

# Berwick Wildlife Group

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

## Monthly Review January 2007



### WILDLIFE REPORTS.

Following a fairly dry year in 2006, (rainfall 618mm or 22.7inches at East Ord), conditions over the month were very mild with several strong westerly gales on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11/13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>. The recorded rainfall was 51.5mm or 2 inches. There were only a few frosts, occurring on eight nights with (-2.2C or 28F.) on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Birds.

- Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>** 180 **Dunlin** were roosting off the Coastwatch Station.  
8 **Long-tailed Tits** were in a mixed party of tits in Flagstaff Park.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>** A **Great Northern Diver** and a drake **Long-tailed Duck** were off Cheswick.  
48 **Ringed Plover** were on Cocklawburn beach.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** 46 **Goldeneye** were in Tweedmouth Dock.
- 6<sup>th</sup>** 150+ **Redwing/Fieldfare** East Mains, Horncliffe.
- 7<sup>th</sup>** A **Buzzard** was over Longlands School, Murton.  
12 **Teal** were at Middle Ord.  
1,400 **Lapwing** and 78 **Greylag Geese** were on Yarrow Slake.
- 8<sup>th</sup>** A **Black-throated Diver**, 2 **Guillemot** and 5 **Bar-tailed Godwit** were at Cheswick.
- 10<sup>th</sup>** 64 **Sanderling**, 26 **Dunlin** and 3 **Bar-tailed Godwit** were on Little Beach.  
A drake **Scaup** was in Fisherman's Haven with 5 **Goldeneye**.  
6 **Purple Sandpiper**, 3 **Grey Plover** and 62 **Oystercatchers** were at Dodd's Well at low tide.
- 13<sup>th</sup>** 1,120 **Pink-footed Geese** flew W. in off the sea (a.m.), with a further 34 (p.m.).  
3 **Fulmars** were around Berwick Tweed Bridge. 3 **Teal**, 40 **Greylag Geese**, were at Yarrow Slake.
- 15<sup>th</sup>** A **Shelduck** flew S. over Cocklawburn with a female **Tufted Duck** on the pond.
- 16<sup>th</sup>** 680 **Golden Plover** on the fields at Cocklawburn. 34 **Twite** and 10 **Yellowhammers** were at Sea House. 12 **Long-tailed Tits** were at Bankhill and a **Red-throated Diver** was on the Tweed Estuary.
- 20<sup>th</sup>** One male, one female **Blackcap** in a Tweedmouth garden.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>** 11 **Red-breasted Merganser** were on Tweed Estuary.
- 23<sup>rd</sup>** **Little Egret** on the Estuary below the Old Bridge.
- 23/24<sup>th</sup>** 2 male **Blackcaps** in gardens at Riverdene.
- 24<sup>th</sup>** 2 **Shelduck** flew N. over Spittal Bay. c.15 **Fieldfare** near East Ord.
- 25<sup>th</sup>** Male **Blackcap**, Tweedmouth Garden.
- 27<sup>th</sup>** A male **Snow Bunting** was feeding on the Pier. It was seen again on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

- 28<sup>th</sup>** 7 **Red-breasted Merganser** and 5 **Shag** were in Meadow Haven. 64 **Eider** were in Tweedmouth Dock. 4 **Reed Buntings** and 2 **Little Grebes** near the Border Viaduct.
- 29<sup>th</sup>** A male **Great Spotted Woodpecker** on fat feeder in Tweedmouth.
- 30<sup>th</sup>** 5 **Red-throated Divers** and 4 **Shag** were in Spittal Bay. A pair of **Stonechats** were on the railway bank there.
- 31<sup>st</sup>** 2 **Long-tailed Duck** and 4 **Bar-tailed Godwit** were at Cheswick.

Elsewhere in the region, a **Red Kite** was seen near Cranshaws in the Lammermuirs on the 21st.

### **Mammals.**

A **Common Seal** was seen near the Old Bridge by several people the second week of the month.

### **Insects.**

A Red Admiral butterfly was seen at East Learmouth by the Berwick Ramblers on the 28<sup>th</sup> – a very rare record as this species does not normally survive the winter cold.

### **Plants.**

An astonishing number of plants are already or still in flower – brambles, dandelions, scurvey-grass, ragwort, groundsel and a blue lupin to name a few.

Thank you to everyone who sent in records. **To submit a wildlife record** please either phone Malcolm on 01289 309046 or use the record form on our website ([www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk](http://www.berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk)). Sightings here cover the core of our "Berwick Wildlife Group" area – from the Scottish Border to Scremerston on the East side of the A1. Records on the website cover a wider area (including Eyemouth and Wooler) – we just don't have room for them all here. So send in your records by your chosen method.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS.**

Everyone, members and non-members, very welcome. Just come along.

**Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. Talk on British Bats** by Steve Betts, ecological consultant and member of Northumberland Bat Group 7.30, Berwick United Reformed Church, Main Street, Spittal.

**Wed 14<sup>th</sup> March. Talk on Red Squirrels by Philippa Mitchell** of Northumberland Wildlife Trust and Red Alert North England. 7.30, Berwick United Reformed Church, Main Street, Spittal.

**Red Squirrel Monitoring.** We have been asked to carry out some surveys locally. If you would like to take part (training given) please phone 01289 330591 or e-mail Fiona via the website or [mail2@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk](mailto:mail2@berwickwildlifegroup.org.uk).

**The Future of Berwick and the Core Strategy.** Your Committee is very involved with responding to these documents out for consultation from Berwick Borough Council. If you would like to make any comments please do so directly or let us know and we can pass them on.