

# Berwick Wildlife Group

[www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk](http://www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk)

## Monthly Review August 2009



### WILDLIFE RECORDS.

**Weather.** Although this was a drier month than July, it again brought a fast moving succession of low pressure systems causing spells with rain and dry days alternately. Average temperatures were recorded throughout with no really hot days. The remnants of "Hurricane Bill" came on the 23/24<sup>th</sup>, losing most of its ferocity in the west of the country. Here the 24 hour period brought 22mm (0.9 ins) of rain with a fresh/strong, mild west wind. Rainfall for the month came on 12 days with a total of 78mm. (3.0 ins).

**Birds.** This month brings the start of the return Autumn migration, with warblers, flycatchers and hirundines making an early start. The **Swift** population had left Berwick by the 11<sup>th</sup> and a good passage of waders occurred throughout, with reports of **Black-tailed Godwits**, **Greenshank**, **Ruff** and **Whimbrel**. Other highlights included a **Long-eared Owl** at Highfields hunting the railway embankment (3<sup>rd</sup>), **Arctic Skuas** in Spittal Bay (18<sup>th</sup>), a **Kingfisher** on the Tweed at West Ord (20<sup>th</sup>) and a large flock of **Greylag Geese** (220, 30<sup>th</sup>) at Yarrow Slake during the last week.

**Butterflies.** With the changeable and often windy weather conditions, butterfly recording has been difficult. Good numbers of 'whites' have been seen through the month, with some species, especially the **Wall Brown** doing well around our area. The **Painted Lady** is still around in good numbers with second brooded 'clean' insects appearing. **We still need records from inland sites** (Murton, High Cocklaw, Lamberton etc.) **Small Tortoiseshell** seem to be doing better this year in our area despite the gloomy picture from elsewhere, but the **Red Admiral** is much scarcer than last year so far. We need more records of these species as well as **Small Copper**, **Comma** and **Wall Brown**.

**Dragonflies.** A **Migrant Hawker** was seen at Paxton House (24<sup>th</sup>) and **Common Darters** are plentiful. Surely more migrants will visit our area during September? Let us know.

### MEMBERS' PHOTOS.



Painted Lady and Peacock Butterflies on Buddleja      Red Admiral Butterfly.  
Both photos by Gill Young.

## THE RECORDS

Date	Species	No.	Location	Grid Ref	Comment
<b>Birds</b>					
02/08/2009	Little Egret	1	West Ord	NT953518	
02/08/2009	Mallard	22	West Ord	NT953518	
02/08/2009	Greenshank	1	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	With Redshanks
02/08/2009	Guillemot	7	Meadow Haven	NU012526	
02/08/2009	Goosander	12	Meadow Haven	NU012526	
02/08/2009	Ringed Plover	30	Little Beach	NU006528	
02/08/2009	Dunlin	8	Little Beach	NU006528	
02/08/2009	Turnstone	5	Little Beach	NU006528	
02/08/2009	Long-tailed Tit	20	E. Ord	NT980513	On trees in garden.
02/08/2009	Bullfinch	1	E. Ord	NT980513	On windowsill.
03/08/2009	Long-eared Owl	1	Needles Eye	NT993555	Preying on juvenile House Sparrows
03/08/2009	House Sparrows	160	Highfields	NT997547	Large flock feeding in stubble
05/08/2009	Quail	1	Oxford	NT998502	Calling in barley near Cat Inn.
06/08/2009	Whimbrel	2	East Ord	NT979514	Flying south
07/08/2009	Merlin	1	Cheswick Dunes	NU021458	Female
07/08/2009	Linnet	34	Cheswick Dunes	NU021458	
07/08/2009	Goosander	154	Cheswick Black Rocks	NU0346	Moulting flock
07/08/2009	Golden Plover	2	Cheswick Black Rocks	NU0346	
07/08/2009	Buzzard	1	Royal Border Bridge	NT994534	
07/08/2009	Sand Martin (nests)	66	Royal Border Bridge	NT992531	66 nests - most but not all active
08/08/2009	Greylag Goose	72	Yarrow Haugh	NT982527	
08/08/2009	Canada Goose	7	Yarrow Haugh	NT982527	
08/08/2009	Sparrowhawk	1	Yarrow Haugh	NT982527	
08/08/2009	Bullfinch	1	Yarrow Haugh	NT982527	Male
09/08/2009	Wheatear	2	Cheswick	NU0346	Juveniles, "several"
09/08/2009	Whitethroat	2	Cheswick	NU0346	Juveniles, "several"
09/08/2009	Linnet	2	Cheswick	NU0346	Juveniles, "several"
09/08/2009	Stonechat	2	Cheswick	NU0346	Juveniles, "several"
09/08/2009	Meadow Pipit	2	Cheswick	NU0346	Juveniles, "several"
09/08/2009	Reed Bunting	2	Cheswick	NU0346	Juveniles, "several"
09/08/2009	Swallow	2	Cheswick	NU0346	
09/08/2009	Pied Wagtail	2	Cheswick	NU0346	
09/08/2009	Buzzard	1	Cheswick	NU0346	
09/08/2009	Sparrowhawk	1	Cheswick	NU0346	
10/08/2009	Nightjar	2	Holburn Moss	NU053365	
10/08/2009	Snipe	22	Holburn Moss	NU053365	
10/08/2009	Ruff	1	Holburn Moss	NU053365	
11/08/2009	Swifts		Berwick	NT95	Most birds left early today.
12/08/2009	Curlew	35	Little Beach	NU006528	
12/08/2009	Ringed Plover	38	Little Beach	NU006528	
12/08/2009	Dunlin	52	Little Beach	NU006528	
12/08/2009	Turnstone	16	Little Beach	NU006528	
12/08/2009	Goosander	172	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	
12/08/2009	Black-tailed Godwit	10	Cocklawburn	NU0347	Disturbed by walkers. Flew off to S
12/08/2009	Dunlin	4	Cocklawburn	NU0347	
12/08/2009	Eider	52	Cocklawburn	NU0347	
12/08/2009	Common Scoter	46	Cocklawburn	NU0347	
12/08/2009	Mallard	40	Middle Ord Pond	NT969506	

12/08/2009	Common Gull	430	West Ord	NT953518	Riverside roost
12/08/2009	Lapwing	140	West Ord	NT953518	
14/08/2009	Ringed Plover	140	Little Beach	NU006527	Harassed by a peregrine.
14/08/2009	Dunlin	60	Little Beach	NU006527	Harassed by a peregrine.
16/08/2009	Shag	22	Meadow Haven	NU012526	roost
16/08/2009	Whimbrel	1	East Ord	NT979514	Flying south, very vocal
18/08/2009	Arctic Skua	1	Spittal Bay	NU009517	Dark phase
18/08/2009	Arctic Tern	3	Spittal Bay	NU009517	
18/08/2009	Guillemot	46	Spittal Bay	NU009517	
18/08/2009	Whimbrel	1	Spittal Bay	NU009517	Flying south
18/08/2009	Black-tailed Godwit	1	Cheswick Beach	NU032485	
18/08/2009	Whimbrel	1	Cheswick Beach	NU032485	
18/08/2009	Purple Sandpiper	2	Cheswick Beach	NU032485	
18/08/2009	Knot	2	Cheswick Beach	NU032485	In summer plumage.
19/08/2009	Black-tailed Godwit	1	Cocklawburn	NU0347	
19/08/2009	Whimbrel	5	Cocklawburn	NU0347	
19/08/2009	Teal	4	Cocklawburn	NU0347	
19/08/2009	Goosander	40	Cocklawburn	NU0347	
19/08/2009	Red-throated Diver	3	Cocklawburn	NU0347	
19/08/2009	Whimbrel	1	Cheswick	NU0346	
19/08/2009	Knot	2	Cheswick	NU0346	
19/08/2009	Purple Sandpiper	2	Cheswick	NU0346	
19/08/2009	Turnstone	2	Cheswick	NU0346	
19/08/2009	Black-tailed Godwit	1	Cheswick	NU0346	
19/08/2009	Scoter	50	Cheswick	NU0346	Offshore
19/08/2009	Nuthatch	1	East Ord House	NT982515	Calling loudly from tree canopy.
20/08/2009	Kingfisher	1	West Ord	NT953518	
20/08/2009	Swift	1	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	
20/08/2009	Wigeon	6	Spittal Bay	NU009517	Flying north
20/08/2009	Teal	26	Spittal Bay	NU009517	Flying south
20/08/2009	Gannet	60	Spittal Bay	NU009517	Feeding close inshore
21/08/2009	Grey Heron	19	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS
21/08/2009	Mute Swan	252	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS
21/08/2009	Greylag Goose	52	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS
21/08/2009	Teal	5	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS
21/08/2009	Goosander	25	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS
21/08/2009	Ringed Plover	28	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS
21/08/2009	Dunlin	18	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS
21/08/2009	Curlew	85	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS
21/08/2009	Redshank	89	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS
21/08/2009	Kittiwake	224	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS
21/08/2009	Common Tern	2	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS
21/08/2009	Sandwich Tern	32	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS
21/08/2009	Swift	1	East Ord	NT979514	
21/08/2009	Sparrowhawk	1	North Road	NT994538	
22/08/2009	Greylag Goose	28	Yarrow Haugh	NT982527	
22/08/2009	Willow Warbler	3	Yarrow Haugh	NT982527	
23/08/2009	Canada Goose	2	Berwick Pier	NU0052	Flying south
24/08/2009	Ringed Plover	142	Little Beach	NU006528	
24/08/2009	Dunlin	214	Little Beach	NU006528	
24/08/2009	Sanderling	20	Little Beach	NU006528	
24/08/2009	Purple Sandpiper	1	Little Beach	NU006528	
24/08/2009	Turnstone	35	Little Beach	NU006528	
24/08/2009	Bar-tailed Godwit	3	Fishermans Haven	NU003538	
24/08/2009	Purple Sandpiper	3	Dodd's Well	NU001542	





**WHIN SILL GRASSLAND SURVEY.** We have examined two of the areas suggested by the Northumberland Wildlife Trust, including Ewe Hill to the north of Kylee Wood, which proved to have small areas of shortly-grazed, unimproved, calcareous grassland (what the Trust are looking for). This needs detailed examination (quadrats), which we hope to do in the second and third weeks of September (weather permitting). I know of some people who are interested in looking at plants – if anyone else would like to help (beginners welcome) please let Fiona know. Phone 01289 330591 or e-mail [mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk](mailto:mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk) .

### **OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS.**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September. *How deep is time?*** A walk to see "Hutton's Unconformity" at Siccar Point with Ian Kille, organised by North Northumberland Coast AONB. **Health & Safety** Extremely steep grassy slope to reach the unconformity which will require a good level of fitness and confident balance Circa 1.5km of walking. If wet/windy will need warm clothes. Free, no booking required, information 01670 533039. **Meet at 11.00 am. by the Hutton Trail sign post next to the road into Old Cambus Quarry and Drysdale Ltd (off A1107, south of Cockburnspath). There is parking by the side of the road just before and next to the meeting point, NT 706804.**

**Fixed Point Photography.** Mid-September at Cocklawburn. To gauge the effect of grazing. If interested please let us know ([mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk](mailto:mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk) or 01289 330591).

**Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup>** (or Fri 18<sup>th</sup> if 17<sup>th</sup> v. wet or windy). **Bat Survey between Berwick Walls and Fields House** – to follow up recent results. Meet at The Parade car park at 7.00 pm.

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> September. Seashore exploration,** N shore of Holy Island with Jenny Prince. Unusually low tide. Meet at **9.30 am.** at Chare Ends on Holy Island (NU123 426). There is about a mile to walk (path) from the car park to the north shore of Holy Island. Wear (or carry) wellies or sandshoes, and remember it will be cool, windy and slippery underfoot on the shore. If very wet or windy outing will be cancelled (to check phone 01289 330591).

**Sun 20<sup>th</sup> September. Beachwatch.** Surveys of Little Beach and Pier Road Beach as part of the Beachwatch scheme managed by Marine Conservation. These surveys involve collecting litter from a 100m length of beach between the high tide line and the top of the beach. The results are used by Marine Conservation as a focus for their Campaign For Clean Seas to increase individual, industry and government responsibility to keep litter out of our seas. Meet at 10.00 am at the car park behind Little (Pier) Beach, Berwick (NU 006 528).

**21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September. Small Mammal Survey.** Details given above.

**Late September until end of November.** Air Quality Survey for OPAL (Open Air Laboratories). A survey of lichens on deciduous trees, plus examining sycamore leaves for tar-spot fungus, probably on Warkworth Terrace and Berwick Walls. Results will be co-ordinated nationally to map the occurrence of indicator lichens and tar spot across England and investigate the link between them and known levels of significant nitrogen pollutants. Let us know if you are interested: e-mail [mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk](mailto:mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk) or phone 01289 330591.

**If you want more information on any of the above events**, or would like to know more about the Group see our website ([www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk](http://www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk) ), phone 01289 330591, e-mail [mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk](mailto:mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk) , or just come to an event. Everyone is welcome – there may be a small charge (no charge for children, but they must come with an adult).