	17.07.05	Berwick-upon-Tweed		
colour-ring read		Ad N	28.11.13	River Tweed, Kelso	33	WSW
W31375		N	24.09.11	Linlithgow loch, West Lothian		
colour ring read		Imm	11.12.11	Whitekirk, East Lothian		
colour-ring read		Ad	12.01.13	Prora, East Lothian		
colour ring read		Ad	30.03.13	Athelstaneford, East Lothian		
colour ring read		Ad	24.10.13	Redden		
W32899		N M	26.08.12	Lochend loch, Edinburgh		
replaced -W35080		Imm	03 - 09.13	Musselburgh, East Lothian		
colour-ring read		Imm	06.10.13	St Margaret's Loch, Edinburgh		
colour-ring read		Imm	06.11.13	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank		
W35254		Imm	17.09.12	Hardwick Park, Durham		
controlled		Imm	04.08.13	Musselburgh, East Lothian	175	325°
colour-ring read		imm	22.09.13	Musselburgh, East Lothian		
colour-ring read		imm	07.11.13	River Teviot, Denholm		
W35145		N	01.09.13	Dunsapie Loch, Edinburgh		
colour-ring read		Imm	13.10.13	St Margaret's Loch, Edinburgh		
color-ring read		Imm	25.11.13	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank		

Whooper Swan						
A6884	Ad M	20.08.03	Anavatn, Jokulsdalheidi, ICELAND			
colour-ring read	Ad M	2004 - 11	various			
colour-ring read	Ad M	30.03.13	between Wark and Carham			
A6654	Ad F	15.08.04	Anavatn, Jokulsdalheidi, ICELAND			
colour-ring read	Ad F	2004 - 11	various			
colour-ring read	Ad f	30.03.13	between Wark and Carham			
ZY0616	Ad M	09.02.10	Caerlaverock, Dumfries & Galloway			
colour-ring read	Ad M	2010 - 12	various			
colour-ring read	Ad M	30.03-1.4.13	Wark / Carham / Coldstream			
A8573	imm M	03.08.10	Fljotsheidi, Sudur-Thingeyjar, ICELAND			
freshly dead- hit wires	imm M	26.01.11	Sunderland Hall, Selkirk			
Shag						
1377345	N	22.06.02	Farne Islands, Northumberland			
freshly dead	Ad	13.05.13	Linkim Shore, Eyemouth	44		NW
1472796	N	10.07.13	Craigleith, East Lothian			
Dead - violent weather	Imm	08.12.13	Eyemouth	46		ESE
1472827	N	16.07.13	Inchmickery, East Lothian			
found dead	Imm	02.10.13	linkim Shore, Eyemouth	73		ESE
Goshawk						
MA01208	N	15.06.05	Dumfries & Galloway			
Found dead	Ad	17.06.13	Bowmont Valley	62		
Sparrowhawk						
EL77789	N F	27.06.13	Bonaly, Edinburgh			
freshly dead - hit glass	Imm F	23.08.13	Lamancha, West Linton	15		S
Osprey						
1445938	N	10.07.12	Craik, Hawick			
dead	Imm	15.02.13	Kendengsaibel, Tujereng, GAMBIA	4825		SSW
Kestrel						
EX74893	N	18.06.12	Allerdean, Northumberland			
long dead	Imm	14.04.13	Yetholm	25		SW
EX63584	Imm	27.12.12	Berwick-upon-Tweed			
Rehabilitated & released	Imm	26.01.13	Holy Island, Northumberland	18		SE
freshly dead						
Peregrine						
GN09345	N F	21.06.03	near Bitch Craig			
controlled	Ad F	2007 - 11	various			
transponder	Ad F	19.04.13	Lothian			
GN69162	N F	05.06.04	near Daviot, Highland			
controlled	Ad F	2009 - 11	various			
transponder	Ad F	28.04.13	Borders	218		SSE
Coot						
GR25480	Ad	23.12.10				
colour-rings read	Ad	to 16.02.11	Farnworth, Greater Manchester			
colour-rings read	Ad	02.02.12	Loanhead, Midlothian	264		N
colour-rings read	Ad	to 27.05.12				
colour-rings read	Ad	28.12.12	Farnworth, Greater Manchester			
colour-rings read	Ad	to 19.01.13	River Tweed, Tweedbank	230		N
colour-rings read	Ad	20.02.13				
colour-rings read	Ad	22.02.13	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank	230		N
colour-rings read	Ad	to 1.03.13				



Coot

Tweedbank Pond

Feb-Mar 2013

Andrew Bramhall found this colour-ringed bird at Tweedbank, Pond and the colour-rings revealed it's travels, and a proclivity to move NORTH in winter !

Photos: Andrew Bramhall



Oystercatcher

FV53446	Ad	12.08.02	Walney Island, Cumbria		
freshly dead hit by car	Ad	24.05.13	Jedburgh	157	NNE
FH23481	Ad	01.02.10	Heysham, Lancashire		
freshly dead	Ad	04.05.13	Ladyflat	193	N
FH77532	N	25.06.13	Dewar Burn		
freshly dead hit by car	Imm	10.07.13	Dewar Burn		

Curlew

FH77509	N	06.06.13	Dewar Burn		
long dead hit by car	imm	18.06.13	near Heriot	9	

Common Sandpiper

NW05531	N	13.07.02	Leithen Water		
colour-rings read	AD	20.06.12	The Howe, Lammermuirs	26	NE
NW43277	Ad F	03.05.12	Dewar Burn		
colour-rings read	Ad F	29.07.13	North Cave wetlands, Humberside	264	SE
NW35728	N	13.07.13	Leithen Water		
colour-rings read	Imm	04-07.08.13	Musselburgh, East Lothian	32	N

Redshank

DE50028	N	25.05.13	Leithen Water		
freshly dead- hit by car	Imm	15.07.13	Leithen Water		

Black-headed Gull

EN95097	N	13.06.04	Broad Law, Moorfoots		
controlled	Ad	15.06.13	Ythan Estuary, Newburgh, Grampian	184	NNE
ET48365	N	13.06.04	Broad Law, Moorfoots		
ring read in field	Ad	19.11.13	Inverleith Park, Edinburgh	25	335
ET48400	N	10.06.06	Broad Law, Moorfoots		
found dead	Ad	08.05.13	Broad Law, Moorfoots		
ET99935	N	12.06.10	Broad Law, Moorfoots		
ring read in field	Ad	06.08.13	Hogganfield Loch, Glasgow	71	280

Black-headed Gull ET99958 controlled	N Ad	26.06.11 05.01.13	Broad Law, Moorfoots Strathelyde Country Park, Motherwell	62	272
5189347 colour-ring read	Imm Imm	18.09.12 26.01.13	Time, Rogaland, NORWAY Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank	615	239
EY21545 colour-ring read	N Imm	16.06.13 20.07.13 & 10.08.13	Broad Law, Moorfoots Hogganfield Loch, Glasgow	71	280
EY21547 colour-ring read	N Imm	16.06.13 22.11.13	Broad Law, Moorfoots Leyland Ponds, Bathgate, West Lothian	40	290
EY21564 colour-ring read	N Imm	16.06.13 02.11.13	Broad Law, Moorfoots Balloch, West Dunbartonshire	100	286
EY21568 colour-ring read	N Imm	16.06.13 28.11.13	Broad Law, Moorfoots Kelso	42	117
EY21573 colour-ring read	N Imm	16.06.13 17.08.13	Broad Law, Moorfoots Seton Burn, East Lothian	24	19
EY21579 colour-ring read	N Imm	16.06.13 26.09.13 & 12.11.13	Broad Law, Moorfoots Callander Meadows, Central region	90	306
EY21681 colour-ring read	N Imm	29.06.13 19. & 24.11 & 24.12.13	Broad Law, Moorfoots Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank	25	138
EY21714 colour-ring read	N Imm	29.06.13 31.10.13	Broad Law, Moorfoots Lunan Bay, Angus	102	19



Colour-ringed **Black-headed and Herring Gull**, Tweedbank Pond

Photos: *Andrew Bramhall*


Herring Gull GN93721 colour-ring read	N Ad	11.07.08 25.11.13	Wellington Park, Montrose, Angus Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank	126	S
Lesser Black-backed Gull GH11628 ring found	N	15.07.83 23.06.13	Isle of May, Fife Coldingham Bay	43	SE
Barn Owl GF56947 freshly dead	N Ad	15.06.02 05.02.13	Borders near Abbey St. Bathans	7	NE

GC66308 freshly dead	N Ad	27.05.10 03.07.13	Kitty's Cairn, Dumfries & Galloway near Hermitage Castle	23	ENE
GR31802 freshly dead	N Ad	22.06.11 24.07.13	Tinnisburn Forest, Newcastleton Newcastleton	6	NE
GC66933 freshly dead (storm)	N F Ad F	13.06.11 21.04.13	Powisholm Ancrum	38	NNE
Blue Tit Y850231 killed by cat	Imm Ad	01.08.12 05.08.13	Peebles Peebles		
Y850539 freshly dead - hit glass	Imm Imm	23.08.12 11.01.13	Peebles Peebles		
Great Tit Y850145 freshly dead - hit glass	imm M imm M	28.07.12 29.01.13	Peebles Peebles		
Swallow Y733420 freshly dead (in building)	imm Ad	14.08.12, 04.06.13	Gifford, East Lothian Bowhill, Selkirk	43	SSW
Sedge Warbler L763638 controlled	Imm imm	21.07.13 09.08.13	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk Pett Level, Sussex	564	SSE
6910742 freshly dead	imm imm	15.09.12 16.06.13	Tour Aux Moutons, Donge, FRANCE Teviothead	893	N
L763630 controlled	N imm	13.07.13 02.09.13	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk Waremmes, Liege, BELGIUM	760	SE
Dipper RT78329 colour-rings read	imm F Ad F	27.03.11 19.06.13	Leithen Water Leithen Water		
RF91034 controlled	N F Ad F	03.06.12 04.05.13	Leithen Water Dewar Burn	6	NNE
Blackbird 7557981 controlled	imm M Ad M	29.10.11 18.02.13	Utsira, NORWAY Peebles	629	SW
CW90144 found dead	N Juv	13.06.13 27.08.13	Peebles Peebles		
Tree Sparrow TR77689 Controlled	N imm	15.07.12 28.03.13	Newmains, Reston Fenwick, Northumberland	28	SE
Chaffinch T142554 found dying	imm M Ad M	22.08.06 09.06.13	Peebles near Crianlarich, Central region	124	313
V785396 sick - died	Imm M ad M	15.12.10 17.04.13	Peebles Old Harehope	7	306
V786382 freshly dead	imm M Ad M	26.07.09 11.04.13	Peebles Peebles		
L762290 killed by Sparrowhawk	imm F Ad F	04.04.12 20.05.13	Peebles Innerleithen	9	117

Y850540 found dead	juv F Ad F	23.08.12 26.12.13	Peebles Outerston, Temple, Midlothian	17	23
L762511 hit glass released alive	Ad F Ad F	15.09.12 08.05.13	St Abbs Head St Abbs	2	181
Y850938 killed by cat	imm F Ad F	17.09.12 09.06.13	Peebles Innerleithen	9	117
Y851505 Dead hit bus shelter	imm imm	20.09.12 21.04.13	Peebles Peebles		
Y851904 freshly dead	Ad M Ad M	04.10.12 12.05.13	Peebles Peebles		
V021741 Possibly killed by cat	Imm F imm F	05.04.13 16.04.13	Peebles Peebles		
V017915 freshly dead hit glass	juv F Imm F	06.08.13 17.12.13	Peebles Stoneykirk, Dumfries & Galloway	146	232
V017925 freshly dead hit glass	juv M imm M	06.08.13 15.10.13	Peebles Peebles		
V018514 not fresh - hit by car	imm F imm F	08.09.13 05.11.13	Peebles Peebles		
Greenfinch					
TL51158 found dead	imm M Ad M	21.02.10 24.04.13	Hadfast, Cousland, Midlothian Abbey St Bathans	37	99
TS81229 skeleton found	juv F	09.08.12 27.08.13	Peebles Peebles		
TS81240 found dead	imm M imm M	06.09.12 25.04.13	Peebles Eshiels, Peebles	3	151
TS81244 freshly dead, only leg & ring found	imm M Imm M	10.09.12 15.07.13	Peebles Baberton, Edinburgh	29	346
Goldfinch					
Y564706 killed by cat	Ad M Ad M	24.02.12 ~17.05.13	Swarland, near Alnwick, Northumberland Jedburgh	54	WNW
Y983186 controlled	imm Ad	09.02.13 23.11.13	Benington, Lincolnshire Westfield, Smailholm	341	330
Siskin					
11715801 controlled retrapped	imm M ad M Ad M	14.12.10 07.05.12 24.05.13	Loppem, West-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM Peebles Peebles	655 655	32 320
L760402 controlled	Ad F Ad F	27.06.11 30.03.13	Peebles Broadwath, Carlisle, Cumbria	89	16
L760487 controlled	Imm ad M	04.07.11 28.03.13	Peebles Deepghyll Walk, Ripon, North Yorkshire	201	149
X704854 controlled	imm M Ad M	07.07.11 04.05.13	Westfield, Smailholm Torwood Lodge, Lockerbie, Dumf & Gall	74	224
L760670 controlled	imm ad M	18.07.11 30.04.13	Peebles Lochgilthead, Argyll & Bute	147	287

Siskin L761135 controlled	juv F ad F	02.09.11 02.02.13	Peebles Woodnook, Wentworth, South Yorkshire	269	1
L761228 controlled	ad M ad M	15.09.11 15.02.13	Peebles Bourne Wood, Lincolnshire	368	15
L761285 controlled	ad M ad M	19.09.11 14.01.13	Peebles Sheringham, Norfolk	415	13
12631348 controlled	imm M ad M	12.03.12 27.09.13	Wibrin, Luxembourg, BELGIUM Peebles	852	316
L762298 controlled	imm M ad M	06.04.12 13.02 & 13.03.13	Peebles Nuthampstead, Hertfordshire	460	153
L764009 controlled	imm M ad M	27.04.12 12.10.13	Peebles Selkirk	25	122
L764164 controlled	ad M ad M	17.05.12 10.04.13	Peebles Branch End, Stocksfield, Northumberland	114	135
L764335 controlled retrapped	imm imm M ad M	30.06.12 07 & 21.07.13 20.10.13	Lemington Hall, Alnwick, Northum'land Lemington Hall, Alnwick, Northum'land	91	110
L764375 controlled	ad F ad F	01.07.12 12.04.13	Peebles Branch End, Stocksfield, Northumberland	114	13
L764378 controlled	Juv imm F	01.07.12 16.02.13	Peebles Lodge Moor, near Sheffield, S.Yorkshire	275	158
L764921 controlled	juv imm M	13.07.12 10 & 13.04.13	Peebles Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk	465	138
Y850087 controlled	ad F ad F	26.07.12 21.01.13	Peebles West Horsley, Surrey	518	160
Y850199 dying - <i>Trichomonosis</i>	ad F ad F	30.07.12 07.12.13	Peebles Peebles	0	0
Y850336 controlled	juv imm M	06.08.12 12.05.13	Peebles Callander, Stirling	92	316
Y850531 controlled	Ad F Ad F	23.08.12 02.03.13	Peebles Ottershaw, Surrey	509	160
Y850616 controlled	imm M imm M	30.08.12 08.04.13	Peebles Highley, Shropshire	360	172
Y850645 controlled	imm M imm M	31.08.12 01.04.13	Peebles Old Harlow, Essex	482	154
Y850673 controlled	Ad F Ad F	05.09.12 28.02.13	Peebles Albury, Surrey	524	161
Y850789 controlled	ad M ad M	09.09.12 07.12.13	Peebles Fleet Pond, Hampshire	510	163
Y850849 controlled	ad M ad M	11.09.12 16 & 23.02.13 & 17.03.13	Peebles Burgh Castle, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk	465	138
Y850855 controlled	ad M imm M	11.09.12 09 & 17.04.13	Peebles Loch Tay, Perth & Kinross	117	332

Siskin						
Y850908 Found dead	imm M imm M	15.09.12 20.03.13	Peebles Crowborough, East Sussex	557	157	
Y851573 controlled	imm M imm M	22.09.12 24.01.13	Peebles Bracken Croft, Durham	124	152	
Y851598 controlled	imm F imm F	23.09.12 29.03.13	Peebles Branch End, Stocksfield, Northumberland	114	135	
Y851607 found in captivity in care of RSPCA	imm F imm F	23.09.12 08.04.13	Peebles Malvern, Worcestershire	397	172	
Y851622 controlled	imm ad F	23.09.12 20.05.13	Peebles Berriedale, Highland	281	356	
Y851699 controlled	imm F ad F	26.09.12 03.03.13	Peebles Sheringham, Norfolk	415	137	
Y851700 controlled	imm F imm F	26.09.12 17.03.13	Peebles Wolverton, near Stratford, Warwickshire	390	166	
Y851813 controlled	imm M imm M	01.10.12 23.05.13	Peebles Golspie, Highland	263	350	
Y851889 controlled	imm M Ad M	04.10.12 16.05.13	Peebles Clonyard loch, Dumfries & Galloway	96	205	
Y852194 freshly dead , killed by dog	ad F ad F	21.10.12 05.06.13	Peebles Strachan, Banchory, Aberdeenshire	156	16	
7141893 controlled	imm M imm M	01.03.13 15.05.13	Aiglemont, Ardennes, FRANCE Peebles	321		
Y852647 controlled	ad M ad M	04.03.13 26.04 & 19.05.13	Peebles Millhousebridge, Dumfries & Galloway	58	195	
Y707875 controlled	adM ad M	10.03.13 03.10.13	Thetford, Norfolk Peebles	442	325	
D392719 controlled	imm F imm F	14.03.13 08.05.13	Ravensmoor, Nantwich, Cheshire Peebles	292	353	
Y551389 controlled	ad F ad F	27.03.13 31.07.13	Torwood Lodge, Lockerbie, Dumf & Gall Peebles	61	13	
Y848821 controlled	ad F ad F	01.04.13 20.04.13	Bordon, Hampshire Peebles	529	344	
D231376 controlled	ad M ad M	05.04.13 18 - 30.07.13	Hamilton, South Lanarkshire Peebles	55	104	
V021756 controlled	imm F ad f	11.04.13 28 & 30.12.13	Peebles Hamilton, South Lanarkshire	55	248	
Y553565 controlled	imm M ad m	19.04.13 24.07.13	Torwood Lodge, Lockerbie, Dumf & Gall Peebles	61	13	
D241623 controlled	imm F imm F	27.04.13 09.05.13	Torwood Lodge, Lockerbie, Dumf & Gall Peebles	61	13	
D112796 controlled	ad M ad M	28.04.13 27.09.13	Fell Cottages, Stanley, Northumberland Peebles	111	319	

D532307 controlled	ad M ad M	25.05.13 18.09.13	Lemington Hall, Alnwick, Northum'land Peebles	91	290
V017565 killed by cat	ad M ad m	28.05.13 31.05.13	Peebles Peebles		
V017738 killed by Sparrowhawk	juv juv	26.07.13 17.08.13	Peebles Peebles		
V018517 dead - hit window	juv imm	08.09.13 18.11.13	Peebles Peebles		
V021834 freshly dead endoparasites	ad F ad F	09.11.13 29.12.13	Peebles Peebles		
V021875 controlled	imm M imm M	22.11.13 28.12.13	Peebles Townhill, Dunfermline, Fife		51
Lesser Redpoll					
L758240 controlled	imm ad M	01.04.11 17.04.13	Old Stores Meadow NR, Capel, Surrey Peebles	535	340
L212603 controlled	imm ad M	13.11.11 20.04.13	Hinxton Hall, Cambridgeshire Peebles	455	332
L763241 controlled	imm F ad M	05.08.12 09.02.13	Nether Falla Culford School, Suffolk	461	147
Y969958 controlled	imm imm F	17.11.12 14.05.13	Culford School, Suffolk Peebles	450	326
D080491 controlled	ad M ad F	17.02.13 14.05.13	Retford, Nottinghamshire Peebles	298	331
L544598 controlled	imm M imm M	01.05.13 19.05.13	Warsop, Nottinghamshire Peebles	302	335
Common Redpoll					
R535681 freshly dead - drowned	imm Ad	10.11.11 19.05.13	Dungeness, Kent Galashiels	578	NNW
Reed Bunting					
L762439 freshly dead - killed by cat	ad F ad F	06.05.12 28.04.13	St Abbs Head St Abbs	2	181

Recoveries and Controls

“Recoveries” are ringed birds that have been found dead or alive and reported to the Ringing Unit at the B.T.O. “Controls” are ringed birds that are caught alive and released by ringers, the birds having moved more than 5km. from the locality of their original ringing. Sightings of colour-ring combinations, inscribed colour-rings or neck-collars, and inscribed wing-tags are assuming increasing importance in the reporting of ringed birds, as are reports of inscriptions on ordinary rings, read by patient observers with very good optics (see Table 2 for some examples), so please keep your eyes peeled!

County summaries of recoveries are now available online at the BTO website at (<http://blx1.bto.org/ring/countvrec/results2013>), and are well worth a look on a rainy Sunday afternoon!

In Table 2 the following codes are used :- F = female, M = male, Ad = adult, FG = fully-grown (immature or adult), Imm = immature, Juv = juvenile, and N = nestling. Where known, the straight-line distance and orientation between the localities of initial ringing and subsequent finding are given.

Mute Swan produced the usual pattern of sightings and findings in NE England and SE Scotland, with two fifteen-year old birds being reported. **Kestrel** EX63854 did not survive long after its recuperation. **Coot**



Sparrowhawk - Westfield

Photo: Malcolm Ross

GR25480 provided much interest as it moved between England and Scotland – the first from this project to do so. Careful and patient observation of gulls at Tweedbank by Andrew Bramhall has revealed a link between some of the Borders’ wintering **Herring Gull** and breeding sites in NE Scotland, whereas it would appear that some **Black-headed Gull** come from further afield. A colour-ringing project instigated at a Moorfoots colony in 2013 produced a number of sightings during autumn and winter, with the first bird reported away from the colony only five weeks after ringing.

The **Sedge Warbler** recoveries reveal details of the international part of their annual cycle, and how important some staging areas can be on their southward journeys. The **Chaffinch** recoveries reveal a seven-year old bird away from its natal area and the usual scattering of birds in Peebles stotting off glass or Perspex ! As in 2012 it was the small finches – **Goldfinch**, **Siskin** and **Lesser Redpoll** – which were the stars of the show so far as finch movements are concerned – see the maps for details of **Siskin** movements and controls, all along a NW / SE axis (open circle represents a bird ringed elsewhere and re-captured in Peebles; closed circle represents a bird ringed in Peebles and recaptured elsewhere). Of the 53 recoveries reported, 52 were generated by constant effort ringing in Stuart

Craig’s Peebles garden. Of these 52, 12 had been ringed elsewhere and retrapped by Stuart and, of the other 40, 35 were involved in a movement of some sort. Possibly the three foreign-ringed birds had originally been from the Borders but had been caught abroad in their first winters, before returning NW. Other snippets from the **Siskin** recoveries – Y851607 had been found as a cagebird, so illegal aviculture still poses a threat to some birds, as does *Trichomonosis*. Y851607 was one of three birds ringed on the same day – it was reported in Worcestershire, while the other two were found in Highland and Northumberland – the species certainly gets around !

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As always, the co-operation and interest of landowners, tenants and their agents is much appreciated. The following observers and ringers are thanked for supplying details of their ringing activities and findings, and help in the field:- Graham Anderson, Maurice Aungier, Andrew Bramhall, Jim Burns, Neville Crowther, Willie Edmond, Mike Fraser, Ronnie Graham, David Grieve, Tony Lightley, Lothian & Borders Raptor Study Group, Lothian Ringing Group, Bruce Lynch, Mike McDowall, Ray Murray, James Silvey, Andre Thiel, and Sharon Yardy

Borders Ringing Group, membership 2013

R. Bell	T.W. Dougall	D. Thorne
A.Kerr	M.B. Ross	D. Kellett
R.S. Craig	G.D.O. Grieve	M. Thorne

Tom Dougall, 38 Leamington Terrace,
Edinburgh EH10 4JL

The 2013 Peeblesshire Rookery Census

Ray Murray

As part of the research to assist the writing of the species accounts in the forthcoming Atlas of the Birds of South-east Scotland, the Atlas Committee asked the members of the Lothian SOC Discussion Group if it was possible to conduct a survey of Rookeries during the spring of 2013. This was felt to be needful as there had been no systematic count of colonies in Lothian since the UK national survey in 1975. Knowledge of the various changes that had occurred during the intervening period in neighbouring Peeblesshire, due to county-wide counts held in 1990, 1998 and 2011 (Murray 1991,1999 & 2012), suggested that some detailed counts in at least part of Lothian would be desirable. A sample count was suggested, and intended initially, but the actual fieldwork extended to include all of Lothian. The results of this fieldwork will appear in due course and help form part of the basis of the SE Atlas account.

Despite having surveyed the Peeblesshire Rookeries in 2011, I felt that it would be worthwhile repeating the survey in conjunction with that in Lothian to help put their results into some perspective. Consequently all rookeries were visited in the spring of 2013 between mid-March and mid-April with a few additional counts being made to fill out gaps in the coverage into mid-May.

Each colony was visited at least once, the higher count being utilised in the event of multiple counts. In addition the SE Scotland Atlas database was examined to determine if any new colonies had appeared. Counts were usually simple, although rudimentary nests, perhaps at an early stage of building were not included. Merged nests were also an issue but within these structures it was usually possible to determine the numbers involved. Colonies in conifers were more problematic. Nests in pines were usually straightforward but colonies within spruce plantations, where sight-lines were awkward were problematical. Again best estimates were used. These issues involved just a small fraction of the nests counted.



Rook - Rosetta, Mar 2007

Table 1: Rookeries in Peeblesshire 1998, 2011 & 2013

Site	Grid Ref	1998	2011	2013	Site	Grid Ref	1998	2011	2013
NT03					NT23				
Threepland, Crannie Moss	NT049342	0	36	43	Manor View	NT204329	0	100	154
Bamflatt W	NT069364	0	34	73	Hallmanor Cottage	NT206342	58	27	41
Skirling, Gallow Hill	NT075390	0	41	53	Gallowood South	NT212359	65	nc	43
Pisgoh Hill Spot height 281)	NT076374	0	0	48	Gallowood North	NT213362	241	nc	131
South Mains	NT080372	0	125	98	Craigerne L./Bonnington Rd	NT252396	84	48	57
Langlawhill*	NT095385	0	0	38	Dunwhinny Lodge	NT255397	0	25	21
Glenholm*	NT098328	0	0	11	Peebles, Gallowhill	NT259394	17	10	18
					Glentress Gates/Eshiels N	NT283396	54	13	20
NT04					Eshiels South	NT284394	51	12	13
Garvald School-	NT099489	40	16	16	The Glen	NT293323	0	0	27
Garvald Farm	NT099492	93	29	18					
					NT24				
NT12					Meldonfoot	NT207403	134	60	36
Kingledores	NT109283	30	40	41	Earlyburn	NT226499	18	35	0
					Darnhall Mains	NT239482	0	0	22
NT13					Milkieston North	NT240456	0	45	62
Glenholm	NT101325	201	132	11	Milkieston South	NT240458	0	0	47
Burnetland	NT103370	0	36	64	Peebles, Rosetta	NT244413	116	95	69
Culzeat	NT112356	0	16	0	Winkston	NT244432	0	0	51
Mossfennan Haugh*	NT121313	0	0	41	Eddleston Kirk	NT244473	0	23	16
Dreva Craig	NT128356	160	56	65	Windylaws	NT254448	0	34	8
Stoboburnfoot	NT187385	332	0	0	Peebles, March Street Mills	NT249409	4	2	3
Easter Haprew 4	NT188396	0	0	26	Crossburn	NT249418	0	11	31
Easter Haprew 1	NT194396	0	0	75	Peebles, Tweed Bridge	NT250402	0	9	3
Easter Haprew 2	NT194397	0	0	16	Mailingsland Farm	NT251432	37	0	25
Easter Haprew Gp	NT196398	610	267	140	Heathpool	NT252447	0	54	54
					Peebles, Kingsmuir	NT253397	84	48	57
NT14					Peebles, Dunwhinny Lodge	NT255397	0	25	16
Blyth Bridge Junction	NT130450	0	49	39	Victoria Park/Kingsmeadows	NT256401	93	13	26
Medwyn Mains	NT132485	240	160	150	Burnhead, White Barony	NT261465	200	101	75
Blyth Bank	NT142461	62	57	39	Peebles, Hydro	NT262404	113	44	40
Parkneuk	NT146464	132	78	96					
Mountain Cross	NT148474	188	99	20	NT25				
Hamiltonhall	NT155478	317	99	87	Blaircochrane Quarry	NT222548	0	11	10
Drochil Castle	NT163435	66	22	8	Earlyvale	NT243508	251	35	93
Romannobridge	NT164483	120	79	45					
Flemington	NT167452	444	107	109	NT33				
Wester Haprew	NT171418	0	100	79	Glen cottages	NT301335	0	0	29
Halmyre, main road	NT178496	146	60	45	Howford Burn	NT301335	0	53	13
Halmyre Hill Strip	NT182497	56	41	26	St Ronan's Wells	NT303373	66	40	59
Easter Haprew 3	NT190400	0	0	23	Nether Horsburgh	NT305397	84	30	25
Lyne Kirk	NT190404	0	112	89	Orchard Mains	NT320338	88	45	46
					Innerleithen, Kirklands S	NT332372	0	0	18
NT15					Innerleithen, Kirklands W	NT333376	37	3	3
Mendickfoot Cottage	NT138516	0	6	5	Innerleithen, Toll Wood	NT334360	33	24	30
West Linton GC	NT142518	0	4	5	Innerleithen, Kirklands E	NT334374	79	29	0
West Linton East	NT147518	332	120	84	Tweedvale House	NT361371	16	31	23
Broomlee Camp	NT158506	180	96	83	Juniper Bank	NT376375	66	8	31
Kittleyknowe	NT169564	1	23	19					
Lamancha House	NT199521	52	38	21					
					Regional totals		5891	3321	3495

Colonies

A total of 82 sites were visited, four of which were extinct: one at Stoboburnfoot where birds were not present in 2011, and at Culzeat, Earlyburn & Kirklands East. At Culzeat the plantation that had held the colony had been clear-felled, while at Kirklands the likely culprit for change may have been house-building and it seems likely that birds had moved just a few hundred metres to another site. A possible cause for the disappearance of the Early burn colony was not apparent.

There were also a number of apparent new colonies since 2011. The two at Gallowood in Manor were simply missed in the 2011 count, a no count tag having been entered in Table 1. It is also possible that the Mailingsland colony was similarly missed then. It is also likely that the small colony at The Glen may also have been missed in 2011, although this is by no means certain as there was no prior record of birds breeding there. The Easter Haprew colonies at Stobo seemed to have been involved in a major relocation, numbers leaching away from

the old Easter Haprew Group site, which was formerly a massive loosely-connected group of colonies that formerly was in excess of 600 nests (but all within 100m of one another, the distance criterion for distinguishing separate colonies). The formation of 4 new colonies nearby, but each in separate patches of trees is clearly connected with the reduction in numbers at the old 'mega-colony'.



Some relocation has also occurred around Eddleston with birds

shifting south around Milkieston to formed a 'budded-off' colony on the other side of the farm as well as a new colony at Darnhall, a kilometre or so to the north. There may also be some re-location occurring around Broughton with new colonies springing up in an area where losses occurred earlier and some may have remained undetected until recently.

Numbers of nests

Overall, bearing in mind the fact that some colonies were probably missed in 2011, numbers seem to have held up with 3,495 nests in 2013 compared to 3,321 in 2011. The difference of less than 200 nests between 2011 and 2013 seems to be largely accounted by this shortcoming of the fieldwork then. There have been no further adverse weather events that might have impacted on Rook numbers as happened immediately before the 2011 count in the form of two severe winters. However it also suggests that there is little sign of any growth either, something that might be expected if winter mortality rates have dropped. However it is good to see that the drop in numbers since the 1998 count has not continued and that some stability seems to have been attained.

It also shows that both in terms of colony location and colony numbers, absolute stability is rare. Numbers seem to change constantly, some rising and some falling, and in a number of cases the colonies appear to be shifting slightly from year to year, sometimes moving along a line of trees so that after a number of years the grid references don't quite match any more. Of course some colonies seem to 'up sticks' altogether. In some situations the successor colony is readily apparent, but in others it may be quite some distance away. The timing of shifts can mean that it takes some time until the 'new' colonies are discovered.



Taiga Bean Geese in Berwickshire 2013

By Brian Minshull

Since Christmas 2005, I have become more and more involved with work on the Taiga Bean Geese population on the Slamannan Plateau. This has generally involved work conducted on a professional basis; my company was commissioned to undertake monitoring work on the Bean Geese in winters 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 by a private developer. Subsequently, I became increasingly involved with various work on the geese through my contact with Angus Maciver, the Bean Goose Monitoring Officer. For example, I have been an active member of the Bean Goose Action Group over the past few years and my company has been awarded a series of contracts by SNH which have primarily been concerned with monitoring the wintering population. As such, over the past few winters I have undertaken up to 5 roost counts each winter, and also undertaken numerous more informal visits to the Plateau with Angus Maciver to locate the geese, *etc.*

In the past two autumns I have also been involved with efforts by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust to catch some of the birds of the wintering flock Taiga Bean Geese population on the Slamannan Plateau in Central Region for ringing and marking. 21 birds have now been ringed and also various fitted with neck-collars and colour-rings. Several birds have also been fitted with telemetry devices which are built into the neck-collars.

Almost immediately after birds were caught on the 14th October 2012, the WWT got excellent tracking data from the four birds which have been fitted with satellite-tracking devices. Initially, this data was largely confirmatory in relation to our current understanding of how the birds utilise the habitats available to them on the Plateau during the winter and during each day/night period. As the northwards return of the birds to their breeding grounds, approached, excitement mounted as to where precisely they would go.

I was down south in mid-February 2013, but returned north along the A1 on the 22nd February 2013. As I was driving north I was contacted by Angus Maciver. He explained that he had been informed that one of the satellite-tagged birds was in fields near Eyemouth. Given that the Slamannan Plateau birds have virtually never been seen anywhere except the Plateau this was big news, and what's more I received this information just a couple of hours before I would be passing the location on the A1, and it would be possible to get there before it went dark.

Angus forwarded data to my mobile, and I downloaded maps showing the location of the bird and I was eventually able to locate the satellite tagged bird, or at least it, and nine other Taiga Bean Geese. This was a real struggle, which involved using all of my and my mobile phones capabilities to orientate myself and eventually navigate my car and then myself to somewhere near the location involved. This related to a registration made by the satellite-tag some hours earlier, so there was no guarantee that the bird would still be there. However, it was, together with the nine others....

Typically for the Slamannan Plateau Bean Geese, they were hidden away in the back of beyond, and intriguingly, they were in fields not unlike those on the Slamannan Plateau; the field involved was old improved pasture and was fenced with no stock. The topography was quite rolling, and the birds were tucked away in a fold in the hill-slope along which there was greener, lusher grass, presumably where there was a flush in the mini-valley involved. Typically for the Slamannan Plateau Bean Geese, they were all alert as soon as I got on them, and as perhaps can just about be worked out, had walked away from me up-slope by the time I took a photograph.

As I had parked up adjacent to the track entrance, a car in which there was what I assumed were a 'courting couple' emerged from the track. This, and also the fact that I was unfamiliar with the area in terms of access arrangements, *etc.*, meant that I was less than inclined to take my telescope with me as I walked off down the track in search of the bird. As such, I only had my binoculars with me. However, as I was some 700 - 750 m away from the birds once I located them, I was certainly too far away to, for example, 'scope for the details of any neck-collars, although I may just about have been able to see any collars despite the light being poor by this time.

I could only see ten birds, and I was sure there weren't any 'missed', partly because they walked off, so all birds were on the move and together. The birds seen were all Taiga Bean Geese, that is, this wasn't an unlikely instance



Tundra Bean Goose Broomdykes, Allanton Nov 2011

Photo: Gary Woodburn

of a single satellite-tagged Bean Goose with nine other grey geese, or indeed, a few Bean Goose, one of which was satellite-tagged, with a few other grey geese. All ten birds had the same appearance in terms of size and shape, and general plumage details, as well as overall bill and leg colour.

Although they were viewed from a considerable distance solely with binoculars in poor light, the birds were seen to be definitely Bean Geese, and indeed, definitely Taiga Bean Geese, owing to their large size, long necks and plumage colouration, including, in particular, the pale fawn-white underparts contrasting with the dark brown head and neck. This is a plumage characteristic I am very familiar with when seeing the geese at range on the Slamannan Plateau. In addition, the birds were of a broadly similar size and stature to Greylag Geese, but were obviously much browner looking, and conversely, did not have the somewhat slighter appearance of Pink-footed Geese. At the ranges and in the light conditions involved, and using just binoculars, it was just about discernible that the birds had orange legs; no hint of any beak colouration could really be made out.

In addition to the 'jizz' and plumage characteristics that made these birds Taiga Bean Geese, as has been mentioned, the birds just 'behaved' like Slamannan Plateau Bean Geese, although even for them, they seemed ultra-wary, even at a range of 0.75 km, possibly because they were in an area unfamiliar to them.

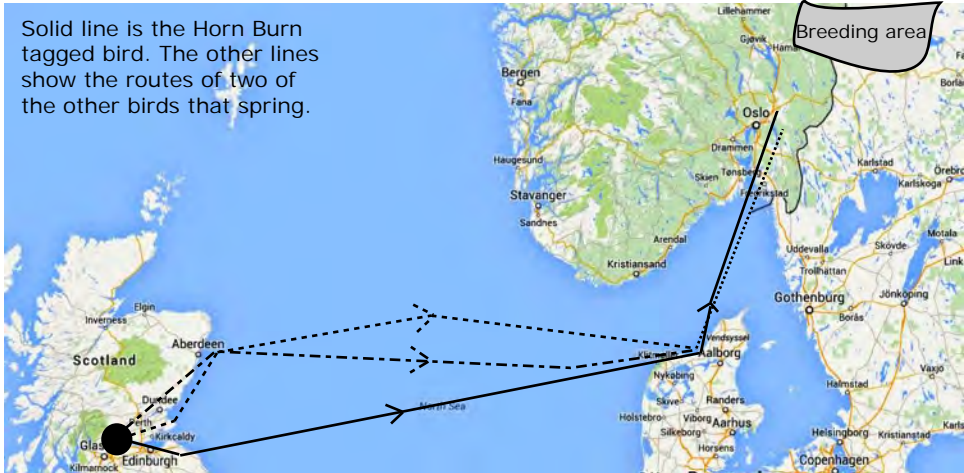
To summarise, I saw ten Bean Geese in fields south-west of Ayton, near Eyemouth, on the afternoon of the 22nd February 2013 solely because the tracking data informed Larry Griffin at the WWT of the movement of UCOL3, known as the Tag 3 bird,.

To further substantiate this record, Carl Mitchell has been good enough to provide a screen grab indicating precisely where the three registrations of the Tag 3 bird in the Ayton area where. Similar information relating to this and the other satellite tagged birds is also available at the following website; this also shows where the bird was previously and where it has been subsequently - <http://scotlandsbeangeese.wikispaces.com/>

One of the registrations relates to a signal received at 11:12 on the 21st February 2013; as such the birds were feeding in almost the same location 29 hours earlier. Other registrations are to the immediate south-west made at 13:05 on the 20th February, while another was recorded at 15:19 on the 21st February. This last location was within a large arable field which was in winter cereal.

As Carl Mitchell has indicated, the bird, (and therefore the birds), was probably in this general area for a longer period, but at the time registrations were often infrequent, with some days passing without any being recorded/downloaded in some instances. However, undoubtedly it was still on the Slamannan Plateau until at least the 17th February.

By the 26th February the Tag 3 bird had arrived in a staging area near Jylland, on the North Jutlandic Island of north-west Denmark. Subsequently, by the 19th April it had moved to likely breeding grounds near Storbo in south central Sweden near the Norwegian border, via another staging area near Akershus in Norway.



This note is an edited down version of Brian's excellent and comprehensive submission to me as local recorder concerning these birds..

The maps above is my version of the maps available on the website mentioned that displays the satellite data.

The map to the left shows the location of the birds discussed, along with the sites where Tundra Bean Geese have been reported in recent winters. The fact we have records from three consecutive winters perhaps indicates that visits to the hinterland of the Berwickshire coast may be part of a new trend. It suggests that we ought to be on the lookout in winter 2014/15.

Ray Murray



Tundra Bean Goose Broomdykes, Allanton Nov 2011

Photo: Gary Woodburn