

Borders Bird Report

2015



Borders Bird Report 2015

No 32

Editor: Tom Brewis

Contents

Introduction	3
List of observers	4
Abbreviations	5
Acknowledgements	6
Classified List of Species 2015	7
Ringling in the Scottish Borders (Tom Dougall)	100
Index of species	108



Grey Heron at Edrington Castle ford June 2015 Tom Brewis

The Scottish Ornithologists' Club Borders Branch

June 2017

ISSN 0964-7422

Introduction

This is the first Borders Bird Report to be published without the late Ray Murray at the helm – some 31 reports since 1979. Ray is a difficult act to follow and any contributions made by me and other volunteers tend to pale rather when compared with his grasp of the Borders' avifauna, habitats and geography. I therefore beg your indulgence and your patience when you discover my mistakes and possibly any unwelcome changes to the format and style of previous reports.

Because of Ray's untimely death, publication of this Borders Bird Report has been late to arrive. In the past, no more than a year would normally elapse before publication. But with the need to acquire data, collate and allocate them to the volunteer species authors and then to combine everything for the full report, we have always been "chasing our tails". Our task however, was helped greatly by Ray's wife, Sheila, who, under difficult circumstances, helped us in accessing relevant documents on Ray's laptop and thus helped us greatly in putting the Report together.

Mindful of the need to avoid falling too far behind for future reports, the decision was made to produce a truncated version in order to give us time to catch up for the 2016 Report and hopefully to complete the 2017 Report more or less on time. You will therefore not find a summary of the year as a whole, nor any reference to observers who have reported specific significant sightings (although a summary of observers does occur). Many of the records are summarised in tabular form; this was found to be simpler and speedier and I feel that it doesn't detract too much from the flow of the information. Finally, there are fewer images of birds and there is no supplementary account of local interest of the sort that has characterised recent reports. It is likely that these omissions will continue into the 2016 Report but hopefully the 2017 Report will be a full version along the lines of previous years.

Apart from improving my geographical knowledge of the Borders and being intrigued by some local place names (Haggis Side left me a bit incredulous and Windy Gowl brought back memories of an old school friend), I was struck by how any county bird report is a thinly based sample but, at the same time, I was impressed by how many observers regularly and systematically survey their "patches". Readers are encouraged to emulate these "patch-workers" and submit as many records as is practicable: regular counts with information on breeding status, whether it be a Dunnock or some rarity, form the backbone of bird reports, making our sample of local populations a little less thinly based.

The Report is based on nearly 30,000 records. Of these, 85% were from BirdTrack, 9% from the Yahoo Border Bird News, 3% from Breeding Bird Surveys, 2% from WeBS and the remainder from the annual Rocky Shore Count (Gullane-English Border) which was carried out on 15 January. Supplementary data came from St Abb's Head NNR, the Lothian & Borders Raptor Study Group and the WWT Goose Count. A total of 212 species were recorded.

Submitting records for the Borders Bird Report

The preferred option is to use BirdTrack, the BTO bird data handling system that the SOC helped develop. However, we may be able to accept database or spreadsheet records – please contact either Recorder who will advise on format and will upload your records to BirdTrack. We will accept spreadsheet records at any time of year but prefer quarterly rather than annual submissions. Whether you wish to submit records via BirdTrack or via a Recorder it will be appreciated if all relevant records are submitted within two months of the end of the year in question.

Any bird records submitted to BirdTrack are automatically sent to the Local Recorders and Bird Report Editor (with your permission). This applies to any part of the UK, so there is no need to submit records to the different areas anymore.

Please note that the Recorders for Borders are Martin Moncrieff and David Parkinson who can be emailed via bordersrecorder@gmail.com or telephoned on 07851 800081 (Martin) and 07979 365134 (David).

List of observers

Adams, D	19	du Feu, L A	47	Marshall, J	30	Scott, A	28
Allwright, P	20	Dunstan, D	48	McBeath, R	3,586	Scott, C	40
Arnott, I W C	10	Evans, F	1,052	McGowan, A J	27	Scott, G	759
Austin, D	21	Falconer, S	21	McKay, C R	10	Singleton, R	136
Baird, T	12	Fraser, L	18	Meikle, B	38	Smith, E S	48
Ball, S	17	Galbraith, A	40	Methven, D	91	Smith, R	35
Banks, P	27	Garner, G	16	Mitchell, A	66	Spybey, A	11
Barclay, E A	21	Gillings, S	19	Moncrieff, M	2,092	Stratton, N D	402
Bayliss, K	18	Gordon, J D	445	Moore, A	12	Strowger, J	16
Bayne, S	15	Gowers, J	10	Morton, S D	36	Swinhoe, P J	19
Betts, M	162	Graham, D K	731	Moses, C	102	Tees, C	12
Bickmore, E L	498	Hayward, W R	22	Mossop, A	99	Towill, J	411
Bielby, N	47	Hellyer, P	11	Murray, R D	4,927	Urquhart, H R	11
Bramhall, A T	3,142	Henderson, M	716	Orr-Ewing, D C	40	Vasey, R A	26
Brewis, T	25	Henry, G	49	Palfery, J	608	Waddell, J	228
Brown, A	16	Hind, R D	30	Palmer, N W	30	Ward, S	60
Brown, A W	24	Holling, M	13	Parkinson, D	577	Ward, S D	10
Bruce, M J	10	Holmes, A L	38	Pepper, J K	12	Warden, D	11
Bushell, C	104	Houston, K	67	Powell, J	145	Warren, N	19
Checkley, G	33	Ibbotson, J	28	Pyatt, G	673	Watson, C	913
Christie, D	760	Inglis, W	38	Reed, T	509	Watson, R	46
Cockburn, M R	96	Johnston, D	49	Reid, M A	256	Watterson, R	70
Craig, RS	62	Kerr, A	12	Rivoire, J R	26	Wessels, M E	10
Crowther, N	78	Khursheed, B	21	Robeson, C K	55	Wilson, J L	38
Dacre, J A	20	Kyle, T	100	Robinson, R	27	Woods, SL	28
Davis, A P	45	Little, W	11	Ross, M B	88	Woolliams, J	47
Dougall, T	42	Lough, J	1,775				

The following observers contributed between one and nine records:

Addis, E; Aitken, G; Anderson, R; Andrews, I J; Baird, A; Bale, M C; Barber, L J; Barker, A W; Berryman, A; Blackie, C; Blamire, M G; Bordes, T; Bourne, A; ; Bradshaw, C G; Bradshaw, D W; Bramhall, R; Brooks, G; Bruce, M; Bruce, M J; Buckingham, D; Burns, J; Byars, T; Chamberlain, T; Chambers, A; Clark, P; Cole, L; Cosway, G; Cowe, I; Crosse, R; Cunningham, K; Davidson, A V; Davison, C N; Dougall, T; Everingham, A; Farr, D; Fi Martynogo; Flynn, L; Fry, S J; Goater, R D; Goodwill, S; Gordon, C; Graham, J; Greenhow, M; Greenshields, R; Gruba, P; Hanson, L; Harmsworth, N; Harrison, E A; Hartley, C; Heavisides, A; Helen, F; Hersee, C; Highton, A J; Hogarth, M; Horsburgh, S; Housden, J; Hughes, R D; Hunter, A; Ingleby, K; James, J R; Johnstone, R; Johnstone, R; Jones, B; Kerr, G; Lamont, L; Lang, T; Lauder, A W; MacDonald, PM; Macmillan, GD; MacNicoll, A; Mair, R; Martin, F; Martin, J; Mason, K; McDowall MA; McKay, C R; McKerchar, H; Methven, G; Mitchell, C M; Morgan, G; Morrison, D; Moss, A; Muirden, L; Noble, JCS; Pearson, J; Pierpoint, D; Poxton, IR; Prater, B; Prior, JK; Pyatt, E; Pyatt, R; Richardson, R; Robeson, K; Rossiter, BN; Safanovaollis, K; Sandeman, A; Scott, L; Scott, P; Shilland, EM; Smith, D; Smith, K; Stewart, N; Stewart, T; Sutherland, JA; Sweeney, E; Talbot, K R; Taylor, K; Taylor-Pigott, A; Tucker, A; Waite, A;; Wallace, D; Walshaw, K; Warren, JP; Wignall, M; Willocks, L; Wood, C.

Abbreviations

Reference is occasionally made to breeding evidence using BTO codes. These are given below:

Possible breeding

- S Singing male present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season in suitable breeding habitat.
- P Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season.

Probable breeding

- T Permanent Territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (song etc) on at least two different days a week or at the same place as many individuals on one day.
- D Courtship and display (judged to be in or near potential breeding habitat; be cautious with wildfowl).
- N Visiting probable nest site.
- A Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults, suggesting probable presence of nest or young nearby.
- I Brood patch on adult examined in the hand, suggesting incubation.
- B Nest building or excavating nest-hole.

Confirmed breeding

- DD Distraction-Display or injury feigning.
- UN Used Nest or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period of survey).
- FL Recently fledged young (nidicolous species) or downy young (nidifugous species). Careful consideration should be given to the likely provenance of any fledged juvenile capable of significant geographical movement. Evidence of dependency on adults (e.g. feeding) is helpful. Be cautious, even if the record comes from suitable habitat.
- ON Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest (including high nests or nest holes, the contents of which cannot be seen) or adults seen incubating.
- FF Adult carrying faecal sac or food for young.
- NE Nest containing eggs.
- NY Nest with young seen or heard.

Also br represents brood, such that, for example, 2br7 means two broods which total seven chicks; imm. refers to immature birds; juv. refers to juvenile.

The abbreviation of Pr. simply represents a species that is present but with no count given.

Place names

Many readers, like me, will not know the location of all of the sites listed herein. I have attempted in some cases, to indicate the general location of sites by adding the nearest sizeable settlement or well-known place in brackets, eg Angelrow (Greenlaw) and Huntford (Carter Bar). It is hoped that more locations will have such "locators" in future reports. If you wish to locate a site then you are recommended to use the SOC Site Finder: www.the-soc.org.uk/site-finder. The map on the back cover gives a broad picture of Borders geography.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to all those who contributed records (list above). The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) supplied the county records from BirdTrack, data from Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) and Wetland Birds Surveys (WeBS). Liza Cole supplied the St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2015 and Alan Heavisides supplied the Lothian & Borders Raptor Study Group 2015 Report. Tom Dougall produced the annual report of the Borders Ringing Group and Malcolm Ross supplied a summary of WWT Goose Counts for selected sites.

Particular thanks are extended to those volunteers who answered the call and offered their services in collation of data and writing-up of species accounts for the Classified List. Jim Douglas, Rhona Johnstone, Alan and Judy McNeilly, Tony Reed and Mike Scott helped to extract records from the Border Bird News. Help in summarising of species in the Classified List was given by Alan Kerr (Pomarine Skua to Arctic Tern), Gavin Patterson (Cuckoo to Great Spotted Woodpecker) and Rhona Johnstone (Yellow Wagtail to Water Pipit).

Validation of records was done by Martin Moncrieff with assistance from Dave Graham, Fran Evans and David Parkinson.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Sheila Murray for her help in accessing Ray's files related to the Borders Bird Report and to David Parkinson and Mark Holling for extracting the files. Thanks are also due to those who contributed photographs, names of whom are given next to each photograph. Thanks also to Malcolm Ross for proof reading the Report.

Order of species in the Classified List

The Report has adopted the most up to date taxonomic order for the British List as published by the British Ornithologists' Union in its 8th checklist. If a species is not in the Classified List then it has not been reported via the sources given above. Because of recent, frequent changes in the taxonomic order of species many people (myself included) often get confused when trying to locate a species in the Classified List. To assist in this matter, an index is included at the end of the Report.

Tetrads

A tetrad is the standard unit used in local atlas work, as in the soon-to-be published SE Scotland Atlas: 2008-13. Each tetrad is a specific 2 x 2 km. So that the numbers of tetrads referred to in each species account has some sort of context it is worth bearing in mind that the Borders is made-up of about 1,280 tetrads. Some simple arithmetic will enable you to gauge the percentage of total tetrads in which a species has been recorded, eg Fieldfare (p 80) was recorded in 73 tetrads. This is a little over 5% of the total of 1,280 tetrads and enables you to compare with the 56% of tetrads in which Fieldfare was recorded during Atlas fieldwork in 2008-13 (such information is usually given in the banner heading for each species).

Be careful when making comparisons between such data for the Atlas and for the Bird Report: the former was a more systematic survey which was spread over five years and often involved four visits to each tetrad while the Report data is based on a mixture of regular and casual records.

Apologies are made in advance for any mistakes or omissions.

Tom Brewis
June 2017

Classified List of Species 2015

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, Berwick-Paxton. During 2008-13 found in 17% of tetrads in summer and 18% in winter.

501 records from 175 sites (875 records in 2014). The largest counts tended to come from the following sites:

Peak counts	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	160	190	205	71	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	330
Yetholm Loch	18	29	16	-	36	112	165	160	200	89	127	34
Hirsel Lake	34	10	-	4	-	1	-	5	2	-	3	-
Folly Loch	2	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	6	1	-
Teviot Haughs	35	22	4	-	-	2	-	6	6	6	50	70
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	4	5	4	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank)	27	18	19	20	13	5	8	11	20	22	26	14
Paxton House	10	-	-	9	-	-	-	2	2	14	-	-
Dykegatehead (Whitsome)	27	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other sites with records: Acreknowe Reservoir; Alemoor Reservoir; Allanton; Ashiestiel; Bamflatt; Barnes; Bemersyde Moss; Birgham; Birnyedge Plantation (Jedburgh); Bowden Crossroads Moss; Bowhill; Burnmouth Bay; Caddonhead; Cardrona; Cauldshiels Loch; Cobby at Kelso; Coldingham Loch; Cowieslinn Quarry Pond; Crailing Tofts; Crossrig; Dowlaw Dam; Duns Castle Lake (Hen Poo); East Loch South; Eddleston; Eyemouth; Fancove Head; Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool; Gattonside-Melrose; Glenrath Pond; Green Diamonds; Haining Loch, Selkirk; Harehope House North Pond; Harelaw pond; Heatherhope; Heiton; Hen Poo, Duns; Holly Bush Farm Pond; Hoselaw Loch (Sprouston); Huntford; Huntlywood; Innerleithen; Ladyrig Pond; Lauderdale - Ditcher Law; Lindean Loch; Lindean west; Loch Richie, Lumsdaine; Lower Burnmouth; Magdalene Hall Farm Fields; Marl-leas Plantation; Melrose; Millar's Moss; Mire Loch; Newcastleton; Newmains; Nisbet Village; Peebles Cauld; Ploughlands Pond; Portmore Loch; Pot Loch, Selkirk; R. Tweed Makerston; Thornylee; Redpath; St Abb's Head; Stantling Craig Reservoir; Stouslie (Hawick); Synton Loch; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh; Traquair; Tweed near Dryburgh; Tweed, Hendersyde Island; Tweedbank - Faldonside Loch; Westfield Hill; Whim Pond; Whitelaw; Whitmuir Hall Loch, Selkirk; Whitton Loch; Wilton; Wollrig Cottage.

Breeding evidence from 28 sites:

Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	27/3	N	Whitton Loch (Hownam)	10/6	br6
Lindean Loch (Selkirk)	2/4	ON	Folly Loch	12/6	br5
Groundistone (Hawick)	4/4	N	Hirsel Lake	12/6	br1
Hare Moss (Selkirk)	4/4	ON	Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)	21/6	ON
Redden Haugh (Kelso)	10/4	12 juv	Yetholm Loch	30/7	1br2; 1br1
Bemersyde Moss	11/4	ON	Harehope House North Pond	3/8	br5
Traquair House Pond	13/4	B	Wollrig Cottage (Ettrick Forest)	6/9	juv
Tweedbank	14/4	ON	Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank)	23/9	6 juv
Hollybush Pond (Galashiels)	23/4	ON	Burnmouth Bay	23/9	4 juv
Cowieslinn Quarry Pond (Eddleston Water)	11/5	FL	Duns Wood	26/10	5 juv
Whitrig Pond	20/5	ON	Fancove Head (Burnmouth)	3/11	6 juv
Alemoor Wester Loch	21/5	ON	Huntlywood (Gordon)	19/11	1+ juv
Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords)	25/5	P	Linndinny Wood (Caddonfoot)	28/11	1 juv
Ploughlands Pond Wood (Nisbet)	8/6	ON	Eyemouth Bay	25/12	6 juv

Refer to Introduction for BTO breeding codes.

First fledged birds: 10/4 at Groundistone, near Hawick.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

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.

Largest counts:

Dykegatehead (Allanton)	16/03	205	Marl-leas Plantation, Swinton	24/12	120
Crossrig	02/01	190	Horndean, Hilton	16/11	118
Dykegatehead	26/01	165	Whitelaw	15/11	113
Tweed Haughs	14/01	150	Whitsomehill	22/12	107
Paxton House	14/01	143	Crailing Tofts	17/01	106
Kelloe, Blackadder Mains	19/11	123			



173 records from 70 sites. Latest record in spring: 21 at Watch Water on 16/4. Earliest record in autumn: 1 at Birgham (Kelso) on 9/9.

Whooper Swan at Paxton House. January.
Tom Brewis

Bean Goose *Anser fabilis*

Very rare winter visitor.

Eight records:

Duns	29/01	1	Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)	14/02	1
Dykegatehead (Allanton)	21/01	1	Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)	04/04	1
Dunglass	24/01	2	Haud Yauds (Coldingham Moor)	04/04	1
Dykegatehead (Allanton)	29/01	1	The Hirsell	11/05	1

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.

Sites with largest counts:

	Site with counts over 2,000		4,000	Sandyknowe, Smailholm	21/12
82,900	West Water Reservoir	17/10	3,550	Greenlaw, Hule Moss	29/10
10,000	Greenlaw, Hule Moss	01/11	3,500	Crailing Tofts (Teviot Haughs)	29/10
8,398	Bogbank (Coldingham Moor)	14/11	3,250	Westfield Pools (Smailholm)	12/02
4,737	Folly Loch	24/10	3,000	Bemersyde to Whitrigbog	27/12
4,600	Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)	18/10	2,680	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	25/10

208 records from 83 sites. Latest spring record: one at Foulden on 1/5. Earliest autumn record: 35 at Newmains (Reston) on 19/9. The count at West Water on 17/10 represents nearly twice the highest recorded count of 47,361 in 2008.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Scarce winter visitor amongst grey geese flocks. Typically the Greenland race *flavirostris*. The nominate European *albifrons* is a more scarce vagrant. Not annual. Race given when specified.

Three records (* European):

Haud Yauds (Coldingham Moor)*	14/2	2
Haud Yauds (Coldingham Moor)*	7/3	1
Blackadder Mains (Duns)	17/11	7

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Uncommon but quickly increasing breeder (c.75-125 pr), 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.

The site with the most consistently large counts was Greenlaw Farm Pond, Foulden:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
557	1,380	864	407	30	16	512	1,360	1,805	252	640	360

Other sites with high counts (peak counts of 100 or more) were:

450	Kelloe, Blackadder mains	19/11	250	The Hirsell	17/09
400	Crossrig (Whitsome)	09/01	195	Watch Water (Longformacus)	28/09
320	Dowlaw Dam	04/10	130	The Glack (Manor Valley)	02/03
320	Stantlingcraigs Reservoir	20/10	105	Westfield Pools (Smailholm)	12/02
300	Hule Moss	11/11	100	Birgham (Kelso)	05/04
290	Newmains (Reston)	03/02	100	Gattonside-Lauder (SUW)	02/10

357 records from 105 sites. Only 13 records of confirmed breeding.

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Increasing but still scarce breeder derived from feral populations in England or from local releases. Most breed in Lammermuirs, so perhaps local releases for shooting. Moulting migration passes through in May-June and August-September. During 2008-13 found in 5% of tetrads in summer and 5% in winter.

Sites with biggest counts/month			Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool		
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	03/01	2	Watch Water	03/07	75
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	25/02	28	Watch Water	05/08	75
Watch Water	25/03	220	Watch Water	04/09	130
Yetholm Loch	07/04	90	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	01/10	67
Watch Water	08/04	90	Watch Water Reservoir	15/11	91
Longformacus, Watch Water	23/05	30	Bemersyde Moss	10/12	45

144 records from 40 sites.

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).

6 sites with counts greater than singles:

Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	05/10	300	Newmains (Reston)	25/10	32
Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	02/11	100	Dowlaw Dam	04/10	8
St Abb's Head	06/10	67	Hule Moss	15/10	3

Other sites with records: Camp Moor (Polwarth); Selkirk Hill; Watch Water (Longformacus) and West Water Reservoir (West Linton).

The earliest autumn record was a single at Watch Water on 4/9.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Uncommon, but more frequently reported, passage migrant and rare winter visitor, mostly to coast. Most will be the pale-bellied Svalbard birds wintering at Lindisfarne. During 2008-13 found in 3 tetrads in winter.

Only three records (assumed light-bellied unless indicated).

St Abb's Head	19/9	2
Dunglass*	26/9	1
St Abb's Head	21/11	14
* dark-bellied		

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

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

Never more than four birds per record received from 13 sites: Folly Loch; Bemersyde Moss; Coldingham Bay; Dowlaw Loch; Dunglass; Folly Loch; Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool; Graden; Hule Moss; Paxton House; Siccar Point; St Abb's Head and Yetholm Loch.

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.

All records from the Eye Water catchment:

Houndwood	24/03	2
nr. Ayton	04/04	2
Linthill	15/04	2
Linthill	27/04	2
Millbank	21/06	7
Linthill	20/07	1

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.

Max. counts from sites with reports above 30 birds			Whitton Loch	17/01	60
Whitrig Bog	06/02	560	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	10/02	60
St Abb's Head	22/11	118	Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick)	06/02	57
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	20/12	410	Westfield Pools (Smailholm)	12/02	50
Bemersyde Moss	26/12	320	Synton Loch (Hawick)	11/11	47
Greenlaw Farm	31/12	321	Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	21/10	45
Dunglass	04/01	87	Redheugh (Coldingham)	15/03	44
Teviot, Nisbet	18/01	80	Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham)	04/10	34
Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	13/12	64	Folly Loch	13/10	33

200 records from 45 sites. Latest spring record: two birds on 30/5 at Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pond (possibly over-summering somewhere in area). Earliest autumn record: single at Bemersyde Moss on 28/8.

No breeding records received.

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.

Sites with monthly peak counts:

15/01	Yetholm Loch	9	22/08	Bemersyde Moss	2
05/02	Yetholm Loch	6	01/09	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	2
07/05	Yetholm Loch	4	13/10	Yetholm Loch	27
28/06	Bemersyde Moss	2	19/11	Yetholm Loch	4
30/07	Yetholm Loch	7	03/12	Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	1

Three immatures recorded at Yetholm Loch on 30/6.

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.

338 records from 61 sites. Sites with consistently higher counts:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bemersyde Moss	16	42	25	4	1	-	4	9	30	9	43	500
Newmains (Reston)	317	385	310	-	-	-	8	-	-	140	240	230
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pond	110	26	53	68	7	1	13	29	55	67	334	367
Folly Loch	>1	51	35	2	-	2	-	18	28	73	40	300
Whitrig Bog	179	260	7	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Bogbank (Coldingham Moor)	-	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	260	-
Hirsel Lake	151	96	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	>1	-	15
Whitton Loch (Hownam)	110	-	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other sites with counts of 10 or more: Westfield Pools; St Abb's Head; Teviot Haughs; Dowlaw Loch; West Water Reservoir; Traquair; Gala Sewage Works Pond; Tweedbank; Kingside Pond; Sprouston/Redden; Faldonside Loch; Hutlerburn; Timpendean (Ancrum); Hen Poo, Duns and St Mary's Loch.

Breeding: only 12 sites reported pairs during May-Aug: Bemersyde Moss; Eddleston Water; Milkieston-Cringletie; Folly Loch; Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool; Fruid Reservoir; Hule Moss; Megget Reservoir; Newmains (Reston); Tweedbank; Whitrig Bog; Yetholm Loch.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Abundant (2,000-3,000 pr) 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).

278 records for late winter-early spring from 140 sites. Largest counts:

Sites with counts of 50 and above					
			85	Teviot, Broom (Ancrum)	08/02
111	Tweedbank	01/01	64	Watch Water Reservoir	01/03
100	Tweed: Sprouston/Redden Circular	14/01	55	Menslaws (Jedburgh)	01/02
88	Bemersyde Moss	28/03	52	Eddleston	24/01
88	Hen Poo, Duns	12/02	50	Kelso-Roxburgh	08/01

Counts of 20-50:

47	Whitrig Bog	17/1	28	Newmains	30/1
44	Harelaw Pond	6/2	25	Cairncross	30/1
41	Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge	20/1	25	Tweed, Sprouston	6/1
38	Millar's Moss	9/1	25	The Hirsell	22/1
37	Cringletie-Milkieston	16/1	23	Whitrigbog/Westfield	4/2
35	Hule Moss	19/1	22	Upsettlington	20/1
35	Lindean Mast Pool	12/2	21	Eddleston-Milkieston	16/1
34	Folly Loch	28/2	21	Hundleshope Ponds	17/2
34	Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean	8/2	20	Teviot, Crailing	26/2
32	Faldonside Loch	18/1	20	Tweed, The Holmes (St Boswells)	8/2
30	Westfield pools	5/2	20	Whitrig Bog	22/2
29	Paxton House	13/2	20	Whitton Loch	17/1

Only 22 sites with reported evidence of breeding. Difficult to know if this low number reflects a trend or simply a paucity of records:

Hawick Golf Course	4/2	31	P	Peebles North-east	9/7	1	br3
Dunglass	7/2	32	P	Angelrow Farm Cottage	9/7	11	FL
Angelrow	3/4	1	ON	Leadburn Community Wood	12/7	2	br5
Hule Moss	10/4	4	2 pr.	Milkieston - Cringletie	23/7	24	3br12
Duns, Nisbet Hill Farm	12/6	7	br6	Eddleston-Milkieston	23/7	1	br2
Greenlaw, Hule Moss	21/6	8	imm.	Harcus	24/7	6	br5
Yetholm Loch	23/6	34	4 imm.	Harehope House North Pond	3/8	67	3br12
St Abbs Head	27/6	Pres	FL	Tweedbank	3/8	123	br5
Bowden Moor Loch	27/6	16	br7; br6	Black Barony	13/8	1	br3
Tweedbank	1/7	62	br6	Tweedbank	15/8	82	br5; br3; br
Bowden Moor Loch	5/7	12	br8, br2	Lauderdale - Ditcher Law	17/8	6	br5

See Introduction for BTO breeding codes.

If the records reflect breeding levels then 2015 was a poor year:

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Sites	53	47	51	46	28	66	55	33	27	46	31	49	63	22
Broods	76	76	91	67	46	108	73	60	45	92	44	72	110	27
Young	326	355	591	347	248	605	374	304	222	453	196	365	496	110
MBS	4.3	4.7	6.5	5.2	5.4	5.6	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.5	5.1	4.5	4.1

Main resorts over the whole year with peak counts:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bemersyde Moss	10	34	88	17	8	147	154	35	50	70	-	75
Folly Loch	<1	48	38	6	6	12	-	79	23	48	20	24
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pond	8	24	11	29	66	34	86	270	133	7	10	42
Hen Poo, Duns	-	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hirsell Lake	8	18	-	-	<1	22	400	456	1	-	-	27
Teviot Haughs	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62	100
Kelso-Coldstream	100	130	50	38	28	34	18	-	19	34	-	70
Tweedbank	111	40	49	34	16	92	127	123	30	137	64	46
Whitrig Bog	47	23	10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
Yetholm Loch	112	146	30	-	20	79	172	90	156	110	161	212

Total of 1,008 records for the year.

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).

Four records, all of singles: 18/1 at Paxton House; 19/8 at Bemersyde Moss; 20/8 at Hule Moss and 12/11 at Yetholm (E).

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.

Peak counts per month:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2	-	-	2	2	11	-	3	3	5	2	1

Sites with monthly peak counts (as above):

Bemersyde Moss	03/01	Greenlaw, Hule Moss	27/06
Coldingham, Dowlaw	12/04	Foulden, Greenlaw Pond	08/08
Dowlaw Dam	12/04	Foulden, Greenlaw Pond	01/09
Foulden, Greenlaw Pond	12/04	Foulden, Greenlaw Pond	03/10
The Hirsell	12/04	Bemersyde Moss	01/11
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	07/05	Bemersyde Moss	13/12

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.

Winter-spring: 1 at Folly Loch 28/2-22/3; 1-3 at Yetholm Loch 14/3-17/3.

Summer: singles at Kelso on 8/4, Folly Loch on 5/5 and Hule Moss on 19/7; 2 at Watch Water on 30/8.

Autumn-winter: single at Mire Loch on 10-11/9 and 4-7/11; 13-15 at Folly Loch on 3-5/10; 1-3 at Hule Moss on 9-20/10; single at The Cobby (Kelso) on 6/11; single at Millar's Moss (St Abbs) on 7/11 (probably same bird as at Mire Loch on 4-7/11); single at Foulden, Greenlaw Farm on 27/12.

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.

Highest counts for each month:

Tweedbank	01/01	28	Millar's Moss	18/07	32
Gunknowe Loch	10/02	41	Hule Moss	17/08	24
Haining Loch (Selkirk)	25/03	12	Williestruther Loch	28/09	43
Folly Loch	09/04	33	Hule Moss	09/10	40
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	26/05	28	Hirsell Lake	22/11	50
Folly Loch	08/06	16	Hirsell Lake	27/12	114

An incomplete record of breeding birds with only two referring to breeding evidence beyond simply pairs: three immatures at Hule Moss on 21/6 and 2br11 at Hirsell Lake on 7/8. Other records for the breeding season (April-August) came from another 24 sites:

Acreknowe Reservoir	Kingside Pond
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	Lindean Loch
Caddonhead, Bowland Estate	Millar's Moss
Cockburnspath Quarry	Newmains
Dowlaw Loch	Pickmaw Moss
Ednam, Hendersyde	Ploughlands Pond
Folly Loch	Portmore Loch
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	Tweedbank
Garvald Farm (Moorfoots)	Watch Water Reservoir
Haining Loch	West Water Reservoir
Hen Poo, Duns	Williestruther Loch
Hollybush Loch	Yetholm Loch

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, annual, but usually singles.

3 records:

1	West Water Reservoir	25/10
2	St Abb's Head	22/11
1	Hirsell Lake	27/12

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.

273 counted during Rocky Shore Count (25/1):

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	9	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	17
Pease Bay-Redheugh	19	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	106
Redheugh-Souter	26	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	49
Souter-Pettico Wick	21	Burnmouth-Border	26

Summer sightings limited to five sites (peak counts below):

14	Burnmouth, Ross	10/04
4	Eyemouth Bay	14/04
26	Dunglass	16/04
3	Lamberton Beach	26/04
2	Pease Bay	17/05

Largest autumn-winter counts for Sep-Dec (no records for Nov):

11	Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	26/09
19	Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	14/10
84	Eyemouth Bay	18/12

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce winter visitor and autumn passage migrant to coast. Rare inland.

Peak counts per site per month:

6	Dunglass	17/01	1	Dunglass	28/03
1	Pease Bay	17/01	6	Pease Bay	24/04
7	Dunglass	07/02	17	St Abbs Head	22/11
1	Pease Bay	07/02	6	Pease Bay	19/12

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon late summer & autumn passage migrant and scarce winter visitor to coastal areas. Very rare inland. Jan-Mar (late winter-early spring).

No birds recorded during Rock Shore Count. Peak counts per month:

			Rotten Brae, Eyemouth	06/08	109
Dunglass	17/01	3	Rotten Brae, Eyemouth	26/09	20
Eyemouth	09/04	3	Rotten Brae, Eyemouth	26/10	25
Rotten Brae, Eyemouth	29/06	20	St Abb's Head	22/11	36
Rotten Brae, Eyemouth	05/07	30	St Abb's Head	06/12	2

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

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

Six records:

Eyemouth	01/02	2	St. Abb's Head	22/09	7
St. Abb's Head	29/07	3	St Abbs village	21/11	15
Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	02/09	2	St. Abb's Head	22/11	15

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.



Female Goldeneye
Hirsel Lake.

Bill Meikle

Seven recorded during Rocky Shore Count. 52 sites with records. Peak counts per site:

St Abb's Head	21/11	75	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	15/02	4
Hirsel Lake	27/12	60	Dunglass	07/02	3
Portmore Loch	19/01	30	Lamberton Beach	10/02	3
Tweed, Hendersyde Island	05/02	28	Gunknowe Loch	06/12	3
Yetholm Loch	24/03	26	Redden Burn	20/12	3
Tweedbank	19/10	18	Coldingham Loch	25/01	2
Hule Moss	27/02	16	Mire Loch, St. Abbs Head	08/02	2
Paxton House	31/01	12	Kelso	25/02	2
Hawick	25/02	12	Shielswood Loch (Ale Water)	18/03	2
Whitton Loch	25/03	12	Dagleish, Tima Water	26/03	2
Birgham	24/01	11	Garvald	02/04	2
Faldonside Loch	08/03	11	Gala Sewage Works Pond	24/11	2
Greenlaw, Hule Moss	29/10	11	Bemersyde	09/12	2
White Law Loch	08/03	10	Loch of the Lowes	27/12	2
Bowdenmoor reservoir	10/03	10	Tweed Innerleithen	04/01	1
Haining Loch	25/02	8	Cove Bay	17/01	1
Lithtillum Burn	20/12	8	Whitrig Bog	17/01	1
Folly Loch	28/02	7	Burnmouth	18/01	1
Cauldshiels Loch	27/01	6	Dowlaw Dam	25/01	1
St Mary's Loch	12/02	6	Lumsdaine Shore	25/01	1
Millar's Moss, St Abb's Head	15/11	6	Rutherford	27/02	1
Galafoot-Lowood Bridge	20/01	5	Coldingham Bay	08/11	1
Lees Haugh, Coldstream	09/03	5	Teviot Nisbet	28/11	1
Willies	17/01	4	Lindean reservoir	03/12	1
Glenormiston	18/01	4	Bowhill	10/12	1
Upsettlington	20/01	4	Sprouston/Whitmuirhaugh	22/12	1

Last report in spring: 13/4 at Yetholm Loch (5). Earliest autumn report: 10/10 at Paxton House (1).

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.

Peak counts per site per month			2	Rotten Brae, Eyemouth	20/03
3	Dunglass	17/01	4	Dunglass	04/04
2	Pease Bay	17/01	4	Kelso, Rennie Bridge	09/04
2	Cove Bay	07/02	2	Dunglass	16/04
3	Dunglass	07/02	1	Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	01/05
2	Pease Bay	07/02	4	Dunglass	28/11
3	Dunglass	01/03	3	Pease Bay	19/12

Possibility of double counting given mobility of groups.

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.

118 sites. Peak counts per month:

Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	03/01	63
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	20/02	55
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	08/03	38
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	14/04	32
Paxton House	09/05	120
Peebles	14/06	10
Tweed Cardrona	26/07	10
Paxton House	27/08	41
Greenlaw, Hule Moss	18/09	85
Hule Moss	09/10	93
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	30/11	112
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	29/12	202

Other counts of 15 or more:

			19	Peebles, The Cauld	1/11
44	Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge	15/9	19	Yair-Three Brethren- -Elibank Law	16/9
33	Rotten Brae, Eyemouth	30/9	18	Sprouston/Redden Circular	29/3
28	Innerleithen	14/9	17	Tweed: Cardrona-Scotsmill	10/4
27	Tweedbank	17/9	16	Melrose	20/9
24	Stantlingcraig Reservoir	3/10	15	Tweed: Innerleithen-Walkerburn	20/5

20 sites with evidence of breeding:

Stobohope (Stobo)	10/03	P	Cringletie-Kidston	01/05	P
Valleyfield pond	11/03	P	Galawater-Hazelbank	02/05	P
Tweed, Howden Pot	27/03	P	Fruid Reservoir	27/05	P
Lowood Pond	04/04	P	Melrose	29/05	P
Tweedbank	06/04	N	Hawick	01/06	FL
Tweed: Cardrona-Eshiels	09/04	P	Peebles	14/06	FL
Tweed: Cardrona-Howford	13/04	T	Glenormiston Woodend	14/06	FL
Howford-Leithenwaterfoot	13/04	P	Tweed: Innerleithen	22/06	FL
Innerleithen-Leithenwaterfoot	13/04	P	Tweed: Cardrona	08/10	I
Philiphaugh	22/04	P	Mire Loch	09/10	I
See Introduction for breeding codes.					

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).

Records from 27 sites (mainly located in lower Tweed catchment):

Eyemouth, Blaikie Heugh	22/05	1	Gordon	20/06	1
Angelrow (Greenlaw)	23/05	1	Newmains (Reston)	29/06	1
Greenlaw, Angelrow Farm	23/05	1	Blackhill	08/07	2
Greenlaw, Kyles Hill	26/05	1	Falla Knowe (Hownam)	09/07	1
Brown Rigg Farm	29/05	1	Westfield (Smailholm)	15/07	1
Reston	04/06	1	Billiemains (Chirnside)	16/07	1
Reston. Ferniecastle	05/06	1	Lintlaw (Preston)	17/07	2
Ednam, Hendersyde	08/06	1	Girnick (Smailholm)	29/07	1
Whitsome	09/06	1	New Smailholm	29/07	4
Hare Law, Beirhope	10/06	1	Longnewtown	31/07	1
Hownam, Whitton Loch	10/06	1	Jardinefield Farm	10/08	1
Gavinton	11/06	1	Greenburn	30/08	2
Caddonhead, Bowland Estate	16/06	1	Fairlaw	10/09	2
Gordon, Scots Plantation	19/06	1			

Largest number of sites since record year of 2011.

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.

Reports came from 12 sites during Jan-Mar. During the period Apr-Aug there were reports from 26 tetrads with the following largest counts: 500 at Kelhope Burn-Crib Law-west Hill on 13/9; 30 at Riddle on 7/9 and 10 nr. Aikengall Water on 25/4.

Autumn/winter counts came from 11 tetrads with the largest counts: 18 in the lower Lynn valley on 11/11; 8 at Stantlingcraig Reservoir on 3/10 and 6 at Innerleithen on 3/10.

A total of 57 records for 2015.

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.

Records from 27 sites during Jan-Mar with reports of displaying toward end of March at Kingside Hall and Johnscleugh (both on the Whiteadder). Largest counts during this period: 12 from Windy Gyle (Cheviots) on 4/1; 12 from Deaf Heights (Moorfoots) on 27/2; 10 at Kingside Hall on 22/3 and 8 at Birehope Burn (Moorfoots) on 27/2.

During Apr-Sep there were 42 records from 30 tetrads. The largest counts were: 8 at Heckieburn Pools on 2/4 (Heriot Water).

21 Sep-Dec records were from 14 tetrads. The highest counts were: 30 in the Garvald Punks (Moorfoots) on 1/9; 18 on Redscar Law on 13/12; 12 on Maiden Law on 13/12 and 10 on Mauldslie Hill on 1/9. All these sites in the Moorfoots.

90 records for 2015.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

Uncommon & local resident on hill fringes, especially in Etrick-Moorfoot area. ALL RECORDS NEEDED. During 2008-13 found in 11% of tetrads in summer and 5% in winter.

30 records from 24 sites. Breeding evidence limited to 3 sites: Carcant on 19/4; East Loch (Portmore) on 11/5 and a lek at Tinnis Bridge on 20/6.

15	Innerleithen (nr)	09/05	1	Meigle Hill (Clovenfords)	27/02
14	Tinnis Bridge (Newcastleton)	20/06	1	Scrape Burn (Dawyck)	09/04
11	Leithen Hopes	22/03	1	Drumelzier Glen	23/04
7	Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water)	28/05	1	Posso Rig (Manor Valley)	04/05
7	Deuchar Law (St Mary's Loch)	09/10	1	Glentress, Leithen	28/05
6	Carcant (Heriot Water)	19/04	1	Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water)	01/06
6	Longshaw Law (Moorfoot Hills)	19/05	1	Caddonhead, Bowland Estate	17/06
6	Tweedale Burn	11/02	1	Darny Rig (Walkerburn)	13/12
5	Stone Grain Rig (Megget Res)	16/03	1	Thornylee (Walkerburn)	13/12
2	Blackburn	27/02	1	Devil's Beef Tub-Hart Fell	27/12
2	nr. Portmore	27/03	Pr	Milkieson (Eddleston)	19/04
2	East Loch (Portmore Loch)	11/05	Pr	Blackhopebyre and Piper's Grave	24/04

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.

A total of 56 records from 47 tetrads. 10 records from Jan-Mar. Largest counts: 12 at Dykegatehead (Allanton) on 26/1; 12 at Polwarth on 1/3 and five between Sprouston-Redden on 12/3. Singles and twos from: Newmains; Nisbet; Hardcarse Farm; Broomdykes; Lamberton and St Abbs.

Breeding evidence was limited to only eight records (largely limited to pairs):

P	Broomdykes	16/03	2	P	Fancove Head	14/04	2
P	Lamberton	18/03	2	P	Lamberton Moor	24/04	2
P	Burnmouth	03/04	2	S	Edington Mains	11/05	1
P	Mire Loch, St. Abb's Head	14/04	2	FL	Angelrow (Greenlaw)	07/08	8

P: pair; S: singing; FL fledged young.

14 records (12 tetrads) for Sep-Dec were from (max. counts):

20	Coldingham	25/10	7	Angelrow (Greenlaw)	04/09
12	Westruther, Hurdlaw	18/10	5	Fishwick	09/10
9	Whitsome, Jardinefield	15/09	5	Mire Loch	13/10
9	Birgham	15/11	3	Duns, Buxley	26/09
8	Chirnside	01/10	2	Eddleston, Portmore	21/10
8	Horndean, Hilton	15/11	1	Cranshaws, Bushelhill	27/09

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.

271 records from 150 tetrads.

Records from 58 sites Jan-Mar. Largest counts:

12	Cockmuir (Portmore Loch)	16/02	5	Crailinghall	31/01
11	Kalemouth (Teviot)	26/02	4	Black Barony	21/01
10	Folly Loch	28/02	4	Jenny's Brae (Peebles)	02/02
6	Linthill (Eyemouth)	02/01	4	Bemersyde Moss	28/03

244 records from 101 tetrads during Apr-Sep. Breeding evidence reported was rather scant (only 17 sites with 7 of those with evidence only in form of H – suitable nesting habitat:

-	Gordon Moss	04/04	NE	-	Glenmead	17/05	ON
2	Toxside Moss	06/04	H	8	Dawyck	23/05	H
1	Cockmuir	06/04	H	1	North Esk Reservoir	23/05	H
30	Dawyck	11/04	D	12	Dawyck	06/06	UN
-	Linthill	02/05	UN	1	Hawick	18/06	H
4	Black Barony	04/05	NE	-	Mordington Holdings	21/06	UN
8	Dawyck	10/05	H	2	Portmore Loch	24/06	P
1	Langhaugh Burn	14/05	NE		Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	31/08	FL

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Autumn/winter (Sep-Dec): reports involved 90 records from 46 tetrads. Largest counts:

Yetholm Loch	13/10	26
Stantlingcraig Reservoir	03/10	20
Huntlywood (Gordon)	19/11	15
Shielshaugh (Ettrickbridge)	10/12	12
Dunglass	04/10	9
Innerleithen	26/10	6
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	24/11	5

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.

57 records from eight sites: Coldingham Bay; Cove Bay; Dunglass; Eyemouth; Lamberton Shore; Pease Bay; Redheugh; St Abb's Head-St Abbs Village.

	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	301
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
2015	24	38	11	39	0	0	0	0	31	35	36	33	247
Peak counts (2015)	7	12	3	13	0	0	0	0	7	14	21	8	
Site where 2015 peak counts made	Dunglass	Dunglass	Dunglass	Dunglass					Eyemouth	Dunglass	St Abb's Head	Dunglass	

Latest spring record was 25/4 and earliest autumn record was 2/9.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

Present offshore in very small numbers September to March. Rare in summer months and very rare inland.

Six records:

1	Dunglass	10/1	1	St Abbs Head	22/11
1	Cove Bay	12/2	2	Pease Bay	19/12
1	Fruid Reservoir	27/5	2	Eyemouth Bay	27/12

Fruid Reservoir record first inland record since 2005 at same location on 28/6.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Present offshore in very small numbers September to March. Rare in summer months and extremely rare inland.

All 15 records were from stretch of coast between Redheugh-Eyemouth. Peak counts for each site per month:

	J	F	M	A	M	O	N	D
Coldingham Bay	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Dunglass	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Eyemouth	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
Redheugh (Coldingham Moor)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
St Abb's Head	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	1

Latest bird in spring was 17/5 and earliest in autumn was 26/10.

White-billed Diver *Gavia adamsii*

Rare visitor – 2 previous records

A single record on 18/4 at Dunglass. Only three previous records.

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.

Records from 17 tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	12	Lamberton Shore, 193; Lamberton, 97; St Abb's Head, 93; Burnmouth-Border, 48; Coldingham-Eyemouth, 33; Dunglass-Pease Bay, 20; Souter-Pettico Wick, 15; Dunglass, 11.
Apr-Jun	6	Lamberton Beach, 92; Lamberton, 20; Eyemouth, 9; St Abb's Head, 9; Dunglass, 7.
Jul-Sep	7	Eyemouth, 25; Lamberton Beach, 16; Dunglass, 7; Redheugh Glen and Cottages, 5.
Oct-Dec	6	Cove, 15; Dowlaw, 10; Eyemouth, 6; Pease Bay, 3.

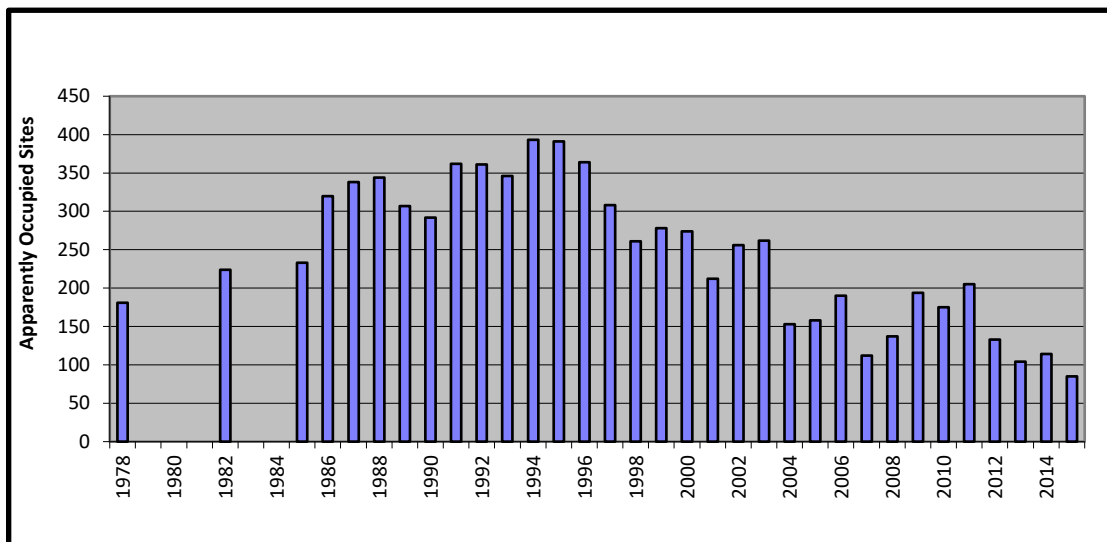
St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2015 (Liza Cole):

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 15th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 21st, 23rd and 25th June. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 29th June.

Results

85 AOS were counted, a decrease of 25% on the 2014 count of 114 AOS. This is the lowest count on record. It represents 59% of the 10 year mean of 145 AOS, and just 34% of the 31 year mean of 247 AOS.



Breeding Success

No count of chicks was carried out this year.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce autumn passage migrant, mostly mid-Aug to mid-Oct.

Two records, both from St Abb's Head: 12 birds on 5/9 and four on 20/9.

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.

A total of nine records from two sites. St Abb's Head dominated with the following records: 10 on 29/7; 10 on 11/8; seven on 15/8; 15 on 2/9; four on 3/9; 81 on 5/9 and 10 on 22/22. Eyemouth had 13 on 29/6 and seven on 26/10.

These records represent the lowest aggregate count since 2000.

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.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	5	11	2,750	3,250	3,400	510	770	2,050	4,050	2,350	5	1
Location of site with highest count	St Abb's Head	Burnmouth-Cowdrait	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth)	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth) in 3.5 hr	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth) in 2.5 hr	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth)	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth)	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth) in 4.0 hr	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth)	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth) in 4.5 hr	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth) in 3.5 hr	Eyemouth Bay

No inland records. No reports of breeding.

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.

Ninety-eight birds counted during Rocky Shore Count on 15/1. This compares with 52 in 2014.

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	10	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	8
Pease Bay-Redheugh	0	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	16
Redheugh-Souter	18	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	2
Souter-Pettico Wick	3	Burnmouth-Border	41

Greater dispersal in winter, especially inland and more concentration toward coastal sites in summer:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	42	44	10	12	4	30	10	17	15	31	24	23
No. of inland tetrads	17	11	11	10	6	3	0	2	3	4	9	13
No. of coastal tetrads	6	5	5	3	0	1	3	3	4	3	1	4
Location of site with highest count	Tweedbank	Paxton House	Paxton House	Burnmouth	Paxton House	St Abb's Head	Dunglass	Dunglass	Redheugh Glen and Cottages (Coldingham Moor)	Paxton House	Paxton House	Paxton House

No reports of breeding were received. There were no records relating to the colony at Dowlaw Coastal Slope where, in 2014, 25 nests were recorded.

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.

279 counted during Rocky Shore Count on 15/1.

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	2	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	53
Pease Bay-Redheugh	12	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	104
Redheugh-Souter	26	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	20
Souter-Pettico Wick	61	Burnmouth-Border	1

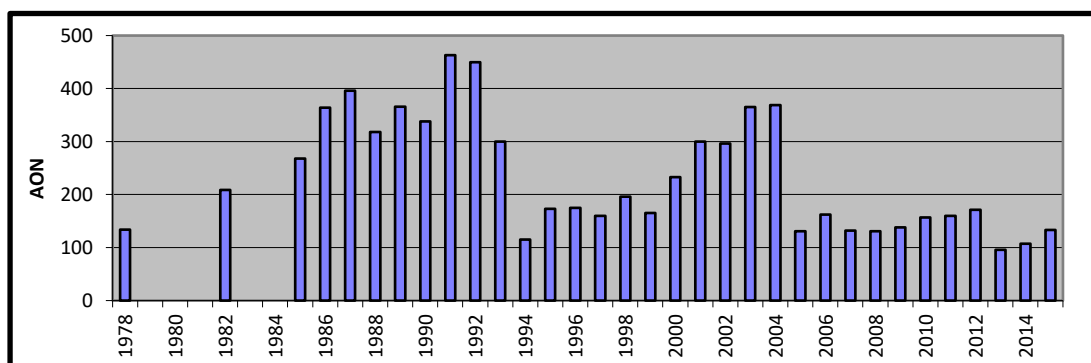
	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts (non-RSC)
Jan-Mar	16	Eyemouth, 58; Heathery Carr (Coldingham), 36; Thrummy Carr-Pettico Wick, 20; Greenstane (Dowlaw), 16; Cove Bay, 15; St Abb's Head, 11; Fast Castle Head, 8.
Apr-Jun	4	Eyemouth, 61; St Abb's Head, 6; Dunglass, 2; Burnmouth, 1.
Jul-Sep	5	Eyemouth, 131; Redheugh Glen and Cottages, 30; St Abb's Head, 16; Dunglass, 13; Burnmouth, 1.
Oct-Dec	7	St Abb's Head, 200; St Abbs, 172; Eyemouth, 63; Dowlaw-St Abb's Head, 30; Fast Castle Head, 19; Burnmouth, 16; Dunglass, 11.

Whole Colony Count

A count of apparently occupied nests (AON ie a well-built nest capable of holding eggs with at least one bird in attendance) was carried out on 25th, 26th and 27th May. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 11th, 12th and 29th June.

Results

133 AON were counted, an increase of 24% on the 2014 count of 107 AON. This is the second year of population increase since the wreck in the winter of 2013 which led to the lowest count on record. It represents 95% of the 10 year mean of 139 AON, and 56% of the 31 year mean of 236 AON.

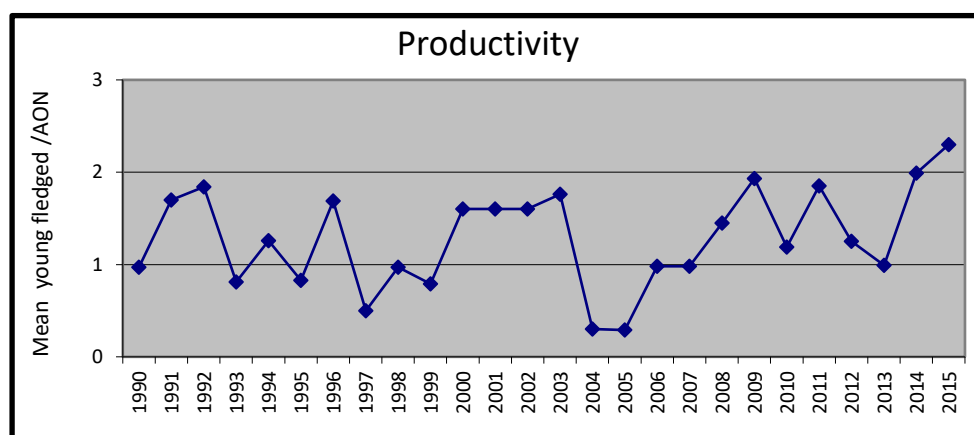


Breeding Success

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 14 visits were made to the 4 monitoring plots between the 4th April and 4th September to record the progress of each nest up to fledging.

Results

A total of 58 active nests were mapped on the plots and 135 chicks successfully fledged. The breeding success, expressed as the mean of the individual plot figures, was 2.30 young fledged per active nest. This is an increase of 16% on the 2014 figure of 1.99 chicks fledged per active nest. This is the second consecutive year of good productivity and the highest figure on record. It represents 202% of the 10 year mean of 1.49 and 178% of the 26 year mean of 1.29 chicks fledged per active nest.



Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

A rare but increasing vagrant to Borders. Records may peak in late summer as English colonies disperse.

Two records: singles at Coldstream on 4/10 and at Paxton House on 8/12. Disappointing since there were 13 records in 2014 which extended further up the Tweed.

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.

Records from 130 tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	14	16	10	12	5	5	3	3	6	6	6	8
No. of tetrads with records	35	32	19	31	34	24	9	7	23	20	10	17
Sites with highest counts	Blaeberry Wood (Peebles), 14; Sprouston-Redden (Kelso), 6; Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth, 5; Teviot Haughs, 5. Kelso-Coldstream, 16; Sprouston, 6; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh, 5; Hendersyde Island (Kelso), 4; Ploughland Pond Blaeberry Wood (Peebles), 10; Kelso-Coldstream, 10; Haining Loch (Selkirk), 3; Hare Moss (Selkirk), 3; Calaburn (Hawick), 12; Tweedbank, 4; Plora East (Walkerburn), 3. Eddleston-Cringletie, 5; Lowood (Tweedbank), 4. Cardrona-Eshiels, 5; Caddonlee (Clovenfords), 5; Milkieston-Cringletie, 3; Traquair House, 3. Milkieston-Cringletie, 3; Nether Horsburgh (Cardrona). Hallmanor Burn Pond (Manor Valley), 3; Lamberton, 2; Milkieston-Cringletie, 2; Eddleston-Milkieston, 2. Galashiels sewage Works, 6; Hollybush (Galashiels), 6; Haining Loch (Selkirk), 4; Galafoot-Lowood Bridge, 4; Manor Abbotsford, 6; Tweedbank, 6; Paxton House, 4; Dunglass, 3. Abbotsford, 6; Nisbet, 5; Tweedbank, 3. Gattonside-Melrose, 8; Paxton House, 3; Tweedbank, 3; Northfield Pond (St Abbs), 3.											

Breeding (mid Mar-Aug): records from 69 tetrads but confirmed breeding from only five sites: Calaburn (Hawick); Caddonlee (Clovenfords); Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie; Plora East (Walkerburn) and The Hirsell.

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

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.

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.

Records from 63 tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	9	22	5	7	4	7	13	17	27	15	6	9
No. of tetrads with records	24	13	15	19	11	10	8	8	17	20	13	19

Location of site with highest count	Wooden Loch (Eckford)	Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	Wooden Loch (Eckford)	Bemersyde Moss	Hare Moss (Selkirk)	Bemersyde Moss	The Hirsell	The Hirsell	The Hirsell	The Hirsell	Paxton House	Paxton House
-------------------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------	----------------	---------------------	----------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	--------------	--------------

Other counts of three or more were:

Paxton House	31/1	9	Millar's Moss	18/7	4	Paxton House	22/10	8
Sprouston-Redden	14/1	5	Ploughlands Pond	12/8	6	Williestruther Loch	23/10	8
St Abb's Head	3/1	3	Paxton House	12/8	3	Folly Loch	18/10	6
Coldingham Loch	25/1	3	Folly Loch	15/9	8	Ale Moor Reservoir	23/10	5
Acreknowe Reservoir	6/2	4	Hollybush	24/9	8	Bemersyde Moss	3/10	4
Manor Br-Tweed Br (Peebles)	8/2	3	Paxton House	23/9	5	Lindean Reservoir	11/10	4
Faldonside Loch (Melrose)	8/3	4	Wollrig Cottage	6/9	4	Hollybush (Galashiels)	18/10	4
White Law Loch	8/3	3	Lindean Loch	9/9	4	Nisbet	28/11	5
Yetholm Loch	7/4	6	Millar's Moss	13/9	4	Lindean reservoir	2/11	4
Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	13/4	6	Bemersyde Moss	17/9	4	Hollybush (Galashiels)	15/11	4
Hollybush Loch (Galashiels)	23/4	3	Williestruther Loch	28/9	4	Cobbie (Kelso)	27/12	5
Ladyrig Pond	28/5	3	Lindean Reservoir	28/9	4	Hirsell Lake	27/12	5
Hirsell Lake	12/6	4	Paxton House	29/9	4	Wooden Loch (Eckford)	12/12	4

Breeding (Apr-Aug): records from 31 tetrads (64 sites in 2014). Confirmed breeding from: Bemersyde Moss; Cowieslinn Quarry Pond; Folly Loch; Hirsell Lake; Millar's Moss and Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet).

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.

Records from 11 tetrads.

Jan-Mar: only one record which was of a single bird at Haining Loch (Selkirk) on 25/3.

Breeding (Apr-Aug): eight tetrads (only two in 2014): 22/4 at Haining Loch; 28/4 at Fruid Reservoir; 21/5 at Ale Moor Reservoir; 21/5 at Branton Pond; 16/6 at Bowland Estate; 22/6 at Watch Water; 23/6 at Yetholm Loch. All records were of one or two birds.

Sep-Dec: records from two tetrads: Stantlingcraig Reservoir (2) on 3/10 and from Pease Bay on 13 and 19/12.

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.

Single bird at Coldingham Bay on 8/11.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly to coast. Has summered.

Single bird at Pease Bay on 19/12.

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.

All records of singles		Coldstream	01/06
Ormiston (Nisbet)	19/01	Makerstoun (Kelso)	24/06
Teviot Haugh (E)	25/01	Duns	21/08

Ploughlands (Nisbet)	28/01	Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	15/09
Holydean (St Boswells)	29/03	Fairlaw (Reston)	26/09
Shawbraes (Reston)	25/05	Byrecleugh (Longformacus)	11/11

Many of these records will almost inevitably involve the same bird.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

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

Only two records, both from Bemersyde Moss and possibly representing the same bird on 13 and 17/9.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyanus*

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).

Nine records:

		Langholm Moor area	06/04
Coldingham Moor	17/01	Moorfoot Hills	08/07
Upper Tweed	30/01	Pentlands	23/07
Moorfoots	02/02	Tweedsmuir Hills	28/08
Coldingham Moor	14/02	Blackadder Valley	17/10

Some of these records will almost inevitably involve the same bird.

Hen Harrier Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (Andrew Sandeman).

Note: following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

It was always unlikely that 2015 could compete with 2014, and so it proved. The weather was unusually cool and it was a poor vole year. The fairly low number of birds reported early season makes one wonder what happened to all the young birds from last year.

Pentlands

Just one female was seen on the Lanarkshire Border in early July, but a follow up visit found nothing. Grouse grit trays etc. indicated this was a shooting area.

Lammermuirs

There was one male and three reports of possibly the same female in May, but the large swathes of grouse moor form ideal habitat and should hold good numbers of breeding harriers.

Moorfoots

Separate reports of 1 male & 1 female in May and early June, then a report of a pair raised hope but follow up visits found nothing. Harriers have attempted to nest in this shooting dominated area for many years, but there has been no successful breeding during my time as co-ordinator.

Tweedsmuir Hills

Two sites briefly held single females and another 5 had pairs – two of them new sites. Eggs were laid at 5 sites and young hatched at 4 of them, but only 3 sites were successful, with 4 large young, plus 3 flying and two large young in the nest at ‘northern’ sites. A new ‘southern’ site passed on from PAWS (Partnership Against Wildlife Crime) was reported to have 4 ringtails together – (1 female & 3 juvs?). Nothing was seen on a follow up visit, and it is unclear how reliable the observer was.

South-East

After the heady heights of 2014, only 3 nests were found at Langholm, 1 of which was an empty cup, perhaps failed pre-lay. 11 eggs were laid at the other 2 nests, but strangely only 1 chick was fledged. As is sadly ‘normal’, there was only 1 male sighted and no known breeding attempts in the rest of the SE area.

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.

Ten records:

Lammermuirs	26/01	Lammermuirs	14/06
Merse (eastern)	29/01	Lammermuirs	11/07
Moorfoots	28/02	Moorfoots	16/07
Moorfoots	07/05	Ettrick Forest	06/09
Lammermuirs	08/05	Lammermuirs	06/11

Goshawk Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (Malcolm Henderson).

Note: following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

Site/territories checked	Site/territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Min. young fledged	No. young fledged/occupied site	No. young fledged/successful pair
54	41	22	58	1.41	2.64

A total of 54 home ranges were monitored this year which includes four new nest sites which were found in the Lothians, in the upper Tweed Valley and in Berwickshire.

These new sites confirm that Goshawks are nesting in these areas and with some determined fieldwork, they can be found. Thanks very much to those involved in finding these new sites.

A large amount of timber harvesting seems to have taken place this year. The result of this is that birds have moved from their traditional nest sites to new nesting areas, either due to the disturbance or due to their old nest site having been felled. Trying to locate these new nest sites has been difficult and time consuming.

The management of nest sites and monitoring of nest sites on Forestry Commission land is excellent thanks to the hard work of their employees. However in privately owned forestry this is not always the case. A typical example occurred at one of our sites in the south of the raptor group area this year. This site is well established, the birds having nested here for several years. The gamekeeper and the estate management know the location of the nest but despite this, on our initial visit tree felling was taking place next to the nest. Phone calls were made and the felling contractor agreed to suspend any more felling. However the damage was done and the nest attempt failed. Had any sort of pre-felling inspection taken place this would have been avoided.

As always some of our nest sites on privately owned land have failed as a result of persecution. Indeed some of these sites have never been occupied for several years due to long-term persecution. These sites are very often abundantly rich in food sources due to game rearing. Such sites would have nesting Goshawks and should fledge young every year if there was no persecution.

Detailed results for 2015

Home Ranges

Number of nest sites monitored	54
Number of sites not occupied	13
Number of sites occupied, nest not found	8
Number of sites occupied, nest found	33
Number of sites failed	11
Number of sites fledged young	22

Brood Sizes

From the 33 nesting attempts we had an average brood size of 1.76.

From the 22 successful sites we had an average brood size of 2.64 (2.13 last year).

Thanks to the finding of the four new nest sites and the relatively good brood sizes, the 2015 season has been good. From the 22 successful nests we had 58 fledged young. Just about all of the young were rung with BTO rings.

We have continued fitting Darvic rings to the young and in the next few years we hope this will provide us with some information regarding the movements of the birds. One such bird was

photographed near Langholm this year and the quality of photograph allowed the Darvic to be read. It was one of Martin Davison's birds from Kielder (Northumberland).

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).

184 records from 93 tetrads. Over a wide geographical range and mainly of single birds but with occasional report of two birds. Similar to 2014.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
No. of records	23	13	19	15	17	11	14	13	19	15	15	10	184
No. of birds	23	13	19	15	19	11	16	14	19	16	15	11	193

Evidence of breeding came from only three tetrads.

No monitoring occurred in Borders in 2015, the RSG activity concentrating on the revival of the Edinburgh Sparrowhawk Monitoring Programme. However, as an indication of trends that may affect Borders populations, productivity in Edinburgh, at 2.6 fledgling per successful nest (2.3 in 2014) remains below the record for 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.

724 records from 248 tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
No. of records	71	73	64	83	79	68	32	51	65	62	34	42	724
No. birds	92	108	102	124	86	74	65	94	115	93	55	62	1,070
Highest count	4	4	6	6	4	11	6	5	8	6	4	5	
Site of highest count	Paxton House	Hawick	Eddleston	Bowhill (Philiphaugh)	Yetholm Loch; Paddock Burn (Innerleithen)	St Abb's Head	Black Barony (Eddleston)	Black Barony (Eddleston); Yetholm Loch	Manderston (Duns)	West Water; Fishwick (Paxton)	Barnhills Moor (Ancrium)	Westfield Hill (Smailholm)	

Limited evidence of breeding was reported. Only five sites with probable or confirmed breeding:

Galawater-Hazelbank	18/01	3	T	See Introduction for breeding code explanation.			
North Lodge, Minto	11/06	1	NY	Whitton (Hownam)			
Gattonside-Melrose	30/12	2	D	Luckie Shiel (Abbey St Bathans)			

Buzzard Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (George Smith). Note: following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

Site/territories checked	Site/territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding (minimum)	Minimum young fledged	No. young fledged /occupied site	No. young fledged /successful pair
74	74	48	92+	1.24	2.48

2015 Data is showing a decrease in productivity on the 2014 season, although this is based on a reduced data set with data from 64 sites but some missing out on confirmed fledging. This is a reflection of a limited number of fieldworkers who are already working on many other species. 64 of the 146 known sites were checked; 61 were occupied by pairs and 3 by single birds. Eggs were laid (and hatched) at a minimum of 45 and 39 sites respectively. At least 52 young were fledged from 33 successful pairs.

Productivity of 0.85 young per territorial pair is down from 1.50 in 2013 and 1.57 young per productive pair is again down from last year's figures of 2.48.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Rare autumn/winter vagrant.

A spring passage bird was reported on 9/4 flying west over the border at Cawderstanes (Paxton). Description has been submitted but no response as yet.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

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

Three records: all in upper Tweed valley: 27/3; 19/5 and on 9/9.

Golden Eagle Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (Tony Lightley):

Site/territories checked	Site/territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding (minimum)	Minimum young fledged	No. young fledged /occupied site	No. young fledged /successful pair
3	1	1	0	0	0

We looked forward to the 2015 breeding season with great excitement and expectations that this year we would finally see a chick fledge from South East Scotland. The last chick to fledge was back in 2006. 5 year old female Roxy and an unaged male have produced eggs for the past 2 years without a successful hatching and confidence was high for the birds to produce fledged young this season. With the satellite tag fitted and still giving off a strong signal this ensures no disturbance to the birds from RSG workers monitoring the site and also to pinpoint the nest location and any associated nest building activity early in the season. The RSG has a good working relationship with the landowner and this ensures minimum disturbance on the ground at vulnerable periods during the breeding season.

However it was the usual disappointment. The bird produced two eggs in a different location which failed to hatch again. There is an abundance of prey items in the surrounding area but despite erecting signage on all the known walking routes for hill walkers to avoid the area and indicating alternative access to the open hill there was disturbance from an individual who refuses to keep a safe distance from the site during critical times especially during the incubation period.

Once again I will have discussions with Police Scotland prior to the 2016 season and hope they can be more positive with assistance to prevent disturbance of the site.

On a more positive note at last we have a serious commitment to the recovery of Golden Eagles in South Scotland. This is a new project to help boost the number of Golden Eagles in the South of Scotland, announced on 14th August 2015 by Dr Aileen McLeod MSP, Minister for Environment,

Climate Change and Land Reform . Dr Cat Barlow has been appointed as project manager to take the work forward and a project team will also be formed. The team will focus on further assessing the viability of the golden eagle population, and identifying areas/sites and management measures which could benefit the birds. It is envisaged that the first translocations will be in the 2017 season.

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 GPS coordinates data we were able to be within 20m of the nest site 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 2016 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. Movements of the bird named 'Roxy' can be viewed on the Highland Foundation for Wildlife web site.

With an expanding territory of approximately 700 square km 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 20square km during the attempted breeding season.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce but increasingly frequent passage migrant April-May & August-September. Has bred since 1989 and is spreading rapidly.

45 records from 20 tetrads. Earliest report in spring on 4/3 at Yetholm Loch. Latest record in autumn came from Watch Water on 2/9.

Osprey Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (Tony Lightley). Note that following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

Site/territories checked	Site/territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding (minimum)	Minimum young fledged	No. young fledged /occupied site	No. young fledged /successful pair
15	13	8	14	1.08	1.75

Camera Main Nest Site

After a relatively mild, wet spring both birds arrived back at the nest site in March. The first bird seen was the male on 28th. A new unaged female was now in residence with the first of three eggs being laid around the 25th April. The male is now 16 years old and was rung at Aberfoyle in 1999 with a white Darvic ring **SS** and still holding territory at this long established site. After an incubation period of 38 days, three chicks were visible in the nest on 2nd June. The inexperienced female failed to protect the chicks from the very strong sun and on 11th June two of the chicks died, probably from dehydration. The remaining chick, a male weighing 1,420 grams, was rung with Darvic FK8 and fitted with a satellite tag. The bird fledged just a couple of days later and was last seen on the 2nd August. It is unusual for the chick not to return back to the nest site to be fed and roost and it is feared that the bird may have perished as no further signals were received from the transmitter. Good news with other sightings of Darvic-rung birds associated with the main nest site: CL4 rung in 2013 visited the old nest site on August 10th; this was the last brood reared by the original pair. Another bird, CK2, rung in 2012, was seen at Esthwaite Water in the Lake District and demonstrates the value of colour ringing birds.

Two sites produced young for the first time this year to expand the geographical area in which birds are now breeding. It is also thought to be the first successful breeding pair in the Lothians. Overall it was a disappointing breeding season with a wet spring and very poor summer. Birds either failed at egg stage or with very young chicks in the nest. It is important to pass on any sightings of birds to the coordinator early in the season to enable fellow raptor workers time to follow up leads and try and locate new nest sites. As the birds expand their range it becomes more difficult to monitor the population. Links and sightings from other bird groups can help to pin down regular sightings of birds to determine potential nesting areas. Both live and recorded footage of two pairs of birds on their nest sites can be viewed at the Tweed Valley Osprey Project at Glentress visitor centre and Kailzie gardens.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce & secretive resident of basin mires. May move 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.

47 records from 15 sites. Only site that provided records during Jan-Mar was Hirsell Lake.

Breeding season records came from: Bemersyde Moss on 11/4 and 13/9; Cardrona Sewage Reedbed on 13/4; Yetholm Loch on 13/4; Whitlaw Moss on 13/5; ; Lindean Reservoir-Murder Moss on 11/6; Stewarton Moss on 3/8; Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet) on 12/8; Folly Loch on 19-21/9; Mire Loch on 23/9. The only record of confirmed breeding came from Bemersyde Moss on 13/9.

Autumn/winter records limited to Mire Loch and Hirsell Lake.

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.

401 records from 68 tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
No. records	43	31	34	47	31	25	14	18	40	38	47	32
No. birds	93	77	60	82	43	35	48	48	97	109	107	78
Highest count	10	11	7	6	4	5	9	8	6	13	7	11
Site with highest count	Hen Poo (Duns)	Hen Poo (Duns)	Hen Poo (Duns)	Hollybush Pond (Galashiels)	Folly Loch; Bemersyde Moss	Bemersyde Moss	Harcus (Eddleston)	Hirsell Lake	Harcus (Eddleston); Hollybush Pond (Galashiels)	Duns Wood	Gala Sewage Works Pond	Newmains (Reston)

Confirmed breeding from only 10 sites, cf. 52 sites in 2014. An obvious case of under-recording.

Tweedbank	09/04	N	Nether Stewarton (Eddleston)	03/08	FL br2
Lilliesleaf Moss Pool	04/06	FL br2	Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	07/08	3br8
The Hirsell	16/06	FL	Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	01/09	juv

Milkieston-Cringletie	23/07	FL 2br2	Redheugh (Coldingham Moor)	13/09	br2
Harcus (Eddleston)	24/07	FL 3br8	Millar's Moss (St Abbs Head)	13/09	br2
Paxton House	30/07	br2	Cardrona Bridge	08/10	juv

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Autumn/winter records from 29 tetrads: Abbotsford; Cardrona, Tweed Bridge; Chesters (Teviot); Clinthill (St Boswells); Eddleston Water; Folly Loch; Glenrath Pond (Manor Valley); Haining Loch (Selkirk); Harcus (Eddleston); Hirsell Lake; Hollybush Pond (Galashiels); Huntlywood (Gordon); Kalemouth (Teviot); Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Mire Loch (St Abbs Head); Leahead Loch (Hawick); Newmains (Reston); Duns Wood; Fancove Head (Eyemouth); Paxton House; Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet); Smedheugh Pond (Selkirk); Synton Loch (Selkirk); Tweedbank; West Water; Whitmuir Hall Loch (Selkirk); Wooden Loch (Eckford); Yetholm Loch; Yetholm Pond.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Common 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.

288 records from 40 tetrads.

Sites with largest Jan-Mar counts:

45	Hirsell Lake	05/02	22	Whitmuir Hall Loch, Selkirk	08/03
25	Hen Poo, Duns	08/03	15	Yetholm Loch	24/03
22	Mire Loch (St. Abb's Head)	02/01	10	Ploughlands Pond	10/03

Confirmed breeding at only 12 sites (another case of under-recording):

Mire Loch (St. Abbs Head)	27/03	B	Wooden Loch	12/06	br5
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	29/04	ON	Tweedbank	16/06	ON; 1br4
Eildon hills, south	30/05	FL	Holly Bush Farm Pond	22/06	2br5
Melrose-Newstead	30/05	FL	Ploughlands Pond	07/08	2br6
Lilliesleaf Moss Pool	04/06	br2	Hirsell Lake	07/08	3br7
Tweedbank	09/06	ON	Millar's Moss	13/09	2br4

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Autumn-winter largest counts were:

29	Hirsell Lake	27/12	16	Hollybush	18/10
23	Yetholm Loch	13/10	12	Williestruther Loch	28/09
22	Duns Wood	26/10	11	Millar's Moss	17/10

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.

257 recorded on 25/1 Rock Shore Count (similar to recent years):

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	68	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	9
Pease Bay-Redheugh	34	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	61
Redheugh-Souter	16	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	30
Souter-Pettico Wick	7	Burnmouth-Border	32

Other non-RSC counts during Jan-Mar (10 or more birds):

75	Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	20/03	23	Dunglass	04/01
72	Watch Water Reservoir	01/03	23	Innerleithen	17/02
45	Tweed Innerleithen	01/03	20	Traquair	22/02
40	Ross (Burnmouth)	18/01	18	Lyne Valley	09/03

40	Stantling Craig Reservoir	08/03	16	Eyemouth Bay	18/01
38	Teviot Haughs	08/03	15	Lamberton Shore	15/03
25	Yetholm Pond	15/02	13	Red Heugh	25/01
24	Fancove Head	09/02	10	Denholm (Teviot)	15/03

Evidence of breeding reported from 20 tetrads:

Selkirk	27/03	P	St Mary's Loch	28/04	P 40
Peebles	04/04	N	Innerleithen	17/05	ON
Gavinton	04/04	P	Leadburn Community Woodland	22/05	A
Cardrona Hotel	08/04	N	Melrose, Waverley Castle Hotel	29/05	FL
Tweed: Howford-Leithenwaterfoot	13/04	P 5	Toxside Moss (Portmore Loch)	03/06	A
Eddleston Water: Kidston-Dalatho	17/04	P 5	Tweed: Cardrona-Eshiels	11/06	DD
Fruid Reservoir	28/04	P 5	Tweed: Cardrona-Howford	16/06	FL
Talla Reservoir	28/04	P 5	North Esk Reservoir	20/06	2br12
Megget Reservoir	28/04	P 4	Lauderdale - Ditcher Law	06/07	A
Glenholm (Broughton)	28/04	P 5	Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston	24/07	FL

Again, the above represents a significant under-recording of breeding. 2012 had 229 tetrads with breeding, 2013 had 195 tetrads and 2014 had 114. Readers are encouraged to submit full records of breeding evidence.

Autumn-winter records came from 15 tetrads. Tetrads with largest counts were:

43	Eyemouth, Harbour Road,	27/12	30	Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	02/09
41	Burnmouth, Partanhall	27/12	25	Dunglass	04/10
32	Burnmouth-Cowdrait	09/10	12	Pease Bay	25/12
			12	Redheugh (Coldingham Moor)	13/09

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.

84 records from 55 tetrads.

Jan-Mar records:

Max counts per month per site	J	F	M
Angelrow (Greenlaw)	182	60	
Ancrum Craig	36		
Georgefield (Earlston)	50		
Greenlaw Moor	70		
Westfield/Sandyknowe (Smailholm)	130		
Newmains (Reston)	1		72
Folly Loch		15	
Lauder Common		30	
Hatchednize (Coldstream)		70	
Polwarth			70
Hartsgarth (Hermitage)			62
Covenanters Grave (Garvald)			2

Records of passage:

400	Helm Plantation (Selkirk)	13/04	45	Black Barony (Eddleston)	21/04
140	Lambden (Greenlaw)	13/04	400	Lempitlaw (Kelso)	25/04
100	Sandyknowe (Smailholm)	20/04	125	Berryfell (Hawick)	28/04

There were no records of breeding evidence submitted. Sites with records from breeding season (May-Aug): Black Barony; Ettrick Water; Hule Moss; Lauder Common; Long Grain (Oxton); Paul's Well (West Linton).

Sep-Dec records:

Peak counts per site per month			250	Black Law (Jedburgh)	24/11
150	Folly Loch	21/09	200	Greenlaw	20/11
600	Sandyknowe (Smailholm)	15/10	80	Birneyknowe (Bonchester Bridge)	11/12
150	Folly Loch	10/10	60	Paxton House	26/11
500	Whitrigbog/Westfield	01/11	58	Heiton	27/12
260	Heiton	12/11	42	Lugate Water-Windlestraw Law (Stow)	28/12

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

A very uncommon autumn passage migrant in coastal areas.

Records from three sites: Pease Bay on 18-24/1 and 19-25/1; Eyemouth, Rotten Brae on 2/11; St Abb's Head (2) on 21/11.

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.

247 records from 70 sites.

Jan-Mar records:

Peak counts of 40+ per month per site			113	Hundleshope (Manor Water)	27/02
58	Whitrigbog/Westfield	03/01	110	Angelrow Farm (Greenlaw)	23/02
250	Whitrig Haugh	27/01	105	Westfield pools	12/02
340	Newmains (Reston)	28/01	40	Lennelhill (Coldstream)	12/02
235	Newmains (Reston)	12/02	62	Newmains (Reston)	01/03
179	Folly Loch	12/02	50	Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	21/03

Other Jan-Mar sites: Angelrow Farm; Ashkirk Marsh; Birgham Haugh; Blackhaugh; Borthwickshiels; Cademuir; Brotherstone; Clearburn Loch; Cockmuir; Eddleston; Essenside Loch (Hawick); Falla; Hartsgarth; Heckieburn pools & moor; Leithen Hopes; Mailingsland field; Meigle Hill (Galashiels); Mendick/Ingraston; Milton Fields; Lamberton; Sheriffside; Old Kirkhope; Portmore Loch; Selkirk; Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream; St Mary's Loch; Stantling Craig Reservoir; Teviot Haughs; Tower Burn marsh; Towford; Westruther; Whitton Loch.

Breeding evidence from:

See Introduction for breeding codes	D	Ashkirktown (Selkirk)	D
Heckle Burn (Heriot Water)	D	Towford (Jedburgh)	D
Mendick/Ingraston (West Linton)	D	Fruid Reservoir	P
Lindean Loch (Selkirk)	P	Glenholm (Broughton)	P
Peebles	D	St Mary's Loch	P
Nether Falla	D	Black Barony	ON
Kingside Moss (Leadburn)	D	Folly Loch	P
East Gordon	D	Tweed: Innerleithen to Walkerburn	P
Greenlawdean	D	Black Yett (Portmore)	P
Middleton Moor	D	Blackhopebyre (Leithen Valley)	P

Chloic Rig	ON	Newmains (Reston)	ON
Mailingsland field	ON	Leadburn Community Wood	DD

Sep-Dec counts of 50 or more:

428	Folly Loch	13/10	130	Paulswell East	25/10
300	Sandyknowe, Smailholm	12/10	120	Newmains	29/10
300	Whitrigbog/Westfield	01/11	100	Greenlaw	20/11
230	Dunglass	01/11	88	Barnhills	07/12
200	Greenlaw	30/10	60	Kirkmains, Teviot Haughs	12/12
200	Stitchill	30/10	56	South Riccalton	15/10
160	Redden Haugh	27/12	50	Rumbletonlaw	05/10
150	Lauderhaugh	23/12	50	Cairncross	04/12

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.

8 records for year. No evidence of breeding reported

1	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	12/03	1	St Mary's Loch	28/04
1	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	29/03	3	Hule Moss	21/06
1	Redden Haugh	10/04	6	Eyemouth Bay	01/09
1	Barnhills (Denholm)	26/04	Pr	Melrose	24/09

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Very uncommon spring and uncommon autumn passage migrant, mostly to coastal areas. Wintering exceptional.

5 records from 3 sites. All involving autumn passage:

			3	St Abb's Head	23/08
1	Lamberton	24/07	1	St Abb's Head	24/08
1	Rotten Brae, Eyemouth	06/08	1	Rotten Brae, Eyemouth	24/08

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.

267 records from 96 sites. Monthly peak counts for main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lamberton	60	120	50	7	-	3	-	-	5	16	32	7
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Mire Loch	30	20	68	-	-	-		1	7	17	25	30
Dunglass-Pease Bay	10	3		-	-	-	11	12	-	5	-	-
Hallmanor (Manor Valley)	-		75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Abb's Head	-	56	53	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Leadburn Community Wood	-	-	-	11	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black Barony	-	-	-	5	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
East Loch (Portmore Loch)	-	-	-	-	19	8	-	-	-	-	-	-

Watch Water (Longformacus)	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	7	-	-	-
Dowlaw	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	110

Reported evidence of breeding limited to 6 sites: Toxside Moss; Cockmuir; Greenlaw; Ladhope Moor (Galashiels); North Esk Reservoir; Stonedge (Bonchester Bridge);

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Uncommon autumn passage migrant.

A single record of one bird from Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool on 12/8.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Uncommon autumn/winter passage migrant.

Two records: 2 at Tweedbank on 24/8 and 4 at St Abb's Head on 22/11.

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.

27 records mainly from St Abbs-Burnmouth.

Rocky Shore count on 25/1:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	2	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	17
Pease Bay-Redheugh	0	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	24
Redheugh-Souter	0	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	1
Souter-Pettico Wick	0	Burnmouth-Border	7

Largest counts Jan-Apr:

24	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	15/01	13	St Abbs	28/02
21	Burnmouth/Cowdrait	15/02	12	Dunglass	28/03
20	Burnmouth	18/01	10	Lower Burnmouth	02/01
17	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	15/01	10	Burnmouth & Partanhall	01/03
15	Lower Burnmouth	08/01	7	Burnmouth-Border	15/01

Last record was 25/4 but noticeable decline in numbers from mid-Feb.

Highest counts Sep-Dec:

42	Dunglass	05/12
40	Burnmouth	25/12
29	Burnmouth/Partanhall	09/10
10	Lower Burnmouth	05/12
8	Burnmouth, Partanhall	27/12
4	Burnmouth Bay	23/09

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Very uncommon autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, almost wholly to coastal areas.

4 records from 2 sites (all autumn passage birds): 4 on 11/8, 2 on 22/8 and 4 on 22/11 at St Abb's Head; 1 at Burnmouth Bay on 23/9.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Very uncommon passage migrant.

17 records from 6 sites, all on autumn passage. Largest counts:

7	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	15/09	4	Sandyknowe, Smailholm	22/08
4	St Abb's Head	11/08	3	Hule Moss - Greenlaw Moor	17/08
4	St Abb's Head	22/11	3	Bemersyde Moss	19/08

4	St Abb's Head	22/11	2	St Abb's Head	22/08
---	---------------	-------	---	---------------	-------

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Scarce autumn passage migrant which occasionally overwinters. Not annual. Last record 2012.

Single bird at Pease Bay on 17/1.

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.

Jan-May: 4 records was from Dunglass (all single birds); 1 from Fruid Reservoir (3 birds).

Aug-Nov:

3	Greenlaw farm	09/08	4	Dunglass	23/08
5	St Abb's Head	11/08	1	Newmains (Reston)	30/08
4	St Abb's Head	22/08	1	Burnmouth Bay	23/09
			118	St Abbs Head	22/11

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.

26 sightings from Rocky Shore Count on 15/1. Full record of reports:

02/01	Lower Burnmouth	2	18/01	Burnmouth	2
04/01	Dunglass	2	07/02	Dunglass	4
15/01	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	21	14/02	Dunglass	8
15/01	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	5	01/03	Dunglass	5
17/01	Dunglass	9	28/03	Dunglass	3
			08/11	Coldingham Bay	7

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.

Records from 47 tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	2	Sprouston-Redden (Kelso); Crailing (Teviot).
Apr-Jun	40	Fruid Reservoir, 8; Watch Water (Longformacus), 6; Talla Reservoir, 6; St Mary's Loch, 6; Hen Poo (Duns), 5; Innerleithen-Walkerburn, 4; Hendersyde (Kelso), 4; Eshiels-Jenny's Brae (Peebles), 3; Abbotsford, 3; Megget Reservoir, 3; Glentress (Leithen Water), 3; Cringletie-Milkieston, 3; Paxton House, 2; Bowhill (Selkirk), 2; Shankend (Wauchope Forest), 2; Cramalt Valley (Tweedsmuir), 2; Langhaugh Hill (Manor Valley), 2; Roughley Burn (Hermitage), 2; Linghope Burn (Manor Valley), 2; Birgham Haugh (Kelso), 2; Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water), 2; Bowland (Galashiels); Cowieslinn Quarry Pond; Edrington Castle (Paxton); Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool; Galawater-Hazelbank; Melrose; Garvald (Moorfoots); North Esk Reservoir; Glensax Burn (Peebles); Rankle Burn (Ettrick); South Park Wood (Peebles); Cardrona to Howford; Howford to Leithenwaterfoot; The Holmes (St Boswells); Preston; Roxburgh; Newarkmill (Yarrowford).

Jul-Sep	6	Watch Water, 3; St Abb's Head, 3; Bowland (Caddonhead); Eddleston-Milkieston; Tweedbank; Lower Burnmouth.
----------------	---	---

Breeding evidence reported from 12 tetrads. There were records from 42 sites during Apr-Aug.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon, mostly autumn passage migrant and very rare winter visitor.

Records were from seven tetrads:

18/01	1	Nisbet (Teviot)	26/02	1	Crailing (Teviot)
19/01	1	Nisbet (Teviot)	07/05	2	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool
30/01	1	Crailing (Teviot)	31/07	2	Newmains (Reston)
03/02	1	Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston	24/08	1	Newmains (Reston)
06/02	1	Eddleston	15/11	2	Broom (Teviot)
07/02	1	Teviot Haughs	26/11	2	Broom (Teviot)
26/02	1	Crailing (Teviot)	22/12	1	Whitmuirhaugh (Kelso)

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Uncommon passage migrant, mostly autumn passage.

A single bird at Hule Moss on 24/5.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Very scarce spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn migrant.

Records from seven tetrads:

03/01	2	Tweedbank	16/08	1	Newmains
20/04	1	Paxton House	17/08	4	Hule Moss
08/05	1	Lamberton	24/08	2	Lamberton
10/05	1	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	30/08	1	Eyemouth Bay
12/08	1	Newmains	05/09	2	Hule Moss
			26/11	8	Tweedbank

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Uncommon, mostly autumn, passage migrant.

Records from four tetrads:

14/04	Paxton House	30/08	Watch Water
28/04	St Mary's Loch	30/08	Watch Water
11/07	Hule Moss	21/10	Paxton House

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.

Records from 39 tetrads.

Jan-Mar: counts from 18 tetrads. A count of 97 in the Rocky Shore count on 15/1 (52 in 2014, 91 in 2013, 67 in 2012 and 78 in 2011):

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	25	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	2
Pease Bay-Redheugh	3	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	25

Redheugh-Souter	4	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	3
Souter-Pettico Wick	0	Burnmouth-Border	35

Other Jan-Mar sightings:

15/02	44	Burnmouth/Cowdrait	08/03	2	Teviot Haughs
18/01	38	Lower Burnmouth	21/03	2	Cademuir Marsh (Manor Valley)
07/02	11	Dunglass	25/01	1	Ladywell Craig (Coldingham Moor)
29/03	5	Sprouston-Redden	13/02	1	Paxton House
25/01	3	Red Heugh (Coldingham Moor)	19/03	1	Tweedbank
18/01	2	Eyemouth Bay			

Apr-Aug: records from 19 tetrads (17 in 2014):

01/04	1	Hundleshope Fields (Manor Valley)	16/04	6	Dunglass
04/04	1	Nether Falla (Portmore)	23/04	1	Cramalt Valley (Tweedsmuir)
04/04	1	Kingside Moss (Leadburn)	28/04	2	Fruid Reservoir
07/04	1	Birgham (Kelso)	28/04	1	St Mary's Loch
08/04	2	St Mary's Loch	30/04	0	Homebank (Coldstream)
10/04	6	Hule Moss	10/05	2	Bedshiel (Westruther)
10/04	3	Burnmouth, Ross	15/05	2	Yetholm Loch
13/04	2	Tweed; Howford-Leithenwaterfoot	25/06	3	Bushel Hill (Cranshaws)
16/04	1	Watch Water	16/07	2	Caddonhead, Bowland Estate
			28/08	1	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool

Only one record of confirmed breeding.

Sep-Dec: records from 11 tetrads:

13/09	20	Redheugh Glen (Coldingham Moor)	22/10	2	Paxton House
19/09	2	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	02/11	2	Eyemouth, Rotten Brae
27/09	1	Lamberton Beach	20/11	1	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool
04/10	7	Dunglass	22/12	0	Eyemouth
09/10	38	Burnmouth/Cowdrait	27/12	1	Pease Bay
			27/12	83	Burnmouth, Partanhall

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Much overlooked. During 2008-13 found in 15 tetrads in winter.

Records from seven tetrads.

Jan-Mar: records from two tetrads:

11/01	2	Barnhills Moor (Ancrum)			
01/02	2	Malcolms Moss (Ancrum)	15/03	2	Malcolms Moss (Ancrum)
01/03	1	Malcolms Moss (Ancrum)	19/03	1	Newmains (Reston)

Latest record was on 19/3 at Newmains (Reston). First autumn record was 20/9 also at Newmains.

Sep-Dec: records from five tetrads:

20/09	1	Newmains (Reston)	07/11	2	Newmains (Reston)
13/10	1	Fountainhall (Stow)	08/11	4	Malcolms Moss (Ancrum)
27/10	1	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	20/12	1	Paxton House

02/11	1	Newmains (Reston)	28/12	7	Newmains (Reston)
04/11	1	Newmains (Reston)	29/12	3	Newmains (Reston)

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.

Records from 34 tetrads.

Jan-Feb: records from only 18 tetrads (20 in 2014, 55 in 2013 and 28 in 2012):

28/01	15	Woodhead Moss (Ancrum)	12/01	1	Venchen (Kirk Yetholm)
22/01	6	Wilyrigg Strips (Crailing)	17/01	1	St Abb's Head
24/02	4	Ruecastle (Jedburgh)	19/01	1	Newmains (Reston)
01/01	2	Wells (Denholm)	11/02	1	Mellerstain (Gordon)
24/01	2	Threepwood (Lauder)	19/02	1	Templehall (Bonchester Bridge)
31/01	2	Baittens (Crailing)	21/02	1	Monteviot (Ancrum)
01/02	2	Lumsdaine Woods (Coldingham Moor)	23/02	1	Potsclose (Kelso)
04/01	1	Carcant (Heriot Water)	25/02	1	Alderybar (Teviothead)
10/01	1	Ballmuir Plantation (Smailholm)	27/02	1	Rutherford (Roxburgh)

Mar-Aug: records from ten territories (underlined are roding sites):

Gordon Moss	Moss Know (Hawick)
<u>Huntford</u>	Old Kirkhope (Ettrickbridge)
Kyleshill Plantation (Greenlaw)	Paul's Well (West Linton)
<u>Melrose</u>	Plora Woods (Innerleithen)
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	Yarrow

Sep-Dec: records from 17 tetrads:

Barnhills Moor (Ancrum)	Kaimend (Hawick)	Samieston (Jedburgh)
Berrybush (Ettrick)	Lempitlaw (Yetholm)	Shank Covert (Kelso)
Coliforthill (Hawick)	Middlestotts (Duns)	Sinclairshill (Duns)
Crailinghall	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	Speedy's Wood (Earlston)
Moorshot Plantation (Greenlaw)	Gordon Moss	Sunnyside (Hawick)
Huntford (Carter Bar)	Ruecastle (Jedburgh)	

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.

Records from 55 tetrads.

Jan-Feb: 18 tetrads and 19 sites (12 tetrads in 2014):

11/01	31	Barnhills Moor (Ancrum)	26/02	2	Crailing (Teviot)
14/01	30	Ferneycastle (Reston)	01/02	1	Sandyknowe Farm (Smailholm)
22/01	10	Tod's Dean (Crailing)	03/02	1	Middlesknowes (Oxnam)
08/02	8	Broom (Teviot)	08/02	1	Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels)
01/02	5	Malcolms Moss (Ancrum)	09/02	1	Angelrow (Greenlaw)
15/02	4	Yetholm Pond	12/02	1	Hollybush Loch (Galashiels)
19/02	3	Dykeheads (Bonchester Bridge)	12/02	1	Folly Loch
20/01	2	Upsettlington (Ladykirk)	12/02	1	Sprouston-Redden
06/02	2	Eddleston	27/02	1	Deaf Heights (Stow)

	02/02	1	Longformacus
--	-------	---	--------------

Breeding (Mar-Aug): 26 tetrads (underlined locations where birds drumming and chipping):

03/04	32	Newmains (Reston)	19/04	1	<u>Stonedge (Bonchester Bridge)</u>
15/03	19	Malcolms Moss (Ancrum)	13/03	1	Middlesknowes (Hownam)
29/06	10	Watch Water (Longformacus)	18/03	1	Ettrickhill
13/05	6	Whitlaw Moss (Selkirk)	25/03	1	Patti's Bog (Manor Valley)
25/06	6	Paul's Well (West Linton)	04/04	1	<u>Redfordgreen (Alemoor)</u>
23/03	4	<u>Hartsgarth (Hermitage)</u>	04/04	1	<u>Earlside (Bonchester Bridge)</u>
11/06	4	<u>Murder Moss (Selkirk)</u>	06/04	1	Cockmuir (Leadburn)
03/03	3	Chesters (Bonchester Bridge)	20/04	1	Lamberton
11/05	3	<u>East Loch (Portmore)</u>	09/05	1	Innerleithen
19/05	2	Black Barony	28/05	1	Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water)
14/06	2	Well Strand (Carter Bar)	14/06	1	Philip Law (Carter Bar)
24/06	2	Allanshaws (Stow)	27/06	1	Hule Moss
01/08	2	Windydoors (Stowe)	16/06	1	Bowland (Caddonhead)

Sep-Dec: 18 tetrads.

08/11	49	Malcolms Moss (Ancrum)	14/12	2	Lightfield (Gordon)
07/10	27	Newmains (Reston)	07/09	1	Tollishill (Oxton)
27/10	5	Kelloe (Duns)	02/10	1	Gattonside-Lauder (SUW)
24/09	3	Bemersyde Moss	04/10	1	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)
05/11	3	Falla (Carter Bar)	21/10	1	Folly Loch
08/12	3	White Knowe (Manor Valley)	15/11	1	Gordon, Community Wood
13/12	3	Stoney Grain (Walkerburn)	24/11	1	Paxton House
25/09	2	Chapelhope (Loch of the Lowes)	13/12	1	Caberston Grain (Walkerburn)
25/09	2	Black Barony	13/12	1	Dunglass

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Uncommon autumn passage migrant between Jul & Nov. No inland records.

Ten records between 22/8 and 22/11. All records from either St Abb's Head or Eyemouth.

St Abb's Head: two birds on 22/8; one on 3/10; six on 21/11; eight on 22/11. Eyemouth: one on 19/9.

Bird-days 2002-2015. Given the nature of the sample, the trend for sightings shows considerable fluctuation but the general annual trend is downward.

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
53	30	16	31	27	28	8	16	19	19	11	27	31	18

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

All records from St Abb's Head and from Eyemouth. St Abb's Head: 5 on 26/7; one on 15/8; one on 22/8; two on 23/8; one on 5/9; six on 20/9 and then singles on 24/10, 21/11 and 22/11. Eyemouth: two on 6/9; one on 13/9 and two on 30/9.

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).

Eight records between 26/07 and 21/11. All records from either Eyemouth or St Abb's Head.

Three at Eyemouth on 11/8; single at St Abb's Head 26/7 and 2/9. Also at St Abb's Head, two on 3/9, two on 5/9 and four on 17/10. A further two were reported at St Abb's Head on 21/11.

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.

44 birds reported. First sighting was 3/1 and last was 19/9. Six at St Abb's Head on 3/1, 14 at Coldingham Bay- Eyemouth on 15/1 and two between Souter-Pettico Wick. Three were at Dunglass on 17/1 and two at Souter-Brander coast on 25/1. Further counts were two at Dunglass on 7/2 and three on 14/2. At Eyemouth there was a single on 1/5, six on 17/6, three on 5/7, 6/8 and 19/09.

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.

24 Records.

Non-Breeding: two St Abb's Head 3/1 and present on 20/3; one Dunglass 4/1; 13 on 14/2.

14 between Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth during Rocky Shore Count on 15/1. Rotten Brae, Eyemouth had 19 on 20/3 and ten on 6/4. Four birds counted at Eyemouth on 22/12.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Aggregate count	17	13	19	20	56	267	112	-	-	-	-	4
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	14	-	19	20	56	17	112	-	-	-	-	4
St Abb's Head	2	-	-	-		250	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dunglass	1	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2015 (Liza Cole):

Counts at Monitoring Plots

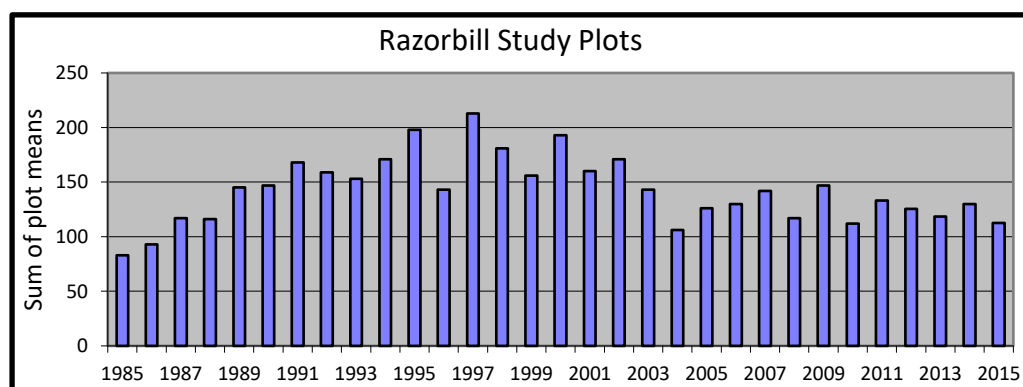
Eight counts of individual birds on ledges were carried out at each of the five plots between 1st and 19th June (as for the guillemots).

Results

The sum of plot means was 113 individuals, a decrease of 13% on the 2014 figure of 130 individuals. This represents 89% of the 10 year mean of 127 and 80% of the 32 year mean of 141.

Breeding success

An assessment of breeding success of razorbills was carried out this year, broadly following the method from the Seabird Monitoring Handbook with amendments suggested by Mike Harris (Co-author of the handbook). Twenty five Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) were individually marked on photographs of each of the 2 monitoring plots, and 33 visits were made to observe progress over the season.



Results

The breeding success, expressed as the mean of the individual plot figures, was 0.33 young fledged per AOS. This is a 23% decrease on the 2014 figure of 0.43 chicks fledged per AOS. However, the monitoring method is still being refined and so these results should be treated with caution.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Scarce and erratic winter vagrant, typically seen passing offshore. Occasional 'wrecks'.

All records from St Abb's Head or Eyemouth. One from Dunglass on 28/11, two St Abb's Head on 3/1 then large numbers Nov- Dec at the latter : 155, 21/11; 25, 22/11; 568, 6/12. Also three on 10/12. During the Rocky Shore Count on 15/1 five were seen between Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth. Eyemouth reported three on 25/1 and 18 on 1/2.

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

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

48 records. Most of the records came from St Abb's Head and Rotten Brae, Eyemouth.

Jan-March: 16 records. 2,000 at St Abb's Head on 5/2 and 200 Pettico Wick on 1/3 were the most significant counts.

Breeding (Apr-Jul): 500 at St Abb's Head on 9/6 and 290 at Eyemouth on 1/5.

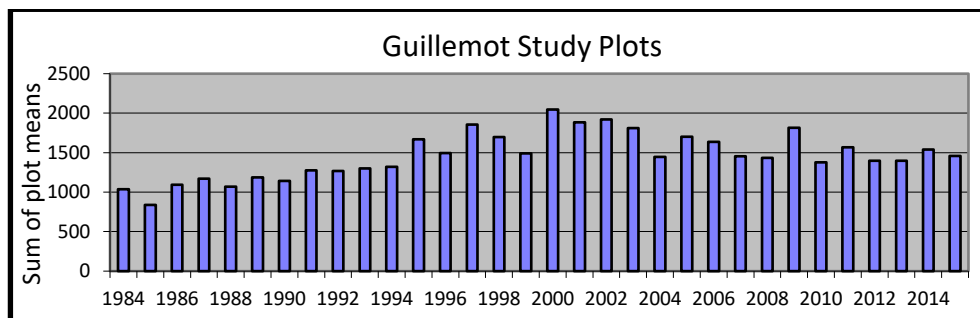
St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2015 (Liza Cole):

Counts at Monitoring Plots

Eight counts of individual birds on ledges were carried out at each of five plots between 1-19/6.

Results

The sum of the plot means was 1,457 individuals, a 5% decrease on the 2014 figure of 1,541 individuals. This represents 97% of the 10 year mean of 1508 and 100% of the 32 year mean of 1,463.



Breeding success

An assessment of breeding success of guillemots was carried out for the second time this year. This was broadly following the method from the Seabird Monitoring Handbook with amendments suggested by Mike Harris (Co-author of the handbook). Fifty Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) were individually marked on photographs of each of the 2 monitoring plots selected, and 33 visits were made to observe progress at each AOS between 2nd May and 16th July.

Results

The breeding success, expressed as the mean of the individual plot figures, was 0.65 young fledged per active nest. This is a 41% increase on the 2014 figure of 0.46 chicks fledged per active nest. However, the monitoring method is still being refined and so these results should be treated with caution. Liza Cole

Oct-Dec: just 6 records, all coming from Eyemouth.

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.

25 Records between 6/4 and 25/12. Majority of records from Eyemouth and Dunglass. Two at Rotten Brae (Eyemouth) on 06/04, 7 on 1/5, 35 on 17/6; 4 on 5/7; 64 on 18/7; 26 on 6/8; 5 on 16/8; 10 on 24/08 and 35 on 28/08. Four at Dunglass on 16/4, one on 18/4, 24 on 24/4, 22 on 30/7, 33 on 06/08. On 28/8 40 birds passed in a 30 minute seawatch.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Summer visitor, uncommon on coast, most frequent August-September during passage. Very scarce inland.

Five records between 17/5 and 8/9. 1 Dunglass 17/5; 2 St Abb's Head 15/8; 2 birds reported inland at Yetholm Loch on 08/09.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Summer coastal visitor, mainly August-September. Under-recorded. 1 inland record.

A fairly-typical three records: 14/6, single at St Abb's Head; 6/8, five off Eyemouth Golf Course and nine on 15/8 at St Abb's Head.

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.

All records restricted to stretch of coast between St Abb's Head and Burnmouth.

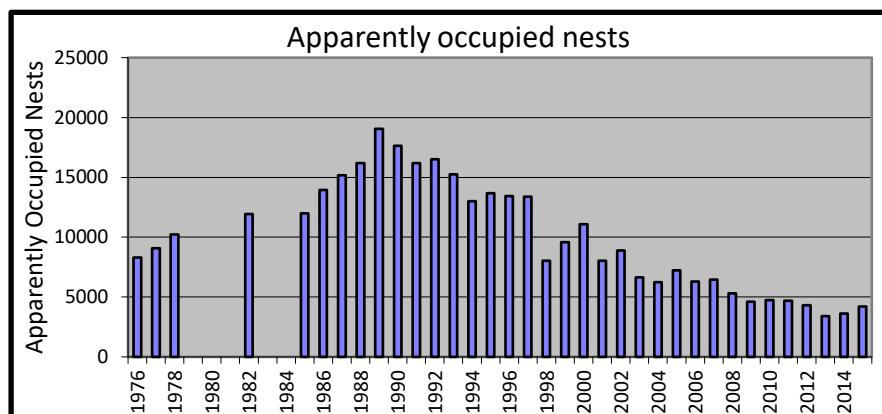
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest monthly count	3	-	170	220	150	190	220	368	620	1	1	-
Location of highest monthly count	St Abb's Head		Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	Eyemouth Golf Course	Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	St Abb's Head	Eyemouth, Rotten Brae	

St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2015 (Liza Cole):

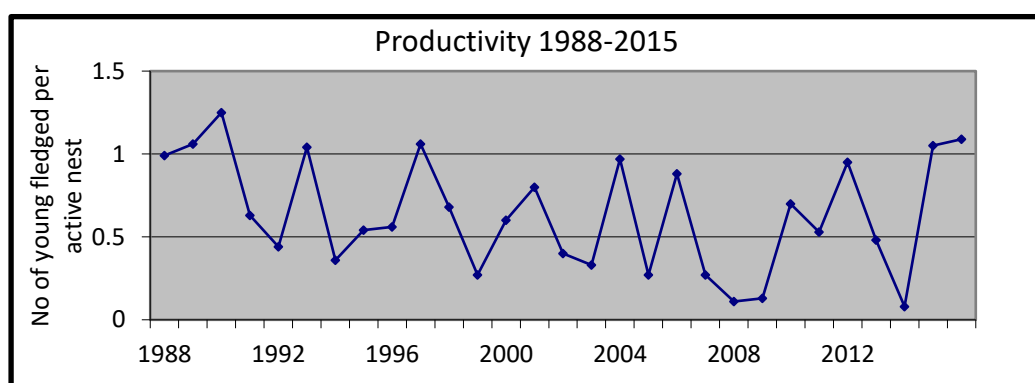
Whole Colony Count: a count of apparently occupied nests (AONs) was carried out on 15th, 18th, 19th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 25th June and 1st July. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 29th June. Results: 4,209 AON were counted, an increase of 16% on the 2014 count of 3,625 AON. Kittiwakes have now seen two years' growth in numbers, but this is still the third lowest count on record. It represents 88% of the 10 year mean of 4,765, and just 42% of the 31 year mean of 9,964 AON.

Breeding success: An assessment of breeding success was carried out using methods described in the 1995 Report following recommendations from the Seabird Monitoring Handbook. Each of the plots

was visited on 23/6 when all nests were marked on laminated photographs of the plots, then again on 10 further occasions up to 10/8 to check the progress of each nest up to fledging.



Results: The productivity, expressed as the mean of individual plot figures, was 1.09 young fledged per AON. This is an increase of 4% on the 2014 figure of 1.05 young fledged per active nest, and the second highest figure on record. It represents 154% of the 10 year mean of 0.54 and 170% of the 29 year mean of 0.64 chicks fledged per active nest.



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.

Rocky Shore Count on 25/1:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	2	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	0
Pease Bay-Redheugh	0	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	756
Redheugh-Souter	1	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	8
Souter-Pettico Wick	0	Burnmouth-Border	3

394 records from 72 tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	756	599	365	150	573	535	40	60	75	70	330	140
Location of highest monthly count	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank	Watch Water (Longformacus)	Bemersyde Moss	Paul's Well (West Linton)	Paul's Well (West Linton)	Tweedbank	Dunglass	Gattonside-Melrose	Dunglass	Hirsel Lake	Hirsel Lake

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.

218 records from 68 tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	1	5	18	85	110	430	24	39	2750	3600	900	3
Location of highest count	Sprouston (Kelso)	Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	Glack Field (Manor Valley)	Hollybush Loch (Galashiels)	Kingside Moss (Leadburn)	Kingside Moss (Leadburn)	Eddleston-Milkieston	Yetholm Loch	Hule Moss	Hule Moss	Hule Moss	Paxton House

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.

917 birds counted during Rocky Shore Count on 25/1 (2014: 1,220; 2013: 993; 2012: 1283; 2011: 1,781).

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	28	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	87
Pease Bay-Redheugh	59	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	254
Redheugh-Souter	58	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	155
Souter-Pettico Wick	46	Burnmouth-Border	230

Highest monthly counts:

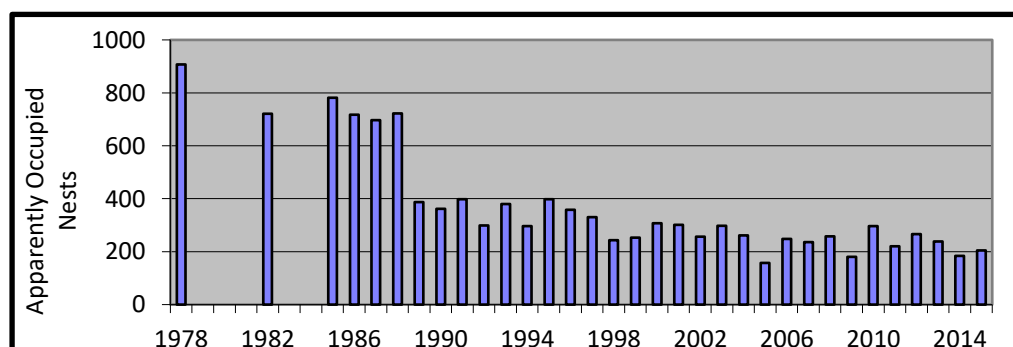
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	600	152	2,732	100	20	150	175	110	650	530	300	200
Location of highest counts	Tweedbank	Tweedbank	watch Water (Longformacus)	Tweedbank	Dunglass Burn	St Abb's Head	Dunglass	Dunglass	Redheugh Glen	Dunglass Burn	Tweedbank	Tweedbank

The only sites with counts of 100 or more were Quixwood (Abbey St Bathans) – 300 on 30/3 and Millar's Moss with 100 on 17/10.

St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2015 (Liza Cole):

A whole colony count of AON was carried out 25-28/5. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 10th June.

184 AON were counted - 11% increase on the 2013 count of 184 AON. This is up on last year, but still the fourth lowest count on record. It represents 88% of the 10 year mean of 233 AON, and 60% of the 31 year mean of 340 AON.



No other records of breeding were received.

Iceland Gull *Larus gaucoides*

Very scarce winter visitor.

A single record of a bird on the Tweed, nr Ladykirk on 6/4.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Very scarce winter visitor.

6 records received: on 10/1 at Dunglass; on 1/3 at Watch Water (2); on 8/3 at Watch Water (single, possibly one of the birds seen a week before); on 14/4 at Marshall Meadows; a very late (or early) juvenile on 22/7 at Watch Water and an unusual record of a bird on 6/8 seen offshore from Rotten Brae (Eyemouth).

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.

73 were counted during the Rocky Shore Count on 25/1 (2014: 110; 2013: 94; 2012: 73; 2011: 92).

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	4	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	7
Pease Bay-Redheugh	4	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	21
Redheugh-Souter	4	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	5
Souter-Pettico Wick	8	Burnmouth-Border	20

The only other site with a Jan-Mar record was Portmore Loch on 3/1 when 2 birds were seen.

Beyond March the maximum coastal counts were 15 at Lamberton Beach on 22/4 and 16 from Burnmouth on 16/12. Inland records were: present at Newcastleton on 8/6; one at Innerleithen on 25/9; one at Nether Falla on 10/10; 21 at West Water Reservoir (West Linton) on 17/10; 10 at Hule Moss on 17/10; one on the Teviot flood (Ancrum) on 26/12; one at Greenlaw Farm Pond, Foulden on 27/12 and one at Bamflatt (Broughton) on 28/12.

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.

107 counted during the Rocky Shore Count on 25/1 (2014: 171; 2013: 373; 2012: 195; 2011: 177):

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	14	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	22
Pease Bay-Redheugh	0	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	23
Redheugh-Souter	17	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	83
Souter-Pettico Wick	9	Burnmouth-Border	2

Jan-Mar: Records from 31 sites. Largest totals beyond the RSC were: Whitrigbog had 40 on 4/2; Ladywell Craig on 25/1 had 11 and Leadburn Community Wood had 10 on 1/2.

Apr-Sep: Largest counts from 44 sites were: 80 at Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm) on 20/6; 64 at Tweed: Innerleithen-Walkerburn on 20/5; Whitrigbog had 50 on 6/4; Eddleston Water: Darnhall- Eddleston

held 35 on 24/7; on 13/5 there were 20 birds at Hare Moss. No records of breeding were submitted. Readers are encouraged to submit relevant records.

Oct-Dec: Records from 23 sites. Largest counts: 32 at Whitrigbog on 15/10; 25 at Ladylands (Selkirk) on 8/12; 14 at Peebles on 8/12 and 10 St Abb's Head on 9/10.

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.

49 records from 33 sites.

Jan-Mar: records from 10 sites: Ayton; Black Barony; Cairncross; Dawyck; Duns Castle SWT; Duns Law; Lambertton; Melrose; Newmains (Reston); Tweedbank.

Breeding season: records from 25 sites. Breeding evidence limited to:

1	Dingleton (Melrose)	06/04	N	4	Plora East (Innerleithen)	20/05	ON 2prs
1	Homebank (Coldstream)	08/04	S	1	Fireburnmill (Coldstream)	16/06	S
1	Spottiswoode Loch (Lauder)	19/04	S	1	The Hirsell	16/06	S
1	Southpark Wood (Peebles)	13/05	S	1	Fogo (Gavinton)	13/07	S

See Introduction for BTO breeding codes.

Sep-Dec: two sites with reports: Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston and Melrose.

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).

Records from 175 sites.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest Count	500	1,000	266	320	73	49	29	19	20	500	250	4,500
Site where largest count occurred	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	Chirnsidebridge	Bemersyde Moss	Glenhom (Broughton)	Bowland (Clovenfords)	Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords)	Black Barony	Leadburn Community Wood	Redheugh Glens (Coldingham Moor); Leadburn Community Wood	Kippilaw Estates (St Boswells)	Lamberton	Dykegatehead (Allanton)

Other sites with high counts were:

Jan-Mar:

750	Peniel Heugh (Nisbet)	19/01	250	Redheugh Farm (Coldingham Moor)	25/01
680	Portmore, Loch Hill	10/02	105	Cademuir (Manor Valley)	06/03
350	Tarth Valley (Blyth Bridge)	18/02	101	Tweedbank	01/01
266	Bemersyde Moss	28/03	100	Linthill (Eyemouth)	02/01

Apr-Aug:

54	Tweed, Innerleithen to Walkerburn	20/05	37	Tweed: Howford-Leithenwaterfoot	13/04
51	Traquair House Pond	13/04	35	Innerleithen	03/06
49	Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords)	23/06	30	Paul's Well (West Linton)	07/05
38	Tweed: Eshiels-Jennie's Brae	09/04	30	Langton Mill (Gavinton)	06/06

Sep-Dec:

2000	Swinton	07/12	200	Horndean (Ladykirk)	06/12
500	Cairncross (Reston)	04/12	150	Thornielaw	29/12
350	Bemersyde Moss	07/10	85	Folly Loch	15/11
200	Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)	06/12	30	Hirsel Lake	27/12

Breeding evidence came from 11 sites:

Dunglass	07/02	S	See Introduction for BTO breeding codes.		
Huntford (Carter Bar)	15/03	P	Tweedbank	25/05	P
Cockmuir (Portmore)	06/04	S	Toxside Moss (Portmore)	03/06	S
Fairliehope (Carlops)	08/04	S	Philhope (Craig)	03/06	P
Dawyck	11/04	P	Fireburnmill (Coldstream)	16/06	NE
Lamberton	16/04	P	Melrose	29/08	ON

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.

Records from 55 sites.

Jan-Mar: records from 24 sites, all with counts of 4 or less. Counts of 4 came from: Tweedbank; Darnhall-Harcus; Eddleston; Lanton (Jedburgh).

Breeding:

S	Dunglass	07/02	P	Lamberton	03/06
S	Denholm	10/05	S	Carlops	20/06
See Introduction for BTO breeding codes			S	Falla Knowe (Jedburgh)	09/07

Another 11 tetrads had counts of 2 or more birds and might be construed as pairs.

Sep-Dec: records from 17 tetrads with largest counts being 20 from Auchencrow on 20/11, 6 from Swinnie Farm on 10/10 and 5 from Redheugh Glen on 13/9.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

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

A single on passage at Reston on 23/8.

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. .

Records from 52 tetrads.

Jan-Apr:

1	Peebles, Leithen Water	19/04	2	Faseny Water (Longformacus)	25/04
---	------------------------	-------	---	-----------------------------	-------

1	Bowden Moor	21/04	Pr	Tweedsmuir	28/04
1	Drumelzier Glen	23/04	1	Eildon Wester Hill	29/04
Pr	Innerleithen Walks	24/04	1	Bushel Hill (Cranshaws)	30/04

Breeding: 36 territories (49 in 2014 and 93 in 2013):

Birks Cairn Hill (Innerleithen)	East Loch South BBS	Lamberton
Black Barony	Eildon hills, south	Leadburn Community Wood
Bold Burn (Walkerburn)	Eildon Mid Hill	Leithen Water
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	Eildon Wester Hill	Longformacus, Watch Water
Bowhill	Ettrick	Melrose
Broughton Place	Fairlaw (Reston)	North Esk Reservoir
Caddonhead, Bowland Estate	Gala Wood	Portmore Loch
Cardrona	Glenmead (Walkerburn)	St. Abb's, Mire Loch
Cockburnspath Quarry	Huntford (Carter Bar)	St. Abb's, Northfield
Cranshaws, Bushel Hill	Innerleithen	The Hirsell
Drumelzier	Kailzie	Tweedsmuir
Duns, Stobswood	Kyleshill Plantation	Tweedsmuir, Fruid

First record was 19/4 at Peebles and last record was 7/9 at Ettrick.

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.

A notable increase in records from 61 in 2014.

Reported from 64 sites in the non-breeding season (Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec). (36 in 2014, 45 in 2013, 73 in 2012, 33 in 2011, 54 in 2010, 107 in 2009 and 132 in 2008).

Reported in the non-breeding season from:

Allanton	Duddo	Heughhead	Newmains
Ashkirk	Duns	Huntford	Newton
Ayton	Dykegatehead	Hutton	Hare Moss
Bedshiel (Westruther)	Eaglehall (Allanton)	Innerleithen	Peebles
Blackadder Water	Easter Haprew	Jardinefield	Redden
Branxholm	Eccles	Kaeside(Tweedbank)	Smailholm
Broadhaugh (Allanton)	Eccles Substation	Kelloe	Southdean
Burnfoot	Fogorig	Kelso	Stodrig
Burnmouth	Gattonside	Langholm	Teviothead
Cairnscross (Reston)	Gavinton	Larriston	Walkerburn
Cardrona	Gladhouse	Lazybed Plantation	Wark
Coldingham	Greenknowe Tower	Lempitlaw	W. of Greenlaw
Crawlee (Greenlaw)	Greenlaw	Makerstoun	Wester Muirdean
Crossrig (Allanton)	Hangingshaws	Manderston	Westruther
Denholm	Harelaw	Middlestots	Whitemires
Drycleuchlea (Ettrick Forest)	Heiton	Newbiggin Birks	Whitsome

Breeding: Recorded (Mar-Sep) at 38 sites (19 in 2014, 52 in 2013, 41 in 2010, 45 in 2009 & 118 in 2008), with breeding confirmed at 3 sites (*):

Angelrow Farm	Drycleuchlea	Kelso	Middlethird
Birgham	Duns	Ladhope Moor	Newbiggin Walls
Carfraemill	Fountainhall	Ladyurd	Newstead
Chirnside	Gordon	Langton House	Oxnam

Chirnsidebridge	Gordon Moss	Larriston*	Prieston
Cocklawfoot	Greenlaw	Lazybed Plantation	Ryslaw
Craik Forest	Hartsgarth*	Leadburn CW	The Hass
Cringletie House Castle	Heriot	Lempitlaw	Watch Water
Demainholm	Horsburgh Farm	Longformacus*	Yetholm Loch
Drochil Castle	Huntford		

Barn Owl Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (Alan Leitch). Note that following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

Site/territories checked	Site/territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding (minimum)	Minimum young fledged	No. young fledged /occupied site	No. young fledged /successful pair
53	33	24	60	1.8	2.7

The number of sites checked is only marginally lower than last year, but the occupancy rate and numbers with proven breeding are both up. However, breeding success was absolutely abysmal, with probably the worst breeding success recorded over the last ten years. This is almost certainly a reflection of the weather this summer.

It seems that there is no short term prospect of barn owl numbers returning to the levels which existed before 2009/10. Perhaps numbers then were unusually high, and it is unrealistic to expect a recovery to such a level.

Thanks are due to Tony Lightley, Tom Dougall, Alan Heavisides, and Mike McDowall for providing breeding records.

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.

No records were submitted.

Little Owl Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (Malcolm Henderson):

Two known sites were checked this year, both in Berwickshire They were both occupied, with a pair of Little Owls observed in both sites. At one of the sites there was a nesting attempt and we think this attempt was successful with young fledged, although no details of numbers are available at present.

The outcome at the other site is not known. Subsequent visits to this site were inconclusive. It would appear that Little Owls are now established in south-east Scotland, and there could be other sites in the area.

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.

A decrease in records from 117 in 2014.

Non-breeding: 19 birds from 16 sites in Jan-Feb & Oct-Dec: Crailinghall, Eddleston, Gattonside Village, Glenlude, Hanged Man's Hill, Huntford, Jardinefield Farm, Jedburgh, Makerstoun (2), Melrose (Viewbank Place), Middlestots, Moorshot Plantation, Newmains (2), Selkirk (Goslawdales) (2), Spittal on Rule and Tod's Dean.

Breeding: 49 records of 58 birds from 37 sites, breeding confirmed at 3 sites:

Abbotrule	Duns Law	Harehope Loch	Melrose
Allanton	Earlshaugh	Harwood	Paxton House
Angelrow Farm Cottage	Eastloch (Portmore)	Hawick	Selkirk
Ashiestiel Corner*	Eddleston (FL)	Hobkirk	St Abbs Head

Coliforthill	Gala Law	Huntford	Swinchy Cleuch E Wood
Craik Forest	Galashiels	Jedburgh	Tweedbank
Dawyck	Glengonner	Kyleshill Plantation (FL)	Watch Water
Denholmhill	Greenlaw (Angelrow)	Langburnshiels	Westloch*
* road kill	Harcus	Lurgiescleuch	Wollrig Cottage

Tawny Owl Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (Tony Lightley):

Forestry Commission sites

Site/territories checked	Site/territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding (minimum)	Minimum young fledged	No. young fledged /occupied site	No. young fledged /successful pair
110 (sites)	21 Tawny (15 Barn; 19 other species)	19	23	1.1	1.9

After another long wet winter, spring was no different and consequently resulted in low vole population to start the season. Although most of the occupied sites resulted in a breeding attempt quite a few failed at the late incubation stage or reduced numbers of large young. 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 limited coverage on private landholdings this year which resulted in only 10 sites recorded as checked and 6 occupied. There was a general increase of all owl species occupying the sites with 16 sites occupied by Barn Owls and another 18 boxes used by 'other' species.

Quite a few of the boxes require replacing or refurbishment over the winter months ready for a new breeding season. With increased independent monitoring of the Pine Marten population in the Tweed valley area continuing again in 2016, it is proposed to monitor some of the owl boxes with trail cameras to see if predation could be a contributing factor affecting the breeding success of box nesting bird species.

There were some late broods of fledged chicks which were rung in the middle of June which may be the result of vole populations increasing slightly as the season progressed. A combined total of 16 sites were successful which is very low coverage for a species which is widespread and quite common. There are not sufficient sites monitored to produce an overall trend for the species within the group area and sites are biased towards nest box locations being in optimum habitat areas for prey items within commercial forestry landholdings.

Private landholdings

Site/territories checked	Site/territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding (minimum)	Minimum young fledged	No. young fledged /occupied site	No. young fledged /successful pair
10	6	6	3	0.5	1.5
Combined					
120 (sites)	27	25	26	0.96	2.0

Number of young fledged per successful pair is the same as 2014 but although there was an increase in occupied sites overall coverage of Tawny owls is largely restricted to FCS landholdings and it would be worthwhile trying to increase coverage in private woodlands.

Barn Owl numbers have recovered slightly on FCS land after the recent two wet winters as well as the very cold 2009/10 winter when mortality was high in all owl populations.

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.

A decrease in records compared to 21 in 2014. All 5 records involved fledged young with no passage or winter records:

Cockmuir (Portmore)	juv	Watch Water	2 juv
Eastloch (Portmore)	juv	West Linton	3 juv
Megget Reservoir	Ad. & at least 1 juv		

Non-breeding: 1-2 recorded from 5 sites Jan-Mar and from 7 sites Aug-Dec. Birds at St Abb's Head 13/10 and St Abb's/Coldingham 17/10 were possible migrants.

Breeding: Records from 9 sites during Apr-Aug with a single record of confirmed breeding, a nest with young Leithen Valley.

Long-eared Owl Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (Mark Holling).

Site/territories checked	Site/territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding (minimum)	Minimum young fledged	No. young fledged /occupied site	No. young fledged /successful pair
14+	12	11	16	1.3	1.6

Dedicated searching in parts of the Pentlands, Moorfoots and upper Midlothian located nine of the 12 reports; the others were casual records collected as part of other studies. The total is only half what was reported in 2014. In summary, a minimum of 16 young fledged from 10 successful sites.

The Borders held 7 confirmed breeding pairs; and the Lothians had one confirmed breeding pair and another pair of possible breeders.

Records were received from Graham Anderson, Tom Dougall, Malcolm Henderson & Mark Holling.

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.

Non-breeding: 1-2 recorded from 5 sites Jan-Mar and from 7 sites Aug-Dec. Birds at St Abb's Head 13/10 and St Abb's/Coldingham 17/10 were possible migrants.

Breeding: Records from 9 sites during Apr-Aug with a single record of confirmed breeding, a nest with young Leithen Valley.

Short-eared Owl Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (Mark Holling).

Site/territories checked	Site/territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding (minimum)	Minimum young fledged	No. young fledged /occupied site	No. young fledged /successful pair
17	10	5	13	1.3	2.6

Records from ten sites: five nests with young, two other pairs and three sites where single birds only were recorded.

2015 was another poor year for Short-eared Owls in SE Scotland with breeding confirmed only in the Moorfoots. There was, however, only one other regularly monitored area (Pentlands) so pairs in other hill ranges may have been overlooked.

Pentlands: birds were found at two sites but both on one date only: i.e., a possible breeding pair in June; and a single in May (Graham Anderson).

Moorfoots: Five nests were located, and young fledged at all, a minimum of 13 birds (Tom Dougall). One other pair was identified (Helen Riley & Tony Marshall).

Lammermuirs: there was only a casual report of one bird in June (per Bordersbirdnews).

Tweedsmuir Hills: found at one site only, but just a single bird on one date in May (Alan Heavisides).

Cheviots: no records received.

The Borders held 2 single birds, 2 possible breeding pairs and 5 confirmed breeding pairs. Only one single bird was reported from the Lothians.

In summary, a minimum of 13 young fledged from 5 successful sites.

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.

Spring: First birds were singles at The Hirsell and Tweedbank 27/4, 23 at Paxton House on 6/5 with widespread records from 9/5. A 2-hour count at Paxton House produced a notable total of 1360 on 27/5.

Breeding: Breeding reports from The Hirsell only where 15 boxes were occupied and 10 held young on 23/7. Observers are requested to submit records of breeding evidence.

Autumn: Several large counts from Yule Moss including the highest of the year, 2050 in one hour passage watch on 4/7. Other peak counts at sites with 100+ were 433 Yetholm Loch 3/8, 220 at St Abb's Head 24/8 and 160 Leaderfoot 18/6. The last bird of the year was a single at St Abb's Head on 13/9.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Rare summer migrant. Less than annual.

One at St Abb's Head 14/5.

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.

An increase in records to 90 from 59 in 2014.

Jan and Feb: 11 records from eight sites (singles unless stated): Blue Stane Ford (Chirnside); Hirsell Lake; Hawick; Newstead; Paxton House (2); River Teviot at Nisbet (2) and Crailing; River Tweed Kelso-Coldstream.

During Oct-Dec 39 records from 15 sites (singles unless stated): Abbotsford; Blythbridge (2); Cobbie (Kelso); Dunglass; Fishwick; Glenrath Bridge (2); Hirsell Lake; Jedburgh; Kelso; Nisbet Bridge; Paxton

House (4); River Tweed (at Cardrona/Dirtpot Corner and Pebbles); Selkirk; St Abb's Head and Tweedbank.

Breeding: No confirmed breeding with 42 records from 15 sites in Mar-Sep (singles unless stated): Bluestone Ford (Chirnside); Cumledge Bridge; Hirsell (2); Linden Park (2); Paxton House (4); Redden Haugh; Sinclair's Hill (2); St Abb's Head; Innerleithen; Kelso (2); near Dryburgh; Galaford to Lowood Bridge; Kelso-Coldstream; Pebbles and Tweedbank.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Rare spring and autumn migrant.

One at St Abb's Head 24/8

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.

Records from 13 sites, mostly of singles except for two at Bushell Hill, Duns and Marchmont Station:

Blakemean	Dawyck	Innerleithen	Mellerstain
Bushellhill	Dunglass	Langton Edge, Duns	Rogersrigg
Cardrona	Elba Strait Leap	Marchmont Station	Traquair
Cockburnspath Quarry			

A poorer year compared to 2014 (37 records from 29 sites).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus 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.

A similar number of records to the 326 received in 2014.

Breeding: 168 records from 67 sites (Mar-Aug) with breeding confirmed at 10:

Angelrow	Fogo	Lindean reservoir	Dryburgh
Ashkirktown	Foulden	Lintalee (Jedburgh)	Manor Valley
Ayton	Fountainheads	Linthill	Selkirk
Barnhills	Galawater (Hazelbank)	Lurgiescleuch, Wauchope	Shankend
Bemersyde-Whitrigbog	Glenormiston	Marygold	St Abb's Head
Black Barony (ON)	Glentress (FL)	Melgund Glen (Denholm)	St Ronan's Wood
Bowden Moor Loch	Gordon (FL)	Mordington Holdings	The Hirsell (FL)
Bowhill Estate, Selkirk	Gordon Moss	New Belses (Ancrum)	Toxside Moss (FL)
Bowhill North	Greenlaw	Nisbet Hill	Traquair
Broadmeadows	Harcus (FL)	NT43P (N of Clovenfords)	Tweedbank
Dawyck	Haswellsykes Farm	NT4414 (W of Hawick)	Upsettlington
Denholmhill	Hawick	NT55A (NW of Lauder)	West Linton
Dunglass	Heiton	Paxton House (FL)	White Gate Wood
Duns	Hoselaw Mains	Peebles (Sth. Pk. Wood)	Whitlaw Moss
Eddleston	Huntford	Preston	
Eddleston-Portmore (FL)	Innerleithen	Cardrona-Eshiels (FL)	
Fairliehope	Leithen	Cardrona-Howford	
Fireburnmill (FL)	Lindean Loch		

Non-breeding: 140 records in Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec of 1-3 birds from 52 sites. Sites recording three birds were: Black Barony, Cardie Hill (Peebles), R. Teviot at Kalemouth and Tweedbank.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common and widespread breeder noted in 63% of tetrads, possibly 900-1,000 pr. Some large counts August-September with limited passage near coast. During 2008-13 found in 45% of tetrads in summer and 56% in winter.

442 records from 300 sites. 389 records in 2014.

Jan-Mar: 107 sites, nearly all single birds, occasionally two.

Acreknowe Farm (Hawick); Ale Mill; Allanton; Ancrum; Ashybank; Auchencrow; Bassendean; Bemersyde Moss; Birgham; Black Barony; Blackburn; Borthaugh; Burnmouth; Cardrona; Caverton Mill; Charter Plantation; Cherrytrees; Chesters; Cleikimin; Coldingham; Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth; Coldstream; Cringletie; Cunzierton; Denholm; East Newton (Whitsome); Eddestone; Edrington Castle; Edrom; Eyemouth; Fairliehope; Fancove Head ; Folly Loch; The Glen (Traquair); Granites Road; Greenhill; Greenlaw; Haud Yauds (Coldingham Moor); Heathery Carr coast; Heckieburn pools; Heiton; Hendersyde (Kelso); Heughhead (Reston); Hiltonshill; Hirsle Estate; Homebank (Birgham); Horndean (Ladykirk); Houndwood ; Hume Castle; Hundleshope; Hundleshope; Kingsknowe Roundabout; Kirk Yetholm; Lamberton; Lamberton Beach; Langton Lees; Lanton Woods; Leadburn Community Wood; Leithen Hopes; Lennelhill Crossroads; Lightfield Farm; Linton Bankhead; Lumsdaine Shore; Lurgiescleuch; Lustruther; Mellerstain; Mendick/Ingraston; Merrylaw; Middlesknowes; Mire Loch; Newmains; Newmill (Hawick); Newton Don (Kelso); North Riccalton; Paxton House; Paxton Village; Peebles, Jenny's Brae; Peniel Heugh; Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay; Portmore; Renton House (Grantshouse); Reston; Roxburgh; Ruecastle; Rutherford Burnside; Samieston; Selkirk; Selkirk Hill; Simprim; Smailholm; Souter-Pettico Wick; South Park Wood; Sprouston; St Boswells; Swinnie; Swinton; Teviot, Kalemouth; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh; Towford; Tweed: Sprouston-Redden; Upper Samieston; Watch Water; Westfield pools; Whitsome Hill; Wills Cleuch Head (Tweedsmuir); Wondy Gowl (West Linton); Yetholm Loch.

Breeding season: records from 90 sites. Casual records of confirmed breeding evidence from 4 sites: Dewar Hill on 25/6; Fairliehope On 27/5; Redfordgreen on 24/7 and St Abb's Head on 19/6.



Kestrel at
Birgham
Bill Meikle.

Kestrel Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (Alan Leitch). Note: following refers to both Borders and Lothian.

Site/territories checked	Site/territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged/occupied site	No. young fledged /successful pair
33	25	23	90	3.6	4.1

Site occupation is more than double that of last year, and this increase is apparent in both areas where most of the records come from, i.e. the Lammermuirs as well as the Pentlands. This largely disproves my suggestion last year that nest boxes might be giving an artificially low indication of occupancy.

Fledging success is broadly similar to last year, which had 3.5 young/occupied site, and 4.5 per successful pair.

While only time will tell, the figures this year support the general impression from casual sightings that Kestrels may be staging a bit of a recovery.

Thanks are due to Graham Anderson, Tom Dougall, and Mike McDowall for providing breeding records.

Sep-Dec: 145 records from 108 sites.

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.

Jan-Mar: 4 records from Paxton House on 2/1; Preston on 15/1; Yetholm Loch on 27/1 and Westloch (Portmore) on 29/3.

Breeding season: 10 sightings between Apr-Aug with one with probable breeding and one with confirmed breeding.

Merlin Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (Alan Heavisides). Note that following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

The weather was reasonable in early April but was generally poor and unsettled thereafter. This is likely to have affected breeding success of Merlins throughout the region. Birds were present at a number of sites early on suggesting breeding but they had disappeared later in the season. Interesting news from the Kielder (Northumberland) Merlin study area where from 9 occupied sites only one young fledged. The worst record since the study began which must be over 40 years ago. This was primarily thought to be because of the awful weather in that area over the crucial period. Coverage was quite good in the Pentlands and also in the South of Tweed area. For the first year since the Foot and Mouth disease year the Lammermuirs were not monitored by group members. The Moorfoots, disappointingly again, produced no known successful nesting attempts. An additional surveyor helped increase the coverage somewhat.

Lammermuirs

Normally around 27 known old sites are monitored for occupation. This year the area was not monitored by group members and the only known details were supplied by a keeper and a windfarm consultant. From these sketchy details it seems that at least four pairs probably attempted to breed but the only reliable report of success was at one site where two fledged young were seen by a keeper.

The study which started in 1984 was discontinued this year. This decision was prompted by two of the estates withdrawing permission to drive on the estate roads. Relationships between the surveyors and some of the keepers have cooled in recent years and without their full cooperation it was decided the monitoring would be problematic particularly as the study has become more difficult as Merlin numbers have gradually declined over the years. Some of the estates seemed

however, to remain reasonably supportive and the little information we have has come from one of the keepers.

Moorfoots

Six known old sites and surrounding areas were monitored this year. A pair showed clear signs of occupation at one site in April, including mobbing a passing Buzzard and were seen until mid-June, suggesting nesting, but this was never confirmed and if occurred they presumably failed. Early reports by keepers of birds were received from two other sites but nothing was found to confirm breeding was attempted. Perhaps these were early failures.

Although not as thoroughly monitored as in the past it is looking as if Merlins are now, at best, scarce breeders in this large grouse moorland area where previously several pairs were regularly breeding.

Pentlands

An increase to 19 in the number of known old sites, or areas suspected of breeding in the past, were checked this year. Not quite as successful as last year as only two sites (three last year) were known to have succeeded in raising young.

The two successful nests were in trees and successfully raising 9 young to ringing age. Pairs were located at two other woods but either didn't nest or failed early. A Kestrel nested in one of these woods. Single birds were seen in two other possible nesting areas but nothing came of these and a Buzzard used the nest in one.

It is a long time since we had confirmed ground nesting in these hills and there is still potential for some further regular monitoring in this area.

Of the two confirmed breeding sites which were both successful one was in Lothian and the other in South Lanarkshire.

South of Tweed

At least 10 known sites or breeding areas were checked. Although good signs of breeding were noted in April/May it seems that at four sites birds either did not breed or perhaps more likely failed at the egg stage quite possibly because of the poor weather during the crucial period. Two nests of five eggs were found and all hatched but unfortunately one brood was predated at the young stage with signs suggesting a mammal, perhaps a fox, being responsible. The other nest produced five young which were ringed and likely fledged. At least one fledged young was present at a later date. No records of tree nesting were received this year.

NB. There is a lot of uncertainty and incomplete information this season. Little coverage in a previously well monitored area and probably a number of weather related early failures means the table below gives a rather sketchy summary:

	Sites/territories checked	Sites/territories occupied	Territories with known live young when last visited and/or known to have fledged	Min. young last seen alive in nest and/or fledged	No. young/successful territory
Lammermuirs	*	4 (min)	1 (min)	2+	-
Moorfoots	6	1-3	0	0	0
South of Tweed	10	4-6	1 ¹	5	5
Pentlands	19	4-6	2	9	4.5

* not monitored by group; ¹ one other ringed brood predated.

With thanks to additional contributors: Graham Anderson, Andrew Barker, Keith Burgoyne, Martin Davison, Tom Dougall, Tom Edwards, Martin Moss, Ian Poxton, Helen Riley, Andrew Sandeman, Clive Walton.

Sep-Dec: there were 8 records from 8 sites submitted.

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.

Two records: Innerleithen on 16/5; Chirnside on 9/7. Another bird was reported from NT9047 (Norham) on 5/6 via BirdTrack but no clear indication was given as to whether this was in Borders or in Northumberland.

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.

80 records from 60 tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
No. of records	17	2	4	10	10	2	8	4	8	3	3	9

Peregrine Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (George Smith). Note: following refers to both Borders and Lothian.

Site/territories checked	Site/territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged/occupied site	No. young fledged /successful pair
152	60	50	66+	1.1	2.0

This season was probably one of the worst on record for this region since the early 60s, despite an increase in sites by 1 since 2014 and the same number of occupied sites (at 60) as 2013. 6 sites were also occupied by singles birds.

Eggs were laid at 50 sites and hatched at 35, although only 33 sites produced fledged young.

Productivity dropped from 1.96 to 1.1 young per territorial pair and dropped from 2.43 to 2.0 young per productive pair.

100+ young were reared in 2014 and 66 young reared in 2015 We observed an increase in 2 egg clutches this year, and a return to cracked eggs in nests. 2 pairs failed to lay until mid-May with clutches of 1 and 2 both of which failed to hatch.

The general impression is one of adults not being in condition at the start of the breeding season, though the winter weather was not severe. The PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tagging went on relentlessly with the assistance of Mike McGrady this year, and Malcolm Henderson provided a lot of encouragement and welcome support in the South of the Region.

The results of the trapping/PIT tagging study are not complete for this season, but in general there was reasonable stability in the adult birds.

We lost a few of our long and short term residents, but with no inter site movements. We did manage to capture two new ringed females, both birds having been reared in the region in previous years.

Thanks to all who provided data, it adds up to great coverage of our area.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Very scarce passage migrant. Not annual.

A single bird was seen at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) between 20-30/8.

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.

Two records each of a single bird: Broomdykes (Whitsome) on 16/3 and at Peebles on 8/12.

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).

243 records from 135 tetrads.

Jan-Mar: largest counts were Hummelknowes (Hawick) (9), Eyemouth (8), Granites Road (Moorfoot Hills) (7), Lower Burnmouth (5) and Westloch (5).

Breeding season: records from 61 tetrads with no records of confirmed or probable breeding. Counts of 4 from Leadburn Community Wood and Heriot.

Sep-Dec: records from 51 tetrads. Largest counts were Kaimend (Hawick) (10), Lambertton Moor (5), Burnmouth/Cowdrait (4) and Stewarton (Eddleston) (4).

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.

170 records from 116 tetrads. 192 records in 2014.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	5	4	3	10	2	1	1	2	2	4	3	4
No of sites	22	15	5	14	11	11	1	7	11	19	17	12
Location of highest count	Wilyrigg Strips (Jedburgh)	Spital Tower (Bedrule)	Ramseycleuch (Craik Forest)	Fountainheads (Earlston)	Pyatshaw (Lauder); Bowshiel (Grantshouse)	Various	Harcus (Eddleston)	Harehope Loch (Eddleston); Huntford (Carter Bar)	Huntford; Glentress	Blackhouse (St Mary's Loch)	Crailinghall; Folly Loch	Paxton House; Broomhouse Mains (Preston)

No records of confirmed or probable breeding. Other sites with records were: Aikengall Water; Ale Mill; Ale Moor Moss; Ancrum Bridge; Ashkirk Loch; Barnhills Moor; Barnhills Moor (Ancrum); Birkenside; Black Barony; Blackburn Mill (Abbey St Bathans; Bonchester Bridge; Bridgeheugh (Selkirk); Broomdykes; Butterhall; Caddonfoot; Cademuir Hill; Cauldshiels Loch; Chesters Grange; Chirside; Cranshaws, Bushelhill; Darnhall Pond; Dawyck; Denholmhill; Dunglass and; Duns Law; Easter Fodderlee; Eddleston; Edrom; Fatlips Castle; Fireburnmill; Folly Loch; Glen; Glenlude; Glenormiston; Glentress; Gordon Community Woodland; Gordon Moss; Grantshouse; Hallmanor Forest; Hartwoodburn; Haswellsykes; Hawick; Hells Hole; Hirsell Lake; Horndean, Winfield; Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm); Innerleithen; Kalemouth; Kelso-Roxburgh; Linthill; Little Dod; Longformacus; Mellerstain; Menzion; Minto Glen; Muirhouselaw; Neidpath Woods; Nisbet; Old Cambus Wood;

Oliver; Ormiston House; Pease Dean; Peebles, Soonhope; Plora East; Preston Plantation; Shankend; Shielshaugh; Soonhope; Sprouston (Kelso); Sunlaws Mill; Swinnie; Tintah; Teviot Broom; The Hirsell; Tod's Dean; Toxside Moss; Traquair; Tweed: Sprouston-Redden; Tweedbank; White Gate Wood; Windy Gowl (West Linton); Winfield Sewage Works; Wollrig Cottage; Yair-Three Brethren-Brown Knowe-Elibank Law; Year Hill Forest (Selkirk); Yetholm Loch.

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 .

Records from 107 tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	200	200	200	100	40	88	21	200	96	300	46	110
No. of sites	35	50	27	61	68	51	14	13	35	32	19	19
Location of highest count	Tweedbank	Huddleshope (Manor Valley)	Tweedbank	Tower Burn Marsh (Manor Valley)	Bemersyde Moss	Tweedbank	Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston	Tushielaw	Innerleithen	Kippielaw Estates	Tweedbank	Peebles

Probable and confirmed breeding limited to 10 records:

Cairncross	25/03	N	Allanton	27/04	B
Hawick	05/04	N	Hawick	29/04	N
Dawyck	11/04	B	Carlops Lime Kiln	27/05	ON (8)
Traquair House Pond	13/04	B	Fireburnmill	16/06	NY
Tweedbank	13/04	B	Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston	23/07	FL

See Introduction for BTO breeding codes.

During breeding season (mid-Mar to Aug) there were records from 72 tetrads.

Other sites with 70 or more counts were: Manor Sware (150 on 28/1); Dunglass (120 on 4/10); Leadburn Community Wood (96 on 3/12); Portmore, Loch Hill (86 on 10/2); Whitrig Bog (70 on 6/2).

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.

Records from 89 tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	150	223	100	110	90	100	300	14	50	25	92	90
No of tetrads with records	19	38	25	46	41	33	9	8	25	26	19	18
Location of highest count	Manor Sware	Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston	Cademuir (Manor Valley)	Eddleston Water: Crigletie -Milkieston	Earlyvale (Eddleston)	Cockmuir (Portmore Loch)	Glenrath Hope (Manor Valley)	Eddleston Water: Crigletie-Milkieston	Innerleithen	Dunglass	Eddleston Water: Crigletie-Milkieston	Foulden, Greenlaw farm Pond

Other counts of 100 and more were: Tweed: Sprouston-Redden (125 on 14/1); Portmore Loch (110 on 19/1); Hundleshope (200 on 26/2); Eddleston Water: Cringletie-Milkieston (142 on 14/2); Portmore, Loch Hill (140 on 10/2) and Bemersyde Back Road (150 on 29/7).

Breeding evidence was reported from 27 sites:

Tweedbank	4/2	N	Paxton House	20/04	ON
Philiphaugh	25/2	N (20)	Glentress road-end	24/04	ON (16)
Hawick , Wilton Lodge Park	14/3	B (9)	Leadburn	24/04	ON (17)
Selkirk, Ettrick Terrace	14/3	B (3)	Walkerburn E	24/04	ON (24)
Glenmayne House	14/3	B (23)	Foulden	24/04	ON
Cairncross	25/3	B (9)	Dunglass	25/04	ON
Peebles South-east	30/3	ON (90)	Hawick	29/04	ON
Tweed: Melrose, St Helens	1/4	N (20)	Mordington Holdings	01/05	ON (13)
Eddleston-Milkieston	6/4	N 924)	Denholm	10/05	ON
Winkston Farm (Peebles)	6/4	ON (51)	Earlyvale (Eddleston)	11/05	ON (54)
Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall	8/4	N (16)	Grantshouse	12/05	ON
Howford	13/4	ON (15)	Bow Farm (Galashiels)	21/05	ON
Innerleithen, St Ronan's Wells	13/4	ON (33)	Melrose	29/05	ON
Tweedbank	14/4	ON			

See Introduction for BTO codes.

However, from Feb-Aug counts were made in 71 tetrads.

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.

Records from 142 tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	1,000	47	9	43	19	35	30	20	27	21	42	31
No. of tetrads	41	39	28	56	70	47	13	18	32	23	27	27
Location of highest counts	Gavinton	Folly Loch	Tweedbank	Tweed: Innerleithen-Walkerburn	Tweed: Eshiels-Peebles, Jennie's Brae	Tweed: Cardrona-Eshiels	St Abb's Head	Eddleston Water: Cringletie-Milkieston	Black Barony	Tweedbank	Tweedbank	Leadburn Community Wood

Breeding: probable and confirmed breeding limited to nine tetrads:

Tweedbank	07/04	B	Hawick	01/06	FL
Lamberton	20/04	ON	Lamberton (1)	01/06	NY
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	01/05	ON	Marygold	04/06	NY
Linghope Burn	04/05	ON	Leadburn Community Wood	08/06	FL
Cowieslinn Quarry Pond	11/05	ON			

During the breeding season (Apr-Aug) there were reports from 112 tetrads.

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.

No reports of pure Hooded Crows but two of hybrid Hooded-Carrion: Harehope House North Pond (Eddleston) on 3/8 and at Nether Falla on 6/12.

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).

Records from 76 tetrads.

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Highest count	7	8	5	34
No. of tetrads with records	30	18	28	24
No. of tetrads with breeding records	5	6	0	0
Tetrads at coast	8	2	5	2
Tetrads in Lammermuirs	1	5	4	0
Tetrads in Moorfoots	4	3	5	4
Tetrads in Pentlands	0	1	0	3
Tetrads in Tweedsmuir Hills	4	2	4	4
Tetrads in Cheviots	3	3	5	5

Raven Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2015 (George Smith). Note that following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

Site/territories checked	Site/territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged/occupied site	No. young fledged /successful pair
54	33	32	77	2.77	3.18

The Raven population continues to spread geographically, with 97 known sites now in Lothian and Borders.

There was improved coverage for at least the 3rd year in succession, 54 sites checked in 2015, as opposed to 42 the previous year. As ever, more observers are needed to cover known sites. Pairs occupied 43 sites, with no singles. Eggs were laid at 33 sites, all but one clutch hatching, and 28 broods fledged.

Productivity dropped slightly from last year's high; with 77 young fledged (86 in 2014) from 32 successful sites, giving 2.77 per occupied site (2.77 in 2014), and 3.18 per successful pair against 3.19 in 2014.

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.

Recorded in 74 tetrads.

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
--	---------	---------	---------	---------

Highest count	7	9	27	40
No. of tetrads with records	33	47	24	31
Locations of highest counts	Black Barony; Dunglass	Tweed: Cardrona-Howford	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	Dowlaw (Reston)

The above table shows clearly evidence of the autumn passage of birds from Scandinavia.

Breeding evidence was limited to a mere eight tetrads – obviously an under-representation. However, not always an easy species for which to find probable or confirmed breeding evidence.

Tweedbank	14/04	B	Rhymer Stone (Melrose)	30/05	S
Denholm	10/05	S	Dawyck Botanic Garden	31/05	S
The Hirsell	25/05	S	Tweed: Cardrona-Howford	16/06	FL
Melrose	29/05	S	Fogo	13/07	S
See Introduction for BTO breeding codes					

During Apr-Aug there were 29 tetrads with two or more birds recorded.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant. Not annual

Four records: all from Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) on 13/4, 11/10, 25/10 and 8/11. It is not known whether the autumn records refer to one, two or three birds.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Abundant resident breeder. During 2008-13 found in 64% of tetrads in summer and 69% in winter.

Records from 115 tetrads.

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Highest count	32	23	24	33
No. of tetrads with records	55	75	28	37
Location of highest count	Black Barony	Black Barony	Black Barony	Tweedbank

Blue Tit is obviously a species which is not systematically counted by many observers.

The largest counts beyond the above were: 25 at Hircus on 3/2; 20 at The Hirsell on 22/1; 18 at Jenny's Brae (Peebles) on 2/2; 14 at Tweedbank on 6/4 and 25 at Black Barony on 21/11.

Breeding evidence was limited to 19 tetrads:

P	Hawick Golf Course	10/02	ON	Melrose Holy Trinity	13/05
P	Philiphough	25/02	P	Dunglass Burn	17/05
P	Haining Loch	25/02	FL	Huntford (Carter Bar)	20/05

P	Gathersnow Hill (Tweedsmuir)	19/03	ON	Melrose, town etc	30/05
T	Black Barony	05/04	FF	Lindean Reservoir	04/06
P	Toxside Moss (Portmore)	06/04	A	Nisbet Hill	11/06
N	Tweedbank	14/04	FL	Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall	15/06
S	Bowdenmoor Reservoir	29/04	FL	Traquair House Pond	16/06
FF	Dawyck	10/05	FL	The Hirsell	16/06
T	Galawater-Hazelbank	02/05			

During Apr-Aug there were only 23 tetrads with two or more birds counted. Blue Tit is an under-recorded species in Borders and readers are encouraged to include sightings (with evidence of breeding) along with other records.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common resident breeder. During 2008-13 found in 61% of tetrads in summer and 62% in winter.

Records came from 125 tetrads.

As with Blue Tits, Great Tits are rarely counted and recorded in any systematic way. This is well illustrated in the table below. The pre-eminence of the Black Barony is a reflection, less because it has ideal habitat for the species but more because it was regularly and methodically surveyed by the late Ray Murray.

As with Blue Tits and all other under-recorded species, readers are encouraged to include sightings (with evidence of breeding) along with other records.

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Nov
Highest count	23	19	14	12
No. of tetrads with records	80	88	28	31
Location of site with highest count	Black Barony	Black Barony	Black Barony	Black Barony

The largest counts beyond the above were: 20 at Kirtonfield (Manor Valley) on 28/1; 13 at The Hirsell on 22/1; 12 at Tweedbank on 3/2; 10 at Dunglass and on 7/2; 12 at Dawyck on 10/5 and 10 at Galawater-Hazelbank on 2/5.

Breeding evidence came from 18 tetrads, again reflecting the under-recorded nature of this species:

S	Dunglass	07/02	B	Lamberton	06/05
S	Fairliehope (Carlops)	12/02	S	The Hirsell	25/05
N	Huntford	08/03	S	Cockmuir (Portmore)	03/06
T	Black Barony	05/04	FF	Lindean Reservoir	04/06
P	Hawick	05/04	NY	Gordon Moss	09/06

S	Melrose Holy Trinity	05/04	FL	Tweed: Cardrona-Eshiels	11/06
P	Dawyck	11/04	P	Nisbet Hill	11/06
P	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	14/04	P	Eddleston Water: Shiphorns - Darnhall	15/06
T	Galawater-Hazelbank	02/05	FL	Fireburnmill	16/06
See Introduction for BTO breeding codes					

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Abundant resident breeder. During 2008-13 found in 70% of tetrads in summer and 76% in winter.

Records from 120 tetrads.

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Highest count	17	12	16	4
No. of tetrads with records	61	65	28	27
Location of site with highest count	Black Barony	Dawyck	Harehope Forest (Peebles)	Tweedbank; Black Barony; Berryfell (Stobs Castle)

The largest counts beyond the above were: 16 at Cardie Hill (Peebles) on 2/2 and 10 at Paxton House on 22/4.

Records during the breeding season came from 70 tetrads but, as with Blue Tit and Great Tit there were very few actual records involving actual breeding evidence.

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.

Only two records (three in 2014), both from Haining Loch (Selkirk) on 1/7 and 14/9. However, fairly regular sightings on the Borders-Northumberland border at New Mills Wood on Whiteadder Water – literally tens of metres from the actual border.

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.

Records from 110 tetrads.

	Jan-Feb	Mar-Aug	Sep-Dec
Highest count	54	75	34
No. of tetrads with records	14	96	16
Location of highest count	Cove Bay	Dunglass	Coldingham

--	--	--	--

Other counts of 15 and above were: 22 at Dowlaw Road on 20/1; 25 at East Loch on 9/6; 20 at Heiton on 13/11 and 15 at Cockmuir on 1/11.

As usual, the largest counts were associated with pre- and post-breeding aggregations, often along the coast.

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.

Records from 67 tetrads.

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Highest count	5	553	1,650	0
No. of tetrads with records	3	64	13	0
Location of site with highest counts	Edenmouth (Kelso)	Yetholm Loch	Hule Moss	

Other sites with large counts were: 911 at Paxton House; 560 at Bemersyde-Folly Loch; 250 at Newmains (Reston); 200 at Eshiels (Cardrona); 150 at Mertoun Bridge (St Boswells); 80 at Bowdenmoor Reservoir; 80 at Easter Haprew (Peebles); 56 at Tweed: Howford-Leithenwaterfoot; 50 at Portmore Loch; 50 at Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston.

A total of 791 active burrows were recorded (about double of the count for 2014):

290	Birgham Haugh	12	Selkirk
2	Blackhopebyre (Innerleithen)	5	Southpark Wood (Peebles)
8	Carlops south	105	Tweed - Cardrona to Howford
4	Carlophill Farm	56	Tweed - Howford to Leithenwaterfoot
40	Easter Haprew (Peebles)	33	Tweed: Cardrona-Eshiels
44	Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston	15	Watch Water
164	Mertoun Bridge (St Boswells)		

The first sighting was on 15/3 at Whiteadder Water, Cawderstones and the last record was on 29/9 at Paxton House.

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.

Records from 120 tetrads.

	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Highest count	1,560	1,320	6

No. of tetrads with records	145	58	3
Location of highest count	Paxton House	Bemersyde Moss	Nisbet

Other sites with counts of 50 and more: 511 at Yetholm Loch; 320 at Hule Moss; 200 at Gavinton; 150 at Watch Water; 105 at Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston; 60 at Fruid Reservoir; 60 at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); 60 at Redheugh Glen & Cottages (Coldingham Moor); 50 at St Boswells Green. Largest counts correspond to periods of passage.

May-Aug (breeding period) had records from 99 tetrads.

Earliest record was on 7/4 at Newmains (Reston) and the latest record was on 17/11 at Eyemouth Bay.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common & widespread summer visitor. Mostly April-October. During 2008-13 found in 56% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 73 tetrads.

	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Highest count	1,170	320	1
No. of tetrads with records	72	39	2
Location of highest count	Paxton House	Yetholm Loch	Clovenfords: Lamberton

Other sites with counts above 50 were: 60 at Holly Bush Farm Pond; 60 at Kittlegairy (Peebles); 60 at Mire Loch (St. Abb's Head); 60 at Glen House; 50 at Tweedbank.

During the breeding season records came from 57 tetrads. The earliest sighting was on 14/4 at Tweedbank and the latest record was on 7/11 at Lamberton.

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.

Records from 54 tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	16	20	8	5	6	4	-	c. 5	10	20	12	15
No. of tetrads with records	19	17	19	20	15	9	-	1	8	11	9	13
Location of highest count	Teviot: Kelso- Roxburgh	Gala Hill	Grantshouse	Bemersyde	Melrose	Heiton; Dawyck		Gattonside- Earlston	Folly Loch	Huntford (Carter Bar)	Tweedbank	Melrose; Thornielaw (St

1	Coldingham Bay	6/10	1	Pease Bay	13/10
3	St Abbs Village	6/10	7	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	13/10
8	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	6/10	2	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	15/10
2	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	9/10	3	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	16/10
			1	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	17/10

There are some notable features in the above table:

- A sighting in Jan is a first for Borders
- Two inland sightings reported (Windy Gowl and Selkirk) are also new records for Borders
- 46 bird-days is also a Border record.

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.

Two records: a single at Plora Woods (Innerleithen) on 4/6 and another single at St Abb's Head on 24/8.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Increasingly well-represented 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.

Records from 136 tetrads.

From 8/3 to end of month records came from 16 tetrads (counts of two and one), the majority located in Berwickshire.

Apr-Aug: records from 80 tetrads. Counts of more than five:

22	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	10/05	7	Dunglass	16/04
10	Springwood Estate (Kelso)	09/04	6	R Tweed: Newstead-Tweedbank	05/04
9	Tweedbank	14/04	6	Lambden-Leitholm	07/04
9	Barnhills Moor (Ancrum)	20/04	6	The Hirsell	12/04
8	Tweed: Cardrona-Howford	13/04	6	Abbotsford	17/05
7	Paxton House	10/04	6	Black Barony	19/05

There were no confirmed breeding records.

Sep-Dec: records from 25 tetrads. Latest record was on 27/12 at Dunglass (presumably an over-wintering bird). Highest counts were 20 at Yair-Three Brethren-Brown Knowe-Elibank Law on 16/9, 19 at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) on 6/10 and 12 at Redheugh Glen & Cottages (Coldingham Moor) on 13/9. Unknown whether these sightings were of local or passage birds.

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.

Records from 133 tetrads.

First reported sighting was on 8/4 at Yarrow. During April records came from 40 tetrads with the highest counts from:

14	Leadburn Community Wood	24/04	6	Thornielee Car Park	23/04
13	Tweed: Innerleithen-Walkerburn	24/04	6	Tweedbank	24/04

10	Black Barony	21/04	5	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	14/04
8	St Abb's Head	23/04	5	Tweedbank	18/04
			5	Paul's Well (West Linton)	21/04

May-Aug: Records came from 75 tetrads. Counts greater than five came from:

25	Tweed: Cardrona-Eshiels	11/06	9	Paul's Well (West Linton)	18/06
21	Lindean Reservoir	04/06	8	Loch Tima (Craik Forest)	30/06
17	St Abb's Head	10/05	6	Tweed: Eshiels-Jennie's Brae (Peebles)	07/05
16	Leadburn Community Wood	15/05	6	Plora East (Innerleithen)	20/05
16	Black Barony	19/05	6	Paul's Well (West Linton)	12/06
10	New Belses (Ancrum)	18/05	6	Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords)	23/06
10	Tweed: Cardrona-Howford	16/06	6		

Only five records of confirmed breeding.

Sep-Dec: records from 10 tetrads. Records came from:

15	Redheugh Glen & Cottages	13/9	1	Leadburn Community Wood	16/9
4	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	13/9	1	Yair-Three Brethren-Brown Knowe-Elibank Law	16/9
3	Bemersyde Moss	08/9	1	Lindean Loch (Selkirk)	09/9
1	Wollrig Cottage (Selkirk)	06/9	1	Lamberton	17/9
1	Fancove Head (Eyemouth)	7/9			

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.

Records came from 88 tetrads.

Jan-Mar: singles at Buxley (Duns) on 15/1 and at Kelso on 24/2.

April-Aug: records came from 78 tetrads (91 in 2014). Counts of four and more:

18	The Hirsell	27/04	5	Tweed: Cardrona-Howford	16/06
9	Tweed: Eshiels-Jennie's Brae	07/05	4	Monteviot	16/04
9	Tweed: Cardrona-Eshiels	11/06	4	Eddleston Water: Cringletie-Kidston	01/05
8	Dawyck	23/05	4	Abbotsford	17/05
7	Tweedbank	23/05	4	Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm)	17/05
6	Paxton House	22/04	4	Black Barony	19/05
5	Neidpath Woods	13/05	4	Plora East (Innerleithen)	20/05
5	Harcus (Portmore)	15/06	4	Tweed: Innerleithen-Walkerburn	20/05

Sep-Dec: records came from 11 tetrads:

5	Black Barony	15/09	1	Eyemouth Golf Course	11/10
3	Redheugh Glen & Cottages	13/09	1	Lower Burnmouth	01/11
3	Leadburn Community Wood	16/09	1	Peebles	13/12

3	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	23/09	1	Coldstream	15/12
2	Innerleithen	01/10	1	Dunglass	27/12
1	St Abbs village	06/10			

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).

Records from 29 tetrads. First report was on 13/4 from near Dryburgh, followed by St Abb's Head on 23/4 and Triangle Wood (Earlston) on 28/4.

May-Aug: records from 20 tetrads (16 tetrads in 2014):

11	St Abbs Head	24/08	1	Eddleston	19/05
2	Paul's Well (West Linton)	29/06	1	Tweedbank	25/05
1	Smailholm	01/05	1	The Hirsell	25/05
1	Bemersyde Moss	01/05	1	Georgefield/Earlston High School	28/05
1	Innerleithen	07/05	1	Gordon Moss	09/06
1	Dawyck	10/05	1	Tweed: Cardrona-Eshiels	11/06
1	Neidpath Woods	13/05	1	Birgham Haugh	12/06
1	Whitlaw Moss	13/05	1	Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm)	20/06
1	New Belses (Ankrum)	18/05	1	Bowland (Galashiels)	23/06
1	Black Barony	19/05	1	Yetholm Loch	13/07

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Very scarce but not quite annual autumn passage migrant.

Two records, both from Mire Loch (St Abb's Head): 24-26/8 and 10/9.

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.

Seven records, all from Berwickshire. Obviously much under-recorded:

1	Newmains Reston)	23/04	3	St Abb's Head	24/08
2	St Abb's Head	10/05	2	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	06/10
1	St Abb's Head	16/05	2	Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)	11/10
1	Dunglass	17/05	0		

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.

Records from 36 tetrads. First report was on 23/4 at Gordon Moss and at Newmains (Reston). The last record was on 11/10 at Eyemouth Golf Course.

Abbotsford	Cringletie-Kidston	Lower Burnmouth
Ale Mill	Eddleston-Milkieston	Mire Loch (St. Abb's Head)
Allanton	Ettrick Water	Mordington Holdings
Angelrow Farm Cottage	Eyemouth Golf Course	Nenthorn
Bemersyde Back Road	Gordon Moss	New Belses (Ankrum)
Bemersyde-Whitrigbog	Graden	Paul's Well (West Linton)
Birgham Haugh	Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm)	Selkirk Hill

Bowden Moor Loch	Huntford (Carter Bar)	Shawbraes (Reston)
Bowshiel	Innerleithen	Smailholm
Bushel Hill-Godscoft Track	Lamberton	Turfford Burn, Earlston High School
Cairncross (Reston)	Leadburn Community Wood	Tweedbank
Cheeklaw, Duns	Lindean Reservoir	Whiteadder, Preston Bridge

Apr-Aug: a mere 36 tetrads (cf. an already small number of 66 in 2014). Confirmed breeding was reported from only five locations. Obviously an extremely under-recorded species.

After August reports came from five sites. Throughout the year the only significant count was of 15 at St Abb's Head on 10/5. All other counts were of less than five.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Scarce summer visitor & passage migrant April-early September. During 2008-13 found in 7% of tetrads in summer.

Six records from six different sites:

1	The Hirsell	06/05	1	Yetholm, Yetholm Loch	24/06
2	Whitlaw Moss	13/05	1	Minch Moor (Traquair)	06/07
1	Huntford (Carter Bar)	13/05	1	Gordon Moss	12/07

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Rare passage migrant.

Sighting on 24/8 at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head). Single was reported from same site in 2014. Before that the first specifically identified record was in 2008 (also from St Abb's Head). In 2010 a bird thought to be an Icterine Warbler, but not positively identified, was seen at Lamberton.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer visitor to wet areas, April-September. During 2008-13 found in 29% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 43 tetrads (78 tetrads in 2014). First report on 23/4 at The Hirsell and last report on 5/9 at Paxton House.

Bemersyde Moss	Hare Moss	St Abbs
Black Barony	Heiton	The Hirsell
Bluestane Ford (Allanton)	Houndwood	Tima Loch
Broomdykes (Allanton)	Innerleithen	Toxside Moss (Portmore)
Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	Ladyrig Pond	Triangle Wood (Earlston)
Coldingham Loch	Leadburn Community Wood	Turfford Burn, Earlston High School
Ditcher Law (Lauderdale)	Leet Water (Coldstream)	Tweed: Cardrona-Eshiels
Eccles (Kelso)	Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	Tweed: Cardrona-Howford
Eddleston Water, Darnhall to Eddleston	Nether Stewarton Upper Pond	Tweed: Eshiels-Jennie's Brae (Peebles)
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	New Belses (Ancrum)	Tweed: Innerleithen-Walkerburn
Edington Mains (Chirnside)	Newmains (Reston)	Tweedbank
Elwartlaw (Greenlaw)	Paxton House	Wiselaw Mill (Oxton)
Gordon Moss	Prendergust (Chirnside)	Yetholm Loch
Graden (Yetholm)	Selkirk Hill	
Green Diamonds (Selkirk)	St Abb's Head	

The highest counts reported were:

13	St Abb's Head	7	Tweed - Cardrona to Eshiels
10	Coldingham Loch	7	Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie
8	Bluestane Ford (Allanton)	6	Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)

Again, an extremely under-recorded species. Readers are encouraged to report sightings of this readily detected species.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Very scarce and erratic winter visitor. Not annual. During 2008-13 found in 6% of tetrads in winter.

On 20/1 at Lamberton a single bird and on 14/3 six birds at Bastleridge (Ayton).

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.

Records from 137 tetrads (11% of total). There were records from 97 tetrads in 2014.

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Highest count	7	9	8	6
No. of tetrads with records	68	101	32	37
Location of highest count	Black Barony	Glenkinnon Burn (Caddonfoot)	Black Barony	Tweedbank

Other sites with counts of four and above:

8	Abbotsford House Grounds	5	Harcus (Eddleston)
4	Bowland (Galashiels)	4	Melrose
8	Dawyck	6	Neidpath
4	Duns Law	7	Paxton House
4	Eddleston	5	Peebles, Fotheringham Foot Bridge
5	Fountainheads (Earlston)	4	Selkirk, Carrotfield Plantation
4	Haining Loch	8	The Hirsell
		7	Tweed: Newstead-Tweedbank

Apr-Aug (breeding) reported sightings from 110 tetrads.

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.

Records from 83 tetrads (7% of total).

	Tetrads with records	Locations of highest counts
Jan-Mar	29	Dunglass, 2; Barnhills Moor (Denholm), 2; Linthill, 2; Tweedbank, 2; Bluestane Ford (Chirnside), 2; Jedburgh, 2.
Apr-Jun	39	Neidpath, 5; Harden Burn (Hawick), 3.
Jul-Sep	14	Harcus (Eddleston), 5; Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge, 4.
Oct-Dec	15	St Abb's Head, 3; Harcus (Eddleston), 3.

Breeding season (Apr-Aug) had records from 41 tetrads, cf. 25 in 2014.



Treecreeper at Black Barony. Ray Murray

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Abundant & widespread resident. Some passage in autumn. During 2008-13 found in 88% of tetrads in summer and 80% in winter.

Records from 180 tetrads (14%). A notable reduction from the Atlas period of 2008-13.

	Tetrads with records	Locations of highest counts
Jan-Mar	84	Hundleshope (Manor Valley), 12; Dunglass-Pease Bay, 11; Tweedbank, 7; Burnmouth-Border, 7; Black Barony, 7.
Apr-Jun	149	Black Barony, 31; Tweed: Cardrona-Eshiels, 26; Tweed: Cardrona-Howford, 21; Leadburn Community Wood, 18; Paxton House, 17.
Jul-Sep	45	Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie, 21; Marcus (Eddleston), 18; Harehope Loch (Peebles), 8; Tweedbank, 6.
Oct-Dec	56	Tweedbank, 14; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie, 11; Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston, 8; Leadburn Community Wood, 7.

Repetition of many of the highest-count sites suggests that any distribution indicated is as much a reflection of regular surveys at these sites than perhaps an indication of where the greatest number of Wrens are likely to be found.

Breeding (Apr-Aug) had records from 159 tetrads (161 in 2014). Confirmed breeding from only 12 tetrads.

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.

Records from 112 tetrads (only 9% of all tetrads).

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	45	Whitfield (West Linton), 1300; Kelso, 550; Lamberton, 300; Gavinton, 300; Eddleston, 220; Cardrona, 150; Milton Fields (Manor Valley), 100; Whitrigbog-Westfield, 80; Nisbet, 80.
Apr-Jun	66	Eyemouth, 500; Eddleston, 80; Dam Head Rig (Traquair); Whitrigbog, 40; Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston, 37.
Jul-Sep	23	Watch Water (Longformacus), 400; Gavinton, 300; Whitsome, 250; Leadburn Community Wood, 221; Kelso, 200; Williestruther Loch (Hawick), 80; Folly Loch, 70.
Oct-Dec	29	Ladylands (Selkirk), 4500; Black Barony, 558; Folly Loch, 400; Hardiesmill (Gordon); Harly Darlies (Coldingham Moor), 200; Leadburn Community Wood, 128; Kelso Cemetery, 100.

Breeding (Apr-Jul): during this period there were records from 70 tetrads (161 tetrads in 2014). Confirmed breeding came from only 14 tetrads.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Common resident along river system. During 2008-13 found in 34% of tetrads in summer and 32% in winter.

Records from 90 tetrads. Over 80% of all records occurred in the Tweed catchment above Kelso.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	46	Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge, 5; Eddleston Water: Cringletie-Milkieston, 4; Tweed: Manor Br-Tweed Br (Peebles), 4; Tweedbank, 3; Innerleithen, 3; Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston, 3; Newstead, 3.
Apr-Jun	52	Fountainheads (Earlston), 4; Eddleston Water: Cringletie-Kidston, 4; Tweed: Innerleithen-Walkerburn, 4; Tweedbank West, 4; Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall, 3; Bluestane Ford (Chirnside), 3.
Jul-Sep	19	Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge, 6; Tweedbank, 2; Tweed: Manor Bridge-Tweed Bridge (Peebles), 2; Yair-Three Brethren-Brown Knowe-Elibank Law, 2.
Oct-Dec	26	Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall, 5; Tweed: Manor Br-Tweed Br (Peebles), 4; Tweedbank, 4; Barnhills (Denholm); Colquhar (Leithen Water), 3; Abbotsford, 3.

Breeding season (Mar-Jul): records from 72 tetrads. Earliest record with confirmed breeding was 9/4 at Bowhill (Yarrow Water). However, there were only 12 records overall of confirmed breeding.

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.

Records from 14 tetrads.

3	Swinchy Cleuch E Wood	18/04	2	Paul's Well (West Linton)	18/06
3	St. Abbs Head NNR	28/04	1	Posso Craig (Manor Valley)	27/03
2	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	14/04	1	Newmains (Reston)	22/04
2	Tweedsmuir, Cramalt Valley	23/04	1	Blackhopebyre (Glentress)	28/05
2	Reds Cleugh (Longformacus)	30/04	1	Dewar (Heriot Water)	28/05
2	Stot Cleugh (Longformacus)	30/04	1	Burnmouth	11/10
2	Langhaugh Hill (Manor Valley)	02/05	1	Deuchar Hill (Yarrow)	01/05

Earliest record was 27/3 in the Manor Valley and latest was at Burnmouth on 11/10. The latest inland sighting was at Paul's Well (West Linton) on 18/6. There were no reports of confirmed breeding. Readers are encouraged to submit breeding status for all records of this species.

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.

Records from 123 tetrads.

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	61	29	37	30	32	29	14	39	40	300	30	32
No. of tetrads with records	33	40	28	70	75	57	15	12	26	30	22	25
Location of site with highest count	Newmains (Reston)	Tweedbank	Newmains (Reston)	Tweedbank	Tweedbank	Tweedbank	Black Barony	Tweedbank	Kelso Racecourse	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	Lower Burnmouth	Tweedbank

Other counts of 15 and above for each month were:

Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh	08/01	50	Langton Mill (Gavinton)	06/06	17
The Hirsell	22/01	40	Duns, Manderston	05/10	20
Tweedbank	03/01	31	Tweedbank	27/10	17
Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	12/02	16	Tweedbank	11/11	29

Melrose	01/02	15	Black Barony	21/11	18
Tweedbank	02/03	28	Harbour Road, Eyemouth	27/12	20
Black Barony	04/05	22	Paxton House	29/12	16

Breeding (Apr-Aug): records from 117 tetrads. Confirmed breeding was reported in 19 tetrads:

Tweedbank	07/04	ON	Melrose	30/05	FF
Lamberton	16/04	NE	Eddleston	31/05	FL
Innerleithen-Leithenwaterfoot	24/04	FF	Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	01/06	FF
Huntford (Carters Bar)	26/04	FF	Lindean Reservoir	04/06	FL
Hawick	30/04	FL	Dawyck	06/06	FF
Broomdykes (Allanton)	04/05	UN	Tweed: Cardrona-Eshiels	11/06	FL
Mordington Holdings (Foulden)	07/05	FF	Tweed: Cardrona-Howford	16/06	FL
The Hirsell	14/05	ON	Tweed: Howford-Leithenwaterfoot	16/06	FL
Penmanshiel Wood	16/05	FL	Fireburnmill (Coldstream)	16/06	FL
See Introduction for BTO breeding codes.			Fleurs (Coldingham)	02/07	FF

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.

Records came from 73 tetrads.

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	300	330	330	180	0	1	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	150
No. of tetrads with records	27	23	13	11	0	1	0	0	0	14	21	12
Location of site with highest count	Minto Glen (Denholm)	Angelrow (Greenlaw)	Darnhall-Harcus (Portmore)	Redfordgreen (Ale Water)		St Abb's Head				Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	Whitrigbog	Angelrow (Greenlaw)

The last sighting (other than the singles seen at St Abb's Head on 8/6 and 14/6) was on 21/4 at Hawick. The first autumn sighting was on 11/10 at Coldingham Bay.

Other sightings of 100 or more birds were:

240	Newmains	24/01	300	Jardinefield (Whitsome)	30/10
230	Angelrow (Greenlaw)	31/01	140	Newmains	26/10
150	Barnhills Moor (Anrum)	11/01	100	Mire Loch (St Abbs Hd)	26/10
135	Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)	25/01	921	Black Barony	12/11
120	Langton Edge (Duns)	11/01	600	Lurdenlaw (Kelso)	07/11

100	Whitrigbog/Westfield	02/01	200	Horndean, Hilton	15/11
100	Middlestead (Selkirk)	25/01	100	Hare Moss	11/11
100	Soutra (Oxton)	15/02	100	Kershopfoot	20/11



Fieldfare at Cairncross (Reston) in November. Ronald Richardson

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.

Records from 113 tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	44	Kalemouth (Nisbet), 5; Tweedbank, 5; Cairncross (Reston), 4; Lamberton, 3; Peebles, 3; Edston (Peebles), 2; Bowhill (Selkirk), 2; Sprouston-Redden, 2; Lindean Reservoir, 2; Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean, 2; St Boswells, 2; Toxside (Portmore), 2; Galashiels, 2; Folly Loch, 2.
Apr-Jun	112	Tweedbank, 12; Dawyck, 6; Innerleithen-Walkerburn, 6; Paul's Well (West Linton), 6; Neidpath Woods, 6; The Hirsell, 5; Cardrona-Eshiels, 5; Black Barony, 4; Cockmuir (Gladhouse), 4; Linthill, 4; Duns, Cheeklaw, 4; Harcus (Portmore), 4; Lamberton, 3; Eshiels-Jenny's Brae (Peebles), 3; Leadburn Community Wood, 3.
Jul-Sep	26	Harcus, 7; Black Barony, 4; Tweedbank, 3; Lamberton, 2; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 2.
Oct-Dec	15	Mire Loch, 20; Manderston (Duns), 20; Lindean Reservoir, 6; Tweedbank, 5; Melrose, 2; Milkieston-Cringletie, 2.

Breeding (Apr-Aug): 120 tetrads with records (exactly same as 2014). Only nine records of confirmed breeding . First record of confirmed breeding was 13/5 (2/5 in 2014) at Huntford (Carter Bar).

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.

Records from 45 tetrads.

Jan-Mar: 39 tetrads with records. Largest counts were 100 at Broomhouse Mains, 50 at Stouslie, 47 at Newmains, 40 at Langton Edge (Duns), 30 at The Hirsell, 30 at Deanbrae and 20 at Yetholm Loch.

Oct-Dec: Largest counts were 1000 on passage at Mire Loch (St Abb’s Head), 70 at Newmains, 70 at Watch Water, 60 at Dowlaw, 40 at Maxton, 30 at Clinthill, 29 at Tweedbank, 27 at Howlands (Selkirk) and 25 at Milkieston-Cringletie.

Latest record in spring was on 28/3 at Broomhouse Mains (Preston) and the earliest record in autumn was on 5/10 at Lamberton.

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.

Records from 106 tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	39	Dowlaw Farm, 22; Lamberton, 7; Eddleston-Milkieston, 4; Huntlaw field (Manor Valley), 4; Coldingham Loch, 3; Hundlehope Burn (Manor Valley), 3; Sprouston-Redden (Kelso), 3.
Apr-Jun	52	Watch Water (Longformacus), 6; Lamberton, 5; Dawyck, 4; Bowland (Galashiels), 4; Black Barony, 3; Harcus, 3; Megget Reservoir, 3.
Jul-Sep	10	Bushelhill (Cranshaws), 25; Yair-Three Brethren-Brown Knowe-Elibank Law, 12; Black Barony, 9; Bowland Estate (Caddonhead), 4; Innerleithen, 4.
Oct-Dec	37	Folly Loch, 18; Black Barony, 16; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie, 7; Gattonside to Lauder (SUW), 6; Acreknowe Reservoir, 3.

Breeding (Apr-Aug): 57 tetrads with records. Only nine records of confirmed breeding.

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.

Records from 42 tetrads.

First record was on 10/5 at Huntford (Carter Bar).

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Highest count	8	6	15	22	2
No. of tetrads with records	19	16	8	10	4
Location with highest count	Black Barony (Eddleston)	Bluestone Ford (Chirnside)	Harcus (Eddleston)	Black Barony (Eddleston)	Harcus (Eddleston)

--	--	--	--	--	--

The dominance of the Eddleston Water is probably a reflection of more frequent and systematic patch work at this location by Ray Murray compared with other locations. However, high counts do suggest ideal habitat.

Breeding:

Possible evidence from: Eddleston; Bluestane Ford (Chirnside); Eddleston Water: Eddleston to Milkieston and Huntford (Carter Bar).

Probable evidence from: Southpark Wood; Tweed: Cardrona to Howford; Neidpath Woods; Tweed: Cardrona to Howford and Darnhall Pond.

Confirmed evidence: Toxside Moss (Portmore); Traquair House Pond; Harcus; Harehope House North Pond (Peebles); Newhall (Traquair) and Black Barony.

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.

Records from 172 tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	75	Black Barony, 12; Eddleston, 9; Tweedbank, 15; Burnmouth-Border, 12; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh, 9; Sprouston-Redden, 9; Dunglass, 8; Lower Burnmouth, 8; Darnhall-Harcus (Portmore), 7; The Hirsell, 7.
Apr-Jun	124	Black Barony, 19; Bowland (Galashiels), 17; Harcus, 13; Tweedbank, 11; Paul's Well (West Linton), 11; Neidpath Woods, 9; Flora East, 9; Peebles, Hay Lodge Park, 8; Peebles-Neidpath, 7; Tweed: Cardrona to Howford, 7; Glenkinnon Burn, 7; Paxton House, 7; Abbotsford House Grounds, 7; Southpark Wood, 7; Leadburn Community Wood, 7.
Jul-Sep	51	Black Barony, 30; Tweedbank, 14; Redheugh Glen & Cottages, 9; Tweed: Galafoot to Lowood Bridge, 9; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 9; Harcus (Portmore), 8; Innerleithen, 8; Eddleston, 7.
Oct-Dec	51	Tweedbank, 21; St Abb's Head, 20; Harcus, 19; Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston, 13; Dunglass, 11; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie, 10.

Breeding (Apr-Aug) from 128 tetrads (134 in 2014). Confirmed breeding from only nine tetrads:

Galawater-Hazelbank	NE	Harden Burn (Hawick)	FL
Dunglass Burn	FF	Leadburn Community Wood	FL
Lamberton	NE	Black Barony	FL
Talla Linns	FL	Harcus (Portmore)	FL
Lindean Reservoir	FL	See Introduction for BTO codes	

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.

Of the five locations where Pied Flycatchers were reported, Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) was the site with the greatest number of sightings:

5/5		23/8-26/8	
Lamberton	1	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	1-8
6/5-10/5		12-13/9	
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	1-2	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	1-3
14/6-16/6		13/9	
Tweed: Cardrona-Howford	2	Eyemouth golf course	1

Confirmed breeding at Tweed: Cardrona-Howford. Two consecutive years now with confirmed breeding.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce passage migrant mostly March-June & September-October. Very occasionally winters.

Four reports, all from Mire Loch (St Abb's Head): 13/9; 18/9; 20/9 and 29/10.

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.

Records from 21 tetrads:

	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
Highest count	3	4	2	4	1	4	1
No. of tetrads with records	5	10	8	1	2	1	1
Location of tetrads (highest count first)	Carrofield Plantation (Selkirk); St Abb's Head.	Plora East (Traquair); St Abb's Head; Neidpath Woods; Black Barony; Lamberton; Caldera (Fogo); Woodside (Kelso); Graden (Yetholm); Coldside Planation; Toxside Moss.	Neidpath Woods; Toxside Moss (Portmore); Kyleshill Plantation; Harden Burn (Hawick); Paul's Well (West Linton); Eshiel's Sewage Works; Ballmuir Plantation (Smailholm); Leaderfoot.	Ballmuir Plantation (Smailholm)	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); Fountainhall.	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	Dowlaw

Breeding (May-Aug): records from 18 tetrads (52 in 2014). Confirmed breeding evidence from only two sites. First record 12/4 at St Abb's Head and last record 11/10 at Dowlaw.

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.

Records from 21 (2%) tetrads.

May	Rankle Burn (Tushielaw), 3; Deer Hope (Carlops), 2; East Loch (Portmore); Crosslee (Tushielaw); Traquair; Dewar S.
June	Deer Hope (Carlops), 5; Paul's Well (West Linton), 2; Traquair, 2; Leadburn Community Wood; East Loch; Fairliehope; Garvald Lodge; Broad Law (Moorfoots).
July	Bowland (Caddonhead)
Aug	St Abb's Head, 9; Black Barony, 2; Newmains (Reston); Dowlaw; Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston.
Sep	St Abb's Head; Eyemouth golf course; Pettico Wick.

Breeding (May-Aug): records from 18 tetrads (23 in 2014). Only one record of confirmed breeding.

All September records of birds on passage. Earliest record 11/5 at East Loch and latest record was 24/9 at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head).

Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus*

Largely resident with some of population wintering along coast but in mild winters many birds remain inland. Much of summer population found in hills. 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.

Records from 32 (3%) tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites
Jan-Mar	10	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth, 4; Burnmouth-Border, 3; Portmore Loch, 3; Dowlaw, 2; Mire Loch (St Abbs Head), 2; Lower Burnmouth; Blakedeane (Morebattle); Cardie Hill (Peebles); Peat Law (Selkirk); Longformacus.
Apr-Jun	14	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 4; Dewar (Garvald), 3; Broughton Heights (Biggar), 2; Abbotsford, 2; Paul's Well (West Linton), 2; Piper's Grave (Peebles), 2; Hundles Hope (Manor Valley); Well Rig Burn (Duns); Paddock Slack (Yarrow); Byrecleugh (Longformacus); Fruid Reservoir; Garvald (Moorfoots); Dam Head Rig (Traquair).
Jul-Sep	6	Black Barony, 7; Kelphope Burn-Crib Law-West Hill, 5; Bowland Estate (Caddonhead), 4; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 3; Tollishill (Oxton), 3; Pettico Wick (St Abb's Head), 2.
Oct-Dec	6	Craig Douglas (St Mary's Loch), 2; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 2; Dowlaw road, 2; Toxside (Gladhouse); Eyemouth Bay; Meldon Cottage (Peebles)

Breeding (Mar-Sep): 21 tetrads with records (17 in 2014). Only six records with confirmed breeding.

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.

Records from 56 tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites (counts above 5 indicated)
Jan-Mar	7	Gathersnow Hill (Tweedsmuir); Mendick/Ingraston (West Linton); Dirrington Little Law (Westruther); Peelinick (Cheviots); Tushielaw (Ettrick); Posso Craig (Manor Valley); Pettico Wick (St Abb's Head).
Apr-Jun	42	St Abb's Head, 27; Fruid Reservoir, 12; Cramalt Valley (Tweedsmuir), 10; Byrecleugh (Longformacus), 10; Megget Reservoir, 8; Watch Water (Longformacus), 6; East Loch South, 5; Talla Reservoir; Stonedge (Bonchester Bridge); Whitlaw Moss (Selkirk); Rankle Burn (Ettrick); Dormount Hope (Hownam); North Esk Reservoir; Muckle Wield (Traquair); Greena Hill (Newcastleton); Glenholm (Broughton); Meldonfoot (Peebles); Dinley (Hermitage); Newmains (Reston); Cringletie-Kidston; Innerleithen; Whim (West Linton); Kingside Moss (Leadburn); Crosslee (Ettrick); White Meldon (Peebles); Posso Craig (Manor Valley); Larriston Fell (Saughtree); Dowlaw Dam; Westruther; Henlaw (Longformacus); East Loch (Gladhouse); Black Barony; Long Grain (Oxton); Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords); Earlyvale (Portmore); Leadburn Community Wood; Paul's Well (West Linton); Dam Head Rig (Traquair); Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water); Peebles, Hay Lodge Park; Bowland (Caddonhead); Clearburn (Ettrick).
Jul-Sep	10	St Abb's Head, 9; Lauder Common, 5; Dormount Hope (Hownam); Watch Water; Roxburgh Mains; Eyemouth Bay; Pikeshaw Hill (Teviothead); Woolly Rig (Garvald Lodge); Yair-Three Brethren-Brown Knowe-Elibank Law; Wollrig (Ale Water).
Oct	1	Watch Water Reservoir (Longformacus).

Three Greenland (*leuchorhoa*) ssp were reported from St Abb's Head on 13/5. The first reported sighting was on 19/3 at Gathersnow Hill (Tweedsmuir) and the latest sighting was on 20/10 at Watch Water.

Breeding (Apr-Aug): records from 50 tetrads (61 in 2014). The first record of confirmed breeding (of an immature bird) was not until 16/7 at Watch Water. That was the only record of confirmed breeding.



Wheatear at St Abb's Head in autumn plumage. Tom Brewis

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Common resident; well-represented passage visitor.

Records from 90 tetrads.

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	7	15	10	11	8	6	5	7	7	12	15	9
No. of tetrads with records	25	25	23	42	41	33	8	11	23	19	15	11
Location of site with highest count	Burnmouth-Border (RSC)	Tweedbank	Tweedbank	Black Barony	Innerleithen	Tweedbank	Eddleston; Harcus.	Black Barony	Innerleithen	Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	Tweedbank	Tweedbank

Breeding (Apr-Aug): records from 60 tetrads.

This is a very under-recorded species. Many, if not all, of the sites above are as much a reflection of regular and frequent surveys as they are of ideal habitat. The under-recording is further illustrated by the fact that there was only one record of confirmed breeding. Readers are encouraged to submit records for this species.

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.

Records from 92 tetrads.

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	100	39	75	20	33	22	24	14	200	21	11	25
No. of tetrads with records	24	19	15	21	30	33	8	9	12	13	6	11
Location of site with highest count	Gavinton (Duns)	Eddleston	Lamberton	Whitehaugh (Hawick)	Eddleston	Tweedbank	Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston	Tweedbank	Gavinton (Duns)	Eddleston	Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston	Selkirk

Other counts of 20 or more came from:

18/01	Lamberton	75	10/02	Borthaugh (Hawick)	20
03/01	Tweedbank	37	09/03	Gavinton	50
29/01	Eddleston	30	24/03	Whitehaugh (Hawick)	30
24/01	Lower Burnmouth	25	21/03	Eddleston	21
16/01	Newmill (Hawick)	20	28/05	Innerleithen	30
28/01	Wilton (Hawick)	20	13/09	Redheugh Glen (Coldingham Moor)	40
09/02	Eddleston-Milkieston	29	27/12	Lower Burnmouth	20
03/02	Tweedbank	24			

Breeding (Apr-Aug): records from 63 tetrads (61 in 2014). Only five records of confirmed breeding.

Readers are encouraged to report sighting (including numbers and breeding status) of this species.



Tree Sparrow at Black Barony in March
Ray Murray

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.

Records from 49 tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites (counts of 10 or more indicated)
Jan-Mar	24	Newmains, 270; Lanton Wood (Jedburgh), 12; Nisbet, 10; Lower Burnmouth; Bemersyde-Whitrigbog; Lamberton; Hutton (Allanton); Roxburgh; Dunglass; Newmill (Hawick); Kelso; Broom (Ancrum); Sprouston-Redden (Kelso); Kalemouth (Nisbet); Barnhills (Denholm); Tweedbank; Over Whitlaw (Selkirk); Edrom (Duns); Gavinton (Duns); Hare Moss (Selkirk); Allanton; Lindean Reservoir; Longformacus; Cockmuir (Leadburn);.
Apr-Jun	19	Bemersyde-Whitrigbog, 18; Duns, Cheeklaw, 10; Rowchester (Greenlaw), 10; Lower Burnmouth; Angelrow (Greenlaw); Woodhead (Ancrum); Graden (Yetholm); Dunglass; Haigsfield (Coldstream); The Hirsell; Lamberton; Langton Mill (Gavinton); Nisbet Hill Farm (Duns); Barnhills Moor (Ancrum); Shielfield (Oxton); New Belses (Ancrum); Broomdykes (Allanton); Heiton (Kelso); Ladyrig (Roxburgh).
Jul-Sep	5	Lindean Reservoir, 20; Reston; Whitrigbog; Fleurs (Coldingham); Palace (Crailing); Westfield (Smailholm).
Oct-Dec	9	St Abb's Head, 16; Coalyburn (West Linton), 12; Lower Burnmouth; Nisbet Bridge; Bemersyde Moss; Hutton (Allanton); Lamberton; Broomdykes (Allanton); Lindean Reservoir.

Breeding (Apr-Aug): records from 28 tetrads. Confirmed breeding from only four tetrads.

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.

Records from eight tetrads (11 in 2014). Maximum counts:

Birgham Haugh	8	Newmains (Reston)	1
Lees Haugh, Coldstream	1	Redheugh Glen & Cottages	1
Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)	1	Paxton House	1
Blackhill (Reston)	5	Dunglass	2

There were no records of probable or confirmed breeding. Readers are encouraged to watch out for and report sightings of this species when visiting suitable habitat.

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.

Records from 99 tetrads.

Jan-Mar: 56 records from 18 tetrads. First pair observed in suitable nesting site at Borders General Hospital on 8/3. Ringed Male identified at Melrose Sewage works on 25/3.

Apr-Jun: 136 records from 35 tetrads. Three permanent territories at Eshiels-Jennie's Brae (Peebles) on 9/4, five at Howford-Leithenwaterfoot on 13/4, five at Innerleithen-Walkerburn 24/4. Visiting probable nesting site at Tweedbank on 14/4; agitated behaviour observed at Preston on 14/5. Adult carrying faecal sac/food reported at Dawyck on 20/5. First fledgling observed at Blackhopebyre on 28/5.

Jul-Sep: 36 records from 16 tetrads. Adult observed feeding young at Neidpath on 5/7. Last report of fledglings observed at Eddleston Water on 24/7.

Breeding (Apr-Aug) season had reports of birds from 72 tetrads.

Oct-Dec : 36 records from 11 tetrads.

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.

Records from 121 tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with counts of two or more
Jan-Mar	33	Fairlaw (Reston), 47; Newmains (Reston), 41; Sprouston-Redden (Kelso), 22; Tweedbank, 13; Fancove Head (Eyemouth), 4; Edrington Castle, 2; Shielswood (Ettrick Forest), 2; Heatherhope (Cheviots); Lurgiescleuch (Wauchope Forest), 2; Cuddyside (Peebles).
Apr-Jun	97	Fruid Reservoir, 20; St Mary's Loch, 20; Megget Reservoir, 14; Tweed: Cardrona-Howford, 12; Birgham Haugh (Kelso), 12; Tweed: Innerleithen-Walkerburn, 11; Tweed: Howford-Leithenwaterfoot, 8; Paul's Well (West Linton), 8; Shielfield (Oxton), 8; Tweed: Cardrona-Eshiels, 7; Talla Reservoir, 6; Glenholm (Broughton), 6; Philhope (Craik), 4; Langton Mill (Gavinton), 4; Tweed Horizons (St Boswells), 2; Tower Burn Marsh (Manor Valley), 2; Benrig-Mertoun Bridge (St Boswells); Burnmouth, Ross, 2; Traquair, 2; Harden (Hawick), 2; St Abb's Head, 2.
Jul-Sep	23	Melrose, 15; Pettico Wick (St Abb's Head), 8; Black Barony, 4; Bemersyde-Whitrigbog, 4; Tweedbank, 4; St Mary's Loch, 4; Innerleithen, 4; Dunglass, 2; Lamberton, 2; Burnmouth, 2.
Oct-Dec	20	Nether Falla (Portmore), 8; Pease Bay, 8; Kelso, 3; Stonefold (Kelso), 2; Innerleithen, 2; Eddleston-Milkieston, 2; Tweedbank, 2; Whitrigbog, 2.

Breeding (Apr-Aug): records came from 100 tetrads (150 in 2014). Confirmed breeding came from 12 tetrads:

Cringletie-Kidston	01/05	ON	Whitehillfoot (Heiton)	11/06	FL
Walkerburn	17/05	FF	Birgham Haugh	12/06	FL
Black Barony	19/05	FF	Tweed: Cardrona-Howford	16/06	FL
Lamberton	20/05	FF	Howford-Leithenwaterfoot	16/06	FL
Megget Reservoir	27/05	FF	North Esk Reservoir	20/06	FF
Cardrona-Eshiels	11/06	FF	Huntford (Carter Bar)	12/07	NE

See Introduction for BT breeding codes.

White Wagtail *M. a. alba*

Scarce passage migrant March-April and September, mostly to coast. Has summered.

Records from seven tetrads.

Jan-Mar: four records with four birds observed at Fairlaw (Reston) 21/3. Apr-Jun: five records with a maximum of 14 birds at Newmains 30/4. Single bird recorded at Burnmouth on 23/9.

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.

Records from a mere seven tetrads points to an extremely under-recorded species:

Minch Moor (Traquair)	04/04	1	Huntford (Carter Bar)	24/05	1
Paul's Well (West Linton)	21/04	1	Eildon Hill North	30/05	1
Gordon Community Woodland	25/04	1	Gordon Moss	07/06	1
St Abb's Head	06/05	3			

The first report was on 4/4 at Minch Moor and the last was on 6/10 at St Abb's Head. Nearly 40% of records reported birds singing.

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.

Records from 110 tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	14	Fancove Head (Eyemouth), 7; Drinkstone Hill (Hawick), 6; Swire Knowe (Hermitage); St Abb's Head, 5; Sprouston-Redden (Kelso), 5; Tower Burn Marsh (Manor Valley), 3.
Apr-Jun	82	Megget Reservoir, 140; Glenrath Hope (Manor Valley), 100; Angelrow (Greenlaw), 90; Fruid Reservoir, 70; Leadburn, 60; Talla Linns, 60; St Mary's Loch, 60; East Loch (Portmore), 51; Long Grain (Oxton), 51; Talla Reservoir, 40; Loch of the Lowes, 30; Innerleithen golf course, 27; Black Barony, 26; Bowbeat Hill (Eddleston), 26; Glenholm (Broughton), 20.
Jul-Sep	26	Over Dalgliesh-Black Knowe (Ettrick), 150; Black Barony, 68; Leadburn Community Wood, 63; Dormount Hope (Hownam), 10; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 7; Portmore Loch, 6.
Oct-Dec	17	Eildon Mid Hill, 7; Nether Falla (Portmore), 4; Black Barony, 4; Hartfell Rig (Fruid Reservoir), 3; Lamberton, 2; Pease Bay, 2.

Breeding (Apr-Aug): records from 85 tetrads (112 in 2014, 296 in 2013 and 209 in 2012). Confirmed breeding was only reported from two tetrads. Another case of under-recording. Wherever possible, please report any evidence of breeding

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Common breeder along coast. Wintering birds from British & Scandinavian present October-March in small flocks along the shore.

Rocky Shore Count of 15/1 recorded 85 birds:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	27	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	13
Pease Bay-Redheugh	6	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	23
Redheugh-Souter	0	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	5
Souter-Pettico Wick	7	Burnmouth-Border	4

Jan-Mar: all other records in this period were from the same locations as above and of smaller counts.

Breeding (Apr-Aug): only seven records from: Dunglass; Eyemouth; St Abb's Head and Siccar Point. No reports of breeding evidence.

Sep-Dec: records from seven tetrads: 10 from Pease Bay on 27/12; seven from Eyemouth Bay on 27/12; three from Burnmouth on 9/10; two from Dunglass on 4/10, two from Eyemouth, Rotten Brae on 14/10 and singles from St Abbs and St Abb's Head.

Two birds of the sub species *littoralis* were seen at Dunglass on 14/3.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Scarce winter vagrant to coastal areas, not annual.

Five records from three sites:

Dunglass	14/3	Pease Bay	25/12
Pease Bay	13/12	Pease Bay	27/12
Coldingham Bay	13/12		

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.

Jan-Mar: records from 11 tetrads (16 in 2014, 34 in 2013, 16 in 2012, 32 in 2011). Mostly of small counts. Largest counts were: Portmore Loch (Loch Hill), 20 on 10/2; Moorshot Plantation (Greenlaw), 20 on 13/3. Last record was 25/2 at Wollrig (Selkirk). Early date might suggest under-watched areas.

Sep-Dec: first record was 6/10 at Mire Loch. Records from 13 tetrads (8 in 2014, 13 in 2013; 32 in 2012). Largest counts were: Shiplaw (Eddleston Valley), 250 on 29/12; Newmill (Hawick), 150 on 28/11; Green Diamond Lochs (Selkirk), 70 on 18/10.

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.



Chaffinch at Eddleston. Ray Murray

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	86 (97)	Lumsdaine Woods (Coldingham Moor), 100; Black Barony, 53; Newmill (Hawick), 50; Whitehaugh (Peebles), 50; Wilton (Hawick), 50; Cockmuir(Leadburn), 45; Eddleston, 40; Philiphaugh, 40.
Apr-Aug	148 (177)	Black Barony, 46; Cardrona-Eshiels, 41; Paul's Well (West Linton, 35; Eshiels-Jenny's Brae (Peebles), 25; Cardrona-Howford, 25; Dawyck, 24; Bowland (Galashiels), 23; Harehope Forest (Peebles), 21.
Sep-Dec	71 (75)	Shiplaw (Eddleston Valley), 300; Swindon (Bowmont Water), 200; Huntlywood (Gordon), 140; Cock Law (Cheviots), 100; Moorshot Plantation (Greenlaw), 80; Black Barony, 68; Sinclair's Hill (Duns), 60.

Tetrad nos. in brackets are for 2014. Confirmed breeding was only reported from three tetrads. Readers are encouraged to submit all breeding records for this species.

Common Rosefinch *Erythrina erythrina*

Rare migrant

Report from Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) via BirdGuides – single on 11/9. Last record for Borders was in 2008. This represents the tenth record since 1978.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common but retiring resident. During 2008-13 was found in 31% of tetrads in summer, 47% in winter.

Records from a total of 107 tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	46 (53)	Tweedbank, 23; Teviot Haugh, 13; Glenlude (Yarrow), 10; Birgham, 7.
Apr-Aug	41 (46)	Tweedbank, 5; Nenthorn (Kelso), 5; Lindean Res, 3.
Sep-Dec	54	Leadburn Community Wood, 16; Tweedbank, 12; Sunlaws Mill (Roxburgh), 12; Eyemouth, 10; Traquair Kirk, 8; Eddleston, 7; Mellerstain, 6; Charlesfield (St Boswells), 6.

Figures in brackets refer to 2014 totals. No data available for Sep-Dec.

The only confirmed breeding came from Tweedbank on 16/6.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common breeding resident. Forms flocks July-March. During 2008-13 was found in 43% of tetrads in summer, 33% in winter.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	22 (34)	Melrose (Viewbank), 14; Lamberton, 8; Tweedbank, 6; Sprouston, 4; Eddleston-Milkieston, 3.
Apr-Aug	38 (93)	Tweedbank, 5; St Abb's NNR, 5; Broomdykes (Allanton), 4; Innerleithen, 4; Eyemouth Golf Course, 4; Lamberton, 3; Peebles-Neidpath, 3; Galashiels, 3; Kidston-Dalatho (Peebles), 3; Graden (Yetholm), 3.
Sep-Dec	16 (31)	Lindean Reservoir, 60; Fishwick (Whitsome), 42; Tweedbank, 7; Bemersyde Moss, 4; Shotheds (Oxnam), 4.



Figures above in brackets refer to 2014 totals.
There were no records of confirmed breeding in 2015.

Numbers appear to continue to fall in response to the Trichomonosis outbreak.

Greenfinch at Whithaugh Park, Newcastleton
March 2015
Ray Murray

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.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	9 (11)	Lamberton, 200; Newmains (Reston), 190; Gattonside Heights, 110; Whitrigbog, 60; Samieston (Jedburgh), 50.
Apr-Aug	44 (46)	Lamberton, 60; Eyemouth Bay, 50; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 30; Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose), 10.
Sep-Dec	17	New Smailholm, 11; Fellow Hills (Swinton), 100; Eyemouth, 80; Nether Falla (Portmore), 70; Pease Bay, 40; Whitrig Pond, 35; Mire Loch, 30; Allanton, 26; Lindean Reservoir, 25.

Figures in brackets refer to 2014 totals. No data available for Sep-Dec, 2014. No records received of confirmed breeding.

Over recent years there has been a consistent decline in the number of tetrads from which reports have come.

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.

Records from five tetrads:

Over Whitlaw (Selkirk)	02/01/2015	2	Paul's Well (West Linton)	11/05/2015	1
St Marys Loch	12/04/2015	23	Nether Falla (Portmore)	27/12/2015	2
Longformacus, Redpath	30/04/2015	3			

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.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	9 (13)	Press Castle (Coldingham), 40; Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank), 12; Langton Edge (Duns), 5; Lower Burnmouth, 3.
Apr-Aug	25 (37)	Earlshaugh (Falla Moss), 20; Newmains (Reston), 14; Black Barony, 9; Toxside Moss (Leadburn), 5; Dollar Forest (Manor Valley), 5.
Sep-Dec	21	Newmains (Reston), 62; Miredykes (Wauchope Forest), 30; Black Barony, 30; Nether Falla (Portmore), 30; Lindean Reservoir, 14, Cairncross (Reston), 12; Bemersyde Moss, 5.

Figures in brackets refer to 2014 totals. No data available for Sep-Dec, 2014. No reports of confirmed breeding.

Common (Mealy) 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.

Three records: Glenormiston Woodend (Cardrona) on 29/8; three at Barns (Peebles) on 22/11; Nether Falla (Portmore) on 3/12.

Six records from five tetrads of indeterminate species (Mealy of Lesser):

Lindean Loch	06/09/2015	Pr	Broom (Ancrum)	26/11/2015	2
Year Hill Forest (Caddonfoot)	27/10/2015	1	Innerleithen	18/12/2015	11
Tweedbank	26/11/2015	5			

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*

Very rare vagrant

A first record (R Bramhall) for this species came from Berrybush, near Tushielaw (Ettrick Water) on 10/3.

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.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	14 (4)	Portmore Loch, 17; Rodono House (St Mary's Loch), 10; Glentress Ponds (Glentress Forest), 4; Lurgiescleuch (Wauchope Forest), 4.
Apr-Aug	14 (8)	Little Dod (Abbey St Bathans), 30; Dollar Forest (Manor Valley), 10; Harehope Forest (Peebles), 8; Kames (Leitholm), 7.
Sep-Dec	7 (10)	Huntford (Carter Bar), 15; Carter Bar-Coquet Head (Cheviots), 12; Yair-Three Brethren-Brown Knowe, 10; Portmore, 8.

Figures in brackets refer to 2014 totals. No records of confirmed breeding.



Crossbill at Kirnie Law, nr Walkerburn. January, 2015. Angela Hunter

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common breeder . Forms winter flocks July-March. During 2008-13 was found in 73% of tetrads in summer, 62% in winter.

Records from 110 tetrads for all of year.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	39 (44)	Over Whitlaw (Selkirk), 20; Cairncross (Reston), 20; Glenormiston (Cardrona), 14; Melrose (Viewbank), 12; Linthill (Eyemouth), 9.
Apr-Aug	70 (77)	Lamberton, 50; Tweedbank, 20; Leadburn Community Wood, 15; Lindean Reservoir, 7; Paxton House, 7; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 7.
Sep-Dec	53 (31)	Paxton House, 50; Miredykes (Wauchope Forest), 45; Lempitlaw (Kelso), 30; Hare Moss (Selkirk), 27; Lamberton, 20; Mire Loch, 20.

Figures in brackets refer to 2014 totals. The only confirmed breeding records came from Lamberton. Readers are encouraged to submit all breeding records for this species.

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.

Records from a total of 48 tetrads.

Below figures in brackets refer to 2014 totals. No records of confirmed breeding.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	19 (24)	Pease Bay, 20; Melrose, 10; Kelso, 10; Eddleston, 5.
Apr-Aug	26 (24)	Paul's Well (West Linton), 14; Earlshaugh (Falla Moss), 10; Cardrona, 6; Dollar Forest (Manor Valley), 5; Black Barony, 5.
Sep-Dec	20 (14)	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 50; Kelphope Burn-Crib Law-West Hill (Oxton), 30; Linthill (Eyemouth), 20; Pease Bay, 17; Nether Falla (Portmore), 15; Leadburn Community Wood, 12; Tweedbank, 11.

Figures in brackets refer to 2014 totals.



Siskin at Cardrona April 2015.

Bob Watterson

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.

Seven records from five tetrads (12 records from nine tetrads in 2014):

Newcastleton	02/01/2015	1	Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)	15/11/2015	1
Meldons (Peebles)	19/01/2015	5	Newmains (Reston)	26/11/2015	8
Coldingham Bay	08/11/2015	1	Dowlaw road	06/12/2015	1
			Coldingham Bay	12/12/2015	1

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.

Records from a total of 75 tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	28 (42)	Newmains (Reston), 174; Todrig (Greenlaw), 45; Nisbet, 36; Cauldshiels Loch (Melrose), 20; Fancove Head (Eyemouth), 17; Blue Stane Ford (Chirnside), 15; Linkim Shore (Coldingham), 12.
Apr-Aug	68 (67)	Shielfield (Oxton), 7; Cheeklaw (Duns), 7; Nisbet Hill (Duns), 6; Langton Mill (Gavinton), 5; Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm), 5; Howford-Leithenwaterfoot (Innerleithen), 5.
Sep-Dec	18	Marchcleuch (Jedburgh), 32; Huntlywood (Gordon), 8; Heiton (Kelso), 6; Bemersyde-Whitrigbog, 4; Cairncross (Reston), 4.

Figures in brackets refer to 2014 totals. No data available for Sep-Dec, 2014. No confirmed breeding reported.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Very rare passage migrant.

What appears to be the first record for Borders, a single at St Abb's Head on 24/8 (F Evans).

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.

Records from a total of 74 tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	25 (24)	Newmains (Reston), 42; Nisbet, 7; Leadburn Community Wood, 4; Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank), 4.
Apr-Aug	57 (89)	Murder Moss (Selkirk), 12; Coldingham Loch, 6; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 4; Leadburn Community Wood, 4; Milkieston-Cringletie (Eddleston Valley), 4; Howford-Leithenwaterfoot (Innerleithen), 4.
Sep-Dec	10	Milkieston-Cringletie, 6; Whitrig Pond, 5; Foresthill Pond (Portmore), 3.

Figures in brackets refer to 2014 totals. No data available for Sep-Dec, 2014. Confirmed breeding from four tetrads.

Ringing in the Scottish Borders, 2015.

This is the twenty-ninth 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/results2015/ringGBBR2015.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 approaching 109,000.

Ringing

Species	Nestling	Full-grown	Total
Red Grouse		1	1
Storm Petrel		10	10
Hen Harrier	6		6
Goshawk	19		19
Sparrowhawk		2	2
Buzzard	6		6
Osprey	11		11
Oystercatcher	27		27
Lapwing	26		26
Curlew	19		19
Common Sandpiper	6	9	15
Redshank	1		1
Jack Snipe		2	2
Woodcock	4		4
Black-headed Gull	35	4	39
Woodpigeon		9	9
Collared Dove		2	2
Barn Owl	49	10	59
Tawny Owl	24	3	27
Short-eared Owl	18		18
Swift	14	11	25
Great Spotted Woodpecker		9	9
Kestrel	23		23
Merlin	10		10
Peregrine	2		2
Skylark	15		15
Swallow	24	1	25
Wren		46	46
Dipper	51	9	60
Blackbird	8	145	153
Robin	15	80	95
Redstart		2	2
Stonechat		2	2
Dunnock		100	100
Grey Wagtail	8	4	12
Pied / White Wagtail	9	5	14
Meadow Pipit	13	118	131
Rock Pipit		1	1

Species	Nestling	Full-grown	Total
Jay		2	2
Jackdaw	4	1	5
Rook		1	1
Carrion Crow		1	1
Raven	4		4
Goldcrest		47	47
Blue Tit	60	351	411
Great Tit	30	151	181
Coal Tit	6	74	80
Long-tailed Tit		33	33
Chiffchaff		42	42
Willow Warbler		159	159
Blackcap		31	31
Garden Warbler	4	4	8
Whitethroat		12	12
Sedge Warbler	15	21	36
Nuthatch	49	24	73
Treecreeper		5	5
Starling		42	42
Fieldfare		1	1
Song Thrush	5	29	34
Redwing		2	2
Mistle Thrush	7	1	8
Spotted Flycatcher	2	2	4
Pied Flycatcher		1	1
House Sparrow		210	210
Tree Sparrow	28	108	136
Brambling		1	1
Chaffinch		544	544
Bullfinch		22	22
Greenfinch		169	169
Linnet		231	231
Lesser Redpoll		74	74
Common Redpoll		1	1
Redpoll sp.		3	3
Goldfinch		120	120
Siskin		445	445
Totals	657	3,550	4,207

Table 1. Birds ringed in the Scottish Borders, 2015.

It was a relatively good year for Hen Harrier, but obviously not as good as it should have been! Ospreys continue to thrive; Kestrel and Short-eared Owl did well, with it having been a good vole year, and Tawny and Barn Owl totals were respectable. There are, again, some useful totals of wader chicks, with an excellent find of a brood of Woodcock; Curlew did well, but Common Sandpiper and Black-headed Gull had poor years.

Pleasing numbers of Skylark and warbler species chicks were ringed. Nuthatch continues to thrive. The relatively low numbers of Meadow Pipits ringed is a reflection of changes to the traditional catching site, with a shiny new building replacing the short vegetation and earth; in addition there were access restrictions at a normally busy time for catching the species.

High numbers of both sparrow species were ringed, as well as finches, but it was a poor year for Siskin ringers. Among the Lesser Redpolls caught near Leadburn, was a “good” Common (formerly Mealy) – possibly the first ringed in the Borders.

Borders Ringing Group’s contributions to the BTO’s monitoring projects continued (Constant Effort Site at St. Abbs Head; and adult survival estimates for Common Sandpiper, Dipper, Chaffinch and Siskin).

Recoveries and Controls

“Recoveries” are ringed birds that have been found dead or alive and reported to the Ringing Unit at the B.T.O. “Controls” are ringed birds that are caught alive and released by ringers, the birds having moved more than 5km. from the locality of their original ringing. Sightings of colour-ring combinations, inscribed colour-rings or neck-collars, and inscribed wing-tags are assuming increasing importance in the reporting of ringed birds, as are reports of inscriptions on ordinary rings, read by patient observers with very good optics (see Table 2 for some examples), so please keep your eyes peeled!

County summaries of recoveries are now available online at the BTO website (<http://app.bto.org/ring/countyrec/results2015/recGBBR2015.htm>), and are well worth a look on a rainy Sunday afternoon!

In Table 2 the following codes are used :- F = female, M = male, Ad = adult, FG = fully-grown (immature or adult), Imm = immature, Juv = juvenile, and N = nestling. Where known, the straight-line distance and orientation between the localities of initial ringing and subsequent finding are given.

Storm Petrel 2661151 shows how wide-ranging the species can be, even within one season. Kestrel EX63873 had recovered enough to move to Wales, but ultimately its rehabilitation was not successful. Balloch, at the southern end of Loch Lomond, seems to be a magnet for Moorfoots-bred Black-headed Gulls, and EY21564 was brave enough to take an additional trip from there to Argyll, where it joined a huge gull flock feeding on a bonanza of fish, according to the observer on site. Short-eared Owl GH49582 gives a first indication of where Moorfoots-reared birds can go.

Swift SB99158 is in its eleventh year at least – it must have clocked-up some air-miles in its time ! Swallow D476745 was caught, presumably, on its northwards spring migration; and Grey Wagtail D657047 gives an indication of where Borders birds can winter.

Blackbird 7907326 shows two different wintering areas. The warbler species recovered and controlled reveal a little about their migratory habits in both spring and autumn.

The two retrapped Blue Tits have done well, at six and seven years of age, and Y850115 embarked on a fairly long journey for the species in the British Isles – as did Great Tit D477163 – although this is not the first Borders-ringed Great Tit to undertake a movement to the Northumberland coast.

Of the finches, there were two regional movements for Chaffinch and one for Goldfinch. Was Goldfinch D743712 on southward autumn migration when it was caught in Peebles, after perhaps breeding at Bettyhill? There were the usual long-distance Siskin and Lesser Redpoll movements within the British Isles, and Siskin V022555 shows a fairly quick shift from Peebles to Thetford.

Ring number & Finding circumstances	Age & sex	Date	Location	Distance (km)	Orientation (degrees or compass)
Mute Swan					
ZZ3120	N	06.08.04	Foulden		
Found dead	Ad	27.10.15	near Duns	6	WSW
Storm Petrel					
2395774	FG	15.08.92	Eyemouth		
Controlled	FG	26.07.93	Sule Skerry, Orkney	383	339
2661123	FG	22.07.14	Eyemouth		
Controlled	FG	02.08.15	North Roe, Shetland	522	5
2694377	FG	26.07.14	North Ronaldsay, Orkney		
Controlled	FG	14.07.15	Eyemouth	388	177
2661134	FG	29.07.14	Eyemouth		
Controlled	FG	12.07.15	Eilean nan Ron, Highland	327	336
2661151	FG	02.08.14	Eyemouth		
Controlled	FG	20.07.15	North Ronaldsay, Orkney	388	357
Controlled	FG	17.08.15	Calf of Man, Isle of Man	266	221
2661158	FG	02.08.14	Eyemouth		
Controlled	FG	26.06.15	Souter Lighthouse, Tyne & Wear	112	156
2661164	FG	06.08.14	Eyemouth		
Controlled	FG	01.08.15	Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire	508	205
Cormorant					
5226123	N	08.06.03	Inchkeith, Firth of Forth		
Found dead	Ad	15.07.15	River Whiteadder	45	118
Shag					
1483097	N	28.06.14	Isle of May, Fife		
Freshly dead (storm)	Imm	22.03.15	Pease Bay	32	SSE
Goshawk					
MA29848	N	09.07.15	Newcastleton Forest		
Freshly dead	Imm	14.12.15	Finglandrigg Wood, Cumbria	38	SW

Osprey					
1439119	N,M	13.07.13	near Bankfoot, Perth & Kinross		
colour-rings read	FG	29.08.15	Kelso area	123	SSE
Kestrel					
EX63873	Juv M	03.08.15	IN CARE, Berwick-upon-Tweed		
Found dead, not fresh	Imm M	14.12.15	Rhayader, Powys	195	SSW
Peregrine					
GC36251	N, F	13.06.07	Craik, Hawick		
Transponder recording	Ad, F	26.04.15	Talla	25	297
two other females identified by transponders					
GC46237	N, F	25.05.12	Tyne & Wear		
Long dead	Imm F	07.07.15	Siccar Point	134	NNW
Common Sandpiper					
NW43202	N	31.05.08	Heriot Water		
Retrapped	Ad	22.04.11/21.04.13	Leithen Water	6	SW
Colour-rings read	Ad	20.06.15	Leithen water	6	SW
Black-headed Gull					
EY21564	N	16.06.13	Moorfoot Hills		
colour-ring read	Imm	02.11.13/03.02.14	Balloch, West Dunbartonshire	100	WNW
colour-ring read	Ad	02.10.14	Balloch, West Dunbartonshire	100	WNW
colour-ring read	Ad	02.01.15	Ardrihaig, Argyll	152	W
colour-ring read	Ad	13.01.15	Balloch, West Dunbartonshire	100	WNW
colour-ring read	Ad	15.07/28.12.15	Balloch, West Dunbartonshire	100	WNW
EY21568	N	16.06.13	Moorfoot Hills		
colour-ring read	Ad	23.07.15	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank	25	138
EY21704	N	29.06.13	Moorfoot Hills		
colour-ring read	Ad	18.11.15	Water of Leith, Edinburgh	24	340
EY21725	N	14.06.14	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Imm	01.09.15	Cramond, Edinburgh	29	328
EY21740	N	14.06.14	Moorfoot Hills		

colour-ring read	Imm	19.01.15	Balloch, West Dunbartonshire	100	WNW
EY21747	N	14.06.15	Moorfoot Hills		
colour-ring read	Imm	28.02/04.04.15	Balloch, West Dunbartonshire	100	WNW
Barn Owl					
FH92015	N	05.06.14	nr Allerdean, Northumberland		
Controlled	Imm	23.06.15	Hutton	11	304
FH92028	N	08.06.14	Lee Moor, Northumberland		
Controlled	Imm	13.06.15	Horndean	46	314
GR31914	N	13.06.14	Elibank Forest		
Found dead in field	Imm	15.01.15	Leithen Water	9	338
GR16085	Ad	19.02.15	IN CARE Berwick-upon-Tweed		
Found dead on shore	Ad	12.04.15	Berwick-upon-Tweed		
Short-eared Owl					
GH49582	N	28.05.09	Dewar		
Dead, hit by car	Ad	01.08.12	Alston, Cumbria	110	SSE
Swift					
SB99158	Ad	22.07.06	The Hirsell		
Retrapped	Ad	25.07.07/21.07.09	The Hirsell		
Retrapped	Ad	22.07.15	The Hirsell		
Swallow					
D476745	N	22.06.14	Reston		
Controlled	Ad F	02.05.15	Leucate, Aude, FRANCE	1485	SSE
Meadow Pipit					
L763349	Juv	26.08.12	Nether Falla		
Retrapped	Ad	26.09.15	Nether Falla		
Grey Wagtail					
D657047	Imm	20.09.13	Heysham Harbour, Lancashire		
Colour-rings noted	Ad	25.03.15	Melrose	175	N
Blackbird					
7907326	Ad F	02.01.15	Neuwittenbek, Schleswig - Holstein, GERMANY		

Dead (hit by car)	Ad F	04.12.15	Crookedshaws	798	W
CW47292	Ad F	31.01.15	Maxpoffle, Newtown St Boswells		
Controlled	Ad F	24.11.15	Kilnsea, Yorkshire	284	SE
RC47196	Ad F	07.02.15	Ballyalton, Downpatrick, Down		
Long dead	Ad F	14.06.15	Coldingham	281	NE
Sedge Warbler					
L763618	N	24.06.13	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Controlled	Ad	16.08.15	Terres d'Oiseaux, Gironde, FRANCE	1149	173
Whitethroat					
D264490	FG M	08.05.15	Bamburgh, Northumberland		
Controlled	FG M	11.06.15	St Abbs Head	44	324
Blackcap					
L762882	Juv	04.09.13	St Abbs Head		
Retrapped	FG	23.08.15	St Abbs Head		
Willow Warbler					
BPP569	Imm	22.08.15	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Dead - hit window	Imm	13.09.15	Smailholm	18	58
Blue Tit					
T637500	Imm	26.11.08	Peebles		
Retrapped	Ad	17.11.15	Peebles		
V785909	Imm	31.07.09	Peebles		
Retrapped	Ad	10.07.15	Peebles		
Y850115	Juv	27.07.12	Peebles		
Dead in crop net	Ad	26.04.15	Longrigg, Dumfries & Galloway	67	199
D477106	Imm	19.08.15	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Dead - hit window	Imm	02.09.15	Galashiels	10	348
Great Tit					
D477163	Imm	30.08.15	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Controlled	Imm M	23.10.15	Bamburgh, Northumberland	68	84
Chaffinch					

V021486	Imm F	26.03.14	Peebles		
Found freshly dead	Ad F	09.02.15	Newhouse Farm, Lilliesleaf	32	123
Z798312	Imm F	30.09.15	Oatridge College, West Lothian		
Controlled	Imm F	25.10.15	Nether Falla	27	SE
Goldfinch					
Y852188	Ad M	21.10.12	Peebles		
Dead in bird feeder	Ad M	26.07.15	Eastside, Midlothian	21	336
D743712	Imm F	19.04.15	Bettyhill, Sutherland		
Controlled	Ad F	30.10.15	Peebles	325	S
Siskin					
L009202	Imm M	15.08.10	Peebles		
Retrapped (several times)	Ad M	15.09.15	Peebles		
L630690	Ad F	12.12.10	Peebles		
Retrapped	Ad F	21.12.15	Peebles		
D733845	Imm	16.02.14	Sheffield, South Yorkshire		
Controlled	Ad	07.01.15	Peebles	279	338
D694172	Ad M	18.03.14	Craibstone, Aberdeen		
Controlled	Ad M	06.10.15	Peebles	181	200
V019166	Imm F	03.04.14	Peebles		
Controlled	Ad F	14.10.15	Eshton Tarn, North Yorkshire	196	160
V019614	Juv	12.06.14	Peebles		
Controlled	Ad F	03.10.15	Killlearn, Stirling	86	300
D721643	Juv M	09.08.14	Thetford, Norfolk		
Controlled	Ad M	03.08.15	Peebles	442	325
V020561	Ad M	01.09.14	Peebles		
Controlled	Ad M	06.12.15	Brandon, Suffolk	435	146
V022059	Imm M	18.03.15	Peebles		
Controlled	Imm M	26/28.06.15	Drumla, North Ayrshire	124	259
V022555	Imm F	20.09.15	Peebles		

Controlled	FG F	26.09.15	Thetford, Norfolk	442	145
Lesser Redpoll					
L763648	Juv	26.07.13	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Controlled	Ad M	11.10.15	Silt Fen Farm, Norfolk	389	149
V020972	Imm	27.01.15	Peebles		
Controlled	Ad M	25.10.15	Bishop Monkton, North Yorkshire	206	149

Figure 2. Recoveries and controls.

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, David Grieve, Rich Howells, Tony Lightley, Lothian & Borders Raptor Study Group, Lothian Ringing Group, Ray Murray, James Silvey, Andre Thiel, and Sharon Yardy.

Tom Dougall, 38 Leamington Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 4JL

Index of Classified List

Arctic Skua	42	Golden Plover	34	Long-tailed Duck	15
Arctic Tern	45	Goldeneye	15	Long-tailed Tit	70
Barn Owl	52	Goldfinch	97	Magpie	62
barnacle Goose	9	Goosander	17	Mallard	11
Barred Warbler	74	Goshawk	27	Mandarin Duck	10
Bar-tailed Godwit	37	Grasshopper Warbler	75	Manx Shearwater	22
Bean Goose	8	Great Black-backed		Marsh Harrier	27
Black Grouse	19	Gull	49	Marsh Tit	68
Black Redstart	84	Great Crested Grebe	26	Meadow Pipit	91
Blackbird	79	Great Grey Shrike	62	Mediterranean Gull	47
Blackcap	73	Great Northern Diver	21	Merlin	59
Black-headed Gull	46	Great Skua	42	Mistle Thrush	82
Black-tailed Godwit	37	Great Spotted		Moorhen	32
Black-throated Diver	20	Woodpecker	57	Mute Swan	7
Blue Tit	66	Great Tit	67	Nightjar	54
Brambling	92	Green Sandpiper	39	Nuthatch	76
Brent Goose	10	Green Woodpecker	57	OOrtolan Bunting	99
Bullfinch	94	Greenfinch	94	Osprey	30
Buzzard	29	Greenshank	39	Oystercatcher	33
Canada Goose	9	Grey Heron	25	Peregrine	61
Carrion Crow	64	Grey Partridge	19	Pheasant	19
Chaffinch	93	Grey Plover	35	Pied Flycatcher	84
Chiffchaff	72	Grey Wagtail	90	Pied Wagtail	90
Coal Tit	68	Greylag Goose	9	Pink-footed Goose	8
Collared Dove	51	Guillemot	44	Pintail	13
Common Gull	47	Hen Harrier	27	Pochard	13
Common Redpoll		Herring Gull	48	Pomarine Skua	42
(Mealy)	96	Hobby	61	Puffin	43
Common Rosefinch	94	Hooded Crow	64	Purple Sandpiper	38
Common Sandpiper	38	Hoopoe	56	Quail	17
Common Scoter	15	House Martin	70	Raven	65
Common Tern	45	House Sparrow	88	Razorbill	43
Coot	33	Iceland Gull	49	Red Grouse	18
Cormorant	23	Icterine Warbler	75	Red Kite	26
Crossbill	96	Jack Snipe	40	Red-backed Shrike	61
Cuckoo	51	Jackdaw	63	Red-breasted	
Curlew	36	Jay	62	Merganser	16
Dipper	78	Kestrel	57	Red-legged Partridge	18
Dunlin	38	Kingfisher	56	Red-necked Grebe	26
Dunnock	87	Kittiwake	45	Redshank	39
Eider	14	Knot	37	Redstart	84
Feral Pigeon	49	Lapwing	35	Red-throated Diver	20
Fieldfare	80	Lesser Black-backed		Red-throated Pipit	92
Firecrest	66	Gull	47	Redwing	82
Fulmar	21	Lesser Redpoll	96	Reed Bunting	99
Gadwall	11	Lesser Whitethroat	74	Ring Ouzel	79
Gannet	22	Linnet	95	Ringed Plover	36
Garden Warbler	74	Little Auk	44	Robin	83
Garganey	13	Little Egret	25	Rock Dove	49
Glaucous Gull	49	Little Grebe	25	Rock Pipit	92
Goldcrest	65	Little Gull	47	Rook	63
Golden Eagle	30	Little Owl	53	Rough-legged	
		Long-eared Owl	55	Buzzard	30

Ruff	37	Starling	78	Whimbrel	36
Sand Martin	69	Stock Dove	50	Whinchat	85
Sanderling	38	Stonechat	85	White-fronted Goose	9
Sandwich Tern	45	Swallow	69	White Wagtail (alba)	91
Scaup	14	Swift	56	White-billed Diver	21
Sedge Warbler	75	Tawny Owl	53	Whitethroat	74
Shag	23	Teal	11	Whooper Swan	8
Shelduck	10	Tree Pipit	91	Wigeon	10
Short-eared Owl	55	Tree Sparrow	89	Willow Warbler	72
Shoveler	13	Treecreeper	76	Wood Sandpiper	39
Siskin	98	Tufted Duck	13	Wood Warbler	72
Skylark	68	Turnstone	37	Woodcock	41
Slavonian Grebe	26	Turtle Dove	51	Woodpigeon	50
Snipe	41	Twite	95	Wren	77
Snow Bunting	98	Two-barred Crossbill	96	Wryneck	57
Song Thrush	81	Velvet Scoter	15	Yellow Wagtail	90
Sooty Shearwater	22	Water Pipit	92	Yellow-browed	
Sparrowhawk	29	Water Rail	32	Warbler	71
Spotted Flycatcher	82	Waxwing	76	Yellowhammer	99
Spotted Redshank	39	Wheatear	86		