

The Borders Bird Report

No. 31

Editor: Ray Murray

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	by Tom Dougall



Meadow Pipit - Leadburn CW, May 2014

The Borders Bird Report

No. 31

Introduction

2014 is the first Borders Bird Report since 2006 that does not have records that are directly involved in the 2008-13 South-east Scotland Bird Atlas. Yes it does seem forever! It is hoped that the results of this long-term project will be available as a book and a DVD before the next issue of the Borders Bird Report appears at the start of next winter. Some of the first fruits of the data gathered by a considerable body of observers can be seen in the headers above the species' accounts in this Report. In the past the header provided the percentage of tetrads in which as breeding species was found in the first tetrad atlas project between 1988-94. This time the breeding season details are supplemented by the percentage of tetrads with records during the winter season (for those species recorded in winter of course). Hopefully this will help in interpreting the annual accounts for the next decade or so.

The downside of the completion of the Atlas, at least from the Local Recorders point of view is the reduction of the numbers of records submitted as the targeted fieldwork activities cease, the numbers dropping by about 25%. The impact seems variable, but is undoubtedly greater with the commonest species, fewer folk bothering to add reports of Blue Tits and Carrion Crows. While many may think that a reduction in the numbers of Chaffinch or Blackbird records each year is of no great consequence, there is nevertheless value in them. Think of Greenfinch, Coot or Lapwing numbers in the last decade or so, when they were 2-3 times more common than now, remember that Black Grouse were once NOT restricted to upland areas back when Corncrake were a common summer visitor! Or perhaps the Sand Martin and Whitethroat crashes in the 1960s and 1970s.

In this respect Bird Track is the ideal method of tracking such changes. A repeated local walk or visit, with start and finish times and recording all species present, including their numbers, provides a data point against which future visits can be compared, even by someone else 40-50 years from now. Think of the changes in Nuthatch numbers in the last three decades and what seems to be happening currently with Little Egret, and it might be appreciated that systematic recording of the species on your doorstep is of value.

Can I make another appeal concerning Bird Track for those contributing records to do a count, even if only an estimate, rather than just ticking the box. While a record may have the species, location and date, some sort of count, even if only 'one', makes it much more useful.

The other downside of the cessation of atlasing is the demise of many of these remote places from the Bird Report, probably now destined not to recur until around 2028. No more visits to No-mans-land Burn near Hoselaw (NT83G), Rotten Bottom in the Tweedsmuir Hills (NT11M) or Maiden Paps near Whitrope (NT50B), along with an incredible number of other places no-one would ever normally ever want to visit on a days birding. I'm pretty sure however that a number of the atlas workers nevertheless discovered places that may just merit a look-see before 'having' to visit again 15-20 years from now.

2014 produced the usual diversity of records but had several additions to the avifauna of Borders. While one, the **Egyptian Goose** may not quite be welcome, the first **Collared Flycatcher** and first and second **Red-footed Falcons** also occurred in 2014. We also had the second records of **Surf Scoter** & **Great Shearwater**, our third **Great Egret**, fourth **American Wigeon** and **Montagu's Harrier**, and fifth **Green-winged Teal**, **Subalpine Warbler** and **Richard's Pipit**. There was also our fifth **Little Egret**, promptly followed by the 6th to 15th !!!

Ray Murray - November 2015.

2014 in the Borders

The Met Office's summary for January-March 2014 was unsettled, dull and several degrees above normal. Conditions only calmed and brightened up in mid-March. One obvious candidate for such weather was a very unseasonable **Hoopoe** seen on the road between Charterhouse and Smailholm on 8th January. Others, perhaps storm-blown, included an **American Wigeon** at Foulden that remained from early January until mid-April, the fourth for Borders; a **Grey Phalarope** and 2 **Little Gull** at Dunglass in early January; a **Chiffchaff** at Eddleston; and a **Bittern** at The Hirsell and a **Water Pipit** at Dunglass, both in early February.

A combination of the mild weather and a sign of the times also produced no fewer than six records of single **Little Egrets** scattered across the lower Tweed basin. It was quite possibly the work of just a single bird but the continuing colonisation of the British Isles suggest that such an occurrence will become commonplace in the near future.

While these oceanic and southern species could be thought of as having been pulled in from their normal winter quarters by the continuous conveyor-belt of depressions, there were species from other directions. A **Glaucous Gull** from December 2013 on the Ettrick at Selkirk hung around into mid-January; 2 **Lapland Buntings** were seen at Dowlaw in mid-January; a male **Smew** appeared briefly at the Hen Poo in mid-February, just after the only **Waxwings** of the winter turned up at Duns and Earlston.

The odd interesting wader shows up every winter and early 2014 was no exception with 2 **Grey Plover** at Pease Bay and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Eyemouth in early February while away from the coast single **Green Sandpiper** were found along the Teviot at Nisbet and the Tweed at Hordean mid-month. These were hardly storm-driven, just a little out their normal winter range, as was a **Red-necked Grebe** at Dunglass in late February. This section of coast also held good numbers of seaduck, **Common Scoter** reaching a maximum of 380 on 2nd January, and **Long-tailed Duck** a maximum 15 on 22nd February.

Waterfowl generally featured well with three four-figure counts of **Pink-footed Geese** at Bogbank, Biggar & Whitrig, 630 **Greylag** at Redden, 194 **Canada Geese** at Wedderlie, a huge flock of 238 **Whooper Swans** at Lochton, 350 **Wigeons** at Whitrig and 395 counts of **Mallards** on the January Tweed Haugh WeBS count. Smaller but no less significant totals included 25 **Gadwall** at Yetholm Loch and 5 **Mandarins** at Ayton in January. The rivers also had counts of four or more **Little Grebes** at on the Tweed at Birgham, Blount Island and Paxton House, and on the Whiteadder at Edrington Castle.

Passerines seemed to fare less well, although the weather may have made most keep their heads down. **Chaffinches** mustered a high count of just 400 birds at Kailzie, alongside 200 **Bramblings**, in early January. Elsewhere counts struggled to even approach three-figures in the case of the former and double-figures for the latter. No **Blackcap** were seen at all while **Stonechat** managed just three records before mid-March. The same, but less unexpected fate is befalling **Marsh Tit** every winter as it vanishes, January-February mustering just two of the three reports for the year (the other probably a just-over-the-boundary record near Berwick in summer). The only positives were a flock of 25 **Twite** at Cauldshiels in January-February and a rare sighting of the enigmatic **Hawfinch** at Neidpath Castle in early March.



Grey Phalarope, with Redshank & Mallard
- Dunglass, Jan 2014 Photo: Dave Graham



American Wigeon, (centre) with Eurasian Wigeon & Teal
- Foulden, Jan 2014 Photo: Dave Graham

The unsettled conditions continued into the spring, again mild and wet with few prolonged sunny periods. Perhaps unsettled weather during migration pays off however as there was a better than usual string of scarcer species. The earliest movements of course start much earlier with the winter visitors leaving and partial migrants arriving before the long-distance migrants arrive in April. In recent years a flock **Lapwing** as large as the 2,000 birds at Kettelshiel in mid February has become a bit of a rarity. **Redwing**, normally a scarce on spring passage, managed a couple of three-figure counts at Larriston and Longformacus in March but this was surpassed by an enormous **Fieldfare** flock of 2,800 birds at Howliston in early April with three-figure counts that week at East Loch, Ettrickbridge, Heriot, Hindhope and Kerstreams.

The early summer visitors were pretty much on the somewhat earlier schedule in March that they have developed in recent decades with **Chiffchaff** on 11th, **Sand Martin** on 15th, **Ring Ouzel** on 19th, **Wheatear** on 24th and **Osprey** on 27th Mar. Amongst this group only **Blackcap** was late, the first not showing until 4th Apr, what might have been considered early 20 years ago. Some of the first individuals of the later migrants that normally show up in April were definitely early, the mild weather probably favouring them. The first **House Martin** appeared on the extremely early date of 26th March, while others, such as **Willow Warbler** 2/4, **Grasshopper Warbler** 10/4, **Common Sandpiper** 11/4, **Redstart** 12/4, **Whitethroat & Sedge Warbler** 14/4, **Yellow Wagtail** 18/4 and **Cuckoo & Whinchat** 20/4, were a week or so early. The remainder were mostly on time other than **Tree Pipit** on 29th April which may have been more a consequence of the few seen this year, probably because few birds ventured into the areas where they are most common. **Greenshank** were also more common this spring with 5 birds in April.

There was just a single significant fall on the coast at the end of April and in early May at St Abb's Head. While numbers of birds were low the quality was so good in terms of rarities that a **Wryneck** was relegated to one of the minor characters. The headline species' were undoubtedly the first **Collared Flycatcher** for the Borders, performing well for an enthusiastic audience below the dam at the Mire Loch on the 28th and a more skulking **Subalpine Warbler** (probably a Western), our fifth, in the gorse just a hundred metres away. The next day a **Richard's Pipit**, also our 5th, showed up briefly at the lighthouse but then evaded all until a lucky birder saw it a few days later.



Collared Flycatcher - St Abb's Head, Apr 2014
David Graham



Western Subalpine Warbler - St Abb's Head, Apr 2014
Jack Ibbotson



Red-backed Shrike f - St Abb's Head, May 2014
Dave Graham



Crane
Dowlaw
May 2014
Dave Graham

Whether brought in from the east by the same weather, or not, a **Montagu's Harrier**, our first since 1989, briefly appeared to raptor surveyors in the Lammermuirs on 4th May, while three **Garganey** and nine **Black-tailed Godwit** showed up at Foulden at the same time, along with yet another **Little Egret** at Wooden Loch. A **Black-necked Grebe** appeared briefly at the old breeding site at Folly Loch and three **Marsh Harriers** moved through in May at Bemersyde & Newmains. The last remnants of the wintering species also made an appearance with 120 **Barnacle Geese** heading over in the early month.

The latter half of May had a few surprises; a **Crane** mid-month at Dowlaw, another **Hoopoe** at Innerleithen, a **Turtle Dove** at Newmains and a **Red-backed Shrike** at St Abb's Head at the end of the month. The small number of high quality species continued into June, the highlights being an **Icterine Warbler** and our fourth **Green-winged Teal** at St Abb's Head, a **White-tailed Eagle** at Garvald in the Moorfoots and our first **Red-footed Falcons** on the Border side of the Tweed at Coldstream and the Borders side of Langholm Moor above Newcastleton.



Red-footed Falcon f - Tweed at Coldstream, May 2012 *David Knight*

After a month unsettled winter and spring things eventually calmed down somewhat into July and early August producing one of the sunniest summers of the last few decades. For some species such as the waders it was probably a little late. It did seem to suit some of the seabirds at St Abb's Head, **Kittiwakes** in particular having the third-highest on record, a throwback to the good years in the 1980s and early 1990s and a whole world away from the almost total failure of 2013. **Shag**, **Razorbill** and **Herring Gull** also had better success than in most of the years of the last decade. Unfortunately no **Puffin** were seen ashore at the Head for the first time since seabird monitoring started in the early 1908s.

With other species it is not clear whether it was the previous seasons that produced the good numbers of summer 2014, rather than the good breeding conditions of this summer. It was the best year since the SE Scotland Raptor Study Group formed for **Hen Harriers**, with 8 pairs rearing more than 25 young (includes Lothian sites). **Long-eared Owls** were present at an enormous 22 sites with a minimum of 50 young produced and while **Short-eared Owl** sites were fewer, most of their nests fledged young. There was also news of two successful **Little Owl** nests, one of which it was discovered had raised young in the previous two summers. Unfortunately our sole pair of **Golden Eagle** will have to wait another year, Roxy failing early on, during the poor weather of the early-year. She is theoretically just reaching the first year, in 2015, when she might be expected, rather than hoped, to breed, so perhaps success is just round the corner. Hope for the future also arrived in the forms of 6 **Red Kites** and 3 **Hobby** records over the summer months. Who knows??

A Waterbodies Survey in 2014 organised by the Lothian and Borders SOC Discussion Groups, to supplement population estimates for the SE Scotland Bird Atlas, led to higher than usual numbers of reports of breeding waterfowl. Higher numbers of broods than usual were recorded with 110 **Mallard**, 23 **Tufted Duck**, 45 **Little Grebe**, 72 **Moorhen** and 38 **Coot** broods reported. The increased effort that one species, the **Coot**, showed no discernible increase in the numbers of broods recorded, confirming the continued loss of this highly visible species. Somewhat less conspicuous is the **Water Rail**, but tape-luring produced records from 32 sites with at least 107 territories, a far cry from the estimates of just 25-50 pairs in both Lothian and Borders reported in the 1988-94 bird atlas. **Gadwall** were reported from a record 6 sites, although not necessarily breeding at them, and less welcome is the breeding of **Canada Geese** at a record number of 8 sites, and doubtless rising. **Greylags** also continue their remorseless rise in breeding numbers.



Pied Flycatcher f - Mossfennan, Jun 2014
David Linnott

It was a miserable year for **Quail** with a maximum of 10 birds seen and heard, and no hint of any sticking for any length of time. The plovers had mixed fortune, the three territories of **Little Ringed Plover** for the first time achieving parity with **Ringed Plover**, but only due to the decline in the population of the latter species. No **Nightjar** were recorded from the site that they colonised in recent years, although a singleton was heard some distance away. Amongst the passerines there was a real problem with the cessation of Atlas survey work were reductions in numbers reported due to that – or real drop in numbers compared to earlier years. In many cases it was the former, as in **Tree Pipit**, as birding in the vast forestry plantations is not exactly the most popular form of birdwatching.. However the drop in **Garden Warbler** numbers was unexpected. Several of our other marginal species fared poorly too.

There were no reports of **Reed Warbler**, despite them breeding in 2013, while **Wood Warbler** were down to a single site at Plora as was March Tit mentioned earlier. **Yellow Wagtails**, on the other hand, was reported from 9 sites and we had our first record of **Pied Flycatcher** nesting in Borders for 10 years at Mossfennan near Broughton.

Late summer and early autumn was generally warm and sunny, the lack of strong winds perhaps making it fairly uneventful in terms of bringing in interesting species. Calm weather is however beneficial when ringing petrels at night, and the fine weather brought in a record haul at Eyemouth of **56 Storm Petrels** and a single **Leach's Petrel**.



Leach's Petrel (L)
Storm Petrel (R)
 Eyemouth, Jul 2014
David Graham

There were moderate numbers of waders early on, including several **Green Sandpipers** and a **Wood Sandpiper** before up to one **Ruff** at Newmains in July and 19 at Foulden in late August. Two groups of **Knot** were also seen passing in early September. Other warm-weather species did well too with up to three **Marsh Harriers**, several **Little Egret** and our third **Great Egret** at The Hirsle in early August. A **Corncrake** at Newmains in mid-August was also of interest.



Red Grouse - Longformacus, Aug 2014



Ruff male - Newmains, Jul 2014 *Dave Graham*

The autumn also had a record ‘crop’ of **Red Grouse**, the Lammermuirs in particular absolutely ‘stiff’ with birds, several people reporting literally hundreds of birds along the road between Gifford and Longformacus., With at least one brood of **Black Grouse** seen, it may also have been a good year for them too.

Amongst the passerines the autumn migration was pretty dull, many species barely registering and some not showing up at all, 2014 being the first autumn since the Borders Bird Report started without a **Black Redstart** record. There were less than a handful of reports, mostly single birds, of species such as **Garden Warbler**, **Redstart**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Whitethroat**, **Spotted Flycatcher**, **Pied Flycatcher**, **Lesser Whitethroat** and **Ring Ouzel**.

The largest numbers of common species barely reached double-figures with maximum counts of **Blackcap** 6, **Willow Warbler** 6, **Chiffchaff** 15, and **Robin** 50. Even amongst the thrushes **Fieldfare** only mustered a maximum count of 100 in early November, leaving only **Redwing**, with a widespread fall at the end of October, to demonstrate what autumn passage can be, although the combination of the five main counts only just got into four-figures.

Oddly, despite everything else failing to show up, we had our annual crop of **Yellow-browed Warblers!**

The conventional wisdom is that this Siberian ‘vagrant’, heading to southern Asia to winter, only ends up in Europe as a freak of the weather patterns, adverse winds blowing them to places like the Berwickshire coast. Such an explanation in autumn 2014 is hardly feasible, our 9 birds, including 4 at St Abb’s Head on 9th October turning up mostly unaccompanied by even the commonest of Scandinavian migrants.

More dependably migrants are the geese, the **Pink-footed Geese** arriving on schedule with some good site maxima: 32,200 at West Water, 7,800 at Bogbank on Coldingham Moor, 7,000 at Hule Moss, 5,120 at Foulden and 5,000 at Smailholm. Just a single less common species appeared, a **Bean Goose** at Bogbank in late September.

1,190 **Greylag**, probably all locally-bred, also appeared at Foulden in early September, well before any potential Iceland birds.



Chiffchaff - Eyemouth, Sep 2014 , were thin on the ground in autumn



Stonechat - Innerleithen, Dec 2014

Other waterfowl with good overwintering numbers were the **Whooper Swans** with two large counts of 277 at Crailling in early November and 200 at Redden in mid-December; and **Goosander** with 358 at Foulden and 220 at Cauldsheils Loch in late October. There was really just a single vagrant duck: an immature/female **Surf Scoter** at Watch Water Reservoir in late October, our second record.

A few other interesting non-passerines in the late year included: a **Slavonian Grebe** at Coldingham Bay, a **Mediterranean Gull** at Dunglass and a flurry of **Little Auk**, over 250 on one day, all in early November; and 2 **Ruff** at Rachelfield in late November.

Among the passerines the numbers of **Stonechat** hinted of a good breeding season while there were five November-December **Blackcaps**. On the other hand both **Chaffinch** and **Brambling** were very scarce. Passerines of interest were also scarce: a flock of 23 **Snow Buntings** and a **Shore Lark** at Dowlaw in mid-November, a couple of **Waxwings** at Lamberton the following week and two **Great Grey Shrike** in the forests around the Note o'the Gate a couple of weeks later.

The most unlikely bird of the year, clearly not a storm-driven migrant, was an escaped **Emu** walking about on the A7 just north of Earliston one morning in mid-December. Maybe it tunnelled through from Down Under, rather than just walk down the hill from Redpath!

Lapwing - Blackhopebyre, May 2014



List of Contributors 2014

AB Aldridge	36	D Farr	124	D Mayfield	24	R Robinson	81
ANON	117	C Farrell	39	J McAree	34	Malcolm Ross	91
Peter Ball	18	AJ Farrell	49	Ron McBeath	4610	Nick Rossiter	17
S Bayne	11	Mike Fraser	13	L McBrien	42	George Runciman	34
Berwick Wildlife Gp	57	Alan Frith	11	Bill Meikle	27	Andrew Sandeman	28
Mike Betts	46	C Gordon	20	Douglas Mentheith	17	Gavin Scott	415
Bird Guides	44	JD Gordon	176	Andrew Mitchell	58	Reuben Singleton	68
J Birckett	18	David Graham	976	Martin Moncreiff	324	Dennis & Jeremy Smith	12
R Bond	134	Margaret Greenhow	10	SJ Morris	25	M Speirs	13
Richard Bramhall	217	Malcolm Henderson	552	SD Morton	14	Anthony Spibyey	18
Andrew Bramhall	2480	Mark Holling	36	Andrew Mossop	261	Neil Stratton	484
DW Bradshaw	10	Roger Holme	15	Phil Munro	20	John Strowger	233
J Bray	292	AL Holmes	126	Ray Murray	7721	MP Taylor	75
Tom Brewis	120	K Houston	25	P Osborn	29	A Taylor-Pigott	13
Tim Chamberlain	17	Steve Hunt	16	John Palfery	617	Andy Tharme	12
Graham Checkley	49	Angela Hunter	20	David Parkinson	791	Joanna Thomson	61
David Christie	603	A Hunter	35	AJ Pearson	187	James Towill	244
Mark & Alison Cockburn	79	Jack Ibbotson	117	JK Pepper	16	Anthony Tucker	138
James Common	3316	D Johnston	15	Barry Prater	36	Harry Urquhart	346
S Cook	44	M Johnston	34	H Prentice	11	Milly & Kyle Waddell	12
R Stuart Craig	70	Alan Kerr	22	RJF Prentice	19	Kyle Waddell	30
Nev Crowther	31	MS Kirby	42	Graham Pyatt	1493	Jeff Waddell	96
Harry Dott	18	Alan Lauder	10	Tony Reed	587	C Watson	1338
Tom Dougall	69	James Lough	1680	M Renton	17	Bob Watterston	136
Bill Elliot	22	MM MacLean	20	D Robertson	21	SM Wickham	52
Sarah Eno	17	Roger Manning	67	Keith Robeson	37	John Woolliams	34
Fran Evans	1125	P Martin	88				

The following contributed between 1-9 records: Jean Abbot, Steve Allan, Graham Anderson, Bob Anderson, Scott Andrews, CA Bainbridge, T Baird, MC Bale, M Baptie, Allan Bell, Diane Bennet, Margaret Blyth, SG Bowden, G Brooks, F Brown, Graeme Buchanan, Anne Carrington-Cotton, Jenny Chapman, Murray Charters, Lisa Cole, N Cook, JR Cooper, RW Coursey, Kinnaird Cunningham, P Delaney, Tom & Fran Delany, Anne Edwards, Sarah Emerson, AJ Field, M Finnigan, S Fleming, T Flower, Allan Forrest, Roger Garnett, NJF Gates, Mike Geen, Heinz Geigerich, S Gillings, T Goddard, Sandy Goodwill, M Granger, Robert Greenshields, Mark Grubb, Iain Haldane, James Hanlon, Liz Hanson, PA Higginson, RD Hind, Angus Hogg, David Hope, Sheila Horsburgh, Kevin Ingleby, John Inglis, Jimmie Jamieson, Mike Jones, M Keaton, Bridget Khursheed, Bruce Kerr, David Knight, J Knight, A Lancaster, Malcolm Lindsay, David Lintott, W Little, Mary Low, Peter Macdonald, RJ Mann, AJ McGowan, John McInnes, Harry Mckerchur, Anna McWilliam, W Meikle, Eric Middleton, Michael Mocarty, Geoff Morgan, Mark Murdie, JCS Noble, JHA Nugent, Duncan Orr-Ewing, B Overton, NW Palmer, Andrew Panter, Scott Paterson, Dennis Pierpoint, Ian Poxton, Barbara Prater, JK Prior, Rosalind Pyatt, P Rawnsley, J Reed, Ronald Richardson, J Robson, CJ Rymer, Michael Scott, M Shaw, EM Shilland, G Simpson, K Smith, T Smith, JA Spencer, Tom Steele, Peter Stevenson, H Sutherland, C Tees, H Thomson, Mike Thrower, James Totten, LJ Tweedie, Neil Waddell, Stuart Waddell, Phil Waddell, K Walshaw, SD Ward, JP Warren, N Warren, PEW Watson, C Watson, Ron Watters, R Webb, Stephen Welch, Myra Wignall, A Williams, J Wilson & Alan Wood.

Acknowledgements

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Liza Cole sent me the 2014 St Abb's Head material, Alan Heavisides sent the 2014 South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report and Mark Holling the results of the 2014 Rocky Shore Count. These are all summarised within the Report. Tom Dougall produced the annual Ringing Report of the Borders Ringing Group. Also thanks for those whose photographs have been used. The photographers are acknowledged beside the photo, except those unacknowledged, which are my own. Tom Brewis and Graham Pyatt assisted with proof-reading the drafts of the Report.

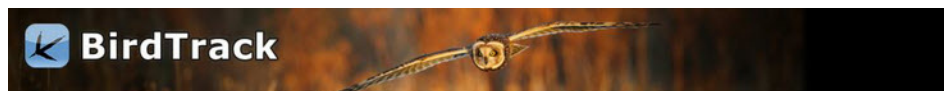
Borders Bird News

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. I can offer an invitation. Photos can also be posted onto the website.

Ray Murray

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 220 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: bordersrecorder@gmail.com



Grey Heron - Peebles, Mar 2014

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	AON= Apparently occupied nest
pr = pair	16N = direction of flight	ON = occupied nest	AOT = Apparently occupied territory
imm/juv = young	DD = distraction display	NE/NY = nest with eggs/young	

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES 2014

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. During 2008-13 found in 17% of tetrads in summer and 18% in winter. (875 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: There were few other double-figure counts away from the main sites, the best being 65 on Teviot between Kalemouth and Kelso on 1st Feb with 25 there on 1st Mar and 42 on Tweed at at Rutherford Lodge on 14th Feb; with 14 Eyemouth Bay on 3rd Feb.

During Jan-Mar some 366 of 953 birds that had their ages reported were juveniles, an impressive 38.4%.

Monthly maxima	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tweed, Kelso-Coldstream	150	122	162	130	54	17	3	-	87	38	67	195
Yetholm Loch	21	17	36	27	13	64	119	106	55	28	23	24
Hirsel Lake	11	11	6	11	14	9	8	15	10	89	72	76
Folly Loch	1	1	-	2	1	-	4	7	3	29	33	17
Teviot Haughs	51	65	25	-	-	-	-	-	4	12	110	37
Wooden Loch	8	5	4	7	-	22	31	-	14	65	120	20
Gunknowe Loch	17	20	22	22	18	8	13	14	11	17	-	-

Summer flocks: The moult flocks developed as usual at Yetholm Loch, rising from 64 on 19th Jun to a max of 119 on 15th Jul, before falling away to 106 by 6th Aug and 66 on 25th Aug. A smaller flock developed on Wooden Loch with 22 on 8th Jun and peaking at 31 on 17th Jul.

Breeding: Ponds & Lochs

23 pairs were seen at the following 23 sites, with no additional evidence of breeding (often because there was no return visit to note progress): Blackcleugh Loch, Chapel Mains Pond, Caverton Hillhead Pond, Cherrytrees Pond, Cowieslinn Quarry Pond, Dry Burn Pond, Eildonhall Pond, Faughill Moss, Folly Loch, Green Diamonds, Greenlawdean Pond, Hoselaw Loch, Lithillum Loch, Long Philip Burn Pond, Marlefield Loch, Pickmaw Moss, Pot Loch, Selkirk Race Course Moss, Sheriff Patterson's Pond, Tathieknowe Pond, Whitmuirhall Loch and Williestruther Loch,

3 pairs nested at 3 sites, but the fate of these nests is not known: Clarilaw Hill Pond, Gramslaw Pond and Roughside Hill Pond; while 2 apparently failed at the egg stage at Gala Sewage Works Pond and Whim Pond; and 2 sites failed at chick stage at Cauldshiels Loch (br3) and Hollyburn Loch (br4).

So at least 30 pairs held territory with 7 pairs building nests that either failed or where the chicks later succumbed. 31 other pairs held territory at another 28 sites, hatching 30 broods which fledged 113 young.

Lochs and Ponds	pairs	hatched	fledged	Lochs and Ponds	pairs	hatched	fledged
Bernersyde Moss	1	-	br3	Lindean Reservoir	1	br6	br4
Borthwickshiels Loch	1	-	br7	Lumsdaine Loch	1	br6	br6
Chisholme Pond	1	-	br5	Mire Loch	1	-	br4
Coldingham Loch	1	-	br4	Ploughlands Pond	1	-	br5
Faldonside Loch	1	-	br7	Spylaw Dam	1	-	br1
Gunknowe Loch	1	br3	br1	Synton Mossend	1	-	br8
Harehope House, North Pond	1	-	br8	Synton Pond	1	-	br1+
Hare Moss	1	-	br7	Traquair House Pond	1	br4	br3
Hen Poo	1	br7	br5	Whitrig Pond	1	-	br2
Highchesters Moss	1	-	br2	Wiltonburn Pond	1	-	br1
Hirsel Lake	2	2+	br2	Wooden Loch	2	-	2br5
Kelphope Burn Lower Pond	1	1+	br1	Whitton Loch	1	-	br3
Ladyrig Mill Pond	1	-	br6	Yetholm Loch	2	-	2br7
Lilliesleaf Moss Pond	1	-	br5	Yetholm Marsh	1	br3	br2

Rivers; A nest whose fate is not known was noted on the Teviot at Heiton. Broods were seen on the rivers, but not necessarily hatched precisely where reported with: br1 on Tweed at Redden, br3 on Tweed at The Cobby, Kelso and br4 on Tweed at Kelso Bridge; br4 Teviot at Monteviot; Whiteadder at Edington Mains; br7 Eyemouth Bay, were probably hatched on the lower Eye Water.

	Sites with territorial birds	Pairs reached nest stage	Pairs that hatched young	Pairs that fledged young	No of young fledged
Lochs	61	38	32	28	119
Rivers	6+	6	5	5	19
Total	67+	44	37	33	138

The first incubated nest reported was at Lindean Reservoir on 15th Apr, with the first cygnets at Gunknowe Loch on 12th May and Hen Poo on 18th May. The oddest breeding record was a pair of Mute at Millar's Moss, St Abb's Head that somehow managed to rear two Greylag goslings !

Summary of Mute Swan Breeding Success: 2000-2014

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2103	2014
Pairs	67	52	89	86	75	56	45	42	63	74	47	60	68	57	67
Broods	29	24	16	32	21	30	25	23	34	35	25	29	29	27	33
Young	103	109	71	167	119	117	122	111	134	161	101	137	110	126	138
MBS	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	4.18

Autumn/Winter: The double-figure counts are tabulated above.

During Sep-Dec, 293 of 1,285 birds that had their ages reported were juveniles, some 30.6%.

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. During 2008-13 found in 2% tetrads in summer and 8% in winter. (158 records in 2014)



Whooper Swan Alemoor Loch, February 2014

Winter/Spring: Juveniles formed 12.2% of 989 aged birds Jan-Mar 2014 (25.7% in 2013, 8.5% in 2012, 19.7% in 2011).

Alemoor Loch: 45 Alemoor Wester Loch 27th Jan, with 17 there 19th Feb and 4 on 2nd Mar.

Teviot Haughs: 65 Fairmington & 5 Folly Loch on 9th Jan; 44 Teviot Haughs 18th Jan with 42 there on 2nd Feb, then peaking at 91 Crailling on 19th Feb with 81 by 16th Mar. Drop to 39 Teviot Haughs on 23rd Mar before just 14 Folly Loch on 14th Apr, the latest date here. Also 2 Bemersyde 11th Jan, with 18 Wooden Loch 16th Feb and 1 Clintmains 11th Mar presumably the same flock.

Selkirk/Tweedbank area: The highest counts were 40 Whitmuirhall Loch 15th Jan; 58 Faldonside Loch 20th Jan with 30 there 16th Feb and 46 on 17th Mar. Probably also same birds Lindean Reservoir with max 9 there in Jan and 2-3 in Feb/Mar.

Also 2 Pickmaw Moss 16th Mar part of this flock. 10-12 birds present at Synton Mossend on each of the WeBS counts weekends suggest they may be discrete from those a little to the north.

Tweed Haughs: 116 Tweed Haughs 19th Jan with 145 Sprouston-Redden 29th Jan; 238 Lochton on 14th Feb; with 192 Birgham 16th Feb; 180 Birgham Haugh 2nd Mar; 180 Tweed Haughs 16th Mar on 29 Birgham Haughs 23rd Mar.

Elsewhere: 6 Loch of the Lowes 2nd Jan; 2 Whitton Loch 6th Jan; 2 Hule Moss 16th Feb & 28th Mar with 8 on 13th Apr; 9 Eyemouth Bay on 14th Feb; 1 Dowlaw 17th Feb; the origin of 130 St Thomas' Island 22nd Feb is uncertain; 39 Greenlaw Pool, Foulden 20th Mar; 37 Newmains 24th Mar with the latest 7 birds there on 15th Apr (Dave Graham).

Summer: No reports.

Autumn/Winter: The first birds were 4W Nether Falla, Leadburn 5th Oct (Tom Dougall) with 23 Folly Loch & 4S Black Barony on 10th Oct; 2 Hule Moss 12th Oct and 9 Coldstream 18th Oct. Birds more widespread thereafter.

Selkirk/Tweedbank area: 13 White Law Loch & 7 Pickmaw Moss 9th Nov; 2 Lindean Reservoir 20th Nov with 7 Green Diamonds 28th Nov. 17 Lindean, 10 Faughill Moss & 7 Green Diamonds 2nd Dec; 16 Whitmuirhall Loch 7th Dec; 11 Faughill 15th Dec.

Chirnside/Foulden area: 1 Paxton House 22nd Oct & 9 Edrington Castle 23rd Oct; 6 Greenlaw Pool, Foulden 26th Oct; 62 Crossrig 2nd Nov; 160 Dykegatehead & 30 Foulden 12th Nov and 224 there 19th Nov; 72 Paxton House 27th Nov; 261 Crossrig 1st-2nd Dec with 217 there 18th Dec and 270 on 29th Dec.

Teviot Haughs: 95 Eckford 22nd Oct with 122 Crailing 24th Oct, rising to max 277 Crailing 6th Nov but only 133 there the next day and just 60 on the Teviot Haugh count of 9th Nov. 43 Mounthooly 4th Dec is the next best count until 64 Teviot Haugh 14th Dec and 55 Crailing on 27th Dec. Max of just 11 Folly Loch 7th Nov.

Tweed Haughs: 5 Birgham Haugh 26th Oct with 10 on 31st Oct before rising to 79 Tweed Haughs on 9th Nov. 160 Redden Haugh 7th Dec with 200 there 17th Dec. Max 11 Hirsell Lake 2nd Nov.

Hule Moss/Greenlaw area: 5 Hule Moss 25th Oct with 4 on 2nd & 18th Nov. Max 20 there 23rd Nov but only 8 on 8th Dec. None later.

Elsewhere: 16 Huntford, Carter Bar 5th Nov; 14 West Water Reservoir 14th Oct 3 Hoselaw Loch on 22nd Oct; 12 Newmains on 22nd Oct and 1st Nov with 8 on 17th Nov; 7S St Abb's Head 27th Oct; 32 Yetholm Loch on 28th Oct; 2 Eyemouth 10th Nov;

The lower Whiteadder flocks is new and of some considerable size. It is not clear the extent of interchange between these main areas and so just what the size of the local wintering population is. There are also clear signs of a passage in early November, especially on the Teviot Haughs.

Juveniles formed 15.9% of the 1,738 aged birds between Oct-Dec 2014 (12.2 % in autumn/winter 2013, 19.6% in 2012).

Bean Goose *Anser fabilis*

Very rare winter visitor. (1 record in 2014)

Tundra Bean Goose *Anser fabilis rossicus*

1 Bogbank, Coldingham Moor 28th Sep (Dave Graham).

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). During 2008-13 found in 2% of tetrads in summer and 8% in winter. (243 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring:

Bemersyde/Whitrig roost: 3,000 Whitrig Bog 19th Jan; 4,200 Westfield 10th Feb with 4,300 there 18th Feb; 3,700 Westfield 3rd Mar with max 4,000 there 14th Mar. Fall then with 1,800 Westfield on 27th Mar, 1,600 on 10th Apr, 250 Sandyknowe 14th Apr with 20 there 16th Apr and last single Westfield on 19th Apr.

Coldingham Moor roost: 1,100 Bogbank 6th Jan with 1,200 there 7th Jan; 550 Dowlaw 17th Feb; 420 there 15th Mar & 800 on 12th Apr. 300 feeding Newmains 27th Mar. 50-60 birds Greenlaw, Foulden Jan-Mar, with max 200 on 10th Jan and 220 on 14th Feb

Folly Loch/Teviot Haughs: no records.

Hule Moss roost: 370 Hule Moss 19th Jan, otherwise just singles 9th & 14th Jan and 9 on 16th Feb.

West Water Reservoir roost: No roost count but field records include: 1,080 Lamancha 18th Jan; 1,650 Burnfoot, Biggar 18th Feb; 1,300 Spittal 25th Feb and 950 Cleugh 23rd Mar.

Elsewhere: 85S Tweedbank 2nd Jan with 80S there 21st Jan; 60 Lamberton 16th Jan; 480 Tweed, Lochton on 30th Jan; 250 Westruther 17th Feb; 193 Hirsell Lake 19th Feb; 120 Tweedbank 5th Apr and 110N Black Barony 7th Apr. Also parties of <10 birds at: Fireburnmill, Frogden Moss, Stantling Craig Reservoir and St Abb's Head Last 24 Newmains 5th May.

Summer: 2 West Water Reservoir 24th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: First 110 West Water Reservoir & 60 Manashee on 8th Sep. 8 Whitrig 13th Sep; 30 St Abb's Head & 17 West Water 15th Sep; 58 Newmains 19th Sep; 60 Whitrig on 20th Sep; 9,450 roosted West Water, 2,000S St Abb's Head and passage Lamberton 21st Sep. More widespread from 24th Sep.

Bemersyde/Whitrig/Smailholm: 250 Westfield 1st Oct with 1,150 there 7th Oct & 2,500 Whitrig 12th Oct, 2,100 Westfield 22nd Oct with 5,000 New Smailholm 30th Oct. 1,000 Sandyknowe 30th Nov with 500 Whitrig 7th Dec and 1,000 Bemersyde 14th Dec.

Hule Moss roost: 2,005 Hule Moss 27th Sep, 4,450 there on 29th Sep, 4,200 on 6th Oct, 2,700 on 12th Oct, 7,000 there on 17th Oct, 5,050 on 25th Oct, 4,050 on 2nd Nov, 2,600 on 7th Nov, 470 on 18th Nov & 150 on 23rd Nov.

Teviot Haughs: 120 Folly Loch 7th Oct with 300 there on 18th Oct; 1,210 Eckford 22nd Oct with 2,500 Teviot Haughs 24th Oct. 600 Ladyrig 8th Nov; 3,000 Folly Loch 30th Nov with 500 Teviot Haughs on 14th Dec and 120 Crailing 27th Dec.

Tweed Haughs: 125 on 8th Oct with 600 on 9th Nov & 65 on 7th Dec.

West Water Reservoir roost: 9,450 roosted West Water 21st Sep with 9,800 there 28th Sep with 32,200 there on 29th Sep; 29,210 on 6th Oct; 26,600 on 11th Oct; 17,900 on 18th Oct; 11,100 on 25th Oct; 5,600 on 31st Oct; 490 (with shooting nearby) on 9th Nov and 2,045 on 16th Nov.

Also 300 East Cairn Hill 1st Oct; 11,800 Hyndfordwell & ,000 Easter Place 6th Oct; 300 Leadburn 12th Oct; 2,050 Easter Place 15th Oct.



Coldingham Moor roost: 4,110 roosting at Bogbank 28th Sep; 6,900 there 9th Oct, max 7,800 on 23rd Oct. 350 feeding Newmains 26th Oct with 5,500 there on 28th Oct, 2,600 on 31st Oct and 2,400 on 7th Nov. 1,060 roost Bogbank 16th Nov with 1,200 there 12th Nov.

Greenlaw Pool, Foulden: 55 roost there (with Greylag) 27th Sep but build-up to 610 by 19th Oct but jump to 1,464 on 22nd Oct, 3,250 on 31st Oct, with max 5,120 on 2nd Nov, 4,550 on 6th Nov before dropping to 1,920 on 9th Nov before 790 on 18th Nov, 540 on 23rd Nov and 170 on 25th Nov.

Elsewhere: 160 over Melrose 24th Sep; 40 Gavinton 26th Sep; 36 Burrowstown Moss, Liddesdale 28th Sep; 40W Angelrow 11th Oct; 100 Pease Bay on 29th Oct; and 700 SW Lambden 5th Nov.

Pink-footed Goose - West Linton, Oct 2014

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. During 2008-13 found in 12% of tetrads in summer and 10% in winter. (425 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: The *Foulden roost continues to develop.*

Bemersyde/Whitrig: 30 Bemersyde 10th Feb; 151 Whitrig 15th Feb; max 380 Westfield 19th Feb; 300 Whitrig 27th Feb with 350 there 6th Mar; 150 Whitrig 16th Mar.

Coastal Berwickshire: 198 Newmains 2nd Jan; 75 Haud Yards 9th Feb; 135 Newmains 14th Feb; 126 Dowlaw 16th Feb; 34 Dowlaw 23rd Feb. Then 120 Dowlaw 12th Apr.

Foulden: 480 Greenlaw Pool, Foulden on 2nd Jan with 630 on 7th Jan, 380 on 26th Jan; max 550 on 2nd Feb; 400 on 21st Feb; 458 on 2nd Mar; 389 on 23rd Mar; 212 on 8th Apr and 114 on 13th Apr.

Stantling Craig Reservoir: 203 on 20th Feb; with 101 Blackhaugh 6th Mar; 50 Stantling Craig 16th Mar and 24 on 5th Apr.

Teviot Haughs: 52 on 1st & 18th Jan; 35 on 1st Feb, 25 on 14th Feb, 50 Crailing 19th Feb; and 127 on 2nd Mar.

Elsewhere: 30 Stow 1st Jan; 49 Gunknowe Loch 4th Jan; 17 Minto Kaimes 17th Jan; 94 Fireburnmill 30th Jan; 16 Hirsell Lake 2nd Feb; 50 Nether Falla 15th Feb with 46 there 6th Mar; 150 Wedderlie 18th Feb; 151 Burntaburn 2nd Mar; 250 Romannobridge 4th Mar; 160 Lumsdaine 10th Mar; 65 Hoselaw Loch 23rd Mar; 17 Sprouston 26th Mar; 130 over Black Barony 7th Apr; 10 Gavinton 10th Apr; 20 Watch Water Reservoir 11th Apr.

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:

Confirmed breeding records took place at:

Addiston Pond: 6prs with 5br20 on 1st Jun.
 Alterstones Pond: pr with br5 on 5th Jul.
 Broomdykes Pond: pr with br4 on 4th May.
 Cathpair Pond: 5prs with 5br20 on 23rd Jun.
 Commonburn Pond: pr with br5 on 8th May.
 Hartwoodmyres Pond: pr ON on 4th Mar.
 Hoselaw Loch: 3prs with 3br13 26th May.
 Kelphope Burn Lower Pond: 8prs with 4br20 in Jun-Jul.
 Lauder Burn Pond: pr ON but later failed.

Lindean Reservoir: pr with br4 on 2nd Jul.
 New Belses Pond: pr with br2 on 29th May.
 North Esk Reservoir: 5prs with 3br17 on 20th Jun;
 Snawdon Burn Lower Pond: 6prs with 3br15 on 1st Jun.
 Stantling Craig Reservoir: 10prs with 9br48 on 2nd Jul.
 Synton Mossend: pr with br6 on 2nd Jul.
 Watch Water Reservoir: 4prs with 3br20 on 16th May.
 White Law Loch: br with br4 on 8th Jun.

17 sites with two reaching egg stage and 15 sites with at least 41br203 young (mean 4.95). There was also two young Greylag reared by the Mute Swan pair on Mire Loch.

There were also single birds summering at Blinkbonny Pond &, Borthwick Pond with non-breeding pairs were at: Alemoor Wester Loch (5), Bemersyde Moss, Byrecleugh, Ladyrig Mill Pond, Lilliesleaf Moss Pool (7), Millar's Moss, Nether Brotherstone Pond, Roughside Pond & Spottiswoode Burn Pond.

Other records include: 9 Hirsle Lake 6th May; 5 Graden 26th May; 3 Tweed at Redden 8th Jun; 25 Elwartlaw Pond 30th Jul. *The spread of the breeding population continues unabated.*

Autumn/Winter: High midsummer counts, probably mostly post-breeding assemblies that seem to gather locally and then disperse elsewhere, include: 90-110 birds at Stantling Craig Reservoir late Jul-early Sep; max 140 Watch Water Reservoir 2nd Jul; 41 Wester Deans Ponds late Jul-early Aug; 85 Westruther Pools 29th Jul; 25 Elwartlaw in early Aug; 250 grazing Whiteadder at Cranshaws 22nd Aug (possibly from Whiteadder Res.); 85 Hirsle Lake and 68 Dowlaw Dam in early Sep.

The likely destination of these and other birds was Greenlaw Pond at Foulden that steadily gathered birds in September, rising from 19 on 4th Sep to 720 on 5th Sep, max of 1,129 on 4th Sep and then maintained >1,000 birds until 21st Sep. Numbers then dropped but there were still 780 on 30th Sep, 353 on 15th Oct and 776 on 29th Oct, 650 on 30th Nov, only dropping into Dec.

The Broomdykes–Crossrig sites held large numbers from mid-Oct to end-year, peaking at 520 on 7th Nov, a likely feeding destination for the Foulden roost. (others may be in Northumberland and so outwith the area).

Other significant Oct/Dec counts include: 110 East Reston 12th Oct; 149 Hirsle Lake & 56 Stantling Craig Reservoir 22nd Oct; 280 Newmains 26th Oct; 49 Crailing Tofts 6th Nov; 400 Hule Moss 7th Nov; 200 Westruther 30th Nov; 280 Birgham Haugh 4th Dec.

It is no longer clear if many (or any) Icelandic birds now winter with us, the numbers of local birds now obscuring any sign of a passage movement.



Greylag family - Stantling Craig Reservoir, Jun 2014



Canada Goose family - North Esk Reservoir, Jun 2014

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. Molt migration passes through in May-June and August-September.

During 2008-13 found in 5% of tetrads in summer and 5% in winter. (166 records in 2014)

Winter/Summer: An eastern Berwickshire wintering population seems to be developing (perhaps in association with the increasing Greylag numbers?) with two 3-figure counts in the late winter: 120 Tweed Haughs 19th Jan & 194 Wedderlie 18th Feb. Also 25-40 birds Greenlaw Pond, Foulden in Feb and 25-30 on Lees and Sprouston Haughs. Also scatter of 1-9 birds at about 14 sites Jan-Mar.

Breeding: Summer records, with no further evidence of breeding: pairs- Bemersyde (3), Cotfield Pond, Folly Loch, Greenlaw Pond,

Confirmed breeding records took place at:

Dye Haugh Ponds – br1 on 16th May.
Gordon CW: br8 on 5th May but later disappeared.
Hoselaw Pond: br3 on 26th May.
Murton Farm pond: occupied nest 18th Apr.

New Belses Farm Pond: br5 on 29th May.
North Esk Reservoir: 2prs, br 1 on 20th Jun.
Synton Mossend: br4 on 2nd May.
White Law Loch: br4 on 8th Jun.

Also singles at Addiston Pond, Hirsle Lake and Roughside Hill Pond (2) with odd birds at Addiston Pond, Greenlaw Pond, Williestruther Loch and Wooden Loch that may have just been moving through.

Moult-migrants: 10N St Abb's Head 16th May; 150NW Stow & 10 N St Abb's Head 3rd Jun; 25 on sea St Abb's Head 6th Jun; 25NW Lamberton 11th Jun.

Autumn: The first post-breeding assembly was at Watch Water Reservoir with 60 on 2nd Jul, peaking at 83 on 8th Aug, 62 on 2nd Sep but 37 by 5th Sep. A shift to Greenlaw Pond, Foulden seems possible as a build-up started there with 52 on 2nd Sep, peaking at 58 on 7th Sep numbers were maintained at the 39-54 level through

until 44 on 26th Oct. Only a couple of reports from the Westruther flock: 86 on 29th Jul and 110 on 15th Nov; hints that they may not have moved far, but the origin of the 154 on the Tweed Haughs on 7th Sep is unknown. 40 Cranshaws 22nd Aug was likely the Lothian Whiteadder Reservoir flock.

Some south-bound moult migrants: 2S St Abb's Head 21st Sep and 43S Lamberton 16th Oct.

16 Tweed Haughs 1st Oct with 40 there 7th Dec. 66 Hirsle Lake 9th Nov was possibly these birds too. 42 Foulden 26th Dec. Otherwise odd single-figure records from Crailing, Hoselaw and Stantling Craig Reservoir.

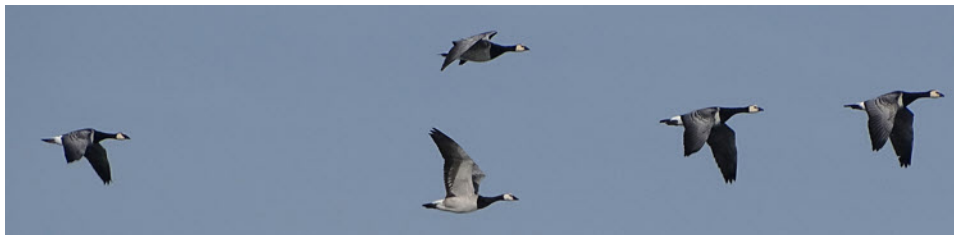
Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

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. During 2008-13 found in 20 tetrads in winter. (36 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 1 Newmains 3rd Jan; 2 Westfield 6th Feb with 4 Whitrig 10th & 17th Feb; 1 Dowlaw Dam on 16th Feb; 5 Wedderlie 18th Feb.

7 Watch Water Reservoir 11th & 8th Apr with 120NW Newmains 5th May and 1 St Abb's Head 28th May .

Autumn/Winter: First 74 S St Abb's Head on 22nd Sep with 110S Newmains 23rd Sep. 63S St Abb's Head on 24th Sep when 1 West Water Reservoir. 22 Hule Moss 27th & 28th Sep; 1 West Water 29th Sep; 130 Hule Moss 30th Sep. 2 Whitrig 7th Oct; 41S Eyemouth GC & 35NE Greenlaw on 8th Oct; 33 West Water Reservoir & 6S St Abb's Head 11th Oct. 3 Hule Moss 17th Oct with 6 Bogbank 19th Oct. 7 Eckford Haugh & 1 Greenlaw Pond, Foulden 22nd Oct. 2 West Water Reservoir 25th Oct with 3 there 31st Oct with 1 Hirsle Lake 30th Oct, 7th & 9th Nov. Last 4 Westruther Pools 15th Nov.



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 Lindsifarne. During 2008-13 found in 3 tetrads in winter. (2 records in 2014)

Autumn: 9S Eyemouth GC 5th Sep (Ray Murray) and 3S St Abb's Head 21st Sep (Dave Graham/Jack Ibbotson). All pale-bellied.

Egyptian Goose *Branta bernicla*

Feral population established in southern England. No previous records. (1 records in 2014)

2 Tweed Haughs at Sprouston 8th Jul (Tony Reed).

First report for Borders. A local escape or an intrusion from the deep south?

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Rare (5-10 pairs) breeder on coast near Dunglass or on inland waters. Scarce along coast, most common near moult migration During 2008-13 found in 3% of tetrads in summer and 1% in winter. (102 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 1 Dunglass 5th Jan with 1 there 22nd Feb with 2-4 on 4 days in Mar, when 2 Redheugh 29th Mar. 1-2 Greenlaw Pond, Foulden from 2nd Feb; 4-5 Folly Loch from 9th Feb; 1-2 Whitrig over 18th-27th Feb, with 4 Bemersyde 20th Feb. 1 Fatlips Castle flood 25th Feb.

More widespread into Mar with: 2-4 Whitrig-Westfield-Bemersyde area, 2-4 Yetholm Loch, 1-2 Folly Loch and 1-2 birds Clintmains, Deanfoot, Greenlaw Pond, Leadburn, and Hule Moss.

Breeding: c. 12prs at 8 sites, at least 3br15 seen.

Bemersyde Moss	1-2 there to mid-May but no suggestion of breeding.
Dunglass	up to 4 birds in Apr. May have nested on East Lothian side later.
Folly Loch	pr in Apr with br3 on 15th Jul.
Greenlaw Pond	up to 4 birds late April to mid-Jun but no suggestion of breeding.
Millar's Moss	pr with br4 17th Jun.
Westruther:	br8 Wedderlie 16th May & 4th Jun.
Yetholm Loch	Up to 4 pairs during Apr with 1 pairs into late May but no suggestion of success.

Autumn/Winter: 3 Eyemouth GC 19th Aug was the sole later-year reports.

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

Introduced. Rare and elusive resident breeder along Eye Water & Whiteadder.
During 2008-13 found in 1% of tetrads in summer but <1% in winter. (17 records in 2014)

Eye Water: 5 Ayton to Millbank 26th Jan; 2 Linthill 27th Jan; pr Ayton Jan; 4 Linthill 29th Mar; 2 Linthill on 11th & 13th Apr. Then 8 Linthill 9th Dec with 1 there 11th Dec.

1m Millar's Moss 7th Jun with 1f there 19th Jun & 21st Jul. 4 other records, sex unspecified.

1m Westruther Pools 15th Nov.

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Very scarce breeding species in the Ettrick Forest (formerly 10-20 pairs, now <5 pairs). Common winter visitor to area and autumn passage migrant to coast. During 2008-13 found in 2% of tetrads in summer and 7% in winter.
(334 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 9 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan, between Pease Bay & Redheugh. (44 in 2013).

The main flock at Whitrig-Bemersyde with 245 Whitrig 19th Jan, with 450 on 30th Jan with 350 there 10th Feb and 330 on 6th Mar when 60 Westfield Pools; 250 Bemersyde 14th Mar with last double-figure count there, some 21 on 27th Mar. Greenlaw Pool, Foulden had 120 on 10th & 26th Jan and 9th Feb, max 154 on 14th Feb and 140 on 12th Mar but still 34 on 8th Apr.

Dunglass had 75 on 5th Jan with 80 on 16th Feb and max 85 on 2nd Mar.

Elsewhere counts >25 include: 58 Faldonside Loch 20th Jan, 52 on 19th Feb and 46 on 17th Mar; 40 Whitmuirhall Loch 19th Jan; 110 Hoselaw Loch 20th Jan; 81 Teviot Haughs 16th Feb; 42 Stantling Craig Reservoir 18th Feb; 27 Williestruther Loch 19th Feb; 34 Synton Mossend 6th Mar; 30 Ploughlands Pond 16th Mar;

Summer/Autumn: no reports from former breeding areas with no birds anywhere May-Jul other than at St Abb's Head where a single 6th & 9th Jul. Passage at St Abb's Head: 102 N on 11th Sep, 16N on 18th Sep, with 23N on 21st Sep, 138N on 22nd Sep, 63N on 23rd Sep; 56N/14S on 5th Oct, 62N on 14th Oct; Also 11S Eyemouth GC 14th Sep, 11S on 8th Oct; 3N on 21st Oct, 2S on 12th Nov

Autumn/Winter: 2 Stantling Craig Reservoir 12th Sep; 12 Greenlaw Pool, Foulden 16th Sep; 33 Folly Loch on 27th Sep.

160 Whitrig 7th Oct max 450 on 21st Oct with 250 there 9th Nov and 150 on 7th Dec. 157 Westfield 28th Nov but max Bemersyde was just 40 on 30th Nov. 56 Greenlaw Pool, Foulden 7th Oct but fewer there until 52 on 2nd Nov, 65 on 13th Nov before 125 on 8th Dec and max 148 on 21st Dec. 40 Faldonside Loch 11th Oct with 80 there 9th Nov and 102 on 27th Nov before dropping to 32 on 8th Dec.

Max 165 Folly Loch 7th Oct with 68 on 18th Oct, 51 on 28th Nov and 43 on 4th Dec.

Elsewhere: 36 Dowlaw Dam 1st & 8th Oct; 27 Hirsell Lake 1st Oct; 30 Millar's Moss 12th Oct; 45 Bogbank on 16th Nov; 48 Ploughlands Pond, 30 Wooden Loch & 20 Whitmuirhall Loch 7th Dec; 85 Dunglass 20th Dec.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*

Rare visitor from North America (two previous records) (28 reports for 2014)

1m Greenlaw Pool, Foulden 10th Jan-13th Apr (David Christie).

This is the fourth record for Borders, the previous reports being males at Bowdenmoor Reservoir in Feb 1975, the Mire Loch in Oct 1983 and the Hirsell Lake in Mar 1990.



American Wigeon - Foulden Feb, 2014 Dave Graham

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor, mostly August-September. Very rare, but increasingly more regular. Rare breeder, in very small numbers on eastern waters. During 2008-13 found in 1% of tetrads in summer and 1% in winter. (81 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Yetholm Loch wintering birds now more abundant with high counts of 25 on 2nd Jan an 17 on 20th Jan but max just 8 in Feb before 10 on 23rd Mar. Also 2 Hoselaw Loch 20th Jan with 8 there 16th Feb. 2 Greenlaw Pool, Foulden 9th Mar.

Breeding: 11prs Yetholm Loch on 4th Apr with 16 there 16th Apr but probably only 2 pairs attempting to breed, with br5 seen 3rd Jul and 8 there 26th Jun hinting at other broods.

Pr Bemersyde Moss 13th & 19th Apr; pr Greenlaw Pool, Foulden 3rd & 16th Apr; pr Linton Bog 16th Apr & 8th May; prs Yetholm Marsh and Cherrytrees Pond 16th Apr. 1 Hirsell Lake 30th Jun & 10th Jul.

Autumn/Winter: Max 21 Yetholm Loch 18th Sep, but 2 Bemersyde Moss 8th Aug; 2 Hoselaw Loch & 1 Hirsell Lake 25th Aug; 2 Westfield 17th Sep; 2 Hirsell Lake & 2 Hule Moss 30th Sep.

20 Yetholm Loch 2nd Oct, then single figures there until 13 on 12th Nov, climbing to 23 by 3rd Dec with still 20 on 30th Dec. Elsewhere 4 Yetholm Pond & 3 Hoselaw Loch on 12th Oct; 3 Hirsell Lake & 2 Folly Loch on 22nd Oct; 2 Dowlaw Dam 26th Oct; 2 Bemersyde Moss 20th Nov; 3 Yetholm Pond 7th Dec.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Uncommon breeder, c.200prs, mostly on fringes of upland areas. Common winter visitor and passage migrant. During 2008-13 found in 8% of tetrads in summer and 15% in winter. (573 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: See table for main resorts. Elsewhere counts of >20 include were 42 Gunknowe Loch 1st Jan; 30 Teviot at Broom 4th Jan; 90 Long Moss 9th Jan; 117 Broughton Brewery floods 18th Jan; 22 Yetholm Marsh on 20th Jan; 74 Folly Loch on 9th Feb; 44 Muirhouselaw on 11th Feb; 26 West Water Reservoir on 15th Feb; 34 Borthwickshiels Loch 19th Feb; 61 Hundleshope 26th Feb; 33 Whim Pond 1st Mar; and 60 Stantling Craig Reservoir & 21 Askirkton field pool 6th Mar.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bemersyde Moss	62	24	10	8	30	102	20	10
Folly Loch	18	74	30	1	53	150	80	26
Greenlaw Pond, Foulden	124	79	76	88	165	83	345	320
Hirsell Lake	42	11	10	-	-	81	19	226
Hule Moss	350	56	57	10	450	170	160	190
Newmains	310	210	130	-	-	-	-	275
Whitrig Bog	52	60	55	-	-	109	100	30

Breeding: Typical thin scatter of records from mostly hill areas and marshy ponds, once the likely late migrants have been eliminated. 18 sites with c.30 pairs and 4br15 noted. Potential brood Fruid Reservoir.

	Single	Pair	Brood		Single	Pair	Brood
Bemersyde Moss	1	2	br3	Hundleshope Cross Pond	-	1	-
Borthwickshiels Loch	-	1	-	Kirklandhill Pond	-	1	br2
Dowlaw Dam	-	3	-	Ladies Seat Moss	2	-	-
Dyehaugh Pool	-	1	-	Leadburn CW	-	1	-
Faldonside Loch	-	1	br6	Millar's Moss	-	2	-
Flass Ponds	1	1	-	Smailholm Tower Pond	-	1	-
Fruid Reservoir	10	-	br??	Stantling Craig Reservoir	1	2	br4
Greenlaw Pond, Foulden	-	2	-	Synton Mossend	1	1	-
Hule Moss	-	3	-	West Water Reservoir	-	1	-

Autumn: Passage birds on the coast: 2 St Abb's Head 19th Jul; 11S Eyemouth GC on 25th Aug, where 82N on 14th Sep; 3 St Abb's Head 19th Sep with 37N there on 22nd Sep. 9N on 24th Sep, 38N on 5th Oct and 4N on 13th Oct. 4N Eyemouth GC 7th Nov.

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

65 Tweed Haughs 7th Sep with 60 there 7th Dec; 56 Dowlaw Dam 10th Oct; 95 Bogbank 23rd Oct with 80 there 16th Nov; 69 Cademuir 2nd Nov; 84 Hundleshope 11th Nov; 163 Rachelfield flood 12th Nov with 90 there on 30th Nov; 94 Watch Water Reservoir 19th Nov; 70 Westfield 28th Nov;

Also counts of 25-49 birds from Stantling Craig Reservoir in Sep; Ashkirkton. Leadburn CW, Stantling Craig Reservoir, West Water Reservoir and Whim Pond in Oct; Broughton Brewery, Faldonside Loch & Whim Pond in Nov; and Dowlaw Dam, Faldonside Loch, Fruid Reservoir & Stantling Craig Reservoir in Dec.

Green-winged Teal *Anas carolinensis*

Rare American vagrant- 3 previous records (1 record in 2014)

1 Millar's Moss 12th Jun Dave Graham). *Fifth record for Borders.*

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Abundant (2,000-3,000prs) and widespread breeder. Several large moult assemblies in late summer. The large winter counts are thought to include many immigrants. During 2008-13 found in 59% of tetrads in summer and 47% in winter. (1461 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Away from the main resorts (see table), the counts >40 include: 120 Westruther Pools 8th Jan; 60 Broughton Brewery 18th Jan; 42 Hollybush Pond on 19th Jan; 120 Hoselaw Loch, 92 Yetholm Marsh and 41 Cauldshiels Loch 20th Jan; 46 Eddleston 10th Feb; 120 Stantling Craig Reservoir 18th Feb; 40 Whitmuirhall 19th Feb; and 42 Newmains 12th Mar.

Main Resorts:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bemersyde Moss	30	34	10	40	8	60	210	105	43	70	30	10
Folly Loch	10	28	10	4	1	-	65	78	25	153	105	23
Greenlaw Pool,	54	10	24	24	37	104	120	-	178	12	4	-
Hen Poo	87	47	25	4	22	120	134	-	-	74	90	46
Hirsel Lake	95	22	23	-	4	201	577	153	88	27	34	73
Teviot Haughs	23	40	29	-	-	-	-	-	161	150	-	85
Tweed Haughs	395	175	176	-	-	-	-	-	356	398	311	484
Tweedbank	88	47	31	17	18	43	138	92	73	44	-	-
Whitrig Bog	30	31	20	-	17	-	-	3	4	73	50	10
Yetholm Loch	82	80	27	11	17	192	184	178	77	90	59	25

Breeding: 110 broods at 63 sites in 2014, with 496 young counted in total. The mean brood size reported was 4.51, below the average of 5.02. The first broods were seen at Eddleston on 18th Apr and Peebles on 19th Apr.

Site	Broods	Site	Broods	Site	Broods
Addiston Pond	br7	Gunknowe Loch	br2	Spottiswoode Burn Pond	br4
Aleomor Wester Loch	2br9	Haining Loch	2br11	St Mary's Loch	br2
Bemersyde	4br11	Harcus Pond	br8	Stantling Craig Reservoir	br4
Blackcleugh Loch	br3	Harehope House N Pond	2br10	Synton Mossend	5br28
Blythe Farm Pool	2br4	Hen Poo	br6	Teviot, Roxburgh-Kelso	8br41
Borthwickshiels Loch	br3	Highchesters Pond	br3	Tweed -Sprouston-Redden	14br62
Chisholme House Pond	br4	Hirsel Lake	2br7	Tweed, Birgham Haugh	br4
Cotfield Pond	br4	Hollybush Loch	3br15	Tweed, Hendersyde	br8
Cowieslinn Quarry Pond	br4	Howden Pond	br4	Tweed, Homebank	br4
Cringletie Pond	br5	Hundleshope Cross Ponds	2br7	Tweed, Innerleithen	br8
Dowlaw Dam	3br15	Kaim Law Pool	br4	Tweed, Paxton House	br7
Eddleston Water, Cringletie	br6	Kelhope Lower Burn Pond	br8	Tweed, Peebles	br9
Eddleston Water, Darnhall	br7	Kelso Hill Pond	br6	Tweed, Union Bridge	2br10
Eddleston Water, Peebles	br2	Ladyrig Mill Pond	br4	Watch Water Reservoir	br4
Edrom Pond	2br18	Lindean Reservoir	br5	Whim Pond	br1
Eye Water, East Reston	br2	Mire Loch	br8	Whiteadder, Allanton	br6
Faldonside Loch	3br18	North Esk Reservoir	2br7	Whitrig Pond	br2
Flass Pond	2br10	Shielswood Loch	2br6	Williestruther Loch	br4
Folly Loch	3br8	Snawdon Burn Lower Pond	br1	Wooden Loch	br6
Greenlaw Pool, Foulden	3br20	Snawdon Burn Upper Pond	br5	Yetholm Loch	2br8
Greenlawdean Pond	br3	South Slipperfield Pond	br8	Yetholm Marsh	br2

Breeding success of Mallard in Borders, based on brood size counts 2002-2014													
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sites	53	47	51	46	28	66	55	33	27	46	31	49	63
Broods	76	76	91	67	46	108	73	60	45	92	44	72	110
Young	326	355	591	347	248	605	374	304	222	453	196	365	496
MBS	4.23	4.67	6.49	5.18	5.39	5.60	5.12	5.07	4.93	4.92	4.45	5.01	4.51

Autumn/Winter: as usual there were post-breeding assemblies at Bemersyde, Greenlaw Pool, Hen Poo, Hirsel Lake, Tweedbank & Yetholm, as enumerated in the table.

Elsewhere there were high Jul-mid-Sep counts of >50 at Haining Loch (54), Stantling Craig Reservoir (94), Tweed at Galawaterfoot (83), Tweed at Rutherford (126) and Wooden Loch (82).

High counts away from the main resorts were again rather infrequent between mid-Sep and late Oct with only 100 Tweed at Sprouston-Redden on 21st Sep and counts >50 at Dowlaw Dam (65), Eckford Haugh (70) and Westfield (60)

In Nov-Dec the only 3-figure count away from the main resorts was 117 at Watch Water Reservoir on 19th Nov with a few counts of 50 or more coming from Dowlaw, Tweed at Galawaterfoot (87)am (52), Faldonside Loch (51), Hule Moss (65), Stantling Craig Reservoir (56), Teviot at Broom (54), Tweed at Peebles (76), and Yetholm Marsh (90).



Garganey - Foulnden, May 2013 *Dave Graham*

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Rather uncommon, but annual, winter visitor, September to April, peaking October-November. Has bred twice, in 1901 & 2008.
During 2008-13 found in 7 tetrads in summer and 4 in winter. (2 records in 2014)

2 Whiteadder at Chirnside 3rd Apr (JK Prior) and 3N St Abb's Head 28th Sep (Dave Graham).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Rare, mostly spring, passage migrant, often as pairs. (4 records in 2014).

2mm + 1f Greenlaw Pool, Foulnden 1st-4th May (David Christie).

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Former very scarce breeder, mostly in the eastern Borders. Autumn passage peaks September-November but few January-March. Return mostly March-April. During 2008-13 found in 14 tetrads in summer and 6 in winter. (57 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 1 Bemersyde Moss 9th & 16th Jan and 16th Feb; 8 Hule Moss 19th Jan; 2 Hule Moss on 1st Mar; 2 Bemersyde Moss 2nd & 14th Mar.

Breeding: No suggestion of breeding, although birds summered.

Bemersyde Moss/Whitrig: 1-2 Bemersyde Moss 2nd -25th Apr, but none thereafter.

Greenlaw Pond, Foulnden: pr on 3 dates in Apr, once in May with latest 9th Jun.

Hoselaw Loch: pr on 16th Apr.

Hule Moss: 1 on 13th Apr.

Westfield: pr on 4th Apr, probably from Bemersyde.

Yetholm Loch: pr on 17th Apr only with 1 m Yetholm Marsh the same day.

Autumn: 1 St Abb's Head 27th Jul.

Main autumn flock, as usual, was at Hule Moss with 36 there 28th Aug & 12th Sep; still 32 on 30th Sep, then just 2 on 12th & 17th Oct. 1-2 on 6 dates Bemersyde Moss 23rd Sep-14th Dec; 2 Bogbank & 2 Yetholm Loch 28th Sep; 2 Greenlaw Pond, Foulnden 28th Sep-2nd Nov with 4 on 5th Oct. 1 Westfield 30th Nov.

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. During 2008-13 found in 10 tetrads in summer and 20 in winter. (22 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 3 St Mary's Loch 2nd Jan; 1 Yetholm Loch 28th Jan-11th Feb with 2 there 16th Feb and 3 on 4th Mar, before 1 there 11th Mar. 1 Tweed Haughs 16th Mar. 2 Gunknowe Loch 16th & 18th Apr.

Summer: 1 Greenlaw Pool, Foulnden 2nd Jun, 1 Bemersyde Moss 8th Jul and pr Watch Water Reservoir 18th Jul and 1 Yetholm Loch 12th Aug.

Autumn/Winter: 1 Greenlaw Pool, Foulnden 4th Sep; 1 Mire Loch 7th-11th Oct; 2 Hirsell Lake 29th Oct.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Increasingly less common breeder, including the lower reaches of the Tweed. Common winter visitor, peaking November-December. During 2008-13 found in 9% of tetrads in summer and 6% in winter. (522 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Better numbers this winter with seven counts in excess of 50 birds and a larger range of counts in excess of 20 birds. In Jan, the highest counts were 66 Hirsell Lake 23rd Jan with 41 Branxholme Wester Loch 27th Jan; 25 Gunknowe Loch 4th & 17th Jan with 10-19 birds recorded from Hule Moss, Haining Loch and Folly Loch. Feb had 66 at Whitrig on 27th Feb; 61 Hirsell Lake 14th Feb, 30 Folly Loch on 28th Feb, 27 Gunknowe Loch on 11th Feb; and 10-19 birds at Yetholm Loch, Branxholme Easter Loch and Hollybush Loch.

Good numbers continued into Mar with 40 Williestruther Loch and 39 Folly Loch 6th Mar, 35 Hirsell Lake on 3rd Mar; 31 Portmore Loch 24th Mar, 24 Yetholm Loch on 2nd Mar and 10-19 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Bowdenmoor Loch, Cowieslenn Quarry Pond, Hen Poo, and Whitmuirhall Loch.

Breeding:

With additional effort because of a Waterbodies Survey Tufted Ducks were found at 54 sites in 2014. 203 males & 122 females were counted, potentially 122 pairs. 1 nest was suspected and 23 broods with 104 young were counted, a MBS of 4,52. The earliest brood was 2br12 at the Hen Poo on 22nd Jun and br6 at Spottiswoode Burn Pond on 4th Jul.

Lochs	max mm	max ff	broods	Lochs	max mm	max ff	broods
Addiston Pond	1	1	-	Middlethird Pond	1	1	-
Bemersyde Moss	1	1	-	Millar's Moss	4	4	br7
Blythe Farm Pool	1	1	br5	Mire Loch	6	4	-
Cathpair Loch	1	-	-	Murton Farm Pond	5	4	-
Chapel Mains Pond	1	1	-	New Belses Pond	1	-	-
Clarilaw Hill Pond	1	1	-	Pickmaw Moss	2	1	-
Commonburn Pond	1	-	-	Ploughlands Pond	1	1	br7
Cotfield Pond	6	4	-	Pot Loch	2	2	-
Croxfield Pond	1	4	-	Primrosehill Pond	3	1	br3
Dowlaw Dam	3	2	br3	Sheilswood Loch	2	1	br2
Duns Mill Pond	-	3	2br7	Spottiswoode Burn Pond	3	2	br6
Dye Haugh Ponds	4	3	-	Stantling Craig Reservoir	4	1	-
Folly Loch	10	4	-	Stichill Eastfield Pools	1	1	-
Green Diamonds	2	2	-	Watch Water Reservoir	5	3	-
Greenlaw Pond, Foulden	12	6	-	West Water Reservoir	1	-	-
Greenlawdean Pond	1	3	br4	White Law Loch	11	1	-
Gunknowe Loch	8	4	-	Whitmuirhall Loch	1	1	-
Haining Loch	7	2	br2	Williestruther Loch	2	2	-
Hen Poo	10	6	3br16	Wooden Loch	3	2	-
Hirsel Lake	2	2	-	Yetholm Loch	8	4	-
Hollybush Loch	8	5	-	Yetholm Marsh	3	2	2br13
Hoselaw Loch	5	3	br5				
Hule Moss	10	7	4br17	Rivers:			
Ladies Seat Moss	1	-	-	Teviot, Heiton	3	-	-
Ladyrig Hill Pond	6	3	ON	Tweed, Birgham Haugh	3	1	-
Lindean Reservoir	5	5	-	Tweed, Lees Haugh	1	-	-
Loch Rickie	7	5	-	Tweed, Sprouston-Redden	8	4	2br7
Long Moss	4	1	-				

Breeding success of Tufted Duck in Borders, based on brood size counts 2004-2014

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Min Pairs	172	124	128	155	106	83	58	77	97	102	122
Broods	18	13	16	15	16	12	4	17	10	12	23
Young	87	52	74	76	74	69	11	77	49	78	104
MBS	4.83	4.00	4.63	5.07	4.63	5.75	3.66	5.13	4.90	6.50	4.52

Autumn/Winter: Autumn numbers were poor with the largest Sep/Oct counts being 58 Hule Moss 17th Oct and 26 West Water Reservoir on 25th Oct with counts of 15-24 also noted at Folly Loch (24), Hirsel Lake (20), Portmore Loch (20) and Mire Loch (20).

Nov-Dec counts were a little higher with best counts of 59 Hirsel Lake 4th Dec; 58 Portmore Loch 23rd Nov; 50 Folly Loch 28th Nov; and 27 Hule Moss 2nd Nov and counts of 15-24 at Acreknowe Reservoir (22) and Williestruther Loch (16).

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, annual, but usually singles. (8 records in 2013)

Winter/Spring: Just three early records: 1m Hule Moss 15th Mar with 1f there 13th & 20th Apr (James Lough).

Autumn/Winter: Six records: 1N St Abb's Head 23rd Sep with 2N there 28th Sep (Dave Graham); 2 Hule Moss 2nd Nov with 1 there 7th & 18th Nov (James Lough).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

Becoming scarcer along whole coast throughout the year, formerly abundant. Rare breeder with little evidence of success. Very rare inland. During 2008-13 found in 15 tetrads in summer and 18 in winter. (103 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 237 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan. (164 in 2013, 319 in 2012, 207 in 2011)

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	11	Pease Bay-Redheugh	30
Redheugh-Souter	17	Souter-Petticowick	15
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	47	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	51
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	54	Burnmouth-English border	12

Other Jan-Mar counts include: 107 Eyemouth Bay 12th Feb with 85 there 25th Jan; 22 Burnmouth 3rd Mar & 21 Dunglass 23rd Mar.

Summer: Small numbers, usually <10, along coast but nothing to suggest successful breeding. 19 Dunglass on 20th Jul was the only large total seen.

Autumn/Winter: Seawatching only seems to pick up small numbers of presumably local birds moving along the shore. Only small numbers along coast in later year – max 53 Eyemouth 27th Oct with 35 there 19th Nov. 44 St Abb's Head 7th Nov; 12 Burnmouth 20th Dec, the next highest count away from Eyemouth.



Long-tailed Duck - Cove, Nov 2014 *Dave Graham*

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce winter visitor and autumn passage migrant to coast. Rare inland. (24 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Just one bird, at Eyemouth Bay, was counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan.

Otherwise 11 Dunglass 2nd Jan with 19 there 5th Jan, 10 on 16th Feb, 15 on 22nd Feb but then just 7 on 3rd Mar, 3 on 23rd Mar and last 4 on 10th Apr. The only other records: 1 Burnmouth 10th Jan; and 1 Pease Bay 2nd Feb.

Autumn/Winter: 1 Dunglass 12th Oct; 2 Eyemouth 28th Oct; 1 Cove 3rd Nov; 1 Eyemouth 6th Nov; 1 St Abb's Head 7th Nov; 1 Dunglass 20th Dec.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon late summer & autumn passage migrant and scarce winter visitor to coastal areas. Very rare inland. (63 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Just 9 were found on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan: 8 at Cove-Pease Bay and 1 at Fast Castle Head. Very large numbers were found off Dunglass in early Jan with 380 on 2nd Jan and 270 on 5th Jan but only 35 by 1st Feb, 26 on 15th Feb, 42 on 1st Mar, 24 on 29th Mar 7 by 12th Apr and last 1 on 20th Apr. 24 Siccar Point 1st Feb was probably part of this assembly. Other records include: 1 Cove 3rd Mar; 1 Redheugh 29th Mar; 16 Pease Bay & 3 Redheugh 12th Apr.

Summer/Autumn/Winter: First movements were from St Abb's Head in mid-May with 30 on 18th May; 20 on 3rd Jun; and 96 on 22nd Jun. 305 were seen during 9 days in July, max 70 on 1st Jul, 63 on 27th Jul and 52 on 26th Jul. Only 6 were seen on 2 days in Aug.

149 were seen 7 days in Sep, with 66 on 23rd Sep, 29 on 28th Sep & 18 on 14th Sep. 72 were seen in Oct, max 37 on 14th Oct & 25 on 8th Oct. 74 were reported in Nov with max count of 27 Eyemouth & 26 St Abb's Head on 6th Nov. 25 were reported in Dec with 17 St Abb's Head on 13th Dec.

Surf Scoter *Melanitta persicapilla*

Very rare winter vagrant 1 previous record. (1 record in 2014)

1f/imm Watch Water Reservoir 24th Oct (Jack Ibbotson).

Second record for Borders, the previous being 1 St Abb's Head 11th Oct 1997.

Surf Scoter f/imm
record shot
Watch Water Reservoir
Oct 2014
Jack Ibbotson



Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Very scarce autumn (August-December) passage migrant to coast. Very occasional in spring. One inland record. (15 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 2 Dunglass 2nd Jan, 15th & 22nd Feb; 1 Pease Bay 1st Feb; 1 Redheugh 29th Mar & 12th Apr (Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: 1 Eyemouth 29th August (Andrew Bramhall); 2 St Abb's Head 20th Sep, 3N on 22nd Sep, 8N on 23rd Sep, 8N/3S on 14th Oct & 4 on 15th Oct (Dave Graham); 1 Eyemouth & 1 St Abb's Head 7th Nov (Ray Murray & Fran Evans).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Common winter visitor, October-May, peaking in March. Occasionally summers. Bred near Gordon 1999.

During 2008-13 found in 3% of tetrads in summer and 11% in winter. (319 reports in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Just 8 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan, well below typical levels (30 in 2013, 21 in 2012, 52 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	2	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	2	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	4	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	0
Eyemouth-Burroughmouth	0	Burroughmouth-English border	0

Away from the main resorts, tabulated below, count of 10 or more birds comprise: 17 Hule Moss on 1st, 9th and 14th Jan; 19 Hoselaw Loch 16th Feb; 11 White Law Loch 17th Feb; 10 Williestuther Loch 19th Feb; 22 Portmore Loch 24th Mar; and 16 Sprouston 26th Mar.

Still 17 at Yetholm Loch 4th Apr with 3 on 9th Apr but 1-2 thereafter. Late Apr records from Bemersyde Moss, St Abb's Head & West Water Reservoir.

Last reports were 1 Hirsell Lake 2nd May & 6th May with pr Fruid Reservoir 6th May (Ray Murray & Stuart Craig).

	20 Jan	17 Feb	17 Mar
Faldonside Loch	7	11	11
Folly Loch	6	13	5
Hirsell Lake	45	51	27
Millar's Moss	10	10	5
Tweed Haughs	76	25	129
Yetholm Loch	63	19	44

*usually WeBS dates unless specified otherwise Max Counts

Autumn/Winter: First 1 North Esk Reservoir 26th Aug (Graham Checkley) with 8 Haining Loch 14th Sep and 2 Hirsell Lake 30th Sep.

11 records from six sites in Oct, max 6 Haining Loch 12th Oct, 9 Portmore Loch 16th Oct and 11 West Water Reservoir 31st Oct with 4 Yetholm Loch, 2 Hule Moss & 1 Millar's Moss.

More widespread during Nov with records from some 21 sites: max 21 Hule Moss & 17 Yetholm Loch 18th Nov, 38 Portmore Loch 23rd Nov & 14 Hirsell Lake on 9th Nov with 5-9 birds also at Alemoor Wester Loch, Bowdenmoor Reservoir, Folly Loch & West Water Reservoir.

Found 30 sites during Dec, max 38 Hirsell Lake 4th Dec, 20 Tweed Haughs 7th Dec; 24 Hoselaw Loch 14th Dec; 14 Paxton House on 17th Dec; 10 Folly Loch 27th Dec & 10 Millar's Moss on 28th Dec with 5-9 birds at Acreknowe Reservoir, Cauldshiels Loch, Faughill Moss, Hule Moss, St Mary's Loch, Tweed at Ladykirk and Upsettlington, White Law Loch & Yetholm Loch.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Now a rather rare winter visitor, previously more frequent. During 2008-13 found in 6 tetrads in winter. (1 record in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 1m Hen Poo 14th Feb (David Smith).

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Uncommon passage migrant to coast, September-March. Former rare breeder but no recent evidence of even summering birds. During 2008-13 found in 5 tetrads in summer and 11 in winter. (21 records in 2014).

Winter/Spring: Typical small numbers on the coast between Dunglass-Cove with 1-2 birds Dunglass on 5 dates from 5th Jan -18th Feb. Then 6 there on 22nd Feb with 7 on 1st Mar. 8 Cove & 3 Dunglass on 12th Apr. Also 1 St Abb's Head 9th Feb.

Autumn/Winter: 5N past St Abb's Head 18th Jun & 1st Jul, The gap until 1N/6S at St Abb's Head 21st Sep with 1N there 5th Oct. 2 Eyemouth GC 8th Oct with 2 Cove & 2 Dunglass 8th Nov.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*

Abundant winter visitor (650-850 birds) October to May. Large winter roosts of hundreds of birds, but sites vary. c.200 breeding females), recently spread to northern hills. During 2008-13 found in 18% of tetrads in summer and 22% in winter. (524 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Notable Jan assemblies at Cauldshiels Loch, where 51 roosted 20th Jan and Greenlaw Pool, Foulden where max 67 roosted on 26th Jan. Daytime counts elsewhere may also have involved roosts: 20 Hirsell Lake 20th Jan, 34 Yetholm Loch 21st Jan; 23 Hen Poo 23rd Jan and 52 Yetholm Loch 30th Jan. 43 Tweed Haughs 19th Jan. Parties of 10-19 birds also seen Hule Moss, Kelso, Milne Graden, Paxton House, Spittal-on-Rule, Teviot Haughs, Teviot at Sprouston and Tweedbank.

In Feb Greenlaw Pool continued to attract birds with max 68 on 6th & 21st Feb.

Only one other count of >20 birds was 21 Tweed Haughs 16th Feb with counts of 10-19 birds at: Cauldshiels Loch Hen Poo, Paxton House, Tweed at Sprouston, Teviot at Roxburgh & Yetholm Loch.

Numbers fell a little to max 54 Greenlaw Pool on 2nd Mar but only 33 were found along the Tweed Haughs between Sprouston and Redden on 26th Mar. 10-19 birds occurred at the Hen Poo, Hirsell Lake, Lees Haugh, the Teviot at Hawick and the Tweed at Neidpath.

Numbers started to rise again on the lower Tweed as pre-moult migration assemblies gathered, with 80 Greenlaw Pool by 27th Apr and 84 Tweed at Paxton House by 29th Apr (10 ad mm & 74 imm mm) with 35 Hirsell Lake on 21st Apr. Other than 16 at on the Tweed at Redden on 16th Apr there were no other double-figure counts as birds dispersed to breeding areas.

May had just a few large pre-moult counts: 39 Tweed at Kelso 4th May and 56 Union Bridge on 9th May with 21 still at Greenlaw Pool on 2nd May.

Breeding: Records from 45 tetrads. 8br33 reported: br5 Whiteadder at Allanton 5th Jun; 2br12 Teviot at Roxburgh 5th Jun; br3 Teviot at Hawick 23rd Jun; br3 Megget Reservoir & br5 St Mary's Loch 5th Jul; and 2br9 Dunglass 25th Aug. A poor rate of reporting.

Summary of Goosander Breeding: 2001-2014

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Totals
Broods	6	8	10	11	9	11	15	15	8	14	15	14	18	8	162
Young	51	39	56	53	52	99	87	104	48	101	60	81	115	33	979
MBS	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	4.1	5.96

Autumn/Winter: Merged family parties & post-breeding assemblies came to prominence in Sep with 22 Newmains 1st Sep; 21 Tweed Haughs, 20 Tweed at Lowood & 20 Stantling Craig Reservoir 27th Sep; 50 Tweed at Redden 21st Sep; 26 Teviot at Roxburgh 25th Sep and 100 Hule Moss 29th Sep.

There were two notable Oct gatherings: Greenlaw pool gathered momentum from 33 on 15th Oct to a massive 358 on 29th Oct. Cauldshiels Loch also rose from 57 on 8th Oct to 220 on 18th Oct.

Other large counts include: 75 Tweed at Lochton 1st Oct; 35 Bemersyde Moss 7th Oct; 20 Whitrig on 12th Oct; 21 Tweedbank on 14th Oct; 34 Teviot Haughs on 15th Oct; 38 Hule Moss 17th Oct; 32 Tweed at Paxton House



24th Oct. 10-19 birds were also reported from: the Teviot at Denholm & White Law Loch.

Numbers fell into Nov, despite the arrival back of the moulted males, the largest count being 180 Greenlaw Pool on 30th Nov with 80 Tweed Haughs and 60 Cauldshiels Loch on 9th Nov. Elsewhere there were 43 Stantling Craig Reservoir 25th Nov and 41 Tweed at Paxton House 29th Nov with 10-19 birds at Bigham Haugh, Peebles, Coldstream, Whitrig & Yetholm Loch.

Greenlaw Pool continued its ascendancy with 155 on 21st Dec with 130 along Tweed Haughs on 7th Dec. 26 Tweed at Paxton 2nd Dec was the only other site with counts >20. 10-19 birds were reported from: Tweed at Galashiels & Upsettlington and at Yetholm Loch.

Goosander - Union Bridge Apr 2014 Tom Brewis

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Common breeding resident of heather moorland. Especially numerous in northern hills where moors are actively managed for 'sport'. Hard-weather movements can drive birds into unusual habitats in severe winter conditions. During 2008-13 found in 19% of tetrads in summer and 25% in winter. (120 records in 2014)

Non-breeding: Reported from 23 tetrads Jan-Mar with best counts of 14 Hule Moss 1st Mar; 12 Gill Cleugh on 16th Feb with 5-9 birds reported from 7 other sites.

Reported from 24 tetrads Sep-Dec with 60 Watch Water Reservoir 5th Sep; 29 Lammer Law 29th Sep; 28 Cribb Law 29th Sep; 20 Hule Moss 12th Oct; 15 Rawburn 5th Sep; 10 Peel Fell 1st Sep; and 5-9 birds at 3 other sites.

Breeding: Reports came from some 26 tetrads between Apr-Aug.

BBS plots had max 10 Bleak Law 18th Apr; 25 Damhead Shiel on 25th Apr; & 10 Dewar 19th May. 20 at Watch Water Reservoir on 8th Aug; 15 at Black Rigg on 22nd Aug; 10 Clints Hill 5th Apr; 10 Broad Law on 28th Apr; with 5-9 birds at Hule Moss.

Very large numbers in late summer after one of the best breeding seasons for some years, especially where moors managed for grouse shoot.

Confirmed breeding only at Watch Water Reservoir.



Red Grouse

Watch Water Reservoir, Aug 2014

Black Grouse

Tetrao tetrix

Uncommon & local resident on hill fringes, especially in Ettrick-Moorfoot area. ALL RECORDS NEEDED.

During 2008-13 found in 11% of tetrads in summer and 5% in winter. (40 records in 2014)

A return to the more typical low number of reports after the cessation of most atlas effort and the completion of the Southern Uplands Partnership survey. Just 19 sites reported. Lekking sites underlined. 3ff with 2 juvs seen Tweeddaleburn 15th Jul.

	mm	ff	not known	total		mm	ff	not known	total
Altrieve	2	1	-	3	Flesh Cleugh	4	-	-	4
Blackburn	3	-	-	3	<u>Garvald Lodge</u>	-	-	2	2
Blackhope	5	-	-	5	Glenbreck	-	-	2	2
<u>Blackhopebyre</u>	18	2	-	20	Glenlude	1	-	-	1
<u>Broad Law</u>	1	-	-	1	Glentress	1	-	-	1
<u>Burrowstone Moss</u>	2	-	-	2	<u>Langholm Moor</u>	13	-	-	13
<u>Cleaburn Loch</u>	1	-	-	1	<u>Piper's Grave</u>	6	-	-	6
Dewar	2	-	-	2	Whitehope	4	-	-	4
Drumelzier	1	-	-	1	<u>Wull Muir</u>	2	1	-	3
<u>East Loch</u>	6	3	-	9	2014 total	72	7	4	83

Black Grouse totals 2000-2014 (note varying recording effort – intensive survey years underlined)

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sites	69	24	52	48	35	24	38	27	42	38	117	118	98	17	19
Birds	226	111	207	139	89	42	128	65	101	119	344	506	359	105	83

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Formerly scarce & erratic but now increasingly widespread introduced game species. Most released in August-September for shooting, rarely breeds. During 2008-13 found in 19% of tetrads in summer and 19% in winter. (78 records in 2014)

Non-breeding season: 15 Jan-Mar records from 10 tetrads. Best counts were: 19 Manderston 13th Jan; 8 Todhugh 7th Feb; 6 Sprouton 7th Feb; 5 Earnsclough 10th Jan; with 1-4 birds at Blackhaugh, Blackhopebyre, Craiglatch, Cringletie, Dewar, Piper's Grave, Whitehope, Wormiston and Windydoors.

There were 28 Sep-Dec records from 12 tetrads with all the issues about releases of captive-bred birds for shooting: best counts were

Over 1,000 at Slaidhill 6th Oct; 150 West Water Reservoir 8th Sep; 28 Printonan 24th Oct; 20 Stantling Craig Reservoir 1st Oct; ; 16 Mellerstain 22nd Oct; 11 Loch Pots 16th Nov; 10 Torwoodlee 15 Nov; 8 Whiteadder Dam 25th Oct; with 1-5 birds at Folly Loch, Rawburn, West Linton GC and Yeholm Loch.

Breeding: Found 27 tetrads Apr-Aug. Best totals were 14 Rutherford 9th Aug and 3 Cademuir Hill 27th Aug. Pairs (or at least 2 birds) seen at 16 sites with singles at another 11 sites.

Unusually breeding was confirmed at Wrunk Law with br2 on 28th Jul.

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, but declining and during 2008-13 found in 13% of tetrads in summer and 13% in winter. (69 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Reports from just 9 tetrads in the early winter period with 28 Ladyrig 15th Jan; 14 Angelrow on 6th Jan; 11 Sandystones 4th Feb; 7 Milldown 27th Jan; 5 Causewaybank 14th Jan; and 1-2 birds Haigsfield, Holefield and Lees Haugh.

Breeding: Records from 20 tetrads Apr-Aug. Best counts were 28 Angelrow on 5 dates 29th Jul-24th Aug; 12 St Abb's Head 19th Jul; 8 Westfield 29th Jul; 8 Charterhall 23rd Aug; 6 New Smailholm 29th Jun; otherwise just 1-4 birds at Billiemains, Butterdean, Crosshall, Duns Mill BBS, East Reston, Eyemouth GC, Graden, Heiton, Hoselaw Mains BBS, Hule Moss, Ladyrig, Lamberton, Leadburn CW, Middle Monynut, Morebattle, New Smailholm and Sandyknowe. Family parties were seen at: Angelrow, Butterdean, Crosshall, Mire Loch & Westfield

Autumn/Winter: Reported from 10 sites during Sep-Oct with 48 Angelrow 12th Oct; 20 Kirk Yetholm 19th Oct; 18 Lambden 18th Sep; 15 Edrom Mains 12th Oct; 11 New Smailholm 22nd Oct; 8 Eyemouth GC 16th Sep; with 1-5 birds Folly Loch, Nisbet & Oxnam Neuk.

Found in 7 sites in Nov-Dec with 10 Whitsome 7th Nov; 9 Prendergust 10th Dec; and 1-2 birds East Reston, Fancove Head, Lamberton and Paxton.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Very scarce summer visitor, late May to Aug. Proved breeding rare, mostly records of unseen singing males. Numbers very variable. (21 records in 2014)

During 2008-13 found in 10% of tetrads in summer. *Relatively low numbers, the lowest since 2004.*

First 1 Angelrow 19th May (James Towill); 1 Newmains 29th May with 2 there 2nd Jun.

A very poor year with birds found at just 6 sites: 1-2 Angelrow & Newmains through the summer but otherwise 2 New Smailholm 29th Jun; 2 Greenlaw on 18th Jul; 1 Graden 19th Jul; 1 Clintmains 14th Sep.

Year	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Sites	3	8	11	4	4	6	10	19	9	13	12	27	11	129	24	9	7
Birds	3	9	20	4	5	9	16	26	12	28	25	33	22	198	28	14	10

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Abundant and widespread resident. Many birds are 'managed' by shooting interests, in releases involving tens of thousands of birds. During 2008-13 found in 74% of tetrads in summer and 70% in winter. (541 records in 2014)

Non-breeding: Found in 63 tetrads Jan-Mar with high counts of 30 Ring Knowe Wood 1st Mar; 20 Earnsclough 10th Jan; 10 Cringletie 9th Jan; with 5-9 birds at 13 other sites.

Reported in 56 tetrads Sep-Dec, high counts of 320 Folly Loch 13th Sep; 70 West Water Reservoir on 8th Sep; 50 Darnhall-Harcus 24th Oct and 10-15 birds at 4 other sites.

Breeding: Found in 123 tetrads. The first eggs were seen at Medwynhead, North Muir & South Slipperfield on 4th May with the first young were seen at St Abb's Head on 17th Jun. Max counts of 18 Knowes Hill BBS on 8th May; 11 Darnhall-Harcus 19th Apr; 10 Broadmeadows 2nd May; and 5-9 birds at 15 other sites.

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. (79 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 24 were found during the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan with 6 Petticowick-Coldingham Bay, 1 Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth, 9 Eyemouth-Burnmouth and 2 Burnmouth-Lamberton.



Red-throated Diver - Dunglass, Mar 2009

Some 17 records were from Dunglass with max 11 on 8th Feb. 10 on 22nd Feb and 8 on 20th Apr. Also 2 Pease Bay 1st Feb; 4 Burnmouth 8th Feb; 6 Cove 3rd Mar; 3 Redheugh 29th Mar; 1 Eyemouth GC 28th Apr; and 3N St Abb's Head 18th May (Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: First 1 N St Abb's Head 6th Sep (Dave Graham).

41 reported in Sep: max 10N/5S St Abb's Head 28th Sep & 6 Eyemouth GC 14th Sep.

72 reported in Oct: max 6N/15S St Abb's Head 14th Oct; 13S Eyemouth GC 8th Oct; 10N St Abb's Head on 26th Oct; and 7 Dunglass 18th Oct. 59 reported in Nov: 19 Cove 8th Nov; 9 Dunglass 2nd Nov; and 6S Eyemouth GC 7th Nov. 6N St Abb's Head 13th Dec with 3 Eyemouth GC 4th Dec; & 3 Dunglass 7th 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
2014	10	68	25	22	3	0	0	0	41	72	59	21	321

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Present offshore in very small numbers September to March. Rare in summer months and very rare inland. (12 records in 2014)

Winter: 1 Dunglass 22nd Feb, with 1 there 2nd Mar with 1 Pease Bay 3rd Mar

Autumn/Winter: First 3N St Abb's Head 21st Sep with 2N there on 22nd Sep. 1 Eyemouth GC on 20th Oct with 1N there 6th, 1S there 7th & 12th Nov with 2N on 5th Dec and 1N on 13th Dec.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Present offshore in very small numbers September to March. Rare in summer months and extremely rare inland. (18 records in 2014).

Winter/Spring: 1 Dunglass 5th Jan with 2 there 1st Feb when 1 Siccar Point. 2 St Abb's Head 2nd Feb. 1 Dunglass 22nd Feb with 2 there 2nd Mar & last 1 there on 20th Apr (Dave Graham).

Autumn/Winter: 1S St Abb's Head 21st Sep (Dave Graham) with 1S there 14th Oct. 1N/1S on 26th Oct; 2N Eyemouth GC & 1 N St Abb's Head 6th Nov. 1 Pease Bay 8th Nov. 1S Eyemouth GC 12th Nov; 1 Dunglass 22nd Nov; 1N St Abb's Head 13th Dec.

[White-billed Diver] *Gavia adamsii*

Rare visitor – 2 previous records

1 St Abb's Head 12th Apr, claimed on BirdGuides, but with no supporting evidence, so square-bracketed.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

70-90 pairs bred in 1988-96. Autumn assemblies. Wintering on rivers now annual. Most return to breeding waters from late February. Rare on coast in winter. During 2008-13 found in 8% of tetrads in summer and 9% in winter. (437 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: On the river system birds were recorded on the Tweed at: 1 Manor Bridge 15th Feb; 1 Kelso on 21st Jan; on the Tweed Haughs with 2 on 19th Jan with 3 there 15th Feb; 1 Sprouston 29th Jan with 4 there on 25th Feb; 1 Lees Haugh 2nd Feb; 1 Milne Graden 20th Jan; 3 at Paxton House, on 1st Jan, 4 on 13th Jan, 3 on 25th Jan with 1 there 1st Feb and 5th Mar and 2 on 19th Mar. Also 1 Teviot Haughs on 18th Jan with 1 there 16th Feb and 2 Spittal-on-Rule 12th Feb. 1 on sea at Burnmouth 8th Feb.

On still-waters during Jan there were 5 White Law Loch 20th Jan; 3 Wooden Loch 19th Jan; 2 Faldonside Loch 20th Jan and 2 Millar's Moss 29th Jan with singles Hirsell lake, Mire Loch, Stobo Castle Loch, & St Mary's Loch. During Feb there were 3 Wooden Loch 16th Feb & Hirsell Lake 19th Feb; 2 birds at Stobo Castle Loch 7th Feb with 2 Lindean Reservoir 27th Feb and singles at Hollybush Loch, Ploughlands Pond, Synton Mossend and Yetholm Marsh. In Mar birds were recorded on 18 waters with 7 Hirsell Lake 24th mar; 6 Hen Poo 24th mar & 3 Whim Pond 1st Mar.

Breeding: Seen at 64 sites Apr-Aug due to additional effort with the Waterbodies Survey.

At 9 sites, only singles were seen: Chapel Mains Pond, Clarilawhill Pond, Dye Haugh Ponds, Gordon CW Pond, Lilliesleaf Moss Pond, Lumsdaine Loch, Murton Farm Pond, Stantling Craig Reservoir and Synton Pool.

22 pairs at another 20 sites had no evidence of successful breeding: Alton Loch, Bemersyde Moss (2), Cathpair Pond, Cauldshiels Loch, Cherrytrees Pond, Faldonside Loch (2), Green Diamonds, Greelawdean Pond, Hare Moss, Highchesters Pond, Ladies Seat Moss, Lauder Burn Pond, Long Moss, Ruddenleys Farm Pond, Steele Road Pond, Tathieknowe Pond, West Water Dam Pond, Whim Pond, Wiltonburn Pond and Wooden Loch.

Nests, but no further evidence of success, were seen at Kelphope Burn Lower Pond and Lindean Reservoir (2).

Young were seen at 34 sites with 45 broods & 87 young, an average brood size of 1.93.

The first young were seen at Middlethird Pond on 5th May and the Hen Poo on 27th May.

Site	single	pairs	broods	Site	single	pairs	broods
Addiston Pond	-	1	br1	Lilliesleaf Moss Pool	1	-	-
Alemoor Wester Loch	-	1	br2	Lindean Mast Pool	-	1	br1
Alton Loch	-	1	-	Lindean Reservoir	-	2	2ON
Bemersyde Moss	-	2	-	Long Moss, Cavers	-	1	-
Borthwickshiels Loch	-	2	br1	Lowood Pond	-	1	br2
Bowdenmoor Farm Pond	-	1	br1	Lumsdaine Loch	1	-	-
Cathpair Pond	1	1	-	Macbiehill Pond	-	1	br2
Cauldshiels Loch	-	1	-	Middlethird Pond	-	1	br3
Chapel Mains Pond	1	-	-	Millar's Moss	-	1	br1
Cherrytrees Pond	-	2	-	Mire Loch	-	1	br1
Clarilawhill Pond	1	-	-	Murton Farm Pool	1	-	-
Coldingham Loch	-	1	br2	North Esk Reservoir	-	1	br1
Cotfield Pond	-	2	br2	Ploughlands Pond	-	3	4br9
Cowieslinn Quarry Pond	-	1	br1	Primrosehill Pond	-	2	br3
Cruxfield Pond	-	1	br3	Ruddenleys Farm Ponds	-	1	-
Dowlaw Dam	-	-	br1	Snowdon Burn Lower Pond	-	1	br1
Dye Haugh Ponds	1	-	-	Snowdon Burn Upper Pond	1	1	br1
Earlyvale Sandpit Pond	-	1	br1	Spylaw Dam	1	1	br2
Easter Softlaw Pond	-	1	br4	Stantling Craig Reservoir	1	-	-
Elwartlaw Pond	-	2	br2	Steele Road Pond	-	1	-
Faldonside Loch	-	2	-	Synton Mossend	-	3	3br7
Folly Loch	-	1	2br3	Synton Pool	1	-	-
Gordon CW Pond	1	-	-	Tathieknowe Pond	-	1	-
Green Diamonds	-	1	-	Thirlstane Farm Pond	-	1	br2
Greenlawdean Pond	-	1	-	Wester Water Dam Pond	-	1	-
Hare Moss	-	1	-	Whim Pond	-	1	-
Hen Poo	-	1	br2	White Law Loch	-	3	3br5
Highchesters Pond	1	1	-	Wiltonburn Pond	-	3	-
Hirsell Lake	1	3	4br8	Wooden Loch	-	2	-
Hollybush Loch	-	2	3br8	Yetholm Loch	1	1	br2
Kelphope Burn Lower Pond	-	1	ON	Yetholm Marsh	-	1	br2
Ladies Seat Moss	1	1	-	64 sites	16	74	45br87
Lauder Burn Pond	-	1	-				

The additional effort of the Waterbodies Survey produced the highest-ever count of occupied sites, pairs, broods and numbers of young. This suggests that the local population is almost certainly higher than former estimates, and this will inform the population assessment made for the forthcoming SE Scotland Bird Atlas.

Summary of Little Grebe Breeding Success: 2000-2014

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sites	24	19	18	25	29	36	29	41	37	42	33	40	34	51	64
Singles	9	4	5	7	11	11	7	14	12	17	10	13	6	12	16
Pairs only	27	25	21	32	23	39	38	41	34	31	28	42	36	44	74
Broods	20	12	9	21	15	13	22	20	17	18	13	26	27	32	45
Young	39	18	19	52	28	24	48	40	23	35	21	47	60	60	87
MBS	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	1.93

Autumn/Winter: 1 on Tweed at Nether Horsburgh 21st Jul.

Sep-Oct post-breeding assemblies had maxima of 15 Ploughlands Pond 25th Aug; 22 Hirsell Lake 7th Sep and 23 Folly Loch 9th Oct. In October 11 Williestruther Loch 15th Oct and 9 birds at Folly Loch and Hirsell Lake were the largest counts.

During Nov the largest counts were 9 Wooden Loch & 7 Folly Loch 7th Nov; 7 Hirsell Lake 9th Nov while in Dec 6 Wooden Loch and 6 Hirsell Lake on 4th Dec were the highest totals.

Birds were seen on the rivers as follows: on the Tweed at Bellspool on 2nd Dec; 2 were at Peebles on 7th Dec with 1 on 19th Dec; 4 Tweed Haughs on 12th Oct with 11 on 9th Nov and 14 on 7th Dec; 5 at Upsettlington on 30th Dec; 1-2 at Paxton House throughout Nov-Dec; and 1 Eddleston Water at Cringletie 29th Oct & 11th Nov. 1 again on sea at Burnmouth 7th Nov & 4th Dec.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

Extremely scarce breeder, just 0-2 pairs annually. Usually poor success. Present mid-March to late August. A few passage birds September-October on coast. Rare in winter. During 2008-13 found in 15 tetrads in summer and 2 in winter. (14 records in 2014)

Spring: First report was 1 Alemoor Wester Loch on 2nd Mar (Bob Watterston).

Breeding:

1 Alemoor Wester Loch on 3rd & 23rd Apr and 8th May but no sign that it had a mate (Malcolm Henderson, Ray Murray). 1

Fruid Reservoir 6th May & 1st Jun and 2 there on 5th Jul, but no suggestion of a nest or young (Stuart Craig, Ray Murray).

Autumn:

1 on Hirsell Lake 2 on 6th Aug (Anthony Speybe); 1 Mire Loch 19th & 20th Sep (Fran Evans and Dave Graham); 1 Greenlaw Pool, Foulden 8th Nov (David Christie) and 1 Tweed at Paxton House 13th Nov (James Lough).



Great Crested Grebe - Mire Loch, Sep 2014 Dave Graham

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. (1 record in 2014)

Autumn/Winter: 1 Dunglass 22nd Feb (Dave Graham).



Black-necked Grebe - record shot Folly Loch, May 2014 Dave Graham

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly to coast. Has summered. (1 record in 2014)

1 Coldingham Bay 9th Nov (Dave Graham).

A poor year.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Bred in late 1990s and early 2000s, but very rare since. 1 record in 2014)

1 Folly Loch 10th May (Dave Graham). A bird visiting its birthplace of at least a decade ??

Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Uncommon 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. During 2008-13 found in 14 tetrads in summer and 17 in winter. (134 reports in 2014)

Non-breeding: Just 67 were reported on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan (163 in 2013, 216 in 2010).

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	6	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	6
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	44	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	0
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	6	Burnmouth-English border	5

Other counts of birds on the cliffs in winter suggest the Rocky Shore Count may not have reflected what can be there: 57 Lamberton & 80 Lamberton Beach 16th Jan (121 sitting); 65 Lamberton Beach (55 sitting) 17th Feb. Also 30 Eyemouth Bay 30th Jan, 12 Cove 2nd Feb (the same day as the Rocky Shore Count), with 30 thereon 3rd Mar.

Timed counts (1hr unless specified) : Eyemouth GC: 6 in 3hrs 20th May; 9 in 4.5hrs 17th Jun; 6 in 4hrs 11th Jul, 26 in 4hrs 19th Aug; 22 in 4hrs 20th Aug; 16 in 5hrs 16th Sep; 1 in 2.5hrs 5th Dec (James Lough) – also 12N/6S in 2 hrs 26th Aug; 17N/10S on 5th Sep; 2S on 19th Nov & 1S on 4th Dec. 5N/31S Lamberton Beach 8th Sep. 8N/2S St Abb's Head 25th Aug; 1N there 14th Oct.

Breeding: Birds occupying cliffs sites were noted as follows:

55 Lamberton & 80 Lamberton Beach 31st Mar; 20 Eyemouth 28th Apr; 50 St Abb's Head 24th May; 5 Green Stane 22nd Jun; 3 Dunglass 1st Jul.

Whole colony count - 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 11th, 12th and 14th June. It was not possible to carry out a count of blind spots from the sea, so an estimate was calculated using last year's figures.

Results - 114 AOS were counted, an increase of 20% on the 2013 count of 104 AOS. The third lowest count on record this represents 75% of the 10 year mean of 152 AOS, and just 45% of the 30 year mean of 253 AOS.

Breeding Success - Whilst we do not have the resources to carry out a full study of fulmar breeding success, a full cliff survey was carried out on the 24th and 25th August in an attempt to assess (from land) the number of young fulmars fledged from St Abb's Head NNR as a whole (as in 2012). The location of each chick was marked on a map and nest sites were photographed where possible.

Results - A total of 4 fulmar chicks reached fledging stage on the whole reserve, compared to 5 recorded in 2012.

Lisa Cole - St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2014

Fulmars at St Abb's Head NNR 2000-2014

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
AOS	274	212	256	262	153	158	190	112	137	194	175	205	133	104	114
MBP	0.10	0.20	0.28	0.32	-	-	0.03	0.02	0.07	0.18	-	-	-	-	-

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*

Rare autumn passage migrant. One previous reports. (1 record in 2014)

1N St Abb's Head 21st Sep (Dave Graham). Second record for Borders.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce autumn passage migrant, mostly mid-Aug to mid-Oct. (9 records in 2014)

2 Eyemouth GC 20th Aug (James Lough); 3 St Abb's Head 9th Sep (Jack Ibbotson); 42N there 21st Sep (Jack Ibbotson & Dave Graham); 3N/1S there 22nd Sep (Dave Graham); 8N there 14th Oct (Jack Ibbotson & Dave Graham).

A poor year with just a single 'big' day.

Sooty Shearwater - coastal passage 1998-2014

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number	623	829	50	51	252	37	282	25	6	295	32	21	105	59

Balearic Shearwater *Puffinus mauritanicus*

Rare, but possibly overlooked, autumn passage migrant. (1 record in 2014)

1N St Abb's Head 21st Sep (Dave Graham & Jack Ibbotson). Typical year.

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. (34 records in 2014)

First 12N/2S St Abb's Head 18th May (Fran Evans & Dave Graham); 2 there 19th Jun with 4 on 29th Jun.

139 reported on 8 days in Jul, all at St Abb's Head: with 25 on 9th Jul, 11 on 11th Jul; 30 on 21st Jul & 45N on 25th Jul

354 reported on 4 days in Aug: 63N St Abb's head 18th Aug with 218N there 19th Aug & 26 on 23rd Aug. Also 18 Eyemouth GC 19th Aug with 29N there 20th Aug.

155 on 9 days in Sep: 17S Eyemouth GC 5th Sep with 5 there 16th Sep. 12N St Abb's Head 11th Sep with 8N/5S there 21st Sep, 37N on 22nd Sep, 35N/4S on 23rd Sep & 28N on 28th Sep.

20 were seen on 4 days in Oct: with 10N/4S St Abb's Head on 14th Oct, the best count.

Also 1N St Abb's Head 13th Dec (Dave Graham).

Manx Shearwater coastal passage 2004-2014

Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number	704	1029	282	490	609	437	582	310	207	2342	689



Storm Petrel - St Abb's Head, Aug 2014 Dave Graham

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Very uncommon annual late summer and autumn passage migrant. Most pass offshore at night and rarely seen from shore. Only ringing has shown their constant presence. Extremely rare inland records, typically after severe storms but none recently. (7 records in 2014)

17 caught Eyemouth GC 22nd Jul with 8 there 25th Jul, 3 on 30th Jul, 23 on 1st Aug, and 28 on 6th Aug.

In this total there was only a single control and three birds had been ringed elsewhere (Alan Kerr).

Also 1 seen Eyemouth GC 23rd Jul (James Common) & 1N St Abb's Head 18th Aug (Dave Graham).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare late summer and autumn passage migrant. Not annual. Some historical inland reports after wrecks. (1 record in 2014)

1 mist-netted Eyemouth GC 6th Aug (Alan Kerr).

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. (163 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Just 4 birds were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 2nd Feb, all between Petticowick and Coldingham Bay.

Best early year counts were 80 Dunglass 23rd Mar; 5,050 in 2.5 hrs at Eyemouth GC on 28th Apr; 630 in 3 hrs there on 20th May and 1,750 in 4.5hrs on 17th Jun. 1,000 St Abb's Head 18th Jun. 530 in 4hrs Eyemouth GC 1st Jul with 1,760 in 4hrs there on 11th Jul, with 3,650 in 4hrs 20th Aug. Rate of 900/hr St Abb's Head 25th Aug with 1,100/hr there 8th Oct. 1,080 in 3hrs Eyemouth GC 31st Oct with 1,190 in 3hrs there 1st Nov. Best Dec count was just 2 in 2.5hrs at Eyemouth GC 5th Dec.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Scarce breeder at Fast Castle stacks - 30-50 pairs may nest annually. Widespread on coast but less common on rivers and large lochs, mostly September-April. During 2008-13 found in 5% of tetrads in summer and 12% in winter. (276 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 52 birds were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan.

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	1	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	9	Souter-Petticowick	19
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	5	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	2
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	9	Burnmouth-English border	7

No other significant counts from coast. Highest inland counts included: max 32 at Greenlaw Pool, Foulden on 18th Feb; 11 Tweed at Milne Graden 20th Jan; 10 Cauldshiels Loch 8th & 15th Feb; 8 Tweed at Paxton House 1st Feb; 7 Tweed at Sprouston 21st Jan; with 4-6 birds from the Tweed at Birgham, Milne Graden, Lennelhill, and Paxton House and Teviot at Broom and Teviot Haughs. 1-3 birds at Cauldshiels Loch, Clearburn Loch, Haining Loch, Newmains, North Esk Reservoir, Pickmaw Moss, Portmore Loch, Shaws, Stantling Craig Reservoir, Stobo Castle, West Water Reservoir, Wooden Loch and Yetholm Loch; and on the river at: Eddleston Water at Darnhall; Tweed at Nether Horsburgh, Tweedbank, Gattonside, Lees Haugh, Haigsfield, St Thomas' Island, Blount Island and Ladykirk House; and the Whiteadder at Edrington Castle.

A number of inland records, typically 1-2 birds, Apr-Jul from Hendersyde, Hirsell Lake, North Esk Reservoir, Paxton House, Sheilswood Loch, Sprouston & Tweedbank.

Breeding: Probable colony at Mawcar Stells, W of Petticowick – needs confirmation.

Dowlaw Costal Slope: 66 birds (inc imms) with 25 nests and min 8br18. The main colony has shifted to the east away from the traditional stacks at The Rooks.

Stack/Climf	Grid Ref	Ads	Imms	Nests empty	incubating	broods	young
The Rooks	NT847706	4	2	-	-	-	-
Green Stane	NT848707	6	2	-	-	-	-
Little Rooks	NT853709	30	17	25	6	11	8
Rock to Fast Castle		3	2	-	-	-	-
		43	23	25	6	11	8

Autumn/Winter:

20 Burnmouth, 18 Dunglass & 18 Eyemouth GC 5th Sep; 75 Pease Bay 1st Oct; 23 Eyemouth GC 8th Oct; and 11 St Abb's Head were the only 2-figure coastal counts Aug- Oct.

Inland reports in Aug-Oct included: 5 on Tweed at Lochton 1st Oct; 49 Greenlaw Pool, Foulden 22nd Oct; and 22 Tweed at Paxton House 24th Oct; with 1-3 birds at Edington Mains, Haining Loch, Hollybush Loch, Lees Haugh, Macbiehill Pond, Portmore Loch, Tweed at Rutherford, Stantling Craig Reservoir and West Water Reservoir.



During Nov-Dec 10 Pease Bay 4th Dec was the only double-figure counts from the coast. Inland records include: 11 Tweed Haughs 9th Nov; 4 Portmore Loch 23rd Nov; 27 Tweed at Paxton House 25th Nov; and 7 Yetholm Loch 23rd Dec. 1-3 birds were at Allanton, Birgham Haugh, Coldstream, Edington Mains, Watch Water Reservoir, Whitmuirhall Loch, Wooden Loch,

Cormorant

Little Rooks, Jun 2014

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. During 2008-13 found in 15 tetrads in summer and 17 in winter. (178 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 141 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan (140 in 2014, 125 in 2012, 135 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	11	Pease Bay-Redheugh	6
Redheugh-Souter	25	Souter-Petticowick	16
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	63	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	3
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	17	Burnmouth-English border	0

Few other significant counts with 25 Cove 3rd Mar the largest count submitted.

Breeding:

Whole Colony Count - A count of apparently occupied nests (AON) is a well built nest capable of holding eggs with at least one bird in attendance) was carried out on 26th, 27th and 31st May. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 31st May for all except section 8, where an inability to count Piper's Cave resulted in the count for this section having to be estimated using last year's figures..

Results - 107 AON were counted, an increase of 11% on the 2013 count of 94 AON. The second lowest count on record, this represents 77% of the 10 year mean of 139 AON, and 45% of the 30 year mean of 240 AON.

Breeding Success - An assessment of Shag breeding success was carried out using methods described in the 1990 report and following recommendations in the Seabird Monitoring Handbook.

Nests were individually mapped on monitoring plots and 18 visits were made to the 4 monitoring plots between the 12th April and 10th August to record the progress of each nest up to fledging.

Results - A total of 50 active nests were mapped on the plots and 97 chicks successfully fledged. The breeding success, expressed as the mean of the individual plot figures, was 1.99 young fledged per active nest. This is an increase of 201% on the 2013 figures of 0.99 chicks fledged per active nest, and is the highest figure on record representing 154% of the 10 year mean of 1.29 and 160% of the 25 year mean of 1.24 chicks fledged per active nest.

Lisa Cole - St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2014

Breeding Numbers & breeding success (MBP) at St Abb's Head NNR 2003-2014

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Mean
Nests	365	369	131	162	132	131	138	157	160	171	94	107	240
MBP	1.76	0.30	0.29	0.98	0.98	1.45	1.93	1.19	1.85	1.25	0.99	1.99	1.14

First young visible St Abb's Head 19th May.

65 on cliffs on Dowlaw Coastal Slope 22nd Jun with br2 The Rooks

Stack/Cliff	Grid Ref	Ads	Imms	Nests	empty	incubating	broods	young
The Rooks	NT847706	3	1	1	-	-	1	2
Green Stane	NT848707	13	1	9	-	4	5	11

Autumn/Winter: Counts of passing birds include: Eyemouth - 35 (4hrs) on 17th Jun, 26 (4hrs) 1st Jul, 48 (4hrs) 20th Aug, 40 (4hrs) 2nd Sep, 30 (5hrs) 16th Sep, 61 (4hrs) 8th Oct, 73 (4hrs) 31st Oct, and 11 (2.5hrs) 5th Dec. Also 16N/2S (1hr) St Abb's Head 25th Aug and 10N, 25 on sea and 3S Eyemouth GC (2hrs) 12th Nov.

Best Aug-Dec counts otherwise were: 88 Pease Bay 4th Dec with 70 there 5th Sep & 57 Dunglass 2nd Nov.

Bittern *Botaurus stellata*

A rare, mostly winter vagrant (1 record in 2014)

1 Hirsell Lake 1st Feb (Anthony Speybe).

Last reports Leahugh in Jan 2006, Hoselaw Loch in Mar 2009 and Swinewood Mill & Newmains in Feb 2010.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A rare but increasing vagrant to Borders. Records may peak in late summer as English colonies disperse. (13 records in 2014)

1 Birgham Haugh 9th & 18th Jan (W Meikle & John Strouger). 1 Tweed at Paxton House 20th, 25th, 28th & 31st Jan (James Lough, Dave Graham). 1 Tweed at Blount Island (Ray Murray). 1 Whiteadder at Edrington Castle 1st Mar (Ron McBeath). 1 Tweed at Wark (Andrew Bramhall). 1 Wooden Loch 2nd May (Neil Stratton). 1 Whiteadder at Bluestane Ford (Malcolm Hutcheson). 1 Tweed at Paxton House (Ron McBeath).

5th-16th records for Borders in the extraordinary spread of this species .

Great Egret *Egretta alba*

A rare visitor to Borders. 1 previous record. (2 records in 2014)

1 Hirsell Lake 8th Aug (Fran Evans & Janet Dean).

Previous records were 1 Tweed at Paxton May 1995 and Tweed at Walkburn Oct 2001.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Widespread and common. 350-380 pairs estimated in about 40 colonies, c.2000. Assemblies of >10 birds are unusual. During 2008-13 found in 36% of tetrads in summer and 40% in winter. (444 records in 139 tetrads in 2014)

Breeding: BTO Heronries Census – minimum of 11 nests at 4 colonies

Colony	Grid Ref	Nests	Success	Last count	Observer
Cringletie	NT2344	3	used nests	3 in 2013	RDM
Hirsel Lake	NT8240	2	used nests	new	RDM
Newtown St Boswells	NT5731	3	used nests	new	TC
Middlestots Marsh	NT8251	??	used nests	new	FE
Plora East	NT3636	3	used nests	3 in 2013	RDM

Heronry counts can now be entered on a new BTO website – please do your best to locate and count – remember sites can be looked at later in the season with hatched eggshells and nests counted to show the annual status.

Non-breeding: 3 were found on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan: singles Dunglass, Eyemouth-Burroughs and Burroughs-border. Jan-Mar: best counts were 12 at Tweedbank 4th Mar; 8 Tweed Haughs 19th Jan with 11 there 16th Feb & 9 on 16th Mar with 5-6 at 2 other sites.

Apr-Aug: 8 Hirsel Lake 10th Jul with 5-6 at 4 other sites.

Sep-Dec: 11 Tweed Haughs 7th Sep, 24 on 12th Oct, 10 on 9th Nov & 11 on 7th Dec; 12 Hirsel Lake 12th Sep; 8 Rink 16th Oct with 5-6 at 3 sites.

During Aug-Dec the largest counts were: 6 Tweed Haughs 22nd Sep with 6 there 11th Oct & 16 on 10th Nov & 8 on 15th Dec; 7 Lauder 24th Sep; 5 Hirsel Lake 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.

[Black Kite] *Milvus nigra*

No record from Borders.

1 was reported at Campdown on 21st May via Bird Track. *No description was forthcoming - so square-bracketed.*



Red Kite - Burroughs, Jul 2014 *Dave Graham*

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Annual in small numbers but increasing numbers since the 1990s. Ceased to breed during the mid-19th century due to persecution. The likely origins of recent birds will be the Galloway, Gateshead or Crieff introductions. (9 records in 2014).

1 Stow 21st Mar (Tim Chamberlain). 1 Blackhopebyre 14th & 21st May (Tom Dougall), perhaps same at Innerleithen 4th Jun (Diane Bennet). 1 Dye Water 25th Jun (LBRSG). 1 St Abb's Head 25th Jul (James Common) & 27th Jul (Dave Graham), perhaps one of the two heading S at Burroughs the same day (Fran Evans).

1 Dunglass 20th Dec (Dave Graham).

Numbers continue to tick over at between 5-10 records annually now.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Probably last bred in the mid-19th century. Just 1 records from the west coast reintroduction but numbers recently creeping up with E coast reintroduction. (1 record in 2014)

1 ad Garvald Lodge 2nd Jun (Jean Abbot).

Third consecutive year with reports of this species. Hopefully this trend will increase as the eastern Scottish reintroduction proceeds.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Increasingly and now annual passage migrant, usually April-May & August-September. May have summered in recent years. (9 records in 2014)

1f Newmains 25th Apr (Dave Graham); pr Bemersyde Moss 4th May (Mark & Alison Cockburn & B Overton) with 1f there 20th May (H Prentice). 1 Bemersyde Moss 3rd Aug. 1 Imm Newmains 1st Sep; 1 imm Bemersyde Moss 29th-30th Sep (Bill Elliot & Bob Anderson) 1 Stantling Craig Reservoir (Bob Watterston).

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Very rare breeding species due to persecution. Scarce passage migrant in Mar-Apr & Sep-Oct. A few have wintered of late. (13 records in 2014).

Winter/Spring: 1 Crookston 13th Feb was the only early-year record.

Breeding: In relative terms 2014 was a good year form Hen Harriers in Borders with 4 pairs succeeding in fledging young plus 4 pairs in the Borders part of then Langholm Project. A late sighting of a female and 2 juveniles on 20th July was particularly intriguing as it could have been a fifth Borders nest.

	Sites occupied	Prs/ff with nests	Nests that fledged young	Fledged young (min)	Year	Sites	Prs/ff with nests	Nests fledging young	Fledged young (min)
Pentland Hills	0	0	0	0	2008	2	1	1	4
Lammermuir Hills	0	0	0	0	2009	2	2	2	4
Moorfoot Hills	0	0	0	0	2010	2	2	2	6
Tweedsmuir Hills	4	17+	15+	11+	2011	2	2	2	8
SE Borders	0	0	0	0	2012	4	3	1	3
Langholm (in Borders)	4	20	14	14	2013	3	3	2	6
Total	8	37+	29+	25+	2014	8	8	7	25

Pentland Hills No sightings at all in 2014, the Hen Harrier has been 'eradicated' from the Pentlands.

Lammermuir Hills One ringtail was seen carrying prey in March, and a Montagu's Harrier caused excitement for two days in May, but huge areas of territory - used for grouse shooting - remain black holes for harriers.

Moorfoot Hills One ringtail was seen in April, and 2 in May, but as above, huge areas with good habitat - used for grouse shooting - are completely devoid of Hen Harriers.

Tweedsmuir Hills The most interesting year for some time in this area with a new site discovered late in the season whilst searching for Merlins. The nest was not found and it took 3 visits and c.15 hours to finally confirm that at least one chick had fledged.

We could only records 1+ at another 'northern' site as only one was seen flying at the time but there was every chance that most of the five chicks had fledged. Helen Riley and I split the watch at a more southerly site after a male had been seen associating with two ringtails in the early season. Two nests were found and timings of nest visits, flight directions of the male, and other observations such as a females hunting with small chicks in the nest suggest than one a single male was involved. This is the first instance of polygyny in our area to my knowledge.

The difference between the development of the 'alpha' and 'beta' chicks was very striking although eventually all four chicks fledged from the 'beta' nest I doubt that the latter would have survived if it had not been a good vole year. Much time was spent following up two sightings in the upper Tweed valley which resulted in a 'new' nest being found in Dumfries & Galloway which we were not aware of.

South-East It is pleasing to report that three nests succeeded on the Borders side of Langholm, with 6,5, and 3 young fledged. Two eggs were laid at a 4th nest, started in late June, but it was deserted and/or eggs were predated by corvids during laying. Given that - in the absence of persecution - there were 12 Hen Harrier nests, of which 10 fledged young on just this one estate, the complete lack of sightings in the rest of the SE area (and tiny numbers in Lothians & Borders generally) is a damning indictment of those with responsibility for moorland in the group's area.

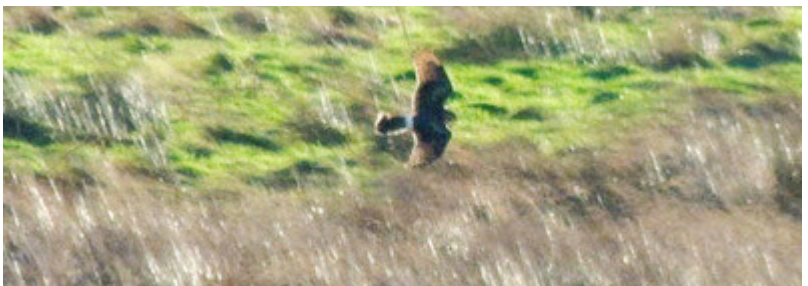
Roosts Monitoring of Hen Harrier roosts was very limited in 2013-14 and only one roost-site appeared to be active. There remains a real possibility of an undiscovered roost in the Borders. Monitoring of Harrier roosts was very limited in 2013-2014, and only 1 roost site appeared to be active. There remains a real possibility of an undiscovered roost in the Borders. I would like to thank Helen Riley, Tom Edwards, and Tony Marshall in particular; but all contributions of information are highly valued.

Hen Harrier LIFE+ Project This project, starting in 2015 will pull together all strands of existing RSPB work on Hen Harriers, north and south of the Border. The Focus is on 7 SPA's, but not exclusively. It will combine practical on-the-ground protection, with covert investigations work, satellite tagging, ecological monitoring, science, policy, advocacy, and community engagement.

Andrew Sandeman, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2014.

Autumn-winter: 1-2 attending roost in Nov-Dec, seem in neighbouring area.

A very poor showing of casual records shows the poor state of the local population, despite the 2014 success.



Hen Harrier
Dowlaw
Nov 2014
Dave Graham

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Extremely rare vagrant. Some old records. (1 record in 2014)

1m seen Lammermuir Hills 4th May (Raptor Study Group & Dave Graham).

First report since 1989, when a single in May at Dowlaw.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Very scarce and local resident, probably 40-50prs present. Some dispersal in August-September. Absent in some areas due to persecution. During 2008-13 found in 8% of tetrads in summer and 4% in winter. (16 records in 2014).

14 casual reports in 2014 (13 last year), but mostly from the vicinity of known breeding areas.

Just two sighting of 3 birds displaying, from Thornylee Car Park on 28th March with a pair on 19th Apr

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

Breeding:

This year several sites which have not been occupied for some time were not checked. We have got to the stage where we cannot waste time checking these sites regularly each year. In future years they will get the occasional check to see if birds have moved back into them.

After such a mild winter prospects for the coming 2014 nesting season looked good. As usual, all the nesting sites which had been productive in the past were showing signs of occupancy. So there were no reasons for thinking that we were not in for a good season. Spring weather was good and early summer weather allowed us to get off to a good start.

A total of 48 nest sites were checked this year, roughly the same as last year. Of these 36 were found to be occupied, again much the same as last year. However, as the season progressed, we were finding that some of these sites were subsequently deserted. During later checks it was obvious things were not going well. We had 20 nest failures. There were 4 failures last year. These failures appeared to have occurred throughout the season, some before eggs were laid, some during egg stage and some when chicks were on the nest.

It was not possible to say when exactly these failures occurred or the reason for such a high number of failures. I expect that the usual persecution would account for some of them, but not all. Similar failures were being found on Forestry Commission land where there is no persecution.

One obvious factor this year was the prolonged dry and hot weather and I think that this may have been a contributory factor.

It was noticeable that nests where there was less shade from the overhead tree canopy were more likely to failure than those which had a denser overhead canopy.

Coverage in the raptor group area was very good on Forestry Commission land and also in the private woodland in the central Borders. However coverage in the Lothians and Berwickshire areas was poor. We have regular sightings of Goshawk in these areas and there are potential nesting woods where Goshawk could already be nesting. We had two nests where we were unable to ring the chicks. The chicks were 'jumpers'. All the other chicks were rung and fitted with Darvics. This is the third year we have fitted Darvics. Hopefully we should now be getting to the stage where we get some returns from this effort.

My thanks go to all who have provided records, particularly the Forestry Commission who have put a lot of hard work into monitoring nest sites on their land.

Malcolm Henderson, Goshawk coordinator for Lothian & Borders, 2014 Raptor Study Group Report.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Home ranges checked	56	57	53	57	59	59	50	54	56	61	46	48
Occupied territories	40	40	41	39	40	36	38	39	41	41	35	36
Territory occupied, nest found	28	28	28	25	31	25	24	28	32	31	22	26
Young fledged	-	-	-	49	65	50	52	47	64	44	45	34
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	0.94
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	2.13

The apparent stagnation of Goshawk numbers over the years reflects more 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.

During 2008-13 found in 27% of tetrads in summer and 30% in winter. (192 records from 100 tetrads in 2014)

Submitted records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
No. of records:	24	20	9	15	8	6	8	10	15	30	31	17
No. of birds:	24	20	9	16	8	6	8	12	15	30	33	17

The end of atlasing has meant a 30-40% drop in reports. However the late year totals are much higher than 2013 suggesting either good breeding locally or a considerable passage through the area.

There were no casual reports of nests or young in 2014.

No monitoring occurred in Borders in 2014, 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 2.3 fledgling per successful nest (3.6 in 2014) was a drop from the record in 2013

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Common resident breeding species. Minimum 1,000 pairs, perhaps twice that. Most records Feb-Apr & Sep. During 2008-13 found in 86% of tetrads in summer and 86% in winter. (808 records in 254 tetrads during 2014)
Submitted records:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
No. of records:	70	95	86	179	77	77	87	39	52	52	54	39
No. of birds:	112	163	151	100	120	54	129	69	79	88	83	68

6-8 birds seen at Elba, Ernsclough, Folly Loch & Stewart during Jan-Mar, with between 6-8 birds at Houndwood, Clints Hill, Hartside, Tweedbank, Toddleburn and Black Barony during Apr-Jul. After the breeding season up to the end of the year the best counts were 7-8 birds at Black Barony & Darnhall-Harcus.

Breeding: Nests reported North Esk Reservoir and Dunglass.

2014 data showed a slight increase in productivity on the 2013 season, although it is based on a reduced data set from 74 sites. Unfortunately some missed out on confirming fledging, which is a reflection of the limited number of fieldworkers who are already working on other species.

74 of the 142 sites were checked: 61 were occupied by pairs and 13 by single birds. Eggs were laid (and hatched) at a minimum of 48 sites. At least 92 young fledged from 37 successful pairs. Productivity of 1.24 young per site down from 1.48 in 2013 but 2.8 territorial per pair is again up from 2.02 in 2013.

The records from Tim Chamberlain gave us a welcome increase in coverage from recent years.

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

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sites checked	45	51	50	35	54	64	61	74
Occupied by pairs	43	50	49	35	46	61	58	74
Min Sites laid	38	48	45	31	41	55	55	48
Min young fledged	82+	90+	74+	63+	88+	89+	83+	92+
Production young/territorial pair	1.90	1.8	1.5	1.80	1.91	1.46	1.48	1.24
Production young/successful pair	2.15	2.19	1.85	2.25	2.25	2.17	2.02	2.48



Buzzard Black Barony, Apr 2014

[Rough-legged Buzzard] *Buteo lagopus*

Rare autumn/winter vagrant.

A BirdGuides record for 4th & 7th May had no supporting evidence.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chysaetos*

Rare breeder (<2 pairs) with a handful of reports of wandering immatures annually. (1 record in 2014)

1 seen Loch of the Lowes in Dec (David Parkinson) was the only record submitted.

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

Breeding: High expectations for the 2014 breeding season began with 4 year old Roxy building up an old nest site but soon ended in yet another blank breeding season with no chicks fledging. Having the satellite tag fitted ensures no disturbance to the bird from RSG workers monitoring the site but on 21st April it was clear that the site had failed on eggs when Roxy was found to be roosting 22 km away from the nest site and on the 24th April 9 km away at separate locations. Old nest sites continue to be used regularly for plucking prey items as well as roosting and moulted feathers and pellets can often be found. 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.

At 5 years old and with two failed breeding attempts behind her we are optimistic for the 2015 season to fledge chicks from this location. Prey availability in the territory is high and with a lack of competition from other eagles, disturbance around the nest location is the only concern. There continues to be a lack of immature/sub adult birds visiting the vacant home ranges. Sightings

of 'other' eagles continue and can be matched with satellite records linked to Roxy to determine if they are potentially different birds but also bearing in mind that the male is not fitted with a satellite tag. With an expanding territory of approximately 700km² the birds are ranging slightly further every year due to lack of competition with other birds. Once again the range was reduced to less than 20 km² during the attempted breeding season. It is essential that the site remains undisturbed during the spring time to ensure the best possible chance of a successful outcome in 2015 and cameras will be placed to monitor any disturbance near the site. Movements of the bird named 'Roxy' can be viewed on the Highland Foundation for Wildlife web site. Thanks to all those who have passed on sightings of any juvenile/sub adult birds.

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. (35 records in 2014)

First singles reported Innerleithen 27th Mar (Heinz Geigerich). 1 Toddleburn Wind Farm 5th May, 1 Hirsell Loch 11th May but most other spring reports were mostly from near nest locations.

In autumn records from Watch Water Reservoir, Hule Moss, Hen Poo, Lindean Reservoir with last singles Bemersyde Moss and Westfield 17th Sep (Andrew Panter a& 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.

Main Camera Nest Site: After a relatively mild spring both birds arrived back at the nest site in March, the first bird seen being the male on 28th Mar. This is the eleventh consecutive year the pair have occupied this site. The male is now 15 years old and was rung at Aberfoyle in 1999 with the white darvic ring SS. This pair have been very productive and another clutch of three eggs were laid. After an incubation of 37-38 days, two chicks were hatched on 29th May with the third chick on 1st June. The chicks hatched seven days later than in 2013. During a wet period just after hatching with the female being constantly being fed by the male, disaster struck when the female left the nest and never returned. The male was fishing and consequently all of the chicks died.

There were also a few sites where birds moved from well-established nest sites for unknown reasons, possibly disturbance, but not proven. With the prospects of a good summer, expectations were high for a successful breeding season. In the end it resulted in a few failures and low fledging success. Overall productivity of 12 fledged young in 2014 was well below expectations. The average number of chicks fledging from the project area over the past five years period is now 15.6/annum and competition for nest sites has become a problem. We have therefore built six new platforms to try and take pressure away from established sites. Some are in new locations in the Pentlands to try and establish a breeding presence north of the current locations. It is ideal habitat with a great numbers of waterbodies holding fish.

Double shelled egg Whilst ringing chicks an unusual discovery was that of an unhatched egg which was part of a clutch of three and in the same nest site as the satellite tagged bird FK8. The chick had partially broken through the double shell but failed to hatch probably through exhaustion from trying to break through the two shells.

Tony Lightley, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Occupied sites	6	4	5	6	8	8	9	16	13	13	14	16
Breeding attempts	2	4	5	6	8	8	9	10	10	11	12	10
Successful sites	2	3	5	5	3	8	9	9	8	7	9	8
Young fledged	6	8	10	10	7	18	22	18	20	16	12	12
Average brood size	3.0	2.7	2.0	2.0	2.33	2.25	2.44	1.80	2.00	1.45	1.00	1.20
Mean productivity/attempt	3.0	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.15	2.25	2.44	2.00	2.50	2.29	2.00	2.00



Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce & secretive resident of basin mires. May moved away in winter. Surveys suggest larger hidden population. Scarce passage migrant April & September-November. During 2008-13 found in 4% of tetrads in summer and 1% in winter. (76 records in 2014).

Winter/Spring: 1 Hen Poo 5th Feb; 1 Bemersyde Moss 15th Feb; 4 Hirsell Lake 3rd Mar; 1 Whitmuirhall Loch 16th Mar; and 5 Stewarton Pond 30th Mar.

Breeding: Recorded 32 sites with 107 territories, with 75 pairs and 32 singles. (not including Bemersyde and Cardrona). Water Rails respond readily to tape-lured, pairs will often duet in response to recordings. The Waterbodies Survey meant a better than usual coverage in 2014.

Water Rail - Bemersyde Moss, Oct 2014

Alton Loch: 2 prs and a single 23rd Apr.
 Bemersyde Moss: no systematic survey but 1-2 seen/heard from hide on 9 occasions Apr-Aug.
 Bishop's Bog: a pair and a single 6th May.
 Blackpool Moss: a pair and a single 9th Jul.
 Borthwickshiels Loch: a pair 23rd Jul.
 Cardrona Sewage Reedbed: 1 on 2nd Apr, none on 7th Jul, perhaps just a late wintering bird.
 Cavers Little Moss: pr 23rd Apr.
 Chapelhill Moss: 3prps and a single 16th Jun.
 Clovenfords Moss: pr and a single 18th Apr.
 Easter Housebyres Moss: 4prps and a single 5th Aug.
 Essenside Loch: 3prps and a single 23rd Jul.
 Green Diamonds: pr on 2nd Jul.
 Groundstone Moss: 11prps & 2 singles 21st Jul.
 Groundstone Pond: 2prps on 21st Jul.
 Harden Moss: 4prps and 2 singles 23rd Jul
 Hare Moss: pr on 21st Jul.
 Hawick Moss: 2prps 23rd Apr; pr and a single 14th May.

Ladies Seat Moss: pr on 16th Jun.
 Long Moss: pr on 23rd Apr.
 Middlestots Marsh: prs and 2 singles 10th Jul.
 Murder Moss: pr and 3 singles 2nd Jul.
 Nether Whitlaw Moss: 2prps & 6 singles.
 Pot Loch: 2prps and 2 singles 5th May with a single 23rd Jun.
 Sheilswood Moss: pr and a single 23rd Jul.
 St Leonard's Moss: 9prps and 2 singles 8th May.
 Stewarton Pond: 2prps and a single 30th Mar with a single on 18th Jun.
 Synton Mossend: 2prps on 2nd Jul.
 Tofts Hill Pond: a pair 23rd Apr.
 Whim Pond: 2 singles 14th Apr.
 Whitmuirhall Loch: L 7prps and 2 singles 5th May.
 Whitrig Pond: 2prps and a single 1st Aug.
 Wiltonburn Pond: 3prps and a single 21st Jul.
 Whinnington Moss: pr on 8th May.
 Yetholm Loch pr on 4th Apr.

Autumn/Winter: First migrant Mire Loch on 19th Sep with singles on 6th & 30th Oct, 8th, 22nd & 28th Nov. 3 Bemersyde Moss 14th Sep with single there 17th Sep. 1 Folly Loch 28th Nov when 1 Hawick Moss. 1 Hirsell Lake 7th Nov. 5 Pot Loch, a pair and 3 singles 28th Nov. 2 Yetholm Loch 22nd Oct with singles there 28th Oct, 14th, 15th & 30th Dec.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Extremely rare passage migrant. Lost as a breeding species in 1960s. Now rare migrant. (1 record in 2014)
 1 Newmains 16th Aug (Dave Graham).

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Common resident of waterside habitats. Groups of >10 birds occur in hard weather at favoured sites. During 2008-13 found in 20% of tetrads in summer and 18% in winter. (611 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Recorded from 45 tetrads Jan-Mar. Mostly 1-3 birds but 11 Tweedbank 1st Jan; 8 Newmains 2nd Jan; 5 Wooden Loch 19th Jan & 15th Feb; 7 Pot Loch 19th Feb; 9 Hen Poo 11th Mar; 5 Tweed Haughs on 16th Mar; and 6 Bemersyde Moss 27th Mar.

Breeding: Found in 107 tetrads Apr-Sep at 132 sites: singles at 44 sites, with 54 pairs that were not proved to breed at 38 sites with another 63 pairs at another 52 sites that were seen with 72 broods with 164 young, an MBS of 2.28. The first nest was seen at Howden Pond on 28th Apr, the first young at Billiemains Pond on 11th May and Kirklandhill Pond on 28th May. The Waterbodies Survey raised the numbers reported considerably.

Singles were seen in suitable habitat at 44 sites: Attonburn, Borthwick Pond, Bowdamp Moor Pond, Cannibank Covert Pond, Cavers Little Moss, Chapel Mains Pond, Clints Hill Pools, Easter Housebyres Upper Pond, Edrom Pond, Eildonhall Pond, Faughill Moss, Gordon CW Pond, Greenlawdean Pond, Harehope House S Ponds, Hassendean Farm Pond, Hawick Moss, Highchesters Moss, Holefield Pond, Hollybush N Pond, Hule Moss, Huntly Moss, Kailzie Pond, Ladies Seat Moss, Ladyrig Mill Pond, Linton Bog, Loch Rickie, Lowood Pond, Lumsdaine Farm Pond, Marlefield Pond, Nether Brotherstone Pond, North Esk Reservoir, Ruddenleys Low Pond, Rumbletonlaw Pond, Selkirk Race Course Moss, Steele Road, Tathieknowe Lower Ponds, Tathieknowe Pond, The Glen Loch, Watch Water Reservoir and Whitrig Pond and also the Tweed at Galwaterfoot, Homebank & Paxton House and the Teviot at Roxburgh Hotel.

54 presumed pairs at 38 sites, with no further evidence of breeding: Alton Loch (2), Alton Moss (2), Ashkirkton Pond, Borthwickshiels Loch, Cathpair Loch (2), Cauldshiels Loch, Caverton Hillhead, Chapelhill Moss (2), Essenside Loch (2), Fawlaws, Flass Ponds (2), Green Diamonds, Groundstone Moss, Haining Loch (2), Heriot Pond, Kelphope Burn Lower Pond, Lauder Burn Pond, Lindean Reservoir, Long Moss, Middlestots Marsh (3), Mire Loch, Moshill Loch, Muirhouse Pond, Nettleingflat Pond (2), Pot Loch (2), Scott Park Pond, Smailholm Tower Pond, St Leonard's Moss, Stichfield Eastfield Pools, Thirlstane Farm Pond (2), Torwoodlee House Pond, Westfield Pools, Whitmuirhall Loch (3) and Williestruther Loch (2), with riverine pairs at the Bowmont at Yetholm Haugh, Teviot at Roxburgh, Tweed at Sprouston (2) and Whiteadder at Edrington Castle.



Moorhen - Pot Loch, Aug 2014

Evidence of confirmed breeding was obtained from the following 52 sites.

Site	pairs	brood	Site	pairs	brood
Addiston Pond	1	br1	Lilliesleaf Moss Pool	1	br1
Bemersyde Moss	3	2br5	Lindean Mast Pool	1	2br3
Billiemains Pond	1	br3	Loch Pots	1	br3
Bowdenmoor Farm Pond	1	br1	Lumsdaine Farm pond	1	br3
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	1	br1	Loch Rickie, Lumsdaine	1	br1
Commonburn Pond	1	br4	Macbiehill Pond	1	2br2
Cotfield Pond	1	br2	Middlethird Pond	1	br1
Cruxfield Pond	1	2br4	Millar's Moss	1	br4
Duns Mill Pond	2	2br7	Primrosehill Pond	1	br1
Dye Haugh Ponds	1	br1	Redheugh Farm Pond	1	br2
Easter Housebyres Moss	1	br2	Rink Pond	1	2br4
Faldonside Loch	1	br2	Sheilswood Loch	1	br2
Folly Loch	1	2br6	Smailholm Tower Pond	1	br2
Gala Sewage Works Pond	1	2br6	Stantling Craig Reservoir	1	br3
Garvald Pond	1	br1	Synton Mossend	2	2br4
Garvald Junction Pond	1	br1	Tweed, Innerleithen	1	br3
Gunknowe Loch	1	2br5	Tweed, Union Bridge	1	br4
Harehope House N Pond	1	br6	Tweed, West Ord	1	br1
Harcus Pond	1	br2	West Water Dam Pond	1	2br6
Hareross	2	br3	White Law Loch	1	br2
Hartree House Pond	1	br1	Wooden Loch	3	4br14
Hen Poo	3	4br7	Yetholm Loch	2	2br4
Hirsel Lake	2	3br10	Yetholm Marsh	1	2br4
Hollybush Loch	1	2br5	Nests		
Hollybush S Pond	1	br1	Falahill Pond	1	ON
Hundleshope Cross Ponds	1	br2	Howden Pond	1	ON
Kirklandhill Pond	1	br1	52 sites	63prs	72br164

Autumn/Winter: High counts in Sep-Oct include: 21 Wooden Loch & 14 Hen Poo 22nd Oct; 11 Hirsel Lake on 1st Oct & Millar's Moss 12th Oct; 7 Tweed Haughs 12th Oct; with 5-6 birds at Cruxfield Pond, Hollybush Loch, Mire Loch, Ploughlands Pond and Yetholm Loch; with 3-4 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Faldonside Loch, Gala Sewage Works Pond, Gunknowe Loch, Haining Loch, Macbiehill Pond, Rink Pond, West Water Dam Pond & Whitmuirhall Loch.

During Nov-Dec were found in 42 tetrads. Best counts were: 24 Wooden Loch 7th Nov; 17 Hirsel Lake 9th Nov; 11 Hen Poo 11th Dec, 8 Pot Loch 28th Nov; 8 Yetholm Loch 3rd Dec; 6 Haining Loch & 5 Tweed Haughs on 9th Nov and 3-4 birds at Ale Moor Wester Loch, Bemersyde Moss, Faldonside Loch, Folly Loch, Hartree Hotel Pond, Ploughlands Pond and on the Tweed at Upsettlington & Paxton House.

Summary of Moorhen Breeding Success 2001-2014

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sites	34	65	77	99	64	55	87	104	93	60	73	70	74	132
Pairs	43	54	52	69	58	38	83	94	71	50	67	43	61	127
Broods	733	24	44	35	27	26	47	43	42	17	39	34+	33	72
Young	66	44	75	73	58	56	95	81	93	43	60	62	64	164
MBS	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	2.28

Coot *Fulica atra*

Uncommon resident of still waters and more rarely slow-moving river margins. Some flocking in winter, peak counts December. During 2008-13 found in 7% of tetrads in summer and 5% in winter. (482 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Found in 21 tetrads Jan-Mar.

In Jan max 46 Hirsel Lake 30th Jan; 10 Whitmuirhall Loch 19th Jan; also 5-9 birds also at Gunknowe Loch, Millar's Moss, Yetholm Loch & Yetholm Marsh.

In Feb 45 Hirsel Lake 14th Feb; 16 Whitmuirhall Loch 16th Feb; 10 Hollybush Loch 19th Feb; also 5-9 birds at Ale Moor Wester Loch, Bowdenmoor Reservoir & Yetholm Marsh.

In Mar there were 33 at Hirsel lake on 2nd Mar; 15 Hen Poo 24th Mar; 10 Mire Loch 15th Mar & 10 Whitmuirhall Loch 16th Mar; with 5-9 birds also at Bemersyde Moss, Dowlaw Dam, Mire Loch, Ploughlands Pond, Synton Mossend & Yetholm Loch.

Breeding: Birds at found at 40 tetrads Mar-Aug. Only single birds were seen at 6 sites: Addiston Pond, Hollybush N Pond, Ladies Seat Moss, Ladykirk Farm Pond, Loch Rickie and Morebattle Hill Pond. 16 pairs, with no further

indication of breeding success were seen at 10 sites: Bemersyde Moss (3), Cathpair Loch, Cotfield Pond (2), Highchesters Moss (2), Lilliesleaf Moss Pool, Lindean Reservoir, Pickmaw Moss, Wooden Loch, Whitmuirhall Loch (2) and Wiltonburn Pond (3).

57 pairs bred at 23 sites, two proceeding to the nest stage while another site hatched chicks which later were lost. 20 sites with 54 pairs managed 38 broods with 114 young, an MBS of 3.0.

Site	pairs	broods	Site	pairs	broods
Alemoor Wester Loch	3	2br6	Hoselaw Loch	1	br1
Coldingham Loch	1	br1	Lindean Mast Pool	1	br6
Cruxfield Pond	1	br2	Millar's Moss	8	2br6
Dowlaw Dam	2	br5	Mire Loch	1	3br11
Faldonside Loch	1	br1	Ploughlands Pond	3	2br5
Folly Loch	3	br1	Primrosehill Pond	1	br4
Greenlaw Pool	1	ON	Spottiswoode Burn Pond	1	br5
Groundstone Moss	1	br1	Synton Mossend	3	3br8
Gunknowe Loch	2	br4 (died)	Thirlstane Burn Pond	1	ON
Hen Poo	4	5br11	Yetholm Loch	2	br5
Hirsel Lake	8	6br22	Yetholm Marsh	4	3br7
Hollybush Loch	4	2br6	23 sites	57 pairs	38br114

Summary of Coot Breeding Success in Borders - 2001-2014														
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sites	26	27	26	44	44	28	48	32	40	24	41	43	39	39
Pairs	119	70	86	92	82	75	75	58	62	43	74	77	72	73
Broods	18	16	16	20	20	22	17	19	20	19	39	30	23	38
Young	44	31	29	50	48	50	39	43	61	36	110	80	69	114
MBS	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	3.00

The first nest was seen at Greenlaw Pool on 3rd May; the first young were seen at Mire Loch on 25th Apr and at Alemoor Wester Loch and Hen Poo on 16th Jun.

Maximum autumn/winter counts in Borders - 1998-2013													
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
201	94	80	32	42	27	22	31	31	22	37	122	25	26

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

In Sep-Oct the largest counts were 26 Hirsel Lake 31st Oct; 22 Millar's Moss 28th Sep; 16 Mire Loch 20th Sep; 15 Hollybush Loch 7th Sep; 13 Hen Poo 11th Oct; 10 Folly Loch 7th Sep; with 5-9 birds also at Haining Loch, Ploughlands Pond & Wooden Loch.

During Nov-Dec the largest counts were 22 Hen Poo 9th Nov & 7th Dec; 19 Hirsel Lake 6th Dec; 15 Millar's Moss 9th Nov; 10 Mire Loch 28th Dec; with 5-9 birds at Alemoor Wester Loch, Folly Loch, Haining Loch, Hollybush Loch, Whitmuirhall Loch & Wooden Loch.

Crane *Grus grus*

Rare spring and autumn vagrant. (1 record in 2014).

1 Dowlaw 17th May (Dave Graham) with 4 birds, ut only probables) NW high over Manderston on 29th Jun (Andrew Bramhall).



Crane - Dowlaw May 2014 Dave Graham

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Common summer visitor. Arrival mid-Feb, mostly gone by July. A few birds on coast through the year.

During 2008-13 found in 54% of tetrads in summer and 15% in winter. (542 records in 158 tetrads during 2014)

Winter/Spring: 253 birds were counted during the Rocky Shore Count on the Berwickshire coast on 3rd Feb (204 in 2014, 217 in 2012).

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	43	Pease Bay-Redheugh	60
Redheugh-Souter	10	Souter-Petticowick	12
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	16	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	49
Eyemouth-Burroughs	39	Burroughs-English border	24

Other coastal counts include: 30 Lamberton Beach 16th Jan; 35 Eyemouth Bay 4th Feb; 60 Fancove Head on 12th Feb; 33 Dunglass 16th Feb; 21 Burnmouth 26th Feb; 23 Eyemouth Bay 10th Apr with 25 there 29th Apr.

Inland records in Jan: 1 Teviot at Denholm 17th Jan with 16 Tweed at Sprouston & 1 Gala Sewage Works on 21st Jan; 1 BGH 25th Jan; 3 Teviot at Nisbet 26th Jan; 4 Tweed at Sprouston 29th Jan; 4 Tweed at Fireburnmill & 4 Birgham Haugh 31st Jan.

Small numbers (<10) at 12 sites during early Feb with 33 Birgham Haugh 2nd Feb; 10 St Mary's Loch 8th Feb; 12 Denholm 12th Feb.

20 inland sites late Feb with 71 Tweed Haughs, 36 Nisbet and 16 Innerleithen on 16th-17th Feb; 27 Stantling Craig Reservoir 18th Feb; 20 St Thomas Island 22nd Feb; 18 Glenrath 21st Feb.

40 Edrington Castle & 33 Kalemouth 1st Mar; 110 Birgham Haugh 2nd Mar; 79 Stantling Craig Reservoir on 6th Mar; 53 Innerleithen 9th Mar; 83 Tweed Haughs, 33 Teviot Haughs and 27 Stantling Craig Reservoir on 16th Mar. Smaller flocks thereafter other than the 75 Stantling Craig Reservoir 5th Apr and 28 Langhaugh Haughs 12th Apr.

Breeding: Reported Apr-Jul from 114 tetrads (195 in 2013, 199 in 2012). Breeding season apparently delayed. 4 pairs Cowieslinn Quarry and Lees Haugh; and 3 pairs Blount Island, Dewar BBS, Garvald, Glenrath, Graden, Hendersyde, Mailingsland, Stantling Craig Reservoir, and West Water Reservoir.

The first apparently incubating birds were at Tathieknowe Lower Ponds on 10th Apr; the first young were seen at Ladyside with br3 on 30th Apr; br3 Cowieslinn Quarry on 11th Jun and Megget Reservoir on 25th Jun.

Usual roof-nesting pair at Winkston railway shed, while 'Whitey' was back for the 6th year at The Ley.



Oystercatcher - Cardrona, on nest on flowerbed in middle of the roundabout, Apr 2014

Autumn/Winter: The only apparent post-breeding flocks were 20 at Sprouston on 8th Jun; 14 Glenrath 28th Jun; 24 Cowieslinn 15th Jul; 104 Watch Water Reservoir & 32 Earlyvale 20th Jul;

Inland reports after Jul: 1 West Water Reservoir 6th Aug; 1 Watch Water Reservoir 8th Aug; 4 Rutherford on 9th Aug; with latest 1 Watch Water Reservoir 5th Sep.

On coast: 17 Dunglass & 17 Burnmouth 8th Aug; with 43 Burnmouth & 17 Dunglass 5th Sep; 27 Dunglass on 5th Oct; 19 Eyemouth 7th Oct; 40 Fancove Head 2nd Nov; 31 Eyemouth GC 12th Nov; 35 Burnmouth 19th Nov, with 10 there & 12 Dunglass 4th Dec.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Rare summer visitor and breeder. (6 records in 2014)

3 Tweed Haughs 16th Apr (Ray Murray) with single there 25th Apr & 3rd May. (Bill Meikle) However the local ghillie reported a pair nested but failed due to flood by 3rd May (per Bill Meikle). Pair there had br2 on 10th Jul, so the re-lay was successful (Ray Murray). Pair some 3kms downstream 19th Jul (Dave Graham).

Appear to be 2-3 pairs this summer with at least one pair successful.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Rare breeder on river shingles, upland lochs and coast. Uncommon passage migrant to coasts.

During 2008-13 found in 15 tetrads in summer and 4 in winter. (13 records in 2014)

Coast: 1 Dunglass 2nd Mar (Dave Graham) was the only coastal record until 4N Eyemouth GC on 17th Jun (James Lough and 2S St Abb's Head 17th Sep (Dave Graham).

Inland: 3 Birgham Haugh 7th Mar with 2 there 25th Apr and 1 there 26th Apr, 3rd May and 10th Jul (Bill Meikle). 2 West Water Reservoir 28th Apr with 4 there 24th Jun (Ray Murray). 1 Teviot at Broom 30th Apr (Malcolm Henderson); 7 Hule Moss 7th May (James Lough).

Sadly this species seems to be vying with Little Ringed Plover with being the rarest of the pair.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Scarce visitor to high ground March-July. Formerly possibly 400-500prs. Uncommon on lower ground January-April & August-December. During 2008-13 found in 9% of tetrads in summer and 9% in winter. (73 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Just 2 Jan records: 180 Lauder Common 9th Jan with 1 Southey Hill 25th Jan.

1 Newmains 3rd Feb; 60 Tod's Dean 5th Feb; 30 Pikeslaw Hill 7th Feb; 74 New Smailholm & 30 Folly Loch 11th Feb with 31 Gavinton 17th Feb. Next 1 Gairmuir 2nd Mar with 8 White Knowe 5th Apr and 6 Hule Moss 6th Apr signal a return to potential breeding areas.

Passing migrants include 40 Boonraw & 25 Ploughlands on 7th Apr; 200 Hartgarth 8th Apr; 150 Ladyrig Mill Pond 9th Apr. 330 Westruther Moor 10th Apr with 21 Clerkenville 11th Apr, 70 Horsupcleugh on 15th Apr & 28 Angelrow 17th Apr, the last double-figure count.

Breeding: Just a few summer reports from breeding areas, with no confirmed breeding:

	Singles	Pairs	Nests/broods		Singles	Pairs	Nests/broods
Birks Cairn	-	1	-				
Blackhouse Heights	-	1	-	Ladyside	1	-	-
Bleak Law BBS	-	1	-	Pykestone Hill	1	-	-
Drumelzier	1	2	-	Skelhill Fell	1	-	-
Middle Hill	1	1	-	Watch Water Reservoir	-	2	-

Autumn/Winter: 1 early bird Angelrow 8th Aug. First 27 Lauder Common; 1 still on Ettrick Pen 17th Sep when 40 Sandyknowe; 230 Lauder Common 25th Sep; 60 Lambden 27th Sep; 150 Lauder Common & 3 Rutherford 3rd Oct with 100 over White Knowe 8th Oct. Obvious influx 11-19th Oct with 600 Grahamslaw/Whitehillfoot, 130SE Broad Law, 110 Angelrow, 55 Eccles Tofts, 34 Ladyrig and 15 Spylaw. 155 Pittleshaugh on 24th Oct; 240 Lauder Common & 50 Folly Loch 3rd Nov; 60 Black Law on 4th Nov; 40 Thorlieshope & 24 Gattonside on 5th Nov; 300 Whitrig 9th Nov; 300 Sandyknowe 30th Nov. In early Dec 150 Whitrig, 145 Dykegatehead, 140 Black Law, 100 New Smailholm, 74 Angelrow & 38 Lempitlaw were the best counts.

In late Dec just two reports: 46 Angelrow 26th Dec & 400 Sandyknowe 30th Dec.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

A very uncommon autumn passage migrant in coastal areas. (1 record in 2014)

2 Pease Bay 1st Feb (Dave Graham).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Common but declining breeding species. Many arrive mid February-March, leaving in July with most departing by October. Small numbers overwinter. During 2008-13 found in 39% of tetrads in summer and 17% in winter. (357 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 24 Jan records: 100 Crailing 5th Jan; 100 Brundeanlaws & 26 Stantling Craig Reservoir 14th Jan; 30 Whitrig 16th Jan; 30 26 Hundleshope Ponds 19th Jan ; 30 Teviot at Sprouston 21st Jan; 39 Hundleshope on 25th Jan; 20 Nisbet 26th Jan; and 40 Westfield 30th Jan with 1-19 birds at 6 other sites.

135 Choicelee & 120 Dunglass 1st Feb; 120 Hallrule 6th Feb; 120 Folly Loch 11th Feb; 148 Teviot Haugh & 139 Birgham 16th Feb; 2,000 Kettelshiel & 200 Middle Third 17th Feb; 140 Newmains 19th Feb 550 Redden 20th Feb. More widespread in late Feb with three-figure counts: 140 Bamflatt, 261 Black Yett, 136 Hundleshope, 350 Middle Third, 140 Newmains & 140 Spittal. Numbers fall away in early Mar as birds disperse to territories with best counts of just 88 Black Yett 1st Mar; 50 Teviot Haugh 2nd Mar; 80 Newmains 6th Mar; 80 Whitrig

8th Mar; with parties of 20-49 birds at Birgham Haugh, East Loch, Hundleshope & Yetholm Loch. The largest late Mar counts were 44 Stantling Craig Reservoir 16th Mar, 30 Hundleshope on 21st Mar and 30 at Cleugh on 23rd Mar. 40 Blackhope 10th Apr was the only Apr counts > 25 birds.

Breeding: Pairs and territories at - confirmed breeding sites underlined

Blackhope Ponds	5	East Loch BBS	9	Newmains	4
Bruntaburn	3	Folly Loch	5	Spittalhaugh BBS	7
Carcant Windfarm	3	Garvald	3	Stantling Craig Reservoir	10
Cowieslinn Quarry	4	Hule Moss	4	Swinside	4
Dewar BBS	7	Hundleshope	11	<u>Tathieknowe Lower Ponds</u>	4
Earlyvale	3	<u>Mailingsland</u>	10	Whinnington Moss	3

Autumn/Winter: First post-breeding flocks were 27 Todrig 14th Jun; 48 Blackcleugh Loch 16th Jun; 90 Westloch 23rd Jun; 120 Upper Whitfield & 10 Watch Water Reservoir 24th Jun; 25 Sprouston 8th Jul. In later Jul, flocks of > 20 birds at: Cowieslinn (20), Earlyvale (36), Halliburton (70), Ruddenleys (48), Stantling Craig (20) & Watch Water (40).

In Aug high counts include: 160 Watch Water Reservoir 14th Aug; 230 Rutherford 18th Aug; 70 Nether Falla 23rd Aug; 300 Westfield 28th Aug with parties of 20-60 birds at Elwartlaw, Rawburn, Whitfield, West Water Reservoir & Yetholm Loch. Very few Sep counts: 230 Leadburn CW on 3rd Sep; 250 Tweed Haughs 7th Sep and 90 Elwartlaw 13th Sep being the best counts.

Numbers picked up into Oct with: 440 Westfield 4th Oct; 280 Easter Place 6th Oct; 250 Folly Loch 10th Oct; 200 Whitrig 12th Oct; and 120 Wester Deans 15th Oct.

6 sites had 3-figure counts in Nov: 160 Folly Loch on 7th Nov; 300 Whitrig 9th Nov, with 200 on 24th Nov. 230 Rachelfield 12th Nov, with 150 there 30th Nov; 200 Sandyknowe 19th Nov, with 150 there on 30th Nov; 200 Greenlaw 19th Nov; 400 Westfield 30th Nov. 240 Newmains 1st Dec; 250 Whitrig & 150 Bemersyde on 7th Dec; 200 Lauder 24th Dec; and 160 Ruberslaw 26th Dec.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very uncommon autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, almost wholly to coastal areas. (2 records in 2014)

7S St Abb's Head 11th Sep with 7N there 21st Sep. (Dave Graham).

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

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

During 2008-13 found in 10 tetrads in winter. (18 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Only 3 birds were found on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan with 3 on the Petticowick-Coldingham Bay section (34 in 2009, 37 in 2010, 42 in 2011, 33 in 2012, 2 in 2013). 2 St Abb's Head 2nd Jan with 3 Dunglass 5th Jan. 2 Burnmouth 26th Jan with 3 there 8th Feb. 4 Dunglass 8th Feb with 10 there 1st Mar, 1 on 2nd Mar, 2 on 12th Apr.

Autumn/Winter: 3 Eyemouth 29th Aug; 4 Burnmouth 12th Oct; 2 Dunglass 18th Oct. 4 Burnmouth 19th Nov with 2 there 30th Nov, 5 on 4th Dec & 2 on 20th Dec when 5 Dunglass.

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. During 2008-13 found in 15 tetrads in summer and 4 in winter. (12 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: None were seen on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan. 6 Dunglass 5th Jan with 5 there 8th Feb, 2 in 15th Feb, 12 on 16th Feb & 1 on 1st Mar.



Dunlin - West Water Reservoir, Jun 2014

Breeding: 2 prs West Water Reservoir 24th Jun with 1 there 6th Aug. 1 Fruid Reservoir 5th Jul were the only records from known breeding sites.

Autumn/Winter: 3N St Abb's Head 18th Aug with 10N on 22nd Sep. 5 Eyemouth GC 8th Oct and 2 Dunglass 20th Dec.

12 records in 2014 is a return to a more 'normal' year.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Very uncommon passage migrant . (21 records in 2014)

Autumn/Winter: 1 Newmains 20th Jul (Dave Graham). Then a remarkable run of records from Greenlaw Pool, Foulden with 19 on 28th Aug, 16 on 4th Sep, 13 on 5th Sep, then 5-9 birds on 8 dates 6th-23rd Sep, 3 on 24th Sep before 1-2 birds on 4 dates to 2nd Oct (mainly David Christie). 2 Rachelfield 30th Nov (David Parkinson & Martin Moncrieff).



Ruff - Newmains, Jul 2014 David Graham

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtes minimus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Much overlooked. During 2008-13 found in 15 tetrads in winter. (11 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 2 Newmains 3rd Jan with 1 there on 30th Mar, 1st & 26th Apr

Autumn/Winter: 1 Newmains 4th Oct with 2 there 10th-11th Oct; 1 St Abb's Head 11th Oct; 1 Newmains 11th & 20th Oct with 2 there 25th Oct; 1 there 27th & 29th Oct with 2 on 1st Nov & 1 on 7th Nov (Dave Graham).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Local breeding species, mostly in hilly areas. Scarce in winter but sometimes an abundant autumn passage migrant. Slight spring passage. During 2008-13 found in 26% of tetrads in summer and 19% in winter. (144 records in 2014).

Winter/Spring: Found 12 tetrads during Jan-Feb with 4 Newmains 2nd Jan; 7 Wilyrigg Strips 7th Jan; 8 Malcolm's Moss 17th Jan; 9 Muirhouselaw 11th Feb; 8 Newmains 23rd Feb and 1-2 birds reported Carlops, Drone Moss, Edgerston, Langholm Moor, Skelfhill Pen, White Law Loch & Whitton Loch.

In Mar/early Apr: 41 Whim Pond 1st Mar; 16 Newmains 20th Mar with 38 there 1st Apr and 10 Patti's Bog on 27th Mar; with 1-2 birds Alemill, Charlesfield, Spital Tower and Stewarton Pond.

Breeding: Recorded 36 tetrads mid-Mar-Aug (69 in 2013, 57 in 2012). The cessation of Atlas sees a drop in numbers reported. 89 presumed territories (from flushed, chipping and drumming birds) were reported at 41 sites:

Blackhope Ponds	3	Hule Moss	5	Selkirk Race Course Moss	2
Blythe Farm Pool	4	Marlefield	2	Smailholm Tower Pond	2
Cauldshiels Moor	6	Minch Moor	2	Stewarton Pond	2
Crystal Forest	3	Murder Moss	6	Tiense Moss	5
Dewar BBS	3	Patti's Bog	4	Watch Water Reservoir	6
East Loch BBS	2	Scoured Rig	2	West Water Reservoir	3

With single territories presumed at 23 sites: Black Yett, Blackhopebyre, Blackpool Moss, Blinkbonny Marsh, Byreclough, Clearburn Loch, Cogsmill, Cowieslinn Burn Ponds, Earlside, Essenside Loch, Foulshields, Hundleshope Cross Ponds, Kirkhope Cottage, Kirkton Manor Marsh, Peat Law, Ruddenleys Low Pond, Shankend, Spital Tower, Tathieknowe Ponds, Tower Burn Marsh, Wether Law, Winfield Farm Pond & Winnington Moss.

Autumn/Winter: 3 Stantling Craig Reservoir 1st Aug; 7 Easter Housebyres Moss 5th Aug. The 24 Newmains 24th Sep with 3 Mackside 25th Sep; 8 Bemersyde Moss 1st Oct. 32 Newmains on 4th Oct, 2 West Water Reservoir 6th Oct; 43 Bemersyde Moss 7th Oct; 4 Stantling Craig Reservoir on 12th Oct; 62 Bemersyde Moss on 14th Oct; 4 Falla 18th Oct; 5 Bogbank 23rd Oct; 72 Newmains 27th & 29th Oct.

19 Nov records: 24 Malcolm's Moss 2nd Nov with 18 there 16th Nov; 5 Chesters Grange 2nd Nov; 18 Newmains 7th Nov; 3 Hule Moss 18th Nov; 20 Bemersyde Moss & 12 Westshiels 30th Nov with 1-2 birds at 9 other sites. Just 6 Dec records: 28 Harelaw Pond 3rd Dec; 2 Millar's Moss 6th Dec; 1 Westshiels 7th Dec; 1 Yetholm Loch 14th Dec; 3 Black Law 16th Dec and last 4 Newmains 24th Dec.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Scarce breeding species. Roding display March-July. Occasionally strong late autumn passage. Variable numbers winter, including immigrants from northern Europe. During 2008-13 found in 6% of tetrads in summer and 29% in winter. (66 records in 2014)

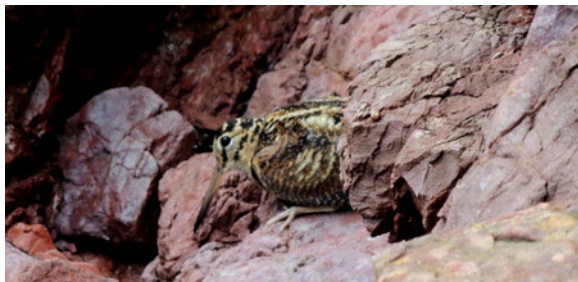
Winter/Spring: Recorded from just 20 tetrads Jan-Feb (55 in 2014, 28 in 2012).

Highest counts were: 3 Craillinghall 7th Jan; 3 Roughlee 11th Jan; 2 Wildcat Gate 30th Feb; 3 Wilyrigg Strips 1st Feb; 6 Newmains 3rd Feb; 2 Charterhall Wood 9th Feb & 2 Paddy Slacks 14th Feb; with single birds reported from 50 other sites Ayton, Billhope, Brownrig, Edgerston Tofts, Gattonside Moss, Hawknest, Hen Poo, Lamberton, Lennelhill, Linthill, Milne Graden, No Man's Land Covert, Ruecastle, Sunnyside and Venchen.

6 Morriston Strip 1st Mar; 3 Alemill 7th Mar; 3 Blackadder House 8th Mar.

Breeding: 18 birds in 14 sites (35 at 27 in 2014, 37 at 21 in 2013) (roding sites underlined).

Alemill	3	Gordon CW	1	Torwoodlee	1
Charterhall Wood	1	Hen Poo	1	Twiselhope	1
Cloich Forest	1	<u>Kyleshill Plantation</u>	2	Williamlee	1
Clovenfords	1	Middle Burn, Cloich	1	Winybrae Plantation	1
Gavinton	1	<u>Spottiswoode</u>	2		



Autumn/Winter: No Aug-Sep records.

1 Soonhope 20th Oct; 1 Paxton House on 22nd Oct & 1 St Abb's Head on 30th Oct.

11 Nov records: 1 St Abb's Head 8th Nov; and 1 Birkenside 8th Oct; 4 at Green Stane, 2 Linkim Shore & 1 Lamberton Beach on 9th Nov, 1 Lanton Moor; Shank Covert on 3rd Dec; 2 Hummelknowes 6th Dec; singles Swinnie Plantation 13th Dec & Ruecastle 16th Dec; 3 Broom 21st Dec with singles Crailing Dean & Samieston 27th Dec.

Woodcock - newly-arrived bird sheltering on Linkim Shore, Oct 2015 *Dave Graham*

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Uncommon autumn passage migrant. (2 records in 2014)

9 Greenlaw Pond, Foulden 1st May (Fran Evans & Dave Graham).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Uncommon autumn/winter passage migrant. (1 record in 2014)

1 Eyemouth Bay 2nd Feb (Dave Graham).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Very uncommon spring and uncommon autumn passage migrant, mostly to coastal areas. Wintering exceptional. (11 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 3 Dunglass 12th Apr (John Palfrey); 1 Burnmouth 27th Apr (David Graham); 1 St Abb's Head 11th May (Dave Graham) with another 1 there 24th May (Jack Ibbotson).

Autumn/Winter: 1 Eyemouth GC 11th Jul (James Lough); 1 Dunglass 20th Jul (John Palfrey); 1 Eyemouth on 25th Jul & 28th Aug (Fran Evans & Barry Prater); 2 Pease Bay 5th Sep (Ray Murray); 2 Eyemouth 14th Sep (Dave Graham); 1 Burnmouth 29th Sep (Fran Evans).

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Common but declining breeding species. Scarce in winter. Inland only from early March-June/July. Uncommon passage migrant in coastal areas. During 2008-13 found in 51% of tetrads in summer and 4% in winter. (312 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 109 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan (74 in 2013, 65 in 2012, 279 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	31	Pease Bay-Redheugh	44
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	1	Coldingham Bay - Eyemouth	2
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	2	Burnmouth-English border	29

52 Linkim Shore on 2nd Jan; 30 Burnmouth 12th Jan; 33 Millar's Moss 19th Jan; 50 Lamberton on 30th Jan; 107 Burnmouth 6th Feb with 57 St Abb's Head 7th Feb. 40 Lamberton Beach on 17th Feb; 24 Cockburnspath 10th Mar; 60 St Abb's Head 15th Mar with 50 there 24th Mar, the last high coastal count of the winter.

The first inland records: 1 Fairliehope 19th Feb, 1 Huntford 22nd Feb and 18 Whitrig on 27th Feb. 9 Glenrath, 5 Leadburn CW & 1 Edrington Castle on 1st Mar with 17 Whitrig 3rd Mar. 35 Whitrig, 27 Hallmanor 14 Tower Burn Marsh & 9 Hallmanor 5th-10th Mar; 95 Hallmanor 11th Mar. Late Mar had peaks of 42 Tower Burn and 41 Hallmanor 21st-24th Mar but otherwise 8 Blackhopebyre was the best count.

Breeding: Found in 70 tetrads Apr-Jul. Presumed pairs were noted at:

c.13prs Dewar BBS; 7 pairs at Blackhope Ponds & East Loch BBS; 6 pairs West Water Reservoir; 5 pairs Medwynhead; 4 pairs at Blackhopebyre; 3 pairs at Clints Hill, East Loch S BBS, Garvald, Hule Moss & Watch Water Reservoir. There were numerous counts of 1-2 pairs.

Autumn/Winter. The latest inland birds were 2 Stantling Craig Reservoir 29th Jul; 1 East Loch 31st Jul; 3 Upper Whitfield 6th Aug; 5 Watch Water Reservoir 14th Aug. 1 Stantling Craig Reservoir 12th Oct. 1 Broomdykes on 7th Nov.

Coastal passage: 12 St Abb's Head 22nd Jun; 27 Newmains 24th Jun; 21 Dunglass 10th Jul; 15 Cove 13th Jul; 56 Haud Yards 25th Aug. 27 Burnmouth 5th Sep; 20 St Abb's Head 20th Sep; 28 Dunglass 5th Oct; 31 Burnmouth 16th Oct; 25 Lamberton Beach 9th Nov; 30 Harly Darlies 16th Dec. 16 Lamberton 29th Dec.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Now a scarce breeding species. A few winter along the lower Tweed and coast. Some spring and autumn coastal passage. During 2008-13 found in 9% of tetrads in summer and 3% in winter. (120 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 52 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan (91 in 2013, 67 in 2012, 78 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	7	Pease Bay-Redheugh	6
Redheugh-Souter	2	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	10	Coldingham Bay - Eyemouth	4
Eymouth-Burnmouth	14	Burnmouth-English border	9

Other coastal counts include: 30 Burnmouth 26th Jan; 11 Dunglass 16th Feb; 29 Burnmouth 3rd Mar with 31 there 27th Mar with 10 there 13th Apr.

2 Whiteadder at Edrington Castle 4th Jan; 5 Tweed at Paxton House 8th Jan; 1 Birgham Haugh 18th Jan; 7 Paxton House on 1st Feb; 2 Birgham Haugh on 2nd Feb; 3 Tweed at Blount Island 14th Feb; 2 Tweed Haughs 16th Feb;

1 Crailing Tofts 17th Feb. Early Mar records from Blackhopebyre, Edrington Castle, Stantling Craig Reservoir, Tweed Haughs & Whitrig.

Breeding:

22 presumed territories/pairs at 17 sites noted in suitable breeding habitat. 3 Hule Moss; 2 Cannybank Coverts, Tathieknowe Lower Ponds & West Water Reservoir; with singles at 13 other sites: Broad Law Ponds, Fruid Reservoir, Hallyards, Hundleshope Cross Ponds, Milton, Monksford, Redden, Ruddenleys, Runningburn, Stantling Craig Reservoir, Todrig, Tweed at Innerleithen and Watch Water Reservoir.



Redshank - Burnmouth, Oct 2014

Autumn/Winter: Last in breeding habitat were 2 Watch Water Reservoir on 23rd Jul. Inland passage: 2 Tweed Haughs 7th Sep; 7 over Chesters 14th Sep; 4 Whiteadder at Edrington Castle 23rd Oct. 1 Paxton House 20th Oct & 17th Dec.

As usual Burnmouth is the most reliable site for wintering Redshank with 14 on 8th Aug, 58 on 5th Sep, 54 on 8th Oct, 52 on 26th Oct; 21 on 16th Nov with 25 on 30th Nov & 20th Dec. Poor counts elsewhere: max 5 Eyemouth 2nd Sep; 9 Dunglass 5th Oct.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Very scarce spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn migrant. (14 records in 2014)

Spring: 2 Birgham Haugh 3rd Apr (Bill Meikle); 1 Tweed at Paxton 18th Apr (David Christie); 1 Greenlaw Pool & Tweedbank 21st Apr (David Christie & Andrew Bramhall). 1 St Abb's Head 29th May (Dave Graham).

Autumn: 1 Watch Water Reservoir 18th & 20th Jul and 5th Aug (James Lough & Dave Graham). 1 Rutherford & 1 Eyemouth on 9th Aug (D Farr & Fran Evans); 1 Bemersyde Moss 15th Aug (James Lough); 1 Eyemouth GC 2nd Sep (James Lough); 2 Sprouston 21st Sep (Tony Reed).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon, mostly autumn passage migrant and very rare winter visitor. (7 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 1 wintered along the Teviot at Nisbet from 2103, seen 26th Jan (and Crailing Tofts 17th Feb (Malcolm Henderson). Also 1 on Tweed at Horndean 14th Feb (Ray Murray).

Autumn: 1 Faldonside Loch 9th Jul (Ray Murray); 1 St Abb's Head 19th Jul (Alan Kerr); 1 Millar's Moss on 28th Sep (Fran Evans).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Uncommon, mostly autumn, passage migrant. (1 record in 2014)

1 Watch Water Reservoir 14th Aug (James Lough).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Common summer visitor along rivers. Very rare in winter, mostly early April to late August.

During 2008-13 found in 25% of tetrads in summer. (82 records in 2014)

Spring: First 1 Teviot at Heiton 11th Apr (Neil Stratton). 1 Tweedbank 16th Apr; 2 Williamlee and singles Watch Water Reservoir & Innerleithen 18th Apr. More common towards the end of Apr.

Breeding: Found in 42 tetrads Apr-Jul (76 in 2013).

7 pairs West Water Reservoir; 5 prs Tweed at Sprouston/Carham; 3 pairs E end of Fruid Reservoir & Watch Water Reservoir; 2 pairs Talla Reservoir & Tweed at Hendersyde and Lees and Ettrick at Selkirk; with single birds/territories at 33 other sites. c. 59 presumed territories. Young were seen at Talla Reservoir on 1st Jun, Megget Reservoir on 25th Jun and the Tweed at Hendersyde on 17th Jul.

Autumn: Birds remained longer than in 2013 with 9 Aug-Sep reports: 6 Tweed at Rutherford, 2 West Water Reservoir & Lamberton Beach, and singles St Mary's Loch & Watch Water Reservoir 3rd-9th Aug. Another Watch Water Reservoir 24th Aug, then 1 over Clerkerville 12th Sep; and last 3 Tweed at Sprouston & 1 Bluestane Ford 21st Sep (Tony Reed & Malcolm Hutchenson).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Uncommon coastal winter visitor, August-May. Rare on passage to inland areas.

During 2008-13 found in 4 tetrads in summer and 8 in winter. (28 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 60 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan (47 in 2013, 41 in 2012).

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	0	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	26	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	34
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	1	Burnmouth-English border	0

Burnmouth remains the easiest and most reliable location for Turnstone with 2 on 10th Jan, 9 on 26th Jan, 11 on 3rd Mar, max 20 on 27th Mar; 1 Dunglass 2nd Jan with 12 there 5th Jan & 16 on 16th Feb.

Elsewhere: 24 Linkim Shore & 2 St Abb's Head 2nd Jan; 1 Eyemouth Bay 3rd Feb. Last 7 Burnmouth 13th Apr (Fran Evans).

Autumn/Winter: First 1 at Burnmouth on 8th Aug (Fran Evans) with 10 there on 5th Sep, 8 on 8th Sep, & 21 on 1st Oct. 2 Dunglass 5th Oct with 23 Burnmouth 8th Oct. 1 St Abb's Head 9th Oct.

5 Dunglass 18th Oct with records only from Dunglass to end of the year: 21 on 26th Oct, max 33 on 19th Nov, 20 on 30th Nov, 18 on 4th Dec and 12 on 12th Dec.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Extremely scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. (1 record n 2014)

1 Dunglass 15th Jan (Dave Graham).



Grey Phalarope -
Dunglass, Jan 2014
Dave Graham

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Uncommon autumn passage migrant between Jul & Nov. No inland records. (12 records in 2014).

1S St Abb's Head 23rd Jul (Fran Evans). Next 1N there 21st Sep with 10N on 23rd Sep & 1N on 28th Sep (Dave Graham). 1S Eyemouth GC 8th Oct (Ray Murray); 1S St Abb's Head 14th & 26th Oct (Dave Graham, Ray Murray). 4N Eyemouth GC 6th Nov with 1 Dunglass 22nd Nov & 4N St Abb's Head 13th Dec (Dave Graham).
The best year since 2007 for numbers, although fewer reports.

Pomarine Skua - bird/days off Berwickshire coast 2004-2014

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
16	31	27	28	8	16	19	19	11	27	29

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Scarce on passage April-June, common July-November. Rare in winter. A few inland records. (24 records in 2014)

Autumn: First 1N Eyemouth GC 8th Aug (Ray Murray) was comparatively late.

7 reported on 4 days in Aug with 3 Eyemouth GC on 20th Aug & 2N St Abb's Head 23rd Aug.

35 reported on 11 days in Sep with 13N on 23rd Sep; 4N/2S Eyemouth GC on 14th Sep & 4N St Abb's Head 21st Sep.

24 reported on 4 days in Oct with 16N/3S St Abb's Head 14th Oct.

4 reported on 3 days in Nov: 2N Eyemouth GC 6th Nov, 1 on 7th Nov with latest 1 on 12th Nov (Ray Murray).

Arctic Skuas - bird/days off the Berwickshire coast 2004-2014

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
217	129	35	152	42	59	61	59	129	159	70

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A very scarce passage migrant, mostly August-October. Just a single inland record. A very scarce passage migrant, mostly August-October. Just a single inland record. (1 record in 2014)

1N Eyemouth GC 6th Nov (Dave Graham).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Passage migrant, scarce April-June, common July-November. Almost annual. Rare in winter and very rare inland. (23 records in 2014)

Autumn: 1N Eyemouth GC 17th Jun (James Lough) with singles St Abb's Head 22nd & 29th Jun.

5 birds in 4 days in Jul: 2N on 25th Jul with singles 21st, 23rd & 26th Jul.

10 birds on 2 days in Aug: 5N St Abb's Head 18th Aug with 3N there 19th Aug when also 2N Eyemouth GC.

22 birds on 7 days in Sep: 5N/5S St Abb's Head 21st Sep with 4N there 28th Sep.

46 birds on 3 days in Oct with 34N/2S St Abb's Head 14th Oct with last 4 there 15th Oct (Dave Graham).

Great Skua - bird/days off the Berwickshire coast 2002-2014

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
179	101	38	136	62	60	74	99	524	213	86

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

A rare but increasing passage migrant. (3 record in 2014)

1 ad Newmains 13th Mar and 1st-w Dunglass 2nd-3rd Nov (Dave Graham).

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Very scarce passage migrant to coast, mostly between August and October. A few old inland reports. (13 records in 2014)

Winter: An unusual winter report: 2 Dunglass 5th Jan (Dave Graham).

Autumn: 2N and 7 on sea St Abb's Head 23rd Aug; 2N/17S Eyemouth GC 8th Oct; 5 Dunglass on 12th Oct; 15S St Abb's Head 14th Oct; 15S Eyemouth GC 16th Oct; 9 Dunglass 18th Oct; 8S St Abb's Head on 26th Oct; 6N Eyemouth GC 6th Nov; 5 Dunglass 8th Nov ; and last 10S Eyemouth GC 12th Nov (Dave Graham & Ray Murray). *102 in a year is a good annual count.*

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

Rare passage migrant to coast, mostly autumn (2 record in 2014).

Autumn: 1 juv N St Abb's Head 11th Sep with another there 13th Oct (Dave Graham & Jack Ibbotson).

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Formerly a common breeder but numbers fallen greatly in recent years. Widespread in winter with several roosts. During 2008-13 found in 35% of tetrads in summer and 19% in winter. (469 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 243 were counted on the 23rd Jan Rocky Shore Count (245 in 2013, 44 in 2012, 194 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan

Dunglass - Pease Bay	7	Pease Bay-Redheugh	25
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	26	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	135
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	25	Burnmouth-English border	15

Few other large counts in Jan with three 3-figure counts: 150 Hirsell Lake 13th Jan, 200 Tweed Haughs 19th Jan and 160 Yetholm Loch on 21st Jan with counts of 50-99 birds at Linkim Shore & Hule Moss. In Feb there were 120 Linkim Shore 2nd Feb, 110 Hen Poo on 14th Feb, 245 Dunglass on 16th Feb, 240 Black Yett on 25th Feb and 50-99 birds at Tweedbank and Tweed Haughs. There was just a single large count in Mar as birds dispersed for breeding: 165 Tweed Haughs 16th Mar with 50-99 birds Hule Moss, Pickmaw Loch & Tweedbank.

Breeding: Breeding perhaps attempted at 13 sites but little apparent success

Abbotrule	new pond with 200 birds, (c.130prs) on 3 islands 9th May.
Bemersyde Moss	largest count of just 20 birds suggests not even any attempt this year.
Folly Loch	br3 there 15th Jul hints at a nest.
Highesters Moss	c.30 nests 16th Jun.
Hundleshope Cross Ponds	at least 8 prs 9th May but 20 prs with 15 juvs 28th Aug
Megget Reservoir	min 45prs on nests 5th Jul, min 7 juvs
North Esk Reservoir	up to 10 birds loafing on islands but no further hint of breeding
Pickmaw Moss	c25prs in Mar but no hint later in season
Ruletownhead Pond	colony of 30 nests failed, local informant thinks mink responsible.
Synton Mossend	4-5prs but at least 4 nests remarkably located high up in old spruce trees.
Tathieknowe Pond	c.40 birds flying over in Apr but no further evidence of nesting
Tathieknowe Lower Ponds	c.3-4prs earlier but 1 nest on 28th May.
West Water Reservoir	c.60prs in Apr but abandoned by mid-May as high water levels flooded the islands

Autumn/Winter: Largest Aug-Sep count was just 60 on Tweed Haughs. Oct was scarcely better with Hule Moss roost only attaining a max of 270 there 25th Oct with 150 Eyemouth GC on 8th Oct the only other 3-figure count. Numbers picked up in Nov with max 1,250 Hule Moss roost on 23rd Nov but elsewhere just 140 Dunglass on 2nd Nov, 800 Broomdykes 7th Nov and 120 Greenlaw Pool 12th Nov. The best Dec counts were only 70 Yetholm Loch 4th Dec and 45 Greenlaw Pool on the same date.

Many larger counts of this species are surely being missed.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Very scarce & local breeder on hill lochs. Abundant passage migrant with several large roosts. Common and widespread in winter. During 2008-13 found in 15% of tetrads in summer and 28% in winter. (271 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 94 were counted on the 23rd Jan Rocky Shore Count, 48 between Souter & Petticowick.

Counts fairly poor once more during the late winter. Max Jan counts just 300 Woodhouse, Manor on 4th Jan, 310 Eddleston 9th Jan, 200 Hundleshope 15th Jan & 550 Hule Moss 19th Jan. 114 on Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan. All three-figure Feb counts were confined to Peeblesshire with 190 West Water Reservoir 15th Feb; 450 Broughton Brewery 18th Feb; 700 Woodhouse 22nd Feb, 400 Bamflatt 24th Feb & 300 Hattontknowe on 27th Feb. IN Mar: 260 Greenlaw Pool 3rd Mar, 600 South Flat, Manor 11th Mar, 137 Black Barony 22nd Mar & 250 Cleugh 23rd Mar. 150 Clints Hill 5th Apr was the only later large count. *With no roost count at West Water Reservoir, the real size of numbers present in Peeblesshire in spring remains obscure.*

Breeding: Up to 8 birds in Apr North Esk Reservoir but no hint of reports later. Max 12 birds at West Water Reservoir in Apr, some 4prs on 9th May & 2-3 used nests and br2 there 24th Jun. 83prs Megget Reservoir with 20 apparently still incubating and min 10 juvs 5th Jul. Pr Fruid Reservoir 1st Jun were probably breeding.



Common Gull chicks - West Water Reservoir, Jun 2014

Autumn/Winter: Roost counts - 750 West Water Reservoir 15th Sep with 1,100 there on 27th Sep, and 6th Oct, 2,100 on 11th Oct, 5,350 on 18th Oct, 7,360 on 25th Oct, 5,920 on 31st Oct, 4,900 there on 9th Nov, max 9,200 on 16th Nov. 70 Hule Moss 28th Sep, 950 there 29th Sep, 1,850 there on 6th Oct, 1,700 on 12th Oct, 750 on 2nd Nov, 950 on 23rd Nov and last 55 on 8th Dec.

Elsewhere: 100 South Mains on 6th Oct; 250 Hundleshope Cross Ponds 11th Nov; 150 Manor Schoolhouse on 20th Nov; 550 Leadburn CW 21st Nov; 180 Yetholm Loch 3rd Dec; 650 Pease Bay 4th Dec.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Extremely scarce coastal breeder, not annual, perhaps just 2-3 pairs. Non-widespread inland in summer. Few in winter, mostly March-October. During 2008-13 found in 35% of tetrads in summer and 5% in winter. (280 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 1 Teviot at Selkirk 12th Jan (Douglas Methven); 4 Tweed Haughs 19th Jan; 1 Newmains 24th & 28th Jan. 1-2 birds on 6 dates in Feb at Gunknowe Loch, Hattonknowe, Hundleshope, Teviot at Roxburgh & Tweed Haughs.

28 Mar records, mainly <10 birds, but max 23 Manor Schoolhouse 21st Mar; and 10 Stewarton 30th Mar. 44 Apr reports with 120 Hartside & 12 Threeburnford 11th Apr and max 40 Manor Schoolhouse 15th Apr, all attending lambing ewes. In May 160 Hartside 2nd May, 20 Tweedbank 6th May and 80 West Water Reservoir 9th May. In June; 20 Hartside 23rd Jun; 450 Black Yett attending ploughing, 55 West Water Reservoir & 50 St Abb's Head 24th Jun; 50 Glenrath 28th Jun. 110 Darnhall Haugh attending silage-cutting & 40 Dunglass on 10th Jul. No suggestion of breeding.

Autumn/winter: 500 Groundstone Moss attending silage-cutting; 290 Westruther pools 29th Jul. 48 Rutherford 9th Aug, 40 Tweed at Sproustone 21st Sep & 50 Bemersyde Moss 1st Oct. were best count monthly totals. Hule Moss roost: 1,650 there on 27th Sep with 1,410 on 29th Sep, 850 on 17th Oct, 450 on 2nd Nov and 150 on 7th Nov.

44 Whitrig 10th Oct and 146 Westfield 22nd Oct, but single-figure counts into Nov, max 8 Greenlaw Pool on 12th Nov and last 5 Tweed Haughs 7th Dec.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Common breeder on coast. Breeds on coast cliffs but feeds widely inland during summer. Few really large roosts but good numbers attend rubbish dumps. During 2008-13 found in 22% of tetrads in summer and 25% in winter. (533 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 1,220 birds were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan (993 in 2014, 1,283 in 2012, 1,781 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan			
Dunglass - Pease Bay	38	Pease Bay-Redheugh	167
Redheugh-Souter	310	Souter-Petticowick	116
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	209	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	58
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	154	Burnmouth-English border	168

Just 7 three-figure counts large counts Jan-Mar: 397 Tweedbank 1st Jan with 130 on 16th Jan, 251 on 24th Jan, 186 on 11th Feb & 600 on 28th Feb. Also 257 Ladywell Craig 2nd Feb and 300 Burnmouth 3rd Mar. 200 attending lambing Hartside 5th Apr, with 150 there 11th Apr and 250 on 5th May. All later large counts were from St Abb's Head over the breeding season, max 400 on 19th Jun. Also 160 Dunglass 10th Jul.

Breeding: 120 Dowlaw Coastal Slope, with c.24 chicks 22nd Jun. No counts of Eyemouth roosts.

St Abb's Head Whole Colony Count - A whole colony count of apparently occupied nests (AON) was carried out on 26th, 27th and 31st May. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 31st May.

Results - 184 AON were counted, a decrease of 23% on the 2013 count of 239 AON. This is the third lowest count on record, and represents 81% of the 10-year mean of 228 AON, and 53% of the 30-year mean of 344 AON.

Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2014.

Autumn/Winter: Largest Aug-Oct counts were all coastal: 120 Burnmouth 5th Sep with 760 there on 16th Oct. 150 Dunglass on 30th Aug with 280 there on 5th Sep. 150 Eyemouth GC on 5th Sep, with 150 there on 8th Oct. 248 Lamberton Beach 8th Sep and 190 St Abb's Head 14th Oct.

During Nov-Dec the biggest inland counts were: 1,200 at Broomdykes on 7th Nov; 820 at Greenlaw Pool and 220 Broomdykes 12th Nov; 700 Hule Moss 18th Nov; 900 West Foulden 19th Nov; 200 Hule Moss 23rd Nov; 650 Galashiels Rubbish Dump 28th Nov and 250 Cauldshiels Loch 8th Dec.

On the coast: 220 Dunglass on 2nd & 12th Nov; 200 Burnmouth 12th Nov; 200 Dunglass 4th Dec.



Glaucous Gull - 1st-w Selkirk, Jan 2014

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Very scarce winter visitor. (1 record in 2014)

A 1st-winter Selkirk,, first seen 29th Nov 2013, was resnt 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. Feed widely inland during winter, feeding on spent salmon, roosting at the large reservoirs. During 2008-13 found in 4% of tetrads in summer and 9% in winter. (188 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 110 were seen during the Berwickshire Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan (94 in 2014, 73 in 2013, 92 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	3	Pease Bay-Redheugh	13
Redheugh-Souter	7	Souter-Petticowick	10
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	43	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	3
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	8	Burnmouth-English border	17

Just two double-figure counts: 11 Dunglass 1st Mar with 10 attending lambing at Hartside 11th Apr.

Breeding: Pr with br3 Dowlaw Coastal Slope 22nd Jun. 20-25 on 10 days St Abb's Head 20th Jun-21st Jul.

Autumn/Winter: 28 Eyemouth & 20 Dunglass on 5th Sep; 29 roosted at West Water Reservoir 21st Sep with 15-17 there during Oct. 22-32 Burnmouth in Sep with there 26th Oct with counts of 10-19 birds at St Abb's Head. During Nov-Dec number rose at Burnmouth to a max of 40 on 12th Nov as they fell at West Water Reservoir to 14 on 9th Nov. Elsewhere the best counts was 6 at Greenlaw Pool & Eyemouth GC.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Abundant coastal breeder, 19,000 pairs in 2000 but population probably dropped to 20% of that in 2014. Occasional heavy autumn passage. Rare inland, but strays almost annual. During 2008-13 found in 11 tetrads in summer and 2 in winter. (123 records in 2014)

Non-breeding records: First reports were singles Eyemouth 1st Jan & Dunglass 2nd Jan but few useful reports into the spring.

Movements: 125 Eyemouth GC 17th Jun (4.5hrs), 700 on 1st Jul (4hrs), 490 on 11th Jul (4hrs), 320 on 19th Aug (4hrs) with 3N/154S there 25th Aug (2hrs), 49S on 5th Sep (1hr), 11N/108S on 12th Nov (2hrs) and 14N/146S there on 19th Nov (1hr).

One was found dead at Gunknowe Loch on 11th Feb, an extremely rare inland record (Andrew Bramhall).
Previous inland records since 1978: single records in 1981 & 1986, and two records in 1982, 1992 & 1998. Several also found dead.

Breeding: No Kittiwake nests now on the Dowlaw Coastal Slope.

Whole Colony Count - A count of apparently occupied nests (AONs) was carried out on 11th, 12th & 14th June. It was not possible to carry out a count of blind spots from the sea, so an estimate was calculated using last year's figures.

Results - 3,625 AON were counted, an increase of 6% on the 2013 count of 3,403 AON. This is the second lowest count on record, and represents 72% of the 10 year mean of 5,068, and just 35% of the 30 year mean of 10,156 AON. This is a decline of 81% on the highest recorded count of 19,066 in 1989.

Breeding Success -An assessment of breeding success was carried out using methods described in the 1995 Report following recommendations from the Seabird Monitoring Handbook. Unfortunately there were not enough AON on one of the study plots used in previous years, so a different one was selected. Each of the plots was visited on 2nd June when all nests were marked on transparent overlays placed on photographs, then again on 9 further occasions up to 13th August to check the progress of each nest up to fledging.

Results - The productivity, expressed as the mean of individual plot figures, was 1.05 young fledged per AON. This is an increase of 1313% on the 2013 figure of 0.08 young fledged per active nest, and the third highest figure on record. It represents 202% of the 10 year mean of 0.52 and 169% of the 28 year mean of 0.62 chicks fledged per active nest.

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

Breeding Numbers & breeding success of Kittiwakes at St Abb's Head NNR 2003-14

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Nests	6,642	6,239	7,239	6,228	6,463	5,298	4,616	4,744	4,688	4,314	3,403	3,625
MBP	0.97	0.27	0.88	0.27	0.11	0.12	0.70	0.48	0.95	0.48	0.08	1.15

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. (36 records in 2014)

Spring: First 5 Dunglass on 10th Apr with 1 there 12th Apr (John Palfrey); 1 Burnmouth 13th Apr; 10 Dunglass 20th Apr. Also 15 St Abb's Head 18th May.

Summer/Autumn: Movements in summer/autumn: 10S St Abb's Head 1st Jul; 59N (2hrs) Dunglass on 20th Jul; 38 on shore Dunglass 25th Aug; 21 (4hrs) Eyemouth GC on 2nd Sep with 7 there & 3 Burnmouth 5th Sep. 4S at St Abb's Head 23rd Sep. 1N/5S Eyemouth GC 8th Oct with 1S there 16th Oct (Ray Murray).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Summer visitor, uncommon on coast, most frequent August-September during passage. Very scarce inland. (5 records in 2014)

1 St Abb's Head 29th Jun (Dave Graham); 10N/4S Eyemouth GC with 3 Burnmouth on 5th Sep (Ray Murray); 5S St Abb's Head 11th Sep; 1S there 8th Oct (Ray Murray).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Summer coastal visitor, mainly August-September. Under-recorded. 1 inland record. (3 records in 2014)

3 St Abb's Head 22nd Jun (Dave Graham); 2S Burnmouth 25th Aug & 1 Burnmouth 5th Sep (Ray Murray).

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

Localised coastal breeder on large cliffs, 44,500 birds in 2000. Some movements in autumn, few in winter.

During 2008-13 found in 11 tetrads in summer and 12 in winter. (136 records in 2014)

Non-breeding: 64 birds were seen Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan. No other double-figure counts Jan-Mar.

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	0	Pease Bay-Redheugh	3
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	9
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	34	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	0
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	16	Burnmouth-English border	2

Local movements: 94 (4hrs) Eyemouth GC 1st Jul, 50 (4hrs) 11th Jul, 22 (3.5hr) 18th Oct, 10 (3hrs) 9 Nov, (2.5hr) 6th Dec.

Hourly rates – 150/hr Eyemouth 8th Oct with 300/hr St Abb's Head 14th Oct, 510/hr 16th Oct, 180/hr 26th Oct. 35/hr 7th Nov, 5hr 5th Dec. Also 15 Pease Bay 14th Oct; 4 Green Stane 9th Nov.

Breeding: 685 birds apparently nesting on the Green Stane, a clear increase, perhaps as the Cormorants have moved on. 90 were bridled birds. Another 24 were on the Little Rooks, 1 bridled.

Counts at Monitoring Plots - Nine counts of individual birds on ledges were carried out at each of the five plots between 2nd & 20th June.

Results - The sum of the plot means was 1,541 individuals, an increase of 10% on the 2013 figure of 1,398 individuals. This represents 105% of the 31 year mean of 1,463 and 101% of the 10 year mean of 1,532.

Breeding success - An assessment of breeding success of guillemots was carried out for the first time this year following the method from the Seabird Monitoring Handbook and described in a separate report (Common, 2014). Fifty Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) were individually marked on photographs of each of the 5 monitoring plots selected, and 13 visits were made to observe progress at each AOS between 23rd May and 1st July.

Results - A total of 192 active nests were mapped on the plots and 88 chicks successfully fledged. The breeding success, expressed as the mean of the individual plot figures, was 0.46 young fledged per active nest.

Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2014.

Counts of Guillemots at monitoring plots and whole colony counts, St Abb's Head NNR 2004-2014											
Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Plots	1445	1702	1636	1620	1605	1924	1,377	1,568	1396	1398	1541
Colony	-	40,389	-	-	-	33,181	-	-	-	32,900	-

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

Razorbill *Alca torda*

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

During 2008-13 found in 11 tetrads in summer and 8 in winter. (87 records in 2014)

Non-breeding: 21 birds were seen Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan. No double-figure counts Jan-Mar.

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	0	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	9
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	6	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	4
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	2	Burnmouth-English border	0

Counts of 21-79 birds seen during multi-hour seawatches at Eyemouth GC Apr-Jun with 115 there 28th Apr.

Very few thereafter: 2 Green Stane 9th Nov; 4 Eyemouth GC on 4th Dec.

Breeding: 40 birds on The Rooks, Dowlaw; with 20 on the Green Stane and 20 on the Little Rooks.

Counts at Monitoring Plots - Nine counts of individual birds on ledges were carried out at each of the five plots between 2nd & 20th June.

Results - The sum of plot means 130 individuals, and increase of 10% on the 2013 figure of 118 individuals. This represents 92% of the 31 year mean of 141 and 102% of the 10 year mean of 128.

Breeding success - An assessment of breeding success of Guillemots was carried out this year using methods used previously in 2005 and 2008 based on recommendations found in the Seabird Monitoring Handbook (Walsh et al, 1995). Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) were individually marked on photographs of each of the 6 monitoring plots, and 13 visits were made to observe progress at each AOS between 21st May and 5th July.

Results - A total of 52 AOS were mapped on the plots and 22 chicks successfully fledged. The breeding success, expressed as the mean of the individual plot figures, was 0.43 young fledged per AOS. This is a 34% increase on the 2008 figure of 0.32 chicks fledged per AOS.

Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2014

Counts of Razorbills at monitoring plots, and whole colony counts, St Abb's Head NNR 2004-2014											
Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Birds	103	126	130	142	113	147	112	133	126	118	130
Colony	2218	-	-	-	1,687	-	-	-	-	1,820	-

Black Guillemot *Cephus grylle*

Very uncommon visitor to Berwickshire coast, can occur at any time of year. (1 record in 2014)

1S St Abb's Head 5th Sep (Ray Murray).

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Scarce and erratic winter vagrant, typically seen passing offshore. Occasional 'wrecks'. (11 records in 2014)

Winter: 144 N Eyemouth GC & 111N St Abb's Head 6th Nov (Dave Graham & Fran Evans; 6S and 3 on sea Eyemouth GC 7th Nov and 9 on sea with 1N/54S there 12th Nov and 1S on 19th Nov (Ray Murray). 1 Dunglass 4th Dec (Ray Murray); 1 St Abb's Head 6th Dec with 13N there 13th Dec (Dave Graham).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Scarce coastal breeder, mostly seen off the cliffs. Rarely proved to breed as nest sites usually inaccessible. Uncommon offshore in autumn, scarce in winter. Rare autumn movements. During 2008-13 found in 5 tetrads in summer and 1 in winter. (26 records in 2014)

3 Eyemouth GC 28th Apr; 2 seen St Abb's Head 11th May with 1-10 there to end Jul, max 10 on 24th Jul.

12N St Abb 's Head 26th Oct with singles Eyemouth GC 12th Nov & 6th Dec.

Breeding:

No puffins were seen ashore by the Rangers at any point during the breeding season, so it would seem that this is the first year since records began that puffins have not bred at St Abb's Head.

Lisa Cole: St Abb's Head NNR Seabird Report 2014

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Common resident breeder. Some large flocks in late autumn-winter, often on farms and along the coast. During 2008-13 found in 37% of tetrads in summer and 37% in winter. (240 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 171 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan (373 in 2013, 195 in 2012, 177 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 3rd Feb

Dunglass - Pease Bay	0	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	7	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	111	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	5
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	48	Burnmouth-English border	0

Found in 22 tetrads Jan-Feb: 68 Eyemouth Bay, 32 Cockburnspath & 25 Tweedbank were the largest total.

Breeding: Largest counts: 30 Tweedbank 15th Apr, 25 Spittalhaugh 4th May; and 20 at St Abb's Head & Cove.

Autumn/Winter: Few Sep-Oct records with max count of Hawick town centre 28th Nov & 160 Bonjedward on 4th Dec; 80 Eckford 7th Nov & 32 Leadburn CW 12th Oct.

The end of the Atlas has greatly reduced records of this 'species'.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Uncommon and local breeder. Small winter flocks. Very much under-recorded.

During 2008-13 found in 19% of tetrads in summer and 9% in winter. (35 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Few Jan-Mar records: 22 Restonhill 8th Mar & 6 Newmains 7th Mar with 1-2 birds Duns Wood, Fireburnmill, Hirsell Lake & Melrose.

Breeding: Found in 15 tetrads (49 in 2013, 61 in 2012, 64 in 2011). Pairs were reported at Bluestaneford, Hirsell, Lamberton, Long Moss, St Abb's Head, Swinton & Duns Law with singles: Black Barony, Black Yett, Cannybank Covert, Crookedshaws Marsh, Darnhall, Duns Mill Pond, Fancove Head, Holefield, Northfield, Ploughlands Pond and St Abb's Head.

Autumn/Winter: Just two late-year records: 1 at Marcus on 30th Sep & 2 at Melrose 9th Dec.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Abundant breeder. Some big winter flocks. During 2008-13 found in 85% of tetrads in summer and 69% in winter. (946 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Reported from 91 tetrads Jan-Mars. Large counts: 2,500 Swintonmill on 10th Feb; 1,500 Todrig on 17th Feb; 500 Whitslade, 490 Horndean and 450 Lyne on 18th Feb; 1,000 East Reston 19th Feb; 849 Monynut Forest 28th Mar; 520 Plora East 6th Mar; 450 Yetholm Loch on 9th Mar; with 100-299 birds at Bemersyde Moss Birgham Haugh, Eddleston, Hallmanor, Hundleshope, Lyne Haugh, Sprouston, St Thomas' Island & Tweedbank. *Higher than usual counts.*

Breeding: Recorded in 170 tetrads (374 in 2013, 312 in 2012). The largest counts: 148 Darnhall-Marcus 22nd Aug; 60 The Nest 24th Apr; 51 Dodburn BBS on 8th May; with 30-49 at Bemersyde Moss Dod BBS, Folly Loch, Hartside, Knowes Hill BBS and Upper Whitfield Pond.



Woodpigeon - Eddleston, Jun 2014

Autumn/Winter: Recorded in just 47 tetrads in Nov-Dec. Largest counts were 1,200 Broomdykes on 7th Nov; 450 Dykegatehead & 400 West Foulden 19th Nov; 389 Harcus 12th Dec; with 100-299 birds at Allanton, Black Barony, Eddleston, & Yetholm Loch.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Uncommon breeder in urban settings. Some autumn flocks and dispersal.
During 2008-13 found in 25% of tetrads in summer and 18% in winter. (141 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 24 tetrads Jan-Mar 32 in 2013, 40 in 2012).

30 Preston 1st Jan; 16 Burnmouth 11th Jan, 12 Preston 5th Feb, 10 Maxton 14th Feb, 7 Newmains 2nd Jan and 7 Preston 8th Mar; 5 Lumsdaine 9th Jan, Eddleston 4th Feb and Roxburgh 5th Mar with 3-4 birds at Dunglass & Kelso.

Breeding: Recorded in 29 tetrads Apr-Aug (83 in 2013, 88 in 2012), with 2prs at Eddleston, Kelso, Kirk Yetholm and Kitleyknowe.

Autumn/Winter: In Sep-Oct : 6 Bemersyde Moss 21st Oct, 5 Buskinburn 27th Sep with 3-4 at Ayton, Cairncross, Chirnside, Tweedbank & Westfield.

Just 7 Nov-Dec records: 10 Reston 29th Nov; with 1-3 birds Chesters, Dryden, Lamberton, Peebles & Pot Loch.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Now an extremely scarce passage migrant, not annual. Formerly may have bred in the 1960s-1980s. (1 record in 2014)

1 Newmains 22nd May (Dave Graham).

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Uncommon summer visitor to hills and coast. Mostly late April-July with a few juveniles to late September. 1 winter record.
During 2008-13 found in 20% of tetrads in summer. (50 records in 2014)

Spring: First 1 Manortoun 20th Apr (Iain Haldane); 1 Eildons 21st Apr; 1 Dowlaw 24th Apr; with 1-2 birds Ladyside, Nether Monynut, Raecleugh & Williamslee 27th-30th Apr.

Breeding: 49 territories/birds recorded at 44 sites (93 in 2013, 59 in 2012):

Abbey St Bathans	Dewar BBS	Ladyside, Moorfoots	Pirn Craig
Black Burn, Newcastleton	Dowlaw	Lamberton	Plora Wood
Blakedeane	Drone Moss	Larriston Fells	Raecleugh
Bowdenmoor	Drumelzier	Leadburn CW	Raeshaw
Broadmeadows	Eildons	Logan Head	Shaws
Bushelhill	Glenrathope Cottage	Manortoun	Tower Burn Wood
Byreclough	Hillhouse	Murder Moss	Traquair
Cairn Hill, Baddingsill	Huntford	Nether Monynut	Watch Water Reservoir
Canada Rig	Kailzie Gardens	North Esk Reservoir	Whiteadder Dam
Crink Law	Kyleshill Plantation	Pease Bay BBS	Whitehaugh
Damhead, Traquair	Ladyside Burn	Penmanshiel BBS	Williamslee

One juvenile seen at Watch Water Reservoir 2nd Sep was the latest report (Dave Graham). Also one there on 20th Jul with 1 St Abb's Head 23rd Jul. *A return to more typical numbers of records after a bumper year in 2013.*

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Uncommon resident breeder. All records needed. Population fluctuates.
During 2008-13 found in 23% of tetrads in summer and 23% in winter. (61 records in 2014)

Barn Owls were reported in just 36 sites in the non-breeding season (Jan-Feb & Oct-Dec) (45 in 2013, 73 in 2012, 33 in 2011, 54 in 2010, 107 in 2009, 132 in 2008 & 96 in 2007), so another drop in numbers is hinted at.

Reported in the non-breeding season from:

Ashybank	Fogorrig	Kirktonfield	Northfield Farm
Blakelaw	Garvald, Moorfoots	Leadburn CW	Single
Broomiebank	Gavinton	Leaderfoot	Smailholm
Castleweary	Georgefield	Makerstoun	St Mary's Cottage, Duns
Chirnsidebridge	Gillside	Middlethirp	Stichill Road Junction
Clovenfords Moss	Glack Farm	Mount Pleasant	Venchen
Coldstream	Grantshouse	Muirhouselaw	Westruther
Crunklaw	Hawick, Martin's Bridge	Nether Falla	Whim Wood
Elibank Castle	Hule Moss	Newmains	Yetholm

Breeding: Recorded (Mar-Sep) at just 19 sites (52 in 2013, 59 in 2012, 41 in 2010, 45 in 2009, 118 during 2008, 79 in 2007). Breeding was confirmed at 3 of these sites (*). Br3 Single on 30th Oct - a rather late date.

Angelow Farm	Easter Housebyres	Kingledores	Single
Coalyburn *	Gavinton	Leadburn CW *	Springwood, Kelso
Cothill	Graden	Lylestane	Swintonmill
Denholm Mill	Hartsgarth *	Martin's Bridge	Woodside *?
Dykegatehead	Hundleshope Cross Ponds	Rutherford	Yetholm Loch

The number of sites checked and the occupancy rates was fairly similar to 2013, abut the overall population shows no obvious signs of increasing. However breeding success was much better than 2013, and all sites with proven breeding produced young. This was also reflected in the high number of young produced per nest. In addition, the proportion of occupied sites with proven breeding also increased slightly since 2013. Barn Owls have the capability to produce large numbers of young and theoretically recover fairly quickly from bad winters. However it looks like we will have to wait a while before this happens in Lothian and Borders. However a good breeding year like 2014 must help.



Barn Owl - Leadburn CW, Jun 2014

Thanks are due to Tony Lightley, Tom Dougall, Alan Heavidsides, Malcolm Henderson and Tim Chamberlain for providing breeding records.

Alan Leitch, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

Barn Owl Breeding Data	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sites checked	-	-	-	-	140	252	156	61	59
Occupied	46	45	69	93	54	29	32	26	25
Productive nests	40	43	46	59	54	24	32	16	19
Young fledged	-	-	132	201	154	84	68	36	80
Mean no fledging	2.97	2.83	2.2	3.1	4.05	2.90	1.90	1.40	3.2
Young per productive nest	3.41	3.13	2.87	3.50	2.85	3.50	3.00	2.60	4.2

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. During 2008-13 found in 2 tetrads in summer and 3 in winter. (1 record in 2014)

Each year recently we have been getting reports of sightings of Little Owl, particularly from the Berwickshire and eastern Roxburghshire areas. With the number of sightings from these areas it was likely that Little Owls were nesting but this had never been confirmed. This year we were getting regular reports of birds from two particular locations in Berwickshire. These reports were followed up with site visits which confirmed that there were two potential nest sites.

At one of these sites Little Owls were present throughout the nesting season and were thought to be nesting there. However a nesting attempt could not be confirmed. At the second site Little Owl were present throughout the season. Nesting was confirmed later in the season when three, possibly four, birds were present. It has since been learned that they nested successfully at this location in 2013 when 2 young fledged and also in 2012 when 3 young fledged.

Malcolm Henderson, Little Owl coordinator for Lothian & Borders.

1 seen near the confirmed breeding records on 28th Jul, the only casual report.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Common resident. Many reports in autumn during the dispersal of juveniles. During 2008-13 found in 28% of tetrads in summer and 17% in winter. (117 records in 2014)

53 birds at 36 sites in non-breeding season Jan-Feb & Oct-Dec:

- Altrieve, Angelow, Black Barony, Bowden, Castleloan Toll, Cauldsheels Loch, Chirside, Easter Dawyck (2), Eddleston (2), Galalaw, Hawick, Georgefield/Earlston High School (3), Groundstone, Hawick (2), Hirsle (2), Huntford (3), Lanton Moor, Meldonfoot, Moorshot Plantation, Newmains (4), North Esk Reservoir, Old Greenlaw, Paxton House (2), Portmore Loch (2),

Raeburn Wood, Spottiswoode Loch (2), St Mary's Loch, Stonedged (2), Teviot at Hawick, Thornylee Pond, Todrig, Tweed at Gattonside, Tweedbank, West Linton GC, Westfield & Yetholm Loch (2)

Breeding: 63 reported during the breeding season (Mar-Sep) from 47 sites (104 in 2013, 101 in 2012, 106 in 2011, 82 in 2010, 79 in 2009, 99 in 2008, 63 in 2007). Evidence of breeding = 6 sites. The first young were heard at Eddleston on 24th Jun.

Abbotrule	Dundock	Hen Poo (3)	Shiplaw Burn (br1)
Ale Mill	Dunglass Wood (2)	Hirsel Lake (2)	Singdean (ON)
Angelrow	Easter Fodderlee	Huntford (3)	St Abb's Head
Black Yett (2)	Eddleston (br2)	Jedburgh	Teviot at Hawick
Blakedeane (2)	Edrington Castle	Kirklands E	Trows Farm
Castlehill	Fast Castle Head	Leitholm Bridge	Tweed, Gattonside
Chesterhall	Fogo	Lindean Reservoir	Tweedbank
Cloich Forest N	Folly Loch	Middle Burn, Cloich	Wester Fodderlee (ON)
Coldingham	Foulden New Mains	Nether Falla	Westfield (2)
Crunklaw (5)	Gala Hill	Paxton House	Whim Hall
Darnhall-Harcus	Galalaw, Hawick	Peebles, South Park	Whitrig Pond
Deepsyke (br4)	Harlaw Muir (br1)	Satyrskykes, Traquair (2)	

Good vole numbers in early spring brought optimism that we would at last have a good breeding season for this species but this didn't convert into the high number of chicks fledging as anticipated. 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 7 sites recorded as checked and occupied. 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 or breeding attempt was 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/ later nesting birds.

The number of chicks per successful pair is slightly up on previous years but still below the expected potential with vole numbers being relatively high at the start of the season. As the forest structures change a number of boxes have been moved to areas with higher ecological value as hunting habitat to attempt to increase overall numbers. A Retrap Adult Survival (RAS) scheme will be set up to monitor adults commencing 2015 and therefore it is essential to try and cover as many sites as possible to enable full coverage of the box schemes.

Number of young fledged per successful pair is up slightly on previous years but still below the expected potential with vole numbers being relatively high at the start of the season. As the forest structures change a number of boxes have been moved to areas with higher ecological value as hunting habitat to attempt to increase overall numbers. A Retrap Adult Survival (RAS) scheme will be set up to monitor adult birds commencing 2015 and therefore it is essential to try and cover as many sites as possible to enable full coverage of the box schemes.

Barn Owl numbers have still not recovered on FCS land after the two bad winters of 2009/10 but more boxes are currently being occupied with Stock Doves, Jackdaws and Grey Squirrel nesting in the boxes.

There is an independent survey currently being carried out in the Tweed Valley area commencing January 215 looking to monitor occupancy and densities in forest areas for Pine Marten/Red/Grey squirrel in 4 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 cameras will be set up in early spring on some of the boxes where scats or Pine Marten presence is confirmed at monitoring boxes and nearby owl boxes monitored to see if the boxes are being visited by the martens.

Thanks to all who contributed Tawny Owl records.

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

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of boxes checked	-	-	50	74	88	48	52
Number of boxes occupied	16	21	20	30	47	33	34
Boxes with proven breeding	-	-	-	24	41	21	30
Number of young fledged	24	17	21	44	82	42	47
Average brood size	2.15	1.88	1.40	1.47	1.74	1.77	1.38
Young fledged/successful pair	-	-	-	1.83	2.0	2.00	1.57

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. During 2008-13 found in 3% of tetrads in summer and 4 in winter. (21 records in 2014)

No reports in the early year, 1 calling Gavinton Waterworks 10th Apr being the first report. 1 St Abb's Head 14th Oct; 1 Alemill & 1 Whitfield, Coldingham Moor 28th Nov were the latest reports of the year.

A good set of breeding season records with

Bell Wood	juv heard	Early Burn, Cloich	br1 heard
Billhope	pair	Gavinton Waterworks	pr calling nest
Blackhopebyre Wood	br4	Henshaw Burn Woods	br5 ringed
Bowhill	br1+ remains of br3	Langburnshields	br2 heard
Cloich Forest	br1 heard	Lauder Common	br2 heard
Coldingham Moor	br3 ringed	Megget Reservoir	pair
Dun Law	br1 heard	Spurlens Rig	
Dunglass Wood, Hirsell	1		



Long-eared Owl chicks - Bowhill Jun 2014 *Tim Chamberlain*

In the summer I got to hear of a large number of broods of Long-eared Owls, mostly by SOC members out at dusk or after dark in Lothian. Additional records from RSG members confirm that 2014 was a most successful year for this species. These figures exclude a further pairs reported to us that nested just outside our area (brood of two) in Central RSG's jurisdiction.

Eggs were laid at 22 sites, with 21 of them going on to fledge young. The Borders held three possible and 10 confirmed pairs; figures for the Lothians were zero and 12 respectively.

My thanks to the many folk who contributed records this year, too many to list here.

Mark Holling, Long-eared Owl coordinator for Lothian & Borders.

	Sites occupied	Eggs with eggs	Sites fledged	Min fledged	Young per nest	Young successful nest
2014	-	22	21	50	2.00	2.38
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

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. During 2008-13 found in 4% of tetrads in summer and 2% in winter. (13 records in 2014)

Non-breeding: First records was from breeding site in Moorfoots 25th Mar. 1 St Abb's Head 14th Oct was the only report of a likely migrant. 9 in hills at Carcant 30th Nov was an extraordinary assembly.

Breeding: Just 9 casual reports in Apr-Jul period.

Pentland Hills: no records.

Moorfoot Hills: four nests with large young (Tom Dougall).

Lammermuir Hills: no records at all from Merlin workers (Alan Heavisides), only one other record close to a regular breeding site in Jun (per Stephen Welsh).

Tweedsmuir Hills: one fledged young seen and single adults recorded at four other sites but no further breeding evidence (per Tom Edwards, Helen Riley & Andrew Sandeman)

Cheviot Hills: no records.

The Borders held 5 possible and 5 confirmed pairs. There were no breeding records for the Lothians.

Thanks to all who contributed Short-eared Owl records. **Mark Holling, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report**

	Sites	Sites with occupied clutches	Sites fledged	Min young	Young /nest	Young/ successful nest
2014	10	5	5	14	1.4	2.8
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	-

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Very rare summer visitor. Formerly a very uncommon breeder that disappeared in the middle of the 20th century. Just a handful of recent records. (1 record in 2014)

1 Crimsonhill, Gavinton 19th Jun (Andrew Mitchell).

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. During 2008-13 found in 32% of tetrads in summer. (149 records in 2014)

Spring: First 1 Birgham Haugh & 1 Tweedbank 26th Apr (Keith Robeson & Andrew Bramhall). 4 Lindean Reservoir 29th Apr. 2 Birgham 3rd May with 4 Lees Haugh 4th May. Clear influx 6th May with 8 St Abb's Head, 7 Coldstream, 4 Hirsle, 2 Tweedbank and singles Galashiels and Bishop's Bog. 10 at Wilton Park on 8th May; 16 Tweedbank 12th May and 12 Abbotrule 20th May.

Breeding: Recorded in 48 tetrads Apr-Jul (103 in 2013). With the cessation of the Atlas it is not possible to differentiate records into different categories of breeding proof. Please try to indicate such when submitting reports. Largest counts submitted, but before late Jul when migrants boost counts.

Birgham	2	Greenlaw	3	Mellerstain	2	Rutherford	2
Chirnside	3	Heiton	12	Melrose	5	Sinclair's Hill	2
Cove	3	Hillend, Newcastleton	6	Millheugh	2	Sisterpath	2
Damhead Shiel BBS	7	Hirsle	4	Newmains	8	Sprouon	12
Duns Mill BBS	4	Innerleithen	25	Peebles	4	Tweedbank	17
Edrington Castle	2	Kelso	5	Roxburgh	9	Wilton Park	10
Galashiels	3						

With singles only and birds away from breeding habitat at: Bemersyde Moss, Blackcleugh Loch, Clints Hill (2), Eddleston, Halliburton, Houndwood, Hule Moss, Huntford, Ladyrig Mill Pond, Lamberton, Lamberton Beach, Leadburn CW, Lees Haugh, Lindean Reservoir, Millar's Moss, St Abb's Head & Williestruther Loch.



Swift - Peebles, Jun 2014

The Hirsle nest-boxes saw 26 birds in boxes (Alan Kerr). 6 new ads and 6 new juvs were ringed with 6 controlled from previous years.

Autumn: An extended presence well into August, with 35 reports, suggests not only a good passage but a successful breeding season.

63 Yetholm Loch 15th Jul with 60 there 30th Jul; 21 Eyemouth on 31st Jul; 20 Eccles on 3rd Aug; 11 Eyemouth 4th Aug; 40 Innerleithen 6th Aug; 14 Coldstream 11th Aug; 11 Yetholm Loch on 12th Aug; & 10 Duns 23rd Aug. Then singles Coldstream 25th and 28th Aug; 1 Buxley on 26th Aug; 1 Hawick 29th Aug; 2 Tweedbank 25th Aug with the latest single there 13th Sep (Andrew Bramhall).

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Rather uncommon resident of riverine habitats found in 3% of tetrads. Occasionally seen on coast in winter. During 2008-13 found in 4% of tetrads in summer and 5% in winter. (59 records in 2014)

Non-breeding: Single birds were seen at Nisbet 5th Jan, Hutton 25th Jan, Ayton 26th Jan & Hirsell Lake 30th Jan with birds still at latter site 19th Feb.

During Oct-Dec records of singles came from: the Tweed at Neidpath, Hay Lodge Park, Kingsmeadows, Glenormiston, Old Howford, Innerleithen, Tweedbank, Tweed Haughs, Coldstream & Paxton House; the Eddleston Water at Peebles; and the Whiteadder at Edrington & Hutton Mill Bridge. Also on the coast at Burnmouth and the Mire Loch.

Breeding: Single birds were reported in suitable habitat Mar-Sep: along the Tweed at Hendersyde, Kelso, Sprouston & Tweedbank; on the Eddleston Water at Cringletie; on the Blackadder-Whiteadder at Allanbank, Bluestane Ford, Chirnside, Elba, Hutton Bridge, Hutton Castle and Paxton; the Oxnam at Oxnam Row; the Teviot at Monteviot; the Leader at Netherhowden; the Kale at Nether Hyndhope; and the Rule at Spittal-on-Rule. Also at Hirsell Lake and Mire Loch.

A pair carrying food at Hendersyde was the only indications of successful breeding.

Twice as many records as in 2013 suggests some success in 2014.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Rare summer migrant. Less than annual.

1 Charterhouse 8th Jan (Murray Charters); 1 Innerleithen 20th & 25th May (BirdGuides & Andrew Bramhall).

The Jan record is unprecedented but there were 5 others in Britain at the time.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Rare spring and autumn migrant (2 records in 2014).

1 St Abb's Head & 1 Eyemouth 26th Apr (Dave Graham & Jimmy Jamieson).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Uncommon breeding resident in 8% of tetrads, mostly in old riverine woods.

During 2008-13 found in 7% of tetrads in summer and 4% in winter. (37 records in 2014)

Birds were reported from 29 sites. Almost all singles, except for 2 Haystoun on 19th Mar & 2 Torwoodlee on 22nd Apr. (21 records in 2013, 37 records in 2014, 26 in 2012).

Abbey St Bathans (2)	Gavinton	Kailzie Gardens	Marchmont
Attonburn	Glen	Kingsmuir	Raeclough
Cockburnspath	Hardens Plantation	Lamberton	Redpath
Cothill	Haystoun House	Leadburn CW (4)	Talla Dam
Dingleton	Hen Poo	Lees Haugh	Torwoodlee (4)
Dunglass	Hirsell Lake	Lindinny Wood	Traquair Estate
Easter Dawyck	Innerleithen	Lowood (2)	Yetholm Loch
Galabank Business Park			

A welcome recovery in the number of records (21 in 2013), despite the cessation of Atlas activities.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common breeder in 25% of tetrads. A few on passage.

During 2008-13 found in 50% of tetrads in summer and 47% in winter. (326 records in 2014)

Breeding: Birds were reported at 89 sites in the breeding season (Mar-Aug) in (208 in 2013, 198 in 2012). Evidence of breeding at 68 sites (65 in 2012, 74 in 2011, 32 sites in 2010).

Abbey St Bathans	Darnhall-Harcus 3	Fens	Hen Poo 2	Lees Haugh
Abbotsford Woods	Dod BBS	Fireburnmill 2	Hirsell 2	Lindean Reservoir 2
Angelrow Farm	Dodburn BBS 2	Gala Hill 2	Homebank	Linthill 2
Barns Copse	Dryburgh	Galashiels, Scott Park	Hoselaw Mains BBS 2	Lynedale
Bee Edge Farm	Duncanhaugh	Gattonside	Hownam	Manor Schoolhouse 2
Bishop's Bog	Dunglass	Gattonside Haugh	Huntford 2	Melrose
Black Barony 4	Duns Law	Glen	Hutton	Middlestots Marsh 2
Blanerke	Easter Dawyck	Gordon CW	Kershope Bridge	Monteviot House
Borthwickshields Loch	Eddleston-Milkieston	Gunknowe Loch	Kirkton Manor Marsh	Palmer's Hill Cutting
Broadmeadows	Eildon Mid Hill	Hallyards	Knowes Hill BBS 3	Paxton House 2
Cannybank Covert	Fairliehope	Hardens Plantation	Ladyrig 2	Peebles, South Park
Cauldsheels Loch 2	Fairloans 2	Harestanes	Lamberton	Penmanshiel Wood
Crooknowe Covert 2	Faldonside Loch	Hassendean Common	Langwoodbarn	Plora Wood
Crosshouses	Fancove Head	Heiton	Leadburn CW 3	Portmore Loch 2

Preston	Selkirk Race Course Moss	St Abb's Head	Toddleburn Windfarm	Venchen Toll House
Riddell	Sorrowlessfield	Stewarton	Todheugh	Whitehaugh
Rutherford	South Park Wood	Synton Mossend	Tweedbank 2	Whitmuirhall Loch
Saughtree	Sprouston/Redden	Tan Law BBS	Ven Law	Yetholm Loch

Juveniles were seen at Ladyrig on 7th Jun, Angelrow on 14th Jun, and Peebles on 20th Jun.

Non-breeding: Birds were reported outwith the breeding season from 68 sites in 97 tetrads.

Most sightings were singles but there were 5 Black Barony 4th Sep and 3 Huntford with 2 birds Abbotsford Woods, Ancrum, Hen Poo, Hirsell Lake, Paxton House, Portmore Loch, Redden, Sprouston, Tweedbank Walkerburn & Wooden Loch.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common and widespread breeder noted in 63% of tetrads, possibly 900-1,000 prs. Some large counts August-September with limited passage near coast. During 2008-13 found in 45% of tetrads in summer and 56% in winter. (389 records during 2014)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No. of records:	32	25	26	39	23	26	30	23	41	41	31	51
No. of birds:	35	26	30	42	27	50	43	29	48	44	31	55

Kestrel numbers remain low but in other species, the cessation of Atlas fieldwork has usually resulted in a steep drop in numbers of records. While low, this reduction is not as apparent for Kestrel as might have been expected. This suggests that some recovery from the low levels of recent years may be occurring.

Non-breeding: The vast majority of reports Jan-Mar were of singles with 2 birds reported at Blackhaugh, Leadburn CW, St Abb's Head Whitehope and Yetholm Loch. Apr-Jul records are similar but 4 birds were reported at Megget Reservoir and St Abb's Head while 2 birds were seen at Birgham Haugh, Clints Hill, Dewar, Fruid Reservoir, Long Grain, North Esk Reservoir & North Muir. Again singletons were the norm during Aug-Dec with two birds seen at: Angelrow, Bemersyde Moss, Black Yett, Burrowstone Moss, Byreclough, Colquhar, Gavinton, Hundleshope Cross Ponds, Lamberton, Nether Falla, North Esk Reservoir, Over Whitton, Paxton House, Portmore Loch, St Abb's Head, Venlaw, Watch Water Reservoir and West Water Reservoir.

Breeding: There were just two casual records of confirmed breeding: a nest at Lennel in April; and adults feeding 3 juvs at St Abb's Head in mid-Jun

Information on this species has suffered in recent years from changes in observer, making comparisons between years difficult. However a reduction in effort in the south and east of the Borders has been compensated by sterling efforts in the Pentlands by Graham Anderson.

Site occupation is fairly low. This could be in part due to nest-boxes being used as an indicator of the number of sites as there may be more nest-boxes available than actual habitat for territories. However eight empty natural sites in the Lamermuir does not look very good. Fledging success looks to

be good in the sites that have been used and, with plenty of unused sites, an increase in the breeding population seems a real possibility. The table for 2014 is based on those sites which were fully surveyed. I have also provided information of sightings of Kestrels. It is fairly clear that there are parts of the area where Kestrels are still doing fairly well, and others where they have virtually disappeared.

I hope in future to map this information and perhaps combine with Atlas information, put together a better picture of the distribution of this species. Please continue to submit any sight records. My thanks go to Malcolm Henderson, Tom Dougall, Graham Anderson and Tim Chamberlain, who provided records who have provided records.

Alan Leitch, Kestrel Coordinator for South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2014.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Rare vagrant. No previous records. (2 records in 2014)

A 1st-summer Coldstream 27th May (David Knight) with another Burrowstone Moss, Newcastleton 6th Jun (Sarah Emerson & Anna McWilliam).

First records for Borders.

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sites checked	10	-	-	38
Occupied sites	6	23	7	13
Breeding attempts	6	23	3	12
Successful sites	6	19	3	12
Young fledged	23	44	12	46
Average brood size	3.8	1.91	na	3.5
Mean productivity/attempt	4.6	2.32	na	3.8



Red-footed Falcon - record shot Newcastleton Moor
Jun 2014 (Anna McWilliam)

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Uncommon breeder, perhaps 40-50prs annually, best known in northern hills. Widespread but scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mostly to coast. During 2008-13 found in 6& of tetrads in summer and 3% in winter. (108 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: In Jan there were 5 singles at Yetholm, Lauder Common, Lempitlaw, Paxton House and Paxton. In Feb there were just two records, singles at Lamberton and Hammerhall. There were just 2 Mar records at Wheel Burn and Easter Happrew.

Breeding: Just four casual records submitted Apr-Jul, all from potential or actual breeding sites.

Raptor Study Group. *Better weather this breeding season did not appear to significantly improve the fortunes of our Merlin in the region. Coverage was probably similar to last year a little better in the Pentlands, a little worse in the South of Tweed area and as usual most comprehensive in the Lammermuirs. No proven breeding in the Moorfoots. A gradual decline in Merlin in several other study areas has also been noted and discussed by SRSG groups and others in parts of Scotland and Northern England.*

Areas	Territories checked	Territories occupied	Territories with young alive/fledged	Young	Young per successful pair
Lammermuirs	27	4-11	4	14+	3.5+
Moorfoots	6	10	0	0	0
South of Tweed	9	6	4	10+	na
Pentlands	19	4-8	3	14	4.6
TOTAL	61	20+	11+	38+	?

Lammermuir Hills Again 27 known sites were monitored for occupation. Despite the generally favourable weather this season the Merlin fared no better than in recent years. The number of nests located dropped again with only three found although at a fourth site the nest was not located but at least three young fledged. Seven other sites did show some signs such as an early report of a sighting by a keeper, an odd kill, pellet or likely splash. None of these sites could have been other than briefly occupied early on but it is not known if more than one bird was ever on site.

The nest that was not located was only confirmed when at least 3 recently fledged young were seen. The nearest regularly used site had little remaining long heather available to breeding Merlin so it seems likely the birds moved to the nearest good block of heather. This would have remained undetected but for a keeper who reported obvious breeding evidence late in the season. The other three located nests were successful with 11 young raised from 12 eggs. One successful site was in Lothian but all other confirmed nesting sites were in the Borders parts of the Lammermuirs.

Moorfoot Hills Only 6 known sites were monitored this year. Apart from a reported early sighting of a bird by a keeper none of these sites were found to be occupied. It would seem that we are losing, perhaps have lost, Merlin as breeders in this seemingly suitable large grouse moorland. Coverage is now however not as comprehensive as it was so we cannot be certain that we are not missing some.

Pentland Hills A welcome increase to 19 in the number of known old sites or areas suspected of breeding in the past checked this year. More individual birds than for several years were recorded. At least three tree nests were successful raising 14 young to fledging age. A fourth pair were thought to be nesting in a wood but likely failed when folk camped probably over a weekend near to the likely nesting tree. Another wood could well have had a nesting attempt as an adult was heard calling loudly during a visit in late April but no evidence of nesting during later visit in May.

Additionally a pair was seen in April but it is not known if they were breeding and singles were seen in two other areas with some historical breeding history. It is a long time since we had confirmed ground nesting in these hills and it seems that there is still potential for some further regular monitoring in this area. Of the four confirmed breeding sites (three successful) two were in Lothian and two in Borders.

South of Tweed Only 9 sites were monitored to a greater or lesser extent this year. Of these at least six had confirmed or very probable nesting pairs and at another a single female was present in May but nothing was seen later. One of the six sites had a pair present in March but was not revisited so the outcome is unknown.

A brood of four large young was ringed at a site near the Northumberland border. Three other sites fledged young two of these seem likely to have fledged four each and at least two young were seen flying at the third. No records of tree nesting were received this year.

Merlin breeding success in SE Scotland Raptor Study Group area 2000-2013

	00	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	2014
Sites checked	54	59	57	46	55	53	53	73	49	48	53	52	55	61
Sites occupied	26	30	35	28	28	24	24	26	14	18	21	19	24	14
Sites hatched	16	17	26	14	15	13	11	20	12	9	14	15	12	11
No. of young	57	54	89	54	59	40	38+	62	45	29	47	34	32	38+
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	na

Additional contributors: Graham Anderson, Andrew Barker, Martin Davison, Tom Dougall, Harry Dott, Tom Edwards, Malcolm Henderson, Martin Moss, Ian Poxton, Helen Riley, Andrew Sandeman.

Alan Heavisides, South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report

Autumn/Winter: Singles Lauder Common 1st Sep, St Abb's Head 3rd Sep. Eyemouth Bay 13th Sep. Westfield & Wolf Craigs 17th Sep, Bemersyde Moss 14th Oct & Lauder Common 3rd Nov.



Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Very scarce passage migrant, but odd records now in summer. Note that breeding range moving northwards in England and an addition to the breeding avifauna. In 2015 (4 records in 2014)

Singles Coldstream 25th May (Anthony Speybe), Thirlstane Castle 14th Jul (Kevin Ingleby); and Birgham 8th Aug (Malcolm Henderson). Also a bird at an undisclosed location. *Four records in one year is encouraging.*

Hobby - record shot
undisclosed location, July 2014

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. During 2008-13 found in 10% of tetrads in summer and 10% in winter. (99 records in 2014)

Six birds were seen during the Rocky Shore Count on 23rd Jan, including two pairs.

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	9	3	8	20	11	12	6	8	5	3	4



Raptor Study Group 20014 was a bit of a disappointment after recent years though nesting was early by about 2 weeks, due to very good weather in late March and Early April. Productivity dropped from 1.50 to 1.38 young per territorial pair and from 2.8 to 2.67 young per productive pair. Most of this increase came from a highly productive coastal population monitored very diligently by Francesco Germi. There is still a continuing trend of reduced production within the south western Borders, which is partly attributed to a reduction in prey Breeding:

This season was fairly average with a slight drop in the occupied sites from 61 to 59, although we still had 51 pairs laying, the same as 2013. In 2014 all 154 known sites were checked! Of the 59 occupied sites, five held single birds. Eggs were hatched at 43 sites, but only 41 of these fledged young. Productivity decreased from 1.88 to 1.69 young per territorial pair and the number of young per productive pair also dropped from 2.83 to 2.43.

The PIT tagging went on relentlessly without the assistance of Mike McGrady this year although Malcolm Henderson provided a lot of encouragement and welcome support in the south. The results of the trapping/PIT-tagging study are not complete for this season, but in general terms there was a bit less stability in the adult birds. We lost several of our long and short-term residents but with no inter-site movements. We did capture one new ringed male, although we are still tracking this bird's origin.

Thanks to all who provided data, it adds up to great coverage of our area.

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

Peregrine - St Peter's Church, Galashiels, July 2014

	Sites checked	sites with pairs	sites laid	young fledged	young/occupied territory	young/productive pair
2014	154	59	51	100+	1.69	2.41
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

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Very scarce autumn passage migrant that occasionally winters. Not annual. (2 records in 2014). Very scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, not annual. Very scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, not annual

1 Westshiels 30th Nov & 1 Hyndlee 1st Dec (Malcolm Henderson).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Very scarce passage migrant. Not annual. (6 records in 2014)

If St Abb's Head 28th-30th May (Jack Ibbotson).

Magpie *Pica pica*

Scarce and local breeder with curious distribution along the northern hills, the coast and Cheviot fringes. Increasingly common. Some dispersal into central areas in winter. During 2008-13 found in 24% of tetrads in summer and 29% in winter. (269 records in 2014)

Non-breeding season: Recorded from 34 tetrads Jan-Mar & 53 tetrads Sep-Dec (41 & 41 in 2013, 64 & 66 in 2012). The best early-year counts were: 8 Eyemouth GC 11th Jan; 6 at Leadburn CW 8th Jan & 6 Whitechesters 10th Feb; with 3-5 birds at Black Barony & Kaimend.

The best late-year counts were: 9 Kaimend 24th Dec; 7 Deepsyke 21st Sep & 15th Oct and Hummelknowes on 6th Dec. With 3-6 birds at Borthaugh, Burnmouth, East Loch, Eddleston, Eyemouth, Lamberton Moor, Leadburn CW, West Linton & Wester Deans Plantation

Breeding Season: Reported during Apr-Aug from 52 tetrads (78 in 2013, 76 in 2012). No confirmed breeding records after the end of the Atlas. The best counts were: 5 East Loch 9th Apr; 5 Hen Poo & 5 Longmuir Moss 11th Apr; 4 St Abb's Head 4th Apr and at Threeburnford & Hartside 11th Apr, with 3 birds Burnmouth, Lamberton & Ayton.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Very scarce but increasing breeder found in only 5% of tetrads in 1988-94.

During 2008-13 found in 21% of tetrads in summer and 32% in winter (192 records in 2014).

Non-breeding season: Birds were reported during Jan-Mar from 28 tetrads (46 in 2013, 55 in 2012).

Mainly 1-2 birds but 8 Hen Poo 2nd Jan; with 4 birds Preston Plantation 4th Jan & Upper Faldonside 11th Jan and 3 birds at Hen Poo, Hirsell, Newmains & Paxton Plantation.

Seen at 44 locations in Sep-Oct (32 in 2013, 46 in 2012), typically more visible when foraging to establish winter stores. All 1-2 birds except for 8 Morridgehall 24th Sep and 3 birds at Black Crane Cleuch, Fatlips Castle, Paxton House & Rumbletonlaw.

Found in 35 locations in Nov-Dec. Best counts were 4 Paxton House 17th-18th Dec with 3 Allanton, Bonchester Bridge, Linthill, Torwoodlee and Windy Gowl.

Breeding season: Birds were reported during Apr-Aug at 40 sites. There were no cases of confirmed breeding in 2014. The best count was 4 Clints Hill 2nd May, the remainder being of 1-2 birds.

Ayton.	Darnhall-Harcus	Hen Poo 2	Pease Dean
Bairnkine	Deadwater Burn Wood	Hirsell - Dundock	Roxburghe Hotel
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	Dodburn BBS 2	Huntford	Samieston
Bowshiel	Duns Law	Lambden	Saughtree 2
Brundeanlaws 2	Dykecroft	Lumsdaine woods	Scotch Kersrhope
Bushelhill 2	Elba, Strait Leap	Mire Loch	Slaughter Cleugh
Cardrona Forest 2	Floors Castle	Murder Moss	Stoneshiel Farm
Carolsidehill Wood	Foulsheils	Oak Bank	Todheugh
Clints Hill	Gordon CW	Palmer's Hill	Ven Law
Corbie Linn	Hag Wood 2	Cutting 2	Whitsome Laws
Crystal Forest			

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Widespread and common resident, often forms mixed flocks with other corvids.

During 2008-13 found in 63% of tetrads in summer and 61% in winter (673 records in 2014)

Winter/spring: Recorded 62 tetrads Jan-Mar (97 in 2013, 149 in 2012, 178 in 2011 & 146 in 2010).

A very low count of 60 birds was found on Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan (93 in 2012, 170 in 2011, 122 in 2009) with 30 Pease Bay, 2 at Eyemouth and 28 at Lamberton.

The largest seasonal counts were: 450 Bemersyde Moss 19th Feb; 106 Eddleston on 5th Mar; 100 Manortoun 4th Jan, & Dunglass 16th Feb & 23rd Jan; with 50-99 birds at: Cockburnspath, Fairliehope, Hundleshope & Whitrig Bog.

Breeding: Recorded 102 tetrads (234 in 2-13, 238 in 2012).

The first fledglings reported were at Manor Schoolhouse on 24th Jun. Large counts: 350 Cavers Little Moss on 21st Jul; 130 Westruther Pools 29th Jul; 100 St Abb's Head 26th May; 90 Toddleburn 2nd May with 30-40 birds at Darnhall-Harcus, Groundistone Moss, Heathpool Common, Queenscairn, St Abb's Head, Threeburnford Farm, Tower Burn Marsh field & Upper Whitefield Pond.

Autumn/Winter: 250 Hurdlaw 22nd Oct & 105 Leadburn CW 5th Oct were the only 3-figure counts Aug-Oct. Reported in 37 tetrads Nov-Dec (30 in 2013, 143 in 2011 & 152 in 2010). The 3-figure counts were 120 Greenlaw Pool 12th Nov & 120 Dunglass 4th Dec with 50-99 birds at Eddleston, Loch of the Lowes and Yetholm Loch.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Abundant resident breeder present in 69% of tetrads but breeding in just 36% of tetrads. Forms large winter flocks for feeding and roosting. During 2008-13 found in 58% of tetrads in summer and 60% in winter. (488 records in 2014).

Breeding: Reported in 79 tetrads Mar-Jul (86 in 2013, 209 in 2012).

There were no substantive colony counts this spring-summer. Maximum counts in this period were 200 Venchen Haugh 16th Apr, 200 Hartside 2nd May & 200 Tower Burn Marsh 20th May; with counts of 100-199 birds at Cringletie, Edenhall, Eddleston & Haswellsykes.

Non-breeding: Reported in only 45 tetrads Jan-Feb (39 in 2013, 114 in 2012) with 1,000 pre-roost Berrybank 29th Jan with 150 Yetholm Loch 11th Jan and 100-110 birds Eddleston, Langhaugh & Manortoun.

Three-figure post-breeding flocks (Jun-Oct): 1,100 Hurdlaw 22nd Oct with 700 on newly-cut silage Loch Pots 18th Jun, 650 Stobo Burnfoot 6th Jul, 200 Groundstone Moss 21st Jun with 100-149 at Black Barony, Cringletie, Glenrath, & Upper Whitfield.

Reported in just 29 tetrads Nov-Dec (27 in 2013, 90 in 2012) with high counts of: 200 West Foulden 19th Nov & Elba 14th Dec with 50-149 birds at Broomdykes, Dykegatehead, Eddleston, Hundleshope, Mill Burn and Portmore Loch.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Abundant and widespread resident found in 90% of tetrads.

During 2008-13 found in 89% of tetrads in summer and 88% in winter. (1014 records in 2014)

Non-breeding season: 103 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count on 23rd Jan (118 in 2013, 125 in 2012, 188 in 2011) with 20 Burnmouth-border & 18 Eyemouth-Burnmouth the largest sectional counts.

Reported from 88 tetrads Jan-Mar (130 in 2013, 184 in 2012) with high counts of: 39 Tweedbank 1st Jan with 31 there 24th Mar, 18 North Esk Reservoir 19th Feb & 17 Black Barony 27th Jan.

Reported in 98 tetrads Sep-Dec (95 in 2013, 162 in 2012) with 40 Hurdlaw 22nd Oct & 40 Dunglass 4th Dec; 37 Leadburn CW 3rd Sep; and 20-29 birds at Black Barony & West Water Reservoir.

Breeding season: Reported in 164 tetrads (346 in 2013, 316 in 2012) Apr-Aug.

High counts of 40 Groundstone Moss on 21st Jul and 40 Westruther Pools on 29th Jul; 33 Dunglass 20th Jul with 31 Middlestots Marsh 10th Jul. Counts of 20-29 from Clints Hill, Hundleshope Cross Ponds, St Abb's Head, Tweedbank & Upper Whitfield Pond.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Hybrid genes exist in the Crow population, especially in west. Pure Hoodies are exceptional in winter and spring.

During 2008-13 found in 19 tetrads in summer and 8 in winter. (2 reports in 2014)

2 Dewar Hill 19th Mar were hybrids (Ray Murray).

1 pure-bred at Greenhead 19th Jul (Dave Graham).

Raven *Corvus corax*

Rather scarce resident. Very low levels in 1980s but increasing. Mostly found in hilly areas but a few pairs on coast. Winter breeder, few confirmed records. Some winter roosts developing. During 2008-13 found in 29% of tetrads in summer and 38% in winter (just 4% in 1988-94). (225 records in 2014)

Winter: Found in 34 tetrads Jan-Feb (55 in 2013, 55 in 2012).

9 birds seen during the Rocky Shore Count on 23rd Jan (9 in 2013, 4 in 2012): 3 Redheugh-Souter and 2 each at Souter-Petticowick, Petticowick-Coldingham Bay & Eyemouth-Burnmouth.

Otherwise the best counts were: 3 Auchope 3rd Feb with 2 birds at 15 other sites.

Breeding: Recorded in 43 tetrads Mar-Jul (85 in 2013, 75 in 2012) with confirmed breeding in 9 of them.

The first nest with clutches and young were seen at Fairloans, Heatherhope, Shankend, The Yett and Woden Law on 11th Mar.

In the Pentland & Moorfoot Hills birds were seen at Black Barony, Cairn Hills, Clints Hill, Dewar, Fairliehope, Hartside, Medwynhead, Nether Falla, Nether Kidston, North Esk Reservoir, North Muir, Piper's Grave, Portmore Loch, Threeburnford & Toddleburn.

In the Tweedsmuir Hills there were reports from Alterstones, Cademuir, Ettrick Pen, Fouldsheils, Linghope, Linghope, Scuds Cleugh Wood, Stob Law, Stobo Castle, Talla Reservoir and The Glen.

In the Central Borders there were records from Bemersyde Moss and Gala Hill.

Reports from the Cheviots and the southern hills came from Blackcleugh Loch, Dod BBS, Dodburn BBS, Fairloans, Heatherhope, Huntford, Kiln Knowe, Shankend, Sheilswood Loch, The Yett, Woden Law and Yetholm Loch.

In the Lammermuir Hills and The Merse there were records from Byreclough, Elba & Hule Moss.

On the coast from: Dowlaw, Lamberton, Linkim Shore, Siccar Point & St Abb's Head.

Best counts were: 4-5 birds Clints Hill, Dewar, Dowlaw & Hartside.

Raven Breeding Status	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Home ranges checked	48	38	55	61	43	32	37	42
Occupied home ranges	52	38	43	56	35	27	27	31
Site with proven breeding	-	-	-	-	28	27	24	27
Young fledged	65	67+	105	61	90	86	67	86
Mean successful brood	-	2.6	2.8	2.54	2.57	3.18	3.19	2.77
Mean success/occupied site	-	-	-	1.08	3.33	3.44	2.79	3.19

Coverage was improved yet again with 42 out of 81 known sites checked in 2014, 5 more than in 2013. However more observers would still be welcome. 31 sites were occupied, all by pairs. Eggs were laid at 27 sites and hatched from all of them.

Productivity was also well up, with some 86 young fledged (67 in 2013) from 27 sites, (24 in 2013) giving 2.77 per occupied site (2.48 in 2013), and 3.19 per successful pair against 2.79 in 2013.

George Smith. Raven Coordinator, SE Scotland Raptor Study Group.

Autumn/Winter: Seen at 43 sites Aug-Oct with best counts were of 6 Watch Water Reservoir 8th Aug; 5 Sunhope Heights 30th Oct and 4 Yetholm Loch 13th Oct.

Seen at 24 sites during Nov-Dec with 7 on Larriston Fells 5th Nov, 6 at Mossburnford on 8th Nov and 5 at Byreclough 23rd Nov.



Raven chicks waiting to be ringed - Cheviots, 2014 Tim Chamberlain

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Abundant resident. Subject to large-scale mortality in hard winters. Abundant migrant & winter visitor, especially in autumn. During 2008-13 found in 57% of tetrads in summer and 48% in winter. (219 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Recorded from 36 tetrads in Jan-Feb (24 in 2013, 61 in 2012). A better winter for Goldcrest with: 30 Paxton 4th Jan; 10 Hirsell lake 10th Jan; 8 Foulden New Mains 10th Jan; 6 Elba 8th Jan and 4 birds at Barns House Wood & Milkieston with 3 birds at 6 other sites. In Mar there were 19 Harehope Forest 29th Mar, 5 Harcus 24th Mar & 4 Portmore Loch 24th Mar.

No hint of any spring passage with just a single bird reported at St Abb's Head on 6th Apr.

Breeding: Reported from 65 tetrads Mar-Aug (172 in 2013, 182 in 2012), numbers clearly impacted by the end of the Atlas. Few large counts: 7 Black Barony 12th Jul; 6 Drumelzier 24th May and 3-5 birds at Cavers Wood Small Pond, Harcus, Haremooss, Hen Poo, Northhouse Lower Pond, Pease Bay BBS & Penmanshiel BBS.

Autumn: Aug-Oct from inland areas included 25 Black Barony 4th Sep; 8 Harcus 30th Sep; and 7 Leadburn CW 12th Oct. Just small-scale coastal passage with 10 at St Abb's Head on 19th Sep, max 30 there on 8th Oct, 16 on 14th Oct, 26 on 16th Oct & 15 on 18th Oct, with 15 Burnmouth on 16th Oct.

Birds were recorded in 30 tetrads (25 in 2013, 72 in 2012). There were 2 double-figure counts with 33 Harcus 12th Dec; 13 Black Barony 5th Nov; and 4-6 birds at Eyemouth GC, Leadburn CW, Paxton House, Selkirk South Common, St Abb's Head & Torwoodlee.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Abundant resident breeder. During 2008-13 found in 64% of tetrads in summer and 69% in winter. (738 records in 2014)

Non-breeding season: Reported in 69 tetrads Jan-Mar (108 in 2013, 155 in 2012) with high counts as follows: 34 Tweedbank 1st Jan; 30 Harcus 25th Mar; 29 Black Barony 28th Feb; 27 Eddleston 4th Feb; 16 Hirsell Lake 3rd Mar; 15 Abbotsford 4th Jan; 14 Dunglass 18th Jan, 12 Bemersyde Moss 30th Jan 10 Duns Law 31st Jan. Just 10 sites with double-figure counts compared to 19 in 2013 & 28 in 2012.

It is perhaps safe to say that few folk actually count Blue Tits, other than those that do site counts. There are perhaps still too many Bird Track entries with no counts, only ticking the box.

Large Sep-Oct counts include 24 Black Barony on 4th Sep; 20 Dunglass & 20 Hirsell 1st Oct; 15 Mire Loch on 20th Sep; and 14 Tweedbank 11th Oct.

Reported from just 38 tetrads Nov-Dec (108 in 2013, 155 in 2012) with 24 Hircus 12th Dec; 20 Black Barony 5th Nov; 12 Hirsell on 7th Nov; 11 Pot Loch 28th Nov and 11 Lindean Reservoir 2nd Dec with 10 Todheugh 19th Nov.

Breeding season: Birds reported during Mar-Aug from 91 tetrads (211 in 2013, 236 in 2012) with high counts of: 20 Black Barony 25th Jul; 17 Cringletie 27th Aug; 17 Hircus 19th Apr; 13 Abbotsford Woods 15th Apr and 10-12 birds at Abbotsford Woods, Darnhall, Hen Poo, Hirsell, Roxburgh & Tweedbank 18 double-figure count sites compared to 12 in 2013, 17 in 2012.

Few breeding statements: The first occupied nest was at St Abb's Head on 6th May The first fledged young were seen at Lindean Reservoir on 17th Jun.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident breeder. During 2008-13 found in 61% of tetrads in summer and 62% in winter. (595 records in 2014)

Non-breeding season: Reported in just 64 tetrads Jan-Mar (96 in 2013, & 248 in 2012) with highest counts of: 27 Tweedbank 1st Jan; 18 Hircus 25th Mar; 15 Black Barony 12th Feb; and 10 Hirsell on 3rd Mar. So again, despite the much lower number of reports, there were 7 double-figure counts compared to 5 in 2013, 6 in 2012, 12 in 2011, 5 in 2010 & 3 in 2009.

The largest Sep-Oct counts were 13 Hircus 30th Sep, 12 Black Barony 4th Sep & 10 Tweedbank 12th Oct.

Reported from 27 tetrads Nov-Dec (32 in 2013, 78 in 2012) with three double-figure counts: 11 Black Barony 1st Dec, 10 Black Barony 5th Dec and 10 Hircus 12th Dec.

Breeding season: Birds reported during Apr-Aug from 93 tetrads (202 in 2013, 210 in 2012).

11 Hircus 19th Apr & 21st Jun; 10 Tweedbank 21st Apr & 26th Jul; 10 Eddleston 26th Apr; 10 Black Barony 25th Jul; with 10 Tweedbank 21st Apr & 26th Jul. Again despite fewer records: 6 double-figure counts compares to 4 in 2013, 4 in 2012, 1 in 2011, 6 in 2010 &, 1 in 2009.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Abundant resident breeder. During 2008-13 found in 70% of tetrads in summer and 76% in winter. (364 records in 2014)

Non-breeding season: Reported in 61 tetrads Jan-Mar (90 in 2013, 155 in 2012). Best counts were 18 Black barony 28th Feb; 16 Alderybar 1st Jan; 10 Duns Law 31st Jan. Just 5 double-figure counts.

Best Sep-Oct counts were : 30 Black Barony 4th Sep (suggesting an excellent breeding season here at least) with 10 there 24th Oct; 7 Hircus 30th Sep & n 24th oct but just a single record from St Abb's Head.

Reported in 23 tetrads Nov-Dec (19 in 2013, 120 in 2012) with 12 Black Barony 5th Nov & 1st Dec but then just 5 Hirsell 7th Nov.

Breeding season: Birds reported Apr-Aug from just 67 tetrads (206 in 2013, 261 in 2012). Only a single double-figure counts in 2013: 10 Hircus 19th Apr (compared to 2 in 2013, 12 in 2012) with 7 Black Barony on 7th Apr with 6 Cringletie & Abbotsford.



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. During 2008-13 found in just 10 tetrads in summer and 11 in winter. (3 records in 2014)

1 Lennelhill 30th Jan (Harry Urquhart); 1 Hen Poo 19th Feb (James Lough; and pr with br2 on English border at New Mills Wood, Berwick on 8th Jun (Tom Brewis).

Slowly creeping to local extinction?

Marsh Tit

Todheugh
Nov 2010

Note the pale spot at the base of the upper mandible, now considered the best identification feature to distinguish Marsh & Willow Tits

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Abundant breeder. Mostly absent during winter months except in coastal areas. Return from late January-February with departure & passage September-October. During 2008-13 found in 76% of tetrads in summer and 28% in winter. (245 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: A very low total of 3 were noted on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan: 1 Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth & 2 Eyemouth-Burnmouth.

There were 5 Jan reports, all from coastal areas, with 120 Linkim Shore 11th Jan and birds present Newmains on 4 dates. Half of the 18 Feb records were coastal with a small movement of c.10 birds Lamberton 4th Feb but otherwise 1-2 birds at Burnmouth, Cairncross, Lamberton & Newmains. The first inland report was 2 at Redden 7th Feb with singles Haigsfield 14th Feb, Lees Haugh & Garvald (Moorfoots) 16th Feb; Ladykirk House & St Thomas Island 22nd Feb with later singles Birgham Haugh, Folly Loch, Lindean Reservoir & Roxburgh.

Only 23 Mar records, suggesting a lack of reports rather than birds, but numbers again low with only 1-3 birds reported. Best totals were 3 Leadburn CW 1st Mar; 4 Cauldshiels Hill 3rd Mar; 4 Cothill 13th Mar; 2 East Loch 23rd Mar & 3 Sprouston 26th Mar.

The first double-figure counts were not until 18th Apr with 10 Clints Hill 18th Apr and 10 Hule Moss & Tan Law BBS on 20th Apr.

Breeding: Recorded in 96 tetrads Mar-Aug (222 in 2013).

Just 13 double-figure counts: 15 Clints Hill 10th May & 10th Jun; 15 Hoselaw Mains BBS 25th Jun; 14 Dowlaw Coastal Slope 22nd Jun; 13 Toddleburn Windfarm 2nd May; 11 Hoselaw Mains 27th May; 10 Hule Moss and 10 Tan Law BBS 20th Apr with 10 Dodburn BBS 8th May.

Autumn/Winter: Passage and autumn flocks: just 4 double-figure counts: 10 Nether Falla 21st Sep; 12 St Abb's Head 24th Sep; 30 South Mains 6th Oct & 25 Lamberton Beach 11th Oct.

Healthier numbers Nov-Dec with 18 reports: 50 Smailholm 2nd Nov; 17 Ladyrig 8th Nov; 120 Dykegatehead & 10 Broomdykes 19th Nov; 35 Cove 23rd Nov; 10 Lamberton 24th Nov; 30 Folly Loch 30th Nov; and then after 4 weeks - 140 Cove on 27th Dec. Also single-figure counts Burnmouth, Green Stane, Nether Falla, Paxton House, Pease Bay & St Abb's Head.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

Very uncommon autumn and winter migrant. (3 records in 2014).

1 Dowlaw 12th-17th Nov (Fran Evans).

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Common breeding species along river systems and in sandpits. Found in 709 tetrads 2008-13 breeding in 30% of them. Arrives from late March-mid April, and departs mostly August to mid September. (167 records in 2014)

Spring: First 1 at Chain Bridge, Melrose 15th Mar (Harry Mc Kerchar); 1 Bowdenmoor Reservoir on 22nd Mar; 1 Innerleithen 23rd Mar; 2 Denholm Mill 24th Mar; 3 Whitmuirhaugh 26th Mar; 13 Gunknowe Loch 26th Mar; 18 Bemersyde Moss, 3 Charlesfield Halt & 2 Charlesfield 30th Mar. Daily then from 1st Apr. 45 Blount Island 5th Apr. 3N Dunglass 10th Apr but just 2 singles St Abb's Head 27th-28th Apr.

Breeding: 384 burrows at 10 colonies- numbers again reduced somewhat (645 at 30 sites in 2013, 723 at 40 sites in 2012) Counts of active burrows –

Tweed at		Tweed at		Eddleston Water at	
Scotsmill Upper	17	Howford	44	Darnhall	8
Scotsmill Lower	62	Quairwaterfoot	8	Artificial site:	
Cardrona Bridge	18	Birgham Haugh	88	Cowieslinn Quarry	48
Cardrona Island	45	Lees Haugh	46		

Best Apr-Jul counts were; 40 at Bemersyde Moss 22nd Apr; 50 Sprouston 8th Jun; 40 Cowieslinn on 11th Jun; 60 Watch Water Reservoir 2nd Jul; 62 Cardrona 7th Jul; 50 Sprouston 8th Jul; 104 Yetholm Loch 30th Jul.

Autumn: 27 Aug & 5 Sep reports: 21 at Yetholm Loch 12th Aug; 40 Hule Moss 28th Aug; 9 Yetholm Loch and 3 Tweedbank 9th Sep; 1 Folly Loch 13th Sep & 17 Yetholm Loch 24th Sep (James Lough).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common & widespread summer visitor found feeding in 82% of tetrads 2008-13. Most arrive early April to early May and depart late August to late Sep. Late birds sometimes to November. (590 records in 2014).

Spring: First 2 Morebattle 2nd Apr (J Knight); 1 Bemersyde Moss 4th Apr; 1 Blakedeane & 1 Blount Island on 5th Apr; 1 Bowden 6th Apr; 3 Lindean and 1 Foulden on 8th Apr; 3 Hume Castle, 2 Preston & 1 Springwood 9th Apr; 6 Dunglass and singles Bluestane Ford, Cothill, Duns & Newmains 10th Apr. First double-figure counts were 37 Yetholm Loch & 20 Rink 17th Apr, the 10 Tweedbank 25th Apr.

Late passage: 45 Blount Island 29th Apr with 100 Mire Loch 6th May, 30 Hule Moss 7th May, 40 St Abb's Head 18th May with 21 there 24th May.

Breeding: Recorded in 174 tetrads Apr-Aug (397 in 2013, 316 in 2012).

The largest numbers seen during the breeding season were: 55 Yetholm Loch 21st May with 64 there 19th Jun; 50 Lamberton 5th Jul; 27 Black Barony 12th Jul; 33 Holefield & 26 Venchen 17th Jul; 52 Watch Water Reservoir 24th Jul; 80 Essense Loch 23rd Jul; 50 St Abb's Head 25th Jul; 120 Haud yards 29th Jul; with 20-24 birds at Earlyvale, Hule Moss, Rink, Roxburgh, Sprouston & Stewarton.

Autumn/Winter: 150 Easter Housebyres on 5th Aug; 1,000+ over Rutherford 18th Aug (D Farr); 50 Lamberton 21st Aug; 1,000 Rutherford 22nd Aug; 400 Lindean Mast Pool 25th Aug; 60 Eddleston 27th Aug; 105 Black Barony 4th Sep; 150 Lamberton Moor, 140 Rawburn, 90 Watch Water Reservoir & 70 Whitcheater on 5th Sep; 85 Yetholm Loch 13th Sep; 60 Bemersyde Moss on 14th Sep; 50 Angelrow 16th Sep; 300 Westfield 17th Sep; 200 Kelso 23rd Sep; 11 Roxburgh 25th Sep; 12 Nether Falla 28th Sep.

Just 2 Oct records: singles Boreland 8th Oct and St Abb's Head 18th Oct (Jack Ibbotson).

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common & widespread summer visitor. Mostly April-October. During 2008-13 found in 56% of tetrads in summer. (298 records in 2014).

Spring: Two early-birds at Sprouston 26th Mat (Tony Reed). The gap until 8 Melrose Chain Bridge & 2 Bluestane Ford 10th Apr; 4 Harestanes & 2 Cardrona 14th Apr; 2 Tweedbank 17th Apr; 1 Newmains 19th Apr; 2 Eddleston 20th Apr. Daily from 22nd Apr. 20 Philiphaugh Mill 4th May is first double-figure counts with 10 St Abb's Head 6th May; 29 Tweedbank 10th May & 12 Dunglass & Huntford 16th May.

Breeding: Found in just 83 tetrads Mar-Aug (226 in 2013, 180 in 2012). Largest breeding season counts were 50 Yetholm Loch 3rd Jul; 30 St Abb's Head 4th Jul; 20 Sprouston 8th Jul. 1 still on nest Attonburn 28th Sep.

Autumn: 20 Hawick 16th Aug; 50 Lamberton 21st Aug; 300 Lindean Mast Pool on 25th Aug; 110 Eddleston & 20 Gattonside 27th Aug; and 44 Tweedbank & 20 Hawick 29th Aug.

Higher numbers in Sep with: 260 Whitcheater, 170 Clappers & 70 Lamberton Moor 5th Sep; 32 Yetholm Loch 9th Sep; 30 Angelrow 16th Sep; 30 Westfield on 17th Sep; 30 Lambden and 30 Yetholm Loch 18th Sep with 30 Roxburgh 25th Sep. 5-10 birds Attonburn, Gavinton, Melrose, Primside Mill & Tweedbank 26th-28th Sep. Then 40 Gavinton 30th Sep with 8 there 8th Oct (Andrew Mitchell).

Then 4 very late birds at Dryburgh 22nd Nov (Martin Moncrieff).

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Uncommon resident. Forms flocks June-March. In 2008-13 found in 22% of tetrads in summer and 29% in winter. (126 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Found in 23 tetrads Jan-Feb (34 in 2013, 43 in 2012). The largest counts were: 17 Gavinton on 17th Feb; 12 Preston Plantation 4th Jan; 11 Tweedbank 3rd Jan; 10 Huntford 7th Feb with 5-9 birds at Butterhall, Coldingham Bay, Crimsonhill, Eddleston, Edrom, Fatlips Castle, Minto Glen & Peebles

Breeding: Found at 41 sites from mid-Mar to end-Aug, compared to 42 in 2013 and 76 in 2012.

Suggests good overwinter and breeding success when drop in recording effort taken into account.

Single birds recorded at 7 sites (8 in 2013, 13 in 2012): Bemersyde Moss, Clintmains, New Belses Farm, Pease Bay BBS, Penmanshiel BBS, Yetholm Haugh & Yetholm Loch

32 pairs at 24 sites - 7br31 reported, * = confirmed breeding

Billiemains Ponds *	1	Dunglass	2	Huntford *	2	Popples	1
Bluestane Ford	1	East Reston	2	Kelso	2	Roxburgh	1
Cavers Little Moss	1	Eddleston *	1	Lempitlaw	1	Roxburgh Viaduct	1
Cockburnspath	2	Heiton	1	Melrose	1	Kelso	2
Cringletie *	1	Hen Poo	1	Neidpath Castle	2	Sprouston/Railway *	1
Dinlabyre	1	Hirsel Lake *	1	Paxton House	2	Tweedbank	1

First brood seen at Hirsel on 6th May.

Autumn/Winter: Flocks recorded Sep-Oct: 13 Tweedbank 12th Oct; 10 Bemersyde Moss 7th Oct; 8 Allanton 27th Oct & 8 Eddleston 31st Oct. Reported from 19 tetrads Nov-Dec (12 in 2013, 47 in 2012). The largest counts were: 15 Gavinton 23rd Nov; 12 Chesters Grange 9th Nov; 10 Galashiels 2nd Dec; with 5-9 birds at Abbotrule, Cauldshiels Loch, Dryburgh, Hircus, Hawick, Innerleithen, Melrose, Newhall, Selkirk Common and Yetholm Loch. *Better numbers in 2014, after a poor year in 2013.*

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Very scarce, but annual, Siberian passage migrant. (14 reports in 2014)

1 St Abb's Head 19th Sep (Fran Evans) and probably the same bird 20th-22nd Sep; 1 Dunglass 21st Sep (Dave Graham); 1 St Abb's Head 7th Oct (Fran Evans) with 2 there 8th Oct and 4 on 9th Oct (Fran Evans), dropping to 1 on 10th Oct and 2 on 11th Oct. 1 Coldingham 12th Oct (BirdGuides). 1 St Abb's Head 18th Oct (Jack Ibbotson). The gap until 1 there 2nd Nov (Harry Dott).

c. 9 birds in 2014, a return to 'normal' numbers after the blitz in 2013.



Yellow-browed Warbler - St Abb' Head, Oct 2014 Alan Kerr

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. During 2008-13 found in 24 tetrads in summer. (3 records in 2014)

1 Plora Wood 7th May (Andrew Bramhall) with 2 there 10th May (Dave Graham) and 1 on 31st May (Mark & Alison Cockburn).

Unfortunately the only site with records in 2014, although the presence of more than a singleton for at least a month is some encouragement.



Wood Warbler
Plora Wood
May 2014
Dave Graham

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. During 2008-13 found in 48% of tetrads in summer and 12 in winter. (495 records in 2014)

Winter: 1 Hattonknowe, Eddleston 9th Jan (Ray Murray).

Spring: First 1 Traquair on 11th Mar (Mark & Alison Cockburn); with 1 Edrom & 1 Northfield 12th Mar; 2 Pease Bay & 1 Paxton House on 13th Mar; 1 Newstead 14th Mar; 1 Tweedbank 15th Mar; 4 Newtown Glen, 2 Dryburgh & 1 Clovenfords 16th Mar; more widespread thereafter.

Mostly singles until end Mar but: 11 Dunglass 29th Mar; 5 Hirsell on 27th Mar & Charlesfield 30th Mar; 4 Dunglass 23rd Mar and 3 birds at Blackadder House, Hen Poo & Tweedbank. Good numbers continued into mid-Apr with 5 Hen Poo 3rd Apr with 7 on 11th Apr; 7 Tweedbank 5th Apr with 7 there 9th Apr; 10 Mire Loch 6th Apr; 10 Dunglass on 12th Apr; and 6 Abbotsford Woods 15th Apr. Fewer large counts into late Apr other than passage birds on the coast with 15 St Abb's Head 26th Apr, 10 Dowlaw 29th Apr and 20 St Abb's Head 29th Apr.

Another large scale influx in Mar with 49 reports from 39 sites.

Chiffchaff juv - Pease Bay, Jun 2014



Breeding: Reported in 143 tetrads (206 in 2013, 246 in 2012, 226 in 2011, 201 in 2010 & 146 in 2009). c.309 singing mm/territories were noted in suitable habitat at some 169 sites during Mar-Aug.

In fact the number of singing birds would almost certainly be much larger as many Bird Track records submitted did not include any number, just the box ticked.

Please try to provide a number, as the information is useful, even if only an estimate.

Amongst the records below, only a value of one could be assigned. in such cases.

Year	mm	sites
2008	519	154
2009	367	156
2010	481	198
2011	764	246
2012	736	261
2013	451	194
2014	310	170

Single birds were recorded at 116 sites with another 194 territories/pairs/singing mm at 54 sites.

Abbey St Bathans	2	Cove	2	Lennel	2	Selkirk, Victoria Park	3
Abbotsford Woods	6	Dryburgh	2	Lithillum Loch	3	Smiddyhill	2
Alton Loch	3	Duncanhaugh	3	Long Moss	4	Springwood	2
Alton Moss	2	Dunglass	7	Manderston	2	Sprouston	5
Bemersyde Moss	4	Duns Mill BBS	2	Newmains	2	St Abb's Head	4
Black Barony	3	Gala Hill	2	Newtown Glen	4	St Ronan's Wood	3
Blackadder House	4	Hen Poo	7	Pease Bay BBS	14	Tan Law BBS	3
Broadmeadows	2	Hirsel	11	Penmanshiel BBS	12	Todheugh	2
Burnmouth	2	Holefield	3	Philiphaugh Mill	3	Tweedbank	5
Buselhill	2	Hoselaw Mains BBS	3	Redden	2	Venchen Toll House	3
Cauldshields Loch	2	Hummelknowes	6	Reston	2	Winnington Moss	2
Charlesfield	5	Knowes Hill BBS	5	Roxburgh	2	Yetholm Haugh	4
Cherrytrees	3	Lees Haugh	3	Selkirk Common	2	Yetholm Loch	4
Cockburnspath	2						

Autumn: Widespread on habitat into Sep at 21 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 4 at Black Barony on 4th Sep & 4 Tweedbank 13th Sep with 2 birds at Huntford and Leadburn CW.

There was coastal passage at Abb's Head from 21st Aug, with 6 there on 28th Aug; 5 at Burnmouth 5th Sep and 6 there 13th Sep; 10 St Abb's Head 16th Sep with 15 there on 19th Sep; 4 Burnmouth 29th Sep and 4 there on 1st Oct; 10 St Abb's Head 7th-8th Oct and 7 on 14th Oct with 1-2 on 5 dates later in Oct.

Further inland reports with 2 Tweedbank 1st Oct and 1 there on 14th Oct; 1 Hen Poo 22nd Oct and last inland bird at Walkerburn on 2nd Nov. There was a single later report: 1 Cove on 23rd Nov (Dave Graham).

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Abundant summer visitor. Common passage migrant in coastal areas, especially in the autumn. Passage numbers peak April and September. During 2008-13 found in 90% of tetrads in summer. (375 records in 2014)

Spring: First single Eyemouth on 2nd Apr (Barry Prater). 1 St Abb's Head 5th Apr with 2 there on 6th Apr when 1 Westfield. Singles Tweedbank & Newmains 9th Apr with 3 Bemersyde Moss & 1 Hutton 10th Apr; 1 Lamberton 11th Apr. Main arrival 14th-16th Apr with 16 reports mainly of 1-2 birds but 10 Lindean Reservoir & 6 Tweedbank on 14th Apr. Many more reports over next 10 days with 37 Tweedbank 20th Apr.

Some coastal passage with 10 St Abb's Head 25th Apr; 60 St Abb's Head, 30 Dowlaw & 10 Eyemouth GC on 29th Apr.

Breeding: Reported 161 tetrads (395 in 2013, 315 in 2012). Again many Bird Track reports had no counts.

Counts of 5 or more birds were as follows:

Bemersyde Moss	6	Eildon Mid Hill	7	Leadburn CW	12	Penmanshiel BBS	12
Black Barony	9	Essenside Loch	6	Lindean Reservoir	10	Redden	9
Broadmeadows	5	Green Knowe Big Pond	6	Long Moss	5	Sprouston	11
Cademuir Forest	6	Harehope House N Pond	6	New Belses Farm	6	St Abb's Head	6
Cringletie	5	Harehope House S Pond	6	Northhouse Lower Pond	10	Tweedbank	7
Dawyck Botanic Garden	6	Holefield	5	Pease Bay BBS	12	Venchen Toll House	5
Eddleston	8	Hoselaw Loch	7	Peebles	5	Whitmuirhall Loch	10

Autumn: Later inland reports during Sep include 7 Leadburn CW 3rd Sep; 3 Black Barony 4th Sep; 1 Lauder Common 5th Sep; 1 Nether Falla 14th Sep and 1 Lindean Reservoir 18th Sep.

Coastal passage was almost non-existent, and even worse than in 2013: 1 Lamberton 2nd Sep; 1 Burnmouth on 5th Sep; 2 Lumsdaine 6th Sep; 1 Lamberton 7th Sep. Then gap until 1 Lamberton 28th Sep and final bird at Burnmouth 1st Oct (Ray Murray).

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common summer visitor. Scarce on passage April-May, more common in autumn from August to October. Very scarce but annual in winter. During 2008-13 found in 51% of tetrads in summer and 2% in winter. (265 records in 2014)

Winter: No early year records.

Spring: The first arrival was 1 Springwood 4th Apr (Margaret Greenhow); 1 Cothill 6th Apr; 1 Norham Bridge & Tweedbank 7th Apr with single Tweedbank 8th-9th Apr; 1 Bluestane Ford 10th Apr; 3 Linthill on 11th Apr; 4 Dunglass 10th Apr; the 25 records over the next week with 7 Tweedbank & 3 Abbotsford Woods 15th Apr. First coastal report was 2 Burnmouth 13th Apr but coastal passage was muted with 3-4 birds St Abb's Head 25th-28th Apr, 7 there 29th Apr when 3 Dowlaw but little sign of later movements.

Breeding: Recorded in 91 tetrads Apr-Aug (181 in 2013, 222 in 2012). Singles were recorded at 75 sites with another 126 at 36 sites

Abbotsford Woods	3	Lennel	3
Bemersyde Moss	2	Linthill	3
Black Barony	2	Lithillum Loch	2
Bluestane Ford	2	Pease Bay BBS	9
Burnmouth	2	Peebles	3
Dawcyk Garden	2	Penmanshiel BBS	8
Dunglass	4	Philiphaugh Mill	2
Duns Mill BBS	2	Roxburgh	2
Elba, Strait Leap	2	Scott's View	2
Graden	2	Shannabank	2
Harcus	3	Springwood	2
Hen Poo	13	Sprouston	2
Hirsel	6	Sprouston/Redden	3
Holefield	2	St Abb's Head	2
Hoselaw Mains BBS	3	Todheugh	5
Kailzie	4	Tweedbank	7
Kirkton Manor	2	Wilton Park	2
Lees Haugh	2	Yetholm Loch	3



Blackcap - Cringletie, May 2014

Autumn: Sep inland reports: 4 Black Barony 4th Sep with 2 birds Tweedbank 13th Sep and a single at Roxburgh 25th Sep. Coastal passage was fairly poor with just 1-2 on 5 days in Sep. Oct was a little better with 6 St Abb's Head on 7th Oct with singles there and at Lambertton 8th-12th Oct; 3 at St Abb' Head 17th Oct and

1 Lambertton 20th Oct. Long gap until 2 St Abb's Head 21st Nov.

Winter: Nov was much better inland with 1 Melrose 1st Nov; 1 Coldstream 17th Nov; 1 Dryburgh on 22nd Nov; 2 Graden 26th Nov with singles there 27th-28th Nov; 1 Edrington & 1 Hutton 28th Nov; 1 Coldstream 11th Dec with 2 there 19th Dec (Anthony Speybe).

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Uncommon summer visitor. Rather scarce on passage in spring during May & June. Occasionally more common in the autumn, August-October. During 2008-13 found in 24% of tetrads in summer. (Just 25 records in 2014)

Spring: First 1 Newmains 30th Apr (Dave Graham) with 2 Hirsel 6th May; 1 Pease Bay 7th May & 1 Folly Loch 10th May.

Breeding: Reported in just 16 tetrads this year (57 in 2013, 62 in 2012), a drastic reduction compared to recent years, even given the cessation of Atlas activities.

Just 3 sites held more than single birds: 2 Dundock 6th May; 2 Coldingham 23rd May; and 2 Rumbletonlaw on 25th Jun. Otherwise just single birds at 16 sites: Ale Mill, Bluestane Ford, Cannybank Covert, Cringletie, Edrington Castle, Folly Loch, Hummelknowes, Lambden, Lindean Mill, Middlethird Pond, New Belses Farm, Newmains, Pease Bay BBS, Peebles, Stewarton & Tweedbank No details of breeding.

Last probably on territory was 1 Lindean Mill on 1st Sep.

Autumn: Just four later reports: 2 at Burnmouth 5th Sep and singles at Burnmouth 13th Sep and St Abb's Head on 16th & 18th Sep (Andrew Mossup).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Very scarce summer visitor and passage migrant. Mostly on passage late April to May and August to October. During 2008-13 found in 2% of tetrads in summer. (18 records in 2014).

Spring: 6 St Abb's Head 26th Apr (Dave Graham); with 2 there and 1 Burnmouth 27th May and 3-4 St Abb's Head 28-29th Apr. 1 Newmains 1st May. 3 at St Abb's Head 2nd May with 1 there 3rd-4th May and again on 13th May. Also 1 Bee Edge Farm 15th May & 1 Newmains 19th May. It seems likely that the latter three reports may have been of territorial birds rather than migrants.

Autumn: 1 St Abb's Head 20th Sep with 1 there 14th & 16th Oct (Ray Murray).

Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor, mostly breeding on lower ground. Scarce passage migrant on coast April-June and August-September. During 2008-13 found in 27% of tetrads in summer. (166 records in 2014)

Spring: 1 Lindean Reservoir 14th Apr (David Parkinson). 1 Cothill & 1 North Foulden 20th Apr; 1 Newmains 24th Apr; 4 Paxton House, 3 Burnmouth & 1 St Abb's Head 27th Apr; singles Allanton, Lamberton, Tweedbank & St Abb's Head 29th Apr. The singles Hadden and Rink Pond 2nd May; 10 St Abb's Head & 3 Kelso 5th May with 10 St Abb's Head 6th May with 6 there 11th May.

Breeding: Reported just 66 tetrads Apr-Aug (143 in 2013, 125 in 2012). Breeding was confirmed at Bemersyde Moss & Mire Loch. c.103 singing mm/territories were noted in suitable habitat at 65 sites in Apr-Aug (302 in 2013, 372 in 2012). *Many of the records listed with single birds were 'no count' records on Bird Track, and almost certainly many were of more birds, so many that observers could not be bothered counting them!*

Alemill	1	Dowlaw Coast	1	Hoselaw Mains BBS	2	Paxton House	4
Allanton	1	Dunglass	6	Houndwood	1	Pease Bay BBS	4
Ayton	1	Duns Mill BBS	3	Hummelknowes	1	Penmanshiel BBS	4
Bemersyde Moss	1	East Reston	1	Huntford	1	Prendergust	1
Blaikie's Hill	6	Eccles	1	Hutton	1	Press Castle	1
Bluestane Ford	1	Edington Mains	1	Kelso, Loaning	3	Rink Pond	1
Bowdenmoor	1	Edrington Castle	1	Ladyrig	1	Rumbletonlaw	1
Bowshiel	1	Eyemouth GC	1	Ladyrig Mill Pond	1	Selkirk Common	1
Burnmouth	3	Fancove Head	1	Lamberton	1	Smailholm Tower	1
Cairncross	1	Foulden New Mains	1	Lamberton Beach	1	Sprouston	2
Cavers Little Moss	2	Gordon Moss	1	Lindean Reservoir	2	St Abb's Head	3
Cockburnspath	1	Graden	2	Millar's Moss	1	Roxburgh	2
Coldingham	1	Hadden	1	Mordington Holdings	1	Thornylee Car Park	1
Cothill	1	Heiton	1	New Belses Farm	7	Tweedbank	1
Cove	1	Holefield	2	Newmains	1	Wester Wooden	1
Darnhall	1	Homebank	1	North Foulden	1	Westerside Dean	3
Darnick	1						

Autumn: Last inland record was 1 Leadburn CW on 3rd Sep. Poor autumn on coast with just two singles at Burnmouth 13th Sep and Mire Loch 16th Sep (Fran Evans & Andrew Mossup).



Subalpine Warbler

Sylvia cantillans

Very rare passage migrant from Mediterranean
(8 records, of one bird, in 2014)

1 ad m on 28th Apr (Jack Ibbotson), trapped (Alan Kerr), probably a Western Subalpine Warbler. Occasionally sang quietly.

The fifth record for Borders. Earlier reports, all from St Abb's Head: ad m on 26-28 Jun 1981, f/imm on 31st Aug 1997; 1m on 30th May-5th Jun 1998; and 1m on 20th May 2012.

Subalpine Warbler

St Abb's Head. May 2014

Dave Graham

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Scarce summer visitor & passage migrant April-early September. During 2008-13 found in 7% of tetrads in summer. (15 records in 2014)

Spring: First 1 Dunglass Burn on 10th Apr (BirdGuides); 1 Chirnside 21st April; 1 St Abb's Head 27th Apr and 1 Ladhope GC 30th Apr.

Breeding: All singles, reported single days only Apr-Aug at 14 sites, including probable migrants (19 in 2013).

Chesters, Moss Burn	Fairlaw	Larriston Rigg	Ruddenleys Farm Ponds
Chirnside	Gattonside	Leadburn CW	St Abb's Head, Mire Loch
Dunglass Burn	Gilston	Purvishaugh	Towford
Edenhall	Ladhope GC		

Autumn: Last report was 1 Chesters 14th Sep (Jeff & Tommy Waddell).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Extremely uncommon passage migrant from Mediterranean (2 records in 2014)

1 St Abb's Head 8th-9th Jun (BirdGuides & Graeme Buchanan).

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor to wet areas, April-September. During 2008-13 found in 29% of tetrads in summer. (152 records in 2014)

Spring: First 3 Lindean Reservoir 14th Apr (David Parkinson). The singles Cardrona and Newmains 26th Apr; St Abb's Head & Innerleithen 27th Apr. 2 Bemersyde Moss & 1 Galashiels 28th Apr with 2 St Abb's Head and 1 Chirnside 29th Apr. Daily from 3rd-4th May. 10 St Abb's Head 6th May.

Breeding: Recorded 78 tetrads (82 in 2013, 101 in 2012, but 2014 total perhaps boosted by Waterbodies survey, unlike other species where there has been a fall with the end of Atlas activities. c. 219 mm sang or were present in suitable breeding habitat at 89 sites in Apr-Aug. 52 singles were reported while another 38 sites had a combined total of 173 birds

Addiston Pond	3	Lindean Reservoir	2
Bemersyde Moss	6	Middlestots Marsh	7
Billiemains ponds	3	Mire Loch	10
Bishop's Bog	2	Murder Moss	9
Blackcleugh Loch	2	Nether Whitlaw Moss	7
Blackpool Moss	8	New Belses Farm	2
Bluestane Ford	2	Philhope BBS	2
Cardrona	3	Pot Loch	5
Cardrona Golf Course	3	Roxburgh	5
Cardrona South	6	Selkirk Common	3
Cringletie-Milkieston	5	Shielswood Loch	4
Essenside Loch	8	Sprouston/Redden	2
Groundstone Moss	11	St Leonard's Moss	5
Groundstone Pond	4	Synton Mossend	2
Hare Moss	4	Whitmuirhall Loch	9
Hirsel Lake	6	Whitrig Pond	2
Hoselaw Loch	2	Winnington Moss	5
Hoselaw Mains BBS	3	Yetholm Loch	2
Lees Haugh	7		



Sedge Warbler - Apr 2014 Bill Meikle

Autumn: 37 records in Jun, 41 records in Jul then numbers thinning out into Aug with just 7 reports. with 2 Whitrig Pond 1st Aug; and singles Bemersyde & Loch of the Lowes 2-3rd Aug. 3 Bemersyde Moss 8th Aug; 1 Brockholes 9th Aug, before gap to last single Cairncross on 24th Aug (Ron McBeath).

Note no autumn records from directly on the coast.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Very scarce spring & autumn passage migrant, and rare breeder. Last proved breeding 2005. (1 record in 2014)

1 juv trapped Mire Loch, where bred in 2013. *No sign of breeders.*

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Very scarce and erratic winter visitor. Not annual. During 2008-13 found in 6% of tetrads in winter. (3 records in 2014)

Winter 2013/14: 1 Duns 4th Feb (Andy Tharme) and 1 Georgefield, Earlston 5th Feb (James Towill).

Winter 2014/15: 2 Lamberton 21st Nov (Ron McBeath).

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Now an common resident. First bred 1989 and spread rapidly. Perhaps now as many as 1000+ pairs.

During 2008-13 found in 29% of tetrads in summer and 29% in winter. (287 records in 2014)

Found 97 tetrads in 2014 (143 in 2013, 220 in 2012). *A further drop in the numbers of tetrads with Nuthatch reports. The winding down of atlasing activities and the lack of 'novelty' as the birds becomes more widespread are probably more important factors in this reduction rather than any reduction in birds.*

Found in 49 tetrads in winter (Jan-Feb & Sep-Dec) and 76 tetrads in the breeding season (Mar-Aug).

6 'new' tetrads are listed below, all with no previous records. Most have come about due to atlasing activities.

Lynedale	NT12L	1 on 23rd Sep	Graham Checkley
Portmore Loch/Waterheads	NT25K	1 on 14th Sep & 16th Oct	Mike Thrower & Allan Forrest
Williestruther Loch	NT41V	1 on 23rd Apr	Ray Murray
Duns Castle Woods	NT75S	1 on 5th Dec	Ron McBeath
Ravelaw	NT85K	1 on 18th Apr	Ron McBeath
Granthouse	NT86C	1 on 5th Apr	Ron McBeath

Confirmed breeding was reported at just 3 sites: at Raeburn Wood (nest 19th Apr), at Thirlington Burn (FL on 8th Jun), and at Rangers Cottage Wood (FL on 7th Aug)

The largest counts were: 11 Paxton House 25th Jan; 10 South Park Wood on 18th Apr; 8 Abbotsford Woods on 4th Jan; 8 Black Barony 1st Dec; 7 Harcus 30th Sep; 5- 6 birds at Hen Poo, Hirsell, Kennells Plantation, Moorshot Plantation & Tweedbank; and 3-4 birds at Ballmuir Plantation, Butterhall, Charterhall Wood, Dingleton, Easter Dawyck, Eddleston Water, Eddleston, Faldonside Loch, Hen Poo, Knowes Hill BBS, Paxton, Paxton House, The Black Path & Thirlington Burn.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Scarce breeding resident found in 21% of tetrads.

During 2008-13 found in 24% of tetrads in summer and 26% in winter. (130 records in 2014)

Winter: Recorded in 24 tetrads Jan-Mar (23 in 2013, 51 in 2012, 52 in 2011 & 27 in 2010). Mostly singles with 3 Hen Poo on 31st Jan & 19th Feb and 2 birds at Harcus, Huntford, Maisondieu Plantation, Minto Glen, Minto House, Roxburgh, Tweedbank & Yetholm Loch.

Breeding: Reported from 25 tetrads Apr-Aug (55 in 2013, 71 in 2012), mostly single birds but 5 Crooknowe Covert 8th Jun; and 3 birds at: Harcus, Knowes Hill BBS, Newtown St Boswells & Raeburn Wood; with 2 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Gavinton, Roxburgh Viaduct & Tweedbank and singles at 19 other sites.

Breeding was confirmed at Gavinton with br4 on 8th Jul.

Autumn/Winter: 1-2 birds seen 8 sites in Sep-Oct (8 in 2013, 9 in 2012) with 4 Black Barony 4th Sep, 2 Mire Loch 7th Oct and singles elsewhere.

Reports from 11 tetrads in Nov-Dec (10 in 2013, 30 in 2012, 46 in 2011). Again mostly single birds but 3 Lindean Reservoir 2nd Dec & 2 Black Barony 1st Dec.

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Abundant & widespread resident. Some passage in autumn.

During 2008-13 found in 88% of tetrads in summer and 80% in winter. (938 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 21 were recorded on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan (22 in 2013, 30 in 2012, 13 in 2011).

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	10
Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	1
Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	1
Coldingham Bay - Eyemouth	2
Eymouth-Burnmouth	0
Burnmouth-English border	7

Reported in 73 tetrads Jan-Mar (93 in 2013, 137 in 2012, 94 in 2011). Numbers continue to fall now atlasing wholly completed.

Just 2 double-figure counts with 11 Leadburn CW 1st Mar and 10 Tweedbank 1st Jan: with 5-9 birds at Black Barony, Harcus, Dunglass, Harehope Forest, Hirsell Lake, Holefield, Roxburgh & Sprouston.



Wren - Redheugh, Nov 2014 Dave Graham

Breeding: Reported from 161 tetrads Apr-Aug (388 in 2013, 305 in 2012).

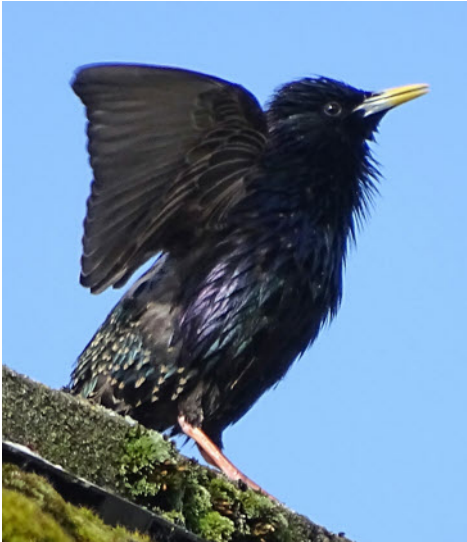
The largest counts were: 29 Penmanshiel BBS 7th May; 19 Black Barony on 7th Apr; 15 Harcus on 22nd Aug; 15 Dunglass 20th Jul; 15 Cringletie 9th Jun; 12 Leadburn CW 15th Jul; 10 Dod BBS 8th May; with 5-9 birds at 20 other sites. Few records of confirmed breeding, just ad feeding young Posso Craig 25th Jun and fledged young Lindean Reservoir 20th Aug.

Autumn/Winter: Birds reported from 68 locations in Sep-Oct (69 in 2013), mostly 1-2 birds with 15 Tweedbank 12th Oct & 15 Cringletie 29th Oct; 11 Harcus 24th Oct; and 10 Black Barony 4th Sep, 10 Burnmouth 1st Oct & 10 Mire Loch 8th Oct with 5-9 birds at 6 other sites.

Found in 43 tetrads Nov-Dec (37 in 2013, 132 in 2012). Max counts were: 19 Black Barony 6th Nov; 9 Burnmouth 30th Nov; 8 Cringletie 24th Nov, 8 Mire Loch 28th Nov and 8 Harcus & Paxton House 12th Dec; and Gordon CW, Leadburn CW & St Leonard's Moss.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Abundant and widespread summer visitor. Flocks form from late May. A common winter visitor September-March. Occasional large roosts. During 2008-13 found in 56% of tetrads in summer and 42% in winter. (421 records in 2014)



Starling - Eddleston, Apr 2014

Winter/Spring: Found in 29 tetrads Jan-Feb (55 in 2013, 72 in 2012). Much better numbers this Jan-Feb period with 11 counts of 100 or more birds (21 in 2013, 18 in 2012): 380 Bamflatt 25th Feb; 200 Hawick 13th Feb; 200 at Stantling Craig Reservoir on 20th Feb; and 100-199 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Black Barony, Black Yett, East Reston, Lamberton & Westfield. In Mar just a single count of 100 at Lamberton 25th Mar reached 3-figures.

Breeding: Birds reported during Apr-Aug in 193 tetrads (193 in 2013, 167 in 2012).

Some very large counts this autumn, especially from Lammermuirs and along the coast, the largest counts, mostly post-breeding flocks, were 2,000 Cranshaws 22nd Aug; 500 Sandyknowe 28th Aug; 400 Watch Water Reservoir 18th Jul; 300 Haud Yards 25th Aug; 240 Westruther Pools 29th Jul & 200 Lamberton on 10th Jun; with 100-199 at Groundistone Moss, Rawburn & Upper Whitfield.

Autumn/Winter: Sep-Oct counts were also buoyant with best counts of: 1,400 Newmains 27th Oct; 260 Easter Place on 6th Oct; 233 Black Barony on 4th Sep; and 200 Lamberton 22nd Oct; with 100-199 birds at Haud Yards & Leadburn CW.

Nov-Dec counts include: 500 Sandyknowe 10th Dec; 500 roosting Kelso Square 19th Dec; 350 Broughton Brewery 2nd Nov; 220 Whitfield 16th Nov and 100-199 birds at Black Barony, Eddleston, Gavinton, West Foulden and Whitrig Bog.

[Rose-coloured Starling] *Sturnus roseus*

Rare autumn vagrant.

1 reported Gordon 8th Sep (BirdGuides), but no further follow-up, so square-bracketed as unsubstantiated.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Common resident along river system. During 2008-13 found in 34% of tetrads in summer and 32% in winter. (260 records in 2014)

Non-breeding season: Birds seen 69 tetrads during Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec (80 in 2013, 106 in 2012).

Almost all records were of singles but 6 Tweed, Innerleithen to Walkerburn 6th Jan; 4 Tweedbank 1st Jan and 4 Cringletie-Milkieston 10th Feb; and 3 birds Lyne footbridge, Tweed Manor Bridge to Peebles and Tweedbank. In the autumn/winter, the largest counts were 4 Galawaterfoot 14th Sep and 3 birds at Darnhall & Tweedbank.

Breeding: Found in 68 tetrads (144 in 2013, 125 in 2012). 4 Eddleston Water Eddleston-Milkieston on 5th Mar; 3 birds on Whiteadder at Bluestane Ford; Eddleston Water, Cringletie-Milkieston; Ettrick at Philiphaugh Mill; Sorrowlessfield and Tweed at Gattonside & Tweedbank; and 2 birds at 17 other sites. Nest seen Dingleton and young seen Teviot at Wilton Park.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Very scarce summer visitor to hill cleughs. Numbers declining. Passage birds late Mar-May & Sep-Nov. Rare in winter. During 2008-13 found in 7% of tetrads in summer. (136 records in 2014)

Spring: First 1 Blackhopebyre on 19th Mar (Ray Murray); 1 St Abb's Head 5th Apr; 1 Auchencrow Mains on 6th Apr; 2 Blackhopebyre, 1 Garvald & 1 Piper's Grave 10th Apr; 1 Heatherhope 11th Apr; 3 Langhaugh Hill 12th Apr; 1 Byreclough 15th Apr. Other coastal migrants: 1 St Abb's Head 25th Apr and 7th May.

Breeding: c.36 territories in suitable breeding habitat Mar-Jul at 17 sites (39 in 2013, 35 in 2012).
Blackhopebyre pr

Bothwell Hill	1f	Glenfinn	4prs+1m	Ladyside Burn	1m	Wester Burn	1
Byreclough	1f	Heatherhope	1m	Langhaugh Hill	2prs	Windy Cleuch	1
Clinty Cleugh	4prs	Horsehope Craig	1m	Linghope	1f	Woden Law	2-3prs
Dewar	1m	Hundleshope	5-6prs	Piper's Grave	1m		
Earnsclough Water	1m	Juniper Craigs	6-7prs	Posso Craig	1pr		

The first birds carrying food for young were at Langhaugh Hill & Posso Craig on 23rd May; the first fledged young were seen at Glenfinn & Juniper Craigs on 11th Jul and Hundleshope on 18th Jul.

Broods reported: 2-3 Clinty Cleugh, 2-3 Glenfinn, 2+ Hundleshope, 4 Juniper Craigs with singles broods Posso Craig & Langhaugh Hill

Autumn: Last inland bird was at Horseupcleugh on 23rd Aug. Passage thereafter: with singles St Abb's Head on 28th Aug, 7th & 14th Oct; 1 Duns 30th Oct; and final 1 Langwoodbarn 15th Nov (Tom Steele).

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Abundant breeding resident. Common passage migrant. Probable winter visitor. Very light passage March-April & strong passage in October. During 2008-13 found in 79% of tetrads in summer and 71% in winter. (967 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 67 tetrads in Jan-Feb (109 in 2013, 133 in 2012).

Largest counts were: 48 Tweedbank 1st Jan; 45 Kelso-Roxburgh 28th Feb; 27 Newmains 2nd Jan; 20 Nisbet Hillhead 12th Jan; 20 Eildon 9th Jan; with 10-19 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Black Barony, Eddleston-Milkieston, Haigsfield, Holefield, Horndean, Newmains, Roxburgh & Sprouston.

Breeding: Found in 179 tetrads Mar-Aug (344 in 2013, 326 in 2012).

The first occupied nest was found in Melrose on 3rd Mar; the first adults with food for their young were seen at Gavinton on 10th Apr; the first fledglings were seen at Tweedbank on 29th Apr & Lauder on 1st May. There were still recently fledged young being seen at Manor Schoolhouse on 25th Aug.

The largest counts were: 40 Tweedbank 8th Jul (with 29 other counts of >15 birds there); 22 Kelso-Roxburgh 22nd Jun; 20 Sprouston 8th Jul; 19 Lennel on 19th Apr & Black Barony on 25th Jul; 16 Sprouston on 29th May; 14 Penmanshiel BBS 7th May; with 10-12 birds at Cockburnspath, Darnhall-Harcus, Hirsell Lake, Pease Bay BB, Philiphaugh Mill & Yetholm Haugh

Autumn/Winter: 29 Tweedbank on 9th & 13th Sep; 14 Black Barony 14th Sep; 11 Sprouston & 10 Monteviot 21st Sep; with 5-9 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Faldonside Loch, Galalaw and Roxburgh. Just noted 2 days at Mire Loch with 20 on 19th Sep. Passage picked up into Oct with 15 Burnmouth on 1st Oct; 15 Mire Loch 8th Oct. Movement 16th Oct when 20 Milldown Burn, 20 Eyemouth GC, 20 Mire Loch with 18 Burnmouth. Another rush at the end of Oct with 60 Mire Loch on 30th Oct. Some good inland counts with 23 Tweedbank on 8th Oct, 220 New Smailholm 22nd Oct and 18 Cringletie 29th Oct.

Reported in only 46 tetrads (47 in 2013, 133 in 2012) with high counts of: 45 Hirsell Lake 7th Nov; 200 Smailholm 8th Nov; 50 Lamberton Beach 9th Nov; 20 Mire Loch 22nd Nov; 25 Pot Loch 28th Nov; 15 Broughton Brewery 2nd Dec; and 28 Paxton House 12th 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.

During 2008-13 found in 56% of tetrads in winter. (144 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Reported 34 tetrads Jan-Feb (41 in 2013, 64 in 2012).

Good numbers were reported in Jan with 120 Priesthaugh on 1st Jan; 135 Newmains 2nd Jan with 120 there on 3rd Jan; then 600 Westfield 30th Jan. Also parties of 10-49 birds at East Reston, Easter Dawyck, Faldonsidemoor, Hartwoodmyres, Langhaugh Haugh & Lyne. Numbers were maintained into Feb with 120 Hawick on 13th Feb; 200 Newmains 19th Feb; 120 Wellbush 26th Feb; and 100 Cademuir 28th Feb with 50-99 birds at Choicelee, Gorrenberry, Kitleyknowe, Muirhouselaw & Whitehope and 10-49 at Alemill, Bemersyde Moss, Black Barony, Cheeklaw, Crossrig, Hatchendize, Mountbenger Burn, Riddell, Sprouston, The Glen & Todhillrig.



Fieldfare
Eddleston
Nov 2014

Spring passage had a single four-figure count and 7 counts of 100 or more birds (4 in 2013, 24 in 2012). 150 Larriston 2nd Mar; 75 Cademuir 7th Mar; 80 Faldonsidemoor on 17th Mar; 200 Heathpool on 21st Mar and 80 Swinside Hall 26th Mar. There was evidently strong passage in early April with 150 Kersmain on 2nd Apr; 2,900 at Howliston, 450 East Loch; 200 Hyndhope on 5th Apr ; 380 Heriot on 7th Apr and 200 Gavinton on 10th Apr with double-figure counts at Back Burn Woods, Bemersyde Farm, Black Barony, Byrecleugh, Galadean, Huntford, Longformacus & Yetholm Loch. There were just 4 reports after mid-Apr: 5 St Abb's Head 25th Apr with singles there 26th-27th Apr and the latest 5 Lamberton on 1st May (Ron McBeath).

Autumn/Winter: *A poor autumn/winter.*

First 8 Huntford 15th Oct (C Watson) with 5 St Abb's Head 17th Oct; 1 Stobo 20th Oct; 2 Bemersyde Moss on 21st Oct; 6 Melrose Sewage Work, 5 Old Halterburnhead & 2 Hoselaw Loch 22nd Oct. 9 Harcus & 1 Crailing Tofts 24th Oct. Small arrival on 30th-31st Oct with 80 West Water Reservoir, 70 West Linton GC, 40 Newmains & 20 St Abb's Head.

Lightweight passage in Nov with just 29 reports and only two three-figure counts: 100 at Westfield on 6th Nov; 72 Cringletie 10th Nov; 80 Bemersyde 24th Nov with 70 there 28th Nov; and 300 New Smailholm 29th Nov; and double figure counts at Angelrow, Auchencrow, Darnhall, Dryden, Gavinton, Huntford & West Linton.

Just 11 Dec records, showing the paucity of birds. 70 Dreva 2nd Dec, 25 Folly Loch 27th Dec & 150 Sunnyside 29th Dec were the best counts

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common breeder. Largely abandons the area after September. Occasionally strong autumn passage. A few November-January, mostly near coast. During 2008-13 was found in 73% of tetrads in summer, 30% in winter. (437 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Just 12 Jan records from only 7 sites (at 22 at 14 sites in 2013) with 2 at Fancove Head 11th Jan; 2 Edington Mains 14th Jan & 3 Tweedbank 24th Jan with singles Cherrytrees, Foulden New Mains, Lamberton & Newmains.

33 records in Feb, almost daily from 10th Feb with more in last 10 days of Feb: 3 Yetholm Loch 14th Feb is the count of more than a single earlier in the month. Numbers only rise above reports of singles on 28th Feb with 13 Kelso-Roxburgh & 9 Black Barony 28th Feb. Song from 9th Feb in Hawick. 10 Blackadder House 8th Mar with 5 Tweedbank & Black Barony in late Mar the best totals.

Breeding: Found in 120 tetrads Mar-Aug (286 in 2013, 266 in 2012).

Best counts were: 15 Penmanshiel BBS 7th May; 10 Blackadder House 8th Mar; 10 Tweedbank 8th Jul; 7 Knowes Hill BBS 8th May; 7 Damhead Shiel BBS 22nd Jun; with 5-6 birds Black Barony, Hirsell & Tweedbank.

The first adults carrying food for their young were at Dawyck Gardens on 2nd May

Autumn/Winter: Good numbers during Sep argue for a good breeding season with 7 Black Barony on 7th Sep; 11 Tweedbank 9th Sep; 11 Manderston 10th Sep; 20 Monteviot 21st Sep.

First obvious migrants: 7 St Abb's Head 18th Sep; with 40 St Abb's Head & 20 Newmains 7th Oct; and then almost no further clear passage on coast. 19 Black Barony 10th Oct (on Yew berries) was the only significant inland count, with records from 10 other inland sites in Oct.

10 Nov & 6 Dec reports. Mostly singles other than 2 Lamberton 3rd Nov; 2 Hirsell 7th Nov; 2 Houndwood on 21st Nov; 2 Bowerhope 2nd Dec & 3 Lamberton 7th Dec. The only other Dec records were singles from Burnmouth and Lamberton Beach

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. During 2008-13 was found in 2% of tetrads in summer, 35% in winter. (92 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Reported in 20 tetrads Jan-Feb (33 in 2013, 22 in 2012, 13 in 2011).

There were no three-figure counts, 72 Newmains 2nd Jan; 45 Edrington Castle 4th Jan & 40 Yetholm Loch on 14th Feb; being the largest counts with 10-39 birds at Bowdenmoor, Broom, Cowbog, Crimsonhill, Edington Mains, Edrom Church, Hatchendize, Leadburn, Muirhouse, Paxton House, Priestthaugh & Stouslie.

A few flocks in Mar with 100 Larriston 2nd Mar; 10 Crosshouses 3rd Mar; 40 Dye Water Haughs on 17th Mar; 40 Tweedbank 20th Mar; 81 Black Barony 22nd Mar; and 100 Longformacus 28th Mar; with 1-9 birds Faldonside Loch, Harehope Forest, Roxburgh, Roxburgh Station & Yetholm Loch. Then 3 Mire Loch on 6th Apr and last 10 Longformacus 15th Apr (Andrew Mossup).

Autumn/Winter: First 10 St Abb's Head & 6 Newmains 7th Oct (Fran Evans & Dave Graham). 6 Lamberton on 8th Oct; 2 Mire Loch 9th Oct; 34 Black Barony 10th Oct; 3 Manderston 12th Oct; 20 Melrose 14th Oct. Then larger influx 17th-19th Oct with 100 Mire Loch, 70 Dunglass, 50 Jedburgh Abbey, and 1-9 at Folly Loch, Melrose & Angelow.

Just a few reports until next influx 30th-31st Oct with 500 Mire Loch, 300 Lamberton, 220 Newmains, 160 West Water Reservoir & 30 West Linton. Only small numbers thereafter.

Found in only 14 tetrads Nov-Dec (11 in 2013, 89 in 2012). Max counts were 30 Fairsacks 28th Dec; 20 Paxton House 12th Dec; 15 Black Barony 1st Dec & 10 Folly Loch 3rd Nov with 1-9 bird at 10 other sites.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common breeding resident. Forms large flocks in late summer, but generally smaller flocks in winter. Few flocks in spring. During 2008-13 was found in 51% of tetrads in summer, 50% in winter. (240 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Found in 36 tetrads in Jan-Feb (78 in 2014, 65 in 2012). 20 Longformacus 22nd Feb; 10 Leadburn 8th Jan; 8 Roxburgh 28th Feb; 7 Easter Dawyck 23rd Jan; 6 Denholm 12th Feb; 5 Newmains 3rd Feb & Harcus 8th Feb; with 3-4 birds at Black Barony, Hatchendize, Newmains & Sprouston. First song reported at Cademuir Forest on 19th Jan & Cademuir Cottage on 28th Jan.

Breeding: Reported 67 tetrads Mar-Jul (146 in 2013, 161 in 2012). The first fledged young were seen at Megget on 15th May.

Largest counts before flock formation in Jun-Jul were; 6 Hen Poo on 29th Mar; 5 Knowes Hill BBS on 25th Jun; 5 White Rig Plantation 27th Apr; and 4 birds Black Barony, Black Yett, Scuds Cleugh Wood, South Slipperfield & Sprouston.

Summer/Autumn/Winter: Early post-breeding assemblies from mid-Jun: 16 Damhead Shiel BBS on 22nd Jun; 10 Chirside 21st Jul; 21 Essenside Loch 23rd Jul; 20 Duddy Bank 28th Jul; 20 Bold Burn 11th Aug; 23 Black Barony 4th Sep with 33 on 10th Oct; 17 Kirkhope Burn, Megget 17th Sep; 10 Stantling Craig Reservoir 1st Oct and 5-9 birds at Hen Poo & Watch Water Reservoir.

Reported from only 20 tetrads Nov-Dec (21 in 2013, 59 in 2012). Mostly 1-2 birds - best counts were 25 Harcus 15th Nov; 8 Black Barony 5th Nov; 3 Milkieston 24th Nov; and 2 birds at 5 other sites.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common summer visitor. Scarce passage migrant, less common in spring than autumn. During 2008-13 was found in 41% of tetrads in summer. (60 records in 2014)

Spring: Very late arrival. First 3 St Abb's Head 18th May (Dave Graham & James Common). 1 Drumelzier on 24th May; 2 Manderston & 1 Venlaw 26th May; 1 Hoselaw Mains BBS 27th May; 1 St Abb's Head 28th May.

Breeding: Recorded in 37 tetrads with c.56 'territories'. (126 tetrads in 2013)

Single birds were recorded at 29 sites: Brieryhill, Broomdykes, Drumelzier, Duns, Duns Mill Pond, Fast Castle Head, Gala Hill, Glenrathope Cottage, Gordon CW, Hallmanor Farm Cottage, Harcus, Hardens Plantation, Hassendean Common, Hoselaw Mains BBS, Lindean Reservoir, Loch of the Lowes, Milkieston, Newcastleton, Paxton House, Priestthaugh, Roxburgh, Stewarton, Venlaw Quarry, Westfield Ponds & Whitchester 27 pairs/territories at 13 sites (* = confirmed breeding/anxiety)

Black Barony *	6	Holefield	1	Lennel	1
Black Yett	5	Huntford	1	Manderston	1
Bushelhill	1	Kennels Plantation *	2	Manor Schoolhouse *	1
Chisholme House Pond	1	Lauder Common	1	Muirhouse, Stow	1
Hirsel	5				

Broods: br2 Manor Schoolhouse 23rd Jun; br2 Kennels Plantation 7th Aug; 4th Sep; 2br5 Black Barony 4th Sep

Autumn: Regular records in inland areas until late Aug with birds still present at Black Barony on 4th Sep & Newcastleton 11th Sep.
 Poor migration with just a single record of 2 Mire Loch on 18th Sep (Andrew Mossup).

Year	Tetrads	'Territories'
2012	136	167
2013	126	174
2014	42	56

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Abundant resident. Common winter visitor, with passage birds arriving in September and departing in March. During 2008-13 found in 83% of tetrads in summer, 78% in winter. (805 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 77 tetrads Jan-Mar (121 in 2013, 169 in 2012) with high counts of 31 Eddleston-Milkieston 9th Jan; 29 Tweedbank 1st Jan; 24 Black Barony 28th Feb; 15 Harehope Forest 29th Mar; 14 Roxburgh 28th Feb; 12 Dunglass 1st Mar; with 7-9 birds at Darnhall-Harcus, Haigsfield, Sprouston & Stewarton. No suggestion of any coastal passage.

Breeding: Counted in 134 tetrads Apr-Aug (334 in 2013, 302 in 2012). No reports on breeding success. High counts: 15 Black Barony 7th Apr & 12th Jul; 13 Tweedbank 15th Apr; 12 Harcus 21st Jun, also 7-9 birds at Abbotsford Woods, Dawyck Botanic Garden, Dundock, Hirsell Lake, Mire Loch & Roxburgh. 5-6 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Dunglass, Eddleston, Holefield, Knowes Hill BBS. Lower Burnmouth, Penmanshiel BBS, Spitalhaugh BBS & Sprouston.

Autumn/Winter: A below average autumn passage with coastal passage peaks: 20 Burnmouth on 5th Sep with 14 there 13th Sep; 20 St Abb's Head 19th Sep; 25 Burnmouth 1st Oct; 11 Dunglass 5th Oct; 50 St Abb's Head 7th Oct with 30 there 8th Oct when also 25 Burnmouth. 16 St Abb's Head & 10 Eyemouth GC 16th Oct were last 'big' counts.

High counts away from the coast include: 24 Black Barony 4th Sep; 23 Tweedbank on 13th Sep; 25 Harcus on 30th Sep; 12 Whitrig 7th Oct; 20 Tweedbank 14th Oct & 20 Eddleston 29th Oct;

Seen in 51 tetrads Nov-Dec (33 in 2013, 131 in 2012) with largest counts of 13 Black Barony 5th Nov & 1st Dec; 12 Peebles 4th Nov; with 6-11 birds Burnmouth, Cringletie, Harcus, Milkieston, Mire Loch & Paxton House.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Very uncommon, almost wholly autumn, passage migrant, mainly in Sep-Oct. Not annual. (6 records in 2013)

1 Mire Loch 15th Sep (BirdGuides) was not supported by any further details, and so square-bracketed.)

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

Extremely rare passage migrant. A previous record of a hybrid Pied/Collared in 1995. (10 records in 2014)

1m St Abb's Head 28th-30th Apr (Dave Graham & Andrew Mossup).

First record for Borders., although hybrid Pied x Collared was seen at St Abb's Head in May 1995.



Collared Flycatcher - St Abb's Head May 2014 David Graham



Pied Flycatcher - Merlindale Jun 2014 David Lintott

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Extremely rare summer visitor, formerly found in less than 5% of tetrads, now virtually extinct as a breeder During 2008-13 found in 4 tetrads. Scarce passage migrant in spring, occasionally more frequent in autumn, September-early October. (9 records in 2014)

Spring: 1 St Abb's Head 29th Apr (Ray Murray).

Breeding: Pair bred in nest-box Merlindale, Broughton (David Lintott). This is the first confirmed breeding since a pair nested in a box at Whithaugh Park in 2003.

Autumn: 1 St Abb's Head 15th Sep with 2 on 16th Sep, 3 on 17th & 20th Sep. (Dave Graham & Fran Evans).

[Black Redstart] *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant mostly March-June & September-October. Very occasionally winters. (No records in 2014)

No 2014 records. The first blank year since the Borders Bird Report started documenting local records in 1978.

Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Uncommon but widespread summer visitor. Arrival and passage migrants mid April to May, return migration September-October. During 2008-13 was found in 21% of tetrads in summer. (59 records in 2014)

Spring: First 1 Whitehope 12th Apr (John McInnes). The singles Cherrytrees and Venchen Toll House 16th Apr; Yetholm Haugh & Nutwood 19th Apr; The Ley & Broughton on 20th Apr; Ruberslaw 21st Apr; Woodside 23rd Apr & Fairlaw 25th Apr.

Just a trickle of coastal birds: 1 Lamberton on 27th Apr; 1 St Abb's Head 2nd May with another there 18th May.

Breeding: 52 territories at 46 sites with confirmed breeding at 6 sites (89 at 77 sites in 2013, 97 at 77 sites in 2012). Adult with food for young seen Mellerstain 10th Jun, br1 Bemersyde Moss 24th Jun; br2 Ballmuir Plantation 29th Jun; br2 Stewarton 9th Jul; and br1 Broughton Place 12th Jul.

Aikyside Wood	2mm	Hassendean Common	1	Smailholm	1
Attonburn	1	Hen Poo, Duns	1	Smailholm Tower	1
Ballmuir Plantation	pr + br2	Hilton		Snawdon	1
Bemersyde Moss	2mm + br1	Hirsel	1	Stewarton	pr + br2
Birgham Wood	1	Hundleshope	1m	The Glen	pr+ 1
Black Barony	2pr + br1	Knowes Hill BBS	1	The Ley	1m
Broughton	1m	Lindean Reservoir	1m	Tushielaw	1
Broughton Place	pr + br1	Mein's Plantation	1	Venchen Toll House	1
Cherrytrees	1m	Mellerstain	1 FF	Wester Wooden	2mm
Crookston North Mains	1m	Milkieston	pr	Westfield Ponds	1
Damhead Shiel BBS	1	Mountfair	1m	Whitehaugh	1
Dodburn BBS	pr + 1m	Nutwood	1	Whitehope	1m
Drumelzier	1	Plora Wood	2mm	Whitrig	1m
East Howlaws	1m	Quaw Swamp	pr	Woodside	1
Fairlaw	1m	Ruberslaw	1	Yetholm Haugh	1

Autumn: Last singles in suitable breeding habitat were at Smailholm & Mein's Plantation on 28th Jul and Smailholm Tower on 22nd Aug. Just two coastal reports in autumn: 1 St Abb's Head 15th Sep with 2 there 20th Sep (Dave Graham & Bird Guides).



Whinchat - Blackcleugh Loch, Jun 2014

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Uncommon summer visitor to hill valleys. Scarce passage migrant on coast, from late April to May and August to October. 1 winter record. During 2008-13 was found in 24% of tetrads in summer. (43 records in 2014)

Spring: First 1 Bothwell on 20th Apr (W Little); 2 Siccar Point on 27th Apr; 1 Dewar 5th May; 1 Byreclough 6th May; 2 Crosslee & 1 Dod BBS 8th May. Just two other coastal records: 1 Dowlaw & 1 Haud Yards 17th May.

Breeding: Just c.26 territories in 23 tetrads Apr-Aug (81 tetrads in 2013, 51 tetrads in 2012). The first fledged young were seen at Blackcleugh Loch on 16th Jun.

Bemersyde Moss	pr	Killpallet Burn	pr
Black Cleuch	2mm	Milkieston	br1
Blackcleugh Loch	pr	Newcastleton	pr
Crosslee	2mm	Newholm Cairns Hill	pr
Damhead Shiel BBS2prs	+1	North Esk Reservoir	br+br2
Dewar N	pr	Tower Burn Cleuch	pr

With single birds at Blaikie Heugh, Bothwell, Byreclough, Dod BBS, Drumelzier, Ettrickhill, Lauder Common, Leithen Water, Mountbenger Burn, Old Kirkhope, Priestthaugh, Rankle Burn, Shielswood Loch and Wether Law. A very poor summer, even when the loss of Atlas activities is taken into account.

Autumn: Last seen on breeding habitat 2 Newcastleton on 11th Sep. Later records all from St Abb's Head with 3 on 15th-16th Sep, 2 in 18th Sep, 3 on 20th Sep and last 2 on 21st Sep (Fran Evans).

Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

Scarce summer visitor March-November. High mortality in severe winters. Absent in 1980s recolonised 1990s & 2000s, until bred in 20% of tetrads. Population crash 2010. During 2008-13 was found in 22% of tetrads in summer, 22% in winter. (49 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Just a single Jan record: 2 Haud Yards 12th Jan, followed a month later by 2 Dowlaw Dam on 15th Feb & 1 Dewar 16th Feb. Further gap to 1 Black Yett 1st Mar.

Breeding: Records in only 17 tetrads Mar-Sep (15 tetrads in 2013, 29 tetrads in 2012).

Low levels continue, although given the reduced field-effort in 2014, losses may be less than might be suggested.

Birks Cottage, The Glen	pr	Fruid Reservoir	1m	Peat Law	1m
Black Yett	1m	Henshaw Burn	pr+br2	Stanygill Rig	1
Bullhope Burn	pr	Hundleshope Burn	pr	The Ley	1m
Dewar	pr	Lauder Common	pr+br4	Trows Farm	1
Duddy Bank	pr+br4	Meldon Water	1m	Wether Law, Finland	1
Foulsheils	1	North Esk Reservoir	pr A		

Young were seen at Duddy Bank on 28th Jul, Henshaw on 26th Aug & Lauder Common on 5th Sep.

Autumn/Winter: Migrants & post-breeding dispersal during Sep with records from: Burnmouth (3), East Cairn Hill, Foulsheils, Millar's Moss (2), Peat Law & St Abb's Head.

Oct reports from: coastal birds: 2 singles at Burnmouth 26th & 31st Oct; 2 Lamberton 29th Oct; 1-3 St Abb's Head 7th, 17th & 24th Oct; with 2 inland at Sundhope on 15th Oct.

Later inland records with 1 Hule Moss 2nd Nov, Dryden 5th Nov and 1 Howpark 24th Nov. All later reports on coast: 1 St Abb's Head 8th Nov; 2 Linkim Shore 9th Nov; 2-3 Burnmouth 19th-20th Nov; 3 Dowlaw 2nd Dec; 1 Burnmouth 4th Dec & 1 Redheugh 30th Dec. *With 19 Oct-Dec records, a much better end to the year than in 2013-14, suggesting better breeding success in 2014.*

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Uncommon summer visitor, mostly to hill areas. Passage migrant, most common in spring, late March-May, but scarcer August-October. During 2008-13 was found in 73% of tetrads in summer. (157 records in 2014).

Spring: First singles Garvald & St Abb's Head 24th Mar (Ray Murray & Fran Evans). 2 Cademuir Hill 27th Mar; 1 Garvald Lodge 29th Mar; 1 Saughtree Grain 3rd Apr; 1 Hillend, Newcastleton 4th Apr; 1 Hindhope & 1 New Smalholm 5th Apr. 5 Horseupcleugh, 4 Byreclough & 1 Longformac with 3 Manor 15th Apr; 5 Newmains & 5 Lauder Common 16th Apr; widespread 18th-19th Apr. Coastal passage: 9 St Abb's Head 26th Apr, 8 there next day; 10 Dowlaw 2nd May; 8 St Abb's Head 8th May with 6 there on 16th May, then just 2 on 24th May.

Breeding: (Apr-Aug) c.89 'territories' at 66 sites in 61 tetrads (114 in 2013, 95 in 2012). Breeding confirmed at 27 sites. Singles reported 32 sites with 57 'territories' at another 34 sites with confirmed breeding at 9 sites.

Cademuir Hill	2mm	Long Philip Burn Pond	pr+br2
Back Burn	pr+br5	Megget Reservoir	2pr
Back Burn Woods	pr+br4	Millburn	pr
Bench Cleuch	pr+br1	Millburn sheepfolds	pr+br6
Black Rigg	2pr	Mountbenger Burn	pr
Byreclough	2pr	Pear Law	pr+br3
Clints Hill	pr	Peat Law	pr+1m
Clovenfords	2mm	Rae Burn	2mm
Corbie Linn	pr+br3	Rankle Burn	2pr
Crosslee	pr+2mm	Scuds Cleuch	2pr
Dod BBS	pr	Spittalhaugh BBS	pr
Fruid Reservoir	3pr	Talla Reservoir	4pr
Glenrath Hope	pr	Threeburnford Farm	pr
Hallyards	pr	Tower Burn Cleuch	pr+br2
Horseupcleugh	pr+3mm	Tower Burn Rig	pr+1m
Lauder Common	2pr+1m	Watch Water Reservoir	pr
Linghope Wood	pr	Windy Neese	pr+br4



Wheatear - Meldons, Apr 2005

The first nest was found at North Muir on 4th May; the first fledged young were at Cowieslinn Quarry Pond on 11th Jun; Millburn on 25th Jun with the latest at Corby Linn & Long Philip Burn on 24th Jul.

Autumn: Sep records from breeding areas include: 6 Lauder Common & 1 Rawburn 5th Sep; 2 West Water Reservoir 8th Sep. Then 4 at head of Ettrick 24th Sep at Cape Law & Ether Cleugh. 1 Mackside 9th Oct before an extremely late bird on Lammer Law on 28th Nov (BirdGuides).

First coastal passage was at a single at Dunglass 6th Sep with 1 St Abb's Head 22nd Sep with 3 there 24th Sep and 1 on 29th Sep. 1 Dowlaw Dam, Eyemouth GC & St Abb's Head 1st Oct with 3 St Abb's Head on 5th Oct. 1 Eyemouth GC 8th Oct with last Dowlaw 16th Oct.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common breeding resident. Forms flocks August-March.

During 2008-13 was found in 47% of tetrads in summer, 41% in winter. (361 records in 2014)

Non-breeding: Found in just 35 tetrads Jan-Mar (69 in 2013, 90 in 2012) & 33 tetrads in Sep-Dec (33 in 2013). Large counts of 30 or more birds in the early year include: 150 Lamberton 10th Jan with 100 there 1st Jan and 1st Feb; 87 Eddleston 4th Feb; 45 Newmains 3rd Jan; 20 Burnfoot, Biggar 18th Feb; with 10-19 birds at Darnhall, Holefield, Melrose, Milkiection, Peebles, Roxburgh & Sprouston.

The largest post-breeding counts (Sep-Oct) were: 140 Clappers 5th Sep; 100 Lamberton 20th Oct; 20 Nisbet on 13th Sep; with 10-19 birds at Burnmouth, Milkiection, Peebles, Redheugh, Roxburgh, Sprouston & Tweedbank. Reported from just 12 tetrads during Nov-Dec (14 in 2013) with largest counts of 101 Gavinton on 23rd Nov; 100 Lamberton 7th Dec; 25 Burnmouth 16th Nov & 20th Dec; 24 Milkiection 10th Nov; 20 Fairsacks 28th Dec; with 10-19 birds at Elba & Eddleston.

Breeding: Found in 61 tetrads Apr-Aug (173 in 2013, 171 in 2012). 214 were ringed in a Peebles garden during 2014, this compares to 64 in 2013, 21 in 2012 & 25 in 2011, which argues for a successful year (Stuart Craig). Flocks were also widespread at farm stading across the Merse in autumn 2014 (Fran Evans).

The largest counts were mostly post-breeding flocks: 130 Clarilaw Pond 21st Jul; 60 Elwartlaw on 22nd Aug; 50 Roxburgh 15th Jul; 40 Eddleston 26th Apr; 40 Burnmouth 29th Jun; 40 Angelrow 23rd Aug; 40 Duns on 29th Aug; with 30-39 birds at Cove, Greenlaw, Hartside, Holefield, Mailingsland & Mount Pleasant



Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Scarce breeding resident, mostly in the east. Seems to have increased in numbers of late. Forms winter flocks. During 2008-13 was found in 19% of tetrads in summer, 17% in winter. (160 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Found in 25 tetrads Jan-Mar (30 in 2012, 43 in 2012, 33 in 2011 & 18 in 2010). Newmains had the largest wintering flock with 186 on 2nd Jan, 230 on 3rd Jan, 285 on 27th Jan, 230 on 3rd Feb & 210 on 6th Mar.

Also 40 Edrington Castle Farm on 1st Jan; 30 Newstead 11th Jan; 15 Teviot Haugh 16th Feb; 12 Nisbet 16th Feb; with 1-9 birds reported from Barnhills, Bemersyde Moss, Broom, Chesters, Cockburnspath, Crookhouse, Dunglass, Fairnington, Hirsell Lake, Lamberton, Leadburn, Lumsdaine, Newstead, Pinnacle, Redden, Roxburgh, Sprouston, Tweedbank Pond & Whitrig Bog.

In the west: 1 Leadburn 8th Jan & Burnfoot Farm, Biggar 18th Feb.

Tree Sparrow- Jun 2014 Bill Meikle

Breeding: Found in just 23 tetrads Apr-Aug (80 in 2013, 82 in 2012). Second broods reported Angelrow.

Angelrow	30	Duns Mill BBS	7	Hutton	1	Lindean Reservoir	1	Old Lewenshope	1
Bemersyde Moss	5	Graden	4	Kersmains	34	Lower Burnmouth	2	Sprouston	2
Broom	3	Heiton	2	Ladyrig	1	Marlefield	1	St Abb's Head	2
Coldingham	1	Heiton Mains	1	Lamberton	1	Mellerstain	6	Southlaws	3
Dunglass	6	Holefield	14	Lees Haugh	1	Midsheils	2	Threeburnford	2

Second broods reported Angelrow. No reports from west.

Autumn/Winter: Reported from 21 tetrads Sep-Dec (21 in 2013, 52 in 2012).

The Reston-Newmains winter flock was at 190 on 24th Dec. Otherwise the largest counts were: 20 Manderston 12th Oct; 12 Whitsome 7th Nov; 12 Ladyrig 8th Nov; 12 Lennelhill 22nd Oct; & 10 Burnmouth 20th Dec; and 1-9 birds at Ancrum Craig, Burnmouth, Broom, Clappers, Dunglass, Elba, Hawick, Lamberton, Lindean Reservoir, Melrose & Reston.

70 South Mains, Biggar 6th Oct is the record largest count from the tiny western range in Peeblesshire, the best evidence of the success of the breeding season of summer 2014. Also 10 Bamflatt 2nd Dec. Some spill-over towards West Linton is suggested by 3 Carlops 12th Nov & 5 Sunnyside 29th Dec.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Scarce summer (Apr-Aug) visitor, breeding along the Tweed & Teviot. Scarce passage migrant to coast April-May and August-September. During 2008-13 was found in 27 tetrads in summer. (19 records in 2014)

Spring: 1 Tweed at Paxton 18th Apr; David Christie); 4 Birgham Haugh 26th Apr; 1 Heugh Head 29th Apr.

Breeding:

Angelrow	ad with br1 on 2nd Jun with pr + br1 on 8th Jun
Birgham Haugh	4mm on 26th Apr with 2mm+1f there 3rd May and 2-3 there into Jul
Cockburnspath	3 on 24th Jul
Dunglass	1 on 29th Jun
Heugh Head	1 on 29th Apr
Lees Haugh	2mm+1f on 6th May
Newmains	nested in potato field, ads FF on 20th Jul
Sprouston	1 on 5th Jul
Paxton	1 on Scottish side 18th Apr.



Yellow Wagtail - Birgham, May 2014

Autumn: 1 at Newmains 10th Aug with 2 there on 12th Aug, 3 on 13th Aug and 1 on 27th Aug. Latest bird was 1 Burnmouth 31st Oct (Fran Evans).

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Common breeder along water courses. Very few present through winter. Scarce but widespread passage migrant March-May and September-October. During 2008-13 was found in 41% of tetrads in summer, 10% in winter. (186 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 10 Jan records: 4 Tweedbank on 1st Jan with 2 Spittal-on-Rule 8th Jan; with singles Bluestane Ford, Edrington Castle, Holefield, St Abb's & St Abb's Head. Non were recorded on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan. No real increase into Feb with just 10 records: 2 Black Barony 28th Feb with singles Blount Island, Bluestane Ford, Crailling Tofts, Dunglass, Ladykirk House & Spittal-on-Rule.

Three times as many records in Mar with main return. Mainly 1-2 birds but 6 Tweed, Manor Bridge-Peebles on 16th Mar; 4 Tweedbank 20th & 24th Mar; with 3 Darnhall 25th Mar & 3 Linthill 29th Mar.

Breeding: Reported from 71 tetrads Apr-Aug (135 in 2013, 98 in 2012) with confirmed breeding in 49 tetrads (mostly FF & FL).

5 Tweed at Tweedbank 29th Jul; with 4 Teviot below Hawick 26th Apr; 4 Eddleston Water, Cringletie-Milkieston; 4 Tweed, Sprouston-Redden 8th Jul; 4 Whiteadder at Smiddyhill 13th Jul; 4 Teviot at Wilton Park 25th Jul; with 3 birds Black Barony, Darnhall, Dunglass, Linthill, Pease Bay BBS & Todheugh

Only 2 reports of breeding, a juvenile at Manor Schoolhouse 8th & 12th Jul and br3 Whiteadder at Smiddyhill 13th Jul.

Autumn/Winter: Passage birds at 20 sites in Sep-Oct, mostly 1-2 birds, but 9 Tweed, Galawaterfoot-Lowood 14th Sep; 3 Huntford 4th Sep; 3 Nether Falla 11th Oct & 3 Edrington Mains 27th Oct.

None noted St Abb's Head during Sep-Oct, the only coastal reports at Redheugh & Lamberton (2).

Just 8 Nov-Dec records at 7 sites (22 in 2013, 17 in 2012, 6 in 2011) with 2 on Tweed at Coldstream on 30th Nov and singles Allanton

Birgham Haugh, Bowdenmoor, Edington Mains, Linthill & Nunlands Pond, Foulden.

There was just a single Dec record: 1 Bowdenmoor 27th Dec.

Grey Wagtail - Innerleithen, May 2014



Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Abundant summer visitor. Scarcer October-March. Variable wintering numbers. Passage in March & September-October. Some roosts. During 2008-13 was found in 75% of tetrads in summer, 15% in winter. (581 records in 2014)

Usual dearth of Jan reports with 10 reports from 7 sites. 50 over Bowden 9th Jan may have been heading for the BGH roost; 7 Newmains 2nd Jan with 9 there 13th Jan & 19 on 27th Jan. Otherwise 1-2 at Birgham Haugh, Edrington Castle, Eyemouth Bay, Lamberton Beach & Tweedbank. The low numbers of reports prevailed into Feb, again with 10 reports from 7 sites. 24 Newmains on 4 dates through Feb but otherwise 1-2 birds at Crimsonhill, Eyemouth Bay, Kitleyknowe, Sprouston/Redden, Roxburgh & Tweedbank.

Main return in Mar with 60 reports; max 18 Newmains on 13th Mar with 32 there 14th Mar, max 64 on 18th Mar & 37 on 21st Mar; with 36 Fairlaw 23rd Mar; 14 Sprouston-Redden 26th Mar; with 4-9 birds Blackhopebyre, Cockburnspath, Dewar Hill, Mire Loch, Piper's Grave & Whitehope. No significant Apr passage.

Breeding: Birds were reported from 150 tetrads Apr-Aug (271 in 2013, 246 tetrads in 2012).

Few large counts but 23 Birgham Haugh 10th Jul, including many juvs; 16 (13 juvs) Posso, Manor on 28th Jun; 13 Sprouston 8th Jul; 13 Easter Housebyres Upper Pond on 5th Aug; 10 Eddleston-Milkieiston on 9th Jun; with 5-9 birds at 18 other sites.

Breeding was confirmed at Bemersyde, Dunglass, Glenrathope, Manor Schoolhouse, Posso & Watch Water Reservoir; the first young were seen at Pease Bay on 7th May.

Autumn/Winter: 150 Bemersyde Moss 1st Oct was the largest count, by far, but there were several double-figure counts in Sep-Oct with 15 Glenormiston 1st Sep; 55 Watch Water Reservoir 2nd Sep; 22 Kelso & 14 St Boswells Green 13th Sep; 25 Upper Hindhope 14th Sep; and 24 Sprouston-Redden 21st Sep.

Seen in only 6 tetrads Nov-Dec (6 in 2013, 24 in 2012, 35 in 2011, 14 in 2010 & 22 in 2009) suggesting a clear-out again with just a single Dec record. 3 Gattonside 14th Nov but otherwise 1-2 birds Birgham Haugh, Burmmouth, Eyemouth GC, Hawick, Lamberton Beach & Nether Falla, with the latest single Nether Falla on 13th Dec.

White Wagtail *M. a. alba*

Scarce passage migrant March-April and September, mostly to coast. Has summered. (11 records in 2014)

Spring: 1 Newmains 13th Mar with singles there 14th & 17th Mar, 2 on 18th and 21st Mar. 2 Fairlaw 23rd Mar (Dave Graham). 1 Newmains 11th Apr; 1 Burmmouth 12th Apr; 4 Newmains 16th Apr; 1 North Esk Reservoir 18th Apr. 1 late bird St Abb's Head 31st May.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi*

Extremely rare passage migrant. 4 previous records. (2 records in 2014)

1 St Abb's Head 29th Apr (Dave Graham). Presumably same bird there 3rd May (David Hope).

The previous records were singles at St Abb's Head on 4th Oct 1987, 7th Dec 1994 & 9th Nov 2000 with 1 at Newmains on 30th-31st Oct 2005.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Scarce and local summer visitor in forest clearings & clearfell. Rather scarce passage migrant April-May and September.

During 2008-13 was found in 19% of tetrads in summer. (15 records in 2014)

Spring: 1 Eildon Middle Hill & 1 St Abb's Head on 29th Apr (David Parkinson & J Bray). 2 St Abb's Head on 2nd May with 1 there 3rd-4th May. 1 Lewenshope Head 4th May. 1 St Abb's Head 19th May.

Breeding: A shocking lack of records in 2014 testifies to the big reduction of effort in the forests, especially those in the deep south where birds can relatively common.

Eildons	1	Glenbreck	1	Thornylee	1
Harehope Hill	3prs	Lewenshope Head	1	Wester Wooden	1
Gordon CW	2prs FF	Rumbletonlaw	2		

Latest were the 2 Rumbletonlaw on 25th Jun (Ron McBeath). No autumn records.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Abundant summer visitor to hill areas. Common passage migrant March-April and September-October. Very few winter. During 2008-13 was found in 75% of tetrads in summer, 20% in winter. (386 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 12 Jan records, mostly coastal with 3 Eyemouth & 3 Newmains 1st-3rd Jan, 11 Fancove Head 11th Jan, and 2 Lamberton Beach on 24th Jan, but away from the coast there were 5 Cademuir Hill on 15th Jan, 2 Carlops 19th Jan & 20 Blakedean on 24th Jan. 18 were reported on the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan with 11 Souter-Petticowick, 5 Eyemouth-Burmmouth and singles Redheugh-Souter and Burmmouth-border.

Just 12 Feb reports initially on the coast with 12 St Abb's Head & 5 Burmmouth but evident influx 16th-19th Feb when 45 Whitehope, 2 Mountbenger Burn, 10 Clearburn Cottage and 2 Hule Moss.

Relatively few Mar records submitted but 20 Blakedean 22nd Mar; 10 Cademuir 23rd & 27th Mar; 10 Stewarton 30th Mar, the best of the counts with almost no reports from coast, max just 2 birds St Abb's Head.

90 Hartside 11th Apr were mostly migrants.

Breeding: Recorded in 112 tetrads mid-Mar-Aug (296 in 2013, 209 in 2012). The first adults feeding young were at Dollar Forest on 23rd May; the first fledged young at Lindean Reservoir on 17th Jun.

The largest counts were from: 81 Bleak Law BBS 18th Apr with 54 there on 31st May; 40 Clints Hill 18th Apr; 30 Harden Moss 23rd Jul; 26 Dod BBS 8th May; 26 Leadburn CW 12th Jun; 23 Hule Moss & 22 Black Barony 12th Jul; 21 Dewar BBS 19th May; with 20 birds Blakedean, Dodburn BBS, Easter Housebyres Moss, Essenside Loch, Longmuir Moss, Rankle Burn & Tathieknowe Pond.

Autumn/Winter: Some good late summer and autumn flocks with 130 Rawburn, 90 Watch Water Reservoir & 75 Horseupcleugh 8th Aug; 50 Nether Falla 9th Aug; 50 Fairliehope 9th Aug with 55 on 20th Aug; 40 Watcher Water Reservoir 14th Aug; 35 Hoselaw Loch 25th Aug. Passage peak in Sep with 190 Leadburn CW 3rd Sep; 67 Black Barony 4th Sep; 110 Rawburn & 60 Lauder Common 5th Sep; 100 Angelrow 13th Sep; 50 Galalaw 17th Sep; & 70 Lambden 27th Sep. Only two double-figure counts in Oct: 10 Eyemouth 7th Oct & 12 Leadburn CW 12th Oct.

Just 6 Nov records and only 3 in Dec. All were single figure counts other than 18 Cove 27th Dec.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Common breeder along coast, found in 13 coastal tetrads (103 records in 2014).

Wintering birds from British & Scandinavian present October-March in small flocks along the shore.

Winter/Spring: 30 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count of 23rd Jan (43 in 2013, 21 in 2012).

12 counts Jan-Mar with max counts of 7 Dunglass 5th Jan; 6 Linkim Shore 11th Jan; with 4 Burnmouth 26th Jan.

Rocky Shore Count 23rd Jan 2014

Dunglass - Pease Bay	8	Pease Bay-Redheugh	0
Redheugh-Souter	0	Souter-Petticowick	0
Petticowick-Coldingham Bay	10	Coldingham Bay to Eyemouth	5
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	2	Burnmouth-English border	5

Breeding: 61 Apr-Jul reports from Burnmouth, Dowlaw Coastal Slope, Dunglass, Eyemouth Bay, Linkim Shore, St Abbs & St Abb's Head, mostly 1-2 birds with max 5 St Abb's Head 21st Jul.

Autumn/Winter: 32 Aug-Dec records with double-figure counts of 13 Dunglass 5th Oct; 10 Burnmouth 8th Oct; 10 Lambertton 29th Oct; 24 Linkim Shore 9th Nov; with best site counts of 7 Cove, 6 Eyemouth & 5 St Abb's Head.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Extremely scarce winter vagrant to coastal areas, not annual (1 report in 2014)

1 Dunglass 15th Feb (Dave Graham).

Previous records in 1984, 1985, 2011 & 2012.



Water Pipit - Dunglass, Feb 2014 Dave Graham

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Abundant breeder. Common autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, occurring in large flocks, sometimes of several hundreds. Spring passage flocks are much scarcer. During 2008-13 was found in 92% of tetrads in summer, 81% in winter. (945 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 97 tetrads Jan-Mar (137 in 2013, 190 in 2012).

3-figure counts Jan-Mar: 400 Kailzie 12th Jan; 120 Synton Mossend 19th Feb; 120 Edrington Castle 3rd Mar; & 100 Lyne 9th Mar.

Parties of 50-99 birds were seen at Black Barony, Borthwickshiels Loch, Easter Dawyck, Harehope Forest, Newmains, Quaw Plantation & Yetholm Loch.

Breeding: Reported from 177 tetrads Apr-Aug (431 in 2013, 336 in 2012), with confirmed breeding in 84 of them. Breeding season counts of 30 or more birds came from: Hollybush 25th Aug & Damhead Shiel BBS on 22nd Jun; with 20-29 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Black Barony, Essenside Loch, Harcus, Mellerstain, Penmanshiel BBS, Spittalhaugh BBS & Tweedbank

Autumn/Winter: 100 Whitehaugh 24th Aug; then found in 75 tetrads Sep-Dec (75 in 2013, 158 in 2012). Large counts: 155 Leadburn CW 21st Nov & 120 Borthwickshiels Loch 28th Nov; 80 Broughton Brewery on 2nd Dec; 77 Black barony 4th Sep; 55 Westfield 17th Sep; with parties of 30-49 birds seen at Clearburn Loch, Elba, Harcus, Hirsell Lake, Manor Hill Plantation, Milkieston, Nether Falla & St Abb's Head.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Some large flocks late September-April. During 2008-13 was found in 17% tetrads in winter. (55 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 31 records from 16 tetrads Jan-Mar, but small numbers generally (34 in 2013, 16 tetrads in 2012, 32 in 2011). 200 Kailzie 12th Jan was, by far, the largest flock. 3 sites had double-figure counts: 10 Kitleyknowe 18th Feb; 25 Tweedbank 20th Mar & 20 Old Greenlaw 28th Mar. The only other sites with more than 1-2 birds were Moorshot Plantation with 3 on 27th & 31st Mar and 3 Far Wooden on 30th Mar. Otherwise 1-2 birds Crookhouse, Easter Dawyck, Gavinton, Melrose, Newmains, Peebles & Yair

Spring: Just 7 Apr & 1 May records. 2 Yair 1st Apr; 1 Westfield 4th Apr; 1 Peebles 6th Apr; 1 Moorshot Plantation 11th Apr; 2 Nisbet Hillhead 13th Apr. 1 St Abb's Head 25th & 28th Apr; and last 1 ringed Selkirk 5th May (Mike Fraser).

Autumn/Winter: Poor autumn with first 2 St Abb's Head on 7th Oct (Fran Evans) with 4 there on 8th Oct, 1 on 9th and 5 on 17th Oct. 1 Lamberton 20th Oct.

A very poor winter period with just 7 records in 7 tetrads Nov-Dec (13 in 2013, 32 tetrads in 2012). 2 Teviothead 1st Nov; 4 Thorlieshope 5th Nov; 1 Georgefield 10th Nov; 11 Howpark 24th Nov; 1 St Abb's Head 28th Nov; 1 Old Greenlaw 2nd Dec; and 1 Melrose 13th Dec.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common breeding resident. Forms flocks July-March. During 2008-13 was found in 43% of tetrads in summer, 33% in winter. (215 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Reported in 34 tetrads Jan-Mar (43 in 2013, 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 was just a single double-figure count, 12 Newmains 3rd Feb, compared with 0 in 2013, 6 in 2012, 6 in 2011 and 5 in 2010. 7 Haigsfield 14th Feb, 7 Melrose 18th Mar, 5 Cockburnspath 13th Mar & 5 Tweedbank 24th Mar with 3-4 birds at Eyemouth Bay, Hirsell Lake, Huntford, Lamberton & St Thomas Island.

Breeding: Reported 93 tetrads (93 in 2013, 125 in 2012) Apr-Aug. Poorer numbers compared to other years, although fewer records. Max 10 Holefield 17th Jul; 6 Eyemouth GC 29th Apr & Tweedbank 28th Aug; 5 Yetholm Loch 23rd Apr; and 3-4 birds Cockburnspath, Dunglass, Duns Mill BBS, Hassendean Farm Pond, Heiton, Kelso, Lamberton & St Abb's Head.

Autumn/Winter: Reported in 12 tetrads Sep-Dec (19 in 2013, 46 in 2012) with no double-figure counts, 7 Black Barony 4th Sep being the best total with 4 Sprouston on 21st Sep and 4 Melrose on 30th Oct being the next best. *The dire situation continues with numbers creeping even lower than the last 2-3 years.*

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common breeder. Forms winter flocks July-March. During 2008-13 was found in 73% of tetrads in summer, 62% in winter. (346 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Reported in 44 tetrads Jan-Mar (67 in 2013, 66 in 2012).

Numbers generally lower than Jan-Mar 2013 with best counts of 24 Newmains 3rd Jan; 23 Burnmouth 2nd Feb; 20 Elba 8th Jan; 20 Hundleshope Burn 7th Mar; & 20 Cademuir Hill 28th Feb with 10-19 birds at Cockburnspath, Innerleithen, Tower Burn & Tweedbank.

Breeding: Birds reported from 77 tetrads Apr-Aug (209 in 2013, 270 in 2012).

30 Bemersyde Moss 15th Aug; 24 Linton Moor 26th Aug; 22 St Abb's Head 1st Jul; 20 Heiton Mains 9th Apr; 10 Fairliehope 20th Aug; & 10 Cademuir 13th Apr were the only double-figure counts with 5-9 birds at 11 other sites.

Just 6 sites with double-figure counts, hints at a not very successful breeding season (12 in 2013, 13 sites in 2011, 16 in 2010, 13 in 2009, 22 in 2008).

Autumn/Winter: Reported 31 tetrads Sep-Dec (92 in 2013, 102 in 2012) suggest another poor breeding season. Count of 20 or more birds: 35 Rawburn & 30 Watch Water Reservoir 5th Sep; 30 Cauldshiels Hill on 7th Sep; 22 West Water Reservoir 8th Sep; 40 Calshaw & 40 Hog Hill 14th Sep; 25 Mire Loch on 16th Sep; then gap to 52 Black Barony 1st Dec.

Also 10-19 birds at Bemersyde Moss, Crailing Dean, Eyemouth GC & Wilton Park 8 sites with flocks of 20 or more birds. This compares to 11 in 2013, 11 in 2012, 9 in 2011, 19 in 2010, 10 in 2009 & 16 in 2008.

So fewer sites and much lower numbers does not bode well. Goldfinch threatening to share the fate of other finches in recent years.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Common resident & summer visitor in forestry areas. Common passage migrants with peaks October & April. Forms winter flocks. During 2008-13 was found in 57% of tetrads in summer, 36% in winter. (186 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Seen in 24 tetrads Jan-Mar (23 in 2013, 45 in 2012). The best counts were 30 at Pease Bay on 13th Mar; 18 Easter Dawyck 22nd Mar; and 17 at Tweedbank on 15th Mar with 8 at Melrose & 5 Ellemford the next best totals.

The extent of undercoverage is starkly revealed by the ringers. 52 and 19 were ringed in a Peebles garden in Jan and Feb respectively (Stuart Craig), while the amazing totals of 141 were ringed in a Selkirk garden on 27th Mar with 87 different birds the next day! (Mike Fraser). If this seems an amazing total Mike then went on to catch 255 on 26th Apr with 148 the following day that included only 10 controls from the earlier day. Another 85 were caught on 5th May. Stuart also caught a juvenile on 26th Apr which points to early breeding. One theory was that large numbers of birds may have been feeding and breeding in the extensive areas of forestry on the massive cone crop of 2013/14, largely unrecorded by birders who rarely venture into such habitats except during survey work such in the case of the Atlas. The rise in numbers captured by the ringers in Mar and Apr may have been a combination of passage migrants from further south plus birds dispersing from the local forests after breeding.

Breeding: Birds reported from 24 tetrads Apr-Aug (192 in 2013, 158 in 2012)

Few counts: 12 Heiton Mains 9th Apr, 10 Bowshiel 15th Apr and 20 Hundleshope 28th Aug were the only double-figure totals, other than from the ringers. 5-9 birds were reported from Eddleston, Gordon CW, Mire Loch & Tweedbank.

The numbers are puzzling: had there been a clear-out or were all these ringed birds just passing through?

Just three double-figure count, compared to 1 in 2013, 15 in 2012, 15 in 2011, 22 in 2010, 8 in 2009, 36 in 2008.

Autumn/Winter: Found in 14 tetrads Sep-Dec (20 in 2013, 29 in 2012, 48 in 2011 & 97 in 2010).

Double-figure counts: 15 Lindean Reservoir 3rd Nov & 55 Edington Mains 17th Nov; with 5-9 birds at Harcus, Mire Loch & Walkerburn. *Once again an extremely low numbers of reports.*



Siskin - Eddleston Apr 2014

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Common breeder in east. Can form large winter flocks. During 2008-13 was found in 53% of tetrads in summer, 17% in winter. (220 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Reported from only 11 tetrads Jan-Mar (15 in 2013, 25 in 2012).

The large flock at Newmains held 160 birds on 2nd Jan, max 220 on 3rd Jan, 170 on 27th Jan, 160 on 3rd Feb and 120 on 6th Mar. There were also 50 Edrington Castle on 1st Jan; 100 Fancove Head & 80 Linkim Shore on 11th Jan; 54 Upper Whitfield 18th Jan; 50 Lamberton 4th Feb; with 110 at Hatchendize on 14th Feb. 1-4 birds also reported at Kitleyknowe, Lamberton Beach, Sorrowlessfield, Sprouston & St Abb's Head.

Breeding: Birds reported from 46 tetrads Apr-Aug (124 in 2013, 167 in 2012).

The only double-figure counts were 15 Lees Haugh 6th May; 10 Graden 26th May; 24-40 reported St Abb's Head Jun-Aug with 5-9 birds at Dunglass, Duns Mill BBS, Easter Housebyres Upper Pond, Eyemouth GC, Rawburn, Toddleburn Windfarm, West Water Dam Pond & Wester Wooden.

Summer/Autumn: Few post-breeding flocks include: 10 Holefield 17th Aug; and 35 Bowdenmoor on 5th Aug; 30 Rawburn 5th Sep; 15 West Water Reservoir 8th Sep; 25 Mire Loch 16th Sep & 50 Bemersyde Moss 23rd Sep. 6 double-figure counts in 2013 (4 in 2013, 11 in 2012, 16 in 2011, 11 in 2010 & 16 in 2009).

The reduction in numbers appears to be continuing, and perhaps not just due to the loss of Atlas records.

Winter: Only 8 records in 6 tetrads (5 in 2013, 16 in 2012, 34 in 2011). 60 Ladyrig 8th Nov; 400 Cove 23rd Nov; 220 Newmains 24th Dec with 260 Cove on 27th Dec; 25 at feeding Nether Falla 28th Dec.

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. During 2008-13 was found in 8 tetrads in summer, 20 in winter. (2 records in 2014)

25 Cauldshiels Hill 20th Jan & 17th Feb were the only records (David Parkinson).

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Common but local breeder. Autumn passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers, mostly October-November. During 2008-13 was found in 41% of tetrads in summer, 18% in winter. (95 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Reported 13 tetrads Jan-Mar (19 in 2013, 13 in 2012). Best counts were 29 Cringletie 9th Jan; 16 Milkieton 10th Feb; 12 The Scawart, Blythe Water 10th Jan; 12 Hen Poo 19th Feb; 10 Lindean Reservoir 22nd Jan; % 6 Cockburnspath 21st Jan. with 2-4 birds at Easter Dawyck, Innerleithen, Melrose, Southpark, Tweedbank & Upper Hindhope and singles at 3 other sites.

Migrants ringed: 12 Selkirk 12th Apr with 14 on 27th Apr (Mike Fraser).

Breeding: Birds seen in 37 tetrads Apr-Aug (151 in 2013, 102 in 2012). 31 birds at 12 sites

Crosslee	2	Heathpool Common	2	Peebles	3	Spittalhaugh BBS	3
Essenside Loch	2	Huntford	2	Philhope BBS	3	Whitmuirhall Loch	4
Gordon CW	2	Lindean Reservoir	2	South Slipperfield	3	Winnington Moss	2

31 birds at 12 sites & single birds at 27 sites, 68 birds at 55 sites.

Autumn/Winter: 11 Black Barony 4th Sep; 4 Leadburn CW 12th Oct and 1-2 birds Baddingsgill, Watch Water Reservoir & Waterheads.

11 Nov-Dec records: 22 Black Barony 5th Nov; 78 Cringletie on 10th Nov; 8 Lindean Reservoir on 20th Nov; 6 Leadburn CW 21st Nov; 8 Nether Falla 23rd Nov; 54 The Bell 30th Nov & 62 Black Barony 1st Dec.

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

Usually very scarce autumn & winter visitor, typically amongst flocks of Lesser Redpoll. Almost annual.

During 2008-13 was found in 1 tetrads in summer, 16 in winter. (5 records in 2014)

Four reports from ringers: 1 ringed Selkirk 27th Apr with 6 ringed 4th May & 5 ringed on 5th May. 3 there on 20th Dec (Mike Fraser). 4 Cardrona 7th Dec (Mark & Alison Cockburn).

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. During 2008-13 was found in 27% of tetrads in summer, 32% in winter. (34 records in 2014).

Winter/Spring: In Jan-Mar there were only 5 reports: 2 Huntford 3rd Feb with 3 there 12th Feb; 8 Kirmie Law 11th Mar; 13 Pease Bay 13th Mar; & 2 Thornylee 30th Mar.

In Apr-Jul birds were found only 5 tetrads (21 in 2013, 65 in 2012, (85 in 2011 & 78 in 2010)). 1 Huntford on 17th Apr with 4 there 14th Jun and birds present 21st & 24th Jun; 4 Bowden 26th Apr; 4 Southdean Lodge on 3rd May; 1 Bowdenmoor 31st May; 1 Philhope BBS 26th Jun; and 1 Piersknowe 28th Jul.

Autumn/Winter: Recorded from 6 tetrads Aug-Oct with 3 Cardon 27th Aug; 15 Riccarton Junction on 31st Aug; 2 Huntford 4th & 9th; Sep; 2 Talla Dam 9th Sep; 3 Huntford 23rd & 29th Sep with singles Hungry Law & Hardens Plantation.

Reports from 7 sites Nov-Dec (1 in 2013, 25 in 2012, 67 in 2011). 15 Maiden Paps 27th Dec; 10 Cribs Hole on 7th Dec; 4 Kirmie law 27th Dec; 4 Cademuir Forest 30th Dec; 2 Loch of the Lowes 23rd Nov : and singles Huntford on 3 dates and at Byreclough. *Another poor year without a hint of breeding.*

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common but retiring resident. During 2008-13 was found in 31% of tetrads in summer, 47% in winter. (345 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Reported from 53 tetrads Jan-Mar (52 in 2013, 75 in 2012).

Mostly 1-2 birds but double-figure counts of 10 Newmains 27th Jan; 11 Paxton House 1st Feb & 30 Tweedbank 24th Mar; with 8 Eyemouth GC 11th Jan; 8 Milne Graden 20th Jan; 7 Crookhouse on 31st Jan; 7 Hagsfield on 14th Feb; 8 Hammerhall 23rd Feb.

5-6 birds at Lindean Reservoir, Minto Kaimes, Palacehill, Rawflat, Sprouston & Walkerburn with 3-4 birds at 10 other sites.

Breeding: Found in 46 tetrads Apr-Aug (90 in 2013, 96 in 2010) with confirmed breeding at Northfield 7th Aug & Larriston 31st Aug. 12 Riccarton Forest & 10 Larriston 31st Aug with 9 Tweedbank 11th Aug; but otherwise 4 Pease Bay BBS 18th Jun & Alemill 20th Aug with 3 birds seen Hen Poo and Dunglass.

Autumn/Winter: High counts of 10 Lindean Reservoir 23rd Sep; 4 Black Barony 4th Sep; 4 Burnmouth 1st Oct; and 2 birds at 8 other sites.

Recorded in 21 tetrads Nov-Dec (35 in 2013, 81 in 2012, 102 in 2011 & 106 in 2010). No double-figure counts: 8 The Bell 30th Nov; 6 Eyemouth GC 5th Dec; 5 Huntford 30th Nov; with 3-4 birds at Belses Muir, Black Barony, Hutton & Westshiels.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Extremely rare resident and migrant, not annual. During 2008-13 was found in 2 tetrads in summer, 1 in winter. (3 records in 2014)

1, perhaps 2 birds, at Neidpath Castle on 3rd Mar (Graham Pyatt) with 1 there 12th Mar (Harry Urquhart).



Hawfinch, ad f - Neidpath Castle
Mar 2014 Graham Pyatt

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, October-March. Scarcer January-March. During 2008-13 was found in 3 tetrads in summer, 37 in winter. (13 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: 1 Dunglass 29th Mar & 1 in Cheviots at Windy Gyle 12th Apr.

Autumn/Winter: First 1 Measured Mil & 1 Lamb Rig, Lammermuirs on 2nd Nov; 1 Larriston Fells on 9th Nov; 5 Linkim Shore 9th Nov; 1 Dowlaw 10th Nov with 23 there 15th Nov & 9 on 16th Nov; 3 Lamberton 23rd Nov; 1 Siccar Point 6th Dec; 4 Measured Mile 13th Dec.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Now a very rare winter visitor. A little more frequent in early 1990s. (1 record in 2014)

2 Linkim Shore 11th Jan (Dave Graham).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Abundant but declining breeder, mainly in the east. Forms winter flocks. During 2008-13 was found in 41% of tetrads in summer, 30% in winter. (323 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Recorded in 42 tetrads Jan-Mar (68 in 2012, 70 in 2011 & 58 in 2010).

The largest flock, by some distance, was again at Newmains, with 47 on 2nd Jan, 180 on 3rd Jan, max 240 on 27th Jan, 180 on 3rd Feb & 85 on 6th Mar. Also 35 Cockburnspath 5th Jan; 20 Roxburgh Viaduct on 7th Jan; 45 Linkim Shore 11th Jan; 30 Bowden Moor & 30 Clerkenville 9th Feb; 48 Haigsfield 14th Feb; 20 Holydean Wood 16th Feb; 40 Edrington Castle & 30 Smailholm Tower Pond 3rd Mar; 32 Cawderstones 16th Mar. Elsewhere 51 Ormiston 11th Feb; 50 Lauder 6th Feb; 20 Simprim Mains 16th Feb; with parties of 10-19 birds Ancrum Craig, Crailing Kirk, Dunglass, Fairnington, Nisbet, Sprouston & Whitrig Bog and 5-9 birds at 7 other sites.

In the west: 2 Garvald Lodge 2nd Feb; 1 Glenormiston 7th Mar, 1 Cardrona 9th Mar & 2 Heathpool Common 11th Mar.

Breeding: Found in 67 tetrads Apr-Aug (164 in 2013, 174 in 2012). 147 birds reported at 48 sites:

Bemersyde Moss	10	Eyemouth GC	3	Mellerstain/Smailholm8	St Abb's Head	7
Benrig	2	Folly Loch	4	New Belses Farm	Swinton, Southlaws	2
Bruntaburn Mill	2	Hartside	2	Pease Bay BBS	Tan Law BBS	2
Caverton Hillhead	4	Heathpool Common	2	Roxburgh	Threeburnford Farm	2
Clarilaw Hill Pond	2	Holefield	3	Spitalhaugh BBS	Toddleburn Windfarm	2
Cove	2	Hoselaw Mains BBS	7	Sprouston/Redden	Venchen Toll House	2
Dunglass	2	Innerleithen	2			
Duns Mill BBS	11	Kersmains	6			

Single birds were seen at 20 sites: Alemill, Bishop's Bog, Cockburnspath, Coldingham, Duncanhaugh, Eildon Mid Hill, Essense Loch, Innerleithen, Lamberton, Lindean Reservoir, Linkim Shore, Longmuir Moss, Middlestots Marsh, Millar's Moss, Morebattle Hill, Press Castle, Rink Pond, Sprouston, White Law Loch & Whitmuirhall Loch

The disjunct Peeblesshire population had: 2 Innerleithen 1st Apr; 2 Heathpool Common 19th Apr & 26th May; 2 Paulswell BBS 15th Jun and 1 Innerleithen 16th Jun.

Autumn/Winter: Just a single double-figure count Sep-Oct (6 in 2013): 10 Mire Loch 8th Oct; with 5 Ross on 25th Sep and 3-4 birds at Bemersyde Moss and Whitrig.

Reported in only 5 tetrads Nov-Dec (16 in 2013, 58 in 2012, 72 in 2011 & 68 in 2010).

The largest flock was 34 Newmains 24th Dec with 30 Lintlaw 8th Nov & 30 Ancrum Craig 16th Nov; and singles Allanton & Folly Loch.

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. During 2008-13 was found in 46% of tetrads in summer, 22% in winter. (309 records in 2014)

Winter/Spring: Found in 24 tetrads Jan-Mar (20 in 2013, 29 in 2012).

Newmains Farm, as usual, had the largest counts with 11 birds on 2nd Jan, 34 on 3rd Jan, max 47 on 27th Jan, & 24 on 6th Mar. Double-figure counts: 20 Edrington Castle Mains on 1st Jan; 18 Linkim Shore on 11th Jan & 14 Haigsfield 14th Dec.

Also 4-9 birds at Back Loch, Dunglass, Nisbet & Tower Burn Marsh.

Breeding: Reported from 89 tetrads Apr-Aug (113 in 2013, 120 in 2012), perhaps boosted by Waterbodies Survey.

Success - br2 Groundstone Moss 2nd Jul; 3br5 Nether Whitlaw Moss 9th Jul.

Single birds were recorded in suitable habitat at 53 sites. Elsewhere 164 birds at 52 sites:

Addiston Pond	2	E. Housebyres Moss	2	Hoselaw Mains BBS	2	Seacroft Moss	2
Bemersyde Moss	3	E Housebyres Pond	2	Hule Moss	2	Selkirk Race C Moss	4
Billiemains ponds	4	Essenside Loch	4	Larriston Rigg	2	Spitalhaugh BBS	2
Bishop's Bog	2	Eyemouth Bay	2	Leadburn CW	3	St Leonard's Moss	5
Blackcleugh Loch	7	Folly Loch	3	Lees Haugh	2	Threeburnford Pond	4
Blackpool Moss	4	Foulden Duck Pond	2	Lindean Reservoir	3	Tofts Hill Moss	2
Blinkbonny Marsh	3	Green Diamonds	4	Longmuir Moss	3	Venchen Toll House	2
Bullhope Burn	2	Groundstone Moss	6	Middlestots Marsh	3	West Ord	2
Cavers Little Moss	2	Groundstone Pond	2	Mire Loch	5	Whim Pond	2
Caverton Hillhead	4	Hare Moss	4	Nether Whitlaw Moss	14	White Law Loch	2
Chirnside	2	Hartsgarth	2	New Belses Farm	3	Whitmuirhall Loch	4
Clarilaw Hill Pond	2	Heiton	6	Philhope BBS	3	Wiltonburn Loch	3
Duns Mill BBS	3	Hoselaw Mains	2	Rankle Burn	2	Winnington Moss	2

207 birds. c.154 territories at 105 sites (123 sites in 2013, 138 in 2012)

Autumn/Winter: No double-figure counts in Sep-Oct with 6 Mire Loch 8th Oct, was the only count of more than 2 birds. Recorded in just 8 tetrads Nov-Dec (12 in 2013, 21 in 2012). 8 St Leonard's Moss 28th Nov; 15 Newmains 24th Dec; & 21 Cove 27th Dec; 15 Newmains 24th Dec; 8 St Leonard's Moss 28th Nov; otherwise singles at Bemersyde Moss, Leadburn CW, Mire Loch & Hownam & Talla Water.

[Corn Bunting] *Emberiza calandra*

Rare, almost extinct breeder on the Berwickshire coast. Very scarce in winter. Occasional inland reports.

ALL RECORDS NEEDED. During 2008-13 was found in 2 tetrads in summer, 1 in winter. (no records in 2014)

None were recorded in 2014, despite searches.

Escapes in 2014

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*

1 on A7 at Earlston 14th Dec (Bridget Kursheed).
Definitely not storm driven from Australia!

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

2 Nether Falla 13th Dec (Tom Dougall).

Reeve's Pheasant *Symaticus reevesii*

1 Greystone Knowe BBS 2nd May (AJ Farrell).

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

4 Cringletie 2nd May with 5 on 29th Oct. (Ray Murray).

Glossy Starling *Lamprolornis sp.*

1 Peebles 7th Apr 7th Apr (Sheila Horsburgh).



Emu - Earlston, Dec 2014

Phone camera image *Bridget Kursheed*

Ringing in the Scottish Borders, 2014

Tom Dougall

This is the twenty-eighth 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://app.bto.org/ring/countyrec/results2014/ringGBBR2014.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 105,000.

Table 1 lists the species and numbers ringed in 2014 in the Borders area. (with % of birds ringed in UK 2014)

	Nestling	Free-flying	2014 Total	>1% of UK total		Nestling	Free-flying	2014 Total	>1% of UK total
Mute Swan	0	10	10		Chiffchaff	0	74	74	
Red Grouse	0	9	9	32	Willow Warbler	0	159	159	
Storm Petrel	0	74	74		Blackcap	0	41	41	
Leach's Petrel	0	1	1	4.2	Garden Warbler	0	3	3	
Grey Heron	3	0	3	1.4	Whitethroat	0	34	34	
Goshawk	26	0	26	8	Grasshopper Warbler	0	1	1	
Sparrowhawk	5	3	8		Sedge Warbler	26	110	136	
Buzzard	12	0	12	1.8	Reed Warbler	0	1	1	
Osprey	9	0	9	3.9	Nuthatch	71	11	82	2.9
Kestrel	8	0	8		Treecreeper	0	4	4	
Merlin	11	0	11	2.3	Wren	0	63	63	
Peregrine	7	0	7	1.6	Starling	0	8	8	
Moorhen	2	1	3		Dipper	55	7	62	2.4
Oystercatcher	30	0	30	1.2	Blackbird	11	146	157	
Lapwing	31	0	31	1.3	Song Thrush	0	23	23	
Jack Snipe	0	3	3	1.3	Redwing	0	2	2	
Curlew	13	0	13	1.2	Mistle Thrush	6	1	7	2.1
Common Sandpiper	7	14	21	12.5	Spotted Flycatcher	6	1	7	
Redshank	7	0	7		Robin	4	104	108	
Black-headed Gull	89	89	178	3.9	Redstart	0	1	1	
Common Gull	26	8	34	1.8	Stonechat	0	1	1	
Woodpigeon	2	9	11		Duncock	0	201	201	
Barn Owl	51	10	61		House Sparrow	2	284	286	1.5
Tawny Owl	29	2	31	1.3	Tree Sparrow	55	68	123	
Long-eared Owl	9	0	9	8.9	Grey Wagtail	3	2	5	
Short-eared Owl	13	0	13	19.7	Pied/White Wagtail	10	8	18	
Swift	6	4	10	1.2	Meadow Pipit	3	226	229	1
GS Woodpecker	0	7	7		Chaffinch	0	868	868	1.9
Jackdaw	0	3	3		Brambling	0	8	8	
Rook	0	1	1		Greenfinch	0	149	149	
Raven	35	0	35	9	Goldfinch	0	179	179	
Goldcrest	0	50	50		Siskin	0	1775	1,775	7.2
Blue Tit	55	458	513		Linnet	0	38	38	
Great Tit	20	167	187		Lesser Redpoll	0	47	47	
Coal Tit	0	60	60		Common Redpoll	0	12	12	2
Skylark	0	1	1		Redpoll sp.	0	2	2	
Swallow	48	4	52		Bullfinch	0	14	14	
House Martin	2	0	2		Yellowhammer	0	11	11	
Long-tailed Tit	0	28	28		Reed Bunting	0	19	19	
Yellow-brow Warbler	0	1	1						
					Grand Total	808	5,723	6,531	

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!

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.



Great Spotted Woodpecker - St Abb's Head, Sep 2014.
Seven were ringed in Borders in 2014. Alan Kerr

Table 2 : Recoveries and controls 2014

Species	Ring number	Age/sex	Date	Location	Distance	Orientation	Duration
Mute Swan							
	W11055	Ad f	12-07-2003	Berwick-upon-Tweed			
	Ring read		03-08-2014	Bernersyde Moss	42km	WSW	11y 0m 22d
	W18577	Pullus	14-08-2005	Dedridge Pond, Livingston, West Lothian			
	Freshly dead		01-02-2014	Paxton House	89km	E	8y 5m 18d
	Z68294 (white LDF)	F	28-09-1992	Monikie Reservoir, Broughty Ferry, Angus			
	Resighted		1994 - 1999	various sites in Borders			
	Darvic ring found		26-04-2014	Alton Pond, Hawick			
	Z96775	Pullus f	29-08-2004	Traquair House			
	Ring read		09-06-2005	Gunknowe Loch	18km	E	0y 9m 11d
	Ring read		03-01-2006	Redden			1y 4m 5d
	Ring read		16-03-2006	Gunknowe Loch	18km	E	1y 6m 15d
	Ring read		13-03-2007	Traquair House	0km		2y 6m 12d
	Ring read		07-07-2014	Traquair House	0km		9y 10m 8d
Red Grouse							
	FP52177	1st-yr m	11-12-2013	Roan Fell			
	Long dead		19-02-2014	Roan Fell	0km		0y 2m 8d
	FP52176	Ad f	14-11-2013	nr Roan Fell Flow			
	Predated		10-05-2014	nr Roan Fell Flow	0km		0y 5m 26d
	FB28753	1st-yr f	20-02-2013	Roan Fell			
	Predated		15-05-2014	Roan Fell	2km		1y 2m 25d
	FB28923	1st-yr m	20-02-2013	Roan Fell			
	Predated		26-05-2014	Roan Fell	2km		1y 3m 6d
	FH61058	1st-yr f	10-04-2014	nr Roan Fell Flow			
	Predated		15-10-2014	nr Roan Fell Flow	0km		0y 6m 5d
Storm Petrel							
	2379649	Ad	08-07-2014	Kilnsea Clays, East Riding of Yorkshire			
	Caught by ringer		29-07-2014	Eyemouth	290km	NNW	0y 0m 21d
	Caught by ringer		08-08-2014	Druridge Links, Northumberland	215km	NNW	0y 1m 0d
	2594998	FG	20/08/2012	Isle of May, Fife			
	Controlled	FG	25/07/2014	Eyemouth	46km	NE	
	2621730	FG	12/07/2014	Scurdieness, Angus			
	Controlled	FG	25/07/2014	Eyemouth	95km	S	
	2661116	FG	22/07/2014	Eyemouth			
	Controlled	FG	01/08/2014	Druridge Links, Northumberland	76km	S	
	2661119	FG	22/07/2014	Eyemouth			
	Controlled	FG	08/08/2014	Inner Farne, Farne Islands	41km	SE	



Storm Petrel - Eyemouth, Jul 2014 - Photos - Dave Graham - 74 were ringed in 2014 with 17 notified recoveries, including one from Portugal. Two birds also crossed the Forth between Eyemouth and the Isle of May in a few hours.

2661126	FG	22/07/2014	Eyemouth			
Controlled	FG	23/07/2014	Snook Point, Northumberland	44km	SE	
2661132	Ad	29-07-2014	Eyemouth			
Caught by ringer		01-08-2014	Sumburgh, Shetland	446km	N	0y 0m 3d
2661140	Ad	01-08-2014	Eyemouth			
Caught by ringer		03-09-2014	Strathy Point, Highland	324km	NNW	0y 1m 2d
2661141	FG	01/08/2014	Eyemouth			
Controlled	FG	02/08/2014	Isle of May, Fife	46km	321	2350hrs 0340hrs
2661146	FG	02-08-2014	Eyemouth			
Controlled	FG	08-08-2014	Inner Farnes, Farnes islands	41km	SE	
2661166	Ad	06-08-2014	Eyemouth			
Caught by ringer		24-08-2014	Faraid Head, Highland	344km	NNW	0y 0m 18d
2661173	FG	06-08-2014	Eyemouth			
Controlled	FG	25-08-2014	Isle of May, Fife	46km	NW	
2673598	Ad	06-07-2014	Whitburn Country Park, Tyne and Wear			
Caught by ringer		29-07-2014	Eyemouth	112km	NNW	0y 0m 23d
Caught by ringer		31-07-2014	Isle of May Fife	157km	NNW	0y 0m 25d
2686527	FG	28/07/2014	Isle of May, Fife			
Controlled	FG	29/07/2014	Eyemouth			
Controlled	FG	29/07/2014	Isle of May, Fife	46km	SE	2300hrs & 2345hrs 0230hrs 0340hrs
2686547	FG	01/08/2014	Isle of May, Fife			
Controlled	FG	02/08/2014	Eyemouth	46km	SE	
640888	FG	29/07/2014	Inner Farnes, Farnes Islands, Northumberland			
Controlled	FG	05/08/2014	Eyemouth	41km	NW	
N05488	Ad	04-06-2013	Ponta de Almadena, Faro, PORTUGAL			
Caught by ringer		07-08-2013	Fair Isle	2,549km	NNE	0y 2m 3d
Caught by ringer		25-07-2014	Eyemouth	2,149km	NNE	1y 1m 21d
Shag						
1460277	Pullus	11-07-2013	Bullers of Buchan, Cruden Bay, Aberdeen			
Long dead		08-04-2014	Coldingham	172km	S	0y 8m 28d
1473537 (white JHB)	Pullus	11/06/2014	Isle of May, Fife			
resighted	FG	05/09/2014	Dunglass			
resighted	FG	15/10/2014	Inner Farnes, Farnes Islands			
resighted	FG	29/11/2014	Fraserburgh, Grampian			
Goshawk						
MA20417	Pullus f	21-06-2011	Eskdalemuir			
Long dead		30-05-2014	Alnwick, Northumberland	68km	ENE	2y 11m 9d

Sparrowhawk

DB05737	1 st -yr m	31-07-2005	Peebles
Caught by ringer		08-11-2007	Peebles
Caught by ringer		18-12-2008	Peebles
Caught by ringer		16-09-2012	Peebles
Caught by ringer		24-04-2014	Peebles

**Sparrowhawk m** - Peebles, Apr 2014 *Photo - R Stuart Craig*

An exceptionally long-lived individual in Peebles was retrapped at 8 years, 8 months and 24 days after first being ringed in 2005. *Birds of the Western Palearctic* states at the start of the second year life expectancy is 2.3 years, although some cocks live for 8-9 years.

Peregrine

GF56884	Pullus m	30-05-1999	Stobo			
Fresh road death		23-03-2014	Grasmere, Cumbria	130km	S	14y 9m 21d
GN09310	Pullus f	31-05-2003	nr Tweedsmuir			
Radio tag		17-04-2014	nr Duns	76km	ENE	10y 10m 17d
GN09345	Pullus f	21-06-2003	nr Bitch Craig			
Colour ring seen		18-04-2007	nr Penicuik, Midlothian	34km	N	3y 9m 28d
Caught by ringer		01-05-2008	Pentland Hills, Midlothian	36km	N	4y 10m 10d
Caught by ringer		25-04-2009	Pentland Hills, Midlothian	36km	N	5y 10m 4d
Caught by ringer		21-04-2010	nr Penicuik, Midlothian	34km	N	6y 10m 0d
Radio tag		22-04-2011	nr Penicuik, Midlothian	34km	N	7y 10m 1d
Radio tag		18-04-2012	nr Penicuik, Midlothian	34km	N	8y 9m 28d
Radio tag		19-04-2013	nr Penicuik, Midlothian	34km	N	9y 9m 29d
Radio tag		11-04-2014	nr Penicuik, Midlothian	34km	N	10y 9m 21d
GN69162	Pullus f	05-06-2004	Daviot Quarry, Highland			
Caught by ringer		27-04-2009	nr Bitch Craig	218km	SSE	4y 10m 22d
Radio tag		26-04-2010	nr Bitch Craig	218km	SSE	5y 10m 21d
Radio tag		21-04-2011	nr Bitch Craig	218km	SSE	6y 10m 16d
Radio tag		19-04-2012	nr Bitch Craig	218km	SSE	7y 10m 14d
Radio tag		28-04-2013	nr Bitch Craig	218km	SSE	8y 10m 23d
Radio tag		12-04-2014	nr Bitch Craig	218km	SSE	9y 10m 7d
GF56884	Pullus m	30-05-1999	Stobo			
Fresh road death		23-03-2014	Grasmere, Cumbria	130km	S	14y 9m 21d
Coot						
GR51386	Ad m	27-02-2014	Airthrey Loch, Stirling			
Colour ring read		02-04-2014	Airthrey Loch, Stirling	0km		0y 1m 6d
Colour ring read		08-04-2014	Gunknowe Loch	94km	SE	0y 1m 12d
Freshly dead		20-12-2014	Gunknowe Loch	94km	SE	0y 9m 23d
Oystercatcher						
FA29312	Pullus	26-06-2004	Leithen Water, nr Glentress			
Fresh road death		18-06-2014	Leithen Water, nr Glentress	0km		9y 11m 23d
FP27130	Pullus	15-06-2003	Leithen Water, nr Glentress			
Caught by ringer		24-08-2014	Waterfoot, Annan, Dumfries&Galloway	79km	S	11y 2m 9d
FH77537	Pullus	29-05-2014	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills			
Caught by ringer		22-06-2014	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills	0km		0y 0m 24d
FH77563	Pullus	14-06-2014	Dewar Burn			
Caught by ringer		06-07-2014	Dewar Burn	0km		0y 0m 22d

Lapwing

DE50353	Pullus	14-05-2014	Windy Slack, Moorfoot Hills			
Caught by ringer		17-05-2014	Windy Slack, Moorfoot Hills	0km		0y 0m 3d

Curlew

FP88793	Pullus	16-06-2011	nr West Steel, Lammermuirs			
Freshly dead		20-03-2014	Lauder Moor	28km	SW	2y 9m 4d

FH77541	Pullus	29-05-2014	Dewar Burn			
Caught by ringer		01-06-2014	Dewar Burn	0km		0y 0m 3d

Black-headed Gull

ET48480	N	10/06/2012	Broad Law, Moorfoots			
Ring read	Ad	24/11/2014	Musselburgh, East Lothian	19km	N	

EY21526	N	16/06/2013	Broad Law, Moorfoots			
colour-ring read	Ad	28/12/2014	Leland Ponds, Bathgate, West Lothian	40km	W	

EY21565	Pullus	16/06/2013	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills			
Colour ring read		12/04/2014	Marsh Lane Berkswell, W Midlands	383km	SSE	0y 9m 27d

EY21568	N	16/06/2013	Broad Law, Moorfoots			
colour-ring read	Imm	06/02- 4/03/14	River Tweed, Kelso			
colour-ring read	Ad	19/12/2014	River Tweed, Kelso	42km	E	

EY21579	N	16/06/2013	Broad Law, Moorfoots			
colour-ring read	Imm	02/05/2014	Callander, Central	90km	NW	

EY21681	N	29/06/2013	Broad Law, Moorfoots			
colour-ring read	Imm	21/11 -24/02/14	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank	25km	SE	

EY21664	N	16/06/2013	Broad Law, Moorfoots			
resighted	Ad	08/08/2014	Belhaven Bay, East Lothian			

EY26621	Ad	26-11-2013	Bowness, Cumbria			
Colour ring read		04-06-2014	Tweedbank	140km	N	0y 6m 9d
Colour ring read		12-11-2014	Bowness, Cumbria	0km		0y 11m 17d

EY21543	N	16/06/2013	Broad Law, Moorfoots			
colour-ring read	Imm	04/06/2014	Vane Farm, Loch Leven, Perth & Kinross	49km	NW	
colour-ring read	Ad	02/12/2014	Loch Leven, Perth & Kinross			

EY21564	N	16/06/2013	Broad Law, Moorfoots			
colour-ring read	Imm	03/02-10/03/2014	Balloch, West Dunbartonshire	100km	W	

EY21714	N	29/06/2013	Broad Law, Moorfoots			
colour-ring read	Imm	12/01/2014	Levenmouth, Fife	47km	N	

EY21739	N	14/06/2014	Broad Law, Moorfoots			
resighted	Imm	26/11/2014	Linlithgow Loch, West Lothian			

EY21744	N	14/06/2014	Broad Law, Moorfoots			
Dead	Juv	27/07/2014	Cowieslinn, Eddlestone.			



Black-headed Gull, Peebles
Sep 2014.

Ringing, including colour-ringing, at the Tathieknowe colony at Broad Law in the Moorfoots has yielded a really good crop of recoveries. While most linger in Central and Southern Scotland, one at least has travelled as far as Germany.

EY21745 resighted resighted	N Imm Imm	14/06/2014 20/09/2014 01/10/2014	Broad Law, Moorfoots River Esk, Musselburgh, East Lothian Seton Burn, East Lothian			
EY21749 resighted	N juv	14/06/2014 27/07/2014	Broad Law, Moorfoots Rosebery Reservoir, Midlothian			
EY21750 resighted	N Imm	14/06/2014 17-19/12/14	Broad Law, Moorfoots Gartmorn Dam, Alloa, Central			
EY21680 resighted	N Imm	29/06/2013 08/06/2014	Broad Law, Moorfoots North Berwick, East Lothian			
EY21752 Colour ring read	Pullus	14-06-2014 26-09-2014	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills Cresswell Pond, Northumberland)	111km	ESE	0y 3m 12d
EY21662 Colour ring read	Pullus	16-06-2013 25-04-2014	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills East Chevington, Northumberland	107km	ESE	0y 10m 9d
EY21667 resighted	N Ad	16/06/2013 31/12/2014	Broad Law, Moorfoots Seton Burn, East Lothian			
EY21682 Colour ring read Colour ring read Colour ring read	Pullus	29-06-2013 04-08-2014 17-08-2014 07-10-2014	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills Powillimount, Dumfries and Galloway Port Carlisle, Cumbria Port Carlisle, Cumbria	104km 93km 93km	SSW S S	1y 1m 6d 1y 1m 19d 1y 3m 8d
EY21663 Colour ring read Colour ring read	Pullus	16-06-2013 07-07-2014 13-07-2014	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills Eiderstedt, Schleswig-Holstein, GERMANY Eiderstedt, Schleswig-Holstein, GERMANY	775km 775km	ESE ESE	1y 0m 21d 1y 0m 27d
EY21759 resighted	N Imm	14/06/2014 25/10/2014	Broad Law, Moorfoots Strathclyde Country Park			
K03281 (green J439) resighted resighted resighted resighted	Ad Ad Ad Ad Ad	23/04/2014 24/04-09/06/14 11/07/2014 21/08/2014 19/12/2014	Ostensjovannet, Oslo, NORWAY Ostensjovannet, Oslo, NORWAY Nitelva, Akershus & Oslo, NORWAY Lillestrom, Akershus & Oslo, NORWAY The Cobby, Kelso	14km 14km 919km	NE NE SW	
Common Tern						
SX60540 Ring read Freshly dead	Pullus	20-06-1994 30-05-2001 11-07-2014	Fort George, Highland Kirkhill, Dyce, Aberdeen Coldingham	117km 221km	ESE SSE	6y 11m 10d 20y 0m 21d
Razorbill						
M72856 Long dead	Ad	27-06-1993 26-07-2014	St Abb's Head Killiedraught	6km	SSE	21y 0m 29d
Woodpigeon						
FH50199 Caught by ringer	Ad	23-02-2014 13-08-2014	Peebles Peebles	0km		0y 5m 21d
Barn Owl						
GR38907 Fresh road death	Pullus	21-06-2014 22-07-2014	Watch Water Duns Strips, nr Longformacus	7km	E	0y 1m 1d
GR16078 Sick (oiled)	1st -yr m	29-06-2014 24-12-2014	Paxton Paxton South Mains	Paxton 0km		0y 5m 25d
Short-eared Owl						
GR26532 Caught by ringer	Pullus	24-05-2014 29-05-2014	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills	0km		0y 0m 5d
Swift						
SB99297 Caught by ringer	Ad	04-08-2012 29-07-2014	The Hirsell, Coldstream The Hirsell, Coldstream	0km		1y 11m 25d
SH11456 Caught by ringer	Ad	29-07-2013 29-07-2014	The Hirsell, Coldstream The Hirsell, Coldstream			0km 1y 0m 0d
SB99233 Caught by ringer Caught by ringer Caught by ringer	Ad	22-07-2009 20-07-2010 20-07-2011 29-07-2014	The Hirsell, Coldstream The Hirsell, Coldstream The Hirsell, Coldstream The Hirsell, Coldstream	0km 0km 0km		0y 11m 28d 1y 11m 28d 5y 0m 7d

Blue Tit

V020263	Imm	10/08/2014	Peebles			
Dead, in central heating flue	Imm	29/10/2014	Peebles			

Whitethroat

D476777	Juvenile	21-07-2014	St Abb's Head			
Caught by ringer		23-08-2014	St Abb's Head	0km		0y 1m 2d
Caught by ringer		12-09-2014	Squire's Down, Dorset	551km	S	0y 1m 22d

Sedge Warbler

D476727	Juvenile	22-06-2014	St Abb's Head			
Caught by ringer		23-07-2014	Wick, nr Christchurch, Bournemouth	579km	S	0y 1m 1d

L763630

Caught by ringer	Pullus	13-07-2013	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk			
		02-09-2013	Waremmme, Liege, BELGIUM	760km	SE	0y 1m 20d

Nuthatch

TP86911	Juv f	10-07-2013	Peebles			
Caught by ringer		04-05-2014	Peebles	0km		0y 9m 24d

TV85030

Caught by ringer	Ad f	03-09-2014	Peebles			
		30-10-2014	Peebles	0km		0y 1m 27d

Blackbird

LA55402	Ad m	12-09-2008	Galashiels			
Caught by ringer		06-07-2011	Galashiels	0km		2y 9m 24d
Colour ring read		02-01-2014	Galashiels	0km		5y 3m 21d

CW47310

Caught by ringer	1st-yr m	01-01-2009	Peebles			
		12-02-2009	Peebles	0km		0y 1m 11d
Caught by ringer		11-06-2009	Peebles	0km		0y 5m 10d
Caught by ringer		12-08-2010	Peebles	0km		1y 7m 11d
Caught by ringer		14-06-2011	Peebles	0km		2y 5m 13d
Caught by ringer		20-11-2011	Peebles	0km		2y 10m 19d
Caught by ringer		21-02-2012	Peebles	0km		3y 1m 20d
Caught by ringer		02-02-2013	Peebles	0km		4y 1m 1d
Caught by ringer		27-01-2014	Peebles	0km		5y 0m 26d
Caught by ringer		04-11-2014	Peebles	0km		5y 10m 3d

Song Thrush

RT52136	Juv m	04-09-2013	St Abb's Head			
Caught by ringer		01-06-2014	St Abb's Head	0km		0y 8m 28d

RT52124

Caught by ringer	Ad f	02-06-2012	St Abb's Head			
Caught by ringer		07-05-2013	St Abb's Head	0km		0y 11m 5d
Caught by ringer		01-06-2014	St Abb's Head	0km		1y 11m 30d
Caught by ringer		06-07-2014	St Abb's Head	0km		2y 1m 4d



Left: **Song Thrush**
- St Abb's Head, Sep 2014
A total of 23 were ringed in Borders in 2014

Right: **Blackbird**
- St Abb's Head, Sep 2014
A total of 157 were ringed in Borders in 2014.
The scalloped feathering on this 1st-w bird might indicate a bird of Fennoscandian origin



Photos: Alan Kerr

Tree Sparrow

X704996	Juvenile	01-07-2013	Westfield, Smailholm			
Caught by ringer		27-12-2014	Westfield, Smailholm	0km		1y 5m 26d

L763978

Caught by ringer	1st-yr	01-08-2014	Westfield, Smailholm			
		27-12-2014	Westfield, Smailholm	0km		0y 4m 26d

Pied Wagtail

L514127	1st-yr m	03-12-2010	Bricket Wood, Hertfordshire			
Caught by ringer		04-05-2014	Peebles	476km	NNW	3y 5m 1d

Chaffinch

T142925	1s -yr f	20-07-2007	Peebles			
Caught by ringer		16-07-2013	Peebles	0km		5y 11m 26d
Caught by ringer		27-11-2014	Peebles	0km		7y 4m 7d

Y664407	Ad M	12/01/2014	Townhead, Gifford, East Lothian			
controlled	FG M	18/05/2014	Peebles	41km	227	

V021298	Imm M	11/03/2014	Peebles			
killed by Sparrowhawk	Imm M	04/04/2014	Cardrona	6km	110	

T637686	Ad f	30-08-2008	nr Nether Falla			
Dead		18-11-2014	Poltonhall, Bonnyrigg, Midlothian	15km	NNE	6y 2m 19d

V785621	1st-yr m	09-01-2009	Peebles			
Caught by ringer		29-11-2014	Peebles	0km		5y 10m 20d

T637177	Ad f	13-10-2008	Peebles			
Fresh window death		14-03-2014	Kerfield, Peebles	0km		5y 5m 1d

X770922	Ad f	02-01-2010	Upton Magna, Shrewsbury, Shropshire			
Dead		29-03-2014	Hawick	302km	N	4y 2m 27d

Goldfinch

Y852144	imm F	18/10/2012	Peebles			
fresh dead, emaciated	Ad F	05/04/2014	Kailzie, Peebles	3km	151	

Siskin

BLB 12253763	1st-yr m	27-02-2012	Loppem, West-Vlaanderen BELGIUM			
Caught by ringer		18-05-2013	Millhousebridge, Dumfries and Galloway	626km	NW	1y 2m 21d
Caught by ringer		06-04-2014	Peebles	655km	NW	2y 1m 10d
Caught by ringer		27-04-2014	Peebles	655km	NW	2y 2m 0d

D185080	Ad F	19/04/2013	Saltburn, Redcar & Cleveland			
controlled	Ad F	01/04/2014	Peebles	185km	312	

D220718	Imm M	25/04/2013	Melvich, Highland			
controlled	Ad M	01/03/2014	Peebles			

D244381	Ad M	27/02/2014	Lockerbie, Dumfries & Galloway			
controlled	Ad M	15/03/2014	Peebles			

D373091	Imm M	13/04/2013	Bourne Wood, Lincolnshire			
controlled	Ad M	19/03/2014	Peebles			

D377477	Ad m	18-03-2013	Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent			
Caught by ringer		28-03-2014	Selkirk	532km	NNW	1y 0m 10d

D385113	Imm M	08/03/2013	Stocksfield, Northumberland			
controlled	Ad M	22/05/2014	Peebles	114km	315	

D546042	Juv	02/07/2013	Derwent Valley, Derbyshire			
controlled	Imm F	25/04/2014	Peebles			

D702710	1st -yr f	01-03-2014	Ferndown, Dorset			
Caught by ringer		29-03-2014	Peebles	546km	N	0y 0m 28d
Caught by ringer		23-12-2014	Peebles	546km	N	0y 9m 22d

D847767	Imm M	04/03/2014	Dukes Warren, Surrey			
controlled	Imm M	24/04/2014	Peebles	532km	340	

D847813	Imm M	04/03/2014	Dukes Warren, Surrey			
controlled	Imm M	30/03/2014	Peebles	532km	340	

D847887	Imm M	13/03/2014	Dukes Warren, Surrey			
controlled	imm M	03/07/2014	Peebles	532km	340	

D855043	imm F	09/03/2014	Townhill, Dunfermline, Fife			
controlled	imm F	16/03/2014	Peebles	51km	161	

D969531	Ad M	26/03/2014	Stocksfield, Northumberland			
controlled	Ad M	15/08/2014	Peebles	114km	315	

D969822 controlled	Ad M Ad M	31/03/2014 10/05/2014	Stocksfield, Northumberland Peebles	114km	315
L760242 controlled	juv Ad M	21/06/2011 11/03/2014	Peebles Lockerbie, Dumfries & Galloway	61km	193
L760469 controlled	juv Ad M	03/07/2011 04/05/2014	Peebles Selkirk	25km	122
L764135 controlled	Imm F Imm F	15/05/2012 04/03/2014	Peebles Lockerbie, Dumfries & Galloway	61km	193
L764336 Found dying	Ad M Ad M	30/06/2012 08/02/2014	Peebles Selkirk		
L764504 controlled	Imm M Ad M	13/06/2012 26/02/2014	Peebles Lockerbie, Dumfries & Galloway	61km	193
L804297 controlled	Juv Ad M	17/08/2011 28/04/2014	Birchwood, Somerset Peebles	526km	360
L971313 controlled	Ad M Ad M	22/09/2012 02/01-10/03/2014	Glenurquhart, Highland Peebles	206km	156
V017461 found dead	Ad M Ad M	15/05/2013 12/03/2014	Peebles Peebles		
V017643 controlled	Ad M Ad M	02/07/2013 16/02/2014	Peebles Borden, Hampshire	529km	164
V017976 controlled	Juv Imm M	03/08/2013 28/03/2014	Peebles Selkirk	25km	122
V018219 killed by cat	Juv Imm	20/08/2013 27/04/2014	Peebles Innerleithen	9km	117
V018714 ring read	FG FG F	Aug / Sep / 13 26/03/2014	Peebles Kendal, Cumbria	150km	169
V018412 controlled	Juv Imm M	02/09/2013 30/03/2014	Peebles Stocksfield, Northumberland	114km	135
V018553 controlled	Juv Imm M	10/09/2013 23/03/2014	Peebles Drummond, Inverness, Highland	211km	343
V018642 controlled	Juv Ad F	13/09/2013 31/08/2014	Peebles Cnoc, Loch Lomond, Argyll & Bute	113km	303
V018686 controlled	Imm F Imm F	18/09/2013 22/03/2014	Peebles Lockerbie, Dumfries & Galloway	61km	193
V018830 controlled	Imm F Imm F	27/09/2013 29/03/2014	Peebles Budby, Nottinghamshire	303km	154
V019001 Dead - endoparasites	Imm F imm F	05/04/2014 05/04/2014	Peebles Peebles		
V019304 controlled	Imm M M	24/04/2014 04/05/2014	Peebles Selkirk	25km	122
V021285 controlled	Imm M imm M	11/03/2014 01/04/2014	Peebles Dunmurry, Antrim	217km	236
V021318 controlled	Imm M Imm M	15/03/2014 18 & 22/03/14	Peebles Stocksfield, Northumberland	114km	135
V021336 controlled	Ad M Ad M	15/03/2014 03/05/2014	Peebles Broomholmshiels, Dumfries & Galloway	60km	167
V021429 controlled	Ad M Ad M	18/03/2014 26/04/2014	Peebles near Kildary, Highland	240km	348
V021450 controlled	Ad F ad F	21/03/2014 28/03/2014	Peebles Fearnan, Loch Tay, Perth & Kinross	117km	332
V021463 controlled	Imm M Imm M	22/03/2014 14/05/2014	Peebles Queenamidda, Rendall, Orkney	380km	1

Z002525 controlled	Ad F Ad F	20/03/2014 25/03/2014	Airthrey Loch, Stirling Peebles	72km	139	
Y319723 controlled	Imm F Ad F	28/12/2012 26/04/2014	Kings Norton, Birmingham Peebles	371km	348	
Y553626 controlled	Imm F Ad F	20/04/2013 23/03/2014	Lockerbie, Dumfries & Galloway Peebles	61km	13	
Y542732 Caught by ringer Caught by ringer	Ad m	31-01-2012 01-03-2013 21-03-2014	Dukes Warren, Surrey Dukes Warren, Surrey Peebles	0km 532km	NNW	1y 1m 2d 2y 1m 18d
Y648452 controlled	Juv Ad M	21/05/2012 10/06-08/08/14	Derwent Valley, Derbyshire Peebles	267km	340	
Y896010 controlled	Imm M Ad M	25/06/2012 06/03/2014	near Kildary, Highland Peebles	240km	167	
Y850142 Freshly dead	Juv Ad	28/07/2012 21/04/2014	Peebles Ballinluig, Perth & Kinross	116km	345	
Y851797 controlled	Ad F Ad F	30/09/2012 27/04/2014	Peebles Selkirk	25km	122	
Y851990 controlled	AD F Ad F	08/10/2012 10/03/2014	Peebles Fort Augustus, Highland	190km	331	
Y851389 controlled	Ad F Ad F	27/03/2013 26/02/2014	Lockerbie, Dumfries & Galloway Peebles	61km	13	
V021756 controlled	Imm F Ad F	11/04/2013 06/03/2014	Peebles Hamilton, South Lanarkshire	55km	248	
V021782 controlled	Ad M Ad M	17/04/2013 23/03/2014	Peebles Budby, Nottinghamshire	303km	154	
Y446618 controlled	Imm F Ad F	19/04/2013 10/03/2014	Fearnan, Loch Tay, Perth & Kinross Peebles	117km	152	



Siskin
Eddleston, Apr 2014

Easily attracted to feeders and easily captured, Siskins in gardens ought to be closely looked at. The ring on the bird above was only noticed after downloading the image.

Mike Fraser caught 716 birds during 5 days in March-May 2014 when his nets were up in his garden in Selkirk

Linnet

D476652	1st-yr m	13-12-2014	nr Nether Falla				
Caught by ringer		28-12-2014	nr Nether Falla	0km		0y 0m 15d	

**Lesser Redpoll**

Fruid Reservoir, Jun 2014

Another ringed bird that was only noticed after downloading the image.

Lesser Redpoll

BLB 13003770	Ad m	22-10-2012	Ethe, LUXEMBOURG				
Caught by ringer		03-05-2014	Selkirk	872km	NW	1y 6m 11d	
D000659	1st-yr f	04-04-2014	Tee Lake, Wellington, Telford & Wrekin				
Caught by ringer		04-05-2014	Selkirk	314km	N	0y 1m 0d	
D204752	1st-yr m	10-01-2013	Chelmondiston, Suffolk				
Caught by ringer		09-02-2013	Chelmondiston, Suffolk			0y 0m 30d	
Caught by ringer	Ad m	14-04-2014	Peebles	499km	235	1y 3m 4d	
L039409	1st -yr f	12-11-2013	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey				
Caught by ringer		15-04-2014	Peebles	503km	NNW	0y 5m 3d	
L763640	Ad	21/07/2013	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk				
controlled	Ad F	09/04/2014	Stocksfield, Northumberland	88km	140		
L039409	Imm	12/11/2013	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey				
controlled	Imm F	15/04/2014	Peebles	503km	340		
Y467709	1st-yr m	28-10-2011	Woorgreen Lake, Gloucestershire				
Caught by ringer		03-05-2014	Selkirk	416km	N	2y 6m 5d	
V021953	Ad f	04-05-2013	Peebles				
Caught by ringer		02-03-2014	Meden Vale, Warsop, Nottinghamshire	302km	154	0y 9m 26d	
V019438	Imm M	04/05/2014	Peebles				
Fresh dead	Imm M	11/05/2014	Glenormiston, Innerleithen	7km	126		
Bullfinch							
D476879	Ad m	03-09-2014	St Abb's Head				
Caught by ringer		06-09-2014	St Abb's Head	0km		0y 0m 3d	
D476884	Juvenile	06-09-2014	St Abb's Head				
Caught by ringer		20-09-2014	St Abb's Head	0km		0y 0m 14d	
D476881	Ad f	03-09-2014	St Abb's Head				
Caught by ringer		17-10-2014	St Abb's Head	0km		0y 1m 14d	

The raptors, owls and Raven totals are important nationally. **Peregrine** had another poor year. Few **Red Grouse** are ever ringed, those in the Langholm Harrier Study area being exceptional. There are, again, some useful totals of wader chicks and **Nuthatch** chicks – the former of conservation interest, as is also the long-running **Swift** project at The Hirsell.

Borders Ringing Group's contributions to the BTO's monitoring projects continued (a Constant Effort Site at St. Abb's Head; and adult survival estimates for **Common Sandpiper**, **Dipper**, **Chaffinch** and **Siskin**).

Swans produced the usual pattern of sightings and findings in NE England and SE Scotland with two fifteen-year old Mutes being reported. There was a “bumper bundle” of reports of **Storm Petrel** movements, largely along the North Sea coast between Yorkshire and Grampian, although there were birds further afield in Portugal, Highland and Shetland. Of particular interest, perhaps, are the same-night movements of 2686527 from the Isle of May to Eyemouth and then back to the May, all in the one night! **Peregrines** live up to their name, with some distant movements noted, and Stuart Craig’s Peebles garden birds seem to have sustained a **Sparrowhawk** for nine years now. A different **Coot** this year - GR51386 - provided interest as it moved between Stirling and Tweedbank, where its journeying ultimately ended.

Careful and patient observation of gulls at Tweedbank by Andrew Bramhall continues to reveal a link between some of the Borders’ wintering **Black-headed Gulls** and Scandinavia. A colour-ringing project instigated at a Moorfoots colony in 2013 produced a surprise with a bird seen in Germany (close to the Danish border), but most were reported from southern Scotland and northern England. (See map 3 at the end of the Report - p. 108)

Terns rarely feature in the Borders Ringing Report, so the 20-year old **Common Tern** found dead at Coldingham is noteworthy, just as interesting is the **Razorbill** found nearby at over 21 years old.

Pied Wagtail L514127 had presumably returned to near its natal area for its first breeding season after spending part of the winter in Hertfordshire. 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. It is interesting to note that the young **Whitethroat** remained at St Abb’s Head for around five weeks (maybe it had even been hatched nearby) before heading south for the winter via Dorset. The **Chaffinch** recoveries reveal a seven-year old bird still near its natal area and the usual individual in Peebles stotting off glass or Perspex !



Razorbill - St Abb’s Head, Apr 2014
At 21 years, the 2014 recovery was certainly an Ancient Mariner!

As in 2012 and 2013 it was the small finches – **Siskin** and **Lesser Redpoll** – which were the stars of the show so far as finch movements are concerned – mainly along a NW / SE axis. The oldest Siskin involved was X368107, which was at least six years old when captured in Peebles. The longest movement was of 655km by Belgian-ringed 12253763, and the longest movement within the British Isles was of 546km from Dorset to Peebles. Two unusual destinations (so far) for Borders-ringed birds were WSW to Antrim (our first in Ireland) and due N to Orkney. See maps of Siskin records involving Peebles in 2013 & 2014 at end of Report, pages 106-107).

Acknowledgements

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, Willie Edmond, Mike Fraser, Ronnie Graham, David Grieve, Rich Howells, Tony Lightley, Lothian & Borders Raptor Study Group, Lothian Ringing Group, Mike McDowall, Ray Murray, James Silvey, Andre Thiel, and Sharon Yardy.

Tom Dougall, 38 Leamington Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 4JL

Siskin movements involving the Borders

The maps of Siskin recoveries involving birds ringed in Borders, or recovered in the Borders, on the next pages demonstrate something of the extent of the Siskin passage through southern Scotland in the spring. The majority of the recoveries shown on the maps are of birds caught in Peebles by Stuart Craig, but elsewhere in the 2014 Borders Bird Report the incredibly large numbers caught by Mike Fraser in Selkirk in spring 2014 are documented. Over 700 Siskins were caught in 5 full days of ringing between late March and early May. Clearly this crop of birds may well generate even more recoveries in the future.

Siskins now breed widely in Scotland, being a scarce species 100 years ago. The huge growth of forestry plantations since the 1950s, dominated by conifers, has favoured large-scale increases across considerable areas of Highland and southern Scotland. The recent diversification of the former huge blocks of even-aged single species plantations with smaller coupes of different conifer species of different ages, interspersed with deciduous species, especially birches and alders, has undoubtedly favoured Siskins. Their use of garden feeders in winter, something that really only developed since the 1960s, has also helped overwinter survival. There has also been a trend of late where garden feeders offer more than just peanuts, the nyger, sunflower seeds and hearts possibly adding another factor that may favour winter survival. Another factor associated with garden-feeding is the extension of feeding by many householders beyond the winter. Additional feeding in March and April, as birds are fattening up for the spring passage, is thought to be important in promoting breeding success (BWP).

Amongst foreign-ringed Siskin that have been trapped in Scotland, most are from the Low Countries and northern France (150 recoveries), rather than Scandinavia and Russia (50 recoveries) (BTO Ringing website). Those heading to and from Belgium, The Netherlands, France and Germany are almost certainly Scottish-bred birds wintering beyond southern Britain on the near continent. Those birds with Scandinavian connections are likely those that appear on the east coast during periods of easterlies in the autumn that end up overwintering in Britain and Ireland. Others may be those wintering further to the southwest in Europe that may migrate north through Britain and then cross the North Sea rather than shifting back to Scandinavia via Germany and Denmark.

The small numbers of Scandinavian birds caught in Scotland strongly suggests that almost all of the birds caught in the Borders are Scottish breeders. The maps show destinations in Highland Scotland. In this respect the 2014 map demonstrates this aspect a little better than that of 2013. Both maps indicate a predominance of movements to the southeast. Most of these are to wintering sites in southern and eastern England, but that direction also takes Siskins towards the shortest sea-crossing to the continent where small number winter. Fewer birds head to the west and southwest of Britain, with none in Wales so far, and just a single record during 2013-14 in Northern Ireland.

Ray Murray



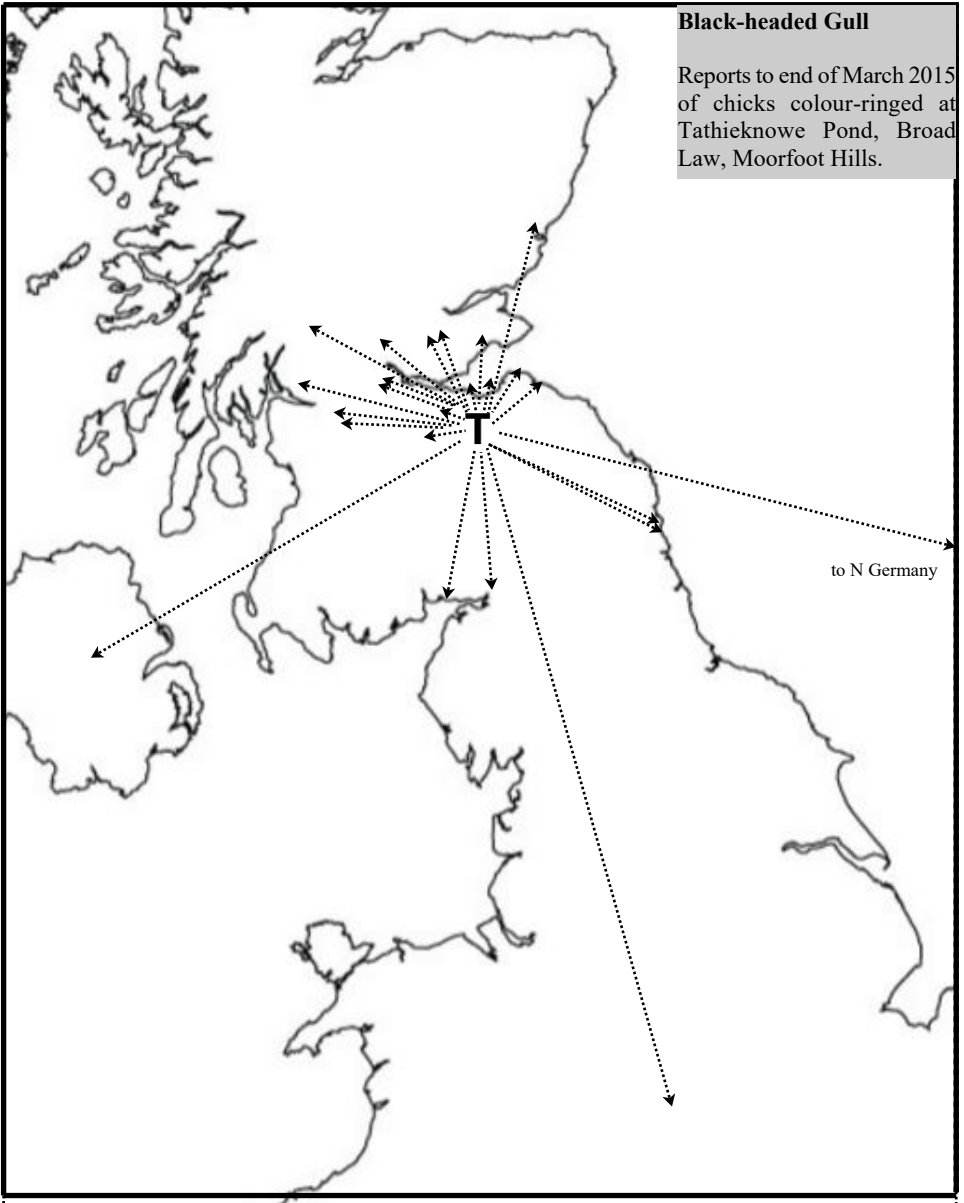
Siskin - Eddleston, Mar 2014

Siskin movements involving birds trapped in Borders in 2013 (mostly in Peebles)

X2 etc = multiple records to Peebles
from Peebles ←.....







Black-headed Gull

Reports to end of March 2015
of chicks colour-ringed at
Tathieknowe Pond, Broad
Law, Moorfoot Hills.

Cover Photo Credits

- Front - Jack Snipe, Newmains, Oct 2014
- Back Top - Red-footed Falcon, Coldstream Apr 2014
- Lower Left - Collared Flycatcher, St Abb's Head, Apr 2014
- Lower Right - Great Egret, Hirsle Lake, June 2014

- Dave Graham*
- Dave Knight*
- Frank Golding*
- Janet Dean*