



Borders Bird Report

No. 33

2016

Scottish Ornithologists' Club Borders Branch

The Borders Bird Report 2016

No. 33

Editor: Tom Brewis

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December 2017

The Scottish Ornithologists' Club Borders Branch

ISSN: 0964-7422

Front cover: nesting Kittiwakes at St Abb's Head (Maggie Brewis). Back cover: Goldeneye. The Hirsell, January. (Bill Meikle); Pied

Flycatcher. Cardrona Reed Bed, May. (Ray Murray)

Introduction

Following the rather truncated Report for 2015, the Borders Bird Report for 2016 moves toward a more complete version with fuller species accounts than was the case for last year. Given the availability of the data on which the forthcoming *SE Scotland Atlas 2007-13* is based (to be published in the spring-summer of 2018) were available, these have been used in conjunction with records from past BBRs to consider recent records in the wider context of the past 30 years or so. However, time-constraints have meant that this was not possible for all species and it is hoped that those species which were not placed into such a historical context may be so in future reports.

Unfortunately there is no annual summary. To do such a summary justice quite simply requires too much time trawling over the whole year's records. Since I took up the editing of the Borders Bird Report in April, 2017, I will be able to include an annual summary in the next Report.

In response to many readers' comments, the format of using tables has been continued where possible or relevant – most people, I hope, will find such a method clearer and easier to pick-out information. Further comments on this approach and others are welcome. You can email me at tbrewis@btinternet.com.

Although the Classified List is the focus of the Report, there are some interesting sections also included. There is a section dealing with exemplary submissions of scarce birds sightings that require descriptions for validation and a short outline of Dippers in the Manor Valley. Contributions for future Bird Reports will be very welcome.

The Report is based on over 33,000 records from 195 observers. 87% of these records came via BirdTrack, followed by 9% from Borders Bird News Group, 2% from WeBS, 2% from Breeding Bird Surveys (BBSs) and the remainder from the Rocky Shore Count which took place on 17-Jan. For further information on submitting records, see below.

A total of 219 species were recorded in 2016, of which the highlights were as follows. A Paddyfield Warbler was trapped and ringed at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) on 5-Jun and another eastern visitor in the form of a Siberian (Eastern) Stonechat was seen at Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor) on 14-Oct. Both of these are the first records of these species for the Borders. A Woodchat Shrike, only our fourth record, was well-watched around Northfield (St Abb's Head) from 19 to 23-Jun and Mire Loch came up trumps again on 16-Oct when eastern vagrants continued with the Borders' fourth record of Dusky Warbler (see p. 194 for Dave Graham's account of his finding this bird). In the same month a Red-flanked Bluetail (third record), Red-breasted Flycatchers (first records since 2009) and an Ortolan Bunting (sixth record for Borders) continued the visits of eastern breeding birds. Not to be outdone by the coast, St Boswells had a Rose-coloured Starling which was reported in a garden in early-Nov (a third record for this species and the first since 1983). Yellow-browed Warblers are now regarded as an expected autumn visitor along our eastern coast and while numbers did not approach those of the 2013 peak they were still respectable and part of a generally growing passage of this species.

Submission of records

The preferred option for submission of records is via BTO's BirdTrack. Those observers who have not yet used BirdTrack are encouraged to give it a try. Not only is it a means of ensuring that your records are secure but it makes manipulation of the data very much easier when preparing the Bird Report.

The system is now much easier to use and defining the limits of your recording site are now both easier and more precise. If you use the following link: <https://app.bto.org/birdtrack2/main/data->

home.jsp then this will take you to a map where you can define your recording area by means of drawing an outline of the site's boundaries. This avoids the problem that some observers have with sites which do not neatly fit into a grid square or tetrad. Once established, each site will be allocated a grid square and/or a tetrad. This square or tetrad will eventually identify each site for purposes of putting the Report together.

Border Bird News Yahoo Group is another method by which records can be submitted. When using this method please ensure that you give your full name, site location, dates and numbers, as well as breeding status of birds. It is also helpful to indicate whether those same records will also be submitted via BirdTrack, eg by simply putting BT at the bottom of the record.

Regardless of the means by which you supply records it is always best if you indicate the numbers of birds present, even if it is only an approximation. This is better than simply leaving the count section empty. Similarly, during the breeding season, it will be appreciated if you indicate breeding status (see p. 6).

The list below refers to species which require a local description only, ie one which will be validated by the Borders Branch of the SOC. For a full list of species requiring a description for BBRC go to <https://www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information/species-taxa> .

Alpine Swift	Corn Bunting	Little Tern	Rough-legged Buzzard
American Golden Plover	Corncrake	Long-tailed Skua	Sabine's Gull
American Wigeon	Cory's Shearwater	Marsh Warbler	Scottish Crossbill
Arctic Redpoll	Crane	Mediterranean Gull	Serin
Arctic Warbler	Crested Tit	Melodious Warbler	Shore Lark
Avocet	Dartford Warbler	Montagu's Harrier	Short-toed Lark
Balearic Shearwater	Dotterel	Night-heron	Spoonbill
Bean Goose (Taiga)	Dusky Warbler	Nightingale	Spotted Crake
Bean Goose (Tundra)	Firecrest	Nightjar	Stone-curlew
Bearded Tit	Glossy Ibis	Olive-backed Pipit	Subalpine Warbler
Bee-eater	Golden Eagle	Ortolan Bunting	Surf Scoter
Bittern	Golden Oriole	Pallas's Warbler	Temminck's Stint
Black Guillemot	Great Shearwater	Parrot Crossbill	Turtle Dove
Black Kite	Great White Egret	Pectoral Sandpiper	Water Pipit
Black-winged Stilt	Greenish Warbler	Penduline Tit	White Stork
Bluethroat	Green-winged Teal	Ptarmigan	White-billed Diver
Blyth's Reed Warbler	Grey Phalarope	Purple Heron	White-rumped Sandpiper
Brent Goose (Black Brant)	Hawfinch	Radde's Warbler	White-tailed Eagle
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Hobby	Red-breasted Flycatcher	White-winged Black Tern
Capercaillie	Honey-buzzard	Red-flanked Bluetail	Willow Tit
Caspian Gull	Hoopoe	Red-footed Falcon	Wilson's Petrel
Cattle Egret	Icterine Warbler	Red-necked Phalarope	Woodchat Shrike
Cetti's Warbler	Kentish Plover	Red-rumped Swallow	Woodlark
Chiffchaff (Siberian - tristis)	Leach's Petrel	Richard's Pipit	Wryneck
Chough	Lesser Scaup	Ring-billed Gull	Yellow Wagtail (Grey-headed - thunbergi)
Cirl Bunting	L. Spotted Woodpecker	Ring-necked Duck	Yellow-legged Gull
Citrine Wagtail	Little Bunting	Roseate Tern	
Common Rosefinch	Little Owl	Rose-coloured Starling	

Finally, on the matter of submission of records, the Report will be a more effective document if you submit records of all birds seen or heard, not just the more scarce ones. Many of our more common birds are certainly under-recorded, leading to a less significant dataset.

Acknowledgements

Particular thanks go to all those who submitted records:

Farish-Brown, J	10	Evans, F	811	McNeilly, J	27	Robeson, CK	40
Baird, A	12	Evans, F & Urquhart, H	28	Mead, D	83	Ross, MB	131
Ball, P	22	Farr, D	79	Meikle, W	133	Sandeman, A	15
Barclay, EA	44	Gordon, JD	1,639	Methven, D	991	Scott, MS	52
Beard, MF	18	Gordon, PR	26	Midgely, AC	62	Scott, G	1,170
Betts, M	253	Graham, DK	649	Milligan, N	12	Seright, S	51
Bickmore, EL	760	Hartley, C	53	Mitchell, A	19	Silvey, J R	14
Bielby, N	20	Heavisides, A	16	Moncrieff, M	4,616	Simpson, G	28
Birdguides	110	Henderson, M	585	Monteith, D	88	Singleton, R	93
Bramhall, AT	2,542	Henderson, Murray	31	Morton, SD	41	SOC Borders	10
Bramhall, R	31	Hill, DL	35	Moses, C	73	Spybey, A	11
Bray, J	36	Hind, RD	33	Mossup, A	26	Stewart, G	18
Brewis, T	56	Holling, M	25	Murray, RD	5,601	Stewart, T	21
Bruce, M J	15	Holmes, AL	138	Neil, J	36	Stratton, ND	1,010
Butlin, A	14	Houston, K	76	Neill, WAK	15	Strowger, J	109
Cameron, A J	19	Hunter, L	47	Neilson, R	33	Sutherland, JA	26
Checkley, G	33	Inglis, J	15	Orr-Ewing, DC	41	Tees, C	13
Christie, D	871	Irvine, R J	24	Palfery, J	252	Towill, J	269
Coyle, J	131	Johnson, M	69	Parkinson, D	896	Turner, J	80
Craig, RS	59	Johnstone, R	10	Paterson, G	163	Waddell, J	104
Crowther, N	85	Lett, A	75	Pyatt, G	410	Ward, SD	102
Cutter, A	12	Lough, J	2,146	Rawnsley, P	86	Warden, D	32
Dalziel, R	26	MacMillan, A	19	Reed, T	1,038	Watson, C	807
Dougall, T	31	Marchant, JH	15	Reynolds, EMG	76	Watterson, R	132
Dunstan, D	22	Martin, A	44	Richardson, CJ	24	Wilson, JL	17
Eaton, MA	17	McBeath, R	698			Woolliams, J	110

The following observers submitted 1-9 records: Anderson, R; Austin, D; Bale, M C; Baptie, G; Baptie, M; Barker, A W; Bayne, S; Bell, H; Bingley, J H; Blackie, C; Bond, R; Bone, P; Bramhall, P; Brown, A W; Bruce, M; Busby, M; Cant, C; Chamberlain, T; Champness, E; Cole, L; Common, J; Cook, N; Cosway, G; Cowe, I; Davies, J; Dickson, N; Doley, E M; Eaves, S P; Eno, S; Falconer, S; Garnett, R; Gillies, S; Glenken; Goodhead, K; Green, C; Greenhow, M; Greenshields, R; Hadfield; Hansen, L; Harry, M; Hayward, W R; Henderson, E; Henry, G; Higgins, R; Higginson, P; Highton, A J; Hogarth, M; Horsburgh, S; Housden, J; Howell, K; Ingleby, K; Jones, M; Kerr, A; Kerr, G; Khursheed, B; Kirby, M S; Kyle, T; Laing, J; Lauder, AW; Lintott, D; Maclennan, J; McDonald, P; McLellen, V; Mcnee, D; Moore, A; Mylne, J F; Noble, JCS; Nugent, JHA; Palmer, N W; Pearman, A; Postlethwaite, C; Prater, B; Prior, JK; Ralph, C; Richardson, R; Richmond, W; Riddell, DN; Robeson, K; Rose, C; Sawers, C; Scott, M; Sharp, J; Smith, G D; Smith, R; Speirs, A; Taylor-Pigott, A; Tees, S; Thomas, A F; Thompson, B J; Thomson, H; Thorne, A; Thornton, M; Trektellen.org; Warren, N; Wates, A; Watt, R; Wellesley, A; Wignall, M; Wilson, J.

Validation of records was carried out by Fran Evans, Dave Graham, Martin Moncrieff and David Parkinson. The BTO supplied the WeBS and BBS records, Liza Cole supplied the St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2016 and Alan Heavisides supplied the Lothian & Borders Raptor Study Group 2016 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. Mark Holling produced the summary of the Rocky Shore Count and Dave Graham and Graham Pyatt kindly submitted additional sections for the Report.

Thanks to all above and also to the photographers: Alistair Cutter; Dave Graham; Bill Meikle; Martin Moncrieff; Dennis Morrison; the late Ray Murray and Rob Watterson. Thanks also to Maggie Brewis for the pastel drawing on the front cover.

Sites, squares and tetrads

Dealing with over 30,000 records means that some confusion over location of sites is inevitable. In some cases, the same location is given different names and different grid square identifiers. To avoid this it is hoped that eventually nearly all sites will be recognised by a standardised name and the same grid square (generated after submission of records). However, this will take some time and some anomalies will be bound to occur in the interim.



General geography of the Borders Region.

The exercise, started last year, of placing the nearest place in brackets following the name of less well known sites continues in this Report. If you wish to locate sites on a map then you are recommended to visit <http://www.cucaera.co.uk/grp/> , an excellent facility which allows you to locate places by name, grid reference or tetrad. Alternatively you might want to visit the gazetteer on the SOC site: www.the-soc.org.uk/site-finder .

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in the Report:

BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee
BBR	Borders Bird Report
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
RSC	Rocky Shore Count
SOC	Scottish Ornithologists' Club
WeBS	Wetland Birds Survey

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 present 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. Bird-day refers to the number of days that a bird was recorded or assumed to be present. Thus, a single bird seen for a period of 12 days and two other birds seen for a day would add up to 14 bird-days. Where a percentage is given after the number of occupied tetrads it represents the proportion of all tetrads in Borders.

Finally, on a sad note, this is the last Borders Bird Report where the late Ray Murray's name will be seen next to records. I'm sure, when you regard his 31 editions of the Report, that you will all agree that he left a superb legacy, one which is as a firm foundation and hopefully act as an inspiration for us all to continue contributing to a successful Borders Bird Report.

Thanks to Malcolm Ross and Martin Moncrieff for their eagle-eyed proof reading. Any mistakes or omissions are entirely my responsibility.

Tom Brewis
25 November 2017



Little Owl. Nr Kelso. July, Dave Graham.

Classified List of Species 2016

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Common breeder. 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.

882 records from 118 tetrads (9%). There were 501 records from 104 tetrads in 2015. 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	103	99	92	115	21	8	8			18	20	55
Yetholm Loch	21	17	26	30	35	132	187	190	109	165	118	85
Hirsel Lake	3	9	3	2		2	2		32	47	86	91
Folly Loch	24	7	2	25	35	17	20	10	12	6	3	30
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	136	22							3	38	63	34
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	74	3	3	2	2	2		2		7	5	
Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank)	24	21	24	11	8		9	9	20		17	23
Tweed: Paxton House		8	21	3		2			8	6	4	

Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream data is based on the maximum count at any single site between Kelso and Coldstream unless the WeBS count for the whole stretch was greater.

Other sites with records: Alemoor Reservoir (Buccleuch); Allanton; Altarstones Ponds (Dawyck); Alton Pond (Hawick); Bemersyde Moss; Blount Island (Ladykirk); Borthwickshiels Loch (Hawick); Bowdenmoor Reservoir; Burnmouth-Cowdrait; Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank); Clearburn Loch (Craik Forest); Courthill (Hawick); Cruxfield Pond (Preston); Easter Place (Broughton); Essenside Loch (Ashkirk); Eyemouth Bay; Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank); Fireburnmill (Coldstream); Folly Loch; Foresthill Pond (Portmore); Grahamslaw (Eckford); Green Diamonds (Selkirk); Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden); Gattonside-Melrose; Haining Loch (Selkirk); Hare Moss (Ashkirk); Harelaw Pond (Lilliesleaf); Hartree House (Broughton); Wiltondean (Hawick); Haystoun Pond (Peebles); Hen Poo (Duns); Hollybush Pond (Galashiels); Hoselaw (Yetholm); Howden Crossing fields (Innerleithen); Hule Moss; Innerleithen; Joshua Plantation (Whitsome); Lady Moss (Bowden); Ladyrig Pond (Heiton); Leadburn Community Wood; Lilliesleaf Moss Pool; Lindean Loch (Selkirk); Linton Bog (Morebattle); Loch Tima (Craik Forest); Lochton (Kelso); Lower Burnmouth; Marlefield Pond (Eckford); Marl-leas Plantation (Whitsome); Mellerstain; Milkieston-Cringletie (Eddleston Water); Minto Kames North Loch (Denholm); Newmains (Reston); North Slipperfield (West Linton); Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk); Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet); Pond Knowe (West Linton); Portmore Loch; Pot Loch (Ettrick Forest); The Rink (Galashiels); Selkirk Hill; Shaws Upper Loch (Ettrick Forest); Shielswood Loch (Ashkirk); St Abb's Head; Stow; Synton Mossend (Ashkirk); The Dub (Makerstoun); Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso; Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean (St Boswells); Watch Water (Longformacus); Whim Pond (Leadburn); White Law Loch (Selkirk); Whitmuir Hall Loch (Selkirk); Whitrig Bog; Whitton Loch (Hownam); Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Wiltonburn Loch (Hawick); Yetholm; Yetholm Pond.

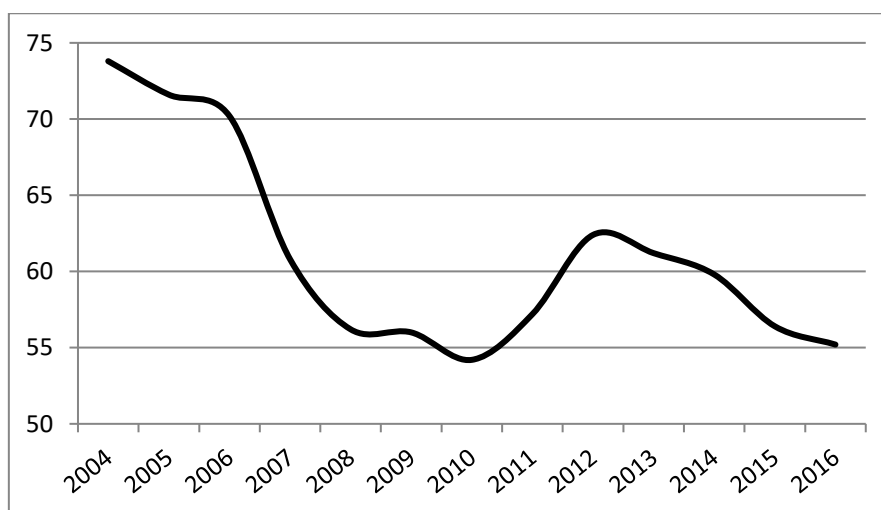
Breeding evidence from 53 sites. First report of fledged birds on 4-May at Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick) (Ray Murray):

Altarstones Ponds (Dawyck)	22-Feb	P	Teviot, Ormiston	04-May	B
Hartree House Hotel (Biggar)	22-Feb	P	Williestruther Loch (Hawick)	04-May	ON
Whim Pond (Leadburn)	14-Mar	P	Green Diamonds (Selkirk)	09-May	ON
Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	25-Mar	ON	Allanton	19-May	B
Stantling Craig Res. (Galashiels)	25-Mar	P	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	21-May	br1
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	25-Mar	P	Cruxfield Pond (Preston)	28-May	br1
Tweedbank	26-Mar	P	Lochton (Kelso)	04-Jun	br5
Paxton House	13-Apr	P	Whitrig Bog	11-Jun	br5
Lindean Reservoir	15-Apr	P	Hare Moss (Ashkirk)	21-Jun	1br3
Pond Knowe (West Linton)	15-Apr	ON	Fireburnmill (Coldstream)	23-Jun	br5
Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)	17-Apr	P	Bemersyde Moss	28-Jun	br8
Blount Island (Ladykirk)	19-Apr	P	Whitton Loch (Hownam)	07-Jul	1br3
Hirsel Lake	19-Apr	ON	Borthwickshiels Loch (Hawick)	19-Jul	br5
Hollybush Loch	19-Apr	ON	Junction Pool (Kelso)	27-Jul	1br7
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)	19-Apr	P	Pot Loch (Selkirk)	27-Jul	1br2
Linton Bog (Morebattle)	19-Apr	P	Yetholm Loch South	06-Aug	br1
Marlefield Pond (Eckford)	19-Apr	ON	Loch Tima (Craik Forest)	22-Aug	br9
Yetholm Loch North	19-Apr	ON	Portmore Loch	24-Aug	br1
Yetholm Marsh	19-Apr	ON	Abbotsford	22-Sep	br6
Eyemouth Harbour	23-Apr	ON	Hen Poo (Duns)	15-Oct	1br2
Haystoun Pond (Peebles)	27-Apr	P	Folly Loch	29-Oct	br1
Grahamslaw (Eckford)	04-May	ON	Alemoor Res. (Hawick)	12-Nov	1br3
Harelaw Pond (Lilliesleaf)	04-May	ON	Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)	19-Nov	br1
Lilliesleaf Moss Pool	04-May	P	Birgham Haugh (Kelso)	04-Dec	br9
Minto Kames N. Loch (Denholm)	04-May	ON	Teviot Haughs (E)	04-Dec	br6
Synton Mossend (Ashkirk)	04-May	1br5	The Hirsel	04-Dec	br9
			Teviot Haughs (W)	12-Dec	br7

See Introduction for explanation of breeding codes.

Bird Report records suggest an overall decline in the number of breeding pairs since 2000 with the 5-year running average peak between 2011-2015 probably an artefact caused by greater recording effort during the Atlas survey period:

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Pairs	67	52	89	86	75	56	45	42	63	74	47	60	68	57	67	30	54
Broods	29	24	16	32	21	30	25	23	34	35	25	29	29	27	33	13	25
Young	103	109	71	167	119	117	122	111	134	161	101	137	110	126	138	51	106
MBS	3.6	4.5	4.4	5.2	5.7	3.9	4.9	4.8	3.9	4.6	4.0	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.2	3.9	4.2



Five year running average for pairs of Mute Swans: 2004-2016.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Well-represented winter visitor from Oct-Apr. c. 200-250 birds present in most winters on Teviot and Tweed Haughs. Occasional birds in summer, probably injured. During 2008-13 found in 2% tetrads in summer and 8% in winter.

Records from 59 tetrads (5%). This was a reduction from 79 tetrads in 2015.

Jan-Apr: records from 37 tetrads:

Maximum counts per tetrad			Cauldshiels Loch	12-Feb	5
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	03-Jan	34	Redden Farm (Kelso)	17-Feb	50
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	08-Jan	4	Joshua Plantation (Whitsome)	18-Feb	75
Marl-leas Plantation (Whitsome)	09-Jan	118	Lees Haugh (Coldstream)	18-Feb	65
Knowleyburn (Paxton)	09-Jan	70	Eckford	18-Feb	15
Smedheugh Pond (Selkirk)	11-Jan	19	Birgham (Kelso)	20-Feb	142
Hilton (Paxton)	13-Jan	101	Whitmuir Hall Loch (Selkirk)	21-Feb	8
Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor)	13-Jan	3	Down Law Loch (Ancrum)	22-Feb	72
Barnes Loch (Stobs Castle)	15-Jan	11	Jardinefield (Whitsome)	01-Mar	8
Whitsomehill (Whitsome)	19-Jan	138	Ravelaw (Whitsome)	03-Mar	8
Loch of the Lowes	19-Jan	2	Folly Loch	06-Mar	130
Fireburnmill (Coldstream)	28-Jan	20	White Law Loch (Selkirk)	14-Mar	11
Redden Haugh (Kelso)	28-Jan	20	Ale Moor Reservoir (Borthwick Water)	19-Mar	23
Lindean Loch (Selkirk)	31-Jan	4	Eden Hall (Kelso)	20-Mar	37
Paxton House	02-Feb	46	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	24-Mar	85
Synton Mossend (Ashkirk)	03-Feb	5	Crailing	25-Mar	22
Dry Moss (Selkirk)	03-Feb	4	Newmains (Reston)	26-Mar	32
Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch)	03-Feb	2	St Mary's Loch	28-Mar	3
			Kerss Wood and Loch (Ancrum)	15-Apr	9

Oct-Dec records from 33 tetrads:

Maximum counts per tetrad			Nether Falla (Portmore)	18-Nov	2
Megget Reservoir	19-Oct	12	Blackburn (Lauder)	22-Nov	12
Doons Law (Whitsome)	20-Oct	35	Lauder	25-Nov	12
Whitsome	21-Oct	35	Shortacres (Crailing)	26-Nov	211
Portmore Loch	23-Oct	7	Jardinefield (Whitsome)	28-Nov	126
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	01-Nov	19	Dykegatehead (Whitsome)	03-Dec	234
Tweed: Carham-Sprouston	01-Nov	8	Paxton House	05-Dec	10
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	07-Nov	251	Teviot Haughs (W)	12-Dec	181
Whitelaw (Eddleston)	09-Nov	129	Whitelaw (Eddleston)	14-Dec	16
Folly Loch	12-Nov	190	Nisbet	16-Dec	203
Hule Moss	12-Nov	10	Smedheugh Pond (Selkirk)	18-Dec	19
Whitelaw (Allanton)	13-Nov	169	Lady Moss (Bowden)	18-Dec	2
Chirnside	13-Nov	38	Loch of Lowes	19-Dec	7
Whitmuir Hall Loch (Selkirk)	13-Nov	4	Birgham Haugh	22-Dec	189
Sinclair's Hill (Duns)	15-Nov	87	Aker Moor Loch (Ettrickbridge)	27-Dec	10
Angelrow (Greenlaw)	15-Nov	24	Shaws Upper Loch (Ettrick Forest)	27-Dec	10
Horndean (Whitsome)	16-Nov	44	Hellmoor Loch (Ettrick Forest)	31-Dec	1

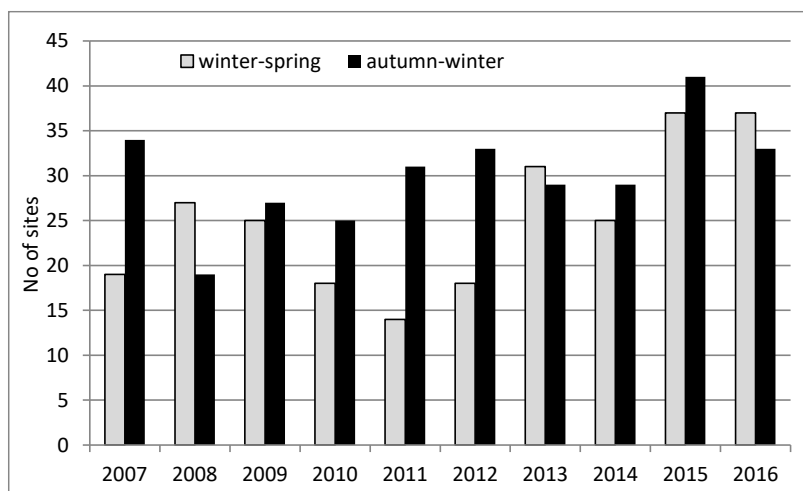
There is obviously an element of duplicate counts in the tables above as birds are fairly mobile.

During the period Jan-Apr 10% of birds which were aged were 1st-winter birds, ie 100 of 999 birds. During the period Oct-Dec 16% of birds were juvenile/1st-winter birds, ie 233 of 1,132 birds.

The latest record in spring was on 19-Apr when nine birds were reported from Folly Loch (RD Murray). The earliest autumn record was of two birds at Folly Loch on 30-Sep (M Moncrieff).

A single bird accompanying Mute Swans was frequently seen throughout the summer period in the Fishwick-English border stretch of the Tweed.

The graph below suggests that the population of over-wintering Whooper Swans may have increased over the past six years:



No of sites with records for Whooper Swan: 2007-2016.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant, Sep-May, peak Oct- Nov. Two important roosts at West Water (record maximum 82,920) and Hule Moss (record maximum 19,100). During 2008-13 found in 2% of tetrads in summer and 8% in winter.

Records from 58 tetrads (5%). Records came from 83 sites in 2015. Tetrads where reports were of birds flying over are not included.

Jan-Apr had records from 32 tetrads. Peak counts per tetrad were:

Ayton	06-Jan	300	Birgham Haugh (Kelso)	21-Feb	1
Watch Water (Longformacus)	09-Jan	1	Easter Place (Broughton)	22-Feb	1,660
Lamberton	09-Jan	250	Parkgatestone (Broughton)	22-Feb	510
Hamiltonhall (West Linton)	11-Jan	1,490	Whitrig Bog	22-Feb	3,000
Deanfoot (West Linton)	11-Jan	150	Sandyknowe (Smailholm)	25-Feb	4,000
Pease Bay	13-Jan	35	Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	02-Mar	117
Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor)	28-Jan	11	East Cairn Hill (Carlops)	05-Mar	1,000
Whitrig Bog	28-Jan	170	Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick)	08-Mar	3
Ale Mill Ayton)	02-Feb	750	Harcus (Portmore)	11-Mar	160
Folly Loch	03-Feb	1,500	Stobo	13-Mar	1,810
Black Barony	04-Feb	30	Abbotsford	13-Mar	800
Crailing Tofts (Nisbet)	04-Feb	550	Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)	03-Apr	720
Stantling Craig Res. (Galashiels)	06-Feb	80	Macks Mill (Gordon)	08-Apr	160
Kettelshiel-Westruther	07-Feb	60	Dowlaw Road (Coldingham Moor)	10-Apr	300
Rachelfield (Smailholm)	10-Feb	2,500	Haud Yards (Coldingham Moor)	12-Apr	800
Bemersyde Moss	12-Feb	2,000	West Water (West Linton)*	15-Apr	1

* Keeper reported spring maximum numbers at West Water of approx. 2,000 birds.

The latest spring record was of 50 birds at Lamberton on 20-Apr (R McBeath). The earliest autumn record was of a single at Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden) on 2-Sep (D Christie).

Given the mobility of the species, multiple counts of the same birds are inevitable, especially for tetrads closely located to one another and even further afield.

Sep-Dec had records from 28 tetrads:

Swinside Hall (Oxnam)	20-Sep	80	Fouldean, Greenlaw Farm Pool	03-Nov	3,710
St Abb's Head	27-Sep	47	Westfield Ponds (Smailholm)	06-Nov	5,000
Stantling Craig Res. (Galashiels)	30-Sep	36	Folly Loch	12-Nov	5,826
West Water (West Linton)	05-Oct	47,000	Elwartlaw (Greenlaw)	14-Nov	700
Georgefield (Earlston)	07-Oct	55	Horndean (Ladykirk)	16-Nov	135
Earlston	10-Oct	55	Nisbet	23-Nov	4,000
Randy Plantation (Smailholm)	12-Oct	3,000	Whitrig	26-Nov	20
Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)	14-Oct	4,100	Under Greenhill Shiel (Fishwick)	26-Nov	135
East Reston (Ayton)	17-Oct	600	Jardinefield (Whitsome)	03-Dec	200
Lamberton	18-Oct	150	Teviot Haughs (E)	04-Dec	1,340
Bemersyde	19-Oct	1,680	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	06-Dec	100
Hule Moss	21-Oct	15,900	Kirkmains (Nisbet)	11-Dec	1,600
Bettyfield (Smailholm)	22-Oct	12,000	Lady Moss (Bowden)	18-Dec	40
Bogbank (Coldingham Moor)	22-Oct	7,670	The Stell (Westruther)	27-Dec	4

Discounting the high counts of 2015 when West Water reported a record count of 82,920, the count of 47,000 on 5-Oct (N Crowther) was the highest for that site since 5-Oct 2008 when 47,361 were counted.

The count of 15,900 at Hule Moss on 21-Oct (J Lough) appears to have been the highest there since a count of 19,100 on 9-Dec 1999.

Similarly, the counts in the Smailholm area (max. of 12,000 on 22-Oct – MB Ross) are exceptional with the highest previous count at 5,000 in 2008. The count of 5,826 at Folly Loch on 12-Nov (A Bramhall) also appears to have been the highest on record for that site while the counts for the Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) (max. of 4,000 near Nisbet on 23-Nov – M Moncrieff) were, according to the WeBS database, last equalled in autumn 2009, although there is no record of this count in the Borders Bird Report for that year.

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.

Five records from four tetrads (three records in winter/spring and one in autumn/winter). There were three reports from two sites in 2015 and no reports in 2014, while 2013 only had one report of six birds.

Whitrig Bog	Jan-16	1*	Whitrig Bog	Apr-16	1
Homebank (Coldstream)	Jan-16	2	Megget Reservoir	Oct-16	1
Folly Loch	Feb-16	1	* <i>albifrons</i> ssp.		

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Uncommon but 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.

Records from 65 tetrads (5%).

Jan-Mar:

Forty-one tetrads with records. Sites with counts of 20 or more were: Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulден) - 880; Folly Loch - 420; Frogden Moss (Morebattle) - 310; Gala Water (Stow) - 300; Watch Water (Longformacus) - 192; Newmains (Reston) - 185; Cairncross (Reston) - 100; Stantlingcraig Res (Galashiels) - 82; Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor) - 65; Whitrig Bog - 54; Sprouston-Whitmuirhaugh (Kelso) - 46; Hule Moss - 33; Teviot Haughs - 32; Macbiehill Pond (West Linton) - 27; Broomdykes (Allanton) - 22; Hattonknowe Haugh (Eddlestone) - 20.

Apr-Jun:

Records from 39 tetrads. Counts above 20 were: Westfield Ponds (Smailholm) - 1,000; Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulден) - 425; Whitrig Bog - 79; Stantlingcraig Res.- 69; Folly Loch - 50; Watch Water (Longformacus) - 30; Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head) - 24; Bemersyde - 21.

Jul-Sep:

Records from 20 tetrads. Counts of 20 or more were: Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulден) - 1,722; Stantlingcraig Res. - 150; Watch Water - 105; Hirsell Lake - 63; Millar's Moss - 24; Lilliesleaf Moss - 22; Gala Water-nr Stow - 20.

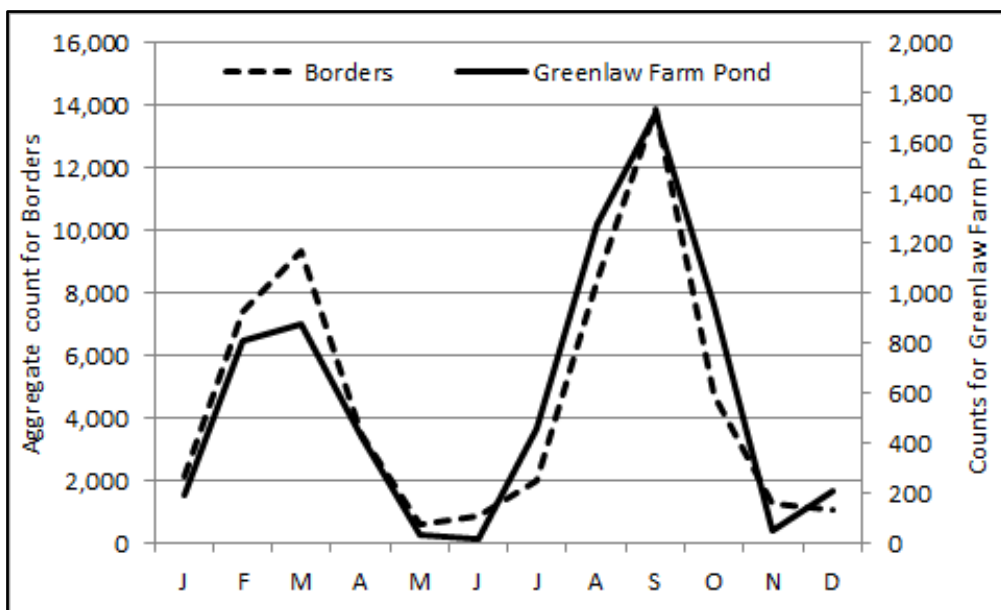
Oct-Dec:

Fifteen tetrads were occupied. Records of above 20 birds were: Greenlaw Farm Pond - 955; Stantlingcraig Res. - 400; Watch Water - 264; Birgham Hough (Kelso) - 137; Folly Loch - 97; Nisbet - 50; Gala Water-nr Stow - 40; Folly Loch - 30; Lochan (Kelso) - 30.

As for recent years, the most consistently counted site (by D Christie) with sizeable numbers was Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulден). Peak counts:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2015	557	1,380	864	407	30	16	512	1,360	1,805	252	640	360
2016	190	809	880	425	37	21	460	1,278	1,722	955	54	210

The monthly trends for Greenlaw Farm Pond reflect those for the Borders as a whole:



Comparison of counts for all of Borders and Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulден), 2016

The obvious August-September peak represents post-breeding flocks which then disperse in October, while the smaller February-March peak is possibly swollen by birds moving through the Borders from the south. Foulden becomes a more important site from July to December with about 20% of the aggregate Borders count found there.

Other sites with records:

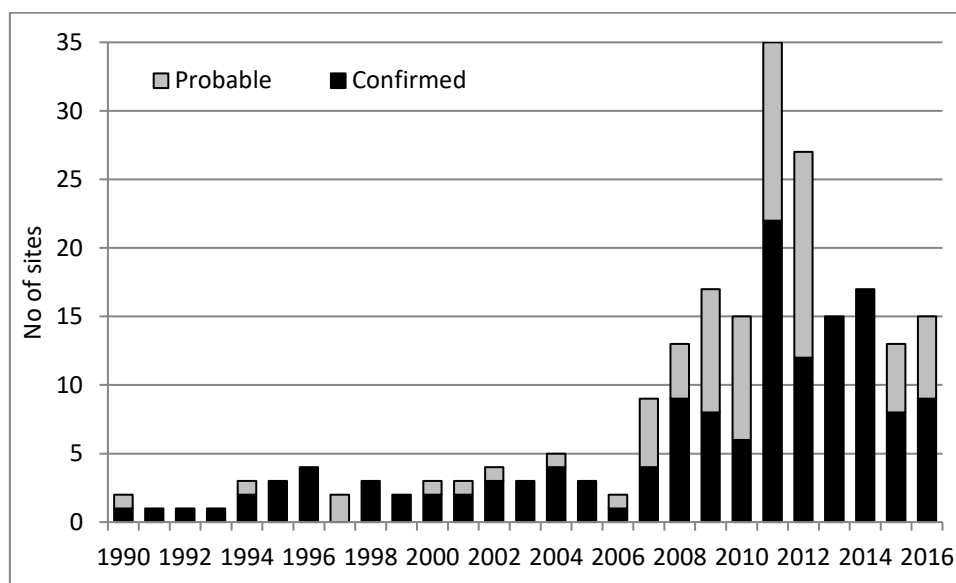
Altarstone (Dawyck); Alton Pond (Hawick); Baddinsgill Reservoir (West Linton); Black Barony; Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank); Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch); Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords); Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie; Etrick Water at Selkirk; Garvald Junction (Moorfoots); Harcus (Eddleston); Hare Moss (Selkirk); Haud Yards (Coldingham Moor); Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm); Hundleshope (Manor Valley); Huntford (Carter Bar); Kelso; Lambertton; Leadburn Community Wood; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Paxton House; Selkirk Race Course Moss; Synton Loch (Selkirk); Torwoodlee (Galashiels); Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Cobby; Tweed: Sprouston/Redden Circular; Tweedbank; Wester Deans (Leadburn); Whim Pond (Leadburn); White Law Loch (Selkirk); Jardinefield (Whitsome); Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Wooden Loch (Eckford); Wooplaw (Galashiels); Yetholm Loch South.

Records of breeding came from 15 tetrads:

Nether Whitlaw (Selkirk)	25-Mar	P	Kelso	13-May	br10
Harcus (Eddleston)	30-Mar	ON	Watch Water	18-May	br6
Ale Moor Reservoir (Buccleuch)	03-Apr	P	Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels)	03-Jun	9br42
Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	15-Apr	P	North Esk Reservoir	08-Jun	3br24
Longformacus	19-Apr	A	Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	16-Jun	3br13
Hule Moss	20-Apr	P(3)	Edenmouth (Kelso)	23-Jun	3br8
Hirsel	28-Apr	P	Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	27-Jun	2br11
			Wester Deans Ponds (Leadburn)	18-Jul	br2

See Introduction for explanation of breeding codes.

The graph below indicates clearly the increase in numbers of breeding sites. It is assumed that most of these breeding sites involve feral birds.



Sites with breeding records for Greylag Goose: 1990-2016.

In all likelihood the peak associated with 2011/12 is largely because of greater observer effort during the Atlas survey work, suggesting that the number of breeding sites recorded since 2012 is well below the actual number of breeding sites.



Whooper Swan. Birgham Haugh. January. Bill Meikle.



Female Gosander. Hirsell Lake. January. Bill Meikle.

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.

Records from 45 tetrads (4%). Records came from 40 tetrads in 2015.

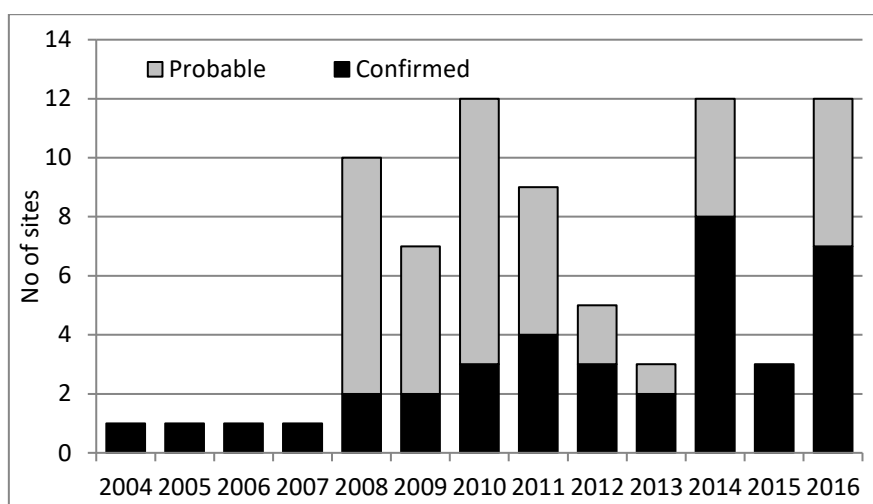
	No. tetrads with records	Sites with counts of 20 or more
Jan-Mar	31	Watch Water (Longformacus)- 81; Whitrig Bog- 45; Hendersyde (Kelso)- 43; Bemersyde Moss- 28; Folly Loch- 24.
Apr-Jun	32	Folly Loch- 45; Whitrig Bog- 40; Watch Water- 35; Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden)- 24; Bemersyde Moss- 22.
Jul-Sep	7	Watch Water- 140; Greenlaw Farm Pond- 98.
Oct-Dec	16	Watch Water- 142; Tweed: Carham-Sprouston- 120; Greenlaw Farm Pond- 78; Hule Moss- 77; Bemersyde Moss- 45; Bemersyde- 44; Cauldsheils Loch (Tweedbank)- 40; Greenwells Farm (Newtown St Boswells)- 27 ; Whitrig Bog (Smailholm)- 25.

Sites with records of less than 20: Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick); Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick); Birgham (Kelso); Cammerlaws (Westruther); Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch); Cloich (Eddleston); Fruid Reservoir (Tweedsmuir); Gala Sewage Works Pond; Gordon Community Woodland; Haining Loch (Selkirk); Harelaw Pond (Lilliesleaf); Hirsell Lake; Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm); Hule Moss; Langton Edge (Duns); Lees Haugh (Coldstream); Lilliesleaf Moss Pool; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Longformacus; Melrose; North Esk Reservoir; Paxton House; Smedheugh Pond (Selkirk); Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels) (Clovenfords); Synton Loch (Hawick); The Hass (Carter Bar); Tweed: Sprouston-Redden; West Water Reservoir (West Linton); White Law Loch (Selkirk); Whitmuir Hall Loch (Selkirk); Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Yetholm Loch.

Breeding evidence from 12 tetrads. This is higher than the average of recent years (as the graph below shows):

North Esk Reservoir	10-Mar	P(2)	Gordon Community Woodland	30-Apr	N
Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	15-Apr	P	Synton Mossend (Hawick)	04-May	ON
Longformacus	19-Apr	A	Folly Loch	19-May	2br2
Nether Whitlaw Moss (Selkirk)	19-Apr	ON	White Law Loch (Selkirk)	08-Jun	1br3; 1br4
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)	19-Apr	ON	Bemersyde Moss	10-Jun	2br7
Hule Moss	20-Apr	P	Springhall (Kelso)	23-Jun	2br4

See Introduction for explanation of breeding codes.



Sites with breeding evidence for Canada Goose: 2004-2016.

(2004 is used because years prior to this often do not show any breeding evidence records).

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.

Records from a total of eight sites (nine in 2015 and 16 in 2014) with six records from five sites in winter/spring and six records from six sites in autumn/winter:

Newmains (Reston)	01-Jan	1	Mire Loch (St. Abb's Head)	06-Oct	100
Hamiltonhall (West Linton)	11-Jan	3	St Abbs Head	08-Oct	30
Newmains	12-Jan	1	Bemersyde Moss	17-Oct	1
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	25-Jan	1	Tweed: Carham-Sprouston	01-Nov	1
St Abb's Head	29-May	2	Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	03-Nov	3
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	10-Jun	1	Watch Water Reservoir	20-Nov	1

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Uncommon, but increasingly 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.

Five records from two sites (three records from two sites in 2015 and two records from two sites in 2014). In absence of information, all of 2016's birds presumed to be light-bellied:

Eyemouth Bay	06-Jan	6	St Abb's Head	28-Aug	37
Eyemouth Bay	14-Sep	9	St Abb's Head	05-Sep	6
			St Abb's Head	16-Sep	8

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.

Records from a total of 18 sites (13 in 2015 and 16 in 2014), mainly from Bemersyde-Folly Loch and eastwards:

	No. tetrads with records	Sites (some counts may include fledged and juveniles)
Jan-Mar	9	Whitrig Bog-Westfield- 5; Folly Loch- 4; Hule Moss- 4; Dunglass- 3; Easter Place (Broughton)- 2; Bemersyde Moss- 2; Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)- 2; Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden)- 2.
Apr-Jun	12	Folly Loch- 15; Bemersyde Moss- 8; Whitrig Bog (Smailholm)- 7; Greenheugh Pt (Pease Bay)- 4; Dowlaw Dam- 2; Kerrs Wood and Loch (Ancrum)- 2; Yetholm Loch- 2; Dunglass (Cockburnspath)- 2; Milne Graden (Coldstream)- 2; Greenlaw Farm Pond- 2; Leadburn Community Wood- 1; Westfield Pools (Smailholm)- 1.
Jul-Sep	6	Folly Loch- 23; Bemersyde Moss- 5; Greenlaw Farm Pond- 2; Eyemouth- 2; Hirsell Lake- 1; Hule Moss-present.
Oct-Dec	0	

Evidence of breeding reported from 11 tetrads:

Folly Loch	3br15	Milne Graden (Coldstream)	P
Bemersyde Moss	2br12	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	br11
Whitrig Bog (Smailholm)	br7	Folly Loch	br4, br7
Green Heugh Pt. (Pease Bay)	P(2)	Bemersyde Moss	br5
Dowlaw Dam	P	Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	br11
Yetholm Loch North	P	See Introduction for breeding codes	

Latest record was of two at Folly Loch on 10-Aug (M Moncrieff).

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.

Seven records from six tetrads: four records from Eye Water catchment, two from the Tweed and one from the Whiteadder. This compares with six records from three sites in 2015 and 14 records from five sites in 2014. This shy bird is often difficult to record.

Ayton	12-Mar	5	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	29-May	1
Linthill (Eyemouth)	15-Mar	1	Lochton (Kelso)	04-Jun	1
Hutton Mill Bridge (Chirnside)	20-Mar	2	Mileknowe Ponds (Ayton) *	24-Jul	12
Ayton	13-May	1	* incl. fledged young (D Graham)		

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.

Eighty-eight counted during the Rocky Shore count on 17-Jan, all between Pease Bay and Souter.

Records from a total of 55 tetrads (4%). 45 tetrads in 2015:

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	40	Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden)-815; Whitrig Bog (Smailholm)-450; Folly Loch- 250; Bemersyde Moss-195; Redheugh-Siccar Pt.-88; Dunglass (Cockburnspath)-74; Williestruther Loch (Hawick)-60; Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)-50; Alemoor Reservoir (Borthwick Water) (Hawick)-50; Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)-50.
Apr-Jun	7	Greenlaw Farm Pond- 58; Bemersyde Moss-8; Folly Loch- 6; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)-5; Whitrig Bog-3; Lindean Mast Pool (Selkirk)-3; Millar's Moss-1.
Jul-Sep	10	Greenlaw Farm Pond-65; Eyemouth-49; St Abb's Head-45; Hirsell Lake-18; Hule Moss-18; Wooden Loch (Eckford)-8; Bemersyde Moss-4; Stantling Craig Res (Galashiels)-2; Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)-1; Folly Loch-1.
Oct-Dec	31	Whitrig-850; Greenlaw Farm Pond-842; Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)-100; Folly Loch-75; Bemersyde Moss-70; Ploughlands Pond-70; Synton Loch (Ashkirk)-69; Wooden Loch- 69; Millar's Moss-60; Williestruther Loch-52; Whitmuir Hall Loch (Selkirk)-40.

Other sites with records (counts lower than in periods shown above): Birgham (Kelso); Borthwickshiels Loch (Hawick); Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor); Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor); Earl's Haugh (Coldstream); Edenmouth (Kelso); Harelaw Pond (Westruther); Hendersyde (Kelso); Hule Moss; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Long Phillip Burn Res. (Hawick); Newmains (Reston); North Esk Reservoir; Pease Bay-Redheugh; Portmore Loch; Rachelfield Pond (Smailholm); Synton Mossend (Ashkirk); Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream; Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Cobby; Whim Pond (West Linton).

Three counts broke previous records for their respective sites and for the Borders region: on 3-Feb Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden) broke its previous highest count with 815 birds. This was exceeded once more on 4-Dec with a count of 848 (D Christie), a site and would-be county record but for the fact that it was bettered by a count of 850 at Whitrig Bog on 25-Nov (J Lough). Given the apparently rounded-up precision of 850 at Whitrig Bog it might well be that both sites actually share the accolade of highest count to-date.

The previous highest count was of 600 at the Hirsell on 27-Nov 1988, although there was a record of c. 1,000 on passage past St Abb's Head on 28-Sep 2007.

Records were received for all 12 months. There were no records with breeding evidence. The last record involving breeding evidence was of a pair at Akermoor Loch (Hawick) on 28-May 2012.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor, mostly August-September. Scarce, but increasingly regular. Rare breeder, in very small numbers on eastern waters. During 2008-13 found in 1% of tetrads in summer and 1% in winter.

103 records from 13 (1%) tetrads (six tetrads in 2015 and 11 tetrads in 2014). Records from all months:

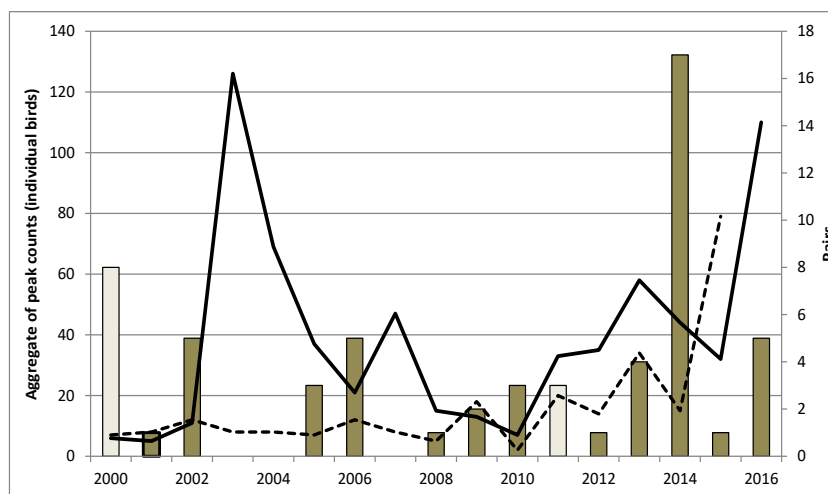
Peak counts per site:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Yetholm Loch	10	23	31	22	5	10	7	25	16	15	14	7
Yetholm Marsh	8			2							1	
Newmains (Reston)	1											
Folly Loch		1	1				1				1	
Ploughland Pond (Nisbet)		1	1							1	1	
Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden)		1	-	1	2	1		2				1
Cauldshiels Loch (Melrose)			1									-
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)				1						4		2
Town Yetholm Pond				1								
Hule Moss								2	6	1		
Bemersyde Moss								2				
Bow Hill (Selkirk)									5			
Hirsel Lake									4			
Totals for peak counts	19	26	34	27	7	11	8	31	31	21	17	10

The Jan-Mar and Aug-Dec peak totals appear to be the highest so far with an aggregate peak total for winter-spring of 79 birds and a total for autumn-winter of 110. As the above table shows, the greater part of these count were based at Yetholm Loch.

Confirmed breeding evidence: 1br5 on 29-Jun at Yetholm Loch. Last breeding record was in 2014 at the same site.

During the breeding season there were records of four pairs at Yetholm Loch and a single pair at Yetholm Marsh.



Gadwall records based on aggregate peak counts: 2000-2016 (broken line = winter-spring; solid line = autumn-winter; bars = pairs of breeding birds with darker bars indicating confirmed breeding).

Although records are incomplete, there appears to be an increase in the overall wintering and breeding population since about 2010.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Uncommon breeder, c. 200 pr, 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.

541 records (338 in 2015) from 64 (5%) tetrads. In 2015 records were from 61 tetrads.

Monthly peak counts from the main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bemersyde Moss	51	153	13	29	1		4	7	11	11	14	
Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor)	43	6	11	19	2			30				48
Folly Loch	86	350	150	23	15	17	32	9	93	220	80	83
Galashiels Sewage Works			43	34					2	36		57
Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden)	248	150	63	64	23	10	14	62	86	277	778	122
Hen Poo (Duns)	3								10	20	70	14
Hirsel Lake	50	31	15	6			13		Pr	12	15	55
Hollybush (Galashiels)	57	15	12	7	3	1			Pr	101	15	14
Hule Moss		20	17	8	2		2	25	270	550	350	750
Hundleshope (Manor Valley)		30	41				1	36				
Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	2				18	10				14	17	23
Newmains (Reston)	356		235							185	310	320
Stantling Craig Res. (Clovenfords)			10	7	4				20	16		12
Watch Water (Longformacus)	130		4			Pr					125	120
Whitrig Bog	200	129	61	22							200	20
Yetholm Loch		6	4	4				8	5	3	8	3
Yetholm Pond	20	4		2						10	2	65

Peak counts of 778 on 15-Nov (D Christie) at Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden) and 750 on 20-Dec at Hule Moss (J Lough) were exceptional but short of the count of 850 in December, 2013 at Hule Moss. Greenlaw Farm Pond has become perhaps the premier site in Borders for Teal, surprising given its relatively small area but also testimony to the regular, systematic counts of David Christie.

Breeding evidence came from only 12 tetrads (10 with evidence in form of pairs and only two with confirmed breeding). However, this is typical for the species:

Whitmuirhall Loch (Selkirk)	19-Apr	P(3)	Blackhope Ponds (Moorfoots)	22-May	P
Hirsel Lake	19-Apr	P(2)	Peat Hill Ponds (Carcant)	22-May	P
Lindean Mast Pool (Selkirk)	19-Apr	P	Hule Moss	22-May	P
Yetholm Marsh	19-Apr	P	Caddon Water (Moorfoots)	24-May	1br6
Hule Moss	24-Apr	P	Fruid Reservoir	1-Jul	P
Folly Loch	22-May	P	Hundleshope (Manor Valley)	6-Jul	1br2

See Introduction for breeding codes.

The overall annual pattern showed the typical autumn-winter maximum of records and size of counts, a pattern compounded by the secretive nature of breeding Teal, usually in more remote locations and therefore difficult to record.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
No. tetrads	21	27	27	18	13	5	8	8	11	20	20	23
Aggregate counts	1,551	1,297	781	254	79	39	75	191	614	1,583	2,080	1,786

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.

One thousand four hundred and twenty-six records from 188 (15%) tetrads (140 tetrads in 2015).

The most frequently (min. of five months) surveyed sites with at least 10 birds were:

Peak counts of 10 or more	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Max.
Abbotsford	69				13				51	69	27	46	69
Bemersyde Moss		40	25	20		32	170	18	28		50		170
Bowdenmoor Res. (Bowden)		17					31		40	66		16	66
Folly Loch	40	164	81	22	21	67	137	135	61	164	86	147	164
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)				13		170	115	264	238	16	16		264
Hen Poo (Duns)	41	36							87	100	102	71	102
Hirsel Lake	100		37			100	102	31	76	22	33		102
Hollybush (Galashiels)		15	11	11		44	26		17	31	11		44
Hule Moss							16	20	32	50	25	50	50
Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	80	43		11						66	64		80
Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	18					24		39	35	10			39
Paxton House	56		21	14	15	16	15	11	16	31	115	26	115
Pease Bay-Redheugh (RSC)	108												
Peebles	20						65		18	39	41		65
Stantling Craig Res. (Clovenfords)		42	10						15	80	82	42	82
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	150	33							63		16	22	150
The Holmes (St Boswells)	22		12	34				51		43	44		51
Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose	39		18				35	174	78		114	57	174
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	219	148	106	20	36	70				29	200	219	219
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	231	124	140	30		15	20				23	202	231
Tweedbank	109	33	42	26	26	106	162	135	75		42	43	162
Whitmuir Hall Loch (Selkirk)		11	13			11				32	11		32
Whitrig Bog	108		50	14				14			120	10	120
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	37	51	10	10		46		49	66	48			66
Yetholm Loch	326	148	140	69	47	145	254	307	180	256	133	215	326
Yetholm Pond	38	26		10			19				20	55	55
Maximum count	326	164	140	69	47	170	254	307	238	256	200	219	326

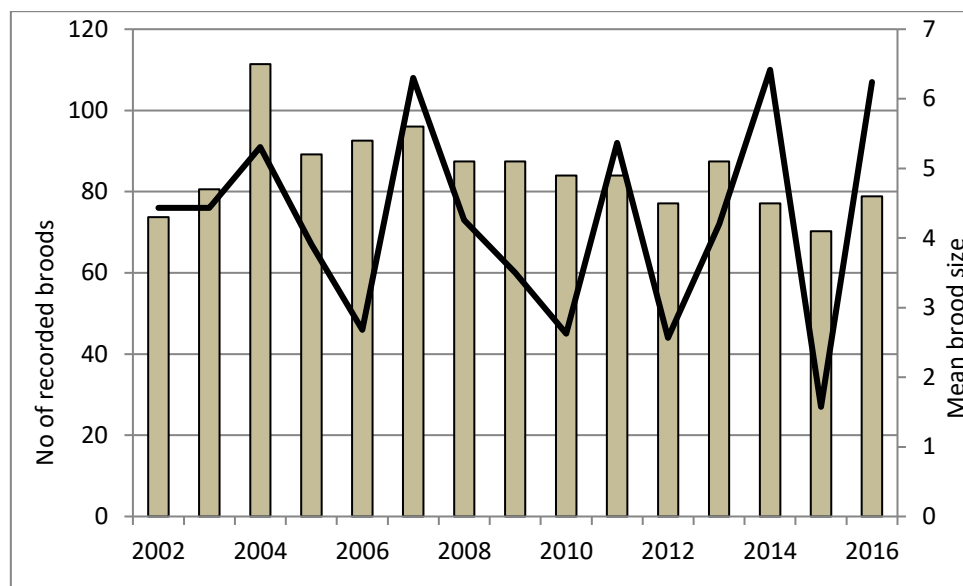
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream data is based on the maximum count at any single site between Kelso and Coldstream unless the WeBS count for the whole stretch was greater than any sub-site count during the relevant month.

The highest count was of 326 at Yetholm Loch on 18-Jan (J Lough). Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden) had a highest count of 264 on 29-Aug (D Christie). These maxima did not match those of the last two years, especially in the stretch of the Tweed between Kelso and Coldstream.

Evidence of breeding was reported from 81 sites but 16 of these had evidence only in the form of pairs. Records of breeding levels show considerable variation from year to year:

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Sites	53	47	51	46	28	66	55	33	27	46	31	49	63	22	51
Broods	76	76	91	67	46	108	73	60	45	92	44	72	110	27	107
Young	326	355	591	347	248	605	374	304	222	453	196	365	496	110	487
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	4.6

Mallard productivity in the Borders



Breeding levels for Mallard: 2002-2016 (line=recorded broods; bars=MBR).

Seventy-four tetrads held breeding evidence (see Introduction for breeding codes):

Traquair House Pond	17-Mar	P	North Esk Reservoir	08-Jun	br11
The Rink (Selkirk)	17-Mar	P	Harwood (Bonchester Bridge)	08-Jun	br3
Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose	20-Mar	P	Southfield Pond (Stobs Castle)	09-Jun	br3
Smailholm Tower Pond	25-Mar	P	Williestruther Loch (Stobs Castle)	09-Jun	br11
Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)	29-Mar	P	Groundistone Moss (Ashkirk)	09-Jun	br11
Bowhill (Selkirk)	30-Mar	P	Hilton (Whitsome)	11-Jun	FL
Leahead (Hawick)	02-Apr	P	Folly Loch	14-Jun	1br5; 1br7; 1br8
Melrose	14-Apr	P	Cauldsiels Loch (Tweedbank)	14-Jun	FL
Lindean Reservoir	15-Apr	P	Black Barony	18-Jun	br3
North Slipperfield (West Linton)	15-Apr	P	Leadburn Community Wood	19-Jun	br6
Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	19-Apr	P	Harelaw Pond (Lilliesleaf)	21-Jun	1br1; 1br6
Pot Loch (Selkirk)	19-Apr	P	Abbotsmoss Pond (Tweedbank)	21-Jun	br2
Lindean Mast Pool	19-Apr	P	Dunglass Estate Pond	21-Jun	br3
Nunlands Pond (Foulden)	19-Apr	P	Dowlaw Dam	21-Jun	br3
Hule Moss	24-Apr	P(4)	Hirsel Lake	22-Jun	FL
The Holmes (St Boswells)	26-Apr	br11	Wooden Loch (Eckford)	23-Jun	2br6
Glensax Burn (Kings Muir)	26-Apr	br3	Tweed: Edenmouth (Kelso)	23-Jun	3br8
Tweedmill (Coldstream)	27-Apr	P	Tweed: Springhall (Kelso)	23-Jun	2br16
Abbotsford	01-May	P	Tweed: Cobby (Kelso)	23-Jun	2br4
Yetholm Loch	02-May	br6	Tweed: Fireburnmill (Coldstream)	23-Jun	2br9
Staney Hill (Teviothead)	03-May	FL	Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	27-Jun	br7; 2br11
Teviot, Ormiston	04-May	br2	Wiltonburn Loch (Hawick)	28-Jun	br4
Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)	04-May	P(2)	Ashiestiel Bridge (Caddonfoot)	28-Jun	br5
Lilliesleaf Moss	04-May	P	Rachan Corner Pond (Broughton)	01-Jul	br3
Birgham Haugh (Kelso)	07-May	br9	Tweedbank	04-Jul	1br9; 1br3; 1br3,1br1
Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden)	07-May	br5	Folly Loch	04-Jul	5br19
Green Diamonds (Ashkirk)	07-May	P	Hollybush Loch	04-Jul	4br25
Stantling Craig Res. (Clovenfords)	18-May	1br9	Hollybush South Pond	04-Jul	br2
Carcant Windfarm (Moorfoots)	22-May	P	Harehope House South Pond	05-Jul	br4
Blackhopebyre (Garvald)	22-May	P	Harehope House North Pond	05-Jul	br4
Caddon Water	24-May	1br3	Harcus (Eddleston)	06-Jul	br10
Fruid Reservoir	27-May	1br10	Paxton House	09-Jul	FL
St Mary's Loch	27-May	br3	Watch Water Longformacus	12-Jul	1br5
Bemersyde Moss	03-Jun	br4	Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	15-Jul	FL
Tweed: Lochton (Kelso)	04-Jun	2br15	Bowdenmoor Reservoir	19-Jul	2br5
Tweed: Sprouston-Banff Mill	04-Jun	5br32	Haining Loch (Selkirk)	22-Jul	FL
Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk)	04-Jun	P	Peebles-Neidpath	24-Aug	2br3

Other sites with less frequent records of 10 or more were from: Alemoor Reservoir (Borthwick Water) Loch; Allanton; Ashiestiel Bridge (Caddonfoot); Bamflatt (Broughton); Barnhills (Denholm); Bowhill (Selkirk); Broomdykes-Crossrig (Allanton); Broughton Brewery floods; Brundeanlaws (Carter Bar); Caddon Water; Cardrona; Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank); Cleugh (Broughton); Dowlaw Dam; Dryburgh (St Boswells); Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie; Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall; Edington Mains (Foulden); Fruid Reservoir; Galashiels Sewage Works ; Haining Loch (Selkirk); Hallmanor Loch (Manor Valley); Hare Moss (Ashkirk); Harehope Loch (Peebles); Harelaw Pond (Lilliesleaf); Harwood (Bonchester Bridge); Hattonknowe (Eddleston); Hilton (Whitsome); Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm) - 97 max; Hundleshope (Manor Valley); Innerleithen; Loch of Lowes (Yarrow); Long Philip Burn Res. (Selkirk); Mertoun Estate Pond (St Boswells); Mertoun-Clinthill (St Boswells); Middlestots Marsh (Duns); Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); Newmains (Reston); Pease Bay-Redheugh (Rocky Shore Count); ; Peebles-Neidpath; Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet); Portmore Loch; Rachelfield (Smailholm); Redheugh-Siccar Shore (Rocky Shore Count); Selkirk; Synton Mossend (Ashkirk); Talla Reservoir; Teviot: Chesters (Ancrum); Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge; Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean; Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange; Watch Water (Longformacus) - 350 max; Whim Pond (West Linton); Whitton Loch (Hownam); Williestruther Loch (Stobs Castle).

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.

Records from six tetrads. Possibly slightly greater winter presence (2015/16) than in recent years:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Folly Loch	2	3	2									
Bamflatt (Broughton)			3									
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)			2			1						
St Abb's Head									2			
Eyemouth									5			
Hoselaw Loch (Sprouston)										1		

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.



Records from 15 tetrads.

2015 - 7 tetrads

2014 - 9

2013 - 7

2012 - 6

2011 - 8

2010 - 6

2009 - 9

2008 - 10.

Male Shoveler.

Newmains (Reston).

January.

Dave Graham.

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Newmains (Reston)	2											
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	1											
Whitrig Bog		1	1	2								
Rachelfield (Smailholm)			1									
Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden)				2			2	2	3	2	2	
Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor)				2								
Yetholm Marsh				2								
Folly Loch						3						
Hule Moss						Pr			9	2	3	
Hirsel Lake							1					
Yetholm Loch									1	1		
Bemersyde Moss									6	5	7	
Bowhill (Selkirk)									1			
Ale Moor Reservoir (Hawick)										1		
Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)										-	1	
Total of peak counts	3	1	2	8	0	3	3	2	20	11	13	0
No. of sites	2	1	2	4	0	2	2	1	5	5	4	0

There was no evidence of confirmed breeding.

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.

Records from a total of four tetrads, cf nine for 2015 and nine in 2014.

Winter-spring: Hirsel Lake (one on 2-, 13- and 16-Jan); Whitrig Bog (one on 23-Jan); Folly Loch (one on 18-Feb); Yetholm Loch (three on 26-Feb).

Summer-autumn: Hirsel Lake (one on 18-Sep).

Autumn-winter: Yetholm Loch (one from 28-Oct to 28-Nov); Hirsel Lake (five on 12-Nov, B Meikle).



Tufted Duck. Birgham Haugh. January. Bill Meikle.

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.

Five hundred and seventeen records from 57 (4%) tetrads (61 tetrads in 2015).

Counts of five or more:

Sites with counts of five or more	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Abbotsford-Lowood												27
Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick)			26								18	
Ale Moor Reservoir (Borthwick Water)		8										
Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Bowden)			8	6						5		
Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)			9									
Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor)	9		12	10								
Easter Housebyres (Galashiels)			5									
Folly Loch	36	21	31	34	28	30	48	35	54	20	-	18
Green Diamonds (Selkirk)				8	5							
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)			6	19		7						
Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank)	34	25	18	13	8				6		18	18
Haining Loch (Selkirk)	7	18				5	10					
Hirsel Lake	81	24	29	33		17	18		6	48	132	22
Hollybush (Galashiels)		29					17					10
Hoselaw Loch (Sprouston)											10	
Hule Moss		9	16	5	13	8	14	13	35	16	6	95
Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)		6		13	7			7				
Lindean Mast Pool (Selkirk)				5						5		6
Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)			7									
Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)					20	8		38	17		5	
North Esk Reservoir						11						
Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk)			20	5								
Ploughland Pond (Nisbet)		18	22									
Portmore Loch	21											
St Abb's Head							6					
Stantling Craig Res. (Clovenfords)	6								10		9	
Tweed: Sprouston-Redden					32							
Watch Water (Longformacus)					11		8	6	5	-	25	15
White Law Loch (Selkirk)						13						
Williestruther Loch (Hawick)	30	40		12		8				17		
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	15	19	22		6			11	7			
Yetholm Loch	7			17		29	10			10	10	21
Sum of peak counts	246	217	231	180	130	136	131	110	140	121	233	232

The highest count was 81 at Hirsel Lake on 2-Jan (A Bramhall).

Breeding evidence came from 27 tetrads (24 in 2015). Earliest confirmed breeding was on 17-Jun at Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head):

Gunknowe Loch	02-Jan	Folly Loch	22-May
Harelaw (Lilliesleaf)	28-Jan	Gala Sewage Works Pond	22-May
Whim Pond	14-Mar	Blackhope Ponds (Garvald)	22-May
Bowdenmoor Reservoir	10-Apr	Fruid Reservoir	27-May
North Esk Reservoir	15-Apr	Cruxfield Pond (Preston)	28-May
Whitmuirhall Loch	19-Apr	Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	17-Jun
Wooden Loch	19-Apr	Hirsel Lake	22-Jun

Yetholm Loch North	19-Apr	Tweed: Edenmouth	23-Jun
Dowlaw Dam	19-Apr	Down Law Lake (Ancrum)	28-Jun
Nunlands Pond, Foulden	19-Apr	Tweedbank	18-Jul
Synton Mossend	04-May	Hare Moss (Ashkirk)	27-Jul
Green Diamonds	09-May	Hollybush Loch	27-Jul
Hare Moss (Selkirk)	09-May	Watch Water (Longformacus)	28-Jul
Haining Loch (Selkirk)	09-May		

Numbers of broods and young appear to be continuing well below the levels of the 1990s.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

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

Records form eight tetrads (three in 2015 and two in 2014):

January		
Hirsel Lake	02-23	1
Yetholm Loch	06	1
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	09/31	1

February		
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	14-21	1
Hirsel Lake	21	1
Ploughlands (Nisbet)	25	1

March		
Hule Moss	22	1

September		
Folly Loch	23	1
Hule Moss	25	1

October		
Newmains (Reston)	1-2	5*
Hirsel Lake	15-27	1
Yetholm Loch	23	1

* including a single juvenile

December		
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	15	1

The highest count of five at Newmains (Reston) was on 1- and 2-Oct (D Graham).

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.

122 counted during Rocky Shore Count on 17-Jan (273 in 2015 and 237 in 2014):

Dunglass-Pease Bay (west)	3	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	13
Pease Bay-Redheugh	16	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	34
Redheugh-Souter	24	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	18
Souter-Pettico Wick	1	Burnmouth-Border	13

Seventy-nine were counted at Eyemouth on 22-Jan.

Records in summer (Apr-Aug) from eight tetrads. Peak counts for these tetrads were:

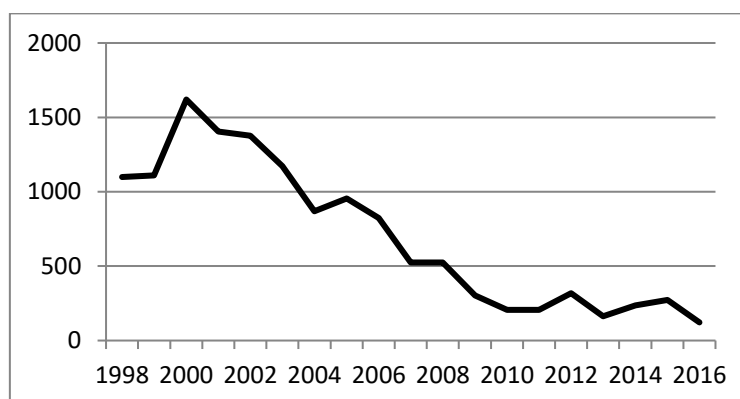
Burnmouth	05-Apr	2	Lamberton	20-May	1
St Abb's Head	09-Apr	Pr	Cowdrait (Burnmouth)	26-May	2
Fancove cliffs (Eyemouth)	23-Apr	4	Pease Bay	14-Jun	1
Eyemouth Harbour	23-Apr	1	Redheugh-Siccar shore	14-Jun	1

There were no records of breeding.

Autumn-winter records from four tetrads (including two records from Hirsell Lake):

St Abb's Head, 12 on 27-Sep; Hirsell Lake, single on 30-Sep/2-Nov; Eyemouth, 16 on 30-Oct; Cowdrait (Burnmouth), two on 24-Nov.

The decline of Eider numbers off the Berwickshire coast is well illustrated by the Rocky Shore Count sightings (carried out in Jan-Feb) since 1998:



Rocky Shore Counts for Eider: 1998-2016.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

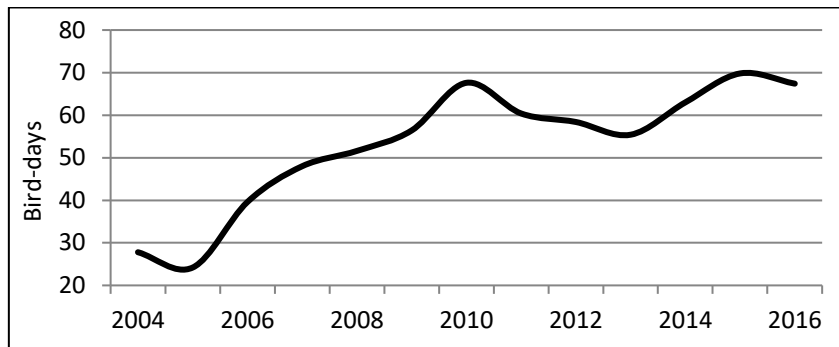
Scarce winter visitor and autumn passage migrant to coast. Rare inland.

Fourteen records from eight sites with 21 bird-days in winter/spring and 13 bird-days in autumn/winter.

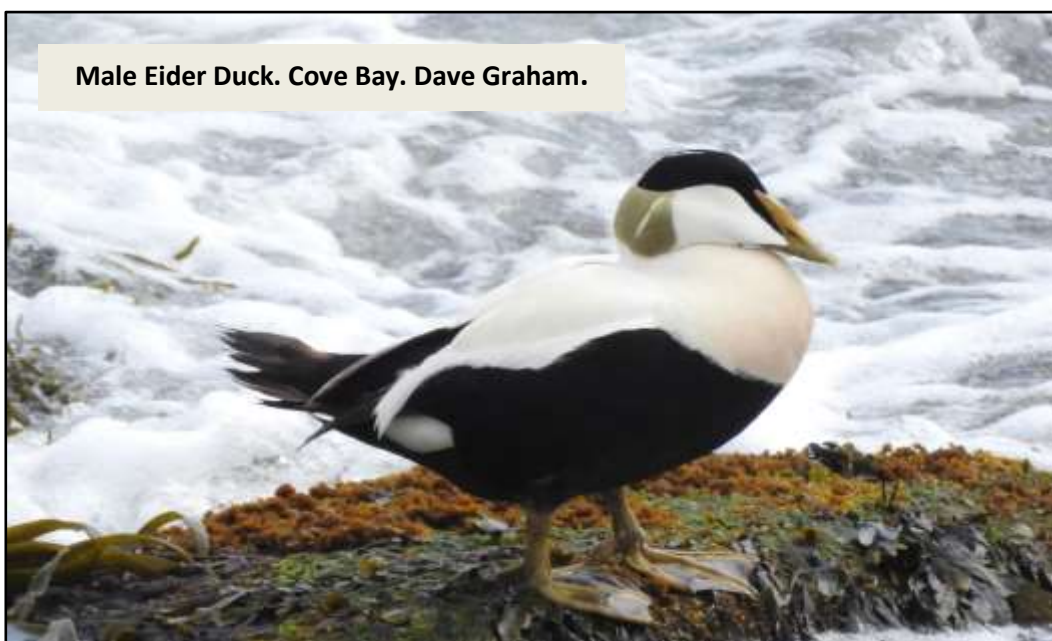
Winter-spring		
Pease Bay	09-Jan	7
Dunglass-Pease Bay	17-Jan	2
Pease Bay	17-Jan	1
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay (RSC)	17-Jan	1
Pease Bay	23-Jan	5
Dunglass	22-Feb	1
Rotten Brae (Eyemouth)	25-Feb	2
Dunglass	27-Feb	1
Pease Bay	27-Feb	1
Autumn-winter		
Hule Moss*	15-Oct	1
St Abbs village	05-Nov	1
Eyemouth	06-Nov	1
Hirsell Lake	13-Nov	1
Dunglass	27-Dec	8
St Mary's Loch	27-Dec	1

* female. Note three inland records: Hule Moss; Hirsell Lake and St Mary's Loch

Although this was the lowest number of bird-days since 2005, the general trend appears to be upward:



Five-year running average of annual bird-days for Long-tailed Duck: 2004-2016.



Male Eider Duck. Cove Bay. Dave Graham.



Male Velvet Scoter Ladyrig Pond (Heiton). January. Martin Moncrieff

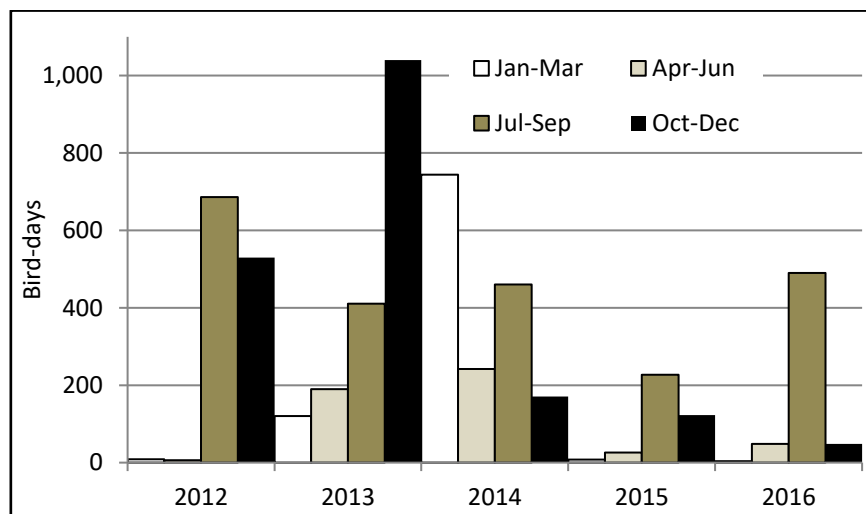
Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Uncommon late summer and autumn passage migrant and scarce winter visitor to coastal areas. Rare inland.

27 records from nine tetrads (25 records from seven tetrads in 2015):

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	3	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay (RSC), 7 on 17-Jan; Dunglass, 1 on 9-Jan; Pease Bay, 1 on 13 and 23-Jan.
Apr-Jun	3	Yetholm Loch, 2 on 11-Apr; St Abb's Head, 26 on 29-May; Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick), 1 on 21-Jun. A total of 214 were reported from Berwick on 30-Jun, "flying north into Scottish waters".
Jul-Sep	2	Eyemouth Bay, 175 on 12-Sep; St Abb's Head, 102 on 5-Sep.
Oct-Dec	4	St Abb's Head, 15 on 4-Dec; Eyemouth, 20 on 30-Oct; St Abbs Village, 6, 5-Nov; Dunglass, 2 on 27-Dec.

Recorded numbers vary greatly from year to year, perhaps partly a reflection of the randomness associated with a species seen largely on passage and along an under-watched coastline. See table below:



Bird-days for Common Scoter: 2012-2016.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

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

A total of five records from four sites (six records from three sites in 2015 and 11 records from five sites in 2014):

Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)	10-17 Jan	1	St Abb's Head	28-Aug	2
St Abb's Head (RSC)	17-Jan	3	St Abbs Village	05-Nov	2
			Dunglass	27-Dec	1

The Ladyrig Pond bird was only the second inland record (1984) for this species (ND Stratton).

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.

For the year as a whole there were records from a total of 62 tetrads (5%). In 2015 records were from 52 tetrads.

Records from 42 tetrads (3%) Jan-May. Peak counts per site were:

Hirsel Lake	02-Jan	44	Bowhill (Selkirk)	10-Mar	5
Tweed: Sprouston (Kelso)	19-Jan	39	Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	17-Jan	4
Haining Loch (Selkirk)	17-Jan	37	Redheugh-Siccar shore (Pease Bay)	17-Jan	3
Yetholm Loch	28-Mar	34	Lindean Loch (Selkirk)	25-Feb	3
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	21-Feb	26	West Water Reservoir (West Linton)	15-Apr	3
Williestruther Loch (Hawick)	03-Feb	23	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	17-Jan	3
Folly Loch	27-Feb	18	Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)	11-Jan	2
Yetholm Loch	28-Jan	17	Coldingham Bay	16-Jan	2
Ale Moor Reservoir (Hawick)	23-Mar	17	Pease Bay-Redheugh	17-Jan	2
Portmore Loch	22-Jan	15	Dunglass-Pease Bay (RSC)	17-Jan	2
Hule Moss	22-Mar	15	Burnmouth-Border (RSC)	17-Jan	2
Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)	22-Jan	14	Bemersyde Moss	28-Jan	2
White Law Loch (Selkirk)	14-Mar	13	Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch)	03-Feb	2
Paxton House	15-Mar	13	Synton Mossend (Ashkirk)	03-Feb	2
Redheugh-Souter (RSC)	17-Jan	12	Paxton House	17-Feb	2
Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Bowden)	03-Feb	9	Wooden Loch (Eckford)	18-Feb	2
St Mary's Loch	16-Apr	8	Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	07-Mar	2
Whitrig Bog	28-Jan	7	Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk)	13-Mar	2
Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	04-Jan	6	Whim Pond (Leadburn)	14-Mar	2
Birgham Haugh (Coldstream)	16-Jan	6	Cowdrait (Burnmouth)	05-Jan	1
Hoselaw Loch (Sprouston)	13-Jan	5	Partanhall (Burnmouth)	22-Jan	1

Sightings occurred for every month so making it difficult to state when the last of the over-wintering birds emigrated in spring and when the first autumn immigrants arrived. The last spring record of more than a single bird was of four birds on 9-May at Haining Loch (Selkirk). The first autumn (in this case mid-Sep onward) record of more than a single bird was of three birds on 16-Oct at Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk). Of course, these are mere indications of dates of departure and arrival – birds may have left later and arrived earlier and odd birds may well have over-summered.

Between 9-May and 16-Oct singles were recorded at: Tweed: Sprouston-Redden; Haining Loch, Eyemouth, Watch Water and Yetholm Loch.

From 13-Aug to 31-Dec records came from 28 tetrads (2%). Peak counts per site were:

Hirsel Lake	18-Dec	41	Ale Moor Reservoir (Hawick)	12-Nov	6
Tweed: Upsettlington	31-Dec	22	Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	24-Nov	6
Yetholm Loch	15-Nov	20	Shielswood Loch (Ashkirk)	31-Dec	6
Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	06-Dec	19	Birgham Haugh (Coldstream)	04-Dec	5
Whitton Loch (Hownam)	24-Dec	14	Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels) (Clovenfords)	20-Oct	4
Hule Moss	12-Nov	11	Harelaw Pond (Lilliesleaf)	12-Nov	4
St Mary's Loch	27-Dec	10	Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	18-Dec	4
Shaws Under Loch (Ettrickbridge)	27-Dec	10	Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	16-Oct	3
Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)	19-Nov	8	Williestruther Loch (Hawick)	12-Nov	2
Lees Haugh (Coldstream)	04-Dec	8	Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream (WeBS)	13-Dec	2
Bowdenmoor Res. (Bowden)	09-Dec	8	Hollybush (Galashiels)	18-Dec	2
Folly Loch	16-Dec	8	Lady Moss (Selkirk)	18-Dec	2
Watch Water (Longformacus)	13-Aug	7	Paxton House	29-Dec	2
Aker Moor Loch (Ettrickbridge)	27-Dec	7	Kelso	10-Nov	1

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Now a rather rare winter visitor, previously more frequent. During 2008-13 found in 6 tetrads in winter.

Two records of single birds: a female at Yetholm Loch on 5-Sep and a male on 21-Oct at Hule Moss. Both from J Lough.

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.

Ten records from five tetrads (four tetrads in 2015):

Pease Bay-Redheugh (RSC)	17-Jan	1	Dunglass	25-Mar	2
Paxton House	18-Feb	1	Pease Bay	19-Apr	2
Dunglass	22-Feb	3	St Abb's Head	05-Sep	1
Paxton House	24-Feb	1	St Abbs Head	17-Sep	1
Dunglass	27-Feb	3	Lower Burnmouth	04-Oct	1



Male Red-breasted Merganser. Paxton House. February. Dave Graham.

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.

567 records from 111 (9%) tetrads. In 2015 there were 487 records from 122 tetrads. Counts of five or more:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Max
Abbotsford	8			13	8							11	13
Bemersyde Moss						13	8		7		15		15
Bonchester Bridge					7								7
Bowdenmoor Res. (Bowden)			10								35	29	35
Bowhill (Selkirk)			5										5
Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)			5	6					41	60	80		80
Eddleston Water: Peebles		16	18										18
Ettrick Water: Selkirk			8	7	6	13							13
Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden)	128	84	57	21					28	82	75	64	128
Harwood (Bonchester Bridge)				7									7
Heiton (Kelso)				7									7
Hen Poo (Duns)	12										6		12
Hirsel Lake	9										25		25
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)	8												8
Hule Moss											12		12
Paxton House	10	17	12	21	23	55			26	5	22	11	55
St Mary's Loch								8					8
Stantling Craig Res. (Clovenfords)									5				5
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	13	6	5								11	13	13
Teviot: Roxburgh-Tweed				12									12
Tweed: Eshiels-Cardrona	7	5		6	8	14			21				21
Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge	8									7			8
Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose	11		6			20	5	10	5		29	9	29
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	20	13	18	8	107				50	30	60	9	107
Tweed: Mertoun Br-Benrig Dean	5			7				5		13	6		13
Tweed: Mertoun Bridge-Dryburgh	6			9						25	6		25
Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange												6	6
Tweed: Peebles	8	11	12	14			9	20	15	19	9	7	20
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	6	13	6								14		14
Tweed: Thornielee			5				6						6
Tweed: Tweedbank	13							8			13		13
Tweed: Tweedmill (Coldstream)				16									16
Tweed: Uppsettlington												12	12
Tweedbank				5	5		8						8
Whitton Loch (Hownam)												8	8
Sum of maximum counts	272	165	167	159	164	115	36	51	198	241	418	179	418
No. of sites	16	8	13	15	7	5	5	5	9	8	16	11	

Sites with counts of less than five: Abbey St Bathans; Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick); Alterstones Hill (Stobo); Black Barony; Blue Stane Ford (Chirnside); Braidlie Burn (Hermitage); Burnmouth; Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth; Dawyck; Dunglass and Bilsdean; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie; Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall; Ettrick Water: Lindean Mill (Selkirk); Eyemouth Bay; Falnash (Teviothead); Folly Loch; Fruid Reservoir; Green Diamonds (Selkirk); Haining Loch (Selkirk); Harcus (Eddleston); Harelaw Pond (Lilliesleaf); Heatherhope Reservoir (Hownam); Jedburgh; Linthill (Eyemouth); Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); North Esk Reservoir; Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet); Portmore Loch; Rachan Home Farm (Broughton); St Abb's Head; St Abbs village; Teviot: Hawick; Tweed: Innerleithen; Tweed: Ladykirk; Tweed: Tweedsmuir; Watch Water (Longformacus); Whiteadder: Edington Mains (Foulden); Whitehope (Leithen Water); Whitrigbog; Whitton Loch (Hownam); Yair Bridge (Caddonfoot); Yetholm Loch.

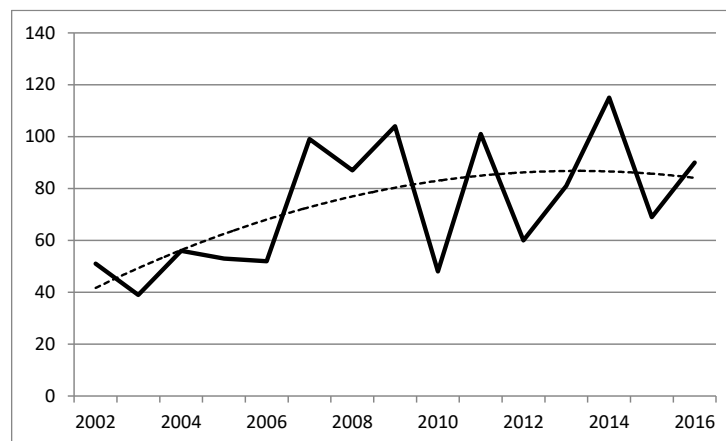
Records of breeding evidence from 16 tetrads with confirmed breeding from a low eight tetrads. Very much a case of under-recording. Readers are encouraged to submit records via BirdTrack.

Paxton House	12-Feb	T	Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose	21-Jun	br16
Yetholm Loch	01-Mar	P	Ettrick Water, Selkirk	25-Jun	br11
Teviot: Hawick	02-Apr	P	Bemersyde Moss	28-Jun	br12
Tweed: Ladykirk	19-Apr	P	Rachan Home Farm (Broughton)	01-Jul	br10
Tweed: Tweedmill (Coldstream)	27-Apr	P	Tweed: Peebles	05-Jul	br8
Abbotsford	01-May	P	Tweed: Thornielee	16-Jul	br6
Green Diamonds (Selkirk)	07-May	P	Tweedbank	18-Jul	br7
Tweed: Eshiels-Cardrona	17-Jun	br13	Altarstones Ponds (Stobo)	26-Jul	br7

See Introduction for explanation of breeding codes

Despite sketchy breeding records there does appear to be a general upward trend in the number of young recorded per year:

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Mean
Broods	6	8	10	11	9	11	15	15	8	14	15	14	18	6	9	11
Young	51	39	56	53	52	99	87	104	48	101	60	81	115	69	90	74
MBS	8.5	4.8	5.6	4.8	5.8	9	5.8	6.9	6	7.2	4.7	5.8	6.4	11.5	10	6.9



Number of young Goosanders recorded: 2012-2016

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Scarce summer visitor, late May to Aug. Confirmed breeding rare, mostly records of unseen singing males. Numbers fluctuate greatly.

Twenty records from 10 tetrads (43 records from 29 tetrads in 2015):

Foulden East Newton	21-Apr	1	Sourhope (Hownam)	19-Jun	1
Jardinefield (Whitsome)	25-Apr	1	The Gair (Hownam)	20-Jun	1
St Abb's Head	10-May	1	Causeway Bank (Reston)	03-Jul	1
Reston	25-May	Pr	Newmains (Reston)	23-Aug	6*
Gavinton (Duns)	03-Jun	1	Bettyfield (Smailholm)	28-Aug	2

* 12 fledged recorded (DK Graham).

Year	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sites	3	8	11	4	4	6	10	19	9	13	12	27	11	129	24	9	7	29	10
Birds	3	9	20	4	5	9	16	26	12	28	25	33	22	198	28	14	10	55	16

Quail records: 1998-2016

The first record on 21-April at East Newton Farm (J Lough) is the earliest since 21-March 2008 (at Newmains, Reston) and the record of 12 fledged young (DK Graham) is the first record of breeding since 2010 - also reported from Newmains (Reston).

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.

Forty-nine records from 30 tetrads (54 records from 40 tetrads in 2015). Peak counts per site:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bemersyde				2								
Birgham (Kelso)	6			2								
Blackhaugh (Clovenfords)			2			Pr						
Burnmouth					2							
Byrecleugh (Longformacus)												Pr
Dabshead Hill (Lauder)												Pr
Dewer (Garvald)		8			4							
Dronshiel (Longformacus)				1								
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie				2								
Elba (Abbey St Bathans)			2									
Ettrick Water (Selkirk)					1	1						
Folly Loch			4	2		1	3	3		3	10	Pr
Girnick (Smailholm)	3											
Graden (Yetholm)					1							
Hare Moss (Selkirk)											2	
Hollybush Loch (Galashiels)			1									
Howden Pot (Galashiels)			1									
Innerleithen	2			3								
Kerss Wood and Loch (Ancrum)				7								
Langton Edge (Duns)			2									
Loch of the Lowes (Yarrow)								2				
Peat Law (Selkirk)									1			
Rutherford Burnside (Roxburgh)					2							
St Abb's Head				Pr	-							
Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels)										4		
Walkerburn											9	
Wanton Walls (Lauder)												Pr
Whitelaw (Eddleston)	4											
Whitehope (Leithen Valley)				Pr								

Confirmed breeding from one tetrad. Only 10 tetrads with two or more birds reported between April-August.

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.

Eight-five records from 42 (3%) tetrads (70 records from 53 tetrads in 2015). Peak counts per tetrad:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Black Knowe (Gordon Arms)								-				Pr
Black Law (Manor Valley)								Pr				
Blackhopebyre (Dewar)		37		2								
Bowbeat Hill (Eddleston)					4	3						
Caddon Water					Pr							
Carcant Windfarm (Heriot Water)		23		3	7							
Carlin Tooth (Carter Bar)												1
Catcleugh Shin (Carter Bar)												4
Cauldcleuch Head (Hermitage)									3			
Clockmore Hill (Megget Res)		1										
Crystal Rig Windfarm (Monynut)									Pr			
Dabshead Hill (Lauder)												Pr
Dewar		8	2		8							
Dodd Hill (Leithen Valley)			Pr									
Dryhope								4				
Dye Water (Longformacus)												Pr
Earnsclough Water (Oxton)												Pr
East Cairn Hill (Carlops)			1									
Eildon Mid Hill				1							1	
Gill Rig (Dewar)		4										
Greenlaw Moor	4	4	22			2	2	6	20	20		12
Horse Hope Hill (Manor Valley)								Pr				
Innerleithen									8			
Long Grain (Oxton)						1						
Long Philip Burn (Selkirk)									Pr	2		1
Long Philip Burn (Selkirk)												1
Longformacus				Pr								
Middle Ness (Longformacus)					1							
Millstone Edge (Teviothead)												Pr
Peat Law (Selkirk)	2		3									
Polmood Glen (Tweedsmuir)										1		
Priesthope Hill (Innerleithen)					3	2						
Roan Fell Flow (Newcastleton)						Pr						
Sting Law (Longformacus)												Pr
Syart Rig (Megget Res)								6				
The Stell (Westruther)												Pr
The Strypes (Loch of the Lowes)								4				
Torfichen Hill (Heriot Water)								Pr				
Twin Law (Longformacus)												Pr
Watch Water (Longformacus)	8		5	6	3	3	2	21	3			Pr
Wedder Lairs (Longformacus)												Pr
West Linton					1							
Sum of peak counts	14	77	33	12	27	11	4	41	34	23	1	19
No of tetrads	3	6	5	4	7	5	2	5	4	3	1	5

Breeding evidence from only two tetrads. Overall, there were 10 tetrads during Apr-Aug which recorded two or more birds.

Black Grouse

Tetrao tetrix

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

Twenty-seven records from 14 tetrads. 2015 had 30 records from 19 tetrads. Peak counts per tetrad were:

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	6	Blackhope (Heriot Water)-5; Woolhope Bank (Leithen Valley)-4; Stanhope Law (Tushielaw)-3; Dewar (Moorfoots)-2; Blackhopebyre (Moorfoots)-2; Dewar Hill (Moorfoots)-1; Birkscairn Hill (Glensax Valley)-1.
Apr-Jun	8	Blackhopebyre (Moorfoots)-9; Colquhar (Leithen Valley)-4; Stan Hope (Tweedsmuir)-3; Leithen Lodge-3; Dewar S (Moorfoots)-3; Scrape Burn (Drumelzier)-2; Carcant Windfarm (Heriot Water)-1; Tower Burn (Manor Valley).
Jul-Sep	2	Paddock Slack (Yarrow)-2; Potburn (Ettrick Head).
Oct-Dec	0	

Peak counts for males and females.

	mm	ff	not known	Total		mm	ff	not known	Total
Blackhope (Heriot Water)	2	-	3	5	Dewar (Moorfoots)	-	-	2	2
Woolhope Bank (Leithen Water)	4	-	-	4	Dewar Hill (Moorfoots)	-	-	1	1
Stanhope Law (Tushielaw)	-	-	3	3	Dewar S (Moorfoots)	3	-	-	3
Blackhopebyre (Moorfoots)	2	2	5	9	Scrape Burn (Drumelzier)	1	1	-	2
Stanhope (Tweedsmuir)	1	-	2	3	Paddock Slack (Yarrow)	-	-	2	2
Carcant Windfarm (Heriot Water)	1	-	-	1	Potburn (Ettrick Head)	-	-	1	1
Colquhar (Leithen Valley)	4	-	-	4	Leithen Lodge	1	-	2	3
					Totals	19	3	21	43

Numbers appear to be at their lowest since 2005.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Sites	69	24	52	48	35	24	38	27	42	38	117	118	98	17	19	19	14
Birds	226	111	207	139	89	42	128	65	101	119	344	506	359	105	83	86	43

The trend in numbers would seem to be downward with the peak between 2009-12 largely the result of greater observer effort associated with the local Atlas fieldwork.

The only records involving a lek were at Blackhope (Heriot Water) on 28-Mar (K Ingleby), at Blackhopebyre (Moorfoots) on 11-Apr (R Murray) and at Stan Hope (Tweedsmuir) on 19-Apr (A Heavisides). Other evidence of breeding was observation of a pair at Scrape Burn (Drumelzier) on 27-Apr and a singing male at Dewar S on 22-May (both R Murray).

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.

Sixty-one records from 39 (3%) tetrads (56 records from 47 tetrads in 2015).

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	11	Newmains (Reston)-16; Heiton (Kelso)-12; Eastfield (Kelso)-6; Ploughlands (Maxton)-5; Tweed: Sprouston-Redden-2; Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)-2; Yetholm Loch-2; Edenmouth (Kelso)-2; Birgham (Coldstream)-2; Coldstream-2; Fancove Head (Eyemouth).
Apr-Jun	14	East Newton (Whitsome)-6; Heiton-4; Ross (Burnmouth-2; Westfield (Smailholm)-2; Ruthven (Coldstream)-2; Eckford (Roxburgh)-2; Torwoodlee (Galashiels)-2; Jardinefield (Greenlaw)-2; New Waterhaugh (Allanton)-2; Winfield Airfield (Whitsome)-2; Hilton (Whitsome)-2; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)-2; Simprim (Coldstream)-1; Eyemouth Golf Course-1.
Jul-Sep	7	Broadmeadows (Paxton)-14; Billiemains (Reston)-2; St Abb's Head-2; Cloich Forest (Eddleston)-2; Rotten Brae (Eyemouth)-1; New Smailholm-1.
Oct-Dec	10	Jardinefield (Greenlaw)-14; Birgham Haugh-16; nr Horn Burn (Reston)-14; Smailholm-13; Whitelaw (Eddleston)-12; Paxton House-12; Craik-11; Tweedbank-6; Broomhill (Duns)-5; Edrington Castle Farm (Paxton)-5; Sandyknowe (Smailholm)-5.

Breeding evidence limited to 10 tetrads (only two with confirmed evidence):

Westfield	14-Apr	P	Winfield Airfield	16-Jun	P
Ruthven	16-Apr	P	Hilton	18-Jun	P
East Newton Farm	21-Apr	P	Mire Loch	19-Jun	P
Eckford	04-May	P	New Smailholm	03-Sep	FL(9)
Heiton	09-May	P	nr Horn Burn (Reston)	16-Oct	br11,br3

See Introduction for explanation of breeding codes



Grey Partridge.
Hilton (Whitsome)
May. Tom Brewis.

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.

Four hundred and sixty-one records from 143 tetrads (11%), cf. 271 records from 150 tetrads in 2014.

Tetrads with four or more birds:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Acreknowe Reservoir (Stobs Castle)			4									
Barnhills Moor (Ancrum)				19		6						
Bemersyde				5								
Bemersyde Moss									7			
Black Barony			9	7	9	5						
Blackhopebyre (Moorfoots)				4								
Bowhill (Selkirk)									10			
Bowland (Galashiels)					9	7						
Cloich (Eddleston)				8								
Craik											12	
Dawyck			12	12	8	8					5	
Dewar N					4							
Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston			5									
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie				4								
Edington Mains (Foulden)	7											
Folly Loch		4		5					45	19	38	30
Graden (Yetholm)					6							
Harcus (Eddleston)	25		12	6								
Heiton (Kelso)	5											
Hundleshope (Manor Valley)			9									
Leadburn Community Wood			4	8								
Mellerstain (Gordon)			6									
Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)			5							11		
New Belses (Ancrum)					4							
Peat Hill (Eddleston)				6								
Portmore Reservoir									8			
Selkirk				7								
St Abb's Head							4					
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)			4	5					6	10		
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)		4						4				
The Hirsell			4	14					7	48		
Torwoodlee (Galashiels)					23	8						
Walkerburn											91	
West Water Res (West Linton)				4						7		
No. tetrads with records	22	25	30	32	29	34	17	9	11	17	14	14

Eighty-three tetrads held records during the breeding season (Apr-Aug). Confirmed breeding reported for only two tetrads.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

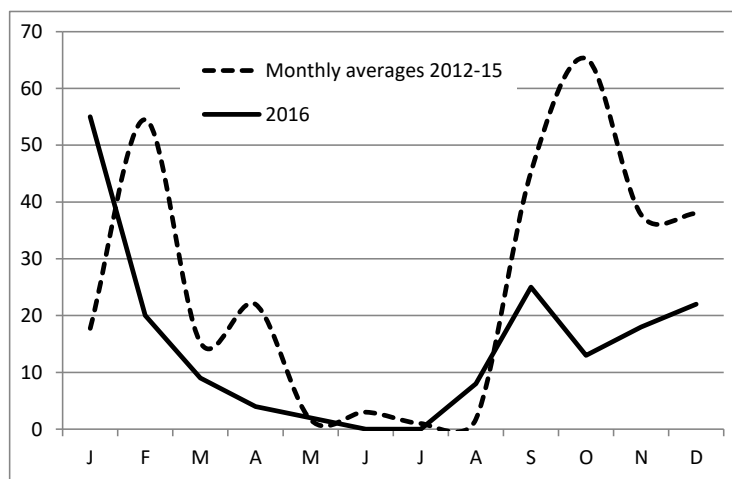
Present offshore August-May. Rare in summer. Heavy passage during September-October while small numbers winter in sheltered bays. Very rare on inland waters.

Records came from nine sites. Recorded birds in January were higher than in recent years but thereafter monthly sightings were lower than in recent years. The monthly peak counts were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Burnmouth											2	
Cove Bay	8	8										
Dunglass	3	4	3	4							9	9
Eyemouth	11	2	3					6	10	2	3	
Pease Bay	9	3	1								2	
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	1											
Redheugh-Siccar shore	1											
St Abbs village	6										2	
St Abb's Head					2			1	4	10		6

Monthly aggregated records for recent years:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
2012	18	37	13	19	1	-	1	2	51	88	34	37	301
2013	19	75	12	8	1	3	-	5	58	66	22	61	330
2014	10	68	25	22	3	-	-	0	41	72	59	21	321
2015	24	38	11	39	-	-	-	0	31	35	36	33	247
2016	55	20	9	4	2	-	-	8	25	13	18	22	174
Peak counts (2016)	9	8	3	4	2	-	-	6	10	10	3	9	



Monthly patterns of Red-throated Diver counts

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

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

Six records (three in winter-spring and three in autumn-winter):

Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	17-Jan	1	Eyemouth Bay	14-Aug	2
St Abb's Head	20-Feb	1	St Abb's Head	16-Sep	1
Pease Bay	27-Feb	1	St Abb's Head	24-Nov	1

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

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

Winter-spring		
Pease Bay	09-Jan	1
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	17-Jan	1
St Abb's Head	31-Jan	1
Autumn-winter		
St Abb's Head	17-Sep	1
St Abb's Head	25-Sep	1
St Abbs	25-Sep	1
St Abb's Head	01-Oct	2
Eyemouth	06-Nov	2
Burnmouth/Partanhall	24-Nov	1
Dunglass	26-Nov	3
Pease Bay	26-Nov	1
Dunglass	27-Dec	1

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.

Sixty-nine records from 17 tetrads.

Peak counts per tetrad were:

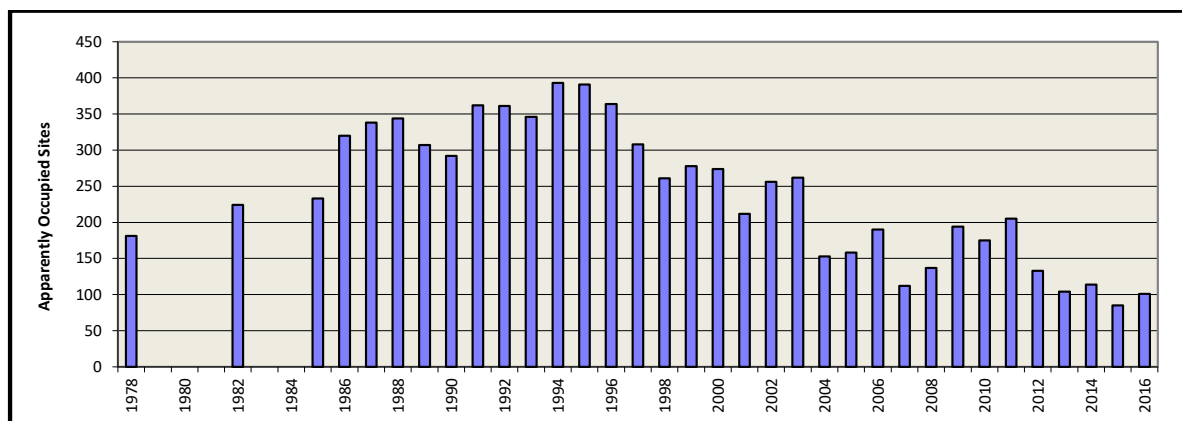
Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Burnmouth-Border (RSC)	190											
Black Rock (Siccar Point)						2						
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth (RSC)	9											
Coldingham Loch-coast	81											
Cove Bay	10	3										
Cove-Reed Point						46						
Dunglass			1					2				
Dunglass-Pease Bay (W) (RSC)	48											
Eyemouth	25	25	Pr			15		8	24			
Eyemouth-Burnmouth (RSC)	28			Pr	57							
Fancove Cliffs				46								
Fast Castle coast						20						
Greenheugh Point (Pease Bay)						3						
Lamberton coast					14	200						1
Pease Bay			1			1						
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay (RSC)	77											
Rotten Brae (Eyemouth)		12	25	9			15	11				
Souter-Pettico Wick (RSC)	81											
St Abb's Head		Pr	1	2	2	5	2	7	130	4		
St Abbs village	74			Pr								
Sum of peak counts per tetrad	543	40	28	57	73	292	17	28	154	4	0	1
Tetrads	10	4	5	5	3	8	2	4	2	1	0	1

Figures in bold refer to records involving apparently occupied sites (AOS).

St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2016 (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 20th, 21st, and 22nd June. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 23rd June.



AOS for Fulmar at St Abb's Head SNR: 1978-2016.

Results

101 AOS were counted, an increase of 9% on the 2015.

Breeding Success

No formal productivity monitoring done, but only 6 chicks fledged from the whole colony (no boat counts).

Away from St Abb's Head NNR, Ray Murray and others carried out a count of breeding seabird nesting sites along the Berwickshire coast. The table below shows a significant decrease in breeding Fulmar numbers since 2000, a trend which is shared by most breeding sites in Britain. However, the declines along the Berwickshire coast since 2000 are particularly pronounced:

	2000	2016
Dunglass-Cove	213	46
Cove-Siccar Point	23	15
Siccar Point-Fast Castle Head	17	2
Fast Castle Head-Pettico Wick	715	-
St Abb's Head	274	101
St Abbs-Eyemouth	56	6
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	44	57
Burnmouth-Border	78	108
Totals	1,420	335

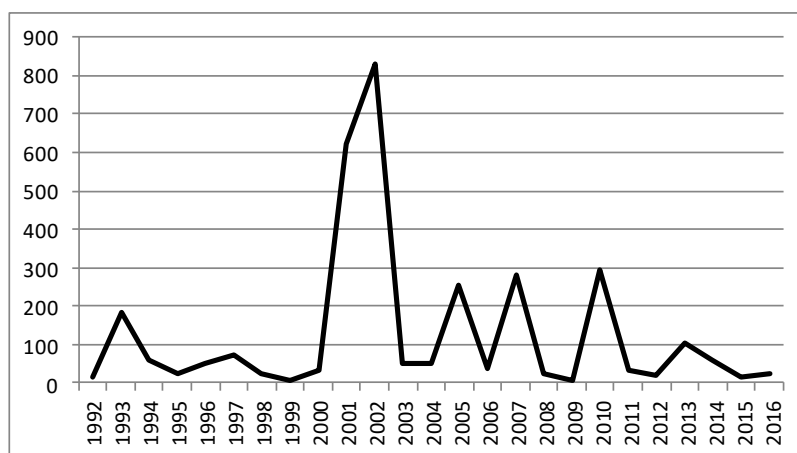
Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

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

Seven records from two tetrads:

Eyemouth North Bay	15-Aug	1	St Abb's Head	15-Oct	1
St Abb's Head	05-Sep	1	St Abbs village	05-Nov	1
St Abb's Head	10-Sep	1	Eyemouth	06-Nov	11
Eyemouth	14-Sep	8			

The past 25 years have experienced considerable fluctuations in aggregated passage counts which may, in some part, be a reflection of a largely under-watched coastline, ie increasing the random element of records.



Aggregated counts of Sooty Shearwaters: 1992-2016.

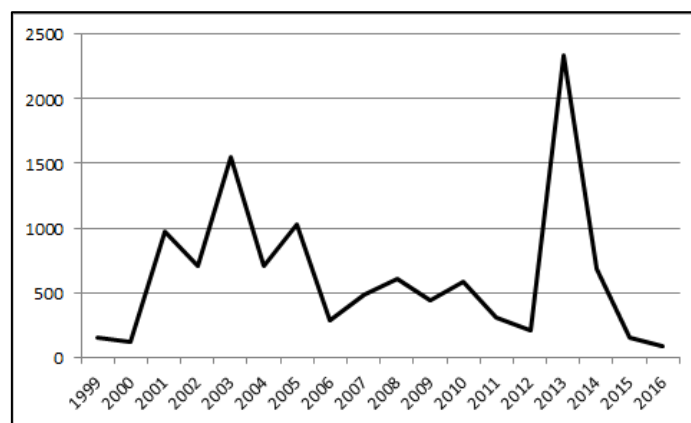
Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

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

Fourteen records from three tetrads.

Burnmouth	08-May	1	St Abb's Head	10-Sep	5
St Abb's Head	10-Jul	6	Eyemouth	14-Sep	17
Eyemouth	17-Aug	9	St Abb's Head	16-Sep	10
St Abb's Head	28-Aug	1	St Abb's Head	17-Sep	2
St Abb's Head	05-Sep	11	St Abb's Head	01-Oct	17
St Abb's Head	05-Sep	2	St Abb's Head	15-Oct	1
St Abb's Head	05-Sep	2	Eyemouth	06-Nov	3

An annual aggregated count of 89 represents the poorest since 1982. Perhaps partly because of the under-watched nature of the Berwickshire coastline, passage counts are more likely to have a stronger element of randomness :



Aggregated counts of Manx Shearwaters: 1999-2016.

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

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

A single bird was recorded at Eyemouth Golf Course on 30-Jul, lured during a ringing session (A Kerr and DK Graham).

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.

Sixty-five records from 10 tetrads.

	Peak	Tetrads	Location of peak count		Peak	Tetrads	Location of peak count
J	3	3	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay (RSC)	J	176	2	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth) - 3.5 hr
F	116	3	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth)	A	275	5	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth) - 3.8 hr
M	161	5	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth) - 3 hr	S	1,380	5	Eyemouth
A	4,750	5	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth) – 3.5	O	100	3	St Abb's Head
M	26	5	Burnmouth-Eyemouth	N	2	1	Burnmouth/Partanhall
J	15	4	Pease Bay	D	0	0	

Peak counts were generally below those of recent years.

Although there was no evidence of breeding along the Berwickshire coast, a pair built a nest on one of the stacks at St Abb's Head NNR without laying an egg – a possible precursor to breeding in the near future.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

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

Two hundred and ninety-five records from 89 tetrads. Rocky Shore Count on 17-Jan recorded a total of only 26.

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	1	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	15
Pease Bay-Redheugh	3	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	1
Redheugh-Souter	5	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	6
Souter-Pettico Wick	1	Burnmouth-Border	0

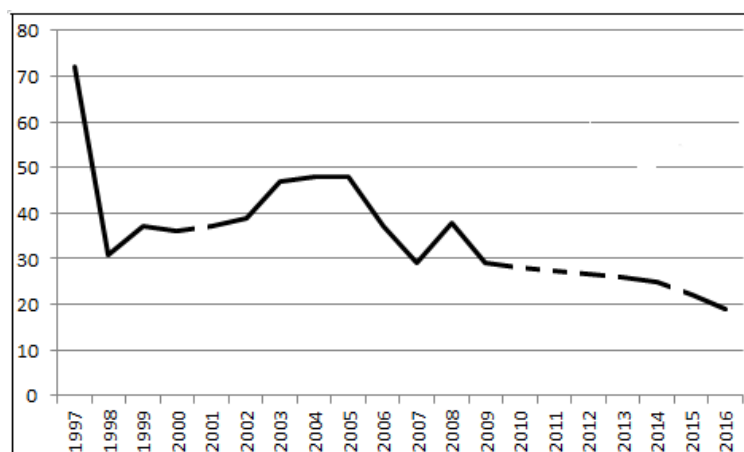
RSC Borders totals, 2011-2016:

2011	118
2012	33
2013	39
2014	52
2015	98
2016	32

Sites with counts of more than two:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Burnmouth-Border	4											
Burnmouth-Eyemouth					5							
Cauldsiels Loch (Selkirk)		12										
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	5							22				
Eyemouth Bay North								17				
Fast Castle coast						19						
Lees Haugh (Coldstream)												23
Newstead (Melrose)										50		
Paxton House		26		13			3	14		19	10	14
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay (RSC)	13											
Portmore Loch										11		
Redheugh-Souter (RSC)	3											
Rutherford (Roxburgh)										73		
St Abb's Head									8			
Teviot: Chesters (Anrum)	22											
Tweed: Ladykirk												52
Tweed: Sprouston-Redden												30
Tweedbank											52	
Yetholm Loch												
No. of inland tetrads	21	20	14	7	5	4	4	3	7	9	9	8
No. of coastal tetrads	19	17	3	5	3	4	2	5	3	1	0	1

Nineteen nests were recorded at Fast Castle coast, the only location with breeding records.



Record of Cormorant nests at Fast Castle coast: 1997-2016. (Broken line refers to years when no counts took place: 2001; 2010-13; 2015).

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.

Eighty-three records from 19 tetrads.

Rocky Shore Count on 17-Jan recorded a total of 286:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	1	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	195
Pease Bay-Redheugh	14	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	10
Redheugh-Souter	35	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	2
Souter-Pettico Wick	29	Burnmouth-Border	0

RSC count totals since 2011:

2011	254
2012	235
2013	140
2014	141
2015	279
2016	286

Sites with maximum monthly peak counts of 10 or above:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Burnmouth-Eyemouth	29	41	31	27	37		37	23				
Eyemouth									28	23		
Fast Castle coast						38						
Coldingham-Eyemouth	10											
Dowlaw Dean	26											
Pease Bay	15											
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	195						39					
Redheugh-Souter	35											
St Abb's Head					12				23			
Souter-Pettico Wick	29											
No. of tetrads with records	9	7	6	3	3	4	2	2	4	3	3	0

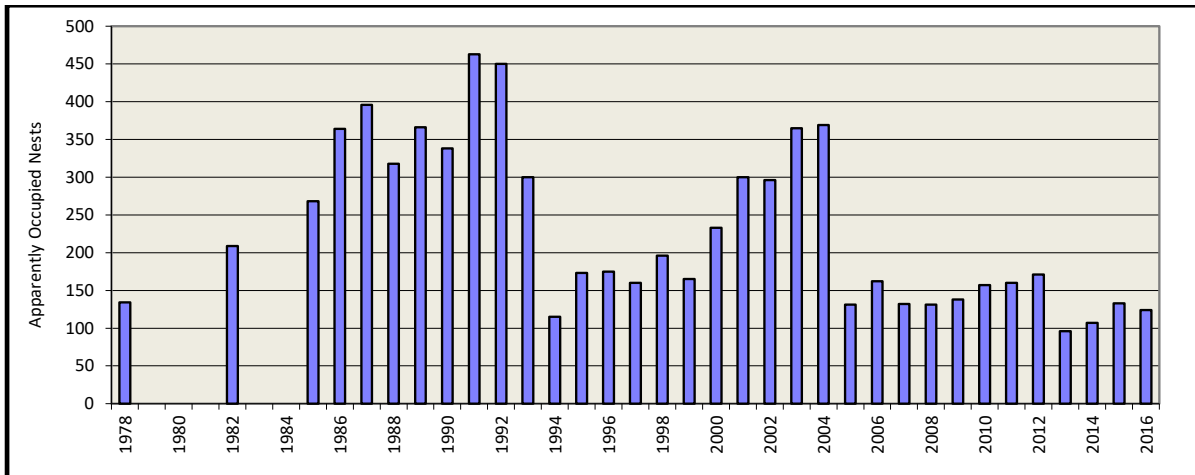
St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2016 (Liza Cole):

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 29th and 30th May and the 2nd and 6th June. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 8th and 23rd June.

Results

124 Apparently Occupied Nests (AON), 7% decrease on 2015.

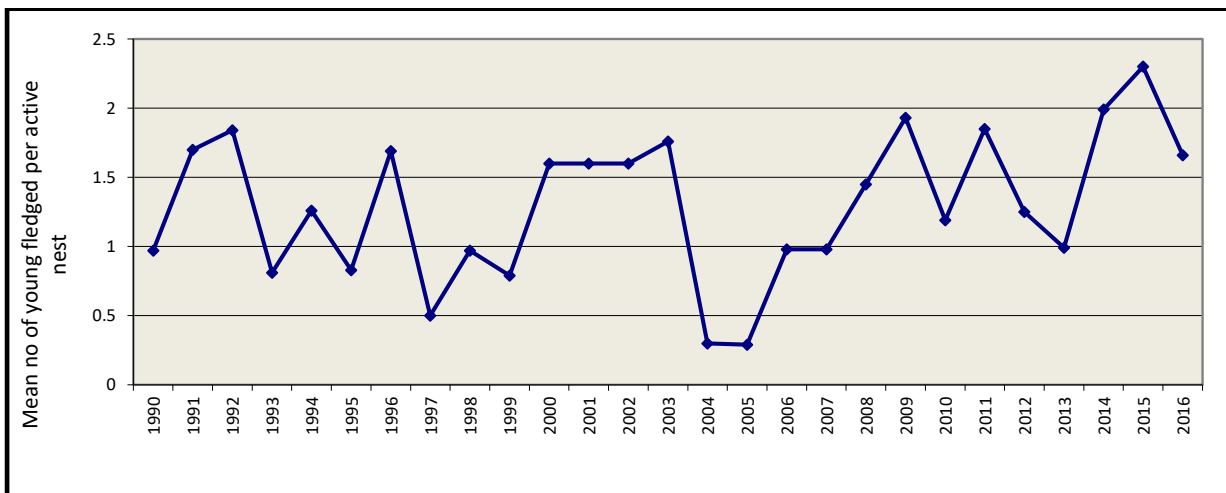


Breeding Success

An assessment of Shag breeding success was carried out using methods described in the 1990 report and following recommendations in the Seabird Monitoring Handbook. Nests were individually mapped on monitoring plots and 18 visits were made to the 4 monitoring plots between the 19th March and 5th August to record the progress of each nest up to fledging. NB the monitoring was started earlier this year because the Seasonal Ranger’s contract started at the beginning of March rather than the beginning of April.

Results

A total of 51 active nests were mapped on the plots and 86 chicks successfully fledged. The breeding success, expressed as the mean of the individual plot figures, was 1.67 young fledged per active nest; a decrease of 28% on 2015.



Shag productivity: 1990-2016.

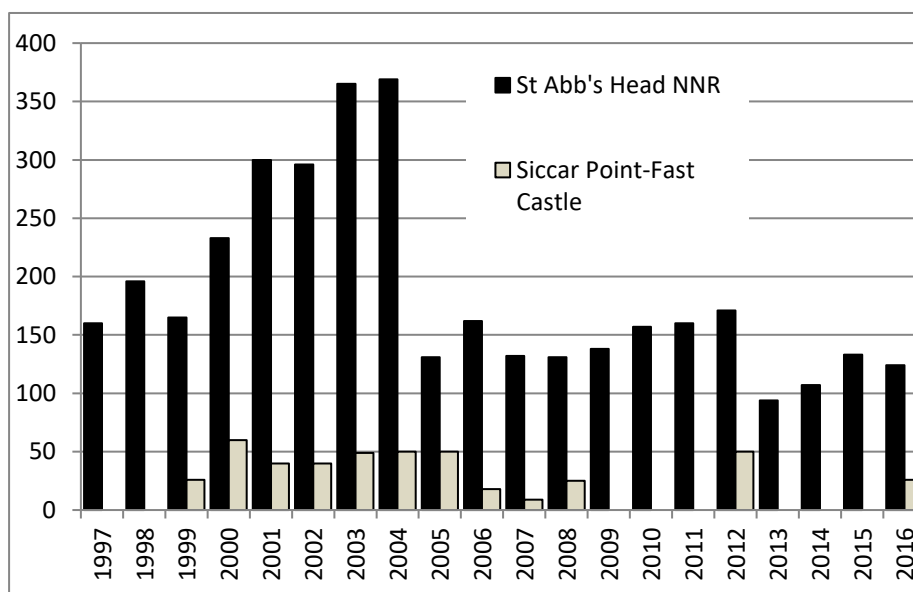
In addition to the St Abb’s NNR colony count, Ray Murray and others carried out a count of nests along the whole of the Berwickshire coast, finding 26 between Siccar Point-Fast Castle and 30 between Eyemouth-Burnmouth, making a total of 180 nests counted along the Berwickshire coast.

The records of nests 1997-2016 for the whole coast is shown below:

	St Abb's Head	Siccar Pt-Fast Castle Head	Fast Castle Hd-Pettico Wick	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	Burnmouth-Border	Totals (AOS)
1997	160					160
1998	196					196
1999	165	26				191
2000	233	60	36	20		349
2001	300	40				340
2002	296	40				336
2003	365	49				414
2004	369	50				419
2005	131	50				181
2006	162	18				180
2007	132	9				141
2008	131	25		Conf.	Conf.	156+
2009	138					138
2010	157	Conf.				157+
2011	160	Conf.				160+
2012	171	50		Conf.		221+
2013	94	Conf.	Conf.			94
2014	107					107
2015	133					133
2016	124	26		30		180

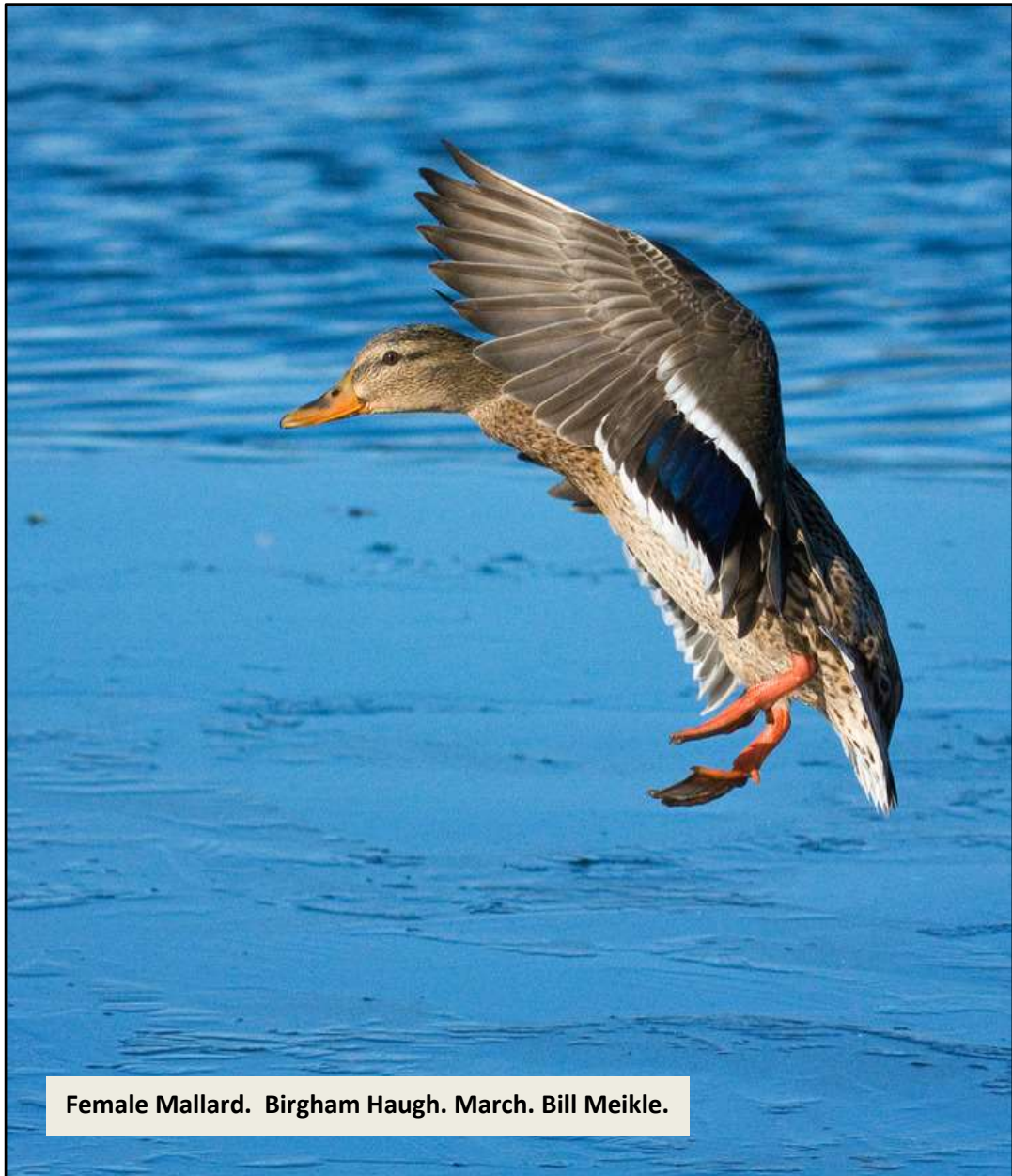
(Shaded rows refer to "full" coastal counts). Conf. = confirmed but no count.

Obviously this record is far from comprehensive but does show an obvious decline, notably for St Abb's Head NNR:



Recorded Shag nests at St Abb's Head NNR and at Siccar Point-Fast Castle coast: 1997-2016.

Records suggest that breeding has decreased slightly since the sudden decline in 2005.



Female Mallard. Birgham Haugh. March. Bill Meikle.



Grey Heron. Mire Loch, St Abb's Hd. Dave Graham.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

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

Sixteen records from nine tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts (unless indicated otherwise all records were of single birds)
Jan-Mar	5	Paxton House (5), 23-Feb (J Lough) and various dates with singles; Teviot (Nisbet Bridge), 31-Jan; Horndean Burn (Ladykirk), 4-Feb; Lees Haugh (Coldstream), 6-Feb; Paxton House, 10-Feb.
Apr-Jun	0	
Jul-Sep	1	Yetholm Loch, 20-Jul.
Oct-Dec	5	Paxton House, 9-Nov; Tweed: Sprouston, 10-Nov; Dunglass, 20-Nov; Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso, 15-Dec, 24-Dec; Teviot Mill: Denholm Mill, 23-Dec;

Given that Little Egret has bred in Northumberland for the last three years and Lothian has recorded up to 180 bird-days, as well as up to 12 birds being recorded in 2013 on the Tweed, just 400 m short of the Border, it seems that breeding is a distinct possibility in the near future.

Single birds were recorded in 1977 and 1998 but there has been a notable upward trend in sightings since 2008. It is very probable that many of the records in any one season involve duplicate counts.

	Records	Tetrads	Bird-days	Highest count
2008	1	1	1	1
2009	2	2	2	1
2010	0	0	0	0
2011	0	0	0	0
2012	0	0	0	0
2013	4	4	4	1
2014	13	7	13	1
2015	2	2	2	1
2016	16	9	21	5

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.

Four hundred and eighty records from 140 tetrads (11%) – 130 tetrads in 2015.

Sites (with counts of three or more)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Abbotsford	6								5	4	5	4
Blaeberry Wood (Peebles)				13								
Boggyhall Wood (Monteviot)					5							
Burnmouth-Partanhall										3		
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	3											
Coldstream	3									-		
Dunglass						3						

Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie			3			4						
Ettrick Water (Selkirk)	3	3			5							5
Fruid Reservoir							6					
Gattonside-Melrose	3							5			4	
Haining Loch (Selkirk)		4										
Hare Moss (Selkirk)			3									
Jessie's Plantation (Ayton)						3						
Kelso	3											
Lanton Mill (Ancrum)			3									
Lowood Pond (Tweedbank)									5			
Mire Loch (St Abbs Head)								5				
Northfield (St Abb's Head NNR)	3											
Paxton House			3	6		3		3				
Peebles	3								4	3	4	
Plora Wood (Innerleithen)	-				6							
Shaws (Newcastleton)	3											
Talla Reservoir							4					
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	5	3										4
Teviot: Roxburgh-Kelso												5
Tweed: Cardrona			3									
Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge	3											
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	4	7			4	6				5	6	5
Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean	4											
Tweed: Mertoun-Dryburgh							3					
Tweedbank	7			3					3		3	

Other sites with peak counts of below three were: Abbey St Bathans; Abbotsmoss Pond (Tweedbank); Alemoor Wester Loch (Hawick); Allanton; Altarstones Hill (Dawyck); Alton Pond (Hawick); Ayton; Bemersyde Moss; Birgham (Coldstream); Black Barony; Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water); ; Blue Stane Ford (Chirnside); Boleside (Selkirk); Bowdenmoor Res (Bowden); Buccleuch Chase; Burnmouth/Partanhall; Burnmouth-Border; Caddonlee (Clovenfords); Carfraemill Hotel (Oxton); Chirnsidebridge; Cruxfield Pond (Preston); Dreva Marsh (Broughton); Dryhope (St Mary's Loch); Drycleuch Law (St Mary's Loch); Dunglass; Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall; Edington Mains (Paxton); Edston (Peebles); Ettrickhaugh (Selkirk); Eyemouth Bay; Eyemouth North Bay; Eyemouth-Burnmouth; Fancove Head (Eyemouth); Folly Loch; Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool; Gala Law (Hawick); Galashiels; Galashiels Sewage Works Pond; General's Bridge (Philiphough); Glensax Burn (Peebles); Green Diamonds (Selkirk); Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden); Hangingshaw (Heriot Water); Harden (Hawick); Heiton (Kelso); Hen Poo (Duns); ; Hirsell Lake; Hollybush (Galashiels); Hoselaw Loch (Sprouston); Hownam; Huntford (Carter Bar); Innerleithen; Keress Wood and Loch (Ancrum); Kingledores (Tweedsmuir); Lambertson; Lea Head (Hawick); Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Linthill (Eyemouth); Long Philip Burn Res (Selkirk); Manor Valley; Mellerstain (Smailholm); Melrose; Minnie Pool (Peebles); Monteviot (Ancrum); Nether Falla (Portmore); Newcastleton; Newmains (Reston); Newstead-Drygrange (Melrose); North Esk Reservoir; Pease Bay-Redheugh; Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay; Philiphough; Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet); Rutherford (Maxton); Selkirk Hill skating pond; Selkirk Race Course Moss; Shaws Under Loch (Ettrickbridge); Smailholm Tower (Kelso); St Abbs; Stantling Craig Res (Galashiels); Stobo; Stow; Synton Mossend (Ashkirk); Thirladean (Selkirk); Thornylee (Walkerburn); Tweedmill (Coldstream); Watch Water (Longformacus); West Linton; Whim Pond (Leadburn); White Law Loch (Selkirk); Whitmuirhall Loch (Selkirk); Whitrigbog-Westfield; Whitton Loch (Hownam); Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Wooden Loch (Eckford); Yair (Caddonfoot); Yetholm Loch.

Confirmed breeding from seven sites:

Tweedbank	22-Mar	AT Bramhall	N
Blaeberry Wood (Peebles)	05-Apr	G Pyatt	ON (13)
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	28-Apr	RD Murray	ON (4)
Boggyhall Wood (Monteviot)	04-May	RD Murray	ON (10-12)
Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	04-May	RD Murray	FL
Jessie's Plantation (Ayton)	23-Jun	RD Murray	ON (8); c.28 shells
Caddonlee (Clovenfords)	07-Jul	AT Bramhall	N

See Introduction for breeding codes.

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.

Four hundred and sixty-three records from 82 tetrads (63 in 2015). Peak counts per month (greater than singles):



Little Grebe. The Hirsell. November. Alistair Cutter.

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Abbotsford												4
Ale Moor Wester Loch (Buccleuch)		4								2		
Alton Loch (Hawick)							2					
Bemersyde Moss			2	3			7	6				
Borthwickshiels Loch (Hawick)							3					
Bowhill (Selkirk)			2								4	
Cabby Burn (Allanton)	2											
Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)	2	2			2					3		
Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank)			4						8			
Folly Loch		2	3	5	6	7	11	13	14	3	7	
Green Diamonds (Selkirk)				2	2					3		
Haining Loch (Selkirk)					2							
Hallmanor Loch (Manor Valley)	2		2									
Hare Moss (Ashkirk)			2		4		6		3			
Harehope North Pond (Eddleston)							2					
Harelaw (Lilliesleaf)	3		4		6	3					3	
Hen Poo (Duns)										2		
Hirsel Lake	2	5	8	8		2	8	18	26	12	4	
Hollybush Loch (Galashiels)		5	4	3	2				6			
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)										3		
Kerss Wood and Loch (Ancrum)				2								
Lady Moss (Bowden)									2	2		
Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)			4	2	3			5			3	
Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)		2		2					6	4	3	
Macbiehill Pond (West Linton)				3				2				
Mellerstain (Gordon)			18									
Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	3	3										
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)				2	2	4		4	4	5		
North Esk Reservoir				2								
Nether Stewarton (Eddleston)							2					
Paxton House	2	6	4					3	4	4	6	9
Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)		2	6	4	2		4	8	7	10		
Pot Loch (Selkirk)		5										
Synton Loch (Ashkirk)		8			4	3				8		
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	2										2	2
Teviot: Chesters (Denholm)												5
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	5	4	7							6	5	5
Tweed: Melrose											2	2
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	5	2									2	3
Tweed: Union Bridge								2				
Whim Pond (Leadburn)			4	2			2					
White Law Loch (Selkirk)			2									
Whitmuirhall Loch (Selkirk)				2								
Whitton Loch (Hownam)							2					
Williestruther Loch (Hawick)	7	7	9	5		2		4		8	6	
Wiltonburn Loch (Hawick)						3						
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	9	10	7	4	3	2		5	5	10	2	2
Yetholm Loch			6	6								
Yetholm Pond	2			3		2	2	2		2		
Riverine (sites)	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	4	6
Standing water (sites)	8	12	17	17	12	9	12	10	10	15	9	2

Sites with peak counts of only one came from: Abbey St Bathans; Blackhope Ponds (Heriot Water); Cruxfield Pond (Preston); Deanfoot Pond (Denholm); Dunglass; Galashiels Sewage Works Pond; Garvald Junction Pond (Heriot Water); Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden); Heiton (Kelso); Leahead Loch (Hawick); New Belses (Ancrum); St Mary's Loch; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels) (Clovenfords); Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Br; Tweed: Manor Br-Tweed Br (Peebles); Tweed: Mertoun Br-Dryburgh; Tweedbank; West Water (Longformacus); Whitrig Bog.

Twenty-three records of breeding (from 31 tetrads in 2015):

04-May	Harelaw (Lilliesleaf)	RD Murray	ON
04-May	Synton Mossend (Ashkirk)	RD Murray	P(2)
06-May	Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)	ND Stratton	P
09-May	Haining Loch (Selkirk)	G Scott	P
22-May	Blackhope Ponds (Heriot Water)	RD Murray	ON
28-May	Green Diamond lochs (Selkirk)	EL Bickmore	B
03-Jun	Folly Loch	RD Murray	FL(3br5)
22-Jun	Hirsel Lake	D Parkinson	FL
23-Jun	Wooden Loch	RD Murray	FL(br2)
05-Jul	Harehope North Pond (Eddleston)	RD Murray	FL(br1)
05-Jul	Nether Stewarton (Eddleston)	RD Murray	FL(br1)
08-Jul	Hare Moss (Ashkirk)	M Moncrieff	FL(br2)
17-Jul	Bemersyde Moss	M Moncrieff	FL(br5)
18-Jul	Whim Pond (Leadburn)	RD Murray	FL(br1)
19-Jul	Borthwickshiels Loch (Hawick)	RD Murray	FL(br1)
27-Jul	Hollybush Loch (Galashiels)	RD Murray	FL(br1)
06-Aug	Yetholm Marsh	RD Murray	FL(br2)
06-Aug	Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)	RD Murray	FL(br1)
16-Aug	Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	F Evans	FL(br1)
18-Aug	Williestruther Loch (Hawick)	M Moncrieff	FL(br1)
22-Aug	Macbiehill Pond (West Linton)	RD Murray	FL(br2)
22-Aug	West Water (West Linton)	RD Murray	FL(br2)
28-Aug	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	RD Murray	FL(br2)

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

Scarce breeder: 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.

Thirty-five records from seven tetrads.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	3	Kelso Bridge -3; Alemoor Reservoir (Buccleuch) -2; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels) -1.
Apr-Aug	4	Alemoor Reservoir -4; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels) -2; Haining Loch (Selkirk) -2; Fruid Reservoir -2.
Sep-Dec	3	Hule Moss -5; Haining Loch -3; Lady Moss (Bowden) -1.

Confirmed breeding from only three tetrads:

Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels)	03-Jun	RD Murray	ON
Alemoor Wester Loch	28-Jun	RD Murray	FL (br3)
Haining Loch and Woods	16-Oct	AT Bramhall	FL (br3)

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.

A single record: single bird on 15-Aug at Eyemouth Bay (P Rawnsley).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Rare breeder from 1992-2003. Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

A pair of birds were reported from Folly Loch from mid-May through to the end of June with observations of display (RD Murray and DK Graham). However, there was no confirmed breeding. A single bird was reported from Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank) on 18-Sep and 19-Nov (both D Parkinson).

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.

Three records from three sites: a probable pair at a nesting site in the Cheviots (12-Mar) – M Henderson; a single, north-east of Broughton (24-Apr) – R Singleton; a single near Eckford (5-Aug) – C Green.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

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

Four records submitted (all single birds): 10-Apr near Duns – J Laing; 18-Jun at Hule Moss – J Lough; 22-Jul at St Abb's Head – A Holmes; 27-Jul at Newmains (Reston) – DK Graham.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

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

Twelve records from the following areas:

Moorfoots	2	Merse	1
Tweedsmuir Hills	6	Ettrick Forest	1
South West	2		

Records from: J Bray; M Henderson; RD Murray; G Pyatt; A Sandeman; A Taylor-Piggot; A Wates.
Hen Harrier Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (Andrew Sandeman).
 Note: following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

Area	Sites occupied	Eggs laid	Young hatched	Young fledged
Pentlands	1	0	0	0
Lammermuirs	0	0	0	0
Moorfoots	0	0	0	0
Tweedsmuir Hills	7*	19+	10+	7+
SE Borders	1	5	5	0
Sub-total	9*	24+	15+	7+
Langholm	2	10	9	6
Totals	11	34+	24+	13

* including one single

The weather influenced the timing of the season, with deep snow as late as 30-Apr. Later in the season it was fairly dry. For the second season running it was a poor vole year.

Pentlands

Interest was aroused by a juvenile male displaying in early May but sadly his attempts to find a mate were unsuccessful.

Lammermuirs

A female was reported in March and managed to survive until 10-Apr, then just the usual glaring absence from a habitat made in heaven for harriers.

A male and female were reported in coastal areas early on but nothing was seen after the beginning of May.

Moorfoots

A RSPB fieldworker reported a 'ringtail' during March but then nothing until a single female in the same area in late June. This area is extensively covered by a member of our group, so it is unlikely that a breeding attempt was missed.

Tweedsmuir Hills

Six sites were occupied by pairs and a seventh had an immature male early on.

Persecution caused failure at two or three sites with predation (probably foxes) accounting for two other losses. The last few years have increased our concern about the impact of foxes. The affect of legal persecution can be summarised as between nine and 15 young harriers lost in just this year, plus their potential offspring.

South East

A breeding attempt in the far South-east started well with five eggs laid but the ringing visit discovered four dead chicks scattered in the heather. The fifth chick was not found. Predation may well have been the cause of failure. Two pairs succeeded on the Borders side of Langholm, both laying five eggs. The first nest hatched four and fledged two; the second hatched five and fledged four.

Hen Harrier LIFE Project & National Survey

The project is ongoing and this is a good time to acknowledge the support provided by the RSPB project staff.

Extensive coverage of many 10 km squares was made possible by a very significant contribution of time from various members of the RSG; to them, many thanks!

Roosts

There were meagre pickings in 2015-16 for those monitoring harrier roosts, with only one site showing signs of use by a small number of birds.

As ever, I would like to record my huge appreciation of the effort made by several members of our group, especially Helen and Tom.

Thanks also to local birders and the PAWS (Partnership Against Wildlife Crime in Scotland) scheme.

ALL reports are appreciated and almost all followed up.

Annual trends:

Year	Sites occupied	Pr/females with nests	Nests fledging young	Fledged young (min)
2016	11	8	4	13
2015	9	9	4	13
2014	8	8	7	25
2013	3	3	2	6
2012	4	3	1	3
2011	4	2	2	8
2010	2	2	2	6
2009	2	2	2	4
2008	2	1	1	4?
2007	3	2	2	10

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Scarce and local resident, probably 40-50 pr. 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.

Twenty-four casual records from 12 tetrads:

Area	Records
Moorfoot Hills	14
Coldingham Moor	1
Ettrick Forest	3
Lammermuirs	1
Upper Tweed valley	1
Tweedsmuir Hills	2
Wauchope Forest	2

Records received from: G Baptie; S Bayne; AT Bramhall; F Evans; K Houston; A Martin; M Moncrieff; RD Murray; D Parkinson; G Scott; S Seright; R Singleton; ND Stratton; AF Thomas and R Watterson.

Goshawk Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (Malcolm Henderson).

Note: following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

Sites/territories checked	Sites/territories occupied	Sites with successful breeding	Min young fledged	No. young fledged/occupied site	No. young fledged/successful pr.
51	36	19	35	1.4	1.8

A total of 51 were monitored this year. Two of these were new sites, one found in a small mature wood near Hawick and the other in a large forest in the upper Tweed valley.

While Goshawks prefer to nest in large forest blocks, we have several nests in relatively small woodlands. The impression we are getting is that they are safer and nest more successfully in the

large forests, while they are vulnerable to disturbance and persecution in the small woodlands. This is particularly noticeable where game rearing is taking place. There is no doubt that persecution is the man factor preventing nesting success of Goshawks and also the spread of nesting sites away from the traditional core nesting areas.

Tree felling in commercial forests is an inconvenience for our field workers as very often this is the reason for nest site locations moving within the forest. Trying to locate these new nest sites is sometimes difficult and often time consuming but we can't complain as that is why the commercial forests are there. We have however, noticed a considerable improvement in the way in which forest managers carry out pre-felling checks. We have also built up a good working relationship with forest managers.

A great deal of time and effort has been involved in collating this year's results and my thanks go to all those who have provided information.

On a lighter side, I should also thank one of our fieldworkers who, I think, would like to remain anonymous. She directed me to a new nest site and also provided me with the route of the path to the nest site. What she didn't mention was that while walking along the path I would find an unexploded bomb. Full marks to the Police and Bomb Disposal who quickly arrived on scene and detonated the bomb and allowed me safe access to the nest.

Detailed results for 2016

Home Ranges

Number of nest sites monitored	51
Number of sites not occupied	15
Number of sites occupied, nest not found	11
Number of sites occupied, nest found	25

Brood sizes

From the 25 nesting attempts located, we had an average brood size of 1.41 (1.76 in 2015). From the 19 successful sites we had an average brood size of 1.84 (2.64 in 2015).

This year's results are one of the poorest returns we have had. Why these results are so poor has not been established. From the 19 successful nests we only had 35 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 that this will provide us with some information regarding the movements of the birds.

Some of this year's young were fitted with satellite tags. It will be very interesting to find out where these birds go.

My thanks go to all those who provided returns.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Home ranges checked	56	57	53	57	59	59	50	54	56	61	46	48	54	51
Occupied territories	40	40	41	39	40	36	38	39	41	41	35	36	41	36
Territory occupied, nest found	28	28	28	25	31	25	24	28	32	31	22	26	22	19
Young fledged	-	-	-	49	65	50	52	47	64	44	45	34	58	35
Mean brood size	2.12	1.78	1.93	2.13	2.07	2.00	2.17	2.04	2.01	1.42	1.29	0.94	1.41	1.41
Mean successful brood	2.62	2.29	2.62	2.33	2.42	2.5	2.47	2.47	2.68	2.00	2.5	2.13	2.64	1.84

Goshawk: 2003-2016.

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.

One hundred and sixty-seven records from 123 tetrads (10%). Widespread. Mainly records of single birds:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Tot.
Records	17	32	19	16	8	5	10	12	6	20	10	12	167
Tetrads	17	27	18	12	8	5	9	8	6	14	10	12	-
No. of birds	18	35	21	16	8	5	10	13	6	21	10	12	175

Confirmed breeding from three tetrads.

No monitoring occurred in Borders in 2015, the RSG activity concentrating on the revival of the Edinburgh Sparrowhawk Monitoring Programme.

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.

Seven hundred and twenty-six records from 236 tetrads (18%). Peak monthly counts:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Highest count	7	8	15	7	5	4	3	9	4	5	4	4
No. of tetrads with records	50	57	60	51	40	42	30	36	33	24	28	26
Location of site with highest count	Harcus (Eddleston) - RD Murray	Yetholm Loch - J Lough	Lanton Mill (Ancrum) - M Henderson	Watch Water (Longformacus)	Hule Moss	Hawick Moss	Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall	Ettrick Pen (Ettrick) - D Murray	Yetholm Loch	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	Manor Bridge (Peebles)	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden

Fourteen records with breeding evidence:

18-Feb	Dewar	N Crowther	D	30-Apr	The Yett (Hownam)	M Henderson	ON
18-Feb	Thornielee Forest	N Crowther	D	25-May	Kilrubie Wood (Eddleston)	RD Murray	N
13-Mar	Hule Moss	J Lough	P	19-Jun	Lintub Knowes (Hawick)	G Scott	P
20-Mar	Dawyck	M Betts	D	05-Jul	Loch Pots (Eddleston)	RD Murray	A
03-Apr	Wester Ale Moor (Buccleuch)	G Scott	D	06-Jul	Harcus (Eddleston)	RD Murray	A
15-Apr	Baddingsgill Reservoir	RD Murray	B	18-Jul	Abbey St Bathans	J Lough	P
21-Apr	Big Wood (Selkirk)	G Scott	P	14-Aug	Craigdilly (Megget Res)	JD Gordon	FL
See Introduction for breeding codes.							

Buzzard Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (George Smith). Note: following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

Sites/territories checked	Sites/territories occupied	Sites with successful breeding	Min. young fledged	No. young fledged/occupied site	No. young fledged/successful pair
45	43	48	92+	1.24	2.48

In 2016, 45 (64) out of a known 157 sites were checked, with 43 (61) occupied by pairs and 2 (3) more by singles. (2015 figures are in brackets).

This reduced data set is showing an increase in productivity on the 2015 season, despite some missing out on confirmed fledging, which is a reflection of a limited number of fieldworkers who are already working on many other species.

Productivity of 1.86 young per territorial pair is up from 0.85 in 2015 and 2.1 young per productive pair is again up from last year's figure of 1.57.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chysaetos*

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

Between 27-Feb and 4-Aug there were five casual records received, all in the west of the Borders. Observers: M Jones; RD Murray and JCS Noble.

Golden Eagle Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (Tony Lightley):

Sites/territories checked	Sites/territories occupied	Sites with successful breeding	Min. young fledged	No. young fledged/occupied site	No. young fledged/successful pair
3	1	1	1	1	1

After three seasons laying eggs but without fledging any chicks, hopes were high that six year old Roxy would finally fledge a chick in the 2016 breeding season. The weather was quite mild towards the end of the winter period and Roxy was tracked via the satellite tag which is still producing a strong signal indicating that nest building appeared to have started.

In the spring period it was obvious that Roxy had selected a different location to build up her nest despite visiting other nest sites on a regular basis, the third nest site in the past three years.

No visits were made to the site during the egg laying, incubation and early chick rearing period to ensure zero disturbance from raptor workers. Together with the landowner present, the site was eventually checked in early July and we were not disappointed. A very large mature chick, free from down, was standing on the edge of the huge historic nest site.

On site, after viewing the bird with binoculars, it was decided that the potential for the bird to 'jump prematurely' was not worth the risk and although the chick was too mature to ring and fit a satellite tag the key objective of ensuring a healthy chick to fledge from this site was eventually fulfilled.

In 2017 we will monitor the site earlier in the season to ensure we ring the bird and hopefully fit a

satellite tag to monitor the bird when it leaves the natal area and for some years to come. It has been 10 years since the last Golden Eagle chick fledged from the Borders region and with the potential for more birds to be released via the South Scotland Golden Eagle Recovery Project, it is hoped that the South Scotland will have at the very least, a core breeding population of this iconic bird.

Updates on recovery project can be found on web link www.goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk

Movements of the bird named 'Roxy' can be viewed on the Highland Foundation for Wildlife web site, <http://www.rovdennis.org/animals/raptors/golden-eagle/>

The information downloaded from the satellite tag shows the territory utilised by Roxy throughout the year and importantly, for those monitoring the bird, the nest location without the need for disturbance during critical periods of nest building and incubation.

Juvenile and sub-adult birds are regularly reported passing through the region throughout the year; thanks to all those who have passed on sightings. We are looking forward to the 2017 season, hopefully for two chicks to fledge as there is abundant prey availability within the territory of the birds

Thanks to Malcolm Henderson for his assistance.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

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

Seventy-eight records from 43 tetrads (3%). Given the species mobility, a significant amount of duplicate counts is inevitable. First record was on 4-Mar at Innerleithen (Birdguides) and latest record was on 17-Sep in the Merse when a locally fledged bird was seen (B Meikle).

Osprey Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (Tony Lightley). Note that following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with successful breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged/ occupied site	No. of young fledged/ successful pair
15	12	9	16	1.33	2

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. Last year's new female was back in residence and laid two eggs around the 25th April. The resident male, White SS is now 17 years old but still holding territory and is an experienced fish provider to the nest. After an incubation period of 38-39 days, one chick was visible in the nest on 2nd June.

Disaster once again struck this nest, in 2015 the female failed to brood the chicks effectively and this year human disturbance was recorded at the nest location just a couple of minutes before the camera powered down for the day. However, the backup nest proved successful again fledging two chicks.

Both chicks were fitted with Satellite tags and migrated within four days of each other. However, PX2 stopped transmitting on Sept 3rd and is now assumed to be dead. It occupied a series of ponds at the start of the duck shooting season and stopped transmitting at 5.18am on September 3rd.



2016 Migration of **FK8** from West Portugal - Scotland and return. South West Portugal to Isles of Lewis to Orkney (1st leg) 2,800km.



The return migration of FK8

The bird left Sines in South West Portugal where it overwintered on 3rd May. On the 7th May it left Northern Spain and roosted overnight just north of Plymouth. Next morning on the 8th May, it flew

through south-west Wales up to the northeast coast of Ireland; then on to Bellochanty, just north of Macrihanish on the Kintyre peninsular. On the 9th May it flew up past Oban and visited the Isles of Lewis for a couple of days, before departing on the 11th May and ending up at Loch Tor na Ceardaich, 10 miles South West of Thurso. It spent most of the summer in this locality.

On 28th May it made a visit to seven of Orkney's islands and in a six hour flight covered 300 km.

A nest was built whilst down in the Dornoch area in mid-June. FK8 then moved back up north shortly before migrating south on 28th August; returning back Portugal and its wintering grounds.

Sightings should be passed on to recorders so that follow up visits can be made to locate new nest sites. Mid-June to mid-July is a key time for maximum fish to be delivered to the nest sites as the chicks mature.

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.

Seventy-eight records from 29 tetrads (2%). This is a significant increase on the 2015 records and tetrads and nearer the level of recording associated with the Waterbodies Survey in 2014. The increase over 2015 records is partly the result of Ray Murray contributing over 50% of the records (in 2015 he contributed about 25% of the records). As many of you will know, Ray felt that the Water Rail was an under-recorded species in Borders and armed with tape lure he went out to prove as much!

Peak counts per tetrad for each season (in order of count size). Unless indicated, counts were of singles:

Jan-Mar (11 tetrads)

Bemersyde Moss -3 (probable territory); Hirsell Lake-2; Pot Loch (Selkirk)-2; Wooden Loch (Eckford)-2 (singles); Frogden Marsh (Morebattle); Mire Loch, St Abb's Head; Hen Poo (Duns); Middlestots Marsh (Duns); Cardrona Sewage Reedbed; St Leonard's Moss (Hawick); Yetholm Loch.

Apr-Aug (Breeding) (22 tetrads)

Bemersyde Moss-30 (19 territories found on north side only); Hawick Moss-23 (13 territories); Groundstone Moss (Ashkirk)-19 (13 territories); Wiltonburn Loch (Hawick)-7; Whitmuirhall Loch (Selkirk)-7; Alton Pond (Hawick)-6; Pot Loch (Selkirk)-5; Selkirk South Common-4; Clovenfords Moss (Galashiels)-3; Nether Whitlaw Moss (Selkirk)-2; Folly Loch-2; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie-2 (single territory); Selkirk Race Course Moss-2; Whim Pond-2 (Leadburn)-2; Hare Moss (Ashkirk)-2; Tufford Burn (Earlston); Back Loch (Buccleuch); Essenside Loch (Ashkirk); Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head); Hen Poo (Duns); Wooden Loch (Eckford).

Sep-Dec (7 tetrads)

Bemersyde Moss-3; St. Abbs Head (Mire Loch)-3; St Leonards Moss; Hare Moss; Duns Castle; Hirsell Lake; Horndean (Ladykirk).

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.

Five hundred and thirty-eight records from 97 tetrads (8%). Counts of five or more:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bemersyde Moss			7	6		5						
Folly Loch			8		6		5					
Hen Poo (Duns)	5	10							9	6	7	5
Hirsel Lake	7	6		7					11		6	
Hollybush (Galashiels)							5					
Mellerstain (Gordon)			6									
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)								5				
Newmains (Reston)	6											
Paxton House	8	5						5		8	7	6
Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)				6	5			8	5			
Rink Pond (Galashiels)		6										
Stantling Craig Res (Galashiels)												10
Tweedbank	8						5			6		
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	7	7	5					8	25	16		
Yetholm Loch					6							
Total no. tetrads	37	32	35	28	27	27	23	14	14	22	17	17

Sites with counts of no more than four were: Abbey St Bathans; Abbotsmoss Pond; Alemoor Reservoir (Buccleuch); Allanton ; Alterstones Ponds (Dawyck); Alton Pond (Hawick); Billiemains ponds (Reston); Blackhope Ponds (Heriot Water); Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose); Bowhill (Selkirk); Cardrona; Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk); Clarilaw Hill Pond (Hawick); Crailinghall (Jedburgh); Deanfoot (Denholm); Denholm; Dreva Marsh (Dawyck); Dunglass Estate Pond; Earl's Haugh (Coldstream); Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie; Edington Mains (Foulden); Essenside Loch (Ashkirk); Eyemouth; Eyemouth Golf Course; Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank); Fancove Head (Eyemouth); Gala Sewage Works Pond; Garvald Junction Pond (Heriot Water); Gattonside-Melrose; Green Diamonds (Selkirk); Groundistone (Ashkirk); Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank); Haining Loch (Selkirk); Harcus (Eddleston); Hare Moss (Ashkirk); Harelaw (Lilliesleaf); Hartree House Hotel (Houghton); Hawick Moss; Hollows Burn (Broughton); Hundleshope Cross Ponds (Manor Valley); Hunthill (Jedburgh); Lady Moss (Bowden); Ladyrig (Heiton); Lambertton; Leahead Loch (Hawick); Lees Haugh (Coldstream); Lilliesleaf Moss Pool; Lindean Loch (Selkirk); Lindean Mast Pool (Selkirk); Loch Pots (Eddleston); Macbiehill Pond (West Linton); Middlestots Marsh (Duns); Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head); Minto Deanfoot Pond (Denholm); Nunlands Pond (Foulden); Peebles; Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk); Portmore Loch; Pot Loch (Selkirk); Redheugh Farm Pond (Coldingham Moor); Selkirk (Ettrick Water); Selkirk Hill skating pond; Shiplaw (Eddleston); Smailholm Tower ; St Leonard's Moss (Hawick); Standhill Corner Pool (Denholm); Sunlaws Mill (Roxburgh); Synton Mossend (Ashkirk); Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); The Holmes (St Boswells); Traquair House Pond; Tweed: Carham-Sprouston; West Water Dam Pond (West Linton); Wester Deans Ponds; Whim Pond (Leadburn); Whitmuirhall Loch (Selkirk); Whitton Loch (Hownam); Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Wiltonburn Loch (Hawick); Wooden Orchard Pond (Kelso); Yetholm Marsh; Yetholm Pond.

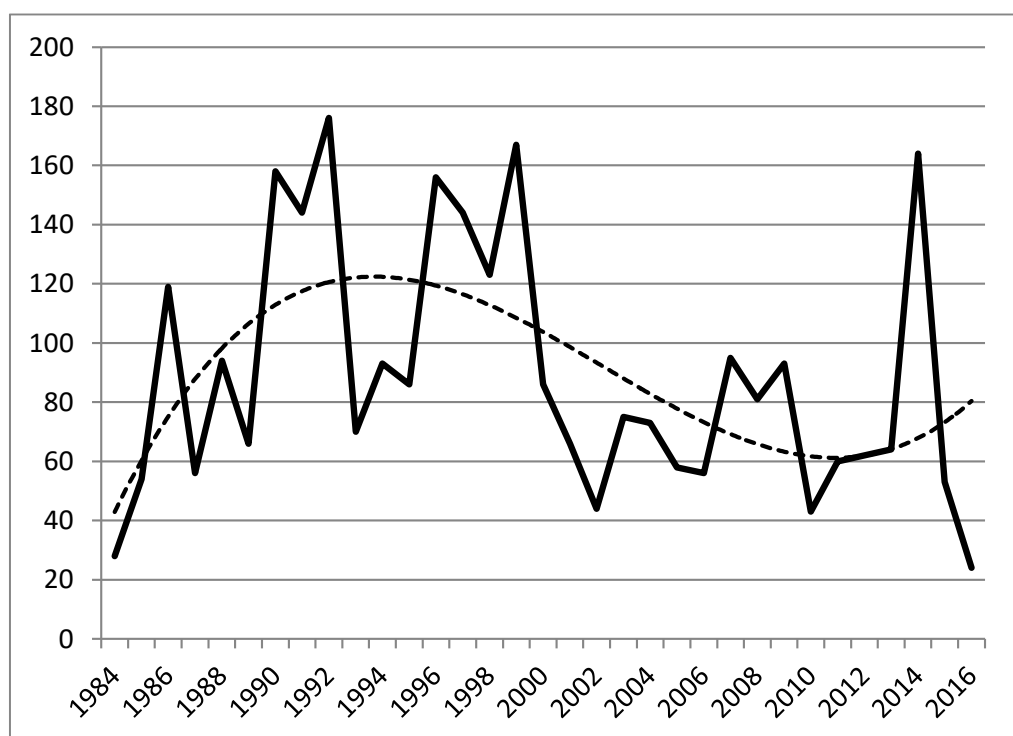
Possibly some of the higher counts in Sept-Oct involved juveniles, although no information given to confirm or refute this.

Breeding (Apr-Sep):

Records came from 110 sites with confirmed breeding from 14 sites.

02-Apr	Deanfoot (Denholm)	P	05-Jul	Loch Pots	FL(1)
02-May	Yetholm Loch	P(3)	19-Jul	Lilliesleaf Moss Pool	FL(1)
15-May	Hollows Burn (Broughton)	FL(2)	19-Jul	Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Bowden)	FL(1)
22-May	Hollybush South Pond (Galashiels)	FL(3)	27-Jul	Green Diamonds (Selkirk)	FL(1)
23-May	Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	FL(3)	27-Jul	Pot Loch (Selkirk)	FL(2)
03-Jun	Bemersyde Moss	T(5)	27-Jul	Hollybush Loch (Galashiels)	FL(1)
09-Jun	Hawick Moss	T(4)	06-Aug	Lindean Mast Pool (Selkirk)	P
22-Jun	Hirsel Lake	FL	06-Aug	Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	P(4)
25-Jun	Billiemains ponds (Reston)	FL	06-Aug	Wooden Loch (Eckford)	FL(2br3)
28-Jun	Whitmuirhall Loch (Selkirk)	T(3)	12-Aug	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	FL(2)
04-Jul	Tweedbank	FL(2)	See Introduction for breeding codes		

The number of recorded young and the number of broods was the lowest in the last 33 years:



No. of recorded Moorhen young: 1984-2016

Whether the trends shown above reflect the actual breeding situation or whether they are, in part, an artefact is not easy to disentangle. Almost certainly the peak of 2014 is the result of the greater observer effort associated with the Borders Waterbodies Survey. *Bird Atlas 2007-11* suggested a widespread decline in breeding relative abundance for much of Borders.

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.

Four hundred and forty-three records from 42 tetrads.

Counts above five:

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with counts above five
Jan-Mar	33	Hirsel Lake-49; Yetholm Loch-31; Folly Loch-23; Hen Poo (Duns)-15; Williestruther Loch (Hawick)-15; Hollybush (Galashiels)-12; Ploughland Pond (Nisbet)-10; Synton Loch (Ashkirk)-8; Yetholm Marsh-7; Whitmuirhall Loch (Selkirk)-7.
Apr-Jun	30	Yetholm Loch-33; Folly Loch-22; Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)-11; Hirsel Lake-7; Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Bowden)-6; Whitmuirhall Loch-6; Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)-6; Hollybush (Galashiels)-6; Williestruther Loch (Hawick)-6.
Jul-Sep	24	Folly Loch-45; Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)-27; Yetholm Loch-27; Hirsel Lake-20; Williestruther Loch (Hawick)-8; Hen Poo (Duns)-8; Hollybush (Galashiels)-6; Whitton Loch (Hownam)-6.
Oct-Dec	22	Yetholm Loch-24; Williestruther Loch (Hawick)-16; Paxton House-15; Hirsel Lake-13;

Sites with peak counts of five or less: Alemoor Reservoir (Buccleuch); Alton Loch (Hawick); Bemersyde Moss; Borthwickshiels Loch (Hawick); Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Bowden); Brotherstone (Smailholm); Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk); Cruxfield Pond (Preston); Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor); Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor); Easter Housebyres (Galashiels); Essenside Loch (Ashkirk); Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank); Haining Loch (Selkirk); Hare Moss (Ashkirk); Harelaw (Lilliesleaf); Hoselaw Loch (Sprouston); Ladyrig Pond (Heiton); Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Lionfield Moss (Hawick); Macbiehill Pond (West Linton); Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); Newmains (Reston); Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk); Shielswood Loch (Ashkirk); Standhill Corner Pool (Lilliesleaf); Synton Mossend (Ashkirk); Town Yetholm Pond; Tweedbank; Whim Pond (Leadburn); Whitrig Bog ; Wiltonburn Loch (Hawick); Wooden Loch (Eckford); Yetholm Marsh.

Breeding (Mar-Aug):

Between mid-March-Aug records came from 37 tetrads. Confirmed breeding came from 16 tetrads:

16-Mar	Tweedbank	ON	09-Jun	Synton Mossend (Ashkirk)	FL(3)
29-Mar	Whim Pond (Leadburn)	P	17-Jun	Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	FL
04-May	Williestruther Loch (Hawick)	ON	22-Jun	Hirsel Lake	FL
04-May	Harelaw Pond (Lilliesleaf)	ON	28-Jun	Bemersyde Moss	ON
04-May	Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	ON	04-Jul	Folly Loch	FL(3br14)
06-May	Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)	B	10-Jul	Yetholm Pond	ON(2)
28-May	Cruxfield Pond (Preston)	FL(2br4)	19-Jul	Alemoor Reservoir (Buccleuch)	FL(2br3)
01-Jun	Bowdenmoor Res. (Bowden)	FL(4)	19-Jul	Lionfield Moss (Hawick)	P
04-Jun	Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk)	ON	27-Jul	Hare Moss (Ashkirk)	ON
See Introduction for breeding codes			27-Jul	Hollybush Loch (Galashiels)	FL(2br4)

The first confirmed evidence of breeding was on 16-Mar when an occupied nest was seen at Tweedbank (A Bramhall). The first recording of young was on 16-May at Bowdenmoor Reservoir (EL Bickmore).

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.

Six hundred and eight records from 142 tetrads (11%).

A total of 226 were counted on the Rocky Shore Count on 17-Jan. These numbers are similar to recent years.

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	32	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	20
Pease Bay-Redheugh	49	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	12
Redheugh-Souter	17	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	6
Souter-Pettico Wick	2	Burnmouth-Border	38

Between Feb-Jul the greatest counts occur inland, usually upstream of Coldstream. Records of counts of 10 and more came from the following (excluding RSC data):

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Burnmouth		31	17		10						41	
Cardrona Sewage Reedbed					10							
Cove Bay (Cockburnspath)									126			
Dunglass		15	41					48				
Ettrick Water(Selkirk)		71	92	28	13							
Ettrickhaugh						30						
Eyemouth Bay		50	17					18				
Garvald Junction Pool (Heriot Water)				16								
Greenheugh (Cockburnspath)						18						
Hearthstane (Tweedsmuir)				30								
Howford (Innerleithen)			28									
Hundleshope Cross Ponds (Manor Valley)							10					
Innerleithen-Peebles		40										
Langhaugh (Manor Valley)			26									
Paxton House		15		17								
St Abb's Head								17				
Stantling Craig Res (Galashiels)		42	63	57	13							
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)		131										
Tweed: Horndean				12								
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	29	150	78	34								
Tweed: Mertoun-Dryburgh	-	20	33	-								
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	12	10	16	-								
Watch Water (Longformacus)	-	-	120	55	10	28	55	10				
Williestruther Loch (Hawick)	-	15	59	-	-	-	-	-				
Coastal tetrads	9	5	4	4	2	3	2	6	7	2	1	2
Inland tetrads	8	28	30	44	51	35	19	4	0	1	0	4

Sites with peak counts of less than 10 were: Abbotsford; Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick); Allanton; Alterstones Pools (Dawyck); Back Burn junction (Manor Valley); Baddinsgill Reservoir (Carlops); Bamflatt (Broughton); Barnhills (Denholm); Bellspool (Dawyck); Bemersyde Moss; Blackhaugh (Caddon Water); Blackhopebyre (Dewar); Braidlie Burn (Hermitage Water); Caddonhead (Caddon Water); Cardrona Sewage Reedbed; Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch); Cove Bay (Cockburnspath); Cow Hill Plantation (Longformacus); Deloraineshiel (Buccleuch); Denholm; Dewar (Garvald); Dinley (Hermitage Water); Dod (Wauchope Forest); Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords); Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston; Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie;

Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall; Fairliehope (Carlops); Folly Loch; Fruid Reservoir; Glenrath Hope (Manor Valley); Glensax Burn (Kingsmuir); Graden(Yetholm); Green Diamonds (Selkirk); Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden); Harden (Hawick); Harelaw (Lilliesleaf); Heiton (Kelso); Hen Poo (Duns); Hirsell; Hollows Burn (Broughton); Howden (Selkirk); Hule Moss; Hundleshope Cross Ponds (Manor Valley); Kerss Wood and Loch (Ancrum); Langhaugh Haugh (Manor Valley); Leadburn Community Wood; Longformacus; Mailingsland (Peebles); Martin's Bridge (Hawick); Melrose (Borders Gen. Hospital); Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head); Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); Murder Moss (Selkirk); Nether Falla (Portmore); New Belses (Ancrum); Newcastleton; North Esk Reservoir; Pease Bay; Peebles; Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk); Plora Wood West (Innerleithen); Pot Loch (Selkirk); Rankle Burn (Buccleuch); Roxburgh Mains (Roxburgh); Southdean (Bonchester Br); St Abbs; St Boswells; St Mary's Loch; Stanhope (Tweedsmuir); Synton Mossend (Ashkirk); Talla Reservoir; Tinnis Farm (Yarrow Valley); Torwoodlee (Galashiels); Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose; Tweed: Mertoun to Benrigg Dean; Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange; Tweed: Tilmouth; Tweedbank; West Water Reservoir; Westfield Pools (Smailholm); Whim Pond (Leadburn); Whitehope (Leithen Water); Whitmuirhall Loch (Selkirk); Whitrig Bog; Winkston (Peebles); Wooden Loch (Eckford); Woolhope Bank (Leithen Water); Yarrow; Yetholm Loch and Yetholm Marsh.

Breeding (Apr-Jul):

Throughout the breeding period records came from a total of 103 tetrads. Evidence of breeding was reported from 30 tetrads (20 in 2015):

30-Mar	Allanton	P	04-May	Westfield Pools (Smailholm)	P
02-Apr	Heiton	P	04-May	Teviot: Ormiston	P
16-Apr	Ettrick Water (Selkirk)	P	23-May	Winkston (Peebles)	ON
19-Apr	Stanhope (Tweedsmuir)	A	23-May	Deloraineshiel (Buccleuch)	P
19-Apr	Tweed: Horndean	ON	23-May	Blackhopebyre (Dewar)	N
19-Apr	Folly Loch	ON	24-May	Martin's Br (Hawick)	FL
23-Apr	Fancove Head (Eyemouth)	P	27-May	Fruid Reservoir	ON
24-Apr	Paxton House	P	27-May	Bellspool (Dawyck)	ON
26-Apr	Glensax Burn (Kingsmuir)	P	04-Jun	Tweed: Sprouston-Banff Mill	FL
27-Apr	Tweed: Tilmouth	N	04-Jun	Tweed: Lochton	FL
02-May	Braidlie Burn (Hermitage Water)	A	04-Jun	Birgham Haugh (Coldstream)	FL
03-May	Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	P	08-Jun	North Esk Reservoir	ON
04-May	Edrington Water: Milkieston	ON	23-Jun	Fireburnmill (Coldstream)	P
04-May	Synton Mossend (Ashkirk)	ON	26-Jun	Glenrath Hope (Manor Valley)	FL
04-May	Harelaw (Lilliesleaf)	ON	02-Jul	Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	A



Oystercatcher. Birgham.
March.
Bill Meikle.

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.

Sixty-nine records from 39 (3%) tetrads (84 records from 55 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Mar records (11 tetrads):

	J	F	M
Borthwickbrae (Hawick)			150
Brotherstone-Westfield (Smailholm)	62		
Eden Hall (Kelso)		80	
Heiton (Kelso)	200	200	250
Hendersyde (Kelso)	15		
Hule Moss			2
Kettelshiel (Westruther Moor)		450	
Newmains (Reston)	34		
Pease Bay (Cockburnspath)	1		
Sandyknowe (Smailholm)		100	
Three Brethren (Selkirk)		70	

Records of possible passage in April (eight tetrads):

03-Apr	Hule Moss	1	15-Apr	Kerss Wood and Loch (Ancrum)	100
04-Apr	Heiton	500	21-Apr	Black Barony (Peebles)	16
10-Apr	Kings Bank Head (Tweedsmuir)	34	22-Apr	Smailholm Mains	200
11-Apr	Blackhopebyre (Dewar)	1	27-Apr	Greenhead (Kelso)	100

There were no records received of breeding evidence. Records from May-Aug came from: Black Barony (Peebles); Fruid Reservoir; ; Hule Moss; Long Grain (Oxton); Middle Hill (Manor Valley) and Waddlescairn Moor (Oxton). Counts never exceeded four.

Sep-Dec records (22 tetrads):

	S	O	N	D
Adderston Lee (Hawick)				45
Ale Water (Hawick)				70
Braidshawrig (Westruther)				79
Broughton Place (Broughton)	2			
Carter Bar (Jedburgh)				45
Clerkenville (Greenlaw)			190	
Culter Fell (Tweedsmuir)	2			
Heiton (Kelso)	156			
Hermitage				2
Hule Moss	10	9		
Hume Castle (Greenlaw)				60
Jardinefield (Whitsome)		40	12	55
Lamberton	1			
Lempitlaw (Kelso)		200		
Middlesknowes (Hownam)			10	
Newmains (Reston)			430	
Paxton House	21			
Sandyknowe (Smailholm)		250		
Wedder Lairs (Westruther)				8
Westerhouses (Bonchester Bridge)				25
Whitrigbog-Westfield	20	250		
Whitsome (Allanton)		50		

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

A very uncommon autumn passage migrant in coastal areas.

Five records from three tetrads: single at Pease Bay, 9-Jan, 16-Jan and 27-Feb (DK Graham); five at Eyemouth North Bay, 17-Aug (P Rawnsley) and four at St Abb's Head on 28-Aug (RD Murray).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Common but declining breeding species. Many arrive mid-February to 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.

Three hundred and sixty records from 83 (6%) tetrads (247 records from 70 tetrads in 2015).

Sites with peak counts of 10 or more	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bamflatt (Broughton)		15	138									
Bemersyde Moss							37	41				
Berryfell (Stobs Castle)						10				24		
Birgham-Earl's Haugh (Coldstream)	11	70		10								
Black Barony (Peebles)						30		74				
Blackhope Ponds (Garvald)				12	13							
Blackhopebyre (Garvald)				10								
Brundeanlaws (Carter Bar)										70		
Chapelhill (Peebles)	10											
Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch)		12										
Cleugh (Broughton)			10									
Crailing Old School	90											
Dewar (Garvald)		41										
Earlston											16	
Easter Fodderlee (Bonchester Br)		180										
Easter Place (Broughton)	240											
Folly Loch		204	152	50	16	14	250	400	150	38	40	220
Gordon											55	
Greenlaw											250	
Hallrule (Bonchester Br)												80
Harwood (Bonchester Bridge)							30					
Hawthornside (Bonchester Bridge)									30			
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)								58				
Howford (Innerleithen)			15									
Hule Moss			11									
Hume Castle (Greenlaw)												90
Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley)		7	51	18	12		53					
Kelhope (Oxton)			15									
Leadburn Community Wood			11									
Melrose	60											
Middlethird (Gordon)			30						55	150	150	
Newmains (Reston)	245										220	
Palace (Crailing)	40											
Quarry Hill (Dawyck)	-		10									
Rachelfield Pond (Smailholm)	93		8									
Sandyknowe (Smailholm)										80		
Southfield (Stobs Castle)	50											
Stantling Craig Res (Galashiels)	15	24	150	11	23	64			68	50		
Swinside Hall (Oxnam)									40		22	
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)		127										
Town Farm (Earlston)		-							16			
Tweed: Eden Hall-Lochton (Kelso)		250				14						
Tweed: Sprouston-Redden		260			6						130	175
Watch Water (Longformacus)			170	30			55	60				
West Water Reservoir (west Linton)						13						
Westfield Ponds (Smailholm)									15			
Whitmuirhaugh (Sprouston)	160											
Whitrigbog-Westfield	1	19						140		80	25	
Yetholm Loch		62	52			25	120	-		51		

Tetrads with peak counts below 10 were: Acreknowe Reservoir (Stobs Castle); Baddingsgill Reservoir (West Linton); Black Barony (Peebles); Blackburn Mill (Abbey St Bathans); Blackhaugh (Caddon Water); Bowland (Galashiels); Broughton Brewery floods; Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk); Coldstream; Cowhill Plantation (Longformacus); Dinley (Hermitage Water); Dodd Hill (Leithen Water); Drycleuchlea (Buccleuch); Earlside (Stobs Castle); Eddleston (Peebles); Ettrick Water (Selkirk); Foulden (Greenlaw Farm Pool); Glencotho (Tweedsmuir); Graden (Kelso); Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden); Heiton (Kelso); Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm); Kerss Wood and Loch (Ancrum); Kingside Moss (Leadburn); Langburnshiels (Wauchope Forest); Lindean Mast Pool (Selkirk); Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Longformacus; Mailingsland (Peebles); Milkieston (Eddleston); New Belses (Ancrum); North Esk Reservoir; Parkgatestone (Broughton); Peat Hill (Eddleston); Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk); Rankle Burn (Buccleuch); Reston (Eyemouth); Skelfillhope (Teviothead); Thornielee (Walkerburn); Towford (Hownam); Whim Pond (Leadburn); Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Winfield Airfield (Whitsome); Winkston (Peebles); Woodhouse (Manor Valley).

Breeding (mid-March-mid July): records from a total of 62 tetrads. Records involving evidence came from 23 tetrads:

25-Mar	Stantling Craig Res (Galashiels)	D	RD Murray
25-Mar	Lindean Mast Pool (Selkirk)	D	RD Murray
25-Mar	Westfield Pools (Smailholm)	D	RD Murray
29-Mar	Leadburn Community Wood	P	RD Murray
19-Apr	Longformacus	A	R McBeath
23-Apr	Dinley (Hermitage)	A	M Henderson
24-Apr	Netherwells (Jedburgh)	D	M Henderson
25-Apr	Mailingsland (Peebles)	P	RD Murray
27-Apr	Harwood	P	M Henderson
03-May	Skelfhillhope (Teviothead)	H	G Scott
04-May	Milkieston (Eddleston)	ON(2)	RD Murray
04-May	Whitrig Bog	P	RD Murray
10-May	Langburnshiels (Wauchope Forest)	D	M Henderson
13-May	Heiton (Kelso)	A	ND Stratton
19-May	Folly Loch	ON(2)	AT Bramhall
22-May	Blackhope Ponds (Dewar)	FL(br1)	RD Murray
22-May	Ettrick Water (Selkirk)	FL	D Methven
23-May	Winkston (Peebles)	ON(3)	RD Murray
23-May	Blackhopebyre (Dewar)	FL(br2)	RD Murray
23-May	Drycleuchlea (Buccleuch)	A	M Henderson
24-May	Kingside Moss (Leadburn)	ON	RD Murray
27-May	Earlside (Stobs Castle)	A	M Henderson
01-Jun	Towford (Hownam)	FL (1br2)	M Henderson

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Rare summer visitor and breeder.

Records came from three sites with evidence of breeding at two of them. The sites were Tweed Haughs (DK Graham, RD Murray), Folly Loch (AT Bramhall, JD Gordon, DK Graham, M Moncrieff, RD Murray) and Meldon Burn (Peebles) (RD Murray).

In 2015 there were no records received, while 2014's records suggested perhaps about three pairs were breeding in Borders. It is likely that the breeding population is greater than these records suggest. Readers are encouraged to look out for this species in suitable habitat and to report all sightings.

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.

As in 2015 there were reports from only six tetrads:

Birgham Haugh (Coldstream)	18-Feb	RD Murray	1
Newmains (Reston)	04-Apr	DK Graham	1
West Water (West Linton)	15-Apr	RD Murray	2
St Abb's Head	08-May	DK Graham	1
Ettrickhaugh	13-Jun	EL Bickmore	0
Hule Moss	16-Sep	J Lough	Pr

There were no reports involving breeding.

Recent Atlas work and dedicated surveys of the species organised by the BTO point to declines from c. 20-32 pairs in the 1980s to c. 10-15 pairs by 2013. Records since then suggest a continued decline.

	Borders	% Borders change	GB est	% GB change
1973/4*	20		5700	
1984*	22	+10%	8540	+50%
1988-94	32	+45%	8340	-2%
2007*	11	-65%	5300	-36%
2008-13	13	+18%	5300	0%

Changing population estimates for Ringed Plover: 1973/74 to 2008/13.

* BTO national dedicated surveys; 1988-94 SE Scotland Breeding Atlas; SE Scotland Atlas 2008-13.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

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

Seven records from six tetrads. Peak counts:

Hule Moss	20-Apr	1	J Lough	St Abbs Head	10-Jul	2	DK Graham
Dunglass	23-Apr	1	DK Graham	Eyemouth North Bay	14-Aug	6	P Rawnsley
Bemersyde Moss	03-Jun	1	RD Murray	Dunglass	26-Nov	1	DK Graham

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.

Two hundred and twenty-two records from 75 tetrads (6%) -267 records from 96 tetrads in 2015.

One hundred and eighty-four counted during Rocky Shore Count on 17-Jan:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	101	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	52
Pease Bay-Redheugh	9	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	11
Redheugh-Souter	2	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	0
Souter-Pettico Wick	0	Burnmouth-Border	9

Main sites showing monthly peaks:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Black Barony (Eddleston)			10	7	5	4						
Blackhope Ponds (Garvald)				13	16							
Blackhopebyre (Dewar)				14	8							
Burnmouth-Border	9	37	4		2			3	1	2		2
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	11							5				
Dewar (Moorfoots)			6		5							
Dod (Wauchope Forest)					7	5						
Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	101							2	93			
Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords)					2	2						
Easter Housebyres (Galashiels)			10									
Eyemouth-Burnmouth		2	1					3	1			
Folly Loch			2				8	1				
Hallmanor (Manor Valley)			68									
Haud Yards (Coldingham Moor)	36											
Hule Moss			3	2	4	2		1				
Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley)				1			1					
Huntford (Carter Bar)			Pr	2	Pr							
Leadburn Community Wood			13			7						
North Esk Reservoir				3		1						
Pease Bay-Redheugh	9											
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	52	40	40						2	20	30	36
Redheugh-Siccar shore	8											
Stantling Craig Res. (Galashiels)		1	24		3	4						
Watch Hill (Newcastleton)						Pr		3				
Watch Water (Longformacus)			7	6	5	7	8					
West Water Res. (West Linton)				5		2						
Whitrig Bog		1	13	1		1						
Williestruther Loch (Hawick)			38									
Inland tetrads (all records)	0	3	24	22	20	20	3	3	0	0	0	0
Coastal tetrads (all records)	10	3	2	0	1	0	0	4	4	2	1	2

Other sites with records (fewer reports and/or smaller counts) were: Alemoor Res. (Hawick); Auchencorth Moss (Carlops); Back Burn Woods (Manor Valley); Berryfell (Stobs Castle); Blackhaugh (Caddon Water); Blackhope (Dewar); Broughton Brewery floods; Buchtrig (Hownam); Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch); Cloich (Eddleston); Cow Hill Plantation (Longformacus); Dam Head Rig (Traquair); Deepsyke Forest-N (West Linton); Deepsyke Forest-S (West Linton); Dod Hill (Leithen Water); Drumelzier Glen; Drycleuchlea (Buccleuch); Earlside (Bonchester Br.); Fodderlee-Swinnie (Bonchester Br.); Fruid Reservoir; Groundstone Pond (Ashkirk); Harcus (Eddleston); Hardens Hill (Duns); Innerleithen; Kilruby Wood (Eddleston); Lamb Rig (West Linton); Longformacus; Mervin's Law (Hawick); Old Stobswood (Longformacus); Peelinick (Hownam); Posso Hope (Manor Valley); Redheugh-Souter; Roan Fell (Newcastleton); Scabcleuch (Ettrick); Souter-Pettico Wick ; Stanhope (Tweedsmuir); Thornylee (Walkerburn); Waddlescairn Moor (Oxton); Whim Pond (Leadburn); Wooplaw (Carter Bar); Yetholm Loch.

Highest counts: 101 at Dunglass-Pease Bay (RSC) on 17-Jan, 93 at Cove Bay on 18-Sep (DK Graham); 68 at Hallmanor (Manor Valley) on 16-Mar (G Pyatt) and 40 at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) various dates in Feb and Mar (F Evans).

Breeding (mid-March-June): records came from 57 tetrads. Specific reports involving breeding evidence came from 15 tetrads. However, no records of confirmed breeding.

10-Mar	Dewar	D	N Crowther	19-Apr	Longformacus	A	R McBeath
16-Mar	Huntford (Carter Bar)	D	C Watson	23-Apr	Harden's Hill (Duns)	P	A Baird
23-Mar	Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch)	P	R Watterson	27-Apr	Drumelzier Glen	P	RD Murray
02-Apr	Mervin's Law (Hawick)	T	G Scott	30-Apr	Buchtrig (Howden)	P	M Henderson
08-Apr	Auchencorth Moss (Carlops)	S	EA Barclay	03-May	Wooplaw (Carter Bar)	A	M Henderson
18-Apr	Blackhopebyre (Dewar)	S	N Crowther	06-May	Earlside (Bonchester Br.)	A	M Henderson
19-Apr	Stanhope (Tweedsmuir)	D	A Heavisides	23-May	Drycleuchlea (Buccleuch)	P	M Henderson
See Introduction for breeding codes				18-Jun	Hule Moss	P	J Lough

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

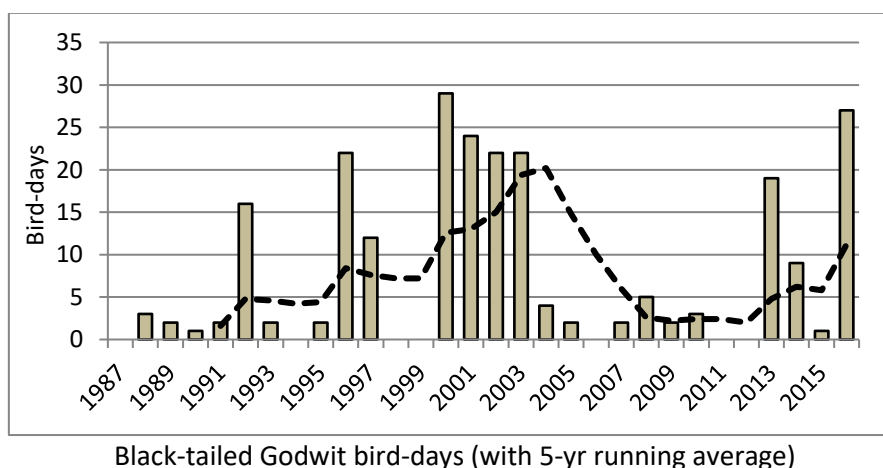
Uncommon passage migrant.

Records from five tetrads:

Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	8-9-May	F Evans; DK Graham	2*
Folly Loch	09-May	M Moncrieff	1
Alemoor Wester Loch (Buccleuch)	28-Jun	RD Murray	1
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	12-27- Aug	D Christie	1-5
Newmains (Reston)	06-Sep	DK Graham	7

* *islandica* sub species

Given the uncommon nature of the species and the relatively under-watched nature of the Borders region, records show considerable fluctuation annually, both in terms of tetrad distribution of records and bird-days:



The number of bird-days was the highest since 2000 and the report of *islandica* birds was the first since 2003.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Uncommon autumn/winter passage migrant.

Only two records. Two birds were seen on 15-Aug at Eyemouth North Bay (P Rawnsley) and a single was reported from St Abb's Head on 17-Sep (DK Graham).

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.

Sixty birds were recorded during the Rocky Shore Count of 17-Jan:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	0	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	15
Pease Bay-Redheugh	0	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	0
Redheugh-Souter	0	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	0
Souter-Pettico Wick	0	Burnmouth-Border	15

Forty-one records from six tetrads. Peak counts:

Sites	J	F	M	A	A	S	O	N	D
Burnmouth-Border	15	26	2		9	31		19	15
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	15	11	25			2			
Dunglass (Cockburnspath)			8	11				10	16
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth						15			
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	7	11		14		30			
Cove Bay (Cockburnspath)						1			
No of tetrads with records	5	3	3	2	1	5	0	2	2

The last record in spring was on 19-April at Burnmouth-Partanhall and the earliest record in autumn was on 28-Aug, also at Burnmouth-Partanhall (both records RD Murray).

Knot *Calidris canutus*

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

Four records from three tetrads:

Newmains (Reston)	12-13-Jan	1	DK Graham
Eyemouth North Bay	19-Aug	6	P Rawnsley
St Abb's Head	28-Aug	6	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	5-Sep	22	DK Graham

The count of 22 was the highest since 2013.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Very uncommon passage migrant.

Thirteen records from four tetrads.

Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	16-Apr	D Christie	1
Whitrig Bog	10-Jul	JD Gordon	1
Newmains (Reston)	16-22-Aug	DK Graham	2-3
Hule Moss	17-Aug	RD Murray	2
Foulden, Greenlaw Farm Pool	20-Aug - 5-Sep	Christie, D, RD Murray	1-12

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

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

Two records: five birds at Hule Moss on 14-Aug (J Lough) and 11 birds at St Abb's Head on 16-Sep (DK Graham).

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.

Records from seven tetrads:

Birgham Haugh (Coldstream)	07-May	RD Murray	2
Watch Water (Longformacus)	28-Jul	J Lough	2
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	15-Aug-5-Sep	D Christie	1-2
Eyemouth North Bay	19-Aug	P Rawnsley	5
St Abb's Head	28-Aug	RD Murray	1
St Abb's Head	05-Sep	DK Graham	71
Bowhill (Selkirk)	26-Sep	M Johnson	2
Dunglass	26-Nov	DK Graham	1

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.

Thirteen records from six tetrads.

Eyemouth	04-Jan	AT Bramhall	1
Dunglass	09-Jan	DK Graham	1
Burnmouth	10-Jan	R McBeath	3
St Abbs village	17-Jan	DK Graham	5
Burnmouth-Border (RSC)	17-Jan	R McBeath	1
Pease Bay	23-Jan	DK Graham	4
Dunglass	06-Mar	DK Graham	1
Dunglass	03-Apr	DK Graham	4
Yellow Craig (Coldingham Bay)	15-Oct	Birdguides	3
Dunglass	20-Nov	DK Graham	5
Pease Bay	26-Nov	DK Graham	16
Dunglass	26-Nov	DK Graham	7
Dunglass	27-Dec	DK Graham	2

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Extremely scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

Two records: single at St Abbs on 5-Sep and another single at Eyemouth on 6-Nov (both reports from DK Graham).

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Common summer visitor along rivers. Very rare in winter, mostly early April to late August. During 2008-13 found in 25% of tetrads in summer. (82 records in 2014).

Ninety-six records from 43 tetrads (4%) – 47 tetrads in 2015.

	No. tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts (one unless stated otherwise)
Jan-Mar	1	Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)-1.
Apr-Aug	42	Fruid Reservoir-8; Watch Water (Longformacus)-4; The Holmes (St Boswells)-4; Etrick Water (Selkirk)-4; Fireburnmill (Coldstream)-4; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie-4; Folly Loch-4; St Mary's Loch-4; Carham (Coldstream)-3; Talla Reservoir-3; Rankle Burn (Buccleuch)-3; Leithen Lodge-3; Blackhopebyre (Dewar)-3; Roxburgh Mains-3; Tweed: Sprouston-Redden-3; West Water (West Linton)-2; Baddingsill Reservoir (West Linton)-2; North Esk Res.-2; Tweed: Tilmouth-2; Hawick-2; Cardrona Sewage Reedbed-2; Lower Burnmouth-2; Stantling Craig Res (Galashiels)-2; Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall-2; Tweed: Sprouston-Banff Mill-2; Clinthill (St Boswells)-2; Abbotsford; Coldstream; Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulde); Garvald Junction Pond; Longburnfoot (Stobs Castle); Melrose; Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head); Philiphaugh (Selkirk); Edington Mains (Foulde); Paxton House; Peebles ; Teviot Haughs; Torwoodlee (Galashiels); Tushielaw; Whim Pond (Leadburn);Yetholm.
Sep-Oct	1	Sprouston (Kelso).

A single bird on 3-Jan on Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) was an exceptional record (M Henderson). This may have been an overwintering bird, either in the region or further south in Britain. The latest record was on 13-Oct at Sprouston (Kelso) (T Reed). The highest count was of eight at Fruid Reservoir on 1-Jul (RD Murray).

Breeding (Apr-mid-Jul):

Records came from 42 tetrads during this period (same as 2015). Records with specific breeding evidence came from nine tetrads (12 in 2015):

Hawick	28-Apr	G Scott	P
Abbotsford	01-May	D Parkinson	H
Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	03-May	RD Murray	P
Talla Reservoir	04-May	M Henderson	D
Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	29-May	T Reed	N (4 eggs)
Tweed: Sprouston-Banff Mill	04-Jun	RD Murray	T(2)
Rankle Burn (Buccleuch)	09-Jun	RD Murray	T(3)
Fireburnmill (Coldstream)	23-Jun	RD Murray	D
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	27-Jun	RD Murray	DD(2 pr)

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Uncommon, mostly autumn passage migrant and rare winter visitor.

Twenty-three records from nine tetrads (seven tetrads in 2015).

January		
Tweed: Sprouston-Whitmuirhaugh	7th	T Reed
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	21st	M Henderson
February		
Fishwick (Horndean)	4th	D Warden
Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	11th	T Reed
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	18th	D Parkinson
Paxton House	19th/24th	D Warden; J Lough
Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall	26th	RD Murray
June		
Folly Loch	25th/28th	DK Graham; RD Murray
July		
Folly Loch	various	various
Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	16th	DK Graham
August		
Folly Loch	10th	M Moncrieff
Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)- 2	16th	F Evans
November		
Springhall (Kelso)	13th	ND Stratton
December		
Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	6th/22nd	T Reed
Teviot Haughs	29th	M Henderson

All of the above records are of singles, except Millar's Moss with two on 16-Aug. The Jan-Feb and Dec records suggest overwintering bird(s).

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Uncommon passage migrant, mostly autumn passage.

A single record of a bird at Folly Loch on 28-Jun (RD Murray).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Scarce spring passage migrant and uncommon autumn migrant.

Sixteen records from 10 tetrads (seven tetrads in 2015):

April		
Dunglass	23-Apr	DK Graham
May		
Watch Water (Longformacus)	08-May	J Lough
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	11-May	DK Graham
June		
Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	19-Jun	DK Graham
July		
Folly Loch	19-Jul	M Moncrieff
Folly Loch	21-Jul	AT Bramhall
Folly Loch	30-Jul	AT Bramhall

August		
Newmains (Reston)	16-Aug	DK Graham
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	17-Aug	F Evans
Eyemouth North Bay	19-Aug	P Rawnsley
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	20-Aug	D Christie
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	21-Aug	F Evans
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	23-Aug	D Christie
October		
Sprouston (Kelso)	13-Oct	Reed, T
November		
Paxton House	04-Nov	J Lough
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	08-Nov	D Christie

All of the above records are for single birds.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Uncommon, mostly autumn, passage migrant.

Eleven records from five tetrads (four tetrads in 2015):

April			
Yetholm Loch	11th	J Lough	1
May			
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	6th-7th; 12th	DK Graham	1
June			
Folly Loch	25th-30th	DK Graham; RD Murray; AT Bramhall	1-2
July			
Folly Loch	3rd-4th	AT Bramhall; RD Murray	1
August			
Paxton House	4th	J Lough	1
Hule Moss	14th	J Lough	1

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.

One hundred and thirty-five records from 41 tetrads (3%). Thirty-nine tetrads in 2015.

Rocky Shore Count had a total count of 58 (2015: 97; 2014: 52; 2013: 91; 2012: 67; 2011: 78):

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	9	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	4
Pease Bay-Redheugh	10	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	3
Redheugh-Souter	2	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	0
Souter-Pettico Wick	0	Burnmouth-Border	20

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Birgham (Coldstream)	1	1	1	3	2					1		
Burnmouth-Border	20	25	8	9					75	12	30	55
Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)				1								
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	3							12				
Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	9								21			
Eyemouth-Burnmouth		64	15	17				29	67	5	6	

Folly Loch			1	1		Pr	5					
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)			2	1	1				1		1	
Hule Moss				1	1	2	1	2				
Hundleshope Cross Ponds (Manor Valley)				4	3							
Paxton House											3	3
Pease Bay-Redheugh	10											
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	4											
Redheugh-Siccar shore	3											
Redheugh-Souter	2											
Stantling Craig Res. (Galashiels)			4	4	10	2						
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)				4								
Traquair House												
Tweed: Sprouston-Redden			5								3	2
Watch Water (Longformacus)				10	5	7						
West Water Res. (West Linton)				4		1						
Whim Pond (Leadburn)				3								
Coastal tetrads	7	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	3	2	2	1
Inland tetrads	2	1	10	15	8	6	2	1	1	1	5	4

Other sites with counts of two or less: Bemersyde Moss; Blackhope Ponds; Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch); Cleuch (Broughton); Eden Hall (Kelso); Innerleithen; Keress Wood and Loch (Ancrum); Longformacus; Newmains (Reston); St Mary's Loch; Traquair House; Tweed: Horndean Burn mouth; Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso; Uppsettlington (Ladykirk); Whitrigbog (Smailholm).

Breeding (Apr-Aug):

Records came from 23 tetrads during the breeding season (19 tetrads in 2015 and 17 in 2014). However, there were only three records with specific evidence of breeding: 11-Apr at Blackhope Ponds (A); 27-May at St Mary's Loch (P) and 17-Jun at Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels) (P). All records of breeding from RD Murray.

Readers are encouraged to report any signs of breeding of this species.

Data collected for the SE Scotland Atlas 2007-13 suggests about a 50% decrease in the breeding population of Redshanks. The dramatic decline is thought to relate to improved drainage in areas of rough pasture, a factor of crucial importance since Redshanks prefer wet grasslands for nesting

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

Twenty-three records from 10 tetrads (six tetrads in 2015):

January			
Newmains (Reston)	1st, 18th, 24th	DK Graham	1-2
Malcolm's Moss (Minto)	7th, 24th	M Henderson	2-3
February			
Newmains (Reston)	27th	DK Graham	1
March			
Long Philip Burn (Selkirk)	2nd	G Scott	1
Newmains (Reston)	6th, 20th, 22nd	DK Graham	2
October			
Newmains (Reston)	5th, 6th, 24th	DK Graham	1-8
Blackhill (Reston)	5th	DK Graham	1

Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	16th	F Evans	1
Donalds Cleuch Head (Fruid Res.)	30th	M Henderson	1
November			
Adderston Lee Moss (Hawick)	5th	M Henderson	1
Fountainhall (Stow)	12th	A Cutter	2
Newmains (Reston)	13th	DK Graham	4
December			
Newmains (Reston)	3rd	DK Graham	4
Yetholm Pond	11th	C Moses	2
Malcolms Moss (Minto)	18th	M Henderson	4
Paxton House	20th	C Hartley	1

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.

Eighty-eight records from 36 tetrads (34 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Mar records came from 32 sites: Cardrona; Covehouse (Earlston); Dolphinston (Oxnam); Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor); Easter Muirdean (Kelso); Eccles (Kelso); Eildon Hills (Melrose); Fans (Earlston); Fatlips Castle (Minto); Hassendean Common (Hawick); Innerleithen; Jardinefield (Whitsome); Kirkton Hill (Hawick); Lamberton; Lanton Woods (Jedburgh); Leahaug (Hermitage); Longformacus; Mellerstain (Gordon); Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); Newmains (Reston); Palacehill (Ancrum); Redheugh Fm (Cockburnspath); Rubers Law (Denholm); Ruecastle (Jedburgh); Sandyknowe (Smailholm); Scraesburgh (Jedburgh); Shank Covert (Kelso); Slacks Tower (Bonchester Br.); Tweedbank-Kaeside; Weensmuir (Bonchester Bridge); Wester Fodderlee (Bonchester Br.); Woodhead Moss (Ancrum).

The highest counts during Jan-Mar were: five at Sandyknowe (Smailholm) and at Eccles (Kelso) on 29-Feb and 7-Mar, respectively (M Henderson) and four at Weensmuir (Bonchester Bridge) on 19-Jan (M Henderson) and at Newmains (Reston) on 21-Jun (DK Graham).

Surprisingly, there were only two records for the months between April and August (inclusive): on 2-May an adult was flushed at The Bell (Cranshaws) and left a fledgling (see image below) and a bird was seen roding at Kyles Hill (Duns) on 14-Jun. Both records from DK Graham. There were records from 10 territories in 2015. Readers are encouraged to report any details of possible breeding for this species.

Records for Sep-Dec came from 37 sites: Adderstonlee Moss (Hawick); Ale Moor Res. (Buckleuch); Alewater Bridge (Coldingham); Bemersyde; Birkenside (Jedburgh); Bloodylaws (Oxnam); Bonchester Hill; Bowhill (Selkirk); Camptown (Carter Bar); Chesters Grange (Ancrum); Clovenfords (Galashiels); Covehouse (Earlston); Crailing Dean (Craising); Earnsclough Water (Oxton); Easter Muirdean (Kelso); Falside (Bonchester Bridge); Floors (Kelso); Folly Loch; Fruid Reservoir; Gordon Moss (Gordon); Hartsgarth (Hermitage); Hermitage; Hoselaw (Yetholm); Huntford (Carter Bar); Lairds Cleuch Rig (Talla Res.); Lamberton; Lanton Woods (Jedburgh); Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); Potsclose (Kelso); Preston Haugh (Preston); Rubers Law (Denholm); Ruecastle (Jedburgh); Spital Tower (Denholm); Sprouston (Kelso); Sunnyside (Hawick); Swinnie (Jedburgh); Upper Samieston (Oxnam).

The highest counts during Sep-Dec were: four at Gordon Moss on 15-Nov (D Warden) and three at Hartsgarth (Hermitage) on 21-Dec (M Henderson).

Snipe. Burn House Mains (Stow). November. Alistair Cutter.



Woodcock chick. The Bell, Cranshaws. May. Dave Graham.

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Local breeding species, mostly in hilly areas. Large aggregations sometimes in winter. Slight spring passage. During 2008-13 found in 26% of tetrads in summer and 19% in winter.

One hundred and thirty-two records from 36 tetrads (3%).

The outstanding feature of this year's records was the count of 87 birds on 7-Jan at Malcolm's Moss, near Ancrum (M Henderson). This is the highest reported count since 112 seen at Folly Loch in the winter of 1995. Other notable counts were 62 at Malcolm's Moss on 18-Dec (M Henderson) and also 62 at Newmains (Reston) on 3-Dec (DK Graham).

Sites with counts of two or more were:

Sites	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Adderstonlee Moss (Hawick)				4
Bemersyde Moss				2
Black Barony (Eddleston)		3	2	
Blackhope Ponds (Garvald Lodge)		2	2	
Brundeanlaws (Carter Bar)				3
Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)				5
Culter Fell (Tweedsmuir)			2	
Cummings Hill (Bonchester Bridge)				
Deanfoot (Minto)		2		
Folly Loch	2		2	11
Friar's Nose Burn (Carfrae Common)	2			
Harelaw (Lilliesleaf)				4
Harwood (Bonchester Bridge)		2		
Hawthornside (Bonchester Bridge)	2			
Hollybush (Galashiels)	3			
Hule Moss	20	3	3	
Leadburn Community Wood		3		
Longformacus		2		
Malcolms Moss (Ancrum)	87			62
Mossburnford Moss	4			
Newmains (Reston)	36			62
Selkirk Race Course Moss		3		
South Riccalton (Carter Bar)	5			
St Leonard's Moss (Hawick)	6			
Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels)			2	2
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	15			
Watch Water (Longformacus)		3		
Whim Pond (Leadburn)	10			
Whitslade (Hawick)				3
Yarlside (Earlston)				2
No of tetrads	22	22	16	23

Other sites with only sightings of single birds were: Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water); Braidshawrig (Westruther); Covehouse (Smailholm); Dewar N (Glentress Water); Dinley Burn (Hermitage); Dod (Wauchope Forest); Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor); Dye Water (Longformacus); East Cairn Hill (Baddingsgill Res.); Etrick Head; Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden); Harelaw (Lilliesleaf); Hendersyde (Kelso); Highlee Hill (Bonchester Bridge); Horndean (Ladykirk); Horndean Burn Mouth (Ladykirk); Kilrubie Wood (Eddleston); Kingledores (Tweedsmuir); Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Long Grain (Oxton); Lustruther (Bonchester Bridge); Megget Water (above res.); Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head); Old Braidlie (Hermitage); Portmore Loch; Smailholm Tower Pond; Starcleugh (Hermitage); Swinside Hall (Jedburgh); Tathieknowe Burn (Heriot Water); Twin Law (Longformacus); Whitmuirhall Loch

(Selkirk); Whitton Loch (Hownam); Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Wind Fell (Ettrick Head); Wooden Loch (Eckford); Wooplaw (Carter Bar).

Breeding (Apr-Aug)

Forty-six records from 26 tetrads (2015: 26; 2014: 36; 2013: 69; 2012: 57 tetrads). However, records which actually reported breeding evidence were only from six sites:

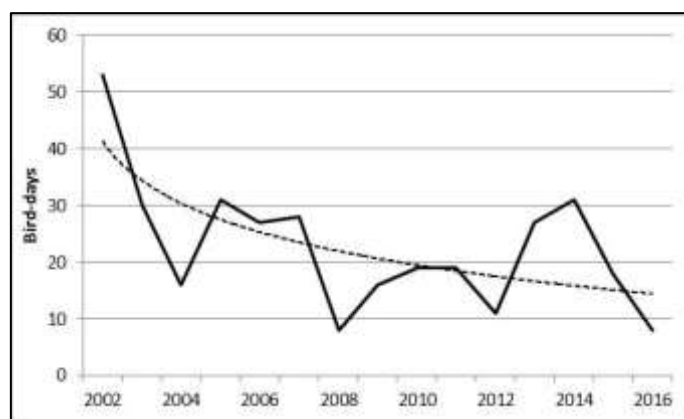
Longformacus	19-Apr	R McBeath	NE (1 nest 4 eggs; 15 nests 1 egg)
Harwood (Bonchester Bridge)	16-May	M Henderson	D (also chipping)
Blackhope Ponds (Garvald Lodge)	22-May	RD Murray	T
Megget Water (above res)	27-May	RD Murray	S
Watch Water (Longformacus)	15-Jun	J Lough	P
Black Barony (Eddleston)	18-Jun	RD Murray	D

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

Three records: five birds in Eyemouth South Bay on 18-Aug (P Rawnsley); single at St Abb's Head on 5-Sep (DK Graham and RD Murray); two birds at Eyemouth on 14-Sep (N Milligan). Eight bird-days represents the lowest since 2008.



Bird-days for Pomarine Skua: 2002-2016.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

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

Nine records from St Abb's Head and Eyemouth, representing 21 bird-days:

St Abb's Head	29-Jun	1	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	28-Aug	5	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	5-Sep	6	RD Murray
St Abb's Head	10-Sep	2	Graham, DK
Eyemouth	14-Sep	2	N Milligan
St Abb's Head	16-Sep	2	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	25-Sep	1	DK Graham; F Evans
St Abb's Head	1-Oct	1	DK Graham
Eyemouth	6-Nov	1	DK Graham

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

A very scarce passage migrant, mostly August-October. Just a single inland record. A very scarce passage migrant, mostly August-October.

A relatively good year with three sightings (all singles): 16-Sep and 1-Oct at St Abb's Head (DK Graham) and at Burnmouth on 22-Oct (Birdguides).

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

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

Nine records between 13-Jul and 4-Dec, all from St Abb's Head and Eyemouth and representing 42 bird-days:

Eymouth	13-Jul	1	J Lough
St Abb's Head	5-Sep	1	RD Murray
St Abb's Head	10-Sep	5	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	17-Sep	1	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	25-Sep	2	DK Graham; F Evans
St Abb's Head	1-Oct	7	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	15-Oct	19	DK Graham
Eymouth	6-Nov	4	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	4-Dec	2	DK Graham

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
179	101	38	136	62	60	74	99	524	213	86	15	42

Bird-days for Great Skua: 2004-2016

As the table above indicates, records for 2016 suggest a better year for passage of this species than for 2015 but nonetheless well below most recent years.

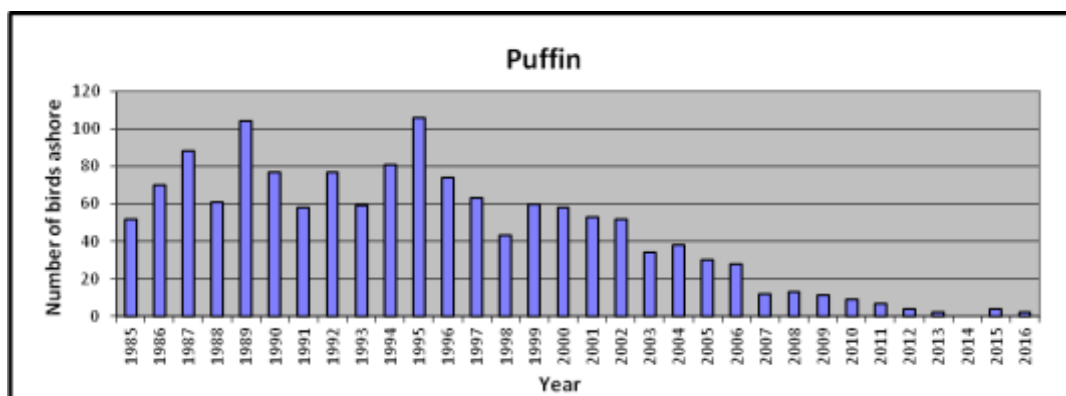
Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Scarce coastal breeder, mostly seen off the cliffs. Breeding rarely confirmed as nest sites usually inaccessible. Uncommon offshore in autumn, scarce in winter. Rare autumn movements. During 2008-13 found in five tetrads in summer and one in winter.

Twenty-four birds were recorded, most, if not all, offshore. No records of breeding received.

Pease Bay	23-Jan	DK Graham	1
Eymouth Golf Course	28-Jan	RD Murray	1
St Abb's Head	31-Jan	DK Graham	2
Eymouth - Rotten Brae	11-Mar	J Lough	1
St Abb's Head	23-Jun	M Moncrieff	2
St Abb's Head	26-Jun	J Coyle	1
Eymouth, Rotten Brae	13-Jul	J Lough	1
Eymouth North Bay	15-Aug	P Rawnsley	5
St Abb's Head	28-Aug	RD Murray	1
St Abb's Head	05-Sep	RD Murray	1
St Abbs	25-Sep	F Evans	2
St Abb's Head	27-Sep	M Moncrieff	6

The number of birds ashore at the reserve continues at low levels (two in 2016):



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 eight in winter.

Thirty-four records. First record on 4-Jan from Eyemouth (AT Bramhall) and the last record on 28-Aug (RD Murray):

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
Aggregate count	22		43	50	182	7	15	22
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	4							8
Redheugh-Souter	1							
St Abb's Head	5		Pr	2		7	Pr	14
Dunglass	1							
Pease Bay	12							
Eyemouth-Burnmouth			43	48	182		15	

A near-comprehensive count of breeding sites was carried out, following on from Seabird 2000 and a similar count in 2008. Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) were as follows:

	Dunglass-Cove	Cove-Siccar Pt	Siccar Pt-Fast Castle	Fast Castle-Pettico Wick	St Abb's Head	St Abbs-Eyemouth	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	Burnmouth-Border
1998					2,214			
1999			61					
2000			282	661			376	
2001								
2002								
2003			56					
2004								
2005			43					
2006			16					
2007			49	3		21		
2008			27		1,687			
2009								
2010			90					
2011								
2012			117					
2013								
2014			80					
2015						112		
2016			117			4	182	

Away from St Abb's SNR, the main breeding sites are Fast Castle and Fancove Cliffs (Eyemouth-Burnmouth). Overall however, it is not possible, at this stage, to assess the Berwickshire population since the St Abb's Head SNR was not fully counted with respect to Razorbill AOSs. Sample counts between 3- and 18-Jun at St Abb's Head suggest that Razorbill numbers are holding their own.

Little Auk *Alle alle*

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

A total of eight records adding up to 184 birds:

Eyemouth	04-Jan	17	AT Bramhall
St Abbs village	05-Jan	139	DK Graham
St Abbs village	06-Jan	20	DK Graham
St Abbs village	07-Jan	3	DK Graham
Pease Bay	09-Jan	1	DK Graham
Eyemouth	13-Jan	2	RD Murray

Eyemouth	06-Nov	1	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	24-Nov	1	M Moncrieff

Guillemot *Uria aalge*

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

The Berwickshire coast was largely covered by RD Murray in May-June to continue the periodic counts following on from Seabird 2000. Peak counts per season:

Sites	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Dunglass-Pease Bay	11			
Pease Bay-Redheugh	8			
Redheugh-Souter	3	609		
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	33	1,000	29	50
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth			20	
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	64	234	75	
Burnmouth-Border	10			

Counts of individuals along the Berwickshire coast (May-Jun) since 1998 is summarised below:

	Rest of Berwickshire	St Abb's Head
1998		40,720
1999		
2000	3,917	
2001		
2002	454	
2003	521	40,389
2004		
2005	686	
2006		
2007	300	
2008	400	33,181
2009-12	No records	
2013		32,990
2014	709	
2015		
2016	843	

Any comments on the trends of Guillemot population along the Berwickshire coast will need to wait until 2018 when the next full count will take place at St Abb's Head NNR. However, sampling data (see next) suggest that the population there is currently increasing.

St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2016 (Liza Cole):

Counts at Monitoring Plots

Six counts of individual birds on ledges were carried out at each of the five plots between 3rd & 18th June.

Results

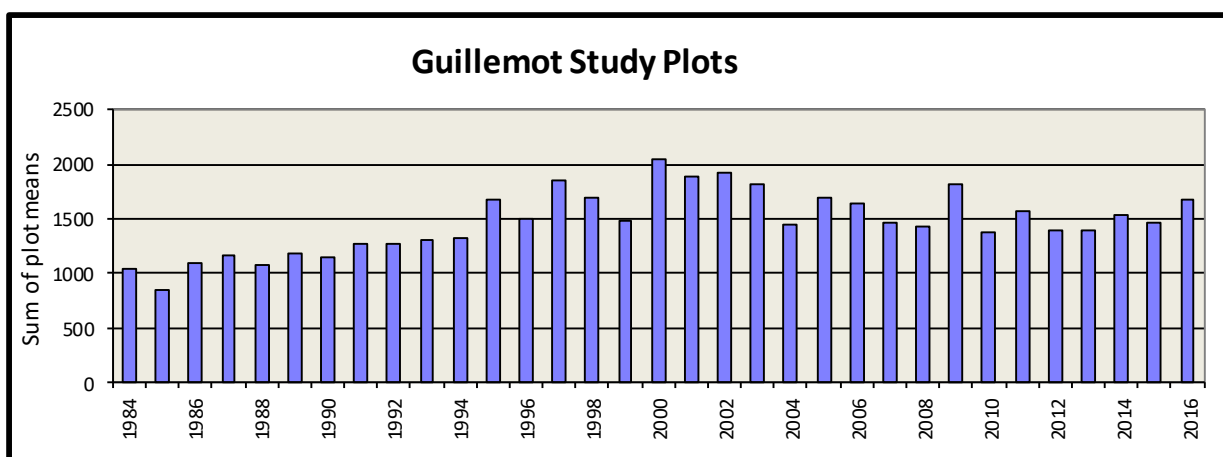
The mean number of individuals on study plots in first three weeks of June is 1,684, a 15% increase on 2015.

Breeding success

An assessment of breeding success of guillemots was carried out for the third 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) and Mark Newell (Isle of May). The protocol is described in the 2016 report and this will be the method used from now on so that results from year to year are comparable. Fifty Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) were individually marked on photographs of each of the 2 monitoring plots selected, and 36 visits were made to observe progress at each AOS between 11th May and 9th July.

Results

A total of 116 active nest sites were monitored, of which 89 chicks successfully fledged. The breeding success, expressed as the mean of the individual plot figures, was 0.77 young fledged per active site.



Beyond St Abb's Head NNR the only records of breeding came from Fancove Cliffs where 12 AOSs were recorded on 23-Apr (RD Murray).

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

A very scarce passage migrant along the coast and scarcer again inland.

Three records:

Eyemouth	12-Mar	D Mead	Pr
St Abb's Head	29-May	DK Graham	2
Eyemouth South Bay	15-Aug	P Rawnsley	3

As far as can be ascertained, these are the first records since 1993 and the first year with three records since 1985 – although 31 years ago DK Graham also had a hand in those records (probably in short trousers at the time).

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.

Twenty-five records:

Peak counts per site (arranged north to south)	March-April	May-June	July-August	September-October
Dunglass	17	8		
Pease Bay	7	9		
St Abb's Head			42	7
Coldingham Bay			3	
Eyemouth Bay	2		9	38
Rotten Brae (Eyemouth)	6		11	
Eyemouth-Burnmouth		5		
Burnmouth	4	8		

First record was on 12-Mar at Eyemouth (D Mead) and last record was on 1-Oct at St Abb's Head (DK Graham).

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

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

Eight records:

Dunglass	21-May	26	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	29-May	7	DK Graham
Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	29-May	1	T Reed
Eyemouth South Bay	14-Aug	5	P Rawnsley
Eyemouth North Bay	14-Aug	3	P Rawnsley
St Abb's Head	05-Sep	2	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	10-Sep	11	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	16-Sep	2	DK Graham

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

A very scarce passage migrant.

Two records, each of two birds from St Abb's Head: 10-Jul and 5-Sep (DK Graham). First record since 2011 and, before that, from 1997.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

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

Eight records. Peak counts per site per month were:

Dunglass	21-May	11	DK Graham	St Abb's Head	28-Aug	6	RD Murray
Eyemouth South Bay	17-Aug	20	P Rawnsley	St Abbs Head	05-Sep	13	DK Graham

First record on 21-May at Dunglass; last record on 10-Sep 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.

Forty-five records from mainly between St Abb's Head and Burnmouth:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Dunglass								1				
Pease Bay	Pr											
Fast Castle coast						1						
St Abb's Head			Pr	100	78	10	47	46				
St Abbs Village	Pr								78			
Eyemouth	30	1	92	140			130	120	2			
Eyemouth-Burnmouth				99	237							
Lamberton					8							

The last record was on 19-Sep at St Abb's Head (JD Gordon).

Two hundred and thirty-seven AOS were recorded between Eyemouth and Burnmouth on 28-May. Ninety-nine of these AOS were at Fancove Cliffs (RD Murray and T Brewis).

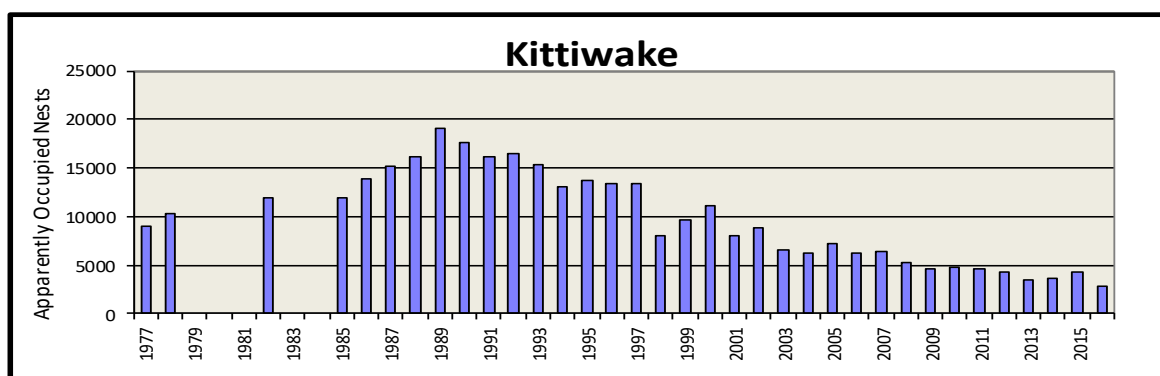
St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2016 (Liza Cole):

Whole Colony Count

A count of apparently occupied nests (AONs) was carried out on 20th, 21st, 22nd and 28th June. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 23rd June.

Results

2,779 AON, 34% decrease on 2015.

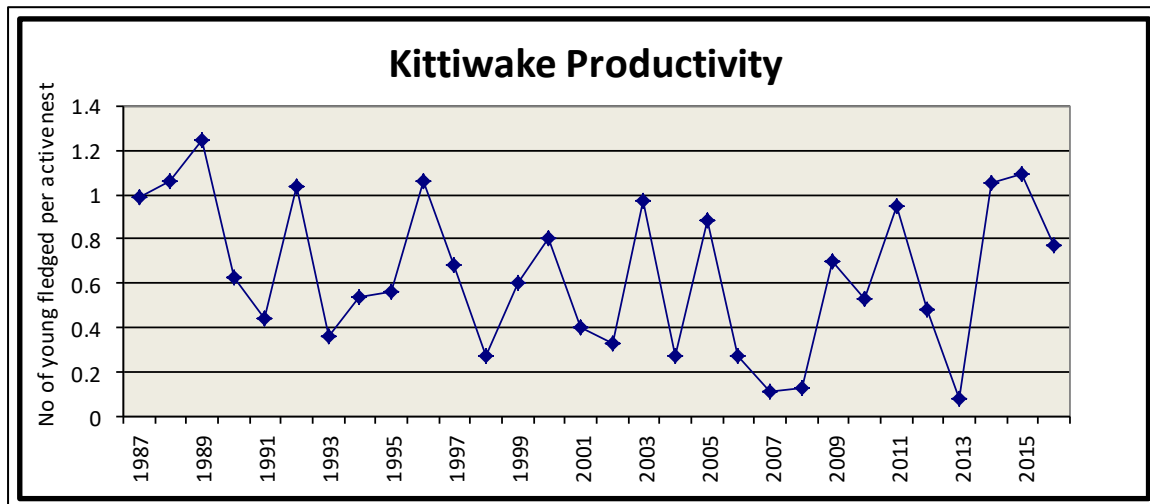


Breeding Success

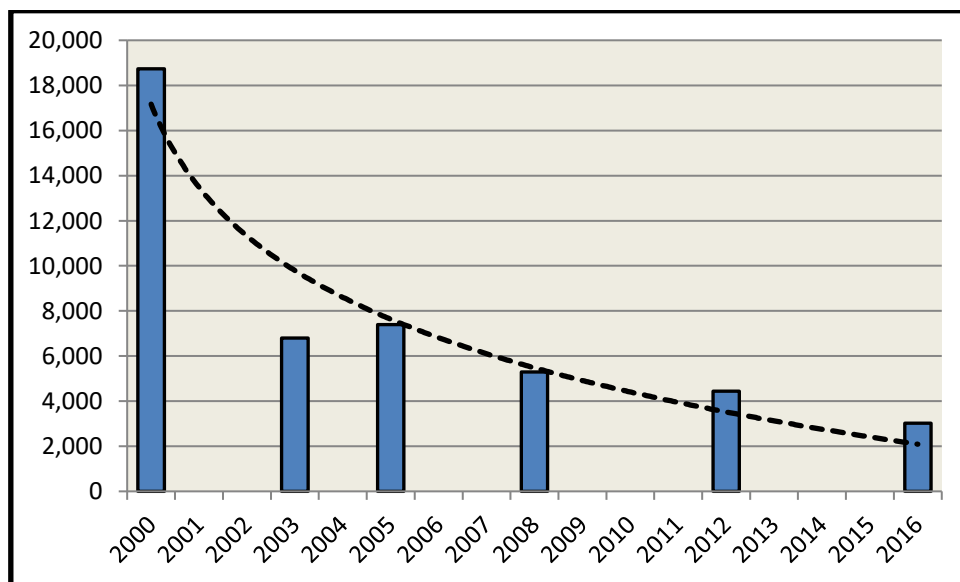
An assessment of breeding success was carried out using methods described in the 1995 Report following recommendations from the Seabird Monitoring Handbook. Each of the plots was visited on 28th May when all nests were marked on laminated photographs of the plots, then again on 10 further occasions up to 9th August to check the progress of each nest up to fledging

Results

A total of 178 active nests were mapped on the plots and 137 chicks successfully fledged. The breeding success, expressed as the mean of individual plot figures, was 1.09 young fledged per AON; a decrease of 29% on 2015.



The overall trend for Kittiwake breeding populations, based on a combination of annual counts at St Abb's Head NNR and periodic surveys of the rest of the Berwickshire coast, is shown below:



Kittiwake AOS counts for all of Berwickshire coast: 2000-2016.

As with many Kittiwake populations elsewhere, the trend over the past 16 years is decidedly downward.

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.

Four hundred and eighty-eight records from 71 tetrads (6%). Records came from 72 tetrads in 2015. Rocky Shore Count on 17-Jan recorded a total of 240:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	0	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	95
Pease Bay-Redheugh	7	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	126
Redheugh-Souter	0	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	10
Souter-Pettico Wick	0	Burnmouth-Border	2

Counts of 25 and more came from:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Abbotsford					60							
Bamflatt (Broughton)			40									
Bemersyde Moss			70		43					30		
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	126											
Dunglass (Cockburnspath)								40				
Ettrick Water (Selkirk)	45				70							
Eyemouth	40											
Folly Loch			109	75	56	59	54	55				
Gala Law (Hawick)			30									
Gala Sewage Works Pond					32		46					
Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank)	61	176	120	44				62	30		64	213
Hirsel Lake	120											
Hollybush (Galashiels)			29									
Hule Moss										400	100	
Hundleshope Cross Ponds (Manor Valley)			34	57	100							
Megget Reservoir					26							
Newmains (Reston)	158											
North Esk Reservoir						500						
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	95											
Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk)			62	96		80						
Redheugh-Siccar Point	35											
St Abb's Head									40			
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)		25								39		
The Granites (Tathieknowe Burn)					65							
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	64	81	60		40	56				40	26	35
Tweed: Peebles												45
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso												42
Tweedbank	119											
Waddlescairn Moor (Oxton)						400						
Watch Water (Longformacus)			70	119								
Yetholm Loch			50									
Yetholm Pond										41		
No of tetrads	27	21	38	28	19	29	12	14	11	17	17	13

Counts of less than 25 came from: Abbey St Bathans; Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick); Black Barony; Blackhopebyre (Garvald Lodge); Bowhill (Selkirk); Bowland (Galashiels); Burnmouth-Border; Cardrona Sewage Reedbed; Dewar (Garvald Lodge); Dod Hill (Leithen Water); Dunglass (Cockburnspath); Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie;

Eyemouth-Burnmouth; Fairliehope (Carlops); Fast Castle (Coldingham Moor); Fruid Reservoir; Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden); Marcus (Eddleston); Hawick; Hen Poo (Duns); Innerleithen; Kingside Pond (Leadburn); Ladyrig Pond (Heiton); Leadburn Community Wood; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Meldon Water (Peebles); Paxton House; Pease Bay; Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay; Portmore Loch Pot Loch (Selkirk); Rachelfield (Smailholm); Selkirk Hills; St Abbs village; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords); Stewarton (Eddleston); Stow; Synton Loch (Ashkirk); Tattie Knowes (Hawick); Thornielee (Walkerburn); Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose; Tweed: Mertoun Bridge-Dryburgh; Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean; Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange; Tweed: Sunderland Hall; West Water Reservoir (West Linton); White Law Loch (Selkirk); Whitrigbog-Westfield; Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Willie's Law (Hopes Res); Wiltonburn Loch (Hawick); Wooden Loch (Eckford).

Breeding: records during the period Apr-Aug came from 62 tetrads. Confirmed breeding came from nine sites. Based on the rather sketchy information available below the only confident statement that we can make is that there were at least c. 550 nests. However, we have next to no records indicating numbers of nestlings or fledglings.

Willie's Law (Hopes Res)	06-May	NE	E Henderson
Hundleshope Cross Ponds (Manor Valley)	11-May	ON (numerous)	SOC Borders
Megget Reservoir	27-May	ON (26)	RD Murray
Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk)	04-Jun	ON (68)	RD Murray
North Esk Reservoir	08-Jun	ON (435); FL	RD Murray
Synton Mossend (Ashkirk)	09-Jun	ON (2)	RD Murray
Hollybush (Galashiels)	20-Jun	ON	M Moncrieff
Wiltonburn Loch (Hawick)	28-Jun	UN (4-5); A	RD Murray
Folly Loch	06-Aug	FL (21)	RD Murray
See Introduction for breeding codes			

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Scarce passage migrant to coast, mostly between August and October. A few old inland reports.

Eight records –more than the three from 2015 but well below some of the recent years.

Winter-spring			
St Abbs village	05-Jan	9	DK Graham
St Abbs village	06-Jan	6	DK Graham
Burnmouth	06-Jan	2	DK Graham
St Abbs village	07-Jan	5	DK Graham
Eyemouth Bay	06-Feb	1	B Prater
Autumn-winter			
St Abb's Head	10-Jul	1	DK Graham
Eyemouth South Bay	17-Aug	2	P Rawnsley
Eyemouth	06-Nov	1	DK Graham

This year's records were notable in that there were more records from January-February than there were in the autumn-winter period. The following table gives some historical context:

	Bird/days	Records	Max count
2000	3	3	1
2001	29	5	23
2002	151	19	17
2003	1,922	11	533
2004	79	7	40
2005	33	6	16
2006	11	3	8
2007	56	17	21
2008	9	5	2
2009	3	2	2
2010	9	4	5
2011	184	9	100
2012	42	4	25
2013	19	6	10
2014	103	11	19
2015	3	3	1
2016	28	8	9

Perhaps the fluctuations in annual records for this species are partly a reflection of limited recording effort, ie fewer observers increases the randomness of numbers of birds seen.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

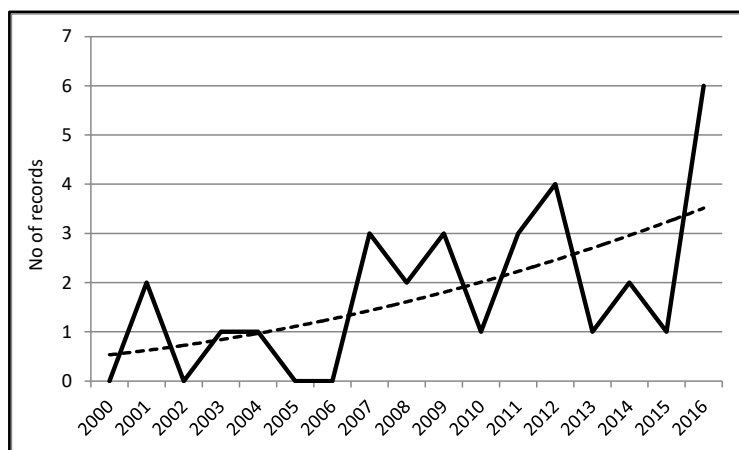
A very scarce but increasing passage migrant.

Six records from five sites which represents the highest for any year so far.

Newmains (Reston)	10-Feb	Eyemouth	14-Sep
Newmains (Reston)	14-27-Mar *	St Abb's Head	25-28-Sep
* 2nd-winter/2nd-summer.		Dunglass (Cockburnspath)	20-Nov
		Newmains (Reston)	02-Dec

All records were of single birds. Records supplied by F Evans, DK Graham, N Milligan, SD Morton, RD Murray.

The graph below shows well the upward trend of records per year since 2000:



No. of records for Mediterranean Gull: 2000-16.

Defining records is problematic. Where birds were reported on near-contiguous dates and from the same site they here represent a single record, as in the Newmains sightings for March (see above).

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Scarce and local breeder on hill lochs. Abundant passage migrant with several large roosts. Common and widespread in winter. During 2008-13 found in 15% of tetrads in summer and 28% in winter.

Two hundred and 10 records from 74 tetrads. 2015 had 174 records from 47 tetrads.

Sites with counts of 50 or more were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Black Barony		380										
Broadmeadows (Yarrowford)				50								
Burnmouth-Border	50											
Chapel Hill (Peebles)								500				
Cleugh (Broughton)			240									
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	5,500											
Craig Douglas (St Mary's Loch)					140							
East Nisbet (Teviot)										100		
Easter Place (Broughton)	170	80										
Eddleston			122					350				
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie		130										
Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall		115	226									
Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston			330	75								
Fountainhall (Gala Water)		100										
Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden)			110									
Haltree (Heriot Water)		100										
Hattonknowe (Eddleston)	1,020											
Hule Moss										1,950	400	60
Hundleshope Cross Ponds (Manor Valley)				200								
Leadburn Community Wood		57										
Megget Reservoir					194							
Parkgatestone (Broughton)	80											
Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels)			68									
Stow												50
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	200	250										
Watch Water (Longformacus)				110		74						
West Water Reservoir (West Linton)								81		7,000		
Wester Deans (Leadburn)	1,100											
Whim Pond (Leadburn)	210	143	80									
Yetholm Loch	180	120	450	200						60		150
No of tetrads	23	19	26	17	7	5	3	7	4	13	5	10

The largest count of c. 7,000 was counted on 25-Oct at West Water Reservoir (West Linton) (N Crowther) and 5,500 were counted on 13-Jan (RD Murray).

Sites with peak counts of below 50 were: Altarstones Hill (Stobo); Baddingsgill Reservoir (West Linton); Bamflatt (Broughton); Barnhills Moor (Ancrum); Bemersyde Moss; Bowhill (Selkirk); Coldingham Loch-coast; Culter Water Glen (Tweedsmuir); Down Law Loch (Ancrum); Dryhope (St Mary's Loch); Dunglass-Pease Bay (W); Eyemouth; Folly Loch; Fruid Reservoir; Gordon Arms (St Mary's Loch); Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank); Hallmanor (Manor Water); Harcus (Eddleston); Hazlieburn (West Linton); Hen Poo (Duns); Hirsell; Lamb Rig (Baddingsgill Res); Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Newmains (Reston); North Esk Reservoir; Peebles; Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay; Redheugh-Siccar shore; Sorrowlessfield (Earlston); St Abbs; St Abb's Head; St Mary's Loch; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); Thornielee (Walkerburn); Tinnis Farm (Yarrow); Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose; Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange; Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso; Yetholm Marsh.

Breeding

Between April-Aug records were received from 31 tetrads. However, reports accompanied by breeding evidence were limited to:

15-Apr	Baddingsill Reservoir (West Linton)	P
27-May	Fruid Reservoir Dam	ON
27-May	Fruid Reservoir (east)	ON
27-May	Megget Reservoir (upper)	ON (15)
08-Jun	North Esk Reservoir	FL (5)
19-Jul	Megget Reservoir (lower)	ON
See Introduction for breeding codes. Records from AT Bramhall; RD Murray.		

This year's breeding records compare with 2015's four sites with a total of 199 pairs on nests. However, Craigerig (Tweedsmuir) and Cramalt Valley (Tweedsmuir), where 104 nests were reported last year, were apparently not surveyed this year although Megget Reservoir's decline from 90 nests in 2015 to 15 this year might tentatively suggest a decline in breeding numbers for this species for 2016.

In any event, breeding records for Common Gull, as with all species, will be gratefully received.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Extremely scarce coastal breeder, not annual, perhaps just 2-3 pairs. Found locally inland in summer. Few in winter, mostly March-October. During 2008-13 found in 35% of tetrads in summer and 5% in winter.

Two hundred and twenty records from 73 tetrads (6%). 2015 had 218 records from 68 tetrads.

Peak counts of 10 or more came from :

Sites	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Black Barony (Eddleston Valley)			43	
Chapelhill Fm (Peebles)			40	
Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston		320		
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie		31		
Folly Loch			270	17
Foulshot Law (Greenlaw)			60	
Hule Moss			16	3,150
Hundleshope Cross Ponds (Manor Valley)			260	
Leadburn Community Wood		22		
Lindean Loch (Selkirk)	24			
Millennium Farm (Portmore)		950		
Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels)		55		
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)				250
The Glack (Manor Valley)		200		
Watch Water (Longformacus)		51	6	
West Water Reservoir (West Linton)		13	15	
Whitrig Bog (Smailholm)		15	44	
Yetholm Loch		14		42
No of tetrads	25	45	30	12

The highest count of 3,150 birds at Hule Moss was made on 25-Oct (J Lough).

Peak counts of less than 10 came from: Abbotsford; Bemersyde Moss; Bowland (Galashiels); Burnmouth-Cowdrait; Burnmouth-Eyemouth; Burnmouth-Partanhall; Cloich (Eddleston); Dreva Marsh (Broughton); Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston; Ettrick Water (Selkirk); Ettrickhaugh;

Eyemouth; Fast Castle (Coldingham Moor); Graden (Yetholm); Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden); Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank); Haining Loch (Selkirk); Halltree (Gala Water); Marcus (Eddleston); Hare Moss (Ashkirk); Hawick; Heiton (Kelso); Hollybush Loch (Galashiels); Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm); Lamberton coast; Long Grain (Oxton); Megget Reservoir; Meldon Water (Peebles); Melrose ; New Belses (Lilliesleaf); Newmains (Reston); North Esk Reservoir; Paxton House; Peebles (Hay Lodge Park); St Abb's Head; Stewarton (Eddleston); Tandalaw Moss (Hawick); Tweed: Banff Mill-Lochton; Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose; Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream; Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean; Tweed: Peebles-Jennie's Brae; Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso; Tweedbank; Tweedbank East; Twin Law (Westruther); Whim Pond (Leadburn); Yetholm-The Curr.

Breeding

The only reports of breeding were possible breeding (a pair) at Megget Reservoir on 27-May and confirmed breeding (two AONs) on the Burnmouth-Eyemouth stretch of coast on 28-May. Both records from RD Murray.

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.

Three hundred and thirty records from 96 tetrads (8%). 2015: 331 records from 109 tetrads.

Rocky Shore Count on 17-Jan counted a total of 2,500 birds, cf: 2015-917; 2014-1,220; 2013-993; 2012-1,283; 2011-1,781.

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	100	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	237
Pease Bay-Redheugh	950	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	176
Redheugh-Souter	807	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	51
Souter-Pettico Wick	63	Burnmouth-Border	111



Herring Gulls: adult and 1st-winter. Eyemouth. January. Tom Brewis.

Sites with counts of 20 or more (excluding January's Rocky Shore Count) were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Black Barony (Eddleston)			28									
Burnmouth	50											
Burnmouth-Partanhall	112	41	20					58				
Coldingham Loch-coast	52											
Cove Bay (Cockburnspath)	54											
Dunglass			25									
Dunglass (Cockburnspath)								45				
Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston				172								
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie				21								
Eyemouth	26				71	95		50				
Eyemouth-Burnmouth					217							
Fancove cliffs (Burnmouth)				162								
Fast Castle (Coldingham Moor)						230						
Gray Hill (Teviothead)	50											
Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden)			70						145			
Harcus (Eddleston)			65									
Haud Yards (Coldingham Moor)	1,250											
Hollybush (Galashiels)				72								
Lamberton coast (Burnmouth)					25	28						
Leadburn Community Wood			33		28							
Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)			39			61	100	100		20		
Millennium Farm (Leadburn)						250						
Newmains (Reston)			120									
Paxton House		229										
Pease Bay (Cockburnspath)	120											
Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk)			24									
Rachelfield (Smailholm)		50										
St Abb's Head				50								
Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels)			50									
Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge										20		
Tweedbank	65		23								35	
Whitrig Bog-Westfield					44							
No of tetrads	30	19	25	18	17	19	16	12	9	13	10	15

The largest count of 1,250 at Haud Yards (Coldingham Bay) was made on 13-Jan (RD Murray).

Sites with peak counts below 20 were: Abbotsford; Bamflatt (Broughton); Bemersyde Moss; Burnmouth-Cowdrait; Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk); Coldingham Bay; Dowlow Dean (Coldingham Moor); Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston; Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall; Ettrick Water (Selkirk); Ettrick Water: Thirladean (Selkirk); Eyemouth ; Fairliehope (Carlops); Fancove Head (Burnmouth); Folly Loch; Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank); Hallmanor (Manor Valley); Hen Poo (Duns); Hirsell Lake; Hule Moss; Hundleshope Cross Ponds (Manor Valley); Huntford (Carter Bar); Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Linthill (Eyemouth); Long Grain (Oxton); Meldon Water (Peebles); Newmains (Reston); Parkgatestone (Broughton); Redheugh-Siccar shore; Reston (Ayton); Rutherford (Maxton); Sorrowlessfield (Earlston); St Abbs; St Abbs village; St Boswells; Starney Bay (St Abbs); Stewarton (Eddleston); Tandlaw Moss (Hawick); Teviot Haughs; Thornielee (Walkerburn); Torwoodlee (Galashiels); Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose; Tweed: Kelso; Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream; Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange; Tweed: Redden Haugh (Kelso); Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso; Wanton Walls (Lauder); Watch Water (Longformacus); West Water Reservoir (West Linton); Whim Pond (Leadburn); Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Wilton Dean (Hawick); Yetholm Pond.

The absence of counts of 20 or more in December is obviously the result of the level of observer effort. Given the widespread nature of this species along our coast it is common practice not to count them. Readers are encouraged to submit counts of all gulls, even if just approximations.

Breeding

Records during the breeding season (Apr-Aug) came from 34 tetrads, relatively few of which will have held birds breeding in those tetrads. The first complete count along the whole of the Berwickshire coast since 2000 produced a grand total of 523 AONs:

	2000	2016
Pease Bay-Redheugh	0	2
Redheugh-Fast Castle	106	43
Fast Castle-Pettico Wick	234	
St Abb's Head	307	197
St Abbs-Eyemouth	199	22
Eyemouth town		71
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	225	217
Burnmouth-Lamberton	16	11
Total	1,087	563

As the table shows, there has been nearly a 50% decline in the number of AONs recorded over the last 16 years.

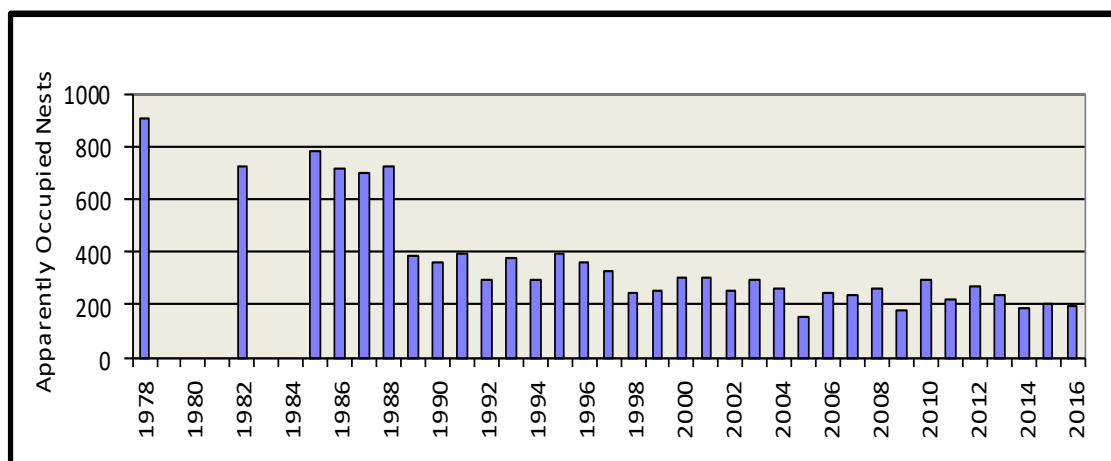
St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2016 (Liza Cole):

Whole Colony Count

A whole colony count of apparently occupied nests (AON) was carried out on 29th and 30th May. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 6th June.

Results

197 AON, 4% decrease on 2015.



Apparently occupied nests of Herring Gull at St Abb's Head NNR: 1978-2016.

Iceland Gull *Larus gaucoides*

Scarce winter visitor.

Four records (all of singles):

31-Jan at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 20-Feb at St Abb's Head (F Evans and DK Graham), 3-Mar and 16-May at Newmains (Reston) (DK Graham).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

Scarce winter visitor.

Five records (all of singles);

St Abbs village	07-Jan	DK Graham	Newmains (Reston)	01-Mar	DK Graham
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay*	17-Jan	DK Graham	Newmains (Reston)	14-Nov	DK Graham
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth*	17-Jan	F Evans & H Urquhart	* Presumably same bird seen during RSC.		

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.

Ninety-eight records from 30 tetrads. One hundred and four birds counted during Rocky Shore Count on 17-Jan:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	0	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	27
Pease Bay-Redheugh	22	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	5
Redheugh-Souter	14	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	16
Souter-Pettico Wick	9	Burnmouth-Border	11

Sites (Incl. RSC)	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec
Bemersyde Moss	2					
Burnmouth-Border	11		3	2	6	
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	5			2		
Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)		8		32	29	
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	16	3	3	16	4	
Fairliehope (Carlops)		1				
Folly Loch			1		3	
Hule Moss					1	
Newmains (Reston)	2					
Paxton House						2
Pease Bay-Redheugh	22					
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	27	Pr	4	4	25	
Rachelfield Pond (Smailholm)	1					
Redheugh-Siccar shore	31					
Redheugh-Souter	14		5			
Souter-Pettico Wick	9					
Stantling Craig Res (Galashiels)		1				
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	2	2				
Tweed: Abbotsford						3
West Water Reservoir (West Linton)			2	1		
Whitrig Bog	2				1	
Wide Hope Shank (Lyne Water)			1			
Yetholm Loch				1		
Inland tetrads (>5 km from coastline)	5	3	3	2	3	2
Coastal Tetrads	8	3	4	5	4	0

Only one confirmed record of breeding: three AONs at Fancove Head (Burnmouth) on 28-May. Possible AON was reported on 23-Jun at Maiden's Stone (off Lamberton Holdings). Both records from RD Murray.



Fulmar. Lamberton Skerrs. March. Tom Brewis



Juvenile Iceland Gull. St Abb's Head. February. Dave Graham.

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.

One hundred and fifty-seven records from 50 tetrads (4%). A count of 202 from the Rocky Shore Count was made on 17-Jan:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	70	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	76
Pease Bay-Redheugh	0	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	0
Redheugh-Souter	14	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	15
Souter-Pettico Wick	5	Burnmouth-Border	0

Recent RSC counts were: 107 in 2015; 171 in 2014; 373 in 2013; 195 in 2012 and 177 in 2011.

Sites with counts of five or more were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bemersyde Moss										7	90	
Black Barony (Eddleston Valley)		13		13		13			7			
Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	70											
Easter Place (Broughton)	70											
Ettrick Water (Selkirk)		21	32	7	6	10						
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	15			6	14			7				
Graden (Yetholm)						24						
Ladylands (Selkirk)	10											
Leadburn Community Wood		23										
Nisbet (Jedburgh)												6
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	76	30						8		1		
Redheugh-Souter	14					12						
Souter-Pettico Wick	5											
Tweedbank	10		9	7								
Whitrig Bog-Westfield	50	70				48						
No of tetrads	15	8	6	10	9	12	11	6	6	2	6	4

The highest count of 110 came from Redheugh Glen & Cottages (Coldingham Moor) on 17-Jan (RD Murray). Other sites with peak counts below five were: Abbotsmoss Pond (Tweedbank); Alton Pond (Hawick); Birgham Haugh (Coldstream); Bowhill (Selkirk); Burnmouth-Border; Carlops; Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston; Essenside Loch (Ashkirk); Gala Sewage Works Pond; Gattonside-Melrose; Grahamslaw (Eckford); Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank); Heiton (Kelso); The Hirsell; Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm); Leadburn; Lempitlaw (Kelso); New Belses (Lilliesleaf); Newmains (Reston); Paxton House; Peebles; St Boswells; Thornielee (Walkerburn); Wiltondean (Hawick); Yair (Caddonfoot); Yetholm-The Curr.

The only report of breeding was of birds displaying at Selkirk on 20-Jan (EL Bickmore).

Undoubtedly, Feral Pigeons are greatly under-recorded, especially with respect to any breeding evidence. Readers are encouraged to submit more records of this species.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Uncommon and local breeder. Small winter flocks. Very much under-recorded. During 2008-13 found in 19% of tetrads in summer and 9% in winter.

Forty-seven records from 26 tetrads (2%). There were 49 records from 33 tetrads in 2015.

Peak counts per site were:

Sites	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Altarstones Hill (Stobo)	1			
Bemersyde Moss		3		
Black Barony (Eddleston Valley)	1	2	3	
Bowland (Galashiels)		2		
Dunglass	1			
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	1			
Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall	4			
Eyemouth	Pr			
Greenburn (Reston)		1		
Harcus (Eddleston)		1		
Heather Wood (Wauchope Forest)		2		
Heiton (Kelso)	Pr			
Hendersyde (Kelso)	1			
Hilton (Whitsome)		2	1	
Hirsel		1		
Lamberton	1	2		
Melrose	1	2	1	
New Headshaw (Ashkirk)		2		
Newmains (Reston)	4			
Peebles		1		
Philiphaugh (Selkirk)			2	1
Plora Wood West (Innerleithen)		2		
Priesthope Hill (Innerleithen)		1		
St Boswells				1
Thornielee (Walkerburn)		2		
Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange				1
No of tetrads	11	15	4	3

No evidence of confirmed breeding. Possible and probable evidence from seven tetrads:

Lamberton	16-Mar	S	R McBeath
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	21-Mar	S	RD Murray
Melrose	24-Apr	P	D Parkinson
New Headshaw (Ashkirk)	28-Apr	P	G Scott
Hirsel	22-Jun	S	D Parkinson
Philiphaugh (Selkirk)	16-Jul	P	G Scott
Black Barony	21-Jul	T (2)	RD Murray
See Introduction for breeding codes			

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

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

Seven hundred and seventy-five records from 192 tetrads (15%). There were records from 175 tetrads in 2015.

The highest monthly counts were as follows:

	Highest Count	Tetrads with records	Aggregate Count		Highest Count	Tetrads with records	Aggregate Count
J	6,000	44	11,524	J	67	42	238
F	2,000	45	3,319	A	20	34	136
M	200	48	1,214	S	15	29	94
A	275	41	675	O	500	20	548
M	39	49	382	N	3,000	23	6,699
J	67	63	584	D	2,000	26	3,698

Other notable counts were:

January: Appletreehall (Hawick) - 1,200; Marl-leas Plantation (Whitsome) - 1,800; Newton Quarry (Whitsome) - 500. October: Bemersyde-Whitrig Bog - 500. December: Eaglehall (Whitsome) - 450.

Breeding

Fourteen tetrads with evidence of breeding (11 tetrads in 2015):

Paxton	08-Feb	T	D Monteith
Fairliehope (Carlops)	10-Mar	S	J Palfery
Dunglass	25-Mar	S	J Palfery
West Linton NW	26-Mar	S	SD Ward
Deepsyke Forest (Carlops)	29-Mar	S	Palfery, J
Deepsyke Forest (N) & Harlaw Muir (Carlops)	29-Mar	S	J Palfery
Huntford (Carter Bar)	29-Mar	D	C Watson
Ettrick Water (Selkirk)	16-Apr	P	D Parkinson
Old Stobswood (Longformacus)	23-Apr	T	A Baird
Paxton House	24-Apr	P	D Parkinson
Boggyhall Wood (Anrum)	04-May	NE	RD Murray
Dawyck	07-May	S	M Betts
Gala Law (Hawick)	03-Jun	P	G Scott
Hirsel	22-Jun	ON	D Parkinson
West Linton SW	10-Aug	S	SD Ward

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Observers are encouraged to ensure that, where relevant, records include reference to breeding status.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Local resident. Some autumn flocks and dispersal. During 2008-13 found in 25% of tetrads in summer and 18% in winter.

Ninety records from 38 (3%) tetrads (55 tetrads in 2015).

Nearly all records were of singles or twos. There were only eight tetrads with larger counts:

01-Jan	Newmains (Reston)	23
06-Aug	Tweedbank	6
18-Feb	Abbotrule (Bonchester Bridge)	4
31-Jan	Melrose	3
20-Jul	St Boswells	3
13-Aug	Eyemouth South Bay	3
16-Aug	Carfraemill Hotel (Oxton)	3
10-Nov	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	3

Breeding evidence was limited to three tetrads (five in 2015). All evidence was in the form of singing birds: Ladylands (Selkirk) on 20-Jan; West Linton SW on 28-Mar; Traquair (Innerleithen) on 31-Mar.



Collared Doves.

Paxton. July.

Tom Brewis.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

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

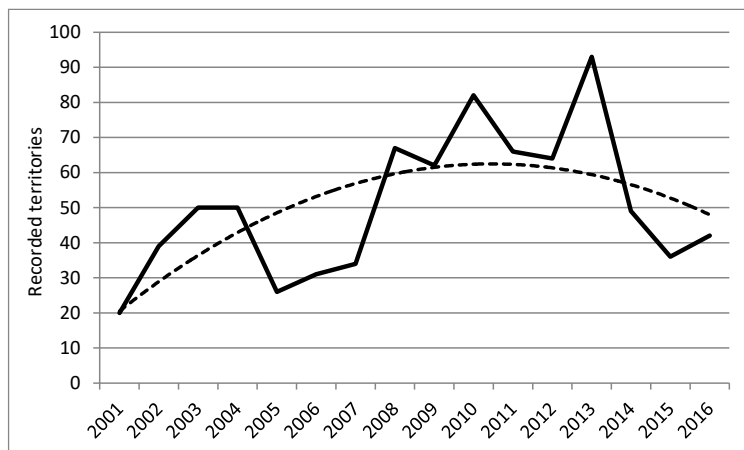
Fifty-eight records from 41 tetrads (52 tetrads in 2015). First record was on 20-Apr at Yetholm Loch (J Lough) and the last record was on 16-Aug at Leadburn Community Wood (RD Murray).

Alemoor Wester Loch (Buccleuch)	Lauder
Arks (Carter Bar)	Leadburn Community Wood
Back Loch (Buccleuch)	Nether Hill (Caddon Water)
Black Barony (Eddleston Valley)	Priesthope Hill (Innerleithen)
Bowden Moor Loch (Bowden)	Quaw Plantation (Manor Valley)
Bushelhill (Abbey St Bathans)	Rankle Burn (Buccleuch)
Castle Hill (Manor Valley)	Robie's Pool (Cardrona)
Cloich (Eddleston)	Scuds Cleuch Wood (Manor Valley)
Dewar (Garvald Lodge)	Selkirk Race Course Moss
Dye Water (Longformacus)	St Abb's Head
Elibank Craig Woods (Thornielee)	Stantling Craig Reservoir (Selkirk)
Eshiels (Peebles)	Stobo Castle (Broughton)
Essenside (Ashkirk)	Tathieknowe Burn (Heriot Water)
Fairliehope (Carlops)	The Glen (Traquair)
Glencotho (Tweedsmuir)	Watch Water (Longformacus)
Glensax Burn (Cardrona Forest)	White Rig (Eddleston)
Huntford (Carter Bar)	Whitehope (Glentress Water)
Innerleithen High Wood	Whitmuirhall Loch (Selkirk)
Kirkhope Low Wood (Manor Valley)	Whitrope Cottages (Hermitage) *
Langburnshiels (Wauchope Forest)	Williamslee (Leithen Water)
	Yetholm Loch

* Virtually all records were of singletons. However, the report from Whitrope Cottages (Wauchope Forest) was of several birds heard singing over a short period. Given that a single bird might well move around an area in a short period and given the problems often associated with locating where birds are singing from, the count of this record cannot be validated.

Forty-two territories suggested by records (36 in 2015, 49 in 2014 and 93 in 2013).

Interpreting the trend of records that suggest territories needs to be done with caution, given the limited observer effort in Borders and the large recording area, allied to the Cuckoo's liking for often remote territories. This is further compounded by the assumption that a record of a bird's presence at a site seems, in past Bird Reports, to be taken as a territory. Nonetheless a pattern of sorts does emerge if we view the data since 2001:



Records suggesting breeding territories for Cuckoo: 2001-2016.
(Note: data for 2000 not available at time of compilation).

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.

One hundred and twenty records from 61 (5%) tetrads (435 records from 100 tetrads in 2015 but with low productivity).

Non-breeding season (Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec)

Fifty-six tetrads with records (64 in 2015, 36 in 2014, 45 in 2013, 73 in 2012):

Ashkirk (Selkirk)	Foulden Newton	Newmains (Reston)
Ayton	Grantshouse (Reston)	Roxburgh
Bedshiel (Westruther)	Greenlaw	Roxburgh Barns (Roxburgh)
Birgham (Coldstream)	Gullet Wood (Galashiels)	Ruthven (Coldstream)
Bowshank (Stow)	Harcarsehill (Swinton)	Shiplaw (Eddleston)
Chirnside	Heiton (Kelso)	Smailholm Mains
Chirnsidebridge	Highlaws (Eyemouth)	Sunlaws Mill (Roxburgh)
Craik (Buccleuch)	Huntlywood (Gordon)	Thornylee (Walkerburn)
Denholm	Jardinefield (Whitsome)	Tweedbank
Dunlee Hill (Galashiels)	Jedburgh	Walkerburn
Duns Castle Woods	Kelso	West Fishwick (Whitsome)
Dykegatehead (Allanton)	Kimmerghame (Duns)	West Foulden (Foulden)
Eaglehall (Whitsome)	Ladhopenmuir (Galashiels)	Westruther
Earlston	Lauder Burn (Lauder)	Whitemire (Chirnside)
Eckford (Nisbet)	Leadburn	Whitrigbog-Westfield
Edrom (Duns)	Lempitlaw (Kelso)	Whitsome
Edston (Peebles)	Lochton (Kelso)	Wooplaw (Stow)
Fleurs (Coldingham)	Mount Pleasant (Swinton)	Yetholm Loch
Foulden	New Horndean (Ladykirk)	

Juvenile Cuckoo. Darnhall, Eddleston. July. Ray Murray.



Barn Owl. Cardrona Reed Beds. February. Rob Watterson.



Casual breeding season records (Mar-Sep) came from 20 tetrads (38 in 2015, 19 in 2014, 52 in 2013, 59 in 2012, 41 in 2011, 45 in 2010 and 118 in 2009), suggesting a poor year compared with recent years. Records came from:

Birgham (Coldstream)	Meadow House Mains (Paxton)
Bowshank (Stow)	Millennium Farm (Portmore)
Cairnhill (Duns)	Nr Oxnam
Edrom (Duns)	Northfield (St Abbs)
Greenknowe Tower (Gordon)	Peatrig Hill (Garvald Lodge)
Hutton (Paxton)	Roberton (Hawick)
Jardinefield (Whitsome)	Roxburgh Newtown
Leadburn area	Smailholm Mains
Lempitlaw (Kelso)	Sunlaws (Roxburgh)
Lumsdaine (Coldingham)	Yetholm Loch

Records with specific breeding evidence were limited to only two tetrads (emboldened print in above table). A further record of probable breeding (T) was also made on 15-Jan.

Barn Owl Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (Alan Leitch). Note that following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with Successful breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
75	44	28	44	1.7	2.6

The number of sites checked is significantly up on last year (55), partly due to more observers, but the occupancy rate is almost identical and the proportion of proven breeding slightly down.

Breeding success was marginally worse than last year's awful figures, a reflection of poor weather, coupled with low vole numbers. One observer who was able to catch some adults commented that they were in very poor condition, and almost certainly not fit enough to breed.

Tony and Eve's sites seem to have fared better than the others, but breeding success was still very poor.

This is all in contrast to Colin Shawyer's report on birds further south on the BTO website. After a poor start, they had a very good season with high vole numbers.

As I said last year, I think we just have to accept that the population up to 2009/10 was exceptionally high, and it may be a long time, if ever, that we get a return to such levels and breeding success.

Thanks, are due to Tony Lightley, Eve Schulte, Tom Dougall, Tim Chamberlain, Alan Heavisides, Malcolm Henderson, Alan Kerr and Mike McDowall for providing 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.

Two records from the Merse were received. Single birds were reported on 24-May (A Mossup) and on 8-Jun (DK Graham).

Little Owl Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (Malcolm Henderson):

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with Successful breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
2	2	1	2	n/a	n/a

The same two known nest sites were again monitored this year. Both of these sites are in Berwickshire. There was a pair of birds at each site.

At one of the sites we did not manage to establish if this site fledged young.

However, at the other site at least two young fledged, and one of the young was rung. The nest was in a deep cavity in a mature Ash tree.

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.

Ninety-six records from 48 tetrads. There were 100 records from 44 tetrads in 2015.

Non-breeding (Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec): 45 birds from 32 tetrads (19 birds from 16 tetrads in 2015):

Bowhill (Selkirk)**	Howden Pot (Selkirk)	Newmains (Reston)**
Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)	Huntford (Carter Bar)	Paxton
Coldingham	Innerleithen area*	Paxton House*
Craik (Teviothead)	Jedburgh	Peebles*
Eaglehall (Whitsome)*	Ladyurd (Blyth Bridge)*	Portmore Loch*
Foulden New Mains	Leitholm (Coldstream)*	Roxburgh Mains
Gala Law (Hawick)	Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	Upper Samieston (Jedburgh)
Galashiels*	Loch of Lowes	Whitsome*
Gattonside-Melrose	Makerston (Gordon)*	Winfield (Whitsome)
Hollye (Walkerburn)	Melrose	Wooplaw Community Woodlands (Stow)
	Moorshot Plantation (Greenlaw)	Yetholm Loch

Records of single birds unless * two birds reported or ** three birds reported.

Breeding season (Mar-Aug): 27 birds from 22 tetrads (58 birds from 37 tetrads in 2015):

Abbotsford	Galashiels
Altarstones Hill (Stobo)	Gattonside-Melrose
Black Barony (Eddleston Valley)	Gruntly Burn (Traquair)
Black Yett (Eddleston)	Harwood (Bonchester Bridge)
Bowhill (Selkirk)	Hawick
Charterhall (Greenlaw)	Hirsel Lake
Chesterknowes (Lilliesleaf)	Huntford (Carter bar)
Dryburgh Abbey	Jardinefield (Whitsome)
Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston	Kerss Wood and Loch (Ancrum)
Elibank Craig Woods (Walkerburn)	Melrose
Fodderlee & Swinnie (Jedburgh)	Whim Pond (Leadburn)
Sites in bold = confirmed breeding	

Tawny Owl Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (Tony Lightley):

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with Successful breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
70 sites FCS 57 Private 13	19 Tawny (11 Barn Owl)	16	20	1.05	1.25

Winters are trending to be wetter for longer periods and this can have a serious effect on breeding success of Tawny Owls due to a lack of voles at the start of the breeding season. Once again it was a poor breeding season for the birds with some sites not laying eggs at all but showing clear signs of occupancy. Although most of the occupied sites resulted in a breeding attempt, low clutch sizes correlated once again with the vole population.

There is also the possibility for sites in the Tweed valley that predation via Squirrels and Pine Marten may be having some effect on productivity. We will install trail cameras on a number of selected sites to monitor for potential predation in 2017.

Boxes on FCS land are either of the rectangular design specifically for Tawny owls or triangular design with a large basal area to accommodate Barn Owl chicks which are in the boxes for up to 6 weeks and generally large broods.



Wooden boxes are preferred due to a more consistent temperature environment within the box compared to plastic barrels which tend to fluctuate in temperature. Coverage was very poor on FCS landholdings due to the surveyor being incapacitated during most of the raptor breeding season but 2017 will see a full team monitoring again. Again, there was limited coverage on private landholdings this year which resulted in only 13 sites recorded as checked and 6 occupied fledging 5 chicks.

11 of the sites were occupied by Barn Owl with a mixture of 'other' species, including Squirrel, Jackdaw, Stock Dove and passerines utilising the boxes.

New boxes were relocated and older boxes refurbished over the autumn and winter months ready for the 2017 breeding season.

The number of young fledged per successful pair is slightly lower than 2016 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.

Thanks to all who contributed Tawny Owl records.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

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.

Poorest number of casual records since 2013 with no records of breeding:

West Linton	02-Jan	Pr	JH Bingley
Portmore	04-Jan	1	RS Craig
Makerston area	03-Feb	2	C Blackie
Paxton House	22-Apr	1	J Lough
Newmains (Reston)	13-May	1	DK Graham
Newmains (Reston)	27-May	1	DK Graham
Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords)	09-Jun	1	-

Addendum to 2015 Report

The following entry should be deleted:

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.

There were, in fact, no non-breeding season records.

Long-eared Owl Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (Mark Holling):

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with Successful breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
10 (+)	8	6	10	1.25	1.66

The only study area which reported breeding Long-eared Owls was Graham's in the Pentlands, which contributed six of these records. In addition, Alan H was told of a dead female with an unlaidd egg inside (in West Lothian) and the Lothian Bird recorder reported one other site where four young fledged - this site has been used for at least six consecutive years now. In total, five sites fledged young.

Elsewhere, those who looked reported no Long-eared Owls at all, including Tom's study area in the Moorfoots. As usual, this species is easily overlooked and very under-reported.

	Possible breeding pairs	Probable breeding pairs	Confirmed breeding pairs	TOTAL
Borders	1	0	2	3
Lothian	0	1	4	5

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus*

Uncommon in hill areas. Breeding and 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 season (Sep-Feb): eight records from five tetrads (19 records, 16 tetrads in 2015).

Lamberton	01-Jan	N Warren
Lamberton	16-Jan	R McBeath
Lamberton	27-Jan	R McBeath
Lamberton	30-Jan	R McBeath
Bellendean Shank (Alemoor Res)	03-Feb	RD Murray
Lamberton	03-Feb	R McBeath
Middlesknowes (Hownam)	12-Nov	M Henderson
Adderstonlee Moss (Hawick)	03-Dec	M Henderson

Breeding season (Mar-Aug): seven records from four tetrads (nine tetrads in 2015):

Watch Water (Longformacus)	07-Apr	J Lough
Watch Water (Longformacus)	10-Apr	J Lough
Wakefield (West Linton)	14-Apr	R Singleton
Watch Water (Longformacus)	19-Apr	J Lough
Watch Water (Longformacus)	08-May	J Lough
Lamberton	10-May	R McBeath
Watch Water (Longformacus)	23-May	J Lough

There were no records involving breeding evidence. Many of the above records probably refer to the same individuals.

Short-eared Owl Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (Mark Holling):

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with Successful breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
? many	0	0	0	n/a	n/a

2016 was an exceptionally poor year for Short-eared Owls in SE Scotland. I received only three records of single birds, all in suitable breeding habitat, but none of which related to breeding behaviour. Both the Langholm study area and Tom's regular study area in the Moorfoots held no birds at all.

I have heard of potential persecution of this species in the Mayshiel area in the early spring each year.

Pentlands: no birds recorded.

Moorfoots: no birds recorded.

Lammermuirs: casual reports of two separate birds in April and in June.

Tweedsmuir Hills: casual report of one in May.

Cheviots: no records received.

	Single birds	Possible breeding pairs	Probable breeding pairs	Confirmed breeding pairs	TOTAL pairs
Borders	2	0	0	0	0
Lothian	1	0	0	0	0

Thanks to all who contributed Short-eared Owl records.

Swift *Apus apus*

Common and 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.

One hundred and thirty-seven records from 53 tetrads (4%). 2015 had 138 records from 53 tetrads. Exactly the same number of records and tetrads for 2015 and 2016.

The first record was on 29-Apr at Melrose (D Parkinson); last on 29-Sep at Mire Loch (M Moncrieff).

Peak counts of five or more:

Sites	Apr-May	Jun-Jul	Aug-Sep
Abbotrule (Bonchester Bridge)		6	
Allanton (Chirnside)	10		
Birgham Haugh	80		
Cauldshiels Hill (Selkirk)		40	
Dryburgh Abbey		12	
Duns	5	7	
Eyemouth South Bay			10
Folly Loch		5	
Gattonside-Melrose		30	
Heiton (Kelso)	5		
Hule Moss		221	10
Kelso	9	23	100
Lindean Mill (Selkirk)	20		
Maxton (St Boswells)			170
Newmains (Reston)	7		
Paxton House	420	131	146
Pot Loch (Selkirk)	7		
Torfichen Hill (Heriot Water)			20
Tweed: Coldstream			50
Tweed: Sprouston-Banff Mill		22	
Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	7		
Tweedbank		22	39
Walkerburn West	35		
Wester Dawyck (Broughton)	15		
Yetholm Loch		159	625
No of tetrads	26	33	20
Aggregate of peak counts	649	729	1,192

Sites with peak counts below five were: Alton Pond (Hawick); Birgham Haugh (Coldstream); Cardrona Sewage Reedbed; Chesterknowes (Lilliesleaf); Dam Head Rig (Traquair); Dowlaw Farm (Coldingham Moor); Eddleston; Etrick Water (Selkirk); Gala Law (Hawick); Galashiels; Graden (Yetholm); Hawick; Hirsell; Leahead Loch (Hawick); Manor Bridge (Peebles); Meldon Water (Peebles); Melrose; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); Nisbet (Jedburgh); Peebles; St Abb's Head; St Boswells; Thornielee (Walkerburn); Tweed: Peebles-Jennie's Brae; Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Wiltonburn Loch (Hawick); Yetholm; Yetholm Pond.

Breeding season (May-Jul): records from 42 tetrads (50 tetrads in 2015; 48 tetrads in 2014):

Abbotrule (Bonchester Bridge)	Graden (Yetholm)	Paxton House
Allanton (Chirnside)	Harden Burn (Hawick)	Pot Loch (Selkirk)
Alton Pond (Hawick)	Hawick	St Abb's Head
Birgham Haugh (Coldstream)	Heiton (Kelso)	St Boswells
Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	Hirsell	Tweed: Melrose

Cauldshiels Hill (Selkirk)	Hule Moss	Tweed: Peebles-Jennie's Brae
Chesterknowes (Lilliesleaf)	Kelso	Tweed: Sprouston-Banff Mill
Dam Head Rig (Traquair)	Lamberton coast	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden
Dowlaw (Coldingham)	Lindean Mill (Kelso)	Tweedbank
Dryburgh Abbey	Lyne rail bridge (Peebles)	Walkerburn West
Duns	Manor Bridge (Peebles)	Wester Dawyck (Broughton)
Eddleston	Meldon Water (Peebles)	Williestruther Loch (Hawick)
Ettrick Water (Selkirk)	Newmains (Reston)	Wiltonburn Loch (Hawick)
Folly Loch	Nisbet (Jedburgh)	Yetholm Loch

Abbotrule was the only site with confirmed breeding (M Henderson). Note that the usual annual ringing and nest recording at The Hirsell did not take place this year.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Rare visitor. Less than annual.

A single bird was reported from Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) on 15-Oct. The record came from Birdguides and has not been supported in any way.

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.

Seventy-two records from 22 tetrads (2%). In 2015 there were 92 records from 26 tetrads.

Species	Jan-Feb	Mar-Sep	Oct-Dec
Abbotsford		1	
Bonchester Bridge		1	
Burnmouth	1		
Chatto (Kale Water)		1	
Ettrick Water (Selkirk)	2	1	1
Gattonside-Melrose			1
Innerleithen	2		
Kelso	1		1
Kerfield (Peebles)		1	
Manor Bridge (Manor Valley)			1
Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)		1	
Paxton House	2	1	3
Peebles	1		1
Philiphough (Selkirk)	1		1
St Abb's Head	1		
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)			1
Teviot: Roxburgh-Kelso			2
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream			1
Tweed: Mertoun-Benrigg Dean		1	
Tweedbank	1	1	1
Uppsettlington (Ladykirk)	1		1
Whiteadder Water (nr Cranshaws)			
Woodhead (Ancrum)		1	
Yetholm Loch	1	1	
No of tetrads	12	11	12

Breeding (Mar-Sep);

Records from 11 tetrads (see table above). This compares with 15 for 2015. There were no records of confirmed breeding and only a couple of records (from Paxton House) suggested a pair (J Lough) and birds on territory (D Monteith).

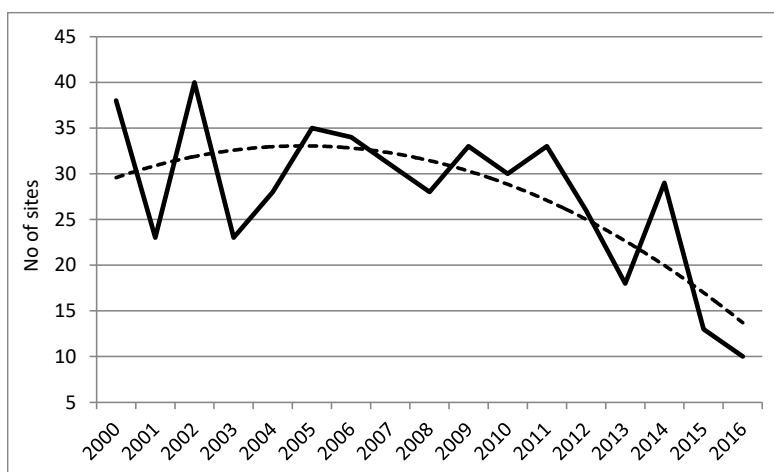
Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

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.

Twenty records from 13 tetrads. 2015: 13 sites; 2014: 29 sites. As would be expected, nearly all sites with records were in well wooded areas. With the exception of a record of two birds from Elibank (Walkerburn), all records were of singles.

nr Bushelhill (Abbey St Bathans)	Kelso
Cribs Hill (Yair Hill Forest)	Leadburn Community Wood
Dawyck	Mellerstain (Gordon)
Duns Castle	Peat Hill (Eddleston)
Elba (Abbey St Bathans)	Raeleugh (Westruther)
Elibank (Walkerburn)	Stobs Camp (Hawick)
	Thornielee

Sites in emboldened print refer to breeding season (Mar-Aug) records. The graph below shows clearly the downward trend in the number of sites reporting birds during the breeding season in the past 17 years. Even accounting for the greater observer effort during the SE Scotland Atlas survey (2008-13), the earlier part of the millennium appeared to have more sites supporting Green Woodpeckers:



Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major*

Common breeder. A few on passage. During 2008-13 found in 50% of tetrads in summer and 47% in winter.

Two hundred and fifty-six records from 129 (10%) tetrads. There were 300 records from 112 tetrads in 2015.

Breeding season (Mar-Aug):

Records came from 75 tetrads (2015: 67 tetrads; 2014: 89 sites):

Abbotsford	Gala Law (Hawick)	Mellerstain (Gordon)
Abbotsmoss (Tweedbank)	Gala Policies	Newstead-Drygrange
Allanton (Chirnside)	Galashiels E	Oakwood Mill (Selkirk)
Angelrow (Greenlaw)	Gattonside-Melrose	Paxton House
Ashiestiel Bridge (Caddonfoot)	Glenternie (Manor Valley)	Peat Hill (Eddleston)
Bemersyde Moss	Gradon (Yetholm)	Penmanshall Burn (Hawick)
Berrybush (Tushielaw)	Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	Plora East (Innerleithen)
Big Wood (Selkirk)	Hallmanor Loch (Manor Valley)	Plora Wood West (Innerleithen)
Birgham (Coldstream)	Harcus	Raelees Wood (Galashiels)
Black Barony	Harden Burn (Hawick)	Selkirk SW
Blackburn Mill (Abbey St Bathans)	Harwood (Bonchester Br)	Shaws Under Loch (Ettrickbridge)
Bowhill (Selkirk)	Heather Wood (Wauchope Forest)	Stantling Craig Res (Galashiels)
Cardrona	Heiton (Kelso)	Stouslie-Tandlaw (Hawick)
Carfraemill Hotel (Oxton)	Hellmoor Loch (Hawick)	Swinnie Plantation (Bonchester Br)
Chesterknowes (Lilliesleaf)	Hirsel	The Floss (Ashkirk)
Crow Wood (Peebles)	Hornshole (Hawick)	The Yett (Hownam)
Dawyck	Hoselaw Mains (Kelso)	Thornielee (Walkerburn)
Deanfoot (Denholm)	Huntford (Carter Bar)	Torwoodlee (Galashiels)
Dryburgh Abbey	Innerleithen	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden
Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston	Jenny's Brae (Peebles)	Tweedbank
Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston	Ladyrig (Kelso)	Upper Nisbet
Ettrick Water (Selkirk)	Ladyurd (Blyth Bridge)	West Linton
Fairliehope (West Linton)	Leadburn Community Wood	Wilton Dean (Hawick)
Folly Loch	Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	Woodhead Moss (Ancrium)
Foulshiels (Yarrowford)	Linthill (Eyemouth)	Yetholm Loch

Records which included breeding evidence came from 30 tetrads (shown in bold above).

Outside of the breeding season records came from 61 tetrads. The largest count for any one site was four at Black Barony on 18-Jun (RD Murray).

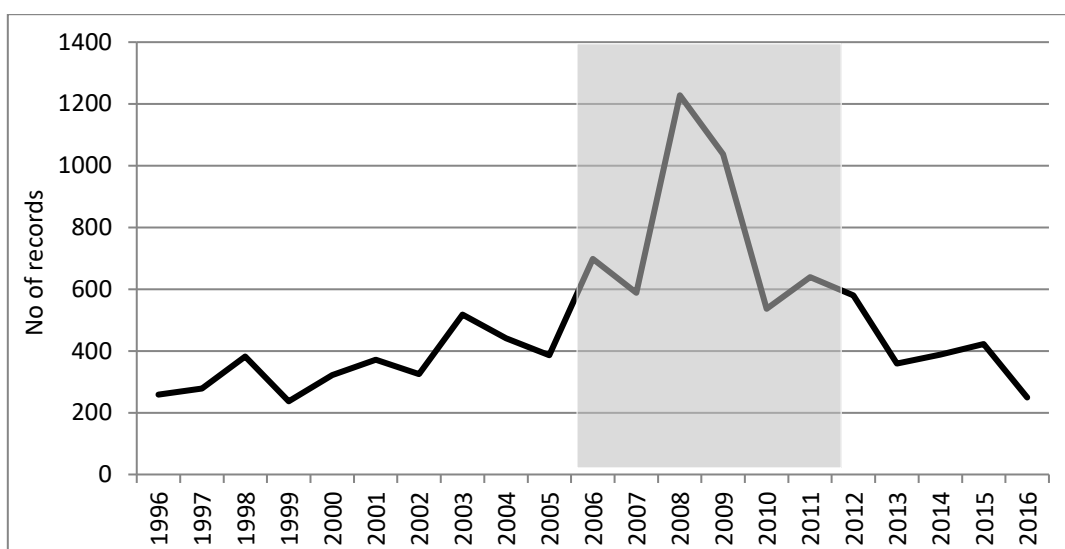
Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

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.

Two hundred and forty-nine records from 165 (13%) tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Records	35	39	28	26	13	15	14	21	17	16	17	9
Birds	38	40	30	29	15	18	20	29	18	17	19	9

Based on the number of records received it would appear that the fortunes of Kestrels have been largely declining over the past 10 years or so. The peak of records between 2008-2009 was probably a response to greater observer effort during the Atlas survey.



Number of records for Kestrel: 1996-2016 (shading represents Atlas survey period).

Records of breeding came from only seven tetrads:

Baddingsgill Reservoir (West Linton)	RD Murray	P	Fruid Reservoir	RD Murray	N
Priesthaugh (Teviothead)	M Henderson	A	Dreva Marsh (Dawyck)	RD Murray	P
Leadburn Community Wood	RD Murray	A	Nr Billiemains Farm (Reston)	F Evans	ON
			St Abb's Head	DK Graham	ON*

See Introduction for breeding codes. * failed at egg stage.

The vast majority of records were of one or two birds. Sites with sightings of three or more birds were:

6	St Abb's Head	19-Jun	3	Redfordgreen (Buccleuch)	24-Jul
5	Mendick Hill (West Linton)	23-Mar	3	Lurgiescleuch (Wauchope Forest)	15-Aug
3	St Abb's Head	15-May	3	Black Burn (Newcastleton)	31-Aug

Kestrel Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (Alan Leitch). Note: following refers to both Borders and Lothian.

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with Successful breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
38	22	18	40	1.8	3.3

Site occupation is only slightly down on last year, but this is largely due to it holding up in the Pentlands. Most other areas were poorly occupied.

Fledging success was also very poor. From anecdotal observations, this seems likely to be due to a poor vole year to which species like kestrel are susceptible.

I suggested last year that kestrels may be making a comeback. However, I didn't allow for this level of yearly variation. It looks like we need to be looking much more long term to get a real idea of any underlying trends in population dynamics.

Thanks, are due to Graham Anderson, Tom Dougall, David Warden, Malcolm Henderson and Mike McDowall for providing records.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

Uncommon breeder. Mostly 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.

Twelve casual records from eight tetrads. 2015 had 21 records from 10 tetrads. There were no casual records of actual breeding:

winter-spring			
Melrose	29-Jan	D Parkinson	1
Newmains (Reston)	07-Mar	DK Graham	1
Eyemouth	12-Mar	D Mead	1
breeding season (Apr-Jul)			
Nr Bemersyde	14-Apr	D Farr	1
Nr Newcastleton	08-Jun	J Bray	2
Nr Oxton	24-Jun	-	1
autumn-winter			
Dryhope (St Mary's Loch)	25-Aug	DC Orr-Ewing	1
Chirnside	12-Dec	F Evans	1

Merlin Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (Alan Heavisides). Note that following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

The weather was probably less of a factor than last year but was generally not settled; and was cool and wet at times.

Coverage was very good in the Pentlands and also reasonably good in parts of the South of Tweed area. Again, the Lammermuir Hills were not monitored by group members so there is unfortunately quite a big hole in our knowledge. The Moorfoots did have at least one breeding pair this season.

For the first time we have had detailed records from the Borders side of Langholm moor. Thanks to Sonia Ludwig. Although the birds concerned were unsuccessful it is understood that other Langholm pairs were successful.

News from just over the border in Kielder is that they did better than last year when only one chick fledged. This season 11 occupied sites reared 11 young.

Lammermuirs

Until 2014 around 27 known old sites were monitored for occupation. Since then there has been no systematic monitoring and unfortunately this year there are no breeding records from other sources. See Heavisides, Barker and Poxton, Population and breeding biology of Merlins in the Lammermuir Hills. *British Birds*, Vol. 110, No. 3. March, 2017.

Moorfoots

Only four known sites and surrounding areas were monitored this year. A single bird was seen at one site but no further sightings were made so it seems unlikely to have been a breeding attempt. At another site a pair was clearly breeding and seen to be taking food into an area presumed to have a nest with young. Unfortunately it proved impossible to locate the nest.

Pentlands

This has now become the area best monitored by the group. Considerable effort was made to check a total of 20 known old sites. In this area in contrast to other breeding areas all birds are nesting in trees using old nests or artificial platforms.

One of the better years for known success possibly reflecting more the increasing monitoring effort than an increase in breeding pairs.

Single birds were seen early on at two sites and old signs found at another but these are not thought to have progressed to breeding.

Pairs were noted at 11 sites and of these eggs were confirmed to have been laid at seven. Five nests were confirmed to have four eggs each. One nest was predated at the egg stage probably by crows and the egg shells were found below the nesting tree. One nest failed probably at small young stage from unknown causes.

Five nests reared chicks to at least large young stage. The three successful nests found with eggs, and another found at the young stage, produced two broods of three and two of four. The fifth nest was not found until at least three young had fledged.

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.

One successful site new to the group was in South Lanarkshire but the others were all in Lothian.

South of Tweed

At least eight known sites checked. Seven of these were occupied by pairs and a single bird was seen at the eighth. Not all sites were monitored methodically through the season and consequently four were designated outcome unknown.

Three pairs were confirmed to have laid eggs. One of these was not found but at least three young were seen to have fledged. Two others were found and had clutches of four eggs.

Another pair almost certainly had eggs but failed either at that stage or possibly at small young stage. A Peregrine breeding nearby might have had an influence on the outcome. One nest was predated at the egg stage possibly by a fox. The other is known to have fledged young but how many was uncertain. Adult behaviour indicated that they must have been feeding at least one fledged young.

No records of tree nesting were received again from this area of the Borders.

Langholm Moor (Borders Only)

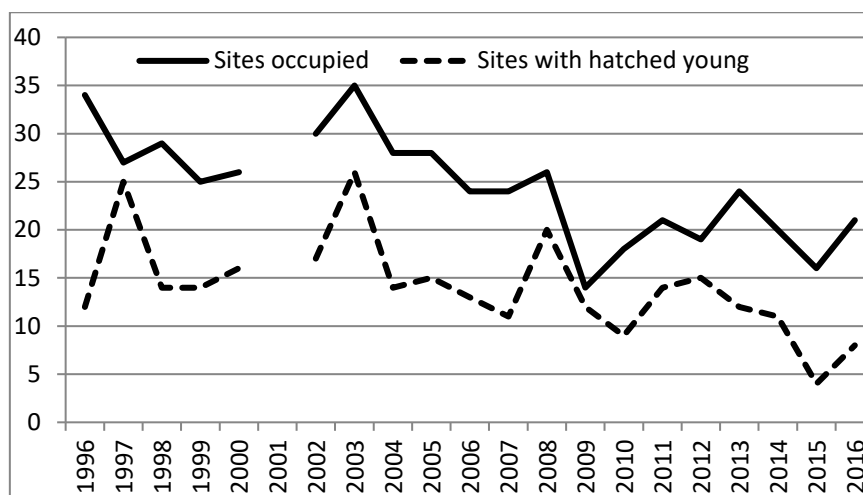
Three occupied sites in the Borders portion of Langholm Moor were reported. One nest was never found and the outcome is unknown. The other two had four and three eggs and these converted to the same number of young in the nest. Sadly these nests were predated probably by a fox. It was reported other pairs on the D&G side were successful.

Again, there is a lot of uncertainty and incomplete information this season. No Lammermuir information and patchy coverage gives an incomplete picture. Numbers below are generally not very meaningful except for Pentlands area.

Areas	Territories checked	Territories occupied	Territories known to have had live young when last visited and/or known to have fledged	Minimum number of young last seen alive in nest and/or seen to have fledged	Number of young per successful territory
Lammermuirs	Not monitored by group				
Moorfoots	4	1	1		
South of Tweed	8	6-7	2	4+	
Pentlands	20	11	5	17	3.4
Langholm (Borders)	?	3	0		
TOTAL	32+	21+	8	21+	

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

The graph below gives some indication of the trends in Merlin breeding success:



Levels of breeding success for Merlin: 1996-2016.

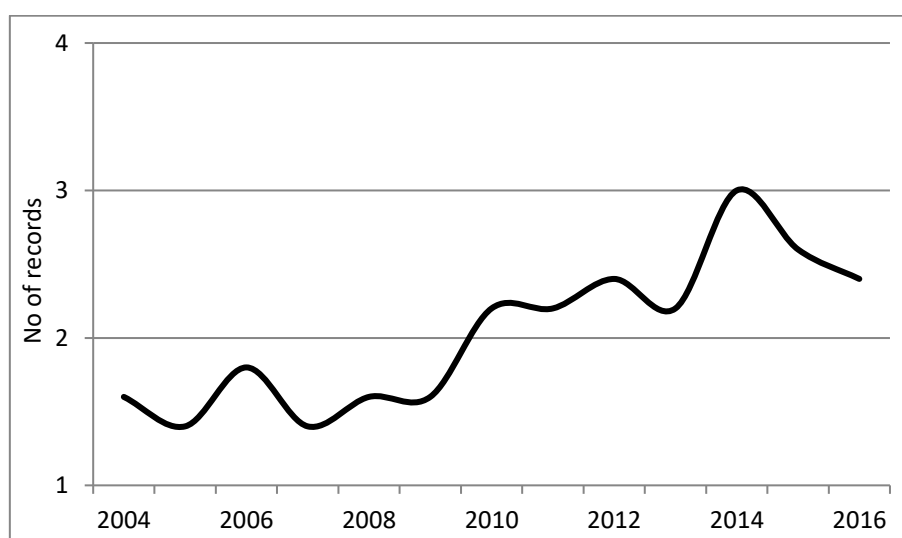
Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

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.

There were two records, each from Newmains (Reston): on 3-Jun and 9-Sep (DK Graham). This species has now been reported for the last seven years:

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
3	1	3	1	0	2	3	1	2	0	5	3	2	1	4	3	2

The 5-year running average shows an encouraging upward trend:



Five-year running average of records for Hobby: 2004-2016.

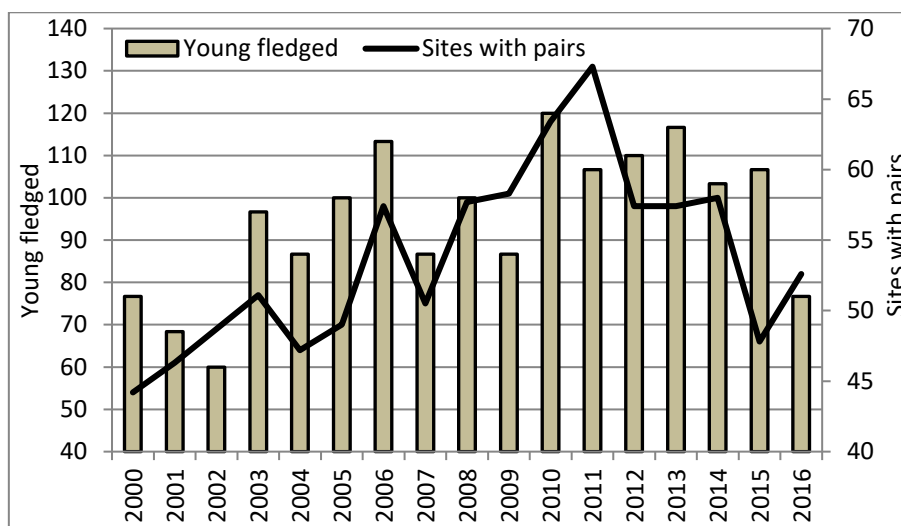
Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

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.

Seventy records from 45 tetrads (2015: 80 records from 60 tetrads). Casual records per month were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
No of records	14	11	6	10	5	4	6	5	5	2	0	3

Raptor Study Group data suggests a possible increase in numbers between 2000 and 2011 but a decline since. However, this may be an artefact related to the SE Scotland Atlas survey:



Breeding trends for Peregrine: 2000-2016 (Note: 2001 data is extrapolated due to limited surveying during the Foot & Mouth outbreak).

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

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with Successful breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
149	51	42	82 +	1.6	2.6

This season was thankfully a little more productive than 2015, which was one of the worst on record for this region since the early 1960's. Unfortunately, we are showing a decrease in sites occupied by pairs in this region, dropping from 60 occupied sites to 51, and only 42 pairs laid eggs, also a drop from 50 in 2015. 5 sites were also occupied by singles.

Eggs hatched and young were fledged at 31 sites, compared with 36 and 33 respectively in 2015. Productivity increased from 1.1 to 1.6 young per territorial pair and increased from 2.0 to 2.6 young per productive pair.

Young produced in this region over the last 3 years has varied considerably:

2014	100+ young reared
2015	66 young reared
2016	82 young reared.

Clutch sizes returned to a more average level this year, and no cracked eggs were found in nests. The PIT (passive integrated transponder) tagging project continues with the assistance of Mike McGrady this year, and Malcolm Henderson providing 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. Very few losses were recorded, although we lost both male and female at the public site at the Falls of Clyde, and no new birds took up the territory. One female from Eastern Borders which was robbed of chicks in 2015, turned up at a site in South West Borders this year, but was robbed of eggs, we will see if she perseveres here next year.

We had one failure of a PIT tag this year, the first since we commenced this project, though we did re-trap this bird and fitted a new PIT tag. The original tag appears to have had the Microchip bitten through.

Persecution was suspected at 5 sites and details have been provided to the relevant Police force and the RSPB

Thanks to all who provided data, it adds up to great coverage of our area, and a special welcome to Sarah Underwood and Mike Thornton for picking up some of the coastal sites

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Very scarce passage migrant. Not annual.

A single record from St Abb's Head of a male on 28-May (W Meikle).

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Very scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Not annual.

A single record from Ross (Lower Burnmouth) on 4-Apr (I Cowe).

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Rare vagrant.

An adult male was well watched between 19-23-Jun in and around Northfield (St Abb's Head SNR). First report from DL Hill with other reports from DK Graham, M Holling, R Neilson, W Richmond, RD Murray, L Hunter and M Moncrieff.

This was the fourth record of this species for the Borders Region. Previous records were: 15-21 May 1988 at Dowlaw Dean (Coldingham); 24-May 1993 at Cairncross (Reston) and on 28-May 1995 at Dowlaw Dean (Coldingham Moor).

Magpie *Pica pica*

Uncommon 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.

One hundred and eighty-two records from 69 (5%) tetrads (2015: 243 records from 101 tetrads).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 41 tetrads. Largest counts came from: Ayton (Eyemouth) - 6; Portmore Loch (Eddleston) - 4; Synton Mossend (Ashkirk) - 4; Black Barony - 4; Edrom Nursery (Coldingham) - 4; Leadburn Community Wood - 4.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 31 tetrads. Largest counts came from: Deepsyke (West Linton) - 10; Black Barony - 6; Leadburn Community Wood - 4; Harwood (Bonchester Bridge) - 4; Cockburnspath - 4.

There was only one record of confirmed breeding: fledged birds at Harwood (Bonchester Bridge) on 2-Jul (M Henderson).

Since 2005 the number of tetrads with Magpies recorded in the breeding season is as follows:

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No of tetrads	48	68	56	89	60	75	97	76	78	52	61	31

Any interpretation of these data is complicated by the greater observer effort during the Atlas survey period (2008-13). Atlas survey period is shown shaded.

Sep-Dec:

Records from 31 tetrads. Largest counts were from Paxton House - 5 and Black Barony - 3.

Erratum: 2015 Report incorrectly stated that Magpies were reported from 135 tetrads; this should have been 101 tetrads.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

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.

One hundred and sixty-five records from 75 tetrads (6%). 170 records from 116 tetrads in 2015.

Jan-Mar:

Records from 46 tetrads. Largest counts were from: Craik - 7; Swinton Hill (Swinton) - 5; Paxton House - 3; Fatlips Castle (Denholm) - 3.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

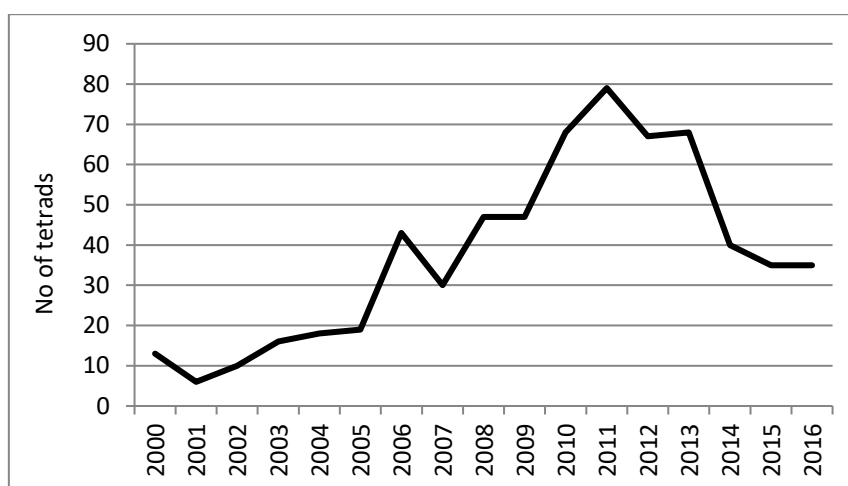
Records from 35 tetrads. Largest counts were from: Tweedhill (Paxton) - 4; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 3; Coalyburn (West Linton) - 3.

There were no records of confirmed breeding.

Sep-Dec:

Records from 42 tetrads. Largest counts came from: Hirsell-4; Broomhouse Mains (Preston)-3.

Although the greater observer effort associated with the Atlas survey distorts the trend in the number of breeding season tetrads, there is still an apparent increase in range for this species since 2000:



No of tetrads with breeding season records: 2000-2016

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.

Five hundred and fourteen records from 114 (9%) tetrads (2015: 563 records from 107 tetrads).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 81 tetrads. Largest counts came from: Caverton Mill (Morebattle) - 250; Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley) - 150; Teviot Haughs E - 120; Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall - 98; Bemersyde Moss - 80; Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge - 76; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie - 66; Etrick Water (Selkirk) - 60; Black Barony - 53; Birgham (Coldstream) - 50.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 80 tetrads. Largest counts came from: Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley) - 90; Stewarton (Eddleston) - 80; Lamberton coast - 50; Tweedbank (Melrose) - 49; Etrick Water (Selkirk) - 47; Bowland (Galashiels) - 43; Yetholm Loch - 40.

There were 11 records of breeding:

17-Mar	The Rink (Selkirk)	B	G Scott	08-Jun	Carlops Lime Kiln	N(8)	RD Murray
24-Apr	Paxton House	P	D Parkinson	18-Jun	Dawyck	NY	M Betts
01-May	Abbotsford	ON	D Parkinson	18-Jun	Black Barony	FL	RD Murray
30-May	Jenny's Brae	FL	RD Murray	22-Jun	Hirsel	FL	D Parkinson
31-May	Harcus (Eddleston)	ON	RD Murray	23-Jun	Lamberton coast	ON	RD Murray
See Introduction for breeding codes				05-Jul	Stewarton (Eddleston)	FL	RD Murray

Sep-Dec:

Records from 62 tetrads. Largest counts came from: Bemersyde-Whitrigbog - 200; Millennium Farm (Leadburn) - 200; Folly Loch - 100; Hollybush (Galashiels) - 60; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 50; Trows (Roxburgh) - 40.

This is an under-recorded species. Readers are asked to submit all records of sightings including approximate numbers and breeding status between Apr-Aug.

Rook. Uppsettlington, Ladykirk. April. Tom Brewis.



Fledgling Blue Tit. Garden at Foulden. May. Tom Brewis.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Abundant resident breeder present in 69% of tetrads but breeding in just 36% of tetrads. Forms large autumn-winter flocks for feeding and roosting. During 2008-13 found in 58% of tetrads in summer and 60% in winter.

Three hundred and ninety-two records from 69 (5%) tetrads. 2015: 89 tetrads.

Jan-Feb:

Records from 56 tetrads. Largest counts came from: Caverton Mill (Morebattle) - 700; Edston (Peebles) - 180; Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley) - 150; Tweed: Sprouston-Whitmuirhaugh - 120; Highridgehall (Kelso) - 100; Eddleston Water: Milkieston- Cringletie - 66; Wester Wooden (Eckford) - 60; Ladyrig (Heiton) - 60.

Mar-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 83 tetrads (2015: 87 tetrads; 2014: 79 tetrads; 2013 86 tetrads; 2012: 209 tetrads). Largest counts came from: Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley) - 430; Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston - 150; Ettrick Water (Selkirk) - 110; Eddleston Water: Milkieston- Cringletie - 73; Peebles - 70; Bean Rig (Selkirk) - 60; Stewarton (Eddleston) - 60.

Breeding evidence came from 28 tetrads which included 30 separate rookeries:

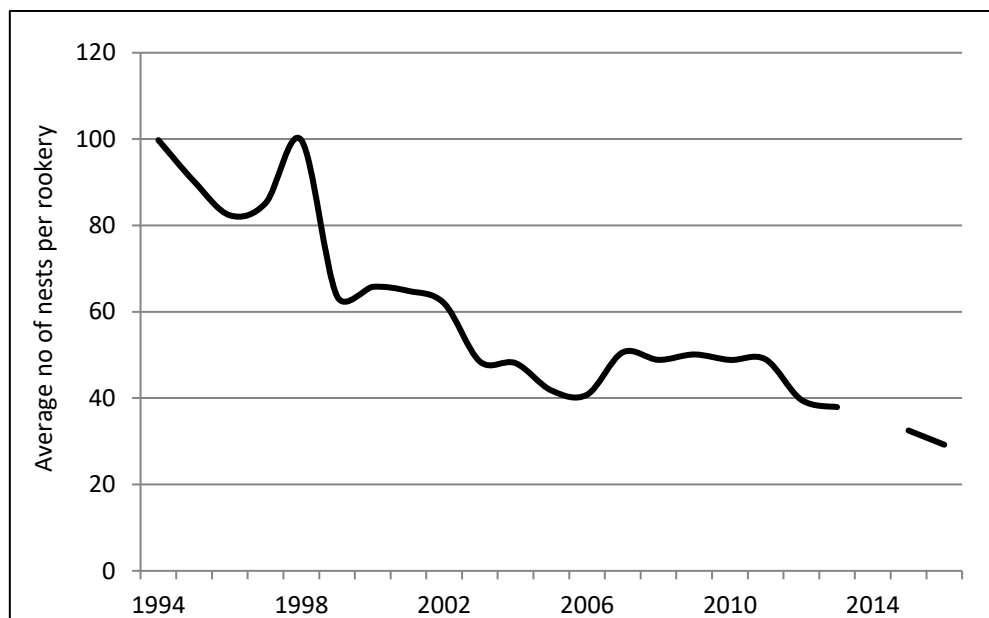
17-Mar	Howford (Innerleithen)	ON(18)	RD Murray
17-Mar	Walkerburn E	ON(27)	RD Murray
20-Mar	Gattonside-Melrose	B	JD Gordon
23-Mar	Wilton Lodge Park (Hawick)	ON(10)	AT Bramhall
25-Mar	Nisbet	ON(56)	RD Murray
25-Mar	Crailing Kirk (Nisbet)	ON(15); FL	RD Murray
29-Mar	Leadburn Community Wood	ON(15)	RD Murray
11-Apr	Kirklands (Innerleithen)	ON(14)	RD Murray
14-Apr	Melrose S	ON(35)	D Parkinson
15-Apr	Lamancha (West Linton)	ON(18)	RD Murray
19-Apr	Tweed Bridge (Innerleithen)	ON(34)	RD Murray
20-Apr	Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall	ON	RD Murray
25-Apr	Rosetta (Peebles)	ON(86)	RD Murray
25-Apr	Mailingsland (Peebles)	ON(49)	RD Murray
27-Apr	Merlindale (Drumelzier)	ON(39)	RD Murray
27-Apr	Meldonfoot (Peebles)	ON(40)	RD Murray
27-Apr	Milne Graden (Coldstream)	N	MS Scott
02-May	Peebles NE	ON(110)	RD Murray
03-May	Glentress (Cardrona)	ON(30)	RD Murray
04-May	Bean Rig (Selkirk)	ON(60)	RD Murray
04-May	St Boswells Green	ON(8)	RD Murray
04-May	Wooden Loch (Eckford)	ON(33)	RD Murray
04-May	Ormiston (Nisbet)	ON(11)	RD Murray
25-May	Black Barony	FL	RD Murray
27-May	Gala Policies	ON(4)	AT Bramhall
27-May	Stobo Burnfoot (Broughton)	ON(46)	RD Murray
28-May	Ashiestiel Woods (Clovenfords)	ON(28)	RD Murray
04-Jun	Yetholm Loch	FF	M Moncrieff

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Sep-Dec:

Records from 70 tetrads. Largest counts came from: Folly Loch-100; West Linton SW-60; Covenanter's Plantation (Selkirk)-40.

Because of varying observer effort in rookery surveys it is not possible to make any comments about trends in numbers of rookeries. However, although annual counts of rookeries since 1990 have varied from five to 93 and the total annual nest counts have varied from 311 to 8,114, we might use these as samples (albeit of varying significance) to gain some idea of the average number of nests per colony. There appears to be a downward trend in the average size of rookeries, a trend which to some extent is supported by reduced counts for BBSs from Scotland generally:



Five-year running averages of average rookery size: 1994-2016.
(2014: no data available but reported as being low)

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.

Eight hundred and twenty-seven records from 238 (19%) tetrads (2015: 179 tetrads).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 102 tetrads. Largest counts came from: Haud Yauds (Coldingham Moor) - 150; Redheugh-Souter (RSC) - 58; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 47; Tweedbank - 42; Pease Bay-Redheugh (RSC) - 40; Redheugh Glen & Cottages (Coldingham Moor) - 40.

The total count for the Rocky Shore Count (RSC) carried out on 17-Jan was 186:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	13	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	23
Pease Bay-Redheugh	40	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	11
Redheugh-Souter	58	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	24
Souter-Pettico Wick	5	Burnmouth-Border	12

RSC totals for 2011 to 2015 have ranged between 100-188 birds.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 141 tetrads. Largest counts came from: Black Barony (Eddleston) - 38; Tweedbank - 24; Peat Hill (Eddleston) - 22; Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley) - 20.

Breeding evidence came from 18 tetrads:

18-Feb	Thornielee Forest	P	N Crowther
18-Feb	Paxton House	T	D Monteith
03-Apr	Ale Moor Reservoir (Buccleuch)	P	G Scott
04-Apr	Ettrick Water (Selkirk)	ON	D Methven
10-Apr	Eildon Mid Hill	P	D Parkinson
14-Apr	Melrose S	P	D Parkinson
15-Apr	Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	P	D Parkinson
23-Apr	Fancove Head (Burnmouth)	P	D Parkinson
23-Apr	Linghope (Manor Valley)	ON	G Pyatt
01-May	Abbotsford	P	D Parkinson
03-May	Staney Hill (Teviothead)	ON	G Scott
05-May	Lower Burnmouth	ON(13)	F Evans
30-May	Jenny's Brae (Peebles)	ON	RD Murray
14-Jun	Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk)	P	D Parkinson
18-Jun	Black Barony (Eddleston)	FL	RD Murray
19-Jun	Leadburn Community Wood	FL	RD Murray
21-Jun	Williestruther Loch (Hawick)	FF	M Moncrieff
27-Jun	Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston	FL	RD Murray

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 69 tetrads. Largest counts came from: Folly Loch - 14; Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge - 11; Lindean Loch (Selkirk) - 10.

Like Jackdaws and Rooks, Carrion Crows tend to be overlooked. All records are welcome.

Erratum: 2015 Report stated records came from 142 tetrads. This should have been 179 tetrads.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Hybrid genes exist in the Crow population, especially in the west. Pure Hooded Crows are exceptional in winter and spring.

A single record of Carrion x Hooded Crow came from Nether Falla (Portmore) on 31-Oct (T Dougall).

Raven *Corvus*

Uncommon 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).

One hundred and fifty-six records from 89 (7%) tetrads. There were records from 76 tetrads in 2015.

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Highest count	11	6	10	7
No. of tetrads with records in 2016	36	24	36	20
No. of tetrads with records in 2015	30	18	28	24
No. of tetrads with breeding records in 2016	4	4	1	0
No. of tetrads with breeding records in 2015	5	6	0	0
Tetrads at coast	7	4	6	1
Tetrads in Lammermuirs	2	2	1	6
Tetrads in Moorfoots	10	5	6	1
Tetrads in Pentlands	2	2	0	1
Tetrads in Tweedsmuir Hills (incl Ettrick Forest)	12	10	16	6

Tetrads in Cheviots	2	0	4	2
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Note that not all reported sites are covered by the defined areas in the above table. Note also that the 2015 Report did not include large tracts of the Ettrick Forest in the Tweedsmuir Hills.

Raven Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2016 (George Smith). Note that following refers to both Borders and Lothian:

The Raven population continues to spread geographically, with 105 known sites now in Lothian and Borders.

There was improved coverage for at least the 4th year in succession: 54 sites checked in 2015, as opposed to 42 the previous year. As ever, more observers would be useful to cover an expanding list of sites.

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with Successful breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
63	48	32	103	2.14	3.21

Pairs occupied 48 sites, plus 3 singles. Eggs were laid at 37 sites, all but one clutch hatching, and 32 broods fledged.

Productivity increased from last year's with 103 young fledged (77 in 2015) from 32 successful sites, giving 2.14 per occupied site (1.79 in 2015), and 3.21 per successful pair against 2.75 in 2015.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Home ranges checked	48	38	55	61	43	32	37	42	54	63
Occupied home ranges	52	38	43	56	35	27	27	31	33	48
Sites with proven breeding	-	-	-	-	28	27	24	27	32	32
Young fledged	65	67+	105	61	90	86	67	86	77	103
Mean successful broods	-	2.6	2.8	2.54	2.57	3.18	3.19	2.77	2.77	2.14
Mean success/occupied sites	-	-	-	1.08	3.33	3.44	2.79	3.19	3.18	3.21

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.

Two hundred and forty-three records from 101 sites. In 2015 there were records from 74 sites.

Jan-Mar: * see comment at end of Goldcrest account.

Records came from 32 sites (33 sites in 2015; 36 in 2014). The largest counts came from: Black Barony - 9; Harcus (Eddleston) - 7 and Burnmouth-Partanhall - 3.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records came from 48 sites (70 tetrads in 2015; 65 tetrads in 2014). The largest counts came from Peat Hill (Eddleston) - 19; Black Barony - 12; Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords) - 8; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 6; Jenny's Brae (Peebles) - 6; Harcus - 5; Leadburn Community Wood - 5.

Breeding evidence came from only seven sites (eight in 2015);

Tweedbank	16-Mar	AT Bramhall	D
Calaburn (Hawick)	02-Apr	G Scott	D
Allanton	03-May	T Brewis	S
Dawyck	07-May	M Betts	S
Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	10-Jun	RD Murray	FF
Dawyck	04-Jul	M Betts	FL
Gattonside-Melrose	16-Aug	JD Gordon	FL

See Introduction for explanation of breeding codes.

Since many Goldcrests are detected by either their high-pitched calls or their equally high-pitched rhythmic song, observers might want to consider reporting *territory* or *singing male* as breeding evidence.

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 33 tetrads (41 tetrads in 2015; 30 tetrads in 2014). The largest counts came from: Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 120; Black Barony - 4; Teviot (Kelso-Roxburgh) - 4. The exceptional count at Mire Loch (F Evans) was on 14-Oct and was part of an influx of birds on passage from Scandinavia.

** Readers please be aware that since the breakdown of the year for Goldcrest has here been changed from that used in years before 2015 tetrad numbers for 2014 are approximate only.*

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

Rare spring and autumn passage migrant.

A single bird at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) on 20-Apr (F Evans).

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

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

Six hundred and sixty-one records from 145 (12%) sites. In 2015 records came from 115 sites.

Jan-Mar:

Records came from 85 sites (55 tetrads in 2015; 69 sites in 2014; 108 in 2013; 105 in 2012). Largest counts came from: Black Barony - 45; Peebles - 40; Harcus (Eddleston) - 18; Bemersyde-Whitrigbog - 15; Tweed (Galafoot-Lowood Bridge) - 13; Hirsell - 13; Dawyck - 12; Newmains (Reston) - 11; Heiton (Kelso) - 11; Tweed: Sprouston-Whitmuirhaugh -11; Tweed: Dryburgh - 11; Abbey St Bathans -11; Ettrick Water (Selkirk) - 10; Whitrigbog-Westfield - 10.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records came from 90 sites (96 in 2015; 91 sites in 2014). The largest counts came from: Black Barony - 21; Harcus (Eddleston) - 18; Barnhills Moor (Ancrum) - 15; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 15; Tweedbank - 12.

Breeding evidence came from 17 sites (19 sites in 2015):

Paxton House	17-Feb	T	Jenny's Brae (Peebles)	30-May	FF
Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose	18-Mar	S	Foulden	30-May	FL
Yair Bridge (Galashiels)	05-Apr	S	Hawick Moss	09-Jun	FF
Birgham (Coldstream)	14-Apr	FL	Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	10-Jun	FF
Penmanshall Burn (Hawick)	21-Apr	P	Dawyck	18-Jun	ON
Abbotsford	01-May	P	Black Barony (Eddleston)	18-Jun	FL
Young Plantation (Selkirk)	09-May	P	Hirsel	22-Jun	S
Bemersyde-Whitrig Bog	17-May	P	Nunlands Pond (Foulden)	23-Jun	FL
See Introduction for breeding codes.			Huntford (Carter Bar)	02-Jul	FL

The first record of fledged birds was on 14-Apr at Birgham (Coldstream) (B Meikle).

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 46 sites (54 sites in 2015). Largest counts came from: Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk) - 12; Bemersyde-Whitrigbog - 11; Yetholm Loch - 11; Tweedbank - 9; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 9.

A very high proportion of records for this species did not have a count and were simply recorded as present. Contributors are encouraged to provide as full records as possible.

Great Tit *Parus major*

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

Five hundred and sixty records from 135 (11%) sites. In 2015 records came from 125 tetrads.

Jan-Mar:

Records came from 75 sites (80 sites in 2015; 64 in 2014). Largest counts came from: Peebles - 25; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 21; Tweed: Galafoot -Lowood Bridge - 13; Bemersyde-Whitrig Bog - 12; Dawyck (Broughton) - 12; Tweedbank - 11; Harcus (Eddleston) - 11.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records came from 86 sites (88 in 2015; 93 in 2016). Largest counts came from: Black Barony - 20; Tweedbank - 9; Harcus - 9; Tweed: Eshiels-Cardrona - 8; Dawyck - 8.

Breeding records came from 19 sites (26 tetrads in 2015):

Paxton House	17-Feb	T	Hirsel	28-Apr	B
East Cairn Hill (N Esk Res)	05-Mar	S	Harwood Rig (Teviothead)	03-May	ON
Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose	18-Mar	S	Leadburn Community Wood	24-May	FF
West Linton NW	26-Mar	S	Wilton Dean (Hawick)	24-May	FF
West Linton SW	28-Mar	S	Black Barony	25-May	FF
Deepsyke Forest (Carlops)	29-Mar	P	Megget Reservoir	27-May	FF
Traquair	31-Mar	S	Stirches Mains (Hawick)	12-Jun	FL
Ettrick Water (Selkirk)	16-Apr	S	Dawyck	18-Jun	P
Tilmouth (Coldstream)	27-Apr	P	Lamberton coast	23-Jun	FL
See Introduction for breeding codes			Huntford (Carter Bar)	02-Jul	FL

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 43 sites (43 tetrads in 2015). The largest counts came from: Abbotsford - 9; Tweedbank -6; Black Barony - 6.

As with Blue Tits a high proportion of records for this species did not have a count and were simply recorded as present. This allied to a general absence of information on breeding status provides limited information. Contributors are encouraged to provide as full records as possible.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

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

Three hundred and thirty-five records from 111 (9%) sites (120 sites in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records came from 60 sites (61 sites in 2015; 67 sites in 2014). The largest counts came from: Black Barony - 15; Deepsyke Forest (Carlops) - 10; Peebles - 10; Abbey St Bathans - 7; Thornielee Forest - 6.

Apr-Aug (breeding season);

Records came from 66 sites (67 in 2015; 67 in 2014). The largest counts came from Black Barony - 13; Peat Hill (Eddleston) - 9; White Law (Eddleston) - 9; Dawyck (Broughton) - 7; Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords) - 7; Williestruther Loch (Hawick) - 7.

Breeding evidence came from 10 tetrads:

Deepsyke Forest (Carlops)	29-Mar	T	Goat Hill (Teviothead)	03-May	B
Traquair	31-Mar	S	Megget Reservoir	27-May	FF
Huntford	05-Apr	S	Hilton (Whitsome)	11-Jun	P
Dawyck	30-Apr	S	Black Barony	18-Jun	FL
Abbotsford	01-May	S	Mainshiel Head (Hawick)	19-Jun	FL

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 42 sites (28 tetrads in 2015). The largest counts were from: Dawyck (Broughton) - 7 and Black Barony (Eddleston) - 5.

As with Blue Tits and Great Tits a high proportion of records for this species did not have a count and were simply recorded as present. This allied to a general absence of information on breeding status provides limited information. Contributors are encouraged to provide as full records as possible.

Marsh Tit *Pocile palustris*

Now a very 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.

Four records came from two sites: Selkirk on 20-Jan, 17-Mar and 3-Apr (D Methven) and Tweedbank on 22-Sep (M Johnson). A mere 50 m across the border at New Mills Wood, near Paxton, regular sightings of up to three birds took place.

The forthcoming *SE Scotland Atlas* suggests that the population of the region is probably no more than 10 pairs.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Abundant breeder . Mostly absent during winter months except in coastal areas. Return from late January-February with departure and passage September-October. During 2008-13 found in 76% of tetrads in summer and 28% in winter.

Two hundred and thirty-four records from 107 (8%) tetrads (110 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Feb:

Records came from 10 tetrads (14 tetrads in 2015). The largest counts were: Newmains (Reston) - 123 (on passage); Eyemouth-Burnmouth – 18; Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth - 13.

Mar-Aug (breeding season):

Records came from 112 tetrads (2015: 96 tetrads; 2014: 96 tetrads). The largest counts came from: Black Barony - 22; East Newton Farm (Whitsome) - 11; Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords) - 11; Peat Hill (Eddleston) - 11; Hoselaw Mains (Kelso) - 10; Bemersyde Farm - 10; Eyemouth North Bay - 10.

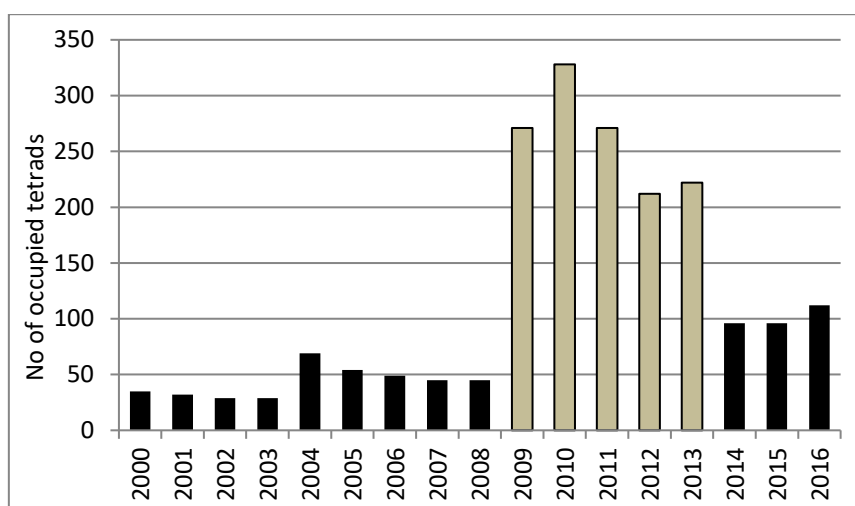
Breeding evidence came from 29 tetrads:

Jardinefield (Whitsome)	21-Feb	S	Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	15-Apr	T
Lamberton	22-Feb	S	Longformacus	19-Apr	S
Three Brethren (Selkirk)	02-Mar	S	Heiton (Kelso)	23-Apr	P
Rink Hill (Selkirk)	17-Mar	S	Fancove Head (Burnmouth)	23-Apr	T
Bow Bridge (Uppsettlington)	20-Mar	S	Old Stobswood (Duns)	23-Apr	S
Deepsyke Forest (Carlops)	29-Mar	S	Hardens Hill (Duns)	23-Apr	S
Penmanshall Burn (Hawick)	02-Apr	S	Hart Fell (Fruid Res)	23-May	S
Wiltonburn Hill (Hawick)	02-Apr	S	Lindean Loch (Selkirk)	23-May	S
Calaburn (Hawick)	02-Apr	S	West Linton	31-May	S
Ale Moor Reservoir (Hawick)	03-Apr	S	Bemersyde Moss	03-Jun	T
Wollrig (Ettrick Forest)	07-Apr	S	Whitehall (Chirnside)	06-Jun	S
The Floss (Ashkirk)	07-Apr	S	Wilton Dean (Hawick)	12-Jun	S
Headshaw Loch E (Ashkirk)	07-Apr	S	Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)	14-Jun	T
NT1956 Auchencorth Moss	08-Apr	S	Winfield Airfield (Horndean)	16-Jun	FF
See Introduction for breeding codes			Folly Loch	10-Jul	S

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 11 tetrads (16 in 2015). Largest counts came from: Folly Loch - 28; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 12; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 6.

The graph below illustrates well how Bird Report records are only a small fraction of potential records during the breeding season: the greater effort of the SE Scotland Atlas survey period (2008-2013) stands out above records collected before and since. More importantly however, there does appear to be a trend which suggests that the Skylark population of Borders is at least stable, if not expanding slightly, something which is counter to the apparent trend for Scotland as a whole and much of NE England (23% and 28% decrease in BBS abundance, 1995-2015, respectively). However, the trend shown below is based on a limited sample and should therefore be regarded with caution.



No of tetrads occupied by Skylarks during breeding season: 2000-2016.
(2009-13 = survey period of SE Scotland Atlas)

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.

Two hundred and fifty-five records from 91 (7%) tetrads (67 tetrads in 2015).

March:

There were nine records from nine tetrads. The earliest record was of two birds from Innerleithen on 25th (R Bramhall). Other records in chronological order were: three at Dryburgh on 26th; one at Cockburnspath on 26th; one at Denholm Mill on 28th; three at St Boswells on 28th; three at Yetholm Loch on 28th; three at Birgham (Coldstream) on 29th; six at Heiton (Kelso) on 30th and three at Tweedbank on 31st.

Apr-Jul (breeding season):

Records from 81 tetrads (145 tetrads in 2015). The largest counts were from: Paxton House - 600 (J Lough); Folly Loch - 450; Tweed: Clinthill - 400; Birgham Haugh (Coldstream) - 297; Tweed: Sprouston-Banff Mill - 244; Yetholm Loch - 235; Kelso - 200; Tweed: Sprouston-Redden - 150; Nisbet - 80; Tweed: Mertoun-Berrig Dean - 80; Cardrona Sewage Reedbed - 70; Pease Bay - 70; Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston - 60; Altarstones Ponds (Stobo) - 60; Redheugh Scar (Ancrum) - 60; Priorford Bridge (Peebles) - 50.

Counts of active burrows came from 15 sites:

Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	40	Birgham Haugh (Coldstream)	297
Teviot: Broom	30	West Water Reservoir	3
Redheugh Scar (Ancrum)	120	Carlops	1+
Peebles	23	Darnick (Melrose)	32
Eddleston Water: Darnhall-Eddleston	38	Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall	1+
Tweed: Sprouston-Banff Mill	244	Traquair (Innerleithen)	1+
Lochton (Kelso)	130	Watch Water (Longformacus)	22
		St Thomas's Island (Norham)	1+

A minimum of 983 burrows were recorded with about 70% of these found along the Tweed between Sprouston and Birgham Haugh. There were records of 791 burrows in 2015, 384 burrows in 2014,

645 in 2013 and 723 in 2012, suggesting that this may have been a relatively good breeding year for Sand Martins.

August and later:

Records came from 19 tetrads with the largest counts from: Paxton House - 1,050 (J Lough); Folly Loch - 110; Bemersyde - 42; Gattonside-Melrose - 40; Newstead-Drygrange - 30. The final record for the year was of the 1,050 birds on passage at Paxton House on 11-Sep.

Ray Murray was responsible for virtually all records involving counts of burrows. Sadly, now that we will not receive his records, contributors are asked to ensure that, where possible, records submitted include counts of active burrows.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common and 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.

Five hundred and five records from 163 tetrads (120 tetrads in 2015).

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 190 tetrads (188 tetrads in 2015, 174 tetrads in 2014). Largest counts were from: Yetholm Loch - 640; Jardinefield (Whitsome) - 500; Hule Moss - 288; Birgham Haugh (Coldstream) - 120; Bemersyde Moss - 106. The first record was on 4-Apr at Tweedbank (AT Bramhall).

Records with occupied nests came from seven tetrads (five in 2015): Black Rig Wood (Manor Valley); Bowhill (Selkirk); Chesterknowes (Lilliesleaf); Harewood Glen (Selkirk); Hirsell; Howden (Selkirk); Kirkhope (Manor Valley).

Bird Report records for Swallows over the past few years is such that achieving some idea of population trends is not possible. However, Breeding Bird Survey data based on all of Lothian and Borders and extending up to 30 km beyond the borders of these regions suggest a degree of stability in numbers since the late 1990s. This is supported by *Bird Atlas 2007-11* for the period between 1981-84 and 2007-11.

September and later:

Records came from 45 tetrads. The largest counts were from: Bemersyde - 730 (J Lough); Yetholm Loch - 166; Paxton House - 139; Traquair (Innerleithen) - 100; St Abb's Head - 100; Nisbet (Jedburgh) - 80; Lempitlaw (Kelso) - 60. These counts were made between 1- and 19-Sep and represent birds on passage. The last record was of a single bird on 30-Oct at Craik (A Butlin).

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

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

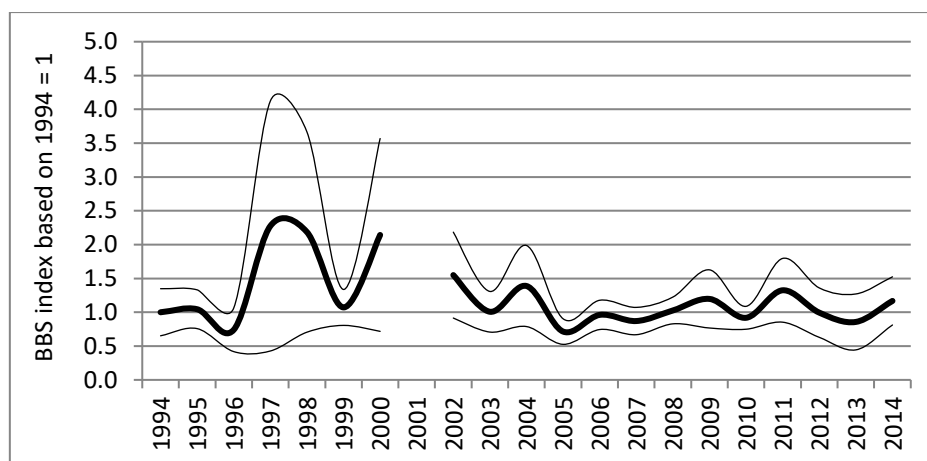
Two hundred and seventy records from 113 (9%) tetrads (102 tetrads in 2015).

Mar-Aug (breeding season):

Records came from 113 tetrads (101 tetrads in 2015; 83 tetrads in 2014). The first record was of 17 birds on 6-Apr at Kailzie (Cardrona) (RS Craig). The largest counts were: Paxton House - 370; Yetholm Loch - 223; Lambertton coast - 140; Birgham Haugh (Coldstream) - 70; Gala Sewage Works Pond - 40 and Gattonside-Melrose - 40.

Records with evidence of nesting birds came from 17 tetrads:

Heiton (Kelso)	ND Stratton	Burnmouth- Partanhall	RD Murray
Huntford (Carter Bar)	C Watson	Lamberton coast	RD Murray
West Linton	G Checkley	Eddleston Water: Shiphorns-Darnhall	RD Murray
Pease Bay	RD Murray	Kirkhope(Manor Valley)	G Pyatt
Black Rock (Siccar Point)	RD Murray	Langhaugh (Manor Valley)	G Pyatt
Fast Castle coast	RD Murray	Philiphaugh (Selkirk)	G Scott
Sunlaws (Roxburgh)	M Holling	Earlston	J Towill
Kalemouth (Eckford)	M Holling	Soutra (Oxton)	N Crowther
		Damhead Shiel (Traquair)	JD Gordon



House Martin Breeding Bird Survey trend for areas of Borders, Lothian and an area of 30 km beyond (2001: no surveys due to Foot and Mouth outbreak)

As the above graph suggests, the breeding population of SE Scotland has shown a stability over the past 10 years or so, after an increase in the latter part of last century, followed by a decrease earlier in the millennium. Unfortunately BBS data for the same area is not available for 2015 and 2016. Just how much this trend reflects the Borders Region itself is difficult to gauge. Perhaps future analysis of data from the ongoing BTO survey of House Martins may give some ideas.

September onwards:

Records came from 21 tetrads (20 tetrads in 2015). The largest counts came from: Traquair (Innerleithen) - 80; St Abb's Head - 80; Paxton House - 63; Yetholm Loch - 50; Lower Burnmouth - 30; Tweedbank -29. The last record was on 6-Sep at Cardrona (R Watt).

Erratum: the 2015 Report stated that records for the whole year came from 73 tetrads; this should have been 102 tetrads.

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.

One hundred and forty-four records from 69 tetrads (from 54 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Feb:

Records from 28 sites (30 tetrads in 2015, 23 in 2014). Largest counts came from: Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank) - 12; Melrose; Hen Poo (Duns) - 12; Paxton House - 10; Sprouston (Kelso) - 9; Melrose - 8; Peebles - 8 and Hattonknowe (Eddleston) - 8.

Mar-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 36 sites (32 tetrads in 2015, 41 in 2014, 42 in 2013). Largest counts came from: Black Barony (Eddlestone) - 8; Kirklands (Ancrum) - 6; Roman Camp Wood (Cardrona Forest) - 5; Hattonknowe (Eddlestone) - 5 and Tweedbank - 5.

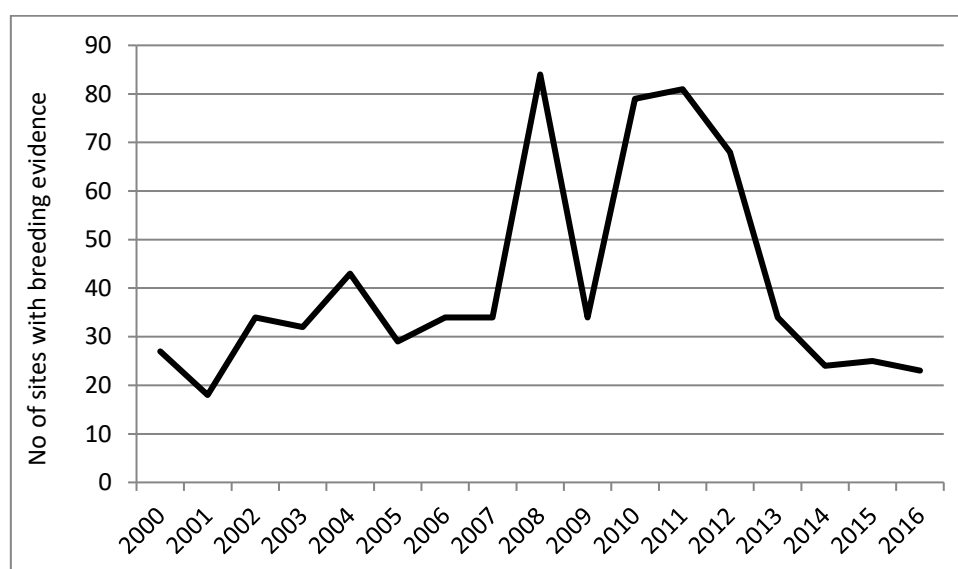
Pairs were recorded in 23 sites (25 in 2015, 24 in 2014):

Bemersyde-Whitrigbog	Kirklands (Ancrum)
Birgham (Coldstream)	Mellerstain (Gordon)
Black Barony (Eddlestone)	Melrose
Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	German Hill Wood (Dawyck)
Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)	Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)
Covehouse (Earlston)	Roman Camp Wood (Cardrona Forest)
Dawyck (Broughton)	Sprouston-Redden (Kelso)
Gavinton (Duns)	Thornielee (Walkerburn)
Harcus (Eddlestone)	Tweedbank
Hattonknowe (Eddlestone)	Wormiston (Eddlestone)
Heiton (Kelso)	Yetholm Loch
Howden (Selkirk)	

Sep-Dec:

Records from 24 sites (30 in 2015). Largest counts came from: Abbotsford - 20; Pease Dean - 15; Muckle Crib (Selkirk) - 12; Peebles - 10; Kelso - 9; Falside (Bonchester Bridge) - 9; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 8; Bowhill (Selkirk) - 8; Peebles - 8; Abbotsmoss (Tweedbank) - 8.

The graph below suggests that the number of recorded breeding sites has not changed appreciably since 2000 and that the population of Long-tailed Tits is fairly stable. This is supported by BBS data from SE Scotland over the same period. Note that the peaks between 2008 and 2013 are the result of greater recording effort associated with the SE Scotland Atlas survey period, while the dip in 2009 was the result of the harsh winter of 2008/9.



No. of sites with breeding evidence for Long-tailed Tit: 2000-2016.

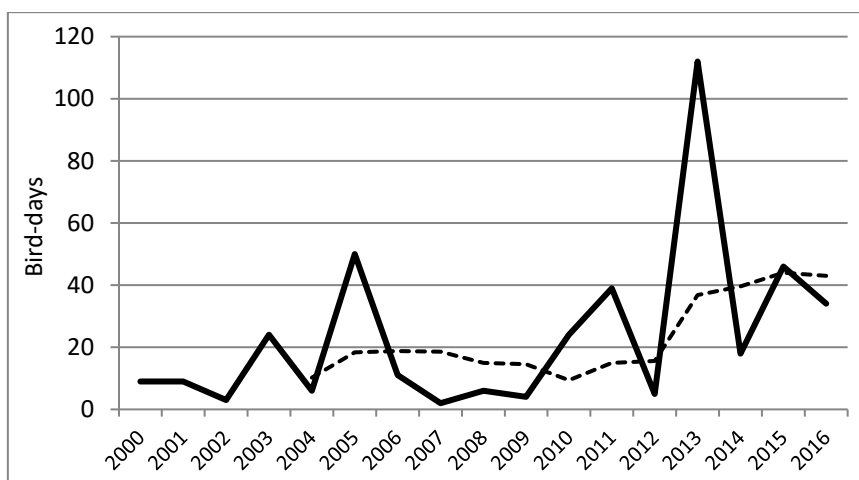
Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Scarce, but annual, Siberian passage migrant.

It is difficult to determine how many of the birds recorded were individual birds and not double counts. Birds often arrived on passage and remained at sites for a day or so, during which time they were joined by others. It is therefore difficult to know whether observers were seeing and hearing the same or different birds. As usual the "hot spot" was Mire Loch (St Abb's Head). By arbitrarily separating likely "double counts" (on the basis of the same dates and locations), the record of bird-days appears to be as follows:

Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	02-Oct	F Evans	2
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	03-Oct	F Evans	1
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	06-Oct	F Evans	3
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	07-Oct	F Evans	2
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	08-Oct	DK Graham	9
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	09-Oct	F Evans	5
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	10-Oct	Birdguides,	2
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	14-Oct	F Evans	2
Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)	14-Oct	R Watterson	3
Burnmouth	14-Oct	DK Graham	2
St Abbs Head	16-Oct	DK Graham	3

The estimated total bird-days (no. of birds multiplied by the no. of days recorded) was 34; this compares with 46 for 2015. The graph below shows bird-days since 2000:



No. of bird-days (actual and 5-yr running average) for Yellow-browed Warbler: 2000-2016.

The nine birds recorded on 8-Oct was the highest count since the 13 on 26-Sep 2013 (DK Graham).

Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus*

Rare autumn vagrant.

A single bird seen at St Abb's Head on 16-Oct (DK Graham) was only the fourth record for Borders. Previous records were in 1976, 1982 and 2005. See report on sighting on p 194.

Dusky Warbler. Mire Loch, St Abb's Head. October. Dave Graham.



Paddyfield Warbler. Mire Loch, St Abb's Head. June. Dave Graham.



Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Now a scarce 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.

As with the previous year, there were only two records: a singleton on 30-Apr at Peat Hill (Eddleston) and on 29-Jun two birds at Dowlaw Road end (Coldingham Moor). Both records came from Breeding Bird Surveys.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Abundant summer visitor formerly found breeding in 21% of tetrads. Uncommon passage migrant in spring, more common in autumn. A few sometimes remain in winter. During 2008-13 found in 55% of tetrads in summer and 12 tetrads in winter.

Four hundred and twenty-six records from 105 sites (136 sites in 2015).

Jan-Feb:

Two records: three at The Hirsell on 26-Jan and a single at Yetholm Loch on 28-Jan (both T Reed).

Mar-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 114 sites (130 tetrads in 2015, 143 in 2014). The largest counts came from: Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) – 24 (presumably on passage); Sprouston-Redden (Kelso) - 15; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 12; Burnmouth - 10; Howden (Selkirk) - 8; Newmains (Reston) - 7; Dunglass (Cockburnspath) - 7; Tweedbank - 7; Folly Loch - 6; Allanton (Chirnside) - 6; Jenny's Brae (Peebles) - 6; Barnhills Moor (Ancrum) - 6; Abbotsmoss (Tweedbank) - 6. The first record (excluding the January records) was of a single on 13-Mar at Hule Moss (J Lough).

Of the 114 sites from which records were received during the breeding season records from only 53 sites had evidence of breeding, virtually all of which were in the form of singing. Since it is likely that most records will involve observers being alerted to the presence of birds by song then arguably it is more practical to assess the number of breeding sites by simply using the number of sites reported with the species present.

Data collected during the SE Scotland Atlas survey (2008-13) shows a three-fold increase in the number of tetrads with breeding evidence since 1988-94.

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 28 sites (25 in 2015). The largest counts were: Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 50; Portmore Loch - 8; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 6. All other records were of three or less. Single birds were still being recorded in late December.

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.

Three hundred and seventy records from 175 sites (133 sites in 2015).

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

The first record was on 8-Apr when a single bird was seen at Gordon Community Woodland (F Evans). Records came from 137 sites (124 tetrads in 2015, 161 in 2014). The largest counts came from: Lower Burnmouth - 30; Black Barony - 20; St Abb's Head - 17; Leadburn Community Wood - 17; Howden (Selkirk) - 12; Drumelzier Glen (Broughton) - 12; East Newton Farm (Whitsome) - 12; Cloich (Eddleston) - 11; New Belses(Ancrum) - 11; Dowlaw Road-end (Coldingham Moor) - 11; Culter

Water Glen (Tweedsmuir) - 10; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk) - 10; Rankle Burn (Buccleuch) - 10; Whitmuirhill Loch (Selkirk) - 10.

Of the 137 sites from which records were received during the breeding season records from only 30 sites had evidence of breeding, virtually all of which were in the form of singing. Since it is likely that most records will involve observers being alerted to the presence of birds by song then arguably it is more practical to assess the number of breeding sites by simply using the number of sites reported with the species present.

The data from the forthcoming SE Scotland Atlas suggest that the range of Willow Warblers in the Borders has remained fairly stable since 1988-94.

September onwards (sites without counts refer to singles):

Records from 10 sites (10 in 2015): Black Barony (Eddleston) - 7; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk) - 4; Folly Loch - 2; Gattonside-Melrose - 2; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 2; Tweedbank; Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet); Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank); Sprouston-Redden (Kelso); Hare Moss (Selkirk). The last record of the year was of a very late bird on 13-Oct at Sprouston-Redden (Kelso) (T Reed).

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.

Two hundred and fourteen records from 104 sites (88 sites in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Three records of singletons came from Kaimridge (Kelso) on 9-Jan (K Howell), Coldstream on 7-Feb (A Spybey) and from Kelso on 12-Mar (K Robeson).

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

The first non-overwintering record was on 7-Apr at Melrose (D Parkinson). Records came from 103 sites (78 in 2015 and 91 in 2014). The largest counts came from: Tweedbank - 8; Burnmouth-Partanhall - 8; Allanton (Chirnside) - 7; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 7; Hoselaw Mains (Kelso) - 5; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 5; Elibank Craig Woods (Walkerburn) - 5; Bemersyde-Whitrig Bog - 5.

Of the 103 sites from which records were received during the breeding season records from only 28 sites had evidence of breeding, virtually all of which were in the form of singing. Since it is likely that most records will involve observers being alerted to the presence of birds by song then arguably it is more practical to assess the number of breeding sites by simply using the number of sites reported with the species present.

Data from the forthcoming SE Scotland Atlas suggest that the breeding range has increased significantly since 1988-94.

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 13 sites: Burnmouth; *Coldstream*; Dawyck; *Eyemouth*; Fountainhall (Stow); Gala Sewage Works Pond; Melrose; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 5; Paxton House; *Peebles*; St Abb's Head; Tweedbank; *Wooplaw* (Stow). Sites show in italics had records in December.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Uncommon summer visitor. Rather scarce on passage in spring during May and June. Occasionally more common in the autumn, August-October. During 2008-13 found in 24% of tetrads in summer.

Forty-one records came from 19 sites (29 sites in 2015 and 16 in 2014).

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

The first record of the year was on 2-May at Roxburgh Castle (P Higginson). Records came from 19 sites: Allanton (Chirnside); Black Barony (Eddleston); Cardrona Sewage Reedbed; Eddleston Water; Eddleston-Milkieston; Edston (Peebles); Elibank (Walkerburn); Gala Law (Hawick); Gordon Community Woodland; Hirsell; Howden (Selkirk); Huntford (Carter Bar); Jenny's Brae (Peebles); New Belses (Ancrum); Newcastleton; Philiphaugh (Selkirk); Thornielee (Walkerburn); Tweedbank; Victoria Jubilee Br (Ayton); Yetholm Loch. All records were of one or two birds.

Data collected during the SE Scotland Atlas survey during 2008-13 indicates a fairly stable population in the Borders since the last Atlas (1988-94) with possibly extensions of range in higher ground to the west balanced by loss of some range in lower ground, further east. There is no evidence to suggest that this situation has altered since 2013.

September onward:

One single record on 4-Sep at Black Barony (Eddleston) (R Murray).

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

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.

Thirteen records from four sites (four sites in 2015 and four in 2014): Allanton (Chirnside); Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); Newmains (Reston) and St Abb's Head. No evidence of breeding was reported. The only record involving breeding evidence (singing) was of the bird at Allanton (T Brewis).

The first record was on 21-April from Newmains (DK Graham) and the last record was on 20-Oct at Burnmouth (J Inglis). All records were of one or two birds.

Evidence from the forthcoming SE Scotland Atlas indicates a species which has declined in numbers between 1988-94 and 2008-13 with the number of recorded sites remaining the same since then.

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.

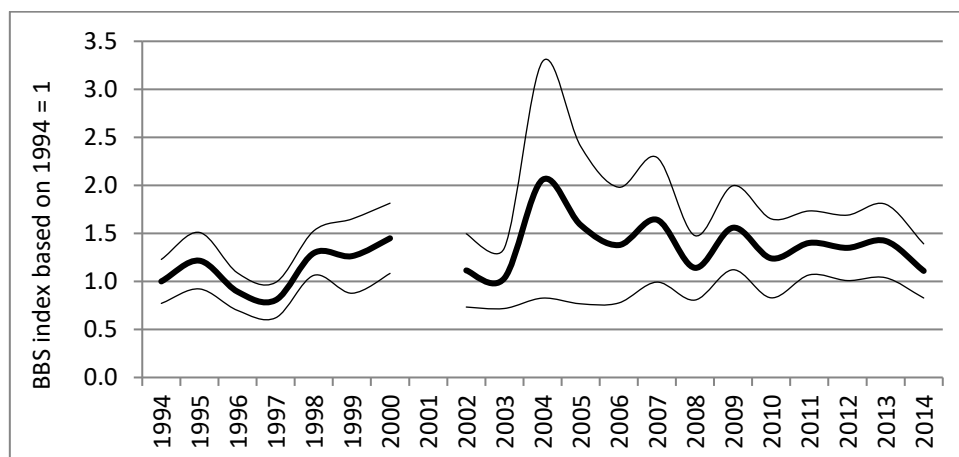
Seventy-nine records from 50 sites (70 sites in 2015).

April-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 50 sites (68 sites in 2015 and 65 in 2014). The first record was on 2-May at Roxburgh Castle (P Higginson). The largest counts were from: Allanton (Chirnside) - 21; St Abb's Head - 14; Burnmouth - 9; Hoselaw Mains (Kelso) - 5; New Belses (Ancrum) - 5; Lamberton - 4; Howden (Selkirk) - 4; Bemersyde-Whitrigbog - 4.

Breeding evidence was from only 15 sites and, as with Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Blackcap, range of breeding might be better indicated by simply the presence of birds at sites.

BBS data for an extended area of SE Scotland (including a zone 30 km beyond the Borders and Lothian boundaries) indicates a steady growth in population in recent years:



Whitethroat Breeding Bird Survey trend for SE Scotland and an area of 30 km beyond (2001: no surveys due to Foot and Mouth outbreak)

September onward:

Four records form two sites: St Abb's Head and Mire Loch (St Abb's Head). These records were of one or two birds. The last record was on 18-Oct at St Abb's Head (DK Graham).

Erratum: the 2015 Report stated that the year as a whole had records from 36 tetrads; this should have read 70 sites.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

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

Fourteen records from 12 sites (six sites in 2015 and 14 sites in 2014). The earliest record was on 30-Apr at Jardinefield (Whitsome) (J Towill).

May-August (breeding season):

Records came from 12 sites (six in 2015 and 10 in 2014). With the exception of the two birds at Lennel (Coldstream), all records were of single birds. Records with singing birds are shown in italics: Bellendean Shank (Bucleuch); *Bemersyde Moss*; *Bowden*; Dam Head Rig (Traquair); *Jardinefield (Whitsome)*; *Knowleybog Burn (Whitsome)*; Ladyrig Pond (Heiton); Lennel (Coldstream); *Lindean Res (Selkirk)*; Newmains (Reston); Preston; Roxburgh Castle.

The last record was 28-Aug at Newmains (Reston) (DK Graham).

With such a low population (thought to be less than 250 according to the forthcoming SE Scotland Atlas, 2008-13) it is difficult to make any confident statements about local trends for the Grasshopper Warbler.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

One hundred and nine records from 46 sites (43 in 2015 and 78 in 2014). The high number of sites in 2014 probably reflects the greater recording effort associated with the Waterbodies Survey.

April:

One record of a single at The Hirsell on 28-Apr (MS Scott).

May-August (breeding season):

Records came from 46 sites (43 in 2015 and 78 in 2014). Largest counts were: Allanton (Chirnside) - 26; Bemersyde Moss - 12; Coldingham Loch - 11; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 9; Bemersyde Moss - 9; St Abbs Head - 8; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie - 8.

Breeding evidence was reported from 18 sites.

BBs data for an extended area of SE Scotland suggest little change in population in recent years.

The last record was on 28-Aug from Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) (R Murray).

Paddyfield Warbler

Rare vagrant.

A single bird was ringed at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) by A Kerr and T Chamberlain on 5-Jun. As far as can be ascertained, this is the first record for Borders.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Very scarce spring & autumn passage migrant, and rare breeder. Last proved breeding 2005.

There were four records from two sites: Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) and Yetholm Loch. The sightings at Mire Loch were between 16- and 20-Aug and involved single bird(s), on one occasion carrying food for young (F Evans). This was the first record of confirmed breeding since 2013. The Yetholm Loch record was of a single bird made on 14-Sep (J Lough).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

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

Fifty-two records from 16 tetrads (two tetrads in 2015, three in 2014, 13 in 2013).

Jan-May:

No records.

Oct-Dec:

Records from 16 tetrads (none in 2015, one in 2014): Kelso - 50; Peebles - 50; Galashiels - 50; Langlee (Galashiels) - 50; St Boswells - 35; Cardrona - 30; The Hirsell - 30; Cockburnspath - 30; Duns - 15; Tweedhill (Paxton) - 10; Tweedbank - 6; Silverbuthall (Hawick) - 4; Morebattle - 2; Ayton - 2; Burnmouth - one; Craik - one.

This year has the been the best since 2012.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Now an common resident. First bred 1989 and spread rapidly. Perhaps now as many as 1,000+ pairs. During 2008-13 found in 29% of tetrads in summer and 29% in winter.

Three hundred and fifty records from 130 (10%) tetrads (137 tetrads in 2015 and 97 tetrads in 2014).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 69 tetrads (68 tetrads in 2015). The largest counts were: Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge - 10; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 8; Peebles - 7; Duns Castle - 5; Dawyck - 4; Innerleithen -4; Boleside (Selkirk) – 4; Tweedbank - 4; Paxton House - 4.

Apr-Jul (breeding season):

Records form 60 tetrads (75 in 2015). Largest counts were: Black Barony - 6; Dawyck - 5; Bowland (Galashiels) - 5; Abbotsford - 5; Tweedbank - 4; Duns Castle - 4.

Records with breeding evidence (mainly in the form of singing) came from 24 tetrads.

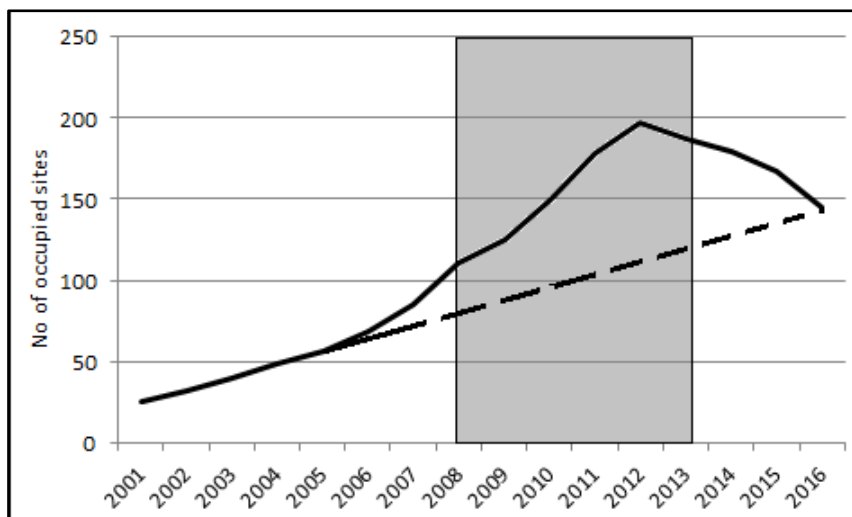
Aug-Dec:

Records came from 58 tetrads (45 in 2015). Largest counts came from: Dawyck - 7; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 7; Gattonside-Melrose - 5; Hirsell - 5; Abbotsford - 4; Tweedbank - 4; Eildon Hall (Melrose) - 4.



Nuthatch. Paxton House.
November. Bill Meikle.

The rapid colonisation of Borders Region by the Nuthatch is comprehensively dealt with by RD Murray in *The colonisation of Nuthatch in the Scottish Borders – 2007-2009 period* (Borders Bird Report, 26, 2010). Below is a summarised update showing the five-year running average number of sites occupied by the species up to 2016 and indicating the likely trend produced without the greater recording effort associated with the Atlas survey.



Five year averages of sites occupied by Nuthatch: 2001-2016.
(Broken line is extrapolation of pre-Atlas records – shaded - to 2016).

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Uncommon breeding resident found in 21% of tetrads. During 2008-13 found in 24% of tetrads in summer and 26% in winter.

One hundred and thirty records from 72 sites (83 sites in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 34 sites. Largest counts came from: Dawyck - 3; Marcus - 3; Kirklands (Innerleithen) - 3; Yetholm Loch - 3; Hirsell - 3; Paxton House - 3; Tweedbank - 2; Bowdenmoor Res (Bowden) - 2; Rutherford (Maxton) - 2.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

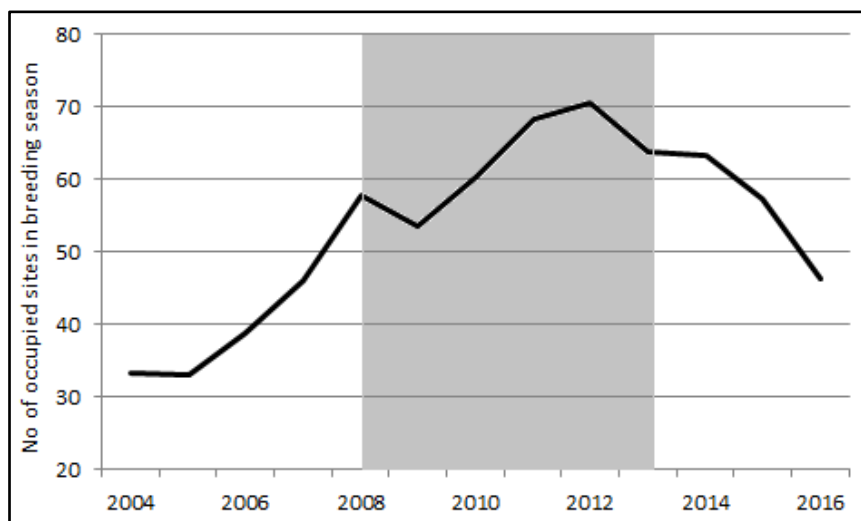
Records from 34 sites. Largest counts came from: Black Barony (Eddleston); Bowhill (Selkirk); Bowland (Galashiels); Hawick Moss; Heather Wood (Wauchope Forest); Huntford (Carter Bar); Langburnshiels (Stobs Castle); Peebles-Jennie's Brae; Yetholm Loch. All of above were counts of two.

Records with breeding evidence found at eight sites: Dawyck; Gattonside-Melrose; Hawick Moss; Hirsell; Huntford (Carter Bar); Langburnshiels (Stobs Castle); Paxton House and Tweedbank.

Treecreeper can be a difficult bird to locate, making it difficult to assess numbers and any historical trends. The graph below suggests an increase in the number of possible breeding sites occupied in the earlier part of the millennium, followed by a possible decline.

Sep-Dec:

Records from 21 tetrads. Counts of two from: Dawyck; Craik; Huntford (Carter Bar); Stow.



Treecreeper: Five-year averages for occupied sites during breeding season for 2004-2016.
(SE Scotland Atlas survey period is shaded)

Wren Troglodytes troglodytes

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

Seven hundred and forty-five records from 279 sites (259 sites in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records came from 105 sites. The largest counts came from: Black Barony (Eddleston) - 18; Leadburn Community Wood - 12; Wormiston (Eddleston) - 9; Tweedbank - 9; Dunglass (Cockburnspath) - 7; Peebles - 7; Harcus (Eddleston) - 7; Minch Moor (Traquair Forest) - 7; Sprouston-Whitmuirhaugh (Kelso) - 7.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 171 sites (170 in 2015, 161 in 2014) with largest counts from: Black Barony - 23; Peat Hill (Eddleston) - 17; Torwoodlee (Galashiels) - 17; Leadburn Community Wood - 15; Cloich (Eddleston) - 14; Wormiston (Eddleston) - 13; Hattenknowe (Eddleston) - 12; Priesthope Hill (Innerleithen) - 12; Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords) - 12; Allanton (Chirnside) - 11; Heather Wood (Wauchope Forest) - 11; Lamberton coast - 11; Drumelzier Glen (Broughton) - 10; Dod (Wauchope Forest) - 10.

Records with breeding evidence came from 33 sites. Contributors are encouraged to submit breeding records for this species where appropriate.

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 78 sites. The largest counts were: Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 5; Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge - 5; Hirsell - 4; Tweedbank - 4; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 4.

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 Bird Survey data for SE Scotland (including Lothian) suggest a largely stable population but with fluctuations associated with harsh winters, eg after the severe winters of 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Abundant and widespread resident. Flocks form from late May. A common passage and winter visitor September-March. Occasional large roosts. During 2008-13 found in 56% of tetrads in summer and 42% in winter.

Three hundred and sixty records from 126 (10%) tetrads (112 in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Recorded in 55 tetrads (45 in 2015 and 29 in 2014). Largest counts were: Cheeklaw (Duns) - 1,000 (A Mitchell); Cowieslinn (Portmore) - 350; Haud Yards (Coldingham Moor) - 350; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 335; Cloich (Eddleston) - 200; Fairliehope (Carlops) - 140; Folly Loch - 112; Eddleston 108.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Recorded in 70 tetrads (73 tetrads in 2015 and 193 tetrads in 2014). Largest counts: Cardrona - 500; Bemersyde Moss - 82; St. Boswells Green - 80; Tweed: Sprouston-Banff Mill - 75; Loch Pots (Eddleston) - 67; Eyemouth South Bay - 55; St Boswells - 54.

Note: given often widespread dispersal of post-breeding flocks the number of tetrads is not necessarily an indication of breeding range; additionally, counts may include juveniles.

Notwithstanding this problem in assessing breeding populations and their distribution, BBS data for all of SE Scotland and an area of 30 km beyond suggests that, after an increase in numbers at the end of the last millennium, there has been a small decline since 2000. However, data from the forthcoming SE Scotland Atlas points to more of a decline in Borders than in Lothian.

Sep-Dec:

Recorded in 31 tetrads (35 tetrads in 2015). Largest counts were: Pot Loch (Selkirk) - 1,000 (M Betts); Kimmerghame Mains (Duns) - 400; Eaglehall (Whitsome) - 350; Lady Moss (Selkirk) - 300; Kelso - 250; St Boswells - 150; Lamberton - 100.

Rose-coloured Starling (Rosy Starling) *Sturnus roseus*

Rare autumn vagrant.

A single bird spent several days in a garden at St Boswells in early November (C Rose). This is only the third validated record for Borders with previous records in 1979 and 1983. However, there was an unvalidated record in 2015 from Gordon.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

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

Two hundred and thirteen records from 114 (9%) tetrads (90 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Feb:

Recorded in 32 tetrads (32 in 2015 and 69 in 2014). The largest counts were: Tweedbank - 5; Abbotsford - 4; Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge - 3; Tweed: Manor Br-Tweed Br (Peebles) - 3; Innerleithen - 3. Counts of two came from: Stow; Harcus (Eddleston); Barnhills (Denholm); Black Barony (Eddleston); St Mary's Loch; Nisbet; Wormiston (Eddleston); Blackhopebyre (Leithen Valley).

Mar-Jul (breeding season):

Recorded in 45 tetrads (66 in 2015 and 68 in 2014). Largest counts were: Howden (Selkirk) -4; The Holmes (St Boswells - 4; Gattonside-Melrose - 3; Abbotsford - 3; Wormiston (Eddleston) – 3. Counts of two came from: Kirklands (Ancrum); Peebles; Kelso; Tweedbank; Eyemouth; Barnhills Moor (Ancrum); Bonchester Bridge.

Records with breeding evidence came from 21 tetrads:

Abbotsford	Hattonknowe (Eddleston)
Abbotsmoss (Tweedbank)	Howden (Selkirk)
Bonchester Bridge	Innerleithen
Braidlie (Hermitage)	Lynnwood (Hawick)
Dawyck	Martin's Bridge (Hawick)
Drumelzier Glen (Broughton)	Peebles
Eyemouth Harbour	Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean
Galashiels	West Linton (SW)
Gattonside-Melrose	West Water (West Linton)
Harcus (Eddleston)	Wiltondean (Hawick)
	Yair Bridge (Caddonfoot)

BBS data for SE Scotland and a 30 km surrounding zone indicates that Dippers may be moderately increasing in numbers in Borders .

Aug-Dec:

Recorded in 34 tetrads (35 in 2014). Largest counts: Tweed: Manor Br-Tweed Br (Peebles) - 8; Abbotsford - 5; Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge - 5; Gattonside-Melrose - 4; Netherdale (Galashiels) - 4; Dryburgh - 3; Wiltondean (Hawick) - 3; Howden (Selkirk) - 3; Abbotsford – 3. Counts of two were at: Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean; Philiphaugh (Selkirk); Cribs Hill (Yair Hill Forest); Stobo (Broughton); Walkerburn; Old Kirkstead (St Mary's Loch); Preston Haugh (Preston); Dye Water (Longformacus).

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

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.

Twenty two sites at which sightings were made during Apr-Jul, mainly in Manor Valley and its tributaries and the Leithen Valley and its tributaries. It is not possible on the basis of the information available to determine whether these are all individual breeding sites. Given the close proximity of some sites it is likely that sometimes the same birds from neighbouring locations were being observed. However, some sites suggest more than one territory. A full record of sites is:

Drumelzier Burn (Broughton)	31-Mar	A Sandeman	1	
Hope Burn (Broughton)	10-Apr	A Sandeman	2	
Colquhar (Leithen Water)	11-Apr	RD Murray	1	Male.
Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water)	11-Apr	RD Murray	2	2 males chasing each other.
St Abb's Head	17-Apr & 15-May	DK Graham	1	Passage
Hearthstane (Talla Reservoir)	17-Apr	A Heavisides	1	
Black Rig Wood (Manor Valley)	19-Apr	G Pyatt	1	
Tower Burn Cleuch (Manor Valley)	19-Apr	G Pyatt	1	
Scrape Burn (Drumelzier)	27-Apr	RD Murray	2	Pair.
Scuds Cleuch Burn (Manor Valley)	30-Apr	G Pyatt	2	Pair?
Swinchy Cleuch (Manor Valley)	30-Apr & 12-Jul	G Pyatt	1	
Dewar (Garvald Lodge)	30-Apr & 7-May	JR Silvey	3	

Peelinick (Hownam)	30-Apr	M Henderson	1	Singing
Dewar N (Garvald Lodge)	07-May	RD Murray	1	
Berryburn (Manor Valley)	09-May	G Pyatt	1	
Posso Hope (Manor Valley)	09-May	G Pyatt	1	
Black Cleuch (Manor Valley)	13-May	G Pyatt	1	
Langhaugh Hill (Manor Valley)	15- & 18-May	G Pyatt	1	Heard only.
Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water)	23-May	RD Murray	2	2 males holding territory.
Sting Rig (Manor Valley)	26-Jun	SOC Borders	1	
Linghope (Manor Valley)	26-Jun	SOC Borders	2	
Glenrathhope (Manor Valley)	11-Jul	AW Barker	2	
Eyemouth South Bay	13-Aug	P Rawnsley	1	
Kirkhope Burn (Manor Valley)	11-Sep	D McNee	6	Passage?

Potentially therefore there were 25 territories over 22 sites. Potential breeding site numbers in recent years were:

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
27	-	37	29	25	10	39	*	10	28	26	36	35	34	17	23	23

There is a strong suggestion that the number of breeding sites is declining. However, the figures above should be looked at in the context of the practical problems of locating sites in often difficult terrain. The SE Scotland Atlas survey period is shaded and indicates greater recording effort for most years. * no data available.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Abundant resident. Common passage migrant. Probable winter visitor. Very light passage March-April and strong passage in October. During 2008-13 found in 79% of tetrads in summer and 71% in winter.

Seven hundred and ninety records from 161 tetrads (135 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Feb:

Recorded in 75 tetrads (64 in 2015, 67 in 2014). Largest counts were: Tweedbank - 52; Newmains (Reston) - 45; Tweed: Dryburgh - 21; Sprouston-Whitmuirhaugh (Kelso) - 21; Peebles - 17; Innerleithen - 13; Tweed: Kelso - 12; Paxton House - 12.

Mar-Aug (breeding season):

Recorded in 128 tetrads (133 in 2015 and 179 in 2014). The largest counts came from: Tweedbank - 28; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 25; Sprouston-Redden (Kelso) - 22; Birgham Haugh (Coldstream) - 22; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 19; Paxton House - 18; Hirsell - 18; Barnhills Moor (Ancrum) - 17; Bemersyde Moss - 14; Allanton (Chirnside) -12.

The first record of confirmed breeding was not until 19-May: parent feeding young at Whitrig Bog (AT Bramhall). Observers are encouraged to submit all breeding records for this species: 19-May obviously does not represent a case of late breeding.

Sep-Dec:

Records from 50 tetrads (57 tetrads in 2015 and 46 tetrads in 2014). The largest counts were: Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 60; Lower Burnmouth - 50; Sprouston-Redden (Kelso) - 40; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 37; Tweedbank - 29; Stow - 14; Dryburgh - 13; Bemersyde - 13.

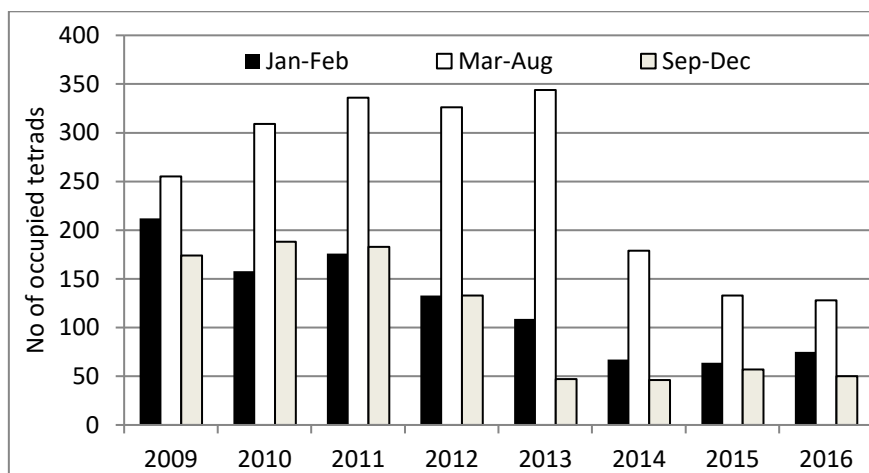
Waxwing. Cockburnspath. November. Rob Watterson.



Treecreeper. Paxton House. January. Dave Graham.



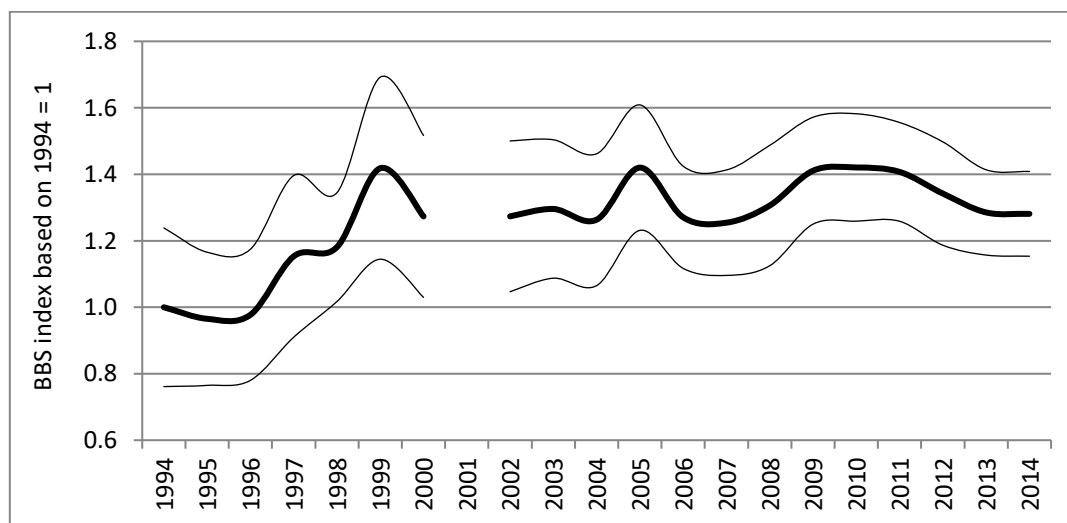
The number of occupied tetrads has only been recorded systematically since 2009 (during the SE Scotland Atlas survey period). So the short recording period and distortion created by greater recording effort during the Atlas survey does not allow any significant conclusions to be drawn about possible trends. For information however, the tetrad data for 2009-2016 is given here:



Occupied tetrads for Blackbird: 2009-2016.

(Atlas survey period: 2008-13).

That the Blackbird population is fairly stable in Borders is partly supported by BBS data for the whole of SE Scotland, showing little overall change this millennium after an increase in the latter years of last millennium:



Breeding Bird Survey trends for Blackbird in SE Scotland: 1994-2014.

(2001: no surveys due to Foot and Mouth outbreak)

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 on three occasions. During 2008-13 found in 56% of tetrads in winter.

One hundred and fifty-five records from 95 (7%) tetrads (86 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Feb (wintering):

Records from 28 tetrads (48 tetrads in 2015, 34 in 2014 and 41 in 2013). Largest counts were: Sunwick Farm (Paxton) - 300; New Horndean (Whitsome) - 150; Muirhouselaw (St Boswells) - 120; Hendersyde (Kelso) -100; Coldstream - 100; Whitrigbog-Westfield -75; Sprouston-Whitmuirhaugh (Kelso) - 70; Parkgatestone (Broughton) -70.

Mar-Apr (spring passage):

Records from 24 tetrads (30 tetrads in 2015). Largest count by far was of 5,500 on passage at Cowieslinn (Portmore) on 28-Mar (RD Murray). Although a comprehensive search of past records has not been possible, this appears to be a contender for largest count in Borders by some margin but still short of the estimate of 7,000 made at Aberlady-Gullane in Lothian in January, 1991. Other large counts were: Whim Pond (West Linton) - 850; Harwood (Bonchester Bridge) - 700; Middleton (Fountainhall) - 220; New Smailholm (Kelso) - 200; Dronshiel (Longformacus) - 100. The last record of the period was of 17 birds at Jardinefield (Whitsome) on 20-Apr (J Towill).

May-Sep (summering):

No records (one tetrad in 2014).

Oct-Dec (autumn passage and wintering):

Records from 53 tetrads (45 tetrads in 2014). Early movements were relatively small, building up to bigger counts in early-Nov and then again in late-Dec. The earliest record of the period was of two birds on 7-Oct at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) (F Evans).

The largest counts came from: Brotherstone (Smailholm) - 250; Jardinefield (Whitsome) - 250; Eaglehall (Whitsome) - 130; Sprouston-Redden (Kelso) - 120; Sting Law (Longformacus) - 120; Paxton House - 120; Dabshead Hill (Lauder) - 100; Swinton Mill (Coldstream) - 100.

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.

Three hundred and ninety-six records from 129 (10%) tetrads (113 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Feb:

Records came from 31 tetrads (25 in 2015). The largest counts came from: Black Barony (Eddleston) - 5; Newmains (Reston) - 4; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 4; Hendersyde (Kelso) - 3; Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay -3; Harestanes (Ancrum) -3; Howden (Selkirk) - 3; Whitrig Bog - 3.

Mar-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 110 tetrads (112 in 2015, 120 in 2014). The largest counts came from: Black Barony - 7; Peat Hill (Eddleston) - 7; Paxton House - 6; Marcus (Eddleston) - 6; Heiton (Kelso) -6; Bowland (Galashiels) - 6; Hirsell - 5; Tweedbank - 5; Cloich (Eddleston) - 5; Torwoodlee (Galashiels) - 5; Sprouston-Redden (Kelso) -5; Allanton (Chirnside) - 5.

The frequency of sites around Eddleston with larger counts is more a reflection of frequent, systematic surveying in that area by Ray Murray than of the Eddleston Valley being a "hot spot" for Song Thrushes.

The first record of confirmed breeding was on 25-Apr: a fledgling being fed at Kelso (M Greenhow). Confirmed breeding came from only nine sites.

Sep-Dec:

Records from 19 tetrads (21 tetrads in 2015). The largest counts were: Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 30 (on passage); Hirsell - 5; Bowdenmoor (Selkirk) - 4; Abbotsford -4.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Well-represented 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.

One hundred and twenty-eight records from 69 (5%) tetrads (45 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Feb (wintering):

Records from 23 tetrads (26 in 2015, 20 tetrads in 2014). Largest counts came from: Newmains (Reston) - 230; Whitelaw (Eddleston) - 50; Abbotsmoss (Tweedbank) - 40; Chirnside - 30; Hendersyde (Kelso) - 25; Upper Nisbet (Nisbet) - 22; Sunnycroft (Selkirk) - 20; Folly Loch - 20.

Mar-Apr (spring passage):

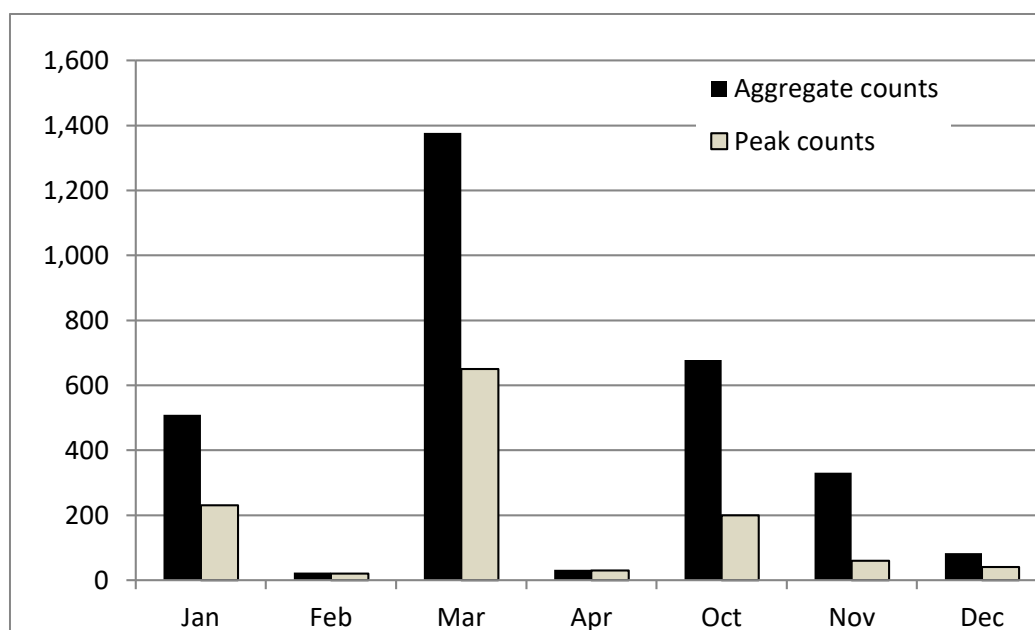
Records from 11 tetrads (eight tetrads in 2015). Largest counts were: Cowieslinn (Portmore) - 650; Wester Deans (Leadburn) - 450; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 125; Whim Pond (Leadburn) - 90; Folly Loch - 40; Kings Meadows (Peebles) - 30; Whitmuirhall Loch (Selkirk) - 20.

The last record of this period was on 3-Apr at Bemersyde (A Midgley).

Oct-Dec (autumn passage and wintering):

The first record was of 12 birds on 2-Oct from Kelso town centre (J Towill). Records came from 41 tetrads (31 tetrads in 2015). Largest counts were: Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk) - 200; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 100; Hirsell -75; Bowdenmoor Farm (Selkirk) - 60; Eaglehall (Whitsome) - 60; Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge - 59; Bemersyde - 42; Huntford (Carter Bar) - 40; Robinsland (West Linton) - 40; Yetholm Loch - 40; Sorrowlessfield (Earlston) - 40; Gattonside-Melrose - 30.

The graph below illustrates that passage may have possibly been greater in spring than in autumn:



Annual distribution of Redwing counts by month: 2016.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Common 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.

Two hundred and forty-one records from 131 (10%) tetrads (106 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Feb:

Records from 43 tetrads (33 in 2015 and 36 in 2014). Largest counts were from: Black Barony (Eddleston) - 12; Buck Cleugh (Buccleuch) - 9; Spylaw Dam (Kelso) - 6; Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water) - 4; Sprouston-Whitmuirhaugh (Kelso) - 3; Lamberton - 3; Coldstream - 3; Birgham (Coldstream) - 3.

Mar-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 66 tetrads (58 tetrads in 2015 and 67 in 2014). Largest counts from: Bowland (Galashiels) - 6; Ettrick Pen (Ettrick Head) - 5; Huntford (Carter Bar) - 4; Hirsell - 4; Hircus (Eddleston) - 4; Bowhill (Selkirk) - 3; Traquair (Innerleithen) - 3; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 3; Dawyck (Broughton) - 3; Paxton House - 3; Swinchy Cleuch (Manor Valley) - 3.

Only five records with confirmed breeding, the earliest of which was of used nest/eggshells on 10-May from Huntford (Carter Bar) (C Watson).

BBS data for the whole of SE Scotland shows a slow decline in Mistle thrush sightings for much of the period since 2000 but with a notable increase since 2014.

Sep-Dec:

Records from 47 tetrads (39 tetrads in 2015). Largest counts: Broad Law (Talla Reservoir) - 60; Huntford (Carter Bar) - 15; Kirkhope Burn (Manor Valley) - 10; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 8; Bowhill (Selkirk) - 6; Back Loch (Buccleuch) - 5; Dawyck (Broughton) - 5; Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head) - 4.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Well-represented summer visitor. Scarce passage migrant, less common in spring than autumn. During 2008-13 was found in 41% of tetrads in summer.

One hundred and three records from 60 (5%) tetrads (42 tetrads in 2015).

First record on 8-May: 20 birds at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) (F Evans and DK Graham).

After this the largest counts were: Black Barony (Eddleston) - 17, seen on 15-Aug (RD Murray); Manderston (Duns) - 15 (A Mossup); Whitrope (Hermitage) - 8; Burnmouth - 6; Hircus (Eddleston) - 4; Toxside Moss - (Leadburn) - 4; Harden Burn (Hawick) - 4; Brieryhill (Hawick) - 4; Essenside (Ashkirk) - 4; Gordon Community Woodland - 4; Nether Phawhope (Ettrick) - 3; Huntford (Carter Bar) - 3; Teviot Water Gardens (Eckford) - 3.



Ring Ouzel. St Abb's Head. April. Dave Graham.



Redwing. Burn House Mains (Stow). October. Alistair Cutter.

Fifteen tetrads had records involving probable or confirmed breeding:

12-May	Harden Burn (Hawick)	N	G Scott
23-May	Whitrope (Hermitage)	N	J MacLennan
25-May	Toxside Moss (Leadburn)	A	K Ingleby
25-May	Black Barony (Eddleston)	P(2)	RD Murray
28-May	Tweedbank	P	AT Bramhall
18-Jun	Dawyck (Broughton)	NY	M Betts
21-Jun	Melrose	NY	D Parkinson
23-Jun	Teviot Water Gardens (Eckford)	FL(1+)	M Holling
27-Jun	Cringletie (Eddleston)	T	RD Murray
02-Jul	Huntford (Carter Bar)	FL	C Watson
19-Jul	Essenside Loch (Ashkirk)	FL(br3)	RD Murray
21-Jul	Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)	FL	ND Stratton
21-Jul	Chesterknowes (Selkirk)	FF	JL Wilson
31-Jul	Nether Phawhope (Ettrick)	FL(2)	M Henderson
30-Aug	Brieryhill (Hawick)	FL	H Thomson

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Records in Sept came from three tetrads:

2nd: 13 at Black Barony (RD Murray); 5th a single bird at Huntford (Carter Bar) and the last record on 27th of a single at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) (M Moncrieff).

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.

Seven hundred and fifty-five records from 202 (16%) tetrads – 17% increase over 2015's 172 tetrads. This is despite a similar number of records being submitted in each year.

Jan-Mar:

Records from 107 tetrads (75 in 2015 and 77 in 2014). Largest counts came from: Peebles - 25; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 18; Tweedbank - 13; Dawyck (Broughton) - 12; The Hirsell - 10; Leadburn Community Wood - 9; Cardrona - 8.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 123 tetrads (118 in 2015 and 134 in 2014). Largest counts were: Black Barony - 20; Peat Hill (Eddleston) - 18; Tweed: Eshiels-Cardrona - 15; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 12; Dawyck - 12; Marcus (Eddleston) - 11; Tweedbank - 11; Leadburn Community Wood - 10; Dowlaw Road-end (Coldingham Moor) - 9; Jenny's Brae (Peebles) - 9.

Confirmed breeding from only ten tetrads:

Abbotsford	D Parkinson	FF	Harewood Glen (Selkirk)	G Scott	FL
Black Barony (Eddleston)	RD Murray	FF	Highchesters Hill (Hawick)	G Scott	FF
Bowhill (Selkirk)	G Scott	FL	Martin's Bridge (Hawick)	G Scott	FF
Dawyck (Broughton)	M Betts	FL	Tweed: Peebles-Jennie's Brae	RD Murray	FL
Gattonside-Melrose	JD Gordon	FL	Wilton Dean (Hawick)	G Scott	FL

See Introduction for breeding codes.

The first record with confirmed breeding was on 1-May at Abbotsford.

Sep-Dec:

Records from 64 tetrads (66 tetrads in 2015). Largest counts were: Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 50 (F Evans); Tweedbank - 13; Dryburgh - 13; Burnmouth-Partanhall - 12; Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge - 11; Sprouston-Redden (Kelso) – 8.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus*

Rare autumn migrant.

A single bird on 30-Oct at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) (A Kerr). Only the third record for the Borders.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in Sep-Oct. Not annual.

Four records in early October. Difficult to determine full number of birds involved. These were the first accepted records of this species since 2009 and, like the majority of records, were from the St Abb's Head area:

06-Oct	St Abb's Head	1	F Evans
08-Oct	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	2	DK Graham
13-Oct	St Abbs Head	1	S Gillies
14-Oct	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	1	F Evans

The species was almost annual in the 1980s and 1990s.

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Rare summer visitor, formerly found in less than 5% of tetrads, now virtually extinct as a breeder. During 2008-13 found in four tetrads. Scarce passage migrant in spring, occasionally more frequent in autumn, September-early October.

Nine records from six sites (five sites in 2015 and two sites in 2014). It is difficult to be confident about the number of birds seen. After the confirmed breeding at Cardrona in the last two years there were no records involving confirmed breeding this year.

Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	03-May	1	RD Murray	Eyemouth North Bay	15-Aug	1	P Rawsley
Gala Policies	27-May	1	AT Bramhall	St Abb's Head	21-Aug	2	DK Graham
Elibank House (Walkerburn)	27-May	1	R Watterson	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	28-Aug	2	RD Murray
Elibank House (Walkerburn)	28-May	1	RD Murray	St Abb's Head	14-Sep	1	DK Graham
				Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	06-Oct	1	F Evans

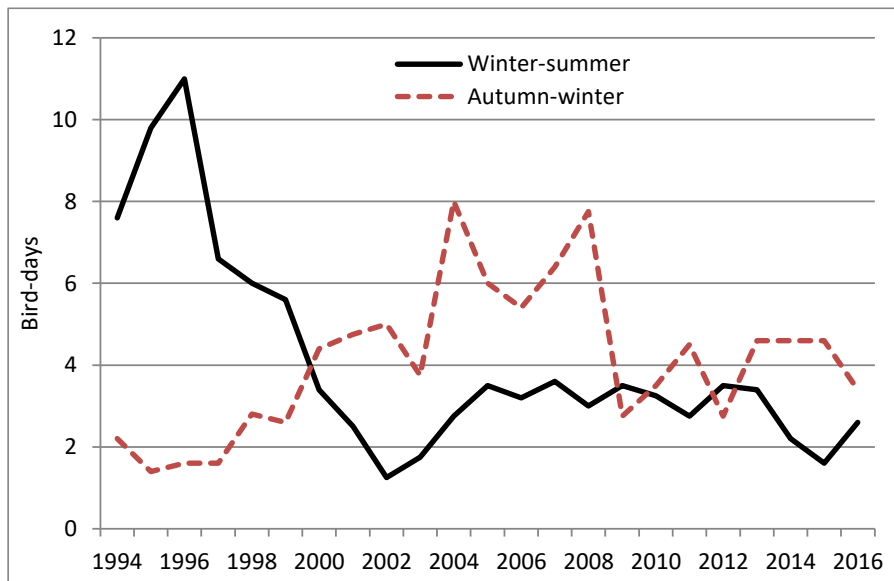
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

Four records from two sites (2015: four records from one site; 2014: no records). However, two of this year's records via Birdguides (unknown observers):

18-Feb	St. Abb's Head	Pr	Birdguides	08-May	St Abb's Head	3	DK Graham
08-Apr	Burnmouth	1	F Evans	14-Oct	Mire Loch	Pr	Birdguides

Records for this species vary significantly from year to year and any trend is difficult to discern. However, the five-year running average since 1994 does appear to indicate fewer bird-days for winter-spring and more bird-days for autumn-winter. Given that we are dealing with a small sample this “trend” me more apparent than real:



Five-year running average of bird-days for Black Redstart: 1994-2016.



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.

Fifty-four records from 28 tetrads (21 tetrads in 2015).

April:

Records from seven tetrads (five in 2015 and 11 in 2014). Records were: Peebles - 3; Fairlaw (Reston) - 2; Duns Castle - 2; Harcus (Eddleston) - 1; St Abb's Head - 1; Highchesters Hill (Hawick) - 1; Coldstream - 1. First sighting was on 19-Apr at Coldstream (A Mossup).

May-Jul (Breeding season):

Records from 28 tetrads (22 tetrads in 2015). The largest counts were: Hilton (Whitsome) - 4; East Newton (Whitsome) - 3; Heather Wood (Wauchope Forest) - 3; Ballmuir Plantation (Smailholm) - 3.

Records with singing males, probable or confirmed breeding evidence came from 11 sites (six in 2015 and nine in 2014):

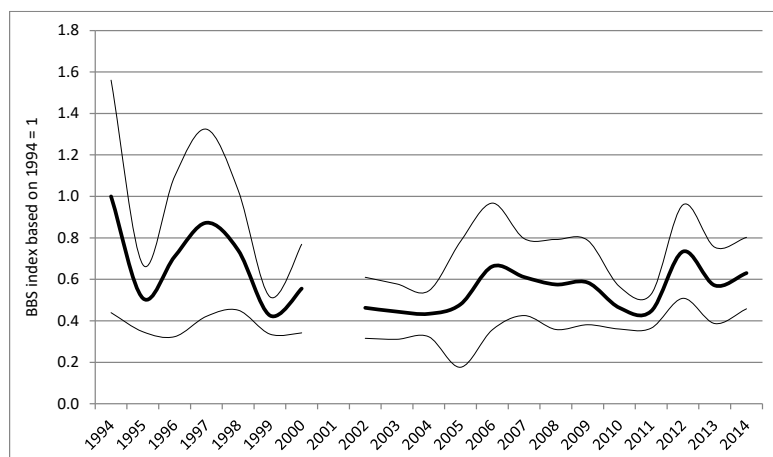
21-May	Traquair Bank (Innerleithen)	RD Murray	T
21-May	Plora Wood West (Innerleithen)	RD Murray	T
24-May	Black Yett (Hownam)	RD Murray	S
25-May	Toxside Moss (Leadburn)	K Ingleby	P
27-May	Fruid Reservoir-E end	RD Murray	S
27-May	Stobo Castle (Broughton)	RD Murray	S
09-Jun	Highchesters Hill (Hawick)	G Scott	ON
10-Jun	Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	RD Murray	FF
18-Jun	Hilton (Whitsome)	F Evans	FF(2)
06-Jul	Harcus (Eddleston)	RD Murray	FL(br3)
27-Jul	Selkirk South Common	RD Murray	FL(br1)

See Introduction for breeding codes.

August onwards:

Records came from three tetrads and were all of singletons: Black Barony (Eddleston); Lamberton; and St Abb's Head. The latest records were from St Abb's Head on 15-Oct (J Coyle; EM Reynolds).

Assessing possible population trends for Redstart is difficult when using only past Bird Report records, partly because of variable recording effort and changes in defining breeding territories. However, Breeding Bird Survey data for SE Scotland (including an area extended 30 km beyond Lothian and Borders boundaries) indicates a possible increase since about 2004, after a decline over the previous ten years:



Redstart BBSs trends for SE Scotland: 1994-2014.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Uncommon summer visitor to hill valleys. Scarce passage migrant on coast, from late April to May and August to October. One winter record. During 2008-13 was found in 24% of tetrads in summer.

Forty-nine records from 28 sites (21 in 2015).

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 28 sites (18 in 2015 and 23 in 2014). Largest counts were: Glensax Burn (Birkscairn Hill) - 6; Glenrathhope Manor Valley) - 3; North Esk Reservoir - 3; Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor) - 3. The earliest record was on 6-May from Glencotho (Holms Water) (J Wooliams).

Breeding evidence came from nine sites (five in 2015 and 12 in 2014):

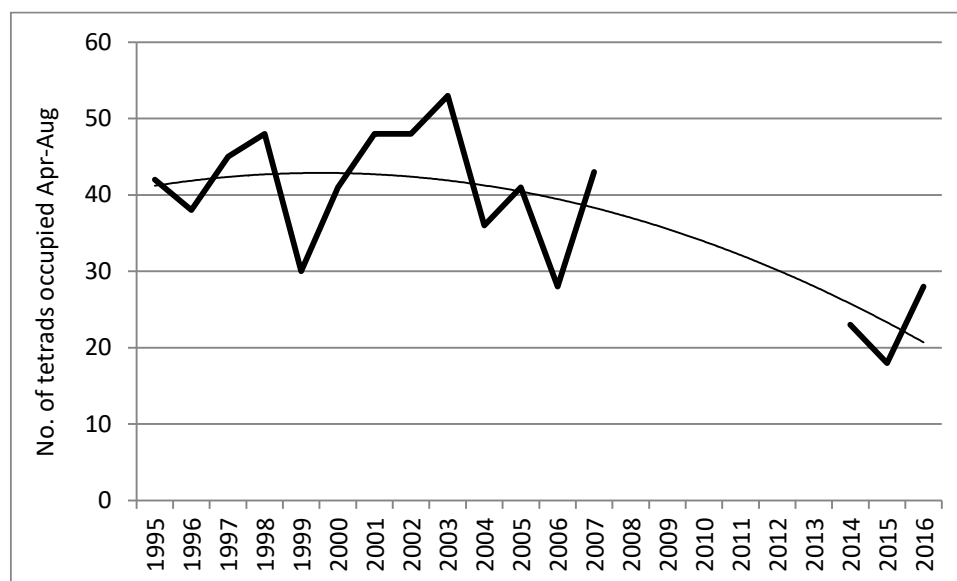
23-May	Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water)	P	RD Murray
27-May	Talla Reservoir	T	RD Murray
27-May	Fruid Reservoir (east)	S	RD Murray
08-Jun	Hartsgarth Burn (Hermitage)	S	J Bray
09-Jun	Penmanshall Burn (Hawick)	T	G Scott
05-Jul	Meldon Water (Peebles)	FL(br3)	RD Murray
26-Jul	Meldon Burn (upper) (Peebles)	FL(br4)	RD Murray
12-Aug	Burnhead (Kirk Yetholm)	FL	JD Gordon
15-Aug	Black Barony (Eddleston)	FL(br1)	RD Murray

See Introduction for breeding codes.

September onwards:

Records from three sites (all within close proximity of each other). The peak counts for each site were: Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 3; St Abb's Head - 3; St Abbs - 1. The latest record was on 1-Oct, Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) (F Evans).

If records of occupied sites during the breeding season are ignored during the two local atlases (1988-94 and 2008-13), the trend is one of a gradual decline which accelerates from about 2004:



No. of sites occupied by Whinchats during the breeding season: 1995-2016.

(1988-94 and 2008-13 not shown because of distortion created by greater recording effort associated with local atlas surveys).



Female Kestrel on nest. St Abb's Head. May. Dave Graham.



Male Wheatear. Williestruther. April. Martin Moncrieff.

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 and 2000s, until bred in 20% of tetrads. Population crash 2010. During 2008-13 was found in 22% of tetrads in summer, 22% in winter.

Fifty-nine records from 42 sites (36 sites in 2015).

Jan-Feb:

Records from 10 sites (13 sites in 2015 and four in 2014): Attonburn (Yetholm) - 3; Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth (RSC) - 2; Greenhill (Hownam) - 2; Burnmouth - 2; St Abb's Head; Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor); Birneyknowe (Bonchester Bridge); Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); St Leonard's Moss (Hawick); Gill Rig (Dewar).

Mar-Aug (breeding season):

Found in 25 sites (19 sites in 2015 and 17 sites in 2014). The largest counts were from: Meldon Burn Upper (Eddleston) – 11*; Todrig (Ashkirk) - 7; Langburnshiels (Whauchope Forest) - 4; Linkim Shore (Eyemouth) 3; Northhouse (Teviothead) - 3; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 3.

* Although likely, it is not known if this included 2br9 that were reported for this record (see below).

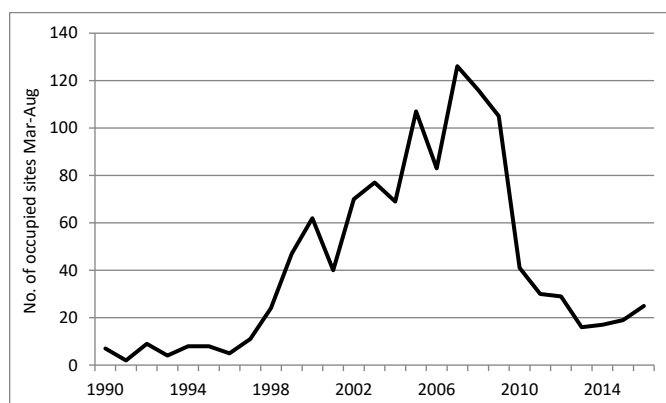
Records with breeding evidence came from 10 sites:

10-Mar	Dewar (Garvald Lodge)	S	N Crowther
19-Mar	Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn)	S	M Holling
08-Jun	Routing Burn (Newcastleton)	A	J Bray
02-Jul	Langburnshiels (Whauchope Forest)	FL	M Henderson
03-Jul	Todrig (Ashkirk)	FL(2br3)	M Henderson
05-Jul	Meldon Water (Peebles)	FL(br2)	RD Murray
16-Jul	Northhouse (Teviothead)	FL	M Moncrieff
26-Jul	Dreva Craig (Broughton)	FL(br3)	RD Murray
15-Aug	Black Barony (Eddleston)	FL(1br1)	RD Murray
29-Aug	Meldon Burn Upper (Eddleston)	FL(2br9)	RD Murray

Sep-Dec:

Records from eight sites (11 in 2015 and 14 in 2014). Largest counts came from: Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 4; Linglie Hill (Selkirk) - 3; Paddock Slack (Yarrow) - 2.

There are encouraging signs of the beginnings of a revival in the fortunes of Stonechats following the harsh winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11. As the graph below shows, the 1990s was a period of limited population after the harsh winters of the 1980s, with rapid growth from the late 1990s until the crash in 2010:



Trends in numbers of recorded occupied sites in Mar-Aug: 1990-2016.

Note that the SE Scotland Atlas survey period (2008-13) will be partly responsible for distortion produced by greater recording effort.

Eastern (Siberian) Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus maurus*

Rare vagrant.

A single bird seen on 14-Oct at Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor) by R Bramhall and J Hadfield. As far as can be ascertained, this is the first record for Borders.

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.

Eighty-five records from 70 sites (76 sites in 2015).

Mar:

Two records from two sites (seven sites in 2015 and four in 2014). Two birds were reported from each site, both on 28-Mar: Blackhope (Garvald) (K Ingleby) and Font Stone (Manor Valley) (A Midgley).

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 56 sites (69 in 2015 and 66 sites in 2014). Coastal passage was evident on 8-May when 22 birds were seen at St Abb's Head (DK Graham). Other large counts were: Glenwhappen Rig (Tweedsmuir) - 14; Fruid Reservoir (east) - 10; Stanhope Burn (Tweedsmuir) - 6; Williestruther Loch (Hawick) - 6; Rankle Burn (Buccleuch) - 6; Eyemouth North Bay - 6; Megget Dam - 5.

Records with breeding evidence came from 11 sites:

28-Mar	Blackhope (Garvald Lodge)	T	K Ingleby
02-Apr	Heiton (Kelso)	P	ND Stratton
19-Apr	Stanhope Burn (Tweedsmuir)	P	A Heavisides
27-May	Fruid Reservoir Dam	S	RD Murray
27-May	Megget Water	S	RD Murray
28-Jun	Rankle Burn (Buccleuch)	P	RD Murray
01-Jul	Fruid Reservoir (east)	FL(3-4 terr.)	RD Murray
06-Jul	Cademuir Hill (Manor Valley)	FL(br3)	RD Murray
16-Jul	Doeleuch (Teviothead)	FL(br1)	M Moncrieff
26-Jul	Talla Reservoir	FL(br3)	RD Murray
26-Jul	Talla Linns	FL(br1)	RD Murray

See Introduction for breeding codes.

September onward:

Records came from six sites with the latest on 3-Oct at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) (F Evans).

25-Sep	St Abbs	5	Coastal
05-Sep	Culter Fell (Tweedsmuir)	2	Inland
11-Sep	Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)	4	Coastal
11-Sep	Lady Moss (Selkirk)	2	Inland
19-Sep	St Abb's Head	2	Coastal
03-Oct	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	1	Coastal

There were records from ten sites in 2015 and 12 in 2014.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

Common resident; well-represented passage visitor.

Four hundred and twenty records from 149 sites (141 sites in 2015 and 129 tetrads* in 2014).

* Only tetrads available from 2014 records.

Jan-Mar:

Records from 66 sites (62 sites in 2014). The largest counts came from: Tweedbank - 14; Peebles - 12; Burnmouth-Border (RSC) - 11; Newmains (Reston) - 11; Ladylands (Selkirk) - 7; Eddleston - 6; Black Barony - 5; Sprouston- Whitmuirhaugh (Kelso) - 5.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 88 sites (98 sites in 2015). Largest counts were: Hattonknowe (Eddleston) - 11; Tweedbank - 10; Blackburn Mill (Abbey St Bathans) - 7; Burnmouth-Eyemouth coast - 6; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 5; St Boswells - 5.

Records with breeding evidence were from only 15 sites:

Abbotsford	P	D Parkinson	Paxton House	T	D Monteith
Dawyck (Broughton)	S	M Betts	Peebles	FL	J Woolliams
Gattonside-Melrose	S	JD Gordon	St Abb's Head NR	S	AL Holmes
Hawick	S	G Scott	Thornielee Car Park (Walkerburn)	FL	RD Murray
Heiton (Kelso)	P	ND Stratton	Traquair (Innerleithen)	S	J Palfery
Huntford (Carter Bar)	D	C Watson	West Linton (SW)	S	SD Ward
Ladylands (Selkirk)	S	EL Bickmore	Woll (Ashkirk)	S	G Scott
See Introduction for breeding codes			Yair Bridge (Caddonfoot)	S	EL Bickmore

Sep-Dec:

Records from 36 sites (43 sites in 2015). Largest counts were: Tweedbank - 7; Hirsell - 4; Burnmouth-Partanhall - 4.

Dunnock is an under-recorded species. Recorders are asked to include all observations along with numbers and, where appropriate, breeding status.

BBS data for SE Scotland suggests that the breeding population is currently stable.

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.

Three hundred and eight records from 107 sites (95 sites in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 49 sites (40 sites in 2015 and 37 in 2014). Largest counts were: Lamberton - 60; Newmains (Reston) - 54; Peebles - 50; Eddleston - 39; Easter Place (Broughton) - 35; Ladylands (Selkirk) - 30; Redheugh (Coldingham Moor) - 30; Hattonknowe (Eddleston) - 27; Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay (RSC) - 25.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 67 sites (64 sites in 2015 and 64 in 2014). Largest counts: Minto Deanfoot Pond (Denholm) - 30; Lilliesleaf Moss Pool - 25; Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden) - 22; Hattonknowe (Eddleston) - 21; Tweedbank - 20; Fairnington (Folly Loch) - 20.

Breeding evidence came from only 11 sites. House Sparrow is an under-recorded species. Recorders are asked to include all observations along with numbers and, where appropriate, breeding status.

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 28 sites (25 sites in 2015). The largest counts will have inevitably included juvenile birds and were: Newmains (Reston) - 64; Nisbet - 45; Lower Burnmouth - 21; Greenlaw Farm Pond (Foulden) - 20.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Uncommon 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.

One hundred and ten records from 54 sites (52 sites in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 24 sites (27 sites in 2015). Largest counts were: Newmains (Reston) - 210; Redheugh (Coldingham) - 50; Denholm - 30; Ancrum Craig - 24; Whitrigbog-Westfield - 20; Heiton (Kelso) - 8; Nisbet - 6.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 21 sites (14 sites in 2015 and 25 sites in 2014). Largest counts were: Fairnington (Folly Loch) - 12; Grahamslaw (Eckford) - 11; Graden (Yetholm) - 11; Bowden (St Boswells) - 8.

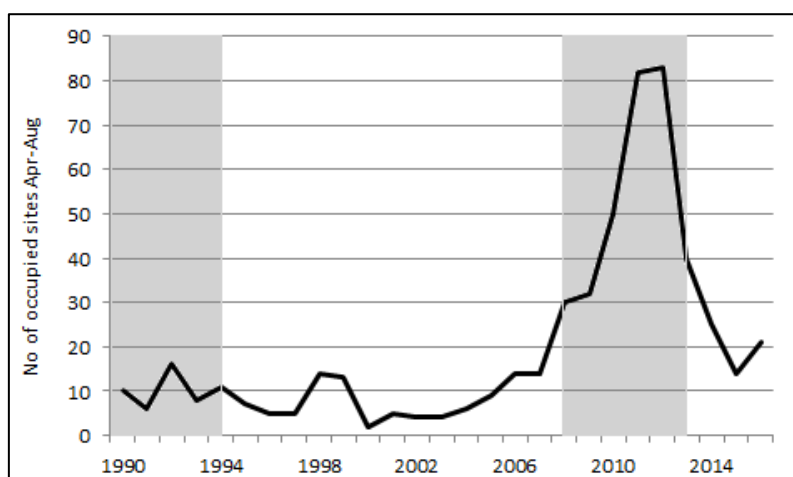
Records with breeding evidence came from five sites (six in 2015):

07-Apr	Ashkirk (Selkirk)	P	G Scott	28-Apr	Wiltondean (Hawick)	P	G Scott
28-Apr	Woll (Ashkirk)	P	G Scott	26-May	Bowden (St Boswells)	P(4)	L Hansen
See Introduction for breeding codes.				08-Jun	Lempitlaw (Kelso)	FL	C Tees

Sep-Dec:

Records from 19 sites (11 sites in 2015 and 21 tetrads in 2014*). * note tetrads and not sites for 2014 (sites not available). Largest counts: Newmains (Reston) - 185; Edrington Castle Farm (Paxton) - 37; Broom (Ancrum) - 30; Crailing Dean (Nisbet) - 30; Tweedhill -11; Wiltondean (Hawick) - 10.

In addition to the usual hot-spots further east, there appears to be a significant winter flock in the Denholm-Ancrum area.



No. of occupied sites Apr-Aug: 1990-2016. (Shaded areas are periods of local Atlas surveys).

The graph points to an increase in the breeding range of Tree Sparrows; the average number of occupied sites (Apr-Aug) between the two local Atlas survey periods (1995-2008) was eight and since the last Atlas survey (2014-16) the average is 20 sites.



Tree Sparrow.
Foulden. July.
Tom Brewis.

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 came from six tetrads during the breeding season which were, with the exception of Newmains (Reston) and Ladyrig (Heiton), located between Kelso and Carham-Birgham Haugh. The earliest record was of a single male on 19-Apr at Birgham Haugh (RD Murray). Sightings along the Kelso-Birgham stretch of the Tweed involved one to three birds with the last sighting on 4-Jun. The Newmains record was of a single on 10-May (DK Graham) and that from Ladyrig was also of a single on 9-May (ND Stratton). No evidence of breeding was reported.

There was a record of a bird on passage from Eyemouth Bay on 14-Aug (P Rawnsley).

The last three years:

	Occupied tetrads reported in breeding season	Total birds recorded (max count per tetrad x tetrads)	Breeding records
2014	9	17	2
2015	8	20	0
2016	6	9	0

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.

Two hundred and twenty-eight records from 123 (10%) tetrads (99 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 46 tetrads (18 tetrads in 2015). Disparity between occupied tetrads for 2015 and 2016 possibly the result of recording effort. Largest counts were: Tweedbank-Melrose - 9; Abbotsford - 8; Gattonside-Melrose - 3; Kelso - 3; Paxton House - 3.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 88 tetrads (72 tetrads in 2015 and 71 tetrads in 2014). Largest counts: Carolside (Earlston) -10 on 10-Jul (J Farish-Brown); Gattonside-Melrose - 9; Howden (Selkirk) - 8; Tweedbank - 8; The Holmes (St Boswells) - 7;) Culter Water Glen (Tweedsmuir) - 6; Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean- 6; Hawick (west) - 5; Abbotsford - 5; Tower Burn Marsh (Manor Valley) - 4; Harcus (Eddleston) - 4; Clinthill (St Boswells) - 4; Glensax Burn (Peebles) 4.

Records with breeding evidence came from 20 tetrads (26 tetrads in 2015 and 49+ tetrads in 2014):

02-Apr	Cala Burn (Hawick)	P	G Scott
02-Apr	Hawick (east)	P	G Scott
14-Apr	Melrose	P	D Parkinson
21-Apr	Penmanshall Burn (Hawick)	P	G Scott
24-Apr	Hule Moss	P	J Lough
24-May	Hawick (west)	FL	G Scott
24-May	Tweedbank	FL	AT Bramhall
27-May	Gala Policies	A	AT Bramhall
27-May	Fruid Reservoir (east)	S	RD Murray
27-May	Talla Linns	S	RD Murray
27-May	Bellspool (Broughton)	FL(1)	RD Murray
30-May	Peebles-Jennie's Brae	FL	RD Murray
04-Jun	Sprouston-Banff Mill (Kelso)	P	RD Murray
23-Jun	Fireburnmill (Coldstream)	FL(3)	RD Murray
30-Jun	Ettrick Willows	P	M Betts
01-Jul	Talla Reservoir	FL	RD Murray
01-Jul	Dreva Marsh (Broughton)	FL	RD Murray
04-Jul	Dawyck (Broughton)	FL	M Betts
07-Jul	Gattonside-Melrose	FL	JD Gordon
17-Aug	Newstead-Drygrange (Melrose)	FL	JD Gordon

Sep-Dec:

Records from 30 tetrads (33 tetrads in 2015). Passage migrants in September-early October made up the larger counts: a possible record count of 27 on 18-Sep at Abbotsford (M Moncrieff) with five at Howden (Selkirk) on 7-Sep, three at Tweedbank on 1-Sep and three at Portmore on 17-Sep.

While September counts normally ranged between one and five, October's records averaged two although a count of five was made at Paxton House on 9-Oct (J Lough).

December had records that came from six tetrads and were all of singletons.

BBS records for all of SE Scotland show notable annual fluctuations but the average trend seems to be one of gentle decline since about 2000.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Abundant summer visitor. Scarcer October-March. Variable wintering numbers. Passage in March and September-October. Some roosts. During 2008-13 was found in 75% of tetrads in summer, 15% in winter.

Four hundred and forty-five records from 158 (12%) tetrads (121 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 47 tetrads (33 in 2015). Numbers built-up toward the end of the period with 43 at Newmains (Reston) on 23-Mar (DK Graham) and 16 Hattonknowe (Eddleston) on 21-Mar (RD Murray). Other counts of more than three were: Paxton House - 6; Birgham Haugh (Coldstream) - 6; Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley) - 4; Darnick (Melrose) 4; Rachelfield Pond (Smailholm) - 4.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 132 tetrads (100 in 2015 and 150 in 2014). Largest counts were: Birgham Haugh (Coldstream) - 28; Folly Loch - 26; Hattonknowe (Eddleston) - 26; Tweed: Sprouston-Banff Mill (Kelso) - 15; Innerleithen - 14; Tweed : Banff Mill-Lochton - 13; Fruid Reservoir (east) - 12; Hilton (Whitsome) - 11; Stewarton (Eddleston) - 10; Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick) - 10.

Records with breeding evidence came from 31 tetrads, 23 of which had confirmed breeding (12 records of confirmed breeding in 2015):

Abbotsmoss (Tweedbank)	FL	Lochton (Kelso)	T(7)
Acreknowe Res. (Hawick)	FL	Lower Burnmouth	FF
Bellspool (Broughton)	A	Meldon Water - middle (Peebles)	FL
Birgham Haugh (Coldstream)	T(6)	Newcastleton	ON
Black Barony (Eddleston)	FL	Northfield (St Abbs)	FF
Chesterknowes (Lilliesleaf)	FF	Paxton House	P
Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	DD	Pease Bay	T(3)
Fireburnmill (Coldstream)	FL	Sprouston-Banff Mill (Kelso)	T(7)
Folly Loch	FL	Stantling Craig Reservoir (Galashiels)	FL
Fruid Reservoir (east)	FL	Stewarton (Eddleston)	FL
Gattonside-Melrose	FL	Tilmouth (Coldstream)	D
Hawick (west)	FL	Todrig (Hawick)	ON
Hollybush (Galashiels)	FL	Traquair (Innerleithen)	FL
Howden (Selkirk)	FL	Whim Pond (Leadburn)	FL
Huntford (Carter Bar)	FL	Yetholm	FL
See Introduction for breeding codes		Yetholm-The Curr	FL

The first record with confirmed breeding was on 14-May at Newcastleton (J Turner).

BBS data for SE Scotland as a whole appears to indicate a population that grew in the 1990s but has experienced a gradual decline since.

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 24 tetrads (30 tetrads in 2015). There were no records with large counts, the largest being: Sprouston-Redden (Kelso) - 11; Nisbet - 6; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 5; Portmore - 5.

White Wagtail *M. a. alba*

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

Five records from three tetrads:

23-Mar	Newmains (Reston)	4	DK Graham
31-Mar	Newmains	2	DK Graham

01-Apr	Newmains	4	DK Graham
13-Aug	Eyemouth South Bay	1	P Rawnsley
27-Sep	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	2	D Parkinson

Lowest number of tetrads and bird-days since 2012. However, this is probably an under-recorded bird which will add to the usual annual fluctuations of records:

	Spring		Autumn	
	Sites	Bird-days	Sites	Bird-days
2000	4	15	0	0
2001	No data available			
2002	1	4	2	5
2003	7	10	1	1
2004	No data available			
2005	5	10	2	4
2006	2	15	1	1
2007	1	6	3	4
2008	No data available			
2009	2	8	0	0
2010	1	50	0	0
2011	4	13	2	2
2012	2	3	1	2
2013	6	35	0	0
2014	6	28	1	1
2015	5	17	0	0
2016	2	11	1	2

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Rare vagrant

A single bird was seen on 13-Oct at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) by S Gillies. This is only the second record for the Borders, the first being in 1991.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Scarce and local summer visitor in forest clearings and clearfell. Scarce passage migrant April-May and September. During 2008-13 was found in 19% of tetrads in summer.

Twenty-four records from 13 sites (eight sites in 2015 and 11 in 2014). All counts were of one or two birds.

April: Burnmouth; Gordon Community Woodland.

May: Ashiestiel Bridge Car Park (Caddonfoot); Huntford (Carter Bar); St Abb's Head; Talla Reservoir.

June: Ale Moor Wester Loch (Buccleuch); Bean Rig Moss (Selkirk); Dod (Wauchope Forest); Gordon Community Woodland; Huntford (Carter Bar); Murder Moss (Selkirk); Peat Hill (Eddleston); Selkirk Hill skating pond.

July: Glenkinnon Burn (Caddonfoot); Huntford.

The first report was on 8-Apr at Gordon Community Woodland (F Evans) and the last record was on 21-Jul at Huntford (Carter Bar) (C Watson).

Records with breeding evidence came from seven sites: Huntford (D); Ashiestiel Bridge Car Park (D); Talla Reservoir (S); Murder Moss (P); Bean Rig (P); Gordon Community Woodland (S); Glenkinnon Burn (DD). See Introduction for breeding codes.

During the period 2000-2006 (before SE Scotland Atlas survey period) the average number of recorded occupied sites was 15. Since the end of the Atlas survey period (2014-16) the average had decreased to 10/11.

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. .

Two hundred and eighty records from 161 (13%) tetrads (110 tetrads in 2015).

Jan - mid-March:

Records from 17 tetrads (8 in 2015). Largest counts were all in Jan: Birgham Haugh (Coldstream) - 10; Coldstream - 5; Whitrigbog- Westfield - 5. Other counts in February and early-March were never greater than two. An apparently quiet winter-spring for this species.

Mid-Mar – Aug (breeding season):

Records from 103 tetrads (94 tetrads in 2015 and 112 in 2014). Largest counts were: Potburn (Ettrick Head) - 100 on 18-Aug (J Gordon); Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston - 69; West Water Reservoir - 50; Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor) - 50; Long Grain (Oxton) -45; Talla Reservoir - 40; Scuds Cleuch Wood (Manor Valley) - 30; Waddlescairn Moor (Oxton) - 30; Williestruther Loch (Hawick) - 27; Bowbeat Hill (Eddleston) - 26; Dod (Wauchope Forest) - 26; St Abb's Head - 23; Greenlaw Moor-Hule Moss - 22.

Records with breeding evidence came from 12 tetrads (only two records with confirmed breeding in 2015).

31-Mar	Minch Moor (Traquair)	S	J Palfery
19-Apr	Longformacus	S	R McBeath
28-Apr	Wiltonburn (Hawick)	P	G Scott
24-May	Leadburn Community Wood	FF	RD Murray
03-Jun	Eccles (Kelso)	ON	R Greenshields
12-Jun	Calaburn Farm (Hawick)	P	G Scott
14-Jun	Black Rock (Siccar Point)	T(2)	RD Murray
18-Jun	Black Barony (Eddleston)	FF	RD Murray
19-Jun	Penmanshall Burn (Hawick)	FF	G Scott
23-Jun	Acreknowe Reservoir (Stobs Castle)	FL	G Scott
05-Jul	Meldon Water-middle (Peebles)	FL	RD Murray
28-Jul	St Abb's Head	S	G Stewart

BBS records for SE Scotland suggest that the breeding population of this species is fairly stable.

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 27 tetrads (28 tetrads in 2015). Largest counts were dominated by post-breeding flocks in September: Black Barony (Eddleston) - 102; St Abb's Head - 80; Mill Burn (Eddleston) - 65;

Hule Moss - 52; Eildon Mid Hill – 30 (25-Nov); Nether Falla (Portmore) – 15 (16-Oct); Hog Knowe (Buccleuch) - 10; Sprouston-Redden (Kelso) - 10.

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

Common breeder along coast, found in 13 coastal tetrads. Wintering birds from Britain and Scandinavia present October-March in small flocks along the shore.

Sixty-five records from 17 tetrads (50 records from 17 tetrads in 2015 and 103 records in 2014).

Jan-Mar:

Seventeen tetrads held records. Records from Rocky Shore Count registered a total of 24 (2015: 85; 2014: 30; 2013: 43; 2012: 21). The largest counts (incl. RSC) were: Pease Bay - 8; Dunglass - 7; St Abb's Head - 6; Burnmouth-Cowdrait - 6; Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay – 5; Souter-Pettico Wick - 5.

Apr-Jul (breeding season):

Records from tetrads: Burnmouth; Burnmouth-Eyemouth; Fast Castle coast; Green Heugh (Pease Bay); Lamberton coast; Pease Bay; St Abbs and St Abb's Head. Records were largely in single figures.

Records of birds on territory came only from four tetrads.

Aug-Dec:

Records from seven tetrads. Peak counts were: Pease Bay - 11; Burnmouth-Partanhall - 7; Eyemouth North Bay - 6; Burnmouth Bay - 4; Eyemouth South Bay - 3; St Abb's Head - 3; St Abbs - present.

There were two records of the subspecies *littoralis* from Dunglass: 6-Mar (DK Graham) and 20-Mar (J Palfery).

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Scarce winter vagrant to coastal areas, not annual.

Two records came from Pease Bay: singles on 27-Feb and 26-Nov (DK Graham). The full history of records is as follows:

	No sites	Bird-days	Sites
1984	1	7	Burnmouth
1985	1	1	St Abb's Head
2011	1	5	Dunglass
2012	1	5	Dunglass
2014	1	1	Dunglass
2015	3	5	Dunglass, Pease Bay, Coldingham Bay
2016	1	2	Pease Bay

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.

Ninety-six records from 48 tetrads.

Winter-spring (Jan-Mar):

Records from 27 tetrads (11 tetrads in 2015, 16 in 2014, 34 in 2013, 16 in 2012, 32 in 2011). Shiplaw (Portmore) had counts of c. 450-500 between 24-Jan and 8-Feb (K Howell; RD Murray). Redheugh Glen (Coldingham Moor) had a count of 210 on 17-Jan (RD Murray) and Bamflatt (Broughton) had 140 on 13-Mar. Counts of 30-34 came from the Black Barony (Eddleston) between 12-Mar and 30-Mar.

Spring (Apr-May):

Records from nine tetrads (no records in 2015 and seven tetrads in 2014): Deanfoot (West Linton) - 260 on 15-Apr (RD Murray); Berryfell (Stobs Castle) - 200 on 9-Apr (M Henderson); Kings Meadows (Peebles) - 40; Cardrona - 2; Peebles - 1; Tweedbank - 1; Eddleston - 1; Dowlaw road (Coldingham Moor) - 1; Melrose -1 (12-Apr, the last record of spring).

Autumn (Sep-Oct):

There were no records from Sept. The earliest record was of a single at St Abb's Head on 4-Oct (F Evans). Records from five tetrads in Oct (2015 had six tetrads for the autumn and two tetrads in 2014. Like this year, both of these previous years had no September records). Peak counts for this year were: Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) 5; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk) - 2; Burnmouth - 1; Craik -1; Folly Loch - 1.

Winter (Nov-Dec):

Records from 13 tetrads (seven in 2015 and seven in 2014). Bonchester Hill - 21 (MJ Bruce); Eddleston - 6; Greenlaw Moor - 2; Stow - 2; Eildon; Nether Falla (Portmore); The Rink (Galashiels); Paxton; Craik; Crailing (Nisbet); Peebles; Melrose; Earlston.

<p>Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i></p> <p>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.</p>
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Eight hundred and seventy records from 249 (19%) tetrads (217 in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 102 tetrads (86 in 2015 and 97 in 2014). Largest counts were: Kirkhouse (Traquair) - 600 on 1-Jan (R Bramhall); Shiplaw (Eddleston) - 550 on 27-Jan (RD Murray); Redheugh Glen (Coldingham Moor) - 400 on 17-Jan (RD Murray); Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley) - 300 on 2-Feb (G Pyatt); Altarstones Ponds (Broughton) - 180; Williestruther Loch (Hawick) - 150; Synton Mossend (Ashkirk) - 130; Bamflatt (Broughton) - 110; Stantlingcraig Res (Selkirk) - 80; Peebles - 70; Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston - 62; Nisbet - 60; Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean - 50.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 149 tetrads (148 in 2015 and 177 in 2014). Largest counts were: Drumelzier Glen (Broughton) - 90; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 49; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 36; Peat Hill (Eddleston) - 35; Deanfoot (West Linton) - 30; Cloich (Eddleston) - 29; Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords) - 26.

Records with breeding evidence came from only 26 tetrads with no confirmed breeding and nearly all evidence in the form of singing males or birds on territory. BBS records for all of SE Scotland show a more or less stable trend for the past 15 years.

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 59 tetrads (71 in 2015 and 75 in 2014). The largest counts were: Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick) - 300 on 12-Nov (M Moncrieff); Black Barony -41; Bemersyde - 40; Howden (Selkirk) - 40; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 30; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh -29; Folly Loch - 26; Peebles -25.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare resident and migrant, not annual. During 2008-13 was found in 2 tetrads in summer, one in winter.

Three records of singles from three tetrads: 13-May at Melrose (J Davies); 21-Sep at Manderston (Duns) (A Mossop) and on 22-Oct at Chirnsidebridge (Birdguides).

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

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

Two hundred and fifty-six records from 109 (9%) tetrads (107 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 46 tetrads (46 in 2015 and 53 in 2014). Largest counts: an exceptional count of 20 at Rubers Law (Denholm) (M Henderson); West Muirdean (Kelso) - 8; Eyemouth - 8; Duns - 8; Eildon Wester Hill - 7; Newmains (Reston) - 6; Tweedbank - 6; Yetholm Loch - 6; Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge - 6.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 47 tetrads (41 in 2015 and 46 in 2014). The largest counts were never more than four and from: Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 4; Paxton House - 4; Tweedbank - 4; Calaburn Farm (Hawick) - 3; Galashiels - 3; Huntford (Carter Bar) - 3; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 3; Dawyck (Broughton) - 3; Linkim Bay (Coldingham) - 3.

Records with evidence of breeding came from 17 tetrads:

20-Mar	Gattonside-Melrose	P	JD Gordon
21-Mar	Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie	P	RD Murray
22-Mar	Yetholm Loch	P	J Lough
25-Mar	Rotten Brae (Eyemouth)	P	J Lough
02-Apr	Heiton (Kelso)	P	ND Stratton
02-Apr	Calaburn Farm (Hawick)	P	G Scott
02-Apr	Galashiels	P	T Kyle
19-Apr	Pot Loch (Selkirk)	P	RD Murray
07-May	Dawyck (Broughton)	S	M Betts
16-May	Paxton House	P(2)	J Lough
17-May	Bemersyde Back Road	P	J Lough
22-May	Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	P	RD Murray
22-May	Bonchester Bridge	P	M Henderson
23-May	Ale Moor (Buccleuch)	P	M Henderson
26-Jun	Huntford (Carter Bar)	FL	C Watson
01-Jul	Lindean Loch (<i>Selkirk</i>)	FL	EL Bickmore
31-Jul	Cossarhill Farm (Ettrick)	P	M Henderson

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Records from BBSs for the whole of SE Scotland have shown a slight decline in the encounter rate of Bullfinches over the past 15 years or so, although the number of occupied tetrads over the last three years suggests little change.

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 44 tetrads (54 in 2015). Post-breeding flocking produced some larger counts: Rubers Law (Hawick) - 19 (MJ Bruce); Pease Dean - 9; Dawyck (Broughton) - 6; Tweedbank - 8; Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank) - 7; Haining Loch (Selkirk) - 7; Needs Law (Whauchope Forest) - 6; Whitslade (Hawick) - 5.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

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

One hundred and seventy-four records from 55 tetrads (59 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 32 tetrads (22 in 2015 and 34 in 2014). Largest counts: Melrose - 15 (D Parkinson); Newmains (Reston) - 7; Nisbet - 7; Tweedbank - 5; Ladylands (Selkirk) - 5; Heiton (Kelso) - 4; Howden (Selkirk) - 4; St Boswells - 4.

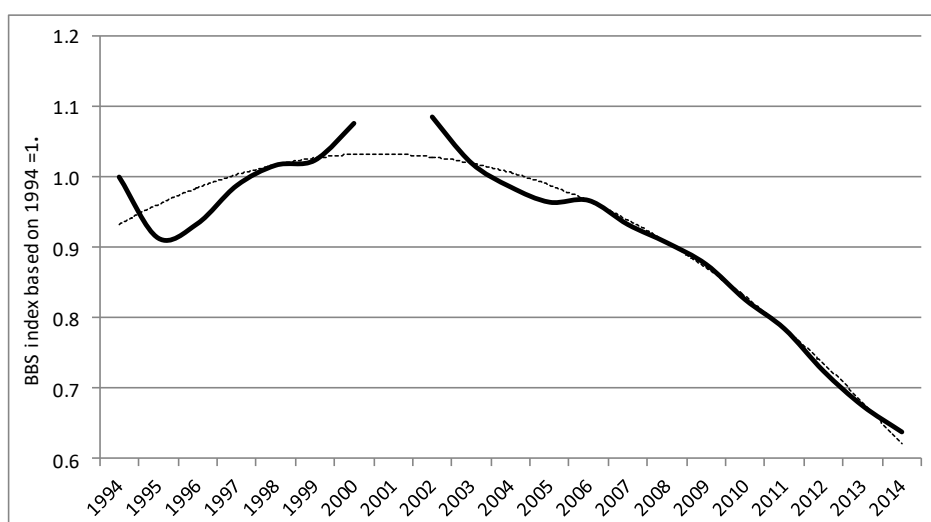
Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 31 tetrads (38 in 2015 and 93 in 2014). Largest counts were: Eddleston Water: Eddleston-Milkieston - 8; Howden (Selkirk) - 6; St Boswells -5; Tweedbank - 4.

Records with breeding evidence came from 10 tetrads. As in 2015, there were no records of confirmed breeding:

19-Mar	Gattonside-Melrose	S	JD Gordon
28-Mar	West Linton SW	S	SD Ward
02-Apr	Wilton Dean (Hawick)	S	G Scott
02-Apr	Hawick (west)	S	G Scott
07-Apr	Woll (Ashkirk)	S	G Scott
07-Apr	Ashkirk (Selkirk)	S	G Scott
15-Apr	Macbiehill Pond (West Linton)	T	RD Murray
01-May	St Boswells	P	M Moncrieff
22-Jun	Hirsel	S	D Parkinson
16-Jul	Howden (Selkirk)	P	G Scott

The decline in breeding range continues and, as the graph below shows, the downward trend in the breeding population has been going on since the beginning of the millennium:



Five-year running average of BBS encounter rate indices for Greenfinch: 1994-2014.
(Break in records in 2001 relates to Foot & Mouth outbreak).

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 14 tetrads (16 in 2015 and 31 in 2014). Largest counts came from: Stow - 6; Tweedbank - 4; Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose) - 4; St Boswells - 3.

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.

One hundred and twenty-four records from 71 tetrads (62 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records from nine tetrads (nine in 2015 and 11 in 2014). Largest counts, dominated by winter flocks, came from: Heiton (Kelso) - 70 (ND Stratton); Redheugh Farm (Coldingham Moor) - 45; Appletreehall (Hawick) - 20; Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth – 20. All of these counts were in January.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records came from 55 tetrads (44 in 2015 and 46 in 2014). Largest counts were (with the largest from either the beginning or the end of the season): Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 50 on 20-Aug (F Evans); Lamberton - 40 on 19-Apr; Folly Loch - 35; Graden (Yetholm) - 15; Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley) - 15; Heiton (Kelso) - 12; St Abb's Head - 12; Eyemouth North Bay - 10.

Records with evidence of breeding came from six tetrads and, like 2015, no records with confirmed breeding:

23-Apr	Fancove Head (Burnmouth)	P	D Parkinson
27-Apr	Meldon Water-middle) - Eddleston	P(2)	RD Murray
06-May	Ladyrig (Kelso)	P	ND Stratton
12-Jun	Lea Head (Hawick)	S	G Scott
14-Jun	Pease Bay	P	RD Murray
23-Jun	Acreknowe Res (Stobs Castle)	P	G Scott

Records since the start of the Borders Bird Report show that numbers of breeding reports have always been limited and that the number of occupied tetrads during the breeding season have only been used since 2009, making any statements on likely population trends of little significance. BBS records for the whole of SE Scotland and the number of occupied tetrads for 2014-2016 however, suggest that the breeding population has been more or less stable for the past 17 years, after growth in the last decade of the last century.

Sep-Dec:

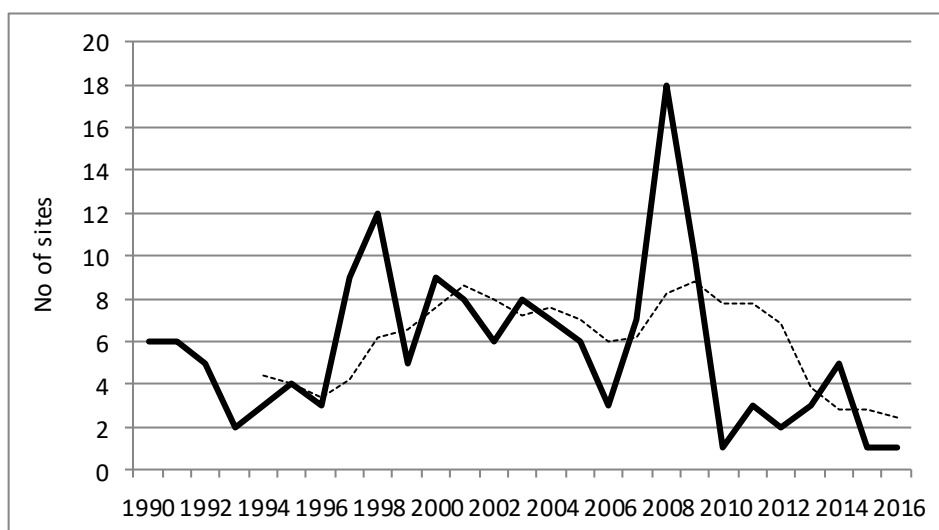
Records from 10 tetrads (17 in 2015). Largest counts were: Bowdenmoor (Melrose) - 43 (M Moncrieff); Nether Falla (Portmore) - 30; St Abb's Head - 22; Bemersyde - 10.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Rare breeder found in just seven sites between 1988-94. 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.

Only three records. All were from Eyemouth: 30 on 5-Feb (F Evans); 18 on 6-Feb (DK Graham) and five on 14-Aug (P Rawnsley). The last record is the earliest autumn-winter record, beating the previous record by a single day: 15-Aug 2004 when three birds were seen at Eyemouth Golf Course.

The number of reported sites since 1990 occupied by Twite (virtually all on passage or wintering along the coast) is shown below:



Reported sites with Twite records: 1990-2016.
(Broken line is 5-yr running average)

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.

Sixty-eight records from 43 tetrads (45 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 12 tetrads (nine in 2015 and 13 in 2014). Records were: Newmains (Reston) - 144 (DK Graham); Innerleithen - 51 (R Bramhall); Redheugh Farm (Coldingham Moor) - 45; Stagger Knowe (Yarrow) - 30; Fulton Tower (Bonchester Bridge) - 28; Parkgatestone (Broughton) - 14; Altarstones Ponds (Broughton) - 10; Peebles - 2; Leadburn - 1; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 1; Melrose - 1; Leadburn Community Wood - 1.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 27 tetrads (25 in 2015 and 37 in 2014). Largest counts were: Wormiston (Eddleston) - 34 (RD Murray); Leadburn Community Wood - 33; Hatton Knowe (Eddleston) - 24; Reston - 6; Cardrona Sewage Reedbed - 5; Selkirk South Common - 5.

Records with breeding evidence came from five tetrads (none in 2015 and 12 in 2014):

08-Apr	Melrose	P	D Parkinson
04-May	Rankle Burn (Buccleuch)	D	RD Murray
04-May	Bellendean Shank (Buccleuch)	D	RD Murray
22-May	Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	P	RD Murray
24-May	Leadburn Community Wood	D	RD Murray

Trends in breeding Lesser Redpolls is difficult to determine: numbers of sites with breeding evidence fluctuate greatly from year to year and the criteria for defining *breeding sites* has varied during the BBR record. However, since 2000 the pattern, which is partly supported by local BBS records, might indicate a largely stable population.

Sep-Dec:

Records from seven tetrads (21 in 2015 and nine in 2014). Records were: Pykestone Wood (Dawyck) - 50; Manor Schoolhouse (Manor Valley) - 20; Nether Falla (Portmore) - 10; Yetholm Loch - 2; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk) - 1; Wooplaw Community Woodlands (Stow) - pr; Yair Hill Forest, Cribs Hill (Selkirk) - pr.

Common Redpoll (Mealy Redpoll) *Carduelis flammea*

Usually very scarce autumn and winter visitor, typically amongst flocks of Lesser Redpoll. Almost annual. During 2008-13 was found in one tetrad in summer, 16 in winter.

Seven records form four tetrads: one at St Abbs Village on 17-Jan; 2-8 at Newmains (Reston) on 5-Feb to 22-Mar (all DK Graham); 16 at Talla Linfoots on 3-Apr (GD Smith) and two at Toxside Moss (Leadburn) (K Ingleby).

Fifteen records from 11 tetrads were submitted of birds classified as Lesser/Common Redpoll, ie species not recognised.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Resident. 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.

Sixty-six records from 40 tetrads (35 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 9 tetrads (14 in 2015 and four in 2014): Cardrona Hill - 45 (R Bramhall); Thornielee - 18; Swinside Hall (Oxnam) - 12; Black Barony (Eddleston) -12; Woolshears Wood (Blyth Bridge) - 8; Plora Wood (Innerleithen) - 5; Williestruther Loch (Hawick) - 4; Huntford (Carter Bar) - pr; Longformacus - pr.

Apr-Aug:

Found in 20 tetrads (14 in 2015 and eight in 2014). Largest counts: Black Barony (Eddleston) - 26 (RD Murray); Gordon Arms Hotel (St Mary's Loch) - 24; Oxnam Row - 10; Dowlaw Road-end (Coldingham Moor) - 9; Huntford (Carter Bar) - 6; Toxside Moss (Leadburn) - 4; Cloich (Eddleston) - 4; Winnington Rig (Stobs Castle) - 4; Traquair Plantation (Selkirk) -4.

Sep-Dec:

Records from 16 tetrads (seven in 2015 and 10 in 2014). Largest counts came from: Black Barony (Eddleston) - 16; Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose) - 12; Wanton Walls (Lauder) - 10; Dabshead Hill (Lauder) - 10; Covenanters' Plantation (Selkirk) - 9; Fountainhall (Stow) - 8; Eildon Mid Hill - 8; Yair Hill Forest (Caddonfoot) - 8; Hare Moss (Selkirk) - 6.

2016 had the first breeding records since 2013, when only a single tetrad had a record of a family group. The breeding records were:

19-Apr	Toxside Moss (Leadburn)	FL	K Ingleby
19-Apr	Thornielee Car Park (Walkerburn)	P	RD Murray
12-May	Oxnam Row	FL	M Henderson
25-Nov	Eildon Mid Hill	P	D Parkinson
01-Dec	Fellside (Carter Bar)	P	M Henderson
31-Dec	Shielswood Loch (Ashkirk)	S	JD Gordon

Still however, records indicate another poor year for Crossbill breeding.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

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

Four hundred and ten records from 120 tetrads (110 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records from 48 tetrads (39 in 2015 and 44 in 2014). Largest counts: Innerleithen - 42; Lamberton - 35; Stantlingcraig Reservoir (Selkirk) - 30; Peebles - 18; Nisbet - 16; Heiton (Kelso) - 16; Whitrigbog-Westfield - 15; Sprouston-Redden (Kelso) - 15; Tweedbank - 13; Hirsell - 10; Redheugh Farm (Coldingham Moor) - 10; Black Barony (Eddleston) - 10; Gavinton (Duns) - 10.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 83 tetrads (70 in 2015 and 77 in 2014). Largest counts: Gattonside-Melrose - 25; Black Barony - 17; Reston - 15; St Abb's Head - 15; Howden (Selkirk) - 12; Melrose - 10; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 10.

Breeding records came from 11 tetrads (10 in 2015):

19-Mar	Gattonside-Melrose	S	JD Gordon
07-Apr	Woll (Ashkirk)	P	G Scott
10-Apr	Melrose (south)	P	D Parkinson
18-Apr	Manor Hill Plantation (Selkirk)	P	G Scott
21-Apr	Highchesters Hill (Hawick)	P	G Scott
21-Jun	Melrose (north)	P	R Dalziel
22-Jun	Hirsell	P	D Parkinson
23-Jun	Acreknowe Res (Hawick)	P	G Scott
02-Jul	Huntford (Carter Bar)	FL	C Watson
06-Jul	Cademuir Hill (Manor Valley)	FL(br3)	RD Murray
12-Aug	Yetholm-The Curr	FL	JD Gordon

Sep-Dec:

Records from 43 tetrads (53 in 2015 and 31 in 2014), suggesting a possible decrease in breeding success in the last year although significantly better than in 2014. Largest counts: Black Barony (Eddleston) - 110 (RD Murray); Bowdenmoor Farm (Melrose) - 50; Burnmouth - 50; Gattonside-Melrose - 40; Lindean Loch (Selkirk) - 35; Hermitage Castle - 32; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 30; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 30; Gala Sewage Works - 20; Sprouston-Redden (Kelso) - 12; Broom (Anrum) - 12; Nisbet - 11; Hirsell - 10; Acreknowe Reservoir (Stobs Castle) - 10.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Common resident & summer visitor in forestry areas. Common passage migrants with peaks October and April. Forms winter flocks. During 2008-13 was found in 57% of tetrads in summer, 36% in winter.

One hundred and seventy-five records from 66 tetrads (48 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Found in 18 tetrads (19 in 2015 and 24 in 2014). Largest counts: Tweedbank - 25 (A Bramhall); Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge - 21; Melrose (south) - 5; Paxton House - 5; Cardrona - 5; Linthill (Eyemouth) - 4.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 42 tetrads (26 in 2015 and 24 in 2014). Largest counts: Peebles - 181 (RS Craig); Tweedbank - 29; Cockburnspath - 26; Cardrona - 12; Melrose (south) - 8; Peat Hill (Eddleston) - 8; Eddleston Water: Milkieston-Cringletie - 8.

Records with breeding evidence came from eight tetrads (two in 2015):

02-Apr	Whitehaugh (Hawick)	P	G Scott
02-Apr	Huntford (Carter Bar)	S	C Watson
03-Apr	Ale Moor Res (Buccleuch)	P	G Scott
10-Apr	Melrose (south)	P	D Parkinson
28-Apr	Hirsel	P	MS Scott
09-May	Young Plantation (Selkirk)	P	G Scott
22-May	Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	D	RD Murray
11-Jun	Peebles	FL	RS Craig

On the rather skeletal basis of occupied tetrads and records with breeding evidence, it appears that 2016 was a better year for Siskins than in 2015 and 2014.

Sep-Dec:

Records from 19 tetrads (20 in 2015 and 14 in 2014). Largest counts: Scraesburgh (Jedburgh) - 45; Tweedbank - 35; Old Braidlie (Hermitage) - 30; Abbotsford - 24; Covenanters' Plantation (Selkirk) - 20; Thornielee Craigs (Walkerburn) - 13; Black Barony (Eddleston) -12; Peebles - 12.

This is an under-recorded species, the extent to which is well illustrated by the 181 birds ringed by Stuart Craig in his Peebles garden on 11-Jun and the fact that there were 3,468 Siskins ringed in the Borders in 2016. Readers are encouraged to submit records of sightings of this species and, if relevant, include breeding status.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, October-March. Scarcer January-March. During 2008-13 was found in three tetrads in summer, 37 in winter.

Only one record: on 12-Jan from Cardrona (J Sharp). This appears to be the worst year for Snow Bunting records in the Borders since before 1978.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Now a very rare winter visitor. A little more frequent in early 1990s.

The best set of records since 2008:

25-Sep	St Abb's Head	4	DK Graham/F Evans
28-Sep	St. Abb's Head	1	Birdguides
28-Sep	St Abb's Head	1	J Inglis
08-Oct	Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	Pr.	Birdguides

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Abundant but declining resident, mainly in the east. Forms winter flocks. During 2008-13 was found in 41% of tetrads in summer, 30% in winter.

Two hundred and six records from 73 tetrads(75 in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records came from 26 tetrads (28 in 2015 and 42 in 2014). Once again Newmains (Reston) provided the largest counts with 140 on 1-Jan (DK Graham). Other larger counts were: Whitrigbog-Westfield - 92; Crailing Kirk (Nisbet) - 42; Wester Wooden(Eckford) - 40; Dalcove Mains (Smailholm) - 24; Jedburgh -22; Fishwick Mains (Paxton) - 18; Whitelaw (Eddleston) - 15.

Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 48 tetrads (68 in 2015 and 67 in 2014). Largest counts: Sprouston- Redden (Kelso) - 12; Heiton (Kelso) - 10; Bemersyde Farm - 9; Hoselaw Mains (Kelso) - 8; St Abb's Head - 8; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 7; East Newton (Whitsome) - 6; Allanton (Chirnside) -6.

Breeding records came from 17 tetrads (20 tetrads in 2015):

17-Mar	Rink Hill (Galashiels)	S	G Scott
25-Mar	Woll (Ashkirk)	S	G Scott
02-Apr	Wiltonburn Hill (Hawick)	P	G Scott
15-Apr	Macbiehill Pond (West Linton)	S	RD Murray
19-Apr	Selkirk Race Course Moss	S	RD Murray
23-Apr	Hartwoodburn (Selkirk)	S	G Scott
12-Jun	Leahead Loch (Hawick)	T	G Scott
17-Jun	Millar's Moss (St Abb's Head)	FF	F Evans
26-Jun	Gala Law (Hawick)	T	G Scott
07-Jul	Gattonside-Melrose	S	JD Gordon
08-Jul	Folly Loch	S	JD Gordon
10-Jul	Bemersyde Moss	S	JD Gordon
10-Jul	Whitrig Bog (Smailholm)	S	JD Gordon
07-Aug	Newstead-Drygrange (Melrose)	S	JD Gordon
07-Aug	Sorrowlessfield (Earlston)	S	JD Gordon
07-Aug	Gattonside-Earlston	S	JD Gordon
07-Aug	Black Hill (Earlston)	S	JD Gordon

See Introduction for breeding codes.

BBR records throw little light on the trend of the breeding population. The BBS records for the whole of SE Scotland however, suggest that this millennium has seen an increase in numbers after a significant decline in the latter part of the 20th century.

Sep-Dec:

Records from 16 tetrads (18 in 2015). Largest counts: Newmains (Reston) - 72; Eaglehall (Whitsome) - 22; Paxton House -22; Folly Loch -21; Whitelaw (Eddleston) - 20; Lady Moss (Selkirk) -20.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Very rare passage migrant.

A single bird was seen at St Abb's Head on 8-Oct (DK Graham). See description on p. 197. This is the sixth record for the Borders. Previous records were from 1986, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 2015.

Erratum: In BBR 2015 it was stated incorrectly that the record for Ortolan Bunting was possibly the first for the Borders.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Scarce and 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.

Two hundred and thirty records from 86 tetrads (75 tetrads in 2015).

Jan-Mar:

Records came from 28 tetrads (25 in 2015 and 24 in 2014). Largest counts: Newmains (Reston) - 36; Whitrigbog-Westfield - 11; Sprouston-Whitmuirhaugh (Kelso) - 4; Howden (Selkirk) - 4; Joshua's Plantation (Whitsome) - 4; Leadburn Community Wood - 4.

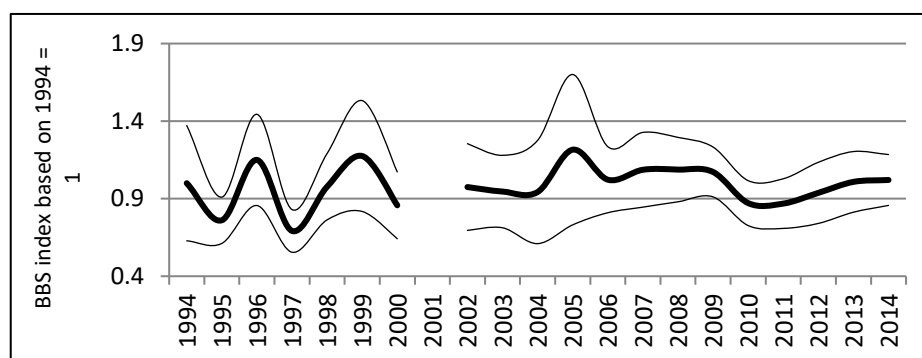
Apr-Aug (breeding season):

Records from 77 tetrads (57 in 2015 and 89 in 2014). Largest counts were: Bemersyde Moss - 28; Murder Moss (Selkirk) - 11; Hawick Moss - 10; Coldingham Loch - 9; Allanton (Chirnside) - 8; Groundstone Moss (Hawick) - 8; East Newton (Whitsome) - 6; Lochton (Kelso) - 6; Tandlew Moss (Hawick) - 6.

Records with breeding evidence came from 47 sites (22 sites in 2015):

23-Apr	Dinley Farm (Hermitage)	P	M Henderson	19-Jun	Leadburn Community Wood	DD	RD Murray
28-Apr	Hirsel	P	MS Scott	21-Jun	Dowlaw Farm (Coldingham Moor)	P	RD Murray
07-May	Cardrona Sewage Reedbed	P	RD Murray	25-Jun	Billiemains Ponds (Chirnside)	S	F Evans
24-May	Leadburn Community Wood	P	RD Murray	28-Jun	Whitmuirhall Loch (Selkirk)	P	RD Murray
27-May	Talla Reservoir	S	RD Murray	28-Jun	Murder Moss (Selkirk)	P(2)	RD Murray
27-May	Fruid Reservoir - E end	S	RD Murray	28-Jun	Blackpool Moss (Selkirk)	P	RD Murray
27-May	Meldon Water - Middle	S	RD Murray	01-Jul	Fruid Reservoir (east)	S	RD Murray
27-May	St Mary's Loch - all	T(3)	RD Murray	01-Jul	Dreva Marsh (Broughton)	T	RD Murray
28-May	Green Diamond lochs	S	EL Bickmore	04-Jul	Hollybush South Pond (Galashiels)	S	RD Murray
03-Jun	Folly Loch	S	RD Murray	05-Jul	Meldon Water -middle (Eddleston)	S	RD Murray
04-Jun	Bemersyde Moss	ON(3-4)	RD Murray	05-Jul	Stewarton Moss (Eddleston)	P	RD Murray
04-Jun	Tweed - Sprouston-Banff Mill	T(4)	RD Murray	10-Jul	Whitrig Bog	S	JD Gordon
04-Jun	Tweed, Lochton	T(5)	RD Murray	18-Jul	Whim Pond (Leadburn)	S	RD Murray
08-Jun	Routing Burn (Hermitage)	S	J Bray	18-Jul	Wester Deans Ponds (Leadburn)	S	RD Murray
09-Jun	Hawick Moss	T(7)	RD Murray	19-Jul	Essenside Loch (Ashkirk)	T(3)	RD Murray
09-Jun	Groundstone Moss (Hawick)	T(8)	RD Murray	19-Jul	Tandlew Moss (Hawick)	T(5)	RD Murray
09-Jun	Long Gill (Newcastleton)	S	J Bray	19-Jul	Clarilaw Hill Pond (Hawick)	T(2)	RD Murray
See Introduction for breeding codes				21-Jul	North Esk Reservoir	S	J Palfery

BBS data for all of SE Scotland shows an apparently stable breeding population for much of the last 17 years or so:



Reed Bunting BBS trends for SE Scotland: 1994-2014.

Sep-Dec:

Records came from 12 tetrads (10 in 2015). Largest counts were: Newmains - 12; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk) - 6; Greenlaw Moor-Hule Moss - 5; Carham-Sprouston (Kelso) - 4.

Birds of unknown origin, hybrids and escapes

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

A single bird was reported from Yetholm Loch between 2-Nov and 8-Dec.

Hybrid Goose

Two birds reported from Gattonside-Melrose between 25-30 Dec. No other details received.

Muscovy Duck

Single reported from Whitehope (Leithen Valley) on 10-Jun.



Lesser and Mealy Redpolls. Newmains. January. Dave Graham.

Ringling in the Scottish Borders, 2016

This is the thirtieth 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 information available on the BTO website at <http://app.bto.org/ring/countyrec/results2016/ringGBBR2016.htm>. This provides 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 also presents 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 has now exceeded 115,600.

Table 1 lists the species and numbers ringed in 2016 in the Borders area.

Species	Nestling	Full-grown	Tot.	Species	Nestling	Full-grown	Tot.
Storm Petrel		22	22	Garden Warbler		2	2
Hen Harrier	7	0	7	Whitethroat		12	12
Goshawk	11	0	11	Sedge Warbler	19	45	64
Sparrowhawk		2	2	Paddyfield Warbler #		1	1
Buzzard	7	0	7	Reed Warbler		1	1
Osprey	17	0	17	Nuthatch	29	26	55
Oystercatcher	44	0	44	Treecreeper		13	13
Lapwing	30	0	30	Wren		74	74
Curlew	17	0	17	Starling		5	5
Common Sandpiper	9	13	22	Dipper	37	8	45
Redshank	2	0	2	Blackbird		165	165
Jack Snipe	0	1	1	Song Thrush	4	29	33
Black-headed Gull	39	0	39	Redwing		22	22
Common Gull	11	0	11	Mistle Thrush		1	1
Woodpigeon		4	4	Spotted Flycatcher		2	2
Collared dove	2	0	2	Robin	4	124	128
Cuckoo #		1	1	Red-flanked Bluetail		1	1
Barn Owl	23	19	42	Redstart	13	1	14
Little Owl #		1	1	Stonechat		1	1
Tawny Owl	8	1	9	Dunnock		172	172
Swift		2	2	House Sparrow	5	206	211
Gt Spotted Woodpecker		2	2	Tree Sparrow	19	55	74
Kestrel	4	0	4	Grey Wagtail		3	3
Peregrine		1	1	Pied / White Wagtail		16	16
Jackdaw	8	0	8	Meadow Pipit	7	417	424
Raven	10	0	10	Brambling		71	71
Goldcrest		156	156	Chaffinch	1	1143	1144
Blue Tit	36	417	453	Bullfinch		23	23
Great Tit	35	151	186	Greenfinch		255	255
Coal Tit		172	172	Linnet		58	58
Swallow	17	7	24	Lesser Redpoll		133	133
House Martin		3	3	Common Redpoll		1	1
Long-tailed Tit		19	19	Redpoll (Common/Lesser)		33	33
Yellow-browed Warbler		3	3	Goldfinch		417	417
Chiffchaff		89	89	Siskin		3468	3468
Willow Warbler		113	113	Yellowhammer		15	15
Blackcap		40	40	Reed Bunting	5	63	68
				Totals	337	1239	1576

Table 1 : Birds ringed in the Scottish Borders, 2016.

2016 was a very productive year for ringing in the Borders, with one of the highest annual totals in recent years, three new species added to the cumulative list (Cuckoo, Little Owl and Paddyfield Warbler), and high totals for particular species such as Osprey, Goldcrest, the tits, the thrushes, Chaffinch, redpolls and, especially, Siskin – around three-quarters of which were ringed in one small garden in Peebles.

On the debit side no Short-eared Owl, Swift or Peregrine chicks were ringed, and a steady decline continued in the number of Dipper chicks ringed.

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 5 km. 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/results2016/recGBBR2016.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, straight-line distance and orientation between the localities of initial ringing and subsequent finding are given.

Table 2. Recoveries and controls.

Ring number & Finding circumstances	Age & sex	Date	Location	Distance (km)	Direction
Mute Swan					
XY2031	Imm F	18.10.2015	Queen Elizabeth II Country Park, Northumberland		
Ring read in field	Ad F	26.11.2016	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank	90	WNW
XY2078	Ad F	28.02.2016	Queen Elizabeth II Country Park, Northumberland		
Ring read in field	Ad F	28.11.2016	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank	90	WNW
W00836	Imm M	30.07.2000	Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland		
Ring read in field	Ad M	26.11.2016	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank	52	WSW
W00837	Imm M	30.07.2000	Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland		
fresh dead	Ad M	15.11.2016	Bowhill, Selkirk	63	WSW
ZZ2186	N F	24.08.2003	Traquair, Innerleithen		
Fresh dead	Ad F	01.03.2016	Haystoun Estate, Peebles	8	WNW
ZY4210	Imm F	29.07.2010	Stockton-on-Tees		
Ring read in field	Ad F	06.11.2016	Nisbet	132	NW
ZY7097	Imm	07.02.2015	Chester-le-Street, Durham		
Ring read in field	Imm	02.12.2015	Chester-le-Street, Durham		
Ring read in field	Ad	13.06.2016	Amble, Northumberland	54	N
Long dead	Ad	15.11.2016	River Whiteadder, Chirnside	111	NNW

ZZ889	N	06.08.2004	Millfield, Northumberland		
Ring read in field	Ad M	10.03.2016	Eyemouth	32	N
W36958	N	16.08.2014	Craiglockhart Pond, Edinburgh		
Ring read in field	Imm	05.04.2016	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank		
W36980	N	23.08.2014	Riccarton Pond, Edinburgh		
Ring read in field	Imm	07.11.2015	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank		
Ring read in field	Imm	2016	various water bodies, Edinburgh & Musselburgh		
Ring read in field	Imm	19.12.2016	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank		
Whooper Swan					
A8438	Ad F	14.08.2008	Anavatn, Jokuldalsheidi, ICELAND		
Ring read in field	Ad F	2009 - 2011	various sites Dumfries & Galloway, Cumbria, North Yorkshire		
Ring read in field	Ad F	06.03.2011	Howden		
Ring read in field	Ad F	22.10.2011	Crailing Tofts		
Ring read in field	Ad F	21.11.2011	Rockcliffe, Cumbria		
Ring read in field	Ad F	25.03.2016	Folly Loch		
A8949	N F	05.08.2012	Langholt, Skagafjardur, ICELAND		
Ring read in field	Ad F	06.11.2016	Nisbet	1,449	SE
Greylag Goose					
colour-ring SAU	Imm F	26/10/2000	Loch Eye, Highland		
Ring read in field	Imm / Ad F	2000 - 2008	various sites, Highland and Orkney		
Ring read in field	Ad F	27/02/2016	Folly Loch		
Storm Petrel					
2661121	FG	22.07.2014	Eyemouth		
Controlled	FG	26.06.2016	Marloes, Pembrokeshire	504	205
2661155	FG	02.08.2014	Eyemouth		
Controlled	FG	26.06.2016	Treshnish Isles, Argyll & Bute	277	285
2698904	FG	13.08.2015	Eyemouth		
controlled	FG	15.07.2016	North Ronaldsay, Orkney	392	358
Sparrowhawk					
EL96620	Imm F	25.09.2015	Peebles		
Metal detector - leg with ring	Imm F	22.04.2016	Peebles		
Hen Harrier					
EX53119	N M	08.07.2016	near Roan Fell		
killed by wild mammal	N M	22.07.2016	near Roan Fell		
Osprey					
1447196	N F	12.07.2013	Muir of Ord, Highland		
Ring read in field	Ad	17.04.2016	Kielder Water, Northumberland	288	SSE
Ring read in field	Ad	20.04.2016	Glentress Forest	221	SSE
Ring read in field	Ad	24.07.2016	Kielder Water, N'land		
Ring read in field	Ad	26.07 & 07.08.2016	Glentress Forest		
Oystercatcher					
FA77209	N	29.05.1996	Langhaugh, Manor Valley		
Dead, traffic casualty	Ad	11.08.2016	Manor Valley		
FA29332, re-ringed FP90377	N	04.06.2005	Ladyside, near Heriot		
Controlled	Ad	05.10.2016	Waterfoot, Annan, Dumfries & Galloway	85	190

FH50165	N	01.07.2012	Garvald, near Heriot		
Controlled	Ad	05.10.2016	Waterfoot, Annan, Dumfries	85	190
Little Ringed Plover					
NR61992	N	29.05.2009	Reston		
Controlled	Ad	10.04.2016	Scaling Dam, Redcar & Cleveland	173	151
Woodcock					
EZ15519	Imm	15.10.2016	Isle of May, Fife		
Shot dead	Imm	26.12.2016	Wester Wooden Farm, Eckford	75	S
Black-headed Gull					
EY21526	N	16.06.2013	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	16.02.2015	Leyland Ponds, Bathgate, West Lothian	40	290
Ring read in field	Ad	27.11.2016	Leyland Ponds, Bathgate, West Lothian		
EY21530	N	16.06.2013	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	17.03.2016	Figgate Pond, Edinburgh		
Ring read in field	Ad	13 & 26.11.2016	Richmond Park, Glasgow		
EY21540	N	16.06.2013	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	12.07.2016	Inverkeithing Bay, Fife		
EY21543	N	16.06.2013	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Imm	04.06 & 02.12.2014	Loch Leven, Kinross		
Ring read in field	Ad	03.06.2016	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank		
EY21545	N	16.06.2013	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Imm	20.07 & 10.08.2013	Hogganfield Loch, Glasgow		
Ring read in field, breeding?	Ad	23.05.2016	Inseln Bohmke und Werder, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, GERMANY	1,111	101
Ring read in field	Ad	14.07.2016	Doonfoot, Ayrshire		
EY21564	N	16.06.2013	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Imm to Ad	winters 2013/14 to 2015 / 16	Balloch, Loch Lomond		
EY21566	N	16.06.2013	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	18.02.2016	Brunstane Burn, Edinburgh		
EY21568	N	16.06.2013	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Imm to Ad	winters 2013/14 to 2015/16	Kelso		
Ring read in field	Ad	16.01.2016	Kelso	41	117
Ring read in field	Ad	27.07.2016	Kelso		
EY21581	N	16.06.2013	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	17.10.2016	R Esk, Musselburgh, E Lothian	21	0
EY21667	N	16.06.2013	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	31.12.2014; 21.09 & 01.10.2015	Seton Burn, East Lothian		
Ring read in field	Ad	23 & 27.07.2016	Seton Burn, East Lothian		
EY21684	N	16.06.2013	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	07,08.04.2015	Caerlaverock, Dumfries		

Ring read in field, nesting	Ad	22.04.2015	Caerlaverock WWT, Dumfries & Galloway		
EY21717	N	29.06.2013	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	07 & 15.08.2016	Musselburgh, East Lothian		
EY21726	N	14.06.2014	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	12.11.2016	Washington WWT, Tyne & Wear	135	SE
EY21728	N	14.06.2014	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	17.09.2015	Cramond, Edinburgh		
Ring read in field	Ad	03.03.2016	Kirkcaldy, Fife		
EY21731	N	14.06.2014	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	19.11 & 10.12.2016	Richmond Park, Glasgow		
EY21739	N	14.06.2014	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	17.07.2016	Linlithgow Loch, West Lothian	43	305
EY21831	N	29.06.2015	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	27.11.2016	Leyland Ponds, Bathgate, West Lothian	40	290
EY21849	N	11.06.2016	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Imm	05.10.2016	Seton Sands, East Lothian		
EY21857	N	11.06.2016	Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Imm	15.10.2016	Big Waters Country Park, Newcastle-upon-Tyne		
Barn Owl					
GR26537	N	04.06.2014	Lugate Water, Stow		
Dead, traffic casualty	Ad	17.03.2016	Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway	159	236
GR82530	N	28.06.2014	near Scopwick, Lincolnshire		
Dead, traffic casualty	Ad	22.04.2016	Houndwood	328	NNW
Short-eared Owl					
GH49582	N	28.05.2009	Dewar, Moorfoot Hills		
Dead, traffic casualty	Ad	01.08.2012	Leadgate, Alston, Cumbria	110	161
Peregrine					
GC42866	N M	21.06.2008	near West Linton		
Ring found on beach	?	27.08.2016	North Berwick, East Lothian	53	51
GN09345	N F	21.06.2003	near Bitch Craig		
controlled	Ad F	18.04.2007	near Penicuik, Midlothian		
controlled & transponder record	Ad F	2008 - 2016	near Penicuik, Midlothian		
GN69162	N F	05.06.2004	near Daviot, Highland		
controlled	Ad F	24.04.2009	near Bitch Craig	218	SSE
transponder record	Ad F	2010 - 2016	near Bitch Craig		
GN69376	Ad F	27.04.2005	near Newcastleton		
controlled & transponder record	Ad F	2006 & 2007	near Newcastleton		
controlled & transponder record	Ad F	2009 - 2016	near Canonbie, Dumfries & Galloway		
Blue Tit					
One recovery local to Peebles					
Of the many retraps, the longest intervals between ringing and latest retrap are :-					
T637500	Imm	26.11.2008	Peebles		
latest retrap	Ad	17.11.2015	Peebles		
X704123	Imm	20.11.2009	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		

latest retrap	Ad	06.02.2015	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Great Tit					
Of the many retraps, the longest intervals between ringing and latest retrap are :-					
L630653	Imm M	08.12.2010	Peebles		
latest retrap	Ad M	07.01.2016	Peebles		
L760785	Imm M	14.10.2011	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
latest retrap	Ad M	26.10.2016	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Coal Tit					
Of the retraps, the longest intervals between ringing and latest retrap are :-					
J712799	Imm	26.09.2010	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
latest retrap	Ad	06.12.2015	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Yellow-browed Warbler					
BPP882	Imm	09.10.2016	St Abbs Head		
Controlled	Imm	31.10.2016	Nanjizal, Lands End, Cornwall	694	200
Chiffchaff					
BPP867	Imm	26.09.2016	St Abbs Head		
Controlled	Imm	09.10.2016	Stanford Reservoir, Northamptonshire	395	171
DAX905	Imm	03.07.2012	St Abbs Head		
latest retrap	Ad	22.06.2016	St Abbs Head		
Willow Warbler					
DAX554	Ad	03.08.2011	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
latest retrap	Ad	16.08.2015	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Blackcap					
S322900	Juv	31.07.2016	Baxley, near Duns		
Controlled	imm	30.08.2016	Derwent Reservoir Nature Reserve, Northumberland	104	S
Sedge Warbler					
L760055	Imm	24.07.2011	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Controlled	Ad	06.08.2016	Gif-sur-Viette, Seine-et-Oise, FRANCE	831	157
D477220	N	21.06.2016	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Controlled	Imm	05.08.2016	East Chevington, Northumberland	83	112
L762806	Ad M	25.05.2013	St Abbs Head		
latest retrap	Ad M	22.06.2016	St Abbs Head		
Nuthatch					
TV55121	N	30.05.2015	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Killed by cat	Imm	23.09.2016	Haysike, Hawick	15	189
Dipper					
Of the retraps, the longest intervals between ringing and latest retrap are :-					
RT78178	Imm F	24.04.2010	Leithen Water		
latest retrap	Ad F	28.03.2016	Leithen Water		
Blackbird					
One recovery local to Peebles					
Of the many retraps, the longest intervals between ringing and latest retrap are :-					
CW43710	Imm M	01.01.2009	Peebles		
latest retrap	Ad M	24.01.2016	Peebles		
Dunnock					
One recovery local to Peebles					
Grey Wagtail					
D948661	Imm	29.09.2014	Woolston Eyes, Warrington		
Dead, in building	Ad	19.04.2016	Melrose	245	N
Meadow Pipit					
D478356	Imm	14.08.2016	Nether Falla, Leadburn		

Controlled	Imm	19.09.2016	near Fawley, Hampshire	562	168
Chaffinch					
Six recoveries local to Peebles					
One recovery local to Selkirk					
ED97727	FG M	24.04.2014	Kvassas, Sokndal, NORWAY		
Killed by cat	Ad M	11.10.2016	Ettrickbridge, Selkirk	645	WSW
V018710	Imm F	19.09.2013	Peebles		
Controlled	Ad F	18.09.2016	Copeland Bird Observatory, Co. Down	184	235
V023688	Imm F	25.03.2016	Peebles		
Controlled	Ad F	13.08.2016	Silverdale, Lancashire	167	172
Of the many retraps, the longest intervals between ringing and latest retrap are :-					
T002317	Imm M	13.08.2006	Peebles		
latest retrap	Ad M	11.10.2016	Peebles		
Greenfinch					
Three recoveries local to Peebles					
Lesser Redpoll					
D738045	Imm	21.02.2014	Aldermaston Gravel Pit, West Berkshire		
Controlled	Ad M	26.05.2016	Peebles	491	345
V020939	Imm F	19.01.2015	Peebles		
Controlled	Ad F	25.03.2016	Brigstock, Northamptonshire	393	155
D443192	Ad M	17.11.2015	Lakenheath Fen, Suffolk		
Controlled	Ad M	03.05.2016	Peebles	430	326
Z202739	FG M	01.01.2016	Hednesford Hills, Staffordshire		
Controlled	Ad M	14.04.2016	Peebles	337	347
R854520	Ad M	13.02.2016	Brandon, Suffolk		
Controlled	Ad M	02.05.2016	Peebles	435	326
Z799868	Ad M	14.02.2016	Wingerworth, Derbyshire		
Controlled	Ad M	28.04.2016	Peebles	297	338
Z619115	Imm M	04.05.2016	Hilbre Island, Wirral, Merseyside		
Controlled	Imm M	26.06.2016	Peebles	254	1
Siskin					
L630690	Ad F	12.12.2010	Peebles		
Retrapped	Ad F	29.07 & 21.12.2015	Peebles		
L838175	Imm M	27.02.2011	Chilworth, Surrey		
Controlled	Ad M	24.02.2014	Worplesden, Surrey	7	WNW
Controlled	Ad M	04.05.2014	Selkirk	504	NNW
Controlled	Ad M	25.02.2016	Worplesden, Surrey		
Controlled	Ad M	10.04.2016	Selkirk		
Y546505	Imm M	26.02.2012	Boyton, Suffolk		
Controlled	Ad M	09.04.2016	Peebles	499	323
V019812	Imm M	03 & 05.10.2013	Peebles		
Controlled	Ad M	02.02.2016	Chilworth, Surrey	523	SSE
V019373	Ad M	29.04.2014	Peebles		
Controlled	Ad M	29.03.2016	Oud Turnhout, Antwerpen, BELGIUM	723	132
V022456	Imm M	09.09.2015	Peebles		
Controlled	Imm M	24.03.2016	Kampenhout, Brabant, BELGIUM	732	136

Z323705	Imm M	25.01.2016	near Romsey, Hampshire		
Controlled	Imm M	19.06.2016	Peebles	530	348
14411566	Ad M	25.02.2016	Sint Amands, Antwerpen, BELGIUM		
Controlled	Ad M	26.04.2016	Peebles	709	317
D977879	Imm F	25.03.2016	Whitstable, Kent		
Controlled	Imm F	13.04.2016	Peebles	554	330

From Table 2 it can be seen that some of our Borders Mute Swans originate in Durham and Tees-side; there was an uncommon movement involving a Storm Petrel to Wales (most of “ours” involve North-east England and elsewhere in Scotland), and the colour-ringed Highland-bred Osprey spent a bit of time moving between Glentress and Kielder Forests (decisions, decisions...), hopefully prospecting for a breeding site or mate.

Of the Borders-ringed waders, a 20-years old Oystercatcher is noteworthy, as is the Little Ringed Plover recaptured in North-east England. Woodcock EZ15519 did not have a happy end to its first festive season.

The Black-headed Gull sightings include the first confirmed breeding away from the natal colony, at Caerlaverock; another breeding season sighting in Germany, with the same bird being seen two months later in Ayrshire; and a scattering of other records, largely where there are dedicated gull-watchers !

There were three long-distance movements of owls, all ending in traffic collisions; but a 12-years old Peregrine was still going strong.

Of the passerine species there were records of seven-, six- and five-years old Blue, Great and Coal Tits, and an astonishing retrap of the scarce Yellow-browed Warbler. Blackcap S322900 and Sedge warbler D477220 had dispersed on southwards autumn migration during August, both heading through Northumberland.

Nuthatch TV55121 reveals that the species seems still to be spreading across the Borders. There was a seven-years old Dipper still thriving in the Moorfoots, and a similar-aged Blackbird in Peebles.

The Grey Wagtail recovery may give an indication of where our birds winter or pass through in autumn; and Meadow Pipit D478356 was possibly heading further south for the winter when captured in autumn on the English south coast.

Chaffinch produced two interesting movements to the west and south, and a 10-years old bird in Peebles. There was a good scattering of Lesser Redpoll controls, one noteworthy bird still present in the Wirral (after wintering there, or on passage through) in early May.

It was to be expected that the volume of Siskins handled would produce many recoveries and controls. Of the resulting 72, the most interesting – in terms of longevity (L630690 being at least 6 1/2 years old when last handled), distance moved, and apparent site fidelity both in late winter and early spring (L838175) – are detailed in Table 2. Table 3 summarises the sources and destinations of Siskins passing through Peebles.

From Peebles	Location (local government area)	To Peebles	Totals	From Peebles	Location (local government area)	To Peebles
8	Highland	4	12	1	Staffordshire	8
2	Argyll & Bute	2	4	0	Norfolk	3
0	Central	1	1	5	Suffolk	6
1	North Lanarkshire	0	1	0	Powys	1
3	Borders	0	3	0	Northamptonshire	1
1	Dumfries & Galloway	1	2	0	Gloucestershire	1
3	Northumberland	2	5	0	Essex	2
0	Redcar & Cleveland	1	1	0	West Berkshire	2
0	North Yorkshire	1	1	1	Surrey	1
0	Lincolnshire	2	2	0	Kent	1

1	Cheshire	1	2	0	Hampshire	1
0	Conwy	1	1	2	BELGIUM	1

Table 3 : Locations involved in movements of Siskins to and from Peebles in 2016.

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, Keith Burgoyne, Jim Burns, Willie Edmond, Mike Fraser, David Grieve, Rich Howells, Tony Lightley, Lothian & Borders Raptor Study Group, Lothian Ringing Group, the late Ray Murray, and James Silvey.

Tom Dougall, 38 Leamington Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 4JL.



Mediterranean Gull (2nd-winter). Newmains. February. Dave Graham.

Accounts of sightings of two rare birds

The following accounts were supplied by Dave Graham. These were submitted as pro forma descriptions in order to have his records of a Dusky Warbler and of an Ortolan Bunting validated. In both cases they stand as exemplars of how to complete such descriptions.

Species: Dusky Warbler	
Date first seen: 16/10/2016	Date last seen: 16/10/2016
No. of Birds: 1	Age/Sex:
County: Scottish Borders	Location: St Abbs Head
Please fill in your email address to ensure that you get an acknowledgement	
Finder: David Graham	Email:
Identifier (<i>if different</i>):	Email:
Submitter (<i>if different</i>):	Email:
Other observers: Fran Evans and 6 others	
Any who disagrees with identification? no	
Optical aids: 10x42 bins	
Distance from bird: 6 meters-10 meters	
Have you enclosed photographs? yes	Was the bird videoed? no
If photos are available on public websites (<i>BirdGuides & Surfbirds</i> etc) then please give www address:	
Have the photographs been published in magazines? If so, where:	
Species present for comparison: Chiffchaff	
Which species were alongside the bird: bird mainly on own occasionally near Chiffchaff and Wren.	
Observer(s) experience of the species: Five in Scotland and two in England	
Observer(s) experience of similar species on the same day or previously: Have had experience of both Dusky and Radde's albeit a few years since I had seen either.	

Weather (<i>general description</i>): Cloudy but dry
Wind direction and Force: Easterly 2-3
Light conditions (<i>good, dull, etc & sun behind, side etc</i>): dullish
Visibility (<i>distance</i>): good
Rain, mist, etc: no
Cloud cover: 90%

Description: Dusky Warbler Mire Loch St Abbs Head 16th Oct 2016

The morning of 16th Oct was dull with a gentle easterly wind. I decided to head over to St Abb's Head. I did my usual route around Mire Loch, starting from the lighthouse and walking down past the garden towards the boathouse end of Loch. On arrival at the dam end of loch I heard at least two Yellow Browed Warblers and saw one. I noticed Alan Kerr was ringing at that end and stopped for a chat. He had been catching good numbers of birds so I carried on towards the Boathouse. When I arrived there I was aware of a ticking call. I knew straight away this was something good. I thought it was either Dusky or Radde's Warbler, but I had not seen or heard one for a few years. I got round the end of the Boathouse to where the call was coming from with camera at the ready. I saw movement in the brambles next the wall, raised my bins and saw a small Chiffchaff sized warbler. After a brief look I was pretty sure it was a Dusky Warbler. Its long supercillium, whitish in colour, and ending before base of bill. Also the prominent dark eye-stripe and its brownish upperparts and buffish white below confirmed this. The bird was feeding close to the ground most of the time so was difficult to follow. I decided to try and get some photos after a few minutes and got a few shots off that I thought might be ok. I decided to look at the pictures I had taken and was sickened to find that the camera had switched itself off! I had forgotten to charge the battery. After this I decided to go over to Alan Kerr who was ringing and see if he had his camera with him. Before I got over to him I noticed a couple of birders nearby so waved them over and said I had just found a Dusky Warbler. They both had cameras and, not like the amateur I was, had charged their batteries. I made my way over to Alan, telling him what I had found. "Where, in my net"? was his reply. "No, but it wasn't far from one", I replied. After telling him about my camera predicament he kindly loaned me his. I didn't have any luck with this though. When I got back to where the bird was last seen the two birders had seen it and were happy that they had managed some nice shots. The bird continued to show on and off but disappeared a fair bit. Luckily with its constant ticking you could usually get onto it fairly easily. It was moving-about a fair distance and was in the willows near Alan's net but probably went under it, much to his disgust! I managed to get another group of birders onto the bird before I went to look for Fran Evans. I knew she was on the reserve and didn't want to take the backlash if she didn't hear about the bird. After some searching I found her and went back to see if the bird was still showing. Thankfully it was back in the same area, next to the Boathouse and soon showed pretty well. A few other people saw it later-on. Then the bird seemed to disappear. I was pretty sure it would have ended up in one of Alan's nets but it managed to evade them. When I got home and charged the camera I got a pleasant surprise when I looked at my photos. The bird wasn't

seen the next day so I presume it left that night. Of interest: there was another Dusky Warbler found up the coast in Lothian later on the same day.

Size and structure

Looked about the same size as a Chiffchaff. Slightly shorter winged than Chiffchaff, giving a longer back end impression. The tail looked slightly roundish at end when held a certain way. At times it looked plumpish with wings drooping down and tail held slightly upright.

Bare Parts

Dark eye. Legs were pale in colour the feet more pale yellowish. The bill was pointed about same size as Chiffchaff. The upper mandible looked darker brownish in colour. The lower mandible looked paler almost yellowish in colour.

Upperparts

The neck and back appeared dark brownish but in certain light the mantle had a slight olive tone. The wings were uniform dark brownish with no pale edges.

Tail

The tail was dark brownish and appeared slightly rounded at times. It sometimes held its tail slightly upright. The rump was also dark brown. The undertail coverts paler than upper tail

Underparts

The belly and vent were paler whitish buff the flanks more buffish and darker merging into wing colour. The throat was light buffish.

Head

The head appeared rounded at times when bird could seem thick necked. The crown was dark brownish. It had a distinct whitish supercillium ending just before bill base. It also had very distinctive dark eyestripe extending to bill base. Ear coverts were buffish brown lighter than crown.

Behaviour

The bird was very active and rarely stayed still for long. It fed constantly picking insects from plants. It crept about close to the ground most of time a bit like a Wren does. It was feeding in Bramble scrub at first but seemed to like the Bullrushes as it spent a fair bit time in there. It also got into the patch of Willows. It would rather creep about among undergrowth than fly when moving a bit distance. I did see it fly a couple of times, this was also fairly low to the ground. The bird was very vocal most of the time but did occasionally go silent for short spells. The bird was very skulking at times, but if you gave it a bit distance and sat quiet would show well at times.



Species: Ortolan Bunting	
Date first seen: 08/10,2016	Date last seen: 08,10/2016
No. of Birds: 1	Age/Sex: 1 st winter
County :Scottish Borders	Location: St Abbs Head
Finder: David Graham	Email:
Identifier (if different):	Email:
Submitter (if different):	Email:
Other observers: none	
Any who disagrees with identification?	
Optical aids: bins 10x42 and 30-70 zoom 95 scope	
Distance from bird: 40 meters – 120meters	
Have you enclosed photographs? no	Was the bird videoed? no
If photos are available on public websites (<i>BirdGuides & Surfbirds</i> etc) then please give www address:	
Have the photographs been published in magazines? If so, where:	
Species present for comparison: Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting, Linnet and Meadow Pipit	
Which species were alongside the bird: Meadow Pipits	
Observer(s) experience of the species: 1 in Scotland and 2 in England	

Observer(s) experience of similar species on the same day or previously: Yellowhammers and Reed Buntings for comparison.
Weather (<i>general description</i>): Sunny and warm
Wind direction and Force: Light Easterly
Light conditions (<i>good, dull, etc & sun behind, side etc</i>): good light sun behind me most of time
Visibility (<i>distance</i>): excellent
Rain, mist, etc: no
Cloud cover: clear blue skies

Description: Ortolan Bunting St Abbs Head October 8th 2016

The afternoon of the 8th Oct was sunny and warm with a light easterly wind. I had done the usual circuit around Mire Loch and had seen good numbers of common migrants and a few rarer, including nine Yellow-browed warblers and two Red-breasted Flycatchers. On my way back to the car, parked up at the Lighthouse, I checked the old Lighthouse garden again. On the way down I had seen a few Yellowhammers and Reed Buntings in that general area. I soon found the same bunting flock scanned through them to find the same species present. While looking through these birds I noticed a flock of Meadow Pipits flying about and landing on a slope above the garden. I scanned through these birds which, as I'd thought, were all Meadow Pipits, until I came to an odd looking Bunting among them. At this point I decided to get my scope out as the birds were about 80 meters away. The bird was brownish and heavily streaked above. The underparts were buffish, especially the flanks, which were also streaked. The overall streaking and brownish colour of the bird made it almost pipit like. The bird had striking pale eye rings, a whitish to yellow colour. It also had a pale sub moustachial stripe and dark malar stripe. The bill was a light pinkish colour. After watching for a few minutes I was pretty sure this was an Ortolan Bunting. The bird was fairly active on the ground, scurrying about with the pipits. I was too far away to get any photos so I decided to try and get a bit closer. I had to walk round the garden wall to get closer but the birds were getting a bit flighty when I approached. The birds flew slightly further up the hill then some walkers came by and flushed them completely. The flock flew about a bit then landed again. I managed to observe them on the ground again but still distantly. The bird was now up nearer the car park and there were more people walking about, making the flock very flighty. The bird was seen again once on the ground before the flock flushed and flew a lot further. At this point I decided to phone a few local folk and put news out to Kris Gibb and Angus Murray. After a good hour looking, I just had brief flight views and another distant view on the ground. I had hoped the bird would join the Yellowhammers and Reed Buntings near the garden. But the bird seemed happier staying with the Meadow Pipits. I had to get back home to work so had to leave but was happy that the bird was a juv. 1st winter Ortolan Bunting. I came back the next morning and was joined by a few others but did not see any sign of the bird. Not surprising, as my previous experience of these birds was that they seem to move on fairly quickly.

Structure

A plump compact Bunting round headed. Larger and heavier than Meadow Pipit when seen together. Looked about same size as Yellowhammer maybe slightly smaller but plumper and shorter tailed. Fairly thick bill. Legs appeared shortish but hard to tell as bird always on ground.

Head

Round head light grey brown on forehead and crown with fine dark streaks. Pale yellowish long moustachial stripe extending well round ear coverts. Ear coverts were brownish. Very pale white to yellowish complete eye-ring. Dark streaking on neck extending up to create dark malar stripe almost to base of bill. Chin pale hint of yellow with slight streaks.

Upperparts

Hind neck lighter grey than mantle which was more grey brown and dark streaked. Scapulars a shade darker again more brown and heavily streaked .

Tail

The tail was dark brownish with cleft. The rump slightly lighter grey brown than tail with fine dark streaking

Wings

Primaries and secondaries dark brownish, broad red brown outer edges to tertials. Greater wing coverts dark-centered with pale tips.

Underparts

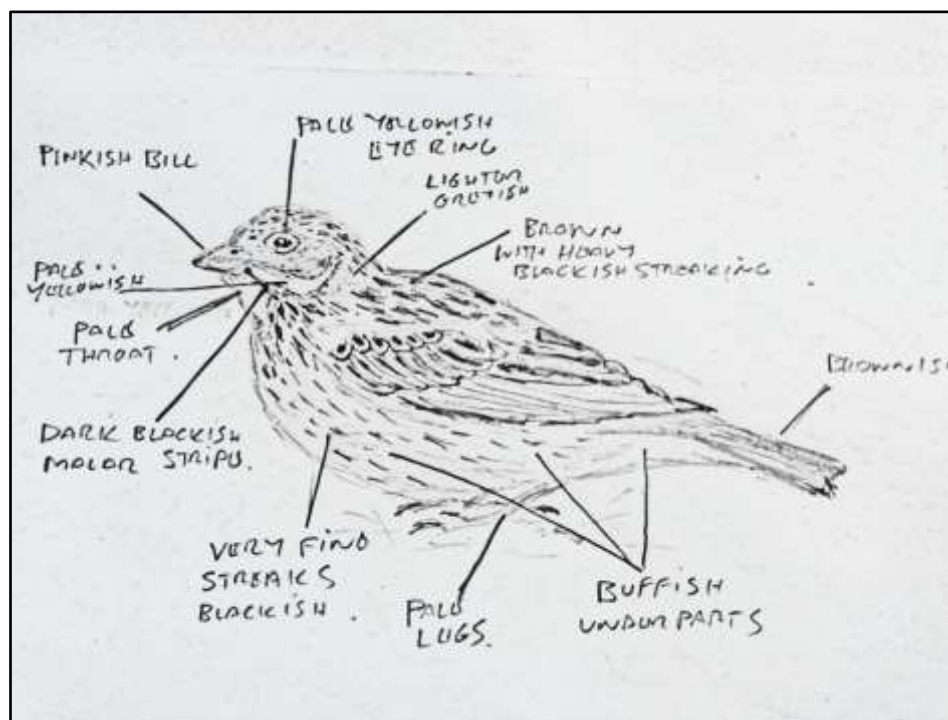
Neck buff brownish in colour, heavily streaked with blackish streaks. Flanks and belly buffish in colour with very fine streaking. Undertail coverts clean buffish in colour.

Bare Parts

Bill pinkish in colour and rather large and heavy looking. Dark looking eye. Legs and feet looked pale in colour but difficult to see on ground.

Behaviour

The bird was heard to call while flying over giving a clear metallic 'slee' call. It also gave a 'chu' call overhead. The bird was fairly active on the ground feeding constantly. It was easily flushed as there were a few walkers near to where birds were feeding. It had a slightly undulating flight and stayed with the Meadow Pipits all the time I observed it.



Dippers in Manor Valley 2002-12

Dipper, an important bird in the Valley, could act as an indicator of the quality and health of the river system. From 2000 to 2014 breeding by Dipper was recorded on the Manor Water and the adjacent part of the Tweed. Fig. 1 shows all the sightings of Dipper and Fig. 2 shows Dipper records and nests/broods in 2002, the first year of detailed recording. More than 1,800 records are shown on Fig. 1 and 353 of these are on Fig. 2.

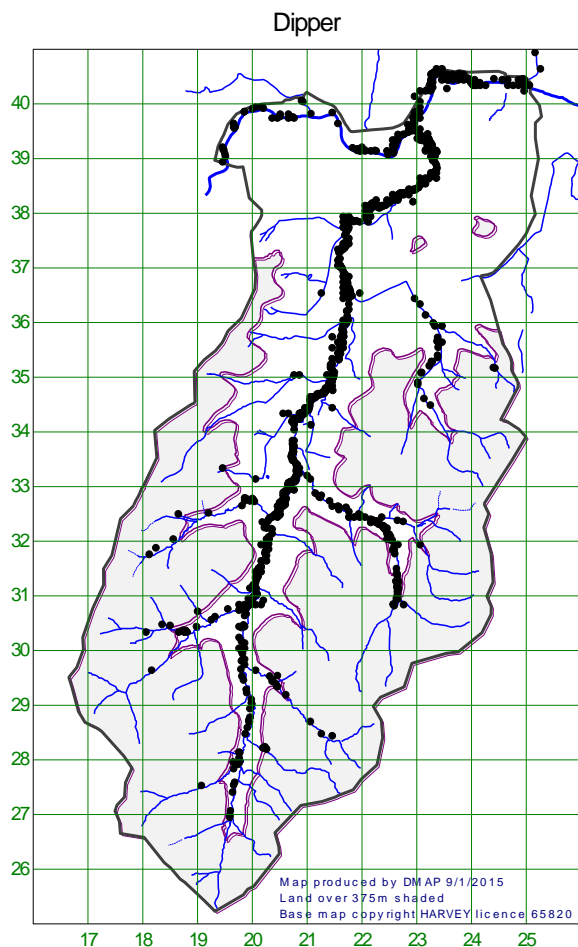


Fig. 1 Dipper records in all months, 2000-14.

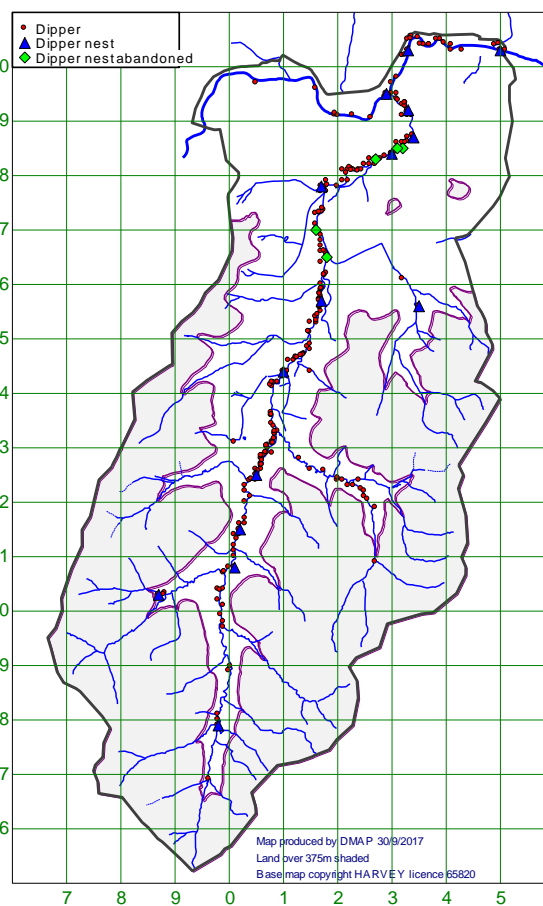


Fig. 2 Dipper records and nests/broods in 2002.

For the general location of Manor Valley refer to the map on p. 5.

Nest building begins (in late February) at the lower altitudes, such as Tweed Bridge in Peebles, and in a good year this allows some pairs to rear two broods. Most of the nests are on bridges or other man-made structures and these are generally the most secure and productive. Most of these sites are re-used annually and the spherical nest may only need a new lining of leaves. Natural nest sites include riverside banks where the nest precariously protrudes from a vertical face of gravel. Nests are almost always directly above running water. Two nests were built on overhanging branches of trees; one of these was successful. Fig. 2 shows nests that were abandoned; this is usually during the building stage. Dipper is strongly territorial, especially during the winter where the male can be detected readily by its song (Fig. 3). The monthly variation in number of birds recorded (bird-days) is very large in Dippers, mainly due to the increased activity during nest building and feeding young in March-May. The drop in numbers of bird-days in summer coincides with the moult and lack of singing. The distinctively-coloured juveniles are seen between mid-April (first broods) and mid-August (second broods).

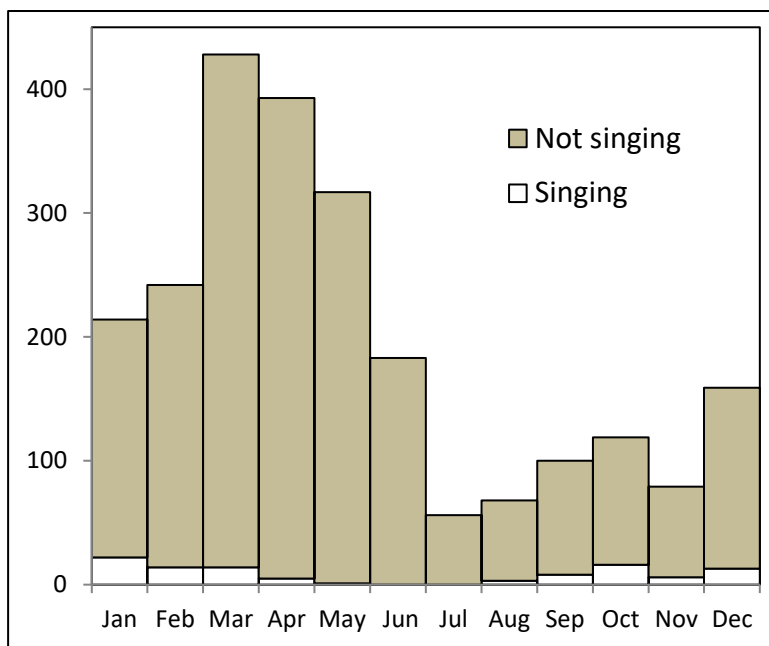


Fig. 3 Monthly occurrence of Dipper singing and not singing, 2000-13.

Recording in 2001 was disrupted by the Foot & Mouth scare. In 2002 and 2003 Dipper was particularly plentiful and it was easy to find nests. There was a sharp fall in numbers in 2004 and further declines later; the causes of the decline (Fig. 4) are not known. In later years all nests could not be found; territories were allocated by the distribution of sightings.

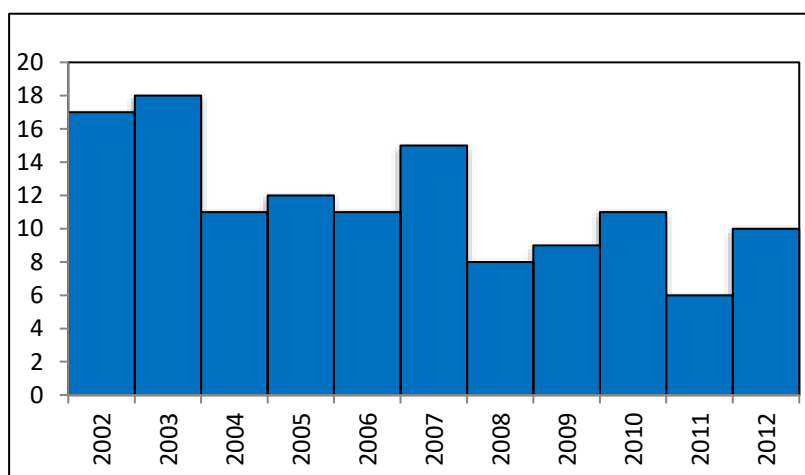


Fig. 4 Number of Dipper territories, 2002-12.

During 2002-2005 the author helped Stuart Craig with his programme of ringing Dippers in Manor. The numbers of broods/nestlings ringed in the 4 years were 9/43, 10/44, 2/10 and 2/8. The mean brood size was 4.56, which is high for Britain and Ireland. During and after these years, wherever possible, Dipper sightings were recorded as Ringed or Not-ringed. This was only possible for one-third of the 1,281 records. From 2002 to 2007 the number of sightings of ringed birds was 25, 38, 28, 26, 9 and 0. This suggests that Dipper rarely live for more than 2 years. In addition, three adult birds were caught and given unique colour rings. Two of these were seen a few times during the next few

months only. The third (a male) was ringed on 21 Mar 2003 and seen 15 times, the last of which was 2 Nov 2006. Assuming he was a 1 year old when ringed, he lived to an age of 4½ years.

The decline in the Dipper population is also seen in the annual variation in bird-days (Fig. 5). Here the lighter bars show the number of actual bird-days recorded. The darker (adjusted) bars show what might have been recorded if the *same amount of time* had been spent on the survey each year. The adjusted data are deemed to be a more accurate representation. Survey in the first two years was incomplete.

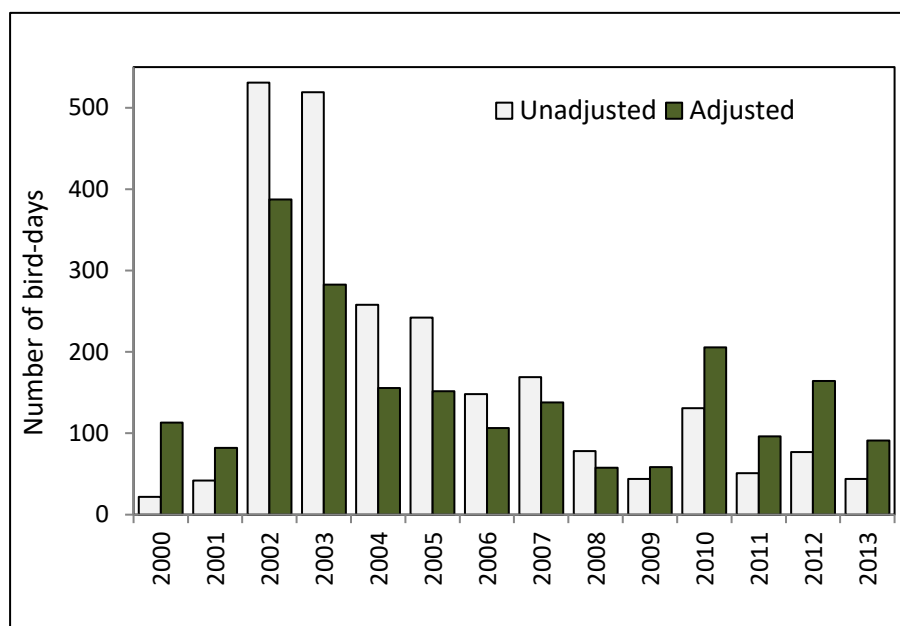


Fig.5 Annual occurrence of Dipper, all months 2000-13.

Only casual observation of Dipper has been possible since 2013, but my guess is that numbers are now better than during the poorest years of the recording period.

Graham Pyatt

Manor Schoolhouse

28 November 2017

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