

Berwick Wildlife Group

www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk

Monthly Review April 2009



WILDLIFE REPORTS.

Weather. April was the third dry month in a row. High pressure dominated until the 27th, when an Atlantic low brought a little rain, the first for five weeks. Total rainfall for the month was 20mm (0.8 ins). There was a good deal of spring sunshine although hazy at times. Winds were light, often from a northerly direction, bringing cold nights and some frosts. Coldest nights occurred on 12/13th and 21/22nd with a slight frost putting early butterflies at risk, and checking the northward movement of spring migrants.

Birds. Highlights of the month include 16 **Waxwings** (8th) at Hiveacres, a **Little Owl** corpse found by the A1 at Conundrum (13th - this is a rare bird in our area) and a **Little Gull** with the Kittiwakes in the Estuary (22nd). Early Spring migrants included: **Swallow** (4th) Cheswick, **White Wagtail** (7th) Spittal, **Willow Warbler** (10th) Cothill, **Sandwich Tern** (10th) Cheswick, **Yellow Wagtail** on the Golf Course (19th), **Garden Warbler** (24th) at East Ord House and a **Whimbrel** (26th) at Cheswick.

We have decided to return to using the usual British Common Names for bird records in the Reviews to avoid confusion. Latin or English International names will be added to the records before forwarding to EYE.

Insects. Work on the butterfly transects began this month, with **Peacock**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Small White** present at Tommy-the-Millers on the 11th, all the whites appearing the following week. It has been too cold for any sightings so far at Cocklawburn. **Commas** have been rare this year, although 2 were seen in Detchant wood on the 19th. Large numbers of queen **Buff-tailed Bumblebees** have been prospecting for nest-holes all month. Some "**Blaeberry**" **Bumblebees** were seen near the Border Fence on the 29th.

RECORDS

Date	Species name	No.	Location	Grid reference	Comments
	<u>Birds</u>				
01/04/2009	Chiffchaff	1	Unthank	NT992477	
01/04/2009	Treecreeper	1	Unthank	NT992477	
01/04/2009	Kestrel	1	Unthank	NT992477	
01/04/2009	Sand Martin	1	Cocklawburn	NU0347	First migrant
01/04/2009	Little Grebe	2	Cocklawburn Pond	NU036475	Pair, nest building
01/04/2009	Wheatear	2	Cheswick	NU0346	Dunes. Migrants
01/04/2009	Curlew	86	Cheswick	NU0346	Dunes. Passage birds
01/04/2009	Purple Sandpiper	7	Cheswick Blk Rocks	NU037476	
01/04/2009	Teal	18	Middle Ord Pond	NT969506	
01/04/2009	Moorhen	5	Middle Ord Pond	NT969506	
02/04/2009	Wigeon	2	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	Pair
02/04/2009	Kittiwake	26	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	
02/04/2009	Teal	22	Middle Ord Pond	NT969506	

02/04/2009	Teal	12	West Ord	NT953518	
02/04/2009	Buzzard	3	West Ord	NT953518	
02/04/2009	Wheatear	2	Little Beach	NU006528	
02/04/2009	Siskin	2	Riverdene	NT992529	On garden feeders
02/04/2009	Chiffchaff	1	Slateford Bridge	NT992477	
02/04/2009	Treecreeper	1	Slateford Bridge	NT992477	
02/04/2009	Kestrel	1	Slateford Bridge	NT992477	
03/04/2009	Red-breasted Merganser	3	Mag. Fields Golf Crse.	NU001538	Offshore
03/04/2009	Wheatear	1	Mag. Fields Golf Crse.	NU001538	First sighting of year
03/04/2009	Canada Goose	7	Cheswick	NU0347	Flying S overhead
03/04/2009	Sparrowhawk	1	Cheswick Pond	NU035475	Over pond
04/04/2009	Swallow	1	Cheswick Pond	NU035475	An early bird
04/04/2009	Scoter	200	Cheswick	NU0347	Offshore, heading N
05/04/2009	Pied Wagtails	130	Tapee Fen	NT995537	Dawn, rising from reeds
05/04/2009	Chiffchaff	1	North Road	NT995537	
07/04/2009	Sanderling	38	Little Beach	NU006528	
07/04/2009	Ringed Plover	12	Little Beach	NU006528	
07/04/2009	White Wagtail	2	Spittal	NT9952	Passage birds
07/04/2009	Siskin	2	Hiveacres	NT985514	Pair on bird table
07/04/2009	Greylag Goose	80	Velvet Hall	NT9448	On stubble
07/04/2009	Pinkfooted Goose	20	Velvet Hall	NT9448	On stubble
08/04/2009	Waxwing	16	Hiveacres	NT985514	Passage, here 30 mins.
08/04/2009	Long-tailed Duck	4	Cocklawburn	NU0347	
08/04/2009	Guillemot	18	Cocklawburn	NU0347	
09/04/2009	Greylag Goose	17	East Ord	NT979514	Flying S
09/04/2009	Swallow	1	East Ord	NT979514	
10/04/2009	Sandmartins	2	Cocklawburn	NU0248	First sighting of year
10/04/2009	Wheatear	2	Cheswick	NU035481	
10/04/2009	Short-eared Owl	1	Cheswick	NU035481	
10/04/2009	Sandwich Terns	2	Cheswick	NU035481	
10/04/2009	Willow Warbler	1	Cot Hill	NT759498	First this year
10/04/2009	Willow Warbler	1	East Ord	NT979514	Singing, 7.30 a.m.
11/04/2009	Barn Owl	1	Duns	NT736541	Langtonlees. Lg. bird
11/04/2009	Buzzard	1	Tommy-the-Millers	NT990536	
11/04/2009	Blackcap	2	East Ord	NT982516	
11/04/2009	Bullfinch	1	New Water Haugh	NT980533	Male
11/04/2009	Buzzard	3	New Water Haugh	NT980533	High above Plantation
11/04/2009	Blackcap	2	Berwick Station	NT994535	In trees opp. Plat.2.
12/04/2009	Sandwich Terns	22	Spittal Bay	NU009517	
13/04/2009	Swallow	2	Loanend, Horncliffe	NT9450	Return to cottage, 07.00
13/04/2009	Little Owl	1	Conundrum	NT987552	Dead by A1. Well fed.
15/04/2009	House Martin	1	Whiteadder	NT972519	Heading downstream
16/04/2009	Brambling	1	Riverdene	NT992529	
16/04/2009	Blackcap	1	Cot Hill	NT759498	
17/04/2009	Goldeneye	3	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS count
17/04/2009	Greylag Geese	10	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS count
18/04/2009	Siskin	2	East Ord	NT982514	1 m 1 f on feeder
18/04/2009	Goldfinch	13	East Ord	NT982514	
19/04/2009	Bullfinch	4	Detchant Wood	NT074372	2 pairs.
19/04/2009	Siskin	2	Cot Hill	NT759498	1 m 1 f on nut feeder
19/04/2009	Swallow	1	Cot Hill	NT759498	First of year
19/04/2009	Yellow Wagtail	1	Mag. Fields Golf Crse.	NU002536	female
19/04/2009	Turnstone	34	Little Beach	NU006528	
19/04/2009	Grey Partridge	2	Mill Farm	NT989529	
19/04/2009	Shelduck	2	Yarrow Slake	NT984529	

20/04/2009	Linnet	3	Tommy-the-Millers	NT992535	
20/04/2009	Blackcap	1	Castle Terrace	NT991537	Male
20/04/2009	Swallow	40	Spittal Cliffs	NU0150	Passage, 1hr going, N.
20/04/2009	Meadow Pipits	160	Spittal Cliffs	NU0150	Passage, 1hr going, N.
20/04/2009	Barnacle Goose	1	Spittal Cliffs	NU0150	With 1 Pinkft. Flew N
20/04/2009	Pinkfooted Goose	1	Spittal Cliffs	NU0150	With 1 Barnacle. Flew N
20/04/2009	Swallow	5	Foulden	NT9355	
20/04/2009	Tufted Duck	8	Cheswick	NU0346	
20/04/2009	Common Scoter	400	Cheswick	NU0346	Offshore
21/04/2009	Gt. Spotted Woodpecker	2	Cot Hill	NT759498	Pair. Visited all winter
21/04/2009	Nuthatch	2	Cot Hill	NT759498	Visited feeder all winter
21/04/2009	Wheatear	1	Cot Hill	NT759498	First this year
21/04/2009	Common Sandpiper	1	Toddles Shiel	NT980523	Migrants
22/04/2009	Common Partridges	2	West Ord	NT955519	Pair
22/04/2009	Shelduck	2	West Ord	NT955519	Pair. Unusual place
22/04/2009	Little Gull	1	Pier Road	NU005525	With kittiwakes
22/04/2009	Sandwich Terns	19	Mag. Fields Golf Crse.	NU006536	On Ladies Skerrs
22/04/2009	Willow Warbler	2	Whiteadder Mouth	NT972519	
22/04/2009	Chiffchaff	1	Whiteadder Mouth	NT972519	
23/04/2009	House Martin	1	Spittal	NT9952	
24/04/2009	Garden Warbler	1	East Ord	NT979514	
24/04/2009	Common Scoter	740	Cocklawburn	NU0347	Lgest spring flock 8 yrs.
24/04/2009	Red-throated Diver	4	Cocklawburn	NU0347	With Comm. Scoter flock
24/04/2009	Long-tailed Duck	1	Cocklawburn	NU0347	With Comm. Scoter flock
24/04/2009	Turnstone	28	Little Beach	NU006528	
24/04/2009	Purple Sandpiper	8	Little Beach	NU006528	
24/04/2009	Gannet	1,400	Berwick Pier	NU0052	Per hour going S
24/04/2009	Grey Wagtail	2	Bypass Bridge	NT974517	
24/04/2009	Sedge Warbler	3	Whiteadder Mouth	NT972519	Whiteadder mouth
24/04/2009	Wheatear	1	Mill Farm	NT989529	
25/04/2009	Whooper Swan	1	New Water Haugh	NT9752	
26/04/2009	Hen Harrier	1	Detchant Wood	NT078373	Probably on migration
26/04/2009	Bullfinch	2	East Ord	NT981512	
26/04/2009	Sedge Warbler	1	Cocklawburn Pond	NU036475	
26/04/2009	Whitethroat	2	Cocklawburn Pond	NU036475	
26/04/2009	Sanderling	80	Cheswick Blk Rocks	NU037476	Tight flock, passage birds
26/04/2009	Whimbrel	1	Cheswick Blk Rocks	NU037476	With Sanderlings
26/04/2009	Common Scoter	620	Cheswick Blk Rocks	NU037476	
26/04/2009	Sandwich Terns	44	Meadow Haven	NU012526	Passage birds
27/04/2009	Willow Warbler	3	Ord Mill	NT975517	
27/04/2009	Chiffchaff	2	Ord Mill	NT975517	
29/04/2009	Goosander	12	West Ord	NT953518	2 ducks, 10 Imm. Drakes
29/04/2009	Wigeon	2	Middle Ord Pond	NT969506	Pair
29/04/2009	Little Grebe	2	Cheswick	NU0346	
29/04/2009	Snipe	1	Cheswick	NU0346	
29/04/2009	Wheatear	2	Cheswick	NU0346	
29/04/2009	House Martin	1	Royal Border Bridge	NT992533	First. 20.45
30/04/2009	House Martin	2	Royal Border Bridge	NT992533	2 this morning
	Mammals				
01/04/2009	Roe Deer	4	Middle Ord Pond	NT969506	
02/04/2009	Pipistrelle Bat	1	North Road	NT995537	First seen this yr. 06.17
17/04/2009	Otter	1	Tweed Estuary	NT985533	Dog Otter, hunting
21/04/2009	Brown Hare	1	Goswick	NU050461	In dune slack
24/04/2009	Otter	1	Bypass Bridge	NT974517	Young animal

	Reptiles				
19/04/2009	Common Lizard	1	Detchant Wood	NU074372	
	Butterflies				
05/04/2009	Large White	1	North Road	NT995537	
11/04/2009	Peacock	3	Tweedmouth (W)	NT989515	
11/04/2009	Small White	2	Tweedmouth (W)	NT989515	
11/04/2009	Large White	3	Tweedmouth (W)	NT989515	
16/04/2009	Orange Tip	1	New Road	NT993535	Male
19/04/2009	Small White	1	Cot Hill	NT759498	
19/04/2009	Comma	2	Detchant Wood	NU0737	
19/04/2009	Orange Tip	2	Detchant Wood	NU0737	
19/04/2009	Green-veined White	3	Detchant Wood	NU0737	
	Bumblebees				
10/04/2009	Red-tailed Bumblebee	1	Castle Terrace	NT991538	Queen on grape hyacinth
10/04/2009	Buff-tailed Bumblebee	1	Berwick	NT998526	Queen. In street.
11/04/2009	Red-tailed Bumblebee	3	Tommy-the-Millers Field	NT991535	Queens
11/04/2009	Carder Bumblebee	2	Tommy-the-Millers Field	NT991535	Queens
13/04/2009	Red-tailed Bumblebee	1	Castle Drive	NT992539	Queen
17/04/2009	Carder Bumblebee	5	Castle Terrace	NT991538	Queens on lungwort
17/04/2009	Buff-tailed Bumblebee	1	Castle Terrace	NT991538	Worker, on lungwort
29/04/2009	<i>Bombus monticola</i>	2	Border Fence	NT8527	
	Bugs				
20/04/2009	Hawthorn Shield Bug	1	Castle Terrace	NT991538	<i>Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale</i>

More records than ever this month! Thank you all so much. A particular thank you to Malcolm, who has been grappling with the mysteries of Excel to save us work re-entering the data on spreadsheets for EYE. Please send us your records for May, and photos (digital or prints/slides to be scanned). Use our form on the Sightings page (www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk/Sightings.html), phone 01289 309046 or e-mail mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk. Does anyone have difficulty using the Sightings form? We have had recent reports of problems, particularly from those using Firefox as their web browser.

SURVEYS

These are the basis of BWG's work, giving invaluable knowledge of our local wildlife and providing information to determine local and national trends and eventually underpin wildlife management. Recording is fun and certainly leaves a warm glow from a worthwhile job well done (even if it the outing is sometimes a bit chilly). We have a splendid group of stalwart "counters" but it would be lovely to have some new recruits (beginners and experts equally welcome). Just turn up on a survey (some, by no means all, are listed under "Events" below), sign up at the display at the forthcoming AGM or give us a ring to discuss your interests.

MARINE BILL.

As you probably know, last December a Marine Bill was announced in the Queen's Speech, aimed at protecting marine species and habitats. In UK waters 22 species, including once common and commercially important species like Atlantic Cod and Halibut, are endangered or even under threat of global extinction. To ensure the marine environment recovers and flourishes into the future a wide scale network of marine reserves is required. Scientists now recommend that at least 30% of our seas need full protection. Please lobby your MP to make sure this is carried out effectively. Visit www.marinereservesnow.org.uk for details and an easy e-form to send to your MP, or write – a real letter is often more effective. Thank you.

MEMBERS' PHOTOS.



Waxwings



Red-breasted Merganser



Linnet



Janet Simkin showing us mosses and lichens



Receiving the award from Northern Gas Networks



A Rock Pipit on the shore

With many thanks to Malcolm, Colin, Gill and Northern Gas Networks.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

You should have received a separate mailing with the AGM agenda and the newest Events list. However, just in case you haven't, the Events for May are:

Bat detector workshop – NO LONGER ON 7th MAY. (Let us know as soon as possible (01289 330591 or e-mail) if you want to attend, and we will let you know date, time and venue).

May 9th/10th/11th. **The Botanical Society of the British Isles** (BSBI) are having their **Spring Conference in Berwick**. This will focus on the alien trees and shrubs that are now part of the British landscape, and how to recognise and record them. There will be talks and exhibitions in the Guildhall, Berwick on Saturday and excursions to Cheviot Trees and Kyloe Woods on Sunday, St Abb's Head or Holy Island on Monday. The Chairman has kindly invited BWG members to all the events, and we will have a small exhibition of the Group's work. For details phone Fiona on 01289 330591.

Wednesday 13th May. 7.30pm. Brief AGM. Berwick United Reformed Church, Main Street, SPITTAL. Followed by **talk by Kevin Rideout on "What to see at St Abb's Reserve in summer"**. There will also be a **small display of the Group's survey work**, a chance to ask what is involved and perhaps to volunteer.

Tuesday 19th May, 1.30pm. Survey of reptiles and amphibians. A nationwide survey is being organised by Froglife, the Herpetological Conservation Trust and the British Trust for Ornithology. Details at http://www.bto.org.uk/gbw/herps/2009_survey/index.htm. We will begin with a group search of a suitable habitat, Cocklawburn Dunes, then we can continue the project in gardens (as the survey demands). Meet at the car park below pill box at the end of Cocklawburn Beach road (NU 032 481). If the weather is too cold/wet for reptiles, we will carry out a Banded Snail survey instead (see 29th May below).

Sunday 24th May, 2.00pm. Town Trees (1). An examination of the more unusual tree species planted around Berwick/Tweedmouth/East Ord, with Malcolm Hutcheson. Meet by the westernmost (Alchemia) entrance to East Ord Industrial Estate (just off Ord Drive, NT 985 519).

Thursday 28th May, 8.40pm. (or Friday 29th if Thursday very wet or windy). **Bat Survey, Riverdene, Tweedmouth** - a bat survey of the environs of the Royal Border Bridge, as part of the consultation to be carried out prior to the proposed illumination of the arches of the bridge, led by bat consultant, Ruth Hadden. Meet at south end of Riverdene (GR NT 991 528).

Friday 29th May, 1.30pm. Banded Snail survey. The Open University are examining the distribution of colour variants of the Banded Snail. The aim is to compare modern and historical records of shell-colours, to gauge the effects of a lower Song Thrush population and higher temperatures. We will carry out a survey at Cocklawburn Dunes (where they are particularly abundant) and also ask people to examine snails elsewhere). Meet at the car park below pill box at the end of Cocklawburn Beach road (NU 032 481). For more details see http://evolutionmegalab.org/en_GB/. If 19th May has been wet, the snails will have been studied then, and 29th May will (if warm) be a reptile and amphibian survey! (See 19th May above).

Want to know more? Look at our website www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk, phone 01289 330591, e-mail mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk, or just come along to one of our events. Group members do not need special skills or knowledge, just an interest in the environment. The membership fee is only £8.00 per year for individuals, £14.00 for families at the same address. Send fee with your name, address, and e-mail address if possible, to The Treasurer, Berwick Wildlife Group, 5 Springfield Park, East Ord, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2FD.