

Berwick Wildlife Group

www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk

Monthly Review July 2009



WILDLIFE RECORDS.

Weather. The first week of the month started with sunny, warm days (27.0°C, 80.6°F on 2nd), but this all seemed to go 'pear-shaped' through the rest of the month, with higher than normal rainfall. The total for the month was 165mm. 6.5inches.

A fast moving succession of low pressure systems brought spells of heavy rain and dry days alternately. Thunder occurred on several days with a storm late on the 15th bringing lightning strikes into the Berwick area, along with 15mm (0.6 ins) of rain, during the hour it lasted. A particularly wet spell came on the 17th/18th. with persistent rain through the period and a strong to gale force NW wind. A total of 71mm (2.8 ins) of rain was recorded in 24 hour period at East Ord, with even higher figures recorded along the coast.

Birds. The month is normally a quiet one with second broods of birds well on and the first returning migrants appearing by the end of the month. Several calling **Quail** were in our area and the largest gathering of moulting **Mute Swans** and **Goosanders** on the Estuary for several years. The end of the month saw returning waders to Little Beach area and several new breeding sites for **House Martins**.

This is the final month for the Breeding Atlas records with local sites Oxford (NU04D) recording **Tufted Duck**, **Greylag** and **House Martin**; Cheswick Buildings (NU04H) with **Buzzard**, **Quail** and **Garden Warbler**; Beal (NU04D) holding **Stock Dove**, **House Martin**, **Willow Warbler** and **Tree Sparrow**; and Old Dryburn (NU04A) with **Little Grebe**, **Tufted Duck**, **House Martin**, **Sedge Warbler** and **Tree Sparrow**.

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 'browns' (**Ringlet & Meadow Brown**) doing well. **Grayling** have been scarce with 3 recorded at Cheswick (31st). Have there been any sightings at Cocklawburn?? The **Painted Lady** is still around in good numbers with second brooded 'clean' insects now appearing. **We still need records from inland sites (Ancroft, Murton, Oxford, High Cocklaw, Lamberton etc.)**

Small Tortoiseshell seem to be doing better this year in our area, despite the gloomy picture from elsewhere. We need more records of these species as well as **Dark green Fritillaries** which are scarce so far and **Small Copper, Comma and Wall Brown**.

Dragonflies. August is the best month for migrating dragonflies to appear. Seen so far are **Southern Hawker** (17th) at Oxford pits and **Migrant Hawker** (31st) at Beal.

With many thanks to Malcolm Hutcheson and the other recorders. Please send us your records, and photos (digital or prints/slides to be scanned). Use the form on the Sightings page (www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk/Sightings.html), phone 01289 309046 or e-mail mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk.

| Date | Species | No. | Location | Grid Ref | Comment |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------|------------------------|----------|---|
| Birds | | | | | |
| 01/07/2009 | Grasshopper Warbler | 1 | Cocklawburn | NU036477 | "Singing" in dune hollow. |
| 01/07/2009 | Hen Harrier | 1 | Needles Eye | NT992555 | With dead rabbit. |
| 02/07/2009 | Kestrel | 1 | Needles Eye | NT995554 | Female. Also kittiwakes, guillemots, razorbills . |
| 02/07/2009 | Puffin | 4 | Needles Eye | NT995554 | Two pairs feeding chicks. |
| 03/07/2009 | Gt.Northern Diver | 1 | Cheswick | NU0346 | |
| 03/07/2009 | Goosander | 36 | Cheswick | NU0346 | Moult flock |
| 03/07/2009 | Eider | 68 | Cheswick | NU0346 | |
| 03/07/2009 | Gt. Black-backed Gull | 22 | Cheswick | NU0346 | All immatures |
| 03/07/2009 | Quail | 1 | Cocklawburn | NU035478 | Seen and heard |
| 04/07/2009 | Raven | 1 | East Ord | NT979514 | Flying south |
| 05/07/2009 | Pochard | 1 | West Ord | NT953518 | Drake. With Tufted Duck |
| 05/07/2009 | Tufted Duck | 3 | West Ord | NT953518 | |
| 05/07/2009 | Redshank | 10 | Tweed Estuary | NT9952 | First post-breeding birds |
| 05/07/2009 | Kittiwake | 170 | Tweed Estuary | NT9952 | In gull roost |
| 05/07/2009 | Sandwich Tern | 32 | Tweed Estuary | NT9952 | In gull roost |
| 05/07/2009 | Buzzard | 1 | Castle Hills | NT984533 | |
| 05/07/2009 | Willow Warbler | 1 | Castle Hills | NT984533 | Feeding young. |
| 06/07/2009 | Goosander | 30 | Meadow Haven | NU012526 | |
| 06/07/2009 | Common Scoter | 17 | Berwick Pier | NU0052 | Flying north |
| 07/07/2009 | Puffin | 2 | Meadow Haven | NU012526 | |
| 07/07/2009 | Guillemot | 12 | Meadow Haven | NU012526 | |
| 07/07/2009 | Razorbill | 8 | Meadow Haven | NU012526 | |
| 07/07/2009 | Manx Shearwater | 3 | Spittal Bay | NU009517 | Flying north. Strong northerly wind. |
| 07/07/2009 | Gannet | 550 | Spittal Bay | NU009517 | 550 flying North per hour |
| 07/07/2009 | Kittiwake | 450 | Spittal Bay | NU009517 | 450 flying North per hour |
| 07/07/2009 | Puffin | 5 | Spittal Bay | NU009517 | |
| 08/07/2009 | Quail | 1 | Windmill Hill, Goswick | NT864507 | Calling in a barley field |
| 10/07/2009 | Goosander | 205 | Tweed Estuary | NT9952 | WeBS. Highest moult count recorded |
| 10/07/2009 | Mute Swan | 632 | Tweed Estuary | NT9952 | WeBS. A very high count |
| 10/07/2009 | Lapwing | 36 | Tweed Estuary | NT9952 | WeBS. |
| 10/07/2009 | Common Sandpiper | 1 | Toddles Shiel | NT980523 | |
| 10/07/2009 | Arctic Skua | 1 | Cocklawburn | NU0347 | Chasing Sandwich Terns |
| 12/07/2009 | Whimbrel | 2 | Little Beach | NU006528 | |
| 12/07/2009 | Goosander | 32 | Dodds Well | NU0737 | |
| 12/07/2009 | Peregrine | 1 | Coastwatch Tower | NU005534 | Immature. Seen to take a young Carrion Crow. |
| 13/07/2009 | Little Grebe | 2 | Cocklawburn Pond | NU005534 | Pair with 3 juveniles. |
| 13/07/2009 | Common Scoter | 164 | Cheswick | NU0346 | |
| 13/07/2009 | Eider | 84 | Cheswick | NU0346 | |
| 13/07/2009 | Guillemot | 30 | Spittal Bay | NU009517 | |
| 13/07/2009 | Goosander | 22 | Little Beach | NU009529 | |
| 14/07/2009 | Curlew | 19 | Yarrow Slake | NT985530 | |
| 14/07/2009 | Lapwing | 42 | Yarrow Slake | NT985530 | |
| 14/07/2009 | Dunlin | 1 | Yarrow Slake | NT985530 | |
| 14/07/2009 | Buzzard | 3 | Berwick | NT9953 | Circling town and moving off to the north. |
| 15/07/2009 | Peregrine | 1 | Toddles Shiel | NT980523 | Immature. |
| 15/07/2009 | Tufted Duck | 5 | West Ord | NT953518 | |
| 17/07/2009 | Gannet | 1,200 | Berwick Pier | NU0052 | 1,200 flying N / hour. Strong NW winds |

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|------------|---------------------|-----|----------------------|----------|--|
| 17/07/2009 | Manx Shearwater | 2 | Berwick Pier | NU0052 | |
| 17/07/2009 | Puffin | 5 | Berwick Pier | NU0052 | |
| 19/07/2009 | Lapwing | 140 | West Ord | NT953518 | |
| 19/07/2009 | Quail | 1 | Hirsel, Coldstream | NT8240 | Heard calling. `12.30 pm. Warm but showry. |
| 19/07/2009 | Treecreeper | 3+ | Hirsel, Coldstream | NT828403 | Family |
| 19/07/2009 | Jay | 1 | Hirsel, Coldstream | NT828403 | |
| 19/07/2009 | Spotted Flycatcher | 1 | Hirsel, Coldstream | NT828403 | |
| 20/07/2009 | Sandwich Terns | 142 | Sea House | NU023495 | High tide roost |
| 20/07/2009 | Arctic Terns | 2 | Sea House | NU023495 | |
| 20/07/2009 | Sanderling | 28 | Cheswick Beach | NU0446 | First of the returning post-breeding waders. |
| 22/07/2009 | Goosander | 44 | Tweedmouth | NT9952 | Great views as they hauled out as tide rose. |
| 22/07/2009 | Sandwich Tern | 30 | Tweedmouth | NT9952 | . |
| 23/07/2009 | Hobby | 2 | Murton | NT9548 | Presumably a pair. |
| 23/07/2009 | Yellow Wagtails | 4 | Monks House Pool | NU2033 | Family party at edge of pool. |
| 23/07/2009 | Crossbills | 2 | Monynut Forest | NT686668 | Male and female. |
| 23/07/2009 | Kestrel | 2+ | Monynut Forest | NT686668 | Feeding young. |
| 23/07/2009 | Buzzard | 7 | Monynut Forest | NT686668 | |
| 25/07/2009 | Cuckoo | 1 | Halidon Hill | NT969548 | Immature. Persued by irrate Swallows |
| 25/07/2009 | Whitethroat | 2 | Halidon Hill | NT969548 | Feeding young in a nest |
| 25/07/2009 | Heron | 18 | Yarrow Slake | NT985530 | |
| 26/07/2009 | Common Gull | 140 | West Ord | NT953518 | Gull Roost. Post breeding birds. |
| 26/07/009 | Dunlin | 36 | Little Beach | NT006528 | |
| 26/07/2009 | Turnstone | 2 | Little Beach | NT006528 | |
| 26/07/2009 | Yellow Wagtail | 1 | Pier Field | NU004528 | A juvenile feeding with pied wagtails. |
| 26/07/2009 | Peregrine | 4 | Berwick | NT991537 | Circling. At least one immature calling. |
| 27/07/2009 | Dunlin | 36 | Little Beach | NU006528 | |
| 27/07/2009 | Turnstone | 2 | Little Beach | NU006528 | |
| 27/07/2009 | Goosander | 6 | Little Beach | NU006528 | |
| 27/07/2009 | Swifts | 54 | Berwick | NT9953 | Gathering over town centre before departure |
| 27/07/2009 | Oystercatcher | 48 | Little Beach | NU007527 | 8.30am. Weather thin high cloud, calm. |
| 27/07/2009 | Common Sandpiper | 1 | Cheswick Pond | NU035475 | |
| 27/07/2009 | Little Grebe | 2 | Cheswick Pond | NU035475 | |
| 27/07/2009 | Moorhen | 1 | Cheswick Pond | NU035475 | |
| 27/07/2009 | Buzzard | 1 | Cheswick Pond | NU035475 | |
| 27/07/2009 | Scoter | 6 | Cheswick | NU038476 | |
| 27/07/2009 | Goosander | 16 | Cheswick | NU038476 | |
| 27/07/2009 | Eider | 2 | Cheswick | NU038476 | |
| 27/07/2009 | Sandwich Tern | 2 | Cheswick | NU038476 | |
| 29/07/2009 | Wheatear | 2 | Cocklawburn | NU0347 | Newly fledged juveniles |
| 29/07/2009 | Reed Bunting | 7 | Cocklawburn | NU0347 | |
| 29/07/2009 | Ringed Plover | 6 | Cocklawburn | NU0347 | |
| 29/07/2009 | Dunlin | 8 | Cocklawburn | NU0347 | |
| 29/07/2009 | Eider | 52 | Cheswick | NU0346 | |
| 29/07/2009 | Black-tailed Godwit | 5 | Cheswick | NU0346 | |
| 29/07/2009 | Wheatear | 3 | Cocklawburn | NU0347 | 8.30a.m. Must have bred locally. |
| 29/07/2009 | Ringed Plover | 22 | Cheswick Black Rocks | NU037476 | 9.00a.m. Good clear conditions. |
| 29/07/2009 | Black-tailed Godwit | 5 | Cheswick Black Rocks | NU037476 | 9.00a.m. Good clear conditions. |
| 30/07/2009 | Spotted Flycatcher | 2 | Ford Moss | NT9637 | |
| 30/07/2009 | Grasshopper Warbler | 2 | Spittal Cliffs | NU010510 | "Singing" at dusk, 9.45 pm. |
| 31/07/2009 | Linnet | 42 | Cheswick Dunes | NU021458 | |

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------|-------------------|----------|--|
| 31/07/2009 | Dunlin | 230 | Goswick Sands | NU0545 | |
| 31/07/2009 | Oystercatcher | 80 | Goswick Sands | NU0545 | |
| 31/07/2009 | Sandwich Terns | 110 | Goswick Sands | NU0545 | Roost |
| 31/07/2009 | Wheatear | 4 | Goswick Dunes | NU0545 | Adult + 3 juv. |
| 29/07/090 | Ringed Plover | 22 | Cheswick | NU0346 | |
| | | | | | |
| <u>Mammals</u> | | | | | |
| 10/07/2009 | Roe Deer | 2 | Mill Farm | NT986528 | 1 buck, 1 doe, grazing |
| | | | | | |
| <u>Lepidoptera</u> | | | | | |
| 01/07/2009 | Painted ladies | 9 | Cocklawburn | NU035478 | |
| 02/07/2009 | Speckled Wood | 2 | Blawearie | NU062392 | On verge by woodland. |
| 02/07/2009 | Painted Lady | 1 | Needles Eye | NT992554 | |
| 03/07/2009 | Dark Green Fritillary | 1 | Cocklawburn | NU0348 | Hazy sunshine. 10.30 a.m. |
| 03/07/2009 | Dark Green Fritillary | 1 | Cheswick Dunes | NU0347 | Hazy sunshine. 10.00 a.m. |
| 04/07/2009 | Magpie Moth | 1 | Berwick garden | NT993539 | 7.15 a.m. |
| 04/07/2009 | Small Heath | 13 | Cheviot Burn | NT884195 | At 483m. Calm, sunny, warm. |
| 11/07/2009 | Meadow Brown | 14 | Cocklawburn Dunes | NU036477 | Warm, sunny, light breeze. |
| 11/07/2009 | Ringlet | 13 | Cocklawburn Dunes | NU036477 | Warm, sunny, light breeze. |
| 11/07/2009 | Common Blue Butterfly | 22 | Cocklawburn Dunes | NU036477 | Warm, sunny, light breeze. |
| 23/07/2009 | Ringlets | 2 | Monymut Forest | NT686668 | 12.30 pm. Warm, breezy but sunny. |
| 23/07/2009 | Small Tortoiseshell | 1 | Monymut Forest | NT686668 | 12.30 pm. Warm, breezy but sunny. |
| 31/07/2009 | Small Tortoiseshell | 12 | Cheswick Shiel | NU0446 | Feeding mainly on ragwort flowers. |
| 31/07/2009 | Painted Lady | 18 | Cheswick Shiel | NU0446 | Feeding mainly on ragwort flowers. |
| 31/07/2009 | Meadow Brown | 120 | Cheswick Shiel | NU0446 | Feeding mainly on ragwort flowers. |
| 31/07/2009 | Small Copper | 15 | Cheswick Shiel | NU0446 | Feeding mainly on ragwort flowers. |
| 31/07/2009 | Grayling | 3 | Cheswick | NU0446 | |
| | | | | | |
| <u>Other insects</u> | | | | | |
| 11/07/2009 | Soldier Beetle | 4 | Cocklawburn Dunes | NU036477 | <i>Rhagomycha fulva.</i> |
| 11/07/2009 | Common Blue Damselfly | 4 | Cocklawburn Dunes | NU036477 | <i>Enallagma cyathigerum.</i> |
| 17/07/2009 | Southern Hawker | 1 | Oxford Ponds | NU0046 | |
| 31/07/2009 | Migrant Hawker | 1 | Beal | NU04 | |
| | | | | | |
| <u>Shore life</u> | | | | | |
| 23/07/2009 | Long-clawed Squat Lobster | 1 | Holy Island | NU124438 | <i>Munida rugosa.</i> |
| 23/07/2009 | Bootlace Worm | 1 | Holy Island | NU124438 | <i>Lineus longissimus.</i> |
| 23/07/2009 | Sea Hare | 100+ | Holy Island | NU124438 | <i>Aplysia punctata.</i> Abundant + egg strings. |
| 23/07/2009 | Sponge | 2 | Holy Island | NU124438 | <i>Myxilla fimbriata.</i> |
| 23/07/2009 | Star Ascidian | 10+ | Holy Island | NU124438 | <i>Botryllus schlosseri.</i> |
| 23/07/2009 | Breadcrumb Sponge | 10+ | Holy Island | NU124438 | <i>Halichondria panicea.</i> |
| 23/07/2009 | Purse Sponge | 5 | Holy Island | NU124438 | <i>Grantia compressa.</i> |
| 23/07/2009 | Dead Mens Fingers | 10+ | Holy Island | NU124438 | <i>Alcyonium digitatum</i> |
| 23/07/2009 | Bloody Henry Starfish | 3 | Holy Island | NU124438 | <i>Henricia sanguinolenta.</i> |
| 23/07/2009 | Common Sea-urchin | 5 | Holy Island | NU124438 | <i>Echinus esculentus.</i> |
| 23/07/2009 | Squat Lobster | 2 | Holy Island | NU124438 | <i>Galathea squamifera.</i> |
| 28/07/2009 | Ragworm | 1 | Holy Island | NU124438 | <i>Nereis pelagica.</i> |

MEMBERS' PHOTOS.



Left
Common liverwort,
Marchantia
polymorpha ssp.
ruderalis

Upper right
Sea Hare
(a sea slug)



Lower right
Velvet Swimming
Crab



Upper left
Male Common
Blue Butterfly by Gill
Young



Lower left
Magpie Moth by
Carole Rust

Right
Female Common
Blue Butterfly on
Bloody Cranesbill by
Gill Young



SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Just a reminder, that if you have not paid your membership fees for 2009/2010 these are now due. The fees are : £8.00 for individuals, £14.00 for two or more people at the same address. Please either hand your fees (cash or cheque) to a member of the Committee at a meeting, or send your cheque (made out to Berwick Wildlife Group) to our treasurer, Enid Turnbull, at 5 Springfield Park, East Ord, Berwick upon Tweed, TD15 2FD. Thank you. Otherwise, this is the last Review you will have e-mailed or sent, unless/until you re-join the Group. Of course, if you think you are still a member but somehow stop receiving Reviews, etc., do please let us know!

MORE MARINE RESERVES. The Marine Conservation Society is running a campaign to identify and designate new marine reserves all round the UK. If you have a favourite bit of coast you think should be considered, please fill in their questionnaire on www.yourseasyourvoice.com .

MAMMAL SURVEYS. A very successful training day and first catch took place in July at Cocklawburn, with the help of Veronica Carnell of Northumberland Small Mammals Group. Bank Voles and Common Shrews were recorded. This may not be very surprising, but there is no recent data on ANY small mammals locally (e.g. no records for Woodmouse, which is known to be abundant). Results from Cocklawburn will form an interesting contrast with trapping work just begun at Holy Island (as a spin-off from Bioblitz). John is now keen to organise other surveys of voles/shrews/mice in the Berwick area in August and September. If anyone is interested in taking part please contact John on 07968 526508 or john.rae@dsl.pipex.com .

OTHER FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

August. Whin Sill Grassland surveying/recording. Details to be arranged. A re-survey of sites known to be botanically important. Will involve standard techniques of study of vegetation within quadrats, on several occasions at different sites. Beginners (and experts) welcome. If you are interested please phone 01289 330591 or e-mail mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk and we can let you know the details.

Thursday 13th August (or Fri 14th if 13th very wet or windy). **Bat Survey of Cornwall Avenue and Springfield Park, East Ord** (GR NT984515) – to make a bat count from a known gable roost and a walking survey to detect the presence of bats. Meet at entrance to Cornwall Avenue at 8.30pm.

Thursday 27th August (or Fri 28th if 27th very wet or windy). **Bat Survey of Holy Trinity Church of England and Parade** (GR NU 000 532) – a survey to find out if there are any roosting bats in or around the church. Meet at The Parade car park at 8.00 pm.

Thursday 17th September (or Fri 18th if 17th v. wet or windy). **Bat Survey of Drill Hall off Ravensdowne, and The Parade** (GR NU 000 531) – a ‘follow-up’ survey to that at Holy Trinity. Meet at The Parade car park at 7.00 pm.

Sat 19th 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). Bring/wear wellies or sandshoes (about a mile to walk to beach). Probably cool and windy on the shore.

Sun 20th 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).

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), phone 01289 330591, e-mail 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).