

Berwick Wildlife Group

www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk

Monthly Review February 2010



WILDLIFE REPORTS.

Weather. The saying "February filldyke, both black and white" did not really apply this month as the majority of the time it was white. The first week was as usual for early February, but sleet and snow showers on 8th saw the start of very icy conditions with a keen frost the following night. Wintry showers with hard frosts at night continued for the next 10 days when 2.5 mm (0.1 in) snow cover fell on the 19th. This was added to on the 22nd with a further 4 mm (0.16 in) of snow. Although some days were of bright unbroken sunshine, the thaw didn't come until overnight rain and a cold east wind cleared it all on the 24th. Frost occurred on 16 nights with the lowest temperature -6C. (22F.) on the 21st. Wet conditions on the last three days of the month added 37mm. of rain to the month's total, bringing rainfall (and snow melt) for the month to 81.5 mm (3.2 inches).

Birds. This was a very quiet month for birds. Two **Ravens** were seen flying over East Ord on the 6th, heading along the Tweed Valley. A pair of **Coots** and a **Moorhen** spent most of the month in and around Tweedmouth Dock, and a fine male **Peregrine** roosted on both the Union and Royal Border bridges, making use of the plentiful supply of feral pigeons. A **Merlin** was seen hunting the cliff top at Needles Eye on the 11th. A fresh north wind on the 12th saw a good movement of **Gannets**, **Fulmars** and **Guillemots** northwards along the coast. Two pairs of **Fulmars** had returned to the Union Bridge by the 13th.

Mammals. Three reports of **Stoats** in ermine have been made this month, one at Cocklawburn pond (3rd), another at Kyles West Church (5th) and another at Seahouse, Scremerston (15th). Four **Roe deer** were seen near Castle Terrace on the 15th. An **Otter** was seen on the Tweed under the A1 by-pass Bridge on 17th, and a **Badger** was out foraging that day at Kentstone Cottages.

THE RECORDS

Date	Species	No.	Location	Grid Ref	Comment
	Birds				
30/01/2010	Brambling	22	Horncliffe	NT9249	On garden feeder
30/01/2010	Blackcap	1	Horncliffe	NT9249	Male
01/02/2010	Tree Sparrow	6	Horncliffe	NT9249	Visiting garden feeder
01/02/2010	Coot	2	Tweed Dock	NT996524	
02/02/2010	Bullfinch	1	Castle Terrace	NT991537	Male. Eating blackthorn buds
03/02/2010	Bar-tailed Godwit	10	Little Beach	NU006528	
03/02/2010	Grey Plover	3	Little Beach	NU006528	
03/02/2010	Turnstone	68	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	
03/02/2010	Common Scoter	120	Cheswick Bay	NU0447	10.00. Large flock for time of year
06/02/2010	Dunlin	6	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	
06/02/2010	Raven	2	East Ord	NT979514	Flying up Tweed valley from coast

07/02/2010	Siskin	1	Horncliffe	NT9249	
07/02/2010	Ringed Plover	36	Little Beach	NU006528	
07/02/2010	Dunlin	316	Little Beach	NU006528	
07/02/2010	Sanderling	22	Little Beach	NU006528	
07/02/2010	Turnstone	70	Little Beach	NU006528	
07/02/2010	Purple Sandpiper	8	Little Beach	NU006528	
07/02/2010	Eider	12	Pier	NU008525	
07/02/2010	Curlew	42	West Ord	NT953518	
07/02/2010	Whooper Swan	2	West Ord	NT953518	Still present 14th.
08/02/2010	Bullfinch	2	East Ord Garden	NT981512	Male and female. Visited 4 days
09/02/2010	Wigeon	12	Middle Ord Pond	NT969506	
09/02/2010	Teal	32	Middle Ord Pond	NT969506	
09/02/2010	Canada Goose	9	West Ord	NT953518	
10/02/2010	Sanderling	37	Cheswick	NU0346	
10/02/2010	Turnstone	10	Cheswick	NU0346	
10/02/2010	Purple Sandpiper	18	Cheswick	NU0346	
11/02/2010	Merlin	1	Marshall Meadows	NU002536	Female, hunting on cliff-top
11/02/2010	Brambling	2	East Ord	NT982515	M & F on sunflower seed feeder
12/02/2010	Gannet	70	Spittal Bay	NU009517	70/hr flying N. An early movement
12/02/2010	Fulmar	55	Spittal Bay	NU009517	55/hr flying N. An early movement
12/02/2010	Guillemot	170	Spittal Bay	NU009517	170/hr flying North
12/02/2010	Red-throated Diver	3	Spittal Bay	NU009517	
12/02/2010	Red-breasted Merganser	3	Spittal Bay	NU009517	
12/02/2010	Eider	18	Tweed Dock	NT996524	
13/02/2010	Peregrine	1	Union Bridge	NT914511	Male, roosting near Fulmars
13/02/2010	Fulmar	4	Union Bridge	NT914511	
13/02/2010	Redshank	280	Union Bridge	NT914511	High tide roost on a bridge pier
13/02/2010	Coot	2	Tweed Dock	NT996524	
13/02/2010	Moorhen	1	Tweed Dock	NT996524	
14/02/2010	Greylag Goose	3	West Ord	NT953518	
14/02/2010	Canada Goose	6	West Ord	NT953518	
14/02/2010	Whooper Swan	2	West Ord	NT953518	
14/02/2010	Shag	25	Meadow Haven	NU012526	Roost
14/02/2010	Eider	14	Meadow Haven	NU012526	
14/02/2010	Curlew	15	Cocklawburn	NU030482	10.30. Feeding in pasture
14/02/2010	Grey Partridge.	2	Billylaw	NT980496	09.30. Fine frosty morning
14/02/2010	Mute Swan	6	Cheswick Pond	NU035475	2 adult, 4 juvenile
14/02/2010	Mallard	6	Cheswick Pond	NU035475	
14/02/2010	Goldeneye	1	Cheswick Pond	NU035475	Drake
15/02/2010	Common Scoter	160	Cocklawburn	NU0347	
15/02/2010	Pink footed Goose	5	Cocklawburn	NU0347	Flying south
15/02/2010	Rook	180	Cocklawburn	NU0347	Feeding in stubble fields
15/02/2010	Red-breasted Merganser	7	Cheswick	NU0346	
15/02/2010	Common Scoter	130	Cheswick	NU0346	
15/02/2010	Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	Whitehall Hs. woods	NT874551	Pair.
15/02/2010	Goldfinch	4	Whitehall Hs woods	NT874551	.
15/02/2010	Robin	1	Whitehall Hs Woods	NT874551	
16/02/2010	Bullfinch	2	Whitehall Hs woods	NT874551	Pair.
17/02/2010	Little Grebe	2	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS count
17/02/2010	Grey Heron	10	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS count

17/02/2010	Mute Swan	28	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS count
17/02/2010	Mallard	82	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS count
17/02/2010	Goldeneye	182	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS count
17/02/2010	Curlew	46	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS count
17/02/2010	Redshank	155	Tweed Estuary	NT9952	WeBS count
17/02/2010	Goldeneye	25	Tweed Estuary	NT988534	Two of males displaying. Mid-day
17/02/2010	Rook	10	Castle Hills Woods	NT088535	Bringing in nesting material
18/02/2010	Jay	2	Whitehall Hs woods	NT874551	Pair
18/02/2010	Great Tit	2	Whitehall Hs Woods	NT874551	
19/02/2010	Buzzard	1	Cocklawburn	NU030482	10.30. Sitting on roadside fence post.
19/02/2010	Blue Tit	2	Whitehall Hs Woods	NT874551	
20/02/2010	Bullfinch	2	Whitehall Hs woods	NT874551	Pair
20/02/2010	Peregrine	1	Tweedmouth West End	NT993531	16.00. Carrying pigeon up to railway bridge
20/02/2010	Grey Wagtail	1	Tweedmouth West End	NT993531	16.00.
20/02/2010	Pochard	2	Tweedmouth West End	NT993531	16.00. Drakes
20/02/2010	Grey Wagtail	1	Tweedmouth West End	NT992529	
20/02/2010	Jay	3	Whitehall Hs. Woods	NT874551	
21/02/2010	Merlin	1	Budle Bay	NU146347	
21/02/2010	Long-tailed Tit	4	Tweedmouth garden	NT989515	
22/02/2010	Buzzard	1	Whitehall Hs. woods	NT874551	
22/02/2010	Mistle Thrush	1	Whitehall Hs. woods	NT874551	
22/02/2010	Yellowhammer	2	Kentstone Cottage	NU039414	
22/02/2010	Little Egret	1	Holy I. Causeway	NU084429	
22/02/2010	Goldfinch	2	Whitehall Hs Woods	NT874551	
23/02/2010	Sanderling	52	Little Beach	NU006528	
23/02/2010	Ringed Plover	43	Little Beach	NU006528	
23/02/2010	Grey Plover	12	Dodd's Well	NU001542	
23/02/2010	Purple Sandpiper	26	Dodd's Well	NU001542	
23/02/2010	Goldeneye	3	Dodd's Well	NU001542	
23/02/2010	Redwing	8	Five Arches Park	NT991527	
23/02/2010	Snipe	1	Yarrow Slake	NT984529	
23/02/2010	Long-tailed Tit	7	Yarrow Haugh	NT984527	
23/02/2010	Buzzard	2	Plantation	NT980532	
23/02/2010	Blackbird	4	Whitehall Hs. Woods	NT874551	2 pairs
23/02/2010	Coal Tit	2	Whitehall Hs. Woods	NT874551	
24/02/2010	Shag	4	Spittal Bay	NU009517	
24/02/2010	Whooper Swan	2	West Ord	NT953518	
24/02/2010	Goldeneye	9	West Ord	NT953518	
24/02/2010	Teal	12	West Ord	NT953518	
24/02/2010	Long-tailed tit	12	Whitehall Hs. woods	NT874551	.
25/02/2010	Buzzard	1	Whitehall Hs. woods	NT874551	In field eating Brown Hare
25/02/2010	Nuthatch	2	Cot Hill	NT762500	At feeders in garden
25/02/2010	Goldfinch	2	Cot Hill	NT762500	At feeders in garden
27/02/2010	Tawny Owl	1	Whitehall Hs. woods	NT874551	Male. Heard most nights. Occasionally a female
27/02/2010	Nuthatch	2	Whitehall Hs. woods	NT874551	.
27/02/2010	Brambling	1	Cot Hill	NT762500	At garden feeder
28/02/2010	Fieldfare	86	Middle Ord Pond	NT969506	
28/02/2010	Red-brstd Merganser	4	Spittal Bay	NU009517	
28/02/2010	Grey Partridge	4	Loanend	NT945507	Regular visitors.
28/02/2010	Long-tailed tit	5	Cot Hill	NT762500	At garden feeders

28/02/2010	Blackcap	1	Loanend, Horncliffe	NT945507	Regular visitor
28/02/2010	Goldfinch	2	Loanend, Horncliffe	NT945507	Regular visitors. Pair
28/02/2010	Chaffinch	6	Whitehall Hs. Woods	NT874551	3 pairs
	Mammals				
01/02/2010	Grey Squirrel	1	Cot Hill	NT762500	Passing through garden
03/02/2010	Stoat	1	Cocklawburn Pond	NU036475	09.15. In full ermine
05/02/2010	Stoat	1	West Kylee Church	NU053403	Full ermine. Crossing road
05/02/2010	Roe Deer	4	Castle Terrace	NT991537	14.30. In "Empty Plot"
06/02/2010	Fox	1	Castle Terrace	NT991537	09.30. In "Empty Plot"
15/02/2010	Stoat	1	Sea House	NU023495	In full ermine
17/02/2010	Badger	1	Kentstone Cottages	NU039414	.
17/02/2010	Otter	1	Tweed Estuary	NT975518	15.30. Male. Fishing below Bypass Bridge.
19/02/2010	Roe Deer	2	Ford Woodhouse	NT968361	Two females.
19/02/2010	Common Shrew	1	Etal	NT927403	Dead beside path.
21/02/2010	Brown Hare	1	Kentstone Cottage	NU039414	
21/02/2010	Roe Deer	6	Detchant Lodge	NU101364	
25/02/2010	Roe deer	3	Cot Hill	NT762500	In field
25/02/2010	Brown Hare	2	Cot Hill	NT762500	In field
25/02/2010	Fox	1	Cot Hill	NT762500	
25/02/2010	Brown rat		Cot Hill	NT762500	Droppings in garden
25/02/2010	Mole hills		Cot Hill	NT762500	In garden
28/02/2010	Brown Hare	5	Cot Hill	NT762500	In field. Looking very frisky
28/02/2010	Mole hills		Whitehall Hs. woods	NT874551	In woodland
	Insects				
01/02/2010	7-spot ladybird	1	Pier Road	NU004527	On steps between houses.
	Ferns				
09/02/2010	Maidenhair spleenwort	1	Berwick nr. allotments	NU003528	Wall by allotments
	Bryophytes				
04/02/2010	Hypnum andoi	F	St Cuthbert's Cave	NU059352	On rocks and tree bases
28/02/2010	Thuidium tamariscinum	A	Kyloe Quarry Wood	NU041407	In deciduous woodland
28/02/2010	Plagiomnium undulatum	F	Kyloe Quarry Wood	NU041407	In deciduous woodland
28/02/2010	Atrichium undulatum	O	Kyloe Quarry Wood	NU041407	In deciduous woodland
28/02/2010	Brachythecium rutabulum	A	Kyloe Quarry Wood	NU041407	In deciduous woodland
28/02/2010	Hypnum cupressiforme	A	Kyloe Quarry Wood	NU041407	In deciduous woodland
	Lichens				
04/02/2010	Cladonia coniocraea	F	St Cuthbert's Cave	NU059352	On rocks and tree bases
04/02/2010	Cladonia floerkeana	O	St Cuthbert's Cave	NU059352	On rocks and tree bases
04/02/2010	Cladonia squamosa	F	St Cuthbert's Cave	NU059352	On rocks and tree bases
04/02/2010	Cladonia coccifera	O	St Cuthbert's Cave	NU059352	On rocks and tree bases
04/02/2010	Cladonia chlorophaea	O	Greensheen Hill	NU058535	On soil in bare area
04/02/2010	Hypogymnea physodes	O	St Cuthbert's Cave	NU059352	Fallen from larch tree crowns
04/02/2010	Lepraria incana	O	St Cuthbert's Cave	NU058535	On tree bases
04/02/2010	Parmelia sulcata	F	St Cuthbert's Cave	NU059352	On rocks
06/02/2010	Caloplaca citrina	A	Berwick Walls	NU002525	On tree trunk

06/02/2010	Parmelia sulcata	A	Berwick Walls	NU002525	On tree trunk
06/02/2010	Evernia prunastri	F	Berwick Walls	NU002525	On tree trunk
06/02/2010	Physcia tenella	A	Berwick Walls	NU002525	On tree trunk
06/02/2010	Hypogymnia physodes	O	Berwick Walls	NU002525	On tree trunk
14/02/2010	Verrucaria maura	F	Cocklawburn shore	NU036479	On rocks on upper shore
14/02/2010	Verrucaria nigrescens	F	Cocklawburn shore	NU035480	On limestone spoil near shore
14/02/2010	Tephromela atra	O	Cocklawburn shore	NU035480	On limestone spoil
14/02/2010	Cladonia rangiformis	F	Cocklawburn dunes	NU035480	On limestone spoil
14/02/2010	Peltigera membranacea	O	Cocklawburn dunes	NU037475	On spoil, old blow-out

"DAFOR" scale for plants: Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional, Rare.

Following our plea for more records the usual suspects have contributed again (wonderful!), but we have also heard from new recorders and had more records from some of the old hands - **thank you all so much**. Please send us your sightings for March, and photos (digital or prints/slides to be scanned). E-mail mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk, use our form on the Sightings page (www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk/Sightings.html), phone 01289 309046, or, if you regularly send several records, I will shortly send you an Excel form which makes transfer of the data quicker and more accurate (and much easier for me).

Our surveys and records really are appreciated: I quote from Colin Marlee, one of Northumberland County Council's ecologists: *It's so refreshing to find a group that's enthusiastic, get out & about to do stuff & are more than willing to share their records.....the more records we have, the better picture of wildlife we have which gives everyone a better chance of making better informed decisions.* So very well done, everyone. And I hope it will encourage you to take part in some of the surveys below.

SURVEYS PLANNED FOR 2010.

In addition to the general records, we would love help with our more detailed surveys. Beginners are very welcome. This really is a worthwhile, educational and satisfying way of using some of your spare time, and it's fun too! There is no charge for survey participants, and children are welcome although they must be accompanied by an adult (insurance reasons). Details were given in last month's (January) Review. Here is a reminder.

Bat Surveys: Berwick and surrounding area. Thursdays between 27th May and 12th August.

(Other) Small Mammals: transects and live-trapping. Spring (April/May) and autumn (October/November).

Seabird Survey: Tweed Estuary and adjacent Coast. February's count now completed; next in October?

Reptile Refuges. Dates to be arranged

Butterfly Transects: Tommy-the-Miller's Field and Cocklawburn. These are weekly (on a sunny day) between 1st April and 29th September.

Survey of intertidal life at Little Beach. Meet at car park at Little Beach, 9.00 a.m., on Sunday 6th May and Monday 14th June. May be a survey in September.



Dragonfly survey. Date to be arranged (mid-summer, fine weather).

Fixed Point Photography: Cocklawburn. March, June and September.

Whin Sill and other grassland surveys. May onwards.

Beachwatch (Marine Conservation survey), September.

It is easier for us (because weather conditions may alter the time of a survey at the last minute) to have contact details of those interested and then give these people detailed information on the surveys, rather than to plan each survey well in advance and advertise each separately. So please "sign up" to some surveys at one of our forthcoming indoor meetings, or contact Fiona by phone (01289 330591) or e-mail (mail3@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk).

Donation. As you may know celebrations, marking the 150th anniversary of the death of Robert Stephenson and the 160th anniversary of construction of his Royal Border Bridge, include a plan to illuminate the bridge. At an early stage in the planning process Berwick Wildlife Group helped to ascertain that no bats, which might have been disturbed, roost on the bridge. We have also requested that no light is shone on the part of the bridge used for nesting by House Martins. The project's organisers have kindly donated £130.00 to Berwick Wildlife Group. Thank you very much indeed.

Geological outings. You may also know that, as part of the Northumberland Coast AONB's Geological Action Plan, Dr Ian Kille is hosted a wonderful geology day in Berwick on March 7th, involving short talks and demonstrations followed by a visit to the rocks in situ on Little Beach. Ian will also be leading a number of walks for the AONB later on in the year (June to September) to continue the geological theme. Look under 'Seaside Rock Festival' on the AONB's website (<http://www.northumberlandcoastaonb.org/>).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday 10th March, 7.30 pm. Siberian Dream. In search of nesting Ross's Gulls. A talk by international birder **Graham Bell**. A picture from one of Graham's wonderful slides of a Ross's Gull is shown on the right. Berwick United Reformed Church, Main Street, Spittal. Members £2.00, non-members £3.00, accompanied children free.



Butterfly surveying begins on 1st April, and other surveys are already underway, with more to follow. They are listed above, for more details see the January Review.

Wednesday 12th May, 7.30 pm. Annual General Meeting and Display of our Work.

A very short formal meeting, followed by an opportunity to see what we have achieved in 2009, what we plan for 2010, and how you can assist our efforts to help conserve wildlife. Free refreshments too! Everyone welcome. Berwick United Reformed Church, Main Street, Spittal.

If you want more information on any of our events and surveys, 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 along. Everyone is welcome – there may be a small charge (no charge for children, but they must come with an adult).