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# Borders Bird Report

No. 35

2018

# The Borders Bird Report 2018

## No. 35

Editor: Tom Brewis

### Contents

	Page No.
Introduction	2
2018 in the Borders	10
Classified List:	
Brent Goose to Lesser Black-backed Gull	Tom Brewis 20
Sandwich Tern to Arctic Skua	Alan McNeilly 104
Little Auk to Cuckoo	Chris Green 106
Barn Owl to Short-eared Owl	Alan McNeilly 112
Swift to Starling	Gavin Paterson 116
Ring Ouzel to White Wagtail	Chris Green 139
Meadow Pipit to Snow Bunting	John Walker 152
Exotics, escapes, hybrids	Tom Brewis 161
Errata and addenda	161
Report on Lesser Yellowlegs	Steve Turnbull 163
Report on Melodious Warbler	Dave Graham 164
Seabird Survey	Clive Hartley 166
Breeding Bird Survey and Borders	Tom Brewis 171
Ringing Report	Tom Dougall 177
Migrant arrival and departure dates	Andrew Mossop 186
Gazetteer	187
Index of Classified List	188

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Front cover: Lesser Yellowlegs. Teviot Haughs near Nisbet. October. Heiko Peters. Back cover: Wren. Cuddy Water, Peebles. May. Rob Watterson.

## Introduction

Borders Bird Report 2018 is based on c. 49,000 records which, as far as can be determined, is the biggest number of submissions to date. Nearly all of these records come via Birdtrack with others provided via WeBS, BBS, Borders Bird News Group, the annual Rocky Shore Count (which took place on 4-Feb) and a few records submitted directly to either the County Recorders or to the Report Editor.

Records were submitted by 246 observers (again, the biggest number so far):

P Ball	288	HEM Dott	17	A Jennings	61	D Orr-Ewing	32	D Small	266
GS Bath	26	TW Dougall	112	A Kerr	12	P Osborn	25	A Smith	154
R Bell	589	J Douglas	171	AW Lauder	18	J Palfery	42	M Smith	27
M Betts	263	R Drew	77	M Lindsay	69	N Park	44	R Smith	35
EL Bickmore	1,610	M Eaton	134	J Lough	1,544	D Parkinson	575	M Spriggs	30
C Bill	26	B Elliot	18	F Luther	47	D & G Parmee	52	D Stevenson	68
S Bowie	14	F Evans	459	R Manning	168	TM Parrell	118	T Stewart	16
AT Bramhall	3,447	J Farish-Brown	15	JH Marchant	10	G Paterson	9,243	ND Stratton	512
R Bramhall	378	G Garner	21	J Marshall	18	P Persys	34	M Symonds	120
T Brewis	196	N Gates	35	R McBeath	365	M Pinhorn	28	J Towill	366
AW Brown	44	J Gordon	2,183	CR McKay	18	G Pyatt	167	C Trollope	35
MJ Bruce	116	DK Graham	628	H McKerchar	38	B Quinton	38	S Turnbull	199
RB Burns	28	S Gray	27	J McNeilly	32	C Ralph	17	H Urquhart	28
R Catalano	215	CD Green	3,629	B Meikle	202	P Reddish	25	RA Vasey	18
G Christer	249	C Hartley	1,587	D Methven	630	T Reed	2,110	J Waddell	23
D Christie	467	A Heavisides	33	A Mitchell	41	M Reynolds	40	SD Ward	28
FC Clark	26	M Henderson	632	M Moncrieff	5,981	K Ritchie	38	D Warden	15
N Cook	24	I Hendry	38	N Moran	21	K Robeson	1,759	CW Watson	720
C Coombs	60	P Higginson	13	SD Morton	35	MB Ross	341	S Watson	31
J Coyle	71	RD Hind	37	C Moses	79	C Ruis	20	R Watterson	110
S Craig	175	M Hogarth	301	AP Mossop	976	A Sandeman	20	DE Webb	31
A Cutter	96	M Holling	81	S Newsome	31	G Scott	619	G White	62
RW Daniels	22	K Houston	233	J Nicholson	10	E Shilland	14	F Wielbo	16
G Davies	11	L Hunter	25	JCS Noble	28	A Sinclair	41	J Wilson	37
T Davis	38	K Ingleby	41	P Noble	11	R Singleton	84	J Wooliams	14
A Donnelly	15	A Jameson	10	C Orr	30				

Observers with less than 10 records submitted: R Anderson; CM & M Anthony; AW Baker; G Baptie; S Bayne; H Bell; K Bissett; CJ Blakey; M Breeze; A Brown; M Bruce; C Burton; A Butlin; Y Carson; T Chamberlain; L Cole; R Collins; I Combe; J Connor; L Copley; T Crews; M Cummings; CJ Cundall; CA & M Duncan; D Dunstan; I Ebbage; RA & LN Ebbs; B & P Fairbairn; E Forbes; JM Forsyth; W Frank; M Fraser; S Gain; PR Gordon; M Granger; R Greenhalgh; M Greenhow; R Greenshields; C Grey; I Haldane; L Hanson; C Hargest; R Hemming; A Hogg; P Hopwood; J Hunt; S Jones; DD Kellett; A Kentleton; G Kerr; A Kettleton; B Khursheed; S Kirkup; D Langford; A Lawrence; A Lindsay; D Lintott; Z Lithgow; MM MacClean; R MacEwen; D MacIver; A Martin; D McNee; A McNeilly; S McPherson; J McQuire; B Miller; B&J Miller; B Minshull; G Morgan; N Morton; M Newell; NW Palmer; M Parrat; D & M Pepper; IR Poxton; M Radka; P Rawnsley; R Richardson; A Robson; C Rooney; A Samson; S Sanders; M Scott; J Selcraig; S Seright; C Shaw; J Shiels; J Smalley; D Smith; ES Smith; N Smith; A Snoddy; W Speirs; A Spybey; G Stephen; C Stevenson; L Stewart; I & S Storey; C Tees; A Thomas; AL Todd; K Waddell; J Walker; D Wallace; J Whitfield; S Williams; D Wolfenden; B Young.

A total of 209 species were recorded. This compares with 218 in 2017, 219 in 2016 and 212 in 2015. There was one addition to the Borders Bird List: a **Lesser Yellowlegs**, which was well observed on the Teviot Haughs near Nisbet during the third week of October. See p 163 for a description of its finding. The Borders List now stands at 319:

Brent Goose	Black-browed Albatross	Little Ringed Plover	Little Auk	Marsh Tit	Mistle Thrush
Canada Goose	Storm Petrel	Dotterel	Common Guillemot	Willow Tit	Spotted Flycatcher
Barnacle Goose	Leach's Petrel	Whimbrel	Razorbill	Blue Tit	Robin
Snow Goose	Fulmar	Curlew	Black Guillemot	Great Tit	Bluethroat
Greylag Goose	Cory's Shearwater	Bar-tailed Godwit	Puffin	Bearded Tit	Nightingale
Taiga Bean Goose	Sooty Shearwater	Black-tailed Godwit	Pallas's Sandgrouse (B)	Woodlark	Red-flanked Bluetail
Pink-footed Goose	Great Shearwater	Turnstone	Rock Dove	Skylark	Pied Flycatcher
Tundra Bean Goose	Manx Shearwater	Knot	Stock Dove	Shore Lark	Collared Flycatcher
White-fronted Goose	Balearic Shearwater	Ruff	Woodpigeon	Sand Martin	Red-breasted Flycatcher
Mute Swan	Little Grebe	Curlew Sandpiper	Turtle Dove	Swallow	Black Redstart
Bewick's Swan	Red-necked Grebe	Temminck's Stint	Collared Dove	House Martin	Redstart
Whooper Swan	Great Crested Grebe	Sanderling	Cuckoo	Red-rumped Swallow	Whinchat
Egyptian Goose (C1)	Slavonian Grebe	Dunlin	Barn Owl	Long-tailed Tit	Stonechat
Shelduck	Black-necked Grebe	Purple Sandpiper	Tawny Owl	Willow Warbler	Siberian Stonechat
Mandarin Duck (C1)	Black Stork	Little Stint	Little Owl (C1)	Chiffchaff	Wheatear
Garganey	White Stork	Pectoral Sandpiper	Long-eared Owl	W. Bonelli's Warbler	Dipper
Shoveler	Glossy Ibis	Woodcock	Short-eared Owl	Wood Warbler	House Sparrow
Gadwall	Spoonbill	Jack Snipe	Nightjar	Dusky Warbler	Tree Sparrow
Wigeon	Bittern	Great Snipe (B)	Chimney Swift	Radde's Warbler	Duncock
American Wigeon	Little Bittern	Snipe	Alpine Swift	Pallas's Warbler	Yellow Wagtail
Mallard	Night-Heron	Red-necked Phalarope	Swift	Yellow-browed Warbler	Grey Wagtail
Pintail	Grey Heron	Grey Phalarope	Pallid Swift	Greenish Warbler	Pied Wagtail
Teal	Purple Heron	Common Sandpiper	Roller	Great Reed Warbler	Richard's Pipit
Green-winged Teal	Great White Egret	Green Sandpiper	Kingfisher	Aquatic Warbler	Meadow Pipit
Pochard	Little Egret	Lesser Yellowlegs	Bee-eater	Sedge Warbler	Tree Pipit
Ferruginous Duck	Gannet	Redshank	Hoopoe	Paddyfield Warbler	Olive-backed Pipit
Tufted Duck	Shag	Wood Sandpiper	Wryneck	Reed Warbler	Water Pipit
Scaup	Cormorant	Spotted Redshank	G. Spotted Woodpecker	Marsh Warbler	Rock Pipit
King Eider	Osprey	Greenshank	Green Woodpecker	Melodious Warbler	Chaffinch
Eider	Honey Buzzard	Kittiwake	Kestrel	Icterine Warbler	Brambling
Harlequin Duck	Golden Eagle	Ivory Gull (B)	Red-footed Falcon	Grasshopper Warbler	Hawfinch
Surf Scoter	Sparrowhawk	Sabine's Gull	Merlin	Blackcap	Bullfinch
Velvet Scoter	Goshawk	Black-headed Gull	Hobby	Garden Warbler	Common Rosefinch
Common Scoter	Marsh Harrier	Little Gull	Gyr Falcon	Barred Warbler	Greenfinch
Long-tailed Duck	Hen Harrier	Mediterranean Gull	Peregrine	Lesser Whitethroat	Twite
Goldeneye	Montagu's Harrier	Common Gull	Ring-necked Parakeet (C5)	Whitethroat	Linnet
Smew	Red Kite	Gt Black-backed Gull	Red-backed Shrike	Dartford Warbler	Common Redpoll
Goosander	White-tailed Eagle	Glaucous Gull	Daurian Shrike	Marmora's Warbler	Lesser Redpoll
R.-breasted Merganser	Rough-legged Buzzard	Iceland Gull	Lesser Grey Shrike	Subalpine Warbler	Arctic Redpoll
Ruddy Duck (C1)	Buzzard	Herring Gull	Great Grey Shrike	Sardinian Warbler	Crossbill
Capercaillie (C3)	Water Rail	Yellow-legged Gull	Woodchat Shrike	Firecrest	Two-barred Crossbill
Black Grouse	Corncrake	L. Black-backed Gull	Golden Oriole	Goldcrest	Goldfinch
Ptarmigan (C1)	Spotted Crane	Lesser Crested Tern	Jay	Wren	Serin
Red Grouse	Moorhen	Sandwich Tern	Magpie	Nuthatch	Siskin
R.-legged Partridge (C1)	Coot	Little Tern	Nutcracker	Treecreeper	Corn Bunting
Grey Partridge	Crane	Roseate Tern	Chough	Rose-coloured Starling	Yellowhammer
Quail	Stone-curlew	Common Tern	Jackdaw	Starling	Ortolan Bunting
Pheasant (C1)	Oystercatcher	Arctic Tern	Rook	White's Thrush	Little Bunting
Golden Pheasant (C1)	Black-winged Stilt	Black Tern	Carriion Crow	Ring Ouzel	Rustic Bunting
Red-throated Diver	Lapwing	Great Skua	Hooded Crow	Blackbird	Reed Bunting
Black-throated Diver	Golden Plover	Pomarine Skua	Raven	Fieldfare	Dark-eyed Junco
Great Northern Diver	Grey Plover	Arctic Skua	Waxwing	Redwing	Lapland Bunting
White-billed Diver	Ringed Plover	Long-tailed Skua	Coal Tit	Song Thrush	Snow Bunting

**Borders Region Bird List up to 31 December 2018.**

All species of the Borders Bird List are BOU Category A except where indicated. An explanation of BOU categories can be found on [www.bou.org.uk/british-list/species-categories/](http://www.bou.org.uk/british-list/species-categories/).

Other highlights in 2018 (more or less in chronological order) were large flocks of passerines during cold, snowy conditions on 6-Feb which drove birds to a plentiful supply of food in the form of an unharvested cereal crop at Newmains (Reston). The flocks were made up of 340 **Tree Sparrows**, 160 **Skylarks**, 44 **Blackbirds**, 370 **Chaffinches**, 85 **Lesser Redpolls**, 120 **Goldfinches**, 420 **Yellowhammers** and 140 **Reed Buntings**. A count of 65 **Hawfinches** on 10-Mar at Monteviot, the highest count since records began and part of the tail-end of the 2017 invasion of birds as they returned back to the continent.

A **Hobby** was seen chasing hirundines in The Merse on 7-May and on the same day a **Hoopoe** was reported from Covehouse (Smailholm). On 21-Jul a **Sabine's Gull** was seen off Eyemouth and in the same location on 12-Aug, 2 **Roseate Terns** were reported. A **Corn Bunting**, now a virtually extinct species in the Region, was seen at Newmains (Reston) on 14-Aug and only the second record for Borders of a **Melodious Warbler** was made at St Abb's Head on 2-Sep with a **Barred Warbler** reported from the same site on 6-Sep.

On 11-Oct a **Great Grey Shrike** was seen on passage at St Abb's Head. The largest single count to date of 33 **Velvet Scoters** came from St Abb's Head on 27-Oct and on the next day a count of 30 **Great Northern Divers** was made off St Abbs. From late-October until mid-December an immature **Great White Egret** was well reported in an area defined by Kelso-Duns-Paxton. A **Common Crane** was a well watched bird at Lees Haugh (Coldstream) from 20-Nov until the end of the year.

From 16-Dec onward an **Arctic Redpoll** was regularly seen in a flock of 250-300 **Lesser Redpolls** and 60 **Common Redpolls** at The Bell (Cranshaws). The Arctic Redpoll was only the third record for Borders.



**Arctic Redpoll. The Bell (Cranshaws). December. DK Graham.**

## Submission of records

The preferred option for submission of records is via BTO's BirdTrack. Those observers who have not yet used BirdTrack are recommended to use this method. Not only is it a means of ensuring that your records are secure but it makes collation of the data very much easier when preparing the Bird Report and makes an important contribution to the national database. The system is now much improved and is easier to use.

Please use the following guidelines below when using BirdTrack:

- Make site names meaningful. This can be done by using the name of the nearest "place" as used on the OS 1:25 000 map and, if this "place" is not likely to be well-known, by adding a locator in brackets, eg Galashiels is acceptable but a "place" like Halliburton, which is on the western edge of Galashiels, would require a locator, ie Halliburton (Galashiels).
- Avoid site names which are simply a tetrad or other grid reference.
- When BirdTrack gives your site a grid reference, make sure that it is correct. Check it.
- Avoid site names like "garden" or a house name. These are not meaningful to anyone but yourself.
- Try not to use site names like Moorfoot Hills or lower Tweed. These are too vague and should only be used when dealing with Schedule 1 species. In most cases, records that do not conform to a tetrad (4 km<sup>2</sup>) or smaller will not be included in the Report.
- Any **signs of breeding evidence should be included** (see p 7 for BTO breeding codes below). Again however, be judicious when dealing with Schedule 1 species.
- Give the number of birds present even if it is just an estimate, eg c. 100. If possible, don't leave the count details blank. You can always indicate margins of error in the Remarks section, eg +/-50.
- Where possible, give a full bird list and not simply the more "interesting" species seen (or heard).

Border Bird News 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, WeBS, BBS or any other project the records from which will be used by the Report, eg by simply putting BT at the bottom of the record. It would also be helpful if you give your name and initial and try to avoid giving a nickname. Please do not give any locational details about Schedule 1 species. Contact David Parkinson ([bordersrecorder@gmail.com](mailto:bordersrecorder@gmail.com)) if you wish to join Border Bird News.

Records can also be reported directly to either of the Border's Recorders (see below). If you chose to email either Recorder then please give your full name and as much relevant details as possible. If you would like to submit a spreadsheet of records then please request a copy of the template from the Recorder.

If you prefer to submit records as hand written tables then please ensure that all relevant information is included and that the time period covered is no more than two months before being submitted to the recorder(s). If a full year's records are submitted in one go then there's a chance that there will be too many records to process fully.

For all records, the closing date for submission is the last day in February succeeding the year that applies to the records.

## Validation of records

Although mention is made in the Report of some species which have not been validated because a “description” of the find was not submitted or because the validation process is not yet complete, these records will not be part of the Borders database until such validation is completed.

UK rarities are considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). A Rarity Report Form can be downloaded from <https://www.bbrc.org.uk/submit-a-sighting> and a list of those birds requiring such a submission can be found at <https://www.bbrc.org.uk/main-information/species-taxa> . Species not considered rarities by BBRC but considered rarities in Scotland are reviewed by the Scottish Birds Records Committee (a full list of those species considered by SBRC can be found on the SOC website).

Some species are classed as local rarities and require a report to be submitted to the Borders Recorders and not the BBRC. If submitting records via BirdTrack you will be automatically directed toward the route for submitting a Rarities Report. Alternatively, the Recorders can be contacted as follows:

Martin Moncrieff:	Tel: 07851 800081
David Parkinson:	Tel: 07979 365134

Both Recorders can also be contacted by email: [bordersrecorder@gmail.com](mailto:bordersrecorder@gmail.com)

Validation of local birds is undertaken by a group made up the following: Fran Evans, Dave Graham, Martin Moncrieff and David Parkinson.

The following species require a local description only: Avocet; Bean Goose (Taiga and Tundra); Bittern; Golden Oriole; Grey Phalarope; Hoopoe; Leach’s Petrel; Little Owl; Long-tailed Skua; Nightjar; Red Kite; Red-necked Phalarope; Roseate Tern; Shore Lark; Snow Goose; Spotted Crake; Temminck’s Stint; White-tailed Eagle.

## Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in the Report:

AON	Apparently Occupied Nest
AOS	Apparently Occupied Site
BBRC	British Birds Rarities Committee
BBR	Borders Bird Report
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
br	brood
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
NNR	National Nature Reserve
Pr	present but no count submitted
RSC	Rocky Shore Count
SOC	Scottish Ornithologists’ Club
ssp.	Sub species
SUW	Southern Upland Way
WeBS	Wetland Birds Survey

Reference is frequently 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.

### *Probable breeding*

- P Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season.  
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.

*Note that the BTO code of "H" (observed in suitable nesting habitat) is not included here.* It is assumed that a high proportion of submitted records for a given species will, in fact, be observed in suitable nesting habitat, but because no breeding evidence has been reported, the actual number is not possible to determine. Contributors are encouraged to report the highest level of breeding evidence that is practicable.

An abbreviation such as 2br7 means two broods which total seven chicks; imm. refers to immature birds; juv. refers to juvenile. Bird-day refers to the number of days that a bird (not necessarily the same 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.

### **Sites, squares and tetrads**

Dealing with over 49,000 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. However, this will take some time and some anomalies will be bound to occur in the interim. Please be patient and expect the odd anomaly.

The exercise, started for BBR 2015, 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](http://www.the-soc.org.uk/site-finder) . Further help may be afforded by reference to this Report's mini-gazetteer which can be found on p 187.



## **Acknowledgments**

All contributors who submitted records (the foundation of any bird report) are gratefully thanked (see table on p. 2). Thanks also to Chris Green, Alan McNeilly, Gavin Paterson and John Walker for covering those sections of species summaries in the Classified List shown against their names in the Contents page. Without their invaluable help this Report would have been published weeks later than was the case.

The BTO supplied the WeBS and BBS records, Liza Cole supplied the St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary and Alan Heavisides supplied the Lothian & Borders Raptor Study Group Report. Tom Dougall produced the annual report of the Borders Ringing Group. Clive Hartley supplied the report on seabird populations along the Berwickshire coast, Mark Holling submitted the summary of the Rocky Shore Count, Steve Turnbull supplied the description of the Lesser Yellowlegs find and Dave Graham provided a description of the Melodious Warbler sighting. Andrew Mossop provided the first and last dates for migrants and Chris Green, Martin Moncrieff, Andrew Mossop, Gavin Paterson and Malcolm Ross proof read the final version of the Report. Photographs were submitted by Tom Brewis, Alistair Cutter, Dave Graham, Zeldia Lithgow, Jim McGuire, Bill Meikle, Douglas Methven, Martin Moncrieff, Heiko Peters, Ronnie Richardson, Catherine Tees, Rob Watterson, David Wolfenden. Art work came from Maggie Brewis and Alan McNeilly.

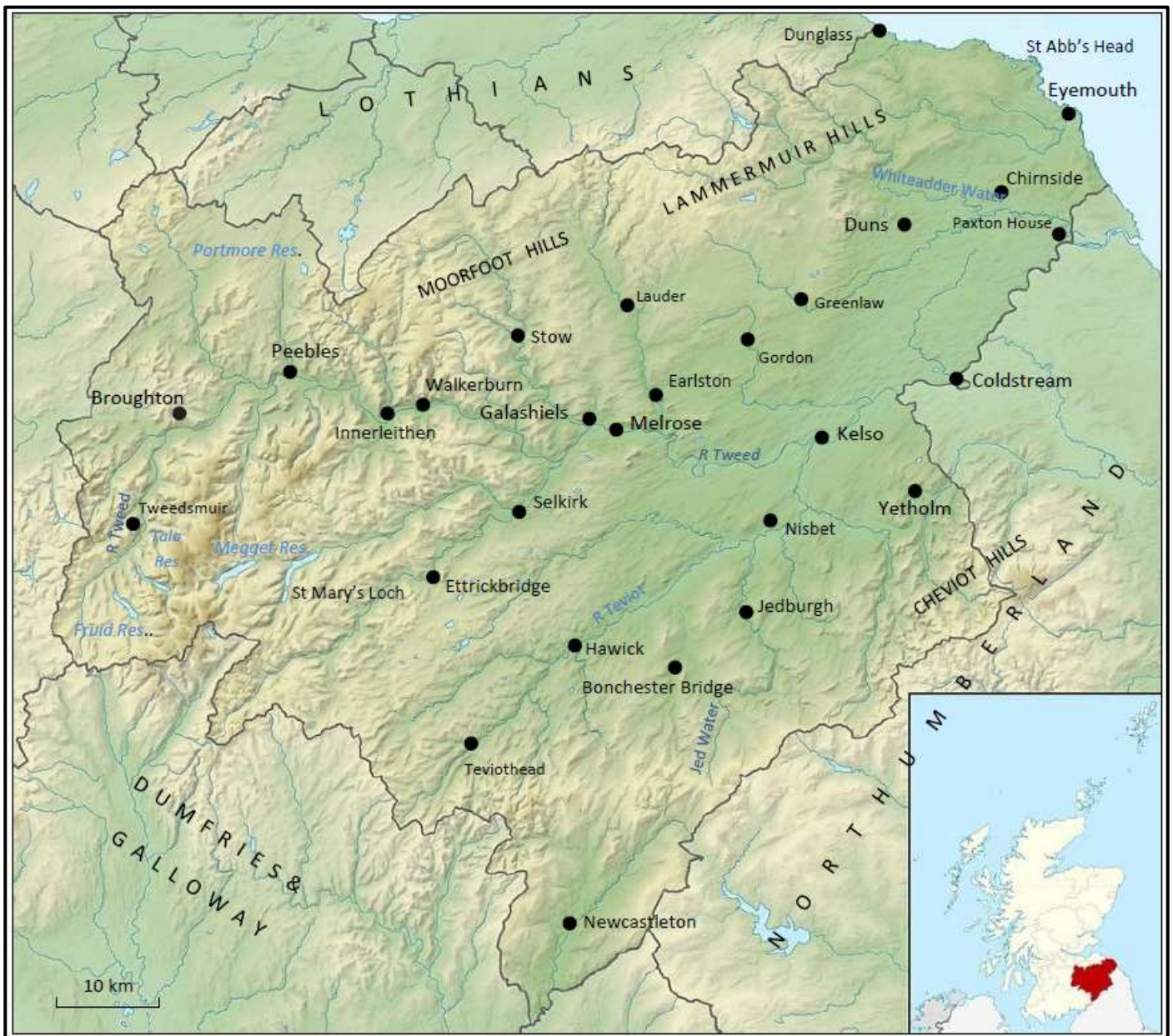
To all of these contributors I give my thanks.

Any mistakes or omissions, apologies for which are offered in advance, are entirely the fault of the editor.

Tom Brewis August 2019



**Lesser Yellowlegs. Teviot Haughs near Nisbet. October. DK Graham.**



### General Geography of the Borders Region

The above map contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2019). All labelling has been superimposed.



A Kingfisher awaits lunch. A McNeilly

# 2018 in the Borders

## January

Up to the 6th, conditions were mainly wet and mild. High pressure dominated from 6th-20th, bringing snow and sub-zero temperatures. During the third week frontal activity brought further periods of snow which quickly thawed when south westerlies on the margin of *Storm Georgina* brought rain and temperatures that reached double figures, leading to local flooding on some haughs.

Overall temperatures were about average but precipitation totals, especially in the west, were slightly higher than average (1981-2010). Marginally brighter in the east. Winds were from SW to W for 65% of the time.

**Greylag Geese** reached a healthy peak of 575 on the Tweed Haughs and **Pink-footed Geese** peaked at c. 3,000 at Whitrig Bog-Westfield.

Once again, the potato fields on the Teviot Haughs proved to be irresistible for **Whooper Swans** with 132 there on 3rd. **Wigeon** had their biggest count (of 780) at Greenlaw Farm Pool, Foulden and the same location held a **Green-winged Teal** for much of the month – the fifth record for Borders and the first since 2014.

Up to 2 **Common Sandpipers** were overwintering on the Teviot Haughs and 3 **Green Sandpipers** were also regularly seen along the same stretch of river.

Thirty-seven **Collared Doves**, seen at Choicelee (Gavinton), was the highest count reported since 2000 and a **Little Owl** was reported from a site in the Merse. During the snowy conditions of 16th-17th, 130 **Skylarks** were in the fields at Newmains (Reston) and along the Teviot Haughs c. 100 were witnessed “*during a severe snow storm with very strong winds, in darkness, .....flying upwards for approximately one hour into the light of floodlights at the golf driving range...*”.

Thirteen **Nuthatches** were at Tweedbank. Again, associated with the wintery conditions during the third week, a count of 320 **Tree Sparrows** was made at Newmains (Reston). Howcleuchshiel, near Hawick, recorded a minimum of 150 **Brambling**, 300 **Chaffinch** were seen at Walkerburn with 19 **Hawfinches** at The Hirsell and about 50-60 **Greenfinches** also present at the same site. Adding to the influx of birds during the wintery conditions at Newmains (Reston) on 17th were an exceptional 440 **Yellowhammers** and 110 **Reed Buntings**.

## February

Variable weather characterised the first week: fronts bringing dull, wet weather but intervening ridges bringing clear skies, responsible for a minimum temperature of -9.6°C at Peebles and -4.8°C near Paxton on 6th. The accompanying snow prompted notable flocking of birds searching for food: at Newmains (Reston) 160 **Skylarks**, 44 **Blackbirds**, 340 **Tree Sparrows** (highest recorded count for Borders), 18 **Meadow Pipits**, 370 **Chaffinches**, 85 **Lesser Redpolls**, 120 **Goldfinches**, 420 **Yellowhammers** and 140 **Reed Buntings** enlivened the local winter scene.

Fast-moving lows in the second and third weeks brought breezy conditions with some rainy days. The final week saw high pressure bring settled conditions but as the high pressure drifted eastward Britain came under the influence of strong easterlies from the continent which brought sub-zero temperatures, blizzards and generally arctic-like conditions.

Temperatures were 1-2°C below average. Average precipitation in the east but up to 25% lower in far south west. Ten to 20% more sunshine than average (1981-2010). 73% of winds from NW-SW.

The count of 350 **Canada Geese** at Cammerlaws (Westruther) was exceptional for the time of year – 3-digit counts are usually associated with autumn passage and may have been caused by the cold south easterlies on 24th.

Four hundred and thirty **Greylag Geese** sought overnight refuge at Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden) on 2nd and the peak counts of **Pink-footed Geese** at Whitrig Bog-Westfield increased to c. 4,000 between 12th-17th.

Over 150 **Whooper Swans** were reported from Dykegatehead (Whitsome) between 9th and 11th with an additional 50 immatures. The first records of inland **Shelduck** came from Folly Loch on 6th.

A count of 800 **Fulmars** during the Rocky Shore Count on 4th was the highest since the survey began in 1995.

Records of single **Little Egrets** (with probably many duplicate counts of this roaming species) continued to be made between Paxton House and Denholm.

No less than 18 **Buzzards** were recorded at a site in the middle section of the Tweed. The first inland **Curlew** of the year was reported from Whithaugh Park (Newcastleton) on 24th while the count of 6 **Green Sandpipers** on the Teviot Haughs was the highest count since 12 were seen at Folly Loch in 1995. Forty-five **Snipe** were seen at Yetholm Pond.

Single **Blackcaps** were seen at both Melrose and Kelso and 7 **Treecreepers** were at Bowdenmoor Reservoir. About 1,000 **Starlings** were at Eyemouth and 7 **Mistle Thrushes** were recorded at Mellerstain (Gordon). The first record of nest building by **Dippers** came from Peebles on 24th and about 200 **Bramblings** were at Lurden (Denholm) on 15th. A Borders' record (see under March below) of 29 **Hawfinches** was reported from Harestanes on 18th and 150 **Linnets** were at Preston on 22nd, part of a 400-strong flock of mixed finches.

## March

Sub-zero temperatures, easterlies and blizzards continued for the first three days of the month. The bad weather prompted many thrushes and other birds to seek refuge in gardens. Very quickly the *Beast from the East* was replaced by a succession of low pressure systems tracking in from the Atlantic bringing in their wake rapid melting and localised flooding. However, a return to easterlies brought a short return to lower temperatures between 17th and 19th. High pressure dominated until 26th with attendant drier and sunnier weather. After this, frontal systems dominated until the end of the month bringing a largely miserable Easter weekend.

Temperatures were about 1.5° C below average. Berwickshire had precipitation up to 200% above average levels, while Peeblesshire had about average precipitation. 62% of winds were from NE-SE.

**Mute Swans** numbers stood at 119 on the Tweed Haughs (Kelso-Coldstream) on 18th while **Whooper Swan** numbers at Dykegatehead (Whitsome) continued at levels of about 130-140. At Folly Loch, **Shelducks** reached 10 by 22nd, the highest recorded in Borders for the winter-spring period and part of an upward trend in the local inland population. Something of a scarce event was the report of 4 **Red-breasted Mergansers** on the Tweed at Union Bridge. A pair of **Great Crested Grebes** were seen displaying at Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick) on 29th, the fifth consecutive year with breeding evidence from this site. An unexpected **Slavonian Grebe** was reported from Paxton House on 19th.

**Oystercatchers** reached 140 at Watch Water Reservoir (Longformacus) by 14th and Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) had 76 **Curlews** by 12th. The first **Common Sandpiper** record was made at Thirlestane Castle on 28th. Passage of **Common Gulls** was apparently late with 1,200 visiting Watch Water Reservoir on 13th while records of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** increased with the peak count of 16 coming from Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank on 18th. The first evidence of breeding for **Raven** was on 20th with 2 pairs and young.

Reports of **Skylarks** on territory increased and the monthly peak count of 70 at Jardinefield (Whitsome) on 2nd showed that spring movement was still underway. The first report of a **Swallow** was on 28th, from Fireburnmill (Coldstream), a day earlier than last year. From 11th **Chiffchaffs** were reported from 6 sites; the first singing bird was reported on 25th at The Hirsell. **Blackcap** records were also increasing with the first singing bird noted on 11th at Melrose.

A singing male and nest-building female **Blackbird** were seen at Tweedbank on 24th while the first **Wheatear** of the year was noted at Megget Reservoir on 20th.

A flock of at least 600 **Chaffinches** frequented Williestruther Loch on 13th and the record set on 11th February for the greatest count in Borders of **Hawfinches** was broken on 10th at Monteviot (Anrum) when an exceptional 65 or more birds were seen. Whether some of these birds made up the c. 35 birds recorded at The Hirsell on the next day is not known. A count of at least 220 **Siskins** was made at Bonchester Bridge on 31st.

## April

The first week saw a continuation of frontal activity bringing some particularly wet, often snowy days with north-easterlies, eg the 4th saw almost 30 mm of rain near Berwick and more than a centimetre of snow further inland. This did not appear to impact greatly on the timing of migrant arrivals. By 19th temperatures had reached 21°C after winds had veered to the south west. However, by the end of the month north easterlies brought daily maxima down to single figures once more. Overall temperatures in the far south west were about average, while toward the coast they were slightly below average. Precipitation was 20-35% above the long-term average. The wind was NE-E for 35% of the month giving an overall feel of a prolonged winter despite the brief warm interval.

**Greylag Geese** were still present in numbers at Greenlaw Farm Pool with a roost of 503 on 4th. However, within a week single digit counts became the norm as birds dispersed. The first record of confirmed breeding came from Heriot Water on 24th. The first confirmed breeding record for **Mute Swan** was from Yetholm Loch on 8th. **Wigeon** numbers were still high at Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden) with 162 present on 4th but numbers quickly dwindled thereafter. Evidence of confirmed breeding of **Mallards** came from Manderston on 6th and displaying **Goosanders** were seen on Hirsell Lake on 14th. A pair of **Mandarins** was reported from Linthill (Reston) on 29th and the first report of nesting **Fulmars** was made on 9th at St Abb's Head.

A **Bittern** was reported from The Hirsell Lake on 10th and the first report of an **Osprey** came from the south of the Region on 5th. Displaying **Moorhens** were noted on 28th at Putts Pool (Innerleithen) and Wooden Loch (Eckford) provided the first confirmed breeding of **Coots** on 15th, while Manor Valley had confirmed breeding of **Oystercatchers** on 21st. By the end of the month the first confirmed breeding reports of **Lapwings** came from along the Teviot Haughs. A **Greenshank** was present along the Teviot Haughs from 21st-24th, the first record of **Sandwich Tern** was made on 16th from Eyemouth Bay and breeding was confirmed for **Great Black-backed Gull** at St Abbs on 30th. The first **Cuckoo** of spring was noted at Charterhouse (Kelso) on 11th and the first **Swift** was recorded at Newcastleton on 28th. A **Hooded Crow** was seen at Whitehaugh Farm (Peebles) on 2nd.

A **Great Grey Shrike** was seen at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) on 15th, a minimum count of 26 **Skylarks** was made at Whitslaid Hill (Ale Water) on 1st, the first **Sand Martins** seen were reported from Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) on 5th and **House Martins** arrived at Fir Knowe (Broughton) on 9th. **Willow Warblers** arrived on 3rd with a singleton noted on the Teviot between Roxburgh and Kelso, while the first record of a **Sedge Warbler** came from The Hirsell on 22nd. Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) reported a **Grasshopper Warbler** on 17<sup>th</sup>. The only record of the month for **Garden Warbler** came from Bemersyde Moss on 24th and confirmed breeding of **Nuthatches** was recorded at Tweedbank on 14th. **Ring Ouzels** were first reported from Thornielee (Walkerburn) on 15th, a **Black Redstart** was reported from Eyemouth on 4th and the year's first record of **Redstart** was from The Hirsell on 15th.

**Yellow Wagtail** was first noted on 1st at Mellerstain Estate, c. 200 **Meadow Pipits** were recorded on passage through the Teviot Haughs on 5th and the first **Tree Pipit** record was made on 20th from Thirlestane Hill (Ettrick). About 450 **Chaffinches** at Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) on 12th were likely on passage. Eleven **Hawfinches** were reported from Monteviot on 1st and a minimum of 5 were seen at Manderston (Duns) on 3rd but no further records were received of this species. Some flocking of **Yellowhammers** was still occurring with 60 reported at Jardinefield (Whitsome) on 4th, while from the same location, on the same day, 25 **Reed Buntings** were noted.



Common Crane. Coldstream. November. DK Graham.



**Yellowhammer. Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton). April. T Brewis.**

## May

Summer-like weather prevailed during the first week as high pressure on the continent produced winds from the south east and temperatures up to 22°C, along with largely dry conditions. By the 9th a return to cyclonic conditions brought some rain and duller, more changeable conditions. High pressure began to dominate from about 15th bringing dry, warm conditions with light variable winds. From the 21st high pressure was well established to the north, bringing easterlies for the remainder of the month. These were accompanied by a near-daily haar on the coast and a cool, damp feel which often extended well inland.

Overall temperatures, especially daily maxima, were above average for nearly all locations, including coastal areas. Precipitation was between 25-75% of the long-term average. Nearly half of the month had winds from between NE and SE. The dry weather and warmer temperatures may have had a favourable impact on breeding productivity and survival.

The first report of confirmed breeding for **Canada Geese** came from Synton Mossend (Ashkirk) on 7th. Folly Loch held 5 **Whooper Swans** earlier in the month with a single still present at the end of May. The same site reported the Region's first confirmed breeding this year of **Shelduck** on 22nd and confirmed breeding of **Gadwall** was reported from Yetholm Loch on 27th. An unusual record for May of 3 **Pochards** came from near Dawyck (Peebles) on 20th and a **Scaup** was reported from Ale Moor Reservoir (Hawick) on 18th. Confirmed breeding of **Little Grebe** was reported on Synton Moss (Ashkirk) on 26th and for the 4th consecutive year confirmed breeding of **Great Crested Grebes** was recorded at Ale Moor Reservoir.

Confirmed breeding of **Grey Heron** was made at Teviot: Roxburgh-Kelso on 8th and 220 **Black-headed Gulls** were counted at North Esk Reservoir on 16th with confirmed breeding reported.

A **Hobby** was reported chasing hirundines in the Merse on 7th. At the Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) a count of 307 **Sand Martin** burrows was made on 14th and the first confirmed breeding of **Swallows** was recorded at Union Bridge on the Tweed on 14th. On 7th a **Hoopoe** was reported from Covehouse (Smailholm) – the first accepted report since 2015.

A **Wood Warbler** was reported from Plora (Innerleithen) on 30th and a **Reed Warbler** was seen at The Hirsell on 4th. A **Lesser Whitethroat** was at Eaglehall (Whitsome) from 15th onward. The first record for **Spotted Flycatcher** was from Lyne Dale (West Linton) on 14th and the earliest record for **Whinchat** came from Blind Burn (Hawick) on 4th. **Yellow Wagtails** were reported from 4 sites along the Tweed and Teviot. Three **Fieldfares** were still present on 26th.



**Hoopoe. Covehouse (Smailholm). May 2018. Zelda Lithgow.**

## June

High pressure to the north of the British Isles continued into June, often bringing onshore winds. As a result there was a distinct division between inland locations and the coast up to 13th. While Berwick struggled to reach maxima of 15°C after 2nd, Peebles had maxima above 20°C. However, an abrupt change occurred on 13th when more cyclonic conditions asserted themselves in the form of *Storm Hector* which brought unseasonably strong winds but no rainfall. The following few days did however, see some welcome rainfall in most parts of the region. By 21st high pressure again began to dominate bringing warmer and drier conditions, although some coastal areas had to endure morning haars and seasonally low temperatures.

Daily maxima were 1-3°C above the long-term averages but daily minima were slightly below. Monthly rainfall was generally about 50% of the long-term average.

A **Whooper Swan** remained at Folly Loch throughout the month, a **Shoveler** was noted on Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) on 10th and a **Pochard** was reported from Yetholm Loch on 7th. A single **Goldeneye** was still present on the Hirsell Lake until 12th and a **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen at Paxton House on 11th.

A seabird survey of the Berwickshire coast was carried out on 7th (see p 166 for further information). This systematic survey carried out from offshore had the following counts of AONs (with counts from St Abb's Head NNR added): 309 **Fulmars**; one **Gannet**; 25 **Cormorants**; 134 **Shags**; 2 individual **Puffins**; 2,973 **Razorbills** individuals; 44,621 **Guillemots** individuals; 3,953 **Kittiwakes**; one **Lesser Black-backed Gull**; 705 **Herring Gulls**; and one **Great Black-backed Gull**.

Breeding of **Little Ringed Plovers** was successful at 2 sites and the first report of confirmed breeding for **Common Sandpiper** was reported from near Stow on 2nd. A **Wood Sandpiper** was seen between 24-May and 7-Jun at Watch Water Reservoir and on the 7th a **Little Gull** was seen offshore of Burnmouth, while the **Little Owl** seen earlier in the year continued to be reported at intervals and reports of confirmed breeding of **Long-eared Owls** came from 5 sites in the west of the Region.

An unusual record was from Green Stane-Little Rooks (Dowlaw) where a **Scandinavian Rock Pipit** was seen on 7th. Whether this singing bird was a very late migrant, an over-summering bird or early returner is, unsurprisingly, not known.

## July

High pressure continued to dominate, continuing the dry weather but also the inland-coastal divide: at Peebles daily maxima were consistently above 24°C while at the coast they sometimes struggled to reach 16°C. By the close of the first week however, this inland-coastal divide had reduced as the high drifted westward and brought a more northerly flow but still with maximum temperatures often into the upper 20s: on 8<sup>th</sup> Peebles registered a mean of 20.5°C and Letham (nr Paxton) a mean of 20.1°C. The accompanying calmness and high humidity seemed to be ideal for the hatching of insects, bringing some high counts of hawking hirundines and swifts. Anticyclonic conditions continued for much of the rest of the month. In the last few days of the month the high pressure gave way to low pressure systems which brought some welcome rain to the Borders.

Daily maxima were 2.5-3.5°C above the long-term average and daily minima were 0.5-1.5°C above average. Monthly rainfall was 50-75% of the long-term average. The first 12 days had mainly a north-easterly airflow. Thereafter winds were more variable but with a south-westerly direction more prevalent toward the end of July.

By 7th **Canada Goose** breeding records suggested that 2018 was one of the best years on record with confirmed breeding from 8 sites and probable breeding from a further 2 sites. Similarly, breeding records for **Greylag Geese** suggested a successful year. By the month's end **Mute Swan** numbers at Yetholm Loch had reached c. 150.

Up to 3 singing **Quails** were reported from various sites near Reston throughout the month. A single **Black-necked Grebe** was at Watch Water Reservoir on 26th while at the same location a post-breeding flock of 265 **Lapwings** was seen on 19th. The first record of returning **Whimbrels** was made at St Abb's Head on 8th when 2 were reported, while, at Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden), the first returning **Ruff** was noted on 29th. An unusual sighting of a **Sanderling** some 7 km inland at Paxton House was made on 1st and the first returning **Dunlins** were reported from Foulden on 29th while **Wood Sandpiper** was first recorded on 27th with records of singles from 3 sites.

A **Sabine's Gull** at Eyemouth on 21st was the first reported sighting since 2014 and a single **Mediterranean Gull** was seen well inland at Coldstream on 12th.

Almost 200 **Swifts** were counted over a one hour period at Paxton House on 13th, a similar number of **Sand Martins** were seen at the same site on 9th, c. 80 **Swallows** were noted at Ashiestiel (Caddonfoot) on 21st and c. 70 **House Martins** were at Walkerburn on 20th.

A singing **Reed Warbler** was reported from The Hirsell on 4th. Three **Fieldfares** seen on 4th near Hawick were something of a mystery in that it was impossible to say confidently whether they were late passage, over-summering or early passage birds. An estimated 100 **Linnets** were reported from St Abb's Head on 17th and 80 **Siskins** were reported from Yair Hill Forest (Caddonfoot) on 22nd.

## August

Low pressure systems made their way around the northern edge of a high over Britain bringing weak fronts down the east coast in the first week. Thereafter, the high pressure moved further south bringing a series of fronts across the region bringing much lower temperatures and some rainy days: on 12th there was 42 mm in the east and 15 mm in the west. By 18th daily maxima were frequently below 20°C. 24th/25th brought north-westerlies, driving skuas and shearwaters down the coast. Temperatures were in line with the long-term average. Rainfall, particularly in the south west of the region, was up to 25% above average, largely due to two days of heavy rain. Wind direction was largely from the west and thus limiting the potential migrant influxes.

The 193 **Canada Geese** seen on the Tweed Haughs between Kelso and Coldstream on 30th were presumably partly made up of returning moult migrants and, as with most recent years, the largest counts of **Greylag Goose** came from Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden) with 1,076 reported on 21st. Assemblies of **Teal** reached a monthly peak of 91 at Folly Loch on 21st and **Goosanders** reached a peak of 82 on the Teviot between Kelso and Roxburgh on 28th. A **Black-throated Diver** was seen off Dunglass on 5th.



A period of northerlies on 24th and 25th brought a single **Storm Petrel** off Eyemouth in their wake on 26th and, at the same site on the same day, 5 **Sooty Shearwaters** were recorded with 232 **Manx Shearwaters** also off Eyemouth. Twenty-seven **Little Grebes** were on Hirsell Lake on 6th and 3 **Great Crested Grebes** were reported from Fruid Reservoir at intervals during the month.

A peak of 74 **Curlews** was reported from Dunglass on 5th and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** was seen at Burnmouth on 16th, while **Black-tailed Godwit** numbers climbed to 18 at Greenlaw Farm Pool on 21st. Twenty-seven **Snipe** were reported from Folly Loch on 20th and a **Spotted Redshank** was seen at Greenlaw Farm Pool on 13th.

A **Little Gull** was seen off St Abb's Head on 18th and 90 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at Sprouston (Kelso) on 25th. Eyemouth reported a **Roseate Tern** on 12th, the first **Great Skuas** of the season on 11th, single **Pomarine Skuas** from 12th to 26th and the monthly peak count of 6 **Arctic Skuas** on 26th.

The last report of a **Swift** came from the Teviot Haughs on 27th and another last report was of **Sedge Warbler** on 30th (from Tweed: Sprouston-Redden). Thirty-five **Mistle Thrushes** were counted at Stantling Craig Reservoir on 18th, a **Black Redstart** was at St Abb's Head on 20th, over 200 **Chaffinches** were seen at Acreknowe Reservoir on 29th, 300 **Siskins** were reported from Cacrabank (Tushielaw) on 14th and the first record of a **Corn Bunting** since 2013 came from Newmains (Reston) on 16th.

## September

A succession of low pressure systems dominated proceedings with most winds from the west. Weather was generally changeable with winds of above 80 knots on 19th.

Temperatures were largely about average with winds mainly from the west. Rainfall was a little higher than average due largely to three downpours on 3rd, 7th and 21st.

An undisclosed number of **Brent Geese (light bellied)** were reported from St Abb's Head on 11th. The first sighting of **Barnacle Geese** was on 24th when 13 were also seen from St Abb's Head. Sightings continued for the remainder of the month with 4 reported from Hule Moss. By 29th **Pink-footed goose** numbers reached a monthly peak of c. 9,000 at Hule Moss. The first arrivals of **Whooper Swans** were of 8 at Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) on 23rd and the first **Goldeneye** was reported from Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk) on 25th. St Abb's Head reported the first autumn **Red-throated Diver** on 16th and the first **Great Northern Diver** on 11th.

Three **Little Egrets** were at Paxton House on 27th and Folly Loch reported 720 **Lapwings** on 14th while the first autumn report of **Turnstone** came from St Abbs on 11th. Four **Purple Sandpipers** were seen at Yellow Craig (St Abbs) on 6th and a **Jack Snipe** was at Newmains (Reston) on 20th.

Seven **Magpies**, not a common bird anywhere in the Borders, were reported from Spylaw (Portmore) on 8th. About 150 **Sand Martins**, over 500 **Swallows** and over 100 **House Martins**, presumably part of a southward passage, were counted over 3 hours at The Hirsell on 11th. Only the second record for Borders of **Melodious Warbler** was made at St Abb's Head on 2nd. From the same location, the year's last record of **Garden Warbler** was made on 2nd while the first record since 2015 of a **Barred Warbler**, also at St Abb's Head, was made on 6th. The final record for **Whitethroat** came from Jardinefield (Whitsome) on 8th. Something of a spectacle was the roost of c. 7,200 **Starlings** at Netherdale (Galashiels) on 16th and last report of **Yellow Wagtail** came from Cockburnspath on 2nd. At least 100 **Goldfinches** were at Buxley (Duns) on 10th.

## October

The first two weeks were changeable but mainly dry and windy. Conditions between 10th and 12th brought south easterlies, accompanied by coastal mists and rain, leading to fall conditions (winter thrushes, Goldcrests, Yellow-browed Warbler and Pied Flycatcher). Heavy rain on 13th was followed by a fairly consistent run of westerlies, although 26th-28th brought northerlies and, with them, good movements down the coast. Apart from the rain accompanying these northerlies, the remainder of the month was largely dry. Temperatures were about the same as the long-term average and about 75% of winds came from a westerly direction.

Good numbers of **Whooper Swans** built up along the Teviot Haughs with a peak count of c. 200 on 27th although the highest overall count of 219 was reported from Whitlaw (Duns) on 29th. The northerly winds of 27th-28th

brought with them some record-breaking reports: 33 **Velvet Scoters** were seen off St Abb's Head on 27th which almost doubled the previous highest single day count and the 594 **Common Scoters** seen the next day at the same location also achieved the highest count reported to date. The 32 **Long-tailed Ducks** seen off St Abbs on 28th were the highest count since 2010 and the 13 **Great Northern Divers** recorded, also on 28th, was the highest daily count to date. A single **Storm Petrel** was seen off Eyemouth and a **Red-necked Grebe** was seen off St Abb's Head on the same day, the latter adding to the sighting reported on 7th.

Only the third record of a **Great White Egret** (an immature) came from near Duns on 28th and, on 30th, 4 **Little Egrets** were reported from Paxton House. Between 21st-24th a **Lesser Yellowlegs** was well watched on the Teviot Haughs – an addition to the Borders bird list (see account of the find on p 163).

A **Great Grey Shrike** was seen at St Abb's Head on 11th and 7 **Waxwings** were at Blackhouse (Preston) on 29th. Autumn movements were evident with at least 100 **Skylarks** occurring along the Teviot Haughs, near Nisbet on 24th and records of **Yellow-browed Warblers** between 11th and 21<sup>st</sup>, mainly from Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) but also 5 other sites in the general vicinity with the highest count being 7 on 14th. The year's final record of a **Swallow** was on 1st, from Paxton and the last **House Martin** was reported from Melrose on 7th. Southward-moving **Ring Ouzels** were seen at intervals for much of the month, counts peaking at 6 on 10th at St Abb's Head. Further down the coast, at Lamberton, 200 **Blackbirds** and 200 **Fieldfares** were seen at Auchencrow (Reston) on 16th, while 1,000 **Redwings** were seen at Mire Loch on the same day. Thirty **Song Thrushes** frequented Manderston (Duns) on 9th-10th and a **Pied Flycatcher** was seen at St Abb's Head on 11th with 2 **Black Redstarts** at the same location on 10th-16th. About 70 **Tree Sparrows** were reported from Selkirk on 21st and 35 **Pied Wagtails** were noted in and around Eckford Hall (Nisbet). An estimated 150 **Chaffinches** were seen at Old Kirkhope (Ettrickbridge) on 20th and a **Hawfinch** visited The Hirsell on 21st with 110 **Greenfinches** and 80 **Siskins** also at The Hirsell on 14th.

## November

Changeable with weak frontal activity for the most part up to end of week two. Week three was dominated by easterlies as high pressure established over Scandinavia. Fronts pushing up against the high brought windy, wet conditions on 21st. The final week saw a series of deep depressions bringing wet, windy and generally miserable conditions. Temperatures and rainfall were about average. All but two days had winds from between E and SW.

Two hundred and fifty **Whooper Swans** were at Folly Loch on 10th, a single **Mandarin** was The Hirsell on 8th, at least 700 **Teal** were present at Hule Moss on 25th and 115 **Goosanders** were counted at The Hirsell.

The immature **Great White Egret** seen at the end of October continued to be reported throughout the month, favouring an area between Kelso-Paxton-Duns, suggesting the possibility that 2 individuals were actually being reported, while a **Common Crane** was seen at The Lees (Coldstream) on 20th,

About 1,000 **Golden Plovers** were reported from Greenlaw-Catmoss on 4th and 73 **Snipe** were at Malcolm's Marsh (Ancrum) on 30th.

A minimum of 1,500 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** and 1,500 **Herring Gulls** were recorded at Hule Moss on 7th.

An estimated 2,000 **Jackdaws** and 4,000 **Rooks** were at Kimmerghame (Duns) on 27th. These represent the largest counts since 1993. Approximately 100 **Waxwings** were reported from Peebles on 18th. **Yellow-browed Warblers** were still being seen at Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) on 10th-11th and for much of the second half of the month murmurations of c. 2,000 **Starlings** were reported from The Hirsell and of 7,000 at Galashiels. The last record of **Ring Ouzel** was on 27th at Newmains (Reston), c. 350 **Fieldfares** were seen in the Teviot Valley between Kelso and Roxburgh on 20th, 90 **Bramblings** were at Sorrowlessfield (Earlston) on 13th and 230 **Linnets** were recorded at Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) on 27th. Eighty **Goldfinch** were also at Stantling Craig Reservoir on 7th.



**Common Crane. Coldstream. November 2018. R Richardson.**

## December

The first week was dominated by westerlies and occasional rainy days. By the 8<sup>th</sup> high pressure over the continent provided southerly winds and drier, brighter weather. For much of the rest of December continental high pressure competed with Atlantic low pressure systems which brought a few days of heavy rain in the third week and some unseasonably high daily maximum temperatures toward the month's end. Temperatures were up to 2°C above the long-term averages, rainfall was 50-75% of the average and virtually all winds were from a westerly direction.

Lees Haugh (Coldstream) reported 136 **Mute Swans** on 25th with 250 **Whooper Swans** at nearby Birgham Haughs on 12th. A **Mandarin**, thought to be an escape, was seen around The Cobby at Kelso from 19th onward. Whether this was the same bird that was reported from The Hirsell the month before is not known. The **Great White Egret(s)** continued to be seen in the same haunts as in November and the **Common Crane** at Lees Haugh continued to attract a steady stream of birders.

Five hundred **Lapwings** were at Greenlaw-Catmoss on 10th. Pease Bay reported 20 **Purple Sandpipers** on 26th, 102 **Snipe** were at Malcom's Moss (Ancrum) on 27th and **Green Sandpiper** continued to be seen regularly on the Teviot. Single **Blackcaps** were reported from 3 sites and 14 **Nuthatches** were present at Innerleithen on 2nd. The **Starling** murmurations continued at Netherdale (Galashiels) with 2,000 estimated on 26th, 250 **Fieldfare** were at Gavinton (Duns) on 21st and a **Black Redstart** was at Selkirk on 30th. **Tree Sparrows** at Newmains (Reston) numbered 180 on 31st, 165 **Chaffinches** were recorded at Ashiestiel (Caddonfoot) on 8th, a minimum of 50 **Bramblings** were reported from Muirhouselaw Wood (Ancrum) on 28th and c. 20 **Twite** were seen in the St Abb's Head area from late November until 2nd. From 16th onward c. 300 **Lesser Redpolls**, c. 40 **Common Redpolls** and at least one **Arctic Redpoll** were present in The Bell (Cranshaws). Accompanying the Tree Sparrows at Newmains on 31st (see above), were 110 **Yellowhammers**.

Cumulative monthly totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Species per month	125	119	122	143	149	147	144	152	153	153	122	124
Cumulative total	125	130	140	164	183	188	198	206	205	207	208	209
Records submitted	4,129	4,285	4,555	5,391	6,100	4,325	2,769	3,343	3,152	3,668	3,571	3,383

## Classified List

The species sequence and the names used follow the Scottish Birds Records Committee's Scottish List, which can be found in the Bird Recording menu of the SOC website at [www.the-soc.org.uk](http://www.the-soc.org.uk).

The inclusion of a record does not mean that that record will be validated by the relevant body. Additions and corrections to previous records can be found at the end of the Classified List (see p 161).

### Status definitions

Each species summary has a banner heading in which its status in Borders Region is summarised. The terms used to describe their historical abundance are given below with their definitions:

Very rare	no more than ten individuals since 1979
Rare	11-30 individuals since 1979
Scarce	less than four individuals per year
Very uncommon	5-50 individuals per year
Uncommon	51-100 individuals per year
Well-represented	101-300 individuals per year
Common	301-2,000 individuals per year
Abundant	over 2,000 individuals per year

The same status descriptions are used for breeding species but in reference to pairs and not individuals, eg 5-50 pairs are regarded as very uncommon.

Reference is also made to the number of tetrads in which a species was recorded during the breeding season (where relevant) and winter (where relevant) during the 2007-13 survey on which data for *Birds in South-east Scotland 2007-13* are based. In all cases population status has been based on population estimates given in *Birds in South-east Scotland 2007-13* but with, as far as possible, reference to Scottish Borders only.

To give an idea of what the number of occupied tetrads represent in the context of the Borders as a whole, the actual number of tetrads occupied in 2018 as a percentage of all 1,280 tetrads that make up the Borders is given. The deficit between the percentage of all tetrads occupied during this year and the percentage occupation during the *SE Scotland Atlas* survey period gives a good idea of how this Bird Report, like any other, is only an approximation of the status of bird populations in the Borders Region. Readers should bear this mind when statements about trends are made on the basis of BBR records.



Hawfinch at The Hirsell. Maggie Brewis

**Brent Goose***Branta bernicla*

Very uncommon, but increasingly reported, passage migrant and rare winter visitor, mostly to coast. Most are pale-bellied Svalbard birds (ssp. *hrota*) wintering at Lindisfarne. During 2008-13 found in three tetrads in winter.

Only two records were received. Both from St Abb's Head and, although not reported as such, both records were presumably fly-overs: 11-Sep (SD Morton), no count given and 27-Oct (R Drew), a single (dark-bellied).

**Canada Goose***Branta canadensis*

Increasing, but still uncommon breeder, derived from feral populations in England or from local releases. Moults migration passes through in May-June and August-September. During 2008-13 found in 5% of tetrads in summer and 5% in winter.

There were 65 occupied tetrads (5%) reported. A significant increase on recent years: 2017- 47 tetrads; 2016 - 45 tetrads; 2015 - 40 tetrads.

Sites with peak counts of at least five in any one month were (highest monthly peak in bold):

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bemersyde- Westfield	<b>71</b>	24	18	15	<b>34</b>		7			<b>158</b>	<b>100</b>	
Watch Water Reservoir (West)	1	41	2	6	10	<b>28</b>	<b>110</b>	75	<b>86</b>	50		
Cammerlaws (Westruther)		<b>350</b>										
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)	52	45	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	2	12				21		2
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	9	32	18	12					13	22		58
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	50		16		3			<b>193</b>	12	9	51	<b>70</b>
The Hirsell	6		2						1	75		
Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank)	24		17	5	7							
Tweed: Paxton-Union Bridge		46		3	2							
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)							11	11		20		
Whitmuir Loch (Selkirk)	4											25
Inner Huntly (Ettrickbridge)			5		2					21		
New Belses (Lilliesleaf)					21							
Synton Mossend (Ashkirk)			3	9	4	4						
Wooden Loch (Eckford)				3		8	7			2		
Lady Moss (Heiton)	4		1									14
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)			3	2		14						
Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)		2	2	2	10							
Faughill Moor (Melrose)											15	
Springhall (Kelso)		15										
Folly Loch			5		4			1		2		
Innerleithen						12						
Yetholm Loch				1							10	
Teviot: Roxburgh-Kelso			10									
Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose)			9									
North Esk Reservoir					6							
<b>Total no of occupied tetrads</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total of all peak counts</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>169</b>

*Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream data are based on the maximum count at any single site between Kelso and Coldstream unless the WeBS count for the whole stretch was greater. NOTE: records do not include fly-overs.*

Sites with peak counts of five or less were: Abbotrule Pond (Bonchester Bridge); Alemoor Res (Hawick); Birgham Haugh (Coldstream); Branxholme Wester Loch (Hawick); Cralaw (Westruther); Edgerston Tofts (Carter Bar);

Eyemouth Harbour; Ferniehirst (Stow); Gala Sewage Works Pond; Harelaw (Lilliesleaf); Hartwoodburn (Selkirk); Hollybush (Galashiels); Hule Moss; Loch Tima (Craik Forest); Manderston (Duns); Mellerstain Estate (Gordon); Millar's Moss (St Abbs); Swinside Hall Plantation (Oxnam); Synton Mossend (Ashkirk); Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose; Tweed: Paxton-Union Bridge; Watch Water Reservoir (East); Whitton Loch (Hownam); Williestruther Loch (Hawick). In order of average size of count the chief roosting/feeding sites were (see above table for peak counts):

**Jan-Apr:** Cammerlaws (Westruther); Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm); Westfield-Bemersyde; Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream; Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden).

**May-Jul:** Watch Water Reservoir; Westfield-Bemersyde.

**Aug-Dec:** Westfield-Bemersyde; Watch Water Reservoir; Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet).

The close proximity of some of these sites strongly suggests duplicate counting, eg it seems likely that the 350 birds seen at Cammerlaws on 24-Feb were at least in part made up of the flock often seen at Watch Water Reservoir.

The highest count for the year was of 193 between Sprouston and Redden on the Tweed Haughs on 30-Aug (T Reed).

Records with **breeding** evidence came from 12 tetrads with 8 tetrads showing confirmed breeding (highest number of sites to date):

Harelaw (Lilliesleaf)	25-Feb	P	G Scott
Hartwoodburn (Selkirk)	28-Mar	P	G Scott
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)	07-Apr	P	G Paterson
Bemersyde Moss	11-May	1br7	C Stevenson
New Belses (Ancrum)	14-May	NY	N Stratton
North Esk Reservoir	16-May	P	J Palfery
Mellerstain (Gordon)	19-May	FL	K Robeson
Synton Moss (Selkirk)	26-May	1br6	M Moncrieff
Folly Loch	27-May	ON	J Gordon
Teviot Haughs: Nisbet	04-Jun	1br7, 1br3	M Moncrieff
Watch Water Reservoir	07-Jun	br23	M Moncrieff
Abbotrule Pond (Bonchester Bridge)	13-Jun	1br5	M Moncrieff

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Reports of confirmed breeding and the annual peak count point to a species which continues to increase in number.

## Barnacle Goose

*Branta leucopsis*

Uncommon 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-footed Goose. During 2007-13 found in 20 tetrads in winter.

Nine records came from six tetrads. Number of tetrads with records in recent years: 2017 – 13; 2016 – eight; 2015 – six tetrads.

Birgham Haugh (Coldstream)	07-May	80 N	K Robeson
Eyemouth Bay	08-May	1,000 S	R McBeath
Newmains (Reston)	18-May	410	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	24-Sep	13	G Paterson
Newmains (Reston)	25-Sep	32	C Hartley
Newmains (Reston)	28-Sep	28	DK Graham
Hule Moss	29-Sep	4	AP Mossop
Foulden	08-Oct	1	AP Mossop
St Abb's Head	14-Oct	28	DK Graham

## Greylag Goose

*Anser anser*

Well-represented, quickly increasing breeder; 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 109 occupied tetrads (9%). 2017 – 60 tetrads; 2016 – 65 tetrads; 2015 – 62 tetrads. There is no obvious reason for the large increase in the number of occupied tetrads reported this year. There were however, nearly 40% more records for Greylag Goose submitted this year compared with recent years. It seems likely therefore that the c. 80% increase in occupied tetrads is at least partly attributable to greater observer effort.

Sites with peak counts of at least five in any one month were (highest monthly peak in bold):

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	<b>524</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>503</b>	8		101	<b>1,076</b>	<b>624</b>	40	19	<b>245</b>
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)	192	290	80	45	<b>180</b>	Pr	<b>296</b>	106	1	325	305	4
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	575	5	25	1	9	1	100	330	70		55	205
The Hirsell			11	8	6	15	14		175	<b>480</b>	<b>370</b>	4
Hule Moss	81		18	16	25	20	28	400	78	96	200	
Westfield-Bemersyde	200	200	250		1					135	50	45
Ferniehirst (Stow)						12	45	470	200		120	13
Watch Water Reservoir	6	13	4	39	108	<b>164</b>	260	92	46	10		1
Folly Loch	11				2	7	5	56	80	25	126	6
Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)				4					305			
Newmains (Reston)	240											
Craigend Road (Stow)		90	120									
Cammerlaws (Westruther)		200										
Torsonce (Stow)								200				
White Law Loch (Selkirk)	160											
Caddon Water: Clovenfords			120									
Cowbog West (Morebattle)			120									
Greenlaw		90	2			21						
Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	39	29	3	7	16							9
Eden Water (Gordon)		100										
Whitelaw (Duns)										90		
Tweedbank				3					36	30	1	
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)		6		12	22	15		1				13
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)		42			2						4	16
Hopehouse (Ettrick)		22	17	9							10	
Yetholm Loch				14		2		13	16			
Wooden Loch (Eckford)			9							25	9	
Newmains (Reston)					32							
Kelloe (Duns)												29
Shielswood Loch (Hawick)					24							
Garvald Lodge (Moorfoots)					14		6					
Carcant (Heriot)					6		12					
Thirlestane Castle												18
Heiton (Kelso)		15										
Tweed: Paxton Ho-Union Bridge						15						
Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham)									11		4	
Mellerstain Estate (Gordon)	9			5	Pr							
North Esk Reservoir					12							

Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick)					5	4						1
Bow (Stow)					10							
Kirkstead (St Mary's Loch)					10							
Kalemouth (Eckford)				9								
Scarce Rig (Portmore)				9								
Synton Moss (Ashkirk)					9							
West Water (Longformacus)					9							
East Lodge (Stobo)	8											
Kames North Loch (Lilliesleaf)		8										
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Cobby						6			1			1
Hurdlaw (Westruther)		7										
Sucklawridge (Kelso)			7									
Eddelston-Waterheads				6								
Romannobridge (West Linton)				6								
Fruid Reservoir					5							
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)					5							
<b>Total no of occupied tetrads</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Total of all peak counts</b>	<b>2,305</b>	<b>1,574</b>	<b>1,153</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>2,275</b>	<b>1,063</b>	<b>1,160</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>411</b>

*Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream data are based on the maximum count at any single site between Kelso and Coldstream unless the WeBS count for the whole stretch was greater. NOTE: records do not include fly-overs.*



**Greylag Goose landing on the Tweed at Paxton House. June. T Brewis.**

Sites with peak counts of five or less were: Back Loch (Buccleuch); Bowshank Hill (Stow); Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank); Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch); Dawyck (Peebles); Easter Housebyres (Lochan); Essenside Loch (Ashkirk); Fairliehope (Carlops); Faughill Moor (Melrose); Galabank (Stow); Green Diamond (Selkirk); Haining Loch (Selkirk); Huntlywood (Gordon); Lady Moss (Selkirk); Ladyside (Heriot); Lauder; Leithen Water (Innerleithen); Manderston (Duns); Mellerstain (Gordon); Middlestots (Duns); Newcastleton Tollbar; Spylaw (Leadburn); St Abb's Head; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh; Thirlestane Castle; Toxside Moss (Portmore); Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose; Whitmuir Loch (Selkirk). Compared with recent years some of the sites which previously had large roosts, eg Greenlaw Farm Pool and Stantling Craig Reservoir, have shown marginal reductions in overall numbers, while other sites have witnessed a growth in their aggregate counts, eg Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream, The Hirsell and Hule Moss. There is an overall impression of a wider distribution of Greylag Geese.



In order of average size of count the chief roosting/feeding sites were (see table above for peak counts):

**Jan-Apr:** Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden); Newmains (Reston); Westfield-Bemersyde; Cammerlaws (Westruther).

**May-July:** Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords); Watch Water Reservoir.

**Aug-Dec:** Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden); The Hirsell; Ferniehirst-Torsonce (Stow); Hule Moss; Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords).

Records with **breeding** evidence came from 20 tetrads with 13 showing confirmed breeding (best evidence shown):

North Esk Reservoir	16-May	2ON	J Palfery
Watch Water Reservoir (West)	16-May	br65	M Moncrieff
Synton Moss (Ashkirk)	18-May	1br7	M Moncrieff
Garvald Lodge (Moorfoot Hills)	21-May	1br6; 1br5	G Paterson
Newmains (Reston)	28-May	5br22	DK Graham
Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)	29-May	br5	M Moncrieff
Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords)	30-May	8<br90	M Moncrieff
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Cobby	01-Jun	1br2; br4	AT Bramhall
Watch Water Reservoir	07-Jun	br125	M Moncrieff
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)	10-Jun	br12	M Moncrieff
Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick)	13-Jun	br2	M Moncrieff
The Hirsell	23-Jun	2br9	T Reed/ K Robeson
Galawater: Stow-Watherston	23-Jul	br11	D Small

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Outside of the Atlas period (2008-13) and 2014 (Water bodies Survey), this is the highest number of sites with evidence of confirmed breeding to-date:

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Conf</b>	1	1	1	1	2	3	4	0	3	2	2	2	3	3	4
<b>Prob</b>	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
<b>Conf</b>	3	1	4	9	8	6	22	12	15	17	8	9	8	13	
<b>Prob</b>	0	1	5	4	9	9	13	15	0	9	5	6	5	6	

**No. of sites with reports of breeding evidence for Greylag Goose: 1990-2018.**

(Shaded area is SE Scotland Atlas 2008-13 survey period)

It appears that both the range of Greylags throughout the year and breeding numbers continue to increase.

## 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 70 tetrads (5%). In 2017 – 65 tetrads; 2016 – 58 tetrads; 2015 – 50 tetrads.

**Winter-spring counts** were dominated by the following roost and associated feeding areas (in order of size):

**Bemersyde-Westfield:** max. count of 4,000 in February and March (M Moncrieff, MB Ross).

**Folly Loch-Teviot Haughs:** max. count of 2,800 in January (M Moncrieff).

**Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden):** max. count of 1,144 in February (D Christie). Main feeding ground for this roost is thought to be in north Northumberland.

**Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor):** max. count of 1,500 in April (DK Graham).

The latest record in spring was of 60 birds flying north over Manderston (Duns) on 21-Apr (AP Mossop). The earliest autumn record was a count of 40 on 13-Sep from Crooked Jack, West Linton (P Ball).

**Autumn-winter counts** were dominated by the following roost and associated feeding areas (in order of size):

**West Water-Biggar Water:** max. count of 24,200 in October (I Combe).

**Hule Moss-Greenlaw Moor:** max. count of 9,000 in September (AP Mossop).

**Bemersyde-Westfield:** max. count of 4,800 in October (DK Graham).









**Folly Loch-Teviot Haughs:** max. count of 6,032 in October (AT Bramhall).

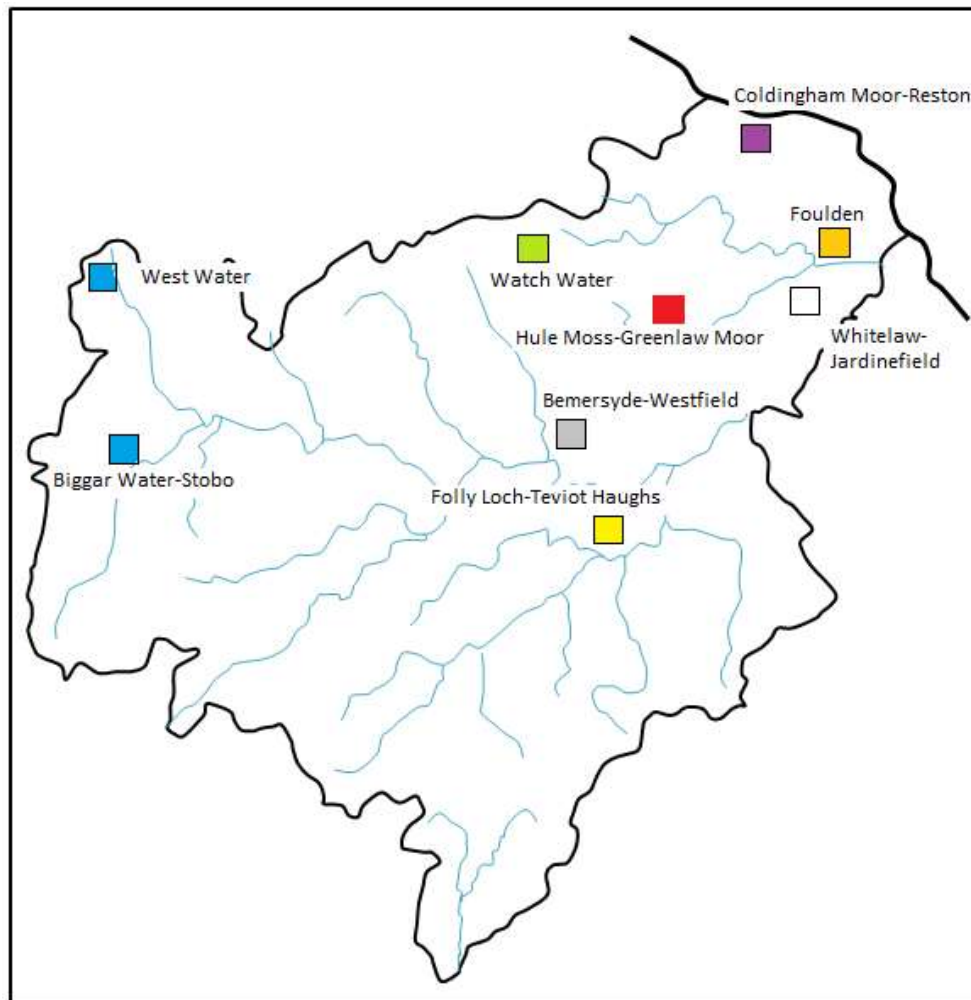
**Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor):** max. count of 5,600 in October (DK Graham).

**Biggar Water-Stobo:** max. count of 3,800 in December (R Singleton). Feeding area only; associated roost almost certainly West Water.

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	S	O	N	D
West Water							24,200	11,400	
Biggar Water-Stobo	370								3,800
Spylaw (Leadburn)		95				450			
Broomlee Centre (West Linton)				45					
Crooked Loch (West Linton)						40			
Dreva Craig (Broughton)						31			
Bemersyde-Westfield	3,000	4,000	4,000	300		2,000	4,800	2,000	4,000
Bowden Moor Loch (Melrose)						70			
Mellerstain Estate (Gordon)	74								
Hule Moss		5				9,000	5,000	6,000	
Bassendean (Gordon)		750							
Cammerlaws (Westruther)		350							
Folly Loch-Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	3,000		90			160	6,032	4,000	2,000
Todknowe Plantation (Nisbet)		2,000							
Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor)				1,500		2,000	5,600		
Newmains (Reston)	65								2,400
Lamberton				100			500	60	
Drakemyre (Grantshouse)								75	
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	162	1,144	590			608	1,600	18	5
Watch Water Reservoir						30	350		
Whitelaw (Duns)							700		
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	160								25
Jardinefield (Whitsome)						150			
Yetholm Loch								72	
Cauldshiels Loch (Tweedbank)	8								
<b>No of roosts/feeding areas</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total of peak counts</b>	<b>6,829</b>	<b>8,344</b>	<b>4,680</b>	<b>1,945</b>		<b>14,539</b>	<b>48,782</b>	<b>23,625</b>	<b>12,230</b>

**Monthly peak counts of Pink-footed Goose for roost sites and associated feeding grounds.**

	Bemersyde-Westfield		Coldingham Moor		Watch Water Reservoir
	Hule Moss-Greenlaw Moor		Foulden		Unknown roost sites or variable
	Folly Loch-Teviot Haughs		West Water-Portmore-Biggar Water		



**Locations of main roost sites and associated feeding grounds for Pink-footed Goose.**  
(See table above for key to colour coding)

Overall, the aggregate of counts was well down on last year. The exceptions to this were mainly in the winter-spring: the 4,000 at Bemersyde-Westfield in February-March equalled the record winter-spring count there of last year; the Folly Loch-Teviot Haughs count of 3,000 in January was the highest there since 2012 and the 1,144 count at Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden) was the highest-ever winter-spring count for this roost site.

In the autumn-winter period Folly Loch-Teviot Haughs had an all-time record of 6,032 in October but most other sites were a little below the averages for recent years.

There are two problems when interpreting counts and trends for Pink-footed Goose and, to some extent, for other geese. Firstly, not all records of fly-overs are stated as such. This means that some judgement has to be exercised when deciding whether a given record is of feeding birds or of fly-overs. *To help in this matter, contributors are asked to give as comprehensive comments for records as is practicable.* The second problem is relating, what are assumed to be, feeding site records to roost sites. While it is tempting to assume that proximity is the most important factor, this may not always be the case.

## Mute Swan

*Cygnus olor*

Well-represented breeder, c.50-100 territories. River sites often less successful than still-water sites. Many moulting non-breeders on lower Tweed, Berwick-Paxton. During 2008-13 found in 17% of tetrads in summer and 18% in winter.

Records came from 119 occupied tetrads (9%). 2017 - 95, 2016 - 118, 2015 - 104 tetrads. Sites with peak counts of at least five in any one month were (highest monthly peak in bold):

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	23	74	125	100	80	20	10	20	39	26	145	136
Yetholm Loch	74	27	26	23	51	152	166	154		21	42	31
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	8	14	31		14	24	7	7	43	81	80	75
The Hirsell	4	44	22	42	64	4	7	18	35	36	16	16
Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank)	16	23	25	31	28	21	19	21	22	30	19	13
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	29		10	12	5	5	11	12	24	17	22	100
Tweed: Dryburgh-Mertoun Ho.	52	52						2				
Folly Loch	4	2	2	6	12	13	16	16	25	3	2	
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	7	32	26	30								5
Eckford-Kalemouth		23	13	21	20	10						
Bemersyde-Westfield	5	52		5	5	2	5	3	2	2	2	2
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)	48	11	Pr			1					11	12
Ale Moor Reservoir (Hawick)	5	12	8	10	3	2		7	8	6	6	9
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Br.	4	4	2	7		7		2	16	11	2	1
Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	6	6			2			8	8	8	7	7
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	11		8			3	8		14	5		2
Synton Moss (Ashkirk)	8		17	7					2	2		2
Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	2	2	2	2	2	6			2	2	7	8
Stantling Craig Res. (C'venfords)	2		2	1	2	4	4	4	4	5	5	2
Dykegatehead (Whitsome)			33									
Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh	9	9					6				7	
Mellerstain (Gordon)	2	2		5					7			13
Burnmouth	2	2	2							10	4	2
Green Diamond (Selkirk)		2			2		5	4		9		
St Mary's Loch	7	4	4	1							3	2
Pot Loch (Selkirk)			3	1	2	5	2	2	2		2	
Hen Poo (Duns)	2		2		5			1			6	
Newmains (Reston)	2				14							
Eyemouth		2								8		7
Portmore Loch											15	
Sunwick (Whitsome)		15										
Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank)				2	2		2			2	5	
Teviot: Old Ormiston-Kalemouth						13						
Tweed: Upsettlington						6						7
Tweed: Walkerburn-Caddonfoot		2								5	6	
Williestruther Loch (Hawick)			2		2			5				4
Hule Moss	2			1	1	6					1	
Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose						2		9				
Whitton Loch (Hownam)					2			7			2	
Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick)	10											
Chisholm (Hawick)							8					
Tweed: Manor Br.-Tweed Br.	1		1							5		1
Spottiswoode Loch (Westruther)								7				
Whitsome (Chirnside)		7										
Nisbet Hill (Duns)												7
Dawyck (Peebles)	2											5
<b>Total no. of occupied tetrads</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Total aggregate of peak counts</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>410</b>

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



**Mute Swan. Eyemouth. February. Tom Brewis**

Sites with peak counts of less than five were: Abbotsford; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot); Bowden Moor Loch (Melrose); Bowhill (Selkirk); Bowmont Forest (Kelso); Branxholme Easter Loch (Hawick); Broadlee Loch (Craik); Burnmouth; Burnmouth-Border; Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch); Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth; Coldingham Loch; Craigend Road (Stow); Easter Bramxholme Loch (Hawick); Ettrickbridge; Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank); Fancove Head (Eyemouth); Faughill Moor Loch (Melrose); Hare Moss (Selkirk); Harelaw (Lilliesleaf); Hay Lodge Park (Peebles); Heiton (Kelso); Hollybush (Galashiels); Innerleithen; Kames North Loch (Lilliesleaf); Lady Moss (Melrose); Ladyrig Pond (Heiton); Little Duns Law-Mill Pond (Duns); Loch Eddy (Traquair); Loch of the Lowes Nature Reserve; Lyne Manor (Peebles); Marl-leas Plantation (Whitsome); Millar's Moss (St Abbs); Minto Kames (Ancrum); Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); Nunlands (Foulden); Outer Huntly (Ashkirk); Peebles; Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk); Selkirk; Shielswood Loch (Ashkirk); Smedheugh Pond (Selkirk); Springhall (Kelso); Spylaw (Leadburn); Sunlaws (Heiton); Swinside Hall (Oxnam); Tweed: Peebles-Cardrona; Tweed: Tweedmill; Tweed: Walkerburn-Caddonfoot; Whitehillfoot Farm (Heiton); Whitmuir Loch (Selkirk); Whitton Loch (Hownam); Yair Bridge (Caddonfoot); Yetholm Marsh.

The Tweed between Kelso and Coldstream has become the most populated site during the winter while the summer is dominated by Yetholm Loch, a long-established site, and the Teviot Haughs are well-occupied in the autumn. The Hirsell had reports of good numbers for much of the year, as did Tweedbank, with Wooden Loch also showing fairly consistently good counts, especially in winter. Perhaps Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden) may have continued with counts above 20 beyond April were it not for the pool drying-out in the summer.

Evidence of confirmed **breeding** came from 38 sites (33 sites in 2017, 37 in 2016). The first report of fledged birds was on 12-May at Hen Poo, Duns (F Evans).

Bowhill	11-Feb	P	Bowmont Forest (Kelso)	21-Jun	1br8
Harelaw (Lilliesleaf)	25-Feb	P	Lindean Res (Selkirk)	25-Jun	1br3
Eckford Hall- Wooden Loch	20-Mar	D	Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton)	27-Jun	1br5
Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch)	08-Apr	P	Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)	28-Jun	1br2
St Abb's Head	09-Apr	ON	Branxholme Easter Loch (Hawick)	04-Jul	1br3
Hare Moss (Selkirk)	19-Apr	NE	Chisholme Institute (Hawick)	07-Jul	1br6
Hollybush (Galashiels)	24-Apr	ON	Kelso	08-Jul	1br6
Loch of the Lowes	06-May	NE	Teviot Haughs: Nisbet	24-Jul	1br5
Hollybush East Pond (Galashiels)	11-May	ON	Yetholm Loch	05-Aug	br4
Hen Poo (Duns)	12-May	FL	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	07-Aug	1br9
Synton Moss (Selkirk)	18-May	ON	Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	14-Aug	1br6
Whitrig Bog (Smailholm)	25-May	ON	Whitton Loch (Hownam)	25-Aug	1br5

Folly Loch	27-May	ON	Williestruther Loch (Hawick)	29-Aug	1br3
Pickmaw Moss (Selkirk)	30-May	ON	Tweed: Melrose	29-Aug	1br7
The Hirsell	12-Jun	ON	Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick)	29-Aug	1br5
Tweed: Upsettlington	17-Jun	FL	Spottiswoode Loch (Westruther)	29-Aug	2P
Pot Loch (Selkirk)	17-Jun	FL	Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	09-Sep	2br8
Teviot: Roxburgh-Kelso	20-Jun	1br5	Mellerstain (Gordon)	15-Sep	1br4
Green Diamond (Selkirk)	21-Jun	1br3	Innerleithen	12-Oct	2br9

Only 44 pairs were reported. Contributors are encouraged to give as much evidence of breeding as is practicable. Twenty six broods were reported with a total of 104 fledglings. For historical context the reports of breeding over the last 15 years show the following 5-year averages:

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Pairs</b>	74	72	70	61	56	56	54	57	62	61	60	56	55	54	44
<b>Broods</b>	24	25	25	26	27	29	28	29	30	29	29	26	25	25	26
<b>Young</b>	114	117	119	127	121	129	126	129	129	127	122	112	106	107	104
<b>MBS</b>	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.0

MBS = mean brood size.

## Whooper Swan

*Cygnus cygnus*

Common winter visitor Oct-Apr. Notable flocks 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 55 tetrads (4%). In 2017 records were from 58 tetrads, in 2016 from 59 tetrads and in 2015 from 79 tetrads.

Jan-Apr records came from 35 tetrads (2017: 24 tetrads; 2016: 37 tetrads). Maximum counts per site were:

Lower Tweed		
Paxton House	03-Jan	7
Upsettlington	09-Mar	1

Teviot Haughs-Folly Loch area		
Nisbet-Crailing	03-Jan	132
Eckford-Kalemouth	19-Feb	47

The west		
Loch of the Lowes (south)	01-Jan	7
St Mary's Loch	20-Mar	1
Clearburn Loch (Hawick)	29-Mar	21
Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick)	29-Mar	14

Other sites		
The Hirsell	25-Jan	13
Newmains (Reston)	27-Feb	32

Selkirk area		
Smedheugh Pond	04-Jan	24
Faldonside Loch	07-Jan	6
Synton Moss	10-Jan	21
White Law Loch	26-Jan	7
Whitmuir Hall Loch	18-Feb	27

Tweed Haughs		
Birgham Haugh	15-Feb	200
Redden	22-Feb	120

Lower Whiteadder-Tweed		
Blackadder Bank (Whitsome)	09-Feb	159
Dygatehead (Whitsome)	11-Feb	110
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	11-Feb	3
Near Broomdykes (Whitsome)	10-Mar	63

Throughout the summer a single juvenile was seen at Folly Loch, possibly injured.

Sep-Dec records came from 38 tetrads. In 2017 records came from 32 tetrads, in 2016 from 33 tetrads:

Coldingham Moor area		
Newmains (Reston)	01-Oct	11
Dowlaw	18-Nov	19

Greenlaw Moor-Hule Moss		
Hule Moss	22-Oct	40

Teviot Haughs-Folly Loch		
Nisbet-Crailing	27-Oct	200
Ploughlands Pond	11-Nov	16
Folly Loch	13-Nov	168
Eckford Hall-Wooden Loch	09-Dec	100
Muirhouselaw wood	28-Dec	74

Lower Whiteadder-Tweed		
Blackadder Mains	18-Oct	45
Upsettlington	21-Oct	6
Jardinefield (Whitsome)	26-Oct	7
Whitelaw	29-Oct	219
Ravelaw (Whitsome)	30-Oct	90
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	27-Nov	4
Marl-leas Plantation	27-Dec	42

Selkirk area		
Tweedbank	26-Oct	17
Lady Moss	11-Nov	17
Faughill Moor	15-Nov	8
Lindean Reservoir	23-Nov	4
Whitmuirhill Loch	09-Dec	22
Smedheugh Pond	09-Dec	4
Synton Moss	22-Dec	2
Outer Huntly (Ashkirk)	26-Dec	18
Lindean Reservoir	23-Dec	8

Tweed Haughs		
Birgham Haughs	12-Dec	250
Lees Haugh (Coldstream)	27-Dec	30

The west		
Loch of the Lowes	25-Nov	27
Innerleithen	02-Dec	2
St Mary's Loch	10-Dec	7
Aleemoor Reservoir	18-Dec	20

There were also counts from: The Hirsell (three on 31-Dec); two from Tweed: Paxton-Union Bridge (2-Oct).

In summary, the Tweed Haughs was the dominant site in both seasons with only slightly smaller flocks found in and around the Teviot Haughs and in the area between Whitelaw and Upsettlington (between the Whiteadder and the Tweed)

There is obviously an element of duplicate counting in the tables above, given the proximity of many sites and the mobility of Whooper Swans.

During the period Jan-Apr an exceptional 26% of birds that were aged were 1<sup>st</sup> winter birds, ie 84 of 326 birds.

During the period Oct-Dec 11% of birds that were aged were 1<sup>st</sup> winter birds, ie 49 of 458 birds.

*Contributors are encouraged to ensure that details of how many 1<sup>st</sup> winter birds observed accompanying adults is recorded clearly.*

The latest record in spring, other than the over-summering bird(s), was on 4-May when 5 birds were seen at Folly Loch (M Moncrieff). The earliest record in the autumn was of 8 birds seen at the Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) on 23-Sep (M Moncrieff).

## Shelduck

*Tadorna tadorna*

Very uncommon (5-10 pr) 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 19 tetrads. Occupied tetrads in recent years were:

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
16	13	18	18	19

Peak counts with highest monthly in bold:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Folly Loch		1	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	2	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	2	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
Greenlaw Moor-Hule Moss		1		2	11	<b>16</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)				2	4	6	4					
Bemersyde Moss-Westfield		<b>2</b>	1	2	4	5						
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)		1	2	6	3	2						
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream					7		1					
Anchorhill (Gordon)				2	3							
Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor)				2		2						
Yetholm Loch					3							
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Br.						3						
Eckford North-Kalemouth				2								
Leadburn Community Woodland			1									
Middlestots Marsh (Duns)				1								
Newmains (Reston)				1								
Pease Bay		1										
St Abb's Head										<b>1</b>		
<b>No of tetrads</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total of peak counts</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

The first record of birds returning from wintering grounds was of a singleton on 2-Feb at Folly Loch (M Moncrieff) and the last record before departure was of a single at Hule Moss on 25-Nov (AP Mossop).

Evidence of **breeding** came from five sites with 25 young reported (less than half of the number of young reported last year but still part of a general, upward trend):

Folly Loch	22-May	1br7	Bemersyde Moss	25-Jun	1br4
Whitrig Bog-Westfield	19-Jun	1br8	Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	24-Jul	1br2
See Introduction for breeding codes.			Hule Moss	22-Sep	1br2

## Mandarin Duck

*Aix galericulata*

Scarce and elusive resident breeder found along Eye Water and Whiteadder. Introduced. During 2008-13 found in 1% of tetrads in summer but <1% in winter.

Seven reports: four from the Eye Water catchment and three from the Coldstream-Kelso area. The latter records were possibly of the same bird.

Ayton (Eye Water)	07-Jun	6	Ayton (Eye Water)	28-Apr	1
Linthill (Eye Water)	29-Apr	2	The Hirsell	08-Nov	1
Ayton (Eye Water)	08-Jun	2	Cobby (Kelso)	19-Dec	1
			Cobby (Kelso)	22-Dec	1

Although there are usually a few records of this species straying from its breeding core in the Eye Water drainage there is still no evidence of any significant spread of breeding sites.





**Mandarin. Coldstream. December. D Wolfenden.**

## Shoveler

*Anas clypeata*

Scarce, declining breeder, mostly in the eastern Borders. Very uncommon autumn passage migrant and scarce winter-spring passage migrant. During 2008-13 found in 14 tetrads in summer and six in winter.

Records came from eight tetrads – a fairly typical number for recent years. Actual numbers however, were low when compared with recent years. Peak counts per site were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick)	3											
Bemersyde Moss									4	1	2	
Folly Loch									1			
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)			1	2								
Hule Moss				2	2						1	
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)						1			1			
The Hirsell				2								
Yetholm Loch				2				3				
<b>Occupied tetrads</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total of peak counts</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

There was no evidence of **breeding** beyond a pair that were reported from The Hirsell and Foulden.

**Gadwall***Anas strepera*

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

Records came from 11 tetrads (1%). Occupied tetrads in recent years:

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. occupied tetrads	4	8	7	11	5	5	12	9	10	10	11	6	13	9	11
Peak count	60	20	9	10	5	6	6	6	18	40	23	27	31	27	17
Confirmed breeding	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	2	1	1	0	1

Peak counts per tetrad were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bemersyde Moss								6	4			
Folly Loch									3			
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)				1	1	1						
The Hirsell			5	4	1	1	8		17	2	7	4
Hollybush (Galashiels)		2										
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)	4	5										
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)											1	2
The Lees (Coldstream)											1	
Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean	1											
Yetholm Loch	2	7	5	5	4	11	5	5	14	1		
Yetholm Pond		9	6							4	10	5
<b>No of occupied tetrads</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Aggregate of peak counts</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>

Despite recent hopes of an increase in breeding records, frustratingly, there was only one record involving confirmed **breeding**: a pair with four young at Yetholm Loch on 27-May (M Moncrieff). Since the record of three cases of confirmed breeding in 2013, breeding seems to have returned to the typical one per year that has occurred since about 2006.

**Wigeon***Anas penelope*

Very scarce breeding species in the Ettrick Forest (formerly 10-20 pairs, now <5 pairs with no confirmed breeding since dedicated survey in 1999). Common winter visitor and autumn passage migrant to coast. During 2008-13 found in 2% of tetrads in summer and 7% in winter.

Records came from 57 tetrads (5%). Occupied tetrads in previous years were: 2017 – 67 tetrads; 2016 – 55 tetrads; 2015 – 45 tetrads.

Sites with a peak count of 10 or more (in order of aggregated peak counts) were (monthly peak counts in bold):

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	<b>780</b>	<b>420</b>	272	<b>162</b>	<b>6</b>						113	26
Bemersyde-Westfield	490	180	<b>300</b>	10					8	70	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream		30	67								100	50
Folly Loch	26	72	21					<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	20	42	18
Synton Moss (Ashkirk)	62		8	14						12		61
Williestruther Loch (Hawick)			78									62
Whitmuirhall Loch (Selkirk)		55									13	50
Eyemouth Harbour										<b>113</b>		
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)	90	1									22	
Stantling Craig Res. (Clovenfords)	28	18	8							1	13	44
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	26	3	44								19	8
Nunlands (Foulden)		80										
Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank)	13		20							12	32	
Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)		16									60	
Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick)	74											
Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)		6							15	2	30	15
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)	35	20		12								
The Hirsell		27							2	2	Pr	20
Teviot Haughs: Nisbet		4	20	20								
Ale Moor Reservoir (Hawick)	1	9								7	13	10
Harelaw Pond (Lilliesleaf)	10	16									8	
Red Heugh (Cockburnspath)		27										
St Abb's Head (offshore)									16	8		
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	10											
<b>Total no of occupied tetrads</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Total of all peak counts</b>	<b>1,662</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>661</b>

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

Sites with peak counts below ten were: Bowhill (Selkirk); Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch); Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor); Easter Branxholme Loch (Hawick); Essenside Loch (Ashkirk); Green Diamonds (Selkirk); Hare Moss (Selkirk); Hollybush (Galashiels); Hule Moss; Lady Moss (Melrose); Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Mellerstain (Gordon); Newburgh (Tushielaw); Newmains (Reston); Pease Bay-Red Heugh; Smedheugh Pond (Selkirk); The Haining (Selkirk); Tweed: Milne Graden; Watch Water Reservoir (West); Yetholm Loch.

Greenlaw Farm Pool at Foulden continued to report high counts. The counts of autumn-winter were however, much lower than in 2017 due to a drying-out of the Pool during the summer and only a slow return toward the levels of recent years.

There were no records of **breeding**.

## Mallard

## *Anas platyrhynchos*

Abundant and widespread breeder (1,500-2,000 pr). Several large moult assemblies in late summer. Large but declining winter counts are thought to include immigrants. During 2008-13 found in 59% of tetrads in summer and 47% in winter.

Records came from 192 tetrads (15%). Previous years: 2017 – 114 tetrads; 2016 -188 tetrads; 2015 – 140 tetrads.

Sites with the monthly counts of 10 or more in order of annual aggregated count were (largest monthly peaks in bold):

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	379	95	222	70	80	72	166	290	198	45	254	193
Folly Loch	77	67	25		20	61	112	368	163	113	129	130
The Hirsell	37	49	24	10		123	298	114	91	75	200	25
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso		173		10			12		116	261	199	258
Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh	276	183	112	36		165						
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge	79	63	38	16	30	22	75	68	121	153	46	44
Yetholm Loch	62	37	35		10	55	128	64	40	13	44	85
Watch Water Reservoir (East)	78	10	12							96	253	90
Tweedbank	99	37	27	19	20			78	50	82	98	
Bemersyde-Westfield	30	50	60	20		100		14		150	10	28
Duns Castle Pond	70	103	67					120				
Tweed-Leader: Newstead-Drygrange		18		17						250	19	
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	49	15	29	12	21	19	30	15	27		24	36
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)	30	21	27	9	13			55		14	31	72
Tweed: Innerleithen-Caddonfoot	31	25		19	14		17		50		56	55
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	18			36	54	67	14	75				
Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose		35		20	40	25		82	58			
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)	27	29	16		14		42	33		25	38	31
Bowdenmoor Res (Melrose)	21					64	37				59	63
Galashiels Sewage Works Pond		57	51			35						97
Tweed: Mertoun Br-Benrigg Dean	46	81			17			73				
Teviot Haughs: Nisbet	25	14	12		13	28	40	64	15			
Hule Moss					24	49	106				20	
Hollybush (Galashiels)		13						49	77	24	23	12
Tweed: Peebles	42	60	10					18	18	16	28	
St Mary's Loch	55	19	7								67	35
Ferniehirst (Stow)		74	12					40				40
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)	35	29									55	24
Harelaw Pond (Lilliesleaf)	62										73	
Haining Loch (Selkirk)	14	21	12		14				14	15	18	10
<b>Total no of occupied tetrads</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Total of peak counts</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>1,704</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>1,382</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>1,664</b>	<b>1,629</b>

*Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream data are 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 10 or more birds but with lower aggregated counts were: Abbotsford; Acreknowe Res (Hawick); Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick); Belford (Hownam); Bowhill (Selkirk); Bridge End Hill (St Mary's Loch); Broomdykes (Whitsome); Cardrona (Peebles); Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch); Clovenfords-Blackhaugh; Dawyck (Broughton); Dowlaw Loch (Coldingham Moor); Ettrick Bridge (Lindean); Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank); Galabank (Stow); Garvald-Windy Slack (Blackhope Water); General's Bridge (Selkirk); Greenside Pond (Old Cambus); Hutlerburn (Ettrickbridge); Kittyflat (Stow); Lady Moss (Melrose); Lindean Res (Selkirk); Lowood Pond (Tweedbank); Manderston (Duns); Mellerstain (Gordon); Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); Morebattle; Newmains (Reston); Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet); Pot Loch (Selkirk); Spottiswoode Loch (Westruther); Sunlaws Mill (Roxburgh); Sunwick (Whitsome); Synton Moss (Ashkirk); Teviot: Ancrum Br-Chesters; Tweed: Dryburgh Br-Mertoun Br; Tweed: Lennel; Tweedsmuir; West Water; White Law Loch (Selkirk); Williestruther Loch (Hawick).

**Breeding** evidence was reported from 34 sites, 30 of which had confirmed breeding in the form of chicks. Sixty-two broods reported and approximately 327 fledglings. See table below to put this into historical context.

Thirlestane Castle	05-Feb	2P	Hare Moss (Selkirk)	04-Jun	1br7
Dunhog Moss (Selkirk)	24-Mar	S	Green Diamond (Selkirk)	05-Jun	1br10
Ferniehirst (Stow)	07-Apr	2P	Synton Moss (Ashkirk)	05-Jun	1br6
Talla Reservoir	29-Apr	P	Yarrow Water: Gordon Arms Hotel	09-Jun	1br5
Cardrona (Peebles)	10-May	1br1<	Millar's Moss (St Abbs)	10-Jun	1br6
Bemersyde Moss	11-May	1br3	Folly Loch	11-Jun	5br19
Mellerstain (Gordon)	12-May	1br11	Tweed: Carham-Sprouston	15-Jun	4br24
Galawater: Stow-Watherston	12-May	2br19	Blackhope (Heriot)	15-Jun	1br1
Manderston (Duns)	15-May	1br12	Bowdenmoor Res (Melrose)	19-Jun	6br24
Hule Moss	15-May	1br11	Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh	20-Jun	11br38
Birgham Haugh (Coldstream)	18-May	2br6	The Hirsell	20-Jun	1br4
Garvald Lodge (Heriot)	24-May	2br12<	Teviot Haughs: Nisbet	21-Jun	2br12
Yetholm Loch	27-May	1br6	Lindean Res (Selkirk)	25-Jun	1br5
Ladyrig Pond (Heiton)	27-May	1br10	Gattonside (Melrose)	26-Jun	br6
Newmains (Reston)	28-May	4br26	Kelso	08-Jul	1br5
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)	30-May	2br12	Tweed: Sprouston-Redden	10-Jul	1br3
Tweedbank	02-Jun	3br17	Watch Water Reservoir (West)	11-Jul	1br5

See Introduction for explanation of breeding codes.

On the basis of Bird Report breeding records it is difficult to confidently recognise a definite trend, especially with the greater observer effort associated with the SE Scotland Atlas 2008-13 survey period and the SE Scotland survey of waterbodies in 2014. But, taking into account the greater observer effort expected during these surveys, the breeding population appears to be declining marginally. Given the small sample that the Report records represent however, this statement comes with the usual health warning, although it is supported by the findings of the SE Scotland Atlas 2008-13 and Breeding Bird Surveys for Scotland.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Sites</b>	53	47	51	46	28	66	55	33	27	46	31	49	63	22	51	31	34
<b>Broods</b>	76	76	91	67	46	108	73	60	45	92	44	72	110	27	107	43	62
<b>Young</b>	326	355	591	347	248	605	374	304	222	453	196	365	496	110	487	214	327
<b>MBS</b>	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	5.0	5.3

## Pintail

*Anas acuta*

Very uncommon, but annual, winter visitor, September to April, peaking October-November. Has bred twice, in 1901 and 2008. During 2008-13 found in seven tetrads in summer and four in winter.

Records came from seven sites in total. Recent years have seen records from eight sites in 2017, six in 2016, four in 2015 and two in 2014.

Winter-spring			
The Hirsell	19 Mar	1	AP Mossop
Autumn-winter			
Folly Loch	8-18; 28 Sept-22 Nov	1-5	AT Bramhall, M Moncrieff, EL Bickmore
Dowlaw Dam	9, 27 Sept	1	DK Graham
The Hirsell	25 Sept	3	J Lough
Hule Moss	14 Nov	1	M Hogarth
Watch Water Reservoir	16 Nov	1	M Moncrieff
Dunglass	18 Nov	1	AP Mossop
Teviot Haughs: Nisbet	22 Nov	1	S Turnbull

**Teal***Anas crecca*

Uncommon breeder, c.80-100 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.

Records came from 73 tetrads (6%). Records in 2017 came from 69 tetrads, in 2016 from 64 tetrads and from 61 in 2015.

Monthly peak counts of ten or more and annual aggregate counts of 100 or more came from:

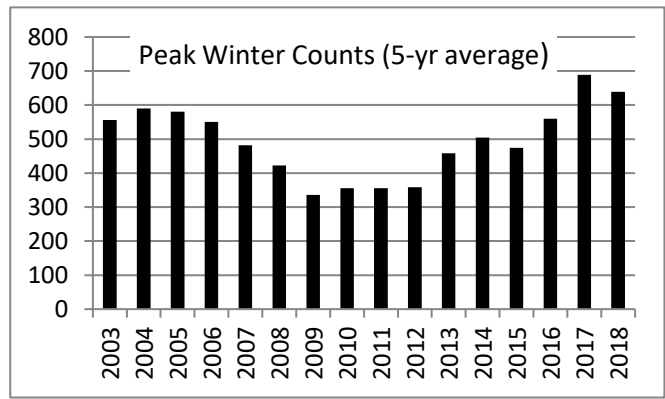
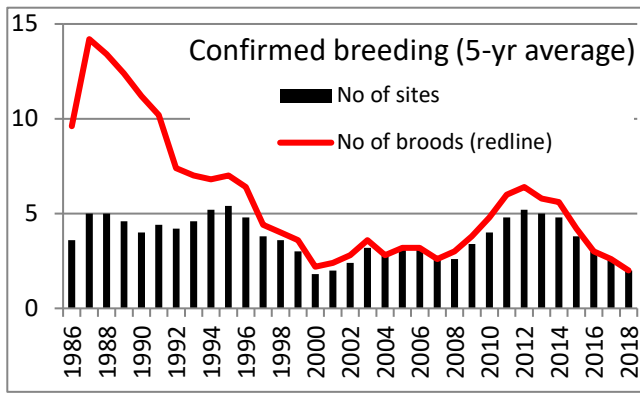
Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Newmains (Reston)	400	420								45	410	420
Hule Moss					17				84	218	550	600
Folly Loch	80	232	140	17		16	17	91	97	123	114	118
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	390	192	82	68	22		21	34	134			
Bemersyde-Westfield	300	150	200	80						30	20	120
Dowlaw Dam (Cold'ham Moor)									24	210	124	27
The Hirsell		17	13						15		232	83
Galashiels Sewage Works Pond		35	60	48					20	26	25	96
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)	41	64	14					11		32	85	46
Watch Water Reservoir	18									54	73	70
Whitmuirhill Loch (Selkirk)		40									33	50
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	15	20	43						10		12	
<b>Total no of occupied tetrads</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Totals of all peak counts</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>1,322</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>1,152</b>

*Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream data are 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 were: Carcant (Heriot); Broomdykes (Whitsome); Cauldshiels Loch; Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch); Corsehope Ho. (Heriot); Crawlaw (Westruther); Duns Castle Pond; Eckford North-Kalemouth; Ettrickbridge; Eyemouth Harbour; Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank); Fruid Reservoir; Gala Water: Ferniehirst-Torsonce; Garvald Lodge (Heriot); Glentress Water (Leithen Water); Harelaw (Lilliesleaf); Hollybush (Galashiels); Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm); Hundleshope (Peebles); Inner Huntly (Ettrickbridge); Innerleithen; Kittyflat (Stow); Leithen Valley: Innerleithen; Lindean Res (Selkirk); Manderston (Duns); Mellerstain (Gordon); Middlestots Marsh (Duns); Millar's Moss (St Abbs); Nunlands (Foulden); Philiphaugh (Selkirk); Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet); Pot Loch (Selkirk); Rachelfield (Smailholm); St Abb's Head; St Mary's Loch; Sunwick (Hutton); Teviot Haughs: Nisbet; Tushielaw (Ettrick); Tweed: Innerleithen-Caddonfoot; Tweedbank; Watch Water Reservoir (East); Westruther; Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Wooden Loch (Eckford); Yetholm Loch; Yetholm Pond.

**Breeding** was recorded in seven tetrads: Garvald Lodge, Heriot (P); Stantling Craig Res, Clovenfords (P); Inner Huntly, Ettrickbridge (P); Middlestots Marsh, Duns (P); The Hirsell (P); Hule Moss (1br6); Moorfoots South (1br7). See Introduction for breeding codes.

It seems that the Hule Moss record is incomplete, missing the months Jan-Apr. Nonetheless overall numbers for that site and Borders generally appear to be in line with the increase in numbers seen during the winter months in recent years. Notable peak counts were 600 at Hule Moss (Dec), 420 at Newmains (Reston) – possibly a site record, 390 at Greenlaw Farm Pool (Jan) and 300 at Bemersyde-Westfield (Jan). The graph below shows winter and breeding trends in recent years.



## Green-winged Teal

*Anas carolinensis*

Very rare American vagrant - five previous records.

A single, adult male was seen at Greenlaw Farm Pool between 4-Jan and 17-Jan (C Hartley). This was the sixth record for Borders and the first since 2014.

## Pochard

*Aythya ferina*

Now extinct as a breeder, numbers having collapsed since the 2000s. Also declining, uncommon winter visitor, arriving October-November, leaving Mar-Apr. During 2008-13 found in 10 tetrads in summer and 20 in winter.

Records came from 14 tetrads. 2017 – 11 tetrads; 2016 - four tetrads; 2015 – nine tetrads; 2014 – nine tetrads.

**Winter-spring:** records came from five sites (four in 2017): Yetholm Loch – 3; Wooden Loch (Eckford) -2; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) -1; Newmains (Reston) – 1; Bemersyde Moss – pr. The last report for this period was on 5-Apr at Yetholm Loch (J Lough).

**Summer:** three birds were reported from Bell's Pool (Dawyck) on 20-May and a single was reported from Yetholm Loch on 7-Jun.

**Autumn-winter:** the first report was on 11-Sep from The Hirsell (J Lough). Records came from five sites (eight sites in 2017). Highest counts per site were: The Hirsell -3; Folly Loch – 2; Watch Water Reservoir – 2; Hule Moss – 2; Essenside Loch (Ashkirk) – 2.



Pochard. Mire Loch. January. Dave Graham.

## Tufted Duck

*Aythya fuligula*

Increasingly less common breeder, including the lower reaches of the Tweed. Well-represented winter visitor, peaking November-December. During 2008-13 found in 9% of tetrads in summer and 6% in winter.

Records came from 57 tetrads (4%). 2017 – 53 tetrads; 2016 – 57 tetrads; 2015 – 61 tetrads.

Sites with monthly peak counts of ten or more and annual aggregate counts of 50 or more were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Folly Loch	34	10	26	25		11	11	10	25		55	25
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	23	44	27					21		16	27	43
Hule Moss	42			30	20	12	11	14				16
Haining Loch (Selkirk)	11	24	34	21	25					11		18
The Hirsell									22	36	60	22
Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank)	23	24	20						11	15	18	15
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)			10	23	34	27		12				
Watch Water Reservoir			11			18	17	18			12	
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	22							20	19			
Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick)	57											
Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)						14			42			
Williestruther Loch (Hawick)			43									11
<b>Total no of tetrads occupied</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Total of all peak counts</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>219</b>

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

Sites with smaller annual aggregate counts were: Abbotrule Pond (Bonchester Bridge); Alemoor Res (Hawick); Bells Pool (Dawyck); Bemersyde Moss-Whitrig Bog; Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose); Bowmont Forest (Kelso); Branxholme Easter Loch (Hawick); Branxholme Wester Loch (Hawick); Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk); Din Moss (Yetholm); Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor); Essenside Loch (Ashkirk); Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank); Faughill Moor Loch (Selkirk); Galashiels Sewage Works Pond; Garvald-Windy Slack (Dewar Burn) ; Green Diamonds (Selkirk); Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden); Hare Moss (Selkirk); Hellmoor Loch (Hawick); Hen Poo (Duns); Hollybush (Galashiels); Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm); Lady Moss (Melrose); Ladyrig Pond (Heiton); Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Manderston (Duns); Mire Loch (St Abb's Head); Newmains (Reston); North Esk Reservoir; Pot Loch (Selkirk); Rawflat (Ancrum); Spottiswoode Loch (Westruther); St Mary's Loch; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords); Sunwick (Whitsome); Synton Mossend (Ashkirk); Tweed: Innerleithen-Caddonfoot; Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge; Tweed: Upsettlington; Whitmuirhill Loch (Selkirk); Whitton Loch (Hownam); Yetholm Loch.

**Breeding** evidence came from 12 tetrads (two confirmed):

Lindean Res (Selkirk)	22-Mar	P	D Parkinson	Tweed: Upsettlington	30-May	P	R Manning
Synton Mossend (Ashkirk)	08-Apr	P	G Paterson	Wooden Loch (Eckford)	10-Jun	P	CD Green
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	09-Apr	P	J Gordon	Folly Loch	11-Jun	P	AT Bramhall
Bowdenmoor Res (Melrose)	13-Apr	P	D Parkinson	Bowmont Forest (Kelso)	21-Jun	P	CD Green
Garvald-Windy Slack (Dewar)	11-May	P(2)	G Paterson	Watch Water Reservoir	11-Jul	br7	C Hartley
North Esk Reservoir	16-May	P	J Palfery	Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	27-Jul	3br20	K Robeson
See Introduction for breeding codes.							

Reports of breeding birds continue to be significantly lower than they were in the 1990s:

2015	2016	2017	2018
24	27	11	12



**Scaup***Aythya marila*

Scarce but annual passage migrant and winter visitor. Usually in singles.

Reported from seven tetrads. 2017 – 8 tetrads; 2016 – 8 tetrads; 2015 – 3; 2014 – 2 tetrads.

**January:** a single at Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk) seen all month (EL Bickmore *et al*).**April:** a single at Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick) on 18<sup>th</sup> (S Kirkup).**September:** a single at St Abb's Head on 16<sup>th</sup> (DK Graham) and a single juvenile female at Hule Moss on 22<sup>nd</sup> (M Hogarth).**October:** two at The Hirsell on 2<sup>nd</sup> (J Lough) and three at Eyemouth Harbour on 28<sup>th</sup> (R Drew).**November:** a single at The Hirsell on 12<sup>th</sup> (K Robeson) and 15<sup>th</sup> (CD Green).**Eider***Somateria mollissima*

Well-represented but declining 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.

Records came from between Cove and the English Border. The Rocky Shore Count (RSC) on 4-Feb had a total count of 124 birds. 2017 – 157; 2016 – 122; 2015 – 273; 2014 – 237.

Sites	J	F (RSC)	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)											1	
Pease Bay-Redheugh		7										
Redheugh-Souter		3										
Souter-Pettico Wick		15										
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay		18	3		2		Pr		3	12	1	2
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	75	28	30							8		
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	6	15		3						32	57	20
Burnmouth-Border		38	75	16	1	2		2		12	39	2

The number of winter birds reported by the RSC continues to decline – this year's was the second lowest count since the Survey began in 1990s. No breeding records.

**Velvet Scoter***Melanitta fusca*

Uncommon autumn (August-December) passage migrant to coast. Very occasional in spring. Two inland records.

Six records, all in Sep-Oct from four sites:

St Abb's Head	23-Sep	2	DK Graham	St Abb's Head	27-Oct	33	R Drew
Pease Bay	22-Oct	2	DK Graham	St Abbs village	28-Oct	15	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	27-Oct	10	DK Graham	Eyemouth Harbour	28-Oct	13	R Drew

The count of 33 on 27-Oct is the highest daily total recorded since Bird Reports began in 1978. The aggregated count of 62 (the two records on 28-Oct are assumed to involve the same birds) was the highest since 2007.

**Common Scoter***Melanitta nigra*

Well-represented late summer and autumn passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor to coastal areas. Very rare inland.

Nineteen records from four sites. An unusual year given that there were no records submitted until July. Thereafter numbers were fairly typical but with very large counts on 28-Oct from St Abbs Village and from Eyemouth. There were no records beyond 18-Nov. The largest counts were:

<b>July-September</b>			
St Abb's Head	84	08-Jul	DK Graham
Eyemouth	30 N	14-Aug	C Hartley
St Abb's Head	54	18-Aug	DK Graham
<b>October-November</b>			
St Abb's Head	83	27-Oct	R Drew
St Abbs village	349	28-Oct	DK Graham
Eyemouth	594	28-Oct	R Drew
Burnmouth	50 N	18-Nov	G Paterson

Duplicate counting is quite possible, eg the two counts on 28-Oct, and therefore any interpretation of trends in submitted records should be regarded with caution. The problem is compounded by likely variations in observer effort and an under-watched coastline. The bird-days for successive years since 2012 are:

	<b>Jan-Mar</b>	<b>Apr-Jun</b>	<b>Jul-Sep</b>	<b>Oct-Dec</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2012</b>	9	6	686	530	<b>1,231</b>
<b>2013</b>	120	190	411	1,040	<b>1,761</b>
<b>2014</b>	744	242	460	171	<b>1,617</b>
<b>2015</b>	8	26	227	123	<b>384</b>
<b>2016</b>	4	48	490	48	<b>590</b>
<b>2017</b>	1	224	319	55	<b>599</b>
<b>2018</b>	0	0	213	1,067	<b>1,280</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>1,066</b>

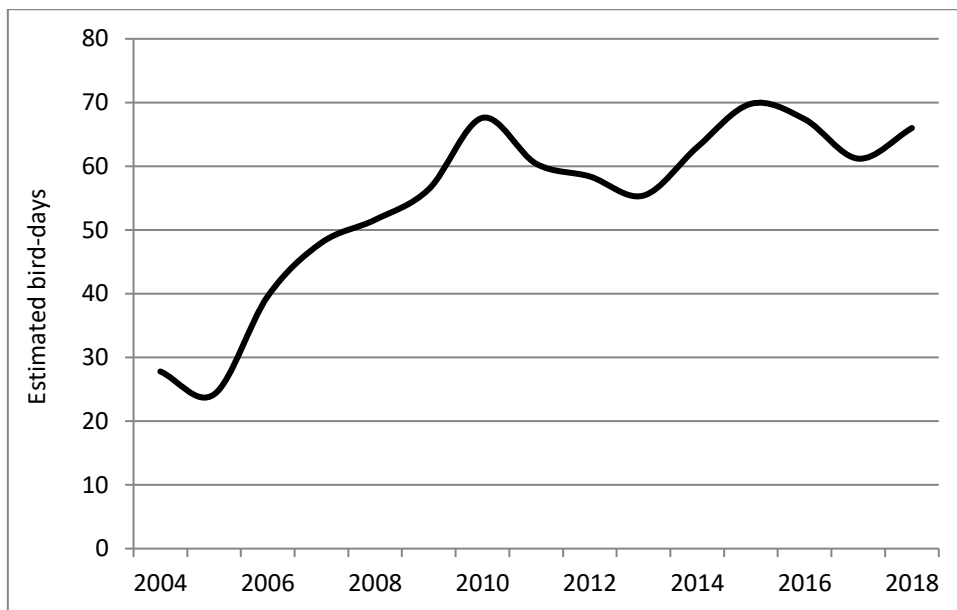
**Long-tailed Duck***Clangula hyemalis*

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

An estimated 64 bird-days based on eight records from five sites:

<b>Winter-spring</b>			
Coldingham Bay	1	27-Jan	DK Graham
Pease Bay	3	24-Feb	DK Graham
<b>Autumn-winter</b>			
St Abb's Head	4	27-Oct	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	29	27-Oct	R Drew
St Abbs village	32	28-Oct	DK Graham
Eyemouth	13	28-Oct	R Drew
Eyemouth	12	28-Oct	G Garner
Pease Bay	3	26-Dec	G Paterson

Like Common Scoter there is obviously a possible problem with duplicate counting and an under-watched coast. The estimated bird-days for the past 15 years (5-year average) are shown below:



### Goldeneye

*Bucephala clangula*

Common but declining visitor, October-May. Occasionally summers. Bred near Gordon in 1999. During 2008-13 found in 3% of tetrads in summer and 11% in winter.

Records came from a total of 68 tetrads (5%). Previous years: 2017 – 70 tetrads; 2016 – 62 tetrads; 2015 – 52 tetrads. Records from 47 tetrads during Jan-May. Highest counts per site were:

Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	21-Jan	78	Branxholme Wester Loch (Hawick)	13-Mar	4
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	11-Mar	67	Harelaw (Lilliesleaf)	25-Feb	4
The Hirsell	11-Mar	66	Lady Moss (Melrose)	17-Feb	4
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)	22-Mar	55	Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk)	07-Jan	3
Hellmoor Loch (Hawick)	07-Jan	30	Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch)	12-Mar	3
Redheugh-Souter (RSC)	04-Feb	30	Hollybush (Galashiels)	13-Mar	3
Hule Moss	18-Feb	24	Loch of the Lowes	06-May	3
Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose)	02-Jan	21	Fruid Reservoir	29-Apr	2
Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick)	20-Feb	20	Megget Reservoir	20-Mar	2
Sunwick (Whitsome)	22-Feb	20	Nunlands (Foulden)	09-Feb	2
St Mary's Loch	25-Jan	19	Synton Mossend (Ashkirk)	08-Apr	2
Yetholm Loch	05-Apr	17	Teviot Haugh: Nisbet	07-Jan	2
Haining Loch (Selkirk)	20-Feb	11	Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	18-Jan	2
Folly Loch	16-Feb	9	White Law Loch (Selkirk)	26-Jan	2
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Br.	13-Jan	8	Ettrick Water: Selkirk	18-Jan	1
Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick)	10-Jan	8	Watch Law (St Mary's Loch)	01-Jan	1
Tweed: Upsettlington	09-Mar	8	Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh	14-Jan	1
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)	14-Mar	7	Tweedbank	20-Jan	1
Essenside Loch (Ashkirk)	13-Mar	6	Whitmuir Hall Loch (Selkirk)	18-Feb	1
Bemersyde Moss	10-Apr	4	Whitrig (Smailholm)	04-Jan	1
Bowhill (Selkirk)	13-Mar	4	Wooden Loch (Eckford)	18-Feb	1

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

A welcome increase in the aggregate total for the 20 most popular sites in 2017/18 from 327 to 380 birds, the highest since 2007/08.

During the summer a single bird was reported from The Hirsell on 12-Jun and three birds were seen in the south-east of the Region on 27-Jul. Whether the latter record refers to over-summering birds or very early arrivals is not known. Assuming that these two records were over-summering birds then the last record for spring was of three birds on 6-May from Loch of Lowes (N Moran) while the first record of autumn was of a pair at Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk) on 25-Sep (H Mc Kerchar).

Records came from 44 tetrads during Sep-Dec. Highest counts per site:

The Hirsell	29-Nov	54	Williestruther Loch (Hawick)	09-Dec	4
St Abbs	28-Oct	31	Essenside Loch (Ashkirk)	28-Nov	4
St Mary's Loch	10-Dec	29	Loch of the Lowes	24-Dec	3
Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick)	28-Nov	21	Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch)	09-Dec	3
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)	23-Dec	18	Pot Lock (Selkirk)	09-Dec	3
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	04-Dec	11	Lady Moss (Melrose)	30-Dec	3
Hule Moss	26-Dec	10	Folly Loch	21-Dec	3
Bowdenmoor reservoir (Melrose)	15-Nov	9	Hen Poo (Duns)	23-Nov	3
Greenlaw Farm Pool Foulden, (Foulden)	30-Dec	8	Megget Reservoir	10-Nov	2
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)	12-Dec	8	Bowhill (Selkirk)	28-Nov	2
Watch Law (St Mary's Loch)	24-Dec	7	Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk)	25-Sep	2
Easter Bramxholme Loch (Hawick)	09-Dec	7	Pease Bay	18-Nov	2
Harelaw (Lilliesleaf)	30-Nov	7	Tweed: Paxton House-Chain Bridge	02-Nov	2
Eyemouth	28-Oct	6	Loch Tima (Craik Forest)	17-Nov	1
Haining Loch (Selkirk)	18-Nov	5	Hare Moss (Selkirk)	01-Dec	1
Whitton Loch (Hownam)	01-Nov	5	Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)	28-Oct	1
Yetholm Loch	20-Nov	5	Tweedbank	01-Nov	1
Talla Reservoir	24-Dec	4	Bemersyde Moss	13-Nov	1

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

## Goosander

*Mergus merganser*

Common winter visitor (650-850 birds) in 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.

Records came from 123 tetrads (10%). 2017 – 130 tetrads, 2016 – 111, 2015 – 122 tetrads.



**Goosander. Ettrick Water, nr Selkirk. February. Doug Methven.**

Counts of five or more with annual aggregate counts of 50 or more came from:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	65	26	28	37	69		19	35	12	37	19	10
The Hirsell	115	9		5					5	16	70	7
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	42	46	32	19								24
Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh	15	7	10	21				82	26			
Tweed: Paxton Ho.-Union Bridge	20	14	8	11	17		7		12	46	8	8
Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge	11	6	6						47	8	44	
Teviot Haughs: Nisbet		5	5			5	22	26		10	8	
Tweed: Lowood Bridge-Newstead		6		7	11		23	30				
Tweed: Manor Bridge-Peebles	11	12	11				23			10		8
Yetholm Loch	28	18	7						7		15	
Teviot: Ancrum-Denholm							19	20		28		
Abbotsford	7		5				5	7	8	8		14
Tweed: Mertoun Br.-Benrig Dean	5	12	11				23					
<b>Occupied tetrads</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Total of all peak counts</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>138</b>

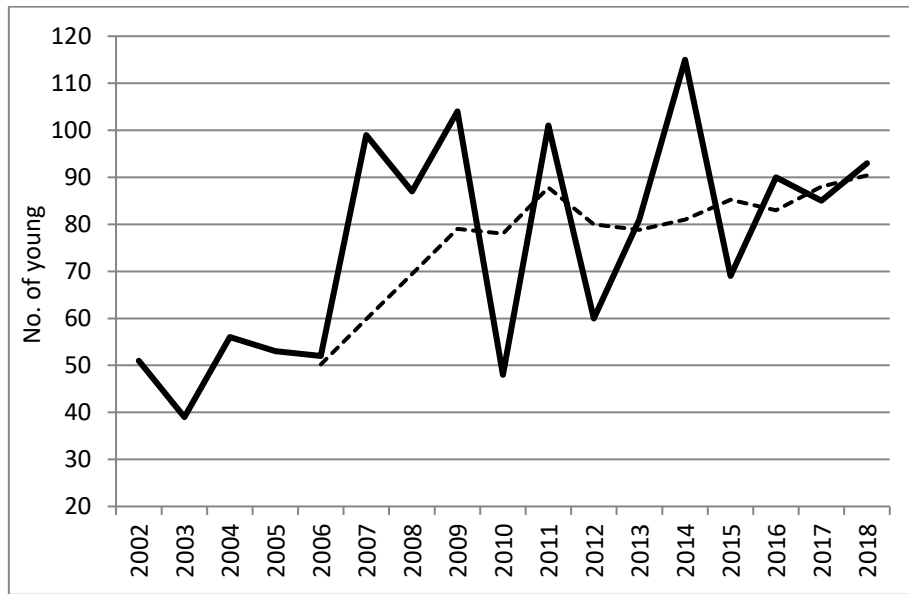
Sites with some monthly counts of five or greater but annual aggregate counts of less than 50 were: Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso - 47; Bowdenmoor Res (Melrose) - 43; Bowhill (Selkirk) - 38; Bowmont Water (Hownam) - 34; Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk) - 34; Ettrick Water: Selkirk - 27; Haining Loch (Selkirk) - 19; Harestanes (Ancrum) - 15; Hen Poo (Duns) - 12; Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm) - 11; Hule Moss - 8; Megget Reservoir - 7; St Mary's Loch - 7; Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords) - 7; Teviot: Jed Water-Ancrum - 5; Tweed: Cardrona (Peebles) - 5; Tweed: Innerleithen-Caddonfoot - 5; Tweed: Mertoun Bridge-Dryburgh - 5; Tweed: Upsettlington - 5. Figures refer to annual aggregate counts for monthly counts of five or more.

Other sites with no monthly counts of five or more were: Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick); Ayton; Bemersyde Moss; Bluestone Ford (Chirnside); Bonchester Bridge; Burnmouth; Cakra Bank (Tushielaw); Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch); Colquhar (Leithen Water); Corsehope Ho. (Heriot); Dawyck (Peebles); Deanfoot (Denholm); Dod (Wauchope Forest); Eddleston-Leadburn; Eden Water (Bassendean); Eyemouth; Ferniehirst (Stow); Gala Water: Galashiels; Gala Water: Stow; Galabank (Stow); Garvald (Heriot); Hawick; Hearthstane (Tweedsmuir); Kale Water; Kirklands (Ancrum); Kittyflat (Stow); Lauder; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Linthill (Reston); Lymiecleugh (Teviothead); Lyne Manor (Peebles); Manderston (Duns); Monteviot (Ancrum); Newcastleton Tollbar; Outerside (Craik Forest); Pease Bay; Riddell (Lilliesleaf); Ruthven (Swinton); Spittal on Rule (Denholm); Sunwick (Whitsome); Talla Reservoir; Teviot: Denholm-Hawick; Teviot: Roxburgh-Kalemouth; Towford Farm (Oxnam); Tweed: Caddonfoot-The Rink; Tweed: Coldstream-Till; Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange (Leader Water); Tweed: Union Bridge-Horncliffe; Watch Water Reservoir; Whiteadder: Preston Haugh; Whitehillfoot (Roxburgh); Wooden Loch (Eckford).

Breeding records are notably sparse, a problem exacerbated by the mobility of broods and aggregations into crèches. Contributors are encouraged to give as much detail as possible when submitting breeding records. Confirmed breeding records came from seven sites, some of which involved crèches. Therefore any statements about the number of broods are, at best, very approximate.

Tweed: Melrose	29-May	1br10	Tweed: Cardrona	17-Jul	1br6
Gala Water: Stow-Watherston	18-Jun	br13	Teviot Haughs: Nisbet	18-Jul	br20
Tweed: Peebles	12-Jul	3br20	Abbotsford	10-Aug	1br6
See Introduction for breeding codes.			Tweed: Innerleithen-Caddonfoot	03-Sep	br18

In summary, recorded breeding is of an assumed ten broods with a total of 93 young. The graph below shows that reports of the total number of young per year may be increasing generally, albeit with significant fluctuation from year to year:



**No. of young reported for Goosanders, 2002-2018.**  
(Broken line represents 5-year average)

**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.

Fourteen records came from four tetrads. A fairly typical year.

Cove Bay	24-Feb	6	Tweed: Paxton-Union Bridge	8-Mar-3-Apr	1-4
Pease Bay	22-Oct	6	Tweed: Paxton-Union Bridge	11-Jun	1
Tweed: Paxton-Union Bridge	13-Jan	4	St Abb's Head	24-Sep	3
Pease Bay-Redheugh (RSC)	04-Feb	1	Tweed: Paxton-Union Bridge	21-Dec	2
Pease Bay	24-Feb	3	Pease Bay	26-Dec	2

**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.

Records came from 13 tetrads. 2017 had records from 20 tetrads, 2016 from 14 and 2015 from 19 tetrads.

**Jan-Mar**

Three tetrads, all single birds: Dead Wife's Grave (Manor); Thirlestane Castle; Ramseycleuch Hill (Ettrick).

**Apr-Jun**

Ten tetrads, single except where indicated: Blake Muir (Gordon Arms Hotel); Lee (Leithen Water); Blackhopebyre Burn (Leithen Water) - 2; Scrape Burn (Drumelzier); Glenlude (Gordon Arms Hotel) - 2; Glentress (Leithen Water); Woolhope Bank (Leithen Water); Lee Bank (Leithen Water) - 4; Leithen Lodge (Leithen Water); Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water) - 7.

**Jul-Sep**

Six tetrads, single birds except where indicated: Lauder; Glentress (Leithen Water) - 4; Warleshope Burn (Tushielaw) - 2; Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water) - 4; Ettrickbridge; Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water) - 2.

Evidence of **breeding** came from three tetrads: Glenlude, Gordon Arms Hotel – displaying on 29-Apr (R Bramhall); Woolhope Bank, Leithen Water - a pair on 1-May (G Paterson); Blackhopebyre, Leithen Water – six males lekking with one distant male on 23-May (G Paterson).

This appears to be one of the poorest years since Borders Bird Reports began with only 13 sites and an aggregate count of c. 38.

Given the apparent proximity of some of the sites in Leithen Water it is likely that they involve some duplication.

**Red Grouse**

*Lagopus lagopus*

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

Records came from 37 tetrads. 2017 - 22 tetrads; 2016 - 42; 2015 - 53 tetrads.



Red Grouse. Longformacus. August. Dave Graham.

Tetrads with aggregate counts of ten or more were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Hule Moss	9	50	50	4	12		19	18	17	16	10	19
Watch Water Reservoir	21	2	6	5	4	4	15	25	40	34	12	6
Duddy Bank (Cranshaws)											160	
Waddlescairn Moor (Oxton)					23	8						
Bell Wood (Cranshaws)	24											
Hunt Law (Stanhope)						23						
Innerleithen area									14	7		
Windlestraw Law (Caddonhead)					16							
Glensax Burn (Traquair)				10								
<b>Total no. of tetrads</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total counts from all sites</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>25</b>

Records with aggregate counts of less than ten came from: Glentress Burn (Heriot Water); Blackhopebyre (Leithen Water); Braidshawrig (Westruther); Broad Law (Heriot Water); Carcant (Heriot Water); Causeway Grain Head (Teviothead); Dewar (Dewar Burn); Dirrington Little Law (Westruther); Eildon Hill – North; Evelaw (Westruther); Ferniehirst Hill (Galashiels); Garvald (Blackhope Water); Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn); Glenwhinnie Hill (Dewar Burn); Gordon Moss; Heckle Burn (Carcant); Larriston Rig (Liddesdale); Lauder-Harryburn ; Lee (Leithen Water); Leithen Lodge (Leithen Water); Longshaw (Dewar Burn); Peat Law (Selkirk); Peat Rig (Dewar Burn); Penchrise Pen (Stobs Castle); Piper's Grave (Dewar Gil); Polwarth Moss (Polwarth); Saughtree Fell (Liddesdale); Tathieknowe Burn (Carcant); The Mound (Heriot Water); Toxside Moss (Portmore); West Water Reservoir; White Hill (Teviothead); Whitehope Law (Blackhopebyre); Whiteside Law (Heriot Water); Wull Muir (Heriot Water).

The table above obviously reflects not only the distribution of the species but also the frequency of visits to sites by observers, eg Hule Moss and Watch Water are obviously counted regularly.

Evidence of breeding was reported from nine sites:

Ferniehirst Hill (Galashiels)	25-May	3	P	Wull Muir (Heriot Water)	18-Apr	2	P
Hule Moss	24-Feb	20	D	Broad Law (Heriot Water)	11-May	1	P
Polwarth Moss (Polwarth)	24-Feb	3	P	Dewar (Dewar Burn)	02-Jun	Pr	NY
Dirrington Little Law (Westruther)	24-Feb	2	P	Eildon Hill-North	07-Jul	2	P
See Introduction for breeding codes				Toxside Moss (Portmore)	07-Aug	5	FL

While the numbers at Hule Moss and Watch Water Reservoir (our most consistently watched sites) suggest an improvement on recent years, readers should realise that the sample base for this species is sparse, a product, in part, of its often remote distribution.

## Red-legged Partridge

*Alectoris rufa*

Formerly scarce and erratic but now an increasingly common 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.

Records came from 75 tetrads (6%). 2017 - 39 tetrads, 2016 - 30, 2015 - 40 tetrads. There is no obvious reason for this exceptional increase in the number of tetrads from which records were received.



### Jan-Mar

Reported from 29 tetrads. The highest counts came from Walkerburn – 25; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 23; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 20; Clovenfords-Blackhaugh - 19; Innerleithen - 12; Charterhouse (Smailholm) - 12; The Rink (Selkirk) - 10; Eckford - 10; Watch Water Res. (East) – 10; Rogersrigg (Carlops) - 6; Gordon Moss - 6; Yarrow - 6.

### Apr-Aug

Reported from 48 tetrads with counts mostly of one or two birds. The highest counts were from Yetholm Loch - 21; Linglie (Selkirk) - 9; Shielfield (Oxton) - 6; Walkerburn - 5; Eckford - 5; Folly Loch - 4; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 4; Blackhopebyre (Leithen Valley) – 4.

### Sep-Dec

Seen in 27 tetrads. Largest counts were Yetholm Loch - 32; Tushielaw - 26; Yarrow - 26; Walkerburn - 21; Riddle (Lilliesleaf) - 15; Charterhouse (Smailholm) - 15; Crailing (Nisbet) - 10.

**Breeding** evidence came from the following tetrads: Eckford (FL); Gattonside-Melrose (D); Blackhopebyre, Leithen Valley P(2); Ashiestiel-Peel, Caddonfoot (P); Yetholm Loch North (P); Walkerburn (P); The Inch, Ettrickbridge (P); Yarrow (P); Plora Wood, Walkerburn (P); Holylee, Walkerburn (P); Garvald Lodge, Heriot Water (P); Inner Huntly, Ettrickbridge (P); Crumside Hill, Caddon Water (P); Crailinghall (P); Kersknowe, Morebattle (P); Attonburn, Town Yetholm (P); Rogersrigg, Carlops (P). See Introduction for breeding codes.

## Grey Partridge

*Perdix perdix*

Common 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.

Records came from 37 tetrads (3%). 2017 - 34 tetrads, 2016 - 39 tetrads, 2015 - 47 tetrads.

Tetrads with annual aggregate counts of ten or more were:

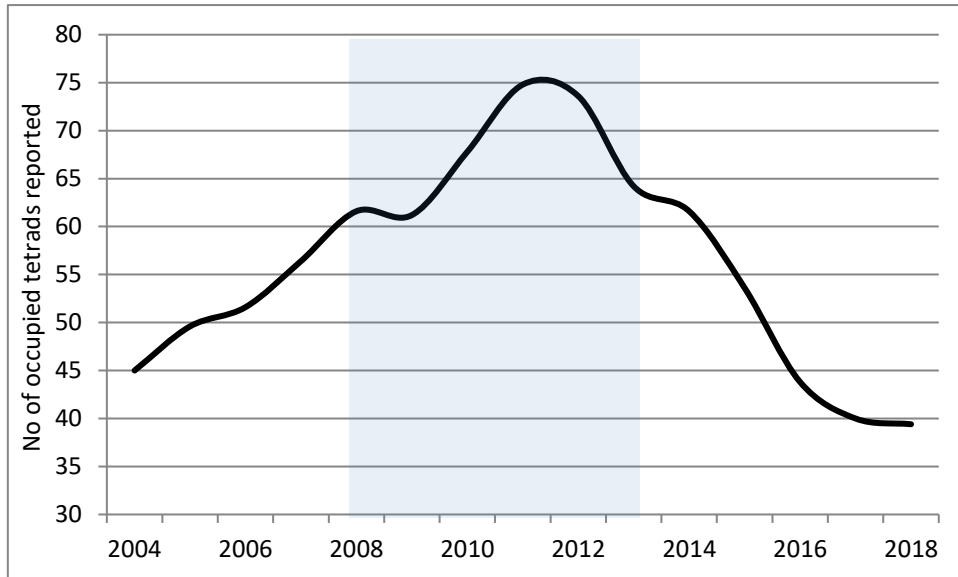
Sites	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Newmains (Reston)	4		64	
Sprouston (Kelso)			20	
Ladyrig (Kelso)				20
Birgham (Coldstream)	7		10	
Blakelaw (Kelso)	2		15	
Auchencrow (Reston)	1			15
Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh	2	2	12	
Jardinefield (Whitsome)			14	
Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm)	11			
Heiton (Kelso)	10			
<b>Total number of tetrads</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Aggregate of all counts</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>72</b>

Other occupied tetrads with an aggregate count of less than ten were: Birgham Haugh (Coldstream); Blackhouse (Preston); Burnmouth; Clarabad (Foulden); Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor); Duns Golf Course; Dykegatehead (Whitsome); Eckford Hall-Wooden Hill; Eckford; Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton); Eyemouth; Fishwick (Paxton); Folly Loch; The Hirsell; Holefield (Kelso); Kale Water (Morebattle); Lamberton; Lees Haugh (Coldstream); Linglie (Selkirk); Linkim Shore (Coldingham); Oxenrig (Coldstream); Pinnacle Farm (Ancrum); Rogersrigg (Carlops); Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); Tweed: Sprouston-Redden; Watch Water Reservoir; Westruther; Whitelaw (Duns).

Records involving breeding evidence came from seven tetrads:

Oxenrig (Coldstream)	18-Feb	T	Eckford Hall-Wooden Hill	19-Apr	P
Eckford North	09-Apr	P	Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton)	29-May	T
Lamberton	17-Apr	P	Newmains (Reston)	15-Aug	8br48
Teviot Haughs: Nisbet	18-Apr	P	See Introduction for breeding codes.		

The number of tetrads reported with Grey Partridge present has declined since the pre-Atlas period. Given the number of records, it is not possible to state whether this is of any significance.



**Grey Partridge: no of occupied tetrads reported (5-year running average), 2004-2018.**

## Quail

*Coturnix coturnix*

Uncommon with variable numbers, late May-August. Proven breeding rare with most records of singing males.

Records from only three tetrads. 2017 - 7 tetrads, 2016 - 10 tetrads, 2015 - 29 tetrads.

Blackburn (Reston): 2 on 23-May (R Manning); Auchencrow Mains (Reston): two on 14-Jul (DK Graham); Newmains (Reston): 2 on 2-Sep with 4 young (DK Graham). The final record was of a single from Newmains on 14-Sep (DK Graham).

The poorest set of records for some time:

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Sites	11	4	4	6	10	19	9	13	12	27	11	129	24	9	7	27	10	7	3
Birds	20	4	5	9	16	26	12	28	25	33	22	198	28	14	10	34	16	11	6

## 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.

Records from 173 tetrads (14%). 2017 - 126 tetrads, 2016 - 143, 2015 - 271 and 2014 - 150 tetrads.

### Jan-Mar

Found in 65 tetrads. Highest counts were from Walkerburn - 72, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 61, Folly Loch - 38, Clintmains (Dryburgh) - 30, Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords) - 21, Ferniehirst (Stow) - 10, Mellerstain (Gordon) - 10, Folly Loch-Monteviot - 10, Yarrow Swire - 10, Ashiestiel Hill (Caddonfoot) - 10.

### Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Found in 115 tetrads. Highest counts were from Holylee (Walkerburn) - 154, Gatehopeknowe (Walkerburn) - 85, Walkerburn - 39, Dawyck (Broughton) - 25, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 19, Folly Loch - 11, Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords) - 10.

### Sep-Dec

Recorded in 71 tetrads. Highest counts came from Folly Loch - 132, Corsehope Farm (Heriot) - 120, Woodside (Monteviot) - 106, Yarrow - 50, Kirkhope (Ettrickbridge) - 43, Gatehopeknowe (Walkerburn) - 37, Eyemouth - 37, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 36, Staney Hill (Teviothead) - 33, Walkerburn - 23, Watch Water Reservoir - 22, Hollybush (Galashiels) - 22, Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso - 21, Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords) - 21, South Piersknowe Plantation (Greenlaw) - 17, Ferniehirst (Stow) - 16, Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet) - 14 (all juveniles), Bowmont Water: Belmont-Cocklawfoot - 12, The Hirsell - 12, Newark Castle (Yarrowford) - 12, Innerleithen - 12.

There were two records of confirmed breeding: 26-May, Dawyck, Broughton, used nest or eggshells (M Betts) and on 18-Jun, Gattonside-Melrose, a brood of eight young (J Gordon).

A not-untypical year.

## Red-throated Diver

*Gavia stellata*

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

Records came from between Cove and Burnmouth (eight tetrads). Peak counts for each site were:

Sites	J	F	S	O	N	D
Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	4				2	1
Pease Bay-Redheugh		3				
Redheugh-Souter						
Souter-Pettico Wick		1				
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay			3	13	2	
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth		1		13	1	
Eyemouth-Burnmouth				3	3	
Burnmouth-Border					6	
<b>Aggregate count</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>

This represents one of the poorest year's set of records for Red-throated Diver. The extent to which this is the result of observer effort is not known.

2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
117	213	96	152	191	2,385	300	330	321	232	185	222	78

**Bird-days, 2016-2018.**

**Black-throated Diver***Gavia arctica*

Very uncommon offshore from September to March. Rare in summer months and very rare inland.

Fewer reports than usual with only four records from three sites.

07-Jan	Dunglass	1	E Forbes
07-Oct	St Abb's Head	2	DK Graham
27-Oct	St Abb's Head	1	R Drew
28-Oct	Eyemouth Harbour	1	R Drew

**Great Northern Diver***Gavia immer*

Scarce in winter-spring and uncommon in autumn-winter. Rare in summer months and very rare inland.

A fairly typical year with ten records but exceptional counts on 27 and 28-Oct:

07-Jan	Dunglass	1	E Forbes
11-Sep	St Abbs	Pr	SD Morton
16-Sep	St Abb's Head	1	DK Graham
23-Sep	St Abb's Head	1	DK Graham
06-Oct	St Abb's Head	1	DK Graham
27-Oct	St Abb's Head	13*	R Drew
28-Oct	St Abbs village	5	DK Graham
28-Oct	Eyemouth Harbour	10*	R Drew
26-Dec	Pease Bay	1	G Paterson
26-Dec	Cove (Cockburnspath)	2	G Paterson

\* 4 hour counts

**Storm Petrel***Hydrobates pelagicus*

Uncommon 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.

Two records: three birds on 28-Oct offshore of Eyemouth (G Garner) and the same location on 26-Aug when a single bird was seen (DK Graham).

**Fulmar***Fulmarus glacialis*

Well-represented but declining breeder. Found along much of coastline. Scarce in winter, few large movements in recent years. Rare inland, c.12 records. During 2008-13 found in 14 tetrads in summer and 17 in winter.

Records were received along the whole of the Berwickshire coast. The Rocky Shore Count on 4-Feb totalled 800:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	44	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	123
Pease Bay-Redheugh	3	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	19
Redheugh-Souter	30	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	96
Souter-Pettico Wick	319	Burnmouth-Border	166

The total count is the highest since the RSC started in the 1990s. Totals for recent years are:

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
306	216	163	65	130	475	353	800

On 7-Jun a dedicated counts of breeding seabirds was undertaken along the coast. The results are shown below with counts undertaken by staff of St Abb’s Head NNR also shown:

Dunglass-Fast Castle	Fast Castle-Moorburn Point	Moorburn Point-Broadhaven	Broadhaven-St Abbs	St Abbs-Eyemouth	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	Burnmouth-Border	Total
74	21*	74*	77	44	42	72	404

\* 2016 counts.

Outside of St Abb’s Head NNR, notable concentrations of AOS were found between Linkim Beach and Eyemouth (44), between Reed Point and Cove (42), Lamberton Skerrs and Tods Loup (40) and between Tods Loup and the Border (32).

The total count is less than half of the estimate made in 2000.

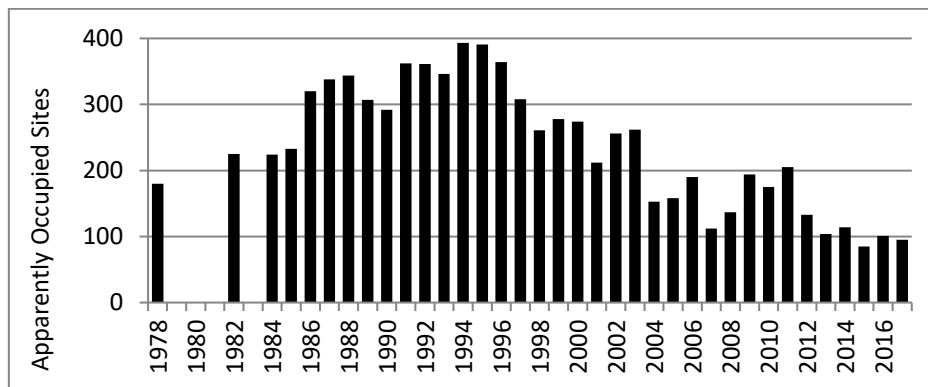
More information about this dedicated seabird count can be found on p 166.

The highest count in the post-breeding period was of 33 at Eyemouth on 26-Dec (G Paterson).

**St Abb’s Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2018 (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 18-, 20-, 21-, 23-, 25-, 27- and 28-Jun. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 15- June. Results -77 AOS were counted, a decrease of 19% on the 2017 count.



**Fulmar whole colony counts**

## Sooty Shearwater

*Puffinus griseus*

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

Six records from three locations:

Eyemouth	19-Aug	1	DK Graham, R Bramhall	St Abb's Head	07-Oct	1	DK Graham
Eyemouth	26-Aug	5	DK Graham	St Abbs village	28-Oct	1*	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	06-Oct	2	DK Graham	Eyemouth	28-Oct	1*	R Drew

\* Possibly involves same bird.

The aggregate count of 11 was the lowest since 2012.

## Manx Shearwater

*Puffinus puffinus*

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

Thirteen records from three locations:

St Abb's Head	08-Jul	7	DK Graham	Eyemouth	18-Sep	2	C Hartley
St Abb's Head	21-Jul	6	DK Graham	St Abb's Head	24-Sep	3	G Paterson
Eyemouth	12-Aug	45	DK Graham	Eyemouth	25-Sep	1	C Hartley
St Abb's Head	18-Aug	9	DK Graham	St Abb's Head	06-Oct	1	DK Graham
Eyemouth	19-Aug	74	DK Graham	St Abb's Head	07-Oct	1	DK Graham
Eyemouth	26-Aug	232	DK Graham	St Abbs village	28-Oct	5*	DK Graham
* Possibly involves same birds.				Eyemouth	28-Oct	4*	R Drew

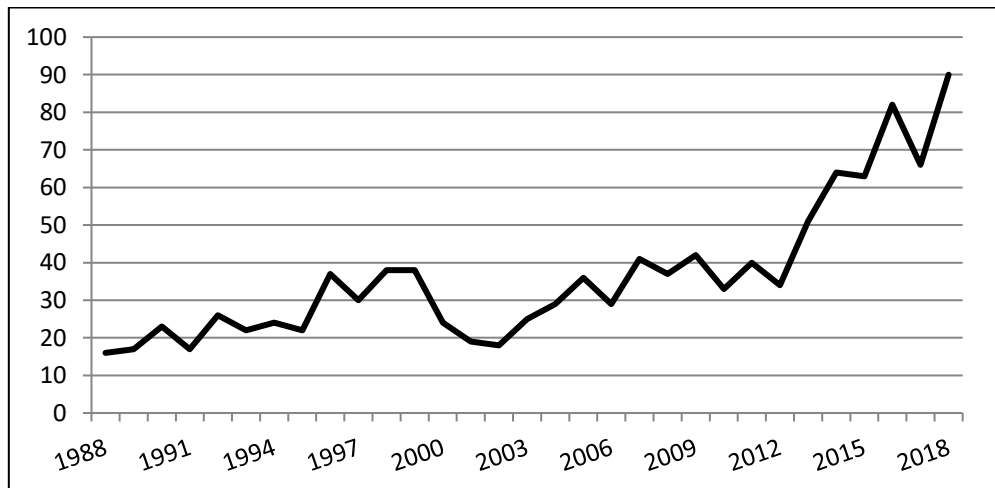
The highest aggregate count since 2014 but generally part of an apparent decline.

## Little Grebe

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Well-represented resident. Autumn assemblies. Wintering on rivers now annual. Most return to breeding waters from late February. Rare on coast in winter. During 2008-13 found in 8% of tetrads in summer and 9% in winter.

Records from 90 tetrads (7%), the greatest number since BBR began. 2017 - 66 tetrads, 2016 – 82, - 63 tetrads.



No of occupied sites, 1988-2018.

Sites with annual aggregate counts of ten or more were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
The Hirsell	28	2	6	8	5	8	17	27	25	27	4	1
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge	12	13	6				5	14	15	26	17	14
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	1	2	4	3	3	2	3	7	8	5	3	4
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	6	3	6					6		10	7	4
Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank)				2	3		5			19	6	
Williestruther Loch (Hawick)			7		3			12				10
Hare Moss (Selkirk)			2	2			5	7	7	3	2	1
Mellerstain (Gordon)		7			6				12			4
Folly Loch				1		1	8	11	6			
Lady Moss (Melrose)		3		2					6	7	3	6
Haining Loch (Selkirk)	1	2	2	1	2				4	3	3	3
Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk)	10		4	1				3				
Essenside Loch (Ashkirk)			7							6	5	
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)		2	3					1	4	4	3	1
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	5	4							6			3
Yetholm Loch		1	2	2	5			4	1	1	1	1
St Mary's Loch	5	4	1								4	3
Tweed: Upsettlington			7						1	5		4
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)				1	1			6		4	1	2
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	2					1	3		5	Pr		
Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)			1		2	2			1	6		
Synton Mossend (Ashkirk)				4	3	2				3		
Bemersyde Moss				1	1	2	3	2		2		
Hollybush (Galashiels)		1	3	1				2	1		1	2
Whitton Loch (Hownam)								10				
<b>Sum of all peak counts</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Riverine sites</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Standing water sites</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>

Sites with annual aggregate monthly counts of less than ten were (aggregate count shown): Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet) – 9; Tweed: Peebles - 9; Green Diamonds (Selkirk) - 9; Pot Loch (Selkirk) - 9; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh - 8; Coldingham Loch - 8; Bowhill (Selkirk) - 7; Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean - 7; Acreknowe Res (Hawick) - 6; Teviot: Roxburgh-Kalemouth - 6; Innerleithen - 5; Teviot: Eckford - 5; Bowden Moor Loch (Melrose) - 4; Harelaw (Lilliesleaf) - 4; Hen Poo (Duns) - 4; Newmains (Reston) - 4; Easter Bramxholme Loch (Hawick) - 3; Foulden - 3; Garvald (Dewar Burn) - 3; Teviot: Ancrum West Mains - 3; Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose - 3; Monteviot (Ancrum) - 3; Abbotsford - 2; Allanton (Chirnside) - 2; Ashiestiel-Pell (Caddonfoot) - 2; Bridge End Hill (St Mary's Loch) - 2; Ettrick Water: Selkirk - 2; Rawflat (Ancrum) - 2; Teviot: Hawick - 2; Tweed: Cardrona-Peebles - 2; Tweed: Mertoun Bridge-Dryburgh - 2; Tweedbank – 2; White Law Loch (Selkirk) - 2; Bowmont Forest (Kelso) - 2; Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick) – 1; Burnmouth – 1; Chisholme Institute (Hawick) - 1; Gordon Community Woodland - 1; Harestanes (Ancrum) - 1; Hellmoor Loch (Hawick) - 1; Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm) - 1; Hule Moss - 1; Kittyflat (Stow) - 1; Loch of the Lowes - 1; North Esk Reservoir - 1; Sunwick (Whitsome) - 1; Teviot: Denholm Mill - 1; Loch Tima (Craik Forest) - 1; Hass (Carter Bar) - 1; Ladyrig Pond (Heiton) - 1.

Some of the above records may refer entirely or in part to juveniles.

Evidence of breeding came from 11 sites (17 in 2017, 23 in 2016, 31 in 2015 and 64 in 2014):

Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	09-Apr	1	S	Lindean Res (Selkirk)	25-Jun	2	ON
Yetholm Loch	06-May	5	D	Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	14-Aug	7	1br5
Whitton Loch (Hownam)	14-May	2	P	Wooden Loch (Eckford)	14-Aug	5	1br3
Synton Moss (Selkirk)	05-Jun	4	1br3	Hare Moss (Selkirk)	15-Aug	7	1br4
Green Diamond (Selkirk)	21-Jun	1	1br4	Mellerstain (Gordon)	15-Sep	12	br3
See Introduction for breeding codes.				The Hirsell	17-Sep	25	1br3

This is the lowest number of sites with any breeding evidence and number of broods for some years despite the continued increase in the number of occupied tetrads.

### 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.

Two records, both from St Abb's Head: single on 7-Oct (DK Graham) and single on 27-Oct (R Drew).

### Great Crested Grebe

*Podiceps cristatus*

Scarce breeder, <2 pairs annually; usually poor success. Present mid-March to late August. A few passage birds September-October on coast. Rare in winter. During 2008-13 found in 15 tetrads in summer and 2 in winter.

Records from ten sites (2017 - 6, 2016 - 7 sites).

Sites	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Pease Bay-Redheugh (RSC)	2			
Burnmouth-Border (RSC)	2			
Ale Moor Reservoir (Hawick)	2	2		
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	1			
Haining Loch (Selkirk)		4	2	2
Lindean Res (Selkirk)		2		
Fruid Reservoir		2	3	
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)		1		
Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk)		2	1	
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge			1	
<b>No of sites</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total count</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>

Breeding evidence came from five sites:

Fruid Reservoir	29-Apr	P	Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk)	10-May	P
Ale Moor Reservoir (Hawick)	06-May	ON	Haining Loch (Selkirk)	01-Sep	FL
See Introduction for breeding codes.			Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge	10-Sep	FL

The Paxton House-Union Bridge record was of a bird which had moved from its natal site. This is the fourth consecutive year that breeding has been confirmed at Ale Moor Reservoir and the third consecutive year for Haining Loch.



**Slavonian Grebe***Podiceps auritus*

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

An unusual inland record from Paxton House (6 km from the coast) on 19-Mar (J Lough). The last record was in Dec-2015.

**Black-necked Grebe***Podiceps nigricollis*

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

A single record of a bird at Watch Water Reservoir on 26-Jun (J Lough).

**Bittern***Botaurus stellata*

Rare, mostly winter vagrant.

A single bird at The Hirsell was reported on 10-Apr (J Lough).

**Grey Heron***Ardea cinerea*

Widespread and well-represented. Assemblies of more than ten birds are unusual. During 2008-13 found in 36% of tetrads in summer and 40% in winter.

Records from 149 tetrads (2017 – 111 tetrads, 2016 - 140, 2015 – 130 tetrads). Monthly peak counts of three or more birds came from:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	10	8	8	7	7	6	11	8	5	4	9	6
The Hirsell			6	4	4	4	8	6	7	4		
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	3		3	3			3	4	4	8		4
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	6	3							5	5	8	5
Cardrona							5	5	6	5	4	
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge				5	3	3	4	3	4	3		
Blaeberry Wood (Manor Valley)					22							
Galashiels Sewage Works Pond		4					4		4	4		
Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh	7	3		5								
Wooden Loch (Eckford)				6			3		4			
Abbotsford										4	4	4
Tweed: Manor Bridge-Tweed Bridge	4									5	3	
Tweedbank	6				3							3
Burnmouth										4	3	3
Yetholm Loch		4					3				3	
<b>No of occupied tetrads</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Sum of all peak counts</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>62</b>

Sites with peak counts of less than three came from 121 sites: Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick); Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot); Bemersyde Moss; Bitch Cleuch (Manor Valley); Blackburn Mill (Abbey St Bathans); Boggyhall Wood (Monteviot House); Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose); Bowhill (Selkirk); Bowmont Valley: Belford-Source; Burnmouth-Border; Caddonlee Heronry (Caddonfoot); Carcant (Heriot); Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk); Cheeklaw (Duns); Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth; Colquhar (Leithen Water); Corsehope House (Heriot); Craig Douglas (Yarrow Water); Dawyck (Peebles); Dunglass-Pease Bay; Easter Branxholme Loch (Hawick); Easter Wooden Sand Pit (Eckford);

Eckford-Kalemouth; Eddleston-Leadburn; Edgerston Tofts (Carter Bar); Ettrick Water: Selkirk; Eyemouth Harbour; Fairnieside (Burnmouth); Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank); Fancove Head (Burnmouth); Ferniehirst (Stow); Fishwick Mains (Paxton); Fruid Reservoir; Gala Water: Stow-Watherston; Galabank (Stow); Garvald-Windy Slack (Dewar Burn); Gatehopeknowe (Walkerburn); Gavinton (Duns); Gordon Community Woodland; Green Diamonds (Selkirk); Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden); Haining Loch (Selkirk); Hare Moss (Selkirk); Hearthstane Glen (Tweedsmuir); Hen Poo (Duns); Hollybush (Galashiels); Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm); Howden (Selkirk); Huntlywood (Gordon); Hutton (Paxton); Juniper Bank (Walkerburn); Kailzie (Peebles); Kittyflat (Stow); Lauder-Harryburn; Leader Water: Fountain Heads; Leap Burn (Wauchope Forest); Lennel (Coldstream); Lindean Res (Selkirk); Linkim Shore (Coldingham); Lowood Pond (Tweedbank); Lymiecleugh (Teviothead); Lyne-Manor (Peebles); Manderston (Duns); Megget Reservoir; Mellerstain (Gordon); Melrose; Merrylaw (Teviothead); Mertoun Estate Pond (St Boswells); Middlestots Marsh (Duns); Morebattle; Newark Castle (Yarrowford); Newbigging (Tweedsmuir); Newcastleton Tollbar; Newmains (Reston); Newstead-Drygrange (Melrose); Nisbet Hill (Gavinton); Nisbet Rhodes (Gavinton); North Esk Reservoir; Old Northhouse Wood (Teviothead); Pease Bay-Redheugh; Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay; Philiphaugh Salmon Ladder; Plora Wood (Walkerburn); Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet); Posso Craig (Manor Valley); Putton Mill (Duns); Rawflat (Ancrum); Redheugh-Souter; Rogersrigg (Carlops); Selkirk; Sorrowlessfield (Earlston); St Abb's Head; St Mary's Loch; Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords); Sunwick (Whitsome); Talla Reservoir; Teviot: Chesters-Broom; Teviot: Hawick; The Kirna (Walkerburn); Thirlestane Castle (North); Thornielee (Walkerburn); Towford West (Hownam); Tweed Bridge (Sunderland Hall); Tweed: Dryburgh-Leaderfoot; Tweed: Galafoot-Lowood Bridge; Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose; Tweed: Innerleithen-Walkerburn; Tweed: Lennel; Tweed: Lyne-Manor; Tweed: Mertoun Bridge-Dryburgh; Tweed: Mertoun-Benrig Dean; Tweed: Peebles; Watch Water Reservoir; Westruther; Whitehillfoot (Heiton); Whitmuir (Selkirk); Whitmuirhill Loch (Selkirk); Whitton Loch (Hownam); Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Woden Law (Eckford); Yarrow - Swire.



**Grey Heron. Peebles. R Watterson.**

Evidence of confirmed **breeding** came from 26 sites.

Lauder-Harryburn	15-Feb	1br3	R Catalano
Caddonlee Heronry (Caddonfoot)	22-Mar	ON (1)	AT Bramhall
Teviot: Roxburgh-Kelso	08-May	UN	T Reed
Blaeberry Wood (Peebles)	13-May	UN (11)	H Bell
Fairnieside (Burnmouth)	21-May	ON	F Evans
Boggyhall Wood (Monteviot House)	22-May	ON	MB Ross
Haining Loch (Selkirk)	08-Jun	ON	J Douglas
Tweedbank	09-Jul	br1	AT Bramhall
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	14-Jul	1br1	CD Green
Nisbet Rhodes (Gavinton)	16-Jul	UN (3)*	AP Mossop
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)	16-Jul	juv2**	G Paterson
Gala Water: Stow-Watherston	20-Jul	br2	D Small
Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)	21-Jul	juv2**	G Paterson

See Introduction for breeding codes. \* three recently occupied nests; clear-felled in Oct/Nov (AP Mossop); \*\* probably fledged elsewhere.

The Heronries Survey organised by BTO through the local branch of SOC found an additional 13 sites with occupied nests:

Ayton-Bleachfield (Eyemouth)	2	Fishwick Mains (Paxton)	6
Aytonlaw-Jessie's Plantation (Eyemouth)	4	Lowood (Tweedbank)	16
Bank Plantation (Lilliesleaf)**	1	Mertoun (St Boswells)	4
Bowden Burn (Newtown St Boswells)	4	Nenthorn (Kelso)	3
Crow Plantation (Tushielaw)**	1	Plora Wood SSSI (Innerleithen)	1
Edgerston Tofts (Carter Bar)	1	The Inch (Ettrickbridge)**	1
** minimum counts of AON		Wooden Mill (Kelso)	5

## Great White Egret

*Ardea alba*

Very rare visitor.

An immature bird was well reported from various sites between Kelso and near Paxton between 28-Oct and the end of the year. This was only the third record of this species in the Borders with previous records from 1995 and 2001. The table below gives some idea of its movements during this period:

Putton Mill (Duns)	28-Oct	R Richardson	Putton Mill (Duns)	18-Nov	A Mitchell
Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton)	05-Nov	T Brewis	The Hirsell	23-Nov	AP Mossop
Putton Mill (Duns)	07-Nov	R Richardson	Mount Pleasant (Duns)	24-Nov	AP Mossop
Springhall (Kelso)	11-Nov	MB Ross	Blackadder Bridge (Nisbet Hill)	07-Dec	DK Graham
The Hirsell	12-Nov	K Robeson	Langton Mill (Gavinton)	10-Dec	A Mitchell
Edenmouth (Kelso)	14-Nov	AT Bramhall	Blackadder Bridge (Nisbet Hill)	10-Dec	M Moncrieff
			The Hirsell	16-Dec	K Robeson

Reports of a Great White Egret were made from a number of sites in north Northumberland, suggesting either a very mobile bird or possibly two individuals.



Great White Egret. R Watterson.

### Little Egret

*Egretta garzetta*

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

Records came from 20 tetrads. See below for recent trends.

#### Jan-Mar

Two birds seen at Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) on 3-Jan. Other sightings on the Teviot were of single birds and reported from as far as Denholm Mill and near Spittal on Rule. Reports on the Tweed were from sites between Paxton House and Newstead. A sighting occurred at Venchen (Yetholm) of a single bird. There were a total of 11 bird-days.

#### Apr-Jun

No reports.

#### Jul-Sep

No records in July. The 13 records spread over Aug-Sep all came from the Tweed, between Paxton and Mertoun Bridge. A record count of seven was made at Banff Mill (Kelso) on 17-Aug (R Manning). There were a total of 24 bird-days.

#### Oct-Dec

Records came mainly from along the R Tweed with a peak of four counted on 30-Oct (J Lough). The 12 records received from the Tweed extended from the English Border to Kelso. Other records were a single at Yetholm Loch on 2-Dec and a single at Thirlestane Castle Estate on 27-Dec. There was a total of 19 bird-days.

The table below shows the increase in sightings of Little Egret in the past 13 years:

	Records	Sites	Peak count	Bird-days
2006	1	1	1	1
2007	0	0	0	0
2008	1	1	1	2
2009	0	0	0	0
2010	2	2	1	2
2011	0	0	0	0
2012	0	0	0	0
2013	4	4	1	4
2014	13	7	1	13
2015	2	2	1	2
2016	16	9	5	21
2017	55	19	2	55
2018	46	20	7	54

## Gannet

*Morus bassanus*

Very rare breeder (two unsuccessful attempts at St Abb's Head). Bass Rock residents abundant offshore. Scarce in winter. Rare inland, c.11 records, mostly juveniles in autumn.

As far as is known all records refer to birds seen offshore travelling between Bass Rock and feeding grounds:

	Peak count	Site of peak count		Peak count	Site of peak count
Jan	1	Burnmouth	Jul	20	St Abb's Head
Feb	10	Pease Bay	Aug	450	Eyemouth
Mar	Pr	St Abb's Head	Sep	708	St Abb's Head
Apr	Pr	St Abbs Head; Dowlaw Dam	Oct	Pr	Various
May	10	St Abb's Head	Nov	7	Eyemouth
Jun	29	St Abbs	Dec	-	

### *St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2018 (Liza Cole):*

This year only one pair of Gannets made a breeding attempt, building a nest and laying an egg, but the attempt failed. However, many birds were recorded prospecting the area, some settling on the same sea stack and performing courtship displays.

## Shag

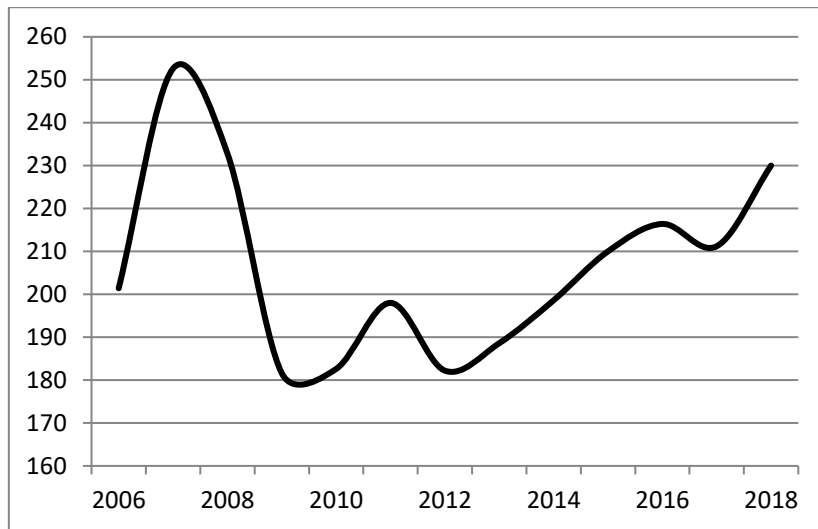
*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Common breeder in variable numbers along parts of the coast. Autumn movements into Forth occur in September-October. Rare inland. During 2008-13 found in 15 tetrads in summer and 17 in winter.

The Rocky Shore Count recorded 239 birds on 4-Feb:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	0	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	68
Pease Bay-Redheugh	10	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	10
Redheugh-Souter	21	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	37
Souter-Pettico Wick	71	Burnmouth-Border	22

For comparison the table below shows the 5-year averages for RSCs since 2006:



On 7-Jun a dedicated count of breeding seabirds was undertaken along the coast. The results are shown below with counts undertaken by staff of St Abb's Head NNR also shown:

Dunglass-Fast Castle	Fast Castle-Moorburn Point	Moorburn Point-Broadhaven	Broadhaven-St Abbs St Abb' s Head SNR	St Abbs-Eyemouth	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	Burnmouth-Border	Total
15	13*	3*	95	0	24	0	150

\* 2016 counts

This represents a decline in excess of 50% since 2000.

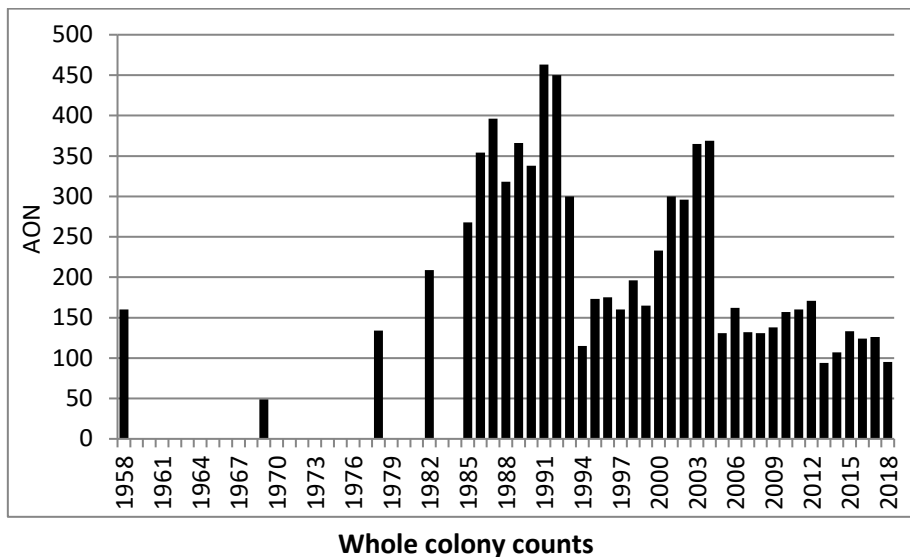
More information about this dedicated seabird count can be found on p 166.

The highest count in the post-breeding period was of 50 at St Abb's Head on 6-Sep (B Quinton).

**St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2018 (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 28-, 29-May and 2-, 3- and 12-Jun. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 15- and 19-Jun. Results 95 Apparently Occupied Nests (AON), a 25% decrease on 2017.



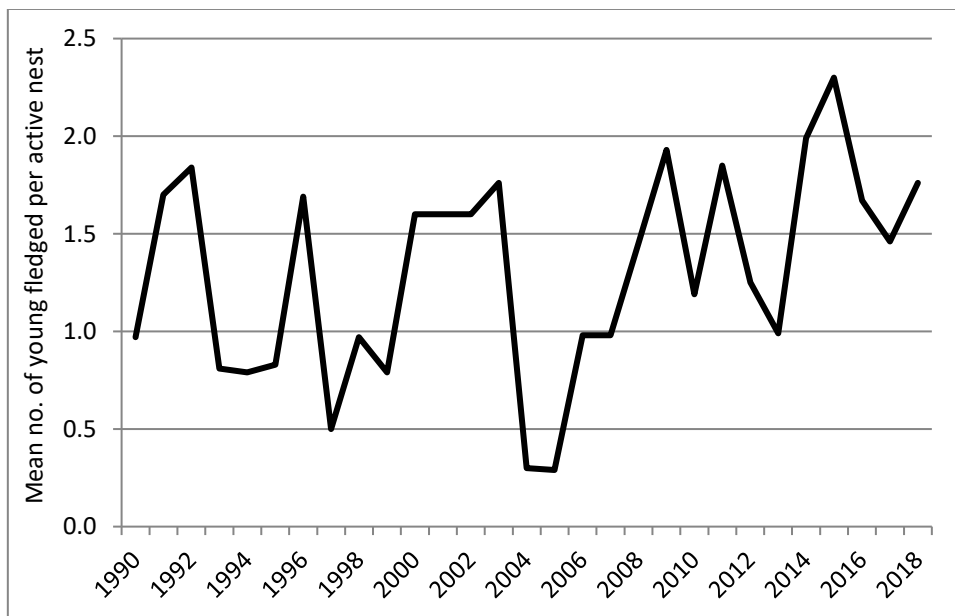
Whole colony counts

### 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. Twenty visits were made to the four monitoring plots between the 26-Mar and 28-Aug. Nests were individually marked on laminated photos of the monitoring plots and the progress of each nest was recorded up to fledging.

### Results

A total of 43 active nests were mapped on the plots and 66 chicks successfully fledged. The breeding success, expressed as the mean of the individual plot figures was 1.76 young fledged per active nest, an increase of 21% on 2017. The productivity at the separate plots was as follows: West Hurker - 1.50; Downie's Goats - 1.13; Foul Bay - 2.29; White Heugh - 2.14.



Shag productivity: 1990-2018

### Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Uncommon breeder, mainly at Fast Castle stacks. 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.

A count of 75 was made during the Rocky Shore Count on 4-Feb:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	7	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	0
Pease Bay-Redheugh	3	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	6
Redheugh-Souter	30	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	13
Souter-Pettico Wick	16	Burnmouth-Border	0

Recent RSCs show no real trend, being characterised by significant annual fluctuation:

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
37	79	81	101	66	71	46	30	58	118	33	39	52	98	32	26	75

On 7-Jun a dedicated count of breeding seabirds was undertaken along the coast. The only section with breeding evidence was between Fast Castle Head and Lansey Bank - 25 AON. This compares with 36 AON in 2000.

Independent of the RSC and dedicated seabird count, records came from 91 occupied tetrads (7%). 2017 – 63 tetrads, 2016 – 89 tetrads.

Monthly counts of five or more were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge		5	5				12	18	18	15		
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	6		6					6	9	8		10
Yetholm Loch	10	9										5
Watch Water Reservoir				6	6						6	5
Manderston (Duns)											7	7
Portmore Loch										5	9	
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)		6						7				
Bellspool (Dawyck)					10							
Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk)	10											
Dunglass (Cockburnspath)											10	
Essenside Loch (Ashkirk)										9		
Oxnam (Jedburgh)	8											
Tweedbank											8	
Eckford-Wooden Loch												7
Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)			6									
Broadhaven (St Abb's Head)							6					
Burnmouth												5
<b>Sum of all peak counts</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>No of inland sites</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>No of coastal sites</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

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

The counts above exclude records from both the RSC and the dedicated seabird count. Other sites with counts below five were: Abbotsford; Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick); Bowhill (Selkirk); Cappercleuch (St Mary's Loch); Cardrona; Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk); Coldingham Bay; Deanfoot (Denholm); Denholm Mill; Eddleston-Leadburn; Ettrick Water: Selkirk; Eyemouth; Faldonside Loch (Selkirk); Folly Loch; Fruid Reservoir; Green Diamond (Selkirk); Haining Loch (Selkirk); Hen Poo (Duns); Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm); Hule Moss; Innerleithen; Kailzie (Peebles); Knowetownhead (Denholm); Lindean Loch (Selkirk); Megget Reservoir; Melrose; Monteviot Estate; Pease Bay; Peebles; Peebles-Eddleston; Plora Wood (Walkerburn); Shielswood Loch (Ashkirk); St Abbs; St Abb's Head; Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords); Sunlaws Mill (Roxburgh); Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh; The Hirsell; The Rink (Galashiels); Tweed



Bridge (The Rink); Tweed: Hendersyde Park; Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose; Tweed: Holylee; Tweed: Manor Bridge-Tweed Bridge; Tweed: Milne Graden; Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange; Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso; Tweed: Upsettlington; Walkerburn; Whitmuirhill Loch (Selkirk); Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Yair (Caddonfoot); Yetholm Loch.

## Osprey

*Pandion haliaetus*

Very uncommon summer visitor but increasing. Frequent passage migrant, April-May and August-September. Has bred since 1989 and is spreading rapidly.

Seventy-five records came from 37 tetrads (3%). 2017 - 37 tetrads, 2016 - 43 tetrads. Many records will have involved the same bird although sightings were widely distributed. Using Galashiels as a central point the broad distribution of sightings was:

NE	8
SE	8
SW	17
NW	4

The first sighting of the year was on 5-Apr when singles were seen at a site in the south west (P Higginson) and in the south east (J Lough). The last record of the year came from Lennel (Coldstream) on 19-Sep (AP Mossop).

### **Osprey Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018 (Tony Lightley)**

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
15	11	6	10	0.91	2

### **Camera Main Nest Site**

Prior to the resident birds arriving at the nest site two females were observed on the nest at different times. Blue CL7 which was rung in 2013 at the backup nest and Blue AS6, rung in 2013 at Muir of Ord in Ross-shire. After a mild spring compared to the ravages of winter, the resident male White SS, now in his 15<sup>th</sup> breeding season at the site, arrived on 20-Apr together with AS6. The original female from the nest site turned up at the backup nest then returned to the main nest to dispose of the new female.

This year the pair laid three eggs of which two hatched on 11-Jun and eventually fledged. Both were fitted with satellite tags.

An unusual event was witnessed when the female broke open the unhatched egg and started to eat the fully developed dead chick inside the egg.

It was a difficult year, as we then encountered one of the most prolonged, hottest summers for quite a few years and the birds spent long periods shading the chicks. However, one of the chicks, a male LL7, returned to the nest site after fledging and no fish were delivered to the juvenile by the adult male, White SS. After a few days without food and in a weakened state, with tail feathers all broken, the bird was caught at the nest site and passed to SSPCA staff who confirmed the bird was well below weight. After a short period of rehabilitation at the Fishcross centre it was released back at the nest site location where it eventually fledged once again.

The bird moved to the east coast and fished in the tidal area around Holy Island for a number of days before disaster struck once again. It was found at a roadside near Wooler in Northumberland in an emaciated condition and died. The second chick that also fledged, which was fitted with a satellite tag, also went 'missing', the outcome unknown

possibly due to a malfunction of the satellite tag. Local anglers regularly saw this bird fishing the River Coquet tidal section in the Warkworth area of Northumberland

After a severe storm in mid-June three chicks at another nest site died. The hot summer resulted in one of the worst productivity seasons since 2007, fledging only 10 chicks, with another satellite tagged bird assumed to be dead after migrating into Southern Spain.

We also had a mature bird, yellow 8C from one our most productive nest sites, the backup camera nest, which was found drowned in the nets at the local fish farm just prior to breeding commencing. This site was taken over by CL1 which had been ringed in 2012. The sightings also show quite a bit of movement of males, in particular occupying different nest sites throughout the years.

Overall the project to date has fledged a minimum of 232 chicks.

Again, I had a report of another site which fledged at least one chick but this site remains unconfirmed and was not included in any data returns. There are still many good quality sites unoccupied or had single birds on territory.

On a more positive note we have had quite a few sightings of Tweed valley project birds seen elsewhere, for example CK4 (backup nest 2012) photographed at Faro Portugal. CK2 (Main nest 2012) was seen at Esthwaite Water in the Lake District. FK4 (2014) kicked eggs off Loch Doon nest site and occupied the nest. White EB, rung in 2007 in the project area, was seen to take over a nest site in the Kielder area.

FK8, the 4 year old female from the Tweed valley set off on migration from Sines in West Portugal at 11.45am on April 15<sup>th</sup> and after hitting strong headwinds in the Bay of Biscay and a quick stopover in Normandy France, eventually arrived at Forsinard in North Scotland at 8.45 am on the 30<sup>th</sup>, a distance of 3900km.

It was a first breeding attempt for this bird which produced 2 chicks with only one fledging from the Dornoch Firth area.

The return journey of 3,500km commenced on 12-Aug at 9.51 and she made her way down to Exmouth leaving on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.43 crossing the Channel and arriving in France at 14.23. Onwards across the Bay of Biscay to Northern Spain before making her way to the wintering grounds at Barragem de Garvel, Sines arriving 26-Aug at 18.40.



PW3



CK4



CL1

*Tony Lightley, Osprey co-ordinator for Lothian & Borders*

## Golden Eagle

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

*Aquila chysaetos*

A bird was reported from the west of the Region on 6-May (R Singleton).

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
3	1	0	0	0	0

Roxy is now in her sixth breeding season and, with a single chick fledging in the past two seasons, it was hoped that 2018 might produce twins. However, it ended up with no eggs being laid. The long drawn out winter weather from January until late March will have had some effect on the bird’s body condition and may be a factor in the failed breeding attempt. Once again the bird chose to nest in a new location moving to a different nest site for each of the past five seasons. The large nest was built up early in the season monitored by the satellite tag information so expectations were high for a successful breeding attempt.

Later into the season it was noted that Roxy was off the nest for longer periods and although there were lots of plucking and signs of down on the nest when we visited the site in early June nothing was found in the nest. Roxy’s satellite tag is still producing a strong signal helping to identify the nest location which avoids any disturbance but also shows the extent of her 20 sq km territory which also indicates much greater movements during the winter period.



**Roxy’s movements through the year.**

There have been regular sightings of other sub-adults in the area, one of which is a Galloway bred bird also fitted with a satellite tag.

On a more positive note, there were three birds released as part of the Golden Eagle South Scotland Project--a male, Edward (C09), and two females, Emily (121) and Beaky (C11). Edward and Beaky were released in late July and, as Emily was slightly younger than the other two, she was released from the aviaries in early August.

It will be interesting to see the movements of the birds in the first year in comparison to Roxy’s movements.

The birds all dispersed into different locations and habitats.

As more birds are released it is essential that data is analysed regarding habitat use, prey availability and roosting preferences which will help to determine suitable areas to erect artificial platforms/eyries in the next couple of

years, either in trees or rock faces. There should be strong indications of the birds' preferred areas after their second year.

I have already started this process as a desk based exercise for suitable tree nesting locations within South Scotland Forest Enterprise landholdings.

Updates regarding the recovery project can be found on web link [www.goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk](http://www.goldeneaglessouthofscotland.co.uk)

Tony Lightley, Golden Eagle Co-ordinator for Lothian & Borders

**Sparrowhawk**

*Accipiter nisus*

Common breeder. Found in 30% of tetrads. Some autumn passage. During 2008-13 found in 27% of tetrads in summer and 30% in winter.

Records for 145 tetrads were received (11%). 2017 - 116, 2016 - 123.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Records	30	42	30	28	18	12	18	24	20	29	42	29
Tetrads	23	31	20	23	11	10	14	19	16	25	30	23
No of birds	33	43	30	29	19	12	18	25	20	30	45	29

There was only one record of confirmed breeding: 3-Jun, a female making food-call before entering canopy of oak tree near Eckford (CD Green). Two birds were seen displaying at Mellerstain (Gordon) on 13-Jan (K Robeson) and records of birds on territory were at Rogersrigg (Carlops) on 6-Feb (JCS Noble) and Oxenrig (Coldstream) on 16-Feb (G White).



**Sparrowhawk with Woodpigeon. Burnhouse Mains (Stow). September. Alistair Cutter.**

**Goshawk***Accipiter gentilis*

Uncommon and local resident. 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.

Records came from 12 tetrads: Craik Forest; Ettrick Forest; Moorfoot Hills; upper Teviot; upper and middle Tweed; Wauchope Forest. Thirteen records submitted by G Christer, DK Graham, C Grey, M Henderson, AP Mossop, G Paterson, D Small.

***Goshawk Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018 (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
45	36	28	58	1.8	2.08

A total of 45 home ranges were monitored this year. A lot of time was spent negotiating with forestry companies and carrying out searches where forestry operations were about to take place or already taking place. As a result of these time constraints some of our established sites were not checked. These unchecked sites were selected as they had not been occupied for several seasons.

We had one new nest site this year which was found near Broughton during tree harvesting. The forestry company involved immediately suspended their operations and we were asked to check the nest. We rung four good sized chicks and once these had subsequently fledged, tree felling resumed. This is a good example how forestry companies are now more aware of their responsibilities to nesting birds and are prepared to adapt their work accordingly and work alongside members of the raptor group.

Another good instance was when we were asked to check an area in eastern Berwickshire which was to be clear felled. Nothing was found on our initial check and harvesting started. However, once harvesting had commenced nesting birds were seen displaying and a second check of the area was requested. A new active Goshawk nest was found and contractors were withdrawn. A successful programme was established with the forestry company and three chicks were rung and fledged. Further forest operations were undertaken after fledging. Three separate letters of thanks were received from the forestry sector for our response.

At one of our established nest sites a pre-felling check was made and a built-up nest was located. Felling plans were made accordingly to minimise any disturbance. It later transpired that the built up nest was abandoned and a new nest was built in the area of forestry operations. Despite this disturbance, which must have been considerable, the birds fledged two chicks successfully.

Persecution is still evident at some nest sites particularly in privately owned woodlands where game rearing is evident. At one such established nest site which had not been occupied for several years due to long-term persecution, an active nest was identified and at least one fledged juvenile observed. Is it a coincidence that the shooting in this area has ceased and the gamekeeper has moved on? This site was checked following information from a third party.

A lot of hard work has gone into monitoring this year and my thanks go to all those who have provided information.

## Detailed results for 2018

Home Ranges	
Number of nest sites monitored	45
Number of sites not occupied	9
Number of sites occupied, nest not found	4
Number of sites occupied, nest found	32
Number of sites failed	4
Number of sites fledged young	28

### Brood Sizes

From the 32 nesting attempts we had an average brood size of.....1.8 (1.6 last year)

From the 28 successful sites we had an average brood size of.....2.08 (2.18 last year).

This year's results are much the same as last year and can only be described as average. From the successful nests around 58 young fledged (48 last year) and just about all of these were rung with BTO rings and had Darvics fitted.

There is no doubt that the cold late spring and then the long, hot, dry summer has had a negative impact on our results. The returns have also shown that nest sites in the west of the raptor group area have tended to have better productivity than those in central and eastern areas.

This is the third year that some of the young have been fitted with satellite tags and these have shown some interesting movements of the young birds. Our thanks go to all those who have contributed to the cost of these tags.

At one nest which is an area where relentless persecution is an ongoing problem, all the young were fitted with satellite tags. It will be very interesting to monitor the movements of these young.

*Malcolm Henderson, Goshawk co-ordinator for Lothian & Borders.*

## Marsh Harrier

*Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce passage migrant, usually April-May and August-September. May have summered in recent years.

Eight records came from seven sites:

Bemersyde Moss	26, 28-Apr	HEM Dott, M Hogarth
Hule Moss	07-May	M Hogarth
Easter Housebyres Lochan (Gattonside)	23-May	M Hogarth
Newmains (Reston)	17-Jun	DK Graham
Liddel Water (Saughtree)	07-Aug	M Spriggs
Yetholm Loch	09-Sep	J Shiels
Tweed: Union Bridge	02-Oct	M Hogarth

## Hen Harrier

*Circus cyaneus*

Scarce breeding species. Scarce passage migrant in Mar-Apr and Sep-Oct. A few have wintered in recent years.

Thirteen records came from 11 tetrads: Cheviot Hills; Ettrick Forest; Lammermuir Hills; Langholm Moor; Moorfoot Hills; St Abb's Head; lower Teviotdale; Tweedsmuir Hills; lower Tweed. Records received from T Brewis, HEM Dott, DK Graham, C Hartley, J Lough, Roger Manning, G Paterson, G Pyatt, A Sandeman, J Waddell & S Sanders.

### *Hen Harrier Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018 (A Sandeman)*

Summary Table	Sites Occupied	Eggs Laid	Young Hatched	Young Fledged
Lammermuir Hills	0	0	0	0
Moorfoots	0	0	0	0
Tweedsmuir Hills	5	12	7+	7
SE Borders	1	5	4	4
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
Langholm	1	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>

2018 featured a cold, late spring which finally gave way to better weather eventually turning into a drought. Voles seemed plentiful early on, but the dry weather may have contributed to an apparent drop in numbers later.

#### Pentlands

For the first time in years, no birds seen, despite good coverage.

#### Lammermuir Hills

Once again, just one female seen (in early June).

#### Moorfoot Hills

Like the Pentlands, no birds seen. Taken cumulatively, this appears to be worrying evidence that the relentless persecution throughout our area may be increasingly limiting the pool of Harriers available for recruitment to the potential breeding population.

#### Tweedsmuir Hills

Pairs were present at 6 sites. One of our previously reliable sites is causing significant concern, with 2 breeding attempts failing and no results despite 5-6 harriers present.

Until this year, there has been no proven breeding at this site since a new keeper took over in 2017. Food supply in general appeared to be good, with 6 eggs laid at each successful site, although only 5, 4 and 2 were fledged respectively.

#### South-East

A site in the far South produced 2 male and 2 female chicks from a clutch of 5 eggs. 2 birds were tagged by the RSPB, Hilma and Thoth.

Malcolm Henderson saw one other male in a different part of this area during April.

It was a poor year overall at Langholm, and the only pair on the Borders side failing. Predation by foxes was cited as a big issue.

## Hen Harrier LIFE/ Moorlands Project

We have started a programme of work using funds of £9,375 provided by the developer of Moorhouse Wind Farm via Scottish Borders Council. Some generous donations from Borders birders have raised the total to £10,075, with our group also pledging £1,000. Because we are working within the RSPB HH Life programme, the RSPB have agreed to cover download costs of c. £1,000 p.a. per bird. Some harriers have been tagged this year and now feature on the website: <http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/henharrierlife/>

A blog can be found at:

<https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/community/ourwork/skydancer/b/skydancer/archive/2018/10/05/hen-harrier-tagging-class-of-2018.aspx>

## Roosts

Low coverage continued last winter and there was only one roost with harriers during the winter of 2018-19.

Thanks to local birders and the 'PAWS' scheme – ALL reports are appreciated and almost all followed up.

Year	Sites occupied	Pr/females with nests	Nests fledging young	Fledged young (minima)
2018	7	5	3	11
2017	7	5	3	12
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

NB. Data included from the Borders side of Langholm since 2014.

*Andrew Sandeman, Hen Harrier co-ordinator for Lothian & Borders.*

## Red Kite

*Milvus milvus*

Annual in small but increasing numbers since the 1990s. Ceased to breed during the mid-19th century due to persecution but recorded breeding in 2017. The likely origins of recent birds will be the Galloway, Gateshead or Crieff introductions.

Fifteen records were submitted for 11 tetrads: Cheviot Hills; Ettrick Forest; Lammermuir Hills; The Merse; Moorfoot Hills. With the exception of two birds seen in the Lammermuir Hills on 9-Aug, all other records were of singles. Submissions from R Bramhall, M Cummings, R Hemming, J Lough, M Moncrieff, AP Mossop, G Paterson, K Robeson, M Symonds.



**Red Kite Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018 (M Thornton)**

Territories checked	Territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Minimum large young	Large young per occupied site	Large young per successful pair
3	3	1	3	n/a	n/a

Two nest sites were monitored this year, the same ones as last year. There is a further potential nest site where two birds were seen regularly although neither a nest nor breeding were ever confirmed at this third site.

All these sites are within the Borders part of our group's area.

Of the two confirmed nest sites, three chicks fledged from one nest. The three chicks from this nest were rung.

Despite several days watching and searching at the other site we never found an active nest although two adult birds were seen regularly in the area. We think that this pair's nesting attempt failed at an early stage.

These established nest sites are in areas where extensive game rearing takes place. Large numbers of Pheasant and Red-Legged Partridge are reared and then later in the year, large shoots take place.

There must be a considerable amount of carrion as a result, and these nesting Red Kites may be benefitting from this.

Thanks to Kate Grimsditch, Malcolm Henderson, Tony Lightley, Neil Macdonald and Eve Schultz who provided information

Mike Thornton, Red Kite co-ordinator for Lothian & Borders.

**Buzzard**

*Buteo buteo*

Common resident breeding species. Minimum 1,000 pairs. During 2008-13 found in 86% of tetrads in summer and 86% in winter.

Records from 350 tetrads (27%). 2017 – 321 tetrads, 2016 – 236 tetrads.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<b>Tetrads with records</b>	60	91	81	92	93	77	48	76	54	52	61	65
<b>Aggregate count</b>	97	147	139	164	154	111	99	136	93	89	89	93
<b>Peak count</b>	5	18	9	7	10	5	10	7	4	9	7	6
<b>Site(s) with peak counts</b>	Birgham (Coldstream)	Walkerburn	Caddon Water (Clovenfords)	The Hirsell	Windy Knowe (Herriot Water)	Folly Loch	Eastside Heights (Dewar Burn)	Blackhopebyre (north)*; Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn)	Whitmuir (West Linton); Innerleithen area; Yetholm Loch; <small>Daxton</small>	Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn)	Piper of Peebles Grave (Dewar Gill)	Eckford-Kalemouth
<b>Peak count observer</b>	B Meikle	R Bramhall	G Paterson	C Hartley	G Paterson	CD Green	G Paterson	G Paterson	M Betts; JH Marchant; M Hogarth; J Lough	G Paterson	R Bramhall	CD Green

\* part of 26 counted between Dod Hill and Carcant - 14-Aug.

Other locations with relatively high counts were (in chronological order): Ferniehirst Castle (Jedburgh) (8) - 16-Feb; Floors Castle (8) - 25-Feb; Peebles-Eddleston (5) - 25-Mar; Tweedbank (6) - 9-Apr; Megget Reservoir (8) - 18-May; Windlestraw Law (Caddonhead) (5) - 20-May; Braemoor Knowe (Morebattle) (5) - 2-Nov; Eckford-Wooden Hill (5) - 28-Dec .

Evidence of breeding came from 36 tetrads:

The Hirsell	28-Jan	P	Megget Reservoir	18-May	P (4)
Rogersrigg (Carlops)	06-Feb	T	Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn)	23-May	P
Houndslow (Gordon)	24-Feb	D	Rough Moss Burn (Dewar Burn)	24-May	P
Ashkirk	25-Feb	T	Ferniehirst Hill (Stow)	25-May	P
Dawyck	26-Mar	S	Windy Knowe (Heriot Water)	25-May	P
Bushie Law (Ettrick Head)	08-Apr	P	Hundleshope (Manor Valley)	08-Jun	P
Phawhope Coomb (Ettrick Head)	08-Apr	P	Glenlude (Gordon Arms Hotel)	09-Jun	P
Cossarshill Farm (Ettrick)	08-Apr	P	Sourhope (Bowmont Water)	13-Jun	P
Clearburn Loch (Selkirk)	08-Apr	P	Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose)	17-Jun	4br
Baddingsgill Farm (West Linton)	08-Apr	T	Whitehope (Glentress Water)	14-Jul	FF
The Whin (Galashiels)	17-Apr	P	Blakehopehead Plantation (Drumelzier)	15-Jul	FL(2)
Talla Water	27-Apr	P	Stobo (Broughton)	15-Jul	FL(1)
Berry Knowe (Tushielaw)	27-Apr	P	Holms Waterhead (Kingleddores)	15-Jul	FL(2)
Dryhope (St Mary's Loch)	27-Apr	P	Williamhope (Ashiestiel)	22-Jul	FL(2)
Talla Reservoir	27-Apr	P	Newstead	09-Aug	FL
Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)	29-Apr	P	Abbotsford	09-Aug	FL
Loch Knowe (Langholm Moor)	07-May	P	Priesthaugh (Teviothead)	16-Aug	FL
Fans Law (Talla Reservoir)	18-May	P	Lyne Dale (West Linton)	13-Oct	FL

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Records involving evidence of breeding supplied by P Ball, M Betts, EL Bickmore, J Gordon, A Heavisides, M Lindsay, JCS Noble, G Paterson, MB Ross, G Scott.

To a large extent the increase in the number of breeding records is down to a big increase in the number of records from Gavin Paterson: 23 of the 36 submissions.

**Buzzard Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018 (G Smith)**

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding (minimum)	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
49	44	41	93	2.11	2.26

2018 data shows a minor increase in productivity on the 2017 season, though this is based on quite a small data set with information from 44 sites. Productivity of 2.11 young per territorial pair is up from 1.52 in 2017 and 2.26 young per productive pair is up from last year figures of 2.07. So it appears that the late winter did not affect the productivity, though Buzzards did nest 7-10 days later than normal

In 2018, 49 (56) out of a known 167 sites were checked, with 44 (53) occupied by pairs and no singles recorded (3). (2016 figures are in brackets).

Eggs were laid at 43 sites, with 42 of those hatching and 41 sites fledging young.

## Water Rail

*Rallus aquaticus*

Scarce and secretive resident of basin mires. May move away in winter. Surveys suggest larger hidden population than once thought. Scarce passage migrant April and September-November. During 2008-13 found in 4% of tetrads in summer and 1% in winter.

Twenty-two records from nine tetrads. 2017 - 4 tetrads, 2016 - 29 tetrads.

### Jan-Mar

Two tetrads. Hare Moss, 7-Jan; Yetholm Loch, 13-Feb.

### Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Five tetrads. Ettrick Marshes (Ettrick), 20-Apr; Hule Moss, 7-Jun; Bemersyde Moss, 25-Jun, 1-Jul, 4-Jul; Wooden Loch (Eckford), 4-Jul, 14-Aug; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 28-Jul.

### Sep-Dec

Four tetrads. The Hirsell, 17-Sep, 23 & 25-Nov; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head), 22- and 30-Oct, 11-Nov; Newcastleton, 27-Nov; Yetholm Loch, 29- and 30-Dec.

All records were of singles. No evidence of breeding.

Records submitted by G Christer, B Elliot, F Evans, CD Green, M Moncrieff, AP Mossop, P Noble, G Paterson, T Reed, A Smith, J Towill.

## 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.

Records were from 95 tetrads (7%). 2017 - 95 tetrads, 2016 - 97 tetrads.

Monthly peak counts from the more popular sites were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
The Hirsell	10	10	7	7	3	5	2	2	4	16	12	17
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	2	7	8	4	2	2	5	5	5	7	6	5
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge	9	7	5	3			2	4	4	5		10
Mellerstain (Gordon)	9	10		9	Pr				6			14
Hare Moss (Selkirk)	1	1	2	4	11	2	3	7	5	3	4	4
Yetholm Loch	2	3	4	5	2	2	3	9	2	3	7	4
Haining Loch (Selkirk)	5	6	3	4	5	4			4	5	5	3
Hollybush (Galashiels)		4	2					8	7	19	Pr	Pr
Pot Loch (Selkirk)		2	2	1	2	8	5	2	5		3	6
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	6	8	5				1	2	5		3	5
Hen Poo (Duns)	8	9	4					5			4	
Bemersyde Moss	5	1	3	6	3	2	2	2			1	1
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)		2			1	1	2	6	5	5	4	
Tweedbank	9						1	4	3		4	
Bowdenmoor Loch (Melrose)		1	2	2		1		3	3	2	3	3
Tweed: Innerleithen-Walkerburn				6	3	2						7
Galashiels Sewage Works Pond		7	4	3	3							
Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)		1			3	1		5	6			
Manderston (Duns)		2	4	5		2	2					
Bowhill (Selkirk)										9	6	
<b>Total no of all tetrads</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>

<b>Aggregate of all peak counts</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>84</b>
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Smaller aggregate monthly peak counts came from: Abbotrule Pond (Bonchester Bridge); Abbotsford; Alemoor Reservoir (Hawick); Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot); Blackhope Water (Garvald); Borthwick Hall (Heriot); Bowmont Forest; Bowmont Water: Belford-Cocklawfoot; Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk); Chisholme Institute (Hawick); Coldingham Loch; Dawyck (Broughton); Deanfoot (Denholm); Denholm Mill; Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor); Earlston; Eckford-Kalemouth; Edgerston Tofts (Carter Bar); Essenside Loch (Ashkirk); Ettrick Water: Selkirk; Eyemouth Boatyard; Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank); Fancove Head (Eyemouth); Folly Loch; Foulden; Gala Water: Stow-Ferniehirst; Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn); Gordon Community Woodland; Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm); Howden (Jedburgh); Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley); Kittyflat (Stow); Lady Moss (Melrose); Ladyrig Pond (Heiton); Lilliesleaf; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk); Little Duns Law-Mill Pond (Duns); Loch of the Lowes; Lowood Pond (Tweedbank); Middlestotts Marsh (Duns); Millar's Moss (St Abbs); Newmains (Reston); Philiphaugh (Selkirk); Spittal on Rule (Denholm); Spottiswoode Loch (Westruther); Stow; Sunlaws (Heiton); Sunwick (Whitsome); Synton Mossend (Ashkirk); Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh; Teviot: Rulemouth (Denholm); Tweed: Cardrona; Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose; Tweed: Manor Bridge-Tweed Bridge (Peebles); Tweed: Mertoun Bridge-Dryburgh; Tweed: Mertoun Bridge-Mertoun House; Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso; Tweed: Uppsettlington; Watch Water Reservoir; Whitmuirhill Loch (Selkirk); Williestruther Loch; Yetholm Marsh.

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

Breeding season (Apr-Sep) had records from 55 tetrads. 2017 – 48 tetrads. Confirmed breeding records came from 15 tetrads:

Philiphaugh Estate (Selkirk)	08-Jun	FL	G Scott
Garvald-Windy Slack (Dewar Burn)	15-Jun	FL	G Paterson
Newmains (Reston)	15-Jun	6br27	DK Graham
Pot Loch (Selkirk)	17-Jun	FL	EL Bickmore
The Hirsell	23-Jun	1br1	T Reed
Watch Water Reservoir	11-Jul	1br1	C Hartley
Folly Loch	17-Jul	1br4	AT Bramhall
Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank)	18-Jul	br3	M Moncrieff
Manderston (Duns)	20-Jul	br1	AP Mossop
Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank)	25-Jul	1br2	AT Bramhall
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	30-Jul	FL	CD Green
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge	13-Aug	br1	C Hartley
Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet)	14-Aug	1br3	M Moncrieff
Hare Moss (Selkirk)	11-Sep	1br3	C Coombs
Mellerstain (Gordon)	15-Sep	1br2	M Moncrieff

See Introduction for breeding codes.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Sites</b>	64	55	87	104	93	60	73	70	74	132	64	110	48	52
<b>Pairs</b>	58	38	83	94	71	50	67	43	61	127	32	75	32	68
<b>Broods</b>	27	26	47	43	42	17	39	34	33	72	23	16	18	20
<b>Young</b>	58	56	95	81	93	43	60	62	64	164	53	24	42	52
<b>MBS</b>	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.5	2.1	1.8	1.9	2.3	2.3	1.6	2.3	2.6

MBS = mean broods size. Shaded columns correspond to survey period of SE Scotland Atlas, 2007-2013.

**Coot***Fulica atra*

Well-represented resident of still waters and more rarely slow-moving river margins. Some flocking in winter provides peak counts. During 2008-13 found in 7% of tetrads in summer and 5% in winter.

Records from 46 tetrads (4%). 2017 - 36 tetrads, 2016 2015 - 42 tetrads. The largest counts from regularly watched sites were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Wooden Loch (Eckford)	22	24	18	10		5	10	15	18	16	15	19
Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose)	3	4	10	8	6	15	12	14	17	25	25	19
The Hirsell		1	2	3	2	6	6	11	10	12	30	14
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	4	8		6	4		7	20	19	15	8	5
Hollybush (Galashiels)	4	8	8	7				17	7	8	9	17
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)	32	6	5		4	10		20				
Aleemoor Reservoir (Hawick)	1	1	6	3		9		3	6	1	3	2
Tweedbank	3	3		1	1		7	4			5	5
Hen Poo (Duns)		5	6					12				
Yetholm Loch	1	2		1			1	5	8		1	2
Williestruther Loch (Hawick)			11		3							6
<b>Total no of occupied tetrads</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total of all peak counts</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>97</b>

Some of the counts between Mar-Oct probably included juveniles.

Smaller counts came from Abbotrule Pond (Bonchester Bridge), Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick), Bemersyde Moss, Bowhill (Selkirk), Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk), Clearburn Loch (Hawick), Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor), Essenside Loch (Ashkirk), Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank), Folly Loch, Greenside Pond (Old Cambus), Haining Loch (Selkirk), Hare Moss (Selkirk), Harelaw Loch (Lilliesleaf), Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm), Lady Moss (Melrose), Lindean Res (Selkirk), Manderston (Duns), Mellerstain (Gordon), Newmains (Reston), Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet), Pot Loch (Selkirk), Putts Pool (Innerleithen), Rawflat (Ancrum), Sunwick (Whitsome), Synton Mossend (Ashkirk), Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream, Whitmuirhill Loch (Selkirk), Whitton Loch (Hownam), Yetholm Marsh.

Breeding (Mar-Aug): records came from 34 tetrads (22 in 2017) with confirmed breeding in 10 tetrads (11 in 2017).

Newmains (Reston)	15-Jun	3br10	DK Graham	The Hirsell	23-Jun	1br1	K Robeson
Greenside Pond (Old Cambus)	28-May	ON	T Brewis	Tweedbank	16-Jul	1br4	AT Bramhall
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	10-Jun	1br7	M Moncrieff	Manderston (Duns)	20-Jul	1br2	AP Mossop
Aleemoor Reservoir (Hawick)	12-Jun	FL	EL Bickmore	Wooden Loch (Eckford)	14-Aug	3br8	M Moncrieff
Bowdenmoor Res (Melrose)	19-Jun	1br3	M Moncrieff	Millar's Moss (St Abbs)	16-Aug	br5<	M Moncrieff

See Introduction for breeding codes.

Breeding figures suggest no indication of a return to levels that prevailed prior to the crash in the late 1990s.

**Common Crane***Grus grus*

Scarce vagrant. Almost annual.

Two birds were reported from Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor) on 8-Apr (DK Graham) and a single 1<sup>st</sup>-winter bird was seen at The Lees, Coldstream (found by B Meikle) from 14-Nov until the end of the year. This species is becoming more regularly reported with the Coldstream bird the first recording of this species in Nov and Dec.

**Oystercatcher***Haematopus ostralegus*

Abundant breeder. Abundant wintering population, many of which are birds from Iceland and Scandinavia, while breeding birds overwinter around Irish Sea. During 2008-13 found in 54% of tetrads in summer and 15% in winter.

Records from 199 tetrads (16%). 2017 - 142 tetrads, 2016 -142 tetrads.

Rocky Shore Count on 4-Feb had a total count of 236. 2017 - 226, 2016 - 226, 2015 - 257.

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	30	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	8
Pease Bay-Redheugh	55	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	55
Redheugh-Souter	15	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	35
Souter-Pettico Wick	6	Burnmouth-Border	32

Larger than usual movements were apparent in late-Feb and Mar. Monthly peak counts of 10 or more came from:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Watch Water Reservoir		48	120		27	28	30	38				
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	31	45	111	31	16	10						
Thirlestane Castle		81	100									
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)		60	71	35			10					
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)		71	43	11	10							
Burnmouth			12				15			25	39	12
St Mary's Loch			15	27	21	27						
Ettrick Water: Selkirk		53	27	11								
Innerleithen		15	30	46								
Loch of the Lowes			71									
Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh	11	30	15									
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Cobby	11	30	15									
Cammerlaws (Westruther)		50										
Eyemouth										22	25	
Manor Valley				38								
Lyne Manor (Peebles)		27										
Tweed: Upsettlington			27									
Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange		26										
Bowmont Water: Woodside		24										
Deanfoot (Denholm)		24										
Galashiels Sewage Works Pond			22									
Megget Reservoir					10	10						
Newmains (Reston)							18					
Williestruther Loch (Hawick)			16									
Pease Bay											16	
Cove (Cockburnspath)												15
Garvald-Windy Slack (Dewar Burn)						12						
Stow		12										
Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water)							10					
<b>Aggregate count of all tetrads</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>No of tetrads for all records</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>

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

Smaller counts came from another 170 tetrads.

**Apr-Jul (breeding season)**

Records came from 156 tetrads - a significant increase over recent years. 2017 - 91 tetrads, 2016 - 103 tetrads. Evidence of breeding was reported from 63 tetrads (49 probable, 14 confirmed). This contrasts greatly with breeding records for recent years: 2017 - 24 tetrads; 2016 - 30 tetrads. In large part, this increase is a reflection of greater observer effort with 50% of all breeding records submitted by G Paterson. Records from: Abbotsford - FL; Annelshope (Tushielaw) - P; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - P; Berwickshire High School (Duns) - FL; Blackhope Water: Blackhope - P;

Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water) - FL; Blackhopebyre Burn (Glentress Water) - P; Borders General Hospital (Melrose) - P; Borthaugh (Hawick) - P; Borthwick Water: Outerside - P; Bowmont Water: Attonburn - P; Bowmont Water: Cocklawfoot - P; Cakra Bank (Tushielaw) - P; Cappuck (Jedburgh) - ON; Cardrona - P; Clovenfords - ON; Colquhar (Leithen Water) - N; Common Knowe (Leithen Water) - P; Crooked Jock (West Linton) - D; Dod Hill (Leithen Water) - P(2); Dryhope (St Mary's Loch) - P; Eckford-Kalemouth - P; Fash Cleugh (Manor Valley) - T; Fruid Reservoir - P; Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn) - P; Garvald-Windy Slack (Dewar Burn) - P(4); Gordon Arms Hotel (Yarrow Water) - P; Kersknowe (Morebattle) - P; Ladylodge Knowe (Ettrickbridge) - P; Ladyside (Heriot Water) - P; Lilliesleaf - P; Manderston (Duns) - P; Lyne Water (West Linton) - D; Manse Field (Manor Valley) - P; Megget Reservoir - P(5); Middlestots Marsh (Duns) - P; Murray's Cauld (Philiphaugh) - P; Netherurd (Hownam) - D; New Smailholm - ON; Newstead-Drygrange - ON; North Esk Reservoir - A; Peebles-Eddleston - P; Posso Craig (Manor Valley) - ON; Single Hill (Ettrickbridge) - P; Snaberlee Rig (Liddesdale) - P; St Mary's Loch - P; Stow - P; Synton Moss (Ashkirk) - ON; Teviot Haughs (Crailing) - T; Thirlestane Castle - P; Towford Farm (Hownam) - P; Tweed: Carham-Sprouston - DD; Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose - ON; Tweed: Sprouston-Redden - DD; Watch Water Reservoir - ON; West Water Reservoir - ON; Wester Deloraine (Tushielaw) - P; Windy Slack (Garvald) - P; Woolhope Bank (Leithen Water) - P(2); Yarrow Swire - P; See Introduction for breeding codes.

**Lapwing**

*Vanellus vanellus*

Abundant but declining breeding species. Many move south and west in winter and are replaced by abundant immigrants. During 2008-13 found in 39% of tetrads in summer and 17% in winter.

Records from 128 tetrads (10%). 2017 - 73 tetrads, 2016 - 83 tetrads. As with Oystercatcher, a significant increase in the range of tetrads that records were submitted from and, like Oystercatcher, the result of greater observer effort: 2017 - 317 records; 2018 521 records. This represents a 65% increase.

The monthly peak counts at the more populated sites were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Folly Loch		75	20				131	400	720	700	300	
Bemersyde Moss-Whitrig Bog-Westfield	450	200	100		16					50	250	350
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	60	180	16				63	360	150		37	
Foulshot Law (Greenlaw)										300	50	500
Hoselaw Loch-Graden (Yetholm)								200	280	95		
Spylaw (Portmore)							110	200	65	180		
Watch Water Reservoir		18	100	36	18	40	156	100				
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)		90	80	15	18	50	15				18	
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	120	70	90			14	50					
Newmains (Reston)	32	140		16			31					
Ferniehurst (Stow)	20	145	24									
Towford (Hownam)		74	51									
Rumbleton (Greenlaw)		120										
Lauder		100										
Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley)			40	20	18							
Gillkeeket (Selkirk)		70										
Eddleston-Leadburn		20	40									

Halliburton (Greenlaw)		55										
The Whaum (Manor Valley)							50					
Troutlaw Ford (Stobs Castle)		50										
<b>Aggregate count of all tetrads</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>1,319</b>	<b>1,012</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>No of tetrads for all records</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>

### Breeding (mid-March-mid-July)

Records came from 97 tetrads. 2017 - 46 tetrads, 2016 - 62 tetrads. Records with breeding evidence came from 32 tetrads. 2017 - 32 tetrads, 2016 - 23 tetrads.

Rowanlea (Gordon)	09-Mar	D	Plora Wood (Innerleithen)	18-May	P
Cranshaws (Longformacus)	13-Mar	D	Carcant (Heriot)	19-May	FL
Kaimflat (Ednam)	13-Mar	D	Cralaw (Westruther)	19-May	P
Towford (Hownam)	28-Mar	P	Blackhope Tor (Garvald)	21-May	P
Hartwoodburn (Selkirk)	28-Mar	P	Easter Housebyres (Gattonside)	23-May	A
Eddleston-Leadburn	05-Apr	P	Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn)	24-May	2br4
Din Moss (Yetholm)	08-Apr	P	Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)	24-May	S
Polwarth (Duns)	09-Apr	D	Bowshank Hill (Clovenfords)	25-May	D
Yarrow Swire	18-Apr	P	Crooked Jock (West Linton)	28-May	DD
St Mary's Loch	27-Apr	P	West Water	30-May	D
Edrom Mains (Duns)	28-Apr	D	Whitrig Bog	02-Jun	A
Hule Moss	07-May	D	Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water)	05-Jun	3br5
Lindean Loch (Selkirk)	08-May	D	Toxside Moss	06-Jun	FL
Newmains (Reston)	14-May	1br2	Blackburn (Chirnside)	11-Jun	P(2)
Carlops	16-May	P	Belford (Bowmont Water)	13-Jun	A
Watch Water Res (East)	16-May	T	Nisbet/Teviot Haughs	26-Jun	br12

See Introduction for breeding codes.

The number of occupied tetrads was the highest this millennium.



**Golden Plover.**  
**Burnhouse Mains**  
**(Stow). August.**  
**Alistair Cutter.**



**Golden Plover***Pluvialis apricaria*

Common breeding species but declining. Found mainly 200-400 m. Winter birds are abundant, swollen by immigrants. During 2008-13 found in 9% of tetrads in summer and 9% in winter.

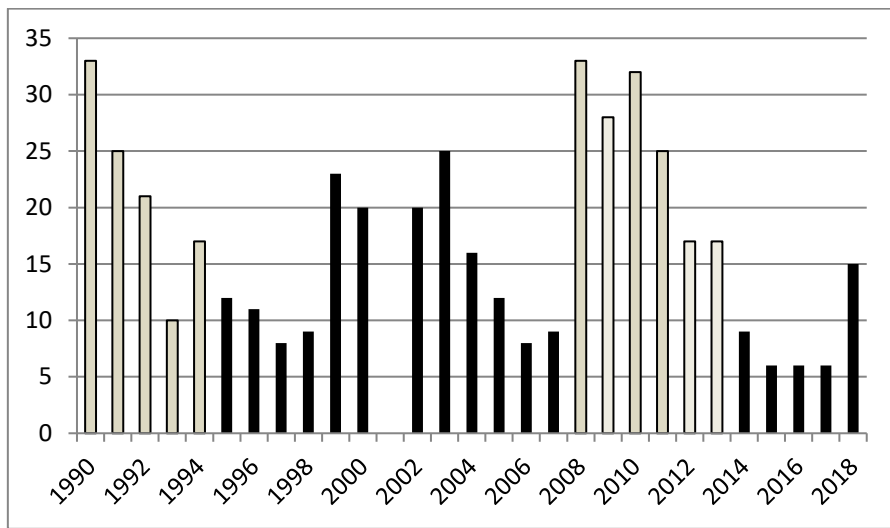
Records were from 47 tetrads (4%). 2017 - 44 tetrads, 2016 - 39 tetrads. The most popular sites were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Catmoss (Greenlaw)										50	1,000	500
Bemersyde-Whitrig-Westfield	300	200	50								50	
Burnhouse (Stow)							12	300				
Auchencrow (Reston)				250								
Brownrig (Crailing)										200		
Ancrum Craig-Broom										180		
Folly Loch										105	60	
Lees Haugh (Coldstream)											150	
Lauder Hill (Lauder)							120					
Roxburgh Hotel				100								
Lightfield (Gordon)												100
Old Caverton (Eckford)										90		
Over Whitlaw Farm (Selkirk)												60
Hule Moss											56	
Jardinefield (Whitsome)				45								
Troneyhill (Ancrum)	40											
Newmains (Reston)			38									
Alemoor Res (Hawick)												30
Eddleston-Leadburn				25								
Galashiels				20								
Sprouston-Redden (Kelso)			12	70							20	
Hutlerburn Hill (Ettrickbridge)												12
<b>No of tetrads for all records</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Aggregate count of all tetrads</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>214</b>

The following sites reported fly-overs: Selkirk, 12 on 1-Mar; Heiton (Kelso), 100 on 6-Oct and Berrybank (Reston), 100 on 20-Oct.

Other sites with generally smaller counts were: Bedshiel (Westruther); Braidshawrig (Lauder); Broom Hill (Manor Valley); Broomy Law (Yarrowford); Cralaw (Westruther); Gersit Law (Ancrum); Glenrath Heights; Hardens (Duns); Hunt Law (Stanhope); Hurdlaw (Westruther); Piper of Peebles Grave (Dewar); Saughtree Fell (Liddesdale); Stow; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); Waddlescairn Moor (Oxton); Watch Water Reservoir; Windlestraw Law (Innerleithen).

Reports with evidence of breeding were limited to one confirmed record: Glenrath Heights (NE) on 4-Jun (A Heavisides). Two probable breeding records (pairs) came from Burnhouse (Stow) on 14-Jul (A Cutter) and from Lauderhill on 28-Jul (A Cutter). Four possible breeding records were submitted, all involving singing birds: Hule Moss on 24-April; Bedshiel (Westruther) on 19-May; Cralaw (Westruther) on 19-May; Hardens (Duns) on 4-Jun. Except where indicated, all breeding records submitted by AP Mossop. In addition to these seven records, there were a further 8 sites with records from May-Aug: Braidshawrig (Lauder); Folly Loch; Hunt Law (Stanhope); Jardinefield (Whitsome); Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); Watch Water Reservoir; Waddlescairn Moor (Oxton); Windlestraw Law (Innerleithen).



**No. of occupied tetrads: May-Aug (breeding season).**

1990-1994 and 2008-13 were survey periods (lighter shading) for local atlases; 2001 affected by F&M outbreak.

### Grey Plover

*Pluvialis squaterola*

Scarce autumn passage migrant in coastal areas.

Four records, all from Pease Bay: 13-Jan; 4-Feb; 24 & 25-Feb; 26-30-Dec. Records submitted by F Evans, DK Graham, G Paterson, H Urquhart. A fairly typical year.

### Ringed Plover

*Charadrius hiaticula*

Uncommon breeder on river shingles, upland lochs and coast. Uncommon passage migrant to coasts. During 2008-13 found in 15 tetrads in summer and four in winter.

Records from 8 tetrads. 2017 - 3 tetrads, 2016 - 6 tetrads. Confirmed breeding at one site: West Water Reservoir (DD) on 30-May (AW Brown). The other tetrads were:

Folly Loch	19-Aug	43	R Bramhall	Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	17-Apr	1	AT Bramhall
Pease Bay	24-Feb	6	DK Graham	Bemersyde Moss	19-Jun	1	M Moncrieff
St Abb's Head	21-Jul	4	DK Graham	Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	13-Aug	1	DK Graham
				Tweed: Carham-Sprouston	14-Aug	1	T Reed

A fairly typical year apart from the higher-than-usual count of 43 at Folly Loch.

### Little Ringed Plover

*Charadrius dubius*

Scarce summer visitor and breeder.

Records came from 4 tetrads with confirmed breeding at three sites. All sites were located to the east of Melrose. The first record was on 21-Apr (M Moncrieff).

Four eggs were laid at one breeding site but were later predated. The parents subsequently re-located to another nearby site where 4 young fledged and a further 2 young fledged to another pair in a neighbouring location. In addition to these 6 fledglings another 2 were reared a little further away again.

The final record submitted was for 5-Sep (D Christie).

**Whimbrel***Numenius phaeopus*

Uncommon spring and uncommon autumn passage migrant, mostly along coastal areas. Wintering exceptional.

Records from four tetrads. 2017 - 6 tetrads, 2016 - 7 tetrads, 2015 - 3 tetrads.

Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	15-Apr	1	S Turnbull	Eyemouth	26-Aug	2	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	08-Jul	2	DK Graham	Gunsgreen (Eyemouth)	31-Aug	1	C Hartley
Sprouston (Kelso)	31-Jul	1	R Manning	Pease Bay	22-Oct	1	DK Graham
St Abbs	12-Aug	2	R Manning	Lower Burnmouth	30-Oct	1	G Paterson



**Whimbrel. Pease Bay. October. Dave Graham.**

**Curlew***Numenius arquata*

Common but declining breeding species. Less common 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.

Records from 131 tetrads (10%). 2017 - 86 tetrads, 2016 - 75 tetrads, 2015 - 96 tetrads. A notable increase in the number of occupied tetrads is probably the result of greater observer effort.

The Rocky Shore Count on 4-Feb had a total count of 60:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	2	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	1
Pease Bay-Redheugh	49	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	0
Redheugh-Souter	1	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	2
Souter-Pettico Wick	0	Burnmouth-Border	5

Monthly peak counts for the more populated sites (excluding RSC records) were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Watch Water Reservoir			20	6	6	8	25	55				
Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords)		21	76		3							
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	23						6		16	34		
Innerleithen			31	45								
Williestruther Loch (Hawick)			56									
Thirlestane Castle			55									
Burnmouth	23	2	2					3			24	
Hallmanor (Manor Valley)			48									
Caddonfoot (Clovenfords)			35									
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)	12	20										
Lamberton											16	16
Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor)												24
Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water)				5	5	7	8					
Colquhar (Leithen Valley)				9		10						
Wull Muir (Carcant)				3	12	4						
Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn)				4	3	10						
Hule Moss					4	5		6				
Fruid Reservoir				4		10						
Spylaw (Portmore)								7		4		
Windlestraw Law (Caddonhead)					10							
<b>Inland tetrads (all records)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Coastal tetrads (all records)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Aggregate total of all records</b>	<b>59+</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>345+</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>103+</b>	<b>96+</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>81+</b>	<b>19+</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>

Breeding season (mid-Mar to Aug) records came from 62 tetrads. 2017 - 66 tetrads. Specific reports involving breeding evidence came from 59 tetrads (17 tetrads in 2017). This big increase in the number of tetrads with breeding evidence is probably the result of increased observer effort. Records came from: Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - S; Blackhope Burn (Tathieknowe Burn) - A; Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water) - S; Bowshank Hill (Caddon Water) - S; Braidshawrig (Lauder) - P; Broomlee Centre (West Linton) - S; Cadger's Hole (Hawick) - P; Carcant - East (Heriot Water) - P; Carcant (Heriot) - A; Clearburn Loch (Buccleuch) - P; Colquhar North (Leithen Water) - P; Coquet Head (Chew Green) - S; Cralaw (Westruther) - S; Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords) - P; Fash Cleugh (Manor Valley) - P; Folly Loch - P; Fruid Reservoir - S; Gala Water: Stow-Watherston - P; Garvald (Heriot Water) - P; Garvald Law (Garvald Lodge) - P; Glenlude (Gordon Arms Hotel) - S; Glenrathhope Fields (Manor Valley) - S; Hallmanor (Manor Valley) - P; Hardens (Duns) - S; Hule Moss - S; Hundleshope (Manor Valley) - T; Huntford (Carter Bar) - S; Innerleithen - P; Kettlehiel (Westruther) - S; Lady Lodge Knowe (Ettrick Water) - S; Longformacus - P; Lymiecleugh (Teviothead) - S; Megget Reservoir - S; Megget Stone (Talla Res) - S; Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - P; Mungo's Walls (Duns) - P; Nether Hindhope (Tow Ford) - S; Old Pistol Plantation (Whitsome) - D; Peat Rig (Dewar) - FL; Posso Craig (Manor Valley) - P; Spylaw (Portmore) - P; Stanhope (Drumelzier) - D; Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords) - S; Sting Rig (Manor Valley) - S; Thirlestane Castle - P; Toxside Moss (Portmore) - FL; Waddlescairn Moor (Oxton) - P; Watch Water Res - P; Watch Water Reservoir - P; West Water Reservoir - S; Wester Deloraine (Ettrick Water) - P; Whiteside Hill (Chew Green) - S; Williamhope (Ashiestiel) - S; Williestruther Loch - P; Windlestraw Law (Caddon Head) - P; Witchie Knowe (Ettrickbridge) - P; Woden Law (Tow Ford) - S; Wull Muir (Carcant) - P; Yarrow Swire - T.

**Bar-tailed Godwit***Limosa lapponica*

Uncommon autumn/winter passage migrant.

One record submitted. On 16-Aug a single was seen at Burnmouth (M Moncrieff).

**Black-tailed Godwit***Limosa limosa*

Uncommon autumn passage migrant

Records came from 4 tetrads. 2017 - 3 tetrads. The total no. of bird-days (see Introduction) was an exceptional 112.

Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	04-May	2
	02-Aug	1
	03-Aug	1
	18-Aug	5
	19-Aug	3
	20-Aug	18
	21-Aug	18
	24-Aug	4
	27-Aug	7
	29-Aug	3
	30-Aug	2
	31-Aug	2
	01-Sep	2

Records from: EL Bickmore; AT Bramhall; D Christie; R Drew; F Evans; DK Graham; CD Green; C Hartley; R Manning; M Moncrieff; T Reed; K Robeson.

Folly Loch	21-Jun	1
	26-Jul	4
	27-Jul	1
	20-Aug	1
	23-Aug	2
	24-Aug	4
	25-Aug	6
	25-Aug	6
	08-Sep	1
	16-Sep	1
	23-Sep	1
29-Sep	2	

Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	11-Aug	4
	14-Aug	1
	17-Aug	9

The number of bird-days in recent years has been:

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
22	22	4	2	0	2	5	2	3	0	0	19	9	1	27	13	112

**Turnstone***Arenaria interpres*

Uncommon coastal winter visitor, August-May. Rare on passage to inland areas. During 2008-13 found in four tetrads in summer and eight in winter.

Records from 6 tetrads. Rocky Shore Count had a total count of 19 on 4-Feb:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	0	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	3
Pease Bay-Redheugh	0	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	6
Redheugh-Souter	0	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	0
Souter-Pettico Wick	0	Burnmouth-Border	10

Recent RSC counts:

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
41	47	60	51	60	30	19

Peak counts:

Sites (north to south)	J	F	M	A	S	O	N	D
Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)							30	
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	10	3			Pr			2
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	Pr	6					2	13
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	12		8	4		6	3	
Burnmouth-Border		26				21	6	6

The last record in spring was on 28-Apr, 4 birds at Burnmouth-Partanhall (M Moncrieff) and the first record of autumn was on 11-Sep, an undisclosed number at St Abbs (SD Morton).

## Ruff

*Philomachus pugnax*

Very uncommon passage migrant.

Records came from 4 tetrads. 2017 - 3 tetrads.

A total of 50 bird-days were estimated from the records:

Folly Loch	10-Aug	1
	18-Aug	4
	19-Aug	1
	20-Aug	3
	23-Aug	1
	24-Aug	3
	25-Aug	3
	04-Sep	1
	08-Sep	2
	10-Sep	3
29-Sep	1	

Sprouston (Kelso)	25-Aug	2
	26-Aug	2
	30-Aug	1

Records from: EL Bickmore; AT Bramhall; R Bramhall; T Brewis; D Christie; R Drew; F Evans; J Gordon; DK Graham; CD Green; C Hartley; M Moncrieff; T Reed; K Robeson

New Mains (Foulden)	24-Aug	1
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Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	29-Jul	1
	29-Jul	1
	31-Jul	1
	01-Aug	2
	02-Aug	1
	03-Aug	1
	13-Aug	1
	16-Aug	1
	19-Aug	1
	27-Aug	2
	29-Aug	1
	30-Aug	2
	31-Aug	2
	01-Sep	2
05-Sep	2	

## Sanderling

*Calidris alba*

Scarce autumn passage migrant which occasionally overwinters. Not annual.

A single bird was reported from the Tweed at Paxton House on 21-Jul (J Lough). This is only the second record away from the coast: 7 km for Borders.

## Dunlin

*Calidris alpina*

Very scarce moorland breeder found in 2% of tetrads, perhaps 20-40 pairs. Uncommon passage migrant and very uncommon winter visitor, mostly to coast. During 2008-13 found in 15 tetrads in summer and four in winter.

Records from 6 tetrads. 2017 - 6 tetrads.

Seventy-eight day-birds estimated:

Hunt Law (Stanhope)	15-Jun	1	Folly Loch	14-Aug	1
Innerleithen	01-Mar	1		24-Aug	8
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	05-Mar	1		25-Aug	12
	06-Aug	1		16-Aug	2
	10-Aug	1		20-Aug	3
Hule Moss	16-Jul	5		25-Aug	8
	20-Oct	2		08-Sep	1
	22-Oct	2		16-Sep	2
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	29-Jul	2		29-Sep	5
	31-Jul	2		18-Aug	2
	01-Aug	3		19-Aug	12
	31-Aug	1	25-Aug	10	
			16-Sep	2	

Records from: EL Bickmore; AT Bramhall; R Bramhall; D Christie; F Evans; DK Graham; CD Green; C Hartley; M Moncrieff; AP Mossop; D Parkinson; A Smith; S Turnbull.

A not-untypical year but with no records of coastal passage.

### Purple Sandpiper

*Calidris maritima*

Very uncommon winter visitor to rocky coast. Present August-May in very small and decreasing numbers. All records needed. During 2008-13 found in ten tetrads in winter.

Records from 6 tetrads. 2017 - 5 tetrads.

Burnmouth	04-Jan	1	DK Graham	Coldingham Bay	06-Sep	4	B Quinton
Pease Bay	13-Jan	18	DK Graham	Eyemouth (south)	19-Oct	3	G Paterson
Burnmouth	13-Jan	1	F Evans	Eyemouth (south)	22-Oct	2	G Paterson
Coldingham Bay	27-Jan	2	DK Graham	Burnmouth	18-Nov	2	G Paterson
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	04-Feb	34	AP Mossop	Eyemouth (south)	26-Dec	5	G Paterson
				Pease Bay	26-Dec	20	G Paterson

The count of 34 made between Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay during the RSC on 4-Feb is the highest since the 2009 RSC.

### Woodcock

*Scolopax rusticola*

Uncommon to common breeding species. Roding display March-July. Occasionally strong late autumn passage. Variable numbers in winter but largely common, including immigrants from northern Europe. During 2008-13 found in 6% of tetrads in summer and 29% in winter.

Records from 92 tetrads (7%). 2017 - 65 tetrads, 2016 - 36 tetrads, 2015 - 34 tetrads. The increase in occupied tetrads is probably because of c. 50% increase in the number of records.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	O	N	D
<b>Total no of occupied tetrads</b>	15	19	20	4	5	8	4	17	14
<b>Aggregate of peak counts</b>	22	26	30	5	9	12	5	27	17
<b>Sites with highest counts</b>	Kittyflat, Stow (4), Upper Chatto, Hownam (3)	Whitmuir, Selkirk (4), Rutherford Burnside, Roxburgh (3)	Broomdykes, Allanton (4), Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream (3).	Gordon Community Woodland (2)	Bowmont Forest (2).	Philiphaugh (2), Ashiestiel-Peel, Caddonfoot (2), Roxburgh Hotel (2).	St Abb's Head (2)	Broom, Ancrum (4), Hume, Gordon (3), St Abb's Head (3).	Hume, Gordon (2), The Bell, Cranshaws (2).

Records of roding birds came from 9 tetrads. 2017 - 5 tetrads.

Bowmont Forest	3	K Robeson	Philiphaugh (Selkirk)	2	G Scott
Merrylaw (Teviothead)	2	AP Mossop	Berrybush (Tushielaw)	1	G Paterson
Saddle Hill (Monynut Edge)	1	M Holling	Glentress (Leithen Water)	1	G Paterson
Glenlude (Gordon Arms Hotel)	1	G Paterson	Hopewood Knowe (Craik)	1	G Paterson
Total of 14 roding birds.			Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)	2	G Paterson

## Jack Snipe

*Lymnocyptes minimus*

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

Records from 10 tetrads. 2017 - 3 tetrads, 2016 - 10 tetrads, 2015 - 6 tetrads.

	J	F	M	S	O	N	D
Newmains Reston)	2	1		1	1	3	2
Malcolm's Moss (Ancrum)	3	1			1		4
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)					2	1	
Hawick			2				
Huntlywood (Gordon)							2
Yetholm Pond						2	
Burnhouse (Stow)					1		
Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk)					1		
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)					1		
Tweed: Union Bridge					1		

Records submitted by A Cutter, DK Graham, C Hartley, M Henderson, A Kerr, G Kerr, M Moncrieff, C Moses, T Towill, S Turnbull.



## Snipe

*Gallinago gallinago*

Well-represented 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.

Records from 82 tetrads (6%). 2017 - 70, 2016 - 36, 2015 - 55 tetrads.



Snipe. Burnhouse Mains (Stow). October. Alistair Cutter.

Counts of 2 or more came from:

Sites	Jan-mid March	Mid-Mar- Aug (breeding season)	Sep-Dec
Malcolm's Moss (Ancrum)	12		102
Yetholm Pond	45		
Folly Loch		27	14
Newmains (Reston)	4	16	14
Innerleithen	3		13
Bewlie (Lilliesleaf)			10
Yetholm Loch			9
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)		5	2
Kittyflat (Stow)	7		
Over Whitlaw (Selkirk)			7

Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water)		5	
Heiton (Kelso)		5	
Hule Moss		5	
Nether Tofts (Bonchester Bridge)	5		
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	2		3
Wooden Loch (Eckford)		5	
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream			5
Cralaw (Westruther)		4	
The Glen (Traquair)		4	
Lady Moss (Melrose)			4
Carcant (Heriot)		3	
Dewar (Moorfoot Hills)		3	
Garvald-Windy Slack (Dewar Burn)		3	
Glen House (Traquair)		3	
Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley)		3	
Toxside Moss (Portmore)		3	
Whitmuir Hall (Selkirk)	3		
Windlestraw Law (Caddon Head)		3	
Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk)			3
Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)			3
Bowshank Hill (Clovenfords)		2	
Falla (Oxnam)	2		
Howden (Jedburgh)	2		
Westruther	2		
Carcant (Heriot)			2
Borthwickshiels (Hawick)			2
Groundistone (Hawick)			2
Bemersyde Moss		2	
<b>Aggregate of all peak counts</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Total no of occupied tetrads</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>34</b>

Tetrads with only counts of one were: Alemoor Res (Hawick); Allanton Bridge; Ayton (Eyemouth); Bedshiel (Westruther); Black Law (Jedburgh); Blackhaugh (Clovenfords); Blackhope Tor (Moorfoot Hills); Blakelaw (Kelso); Braidshawrig (Lauder); Burnmouth; Bushelhill (Cranshaws); Coldingham; Colquhar (Leithen Valley); Crichness (Cranshaws); Dod-Priesthaugh (Teviothead); Dreva (Broughton); Dryhope (St Mary's Loch); Easter Hill (Gattonside); Ettrickbridge; Eyemouth; Fruid Reservoir; Greenlees-Frogden (Morebattle); Halidean Mill (Leaderfoot); Hardens (Duns); Hare Moss (Selkirk); Hopecarton (Drumelzier); Huntford (Carter Bar); Jardinefield (Whitsome); Kettleshiel (Westruther); Lamb Law (Blackhopebyre); Leithen Lodge (Leithen Valley); Lightfield (Gordon); Lochcraig Head (Megget Res); Lymiecleugh (Teviothead); Megget Stone (Talla Reservoir); Millar's Moss (St Abbs); Newcastleton Tollbar; Paddockmyre (Coldingham); Polwarth Moss (Greenlaw); Rashiegrain (Teviothead); Saughtree Fell (Liddesdale); Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords); Watch Water Reservoir; West Water Reservoir.

### Breeding (mid Mar-Aug)

Records came from a total of 46 tetrads. 2017 – 32 tetrads, 2016 – 26 tetrads, 2015 – 26, 2014 – 36, 2013 – 69, 2012 – 57 tetrads.

Records with evidence of breeding came from 21 tetrads (10 in 2017):

The Glen (Traquair)	07-Apr	D	Bedshiel (Westruther)	19-May	S
Glen House (Traquair)	07-Apr	D	Kettleshiel (Westruther)	19-May	S
Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water)	18-Apr	D	Cralaw (Westruther)	19-May	S
Dewar (Moorfoot Hills)	18-Apr	D	Bowshank Hill (Clovenfords)	25-May	D
Garvald-Windy Slack (Dewar Burn)	18-Apr	D	Hardens (Duns)	26-May	S
Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley)	24-Apr	D	Lymiecleugh (Teviothead)	29-May	S
Dryhope (St Mary's Loch)	27-Apr	D	Toxside Moss (Portmore)	31-May	S
Blackhope Tor (Moorfoot Hills)	01-May	D	Crichness (Cranshaws)	01-Jun	S
Fruid Reservoir	18-May	D	Lamb Law (Blackhopebyre)	06-Jun	D
Megget Stone (Talla Reservoir)	18-May	D	Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn)	06-Jun	D
See Introduction for breeding codes.			Hule Moss	12-Jun	ON

Breeding records submitted by J Gordon, A Heavisides, M Holling, AP Mossop, G Paterson, IR Poxton, G Pyatt.

As far as can be ascertained, the count of 102 at Malcolm's Moss on 27-Dec (M Henderson) is the highest count on record.

A very under-recorded species to the extent that little conclusion can be drawn from apparent trends based on Bird Report records. The recent SE Scotland 2007-13 Atlas suggests a decrease in population over the previous 25 years.

## Common Sandpiper

*Actitis hypoleucos*

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

Records from 58 tetrads (5%). 2017 - 37 tetrads, 2016 - 43 tetrads, 2015 - 47 tetrads. The big increase in the number of occupied tetrads is, at least in part, the result of increased observer effort, ie 175 records for 2018 and 110 for 2017.

	Tetrads with records	Sites with highest counts
Jan-Mar	4	Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 2; Newcastleton Tollbar; Hawick; Thirlestane Castle.
Apr-Aug	57	Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) – 19 (incl juv); Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream - 12; Talla Reservoir - 8; St Mary's Loch - 6; Watch Water Reservoir - 5; Gala Water: Stow-Waterston - 5; Stantling Craig Reservoir - 5; West Water Reservoir - 4; Fruid Reservoir - 4; Gattonside-Melrose - 3; Rankle Burn (Tushielaw) - 2; Newcastleton Tollbar - 2; Teviot: Roxburgh Mill - 2; The Ley (Leithen Water) - 2; Wisp (Teviothead) - 2; Lauder - 2; Tweed: Mertoun Bridge - 2; Hule Moss - 2; Whitrope Burn (Hermitage) - 2; Tweed: Fishwick Mains - 2; Shielfield (Oxton) - 2; Megget Reservoir - 2; Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange - 2; Glentress Rig (Moorfoot Hills) - 2; Braidshawrig (Lauder) - 2; Blackhope Tor (Carcant) - 2; Teviot: Chesters - 2; Branxholme Easter Loch (Hawick) - 2; Tweed: Walkerburn - 2; Innerleithen; Denholm Mill; Ettrick Cauld (Philippaugh); Kale Water: Morebattle; Towford (Hownam); Megget Stone (Talla Reservoir); Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot); Leahaugh (Hermitage Water); Tweed: Peebles; Yetholm Loch; Tweed: Union Bridge; The Bank (Manor Valley); Whitehillfoot (Heiton); Ladyside (Garvald Lodge); Glentress Water (Blackhopebyre); Yarrow Water: Gordon Arms Hotel; Bowmont Water: Belford; Bowmont Water: Swindon Haugh-Cocklawfoot; Hawick; Monteviot House (Ancrum); Hoselaw Loch (Yetholm); Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton); Tweed: Paxton; Kale Water: Gateshaw.
Sep-Dec	3	Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream - 4; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); Folly Loch.

Although there were reports of over-wintering in Jan-Mar there were no such reports after 29-Sep when a singleton was reported from Folly Loch (AT Bramhall).

**Breeding (Apr-mid Jul)**

Records from 59 tetrads. 2017 - 35 tetrads, 2016 - 42 tetrads, 2015 - 42 tetrads, 2014 - 76 tetrads. Reports with breeding evidence totalled 21 pairs. Obviously a great under-estimate of the actual number of breeding pairs.

<b>Green Sandpiper</b>	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Scarce, mostly autumn passage migrant and very rare winter visitor.	

Found in 18 tetrads. 2017 - 12, 2016 - 9 tetrads, 2015 - 7 tetrads. Peak monthly counts:

Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	04-Jan	3
Tweed: Sprouston	02-Jan	1

Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	06-Feb	6
Banff Mill (Kelso)	21-Feb	2

Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	09-Mar	4
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	18-Mar	1
Lamberton	01-Mar	1

Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	01-Apr	2
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Folly Loch	17-Jul	1
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	23-Jul	7
Sprouston (Kelso)	27-Jul	1
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)	28-Jul	1
Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton)	30-Jul	1
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	31-Jul	4

Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	02-Aug	6
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	02-Aug	6
Burnhouse Mains (Stow)	07-Aug	1
Folly Loch	16-Aug	3
Sprouston (Kelso)	11-Aug	1
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)	15-Aug	1

Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	08-Sep	6
Whitmuirhaugh	09-Sep	4

Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	14-Oct	4
Sprouston (Kelso)	29-Oct	2

Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	04-Nov	3
Tweed: Sucklawridge	05-Nov	1
Sprouston (Kelso)	11-Nov	1

Sprouston (Kelso)	08-Dec	1
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	26-Dec	4
Teviot: Eckford	29-Dec	1



**Green Sandpiper. Burnhouse Mains (Stow). August. Alistair Cutter.**

**Lesser Yellowlegs***Tringa flavipeps*

Very rare vagrant. 2018 is the only record.

Single bird on the Teviot Haughs (Nisbet). This North American vagrant was much admired and photographed between the 21- and 23-Oct. Refer to p 163 for the full report by Steve Turnbull (the finder) of this first for Scottish Borders.



**Lesser Yellowlegs. Teviot Haughs. October.  
DK Graham.**

**Redshank***Tringa totanus*

Now an uncommon breeding species. A few winter along the lower Tweed and coast, where it is well-represented. Some spring and autumn coastal passage. During 2008-13 found in 9% of tetrads in summer and 3% in winter.

Records from 50 tetrads. 2017 - 42 tetrads, 2016 - 42, 2015 - 49 tetrads. The Rocky Shore Count on 4-Feb had a total count of 74:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	6	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	4
Pease Bay-Redheugh	9	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	15
Redheugh-Souter	3	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	0
Souter-Pettico Wick	0	Burnmouth-Border	37

All monthly peak counts:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Burnmouth-Border	45	37						4		42	81	30
Eyemouth-Burnmouth		4	54					4	3	2	7	
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	7	12	12	19	2		1		1	1	1	10
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	3	1						25				1
Watch Water Reservoir			4	4	6	7	4		1			
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)			2	8	5	2	5			1		
Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth		15								3		1
Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)		6									5	5
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)			3	4	2	1						
Pease Bay-Redheugh		9										
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge		1								4	2	1
Hule Moss					2	2		3				

West Water Reservoir					6							
Garvald-Windy Slack (Dewar Burn)					2	2						
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay		4										
St Mary's Loch					1	3						
Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn)				2		1						
Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley)					3							
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)	1				2							
Redheugh-Souter		3										
Tweed: Upsettlington			1									2
Braidshawrig (Lauder)						2						
Broad Law (Moorfoot Hills)					2							
Innerleithen				2								
Megget Reservoir					2							
Thirlestane Castle			2									
Blackhope Tor (Moorfoot Hills)						1						
Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water)						1						
Folly Loch								1				
Lauder-Harryburn					1							
St Abbs									1			
St Abb's Head									1			
Teviot: Chesters						1						
<b>Coastal tetrads</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Inland tetrads</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Aggregate of all peak counts</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>50</b>

### Breeding season (Apr-Aug)

Records from 29 tetrads. 2017 – 15 tetrads, 2016 – 23, 2015 – 19, 2014 – 17 tetrads. Records with evidence of breeding came from 7 tetrads. 2017 – 15 tetrads, 2016 – 23, 2015 – 19, 2014 – 17 tetrads.

Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn)	06-Apr	P	G Paterson	Stantling Craig Reservoir	12-May	P	G Paterson
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	23-Apr	P	CD Green	Megget Reservoir	18-May	P	G Paterson
Broad Law (Moorfoot Hill)	01-May	P	G Paterson	Watch Water Reservoir	21-May	P	AP Mossop
See Introduction for breeding codes.				West Water Reservoir	30-May	A	AW Brown

Readers are encouraged to submit all records of Redshanks, especially involving any breeding evidence.

## Wood Sandpiper

*Tringa glareola*

Scarce passage migrant. Mostly seen in autumn.

Records from 4 tetrads. 2017 - one tetrad.

**Watch Water Reservoir:** Singles seen on 24-May and on 7-Jun (J Lough).

**Teviot Haughs (Nisbet):** Two birds seen on 23 and 24-July (CD Green, M Moncrieff, S Turnbull).

**The Hirsell:** Two seen on 30-Aug (J Lough).

**Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden):** Single on 2-Aug (C Hartley).

At 9 bird-days, this is apparently the best set of records in the database for Scottish Borders.

**Spotted Redshank***Tringa erythropus*

Scarce autumn passage migrant. Not annual.

A single bird at Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden) on 13-Aug (D Christie, DK Graham, AP Mossop). The first record of this species for this site.

**Greenshank***Tringa nebularia*

Very uncommon spring and autumn passage migrant.

Forty-eight records from 13 tetrads. 2017 - 7 tetrads, 2016 – 10, 2015 - 7 tetrads. One of the best years on record.

Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	21-24 Apr	1
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Hule Moss	03-May	1
Blackburn (Chirnside)	23-May	1
Newmains (Reston)	27-May	1

Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	18-24 Jul	1-2
Folly Loch	26-28 Jul	1-2
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	27, 30-Jul	1
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	29-31 Jul	3

Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	2-5 Aug	1
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	4, 11,14,25,26-Aug	8
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	6, 10, 15-Aug	1-2
Jardinefield (Whitsome)	13-Aug	1
Tweed: Paxton House	13-Aug	1
Eyemouth Harbour	14-Aug	1
Folly Loch	18-Aug	1

Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	2, 8, 9, 11-Sep	1-3
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	23, 26 28-Sep	1

Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	02-Oct	1
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	03-Oct	1

Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	31-Dec	1
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The bird seen on 31-Dec continued in the area for another two weeks.

Records submitted by AT Bramhall, D Christie, F Evans, DK Graham, CD Green, C Hartley, R Manning, B Meikle, M Moncrieff, T Reed, K Robeson, J Towill, S Turnbull.

**Kittiwake***Rissa tridactyla*

Abundant coastal breeder. Dramatic declines in breeding population since late 1980s. Occasional heavy autumn passage. Rare inland, but strays almost annual. Scarcer in winter.

Records came from 8 tetrads located between Pease Bay and Burnmouth. As usual, casual records were skeletal and provided only a sketchy idea of numbers and their distribution although they did provide a record from far inland: a juvenile at Folly Loch on 19-Aug (R Bramhall).

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)												1
Pease Bay-Redheugh		1										
Souter-Pettico Wick							30					
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay				Pr	10	17			500	20		
Eyemouth-Burnmouth						292			20	3	1	
Folly Loch								1				

On 7-Jun a dedicated count of breeding seabirds was undertaken along the coast (see pp 166). The results are shown below with counts undertaken by staff of St Abb's Head SNR also shown:

	Dunglass-Fast Castle	Fast Castle-Moorburn Point*	Moorburn Point-Broadhaven*	Broadhaven-St Abbs	St Abbs-Eyemouth	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	Burnmouth-Border	Total
<b>2000</b>	792	1,118	3,235	11,077	1	2,516	0	18,739
<b>2018</b>	0	35	515	3,244	0	709	0	4,503
<b>Change</b>	-100%	-97%	-84%	-71%	-100%	-72%		-76%

\* 2016

Kittiwakes, more than any other seabird, are suffering a dramatic decline in numbers throughout the North Atlantic area.

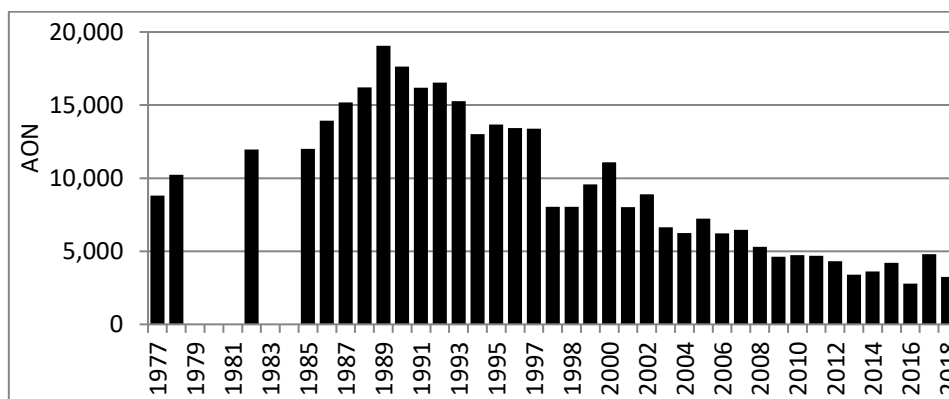
### ***St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2018 (Liza Cole):***

#### Whole Colony Count

A count of apparently occupied nests (AONs) was carried out on 15-, 18-, 20-, 21-, 23-, 25-, 27- and 28-June. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 15th June.

#### Results

3,244 AON, 32% decrease on 2017:



#### Breeding Success

An assessment of breeding success was carried out using methods described in the 1995 report following recommendations from the Seabird Monitoring Handbook. Eleven visits were made to the 3 monitoring plots between the 2nd June and the 9th August. Nests were individually marked on laminated photos of the monitoring plots and the progress of each nest was recorded up to fledging. Please note: because the number of nests in one plot (West Hurker) had dropped below the minimum number recommended in the Seabird Monitoring Handbook a new plot had to be substituted in its place. Because the colony is now so diminished, this was not selected randomly, rather it was a matter of finding an accessible location not too close to the other plots, where it was possible to see the contents of the nests (Clever Gully).

#### Results

A total of 172 active nests were mapped on the plots and 149 chicks successfully fledged. The breeding success, expressed as the mean of individual plot figures, was 0.83 young fledged per AON; a decrease of 19% on 2017.



**Sabine's Gull***Xema sabini*

Rare passage migrant to coast, mostly autumn.

A single bird seen off Eyemouth on 21-Jul (K Ingleby). This is the first report since 2014.

**Black-headed Gull***Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Common breeder but numbers have fallen greatly in recent years. Abundant and widespread in winter with several roosts. During 2008-13 found in 35% of tetrads in summer and 19% in winter.

Records came from 101 tetrads (8%). 2017 - 84 tetrads, 2016 - 71, 2015 - 72 tetrads. The Rocky Shore Count on 4-Feb had a total count of 107. 2017 - 224, 2016 – 240.

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	0	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	0
Pease Bay-Redheugh	8	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	54
Redheugh-Souter	0	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	38
Souter-Pettico Wick	5	Burnmouth-Border	2

Counts of 25 and more reported for more than one month (excluding RSC) came from:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank)		200	500	98			230					480
Galashiels Sewage Treatment Works	177					73	297	177	120		68	
Folly Loch							33	200	160	185	272	
Watch Water Reservoir			600				70					
Waddlescairn Moor (Oxton)					223	179						
The Hirsell	120									80		200
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)			150	48					26	71	25	64
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	70		60				40	50	30	39		100
Synton Mossend (Ashkirk)			40	100	80	60						
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge							29	130	55			
Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose		80							29			71
Yetholm Loch	112	55										
Teviot Haughs (Eckford)				150								
Burnmouth										126		
Bemersyde Moss		38	30	57								
Thirlestane Castle		25	30									
Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso	55								55			
Cove (Cockburnspath)											26	25
<b>Total of all tetrads</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Aggregate of all peak counts per tetrad</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>188</b>

*Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream data are based on the maximum count at any single site between Kelso and Coldstream unless the WeBS count for the whole stretch was greater. NOTE: records do not include fly-overs.*

Sites with fewer and smaller records were: Abbotrule Pond (Bonchester Bridge); Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot); Attonburn (Hownam); Belford (Bowmont Water); Blackhope Tor (Garvald); Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water); Borders General Hospital (Melrose); Broad Law (Moorfoot Hills); Carcant (Heriot); Coldingham Bay; Crailinghall-Netherwells (Jedburgh); Darnick (Melrose); Dewar (Moorfoot Hills); Dod (Priesthaugh); Easter Housebyres Lochan

(Hawick); Eckford-Wooden Loch; Edgerston Tofts (Carter Bar); Etrick Cauld (Philiphaugh); Etrick Water: Selkirk; Eyemouth; Ferniehirst (Stow); Fruid Reservoir; Galawater: Stow-Watherston; Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden); Hawick; Hen Poo (Duns); Hollybush (Galashiels); Hopstead (Coldingham); Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm); Hule Moss; Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley); Kailzie (Peebles); Kirkstead (St Mary's Loch); Lady Moss (Melrose); Ladyrig Pond (Heiton); Ladyside (Heriot Water); Lambertton; Leadburn Community Wood; Lilliesleaf; Lindean Res (Selkirk); Lugate (Stow); Megget Reservoir; Monteviot (Ancrum); Newmains (Reston); North Esk Reservoir; Pot Loch (Selkirk); Putts Pool (Walkerburn); Rogersrigg (Carlops); Rumbleton (Greenlaw); Scarce Rig (Portmore); Shielfield (Oxton); Smailholm Tower-Mellerstain; St Abb's Head; St Boswells; St Mary's Loch; Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords); Sunwick (Paxton); Swinside Hall Plantation (Oxnam); Talla Reservoir; Teviot: Chesters; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh; Toxside Moss (Portmore); Tweed: Kelso-Mertoun; Tweed: Manor Bridge-Tweed Bridge; Tweed: Mertoun to Benrig Dean; Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange; Tweed: Walkerburn; Whitmuir (Selkirk); Whitrig Bog-Westfield; Whitton Loch (Hownam); Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Windlestraw Law (Caddon Head); Wooden Loch (Eckford).

Breeding: records during the period Apr-Aug came from 81 tetrads. 2017 – 48, 2016 – 62 tetrads. Confirmed breeding came from 10 tetrads (2017 – no confirmed breeding records): Abbotrule Pond (Bonchester Bridge); Folly Loch; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); North Esk Reservoir; Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge; Tweed: Sprouston-Redden; Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords); Synton Moss (Ashkirk); Teviot: Chesters; Tweedbank. Breeding records supplied by AT Bramhall, C Hartley, M Moncrieff, J Palfery, T Reed.

The overall number of records submitted for this species was c. 50% greater than in 2017 and may go some of the way to explain the apparent increase in “range” and the improved breeding records. A survey of inland breeding sites and roosts is being carried out by the Borders Branch for 2018 and 2019.



**Black-headed Gull. Peebles. June. R Watterson.**

**Little Gull***Hydrocoloeus minutus*

Very uncommon passage migrant to coast, mostly between August and October. Occasional inland reports.

Two records: single on 7-Jun off Burnmouth (AP Mossop); single on 18-Aug off St Abb's Head (DK Graham). 2017 - no reports, 2016 - 8 records from 4 sites, 2015 - 3 records from 3 sites.

**Mediterranean Gull***Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

A scarce but increasing passage migrant.

Three records (all single birds): 12-Jul on the Tweed at Coldstream (A Spybey); 28-Oct off Eyemouth (G Garner); 30-Dec at Pease Bay (AK Graham).

2017 – 4 records from 3 sites, 2016 – 6 records from 4 sites, 2015 – single record from one site, 2014 – 2 records from 2 sites.

**Common Gull***Larus canus*

Very uncommon 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.

Records from 92 tetrads (7%). 2017 - 75 tetrads, 2016 - 74, 2015 - 47 tetrads. The Rocky Shore Count on 4-Feb had a total count of 13 birds: 11 between Souter-Pettico Wick and 2 between Eyemouth-Burnmouth.

Monthly peak counts of 25 or more were:

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Hule Moss										2,000		
Watch Water Reservoir			1,200			60	50	90				
Megget Reservoir			55	234	154	301						
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)	98	95	100					108	150		64	
Eddleston-Waterheads (Portmore)				80						200		252
Tweed: Paxton Ho-Union Bridge								135	145	215		
Yetholm Loch	130	185	63									30
Manor Valley				305								
Tweed: Innerleithen-Walkerburn											200	64
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)			131								70	37
Ferniehirst (Stow)	100	90		110								
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream									100	94		
Bowland (Galashiels)												160
Kailzie (Peebles)	94			57								
Folly Loch												150
Heriot (Moorfoot Hills)												150
Eckford-Wooden Loch							120					
Lauder	49	51										
St Mary's Loch			44	51								
Kirkstead (St Mary's Loch)				87								
Cove (Cockburnspath)												65
Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)			60									

Caddonlee (Caddonfoot)												60
Gateshaw (Hownam)											50	
Spylaw (Portmore)		40										
Scarce Rig (Portmore)				34								
Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley)				32								
Whitehaugh (Peebles)				31								
Dunglass (Cockburnspath)											30	
Talla Reservoir						25						
Hardens (Duns)			25									
Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk)	50											
Thirlestane Castle			50									
<b>Total no of tetrads</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Aggregate of all peak counts</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>983</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>98</b>

*Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream data are based on the maximum count at any single site between Kelso and Coldstream unless the WeBS count for the whole stretch was greater. NOTE: records do not include fly-overs.*

Tetrads with peak counts below 25 were: Bassendean (Gordon); Bedshiel (Westruther); Branxholme Easter Loch (Hawick); Broomlee Centre (West Linton); Cammerlaws (Westruther); Craig Douglas (Gordon Arms Hotel); Cralaw (Westruther); Dewar (Moorfoot Hills); Dod (Hawick); Eckford-Kalemouth; Etrick Water: Selkirk; Eyemouth-Burnmouth; Fruid Reservoir; Galabank (Stow); Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank); Harestanes (Ancrum); Hen Poo (Duns); The Hirsell; Hollybush (Galashiels); Houndslow (Westruther); Kittyflat (Stow); Millar's Moss (St Abbs); Newmains (Reston); North Esk Reservoir; Peebles; Scraesburgh Fell (Hownam); Sorrowlessfield (Earlston); Souter-Pettico Wick; St Abb's Head; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh; Torquhan (Stow); Toxside Moss (Portmore); Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose; Tweed: Mertoun to Benrig Dean; Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso; Westruther; White Rig (Eddleston).

A notable absence from the sites with the larger counts is West Water, where autumn counts are normally in their thousands. Readers with an interest in taking over the WeBS counting of this "vacant" site should contact Martin Moncrieff (Borders Recorder) or express an interest via the BTO website.

Records of confirmed breeding came from only one site, Megget Reservoir, where birds were seen on nest (G Paterson, K Robeson). Readers are asked, where possible, to submit any relevant records of breeding. Hopefully, the dedicated survey of inland breeding sites in 2019 will provide more breeding evidence.

## Great Black-backed Gull

*Larus marinus*

Has bred since 1999-2000. 1-2 pairs present along coast. Generally well-represented, feeding widely inland during winter on spent salmon and other carrion, roosting at the large reservoirs. During 2008-13 found in 4% of tetrads in summer and 9% in winter.

Records from 47 tetrads (4%). 2017 - 32, 2016 - 30 tetrads. Rocky Shore Count on 4-Feb had a total count of 66. 2017 - 94 birds.

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	5	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	3
Pease Bay-Redheugh	5	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	2
Redheugh-Souter	7	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	9
Souter-Pettico Wick	33	Burnmouth-Border	2

There were only 4 counts of 10 or more (incl. the RSC):

Souter-Pettico Wick	04-Feb	33	D Graham
St Abb's Head	06-Sep	17	B Quinton
St Abbs	08-Sep	13	K Ritchie
Lower Burnmouth	30-Oct	20	G Paterson

Smaller counts came from a total of 42 tetrads: Abbotrule Pond (Bonchester); Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot); Belford-Attonburn (Hownam); Bemersyde Moss; Broad Law (Carcant); Burnmouth-Border; Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth; Dowlaw Dam (Coldingham Moor); Dunglass-Pease Bay; Eddleston to Leadburn (Borders); Eyemouth-Burnmouth; Folly Loch; Halter Burn (Kirk Yetholm); Newmains (Reston); Parkgatestone (Broughton); Pease Bay-Redheugh; Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay; Redheugh-Souter; Shielfield (Oxton); Stantling Craig Reservoir; Teviot Haugh (Nisbet); Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream; Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge; Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso; Tweedbank; Waddlescairn Moor (Oxton); Watch Water Reservoir; West Water; Whitrig Bog-Westfield; Whitton Loch; Yetholm Loch.

There was only one record of confirmed breeding: at St Abbs on 30-Apr an occupied nest was seen (C Hartley). Last confirmed breeding was of 3 AONs at Fancove Head (Burnmouth) in May-2016.

### Iceland Gull

*Larus gaucoides*

Scarce winter or early spring visitor.

One record from Watch Water Reservoir on 13-Mar - a single, 2<sup>nd</sup>-winter bird seen among Herring Gulls (C Hartley).

### Herring Gull

*Larus argentatus*

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

Records from 104 tetrads (8%). 2017 - 96 tetrads, 2016 - 96, 2015 - 109 tetrads. The Rocky Shore Count of 4-Feb had a total count of 1,424. 2017 - 969, 2016 - 2,500:

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	13	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	111
Pease Bay-Redheugh	5	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	197
Redheugh-Souter	520	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	298
Souter-Pettico Wick	149	Burnmouth-Border	131

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

Sites	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Watch Water Reservoir			4,400									
Hule Moss									400	1,000	1,500	
Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge		335	32				94	272				
Tweedbank	72	100		50							386	38
Haud Yards (Coldingham Common)											564	
Yellow Craig (Coldingham)									500			
Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden)							89	253	124			
Eyemouth				50		150			250			
Millar's Moss (St Abbs)		35		33	63	120						60
Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton)										300		
St Abb's Head									300			
St Abbs				50		168						

Burnmouth			34							39	45	30
Teviot Haughs (Eckford)		40	50									30
Linkim Shore (Eyemouth)								100				
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	30	26				40						
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream			65					25				
Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose		70										
Silverwells (Coldingham)											60	
Folly Loch											55	
Yetholm Loch	47											
Rachelfield (Smailholm)		46										
Dunglass											40	
Middlestots (Duns)				36								
Cove (Cockburnspath)										34		
Whitmuir (Selkirk)		30										
Sorrowlessfield (Earlston)												25
Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)							20					
<b>Total no of tetrads</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Aggregate for all monthly peak counts</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>4,512</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>1,742</b>	<b>1,404</b>	<b>2,605</b>	<b>356</b>

*Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream data are based on the maximum count at any single site between Kelso and Coldstream unless the WeBS count for the whole stretch was greater. NOTE: records do not include fly-overs.*

Sites with monthly peaks of below 20 were: Abbotrule Pond (Bonchester Bridge); Abbotsford; Acreknowe Reservoir; Ancrum; Attonburn (Hownam); Bassendean (Gordon); Bemersyde Moss; Blackhope Tor (Moorfoot Hills); Bowhill; Bowmont Water: Belford; Broomlee Centre (West Linton); Cammerlaws (Westruther); Catmoss (Greenlaw); Cheeklaw (Duns); Coldingham Bay; Coldingham Loch; Dowlaw Dam; Drakemyre (Grantshouse); Dykegatehead; Eckford-Wooden Loch; Faldonside Loch; Ferniehirst (Stow); Gala Sewage Works Pond; Gradon (Yetholm); Green Diamond; Greenside Pond (Coldingham Moor); Haining Loch; Harestanes; Hawick; Hen Poo (Duns); The Hirsle; Hollybush (Galashiels); Hoselaw Mains; Kittyflat (Stow); Lady Moss (Melrose); Lambertton; Lindean Reservoir; Lyne Dale (West Linton); Mellerstain; Melrose; Monteviot Netherurd (Blyth Bridge); Newmains (Reston); Pease Bay; Putts Pool (Innerleithen); Rogersrigg (Carlops); Rumbleton (Greenlaw); St Boswells; St Mary's Loch; Stantling Craig Res; Synton Mossend; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh; Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso; Tweed: Clinthill; Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange; Waddlescairn Moor (Oxton); West Water; Whitrig Bog-Westfield; Whitsome; Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Wooden Loch (Hownam).

#### **Breeding:**

Records during the breeding season (Apr-Jul) came from 51 tetrads. 2017 - 41 tetrads.

On 7-Jun a dedicated count of breeding seabirds was undertaken along the coast (see pp 166). The results for Herring Gull are shown below with counts undertaken by staff of St Abb's Head NNR also shown:

	Dunglass-Fast Castle	Fast Castle-Moorburn Point*	Moorburn Point-Broadhaven*	Broadhaven-St Abbs	St Abbs-Eyemouth	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	Burnmouth-Border	Total
<b>2000</b>	106	154	80	307	199	83	16	945
<b>2018</b>	61	25	60	211	189	208	13	767
<b>Change</b>	-42%	-84%	-25%	-31%	-5%	+151%	-19%	-19%

**Apparently Occupied Nests for Herring Gull (\* 2016 counts)**

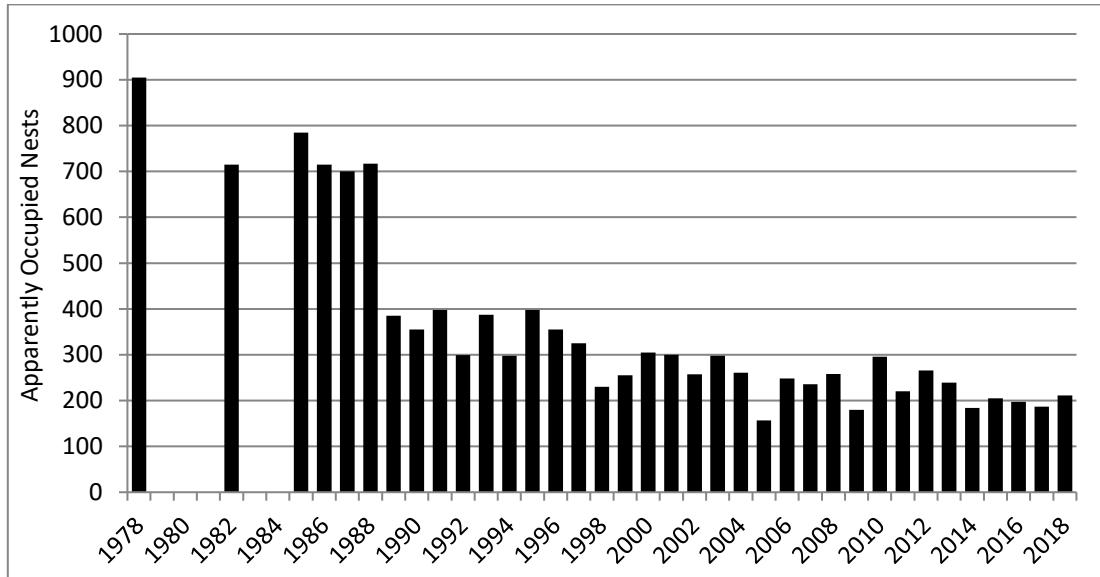
**St Abb’s Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2018 (Liza Cole):**

**Whole Colony Count**

A whole colony count of apparently occupied nests (AON) was carried out on 28- and 29-May and 2- and 3- Jun. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 15-Jun.

**Results**

211 AON, 13% increase on 2017.



**Whole Colony Counts of AONs at St Abb’s Head NNR, 1978-2018.**

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**

*Larus fuscus*

Scarce coastal breeder, not annual, perhaps just 2-3 pairs. Found locally inland in summer. Large roosts while on autumn passage but few in winter. During 2008-13 found in 35% of tetrads in summer and 5% in winter.

Records came from 109 tetrads (9%). 2017 - 74 tetrads, 2016 - 73, 2015 - 68 tetrads. Monthly peak counts of 10 or more came from:

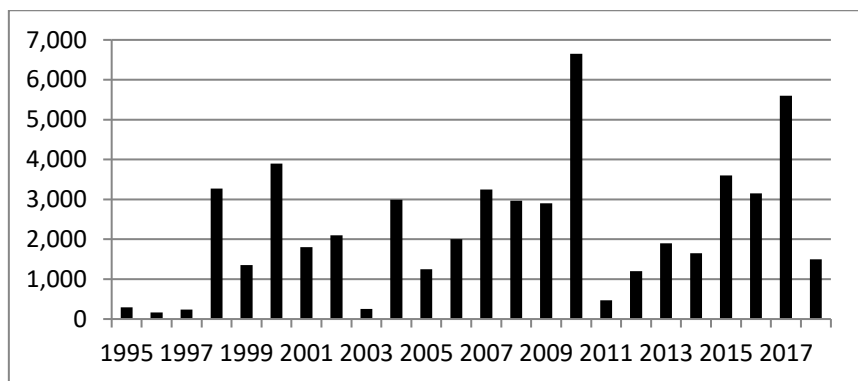
Sites	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Hule Moss		50		1,500
Easter Haprew (Stobo)			380	
Teviot Haughs: Nisbet	12	150	37	23
Eckford-Wooden Loch			150	20
Peebles		100		
Drumelzier (Broughton)		91		
Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream			90	
Philiphaugh Estate (Selkirk)		88		
Folly Loch			68	18
Middlethird (Gordon)				60
Manor Valley		44		
Watch Water Reservoir			40	
Talla Reservoir		37		
Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)			17	
Hule Moss			16	

Tweedbank	16			
St Abb's Head			10	
Lindean Reservoir	10			
<b>Total no of occupied tetrads</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Aggregate peak count of all tetrads</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>1,639</b>

Records with peak counts of below 10 came from: Abbotrule Pond (Bonchester Bridge); Attonburn (Hownam); Blackhope Water: Blackhope; Barnhills Moor (Ancrum); Bedshiel (Westruther); Bemersyde Moss; Bitch Cleuch (Manor Valley); Blackhope Water: Garvald-Windy Slack; Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water); Borders General Hospital (Melrose); Bowland (Galashiels); Bowmont Water: Belford; Bowmont Water: Cocklawfoot; Branxholme Easter Loch (Hawick); Burnmouth; Caddon Water: Clovenfords-Blackhaugh; Crailinghall-Netherwells (Jedburgh); Crooked Jock (West Linton); Crumside Hill (Clovenfords); Dod (Wauchope Forest); Eckford-Kalemouth; Eddleston-Waterheads; Eyemouth; Ferniehirst (Stow); Fruid Reservoir; Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn); Gradon (Yetholm); Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden); Hare Moss (Selkirk); Hawick ; Hen Poo (Duns); Hollybush (Galashiels); Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm); Kirkstead Burn (St Mary's Loch); Lilliesleaf ; Lugate (Stow); Megget Reservoir; Millar's Moss (St Abbs); Netherurd (Blyth Bridge); Newmains (Reston); Plora Wood (Innerleithen); Rawflat (Ancrum); Robinsland (West Linton); Rogersrigg (Carlops); Rumbleton (Greenlaw); Salmon Ladder (Philiphaugh); Scarce Rig (Portmore); Shielfield (Oxton); Sorrowlessfield (Earlston); St Boswells; St Mary's Loch; Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords); Swinside Hall Plantation (Oxnam); Teviot: Chesters; Teviot: Kelso-Roxburgh; The Meldons (Peebles); Thirlestane Castle; Toxside Moss (Portmore); Tweed: Gattonside-Melrose; Tweed: Paxton House-Union Bridge; Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso; Waddlescairn Moor (Oxton); West Water; Whitehaugh Farm (Peebles); Whitrig Bog-Westfield; Williestruther Loch (Hawick); Windy Slack (Carcant); Yellow Craig (Coldingham Bay); Yetholm Loch.

There were no records of confirmed breeding. A few records involved mature birds accompanied by juveniles in the late-summer/autumn but it is likely that these may have been birds on passage.

The highest count of 1,500 at Hule Moss on 7-Nov (AP Mossop), although lower than any of the past 5 years, continues the premier status of this location as a roost site for birds on autumn passage:



**Annual peak counts at Hule Moss, 1995-2018.**

**Erratum**

The 2017 Report stated that the 2017 peak count of 5,600 at Hule Moss was the highest on record. As the graph above shows, the highest count was actually of 6,650 in 2010.



**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

Uncommon spring passage and well-represented autumn passage with few summering birds visitor. Breeding is nearby in the Forth and on the Farne Islands. Rare inland.

Twelve records from five sites (17 in 2017). Maximum counts:

	Mar-Apr	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct
Eyemouth	6	4	3	4
Coldingham Bay	4			
St Abb's Head				4
Yellow Craig (Coldingham)				20
Burnmouth		1		

First record was on 16-Apr at Eyemouth Bay (F Evans) and the last record was on 22-Sep at St Abb's Head (C Hartley).

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*

A rare passage migrant.

Two Roseate Terns reported at Eyemouth on 12-Aug (DK Graham). The last records were from 2016, 2011 and 1997.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

Very uncommon summer visitor on coast, most frequent August-September during passage but still uncommon. Rare inland.

Seven records from two sites (2017: four records; 2016: eight records):

Eyemouth	18-Aug	5	P Rawnsley
	26-Aug	3	DK Graham
	18-Sep	1	C Hartley
St Abb's Head	17-Jul	Pr	C Trollope
	21-Jul	32	DK Graham
	23-Sep	1	DK Graham
	06-Oct	1	DK Graham

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

Very uncommon summer coastal visitor (non-breeder), mainly August-September. Under-recorded.

Six records from 2 sites. There were 4 records in 2017 and 8 records in 2016:

St Abb's Head	08-Jul	1	DK Graham
	21-Jul	17	DK Graham
	23-Sep	2	DK Graham
Eyemouth	19-Aug	10	R Bramhall
	26-Aug	9	DK Graham
	25-Sep	2	C Hartley

## Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

Passage migrant from July to November. Almost annual. Very scarce in winter and very rare inland.

Eleven records from St Abb's Head and Eyemouth, representing 40 bird-days. As with Arctic Skua, these figures suggest a continuation in the decline of birds recorded.

### Eyemouth

11-Aug (2), 12-Aug (2), 26-Aug (8). All records DK Graham.

### St Abb's Head

18-Aug (1), 16-Sep (18), 22-Sep (1) C Hartley, 23-Sep (1), 24-Sep (1), 7-Oct (1), 27-Oct (4) R Drew, 28-Oct (1). All records DK Graham except where indicated.

## Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus*

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

Six records from 3 sites, representing 13 bird-days. 2017 - 9 bird-days, 2016 - 8, 2015 - 31 bird-days:

Eyemouth	12-Aug	1	DK Graham
	19-Aug	1	R Bramhall
	26-Aug	1	DK Graham
	28-Oct	2	G Garner
	28-Oct	7	R Drew
St Abbs	28-Oct	7	DK Graham
St Abb's Head	06-Oct	1	DK Graham
	27-Oct	2	R Drew

## Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Scarce on passage April-June, well-represented August-November. Not seen in winter. No inland records.

Twelve records from St Abb's Head, St Abb's and Eyemouth.

Eyemouth	11-Aug	4	DK Graham
	12-Aug	1	DK Graham
	19-Aug	1	DK Graham, R Bramhall
	26-Aug	6	DK Graham
	10-Oct	1	AP Mossop
Eyemouth Harbour	14-Aug	1	C Hartley
	25-Sep	1	C Hartley
St Abb's Head	16-Sep	3	DK Graham
	24-Sep	2	T Brewis, AP Mossop, G Paterson
	07-Oct	1	DK Graham

These records suggest c. 21 bird-days, part of a declining trend of sightings.

## Little Auk

*Alle alle*

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

One record only, 3 birds at St Abbs village on 28 Oct (D Graham).

**Guillemot***Uria aalge*

Localised coastal breeder on large cliffs. Some movements in autumn, few in winter.

Peak counts were:

Sites (north to south)	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Cockburnspath-Pease Bay				2
Pease Bay-Redheugh	5			
Redheugh-Souter	150			
Souter-Pettico Wick	2,474			
Pettico Wick-St. Abb's Head	2	105	1,200	
St. Abbs-Eyemouth		20	81	
Eyemouth-Burnmouth	249	191	6	1
<b>Aggregate of peak counts</b>	<b>2,880</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>3</b>

Numbers appear to be well down on 2017, although many records submitted showed birds only as present, with no count being given. No breeding evidence submitted.

On 7-Jun a dedicated count of breeding seabirds was undertaken along the coast (see pp 166). The results are shown below with counts undertaken by staff of St Abb's Head NNR also shown:

	Dunglass-Fast Castle	Fast Castle-Moorburn Point*	Moorburn Point-Broadhaven*	Broadhaven-St Abbs**	St Abbs-Eyemouth	Eyemouth-Burnmouth	Burnmouth-Border	Total
<b>2018</b>	1,000	336	1,573	42,905	0	716	0	<b>46,530</b>
<b>2000</b>	607	385	2,032	40,720	0	892	0	<b>44,636</b>
<b>Change</b>	+65%	-13%	-23%	+5%	0%	-20%	0%	+4%

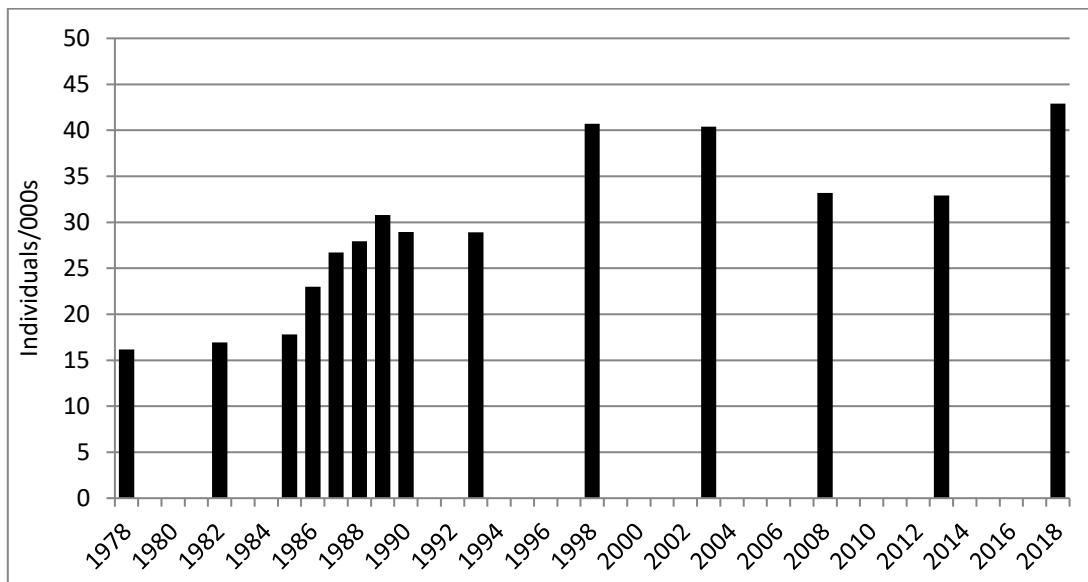
\* 2016; \*\* 1998.

***St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2018 (Liza Cole):***

**Whole Colony Count**

A whole colony count is carried out every 5 years so the last count was in 2013. Individual birds on ledges were counted between 4- and 30-Jun. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 15th June.

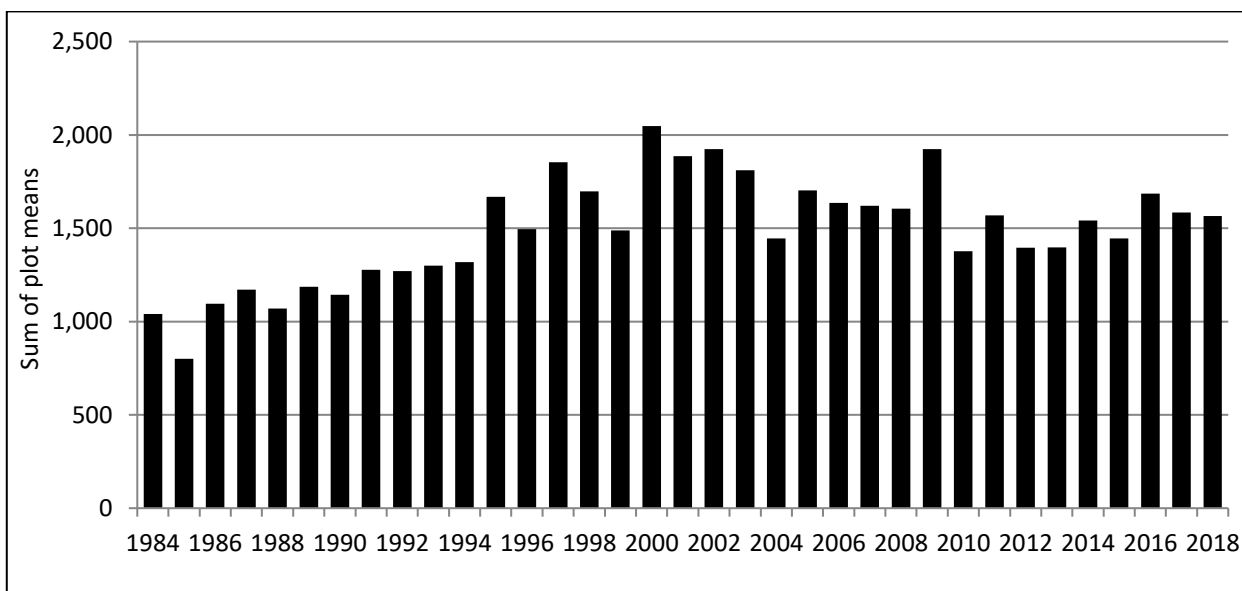
The count was 42,905 individuals, a 30% increase on 2013.



**Whole colony counts of Guillemots at St Abb's Head NNR.**

### Counts at Study Plots

Nine counts of individual birds on ledges were carried out at each of the 5 plots between 2- and 21-Jun. The mean number of individuals on study plots in first three weeks of June was 1,566, a 1% decrease on 2017.



**Study plot counts of individual Guillemots at St Abb's Head NNR.**

### Breeding success

An assessment of breeding success of guillemots was carried out for the 4th 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 2017 report. Approximately 50 Apparently Occupied Sites (AOS) were individually marked on photographs of each of the 2 monitoring plots selected, and 43 visits were made to observe progress at each AOS between 12th May and 11th July.

### Results

A total of 138 active nest sites were monitored, of which 112 chicks successfully fledged. The breeding success, expressed as the mean of the individual plot figures, was 0.81 young fledged per active site.

## Razorbill

*Alca torda*

Localised coastal breeder on large cliffs. Some autumn passage. During 2008-13 found in 11 tetrads in summer and 8 in winter.

First record on 4 Jan at Burnmouth, last record on 28 Oct at Eyemouth (offshore).

Peak counts per month were:

Sites (north to south)	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Pease Bay-Redheugh		2										
Souter-Pettico Wick		29										
Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay		5										
St. Abb's Head			2	Pr	Pr	7	8					
Mire Loch									Pr			
St. Abbs				1					Pr			
Eymouth						89				Pr		
Burnmouth	Pr					Pr						

Limited number of records submitted with no breeding evidence.

On 7-Jun a dedicated count of breeding seabirds was undertaken along the coast (see pp 166). The results are shown below with counts undertaken by staff of St Abb's Head NNR also shown:

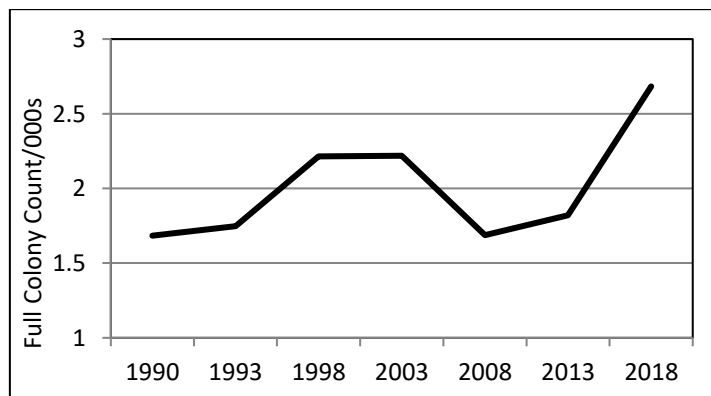
	Dunglass-Fast Castle	Fast Castle-Moorburn Point*	Moorburn Point-Broadhaven*	Broadhaven-St Abbs**	St Abbs-Eymouth	Eymouth-Burnmouth	Burnmouth-Border	Total
<b>2018</b>	62	38	132	2,683	4	224	0	<b>3,143</b>
<b>2000</b>	282	126	535	2,214	0	377	0	<b>3,534</b>
<b>Change</b>	-78%	-70%	-75%	21%	0%	-41%	0%	-11%

\* 2016; \*\* 1998.

### St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2018 (Liza Cole):

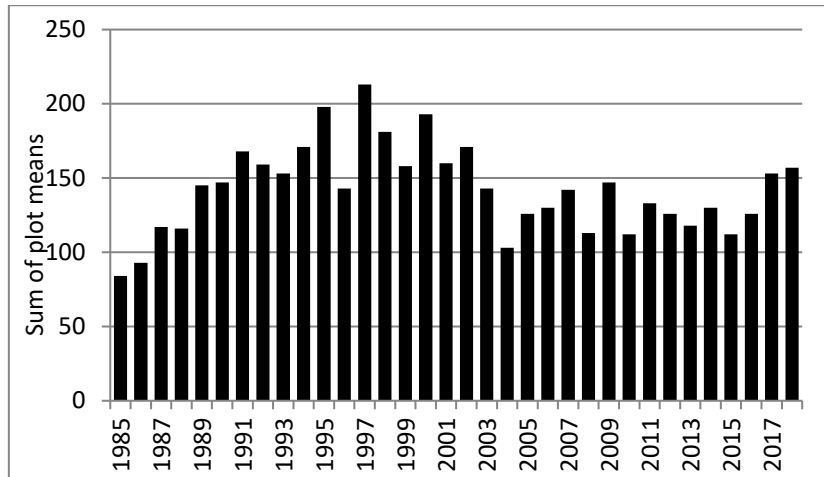
#### Whole Colony Count

A whole colony count is carried out every 5 years so the last count was in 2013. Individual birds on ledges were counted between 4- and 30-Jun. Blind spots were counted from a boat on 15-June. The count was 2,683 individuals, a 45% increase on 2013:



#### Counts at Study Plots

Nine counts of individual birds on ledges were carried out at each of the five plots between 2- and 21-Jun (as for the Guillemots). The mean number of individuals on study plots in first three weeks of June was 157, a 3% increase on 2017:



No monitoring of breeding success of razorbills took place this year.

**Puffin**

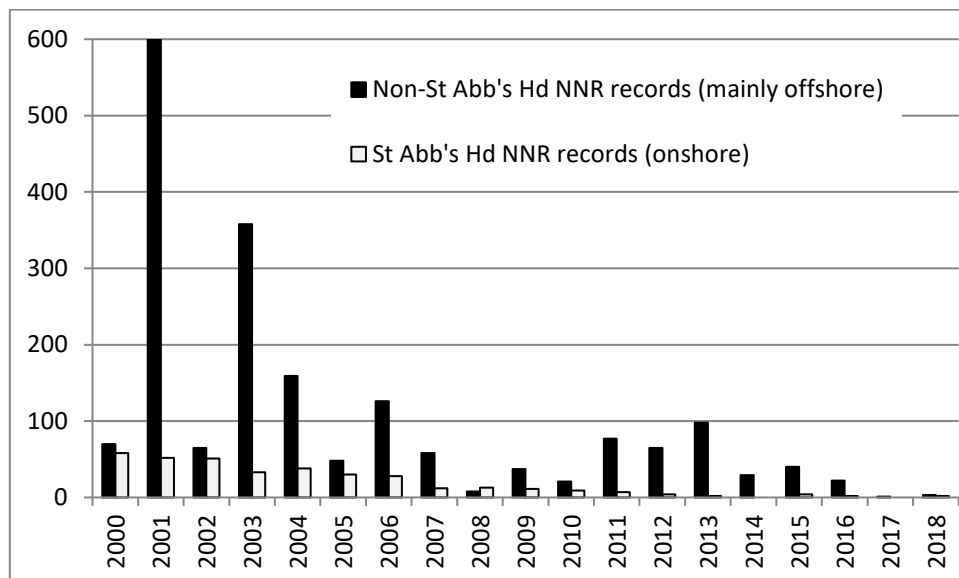
*Fratercula arctica*

Scarce coastal breeder, mostly seen off the cliffs. Confirmed breeding rare as nest sites usually inaccessible. Uncommon offshore in autumn, scarce in winter. Rare autumn movements.

One record only, 3 birds at Eyemouth harbour on 28 Oct (R Drew).

**St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve Seabird Report Summary for 2018 (Liza Cole):**

There were very few occasions when Puffins were seen ashore this year. An evening count on 27- Jun recorded 2 birds ashore.



Aggregated counts for Puffins

**Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon***Columba livia*

Common resident breeder. Some large flocks in late autumn-winter. During 2008-13 found in 37% of tetrads in summer and 37% in winter.

Records from 66 tetrads (5%). 2017: 43; 2016: 50. Rocky Shore Count on 4-Feb recorded a total of 215, consistent with the previous two years' totals of 202.

Dunglass-Pease Bay (W)	3	Pettico Wick-Coldingham Bay	54
Pease Bay-Redheugh	30	Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth	75
Redheugh-Souter	28	Burnmouth-Border	1
Souter-Pettico Wick	24	<b>Total</b>	<b>215</b>

**Jan-Feb**

Recorded in 29 tetrads. Highest counts: Whitrig Bog (Smailholm) - 200; Ettrick Water (Selkirk) - 100; Kittyflat (Stow) - 22; Sewage Works (Galashiels) - 20.

**Mar-Sep**

Recorded in 40 tetrads. Breeding records came from only 6 tetrads. Courtship behaviour in this species is commonly seen in towns and farmyards - both providing suitable breeding habitat. However, no such display evidence was submitted. As with other familiar species, readers are encouraged to submit any available breeding evidence.

Hartwoodburn (Selkirk)	6-Mar	P	G Scott	Ettrick Cauld (Selkirk)	18-Apr	P	G Scott
Tweedbank	24-Mar	N	A Bramhall	Hawick	17-May	B	C Green
St. Abbs	9-Apr	N	J Gordon	Blackhope (Carcant)	15-Jun	N	G Paterson

**Oct-Dec**

Highest counts: Coldingham Bay- 120; Galashiels -120; Hawick - 100; Whitrig Bog (Smailholm)-70; Tweedbank - 67.

**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.

Records from 61 tetrads (5%). 2017: 30; 2016: 26; 2015: 33.

**Jan-Feb**

Recorded in 19 tetrads. Highest counts: Mellerstain Mill - 19; Paxton House - 6; Mellerstain Estate - 5; Floors Castle (Kelso) - 4; The Lees (Coldstream) - 4.

**Mar-Aug**

Recorded in 51 tetrads. Breeding records came from 22 tetrads, by far the largest set since 2013.

Manderston (Duns)	10-Mar	P	A Mossop	Eckford Hall-Wooden Loch	6-May	D	C Green
Harestanes (Ancrum)	11-Mar	S	D Parkinson	Falnash (Teviothead)	7-May	P	G Paterson
The Hirsell	19-Mar	S	A Mossop	Dawyck (Peebles)	12-May	S	M Betts
Tweedbank	6-Apr	N	A Bramhall	Lyne Dale (West Linton)	14-May	N	P Ball
Galashiels	10-Apr	D	M Lindsay	Melrose	23-May	P	D Parkinson
Chain Bridge (Melrose)	18-Apr	P	D Parkinson	Eildon	26-May	N	J Gordon
Banff Mill (Sprouston)	21-Apr	P	R Manning	Lymiecleugh (Teviothead)	27-May	P	A Mossop
Hopehouse (Ettrick Valley)	27-Apr	P	G Paterson	Newmains (Reston)	28-May	FL	D Graham
Old Kirkhope (Ettrickbridge)	27-Apr	P	G Paterson	Blackhaugh (Clovenfords)	4-Jun	P	G Paterson
Plora Wood (Walkerburn)	27-Apr	S	G Paterson	Yetholm Loch	13-Jun	P	G Paterson
Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)	4-May	P	G Paterson	Spylaw (Leadburn)	11-Aug	S	T Dougall

**Oct-Dec**

Recorded in 10 tetrads, with a highest count from Eckford Hall-Wooden Loch of 3.

**Woodpigeon***Columba palumbus*

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

Records from 226 tetrads (18%). 2017: 160; 2016: 192; 2015: 175.

**Jan-Apr** (flocking continues into the beginning of the breeding season).

Highest counts: Yetholm Loch - 1250; Mellerstain - 1,000; Plora Wood (Walkerburn) - 700; Preston - 600; Purvishaugh (Earlston) - 450; Redden Haugh (Birgham) - 400; Innerleithen - 350; Broomdykes (Allanton) - 300.

**Mar-Sep**

Breeding records came from 26 tetrads. 2017: 27; 2016: 14; 2015: 11.

Ettrick Cauld (Selkirk)	23-Mar	P	G Scott	Lyne Dale (West Linton)	14-May	T	P Ball
Newark Tower (Selkirk)	24-Mar	P	G Scott	Yetholm Loch	25-May	UN	C Green
Tweedbank	26-Mar	B	A Bramhall	Crooked Jock (West Linton)	28-May	P	P Ball
Hartwoodburn (Selkirk)	28-Mar	P	G Scott	West Water Reservoir	30-May	S	A Brown
Philiphough (Selkirk)	8-Apr	P	G Scott	Melrose	2-Jun	ON	D Parkinson
Yarrow Swire	18-Apr	P	G Scott	Eckford-Kalemouth	8-Jun	T	C Green
St. Helens (Melrose)	18-Apr	P	D Parkinson	Bowden Moor Loch	17-Jun	ON	E Bickmore
Lilliesleaf	27-Apr	T	C Green	Bowmont Forest (Kelso)	21-Jun	S	C Green
Dawyck (Peebles)	28-Apr	S	M Betts	Jardinefield	22-Jun	B	J Towill
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	29-Apr	S	C Green	Folly Loch	23-Jun	S	C Green
Manderston (Duns)	30-Apr	B	A Mossop	Williamhope (Caddonfoot)	22-Jul	FL	G Paterson
Huntford (Carter Bar)	1-May	P	C Watson	Lennel (Coldstream)	23-Jul	ON	A Mossop
Eckford Hall-Wooden Loch	13-May	ON	C Green	Robinsland (West Linton)	28-Jul	FL	P Ball

**Sep-Dec** (flocking begins before the end of the breeding season).

Highest counts: Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 300; Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton) - 250; Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet) - 250; Lees Haugh (Coldstream) - 200; Eckford Hall-Wooden Loch - 200; Hule Moss - 200.

Many records received had no indication of counts. Some of these were qualified with comments suggesting large numbers. Readers are encouraged to submit all sightings of this species accompanied by relevant details on numbers (estimates acceptable) and breeding status.

**Collared Dove***Streptopelia decaocto*

Abundant breeder, often in urban settings. Some autumn flocks. During 2008-13 found in 25% of tetrads in summer and 18% in winter.

Records from 65 tetrads (5%). 2017: 40; 2016: 38; 2015: 55.

**Jan-Feb**

Recorded in 23 tetrads. Highest counts: Choicelee (Duns) - 37; St. Boswells - 6; Newmains (Reston) - 5.

**Mar-Sep**

Recorded in 40 tetrads. Breeding records came from 13 tetrads. 2017: 6; 2016: 3; 2015: 5; 2014: 4. 2018 produced the largest set of breeding evidence since 2013, almost certainly due to increased reporter effort.

Eckford-Kalemouth	9-Apr	P	C Green	Eckford Hall-Wooden Loch	25-May	NY	C Green
Tweedbank	13-Apr	P	A Bramhall	Melrose	2-Jun	ON	D Parkinson
Eshiels (Peebles)	23-Apr	P	G Paterson	Philiphough (Selkirk)	9-Jul	P	G Scott
Walkerburn	1-May	P	G Paterson	Innerleithen	10-Jul	P	G Paterson
Lyne Dale (West Linton)	11-May	S	P Ball	Blackadder (Chirnside)	39-Aug	FL	A Mossop
Lyne Water (West Linton)	14-May	P	P Ball	Manderston (Duns)	09-Sep	FL	A Mossop
Newmains (Reston)	15-May	FL	D Graham				



## Oct-Dec

Recorded in 25 tetrads. Highest counts: Choicelee (Duns) - 40; Duns -10; Walkerburn - 7; Innerleithen - 6; Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton) - 5; Cockburnspath - 5.

## Cuckoo

## *Cuculus canorus*

Well-represented 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.

Records from 49 tetrads (4%): 22 in 2017; 48 in 2016; 52 in 2015; 75 in 2014

The first record was on 11 Apr at Charterhouse, Kelso (K Robeson). The last was on 13 Aug at Millar's Moss, St Abb's Head (E Smith)

Breeding evidence was reported from 15 tetrads (14 with singing birds, 1 with a territory). It is likely that most birds reported from a total of 48 tetrads during Apr to Jun were present in suitable habitat in the breeding season, but no supporting evidence of breeding was submitted for 33 of the occupied tetrads during this period

## Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Uncommon, well-represented resident breeder. Annual populations fluctuate significantly, often in relation to vole populations and severity of winter. During 2008-13 found in 23% of tetrads in summer and 23% in winter. All records needed.

Records from 92 tetrads. 2017 - 77 tetrads, 2016 - 61 tetrads. Other than possible increased observer effort there is no apparent reason for the increase in the number of occupied tetrads.

Barn Owls were reported at 76 sites in the non-breeding season (Jan-Feb and Oct-Dec).

Records came from the following sites: Anchorage (Hutton); Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot); Banff Mill (Kelso); Bemersyde; Bettyfield (Smailholm); Blackadder Mount (Allanton); Bonjedward; Bowshank (Stow); Cardrona Station; Catmoss (Greenlaw); Causewaybank (Ayton); Chirnsidebridge; Clerkenville (Greenlaw); Clovenfords; Coldstream; Crailing Tofts (Nisbet); Crosslee (Tushielaw); Denholm; Dunglass Wood (Hirsel); Dunion Hill (Jedburgh); Eaglehall (Whitsome); Town Farm (Earlston); Eckford- Wooden Loch; Eddleston; Edrom (Duns); Elibank (Walkerburn); Fellow Hills (Whitsome); Fogorig (Duns); Galalaw (Kelso); Garvald Lodge (Dewar Burn); Gattonside; Georgefield (Earlston); Glentress; Gordon Arms Hotel (Yarrow Water); Greenlaw; Groundistone (Hawick); Harcarsehill (Swinton); Heriot; Houndridge (Kelso); Howden (Selkirk); Hutlerburn (Ettrickbridge); The Inch (Ettrick Water); Jardinefield (Whitsome); Kelso; Kirkton Manor (Manor Valley); Kittyflat (Stow); Ladykirk (Upsettlington); Lauder; Leadburn Wood; Lazybed Plantation (Chirnside); Manderston (Duns); Marl-leas Plantation (Duns); Milkieston (Eddleston); Mountfair (Swinton); Newbigging Walls (Lauder); Newburgh; Newmains (Reston); Oldcastles (Chirnside); Pleaknowe (Stobs Castle); Prendergust (Ayton); Riddletonhill (Maxton); Robertson (Hawick); Saughtree (Liddesdale); Single (Ettrickbridge); Spittal-on-Rule (Denholm); Steele Road (Liddesdale); Swinton; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); Town Yetholm; Tushielaw; Walkerburn; Westerhouses (Bonchester Bridge); The Whin (Galashiels); Whitelaw; Wormerlaw (Kelso); Yetholm Loch.

Breeding season records came from 40 sites: Banff Mill (Kelso); Birgham (Coldstream); Bitch Cleuch (Manor Valley); Blackhope Tor (Blackhope Water); Buxley (Duns); Caddonfoot (Clovenfords); Clovenfords; Denholm; Dirrington Great Law (Longformacus); Eaglehall (Whitsome); Elibank (Walkerburn); Eshiels Mill (Peebles); Galabank (Stow); Gill Burn (Glentress Water); Gilmanscleuch (Ettrick Water); Groundistone (Hawick); Hopehouse (Tushielaw); Houndridge (Kelso); Huntford (Carter Bar); Innerleithen; Kerchesters (Foulden); Kettlehiel (Westruther); Lauder; Leadburn Wood Lennel (Coldstream); Nether Phawhope (Ettrick Water); Newhall (Traquair); Newmains (Reston); Oldcastles (Chirnside); Outerside (Craik); Philiphaugh (Selkirk); Roxburgh Castle; Roxburgh Hotel; Shortacres (Nisbet); Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); Watch Water Reservoir; Wedderburn Castle (Duns); Wester Deloraine (Ettrick Water); Whitehillfoot (Heiton); Yetholm Loch.

Records of confirmed breeding came from only 4 sites (7 in 2017).

**Barn Owl Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018 (Alan Leitch)**

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
84	55	47	77	1.4	2.3

The number of sites checked, the number of occupied sites and the number with proven breeding are all slightly up on last year. However, the proportion of occupied sites with proven breeding has dropped from almost 100% last year to 85% this year, which is still quite high, and much more in line with the years before 2017.

Breeding success was poor, but within the normal ups and downs of a barn owl/vole cycle.

As I said last year, Barn Owls are ticking along as expected, with an indication of small increases in the population from year to year, even if pre-2009 numbers may be a thing of the past.

Thanks are due to Tim Chamberlain, Tom Dougall, Kate Grimsditch, Alan Heavisides, Malcolm Henderson, Alan Kerr, Tony Lightley, Eve Schulte and Barbara Watson for providing records.

**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.

Records from 67 tetrads. 2017: 52 tetrads, . 2016: 48 tetrads. Again, other than possible increased observer effort there is no apparent reason for the increase in the number of occupied tetrads.

Non-breeding (Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec): 32 tetrads (2017 - 36 tetrads and 23 tetrads in 2016). Nearly all records are singles except where indicated: Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot); Bonchester Bridge; Denholm Mill; Duns; Eckford Hall; Edrom (Duns); Hilton (Whitsome); Hundalee (Jedburgh) 2; Huntford (Carter Bar); Hunthill (Jedburgh); Jedburgh 2; Kerrcleuch (Loch of the Lowes); Kittyflat (Stow); Lauder 2; Lempitlaw (Kelso); Lennel (Coldstream); Manderston (Duns) 4; Newcastleton; Newmains (Reston) 3; Paxton 3; Philiphaugh; Raeburn Wood (Manor Valley); Rutherford Burnside (Roxburgh); St Boswells; Shankend (Stobs Castle); Spottiswoode Loch (Westruther) 2; Sprouston; Twiselhope (Hermitage); Walkerburn 3; Wester Fodderlee (Bonchester Bridge); Whitelaw (Duns); Yetholm Loch.

Breeding season (Mar-Aug): 37 tetrads (2017 - 28 tetrads, 2016 – 22 tetrads, 2015 – 33 tetrads). Nearly all records are singles except where indicated: Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot); Causewaybank (Ayton); Blackburn (Chirnside); Chirnside Sawmill; Cleuch Cottage (Preston); Corbylenn Lower Road (Selkirk); Dawyck; Deepsyke Forest (Carlops); Dryburgh Abbey; Eckford-Wooden Loch; Eddleston; Broadgairhill (Ettrick Water); Ettrick House (Ettrick Water); Fishwick Mains (Whitsome); Lauder; Galabank; Gattonside-Melrose; The Hirsell 2; Huntford (Carter Bar); Milne Graden (Coldstream); Lennel (Coldstream); Lindean Loch (Selkirk); Loch Tima (Craik Forest); Manderston (Duns) 2; Megget Reservoir; Merrylaw (Teviothead); Mersington (Leitholm); Netherbank (Galashiels); Newmains (Reston) 4; Peebles 3; Philiphaugh Estate; Roxburghe Hotel 2; Sprouston (Kelso); Tweedbank; Upper Monynut 2; Watch Water Reservoir; Yetholm Loch 5.

Records of confirmed breeding were: Dawyck 22- Jun, FL(2); Manderston 27- Jul, FL(1); Newmains (Reston) 27-Jul, FL(2); Philiphaugh Estate, 18-Jun, FL(1) (G Scott); Upper Monynut 27-Jul, FL(2) (AP Mossop). See Introduction for breeding codes.

**Tawny Owl report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018 (Tony Lightley)**

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
59 Boxes	18 Tawny (+8 Barn Owls)	15	29	1.61	1.93

With the *Storm Eleanor* in early January, followed by the *Beast from the East* in the third week of February and continuing through to early April in some areas, we had one of the worst winters for many years. All wildlife suffered as temperatures plummeted to below -11°C with 50 cm of snow, followed by flooding as the snows melted.

Owl species were greatly affected by the lack of prey items to both survive the winter and also ensure a threshold body weight for the breeding season. A total of 59 boxes were checked on FES land holdings and private land holdings. Only 10 sites on FES land were occupied and 8 sites on the private sector with a further 8 sites occupied by Barn Owls.

2018 has probably been the worst year for both occupied sites and the number of young fledged during the breeding season. Tawny Owl chicks fledging was down 62% compared to 2017 (77 fledged) and Barn Owl chicks fledging (16) were down even greater at 75% compared to 2017 season (64 fledged).

The number of Tawny young fledged this year was 1.9/successful site compared to 2.14 in 2017. There were a minimum of 46 eggs laid with an average clutch size of 3/site but the lack of prey items severely affected the total fledging numbers.

Predation on juvenile owls and older breeding owls, particularly by Goshawks in FES forests has shown to be one of the main influences which impacts on the potential for new territories and an increase in breeding pairs. However, no Tawny Owl remains or rings were found in Goshawk nest sites which also had a very poor season.

The Pine Marten project continues in the Tweed Valley for 2018 and trail cameras will be used to monitor a proportion of nest boxes which fail on a regular basis in Pine marten territories to identify possible nest predation. Both Stock doves and Jackdaws seem to be the main species taking advantage of the lower owl populations in the forest as well as the occasional squirrel taking residence.

**Little Owl *Athene noctua***

Rare with no proof of breeding.

A single record in January and in July, in the Merse (J Towill).

**Long-eared Owl *Asio otus***

Very scarce and local breeder, only reported from six tetrads but still under-recorded.

Casual records came from 9 sites. 2017 - 4 sites; 2016 - 6 sites.

Toxside Moss (Portmore)	31-May	NY	Shankend Farm (Stobs Castle)	16-Jun	FL(1)
Gill Burn (Glentress)	10-Jun	FL(3)	Newmains	14-Jul	FL(2)
Mountcommon Hill (Craik Forest)	10-Jun	FL(1)	Buxley (Duns)	03-Aug	FL(1)
Lee Pen (Innerleithen)	10-Jun	FL(1)	Spylaw (Portmore)	27-Oct	-
See Introduction for breeding codes.			Eyemouth	30-Oct	-

Records from TW Dougall, J Gordon, DK Graham, AP Mossop, G Paterson.



**Long-eared Owl. Newmains (Reston). July.  
DK Graham.**

**Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus***

Uncommon and localised in hill areas; scarce in lower areas. Recorded breeding from one site.

Non-breeding season (Jan-Feb and Sep-Dec) had records from 4 sites: Blackadder (Allanton) on 21-Nov and again 11-Dec (AP Mossop); one at Moorfoot Hills on 11-Nov (G Morgan); one at Wildcat Lane (Duns) on 26-Nov (J Towill); one at Newmains (Reston) on 20-Sept (DK Graham).

Breeding season (Mar-Aug) had 9 records from 6 sites in 5 tetrads. All single sightings: Dewar (Moorfoot Hills) on 2-Jun (J Gordon); Garvald Law (Moorfoot Hills) 20-Jul (G Paterson); The Granites (Heriot) 25-Jul (M Symonds) 1 alive, 1 road kill; Leadburn Wood 27-Jun (M Symonds); Carcant (Moorfoot Hills) 20-Jul (G Paterson); Watch Water Reservoir 10-Jul (J Lough).

A single record of confirmed breeding was at Dewar (Moorfoot Hills) on 2-Jun (G Paterson).

***Short-eared Owl Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018 (Mark Holling)***

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
6+	6	5	7	1.16	1.4

Back to normal, with low numbers of Short-eared Owls again. Those reported came from the Pentlands (1), Moorfoots (3) and Lammermuirs (2). Young were fledged from 4 sites. No Short-eared Owls bred in the Borders part of the Langholm estate:

	Single birds	Possible breeding pairs	Probable breeding pairs	Confirmed breeding pairs	Total pairs
<b>Borders</b>	0	0	1	5	6
<b>Lothian</b>	0	0	0	0	0

Thanks to the RSG members who sent in records: Graham Anderson, Tom Dougall, David Warden, Sonja Ludwig.

## Swift

*Apus apus*

Common and widespread summer visitor. Present May-September, rare later. During 2008-13 found in 32% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 68 tetrads (5%). 66 in 2017 and 53 in 2016. The first record was 3 birds on 28-Apr at Tollbar, Newcastleton (T Parrell) and the last was a single on 27-Aug at Teviot Haughs, Nisbet (S Turnbull).

Peak counts of 5 or more:

Site	Apr-May	Jun-Jul	Aug-Sep
Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)		5	
Birgham Haugh (Coldstream)	6		
Buxley (Manderston)	5	25	30
Carham - Sprouston		11	
Earlston	6		
Eckford (Nisbet)		7	200
Folly Loch		8	
Galashiels	5	7	
Hule Moss		100	
Innerleithen	17		
Kelso	6	15	
Melrose	6	10	
Newmains (Reston)	5	12	
Newstead-Drygrange (Melrose)		20	
Paxton		150	
Pebbles	7		
Roxburgh - Kelso		6	
Sprouston - Redden	7		5
St Boswells		5	
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)		30	5
The Hirsell		12	11
Tweedbank	10	15	5
Walkerburn	12	10	
Yetholm Loch		14	

Breeding season (May-Jul)

Records from 39 tetrads (48 in 2017 and 42 in 2016). Typically very few records of confirmed breeding are received. This year the only reports came from Newmains (Reston), where 6 pairs were noted and Tweedbank. Observers are encouraged to submit records of confirmed breeding.

**Kingfisher***Alcedo atthis*

Very 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.

Records from 45 tetrads (4%). 51 in 2017 and 22 in 2016.

Site	Jan-Feb	Mar-Sep	Oct-Dec
Abbotsford		2	1
Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)			1
Belses Mill (Ancrum)		1	
Bemersyde Moss	1		
Blackadder Water: Whitelaw		1	1
Bluestone Ford (Chirnside)	1		
Borthwick Water (Craik)	1		
Cardrona		1	
Crailing (Nisbet)			1
Denholm Mill	1	1	
Dryburgh Abbey	1		
Eckford (Nisbet)		1	1
Ettrick Water (Selkirk)	1		
Gala Water: Stow		1	
Galashiels	1		
Gattonside-Melrose		1	
Innerleithen		1	1
Kelso	1	2	1
Leader Water: Earlston	1		
Lees Haugh (Coldstream)			1
Lower Burnmouth	1		
Merlindale (Drumelzier)		6	
Monteviot Estate			1
Mungo's Walls (Duns)	1		
Newstead-Drygrange (Melrose)		1	1
Paxton		1	2
Peebles	1		
Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)		2	2
Teviot: Chesters Grange		1	
Teviot: Roxburgh	1		1
Teviot: Rule Water	1		
The Hirsell	4	1	1
Tweed: Coldstream	1		
Tweed: Manor Bridge to Tweed Bridge (Peebles)		1	
Tweed: Mertoun to Benrig Dean (St Boswells)		1	
Tweed: Sprouston		2	
Tweed: Uppsettlington		1	1
Tweedbank		1	1
Yarrow Water: Dryhope		1	

**Breeding (Mar-Sep)**

Widespread in the breeding season (see table above) but no records of confirmed breeding received. Although based on the number of birds involved the report of 6 at Merlindale (Drumelzier) on 31-Aug may have related to a family party. Confirmed breeding is presumably being overlooked and was last reported in 2014.

**Hoopoe***Upupa epops*

Rare vagrant.

A single was present at Covehouse (Smailholm) on 7-May (Z Lithgow). The 36th Borders record after blank years in 2017 and 2016.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker***Dendrocopus major*

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

Records from 151 tetrads (12%). 104 in 2017 and 129 in 2016.

Breeding season (Mar-Aug)

Records came from 87 tetrads (65 in 2017 and 75 in 2016). Breeding evidence came from the following 17 sites (19 sites in 2017 and 30 in 2016):

Abbotsford	P
Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)	FL
Birgham (Coldstream)	FL
Dawyck	FL
Galashiels	P
Gattonside-Melrose	A
Huntford (Carter Bar)	S
Kailzie Estate (Peebles)	S
Leader Water: Leaderfoot to Earlston	P
Lyne Dale (West Linton)	T
Manderston (Duns)	FL
Manor Valley (Peebles)	FL
Peebles	FL
Philiphaugh Estate (Selkirk)	FL
Plora Wood (Innerleithen)	S
Tweedbank	NY
Yetholm Loch	S

See introduction for breeding codes.

The highest counts were 4 at Dawyck on 28-Apr, Eckford on 16-Jun, Floors Castle (Kelso) on 11-Mar, Greenlaw Farm (Foulden) on 21-Nov Sunlaws (Heiton, Kelso) on 18-Feb and Tweedbank on 25-May.



Juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker. Lempitlaw (Kelso). July. Catherine Tees

## Green Woodpecker

*Picus viridis*

Uncommon breeding resident. Mostly in old riverine woods. During 2008-13 found in 7% of tetrads in summer and 4% in winter.

Records from 18 tetrads (1%). 28 in 2017 and 13 in 2016. All records were of single birds apart from 2 at Innerleithen on 15-Apr.

Sites in bold indicate breeding season (Mar-Aug) records (13 tetrads compared to 26 in 2017):

<b>Abbey St Bathans</b>	<b>Gattonside-Melrose</b>
<b>Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)</b>	<b>Greenlaw Moor/Hule Moss</b>
Bow Farm (Stow)	Huntford (Carters Bar)
<b>Dawyck</b>	<b>Innerleithen</b>
Duns Castle	<b>Kirkbanny Farm (Foulden)</b>
<b>Earlston (2 tetrads both with breeding)</b>	<b>Lyne Dale (West Linton)</b>
<b>Eddleston</b>	<b>Mellerstain (Gordon)</b>
Eyemouth (2 tetrads)	<b>Plora Wood (Innerleithen)</b>
<b>Faldonside Loch (Tweedbank)</b>	Westruther

## Kestrel

*Falco tinnunculus*

Common and widespread breeder. During 2008-13 found in 45% of tetrads in summer and 56% in winter.

Records from 226 tetrads (2%). 125 in 2017 and 165 in 2016. Casual records per month were:

Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Records	38	52	64	37	46	34	43	72	52	70	38	39
Aggregate Count	42	58	78	49	55	41	71	142	58	81	44	41



Records of breeding (probable and confirmed) came from 18 tetrads:

Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)	P	Longformacus	N
Ashkirk	P	Lymiecleugh Farm (Teviothead)	N
Blackhaugh (Clovenfords)	P	Manor Valley (Peebles)	P
Dod Hill (Leithen Water)	FL	Megget Reservoir	N
Eckford (Nisbet)	D	Newmains (Reston)	FL (3)
Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton)	NY	Paxton	P
Galabank (Stow)	N	Rogersrigg (Carlops)	P
Hundleshope Valley (Peebles)	A	Sourhope (Bowmont Water)	P
Kirk Yetholm	P	Watch Water Reservoir	FL (1)

See introduction for breeding codes. Numbers in brackets indicate the number of fledged young reported.

The largest count of the year was a party of 16 on 14-Aug at Dod Hill (Leithen Water). This included juvenile birds and was part of a larger count of 25 made along c. 9 km of the B709 between Dod Hill and Garvald Lodge (G Paterson). That same area produced a count of 14 on 2-Aug and may indicate a successful breeding season in that area of the Moorfoot Hills. This count of 16 also appears to be the largest group noted in the BBR, the previous highest counts being 15 in 1984 and 14 in 2001.

***Kestrel Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018 (Alan Leitch). Note: following refers to both Borders and Lothian.***

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
50	38	35	135	3.5	4.5

Site occupation levels were high this year, but the most notable figure is the high proportion of occupied sites where breeding took place and was successful - in contrast to last year. This is reflected in the number of young fledged per occupied site, which is also much higher than last year. Fledging success was also high in those pairs that were successful.

These figures tend to support the suggestion I made last year, that the poor performance overall that year of occupied sites might be due to recent occupation by young breeders. With another year of experience they seem to have done much better, ie a 59% increase in young Kestrels fledged. It could be suggested that this has nothing to do with the experience of the breeding pairs, but is simply a reflection of the variation in prey abundance, ie voles. However, this is not supported by the figures from Barn Owls this year, which had a fairly poor breeding season, despite feeding on similar prey.

## **Merlin**

*Falco columbarius*

Very uncommon breeder, best known in northern hills. Widespread but scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, mostly to coast. During 2008-13 found in 6% of tetrads in summer and 3% in winter.

There were 20 casual records, all of single birds, from 18 tetrads. An upturn from 14 records from 12 tetrads in 2017.

Only non-breeding season (Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec) records are shown:

Burnhouses (Preston)	17-Mar	A Cutter
Lempitlaw (Kelso)	17-Sep	C Tees
Sprouston (Kelso)	29-Sep	C Tees
Hule Moss	22-Oct	B Young
Lammermuir Hills	8-Nov	A Thomas
Piper's Grave (Moorfoot Hills)	11-Nov	R Bramhall
Innerleithen	2-Dec	R Bramhall

Other casual records from the breeding season received from S Craig, H Dott, J Gordon, M Hogarth, G Paterson, K Robeson, MB Ross, A Sandeman and S Turnbull.

***Merlin Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018 (Alan Heavisides). Note: following refers to both Borders and Lothian.***

As mentioned in previous years, Merlin breeding success can be influenced by the weather. This year got off to a slow start due to the prolonged winter which merged into early spring. This probably resulted in a generally later start to egg laying. The weather thereafter was settled, dry and warm. The exception to this was during Storm Hector (13/14 June) which might well have had an adverse effect on Merlins and other raptors.

Coverage was again quite good in the Pentlands and also reasonable in parts of the South of Tweed area. It is some years since the Lammermuir Hills were systematically monitored by group members but this year David Warden did monitor a couple of sites in the south of this hill group but without much success. The Moorfoots monitoring was limited and about the same level as last year with the now customary disappointing results.

We again received information from the Borders side of Langholm moor. Although eight pairs settled on the moor two of which were in Borders, there was only one successful pair in D&G raising a single chick. Predation was blamed for most of these failures.

News from over the border in Kielder is that Merlins were "thin on the ground" but the three nests found all fledged young.

Again overall very few Merlin nests were found although 4 are thought to have fledged. Even worse than last year!

Lammermuirs

Until 2014 around 27 known old sites were monitored for occupation. Since then there has been no systematic monitoring until this year when two sites were quite intensively monitored. This effort resulted in only one Merlin sighting near to a traditional site perhaps suggesting breeding.

Moorfoots

Another disappointing year. Five known sites were checked but only two showed any signs of occupation. A pair was seen at one and a single bird heard calling at another. Later visits produced no sign of any breeding activity.

Pentlands

Again this was the area best monitored by the group. Considerable effort was made to check a total of 27 known/suspected old sites. In this area, in contrast to other breeding areas, all birds are nesting in trees using old nests or artificial platforms.

Another disappointing year with results similar to last year. Five sites held pairs at some stage and singles suggested occupation at three others but only two pairs were confirmed as laying and later fledging young. Broods of two and four were ringed.

Unintentional disturbance is a hazard in the Pentlands and one site almost certainly failed when a party camped close to the nesting tree.

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.

South of Tweed

A total of 10 known sites were checked and pairs were located at five of these. Two probably didn't get far with their breeding attempts. Single birds were seen at three others early in the season.

Three nests were found, one of which failed at about the half grown young stage. The signs indicated that a fox was the culprit.

Two nests each raised four young to ringing age and likely fledged successfully.

Langholm Moor (Borders only)

Two occupied sites in the Borders portion of Langholm Moor were reported. Sites were mainly monitored at a distance to limit disturbance but both failed probably due to predation.

Again there is a lot of uncertainty and incomplete information this season. Only a little Lammermuir information and patchy coverage gives an incomplete picture. Numbers below are generally not very meaningful except for the 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	2	1?	0		
Moorfoots	5	2	0		
South of Tweed	10	5-8	2	8	4.0
Pentlands	27	5-8	2	6	3.0
Langholm (Borders)	2	2	0		
<b>TOTAL</b>	46	14+	4	14	

**Hobby**

*Falco subbuteo*

Scarce passage migrant, but odd records now in summer. Breeding range moving northwards in England.

A single record of one on 7-May at Lees Haugh, Coldstream (L Steward). This is the ninth consecutive year that a Hobby has been recorded in the Borders.

The *South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018* notes, 'For at least a second year a bird has been seen (on several occasions) in the south of our area. Nothing has been pinned down, but the possibility of breeding cannot be ruled out'. [A Heavisides]

**Peregrine**

*Falco peregrinus*

Uncommon but local breeder. 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.

Ninety-one casual records from 57 tetrads (4%). 77 from 39 tetrads in 2016. Casual records per month were:

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Records	7	11	5	13	6	4	4	10	7	9	12	3

***Peregrine Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018 (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
154	48	36	91	2.06	2.52

This season was affected by the extended cold spell (Beast from the East), making it a little less productive than 2017 though not as bad as 2015, which was one of the worst on record for this region since the early 1960s. This year we are showing a decrease in sites occupied by pairs in this region, dropping from 57 occupied sites to 48, and 44 pairs laid eggs, as in 2017. Another four sites were occupied by singles.

Productivity increased from 1.8 to 2.06 young per territorial pair but decreased from 2.78 to 2.52 young per productive pair. Eggs were hatched at 37 sites, with 36 sites going on to produce fledged young.

Young produced in this region over the last 5 years has varied considerably:

<b>2014</b>	100+
<b>2015</b>	66
<b>2016</b>	82
<b>2017</b>	103
<b>2018</b>	91

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 being recorded. At one site near Peebles, where no breeding has taken place for the last 4 years, the same female who was trapped breeding there 4 years ago turned up again this year and fledged 4 young. She was not known to be breeding in any of the monitored sites in the study area in the intervening years. We have a site in south west Borders which is experiencing an unnaturally high level of adult turnover. Persecution is suspected.

Persecution was suspected at 4 sites and details have been provided to the relevant Police force and the RSPB.

The male from one site in the Pentland Hills was found poisoned at a time when there had been young in the nest the previous week. On inspection of the nest later no signs of young were found, and the female has not been seen either.

With the 3 urban sites in Edinburgh, only one pair was known to breed.

## **Great Grey Shrike**

*Lanius excubitor*

Scarce autumn passage migrant that occasionally winters. Not annual.

After a blank year in 2017 there were two records of singles at St Abb's Head on 15-Apr (F Evans) and 11-Oct (A Mossop).

## Jay

*Garrulus glandarius*

Uncommon, possibly well-represented. Five-fold increase since 1988-94. Secretive in breeding season and therefore significantly under-recorded. During 2008-13 found in 21% of tetrads in summer and 32% in winter.

Records from 138 (11%) tetrads (115 in 2017 and 75 in 2016).

### Jan-Mar

Records from 53 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 3$ ) came from: Bowhill Estate (Philiphaugh) - 5; Sunlaws, Heiton - 4; Floors Castle - 4, The Hirsell - 4, Tweed: Union Bridge - 4.

### Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Records from 35 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 3$ ) came from: Huntford (Carters Bar) - 4, Folly Loch - 3, Manderston (Duns) - 3, The Hirsell - 3, Tweedsmuir Kirk - 3.

Breeding was confirmed at 2 sites with fledged young seen at Manderston (Duns) on 15-Jun and Stow on 23-Jul.

### Sep-Dec

Records from 87 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 3$ ) came from: The Hirsell - 6, Ettrick Marshes - 5, Stobs Castle - 5, Buxley (Duns) - 4, Gatehopeknowe (Walkerburn) - 4, Monteviot Estate - 4, Sprouston (Kelso) - 4, Wells Stables (Denholm) - 4, Chesters Grange (Ancrum) - 3, Muirhouselaw (Ancrum) - 3, Netherraw (Hermitage) - 3, Troneyhill (Ancrum) - 3.

## Magpie

*Pica pica*

Well-represented but localised resident. More than two-fold increase since 1988-94. Some dispersal in winter. During 2008-13 found in 24% of tetrads in summer and 29% in winter.

Records from 172 (13%) tetrads (89 in 2017 and 69 in 2016).

### Jan-Mar

Records from 71 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 4$ ) came from: Ayton - 5, Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor) - 5, Burnmouth/Partanhall - 4, Fountainhall (Stow) - 4, Singliehill (Ettrick Water) - 4, Tweed: Union Bridge - 4.

### Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Records from 63 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 4$ ) came from: Fruid Reservoir - 5, Newmains (Reston) - 5, Burnside (Coldingham Moor) - 4, Galabank (Stow) - 4, Paxton - 4, Whitslaid Hill (Ale Water) - 4, Yetholm Loch - 4.

Breeding confirmed at 2 sites with fledged young reported from: Newmains (Reston) and West Linton.

### Sep-Dec

Records from 92 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 4$ ) came from: West Linton - 12, Spylaw - 7, Borthaugh (Hawick) - 6, Synton Mossend (Ashkirk) - 5, Galabank (Stow) - 5, Mervinslaw (Jed Water) - 5, Rumbleton (Greenlaw) - 4, Paxton - 4.

A notable increase in records, distribution and number of large counts from 2017 with the number of tetrads nearly doubling. The count of 12 at West Linton is the largest in the Borders since 2011. The highest count reported in the Borders is 25 in Feb 2001.

## Jackdaw

*Corvus monedula*

Widespread and abundant resident, often forms mixed flocks with other corvids. During 2008-13 found in 63% of tetrads in summer and 61% in winter.

Records from 192 (15%) tetrads (136 in 2017 and 114 in 2016).

### Jan-Mar

Records from 88 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 50$ ) came from: Galashiels - 600, Tweedbank - 400, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 200, Souter-Pettico Wick - 182, Whitmuir Farm (Selkirk) - 117, Mellerstain (Gordon) - 100, Lower Burnmouth - 82, Bonchester Bridge - 70, Bowhill (Philiphaugh) - 50, Selkirk - 50, The Hirsell - 50, Tweed: Union Bridge - 50.

### Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Records from 125 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 50$ ) came from: Cademuir (Peebles) - 500, Ferniehirst (Stow) - 250, Walkerburn - 100, Teviot: Kelso to Roxburgh - 90, Nisbet/Teviot Haughs - 80, The Hirsell - 80, Teviot: Chesters (Jedburgh) - 80, Tweed: Carham-Sprouston - 80, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 50.

Breeding confirmed at 6 tetrads (5 in 2017): Blackhaugh, Clovenfords (FL), Eckford, Nisbet (ON, NY), Lugate, Stow (FL), Melrose (NY), Philiphaugh (ON), Tweedbank (2 nests, ON, NY, FL). See introduction for breeding codes. Birds visiting probable nest sites were recorded at a further 7 tetrads.

### Sep-Dec

Records from 83 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 50$ ) came from: Kimmerghame (Duns) - 2,000, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 520, Abbey St Bathans - 400, Lady Moss (Bowden) - 350, Bemersyde Moss - 312, Heriot - 300, Choicelee - 200, Stobo - 180, The Hirsell - 150, Ashiestiel Hill (Caddonfoot) - 120, Pot Loch (Selkirk) - 100, Tweedbank - 100, Eckford (Nisbet) - 100, Mountbengerhope (Yarrow) - 80, Sunnyside (Auchencrow) - 80, Calaburn Farm (Hawick) - 70, Caddonlee (Caddonfoot) - 70, Tweed: Union Bridge - 61, Tweed: Innerleithen - 60, Coldingham - 60, Bonchester Bridge - 50, Watch Water Reservoir - 50.

## Rook

## *Corvus frugilegus*

Widespread and abundant resident 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.

Records from 145 (11%) tetrads (111 in 2017 and 69 in 2016).

### Jan-Feb

Records from 59 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 50$ ) came from: Halliburton (Greenlaw) - 200, Lennel Woods (Coldstream) - 100, Sprouston-Redden (Kelso) - 120, Smailholm Tower-Mellerstain (Gordon) - 100, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 88, Eckford (Nisbet) - 80, Yetholm - 70, Ravensheugh House (Selkirk) - 70, Lauder - 61, Sprouston (Kelso) - 50.

### Mar-Aug (breeding season)

Records from 105 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 50$ ) came from: Cademuir (Peebles) - 500, Ferniehirst (Stow) - 450, Lennel Woods (Coldstream) - 200, Tweed: Carham-Sprouston - 200, Eckford (Nisbet) - 150, West Water Reservoir - 150, Threep Head (Ale Water) - 100, Shielfield (Oxton) - 81, Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) - 80, Walkerburn - 75, Teviot Haughs: Nisbet - 50, Teviot Haughs: Crailing - 50, Yetholm Loch - 50.

Breeding evidence from 22 tetrads (14 in 2017):

Cammerlaws (Westruther)	B
Eckford Hall (Nisbet)	ON
Eckford/Kalemouth (Nisbet)	ON (27)
Galashiels (Scott Park)	ON (6)
Galashiels (Windyknowe Rookery)	ON (c. 50)
Gattonside-Melrose	ON, FL
Glenmayne House	ON (c. 15)
Greenlaw	ON (c. 10)
Leader Water Walk Leaderfoot to Earlston	ON (25)
Lyn Dale (West Linton)	ON, NY
Lyn Water (West Linton)	ON
Nether Hindhope NT71Q	ON

Roberton (Hawick)	ON (22)
Roxburgh - Kelso	ON
Rutherford (St Boswells)	ON
St Abb's Head	ON
St Boswells (Buccleuch Chase)	ON
St. Boswells Green	B (2)
Teviot Haughs: Crailing	ON
Tweed: Melrose	ON (c. 30)
Tweedbank	ON (12)
Walkerburn	B (20)

See introduction for breeding codes. Numbers in brackets indicate no. of nests where reported.

### Sep-Dec

Records from 63 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 50$ ) came from: Kimmerghame (Duns) – 4,000, The Hirsell - 200, Tweed: Carham-Sprouston - 110, Eckford (Nisbet) - 100, Teviot Haughs: Nisbet - 100, Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton) - 80, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 72, Caddonlee (Caddonfoot) - 70, Stantling Craig Reservoir - 60, St Abbs Head - 60, Benrig (St. Boswells) - 50, Lady Moss (Bowden) - 50, Yetholm Loch - 50.

## Carrion Crow

*Corvus corone*

Widespread and abundant resident. During 2008-13 found in 89% of tetrads in summer and 88% in winter.

Records from 250 (20%) tetrads (177 in 2017 and 238 in 2016).

### Jan-Mar

Records from 117 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 20$ ) came from: Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 90, Peebles - 40, Tweedbank - 34, Redheugh-Souter - 28, Souter-Pettico Wick - 27, Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth - 25, Ettrick Water (Selkirk) - 20.

### Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Records from 170 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 20$ ) came from: Yetholm Loch - 40, Williamhope (Yarrowford) – 30, Greenside Pond (Dowlaw) - 22, Meldons - 20, Melrose - 20.

Breeding confirmed at 8 tetrads (8 in 2017)

Borders General Hospital (ON); Jardinefield Farm (Whitsome) (FL); Leader Water: Leaderfoot to Earlston (NY); Lilliesleaf (ON); Philiphaugh Estate (Selkirk) (FL); Tweedbank (ON);

Whitsome (ON); Yetholm (ON). See introduction for breeding codes. Birds visiting probable nest sites were recorded at a further 7 tetrads.

### Sep-Dec

Records from 104 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 20$ ) came from: Abbey St Bathans - 50, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 46, Greenlaw - 40, Linkim Shore (Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth) - 25, Tweed: Innerleithen - 23.

## Hooded Crow

*Corvus cornix*

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

Two records: 1 at Whitehaugh Farm (Peebles) on 2-Apr (S Craig) and 2 at Mervinslaw (Camptown) on 28-Aug (R Manning).

**Raven***Corvus corax*

Common resident. 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).

Casual records from 155 (12%) tetrads (83 in 2017 and 89 in 2016).

Casual records per month were:

Month	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Records	25	22	18	18	27	17	10	38	25	33	25	15
Peak Count	4	4	6	3	3	6	5	10	8	8	9	2

**Raven Report from South-east Scotland Raptor Study Group Report 2018 (George Smith). Note: following refers to both Borders and Lothian.**

Sites/ Territories checked	Sites/ Territories occupied	Sites with proven breeding	Minimum young fledged	No. of young fledged per occupied site	No. of young fledged per successful pair
52	42	30	67	1.59	2.31

The Raven population is continuing to grow in our area, and there is scope for a lot more monitoring.

2018 productivity was affected by the late winter weather, which was only to be expected for Raven as they are early nesters.

**Waxwing***Bombycilla garrulus*

Scarce and erratic winter visitor. During 2008-13 found in 6% of tetrads in winter.

Records from 11 tetrads (6 in 2017 and 16 in 2016).

**Jan-May**

No records with none in the latter part of 2017 either.

**Oct-Dec**

Peebles - 100, Sprouston (Kelso) - 30, Yetholm - 16, Duns - 9, Blackhouse (Reston) - 7, Innerleithen - 6, St Boswells - 5, Oxton - 3, Broomlands (Kelso) - 1, Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 1, Chirnside - 1.

The first records of the autumn-winter were on 29-Oct with 7 at Blackhouse, (Reston) (R McBeath) and 1 at Teviot Haughs, (Nisbet) (S Turnbull).

**Coal Tit***Periparus ater*

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

Records from 141 (11%) tetrads (113 in 2017 and 111 in 2016).

**Jan-Mar**

Records from 70 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 6$ ) came from: Bonchester Bridge - 20, Mellerstain Estate (Gordon) - 20, Bowhill (Philiphaugh) - 10, Kittyflat (Stow) - 8, Dawyck - 8, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 7, Bowmont Forest (Kelso) - 6, The Hirsell - 6.



### **Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Records from 103 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 6$ ) came from: Gatehopeknowe (Walkerburn) - 35, Bonchester Bridge - 15, Dawyck - 8, Swinside Hall Plantation (Oxnam) - 8, Spottiswoode Loch - 8, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 7, Leader Water: Leaderfoot to Earlston - 7, Traquair Plantation (Selkirk) - 7, Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords) - 6.

Records of confirmed breeding came from 4 tetrads (4 in 2017): Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) (FL); Lamberton (NY); Lyne Dale (West Linton) (FL); Windy Doors/Crumside Hill (Clovenfords) (FL). See introduction for breeding codes. Evidence of probable breeding came from a further 7 tetrads (6 in 2016).

### **Sep-Dec**

Records from 64 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 6$ ) came from: Bonchester Bridge - 15, Mellerstain Estate (Gordon) - 15, Elibank (Walkerburn) - 10, Abbotsford - 9, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 6, Ettrickhead - 6, Windrush Farm, Highend (Bonchester Bridge) - 6.

## **Marsh Tit**

*Poecile palustris*

Scarce resident breeder, mostly in the Merse. Recent decline in northern and western limits of local range although suggestion of significant under-recording. During 2008-13 found in just ten tetrads in summer and 11 in winter.

No records received. Observers are asked to keep a look-out for this rapidly declining species in Borders.

## **Blue Tit**

*Cyanistes caeruleus*

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

Records from 168 (13%) tetrads (140 in 2017 and 145 in 2016).

### **Jan-Mar**

Records from 89 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 10$ ) came from: Tweed: Coldstream - 20, Tweedbank - 17, Mellerstain Estate (Gordon) - 15, Kelso-Sprouston - 15, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 14, Roxburgh-Kelso - 14, The Hirsell - 14, Yetholm - 13, Hartwoodburn (Selkirk) - 12, Abbotsford - 11, Ettrick Water: Selkirk - 10, Tweed: Clinthill - 10.

### **Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Records from 108 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 10$ ) came from: Tweedbank - 17, Kelso-Roxburgh - 16, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 15, Plora Wood (Innerleithen) - 15, Yetholm Loch - 13, Yetholm - 11, The Hirsell - 10.

Records of confirmed breeding came from 12 sites (10 in 2016): Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) (FL); Bowdenmoor Reservoir (FL); Eckford (Nisbet) (FF); Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton) (FL); Galashiels (NY); Galawater: Stow-Watherston (NY); Gattonside-Melrose (FL); Lamberton (FF); Lyne Dale: West Linton (FL); Melrose (NY); Roxburgh - Kelso (FL); Tweedbank (ON, NY). See introduction for breeding codes.

### **Sep-Dec**

Records from 81 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 10$ ) came from: Selkirk - 25, Tweedbank - 18, Bonchester Bridge - 15, Lady Moss (Bowden) - 12, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 11, Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton) - 10, Harelaw Pond (Lilliesleaf) - 10.



**Blue Tit. Cuddy Water, Peebles. May. R Watterson.**

## **Great Tit**

*Parus major*

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

Records from 155 (12%) tetrads (120 in 2017 and 135 in 2016)

### **Jan-Mar**

Records from 80 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 10$ ) came from: Mellerstain (Gordon) - 20, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 12, Abbotsford - 10, The Lees and The Hirsell - 10, Teviot: Monteviot - 10.

### **Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Records from 98 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 10$ ) came from: Gordon Moss - 12.

Records of confirmed breeding came from 8 tetrads (5 in 2017)

Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) (FL); Galawater: Stow-Watherston (ON, FL); Hare Moss, Selkirk (FL); Lyne Dale: West Linton (NY, FL); Philiphaugh, Selkirk (ON); Roxburgh-Kelso (FL); Tweedbank (NY); Yetholm Loch (FL). See introduction for breeding codes.

### **Sep-Dec**

Records from 66 tetrads. No counts of  $\geq 10$  (received from 4 tetrads in 2017) with the largest 2 counts being: Abbotsford - 9, Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 8.



Great Tit. Cardrona. September, R Watterson.

## 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.

Records from 174 tetrads (14%). 109 in 2017 and 107 in 2016.

### Jan-Mar

Records from 55 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 20$ ) came from: Newmains (Reston) - 160, Nisbet - 100, Jardinefield Farm (Whitsome) - 70, Smailholm - 50, Lady Moss (Bowden) - 50, Crailing - 40.

### Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Records from 127. Largest counts ( $\geq 20$ ) came from: Kale Water (Cheviot Water) - 37, Whitslaid Hill (Ale Water) - 26, Dormount Hope (Hownam) - 23.

A single record of confirmed breeding (2 in 2016) came from Long Moss, Coldingham Common (ON). Singing or territorial males were reported from a further 75 tetrads (31 in 2017). Although few records specified the number of such birds at least 10 singing males were recorded at Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) with 4 at Bowshank Hill (Clovenfords).

### Sep-Dec

Records from 29 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 20$ ) came from: Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 100, Edrom - 30.

**Sand Martin***Riparia riparia*

Abundant breeding species along river systems and in sandpits. Found in 709 tetrads 2008-13 breeding in 30% of them. Arrives from late March-mid April, and departs mostly August to mid-September.

Records from 90 (7%) tetrads. 79 in 2017 and 91 in 2016.

**Mar**

A single record of 4 at Sprouston, Kelso (R Manning) on 28-Mar.

**Apr-Jul (breeding season)**

Records from 85 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 50$ ) came from: The Hirsell - 433; Birgham Haugh (Coldstream) - 220; Sprouston (Kelso) - 200; Paxton - 170; Hule Moss - 80; Leahaugh (Hermitage Water) - 60; Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange - 50; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 50.

Counts of active nest burrows came from 12 tetrads (10 in 2017 and 15 in 2016):

Attonburn (Bowmont Water)	c. 6	Teviot Haughs: Crailing	1+
Carlops	1+	Teviot Haughs: Nisbet	307 active burrows
Gattonside-Melrose	1+	Teviot: Chesters	1+
Leahaugh (Hermitage Water)	1+	Tweed: Cardrona-Innerleithen	1+
Tweed: Newstead-Drygrange	1+	Tweed: Carham-Sprouston	2 sites (c. 6 and >6)
Nisbet Rhodes (Duns)	1+	Tweed: Coldstream	'large number'

**Aug-Sep**

Records from 23 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 50$ ) came from: Paxton - 570; The Hirsell - 444; Birgham Haugh (Coldstream) - 120; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 50; Tweed: Coldingham - 50; Folly Loch - 50.

The last record of the year was one at Paxton on 24-Sep (J Lough).

**Swallow***Hirundo rustica*

Abundant 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.

Records from 192 tetrads (15%). 132 in 2017 and 163 in 2016.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Records from 177 tetrads (125 in 2017). The first record on the year was a single at Wark on 28-Mar (CJ Cundall). Largest counts ( $\geq 50$ ) came from: Bemersyde Moss - 195; Yetholm Loch - 100; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 80; Hule Moss - 80; Paxton - 74; Hopehouse (Ettrick) - 80; Teviot: Chesters - 60.

Records of confirmed breeding came from tetrads: Coldstream (NY); Dawyck (ON); Eckford, Nisbet (NY); Newmains, Reston (NY); Philiphaugh Estate, Selkirk (ON); River Tweed: Union Bridge (ON); St Abb's Head (FL); The Hirsell (FL); Lyne Water, West Linton (FL); Robinsland, West Linton (FL). See introduction for breeding codes. Twenty-five young were noted as fledging from 9 nests at Newmains (Reston) and young were still in the nest at Coldstream on 9-Sep.

**Sep and later**

Records from 46 tetrads (46 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 50$ ) came from: The Hirsell - 528; Walkerburn - 200; Hopehouse (Ettrick) - 150; Pot Loch (Selkirk) - 60; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 50; Auchencrow - 50; Hule Moss - 50. The last record of the year was 2 at Hawick on 20-Oct (M Henderson).

**House Martin***Delichon urbicum*

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

Records from 116 tetrads (9%). 97 in 2017 and 113 in 2016.

**Mar-Aug (breeding season):**

Records from 114 tetrads (88 in 2017, 113 in 2016). The first records were on 14-Apr with 2 at Tweedbank (A Bramhall) and 1 at Tollbar, Newcastleton (T Parrell). Largest counts ( $\geq 50$ ) came from: Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 70; Walkerburn - 70.

Nesting birds confirmed in 16 tetrads (12 in 2017):

Blackhope, Moorfoot Hills (2)	Eckford (Nisbet)	Gattonside-Melrose	Nether Hindhope (Hownam)
Burnside (Coldingham Moor)	Ferniehirst (2)	Huntford (Carter Bar)	Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)
Buxley, Duns (2)	Galabank (7)	Kelso	Tweed: Kelso
Coldstream	Garvald Lodge	Lymiecleugh, Teviothead (2)	Tweedbank

Number of nests in brackets where reported.

**Sep and later:**

Records from 26 tetrads (27 in 2017). Largest counts ( $\geq 50$ ) came from: The Hirsell - 118; Eckford (Nisbet) - 50. The last record of the year was a 'small number' at Melrose on 7-Oct (H Mc Kerchar).

**Long-tailed Tit***Aegithalos caudatus*

Well-represented to common resident. Forms flocks June-March. In 2008-13 found in 22% of tetrads in summer and 29% in winter.

Records from 117 tetrads (9%). 83 in 2017 and 69 in 2016.

**Jan-Feb:** Records from 32 tetrads (24 in 2017). Largest counts ( $\geq 10$ ) came from: Bonchester Bridge - 16; Floors Castle (Kelso) - 15; Lennel (Coldstream) - 14; Dolphinston - 12; Birgham (Coldstream) - 12; Tweed: Benrig - 12; Kelso-Roxburgh - 12; Mellerstain Estate (Gordon) - 12; Sandy Edge (Wauchope Forest) - 11; Denholm Mill - 11; The Hirsell - 10; Tweed: Coldstream - 10; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 10; Wooden Linn (Kelso) - 10. Several counts in tetrads around Coldstream may relate to the same mobile group.

**Mar-Aug (breeding season):** Records from 52 tetrads (37 in 2017). Largest counts ( $\geq 10$ ) came from: Newmains (Reston) - 10; Tweedhill (Paxton) - 10. Breeding confirmed in 6 tetrads (3 in 2016) with fledged young seen at Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot), Galawater: Stow-Watherston, Gattonside-Melrose, Kelso-Roxburgh, Newmains (Reston) and Robinsland (West Linton).

**Sep-Dec:** Records from 60 tetrads (59 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 10$ ) came from: Innerleithen - 34; Lees Haugh (Coldstream) - 20; Abbotsford - 20; Lady Moss (Bowden) - 18; Putt's Pool (Innerleithen) - 17; Buxley (Duns) - 15; Mellerstain (Gordon) - 15; Yetholm Loch - 15; Ferniehirst (Stow) - 14; Hopehouse (Ettrick) - 13; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 12; Gordon Community Woodland - 12; Selkirk - 12; St Abb's Head - 12; Ramscycleuch (Ettrick) - 11; Potburn (Ettrick Water) - 11; Elibank (Walkerburn) - 10; Lennel (Coldstream) - 10; Newark Tower Road (Selkirk) - 10; Scraesburgh (Jedburgh) - 10; Thirlestane Lodge (Ettrick) - 10.

**Willow Warbler***Phylloscopus trochilus*

Abundant summer visitor. Common passage migrant in coastal areas, especially in the autumn. Passage numbers peak April and September. During 2008-13 found in 90% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 162 tetrads (13%). 126 in 2017 and 175 in 2016.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season):**

Records from 161 tetrads (123 in 2017 and 137 in 2016). The first records of the year were singles on 3-Apr at Kelso-Roxburgh and Kelso-Sprouston (both T Reed). Counts of  $\geq 5$  from 28 tetrads (27 in 2017) with the largest counts ( $\geq 10$ ) coming from: Lindean Reservoir - 15; Stone Edge (Bonchester Bridge) - 14; Rawflat (Ancrum) - 12; Lyne-Manor (Peebles) - 11; Megget Reservoir - 11; Newmains (Reston) - 11; Talla Reservoir - 10; Glenlude (Yarrow) - 10; Eckford (Nisbet) - 10; Yetholm - 10. Breeding confirmed at 8 sites: Ashiestiel Hill, Caddonfoot (FL); Eckford, Nisbet (FL), Ferniehirst, Stow (FF); Hare Moss, Ashkirk (FL); Newmains, Reston (FL); Stone Edge, Bonchester Bridge (FF); Teviothead (FL); Upper Monymut (FF). See introduction for breeding codes.

**Sep-onwards:** Records of single birds from 3 tetrads (7 in 2017 and 10 in 2016): Lady Moss (Bowden); Spylaw (Leadburn Mains); St Abb's Head. The last record of the year was at St Abb's Head on 11-Oct (A Mossop) and was the only record in Oct.



**Willow Warbler. Philiphaugh. May. D Methven**

**Chiffchaff**

*Phylloscopus collybita*

Abundant summer visitor. 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.

Records from 137 tetrads (11%). 120 in 2017 and 105 in 2016.

**Jan-Feb:** Records from 2 tetrads (0 in 2017 and 2 in 2016). 8 at Selkirk on 18-Jan (D Methven) and a single at The Hirsell on 21-Jan (K Robeson).

**Mar-Aug (breeding season):** Records from 133 tetrads (115 in 2017 and 114 in 2016). Counts of 5 or more came from 13 tetrads (21 in 2017). Only 1 tetrad with a count of  $\geq 10$  compared to 7 in 2017: St Abb's Head - 16. Highest counts ( $\geq 4$ ) of singing males, where specified, were; Newmains, Reston - 8; Leader Water: Leaderfoot-Earlston - 6; Tweedbank - 4. Breeding confirmed at 5 tetrads: Edrington Castle Mill, Paxton (FF); Manderston, Duns (FL); Newmains, Reston (FL); Pease Dean (FF); Spylaw, Leadburn Mains (FL). See introduction for breeding codes.

**Sep-Dec:** Records from 18 tetrads (23 in 2017 and 28 in 2016). Counts of  $\geq 5$  from 2 tetrads (5 in 2017): Bowmont Water - 7; St Abb's Head - 6. There were 3 records in Nov and none in Dec, the latest record was one at Kirkhope (Ettrickbridge) on 10-Nov (G Paterson).

**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.

Records from 3 tetrads. Singles singing at Caddonbank Wood (Innerleithen) on 6-May (R Manning) and Plora Wood (Innerleithen) on 30-May (R Bramhall). Four at Wolfhopelee Burn (Wauchope Forest) on 23-Jun (BBS).

**Yellow-browed Warbler***Phylloscopus inornatus*

Scarce to uncommon, but annual, Siberian passage migrant.

Eleven records from the coast between 11-Oct and 11-Nov. Recorded at St Abb's Head on 6 dates with a peak of 7 on 14-Oct. Singles at Burnmouth on 13-Oct and 21-Oct and Coldingham Bay on 14-Oct. Four at Dowlaw on 13-Oct and a single on 20-Oct.

A total of 26 bird days compared to 22 in 2017, 34 in 2016 and 46 in 2015.

Observers were: F Evans; D Graham; C Hartley; G Kerr; A Mossop.

**Sedge Warbler***Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

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

Records from 47 tetrads (4%). 45 in 2017 and 46 in 2016.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season):** The first record came from The Hirsell on 22-Apr (K Robeson). Largest counts ( $\geq 5$ ) came from: New Belses Farm (Ancrum) - 8; Rawflat (Ancrum) - 8; Newmains (Reston) - 7; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 6. High counts often did not specify that birds were singing, although that may have been the case. The largest count of singing birds being 7 at Newmains (Reston). Breeding confirmed in 2 tetrads (2 in 2016), Newmains (Reston) and Roxburgh-Kelso.

The last record of the year was on 30-Aug at Sprouston-Redden, Kelso (T Reed).

**Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant, and very rare breeder.

Four records from 2 tetrads.

A territory was held at The Hirsell with three records of a single bird between 4-May and 4-Jul (G Bath, K Houston and K Robeson). One at St Abb's Head on 26-May (D Graham).

**Melodious Warbler***Hippolais polyglotta*

Scarce passage migrant.

A single at St Abb's Head on 2-Sep (D Graham). Only the second Borders record, 16 years after the first at St Abb's Head on 22-May 2002. See p 164 for account of finding this bird.

## Grasshopper Warbler

*Locustella naevia*

Very uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant April-early September. During 2008-13 found in 7% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 15 tetrads (1%). 10 in 2017 and 12 in 2016.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season):** The first record of the year was at St Abb's Head on 17-Apr (R Drew).

Elsewhere reported from: Bowdenmoor (Melrose); *Brown Knowe* (Wauchope Forest); *Crooked Jock* (West Linton); *Eckford* (Nisbet); *Eckford/Kalemouth* (Nisbet); *Hopehouse* (Ettrick); *Knowleybog Burn* (Whitsome); Lempitlaw (Kelso); Nether Hindland (Hownam); Newmains (Reston); *Roberton* (Ashkirk); Shielfield (Oxton); Thirlestane Lodge (Ettrick); Wardlaw (Ettrick). Singing birds recorded in 7 tetrads (5 in 2017) indicated in italics above. Although it is likely that most records relate to singing birds.

All records were of singles except for 2 at Hopehouse (Ettrick).

The last bird of the year was at Nether Hindland (Hownam) on 2-Aug (R Manning).

## Blackcap

*Sylvia atricapilla*

Abundant summer visitor. Very uncommon on passage April-May, well-represented in autumn from August to October. Scarce but annual in winter. During 2008-13 found in 51% of tetrads in summer and 2% in winter.

Records from 103 tetrads (8%). 90 in 2017 and 104 in 2016.

**Jan-Mar:** Singles in 3 tetrads (4 in 2017). Foulden on 4-Jan and 27-Jan (D Christie), Kelso on 3-Feb and 5-Feb (T Reed) and Melrose 2-Jan to 27-Feb (D Parkinson).

**Apr-Aug (breeding season):** Records from 99 tetrads (81 in 2017 and 103 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 5$ ) came from: The Hirsell - 10; Tweedbank - 8; Lyne Manor (Peebles) - 7; Dawyck - 6; Kelso-Roxburgh - 5; Paxton - 5; Tweed: Union Bridge - 5.

Breeding confirmed at Bowmont Forest (FF), Huntford, Carter Bar (FL), Manderston, Duns (FL) and Philiphaugh Estate, Selkirk (FF). See introduction for breeding codes.

**Sep-Dec:** Records from 12 tetrads (11 in 2017). The largest count being 3 at St Abb's Head on 14-Oct. Records in Dec came from Ashiestiel-Peel, Caddonfoot (G Paterson), Eyemouth (G Paterson) and Tweedhill, Paxton (D Warden).

## Garden Warbler

*Sylvia borin*

Well-represented to common summer visitor. During 2008-13 found in 24% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 24 tetrads (2%). 21 in 2017 and 19 in 2016.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season):** Records from 23 tetrads (21 in 2017): Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot); Barnhills Moor (Ancrum); Bemersyde Moss; Birgham Haugh (Coldstream); Blackburn Farm (Chirnside); Dawyck; Eckford (Nisbet); Gala Sewage Works Pond; Glen House (Innerleithen); Haining Loch (Selkirk); Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm); Kirkbanny Farm (Foulden); Lindean Loch (Selkirk); New Belses Farm (Ancrum); Newstead-Drygrange; Windydoors (Clovenfords); Belford (Bowmont Water); Old Howford (Innerleithen); Pot Loch (Selkirk); Shunters Wud Darnick (Tweedbank); Swinside Hall Plantation (Oxnam); Teviot Haughs (Nisbet); Yetholm Loch.

The first record of the year was on 24-Apr at Bemersyde Moss (E Bickmore). Breeding confirmed at Old Howford, Innerleithen (NY). See introduction for breeding codes.

**Sep-onwards:** A single record, the last of the year, was one at St Abb's Head on 2-Sep (D Graham).



## Barred Warbler

*Sylvia nisoria*

Scarce but not annual autumn passage migrant.

A single at St Abb's Head on 6-Sep (D Graham), the first record since Sep 2015.



Barred Warbler. St Abb's Head. September. DK Graham.

## Lesser Whitethroat

*Sylvia curruca*

Very uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant. Erratic sightings. Mostly on passage late April to May and August to October. During 2008-13 found in 2% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 5 tetrads. 5 in 2017 and 4 in 2016.

Recorded at Burnmouth, Gungreen (Eyemouth), Knowleybog Burn (Whitsome), St Abb's Head and Stone Edge (Bonchester Bridge).

The first record of the year was on 13-May at Knowleybog Burn, Whitsome (J Towill) with the last on 20-Sep at St Abb's Head (D Graham). All records, where specified, were of single birds.

## Whitethroat

*Sylvia communis*

Abundant summer visitor, mostly breeding on lower ground. Very uncommon passage migrant on coast April-June and August-September. During 2008-13 found in 27% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 55 tetrads (4%). 46 in 2017 and 50 in 2016.

**Apr-Aug:** Records from 54 tetrads (46 in 2017, 50 in 2016). The first records of the year were on 6-May at Eckford, Nisbet (C Green) and Etrick Water: Selkirk (D Methven). The largest counts ( $\geq 5$ ) came from: Newmains (Reston) - 12; Hoselaw Mains (Yetholm) - 8; Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton) - 6; Rawflat (Ankrum) - 5; New Belses Farm (Ankrum) - 5. Breeding evidence from 22 tetrads (29 in 2017). Confirmed breeding at Edrington Castle Mill, Paxton (FF). See introduction for breeding codes.

**Sep-onwards:** Singles at Huntford (Carter Bar) on 2-Sep and Jardinefield Farm Cottages (Whitsome) on 8-Sep (J Towill).

## Goldcrest

*Regulus regulus*

Abundant resident. Subject to large-scale mortality in hard winters. Abundant migrant and winter visitor, especially in autumn. During 2008-13 found in 57% of tetrads in summer and 48% in winter.

Records from 106 tetrads (8%). 88 in 2017 and 101 in 2016.

**Jan-Mar:** Records from 44 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 5$ ) came from: Bowmont Forest (Roxburgh) - 6; Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose) - 6.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season):** Records from 55 tetrads. Largest counts ( $\geq 5$ ) came from: Roxburgh - 8; Manderston (Duns) - 5. Breeding evidence from 23 tetrads (29 in 2017). Breeding confirmed in one tetrad (3 in 2017), Manderston, Duns (FL). See introduction for breeding codes.

**Sep-Dec:** Records from 37 tetrads. Only a single count of  $\geq 5$ : St Abb's Head - 10. Far fewer large ( $\geq 5$ ) counts during the year than in 2017.

## 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.

Records from 169 tetrads (16%). 219 in 2017 and 279 in 2016.

**Jan-Mar:** Records from 73 tetrads (69 in 2017, 105 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 5$ ) came from: Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose) - 5; Tweedbank - 5.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season):** Records from 115 tetrads (103 in 2017, 171 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 5$ ) came from: Tweedbank - 8; Newmains (Reston) - 6; Traquair Plantation (Selkirk) - 6; Buxley (Duns) - 5; Dawyck - 5; Roxburgh - 5. Breeding confirmed at Buxley, Duns (NY), Galashiels (FL); Hare Moss, Ashkirk (FL) and Newmains, Reston (FL). See introduction for breeding codes.

**Sep-Dec:** Records from 69 tetrads (54 in 2017, 78 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 5$ ) came from: Monteviot Estate (Ancrum)- 5; Tweedbank - 5.

As with Goldcrest (see above), large counts were down from 2017. Both species are vulnerable to severe winter weather and heavy snowfall in early-2018 may have contributed to these lower counts.

## Nuthatch

*Sitta europaea*

Now a common resident. First bred 1989 and spread rapidly. Now more than 1, 000 pairs. During 2008-13 found in 29% of tetrads in summer and 29% in winter.

Records from 82 tetrads (6%). 88 in 2017 and 130 in 2016.

**Jan-Mar:** Records from 64 tetrads (48 in 2017, 69 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 4$ ) came from: Tweedbank - 13; Abbotsford - 11; Floors Castle (Kelso) - 7; The Hirsell - 6; Gattonside-Melrose - 6; Mellerstain Estate (Gordon) - 5; Newstead-Drygrange - 4; Roxburgh-Kelso - 4.

**Apr-Jul (breeding season):** Records from 80 tetrads (43 in 2017, 60 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 4$ ) came from: The Hirsell - 7; Leader Water: Leaderfoot-Earlston - 7; Abbotsford - 6; Gattonside-Melrose - 6; Bowland (Galashiels) - 5; Dawyck - 5; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 4. Breeding confirmed at: Buxley (FL); Dawyck (FF); Gattonside-Melrose (FL); Windydoors (Clovenfords) - FL; Tweedbank (FL). See introduction for breeding codes.

**Sep-Dec:** Records from 62 tetrads (40 in 2017, 58 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 4$ ) came from: Innerleithen - 14; Abbotsford - 11; Monteviot Estate (Ancrum) - 7; Gattonside-Melrose - 5; Abbotsford (second tetrad) - 5; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 4; Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose) - 4; Kirna (Walkerburn) - 4; Speedy's Wood (Earlston) - 4.



Nuthatch. Selkirk. April. D Methven

### Treecreeper

*Certhia familiaris*

Common breeding resident. During 2008-13 found in 24% of tetrads in summer and 26% in winter

Records from 92 tetrads (7%). 59 in 2017 and 72 in 2016.

**Jan-Mar:** Records from 46 tetrads (35 in 2017, 34 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 3$ ) came from: Bowdenmoor Reservoir (Melrose) - 7; Manderston (Duns) - 3. Counts of 2 from a further 14 tetrads.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season):** Records from 47 tetrads (21 in 2017, 34 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 3$ ) came from: Yetholm Loch - 3. Counts of 2 from a further 13 tetrads.

Breeding evidence (probable and confirmed) came from: Bowdenmoor Reservoir (B); Dawyck (ON); Huntford (Carter Bar) (FL); Spylaw, Leadburn (FL); Windydoors, Clovenfords (P); Teviot Haughs: Crailing (B); Tweedbank (N); Lyne Dale, West Linton (T); William Law, Galashiels (P); Yetholm (P). See introduction for breeding codes.

**Sep-Dec:** Records from 40 tetrads (31 in 2017, 21 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 3$ ) came from: Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 4; Caverton Mill (Morebattle) - 4. Counts of 2 from a further 7 tetrads.

### 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.

Records from 88 tetrads (7%). 90 in 2017 and 126 in 2016.

**Jan-Mar:** Records from 39 tetrads (37 in 2017, 55 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 100$ ) came from: Buccleuch - 400; Eddleston-Leadburn - 400; Lady Moss (Bowden) - 170; St Boswells - 170; Blawearie (Hawick) - 120; Hundleshope Ponds (Manor Valley) - 110; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) - 100.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season):** Records from 52 tetrads (52 in 2017, 70 in 2016). No counts of  $\geq 100$ , the largest being of 80 at St Boswells and 50 at Peebles-Eddleston.

Confirmed breeding at: Fairliehope, Carlops (FF); Fruid Reservoir(ON); Lyne Dale, West Linton (ON); Lyne Water, West Linton (FF); Melrose (ON); Tweedbank (FL). See introduction for breeding codes.

**Sep-Dec:** Records from 37 tetrads (41 in 2017, 31 in 2016). Largest counts ( $\geq 100$ ) came from: Netherdale (Galashiels) – 7,200; Hartwoodmyres (Selkirk) - 290; Buccleuch - 250; Gilmanscleuch (Ettrick Valley) - 250; Tushielaw - 180; Tweed: Innerleithen - 170; St Boswells - 150; Newburgh (Ettrick Valley) - 145; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 113; Lady Moss (Bowden) - 100; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) - 100.



Starlings. Eyemouth. January. Jim McGuire.

### Ring Ouzel

*Turdus torquatus*

Uncommon summer visitor to hill cleughs. Numbers declining. Passage birds late Mar-May and Sep-Nov. Rare in winter. During 2008-13 found in 7% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 17 sites (13 tetrads, ie 1% of total area). Eight sites had evidence of breeding, with birds seen in suitable habitat at 7 others, giving a total of 15 potential breeding sites. Records from 2 sites were of birds on passage. The first record was of 8 birds on 6-Apr in Manor Valley (A Sandeman). The last record was of a single on 27-Nov at Newmains, Reston (DK Graham). As usual, the greater number of records came from the Manor Valley area. No records were submitted from the Cheviots, possibly due to lack of coverage.

Due to the continuing decline of this species, specific breeding-site locations are not given. Instead, the number of potential breeding sites are indicated by area, in the form of river catchment or upland formation.

Manor Water	Leithen Water	Heriot Water	Leader Water
9	4	1	1

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
27	-	37	29	25	10	39	20	39	28	26	36	35	34	17	23	20	16	15

**No. of potential breeding sites reported: 2000-2018.**

(SE Scotland Atlas survey period 2008-2013 shaded)

## Blackbird

*Turdus merula*

Abundant breeding resident. Common passage migrant and winter visitor. Light passage March-April and strong passage in October. During 2008-13 found in 79% of tetrads in summer and 71% in winter.

Records from 190 tetrads (15%). 2017: 194 tetrads; 2016: 161 tetrads; 2015: 135 tetrads.

### Jan-Feb:

Recorded in 77 tetrads (59 in 2017; 75 in 2016; 64 in 2015; 67 in 2014).

Largest counts: Newmains (Reston) - 36; Tweedbank - 23; Hirsell - 16; Viewbank (Melrose) - 16; Peebles - 14.

### Mar-Aug (breeding season):

Recorded in 136 tetrads (123 in 2017; 128 in 2016; 133 in 2015; 179 in 2014).

Largest counts: Newmains (Reston) - 44; Selkirk - 30; Tweedbank -30; Monteviot - 25; Hirsell - 23; Viewbank (Melrose) - 16; Tweedhill - 14; Walkerburn - 14; Eckford Hall, Wooden Loch & Hill - 11; Cheeklaw (Duns) - 11.

**Breeding evidence reported from 43 tetrads.** The first record of confirmed breeding was on 25-Apr at Tweedbank (A Bramhall). Since 2014 (post Atlas) the number of occupied tetrads has remained stable in the breeding season.

### Sep-Dec:

Recorded in 78 tetrads - although lower than 2017, still above the post-Atlas average (100 in 2017; 50 in 2016; 57 in 2015; 46 in 2014).

Largest counts: Lamberton South - 200; Eyemouth Harbour & Golf Course - 49; Tweedbank - 34; Newmains (Reston) - 34; Gunknowe Pk. (Tweedbank) - 23; St. Abbs Head - 20; Monteviot - 15; Tweed (Union Bridge) - 11.

## Fieldfare

*Turdus pilaris*

Abundant but greatly fluctuating winter visitor and passage migrant from late September to mid-May. Rare May-September. Very rare breeder. During 2008-13 found in 56% of tetrads in winter.

Records from 115 tetrads (9%). 2017: 96 tetrads; 2016: 95 tetrads; 2015: 86 tetrads.

### Jan-Feb (wintering):

Recorded in 43 tetrads (33 in 2017; 28 in 2016; 48 in 2015; 34 in 2014; 41 in 2013).

Largest counts: Cunzierton (Oxnam) - 400; Haliburton (Westruther) - 300; Catmoss (Greenlaw) - 250; New Mills (Lauder) - 175; Hirsell - 90; Newhousehaugh (Ettrickbridge) - 70; Heiton - 60; Roxburgh Castle to Cobby (Kelso) - 50; Coldstream - 50; Bluestone Ford (Houndwood) - 50.

### Mar-Apr (spring passage):

Recorded in 33 tetrads (20 in 2017; 24 in 2016; 30 in 2015).

Largest counts: Newmains (Reston) - 210; Bowden - 100; Bemersyde Moss - 70; Blawearie (Roberton) - 60; Jardinefield (Whitsome) - 55; Towford Fm(Hownam) - 50; Broomy Braes (Lauder) - 50; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) - 50.

### May-Sep (summering):

A record of three birds at a location in the west of the region on 26-May and again on 04-July (both M. Moncrieff) confirm over-summering and point to the possibility of breeding.

### Oct-Dec (autumn passage and wintering):

Recorded in 79 tetrads (55 in 2017; 53 in 2016; 45 in 2015).

Largest counts: Sprouston (Kelso) - 700; Kerchesters (Kelso)) - 600; Crailinghall (Jedburgh) - 500; Newmains (Reston) - 410; Teviot: Roxburgh- Kelso - 350; Gavinton - 250; Auchencrow (Reston) - 200; Peebles - 200; Crossrig (Whitsome) - 200.



**Fieldfare. Cardrona. October. Rob Watterson**

### **Redwing**

*Turdus iliacus*

Abundant but greatly fluctuating winter visitor and sometimes abundant autumn passage migrant in September–October. Less common on spring passage, March to early April. Rare in summer. During 2008-13 was found in 2% of tetrads in summer, 35% in winter.

Records from 74 tetrads (6%). 2017: 76 tetrads; 2016: 69 tetrads; 2015: 45 tetrads.

### **Jan-Feb (wintering)**

Records from 25 tetrads (27 in 2017; 23 in 2016; 26 in 2015; 20 in 2014). Largest counts: Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 60; Coldstream - 35; Paxton House - 35; Tweed: Roxburgh Castle-Kelso - 30; Westruther - 30; Sunlaws (Heiton) - 30; Birgham - 29; Teviot Haughs (Crailling) - 22.

### **Mar-Apr (spring passage)**

Records from 27 tetrads (6 in 2017; 11 in 2016; 8 in 2015). Largest counts: Eckford Hall, Wooden Loch and Hill - 100; Lauder - 50; Mungo's Walls (Duns) - 40; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 35; Newmains (Reston) - 30; Manderston - 25. The last record of the spring passage was of 1 bird on 27-Apr at Lamberton (R McBeath).

### **Oct-Dec (autumn passage and wintering)**

Records from 60 tetrads (54 in 2017; 41 in 2016; 31 in 2015). The first record of the autumn passage was of 1 bird on 05-Oct at Portmore Loch (G Paterson). Largest counts: Mire Loch (St Abb's Head) - 1,000; Newmains (Reston) - 500; Sprouston - 500; Lower Burnmouth - 400; Monteviot (Ancrum) - 300; The Knoll (Duns) - 200; The Hirsell - 200; Lennel (Coldstream) - 150; Eyemouth Harbour and Golf Course - 115; Eckford Hall, Wooden Loch and Hill - 100; Lindean Reservoir - 100.

As with 2017, the passage in autumn 2018 appeared to be greater than in spring.

## **Song Thrush**

*Turdus philomelos*

Abundant 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 and 30% in winter.

Records from 142 tetrads (11%). 2017: 95; 2016: 129; 2015: 113.

### **Jan-Feb**

Recorded in 41 tetrads (31 in 2017; 31 in 2016; 25 in 2015).

Largest counts: Birgham - 5; Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth - 5; Mire Loch (St. Abb's Head) 4; Tweedbank - 4.

### **Mar-Aug (breeding season)**

Recorded in 121 tetrads (95 in 2017; 110 in 2016; 112 in 2015; 120 in 2014). Largest counts: Floors Castle (Kelso) - 10; The Hirsell - 10; Eckford-Wooden Hill- 9; Swinside Hall Plantation (Oxnam) - 8; Newmains (Reston) - 8; Whitfold Hill (Glentress Forest) - 7; Traquair Plantation (Philiphough) - 7; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 7; Newark (Selkirk) - 6; Barnhills Moor (Ancrum) - 6; Bowmont Forest (Kelso) - 6; Heiton - 6; Dawyck (Peebles) - 5; Glen Estate (Innerleithen) - 5; Tweedbank - 5.

Breeding evidence reported from 46 tetrads (Possible - 27; probable - 11; confirmed - 8). The first record of confirmed breeding was on 29-Apr at Eckford-Wooden Hill (CD Green).

### **Sep-Dec**

Recorded in 29 tetrads - (23 in 2017; 19 in 2016; 21 in 2015). Largest counts: Manderston (Duns) - 30; St Abb's Head - 10; Newmains (Reston) - 8; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 4.

A marked increase in tetrads from which records submitted, compared with other years of the post-Atlas period.

## **Mistle Thrush**

*Turdus viscivorus*

Abundant breeding resident. Forms large flocks in late summer, but generally smaller flocks in winter. Few flocks in spring. During 2008-13 was found in 51% of tetrads in summer, 50% in winter.

Records from 158 tetrads (12%). 2017: 112; 2016: 131; 2015: 106.

### **Jan-Feb**

Recorded in 50 tetrads (30 in 2017; 43 in 2016; 33 in 2015; 36 in 2014). Largest counts: Duns - 35; Mellerstain (Gordon) - 7; Clovenfords (Galashiels) - 6.

**Mar-Aug (breeding season)**

Recorded in 95 tetrads (68 in 2017; 66 in 2016; 58 in 2015; 67 in 2014). Largest counts: Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) - 35; Priestthaugh (Hawick) - 20; Tweedsmuir - 20; Watch Water (Longformacus) - 7; Oxenrig (Coldstream) - 6; Floors Castle (Kelso) - 6; Tweedsmuir Hills - 6; Craigend (Stow) - 5; Manderston (Duns) - 5; Blackhopebyre (Leithen Valley) - 5.

Breeding evidence reported from 30 tetrads (possible - 15; probable - 10; confirmed - 5). The first record of confirmed breeding was on 07-May at Floors Castle (Kelso) - K Robeson.

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
26	25	55	62	77	77	71	10	*	163	156	152	161	146	67	58	66	68	95

**No. of occupied tetrads during breeding: 2000-2018.**

(SE Scotland Atlas survey period 2008-2013 shaded)

**Sep-Dec**

Recorded in 80 tetrads - (57 in 2017; 47 in 2016; 39 in 2015). Largest counts: Watch Water (Longformacus) - 22; Spylaw (Leadburn) - 20; Tweedsmuir Kirk - 19; Paxton - 15; Blackhopebyre (Leithen Valley) - 12; Gatehopeknowe (Walkerburn) - 11; Portmore Loch - 11; The Hirsell - 10; Elibank-Traquair Forest - 10; St. Abb’s Head - 6; Monteviot (Ancrum) - 5.

A marked increase in tetrads from which records submitted, compared with other years of the post-Atlas period.

**Spotted Flycatcher**

*Muscicapa striata*

Common summer visitor. Scarce passage migrant, less common in spring than autumn. During 2008-13 found in 41% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 50 tetrads (4%). 2017: 32; 2016: 60; 2015: 42.

First record was on 14-May: a single at Lyne Dale, West Linton (P Ball). The largest counts were: Floors Castle (Kelso) - 6; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 6; Manderston (Duns) - 3; Bowland (Galashiels) - 3.

Breeding evidence reported from 20 tetrads (Possible - 6; probable - 7; confirmed - 7).

Talla Reservoir	18-May	S	Longformacus	09-Jul	A
Plora Wood	18-May	S	Philiphough (Selkirk)	09-Jul	P
St Mary's Loch	18-May	S	Buxley (Manderston)	14-Jul	FL
Gattonside-Melrose	01-Jun	S	Galashiels	17-Jul	NY
Lymiecleugh Farm (Teviothead)	02-Jun	N	Teviothead	31-Jul	FL
Dawyck	02-Jun	S	Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)	02-Aug	FL
Lyne Dale ( West Linton)	06-Jun	FL	Hopestead (Coldingham Moor)	11-Aug	NY
White Hill (Fountainhall)	15-Jun	S	Spottiswoode Loch (Westruther)	29-Aug	P
Stantling Craig Res (Clovenfords)	15-Jun	T	Gordon Moss (Gordon)	30-Aug	P
Huntford (Carter Bar)	19-Jun	ON	Manderston (Duns)	02-Sep	FL
Manor Schoolhouse	06-Jul	N	See Introduction for breeding codes		

**Autumn:**

Reports from 4 tetrads in Sep, with the latest record on 24-Sep at Gattonside, Melrose (H. McKerchar).

Based on occupied tetrads it appears that this species is in gradual decline in the region.



**Robin***Erithacus rubecula*

Abundant resident and common winter visitor, with passage birds arriving in September and departing in March. During 2008-13 found in 83% of tetrads in summer, 78% in winter.

Records from 176 tetrads (14%). 2017: 161; 2016: 202; 2015: 172.

**Jan-Mar**

Recorded in 88 tetrads (73 in 2017; 107 in 2016; 75 in 2015; 77 in 2014).

Largest counts: Tweedbank - 10; Peebles - 9; Ettrick Water (Selkirk) - 9; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 8; The Hirsell - 7; Kittyflat (Stow) - 7; Kelso-Sprouston - 6; Tweed: Coldstream - 6; Paxton - 6; Gala Policies (Galashiels) - 5; Tweed: Union Bridge - 5.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Recorded in 111 tetrads (96 in 2017; 123 in 2016; 118 in 2015; 134 in 2014).

Largest counts: Whitfold Hill (Peebles) - 12; Tweedbank - 9; Newmains (Reston) - 9; Dunlee Hill (Clovenfords) - 6; with five at Kelso-Sprouston, Ettrick Water (Selkirk), Tweed-Chain Bridge, Hopstead (Coldingham Moor), Blackburn Mill (Abbey St Bathans).

Breeding records came from 40 tetrads: 20 possible, 8 probable and 12 confirmed. The earliest confirmed record was on 28-Apr at Broomdykes, Allanton (R McBeath). As with other familiar species, readers are encouraged to submit any available breeding evidence.

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
276	236	304	302	334	134	118	123	96	111

**Tetrads occupied in the breeding season 2009 - 2018.**

Shaded years correspond to Atlas survey period.

**Sep-Dec**

Recorded in 74 tetrads - (84 in 2017; 64 in 2016; 66 in 2015).

Largest counts: Tweedbank - 16; with 4 at Yetholm Loch, Teviot Haughs (Nisbet), St Abb's Head and Burnmouth.

**Pied Flycatcher***Ficedula hypoleuca*

Scarce summer visitor, formerly found in less than 5% of tetrads, now virtually extinct as a breeder. Scarce passage migrant in spring, occasionally more frequent in autumn, September-early October.

A single bird recorded on 11-Oct at St Abb's Head (A Mossop). This is the poorest year since the blank year of 2011. The last confirmed breeding was reported in 2015.

**Black Redstart***Phoenicurus ochruros*

Scarce-very uncommon passage migrant mostly March-June and September-October. It very occasionally winters.

Nine records from five tetrads (2017 had 3 records from 2 tetrads; 2016, 4 records from 2 tetrads; 2015, 4 records from one tetrad and 2014, no records).

Eyemouth	04-Apr	F Evans
Burnmouth-Partanhall	18-May	M Moncrieff
Manorhead (Manor Valley)	22-Sep, 23-Oct	I Sirrel, G Pyatt
St Abb's Head	23 & 24-Sep	DK Graham <i>et al</i>
Selkirk	30-Dec	J Douglas

**Redstart***Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Well-represented, widespread summer visitor. Arrivals and passage migrants mid-April to May, return migration September-October. During 2008-13 was found in 21% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 30 tetrads (2%) 29 in 2017; 28 in 2016; 21 in 2015.

**April**

Records from seven tetrads (ten in 2017; seven in 2016; five in 2015; eleven in 2014).

The earliest record was on 15-Apr at The Hirsell (T Davis).

**May-Jul (breeding season)**

Records from 26 tetrads (25 in 2017; 28 in 2016; 22 in 2015). Records with breeding evidence were submitted from 12 tetrads (7 possible; 4 probable; one confirmed).

Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)	06-May	S	G Paterson
Elibank (Walkerburn)	11-May	S	G Paterson
Tweed-Chain Bridge	14-May	S	C Hartley
Wedderlie (Westruther)	19-May	S	A Mossop
Chester Hill (Lauder)	23-May	S	H Dott
Ballmuir Planation (Smailholm)	23-May	T	M Moncrieff
Longformacus	26-May	S	A Mossop
Dawyck Mill (Peebles)	30-May	T	H Dott
Bemersyde Moss	02-Jun	S	J Gordon
Cardrona	07-Jun	A	K Ingleby
Portmore Loch	12-Jun	T	K Ingleby
Dawyck (Peebles)	24-Jun	FL	M Betts

See Introduction for breeding codes.

In 2017 there were 19 tetrads with breeding evidence; 11 in 2016; 6 in 2015; 9 in 2014.

**August onwards**

There were records from six tetrads in August, the latest being of 2 birds, 27-Aug at Teviot Haughs (S Turnbull).

**Whinchat***Saxicola rubetra*

Well-represented summer visitor to hill valleys. Scarce passage migrant on coast, from late April to May and August to October. During 2008-13 was found in 24% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 45 tetrads (4%): 22 in 2017; 28 in 2016; 21 in 2015.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Records from 43 tetrads (22 in 2017; 28 in 2016; 18 in 2015; 23 in 2014). First record was on 4-May from Blind Burn, Robertson (G Scott). Records with breeding evidence were submitted from 17 tetrads (9 possible; 6 probable; 2 confirmed).

St Mary's Loch	06-May	S	G Paterson
Merrylaw (Teviothead)	07-May	S	G Paterson
Langburnshiels (Wauchope Forest)	07-May	S	G Paterson
Gorrenberry (Hermitage)	07-May	S	G Paterson
Fruid Reservoir	18-May	P	G Paterson

Garvald Law (Moorfoots)	21-May	S	G Paterson
Priesthaugh (Teviothead)	25-May	S	J Gordon
Bowshank Hill (Stow)	25-May	S	G Paterson
Upper Hindhope (Hownam)	27-May	S	J Gordon
Green Knowe (Romannobridge)	31-May	T	K Ingleby
Stone Edge (Bonchester Bridge)	09-Jun	N	MJ Bruce
Linghope (Manor Valley)	10-Jun	S	A Heavisides
Hopewood Know (Craik Forest)	16-Jun	P	G Paterson
The Bank (Manor Valley)	14-Jul	P	G Paterson
Congrie Hill (Tweedsmuir)	15-Jul	P	G Paterson
Woden Law (Hownam)	09-Aug	FL	J Gordon
Nether Hindhope (Hownam)	09-Aug	FL	J Gordon

See Introduction for breeding codes.

In 2017 there were ten tetrads with breeding evidence; 2016 - nine; 2015 - five; 2014 - 12.

### September onwards

There were 2 records in September, the latest on 18-Sep at St Abb's Head (C Hartley).

The marked increase in occupied tetrads and breeding evidence is most likely the result of extra observer effort.

### Stonechat

### *Saxicola torquatus*

Common 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. Population crash 2010 but signs of recovery since.. During 2008-13 was found in 22% of tetrads in summer, 22% in winter.

Records from 50 tetrads (4%): 46 in 2017; 42 in 2016; 36 in 2015.

#### Jan-Feb

Recorded in 17 tetrads (28 in 2017; 25 in 2016; 13 in 2015; 4 in 2014). No counts exceeding 2 were recorded.

#### Mar-Aug (breeding season)

Recorded in 26 tetrads (28 in 2017; 25 in 2016; 19 in 2015; 17 in 2014).

Largest counts: Glensax (Manor Valley) - 4; Towford Farm east (Hownam) - 3; Glenlude (Yarrow) - 3.

Breeding records came from 14 tetrads: eleven probable and 3 confirmed.

Towford Farm east (Hownam)	13-Mar	P	C Green
Towford west (Hownam)	13-Mar	P	C Green
Dewar (Moorfoots)	09-Apr	P	G Paterson
Stanhope (Drumelzier)	27-Apr	A	A Heavisides
Glenlude (Yarrow)	18-May	P	G Paterson
Bowshank Hill (Stow)	25-May	P	G Paterson
Raeshaw (Moorfoots)	25-May	P	G Paterson
Windy Knowe (Moorfoots)	25-May	P	G Paterson
Longformacus	26-May	P	A Mossop
Hundleshope (Manor Valley)	08-Jun	FL	A Heavisides
Glensax (Manor Valley)	13-Jun	FL	A Heavisides
Carcant west (Moorfoots)	15-Jun	P	G Paterson
Garvald Law (Moorfoots)	15-Jun	P	G Paterson
Leithen Lodge	25-Jul	FF	G Paterson

See Introduction for breeding codes.

## Sep-Dec

Recorded in 9 tetrads - (20 in 2017; eight in 2016; 11 in 2015; 14 in 2014).

Largest counts: Thirlstane Hill (Ettrick) - 4; Yarrowford - 3; North Riccalton (Edgerston) - 3.

## Wheatear

## *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Common-abundant 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 40% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 60 tetrads (5%): 56 in 2017; 70 in 2016; 76 in 2015.

## Mar

Only one record, on 20-Mar at Megget Reservoir (G Patterson).

## Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Records from 58 tetrads (44 in 2017; 56 in 2016; 42 in 2015; 61 in 2014).

The largest counts were: Newmains (Reston) - 20; Hunt Law (Stanhope) - 5; Bowshiel (Grantshouse) - 5; Bitch Cleuch (Manor Valley) - 4.

Records with breeding evidence were submitted from 16 tetrads (3 possible; 6 probable; 7 confirmed).

Scuds Cleuch (Manor Water)	08-Apr	S	G Pyatt
Fash Cleugh (Manor Water)	18-Apr	S	A Heavisides
Towford Farm east (Hownam)	24-Apr	P	C Green
Megget Stone	27-Apr	P	G Patterson
Eldinhope (Yarrow Water)	27-Apr	B	G Patterson
Craigend (Stow)	27-Apr	P	J McNeilly
Cauldshiels Loch (Galashiels)	07-May	P	M Moncrieff
Mill Burn (Manor Water)	15-May	S	G Pyatt
Windy Knowe (Moorfoots)	25-May	UN	G Patterson
Lymiecleugh farm (Teviothead)	02-Jun	P	A Mossop
Portmore Loch	12-Jun	FL	K Ingleby
Carcant west (Moorfoots)	15-Jun	FF	G Patterson
Manor Valley	14-Jul	FL	G Patterson
Congrie Hill (Tweedsmuir)	15-Jul	FL	G Patterson
Garvald (Moorfoots)	24-Jul	FL	G Patterson
Scraesburgh Fell (Hownam)	09-Aug	FL	J Gordon

In 2017 there were 5 tetrads with breeding evidence; 10 in 2016.

## September onwards

There were 2 records in this period, 7 birds at St. Abb's Head (22-Sep), with the latest record on 16 Oct, at Mire Loch, St. Abb's Head (J Towill).



Wheatear. Linglie Glen (Selkirk). April. Douglas Methven.

## Dipper

*Cinclus cinclus*

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

Records from 107 tetrads (8%): 94 in 2017; 114 in 2016; 90 in 2015.

### Jan-Feb:

Recorded in 46 tetrads (40 in 2017; 32 in 2016; 32 in 2015; 69 in 2014).

Largest counts: The Holmes (St Boswells) - 5; Ancrum - 4; Abbotsford - 3; Deanfoot (Denholm) - 3; Bell Wood (Cranshaws) - 3; Ettrick Water (Selkirk) -3.

### Mar-Jul (breeding season):

Recorded in 59 tetrads (46 in 2017; 45 in 2016; 66 in 2015; 68 in 2014).

Breeding evidence reported from 19 tetrads (possible - 2; probable - 8; confirmed - 9).

Fancove Head (coast)	04-Mar	S	R McBeath
Kirklands (Teviot)	05-Mar	P	M Henderson
Ashiestiel-Peel (Tweed)	07-Mar	B	G Patterson
Hallyards Bridge(Manor Water)	22-Mar	B	G Pyatt
Cranshaws (Whiteadder Water)	24-Mar	S	R McBeath
Peebles (Tweed)	30-Mar	N	M Betts
Baddinsgill (Lyne Water)	08-Apr	P	P Ball
West Linton N (Lyne Water)	08-Apr	T	P Ball
Leaderfoot (Leader Water)	14-Apr	N	A Bramhall
Southey Hill (Manor Water)	16-May	FF	G Pyatt
Walkerburn (Tweed)	24-May	FL	G Patterson
Yetholm Loch (Thirlstane Burn)	25-May	P	C Green
Raeshaw (Heriot Water)	25-May	FL	G Patterson
West Linton S (Lyne Water)	28-May	FF	P Ball
Stow (Gala Water)	02-Jun	ON	D Small
Cacrabank (Ettrick Water)	09-Jun	FL	G Patterson

Grahamslaw (Kale)	09-Jun	NY	C Green
Gattonside (Tweed)	15-Jun	FL	J Gordon
Denholm Mill (Teviot)	26-Jun	FL	N Cook

In 2017 there were 19 tetrads with breeding evidence; 21 in 2016.

#### Aug-Dec:

Recorded in 40 tetrads - (44 in 2017; 34 in 2016; 35 in 2015).

Largest counts: Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 7; Crailing Tofts - 4; Hawick - 3; Tweedbank - 3.

### House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus*

Abundant breeding resident. Forms flocks August-March. During 2008-13 was found in 47% of tetrads in summer, 41% in winter.

Records from 138 tetrads (11%): 97 in 2017; 107 in 2016; 95 in 2015.

#### Jan-Mar

Recorded in 51 tetrads (40 in 2017; 49 in 2016; 40 in 2015; 37 in 2014).

Highest counts: Newmains (Reston) - 60; Lamberton S - 50; Gavinton 30; Peebles -30; Tweed (Coldstream) - 20; Oxenrig (Coldstream) - 20; Mellendean (Kelso) - 20; Ladylands (Selkirk) - 20; Kedslie (Earlston) - 20; Tweedbank - 19; The Cobby (Kelso) - 18.

#### Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Recorded in 102 tetrads (55 in 2017; 67 in 2016; 64 in 2015; 64 in 2014).

Highest counts: Race Course (Kelso) - 80; Tweedbank - 50; Ladylands (Selkirk) - 50; Eckford Hall - 45; Foulden - 33; The Hirsell - 30; Eckford-Kalemouth - 25; Darnick - 23; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 20; Coldingham Moor - 20; St Boswells - 20; Melrose - 20; Walkerburn - 18.

Breeding records came from 15 tetrads: 6 probable and 9 confirmed. The earliest confirmed record was on 7-May at Newmains-Reston (D. Graham).

In 2017, breeding evidence was reported from 18 tetrads; 11 in 2016.

#### Sep-Dec

Recorded in 47 tetrads - (43 in 2017; 28 in 2016; 25 in 2015).

Highest counts: Gavinton - 100; Newmains (Reston) - 55; Lamberton S - 50; Auchencrow (Reston) - 30; Chirnside - 30; Walkerburn - 27; Bonchester Bridge - 25; Foulden - 22; Buxley (Manderston) - 20; Tweedbank - 19; The Hirsell - 16.

Clearly, this species suffers from under-recording. As with other familiar species, readers are encouraged to submit any records, in particular all available breeding evidence.

### Tree Sparrow

*Passer montanus*

Common-abundant resident, mostly in the east. Seems to have increased in numbers of late. Forms winter flocks. During 2008-13 was found in 19% of tetrads in summer, 17% in winter.

Records from 78 tetrads (6%): 64 in 2017; 54 in 2016; 52 in 2015.

#### Jan-Mar

Recorded in 44 tetrads (19 in 2017; 24 in 2016; 27 in 2015).

Highest counts: Newmains (Reston) - 380; Clarabad Farm (Foulden) - 52; Bemersyde Farm - 50; Tweedhill (Reston) - 44; Mellendean (Kelso) - 30; Bairnkine (Jedburgh) - 25; Whitrig Bog (Smailholm)) - 20; Fountainhall (Stow) - 20; Oxenrig (Coldstream) - 16; Sandystones (Ancrum) - 16; Ancrum Craig 16; Edrom (Chirnside) - 10.

### Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Recorded in 35 tetrads (25 in 2017; 21 in 2016; 14 in 2015; 25 in 2014).

Highest counts: Cessford (Morebattle) - 50; Newmains (Reston) - 21; St Abb's Head - 21; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 20; Cheeklaw (Duns) - 11; Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton) -10; Coldingham Moor - 10; Lilliesleaf -10.

Breeding records came from 10 tetrads: 5 probable and 5 confirmed. The earliest confirmed record was on 7-May at Newmains-Reston (D. Graham).

Lennel (Coldstream)	02-Apr	B	A Mossop
Eckford-Kalemouth	09-Apr	P	C Green
Lamberton S	19-Apr	B	R McBeath
Broomdykes (Allanton)	28-Apr	B	R McBeath
Newmains (Reston)	07-May	NY	D Graham
Bemersyde Moss	18-May	B	R Bell
Eckford Hall	18-May	FF	C Green
Yetholm Loch N	25-May	FF	C Green
Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton)	27-Jun	FL	T Brewis
Bonchester Bridge	10-Jul	NY	M Bruce

In 2017, breeding evidence was reported from 11 tetrads; 5 in 2016; 6 in 2015.

### Sep-Dec

Recorded in 28 tetrads - (36 in 2017; 19 in 2016; 11 in 2015; 21 in 2014).

Highest counts: Newmains (Reston) - 180; Hartwoodmyres (Ettrickbridge) - 70; Ploughlands Pond (Nisbet) - 60; Sorrowlessfield (Earlston) - 40; Mossburnford (Oxnam) - 40; Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton) - 22; Lennel (Coldstream) - 15; Gattonside (Melrose) - 12.

## Duncock

*Prunella modularis*

Abundant resident; well-represented passage visitor.

Records from 126 tetrads (10%): 105 in 2017; 149 in 2016; 141 in 2015; 129 in 2014.

### Jan-Mar

Recorded in 62 tetrads (50 in 2017; 66 in 2016; 62 in 2015).

Highest counts: Tweedbank - 9; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 8; Newmains (Reston) - 8; Burnmouth - 6; Floors Castle (Kelso) - 5; Peebles -5.

### Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Recorded in 79 tetrads (62 in 2017; 88 in 2016; 98 in 2015).

Highest counts: Newmains (Reston) - 11; Tweedbank - 7; Eckford Hall-Wooden Loch - 6; Shielfield (Oxton) - 6; Cardrona - 5.

Breeding records came from 35 tetrads: 27 possible, 4 probable and 4 confirmed. The earliest confirmed record was on 07-Apr at Lamberton S (R McBeath).

In 2017, breeding evidence was reported from 30 tetrads; 15 in 2016.

### Sep-Dec

Recorded in 51 tetrads - (57 in 2017; 36 in 2016; 43 in 2015). Highest counts: Tweedbank - 9; Eyemouth Harbour-Golf Course - 5; Eckford Hall-Wooden Loch - 4; Highend (Bonchester Bridge) - 4; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 4; Edrington Castle Mill (Paxton) - 4.

**Yellow Wagtail***Motacilla flava*

Scarce-very uncommon summer (Apr-Aug) visitor, breeding along the Tweed and Teviot. Scarce passage migrant to coast April-May and August-September. During 2008-13 was found in 27 tetrads in summer.

Records from 10 tetrads (1%): 9 in 2017; 6 in 2016; 8 in 2015; 9 in 2014.

Of the 10 tetrad records, 6 (including 2 records of possible breeding) were from the Teviot valley downstream of Ancrum and 3 from Tweed downstream of Kelso. In 2017, breeding evidence was reported from one tetrad.

The earliest record was on 26-Apr at Ladyrig Pond, Kelso (N Stratton). Highest counts were Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 6; Birgham Haugh (Coldstream) - 4; Heiton (Kelso) - 4. The latest record was on 02-Sep at Cockburnspath (A Kerr).

**Grey Wagtail***Motacilla cinerea*

Common breeder along water courses. Very few present through winter. Scarce but widespread passage migrant March-May and September-October. During 2008-13 was found in 41% of tetrads in summer, 10% in winter.

Records from 113 tetrads (9%): 110 in 2017; 123 in 2016; 99 in 2015.

**Jan-Mar**

Recorded in 37 tetrads (41 in 2017; 46 in 2016; 18 in 2015).

Highest counts: Hopehouse (Ettrick) - 3; Lower Burnmouth - 3.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Recorded in 78 tetrads (79 in 2017; 88 in 2016; 72 in 2015; 71 in 2014).

Highest counts: Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 19; Ettrick Cauld (Philiphough) - 16; Galashiels sewage works - 6; Larriston Rig (Liddesdale) - 4; Yetholm Loch - 4; Newstead-Drygrange - 4.

Breeding records came from 21 tetrads: one possible, 11 probable and 9 confirmed.

Kelso-Roxburgh (Teviot)	05-Apr	P	T Reed	The Common (Leithen Water)	23-May	P	G Paterson
Ettrick Cauld (Selkirk)	20-Apr	P	E Bickmore	Walkerburn	24-May	FL	G Paterson
Lyne Dale (West Linton)	20-Apr	T	P Ball	Gattonside-Melrose	26-May	FL	J Gordon
Lymiecleugh (Teviothead)	21-Apr	P	A Mossop	Newstead-Drygrange	01-Jun	FL	J Gordon
Williamhope (Caddonfoot)	22-Apr	P	G Paterson	Gala Water (Stow)	04-Jun	A	D Small
Colquhar (Leithen Water)	01-May	P	G Paterson	Jedburgh (north)	09-Jun	FL	A Todd
Shankend (Wauchope Forest)	07-May	S	G Paterson	Dawyck (Peebles)	24-Jun	FF	M Betts
Hermitage Water	07-May	P	G Paterson	Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	04-Jul	FL	M Moncrieff
Lyne Water (West Linton)	11-May	T	P Ball	Huntford (Carter Bar)	10-Jul	FL	C Watson
Talla Reservoir	18-May	P	G Paterson	Congrie Hill (Stanhope)	15-Jul	FL	G Paterson
Lindean Reservoir	21-May	FL	K Robeson				

In 2017, breeding evidence was reported from 17 tetrads; 20 in 2016; 26 in 2015 and 49+ in 2014.

**Sep-Dec**

Recorded in 22 tetrads - (37 in 2017; 30 in 2016; 33 in 2015).

Highest counts: Abbotsford - 6; Tweed Bridge (Peebles) - 5; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 5; Tweed (Melrose) - 3.



**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.

Records from 150 tetrads (12%): 137 in 2017; 158 in 2016; 121 in 2015.

**Jan-Mar**

Recorded in 42 tetrads (43 in 2017; 47 in 2016; 33 in 2015).

Highest counts: Newmains (Reston) - 31; Manderston (Duns) - 14; Tweedbank-Galashiels - 12, Crosslee (Ettrick Water) - 10.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Recorded in 117 tetrads (96 in 2017; 132 in 2016; 100 in 2015; 150 in 2014).

Highest counts: Watch Water Reservoir - 30; St Abb's Head - 30; Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream - 25; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 15; Tweedsmuir - 13; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) - 13; Tweedbank - 11; Burnmouth - 10.

Breeding records came from 26 tetrads: 2 possible, 5 probable and 19 confirmed. The earliest confirmed breeding was on 18-Apr at Newmains - Reston (D Graham).

In 2017, breeding evidence was reported from 21 tetrads; 31 in 2016; 26 in 2015, with 12 confirmed in 2014.

**Sep-Dec**

Recorded in 38 tetrads (51 in 2017; 24 in 2016; 30 in 2015).

Highest counts: Eckford Hall-Wooden Loch - 35; The Hirsell - 25; Greenlaw Farm Pool (Foulden) - 17; Traquair - 12 ; Watch Water Reservoir - 10; Galashiels sewage works - 10. Although not as many large counts as 2017, the numbers suggest a substantial passage.

**White Wagtail *M. a. alba***

Records from 4 tetrads: Newmains (Reston) - 8; St Abb's Head - 2; Eyemouth – one; Burnmouth - one. All records noted between 17-Mar and 19-Apr. It is very likely that this sub-species is under-recorded.

**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.

There were records from 155 tetrads (245 records from 104 tetrads in 2017, 161 tetrads in 2016 and 110 in 2015).

**Jan-Mid Mar**

Counts were observed in 33 tetrads and the largest counts were: Gordon Arms (Yarrow) - 18; Coldstream - 14; Eyemouth-Burnmouth – 12.

**Mid Mar-Aug (breeding season)**

Records from 123 tetrads (81 tetrads in 2018, 102 in 2016, 94 in 2015 and 112 in 2014). Largest counts were obtained from Huntford (Carter Bar) - 200; Craigend (Stow) - 143; Fruid Reservoir - 109; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 80; Windlestraw Law (Caddonhead) - 75; Little Bog Hill (Tweedhopefoot) - 67; Leithen Water - 60; Tweedsmuir - 60; Long Grain (Oxton) - 60; Innerleithen - 55; Tweedbank – 55.

There were breeding records from 9 tetrads:

Faw Mount (West Linton)	D	8-Apr	P Ball	Long Moss (Coldingham)	D	28-May	T Brewis
Din Moss (Hoselaw Loch)	P	8-Apr	M Lindsay	Toxside Moss (Portmore)	FF	31 May	J Gordon
Whitton Loch (Hownam)	P	14-May	M Moncrieff	Ashkirk Hill	A	12-Jun	EL Bickmore
Coquet Head (Carter Bar)	NE	27-May	J Gordon	Crooked Jock (West Linton)	FL	13-Sep	P Ball
Whiteside Hill (Carter Bar)	NE	27-May	J Gordon	See Introduction for breeding codes.			

## Sep-Dec

Records came from 30 tetrads (32 tetrads in 2017, 27 in 2016 and 28 in 2015). Largest counts obtained were: Watch Water Reservoir - 44; Lady Moss (Melrose) - 30; Hule Moss - 30; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) - 29; Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water) - 25; Kirkland Hill (Heriot) - 20.

## Tree Pipit

*Anthus trivialis*

Abundant, localised summer visitor in forest clearings and clearfell. Less common passage migrant April-May and September. During 2008-13 was found in 19% of tetrads in summer.

Records from 29 tetrads (14 tetrads in 2017, 13 in 2016, 8 in 2015 and 11 in 2014). All records were of single birds except where indicated:

### April:

Fruid Reservoir, Menzion Farmhouse (Talla Res), Quixwood Moor - 2, Thirlstane Hill (Ettrick), Talla Reservoir.

### May:

Braidlie (Hermitage Water), Brown Knowe (Wauchope Forest), Cacrabank (Tushielaw), Cardrona Forest - 4, Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk), Dod (Wauchope Forest), Eildon Mid-Hill, Gordon Community Woodland, Green Diamonds (Selkirk), Huntford (Carter Bar), Kiln Knowe (Wauchope Forest), Menzion Farmhouse (Talla Res), Merrylaw (Teviothead), Swinside Hall Plantation (Oxnam), Talla Reservoir - 2, Thirlestone Burn (Ettrick) - 2.

Breeding records from

### June

Ashiestiel Hill (Caddonfoot), Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 3, Edgerston Tofts (Carter Bar), Glenlude (Traquair), Swinside Hall Plantation (Oxnam) - 2, Toxside Moss (Portmore).

### July

Gordon Community Woodland and Ancrum.

### August

Spylaw (Leadburn) - 5.

Breeding evidence came from 18 sites (8 in 2017, 7 in 2016). Records from: Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - S; Brown Knowe (Wauchope Forest) - S; Cacrabank - S; Cardrona Forest - T; Cauld shield Loch - S; Dinley (Hermitage Water) - S; Fruid Reservoir - S; Water - S; Glenlude (Traquair) - D; Gordon Community Woodland - S; Huntford - S; Kiln Knowe (Wauchope Forest) - S; Langburnshiels (Wauchope Forest) - S; Menzion - NT0923 (Tweedsmuir) - S; Menzion - NT1023 (Tweedsmuir) - S; Merrylaw - S; Mid-Eildon Hill - S; Talla Reservoir - T; Toxside Moss (Portmore) - T.

The first report was on 20-Apr from Thirlstane Hill (Ettrick). The last report was from Spylaw (Leadburn) on 11-Aug.

The 107% increase in the number of occupied tetrads is probably the product of increased observer effort.

## Rock Pipit

*Anthus petrosus*

Uncommon breeder along coast, found in 13 coastal tetrads (103 records in 2014). Although wintering birds swell numbers in October-March the species remains uncommon.

Records from 14 tetrads (16 tetrads in 2017, 65 from 17 tetrads in 2016, 50 from 17 in 2015 and 103 records from an unknown number of tetrads in 2014).

### Jan-Mar

Records from 8 tetrads (13 tetrads in 2017 and 17 tetrads in 2016). Rocky Shore Count on 4 Feb had a total count of 36 birds. Largest counts were: Souter-Pettico Wick - 12 (RSC); Eyemouth-Burnmouth - 11 (RSC); St Abb's Head - 7; Coldingham Bay-Eyemouth - 7.

### Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Records were from 4 tetrads and there was no evidence of confirmed breeding. Largest counts were: Pettico Wick - 3, St Abbs - 3.

### Sept-Dec

Records were from 8 tetrads. Largest counts were from Partanhall (Burnmouth) - 8, Linkim Shore - 5, Dunglass - 5.

## Chaffinch

*Fringilla coelebs*

Abundant breeder, autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Winter birds often occurring in large flocks, sometimes of several hundreds. Spring passage flocks are less common. During 2008-13 was found in 92% of tetrads in summer, 81% in winter.

Records from 247 tetrads (179 tetrads in 2017, 249 in 2016).

### Jan-Mar

Records from 110 tetrads (78 in 2017, 102 in 2016, 86 in 2015). Largest counts included: Williestruther Loch (Hawick) - 600; Newmains (Reston) - 550; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 500; Walkerburn - 300; Birgham Wood (Coldstream) - 200; Peebles - 200.

### April-Aug (breeding season)

Records from 181 tetrads (103 tetrads in 2017, 149 in 2016 and 148 in 2015 and 177 in 2014). Largest counts: Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 450; Ashkirk Hill (Ashkirk) - 200; Acreknowe Reservoir (Hawick) - 200; Bonchester Bridge - 90; Wolfhopelee Burn (Wauchope Forest) - 58.

There were 164 records with breeding evidence and these came from 73 tetrads (49 in 2017) with 21 reporting confirmed breeding (49 reporting breeding evidence in 2017).

### Sept-Dec

Records from 94 tetrads (89 tetrads in 2017, 59 in 2016, 71 in 2015). Largest counts were: Corsehope Farm (Heriot) - 336; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 150; Innerleithen - 150; Crosslee (Tushielaw) - 120; Redfordgreen (Buccleuch) - 120; Rachelfield (Smailholm) - 100.

## Brambling

*Fringilla montifringilla*

Well-represented passage migrant and winter visitor but numbers erratic. Some large flocks late September-April. During 2008-13 was found in 17% tetrads in winter.

There were records from 75 tetrads (48 tetrads in 2017 and in 2016). Over one-third of all records for Brambling came from Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot).

### Winter-Spring (Jan- Mar)

Records from 52 tetrads (15 tetrads in 2017, 27 in 2016, 11 in 2015, 16 in 2014, 34 in 2013, 16 in 2012, 32 in 2011). Highest counts included: Lurden (Denholm) - 200; Howcleuchshiel (Hawick) - 150; Preston - 90; Newmains (Reston) - 60; Mellerstain Mill (Gordon) - 50; Whitmuir (Selkirk) - 50.

### Spring (April-May)

Records from 10 tetrads (11 in 2017, 9 in 2016, no records in 2015, 7 in 2014) with the highest count at Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 103. This location also had the latest sighting in spring on 20-Apr.

### Autumn (Sept-Oct)

Records were received from 16 tetrads (14 tetrads in 2017, 5 in 2016, 2 in 2014), the earliest returning birds being seen on 7-Oct at Huntford (Carter Bar) and at St Abbs. No records were received in September. High counts included Old Caverton (Morebattle) - 60; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 12.

### Winter (Nov-Dec)

Records were received from 18 tetrads (21 tetrads in 2017, 13 in 2016, 7 in 2015 & 2014). High counts included Sorrowlessfield (Earlston) - 90; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) - 80; Ploughlands (Maxton) - 50; Malcolm's Moss (Ancrum) - 40.

## Hawfinch

*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare resident and scarce migrant. Not annual. During 2008-13 was found in two tetrads in summer, one in winter.

There were 44 records from 9 tetrads (6 tetrads in 2017, 3 in 2016). 2018 would appear to have been the best year for the number of records and tetrads where Hawfinch were recorded. The highest count of 65 birds at Monteviot Estate on 10-Mar (K Robeson) is more than double the previous high count of 25 at Yarrowford in 2001. All of the counts, bar one, were recorded prior to 4-Apr. Highest counts included: Monteviot Estate - 65; The Hirsell - 35; Harestanes - 29; Teviot Haughs - 24; The Lees, Coldstream - 15.



**Brambling. Birgham. January. Bill Meikle.**

**Bullfinch**

*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

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

There were records from 133 tetrads (129 tetrads in 2017, 109 tetrads in 2016 and 107 tetrads in 2015).

**Jan-Mar**

Records from 87 tetrads (64 tetrads in 2017, 46 in 2016 and 53 in 2015). Largest counts: Ettrick Water (Selkirk) -18; Mellerstain (Gordon) - 14; Thirlestane Lodge (Ettrick) – 12: The Hirsell – 11; Palacehill (Ankrum) - 11; Birgham Wood (Coldstream) -10; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk) -10; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) – 10; Floors Castle – 10.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Records were obtained from 41 tetrads (58 tetrads in 2017, 47 in 2016, 41 in 2015 and 46 in 2014). There were no counts of more than 2 birds during this period, 2 birds being seen in 15 different locations. Records with breeding evidence came from 11 tetrads (20 in 2017, 17 in 2016).

13-Feb	Generals Bridge (Bowhill)	P	G Scott	18-Apr	Ettrick Water, Philipshaugh	P	G Scott
22-Feb	Gattonside-Melrose	P	J Gordon	11-May	Lyne Dale (West Linton)	P	P Ball
12-Mar	Wooden Loch (Eckford)	P	CD Green	2-Jun	Dawyck Gardens	FL	M Betts
7-Apr	Kalemouth (Eckford)	P	CD Green	12-Jul	Spylaw (Leadburn)	I	TW Dougall
14-Apr	Tweedbank	P	AT Bramhall	22-Jul	Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)	P	G Paterson
14-Apr	Earlston	P	AT Bramhall	See Introduction for breeding codes.			

The reduced numbers may be an indication of the potential impact of the significant snow early in 2018.

**Sep-Dec**

Counts were recorded from 43 tetrads (73 tetrads in 2017, 44 in 2016, and 54 in 2015) with the highest count being 2 birds – these were recorded in 15 different tetrads.

**Greenfinch***Carduelis chloris*

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

Records from 70 tetrads (51 tetrads in 2017, 55 in 2016 and 59 in 2015).

**Jan-Mar**

Records from 70 tetrads (21 tetrads in 2017, 32 in 2016, 22 in 2015, 34 in 2014). Largest counts (&gt;20) were dominated with records from The Hirsell (Coldstream) - 60, Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream - 50, Haigsfield (Birgham) - 25, Newmains (Reston) - 24.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Records from 39 tetrads (29 in 2017, 31 in 2016, 38 in 2015 and 93 in 2014). There were 9 records of breeding evidence with 2 confirmed reports.

Philippaugh, Yarrow	T	8 Apr	G Scott	Kaeside (Tweedbank)	N	19 May	AT Bramhall
Kaeside (Tweedbank)	B	25 Apr	AT Bramhall	Melrose Viewbank	T	2 Jun	D Parkinson
Eckford Hall (Nisbet)	P	26 Apr	CD Green	Philippaugh, Yarrow	P	8 Jun	G Scott
Newmains (Reston)	FL	8 May	DK Graham	Manderston, Duns	FL	9 Jun	AP Mossop
Eckford Hall (Nisbet)	P	18 May	CD Green	See Introduction for breeding codes.			

Records were received from 20 tetrads. High counts (&gt;20) were from either The Hirsell, Coldstream or Eyemouth. Largest counts were: The Hirsell - 110; Eyemouth - 70.

**Twite***Carduelis flavirostris*

Rare breeder found in just seven sites between 1988-94. Very uncommon but increasing winter visitor and passage migrant to hills and coast. During 2008-13 was found in 8 tetrads in summer, 20 in winter.

There were 8 records from 4 tetrads (3 tetrads in 2017 and 2016). Records were:

11-Jan	Lauder-Harryburn	1	R Catalano
19-Oct	Gungreen, Eyemouth	12	G Paterson
27-Oct	Innerleithen	1	R Bramhall
28-Oct	Gungreen, Eyemouth	1	R Drew
04-Nov	Miller's Moss & Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	1	R Drew
11-Nov	Miller's Moss & Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	18	F Evans / DK Graham
25-Nov	Miller's Moss & Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	20	F Evans
02-Dec	Miller's Moss & Mire Loch (St Abb's Head)	20	F Evans

**Linnet***Carduelis cannabina*

Abundant breeder in east. Can form large winter flocks. During 2008-13 was found in 53% of tetrads in summer, 17% in winter.

Records from 22 tetrads (65 tetrads in 2017, 71 in 2016 and 62 tetrads in 2015)

**Jan-Mar**

Records from 22 tetrads (10 tetrads in 2017, 9 in 2016, 9 in 2015 and 11 in 2014). Largest counts included: Newmains (Reston) - 200; Preston - 150; Roxburgh Newtown - 120; Eyemouth-Burnmouth - 80; Sprouston (Kelso) - 80.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Records from 77 tetrads (43 tetrads in 2017, 55 in 2016, 44 in 2015 and 46 in 2014) Largest counts were: St Abb's Head - 100; Helmburn Hill (Ettrickbridge) - 60; Blackhouse (Gordon Arms Hotel) - 55; Tweed: Union Bridge - 50; Middlestead (Selkirk) - 50.

Records with evidence of breeding came from 15 tetrads:

08-Apr	Black Hill (Earlston)	P	J Gordon	13-Jun	Bowmont Water: Sourhope	P	G Paterson
30-Apr	Whitsome (Allanton)	P	CD Green	15-Jun	Lugate (Stow)	P	G Paterson
22-May	Newmains (Reston)	FL	DK Graham	15-Jun	Blackhope (Garvald Lodge)	P	G Paterson
12-Jun	Hule Moss	P	AP Mossop	16-Jun	Ashiestiel (Caddonfoot)	P	G Paterson
13-Jun	Halterburn (Yetholm)	P	G Paterson	23-Jun	The Hirsell	FL	K Robeson
13-Jun	Attonburn (Hownam)	P	G Paterson	26-Jun	Windy Gowl (West Linton)	P	JCS Noble
See Introduction for breeding codes.				22-Jun	Williamhope (Ashiestiel)	FL	G Paterson

### Sept – Dec

Records from 25 tetrads (29 in 2017, 10 in 2016, 17 in 2015). Largest counts recorded: Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) - 230; Newmains (Reston) - 70, High End (Bonchester Bridge) - 60; Faughill Moor (Melrose) - 60, Preston - 60; Foulden - 40; Posso (Manor Valley) - 40.

### Common Redpoll

*Carduelis flammea*

Usually 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.

Thirteen records from 8 tetrads (6 tetrads in 2017, 4 in 2016 and none in 2015). The highest count of 60 was from The Bell (Cranshaws) on 16-dec (DK Graham). Other records were Bonchester Bridge, Coldingham Loch, Hare Moss (Selkirk), Innerleithen, Oxenrig (Coldstream) - 2, Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 2, Yetholm Loch

### Lesser Redpoll

*Carduelis cabaret*

Abundant 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.

Records from 84 tetrads. 2017 – 54 in 2017, 43 tetrads in 2016). Six of the records were submitted as Common/Lesser Redpoll.

### Jan-Mar:

Records from 22 tetrads (16 in 2017, 12 in 2016, 9 in 2015). Largest counts were: Newmains -120; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) -33; Ale Water: Ancrum – 25; Innerleithen – 14; Bell Wood (Cranshaws) – 6; Bonchester Bridge – 5.

### Apr-Aug:

Records from 63 tetrads (33 in 2017, 27 in 2016, 25 in 2015, 37 in 2014). Largest counts: Innerleithen - 22; Leishfoot Hill (Tweedsmuir Hills) - 9; Berry Knowe (Tushielaw) - 8; Williamhope (Ashiestiel-Peel) - 8; Kirkstead Burn (St Mary's Loch) - 8; Gordon Community Woodland - 6; Lindean Reservoir (Selkirk) - 6; Larriston Rig (Liddesdale) - 5; Pot Loch (Selkirk) - 5.

Breeding records came from 10 tetrads (6 in 2017, 5 in 2016 and none in 2015):

F Evans	Gordon Comm. Woodland	12-May	P	AP Mossop	Merrylaw (Teviothead)	28-May	S
CD Green	Towford West (Hownam)	24-Apr	S	D Parkinson	Melrose	02-Jun	P
G Paterson	Glenlude (Traquair)	27-Apr	P	MJ Bruce	Stone Edge (Bonchester Bridge)	09-Jun	S
DK Graham	Newmains (Reston)	08-May	FL	AP Mossop	Gordon Moss	15-Jun	D
AP Mossop	Watch Water Reservoir	21-May	P	P Ball	Crooked Jock (West Linton)	26-Jun	FL

### Sep-Dec:

Records from 14 tetrads. 2017 – 24 tetrads, 2016 – 7, 2015 – 21 tetrads. Largest counts: Bell Wood (Cranshaws) – 280-300; Lower Wood (Crailinghall) – 220; Elibank and Traquair Forest (Walkerburn) – 55; Spylaw (Portmore) – 30; Eckford-Wooden Loch – 30.

**Arctic Redpoll**

Rare winter visitor.

*Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*

There were two sightings of Arctic Redpoll, potentially the same bird, seen in Bell Wood (Cranshaws) on 16-Dec and 30-Dec by DK Graham. This was only the fourth record for Borders and the first since 2011. Of the four records, three have been from The Bell.

**Crossbill**

Resident breeder. Breeds in extremely variable numbers, totally dependent on cone crop. Dispersing May-September when birds from elsewhere sometimes arrive in area. During 2008-13 was found in 27% of tetrads in summer, 32% in winter.

*Loxia curvirostra*

Records from 67 tetrads (99 records from 36 tetrads in 2017, 66 records from 40 tetrads in 2016).

**Jan-Mar:**

Records from 25 tetrads (20 in 2017, 9 in 2016 and 14 in 2015). Largest counts (>10) came from Sandy Edge (Hermitage) - 48; Friars Croft (Year Hill Forest) - 20; Traquair Plantation - 16; Butterhall (Ancrum) - 10; Berrybush (Tushielaw) - 10.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season):**

Records from 31 tetrads (14 in 2017, 20 in 2016 and 14 in 2015). Largest counts came from Traquair Plantation - 22; Edgerston Tofts (Carter Bar) - 15; Middlestead Burn (Selkirk) - 15; Cheese Well (Traquair) - 12; Bowmont Forest - 12.

Records of probable or confirmed breeding came from 3 tetrads (3 in 2017, 5 in 2016 and none in 2015):

07-May	Wauchope Forest	P	G Paterson
18-May	St Mary's Loch	FL	G Paterson
28-Jun	Windydoors	P	G Paterson

See Introduction for breeding codes.

**Sep-Dec:**

Records from 39 tetrads (12 in 2017, 16 in 2016, and 7 in 2015). Largest counts (>15) came from Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) - 25; Spylaw (Kelso) - 25; Huntford (Carter Bar) - 22; Cauldshiels Loch (Selkirk) - 20; Middlestead (Selkirk) - 20; Glenlude (Traquair) - 17; Elibank Castle (Walkerburn) - 15.

**Goldfinch**

Abundant breeder. Forms winter flocks July-March. During 2008-13 was found in 73% of tetrads in summer, 62% in winter. (346 records in 2014).

*Carduelis carduelis*

Records from 174 tetrads (135 tetrads in 2017, 120 in 2016).

**Jan-Mar**

Records from 62 tetrads (45 in 2017, 48 in 2016 and 39 in 2015). Largest counts (>25) came from: Newmains (Reston) - 120; Preston - 100; St Boswells Green - 33; Lennel Woods (Coldstream) - 30; Torwoodlee (Galashiels) - 30; Fotheringham Bridge (Peebles) - 30; The Hirsell - 25; Innerleithen - 25.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Records from 124 tetrads (82 in 2017, 83 in 2016, 70 in 2015). Largest counts came from: Leithen Water - 40; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 30; Folly Loch and Fairnington Fields - 20; Abbotsford Woods - 20.

Records of probable or confirmed breeding came from 23 tetrads (12 in 2017, 10 in 2016):

11-Feb	Skaithmuir (Coldstream)	T	G White	25-May	Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot)	P	G Paterson
15-Feb	Lennel Woods	T	G White	26-May	Kalemouth (Eckford)	B	BCD Green
08-Mar	Eckford Hall	P	CD Green	02-Jun	Melrose	P	D Parkinson
18-Apr	Ettrick Water: Philiphaugh	P	G Scott	05-Jun	Broadlaw (Moorfoots)	P	D Parkinson
19-Apr	Lamberton	B	R McBeath	08-Jun	Philiphaugh Estate (Selkirk)	P	G Scott

19-Apr	Eckford Hall (Nisbet)	P	CD Green	10-Jun	Eckford- Wooden Loch	FL	CD Green
14-May	Lyne Dale West Linton	P	P Ball	13-Jun	Sourhope (Hownam)	P	G Paterson
18-May	Fruid Reservoir	P	G Paterson	15-Jun	Ferniehurst (Stow)	P	G Paterson
18-May	St Mary's Loch	P	G Paterson	24-Jun	Lyne Dale (West Linton )	FL	P Ball
21-May	Broomlee Camp (W Linton)	P	G Paterson	17-Jul	Burn House (Galashiels)	FL	M Lindsay
22-May	Newmains (Reston)	FL	D Graham	07-Aug	Sprouston-Redden (Kelso)	FL	T Reed
24-May	Walkerburn	P	G Paterson	See Introduction for breeding codes.			

### Sep-Dec

Records from 65 tetrads (70 in 2017, 43 in 2016 and 53 in 2015). Largest counts (>25) came from: Buxley (Duns) - 100; Stantling Craigs Reservoir (Clovenfords) -80; Ashiestiel (Caddonfoot) - 65; Jardinefield (Whitsome) - 50; Kirklandhill (Heriot) - 35; St Boswells Green - 34; Hollybush (Galashiels) - 25; Witche Knowe (Ettrickbridge) - 25.

### Siskin

### *Carduelis spinus*

Abundant resident and summer visitor in forestry areas. Common passage migrants with peaks October & April. Forms winter flocks of fluctuating sizes. During 2008-13 was found in 57% of tetrads in summer, 36% in winter.

Records from 116 tetrads (77 tetrads in 2017 and 66 tetrads in 2016).

### Jan-Mar

Records from 52 tetrads (37 in 2017, 18 in 2016 and 19 in 2015). Largest counts were: Bonchester Bridge - 220; Pot Loch (Selkirk) - 100; Yair Forest - 90; Innerleithen - 65; Peebles - 35; Tweedbank - 32; Gunknowe Loch (Tweedbank) - 30; Netherbank (Galashiels) - 30.

### Apr-Aug (breeding season)

Records from 69 tetrads (46 tetrads in 2017, 46 in 2016 and 26 in 2015). Largest counts were: Cacrabank (Tushielaw) - 300; Bonchester Bridge - 200; Selkirk - 100; Innerleithen - 95; Hallmanor (Manor Water) - 80; Yair Forest - 80; Tweedbank - 65; Ashiestiel (Caddonfoot) - 30.

Evidence of breeding was reported from only 16 tetrads (2017 - 14, 2016 - 7, 2015 - 2): Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) P; Berry Knowe (Tushielaw) - P; Peebles - P; Gattonside-Melrose - S; The Hirsell - P; Huntford (Carter Bar) - D; Manderston (Duns) - P; Melrose - P; Netherbank (Galashiels) - P; Newark Castle (Yarrowford) - S; Bushie Law (Ettrick Valley) - P; Shedden Park (Kelso) - F; Sorrowlessfield (Earlston) - P; Toxside Moss (Portmore) - T; Tweedbank - FL; Lyne Dale (West Linton) - D.

### Sept – Dec

Records from 36 tetrads (33 in 2017, 19 in 2016 and 20 in 2015). Largest counts (>20) were recorded from: The Hirsell - 80, Ploughlands (Nisbet) - 80; Yarrow - 40; Towford West (Hownam) - 30; Mellerstain (Gordon) - 30; Juniper Bank (Walkerburn) - 30; Newark Tower (Yarrowford) - 30; Stantling Craig Reservoir (Clovenfords) - 25; Cacrabank (Tushielaw) - 25; Tweedbank - 24; Ashiestiel-Peel (Caddonfoot) - 21.

### Corn Bunting

### *Emberiza calandra*

Now rare, almost extinct breeder on the Berwickshire coast.

A single record was received from DK Graham of a single bird seen at Newmains (Reston) on 16-Aug. This species appears to be on the verge of extinction in Borders. The last record was received in 2013, of a single at nearby Lamberton.



**Yellowhammer***Emberiza citrinella*

Abundant, mainly in the east. Forms winter flocks. During 2008-13 was found in 41% of tetrads in summer, 30% in winter.

Records from 108 tetrads showed a significant increase from recent years - 64 tetrads in 2017, 73 tetrads in 2016 and 75 tetrads in 2015.

**Jan- Mar**

Records came from 45 tetrads (31 in 2017, 26 in 2016, 28 in 2015 and 42 in 2014). Largest counts (>50) came from Newmains (Reston)- 700; Overwells (Crailinghall) - 150; Clarabad (Paxton) – 94.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season)**

Records from 70 tetrads (48 in 2017, 48 in 2016, 68 in 2015 and 67 in 2014). Largest counts obtained were: Jardinefield (Whitsome) - 60; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) - 12; Newmains (Reston) - 9; Shielfield (Oxton) – 8; Edrington Castle Mill – 8.

Breeding records came from 17 tetrads (25 in 2017, 17 in 2016 and 20 in 2015).

02-Apr	Kalemouth (Eckford)	P	CD Green	28-May	Greenside Pond (Old Cambus)	T	T Brewis
21-Apr	Middlestots Marsh (Duns)	P	AP Mossop	29-May	Edrington Castle Mill	T	T Brewis
23-Apr	Teviot Haughs (Nisbet)	P	CD Green	10-Jul	Sprouston-Redden (Kelso)	FL	T Reed
08-May	Newmains (Reston)	FL	DK Graham	16-Jul	Ashiestiel (Caddonfoot)	T	G Paterson
See Introduction for breeding codes.				30-Jul	Eckford Hall (Nisbet)	FF	CD Green

**Sept-Dec**

Records came from 34 tetrads (26 tetrads in 2017, 16 in 2016, 18 in 2015 and 18 in 2014). Largest counts (>20 ) received: Newmains (Reston) - 110; Lady Moss (Melrose) - 27 (20); Auchencrow (Reston) - 20.

**Reed Bunting***Emberiza schoeniclus*

Abundant 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.

Records from 118 tetrads (194 records from 81 tetrads in 2017 and 230 from 86 tetrads in 2016).

**Jan-Mar:**

Records from 35 tetrads (22 in 2017, 28 in 2016 and 25 in 2015). Significant counts were obtained from Newmains (Reston). Largest counts (>20) were: Newmains (Reston) - 240; Overwells (Crailinghall) - 25; Bemersyde - 20.

**Apr-Aug (breeding season):**

Records from 86 tetrads (56 in 2017, 77 in 2016, 57 in 2015). Largest counts recorded (>5) were: Jardinefield (Whitsome) - 25; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) – 7; Newmains (Reston) - 6; Fruid Reservoir - 6.

Records with breeding evidence came from 39 tetrads (2017 – 21, 2016 – 47, 2015 -22): Alemoor Res (Hawick) -H; Bemersyde Moss -S; Blackhopebyre (Glentress Water) -S; Bowmont Water: Park Law -B; Crooked Jock (West Linton) -T; Crumside Hill (Caddonhead) -S; Dewar (Leithen Valley) -S; Dunhog Moss (Ashkirk) -P; Eckford-Kalemouth -S; Eckford-Wooden Hill -P; Folly Loch -N; Fruid Reservoir -P; Garvald (Leithen Valley) -S; Gattonside-Melrose -S; Greenside Pond (Old Cambus) -T; Hartwoodburn (Selkirk) -P; Humbleton (Kirk Yetholm) -S; Innerleithen -S; Jardinefield (Whitsome) -S; Lymiecleugh (Teviothead) -S; Merrylaw (Teviothead) -S; Nether Hindhope (Hownam) -S; Newmains (Reston) -S; Piper of Peebles Grave (Leithen Valley) -S; Posso (Manor Valley) -S; Priestthaugh (Hawick) -S; Putts Pool (Innerleithen) -S; St Mary's Loch -S; Stantling Craig Reservoir -S; Talla Reservoir -S; Teviot Haughs (Nisbet) -P; The Hirsle -S; Toxside Moss (Portmore) -S; Tweed: Union Bridge -S; Watch Water Reservoir (east) -H; Watch Water Reservoir (west) -S; Whiteside Hill (Hownam) -S; Woden Law (Hownam) -S; Yetholm Loch -P. See Introduction for breeding codes.

**Sep-Dec**

Records were received from 21 tetrads (19 in 2017, 12 in 2016 and 10 in 2015). Largest counts were: Newmains (Reston) - 12; St Abb's Head - 7; Carham-Sprouston (Kelso) - 6; Eastloch (Portmore) - 5.

## **Snow Bunting**

*Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, October-March. Scarcer January-March. During 2008-13 was found in 3 tetrads in summer, 37 in winter.

Eight records from 3 tetrads, with the highest count of 2 at St Abb's Head on 28-Oct and 4-Nov (R Drew), Dowlaw (Coldingham Moor) on 4-Nov (F Evans). Single was seen at Haud Yauds (Coldingham Moor) on 2-Dec (DK Graham).

## **Exotics, escapes and hybrids**

### **Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus***

Two at Teviot Haughs on 30-May (S Turnbull).

### **Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris***

Single at Huntford (Carter Bar) on 10-Jul (CW Watson).

### **Indian Peafowl *Pavo polioctor***

Single at Shielfield (Oxton) on 23-Jun.

### **Black-billed Magpie *Pica hudsonia***

Single at Castle Hill (Manor Valley) on 13-May (I Haldane)

## **Errata and Addenda**

### **Gadwall**

January 2016 record of 8 at Yetholm Marsh should be 2 at Yetholm Marsh.

### **Teal**

The count at Greenlaw Farm Pool, Foulden of 867 in Feb-2017 was not the highest count recorded to-date, as stated in the Report for 2017. The highest count submitted to-date is of 1,000+ birds at Hule Moss on 10-Oct 1986.

The following records of Teal at Hule Moss to be added to the 2015 Report: 33 on 27-Feb; 20 on 18-Mar; 12 on 10-Apr; 30 on 17-Aug.

### **Manx Shearwater**

RS Craig reported a dead bird found at Peebles in 2017. Not mentioned in the 2017 Report.

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull**

The 2017 Report stated that the peak annual count of 5,600 at Hule Moss was the highest on record for Borders. In fact, the highest count is of 6,650 at Hule Moss in 2010.

### **Nightjar**

In addition to the two sites mentioned in BBR 2017, a further site, in the east of the region, has since submitted records of churring birds.

### **Ring-necked Parakeet**

March 2017 record of 2 was not the first record submitted, as suggested in BBR 2017. Previous records were submitted for Apr-1984 (Selkirk) and Feb-1995 (Cranshaws, Longformacus). The 2017 record was however, the first since this species was re-allocated by SBRC to BOU Category C5 – (vagrant naturalized species) from BOU Category E – (escape from captivity).

### **Paddyfield Warbler**

The report of a Paddyfield Warbler seen at St Abb's Head on 29-Aug 2017 should have been credited to A McCormick and not M Holling.

### **Hawfinch**

2017 Report graph has the y-axes the wrong way around, ie the graph should show *No. of sites* as the line and *Max. count* should be the bars.



**Blackcap. Burnhouse Mains. August. Alistair Cutter.**

## Lesser Yellowlegs at Teviot Haughs – a first record for Borders

Steve Turnbull

Sunday, 21-Oct 2018, began with a dreich morning, with strong westerly gusts, incorporating frequent wintery squalls of rain and hail. It felt cold and miserable, although there were a few brief sunny intervals. Nevertheless, I decided to take a walk on my local patch, Teviot Haughs.

I walked downstream to Oxnam Burn and, not unusually, I located three Green Sandpipers along the River Teviot. I walked upstream along Oxnam Burn before turning to walk along a hedgerow next to some flooded stubble, whereupon, at 10.43 am, I heard a very brief, quiet, wader call, apparently coming from the direction of the stubble. Whilst I recognised the call to be that of a wader, I wasn't able to identify the species from the call itself.

I carefully looked through the hedge and saw a medium size, grey coloured wader, reminiscent of a Redshank, although the overall impression and colour of the bird wasn't right for a Redshank.

I was using 7 x 42 binoculars but didn't have my scope with me. Fortunately, the wader was less than 20 m away. It appeared confiding and actually walked closer to me whilst feeding. I quickly saw the wader had distinctive yellow legs, with a slim appearance, slender neck and head. I was aware that it was likely to be either a Lesser or Greater Yellowlegs. I discounted the latter due to size alone. I began to put some notes into my notebook.

Within a couple of minutes of finding the wader, a severe hail squall passed through and the bird flew off towards the nearby River Teviot. I followed the bird in flight and relocated it feeding on a gravel bed, in company with a Redshank and a Green Sandpiper. Fortunately the weather had improved and I was able to make size, colour comparisons, etc.

All three birds flushed together and when the wader and the Green Sandpiper took off alongside each other, the white rumps of both birds gave a brief impression of two Green Sandpipers. However, the trailing yellow legs of the wader and its much more slender shape plus colour differences created a distinct contrast with the Green Sandpiper.

I followed the wader as it flew back to the original flooded stubble, where I got excellent views of it. I was now sure it was a juvenile, 1CY, Lesser Yellowlegs. Unfortunately, the weather again worsened and I also had to be elsewhere, and therefore I had to leave the bird.

The angst of a potentially uncorroborated sighting of a rarity ran through my mind. I put the sighting onto the then recently introduced Borders Sightings WhatsApp site and also the Borders Bird News site. Fortunately, during the afternoon, other birders were able to catch up with the bird and also obtain some good photographs.

The next day was glorious sunshine and I returned early to the same flooded stubble, this time with my scope, The wader was still *in situ*. I spent several hours enjoying a beautiful bird. It was a fantastic experience, particularly on my local patch.

The Lesser Yellowlegs was the first record for the Scottish Borders. It remained until 23 October.

## Melodious Warbler at St Abb's Head – a second record for Borders.

Dave Graham

The 2-Sep was bright and sunny with a gentle ESE wind which picked up later in the day. I decided to check St Abb's Head. On the drive up to the Lighthouse I met Fran Evans and gave her a lift up to car park. I was initially going to do a seawatch but we decided to look at the Lighthouse garden first. On the approach I noticed a warbler sitting on top of an Elder bush, next to the garden gate. When I looked through my bins I was surprised to see a hippolais Warbler. The bird dropped out of sight behind the wall. My initial thought was that it was an Icterine Warbler. The bird had its crown feathers raised, giving a peaked crown look. This is what made me think of Icterine first as it wasn't rounded like a Melodious Warbler. I said to Fran, "I think that's an *icky* in the Elders". She hadn't seen it so we approached the wall and looked over. The bird flew into the willows at the side of the garden and was skulking. We waited a while and it didn't show much, so Fran walked around the wall towards the back of the willows. I stood next to the wall and the bird came out showing a light wing panel. It was still not showing well and I wasn't able to see the wing length. The bird then flew closer to me and landed in a small hedgerow in the middle of the garden. The bird then hopped out onto the wooden fence in front of hedge. At this point I was able to get a few photos before it disappeared again. I didn't have my glasses with me and therefore couldn't properly view my pictures on the back of the camera. Fran came back around and hadn't been able to get a good view of the bird but also thought that it was an Icterine. We thought if there's an *icky* in the garden there must be more around Mire Loch. I was supposed to be harvesting on the farm in the afternoon so decided I'd better get a move on in order to check around the loch. Was disappointed not to find much around the loch. I left Fran at this point and went back to lighthouse garden. The wind had picked up but I managed to find the bird again with it favouring the willows but still very skulking. Although not getting good views, the bird looked a bit more like a Melodious, as its head appeared more rounded. I then manage to get a good view of the wings and thought the primary projection looked short for an *icky*. I was aware of the time, so headed back to the car. After looking at my photos with my glasses I was pretty sure that it was a Melodious Warbler. I took some images off the back of my camera and texted them to Angus Murray to see what he thought. He got back to me quickly to say he agreed that it was a Melodious Warbler. I then put news out. A few folk got down and saw the bird in the afternoon, some able to get photos. The bird continued to be pretty elusive however, and the wind continued to pick up through day. The bird wasn't present next day despite searches.

Size and Structure: Looked a bit bigger than a Chiffchaff when seen closely at one point. Typical hippolais shape: slim, flat head and longish tail with shortish wings. Heavy looking bill.

Bare Parts: Legs dark greyish in colour. Bill heavy, longish and pale brownish orange in colour. Dark eye.

Upperparts: The neck, back and mantle were pale washed out grey green in colour. Wings were a shade darker. Tertials had paler edges forming a pale wing panel. Primaries were short, half the length of the tertials. Tail was grey-greenish- brown and was longish and square ended.

Underparts: Chin and neck pale with yellowish tinge. Breast, belly, flanks and undertail coverts paler in colour.

Head: changed shape often looking flat. Rear of crown sometimes raised but head looked rounded most of the time. Had open-faced look with indistinct pale eye-ring and slight pale supercilium in front of eye. Head was pale greenish grey paler below eye.

Behaviour: the bird was pretty active and had a skulking in behaviour. It seemed to prefer feeding in the willows when it could be seen moving about slowly but usually half hidden. I never heard the bird calling while I was there.



**Lesser Yellowlegs. Teviot Haughs, Nisbet. October. Heiko Peters.**



**Melodious Warbler. St Abb's Head. September. Dave Graham**

# Seabird Survey Berwickshire Coast

Clive Hartley

## Introduction

A boat-based survey of seabirds nesting along the Berwickshire coast from the Scottish Border north to the boundary with East Lothian at Dunglass was carried out between 08.40 and 12.30hrs GMT on Thursday 7 June 2018 as part of a nationally coordinated count of all seabirds in Britain over the period 2015 to 2019. St Abbs to Fast Castle was not included in our survey, because this had already been counted or was in the process of being counted by staff from the National Trust for Scotland (St Abb's Head NNR) and by contract labour. This is the first time that this stretch of coast has been counted comprehensively from the sea, as survey work for Seabird 2000 was largely land-based. Whilst it was understood that a coordinated count of this stretch of coast had not been carried out since Seabird 2000, it was subsequently found that the late Ray Murray and others had made land-based counts of parts of the area in 2016.

## Organisation

The survey of 7 June was organized by the author utilizing a grant of £650 from the Seabird Group. This covered the full cost of hiring the survey vessel, MV Shore Diver, skippered by Paul Crowe and operating out of St Abbs Harbour. Surveyors were recruited from the Scottish Ornithologists Club and the Forth Seabird Group, many of whom had considerable previous experience of counting nesting seabirds from a boat at sea. A representative of National Trust for Scotland was invited, but unable to attend because of other survey commitments. Surveyors were alerted to the fact that the survey would take place from early June onwards as soon as the weather and sea conditions were suitable and that a decision would need to be made at little more than 24-hour notice. The first few days of the month proved unsuitable on account of the presence of banks of mist (North Sea "harr") close inshore, but by 7 June conditions had improved sufficiently for us to proceed. The day started off dull, but it remained dry, with sun and blue sky prevailing from late morning onwards. There was a gentle breeze (northerly, Force 3) and the sea was relatively calm. High tide at Eyemouth was at 09.11hrs GMT. Visibility was good.

Each species was counted using a methodology set out in the Seabird Monitoring Handbook for Britain and Ireland and count units evolved since the 1960s and contained within the JNCC Seabird Monitoring Programme Online Database. One surveyor (the author) was allocated the essential task of identifying the count units using a hand-held GPS and communicating this information to the other surveyors throughout the course of the survey. The same person had responsibility for liaising with the skipper, which was also essential in order to ensure that the speed of the boat and its course were such as to achieve optimum counts of birds using the cliffs. Separate surveyors were given the task of counting Great Black-backed Gull (Apparently Occupied Nests), Herring Gull (AON), Kittiwake (AON), Guillemot (individuals on land), Razorbill (individuals), Shag (AON) and Cormorant (AON). Two surveyors were each asked to make separate counts of Fulmar (Apparently Occupied Sites), with the results being averaged for each count unit. Each surveyor had their own binoculars and a hand-held counter, with the data being transferred to a personal notebook at the end of each count unit. A general watch was kept for Puffin on both land and sea, but none were recorded. Two surveyors kept a photographic record of all the seabird colonies present.

The survey was carried out in two sections: the Scottish Border northwards to Black Craig Head, St Abbs between 08.40 and 10.47hrs GMT and Fast Castle Head westwards to Reed Point between 11.20 and 12.30hrs GMT. This sequence ensured that surveyors were not counting into the sun.

## Survey Results

A summary of the survey results is set out in the Table 1. This includes some slight additions to the boat-based counts, in order to take account of gulls that were nesting on outcrops not readily visible from the sea, as established by selective land-based counts. In total, our survey located 1,716 individual Guillemots and 290 individual Razorbills present on the cliffs, along with AONs of 39 Shag, 25 Cormorant, 471 Herring Gull, 709 Kittiwake and AOSs of 232 Fulmar. In addition, there was one AON of Great Black-backed Gull on the cliffs between Lamberton Skerrs and Lamberton Holdings (ID No. 85967) and one AON of Lesser Black-backed Gull between Scout Cave and Nest End (ID No. 85950) which are not included in the table because of space restrictions. Further details of these counts, together with maps of the count units, are contained in the JNCC Seabird Monitoring Programme Online Database.

**Table 1. Survey Results, 2018**

		<b>Guillemot</b>	<b>Razorbill</b>	<b>Shag</b>	<b>Cormorant</b>	<b>Herring Gull</b>	<b>Kittiwake</b>	<b>Fulmar</b>
<b>ID No</b>	<b>Count unit</b>	Ind	Ind	AON	AON	AON	AON	AOS
<b>Border to Burnmouth</b>								
85969	Border - Tods Loup	0	0	0	0	3	0	32
85968	Tods Loup - Lambertton Skerrs	0	0	0	0	7	0	40
85967	Lamberton Skerrs - Lambertton Holdings	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
85966	Lamberton Holdings -Burnmouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Burnmouth-Eymouth</b>								
85943	Burnmouth - Fancove Head	0	20	1	0	25	60	0
85944	Fancove Head -Hurkers Haven	280	44	7	0	20	171	6
85945	Hurkers Haven -Blaikie Pit	6	6	0	0	16	6	4
85946	Blaikie Pit - Hawks Ness	130	34	4	0	36	62	2
85947	Hawks Ness - Horse Head	150	77	12	0	64	114	11
85948	Horse Head - Daring	130	34	0	0	4	158	7
85949	Daring - Scout Cave	20	9	0	0	21	138	12
85950	Scout Cave - Nest Ends	0	0	0	0	22	0	0
<b>Eymouth-St Abbs</b>								
85941	Eymouth Bay - Killiedraught Bay	0	0	0	0	3	0	22
85940	Cellarnose Point -Linkim Shore	0	0	0	0	7	0	22
85939	St Abbs South -Lifeboat Station	0	4	0	0	168	0	0
85938	Lifeboat Station - Black Craig Head	0	0	0	0	11	0	0
<b>Fast Castle Head-Dunglass</b>								
99011	Fast Castle Head -Lansy Bank	1,000	62	15	25	40	0	8
85924	Lansy Bank -Redheugh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
85921	Redheugh Cottages - Pease Bay	0	0	0	0	1	0	13
85918	Cove - Reed Point	0	0	0	0	20	0	42
85917	Reed Point - Dunglass	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
<b>Grand Totals</b>		<b>1,716</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>232</b>

\* Ind = individuals. AON = apparently occupied nest. AOS = apparently occupied site.

A comparison of these counts with those made in 2000 is contained in Table 2, from which it can be seen that there were increases in Guillemots and large gulls but that all other seabirds declined. The decline in number of nesting Kittiwakes was particularly dramatic, with a loss of 2,600 AON (almost 79%) over an 18-year period, including the complete abandonment of nesting sites between Fast Castle Head and Dunglass. Fulmar and Razorbill had also fared extremely badly, with declines of 47% and 56%, respectively.



**Table 2. Changes in seabird numbers, 2000 to 2018**

Species	Year 2000	Year 2018	Absolute change	% change
<b>Border to Burnmouth</b>				
Herring Gull (AON)	16	13	-3	-18.8%
Great Black-backed Gull (AON)	0	1	+1	
Fulmar (AOS)	78	72	-6	-7.7%
<b>Burnmouth to Eyemouth</b>				
Guillemot (individuals)	892	716	-176	-19.7%
Razorbill (individuals)	377	224	-153	-40.6%
Shag (AON)	20	24	+4	+20.0%
Herring Gull (AON)	83	208	+125	+150.6%
Lesser Black-backed Gull (AON)	0	1	+1	
Kittiwake (AON)	2,516	709	-1,807	-71.8%
Fulmar (AOS)	44	42	-2	-4.5%
<b>Eyemouth to St Abbs</b>				
Razorbill (individuals)	0	4	+4	
Herring Gull (AON)	199	189	-10	-5.0%
Kittiwake (AON)	1	0	-1	-100.0%
Fulmar (AOS)	56	44	-12	-21.4%
<b>Fast Castle Head to Dunglass</b>				
Guillemot (individuals)	607	1,000	+393	+64.7%
Razorbill (individuals)	282	62	-220	-78.0%
Shag (AON)	60	15	-45	-75.0%
Cormorant (AON)	36	25	-11	-30.6%
Herring Gull (AON)	106	61	-45	-42.5%
Kittiwake (AON)	792	0	-792	-100.0%
Fulmar (AOS)	256	74	-182	-71.1%
<b>Grand Totals</b>				
Guillemot (individuals)	1,499	1,716	+217	+14.5%
Razorbill (individuals)	659	290	-369	-56.0%
Shag (AON)	80	39	-41	-51.3%
Cormorant (AON)	36	25	-11	-30.6%
Herring Gull (AON)	404	471	+67	+16.6%
Lesser Black-backed Gull (AON)	0	1	+1	
Great Black-backed Gull (AON)	0	1	+1	
Kittiwake (AON)	3,309	709	-2,600	-78.6%
Fulmar (AOS)	434	232	-202	-46.5%

**Comparison with remainder of Berwickshire Coast**

Comparable figures for the coastline between St Abb's and Fast Castle are set out in Table 3.

**Table 3. Changes in Seabird numbers, St Abbs to Fast Castle, 2000 – 2018**

Species	2000	2018	Absolute Change	% Change
<b>St Abb's Head NNR</b>				
Guillemot (individuals)*	40,720	42,905	+2,185	+5.4%
Razorbill (individuals)*	2,214	2,683	+469	+21.2%
Puffin (individuals)	58	2	-56	-96.6%
Shag (AON)	233	95	-138	-59.2%
Gannet (AON)	0	1	+1	
Herring Gull (AON)	307	211	-96	-31.2%
Great Black-backed Gull (AON)	1	0	-1	-100.0%
Kittiwake (AON)	11,077	3,244	-7,833	-70.7%
Fulmar (AOS)	274	77	-197	-71.9%
<b>Broadhaven - Moorburn Point</b>				
Guillemot (individuals)**	2,032	1,573	-459	-22.6%
Razorbill (individuals)**	535	132	-403	-75.3%
Shag (AON)**	1	3	+2	+200.0%
Herring Gull (AON)**	80	60	-20	-25.0%
Kittiwake (AON)**	3,235	515	-2,720	-84.1%
Fulmar (AOS)**	303	74	-229	-75.6%
<b>Moorburn Point - Fast Castle</b>				
Guillemot (individuals)**	385	336	-49	-12.7%
Razorbill (individuals)**	126	38	-88	-69.8%
Shag (AON)**	35	13	-22	-62.9%
Herring Gull (AON)**	154	25	-129	-83.8%
Lesser Black-backed Gull (AON)**	1	0	-1	-100.0%
Kittiwake (AON)**	1,118	35	-1,083	-96.9%
Fulmar (AOS)**	138	21	-117	-84.8%
<b>Grand total: St Abb's to Fast Castle</b>				
Guillemot (individuals)	43,137	44,814	+1,677	+3.9%
Razorbill (individuals)	2,875	2,853	-22	-0.8%
Puffin (individuals)	58	2	-56	-96.6%
Shag (AON)	269	111	-158	-58.7%
Gannet (AON)	0	1	+1	
Herring Gull (AON)	541	319	-222	-41.0%
Lesser Black-backed Gull (AON)	1	0	-1	-100.0%
Great Black-backed Gull (AON)	1	0	-1	-100.0%
Kittiwake (AON)	15,430	3,794	-11,636	-75.4%
Fulmar (AOS)	715	172	-543	-75.9%

\* refers to counts in 1998 and not 2000

\*\* refers to counts in 2016 and not 2018

Taking these figures into account along with our own, it is apparent that there has been a massive 76% decline in nesting Kittiwakes along the entire Berwickshire coast over the last 18 years, from 18,739 in 2000 to only 4,503 in 2018. The Fulmar has undergone a 65% decline over the same period, with numbers between St Abbs and Fast Castle dropping at a faster rate than those along the remainder of the Berwickshire Coast. Guillemot numbers have seen an increase both within St Abb's Head NNR and along much the remainder of the Berwickshire coastline amounting to 4% overall, although a decline in numbers was recorded between Burnmouth and the English Border. A decline in Razorbill numbers along most of the Berwickshire coast (11% overall) would have been much higher were it not for an increase of 21% within the confines of St Abb's Head NNR.

**Table 4. Overall changes for the whole of the Berwickshire coast.**

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Absolute change</b>	<b>% change</b>
Guillemot (individuals)	44,636	46,530	+1,894	+4.2%
Razorbill (individuals)	3,534	3,143	-391	-11.1%
Shag (AON)	349	150	-199	-57.0%
Herring Gull (AON)	945	767	-178	-18.8%
Kittiwake (AON)	18,739	4,503	-14,236	-76.0%
Fulmar (AOS)	1,149	404	-745	-64.8%



**Kittiwakes. St Abb's Head. T Brewis**

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are made for future surveys:

1. The inter-relationship of different colonies of seabirds along the Berwickshire Coast suggests that trends in overall numbers are best monitored by comprehensive counts of the entire coastline over a single season, possibly once every 5 or 10 years.
2. Given the length, complexity and relative remoteness of this 28-km coastline, this is probably best achieved by boat-based counts, supplemented where necessary by counts from land.
3. Most of the existing count units are well suited to such an approach, although there is a case for merging a few of the smaller units, especially on the stretch from Burnmouth to Eyemouth where it is difficult to identify the dividing line between units irrespective of whether surveying from land or sea.

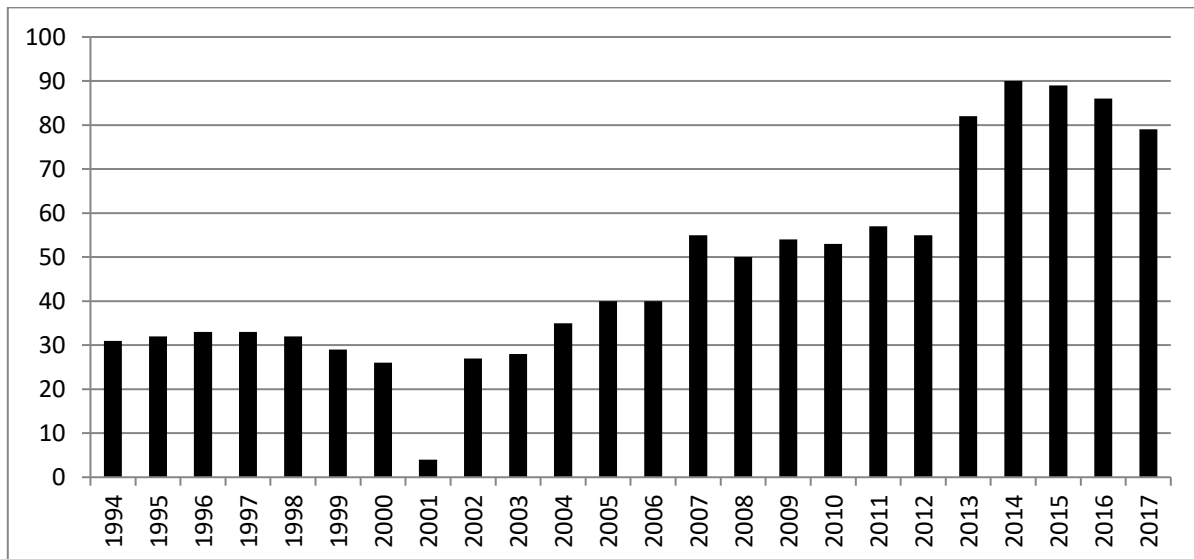
### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to the Seabird Group, whose generous grant made this survey possible, and to the volunteers who took part in this survey: Tom Brewis, Bill Bruce, Phil Bysh, Mark Holling, Liz Humphreys, Andrew Mossop, Dave Nicol, David Ross and Neil Stratton. Skipper Paul Crowe and his boat, MV Shore Diver, also served us admirably.

# The Breeding Bird Survey in SE Scotland: 1994-2017

Tom Brewis

The British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) was launched in 1994, replacing the Common Bird Census (CBC) which began in 1962. The aim of the BBS is to establish historical and geographical trends for the commoner breeding birds. At its inception in 1994 it was based on 1,570 one sq. km. sample surveys throughout the UK. In 2018 that number had risen to 4,022. In the same period the number of sample squares in Borders and Lothian (see Figure 1) went from 31 (15 in Borders) to 79 (29 in Borders) with a peak of 90 (40 in Borders) in 2014. It is because the numbers of squares in either Borders or Lothian are too small to draw any significant conclusions that the two Regions' records are here combined.



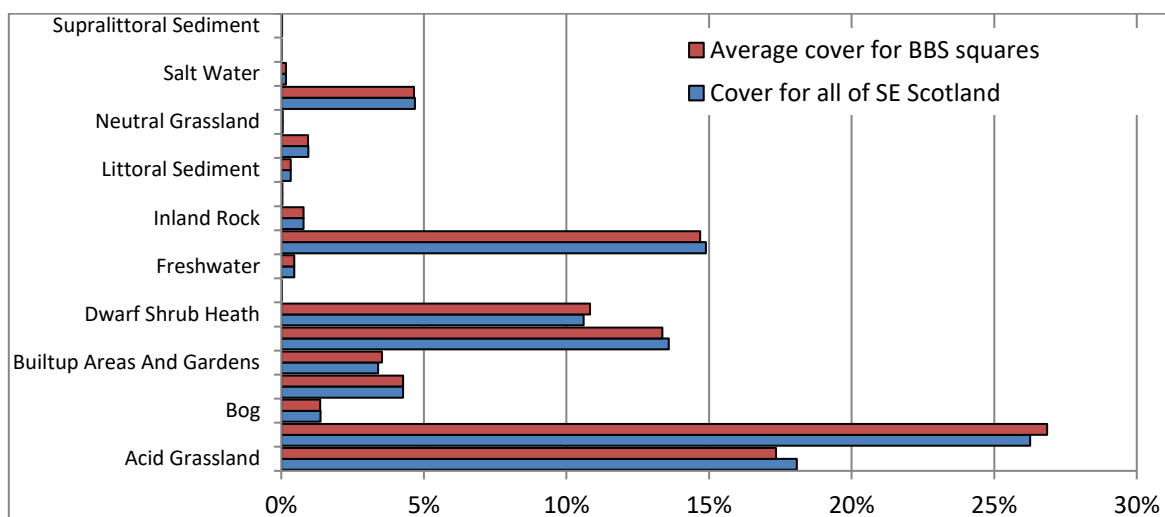
**Figure 1. No. of BBS plots surveyed for Borders and Lothian: 1994-2017.**

BBS squares are surveyed once between April and mid-May and again between mid-May and the end of June. The surveyor moves along two transects which are about 500 m apart, recording birds seen and heard and the distances that they occur from the transect. Grid squares are selected nationally by the BTO using a stratified random sampling design. More information about the BBS can be found at <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/bbs>

An analysis of BBS Borders and Lothian records was made by Alex Copland for the period 1994-97 in *Borders Bird Report No 17*. The analysis, although based on a limited dataset, considered the proportion of surveyed tetrads that were occupied by the most common species, their mean encounter rates and also compared these with findings in the then recently published *Breeding Birds of South-east Scotland: 1988-94*. The following analysis, using BBS records from 23 years (2001 is not included because of the Foot and Mouth outbreak), follows a similar format to that employed in the earlier analysis but with a wider range of species and not just the most common species. It also makes comparisons with the recently published population data in *Birds in South-east Scotland 2007-13*.

## Species range

Range is here defined in terms of the proportion of surveyed squares occupied by a specific species. Thus, in Table 1, it can be seen that the Robin occupies about 87% of plots surveyed during the period 2014-17. By extension, we might make a qualified assumption that about 87% of SE Scotland's area is occupied by Robins. A big part of this qualified assumption is that the sum of the BBS plots' habitats that were surveyed reflects that of SE Scotland as a whole. Figure 2 shows that there is surprisingly little difference between habitats for the BBS plots and for the region as a whole. Of course, there is variation in habitat cover of the BBS plots on a year-to-year basis, depending on which plots are surveyed.



**Figure 2. Comparison of land use categories for BBS plots and SE Scotland.**

A useful comparison can be made between the proportion of tetrads occupied for different species during the 2008-13 survey period for *Birds in South-east Scotland 2007-13* and BBS plots for the same period (see Table 1). We can assume that the closer the estimate of range is between these two independent methods then the more confidence we can attach to them.

Species	% SESA2	2008-13 BBS mean	1994-1998	1999-2003	2004-2008	2009-2013	2014-2017	Change: 1994-98 to 2014-17
Woodpigeon	88	90	90	95	90	89	92	+2
Chaffinch	93	92	94	92	91	92	91	-3
Blackbird	82	88	74	87	90	87	89	+15
Skylark	78	90	90	91	90	88	88	-2
Wren	90	81	82	83	86	75	88	+6
Robin	86	79	67	68	75	78	87	+20
Carrion Crow	92	87	88	89	87	86	87	-1
Blue Tit	70	74	68	75	76	73	79	+11
Chiffchaff	55	51	13	27	44	59	78	+65
House Sparrow	54	60	64	62	57	65	76	+12
Swallow	86	76	72	73	76	74	74	+2
Yellowhammer	48	64	59	64	61	66	74	+15
Jackdaw	69	64	68	72	64	65	73	+5
Goldfinch	70	62	42	52	58	66	73	+31
Blackcap	58	62	30	46	43	63	73	+43
Willow Warbler	91	76	79	72	72	79	72	-7
Dunnock	72	70	54	72	75	64	69	+15
Meadow Pipit	72	65	68	61	62	67	68	0
Herring Gull	36	56	64	58	52	59	64	0
Starling	64	54	63	74	61	48	61	-2
Rook	63	62	66	72	69	55	58	-8
Coal Tit	74	62	39	40	61	59	58	+19
Pied Wagtail	78	49	60	64	50	52	55	-5
Oystercatcher	57	50	65	66	56	48	52	-13
Curlew	50	52	76	66	51	55	52	-24
Goldcrest	60	53	40	56	61	44	48	+8
Collared Dove	34	37	39	31	40	36	46	+7
Linnet	59	47	50	65	52	41	46	+4
Black-headed Gull	43	40	50	40	44	38	33	-17

**Table 1. Average percentage occupation of BBS plots at five year intervals.**

(Ranked in order of averages for 2014-17. SESA2 = tetrads occupied in 2008-13 survey period for *Birds in South-east Scotland 2007-13*).

Of the 29 species considered here, virtually two-thirds show a difference of less than 10%. Two species show a notable divergence between the range suggested by the *Atlas* and the range suggested by BBS records: Herring Gulls show 36% range according to the Atlas and BBS records suggest a 56% range, while Pied Wagtails have a range of 78% suggested by *Atlas* tetrads but only 49% suggested by BBS plots. The Herring Gull anomaly is possibly the result of fly-overs being counted in BBS but not in the Atlas tetrad surveys. Beyond tetrad occupation for SESA2 covering both summer and winter, there is no apparent reason for the 29% divergence that applies to Pied Wagtails.

The trends shown in Table 1 can be summarised in order of increases and decreases in range. The extent of these is shown in Table 2.

Increases		Stable or decreases	
Chiffchaff	65	Herring Gull	0
Blackcap	42	Meadow Pipit	0
Goldfinch	31	Carrion Crow	-1
Robin	20	Starling	-1
Coal Tit	19	Skylark	-2
Blackbird	15	Chaffinch	-3
Dunnock	15	Linnet	-4
Yellowhammer	14	Pied Wagtail	-5
House Sparrow	12	Willow Warbler	-7
Blue Tit	11	Rook	-8
Goldcrest	7	Oystercatcher	-13
Collared Dove	7	Black-headed Gull	-17
Wren	6	Curlew	-25
Jackdaw	5		
Swallow	3		
Woodpigeon	2		

**Table 2. Changes in the mean percentage of plots occupied between 1994-98 and 2014-17.**

Unfortunately, it is not possible to compare these changes with the changes in occupied tetrads found during the Atlas survey periods of 1988-94 to 2008-13 since BBS records only cover the period from 1994. However, assuming that these figures accurately reflect the whole of the region, there are some interesting trends. For example, while the increases in range of Chiffchaff and Blackcap are roughly in line with the wider experiences of northern England and Scotland, the 20% increase indicated for Robin is surprising and possibly the product of changes in the proportions of habitats covered in BBS plots since 2009.

The increase in range for Dunnock of 15% might be an exaggeration due to the slightly higher proportion of built-up/human habitats that have tended to make up BBS plots. The same might be true of Yellowhammer with plots in the latter part of the period often having a disproportionately high amount of arable habitat.

At the extreme end of the decreases in range, Oystercatcher has shown a gradual decline in range through the study period although some expansion is evident from 2013. Black-headed Gull and Curlew have similarly experienced a steady decline for much of the study period.

To help put these changes into context and to find more information about recent changes in range of individual species, readers are recommended to refer to the recent Atlas, *Birds in South-east Scotland 2007-13* (SESA2).

### **Abundance (encounter rates)**

Table 3 shows the mean changes in contact rates for BBS plots in five-yearly intervals with estimates of density used for *Birds in South-east Scotland 2007-13* (SESA2) and BBS averages for 2009-13 also shown. Readers should be aware that the Atlas figure is for pairs and is based on BBS plots from an area of SE Scotland that extends 30 km beyond the Lothian and Borders boundaries as well as having contact rates multiplied by a detection factor. There is thus considerable difference between the two sets of estimates. However, there is a fairly strong correlation between

the two sets of estimates suggesting a degree of accuracy for the BBS contact rates. Since the Atlas density estimate is partly based on BBS records in Borders and Lothian, this is not surprising.

Species	1994-98	1999-2003	2004-2008	2009-2013	2014-17	SESA2 average density estimate (pr. per km <sup>2</sup> )	Average BBS contact rates 2008-13 (individuals)
Woodpigeon	11.4	13.8	17.0	16.3	16.5	22.0	16.3
Rook	20.9	24.6	21.4	14.4	12.4	-	14.4
House Sparrow	5.9	5.7	8.9	10.7	11.0	25.0	10.7
Meadow Pipit	11.6	11.4	10.1	9.3	10.6	14.5	9.3
Chaffinch	10.2	11.0	10.9	11.9	10.2	23.5	11.9
Carrion Crow	9.6	10.4	9.9	9.2	9.8	2.0	9.2
Jackdaw	8.2	10.4	9.0	9.5	9.5	7.6	9.5
Starling	16.3	16.2	20.3	11.9	9.5	9.5	11.9
Herring Gull	12.4	10.2	10.4	8.5	8.1	-	8.5
Blackbird	4.4	5.6	6.4	7.3	6.9	14.6	7.3
Skylark	7.7	8.7	8.4	7.4	5.7	7.6	7.4
Wren	4.2	5.4	6.4	5.8	5.2	-	5.8
Swallow	3.9	4.9	6.3	5.2	5.2	4.0	5.2
Blue Tit	3.4	3.9	5.6	5.2	5.0	12.2	5.2
Chiffchaff	4.2	4.8	6.1	6.4	4.9	4.4	6.4
Black-headed Gull	5.1	3.7	2.8	2.8	4.5	-	2.8
Robin	2.6	2.8	3.3	4.1	3.6	17.0	4.1
Willow Warbler	4.4	4.4	3.6	3.5	3.1	13.7	3.5
Goldfinch	1.2	1.7	2.7	3.5	3.0	5.2	3.5
Curlew	3.6	3.2	2.3	2.4	2.9	-	2.4
Yellowhammer	2.3	2.4	3.0	2.9	2.8	6.4	2.9
Linnet	2.7	3.1	3.1	2.5	2.3	5.5	2.5
Dunnock	1.3	1.8	2.5	2.4	2.1	11.0	2.4
Blackcap	0.5	1.0	0.9	1.4	1.9	4.0	1.4
Coal Tit	2.1	1.8	2.4	2.6	1.7	5.5	2.6
Oystercatcher	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5
Collared Dove	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.7	1.0
Pied Wagtail	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.0	1.1	2.5	1.0
Goldcrest	1.7	2.7	3.1	1.8	1.1	9.5	1.8

**Table 3. Mean contact rates for BBS plots at five year intervals.**

(SESA2 refers to *Birds in South-east Scotland 2007-13*).

The detection factor used in SESA2 can be illustrated by an example. Suppose Species X has a mean contact rate of 5.2 individuals during the Atlas survey period (here taken as 2008-13). If we assume that the surveyor only hears or sees c. 40% of Species X present then we can assume that there are c. 5.2 individuals x (1/40%) birds present, ie 13 individuals. To convert these into pairs the proportion of singing males was determined from TTV breeding evidence. Here it was assumed that birds advertising or protecting territory were part of a pair. Let us assume in the case of Species X, that this was 60%. We then multiply our 13 individuals by 60% to give 7.8 pairs per km<sup>2</sup>. If Species X was found in, say, 75% of BBS plots surveyed then we could estimate the population by multiplying the 7.8 pairs by 75% of SE Scotland's area, ie 7.8 pr/km<sup>2</sup> x (6,457 km<sup>2</sup> x 75%) = c. 37,800 pairs.

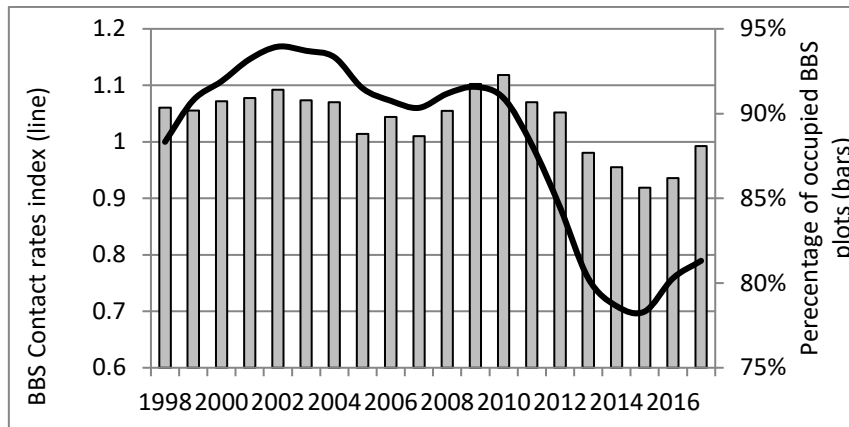
There are of course a number of assumptions made throughout these stages in estimating a population. We can however, think of it as a first approximation.

**Selected case studies**

It is worth digging a little deeper beneath the tables shown here. A more meaningful idea of changes in range and density can be gauged when we look at 5-year running averages. There here follows an outline of such changes for a few species.

**Skylark**

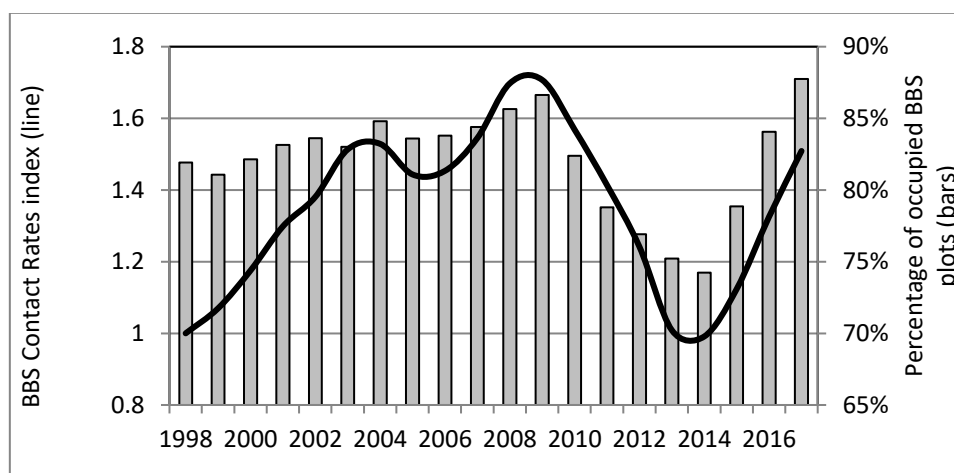
After an increase in the late 1990s and early 2000s the SE Scotland BBS index slowly decreased after 2004, reaching a low point in 2013, after the harsh winters of 2008/09 and 2009/10. By 2017 the BBS index was about 20% below that of 1998. This pattern was repeated for Scotland as a whole but was less accentuated, while in England the period showed a steady decline of over 20% and NE England , with greater annual variation, also showed a 20% decline in its BBS index.



**Figure 4. 5-year averages for Skylark and BBS plots.**

**Wren**

The BBS trends shown in SE Scotland have been more or less duplicated in all other regions. The decline that occurred after a 70% increase in index between 1994 and 2008 returned the apparently increasing population back to earlier levels. The severe winters of 2008/09 and 2009/10 greatly affected this small, insectivorous bird. However, as in previous years there was a bounce back after 2014 to bring indices back to 50% above 1994 levels.



**Figure 5. 5-year averages for Wren and BBS plots**

**Collared Dove**

There was thought to be a slight increase in population between SESA1 and SESA2 which is supported by the Borders and Lothian BBS indices. The rapid increase in plot indices since 2011 is however, not duplicated elsewhere in Britain. Scotland, England and NE England show some stability since the SESA2 survey period (2008-13).

This apparent anomaly may be the result of a disproportionate cover of arable habitat in the BBS plots during the period 2011-17.



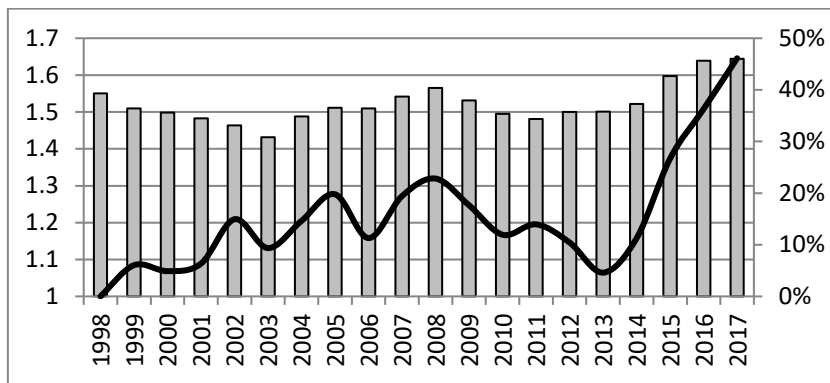


Figure 6. 5-year averages for Collared Dove and BBS plots.

### Chiffchaff

By the time of SESA2 the breeding population of Chiffchaff was considered to have increased by a factor of 8, partly due to increased densities and partly due to extended range. The Borders and Lothian BBS indices show that this increase in population continued with a 12-fold increase in density and a 6-fold increase in range since the end of SESA1. Scotland as a whole shows a similar increase in BBS indices but England has seen only a 2-3-fold increase. NE England has experienced a five-fold increase.

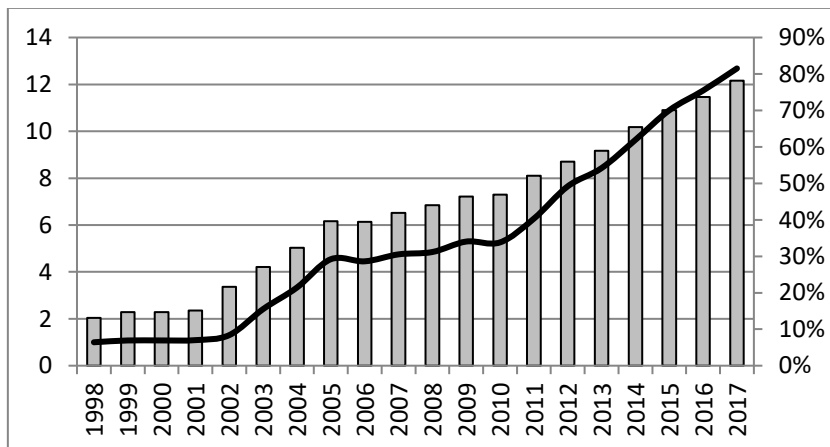


Figure 7. 5-year averages for Chiffchaff and BBS plots.

### Summary

Although survey plots represent a mere 1% or so of the total area of Lothian and Borders, the BBS scheme represents an important means of establishing some notion of what is happening to our common breeding species. Its effectiveness, as suggested in some of the tables above, is enhanced when supported by tetrad atlas records and local bird reports.

### Acknowledgements

The BTO supplied the records on which the above tables and graphs were based. Records were collected by a set of unsung heroes who quietly get on with doing the real work. A big thank you to you all, past and present.

### References

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 Murray RD, Andrews IJ, Holling M. 2019. Birds in South-east Scotland 2007-13. SOC.  
 Sampling methodology for BBS. <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/bbs>

## Ringing in the Scottish Borders 2018

This is the thirty-second report on the birds ringed annually in the Scottish Borders, and Northumberland north of the River Tweed. This report, as with its predecessor, is in the new format, as outlined in the 2012 report - the report is now based on the wealth of information available publicly on the BTO website at Robinson, R.A., Leech, D.I. & Clark, J.A. (2019) The Online Demography Report: Bird ringing and nest recording in Britain & Ireland in 2018. BTO, Thetford (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>, created on 15-July-2019). This will provide a more realistic picture of ringing activities in the region by all ringers, not just the few who supplied information to me to help compile the report. It will also present a more comprehensive summary of recoveries and controls of ringed birds with a Borders connection, since in previous reports it was comprised mainly from information of Borders Ringing Group – ringed birds. There will be no published cumulative totals (although this will be maintained separately for the Borders Ringing Group), but that for BRG has now reached almost 131,000 of 138 species (5,874 in 2018).

**Table 1. Species and numbers ringed in 2018 in the Borders area, excluding those deemed by BTO to be sensitive, where confidentiality is required.**

Species	Nestling	Full Grown	Total
Grey Heron	3	0	3
Osprey	10	0	10
Sparrowhawk	0	2	2
Goshawk	12	0	12
Hen Harrier	7	0	7
Red Kite	2	0	2
Buzzard	5	1	6
Oystercatcher	38	0	38
Lapwing	55	0	55
Curlew	24	0	24
Snipe	2	0	2
Woodcock	0	1	1
Common Sandpiper	4	11	15
Redshank	2	0	2
Black-headed Gull	110	0	110
Woodpigeon	0	14	14
Barn Owl	45	22	67
Tawny Owl	21	12	33
Long-eared Owl	4	0	4
Swift	15	6	21
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	0	8	8
Kestrel	15	0	15
Merlin	4	0	4
Peregrine	11	0	11
Jackdaw	18	2	20
Carrion Crow	0	2	2
Raven	4	0	4
Coal Tit	0	230	230
Blue Tit	173	552	725
Great Tit	54	198	252

Species	Nestling	Full Grown	Total
Reed Warbler	0	4	4
Blackcap	5	44	49
Garden Warbler	3	2	5
Whitethroat	0	7	7
Goldcrest	0	27	27
Wren	0	40	40
Nuthatch	59	29	88
Treecreeper	0	17	17
Starling	0	30	30
Ring Ouzel	4	0	4
Blackbird	1	161	162
Fieldfare	0	47	47
Redwing	0	123	123
Song Thrush	0	45	45
Mistle Thrush	4	23	27
Spotted Flycatcher	0	2	2
Robin	6	86	92
Redstart	3	0	3
Whinchat	0	1	1
Dipper	64	5	69
House Sparrow	14	206	220
Tree Sparrow	82	56	138
Duncock	0	155	155
Grey Wagtail	14	0	14
Pied / White Wagtail	6	7	13
Meadow Pipit	0	94	94
Tree Pipit	0	5	5
Chaffinch	0	787	787
Brambling	0	21	21
Bullfinch	0	89	89

Skylark	9	28	37	Greenfinch	0	177	177
Swallow	32	20	52	Linnet	0	5	5
House Martin	0	1	1	Lesser Redpoll	0	125	125
Long-tailed Tit	0	80	80	Goldfinch	0	219	219
Willow Warbler	0	309	309	Siskin	0	1,419	1,419
Chiffchaff	0	63	63	Yellowhammer	3	57	60
Grasshopper Warbler	0	2	2	Reed Bunting	0	67	67
Sedge Warbler	10	75	85	<b>Totals</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>5,821</b>	<b>6,778</b>

2018 was a more normal year, after the most productive year (2017), for ringing in the Borders. Red Kite appears among the ringing totals for the first time.

The first Grey Heron chicks for many years were ringed and there were good numbers of chicks of waders, Black-headed Gulls and owls. Among the passerines, Nuthatch and Tree Sparrow continue to be productive, and Dipper chick numbers were back to a more respectable level.

In terms of fully-grown birds, 2018 was a particularly productive year for tits, warblers, thrushes, finches and buntings and, although the total was well down on that of some recent years, over 1,400 Siskins is still a very creditable annual total.

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

### Recoveries and Controls

"Recoveries" are ringed birds that have been found dead or alive and reported to the Ringing Unit at the B.T.O. "Controls" are ringed birds that are caught alive and released by ringers, the birds having moved more than 5km. from the locality of their original ringing. Sightings of colour-ring combinations, inscribed colour-rings or neck-collars, inscribed wing-tags, and PIT and satellite-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!

**Table 2 : Recoveries and controls.**

Ring number & Finding circumstances	Age & sex	Date	Location	Dist (km)	Orient
<b>Storm Petrel</b>					
2661155	FG	02/08/2014	Eyemouth		
Controlled	Ad	28/06/2018	Lunga, Treshnish Isles, Argyll & Bute	277	285
2698921	FG	05/09/2016	Eyemouth		
Controlled	FG	26/07/2018	Birsay, Orkney	368	350
<b>Shag</b>					
1322942	N	14/07/1996	St Abbs Head		
Found, long dead	Ad	11/05/2018	Holy Island, Northumberland	33	143
1418091	N	20/06/2009	Craigleith, Firth of Forth		
Found, long dead	Ad	28/09/2018	Cove Harcbour, Borders	28	124
1490299	N	15/06/2017	Fidra, Firth of Forth		
Found, long dead	Imm	02/09/2018	Pease Bay	32	122

1490350	N	15/06/2017	Fidra, Firth pf Forth		
Found dead	Imm	01/04/2018	Pease Bay	32	118
1499522	N	23/06/2017	Inchkeith, Firth of Forth		
Found dead, after bad weather	Imm	01/04/2018	Starney Bay, St Abbs Head	64	104
1345508	N	29/06/2017	Inchkeith, Firth of Forth		
Found dead, fresh	Imm	01/04/2018	Coldingham Bay	63	104
<b>Mute Swan</b>					
ZZ2889	N,M	06/08/2004	Milfield, Northumberland		
Ring read in field	Ad, M	10/03/2016	Eyemouth	32	N
Ring read in field	Ad, M	06/03/2018	Eyemouth		
W43137	N	01/09/2018	Union Canal, Wester Hailes, Edinburgh		
colour-ring read	Juv	04/09 - 29/10/2018	various sites, Edinburgh		
colour-ring read	Juv	05/11/2018	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank		
<b>Greylag</b>					
neck collar HIN	Imm F	20/03/2010	Binscarth, Firth, Orkney		
neck-collar read in field	Ad F	17/01/2018	Newmains Farm, Reston		
<b>Peregrine</b>					
GR50540	N F	12/06/2014	site confidential, nr Dunkeld, Perthshire		
Controlled	Ad F	24/04/2018	site confidential, Scottish Borders		
GP23460	N	03/07/2014	site confidential, Keighley, Yorkshire		
Controlled	Ad F	24/04/2018	site confidential, near Peebles		
<b>Kestrel</b>					
EX76468	N	25/05/2017	Pentland Hills, Lothian		
Colour-ring photo at nest	Imm M	06/06/2018	near Piper's Grave, Moorfoot Hills	24	S
EZ20057	N (of M EX76468)	06/06/2018	near Piper's Grave, Moorfoot Hills		
Found dead	Imm	18/11/2018	Higham, Rochester, Kent	529	155
<b>Coot</b>					
GN85094	FG	31/01/2010	Killingworth, Tyne & Wear		
Retrapped	Ad	16/12/2017	Killingworth, Tyne & Wear		
Found dead	Ad	10/02/2018	Mire Loch, St Abbs	105	NNW
FA29456	N	22/05/2007	Ladyside, Moorfoot Hills		

<b>Oystercatcher</b>					
Shot dead	Ad	31/01/2018	Noirmoutier-en-L'ile, Vendee, <b>FRANCE</b>	976	177
FH45277	Ad	16/10/2011	Beaumaris, Anglesey		
Found dead after poor weather	Ad	08/04/2018	River Tweed, Drumelzier	256	N
FH77606	N	13/06/2015	Dewar Burn, Moorfoot hills		
Controlled	Imm	08/04/2016	Dawlish Warren NNR, Devon		
Controlled	Imm	07/01/2018	Dawlish Warren NNR, Devon	572	183
FH77812	N	27/05/2018	Glentress, Moorfoot Hills		
Controlled	Imm	09/09/2018	Ynyslas, Borth, Ceredigion	355	191
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>					
ET99775	N	30/06/2008	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	04/03/2018	Callendar Park, Falkirk	50	297
ET99842	N	13/06/2009	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills		
Found dead, fresh	Ad	18/01/2018	Barassie Beach, Ayrshire	105	257
ET99555	N	12/06/2010	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	28/01, 21/02, 20/07/18	Strathclyde Country Park, Motherwell, North Lanarkshire	61	272
ET48483	N	10/06/2012	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills		
Ring read in field	Ad	03/03/2018	Alexandra Park, Glasgow	73	278
EY21721	N	14/06/2014	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills		
Colour-ring read in field	Ad	22/02/2018	Crombie Park, Carnoustie, Angus	87	12
K05861 (Stavanger)	Ad	19/04/2016	Sognsvann, Oslo, <b>NORWAY</b>		
Colour-ring read in field	Ad	13/01 & 19/12/17; 10/01/18	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank	934	244
EY21853	N	11/06/2016	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills		
Metal ring read in field	Imm	03/03/2018	Callendar Park, Falkirk	51	299
EK61422	N	14/07/2017	Elvanfoot, South Lanarkshire		
Colour-ring read in field	imm	09/01/2018	Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank		
EZ20123	N	03/06/2018	Broad Law, Moorfoot Hills		
Colour-ring read in field	Juv	21/07/2018	Lanark Loch, South Lanarkshire	46	254
Colour-ring read in field	Juv	18/09/2018	Strathclyde CP, Motherwell, South Lanarkshire	61	270

<b>Barn Owl</b>					
GR95103	N	18/06/2015	Kilham, Northumberland		
Controlled, nesting	Ad F	06/06/2018	near Morebattle	15	240
GR16032	N	26/06/2017	near Reston		
Killed by traffic	Imm	08/01/2018	A1, Cement Works, Dunbar, East Lothian	25	307
GR16034	N	26/06/2017	near Reston		
Killed by traffic	imm	01/02/2018	A720, Edinburgh City by-pass, Midlothian	55	278
GV23444	N	19/06/2018	Leithen Water		
Killed by traffic	Juv	18/08/2018	Walkerburn	4	121
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>					
GV51543	N	25/05/2018	Amulree, Perthshire		
colour-ring read in field	Imm	21/11/2018	Blackadder Mains, near Whitsome		
<b>Pied Wagtail</b>					
S901450	N	26/05/2018	Birks Bridge, Northumberland		
Controlled	Juv	14/08/2018	St Abbs Head	85	9
7580124 (Stavanger)	Imm F	28/10/2015	Blikshavn, Karmoy, <b>NORWAY</b>		
<b>Blackbird</b>					
Freshly dead (hit window)	Ad F	19/01/2018	Newstead, Chirnsidebridge	588	SW
<b>Sedge Warbler</b>					
D479613	Ad F	18/06/2017	St Abbs Head		
Controlled	Ad F	11/08/2018	ST Ouens Pond, Jersey, <b>CHANNEL ISLANDS</b>	745	181
D479094	Imm	05/08/2018	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Controlled	Imm	11/08/2018	Stanford reservoir, Northamptonshire	365	163
<b>Blackcap</b>					
D479892	Juv	04/08/2018	St Abbs Head		
Controlled	Imm F	23/09/2018	near Blackburn Meadows, South Yorkshire	281	170
<b>Willow Warbler</b>					
HAK494	Imm	13/08/2017	Icklesham, East Sussex		
Controlled	Ad	07/08/2018	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk	564	336
<b>Goldcrest</b>					
JNR556	Imm M	16/10/2016	St Abbs Head		
Controlled	Ad M	15/04/2018	Geosetter, Shetland	453	7

<b>Tree Sparrow</b>					
NZ38369	N	30/06/2018	Newmains, Reston		
Controlled	FG	04/12/2018	Sheriffside, Gifford, East Lothian	32	281
<b>Chaffinch</b>					
S198671	Juv	10/08/2017	Peebles		
Controlled	Ad F	06/10/2018	Leswalt, Dumfries & Galloway	145	237
S198808	Juv F	21/08/2017	Peebles		
Controlled	Imm F	18/02/2018	Mersehead, Dumfries & Galloway	91	SSW
ACA5476	Ad M	26/10/2018	Garvald, Moorfoot Hills		
Killed by cat	Ad M	29/10/2018	heriot	6	71
<b>Goldfinch</b>					
S878945	Imm M	07/05/2017	Selkirk		
<b>Controlled</b>	Ad M	24/03/2018	Broadmeadows	7	NW
S721282	Ad M	24/10/2017	Peebles		
Dead, hit window	ad M	26/04/2018	Balnarnoch, Glen Isla, Angus	123	357
S723609	Juv	01/10/2018	Peebles		
Controlled	Imm	24/12/2018	Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire	306	154
<b>Siskin</b>					
D126116	Ad M	02/12/2012	Stanton in Peak, Derbyshire		
Freshly dead (injury)	Ad M	16/03/2018	Lilliesleaf	271	NNW
Y558039	Imm F	07/04/2013	Brandon fen, Lakenheath, Suffolk		
Freshly dead (hit glass)	Ad F	19/04/2018	Walkerburn	422	NNW
D480738	Imm F	08/02/2018	Cockburnspath		
Controlled	Imm F	13/04/2018	Kildary, Highland	227	333
<b>Lesser Redpoll</b>					
Z373276	Imm	23/10/2015	The Haven, Thorpeness, Suffolk		
Long dead	Ad	16/05/2018	Jedburgh	458	NW
S535178	Imm F	30/03/2017	Tangham farm, Boynton, Suffolk		
Freshly dead (storm)	Ad F	02/06/2018	Broughton, Biggar	502	NW
D142420	Imm	01/01/2016	Warsop, Nottinghamshire		
Controlled	Ad M	14/07/2018	Garvald, Moorfoot Hills	310	337
S197420	Imm	30/04/2017	Peebles		

Controlled	Ad M	06/11/2018	Brecht, Antwerpen, <b>BELGIUM</b>	703	133
S197423	Ad M	30/04/2017	Peebles		
Controlled	Ad M	20/01/2018	Swaffham, Norfolk	417	144
S197718	Imm	13/06/2017	Peebles		
Controlled	Imm	31/10/2017	Kessingland, suffolk	483	SE
Controlled	Ad M	12/03/2018	West Tofts, Norfolk	432	145
D478960	Juv	31/08/2017	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Controlled	Ad M	21/10/2018	Bradfield Moor, South Yorkshire	247	163
S101369	Juv	30/09/2017	Kilnsea Clays, East Riding of Yorkshire		
Controlled	Ad F	02/09/2018	near Whim	322	318
S709486	not known	04/11/2017	Banchory, Aberdeenshire		
Controlled	Imm F	11/03/2018	Cockburnspath	127	176
ACA5142	Ad M	25/07/2018	Garvald, Moorfoot Hills		
Freshly dead	Ad M	06/09/2018	Yester Mains, Gifford, East Lothian	22	54
ACA5168	Juv	31/07/2018	near Whim		
Controlled	Imm	24/11/2018	Hatfield Moor, South Yorkshire	288	150
ACA5690	Juv	08/09/2018	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Controlled	Imm	18/10/2018	Fontburn Nature Reserve, Northumberland	65	124
ACA5693	Juv	08/09/2018	Whitmuir Hall, Selkirk		
Controlled	Imm	27/11/2018	Skipworth Common N.R., North Yorkshire	223	150
ACA5426	Imm	06/10/2018	near Whim		
Controlled	Imm	21/10/2018	Hatfield Moor, South Yorkshire	288	150

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

County summaries of recoveries are now available online at the BTO website (reference as above at <http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>, created on 15-July-2019), and are well worth a look on a rainy Sunday afternoon!

Shag 1322942 had reached a respectable age; three others (including another old bird) seemed to succumb to the "*Beast from the East*" at the end of March. The colour-ring sighting of Mute Swan W43137 provides interesting data on post-fledging dispersal; in contrast, the Greylag with an orange neck-collar remained undetected for eight years. The two related Kestrels have interesting stories, and maybe the juvenile was on its way to the Continent for its first winter?



Oystercatcher FA29456 didn't do so well on the Continent, however; the ringed bird from Anglesey had probably returned to the Tweed to breed, but was one of three birds found dead the same day, probably as a result of "The Beast".

There is the usual scattering of sightings of Black-headed Gulls ringed as chicks in southern Scotland (see also Table 3 ), and the Norwegian-ringed bird was back for a second winter to the Borders.

**Table 3 : Locations of colour-ringed Black-headed Gulls in 2018, reported directly to Borders RG.**

Location in 2018	Year of ringing as chick.					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Angus lochs		1				
Firth of Forth, Fife shore						1
Firth of Forth, Central & Lothians shore	7	1			3	4
Haddington	1					1
Glasgow lochs						1
Northumberland			1		1	
Northern Ireland, inland						

The Barn Owl findings are rather sad, with two siblings being reported killed by traffic before they had time to breed. Let's hope the other two from the brood survived. On a more positive note, the sighting of colour-ringed Short-eared Owl GV51543 is the first for that project away from the natal area.

Among the passerine species it is good to recapture any bird ringed as a chick, so Pied Wagtail S901450 provides a good example of post-fledging dispersal, as probably does Tree Sparrow NZ38369. 2018 provided a series of good warbler recoveries and controls – two Sedge Warblers reported on the same date heading south, a Blackcap also to the south but a month later, a Willow Warbler, and an interesting Goldcrest, presumably on its way to Scandinavia. The finches, as usual, provide much interest, with two Chaffinches to Dumfries & Galloway and two Goldfinches from Peebles in October, one to Nottinghamshire in mid-winter and one to Angus in spring. There weren't nearly as many recoveries and controls of Siskins as in 2017, but there was the usual spread to the north and south of Peebles, with the outlier to Antrim being of particular interest (see Table 4). Lesser Redpolls reveal movements via Northumberland and Yorkshire (including two birds controlled at separate sites there on 21<sup>st</sup> October) to wintering areas in the Midland, East Anglia, and Belgium. Although many of the birds were probably local in origin, one, at least, was from Grampian.

**Table 4 : Locations involved in the movements of Siskins to and from Peebles in 2018.**

From Peebles	Location (local government area)	To Peebles	From Peebles	Location (local government area)	To Peebles
4	Highland	2	2	Northumberland	0
0	Moray	1	0	Durham	1
1	Grampian	1	1	North Yorkshire	0
1	Argyll & Bute	1	1	Lancashire	0
0	Fife	1	0	Greater Manchester	1
1	Central	0	1	Merseyside	0
0	North Lanarkshire	2	0	Shropshire	1

1	South Lanarkshire	1
6	Borders	1
1	Antrim, Northern Ireland	0

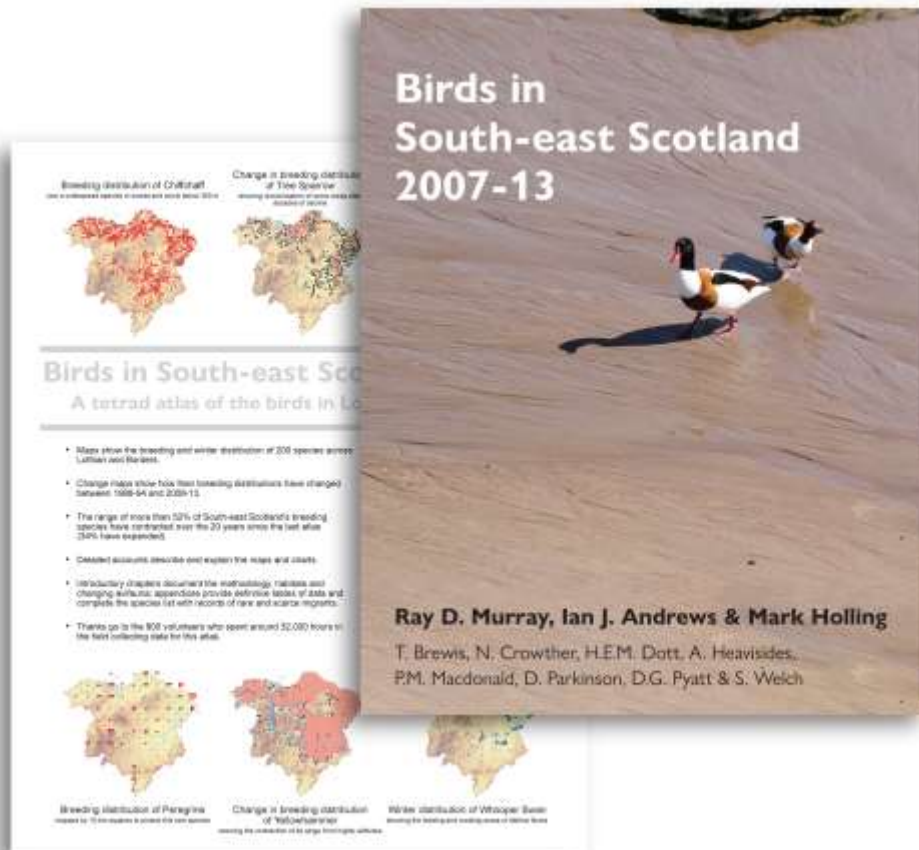
3	Norfolk	1
1	Hampshire	0
15	Totals	10
	& within Peebles = 5	

Not included in Table 2 are local recoveries of singles of Woodpigeon, Dunnock, House Sparrow, Greenfinch and Goldfinch.

### 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, Andrew Bramhall, Keith Burgoyne, Jim Burns, Willie Edmond, Mike Fraser, David Grieve, Rich Howells, Tony Lightley, Iain Livingstone, Sarah Long, Lothian & Borders Raptor Study Group, Lothian Ringing Group, Andrew Mossop, James Silvey, and Reuben Singleton. Thanks, also, to all the reporters of colour-ring sightings, too many to mention individually. Assistance provided by Dave Leech and Rob Robinson of BTO is much appreciated

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The breeding and wintering bird atlas covering Lothian and Borders edited by Ray Murray, Ian Andrews & Mark Holling (and not forgetting an additional team of eight) was published in February 2019.

Copies are available for purchase at Waterston House, Aberlady (cash & card) and Viking Optics, Rose Street, Edinburgh (cash only) for £40 (please check that stock is available if travelling). Postal orders (at £55 including postage within the UK) should be organised by emailing [sescotatlas@gmail.com](mailto:sescotatlas@gmail.com) and details will be sent on how to pay.

The authors wish to thank 'The Birds of Scotland Fund' for financial assistance in producing this book.

## Dates of first and last records of migrants

Note that a significant number of these dates are based on only a few records.

### Summer visitors

Species	First record	Last record
Garganey	NR	NR
Quail	23-May	14-Sep
Osprey	05-Apr	19-Sep
Marsh Harrier	26-Apr	02-Oct
Little Ringed Plover	21-Apr	05-Sep
Common Sandpiper	overwintered	29-Sep
Sandwich Tern	16-Apr	22-Sep
Little Tern	NR	NR
Roseate Tern	12-Aug	12-Aug
Common Tern	17-Jul	06-Oct
Arctic Tern	08-Jul	25-Sep
Cuckoo	11-Apr	13-Aug
Swift	28-Apr	27-Aug
Sand Martin	28-Mar	24-Sep
Swallow	28-Mar	20-Oct
House Martin	14-Apr	07-Oct
Willow Warbler	03-Apr	11-Oct
Wood Warbler	06-May	23-Jun
Sedge Warbler	22-Apr	30-Aug
Reed Warbler	04-May	04-Jul
Grasshopper Warbler	17-Apr	02-Aug
Garden Warbler	24-Apr	02-Sep
Lesser Whitethroat	13-May	20-Sep
Whitethroat	06-May	08-Sep
Ring Ouzel	06-Apr	27-Nov
Spotted Flycatcher	14-May	24-Sep
Pied Flycatcher	NR	11-Oct
Redstart	15-Apr	27-Aug
Whinchat	04-May	18-Sep
Wheatear	oversummered	16-Oct
Yellow Wagtail	26-Apr	02-Sep
Tree Pipit	20-Apr	11-Aug

### Winter visitors

Species	First record	Last record
Whooper Swan	04-May	23-Sep
Pale-bellied Brent Goose	NR	11-Sep
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	NR	27-Oct
Barnacle Goose	18-May	07-May
Pink-footed Goose	21-Apr	13-Sep
Tundra Bean Goose	NR	NR
White-fronted Goose	NR	NR
Long-tailed Duck	24-Feb	27-Oct
Red-throated Diver	24-Feb	16-Sep
Black-throated Diver	07-Jan	07-Oct
Great Northern Diver	07-Jan	11-Sep
Red-necked Grebe	NR	07-Oct
Slavonian Grebe	19-Mar	NR
Jack Snipe	02-Mar	20-Sep
Little Gull	-	07-Jun
Glaucous Gull	NR	NR
Iceland Gull	NR	NR
Little Auk	NR	28-Oct
Black Guillemot	NR	NR
Waxwing	NR	29-Oct
Fieldfare	15-Apr	06-Oct
Redwing	27-Apr	05-Oct
Brambling	20-Apr	07-Oct
Twite	11-Jan	19-Oct
Lapland Bunting	NR	NR
Snow Bunting	NR	28-Oct

NR = no record.

Andrew Mossop

## Gazetteer

The table below is designed to assist readers in locating some of the more frequently mentioned sites and locators used in the Report.

Name	Tetrad or 10-km square
Alemoor Loch	NT31X
Ancrum	NT62H
Ashkirk	NT42R
Bemersyde	NT63B-63C
Blackadder Water	NT74-75-85
Broughton	NT13D
Burnmouth	NT96K
Coldingham Bay	NT96D/I
Coldstream	NT84
Craik Forest	NT30-31
Duns	NT75W
Earlston	NT53U
Eildon Hills	NT53L
Ettrick Water	NT21-31-32-42
Eye Water	NT86-96
Eyemouth	NT96L-96M
Folly Loch	NT62I-62N
Fruid Reservoir	NT01-02-11
Gala Water	NT35-43-44-45
Galashiels	NT43-53
Gordon	NT64L
Greenlaw	NT74
Hawick	NT51C
Hen Poo	NT75
Hoselaw Loch	NT83A
Hule Moss	NT74-75
Innerleithen	NT33I
Jedburgh	NT62K
Kale Water	NT70-71-72
Kelso	NT73H
Lammermuir Hills	NT55-56-65-66
Lauder	NT54I

Name	Tetrad or 10-km square
Leader Water	NT53-54
Leithen Water	NT24-33-34
Liddesdale	NY48-58-59
Longformacus	NT65Y
Lyne Water	NT14-15
Manor Water	NT23
Megget Reservoir	NT12-22
Melrose	NT53
Moorfoot Hills	NT24-34
Newcastleton	NY48Y
North Esk Reservoir	NT15P
Peebles	NT24K
Portmore Loch	NT35
River Teviot	NT30-40-41-51-52-62
Selkirk	NT42U
St Abb's Head	NT96E
St Boswells	NT53V
St Mary's Loch	NT22
Stow	NT44
Talla Reservoir	NT12
Teviot Haughs	NT62
The Hirsell	NT84F
Tweed Haughs	NT73
Tweedbank	NT53
Tweedsmuir	NT02X
Watch Water Reservoir	NT65
Wauchope Forest	NT50-60
West Linton	NT15K
West Water Reservoir	NT15B
Yarrow Water	NT22-32-42-43
Yetholm	NT82
Yetholm Loch	NT72

## Index of Classified List species

- A**  
Arctic Redpoll, 158  
Arctic Skua, 105  
Arctic Tern, 105  
Auk Little, 106
- B**  
Barn Owl, 112  
Barnacle Goose, 21  
Barred Warbler, 136  
Bar-tailed Godwit, 84  
Bittern, 56  
Black Grouse, 45  
Black Redstart, 144  
Blackbird, 140  
Blackcap, 135  
Black-headed Gull, 96  
Black-necked Grebe, 56  
Black-tailed Godwit, 84  
Black-throated Diver, 51  
Blue Tit, 128  
Brambling, 154  
Brent Goose, 20  
Bullfinch, 155  
Bunting Corn, 159  
Reed, 160  
Snow, 161  
Buzzard Common, 72
- C**  
Canada Goose, 20  
Carrion Crow, 126  
Chaffinch, 154  
Chiffchaff, 133  
Coal Tit, 127  
Collared Dove, 111  
Common Crane, 76  
Common Gull, 98  
Common Redpoll (Mealy), 157  
Common Sandpiper, 90  
Common Scoter, 41  
Common Snipe, 88  
Common Tern, 104  
Coot, 76  
Cormorant, 62  
Corn Bunting, 159  
Crane, 76  
Crossbill, 158  
Crow Carrion, 126  
Hooded, 126  
Cuckoo, 112  
Curlew, 82
- D**  
Dipper, 148  
Diver Black-throated, 51  
Great Northern, 51  
Red-throated, 50  
Dove Collared, 111  
Rock, 110  
Dove Stock, 110  
Duck Eider, 40  
Long-tailed, 41  
Mandarin, 31  
Tufted, 39  
Dunlin, 85  
Dunnock, 150
- E**  
Eagle Golden, 66  
Egret Great White, 58  
Little, 59  
Eider, 40
- F**  
Falcon Peregrine, 122  
Feral Pigeon, 110  
Fieldfare, 140  
Flycatcher Pied, 144  
Spotted, 143  
Fulmar, 51
- G**  
Gadwall, 33  
Gannet, 60  
Garden Warbler, 135  
Godwit Bar-tailed, 84  
Black-tailed, 84  
Goldcrest, 137  
Golden Eagle, 65  
Golden Plover, 80  
Goldeneye, 42  
Goldfinch, 158  
Goose Barnacle, 21  
Brent, 20  
Canada, 20  
Greylag, 22  
Pink-footed, 24  
Goosander, 43  
Goshawk, 68  
Grasshopper Warbler, 135  
Great Black-backed Gull, 99  
Great Crested Grebe, 55  
Great Grey Shrike, 123  
Great Northern Diver, 51

Great Skua, 105  
Great Spotted Woodpecker, 118  
Great Tit, 129  
Great White Egret, 58  
Grebe           Great Crested, 55  
Grebe           Black-necked, 56  
                  Little, 53  
                  Red-necked, 55  
                  Slavonian, 56

Green Sandpiper, 91  
Green Woodpecker, 119  
Greenfinch, 156  
Greenshank, 94  
Green-winged Teal, 38  
Grey Heron, 56  
Grey Partridge, 48  
Grey Plover, 81  
Grey Wagtail, 151  
Greylag Goose, 22

Grouse           Black, 45  
                  Red, 46

Guillemot, 106

Gull           Common, 98  
                  Black-headed, 96  
                  Greater Black-backed, 99  
                  Lesser Black-backed, 102  
                  Herring Gull, 100  
                  Mediterranean, 98  
                  Little, 98  
                  Iceland, 100  
                  Sabine's, 96

## H

Harrier           Hen, 70  
                  Marsh, 69

Hawfinch, 154  
Hen Harrier, 70  
Herring Gull, 100  
Hobby, 122  
Hooded Crow, 126  
Hoopoe, 118  
House Martin, 132  
House Sparrow, 149  
Iceland Gull, 100

## J

Jack Snipe, 87  
Jackdaw, 124  
Jay, 124

## K

Kestrel, 119  
Kingfisher, 117  
Kite           Red, 71  
Kittiwake, 94

## L

Lapwing, 78  
Lesser Black-backed Gull, 102  
Lesser Redpoll, 157  
Lesser Whitethroat, 136  
Lesser Yellowlegs, 92  
Linnet, 156  
Little Auk, 106  
Little Egret, 59  
Little Grebe, 53  
Little Gull, 98  
Little Owl, 114  
Little Ringed Plover, 81  
Long-eared Owl, 114  
Long-tailed Duck, 41  
Long-tailed Tit, 132

## M

Magpie, 124  
Mallard, 34  
Mandarin, 31  
Manx Shearwater, 53  
Marsh Harrier, 69  
Marsh Tit, 128  
Martin           House, 132  
                  Sand, 131  
  
Meadow Pipit, 152  
Mediterranean Gull, 98  
Merganser           Red-breasted, 45  
Melodious Warbler, 134  
Merlin, 120  
Mistle Thrush, 142  
Moorhen, 74  
Mute Swan, 26

## N

Nuthatch, 137

## O

Osprey, 64  
Owl           Short-eared, 115  
                  Long-eared, 114  
                  Tawny, 113  
                  Barn, 112  
                  Little, 114

Oystercatcher, 77

## P

Partridge           Grey, 48  
                  Red-legged, 47  
  
Peregrine, 122  
Petrel           Storm, 51  
Pheasant, 49  
Pied Flycatcher, 152  
Pied Wagtail, 152  
Pigeon           Feral, 110

Pigeon (cont)	Wood, 111	Scaup, 40	
Pink-footed Goose, 24		Scoter	Common, 41 Velvet, 40
Pintail, 36		Sedge Warbler, 134	
Pipit	Meadow, 152 Rock, 153 Tree, 153	Shag, 60	
Plover	Golden, 80 Grey, 81 Little Ringed, 81 Ringed, 81	Shearwater	Manx, 53 Sooty, 53
Pochard, 38		Shelduck, 30	
Pomarine Skua, 105		Short-eared Owl, 115	
Puffin, 109		Shoveler, 32	
Purple Sandpiper, 86		Shrike	Great Grey, 123
		Siskin, 159	
		Skua	Arctic, 105 Great, 105 Pomarine, 105
		Skylark, 130	
		Slavonian Grebe, 56	
		Snipe	Common, 88 Jack, 87
		Snow Bunting, 161	
		Song Thrush, 142	
		Sooty Shearwater, 53	
		Sparrow	House, 149 Tree, 149
		Sparrowhawk, 67	
		Spotted Flycatcher, 143	
		Spotted Redshank, 94	
		Starling, 138	
		Stock Dove, 110	
		Stonechat, 146	
		Storm Petrel, 51	
		Swallow, 131	
		Swan	Mute, 26 Whooper, 29
		Swift, 116	
		<b>T</b>	
		Tawny Owl, 113	
		Teal	Green-winged, 38 Eurasian, 37
		Tern	Common, 104 Roseate, 104 Sandwich, 104
		Thrush	Song, 142 Mistle, 142
		Tit	Blue, 128 Great, 129 Coal, 127 Marsh, 128 Long-tailed, 132
		Tree Pipit, 153	
		Tree Sparrow, 149	
		Treecreeper, 138	
		Tufted Duck, 39	
		Turnstone, 84	
		Twite, 156	
<b>Q</b>			
Quail, 49			
<b>R</b>			
Rail	Water, 74		
Raven, 127			
Razorbill, 108			
Red Grouse, 46			
Red Kite, 71			
Red-breasted Merganser, 45			
Red-legged Partridge, 47			
Red-necked Grebe, 55			
Redpoll	Arctic, 158 Common, 157 Lesser, 157		
Redshank	Common, 92 Spotted, 94		
Redstart, 145			
Redstart	Black, 144		
Red-throated Diver, 50			
Redwing, 141			
Reed Bunting, 160			
Reed Warbler, 134			
Ring Ouzel, 139			
Ringed Plover, 81			
Robin, 144			
Rock Dove, 110			
Rock Pipit, 153			
Rook, 125			
Roseate Tern, 104			
Ruff, 85			
<b>S</b>			
Sabine's Gull, 96			
Sand Martin, 131			
Sanderling, 85			
Sandpiper	Common, 90 Green, 91 Purple, 86 Wood, 93		
Sandwich Tern, 104			

**V**  
Velvet Scoter, 40

**W**  
Wagtail

Pied, 152  
Grey, 151  
White, 152  
Yellow, 151  
Warblers  
Barred, 136  
Blackcap, 135  
Chiffchaff, 133  
Garden, 135  
Grasshopper, 135  
Lesser Whitethroat, 136  
Melodious, 134

Warblers (cont)  
  
Water Rail, 74  
Waxwing, 127  
Wheatear, 147

Reed, 134  
Sedge, 134  
Whitethroat, 136  
Willow, 132  
Wood, 134  
Yellow-browed, 134

**Y**  
Yellowlegs Lesser, 92  
Yellow Wagtail , 151  
Yellow-browed Warbler, 134  
Yellowhammer, 160



**Woodcock. Burnhouse Mains. A Cutter**